PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 80

DATE: JANUARY 31, 1945

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

The preliminary data for December 1944 indicated that traffic in the eastern and central portions of the country dropped considerably below the estimates for that month in 1943. This decrease probably was caused largely by the excessive snow which fell during this month in most sections of the northern portions of the United States. Traffic in the New England States was 4.6 percent below the estimates for December 1943; that in the Middle Atlantic States was 16.4 percent under the previous year's figures. Similar decreases were found in the northern portion of the South Atlantic Region, the East North Central Region, the West North Central Region, and in Kentucky which is in the East South Central Region. A slight increase in traffic (0.9 percent) was indicated in the two western regions. Small increases generally were found in the traffic in southern States. Traffic in the entire country decreased 5.7 percent.

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

3 stations in Detroit, Michigan -1.2
13 stations in Washington, D. C. -2.8

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

Attachments.

P-2180

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR DECEMBER 1944 INCLUDING 571 STATIONS IN 42 STATES[1]

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from Dec. 1943
STATE HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	8	+ 2.9
Arizona	5	+ 3.8
Arkansas	20	+ 5.6
California	9	+ 3.6
Colorado	6	+13.3
Connecticut	17	- 7.6
Delaware	5	- 0.4
Florida	17	+10.2
Georgia	5	+ 2.3
Idaho	7	- 1.9
Illinois	4	-12.6
Iowa	26	- 9.6
Kansas	9	- 5.2
Kentucky	12	- 7.0
Louisiana[2]	8	- 9.4
Maine	10	0.0
Maryland	17	- 8.2
Massachusetts	8	- 3.8
Michigan	26	-12.6
Missouri	25	- 8.3
Montana	12	- 2.8
Nebraska	11	- 4.0
Nevada	12	-10.1
New Mexico	13	+12.8
New York	3	-10.3
North Carolina	20	- 3.0
North Dakota	11	+ 8.2
Ohio	19	-15.3
Oklahoma	20	+ 2.8
Oregon	3	- 8.5
Pennsylvania	29	-17.5
Rhode Island	3	+ 4.1
South Carolina	3	+ 1.6
South Dakota	10	+ 1.0
Texas	72	+ 1.8
Utah	8	- 8.7
Vermont	7	+ 3.1
STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)		
Virginia	3	- 8.3
Washington	9	- 2.7
West Virginia[3]	11	-17.8
Wisconsin	9	- 5.5
Wyoming	4	+ 5.6
TOTAL - 42 STATES	*536*	*- 5.6*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	1	+ 3.0
Connecticut	3	- 6.7
Delaware	2	+29.6
Georgia	4	- 9.3
Iowa	9	- 9.2
Maryland	1	- 3.7
Michigan	2	+17.6
Missouri	2	-16.9
Montana	2	- 8.3
Nebraska	1	+15.4
North Dakota	2	+ 9.9
Ohio	2	- 4.9
Oregon	1	+ 0.5
Rhode Island	1	-29.1
Wisconsin	2	-21.7
TOTAL - 15 STATES	*35*	*- 6.0*
ALL HIGHWAYS 42 STATES	*571*	*- 5.7*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*169*	*- 8.4*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*311*	*- 6.3*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*91*	*+ 0.9*

[1] Includes all States except Indiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Tennessee.
[2] Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1944 affected 1 count: Louisiana, excluding station 23, the increase is 3.0 percent.
[3] Counts in West Virginia affected by excessive ice on the roads.

TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR NOVEMBER 1944 INCLUDING 641 STATIONS IN 46 STATES[1]

Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from Nov. 1943
NEW ENGLAND		
Connecticut	20	- 6.2
Maine	10	- 2.7
Massachusetts	8	- 4.6
New Hampshire	17	- 6.8
Rhode Island	4	+ 3.0
Vermont	9	+10.8
Subtotal	*68*	*- 3.9*
MIDDLE ATLANTIC		
New York	10	- 1.6
Pennsylvania	30	- 2.9
Subtotal	*40*	*- 2.4*
SOUTH ATLANTIC		
Delaware	7	+ 1.8
Maryland	17	- 3.6
Virginia	2	- 7.9
West Virginia	10	+ 4.0
Subtotal north portion	*36*	*- 1.8*
Florida	17	+ 8.8
Georgia	10	+ 0.7
North Carolina	20	- 1.9
South Carolina	3	- 2.4
Subtotal south portion	*50*	*+ 1.7*
Subtotal region	*86*	*+ 0.2*
EAST NORTH CENTRAL		
Illinois	4	0.0
Indiana	23	- 1.8
Michigan	28	- 4.5
Ohio	31	+ 3.6
Wisconsin	11	+ 4.4
Subtotal	*97*	*- 0.3*
WEST NORTH CENTRAL		
Iowa	34	+ 5.2
Kansas	10	+ 9.9
Missouri	26	- 0.7
Nebraska	11	- 2.7
North Dakota	11	+ 2.8
South Dakota	10	+ 4.5
Subtotal	*102*	*+ 2.3*
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Alabama[3]	10	+ 4.5
Kentucky	13	- 1.7
Mississippi	10	+ 3.8
Tennessee	4	-16.6
Subtotal	*37*	*- 0.6*
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Arkansas	20	+ 9.8
Louisiana[3]	8	- 8.0
Oklahoma	20	- 1.0
Texas	72	- 1.7
Subtotal	*120*	*- 1.4*
MOUNTAIN		
Arizona	5	+ 6.0
Colorado	6	+ 9.9
Idaho	8	+ 1.8
Montana	14	- 4.9
Nevada[3]	12	-21.8
New Mexico	13	+ 7.7
Utah	8	-10.9
Wyoming	4	+ 3.6
Subtotal	*70*	*+ 0.1*
PACIFIC		
California	9	- 1.0
Oregon	3	+ 0.2
Washington	9	- 4.6
Subtotal	*21*	*- 2.2*
TOTAL ALL STATES[2]	*641*	*- 0.7*
STATE HIGHWAYS[2]	*600*	*- 2.1*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS	*41*	*+ 2.0*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*194*	*- 1.5*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*356*	*0.0*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*91*	*- 1.4*

[1] Combined State and local highways.
[2] Includes all States except Minnesota and New Jersey.
[3] Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1944 affected the count of 3 stations in the following States: Alabama, excluding local station 3, the increase for all highways is 0.8 percent. Louisiana, excluding station 23, there is an increase of 2.6 percent. Nevada, excluding station 110, the decrease is 4.0 percent.

P-2180

TABLE 33.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES AND DRAWBRIDGES IN DECEMBER 1944 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN DECEMBER 1943 AND 1941.

Facilities	1944			Percentage change from 1943			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and buses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and buses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and buses
THREE EASTERN REGIONS									
3 in the New England States	227,490	24,969	2,521	+4.4	+6.8	-14.5	-25.8	-26.0	-17.7
10 in the Middle Atlantic States	22,715,334	22,045,206	670,128	-1.6	-2.4	+1.1	-22.6	-27.9	+0.1
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	138,970	138,970	--	-0.6	-0.6	--	-60.4	-60.4	--
6 in the South Atlantic States	2,253,618	190,515	63,103	-9.5	-6.6	-17.3	-36.0	-41.9	-7.7
TOTAL - 20 facilities in the Eastern States[1]	34,135,412	22,399,660	7,735,752	-2.2	-2.6	-0.8	-26.9	-32.4	-0.7
TOTAL - 24 facilities in the Eastern States	34,358,066	22,587,136	7,770,930	-1.7	-2.1	-0.5			
FOUR CENTRAL REGIONS									
5 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border[2]	158,433	141,608	16,845	+2.2	+1.4	+9.0	-11.5	-13.5	+9.8
2 in the Great Lakes Region	442,429	225,768	16,661	-23.2	-14.9	-33.2	-31.5	-49.1	+47.0
Subtotal - 7 facilities	600,862	367,376	33,506	-4.5	-1.5	-17.1	-16.0	-21.9	+25.0
8 on the Ohio River	328,193	263,213	64,980	-13.7	-14.7	-9.6	-40.2	-42.5	-28.6
9 in Kentucky	114,159	89,812	24,347	-2.9	-4.1	+1.7	-28.5	-32.6	-7.7
Subtotal - 17 facilities	442,352	353,025	89,327	-11.2	-12.2	-6.8	-37.6	-40.3	-23.9
8 on the Mississippi River, St. Louis and north	688,505	511,978	176,527	-16.9	-18.4	-12.8	-49.2	-52.8	-37.1
3 on the Mississip River south of St. Louis	70,589	53,516	17,073	+9.2	+13.4	-2.3	-16.8	-18.8	-11.8
Subtotal - 11 facilities	759,094	565,494	193,600	-15.0	-16.2	-11.5	-47.2	-50.3	-35.5
4 on the Missouri River	112,193	88,556	23,627	+0.8	+1.7	-4.8	-11.7	-10.1	-17.4
2 in the Missour River area	1,915	1,530	385	+5.6	+4.9	+8.5	-37.8	-40.7	-18.8
Subtotal - 6 facilities	114,028	90,086	24,012	+0.3	+1.8	-4.6	-12.3	-10.9	-17.4
3 facilities on the Mexican Border	55,864	45,411	10,453	-2.6	-6.1	+16.5			
TOTAL - 41 facilities in the Central States[1]	1,516,426	1,175,981	340,445	-11.6	-11.9	-10.4	-39.8	-42.5	-28.1
TOTAL - 47 facilities in the Central States	1,701,086	1,323,883	377,203	-10.6	-10.9	-9.6			
TWO WESTERN REGIONS									
4 in California	2,122,544	1,865,562	256,982	+2.4	+2.1	+4.9	-8.1	-11.1	+21.5
3 in the Oregon-Washington area	181,975	154,928	27,047	+4.4	+5.4	-1.0	-1.4	-5.9	+36.3
TOTAL - 7 facilities in the Western States	2,304,519	2,020,490	284,029	+2.6	+2.3	+4.3	-7.6	-10.7	+22.8
TOTAL - 68 facilities in the United States[1]	6,956,357	5,596,131	1,360,226	-2.9	-3.1	-2.4	-25.2	-28.8	-5.9
TOTAL - 78 facilities in the United States	7,363,671	5,931,509	1,432,162	-2.7	-2.8	-2.2			
4 facilities reporting only total traffic	162,798			-7.7					
33 drawbridges in Eastern North Carolina (not toll) based on one 8-hour week-day count at each bridge	12,872	10,465	2,407	-20.7	-18.2	-30.1	-24.6	-23.7	-28.8

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

P-2180

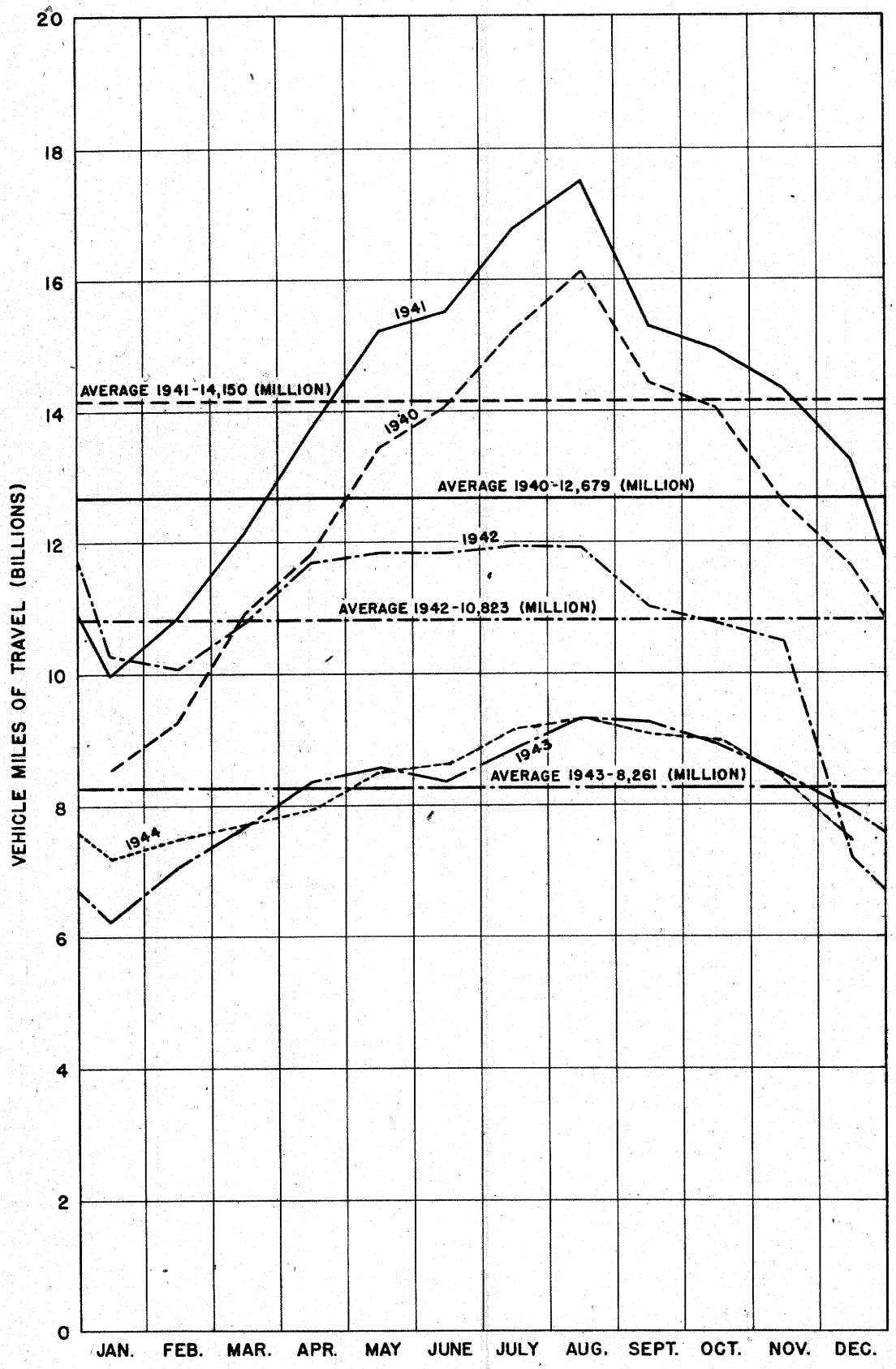

FIGURE I. VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS 1940 TO 1944 BY MONTHS

P-2180

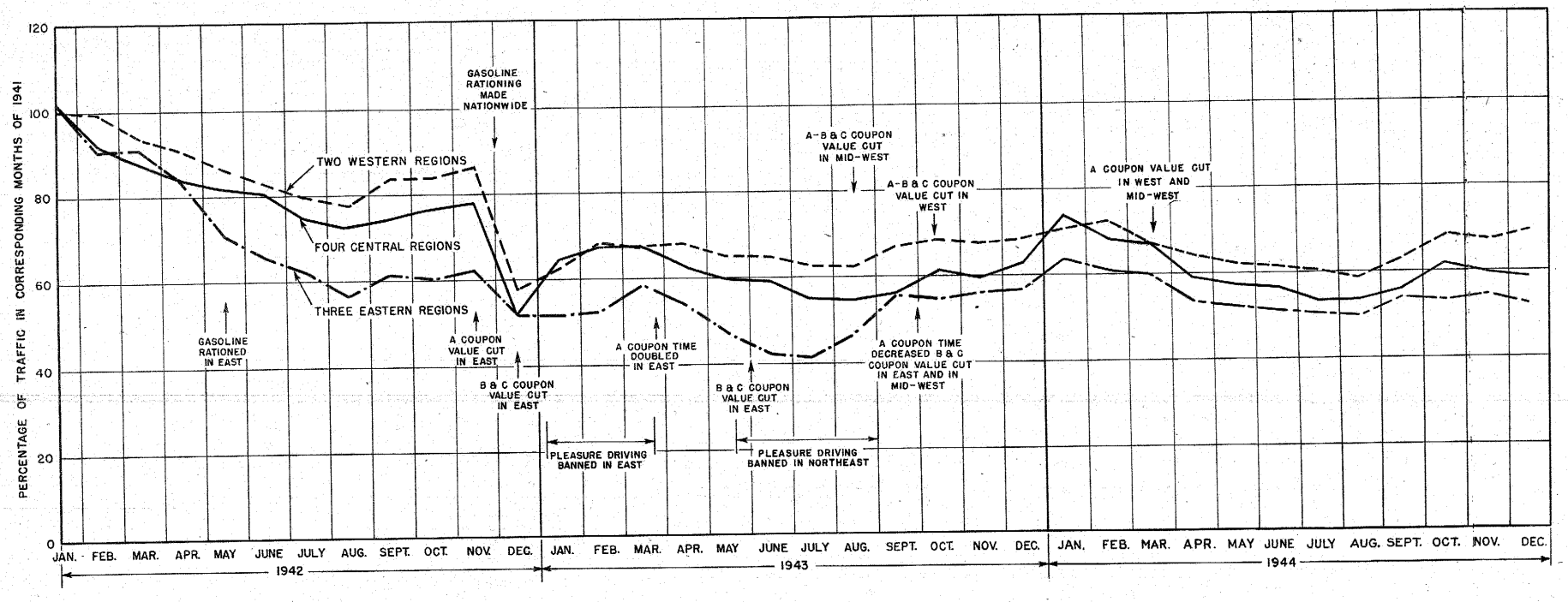

FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC IN MONTHS OF 1942, 1943, AND 1944 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941

P-2180