Budget 2026

€28.9 billion to be spent on social welfare in 2026, including over €1.15 billion of new measures targeted to assist households

- **The largest Child Support Payment** increase in the history of the state.
  - Weekly increase of €16 to €78 for children aged 12 and over (up to €4,056 per annum) and,
  - Weekly increase of €8 to €58 for children under 12 (up to €3,016 per annum).
- Largest ever increase in the **Carer's Allowance** income disregard from July 2026
  - Increase of €375 to €1,000 for a single person, and,
  - Increase of €750 to €2,000 for a couple.
- The income limit for **Carer's Benefit** will increase by €375 to €1,000 per week from July 2026.
- €60 increase in weekly income thresholds for **Working Family Payment** for all family sizes.
- Families getting the **Working Family Payment** will qualify for **Fuel Allowance**.
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €33 to €38 per week from January 2026. This will provide an additional €140 during the annual fuel allowance season.
- People moving from **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension** to take up work from September 2026 will keep their **Fuel Allowance** for 5 years.
- **Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance** rate of €160 extended to children aged 2 and 3, who are eligible for this allowance.
- €10 increase in most weekly social welfare payments
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to over 1.47 million long-term social welfare recipients.

€320 million to tackle child poverty

- **The largest Child Support Payment** increase in the history of the state.
    - Weekly increase of €16 to €78 for children aged 12 and over (annual payment of up to €4,056) and,
    - Weekly increase of €8 to €58 for children under 12 (annual payment up to €3,016).
- **Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance** rate of €160 extended to children aged 2 and 3, who are eligible for this allowance.
- Families getting the **Working Family Payment** will qualify for **Fuel Allowance**. This will be paid in March 2026 and backdated to January 2026.
- €60 increase in weekly income thresholds for **Working Family Payment** for all family sizes.
- €10 increase in most weekly social welfare payments from January 2026. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- People getting **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension** will be eligible for **Back to Work Family Dividend** when taking up employment.
- €20 increase in **Domiciliary Care Allowance** per month.

Supports for carers

- €10 increase in the maximum rate of the **Carer's Allowance** and **Carer's Benefit** from January 2026. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate.
- **The largest Child Support Payment** increase in the history of the state.
    - Weekly increase of €16 to €78 for children aged 12 and over (up to €4,056 per annum) and,
    - Weekly increase of €8 to €58 for children under 12 (up to €3,016 per annum).
- Largest ever increase in the **Carer's Allowance** income disregard from July 2026
    - Increase of €375 to €1,000 for a single person, and,

    - Increase of €750 to €2,000 for a couple.
- The income limit for **Carer's Benefit** will increase by €375 to €1,000 per week from July 2026.
- €20 increase in **Domiciliary Care Allowance** per month.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to over 1.47 million long-term social welfare recipients in December 2025.

Supports for people with disabilities

- €10 increase in the maximum personal rate of weekly disability payments from January 2026. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate.
- People moving from **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension** to take up work from September 2026 will keep their **Fuel Allowance** for 5 years.
- People getting **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension** will be eligible for **Back to Work Family Dividend** when taking up employment.
- **Wage Subsidy Scheme** extended to more people who acquire a disability.
- €1.20 increase in the **Wage Subsidy Scheme** base rate to €7.50 per hour and introducing a middle rate of €8.50 from April 2026.
- Largest ever increase in the **Carer's Allowance** income disregard from July 2026
    - Increase of €375 to €1,000 for a single person, and,
    - Increase of €750 to €2,000 for a couple.
- The income limit for **Carer's Benefit** will increase by €375 to €1,000 per week from July 2026.
- €20 increase in **Domiciliary Care Allowance** per month.
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €33 to €38 per week from January 2026. This will provide an additional €140 during the annual fuel allowance season.
- **Christmas bonus** to all persons getting a long-term disability payment to be paid in December 2025.

Supports for one-parent families

- €10 increase in most weekly social welfare payments from January 2026. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- **The largest Child Support Payment** increase in the history of the state.
    - Weekly increase of €16 to €78 for children aged 12 and over (up to €4,056 per annum) and,
    - Weekly increase of €8 to €58 for children under 12 (up to €3,016 per annum).
- **Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance** rate of €160 extended to children aged 2 and 3, who are eligible for this allowance.
- Families getting the **Working Family Payment** will qualify for **Fuel Allowance**. This will be paid in March 2026 and backdated to January 2026.
- €60 increase in weekly income thresholds for **Working Family Payment** for all family sizes.
- People getting **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension** will be eligible for **Back to Work Family Dividend** when taking up employment.
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €33 to €38 per week from January 2026. This will provide an additional €140 during the annual fuel allowance season.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to over 1.47 million long-term social welfare recipients in December 2025.

Supports for pensioners

- €10 increase in the maximum weekly rate of all state pensions from January 2026. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- €5 increase in **Fuel Allowance** from €33 to €38 per week from January 2026. This will provide an additional €140 during the annual fuel allowance season.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to over 1.47 million long-term social welfare recipients in December 2025.

Supports for people seeking employment

- Increase of €10 in maximum personal weekly rate of **Jobseeker's Benefit** and **Jobseeker's Allowance** payments from January 2026. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate.
- **The largest Child Support Payment** increase in the history of the state.
    - Weekly increase of €16 to €78 for children aged 12 and over (up to €4,056 per annum) and,
    - Weekly increase of €8 to €58 for children under 12 (up to €3,016 per annum).
- People moving from **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension** to take up work from September 2026 will keep their **Fuel Allowance** for 5 years.
- People getting **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension** will be eligible for **Back to Work Family Dividend** when taking up employment.
- €5 increase in the top up for **Community Employment**, **Tús** and **Rural Social Scheme** participants to €32.50.
- €10 increase on current payment for **Job Initiative** participants.
- **Christmas bonus** to be paid to over 1.47 million long-term social welfare recipients in December 2025.

Auto-enrolment

- Introduction of the Auto-enrolment retirement savings scheme, also known as MyFutureFund, helping almost 750,000 workers save for their retirement.
- Starting 1 January 2026, contributions from employees, employers and the State will be collected through payroll from this date.
- €154 million State contribution in 2026.
- In 2026, employee contribution will be 1.5% of gross salary, employer contribution 1.5% and the State tops it up by 0.5%.

Budget 2026 figures

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2026)	Personal rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)	Child Support Payment under 12	Child Support Payment aged 12+
Social insurance payments	€	€	€	€
State Pension (Contributory)				
- Personal rate – Under 80	299.30	See IQA below	58.00	78.00
- Personal Rate - Aged 80 and over	309.30	See IQA below	58.00	78.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult – Under 66		199.40		
- Increase for Qualified Adult – 66 and over		268.40		
Bereaved Partner's/Surviving Civil Partner (Con) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit				
- Under 66	259.50		58.00	78.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	299.30		58.00	78.00
- Aged 80 and over	309.30		58.00	78.00
Invalidity Pension	259.50	185.40	58.00	78.00
Carer's Benefit	271.00		58.00	78.00
Disablement Benefit	285.00		58.00	78.00
Jobseeker's / Illness / Health and Safety / Injury Benefit	254.00	168.60	58.00	78.00
Maternity / Paternity / Adoptive / Parent's Benefit	299.00			
Death Benefit				
- Under 66	284.50		58.00	78.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	303.70		58.00	78.00
- Aged 80 and over	313.70		58.00	78.00
Social assistance payments	€	€	€	€

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2026)	Personal rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)	Child Support Payment under 12	Child Support Payment aged 12+
State Pension (Non-Contributory)				
- Aged 66 and under 80	288.00		58.00	78.00
- Aged 80 and over	298.00		58.00	78.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult – Under 66		190.20		
Carer's Allowance				
- Under 66	270.00		58.00	78.00
- Aged 66 and over	308.00		58.00	78.00
Disability Allowance / Blind Pension	254.00	168.60	58.00	78.00
Bereaved Partner's/Surviving Civil Partner (Non-Con) Pension	254.00		58.00	78.00
One-Parent Family Payment / Deserted Wife's Allowance	254.00		58.00	78.00
Farm Assist	254.00	168.60	58.00	78.00
Jobseeker's Allowance				
- Under 25	163.70	163.70	58.00	78.00
- Aged 25 and over	254.00	168.60	58.00	78.00
Supplementary Welfare Allowance				
- Under 25 living independently with State support	252.00	162.00	58.00	78.00
- Under 25 not living independently	163.70	163.70		
– Aged 25 and over	252.00	162.00	58.00	78.00

Child Benefit	2026 Monthly Rate
For each child	€140
Twins	Paid at one and a half times the normal monthly rate for each child
All other multiple births	Paid at double the normal monthly rate for each child

Employment Programmes
An increase of €5 per week from January 2026 for those participating in the Community Employment Programme, Rural Social Scheme and Tús. A €10 increase per week for Job Initiative.

Working Family Payment Thresholds	2026 Weekly Income Limit €
1 Child	765.00
2 Children	866.00
3 Children	967.00
4 Children	1,058.00
5 Children	1,184.00
6 Children	1,300.00
7 Children	1,436.00
8 Children or more	1,532.00

Other Social Welfare Payments	2026 Rate €	Frequency
Guardian's Payment (Con/Non-Con)	237.00	Weekly Rate
Fuel Allowance	38.00	Weekly Rate
Living Alone Increase	22.00	Weekly Rate
Island Allowance (specified offshore islands)	20.00	Weekly Rate
Domiciliary Care Allowance	380.00	Monthly Rate
Carer's Support Grant	2,000.00	Annual Rate
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	8,000.00	Once-off payment