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**FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON**

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Informational Memorandum No. 18

Date: October 31, 1942

Subject: Traffic volume trends

A preliminary summary of the data for September 1942 from 474 automatic traffic recorders located in 41 States indicates an over-all decrease of 29 percent when compared with traffic for September 1941. In the rationed areas the decrease was 43 percent; in the unrationed areas, 21 percent.

It will be noted that the percentage decrease in September is less than the corresponding decline in August. This reflects the fact that less vacation travel (and other nonessential travel) takes place in September, and that the residue of traffic is more resistant to factors now tending to reduce travel. However, declines in the rationed area are still double those in the unrationed area and traffic on State highways decreased at a much faster rate than on local roads in September. At a few scattered points there have been actual traffic increases in September 1942 as compared with September 1941.

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA
FOR SEPTEMBER 1942, INCLUDING 474 STATIONS IN 41 STATES

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Total daily traffic Sept. 1942	Percent decrease from Sept. 1941	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Total daily traffic Sept. 1942	Percent decrease from Sept. 1941
STATE HIGHWAYS				STATE HIGHWAYS			
Arizona	6	14,838	12.5	New Mexico	5 ^{3/}	8,375*	21.7
Arkansas	18	17,761	32.2	New York	8 ^{4/}	27,364*	40.7
California	9	23,165	19.9	North Carolina	13	20,716*	47.5
Colorado	1	7,212*	+21.6	North Dakota	3	4,031	30.8
Connecticut	18	63,536	44.3	Ohio	19	55,180*	22.8
Delaware	4 ^{2/}	12,307	37.7	Oklahoma	20	37,487	24.2
Florida	14	15,363*	36.8	Oregon	1	1,129*	38.0
Illinois	5	8,781*	22.8	Pennsylvania	29	61,779	33.9
Indiana	19 ^{2/}	40,381	25.2	Rhode Island	3	5,665	38.8
Iowa	26	35,646	24.2	South Carolina	5	6,161	38.1
Kansas	8	12,373*	10.1	South Dakota	9 ^{3/}	8,518	17.1
Kentucky	14	27,266	17.4	Texas	38	87,277	19.2
Louisiana	7	17,254	39.4	Utah	6	10,036	19.4
Maine	4	3,015	42.9	Vermont	3	2,145*	48.6
Maryland	16	44,080*	38.2	Virginia	3	5,563	39.7
Massachusetts	9	31,390	46.9	Washington	11	35,430	+ 2.7
Michigan	20	60,936	19.8	West Virginia	10	16,522	31.6
Mississippi	9	14,462*	28.5	Wisconsin	9	28,621	16.6
Montana	11	9,866*	11.0	Wyoming	2	1,348	27.4
Nebraska	11	13,771	18.3				
Nevada	11 ^{3/}	8,508	22.6	41 STATES	449	911,554	29.1
New Hampshire	7	5,796	56.5				

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA
 FOR SEPTEMBER 1942, INCLUDING 474 STATIONS IN 41 STATES
 (Continued)

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Total daily traffic September 1942	Percent decrease ^{1/} from September 1941
LOCAL HIGHWAYS			
Connecticut	2	772	30.5
Delaware	1	272	7.8
Iowa	10	1,414	14.5
Maryland	1	325	16.9
Massachusetts	1	363	34.8
Michigan	1	146	20.8
Montana	2	440*	17.3
Nebraska	1	204	+19.3
North Dakota	2	455	+23.6
Ohio	1	943*	19.4
Rhode Island	1	337	34.3
Wisconsin	2	484	19.5
Total - 12 States	25	6,455	18.5
ALL HIGHWAYS			
41 States	474	918,009	29.0
Rationed area ^{5/}	127	266,477	42.6
Unrationed area	347	651,532	21.4

* Subject to revision. Reported figures are for less than the full month.
^{1/} Plus sign before percentage indicates increase.
^{2/} Not including 1 station affected by detour.
^{3/} Not including 1 station affected by defense or military activity.
^{4/} Not including 2 stations affected by detour.
^{5/} Including eastern New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Florida, and all other Atlantic seaboard States listed above.

Again it may be stated that traffic decreases in the rationed areas are generally greater than in unrationed areas. An exception to this is the considerable traffic increase at a toll facility in a Florida defense area, where passenger car traffic increased 2.7 percent and "commercial" traffic (which includes army vehicles) increased 1570 percent.

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