

Mr Hitchcock

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 30, 1945

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

The preliminary data for May indicated that, for the third consecutive month, traffic in practically all sections of the country increased over the estimates for these months in 1944. During May, increases were found in all States reporting except eight eastern States and in several of these the reports were incomplete and may not be representative of the final figures. Traffic in the eastern portion decreased 0.7 percent compared to the 1944 estimates for that section; that in the central States increased 3.6 percent; while that in the mountain and western States increased 9.3 percent. Increases in the western States continued to exceed those of any other area. Traffic in the entire country increased 3.2 percent over the total estimated for May 1944, and reached a level of 58.1 percent of the May 1941 estimate. Increases in counts at toll facilities continued to be slightly larger than those at other locations; the counts in May 1945 being 8.7 percent above those made in 1944.

In Detroit, Michigan, traffic counted at three stations in May 1945 was 0.1 percent below the count at the same locations in the corresponding month of 1944.

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

Attachments.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 350

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TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
MAY 1945 INCLUDING 510 STATIONS IN 39 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from May 1944	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from May 1944
STATE HIGHWAYS			STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)		
Alabama	7	+ 7.6	Vermont	3	+12.1
Arizona	5	+12.3	Virginia	1	- 1.8
Arkansas	18	+10.8	Washington	10	+ 1.2
California	9	+14.9	Wisconsin	9	+ 7.5
Colorado	6	+28.4	Wyoming	3	+ 5.2
Connecticut	17	- 3.7			
Delaware	5	+ 1.7	TOTAL - 39 STATES	480	+ 3.3
Idaho	8	+ 9.9	LOCAL HIGHWAYS		
Illinois	6	+ 0.7	Alabama	2	+ 6.0
Iowa	26	+ 6.1	Connecticut	3	- 8.6
Kansas ²	14	+12.3	Delaware	2	+25.4
Kentucky	11	- 0.1	Iowa	9	+ 7.4
Maine	10	- 3.3	Maryland	1	+ 6.5
Maryland	17	- 2.8	Michigan	2	+ 7.6
Massachusetts	9	- 1.9	Montana	2	+10.8
Michigan	26	- 0.5	Nebraska	1	-24.0
Mississippi	7	+ 7.2	North Dakota	2	-13.6
Montana	12	+ 2.2	Ohio	1	- 1.1
Nebraska	11	+ 7.1	Oregon	1	- 4.3
Nevada	16	+ 6.2	Rhode Island	1	-23.9
New Mexico	13	+ 8.2	Tennessee	1	+17.5
New York	2	- 8.4	Wisconsin	2	+10.2
North Carolina	20	+ 2.7			
North Dakota	11	+ 5.1	TOTAL - 14 STATES	30	+ 2.8
Ohio	18	+ 0.3	ALL HIGHWAYS		
Oklahoma	20	+ 3.2	39 STATES	510	+ 3.2
Oregon	3	+11.3	3 EASTERN REGIONS		
Pennsylvania	29	- 1.3		124 ¹	- 0.7
Rhode Island	3	+ 6.7	4 CENTRAL REGIONS		
South Carolina	1	+ 3.0		288	+ 3.6
South Dakota	9	+ 5.2	2 WESTERN REGIONS		
Tennessee	3	+ 7.4		98	+ 9.3
Texas	72	+ 2.5			
Utah	10	+ 6.3			

¹Includes all States except Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, West Virginia.

²Abnormal conditions in 1944 or 1945 affected 1 count in Kansas, excluding station 7 the increase is 3.5 percent.

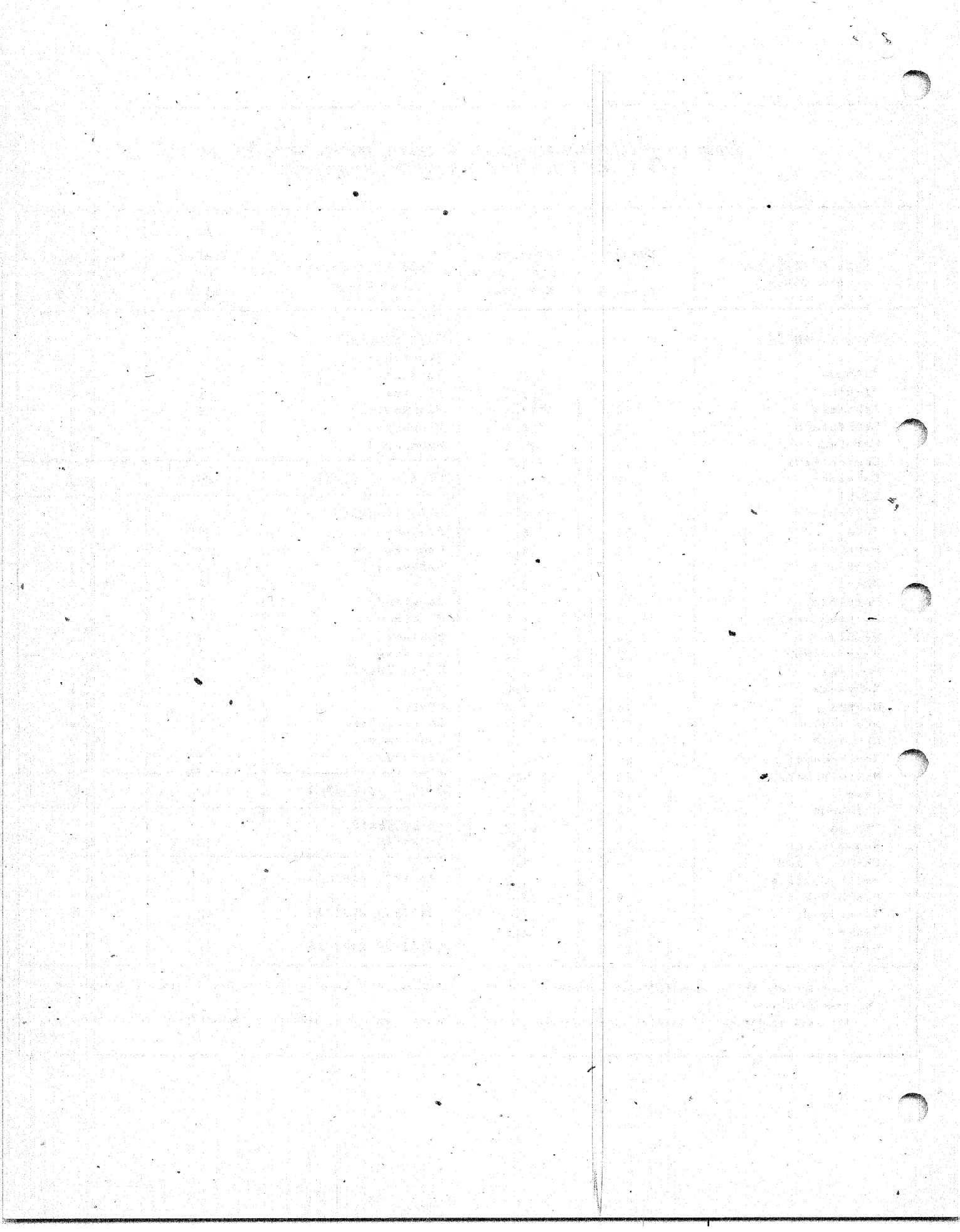


TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
APRIL 1945 INCLUDING 633 STATIONS IN 45 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from April 1944	Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from April 1944
NEW ENGLAND			EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Connecticut	20	+ 3.0	Alabama	10	+ 5.4
Maine	10	+ 1.9	Kentucky	12	+ 1.0
Massachusetts	9	+ 6.7	Mississippi	10	+ 8.1
New Hampshire	15	+ 8.7	Tennessee	5	- 8.1
Rhode Island	4	+ 3.6	Subtotal	37	+ 2.8
Vermont	7	+10.8	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Subtotal	65	+ 5.0	Arkansas ³	20	+22.7
MIDDLE ATLANTIC			Oklahoma	20	+ 2.2
New York	8	+ 4.2	Texas	72	+ 3.1
Pennsylvania	29	+ 3.2	Subtotal	112	+ 4.6
Subtotal	37	+ 3.5	MOUNTAIN		
SOUTH ATLANTIC			Arizona	4	+17.6
Delaware	7	+ 7.5	Colorado	6	+25.3
Maryland	18	+ 3.3	Idaho	8	+ 2.8
Virginia	3	- 0.9	Montana	14	- 0.6
West Virginia	8	+12.7	Nevada	16	+ 1.7
Subtotal north portion	36	+ 5.4	New Mexico	13	+ 9.2
Florida	19	+ 4.0	Utah	10	+ 7.6
Georgia	11	+ 6.7	Wyoming	4	+16.9
North Carolina	20	+ 2.9	Subtotal	75	+10.0
South Carolina	3	+ 4.4	PACIFIC		
Subtotal south portion	53	+ 4.0	California	9	+16.5
Subtotal region	89	+4.6	Oregon	4	+15.7
EAST NORTH CENTRAL			Washington	9	+ 3.6
Illinois	4	+ 2.6	Subtotal	22	+11.5
Indiana	23	+ 2.4	TOTAL ALL STATES²	633	+ 5.9
Michigan	28	+ 5.2	STATE HIGHWAYS²	595	+ 6.0
Ohio	22	+ 4.4	LOCAL HIGHWAYS	38	+ 5.8
Wisconsin	11	+11.3	3 EASTERN REGIONS	191	+ 4.2
Subtotal	88	+ 5.0	4 CENTRAL REGIONS	344	+ 5.3
WEST NORTH CENTRAL			2 WESTERN REGIONS	97	+11.0
Iowa	35	+ 6.1			
Kansas	13	+15.6			
Missouri	27	+ 7.1			
Nebraska	12	+ 8.9			
North Dakota	11	+ 7.3			
South Dakota	10	+ 5.5			
Subtotal	108	+ 8.1			

¹Combined State and local highways.

²Includes all States except Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

³Abnormal conditions in 1944 or 1945 affected 1 count in Arkansas, excluding station 21. the increase is 9.5 percent.

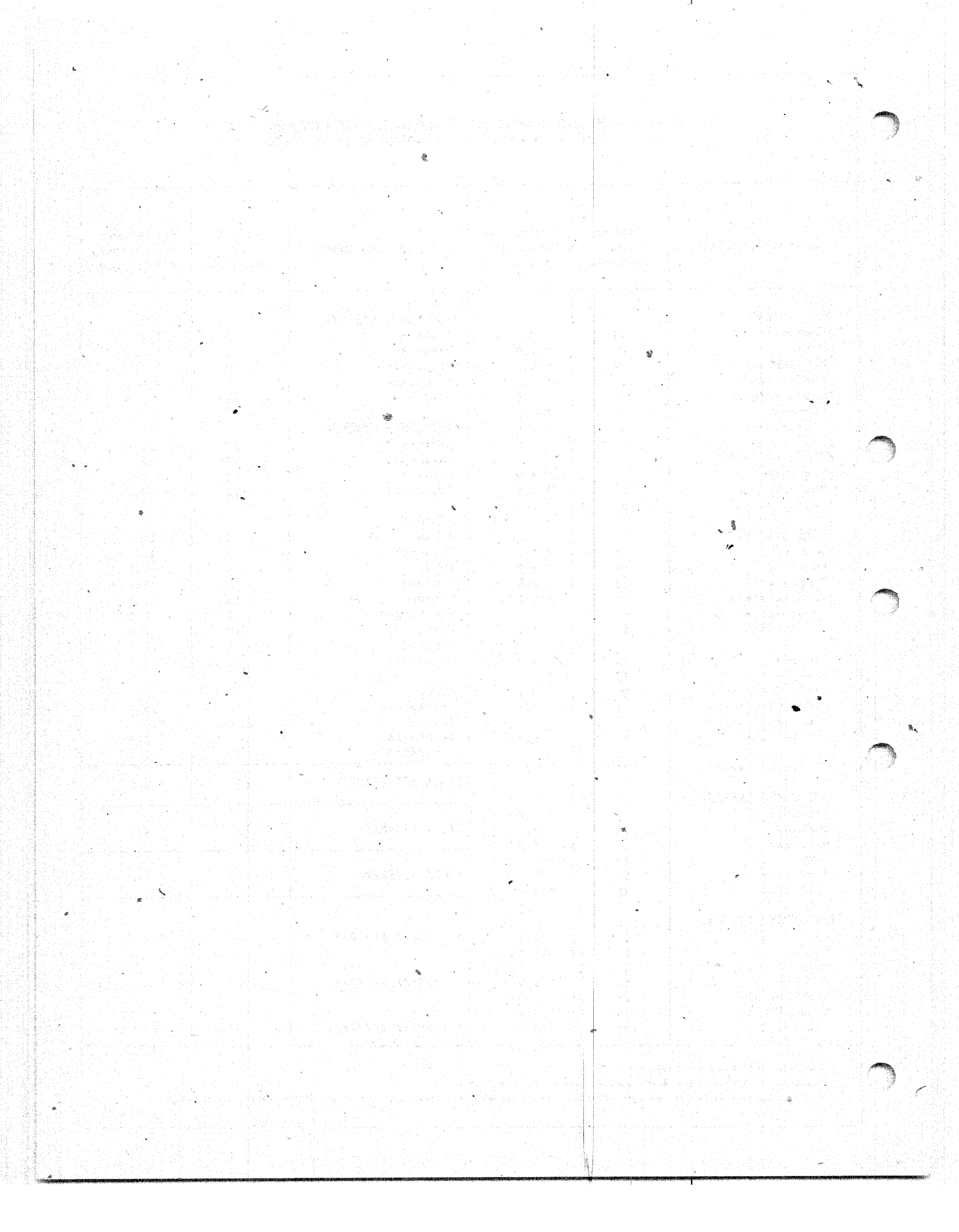


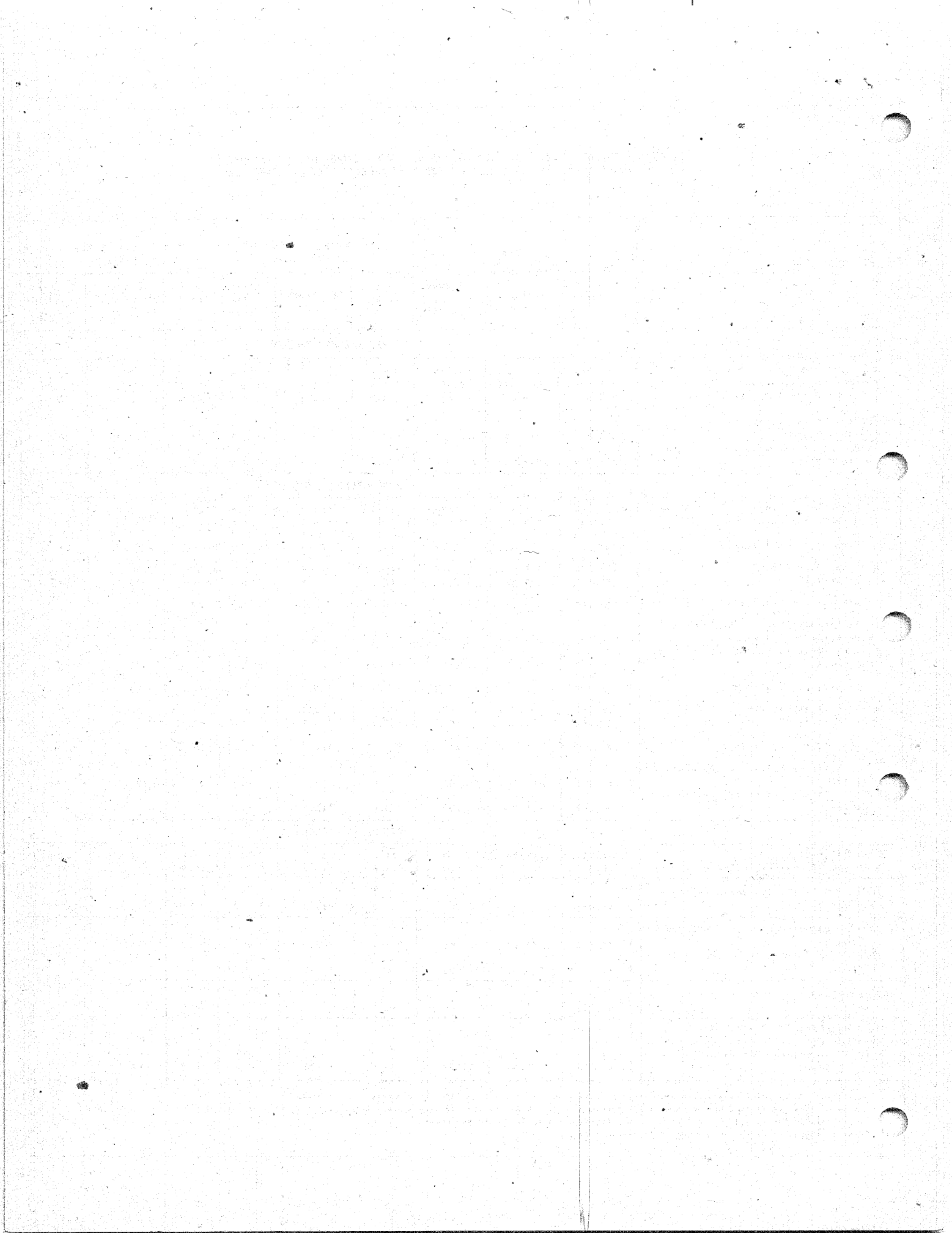
TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES AND DRAWBRIDGES IN MAY 1945 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN MAY 1944 AND 1941.

Facilities	1945			Percentage change from 1944			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
THREE EASTERN REGIONS									
2 in the New England States	31,141	27,956	3,185	+ 9.8	+ 9.6	+10.8	-34.2	-37.1	+ 9.5
6 in the Middle Atlantic States	919,520	770,312	149,208	+ 1.6	+ 1.6	+ 1.9	-30.6	-33.4	-10.9
5 in the South Atlantic States	220,148	156,497	63,651	- 8.8	-11.2	- 2.4	-44.0	-51.5	- 9.7
TOTAL - 13 facilities in the Eastern States ¹	1,170,809	954,765	216,044	- 0.7	- 0.5	+ 0.7	-33.7	-37.4	-10.3
TOTAL - 16 facilities in the Eastern States	1,277,929	1,046,866	231,063	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.6			
FOUR CENTRAL REGIONS									
6 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ²	516,990	469,596	47,394	+48.9	+52.9	+18.6	+27.0	+24.3	+62.0
2 in the Great Lakes Region	63,157	43,148	20,009	- 5.0	+ 8.0	-24.5	-49.0	-56.5	-18.4
Subtotal - 8 facilities	580,147	512,744	67,403	+40.3	+47.7	+ 1.4	+ 9.3	+ 7.5	+25.4
8 on the Ohio River ³	440,880	356,533	84,347	+10.3	+11.5	+ 5.6	-27.1	-30.3	- 9.2
10 in Kentucky	127,025	92,635	34,390	-12.1	-18.4	+10.6	-28.6	-36.9	+10.4
Subtotal - 18 facilities	567,905	449,168	118,737	+ 4.3	+ 3.7	+ 7.0	-27.4	-31.8	- 4.3
10 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and north.	886,731	691,222	195,509	+ 1.3	+ 2.4	- 2.3	-38.1	-40.8	-26.3
3 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	54,704	41,037	13,667	+35.5	+27.1	+69.2	-25.9	-27.0	-22.3
Subtotal - 13 facilities	941,435	732,259	209,176	+ 2.8	+ 3.5	+ 0.5	-37.5	-40.1	-26.0
4 on the Missouri River	165,310	120,003	45,307	+ 3.9	+12.2	-13.1	- 9.5	-12.5	- 0.4
2 in the Missouri River area	2,647	2,135	512	- 0.1	+ 1.7	-11.0	-49.4	-51.5	-38.5
Subtotal - 6 facilities	167,957	122,138	45,819	+ 3.8	+12.0	-13.0	-10.8	-13.7	- 1.1
TOTAL - 45 facilities in the Central States ¹	2,257,444	1,816,309	441,135	+10.9	+13.7	+ 0.7	-24.9	-27.4	-13.0
TOTAL - 50 facilities in the Central States	2,391,699	1,929,615	462,084	+10.6	+13.3	+ 0.5			
TWO WESTERN REGIONS									
3 in California	1,807,048	1,567,082	239,966	+11.5	+11.7	+10.2	- 8.5	-14.4	+65.6
5 in the Oregon-Washington area	239,315	205,392	33,923	+15.8	+17.4	+ 7.3	+16.8	+12.8	+49.4
TOTAL - 8 facilities in the Western States ¹	2,046,363	1,772,474	273,889	+12.0	+12.3	+ 9.8	- 6.1	-11.9	+63.4
TOTAL - 66 facilities in the United States ¹	5,474,616	4,543,548	931,068	+ 8.7	+ 9.9	+ 3.2	-21.3	-24.7	+ 1.7
TOTAL - 74 facilities in the United States	5,715,991	4,748,955	967,036	+ 8.7	+ 9.9	+ 3.0			
3 facilities reporting only total traffic	81,795			-11.9					
31 drawbridges in Eastern North Carolina (not toll) based on two eight-hour counts. One Saturday and one weekday.	27,792	23,493	4,299	- 7.7	- 7.8	- 7.0	-10.5	-12.2	+ 0.1

¹These facilities have comparative data for 1945, 1944, and 1941 and are included in the larger total below.

²Three of these facilities are in Western New York and therefore are related to similar facilities in the Central States. It is reported that the extraordinary increase is due to people in the States going to Canada to buy meats.

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



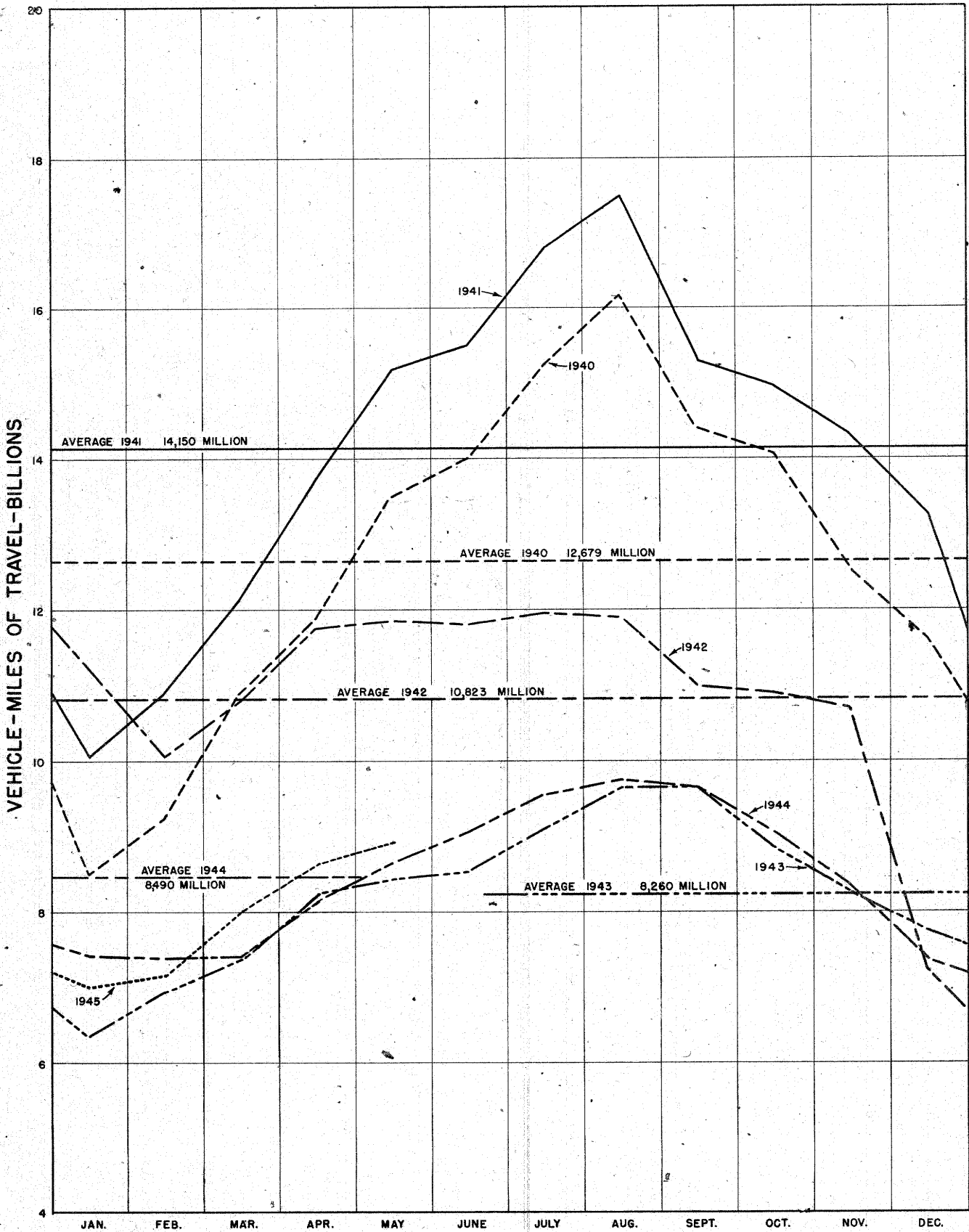
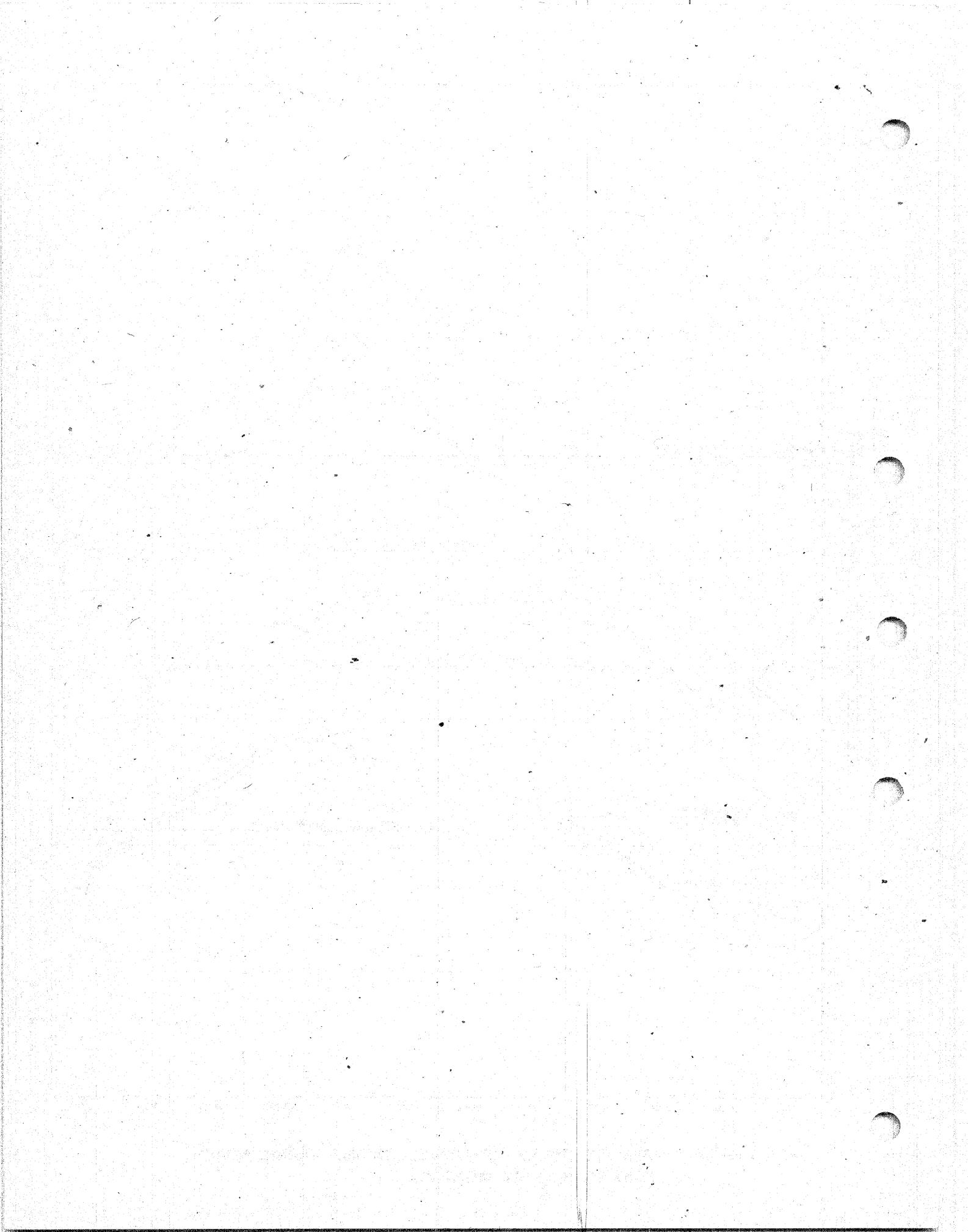


FIGURE 1.- VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS
1940 TO 1945 BY MONTHS.



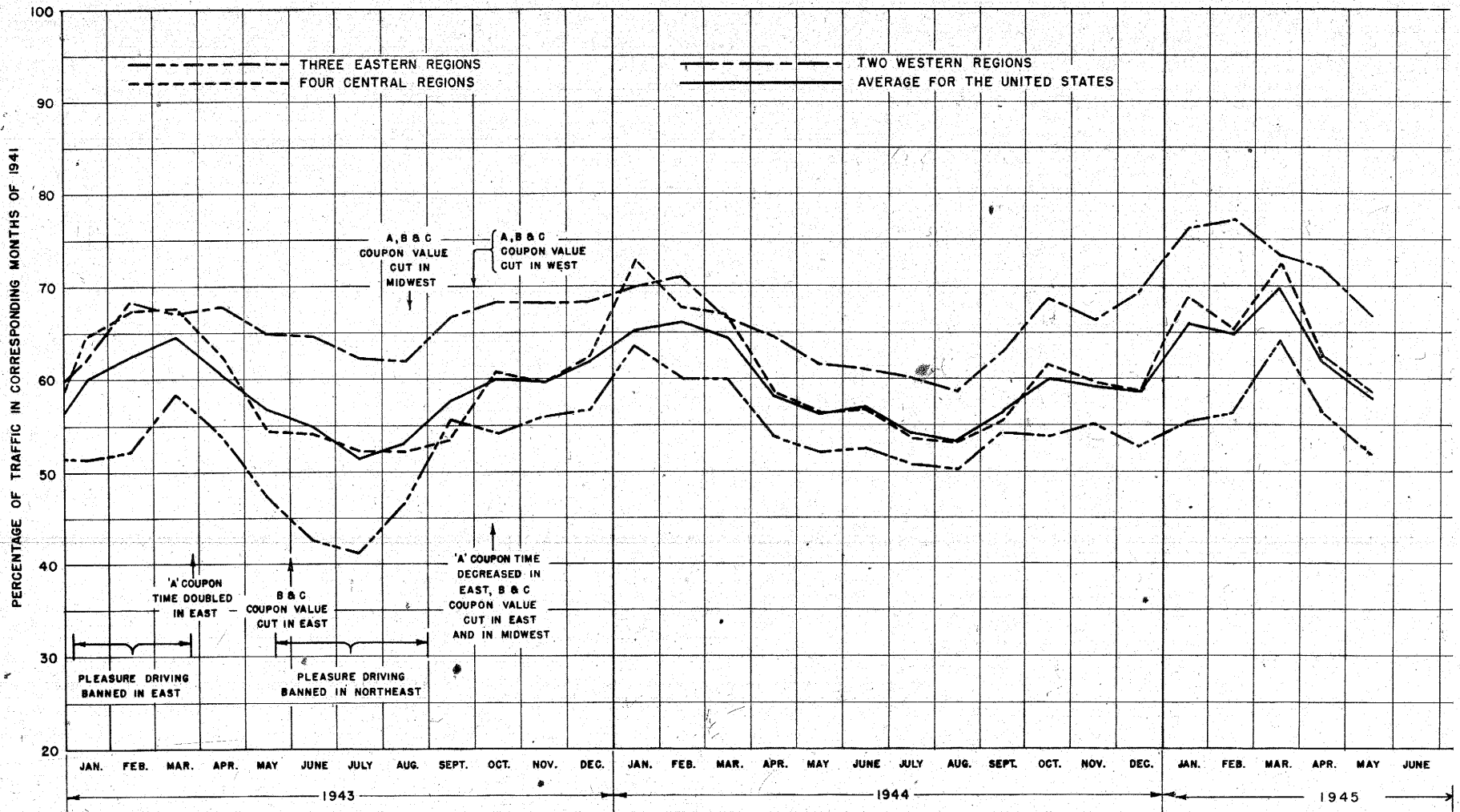


FIGURE 2.- PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC IN MONTHS OF 1943 AND 1944 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941

