

Mr. Hitchcock

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 72

DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 1944

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

The preliminary data for August 1944 indicate that traffic on rural roads is slightly lower than in the corresponding month of 1943. Traffic in the eastern portion of the country increased 6.1 percent, while that in the central portion decreased 2.5 percent and that in the western portion decreased 5.8 percent. During August (as was the case from May to July) a pleasure-driving ban was in effect in the northeast, and the increase shown for August 1944 traffic in this area is due in large part to the fact that no similar ban was in effect during August of this year.

In Detroit, Michigan, traffic counted at three stations in August 1944 was 9.8 percent below the count at the same locations in the corresponding month of 1943.

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION.

Attachments.

TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR AUGUST 1944 INCLUDING 578 STATIONS IN 43 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from August 1943	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from August 1943
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Alabama	8	- 2.1	Vermont	7	+12.9
Arizona	5	- 2.5	Virginia	6	+ 4.8
Arkansas	21	+ 0.2	Washington	9	-11.8
California	6	- 5.6	West Virginia	9	+ 0.9
Colorado	6	+ 4.1	Wisconsin	9	+ 6.3
Connecticut	17	+10.7	Wyoming	4	+13.6
Delaware	4	+10.6			
Georgia	7	- 1.5	<i>TOTAL - 43 STATES</i>	542	- 1.5
Idaho	7	- 2.2	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Illinois	4	+ 4.7	Alabama	2	+50.0
Iowa	26	- 7.4	Connecticut	3	+17.5
Kansas	8	+ 2.1	Georgia	4	-11.5
Kentucky	12	- 1.1	Iowa	10	-15.4
Louisiana	8	- 1.4	Maryland	1	+13.2
Maine	10	+ 5.3	Massachusetts	1	-70.3
Maryland	16	+11.8	Michigan	2	+10.8
Massachusetts	9	+14.2	Missouri	2	+ 6.2
Michigan	26	- 2.8	Montana	2	+ 1.2
Mississippi	10	- 2.1	Nebraska ³	1	+91.5
Missouri	24	- 7.8	North Dakota	2	- 5.5
Montana	12	+ 8.8	Ohio	2	- 7.2
Nebraska	10	- 4.8	Oregon	1	+ 1.7
Nevada	12	-20.0	Tennessee	1	+10.9
New Mexico	13	+ 3.8	Wisconsin	2	+ 1.4
New York	10	+11.6			
North Carolina	19	- 1.0	<i>TOTAL - 15 STATES</i>	36	+ 2.2
North Dakota	11	+ 3.3	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Ohio	27	- 3.5	<i>43 STATES</i>	578	- 0.4
Oklahoma	20	- 3.9	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	161	+ 6.1
Oregon	3	- 0.3	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	331	- 2.5
Pennsylvania	30	+ 6.0	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	86	- 5.6
Rhode Island	3	+18.1			
South Carolina	5	- 5.6			
South Dakota	10	+ 0.4			
Tennessee	2	- 0.3			
Texas	71	- 2.3			
Utah	6	- 4.8			

¹ Includes all States except Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and New Jersey.

² Abnormal conditions in 1943 affected 1 count in 1 State: Nevada, excluding station 110, the decrease is 1.5 per cent.

³ Extra traffic was detoured from another highway for a portion of the month causing a part of large increase of traffic at this one station.

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TABLE 2.--REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR JULY 1944 INCLUDING 629 STATIONS IN 46 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from July 1943	Region and State	Number of stations	Percentage change from July 1943
<i>NEW ENGLAND</i>			<i>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Connecticut	20	+34.6	Alabama	9	- 0.6
Maine	10	+20.2	Kentucky	11	- 2.2
Massachusetts	10	+33.5	Mississippi	10	+ 1.1
New Hampshire	19	+48.1	Tennessee	6	-12.4
Rhode Island	4	+26.6	Subtotal	38	- 2.7
Vermont	7	+28.0	<i>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</i>		
Subtotal	70	+34.2	Arkansas	19	- 3.8
<i>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</i>			Louisiana	8	- 6.4
New York	10	+45.7	Oklahoma	20	- 8.1
Pennsylvania	30	+18.8	Texas	71	- 0.6
Subtotal	40	+28.4	Subtotal	118	- 2.9
<i>SOUTH ATLANTIC</i>			<i>MOUNTAIN</i>		
Delaware	4	+32.7	Arizona	5	- 3.5
Maryland	17	+32.9	Colorado	6	+ 1.0
Virginia	5	+11.5	Idaho ²	6	+12.3
West Virginia	8	+ 5.9	Montana	14	+ 5.8
Subtotal north portion	34	+26.5	Nevada ²	12	-24.8
Florida	18	+ 6.3	New Mexico	13	+ 8.7
Georgia	11	+ 5.1	Utah	8	- 2.5
North Carolina	20	+ 3.2	Wyoming	4	+22.9
South Carolina	5	+ 4.8	Subtotal	68	0.0
Subtotal south portion	54	+ 4.8	<i>PACIFIC</i>		
Subtotal region	88	+14.2	California	8	- 3.0
<i>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			Oregon	4	+ 1.0
Illinois	2	- 7.3	Washington	9	- 9.4
Indiana	23	- 3.5	Subtotal	21	- 5.2
Michigan	28	- 2.1	<i>TOTAL ALL STATES¹</i>		
Ohio	21	- 0.7	629 + 4.9		
Wisconsin	11	+ 6.2	<i>STATE HIGHWAYS¹</i>		
Subtotal	85	- 1.2	593 + 3.7		
<i>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</i>			<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Iowa	35	- 6.8	36 + 7.9		
Kansas	9	+ 4.9	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>		
Missouri	26	- 7.9	198 +22.8		
Nebraska	12	- 0.9	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>		
North Dakota	11	+10.9	342 - 2.6		
South Dakota	10	- 1.0	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>		
Subtotal	103	- 4.3	89 - 3.4		

¹ Includes all States except Minnesota and New Jersey.

² Abnormal conditions in 1943 or 1944 affected 2 counts in the following States: Idaho, excluding station 7, there is a decrease of 3.5 per cent; Nevada, excluding station 110, there is an increase of 1.4 per cent.

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

Facilities	August 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
THREE EASTERN REGIONS									
3 in the New England States	39,234	35,960	3,274	+ 5.7	+ 6.0	+ 2.2	-70.5	-71.9	-33.2
9 in the Middle Atlantic States	2,266,563	1,917,937	348,626	+12.1	+14.3	+ 1.5	-42.5	-46.3	- 4.9
Fleetwood Viaduct Westchester County, New York	192,277	192,277	---	+47.1	+47.1	---	-65.5	-65.5	---
6 in the South Atlantic States	299,954	232,080	67,874	+ 8.1	+10.8	- 0.2	-41.0	-46.7	- 7.7
TOTAL - 19 facilities in the Eastern States ¹	2,798,028	2,378,254	419,774	+13.4	+15.9	+ 1.2	-45.5	-49.3	- 5.7
TOTAL - 22 facilities in the Eastern States	3,062,047	2,590,739	471,308	+14.6	+16.4	+ 5.6			
FOUR CENTRAL REGIONS									
4 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ²	472,214	431,435	40,779	+36.7	+38.3	+22.3	-27.2	-30.7	+59.9
2 in the Great Lakes Region	102,873	82,108	20,765	+ 5.6	+18.5	-26.2	-61.0	-66.0	- 4.5
Subtotal - 6 facilities	575,087	513,543	61,544	+29.9	+34.7	+ 0.1	-36.9	-40.6	+30.2
8 on the Ohio River ³	741,524	625,948	115,576	+ 4.0	+ 3.4	+ 7.8	-36.9	-39.8	-14.5
9 in Kentucky	143,829	111,910	31,919	- 1.3	- 4.7	+12.8	-34.3	-39.6	- 5.1
Subtotal - 17 facilities	885,353	737,858	147,495	+ 3.1	+ 2.0	+ 8.8	-36.5	-39.8	-12.6
9 on the Mississippi River, St. Louis and North	933,301	718,855	214,446	-10.2	-12.1	- 3.3	-49.4	-53.4	-29.1
Subtotal - 9 facilities	933,301	718,855	214,446	-10.2	-12.1	- 3.3	-49.4	-53.4	-29.1
3 on the Missouri River	110,093	87,765	22,328	- 3.3	+ 1.5	-18.2	-22.8	-25.0	-12.8
2 in the Missouri River area	3,114	2,607	507	+21.1	+25.1	+ 3.9	-50.3	-53.5	-22.9
Subtotal - 5 facilities	113,207	90,372	22,835	- 2.7	+ 2.0	-17.8	-24.0	+26.3	-13.0
TOTAL - 37 facilities in the Central States ¹	2,506,948	2,060,628	446,320	+ 2.0	+ 2.5	- 0.1	-41.7	-45.1	-18.0
TOTAL - 41 facilities in the Central States	2,606,586	2,128,267	478,319	+ 2.3	+ 2.7	+ 0.9			
ONE WESTERN REGION									
4 in the Oregon-Washington area	222,649	187,005	35,644	- 5.7	- 7.5	+ 5.5	-18.2	-22.6	+16.8
TOTAL - 4 facilities in the Western area	222,649	187,005	35,644	- 5.7	- 7.5	+ 5.5	-18.2	-22.6	+16.8
TOTAL - 60 facilities in the United States ¹	5,527,625	4,625,887	901,738	+ 7.1	+ 8.5	+ 0.7	-43.1	-46.8	-11.6
TOTAL - 67 facilities in the United States	5,891,282	4,906,011	985,271	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 3.2			
4 facilities reporting only total traffic	178,609			+ 4.5					
32 drawbridges in Eastern North Carolina (not toll) based on one 8-hour week day count at each station	18,023	13,073	4,950	- 8.7	- 8.1	-10.1	-32.3	-37.3	-14.5

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

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

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

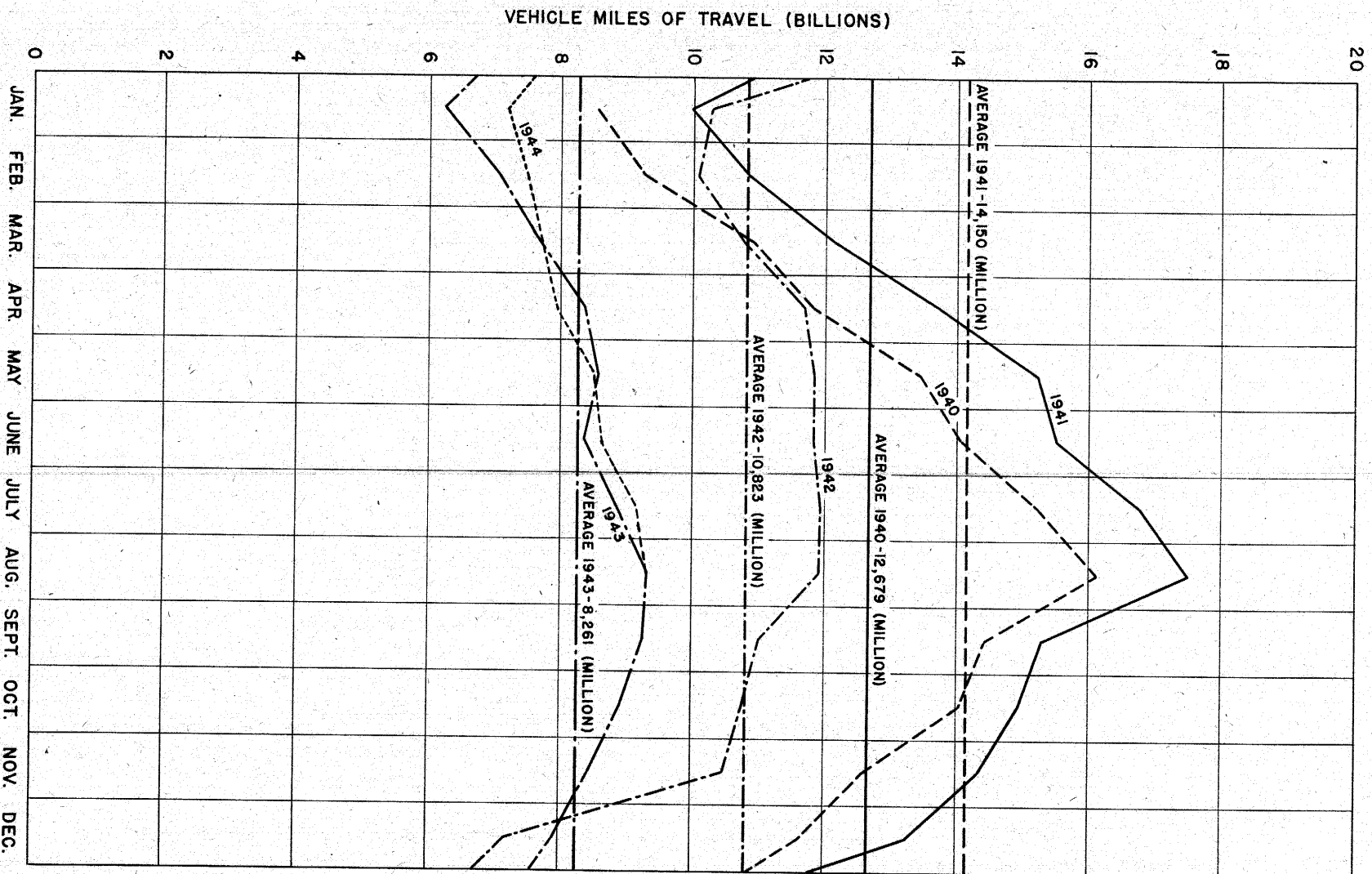
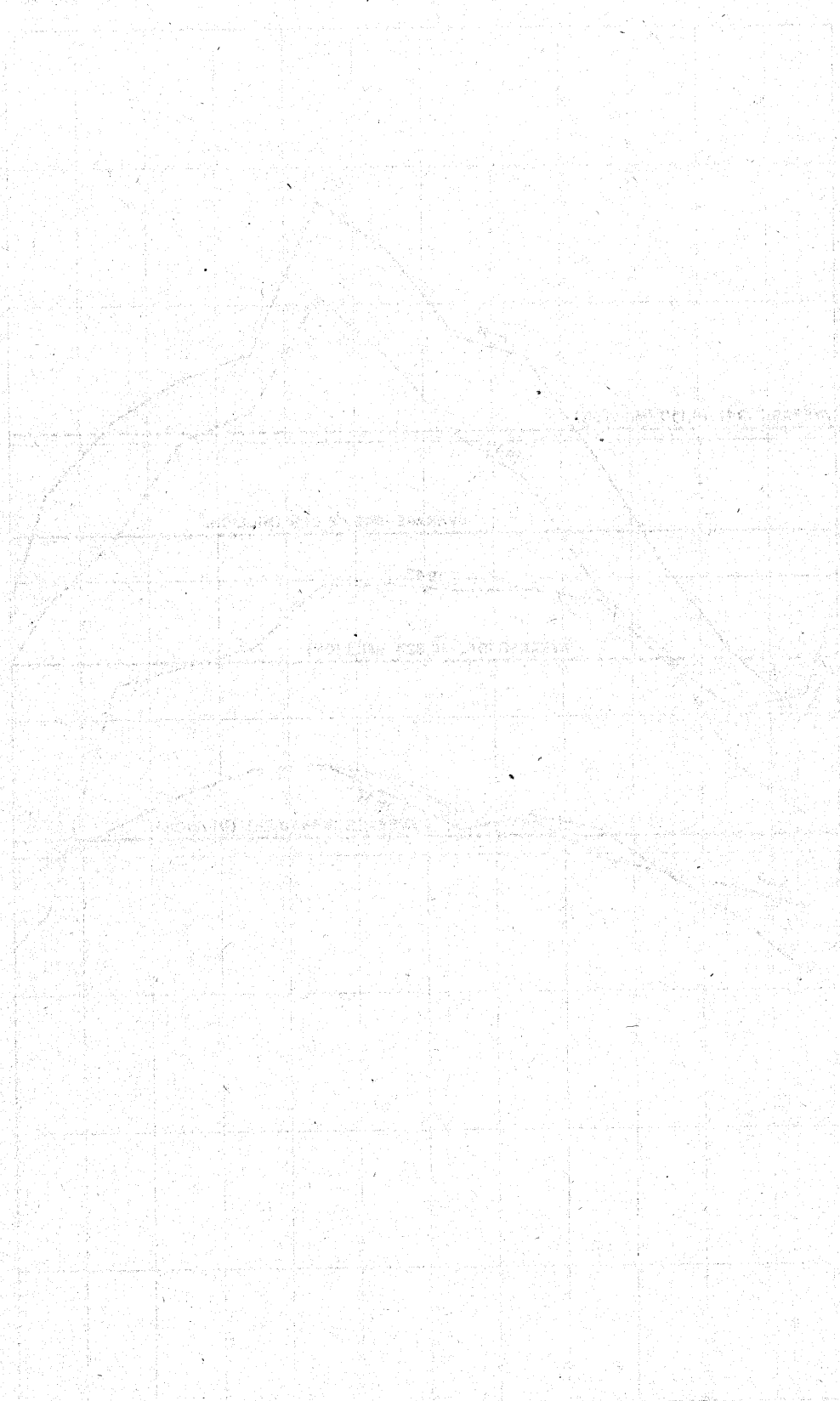


FIGURE I. VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS 1940 TO 1944 BY MONTHS



STATION 1
STATION 2
STATION 3
STATION 4
STATION 5
STATION 6

FIGURE 1. VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL
ROADS TO BE TRAVELLED BY TRUCKS

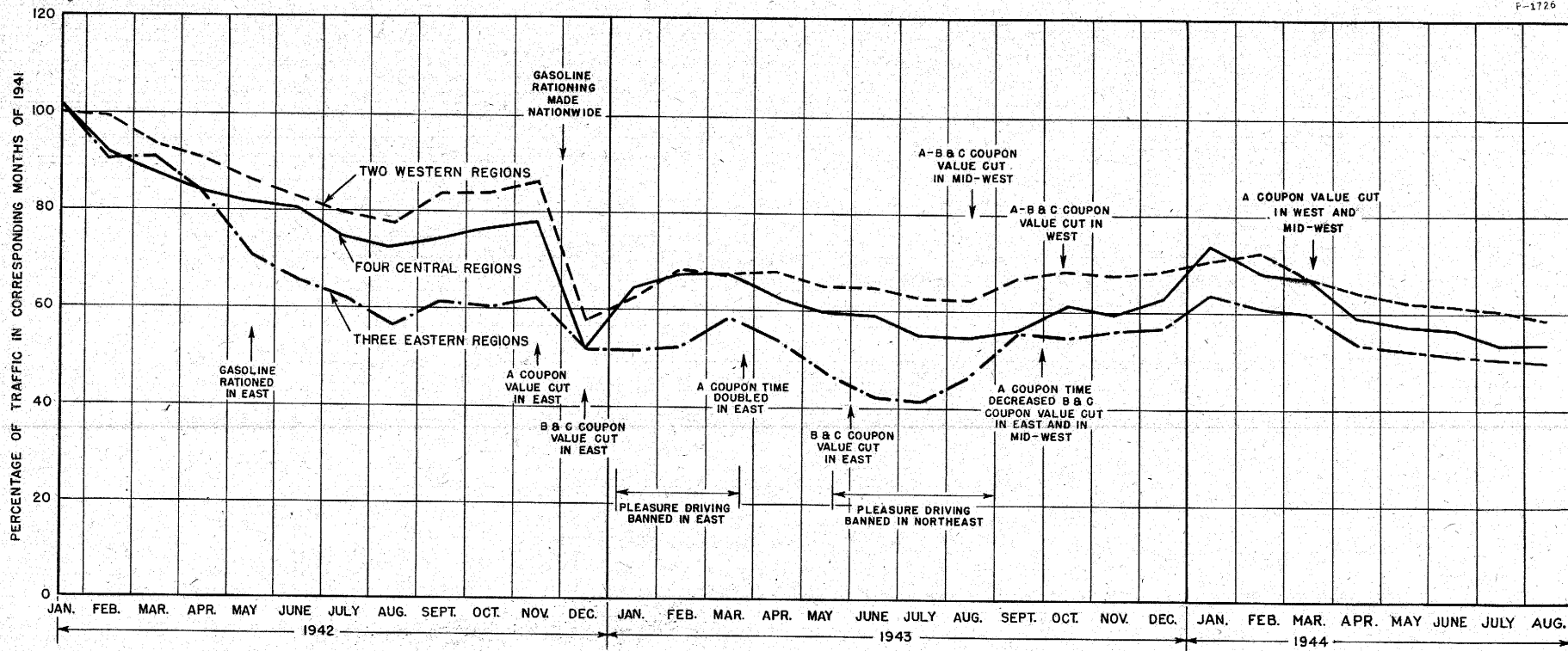
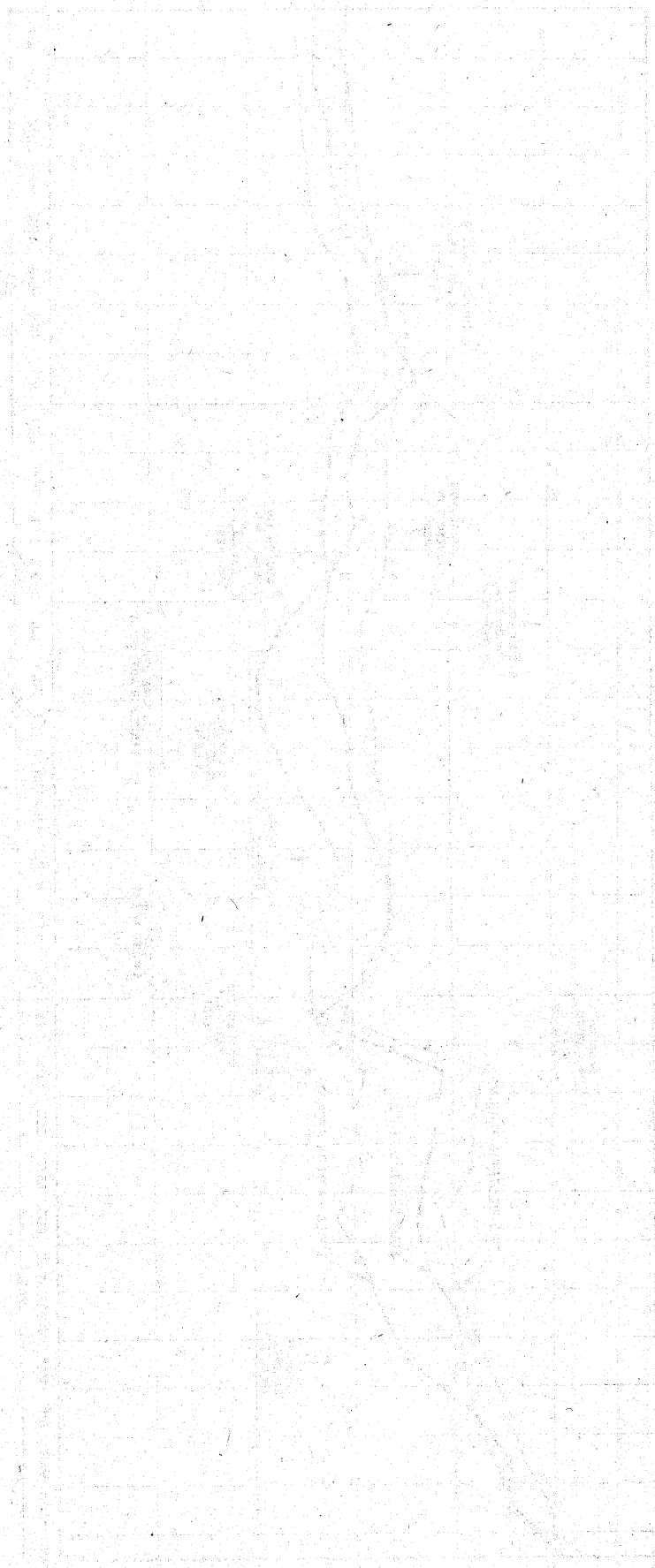


FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC IN MONTHS OF 1942, 1943, AND 1944 WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



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