

The following statement shows the tons of coal raised, persons employed, lives lost by accidents in or about collieries, &c., to 1927.

Year.	Output, in Statute Tons.	Persons ordinarily employed.			Tons raised per each Person employed below Ground.	Lives lost by Accidents in or about Collieries.		
		Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.		Per Million Tons produced.	Per Thousand Persons employed.	Number of Lives lost.
Prior to 1900	13,444,437	*	*	*	*	*	*	165
1900 ..	1,093,990	617	1,843	2,460	593	3.65	1.62	4
1901 ..	1,239,686	688	2,066	2,754	600	2.42	1.09	3
1902 ..	1,365,040	803	2,082	2,885	655	1.46	0.69	2
1903 ..	1,420,229	717	2,135	2,852	665	2.81	1.40	4
1904 ..	1,537,838	763	2,525	3,288	609	2.60	1.21	4
1905 ..	1,585,756	833	2,436	3,269	651	3.78	1.83	6
1906 ..	1,729,536	1,174	2,518	3,692	687	3.46	1.62	6
1907 ..	1,831,009	1,143	2,767	3,910	662	6.55	3.07	12
1908 ..	1,860,975	992	2,902	3,894	641	2.68	1.28	5
1909 ..	1,911,247	1,159	3,032	4,191	630	3.66	1.67	7
1910 ..	2,197,362	1,136	3,463	4,599	634	7.28	3.48	16
1911 ..	2,066,073	1,365	2,925	4,290	706	6.77	3.26	14
1912 ..	2,177,615	1,130	3,198	4,328	681	4.13	2.08	9
1913 ..	1,888,005	1,053	3,197	4,250	590	3.18	1.41	6†
1914 ..	2,275,614	1,176	3,558	4,734	639	21.53	10.35	49
1915 ..	2,208,624	1,050	3,106	4,156	711	4.07	2.16	9
1916 ..	2,257,135	988	3,000	3,988	752	2.65	1.50	6
1917 ..	2,068,419	1,090	2,893	3,983	715	1.93	1.00	4
1918 ..	2,034,250	1,102	2,892	3,994	703	2.95	1.50	6
1919 ..	1,847,848	1,095	2,849	3,944	648	5.41	2.53	10
1920 ..	1,843,705	1,152	2,926	4,078	630	0.54	0.24	1
1921 ..	1,809,095	1,218	3,149	4,367	574	5.52	2.28	10
1922 ..	1,857,819	1,191	3,365	4,556	552	3.23	1.31	6
1923 ..	1,969,834	1,353	3,647	5,000	540	2.53	1.00	5
1924 ..	2,083,207	1,364	3,505	4,869	594	4.80	2.05	10
1925 ..	2,114,995	1,288	3,489	4,777	606	3.78	1.67	8
1926 ..	2,239,999	1,336	3,823	5,159	586	6.69	2.90	15
1927 ..	2,366,740	1,386	3,988	5,374	593	4.23	1.86	10
Totals ..	66,326,082	..	..	..	..	..	..	412

* For returns for previous years see page 32, Mines Statement, 1921.

† Year of Ralph's (Huntly) explosion.

SECTION III.—ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of accidents in and about coal-mines during 1927, with their causes :—

	Fatal Accidents.		Serious Non-fatal Accidents.	
	Number of Separate Fatal Accidents.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Separate Non-fatal Accidents.	Number of Persons injured, including those injured by accidents which proved fatal to their companions.
Explosions of fire-damp or coal-dust ..	..	..	1	1
Falls of ground	3	3	6	6
Explosives	..	..	1	1
Haulage	1	1	8	8
Miscellaneous—Underground	1	4	6	6
On surface	2	2	4	5
Totals	7	10	26	27

The fatal accidents for the year were at the rate of 1.86 per thousand persons employed and 4.23 per million tons of coal produced.

The following is a short account of the fatal accidents :—

In the Birchwood Mine, on the 14th January, a miner named James Burns was struck on the head by a prop which had been supporting the roof of his place on the gob side and had been knocked out by a large stone falling from the waste ground ; he died on the 20th January.

On the 4th February, Jesse Baddeley, one of a co-operative party owning a small mine near Dunollie, was working on the tramway-bridge which crosses the Seven-mile Creek, when he fell from the bridge on to the rocks below, fracturing his skull and dislocating his neck.

A serious accident occurred in the Millerton Mine on the 5th February by which four men lost their lives, these being W. Pearson, mine-manager ; W. Maher, underviewer ; J. Cowan and M. Ford, two mine deputies. A large fire had occurred in the Millerton Mine some six months previously and had resulted in a considerable area of the mine having to be sealed off. An attempt was to be made to recover part of this area, and a preliminary examination by men wearing self-contained breathing-apparatus was arranged for to determine the extent of the fire still existing behind the stoppings, and consequently how much of the area could be recovered and the best method of doing same. For some weeks prior to the 5th February a team of Millerton men had been undergoing training in the use of rescue apparatus, their teacher being Francis Duffy, underviewer at Denniston Mine, who had had much experience in the use of this apparatus. On the 5th February, Messrs. Pearson, Duffy, Maher,