

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 31, 1948

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

On the basis of preliminary figures, motor vehicle travel during February 1948 on main rural roads was higher than in any previous February. Local road travel showed a decrease compared with 1947 but was higher than in 1941.

	Rural traffic in vehicle-miles February 1948 (millions)	Percentage change from		
		1941	1943	1947
Main roads	9,839	+24.7	+96.3	+ 6.1
Local roads	3,148	+ 4.5	+58.6	- 6.6

In the eastern regions travel was a little lower than in 1947 but was higher than in 1941. However, an increase over any previous year was shown in the central and western regions.

	Rural traffic in vehicle-miles February 1948 (millions)	Percentage change from		
		1941	1943	1947
Eastern regions	3,858	+ 5.5	+88.5	- 0.4
Central regions	6,790	+23.9	+79.6	+ 4.2
Western regions	2,339	+32.4	+100.9	+ 3.7

Traffic in cities, and on all roads and streets, was heavier than in any previous February.

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1947
City streets	+16.7	+67.1	+ 9.3
All rural roads	+19.1	+85.6	+ 2.7
Average	+17.9	+75.8	+ 5.9

Comparisons of February 1948 travel in several cities with that of February 1947 are as follows:

6 stations in Chicago, Illinois +18.8 percent.
3 stations in Columbus, Ohio + 1.5 percent
3 stations in Detroit, Michigan +27.7 percent
10 stations in Washington, D. C. +11.6 percent
9 stations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin +13.4 percent
7 stations in St. Louis, Missouri + 6.4 percent
1 station in Salt Lake City, Utah +14.6 percent
1 station in Santa Fe, New Mexico - 3.8 percent
6 urban toll facilities + 5.3 percent

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Attachments

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
FEBRUARY 1948 INCLUDING 620 STATIONS IN 45 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Feb. 1947	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Feb. 1947
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Alabama	7	+ 4.3	Texas	78	+ 1.9
Arizona	5	+16.4	Utah	11	+10.9
Arkansas	15	- 5.3	Vermont	12	+13.5
California	5	+10.4	Virginia	4	+ 9.9
Colorado	3	- 1.2	Washington	9	+ 2.6
Connecticut	14	+ 2.9	West Virginia	10	+24.1
Delaware	3	+ 9.9	Wisconsin	9	+18.8
Florida	19	+ 3.8	<i>TOTAL - 45 STATES</i>	588	+ 6.1
Georgia	7	- 0.4	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Idaho	8	+14.4	Alabama	1	- 3.5
Illinois	5	+18.7	Connecticut	3	-16.5
Indiana	21	+16.5	Delaware	2	-19.5
Iowa	26	+21.4	Georgia	3	- 4.7
Kansas	14	- 1.4	Indiana	1	+19.4
Kentucky	10	+ 2.7	Iowa	8	+ 2.9
Louisiana	8	0.0	Maryland	1	-13.1
Maine	9	+ 4.9	Michigan	2	-14.3
Maryland	17	+11.5	Missouri	2	-16.4
Massachusetts	8	- 2.3	Montana	2	+18.0
Michigan	26	+11.2	Nebraska	1	- 5.0
Minnesota	26	+10.0	North Dakota	2	-57.7
Mississippi	10	- 3.7	Ohio	1	+16.1
Missouri	25	- 2.0	Oregon	1	-13.9
Montana	12	+ 4.1	Rhode Island	1	- 1.2
Nebraska	11	+ 6.8	Wisconsin	1	+11.0
Nevada	16	+ 1.9	<i>TOTAL - 16 STATES</i>	32	- 6.6
New Hampshire	12	+ 8.3	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
New Jersey	3	- 3.1	<i>45 STATES</i>	620	+ 2.7
New Mexico	16	+ 3.1	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	152	- 0.4
North Carolina	20	+13.1	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	376	+ 4.2
North Dakota	10	+ 2.5	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	92	+ 3.7
Ohio	21	+12.0			
Oklahoma	20	- 4.7			
Oregon	4	+ 5.0			
Rhode Island	2	-12.4			
South Carolina	2	+ 6.6			
South Dakota	10	+ 4.0			
Tennessee	5	+11.0			

¹Includes all States except New York, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming.

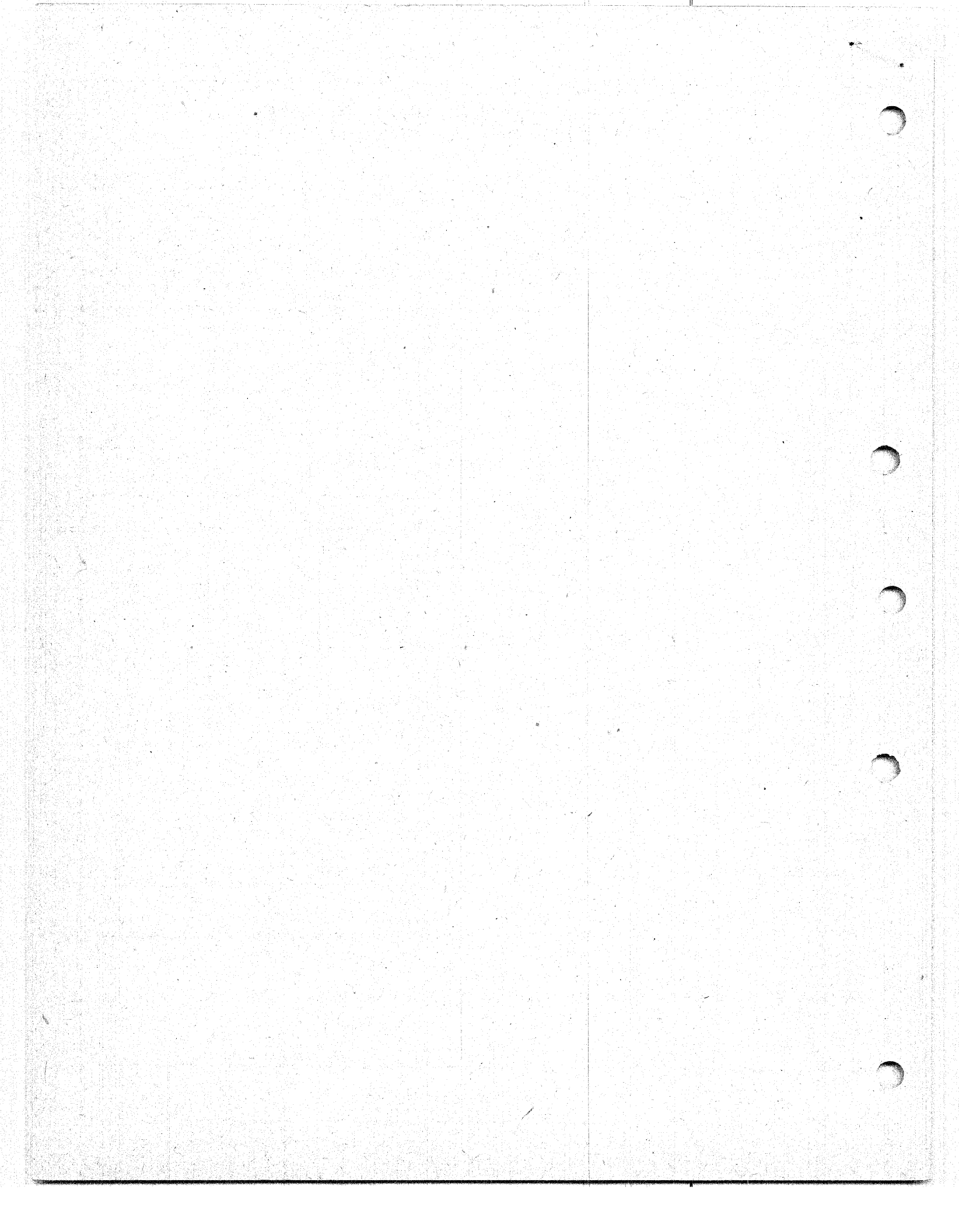


TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
JANUARY 1948 INCLUDING 658 STATIONS IN 48 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Jan. 1947	Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Jan. 1947
NEW ENGLAND			EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Connecticut	18	-19.8	Alabama	7	-1.2
Maine	9	+5.9	Kentucky	11	-10.1
Massachusetts	9	-10.0	Mississippi	10	+2.2
New Hampshire	8	+3.1	Tennessee	5	+4.6
Rhode Island	3	-20.6	Subtotal	33	-2.1
Vermont	12	+11.0	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Subtotal	59	-9.7	Arkansas	17	-0.8
MIDDLE ATLANTIC			Louisiana	8	+5.9
New Jersey	3	-9.4	Oklahoma	20	+6.7
New York	1	-2.3	Texas	80	+4.4
Pennsylvania	28	-0.1	Subtotal	125	+4.6
Subtotal	32	-2.3	MOUNTAIN		
SOUTH ATLANTIC			Arizona	5	+14.0
Delaware	5	-4.6	Colorado	6	-3.1
Maryland	18	-0.5	Idaho	8	+18.4
Virginia	3	+5.4	Montana	14	+10.4
West Virginia	11	+1.2	Nevada	16	+9.5
Subtotal north portion	37	-0.3	New Mexico	15	+8.3
Florida	19	-0.8	Utah	11	+19.5
Georgia	10	+1.0	Wyoming	6	+5.3
North Carolina	20	+13.2	Subtotal	81	+11.7
South Carolina	1	-2.5	PACIFIC		
Subtotal south portion	50	+5.1	California	9	+9.5
Subtotal region	87	+2.7	Oregon	5	+17.3
EAST NORTH CENTRAL			Washington	9	+27.3
Illinois	6	+19.3	Subtotal	23	+15.5
Indiana	22	+9.2	TOTAL ALL STATES	658	+3.5
Michigan	28	-0.8	STATE HIGHWAYS	626	+5.2
Ohio	23	+6.3	LOCAL HIGHWAYS	32	-0.8
Wisconsin	10	+7.8	3 EASTERN REGIONS	178	-1.3
Subtotal	89	+4.9	4 CENTRAL REGIONS	376	+4.2
WEST NORTH CENTRAL			2 WESTERN REGIONS	104	+10.4
Iowa	33	+16.0			
Kansas	13	+6.7			
Minnesota	26	+3.6			
Missouri	23	+9.2			
Nebraska	12	+9.3			
North Dakota	12	-0.7			
South Dakota	10	-2.4			
Subtotal	129	+8.1			

¹Combined State and local highways.

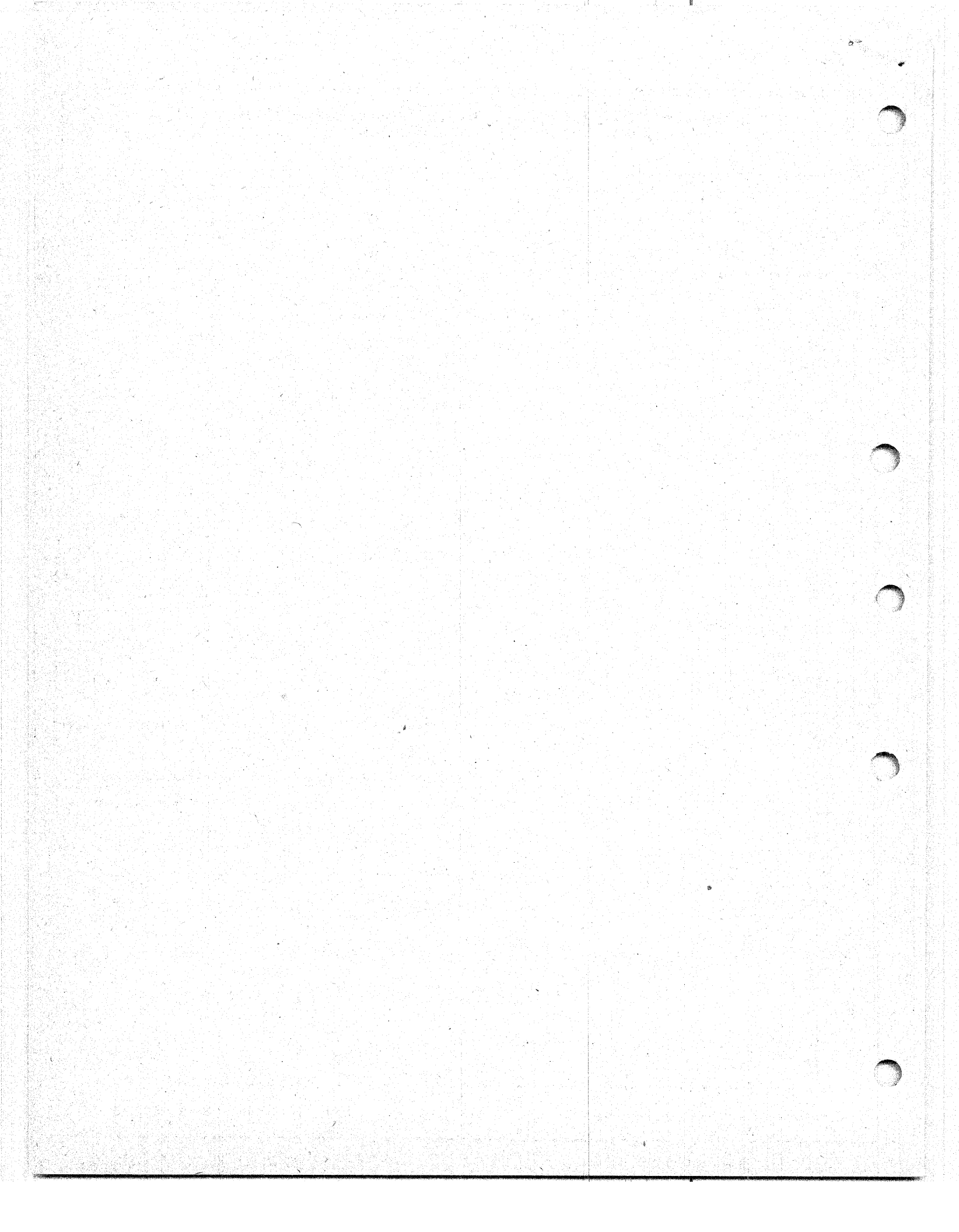


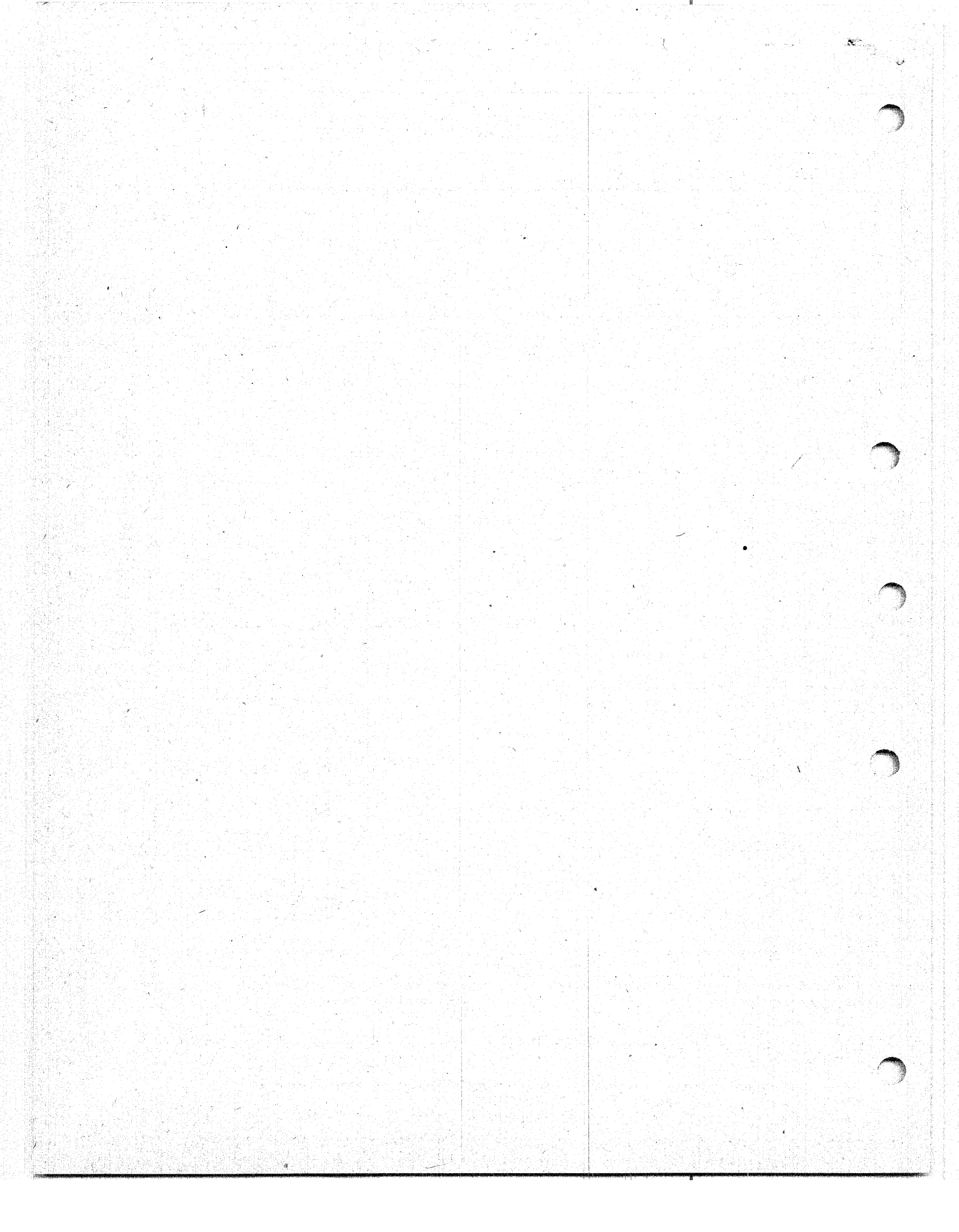
TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN FEBRUARY 1948 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN FEBRUARY 1947 and 1941

Facilities	1948			Percentage change from 1947		
	Total	Passenger cars ¹	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars ¹	Trucks and busses
EASTERN REGIONS						
4 in the New England States	789,852	696,488	93,364	+ 9.5	+ 8.6	+17.1
15 in the Middle Atlantic States	7,817,726	6,517,755	1,299,971	+12.6	+12.8	+11.3
Pennsylvania Turnpike ²	148,204	98,721	49,483	+29.5	+25.1	+39.0
5 in the South Atlantic States	333,953	257,466	76,487	+14.8	+13.9	+17.9
TOTAL - 25 facilities	9,089,735	7,570,430	1,519,305	+12.6	+12.6	+12.7
CENTRAL REGIONS						
3 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ³	196,548	183,524	13,024	+50.6	+56.0	+ 1.2
1 in the Great Lakes Region	6,081	4,876	1,205	+14.6	+18.7	+ 0.8
<i>Subtotal - 4 facilities</i>	<i>202,629</i>	<i>188,400</i>	<i>14,229</i>	<i>+49.2</i>	<i>+54.8</i>	<i>+ 1.2</i>
3 on the Ohio River	204,668	171,529	38,139	+7.2	+ 6.4	+10.8
1 in Kentucky	10,045	6,153	3,892	+24.2	+ 7.1	+66.3
<i>Subtotal - 4 facilities</i>	<i>219,713</i>	<i>177,682</i>	<i>42,031</i>	<i>+ 7.9</i>	<i>+ 6.4</i>	<i>+14.3</i>
8 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers	574,459	481,745	92,714	+19.9	+22.5	+ 8.0
St. Louis and North	121,927	88,214	33,713	+10.3	+11.4	+ 7.7
4 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	121,927	88,214	33,713	+10.3	+11.4	+ 7.7
<i>Subtotal - 12 facilities</i>	<i>698,386</i>	<i>569,959</i>	<i>128,427</i>	<i>+18.1</i>	<i>+20.6</i>	<i>+ 7.9</i>
on the Missouri River	141,764	112,919	28,845	+18.7	+23.8	+ 2.1
4 in the West South Central States	26,539	25,015	1,524	+ 8.7	+10.4	-13.2
<i>Subtotal - 8 facilities</i>	<i>168,303</i>	<i>137,934</i>	<i>30,369</i>	<i>+17.0</i>	<i>+21.1</i>	<i>+ 1.3</i>
TOTAL - 28 facilities	1,287,031	1,073,975	213,056	+19.9	+22.7	+ 7.6
WESTERN REGIONS						
2 in California	2,567,207	2,335,802	231,405	+ 8.2	+ 8.7	+ 3.9
4 in the Oregon-Washington area	313,878	273,567	40,311	+ 6.5	+ 6.6	+ 6.4
TOTAL - 6 facilities	2,881,085	2,609,369	271,716	+ 8.1	+ 8.5	+ 4.3
UNITED STATES						
TOTAL - 59 facilities	13,257,851	11,253,774	2,004,077	+12.2	+12.5	+10.9

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.



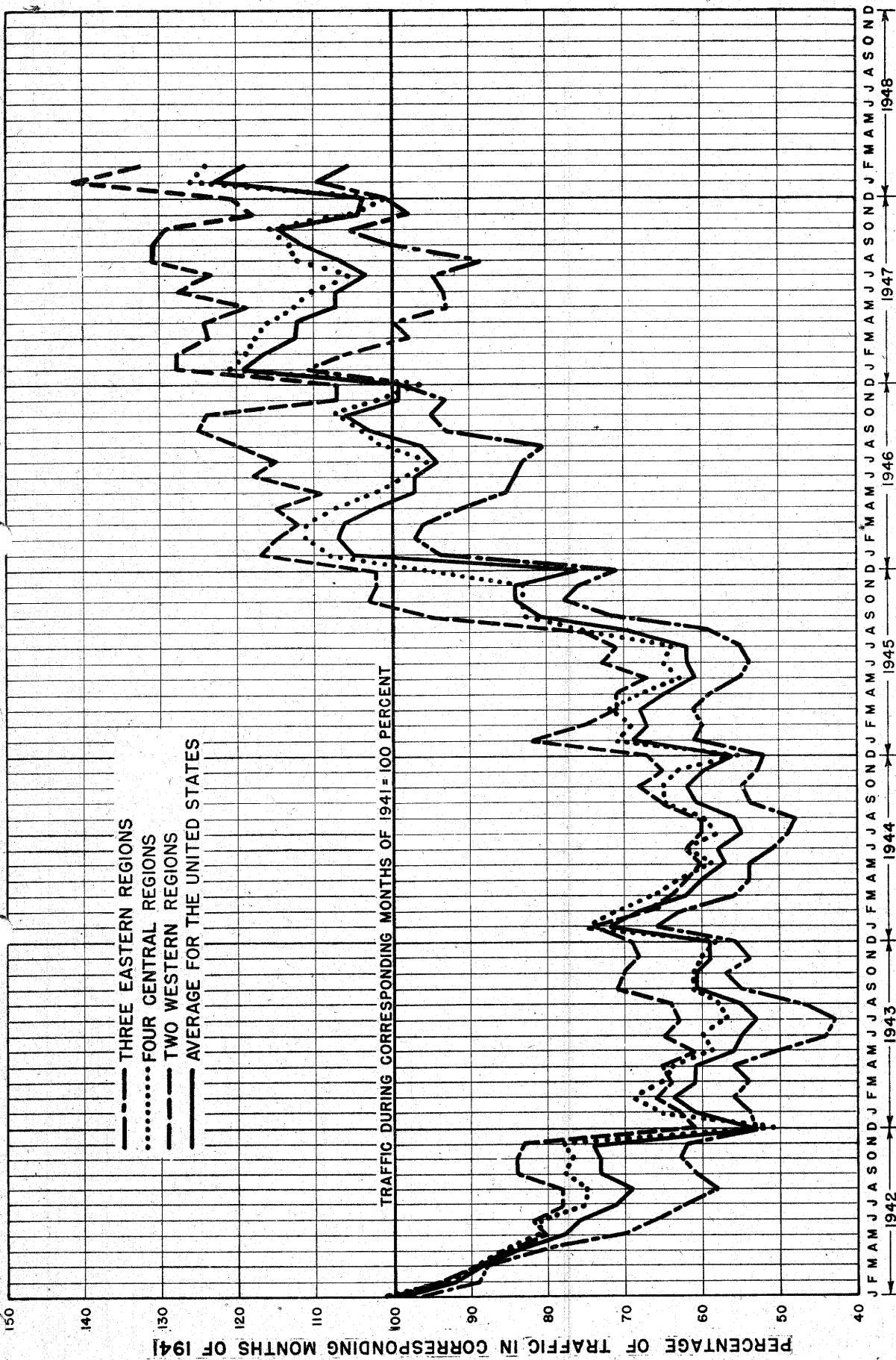
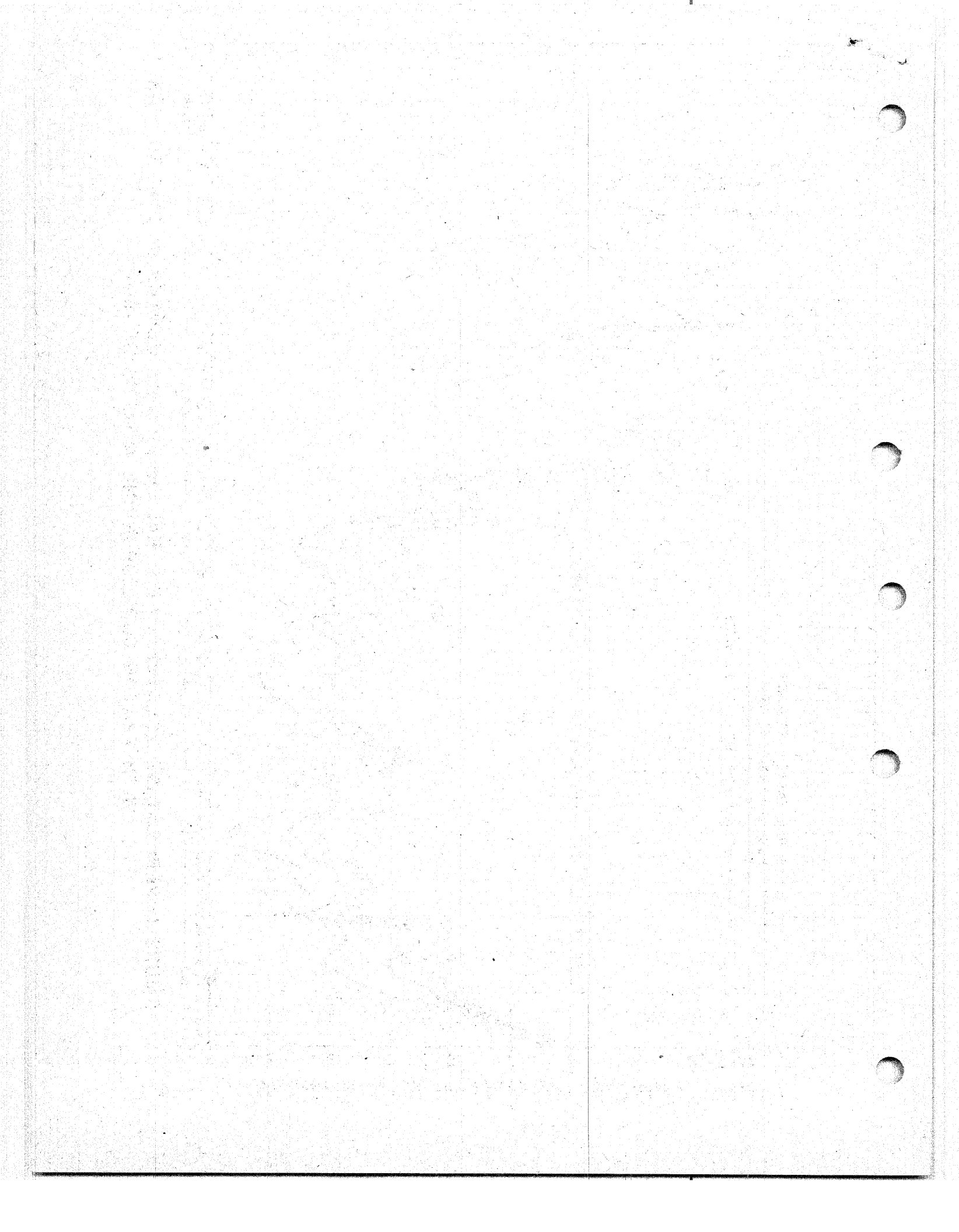


FIGURE 1 - PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1948 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



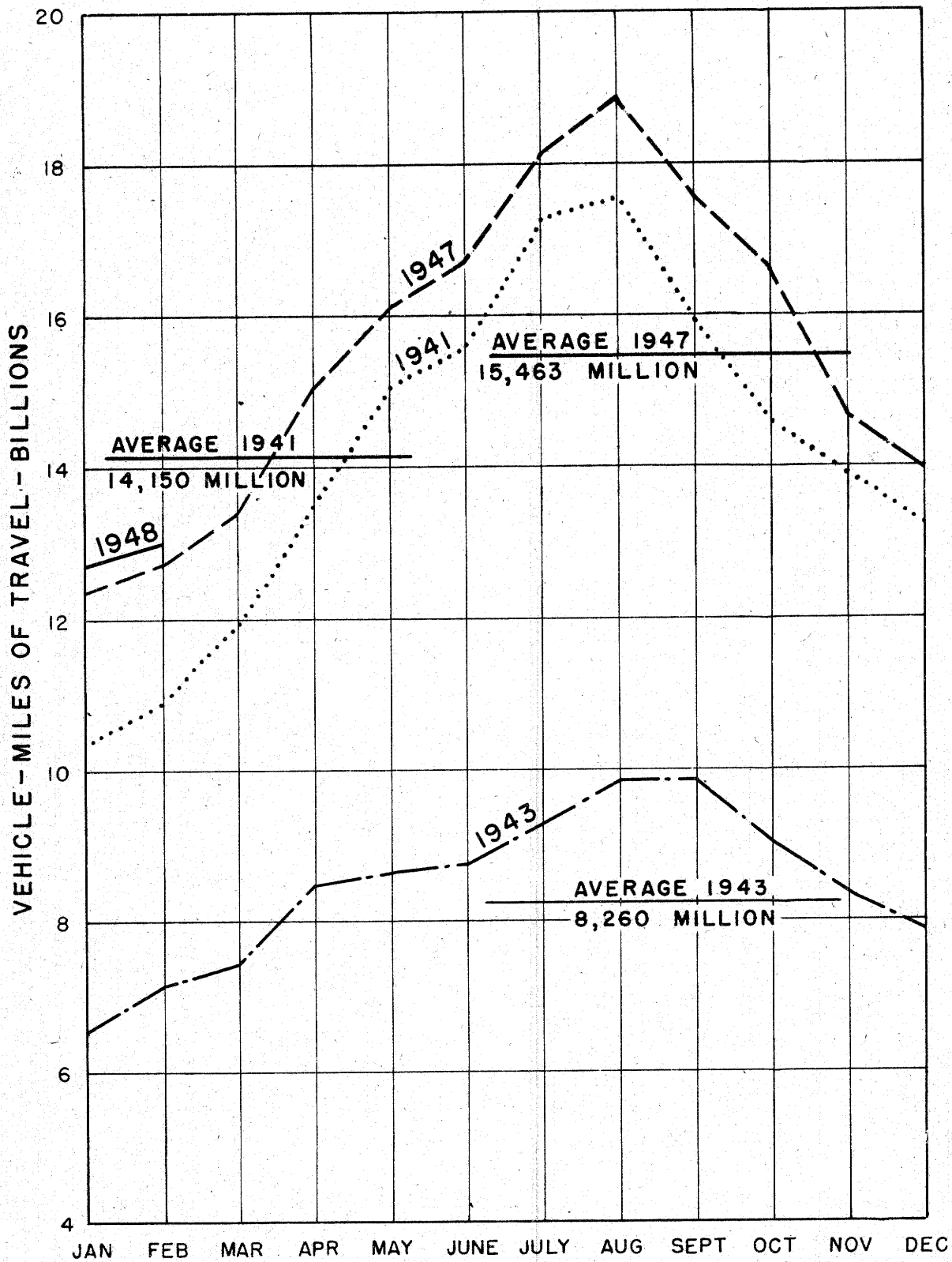


FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE - MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1947 AND 1948

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