

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, 1931, 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 ..	45,445	22,332	35,197	24,632	127,606
Toll and service stations ..	711	458	1,147	1,596	3,912
Public call offices	554	100	76	5	735
Extension stations—					
P.B.X.	9,156	1,682	716	99	11,653
Ordinary	7,666	3,018	2,306	871	13,861
Telephone-stations : Class totals..	63,532	27,590	39,442	27,203	157,767*
Number of exchanges in each class	4	11	64	270	349
Percentage of new connections made with each class of exchange during the year	42	19	21	18	..

* The total number of telephone stations would have been 3,000 more than the figures shown had not a temporary loss of subscribers been caused by the Hawke's Bay earthquake.

In addition to the stations shown in the preceding table there were 3,972 stations connected by private telephone-lines directly or indirectly with departmental toll stations, making a grand total of 161,739 telephone-stations on the 31st March, 1931.

The following table shows the number of telephone-stations in each engineering district on the 31st March, 1930 and 1931, respectively, and the percentage of increase in each case :—

Engineering District.	Number of Telephone Stations on 31st March,						
	1930.			1931.			Per-centage of Increase.
	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	Main Stations.	Extension Stations.	Total.	
Auckland	40,089	7,148	47,237	41,750	7,459	49,209	4.2
Wellington	54,041	11,041	65,082	52,147	10,358	62,505	3.9*
Canterbury	19,533	4,406	23,939	20,272	4,531	24,803	3.6
Otago	17,725	3,040	20,765	18,084	3,166	21,250	2.3
Totals	131,388	25,635	157,023	132,253	25,514	157,767	0.5

* Decrease.

The number of telephone stations (main and extension) connected with each of the fourteen principal exchanges on the 31st March, 1931, was—Auckland, 21,403; Wellington, 20,079; Christchurch, 12,786; Dunedin, 8,542; Wanganui, 3,843; Palmerston North, 3,437; Hamilton, 3,232; Invercargill, 2,915; Gisborne, 2,736; Timaru, 2,187; New Plymouth, 2,252; Masterton, 2,094; Nelson, 1,740; Hawera, 1,453.

The number of party and rural lines on the 31st March, 1931, was 11,257, to which were connected 44,971 main stations—an increase of 742 and 2,263 respectively on the figures for the previous year.