

FOCUS

Ireland

Changes from January 2024

- €12 increase in weekly **social welfare payments** from January 2024. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- Weekly rates of **qualified child payments** will increase by €4 in January 2024 bringing them to €54 for those aged 12 and over and €46 for under 12s.
- Income thresholds for the **Working Family Payment** will increase by €54 per week regardless of family size from January 2024.
- **Domiciliary Care Allowance** to increase by €10 a month from January 2024.
- Child Benefit will be extended to 18-year-olds in full time education, from September 2024.

Cost of Living Supports

- €300 cost of living lump sum to all households getting the **Fuel Allowance**
- €200 cost of living lump sum for pensioners and people with a disability getting the **Living Alone Increase**
- €400 cost of living lump sum to all families getting the **Working Family Payment**
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to support all families with children
- €400 cost of living lump sum for people getting the **Carer's Support Grant** *
- €400 cost of living lump sum for people getting Disability Allowance, Blind Pension, or Invalidity Pension*
- €100 cost of living lump sum for people getting an **Increase for a Qualified Child** (to be paid per qualified child)
- Christmas Bonus will be paid to all welfare recipients including pensioners, carers, and people with disabilities.
- January cost of living bonus will be paid to most people who get a weekly social welfare payment including all pensioners, carers, and people on disability payments.

Foster Care

From January 2024 the Foster care allowances will increase by €25 per week. In November 2024 the allowances will be raised to €400 for children aged under 12 and €425 for those over 12.

Foster carers will receive over €1,700 additional funding in 2024 which includes an extra €300 per month by the end of 2024 when compared with the current allowances. A double week will also be paid at the existing rates to foster carers before the end of 2023.

National Childcare Scheme

From September 2024, families receiving the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) universal subsidy will see a further 25% average reduction in the cost of using full time early learning and childcare services. Families accessing registered early learning and childcare will receive a minimum hourly universal NCS subsidy of €2.14 off their out-of-pocket costs, rising from a current hourly rate of €1.40. Also from September 2024, families using childminders can start to benefit from the NCS for the first time.

Social welfare weekly rates below

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maximum weekly rate(from January 2024)	Personal Rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult	Increase for a Qualified Child Under 12	Increase for a Qualified Child Aged 12+
Social Insurance Payments	€	€	€	€
State Pension (Contributory)				
- Personal Rate - Under 80	277.30	See IQA Below	46.00	54.00
- Personal Rate - Aged 80 and over	287.30	See IQA Below	46.00	54.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult - Under 66		184.70		
- Increase for Qualified Adult - 66 and over		248.60		
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension / Deserted Wife's Benefit				

- Under 66	237.50		46.00	54.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	277.30		46.00	54.00
- Aged 80 and over	287.30		46.00	54.00
Invalidity Pension	237.50	169.70	46.00	54.00
Carer's Benefit	249.00		46.00	54.00
Disablement Benefit	263.00		46.00	54.00
Jobseeker's/ Illness/ Health and Safety/ Injury Benefit	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Maternity / Paternity / Adoptive / Parent's Benefit	274.00			
Death Benefit				
- Under 66	262.50		46.00	54.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	281.70		46.00	54.00
- Aged 80 and over	291.70		46.00	54.00

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2024)	Personal Rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult	Increase for a Qualified Child Under 12	Increase for a Qualified Child Aged 12+
Social Assistance Payments	€	€	€	€
State Pension (Non-Contributory)				
- Aged 66 and under 80	266.00		46.00	54.00
- Aged 80 and over	276.00		46.00	54.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult - Under 66		175.70		
Carer's Allowance				
- Under 66	248.00		46.00	54.00
- Aged 66 and over	286.00		46.00	54.00
Disability Allowance / Blind Pension	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension	232.00			
One-Parent Family Payment / Deserted Wife's Allowance	232.00		46.00	54.00
Farm Assist	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Jobseeker's Allowance			46.00	54.00
- Under 25	141.70	141.70	46.00	54.00
- Aged 25 and over	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Supplementary Welfare Allowance				
- Under 25 living independently with State support	230.00	154.00	46.00	54.00

- Under 25 not living independently	141.70	141.70		
- Aged 25 and over	230.00	154.00	46.00	54.00

Child Benefit	2024 Rate
Monthly Rate	€140 per child
Twins – Child Benefit is paid at one and half times the normal monthly rate for each child. All other multiple births – Child Benefit is paid at double the normal monthly rate for each child.	
Employment Programmes	
A rate increase of €12 per week from January 2024 for those participating in the Work Placement Experience Programme, Community Employment Programme, Rural Social Scheme and Tús.	

Working Family Payment Thresholds	2024 Weekly Income Limit
1 Child	€645
2 Children	€746
3 Children	€847
4 Children	€938
5 Children	€1,064
6 Children	€1,180
7 Children	€1,316
8 Children or more	€1,412

Other Social Welfare Payments	2024 Rate	Frequency
Guardian's Payment (Con/Non-Con)	€215	Weekly Rate
Fuel Allowance	€33	Weekly Rate
Living Alone Allowance	€22	Weekly Rate
Island Allowance (specified offshore islands)	€20	Weekly Rate
Domiciliary Care Allowance	€340	Monthly Rate
Carer's Support Grant	€1,850	Annual Rate
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	€8,000	Once-off payment