

During 1948, 183 mines were in operation. Of these, 66 mines operated wholly or principally on freehold land and the remaining 117 wholly or predominantly on Crown land. Output from freehold land was 1,083,277 tons (39 per cent.) and output from Crown land 1,692,609 tons (61 per cent.).

Imports of coal in 1948 amounted to 54,211 tons, as against 93,411 tons in 1947 and 27,185 tons in 1946. Coal was imported from the United States of America, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and India, the greater proportion coming from the United Kingdom. All this coal was used by the railways. During the current year imports of coal have continued to be made from the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Exports of coal in 1948 amounted to 18,913 tons, as compared with 28,035 tons in 1947.

In 1948, 2,099,158 tons were produced from underground mines, compared with 2,107,033 tons in 1947, and from opencast mines 676,728 tons were produced in 1948, as against 644,692 tons in 1947.

The output per miner employed underground was 546 tons, a decrease of 18 tons as compared with 1947. The production per man on the pay-roll of underground mines—*i.e.*, both underground and surface workers—was 409 tons, a decrease of 12 tons on the previous year.

Production per man employed in opencast mines was 1,487 tons, a decrease of 5 tons as compared with 1947.

The over-all production per man employed in the industry—*i.e.*, combined underground and opencast mines—amounted to 497 tons, a decrease of 9 tons as compared with 1947.

Comparative figures for the years from 1930 onward are given in the tabulation below :—

| Year. | Output. | Men Employed Underground. | Tons per Man Underground. | Men Employed on Surface. | Tons per Man on Pay-roll. |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Underground Mines</i> | | | | | |
| 1930 | 2,530,661 | 4,430 | 571 | 1,409 | 433 |
| 1931 | 2,143,023 | 4,331 | 495 | 1,375 | 376 |
| 1932 | 1,826,110 | 3,379 | 540 | 1,214 | 398 |
| 1933 | 1,797,869 | 3,194 | 563 | 1,134 | 415 |
| 1934 | 2,042,228 | 3,249 | 629 | 1,172 | 462 |
| 1935 | 2,098,904 | 3,104 | 676 | 1,083 | 501 |
| 1936 | 2,108,238 | 3,154 | 668 | 1,040 | 503 |
| 1937 | 2,238,651 | 3,288 | 681 | 1,074 | 513 |
| 1938 | 2,180,122 | 3,368 | 647 | 1,142 | 483 |
| 1939 | 2,296,007 | 3,542 | 648 | 1,164 | 488 |
| 1940 | 2,465,336 | 3,769 | 654 | 1,241 | 492 |
| 1941 | 2,585,324 | 3,633 | 712 | 1,325 | 521 |
| 1942 | 2,624,267 | 3,659 | 717 | 1,291 | 530 |
| 1943 | 2,725,831 | 3,999 | 682 | 1,329 | 512 |
| 1944 | 2,609,516 | 3,958 | 659 | 1,395 | 489 |
| 1945 | 2,380,896 | 3,932 | 606 | 1,328 | 453 |
| 1946 | 2,265,170 | 3,819 | 593 | 1,313 | 441 |
| 1947 | 2,107,033 | 3,739 | 564 | 1,271 | 421 |
| 1948 | 2,099,158 | 3,842 | 546 | 1,285 | 409 |