

*File 2.215*

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

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

December 1948

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

	Rural traffic in vehicle-miles December 1948 (millions)	Percentage change from		
		1941	1943	1947
Main roads	10,787	+16.7	+90.9	+ 6.0
Local roads	3,658	- 7.9	+75.2	+ 1.9
All rural roads	14,445	+ 9.3	+86.7	+ 4.9

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

	Rural traffic in vehicle-miles December 1948 (millions)	Percentage change from		
		1941	1943	1947
Eastern regions	4,826	+10.2	+97.3	+ 7.9
Central regions	7,344	+ 6.5	+85.4	+ 5.6
Western regions	2,275	+17.3	+70.7	- 2.9

Traffic on city streets and on rural roads as a whole was heavier than in any previous December.

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1947
City streets	+21.5	+69.8	+ 5.7
Rural roads	+ 9.3	+86.7	+ 4.9
All roads and streets	+15.3	+77.6	+ 5.3

12

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

	Percentage change
1 station in Akron, Ohio	+ 5.3
1 station in Cheyenne, Wyoming	- 8.9
2 stations in Columbus, Ohio	+ 0.3
1 station in Dayton, Ohio	+ 5.8
1 station in Denver, Colorado	+ 1.2
3 stations in Detroit, Michigan	+12.0
14 stations in Washington, D. C.	+ 5.1
1 station in Fort Morgan, Colorado	+ 4.4
1 station in Grand Junction, Colorado	+ 5.9
1 station in Loveland, Colorado	+14.3
9 stations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin	+ 7.6
5 stations in St. Louis, Missouri	+ 2.7
1 station in Salt Lake City, Utah	+ 6.5
1 station in Santa Fe, New Mexico	+25.0
7 urban toll facilities	+ 4.6

H. S. Fairbank, Deputy Commissioner  
Public Roads Administration

Attachments



TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR  
DECEMBER 1948 INCLUDING 624 STATIONS IN 43 STATES

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from December 1947	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from December 1947
<b>STATE HIGHWAYS</b>			<b>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</b>		
Alabama	6	+11.3	Alabama	2	- 3.2
Arizona	5	+ 4.6	Connecticut	3	+ 6.5
Arkansas	19	+15.4	Delaware	2	- 6.8
California	7	- 2.6	Georgia	3	+11.8
Colorado	20	+ 5.6	Indiana	1	+11.8
Connecticut	14	+17.9	Maryland	1	+10.7
Delaware	3	+ 9.4	Michigan	2	-11.3
Florida	18	+ 3.5	Montana	2	- 4.9
Georgia	7	+ 1.7	North Dakota	1	+ 7.4
Idaho	8	- 2.1	Ohio	1	+12.5
Illinois	4	- 1.0	Rhode Island	1	+13.1
Indiana	21	+10.2	Wisconsin	1	+52.8
Iowa	-----	-----			
Kansas	13	+ 5.9			
Kentucky	12	+ 1.6			
Louisiana	8	+16.4			
Maine	11	+11.7			
Maryland	17	+ 8.2			
Massachusetts	9	+10.4			
Michigan	26	+ 8.5			
Minnesota	24	+ 6.9			
Mississippi	10	+ 9.5			
Missouri	25	+ 0.4			
Montana	12	+ 1.1			
Nebraska	-----	-----			
Nevada	16	+ 2.0			
New Hampshire	11	+19.9			
New Jersey	4	+ 7.9			
New Mexico	15	+ 8.8			
New York	-----	-----			
North Carolina	20	+12.2			
North Dakota	9	+10.7			
Ohio	13	+ 4.8			
Oklahoma	20	+ 1.4			
Oregon	-----	-----			
Pennsylvania	29	+ 8.1			
Rhode Island	2	+ 3.0			
South Carolina	4	+ 3.7			
South Dakota	-----	-----			
Tennessee	15	+ 0.4			
Texas	88	+11.3			
Utah	11	+14.0			
Vermont	12	+14.6			
Virginia	3	+ 8.9			
Washington	10	-10.1			
West Virginia	9	+14.0			
Wisconsin	8	+ 6.6			
Wyoming	6	+ 8.7			
<b>TOTAL - 43 STATES</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>+ 6.0</b>	<b>TOTAL - 12 STATES</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>+ 1.9</b>
			<b>ALL HIGHWAYS</b>		
			<b>43 STATES</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>+ 4.9</b>
			<b>3 EASTERN REGIONS</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>+ 7.9</b>
			<b>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>+ 5.6</b>
			<b>2 WESTERN REGIONS</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>- 2.9</b>

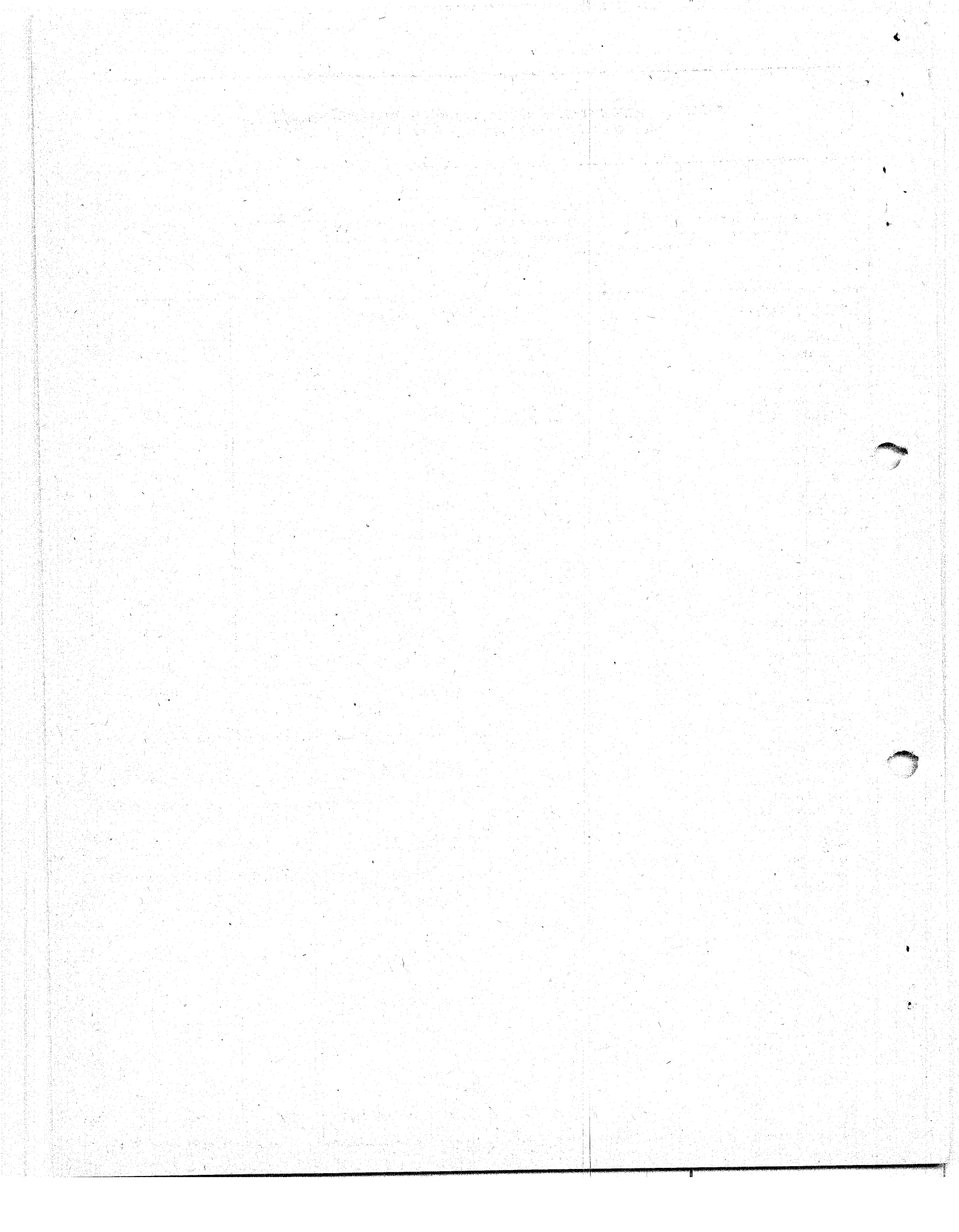


TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR  
NOVEMBER 1949 INCLUDING 689 STATIONS IN 47 STATES<sup>1</sup>

Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from November 1947	Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from November 1947
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>			<b>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</b>		
Connecticut	19	+ 5.5	Alabama	9	+ 4.4
Maine	11	+ 4.5	Kentucky	11	+ 3.5
Massachusetts	8	+ 7.6	Mississippi	10	+ 7.5
New Hampshire	12	+ 9.8	Tennessee	13	+ 4.3
Rhode Island	3	+ 6.5	Subtotal	43	+10.9
Vermont	12	+13.0	<b>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</b>		
Subtotal	65	+ 7.1	Arkansas	16	+14.1
<b>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</b>			Louisiana	8	+18.6
New Jersey	4	+ 7.6	Oklahoma	20	+ 4.0
New York	----	-----	Texas	86	+ 3.2
Pennsylvania	28	+ 9.1	Subtotal	130	+ 5.7
Subtotal	32	+ 8.7	<b>MOUNTAIN</b>		
<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC</b>			Arizona	5	+ 9.6
Delaware	6	+ 4.9	Colorado	22	+ 5.9
Maryland	18	+ 9.9	Idaho	8	+ 1.8
Virginia	3	+ 9.5	Montana	14	+21.5
West Virginia	8	+16.7	Nevada	16	+10.1
Subtotal north portion	35	+10.3	New Mexico	14	+ 7.7
Florida	18	+ 6.9	Utah	11	+14.6
Georgia	10	+ 1.0	Wyoming	6	+30.2
North Carolina	20	+12.6	Subtotal	98	+ 9.8
South Carolina	4	+ 3.8	<b>PACIFIC</b>		
Subtotal south portion	52	+ 8.0	California	6	+ 3.7
Subtotal region	87	+ 9.1	Oregon	8	- 1.4
<b>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</b>			Washington	10	+ 4.8
Illinois	5	+17.1	Subtotal	24	+ 2.8
Indiana	22	+ 9.2	<b>TOTAL ALL STATES</b>		
Michigan	28	+ 8.0	689 + 8.4		
Ohio	15	+ 5.8	<b>STATE HIGHWAYS</b>		
Wisconsin	9	+14.2	657 + 7.9		
Subtotal	79	+ 9.0	<b>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</b>		
<b>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</b>			32 + 9.7		
Iowa	34	+18.8	<b>3 EASTERN REGIONS</b>		
Kansas	14	+13.8	184 + 8.0		
Minnesota	24	+17.9	<b>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</b>		
Missouri	27	+ 7.9	385 + 8.6		
Nebraska	12	+ 9.6	<b>2 WESTERN REGIONS</b>		
North Dakota	12	+23.1	120 + 8.4		
South Dakota	10	+30.8			
Subtotal	133	+14.7			

<sup>1</sup>Combined State and local highways.

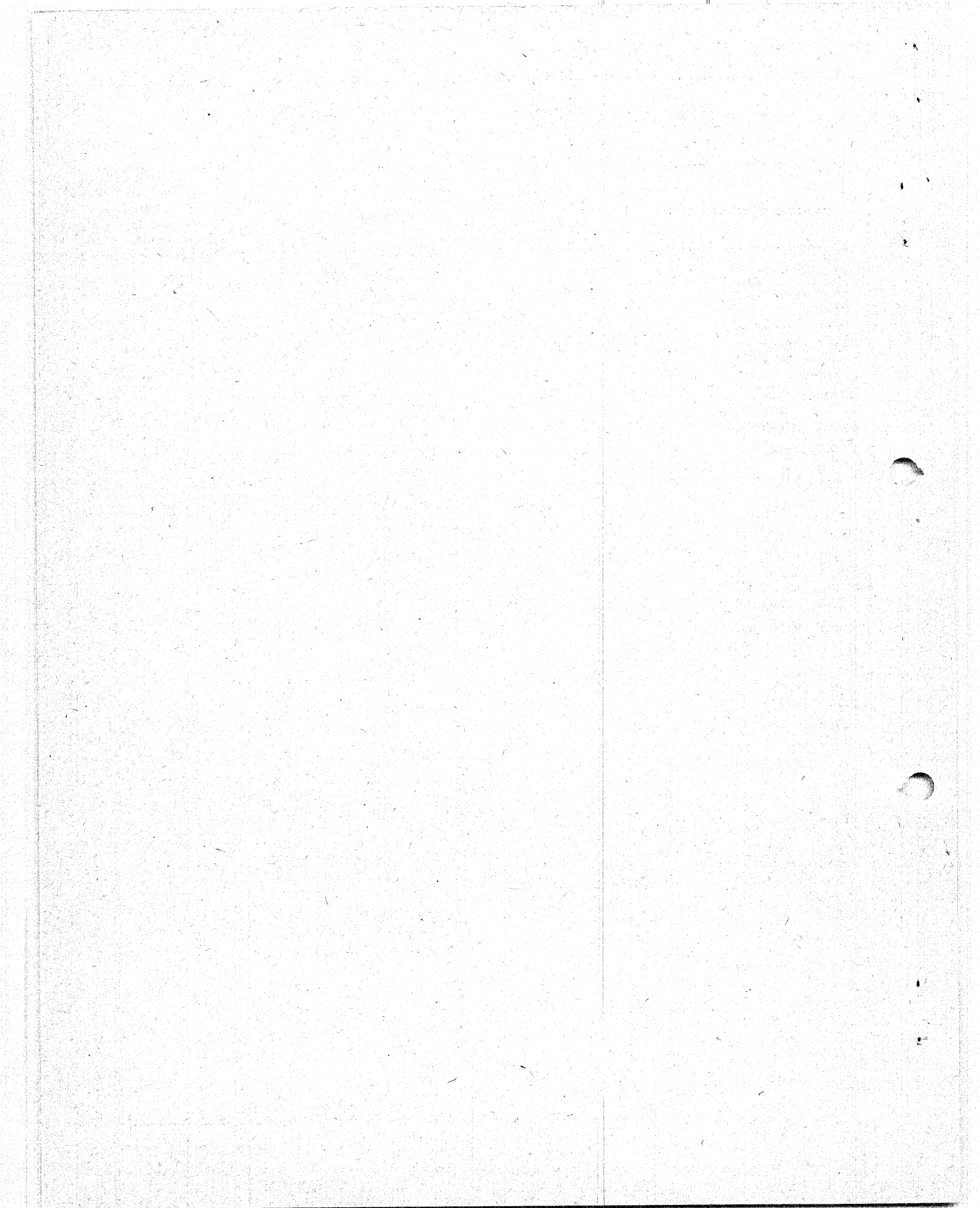




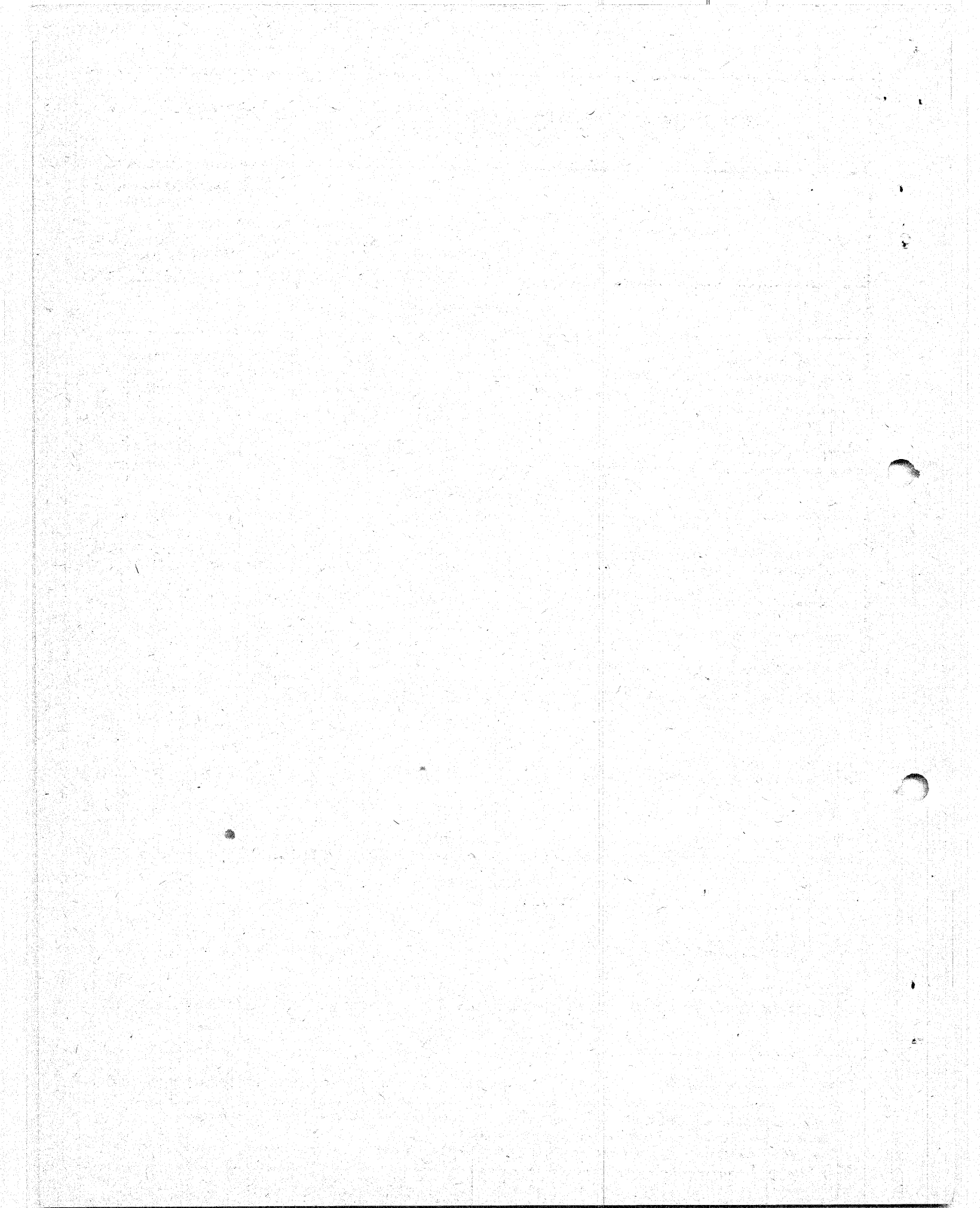
TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES  
IN DECEMBER 1948 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN DECEMBER 1947

Facilities	1948			Percentage change from 1947		
	Total	Passenger cars <sup>1</sup>	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars <sup>1</sup>	Trucks and busses
<b>EASTERN REGIONS</b>						
3 in the New England States	752,770	671,160	81,610	+36.8	+37.6	+31.2
14 in the Middle Atlantic States	10,770,295	9,154,723	1,615,572	+15.2	+15.4	+14.2
2 parkways in the Middle Atlantic States	1,130,236	1,130,236	-----	+22.2	+22.2	-----
Pennsylvania Turnpike <sup>2</sup>	217,564	152,806	64,758	+15.4	+11.0	+26.6
5 in the South Atlantic States	418,302	331,370	86,932	+ 8.5	+ 9.3	+ 5.4
<b>TOTAL - 25 facilities</b>	<b>13,289,167</b>	<b>11,440,295</b>	<b>1,848,872</b>	<b>+16.6</b>	<b>+16.6</b>	<b>+14.8</b>
<b>CENTRAL REGIONS</b>						
3 on the Great Lakes Canadian border <sup>3</sup>	252,532	235,177	17,355	+19.8	+20.3	+12.8
1 in the Great Lakes Region	12,065	9,938	2,127	+12.1	+13.3	+ 6.8
<i>Subtotal - 4 facilities</i>	<i>264,597</i>	<i>245,115</i>	<i>19,482</i>	<i>+19.4</i>	<i>+20.0</i>	<i>+12.1</i>
3 on the Ohio River	274,890	232,734	42,156	+11.4	+11.8	+ 9.6
7 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and North	486,150	402,065	84,085	+ 4.7	+ 4.9	+ 4.0
4 on the Miss. River south of St. Louis	170,724	127,230	43,494	+ 7.0	+ 6.2	+ 9.2
<i>Subtotal - 11 facilities</i>	<i>656,874</i>	<i>529,295</i>	<i>127,579</i>	<i>+ 5.3</i>	<i>+ 5.2</i>	<i>+ 5.7</i>
4 on the Missouri River	166,679	136,948	29,731	- 0.9	+ 1.3	-10.1
3 in the West South Central States	29,484	28,133	1,351	- 0.2	+ 1.5	-26.0
<i>Subtotal - 7 facilities</i>	<i>196,163</i>	<i>165,081</i>	<i>31,082</i>	<i>- 0.8</i>	<i>+ 1.3</i>	<i>-10.9</i>
<b>TOTAL - 25 facilities</b>	<b>1,392,524</b>	<b>1,172,225</b>	<b>220,299</b>	<b>+ 7.9</b>	<b>+ 8.7</b>	<b>+ 4.2</b>
<b>WESTERN REGIONS</b>						
1 in California	2,182,877	1,975,121	207,756	+ 2.1	+ 2.0	+ 2.7
3 in the Oregon-Washington Area	357,599	313,868	43,731	+ 2.5	+ 2.7	+ 1.6
<b>TOTAL - 4 facilities</b>	<b>2,540,476</b>	<b>2,288,989</b>	<b>251,487</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>	<b>+ 2.5</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
<b>TOTAL - 54 facilities</b>	<b>17,222,167</b>	<b>14,901,509</b>	<b>2,320,658</b>	<b>+13.5</b>	<b>+13.7</b>	<b>+12.3</b>

<sup>1</sup>Non-revenue vehicles included in report and treated as passenger cars unless otherwise specified.

<sup>2</sup>Number of vehicles, those using any portion of the facility.

<sup>3</sup>One of these facilities is in Western New York and therefore is related to similar facilities in the Central States.



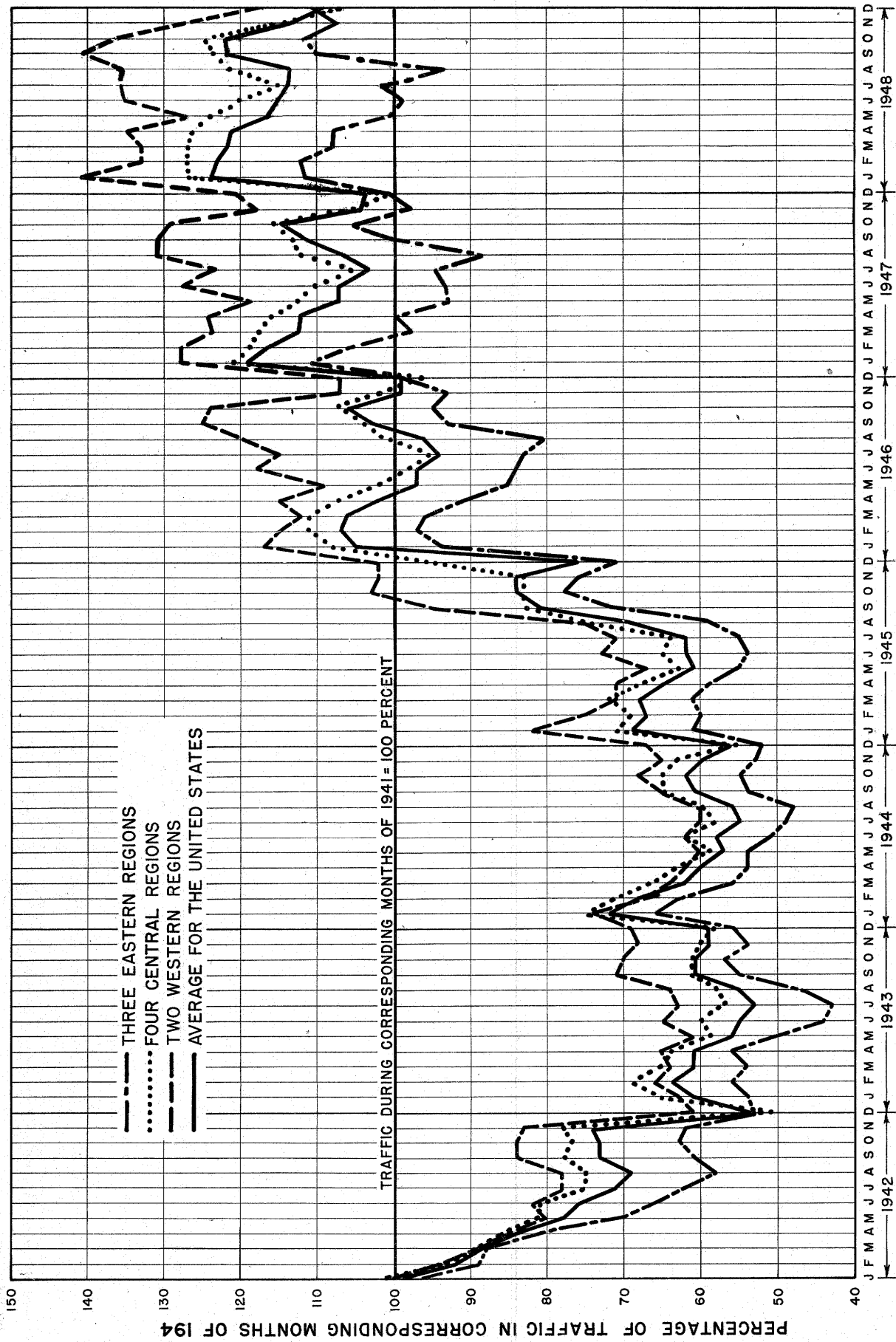
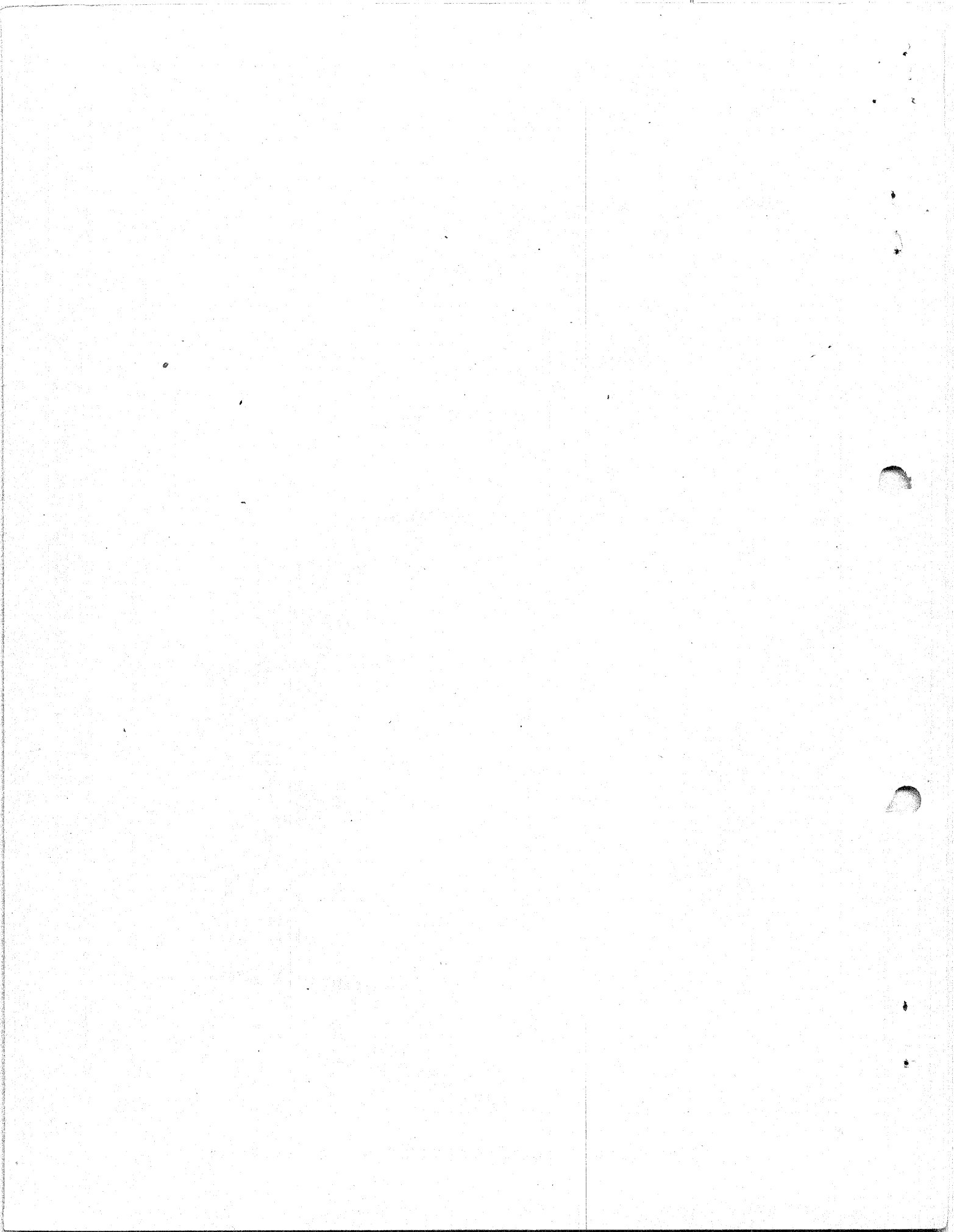


FIGURE 1 - PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1948 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



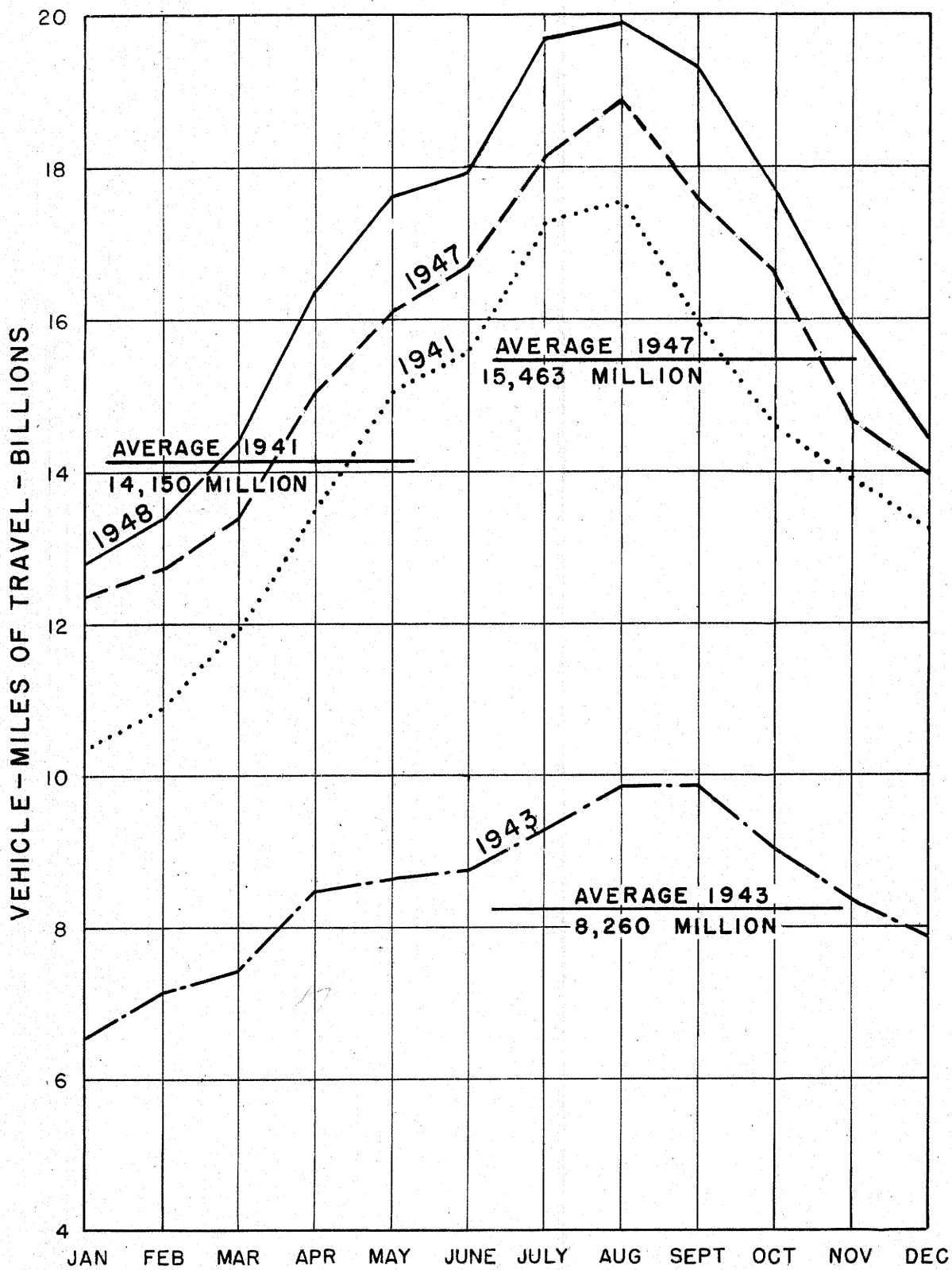


FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE - MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1947 AND 1948

