

The gross output of coal for 1926 was 125,004 tons in excess of the output for 1925. This increase is wholly due to the increased production of bituminous coal, which is 151,662 tons in excess of the amount produced in the previous year. The output of brown coal showed a small decrease of 5,600 tons, and of lignite a decrease of 21,058 tons.

In the Northern District the output of bituminous coal for the year was 19,622 tons less than in 1925, due to the flooding of Hikurangi Shaft Colliery workings; the output of brown coal showed a small increase of 1,068 tons, making a net decrease of 18,554 tons for the district for the year.

In the West Coast District there was an increase of 171,284 tons of bituminous coal, a decrease of 321 tons of brown coal, and a decrease of 183 tons of lignite, making together a net increase for the year of 170,780 tons for this district.

In the Southern District there was a reduction of 6,347 tons in the amount of brown coal produced, and a reduction of 20,875 tons of lignite, a total reduction of 27,222 tons for the year in the output of this district.

During part of the year the market was not able to absorb all the coal that was offering, and consequently many of the mines had to work short time. Prospects improved towards the end of the year by reason of the fact that the Railway Department was able to take larger quantities of local coals in place of Australian coal for locomotive purposes.

The production from and the number of persons employed at the collieries of the Dominion are shown in the following table:—

Name of Colliery.	Locality.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1926.	Total Output to 31st December, 1926.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>			Tons.	Tons.	
Hikurangi (2 collieries)	Hikurangi	Sub-bituminous	29,060	1,591,835	147
Wilson's Colliery	"	"	61,409	293,513	168
Rotowaro	Huntly	Brown	151,928	905,404	266
Pukemiro	"	"	147,545	1,299,130	242
Waipa	"	"	61,534	854,935	117
Glen Afton	Glen Afton	"	145,464	492,046	282
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Westport-Stockton	Ngakawau	Sub-bituminous	104,804	2,192,827	240
Millerton	Millerton	"	237,747	7,345,288	466
Denniston	Denniston	"	231,018	9,125,618	522
Westportmain	Westport	"	23,076	28,874	41
Cardiff Bridge	Seddonville	"	27,761	84,472	37
Paparoa	Roa	"	35,503	544,117	96
Blackball	Blackball	"	101,237	3,466,834	361
Liverpool (State)	Rewanui	"	145,408	1,615,187	421
James (State)	Rapahoe	"	33,739	106,390	80
Dobson	Dobson	"	42,446	59,001	149
<i>Southern District.</i>					
Kaitangata and Castlehill (3 collieries)	Kaitangata	Brown	95,203	4,454,509	295
Taratu	"	Lignite	28,797	634,766	51
Linton (2 collieries)	Nightcaps	Brown	71,727	300,584	126
Wairaki	"	"	33,796	200,343	89
Black Diamond	"	"	24,885	166,327	58
Birchwood	Ohai	"	28,107	115,919	60
125 other collieries	All coalfields	Various	367,805	6,705,923	845
Collieries abandoned or suspended, &c.	Various	"	21,287,985	..
Totals			2,239,999	63,959,342	5,159

SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Inspection District.	Average Number of Persons employed during 1926.		
	Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.
Southern	268	769	1,037
West Coast	739	2,041	2,780
Northern	329	1,013	1,342
Totals, 1926	1,336	3,823	5,159
Totals, 1925	1,288	3,489	4,777