

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 1948

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

Motor vehicle travel on all rural roads during the year of 1947 for the Nation as a whole was higher than in any previous year. The 1947 estimate is 185,581 million vehicle-miles, an increase of about 9 percent over the previous high of 169,805 million vehicle-miles estimated for 1941.

Travel on main roads in 1947 followed the same trend as all rural roads, the estimate being 136,539 million vehicle-miles, an increase of almost 12 percent over the 1941 estimate of 122,505 million vehicle-miles.

Local road travel for 1947 was heavier than in any previous year. The latest available traffic figures, however, indicate that travel in November 1947 was slightly less than in this month of 1948 and that travel during May, June, November, and December 1947 was less than in these months of 1941, when traffic records for these roads were established which have not been surpassed.

On the basis of preliminary figures, total travel in January 1948 on all rural roads and city streets in the United States was higher than in any previous January, there being an indicated increase of one percent over the estimate for the previous year and 20 percent over the 1941 figures. During the same month, travel on the main rural roads exceeded the 1947 volumes by more than 4 percent and the 1941 figures by slightly more than 24 percent. Travel on local roads and city streets showed a decrease compared with 1947 but was higher than in any other previous year.

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1947
Main roads	+24.2	+104.6	+ 4.4
Local roads	+14.5	+80.3	- 2.6
City streets	+18.6	+80.3	- 0.4
Average	+20.0	+88.2	+ 1.0

Travel on rural roads in the eastern regions was a little lower than in 1947 presumably because of the regions' winter, but was higher than in any other previous year. In the central and western regions, however, it exceeded the travel on rural roads in 1947, the previous all-time high, and exceeded that in 1941 by large percentages.

	Rural traffic in vehicle miles January 1948 (millions)	Percentage change from		
		1941	1943	1947
Eastern regions	3,853	+ 8.6	+100.2	- 2.1
Central regions	6,411	+23.5	+88.1	+ 2.1
Western regions	2,348	+43.1	+124.5	+12.0
United States total	12,612	+21.5	+97.5	+ 2.5

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Attachments

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA
FOR JANUARY 1948 INCLUDING 603 STATIONS IN 44 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Jan. 1947	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Jan. 1947
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>		
Alabama	6	- 1.0	(Continued)		
Arizona	4	+12.3	Utah	11	+19.5
Arkansas	17	- 0.8	Vermont	12	+11.0
California	9	+ 9.5	Washington	9	+27.3
Colorado	5	+ 7.4	West Virginia	11	+ 1.2
Connecticut	15	-20.4	Wisconsin	9	+ 7.9
Delaware	3	- 4.3	Wyoming	6	+ 5.3
Georgia	7	+ 0.6			
Idaho	8	+18.4	<i>TOTAL - 44 STATES</i>	571	+ 4.4
Illinois	6	+19.3	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Indiana	21	+ 9.2	Alabama	1	- 3.6
Iowa	26	+16.2	Connecticut	3	- 2.6
Kansas	13	+ 6.6	Delaware	2	- 8.3
Kentucky	11	-10.1	Georgia	3	+ 8.2
Louisiana	8	+ 5.9	Indiana	1	+ 2.9
Maine	9	+ 5.9	Iowa	7	+ 9.6
Maryland	17	- 0.3	Maryland	1	-21.2
Massachusetts	9	-10.0	Michigan	2	-12.4
Michigan	26	- 0.6	Missouri	2	+ 9.3
Minnesota	26	+ 3.6	Montana	2	+24.1
Mississippi	10	+ 2.2	Nebraska	1	+ 8.0
Missouri	21	+ 9.2	North Dakota	2	-40.1
Montana	12	+ 9.8	Ohio	2	-10.8
Nebraska	11	+ 9.3	Oregon	1	- 0.9
Nevada	16	+ 9.5	Rhode Island	1	-11.3
New Hampshire	8	+ 3.1	Wisconsin	1	- 0.4
New Jersey	3	- 9.4			
New Mexico	15	+ 7.9	<i>TOTAL - 16 STATES</i>	32	- 2.6
North Carolina	20	+13.2	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
North Dakota	10	+ 1.4	44 STATES	603	+ 2.5
Ohio	21	+ 6.7	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
Oklahoma	20	+ 6.7		127	- 2.1
Oregon	2	+35.7	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
Rhode Island	2	-21.1		376	+ 2.1
South Carolina	1	- 2.5	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
South Dakota	10	- 2.4		100	+12.0
Tennessee	5	+ 4.6			
Texas	80	+ 4.4			

¹Includes all States except Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
1/1/58	Opening Balance			100.00
1/15/58	John Doe	50.00		50.00
1/30/58	Jane Smith	25.00		25.00
2/15/58	Robert Brown	75.00		50.00
3/1/58	Mary White	30.00		20.00
3/15/58	James Black	40.00		20.00
3/30/58	Patricia Green	60.00		20.00
4/15/58	William Blue	55.00		20.00
5/1/58	Linda Yellow	45.00		20.00
5/15/58	Richard Purple	35.00		20.00
5/30/58	Susan Red	25.00		20.00
6/15/58	Thomas Orange	15.00		20.00
6/30/58	Karen Pink	5.00		20.00
7/15/58	Charles Grey	10.00		20.00
7/30/58	Michelle Silver	10.00		20.00
8/15/58	Christopher Gold	10.00		20.00
8/30/58	Angela Bronze	10.00		20.00
9/15/58	Steven Iron	10.00		20.00
9/30/58	Rebecca Copper	10.00		20.00
10/15/58	Donald Nickel	10.00		20.00
10/30/58	Christina Zinc	10.00		20.00
11/15/58	Timothy Lead	10.00		20.00
11/30/58	Sarah Tin	10.00		20.00
12/15/58	Matthew Platinum	10.00		20.00
12/30/58	Elizabeth Silver	10.00		20.00
1/1/59	Final Balance			20.00

TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA
FOR DECEMBER 1947 INCLUDING 658 STATIONS IN 48
STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Dec. 1946	Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Dec. 1946
NEW ENGLAND			EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Connecticut	17	- 3.3	Alabama	7	+ 3.9
Maine	8	+ 4.5	Kentucky	11	+ 8.4
Massachusetts	9	+ 0.5	Mississippi	10	+10.7
New Hampshire	14	+ 2.2	Tennessee	5	+15.1
Rhode Island	3	- 0.4	Subtotal	33	+ 9.2
Vermont	12	+ 0.6	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Subtotal	63	- 0.3	Arkansas	16	+ 7.7
MIDDLE ATLANTIC			Louisiana	8	+ 2.4
New Jersey	4	+12.6	Oklahoma	20	+ 8.9
New York	1	- 6.4	Texas	80	+ 8.6
Pennsylvania	28	+ 5.4	Subtotal	124	+ 7.9
Subtotal	33	+ 6.7	MOUNTAIN		
SOUTH ATLANTIC			Arizona	5	+15.1
Delaware	5	0.0	Colorado	5	+ 8.9
Maryland	18	+ 6.3	Idaho	8	+13.5
Virginia	3	+ 9.0	Montana	14	+14.1
West Virginia	10	+13.1	Nevada	16	+ 6.6
Subtotal north portion	36	+ 7.3	New Mexico	14	+ 6.3
Florida	19	+10.1	Utah	10	+ 4.4
Georgia	10	+ 4.6	Wyoming	3	+ 5.6
North Carolina	20	+ 7.0	Subtotal	75	+ 9.7
South Carolina	1	- 0.3	PACIFIC		
Subtotal south portion	50	+ 7.6	California	9	+15.4
Subtotal region	86	+ 7.5	Oregon	5	+18.8
EAST NORTH CENTRAL			Washington	9	+14.4
Illinois	6	+14.4	Subtotal	23	+15.5
Indiana	22	+ 6.9	TOTAL ALL STATES²	658	+ 5.0
Michigan	28	+ 2.5	STATE HIGHWAYS	626	+ 6.5
Ohio	22	+ 5.5	LOCAL HIGHWAYS	32	+ 0.9
Wisconsin	10	+ 6.8	3 EASTERN REGIONS	182	+ 1.1
Subtotal	88	+ 5.7	4 CENTRAL REGIONS	378	+ 5.2
WEST NORTH CENTRAL			2 WESTERN REGIONS	98	+12.3
Iowa	33	+11.0			
Kansas	12	+ 5.4			
Minnesota	27	+10.6			
Missouri	27	+ 9.3			
Nebraska	12	+ 7.0			
North Dakota	12	- 2.6			
South Dakota	10	+ 2.0			
Subtotal	133	+ 8.7			

¹Combined State and local highways.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN JANUARY 1948 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN JANUARY 1947.

Facilities	1948			Percentage change from 1947		
	Total	Passenger cars ¹	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars ¹	Trucks and busses
EASTERN REGIONS						
5 in the New England States	748,503	658,179	90,324	- 7.0	- 8.0	+ 1.1
15 in the Middle Atlantic States	6,766,970	5,419,147	1,347,823	-22.5	-26.9	+ 1.9
Pennsylvania Turnpike ²	149,042	98,208	50,834	+ 5.9	- 1.7	+24.5
5 in the South Atlantic States	330,637	251,959	78,678	+ 0.3	- 2.1	+ 8.7
TOTAL -26 facilities	7,995,152	6,427,493	1,567,659	-20.1	-24.2	+ 2.8
CENTRAL REGIONS						
2 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ³	160,328	150,375	9,953	+18.8	+19.8	+ 6.0
1 in the Great Lakes Region	6,908	5,591	1,317	+10.8	+12.3	+ 4.9
Subtotal - 3 facilities	167,236	155,966	11,270	+18.5	+19.5	+ 5.9
4 on the Ohio River	229,390	185,539	43,851	+ 4.3	+ 4.2	+ 4.4
1 in Kentucky	9,080	5,804	3,276	+ 4.9	- 5.7	+30.8
Subtotal - 5 facilities	238,470	191,343	47,127	+ 4.3	+ 3.9	+ 5.9
9 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and North	635,442	518,130	117,312	+14.5	+12.3	+25.5
3 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	89,867	64,022	25,845	+11.0	+16.3	- 0.4
Subtotal - 12 facilities	725,309	582,152	143,157	+14.1	+12.7	+19.9
2 on the Missouri River	131,956	103,580	28,376	+ 5.8	+ 8.6	- 3.4
5 in the West South Central States	78,227	70,336	7,891	- 0.4	+ 1.8	-16.1
Subtotal - 7 facilities	210,183	173,916	36,267	+ 3.4	+ 5.8	- 6.4
TOTAL - 27 facilities	1,341,198	1,103,377	237,821	+10.9	+10.8	+11.5
WESTERN REGIONS						
1 in California	2,066,335	1,872,189	194,146	+ 3.2	+ 3.7	- 1.1
4 in the Oregon-Washington area	336,085	292,495	43,590	+19.8	+20.2	+17.1
TOTAL - 5 facilities	2,402,420	2,164,684	237,736	+ 5.3	+ 5.6	+ 1.8
UNITED STATES						
TOTAL - 58 facilities¹	11,738,770	9,695,554	2,043,216	-13.0	-15.9	+ 3.6

¹Non-revenue vehicles included in report and treated as passenger cars unless otherwise specified.

²Number of vehicles, those using any portion of the facility.

³One of these facilities is in Western New York and therefore is related to similar facilities in the Central States.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this _____ day of _____, 20____, personally appeared _____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

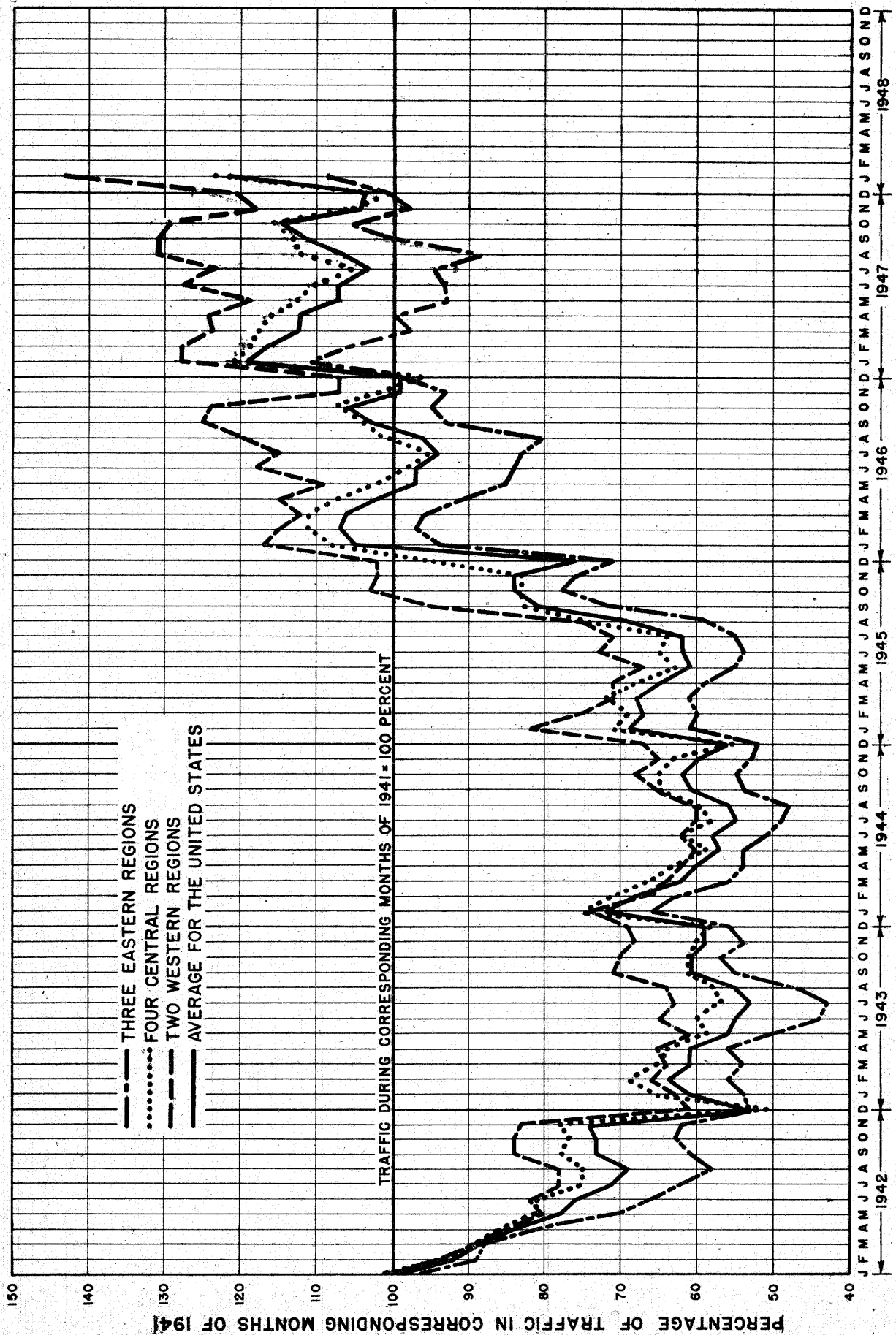
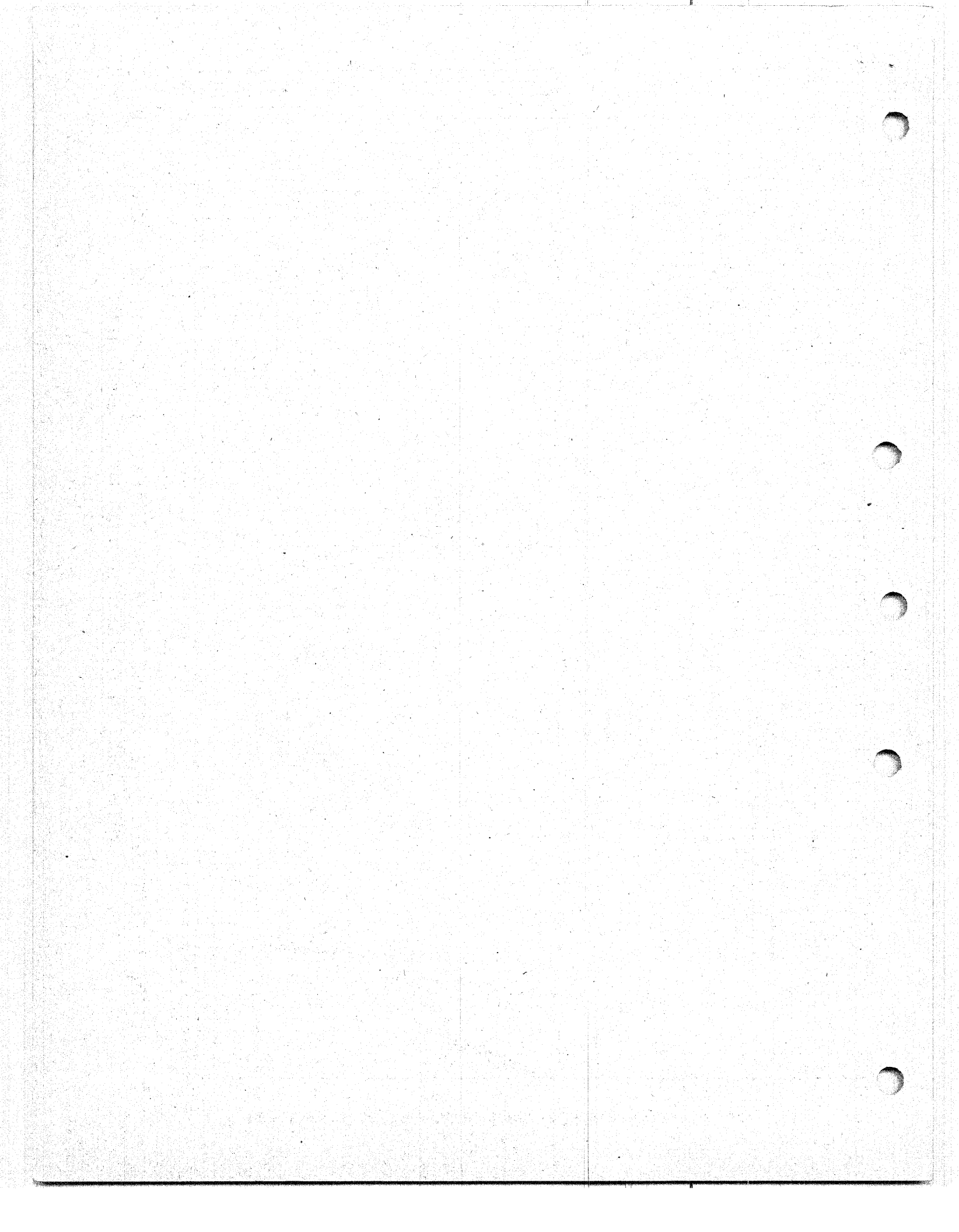


FIGURE 1 - PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1948 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



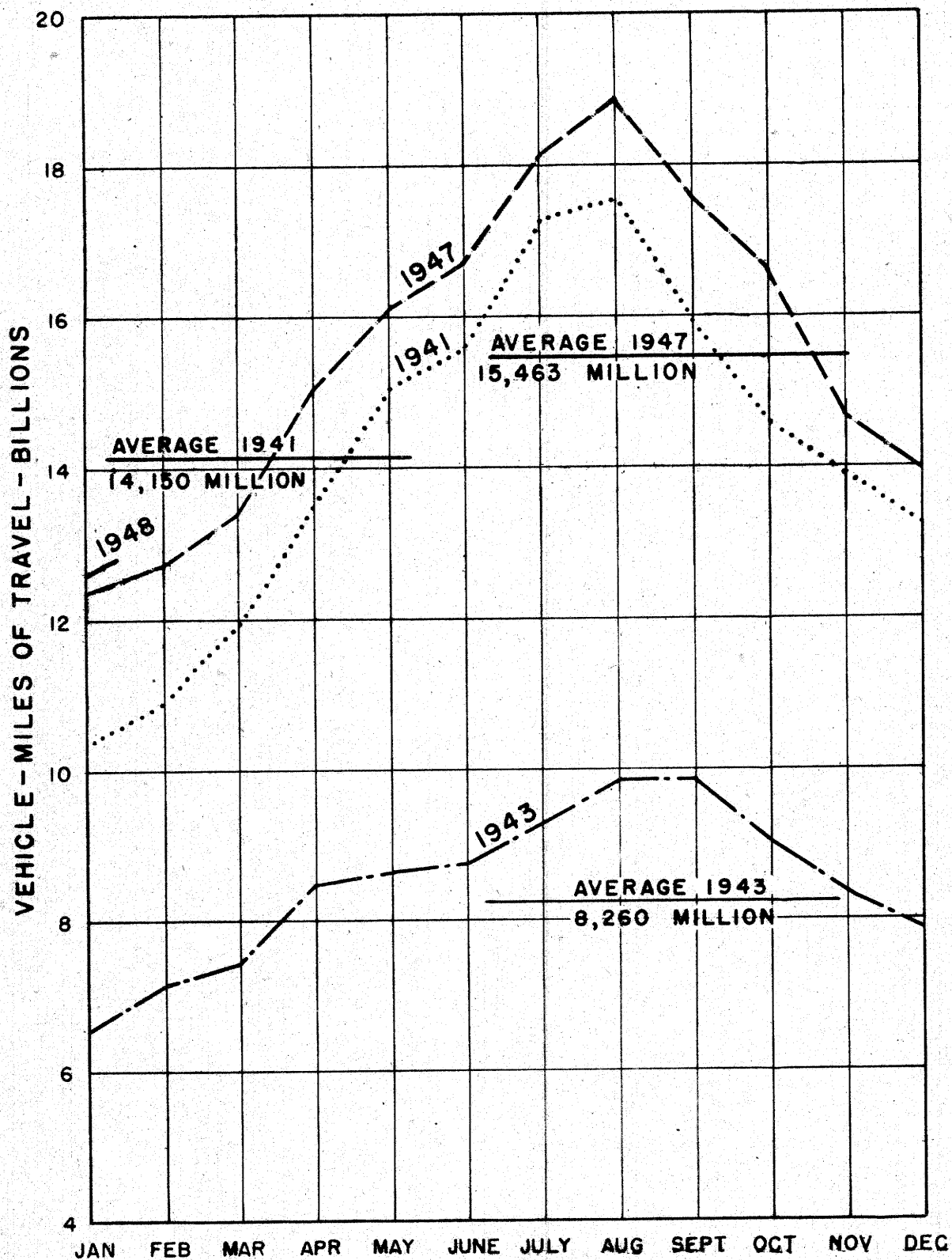


FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE - MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1947 AND 1948

