

PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 30, 1948

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

On the basis of preliminary figures, motor vehicle travel during December 1947 for the Nation as a whole was higher than in any previous December. Total travel on main rural roads and city streets showed an increase over that for 1941 and 1946. Travel on local roads showed a decrease compared with 1941 but was higher than in 1946.

	Percentage change from		
	1941	1943	1946
Main roads	+11.1	+81.8	+ 8.3
Local roads	- 6.3	+78.2	+ 4.6
City streets	+ 8.5	+51.8	+ 2.3
Average	+ 7.2	+65.1	+ 4.7

Travel on rural roads in each of the three geographic regions was higher than in any other previous year.

	Rural traffic in vehicle-miles December 1947 (millions)	Percentage change from		
		1941	1943	1946
Eastern regions	4,553	+ 4.0	+86.1	+ 4.6
Central regions	7,027	+ 1.9	+77.4	+ 6.4
Western regions	2,411	+24.3	+80.9	+15.7
United States total	13,991	+ 5.9	+80.8	+ 7.3

H. S. FAIRBANK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

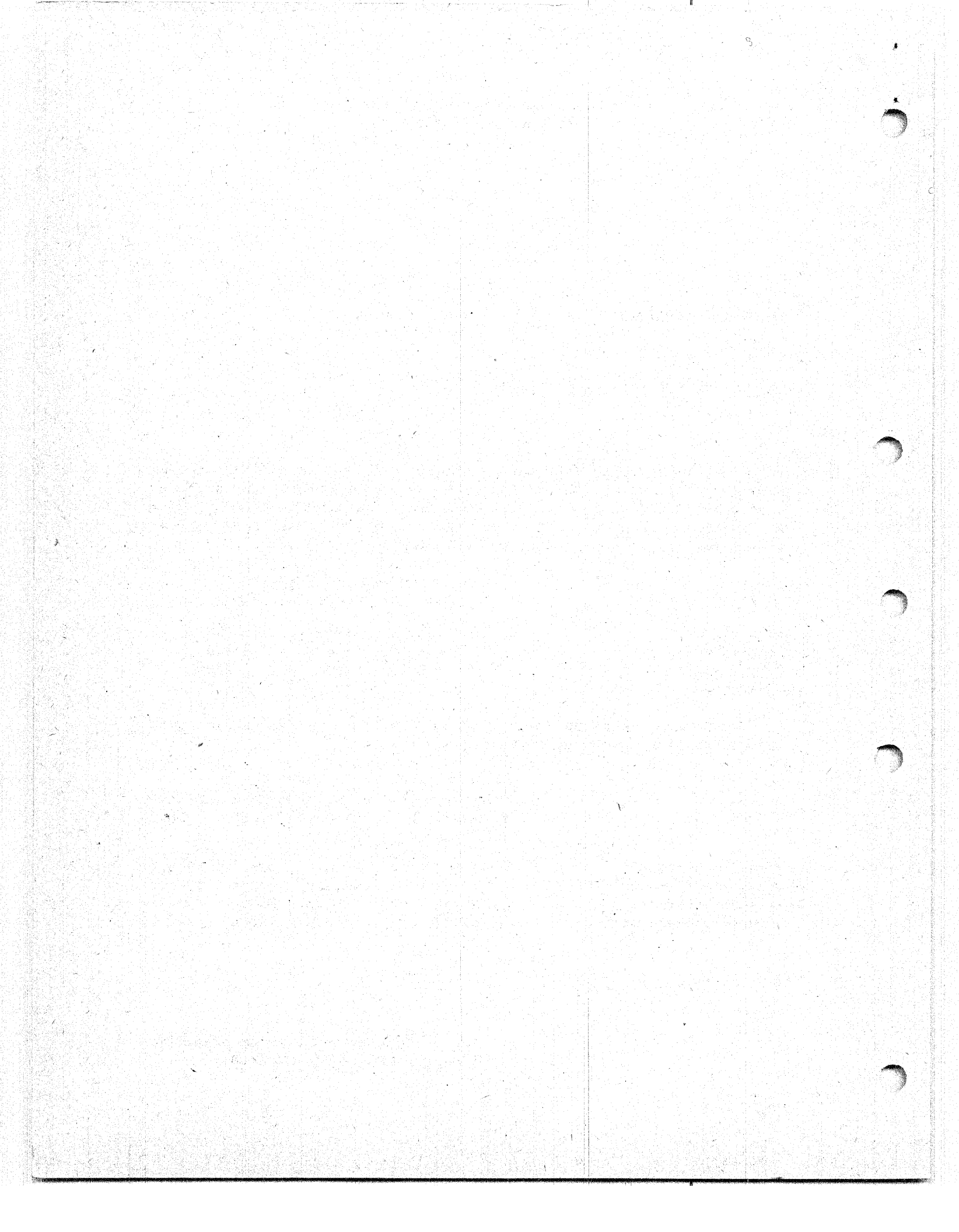


TABLE 1.--PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR
DECEMBER 1947 INCLUDING 621 STATIONS IN 45 STATES¹

Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Dec. 1946	Type of highway and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Dec. 1946
<i>STATE HIGHWAYS</i>			<i>STATE HIGHWAYS (Continued)</i>		
Alabama	6	+ 3.4	Tennessee	5	+17.1
Arizona	5	+15.1	Texas	80	+ 8.6
Arkansas	16	+ 7.7	Vermont	5	+ 0.7
California	9	+15.4	Virginia	3	+ 9.0
Colorado	4	+ 9.6	Washington	9	+13.7
Connecticut	14	- 3.4	Wisconsin	9	+ 7.2
Delaware	3	+ 1.2	Wyoming	3	+ 5.6
Florida	19	+10.1			
Georgia	7	+ 5.0	<i>TOTAL - 45 STATES</i>	589	+ 8.3
Idaho	8	+13.5			
Illinois	6	+14.4	<i>LOCAL HIGHWAYS</i>		
Indiana	21	+ 7.0	Alabama	1	+11.0
Iowa	26	+11.4	Connecticut	3	+ 0.4
Kansas	12	+ 5.4	Delaware	2	-11.7
Kentucky	11	+ 8.4	Georgia	3	- 3.2
Louisiana	8	+ 2.4	Indiana	1	+ 3.9
Maine	8	+ 4.5	Iowa	7	- 3.9
Maryland	17	+ 6.5	Maryland	1	-15.8
Massachusetts	9	+ 0.5	Michigan	2	- 1.8
Michigan	26	+ 2.6	Missouri	2	+28.8
Minnesota	27	+10.6	Montana	2	+15.5
Mississippi	10	+10.7	Nebraska	1	+ 3.4
Missouri	25	+ 9.0	North Dakota	2	-10.6
Montana	12	+14.0	Ohio	2	- 3.4
Nebraska	11	+ 7.0	Oregon	1	+28.0
Nevada	16	+ 6.6	Rhode Island	1	+11.6
New Hampshire	14	+ 2.2	Wisconsin	1	-25.2
New Jersey	4	+12.6			
New Mexico	14	+ 6.3	<i>TOTAL - 16 STATES</i>	32	+ 4.6
North Carolina	20	+ 7.1			
North Dakota	10	- 2.2	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS 45 STATES</i>		
Ohio	12	+ 2.5		621	+ 7.3
Oklahoma	20	+ 8.9			
Oregon	4	+10.0	<i>3 EASTERN REGIONS</i>	164	+ 4.6
Pennsylvania	28	+ 9.7	<i>4 CENTRAL REGIONS</i>	370	+ 6.4
Rhode Island	2	- 1.1	<i>2 WESTERN REGIONS</i>	87	+15.7
South Carolina	1	- 0.3			
South Dakota	10	+ 2.0			

¹Includes all States except New York, Utah, and West Virginia.

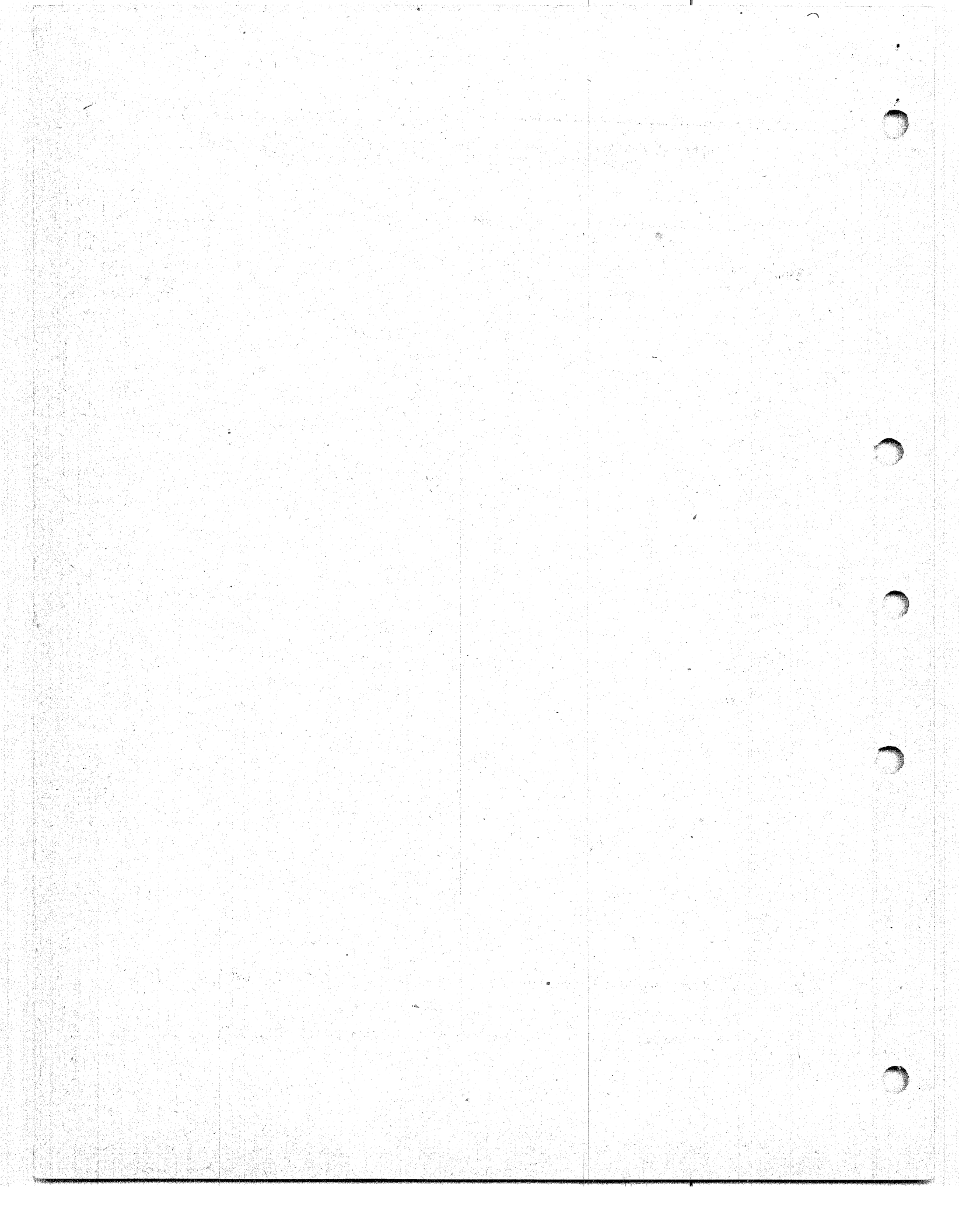


TABLE 2.—REVISED SUMMARY OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA FOR NOVEMBER
1947 INCLUDING 666 STATIONS IN 47 STATES¹

Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Nov. 1946	Region and State	Number of stations	Traffic volume percentage change from Nov. 1946
NEW ENGLAND			EAST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Connecticut	19	+12.1	Alabama	8	+ 7.6
Maine	8	+ 6.5	Kentucky	12	+8.0
Massachusetts	9	+ 5.5	Mississippi	10	+13.1
New Hampshire	15	- 3.3	Tennessee	6	+ 7.2
Rhode Island	3	+15.9	Subtotal	36	+ 9.1
Vermont	11	+ 3.2	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL		
Subtotal	65	+ 7.3	Arkansas	16	+ 9.2
MIDDLE ATLANTIC			Louisiana	8	+ 0.6
New Jersey	4	+ 8.7	Oklahoma	20	+ 8.2
New York	1	+11.5	Texas	21	+ 8.6
Pennsylvania	29	+ 8.9	Subtotal	125	+ 7.7
Subtotal	34	+ 9.0	MOUNTAIN		
SOUTH ATLANTIC			Arizona	5	+ 5.9
Delaware	5	+ 6.0	Colorado	6	+22.3
Maryland	18	+ 4.9	Idaho	8	+15.4
Virginia ³	3	+12.8	Montana	14	+13.5
West Virginia	10	+14.9	Nevada	16	+ 9.4
Subtotal north portion	36	+ 7.5	New Mexico	14	+12.0
Florida	17	+ 6.0	Utah	10	+ 8.3
Georgia	10	+ 4.5	Wyoming	4	-13.9
North Carolina	20	+ 7.8	Subtotal	77	+10.6
Subtotal south portion	47	+ 6.5	PACIFIC		
Subtotal region	83	+ 7.0	California	9	+10.3
EAST NORTH CENTRAL			Oregon	5	+21.3
Illinois	6	+ 4.9	Washington	9	+11.8
Indiana	22	+ 9.3	Subtotal	23	+12.4
Michigan	28	+ 3.4	TOTAL ALL STATES²		
Ohio	24	+ 8.2	666 + 5.5		
Wisconsin	10	+ 4.0	STATE HIGHWAYS²		
Subtotal	90	+ 5.9	634 + 7.9		
WEST NORTH CENTRAL			LOCAL HIGHWAYS		
Iowa	33	+ 8.6	32 - 0.4		
Kansas	13	+ 7.2	3 EASTERN REGIONS		
Minnesota	27	- 2.7	182 + 5.4		
Missouri	27	+ 9.7	4 CENTRAL REGIONS		
Nebraska	12	+10.2	384 + 4.1		
North Dakota	12	+ 1.5	2 WESTERN REGIONS		
South Dakota	9	- 9.4	100 +10.1		
Subtotal	133	+ 4.9			

¹Combined State and local highways.

²Includes all States except the following: South Carolina.

³Virginia traffic is estimated on basis of Manual Count information.

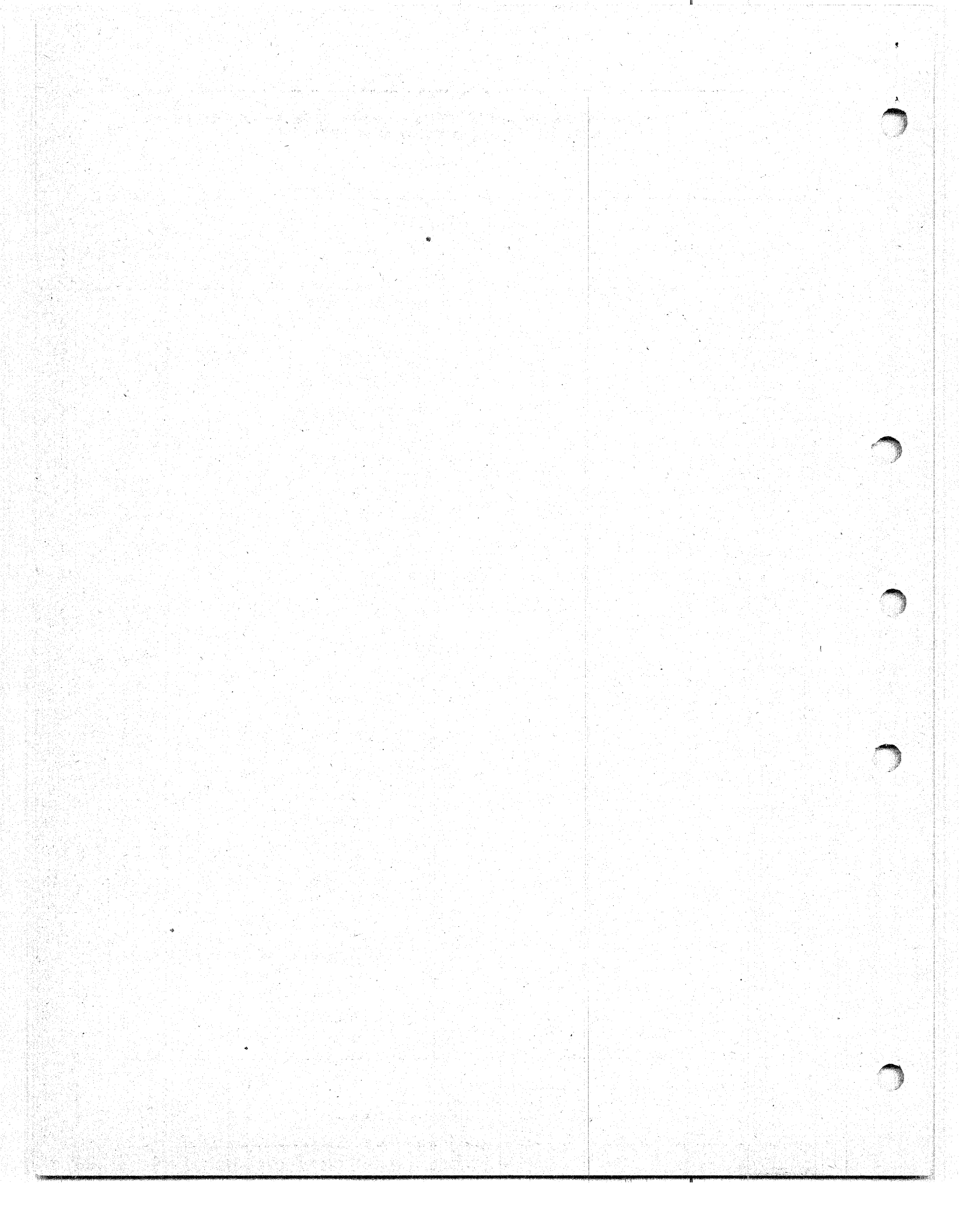


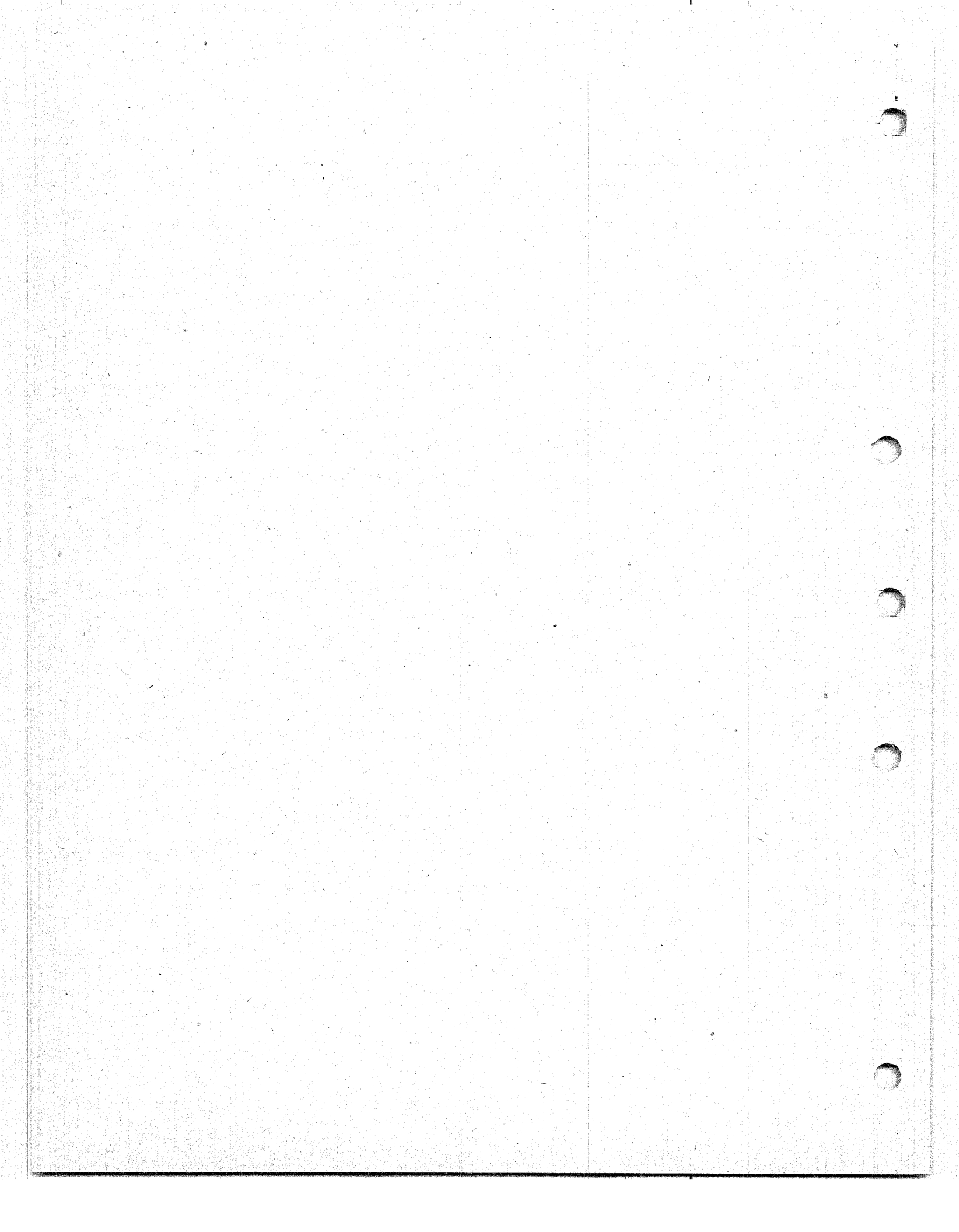
TABLE 3.--NUMBER OF VEHICLES, CLASSIFIED BY TYPES, USING TOLL FACILITIES IN DECEMBER 1947 COMPARED WITH THOSE IN DECEMBER 1946 AND 1941.

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	32,752	28,260	4,492	- 0.7	- 4.0	+26.6	- 2.8	- 9.0	+70.4
14 in the Middle Atlantic States	9,140,177	7,745,124	1,395,053	- 2.7	- 4.0	+ 4.9	+18.9	+14.8	+47.5
Pennsylvania Turnpike ¹	188,603	137,457	51,146	+ 9.2	+ 5.7	+19.9	+23.3	+ 8.6	+93.7
5 in the South Atlantic States	384,496	302,216	82,280	+ 4.3	+ 2.1	+13.6	+14.2	+ 9.7	+34.6
TOTAL - 22 facilities ²	9,746,028	8,213,057	1,532,971	- 2.3	- 3.6	+ 5.8	+18.7	+14.4	+48.0
TOTAL - 23 facilities	10,263,388	8,672,693	1,590,695	- 1.4	- 2.7	+ 6.2	--	--	--
CENTRAL REGIONS									
3 on the Great Lakes Canadian Border ³	210,853	195,470	15,383	+ 4.7	+ 4.4	+ 8.6	+82.6	+85.0	+56.9
1 in the Great Lakes Region	10,767	8,775	1,992	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 2.8	+ 0.7	- 4.6	+33.4
Subtotal - 4 facilities	221,620	204,245	17,375	+ 4.5	+ 4.2	+ 7.9	+75.6	+77.8	+59.8
3 on the Ohio River	267,943	227,025	40,918	+13.0	+12.3	+16.9	+12.6	+10.4	+26.6
8 on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers St. Louis and North	643,360	537,618	105,742	+15.0	+13.0	+26.6	+ 9.8	+ 7.7	+22.0
2 on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis	69,165	52,371	16,794	+ 8.6	+11.1	+ 1.7	+33.2	+41.3	+13.1
Subtotal - 10 facilities	712,523	589,989	122,536	+14.4	+12.8	+22.5	+11.7	+10.0	+20.7
3 on the Missouri River	148,976	118,751	30,225	+ 3.8	+ 3.5	+ 5.1	+33.8	+38.8	+17.2
1 in the Missouri River area	1,423	1,021	402	- 2.5	- 1.1	- 5.9	+54.0	+42.8	+92.3
Subtotal - 4 facilities	150,399	119,772	30,627	+ 3.8	+ 3.5	+ 5.0	+34.0	+38.9	+17.8
TOTAL - 21 facilities ²	1,352,487	1,141,031	211,456	+11.1	+10.1	+17.3	+21.4	+21.0	+23.6
TOTAL - 26 facilities	1,591,412	1,337,968	253,444	+11.7	+10.5	+18.2	--	--	--
WESTERN REGIONS									
1 in California	2,138,941	1,936,734	202,207	+ 2.0	+ 1.5	+ 6.9	+30.7	+28.7	+53.0
3 in the Oregon-Washington area	339,711	296,872	42,839	+11.0	+10.9	+11.9	+90.9	+88.1	+112.7
TOTAL - 4 facilities	2,478,652	2,233,606	245,046	+ 3.1	+ 2.6	+ 7.8	+36.6	+34.3	+60.9
UNITED STATES									
TOTAL - 47 facilities ²	13,577,167	11,587,694	1,989,473	- 0.1	- 1.3	+ 7.2	+21.9	+18.4	+46.4
TOTAL - 53 facilities	14,333,452	12,244,267	2,089,185	+ 0.7	- 0.4	+ 7.7	--	--	--

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.

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



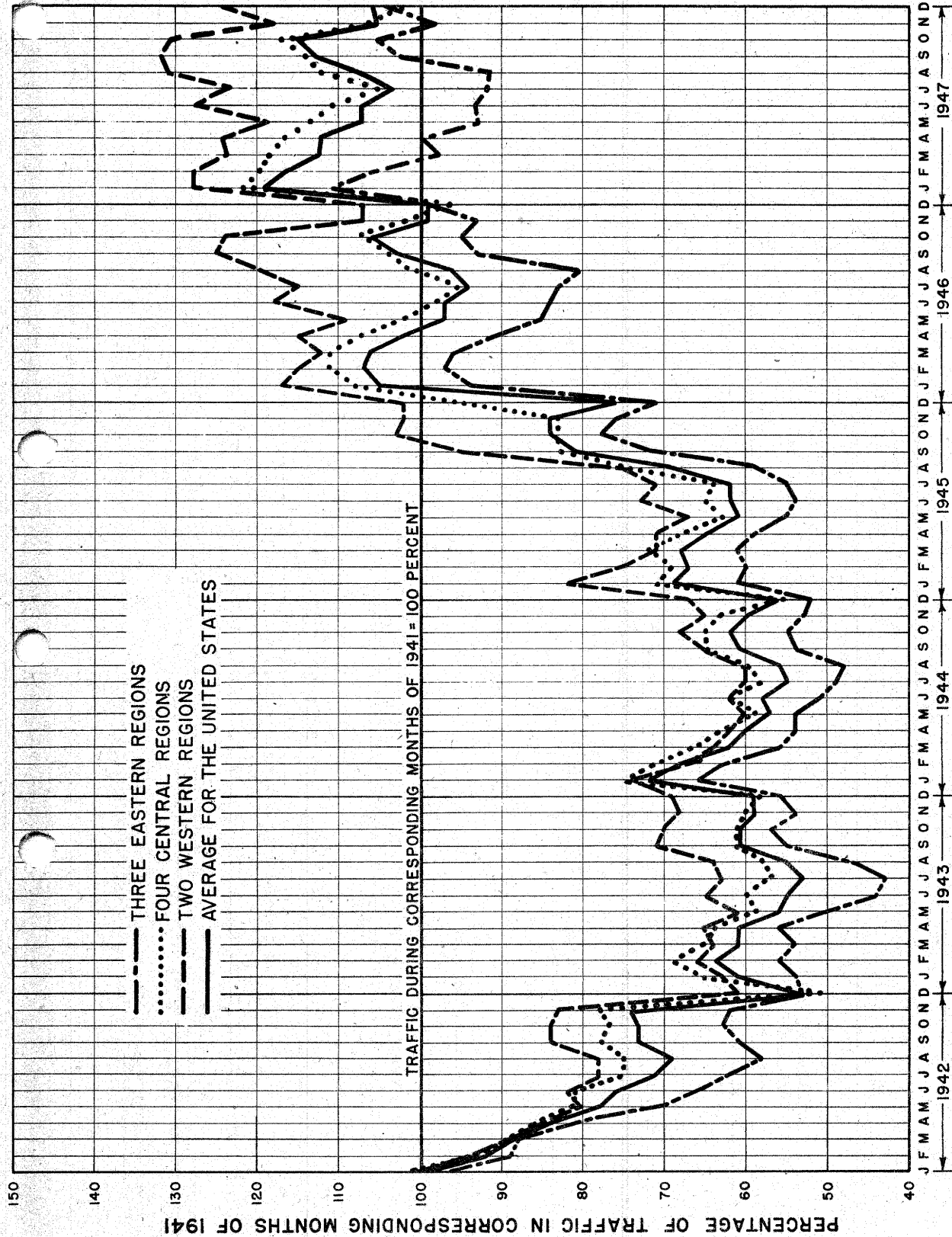
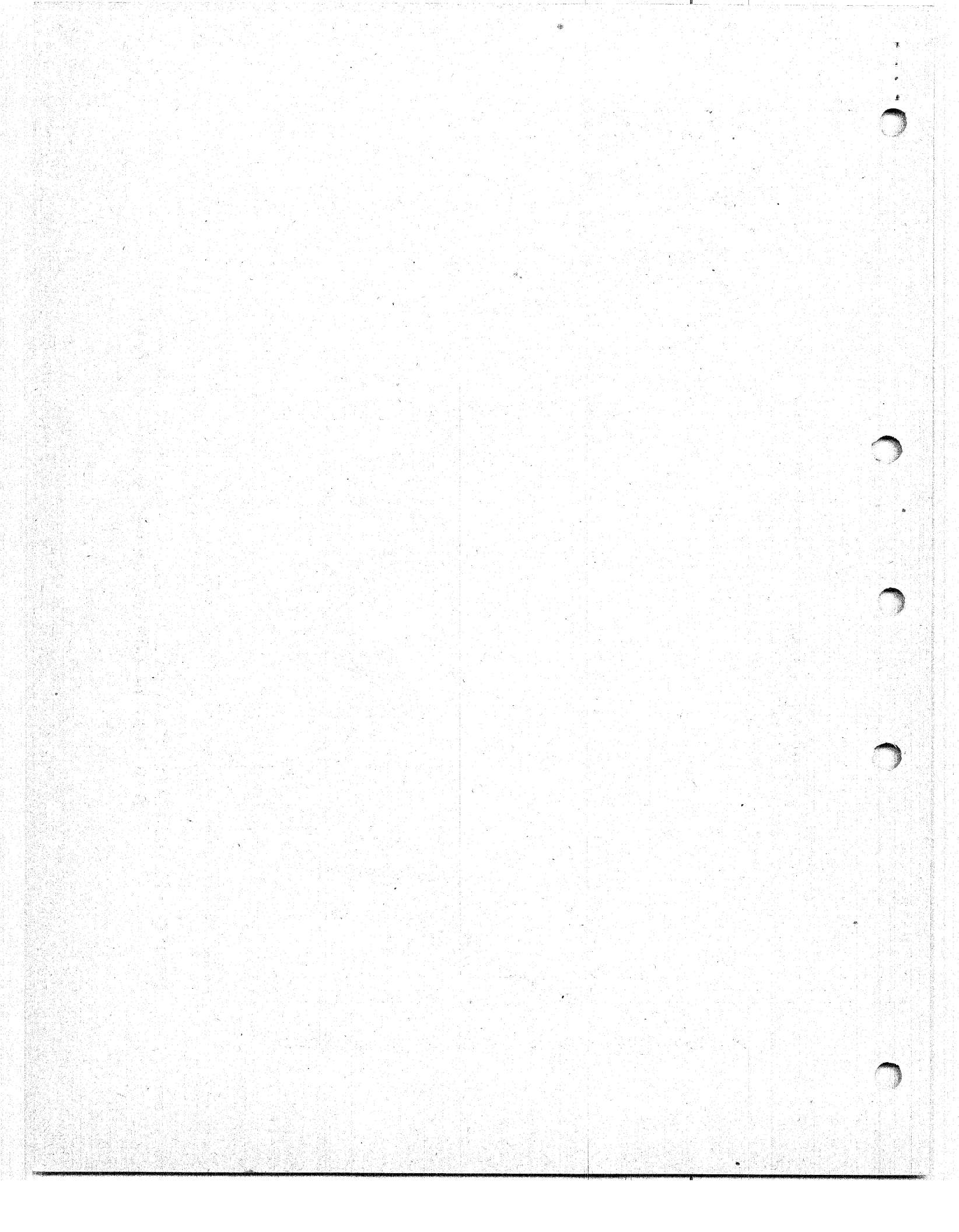


FIGURE I - PERCENTAGE RELATIONS OF RURAL TRAFFIC BY MONTHS IN 1942 TO 1947
WITH THAT IN CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1941



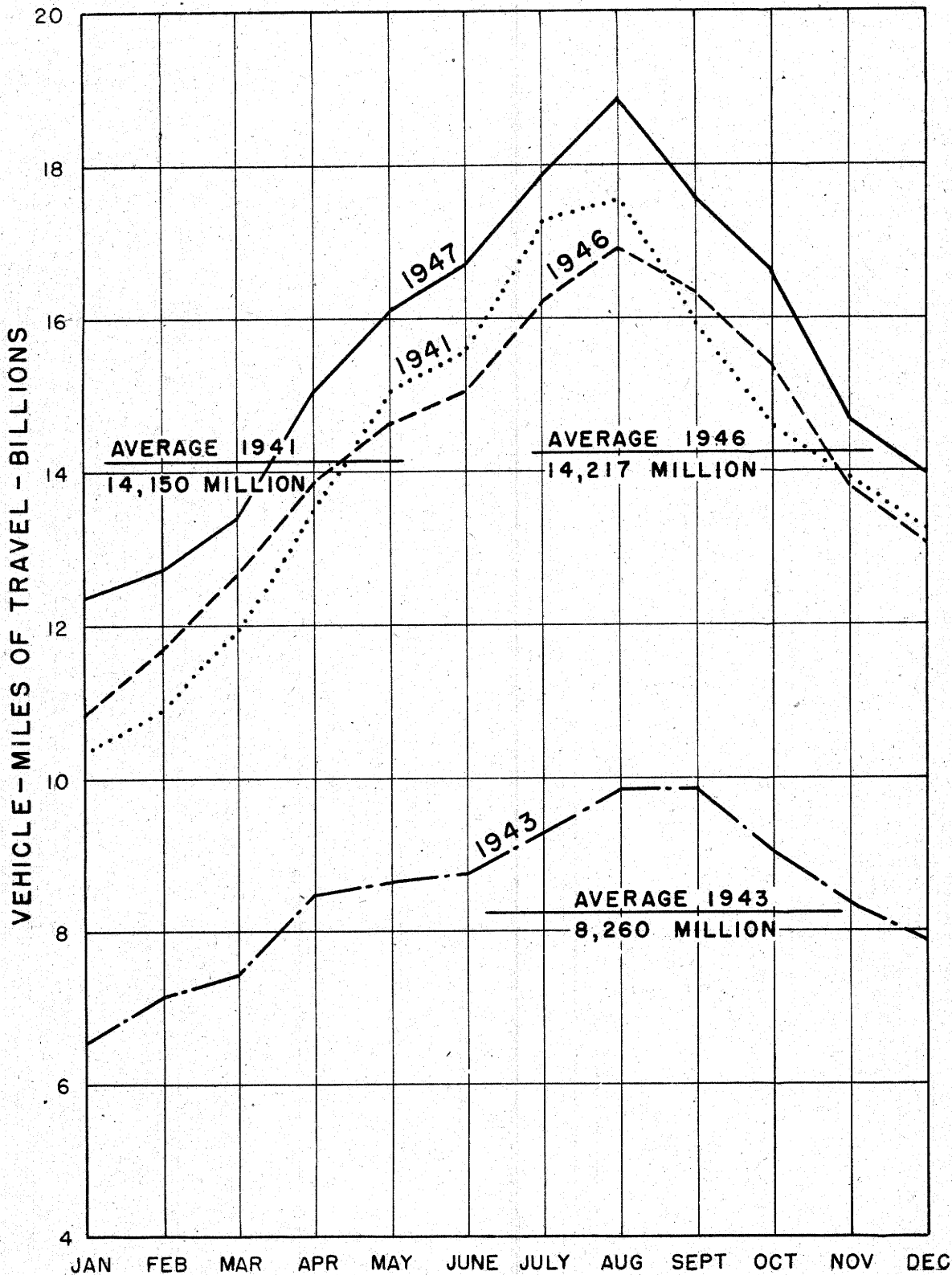


FIGURE 2 - VEHICLE - MILES OF TRAVEL ON ALL RURAL ROADS IN 1941, 1943, 1946 AND 1947

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