

What is the Part-time Job Incentive Scheme (PTJI)?

The PTJI allows you to take up part-time work (under 24 hours a week) if you are long term fully unemployed.

How do I qualify for the PTJI scheme?

You will qualify for this scheme if you:

- are getting Jobseeker's Allowance for 15 months or more
- are getting a higher Jobseeker's payment than the appropriate part-time Job Incentive supplement payable for your circumstances.

and

- you must agree to stay on the scheme for at least 2 months (undertake to remain on the scheme for 2 months)

How much do I get on the Part Time Job Incentive Allowance?

Instead of your usual Jobseeker's payment, you will get a weekly allowance of:

- €119.00 per week if you are single
- €193.90 per week if you are getting an increase for a qualified adult.

The allowance will be paid regardless of the money you earn in your job. However, your wages will be taxable in the usual way.

What else do I need to know?

- You will keep your medical card for the duration of the PTJI scheme regardless of your earnings (up to a maximum of 3 years).
- You may also be entitled to a Family Income Supplement payment.
- There are no increases in these rates for qualified children.

How do I apply for PTJI?

Once you have got a part-time job, contact your local Social Welfare Office to apply to participate in the PTJI scheme. You will be asked to fill in and complete the PTA1 application form, giving details of your part-time work. When the form is filled in return it to your local Social Welfare Office.

What are Secondary Benefits?

Secondary Benefits are benefits that you may qualify for as a result of getting a Jobseeker's payment. When taking up work you should consider whether extra income will affect your secondary benefits.

If I have a medical card can I take up work and keep it?

If you have been getting a Jobseeker's payment for 12 months or more, you can take up full-time work and keep your medical card for 3 years. If you take up part-time work you will not get to keep your medical card

What happens if I am getting Mortgage Interest Supplement or Rent Supplement and I take up full-time work

You will not qualify for Mortgage Interest Supplement or Rent Supplement if you (or your spouse or partner) are in full-time work (29 hours or more a week).

However, there are special arrangements that may allow you to keep a part of your Mortgage Interest Supplement. For example, if you have been unemployed for 12 months or more and sign off your social welfare payment. Your gross household income must not be more than €317.43 per week.

What happens if I am already getting rent supplement and I take up work?

Since June 2007, if you have been accepted as being in need of accommodation under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and you have been unemployed or not in full-time employment for at least 12 months before you start work you may be able to keep your Rent Supplement subject to the other qualifying conditions for the scheme.

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Jobseeker's Payments and Part-time work

If you are unemployed and getting either Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) or Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) you can accept an offer of part-time work and may be able to qualify for a JB or JA payment for the days that you are unemployed.

Working part-time is allowed, providing that you are:

- unemployed for at least 4 days in any 7 consecutive days (including Sunday)
- Genuinely Seeking full-time employment
- available for work for the remaining days of unemployment

Working for any part of a day, even only for one hour, is counted as a day of employment by the Department of Social Protection. You must advise the Department of any work you intend to undertake while receiving either Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance.

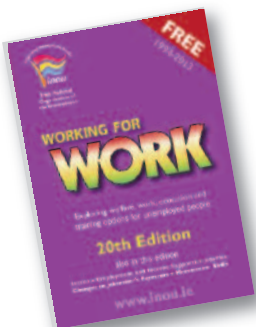
If you are engaged in part-time employment you must be available for and **Genuinely Seeking** full-time employment to qualify for Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance. If you accept part-time work and do not continue to genuinely seek full-time employment, or cannot provide evidence of your efforts to seek full-time employment, your claim for Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance may be disallowed.

For more information on Jobseeker's payments and Part-time work visit: www.inou.ie or www.welfare.ie

WORKING FOR WORK

Working for Work is an easy to read handbook which explains information on entitlements, education, training and back to work options. More comprehensive information on all the incentives outlined in this leaflet can be found in the Working For Work handbook.

This book is free of charge and is also available to download from the INOU website: www.inou.ie



Family Income Supplement

FIS is a weekly tax free payment for people with families in work on low pay. If you are in work on low pay it will give you extra financial support.

What are the rules for getting FIS?

To get FIS you must be:

- working for at least 19 hours a week or 38 hours every 2 weeks and not getting Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance

You can combine the weekly hours you have worked with your spouse or partner's hours to meet the 19 or 38 hours

- taking up work that is likely to last at least 3 months
- earning less than a set amount which varies according to family size
- looking after one or more children

A child is under 18 or 18-22 and in full time education

- You must also satisfy a means test

What is a Means Test?

A means test is a test carried out by the Department of Social Protection. This test will count all of your income including:

- Your spouse or partner's income
- Income from renting a property

The means test does not include income from payments such as Child Benefit and Rent Supplement.

How long can I get FIS for?

FIS is usually paid for 52 weeks. At the end of the 52 weeks, you can re-apply.

How much will I get on FIS?

The amount you get on FIS depends on how much you are earning and your family size. For example if you have 4 children and you are earning is €250 a week after tax (net). If you apply for and get FIS your new earnings with FIS will be €594.40 a week.

What happens if I lose my job or the number of hours I work is reduced?

If you lose your job or if the number of hours you work each week is reduced to below 19 hours (38 hours every 2 weeks) you are no longer entitled to FIS. You must notify the FIS section of the Department of Social Protection.

I am thinking of starting a business, what are my options?

If you are getting a Jobseeker's payment you may qualify for an Enterprise Allowance. If you qualify for an Enterprise Allowance you can keep your social welfare payment and start your own business.

There are two types of allowance:

- The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)
- The Short Term Enterprise Allowance (STEA)

Do I qualify for BTWEA?

You will qualify for the BTWEA if you:

- Are 12 months unemployed and getting Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) or Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) and have an entitlement to JA **and**
- Are starting your own business that has been approved in advance in writing by a Jobs Facilitator or an Enterprise Officer

You may also qualify for BTWEA if you are getting other types of social welfare payments.

How long can I get BTWEA for?

You can get BTWEA for 2 years, all your social welfare payment for the first year and 75% in the second year.

How do I apply for BTWEA?

To apply for BTWEA you will need to complete the application form BTW2. This form is available to download from the website: www.welfare.ie. When complete send it to the Enterprise Officer in your local Partnership Company. If you do not live in a Partnership area you should send your application to the Jobs Facilitator in your local Social Welfare office.

The Short Term Enterprise Allowance (STEA)

Do I qualify for STEA

You will qualify for STEA if you are getting Jobseeker's Benefit (JB). You will not qualify for STEA if you are getting JB and working part-time.

How long can I get STEA for?

Payment on STEA ends when your entitlement to JB ends. If you are already on Jobseeker's Benefit you will get STEA for the time you have left on JB.

How do I apply for STEA?

Download the STEA 1 form from www.welfare.ie and return it to a Jobs Facilitator or an Enterprise Officer.