

7. Work Injury Insurance

A. General

Work Injury insurance vests an insured who has suffered a work-related injury a right to a benefit or other defined assistance, based on the nature of his injury.

1. **Injury allowance** – is paid to an employee or to a self-employed person, who, as a result of an occupational accident, is incapable of engaging in his occupation or in other suitable work. An insured, whether an employee or self-employed, is eligible for an injury allowance in respect of one injury, for a maximum of 91 days (13 weeks).

Up until January 31, 2002, the work-injured had been eligible for an injury allowance for a maximum period of 26 weeks, at the rate of 75% of their earnings during the quarter immediately preceding their injury. In 2005, the law was amended, and the eligibility period for an injury allowance at the expense of the employer was increased from nine days to 12 days. Work-injured persons who have no employer and work-injured persons who are self-employed are not eligible for a payment in respect of the first 12 days.

2. **Disability benefits** – are paid to persons who suffered a work-related injury, and who, as a result of the injury, remained disabled for a limited period or became permanently disabled. Following are the categories of disability benefits: a **temporary disability pension**, which is paid to the work-injured whose certified degree of temporary disability is at least 9%; a **permanent disability pension**, which is paid to the work-injured whose certified degree of permanent disability is at least 20%; a **disability grant**, which is paid to the work-injured whose certified degree of permanent disability is between 9% and 19%; a **special pension** and a **grant for nonrecurring arrangements**, which is paid to the work-injured whose certified degree of disability is at least 75% (in addition to their monthly pension). The amount of the temporary or permanent disability pension is determined based on the injured person's income during the quarter immediately preceding his injury: the rate of the full disability pension that is paid to an injured person whose degree of disability is 100% is 75% of his wage during the determinant period; the pension for an injured person whose degree of disability is under 100% is calculated proportionately to the degree of his disability.

Payments of **disability grants** to the work-injured have undergone drastic changes in recent years. Anyone injured on or after July 1, 2003 receives a grant equivalent to 43 pension payments (up until that date, the grant had been at the height of 70 pension payments). In 2005, the law was amended, and a **work-related disability grant** and a **temporary disability pension** began to be paid in respect of a degree of disability of at least 9%, instead of the previous threshold of 5%.

In May 2008, the list of tests was amended and impairment sections were added in respect of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), low blood pressure, overweight and obesity, pancreatic impairments and impotence.

3. **Dependents' benefits** – are paid to the family members of an insured who was killed during a work-related accident or whose subsequent death was a direct consequence of the accident, if the members of his family had been dependent on him for their subsistence. The full amount of the dependents' benefit is 75% of the deceased's wage during the determinant period. The amount of a partial benefit is determined according to the degree of eligibility. The degree of eligibility for a dependents' benefit is determined according to the number of dependents (for example, a widow with no children is eligible for 60% of the full disability pension, while a widow with three children – to 100% of this pension¹).
4. **Medical treatment expenses (including hospitalization and medical rehabilitation)** – Medical treatment is provided to the injured through the sick funds. Pursuant to an agreement, the NII pays the sick funds for such treatment. If necessary, the treatment also includes medical rehabilitation, convalescence, long-term care, etc.
5. **Vocational rehabilitation** – is provided to a disabled person whose degree of permanent disability is at least 10%, and who, as a result of a work-related injury, is incapable of returning to his previous job or to another job.

B. Benefit Recipients

1. Injury allowance

In 2010, the number of recipients of injury allowance rose and reached 67,633 – an increase of 2.7%, compared with 2009 (Table 1).

It should be noted that out of the 61,589 employees who received injury allowances in 2010, 18,378 are employed by “authorized employers,” as this term is defined in Regulation 22, and therefore, the NII does not reimburse such employers for the injury allowances they paid in respect of the first 12 days of eligibility – payments that other employers are required to pay to the NII. Pursuant to Regulation 22, the NII may permit an employer to pay the injury allowance on behalf of the NII, and the employer must pay the allowance on the dates on which it normally pays wages. The employer must submit a claim to the NII in respect of the work-related accident during which the employee was injured, and the NII reimburses the employer for the sums paid (for 13 days and more), adding a commission at the rate of 2.5% of the injury allowance. If the NII rejects the claim, the employer is not reimbursed for the monies it paid to the injured employee.

.....

1 The rate of the dependents' benefit, according to the number of dependents and kinship, is specified in section 132 of the National Insurance Law.

In 2010, the number of recipients of injury allowance rose and reached 67,633 – an increase of 2.7%, compared with 2009

Table 1
Employed Persons, Recipients of Injury Allowance, and
Days of Work Incapacity, 2006–2010

Year	Employed persons	Recipients of an injury allowance*	Days of work incapacity	
			Total	Average per injured person
2006	2,832.4**	64,296	2,170,751	33.8
2007	2,968.7**	67,657	2,291,149	33.9
2008	3,093.4**	69,734	2,408,514	34.5
2009	3,116.9**	65,814	2,306,267	35.0
2010	3,219.8	67,633	2,406,337	35.6

* Since 1997, includes work-injured who did not actually receive payment from the NII, due to the legislative amendments that year, but had been approved and would have been eligible for payment, had it not been for the amendments (the actual number of recipients of payment from the NII in 2010 was 59,347).

** As per data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, the National Accounts – 2009. The “employed” include Israelis, foreign workers (reported and unreported) and residents of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

Table 2
Rates of Change in Recipients of Injury Allowance and
Days of Work Incapacity (percentages), 2006–2010

Year	Recipients of injury allowance as a percentage of all employed persons	Average annual rates of change		
		Employed persons	Recipients of injury allowance	Average number of days of work incapacity
2006	2.2	3.2	0.70	2.40
2007	2.3	4.8	5.20	0.30
2008	2.1	4.2	3.07	1.77
2009	2.1	0.8	-5.62	1.45
2010	2.1	3.3	2.76	1.71

In 2000, recipients of an injury allowance constituted approximately 3% of all employed persons, while in 2005–2010, they constituted 2.3%. The gradual downtrend that had begun in 1996 and continued up until 2010 (Table 2) occurred concurrently with legislative amendments, which obligated the employer to assume the payment in respect of the initial days, and revoked the eligibility for an injury allowance of any person without an employer (in 1997 and in 2005). In other words, the percentage of recipients of an injury allowance from among all employed persons decreased with the decrease in the number of recipients of the injury allowance and the increase in the number of employed persons. The average number of days of work incapacity per injured person reached a peak in 2001 (40 days). Since then, there has been a sharp drop (Table 1) which derived, inter alia, from legislative amendments (the shortening of the maximum period that an injury allowance is paid from 26 to 13 weeks, since February 1, 2002). The downtrend in the average number of days of work incapacity stopped in 2003 and, since then, apart from minor fluctuations in both directions, has stabilized, with the average in 2010 being 35.6 days.

In 2000, recipients of an injury allowance constituted 3% of all employed persons, while in 2005–2010, they constituted 2.3%.

Table 3
Recipients of Injury Allowance, by Duration of Incapacity, 1996, 2000, 2006–2010

Year	Total employed persons ^{##}	Total days of incapacity	Total recipients of injury allowance	Number of days of incapacity									
				0	1-14	15-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91	92+	
				Absolute numbers									
1996	2,133,800	2,990,363	92,274	72	45,401	21,862	8,228	4,643	2,941	1,889		7,528	
2000	2,388,800	2,863,296	76,185	52	31,683	17,964	7,691	4,677	3,050	2,136		8,932	
2006	2,685,000	2,170,751	64,296	37	23,432	15,469	7,245	4,547	3,218	5,182		5,101	65*
2007	2,807,100	2,291,149	67,657	42	24,582	16,298	7,695	4,673	3,432	5,424		5,476	35*
2008	3,041,000	2,408,514	69,734	35	24,831	16,606	7,981	4,931	3,569	5,837		5,933	11*
2009	3,037,000	2,306,267	65,814	40	23,159	15,447	7,456	4,786	3,499	5,947		5,468	12*
2010		2,406,337	67,633	11	23,492	15,762	7,488	4,927	3,525	6,442		5,799	37*
				Percentages									
1996			100.0	0.1	49.0	23.6	8.9	5.0	3.2	2.0		8.1	
2000			100.0	0.1	41.6	23.6	10.1	6.1	4.0	2.8		11.7	
2006			100.0	0.1	36.4	24.1	11.3	7.1	5.0	8.1		7.9	0.1
2007			100.0	0.1	36.3	24.1	11.3	6.9	5.1	8.0		8.1	0.1
2008			100.0	0.1	35.6	23.8	11.4	7.1	5.1	8.4		8.5	0
2009			100.0	0.1	35.2	23.5	11.3	7.3	5.3	9.0		8.3	0
2010			100.0	0.0	34.7	23.3	11.4	7.3	5.2	9.5		8.5	0.1

* Up until January 31, 2001, work-injured received an injury allowance subsequent to this date.
** Source: Central Bureau of Statistics – National Accounts.

Over the years, there has been an increase in the number of “severe” injuries for which claims have been submitted to the NII (Table 3). In 1996 (which was the last year prior to the legislative amendment prescribing that the initial days are to be paid at the expense of the employer), work-injured who had at least 61 days of work incapacity constituted 13.4% of all recipients of an injury allowance, while in 2010, they constituted approximately 23.3% of all recipients, and this has been a steady uptrend. Over the years, the percentage of work-injured with 15 to 45 days of work incapacity has been quite stable. Work-injured with 1 to 14 days of work incapacity constituted 49% of all recipients of an injury allowance in 1996 and slightly less than 35% in 2010, continuing the steady downtrend.

The percentage of work-injured recipients of injury allowance who are foreign workers and residents of the territories has been lower than the percentage of Israelis throughout the years. One might expect that the percentage of recipients of injury allowance among the above two population groups, considering the very hazardous economic sectors in which they work (agriculture and construction), would at least be similar to that of residents of Israel. The low percentage apparently reflects under-reporting of work-related injuries by these population groups, which derives, apparently, from their being unaware of their rights, from a fear of losing their jobs if they are absent from work due to an accident, from their illegal status and from their apprehension as to their fate should it become known that they are staying in Israel without a permit. When serious work-related accidents occur, these workers have no other choice but to seek medical attention and submit a claim for an injury allowance and disability benefits. The NII pays directly the expenses of the one-time treatment in the emergency room of foreign workers, and, since April 2008, also of workers from the territories who were injured during work-related accidents and who did not submit claims for an injury allowance. From this source only, we know that the number of foreign workers who were treated in hospital emergency rooms is three times the number of foreign workers who received an injury allowance in 2009. It should be noted that, among residents of Israel, the ratio between those who sought medical treatment without submitting a claim and those who submit claims to the NII is approximately 1:1.

A foreign worker is insured under Work Injury insurance even if he is staying in Israel illegally. Up until February 28, 2003, foreign workers and residents of the territories who were injured at work had been eligible for all the benefits being provided to any work-injured, whether or not they were working with permits. Since March 1, 2003, the benefit began being revoked relative to unreported foreign workers: upon his exit from Israel, the benefit for which he has been deemed eligible is paid to him from the date of his exit from Israel, but the payment does not include the period during which the benefit was revoked. The gradual decrease in the number of foreign workers between 2002 and 2006 had been expected, due to the legislative amendments and the activities of the Immigration Police. In 2007, an increase was once again observed, which continued until

The percentage of work-injured recipients of injury allowance who are foreign workers and residents of the territories has been lower than the percentage of Israelis throughout the years

A foreign worker is insured under Work Injury insurance even if he is staying in Israel illegally

the end of 2009. In January 2010, the Prime Minister announced a new immigration policy which prescribed more stringent criteria for employing foreign workers, the aim being to reduce their numbers by approximately 30 to 50 thousand.

Another population group for which it is difficult to obtain data regarding safety at work is the category of employees who receives wages from manpower companies and manpower contractors. The Central Bureau of Statistics' manpower surveys identify these employees by the question: "Who pays your salary?" The NII's Work Injury insurance scheme does not categorize manpower companies by a designated code (economic sector or legal status of the employer); therefore, it is not possible to ascertain whether these employees are being exposed to hazards (as the NII can for employees who are receiving their wages directly from their workplace), or whether the fact that such employees are considered "exceptions" at the workplace tends to reduce the employer's sense of responsibility for their conditions of safety.

A problem also exists in relation to contracting companies which are not supplying workers, but rather services, since the obligations that apply to manpower companies – particularly relative to licensing, whereby the receipt and renewal of a license is contingent upon compliance with the labor and work safety laws – does not apply to contracting companies.

The definition of "recipients of wages from a manpower company" does not include employees working through a subcontractor who is responsible for their work performance and for their safety. These are employees who are employed primarily in two economic subsectors: the guarding, security and cleaning subsector, and home caregiver services.

In 2010 too, the average number of days of work incapacity among foreign workers was lower than that among Israeli residents, even though one would expect it to be higher, considering the occupational sectors in which they work. The average number of days of work incapacity of workers who are residents of the territories (Judea and Samaria) remained quite high, even though they work in occupations that are similar to those of foreign workers. In 2010, for the first time in a few years, the number of recipients of injury allowance who are residents of the territories was higher than that of the foreign workers.

Table 5 differentiates between injury allowance recipients who are employees and those who are self-employed. The number of self-employed who received an injury allowance dropped from 9,483 in 1997 to 6,044 in 2010, and their ratio to total recipients of injury allowance decreased from 11.3% to 9%. This decrease apparently derived from the legislative amendments regarding the first nine days and the first 12 days, as well as from the wave of closures of small businesses during periods of economic recession. The average number of days of work incapacity among the self-employed was approximately 47% higher than that of employees (50 days, compared with 34 days, respectively). This difference apparently derives from the fact that the self-employed are not inclined to submit claims to the NII in respect of short absences (of less than 12 days.).

Table 4
Employed Persons, Recipients of Injury Allowance, and
Days of Work Incapacity, by Residency, 2000, 2006–2010

	Total	Residents of Israel	Residents of the territories	Foreign workers
2000				
Employed persons*	2,519,900	2,217,900	96,000	205,000
Recipients of an injury allowance	76,185	73,680	1,552	953
Ratio of injury allowance recipients to employed persons	3.0	3.3	1.6	0.5
Average days of work incapacity	37.6	37.4	46.5	33.7
2006				
Employed persons*	2,832,400	2,603,200	48,900	180,300
Recipients of an injury allowance	64,296	63,522	175	599
Ratio of injury allowance recipients to employed persons	2.3	2.4	0.4	0.3
Average days of work incapacity	33.8	33.8	44.8	28.4
2007				
Employed persons*	2,968,700	2,722,400	53,100	193,200
Recipients of an injury allowance	67,657	66,868	246	543
Ratio of injury allowance recipients to employed persons	2.3	2.5	0.5	0.3
Average days of work incapacity	33.9	33.9	42.5	27.8
2008				
Employed persons*	3,093,400	2,823,300	58,900	211,300
Recipients of an injury allowance	69,734	68,709	354	671
Ratio of injury allowance recipients to employed persons	2.3	2.4	0.6	0.3
Average days of work incapacity	34.5	34.5	50.7	27.6
2009				
Employed persons*	3,116,900	2,841,000	55,700	220,200
Recipients of an injury allowance	65,814	64,682	440	692
Ratio of injury allowance recipients to employed persons	2.1	2.3	0.8	0.3
Average days of work incapacity	35.0	35.1	43.9	29.1
2010				
Employed persons*	3,219,800	2,938,300	60,600	220,900
Recipients of an injury allowance	67,633	66,900	493	240
Ratio of injury allowance recipients to employed persons	2.1	2.3	0.8	0.1
Average days of work incapacity	35.6	35.6	45.0	22.0

* Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, National Accounts.

The distribution of employees who suffered work-related injuries by economic sector has remained stable over the years: approximately 21% work in industry, 14% in commerce and workshops, 12% in business services (which include manpower recruitment, the

Table 5
Recipients of Injury Allowance by Employment Status
and Days of Work Incapacity, 2010

Category of insured	Recipients of injury allowance		Average number of days of work incapacity
	Absolute numbers	Percentages	
Total recipients	67,633	100.0	35.6
Employees	61,589	91.0	34.1
Self-employed	6,044	9.0	50.1

Table 6
Recipients of Injury Allowance, by Employment Status
and Economic Sector, December 2010

Economic sector	Recipients		Days of work incapacity		
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Average days of incapacity per injured person
Total	67,633		2,306,267		35.6
Total employees	61,589	100.0%	2,103,261	100.0%	34.2
Agriculture	2,014	3.3	64,810	3.1	32.2
Industry	12,680	20.6	386,772	18.4	30.6
Electricity and water	663	1.1	21,633	1.0	32.7
Construction	6,141	10.0	283,258	13.5	46.2
Commerce, vehicle repairs	8,697	14.1	310,264	14.8	35.7
Hospitality and food	3,595	5.8	107,546	5.1	30.0
Transportation, storage	4,509	7.3	168,148	8.0	37.3
Banking, insurance	1,042	1.7	30,733	1.5	29.5
Realty, business services	7,363	12.0	252,915	12.0	34.4
Public service	6,105	9.9	181,496	8.6	29.8
Education	2,154	3.5	68,868	3.3	32.0
Community service	1,919	3.1	73,338	3.5	38.3
Health, welfare	4,325	7.0	136,780	6.5	31.7
Other and unknown	362	0.6	16,700	0.8	43.8
Self-employed	6,044		303,076		49.5

supply of manpower services, as well as guarding, security and cleaning activities) and 10% in construction. In terms of the severity of injuries (measured here by the number of days of work incapacity), the construction sector is in first place (46 days), followed by these sectors: transportation and storage (approximately 37 days), community services, including professional sports activities (37 days), commerce and workshops (35 days), business services (34 days) and agriculture (32 days).

With the uptrend in the rate of women participating in the civilian work force which has characterized the last two decades (from 40% in 1988 to 47.0% in 2010), their rate among recipients of an injury allowance has also risen. The data for the second half of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s show that the percentage of women out of all recipients of injury allowance has risen gradually and steadily, from 19.8% in 1995 to 30.5% in 2010 (Table G/2 in the Tables Appendix). An examination of the distribution by gender and age brackets shows that in the younger age brackets (up to age 34), men constitute 76% of the recipients of an injury allowance, while in the older age brackets (45- 59) they constitute only about 62% (Table 7). The average number of days of work incapacity among women is lower than among men – 31, compared with 37.

In 1996, traffic accidents (during work, or en route to or from work) constituted approximately 14.8% of all work-related accidents, while in 2010, traffic accidents constituted 23% of all work-related accidents. Between 1996 and 2009, the number of traffic accidents en route to or from work increased from about 9% of all work-related injuries to about 15.8% (Table 8). On the other hand, the number of traffic accidents that occurred during work constituted approximately 7% of all work-related accidents. In the past, traffic accidents had caused more severe injuries, which received expression in the longer period of work incapacity than that of other accidents. This gap has narrowed considerably in recent years and today, it almost no longer exists. It is reasonable to assume that this reduction derives from the revoking of the short eligibility periods (up to 12 days), which led to a significant drop in the number of claimants in relation to mild accident cases, and thus raised the average number of days of work incapacity per injured person.

The distribution of recipients of injury allowance by cause of the accident and the consequences (nature) of the injury has only slightly varied over the years. The most prevalent causes for occupational injuries are: falls (from scaffolding, ladder or crane, from a building or structure, slipping or stumbling on stairs or on level ground – 25% of the recipients of an injury allowance); traffic accidents (23%); and injuries from objects (that fall on, crush, or hit a person – 19%). In terms of the severity of the injury (which is measured by the number of days of incapacity), the severe injuries were caused mainly by falls (40 days). Falls caused mainly contusions, crush injuries, fractured limbs, strains and sprains. “Occupational illnesses” and “explosives” were the two causes of the most serious injuries (more than 40 days of incapacity). Although the list of occupational illnesses is closed, in instances when the illness does not appear in the list and, in the opinions of the experts, there is a clear causal connection between the illness and the working conditions, the illness is recognized as an occupational injury. The majority of claims for injury allowance in respect of an occupational illness are submitted for the purpose of determining a work-related disability.

With the uptrend in the rate of women participating in the civilian work force which has characterized the last two decades, their rate among recipients of an injury allowance has also risen

Table 7
Recipients of Injury Allowance and Employed Persons, by Gender and Age, 2010

Age	Recipients of injury allowance (numbers)			Israeli employed persons* (thousands)			Recipients of injury allowance as a percentage of all employed persons		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	67,633	46,972	20,661	2,785.9	1,477.1	1,308.8	2.4	3.2	1.6
Up to 17	180	148	32	20.3	11.2	9.1	0.9	1.3	0.4
18-24	7,038	5,459	1,579	290.6	135.4	155.2	2.4	4.0	1.0
25-34	16,175	12,044	4,131	764.8	404.0	360.8	2.1	3.0	1.1
35-44	15,295	11,127	4,168	684.3	368.0	316.3	3.2	3.0	1.3
45-54	14,560	9,171	5,389	555.1	288.9	266.2	2.6	3.2	2.0
55-64	12,005	7,233	4,772	391.5	215.9	175.6	3.1	3.4	2.7
+65	2,380	1,790	590	79.2	53.7	25.6	3.0	3.3	2.3

* Source: "Microdata Under Contract" files, Manpower Surveys, the Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009.

Table 8
Recipients of Injury Allowance by Accident Location and
Days of Work Incapacity, 2006–2010

Year	Work-related accidents			Accidents en route to or from work		
	Total	During work*	Traffic accidents during work	Traffic accidents en route	En route without a vehicle	Other
2006						
Numbers	64,296	45,374	3,833	9,339	3,575,	2,175
Percentages	100.0	70.6	6.0	14.4	5.6	3.4
Average days of work incapacity	33.8	33.4	39.1	32.3	33.9	37.5
2007						
Numbers	67,657	47,757	4,092	9,571	3,991	2,246
Percentages	100.0	70.6	6.0	14.2	5.9	3.3
Average days of work incapacity	33.9	33.4	38.9	32.9	35.4	37.0
2008						
Numbers	69,734	48,472	4,627	10,170	4,180	2,285
Percentages	100.0	69.5	6.6	14.6	6.0	3.3
Average days of work incapacity	34.5	34.3	39.1	32.2	36.1	37.7
2009						
Numbers	65,814	45,412	4,747	10,594	4,191	870
Percentages	100.0	69.0	7.2	16.1	6.4	1.3
Average days of work incapacity	35.0	35.0	39.5	33.0	35.7	35.4
2010						
Numbers	67,633	47,098	4,734	10,719	4,094	988
Percentages	100.0	69.6	7.0	15.8	6.1	1.5
Average days of work incapacity	35.6	35.6	41.2	33.5	37.2	35.2

* Work-related traumas and wounds not caused by traffic accidents.

The distribution of recipients of injury allowance by the nature of the injury has also remained nearly unchanged over the years. The most prevalent consequences of work-related accidents are: crush injuries (23% of the recipients of an injury allowance), contusions (22%), strains or sprains (17%), and lacerations of upper limbs (9%). In terms of the severity of the injury (which is measured by the number of days of incapacity), the severe injuries were: lower limb fractures (63 days), upper limb fractures (58 days), spinal fracture or spinal column injury (56 days) and dislocations without fractures (55 days). An injury to the vascular system is at the top of the list in terms of severity of injury (68 days of incapacity).

The upper limbs are the most vulnerable in occupational accidents: fractures and lacerations (alone) in upper limbs caused approximately 14% of all recipients of injury allowances to be absent from work.

2. Work-related disability pension

The number of recipients of a permanent work-related disability pension has been rising steadily every year by more than 1,000 recipients, and reached 32,331 in 2010. The majority (58%) of the recipients of a permanent disability pension have low degrees of disability (up to 39%). Among this category of recipients, 64% of the women have a degree of disability of between 20% and 39%, compared with 58% of the men. Nine percent of the men and 7% of the women have a degree of disability that exceeds 80% (Table G/3 in the Tables Appendix). Recipients of a work-related disability pension may – when they reach the eligibility age for an old-age pension – choose whether to continue receiving the work-related disability pension or to receive the old-age pension. By law, if the old-age pension is higher than the work-related disability pension, the person may opt to capitalize the disability pension and receive the old-age pension, or to continue receiving the work-related disability pension at the rate of the old-age pension.

Table 9
Recipients of Permanent Disability Pension,
by Employment Status, 2006–2010

Year	Total		Employees	Self-employed
	Numbers	% of annual change		
2006	26,442	5.0	23,216	3,227
2007	27,799	5.1	24,406	3,393
2008	29,249	5.2	25,665	3,584
2009	30,899	5.6	27,068	3,831
2010	32,331	4.6	28,319	4,012

3. Disability grant

A disability grant is paid to a person disabled as a result of an occupational accident, when the degree of his disability has stabilized at between 9% and 19%. The amounts of the grants for the work-injured and their eligibility for disability grants have undergone drastic changes in recent years. Until the legislation of the Economic Recovery Plan Law in June 2003, the grant had been at the rate of the equivalent of 70 monthly pension payments. This law prescribed that anyone injured on or after July 1, 2003 would receive a grant equivalent to 43 monthly pension payments. As a result of the legislative amendment, a sharp drop occurred in the amount of the average disability grants. In 2010, 8,821 grants were paid in respect of various injuries – 7,697 to employees and 1,124 to self-employed persons. In 2010, the average disability grant paid to employees was NIS 33,833, compared with NIS 33,526 in 2009, and to the self employed, NIS 30,809, compared with NIS 28,464 in 2009.

4. Special disability benefit

Persons disabled as a result of occupational accidents whose degree of disability is at least 75%, and disabled persons with walking difficulties whose degree of disability is between 65% and 74%, are eligible – in addition to any other benefit – for financial aid for personal assistance and for travelling, and they are eligible for a grant for nonrecurring arrangements, in the form of assistance in the purchase of a vehicle, in solving housing problems and in purchasing special accessories needed as a result of their disability.

In December 2010, approximately 3,050 persons disabled as a result of an occupational accident received a special benefit paid through the Rehabilitation Department of the NII, at the average sum of NIS 3,370, in addition to a monthly work-related disability pension. In 2010, 143 rehabilitation grants were paid, at the average sum of NIS 34,400.

5. Dependents' benefit

The number of recipients of a dependents' benefit has gradually risen, from 3,286 recipients in 1985 to 4,565 in 2010. The rate of the rise ranges between 0.8% and 1.5% per annum (Table 9).

The number of recipients of a dependents' benefit has gradually risen, from 3,286 recipients in 1985 to 4,565 in 2010

Table 10
Recipients of Dependents' Benefit, by Employment Status, 2006–2010

Year	Numbers	Total		Employees	Self-employed
			% of annual change		
2006	4,446	1.1		3,834	613
2007	4,482	0.8		3,868	614
2008	4,518	0.8		3,907	611
2009	4,573	1.2		3,954	619
2010	4,565	--		3,941	624

C. Average Payments

The average injury allowances per day to the self-employed decreased in 2010, after they had risen significantly in 2009, in real terms and as a percentage of the average wage. The injury allowance to employees decreased slightly in 2009, in real terms and as a percentage of the average wage.

The average permanent disability pension in 2010 was NIS 3,419 for employees and NIS 3,403 for the self-employed. The level of the pension, in real terms and as a percentage of the average wage rose, both for employees and for the self-employed.

In 2010, the average monthly dependents' benefit was approximately NIS 6,710 for employees and approximately NIS 6,055 for the self-employed. The dependents' benefit rose significantly in 2010 in real terms and as a percentage of the average wage, both for employees, and, to a lesser extent, for the self-employed.

Table 11
Average Injury Allowance per Day, by Employment Status,
2006–2010

Year	Employees			Self-employed		
	Current prices (NIS)	2010 prices (NIS)	% of average wage	Current prices (NIS)	2010 prices (NIS)	% of average wage
2006	153.5	171	62.9	161.5	180	66.2
2007	159.9	177	65.2	167.9	187	68.4
2008	174.6	185	68.0	199.2	211	77.6
2009	179.2	184	67.6	240.6	247	90.8
2010	175.8	176	63.9	205.2	205	74.5

Table 12
Average Monthly Permanent Disability Pension,
by Employment Status, 2006–2010

Year	Employees			Self-employed		
	Current prices (NIS)	2010 prices (NIS)	% of average wage	Current prices (NIS)	2010 prices (NIS)	% of average wage
2006	2,817.4	3,143	38.5	3,144.4	3,507	43.0
2007	2,823.0	3,133	38.4	3,131.1	3,475	38.9
2008	2,894.8	3,071	37.6	3,204.1	3,400	41.6
2009	3,156.2	3,241	39.7	3,287.7	3,376	41.3
2010	3,419.1	3,419	41.4	3,403.2	3,403	41.2

Table 13
Average Monthly Dependents' Benefit, by Employment Status,
2006–2010

Year	Employees			Self-employed		
	Current prices (NIS)	2010 prices (NIS)	% of average wage	Current prices (NIS)	2010 prices (NIS)	% of average wage
2006	5,126.7	5,719	68.7	5,449.8	6,079	73.0
2007	5,185.3	5,754	68.0	5,451.1	6,049	71.5
2008	5,342.4	5,668	67.4	5,585.2	5,926	70.5
2009	5,992.2	6,154	75.1	5,812.3	5,969	72.9
2010	6,711.8	6,712	81.3	6,054.5	6,055	73.3

D. Volume of Payments

The volume of payments in the Work Injury insurance branch in 2010 totaled NIS 3.28 billion. Table 14 shows that this sum constitutes a rise of 6.2% in real terms, compared with 2009. The increase derives from the rise in payments of disability pensions and in medical treatment expenses.

The volume of payments in the Work Injury insurance branch in 2010 totaled NIS 3.28 billion

Table 14
Total Volume of Payments* in the Work Injury Insurance Branch
(NIS thousand), 2006–2010

Year	Current prices	2010 prices	Rate of real change (%)
2006	2,662,270	2,969,675	1.4
2007	2,675,225	2,968,810	0.4
2008	2,808,378	2,979,687	5.0
2009	3,087,170	3,170,331	9.9
2010	3,279,105	3,279,105	6.2

* Including payments for injury allowances, disability pensions, dependents' benefits, medical treatment expenses and rehabilitation expenses.

Table 15
Total Volume of Payments* in the Work Injury Insurance Branch,
by Benefit Category (percentages), 2006–2010

Year	Total	Injury allowance	Disability pension	Dependents' benefit	Medical treatment expenses	Rehabilitation expenses
2006	100.0	9.1	61.6	11.2	13.4	4.7
2007	100.0	9.6	62.4	11.2	11.6	5.2
2008	100.0	10.6	62.6	11.1	10.6	5.1
2009	100.0	9.7	62.9	10.6	12.8	4.1
2010	100.0	9.8	63.7	10.3	12.1	4.2

* Not including payments for accident prevention activities, occupational safety activities, research studies, special enterprises, legal assistance, medical boards and expert opinions.

Table 15 presents the distribution of all payments by the Work Injury insurance branch by main components: injury allowances, disability pensions, dependents' benefits, medical treatment expenses and rehabilitation expenses. Disability pensions constitute the majority of this branch's payments – approximately 63%. In 2010, a slight decrease was recorded in the payments of dependents' benefits. The disability pensions and the dependents' benefits are components that are paid over time (until retirement age and, sometimes, even afterwards, as explained above. Since 1996, there has been a steady downtrend in the ratio of the payments for injury allowances (21.9%), and, in recent years, this component constitutes approximately 10% of the volume of payments of this insurance branch. The downtrend derives mainly from the legislative amendments in recent years, which shortened the eligibility period for an injury allowance. Medical treatment expenses, which declined in 2006–2008, rose in 2009 and declined slightly in 2010.

Disability pensions constitute the majority of this branch's payments – 63%

