

## Mortgage Interest Relief

Mortgage interest relief is now only available for the first seven years of a mortgage. This means if you have received mortgage interest relief for more than seven tax periods you are no longer eligible for relief from 1 May 2009. Relief will be allowed on a pro-rata basis for the first four months of 2009.

## Capital Acquisitions Tax

The capital acquisitions tax (CAT) rate increased from 22% to 25% for gifts or inheritances received from midnight on 7 April 2009.

Group	Threshold until 7 April 2009	Threshold from 8 April 2009
Group A	542,544	434,000
Group B	54,254	43,400
Group C	27,127	21,700

## Capital Gains Tax

The capital gains tax (CGT) rate increased from 22% to 25% from midnight on 7 April 2009.

### Age Tax Credit

A single person's Age Tax Credit is **€325** in 2009 not **€375** as originally printed in the Benefits & Taxes leaflet.

All figures in tables are euro (€)

# Citizens Information

## DROP IN

260 locations nationwide

## LO-CALL 1890 777 121

Mon to Fri, 9am-9pm

## LOG ON

[www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

For copies of the Benefits and Taxes 2009 leaflet, booklet, wallchart or this insert please contact the Citizens Information Board head office or your regional Citizens Information Board office (addresses on [www.citizensinformationboard.ie](http://www.citizensinformationboard.ie)).



Citizens **Information** Board  
*information · advice · advocacy*

# Benefits and Taxes 2009

## Supplementary Budget changes

Please read this leaflet in conjunction with the Citizens Information Board's Benefits and Taxes 2009 leaflet and booklet.



April 2009

## Jobseeker's Allowance and Supplementary Welfare Allowance

The personal rate of these payments for new claimants under 20 reduces to €100 per week (from 1 May 2009) with some exceptions.

## Early Childcare Supplement

**Child under 5 years** 41.50 monthly from 1 May 2009 (will be abolished from end 2009)

## Changes to Back to Work and Education Schemes

The **Back to Work Allowance** has been closed for new applicants. People currently receiving the allowance can continue to get it until their entitlement runs out.

The qualifying period required for the **Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)** scheme will be reduced from 2 years to 1 year, provided you qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance. The amount of time you can participate on BTWEA is reduced from 4 years to 2 years for new applicants.

If you qualify for Jobseeker's Benefit and either qualify for statutory redundancy or have 104 PRSI contributions paid in the past 2 years, you may get immediate access to a shorter BTWEA called Short-term Enterprise Allowance. In this case, the allowance will be paid for the duration of your Jobseeker's Benefit entitlement (that is, either 9 or 12 months).

The **Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)** will be changed to allow earlier access to the scheme – after 3 months for the second-level option for people out of formal education for more than two years and 9 months for the third-level option when recommended by a Jobs Facilitator.

## Christmas bonus

The Christmas bonus for long-term social welfare recipients and recipients of similar payments will not be paid in 2009.

## Rent Supplement

The minimum household contribution is being increased from €18 to €24 (1 June 2009).

## Class A PRSI

Income band (per week)	Income band (per year)	PRSI rate (employee)
Earnings under 38	n/a	Not applicable
First 127	n/a	Exempt
Balance up to 1,443	Balance up to 75,036	4%
	Over 75,036	Nil

## Health Contribution (levy)

Income band (per week)	Income band (per year)	Rate of levy
Under 500	Under 26,000	Nil
Under 1,443	Up to 75,036	4%
Over 1,443	Over 75,036	5%

Everyone over 70, medical-card holders and people getting One-Parent Family Payment, Deserted Wife's Payment or Widows/Widower's Pensions is exempt.

## Income levy

Income band (per week)	Income band (per year)	Rate of levy
Up to 289	Up to 15,028	No levy applies
Up to 1,443	Up to 75,036	2%
Between 1,443 and 3,365	Between 75,036 and 174,980	4%
Over 3,365	Over 174,980	6%

Applies to all income except social welfare and similar payments. Medical card holders are exempt. People over 65 can have income up to €20,000 without paying the levy (€40,000 for a married couple).