

Budget 2023

Main social welfare changes and rates of payments



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Budget 2023: €2.2 Billion Social Protection Package

Budget 2023 provides almost €2.2 Billion in a package of measures that will assist people with the Cost of Living.

Cost of Living Measures

October 2022

- Autumn Cost of Living Double Payment will be paid to Social Protection recipients including all Pensioners, Carers and people on Disability Payments

November 2022

- €400 Lump Sum Fuel Allowance Payment to all households receiving the **Fuel Allowance**
- €200 Lump Sum Payment for **pensioners** and people with a **disability** receiving the **Living Alone Allowance**
- €500 Cost of Living Lump Sum Payment to all families in receipt of the **Working Family Payment**
- Double Payment of **Child Benefit** to support all families with children
- €500 Cost of Living Payment for people receiving Carer's Support Grant will be paid in November
- €500 Cost of Living Disability Support Grant will be paid to all people receiving a long-term **Disability Payment**

December 2022

- **Christmas Bonus Double Payment** will be paid to **1.3 million** Social Protection recipients including Pensioners, Carer's & People with Disabilities

Improvements for Pensioners

- €12 increase in the maximum weekly rate of all State Pensions and proportionate increases for qualified adults and for people receiving a reduced rate
- New Means Test disregard for Fuel Allowance for people aged over 70 - €500 (single person) and €1,000 (couple)
- Normal means assessment threshold for Fuel Allowance increases from €120 to €200 with effect from January 2023
- Autumn Cost of Living Double Pension Payment paid to all Pensioners in October
- €200 Lump Sum Payment paid in November to people who are receiving a living alone allowance
- Christmas Bonus Double Payment in December

Supports for Families and Children

- Double payment of Child Benefit to support all families in November
- €500 Cost of Living Lump Sum Payment paid to all families in receipt of the Working Family Payment in November
- The income thresholds for the Working Family Payment will be extended with effect from January 2023 so that more families qualify for this payment. Working Family Payment Threshold will increase by €40 per week regardless of family size
- Qualified Child Payments in weekly rates will be increased by €2 in January 2023 bringing them to €50 for Over 12s and €42 for Under 12s
- Farming Families – Changes to Farm Assist Means Test from January 2023 to exempt income from Agri-Environmental Schemes up to €5,000
- €12 increase in Maternity/Paternity/Adoptive/Parent's Benefit from January 2023
- Means assessment threshold for Fuel Allowance increases from €120 to €200 with effect from January 2023
- €20 million increase in School Meals Budget year on year to allow for continued expansion of the Scheme

Supports for Carers

- Cost of Living Double Payment to Carer's in October
- €500 Cost of Living payment for people receiving Carer's Support Grant will be paid in November
- Carers will also receive the Christmas Bonus Double Payment in early December
- €12 increase in the maximum rate of Carer's Allowance and Carer's Benefit with effect from January 2023 with proportionate increases for people receiving a reduced rate
- €2 increase for each Qualified Child bringing rates to €50 for Over 12s and €42 for Under 12s from January 2023
- Means assessment threshold for Fuel Allowance increases from €120 to €200 with effect from January 2023
- Half-rate Carer's Allowance will be disregarded in the means assessment for Fuel Allowance with effect from January 2023

Supports for People with Disabilities

- Autumn Cost of living double payment to people in receipt of Disability Allowance, Invalidity pension, Blind pension, Disablement Benefit, Partial capacity Benefit
- €500 Cost of Living Disability Support Grant will be paid in November to all people in receipt of Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and Blind Pension
- €200 Lump Sum Payment for people receiving a disability payment who live alone
- €400 Lump Sum Fuel Allowance Payment
- Christmas Bonus Double Payment to all persons receiving a long-term Disability Payment
- Domiciliary Care Allowance will increase by €20.50 to €330 per month with effect from January 2023.
- €12 increase in weekly Disability payments with proportionate increases for qualified adults and for people who receive a reduced rate from January 2023
- Domiciliary Care Allowance will be available in respect of children with severe illness or disability who remain in hospital for up to six months after birth
- Disablement Benefit will be disregarded in the means assessment for Fuel Allowance with effect from January 2023
- €1Million Expansion of the Reasonable Accommodation Fund to support people with disabilities in the Workplace
- The earnings disregard for Disability Allowance and Blind Pension will be increased from €140 to €165 with effect from January 2023
- Means assessment threshold for Fuel Allowance increases from €120 to €200 with effect from January 2023

Supports for Lone Parents

- Autumn Cost of Living Double Payment paid to all One Parent Family Recipients
- €500 Lump Sum Cost of Living Payment to all lone parents receiving Working Family Payment
- €400 Lump Sum Payment to One Parents Families in receipt of Fuel Allowance
- Double Payment of Child Benefit (€280 per Child) for all Lone Parents
- Christmas Bonus Double Payment to all One Parent Family Recipients
- €12 increase in weekly One Parent Family Payment and proportionate increases for those receiving a reduced rate from January 2023
- Qualified Child Payments increased by €2 bringing rates to €50 for Over 12s and €42 for U12s

Supports for Jobseekers

- €12 increase in maximum personal weekly rate of jobseekers' payments and proportionate increases for qualified adults and those receiving a reduced rate, paid from January 2023
- €2 increase for each Qualified Child from January 2023
- Autumn Cost of Living Double Payment paid to all recipients of jobseekers' payments, to be paid in October 2022
- Christmas Bonus Double Payment to all people receiving a long-term jobseeker payment, to be paid in December 2022

Christmas Bonus

€293.7 million to be paid to 1.3 million Social Protection recipients in December 2022 including all Pensioners, Carers and people on Disability Payments

People in receipt of the following payments will receive the Bonus:

State Pensions and Widow's/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's Pensions, Benefit for 65 year olds.

Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension, Disability Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit, Partial Capacity Benefit, Disablement Benefit, Domiciliary Care Allowance and Guardian's payments.

One-Parent Family Payment, Long-term Jobseeker's Allowance, Jobseeker's Transition Payment, Deserted Wife's Benefit and Allowance and Farm Assist.

Back to Work Enterprise Allowance, Community Employment, Rural Social Scheme, TÚS, Gateway and Job Initiative, Long-term Supplementary Welfare Allowance, Long-term Daily Expenses Allowance, Magdalene Commission Scheme.

For more information visit www.gov.ie/dsp and www.citizensinformation.ie.

Contact the Department of Social protection on **0818 66 22 44** or **0818 40 50 60** from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Contact Citizens Information phone service on **0818 0740 00** from 9am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

This Fact Sheet is intended as a guide only and does not purport to be a legal interpretation. The Factsheet may be updated to provide greater clarification for the public. Full information is available on www.gov.ie/dsp.



All figures below for Budget 2023

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2023)	Personal Rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult	Increase for a Qualified Child	Increase for a Qualified Child
Social Insurance Payments	2023	2023	2023 Under 12	2023 Age 12+
State Pension (Contributory)	€	€	€	€
- Personal Rate - Under Age 80	265.30	See Below	42.00	50.00
- Personal Rate - Aged 80 and over	275.30	See Below	42.00	50.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult - Under 66		176.70		
- Increase for Qualified Adult - 66 and over		237.80		
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension / Deserted Wife's Benefit				
- Under Age 66	225.50		42.00	50.00
- Aged 66 and under Age 80	265.30		42.00	50.00
- Aged 80 and over	275.30		42.00	50.00
Invalidity Pension	225.50	161.10	42.00	50.00
Carer's Benefit / Constant Attendance Allowance	237.00		42.00	50.00
Disablement Benefit	251.00		42.00	50.00
Jobseeker's / Illness / Health & Safety / Injury Benefit	220.00	146.00	42.00	50.00
Maternity / Paternity / Adoptive / Parents Benefit	262.00			
Death Benefit - Under 66	250.50		42.00	50.00
- Aged 66 and under Age 80	269.70		42.00	50.00
- Aged 80 and over	279.70		42.00	50.00

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2023)	Personal Rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult	Increase for a Qualified Child	Increase for a Qualified Child
Social Assistance Payments	2023	2023	2023 Under 12	2023 Age 12+
State Pension (Non-Contributory)	€	€	€	€
- Aged 66 and under 80	254.00		42.00	50.00
- Aged 80 and over	264.00		42.00	50.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult - Under 66		167.80		
Carer's Allowance - Under 66	236.00		42.00	50.00
- Aged 66 and over	274.00		42.00	50.00
Disability Allowance / Blind Pension	220.00	146.00	42.00	50.00
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension	220.00			
One-Parent Family Payment / Deserted Wife's Allowance	220.00		42.00	50.00
Farm Assist	220.00	146.00	42.00	50.00
Jobseeker's Allowance - Aged 25 and over	220.00	146.00	42.00	50.00
- Under 25	129.70	129.70	42.00	50.00
Supplementary Welfare Allowance				
- Aged 25 and over	218.00	146.00	42.00	50.00
- Under 25 living independently with State support	218.00	146.00	42.00	50.00
- Under 25 not living independently	129.70	129.70		

Working Family Payment Thresholds	
Family Size	2023 Income Limit
1 Child	€591.00
2 Children	€692.00
3 Children	€793.00
4 Children	€884.00
5 Children	€1,010.00
6 Children	€1,126.00
7 Children	€1,262.00
8 Children or more	€1,358.00

Child Benefit	
	2023 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.

Community Employment (CE)
Increase to CE, RSS and Tús top up of €5 from January 2023. Combined with the rate increase participants will see an increase of €17 per week from January 2023.

Other Social Welfare Payments	2023
	Weekly Rate
Guardian's Payment (Con/Non-Con)	€203.00
Fuel Allowance	€33.00
Living Alone Allowance	€22.00
Island Allowance (specified offshore islands)	€20.00
	Monthly Rate
Domiciliary Care Allowance	€330.00
	Annual Rate
Carer's Support Grant	€1,850.00

	Once-off Payment
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	€8,000.00