



Budget 2027

Over €30 billion to be spent on social welfare in 2027, including almost €1.15 billion of new measures.

- First ever ***Cost of Disability*** payment, starting with a lump sum payment of €500 in 2027 for people receiving a long-term disability payment.
- Increase in ***Child Support Payment*** of up to €312 a year (€6 a week) for each child, bringing the payment for:
 - Children under 12 to €64 a week (up to €3,328 a year), and
 - Children 12 and over to €84 a week (up to €4,368 a year).
- Improvements in targeted measures that support people to access employment, with a particular focus on disabled people.
- €5 increase in ***Fuel Allowance*** from €38 to €43 per week, amounting to an increase of €140 over the ***Fuel Allowance*** season. This will mean a total payment of over €1,200 in 2027.
- Improvement in the ***Fuel Allowance*** means test for single pensioners. The income limit for a single person aged 66 or over, previously half that of a couple, will increase to 60%.
- Increases in the ***Carer's Allowance*** income disregards from July 2027.
- €30 increase in weekly income thresholds for ***Working Family Payment*** for all family sizes, worth up to €18 per week.

- **Living Alone Increase** will be raised by €3, from €22 to €25 per week. This will be the first increase to this payment in five years.
- €10 weekly increase across most social welfare payments from January 2027.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to almost 1.4 million long-term social welfare recipients.

Supports for disabled people

- First ever **Cost of Disability** payment, starting with a lump sum payment of €500 in 2027 for people receiving a long-term disability payment. Further development of the payment will be co-designed with disabled people and their advocates.
- €10 increase in the maximum personal rate of weekly disability payments from January 2027. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- €10 increase in the employment earnings disregard for **Disability Allowance** and **Blind Pension** to €175 per week from July 2027. This means a single person on **Disability Allowance** can earn over €9,000 a year without any effect on their payment.
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €38 to €43 per week, amounting to an increase of €140 over the **Fuel Allowance** season. This will mean a total payment of over €1,200 in 2027.
- Reduction of minimum hours required to qualify for the **Wage Subsidy Scheme** from 15 hours to 8 hours per week, from April 2027.
- Extension of the **Wage Subsidy Scheme** to those moving to **Partial Capacity Benefit** from **Illness Benefit**.

- €15,000 increase in the grant for an Employment Assistance Officer under the **Wage Subsidy Scheme** (from €30,000 to €45,000 per year).
- Increase in the hours of Communication Support/ISL (Irish Sign Language) under the **Work and Access** scheme.
- **Christmas bonus** to all persons getting a long-term disability payment to be paid in December 2026.

Supports for pensioners

- €10 increase in the maximum weekly rate of all State Pensions from January 2027. This means the **State Pension (Contributory)** will exceed €300 per week for the first time. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €38 to €43 per week, amounting to an increase of €140 over the **Fuel Allowance** season. This will mean a total payment of over €1,200 in 2027.
- Improvement in the **Fuel Allowance** means test for single pensioners. The income limit for a single person aged 66 or over, previously half that of a couple, will increase to 60%.
- **Living Alone Increase** will be raised by €3, from €22 to €25 per week. This will be the first increase to this payment in five years.
- Increase in the upper income threshold, from €310 to €340, for the **Increase for a Qualified Adult** in relation to the **State Pension (Contributory)** and other social insurance schemes, from July 2027.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to almost 1.4 million long-term social welfare recipients in December 2026.

Supports for families and children

- €10 weekly increase across most social welfare payments from January 2027. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- Increase in **Child Support Payment** of up to €312 a year (€6 a week) for each child, bringing the payment for:
 - Children under 12 to €64 a week (up to €3,328 a year), and
 - Children 12 and over to €84 a week (up to €4,368 a year).
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €38 to €43 per week, amounting to an increase of €140 over the **Fuel Allowance** season. This will mean a total payment of over €1,200 in 2027.
- Increase in employment earnings disregards for the **One Parent Family Payment** and **Jobseeker's Transitional Payment** by €10, bringing them both from €165 to €175 per week, from July 2027.
- €30 increase in weekly income thresholds for **Working Family Payment** for all family sizes, worth up to €18 per week.
- The **Holiday Hunger Programme**, initially a pilot, now to become a permanent initiative, benefitting over 40,000 children.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to almost 1.4 million long-term social welfare recipients.

Supports for carers

- €10 increase in the maximum rate of the **Carer's Allowance** and **Carer's Benefit** from January 2027. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate.

- Increase in **Child Support Payment** of up to €312 a year (€6 a week) for each child, bringing the payment for:
 - Children under 12 to €64 a week (up to €3,328 a year), and
 - Children 12 and over to €84 a week (up to €4,368 a year).
- Increases in the **Carer's Allowance** income disregards from July 2027:
 - Increase of €150 to €1,150 for a single person, and,
 - Increase of €300 to €2,300 for a couple.
 - This means that a couple earning over €126,000 will now be able to get a full payment without any impact on the means test. They will be able to earn over €155,000 and still receive a partial payment.
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €38 to €43 per week, amounting to an increase of €140 over the **Fuel Allowance** season. This will mean a total payment of over €1,200 in 2027.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to almost 1.4 million long-term social welfare recipients.

Supports for people in employment or jobseekers

- €10 increase in maximum personal weekly rate of **Jobseeker's Benefit** and **Jobseeker's Allowance** payments from January 2027. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- Reduction of minimum hours required to qualify for the **Wage Subsidy Scheme** from 15 hours to 8 hours per week, from April 2027.
- Extension of the **Wage Subsidy Scheme** to those moving to **Partial Capacity Benefit** from **Illness Benefit**.
- €15,000 increase in the grant for an Employment Assistance Officer under the **Wage Subsidy Scheme** (from €30,000 to €45,000 per year).

- €25 increase to training uplift on the **Work Placement Experience Programme**, from €115 to €140.
- €10 increase in the employment earnings disregard for **Disability Allowance** and **Blind Pension** to €175 per week from July 2027. This means a single person on **Disability Allowance** can earn over €9,000 a year without any effect on their payment.
- Increase in employment earnings disregards for the **One Parent Family Payment** and **Jobseeker's Transitional Payment** by €10, bringing them both from €165 to €175 per week, from July 2027.
- Increase in **Child Support Payment** of up to €312 a year (€6 a week) for each child, bringing the payment for:
 - Children under 12 to €64 a week (up to €3,328 a year), and
 - Children 12 and over to €84 a week (up to €4,368 a year).
- Top-up increased to €35 per week for **Community Employment**, **Tús** and the **Rural Social Scheme**.
- Reduction of the requalification period on Tús from 3 years to 2 years.
- €5 increase in the weekly top-up payment for **Job Initiative** participants.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to almost 1.4 million long-term social welfare recipients.

Supports for rural communities

- **Rural Dweller Pilot** under the **Rural Social Scheme** to be expanded to 500 places.
- €5 weekly increase in **Living on a Specified Island Allowance** bringing weekly payment from €20 to €25.
- Increase of 50% in agri-environmental schemes disregard for **Farm Assist** and **State Pension (Non-Contributory)** from €5,000 to €7,500 to support farmers,

from July 2027. This means farmers can earn up to €7,500 from these schemes before it affects their means test, making it easier for them to qualify for or receive a higher payment.

- Increase in the number of agri-environmental schemes that are disregarded for the means test for ***Farm Assist*** and ***State Pension (Non-Contributory)***, from July 2027.
- The maximum income from seaweed harvesting which will be disregarded will be increased from €1,270 per year to €2,500, from July 2027. This means people who earn money from harvesting seaweed will be able to keep more of that income without it affecting their eligibility for ***Farm Assist*** or the ***State Pension (Non-Contributory)***.
- Top-up increased to €35 per week for ***Community Employment***, ***Tús*** and the ***Rural Social Scheme***.
- Reduction of the requalification period on ***Tús*** from 3 years to 2 years.
- €5 increase in the weekly top-up payment for ***Job Initiative*** participants.

Budget 2027 figures

<i>Maximum weekly rate (from January 2027)</i>	<i>Personal rate</i>	<i>Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)</i>	<i>Increase for a Qualified Child under 12</i>	<i>Increased for a Qualified Child aged 12+</i>
<i>Social insurance payments</i>	€	€	€	€
<i>State Pension (Contributory)</i>				
- Personal rate – Under 80	309.30	See IQA below	64.00	84.00
- Personal Rate - Aged 80 and over	319.30	See IQA below	64.00	84.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult – Under 66		206.10		
- Increase for Qualified Adult – 66 and over		277.40		
<i>Bereaved Partner's (Contributory) Pension / Deserted Wife's Benefit</i>				
- Under 66	269.50		64.00	84.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	309.30		64.00	84.00
- Aged 80 and over	319.30		64.00	84.00
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	269.50	192.50	64.00	84.00
<i>Carer's Benefit</i>	281.00		64.00	84.00
<i>Disablement Benefit</i>	295.00		64.00	84.00
<i>Jobseeker's / Illness / Health and Safety / Injury Benefit</i>	264.00	175.20	64.00	84.00
<i>Maternity / Paternity / Adoptive / Parent's Benefit</i>	309.00			
<i>Death Benefit</i>				
- Under 66	294.50		64.00	84.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	313.70		64.00	84.00

<i>Maximum weekly rate (from January 2027)</i>	<i>Personal rate</i>	<i>Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)</i>	<i>Increase for a Qualified Child under 12</i>	<i>Increased for a Qualified Child aged 12+</i>
- Aged 80 and over	323.70		64.00	84.00
<i>Social assistance payments</i>	€	€	€	€
<i>State Pension (Non-Contributory)</i>				
- Aged 66 and under 80	298.00		64.00	84.00
- Aged 80 and over	308.00		64.00	84.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult – Under 66		196.80		
<i>Carer's Allowance</i>				
- Under 66	280.00		64.00	84.00
- Aged 66 and over	318.00		64.00	84.00
<i>Disability Allowance / Blind Pension</i>	264.00	175.20	64.00	84.00
<i>Bereaved Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension</i>	264.00		64.00	84.00
<i>One-Parent Family Payment / Deserted Wife's Allowance</i>	264.00		64.00	84.00
<i>Farm Assist</i>	264.00	175.20	64.00	84.00
<i>Jobseeker's Allowance</i>				
- Under 25	173.70	173.70	64.00	84.00
- Aged 25 and over	264.00	175.20	64.00	84.00
<i>Supplementary Welfare Allowance</i>				
- Under 25 living independently with State support	262.00	175.20	64.00	84.00
- Under 25 not living independently	173.70	173.70		
- Aged 25 and over	262.00	175.20	64.00	84.00

Child Benefit	2027 Monthly Rate
For each child	€140
Twins	Paid at one and a half times the normal monthly rate for each child
All other multiple births	Paid at double the normal monthly rate for each child

Employment Programmes

An increase of €25 per week from January 2027 for the training element of the Work Placement Experience Programme. An increase of €2.50 to the top-up payment for those on Community Employment Programme, Rural Social Scheme and Tús. An increase to the top-up payment of €5 for Job Initiative participants.

Working Family Payment Thresholds	2027 Weekly Income Limit €
1 Child	795.00
2 Children	896.00
3 Children	997.00
4 Children	1,088.00
5 Children	1,214.00
6 Children	1330.00
7 Children	1,466.00
8 Children or more	1,562.00

Other Social Welfare Payments	2027 Rate €	Frequency
Guardian's Payment (Con/Non-Con)	247.00	Weekly Rate
Fuel Allowance	43.00	Weekly Rate
Living Alone Allowance	25.00	Weekly Rate
Island Allowance (specified offshore islands)	25.00	Weekly Rate
Domiciliary Care Allowance	380.00	Monthly Rate

<i>Carer's Support Grant</i>	2,000.00	Annual Rate
<i>-Bereaved Parent Grant</i>	8,000.00	Once-off payment