

- ▶ Employee's annual earnings ceiling increased to €46,600.
- ▶ Employee's income thresholds changed.
- ▶ Employee's PRSI-Free Allowance changed for Classes A and H

Full details of these changes are outlined inside and should be read carefully.



PRSI contribution rates and user guide

for the period

1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006

This PRSI contribution rates and user guide is available on our website at www.welfare.ie/publications/sw14.html or through our PRSI mailing list. If you wish to add your name to the list, please register at www.welfare.ie/schemes/employer/index.html

This booklet is intended as a guide only and does not purport to be a legal interpretation.



Private and public sector employments

Rates of contribution from 1 January 2006

Class A

This covers employees in industrial, commercial and service-type employment who have reckonable pay of €38 or more per week from all employments and Public Servants recruited from 6 April 1995.

Weekly pay is the employee's money pay plus notional pay (if applicable).

Subclass	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	First €46,600		Balance over €46,600	
			EE	ER	EE	ER
A0	€38 - €300 inclusive	All	Nil	8.5%	Nil	8.5%
AX	€300.01 - €356 inclusive	First €127	Nil	8.5%	Nil	8.5%
		Balance	4.00%	8.5%	Nil	8.5%
AL	€356.01 - €440 inclusive	First €127	Nil	10.75%	Nil	10.75%
		Balance	4.00%	10.75%	Nil	10.75%
A1 or	more than €440	First €127	2.00%	10.75%	2.00%	10.75%
		Balance	6.00%	10.75%	2.00%	10.75%
A2*	more than €440	First €127	Nil	10.75%	Nil	10.75%
		Balance	4.00%	10.75%	Nil	10.75%

*Subclass A2 applies to medical card holders and to people getting a social welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance. See note on page 8.

Community Employment participants only

Subclass	Weekly limits	How much of weekly pay	All income	
			EE	ER
A8	up to €300 inclusive	All	Nil	0.5%
A9	more than €300	First €127	Nil	0.5%
		Balance	4.00%	0.5%

Total PRSI: Calculate the employer and employee deductions separately and then add them together.

Private sector employments

Rates of contribution from 1 January 2006

Class J This normally relates to people with reckonable pay of less than €38 per week (from all employments). However, a small number of employees are insurable at Class J, no matter how much they earn, such as employees aged 66 or over or people in subsidiary employment etc.

Subclass	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	First €46,600		Balance over €46,600	
			EE	ER	EE	ER
J0	Up to €440	All	Nil	0.5%	Nil	0.5%
J1	More than €440	All	2.00%	0.5%	2.00%	0.5%
J2 *	more than €440	All	Nil	0.5%	Nil	0.5%

*Subclass J2 applies to medical card holders and to people getting a social welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance. Please see note on page 8.

Occupational pensions

Class K This covers people receiving income that is not subject to social insurance contributions

but which is liable for the Health Contribution. Income includes occupational pensions, income deriving from positions of certain office holders (such as judges and state solicitors) and income of people aged 66 or over previously liable for Class S.

Subclass	Weekly limits		No upper ceiling	
	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	EE	ER
Record under Class M	Up to €440	All	Nil	Nil
K1	More than €440	All	2.00%	Nil

Class M This covers people with nil contribution liability such as employees under age 16 and people within Class K with a nil liability (medical card holders, widows or widowers, people aged 70 or over).

Self-employed

Class S This covers self-employed people, including certain company directors.

Subclass	Weekly limits		No upper ceiling
	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	All income S/E
S0	Up to €440	All	3.00%
S1 or	More than €440	All	5.00%
S2 *	More than €440	All	3.00%

*Subclass S2 applies to medical card holders and to people getting a social welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance. Please see note on page 8.

Public sector employments

Rates of contribution from 1 January 2006

Class B

This covers permanent and pensionable civil servants recruited before 6 April 1995, registered doctors and dentists employed in the civil service and Gardaí.

Subclass	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	First €46,600		Balance over €46,600	
			EE	ER	EE	ER
B0	Up to €300	All	Nil	2.01%	Nil	2.01%
BX	€300.01- €440 inclusive	First €26	Nil	2.01%	Nil	2.01%
		Balance	0.90%	2.01%	Nil	2.01%
B1 or	more than €440	First €26	2.00%	2.01%	2.00%	2.01%
		Balance	2.90%	2.01%	2.00%	2.01%
B2*	more than €440	First €26	Nil	2.01%	Nil	2.01%
		Balance	0.90%	2.01%	Nil	2.01%

*Subclass B2 applies to medical card holders and to people getting a social welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance. See note on page 8.

Class C

This covers commissioned Army Officers and members of the Army Nursing Service recruited before 6 April 1995.

Subclass	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	First €46,600		Balance over €46,600	
			EE	ER	EE	ER
C0	Up to €300	All	Nil	1.85%	Nil	1.85%
CX	€300.01- €440 inclusive	First €26	Nil	1.85%	Nil	1.85%
		Balance	0.90%	1.85%	Nil	1.85%
C1 or	more than €440	First €26	2.00%	1.85%	2.00%	1.85%
		Balance	2.90%	1.85%	2.00%	1.85%
C2*	more than €440	First €26	Nil	1.85%	Nil	1.85%
		Balance	0.90%	1.85%	Nil	1.85%

*Subclass C2 applies to medical card holders and to people getting a social welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance. Please see note on page 8.

Public sector employments

Rates of contribution from 1 January 2006

Class D

This covers permanent and pensionable employees in the public service, other than those mentioned in Classes B and C, recruited before 6 April 1995.

Subclass	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	First €46,600		Balance over €46,600	
			EE	ER	EE	ER
D0	Up to €300	All	Nil	2.35%	Nil	2.35%
DX	€300.01- €440 inclusive	First €26	Nil	2.35%	Nil	2.35%
		Balance	0.90%	2.35%	Nil	2.35%
D1 or	more than €440	First €26	2.00%	2.35%	2.00%	2.35%
		Balance	2.90%	2.35%	2.00%	2.35%
D2*	more than €440	First €26	Nil	2.35%	Nil	2.35%
		Balance	0.90%	2.35%	Nil	2.35%

*Subclass D2 applies to medical card holders and to people getting a social welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance. Please see note on page 8.

Class H

This covers NCOs and enlisted personnel of the Defence Forces.

Subclass	Weekly pay band	How much of weekly pay	First €46,600		Balance over €46,600	
			EE	ER	EE	ER
H0	Up to €300	All	Nil	10.05%	Nil	10.05%
HX	€300.01- €440 inclusive	First €127	Nil	10.05%	Nil	10.05%
		Balance	3.90%	10.05%	Nil	10.05%
H1 or	more than €440	First €127	2.00%	10.05%	2.00%	10.05%
		Balance	5.90%	10.05%	2.00%	10.05%
H2*	more than €440	First €127	Nil	10.05%	Nil	10.05%
		Balance	3.90%	10.05%	Nil	10.05%

*Subclass H2 applies to medical card holders and to people getting a social welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance. Please see note on page 8.

Important Notice

PRSI changes for 2006

Employee's annual earnings ceiling

The employee's **annual** earnings ceiling (above which they pay no social insurance contributions) has increased to €46,600.

Employee income thresholds

- The threshold for employee PRSI has increased from €287 a week to €300 a week.
- The threshold for payment of the 2% Health Contribution has increased from €400 a week to €440 a week.
- The annual earnings threshold for the Health Contribution has increased from €20,800 to €22,880.

Employee's PRSI-Free Allowance

The PRSI-Free Allowance remains at €127 per week for employees in Classes A and H with weekly earnings of more than €300 and at €26 per week for all employees in Classes B, C and D.

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Summary of PRSI classes

Class A employment

- The **pay threshold** to determine whether employees pay PRSI at Class A or J remains at **€38**.
- Employees paid €38 to €300 inclusive in any week should be recorded under subclass A0.
- Employees paid €300.01 to €356 inclusive in any week should be recorded under subclass AX.
- Employees paid €356.01 to €440 inclusive in any week should be recorded under subclass AL.
- In any week that the employee is paid more than €440, it should be recorded under subclass A1 or A2* (please see note on page 8).
- Participants in Community Employment who are paid €300, or less in any week should be recorded under Subclass A8. In any week that the pay is more than €300, record under subclass A9.
- Community Employment supervisors and employees on apprenticeship schemes are insurable at Class A in the normal way.
- The annual pay ceiling for PRSI has increased to €46,600 for employees.

Class J employment

- The Class J contribution normally relates to people paid less than €38 per week (from all employments). However, a small number of employees are insurable at Class J **no matter how much they are paid**, such as employees aged 66 or over and people in subsidiary employment (defined on Page 12).

Other classes

- Class B, C, D or H employees paid up to €300 inclusive in any week should be recorded under subclass B0, C0, D0 or H0.
- Class B, C, D or H employees paid between €300.01 and €440 inclusive should be recorded under subclass BX, CX, DX or HX.
- For people covered under Class J, S or K, and paid up to €440 inclusive in any week, record under subclass 0 i.e. J0, S0 or Class M (for people within Class K) as appropriate.
- Employees or self-employed people (excluding those listed in note across) with pay or income of more than €440 in any week should be recorded under subclass 1 (i.e. B1, C1, D1, H1, J1, S1 or K1).
- Employees or self-employed people with pay or income more than €440 in any week, who do not have to pay the Health Contribution (*please see note on page 8) should be recorded under subclass B2, C2, D2, H2, J2, S2 or Class M (for people within Class K).
- The Class S minimum annual contribution for year 2006 remains at €253.
- The annual pay ceiling for PRSI has been increased to €46,600 for employees.



*** Note:**

- Medical card holders, people aged 70 and over and recipients of a Social Welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment, Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance or Widow's/Widower's Pension acquired under the social security legislation of a country covered by EC Regulations do not have to pay the Health Contribution, even if their pay is more than €440 per week.
- It is the employer's responsibility to establish if employees fall into this category.

Components of the PRSI contribution

The Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) contribution is made up of a number of different components including:

- social insurance at the appropriate percentage rate for employees and employers, which varies according to the pay and PRSI Class of the employee and benefits for which he or she is insured.
- 2.00% Health Contribution, paid by the employee where applicable, goes towards funding the Health Service.
- 0.70% National Training Fund Levy, is included in the employer's contribution in Classes A and H.

Levels of payment for 2006

PRSI contributions will be payable as follows:

- they will be paid at the appropriate percentage rates for employees with reckonable earnings up to €46,600.
- on reckonable pay of more than €46,600, the employer's share (social insurance and the 0.70% National Training Fund Levy in Classes A and H) is due and the 2.00% Health Contribution by the employee where applicable.
- Class S, social insurance at 3.00% and the 2.00% Health Contribution (where applicable) on **all** reckonable income.

The Health Contribution and National Training Fund Levy are included in the contribution rates outlined on pages 2 to 5.

Reckonable pay

PRSI is calculated on the employee's reckonable pay. Reckonable pay is the gross money pay **plus** notional pay (or benefit in kind) if applicable, reduced by superannuation and permanent health insurance contributions made by an employee, deducted under a net pay arrangement by the employer, which are allowable for income tax purposes.

The employee's portion of the Social Insurance Contribution is paid on the employee's reckonable pay to a ceiling of €46,600 in 2006. The employer's portion is payable on all reckonable pay of each employee.

PRSI-Free Allowance for employees

The PRSI-Free Allowance remains at €127 per week (per individual employment) for employees with weekly reckonable pay of more than €300 in Classes A and H, and at €26 for all employees in Classes B, C and D. The allowance does not apply to the Health Contribution or the employer's share of PRSI. In other words, in Class A it applies to the calculation of the 4% employee Social Insurance deduction, but not to the 2% Health Contribution. The allowance is non-cumulative, so, it only applies for weeks of insurable employment in which PRSI is payable (see "holiday pay" on page 11). **Remember that this allowance does not alter the gross reckonable weekly pay threshold that determines the appropriate contribution subclass.**

It is important to note that the method of calculating PRSI outlined on pages 2 to 5 caters for the inclusion of the €127/€26 PRSI-Free Allowance.

For employees paid other than weekly, alternatives to the weekly PRSI-Free Allowance are:

Class	A	B, C, D
Weekly	€127	€26
Fortnightly	€254	€52
Monthly	€551	€113

PRSI contribution weeks

A contribution week is each successive period of seven days starting on 1 January each year. Week 1 is the period from 1 to 7 January inclusive, week 2 from 8 to 14 January and so on. **For 2006, the contribution week starts on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.**

A contribution at the appropriate class should be awarded to an employee for each contribution week or part of one, for which he or she is in insurable employment.

Voluntary contributions

People who were insured at Classes A, B, C, D, H or S and who are no longer insurably employed may opt to pay Voluntary Contributions to provide cover for pensions.

Applications must be made within 12 months from the end of the PRSI contribution year in which a PRSI contribution was last paid or credited. For further information, contact:

Voluntary Contribution Section

Tel. (051) 356 000 or (01) 704 3000 ext. 46006/7

Earnings bands and subclasses

Subclasses	A0	A8, B0, C0, D0 and H0
Weekly	€38 to €300	≤€300
Fortnightly	€76* to €600	≤€600
Monthly	€165* to €1,300	≤€1,300

*This threshold only applies to Class A employees, whose total earnings in each week of the fortnight or month are at least €38.

Subclasses	AX,	AL
Weekly	€300.01 to €356	€356.01 to €440
Fortnightly	€600.01 to €712	€712.01 to €880
Monthly	€1,300.01 to €1,543	€1,543.01 to €1,907

Subclasses	BX, CX, DX and HX	A9
Weekly	€300.01 to €440	>€300
Fortnightly	€600.01 to €880	>€600
Monthly	€1,300.01 to €1,907	>€1,300

Subclasses	J0, M, and S0	A1 and A2
Weekly	≤€440	> €440
Fortnightly	≤€880	> €880
Monthly	≤€1,907	> €1,907

Subclasses A4, A5, A6 and A7 are only used for approved employees under the Employer's PRSI Exemption Scheme. For further information contact Employment Support Services, telephone: (01) 704 3165

Possible refund of Health Contribution

Where an employee's weekly pay fluctuates above and below €440, but the annual pay during 2006 is not more than €22,880, the employee may claim a refund of the 2% Health Contribution deduction from the

Department of Social and Family Affairs
PRSI Refunds,
Oisín House,
Pearse St.,
Dublin 2

Telephone: (01) 673 2566

Holiday pay

If you pay an employee for a period of more than a week, apply the relevant PRSI-Free Allowance for each of the weeks involved. It is also important to determine the subclass correctly.

Example: An employee receives two weeks holiday pay with a current week's wages. To determine the correct PRSI subclass for each week, apply the PRSI-Free Allowance (€127 X 3) and record the contributions accordingly. This arrangement also applies when an employer pays holiday pay when an employee leaves the employment.

Sick pay

Payment of Disability Benefit and Injury Benefit can now be made directly to your company where sick pay arrangements require the employee(s) to hand over Disability Benefit/Injury Benefit payments to their employers. The Disability Benefit Claim Form/First Medical Certificate (MC 1) now has a section where the employee can indicate that any payment(s) due can issue directly to the employer.

Completion of P45

Where an employee leaves his or her employment, a form P45 should be completed and given to the employee **immediately**. The P45 is very important and may be required as evidence of entitlement to social welfare benefits.

Lump sum payments

Lump sum payments made to employees when they leave employment are not regarded as reckonable pay for PRSI purposes. These include redundancy, gratuities, ex-gratia and pay in lieu of notice. However, a Class K contribution is paid on the taxable amount. If the lump sum is exempt from tax, it is exempt from PRSI.

PRSI for the self-employed

People whose income is subject to PAYE income tax but who are held not to be insurable as employees continue to be insurable at Class S. However, where their reckonable income **from all sources** is less than €3,174 for year 2006, they will not be held to be insurable (see paragraph on Voluntary Contributions). In such cases, Class S should be applied during the year and contributors can apply for a refund of the PRSI paid during that year after the end of the tax year. They can contact: **Refunds Section, Tel: (01) 673 2586.**

The minimum contribution under Class S is €253 for the year 2006. Where a self-employed person's total PRSI deductions for the year are less than €253, they must pay any outstanding balance to the Department of Social and Family Affairs: **Directors Unit, Self-Employment Section, Tel. (051) 356027.**

Employers, who are personally liable for PRSI under Class S, are required to register with the Department of Social and Family Affairs. A registration form SE3 is available for this purpose from: **Self-Employment Section, Tel. (051) 356 000 or (01) 704 3000 Ext. 6003 to 6005 and 6017.**

National Training Fund Levy

The National Training Fund Levy of 0.70% is included in the employer's share of PRSI under Class A and H, **with no change in the overall rate payable by the employers.**

Try our new online PRSI calculator which is available at www.welfare.ie/schemes/employer/index.html

Taxation of Unemployment or Disability Benefit

Payments for child dependants are excluded from the taxation of Unemployment Benefit and Disability Benefit. In addition, the first six weeks of Disability Benefit is exempt from tax. This Department will notify you of the amount of Disability Benefit to be taken into account for tax purposes where appropriate. Taxation of Unemployment Benefit will still be mainly applied by the tax office.

If you have any enquiries about taxation of social welfare benefits contact your local tax office.

Maintenance payments

A separated person may claim a refund of PRSI on enforceable maintenance payments made to his or her spouse. The PRSI due will be re-calculated on the reckonable pay/income reduced by the amount of maintenance payment. Any excess PRSI paid will be returned by claiming a refund after year end, 31 December 2006, from the PRSI Refunds Section, Oisín House, Pearse St., Dublin 2.

Telephone (01) 673 2586.

Subsidiary employments

Subsidiary employment, which is insurable at Class J regardless of earnings, is defined in legislation. It includes, for example, employment of people who are also insurable at Class B, C, D or H in their main employment.

Rehabilitative employment

Sheltered Workshop employment is not insurable under Social Welfare Acts as it is not regarded as being employment under a contract of service (in other words, no employer or employee relationship is involved). The allowance being paid is not "reckonable income" or "reckonable emoluments" for PRSI (and PAYE) purposes.

However, employment in the open labour market where a normal employer/employee relationship exists is insurable at a Class A rate if weekly income is €38 or more, and at a Class J rate if it is less than €38.

Personal Public Service Number (PPS No.)

It is vital that the correct PPS No. is shown on your P35 end of year return for each employee. If you need assistance in tracing the PPS No.(s) for your employee(s), please have them contact:

Client Identity Services, Tel. (01) 704 3281

Recording of contributions (End of year returns for 2006)

For the year 2006 and subsequent years, the gross pay on the form P35 (end of year return) for each employee should include any taxable benefit (notional pay) received by that employee during the year. In addition, the total amount of taxable benefits in the year for **all** employees should be included in the appropriate section of the summary page of the P35.

The P35 should not include any class or subclass of PRSI that did not apply during the tax year.

If the employee changes class (for example Class A0 and J0) an aggregate total of weeks for all classes should be included on the P35.

If more than two classes or subclasses are involved during the year, you should fill in a form PRC 1 (copy in your P35 Pack) or a computer printout in the same format showing the classes and number of weeks of insurable employment in each class or subclass.

You must use Form P35 LT when the PPS No. is unknown, but you still record the Employee's Name, Address, Date of Birth and Mother's Birth Surname.

If you need help

A Ready Reckoner containing weekly calculations for Classes A, J, K and S and further information on PRSI Rates for Employers and Employees is available on our website www.welfare.ie:

A range of information is now available for employers on our website
www.welfare.ie/schemes/employer/index.html

You can order the following PRSI information booklets from our LoCall leaflet request line.
Telephone: **1890 20 23 25** or download them from our website

www.welfare.ie/publications/index.html

SW3 - Employers Guide

SW8 - Guide to Voluntary Contributions

SW63 - PRSI for Non-PAYE Employees

SW73 - Employer's PRSI Exemption Scheme

SW74 - A guide to PRSI for self-employed

SW102 - Family Employments and PRSI

SW105 - Worksharing

SW106 - Guide to Pay-Related Social Insurance.

PENSIONS REMINDER

If you have employees approaching retirement age, it is important that they apply on time for a pension.

Retirement Pension (age 65)

Where a person retires from work at age 65 they may get a Retirement Pension from the Department of Social and Family Affairs based on their social insurance contributions.

They should apply 3 months before they reach age 65.

Old Age Contributory Pension (at age 66)

A person may continue working and also get this pension from the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Self-employed people who pay Class S PRSI contributions can also continue to work and qualify for this payment provided that their social insurance liabilities are in order. People who are liable for Class S PRSI contributions and who are approaching age 66 should check with their local Revenue Office to ensure their tax affairs are in order to avoid delays.

They should apply 3 months before they reach age 66.

How to apply

Application forms are available from your local Social Welfare Office, Post Office, Citizens Information Centre or telephone the Leaflet Request Line at LoCall 1890 20 23 25.

Application forms may also be downloaded from our website at www.welfare.ie