

Eurostat

Labour market policy statistics

Qualitative report

Ireland, 2017

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A - Introduction

Introduction

The Eurostat Labour Market Policy (LMP) database collects information on labour market interventions implemented by each of the EU Member States and Norway. Data are collected according to a comprehensive methodology, which classifies interventions into three main types – services, measures and supports – and into nine detailed categories according to the type of action (see below). Readers are recommended to refer to the LMP methodology ¹ for details of this classification scheme and definitions of terms used in this report.

The LMP database collects quantitative data on expenditure and participants for each intervention. These are published annually and are available online from the Eurostat website ². The quantitative data are complemented by a set of qualitative information describing each intervention. This represents an invaluable source of reference to support a harmonised approach to the classification of national interventions and to help interpret the detailed figures on expenditure and participants. These qualitative data are compiled into a series of **Labour market policy statistics: Qualitative Reports** and produced as separate volumes for each country/year.

The reports all have the same structure:

- Part A Introduction

- Part B Inventory of interventions - a list of all interventions reported for the relevant year, grouped by type of action and including a national language version of the intervention name.

- Part C Qualitative information by intervention - presents the available information about each intervention in three sections: *Identification*, *Description*, and *Supplementary information*. The *Description* contains seven sub-sections: Aim, Beneficiaries/participants, Action/instrument, Financing/support, Eligibility, Legal basis, and Recent changes. The *Supplementary information* contains eight sub-sections describing the breakdown of expenditure, target groups, the treatment of unemployment spells, receipt of benefits, planned duration and other characteristics of the intervention. Together, these items summarise the qualitative information collected through the LMP questionnaire.

- Part D Reference data - provides a description of the populations considered as reference data within the LMP database, giving national definitions of those considered as registered unemployed and other groups registered with the public employment services (PES).

- Part E Abbreviations

The qualitative information in the LMP database is updated annually with the contribution of delegates from each country and Eurostat cannot take responsibility for the validity of the content. The reports are published annually by Eurostat in English and reports for other years that are not currently in the online library can be produced on request.

Classification of interventions by type of action

LMP services

1. Labour market services

LMP measures

2. Training
4. Employment incentives
5. Supported employment and rehabilitation
6. Direct job creation
7. Start-up incentives

LMP supports

- 8. Out-of-work income maintenance and support
- 9. Early retirement

¹

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-GQ-13-002

² http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/labour_market/labour_market_policy

B - Inventory of interventions

Category, intervention number and name (English/National language)

1	Labour market services	
9	Job facilitation service	Job facilitation service
15	Job clubs	Job clubs
22	Counselling/guidance	Counselling/guidance
36	Local employment services	Local employment services
55	Technical Employment Support Grant	Technical Employment Support Grant
58	FÁS - administration of LMP programmes	FÁS - administration of LMP programmes
59	Basic Education Workplace Scheme	Basic Education Workplace Scheme
2	Training	
51	Specialist Training Providers	Specialist Training Providers
10	Back to education allowance (BTEA)	Back to education allowance (BTEA)
35	VTOS (Vocational training opportunities scheme)	VTOS (Vocational training opportunities scheme)
38	Bridging Foundation	Bridging Foundation
39	Specific Skills Training	Specific Skills Training
68	Online & blended learning	Online & Blended Learning
69	Evening courses	Evening Courses
45	Local Training Initiative	Local Training Initiative
34	Youthreach	Youthreach
40	Traineeship	Traineeship
41	Foundation/Progression in Community Training Centres	Foundation/Progression in Community Training Centres
66	Redundant Apprentices Rotation Scheme	Redundant Apprentices Rotation Scheme
4	Employment incentives	
4	Back to work allowance	Back to work allowance
7	Part-time job incentive scheme	Part-time job incentive scheme
5	Supported employment and rehabilitation	
52	Supported Employment Programme	Supported Employment Programme
60	Wage subsidy scheme	Wage Subsidy Scheme
6	Direct job creation	
23	Community employment scheme	Community employment scheme
37	Job Initiative	Job Initiative
73	TÚS	TÚS
7	Start-up incentives	
3	Back to work enterprise allowance (BWEA)	Back to work enterprise allowance (BWEA)

8	Out-of-work income maintenance and support	
1	Unemployment Benefit	Unemployment benefit
2	Unemployment assistance	Unemployment assistance
49	Redundancy Payments	Redundancy Payments
50	Insolvency payments	Insolvency Payments
9	Early retirement	
12	Pre-retirement allowance	Pre-retirement allowance
Mixed	\$\$353	

Number of measures: **59**

C - Qualitative information by intervention

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 1 - Labour market services
Intervention n°/name 9 Job facilitation service
Type of action: 1.1.1 - Information services

Description

Aim:

To inform and encourage unemployed people and lone parents to avail of the wide range of incentives and options available from the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed

Action/Instrument:

Job Facilitators are located throughout the country. Their role is primarily to inform and encourage unemployed people and lone parents to avail of the wide range of incentives and options available from the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Their role also includes:

- supporting and seeking out job opportunities, work/skills outlets and other self-development opportunities for the unemployed;
- encouraging, informing and directing the unemployed towards existing initiatives and incentives which are already in place;
- encouraging local voluntary groups, community enterprise and local development projects to provide employment and training opportunities of short or long term duration for the unemployed;
- building on the range of opportunities which have come on stream as a result of the Students Summer Job Scheme and expanding the range and volume of opportunities made available within the scheme;
- encouraging the unemployed to avail of the various education, training and counselling programmes which are available;
- liaising closely with unemployed customers to assess and determine their needs and expectations and to make proposals for initiatives to meet these needs;
- identifying and proposing solutions for any impediments in schemes operated by State and/or semi-State agencies which are perceived to be blocking employment or self-employment opportunities for the unemployed;
- proposing new initiatives or measures which would encourage the unemployed to move towards employment, self employment or further training /development opportunities;
- liaising with the Department's Regional Managers with a view to developing linkages with the PESP area based partnerships and the community development projects in relation to assisting the unemployed;
- promoting the Back to Work Allowance Scheme locally and encouraging employers and persons on the Live Register to avail of the scheme.

The jobs facilitation programme was originally established with Government approval in July 1993. In April 2004, the jobs facilitation and family support programmes of the Department of Social and Family Affairs merged to form the social and family support services, SFSS. This was done to enable the resources be utilised in the most effective and efficient manner to assist the most marginalised citizens, including those with disabilities and their families. It was also intended to encourage economic activation amongst those most distanced from the labour market. Job facilitators and family service project officers were renamed facilitators at that time and now operate within a single streamlined network.

Financing/Support:

Central government budget (Department of Social and Family Affairs)

Eligibility:

Legal basis:

None

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to service providers

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Target groups:	Registered unemployed (All)
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Continuous/Continuous
Receipt of benefits:	None
Planned duration:	Continuously available
Responsible institution(s):	Central government
Area of application:	National
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i> 1993 <i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 1 - Labour market services
Intervention n°/name 22 Counselling/guidance
Type of action: 1.1.1 - Information services

Description

Aim:

To provide jobseekers with placement services.

Beneficiaries:

Jobseekers

Action/Instrument:

Prior to incorporation into other schemes:

"This is now being provided by FAS as part of its mainstream activity. This service is therefore available at any FAS Employment Service Office nationwide. Job-seekers who register with FAS are interviewed by a Placement Officer and advised of existing job opportunities. In a situation where employment is not immediately available FAS will endeavour to place them on a training/employment programme appropriate to their needs and abilities. Any person judged to be in need of special assistance will be referred to an Occupational Guidance Officer for further counselling.

The service also includes an international dimension. Through EURES, unemployed persons can receive advice and assistance in order to look for work in Europe. Through the Overseas Graduate programme, Irish graduates can get relevant work experience abroad and find work on their return.

Referral to training and job opportunities is also available to persons with disabilities through FAS's mainstream activities."

Financing/Support:

Central government budget and part funded by the ESF

Eligibility:

Legal basis:

The Counselling/Guidance service is not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 1997.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to service providers

Target groups: Registered unemployed (All)
Other registered jobseekers (All)
Not registered (All)
Employed (All)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Not relevant

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Unemployment benefit)

Planned duration: Typical: 10 Months

Responsible institution(s): Central government, Public employment services

Area of application: National

Implementation: *Year started:* 1997 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 1 - Labour market services

Intervention n°/name 15 Job clubs

Type of action: 1.1.2 - Individual case-management

Description

Aim:

- To enable job ready job-seekers to obtain employment in the open labour market
- To facilitate the exploration and follow-up of employment opportunities
- To assist in the integration of job-seekers into employment
- To meet the labour market requirements of employers
- To support the Pathways to Work Programme and Intreo service provided by DEASP

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed job seekers who are job ready. All participants on the formal workshops and CV Preparation must be referred by DEASP Intreo or DEASP nominated service providers.

Action/Instrument:

The department contracts for the provision of 48 job clubs with 44 contractors (local development companies and community organisations). Services provided are:

- Placing clients referred through the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) activation processes, into employment.
- Providing workshops to facilitate the integration of clients into the open labour market / the exploration and follow-up of employment opportunities.
- Providing a 'one to one' support service for clients.
- Providing a 'drop in' facility.
- To provide a CV Preparation service
- Offering assistance to employers regarding their labour requirements.
- Implementing such activation measures as may be notified by DEASP from time to time
- Supporting the Pathways to Work Programme.
- Providing a support service to jobseekers

Financing/Support:

Central government budget

Eligibility:

The service is open to job ready job-seekers who wish to follow-up employment opportunities.

Legal basis:

N/a

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Reimbursements), Transfers to service providers

Target groups: Registered unemployed (All, LTU, Disabled)
Other registered jobseekers (All, Disabled, Immigrants/ethnic minorities, Re-entrants/lone parents)
Not registered (All, Disabled, Immigrants/ethnic minorities, Re-entrants/lone parents)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Continuous/Continuous

Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits		
Planned duration:	Typical: 8 Weeks, Maximum: 12 Weeks		
Responsible institution(s):	Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1992	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 1 - Labour market services
Intervention n°/name 36 Local employment services
Type of action: 1.1.2 - Individual case-management

Description

Aim:

The LES provides a local gateway, or access point, to the full range of services and facilities that are available to help jobseekers to enter or return to employment. The aim is to assist unemployed people to identify a personal path to help them re-enter the labour market.

Beneficiaries:

Jobseekers referred to the LES through the Department's activation process and also to clients who engage directly with the service from specified target groups.

Action/Instrument:

The department contracts for the provision of LES in 25 locations with 22 contractors (local development companies and 1 community organisation).

Key services provided by the LES include:

- Assisting persons referred through the DSP activation processes to return to employment by the provision of placement services.
- Assisting persons referred through the DSP activation processes to return to employment by the provision of a vocational/career guidance service and the referral of clients onto education/training programmes within the context of an agreed Career Action Plan.
- Assisting those most disadvantaged in the labour market into employment by the provision of specialist high quality support and locally responsive services. These supports include guidance, education/training and employment supports and mediation. The LES may also provide other services from time to time under Agreement from DSP.

Financing/Support:

Central government budget

Eligibility:

Clients referred by the Department to the LES or specified target groups (identified in the contract) who engage directly with the service or whom the service targets.

Legal basis:

The LES was not established under statute. It was set up in 1995 under the auspices of Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment (DETE) and then the funding was transferred to FÁS for management in 2000.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to service providers

Target groups: Registered unemployed (All, LTU)
Other registered jobseekers (All)
Not registered (All)
Employed (All)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Continuous/Continuous

Receipt of benefits: None

Planned duration: Continuously available

Responsible institution(s): Central government, Public employment services

Area of application: Regional

Implementation: *Year started:* 1998 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 1 - Labour market services
Intervention n°/name 55 Technical Employment Support Grant
Type of action: 1.1.2 - Individual case-management

Description

Aim:

The technical employment support grant (TESG) is a grant available to implement a range of training interventions for jobseekers that are in receipt of certain specified Dept. of Social Protection (DSP) payments and who are experiencing a barrier(s) in progressing from unemployment to the workforce.

Beneficiaries:

Primarily jobseekers' and lone parent payments as well as payments related to disability and long-term illness.

Action/Instrument:

TESG is designed to support a person to overcome identified barriers in progressing from unemployment to employment. The grant can be used for the purchase of training (where this cannot be provided by a state provider within a reasonable time) . Training, with limited exceptions, must be on certified courses. TESG meets the full costs of these supports up to €500 per jobseeker or 100% of the cost of the programme, whichever is the lesser amount.

Financing/Support:

The scheme is administered by the Department of Social Protection.

Eligibility:

TESG funding is available to unemployed people in receipt of a DSP payment who are experiencing a barrier to entering/re-entering the labour market who have undertaken the guidance process and for whom a career plan/path has been agreed.

Legal basis:

Administrative.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers
Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU, Public priorities and Other)
Other registered jobseekers (Public priorities and Other)
Treatment of unemployment spells: Not relevant
Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)
Planned duration: Continuously available
Responsible institution(s): Central government, Public employment services
Area of application: Regional
Implementation: *Year started:* 2003 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 1 - Labour market services
Intervention n°/name 58 FÁS - administration of LMP programmes
Type of action: 1.2.1 - Administration of LMP measures

Description

Aim:

Support the provision of LMP programmes

Beneficiaries:

not applicable

Action/Instrument:

See IE-57 for a description of SOLAS / ETB functions. This entry covers the staff costs and overheads related to the provision of former FAS programmes considered within LMP categories 2-7.

Finanacina/Support:

State Funding, National Training Fund, Miscellaneous Income.

Eligibility:

not applicable

Legal basis:

The Further Education and Training Act 2013; Education & Training Boards Act 2013

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to service providers

Target groups: No answer

Treatment of unemployment spells: Not relevant

Receipt of benefits: None

Planned duration: Not specified

Responsible institution(s): Public employment services

Area of application: National

Implementation: *Year started:* 1986 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 1 - Labour market services
Intervention n°/name 59 Basic Education Workplace Scheme
Type of action: 1.2.3 - Others services / activities

Description

Aim:

The workplace basic education fund is specifically targeted to raise the competency level of employees with low skill levels. The Fund is intended to enable low skilled employees to cope with change in work practices.

Beneficiaries:

Those in low skilled, low paid occupations which may be at a risk of restructuring in the future. Training is targeted at employees with basic education needs, in particular employees with less than junior cycle qualifications. Basic education is defined as reading, writing, listening and speaking, numeracy and using everyday technology to communicate and handle information.

Action/Instrument:

The programme includes literacy and numeracy and can incorporate a variety of subjects ranging from communication skills, computer skills, interpersonal skills, problem solving and report writing. The programme is offered on company premises where possible, otherwise in a mutually convenient location. Training needs are identified and training implemented in line with basic education needs in partnership with relevant stakeholders. All organisations, including representative bodies on the National Steering Group, and registered training organisations can apply directly. Employers may apply on behalf of a number of employees or individual employees may apply on their own behalf or make a group application.

Financing/Support:

Central Government through the Education & Training Boards (ETBs), and funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills. The programme is delivered by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and is managed nationally by Dublin & Dún Laoghaire ETB.

Eligibility:

Funding is available for projects that have national scope and support ongoing workplace literacy and numeracy programmes across industry sectors.

Priority areas include;

- Identification of workplace basic education need within a workplace sector;
- Development of a workplace basic education plan for a particular workplace sector;
- Implementation strategies to encourage/ support workplace basic education programmes;
- Development and piloting of nationally applicable models and strategies to deliver and integrate workplace basic education programmes.
- Development of resource material for employees' with basic education needs for use in the course itself and/or independently by learners.
- Innovative approaches to enabling employees wishing to build their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.

Legal basis:

Administrative. The Government under the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation set up the Fund in 2005.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to service providers

Target groups: No answer

Treatment of unemployment spells: Not relevant

Receipt of benefits:	None		
Planned duration:	Maximum: 120 <1 day		
Responsible institution(s):	Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i> 2005	<i>Year Ended:</i>	Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 51 Specialist Training Providers
Type of action: 2 - Training

Description

Aim:

To provide vocational training services to people with disabilities who require additional supports during their training.

Beneficiaries:

Persons with a disability.

Action/Instrument

Specialist Training Providers (STPs) provide vocational training services to people with disabilities who require additional supports during their training. Some people with disabilities, because of the nature of their impairment, may have needs that would not be met through non-specialist vocational training provision. The additional features of specialist vocational training include: additional training duration, adapted equipment, transport arrangements, enhanced programme content, trainer - learner ratio, qualifications of staff, additional opportunities for assessment and an individualised approach. The majority of people with disabilities in vocational training attend courses provided by STPs. ETBs contract STPs to provide vocational training services. Allowances are paid to the trainee (linked to Welfare rates) and to the trainer.

ETBs contract with specialist training providers to provide vocational training programmes which may be delivered in three ways:

1. Centre Based Training which generally requires that trainees be trained in a dedicated training environment for at least 85% of the training programme duration and the training will be supplemented by periods of work experience.
2. Employer Based Training is certified training through which trainees are trained for employment by the employer in a company based setting. Training is provided in specific work skills, both practical and personal in an on-the-job setting using both workplace and directed training.
3. Distance Learning is training through which trainees are trained in a place of their own choosing for up to 80% of the programme duration. Communication with the training provider is generally via the telephone and on-line connections, this is supplemented by home tuition by the trainer and occasional group seminars at a central location.

Financing/Support:

STPs are financed through Central Government funding, and funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills. Training is administered by ETBs.

Eligibility:

At present, STPs only provide training to people with disabilities; they do not provide services to people who do not have a disability.

Legal basis:

The Specialist Training Providers is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 2000.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure:	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Reimbursements), Transfers to service providers
Target groups:	Registered unemployed (Disabled) Other registered jobseekers (Disabled) Not registered (Disabled)
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Broken
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)
Planned duration:	Variable

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Responsible institution(s): Public employment services
Area of application: National
Implementation: *Year started:* 2000 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 10 Back to education allowance (BTEA)
Type of action: 2.1 - Institutional training

Description

Aim:

To allow beneficiaries to pursue approved second or third level education courses.

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed, lone parents and disabled persons

Action/Instrument:

The Back to Education Programme covers the following study options:

- Second level certificate courses
- Third level education courses
- Education, training and development courses
- Part-time education courses.

Payment is made at a standard rate and is not means-tested. If you qualify for the Back to Education Allowance, you will receive a weekly personal rate equivalent to the maximum personal standard rate of the relevant social welfare payment that actually qualified you for participation in the scheme. Where applicable, you may also qualify for increases in respect of a qualified adult and each qualified child. Also, an annual Cost of Education Allowance of €500.00 per annum is paid at the start of each academic year.

If you wish to attend a second level course you must be getting one of the social welfare payments listed below for at least 3 months (78 days of unemployment*) immediately before you start the course.

Second level course covers education at any secondary, community, comprehensive or vocational school. The course must be full-time and lead to a certificate recognised by the Department of Education and Skills or approved by the Further Education and Training Awards Council, for example, Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, Post Leaving Certificate or a City and Guilds Certificate.

If you wish to attend a third level course you must be getting one of the social welfare payments listed below for 9 months (234 days of unemployment*) immediately before you start the course.

Third-level course covers education at any university, third-level college or institution, provided that the course is a full-time day course of study and is approved by one of the following:

Department of Education and Skills for Higher Education Grant purposes
VEC Scholarship Scheme
Third Level Maintenance Grant Scheme for Trainees
Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) recognition

If you are awarded statutory redundancy under Irish legislation, you can have immediate access to the BTEA. To qualify you must:

Take part in the BTEA scheme within one year of getting statutory redundancy
Be entitled to a qualifying social welfare payment before starting your course

Financing/Support:

The scheme is administered by the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Eligibility:

Participants must be either:

- aged 21 or over (24 or over for a third level post graduate course) and be in receipt of one of the following social welfare payments for at least 6 months (156 days): Unemployment Assistance or Benefit, One-Parent Family Payment, Blind Person's Pension, Disability Allowance; or
- aged 18 or over and be in receipt of one of the following social welfare payments for at least 6 months (156 days): Blind Pension, Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Unemployability Supplement; or
- aged between 18 and 20 years and out of formal education for 2 years and getting one of the following Social Welfare

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

payments for at least 6 months (156 days): Unemployment Assistance or Unemployment Benefit, One-Parent Family Payment; or

- be in receipt of Disability Benefit for 3 years or more

Legal basis:

Social Welfare Consolidation Act 1993

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure:	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)		
Target groups:	Registered unemployed (LTU) Other registered jobseekers (Disabled, Re-entrants/lone parents)		
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Broken		
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits		
Planned duration:	Variable		
Responsible institution(s):	Central government		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1990	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 35 VTOS (Vocational training opportunities scheme)
Type of action: 2.1 - Institutional training

Description

Aim:

The aims of the scheme are:

- To provide unemployed people with education and training opportunities which will develop their employability
- To prepare people to go to paid employment or to further opportunities leading to paid Employment

Beneficiaries:

Long-term unemployed (> six-months) aged over 21, and also lone parents and people with disability.

Action/Instrument:

The courses provided under the scheme are full-time (c.30 hours per week) and may be of up to two years in duration. Courses can include mathematics and English as well as vocational subjects and lead to qualifications such as Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, Post Leaving Certificate and City and Guilds Certificates.

Participants are paid a training allowance by the Education and Training Boards equal to their social welfare entitlements. If participants qualify for 'credited contributions' they will continue to be awarded while participants are on the course. If participants are signing for unemployment 'credits' only, they may qualify to participate in the scheme but will not receive an allowance.

Finanacina/Support:

Central government budget, ear-marked taxes and ESF. The educational programmes are administered by educational institutions funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills, principally by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs). The arrangements whereby entitlement to social welfare benefits is continued are administered by the Department of Social Protection

Eligibility:

Participants must be: at least aged 21 years or over and are:

In receipt of; Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance or signing for credits for at least 6 months

or

In receipt of; One-Parent Family Payment, Disability Allowance, Illness Benefit* or Invalidity Pension for at least 6 months

or

In receipt of; Blind Pension, Deserted Wife's Allowance/Benefit, Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension, Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension or Prisoner's Wife's Allowance for at least 6 months (conditions may apply in the case of these payments)

or

A dependent spouse, civil partner or cohabitant of an eligible person

A person who received statutory redundancy but who has not been in receipt of a qualifying payment for the required period.

Periods spent on FET training courses, Community Employment Schemes, Job Initiative, Youthreach programmes and time in prison can count towards the qualifying period.

If participants qualify for 'credited contributions' they will continue to be awarded while participants are on the course. If participants are signing for unemployment 'credits only', they may qualify to participate in the scheme but will not receive an allowance.

Legal basis:

The Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme is an administrative scheme and is not covered by legislation. It was set up by Government decision in 1989.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Target groups:	Registered unemployed (LTU) Other registered jobseekers (Disabled, Re-entrants/lone parents)
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Broken
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits
Planned duration:	Maximum: 2 Years
Responsible institution(s):	Central government
Area of application:	National
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i> 1989 <i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 38 Bridging Foundation
Type of action: 2.1 - Institutional training

Description

Aim:

Programmes intended to bridge the gap in a persons educational development, bringing them from a low level to a higher level. Designed to build bridges to further training / education or employment and in the process considerably strengthen links with employers.

Beneficiaries:

Targeted at the unemployed and persons who are socially disadvantaged, both Early School Leavers and Long Term Unemployed.

Action/Instrument:

As part of its provision under re-integration training, Education and Training Boards (ETBs) run a Bridging Programme available mainly to Early School Leavers. It is essentially a Foundation Skills Programme with the added advantage that at the end of the training period participants are given some work experience while still being monitored by the Instructor.

During this work experience period participants are brought together on a regular basis to ascertain if they have become aware of further training needs as a result of their work experience. When participants go into full time employment regular contact is maintained with the ETBs for the first 6- 12 months.

Participants who have a personal entitlement (per F103/DA103) are paid a training allowance by the Education and Training Boards, which is linked to their age and category of allowance (with effect from 1st January 2014). Training allowance categories include: Job Seekers Allowance, Job Seekers Benefit, Supplementary Welfare Allowance, Disability Allowance or Blind Pension, Occupational Injuries Benefit, Disability Allowance, Young person with no Social Welfare entitlement. Other allowances paid included a contribution toward the cost of meals and where eligible travel costs. In addition to the categories listed above, these other allowances are also paid to persons in receipt of: One Parent Family Payment, Deserted Wife Benefit, Widows/Widowers Pension, Illness Benefit and Invalidity Pension, Farm Assist, Fish Assist, Dependant on Partner's Claim and those signing for Credits only.

Finanacina/Support:

Central Government and part funded by the ESF. Bridging Foundation Training is delivered locally by the Education & Training Boards (ETB's) and funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Eligibility:

Targeted at the unemployed and persons who are socially disadvantaged, both Early School Leavers and Long Term Unemployed.

Legal basis:

The Bridging Foundation is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 1990.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Reimbursements), Transfers to service providers
Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU, Youth, Public priorities and Other)
Other registered jobseekers (Youth, Public priorities and Other)
Not registered (Youth, Public priorities and Other)
Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)
Planned duration: Typical: 8 Weeks, Maximum: 20 Weeks
Responsible institution(s): Central government, Public employment services
Area of application: National
Implementation: *Year started:* 1990 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 39 Specific Skills Training
Type of action: 2.1 - Institutional training

Description

Aim:

To provide participant with the specific skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable them to obtain employment.

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed persons

Action/Instrument:

Specific Skills training courses cover a wide range of skills designed to meet the needs of unemployed jobseekers and employers. These courses provide training in specific occupational areas such as engineering, information technology, office and administration, sales, marketing, management, construction, electronics and clothing. The content of the courses is adapted to the specific needs of regional and local employers.

Courses are delivered in Education & Training Board (ETB) Training Centres and are supplemented by contracted providers allowing the ETBs the flexibility to meet changing demand. The duration can be for periods of 12 to 48 weeks and tend to be mainly full-time. Courses lead to recognised accreditation.

Participants who have a personal entitlement (per F103/DA103) are paid a training allowance by the Education and Training Boards, which is linked to their age and category of allowance (with effect from 1st January 2014). Training allowance categories include: Job Seekers Allowance, Job Seekers Benefit, Supplementary Welfare Allowance, Disability Allowance or Blind Pension, Occupational Injuries Benefit, Disability Allowance, Young person with no Social Welfare entitlement. Other allowances paid included a contribution toward the cost of meals and where eligible travel costs. In addition to the categories listed above, these other allowances are also paid to persons in receipt of: One Parent Family Payment, Deserted Wife Benefit, Widows/Widowers Pension, Illness Benefit and Invalidity Pension, Farm Assist, Fish Assist, Dependant on Partner's Claim and those signing for Credits only.

Specific Skills Training now incorporates Job Training Scheme, Sponsored Training and Return to Work courses.

Financing/Support:

Central Government and part funded by the ESF. Specific Skills Training is delivered locally by the Education & Training Boards (ETB's) and funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Eligibility:

Unemployed persons

Legal basis:

The Specific Skills Training is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 1976.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Reimbursements), Transfers to service providers
Target groups: Registered unemployed (All, LTU)
Other registered jobseekers (All)
Not registered (All)
Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)		
Planned duration:	Typical: 20 Weeks, Maximum: 48 Weeks		
Responsible institution(s):	Central government, Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1976	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 68 Online & blended learning
Type of action: 2.1 - Institutional training

Description

Aim:

To provide a flexible response to the specific skills needs of job ready individuals who require training interventions with certification to assist them to re-enter the labour market.

Online and Blended courses use the internet as a means of delivering all or part of the training.

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed individuals wishing to re-enter the labour market.

Action/Instrument:

Online Courses

These courses delivered completely online, are run on a continuous basis and are designed to give a flexible response to the specific skills needs of job ready individuals who require training interventions with certification to assist them to re-enter the labour market. Online courses are available free of charge to unemployed clients. While these courses are delivered completely online, eTutor support is available throughout the course.

Blended Learning Courses

These courses delivered partly online and partly in a training centre. These courses have scheduled start and finish dates and are designed to give a flexible response to the specific skills needs of job ready individuals who require training interventions with certification to assist them to re-enter the labour market. Blended Learning Courses offer a range of online training with enhanced learner supports including telephone, email, E-tutor and instructor led workshops.

Jobseeker's in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance, Jobseeker's Benefit, Disability Allowance or One Parent Family Allowance and those signing on for credits are eligible for Online Training. The jobseekers will continue to sign with DSP and retain his/her allowance/benefit and will not receive a Training Allowance.

Finanacina/Support:

Central government budget and is operated by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Eligibility:

The following are eligible for Online and Blended Courses:

- Jobseekers in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance
- Jobseekers in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit
- Jobseekers in receipt of Disability Allowance
- Jobseekers in receipt of One Parent Family Payment
- Jobseekers signing on for credits
- Current CE Participant
- In Receipt of Carer's Allowance
- Short-time Working Payment (RP9 Form Completed by Company)
- Part-time worker (in receipt of a DSFA payment)

Legal basis:

Introduced by Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Lump-sum payments), Transfers to service providers

Target groups: Registered unemployed (All)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Continuous/Continuous

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Unemployment benefit)

Planned duration: Typical: 10 Weeks, Maximum: 20 Weeks

Responsible institution(s): Central government

Area of application: National

Implementation: *Year started:* 2009 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 69 Evening courses
Type of action: 2.1 - Institutional training

Description

Aim:						
2,107	13,735	0	9,677	0	6,404	10,406
275	1,891		1,189	0	1,024	1,275
1,613	10,353		7,420	0	4,694	7,923
219	1,491		1,068	0	686	1,208
974	7,482	0	5,655	0	2,915	5,701
142	1,139		736		590	789
717	5,458		4,261		1,979	4,220
116	885		658		346	692
1,132	6,253	0	4,022	0	3,489	4,705
133	752		453		434	486
897	4,895		3,159		2,715	3,703
103	606		410		340	516
2,107	13,735	0	9,677	0	6,404	10,406
275	1,891		1,189	0	1,024	1,275
1,613	10,353		7,420	0	4,694	7,923
219	1,491		1,068	0	686	1,208
974	7,482	0	5,655	0	2,915	5,701
142	1,139		736		590	789
717	5,458		4,261		1,979	4,220
116	885		658		346	692
1,132	6,253	0	4,022	0	3,489	4,705
133	752		453		434	486
897	4,895		3,159		2,715	3,703
103	606		410		340	516

Evening Courses are designed to give a flexible response to the specific skills needs of job ready individuals who require training interventions with certification to assist them to re-enter the labour market.

Beneficiaries:

All unemployed people including those not registered unemployed.

Action/Instrument:

Evening Courses are designed to give a flexible response to the specific skills needs of job ready individuals who require training interventions with certification to assist them to re-enter the labour market. Evening courses facilitates those unemployed who wish to attend training but due to circumstances such as caring responsibilities cannot attend training during the day.

The programme is open to all unemployed people, including those who are not in receipt of any social welfare payment but are unemployed and those that are in receipt of certain social welfare payments.

Financing/Support:

Central Government funded. Evening Training Courses are operated locally through the Education & Training Boards (ETBs), and funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills. Participant's social welfare status remains unchanged. If eligible, they continue to receive any social welfare payments to which they are entitled, for the duration they are entitled.

Eligibility:

The programme is open to all unemployed people, including those who are not in receipt of any social welfare payment but are unemployed and those that are in receipt of certain social welfare payments

Legal basis:

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

The Evening Courses is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FÁS (PES) decision in 2009.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure:	Transfers to service providers		
Target groups:	Registered unemployed (All)		
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Continuous/Continuous		
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Unemployment benefit)		
Planned duration:	Typical: 10 Weeks, Maximum: 20 Weeks		
Responsible institution(s):	Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	2009	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 45 Local Training Initiative
Type of action: 2.2 - Workplace training

Description

Aim:

To improve the social and economic profile of local areas, to raise the participants skills level and employment prospects and to provide opportunities for socially excluded persons.

Beneficiaries:

Education & Training Boards (ETBs) in collaboration with local community organisations provide flexible Local Training Initiatives (LTIs) for unemployed persons. Local Training Initiatives are targeted addressing the training needs of economically, socially, geographically or educationally disadvantaged learners, primarily 35 years of age or under, with no formal qualifications or incomplete secondary level qualifications.

Action/Instrument:

LTIs provide vocational training opportunities; learning supports and project-based learning to assist participants achieve awards on the NFQ and to develop the capacity to progress to further training, education and work.

The Local Training Initiative programme supports many organisations engaged in a wide variety of activities including genealogy, environment, heritage, tourism, arts, sports and leisure. An LTI programme is a community-based training programme targeted at learners who are economically, socially, geographically or educationally disadvantaged.

Participants who have a personal entitlement (per F103/DA103) are paid a training allowance by the Education and Training Boards, which is linked to their age and category of allowance (with effect from 1st January 2014). Training allowance categories include: Job Seekers Allowance, Job Seekers Benefit, Supplementary Welfare Allowance, Disability Allowance or Blind Pension, Occupational Injuries Benefit, Disability Allowance, Young person with no Social Welfare entitlement. Other allowances paid included a contribution toward the cost of meals and where eligible travel costs. In addition to the categories listed above, these other allowances are also paid to persons in receipt of: One Parent Family Payment, Deserted Wife Benefit, Widows/Widowers Pension, Illness Benefit and Invalidity Pension, Farm Assist, Fish Assist, Dependant on Partner's Claim and those signing for Credits only.

Finanacina/Support:

Central Government and part funded by the ESF. Local Training Initiative is funded through SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Eligibility:

Unemployed persons, redundant workers, persons with low qualifications and skills and socially excluded clients.

Legal basis:

The Local Training Initiative is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 1973.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Reimbursements), Transfers to service providers
Target groups: Registered unemployed (All)
Other registered jobseekers (All)
Not registered (All)
Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits		
Planned duration:	Typical: 9 Months, Maximum: 20 Months		
Responsible institution(s):	Central government, Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1973	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 34 Youthreach
Type of action: 2.3 - Alternate training

Description

Aim:

To help young people in the 15/20 age group to make the transition from school to work through the provision of co-ordinated foundation training, education and work experience.

Beneficiaries:

Young people in the 15-20 age group who find it most difficult to make the transition from school to work. The Youthreach programme provides two years integrated education, training and work experience for unemployed early school leavers without any qualifications or vocational training.

There are almost 6,000 places available nationwide under the Youthreach initiative umbrella of which approximately 3,700 of these places are allocated to just over 100 Youthreach Centres and the balance of places are mainly allocated to Community Training Centres of which there are about 38.

Action/Instrument:

Youthreach is part of a national programme of second-chance education and training. It includes a considerable amount of personal development and exploration where participants needs, interests and capacities are fully taken into account. The programme usually provides two years integrated education, training and work experience. Basic skills training, practical work training and general education are features of the programme, and the application of new technology is integrated into all aspects of programme content.

There is a strong emphasis on personal development, on the core skills of literacy/ numeracy, communications and IT, along with a choice of vocational options and a work experience programme.

The programme offers participants the opportunity to identify and pursue viable options within adult life, and provides them with opportunities to acquire certification. Youthreach includes a work experience element to prepare participants for progression on to further study, further training or working life. The Youthreach programme is generally full-time, although part-time courses can be arranged. Courses generally last from 1 to 2 years although this can be flexible, depending on individual needs. Participants can receive an allowance for attending the programme, based on their age. There is also a small meals allowance and, where applicable, a travel allowance.

Financing/Support:

Central Government and part funded by the ESF. Youthreach is delivered locally by the Education & Training Boards (ETBs) and funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for Youthreach, participants should be between 15 and 20 years of age and have left school with less than 5 D's in the Junior Certificate. Some exceptions can be made to this rule, for example if participants are a lone parent.

Legal basis:

Non-statutory

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers

Target groups: Registered unemployed (Youth)
Other registered jobseekers (Youth)
Not registered (Youth)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)		
Planned duration:	Typical: 12 Months, Maximum: 24 Months		
Responsible institution(s):	Central government, Local government		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1989	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 40 Traineeship
Type of action: 2.3 - Alternate training

Description

Aim:

To facilitate employers working in partnership with Education & Training Boards (ETBs) on a sector basis to address skill shortages and to plan for their anticipated future and emerging skill needs. Traineeships meet the needs of the unemployed for accredited skills acquisition thereby improving their individual employability and to expand the workforce.

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed persons on JA, JB and other social welfare beneficiaries, and those who wish to return to work, up-skill or achieve an occupational qualification.

Action/Instrument:

The Traineeship programme offers participants an opportunity to gain training, experience and a formal qualification in a particular area of work. The programme combines workplace training with formal off-the-job tuition in an ETB approved Training Centre, delivered by experienced and professional trainers. The workplace training component of the traineeship programme is planned and structured and carried out under normal operational conditions on-the-job under the supervision of experienced workers. Traineeships are full-time and range from 15 to 59 weeks depending on the occupation for which training is provided.

Participants who have a personal entitlement (per F103/DA103) are paid a training allowance by the Education and Training Boards, which is linked to their age and category of allowance (with effect from 1st January 2014). Training allowance categories include: Job Seekers Allowance, Job Seekers Benefit, Supplementary Welfare Allowance, Disability Allowance or Blind Pension, Occupational Injuries Benefit, Disability Allowance, Young person with no Social Welfare entitlement. Other allowances paid included a contribution toward the cost of meals and where eligible travel costs. In addition to the categories listed above, these other allowances are also paid to persons in receipt of: One Parent Family Payment, Deserted Wife Benefit, Widows/Widowers Pension, Illness Benefit and Invalidity Pension, Farm Assist, Fish Assist, Dependant on Partner's Claim and those signing for Credits only.

Financing/Support:

Central government budget and part funded by the ESF. Traineeship is operated locally by Education & Training Boards (ETB's), funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Eligibility:

Unemployed status; aged 16 to 65 years; registered with DSP Employment Services Office.

Legal basis:

Traineeship is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 1976.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Reimbursements), Transfers to service providers
Target groups: Registered unemployed (All)
Other registered jobseekers (All)
Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken
Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits
Planned duration: Typical: 6 Months, Maximum: 24 Months
Responsible institution(s): Central government, Public employment services
Area of application: National

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Implementation:

Year started: 1976

Year Ended: Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training
Intervention n°/name 41 Foundation/Progression in Community Training Centres
Type of action: 2.3 - Alternate training

Description

Aim:

€31,357 €9,631

€21,726

€31,357 €9,631

€21,726

To provide young men and women with basic skills training and work experience, and to improve motivation, and aid progress to further training or employment.

Beneficiaries:

Participants at the Community Training Centres are primarily young men and women between 16 and 21 years of age, who have left school without completing formal examinations (the Junior Certificate) or who have incomplete qualifications; who are experiencing difficulties finding a job; and who are keen to gain a qualification.

While this is the priority group for Community Training Centres, they can however provide for other young people under the age of 25 who are disadvantaged and unemployed, with agreement from Education & Training Boards.

Action/Instrument:

Learners in CTCs develop individualised learning plans and participate in personal, social and vocational skills training and development leading to major awards on the National Framework of Qualifications. Courses have a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy training. CTC courses are full-time and participants can avail of training opportunities within a CTC for a period up to two years. CTCs are part of the Youthreach initiative.

Participants who have a personal entitlement (per F103/DA103) are paid a training allowance by the Education and Training Boards, which is linked to their age and category of allowance (with effect from 1st January 2014). Training allowance categories include: Job Seekers Allowance, Job Seekers Benefit, Supplementary Welfare Allowance, Disability Allowance or Blind Pension, Occupational Injuries Benefit, Disability Allowance, Young person with no Social Welfare entitlement. Other allowances paid included a contribution toward the cost of meals and where eligible travel costs. In addition to the categories listed above, these other allowances are also paid to persons in receipt of: One Parent Family Payment, Deserted Wife Benefit, Widows/Widowers Pension, Illness Benefit and Invalidity Pension, Farm Assist, Fish Assist, Dependant on Partner's Claim and those signing for Credits only.

Finanacina/Support:

Central Government and part funded by the ESF. Community Training Centres are operated locally through the Education & Training Boards (ETB's), and funded by SOLAS, under the overall direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

Eligibility:

Persons aged 16 to 25 having left school early without any formal qualifications

Legal basis:

The Foundation/Progression in CTC is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 1978.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Reimbursements), Transfers to service providers
Target groups: Registered unemployed (All, Youth)
Other registered jobseekers (All, Youth)
Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits		
Planned duration:	Typical: 11 Months, Maximum: 24 Months		
Responsible institution(s):	Central government, Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1978	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 2 - Training

Intervention n°/name 66 Redundant Apprentices Rotation Scheme

Type of action: 2.4 - Special support for apprenticeship

Description

Aim:

SOLAS, with the support of the Social Partners, is providing a temporary Redundant Apprentice Placement Scheme for apprentices who have been made redundant due to the reduction in economic activity. The purpose of the Redundant Apprentice Placement Scheme is to give redundant apprentices the opportunity to complete on-the-job phases 3, 5 or 7 to enable them to progress in their apprenticeship.

Beneficiaries:

Redundant Apprentices who are unemployed and cannot finish their apprenticeships as they will not have on the job training.

Action/Instrument:

SOLAS with the support of employers will place a redundant apprentice with an eligible employer, to replace an existing apprentice who has been released to attend a scheduled off-the-job phase of apprenticeship. The Employer will provide workplace training and assessment for Phase 3, Phase 5 or Phase 7 of their apprenticeship. The maximum period of placement is 26 weeks for apprentices on Phase 3 or Phase 5 and a maximum of 12 weeks for Phase 7.

Trades covered:

- Brick & Stonelaying
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Electrical
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Painting & Decorating
- Floor & Wall Tiling
- Cabinet Making
- Wood Machining

Financing/Support:

SOLAS will make a contribution of €250 towards employment costs incurred, based on a 39 hour working week for each week in employment. Employers are required to pay the apprentice the agreed industry rates for the specified trade.

Eligibility:

Apprentices must have a status of redundant as notified by their employer to SOLAS. Apprentices are required to have successfully completed their previous off-the-job phase of training.

Legal basis:

Programme approved by Department of Enterprise, Trade & Innovation.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to employers (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers

Target groups: Registered unemployed (All)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Other)

Planned duration: Maximum: 26 Weeks

Responsible institution(s): Public employment services

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Area of application: National
Implementation: *Year started:* 2009 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 4 - Employment incentives
Intervention n°/name 4 Back to work allowance
Type of action: 4.1.1 - Permanent

Description

Aim:

To encourage people to take up employment or self-employment

Beneficiaries:

Long-term unemployed, people with disabilities and lone parents

Action/Instrument:

The scheme allows people taking up a job to retain a percentage of their social welfare payment (including adult and child dependant allowances) for a period of up to 3 years - 75% of their weekly entitlement in the first year, 50% for the second year and 25% for the third year. They will also continue to retain all the secondary benefits (such as Medical Cards) they had been receiving prior to their participation in the scheme subject to a weekly income limit.

The work being offered must be new or additional employment, be likely to develop into a lasting job, not displace existing employment, and be a minimum of 20 hours work per week. Employers taking on new employees under this Scheme, will also qualify for the Employers' PRSI Exemption Scheme (see measure IRL-5)

Finanacina/Support:

Central government budget and ear-marked taxes.

Eligibility:

Applicants must satisfy the following conditions immediately prior to commencing employment:

A. In receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance/Benefit for two years, and aged 23 years or older. Applicants must establish an entitlement to Jobseeker's Allowance.

OR

B. In receipt of One-Parent Family Payment, Disability Allowance, Blind Person's Pension, Carer's Allowance (on ceasing caring duties), Farm Assist, Invalidity Pension, Unemployability Supplement, Pre-Retirement Allowance, Widows/Widowers Non Contributory Pension, Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance, and Prisoners Wife's Allowance for at least 15 months (12 months if aged 50 or over),

OR

C. In receipt of Illness Benefit for three years or more.

Legal basis:

Administrative

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)

Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU)
Other registered jobseekers (Disabled, Re-entrants/lone parents)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Reciept of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits

Planned duration: Typical: 3 Years, Maximum: 3 Years

Responsible institution(s): Central government

Area of application: National

Implementation: *Year started:* 1993 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 4 - Employment incentives
Intervention n°/name 7 Part-time job incentive scheme
Type of action: 4.1.1 - Permanent

Description

Aim:

Encourage the unemployed to take-up part-time jobs

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed, disabled and lone parents who take up part-time employment

Action/Instrument:

The Part Time Job Incentive (PTJI) scheme allows long-term unemployed people (over 15 months/390 days) to take up part-time employment and continue to receive an allowance (part-time job allowance) from the Department of Social Protection. Participation on the scheme is limited initially to one year and participants are expected to continue efforts to find full-time employment. The number of hours worked cannot exceed 24 per week and the employment must be insurable under the social welfare acts. The allowance is paid at a fixed weekly rate with a higher rate paid to persons with an adult dependant.

Finanacina/Support:

The Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme is administered by the Department's Social Welfare Local Offices.

Eligibility:

A claimant must be on a Jobseeker's Allowance for 15 months (390 days) or more, getting a weekly Jobseeker's Allowance payment of at least €119 if single or €193 if getting an increase for a qualified adult, and undertake to remain on the scheme for at least 2 months. The part-time job must be insurable at PRSI Class A (earnings of €38.00 or more per week) or Class J (earnings of less than €38.00 per week).

Smallholders or self-employed persons are not permitted to take part in the scheme.

Legal basis:

The Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme is an administrative scheme and is not covered by legislation. It was set up by Government decision in December 1986.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)

Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU)
Other registered jobseekers (Disabled, Re-entrants/lone parents)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)

Planned duration: Typical: 1 Years, Maximum: 1 Years

Responsible institution(s): Central government

Area of application: National

Implementation: *Year started:* 1986 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 5 - Supported employment and rehabilitation

Intervention n°/name 52 Supported Employment Programme

Type of action: 5.1 - Supported employment

Description

Aim:

To assist in the integration of persons with a disability into a job in the open labour market, leading to independence and career progression.

Supported Employment aims to

- facilitate the integration of people with disabilities into paid employment in the open labour market,
- provide supports to assist with this integration process,
- meet the requirements of employers.

Beneficiaries:

Persons with a disability

Action/Instrument

Supported Employment is open to all persons with a disability regardless of impairment and who are deemed 'job ready'. For the purposes of this programme 'job ready' is defined as follows: a person (with a disability) who has the necessary training, education, motivation and capacity to pursue a job and/or career in the open labour market.

It typically involves four key strands which are normally carried out by a single individual, often referred to as a Job Coach.

These strands involve:

- a needs assessment, with the individual, to identify the type of employment that is most suitable to him or her;
- job sourcing and development involving contact with local employers and job analysis;
- matching the job seeker with a suitable employer;
- providing the employee with necessary support and coaching in the workplace. The amount of support provided should decrease over time as the employee learns the skills required for the job and adapting to the workplace.

Successful projects are required to enter into a contract of service with FÁS, which will outline detailed requirements for quality assurance in the delivery of the Supported Employment programme. FÁS staff, on an on-going basis, will monitor all projects.

Funding may be made available towards the following costs:

- recruitment of all Supported Employment staff;
- salary of Project Co-ordinator and Job Coaches, including employers PRSI contributions within agreed salary scale;
- where warranted and justified, contribution to support staff costs, including employers PRSI contributions within agreed salary scale;
- necessary overhead and running costs for the project, e.g., rent, heat, light, telephone;
- funding for the training and development of Co-ordinators/ Job Coaches where required
- contribution towards any necessary travel and subsistence costs, at the agreed FÁS rate

Finanacina/Support:

Funded by Central Government and implemented by FAS

Eligibility:

The employment conditions of participants on the Programme must comply with current Employment Legislation and Regulations.

Each participant must have a contract of employment with the employer.

Placement of participants in Management Committee organisations will be subject to conditions to be finalised by FÁS. In general it is expected that participants of Supported Employment, upon commencement of employment, will enter an incremental progression of work time strategy. Eventually this should lead to the client working in excess of 18 hours plus per week after a six-month period. Following placement, a specific 'progression' plan should be drawn up, outlining the steps and timeline, for that participant leading to independence in the open labour market.

Legal basis:

The Supported Employment Programme is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES)

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

decision in 2000.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure:	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers		
Target groups:	Registered unemployed (Disabled) Employed (Disabled)		
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Broken		
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)		
Planned duration:	Unlimited		
Responsible institution(s):	Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	2001	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 5 - Supported employment and rehabilitation

Intervention n°/name 60 Wage subsidy scheme

Type of action: 5.1 - Supported employment

Description

Aim:

To encourage employers to employ disabled persons with restricted productivity.

Beneficiaries:

Persons with a disability.

Action/Instrument:

The Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSS) provides financial incentives to employers, outside the public sector, to employ disabled people who work more than 20 hours per week. A person on the WSS is subject to the same conditions of employment as other employees. These conditions include PRSI contributions, annual leave, tax deductions and the going rate for the job. To participate, DSP, the employer and employee agree the wage subsidy to be paid following the first month of employment. The employer then pays the going rate for the job, as per any other employee.

The scheme operates by offering subsidies to employers under three separate strands and employers can benefit under one, or all, simultaneously.

Strand I: Wage subsidy based on the employee's agreed productivity level - €8,639 p.a. for productivity level of 50%-80% of normal performance €10,748 p.a. for productivity level below 50 % of normal performance

Strand II: Grant assistance to cover additional supervisory, management and other work based costs where a company employs more than two disabled people - ranging on sliding scale from an additional 10% of wage subsidy for 3-6 employees, to max of 50% of wage subsidy for 23+ employees

Strand III: Grant assistance to employ an Employment Assistant Officer where an employer employs thirty or more disabled workers - grant max of €30, 000 p.a.

The WSS replaced the Employment Support Scheme in September 2005.

Finanacina/Support:

Funded through Central Government and administered by DSP.

Eligibility:

The employee(s) must:

- have a disability, which results in a productivity shortfall
- work for more than 20 hours per week
- be provided with Terms and Conditions of Employment and Job Description
- receive the same conditions of employment as other employees.

Legal basis:

Administrative. The WSS was launched by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in July 2005 and was implemented by FÁS from September 2005 until it transfer to DSP in 2013.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to employers (Periodic cash payments)

Target groups: Registered unemployed (Disabled)
Other registered jobseekers (Disabled)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits:	None		
Planned duration:	Unlimited		
Responsible institution(s):	Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i> 2005	<i>Year Ended:</i>	Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 6 - Direct job creation
Intervention n°/name 23 Community employment scheme
Type of action: 6 - Direct job creation

Description

Aim:

The aim of Community Employment (CE) is to enhance the employability and mobility of disadvantaged and unemployed persons by providing work experience and training opportunities for them within their communities. In addition it helps long-term unemployed people to re-enter the active workforce by breaking their experience of unemployment through a return to work routine. Community and voluntary organisations sponsor local/community projects that satisfy two essential criteria - that they respond to an identified community need, and that they provide training/development opportunities for participants.

At December 2015 there were 985 Community Employment schemes employing 22,813 participants and 1,405 supervisors. Over the years Community Employment (CE) has become a valuable resource in the provision of a range of services to communities. The typology of CE sponsoring organisations can be best considered under the main activities undertaken under the Community Employment Programme. The main areas of activity of CE schemes are identified as follows:

- Childcare Services (2,200 ring-fenced places)
- Health & Social Care Services (2,800 ring-fenced places)
- Drugs Rehabilitation Services (1,000 ring-fenced places)
- Community Amenities/ Environmental works (circa 13,000 places)
- Advice & Information Services (circa 350 places)
- Youth Services (300 places)
- Sports (circa 1,400 places)
- Arts, Tourism and Culture (circa 900 places)

The operation and administration of CE schemes is governed by the CE Procedures Manual which covers all the key aspects of set-up, management and administration of the scheme and the programme to be delivered to CE participants. This forms the basis of programme and financial monitoring undertaken by the Department on schemes.

Beneficiaries:

Long-term unemployed people

Action/Instrument:

CE projects are typically sponsored by groups wishing to benefit the local community, namely voluntary and community organisations and, to a lesser extent, public bodies involved in not-for-profit activities. Such projects provide a valuable service to local communities while at the same time providing training and educational opportunities to Job seekers.

Sponsors are grant-aided by the Department of Social Protection to pay €210.50 per participant per week but this amount may increase depending on the number of dependants linked to their social welfare status. The participants' rates are based on a 19.5 hour week or 39 hours every two weeks (this is determined by the sponsor in conjunction with DSP).

In addition to the participant and Supervisor allowances, which make up approximately 91 per cent of CE costs, DSP funds the Sponsors' materials costs per CE place based on actual receipted expenditure. Training for participants is also an important part of CE, for many this provides a real opportunity to pursue a qualification that may lead to employment. CE Supervisors who are employed by the Sponsoring Committee have a key role in coaching and mentoring CE participants in gaining the necessary skills and in engagement in job search activities.

Financing/Support:

Central government.

Eligibility:

The criteria for participating on the Community Employment programme are based on age and length of time in receipt of various social welfare payments. There are two options on CE, the Part-time Integration Option and the Part-time Job Option. In general, the Part-time Integration Option is for people of 25 or over who are receiving social welfare payments for 1 year or more, and people of 18 years or over in receipt of disability-related payments. The Part-time Job Option is for

people who are 35 or over and in receipt of social welfare payments for 3 years or longer. Certain groups such as travellers and refugees aged 18 or over are eligible for both options.

Eligibility to participate on the Community Employment programme is linked to those in receipt of an Irish social welfare payment (where specified). Those persons not meeting the criteria under the Part-time Integration or Part-time Job Options, or who are signing for credits, or are receiving social welfare benefits from a different country, are not eligible to participate on Community Employment.

Legal basis:

Community Employment Scheme is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in April 1994.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure:	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers		
Target groups:	Registered unemployed (All, LTU) Other registered jobseekers (Older, Disabled, Re-entrants/lone parents)		
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Continuous/Continuous		
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits		
Planned duration:	Typical: 3 Years, Maximum: 7 Years		
Responsible institution(s):	Public employment services		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1994	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 6 - Direct job creation
Intervention n°/name 37 Job Initiative
Type of action: 6 - Direct job creation

Description

Aim:

The Job Initiative (JI) scheme was launched in 1996 and was intended to provide full-time employment for a fixed-term period of three years to persons who met the scheme eligibility criteria.

Beneficiaries:

Long-term Unemployed

Action/Instrument:

Its main purpose was to assist long-term unemployed people to prepare for work opportunities. The programme is sponsored by groups wishing to benefit the local community, namely voluntary organisations, public bodies and those involved in not-for-profit activities. Recruitment onto JI ceased from 10th November 2004. When announced the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment clarified that following a review of FÁS employment schemes there would be no compulsory lay-offs from JI and that those on JI would have their contracts renewed. This had the result that those already working on the scheme could remain on JI until they either resigned voluntarily or reached retirement age.

At December end 2015 there were 879 JI participants and 36 Team Leaders on 54 schemes. The average participant duration on JI is 12 years. JI has become a community work programme and has ceased to be a labour market activation programme.

Financing/Support:

Central Government

Eligibility:

Not applicable. Recruitment onto JI ceased in November 2004.

Legal basis:

Job Initiative is an administration scheme not covered by legislation. It was set up by FAS (PES) decision in 1996.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers
Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU)
Other registered jobseekers (Disabled, Re-entrants/lone parents)
Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken
Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits
Planned duration: Maximum: 3 Years
Responsible institution(s): Central government, Public employment services
Area of application: National
Implementation: *Year started:* 1996 *Year Ended:* Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 6 - Direct job creation
Intervention n°/name 73 TÚS
Type of action: 6 - Direct job creation

Description

Aim:

To provide short-term, community-based work opportunities for unemployed people.

Beneficiaries:

Long- term unemployed

Action/Instrument:

Tús is a one year long paid work placement opportunity for 19½ hours per week with a community or voluntary organisation. Tús is managed and delivered at local level by local development companies/partnership companies (commonly referred to as Implementing Bodies). Participants generally receive a rate equivalent to their Jobseeker's Allowance payment plus €22.50 per week, with a minimum payment of €220.50 per week.

Finanacina/Support:

The scheme is administered by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, payroll function provided by Pobal and implemented on the ground by Implementing Bodies.

Eligibility:

The majority of potential participants will be identified by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and 20% of places are made available for assisted or self-referral by satisfying the following conditions:

- In receipt of a jobseeker's payment from this Department for at least 12 months (and 312 CT days); and
- Currently in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance; and
- Fully unemployed

Or

Persons in receipt of Jobseekers Transitional Payment (in receipt of OFP immediately prior to transferring to JST) and who are fully unemployed – (no qualifying period applies in this case).

Or

A refugee aged 18 years or older, authenticated by the Department of Justice & Law Reform (Garda Registrar Certificate with Stamp 4) and getting Jobseekers Allowance payment (no qualifying period applies).

Legal basis:

Administrative

Recent changes:

From 1st June 2018, persons availing of the JobPath service may also participate on Tús.

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers

Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Continuous/Continuous

Receipt of benefits: None

Planned duration: Typical: 12 Months, Maximum: 12 Months

Responsible institution(s): Central government

Area of application: National

Implementation: Year started: 2011 Year Ended: Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 7 - Start-up incentives
Intervention n°/name 3 Back to work enterprise allowance (BWEA)
Type of action: 7 - Start-up incentives

Description

Aim:

To encourage people on social protection payments to take up self-employment.

Beneficiaries:

Long-term unemployed, lone parents and disabled persons

Action/Instrument:

Participants in the scheme will receive support as follows (including increases for a qualified adult and child dependant allowances):

- 100% of their weekly social welfare payment for the first year;
- 75% for the second year;

Persons receiving BWEA may also retain any secondary benefits (e.g. fuel allowances) for the 2 years provided that the combined household income from the self-employment and BWEA is less than a certain threshold.

Finanacina/Support:

Central government budget and ear-marked taxes

Eligibility:

To qualify, applicants must satisfy the following conditions immediately prior to commencing self-employment:

- be setting up a self-employment business which has been approved, in writing, in advance by a Local Development Company or a Department of Social Protection Case Officer AND
 - be 12 months registered unemployed and getting Jobseeker's Allowance, One-Parent Family Payment, Disability Allowance, Blind Person's Pensions, Carer's Allowance, Farm Assist, Invalidity Pension, Incapacity Supplement, Pre-Retirement Allowance, Widows/Widowers Non Contributory Pension, Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance, or Prisoners Wife's Allowance for at least 12 months.
 - If you don't have an underlying entitlement to Jobseeker's Allowance and are in receipt of Jobseekers Benefit you may be 2 years registered unemployed and getting Jobseeker's Benefit you must have a combination of qualifying social welfare payments for 2 years.
- OR
- be in receipt of Illness Benefit for three years or more.

In addition to those listed above the following may also be considered for participation in the scheme;

- Recipients of Farm Assist provided that the self-employment is now in relation to the holding and not the continuation of an existing operation.
- Casual signers require 624 days registered unemployed to qualify.

Legal basis:

Administrative

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)

Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU)
Other registered jobseekers (Disabled, Re-entrants/lone parents)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Broken

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits

Planned duration: Typical: 4 Years, Maximum: 4 Years

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Responsible institution(s):	Central government			
Area of application:	Regional			
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1992	<i>Year Ended:</i>	Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 8 - Out-of-work income maintenance and support

Intervention n°/name 1 Unemployment Benefit

Type of action: 8.1.1 - Unemployment insurance

Description

Aim:

To compensate (partially) for loss of earnings due to unemployment.

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed (jobseekers must be fully unemployed or unemployed for at least 4 days out of 7) who are under 66 and capable of work, available for work and genuinely seeking full-time work and who satisfy the social insurance conditions

Action/Instrument:

Jobseekers Benefit (JB) is payable to eligible unemployed for 234 days (excluding Sundays), where 260 contributions are paid since entry into insurance or 156 days (excluding Sundays) where less than 260 contributions are paid after entry into insurance, after which the person's entitlement expires. The rates of JB payable are graduated according to a person's earnings in the relevant tax year.

Financing/Support:

JB is financed through PRSI contributions (social security) and the unemployment payments are administered by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Policy is administered centrally in the Department's Headquarters with decision-making on claims being administered in the Intreo Centres, which are grouped into 10 divisions.

Eligibility:

Potential recipients must be:

- unemployed
- under pension age (currently 66 years of age)
- capable of work
- available for full-time work
- genuinely looking for full-time work
- have sustained a substantial loss of employment (does not apply to casual workers or Jobseekers Allowance claimants)

- fully unemployed for at least 4 days in any period of 7 consecutive days
- satisfy the PRSI contribution conditions
- prove unemployment in the prescribed manner

Legal basis:

Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 2005

Recent changes:

The personal rate of Jobseeker's Benefit increased to €193.00 with effect from 09/03/2017. The Increase for Qualified Adult increased to €128.10 and each qualified child rate increased to €29.80 (half rate €14.90)

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)

Target groups: Registered unemployed (All)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Not relevant

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits

Planned duration: Maximum: 12 Months

Responsible institution(s): Central government

Area of application: National

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Implementation:

Year started: 1923

Year Ended: Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 8 - Out-of-work income maintenance and support

Intervention n°/name 2 Unemployment assistance

Type of action: 8.1.2 - Unemployment assistance

Description

Aim:

To provide income support for the unemployed who are ineligible for jobseekers benefit.

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed (either fully unemployed or unemployed for at least 4 out of the 7 days) who are under 66, capable of work, available for work and genuinely seeking full-time work, but who have used up their Jobseeker Benefit (JB) entitlements, or who do not satisfy the social insurance conditions for JB.

Action/Instrument:

Jobseekers Allowance (JA) is payable as long as beneficiaries satisfy the qualifying conditions up to pension age (currently 66 years of age). The allowance is means-tested. Its amount varies according to the composition of the household of the recipient. The maximum personal rate for JA claimants aged 26 or over or that with Qualified Child is €193.00 per week. The increase for a Qualified Adult is €128.10 per week. The rate for child dependants is €29.80. The maximum personal rate for JA claimants aged 25 is €147.80 (increase for Qualified Adult is €128.10). The maximum rate for JA claimants who are aged 18-24 is €102.70 per week (increase for Qualified Adult €102.70). Expenditure includes JA paid to certain small farmers who are not in employment. These farmers are not included as recipients.

Financing/Support:

JA is financed by the Exchequer out of general taxation and is administered by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

Eligibility:

Potential recipients must be:

- unemployed
- aged between 18 and under pension age (66)
- capable of work
- available for and genuinely seeking full-time work
- fully unemployed for at least 4 days in any period of 7 consecutive days
- satisfy a means test
- is habitually resident in the state
- prove unemployment in the prescribed manner

Legal basis:

Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 2005

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)

Target groups: Registered unemployed (All)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Not relevant

Receipt of benefits: Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits

Planned duration: Unlimited

Responsible institution(s): Central government

Area of application: National

Source: Eurostat LMP database. Date of extraction: 18 June 2019

Implementation:

Year started: 1933

Year Ended: Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 8 - Out-of-work income maintenance and support

Intervention n°/name 49 Redundancy Payments

Type of action: 8.4 - Redundancy compensation

Description

Aim:

The purpose of the Redundancy Payments Scheme is to compensate workers, under the Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2013, for the loss of their jobs by reason of redundancy, where the employer is unable to pay statutory redundancy due to financial difficulties or insolvency.

Where an employer can prove to the satisfaction of the Department that he/she is unable to pay the statutory redundancy to his/her eligible employees the Department will make lump sum payments directly to the employees and will seek to recover the debt from the employer. The prescribed time limit for submitting a redundancy lump sum application is 52 weeks from the date of termination of employment.

The Workplace Relations Commission has discretion to extend the 52 week time limit to 104 weeks provided that it receives the necessary claim within 104 weeks of the date of dismissal and is satisfied that the delay by the employee in making the claim arose through reasonable cause.

Beneficiaries:

The Redundancy Payments Section of the Department of Social Protection is responsible for processing and paying applications under the Redundancy Payments Scheme to eligible employees whose employers are unable to pay their statutory redundancy lump sum entitlement.

Action/Instrument:

Under the Redundancy Payments Acts, it is the responsibility of the employer to pay statutory redundancy payments to eligible employees.

Statutory redundancy payments are made from the Social Insurance Fund in situations where the employer is unable to make the payment, due to financial difficulty or insolvency.

Compensation is based on the worker's length of reckonable service and reckonable weekly remuneration.

An eligible employee is entitled to a statutory redundancy payment of two weeks' pay per year of service, plus a bonus week (for the purposes of this calculation weekly pay is subject to a ceiling of €600).

Financing/Support:

Redundancy payments are administered by the Department of Social Protection under the Redundancy Payments Scheme, with payments made from the Social Insurance Fund.

Eligibility:

In order to qualify for a redundancy lump sum payment, an employee must:

- have at least two years continuous service with the employer;
- be in employment which is insurable under the Social Welfare Acts;
- be over the age of 16; and
- have been made redundant as a result of a genuine redundancy situation meaning that the job no longer exists and he/she is not replaced.

Legal basis:

The Redundancy Payments Acts, 1967-2013

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Lump-sum payments), Transfers to employers (Lump-sum payments)

Target groups:	Registered unemployed (All)
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Not relevant
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)
Planned duration:	One-off
Responsible institution(s):	Central government
Area of application:	National
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i> 1967 <i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 8 - Out-of-work income maintenance and support

Intervention n°/name 50 Insolvency payments

Type of action: 8.5 - Bankruptcy compensation

Description

Aim:

The purpose of the Insolvency Payments Scheme is to provide for the payment of certain outstanding pay-related entitlements due to employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer.

An employer shall be taken to be insolvent for the purposes of the scheme only in the following circumstances: liquidation or receivership; death of employer; bankruptcy; or insolvency of the employer under the legislation of another EU Member State (where the employees concerned are habitually employed in insurable employment in Ireland). There are statutory limits on the amounts of payments and the periods to which they apply.

Beneficiaries:

The debts, which may be claimed by employees, include:

- Wages, holiday pay, sick pay and statutory minimum notice entitlements (up to 8 weeks)
- Awards in respect of unfair or wrongful dismissal, employment equality, maternity or adoptive leave
- Certain arrears of contributions to occupational pension schemes (up to 12 months)

The above debts may arise from various dates, e.g., the date of insolvency, the date of termination of employment, or the date of an award, depending on the circumstances.

Action/Instrument:

Claims under the Insolvency Payments Scheme can only be processed if the company is insolvent within the definition of the Protection of Employees (Employers' Insolvency) Act 1984 and a "relevant officer" - in this case, a receiver or liquidator - has been appointed and certifies the claims.

Employees make their claims on statutory forms through the relevant officer and payments are made to the relevant officer in respect of each eligible employee.

Payment is limited to €600 per week. There is also a limit of 8 weeks for arrears of pay, sick pay, holiday pay and pay in lieu of statutory notice. In most cases, the scheme covers entitlements relating to the period of 18 months prior to the date of the insolvency of the employer or the termination of employment. In the case of an award made to an employee - for example, an unfair dismissal award, the 18-month period applies to the date of the award. An award may also have a date that is later than the date of insolvency.

Financing/Support:

Insolvency payments are administered by the Department of Social Protection with payments made from the Social Insurance Fund.

Eligibility:

The Scheme covers employees who are in employment which is insurable for all benefits under the Social Welfare Acts (in general this means employees who pay full P.R.S.I. contributions); are between 16 and 66 years of age or, if over 66 years, in employment which, but for their age, would be insurable for all benefits under the Social Welfare Acts.

Legal basis:

The Insolvency Payments Scheme implements the provisions of EU Directive 80/987 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer. The statutory basis for the scheme is the Protection of Employees (Employers' Insolvency) Acts 1984 - 2003 and regulations made under the Acts.

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Lump-sum payments)

Target groups:	Employed (All)
Treatment of unemployment spells:	Not relevant
Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention)
Planned duration:	One-off
Responsible institution(s):	Central government, Trade union or similar
Area of application:	National
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i> 1984 <i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

Identification

Country Ireland 2017 Category 9 - Early retirement
Intervention n°/name 12 Pre-retirement allowance
Type of action: 9.2.1 - Full

Description

Aim:

To allow persons aged 55 or over to opt to retire from the labour force.

Beneficiaries:

Long-term unemployed and lone parents aged over 55.

Action/Instrument:

Retirees receive a weekly allowance payable until the date of formal retirement so long as the recipient:

- a) is retired i.e. does not engage in employment
- b) continues to satisfy a means test.

The Social Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill 2006 abolished the Pre-Retirement Allowance but existing recipients are not affected and may continue to receive it. Since 4 July 2007, no new applications for Pre-Retirement Allowance are accepted. However, if a claimant was getting Pre-Retirement Allowance before 4 July 2007 they are not affected and can continue to get it.

As the last claims were received on 4 July 2007 payments to those recipients will end on 4 July 2018 when they reach 66 years of age.

The basic weekly rate in 2017 is €193 with €128.10 increase for qualified adult bringing the rate to €321.00

Financing/Support:

The scheme is administered by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

Eligibility:

Beneficiaries must:

- a) be aged 55 or over
- b) be getting Jobseeker Allowance (JA) for 390 days or Jobseeker Benefit (JB) for 312 days and have established an entitlement to JA OR no longer be entitled to One-Parent Family Payment or Carer's Allowance OR be separated from your spouse and have not engaged in employment or self-employment for the preceding 15 months
- c) retire from the workforce
- d) be living in the State
- e) satisfy a means test. The first €20,000 savings and investments are not counted when assessing means.

Legal basis:

Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005

Recent changes:

Supplementary information

Breakdown of expenditure: Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)

Target groups: Registered unemployed (LTU, Older)
Other registered jobseekers (Older)
Not registered (Older)

Treatment of unemployment spells: Not relevant

Receipt of benefits:	Cash benefits (Source: Current intervention), Non-cash benefits		
Planned duration:	Maximum: 10 Years		
Responsible institution(s):	Central government		
Area of application:	National		
Implementation:	<i>Year started:</i>	1990	<i>Year Ended:</i> Ongoing

D - Reference data

R.1.1 Registered unemployed

48 Registered unemployed

Registered unemployed in Ireland refers to persons on the Live Register, which is compiled from monthly returns made directly to the Central Statistics Office by each local office of the Department of Social Protection. It comprises persons under 66 years of age in the following classes:

- All Claimants for Jobseeker Benefit (JB) excluding systematic short-time workers
- Applicants for Jobseeker Allowance (JA) excluding smallholders/farm assist and other self-employed persons
- Other registrants including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute

For all unemployment payments persons must be:

- Resident in Ireland
- For JA - Habitually Resident
- For JB have sufficient PRSI contributions
- Aged 18+ for Jobseeker Benefit and 18 + for Jobseeker Allowance
- Unemployed for at least 4 days out of any consecutive seven days
- Available for and capable of full-time work
- Genuinely seeking full-time work.

The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time (those who work up to three days a week), seasonal and casual workers entitled to JA or JB Unemployment is measured by the Quarterly National House-hold Survey (formerly the Annual Labour Force Survey).

Abbreviations

Abbreviation, Description