

What's in this Booklet

This booklet gives the rates of payment for the various payments provided by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. It also contains the percentage rates of pay-related social insurance (PRSI) contributions for employees, employers and for self-employed people.

Tugann an leabhrán seo liosta dos na ráta íocaíochtaí éagsúla a chuireann an Roinn Gnóthaí Sóisialacha, Pobail agus Teaghlaigh ar fáil. Chomh maith leis sin taispeánann sé na rátaí árachais sóisialaigh pá-choibhneasa (ÁSPC) a bhaineann le fostaithe, fostóirí agus daoine atá féin-fhostaithe.

Detailed Information Leaflets on all the Department's leaflets are available free of charge from:

- **your local Social Welfare Office**
or from:
- **Information Service**
Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1.
Tel: (01) 8748444

Rates of Payment	Payable:
— From the Department —————→	from June 1997
— PRSI Contributions —————→	from 6 April 1997
— Payments from Health Boards —————→	for 1998

Payments available from the Health Boards are shown on pages 26 and 27. For more information on these services, you should contact:

- **your local Health Board Office - see page 29**
or contact the:
- **Department of Health and Children**
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6714711

Budget 1997

From November 1997, where a spouse/partner works and earns over £60 gross per week, an increase for a spouse/partner continues to be paid at a reducing rate, until his/her earnings exceed £90 per week (half rate Child Dependant Allowances are payable). This applies to Unemployment Benefit, Unemployment Assistance, Disability Benefit, Disability Allowance, Pre-Retirement Allowance, Occupational Injury Benefit and Unemployability Supplement.

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Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI)

The rates of PRSI from 6 April, 1997 given in the following tables include the Social Insurance Contribution, the Health Contribution (1.25%) and the Employment and Training Levy (1%) but DO NOT include the 0.25% FÁS Apprenticeship Training Levy payable by certain designated employers (see **SW 14** for details).

The employee's portion of the social insurance contribution is paid on the reckonable earnings up to a ceiling of £23,200. The employer's portion continues to be payable on the reckonable earnings of each employee up to £27,900.

The 1.25% Health Contribution and the 1% Employment and Training Levy are payable by the employee on ALL reckonable earnings under Classes A1, AX, J1, B1, C1, D1, H1, K1 and S1.

PRSI-Free Allowance for Employees

From 6 April, 1997, the weekly (non-cumulative) PRSI-Free Allowance of £80 applies to the employees social insurance contribution in Classes A, E and H. The allowance for people in Classes B, C, D and S is £20 per week. This allowance does not apply to the Health Contribution and Employment and Training Levy and it does not affect the employer deduction.

Recipients of Widow's/Widower's Pension/One-Parent Family Payment

Men and women receiving a Social Welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension or One-Parent Family Payment are exempt from paying the 2.25% Health Contribution and Employment and Training Levy. Medical Card holders are also exempt from these levies.

Earnings Thresholds for PRSI

In general PRSI deductions are decided by the nature of the employment and the amount of the employees gross reckonable earnings in any week. The following earnings thresholds apply to Class A (employees in industrial, commercial and service-type employment under a contract of service and new entrants to the Public Service) except where otherwise indicated.

- Up to £29.99 (from ALL employments)
PRSI payable at Class J0, regardless of hours worked.
- £30.00 — £197.00 (individual employments)
The exemption from payment of the 2.25% levies (Health Contribution and Employment and Training Levy) applies to employees in ALL classes with earnings of £197 or less and PRSI is payable at Class A0, B0, etc.
- £197.01 — £260.00 (individual employments)
This earnings threshold applies to Classes AX or AW* (*medical card holders, people in receipt of a Social Welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment, or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance).



Note: In all other classes when earnings exceed £197 per week PRSI is payable at Classes B1/B2, C1/C2, D1/D2, H1/H2, J1/J2, K1/M or S1/S2.

- In excess of £260.00 (individual employments)
Employees in Class A who earn £260.01 or more in any week pay PRSI at Class A1 or A2* (*medical card holders, people in receipt of a Social Welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment, or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance).

Contributions for Self-Employed People

Self-employed people, with a total income of £2,500 or more in the tax year, are liable to pay Class S social insurance contributions. These contributions are payable on gross income less allowable superannuation and capital allowances. The arrangements for paying self-employed contributions are:

- those who pay their tax direct to the Collector-General will pay their Social Insurance Contributions, Health Contribution and Employment and Training Levy with their income tax. They will be liable for a Social Insurance Contribution of 5% of income exceeding £1,040 up to a ceiling of £23,200 or £215, whichever is greater, in addition to the Health Contribution and Employment and Training Levy, where applicable;
- those paying PAYE tax will have their contributions deducted from their income by their employers;
- those who have been told by an Inspector of Taxes that they need not make a return of income, are liable to pay a flat rate contribution of £124 a year to the Department of Social Welfare. (These contributions can be paid by instalments.);
- those whose principle means of livelihood comes from share fishing and who have been classified as self-employed may opt to pay an additional contribution for certain benefits under Class P. They will pay a contribution of 5% of income (up to £23,200) or £215 whichever is the greater, in addition to the PRSI being paid under Class S. See *Fact Sheet 3/97* for more details.

Voluntary Contributions

If you cease to be covered by compulsory PRSI, either as an employee or as a self-employed person, and you are under age 66, you may opt to become insured on a voluntary basis, provided you satisfy certain conditions. See *information leaflet SW 8* for details. There are three rates of Voluntary Contributions:

High Rate	6.6%	for people who paid PRSI at Classes A, E and H
Low Rate	2.6%	for people who paid PRSI at Classes B, C and D
	If your income was less than £4,750 in the 1996/97 tax year, you must pay a minimum Voluntary Contribution as a % of £4,750.	
Special Rate	for people previously insured at Class S, there is a flat rate Voluntary Contribution of £215.	

High Rate	Low Rate	Special Rate	Benefits Covered
✓			Retirement Pension
✓		✓	Old Age (Contributory) Pension
✓	✓	✓	Widow's and Widower's (Contributory) Pension
✓	✓	✓	Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
✓			Death Grant.

Private Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class A			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £23,200			From £23,200.01 to £27,900		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
£30 - £197	A0	First £80 Balance	Nil	*8.50	8.50	Nil	*8.50	8.50
			4.50	*8.50	13.00	Nil	*8.50	8.50
£197.01 - £260	AX	First £80 Balance	2.25	*8.50	10.75	2.25	*8.50	10.75
			6.75	*8.50	15.25	2.25	*8.50	10.75
	**AW	First £80 Balance	Nil	*8.50	8.50	Nil	*8.50	8.50
			4.50	*8.50	13.00	Nil	*8.50	8.50
In excess of £260	A1	First £80 Balance	2.25	*12.00	14.25	2.25	*12.00	14.25
			6.75	*12.00	18.75	2.25	*12.00	14.25
	**A2	First £80 Balance	Nil	*12.00	12.00	Nil	*12.00	12.00
			4.50	*12.00	16.50	Nil	*12.00	12.00
Community Employment Participants ONLY	A9	ER	on full allowance					0.50
		EE	on allowance OVER £80					4.50

* An additional 0.25% FÁS Apprenticeship Training Levy may be payable.

** Class AW or A2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class A

People in industrial, commercial and service-type employment who are employed under a contract of service with reckonable earnings of £30 or more per week from all employments, Civil and Public Servants recruited from 6 April, 1995.

Class A Benefits

- Unemployment Benefit
- Disability Benefit
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Death Grant
- Treatment Benefit
- Occupational Injuries Benefit.

Private Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class J			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £23,200			From £23,200.01 to £27,900		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £197	J0	All	Nil	*0.50	0.50	Nil	*0.50	0.50
In excess of £197	J1	All	2.25	*0.50	2.75	2.25	*0.50	2.75
	**J2	All	Nil	*0.50	0.50	Nil	*0.50	0.50

* An additional 0.25% FÁS Apprenticeship Training Levy may be payable.

**Class J2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class J

The Class J contribution normally relates to people with reckonable earnings of less than £30 per week (from ALL employments). However, a small number of employees are insurable at Class J irrespective of earnings e.g. employees over age 66, people in subsidiary employment etc. - see PRSI 3.

Class J Benefits

- Occupational Injuries Benefit.

Class E			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £23,200			From £23,200.01 to £27,900		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £197	E0	First £80 Balance	Nil	8.12	8.12	Nil	8.12	8.12
			3.83	8.12	11.95	Nil	8.12	8.12
In excess of £197	E1	First £80 Balance	Nil	8.12	8.12	Nil	8.12	8.12
	**E2		3.83	8.12	11.95	Nil	8.12	8.12

**Class E2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class E

Ministers of Religion employed by the Church of Ireland Representative Body. PRSI is remitted under the Special Collection System and the rates quoted do not include the Health Contribution and the Employment and Training Levy. These levies should be paid directly to the Revenue Commissioners when paying income tax.

Class E Benefits

- Disability Benefit
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Death Grant
- Treatment Benefit.

Public Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class B			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £23,200			From £23,200.01 to £27,900		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £197	B0	First £20 Balance	Nil	2.01	2.01	Nil	2.01	2.01
			0.90	2.01	2.91	Nil	2.01	2.01
In excess of £197	B1	First £20 Balance	2.25	2.01	4.26	2.25	2.01	4.26
			3.15	2.01	5.16	2.25	2.01	4.26
	**B2	First £20 Balance	Nil	2.01	2.01	Nil	2.01	2.01
			0.90	2.01	2.91	Nil	2.01	2.01

**Class B2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class B

Permanent and pensionable Civil Servants, Registered Doctors and Dentists employed in the Civil Service and Gardaí, recruited prior to 6 April, 1995.

Class B Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Limited Occupational Injuries Benefits.

Class C			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £23,200			From £23,200.01 to £27,900		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £197	C0	First £20 Balance	Nil	1.85	1.85	Nil	1.85	1.85
			0.90	1.85	2.75	Nil	1.85	1.85
In excess of £197	C1	First £20 Balance	2.25	1.85	4.10	2.25	1.85	4.10
			3.15	1.85	5.00	2.25	1.85	4.10
	**C2	First £20 Balance	Nil	1.85	1.85	Nil	1.85	1.85
			0.90	1.85	2.75	Nil	1.85	1.85

**Class C2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class C

Commissioned Army Officers and members of the Army Nursing Service, recruited prior to 6 April, 1995.

Class C Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance.

Public Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class D			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £23,200			From £23,200.01 to £27,900		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £197	D0	First £20 Balance	Nil	*2.35	2.35	Nil	*2.35	2.35
			0.90	*2.35	3.25	Nil	*2.35	2.35
In excess of £197	D1	First £20 Balance	2.25	*2.35	4.60	2.25	*2.35	4.60
			3.15	*2.35	5.50	2.25	*2.35	4.60
	**D2	First £20 Balance	Nil	*2.35	2.35	Nil	*2.35	2.35
			0.90	*2.35	3.25	Nil	*2.35	2.35

* An additional 0.25% FÁS Apprenticeship Training Levy may be payable.

**Class D2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class D

Permanent and pensionable employees in the public service other than those mentioned in Classes B and C, recruited prior to 6 April, 1995.

Class D Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Occupational Injuries Benefits.

Public Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class H			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £23,200			From £23,200.01 to £27,900		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £197	H0	First £80 Balance	Nil	11.30	11.30	Nil	11.30	11.30
			4.40	11.30	15.70	Nil	11.30	11.30
In excess of £197	H1	First £80 Balance	2.25	11.30	13.55	2.25	11.30	13.55
			6.65	11.30	17.95	2.25	11.30	13.55
	**H2	First £80 Balance	Nil	11.30	11.30	Nil	11.30	11.30
			4.40	11.30	15.70	Nil	11.30	11.30

**Class H2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class H

NCO's and enlisted personnel of the Defence Forces.

Class H Benefits

- Unemployment Benefit
- Disability Benefit
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Death Grant
- Treatment Benefit.

Only certain benefits are payable during service.

Occupational Pensions

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class K			CUMULATIVE INCOME CEILINGS					
Weekly Income Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly income	Up to and including £23,200			Income over £23,200.01		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £197	No contribution payable. Record under Class M .							
In excess of £197	K1	All	2.25	Nil	2.25	2.25	Nil	2.25

People within Class K

People receiving income which is not subject to social insurance contributions but which is liable for the Health Contribution and Employment and Training Levy *such as* Occupational Pensions, income deriving from positions of certain office holders (*for example*, Judiciary and State Solicitors) and income of people over age 66 previously liable for Class S.

Class K Benefits

- Nil.

Class M**NO CONTRIBUTION PAYABLE****People within Class M**

The M Class should be used for people with Nil contribution liability (*for example*, employees under age 16, people within Class K with a Nil liability etc.).

Class M Benefits

- In certain circumstances Occupational Injuries Benefits may be payable.

Self-Employment

SE : Self-Employed contributor

Class S			CUMULATIVE INCOME CEILINGS	
Weekly Income Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly income	Up to and including £23,200 S/E %	Income over £23,200 S/E %
Up to £197	S0	First £20 Balance	Nil 5.00	Nil Nil
In excess of £197	S1	First £20 Balance	2.25 7.25	2.25 2.25
		**S2 First £20 Balance	Nil 5.00	Nil Nil

****Class S2** applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/ Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class S

Self-employed people including certain company directors, people in business on their own account and people with income from investments and rents. For instruction regarding application of Class S, - see **PRSI 3**.

Class S Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension.

Class P	%
First £23,200 of all income	5.00
Income OVER £23,200	Nil

People within Class P

Sharefishermen/women who are classified as self-employed and who are already paying PRSI under Class S. This contribution is over and above the PRSI being paid under Class S.

Class P Benefits

- Limited Unemployment Benefit
- Limited Disability Benefit
- Treatment Benefit.

Unemployment Payments

Unemployment Benefit from 5 June

see booklet SW 65

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£67.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult ▲	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate * £13.20
	Half-rate * £6.60

Unemployment Benefit rates are graduated according to earnings as follows:

Average Weekly Earnings	Personal rate	Qualified Adult Increase
— Less than £35	£30.30	£25.90
— £35 and less than £50	£43.60	£25.90
— £50 and less than £70	£52.90	£25.90
— £70 or more	£67.50	£40.00

Unemployment Assistance from 4 June

see booklet SW 65

	Rate per week SHORT-TERM	Rate per week LONG-TERM
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£65.40	£67.50
<i>Increases:</i>		
— Qualified Adult ▲	£40.00	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate * £13.20	* £13.20
	Half-rate * £6.60	* £6.60

The long-term rate applies to you if you have been getting an unemployment payment for at least 390 days (15 months).

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable. ▲

Part-time Job Incentive Scheme from 4 June

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£42.70
If you are getting an increase for a Qualified Adult	£70.30

The supplement is not affected by your wages from the part-time job.

Family Income Support Payments

Child Benefit

see leaflet SW 42

	Rate per month	Rate from September
1st & 2nd Child	£29.00	£30.00
3rd and subsequent children	£34.00	£39.00
MULTIPLE BIRTHS:	Special Grants	Rate of Payment
Twins:	— Birth of Twins	£500
	— At age 4	£500
	— At age 12	£500
Birth of Triplets:**	At Birth	£300
Birth of 4 or more:**	At Birth	£400

**Double the normal monthly rate of Child Benefit is payable.

Maternity Benefit from 9 June

see leaflet SW 11

Adoptive Benefit from 9 June

see leaflet SW 37

	Rate per week
MAXIMUM rate	£162.80
MINIMUM rate	£82.30

The rate payable is 70% of your earnings in the relevant tax year subject to a reckonable earnings ceiling.

Health & Safety Benefit from 9 June

see leaflet SW 21

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£67.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

Health and Safety Benefit rates are graduated according to earnings as follows:

Average Weekly Earnings	Personal rate	Qualified Adult Increase
— Less than £35	£30.30	£25.90
— £35 and less than £50	£43.60	£25.90
— £50 and less than £70	£52.90	£25.90
— £70 or more	£67.50	£40.00

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Family Income Supplement from 12 June

see leaflet SW 22

To qualify for Family Income Supplement (FIS), your gross average weekly family income must be below a certain amount for your family size.

IF YOU HAVE: and your family income is **LESS** than:

1 child	£205
2 children	£225
3 children	£245
4 children	£265
5 children	£290
6 children	£310
7 children	£327
8 children	£344

The FIS you receive is 60% of the difference between your family income and the income limit which applies to your family.

Example: If you have 4 children and your family income is £200 a week, your FIS would be calculated as follows:

— Income Limit for 4 child family	£265
— Your income	£200
— Difference	£65
— Weekly FIS (60% of £65)	£39 per week



Note: A minimum supplement of £5 per week is payable.

Supplementary Welfare Allowance from 9 June

see booklet SW 54

Rate per week

Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£65.40
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	£13.20

Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance from 13 June

see leaflet SW 48

Rate per week

Rate payable per Orphan	£45.60
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Carer's Allowance from 12 June

see leaflet SW 41

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

	Rate per week
Up to £6	£70.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£68.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£66.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£64.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£62.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£60.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£58.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£56.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£54.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£52.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£50.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£48.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£46.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£44.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£42.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£40.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£38.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£36.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£34.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£32.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£30.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£28.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£26.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£24.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£22.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£20.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£18.50
Over £58 and up to £60	£16.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£14.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£12.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£10.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£8.50
Over £68 and up to £70	£6.50
Over £70 and up to £72	£4.50
Over £72 and up to £74	£2.50
Over £74	Nil



Note: The first £150 per week of a spouse/partner's income (from all sources) is not counted as means.

Increases:

— EACH Child Dependant

	Rate per week
**Full rate	£13.20
*Half rate	£6.60

**Payable if you are single, widowed, or separated.

*Payable if you are living with your spouse/partner.

Widow's (Non-Contributory) Pension from 13 June see booklet SW 26

Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension from 17 October

Deserted Wife's Allowance from 12 June

see leaflet SW 43

Prisoner's Wife's Allowance from 12 June

Where the weekly means as
assessed by the Department are:

Rate per week

Up to £6	£67.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£65.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£63.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£61.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£59.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£57.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£55.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£53.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£51.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£49.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£47.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£45.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£43.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£41.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£39.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£37.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£35.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£33.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£31.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£29.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£27.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£25.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£23.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£21.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£19.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£17.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£15.50
Over £58 and up to £60	£13.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£11.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£9.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£7.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£5.50
Over £68 and up to £70	£3.50
Over £70	Nil

Increases:

Rate per week

- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over
- Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over

£6.00
£5.00

One-Parent Family Payment from 12 June
(Widowed lone parents from 13 June)

see booklet SW 82

Where the weekly means as
assessed by the Department are:

Rate per week

Up to £6	£67.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£65.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£63.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£61.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£59.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£57.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£55.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£53.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£51.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£49.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£47.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£45.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£43.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£41.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£39.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£37.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£35.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£33.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£31.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£29.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£27.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£25.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£23.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£21.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£19.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£17.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£15.50
Over £58 and up to £60 (see note below)	£13.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£11.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£9.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£7.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£5.50
Over £68 and up to £70	£3.50
Over £70	Nil



Note: If you are getting One-Parent Family Payment, you could earn up to £115.38 per week and may still qualify for full payment. If you earn between £115.38 and £230.76, you may qualify for a reduced payment. If you are in receipt of One-Parent Family Payment, and your earnings subsequently exceed £230.76, your payment may continue for one year at **half rate**.

Increases:

— EACH Child Dependant	£15.20
— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
— Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension from 13 June see booklet SW 25
Deserted Wife's Benefit from 12 June see leaflet SW 43

	Contributions	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	48 or over	£71.10
	36 - 47	£70.00
	24 - 35	£68.00



Note: A yearly average of 39 weeks PRSI paid or credited under the 3 or 5 tax year condition will secure a maximum personal rate of £71.10.

Increases:

	Rate per week
— EACH Child Dependant	£17.00
— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
— Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

Deserted Wife's Benefit rates are governed by gross annual earnings as follows:

Annual Income	Greater than £14,000	Between £10,000-£14,000	Less than £10,000
Rate per week	Nil	Reduced Rate	Maximum Rate

Orphan's (Non-Contributory) Pension from 13 June see leaflet SW 48

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

	Rate per week
Up to £6	£45.60
Over £6 and up to £8	£43.60
Over £8 and up to £10	£41.60
Over £10 and up to £12	£39.60
Over £12 and up to £14	£37.60
Over £14 and up to £16	£35.60
Over £16 and up to £18	£33.60
Over £18 and up to £20	£31.60
Over £20 and up to £22	£29.60
Over £22 and up to £24	£27.60
Over £24 and up to £26	£25.60
Over £26 and up to £28	£23.60
Over £28 and up to £30	£21.60
Over £30 and up to £32	£19.60
Over £32 and up to £34	£17.60
Over £34 and up to £36	£15.60
Over £36 and up to £38	£13.60
Over £38 and up to £40	£11.60
Over £40 and up to £42	£9.60
Over £42 and up to £44	£7.60
Over £44 and up to £46	£5.60
Over £46 and up to £48	£3.60
Over £48	Nil

Payments for Ill or Incapacitated People

Disability Benefit from 9 June
to be known as **Sickness Benefit** later in '98

see booklet **SW 9**

Rate per week	
PERSONAL RATE	£67.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult (▲)	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

Disability Benefit rates are graduated according to earnings as follows:

Average Weekly Earnings	Personal rate	Qualified Adult Increase
— Less than £35	£30.30	£25.90
— £35 and less than £50	£43.60	£25.90
— £50 and less than £70	£52.90	£25.90
— £70 or more	£67.50	£40.00

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable. (▲)

Invalidity Pension from 12 June
to be known as **Disability Pension** later in '98

see leaflet **SW 44**

Rate per week	
PERSONAL RATE:	
— Under age 65	£69.20
— Aged 65 or over	£78.00
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult	£45.10
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£15.20
	Half-rate *£7.60

*An increase of £15.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Rate per week	
— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
— Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

Certain other payments are available for incapacitated people from the Health Boards - see page 26.

Disability Allowance from 4 June

see booklet SW 29

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

	Rate per week
Up to £2	£67.50
Over £2 and up to £4	£65.50
Over £4 and up to £6	£63.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£61.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£59.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£57.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£55.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£53.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£51.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£49.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£47.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£45.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£43.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£41.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£39.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£37.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£35.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£33.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£31.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£29.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£27.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£25.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£23.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£21.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£19.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£17.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£15.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£13.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£11.50
Over £58 and up to £60	£9.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£7.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£5.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£3.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£1.50
Over £68	Nil

Increases:

- Qualified Adult ▲
- EACH Child Dependant

	Rate per week
	£40.00
Full rate	*£13.20
Half-rate	*£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable. ▲

Blind Person's Pension from 13 Junesee booklet **SW 76****Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:****Rate per week****Increase per week for Qualified Adult**

Up to £6	£67.50	£40.00
Over £6 and up to £8	£65.50	£39.00
Over £8 and up to £10	£63.50	£38.00
Over £10 and up to £12	£61.50	£37.00
Over £12 and up to £14	£59.50	£36.00
Over £14 and up to £16	£57.50	£35.00
Over £16 and up to £18	£55.50	£34.00
Over £18 and up to £20	£53.50	£33.00
Over £20 and up to £22	£51.50	£32.00
Over £22 and up to £24	£49.50	£31.00
Over £24 and up to £26	£47.50	£30.00
Over £26 and up to £28	£45.50	£29.00
Over £28 and up to £30	£43.50	£28.00
Over £30 and up to £32	£41.50	£27.00
Over £32 and up to £34	£39.50	£26.00
Over £34 and up to £36	£37.50	£25.00
Over £36 and up to £38	£35.50	£24.00
Over £38 and up to £40	£33.50	£23.00
Over £40 and up to £42	£31.50	£22.00
Over £42 and up to £44	£29.50	£21.00
Over £44 and up to £46	£27.50	£20.00
Over £46 and up to £48	£25.50	£19.00
Over £48 and up to £50	£23.50	£18.00
Over £50 and up to £52	£21.50	£17.00
Over £52 and up to £54	£19.50	£16.00
Over £54 and up to £56	£17.50	£15.00
Over £56 and up to £58	£15.50	£14.00
Over £58 and up to £60	£13.50	£13.00
Over £60 and up to £62	£11.50	£12.00
Over £62 and up to £64	£9.50	£11.00
Over £64 and up to £66	£7.50	£10.00
Over £66 and up to £68	£5.50	£9.00
Over £68 and up to £70	£3.50	£8.00
Over £70	Nil	Nil



Note: A person getting this payment can also earn £104 a year for each dependent child which is not counted as means.

Increases:

- EACH Child Dependant
- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over
- Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over

Rate per week

Full rate	£13.20
Half-rate	£6.60
	£6.00
	£5.00

Occupational Injuries Benefits Payments

Injury Benefit from 9 June

see leaflet SW 30

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£67.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult ▲	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable. ▲

Disablement Benefit from 9 June

see leaflet SW 31

Over 90% Disablement

Maximum PERSONAL PENSION £91.20 per week

20% to 90% Disablement

People assessed as disabled between

20% and 90% are paid

Reduced rate pension

Up to 19% Disablement

If you are 1% to 19% disabled you may be entitled to a lump sum, subject to a maximum of

£6,380

Unemployability Supplement from 9 June

see leaflet SW 31

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£67.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable. ▲

Medical Care

see leaflet SW 34

The Occupational Injuries Benefits Scheme covers the cost of medical care and attention reasonably and necessarily incurred as a result of an occupational accident or disease.

However, these expenses must not already have been met by the Health Board or by way of Treatment Benefit from the Department of Social Welfare.

Constant Attendance Allowance from 13 June

see leaflet SW 31

	Rate per week
100% Disablement	
Standard rate	£38.80
Reduced Standard rate	£19.50
Severe Disablement	
Rate payable to severely disabled people	£58.00
Exceptionally Severe Disablement	
Rate payable to exceptionally severely disabled people	£74.60

Death Benefits (Survivor's Benefits) from 13 June

see leaflet SW 32

	Rate per week
Pension for a widow or widower	£89.40
<i>Increases:</i>	
— EACH Child Dependant	£17.00
DEPENDENT PARENT'S PENSION	
Where deceased was Unmarried	
— one parent	£89.40
— other parent	£41.80
Where deceased was Married	
— each parent	£41.80

Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over

£6.00 per week

Orphan's Pension

£47.90 per week

Funeral Grant (Lump Sum)

£320

Payments for Retired or Elderly People

Retirement Pension from 12 June

see booklet SW 18

Old Age (Contributory) Pension from 13 June

	Contributions	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	48 or over	£78.00
	36 - 47	£75.90
	24 - 35	£73.40
— Old Age (Contributory) Pension only	20 - 23	£71.80
From 21 November 1997		
— Pro-Rata Old Age (Contributory) Pension	15 - 19	£58.50
	10 - 14	£39.00

Increases:

	Rate per week
— Qualified Adult UNDER age 66	£51.00
— Qualified Adult OVER age 66	£55.40
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£15.20
	Half rate *£7.60
— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
— Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

*An increase of £15.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Pre-Retirement Allowance from 12 June

see leaflet SW 80

	Rate per week
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£67.50
Increases:	
— Qualified Adult Ⓐ	£40.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable. Ⓐ

Old Age (Non-Contributory) Pension from 13 June see booklet SW 16

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

Rate per week

Increase per week for Qualified Adult

Up to £6	£67.50	£40.00
Over £6 and up to £8	£65.50	£39.00
Over £8 and up to £10	£63.50	£38.00
Over £10 and up to £12	£61.50	£37.00
Over £12 and up to £14	£59.50	£36.00
Over £14 and up to £16	£57.50	£35.00
Over £16 and up to £18	£55.50	£34.00
Over £18 and up to £20	£53.50	£33.00
Over £20 and up to £22	£51.50	£32.00
Over £22 and up to £24	£49.50	£31.00
Over £24 and up to £26	£47.50	£30.00
Over £26 and up to £28	£45.50	£29.00
Over £28 and up to £30	£43.50	£28.00
Over £30 and up to £32	£41.50	£27.00
Over £32 and up to £34	£39.50	£26.00
Over £34 and up to £36	£37.50	£25.00
Over £36 and up to £38	£35.50	£24.00
Over £38 and up to £40	£33.50	£23.00
Over £40 and up to £42	£31.50	£22.00
Over £42 and up to £44	£29.50	£21.00
Over £44 and up to £46	£27.50	£20.00
Over £46 and up to £48	£25.50	£19.00
Over £48 and up to £50	£23.50	£18.00
Over £50 and up to £52	£21.50	£17.00
Over £52 and up to £54	£19.50	£16.00
Over £54 and up to £56	£17.50	£15.00
Over £56 and up to £58	£15.50	£14.00
Over £58 and up to £60	£13.50	£13.00
Over £60 and up to £62	£11.50	£12.00
Over £62 and up to £64	£9.50	£11.00
Over £64 and up to £66	£7.50	£10.00
Over £66 and up to £68	£5.50	£9.00
Over £68 and up to £70	£3.50	£8.00
Over £70	Nil	Nil



Note: A person getting this payment can also earn £104 a year for each dependent child which is not counted as means.

Increases:

— EACH Child Dependant

— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over

— Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over

Rate per week

Full rate £13.20

Half-rate £6.60

£6.00

£5.00

Extra Benefits

Butter Vouchers

People who receive social assistance payments are entitled to butter vouchers.

Allowance

Number of Vouchers

— Claimant	1
— Each Dependant	1

Each voucher can be used towards the cost of one pound of butter or towards the cost of one pound of spreadable butter which has a minimum butterfat content of 80%.

Fuel Allowance

see leaflet SW 17

The Fuel Allowance is payable to people dependent on long-term social welfare or health board payments who are unable to provide for their own heating needs. Only one allowance is payable per household and the household must satisfy a means test.

Allowance

Rate per week

— Payable from mid-October to mid-April	£5.00
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Smokeless Fuel Allowance

see leaflet SW 17a

This allowance is to help certain low income households meet the extra costs of using smokeless or low smoke fuels in those built-up areas of Dublin and Cork where the sale of bituminous coal has been banned.

Allowance

Rate per week

— Payable from mid-October to mid-April	£3.00
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Free Electricity Allowance

see booklet SW 39

Allowance

Normal Standing Charges PLUS

— Individual Account	1,500 units per year
— Group Account	£10.30 per month

Free Natural Gas Allowance

see booklet SW 39

Standard Tariff Allowance

The allowance covers:

- the supply charge of £22.00 and up to £5.00 of free natural gas in each two-monthly billing period in winter, and
- a credit of £18.00 against your overall natural gas bill in each two-monthly billing period in summer.

For details on other tariffs see booklet SW 39.

Free Bottled Gas Refill Allowance

see booklet SW 39

For the Period:**Allowance**

— January to April	5 cylinders
— May to June	2 cylinders
— July to August	2 cylinders
— September to December	5 cylinders

Free Television Licence Allowance

If you qualify for a Free Electricity/Natural Gas/Bottled Gas Refill Allowance you are entitled to a free colour television licence from the next due renewal date of your licence.

Free Telephone Rental Allowance

see leaflet SW 45

This allowance covers the full cost of the yearly rental and up to 20 free units per two monthly billing period. It does not include installation costs.

Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance

see leaflet SW 75

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is payable to parents whose income limits are at or below the following amounts:

Couple with:	Income Limit	Lone Parent with:	Income Limit
— 1 child	£149.20	— 1 child	£93.10
— 2 children	£164.40	— 2 children	£110.10
— 3 children	£179.60	— 3 children	£127.10
— 4 children	*£194.80	— 4 children	**£144.10
*Limit is increased by £15.20 for each additional child			
**Limit is increased by £17.00 for each additional child			

Allowance**Rate payable**

— Rate for each child aged 2 - 11	£43.00
— Rate for each child aged 12 - 17*	£58.00

*and children aged 18 - 22 if in full-time education for whom a Child Dependant Allowance is payable.

Death Grant

see leaflet SW 46

	Reduced Rate	Full Rate
— Child under age 5	£19.00	£20.00
— Child aged between 5 and 18	£48.00	£60.00
— Adult	£80.00	£100.00

Payments from Health Boards

Blind Welfare Allowance

A Supplementary Allowance payable in addition to Disability Allowance to blind people over age 16 and under age 18 in respect of:

	Rate per week
— an Adult Dependant	£2.50
— a Child Dependant	£3.10

A Supplementary Allowance is payable to blind people receiving a Blind Person's Pension from the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

	Rate per week
— Blind Pensioner over age 18	£21.30
— Blind Couple	£42.50
— Increase for EACH Child Dependant	£3.50

Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowance

	Rate per week
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£67.50
<i>Increases for Dependents:</i>	
— Increase for Dependent Spouse	£46.00
— Increase for each Child Dependant	£13.60

Other Allowances and Grants

	Rate payable
Mobility Allowance	£40.20 per month
Domiciliary Care Allowance - Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£103.60 per month
Maternity Cash Grant - For medical card holders	£8.00
Motorised Transport Grant - For disabled people, up to	£2,800

Charges in Public Hospitals

	Private per day	Semi-Private per day	*Day Care
— Health Board Regional Hospitals and Voluntary Teaching Hospitals	£157.00	£123.00	£112.00
— County Hospitals and Voluntary Non-Teaching Hospitals	£129.00	£105.00	£94.00
— District Hospitals	£81.00	£70.00	£60.00

Everyone who is ordinarily resident in Ireland is entitled to hospital services as an in-patient in a public ward or as an out-patient at a public clinic.

***Day Care:** This charge applies to private/semi-private day beds or to day-cases in other private/semi-private beds.

Hospital Charges

The in-patient charge is at a rate of £25.00 per night subject to a maximum of £250.00 in a 12 month period. People who attend the Accident and Emergency Department directly without having a referral note from his/her G.P., will be liable for a charge of £20 which will apply only to the first visit of any episode of care. This charge does not apply to attendances at out-patient clinics.

Income Guidelines for Medical Card

The income guidelines from January 1998 are as follows:

	Under age 66	Age 66-79	Age 80 or over
— Single person living alone	£89.00	£97.00	£101.50
— Single person living with family	£79.00	£84.00	£87.00
— Married couple	£129.00	£144.50	£151.50

Allowances:

	Per week
— Each child under age 16	£15.50
— Other dependants	£17.00
— House expenses e.g. rent, mortgage in excess of	£15.50
— Cost of travelling to work in excess of	£14.00

Drugs Refund Scheme

There is a scheme in operation for non-medical card holders where a refund of expenditure on prescribed drugs and medicines over £90.00 per quarter, or a refund of all expenditures over £32.00 per month for people who, in the view of their doctor or consultant, suffer from a long-term medical condition requiring on-going medication. For further details of the Health Schemes please contact your local Health Board - see page 29 for list of offices.