

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)

The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) is available to employees and self-employed people who have lost their job or income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is the rate of payment?

The Pandemic Unemployment Payment is linked to your previous earnings and is paid at the following rates:

Average previous weekly earnings	Personal PUP rate
€400 or more	€350
€300-€399	€300
€200-€299	€250
Less than €200	€203

Who can apply?

If you have been laid off without pay due to COVID-19 you can apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

If you are self-employed and your business has closed and you have no trading income, you can also apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment. To qualify you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 66 years old
- Be currently living in the Republic of Ireland
- Have been in employment or self-employment in Ireland on or before 13 March 2020
- Not be receiving any income from employment
- Be genuinely seeking work
- Have at least one PRSI contribution in the 4 weeks before claiming PUP or be in insurable self-employment

How do I apply?

Apply online at www.mywelfare.ie. This is the quickest and most efficient way to apply.

OR

Email forms@welfare.ie to request a form and apply by post

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OR

Visit your local [Social Welfare office or Intreo Centre](#) to complete and submit an application.

The information above is an overview of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

- Visit [Citizens Information](#) online
- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm

Frequently Asked Questions

I have dependants. Should I apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?

If you have lost your job and have dependants (spouse/partner and/or children), you may get a higher payment if you apply for Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance instead of PUP. This is because PUP does not pay anything extra for dependants.

I already receive a social welfare payment. Can I still apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?

If you were working and were also receiving any of the payments listed below, you can still apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment, provided you have lost your job due to COVID-19.

- Carer's payments
- Working Family Payment (WFP)
- One-Parent Family Payment
- Disability Allowance
- Jobseeker's Transitional Payment

My hours have been cut due to COVID-19. Can I apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?

If your days at work have been reduced, you do not qualify for PUP. You can apply for:

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- Short Time Work Support if you are working 3 days or less per week
- Jobseeker's Allowance if you do not satisfy the PRSI conditions for Short Term Work Support