

TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

The steady growth of the telephone system is exemplified in the following table, which shows annually since 1920 the number of exchanges, the total wire-mileage, the revenue, and the total number of telephone-stations, together with the number of telephones for each 1,000 of population of the Dominion :—

Year.	Number of Exchanges.	Miles of Wire.	Revenue.	Number of Telephone-stations.	
				Total.	Per 1,000 Population.
1920	291	177,509	£ 419,318	80,723	65·26
1921	296	192,027	533,535	88,439	69·80
1922	301	207,529	614,367	94,683	72·78
1923	320	229,882	595,967	107,036	80·78
1924	327	269,421	830,470	111,441	82·67
1925	340	331,453	867,218	120,097*	87·09
1926	341	402,433	980,281	130,186*	94·40
1927	342	440,253	995,071	137,307*	95·48
1928	344	463,356	1,057,177	144,552*	99·40
1929	351	495,470	1,135,795	152,541*	103·72

* Includes approximately 5,000 non-exchange stations.

The manner in which the exchanges are classified, the number of exchanges in each class, and the number of stations connected therewith on the 31st March, 1929, are shown in the following table :—

	Class I. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having more than 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class II. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having 1,001 to 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class III. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having 201 to 1,000 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class IV. Exchanges or Networks where the Attendance is restricted.	Dominion Totals.
Subscribers' Main stations ..	41,581	24,019	27,962	26,712	120,274
Toll and service stations ..	663	494	933	1,855	3,945
Public call offices	445	105	57	5	612
Extension stations—					
P.B.X.	7,177	1,673	575	81	9,506
Ordinary	7,523	3,244	1,993	839	13,599
Telephone-stations: Class totals..	57,389	29,535	31,520	29,492	147,936
Number of exchanges in each class	4	12	59	276	351
Percentage of new connections made with each class of exchange during the year	38	15	19	28	..

In addition to the stations shown in the preceding table there were 4,181 stations connected by private telephone-lines directly or indirectly with departmental toll stations, and 424 stations not connected in any way with the departmental system, making a grand total of 152,541 telephone-stations on the 31st March, 1929.

The following table shows the number of telephone-stations in each engineering district on the 31st March, 1928 and 1929, respectively, and the percentage of increase in each case :—

Engineering District.	Number of Telephone Stations on 31st March,						
	1928.			1929.			Per-centage of Increase.
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
Auckland	35,584	5,472	41,056	37,631	6,046	43,677	6·4
Wellington	49,286	9,315	58,601	51,690	10,176	61,866	5·6
Canterbury	17,884	3,760	21,644	18,724	4,045	22,769	5·2
Otago	15,751	2,688	18,439	16,786	2,838	19,624	6·4
Totals	118,505	21,235	139,740	124,831	23,105	147,936	5·9