PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 31, 1948

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

On the basis of preliminary figures, motor vehicle travel on main and local rural roads during April 1948 was higher than in any previous April.

	Rural traffic in vehicle-miles April 1948 (millions)	Percentage change from 1941	1943	1947
Main roads	11,910	+23.0	+101.0	+ 9.2
Local roads	4,341	+11.5	+ 84.0	+ 2.0

Rural travel in the geographic regions and changes from previous years are as follows:

	Rural traffic in vehicle-miles April 1948 (millions)	Percentage change from 1941	1943	1947
Eastern regions	5,039	+ 6.0	+ 90.4	+ 6.1
Central regions	8,423	+25.1	+ 96.8	+ 7.7
Western regions	2,789	+33.6	+104.9	+ 7.5

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

	Percentage change from 1941	1943	1947
City streets	+21.9	+72.2	+ 8.6
All rural roads	+19.7	+96.1	+ 7.2
Average	+20.8	+83.5	+ 7.9

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

6 stations in Chicago, Illinois	+13.1
2 stations in Columbus, Ohio	+ 5.6
1 station in Concord, New Hampshire	+ 6.8
1 station in Denver, Colorado	+11.2
3 stations in Detroit, Michigan	+32.7
12 stations in Washington, D. C.	+ 4.8
1 station in Fort Morgan, Colorado	+ 3.1
1 station in Loveland, Colorado	+21.4
9 stations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin	+ 6.1
7 stations in St. Louis, Missouri	- 4.4
1 station in Salt Lake City, Utah	+12.7
1 station in Santa Fe, New Mexico	+ 4.7
5 urban toll facilities	+ 3.7

H. S. Fairbank, Deputy Commissioner
Public Roads Administration

Attachments

TABLE 1.—PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR APRIL 1948 INCLUDING 653 STATIONS IN 45 STATES[1]

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from April 1947
STATE HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	8	+ 2.3
Arizona	5	+ 3.0
Arkansas	20	+ 8.0
California	3	+ 9.6
Colorado	20	+ 1.7
Connecticut	16	+ 9.7
Delaware	4	+ 3.8
Florida	18	+ 9.6
Georgia	7	+ 7.1
Idaho	8	+11.7
Illinois	6	+20.5
Indiana	21	+14.4
Iowa	26	+15.9
Kansas	14	+12.5
Kentucky	11	+ 9.2
Louisiana	8	+17.2
Maine	10	+ 4.9
Maryland	17	+ 5.6
Massachusetts	9	+ 8.2
Michigan	26	+ 8.2
Minnesota	26	+ 9.9
Mississippi	10	+11.2
Missouri	25	+ 9.5
Montana	12	+10.6
Nebraska	11	+ 8.1
Nevada	16	- 6.7
New Hampshire	13	+16.8
New Jersey	4	+ 0.8
New Mexico	14	+10.5
North Carolina	20	+11.4
North Dakota	10	+26.2
Oklahoma	20	+12.0
Oregon	4	+ 7.5
Pennsylvania	29	+ 6.7
Rhode Island	2	+25.2
South Carolina	4	+ 5.8
South Dakota	10	+17.7
Tennessee	6	+25.2
STATE HIGHWAYS (Cont'd)		
Texas	79	+ 9.6
Utah	11	+12.2
Vermont	7	+ 9.3
Washington	9	+ 6.8
West Virginia	8	+ 5.0
Wisconsin	9	+11.5
Wyoming	6	+ 9.5
TOTAL - 45 STATES	*622*	*+ 9.2*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS		
Alabama	2	+ 0.9
Connecticut	3	+ 8.2
Georgia	3	+ 1.1
Indiana	1	+16.1
Iowa	8	+ 2.8
Maryland	1	0.0
Michigan	2	+ 0.9
Missouri	2	- 5.3
Montana	2	+ 7.1
Nebraska	1	+ 0:9
North Dakota	2	-44.2
Oregon	1	+ 9.8
Rhode Island	1	+10.5
Tennessee	1	- 3.7
Wisconsin	1	- 4.8
TOTAL - 15 STATES	*31*	*+ 2.0*
ALL HIGHWAYS 45 STATES	*653*	*+ 7.2*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*176*	*+ 6.1*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*366*	*+ 7.7*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*111*	*+ 7.5*

[1] Includes all States except New York, Ohio and Virginia.

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TABLE 2.—REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR MARCH 1948 INCLUDING 687 IN 47 STATES[1]

Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from March 1947
NEW ENGLAND		
Connecticut	19	+11.0
Maine	8	- 3.3
Massachusetts	9	+ 2.4
New Hampshire	14	+ 7.9
Rhode Island	3	+ 0.5
Vermont	12	+ 7.9
Subtotal	*65*	*+ 6.8*
MIDDLE ATLANTIC		
New Jersey	4	+ 1.2
New York		
Pennsylvania	29	+18.9
Subtotal	*33*	*+14.1*
SOUTH ATLANTIC		
Delaware	6	+ 8.6
Maryland	18	+16.3
Virginia	4	+12.3
West Virginia	11	+32.1
Subtotal north portion	*39*	*+17.9*
Florida	18	+ 5.2
Georgia	9	+ 5.2
North Carolina	20	+21.1
South Carolina	3	+11.0
Subtotal south portion	*50*	*+11.9*
Subtotal region	*89*	*+14.7*
EAST NORTH CENTRAL		
Illinois	6	+16.4
Indiana	22	+19.9
Michigan	28	+11.2
Ohio	23	+17.5
Wisconsin	10	+ 5.9
Subtotal	*89*	*+14.2*
WEST NORTH CENTRAL		
Iowa	34	+ 5.0
Kansas	14	+10.2
Minnesota	26	+ 2.2
Missouri	26	+10.0
Nebraska	12	- 2.9
North Dakota	11	-11.9
South Dakota	10	+ 5.5
Subtotal	*133*	*+ 5.1*
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Alabama	9	+ 9.2
Kentucky	11	+17.3
Mississippi	10	+14.7
Tennessee	8	+22.0
Subtotal	*38*	*+15.6*
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Arkansas	19	+ 1.7
Louisiana	8	+ 6.5
Oklahoma	20	+ 6.5
Texas	78	+10.5
Subtotal	*125*	*+ 8.6*
MOUNTAIN		
Arizona	5	+11.4
Colorado	22	+ 7.2
Idaho	8	+11.7
Montana	14	+12.4
Nevada	16	- 1.3
New Mexico	16	+ 6.0
Utah	11	+ 4.8
Wyoming	6	- 2.5
Subtotal	*98*	*+ 7.0*
PACIFIC		
California	3	+10.7
Oregon	5	+ 7.2
Washington	9	+ 9.2
Subtotal	*17*	*+ 9.0*
TOTAL ALL STATES[2]	*687*	*+ 8.3*
STATE HIGHWAYS[2]	*654*	*+11.5*
LOCAL HIGHWAYS	*33*	*- 0.8*
3 EASTERN REGIONS	*187*	*+10.4*
4 CENTRAL REGIONS	*401*	*+ 7.2*
2 WESTERN REGIONS	*99*	*+ 7.8*

[1]Combined State and local highways.
[2]Includes all States except the following: New York.

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TABLE 3.—NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN APRIL 1948 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN APRIL 1947

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	1,091,192	985,501	105,691	+14.0	+14.0	+13.8
15 in the Middle Atlantic States	11,729,095	10,173,977	1,555,118	+13.0	+13.1	+12.7
Pennsylvania Turnpike[2]	239,314	181,747	57,567	+11.4	+ 7.4	+26.2
5 in the South Atlantic States	473,210	380,793	92,417	+ 5.9	+ 4.1	+13.9
TOTAL - 25 facilities	13,532,811	11,722,018	1,810,793	+12.8	+12.7	+13.2
CENTRAL REGIONS						
3 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border[3]	296,648	281,571	15,077	+30.5	+32.5	+ 1.5
1 in the Great Lakes Region	13,709	11,605	2,104	+16.6	+16.2	+18.9
Subtotal - 4 facilities	*310,357*	*293,176*	*17,181*	*+29.8*	*+31.8*	*+ 3.4*
4 on the Ohio River	388,763	329,928	58,835	+14.2	+13.6	+17.6
8 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and North	799,032	673,980	125,052	+ 9.8	+ 8.6	+16.5
4 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	158,184	126,015	32,169	+14.3	+12.3	+22.8
Subtotal - 12 facilities	*957,216*	*799,995*	*157,221*	*+10.5*	*+ 9.2*	*+17.7*
3 on the Missouri River	153,329	122,860	30,469	+ 5.0	+ 5.9	+ 1.5
3 in the West South Central States	26,434	24,650	1,784	+ 2.9	+ 3.1	+ 1.1
Subtotal - 6 facilities	*179,763*	*147,510*	*32,253*	*+ 4.7*	*+ 5.4*	*+ 1.5*
TOTAL - 26 facilities	1,836,099	1,570,609	265,490	+13.5	+13.4	+14.4
WESTERN REGIONS						
1 in California	2,110,043	1,911,919	198,124	+ 0.1	- 0.01	+ 1.3
4 in the Oregon-Washington Area	377,692	331,783	45,909	+ 1.2	+ 0.8	+ 4.4
TOTAL - 5 facilities	2,487,735	2,243,702	244,033	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.9
UNITED STATES						
TOTAL - 56 facilities	17,856,645	15,536,329	2,320,316	+10.9	+10.8	+12.1

[1] Non-revenue vehicles included in report and treated as passenger cars unless otherwise specified.
[2] Number of vehicles, those using any portion of the facility.
[3] One of these facilities is in Western New York and therefore is related to similar facilities in the Central States.

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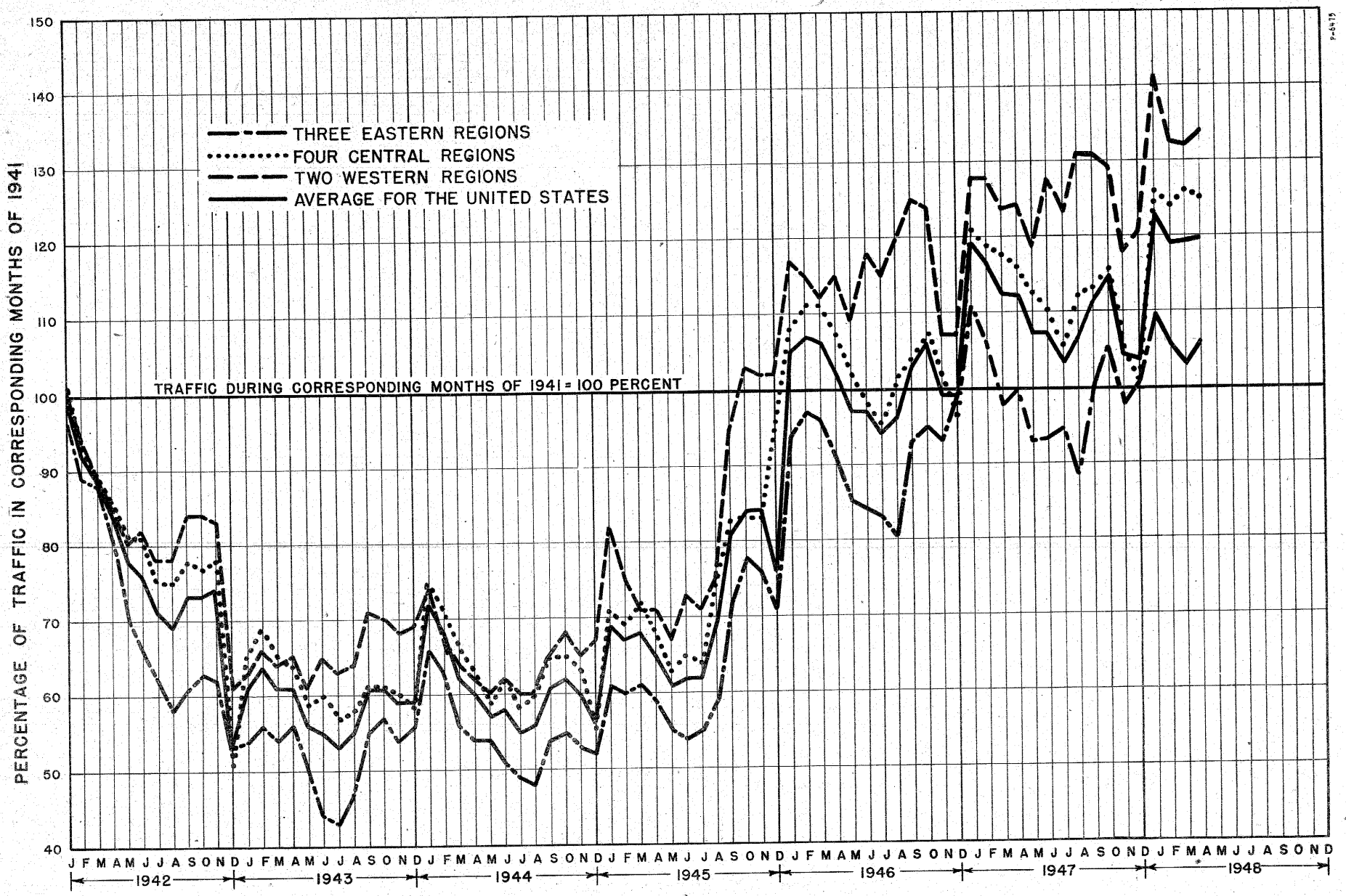

FIGURE 1 - PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1948 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941

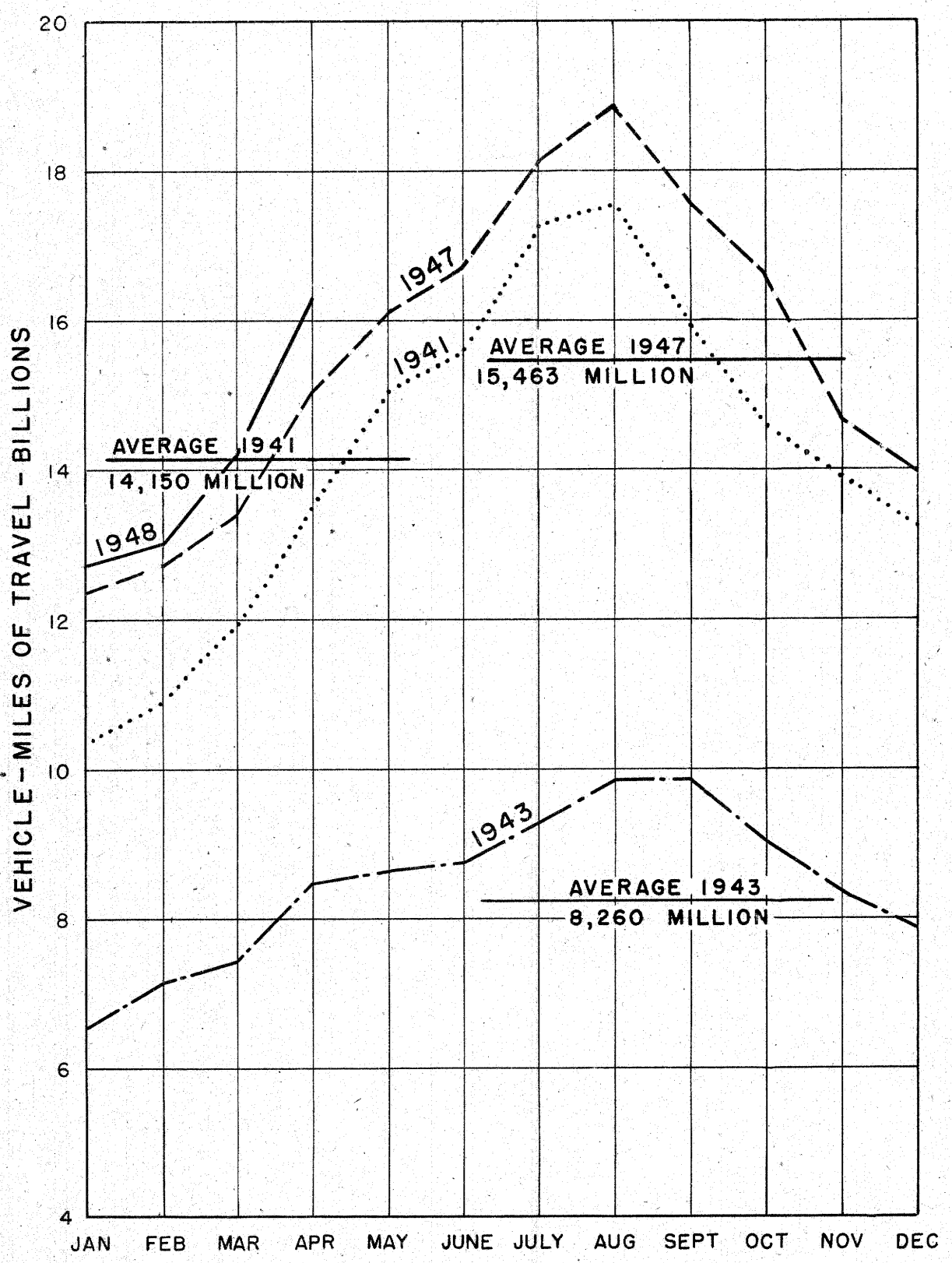

FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1947 AND 1948

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