

13. Reserve Service Benefits

a. General

The National Insurance Institute pays this benefit to any person who is called up for reserve duty under the Security Service Law, as well as to those drafted for training under the Emergency Labor Service Law. The NII also provides grants to working youths up to the age of 18 who are absent from their jobs due to participation in pre-military education (on condition that they participated in this activity for at least two consecutive days, and that they worked at least 30 days during the three preceding months).

By law, the NII is authorized, after consulting with the Public Committee on Reserve Duty, to provide grants for the development of welfare services for those serving in reserve duty, and their families.

Since 1999, the NII has participated in the funding of an extensive IDF project to increase social cohesion and create a sense of identification with, and appreciation for, those serving in the reserves. This project, called the **Welfare Basket**, is run by the IDF Manpower Directorate (known by the abbreviation AKA). The project includes recreational activities, evening gatherings for units, tribute evenings, and other group bonding activities. The total of the grants will not exceed 0.25% of the estimated overall annual total of reserve service benefits paid by law, and the entire budget for this sector is funded by the Ministry of Finance as part of the defense budget. In 2012, some NIS 10 million was paid in grants towards these welfare activities, a total that equals the budget for the years 2011 and 2012. In 2014, NIS 6.5 million were transferred for the budgets of each year from 2014-2016.

In the wake of Operation Protective Edge in 2014, the Reserve Service Division of the NII in partnership with the IDF and the defense establishment, paid advances on reserve service benefits to all employers whose employees were called up to reserve duty, and to all unsalaried reserve duty soldiers: the self-employed, students, the unemployed, etc. The NII also enabled those serving in reserve duty or their spouses, to submit a request for an advance on their reserve service benefit accounts. 78% of those drafted were salaried workers whose employers received advances worth an overall total of NIS 184 million, and 22% were unsalaried and received personal advances at an overall total of NIS 44 million.

b. Benefit Rate and Payment Amounts

The daily benefit rate is based on the worker's gross salary (liable to insurance contributions) in the three months preceding the 1st of the month in which the service began, plus a cost-of-living allowance, divided by 90 days. Also taken into account for purposes of this calculation are reserve service benefits, unemployment, work accident and maternity leave payments. The benefit will not be less than the minimum – 68% of the base amount

divided by 30 (as of January 2014: NIS 196.02 per day, NIS 5,881 per month), and shall not exceed the maximum: 5 times the base amount divided by 30 (as of January 2014: NIS 1,441.33 per day, NIS 43,240 per month).

Payments to Reservists (Thousands of NIS), 2010-2014

Year	Current prices	2014 prices	Real rate (percent)
2010	1,005,979	1,079,724	-14.9
2011	1,045,343	1,084,554	0.4
2012	1,124,500	1,147,092	5.8
2013	1,103,003	1,108,253	-3.4
2014	1,357,530	1,357,530	22.5

The sum total of payments to those serving in reserve duty grew between the years 2010-2012, but decreased in 2013 (see table). In 2009, there was a very significant real rise, 35.8% versus 2008, due to payments for Operation Cast Lead (which took place from 27.12.08 until 18.1.09). In 2010, payments decreased by 14.8%, and in the last few years they rose again by a cumulative rate of 6%. In 2014, a real rise in payments was once again observed – 22.5% - due to Operation Protective Edge, and total payments reached NIS 1.4 billion. Of all persons serving in reserve duty in 2014, approximately 72% were salaried workers, and approximately 10% were self-employed (see figure below).

Reservists by Occupation Type

