

WHAT IS RETIREMENT BENEFIT?

Retirement Benefit is an award made to insured persons who have either retired from gainful employment or who have attained the age of 65 years. Full benefit is paid from age 65, but persons have the option of retiring from as early as age 60 years with a reduced benefit payment.

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

To qualify for the monthly-paid benefit, you must have made at least 500 contributions into National Insurance since the programme began in 1974 (*2010 Amendments*). The benefit is payable for life to an insured person who meets the contribution condition **AND** is:

- i) Aged 60 to 64 years, retired from gainful employment, or if still working, is not earning more than half of the insurable wage ceiling; **OR**
- ii) Aged 65 years or older.

EARLY RETIREMENT

Persons who opt to receive the benefit before age 65 years get reduced payments assessed as percentages of what they would have gotten had they claimed at age 65 years. Reduced rates are based on the number of months a claimant is away from his/her 65th birthday. Once a person opts to receive the benefit before age 65 years, the reduced rate/percentage assessed is set for life.

LATE RETIREMENT

Persons who delay claiming the benefit until after age 65 years get increased payments assessed as percentages of what they would have gotten had they claimed at age 65 years. Increased rates are based on the number of months a claimant is away from his/her 65th birthday up to age 70 years. *See back pages for reduction and increased rates*

based on age.

HOW BENEFIT IS CALCULATED

Two factors are used to determine the dollar amount of Retirement benefit: first, the **average insured income on which contributions were paid and/or credited**. As of July 1, 2012, the highest five years of insurable earnings over the worklife, are used. (For *Pensionable Civil Servants*, the insurable earning for Retirement and other pensions, is still capped at \$110 per week, however, this will change as of July 1, 2013.)

Secondly, the **number of contributions paid and or credited into the programme** will be used to determine what percentage of the *average insured income* will be paid (*see "Benefit Rates Based on Contributions" on back middle page*).

HOW TO CLAIM

A claim for Retirement Benefit must be made, in writing, to one of the Board's Local Offices. Claim forms are available at all of the Board's Local Offices and online.

HOW RETIREMENT BENEFIT IS PAID

Retirement Benefit is paid as a monthly pension. All recipients of Retirement Benefit (with the exception of persons who live on Bahamian islands where there are no banks) are required to have their monthly payments sent to banks of their choice (**in The Bahamas**).

Persons who live on Bahamian islands where there are no banks may collect their monthly cheques from their nearest NIB local office. To do so, bring along a photo I.D. and National Insurance card. When sending a representative to pick up your cheque, make sure that he brings along an

authorization letter or form, signed by you, your National Insurance card, which must be signed, and a photo I.D. of himself. Pensioners who live abroad may apply to any one of the commercial banks in The Bahamas to open an account for the express purpose of depositing monthly cheques. The *Central Bank of the Bahamas* has delegated authority to these banks to facilitate this process.

RETIREMENT GRANT

Should you fail to meet the 500 contribution condition for the award of the monthly pension, a one time Retirement Grant will be paid to you if you are 65 years or older and have paid at least 150 contributions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Continuing Eligibility to receive Retirement Benefit - You must notify the Director, in writing, as soon as possible after the award of Retirement Benefit, if you are younger than 65 years and return to gainful employment with an income of more than half of the insurable ceiling. Additionally, once you are in receipt of the benefit, you must produce evidence - *verification* - of your continuing right to the benefit twice each year, during your birth month and exactly six months thereafter. **Your payments will stop** if you fail to be verified as indicated. To be verified, visit any one of NIB's Local Offices with your passport or voter's card, and your National Insurance card. Or have the NIB Verification Form duly notarized and returned to the Pension Verification Department in the New Providence Local Office.

Late Claims - If you are older than 65 years, you may lose some of your Retirement Benefit if you submit your claim **more than three months after the date you retire**. If you have attained age 60 years but are not yet 65 years,

eligibility for the benefit will begin when you actually submit your completed claim.

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Right of Appeal -

If you disagree with any decision made on your claim and have evidence as to why the decision should be overturned, you can submit your written appeal to the nearest NIB Local Office within 21 days of the date you were notified of the decision.

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For further details on this benefit and any other provision of our Social Security Programme, please refer to the **National Insurance Act & Regulations.**

Reduction Rates Based on Age							
Mths from 65th b-day	Age		Rate	Mths from 65th b-day	Age		Rate
	yrs	mths			yrs	mths	
1	64	11	99.42%	31	62	5	81.92%
2	64	10	98.83%	32	62	4	81.33%
3	64	9	98.25%	33	62	3	80.75%
4	64	8	97.67%	34	62	2	80.17%
5	64	7	97.08%	35	62	1	79.58%
6	64	6	96.50%	36	62	0	79.00%
7	64	5	95.92%	37	61	11	78.42%
8	64	4	95.33%	38	61	10	77.83%
9	64	3	94.75%	39	61	9	77.25%
10	64	2	94.17%	40	61	8	76.67%
11	64	1	93.58%	41	61	7	76.08%
12	64	0	93.00%	42	61	6	75.50%
13	63	11	92.42%	43	61	5	74.92%
14	63	10	91.83%	44	61	4	74.33%
15	63	9	91.25%	45	61	3	73.75%
16	63	8	90.67%	46	61	2	73.17%
17	63	7	90.08%	47	61	1	72.58%
18	63	6	89.50%	48	61	0	72.00%
19	63	5	88.92%	49	60	11	71.42%
20	63	4	88.33%	50	60	10	70.83%
21	63	3	87.75%	51	60	9	70.25%
22	63	2	87.17%	52	60	8	69.67%
23	63	1	86.58%	53	60	7	69.08%
24	63	0	86.00%	54	60	6	68.50%
25	62	11	85.42%	55	60	5	67.92%
26	62	10	84.83%	56	60	4	67.33%
27	62	9	84.25%	57	60	3	66.75%
28	62	8	83.67%	58	60	2	66.17%
29	62	7	83.08%	59	60	1	65.58%
30	62	6	82.50%	60	60	0	65.00%

Increased Rates Based on Age							
Mths from 65th b-day	Age		Rate	Mths from 65th b-day	Age		Rate
	yrs	mths			yrs	mths	
1	65	1	100.58%	31	67	7	118.08%
2	65	2	101.17%	32	67	8	118.67%
3	65	3	101.75%	33	67	9	119.25%
4	65	4	102.33%	34	67	10	119.83%
5	65	5	102.92%	35	67	11	120.42%
6	65	6	103.50%	36	68	0	121.00%
7	65	7	104.08%	37	68	1	121.58%
8	65	8	104.67%	38	68	2	122.17%
9	65	9	105.25%	39	68	3	122.75%
10	65	10	105.83%	40	68	4	123.33%
11	65	11	106.42%	41	68	5	123.92%
12	66	0	107.00%	42	68	6	124.50%
13	66	1	107.58%	43	68	7	125.08%
14	66	2	108.17%	44	68	8	125.67%
15	66	3	108.75%	45	68	9	126.25%
16	66	4	109.33%	46	68	10	126.83%
17	66	5	109.92%	47	68	11	127.42%
18	66	6	110.50%	48	69	0	128.00%
19	66	7	111.08%	49	69	1	128.58%
20	66	8	111.67%	50	69	2	129.17%
21	66	9	112.25%	51	69	3	129.75%
22	66	10	112.83%	52	69	4	130.33%
23	66	11	113.42%	53	69	5	130.92%
24	67	0	114.00%	54	69	6	131.50%
25	67	1	114.58%	55	69	7	132.08%
26	67	2	115.17%	56	69	8	132.67%
27	67	3	115.75%	57	69	9	133.25%
28	67	4	116.33%	58	69	10	133.83%
29	67	5	116.92%	59	69	11	134.42%
30	67	6	117.50%	60	70	0	135.00%

Benefit Rates Based on Contr.		
Contributions	%	
500 - 549	30	
550 - 599	31	
600 - 649	32	
650 - 699	33	
700 - 749	34	
750 - 799	35	
800 - 849	36	
850 - 899	37	
900 - 949	38	
950 - 999	39	
1,000 - 1,049	40	
1,050 - 1,099	41	
1,100 - 1,149	42	
1,150 - 1,199	43	
1,200 - 1,249	44	
1,250 - 1,299	45	
1,300 - 1,349	46	
1,350 - 1,399	47	
1,400 - 1,449	48	
1,450 - 1,499	49	
1,500 - 1,549	50	
1,550 - 1,599	51	
1,600 - 1,649	52	
1,650 - 1,699	53	
1,700 - 1,749	54	
1,750 - 1,799	55	
1,800 - 1849	56	
1,850 - 1,899	57	
1,900 - 1,949	58	
1,950 - 1,999	59	
2,000 - >	60	

The advertisement features a photograph of a smiling couple in a natural setting. Overlaid on the image is the logo for the National Insurance Board (NIB), which includes a pink flamingo and a sun. Below the logo, the text reads: "Retirement Benefit 'For Those Precious Golden Years'". At the bottom right, it says "Revised July 2012".