

The number of persons employed below ground is as follows :

	1913.	1916.	1925.
Fife & Clackmannan, Kinross & Sutherland	25,200	18,900	22,400
Lothians (Mid & East)	11,200	8,600	11,800
Lanarkshire, Linlithgow, Stirling, Renfrew & Dumbarton	63,200	56,300	52,300
Ayrshire, Dumfries & Argyll	12,600	11,400	12,000
Total : Scotland	112,200	95,200	98,500
Great Britain	891,000	778,000	871,110

Although many of the Scottish colliery companies have paid high and steady dividends, these have varied to a considerable extent. Among the most profitable are the Bowhill Coal Co., the Fife Coal Co., Watson John, the Wemyss Coal Co. and Wilsons & Clyde Coal Co. On the other hand, the United Collieries combine was floated with too large a capital to compete successfully as a dividend producer with those above mentioned. The ordinary capital of the best-paying companies is relatively small, with the exception of the Fife Coal Co., with its daily output of 9,000 tons. As compared with the different English coalfields, the chances of profit or loss in a trade the success of which depends upon so many unforeseen contingencies, such as depth of sinking, amount of water, condition of roof and floor, and the inclination or the continuity of the seams, are probably about the same.

The most valuable seam is the "Splint." This coal is raised in Lanarkshire for blast furnaces and iron and steel works. The Slamannan, Stirling and Kilsyth steam coals are sold for bunkers. The Fife Coal Co. and Wilsons & Clyde produce a smokeless bunker coal which is nearly as good as some of the Welsh best qualities, and is on the Admiralty list. Stirlingshire pits turn out a coking coal