


Political Parties	What are they saying about jobs?	What are they saying about social protection?
<p data-bbox="142 196 331 232"><u>Fianna Fail</u></p>  <p data-bbox="155 444 428 513">Click to view website .fiannafail.ie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The core principles which underpin our proposals to create jobs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Help individuals with education and training opportunities which can get them back into employment. ▫ Aid businesses that have the capacity to innovate and grow. ▫ Promote Ireland’s position as a world centre for high-technology enterprise by investing in the training and research which are vital to this objective. ▫ Develop our vital agrifood sector to reach its potential for employment and value-added products that are in demand worldwide. ▫ Sustain high levels of capital investment in employment-intensive projects which boost the competitiveness of the economy. ▪ our commitment is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ That each enterprise agency will target its schemes to achieve specific elements of the overall plan (IDA Ireland ~75,000, Enterprise Ireland ~60,000, tourism ~15,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To “job proof” all new policy and legislation to ensure that it is pro-employment. ▪ Reducing Costs to Aid Competitiveness. ▪ Supporting Small & Medium Sized Enterprise. ▪ Making Ireland a global innovation hub: science, technology & research. ▪ Potential growth areas: services; agri-food; tourism; green economy; digital economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In excess of 173,000 further education places and over 100,000 FÁS training places are being provided in 2011. ▪ In re-structuring the delivery of these services, Fianna Fáil is committed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The integration of the State’s employment and social protection services; ▪ Retaining a role for the State in the provision of non-academic training through the establishment of a newly-focused skills and training agency; ▪ The elimination of overlap in the provision of training by the new agency, the further education sector and our VECs; ▪ Greater alignment of skills and apprenticeship training provision with the National Skills Strategy; and ▪ Ensuring robust quality control and certification, with ease of progression, for all training qualifications through the establishment of Qualifications and Quality Assurance Ireland on a statutory basis. ▪ Investing over €7 million in 2011 for the provision of on-the-job training for up to 1,000 redundant apprentices in the public and private sectors; ▪ Supporting further labour market activation measures, to assist up to 700 redundant apprentices and craft-persons in 2011; ▪ Rolling out the Skills Development and Internship Programme, which will enable the unemployed maintain their links with the labour market while also facilitating their up-skilling and re-skilling;

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- Investing €20 million in a new Higher Education Labour Market Fund to enable unemployed people access innovative part-time higher education opportunities from certificate to post graduate levels.
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- New Economy and Recovery Authority (NewERA) semi-state investment and reform programme.
- Helping Irish Businesses grow overseas markets.
- Giving Entrepreneurs the Freedom and Support Needed to Create Jobs.
- Improving Access to Finance for Business.
- Supporting Research and Technology Development.
- Reducing Red Tape and Bad Regulations.
- Cutting Business Costs by Strengthening Competition in Sheltered Sectors.
- Unleashing the Potential of High Growth Sectors.
- To deliver on Jobs there will be a new Cabinet Office; a new Department of Jobs and Economic Planning; a dedicated Minister of State for Competitiveness.
- Jobs in the Community: rural focus only.
- Promoting Local Job Creation: local enterprise and job support functions of local, regional and national agencies will be merged into a single business and enterprise unit within Local Authorities.
- One Stop Shop: job, welfare and training referral.
- New Pay and Entitlements Service (PES): more stringent application of genuinely seeking work criteria.
- Training vouchers to allow unemployed people chose their own course.
- 45,000 New Employment and Training Places to Target Youth Unemployment.
- National Internship Programme (23,000) targeted at unemployed graduates.
- Second Chance Education (17,000) targeting unemployed retail and construction workers.
- Community Employment Schemes will be managed by the Local Authorities. Additional 5,000 places with more provision in private sector and shorter duration of 6 months.
- Social protection for entrepreneurs: appoint a Commission to report on changes that should be made to the tax and social welfare system.
- Welfare will be reformed to make re-entry into paid work more attractive. As wage levels in the economy revert to more competitive levels in order to protect employment, it will be necessary and fair to also reduce social welfare payments for those with the capacity to work beginning with €3 weekly cuts in 2012 and 2013 and a final €4 cut in 2014. Rent supplement and other secondary benefits will be converted into means-

		<p>related supports that are unaffected by working status (with tapered withdrawal).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further reductions in job-seekers' payments and other working age social welfare payments will be minimised by cutting the massive levels of fraud, mistakes and administrative cost associated with the current welfare system. Introduce a new 'Smart Identify System' and new powers to withdraw or reduce welfare payments for people convicted twice of a welfare offence. ▪ More targeted "Child Income Support" which will replace Child Benefit, the Qualified Child Increase and the child related component of the Family Income Supplement. It will be integrated into the social insurance system to support the low paid at work.
<p><u>Green Party</u></p>  <p>Click to view website .greenparty.ie</p>	<p>Smart green jobs</p> <p>In Government, the Green Party has facilitated the creation of over 20,000 Green Sector jobs and has plans to create 100,000 more.</p> <p>Tapping into the wealth of Ireland's natural resources is our best opportunity to generate large-scale domestic employment and to kick-start the domestic economy once again. Our natural resources are at the core of three key sectors, which will be the champions of our new domestic economy – Green Energy, Sustainable Food and Green Tourism.</p> <p>As an open, trading economy Ireland has long relied on growing exports to grow its economy. We</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reform of the Mortgage Interest Supplement (MIS) scheme. ▪ Revenue raised by the carbon levy will contribute to the up scaling of the National Retrofit Programme and will be used to increase the fuel allowance. ▪ Fully integrate the social welfare and taxation systems. ▪ Remove obstacles from the social welfare system for those who wish to return to casual, part time or voluntary work. ▪ Undertake a review of all social welfare payments with a view to standardizing payments and reducing differences that currently exist between means-tested and non means-tested rates of

currently export €150 billion worth of goods each year and exports are one of the few areas of the economy that is successfully weathering the recession. By focusing on select industries where we have a competitive advantage, we can build on this base and grow our trading capability in high-value, low-carbon products and services. That competitive advantage presents itself most compellingly in three sectors – Traded Creative Services, High-Tech Manufacturing and Financial Services.

entitlements.

- We will work towards abolishing means testing for primary payments such as carers allowance and unemployment assistance.
- Remove punitive anomalies such as the limited right to appeal refused payment based on failure to satisfy the Habitual Residence Condition.
- Introduce a tapered benefit withdrawal system for all.
- Adopt a model of social support which includes an earnings related supplement based on previous earnings, to be applied until further employment or retraining is available.
- Implement a system of accreditation for job seekers undertaking work experience or volunteering activity.
- Initiate a programme of reform in the delivery of services within the Department of Social Protection so that the dignity and rights of customers receiving the services are fully respected.


Labour



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- **Put jobs and growth first.** That means renegotiating the EU-IMF deal to include a jobs strategy, to share the debt burden with bondholders, to reduce the interest rate, and to leave room for Ireland's economy to grow.
 - **Build on our strengths.** Labour has specific plans for job creation in Ireland's agri-food industry, tourism, renewable energy, creative industries, clean technology, and retail; for turning scientific research into jobs; and for developing new markets for Irish exports.
 - **Invest in jobs and training.** Labour's €500 million Jobs Fund will fund new ideas to grow jobs in strategic sectors of the economy, while our plan for a Strategic Investment Bank will provide credit to grow businesses and build vital infrastructure. The Jobs Fund will also provide 60,000 new education and training opportunities to help those out of work to get back into employment.
 - **Make next generation broadband happen.** Labour's plan brings together private sector funding in an innovative co-op to build a high-speed, next generation broadband network.
- A new National Employment Service to replace FÁS.
 - A major work experience scheme for 30,000 recent graduates and apprentices.
 - 30,000 new education and training places for people who are unemployed.
 - Reduced qualifying periods for Back to Education Allowance and Back to Work Enterprise Allowance for the period of this economic emergency.
 - An 18 month PRSI holiday for employers hiring new employees off the live register.
 - Take action to alleviate the risk of fuel poverty in the short term by reinvesting €40 million from the carbon tax to alleviate fuel poverty, and by developing a national fuel poverty strategy as set out in Labour's Fuel Poverty and Energy Conservation Bill.
 - "citizen-centred" approach to public service reform.
 - Single point of contact.
 - The success of frontline service delivery from a user's point of view will be central to a department or agency's performance review.
 - Root and branch efficiency reforms to eliminate poverty traps, speed up social protection claims, and save money.
 - A major crackdown on welfare fraud, so that the social protection system is fair and transparent.
 - Reduce reliance on Rent Supplement in favour of the Rental Accommodation Scheme, with rents negotiated directly with landlords.
 - Cut down on bureaucracy by replacing multiple

		<p>means tests with a single unified means test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share the cost of social protection with insurance companies where possible.
<p><u>Sinn Fein</u></p>  <p>Click to view website .sinnfein.ie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A €7billion job-creation programme spread over 3.5 years with the aim of saving and creating more than 160,000 jobs funded by a once-off transfer from the National Pension Reserve Fund and which we would use for a stimulus instead of transferring its reserves into the banks. ▪ A labour-intensive essential infrastructure programme as part of the €7billion job stimulus programme. The focus of this programme would be to build hospitals, schools, public transport networks and to roll out broadband State-wide. ▪ Establishing within the stimulus programme a €600million Jobs Retention Fund. This fund would subsidise workers in struggling Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with the potential to save 96,000 jobs, akin to the successful model used in Germany. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immediately returning social welfare payments to 2010 levels, and as soon as economic conditions permit raise them further to ensure adequate incomes (no one below the poverty line). ▪ Protect the social welfare fund by working to end fraud and creating jobs to get people off the dole. ▪ Restore the Christmas Bonus social welfare payment. ▪ Restore Child Benefit to 2010 levels. ▪ Improving the social welfare system to ensure support is given to people seeking financial help in an holistic way. ▪ New guidelines, protocols and training around the ‘habitual residence’ condition to ensure that returned Irish emigrants are not wrongly denied social welfare. Centralise application data to ensure geographical consistency in decision making. ▪ Improve the PRSI system to ensure employers are contributing fairly to their employees’ welfare (Irish employers contribute the least in Europe to their employees’ social protection). ▪ Increase and enhancing CE schemes, making the schemes more relevant for the needs of society, economy and the community. ▪ A radical overhaul of FÁS to ensure that the courses and assistance which it provides are relevant to the needs of job seekers and the economy, including being orientated towards growth sectors in the economy.

United Left Alliance



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- The ULA condemns the complete failure of the government and the private sector to preserve or create jobs. Their policies are deflationary and are making the jobs crisis worse.
 - We call for a real social development programme that could create hundreds of thousands of jobs building necessary infrastructure like public transport, green energy projects, broadband, child care, schools, hospitals, health centres and other community facilities.
 - We oppose plans to sell off state companies. Instead these companies should be used as the vehicle for job creation.
End the reliance on the private sector, use democratic public ownership of wealth and natural resources and the banks to provide jobs by the launching a state programme of industrial development and innovation to build the productive capacity of the economy. Take the Corrib Gas Field into public ownership.
 - Reduce the working week without loss of pay and create tens of thousands of jobs by sharing out the work.
- No to compulsory work for dole schemes or fake jobs. We demand real jobs and a reversal of all the cuts in social welfare and benefit payments.
 - No to the cuts in social welfare payments or pensions and no to the cutting, taxing or means testing of child benefit.
 - The formation of the ULA is part of a process across Europe and internationally of the development of movements and organisations to fight the attacks on workers, the unemployed and the poor and to fight for a new vision for society.
 - We are opposed to the dictates of the EU and its neo liberal policies of curbing public spending and promoting austerity. The policy of driving down public spending to meet EU imposed targets will destroy jobs and lead to misery for workers, the unemployed and the poor.