



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection**

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**Minister Ó Cuív welcomes drop in Live Register & says Government
determined to reduce unemployment levels**

Minister for Social Protection, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, has welcomed the drop in the Live Register figures published this morning calling the reduction “encouraging and very welcome.”

The Minister said: “The drop in the September Live Register is a positive outcome and is fully consistent with what I have been saying for some months - that the Live Register is stabilising. However levels of unemployment are still very high and our over-riding priority in Government is to drive forward the process of economic recovery and to create new jobs and new opportunities to get people back to work.” The Minister also said the drop in the figures “is not totally unexpected, as the Live Register always falls in September, mainly related to the beginning of the academic year and the opportunities in the education-related sectors.”

The figures published today by the CSO show that the Live Register September (unadjusted) or headline figure is **442,417** which is **24,506** below the August 2010 total.

This month-on-month decrease of 24,506 is the biggest fall ever recorded. The previous biggest fall in a single month was 17,307 recorded in September 2006.



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The Live Register September (seasonally adjusted) figure is **449,600**. This is a decrease of **5,400** (1.2%) on August 2010.

Minister Ó Cuív noted that over 62,000 people on the Live Register are in part-time employment.

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 yesterday'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 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.

Minister Ó Cuív also referred to the Government's **Employment Subsidy Scheme**; 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. At the end of August, 6,646 people were availing of the scheme; the €169 million which is being provided by the Minister's Department for the **Back to Education Allowance** for this academic year. Practical changes to ease its qualifying conditions came in to effect from Monday 19 July and the **PRSI**



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job incentive scheme for employers, which is focused on creating new jobs for people who have been on the Live Register for 6 months or more.

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