

SCHOOLS, ATTENDANCE, AND TEACHERS.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll.	Average Attendance, Whole Year.	Average Attendance as Percentage of Weekly Roll	Number of Teachers.					
					Adults.			Pupil-teachers.		
					M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1878	748	..	48,773*	..	707	454	1,161	118	332	450
1883	971	90,859	69,838	76.9	905	656	1,561	159	571	730
1888	1,158	113,636	90,108†	79.3	1,039	887	1,926	219	694	913
1893	1,375	125,692	109,321‡	79.8	1,107	1,006	2,203	238	825	1,063
1898	1,655	133,782	111,636	83.4	1,234	1,370	2,604	229	831	1,060
1903	1,786	134,748	113,047	83.9	1,270	1,726	2,996	147	552	699
1908	1,998	145,974	127,160	87.1	1,331	2,021	3,352	161	476	637
1911	2,166	159,299	142,186	89.3	1,493	2,351	3,844	179	528	707§
1912	2,214	164,492	146,282	88.9	1,555	2,550	4,105	162	476	638§
1913	2,255	169,530	151,242	89.2	1,603	2,659	4,262	142	474	616§
1914	2,301	175,570	158,134	90.1	1,628	2,820	4,448	139	470	609§
1915	2,338	181,229	163,092	90.0	1,591	3,077	4,668	141	485	626§
1916	2,355	184,056	163,156	88.6	1,501	3,209	4,710	137	519	656§
1917	2,368	187,954	168,711	89.8	1,383	3,224	4,707	132	517	649§
1918	2,365	191,382	169,836	88.7	1,366	3,452	4,818	123	523	646§
1919	2,400	193,655	174,885	90.3	1,606	3,394	5,000	123	503	626§
1920	2,437	196,731	171,102	87.0	1,675	3,500	5,175	114	466	580§

* Average of three quarters.

† Strict average.

‡ Working average.

§ Exclusive of 580 probationers.

The above figures relate to public schools. To estimate the total number of children receiving primary education in the Dominion it will be necessary to include public schools (exclusive of secondary departments of district high schools), Native schools, registered private primary schools, and the lower departments of secondary schools. The figures will then be :—

AVERAGE WEEKLY ROLL NUMBER.

Public schools (less secondary departments of district high schools)	1919.	1920.
Native village and Native mission schools	191,153	194,188
Registered private primary schools	5,358	5,689
Lower departments of secondary schools	20,977*	22,193*
	686*	815*
Total average weekly roll of primary scholars	218,174	222,885

* Number on roll at end of year.

ATTENDANCE.

(Tables B1, B2, and B3.)

The following figures show the average attendance at public schools in the Dominion during the years 1919 and 1920 :—

Year	Including Secondary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Secondary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1920	171,102	168,816
Year 1919	174,885	172,610
Decrease in 1920	3,783	3,794
Decrease per cent.	2.2	2.2

Owing to widespread epidemics of a severe nature the regularity of attendance was poor in 1920, with the result that, although the roll number increased, there was actually a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the number of children in average attendance as compared with the previous year. Taken as a percentage of the average weekly roll number the average attendance was 87.0 the corresponding figure for 1919 (the highest on record) being 90.3. Every education district showed a falling-off in this respect, the percentages ranging from 86.0 to 88.6, and the best results being attained in Otago and Nelson. As far as can be judged the regularity of attendance in New Zealand schools compares, as a rule, very favourably with that obtaining in other English speaking countries.

It should be mentioned in this connection that a special concession was made to Education Boards in the matter of payments for incidental expenses of schools and teaching staffs which were based on the average attendance for 1920, the average of the highest quarter being taken as the basis instead of the mean of the average of the four quarters.