



# Labour market policy

## Qualitative report

**Ireland 2001**



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## A - Introduction

## A - Introduction

The first publication of the **Qualitative Reports** of the **Labour Market Policy (LMP) database** is issued in 16 volumes, one for each country participating in the LMP data collection<sup>1</sup>. The reports present qualitative information extracted from the database to describe, in total, 550 labour market policy measures included in the Eurostat database for the year 2001. The reports constitute a fundamental component of the Eurostat Labour Market Policy (LMP) database allowing the user to understand what lies behind the figures on expenditure and participants collected in the database. The qualitative reports give a succinct description of each of the labour market policy measures and should be considered as complementary information to the publication *Labour Market Policy - Expenditure and Participants - Data 2001*<sup>2</sup>.

The reports all have the same structure: Part A presents the Introduction, Part B includes the Inventory of measures - i.e. the list of all measures grouped by category, and Part C presents the main details of each measure in three sections: Identification, Description, and Supplementary information. The *Description* contains seven sub-sections: Aim, Beneficiaries, Action/Instrument, Financing/Support, Eligibility, Legal basis, and Recent changes. The *Supplementary Information* contains nine sub-sections covering the target groups, the conditions for participation and other characteristics of the measure. Together, these items summarise the qualitative information collected through the LMP questionnaire<sup>3</sup>.

The measure descriptions in the LMP database are up-dated every year with the contribution of the LMP delegates in each country and should be published by Eurostat every 2 years. They are also available as a chapter of the Basic Information Reports (BIRs) produced by the European Employment Observatory<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The reports are issued primarily in English but French and German versions are also available on request. Eurostat makes every effort to ensure that measure descriptions entered in one language are updated in the other two languages but the alignment of translations cannot be guaranteed. Bearing this in mind, the preferred language for each country report is considered to be English for all countries except Belgium, France and Luxembourg (French); Germany and Austria (German).

<sup>2</sup> European Social Statistics - *Labour market Policy - Expenditure and Participants - Data 2001*. Eurostat Theme 3 - Population and Social conditions - 2003 Edition.

<sup>3</sup> *Labour Market Policy Database - Methodology* - April 2000. Eurostat Working Papers.

<sup>4</sup> The BIRs are produced on behalf of the European Employment Strategy Unit (General Directorate of Employment and Social Affairs) and can be accessed via <http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net/en/publications/bir>.

## B - Inventory of measures

## Inventory of measures

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**Number of measures:** 25 (including 3 mixed measure(s) with a total of 6 components)



## C - Qualitative information by measure

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 0 - General PES  
**Measure n°/name:** 9      **Job facilitation service**  
**Type of action:** 0      General PES

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To help the unemployed to seek out options for themselves in order to facilitate their integration into the labour market.

**Beneficiaries:**

Unemployed

**Action/Instrument:**

This programme is still at implementation stage. Locally based Jobs Facilitators will have responsibility for identifying local employment, education, training and work experience opportunities, and for advising and assisting the unemployed to link into these opportunities. Jobs Facilitators are appointed by the Minister for Social Welfare and are based at local offices of the Department. They liaise closely with FAS, the County Enterprise Boards, the IDA, the PESP area Partnership companies, and any other agencies or voluntary/community groups which provide assistance to the unemployed. To date 30 Jobs Facilitators and eight Regional Co-ordinators have been appointed and are based in Social Welfare local offices throughout the country.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget (Department of Social Welfare)

**Eligibility:**
**Legal basis:**

None

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	None
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> 1983 <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 0 - General PES  
**Measure n°/name:** 22      **Counselling/guidance**  
**Type of action:** 0      General PES

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide unemployed persons with placement services.

**Beneficiaries:**

Unemployed

**Action/Instrument:**

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 ESF

**Eligibility:**
**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

The change from the National Rehabilitation Board to FAS took place in June 2000 from when the NRB has ceased to exist.

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)		<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Youth, Older, Disabled, Immigrants/ethnic minorities, Re-entrants/lone-parents, Public priorities and other
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i>	n.a.	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
	<i>Registration continued:</i>	No		
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to service providers		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government		<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i>	Not available		
	<i>Year ended:</i>	Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 1 - Intensive counselling and job-search assistance  
**Measure n°/name:** 15      **Job clubs**  
**Type of action:** 1      Intensive counselling and job-search assistance

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide disabled persons with support and training to improve their job prospects.

**Beneficiaries:**

Disabled persons

**Action/Instrument:**

The National Rehabilitation Board (NRB) runs Job Clubs for people with disabilities. These Job Clubs aim to improve people's job-search skills and also provide a range of free back-up supports, including use of telephones to contact employers, secretarial support and a tutor to give advice and guidance. Each job club lasts an average of 14 weeks.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget

**Eligibility:**

Any person with a disability who is looking for a job can apply to join an NRB Job Club. Selection is on the basis of an interview.

**Legal basis:**

Health Act 1961, National Rehabilitation Board (Establishment) Order 1967

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU), Inactive	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> Yes <i>Registration continued:</i> Yes	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 14 Weeks <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> 1993 <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 1 - Intensive counselling and job-search assistance  
**Measure n°/name:** 36      **Local employment services**  
**Type of action:** 1      Intensive counselling and job-search assistance

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide unemployed in disadvantaged areas with intensive guidance and placement services.

**Beneficiaries:**

Unemployed in disadvantaged areas.

**Action/Instrument:**

The Local Employment Service is located in 25 disadvantaged areas throughout Ireland. The service is intended to be two-way - unemployed people are able to avail of mediation, guidance and placement services, while employers have access to a pool of suitably matched unemployed clients. It also aims to co-ordinate the services of other state agencies in the area to ensure that programmes are tailored to the needs of the unemployed. The regional branches provide unemployed people, particularly those long-term unemployed with counselling/guidance on training and employment opportunities and also run Job Clubs (21 clubs handle an average of 2,300 clients per year with 88% average placement rate).

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget

**Eligibility:**
**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Youth
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	Regional
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure 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:**

Long-term unemployed, lone parents and disabled persons

**Action/Instrument:**

The allowance is not means tested and the amount received is equivalent to the maximum amount of the benefit that participants were receiving in order to qualify for this measure. Two levels of course are offered:

**Second Level Option:**

Participants can attend a second level course of education at any community, comprehensive, secondary or vocational school. The course must be full-time and lead to a certificate recognised by the Department of Education and Science or approved by the National Council for Vocational Awards (NCVA).

**Third Level Option:**

Participants can attend a third level course of 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 the Department of Education and Science for Higher Education Grant purposes, or for European Structural Fund (ESF) Grant purposes, or has National Council for Educational Award (NCEA) recognition.

**Financing/support:**
**Eligibility:**

Participants must satisfy the following two conditions:

- 1) be at least age 21 (age 24 for a third level post graduate course) and
- 2) 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

**Legal basis:**

Social Welfare Consolidation Act 1993

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled, Re-entrants/lone-parents
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> No <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> 1990 <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure n°/name:** 35      **VTOS (Vocational training opportunities scheme)**  
**Type of action:** 2.1      Institutional training

**Description:**
**Aim:**

Improve the employability of participants through education and training.

**Beneficiaries:**

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

**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 Vocational Education Committees (VECs) equal to their social welfare entitlements.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget, ear-marked taxes and ESF.

The educational programmes are administered by educational institutions funded by the Department of Education, principally by the Vocational Education Committees. The arrangements whereby entitlement to social welfare benefits is continued are administered by the Department of Social Welfare

**Eligibility:**

Participants must be:

- at least age 21 and

- getting an unemployment payment or signing on for 'credits' for at least 6 months (156 days). Periods spent on FÁS or Community Employment Schemes can count towards this qualifying period.

A limited number of places on the VTOS courses are available to people getting One-Parent Family Payment or Disability Allowance, and to spouse / partners (for whom an increase as a qualified adult is payable) of people eligible to join VTOS

**Legal basis:**

Social Welfare Consolidation Act 1993

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU LTU 6 months)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	None
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> Yes <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> 2 Years
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government, Local government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure n°/name:** 38      **Bridging Foundation**  
**Type of action:** 2.1      Institutional training

**Description:**
**Aim:**

Upskilling and reintegration of Early School Leavers

**Beneficiaries:**

The target group for this programme is early school leavers and other suitable young people between 16 and 25

**Action/Instrument:**

As part of its provision under re-integration training FAS runs 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 FAS for the first 6- 12 months.

**Financing/support:**

Central Government

**Eligibility:**

Early school leavers and other suitable young people between 16 and 25.

**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Youth
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> n.a.	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		



**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure n°/name:** 20      **Industry training**  
**Type of action:** 2.2      Workplace training  
                                  2.1      Institutional training

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide structured skills training for unemployed people and to meet the need for skills in the labour market.

**Beneficiaries:**

Unemployed, especially long-term and young unemployed.

**Action/Instrument:**

The measure includes the following programmes:

- a) Specific Skills Training (SST): SST is the main vehicle for skills training for unemployed people. Courses are focused on the needs of regional and local employers.
- b) Industry Traineeships: The majority of Industry Traineeships piloted to date are integrated SST courses and modules linked to workplace practice.
- c) Job Training Scheme (JTS): This scheme, which is an employer-based Training Programme, provides structured skills training, in direct response to the needs of industry and commercial organisations.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ESF. The measure is implemented by FAS - An Foras Aiseanna Saothair - the national Training & Employment Authority.

**Eligibility:**

Unemployment status

**Legal basis:**

None

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Youth
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other LMP benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 26 Weeks <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure n°/name:** 21      **Local enterprise**  
**Type of action:** 2.2      Workplace training  
                                  2.1      Institutional training

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To facilitate the creation of new jobs or new businesses, particularly at the local level, by improving the management and business capacity of groups and individuals.

**Beneficiaries:**

Unemployed

**Action/Instrument:**

The following programmes are included:

- a) Enterprise Training carried out by FAS Training Centres and specialist contracted staff.
- b) The Community Enterprise Programme designed to assist community groups who wish to become involved in employment creation through training and enterprise development.
- c) The co-operative Development Unit
- d) The Graduate Placement Programme, which places graduates overseas in occupations relevant to their degree.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ESF

**Eligibility:**

Unemployment status

**Legal basis:**

None

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	None
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> Yes	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other LMP benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments, Lump-sum payments)	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure n°/name:** 24      **Re-integration training**  
**Type of action:** 2.2      Workplace training  
                                  2.1      Institutional training

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To facilitate the integration into the labour market of early school leavers by offering them a two-phase integrated training, education and work-based experience opportunity.

**Beneficiaries:**

Early school leavers who find it most difficult to get a secure foothold in the labour market.

**Action/Instrument:**

FAS provides Re-integration training by means of the following programmes/measures: Skills Foundation, Community Training Workshops, Linked Work Experience, Youthreach and Return to Work Programmes. The Skills Foundation Programme includes engineering, woodwork, new technology skills and an range of life and social and transferable skills. The average duration of the measure is 12 months.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ESF

**Eligibility:**

Unemployment status; aged 15-18 and minimum of 6 months unemployed for Youthreach programme.

**Legal basis:**

None

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)		<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Youth
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i>	n.a.	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
	<i>Registration continued:</i>	No		
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 12 Months <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services		<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i>	Not available		
	<i>Year ended:</i>	Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure n°/name:** 25      **Community training**  
**Type of action:** 2.3      Integrated training

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide training which will help to improve the employment prospects of participants through social and economic projects which support the development of local communities.

**Beneficiaries:**

Youth long-term unemployed.

**Action/Instrument:**

Community training is primarily a work-based training programme including 'off-the-job' modules. Some projects in which participants on the programme were involved include language modules and an increasing number involve the development of computer skills.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ESF

**Eligibility:**

Unemployment status; aged between 16 and 25 years old; registered with local FAS Employment Services Office

**Legal basis:**

None

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Youth
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other LMP benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 2 - Training  
**Measure n°/name:** 34      **Youthreach**  
**Type of action:** 2.4      Special support for apprenticeship

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To help young people in the 15/17 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 15/17 age group who find it most difficult to make the transition from school to work.

**Action/Instrument:**

The programme provides for two phases of co-ordinated education and training: a broad pre-vocational foundation phase, followed by progression into education and work-based training and specific skills training.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ear-marked taxes

Youthreach is operated locally by FAS and Vocational Education Committees, under the overall direction of the Departments of Enterprise and Employment and Education.

**Eligibility:**
**Legal basis:**

Non-statutory

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	None	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Youth
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government, Local government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National, Regional
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 4 - Employment incentives  
**Measure 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 and lone parents

**Action/Instrument:**

People participating in this Scheme retain a percentage of their social welfare payment along with any 'secondary benefits' they have for a period of up to 3 years. Persons who take part in the scheme will receive 75% of their weekly social welfare entitlement (including adult and child dependant allowances) in the first year, 50% for the second year and 25% for the third year.

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)

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ear-marked taxes.

**Eligibility:**

To qualify for participation in the scheme, applicants must:

- be aged 23 years or over; and
- be receiving a minimum rate of Unemployment Assistance and have been unemployed for at least 12 months; or
- be receiving a Lone Parent's Allowance.

Periods spent on Second Chance Education or FAS schemes will count as periods of unemployment.

**Legal basis:**

Administrative

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)		<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Re-entrants/lone-parents
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i>	No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other benefit
	<i>Registration continued:</i>	No		
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 3 Years <i>Maximum:</i> 3 Years
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government		<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i>	1993		
	<i>Year ended:</i>	Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 4 - Employment incentives  
**Measure n°/name:** 5      **PRSI Exemption scheme**  
**Type of action:** 4.1.1 Permanent

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To encourage employers to hire unemployed persons when recruiting additional staff.

**Beneficiaries:**

Unemployed, lone parents and trainees

**Action/Instrument:**

Employers hiring eligible employees, are entitled to significant exemptions from their employers PRSI (Pay Related Social Insurance) for a period of two years.

A qualifying employee must represent a net increase in the number of workers in the enterprise. The position must be a new position and not carried out by anyone previously. The net increase must be retained throughout the period of the exemption. Recruited employees must start work within 14 days of 'signing-off' the Live Register and must remain off the Live Register for the period of the exemption. There is no limit to the number of people that can be employed under the scheme.

**Financing/support:**

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

**Eligibility:**

The new employee must :

- have been on the Live Register for at least 13 continuous weeks immediately before recruitment or
- be under age 23 at the date of recruitment and taking up full-time employment for the first time or
- be getting a One-Parent Family payment or
- have taken part in a training course or employment scheme with FAS, CERT or Teagasc for at least 13 weeks before recruitment or
- be registered with the National Rehabilitation Board (NRB)

**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	None
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to employers ( Reduced social contributions)	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 2 Years <i>Maximum:</i> 2 Years
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 4 - Employment incentives  
**Measure 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 measure allows certain unemployed people to take up part-time employment and continue to receive an allowance from the Department of Social Welfare (part-time job allowance).

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.

**Financing/support:**

The scheme is administered by the Department of Social Welfare.

**Eligibility:**

An applicant must have an entitlement to unemployment assistance which is not less than the part-time job allowance rates.

**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled, Re-entrants/lone-parents
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 1 Years <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		



**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 4 - Employment incentives  
**Measure n°/name:** 31      **Jobstart**  
**Type of action:** 4.1.1      Permanent

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To encourage employers to hire very long-term unemployed.

**Beneficiaries:**

Very long-term unemployed (> 3 years).

**Action/Instrument:**

A Jobstart weekly subsidy will be paid to the employer in respect of 52 weeks continuous employment of eligible Jobstart participants. Jobstart can apply in respect of both new (additional) jobs or as replacements arising from vacancies.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ear-marked taxes

**Eligibility:**

Long-term unemployment status / Lone Parents / One Parent Family / People with Disabilities referred by the National Rehabilitation board / Travellers

**Legal basis:**

None

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU >3 years)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled, Immigrants/ethnic minorities, Re-entrants/lone-parents
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other LMP benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to employers (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 1 Years <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 4 - Employment incentives  
**Measure n°/name:** 32      **Workplace**  
**Type of action:** 4.1.2      Temporary

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To encourage enterprises to offer a trial period or work experience to unemployed in order to facilitate their re-integration into the labour market

**Beneficiaries:**

Long-term unemployed (> 6 months), disabled and travellers

**Action/Instrument:**

Unemployed persons can be placed for a period of up to five weeks with employers  
 - who have an identified vacancy and are willing to offer it on a trial basis with no obligations about subsequent recruitment, or  
 - who, although not having an identified vacancy, can offer quality experience.  
 5,000 places will be made available. Cost will be limited to some small premium for participants, in addition to welfare payments, to cover expenses such as travel to work.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget

**Eligibility:**

Unemployment/Lone Parent status for 6 months or more; registered with the National Rehabilitation Board; member of the Travelling community.

**Legal basis:**

None

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU LTU=6 months)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled, Immigrants/ethnic minorities, Re-entrants/lone-parents
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> Yes	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other LMP benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to employers ( Reimbursements)	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 35 Days <i>Maximum:</i> 35 Days
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 5 - Integration of the disabled  
**Measure n°/name:** 17      **Workplace/equipment grants**  
**Type of action:** 5.1      Regular employment

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To facilitate the integration into the labour market of disabled through the provision of services or equipment.

**Beneficiaries:**

Disabled persons

**Action/Instrument:**

Under the responsibility of FAS, following services are provided to disabled:

- The Workplace/Equipment Grant, available in certain cases to employers to adapt their premises or equipment in order to suit the needs of employees who have a disability.
- The Personal Reader Grant, available for people who are blind or visually impaired and who need help with reading at work.
- The Job Interview Interpreter Grant, for people attending an interview who have a speech or hearing impairment, in order that they may have an interpreter attend the interview with them
- Equipment on Loan

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget.

**Eligibility:**

Employers can apply for a grant if they are about to employ a person with a disability or continuing to employ a worker who has become disabled. A self-employed person with a disability can also apply.

**Legal basis:**

Health Act 1961, National Rehabilitation Board (Establishment) Order 1967

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU), Employed at risk, Inactive	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals ( Lump-sum payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> 1991 <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 5 - Integration of the disabled  
**Measure n°/name:** 18      **Employment support scheme**  
**Type of action:** 5.1      Regular employment

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To encourage employers to employ disabled persons.

**Beneficiaries:**

Disabled with a lower productivity than the average.

**Action/Instrument:**

The Employment Support Scheme (ESS) offers financial support to employers who hire a disabled person. If, for example, a disabled person is able to do 70% of the work required in the job, the employer will pay 70% of the wages and the balance of 30% will be paid by FAS. The payment declines as the employee's capability to do the job improves. The scheme involves both private and public sector employers.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget.

**Eligibility:**

Employers can apply for ESS funding if their prospective employee is a person with a disability and is in receipt of a social welfare benefit payment.

**Legal basis:**

Health Act 1961, National Rehabilitation Board (Establishment) Order 1967

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU), Employed at risk, Inactive	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to employers (Periodic cash payments), Transfers to service providers	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> 1990 <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 6 - Direct job creation  
**Measure n°/name:** 23      **Community employment scheme**  
**Type of action:** 6.2      Temporary

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide temporary work experience and some training within voluntary groups and public sector bodies.

**Beneficiaries:**

Long-term unemployed people and other special categories such as lone parents.

**Action/Instrument:**

Under the CE programme, public sector and voluntary organisations are grant-aided in respect of sponsoring individual projects. Suitable projects would be those that can be shown to respond to a clearly identified community need, to do worthwhile work which otherwise could not be undertaken, and which also develop the work skills of participants. According to the situation of the participant, different options exist:

- The part-time Integration Option is targeted at long-term unemployed with reasonable prospects of employment. Participation will normally be for one year and an enhanced training element will be phased in for participants. Recruitment by sponsors will be in co-operation with FAS and the Local Employment Service. Up to 10% of participants may be re-engaged for a second year. A target of 30% placement into jobs and 20% into further labour market opportunities will operate subject to review.

- The part-time Job Option is targeted at older, very long-term unemployed with poor employment prospects. Participants on this option will have an annual contract of employment, renewable for up to three years subject to availability of a place, with access to relevant worker protection legislation applying to part-time workers including holiday and notice entitlements. At the end of each year, a review will be carried out by the sponsor, in consultation with FAS and the Local Employment Service where appropriate, to determine that the placement is meeting the needs of the participant.

**Financing/support:**

Central government.

**Eligibility:**

Participation on CE is confined to those in receipt of an unemployment compensation payment, and others in receipt of certain means-tested social welfare payments who have been identified as having difficulty in obtaining mainstream employment.

**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled, Re-entrants/lone-parents
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other LMP benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 12 Months <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 6 - Direct job creation  
**Measure n°/name:** 37      **Job Initiative**  
**Type of action:** 6.2      Temporary

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide temporary work experience and some training within voluntary groups and public sector bodies.

**Beneficiaries:**

Long-term unemployed people and other special categories such as lone parents.

**Action/Instrument:**

The Job Initiative is designed to provide full-time work for individuals who have not had regular employment in the last five years. The jobs provided will be in the voluntary/community sector. The Job Initiative scheme operates Nationally in designated areas such as Dublin, Cork City and Limerick City where the Local Employment Services is well established. A Sponsoring Committee is set up locally to administer the scheme. Access to the Scheme is through any FAS Employment Service Office. Vacancies are notified to FAS by the Sponsoring Committee.

**Financing/support:**
**Eligibility:**

Participation on Job Initiative is confined to those in receipt of an unemployment compensation payment, and others in receipt of certain means-tested social welfare payments who have been identified as having difficulty in obtaining mainstream employment, typically LTU.

**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	None
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> <i>Registration continued:</i>	Yes n.a.	<b>Other cash benefits:</b> None
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Public employment services	<b>Area of Application:</b>	Other
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> 2000 <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 7 - Start-up incentives  
**Measure n°/name:** 3      **Back to work enterprise allowance (BWEA)**  
**Type of action:** 7      Start-up incentives

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To encourage people 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;
- 50% for the third year;
- 25% for the fourth year

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ear-marked taxes

**Eligibility:**

Recipients must be:

- a) setting up a self-employment business which as been approved by a Partnership Company or a Job Facilitator.
- b) signing on the Live Register for at least 12 months and getting Unemployment Benefit or Assistance or getting One-Parent Family Payment, Disability Allowance or Blind Person's Pension for 12 months.

**Legal basis:**

Administrative

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)		<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Disabled, Re-entrants/lone-parents
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i>	No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other benefit
	<i>Registration continued:</i>	No		
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> 4 Years <i>Maximum:</i> 4 Years
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government		<b>Area of Application:</b>	Regional
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i>	1992		
	<i>Year ended:</i>	Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 8 - Out-of-work income maintenance and support  
**Measure 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 who are capable of work, available for work and genuinely seeking work and who satisfy the social insurance conditions.

**Action/Instrument:**

Unemployment benefit is normally payable for 390 days, excluding Sundays, to eligible unemployed. The rates of UB payable are graduated according to a person's earnings in the relevant tax year. The unemployment payments are administered by the Department of Social Welfare.

**Financing/support:**

Social security funds

**Eligibility:**

Potential recipients must be:

- unemployed
- under age 65
- capable of work
- available for and genuinely looking for work
- have sustained a substantial loss of employment (does not - apply to casual workers)
- fully unemployed for at least 3 days in any period of 6 - consecutive days
- satisfy the PRSI contribution conditions

**Legal basis:**

Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 1993

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed		<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	None
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i>	Yes	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Unemployment benefit, Other benefit
	<i>Registration continued:</i>	No		
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> 15 Months
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government		<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i>	Not available		
	<i>Year ended:</i>	Ongoing		



**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 8 - Out-of-work income maintenance and support  
**Measure n°/name:** 2      **Unemployment assistance**  
**Type of action:** 8.1.2      Unemployment assistance

**Description:**
**Aim:**

To provide income support for the unemployed ineligible for full unemployment benefits

**Beneficiaries:**

Unemployed who are capable of work, available for work and genuinely seeking work, but who have used up their unemployment benefit, or who do not satisfy the social insurance conditions for unemployment benefit.

**Action/Instrument:**

Unemployment Assistance is payable as long as beneficiaries satisfy the qualifying conditions. The allowance is means-tested. Its amount varies according to the composition of the household of the recipient. Expenditure includes Unemployment Assistance paid to certain small farmers who may not be employed. These farmers are not included as recipients. Unemployment Assistance is administered by the Department of Social Welfare. When recipients reach age 55, if they consider themselves retired from the workforce, they may apply for the Pre-Retirement Allowance instead of Unemployment Assistance.

**Financing/support:**

Central government budget and ear-marked taxes

**Eligibility:**

Potential recipients must be:

- unemployed
- aged between 18 and 65
- capable of work
- available for and genuinely looking for work
- fully unemployed for at least 3 days in any period of 6 - consecutive days
- satisfy a means test
- live in the state

**Legal basis:**

Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 1993

**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed		<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	None
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i>	Yes	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other benefit
	<i>Registration continued:</i>	Yes		
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)		<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government		<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i>	Not available		
	<i>Year ended:</i>	Ongoing		

**Identification:**

**Country:** Ireland      **Year:** 2001      **Category** 9 - Early retirement  
**Measure 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.

**Financing/support:**
**Eligibility:**

Beneficiaries must:

- a) be aged 55 or over
- b) be in receipt of Unemployment Benefit/Assistance for at least 390 days or are no longer entitled to One-Parent Family Payment
- c) satisfy a means test

**Legal basis:**
**Recent changes:**

None

**Supplementary information:**

<b>Target groups:</b>	Unemployed (LTU)	<b>Detailed target groups:</b>	Older
<b>Unemployment registration:</b>	<i>Condition for participation:</i> n.a. <i>Registration continued:</i> No	<b>Other cash benefits:</b>	Other benefit
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	Transfers to individuals (Periodic cash payments)	<b>Planned duration:</b>	<i>Typical:</i> Not available <i>Maximum:</i> Not available
<b>Responsible institution(s):</b>	Central government	<b>Area of Application:</b>	National
<b>Implementation:</b>	<i>Year started:</i> Not available <i>Year ended:</i> Ongoing		