

# Positive Change

## A rise in haredi sector employment.

(PHOTO: REUTERS)

By NADAV SHEMER, JEREMY SHARON

The employment rate for haredi men grew from 35 percent to 45% between 2002 and 2011, according to a report published by the **Technion's Samuel Neaman Institute** for National Policy Research. This means a 28% rise in haredi male employment in the past ten years, compared to a 14% rise in haredi female employment and a 3% rise in overall employment, the report found. Employment of haredi women stood at 61% in 2011, up from 47% in 1997, while the 2011 national average was 66%.

The report, which was based on Bank of Israel data, is part of a bigger project the Neaman Institute is leading on haredi sharing in a number of sections of society such as the **economy**, military and higher **education**.

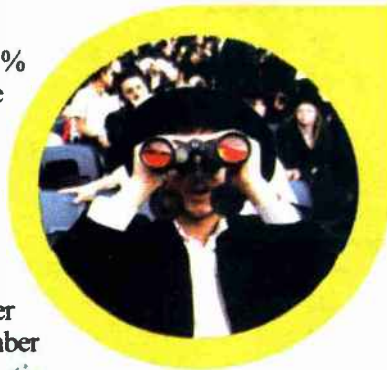
Project head, Dr. Reuven Gal, said that the **findings** were hopeful and showed that it was **possible** to make a change in the field of haredi employment.

He added, however, that for every 10 haredi **job-seekers**, there is now only one "**secular**" workplace ready to **accept** them. He said that in order to change this situation, the government must **encourage** and even offer **incentives** for secular employers to take in haredi workers.

The study **recommended** some ideas to keep up the rise in haredi employment, including setting up positions for teaching haredi school children English, Mathematics and Computer studies.

Today, the haredi school system teaches very little of the state basic studies (ליבה), but the institute reports that there is little **opposition** in the haredi **community** to those three basic studies. Even with the Tal Law ending – which **allowed** ultra-orthodox men to delay military service for life – the government must allow haredi yeshiva students who are freed from IDF service to **volunteer** for national civil service, Gal said. Gal also recommended that the government write a new plan to **recruit** haredi men into the IDF, pointing to a earlier Neaman Institute report which found that 90% of haredi military **graduates** work and pay **taxes**.

Around 10,000 haredi men have taken part in military or national civil service in the past five years, **according** to the institute. Gal has been an outspoken critic of the High Court of Justice's decision to end the Tal Law earlier this year, calling the ruling "a historic mistake", during a Knesset hearing on the subject of haredi employment last month.



### BUSINESS

- Haredi employment

