

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, 1937, 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 ..	50,102	26,515	30,956	28,280	135,853
Toll and service stations ..	941	583	987	1,802	4,313
Public call offices	705	138	66	8	917
Extension stations—					
P.B.X.	13,824	3,255	1,031	129	18,239
Ordinary	8,110	3,795	2,540	1,154	15,599
Telephone-stations: Class totals	73,682	34,286	35,580	31,373	174,921
Number of exchanges in each class	4	14	61	269	348

In addition to the stations shown in the preceding table, there were 3,678 stations connected by private telephone-lines directly or indirectly with departmental toll stations, making a grand total of 178,599 telephone-stations on the 31st March, 1937.

The following table shows the number of telephone-stations in the North and South Islands on the 31st March, 1936 and 1937, respectively :—

	Number of Telephone-stations on 31st March,						Percentage Increase.
	1936.			1937.			
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
North Island ..	94,233	21,798	116,031	101,684	24,382	126,066	8·6
South Island ..	37,839	8,800	46,639	39,399	9,456	48,855	4·7
Totals ..	132,072	30,598	162,670	141,083	33,838	174,921	7·8

The number of telephone-stations (main and extension) connected with each of the fifteen principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1937, was—Auckland, 25,535; Wellington, 23,986; Christchurch, 14,308; Dunedin, 9,382; Wanganui, 3,645; Palmerston North, 3,560; Hamilton, 3,505; Invercargill, 3,300; Hastings, 2,893; Gisborne, 2,883; New Plymouth, 2,475; Timaru, 2,228; Napier, 2,275; Masterton, 2,112; Nelson, 1,989.

The number of party and rural lines on the 31st March, 1937, was 13,537, to which were connected 50,942 main stations—an increase of 437 and 3,070 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, 1937 :—

Percentage of	Class I Exchanges.	Class II Exchanges.	Class III Exchanges.	Class IV Exchanges.	Dominion Percentages.
Business stations	37	32	27	19	30
Residential stations	63	68	73	81	70
	100	100	100	100	100
Individual-line stations	86	74	48	30	63
Party- and rural-line stations ..	14	26	52	70	37
	100	100	100	100	100