

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 31, 1947

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

On the basis of preliminary figures, traffic on all rural roads and city streets during April 1947 was higher than in any previous April. Increases were found on main highways, local roads, and city streets as follows:

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Main roads	+15.7	+89.0	+12.4
Local roads	+ 8.0	+78.3	+ 6.7
All rural roads	+13.5	+85.9	+10.8
City streets	+ 7.0	+51.1	+ 3.8
Average	+10.3	+67.6	+ 7.4

The changes in rural traffic volumes by geographic regions were as follows:

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Eastern regions	+ 1.2	+81.9	+11.5
Central regions	+16.2	+82.8	+ 8.9
Western regions	+32.6	+103.5	+15.1

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Attachments

1950-1951

1952-1953

1954-1955

1956-1957

1958-1959

1960-1961

1962-1963

1964-1965

1966-1967

1968-1969

1970-1971

1972-1973

1974-1975

1976-1977

1978-1979

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
APRIL 1947 INCLUDING 637 STATIONS IN 45 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from April 1946	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from April 1946
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Arizona	5	+18.0	Texas	72	+ 9.7
Arkansas	16	+11.4	Utah	10	+ 8.1
California	8	+16.0	Vermont	6	+12.1
Connecticut	16	+10.6	Washington	10	+12.5
Delaware	6	+14.2	West Virginia	11	+14.2
Florida	19	+ 8.2	Wisconsin	9	+10.3
Georgia	7	+ 4.5	Wyoming	6	+ 6.0
Idaho	8	+13.4			
Illinois	6	+ 9.8	<i>TOTAL - 45 STATES</i>	<i>604</i>	<i>+12.4</i>
Indiana	21	+ 5.0	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Iowa	26	+11.7	Connecticut	3	+ 7.1
Kansas	13	+ 5.5	Delaware	2	+20.2
Kentucky	10	+ 8.1	Georgia	3	+23.4
Louisiana	8	+ 8.4	Indiana	1	+ 3.7
Maine	10	+ 3.3	Iowa	8	+ 1.4
Maryland	17	+14.6	Maryland	1	+ 0.3
Massachusetts	9	+ 9.3	Michigan	2	+20.8
Michigan	26	+12.3	Missouri	2	- 4.1
Minnesota	27	+ 8.1	Montana	2	+ 2.1
Mississippi	10	+16.7	Nebraska	1	+ 6.4
Missouri	22	+ 5.7	North Dakota	2	- 1.4
Montana	12	+ 6.9	Ohio	2	+ 7.7
Nebraska	10	+ 6.5	Oregon	1	- 9.8
Nevada	16	+ 6.5	Rhode Island	1	+15.9
New Hampshire	14	+ 5.3	Tennessee	1	+ 4.4
New Jersey	2	+16.8	Wisconsin	1	+23.1
New Mexico	15	+ 7.9			
New York	2	+ 6.6	<i>TOTAL - 16 STATES</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>+ 6.7</i>
North Carolina	19	+ 8.5	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
North Dakota	9	- 4.8	<i>45 STATES</i>	<i>637</i>	<i>+10.8</i>
Ohio	23	+15.9	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
Oklahoma	20	+ 6.1		<i>179</i>	<i>+11.5</i>
Oregon	4	+11.5	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
Pennsylvania	29	+10.0		<i>361</i>	<i>+ 8.9</i>
Rhode Island	1	+ 6.1	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
South Carolina	1	+18.0		<i>97</i>	<i>+15.1</i>
South Dakota	10	+ 6.9			
Tennessee	3	+ 8.9			

¹Includes all States except Alabama, Colorado, and Virginia.

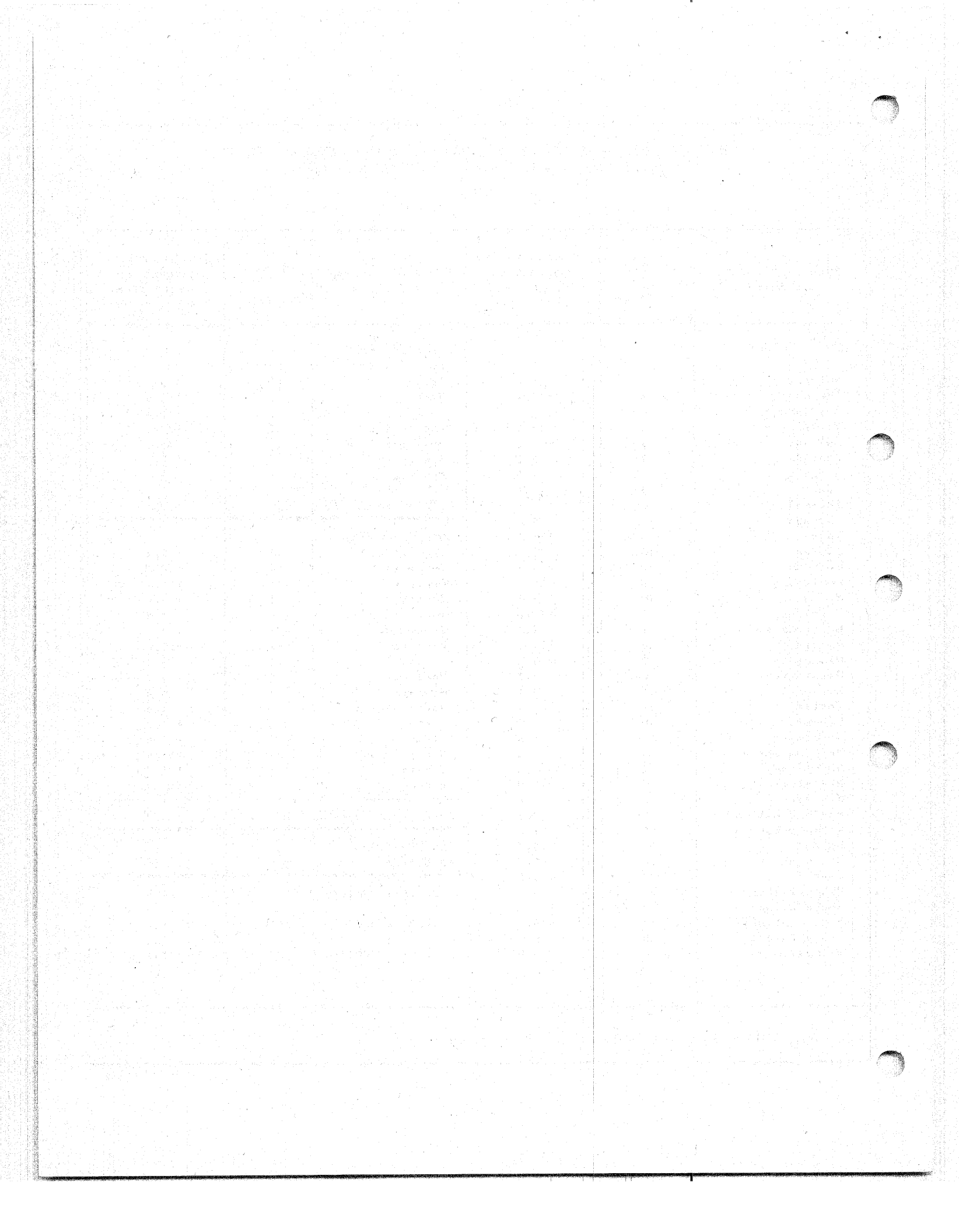


TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR MARCH
1947 INCLUDING 663 STATIONS IN 47 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from March 1946	Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from March 1946
NEW ENGLAND			EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Connecticut	19	+ 5.4	Alabama	10	+ 6.5
Maine	10	+ 2.2	Kentucky	9	- 1.2
Massachusetts	9	+ 6.1	Mississippi	10	+12.1
New Hampshire	15	+10.3	Tennessee	6	+ 3.0
Rhode Island	3	+ 8.0	Subtotal	35	+ 5.3
Vermont	10	+ 7.5	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Subtotal	66	+ 6.2	Arkansas	11	+16.5
MIDDLE ATLANTIC			Louisiana	8	+ 8.7
New Jersey	2	+14.8	Oklahoma	20	+ 1.2
New York	1	- 9.4	Texas	72	+ 3.2
Pennsylvania	29	- 2.3	Subtotal	111	+ 3.9
Subtotal	32	+ 0.2	MOUNTAIN		
SOUTH ATLANTIC			Arizona	5	+25.4
Delaware	8	+11.4	Colorado	6	+ 5.4
Maryland	18	+ 0.5	Idaho	8	+16.6
Virginia	4	+12.6	Montana	14	- 0.3
West Virginia	11	- 4.1	Nevada	16	+21.5
Subtotal north portion	41	+ 2.4	New Mexico	15	+ 4.4
Florida	18	+ 9.4	Utah	10	+11.2
Georgia	9	+ 2.8	Wyoming	6	+14.1
North Carolina	20	+ 3.4	Subtotal	80	+12.7
Subtotal south portion	47	+ 5.6	PACIFIC		
Subtotal region	88	+ 4.0	California	9	+15.6
EAST NORTH CENTRAL			Oregon	5	+ 6.8
Illinois	6	+ 9.6	Washington	10	+11.8
Indiana	22	0.0	Subtotal	24	+12.9
Michigan	28	+ 4.4	TOTAL ALL STATES²	663	+ 5.8
Ohio	25	+ 6.7	STATE HIGHWAYS²	628	+ 5.4
Wisconsin	10	+ 8.4	LOCAL HIGHWAYS	35	+ 6.8
Subtotal	91	+ 4.8	3 EASTERN REGIONS	186	+ 2.1
WEST NORTH CENTRAL			4 CENTRAL REGIONS	373	+ 6.4
Iowa	34	+12.1	2 WESTERN REGIONS	104	+10.1
Kansas	14	- 3.7			
Minnesota	27	+ 9.6			
Missouri	27	- 3.1			
Nebraska	12	+ 6.0			
North Dakota	12	+ 0.1			
South Dakota	10	+11.4			
Subtotal	136	+ 4.4			

¹Combined State and local highways.

²Includes all States except South Carolina.

No.	Date	Particulars	Balance
1	1950		
2	1950		
3	1950		
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10	1950		
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100	1950		

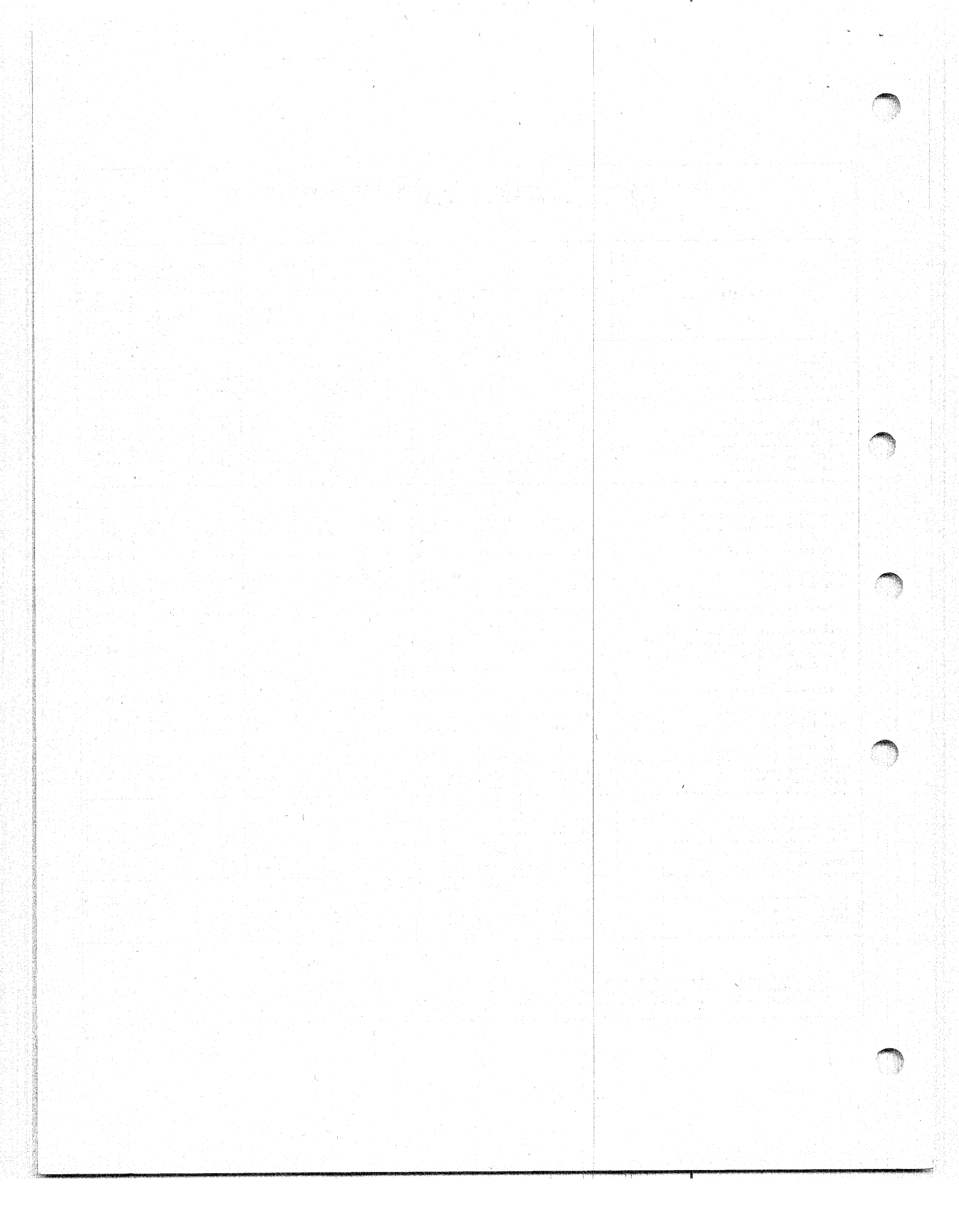
TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN APRIL 1947
COMPARED WITH THOSE IN APRIL 1946 AND 1941

Facilities	1947			Percentage change from 1946			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
EASTERN REGIONS									
4 in the New England States	52,425	46,286	6,139	- 1.3	- 2.2	+ 6.3	+10.3	+ 5.1	+75.7
14 in the Middle Atlantic States	7,746,560	7,028,340	718,220	+17.1	+17.2	+16.9	+27.8	+26.3	+45.0
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	452,784	452,784	--	+16.0	+16.0	--	+ 2.3 ³	+ 2.3 ³	--
Pennsylvania Turnpike	214,762	169,160	45,602	+23.5	+20.2	+37.3	+16.7	+ 4.4	+106.6
4 in the South Atlantic States	406,075	330,717	75,358	+ 9.5	+ 8.2	+16.0	+ 3.3	- 0.1	+21.8
TOTAL - 24 facilities ¹	8,872,606	8,027,287	845,319	+16.7	+16.6	+17.6	+24.5	+22.7	+45.1
TOTAL - 28 facilities	9,840,225	8,899,038	941,187	+16.5	+16.8	+14.3	--	--	--
CENTRAL REGIONS									
3 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ²	227,328	212,477	14,851	- 0.9	- 1.4	+ 6.1	+73.8	+75.1	+57.4
1 in the Great Lakes Region	11,757	9,988	1,769	- 2.1	- 5.6	+23.8	+18.4	+12.5	+68.2
Subtotal - 4 facilities	239,085	222,465	16,620	- 1.0	- 1.6	+ 7.8	+69.9	+70.9	+58.5
5 on the Ohio River	497,602	413,594	84,008	+ 8.9	+ 5.9	+27.2	+13.0	+12.2	+17.5
1 in Kentucky	11,070	8,058	3,012	+16.0	+11.5	+30.0	+70.5	+61.4	+100.9
Subtotal - 6 facilities	508,672	421,652	87,020	+ 9.1	+ 6.0	+27.3	+13.9	+12.8	+19.2
8 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and North	598,434	509,636	88,798	+14.9	+12.9	+28.1	+33.2	+31.6	+43.3
2 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	66,381	55,720	10,661	+21.6	+23.4	+13.2	+107.1	+105.2	+117.7
Subtotal - 10 facilities	664,815	565,356	99,459	+15.5	+13.8	+26.3	+38.2	+36.4	+48.8
3 on the Missouri River	146,055	116,042	30,013	- 0.8	- 1.4	+ 1.5	+49.4	+54.9	+31.2
2 in the Missouri River area	4,884	4,061	823	+ 9.6	+11.0	+ 2.9	+22.0	+23.9	+13.7
Subtotal - 5 facilities	150,939	120,103	30,836	- 0.5	- 1.0	+ 1.5	+48.3	+53.8	+30.7
TOTAL - 25 facilities ¹	1,563,511	1,329,576	233,935	+ 9.0	+ 7.1	+21.3	+33.6	+33.4	+34.5
TOTAL - 31 facilities	1,829,235	1,554,373	274,862	+ 8.5	+ 7.3	+15.8	--	--	--
WESTERN REGIONS									
2 in California	2,693,470	2,437,748	255,722	+ 8.2	+ 7.9	+11.7	+49.1	+46.8	+75.9
4 in the Oregon-Washington Area	373,077	329,121	43,956	+14.9	+14.5	+17.6	+120.8	+117.6	+147.9
TOTAL - 6 facilities	3,066,547	2,766,869	299,678	+ 9.0	+ 8.6	+12.6	+55.2	+52.7	+83.7
UNITED STATES									
TOTAL - 55 facilities ¹	13,502,664	12,123,732	1,378,932	+14.0	+13.6	+17.1	+31.4	+29.6	+49.9
TOTAL - 65 facilities	14,736,007	13,220,280	1,515,727	+13.8	+13.8	+14.2	--	--	--

¹These facilities have comparative data for 1946, 1945, and 1941 and are included in the larger total below.

²One of these facilities is in Western New York and therefore is related to similar facilities in the Central States.

³Corresponding figure for March should have been +16.2 instead of -24.5 as shown in the March report.



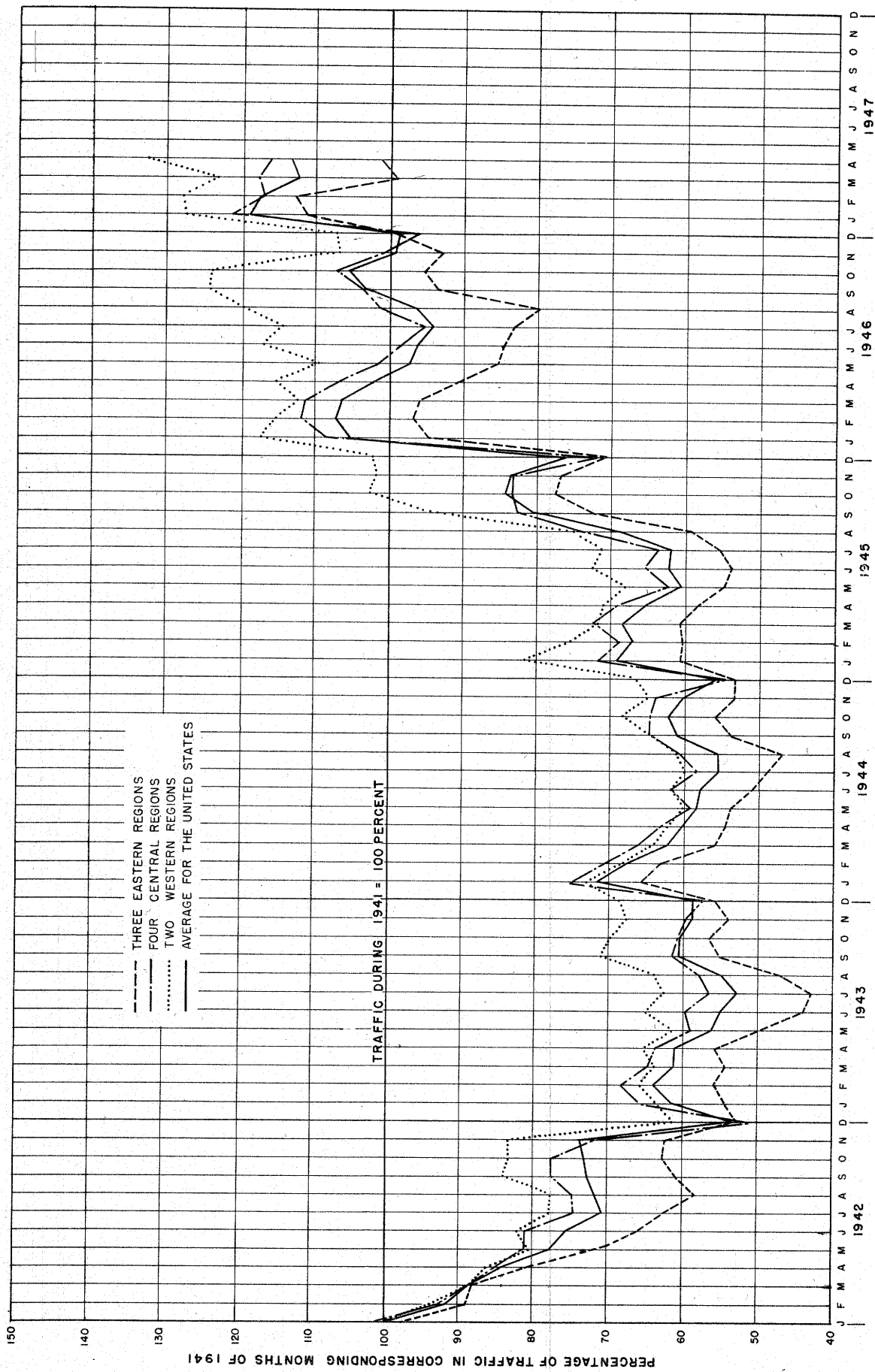
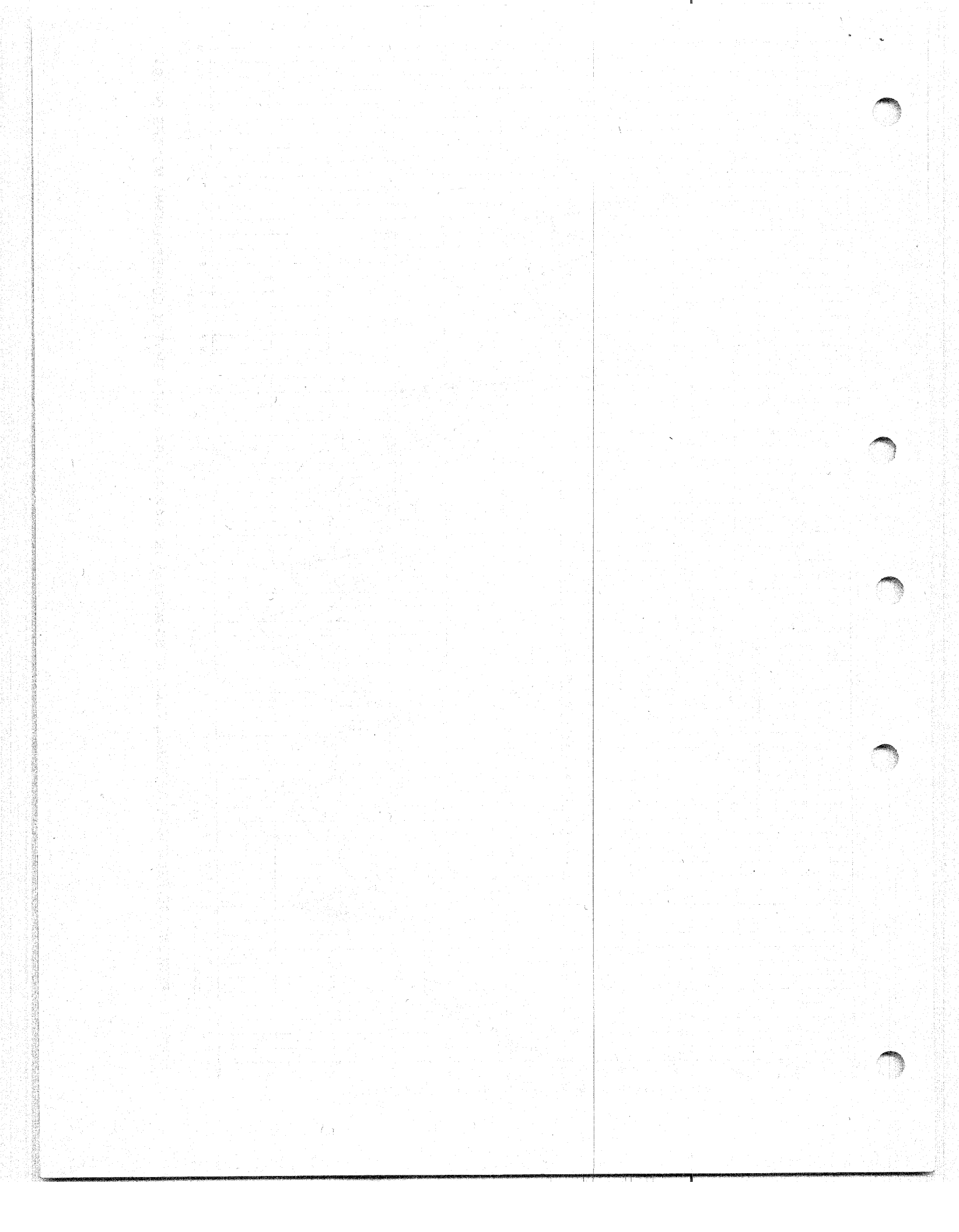


FIGURE 1 — PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1947 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



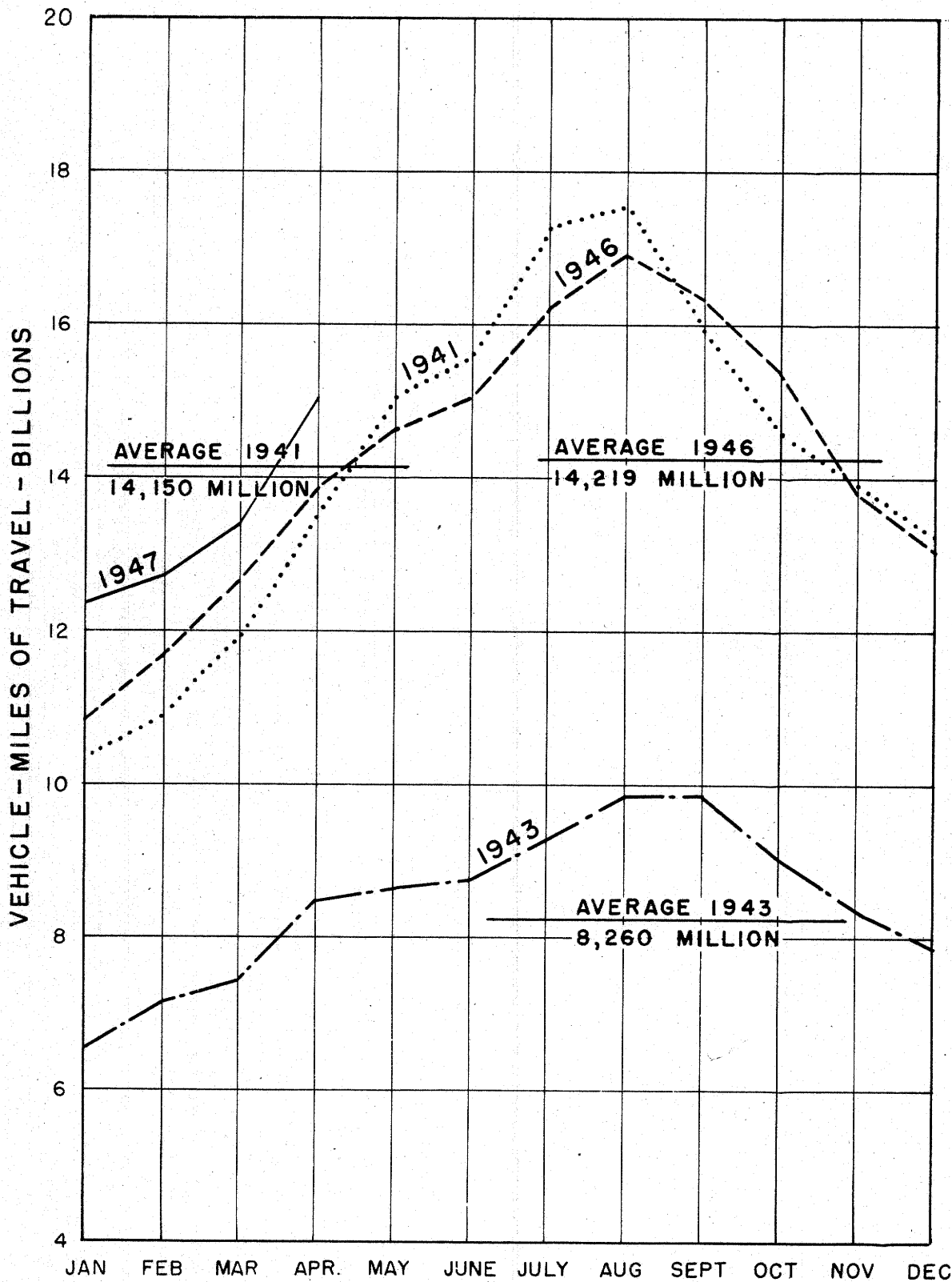
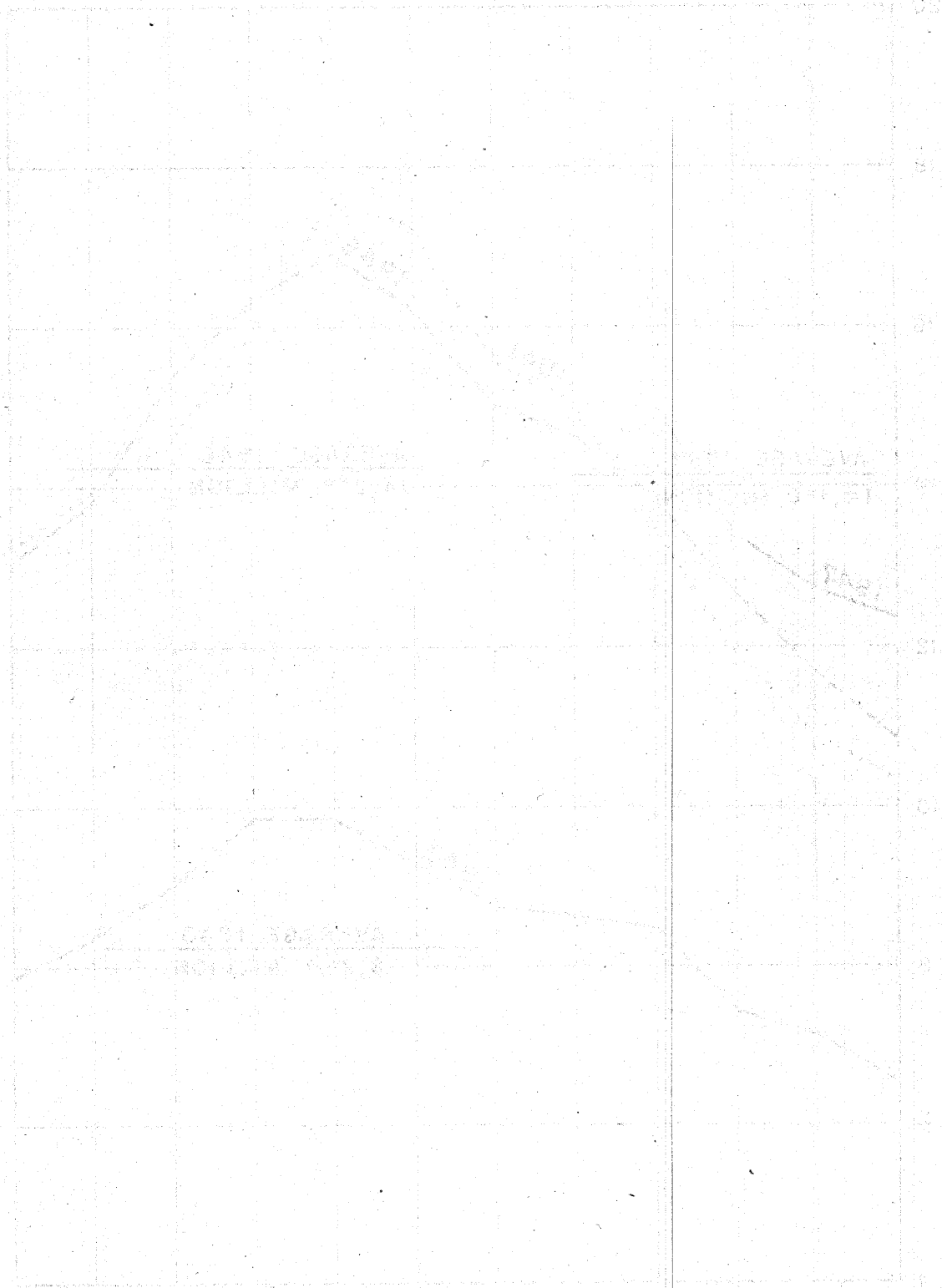


FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE - MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1946 AND 1947



VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL - BILLIONS

FIGURE 5 - VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL FEDERAL ROADS IN 1950, 1955, 1960 AND 1965