



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

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Drop in October Live Register welcomed by Minister Ó Cuív

Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Minister for Social Protection has welcomed a fall in the October Live Register figures published today (3 November 2010) by the CSO. This is the second month in a row the Live Register has shown a decrease and Minister Ó Cuív said the fall "is a very welcome development." The Social Protection Minister said: "Yesterday's tax returns and today's Live Register figures show signs that despite the challenges we face, our economy is stabilising. However the high rate of unemployment is still of great concern to the Government and we are hugely committed to getting people back to work and in to employment. The protection and creation of jobs is our key priority."

The headline (or unadjusted) figure in the October Live Register shows a drop of 12,864 on the previous month's (September) total, bringing the Live Register to 429,553.

This October 2010 decrease (12,864) is the highest October monthly decrease in the Live Register since October 1996.

The October 2010 figure is the lowest monthly total since December 2009.

There is also a fall in the (seasonally adjusted) October Live Register figure to 443,000, which is a decrease of 6,600 or 1.5% on September 2010.

Minister Ó Cuív said: "It is also worth noting that the Live Register includes those who have employment albeit on a part time basis, and receive a payment from my Department for part of the week. These account for just over 63,000 people on the Live Register. The number of people on the Live Register who actually receive a jobseeker's payment for a full week is 278,855. Over 25,500 people on the Register are signing for PRSI credits only (i.e. to maintain the continuity of their social insurance record).

The Minister said the Government is undertaking a number of key, strategic initiatives to create new jobs and to get people back to work, including September's announcement by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen TD of the Government's five-year integrated plan for **trade, tourism and investment** aimed at generating 300,000 jobs and boosting exports by one third. Minister



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Ó Cuív also referred to the **Capital Investment Plan** announced also by the Taoiseach in July - one of the highest spends in the EU, and a major stimulus to the economy; the €500 million **Innovation Fund-Ireland** which will support enterprise development and job creation by drawing top venture capitalists to Ireland; the €360 million which is being invested in research and innovation involving third-level institutions that will create jobs and new enterprises.

The Government's €32 million **Labour Market Activation Fund** is targeted at specific priority groups amongst the unemployed and is supporting almost 60 projects and 11,000 participants this year.

Minister Ó Cuív also referred to the Government's **Employment Subsidy Scheme** which is supporting 1,697 companies and maintaining over 100,000 employees in jobs; the **Back to Work Enterprise Allowance** - which aims to encourage the long term unemployed to develop a business while allowing them to retain a reducing proportion of their social welfare payment. As of October 2010 over 7,200 people were availing of this scheme. Over 1,500 people are also availing of the **Short-Term Enterprise scheme**. Over €160 million has been provided by the Minister's Department for the **Back to Education Allowance** scheme for this current year. Practical changes to ease its qualifying conditions came in to effect from 19 July. The **PRSI job incentive scheme for employers** is focused on creating new jobs for people who have been on the Live Register for 6 months or more.

Editor's note:

There was also a fall in the September 2010 Live Register. The CSO September Live Register (unadjusted) figure was 442,417 which was 24,506 below the August total.

PRESS RELEASE ENDS