

The following table shows the number of telephone stations in each engineering district in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1925 and 1926, respectively, and the percentage of increase in each case :—

Engineering District.	Number of Stations on 31st March,						
	1925.			1926.			Per-centage of Increase.
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
Auckland	28,528	4,262	32,790	31,528	4,668	36,196	10·4
Wellington	41,941	7,236	49,177	44,825	8,003	52,828	7·4
Canterbury	15,148	3,151	18,299	16,230	3,399	19,629	7·3
Otago	13,016	2,267	15,283	14,275	2,444	16,719	9·4
Totals ..	98,633	16,916	115,549	106,858	18,514	125,372	8·5

The number of subscribers' stations (main and extension) connected with each of the fourteen principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1926, was—Wellington, 14,686; Auckland, 14,655; Christchurch, 10,055; Dunedin, 7,158; Wanganui, 3,274; Hamilton, 2,574; Palmerston North, 2,574; Gisborne, 2,510; Invercargill, 2,450; Napier, 2,422; Hastings, 2,308; Masterton, 1,820; Timaru, 1,774; New Plymouth, 1,580.

The number of party and rural lines on the 31st March, 1926, was 8,831, to which were connected 33,740 main stations—an increase of 444 and 2,553 respectively on the figures for the previous year.

The following table shows, for each class of exchange, the respective percentages of business and residential stations, also the respective percentages of individual and party-line stations, on the 31st March, 1926 :—

Percentage of			Class I Exchanges.	Class II Exchanges.	Class III Exchanges.	Class IV Exchanges.	Dominion Percentages.
Business stations	..	..	43	35	31	24	34
Residential stations	..	..	57	65	69	76	66
			100	100	100	100	100
Individual-line stations	..	..	89	74	59	42	68
Party- and rural-line stations	..	..	11	26	41	58	32
			100	100	100	100	100

The length in miles of the various items of telephone-exchange plant in existence on the 31st March, 1925 and 1926, respectively, was as follows :

	Pole-line.	Cable.		Wire.			
		Under-ground.	Aerial.	In Under-ground Cable.	In Aerial Cable.	Open Aerial.	Under all Headings.
In existence on 31st March, 1925	9,499	557	641	188,102	74,532	68,819	331,453
Erected during year ..	1,606	187	83	65,808	7,962	12,159	85,929
Dismantled during year	48	22	62	6,631	6,016	2,302	14,949
In existence on 31st March, 1926	11,057	722	662	247,279	76,478	78,676*	402,433

* Includes 2,666 miles of earth-working circuit.

The percentages of the total wire-mileage in underground and aerial cables and open aerial wire respectively for the year ended 31st March, 1926, are as under :—

Telephone-exchange wire in underground cables	..	..	..	..	61
Telephone-exchange wire in aerial cables	..	..	..	..	19
Telephone-exchange wire in open aerial wires	..	..	..	..	20