

12. Benefits to Reservists

A. General

The National Insurance Institute pays a reserve service benefit to anyone called to reserve service under the Defense Service Law, as well as to anyone called to training under the Emergency Work Service Law. The NII also pays grants to working youths up to the age of 18 who were absent from work due to their participation in pre-military education (provided that they participated in the pre-military educational activity for at least two consecutive days and provided that they worked for at least 30 working days during the last three months preceding this activity).

Under the law, the NII may, following consultation with the Public Committee for Reserve Service, award grants for the development of welfare services for reservists and their family members.

Since 1999, the NII has been participating in an extensive IDF project whose aim is to enhance social cohesion and to create a sense of solidarity and sympathy toward the reservists, through subsidization of the **welfare basket** project organized by the IDF Manpower Directorate (IMD – individuals), which includes vacation activities, unit evenings, tribute evenings and additional team building activities. The total grants are not to exceed 0.25% of the estimated aggregate annual amount of reserve service benefits paid under the law, and the entire budget for this branch is funded by the Ministry of Finance in the framework of the defense budget. In 2012, approximately NIS 10 million in grants were paid for purposes of these welfare activities, an amount constituting the biennial budget for 2011 and 2012.

B. The Benefit Rate for a Salaried Employee and for a Self-Employed Person

The daily benefit rate is set according to the gross wage (subject to insurance contributions) of the employee during the three months preceding the 1st of the month in which the service began, together with the cost of living increment, divided by 90 (days). Reserve service benefits, unemployment benefits, work injury allowances and maternity allowances are also taken into account for the purpose of the calculation. The benefit shall not be less

Payments to Reservists (NIS thousands), 2008-2013

Year	Current prices	2013 prices	Real rate of change (percentages)
2008	820,000	929,374	6.1
2009	1,150,730	1,262,348	35.8
2010	1,005,979	1,074,609	-14.9
2011	1,045,343	1,079,416	0.4
2012	1,124,500	1,141,658	5.8
2013	1,103,003	1,103,003	-3.4

than the minimum – 68% of the “basic amount” divided by 30 (in January 2013: NIS 192.37 per day, NIS 5,771 per month) – and shall not exceed the maximum: 5 times the” basic amount “divided by 30 (in January 2013: NIS 1,414.50 per day, NIS 42,435 per month).

The volume of payments to reservists increased from 2010 to 2012, but decreased in 2013

It may be seen in the table that the volume of payments to reservists increased from 2010 to 2012, but decreased in 2013. In 2009, there was a substantial increase in real terms compared to 2008 – 35.8% – due to payments to recruits during Operation Cast Lead that was conducted from December 27, 2008 to January 18, 2009. Subsequently, in 2010, payments decreased by 14.8% and in recent years they have risen again by a cumulative rate of about 6%.