PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 1947

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

With the beginning of the new year, some changes are being made in the comparisons to be shown in these bulletins. Traffic estimates for each month during 1947 will be compared with those for the corresponding months in 1941, the high traffic year prior to the war; in 1943, the war year with the lowest traffic; and in 1946, the latest previous year. Estimates of the variation of urban traffic also will be given, using all available traffic data, including data for toll facilities within or immediately adjacent to urban areas for the use of which only nominal charges are made.

On the basis of preliminary figures, traffic during January 1947 was considerably higher than in any previous January. As the winter traffic figures are greatly affected by weather, this may have been due, in part, to exceptionally favorable driving conditions over much of the country. Increases were found on main highways, local roads, and city streets as follows:

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Main roads	+14.9	+89.2	+ 8.1
Local roads	+21.3	+91.0	+18.9
All rural roads	+16.7	+89.7	+11.1
City streets	+14.7	+74.4	+ 9.0
Average	+15.7	+81.4	+10.0

The changes in rural traffic volumes by geographic regions were as follows:

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Eastern regions	+11.6	+105.8	+17.9
Central regions	+14.6	+ 74.5	+ 5.7
Western regions	+34.3	+110.7	+14.7

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Comparisons of January 1947 traffic in several cities collecting continuous data with that of January 1946 are as follows:

6 stations in Chicago, Illinois	+13.2 percent
3 stations in Columbus, Ohio	+ 6.0 percent
3 stations in Detroit, Michigan	-11.0 percent
1 station in Duluth, Minnesota	+ 8.4 percent
6 stations in St. Louis, Missouri	+16.6 percent
1 station in Santa Fe, New Mexico	+16.5 percent
13 stations in Washington, D. C.	+ 8.6 percent

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

Attachments

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR JANUARY 1947 INCLUDING 590 STATIONS IN 43 STATES[1]

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from January 1946
STATE HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	8	+13.4
Arizona	3	+19.5
Arkansas	13	+ 5.3
California	6	+12.1
Colorado	5	+ 2.5
Connecticut	16	+15.5
Delaware	5	+24.8
Florida	19	+18.4
Georgia	5	+14.6
Idaho	8	+13.1
Illinois	6	+18.6
Iowa	26	+20.9
Kansas	14	+ 8.5
Kentucky	9	+10.2
Louisiana	7	+ 6.0
Maine	10	+ 7.8
Maryland	17	+14.3
Massachusetts	9	+17.6
Michigan	26	+26.9
Minnesota	27	+26.4
Mississippi	10	+19.4
Missouri	25	+10.4
Montana	12	+10.8
Nebraska	11	+15.2
Nevada	16	+11.3
New Hampshire	14	+15.5
New Jersey	2	+43.2
New Mexico	15	+ 9.7
North Carolina	20	+16.3
North Dakota	9	+19.6
Ohio	20	+ 9.9
Oklahoma	20	+ 1.3
Oregon	3	+ 5.7
Rhode Island	2	+21.7
South Dakota	10	+19.9
Tennessee	3	- 6.6
Texas	73	+ 5.8
STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)		
Utah	10	+15.9
Vermont	9	+14.6
Washington	10	- 2.1
West Virginia	11	+15.0
Wisconsin	9	+11.5
Wyoming	6	+13.8
TOTAL - 43 STATES	*559*	*+ 8.1*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	1	- 5.7
Connecticut	3	+24.5
Delaware	2	+59.0
Georgia	3	+16.9
Iowa	8	+19.7
Maryland	1	+27.4
Michigan	2	+73.8
Missouri	2	+13.8
Montana	2	+ 1.2
Nebraska	1	-17.3
North Dakota	1	- 8.8
Ohio	2	+24.7
Oregon	1	+ 9.0
Rhode Island	1	+14.8
Wisconsin	1	+55.0
TOTAL - 15 STATES	*31*	*+18.9*
ALL HIGHWAYS 43 STATES	*590*	*+11.1*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*149*	*+17.9*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*344*	*+ 5.7*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*97*	*+14.7*

[1] Includes all States except Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia.

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT DATA FOR JANUARY 1947 INCLUDING 48 STATES[1]

Type of highway and State	Number of accidents	Traffic volume percentage change from January 1946	Type of highway and State	Number of accidents	Traffic volume percentage change from January 1946
STATE HIGHWAYS			STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)		
Alabama	8	+11.4	Utah	10	+15.6
Arizona	3	+12.5	Vermont	5	+14.6
Arkansas	15	+4.3	Washington	10	2.1
California	6	+13.7	West Virginia	11	+15.0
Colorado	5	+4.8	Wisconsin	9	+11.5
Connecticut	18	+10.5	Wyoming	6	+13.8
Delaware	5	+24.8			
Florida	10	+11.4			
Georgia	5	+11.6	TOTAL - 42 STATES	559	+ 8.1
Idaho	8	+11.1			
Illinois	6	+11.0	LOCAL HIGHWAYS		
Iowa	28	+12.3	Alabama	1	- 8.7
Kansas	14	+4.5	Connecticut	3	+24.5
Kentucky	9	+10.3	Delaware	2	+59.0
Louisiana	7	+4.0	Georgia	2	+16.9
Maine	10	+4.8	Iowa	8	+13.7
Maryland	17	+14.7	Maryland	1	+27.4
Massachusetts	9	+11.6	Michigan	2	+73.8
Michigan	26	+4.0	Missouri	3	+13.8
Minnesota	27	+22.4	Montana	2	+ 1.3
Mississippi	10	+12.4	Nebraska	1	-17.3
Missouri	25	+11.4	North Dakota	1	- 8.8
Montana	12	+11.8	Ohio	1	+24.7
Nebraska	11	+12.2	Oregon	1	+ 9.0
Nevada	10	+11.3	Rhode Island	1	+14.8
New Hampshire	19	+12.8	Wisconsin	1	+59.0
New Jersey	3	+4.7			
New Mexico	15	+ .7	TOTAL - 19 STATES	31	+18.0
North Carolina	20	+12.3			
North Dakota	9	+14.6	ALL HIGHWAYS 42 STATES	590	+11.1
Ohio	20	+ .5			
Oklahoma	20	+ .3			
Oregon	2	+ .7	3 MISSOURI REGIONS	103	+17.8
Rhode Island	2	+22.7			
South Dakota	10	+12.4	4 CERTAIN REGIONS	302	+ 5.7
Tennessee	3	- .8			
Texas	72	+ .0	4 REGIONS COMBINED	87	+19.7

[1] Includes all States except Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia.

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TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR DECEMBER 1946 INCLUDING 618 STATIONS IN 46 STATES[1]

Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from Dec. 1945
NEW ENGLAND		
Connecticut	19	+36.2
Maine	10	+21.3
Massachusetts	8	+33.8
New Hampshire	14	+44.0
Rhode Island	2	+24.9
Vermont	9	+27.3
Subtotal	*62*	*+34.1*
MIDDLE ATLANTIC		
New Jersey	1	+43.8
New York	2	+23.1
Pennsylvania	29	+33.7
Subtotal	*32*	*+32.5*
SOUTH ATLANTIC		
Delaware	7	+45.8
Maryland	18	+30.5
Virginia	2	+12.3
West Virginia	11	+34.3
Subtotal north portion	*38*	*+32.4*
Florida	19	+20.0
Georgia	10	+31.9
North Carolina	20	+29.6
Subtotal south portion	*49*	*+26.2*
Subtotal region	*87*	*+29.2*
EAST NORTH CENTRAL		
Illinois	6	+47.4
Indiana	22	+35.7
Michigan	28	+38.0
Ohio	21	+26.1
Wisconsin	10	+32.6
Subtotal	*87*	*+34.2*
WEST NORTH CENTRAL		
Iowa	34	+42.9
Kansas	13	+32.9
Missouri	27	+31.1
Nebraska	12	+33.6
North Dakota	11	+ 8.9
South Dakota	10	+30.9
Subtotal	*107*	*+33.5*
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Alabama	9	+27.2
Kentucky	11	+32.4
Mississippi	10	+29.3
Tennessee	3	+13.2
Subtotal	*33*	*+27.9*
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Arkansas	8	+42.7
Louisiana	8	+21.9
Oklahoma	20	+16.0
Texas	73	+11.9
Subtotal	*109*	*+14.3*
MOUNTAIN		
Arizona	5	+20.6
Colorado	6	+17.6
Idaho	8	+22.3
Montana	14	+26.2
Nevada	16	+17.8
New Mexico	14	+12.1
Utah	10	+28.4
Wyoming	6	+12.2
Subtotal	*79*	*+19.3*
PACIFIC		
California	7	+13.6
Oregon	5	+18.1
Washington	10	+15.5
Subtotal	*22*	*+15.0*
TOTAL ALL STATES[2]	*618*	*+28.5*
STATE HIGHWAYS[2]	*586*	*+26.9*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS	*32*	*+33.0*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*181*	*+32.3*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*337*	*+32.1*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*100*	*+14.4*

[1]Combined State and local highways.

[2]Includes all States except the following: Minnesota and South Carolina.

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TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN JANUARY 1947 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN JANUARY 1946 AND 1941.

Facilities	1947			Percentage change from 1946			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
EASTERN REGIONS									
3 in the New England States	35,732	30,884	4,848	- 2.2	- 1.6	- 5.4	+12.0	+ 6.4	+68.4
17 in the Middle Atlantic States	9,129,759	7,761,422	1,368,337	+20.9	+21.5	+17.7	+42.4	+41.0	+50.8
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	316,399	316,399	---	+23.3	+23.3	---	+16.0	+16.0	---
Pennsylvania Turnpike	140,679	99,947	40,732	+15.1	+ 7.9	+37.6	+44.2	+27.3	+114.3
4 in the South Atlantic States	289,964	222,323	67,641	+ 1.9	- 3.2	+23.1	+28.7	+27.3	+33.4
TOTAL - 26 facilities[1]	9,912,533	8,430,975	1,481,558	+20.2	+20.5	+18.3	+40.8	+39.1	+51.1
TOTAL - 30 facilities	10,807,747	9,227,019	1,580,728	+20.1	+20.7	+17.0	---	---	---
CENTRAL REGIONS									
3 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border[2]	157,068	143,394	13,674	+22.5	+22.7	+20.8	+103.9	+112.5	+43.2
1 in the Great Lakes Region	6,234	4,978	1,256	+13.1	+ 7.2	+44.2	+17.2	+10.8	+52.2
Subtotal - 4 facilities	*163,302*	*148,372*	*14,930*	*+22.1*	*+22.1*	*+22.5*	*+98.3*	*+106.1*	*+43.9*
5 on the Ohio River	401,045	330,199	70,846	+ 7.6	+ 7.3	+ 8.9	+20.8	+23.7	+ 8.8
1 in Kentucky	8,659	6,155	2,504	+15.3	+15.8	+14.0	+78.5	+74.1	+90.3
Subtotal - 6 facilities	*409,704*	*336,354*	*73,350*	*+ 7.7*	*+ 7.4*	*+ 9.1*	*+21.6*	*+24.4*	*+10.4*
7 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and North	422,541	353,159	69,382	+13.3	+10.5	+30.1	+43.7	+46.8	+29.6
3 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	94,367	72,511	21,856	+10.2	+ 9.6	+12.0	+54.3	+73.2	+13.4
Subtotal - 10 facilities	*516,908*	*425,670*	*91,238*	*+12.7*	*+10.3*	*+25.2*	*+45.5*	*+50.7*	*+25.3*
2 on the Missouri River	124,696	95,334	29,362	+ 9.6	+ 8.3	+14.0	+59.8	+67.6	+38.8
2 in the Missouri River area	3,391	2,716	675	+13.8	+13.4	+15.4	+ 9.8	+18.3	+85.2
Subtotal - 4 facilities	*128,087*	*98,050*	*30,037*	*+ 9.7*	*+ 8.4*	*+14.0*	*+57.9*	*+65.7*	*+36.8*
1 on the Mexican Border	18,735	17,845	890	+11.1	+10.8	+16.3	+115.4	+110.3	+321.8
TOTAL - 25 facilities[1]	1,236,736	1,026,291	210,445	+11.8	+10.7	+17.3	+43.1	+48.2	+22.5
TOTAL - 30 facilities	1,431,265	1,180,943	250,322	+10.6	+10.0	+13.2	---	---	---
WESTERN REGIONS									
2 in California	2,441,600	2,191,283	250,317	+ 4.1	+ 2.7	+18.8	+51.5	+46.8	+110.3
4 in the Oregon-Washington area	280,502	243,271	37,231	+ 2.1	+ 1.5	+ 6.1	+131.1	+126.5	+165.9
TOTAL - 6 facilities	2,722,102	2,434,554	287,548	+ 3.9	+ 2.6	+16.9	+57.1	+52.2	+116.2
UNITED STATES									
TOTAL - 57 facilities[1]	13,871,371	11,891,820	1,979,551	+15.8	+15.5	+18.0	+43.9	+42.4	+54.1
TOTAL - 66 facilities	14,961,114	12,842,516	2,118,598	+15.9	+15.8	+16.5	---	---	---

[1]These facilities have comparative data for 1947, 1946, and 1941 and are included in the larger total below.
[2]One of these facilities is in Western New York and therefore is related to similar facilities in the central States.

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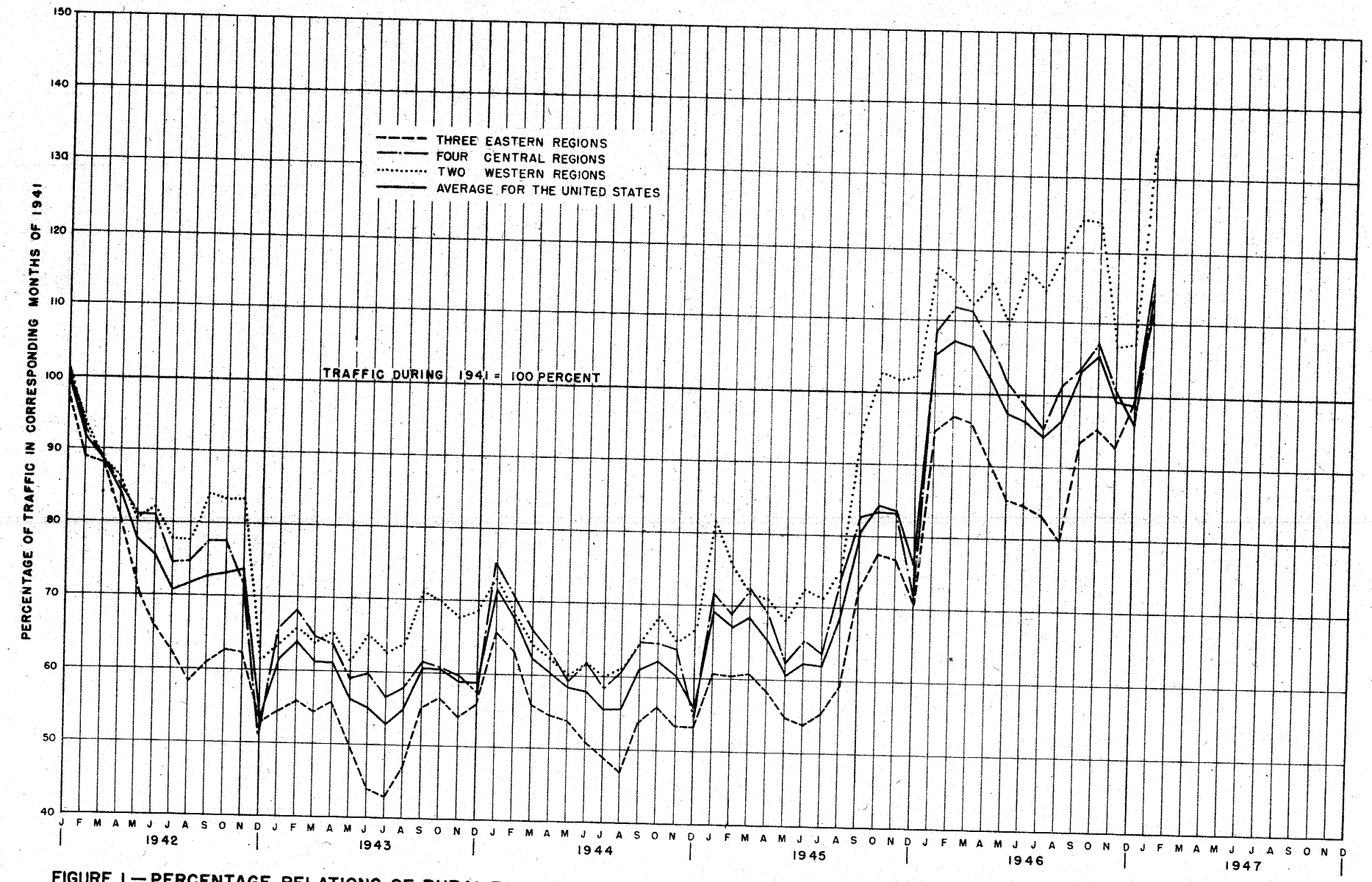

FIGURE 1 — PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1947 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941

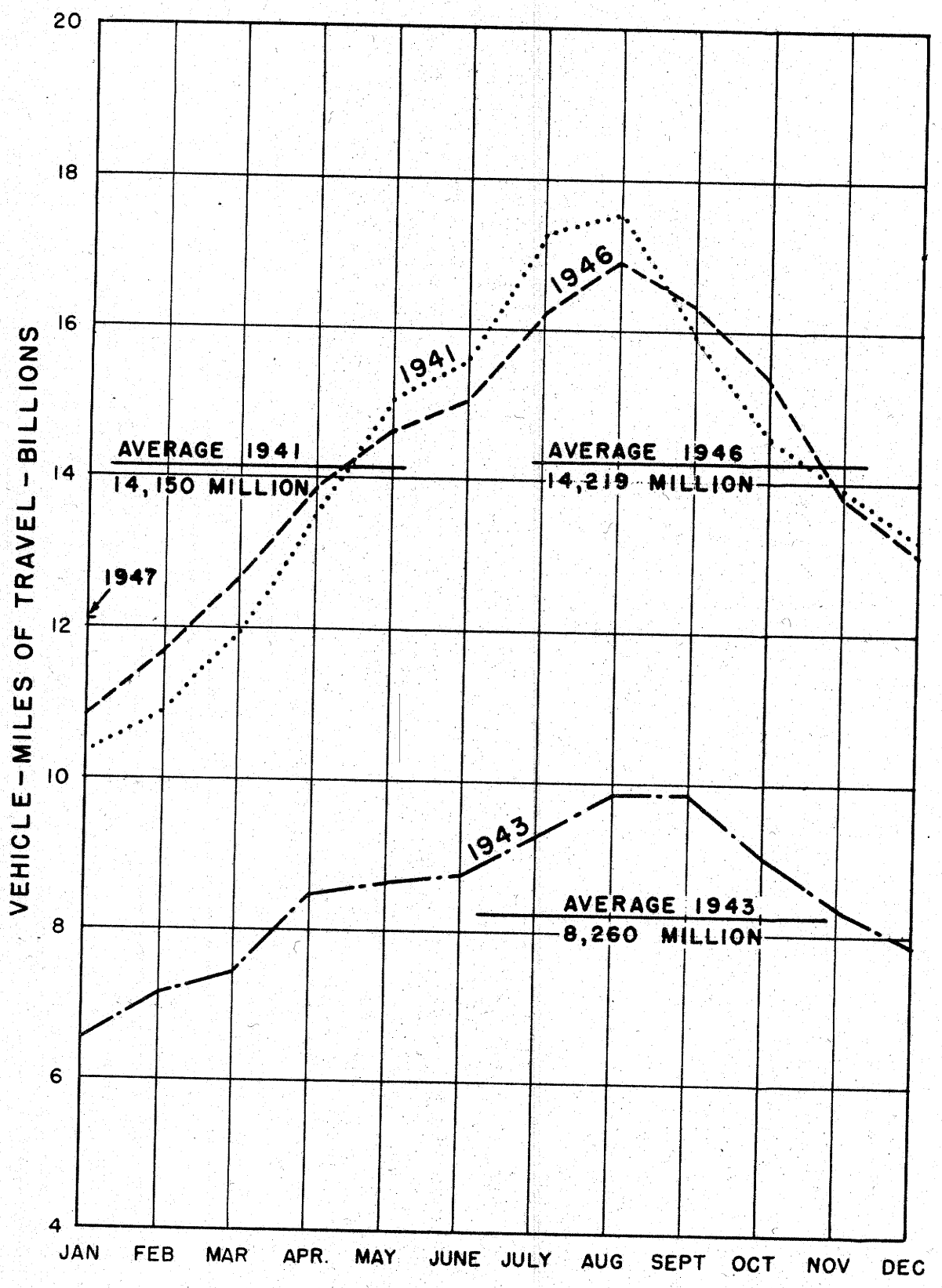

FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1946 AND 1947

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