

Covid-19 Supports Update January 2021

Support Type	Description/ Details	Value Of Support
Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme(EWSS) https://revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid-19-support-schemes/index.aspx	Scheme is expected to operate until 31 March 2021	1.<€151.50 : No subsidy applies 2.€151.50-€202.99 : €203 3.€203-€299.99 : €250 4.€300-€399.99 :€300 5.€400-€1,462 : €350 6. > €1,462 : No subsidy applies
	Employer will be eligible where they can show a decrease in turnover/sales of 30% during the specified eligibility period	
	Eligibility period for 2021 is determined as 1 Jan 2021 to 30 June 2021	
	Note: 30% is based on projected turnover/sales or proven previous turnover/sales in comparable period. Evidence is required here.	
	Note: A monthly review of your eligibility is required.	
	Seasonal staff and new employees will qualify, as will new firms operating in affected sectors	
The subsidy amount paid to employers will depend on the gross income of each employee(see value of support)		
Covid Restrictions Support Scheme https://revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid-19-support-schemes/index.aspx	Scheme is expected to operate until 31 March 2021	Note: Double rate will be paid for 2 weeks to those forced to close from 26 December 2020.
	The support will be available to eligible businesses who carry on a business activity that is impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. The business must have been required to prohibit or considerably restrict customers from accessing their business premises.	
	Eligible businesses can make a claim to Revenue for a payment known as an Advance Credit for Trading Expenses (ACTE). An ACTE is payable for each week a business is affected by the restrictions.	
	The ACTE is equal to 10% of the average weekly turnover of the business in 2019 up to €20,000, plus 5% on turnover over €20,000.	
	In the case of new businesses, the turnover is based on the average actual weekly turnover in 2020. The ACTE is subject to a maximum weekly payment of €5,000.	
Tax Measures For Businesses https://revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid-19-support-schemes/index.aspx	Temporary VAT measures introduced in response to Covid 19- this applies to the application of the zero rate of VAT to the supply to the HSE, hospitals and other health care settings of personal protection equipment and medical equipment for use in the treatment of patients with Covid-19. Extended to 30 April 2021	
	Relief from the payment of import duties and VAT for goods imported to combat COVID-19. Extended to 30 April 2021	
	Relief from Excise Duty (Alcohol Products Tax) for the manufacture of hand sanitiser products	
	Waiver of excise duty on on-trade liquor licences on renewal in 2020. The waiver applies to renewals of on- trade liquor licenses whose licenses expire on 30 September 2020, and once renewed will issue for a period of 1 October 2020- 30 September 2021.	
	Commercial rates waiver: With limited exceptions, all businesses in affected sectors will be granted a commercial rates waiver to 31 March 2021. View www.gov.ie for more information.	
	Warehousing' of deferred tax debts: Measures available for warehousing of tax debts.(speak to your DBASS adviser for more information)	
	Reduction in the standard rate of VAT: A reduction in the standard rate of Value-Added Tax (VAT) from 23% to 21% to remain in place until 31 March 2021.	
	VAT rate reduction from 13.5% to 9%: A VAT rate reduction from 13.5% to 9% to remain in place until 31 March 2021.	

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Pandemic Unemployment Payment https://www.gov.ie/en/service/be74d3-covid-19-pandemic-unemployment-payment/	<p>To qualify for the PUP, you must have lost your job or been laid off because of Covid-19 or be self-employed and your trading income has ceased due to Covid-19, or your trading income has collapsed to the extent that you are available to take up other full-time employment. Set to continue until at least 31 March 2021</p> <p>Payment based on weekly payment bands(see value column)</p> <p>Self-employed persons can earn up to €960 over 8 weeks and keep your PUP payment. This limit is based on gross income minus expenses. (If you earn over €960 over 8 weeks and you work less than 24 hours a week, you can apply for the Covid-19 Part Time Job Incentive for the Self-Employed).</p>	<p>Average weekly earnings of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €400 or >: Payment of €350 - €300-€399.99 : Payment of €300 - €200-€299.99 : Payment of €250 - < €200 : Payment of €203
Enterprise Ireland www.enterprise-ireland.com	<p>Covid-19 Business Financial Planning Grant(Available To Enterprise Ireland Clients)</p> <p>Sustaining Enterprise Fund- Support of between €100,000- €800,000 can be provided to companies who have been impacted by Covid 19. -This funding is time-limited and open to manufacturing or internationally traded services companies that employ more than 10 people. - Open to those who have seen (or expect to see) a 15% or greater reduction in actual or projected turnover or profit, or a significant increase in costs, as a result of Covid-19. - No repayments for the first 3 years. - Zero administration fee for the first 6 months - 4% thereafter</p> <p>Sustaining Enterprise Fund (Small Business)- This fund will provide a €25k to €50k short term working capital injection to eligible smaller companies to support business continuity and strengthen their ability to return to growth and be trading strongly in 3 years time.</p> <p>Lean Business Continuity Voucher- Available to eligible companies to (small, medium or large client companies of Enterprise Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta)(including High Potential Start-ups). The voucher may be used to obtain services from approved providers.</p>	<p>Grant of up to €5000 to secure a financial planning consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new non-repayable grant of up to 50% of a funding package (up to €200,000 is available now) - Funding of between €100,000 and €800,000 available <p>€25k to €50k short term working capital injection</p> <p>Access up to €2,500 in training or advisory services support related to the continued operation of their businesses during the current pandemic.</p>
Microfinance Ireland https://microfinanceireland.ie/loan-packages-2/	<p>Covid-19 Business Loans- The loans can range from €5,000 to €25,000. Repayments will commence in month 7 for the remaining period of your loan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - zero repayments * - zero interest * <p>*(for the first 6 months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government rebate available on interest paid in the following 6 months (months 7-12 of your loan). - The interest rate after the first 6 months will be a reduced interest rate 4.5% APR if submitted through the Local Enterprise Office Network (or other referral partners) or 5.5% APR if you apply directly to Microfinance Ireland. - The loan terms are typically up to 3 years and there are no fees or charges. 	<p>Loans from €5,000 to €25,000</p>

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Local Enterprise Offices	LEAN for Micro Business Programme- This programme is available to Local Enterprise Office clients to help build resilience within small companies. Businesses can avail of consultancy support with a LEAN Expert or help to implement new remote working and physical distancing guidelines. Contact your Local Enterprise Office for further details.	
	Trading Online Voucher Scheme- Scheme is targeted at businesses with the following profile: - Limited or no e-commerce presence - 10 or less employees - Turnover less than €2 million(business must be trading for at least 6 months)	Up to €2,500 grant available with co-funding of 50% from the business along with training and advice to help businesses to trade online, boost sales and reach new markets
	Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund- The Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund is designed to help businesses with fewer than 10 employees, which are ineligible for existing grants, with a	Grant of up to €1,000 to help them adapt and invest to rebuild their business.
	Enterprise Support Grant- The Enterprise Support Grant for businesses impacted by COVID-19 is available for eligible selfemployed people who close their COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment on or after 18 May 2020.	Once-off grant of up to €1,000 to restart their business which was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) www.sbc.gov.ie	Covid-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme- Financing will be offered through a range of products, including term loans, working capital loans and overdrafts. - Loans of up to €250,000 under the Scheme are available unsecured (except where this is a requirement of the product feature, as in the case of asset finance, invoice discount facilities, etc).	Loans from €10,000 to €1 million Terms up to 5 and a half years.
	Covid-19 Working Capital Scheme- Applications can be made through the SBCI website at sbci.gov.ie where eligibility criteria is provided.	Loans from €25,000 up to €1.5 million (first €500,000 unsecured) with a maximum interest rate of 4%.
	Future Growth Loan Scheme- This scheme is available to eligible businesses in Ireland, including those in the primary agriculture(farmers) and seafood sectors, to support strategic long-term investment.	€800m of loans available for terms of 7-10 years.
Ireland Strategic Investment Fund https://isif.ie/pandemic-stabilisation-and-recovery-fund	Pandemic Stabilisation and Recovery Fund- investment in medium and large scale enterprises in Ireland through a Pandemic Stabilisation and Recovery Fund.	Fund, worth up to €2 billion, - make capital available to medium and large enterprises on commercial terms.

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Other Supports	<p>Covid-19 Products Scheme- The COVID Products Scheme will allow for up to €200m in targeted State support to facilitate the research and development of COVID products, to enable the construction or upgrading of testing and upscaling infrastructures that contribute to the development COVID-19 relevant products, as well as to support the production of products needed to respond to the outbreak. - Check out: https://www.idaireland.com/getmedia/63472efc-2e86-494a-9f38-5d49c0cc3615/IDA_Covid_Product_Scheme.pdf.aspx</p>	Up to €200m
	<p>Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme- The Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme, delivered by SOLAS, provides financial support for apprenticeship employers who take on apprentices on national apprenticeship programmes. Apprenticeship employers are eligible for a €3,000 payment for each new apprentice. Under Budget 2021 provisions, the offer will now be extended until mid-2021. https://apprenticeship.ie/employers/how-to-apply/find</p> <p>Sector-specific supports and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food, drink and horticulture sector: Bord Bia's 'Navigating Change' COVID-19 Response programme offers a suite of supports for food, drink and horticulture businesses affected by COVID-19. • Seafood sector: Bord Iascaigh Mhara is providing COVID-19 business support to the seafood sector. • Farm businesses: Teagasc is available to provide support on issues facing farm businesses in light of COVID-19. • Tourism sector: The Fáilte Ireland COVID-19 Business Support Hub is targeting its supports to respond to the challenges tourism businesses face. Their supports include specific reopening guidelines for every sector and a €26m COVID-19 Adaptation Fund to support tourism and hospitality businesses who have incurred related adaptation costs. • Culture sector: Supports to aid employment in the creative industries include the Live Performance Support Scheme and the Music Stimulus Package. • COVID-19 sectoral guidance: The COVID-19 sectoral guidance from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provides information for the sectors it supports. • Design sector: The Design & Craft Council Ireland delivers a range of support and development programmes, including webinars and FAQs in response to the impacts of COVID-19 on the design sector. • Supply chain workers: COVID-19 guidance for supply chain workers • Restaurants to operate as takeaways: Amendments to Planning and Development Regulations temporarily allow restaurants to operate as takeaways without being required to obtain change of use planning permission. 	€3,000 payment for each new apprentice.
Skills and Training Supports	<p>The government offers a range of initiatives for reskilling and upskilling to help businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. The skills supports include Enterprise Ireland's eLearn online learning resource, LEOs training webinars, the Skillnet Ireland and Regional Skills Fora networks, the SOLAS Skills to Advance initiative and Springboard+ courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ReBounce initiative gives small businesses online training and mentoring on implementing the return to work safely protocol. You can also get information in our document on returning to work safely after COVID-19 closures. For details visit https://taste4success.ie/rebound/ • The MentorsWork initiative is a free 8-week mentoring programme to support business recovery and help you sustain and improve your business. There are 300 places available and you can apply at www.mentorswork.ie. 	