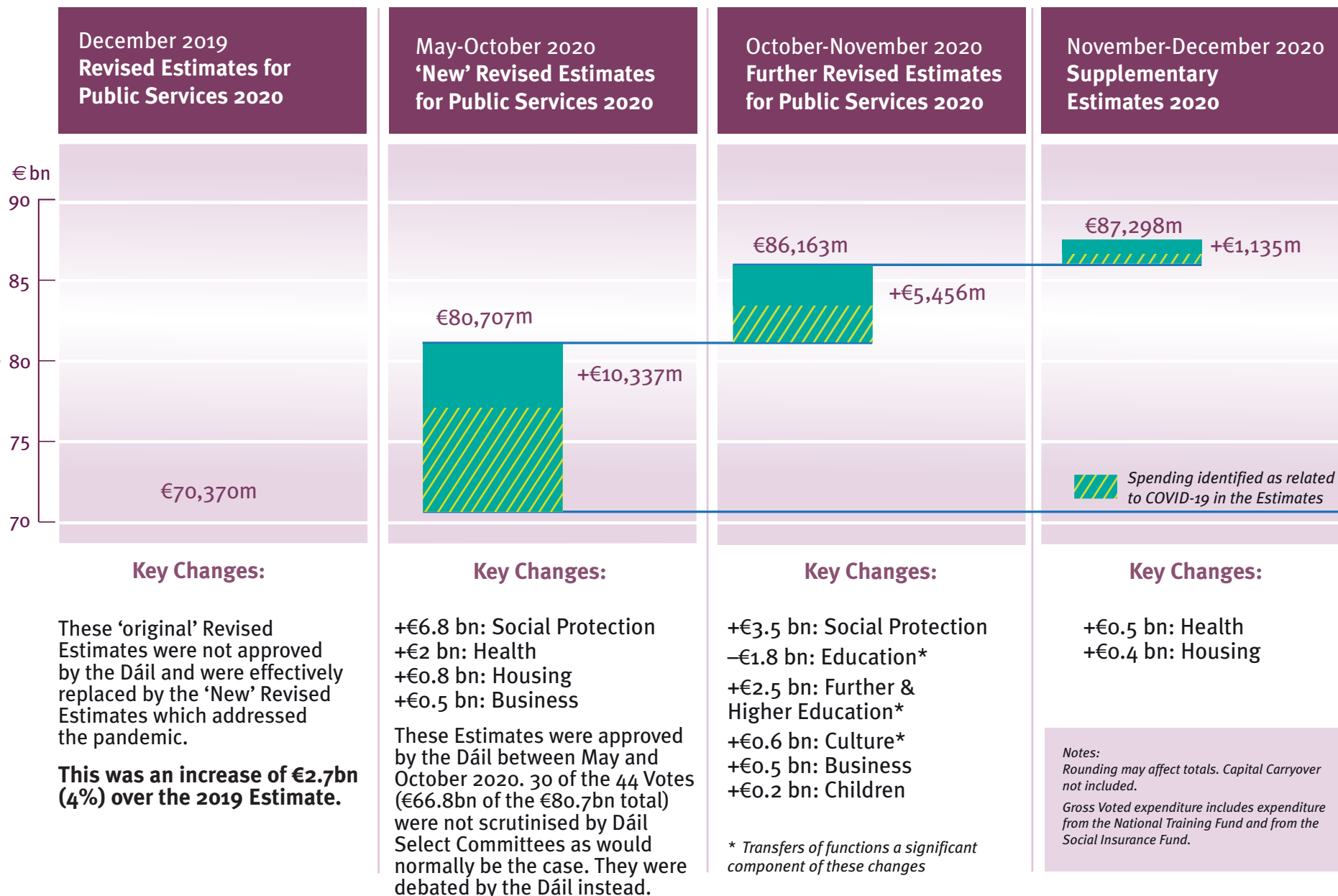


Gross Voted Spending on Public Services in 2020

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Key messages

Government originally intended to spend €70.4 billion on public services in 2020 but post-pandemic the allocation stands at €87.3 billion. Only €9.5 billion of this additional spending is clearly identified in COVID-19 sub-heads in the Estimates.

The scale of the direct supports provided by the State means that the Irish fiscal response has been at the upper-end of the distribution of advanced economy response according to the Department of Finance's [Taking Stock: The Fiscal Response to Covid-19](#), p.16). The Department lists €16.78 billion in direct spending (*Ibid*, Table 3), but does this by sector not by Vote. Its categorisation of direct spending is €0.1 billion lower than that presented to the Dáil as Voted spending.

Most of this response has been routed through the Votes set out in the Estimates for Public Services for Departments to spend. A large proportion of this spending was not scrutinised in the normal manner by committees prior to Dáil consideration and approval.

This infographic illustrates allocations specific to COVID-19 sub-heads; however, in some Votes additional funds were allocated to pre-existing subheads which may be used to fund COVID-related schemes and programmes. For example, approx. €1 billion was allocated to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. As this allocation was integrated with existing subheads it is not possible to isolate COVID from non-COVID spending in the Estimates. This makes analysis of the effectiveness of both 'core' and 'pandemic' spending more difficult.

No performance indicators were supplied that related to COVID-19 spending in the Estimates.

The importance of identifying COVID-19 spending and how it is being used is underlined by the Department of Finance's analysis which points out "the possibility of a permanently larger state" (source: *Ibid*, p.22).

Spending by Vote and Subhead identified in the Estimates 2020 as related to COVID-19

		'New' Revised Estimates	Further Revised Estimates	Supplementary Estimates	
Vote (No. and name)	Subhead (No. and name)	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s
2 - Taoiseach	A.7 - COVID-19 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS	20,000			20,000
Sub-total					20,000
29 - Environment, Climate & Communications	A.6 - COVID-19 TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER SCHEME	30,300			30,300
Sub-total					30,300
37 - Social Protection	A.xx - PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENT	2,230,000			2,230,000
	A.yy - COVID-19 TEMPORARY WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME	2,073,900	710,400		2,784,300
	A.zz - COVID-19 EMPLOYMENT WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME (EWSS)		1,740,000		1,740,000
	SIF - COVID-19 Illness Benefit	74,000			74,000
Sub-total					6,828,300
38 - Health	J.2 - HSE COVID-19 ACTIONS	1,666,688		496,383	2,163,071
	L.2 - PRIMARY CARE REIMBURSEMENT SERVICES - COVID-19 ACTIONS	110,350		29,681	140,031
	M.4 - CAPITAL COVID-19 ACTIONS (INCLUDING ICT)	220,000			220,000
Sub-total					2,523,102
40 - Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth	A.6 - CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY COVID RELATED SUPPORTS	8,000			8,000
Sub-total					8,000
42 - Rural & Community Development	B.X - DORMANT ACCOUNTS (COVID-19 SUPPORTS)	27,000		10,000	37,000
Sub-total					37,000
Total		6,460,238	2,450,400	536,064	9,446,702

Source: Estimates for Public Services 2020