

The following statement shows the value of New Zealand minerals (other than coal) exported from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1923 :—

	1923.	1922.	Increase or Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1923.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	698,583	540,182	Ino. 158,401	90,863,040
Silver	62,851	55,222	„ 7,629	2,832,670
Quicksilver	..	674	Dec. 674	8,336
Tungsten-ore	875	528	Inc. 347	300,714
Kauri-gum	596,222	563,270	„ 32,952	20,664,509
Manganese-ore	43	..	„ 43	61,958
Sand, lime, and building stone ..	13,609	10,037	„ 3,572	420,262
Other minerals	3,013	8,356	Dec. 5,343	
Totals	1,375,196	1,178,269	Inc. 196,927	115,151,489

II. PERSONS EMPLOYED.

The following statement shows the number of persons ordinarily employed in or about the metalliferous mines of the Dominion during the year :—

Classification.	Inspection District.			Total, 1923.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten	1,249	453	325	2,027
Cinnabar	3	..	..	3
Ironstone	..	4	..	4
Totals for 1923	1,252	457	325	2,034
Totals for 1922	1,121	582	388	2,091

III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1923 no fatal but five serious but non-fatal accidents occurred in or about metalliferous mines, at which 2,034 persons were ordinarily employed.

Cause.	Fatal Accidents.		Serious Non-fatal Accidents.	
	Number of Separate Accidents.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Separate Accidents.	Number of Persons injured.
Falls of ground	..	..	2	2
Explosives	..	..	2	2
Miscellaneous, on surface	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous, underground	..	..	1	1
Totals	..	..	5	5

Reports of the serious non-fatal accidents are contained in the District Inspectors' annual reports.

IV. GOLD-MINING.

The following statement shows the value of the bullion-production, also the dividends declared, number of persons employed, and the number of gold-mines and dredges :—

	Production of Bullion, 1923.* (All Mines.)		Dividends paid, 1923. (By Registered Companies only.)†	Number of Persons ordinarily employed at Productive and Unproductive Mines.	Number of Productive Quartz-mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges, 1923.
	Quantity.	Value.			
	Oz.	£	£		
Quartz-mining	661,468	609,993	24,795	1,520	22
Dredge mining	15,788	68,003	3,283	100	8
Alluvial mining‡	14,834	59,174	2,266	406	130
Totals, 1923	692,090	737,170	30,344	2,026	160
Totals, 1922	520,287	574,988	53,031	2,028	180

* In addition to the gold produced from the gold-mines, silver was obtained from them, hence the word "bullion" is used in preference to "gold."

† The profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.

‡ The bullion-production is from 130 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only ascertainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.