

The following statement shows the tons of coal raised, persons employed, lives lost by accidents in or about collieries, &c., to 1938 :—

Year.	Output, in Statute Tons.	Persons ordinarily employed.			Tons raised per each Person employed below Ground.	Lives lost by Accidents in or about Collieries.		
		Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.		Per Million Tons produced.	Per Thousand Persons employed.	Number of Lives lost.
Prior to 1900	13,444,437	*	*	*	*	*	*	165
1900 ..	1,083,990	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	630	3.66	1.67	7
1910 ..	2,197,362	1,136	3,463	4,599	634	7.28	3.48	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	1.41	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	752	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
1920 ..	1,843,705	1,152	2,926	4,078	630	0.54	0.24	1
1921 ..	1,809,095	1,218	3,149	4,367	574	5.52	2.28	10
1922 ..	1,857,819	1,191	3,365	4,556	552	3.23	1.31	6
1923 ..	1,969,834	1,353	3,647	5,000	540	2.53	1.00	5
1924 ..	2,083,207	1,364	3,505	4,869	594	4.80	2.05	10
1925 ..	2,114,995	1,288	3,489	4,777	606	3.78	1.67	8
1926 ..	2,239,999	1,336	3,823	5,159	586	6.69	2.90	15
1927 ..	2,366,740	1,386	3,988	5,374	593	4.23	1.86	10
1928 ..	2,436,753	1,366	4,010	5,376	608	3.69	1.67	9
1929 ..	2,535,864	1,370	4,127	5,497	614	4.73	2.18	12
1930 ..	2,542,092	1,437	4,430	5,867	574	5.50	2.38	14
1931 ..	2,157,756	1,414	4,331	5,745	498	1.85	0.69	4
1932 ..	1,842,022	1,257	3,379	4,636	545	6.51	2.59	12
1933 ..	1,821,258	1,192	3,194	4,386	570	3.84	1.59	7
1934 ..	2,060,315	1,229	3,249	4,478	634	3.88	1.78	8
1935 ..	2,115,184	1,127	3,104	4,231	681	0.94	0.47	2
1936 ..	2,140,217	1,103	3,154	4,257	678	1.87	0.94	4
1937 ..	2,277,799	1,129	3,288	4,417	693	2.64	1.36	6
1938 ..	2,222,088	1,195	3,368	4,563	659	4.86	2.41	11
Totals ..	90,477,430	..	..	..	..	..	..	501

* For returns for previous years see page 32, Mines Statement, 1921.

† Year of Ralph's (Huntly) explosion.

SECTION III.—ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of accidents in and about coal-mines during 1938, with their causes :—

	Fatal Accidents.		Serious Non-fatal Accidents.	
	Number of Separate Fatal Accidents.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Separate Non-fatal Accidents.	Number of Persons injured, including those injured by Accidents which proved Fatal to their Companions.
Explosions of fire-damp or coal-dust ..	1	1	..	..
Falls of ground	4	4	11	11
Explosives .. .. .	..	..	1	1
Haulage	1	1	6	6
Miscellaneous—Underground	2	2	6	6
On surface	3	3	..	..
Totals	11	11	24	24

Despite the vigilance of mine officials and the inspection staff, there were eleven fatal accidents in or about New Zealand coal-mines in 1938, and the fatal-accident rate registered the comparatively high average of 2.41 deaths per thousand persons employed, or at the rate of 4.86 per million tons of coal produced.

Two fatalities occurred in the Northern District and, beside a death following hernia caused by a very simple accident, there were six other fatal accidents in West Coast coal-mines. There were two fatal accidents also in Southern District mines in 1938.