

**TA.4 MAIN FEATURES OF NICS, between 1999 to 2000 and 2025 to 2026**

NICS Class	Rate type	1999 to 2000	2000 to 2001	2001 to 2002	2002 to 2003	2003 to 2004	2004 to 2005	2005 to 2006
Class 1	Lower earnings limit (LEL) – a week	£66	£67	£72	£75	£77	£79	£82
	Primary threshold (PT) – a week (note 1)	N/A	£76	£87	£89	£89	£91	£94
	Secondary threshold (ST) – a week	£83	£84	£87	£89	£89	£91	£94
	Upper Secondary Threshold (under 21) (UST) – a week (note 2)	N/A						
	Apprentice Upper Secondary Threshold (apprentice under 25) (AUST) – a week (no	N/A						
	Upper accruals Point (UAP) – a week (note 4)	N/A						
	Upper earnings limit (UEL) – a week (note 5)	£500	£535	£575	£585	£595	£610	£630
	Primary (employee) main contribution rate (PT to UEL) (note 6)	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
	Primary (employee) additional contribution rate (above UEL)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
	Primary (employee) contracted out rebate (LEL to UAP/UEL) (note 7, 8)	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Class 1A and 1B	Primary (employee) reduced rate for married women and widow optants (note 9)	3.85%	3.85%	3.85%	3.85%	4.85%	4.85%	4.85%
	Secondary (employer) contribution rate (above ST)	12.2%	12.2%	11.9%	11.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%
	Secondary (employer) contracted out rebate (LEL to UAP/UEL), COSRS (note 8)	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Class 2	Secondary (employer) contracted out rebate (LEL to UAP/UEL), COMPS (note 8, 10)	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
	Contribution rate (note 11)	12.2%	12.2%	11.9%	11.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%
	Flat-rate contribution – a week (note 22)	£6.55	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£2.05	£2.10
Class 3	Small earnings exception / Small Profits Threshold – a year (note 14)	£3,770	£3,825	£3,955	£4,025	£4,095	£4,215	£4,345
	Flat-rate contribution – a week (note 12)	£6.45	£6.55	£6.75	£6.85	£6.95	£7.15	£7.35
Class 4	Lower profits limit (LPL) – a year	£7,530	£4,385	£4,535	£4,615	£4,615	£4,745	£4,895
	Upper profits limit (UPL) – a year (note 5)	£26,000	£27,820	£29,900	£30,420	£30,940	£31,720	£32,760
	Main contribution rate (LPL to UPL)	6%	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%
	Additional contribution rate (above UPL)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1%	1%	1%

Table updated June 2025, End of worksheet

2006 to 2007	2007 to 2008	2008 to 2009	2009 to 2010	2010 to 2011	2011 to 2012	2012 to 2013 (note 12)	2013 to 2014 (note 12)	2014 to 2015 (note 12)	2015 to 2016 (note 12)	2016 to 2017 (note 12)
£84	£87	£90	£95	£97	£102	£107	£109	£111	£112	£112
£97	£100	£105	£110	£110	£139	£146	£149	£153	£155	£155
£97	£100	£105	£110	£110	£136	£144	£148	£153	£156	£156
N/A	N/A	N/A	£815	£827						
N/A	N/A	N/A	£827	£827						
N/A	N/A	N/A	£770	£770	£770	£770	£770	£770	N/A	N/A
£645	£670	£770	£844	£844	£817	£817	£797	£805	£815	£827
11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	N/A
4.85%	4.85%	4.85%	4.85%	4.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%
12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%
3.5%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	N/A
1.0%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%
£2.10	£2.20	£2.30	£2.40	£2.40	£2.50	£2.65	£2.70	£2.75	£2.80	£2.80
£4,465	£4,635	£4,825	£5,075	£5,075	£5,315	£5,595	£5,725	£5,885	£5,965	£5,965
£7.55	£7.80	£8.10	£12.05	£12.05	£12.60	£13.25	£13.55	£13.90	£14.10	£14.10
£5,035	£5,225	£5,435	£5,715	£5,715	£7,225	£7,605	£7,755	£7,956	£8,060	£8,060
£33,540	£34,840	£40,040	£43,875	£43,875	£42,475	£42,475	£41,450	£41,865	£42,385	£43,000
8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%
1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

2017 to 2018 (note 12)	2018 to 2019 (note 12)	2019 to 2020 (note 12)	2020 to 2021 (note 12)	2021 to 2022 (note 12)	2022 to 2023 (note 12)	2023 to 2024 (note 12)	2024 to 2025 (note 12)	2025 to 2026 (note 12)
£113	£116	£118	£120	£120	£123	£123	£123	£125
£157	£162	£166	£183	£184	£190/ £242 (note 15)	£242	£242	£242
£157	£162	£166	£169	£170	£175	£175	£175	£96
£866	£892	£962	£962	£967	£967	£967	£967	£967
£866	£892	£962	£962	£967	£967	£967	£967	£967
N/A								
£866	£892	£962	£962	£967	£967	£967	£967	£967
12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	13.25%/12% (note 16)	12%/10% (note 20)	8.0%	8.0%
2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	3.25%/2.0% (note 17)	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
N/A								
5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	7.1%/5.85% (note 18)	5.85%/3.25% (note 21)	1.85%	1.85%
13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	15.05%/13.8% (note 19)	13.8%	13.8%	15.0%
N/A								
N/A								
13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	15.05%/13.8% (note 19)	13.8%	13.8%	15.0%
£2.85	£2.95	£3.00	£3.05	£3.05	£3.15	£3.45	£3.45	£3.50
£6,025	£6,205	£6,365	£6,475	£6,515	£6,725	£6,725	£6,725	£6,845
£14.25	£14.65	£15.00	£15.30	£15.40	£15.85	£17.45	£17.45	£17.75
£8,164	£8,424	£8,632	£9,500	£9,620	£11,908	£12,570	£12,570	£12,570
£45,000	£46,350	£50,000	£50,000	£50,270	£50,270	£50,270	£50,270	£50,270
9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9.74%	9%	6%	6%
2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2.74%	2%	2%	2%

- (1) The Primary Threshold for Class 1 NICs will increase from 6 July 2022.
- (2) From 6 April 2015 employers with employees under 21 years old do not pay Class 1 secondary National Insurance contributions (NICs) on earnings up to the Upper Secondary Threshold (UST) for those employees. An employer must choose the appropriate National Insurance contribution category letter to have the exemption applied.
- (3) From 6 April 2016 employers of apprentices under 25 years old who are following an approved UK government statutory apprenticeship framework do not pay Class 1 secondary National Insurance contributions(NICs) on earnings up to the Apprentices Upper Secondary Threshold (AUST) for those apprentices. An employer must choose the appropriate National Insurance contribution category letter to have the exemption applied.
- (4) The upper accruals point was introduced in April 2009 until April 2015-16. It is no longer needed after the contracting out rebates are abolished from 2016-17 onwards.
- (5) From April 2009 the upper earnings limit and upper profits limit were aligned to the income tax higher rate threshold.
- (6) Between LEL and UEL for 1999-2000.
- (7) For Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes (APPS) both employer and employee pay NICs at the full contracted-out rate and in the following tax year on submission of the end-of-year returns HMRC pay an age related rebate direct to the schemes. The employee's share of this rebate is 1.6%.
- (8) Up to and including 2008-09, the rebate applies between the LEL and the UEL. From 2009-10 onwards the rebate applies between the LEL and UAP. The rebates are abolished from 2016-17 onwards.
- (9) Married women opting to pay contributions at the reduced rate earn no entitlement to contributory National Insurance benefits as a result of these contributions. No women have been allowed to exercise this option since 1977.
- (10) For employers operating a COMPS, in addition to the reduction shown in secondary Class 1 contributions, in the following tax year on submission of end-of-year returns, HMRC pay an additional "top-up" rebate direct to the scheme. As with APPS, this rebate is age related. COMPs are abolished from 2012-13 onwards.
- (11) From April 2000 the Class 1A liability for employers was extended from company cars and fuel to include other taxable benefits not already attracting a Class 1 liability. Class 1A and Class 1B contributions are paid in the year following accrual.
- (12) Class 3 contribution rules changed in 2009-10 to allow those reaching state pension age before April 2015 with 20 qualifying years to purchase up to 6 additional years.
- (13) From 2012-13 the default indexation assumption for NICs is CPI (excluding the secondary threshold up until 2016-17).
- (14) The Small Profits Threshold replaced the Small Earnings Exception on 6 April 2015.
- (15) From April 2022 to June 2022 the HSC Levy increased the weekly primary threshold to £190 and was subsequently increased in July 2022 to £242 for the remainder of the 2022 to 2023 tax year.
- (16) From April 2022 to November 2022 the HSC Levy increased the primary main contribution rate to 13.5% and was subsequently reverted back to 12% for the remainder of the 2022 to 2023 tax year.
- (17) From April 2022 to November 2022 the HSC Levy increased the primary additional contribution rate to 3.25% and was subsequently reverted back to 2% for the remainder of the 2022 to 2023 tax year.
- (18) From April 2022 to November 2022 the HSC Levy increased the primary (employee) reduced rate for married women and widow optants to 7.1% and was subsequently reverted back to 5.85% for the remainder of the 2022 to 2023 tax year.
- (19) From April 2022 to November 2022 the HSC Levy increased the secondary, Class 1A and Class 1B contribution rate to 15.05% and was subsequently reverted back to 13.8% for the remainder of the 2022 to 2023 tax year.
- (20) From April 2023 to January 2024 the primary main contribution rate was 12% and then subsequently cut to 10% from January 2024.
- (21) From April 2023 to January 2024 the primary (employee) reduced rate for married women and widow optants was 5.85% and then subsequently cut to 3.85% from January 2024.
- (22) Zero rate band was introduced for Class 2 NICs between the SPT and the LPT from April 2022. Then the Class 2 NICs rate was zeroised above the LPT from April 2024 but voluntary rate below the SPT remains.

**Notes:**

Class 1 NICs are earnings related contributions paid by employed earners and their employers. Liability starts at age 16 and ends at State Pension age for earners; employers continue to pay beyond State Pension age. Up to April 2016 the contributions were paid at either the contracted-out rate or the not contracted-out rate, abolished in April 2016, was payable payable only where the employee was a member of a contracted-out occupational scheme in place of State Second Pension (formerly SERPS). Class 1 NICs are collected by HMRC along with income tax under the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) scheme.

Class 1A NICs are paid only by employers on the value of most taxable benefits-in-kind provided to employees, such as private use of company cars and fuel, private medical insurance, accommodation and loan benefits. They do not give any benefit rights.

Class 1B NICs were introduced on 6 April 1999. Like Class 1A they are also paid only by employers and cover PAYE Settlement Agreements (PSA) under which employers agree to meet the income tax liability arising on a restricted range of benefits. Class 1B is payable on the value of the items included in the PSA that would otherwise attract a Class 1 or Class 1A liability and the value of the income tax met by the employer. They do not give any benefit rights.

Class 2 contributions are a flat rate weekly liability payable by all self-employed people over 16 (up to State Pension age) with profits above the Small Profits Threshold. Self-employed people with profits below the Small Profits Threshold may pay Class 2 contributions voluntary. Voluntary payments of Class 2 NICs are typically collected through self-assessment but can usually be paid up to six years after the tax year. Class 4 NICs may also have to be paid by the self-employed if their profits for the year are over the lower profits limit (see below).

Class 3 NICs may be paid voluntarily by people aged 16 and over (but below State Pension age) to help them qualify for State Pension if their contribution record would not otherwise be sufficient. Contributions are flat rate and can be paid up to six years after the year in which they are due.

Class 4 NICs are paid by the self-employed whose profits are above the lower profits limit. They are profit related and do not count for any benefits themselves.