

*Ditchcock*

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION  
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WASHINGTON

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 35

DATE: MAY 28, 1943

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

Highway traffic decreases in April 1943 were approximately equal to those of February and March; in each case the comparison is with traffic in the corresponding month of 1942. Preliminary data for April in table 1 indicate decreases in traffic using each category of highway. For State highways, local highways, routes in the area rationed in May 1942, and routes in the area rationed in December 1942, the April decreases are each remarkably similar to the corresponding decreases in March, although there are wide differences in the decreases for the several groups of roads. Again in April, traffic on local highways shows much less decrease than that on State highways.

Fluctuations of traffic by months since 1940 are shown on the attached chart with the monthly traffic of 1941 as a base. It will be noted that April 1943 traffic in the Atlantic seaboard area is less than 50 percent of traffic in 1941, while in the remainder of the country, it is nearly two-thirds that of 1941. The tendencies noted in Informational Memorandum No. 32 continue.

Traffic volume observed in April at toll facilities, table 3, was also well below that of April 1942, although the decline is generally less than that at the automatic traffic recorder stations; and at a number of toll facilities with heavy traffic volume, truck and bus traffic in 1943 exceeds that of 1942.

H. S. FAIRBANK, CHIEF,  
DIVISION OF INFORMATION,  
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION.

Attachments:

[The page contains extremely faint and illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The text is too light to be transcribed accurately.]

TABLE 3.--TRAFFIC VOLUME DATA FOR APRIL 1943, BY VEHICLE TYPES, COMPARED WITH SIMILAR INFORMATION FOR APRIL 1942 AT TOLL FACILITIES

Area rationed May 1942

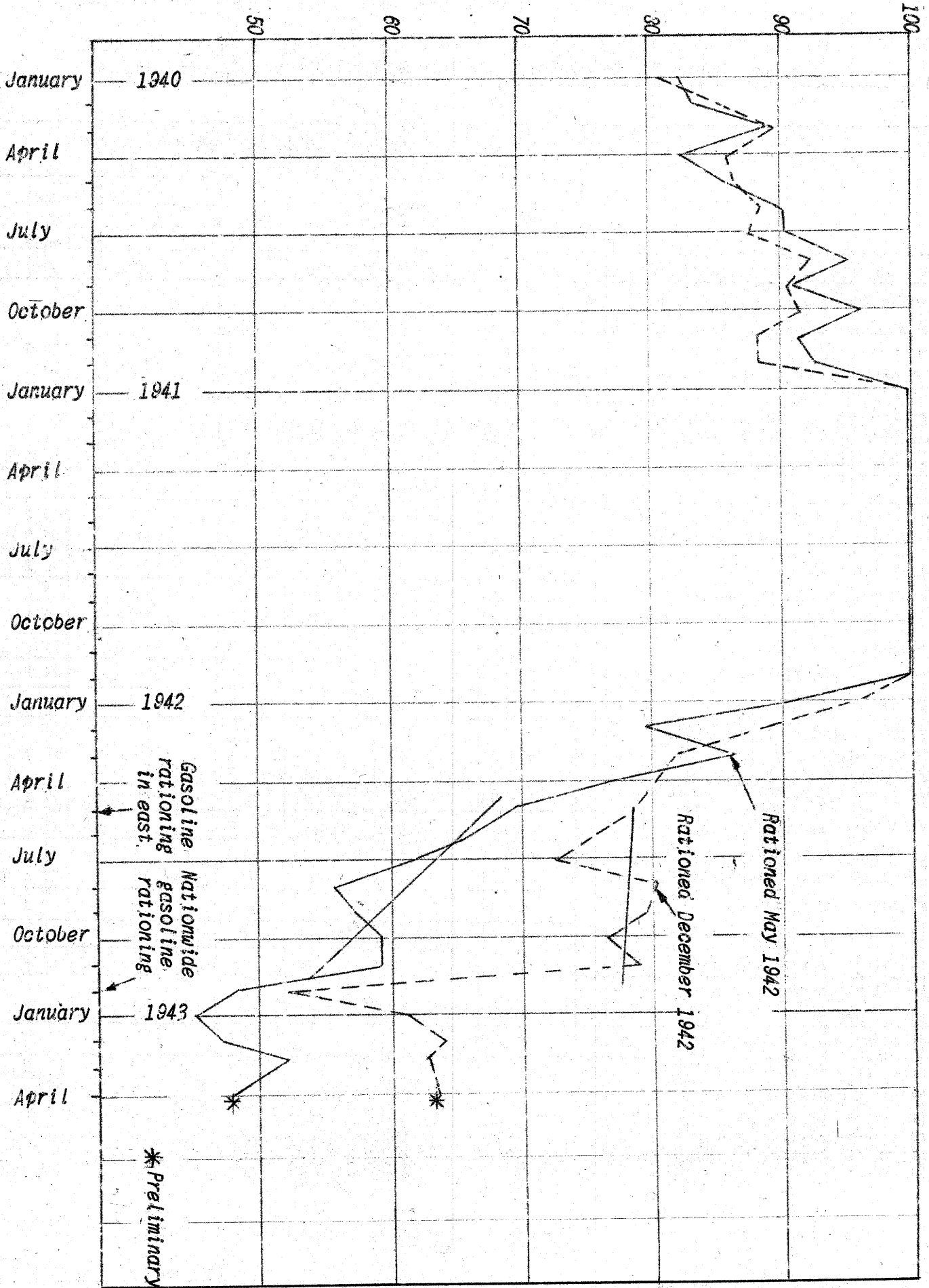
	April 1943			Percentage change from 1942		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
TOTAL - 23 facilities - Maine to Florida	3,556,546	2,678,346	878,200	-23.0	-28.4	+0.2
Miscellaneous locations not included above:						
43 drawbridges in eastern North Carolina (not toll) <sup>1</sup>	19,499	14,832	4,667	-13.1	-22.6	+0.6
13 stations in Washington, D. C. (not toll) <sup>2</sup>	257,514	---	---	-23.7	---	---
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	115,057	115,057	---	-62.9	-62.9	---
Pennsylvania Turnpike	77,412	50,283	27,129	-43.8	-54.6	+0.5

Area rationed December 1942

4 facilities on Eastern Canadian Border	165,867	136,825	29,042	-22.7	-28.2	+20.6
2 facilities in the Great Lakes area <sup>3</sup>	55,511	36,345	19,166	-11.2	-31.6	+105.9
Subtotal - 6 facilities	221,378	173,170	48,208	-20.1	-28.9	+44.3
12 facilities on the Ohio River	1,032,428	872,201	160,227	-13.8	-14.2	-11.0
13 facilities in the Ohio River area <sup>4</sup>	175,852	133,513	42,339	-11.8	-12.7	-9.1
Subtotal - 25 facilities	1,208,280	1,005,714	202,566	-13.5	-14.0	-10.8
1 facility in the Florida Gulf Coast area	20,644	15,802	4,842	+1.1	-6.0	+34.5
Subtotal - 1 facility	20,644	15,802	4,842	+1.1	-6.0	+34.5
9 facilities on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and north	763,597	572,349	191,348	-26.0	-29.1	-18.0
3 facilities on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	62,105	46,821	15,284	-20.2	-17.6	-27.1
Subtotal - 12 facilities	825,802	619,170	206,632	-28.2	-28.3	-18.8
facilities on the Missouri River	97,001	74,158	22,843	-6.2	-4.3	-11.8
2 facilities in the Missouri River area	2,156	1,760	396	-26.1	-26.7	-23.1
Subtotal - 3 facilities	99,157	75,918	23,239	-6.7	-5.0	-12.1
5 facilities in the Washington-Oregon area	190,645	161,671	28,974	-10.2	-12.9	+8.8
Subtotal - 5 facilities	190,645	161,671	28,974	-10.2	-12.9	+8.8
TOTAL - 55 facilities in the area rationed December 1942	2,565,906	2,051,445	514,461	-18.1	-19.9	-9.9
5 facilities reporting only total traffic	357,308	---	---	-2.8	---	---

1. Total of 8-hour weekday counts at 43 bridges.
2. Based on weekday traffic.
3. The large increase in trucks and busses due to a decrease of 1942 traffic at one facility rather than an increase of 1943 traffic.
4. One facility in West Virginia and 12 in Kentucky.

PERCENT OF TRAFFIC IN CORRESPONDING MONTH, 1941



TRAFFIC VOLUME AND AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDERS, 1940-1943

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY\* OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA.  
FOR APRIL 1943, INCLUDING 479 STATIONS IN 39 STATES

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Total daily traffic	Percent decrease <sup>1</sup> from April 1942	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Total daily traffic	Percent decrease <sup>1</sup> from April 1942
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>				<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			
Alabama	7	9,055	24.8	Virginia	1	2,381	34.9
Arizona	6	11,607	26.5	Washington <sup>3</sup>	9	14,462	30.4
Arkansas	22	14,476	27.3	West Virginia	11	14,650	28.9
California	10	17,366	21.4	Wisconsin	9	16,412	30.2
Colorado	5	5,140	21.6	Wyoming	3	2,023	30.0
Connecticut	17	42,872	45.0				
Delaware	5	12,986	32.3	<i>TOTAL - 39 States</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>645,021</i>	<i>29.6</i>
Georgia <sup>4</sup>	7	9,948	32.4	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>			
Idaho	7	8,918	17.1	Alabama	2	705	23.6
Illinois	3	4,926	29.1	Connecticut	2	635	28.0
Indiana	20	27,556	30.0	Georgia	4	809	16.9
Iowa	26	24,931	24.8	Iowa	10	1,179	13.6
Kansas <sup>3</sup>	7	7,360	21.9	Massachusetts	1	270	37.1
Kentucky <sup>5</sup>	12	13,166	24.2	Michigan	2	531	35.3
Louisiana <sup>3</sup>	7	15,092	23.1	Montana	2	344	18.7
Maine	9	9,527	33.2	Nebraska	1	154	0.6
Massachusetts	8	19,954	42.8	North Dakota	2	332	+ 5.1
Michigan	26	59,059	32.6	Ohio	2	931	33.6
Montana	12	6,598	22.6	Rhode Island	1	442	+16.9
Nebraska	11	9,784	17.2	Tennessee	2	805	10.1
New Hampshire	6	3,294	44.9	Wisconsin	2	299	42.5
New Mexico <sup>3</sup>	12	13,410	19.9	<i>TOTAL - 13 States</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>7,436</i>	<i>21.6</i>
New York	8	18,518	38.4	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>			
North Dakota	7	2,387	22.4	<i>39 STATES<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>479</i>	<i>652,457</i>	<i>29.5</i>
Ohio	24	41,535	25.8	<i>RATIONED MAY 1942</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>161,834</i>	<i>39.4</i>
Oklahoma	20	30,145	20.9	<i>RATIONED DEC. 1942</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>490,623</i>	<i>25.5</i>
Pennsylvania	30	42,653	37.5				
Rhode Island	3	4,780	34.4				
South Carolina	9	11,612	34.6				
South Dakota	9	5,529	19.1				
Tennessee	2	3,020	25.2				
Texas	40	75,685	16.7				
Utah	8	7,679	17.9				
Vermont	8	4,525	44.8				

\* Data from some States cover only a portion of the month, or have not been adjusted for the difference in numbers of Saturdays and Sundays between this year and last.

1. Plus sign before percentage indicates increase.

2. Includes all States except the following: Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Oregon.

*STATIONS NOT INCLUDED:*

3. Defense activity: 1 each in Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Washington.

4. Road construction: 1 in Georgia.

5. Road closed: 1 in Kentucky.

TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY<sup>1</sup> OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR MARCH 1942,  
INCLUDING 574 STATIONS AND 46 STATES.

Geographic division and State <sup>4</sup>	Number of stations	Percent decrease from March 1942	Geographic division and State	Number of stations	Percent decrease from March 1942
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>	54	43.1	<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>	35	27.9
Connecticut	19	47.2	Alabama	9	27.6
Maine	10	30.8	Kentucky <sup>5</sup>	12	26.3
Massachusetts	9	42.0	Mississippi	10	29.9
New Hampshire	4	44.8	Tennessee	4	27.5
Rhode Island	4	27.1	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>	86	24.6
Vermont	8	44.0	Arkansas	20	32.2
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>	40	36.4	Louisiana <sup>3</sup>	7	28.0
New York	10	36.4	Oklahoma	20	24.1
Pennsylvania	30	26.5	Texas	39	22.6
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>	90	31.7	<i>MOUNTAIN</i>	64	25.2
Delaware	6	30.3	Arizona	6	36.0
Florida	19	35.9	Colorado	5	21.6
Georgia	11	34.1	Idaho	7	18.6
Maryland <sup>4</sup>	16	25.7	Montana	13	28.3
North Carolina	18	31.4	Nevada <sup>3</sup>	11	29.4
South Carolina	9	39.1	New Mexico <sup>3</sup>	12	17.7
Virginia	1	33.3	Utah	7	16.5
West Virginia	10	30.6	Wyoming	3	36.0
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>	83	26.6	<i>PACIFIC</i>	23	29.8
Illinois	3	31.7	California	10	28.1
Indiana	20	28.0	Oregon	4	24.7
Michigan	28	27.4	Washington <sup>3</sup>	9	31.9
Ohio	22	22.9	<i>TOTAL -- 46 STATES<sup>2</sup></i>	574	30.5
Wisconsin	10	29.0	<i>STATE HIGHWAYS<sup>2</sup></i>	539	30.6
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>	99	29.4	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>	35	20.6
Iowa	36	25.0	<i>RATIONED MAY 1942</i>	159	37.2
Kansas <sup>3</sup>	7	24.2	<i>RATIONED DECEMBER 1942</i>	415	27.1
Missouri	27	35.3			
Nebraska	10	17.8			
North Dakota	10	31.5			
South Dakota	9	21.2			

1. Combined State and local highways.

2. Includes all States except the following: Minnesota and New Jersey.

**STATIONS NOT INCLUDED:**

3. Defense activity: 1 each in Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Nevada, and Washington.

4. Detour: 1 in Maryland.

5. Road closed: 1 in Kentucky.