

## TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

The manner in which the exchanges are classified, the number of exchanges in each class, and the number of stations connected therewith on the 31st March last, are shown in the following table :—

	Class I. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having more than 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith	Class II. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having 1,001 to 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class III. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having 201 to 1,000 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class IV. Exchanges or Networks where the Attendance is restricted.	Dominion Totals.
Subscribers' main stations ..	29,297	18,371	17,355	21,582	86,605
Toll and service stations ..	543	416	699	2,248	3,906
Public call offices ..	284	57	27	3	371
Extension stations—					
P.B.X. ..	3,856	857	254	64	5,031
Ordinary ..	6,161	2,524	1,351	815	10,851
Telephone stations : Class totals ..	40,141	22,225	19,686	24,712	106,764
Number of exchanges in each class	4	11	41	271	327
Percentage of new connections made with each class of exchange during the year	23%	14%	14%	49%	..

In addition to the above there are 4,263 stations connected by private telephone-lines with departmental toll stations, and 414 stations connected with non-departmental rural exchanges, which do not have communication with the departmental system, making a grand total of 111,441 telephone-stations on the 31st March, 1924.

The following table shows, for each class of exchange, the percentage of business and residential stations, also the percentage of individual and party-line stations :—

Percentage of	Class I Exchanges.	Class II Exchanges.	Class III. Exchanges.	Class IV Exchanges.	Dominion Percentages.
Business stations ..	48	36	33	27	37
Residential stations ..	52	64	67	73	63
	100	100	100	100	100
Individual-line stations ..	83	75	61	46	68
Party- and rural-line stations ..	17	25	39	54	32
	100	100	100	100	100

The number of party lines now stands at 7,635, with a total of 27,467 stations connected therewith—an increase of 992 and 3,314 respectively on the figures for last year.

Despite the lack of switchboard accommodation at a number of the larger exchanges, a factor which affected to a great extent the joining-up of new subscribers, the new connections made during the year totalled 11,135, a number which has not been exceeded in any previous year. Of the new connections 2,550 were with Class I exchanges, 1,596 with Class II exchanges, 1,592 with Class III exchanges, and 5,397 with Class IV exchanges. The waiting-list at these exchanges now stands at 1,265, 394, 579, and 1,848 respectively: total, 4,086—a reduction of 120 on the figures for the year ended 31st March, 1923. Although the waiting-list has not been greatly reduced, a number equivalent to those now waiting are provided with telephone connections every four months, so that, except at comparatively few exchanges where conditions are abnormal, applicants have not been waiting for telephone service more than four months. The waiting-list includes 700 applicants for connections at telephone exchanges authorized but not yet opened; the figures for the previous year under this heading were 676.

The number of subscribers' stations (main and extension) connected with each of the twelve principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1924, was—Wellington, 12,751; Auckland, 11,697; Christchurch, 9,238; Dunedin, 6,453; Wanganui, 2,750; Hamilton, 2,370; Gisborne, 2,368; Invercargill, 2,304; Napier, 2,285; Palmerston North, 2,196; Hastings, 2,163; Masterton, 1,640.