

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 31, 1947

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

On the basis of preliminary figures, motor vehicle travel during November 1947 for the nation as a whole was higher than in any previous November. Total travel on main rural roads was well in excess of that for 1941, the year of the highest travel previously recorded, and even on local roads it slightly exceeded that of 1941. Travel on city streets showed an increase greater than on rural roads with respect to 1941.

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Main roads	+ 7.4	+77.4	+ 8.3
Local roads	+ 0.1	+82.3	+ 1.5
City streets	+10.8	+58.7	+ 7.4
Average	+ 8.0	+68.1	+ 6.9

Travel on rural roads in the eastern regions was a little lower than in 1941 but was higher than in any other previous year. In the central and western regions, however, it was well in excess of the travel on rural roads in 1941.

	Rural traffic in vehicle miles November 1947 (millions)	Percentage change from		
		1941	1943	1946
Eastern regions	4,696	- 1.7	+82.5	+ 6.0
Central regions	7,462	+ 6.3	+78.0	+ 5.3
Western regions	2,516	+17.9	+74.5	+10.3
United States total	14,674	+ 5.3	+78.7	+ 6.3

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

1950

1951

1952



TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
NOVEMBER 1947 INCLUDING 639 STATIONS IN 44 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Nov. 1946	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Nov. 1946
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Alabama	7	+ 7.6	Texas	81	+ 8.6
Arkansas	16	+ 9.2	Utah	10	+ 8.3
California	9	+10.3	Vermont	11	+ 3.2
Colorado	5	+18.7	Washington	9	+11.8
Connecticut	16	+12.3	West Virginia	10	+14.9
Delaware	3	+ 7.5	Wisconsin	9	+ 4.4
Florida	17	+ 6.0	Wyoming	4	-13.9
Georgia	7	+ 4.9			
Idaho	8	+15.4	<i>TOTAL - 44 STATES</i>	<i>608</i>	<i>+ 8.3</i>
Illinois	6	+ 4.9	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Indiana	21	+ 9.3	Alabama	1	+ 8.0
Iowa	26	+ 9.1	Connecticut	3	+ 4.9
Kansas	13	+ 7.2	Delaware	2	-10.9
Kentucky	12	+ 8.0	Georgia	3	- 2.2
Louisiana	8	+ 0.9	Indiana	1	0.0
Maine	8	+ 6.5	Iowa	7	- 6.9
Massachusetts	9	+ 5.5	Michigan	2	- 0.9
Michigan	26	+ 3.4	Missouri	2	+24.4
Minnesota	27	- 2.7	Montana	2	- 0.4
Mississippi	10	+13.1	Nebraska	1	+18.9
Missouri	25	+ 9.5	North Dakota	2	-16.9
Montana	12	+14.1	Ohio	2	- 1.9
Nebraska	11	+10.1	Oregon	1	+ 8.0
Nevada	16	+ 9.4	Rhode Island	1	+ 7.0
New Hampshire	15	- 3.3	Wisconsin	1	-22.4
New Jersey	4	+ 8.7			
New Mexico	14	+12.0	<i>TOTAL - 15 STATES</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>+ 1.5</i>
New York	1	+11.5	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
North Carolina	20	+ 7.8	<i>44 STATES</i>	<i>639</i>	<i>+ 6.3</i>
North Dakota	10	+ 2.5	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
Ohio	22	+ 8.4		<i>161</i>	<i>+ 6.0</i>
Oklahoma	20	+ 8.2	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
Oregon	4	+21.7		<i>384</i>	<i>+ 5.3</i>
Pennsylvania	29	+ 8.9	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
Rhode Island	2	+16.4		<i>94</i>	<i>+10.3</i>
South Dakota	9	- 9.4			
Tennessee	6	+ 7.2			

¹Includes all States except Arizona, Maryland, South Carolina, and Virginia.

TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
OCTOBER 1947 INCLUDING 655 STATIONS IN 46 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Oct. 1946	Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Oct. 1946
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>			<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Connecticut	19	+15.9	Alabama	7	+13.0
Maine	10	+ 6.8	Kentucky	11	+12.3
Massachusetts	9	+ 8.7	Mississippi	10	+11.1
New Hampshire	15	+ 5.0	Tennessee	8	+15.7
Rhode Island	3	+24.6	Subtotal	36	+12.8
Vermont	11	+11.9			
Subtotal	67	+11.9	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>			Arkansas	16	+13.6
New Jersey	4	+11.6	Louisiana	8	- 7.0
New York	3	+13.1	Oklahoma	20	+ 6.7
Pennsylvania	28	+18.9	Texas	81	+12.8
Subtotal	35	+16.6	Subtotal	125	+ 9.4
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>			<i>MOUNTAIN</i>		
Delaware	5	+11.2	Arizona	5	+ 6.8
Maryland	18	+ 9.3	Colorado	6	+10.6
West Virginia	11	+16.8	Idaho	8	+11.7
Subtotal north portion	34	+11.4	Montana	12	+20.7
Florida	17	+ 8.6	Nevada	16	+ 7.8
Georgia	10	+ 7.1	New Mexico	14	+11.3
North Carolina	20	+ 8.2	Utah	8	+14.5
Subtotal south portion	47	+ 8.1	Wyoming	4	+12.8
Subtotal region	81	+ 9.8	Subtotal	73	+11.0
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			<i>PACIFIC</i>		
Illinois	4	+12.9	California	5	+ 1.2
Indiana	22	+12.1	Oregon	4	+19.1
Michigan	28	+12.6	Washington	9	+ 9.0
Ohio	23	+17.8	Subtotal	18	+ 5.8
Wisconsin	10	+14.0			
Subtotal	87	+13.9	<i>TOTAL ALL STATES</i> ²	655	+ 8.4
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i> ²	622	+11.0
Iowa	33	+12.4	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>	33	+ 1.7
Kansas	13	+16.2	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	183	+10.0
Minnesota	27	+ 9.6	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	381	+ 8.9
Missouri	27	+10.1	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	91	+ 4.1
Nebraska	11	+13.3			
North Dakota	12	+23.8			
South Dakota	10	+ 3.1			
Subtotal	133	+11.2			

¹Combined State and local highways.

²Includes all States except South Carolina and Virginia.

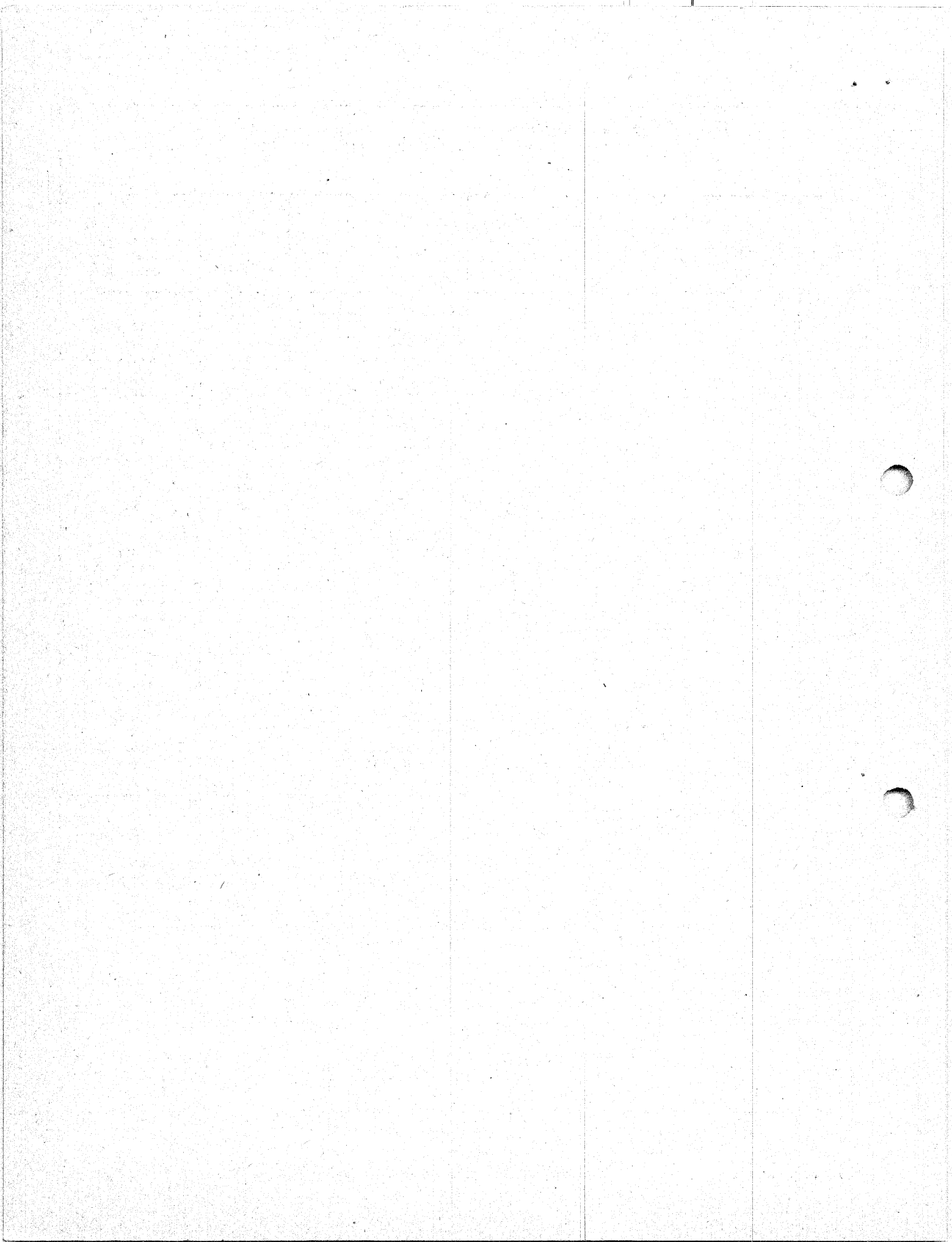


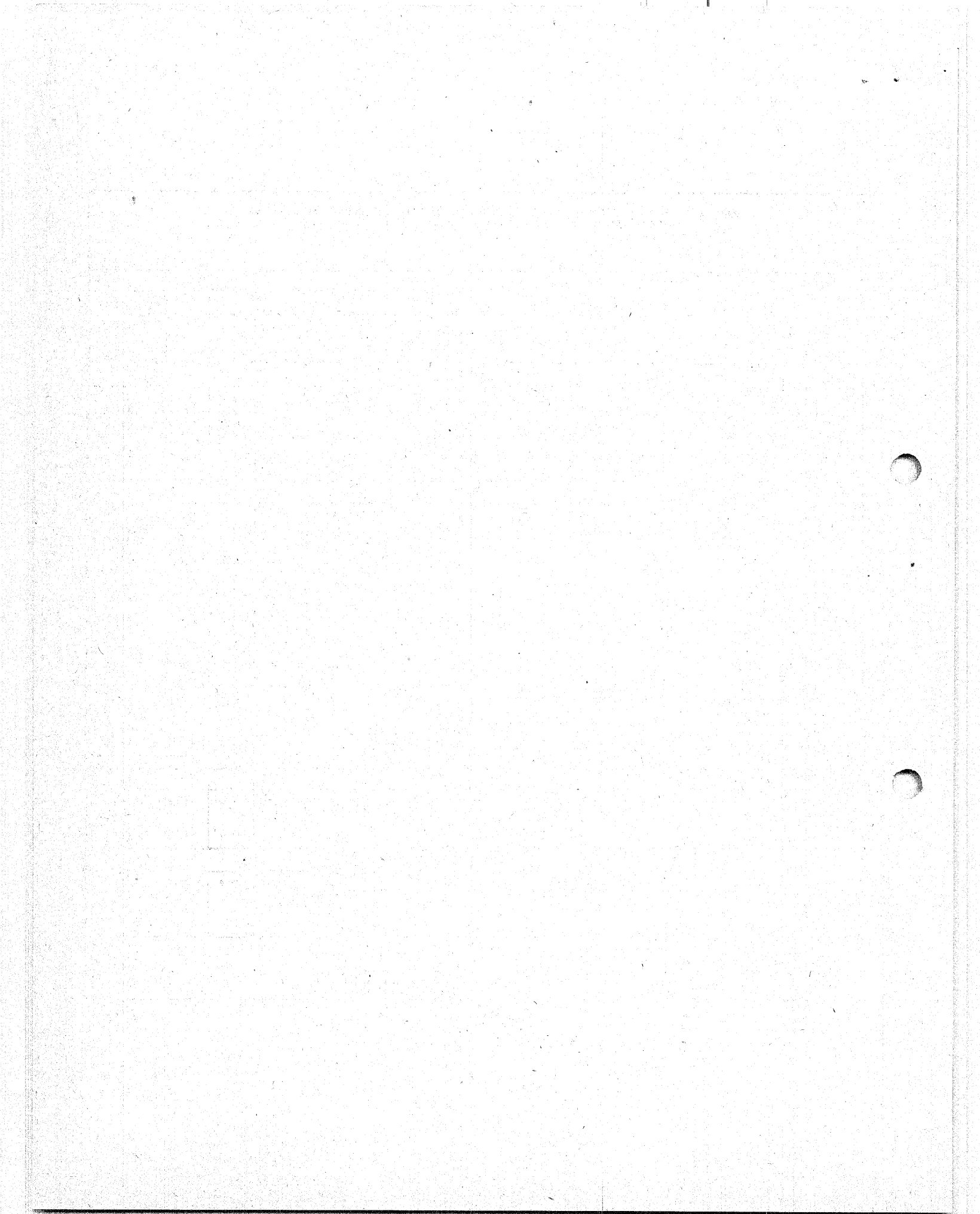
TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN NOVEMBER 1947
COMPARED WITH THOSE IN NOVEMBER 1946 AND 1941.

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									
2 in the New England States	42,510	38,454	4,056	- 1.0	- 1.4	+ 3.2	+ 8.4	+ 5.0	+56.4
14 in the Middle Atlantic States	10,918,360	9,526,255	1,392,105	+12.0	+13.3	+ 4.2	+36.5	+33.8	+57.8
Pennsylvania Turnpike ¹	231,062	180,212	50,850	+22.1	+21.7	+23.5	+27.2	+16.5	+88.6
5 in the South Atlantic States	419,657	335,368	84,289	+ 8.8	+ 9.3	+ 7.0	+18.0	+14.8	+32.7
TOTAL - 22 facilities ²	11,611,589	10,080,289	1,531,300	+12.0	+13.2	+ 4.9	+35.4	+32.6	+57.0
TOTAL - 24 facilities	12,617,188	10,991,529	1,625,659	+12.3	+13.4	+ 5.0	--	--	--
CENTRAL REGIONS									
4 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ³	352,545	329,819	22,726	+10.9	+10.7	+14.4	+116.2	+117.3	+100.2
1 in the Great Lakes Region	44,245	39,675	4,570	+ 6.5	+ 5.5	+15.9	+40.9	+35.7	+110.6
Subtotal - 5 facilities	396,790	369,494	27,296	+10.4	+10.1	+14.7	+104.0	+104.2	+101.8
3 on the Ohio River	321,527	269,898	51,629	+31.9	+31.9	+31.8	+32.0	+27.0	+65.8
8 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and North	650,723	548,260	102,463	+12.8	+11.7	+19.0	+13.8	+12.0	+24.8
2 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	64,329	48,715	15,614	+ 7.6	+10.5	- 0.6	+34.0	+51.5	- 1.7
Subtotal - 10 facilities	715,052	596,975	118,077	+12.3	+11.6	+16.0	+16.4	+14.4	+20.5
3 on the Missouri River	143,323	115,750	27,573	+10.3	+10.0	+11.6	+36.4	+41.5	+18.6
2 in the Missouri River area	3,599	2,974	625	-13.7	-15.9	- 1.7	- 4.4	- 4.0	- 6.6
Subtotal - 5 facilities	146,922	118,724	28,198	+ 9.6	+ 9.2	+11.2	+35.0	+39.8	+17.9
TOTAL - 23 facilities ²	1,580,291	1,355,091	225,200	+15.0	+14.5	+18.5	+35.5	+35.5	+35.2
TOTAL - 27 facilities	1,764,457	1,506,986	257,471	+14.1	+13.5	+17.5	--	--	--
WESTERN REGIONS									
2 in California	2,706,083	2,462,486	243,597	+ 4.7	+ 5.1	+ 0.6	+28.8	+26.8	+54.1
3 in the Oregon-Washington Area	336,151	295,645	40,506	+18.2	+19.5	+ 9.7	+81.5	+78.2	+110.4
TOTAL - 5 facilities	3,042,234	2,758,131	284,103	+ 6.0	+ 6.5	+ 1.8	+33.1	+30.8	+60.2
UNITED STATES									
TOTAL - 50 facilities ²	16,234,114	14,193,511	2,040,603	+11.1	+11.9	+ 5.8	+34.9	+32.5	+54.7
TOTAL - 56 facilities	17,423,879	15,256,646	2,167,233	+11.3	+12.1	+ 5.9	--	--	--

¹Number of vehicles, those using any portion of the facility.

²These facilities have comparative data for 1947, 1946, and 1941 and are included in the larger total below.

³Two of these facilities are in Western New York and therefore are related to similar facilities in the Central States.



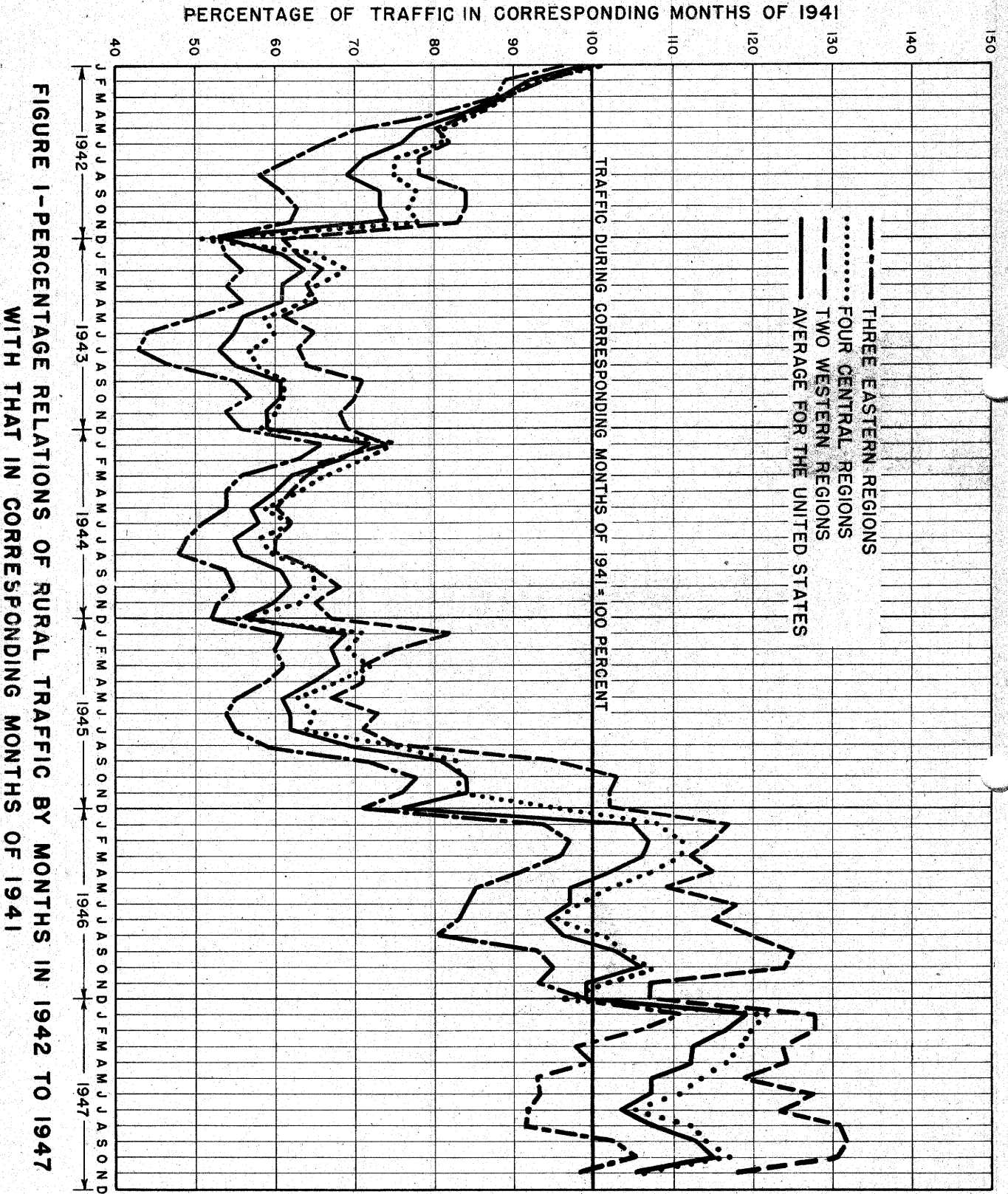
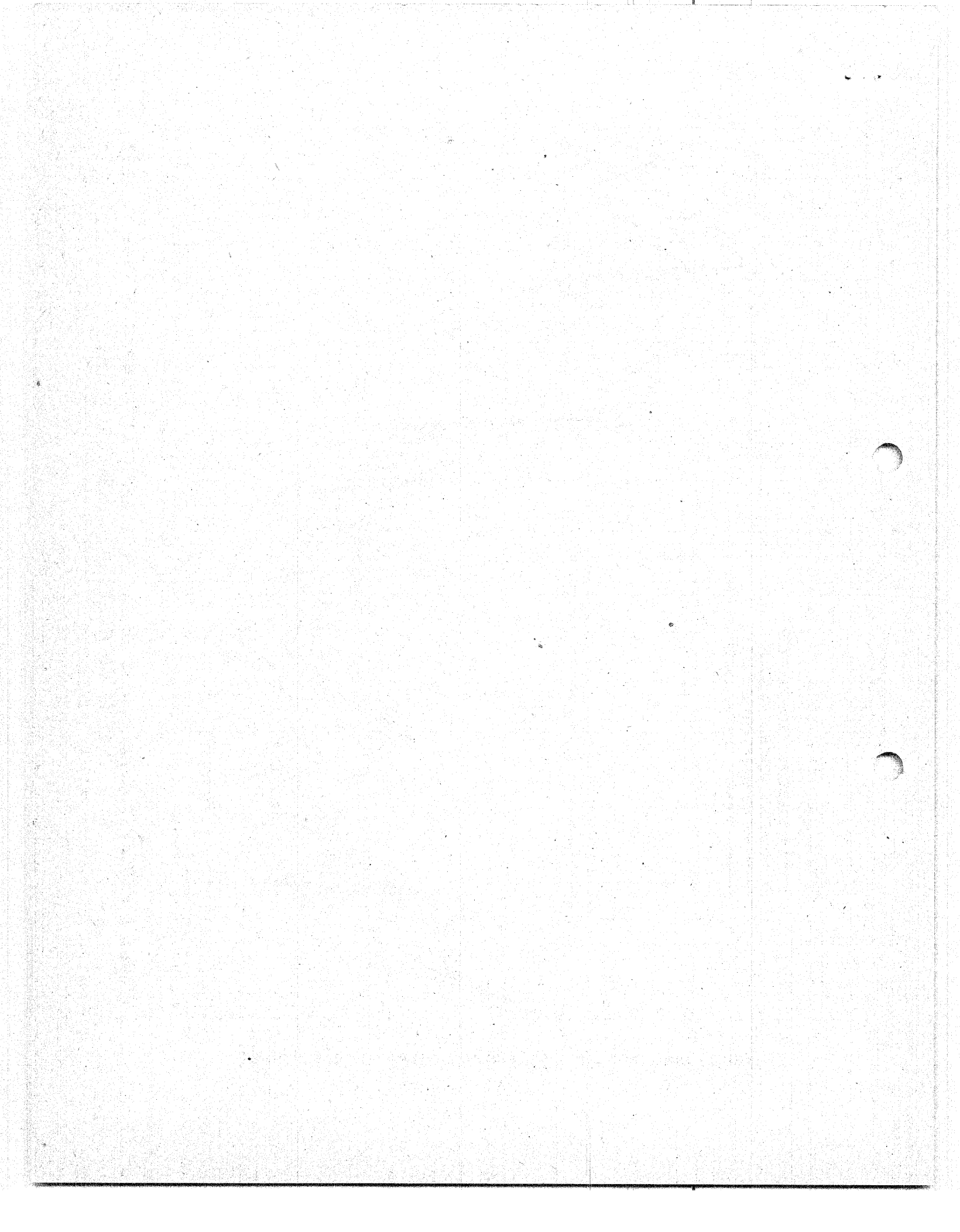


FIGURE 1—PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1947 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



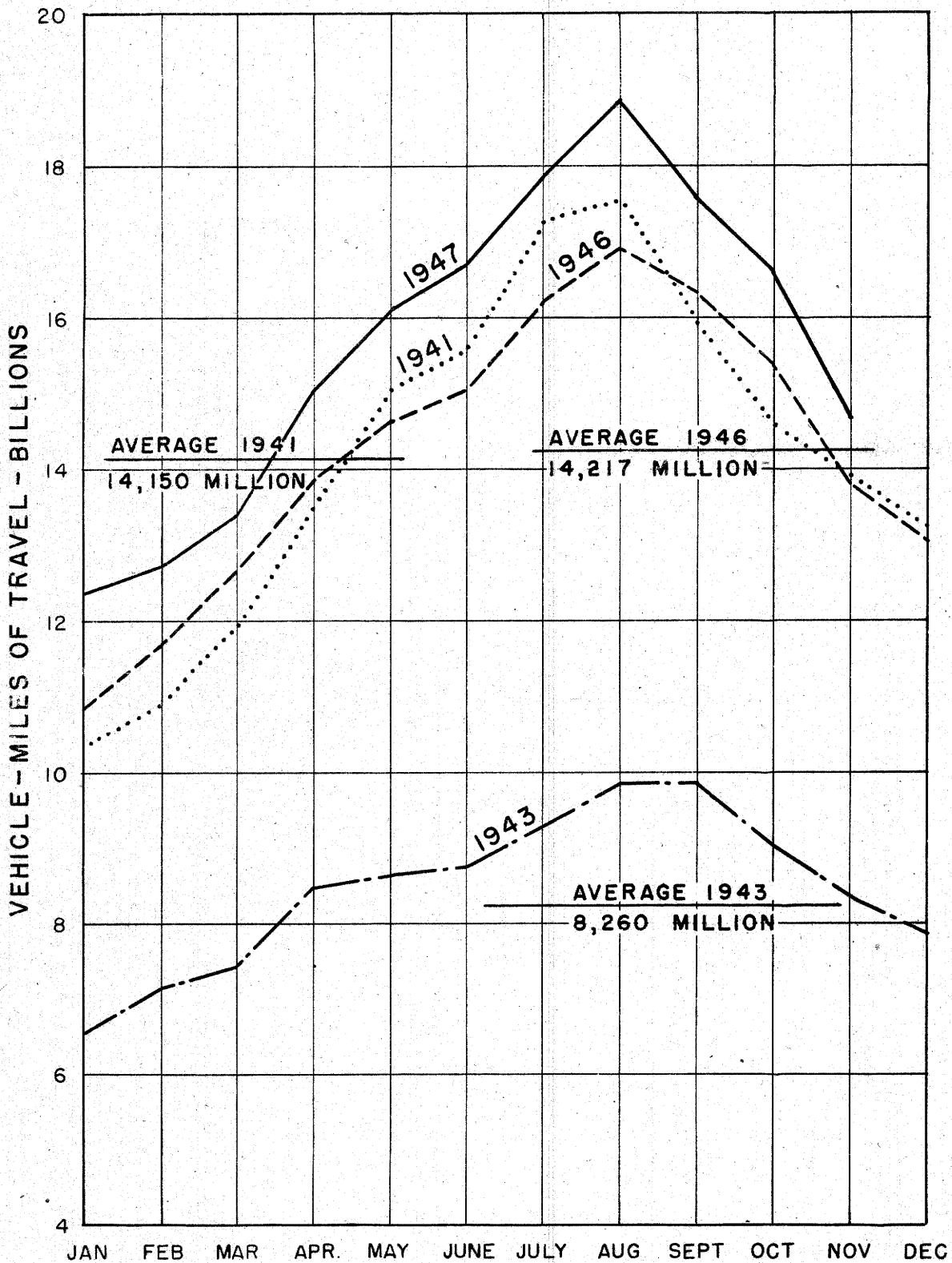


FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE - MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1946 AND 1947

