

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 31, 1947

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

On the basis of preliminary figures, traffic on main roads and city streets during June 1947 was higher than in any previous June. As was the case last month, volumes on local roads in the United States, as a whole, and on all rural roads in the eastern regions were lower than in 1941 but were higher than in any other previous year. Rationing of gasoline supplies to dealers in certain States in the central region imposed by some of the companies produced no discernible effect on traffic in that region.

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Main roads	+10.6	+103.8	+12.5
Local roads	- 2.0	+ 72.3	+ 6.6
All rural roads	+ 7.2	+ 94.8	+11.0
City streets	+ 4.4	+ 65.2	+ 3.7
Average	+ 5.8	+ 79.4	+ 7.4

The changes in rural traffic volumes by geographic regions were as follows:

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Eastern regions	- 6.3	+114.4	+11.1
Central regions	+10.2	+ 84.4	+11.8
Western regions	+27.6	+ 96.1	+ 8.6

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Attachments

P-5680

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Table 1.—PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
JUNE 1947 INCLUDING 637 STATIONS IN 47 STATES¹

Type of Highway and State	Number of Stations	Traffic Volume Percentage Change From June 1946	Type of Highway and State	Number of Stations	Traffic Volume Percentage Change From June 1946
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>		
Alabama	8	+13.9	(Continued)		
Arizona	5	+13.1	Texas	78	+12.2
Arkansas	19	+15.3	Utah	11	+13.0
California	6	+ 6.5	Vermont	7	+ 6.9
Colorado	6	+14.4	Virginia	2	+15.5
Connecticut	16	+14.5	Washington	10	+ 7.8
Delaware	5	+22.6	West Virginia	11	+14.8
Florida	19	+17.0	Wisconsin	9	+13.6
Georgia	7	+ 5.8	Wyoming	4	+13.9
Idaho	8	+16.9	<i>TOTAL 47 STATES</i>	606	+12.5
Illinois	5	+23.7	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Iowa	26	+12.8	Alabama	2	+ 4.0
Kansas	14	+14.8	Connecticut	3	+ 5.7
Kentucky	8	+10.6	Delaware	2	+14.8
Louisiana	8	+ 4.7	Georgia	3	- 6.6
Maine	10	+10.7	Iowa	7	+ 4.8
Maryland	17	+11.9	Maryland	1	+ 7.1
Massachusetts	9	+ 6.3	Michigan	2	+15.2
Michigan	26	+18.0	Montana	2	+ 3.3
Minnesota	27	+14.2	Nebraska	1	+27.1
Mississippi	10	+18.7	North Dakota	2	+ 4.8
Missouri	23	+ 6.0	Ohio	2	+ 9.8
Montana	12	+11.8	Oregon	1	+ 4.9
Nebraska	11	+15.3	Rhode Island	1	+26.7
Nevada	16	+11.6	Tennessee	1	+ 3.3
New Hampshire	15	+ 3.7	Wisconsin	1	+14.6
New Jersey	2	+14.0	<i>TOTAL 15 STATES</i>	31	+6.6
New Mexico	14	+ 7.5	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
New York	2	+17.8	<i>47 STATES</i>	637	+11.0
North Carolina	18	+ 9.4	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
North Dakota	10	+10.8		181	+11.1
Ohio	22	+10.3	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
Oklahoma	20	+ 9.0		357	+11.8
Oregon	4	+16.3	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
Pennsylvania	28	+13.7		99	+ 8.6
Rhode Island	2	+16.4			
South Carolina	1	+15.3			
South Dakota	10	+20.7			
Tennessee	5	+26.1			

¹ Includes all States except Indiana

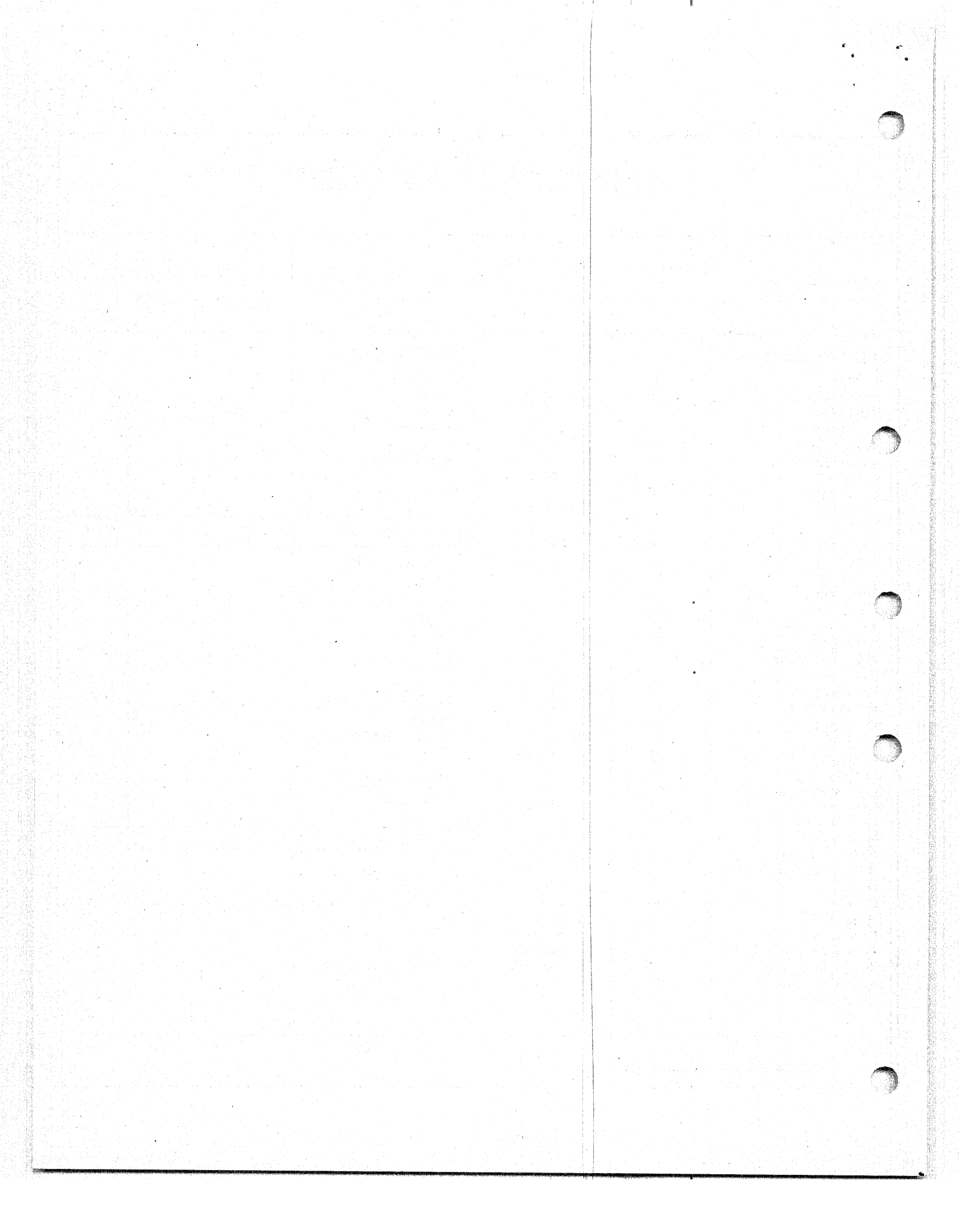


TABLE 2.—REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
MAY 1947 INCLUDING 665 STATIONS IN 45 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of Stations	Traffic Volume Percentage Change From May 1946	Region and State	Number of Stations	Traffic Volume Percentage Change From May 1946
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>			<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Connecticut	19	+11.3	Alabama	10	+11.4
Maine	10	+ 7.3	Kentucky	11	+ 9.6
Massachusetts	9	+13.5	Mississippi	10	+16.3
New Hampshire	14	+11.7	Tennessee	3	+22.0
Rhode Island	3	+16.9	<i>Subtotal</i>	34	+13.2
Vermont	10	+10.8	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
<i>Subtotal</i>	65	+11.7	Arkansas	16	+15.5
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>			Louisiana	8	+ 4.0
New Jersey	1	+16.7	Oklahoma	20	+ 2.4
New York	2	+ 9.4	Texas	76	+11.7
Pennsylvania	29	+10.2	<i>Subtotal</i>	120	+ 9.3
<i>Subtotal</i>	32	+10.4	<i>MOUNTAIN</i>		
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>			Arizona	5	+ 9.2
Delaware	8	+19.3	Colorado	6	+ 5.4
Maryland	18	+11.9	Idaho	8	+11.8
West Virginia	11	+19.7	Montana	14	+10.7
<i>Subtotal north portion</i>	37	+15.0	Nevada	16	+ 2.8
Florida	19	+ 8.6	New Mexico	15	+ 6.0
Georgia	10	+ 5.6	Utah	11	+11.0
North Carolina	19	+ 9.7	Wyoming	6	+ 7.1
<i>Subtotal south portion</i>	48	+ 8.5	<i>Subtotal</i>	81	+ 8.1
<i>Subtotal region</i>	85	+11.9	<i>PACIFIC</i>		
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			California	9	+10.2
Illinois	6	+19.3	Oregon	5	+10.6
Indiana	22	+ 4.4	Washington	10	+ 5.6
Michigan	28	+14.6	<i>Subtotal</i>	24	+ 8.5
Ohio	25	+13.7	<i>TOTAL ALL STATES²</i>		
Wisconsin	10	+ 9.3	665		
<i>Subtotal</i>	91	+12.0	<i>STATE HIGHWAYS²</i>		
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			631		
Iowa	34	+11.7	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Kansas	13	+11.6	34		
Minnesota	27	+12.4	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
Missouri	27	+ 7.6	182		
Nebraska	11	+10.3	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
North Dakota	11	+ 5.1	378		
South Dakota	10	+ 7.6	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
<i>Subtotal</i>	133	+10.1	105		

¹ Combined State and local highways

² Includes all States except the following: South Carolina and Virginia

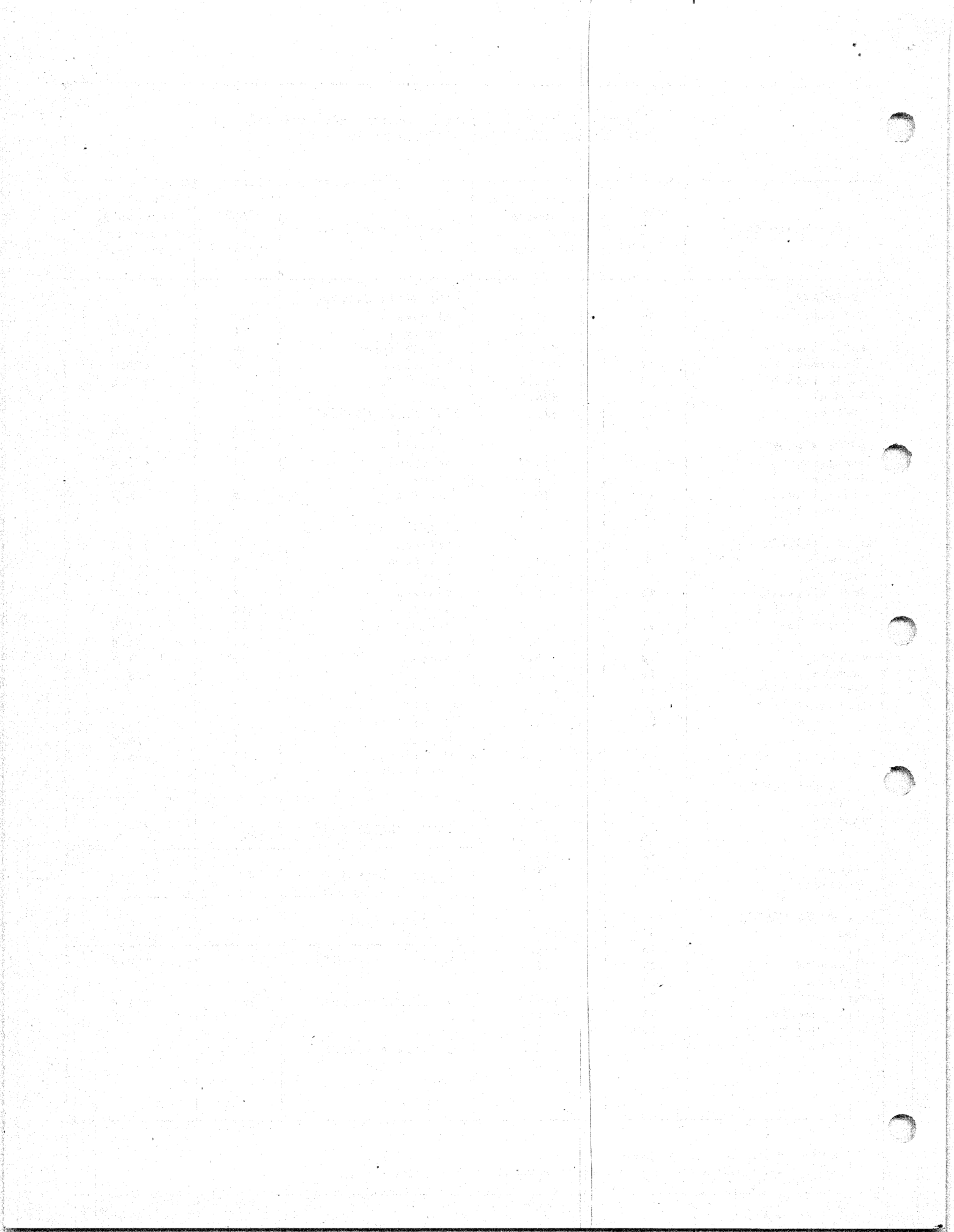
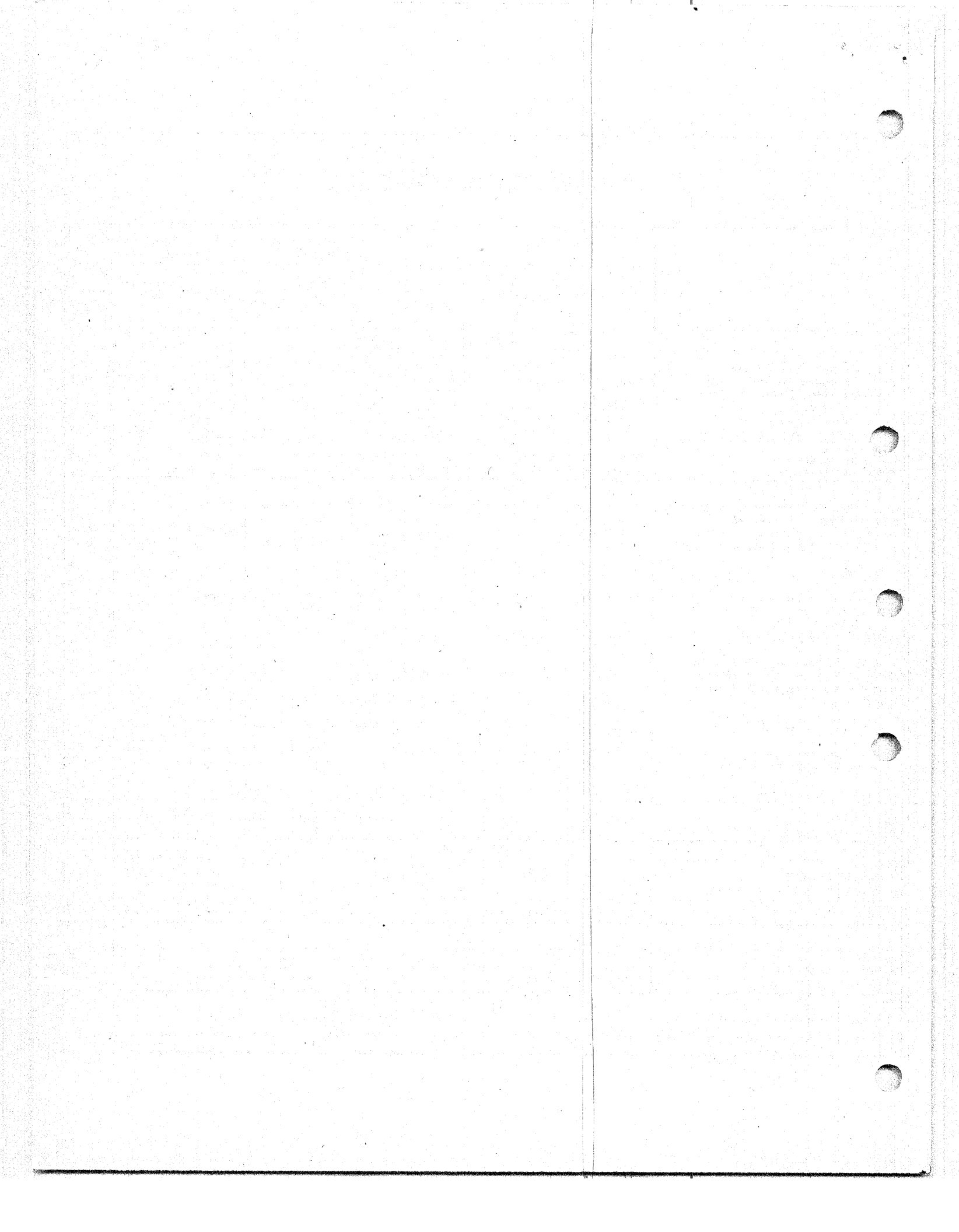


TABLE 3.—NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN JUNE 1947 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN JUNE 1946 AND 1941

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
<i>EASTERN REGIONS</i>									
3 in the New England States	74,029	67,697	6,332	+ 4.8	+ 5.1	+ 2.2	- 7.5	-10.8	+53.1
15 in the Middle Atlantic States	12,736,517	11,242,223	1,494,294	+14.1	+14.8	+ 9.1	+31.0	+29.2	+45.5
Fleetwood Viaduct, Westchester County, New York	579,227	579,227	---	+19.7	+19.7	---	+ 9.0	+ 9.0	---
Pennsylvania Turnpike	301,375	262,081	39,294	+22.1	+25.7	+ 2.2	+19.6	+12.9	+98.3
the South Atlantic States	473,837	386,513	87,324	+ 9.5	+ 9.1	+11.0	+12.3	+11.2	+17.4
TOTAL- 25 facilities ¹	14,164,985	12,537,741	1,627,244	+14.2	+15.0	+ 9.0	+28.7	+26.8	+44.6
TOTAL- 26 facilities	14,778,519	13,093,005	1,685,514	+14.8	+15.5	+ 9.6	---	---	---
<i>CENTRAL REGIONS</i>									
3 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border, ²	510,981	493,591	17,390	+ 7.8	+ 8.0	+ 1.2	+70.0	+70.1	+65.9
1 in the Great Lakes Region	45,877	43,196	2,681	+16.7	+17.7	+ 3.2	+40.4	+38.9	+70.3
Subtotal - 4 facilities	556,858	536,787	20,071	+ 8.5	+ 8.7	+ 1.4	+67.1	+67.1	+66.5
the Ohio River	570,626	488,531	82,095	+ 4.8	+ 3.8	+11.0	+10.5	+ 9.4	+17.3
in Kentucky	14,952	10,952	4,000	+38.4	+31.2	+63.1	+92.4	+75.5	+161.3
Subtotal - 6 facilities	585,578	499,483	86,095	+ 5.5	+ 4.3	+12.7	+11.7	+10.3	+20.4
5 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, St. Louis and North	582,543	511,544	70,999	+23.4	+21.4	+39.9	+14.0	+13.8	+15.6
3 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	115,359	95,348	20,011	+ 6.9	+ 8.5	- 0.2	+57.2	+72.1	+11.3
Subtotal - 8 facilities	697,902	606,892	91,010	+20.3	+19.2	+28.6	+18.4	+20.2	+14.6
the Missouri River	14,214	12,241	1,973	-19.2	-19.3	-18.4	+36.6	+34.2	+53.9
1 in the Missouri River area	4,379	3,595	784	+ 2.9	+ 7.4	-13.8	+38.4	+30.3	+94.1
Subtotal - 3 facilities	18,593	15,836	2,757	-14.9	-14.5	-17.1	+37.0	+38.3	+63.5
TOTAL-21 facilities ¹	1,858,931	1,658,998	199,933	+11.3	+10.6	+17.4	+27.7	+28.5	+21.4
TOTAL-26 facilities	2,110,589	1,878,558	232,031	+ 9.6	+ 9.4	+11.2	---	---	---
<i>WESTERN REGIONS</i>									
1 in California	2,276,466	2,096,497	179,969	+11.8	+12.9	+ 0.8	+47.6	+46.5	+62.5
3 in the Oregon-Washington area	404,141	361,090	43,051	+ 6.6	+ 6.7	+ 5.4	+97.7	+95.1	+122.7
TOTAL-4 facilities	2,680,607	2,457,587	223,020	+11.0	+11.9	+ 1.6	+53.5	+52.0	+71.5
<i>UNITED STATES</i>									
TOTAL- 50 facilities ¹	18,704,523	16,654,326	2,050,197	+13.5	+14.1	+ 8.9	+31.6	+30.2	+44.4
TOTAL- 56 facilities	19,569,715	17,429,150	2,140,565	+13.7	+14.3	+ 8.8	---	---	---

¹These facilities have comparative data for 1947, 1946, and 1941 and are included in the larger total below.

²One of these facilities is in Western New York and therefore is related to similar facilities in the Central States.



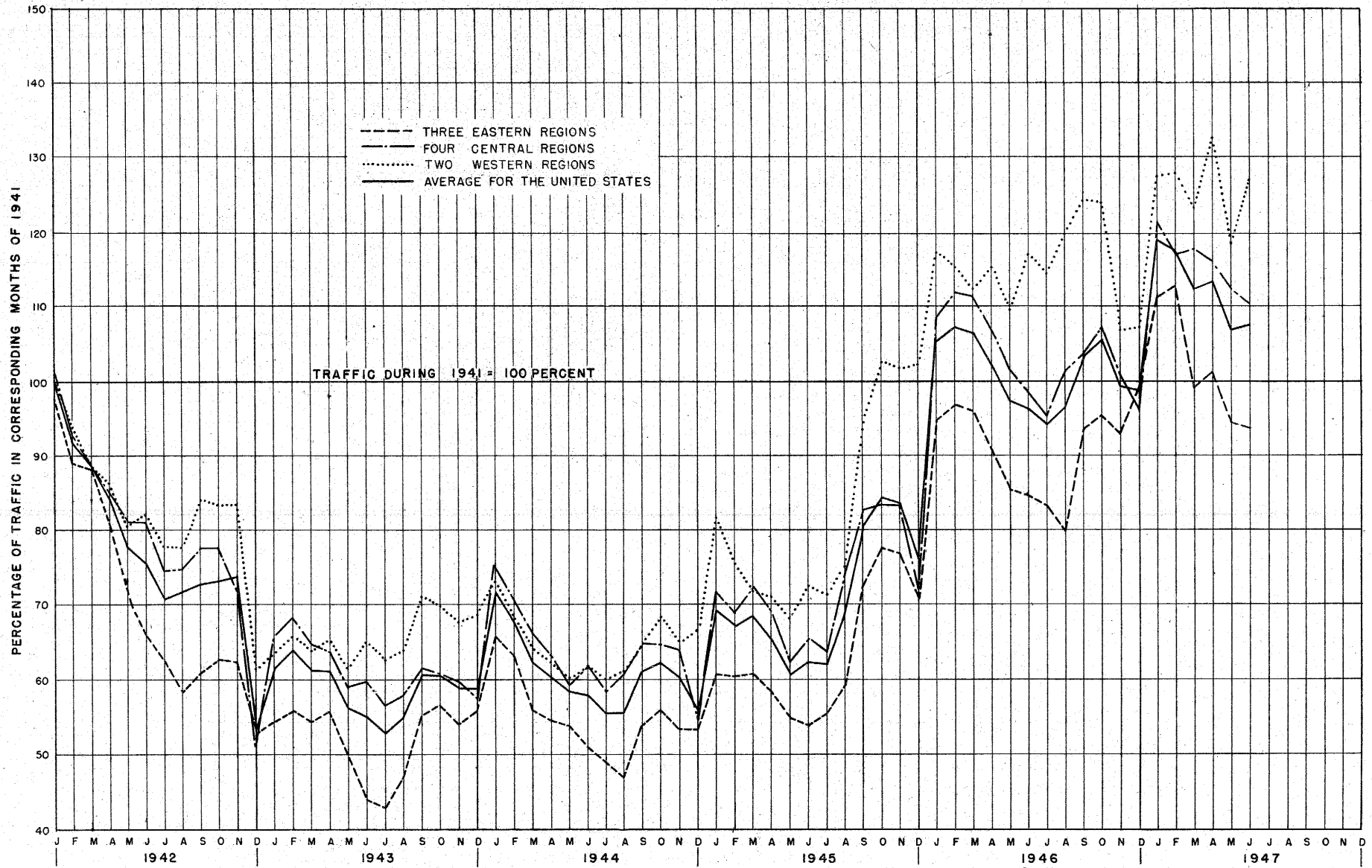
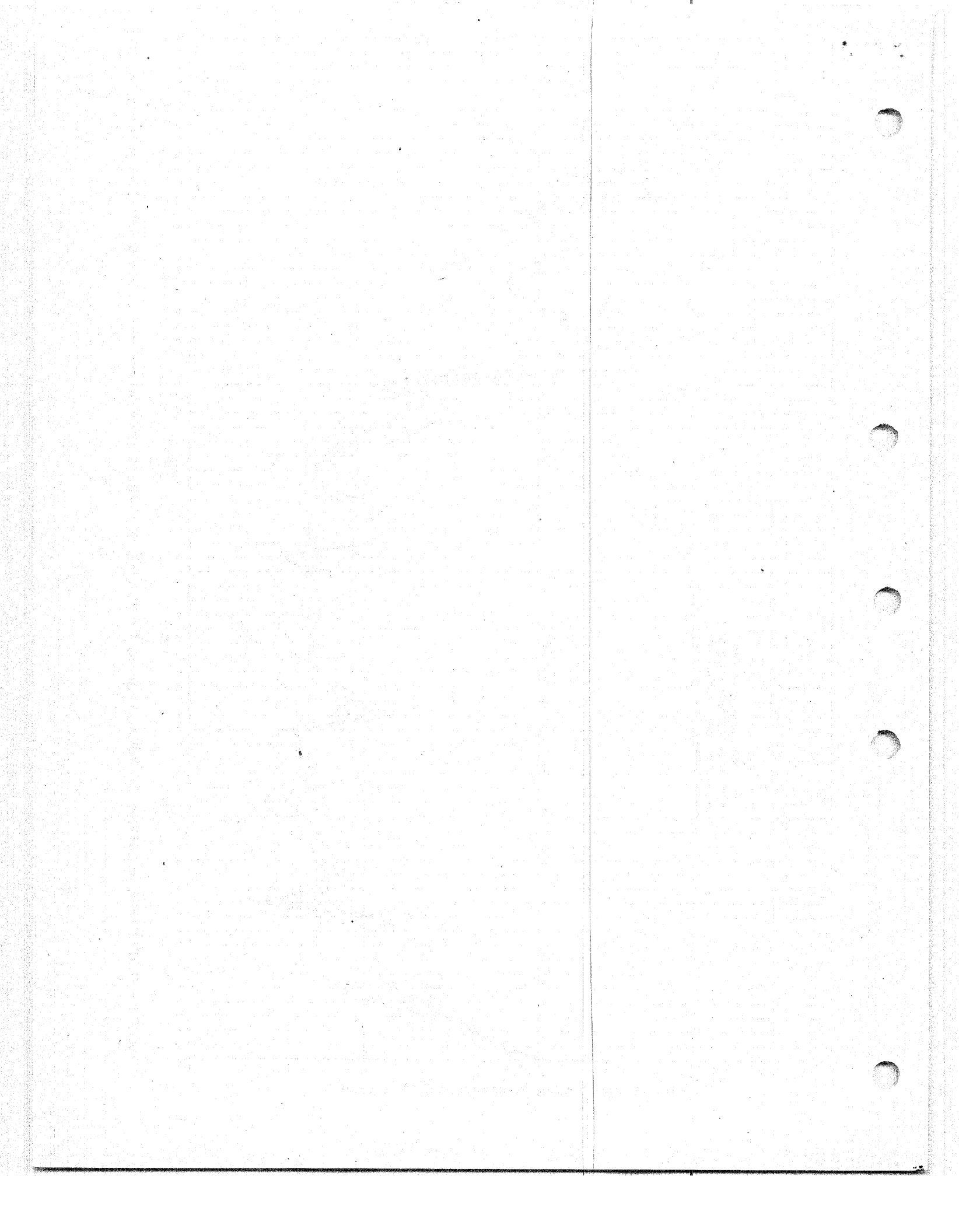


FIGURE 1 — PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1947 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



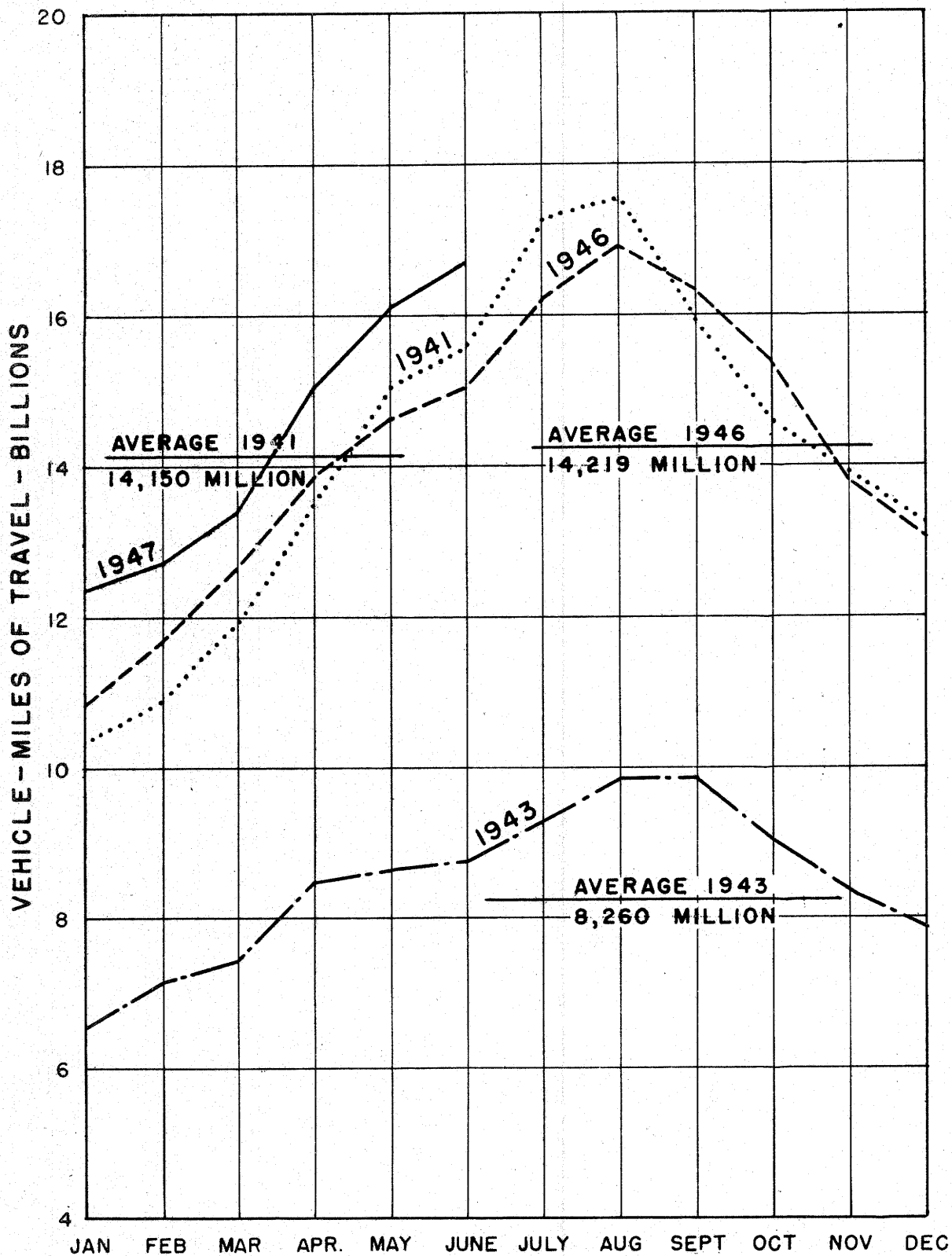


FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE - MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1946 AND 1947

