

Mr. Hitchcock

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 84

DATE: APRIL 30, 1945

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

The preliminary data for March 1945 indicate that traffic in all sections of the country increased over the estimates for that month in 1944. In general this increase was fairly uniform in all sections of the country. Traffic in the eastern portion or along the Atlantic seaboard increased 8.7 percent over the 1944 estimates for this section; that in the central States increased 7.9 percent; while that in the mountains and western States increased 9.2 percent. Traffic in the entire country increased 7.7 percent over the total estimates for March of the previous year. Traffic at toll facilities, where an increase of 9.2 percent was indicated, appeared to follow closely the same trend as that indicated on free rural roads.

In Detroit, Michigan, traffic counted at three stations in March, 1945, was 3.5 percent below the count at the same locations in the corresponding month of 1944.

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

Enclosure.

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TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR MARCH 1945 INCLUDING 574 STATIONS IN 43 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from March 1944	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from March 1944
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Alabama	8	+ 8.1	Vermont	7	+11.7
Arizona	4	+18.1	Virginia	4	+ 6.3
Arkansas	20	+16.2	Washington	9	+ 5.2
California	9	+12.0	West Virginia	11	+ 7.5
Colorado	6	+28.3	Wisconsin	9	+14.5
Connecticut	17	+ 1.9	Wyoming	4	+16.6
Delaware	5	+11.3			
Georgia	7	+ 5.6	<i>TOTAL - 43 STATES</i>	539	+ 7.3
Idaho	8	+ 1.6			
Illinois	3	+ 4.4	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Iowa	26	+13.7	Alabama	2	- 2.7
Kansas	13	+22.6	Connecticut	3	- 6.8
Kentucky	12	+ 7.2	Delaware	2	+23.2
Louisiana	8	-14.3	Georgia	4	+10.0
Maine	10	+ 1.2	Iowa	9	+12.4
Maryland	17	+ 5.8	Maryland	1	+15.6
Massachusetts	9	+ 5.1	Michigan	2	+28.3
Michigan	26	+ 6.6	Montana	2	- 1.1
Mississippi	10	+ 8.6	Nebraska	1	+ 6.5
Montana	12	+11.4	North Dakota	2	+13.8
Nebraska	11	+15.0	Ohio	2	+ 1.4
Nevada	16	- 8.5	Oregon	1	+11.6
New Hampshire	14	- 5.1	Rhode Island	1	- 6.3
New Mexico	13	+ 9.0	Tennessee	1	+32.2
New York	7	+ 7.0	Wisconsin	2	+ 6.8
North Carolina	20	+ 1.6			
North Dakota	11	+22.7	<i>TOTAL - 15 STATES</i>	35	+ 8.9
Ohio	20	+14.1			
Oklahoma	20	- 4.6	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Oregon	3	+ 7.5	<i>43 STATES</i>	574	+ 7.7
Pennsylvania	29	+12.2			
Rhode Island	3	+ 7.0	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	173	+ 6.7
South Carolina	2	+ 2.0	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	304	+ 7.9
South Dakota	10	+18.0	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	97	+ 9.2
Tennessee ²	4	-21.3			
Texas	72	+ 0.8			
Utah	10	+ 9.2			

¹Includes all States except Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, and New Jersey.

²Abnormal conditions in 1944 affected 1 count in Tennessee, excluding station 6, the decrease is 1.8 percent.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF []

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Subscribed and sworn to before me this [] day of [] 19[]

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
FEBRUARY 1945 INCLUDING 634 STATIONS IN 46 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from Feb. 1944	Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from Feb. 1944
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>			<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Connecticut	20	- 11.8	Alabama	9	+ 4.4
Maine	10	- 7.9	Kentucky	12	- 4.5
Massachusetts	9	- 8.2	Mississippi	10	+ 2.8
New Hampshire	9	- 12.5	Tennessee ³	6	- 26.4
Rhode Island	3	- 8.0	Subtotal	37	- 4.4
Vermont	9	0.0			
Subtotal	60	- 9.5	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>			Arkansas	19	+ 10.5
New York	5	- 5.1	Louisiana ³	8	- 15.7
Pennsylvania	29	- 9.5	Oklahoma	20	- 5.4
Subtotal	34	- 8.6	Texas	72	- 0.6
			Subtotal	119	- 2.5
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>			<i>MOUNTAIN</i>		
Delaware	7	- 1.4	Arizona	4	+ 24.4
Maryland	18	- 7.2	Colorado	6	+ 12.7
Virginia	4	- 7.4	Idaho	8	+ 4.3
West Virginia	11	- 4.7	Montana	14	+ 5.8
Subtotal north portion	40	- 5.8	Nevada	16	- 9.5
Florida	18	+ 2.9	New Mexico	13	+ 6.2
Georgia	11	- 1.7	Utah	10	+ 4.9
North Carolina	20	- 5.1	Wyoming	4	+ 7.6
South Carolina	4	- 0.2	Subtotal	75	+ 7.1
Subtotal south portion	53	- 1.3	<i>PACIFIC</i>		
Subtotal region	93	- 3.4	California	8	+ 13.3
			Oregon	4	+ 17.9
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			Washington	9	+ 1.6
Illinois	3	- 10.2	Subtotal	21	+ 8.2
Indiana	23	- 3.5	<i>TOTAL ALL STATES²</i>	634	- 2.7
Michigan	28	- 6.2	<i>STATE HIGHWAYS²</i>	596	- 1.9
Ohio	21	- 7.6	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>	38	- 4.6
Wisconsin	11	- 2.2	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	187	- 6.3
Subtotal	86	- 5.7	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	351	- 4.2
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	96	+ 8.5
Iowa	35	- 4.6			
Kansas	12	- 2.8			
Missouri	27	- 7.3			
Nebraska	12	+ 3.5			
North Dakota	13	+ 0.1			
South Dakota	10	+ 5.8			
Subtotal	109	- 3.7			

¹Combined State and local highways.

²Includes all States except Minnesota and New Jersey.

³Abnormal conditions in 1944 or 1945 affected 2 counts in the following States: Louisiana, excluding station 23, there is an increase of 2.6 percent. Tennessee, excluding station 6, the decrease is 11.1 percent.

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TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES AND DRAWBRIDGES
IN MARCH 1945 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN MARCH 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									
4 in the New England States	32,158	28,454	3,704	+16.2	+16.1	+17.0	- 0.8	- 3.9	+32.5
11 in the Middle Atlantic States Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	3,797,343	2,903,900	893,443	+ 9.1	+ 8.9	+ 9.7	- 4.5	- 9.8	+18.6
Pennsylvania Turnpike	141,679	141,679	--	+20.1	+20.1	--	-57.0	-57.0	--
7 in the South Atlantic States	83,804	53,981	29,823	+19.2	+20.1	+17.6	-32.1	-46.2	+29.4
	287,185	213,417	73,768	+ 1.8	+ 3.9	- 3.8	-23.4	-31.1	+13.1
TOTAL - 24 facilities in the Eastern States ¹	4,342,169	3,341,431	1,000,738	+ 9.1	+ 9.2	+ 8.8	-10.2	-16.3	+18.5
TOTAL - 29 facilities in the Eastern States	4,708,793	3,650,039	1,058,754	+11.1	+11.4	+10.1			
FOUR CENTRAL REGIONS									
5 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ²	306,871	264,459	42,412	+54.8	+64.1	+14.5	+69.8	+68.1	+80.6
2 in the Great Lakes Region	53,762	32,657	21,105	+20.7	+22.1	+18.6	-29.4	-35.6	-17.0
Subtotal - 7 facilities	360,633	297,116	63,517	+48.5	+58.1	+16.9	+40.4	+42.8	+29.9
7 on the Ohio River ³	352,474	281,682	70,792	+12.1	+13.8	+ 5.8	-14.6	-15.6	-10.5
10 in Kentucky	96,056	70,468	25,588	-25.2	-28.6	-13.8	-27.7	-35.2	+ 6.0
Subtotal - 17 facilities	448,530	352,150	96,380	+ 1.8	+ 1.7	- 0.2	-17.8	-20.4	- 8.6
11 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and north	823,143	622,898	200,245	- 1.2	- 0.9	- 2.1	-30.2	-32.3	-22.9
Subtotal - 11 facilities	823,143	622,898	200,245	- 1.2	- 0.9	- 2.1	-30.2	-32.3	-22.9
4 on the Missouri River	289,882	224,858	65,024	+ 8.3	+ 8.6	+ 7.3	- 9.8	-11.7	- 2.7
2 in the Missouri River Area	1,947	1,521	426	-10.3	- 3.1	-29.0	-46.5	-48.5	-37.8
Subtotal - 6 facilities	291,829	226,379	65,450	+ 8.1	+ 8.5	+ 7.0	-10.2	-12.1	- 3.0
TOTAL - 41 facilities in the Central States ⁴	1,924,135	1,498,543	425,592	+ 7.6	+ 9.3	+ 2.0	-16.6	-18.0	-11.2
TOTAL - 48 facilities in the Central States	2,083,766	1,624,360	459,406	+ 7.4	+ 8.9	+ 2.2			
TWO WESTERN REGIONS									
4 in California	2,085,646	1,818,793	266,853	+ 6.4	+ 6.6	+ 5.3	- 2.0	- 7.2	-57.3
5 in the Oregon-Washington Area	212,256	180,486	31,770	+14.9	+16.4	+ 6.8	+19.5	+14.4	+60.3
TOTAL - 9 facilities in the Western States	2,297,902	1,999,279	298,623	+ 7.1	+ 7.4	+ 5.4	- 0.4	- 5.6	+57.6
TOTAL - 74 facilities in the United States ¹	8,564,206	6,839,253	1,724,953	+ 8.2	+ 8.7	+ 6.5	- 9.4	-13.8	+14.0
TOTAL - 96 facilities in the United States	9,090,461	7,273,678	1,816,783	+ 9.2	+ 9.7	+ 7.2			
4 facilities reporting only total traffic	163,811			- 1.9					
32 drawbridges in Eastern North Carolina (not toll) based on the total of one Sunday and one week- day 8-hour count at each bridge.	36,553	29,353	7,200	+11.3	+13.2	+ 4.3	-12.7	-15.2	- 0.9

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

²Two 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.

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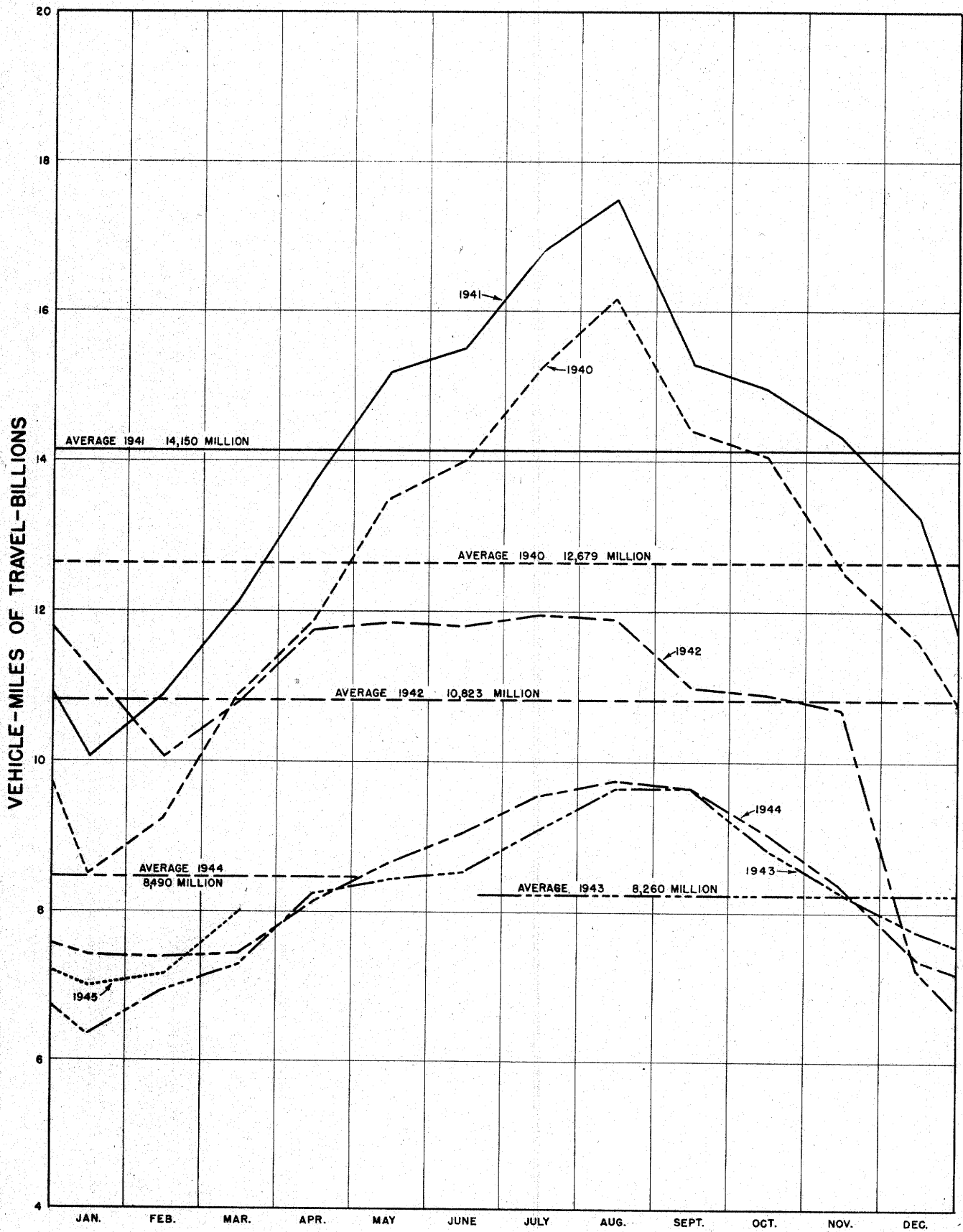
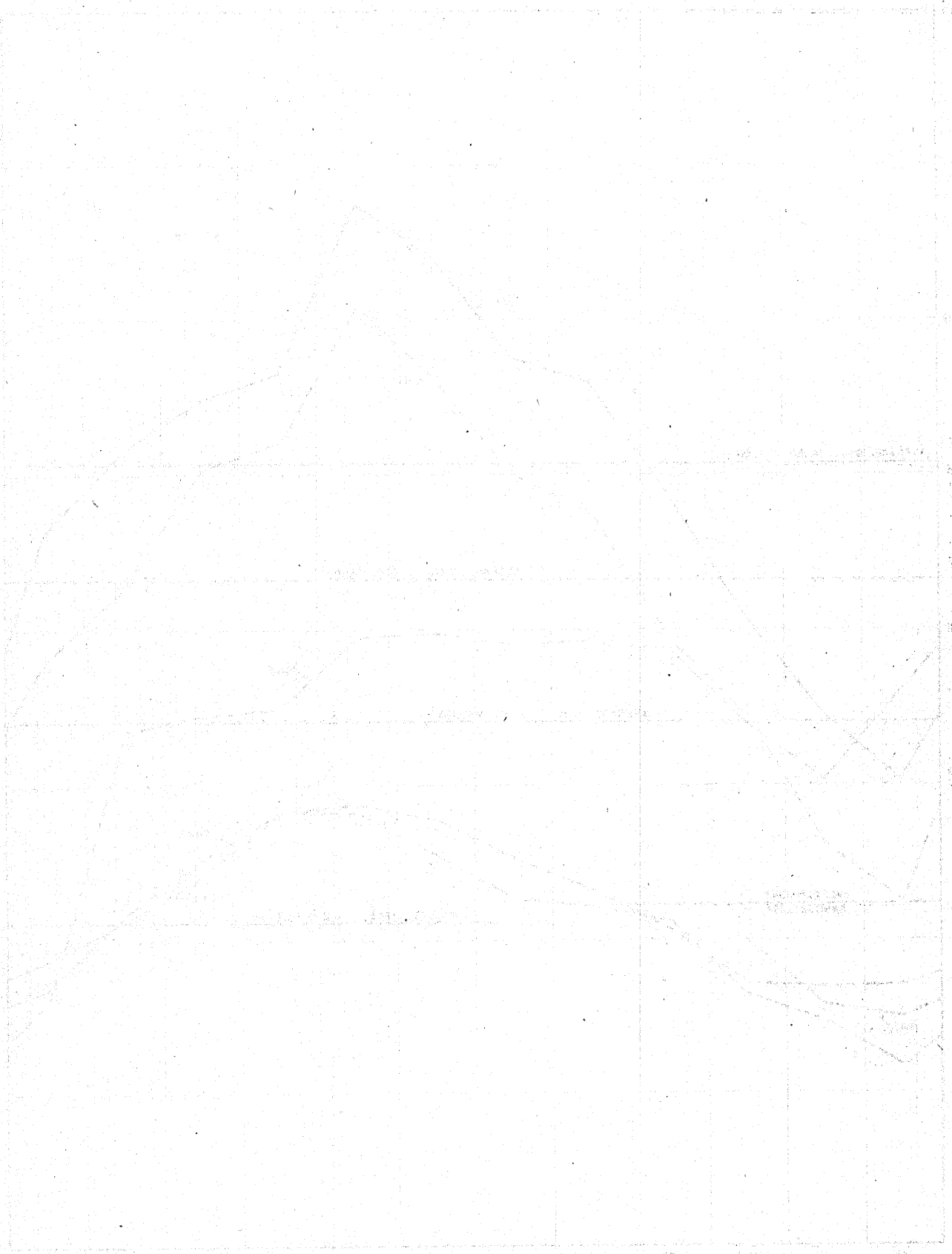


FIGURE 1—VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS
1940 TO 1945 BY MONTHS.



PERCENTAGE OF 1950-1955 AVERAGE

MONTHS
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960

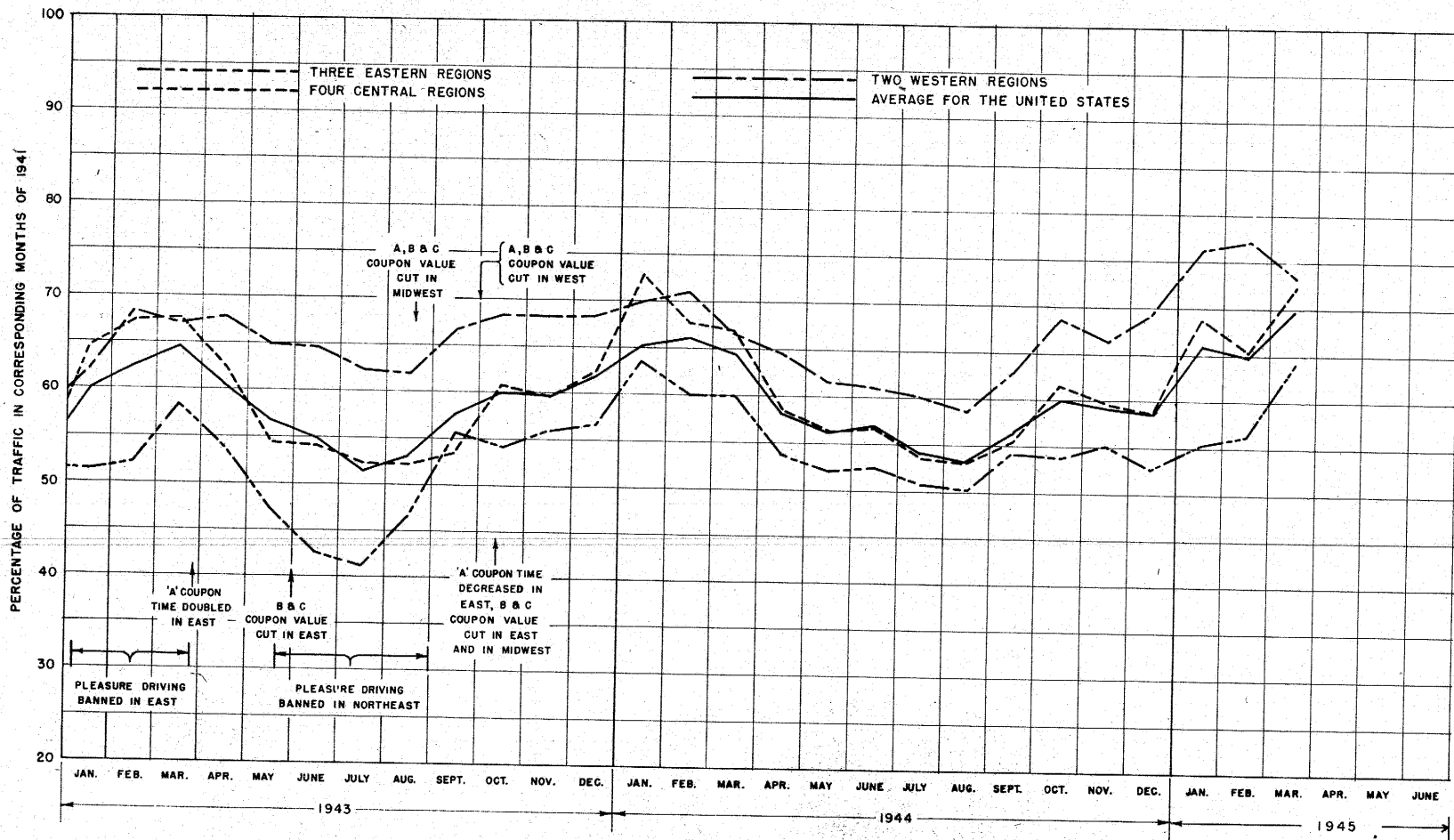


FIGURE 2.- PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC IN MONTHS OF 1943 AND 1944 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
COLLECTION OF
MILITARY RECORDS
SERIALS SECTION
1115 MILITARY POST OFFICE