

Mr. Kitchcock

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 45

DATE: AUGUST 31, 1943.

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS.

Preliminary data for July 1943 indicate that the decline in highway traffic from July 1942 was 28.9 percent. These data from 572 automatic traffic recorders distributed throughout 43 States, are presented in table 1. The decrease in traffic during July on State highways was 29.0 percent; on local highways, 16.0 percent. The uniformity in traffic decreases since January 1943, upon State highways and local highways, is remarkable. Throughout each of these six months, traffic has been lower than in the corresponding month of 1942 by about 30 percent on State highways, and about 20 percent on local highways. The revised summary of data for June 1943, shown in table 2, varies but slightly from the preliminary results in last month's traffic bulletin.

The monthly record of traffic since January 1940 is given in the attached chart for two areas: The eastern seaboard States, where rationing began in May 1942; and the remainder of the country, first rationed in December 1942. These data indicate that in the eastern area, traffic in July 1943 was but 37.7 percent of that in July 1941; while in the West and Middle West the comparable figure was 54.6 percent. This is a new low in the eastern area, while in the West and Middle West traffic in July of this year was not quite so low as in December 1942 compared, in both cases, to the corresponding month of 1941 as a base. For the whole of the United States, traffic in July 1943 was 47.6 percent of that in July 1941, a lower percentage than that for any previous month compared with the corresponding 1941 month.

At the toll facilities, traffic decreases in July were almost the same as those in June, each month compared with the corresponding month of 1942, both in the area rationed in May 1942 and in the area rationed in December 1942. The data are given in table 3. There has been, however, an increase in traffic volumes at toll facilities in both areas in July, as compared with June of this year. In the eastern area, the increase amounted to 12.0 percent for total vehicles, 15.9 percent for passenger cars, and 2.8 percent for commercial vehicles. The smaller increase for

commercial vehicles is due to the smaller variation in this type of vehicle from month to month during the year. These percentages were computed from data for the same 21 facilities in both months.

A study of the toll facility information for 46 locations in the rest of the country indicates that the total traffic volume in July 1943 was compared with June 1943 increased 7.2 percent, passenger cars 8.0 percent, and commercial vehicles 2.9 percent.

It is of interest to note that 25 facilities in the area rationed in December 1942 had approximately the same percentage changes between July 1943 and July 1942 as did the 56 facilities in the same area. This would indicate that the figures reported are representative of the traffic volume changes taking place at toll facilities.

H. S. FAIRBANK, CHIEF,
DIVISION OF INFORMATION,
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION.

Attachments.

TABLE I.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY* OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR JULY 1943 INCLUDING 572 STATIONS IN 43 STATES

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Total daily traffic	Percent decrease ¹ from July 1942	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Total daily traffic	Percent decrease ¹ from July 1942
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>				<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			
Alabama	-7	9,223	23.1	Washington	19	16,979	22.9
Arizona	5	12,074	18.4	West Virginia	11	15,534	21.3
Arkansas	21	15,373	23.9	Wisconsin	9	20,867	37.8
California	10	23,577	14.9	Wyoming	3	2,223	31.8
Colorado	5	5,806	36.4				
Connecticut	17	36,982	44.5	<i>TOTAL - 43 STATES</i>	538	801,218	29.0
Delaware	2	3,536	36.3	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>			
Idaho	6	8,487	22.7	Alabama	2	756	14.9
Illinois	4	7,134	30.2	Connecticut	2	680	24.4
Iowa	26	27,039	26.6	Iowa	10	1,234	13.5
Kansas ³	9	9,000	24.8	Maryland	1	289	3.7
Kentucky	12	19,382	35.8	Massachusetts	1	232	36.3
Louisiana ³	5	10,004	6.6	Michigan	2	646	33.3
Maine	11	10,963	34.1	Missouri	2	792	10.9
Maryland	14	29,709	29.2	Montana	2	447	4.9
Massachusetts	9	24,793	36.7	Nebraska	1	169	1.7
Michigan	26	71,458	35.2	North Dakota	2	414	1.2
Mississippi	10	13,445	10.2	Ohio	3	1,452	25.0
Missouri	25	42,778	29.0	Oregon	1	240	8.8
Montana	12	7,309	30.8	Rhode Island	1	307	12.5
Nevada ³	11	6,475	32.4	Tennessee	2	993	1.2
Nebraska	11	9,874	21.6	Wisconsin	2	441	7.7
New Hampshire	18	13,575	48.3				
New Mexico	13	16,667	18.5	<i>TOTAL - 25 STATES</i>	34	9,092	16.0
New York	11	21,646	45.1	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>			
North Carolina ³	17	23,133	21.2	<i>43 STATES²</i>	572	810,310	28.9
North Dakota	11	4,619	26.1				
Ohio	23	40,831	25.8	<i>RATIONED MAY 1942</i>	143	208,426	36.4
Oklahoma	20	32,103	17.0				
Oregon	3	4,862	17.2	<i>RATIONED DECEMBER 1942</i>	429	601,884	25.9
Pennsylvania	29	40,231	41.3				
Rhode Island	3	4,544	26.9				
South Carolina	9	9,756	11.9				
South Dakota	9	6,662	22.6				
Tennessee	2	3,628	25.2				
Texas	61	98,471	14.7				
Utah	7	8,400	26.3				
Vermont	8	4,887	39.9				
Virginia	4	7,179	40.8				

* Data from some States cover only a portion of the month, or have not been adjusted for the difference in numbers of Saturdays and Sundays between this year and last. Plus sign before percentage indicates increase.

2. Includes all States except the following: Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

STATIONS NOT INCLUDED:

3. Defense activity - 1 each in Kansas and Nevada; 2 each in Louisiana and North Carolina.

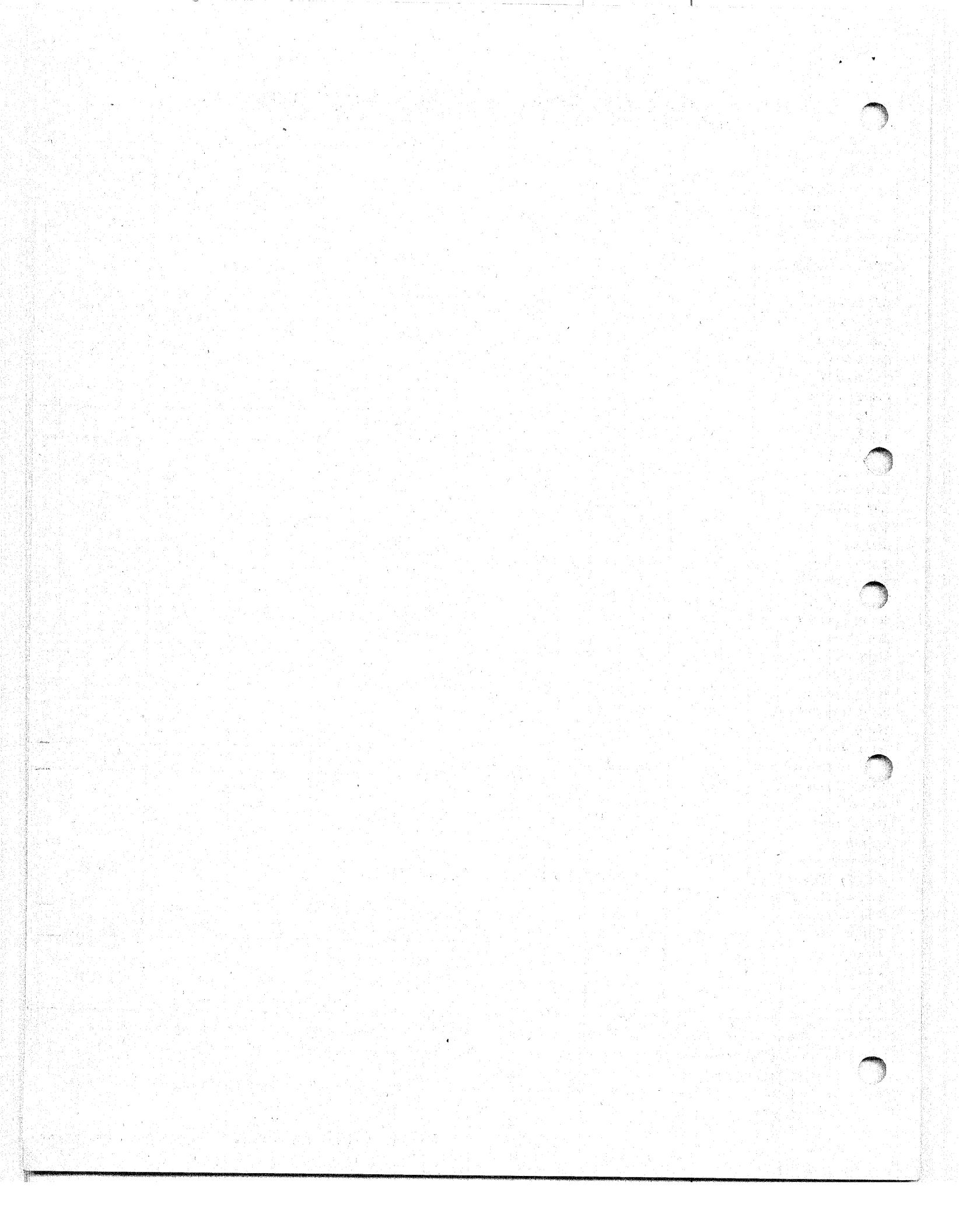


TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY¹ OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
JUNE 1943 INCLUDING 583 STATIONS AND 46 STATES

Geographic division and State	Number of stations	Percent decrease from June 1942	Geographic division and State	Number of stations	Percent decrease from June 1942
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>	66	43.9	<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>	31	21.9
Connecticut	18	50.2	Alabama	10	10.9
Maine	11	34.2	Kentucky	9	31.6
Massachusetts	10	40.5	Mississippi	8	17.6
New Hampshire	17	46.3	Tennessee	4	23.9
Rhode Island	4	29.6	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>	90	18.6
Vermont	6	40.2			
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>	40	45.5	Arkansas	21	26.0
New York	11	46.9	Louisiana ³	6	18.3
Pennsylvania	29	44.8	Oklahoma	20	20.5
			Texas	43	16.2
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>	85	20.7	<i>MOUNTAIN</i>	62	25.1
Delaware	4	39.0	Arizona	5	19.2
Florida	19	4.2	Colorado	5	31.9
Georgia ⁴	9	10.6	Idaho	5	22.5
Maryland	15	30.1	Montana	14	29.5
North Carolina	19	16.9	Nevada ³	11	38.5
South Carolina	7	9.4	New Mexico	13	19.3
Virginia	1	16.1	Utah	6	23.2
West Virginia	11	24.4	Wyoming	3	29.9
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>	83	31.2	<i>PACIFIC</i>	22	19.8
Illinois	3	29.9	California	10	15.7
Indiana	23	27.9	Oregon	3	28.0
Michigan	28	33.1	Washington	9	22.7
Ohio	18	25.4	<i>TOTAL - 46 STATES²</i>	583	29.0
Wisconsin	11	37.4			
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>	104	28.4	<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>	544	29.0
Iowa	36	25.8	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>	39	22.2
Kansas ³	9	24.6	<i>RATIONED MAY 1942</i>	164	34.5
Missouri	27	32.5	<i>RATIONED DECEMBER 1942</i>	419	26.7
Nebraska	12	24.8			
North Dakota	11	25.4			
South Dakota	9	24.1			

1. Combined State and local highways.

2. Includes all States except the following: Minnesota, New Jersey.

STATIONS NOT INCLUDED:

3. Defense activity - 1 each in Kansas and Nevada; 2 in Louisiana.

4. Road construction - 1 in Georgia.

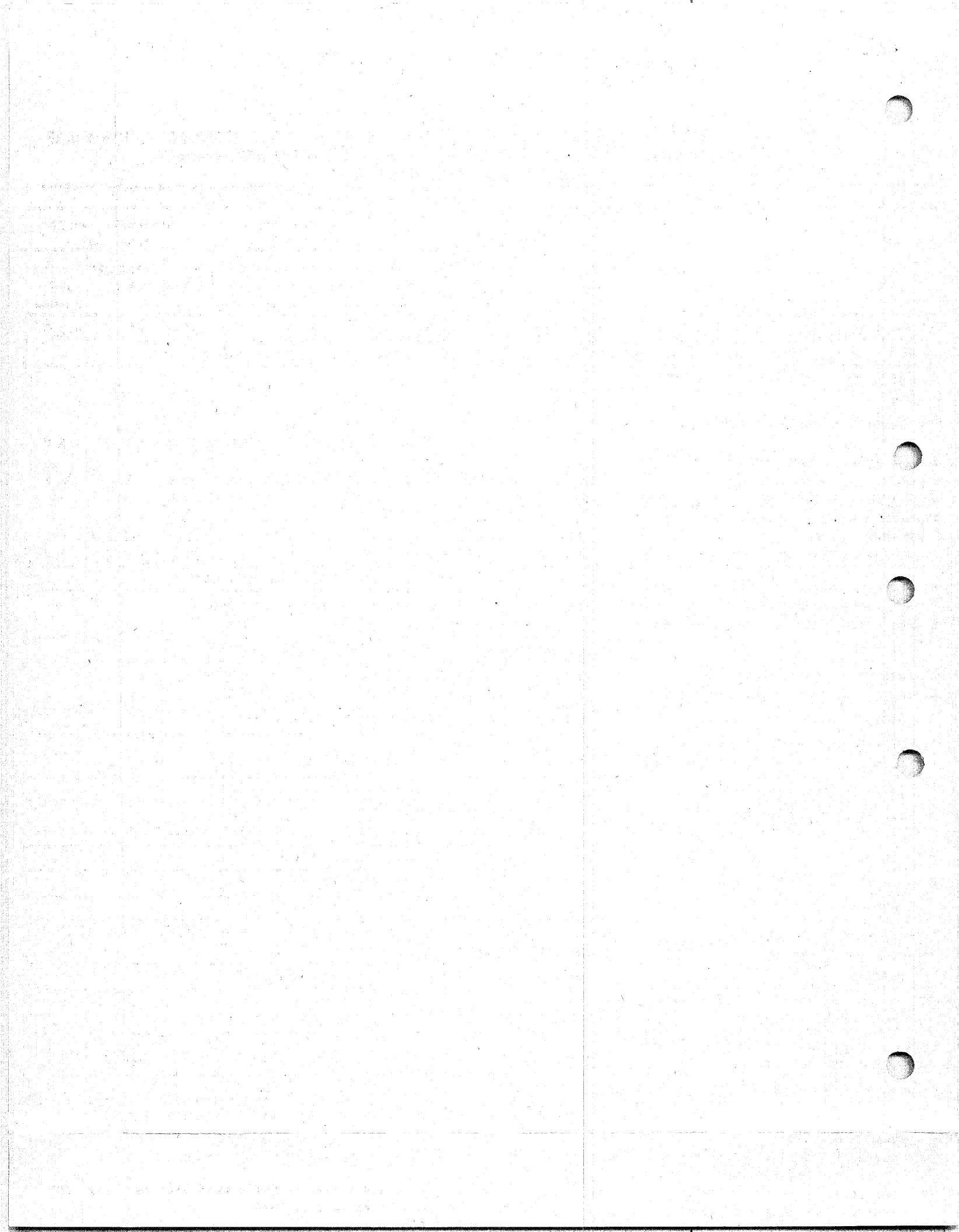
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TABLE 3.--TRAFFIC VOLUME DATA FOR JULY 1943 BY VEHICLE TYPES, COMPARED WITH SIMILAR INFORMATION FOR JULY 1942 AT TOLL FACILITIES, WHERE AVAILABLE, COMPARISONS ARE SHOWN FOR 1941.

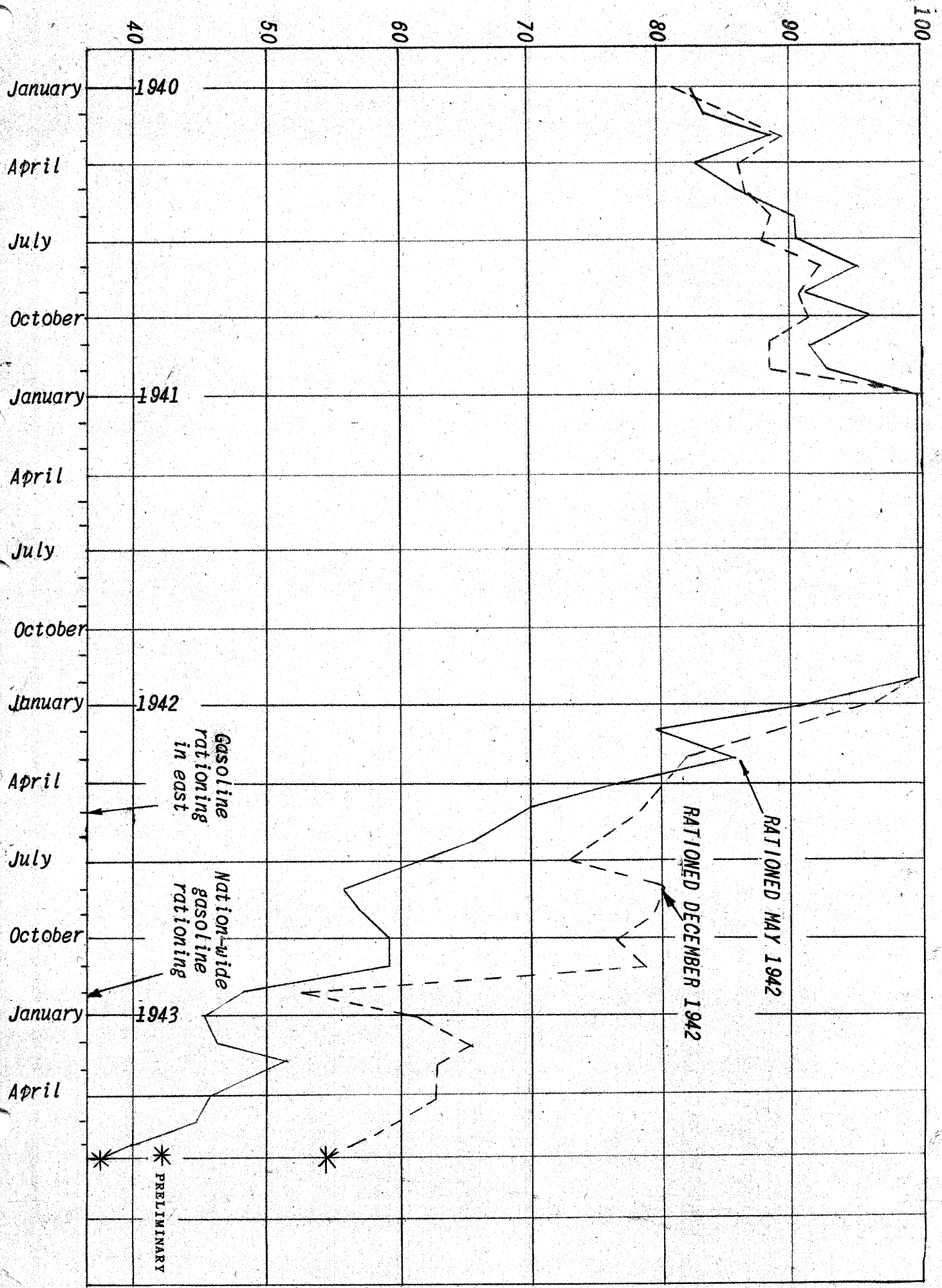
Area rationed May 1942									
	July 1943			Percentage change from 1942			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
20 facilities - Maine to Florida ¹	3,083,727	2,230,227	853,500	-27.2	-34.1	+0.2	-50.4	-58.3	-2.5
TOTAL - 23 facilities - Maine to Florida	3,566,280	2,629,086	937,194	-28.3	-34.6	-2.2			
<i>Miscellaneous locations not included above:</i>									
42 drawbridges in eastern North Carolina (not toll) ²	52,919	45,662	7,257	-13.5	-16.8	+14.6	-25.2	-29.2	+15.0
Sunday Traffic Tunnel, Boston (only two weeks)	218,355	201,956	16,399	-26.6	-27.0	-20.5	-39.9	-40.8	-26.7
11 stations in Washington, D.C. (not toll) ³	209,799	--	--	-16.9	--	--	-33.8	--	--
Fleetwood Viaduce, Westchester County, New York	84,881	84,881	--	-63.5	-63.5	--	-85.1	-85.1	--
Pennsylvania Turnpike	77,092	48,463	28,629	-45.1	-55.8	-7.1	-76.0	-83.6	+7.4
Area rationed December 1942									
4 facilities on Eastern Canadian Border	301,355	269,000	32,355	-40.4	-43.8	+17.0			
2 facilities in the Great Lakes area	79,182	61,033	18,149	-46.5	-54.8	+42.3			
<i>Subtotal - 6 facilities</i>	<i>380,537</i>	<i>330,033</i>	<i>50,504</i>	<i>-41.8</i>	<i>-46.2</i>	<i>+25.0</i>			
11 facilities on the Ohio River	921,385	789,300	132,085	-21.0	-22.2	-13.3			
12 facilities in the Ohio River area ⁴	166,148	131,445	34,703	-12.8	-14.7	-4.6			
<i>Subtotal - 23 facilities</i>	<i>1,087,533</i>	<i>920,745</i>	<i>166,788</i>	<i>-19.8</i>	<i>-21.2</i>	<i>-11.6</i>			
9 facilities on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and north	861,543	667,094	194,449	-22.9	-25.2	-13.8			
<i>Subtotal - 9 facilities</i>	<i>861,543</i>	<i>667,094</i>	<i>194,449</i>	<i>-22.9</i>	<i>-25.2</i>	<i>-13.8</i>			
5 facilities on the Missouri River	337,950	266,456	71,494	-15.2	-18.7	+1.3			
2 facilities in the Missouri River area	2,716	2,364	352	-34.3	-34.8	-31.5	-54.1	-55.3	-44.4
<i>Subtotal - 7 facilities</i>	<i>340,666</i>	<i>268,820</i>	<i>71,846</i>	<i>-15.4</i>	<i>-18.9</i>	<i>+1.1</i>			
3 facilities on the Mexican Border	48,975	40,856	8,119	+24.3	+20.5	+48.2			
<i>Subtotal - 3 facilities</i>	<i>48,975</i>	<i>40,856</i>	<i>8,119</i>	<i>+24.3</i>	<i>+20.5</i>	<i>+48.2</i>			
4 facilities in California	1,878,502	1,670,797	207,705	-14.6	-15.9	-3.3	-11.4	-14.5	+25.6
4 facilities in the Washington-Oregon area	234,835	202,297	32,538	-6.4	-8.8	+11.9			
<i>Subtotal - 8 facilities</i>	<i>2,113,337</i>	<i>1,873,094</i>	<i>240,243</i>	<i>-13.8</i>	<i>-15.2</i>	<i>-1.5</i>			
TOTAL - 56 facilities in the area rationed December 1942	4,832,591	4,100,642	731,949	-19.7	-21.8	-5.6			
25 of the 56 facilities for which data were reported for 1941	2,368,657	2,087,386	281,271	-19.7	-21.3	-4.9	-23.2	-26.3	+10.3
5 facilities reporting only total traffic	305,040	---	---	+2.2	---	---			

1. These facilities have comparative data for 1941, 1942, and 1943, and are included in the 23 facilities from Maine to Florida.
2. Total of a Sunday and a weekday 8-hour count at 42 drawbridges.
3. Based on weekday traffic.
4. One facility in West Virginia and 11 in Kentucky. One of the Kentucky bridges was closed July 13, 1943, for repairs. A twelfth Kentucky bridge previously reported was made free in July 1943.



PERCENT OF TRAFFIC IN CORRESPONDING MONTH, 1941

TRAFFIC BY AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDERS, 1940-1943



UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR RELATIONS

