

The gross output of coal for 1927 showed an increase of 126,741 tons over the output for 1926 and is the greatest annual output yet recorded. The increase of 126,741 tons is made up of an increase of 94,141 tons in the output of bituminous coal, an increase of 48,611 tons in the output of brown coal, and a decrease of 16,011 tons in the output of lignite. The increase in the output of bituminous and brown coal is largely due to the fact that the Railway Department used, and is still using, local coals wherever practicable in place of Australian coals.

In the Northern District the output of bituminous coal from the Hikurangi district was 60,430 tons over that for the previous year, and the output of brown coal from the Waikato mines was increased by 33,251 tons, the combined increase being 93,681 tons.

In the West Coast district the output of bituminous coal showed an increase of 33,711 tons, the output of brown coal an increase of 342 tons, and of lignite a decrease of 38 tons, the total increase for this district for the year being 34,015 tons.

In the Southern district there was an increase of 15,018 tons in the output of brown coal and a decrease of 15,973 tons in the output of lignite, which together make a net decrease of 955 tons in the output of this district for the year.

The coal-market was dull throughout most of the year, and a considerable amount of slack time was worked at almost all the mines. The combined capacity of the existing mines is well ahead of the demand, particularly for brown and lignite coal. During 1927 there was very little time lost at the mines through industrial trouble.

The production from and the number of persons employed at the collieries of the Dominion are shown in the following table :

Name of Colliery.	Locality.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1927.	Total Output to 31st December, 1927.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>					
Hikurangi	Hikurangi ..	Sub-bituminous	Tons. 87,005	Tons. 241,208	206
Wilson's	" ..	" ..	66,029	359,542	184
Rotowaro	Huntly ..	Brown ..	148,914	1,054,318	272
Pukemiro	" ..	" ..	149,272	1,448,402	280
Waipa	" ..	" ..	63,130	918,065	128
Glen Afton	Glen Afton ..	" ..	176,254	668,300	296
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Westport-Stockton	Ngakawau ..	Sub-bituminous	144,655	2,337,482	260
Millerton	Millerton ..	" ..	187,972	7,532,960	464
Denniston	Denniston ..	" ..	231,374	9,356,992	550
Westportmain	Westport ..	" ..	27,754	56,628	51
Cardiff Bridge	Seddonville ..	" ..	29,663	114,135	32
Paparoa	Roa ..	" ..	36,897	581,014	104
Blackball	Blackball ..	" ..	135,314	3,602,148	423
Liverpool (State)	Rewanui ..	" ..	147,736	1,762,923	381
James (State)	Rapahoe ..	" ..	39,278	145,668	88
Dobson	Dobson ..	" ..	32,166	91,167	174
<i>Southern District.</i>					
Kaitangata and Castlehill (3 collieries)	Kaitangata ..	Brown ..	61,501	4,516,010	220
Taratu	" ..	Lignite ..	23,376	658,142	41
Linton (2 collieries)	Nightcaps ..	Brown ..	95,262	395,846	133
Wairaki (2 collieries)	" ..	" ..	38,984	239,327	97
Mossbank	" ..	" ..	36,571	170,380	59
Birchwood	Ohai ..	" ..	31,235	147,154	55
139 other collieries	All coalfields ..	Various ..	376,698	7,023,087	876
Collieries abandoned or suspended, &c.	Various ..	" ..	..	22,905,184	..
Totals	..	..	2,366,740	66,326,082	5,374

SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Inspection District.	Average Number of Persons employed during 1927.		
	Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.
Southern	247	714	961
West Coast	773	2,162	2,935
Northern	366	1,112	1,478
Totals, 1927	1,386	3,988	5,374
Totals, 1926	1,336	3,823	5,159