

Of the new connections made during the year 3,328 were with Class I exchanges, 2,212 with Class II exchanges, 2,663 with Class III exchanges, and 5,101 with Class IV (country) exchanges. The waiting-list at these exchanges now stands at 1,664, 367, 364, and 1,227 respectively: total, 3,622—a reduction of 464 on the figures for the year ended 31st March, 1924. Although the waiting-list has not been reduced to any marked extent numerically, a number equivalent to those now waiting has been provided with telephone connections every three months, so that, except at comparatively few exchanges where conditions are abnormal, applicants have not been waiting for telephone service more than three months. The waiting-list includes 282 applicants for connections at telephone exchanges authorized but not yet opened; the figures for the previous year under this heading were 700.

The following table shows the number of telephone stations in each Engineer's district in the Dominion on the 31st March, 1924 and 1925 respectively, and the percentage of increase in each case:—

Engineer's District.	Number of Stations on 31st March,						Per-centage of Increase.
	1924.			1925.			
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
Auckland	25,618	3,974	29,592	28,528	4,262	32,790	10.8
Wellington	39,267	6,791	46,058	41,941	7,236	49,177	6.8
Canterbury	13,994	2,952	16,946	15,148	3,151	18,299	8.0
Otago	12,003	2,165	14,168	13,016	2,267	15,283	7.9
Totals	90,882	15,882	106,764	98,633	16,916	115,549	8.2

The number of subscribers' stations (main and extension) connected with each of the twelve principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1925, was—Wellington, 13,547; Auckland, 12,581; Christchurch, 9,425; Dunedin, 6,571; Wanganui, 2,958; Hamilton, 2,472; Gisborne, 2,415; Palmerston North, 2,378; Napier, 2,330; Invercargill, 2,316; Hastings, 2,239; Masterton, 1,696.

The number of party and rural lines on the 31st March, 1925, was 8,387, to which were connected 31,187 main stations—an increase of 752 and 3,720 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, 1925.

Percentage of		Class I Exchanges.	Class II Exchanges.	Class III. Exchanges.	Class IV Exchanges.	Dominion Percentages.
Business stations .. ..	.. ..	46	36	32	26	36
Residential stations .. ..	.. ..	54	64	68	74	64
		100	100	100	100	100
Individual-line stations .. ..	.. ..	87	75	60	43	67
Party- and rural-line stations .. ..	.. ..	13	25	40	57	33
		100	100	100	100	100

The length in miles of the various items of telephone-exchange plant in existence on the 31st March 1924 and 1925 respectively, was as follows:—

	Pole-line.	Cable.		Wire.			Under all Headings.
		Under-ground.	Aerial.	In Under-ground Cable.	In Aerial Cable.	Open Aerial.	
In existence on 31st March, 1924	7,605	406	589	140,965	69,342	59,114*	269,421
Erected during year ..	1,947	154	80	48,506	8,492	11,995	68,993
Dismantled during year ..	53	3	28	1,369	3,302	2,290	6,961
In existence on 31st March, 1925	9,499	557	641	188,102	74,532	68,819	331,453

* Revised figures.