

An estimate of the actual roll number of all children receiving primary education can be obtained by taking into account children in attendance at public schools (exclusive of secondary departments of district high schools), Native schools, schools at the Chatham Islands, registered private primary schools, and the lower departments of secondary schools. The figures will then be—

AVERAGE WEEKLY ROLL NUMBER			
Public schools (less secondary departments of district high schools)			
	1914.	1915.	
Native-village and Native mission schools	173,470	178,827	
Chatham Island schools	5,053	5,373	
Registered private primary schools	98	88	
Lower departments of secondary schools	16,309	16,281	
Special schools	362*	417*	
	732	731	
Total average weekly roll of primary scholars ..	196,024	201,717	

* Number on roll at end of year.

ATTENDANCE.

(Tables B1, B2, B3, and E1.)

The following figures show the average attendance at public schools in the Dominion during the years 1914 and 1915:—

	Including Secondary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Secondary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1915	163,092	160,895
Year 1914	158,134	156,211
Increase in 1915	4,958	4,684
Increase per cent.	3.1	3.0

It will be seen that the increase per cent. in the average attendance was 3.1, as compared with 3.2 in the average weekly roll number. The figures for 1914 were 3.6 and 4.7 respectively, so that in both cases the increase was not so great as in the preceding year. The increase in actual figures in the average attendance was 6,892 in 1914 and 4,958 in 1915. The difference is largely accounted for by the fact that in 1914 the average attendance per cent. of roll number was 0.9 higher than that of the preceding year, while in 1915 it was 0.1 per cent. lower than in 1914.

The attendance per cent. of roll in 1915 was 90.0, while in 1914 it was 90.1—the highest percentage yet attained.

The following figures indicate the attendance per cent. of roll for the last six years:—

	Attendance per Cent. of Roll.
1910	87.7
1911	89.3
1912	88.9
1913	89.2
1914	90.1
1915	90.0

Six education districts show an improvement in the attendance percentage on the preceding year, two show the same figures, and five are not so good. Westland, with an increase of 0.9 per cent., shows the most marked improvement, Grey coming next with an increase of 0.5 per cent. As in 1914, Otago has again attained the highest percentage—91.9—although it is lower than the record of 92.7 reached in 1914. Marlborough comes second with a percentage of 91.4, and Wellington third with a percentage of 91.0.

The following figures indicate the percentage of regularity in other English-speaking countries as compared with that in New Zealand. It will be seen that New Zealand holds the highest place in spite of the fact of its scattered population (compared with the United Kingdom) and the difficulty of transit in the remote districts. It must be remembered, however, with reference to several of the Australian States and the United States of America, that the attendance percentage