

# Jobseeker's Allowance or Benefit



## What is Jobseeker's Allowance or Benefit?

Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) offers income support to people who become unemployed and are available for and genuinely seeking full-time work. Jobseeker's Benefit is based on a person's PRSI contribution record.

Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) offers income support to people who become unemployed and are available for and genuinely seeking work. Jobseeker's Allowance is a means tested payment.

## Who can get Jobseeker's Allowance or Benefit?

You may be eligible for Jobseeker's Benefit if you are aged over 18 and under 66 and:

- Have paid at least 104 PRSI employment contributions at Class A or H

**Or**

- Have paid at least 156 PRSI self-employment contributions at Class S

**And**

- Have paid at least 39 PRSI employment contributions at Class A and H or have credited contributions in the governing tax year. (**Governing Tax Year** is the second last complete tax year. For example for a claim in 2019 the second last complete tax year is 2017).

**And**

- You are genuinely seeking work and are available for full-time work

You may be eligible for Jobseeker's Allowance if you are over 18 and under 66 and:

- You satisfy a means test
- You are genuinely seeking work and are available for full-time work

## How will I be paid?

Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance will be paid in to your local post office. The rate will be based on your earnings in the governing tax year. You may also qualify for increases for your:

- Spouse
- Civil partner
- Partner
- Co-habitant, or
- Your children

## How long will the payment last?

Jobseeker's Benefit will last for a total of 6 or 9 months. The number of months depends on the total amount of PRSI employment contributions you have paid during your working life.

To be eligible for this scheme for 9 months you must be aged over 18 and under 66 and:

- Have paid at least 260 PRSI employment contributions at Class A or H

To be eligible for this scheme for 6 months you must be aged over 18 and under 66 and:

- Have paid less than 260 PRSI employment contributions at Class A or H

Jobseeker's Allowance will last for as long as you continue to meet the conditions of the scheme. You must be available for and genuinely seeking full-time work and satisfy a means test.

## Where can I find out more information and how do I apply?

If you want to find out more about Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance, you should contact your local Intreo Centre or Branch Office. They will explain how the process works and give you an application form. The form is also available to download from [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

## How to fill this form

To help us in processing your application:

- Print letters and numbers clearly.
- Use one box for each character (letter or number).

Please see example below.

### 1. Please state:

- Personal Public Service Number (**PPS number**) **same** as RSI/Tax Number:

Applicant									Spouse, Civil Partner or Cohabitant								
FIGURES							LETTER(S)		FIGURES							LETTER(S)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	A		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	B	

- First name(s):

<b>MAUREEN</b>	<b>SEAN</b>
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- Surname:

<b>MURPHY</b>	<b>MURPHY</b>
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- Birth Surname if different:

<b>LYNCH</b>	
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- Mother's Birth Surname:

<b>MCDERMOTT</b>	<b>FITZPATRICK</b>
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- Address  
(If you and your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant are not living together give both Addresses):

<b>1 NEW STREET, OLD TOWN, DONEGAL TOWN, DONEGAL</b>	<b>1 NEW STREET, OLD TOWN, DONEGAL TOWN, DONEGAL</b>
------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------

- Postcode:

<b>A65F4E2</b>	<b>A65F4E2</b>
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- Telephone/Mobile Number:

<b>0871234567</b>
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- Email address:

<b>EXAMPLE@mail.com</b>
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- Nationality:

<b>IRISH</b>	<b>IRISH</b>
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- Normal occupation:

<b>BUILDER</b>
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- Date of Birth:

2	8	0	2	1	9	7	0
D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

# SAMPLE



# Jobseeker's Allowance or Benefit

- Please complete in Black Pen.
- Please use BLOCK LETTERS.

## Part 1

**PERSONAL DETAILS** about you and your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant: (If you do not wish to claim for a spouse, civil partner or cohabitant you do not need to list his/her details below or complete Section 6 of this form for Jobseeker's Benefit).

	Applicant								Spouse, Civil partner or Cohabitant							
	FIGURES				LETTER(S)				FIGURES				LETTER(S)			
<b>1. Please state:</b> • Personal Public Service Number ( <b>PPS number</b> ) same as RSI/Tax Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
• First name(s):	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Surname:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Birth Surname if different:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Mother's Birth Surname:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Address (If you and your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant are not living together give both Addresses):	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Postcode:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Telephone/Mobile Number:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Email address:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Nationality:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Normal occupation:	<input type="text"/>								<input type="text"/>							
• Date of Birth:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y								

## 2. Are you?

<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohabiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Married
<input type="checkbox"/> Separated	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed
<input type="checkbox"/> In a Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> a former Civil Partner (A civil partnership since dissolved)	<input type="checkbox"/> a surviving Civil Partner

**Habitual Residence is a condition that you must satisfy to qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance. Log on to [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) for more information about Habitual Residence.**

3. In what country were you born?

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4. What is your nationality?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Note:** The Common Travel Area is Ireland, Great Britain, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

You can spend brief periods on short holidays, studying or travelling outside the Common Travel Area and still be habitually resident here.

5. Have you lived in the Common Travel Area all of your life?

YES       NO

If **Yes**, please complete question 10 and 11  
If **No**, please go to question 6 to 8

6. Have you lived in the Common Travel Area for the last two years?

YES       NO

If **No**, please give details below about each country outside the Common Travel Area where you have lived.

Country	Date from	Date to	Why you lived there

7. When did you come to Ireland?

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

Have you lived continuously in Ireland since the day you arrived?

YES       NO

8. Does any of your close family, for example parent, brother, sister or child, live in Ireland?

YES       NO

If **Yes**, please give their details:

Name	Address	DATE OF BIRTH			Relationship to you	When they came to Ireland
		Day	Month	Year		

**9.** Have you ever made an application for Refugee Status?

YES

NO

If **YES**, please answer questions 9a and 9b below and give copies of all relevant documents from the Department of Justice and Equality.

**9a.** Are you awaiting a decision on an application for Refugee Status?

YES

NO

**9b.** Have you been granted Refugee Status, or Leave to Remain in the State on other grounds?

YES

NO

**10.** Please state where you lived in the Common Travel Area:

Ireland

Great Britain

Isle of Man

Channel Islands

**11.** Have you lived at the same address for the last two years?

YES

NO

If **NO**, please give details of previous addresses:

Last address

Previous address

From

From

To

To

**For Official Department use only**

HRC Satisfied

HRC Not Satisfied

HRC1 issued

Some of the following questions may appear similar but they are necessary to complete your application and to tailor our employment support services to your individual needs.

12. Have you made an unemployment claim in the last five years?

YES  NO

If **Yes**, please complete question 12(a)

If **No**, please go to question 13

12a. Were you signing on for twelve months or more?

YES  NO

13. Have you been on a Community Employment (CE) Scheme in the last five years?

YES  NO

If **Yes**, please complete question 13(a)

If **No**, please go to question 14

13a. Were you on this Scheme for twelve months or more?

YES  NO

14. Which of the following categories best describes the highest level of education you have **completed**?

- No education beyond primary/national school **or** left school at or before age 15
- Junior/Intermediate or Group Certificate (or equivalent) **or** left school at 16 or 17
- Leaving Certificate/Matriculation (or equivalent) **or** left education at 18 or 19
- Third Level Award (Certificate, Diploma or Degree) **or** left education at 20 or older

15. Have you ever completed an apprenticeship training programme (i.e. qualified or got your papers)?

YES  NO

16. What is the size of the location where you live? Is it a:

- Rural area
- Village (up to 2,000 inhabitants)
- Town (2,000 - 10,000 inhabitants)
- Large town or city (more than 10,000 inhabitants)

17. When were you last in paid employment or self-employed?

- Still in employment (go to 17a)
- In the last month (go to 17b)
- In the last year (go to 17b)
- In the last 5 years (go to 17b)
- Over 5 years ago (go to 17b)
- Never (go to 19)

## Part 3 (continued)

## Jobseeker's Claim

17a. If you are still in employment how long are you in your current job?

- |                          |                   |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Less than 1 month | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 - 2 years     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 - 6 months      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 years or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 - 12 months     |                          |                 |

17b. If you are no longer in employment, how long did your last job last?

- |                          |                   |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Less than 1 month | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 - 2 years     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 - 6 months      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 years or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 - 12 months     |                          |                 |

18. If you are still in employment, what are your gross weekly earnings?

€  .

**Gross weekly earnings** are your weekly earnings before tax, PRSI, union dues or other deduction.

If you are no longer in employment, what were your gross weekly earnings?

€  .

19. Do you have the use of a car, van or motorcycle?

- |                          |     |                          |    |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|

20. Do you live within usable distance of public transport?

- |                          |     |                          |    |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|

21. Have you ever thought about moving location to take up a job?

- |                          |     |                          |    |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|

22. Have you any difficulty with reading or writing or numbers?

- |                          |     |                          |    |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|

23. In general, how would you describe your health?

Would you say it is?

- |                          |           |                          |          |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Very Good | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bad      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Very Bad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fair      |                          |          |

24. How well do you speak English?

- |                          |           |                          |            |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Very Well | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Well   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Well      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not at all |

25. In which country were you born?













44. Do you wish to claim an increase for children who normally live with you and who are being supported by you?  
 If **Yes**, how many children do you wish to claim for?

YES       NO

Under age 18  
  Age 18-22 in full-time education

**Please state:**

**Child 1**

Surname

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

First name(s)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Relationship to you

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Does the child live with you?

YES       NO

PPS Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Child 2**

Surname

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

First name(s)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Relationship to you

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Does the child live with you?

YES       NO

PPS Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Child 3**

Surname

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

First name(s)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Relationship to you

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Does the child live with you?

YES       NO

PPS Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

You **must** attach written confirmation from the school or college for the child(ren) aged 18-22.  
**Note:** A separate sheet of paper can be used for details of additional children, if any.

45. If you did not claim as soon as you became unemployed, please state the reason why:

Please state the date from which you wish to claim

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

**46.** Do you wish to apply for Optional Jobseeker's Allowance if you do not qualify for the full rate of Jobseeker's Benefit?

YES

NO





**I declare that,**

- a) I am unemployed and unable to get suitable full-time work.
- b) I am capable of, available for and genuinely seeking work.
- c) I have not claimed nor am I getting any other benefit, pension or allowance from any source apart from those shown in this form.
- d) I will notify the Department if I get work.

**I declare that** the information given by me on this form is truthful and complete. I understand that if any of the information I provide is untrue or misleading or if I fail to disclose any relevant information, that I will be required to repay any payment I receive from the Department and that I may be prosecuted. I undertake to immediately advise the Department of any change in my circumstances (commence employment/self-employment, family circumstances etc.) which may affect my continued entitlement.

YOUR SIGNATURE

DATE

(NOT block letters)

If you are not able to sign, your mark should be made and witnessed.  
The witness should sign below.

WITNESS SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME OF  
WITNESSADDRESS OF  
WITNESS

**Warning:** If you make a false statement or withhold information, you may be prosecuted leading to a fine, a prison term or both.

**Please bring this completed application form to your local Intreo Centre or Branch Office when you attend to make your claim.**

**Data Protection Statement**

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection administers Ireland's social protection system. Customers are required to provide personal data to determine eligibility for relevant payments/benefits. Personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments/Agencies where provided for by law. Our data protection policy is available at [www.welfare.ie/dataprotection](http://www.welfare.ie/dataprotection) or in hard copy.

Explanations and terms used in this form are intended as a guide only and are not a legal interpretation.

**Between: The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and**

\_\_\_\_\_ ,

PPS Number 

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The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection is committed to providing comprehensive employment support and income support services to our clients. Our goal is to help our clients in two ways: firstly by providing income support during periods of unemployment; secondly by helping clients to find work.

In return we would like you, our client, to commit yourself to work with us as we work to help you. This document records our mutual obligations to each other.

<b>Our Promise to You</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will do all we can to process claims as quickly and as efficiently as possible.</li> <li>• We will pay income support payment(s) as provided for in legislation in an efficient and timely manner.</li> <li>• We will work to identify suitable employment, work experience or training/education/personal development opportunities for you.</li> <li>• We will work with you to help you prepare your Personal Progression Plan to assist you to take the right steps to employment.</li> <li>• We will monitor and review progress against this plan with you.</li> <li>• We will meet with you normally by appointment and give you fair notice of all such appointments.</li> <li>• We will treat you with dignity and respect and honour the confidentiality of our relationship.</li> </ul>

**For and on behalf of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.**

<b>Your Promise to Us</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will work to secure employment at the earliest possible opportunity.</li> <li>• I will work with the Department to agree my Personal Progression Plan.</li> <li>• I will attend meetings to which I am invited by the Department.</li> <li>• I will follow up all suggestions and take up any work placement, work experience and/or training/personal development places notified to me by the Department.</li> <li>• I will inform the Department immediately if I find work, or if I am no longer available for work.</li> <li>• I will treat the staff of the Department with dignity and respect and honour the confidentiality of my relationship with the Department.</li> <li>• I will provide the Department with all information requested to assess any claim for income support.</li> <li>• I will abide by the Declaration in my Jobseeker’s Allowance or Benefit Application Form.</li> </ul>

**I understand that failure to adhere to my promises above may result in the reduction or withdrawal of any income support payments which would otherwise be due to me and that I could be prosecuted for making a false declaration or withholding information in relation to my claim.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

- Have you answered all questions in the Parts that are relevant to you
- Have you completed Part 2 (if necessary)
- Have you completed Part 3
- Have you attached your spouse/civil partner/co-habitant payslip (if necessary)
- Have you provided your payment details at Section 10
- Have you signed the Declaration in Part 11
- Have you signed the Record of Mutual Commitments (Part 12)
- Letter from school or college (if you are claiming for child(ren) aged between 18 and 22 who are in full-time education)

**Note: Taxation****Jobseeker's Benefit**

Depending on your circumstances, some or all of your Jobseeker's Benefit payment may be liable to income tax. Tax is not charged on increases paid for any dependent children. Tax is also not charged on the first €13 per week of your payment. The Department pays Jobseeker's Benefit without deducting tax. The Department does, however, notify Revenue of the taxable amount of Jobseeker's Benefit to be taken into account for income tax purposes. This means you do not have to do anything for the correct tax to be paid. Information about the taxation of social welfare payments is available from Revenue and on the Jobs and Pensions page of the Revenue website [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) PRSI and USC are not charged on Jobseekers Benefit payments.

**Jobseeker's Allowance**

Jobseeker's Allowance payments, including increases for dependent adults or children and other Allowances paid with the payment, are fully exempt from income tax, PRSI and USC.

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