

What's in this Booklet

This booklet gives the rates of payment for the various payments provided by the Department of Social Welfare. 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 Leasa Shóisialaigh ar fáil. Chomh maith leis sin taispeánann sé na rátaí árachais sóisialaigh pá-choibhneasa (PRSI) a bhaineann le fostaithe, fostóirí agus daoine atá féin-fhostaithe.

Detailed Information Leaflets on all Department of Social Welfare Schemes are available free of charge from:

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

The *Guide to Social Welfare Services - SW 4* outlining the services provided by the Department is also available.

Rates of Payment

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| - From the Department | from June 1996 |
| - PRSI Contributions | from 6 April 1996 |
| - Payments from Health Boards | for 1996 |

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 30
- or contact the:
Department of Health
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6714711

Contents

Pay-Related Social Insurance

General Information	1
PRSI - Free Allowance for Employees	1
Recipients of Widow's and Widower's Pension/Lone Parent's Allowance	1
Earnings Thresholds for PRSI	1
Contributions for Self-Employed People	2
Voluntary Contributions	3
PRSI Contribution Rates:	
Class A	4
Classes J, E	5
Classes B, C	6
Class D	7
Class H	8
Classes K, M	9
Classes S, P	10

Unemployment Payments

Unemployment Benefit	11
Unemployment Assistance	11
Part-time Job Incentive Scheme	11

Family Income Support Payments

Child Benefit	12
Maternity Benefit	12
Adoptive Benefit	12
Health & Safety Benefit	12
Family Income Supplement	13
Supplementary Welfare Allowance	13
Orphan's Contributory Allowance	13
Carer's Allowance	14
Widow's Non-Contributory Pension	15
Deserted Wife's Allowance	15
Lone Parent's Allowance	15
Prisoner's Wife's Allowance	15
Widow's and Widower's Contributory Pension	16
Deserted Wife's Benefit	16
Orphan's Non-Contributory Pension	16

Payments for Ill/Incapacitated People

Disability Benefit	17
Invalidity Pension	17
Blind Person's Pension	18

Occupational Injuries Benefits Payments

Injury Benefit	19
Disablement Benefit	19
Unemployability Supplement	19
Medical Care	20
Constant Attendance Allowance	20
Death Benefits (Survivor's Benefits)	20

Payments for Retired or Elderly People

Retirement Pension	21
Old Age Contributory Pension	21
Pre-Retirement Allowance	21
Old Age Non-Contributory Pension	22

Extra Benefits

Butter Vouchers	23
Fuel Allowance	23
Smokeless Fuel Allowance	23
Free Electricity Allowance	23
Free Natural Gas Allowance	23
Free Bottled Gas Refill Allowance	24
Free Television Licence	24
Free Telephone Rental Allowance	24
Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance	24
Exceptional Needs Payments	25
Death Grant	25

Payments from Health Boards

Blind Welfare Allowance	26
Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowance	26
Disabled Person's Maintenance Allowance	26
Other Allowances and Grants	26
Charges in Public Hospitals	27
Income Guidelines for Medical Card	27
Drugs Refunds Scheme	27

Addresses

Head Offices of the Department of Social Welfare	28
Offices Administering Health Services	30

Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI)

The rates of PRSI from 6 April, 1996 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 £22,300. The employer's portion continues to be payable on the reckonable earnings of each employee up to £26,800.

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, 1996, a weekly (non-cumulative) PRSI-Free Allowance of £80 per week 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/ Lone Parent's Allowance

Men and women receiving a Social Welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension or Lone Parent's Allowance are exempt from paying the 2.25% Health Contribution and Employment and Training Levy.

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 - £188.00** (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 £188 or less and PRSI is payable at Class A0, B0, etc.

- **£188.01 - £250.00** (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, Lone Parent's Allowance, or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance).

Note: In all other classes when earnings exceed £188 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 £250.00** (individual employments)

Employees in Class A who earn £250.01 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, Lone Parent's Allowance, or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance).

Contributions for Self-Employed People

Self-employed people 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 (up to £22,300) 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 may opt to pay an additional contribution for certain benefits under Class P. They will pay a contribution of 5% of income (up to £22,300) or £215 whichever is the greater, in addition to the PRSI being paid under Class S.

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 1995/96 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 Benefits

- Retirement Pension
- Old Age Contributory Pension
- Widow's and Widower's Contributory Pension
- Orphan's Contributory Allowance
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Death Grant.

Low Rate Benefits

- Widow's and Widower's Contributory Pension
- Orphan's Contributory Allowance
- Deserted Wife's Benefit.

Special Rate Benefits

- Old Age Contributory Pension
- Widow's and Widower's Contributory Pension
- Orphan's Contributory Allowance.

Class A			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £22,300			From £22,300.01 to £26,800		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
£30 - £188	A0	First £80 Balance	Nil	*8.50	8.50	Nil	*8.50	8.50
			5.50	*8.50	14.00	Nil	*8.50	8.50
£188.01 - £250	AX	First £80 Balance	2.25	*8.50	10.75	2.25	*8.50	10.75
			7.75	*8.50	16.25	2.25	*8.50	10.75
	**AW	First £80 Balance	Nil	*8.50	8.50	Nil	*8.50	8.50
			5.50	*8.50	14.00	Nil	*8.50	8.50
In excess of £250	A1	First £80 Balance	2.25	*12.00	14.25	2.25	*12.00	14.25
			7.75	*12.00	19.75	2.25	*12.00	14.25
	**A2	First £80 Balance	Nil	*12.00	12.00	Nil	*12.00	12.00
			5.50	*12.00	17.50	Nil	*12.00	12.00
Community Employment Participants ONLY	A9	ER EE	on full allowance on allowance OVER £80					
	J9	ER EE	on full allowance on full allowance					

* 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, Lone Parent's Allowance 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 and Civil Servants recruited from 6 April, 1995.

People within Class A9

Community Employment Participants commencing Community Employment on or after 6 April, 1996 and those who commenced prior to that date who elect to pay Class A.

People within Class J9

Community Employment Participants who commenced prior to 6 April, 1996 and who do not elect to pay Class A. See overleaf for Class J Benefits.

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
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Old Age Contributory Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Death Grant
- Treatment Benefit
- Occupational Injuries Benefit.

Class J			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £22,300			From £22,300.01 to £26,800		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £188	J0	All	Nil	*0.50	0.50	Nil	*0.50	0.50
In excess of £188	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, Lone Parent's Allowance 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 *for example*, 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 £22,300			From £22,300.01 to £26,800		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £188	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 £188	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, Lone Parent's Allowance 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
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Old Age Contributory Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Death Grant
- Treatment Benefit.

Class B			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £22,300			From £22,300.01 to £26,800		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £188	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 £188	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, Lone Parent's Allowance 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
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- 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 £22,300			From £22,300.01 to £26,800		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £188	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 £188	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, Lone Parent's Allowance 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
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Orphan's Contributory Allowance.

Class D			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £22,300			From £22,300.01 to £26,800		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £188	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 £188	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 Pension, Lone Parent's Allowance 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
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Orphan's Contributory Allowance
- Occupational Injuries Benefits.

Class H			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £22,300			From £22,300.01 to £26,800		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £188	H0	First £80 Balance	Nil	11.30	11.30	Nil	11.30	11.30
			5.40	11.30	16.70	Nil	11.30	11.30
In excess of £188	H1	First £80 Balance	2.25	11.30	13.55	2.25	11.30	13.55
			7.65	11.30	18.95	2.25	11.30	13.55
	**H2	First £80 Balance	Nil	11.30	11.30	Nil	11.30	11.30
			5.40	11.30	16.70	Nil	11.30	11.30

**** Class H2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, Lone Parent's Allowance 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
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Old Age Contributory Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Death Grant
- Treatment Benefit.

Only certain benefits are payable during service.

Class K			CUMULATIVE INCOME CEILINGS					
Weekly Income Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly income	Up to and including £22,300			Income over £22,300.01		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £188	No contribution payable. Record under Class M .							
In excess of £188	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

Class S			CUMULATIVE INCOME CEILINGS	
Weekly Income Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly income	Up to and including £22,300	Income over £22,300
			%	%
Up to £188	S0	First £20 Balance	Nil 5.00	Nil Nil
In excess of £188	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, Lone Parent's Allowance 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 £22,300 of all income	5.00
Income OVER £22,300	Nil

People within Class P

Self-employed people whose principal means of livelihood comes from share fishing 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 6 June

see booklet SW 64

Rate per week	
PERSONAL RATE	£64.50
<i>Increases for Dependents:</i>	
- Adult dependant	£38.50
- 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	Adult Dependant Increase
- Less than £35	£28.90	£24.90
- £35 and less than £50	£41.60	£24.90
- £50 and less than £70	£50.50	£24.90
- £70 or more	£64.50	£38.50

Unemployment Assistance from 5 June

see booklet SW 64

Rate per week SHORT-TERM		Rate per week LONG-TERM	
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£62.40		£64.50
<i>Increases for Dependents:</i>			
- Adult dependant	£38.50		£38.50
- 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 an adult dependant. Where you do not qualify for an adult dependant allowance, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Part-time Job Incentive Scheme from 5 June

Rate per week
If you are SINGLE
£41.10
If you are MARRIED with an Adult Dependant
£67.60

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	£27.00	£29.00
3rd and subsequent children	£32.00	£34.00

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 Adoptive Benefit

see leaflet SW 11

see leaflet SW 37

	Rate per week
MAXIMUM rate	£162.80
MINIMUM rate	£75.70

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

Health & Safety Benefit from 10 June

see leaflet SW 21

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£64.50
<i>Increases for Dependents:</i>	
- Adult dependant	£38.50
- EACH Child Dependand	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	Adult Dependand Increase
- Less than £35	£28.90	£24.90
- £35 and less than £50	£41.60	£24.90
- £50 and less than £70	£50.50	£24.90
- £70 or more	£64.50	£38.50

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

Family Income Supplement from 13 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	£195
2 children	£215
3 children	£235
4 children	£255
5 children	£280
6 children	£300
7 children	£317
8 children	£334

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	£255
Your income		£200
Difference		£55
Weekly FIS	(60% of £55)	£33 per week

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

Supplementary Welfare Allowance from 10 June see leaflet SW 54

	Rate per week
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£62.40
Increases for Dependants:	
- Adult dependant	£38.50
- EACH Child Dependand	£13.20

Orphan's Contributory Allowance from 14 June see leaflet SW 48

	Rate per week
Rate payable per Orphan	£42.60

Carer's Allowance from 13 June

see leaflet SW 41

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

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

Increases for Dependants:

	Rate per week
- EACH Child Dependand	**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 14 June **see leaflet SW 26**
Deserted Wife's Allowance from 13 June **see leaflet SW 43**
Prisoner's Wife's Allowance/ from 13 June **see leaflet SW 82**
Lone Parent's Allowance from 13 June (Widows/Widowers from 14 June)

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

Rate per week

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

Note: A person getting a Lone Parent's Allowance can also earn £24 per week which is not counted as means. Child minding and travelling expenses may also be taken into account. Only half of any earnings in excess of the combined disregard is counted as means.

Increases for Dependants:

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

Rate per week

£15.20
£6.00
£5.00

Widow's/Widower's Contributory Pension* see leaflet SW 25 Deserted Wife's Benefit from 13 June see leaflet SW 43

*from 14 June

	Contributions	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	48 or over	£68.10
	36 - 47	£67.00
	24 - 35	£65.00

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 £68.10.

Increases for Dependants:

	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 14 June see leaflet SW 48

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

	Rate per week
Up to £6	£42.60
Over £6 and up to £8	£40.60
Over £8 and up to £10	£38.60
Over £10 and up to £12	£36.60
Over £12 and up to £14	£34.60
Over £14 and up to £16	£32.60
Over £16 and up to £18	£30.60
Over £18 and up to £20	£28.60
Over £20 and up to £22	£26.60
Over £22 and up to £24	£24.60
Over £24 and up to £26	£22.60
Over £26 and up to £28	£20.60
Over £28 and up to £30	£18.60
Over £30 and up to £32	£16.60
Over £32 and up to £34	£14.60
Over £34 and up to £36	£12.60
Over £36 and up to £38	£10.60
Over £38 and up to £40	£8.60
Over £40 and up to £42	£6.60
Over £42 and up to £44	£4.60
Over £44 and up to £46	£2.60
Over £46	Nil

Payments for Ill/Incapacitated People

Disability Benefit from 10 June

see booklet **SW 9**

		Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE		£64.50
<i>Increases for Dependents:</i>		
- Adult dependant		£38.50
- 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	Adult Dependant Increase
- Less than £35	£28.90	£24.90
- £35 and less than £50	£41.60	£24.90
- £50 and less than £70	£50.50	£24.90
- £70 or more	£64.50	£38.50

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

Invalidity Pension from 13 June

see leaflet **SW 44**

		Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE:		
- Under age 65		£66.20
- Aged 65 or over		£75.00
<i>Increases for Dependents:</i>		
- Adult dependant		£43.60
- 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 an adult dependant. Where you do not qualify for an adult dependant allowance, 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.

Blind Person's Pension from 14 June

see booklet SW 76

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:	Rate per week	Increase per week for Adult Dependant
Up to £6	£64.50	£38.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£62.50	£37.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£60.50	£36.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£58.50	£35.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£56.50	£34.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£54.50	£33.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£52.50	£32.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£50.50	£31.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£48.50	£30.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£46.50	£29.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£44.50	£28.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£42.50	£27.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£40.50	£26.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£38.50	£25.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£36.50	£24.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£34.50	£23.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£32.50	£22.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£30.50	£21.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£28.50	£20.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£26.50	£19.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£24.50	£18.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£22.50	£17.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£20.50	£16.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£18.50	£15.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£16.50	£14.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£14.50	£13.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£12.50	£12.50
Over £58 and up to £60	£10.50	£11.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£8.50	£10.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£6.50	£9.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£4.50	£8.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£2.50	£7.50
Over £68	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 for Dependants:

	Rate per week	
- EACH Child Dependant	Full rate	£13.20
	Half-rate	£6.60
- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over		£6.00
- Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over		£5.00

Occupational Injuries Benefits Payments

Injury Benefit from 10 June

see leaflet SW 30

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£64.50
<i>Increases for Dependants:</i>	
- Adult dependant	£38.50
- 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 an adult dependant. Where you do not qualify for an adult dependant allowance, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Disablement Benefit from 10 June

see leaflet SW 31

Over 90% Disablement
Maximum PERSONAL PENSION £88.20 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 £6,160

Unemployability Supplement from 10 June

see leaflet SW 31

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£64.50
<i>Increases for Dependants:</i>	
- Adult dependant	£38.50
- 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 an adult dependant. Where you do not qualify for an adult dependant allowance, 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 14 June see leaflet SW 31

	Rate per week
100% Disablement	
Standard rate	£35.80
Reduced Standard rate	£17.90
Severe Disablement	
Rate payable to severely disabled people	£53.70
Exceptionally Severe Disablement	
Rate payable to exceptionally severely disabled people	£71.60

Death Benefits (Survivor's Benefits) from 14 June see leaflet SW 32

	Rate per week
Pension for a widow or invalided widower dependent on deceased	£86.40
<i>Increases for Dependants:</i>	
- EACH Child Dependant	£17.00
DEPENDENT PARENT'S PENSION	
Where deceased was Unmarried	
- one parent	£86.40
- other parent	£38.80
Where deceased was Married	
- each parent	£38.80

Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over
 Orphan's Pension
 Lump sum for a widower dependent on deceased
 Funeral Grant (Lump Sum)

£6.00 per week
 £44.90 per week
 £4,490
 £310

Payments for Retired or Elderly People

Retirement Pension from 13 June

see booklet SW 18

Old Age Contributory Pension from 14 June

	Contributions	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	48 or over	£75.00
	36 - 47	£73.00
	24 - 35	£70.60
Old Age Contributory Pension only	20 - 23	£69.00

Increases for Dependents:

	Rate per week
- Adult Dependant UNDER age 66	£49.50
- Adult Dependant OVER age 66	£53.90
- 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 an adult dependant. Where you do not qualify for an adult dependant allowance, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Mixed Insurance Pro-Rata Pension

A Mixed Insurance Pro-Rata Pension may be payable to people who have a mixture of full rate insurance and modified insurance and because of this do not qualify for a standard Old Age Contributory Pension or Retirement Pension.

Pre-Retirement Allowance from 13 June

see leaflet SW 80

	Rate per week
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£64.50
<i>Increases for Dependents:</i>	
- Adult dependant	£38.50
- 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 an adult dependant. Where you do not qualify for an adult dependant allowance, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Old Age Non-Contributory Pension from 14 June see booklet SW 16

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

Rate per week

Increase per week for Adult Dependant

Up to £6	£64.50	£38.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£62.50	£37.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£60.50	£36.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£58.50	£35.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£56.50	£34.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£54.50	£33.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£52.50	£32.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£50.50	£31.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£48.50	£30.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£46.50	£29.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£44.50	£28.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£42.50	£27.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£40.50	£26.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£38.50	£25.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£36.50	£24.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£34.50	£23.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£32.50	£22.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£30.50	£21.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£28.50	£20.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£26.50	£19.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£24.50	£18.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£22.50	£17.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£20.50	£16.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£18.50	£15.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£16.50	£14.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£14.50	£13.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£12.50	£12.50
Over £58 and up to £60	£10.50	£11.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£8.50	£10.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£6.50	£9.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£4.50	£8.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£2.50	£7.50
Over £68	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 in Pension:

	Rate per week
- EACH Child Dependant	Full rate £13.20 Half-rate £6.60
- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
- Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

Extra Benefits

Butter Vouchers

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

Allowance	Number of Vouchers
- Claimant	2
- Each Dependant	2

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

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

Free Electricity Allowance

see leaflet 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 leaflet SW 81

Allowance	Normal Standing Charges PLUS
- For people on the Reducing Rate Tariff	2,460 kWh* per year

*kilowatt hours

Free Bottled Gas Refill Allowance

For the Period:

- January - April
- May - June
- July - August
- September - December

Allowance

- 5 cylinders
- 2 cylinders
- 2 cylinders
- 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 is available to people getting certain social welfare pensions, equivalent payments (or from 1 July 1996 to a person who is age 66 or over and whose income is below a certain limit) who live alone or only with certain other people. The 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

- 1 child £144.70
- 2 children £159.90
- 3 children £175.10
- 4 children * £190.30

Lone Parent with:

Income Limit

- 1 child £90.10
- 2 children £107.10
- 3 children £124.10
- 4 children ** £141.10

* 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.

Exceptional Needs Payments

see leaflet SW 54

These payments are generally made to people on social welfare or health board payments on a once-off basis to meet an exceptional need.

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 is payable with Disabled Person's Maintenance Allowance to blind people over age 16 and under age 18 for dependants.

Rate per week

Increases for Dependants:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| - Increase for Adult dependant | £2.40 |
| - Increase for EACH Child Dependand | £3.00 |

A Supplementary Allowance is payable to blind people receiving a Blind Person's Pension from the Department of Social Welfare.

Rate per week

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| - Blind Pensioner over age 18 | £20.70 |
| - Blind Couple | £41.30 |
| - Increase for EACH Child Dependand | £3.40 |

Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowance

Rate per week

Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£64.50
-----------------------	--------

Increases for Dependants:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| - Increase for Dependent Spouse | £44.60 |
| - Increase for each Child Dependand | £13.20 |

Disabled Person's Maintenance Allowance

Rate per week

Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£64.50
-----------------------	--------

Increases for Dependants:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| - Increase for Dependent Spouse | £38.50 |
| - Increase for each Child Dependand | £13.20 |

Other Allowances and Grants

Rate payable

Mobility Allowance

Domiciliary Care Allowance - Maximum PERSONAL RATE

Maternity Cash Grant - For medical card holders

Motorised Transport Grant - For disabled people, up to

£39.10 per month
£100.60 per month
£8.00
£2,718

Charges in Public Hospitals

HEALTH BOARD:	Private per day	Semi-Private per day	*Day Care
- Regional Hospitals and Voluntary Teaching Hospitals	£132.00	£104.00	£70.00
- County Hospitals and Voluntary Non-Teaching Hospitals	£108.00	£88.00	£60.00
- District Hospitals	£68.00	£59.00	£43.00

Everyone 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 £20.00 per night subject to a maximum of £200.00 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 £12 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 1996 are as follows:

	Under age 66	Age 66-79	Age 80 or over
- Single person living alone	£86.50	£94.50	£99.00
- Single person living with family	£76.50	£81.50	£84.50
- Married couple	£125.50	£140.50	£147.50

Allowances:

- Each child under age 16	£15.00 per week
- Other dependants	£16.50
- House expenses e.g. rent, mortgage in excess of	£15.00
- Cost of travelling to work in excess of	£13.50

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 30 for list of offices.