

## IRELAND

### *Nomenclature*

DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FAS	Foras Aiseanna Saothair (Agency for employment and training)
PRSI	Pay-Related Social Insurance

### *Monetary unit*

Social spending is expressed in millions of Euros (EUR).

### *General notes*

The Department of Social and Family Affairs provide a range of payments that can be classified as follows:

- Social insurance: Payments made under social insurance programmes are funded, in part, by contributions from employers, employees and the self-employed. Any deficit in the fund is met the Exchequer. Entitlement to social insurance benefits is conditional upon the claimants having a certain number of contributions paid or credited in a specific period of time.
- Income and means-tested support financed out of general tax revenue.
- Child benefit is not income-tested and financed out of general tax revenue.

The individual country notes of the OECD Benefits and Wages ([www.oecd.org/els/social/workincentives](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/workincentives)) provide a comprehensive description of characteristics of social programmes (e.g. conditions for receipt, calculation of payment rates, tax treatment of social support, benefit duration, etc.) for the working-age population, including: unemployment insurance and assistance, social assistance, employment-conditional benefits, housing benefits, family benefits, childcare support, and support for sole parent households.

### *Break in series*

Data for 1990 onwards are based on the new ESSPROS methodology format. Coherent spending series for 1980 onwards at the individual programme level were obtained on basis of information for a few years in the early 1990s for which both historical spending series and information based on the new ESSPROS format were available. For certain programmes and aggregate categories, breaks in series (between 1989 and 1990) were inevitable. In general, programmes from the old ESSPROS format which could not be matched with a figure from the new ESSPROS format were set for the 1990-98 period to “missing”; similarly, figures from the new ESSPROS format which could not be matched to a programme from the old methodology were set to “missing” for the period 1980-89.

### *Secretariat estimates*

For the years 1992 and 1993, the extrapolation of data on ALMP « Active labour market policies » was based on average growth between 1991 and 1994. Data are only available up until 1996; therefore data for 1997 onwards have been estimated. The factor used to estimate these data is taken from the series on Unemployment expenditure stocked in the Eurostat New Cronos database (theme 3/ ESSPROS).

### *Sources*

#### **1990-2001**

Data provided by EUROSTAT (ESSPROS database).

OECD Labour Market Policy database.

*OECD Health Data 2003*, ([www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata)).

MISSOC, Mutual information system on social protection in the Member states of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, *situation on January 1st, 2001 and evolution* ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/missoc2001/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/missoc2001/index_en.htm)).

Detailed information can also be found on the following website: <http://www.welfare.ie>

Additional sources at programme level:

1. Department of Social Welfare (2002), *Statistical Information on Social Welfare Statistics*.  
<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/annstats>

## IRELAND

Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
<b>1. OLD AGE</b>		
372.10.1.1.1.2	Non-contributory pension for old age, blind, widows and orphans	Means-tested support.
372.10.1.2.2.2	Free travel	Available to permanent residents, aged 66 or over and to certain incapacitated people under 66. Spouses/partner may travel free when accompanying the claimant.
372.10.1.2.2.3	Other free schemes	Free gas allowance: Is available to people getting certain social welfare payments, other qualifying payments or who are aged 66 or over and satisfies a means test. Free bottled gas: If one's dueling is not connected to an electricity / natural gas supply you would otherwise qualify for the free electricity / natural gas allowance, you may qualify for free bottle gas refill allowance instead. Free natural gas: It is an alternative to the free electricity allowance for people whose homes are connected to a natural gas supply.
<b>2. SURVIVORS</b>		
372.10.2.1.2.1	Death grant: Social insurance funds	A death grant is payable on the death of an insured person, the wife or husband of an insured person, the widow or widower of an insured person, a child under age 18 when either parent or the person the child normally lives with satisfies the PRSI contribution conditions. To qualify for a Death Grant, the person on whose insurance the claim is made must have been insured since 1 October 1970.
<b>3. INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS (Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)</b>		
372.10.3.1.1.6	Non-contributory pension for old age, blind, widows and orphans	Expenditure on blind persons' pension was included in the expenditure on old age (non contributory) pension up to and including 1994. It is payable to blind people and certain people with impaired vision.
372.10.3.1.2.1	Occupational injuries benefits	A weekly payment made if one is unfit for work due to an accident at work or because of a work-related disease. It includes injury benefit, disability benefit, and death benefit and workmen's compensation supplements.
372.10.3.2.3.2	Other social assistance	Concerns a payment made to insured people who are unfit for work due to illness. Beneficiaries are entitled to a Living Alone Allowance (paid to pensioner aged 66 or over living alone) or to free travel. Recipients may also qualify for Free Fuel Allowance, Free Electricity Allowance, Free T.V. License and Free Telephone Rental Allowance.
<b>4. HEALTH</b>		
372.10.4.2.0.0	Public expenditure on health	See <i>OECD Health Data 2003</i> .
<b>5. FAMILY</b>		
372.10.5.1.1.1	Child benefits	These benefits are paid for each qualified child normally living with you and being supported by you. They should be aged under 16 or 19 if they are disabled or if they study at full-time. There is no variation with income or age. In case of triplets and quadruplets the allowance for each child is doubled. In the case of twins the allowance is one and a half times the first child payment.
372.10.5.1.2.0	Maternity leave and parental leave	Maternity benefits are provided during 14 weeks (at least 4 must be taken before and 4 weeks after confinement) and are equal to 70 per cent of the average weekly earnings. These benefits are not taxable. Employers are not legally obliged to continue payment during periods of maternity leave.
372.10.5.2.2.4	National Health Services	Health and safety benefit is a payment for employed women if they are pregnant, have recently had a baby or are breastfeeding and cannot continue at their employment because of a risk to their health and safety and have been granted health and safety leave by their employer.
<b>6. ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES</b>		
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.		

372.10.6.0.4.2	DSW: Back to Work Allowance	The Back to Work Allowance scheme allows an unemployed person to take up work in certain industries or take up self-employment and retain a percentage of his unemployment payment (75 % in year one, 50 % in year two and 25 % in year three).
372.10.6.0.4.1 2	FAS: Community employment programme (previously SES)	The Community Employment Programme provides part-time work together with personal and skills development opportunities for the unemployed. Persons aged 21 or over who have been receiving Unemployment Assistance or Unemployment Benefit or One Parent Family Payment for 12 months or more may be eligible to participate.
<b>7.</b>	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>	
	See OECD Labour Market Policy database.	
372.10.7.1.2.1	DSW: Pre-retirement allowance (PRETA)	It includes PRECS (pre-retired credits).
<b>9.</b>	<b>OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS</b>	
372.10.9.1.1.3	National fuel scheme	Data are from source (1). It is intended to help households who are dependent on long-term social welfare or health board payments and who are unable to provide for their own heating needs.
372.10.9.1.2.1	Anti-poverty programme	Data are from source (1). These expenditures have been provided by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.