

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 30, 1946

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

During May 1946 traffic was slightly below the level of 1941, the previous all-time high, but continued well above the 1940 level, the second highest traffic year. On the basis of preliminary estimates, total travel during May 1946 on rural roads was 7 percent below that of May 1941. Traffic on main highways was 6 percent below while that on local roads was 10 percent below the 1941 figures.

Traffic in the two western regions was 16 percent above corresponding 1941 counts; that in the central regions was 9 percent below and that in the eastern regions was 15 percent below 1941 levels. In comparison with 1945 figures, traffic in the western regions increased 66 percent, that in the central regions 52 percent, and that in the eastern regions 51 percent.

Comparisons of city traffic in May 1946 with corresponding traffic in May 1945 are as follows:

6 stations in Chicago, Illinois +45.1 percent
3 stations in Detroit, Michigan +26.3 percent
1 station in Santa Fe, New Mexico +37.6 percent
5 stations in St. Louis, Missouri +34.5 percent
13 stations in Washington, D. C. +34.5 percent

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Attachments

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

On 10/10/54, the following information was received from the [illegible] regarding the [illegible] of the [illegible] in the [illegible] area.

The [illegible] of the [illegible] was [illegible] on [illegible] at [illegible] hours.

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The [illegible] of the [illegible] was [illegible] on [illegible] at [illegible] hours.

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TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA
FOR MAY 1946 INCLUDING 536 STATIONS IN 40 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from May 1945	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from May 1945
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>		
Alabama	8	+41.8	Utah	10	+56.4
Arizona	4	+57.7	Vermont	7	+68.4
Arkansas	17	+71.2	Washington	10	+89.0
California	9	+74.3	West Virginia	11	+57.2
Colorado	6	+44.0	Wisconsin	9	+67.8
Connecticut	17	+83.3	Wyoming	3	+71.1
Delaware	5	+43.4			
Florida	20	+54.0	<i>TOTAL - 40 STATES</i>	506	+58.9
Georgia	6	+63.4			
Idaho	8	+72.4	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Illinois	6	+49.7	Alabama	2	+61.9
Iowa	26	+60.7	Connecticut	3	+55.6
Kansas ²	13	+26.5	Delaware	2	- 7.0
Kentucky	11	+53.7	Georgia	3	+46.1
Louisiana	7	+44.6	Iowa	9	+23.6
Maine	10	+64.9	Michigan	2	+52.4
Massachusetts	9	+58.2	Montana	2	+22.9
Michigan	26	+55.7	North Dakota	2	- 4.2
Mississippi	10	+47.9	Ohio	2	+42.9
Montana	11	+64.9	Oregon	1	+57.6
Nevada	16	+92.0	Rhode Island	1	+75.5
New Mexico	13	+33.0	Wisconsin	1	+45.1
New York	2	+65.0			
North Carolina	19	+64.3	<i>TOTAL - 12 STATES</i>	30	+42.9
North Dakota	11	+78.8			
Ohio	22	+68.2	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Oklahoma	20	+60.9	<i>40 STATES</i>	536	+54.0
Oregon	4	+99.1			
Pennsylvania	30	+61.1	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	149	+51.2
Rhode Island	3	+27.7	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	290	+51.6
South Carolina	1	+55.8	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	97	+66.1
South Dakota	10	+64.4			
Tennessee	2	+11.0			
Texas	74	+57.4			

¹Includes all States except Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Virginia.

²Abnormal conditions in 1945 or 1946 affected 1 count in Kansas, excluding station 10, the increase is 41.1 percent.

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TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA
FOR APRIL 1946 INCLUDING 631 STATIONS IN 46 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from April 1945	Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from April 1945
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>			<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Connecticut	20	+75.3	Alabama	10	+42.0
Maine	10	+56.9	Kentucky	12	+51.7
Massachusetts	9	+47.5	Mississippi	10	+47.7
New Hampshire	15	+69.8	Tennessee	5	+63.9
Rhode Island	3	+34.7	<i>Subtotal</i>	37	+49.5
Vermont	9	+62.6	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
<i>Subtotal</i>	66	+64.1	Arkansas	14	+76.5
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>			Louisiana	7	+36.6
New York	5	+64.0	Oklahoma	20	+55.6
Pennsylvania	30	+57.0	Texas	74	+37.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	35	+58.6	<i>Subtotal</i>	115	+42.4
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>			<i>MOUNTAIN</i>		
Delaware	7	+39.1	Arizona	5	+60.2
Maryland	18	+50.3	Colorado	6	+47.6
Virginia	2	+57.0	Idaho	8	+57.3
West Virginia	11	+49.2	Montana	14	+60.9
<i>Subtotal north portion</i>	38	+48.8	Nevada	16	+78.2
Florida	20	+63.6	New Mexico	13	+50.1
Georgia	8	+69.8	Utah	10	+48.2
North Carolina	19	+63.4	Wyoming	5	+71.8
South Carolina	1	+62.1	<i>Subtotal</i>	77	+58.9
<i>Subtotal south portion</i>	48	+64.3	<i>PACIFIC</i>		
<i>Subtotal region</i>	86	+55.9	California	7	+73.0
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			Oregon	5	+77.2
Illinois	5	+53.3	Washington	10	+69.8
Indiana	22	+64.5	<i>Subtotal</i>	22	+72.3
Michigan	28	+45.8	<i>TOTAL ALL STATES</i> ²	631	+50.6
Ohio	25	+58.9	<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i> ²	595	+56.0
Wisconsin	10	+55.5	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>	36	+38.7
<i>Subtotal</i>	90	+54.3	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	185	+47.9
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	345	+47.9
Iowa	35	+55.1	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	99	+64.2
Kansas	13	+29.7			
Missouri	22	+54.0			
Nebraska	11	+62.1			
North Dakota	12	+62.9			
South Dakota	10	+54.1			
<i>Subtotal</i>	103	+52.0			

¹Combined State and local highways.

²Includes all States except the following; Minnesota and New Jersey.

³Abnormal conditions in 1945 or 1946 affected 1 count in Kansas, excluding station 10, the increase is 48.3 percent.

TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN
MAY 1946 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN MAY 1945 AND 1941

Facilities	1946			Percentage change from 1945			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
<i>EASTERN REGIONS</i>									
2 in the New England States	44,073	39,987	4,086	+41.5	+43.0	+28.3	+ 6.9	-10.0	+40.5
12 in the Middle Atlantic States Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	5,690,323	5,220,793	469,530	+76.5	+80.9	+38.9	+ 7.2	+ 6.2	+25.4
Pennsylvania Turnpike	449,273	449,273	--	+153.7	+153.7	--	-11.4	-11.4	--
2 in the South Atlantic States	204,877	165,737	39,140	+116.2	+154.5	+31.9	- 5.3	-13.7	+61.1
	15,101	13,013	2,088	+41.9	+49.5	+ 7.9	+48.3	+48.8	+48.8
<i>L</i> - 18 facilities ¹	6,403,647	5,888,803	514,844	+81.0	+86.0	+38.1	+ 5.5	+ 3.9	+27.8
<i>TOTAL</i> - 20 facilities	6,534,923	6,005,000	529,923	+80.4	+85.4	+38.0			
<i>CENTRAL REGIONS</i>									
4 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ²	421,000	399,597	21,403	+38.8	+40.0	+19.7	+102.6	+102.3	+107.8
2 in the Great Lakes Region	120,380	94,262	26,118	+90.6	+118.5	+30.5	- 2.7	- 5.0	+ 6.6
<i>Subtotal</i> - 6 facilities	541,380	493,859	47,521	+47.7	+50.3	+25.4	+63.3	+66.4	+36.5
on the Ohio River ³	562,723	492,846	69,877	+54.8	+67.2	+ 1.7	+10.3	+13.9	- 9.7
2 in Kentucky	23,529	17,674	5,855	+53.8	+68.9	+21.2	+54.3	+56.5	+48.1
<i>Subtotal</i> - 8 facilities	586,252	510,520	75,732	+54.8	+67.3	+ 3.0	+11.6	+15.0	- 7.0
6 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and north	419,756	370,049	49,707	+42.1	+46.4	+16.8	+20.2	+19.3	+26.7
1 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	47,519	40,282	7,237	+97.6	+111.2	+45.4	+103.6	+99.8	+128.2
<i>Subtotal</i> - 7 facilities	467,275	410,331	56,944	+46.3	+50.9	+19.8	+25.4	+24.3	+34.3
on the Missouri River	152,096	124,219	27,877	+40.1	+44.5	+23.4	+31.2	+36.1	+12.9
on the Missouri River area	6,837	4,833	2,004	+158.3	+126.4	+291.4	+30.7	+ 9.8	+140.9
<i>Subtotal</i> - 5 facilities	158,933	129,052	29,881	+42.9	+46.5	+29.4	+31.2	+34.9	+17.1
<i>TOTAL</i> - 26 facilities ¹	1,753,840	1,543,762	210,078	+49.2	+55.4	+15.4	+29.8	+32.3	+14.1
<i>TOTAL</i> - 32 facilities	2,005,638	1,753,961	251,677	+49.3	+54.5	+20.9			
<i>WESTERN REGIONS</i>									
1 in California	2,026,904	1,842,188	184,716	+36.1	+40.7	+ 2.7	+29.2	+26.4	+66.3
5 in the Oregon-Washington area	403,740	358,101	45,639	+68.7	+74.4	+34.5	+97.1	+96.6	+101.0
<i>TOTAL</i> - 6 facilities	2,430,644	2,200,289	230,355	+40.6	+45.3	+ 7.7	+37.0	+34.2	+72.2
<i>UNITED STATES</i>									
<i>TOTAL</i> - 50 facilities ¹	10,588,131	9,632,854	955,277	+64.3	+69.8	+24.3	+15.2	+13.7	+32.5
<i>TOTAL</i> - 58 facilities	10,971,205	9,959,250	1,011,955	+63.9	+69.1	+25.6			

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

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

³Four of these facilities are between Ohio and West Virginia.

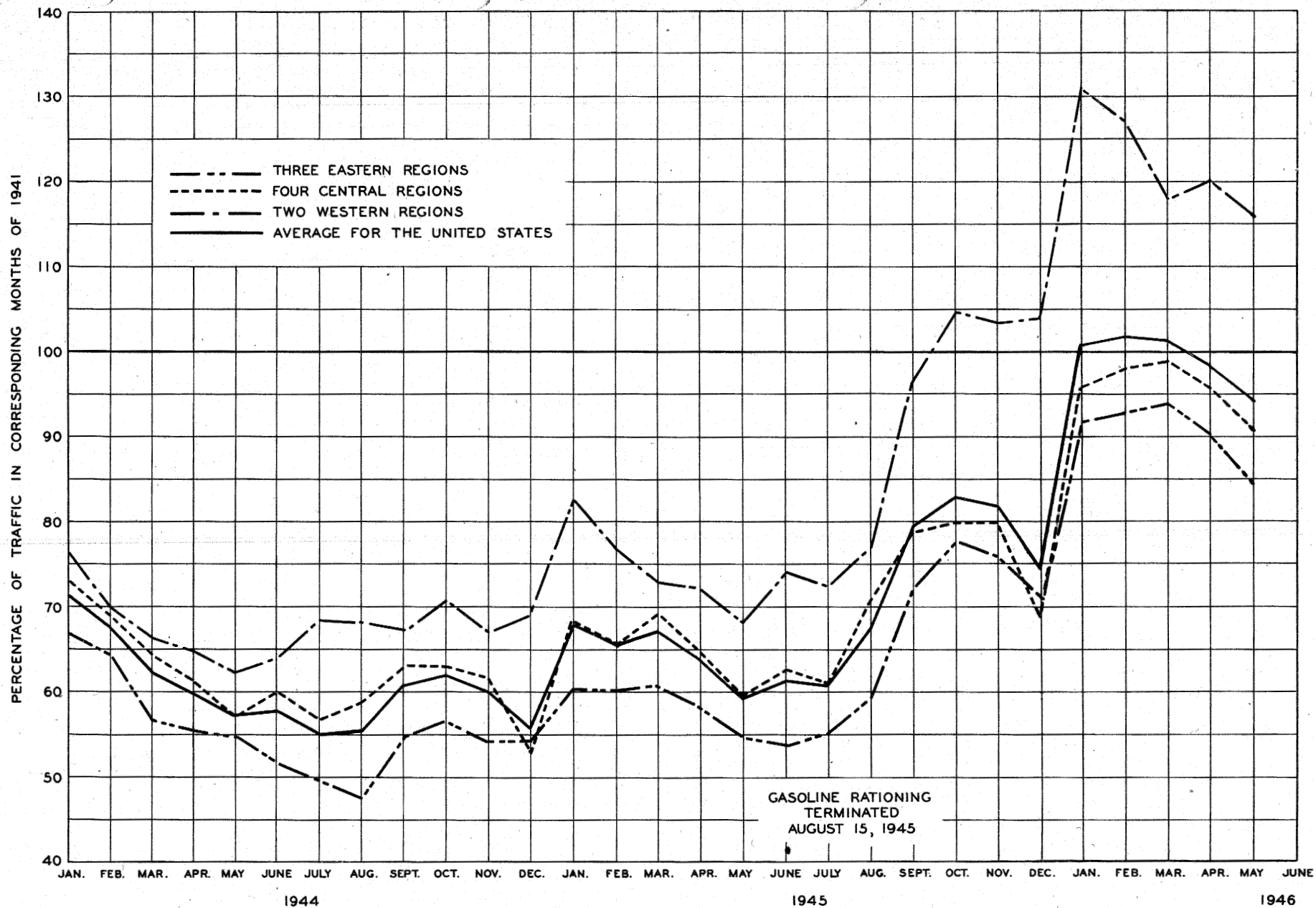
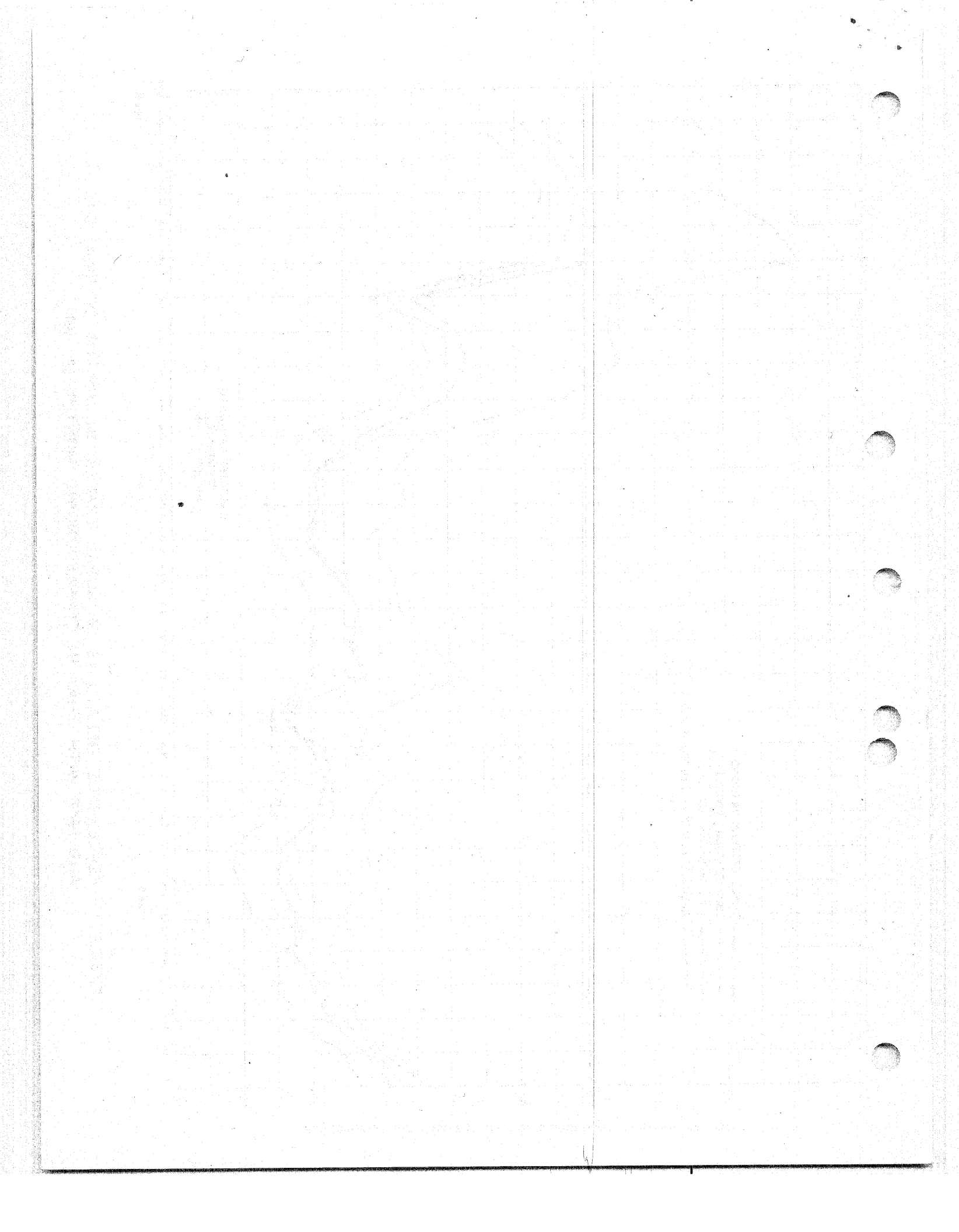


FIGURE I.- PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC IN MONTHS OF 1944, 1945 AND 1946 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941.



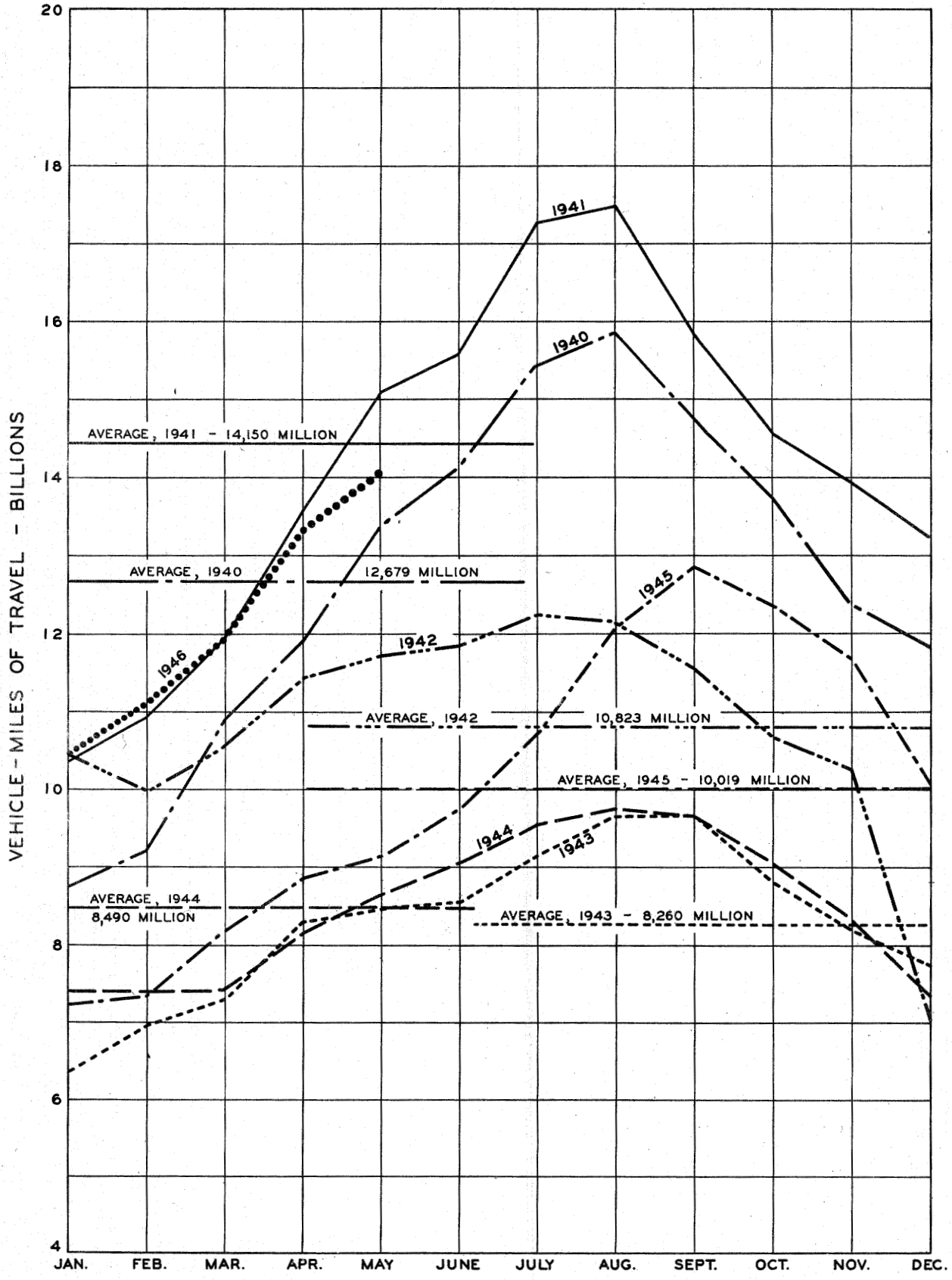
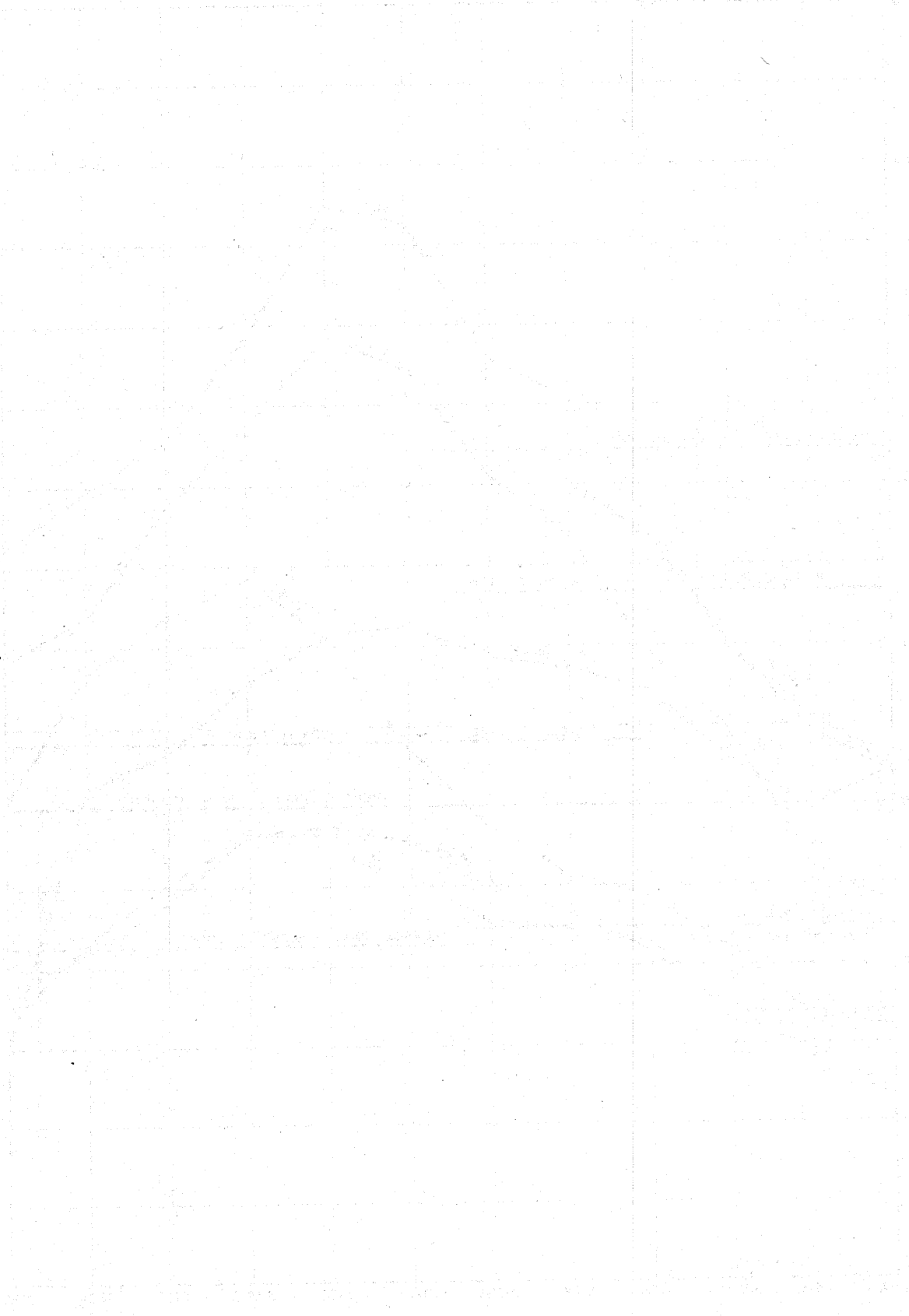


FIGURE 2.- VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS 1940 TO 1946 BY MONTHS.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT