

9. Vocational Rehabilitation for People with Disabilities and Widows/Widowers

A. General

The goal of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department is to assist to the extent possible the population of disabled persons and widows/widowers who are not participating in or who left the labor market, and to provide them with training that will enable them to enter or return to a job that is suited to their occupational qualifications and their functional capabilities. The principal services provided within the framework of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department are in-kind benefits, including: evaluation, guidance and counseling in choosing a profession, pretraining and vocational training, completion of schooling and higher education studies, and assistance with placement for eligible participants, who are having difficulties integrating in the labor market. In addition, participants in vocational rehabilitation are eligible for funding of the expenses associated with the rehabilitation process. Inter alia, they are eligible for funding of the vocational evaluation and their studies, a rehabilitation allowance and transportation expenses relating to the training process. Considerable efforts are invested in identifying the population suitable for rehabilitation from among those eligible for rehabilitation, so that the percentage of those integrating in the labor force at the end of the process will be as high as possible.

The following persons are eligible for vocational rehabilitation services:

General disabled persons – a resident of Israel who suffered a physical, mental and/or emotional impairment, provided that he fulfills one of the following criteria: (a) he has certified degrees of medical disability of at least 20% according to disability tests; (b) he is incapable of engaging in his previous occupation or in other suitable work, due to his impairments; (c) as a result of his impairments, he needs vocational training and other rehabilitation services that will enable him to return to his previous occupation or other suitable work. The spouse of a disabled person who cannot be rehabilitated due to his/her impairments and regularly resides with that spouse, is eligible for rehabilitation, provided that the spouse has not reached retirement age.

Work-injured persons¹ – anyone injured at work with a certified degree of medical disability of at least 10%, who, as a result of this injury, is incapable of engaging in his previous occupation or in other suitable work, or who needs special vocational training so that he will be capable of returning to his previous occupation, provided that he has not yet reached retirement age. Nonetheless, the NII may approve vocational rehabilitation for a work-injured person with a degree of disability under 10%, in instances when it has

1 A work-related injury is an occupational accident that occurred during and as a result of work, including an accident that occurred en route to or from work and an occupational illness, pursuant to the list of occupational illnesses defined in the Work Injury Regulations.

determined that, if he continues to work at his previous place of employ, he is liable to seriously jeopardize his health or safety (occupational illness). Furthermore, a widow/widower, whose spouse suffered a work-related injury and subsequently died, is eligible for vocational rehabilitation, provided that the widow/widower has not yet reached retirement age.

Victims of hostile actions – anyone who was injured during a hostile action,² provided that his certified degree of medical disability is at least 20%³ who, as a result of this injury, is incapable of engaging in his previous occupation or in other suitable work, or who needs special vocational training so that he will be capable of returning to his previous occupation, provided that he has not yet reached retirement age. Bereaved family members, as defined in the law (widow/widower, orphan and bereaved parents) whose family member died as a result of a hostile action, are eligible for vocational rehabilitation, provided that they have not yet reached retirement age.

Widows/widowers – a widow/widower, as defined in the law, who has not yet reached retirement age, is receiving a benefit and who fulfills one of the following criteria: (a) he/she has no profession or cannot earn a living in his/her profession that is sufficient for subsistence; (b) he/she cannot continue to work at the previous workplace due to being widowed; (c) a rehabilitation professional has determined that the widow/widower is suitable for vocational training/retraining, subject to his/her medical condition and education.

In addition to vocational rehabilitation, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides opinions during determination of earning capacity as part of the process of evaluating eligibility for a disability pension, and also advises the various departments in the Benefits Administration on such subjects as appointments of benefit recipients, the capacity of the work-injured to integrate in the labor force and more. The department also assists populations of the work-injured, victims of hostile actions and widows/widowers with maximizing the financial benefits for which they are eligible. The staff of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, who are social workers, also handle crises relating to widows/widowers and victims of hostile actions.

The population handled by the department is divided into three categories: (a) new applicants for vocational rehabilitation; (b) active participants in the vocational rehabilitation process; (c) participants who have completed a rehabilitation program. It should be noted that a person participating in vocational rehabilitation can belong to more than one category. The following sections focus on the characteristics of the categories of participants in vocational rehabilitation in 2010.

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- 2 A victim of a hostile action is anyone injured during an action of military forces, paramilitary forces or irregular military forces of a country or organization that is hostile towards Israel, or during an action committed while assisting one of the above forces, by the order of or on behalf of such country or organization, which were directed against Israel.
- 3 A victim of a hostile action who was wounded prior to 1996 is eligible for vocational rehabilitation if his certified degree of medical disability is at least 10%.

B. People Contacting the Vocational Rehabilitation Department

In 2010, the NII's Vocational Rehabilitation Department handled 34,761 separate inquiries received from 27,621 different people. This year, for the first time, the department began an initial mapping of the people contacting the Rehabilitation Department, the aim being to differentiate between those contacting the department merely to receive information and those who are actually applying for vocational rehabilitation. As a result, the number of inquiries decreased in 2010 by 30%, compared with last year. In 2010, 10,186 people visited the department for the purpose of undergoing vocational rehabilitation, while the rest visited the department for the purposes of receiving an opinion regarding their earning capacity, exercising their rights and for help because of a crisis. We note that more than 50% of those applying for vocational rehabilitation in the General Disability insurance branch concurrently underwent evaluation relative to their earning capacity, and that there are those who applied for rehabilitation assistance more than once during last year, the majority for the purpose of receiving an opinion as to their earning capacity. Table 1 presents the distribution of the number of inquiries regarding rehabilitation in 2010. This year too, as is the case every year, the majority of those who apply for rehabilitation, whether vocational or otherwise, originated in the General Disability insurance branch (approximately 80% of all inquiries and approximately 88% of all people applying for vocational rehabilitation).

An examination has found that 5,775 of the applicants for vocational rehabilitation in the General Disability insurance branch are receiving a benefit, while the rest are not eligible for a benefit. Moreover: 69% of the recipients of benefits began receiving them subsequent to the implementation of Amendment 109 of the law ("Laron Law") in August 2009.

Graph 1, which presents the distribution of persons applying for vocational rehabilitation by insurance branch and gender, shows that 56% of the applicants for

5,775 of the applicants for vocational rehabilitation in the General Disability insurance branch are receiving a benefit, while the rest are not eligible for a benefit

Table 1
Inquiries to the Rehabilitation Department, by Insurance Branch and Number of Persons Inquiring, 2010

Purpose of the inquiry	Total	General disability	Work-injured	Survivors	Hostile action casualties
Total number of inquiries	34,791	31,476	1,974	748	593
Vocational rehabilitation	10,345	8,292	1,283	660	110
Opinion as to earning capacity	23,178	23,178	-	-	-
Exercising of financial benefits	1,160	-	689	5	466
Help during crises	102	-	2	83	17
Total persons inquiring	27,621	24,369	1,936	740	576

56% of the applicants for vocational rehabilitation in 2010 were men, which is 3% higher than the estimated percentage of men in the general labor force in Israel

Young people between the ages of 18-29 constitute the age bracket that most frequently applies for vocational rehabilitation

vocational rehabilitation in 2010 were men, which is 3% higher than the estimated percentage of men in the general labor force in Israel. This percentage is explained by the fact that the majority of the work-injured are men (80%), due to the nature of their occupations and the higher risks to which they are exposed in their jobs, compared with women. On the other hand, the low percentage of widowers (0.7%) out of all persons applying for vocational rehabilitation is evident, because, unlike widows, the eligibility for vocational rehabilitation relative to widowers without children is contingent upon a means test. Similarly, housewives do not entitle their husbands to a survivors' benefit or to eligibility for rehabilitation. Men, on the other hand, even if they are not working, do entitle their wives to a benefit.

Table 2 shows that young people between the ages of 18-29 constitute the age bracket that most frequently applies for vocational rehabilitation; this is not surprising, since young people with a higher learning capacity (and not necessarily those with a full education) reap far more benefit from vocational rehabilitation and are preferred in the labor market. The youngest of those participating in vocational rehabilitation were referred by the Hostile Action Casualties insurance branch and the General Disability insurance branch, since they include disabled persons with congenital or childhood

Graph 1
Persons Applying for Vocational Rehabilitation, by Insurance Branch and Gender (percentages), 2010

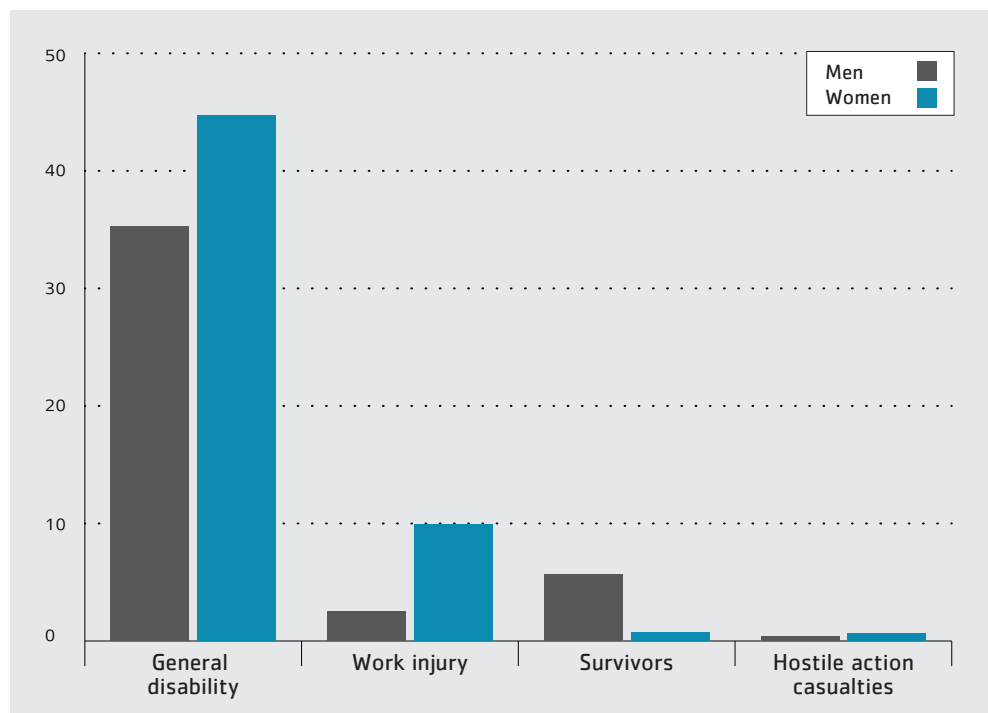


Table 2
Applicants for Vocational Rehabilitation, by Gender, Age and Insurance Branch (absolute numbers and percentages), 2010

Gender	Age	Total	General disability	Work injury	Survivors	Hostile action casualties
	Total	10,186	8,158	1,266	654	108
Men	Total	5,709	4,558	1,013	72	66
	Up to 18	Fewer than 10	-	-	-	1.5%
	18-29	1,796	35.9%	13.1%	1.4%	40.9%
	30-39	1,252	21.1%	26.2%	15.3%	18.1%
	40-49	1,130	18.4%	25.5%	31.9%	18.1%
	50-59	1,134	18.2%	25.9%	44.4%	13.6%
	60 +	396	6.4%	9.4%	6.9%	7.9%
	Average age	40	38	44	49	38
Women	Total	4,477	3,600	253	582	42
	Up to 18	Fewer than 10	-	-	-	2.4%
	18-29	1,371	36.4%	7.1%	3.8%	50.0%
	30-39	969	22.4%	23.7%	16.0%	21.4%
	40-49	1,049	21.6%	30.4%	32.8%	11.9%
	50-59	953	17.2%	34.4%	41.8%	9.5%
	60 +	134	2.4%	4.3%	5.7%	4.8%
	Average age	39	37	46	48	33

Table 3
Applicants for Vocational Rehabilitation, by Insurance Branch and Marital Status, 2010

Marital status	Total	General disability	Work injury	Survivors	Hostile action casualties
Total	10,186	8,158	1,266	654	108
Single	4,578	4,267	252	-	59
Married	3,742	2,867	833	-	42
Widowed	763	61	47	651	1
Divorced	1,082	945	131	-	6
Separated	22	18	Fewer than 10	-	-

impairments who exercise their rights to apply for vocational rehabilitation when they reach the age of 18, as well as victims of hostile actions and/or orphans from bereaved families who are not required to undergo an age test (the average age in the Hostile Action casualties insurance branch is 36, while the average age in the General Disability insurance branch is 37). On the other hand, widows and widowers were from older age brackets.

Table 3 presents applicants for vocational rehabilitation by marital status and the insurance branch that handled them. One can see that 63% of the applicants for

vocational rehabilitation in the General Disability insurance branch are unmarried, and this is a high ratio relative to the percentage of recipients of a general disability pension (only 52%). In the Work Injury insurance branch, the majority of the applicants for vocational rehabilitation, approximately 66%, are married. This is explained by the average younger age of the applicants for vocational rehabilitation in the General Disability insurance branch compared with the average age among the work-injured. For the sake of comparison, about 58% of the population at the age of 18+ are married.

C. Participants in Vocational Rehabilitation

As stated above, the primary objective of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department is to assist those undergoing vocational rehabilitation with integration in the labor market. Participants in the rehabilitation process are those who began a rehabilitation program this year and those who began vocational rehabilitation in the past but have not yet completed their program. The rehabilitation process is comprised of a few stages: during the initial stage, the applicant's capacity for rehabilitation is evaluated; during the next stage, a program is tailored for the applicant that will provide an optimal response to the applicant's needs, desires and capabilities, pursuant to the professional opinion of the department professionals. Following are the major stages in the vocational rehabilitation process:

- Occupational evaluation – During this initial stage, the participant's occupational qualifications are evaluated, and the participant receives counseling and professional guidance by department professionals, evaluation institutes or vocational rehabilitation centers. The evaluation is performed according to the disabled person's capabilities and the judgment of the rehabilitation professional.
- Pretraining stage – depending upon the occupational evaluation, and as a preparatory stage to integration in a training program or in employment. At this stage, the participants are placed in programs, such as: courses at rehabilitation centers imparting work habits, courses in self-empowerment and to supplement education (high-school matriculation, psychometric exams, college preparatory courses, etc.).
- Vocational training – training that is provided to participants who possess occupational qualifications suitable for an educational framework. This stage includes studies at institutions of higher education (colleges and universities), practical engineering schools, vocational courses (such as: technicians, secretaries, bookkeepers, cooking, and others), through which the participants acquire a profession enabling them to integrate in the labor market.
- Job placement – During this stage, the department staff assist those participants who have a profession and/or who have completed their vocational training in finding work that is compatible with their capabilities and the profession they have acquired, and assist and monitor their assimilation in the workplace.

Graph 2 presents the number of participants in vocational rehabilitation since the beginning of the decade, by referring insurance branch. This graph enables examination of the development of the pool of participants in vocational rehabilitation existing in the system over the decade, as well as examination of the flow of new applicants and the duration of their stay in the system during the period of their rehabilitation. As one can see, the number of participants in vocational rehabilitation who were referred from the Work Injury insurance branch, the Hostile Action Casualties insurance branch and from the Survivors insurance branch has been stable over the decade. On the other hand, there has been a steady uptrend in the number of referrals from the General Disability insurance branch over the years, for a number of reasons: the increase in the number of recipients of a general disability pension during this period, the increased awareness among the disabled of their eligibility for vocational rehabilitation, and their longer stay in the rehabilitation system compared with those referred by the Work Injury insurance branch and the Survivors insurance branch (approximately two years for the disabled versus a year and a half for the work-injured and for survivors), since the more severe the physical condition of the participant, the longer his stay in the vocational rehabilitation system. On the other hand, participants in vocational rehabilitation who were referred by the Hostile Action Casualties insurance branch remain in the system throughout their lifetimes (as prescribed by law) and apply to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department

The number of participants in vocational rehabilitation referred from the Work Injury, the Hostile Action Casualties and the Survivors branch has been stable over the decade. There has been a steady uptrend in the number of referrals from the General Disability branch

Graph 2
Number of Participants in Vocational Rehabilitation,
by Insurance Branch, 2001–2010

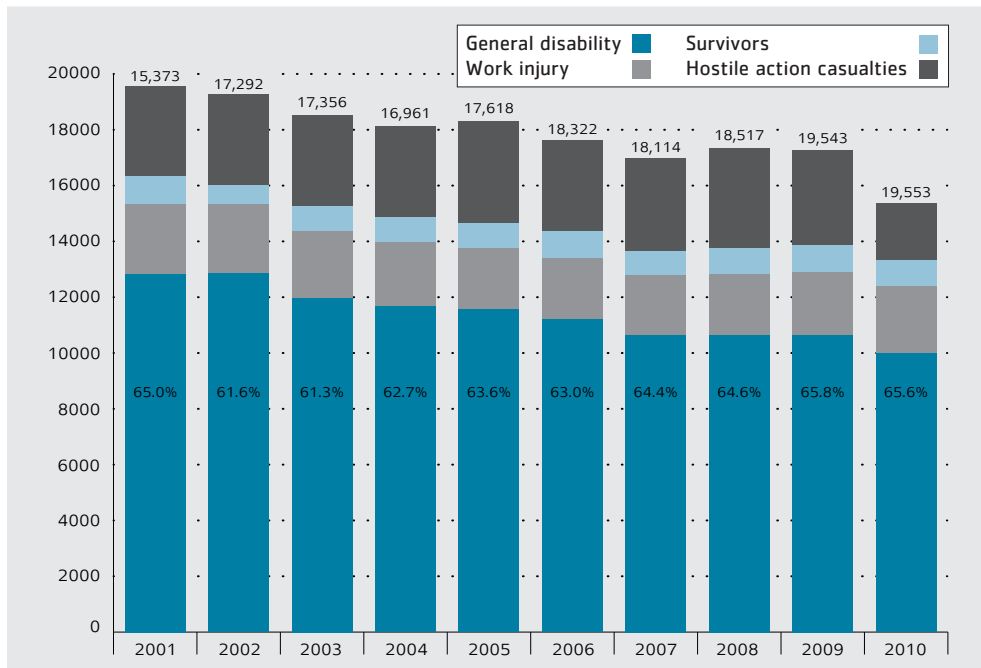


Table 4
Participants in Vocational Rehabilitation, by Program Category and Insurance Branch, December 2010

Program	Total	General disability	Work injury	Survivors	Hostile action casualties
Total	19,553	12,832	2,501	1,006	3,214
Evaluation for a program	6,498	4,014	1,024	328	1,132
Pretraining	4,405	3,525	485	285	110
Vocational training	4,485	3,503	511	321	150
Placement assistance	1,877	1,613	171	66	27
Referral to "protected" employment	124	124	-	-	-
Referral to an entity in the community	56	50	Fewer than 10	Fewer than 10	Fewer than 10
Exercise of financial rights	2,107	Fewer than 10	306	Fewer than 10	1,794

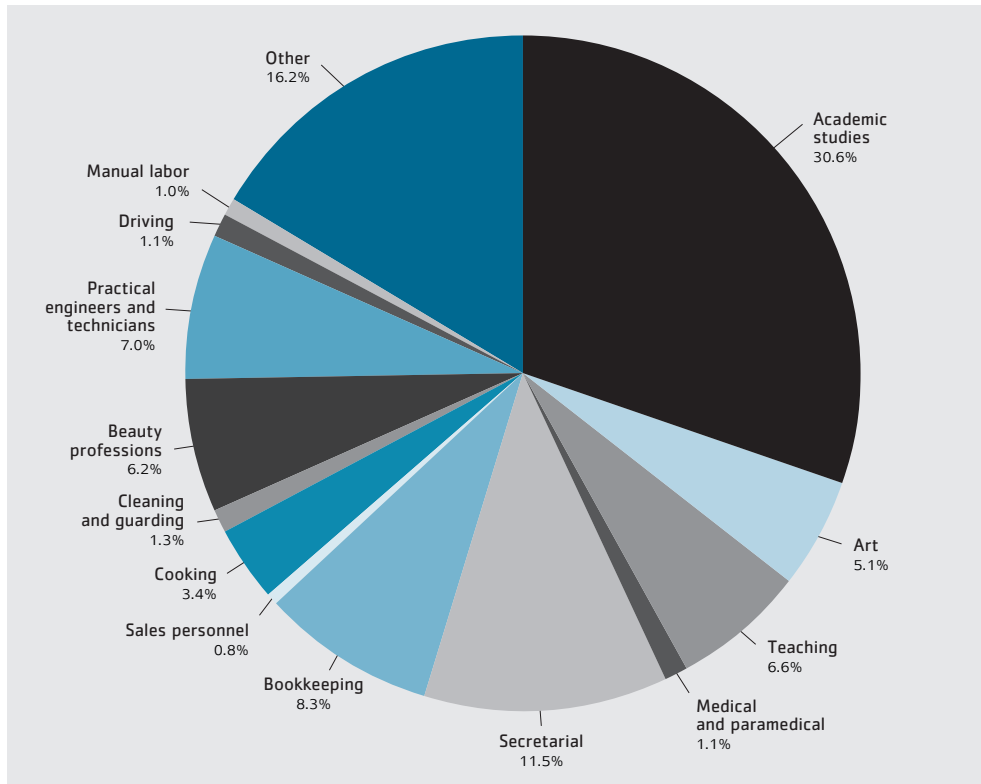
primarily in order to exercise their rights to financial benefits. This fact helps us to understand the gap between the number of participants in vocational rehabilitation who were referred annually from the Hostile Action Casualties insurance branch and the number of applicants for vocational rehabilitation and the number of participants who completed rehabilitation programs this year in the branch, and is supported by their long average stay in the system – approximately four years.

Table 4 presents the distribution of participants in vocational rehabilitation in 2010 who have not yet completed the program, according to their latest status in December 2010, by rehabilitation program and referring insurance branch. The participants referred from the Hostile Action Casualties insurance branch are, for the most part, in the stages of evaluation and exercising of rights, during which their claim is evaluated and the extent of the NII's participation is determined.

Graph 3 presents the distribution of the participants in vocational rehabilitation by profession being acquired during their rehabilitation. One striking statistic in this graph indicates that slightly more than 30% of the participants in vocational rehabilitation in 2010 were referred to academic studies, and about 7% engineers and technicians. Studies have proven that there is a positive correlation between the number of years of an individual's studies and his earnings, and therefore, academic studies are a more efficient tool to help a participant in vocational rehabilitation make the transition from dependence to self-sufficiency. Many others received training as secretaries, bookkeepers, teachers and in the beauty profession, while very few were trained in manual labor

Slightly more than 30% of the participants in vocational rehabilitation in 2010 were referred to academic studies

Graph 3
Participants in Vocational Training, by Profession (percentages), 2010



(agriculture, construction and trades), due to the physical effort required for such jobs (included under the category “other” are professions such as vehicle assessor, assistant veterinarian, etc.).

Another interesting aspect in the development of the number of participants in vocational rehabilitation during the last decade is the number of college graduates among them. Graph 4 illustrates an uptrend in the number of participants in vocational rehabilitation during the last decade (from 4,018 to 4,485) and a steady gradual uptrend in the number and percentages of college graduates among all participants in vocational rehabilitation (an increase of about 50% since the beginning of the 2000s).

Table 5 presents the distribution of participants in vocational rehabilitation by degree of medical disability and the program in which they are participating. The data show that many participants (approximately 32%) have degrees of disability of between 40%-59%, since this population has the highest potential for vocational rehabilitation; persons with low degrees of medical disability are more independent and are better able to integrate in the labor market, while the higher the degree of medical disability, the lower the likelihood of finding a job in the free market. The majority of the participants with

Many participants (32%) have degrees of disability of between 40%-59%, since this population has the highest potential for vocational rehabilitation

Graph 4
Participants in Vocational Training, and Number of College Graduates Among Them, 2001–2010

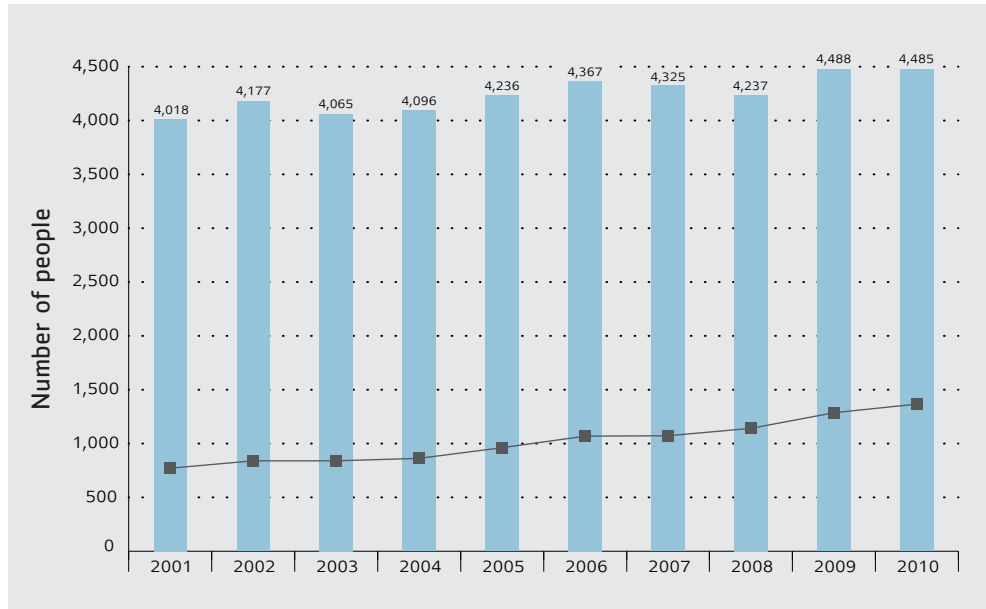


Table 5
Participants in Vocational Rehabilitation, by Program Category and Degree of Medical Disability, December 2010

Program	Total	Degree of medical disability				
		0 - 19	20 - 39	40 - 59	60 - 79	80 - 100
Total	19,553	4,588	3,259	6,226	3,171	2,309
Evaluation for a program	6,498	1,190	1,242	2,147	1,054	865
Pretraining	4,405	608	741	1,579	867	610
Vocational training	4,485	908	838	1,477	707	555
Placement assistance	1,877	192	256	828	426	175
Referral to “protected” employment	124	-	Fewer than 10	58	46	20
Referral to an entity in the community	56	Fewer than 10	Fewer than 10	32	Fewer than 10	12
Exercise of financial rights	2,107	1,687	174	105	69	72

a degree of medical disability of between 0% and 19% were referred by the Survivors insurance branch since no medical examination is required in order to determine eligibility for vocational rehabilitation in this insurance branch, and those referred by the

Table 6
Participants in Vocational Rehabilitation, by Program Category
and Age, 2010

Program	Total	Age					
		Under 18	18- 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 +
Total	19,553	322	5,974	4,139	3,883	3,466	1,769
Evaluation for a program	6,498	122	2,021	1,366	1,223	1,105	661
Pretraining	4,405	-	1,707	1,046	933	640	79
Vocational training	4,485	-	1,742	1,038	887	677	141
Assistance with placement	1,877	-	256	336	439	591	255
Referral to “protected” employment	124	-	9	21	34	37	24
Referral to an entity in the community	56	-	25	16	9	5	1
Exercise of rights	2,107	200	214	316	358	411	608

Hostile Action Casualties insurance branch, in which persons injured prior to 1996 with a degree of medical disability of at least 10% are eligible for vocational rehabilitation.

Table 6 presents the distribution of participants in vocational rehabilitation by age and program in which they are participating. One can see that there is an inverse ratio between the age of the participant and the likelihood of his integration in vocational rehabilitation, considering his ability to integrate in the labor force and his learning capabilities. Therefore, it is evident why the need to provide assistance with placement and referrals to protected employment increases parallel with the rise in the age of the participant.

D. Participants who Completed Vocational Rehabilitation

The vocational rehabilitation process takes about one year, in instances when the participants undergo basic vocational training, and can take more than three years when the participant is studying in a college preparatory program or for an academic degree and cannot take a full schedule of classes due to his medical condition. Table 7 presents the distribution of participants who completed rehabilitation programs in 2010, by program completion and outcome. The success of a vocational rehabilitation program depends on the motivation and desire of the applicants for vocational rehabilitation. Integration in the labor market is impossible if the participant is not interested in working. Approximately 47% of the participants who completed a vocational rehabilitation program succeeded in integrating in the free labor market. About another 26% have completed their training program and are expected to integrate in employment next year.

There is an inverse ratio between the age of the participant and the likelihood of his integration in vocational rehabilitation, considering his ability to integrate in the labor force and his learning capabilities

47% of the participants who completed a vocational rehabilitation program succeeded in integrating in the free labor market. About another 26% have completed their training program and are expected to integrate in employment next year

Table 7
Participants who Completed Vocational Rehabilitation, by Outcome and Insurance Branch, 2010

Program completion/ outcome	Total	General disability	Work injury	Survivors	Hostile Action Casualties
Total	8,536	5,950	1,217	482	887
Employment in the free labor market	4,051	2,967	621	307	156
Employment in “rehabilitative” protected employment	126	123	3	-	-
Completion of vocational training	908	718	103	73	14
Completion of pretraining	1,308	1,094	124	82	8
Completion of welfare assistance	1,730	663	347	12	708
Completion of financial assistance	40	32	7	1	-
Completion of counseling and/or evaluation	373	353	12	7	1

Graph 5 presents the distribution of program participants being integrated in the work force among all those who completed the vocational rehabilitation programs, by referring insurance branch and gender. As one can see, the percentage of widowers who integrated in the work force out of all widowers who completed rehabilitation programs in 2010 was the highest among all participants who completed vocational rehabilitation. Nonetheless, it should be noted that at issue is less than 100 people. Furthermore, although the percentage of men who apply for vocational rehabilitation from the disability insurance branch and from the Work Injury insurance branch is higher than the percentage of women (Graph 1), the percentage of men who completed rehabilitation programs and succeeded in integrating in the work force is lower than the percentage of women who completed a similar track from each of these insurance branches. The opposite is the case relative to the survivors insurance branch, in which more women applied for rehabilitation, but a higher percentage of men are succeeding in integrating in the work force.

Similar to the conclusion drawn from Table 6, the younger the participant in vocational rehabilitation, the higher the likelihood of being integrated in the work force, since 53% of those who found work and approximately 55% of those who complete vocational training or pretraining are under the age of 40.

Graph 5
Participants Integrating in the Free Labor Market, out of All Participants who Completed Vocational Rehabilitation, by Insurance Branch and Gender (percentages), 2010

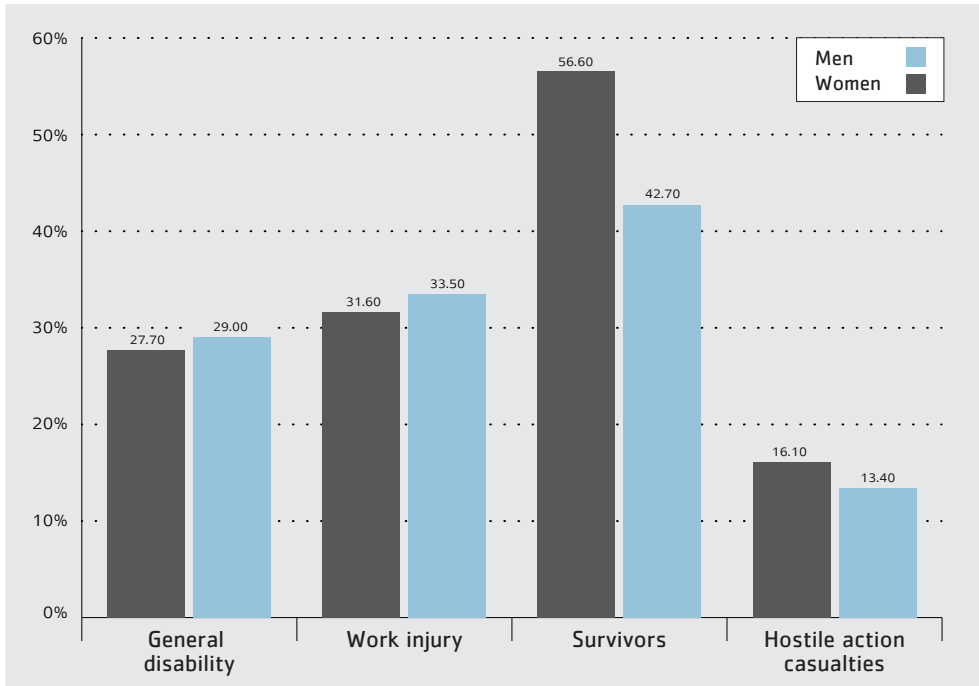


Table 8
Participants who Completed Vocational Rehabilitation, by Outcome and Age, 2010

Outcome	Total	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60+
Total	8,536	82	2,252	2,031	1,847	1,658	666
Employed in the free labor market	4,051	-	1,057	1,082	946	779	187
Employed in "rehabilitative" protected employment	126	-	20	33	24	33	16
Completion of vocational training	908	-	261	221	206	180	40
Completion of pretraining	1,308	-	376	278	287	284	83
Completion of welfare assistance	1,730	82	395	336	293	307	317
Completion of financial assistance	40	-	2	12	12	11	3
Completion of counseling and/or evaluation	373	-	141	69	79	64	20

E. Payments Associated with Vocational Rehabilitation

The vocational rehabilitation process involves the funding of associated payments that facilitate rehabilitation. These payments include the NII's participation in participants' expenses of subsistence (a rehabilitation allowance, per diem expenses, and rent for housing), studies (tuition, tutoring and equipment) and mobility (travel via public transportation, special transportation and a supplement to a mobility allowance as a wage-earning participant). Following is a brief explanation of the various types of payments:

- Rehabilitation allowance: a monthly maintenance benefit, at the level of a full disability pension, which is paid during the period of studies of the participants in vocational rehabilitation who are not eligible for a general disability pension or a work-injury allowance, provided that they are studying at least 20 hours per week.
- Travel: reimbursement of travel expenses to the location of the training/evaluation by public transportation, by taxi⁴ and/or by a supplement to a mobility allowance to those receiving this allowance as wage-earners.
- Tuition: The NII participates in the college tuition or in the cost of the training of those participating in vocational rehabilitation, up to the maximum amount prescribed in the regulations.
- Tutoring and special services for the disabled: assistance through tutoring, as needed, according to participant's volume of study hours, and special assistance to disabled participants who, due to their medical disability, need translation into sign language, transcription, readers, etc.
- Rent for housing: participation in the funding of rent or the cost of the dormitories for participants whose permanent places of residence are at a distance of more than 40 km from the location of the vocational training, and depending upon their course of studies.
- Equipment: assistance to the disabled with the purchase of items of equipment that are essential and necessary for participation in the rehabilitation program (computer, keyboard adapted for the blind, books, school supplies, etc.).
- Other expenses (including per diem expenses): assistance with exercising financial rights, mainly among the victims of hostile actions and the work-injured, as well as participation in financial support expenditures, subject to the regulations.

In 2010, the payments associated with vocational rehabilitation totalled NIS 221.5 million, which were distributed among 21,766 participants in vocational rehabilitation; i.e., an average annual expenditure of approximately NIS 10,000 per participant. Table 9 presents a comparison of the total volume of rehabilitation payments over the last five years. As one can see, the rise in the expenditure for vocational rehabilitation in the General Disability, Work Injury and Survivors insurance branches that began in

4 Is paid to the severely disabled who cannot travel by public transportation due to their medical condition and who are not eligible for a mobility allowance.

In 2010, the payments associated with vocational rehabilitation totalled NIS 221.5 million, which were distributed among 21,766 participants in vocational rehabilitation; i.e., an average annual expenditure of approximately NIS 10,000 per participant

Table 9
Payments Associated with Vocational Rehabilitation, by Insurance Branch, at 2010 Prices (NIS thousand), 2006–2010

Year	Total	General disability	Work injury	Survivors	Hostile action casualties
2006	201,248	124,455	25,118	11,899	32,943
2007	200,167	123,787	24,983	11,835	32,766
2008	198,565	125,469	24,275	11,132	31,258
2009	213,614	140,132	29,578	13,767	30,036
2010	221,527	146,653	31,370	14,152	29,352

Table 10
Payments Associated with Vocational Rehabilitation, by Insurance Branch and Number of Recipients, 2010

Insurance branch	Total	Rehabilitation allowance	Travel	Tuition	Tutoring	Housing rent	Equipment	Other expenses
Number of recipients*	21,766	4,442	8,787	14,103	911	914	269	1,331
Total payments (in NIS thousands)	221,527	63,134	14,454	108,893	9,042	7,055	3,234	15,715
General disability	146,653	35,812	11,234	81,185	8,550	6,680	3,043	149
Work injury	31,370	16,791	1,874	11,853	367	260	48	177
Survivors	14,152	6,747	1,164	6,082	84	4	24	47
Hostile action casualties	29,352	3,784	182	9,773	41	111	119	15,342
Average monthly payment (in NIS)	10,177.8	2,528.6	316.3	1,744.7	1,043.6	1,173.2	4,209.1	7,724.9

* A participant in vocational rehabilitation can receive more than one type of payment.

2009 continued in 2010, concurrent with a decrease in the rehabilitation expenses in the Hostile Action Casualties insurance branch. These changes derive mainly from the number of participants in vocational rehabilitation from each insurance branch (Graph 2). In 2010 too, like in 2009, the change in the total volume of rehabilitation payments was mainly attributable to tuition payments.

Table 10 presents details about the total volume of rehabilitation payments and the number of recipients in 2010, while differentiating between the types of payment and the crediting insurance branches. As one would expect, the volume of payments associated with rehabilitation are at a single-value ratio to the total number of participants from each insurance branch, with the payments of the General Disability insurance branch

being the highest, constituting approximately 66% of the total volume of payments (similar to their ratio among all participants in vocational rehabilitation this year). Table 10 also shows that the payments for tuition constitute approximately 50% of the total volume of payments and are being paid to approximately 65% of the participants in vocational rehabilitation.

A participant who is found to be suitable for supplementary education and/or for vocational training is eligible for many more associated payments than a person who is not studying or participating in vocational training (tutoring, equipment, travel, rent for housing, etc.). It is clear, therefore, why the majority of the associated payments are being paid to this population. Graph 6 presents the payments that are additional to tuition in the instance of a participant who is receiving more than one type of payment. Approximately one third of the recipients of tuition are not receiving additional payments, when one might assume that the majority are receiving benefits, while approximately 30% are receiving a supplement to a full disability pension as part of their participation in vocational rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, in approximately 61% of the cases, the NII participates in the participants' travel expenses to the location of their studies.

Graph 6
Additional Vocational Rehabilitation Payments to Recipients of Tuition, 2010

