



## Main Social Welfare Changes and New Rates of Payments

**Mary Hanafin T.D.,  
Minister for Social and Family Affairs**

***Over €21.1 billion being spent in 2010 to support 2.1 million people  
Expenditure will increase by €660 million in 2010***

### **Older people are protected from cuts**

- ◆ Older people will continue to get their State Pension at current rates as well as the Free Travel, Free TV Licence, Electricity or Gas Allowance.
- ◆ Allowances such as the Living Alone Allowance, Over 80 Age Allowance and Fuel Allowances will not change.

### **Vulnerable children and low income families will be protected from reductions in Child Benefit**

- ◆ The monthly Child Benefit rates have been reduced to €150 per child for the 1st and 2nd child and €187 per child for the 3rd and subsequent children. However, through the weekly increase in the Qualified Child payment, Social Welfare recipients will be protected from the reduction as the Qualified Child Increase paid to those getting social welfare payments will increase by €3.80 to €29.80 per child per week.
- ◆ All Family Income Supplement weekly earnings thresholds to increase by €6 per week per child to support working families on low incomes.

### **New lower rates of payment for people under 66 years of age**

- ◆ Weekly rates of payment for people **under age 66** will reduce by between 3.5% - 4.2%. Qualified Allowance for spouse or partner will reduce by 4.1%.

### **Carers**

- ◆ The half rate Carer's Allowance will continue to be paid to people who are full-time carers and who are getting another welfare payment. Carers will continue to get the annual Respite Care Grant of €1,700 for each care recipient.
- ◆ Carer's Allowance rates for carers over 66 years of age will not change. Rates for carers **under age 66** years will reduce by between 3.7%-3.9%.

For more information telephone **Department of Social and Family Affairs** on

1890 66 22 44 (LoCall) 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday

9am – 9pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and

**Citizens Information Phone Service** on 1890 777 121(LoCall) 9am - 9pm Monday to Friday

Contact your nearest Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre

Information is also available on [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) and [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

**Note: The rates charged for the use of 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.**

# SOCIAL WELFARE RATES 2010

<b>PAYMENT RATES FOR OLDER PEOPLE - UNCHANGED</b>				
	Personal Rates		Qualified Adult Allowance	
	Current Rates	2010 Rates	Current Rates	2010 Rates
<b>Social Insurance Payments</b>				
<b>State Pension (Contributory)/(Transition)</b>				
Under age 80	€230.30	<b>€230.30</b>	€153.50 (under 66)	<b>€153.50 (under 66)</b>
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	<b>€240.30</b>	€206.30 (over 66)	<b>€206.30 (over 66)</b>
<b>Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit</b>				
Age 66 and under 80	€230.30	<b>€230.30</b>		
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	<b>€240.30</b>		
<b>Invalidity Pension</b>				
Aged 65 and under 80	€230.30	<b>€230.30</b>	€149.70 (under 66)	<b>€143.80 (under 66)</b>
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	<b>€240.30</b>	€206.30 (over 66)	<b>€206.30 (over 66)</b>
<b>Death Benefit Pension</b>				
Aged 66 and under 80	€234.70	<b>€234.70</b>		
Aged 80 and over	€244.70	<b>€244.70</b>		
<b>Social Assistance Payments</b>				
<b>State Pension (Non-Contributory)</b>				
Aged 66 and under 80	€219.00	<b>€219.00</b>	€144.70	<b>€144.70</b>
Aged 80 and over	€229.00	<b>€229.00</b>		
<b>Carer's Allowance</b>				
Aged 66 and over	€239.00	<b>€239.00</b>		

<b>New Child Benefit Rates</b>				<b>Family Income Supplement (FIS) for families in employment</b>		
Number of children	Monthly Rate	Monthly Rate	Annual Value	Family Size	New income limits	
	2009	2010	2010		Present Income Limit	New Income Limit
	€	€	€			
1 child	166	<b>150</b>	1,800	1 child	500	<b>506</b>
2 children	332	<b>300</b>	3,600	2 children	590	<b>602</b>
3 children	535	<b>487</b>	5,844	3 children	685	<b>703</b>
4 children	738	<b>674</b>	8,088	4 children	800	<b>824</b>
5 children	941	<b>861</b>	10,332	5 children	920	<b>950</b>
6 children	1,144	<b>1,048</b>	12,576	6 children	1,030	<b>1,066</b>
7 children	1,347	<b>1,235</b>	14,820	7 children	1,160	<b>1,202</b>
8 children	1,550	<b>1,422</b>	17,064	8 children	1,250	<b>1,298</b>

## Additional Child Support Measures

- ◆ Increase of €3.80 per week in Qualified Child Increase for people who are dependent on a weekly social welfare payment. New weekly rate will be €29.80.
- ◆ Family Income Supplement weekly income thresholds will increase by €6 per child per week.

## **REVISED PAYMENT RATES FOR PEOPLE UNDER AGE 66**

	Personal Rates		Qualified Adult Allowance (under 66 years)	
	Current Rates €	2010 Rates €	Current Rates €	2010 Rates €
<b><i>Social Insurance Payments</i></b>				
Jobseeker's Benefit/Illness/Health & Safety/Injury Benefit	204.30	<b>196.00</b>	135.60	<b>130.10</b>
Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit	209.80	<b>201.50</b>		
Carer's Benefit/Constant Attendance Allowance	221.20	<b>213.00</b>		
Invalidity Pension	209.80	<b>201.50</b>	149.70	<b>143.80</b>
Disablement Pension	235.40	<b>227.00</b>		
Death Benefit Pension	234.70	<b>226.50</b>		
<b><i>Social Assistance Payments</i></b>				
Jobseeker's Allowance/ Farm Assist/Pre-Retirement/ Supplementary Welfare Allowance	204.30	<b>196.00</b>	135.60	<b>130.10</b>
One Parent Family Payment	204.30	<b>196.00</b>		
Widow's/Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension/ Deserted Wife's Allowance/Prisoner's Wife's Allowance	204.30	<b>196.00</b>		
Carer's Allowance	220.50	<b>212.00</b>		
Disability Allowance/Blind Pension	204.30	<b>196.00</b>	135.60	<b>130.10</b>
<b><i>Other Social Welfare Payments</i></b>				
Maternity/Adoptive Benefit (minimum rate)	230.30	<b>225.80</b>		
(maximum rate)	280.00	<b>270.00</b>		
Guardian's Payment (Contributory)/(Non-Contributory)	176.50	<b>169.00</b>		

### ***People of Working Age***

#### **Jobseeker's Allowance and Supplementary Welfare Allowance**

- ◆ The rate of Jobseeker's Allowance or Supplementary Welfare Allowance paid to new claimants aged 20 and 21 is being reduced to €100 per week, with effect from January 2010, as has been applied from April 2009 to new claimants aged 18 or 19.
- ◆ The rate of Jobseeker's Allowance or Supplementary Welfare Allowance paid to new claimants aged 22, 23 and 24 years is being reduced to €150 per week, with effect from January 2010.
- ◆ **The full rate will be paid to those under 25 years of age if they participate in an approved training or education course.**
- ◆ 20-24 year olds with dependent children will not be affected.
- ◆ The personal rate of Jobseeker's Allowance and basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance will be reduced to €150 per week where job offers or activation measures have been refused. Further details of this measure will be published in the Social Welfare Bill 2010.

#### **Treatment Benefits**

- ◆ The Treatment Benefit scheme will be limited in 2010 to the Medical and Surgical Appliances scheme and the free examinations provided for under Dental and Optical Benefits (during 2010).

#### **Rent Supplement**

- ◆ The minimum contribution remains unchanged. Rent limits will be reviewed to reflect reductions in private rent levels (during 2010).

## Examples of social welfare supports available for various individuals

	Personal Rate	Qualified Adult Increase (over 66)	Free Travel	Total	Possible Additional Increases			
					Living Alone Increase	Fuel Allowances	Over 80 Increase	Household Benefits
Single Pensioner State Pension (Contributory)	€11,975.60	€0.00	€113	€12,088.60	€400.40	€764.80	€520	€960
Pensioner Couple State Pension (Contributory)	€11,975.60	€10,727.60	€113	€22,816.20	€0.00	€764.80	€520	€960
Single Pensioner State Pension (Non Contributory)	€11,388.00	€0.00	€113	€11,501.00	€400.40	€764.80	€520	€960

Jobseeker couple – no earnings, 2 children (one under 11, one over 11)	Jobseeker's Allowance + IQC	Child Benefit	Fuel/Smokeless Fuel Allowances	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance x 2	Total
	€20,056.40	€3,600	€764.80	€505	€24,926.20

Lone Parent – earnings up to €145 per week, 1 child under 11 years	Net Earnings	One Parent Family Payment + IQC	Child Benefit	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance x 1	Total	Possible Additional Increase
						Fuel & Smokeless Fuel Allowances
	€7,540.00	€11,741.60	€1,800	€200	€21,281.60	€764.80

Lone parents can earn up to €425 per week and still retain a significant portion of their One Parent Family Payment.

Couple under 66 years, husband on Disability Allowance, no children, spouse in receipt of ½ rate Carer's Allowance	Personal rate & Qualified Adult Increase	½ rate Carer's Allowance	Respite Care Grant	Fuel Allowances	Household Benefits & Free Travel	Total
		€16,957.20	€5,512	€1,700	€764.80	€1,073.00

Working couple (low income), 4 children (2 under 11, 2 over 11)	Net Earnings	Family Income Supplement (FIS)	Child Benefit	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance x 4	Total	Income from Social Welfare Payments

The above examples are for illustrative purposes only. Individual circumstances may differ. Depending on circumstances, the claimant may also be entitled to Rent Supplement or Mortgage Interest Supplement. Over €573million is being provided in 2010 for both these schemes.