

*m. Hatcher*

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION  
Federal Works Agency  
Washington

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 59

DATE: March 6, 1944

SUBJECT: Traffic volume trends

The data concerning traffic volume trends are compiled and presented this month in the same manner as that outlined in the last memorandum (No. 56) on this subject.

The upward trend in monthly traffic volume compared to the preceding year, which was noted last month as regards December, is also apparent in the preliminary figures for January shown in table 1. Traffic in the three eastern census regions increased 23.7 percent; that in the four central regions increased 13.0 percent; and that in the two western regions increased 12.4 percent over that recorded at the same stations in January 1943. Traffic in the entire country increased 16.1 percent over that recorded in the previous January. Reports from some sections indicate that milder weather conditions this winter, compared to last, were partly responsible for the increase in traffic.

Comparisons of totals and subtotals in the summary, on the old and new bases, are as follows:

	Percent change from Dec. 1942
South Atlantic Region, Undivided (old basis)	+12.4
South Atlantic Region, Divided (new basis)	+13.3
Area rationed May 1942 (old basis)	+ 7.0
Three eastern regions (new basis)	+10.3
Area rationed December 1942 (old basis)	+19.0
Four central and two western regions (new basis)	+20.0
U. S. total (old basis)	+15.1
U. S. total (new basis)	+17.1

Comparisons of city street traffic in January 1944 with that in January 1943 are as follows:

10 stations in Washington, D. C.	+ 9.7
3 stations in Detroit, Michigan	+ 14.7

H. S. Fairbank, Deputy Commissioner,  
Public Roads Administration.

Attachments.



TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR JANUARY 1944 INCLUDING 617 STATIONS IN 45 STATES<sup>1</sup>

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percent change from Jan. 1943	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percent change from Jan. 1943
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Alabama	7	+11.8	Vermont	5	+ 9.2
Arizona	4	+11.7	Virginia	5	- 3.2
Arkansas	21	- 1.5	Washington	9	+22.6
California	10	+16.7	West Virginia	11	+25.4
Colorado	5	- 5.1	Wisconsin	9	+27.3
Connecticut	18	+24.0	Wyoming	4	+ 2.0
Delaware	4	+ 1.0			
Georgia	6	+26.3	<i>TOTAL - 45 STATES</i>	578	+16.1
Idaho	7	+19.3	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Illinois	4	+ 1.3	Alabama	1	- 5.9
Indiana	21	+16.1	Connecticut	3	+16.9
Iowa	26	+17.0	Georgia	4	+ 6.7
Kansas	9	+10.4	Indiana	2	+11.4
Kentucky	13	+10.5	Iowa	10	+ 9.4
Louisiana <sup>2</sup>	8	+51.8	Maryland	1	+33.1
Maine	11	+21.4	Massachusetts	1	+57.0
Maryland	16	+25.9	Michigan	2	+18.5
Massachusetts	9	+23.0	Missouri	2	+16.2
Michigan	26	+12.9	Montana	2	+27.3
Mississippi	10	+26.7	Nebraska	1	+ 8.1
Missouri	25	+ 1.7	North Dakota	2	+52.2
Montana	12	+39.3	Ohio <sup>2</sup>	3	+24.5
Nebraska	11	+18.8	Oregon	1	+53.3
Nevada <sup>2</sup>	13	-37.7	Rhode Island	1	+23.4
New Hampshire	12	+26.2	Tennessee	1	- 9.7
New Mexico	13	+ 7.2	Wisconsin	2	+23.5
New York	7	+24.8			
North Carolina	19	+26.0	<i>TOTAL - 17 STATES</i>	39	+17.2
North Dakota	11	+57.3	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Ohio	25	+10.8	<i>45 STATES</i>	617	+16.1
Oklahoma	20	- 1.2	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	172	+23.7
Oregon	3	+18.3	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	355	+13.0
Pennsylvania	30	+24.2	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	90	+12.4
Rhode Island	3	+22.4			
South Carolina <sup>2</sup>	6	+42.7			
South Dakota	10	+35.5			
Tennessee <sup>2</sup>	2	+61.4			
Texas	71	+ 7.1			
Utah	7	- 3.3			

1. Includes all States except Florida, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

2. Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1942 affected 5 counts in the following States: Louisiana, excluding station 23 the increase is 14.3 percent; Nevada, excluding station 10 the decrease is 10.0 percent; Ohio (Local), excluding station 10 the local increase is 4.9 percent; South Carolina, excluding station 101 the increase is 34.2 percent; Tennessee, excluding station 6 the increase is 32.8 percent.

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TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR  
DECEMBER 1943 INCLUDING 619 STATIONS IN 46 STATES<sup>1</sup>

Region and State	Number of stations	Percent change from Dec. 1942	Region and State	Number of stations	Percent change from Dec. 1942
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>			<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Connecticut	21	+ 4.0	Alabama	9	+18.4
Maine	11	+ 4.7	Kentucky	8	+19.6
Massachusetts	9	+ 8.0	Mississippi	9	+26.0
New Hampshire	12	+ 6.1	Tennessee	5	+34.2
Rhode Island	4	+ 3.7	Subtotal	31	+23.5
Vermont	6	- 9.6	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Subtotal	63	+ 4.4	Arkansas	20	+10.1
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>			Louisiana <sup>2</sup>	8	+44.4
New York	14	+ 7.2	Oklahoma	20	+15.8
Pennsylvania	30	+10.3	Texas	66	+18.0
Subtotal	44	+ 9.1	Subtotal	114	+19.7
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>			<i>MOUNTAIN</i>		
Delaware	4	- 1.5	Arizona <sup>2</sup>	5	+22.3
Maryland	16	+ 8.9	Colorado	4	+18.3
Virginia <sup>2</sup>	4	-14.9	Idaho	7	+34.5
West Virginia	9	+32.8	Montana	14	+21.6
Subtotal north portion	33	+ 7.1	Nevada	13	-36.3
Florida	19	+14.4	New Mexico	13	+12.1
Georgia	7	+14.8	Utah	8	+21.3
North Carolina	19	+19.9	Wyoming <sup>2</sup>	2	+60.3
South Carolina	6	+27.5	Subtotal	66	+ 8.4
Subtotal south portion	51	+18.2	<i>PACIFIC</i>		
Subtotal region	84	+13.3	California	9	+30.8
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			Oregon	4	+42.3
Illinois	4	+32.7	Washington	8	+15.6
Indiana	23	+20.9	Subtotal	21	+26.2
Michigan	28	+17.5	<i>TOTAL 46 STATES<sup>1</sup></i>		
Ohio	24	+14.4	619 +17.1		
Wisconsin	11	+24.6	<i>STATE HIGHWAYS<sup>1</sup></i>		
Subtotal	90	+18.5	579 +17.2		
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Iowa	36	+19.0	40 + 8.6		
Kansas	9	+21.4	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
Missouri	27	+20.4	191 +10.3		
Nebraska	12	+19.2	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
North Dakota	13	+38.7	341 +20.0		
South Dakota	9	+21.8	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
Subtotal	108	+20.8	87 +20.1		

1. Includes all States except Minnesota and New Jersey.

2. Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1942 affected 5 counts in the following States: Arizona, excluding station 2 the increase is 16.0 percent; Louisiana, excluding stations 14 and 23 the increase is 17.0 percent; Virginia, excluding station 926 the increase is 3.4 percent; Wyoming, excluding station 204 the increase is 27.7 percent.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPE, USING TOLL FACILITIES AND DRAWBRIDGES  
IN JANUARY 1944 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN JANUARY 1943 AND 1941

Facilities	January 1944			Percentage change from 1943			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
<i>3 eastern regions</i>									
4 in the New England States	32,510	26,839	5,671	+20.6	+15.2	+54.9	- 3.4	-12.3	+85.4
7 in the Middle Atlantic States	1,561,402	1,305,128	256,274	+27.4	+35.7	- 3.1	-17.8	-20.2	- 3.4
7 in the South Atlantic States	368,671	282,243	86,428	+30.3	+40.6	+ 5.3	+ 4.3	- 1.2	+27.5
<i>Total - 18 facilities in the Eastern States</i>	<i>1,962,583</i>	<i>1,614,210</i>	<i>348,373</i>	<i>+27.8</i>	<i>+36.1</i>	<i>- 0.5</i>	<i>-14.2</i>	<i>-17.3</i>	<i>+ 3.7</i>
<i>Miscellaneous not included above:</i>									
Sumner Traffic Tunnel - Boston <sup>1</sup>	265,750	239,765	25,985	+10.4	+12.9	- 8.1	--	--	--
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	116,497	116,497	--	+116.2	+116.2	--	-57.3	-57.3	--
Pennsylvania Turnpike	67,532	43,851	23,681	+37.4	+73.5	- 0.9	-30.8	-44.2	+24.6
35 free drawbridges in eastern North Carolina	33,854	24,577	9,277	+19.4	+38.3	-12.3	- 0.3	- 2.8	+ 7.1
<i>4 central regions and 2 western regions</i>									
6 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border <sup>2</sup>	238,294	201,550	36,744	+47.7	+52.1	+27.7	+15.6	+14.4	+23.0
2 in the Great Lakes Region	47,080	29,611	17,469	+38.2	+37.4	+39.7	-18.1	-16.4	-20.8
<i>Subtotal - 8 facilities</i>	<i>285,374</i>	<i>231,161</i>	<i>54,213</i>	<i>+46.1</i>	<i>+50.0</i>	<i>+31.3</i>	<i>+ 8.3</i>	<i>+ 9.2</i>	<i>+4.4</i>
7 on the Ohio River <sup>3</sup>	593,840	494,346	99,494	- 2.7	- 2.4	- 4.2	- 6.4	- 4.8	-13.7
10 in Kentucky	121,462	91,356	30,106	+25.1	+29.1	+14.3	+10.0	+ 6.7	+21.1
<i>Subtotal - 17 facilities</i>	<i>715,302</i>	<i>585,702</i>	<i>129,600</i>	<i>+ 1.1</i>	<i>+ 1.5</i>	<i>- 0.5</i>	<i>- 4.0</i>	<i>- 3.1</i>	<i>- 7.5</i>
9 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and North	406,229	330,645	75,584	+11.7	+15.6	- 2.6	+ 7.7	+ 7.7	+ 8.0
3 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	56,999	40,002	16,997	+24.9	+37.1	+ 3.3	- 6.8	- 4.5	-11.8
<i>Subtotal - 12 facilities</i>	<i>463,228</i>	<i>370,647</i>	<i>92,581</i>	<i>+13.2</i>	<i>+17.5</i>	<i>- 1.5</i>	<i>+ 5.7</i>	<i>+ 6.2</i>	<i>+ 3.8</i>
4 on the Missouri River	284,599	219,178	65,421	+28.3	+29.8	+23.8	+ 6.1	+ 5.5	+ 8.1
2 in the Missouri River area	2,063	1,528	535	+23.9	+10.8	+87.1	-33.2	-33.4	-32.4
<i>Subtotal - 6 facilities</i>	<i>286,662</i>	<i>220,706</i>	<i>65,956</i>	<i>+28.3</i>	<i>+29.6</i>	<i>+24.1</i>	<i>+ 5.6</i>	<i>+ 5.1</i>	<i>+ 7.5</i>
4 in California	1,883,575	1,643,282	240,293	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	+ 5.4	- 0.2	- 5.7	+66.5
5 in the Oregon-Washington area	171,079	142,728	28,351	+38.3	+40.2	+29.4	+30.2	+24.1	+73.7
<i>Subtotal - 9 facilities</i>	<i>2,054,654</i>	<i>1,786,010</i>	<i>268,644</i>	<i>+ 3.4</i>	<i>+ 2.8</i>	<i>+ 7.5</i>	<i>+ 1.8</i>	<i>- 3.9</i>	<i>+67.3</i>
<i>Total - 52 facilities<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>3,805,220</i>	<i>3,194,226</i>	<i>610,994</i>	<i>+ 8.0</i>	<i>+ 8.1</i>	<i>+ 7.5</i>	<i>+ 1.8</i>	<i>- 1.2</i>	<i>+21.4</i>
<i>Total - 59 facilities</i>	<i>4,027,731</i>	<i>3,380,350</i>	<i>647,381</i>	<i>+ 8.3</i>	<i>+ 8.5</i>	<i>+ 7.0</i>			
5 reporting only total traffic	227,036	---	---	+27.6	--	--			

1. Three weeks' count.

2. Three of the facilities are in western New York and therefore are related to similar facilities in the

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

4. These facilities have comparative data for 1944, 1943, and 1941, and are included in the 59 facilities.

