

Mr. Hitchcock

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON

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REFER TO FILE No. _____

Informational Memorandum No. 67

Date: June 27, 1944

Subject: Traffic volume trends

Preliminary data for May 1944 indicate that traffic on rural roads continued to be slightly less than in the corresponding month of 1943. Traffic in the eastern portion of the country increased 6.7 percent, while that in the central portion decreased 3.8 percent, and that in the western section decreased 4.2 percent. In the entire country rural traffic was 0.7 percent below the figure estimated for May 1943. In interpreting these figures, it should be borne in mind that during the last twelve days of May 1943, a pleasure-driving ban was in effect in the Northeast, and the increase shown for May 1944 traffic in the East is probably due in large part to the fact that no similar ban was in effect during the month of this year.

The effects of the lifting of the pleasure-driving ban are noticeable also in the toll-bridge figures in table 3. The large increases which took place at some of the facilities in the East were undoubtedly due mainly to that cause. On the other hand, floods in the Missouri River area in May 1944 caused large traffic decreases at some facilities.

In Washington, D. C. traffic counted at 13 stations in May 1944 was 2.9 percent above the count at these same stations in 1943. Of the 1943 counts at these 13 stations, 11 were taken before the second pleasure-driving ban went into effect on May 20, 1943. At the stations at which 1943 counts were taken before the ban was in effect, the 1944 counts showed a decrease of 1.2 percent, while at the 2 stations counted subsequent to the time the ban was in effect, a 1944 increase of 38.7 percent was found. Weighted on the basis of the number of days of unrestricted and restricted traffic, an actual increase of 14.2 percent in traffic is indicated on streets in Washington in May 1944 compared to May 1943; compared to May 1941, there was a decrease of 27.4 percent. In Detroit, Michigan, traffic counted at 3 stations in May 1944 was 4.5 percent below the count at the same locations in this month in 1943.

Attachments

H. S. Fairbank, Deputy Commissioner,
Public Roads Administration.

F-1360

South Carolina

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+ 4.9

South Dakota

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TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR MAY 1944 INCLUDING 500 STATIONS IN 39 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from May 1943	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from May 1943
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Alabama	7	- 3.6	Washington	9	-11.4
Arizona	4	+ 8.4	West Virginia	11	- 3.6
Arkansas	19	- 7.1	Wisconsin	9	- 1.0
California	10	- 4.6	Wyoming	4	- 8.4
Colorado	4	- 5.9			
Connecticut	17	+11.7	<i>TOTAL - 39 STATES</i>	471	- 1.9
Delaware	4	+ 2.9			
Idaho ²	6	- 8.3	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Illinois	5	- 9.5	Alabama ²	2	+45.2
Iowa	26	-13.3	Connecticut	3	+14.1
Kansas ²	9	+ 7.4	Iowa	10	- 6.3
Kentucky	11	- 9.0	Maryland	1	+21.6
Louisiana	8	- 2.5	Massachusetts	1	-18.0
Maine	10	+ 9.5	Montana	2	+ 0.8
Maryland	16	+18.7	North Dakota	2	+16.5
Massachusetts	8	+19.6	Ohio	2	+ 5.5
Mississippi	10	+ 1.3	Oregon	1	+28.3
Montana	12	+ 1.3	Rhode Island	1	-31.1
New Hampshire	20	+15.2	Tennessee	2	+ 0.8
New Mexico	13	+12.5	Wisconsin	2	-14.0
New York	5	+ 6.6			
North Carolina	20	- 0.5	<i>TOTAL - 12 STATES</i>	29	+ 2.4
North Dakota	11	+ 0.3			
Ohio	21	- 5.8	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS 39 STATES</i>		
Oklahoma	20	- 0.8		500	- 0.7
Oregon	2	- 6.7			
Pennsylvania	30	+ 7.0	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
Rhode Island	3	+ 9.6		166	+ 6.7
South Carolina	3	+ 4.9	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
South Dakota	8	+ 1.7		258	- 3.8
Tennessee ²	3	-24.5	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
Texas	71	- 0.8		76	- 4.2
Utah	9	- 2.1			
Vermont	7	+18.5			
Virginia	6	+ 3.5			

¹ Includes all States except Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, and New Jersey.

² Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1944 affected 4 counts, in the following States: Idaho, excluding station 3 there is an increase of 1.4 percent; Kansas, excluding station 10 there is a decrease of 0.8 percent; Tennessee, excluding station 6 the decrease is 3.0 percent; Alabama, excluding station 3 there is a decrease of 4.2 percent.

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TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR APRIL 1944
INCLUDING 630 STATIONS IN 46 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from April 1943	Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from April 1943
NEW ENGLAND			EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Connecticut	20	- 4.2	Alabama ²	9	+ 8.5
Maine	10	+ 4.8	Kentucky	12	- 4.8
Massachusetts	9	+ 4.5	Mississippi	9	+ 1.9
New Hampshire	16	- 2.4	Tennessee	6	- 6.9
Rhode Island	4	+ 0.2	Subtotal	36	- 0.2
Vermont	7	+ 7.4	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Subtotal	66	- 0.3	Arkansas	21	- 8.1
MIDDLE ATLANTIC			Louisiana ²	8	+13.9
New York	10	+ 1.0	Oklahoma	20	- 6.7
Pennsylvania	30	- 1.7	Texas	68	- 1.7
Subtotal	40	- 0.8	Subtotal	117	- 1.5
SOUTH ATLANTIC			MOUNTAIN		
Delaware	4	-11.5	Arizona	5	+ 5.8
Maryland	17	+ 4.9	Colorado	5	-15.4
Virginia	6	-13.3	Idaho	7	+ 0.5
West Virginia	11	- 5.2	Montana	14	- 2.8
Subtotal north portion	38	- 2.6	Nevada ²	12	-29.8
Florida	19	+ 5.7	New Mexico	13	+ 3.8
Georgia	11	+ 1.4	Utah	8	- 9.8
North Carolina	19	+ 0.8	Wyoming	4	-18.0
South Carolina	4	+ 6.8	Subtotal	68	- 7.0
Subtotal south portion	53	+ 3.0	PACIFIC		
Subtotal region	91	+ 0.5	California	10	+ 2.4
EAST NORTH CENTRAL			Oregon	4	- 4.5
Illinois	3	- 9.4	Washington	9	-11.3
Indiana	23	- 6.8	Subtotal	23	- 4.0
Michigan	28	-11.6	TOTAL ALL STATES¹	630	- 4.2
Ohio	23	- 7.1	STATE HIGHWAYS¹	591	- 5.4
Wisconsin	11	- 7.9	LOCAL HIGHWAYS	39	- 1.0
Subtotal	88	- 9.0	3 EASTERN REGIONS	197	- 0.5
WEST NORTH CENTRAL			4 CENTRAL REGIONS	342	- 6.1
Iowa	34	-13.2	2 WESTERN REGIONS	91	- 4.9
Kansas	7	- 4.7			
Missouri	27	- 9.2			
Nebraska	12	-13.4			
North Dakota	11	+ 9.4			
South Dakota	10	- 2.9			
Subtotal	101	- 9.3			

¹ Includes all States except the following: Minnesota and New Jersey.

² Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1944 affected 3 counts in the following States: Alabama, excluding station 3, the increase is 5.0 percent; Louisiana, excluding station 23, the increase is 1.9 percent; Nevada, excluding station 110, the decrease is 2.1 percent.

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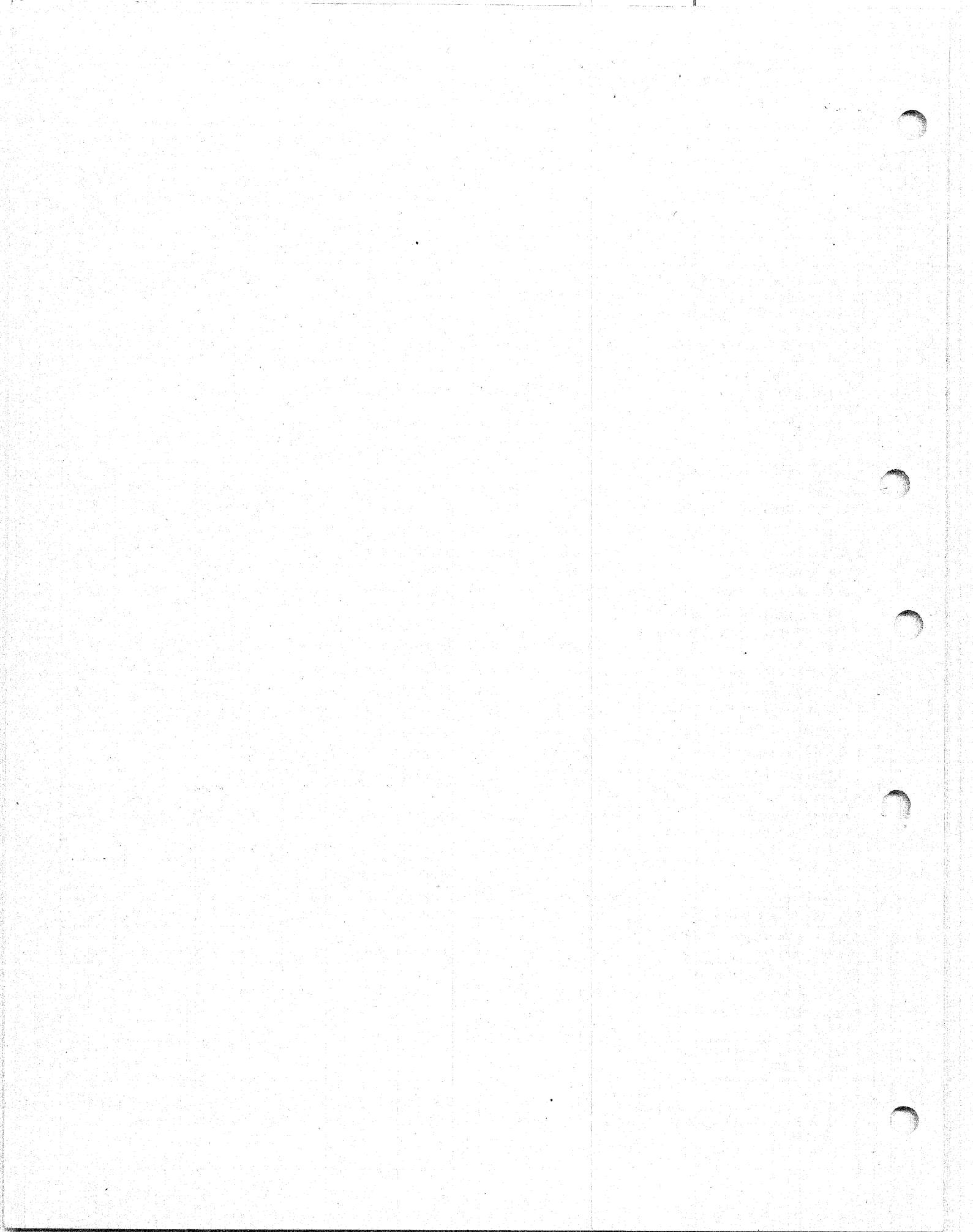
TABLE 3.—NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES
IN MAY 1944 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN MAY 1943 AND 1941

Facilities	May 1944			Percentage change from 1943			Percentage change from 1941		
	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks and busses
<i>Three Eastern Regions</i>									
2 in the New England States	28,373	25,498	2,875	- 0.8	- 0.9	0.0	-40.1	-42.6	- 1.1
12 in the Middle Atlantic States	4,088,884	3,219,677	869,207	+23.1	+29.2	+ 4.7	-23.0	-27.7	+ 1.9
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	169,554	169,554	--	+58.5	+58.5	--	-66.6	-66.6	--
6 in the South Atlantic States	312,126	228,793	83,333	+ 6.9	+13.0	- 6.9	-32.4	-40.0	+ 4.4
TOTAL - 21 facilities in the Eastern States¹	4,598,937	3,643,522	955,415	+22.6	+28.9	+ 3.6	-27.3	-32.4	+ 2.1
TOTAL - 25 facilities in the Eastern States	4,920,542	3,912,947	1,007,595	+22.6	+28.3	+ 4.3			
<i>Five Central Regions</i>									
5 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ²	321,588	283,940	37,648	+40.5	+44.2	+17.4	-21.0	-24.8	+28.7
2 in the Great Lakes Region	66,461	39,964	26,497	+ 2.2	-14.8	+46.6	-46.3	-59.7	+ 8.1
<i>Subtotal - 7 facilities</i>	<i>388,049</i>	<i>323,904</i>	<i>64,145</i>	<i>+32.0</i>	<i>+32.8</i>	<i>+27.9</i>	<i>-26.9</i>	<i>-32.1</i>	<i>+19.3</i>
9 on the Ohio River ³	750,342	631,165	119,177	- 1.8	- 3.1	+ 5.6	-28.8	-30.7	-16.6
10 in Kentucky	144,583	113,497	31,086	+ 5.7	+ 4.0	+12.1	-18.8	-22.7	- 0.2
<i>Subtotal - 19 facilities</i>	<i>894,925</i>	<i>744,662</i>	<i>150,263</i>	<i>- 0.7</i>	<i>- 2.1</i>	<i>+ 6.9</i>	<i>-27.3</i>	<i>-29.6</i>	<i>-13.6</i>
11 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and north	915,374	708,274	207,100	- 9.0	-10.4	- 3.8	-38.4	-41.6	-24.1
<i>Subtotal - 11 facilities</i>	<i>915,374</i>	<i>708,274</i>	<i>207,100</i>	<i>- 9.0</i>	<i>-10.4</i>	<i>- 3.8</i>	<i>-38.4</i>	<i>-41.6</i>	<i>-24.1</i>
4 on the Missouri River	97,989	73,913	24,076	- 3.0	- 3.0	- 3.1	-16.8	-20.5	- 3.3
2 in the Missouri River area	2,675	2,100	575	-25.1	-26.2	-19.4	-49.1	-52.3	-30.9
<i>Subtotal - 6 facilities</i>	<i>100,664</i>	<i>76,013</i>	<i>24,651</i>	<i>- 3.8</i>	<i>- 3.9</i>	<i>- 3.5</i>	<i>-18.2</i>	<i>-21.9</i>	<i>- 4.1</i>
3 on the Mexican Border	48,807	39,330	9,477	+ 3.9	+ 1.0	+17.5			
<i>Subtotal - 3 facilities</i>	<i>48,807</i>	<i>39,330</i>	<i>9,477</i>	<i>+ 3.9</i>	<i>+ 1.0</i>	<i>+17.5</i>			
TOTAL - 43 facilities in the Central States¹	2,299,012	1,852,853	446,159	- 0.3	- 1.1	+ 3.4	-31.8	-34.8	-15.2
TOTAL - 50 facilities in the Central States	2,415,356	1,941,933	473,423	- 0.2	- 1.0	+ 3.6			
<i>Two Western Regions</i>									
4 in California	1,965,408	1,705,536	259,872	- 9.6	-11.8	+ 9.0	-17.7	-22.5	+38.0
4 in the Oregon-Washington area	197,148	166,681	30,467	- 2.6	- 4.3	+ 7.9	+ 1.3	- 3.8	+41.8
TOTAL - 8 facilities in the Western States	2,162,556	1,872,217	290,339	- 9.0	-11.2	+ 8.9	-16.3	-21.1	+38.4
TOTAL - 72 facilities in the United States¹	9,060,505	7,368,592	1,691,913	+ 7.5	+ 8.2	+ 4.4	-26.2	-30.5	+ 1.2
TOTAL - 83 facilities in the United States	9,498,454	7,727,097	1,771,357	+ 7.8	+ 8.5	+ 4.8			
4 facilities reporting only total traffic	167,362			-10.6					

¹These facilities have comparative data for 1944, 1943, and 1941 and are included in the larger total below.

²Two of the facilities are in western New York and therefore are related to similar facilities in the Central States.

³Five of the facilities are between Ohio and West Virginia.



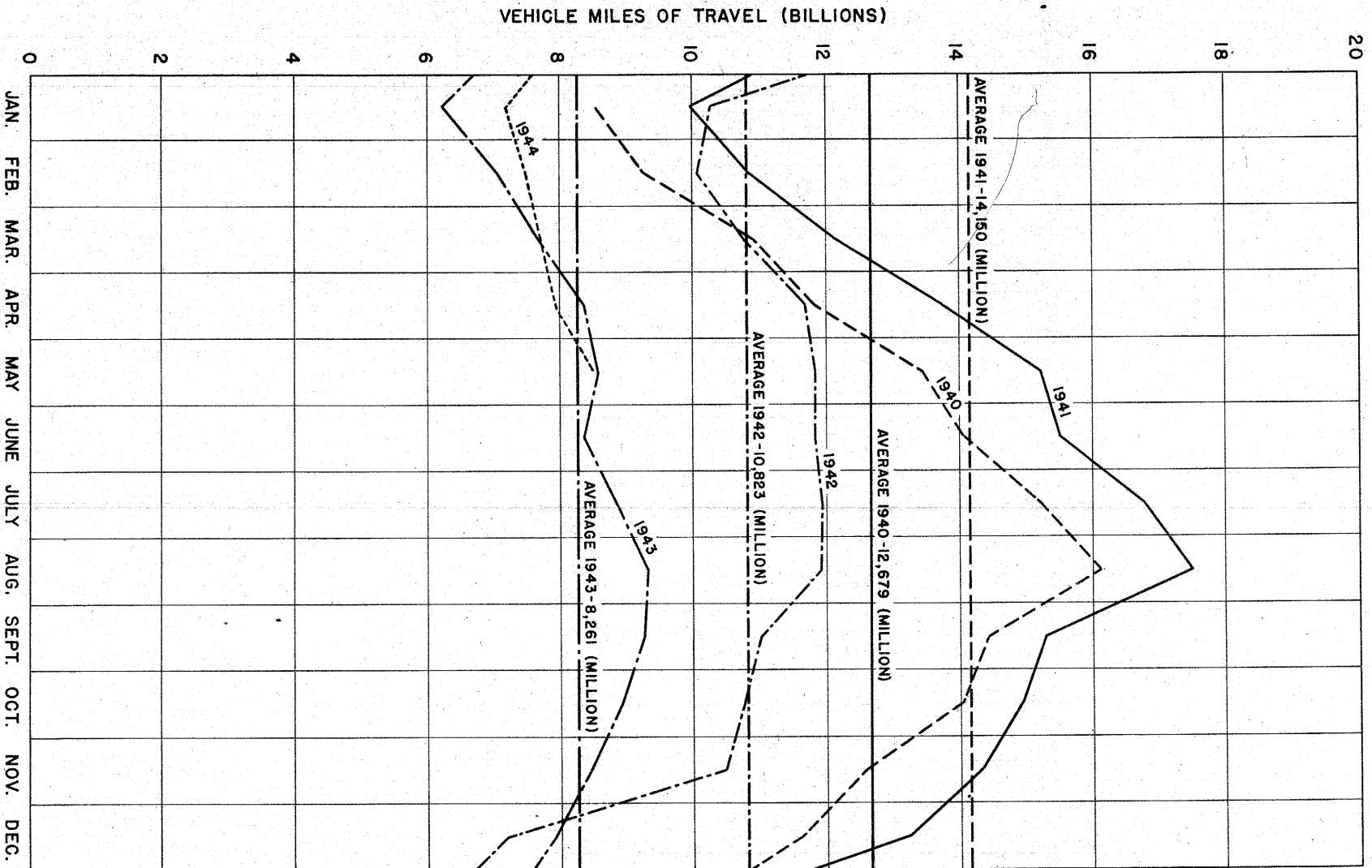


FIGURE I. VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS 1940 TO 1944 BY MONTHS

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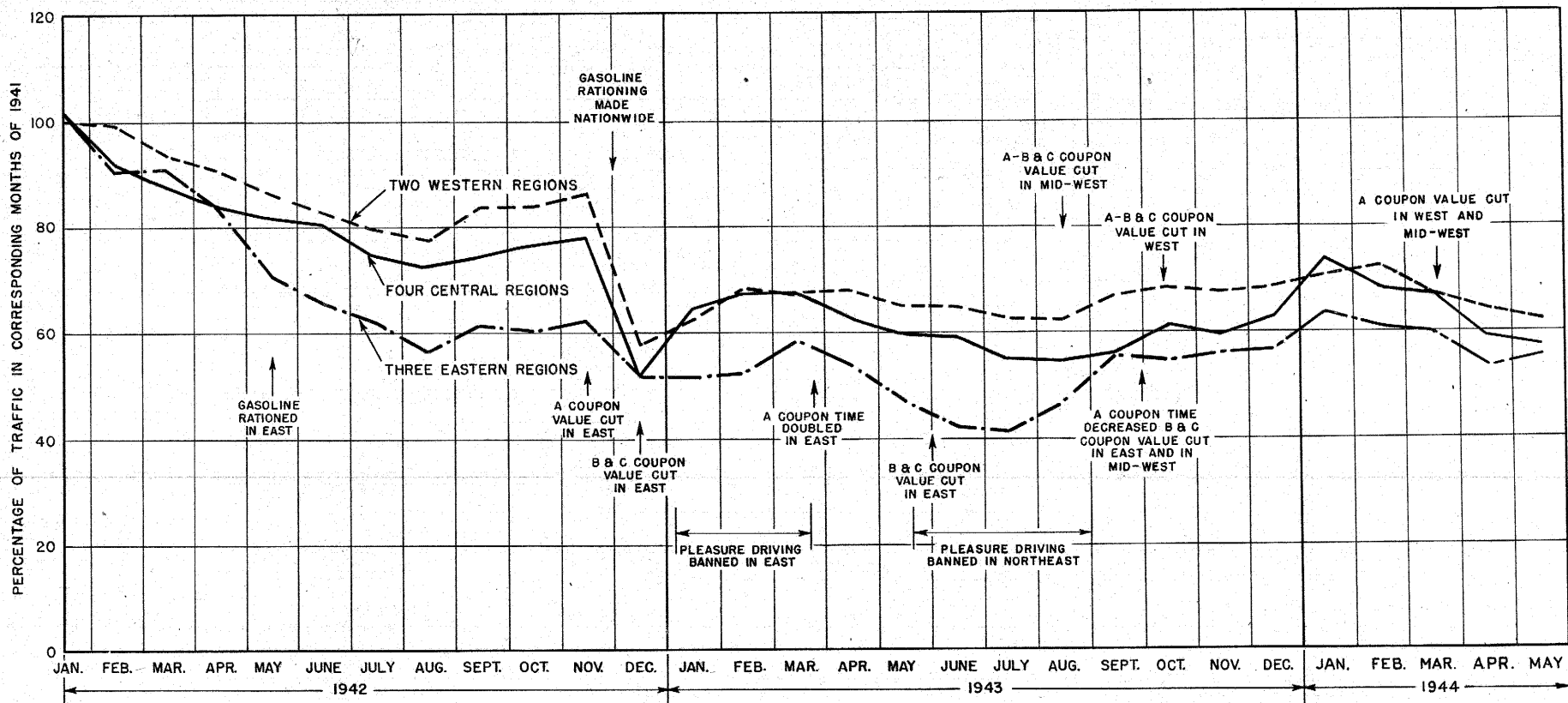


FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC IN MONTHS OF 1942, 1943, AND 1944 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941

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