

There has been experienced a considerable shortage of skilled miners on the West Coast and Otago coalfields. In the North Island a number of Maoris are now working in the collieries, and they make very fair miners.

The following statement shows the tons of coal and shale raised, persons employed, lives lost by accidents in or about coal-mines, &c., from 1878 to 1919:—

Year.	Output, in Tons.	Persons employed.			Tons raised per each Per- son em- ployed Un- derground.	Lives Lost by Mining Acci- dents.		
		Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.		Per Million Tons raised.	Per Thousand Persons employed.	Number of Lives Lost.
Prior	709,931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1878	162,218	147	366	513	443	*	*	0
1879	231,218	...	...	802	...	194.64	44.00	35†
1880	299,923	...	...	1,038	...	6.66	1.92	2
1881	337,262	...	...	963	...	2.96	1.04	1
1882	378,272	...	...	1,043	...	5.28	1.91	2
1883	421,764	361	888	1,249	475	4.74	1.60	2
1884	480,831	393	890	1,283	540	6.23	2.34	3
1885	511,063	338	1,145	1,483	456	5.87	2.01	3
1886	534,353	392	1,213	1,605	440	*	*	0
1887	558,620	388	1,111	1,499	503	7.16	2.66	4
1888	613,895	414	1,275	1,689	481	6.51	2.36	4
1889	586,445	466	1,251	1,717	468	6.82	2.37	4
1890	637,397	512	1,334	1,846	477	12.55	4.33	8
1891	668,794	416	1,277	1,693	523	5.98	2.36	4
1892	673,315	485	1,196	1,681	563	1.48	0.66	1
1893	691,548	590	1,298	1,888	533	7.23	2.64	5
1894	719,546	506	1,393	1,899	516	8.33	3.16	6
1895	726,654	525	1,274	1,799	618	6.88	3.33	5
1896	792,851	590	1,347	1,937	588	83.24	34.07	66‡
1897	840,713	531	1,381	1,912	609	4.75	2.09	4
1898	907,033	556	1,447	2,003	627	1.10	0.49	1
1899	975,234	554	1,599	2,153	609	3.07	1.39	3
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	633	3.65	1.79	7
1910	2,197,362	1,136	3,463	4,599	634	7.28	3.55	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	1.38	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	750	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
Totals	50,055,131	...	...	...	...	...	...	345

\* No life lost. † Year of Kaitangata explosion. ‡ Year of Brunner explosion. § Year of Ralph's (Huntly) explosion.