PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 63

DATE: APRIL 29, 1944

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

The preliminary data for March 1944 indicate that traffic in this month was approximately the same as that on rural roads during March of 1943. Traffic in the eastern portion of the country increased 1.3 percent; in the central portion decreased 1.5 percent, while that in the western section decreased 0.4 percent. In the entire country traffic had fallen off only 0.5 percent from that estimated for March 1943.

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

11 stations in Washington, D. C.	+ 2.6
3 stations in Detroit, Michigan	- 5.7
13 stations in Lincoln, Nebraska	-13.1

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

Attachments.

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR MARCH 1944 INCLUDING 599 STATIONS IN 44 STATES[1]

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percent change from March 1943
STATE HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	8	+10.8
Arizona	5	+ 5.6
Arkansas	21	- 0.1
California	10	+ 9.3
Colorado	4	-12.0
Connecticut	17	+ 3.7
Delaware	4	-11.6
Georgia	7	+ 9.5
Idaho[2]	7	+ 8.5
Illinois	2	+ 5.0
Iowa	26	-13.6
Kansas[2]	9	+ 3.4
Kentucky	13	+ 0.6
Louisiana[2]	8	+30.8
Maine	11	+ 8.3
Maryland	16	+ 4.8
Massachusetts	8	+ 7.0
Michigan	26	- 8.5
Mississippi	10	+12.6
Missouri	25	- 5.7
Montana	12	+ 1.6
Nebraska	11	- 8.8
Nevada[2]	12	-30.0
New Hampshire	14	- 1.2
New Mexico	13	+ 4.5
New York	11	+ 2.5
North Carolina	20	+ 8.0
North Dakota	10	+10.8
Ohio	24	- 7.8
Oklahoma	20	+ 3.4
Oregon	3	- 2.6
Pennsylvania	30	- 7.3
Rhode Island	3	+ 4.3
South Carolina	5	+27.7
South Dakota	10	- 2.8
Tennessee[2]	3	+31.3
Texas	71	+ 4.5
Utah	8	- 8.8
Vermont	7	+ 3.0
Virginia	7	-11.4
Washington	9	- 5.7
West Virginia	11	- 4.5
Wisconsin	9	- 4.1
Wyoming	3	-11.4
TOTAL - 44 STATES	*563*	*- 0.6*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	1	+ 5.7
Connecticut	3	+ 2.6
Georgia	4	+ 8.0
Iowa	10	-27.2
Maryland	1	+16.8
Michigan	2	+ 3.7
Missouri	2	+ 3.4
Montana	2	+24.8
Nebraska	1	+ 5.3
North Dakota	2	+27.0
Ohio	3	- 4.4
Oregon	1	+ 6.2
Rhode Island	1	-32.6
Tennessee	2	+ 1.9
Wisconsin	1	-11.5
TOTAL - 15 STATES	*36*	*- 0.3*
ALL HIGHWAYS 44 STATES	*599*	*- 0.5*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*180*	*+ 1.3*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*330*	*- 1.5*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*89*	*- 0.4*

[1] Includes all States except the following: Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

[2] Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1944 affect 5 counts in the following States: Idaho, excluding station 7 the increase is 0.1 percent. Kansas, excluding station 10 there is a decrease of 6.5 percent. Louisiana, excluding station 23 the increase is 11.0 percent. Nevada, excluding station 110 the decrease is 3.3 percent. Tennessee, excluding station 6 the increase is 15.3 percent.

TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR FEBRUARY 1944 AND INCLUDING 619 STATIONS IN 46 STATES[1]

Region and State	Number of stations	Percent change from February 1943
NEW ENGLAND		
Connecticut	20	+20.5
Maine	11	+15.7
Massachusetts	9	+19.5
New Hampshire	7	+14.5
Rhode Island	3	+17.5
Vermont	7	+ 8.0
Subtotal	*57*	*+18.6*
MIDDLE ATLANTIC		
New York	11	+16.5
Pennsylvania	30	+11.4
Subtotal	*41*	*+13.2*
SOUTH ATLANTIC		
Delaware	4	- 5.2
Maryland	17	+14.7
Virginia	5	- 1.0
West Virginia	11	+ 9.1
Subtotal, north portion	*37*	*+ 8.0*
Florida	19	+25.4
Georgia	8	+16.2
North Carolina	18	+14.9
South Carolina	7	+29.5
Subtotal, south portion	*52*	*+20.7*
Subtotal region	*89*	*+15.1*
EAST NORTH CENTRAL		
Illinois	3	- 9.7
Indiana	23	+ 1.2
Michigan	28	- 2.0
Ohio	25	+ 0.2
Wisconsin	11	+ 4.5
Subtotal	*90*	*- 0.2*
WEST NORTH CENTRAL		
Iowa	35	- 6.4
Kansas[2]	9	+ 5.1
Missouri	27	- 8.7
Nebraska	11	- 7.8
North Dakota	10	+27.7
South Dakota	10	+ 2.2
Subtotal	*102*	*- 5.0*
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Alabama	9	+ 8.7
Kentucky	11	+ 1.1
Mississippi	10	+12.4
Tennessee[2]	5	+30.3
Subtotal	*35*	*+10.3*
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Arkansas	20	- 7.1
Louisiana[2]	8	+29.1
Oklahoma	20	- 2.9
Texas	70	+ 2.1
Subtotal	*118*	*+ 3.2*
MOUNTAIN		
Arizona	5	+ 4.5
Colorado	5	- 7.8
Idaho	6	+ 8.1
Montana	14	+ 1.8
Nevada[2]	13	-32.5
New Mexico[2]	13	+12.1
Utah	6	- 4.5
Wyoming	4	-15.3
Subtotal	*66*	*- 3.8*
PACIFIC		
California	9	+13.5
Oregon	3	- 1.4
Washington	9	+ 2.3
Subtotal	*21*	*+ 7.3*
TOTAL ALL STATES[1]	*619*	*+ 5.5*
STATE HIGHWAYS[1]	*581*	*+ 6.2*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS	*38*	*+ 3.9*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*187*	*+14.9*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*345*	*+ 0.8*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*87*	*+ 3.5*

[1]Includes all States except the following: Minnesota and New Jersey.

[2]Abnormal conditions in 1944 affect five counts in the following States: Louisiana, excluding station 23 the increase is 10.1 percent. Kansas, excluding station 10 there is a decrease of 3.9 percent. Nevada, excluding station 110 the decrease is 7.8 percent. New Mexico, excluding station 3 the increase is 7.2 percent. Tennessee, excluding station 6 the increase is 9.4 percent.

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

Facilities	March 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
3 eastern regions									
3 in the New England States	25,701	22,877	2,824	- 6.5	- 4.4	-20.5	-17.3	-19.7	+ 8.0
11 in the Middle Atlantic States	3,412,718	2,591,954	820,764	+12.1	+16.6	0.0	-12.0	-16.8	+ 7.8
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	117,951	117,951	---	+43.6	+43.6	--	-64.2	-64.2	--
Pennsylvania Turnpike	70,298	44,932	25,366	+ 3.2	+13.1	-10.5	-43.1	-55.2	+10.0
7 in the South Atlantic States	379,638	291,884	87,754	+10.6	+16.4	- 5.0	-17.2	-24.3	+19.7
TOTAL - 23 facilities in the Eastern States[1]	4,006,306	3,069,598	936,708	+12.4	+17.2	-0.8	-16.9	-22.5	+ 8.9
TOTAL - 27 facilities in the Eastern States	4,264,301	3,286,053	978,248	+12.3	+16.6	0.0			
4 central regions									
6 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border[2]	230,686	191,075	39,611	+27.3	+29.4	+17.7	+ 3.2	- 2.6	+45.1
2 in the Great Lakes Region	44,537	26,740	17,797	-12.2	-14.3	- 8.8	-41.5	-47.3	-30.0
Subtotal - 8 facilities	*275,223*	*217,815*	*57,408*	*+18.6*	*+21.8*	*+ 8.0*	*- 8.1*	*-11.8*	*+ 8.9*
9 on the Ohio River[3]	676,067	561,495	114,572	- 5.1	- 6.7	+ 3.4	-18.3	-19.1	-14.0
10 in Kentucky	128,369	98,692	29,677	+24.6	+26.0	+20.2	- 3.4	- 9.3	+23.0
Subtotal - 19 facilities	*804,436*	*660,187*	*144,249*	*- 1.4*	*- 2.9*	*+ 6.5*	*-16.2*	*-17.8*	*- 8.4*
10 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and north	820,904	615,807	205,097	- 4.2	- 2.3	- 9.5	-28.8	-31.4	-19.7
Subtotal - 10 facilities	*820,904*	*615,807*	*205,097*	*- 4.2*	*- 2.3*	*- 9.5*	*-28.8*	*-31.4*	*-19.7*
3 on the Missouri River	90,166	65,668	24,498	+ 1.7	+ 3.0	- 1.8	- 2.3	- 5.6	+ 8.0
2 in the Missouri River area	2,170	1,570	600	+ 8.7	- 1.5	+48.9	-40.3	-46.8	-12.4
Subtotal - 5 facilities	*92,336*	*67,238*	*25,098*	*+ 1.8*	*+ 2.9*	*- 1.0*	*- 3.7*	*- 7.3*	*+ 7.4*
TOTAL - 42 facilities in the Central States[1]	*1,992,899*	*1,561,047*	*431,852*	*- 0.1*	*+ 0.4*	*- 2.0*	*-20.6*	*-22.7*	*-11.7*
TOTAL - 47 facilities in the Central States	*2,089,943*	*1,631,379*	*458,564*	*+ 0.4*	*+ 1.1*	*- 2.1*			
2 western regions									
3 facilities in California	1,649,535	1,436,370	213,165	- 1.1	- 2.1	+ 6.0	- 8.1	-13.7	+63.8
5 facilities in the Oregon-Washington area	184,740	154,994	29,746	+ 3.0	+ 3.4	+ 0.7	+ 4.0	- 1.8	+50.1
TOTAL - 8 facilities in the Western States	*1,834,275*	*1,591,364*	*242,911*	*- 0.7*	*- 1.6*	*+ 5.4*	*- 7.0*	*-12.7*	*+62.0*
TOTAL - 73 facilities in the United States[1]	*7,833,480*	*6,222,009*	*1,611,471*	*+ 5.8*	*+ 7.4*	*- 3.0*	*-15.8*	*-20.2*	*+ 7.5*
TOTAL - 82 facilities in the United States	*8,188,519*	*6,508,796*	*1,679,723*	*+ 6.0*	*+ 7.6*	*+ 0.2*			
38 drawbridges in eastern North Carolina (not toll) based on two 8-hour counts (one Sunday and one weekday at each station)	33,805	26,393	7,412	+ 1.5	+ 4.1	- 6.8	-21.9	-26.2	- 1.6

[1]These facilities have comparative data for 1944, 1943, and 1941 and are included in the larger total below.
[2]Three of the facilities are in western New York and therefore are related to similar facilities in the Central States.
[3]Five of the facilities are between Ohio and West Virginia.

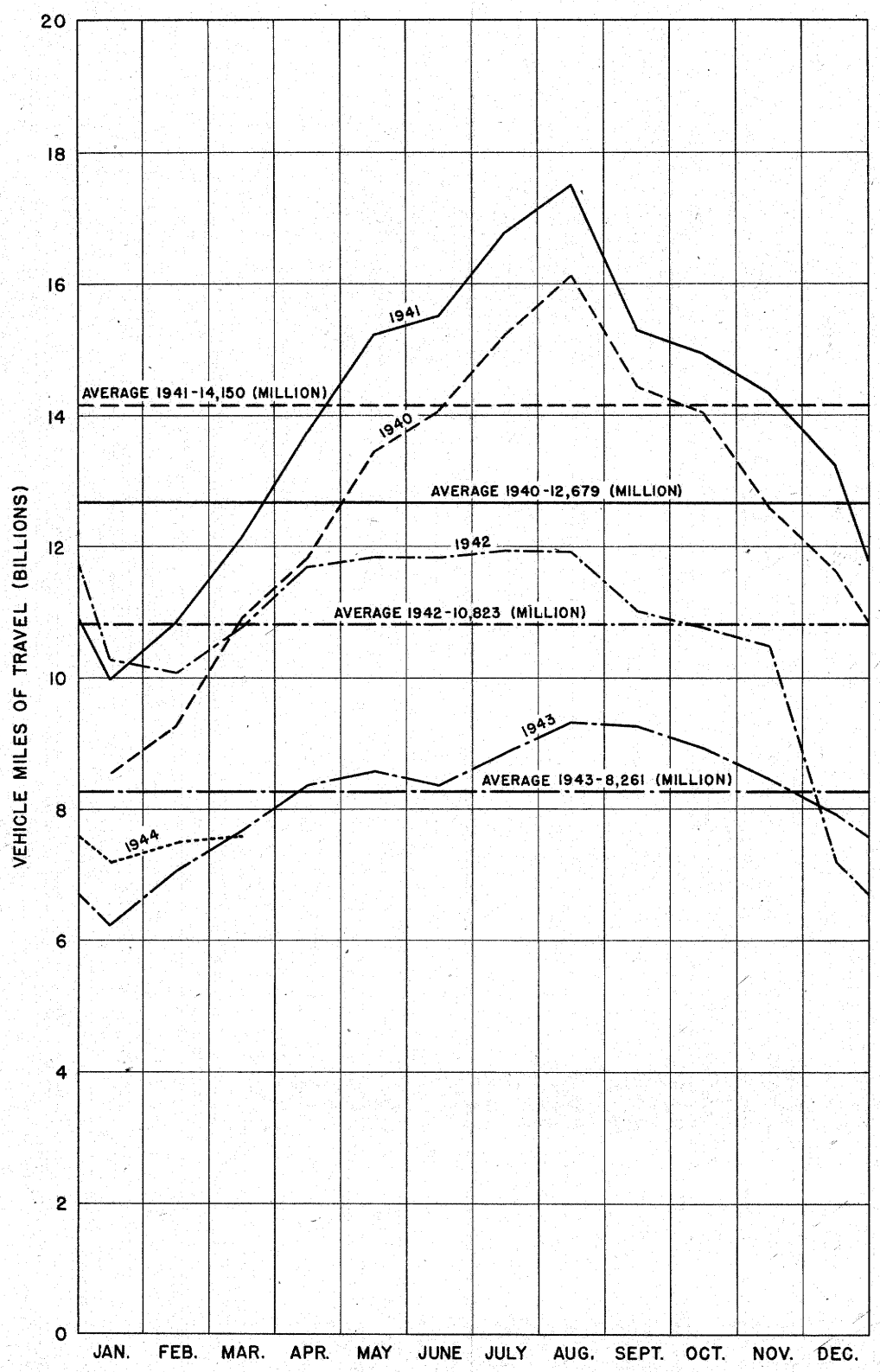

FIGURE I. VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS 1940 TO 1944 BY MONTHS

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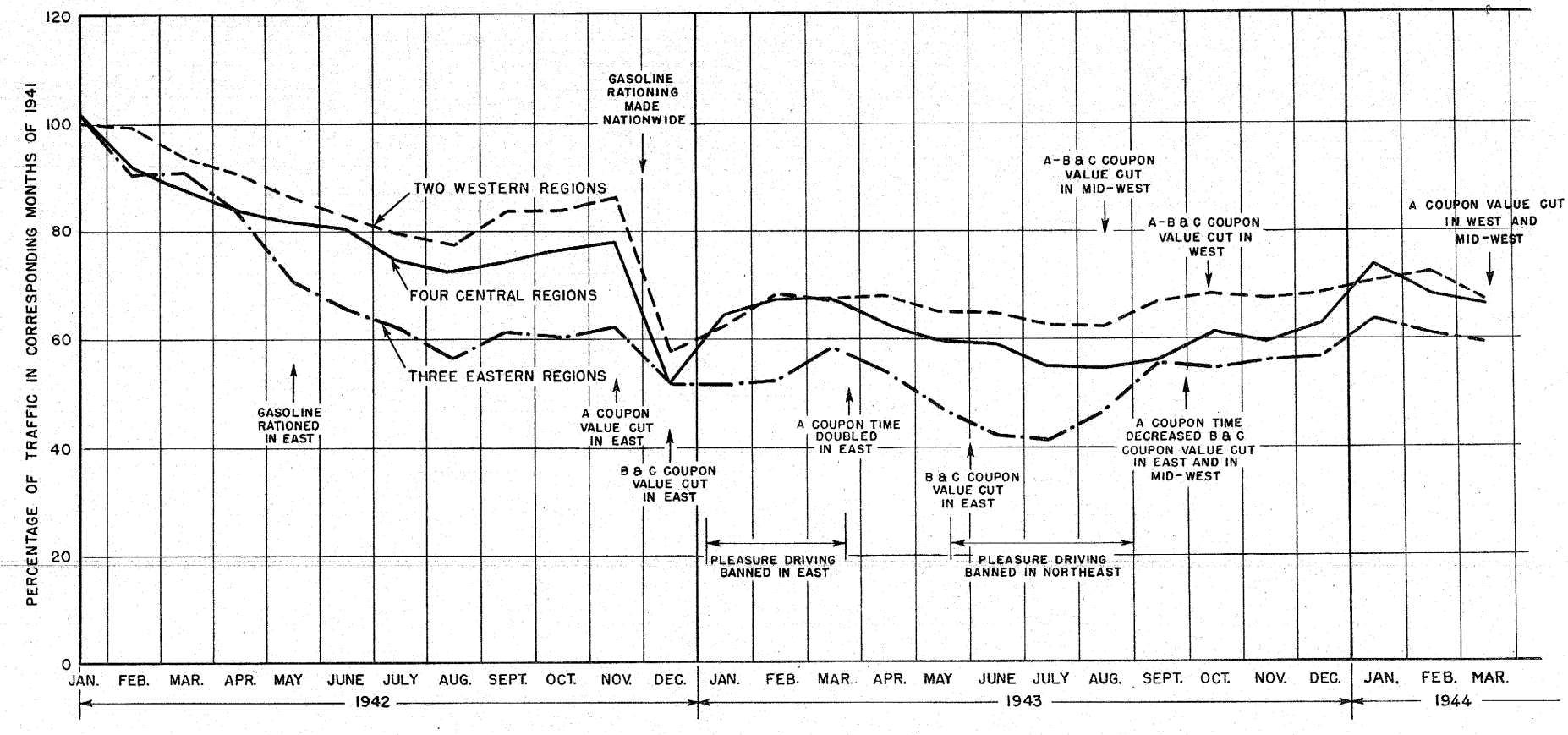

FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC IN MONTHS OF 1942, 1943, AND 1944 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941

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