

The following statement shows the tons of coal raised, persons employed, lives lost by accidents in or about collieries, &c., to 1931.

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 ..	1,093,990	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
Totals ..	75,998,547	..	..	..	..	..	..	451

* 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 1931, 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 ..	..	..	..	..
Falls of ground	3	3	5	5
Explosives .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Haulage .. .. .	..	..	9	9
Miscellaneous—Underground	1	1	1	1
On surface .. ..	..	..	2	2
Totals	4	4	17	17

The fatal accidents for the year under review were at the rate of 0.69 per thousand persons employed and at the rate of 1.85 per million tons of coal produced.

Accounts of the different accidents are given in the reports of the District Inspectors (Annexure A).

Of the four fatal accidents three of the deaths were due to fractured skulls, two of which were caused by falling props.

On the 12th January John Dickson sustained a fractured skull in the Westport-Stockton Mine. He and his brother had been working less than an hour in a pillar place where the stump had been shot out. They were filling a tub of coal when a lump of stone of about 4 cwt. rolled down from the top of 6 ft. of loose coal in the waste. It hit the foot of a supporting prop, which, in falling, struck the deceased on the head. His head was pinned by the prop on a jagged piece of stone lying in the place.