



Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme

What is the Part-Time Job Incentive scheme?

The Part-Time Job Incentive (PTJI) scheme, run by the Department, is intended as a stepping stone to full-time work. It allows certain long-term unemployed people to take up part-time work and get a special weekly allowance instead of their jobseeker's payment. Recipients of the Part-Time Job Incentive scheme must be available for and seeking full-time work while getting the payment.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible to participate in the PTJI scheme if you get part-time work for under 24 hours per week and immediately before that you:

- were on long-term Jobseeker's Allowance (that is getting a jobseeker's payment for 15 months or more),
- were getting a weekly Jobseeker's Allowance payment of at least €122.20 if you are single or €199.20 if you are getting an increase for a qualified adult, this increases to €125.40 single rate and €204.50 for a couple from 21 March 2018. and
- undertake to remain on the scheme for 2 months.

The part-time job you get must be likely to last at least 2 months and be insurable at PRSI Class A or J. If you earn €38.00 or more a week, it will be insurable at Class A. If you earn less than €38.00, it will be insurable at Class J.

If you get full-time work you may not return to the PTJI scheme no matter how short your full-time work lasted.

If you are self-employed (including a smallholder) you are not eligible for this scheme.

How to take part

Once you have secured the part-time job, you should contact your local Intreo Centre or your local Branch Office to apply to participate in the PTJI scheme. You will be asked to complete the application form **PTJI 1** giving details of your part-time employment.

How much is the allowance?

Instead of your usual unemployment payment, you will currently get a weekly allowance of:

- €122.20 a week if you are single,
- €199.20 a week if you are getting an increase for a qualified adult.

This increases to €125.40 single rate and €204.50 for a couple from 21 March 2018.

For more information on the up to date rates, please visit www.welfare.ie

Note

There are no increases in these rates for qualified children.

The allowance is payable regardless of the money you earn in your job. However, your wages will be taxable in the usual way.

How is the allowance paid?

Payment is made each week by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to your bank account.

Both you and your employer must complete form **PTJI 2** at the end of each 4 week period. This is necessary to confirm that you worked for less than 24 hours each week and that you are insurably employed.

Issued by:
Information Services
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection
Social Welfare Services
College Road
Sligo

For more information:

- Log on to www.welfare.ie.
- Telephone: 071 919 3302
LoCall: 1890 66 22 44
If you are calling from outside the Republic of Ireland please call +353 71 91 93302.
- Drop in to your local Citizens Information Centre, your local Branch Office or your local Intreo Centre.

To avoid any break in your payment, it is recommended that the completed form is returned promptly to your local Intreo Centre or your local Branch Office.

How will taking part affect my future entitlements?

If you are getting a credited PRSI contribution before going on the PTJI scheme you will continue to get a 'credit' for each week that you do not pay a Class A contribution in your part-time job while in the scheme. If you pay Class A contributions in your part-time job, you will get the full benefit of that contribution.

What happens when I finish the PTJI or my job ends?

You may re-qualify for long-term Jobseeker's Allowance as long as there is no change in your circumstances (other than finishing the part-time job). Alternatively, you may qualify for Jobseeker's Benefit if you have enough PRSI contributions.

However, secondary benefits (for example, Fuel Allowance, Christmas Bonus) are only paid if you are on long-term Jobseeker's Allowance. You may claim Jobseeker's Allowance or Jobseeker's Benefit whichever you prefer. No secondary benefits are paid with the Part-Time Job Incentive scheme.

How long can I stay on the PTJI scheme?

Initially, you can stay on the PTJI scheme for one year, when there will be a review. This may be extended for a further period. While on the scheme, you should continue to look for full-time work.

Are there any extra benefits?

Medical Card

You will keep your medical card for the duration of the PTJI scheme regardless of your earnings (up to a maximum of 3 years).

How do I apply?

Complete application for **PTJI 1** and return it to your local Intreo Centre or your local Social Welfare Office.

The Case Manager there will be able to give your more information on the **PTJI** scheme and on any other available options.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about Part-Time Job Incentive contact your local Intreo Centre or your local Branch Office.

Note

The rates chared for using 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.

This leaflet is intended as a guide only and is not a legal interpretation.