

YEAR.	STRENGTH OF UNIFORMED FORCE.		Number of Fires.	Loss by Fire.	Average Loss, per Fire.	Population, Census Years.	Number of Inhabit- ants to each Fire- man.	Number of Inhabit- ants to each Fire.	Number of Buildings.	Number of Build- ings to each Fire.
	No. of Companies.	No. of Officers and Men.								
1874...	64	*712	1,355	1,430,306 00	1,055 58	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1875...	67	748	1,418	2,472,536 00	1,743 67	1,041,286	1,392	734	†84,200	59
1876...	63	747	1,382	3,851,213 00	2,786 70	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1877...	65	752	1,450	3,210,695 00	2,214 27	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1878...	65	727	1,654	1,884,505 00	1,139 36	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1879...	64	723	1,551	5,671,580 00	3,656 72	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1880...	65	748	1,783	3,183,440 00	1,785 44	1,205,299	1,613	676	.....	..
1881...	66	769	1,785	5,820,239 00	3,260 55	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1882...	67	826	2,001	4,195,060 00	2,096 43	.....	.....	.....	†102,624	51
1883...	68	895	2,169	3,512,848 00	1,619 37	.....	.....	.....	†101,735	47
1884...	70	919	2,405	3,474,547 00	1,444 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1885...	71	927	2,479	3,789,283 00	1,528 55	.....	.....	.....	†104,250	42
1886...	71	951	2,415	3,340,810 00	1,383 35	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1887...	74	960	2,929	5,535,425 00	1,917 28	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
1888...	74	1,040	3,217	5,485,922 00	1,705 29	‡1,676,140	1,612	521	§112,000	35
Total, 23 years.....	38,594			\$37,248,748 00	\$2,260 68	.....	.....	.....	.....	..

* Annexation of territory north and east of Harlem river.

† Exclusive of sheds, bridges and piers.

‡ As estimated by the publishers of the City Directory.

§ As estimated by the Bureau of Inspection of Buildings.

The greatly disproportionate increase in number of fires to the growth in population, number of buildings, etc., since 1865, when the present system was inaugurated, is shown in the subjoined statement :

	1866.	1888.	PER CENT. INCREASE.
Number of fires	796	3,217	316.46
Population	796,533	1,676,140	110.43
Ratio of fires to population ...	1 to 967	1 to 521	84.7
Number of buildings	64,000	112,000	75
Ratio of fires to buildings	1 to 80	1 to 35	128.6
Ratio of firemen to fires	1 to 1½	1 to 3¼	109.52

The population for 1888 is as estimated by the publishers of the City Directory, and the number of buildings for 1888, is estimated from the records of the Bureau of Inspection of Buildings.

It is a gratifying proof of the greater efficiency of the fire-extinguishing service that the average loss per fire, which was \$8,075.38 in 1866, has been reduced to \$1,705.29 in 1888, a decrease of 790 per cent.