

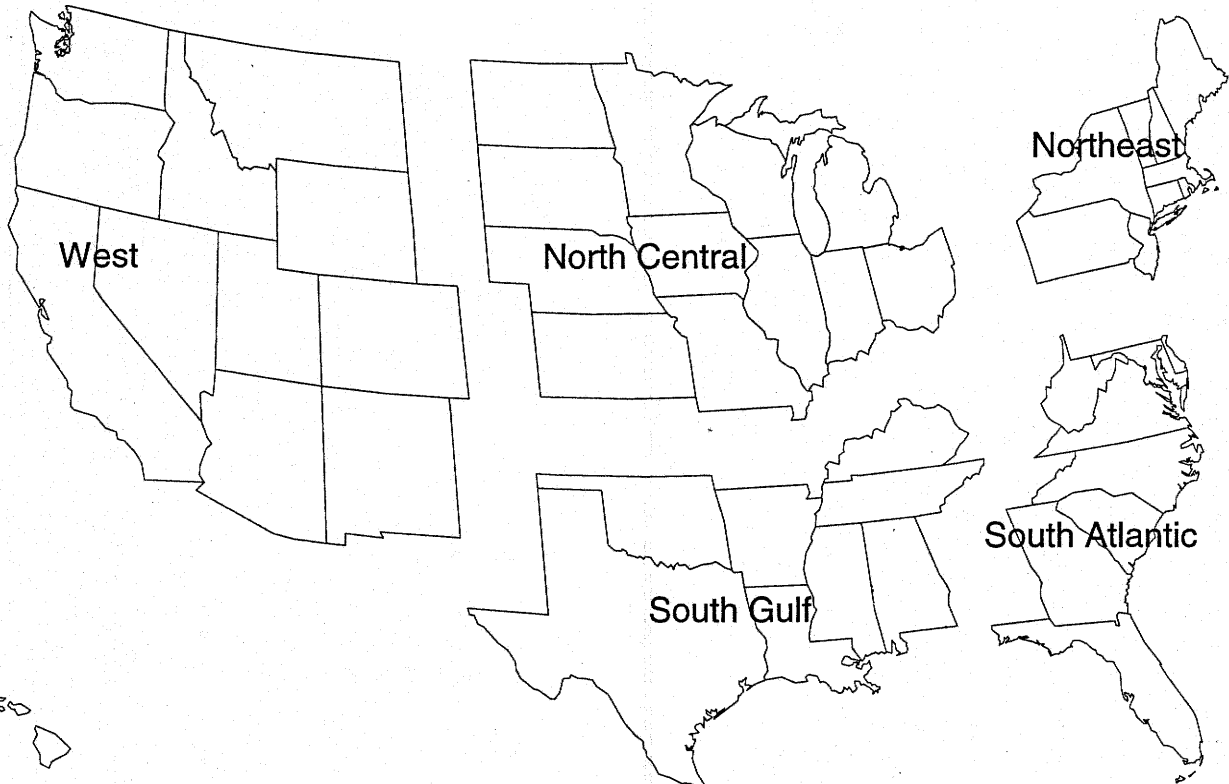
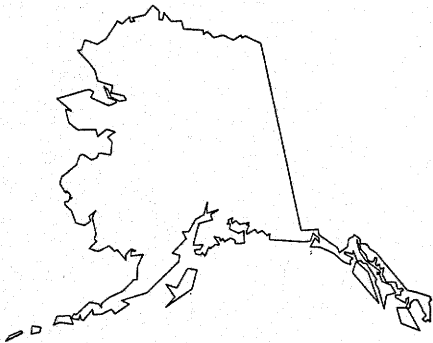


U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

March 1997

Travel on all roads and streets is up by 2.9 percent for March 1997 as compared to March 1996.

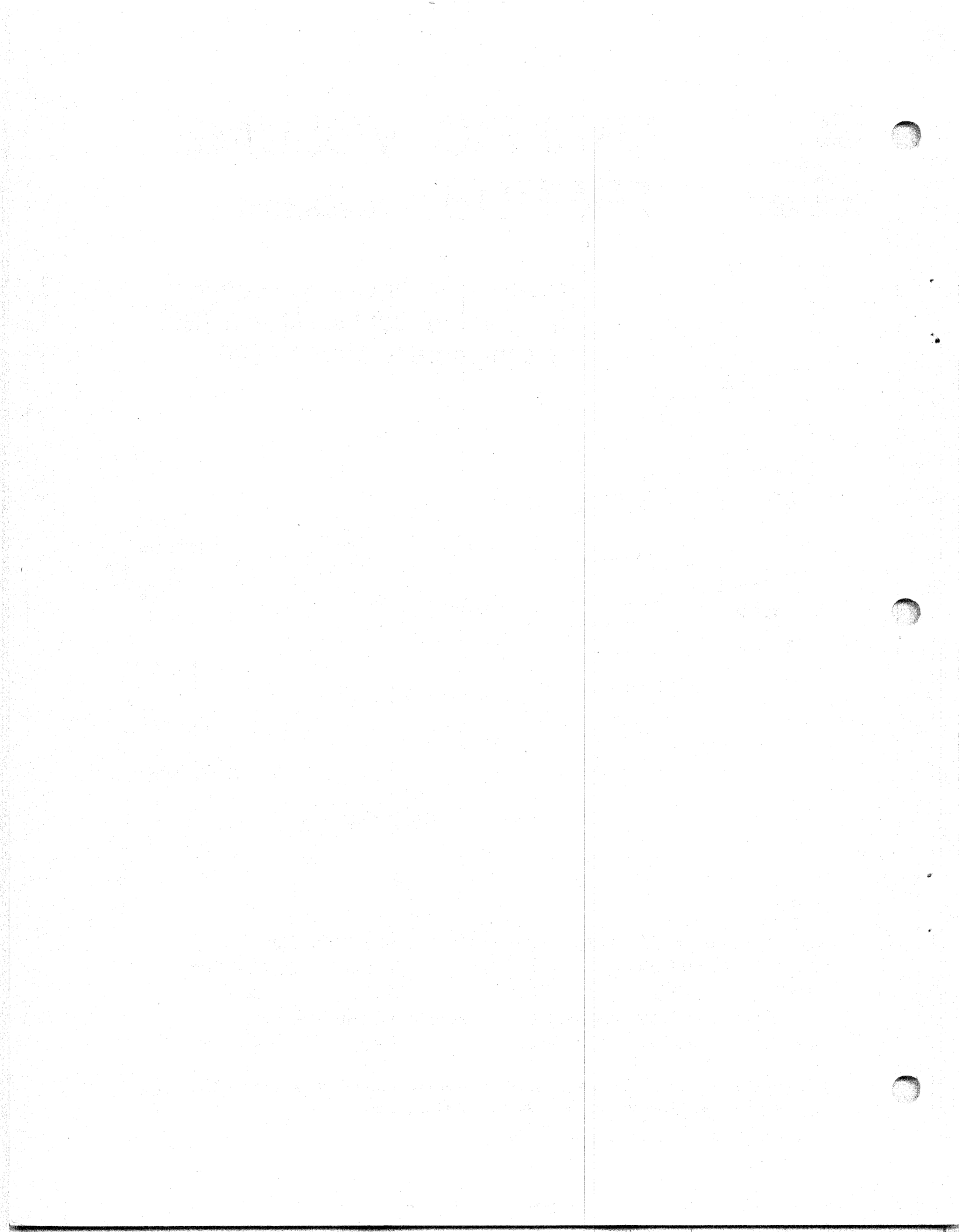


Estimated Vehicle-Miles of Travel by Region - March 1997 - (in Billions)

West	North Central	South Gulf	Northeast	South Atlantic
45.6	48.7	41.0	31.2	42.6
Change in Traffic as compared to the same month last year.				
+2.4%	+2.5%	+3.1%	+1.7%	+4.5%

Note: All data for this month are preliminary. Revised values for the previous month are shown in Tables 1 and 2.
All vehicle-miles of travel computed with 1995 Table VM-2 as a base

Compiled with data on hand as of May 23, 1997.



Traffic Volume Trends - March 1997

Based on preliminary reports from the State Highway Agencies, travel during March 1997 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 2.9 percent as compared to March 1996 resulting in estimated travel for the month at 209.2 billion vehicle-miles. This total includes 79.6 billion vehicle-miles on rural roads and 129.6 billion vehicle-miles on urban roads and streets.

Travel for the current month as well the cumulative yearly total on all roads and streets is shown below. Similar totals for each year since 1970 are also included.

Travel in Millions		
All Roads and Streets		
Year	March	Year to Date
1970	90,223	247,837
1971	92,974	258,429
1972	102,926	283,664
1973	107,490	296,721
1974	100,736	282,192
1975	106,070	295,715
1976	114,284	315,272
1977	119,960	324,821
1978	125,035	341,890
1979	131,406	355,410
1980	125,179	348,980
1981	127,798	353,612
1982	128,182	345,451
1983	132,814	364,078
1984	137,307	377,319
1985	144,424	387,912
1986	151,183	407,707
1987	157,573	433,488
1988	167,836	458,463
1989	174,990	481,473
1990	178,771	495,930
1991	179,076	490,316
1992	183,778	511,634
1993	187,869	522,393
1994	196,190	531,948
1995	201,227	566,118
1996	203,349	562,528
1997	209,167	576,581

Traffic Volume Trends is a monthly report based on hourly traffic count data. These data, collected at approximately 4,000 continuous traffic counting locations nationwide, are used to determine the percent change in traffic for the current month compared to the same month in the previous year. This percent change is applied to the travel for the same month of the previous year to obtain an estimate of travel for the current month.

For additional information, for extra copies, or to be put on the monthly mailing list, write:

Kenneth H. Welty
Federal Highway Administration
Office of Highway Information Management
400 7th Street, S.W., Room 3300, HPM-30
Washington, DC 20590

Phone (202) 366-5055
FAX (202) 366-7742

Change of address information should also be sent to the above address. Send the back cover (including your old address) of the most recent issue you have received with the new information clearly printed or typed.

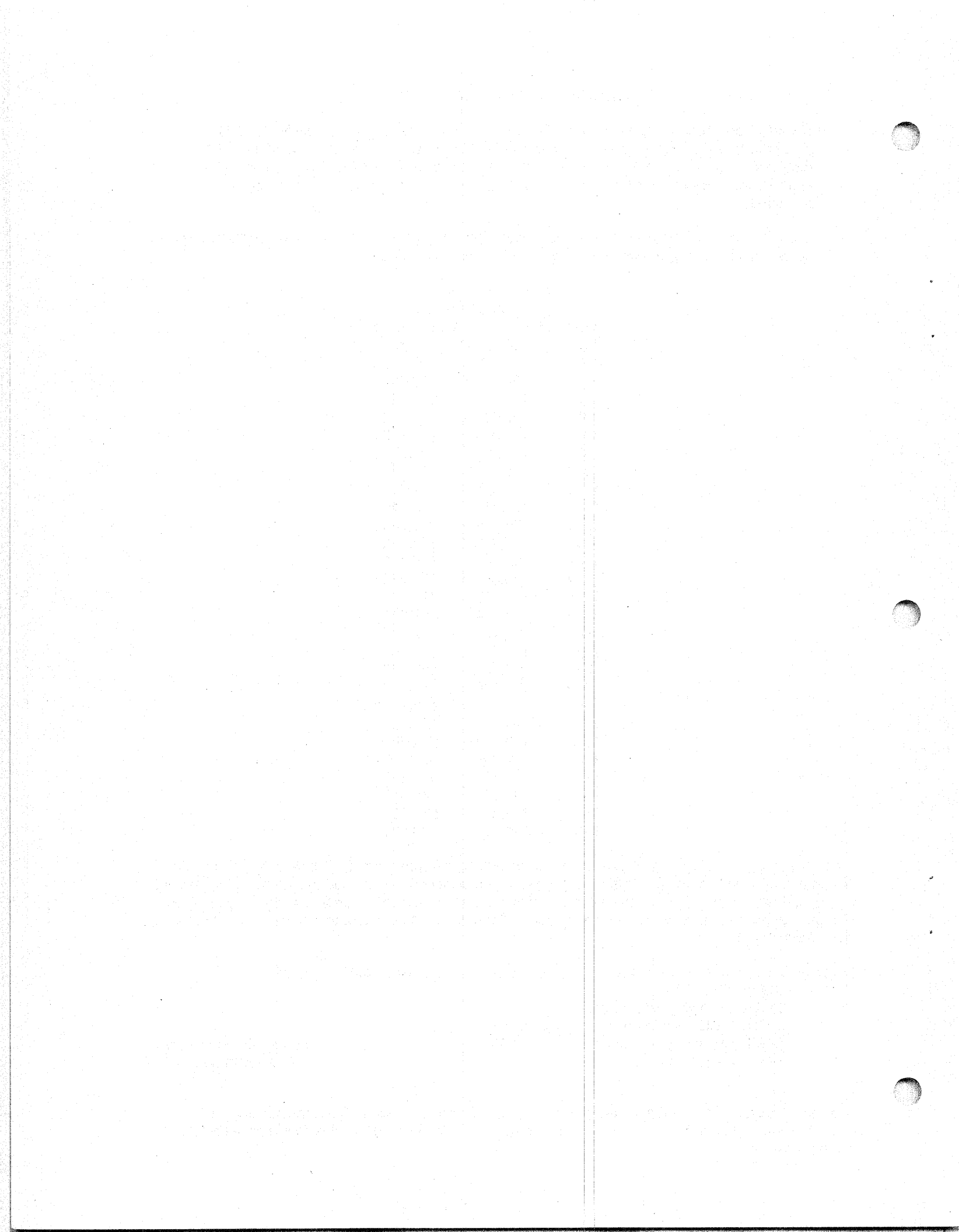


Table 1 - Estimated Individual Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1996 Individual Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	15.1	18.6	18.8	20.2	20.8	22.6	22.9	19.2	19.6	18.3	18.6
Rural Other Arterial	26.8	25.6	30.0	30.7	34.3	33.3	35.8	36.0	31.8	32.6	29.5	29.2
Other Rural	24.8	23.9	27.9	28.6	31.2	30.7	32.2	32.4	29.2	30.4	27.9	27.5
Urban Interstate	26.4	25.4	29.4	28.9	31.0	30.7	30.7	31.3	29.0	30.2	28.3	28.5
Urban Other Arterial	64.6	60.6	69.0	69.2	72.6	70.1	73.2	74.0	68.7	71.7	67.0	67.8
Other Urban	26.0	24.7	28.4	28.3	30.3	29.1	30.0	30.2	27.7	29.0	27.2	27.3
All Systems	183.9	175.3	203.3	204.5	219.7	214.1	224.5	226.8	205.6	213.5	198.4	198.9
1997 Individual Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	16.1	15.8	19.3									
Rural Other Arterial	27.4	26.3	31.3									
Other Rural	25.4	24.3	29.0									
Urban Interstate	27.1	25.8	30.2									
Urban Other Arterial	66.0	61.7	70.2									
Other Urban	26.5	24.9	29.2									
All Systems	188.6	178.8	209.2									
Percent Change In Individual Monthly Travel 1997 vs. 1996												
Rural Interstate	4.2	4.7	3.7									
Rural Other Arterial	2.5	2.8	4.2									
Other Rural	2.7	1.9	4.1									
Urban Interstate	2.9	1.5	2.5									
Urban Other Arterial	2.2	1.7	1.8									
Other Urban	2.2	0.9	2.7									
All Systems	2.6	2.0	2.9									

Table 2 - Estimated Cumulative Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1996 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	30.5	49.2	68.0	88.1	108.9	131.5	154.4	173.7	193.2	211.5	230.1
Rural Other Arterial	26.8	52.4	82.4	113.1	147.4	180.7	216.5	252.5	284.3	316.9	346.4	375.6
Other Rural	24.8	48.6	76.5	105.2	136.4	167.1	199.3	231.8	261.0	291.4	319.3	346.9
Urban Interstate	26.4	51.8	81.2	110.1	141.2	171.2	201.9	233.2	262.2	292.5	320.8	349.4
Urban Other Arterial	64.6	125.2	194.2	263.3	335.9	406.1	479.3	553.3	622.0	693.6	760.7	828.4
Other Urban	26.0	50.6	79.1	107.4	137.6	166.8	196.8	227.0	254.7	283.7	311.0	338.2
All Systems	183.9	359.2	562.5	767.1	986.8	1200.9	1425.4	1652.2	1857.8	2071.3	2269.7	2468.6
1997 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	16.1	31.9	51.2									
Rural Other Arterial	27.4	53.8	85.0									
Other Rural	25.4	49.8	78.8									
Urban Interstate	27.1	52.9	83.1									
Urban Other Arterial	66.0	127.7	197.8									
Other Urban	26.5	51.4	80.6									
All Systems	188.6	367.4	576.6									
Percent Change In Cumulative Monthly Travel 1997 vs. 1996												
Rural Interstate	4.2	4.5	4.2									
Rural Other Arterial	2.5	2.6	3.2									
Other Rural	2.7	2.3	2.9									
Urban Interstate	2.9	2.2	2.3									
Urban Other Arterial	2.2	2.0	1.9									
Other Urban	2.2	1.5	2.0									
All Systems	2.6	2.3	2.5									

* System entries may not add to give "All Systems" total due to rounding.

For further information, contact Ken Welty

Office of Highway Information Management
Federal Highway Administration
Phone: (202) 366-5055.

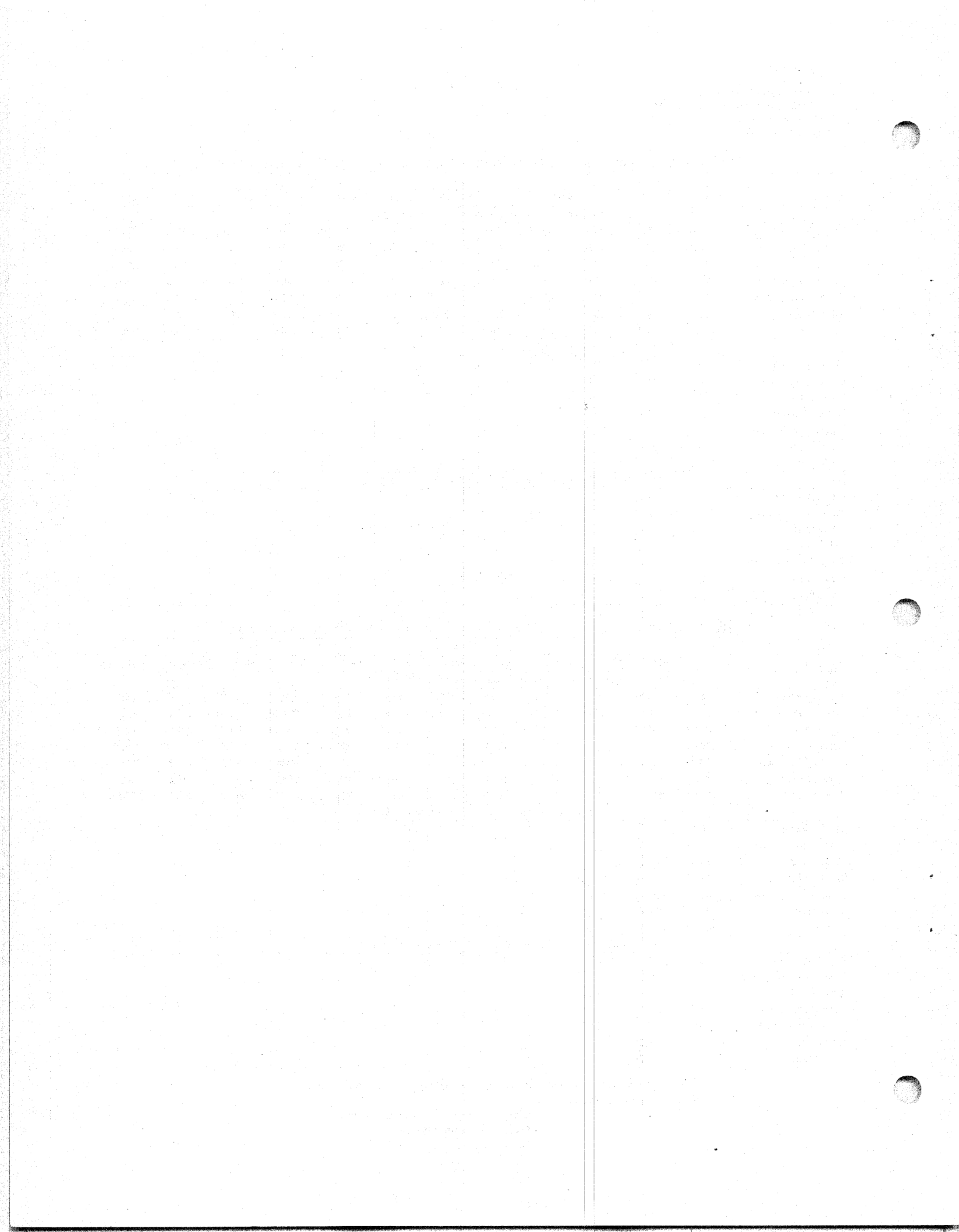


Table 3 - Changes On Rural Arterial Roads By Region and State

Region and State	March				February			
	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change
		1997 (Preliminary)	1996			1997 (Revised)	1996	
Northeast								
Connecticut	19	327	311	5.1	22	291	267	9.0
Maine	-	397	390	1.7	36	354	338	4.8
Massachusetts	19	404	391	3.1	8	360	340	6.1
New Hampshire	-	308	302	1.9	60	285	272	4.5
New Jersey	10	593	580	2.3	2	532	504	5.6
New York	38	1,244	1,218	2.2	35	1,108	1,075	3.0
Pennsylvania	-	2,137	2,061	3.7	56	1,789	1,720	4.0
Rhode Island	7	53	51	2.3	7	49	46	7.2
Vermont	33	210	210	-0.1	34	198	191	3.4
		5,673	5,516	2.8		4,965	4,753	4.5
South Atlantic								
Delaware	36	137	129	5.8	38	124	113	9.7
Dist Of Columbia	-	0	0	0.0	-	0	0	0.0
Florida	194	2,478	2,329	6.4	187	2,116	2,019	4.8
Georgia	37	2,082	1,955	6.5	37	1,703	1,671	1.9
Maryland	-	726	706	2.8	-	608	582	4.5
North Carolina	-	1,783	1,684	5.9	-	1,490	1,428	4.3
South Carolina	18	1,590	1,455	9.3	18	1,324	1,220	8.5
Virginia	-	1,693	1,656	2.2	-	1,416	1,363	3.9
West Virginia	-	671	633	5.9	-	566	545	3.8
		11,161	10,548	5.8		9,347	8,940	4.5
North Central								
Illinois	28	1,617	1,550	4.3	27	1,310	1,290	1.5
Indiana	-	1,445	1,374	5.2	-	1,203	1,162	3.5
Iowa	129	923	896	3.0	129	756	747	1.1
Kansas	20	754	741	1.8	16	603	609	-1.1
Michigan	-	1,494	1,434	4.2	145	1,320	1,257	5.1
Minnesota	-	1,138	1,107	2.8	-	954	926	3.0
Missouri	68	1,449	1,376	5.3	67	1,165	1,136	2.6
Nebraska	31	595	546	8.9	30	475	464	2.4
North Dakota	-	242	233	3.6	28	200	193	3.4
Ohio	56	1,720	1,623	6.0	51	1,434	1,382	3.7
South Dakota	57	342	329	3.9	52	294	284	3.8
Wisconsin	120	1,433	1,400	2.4	122	1,250	1,206	3.7
		13,153	12,609	4.3		10,964	10,658	2.9
South Gulf								
Alabama	-	1,343	1,277	5.2	42	1,104	1,030	7.1
Arkansas	-	949	912	4.0	10	748	748	0.1
Kentucky	-	1,081	1,037	4.2	-	848	823	3.1
Louisiana	-	947	910	4.0	-	769	725	6.1
Mississippi	71	1,035	992	4.4	67	888	800	11.1
Oklahoma	-	867	851	2.0	-	693	689	0.5
Tennessee	17	1,446	1,430	1.1	-	1,175	1,119	5.0
Texas	-	3,647	3,503	4.1	-	2,861	2,854	0.2
		11,315	10,912	3.7		9,087	8,788	3.4
West								
Alaska	48	88	87	1.2	43	74	68	8.8
Arizona	-	994	967	2.7	-	815	814	0.1
California	22	3,079	2,999	2.7	18	2,704	2,680	0.9
Colorado	-	877	837	4.8	-	700	693	1.1
Hawaii	-	126	124	1.9	-	112	109	2.4
Idaho	-	351	351	0.1	135	299	279	7.0
Montana	-	375	355	5.6	41	314	310	1.4
Nevada	-	295	289	2.1	-	245	239	2.6
New Mexico	-	716	688	4.2	-	591	568	4.1
Oregon	134	806	809	-0.4	124	656	605	8.4
Utah	-	453	430	5.3	-	347	331	5.0
Washington	57	831	843	-1.4	51	679	652	4.1
Wyoming	124	282	267	5.4	122	229	224	2.7
		9,274	9,047	2.5		7,767	7,572	2.6
TOTALS		50,575	48,632	4.0		42,129	40,711	3.5

Note: Where Number of Stations are shown as dashes, the values for Vehicle-Miles and Percent Change are derived from the estimated VMT based on data from surrounding States or the Nationwide average VMT.

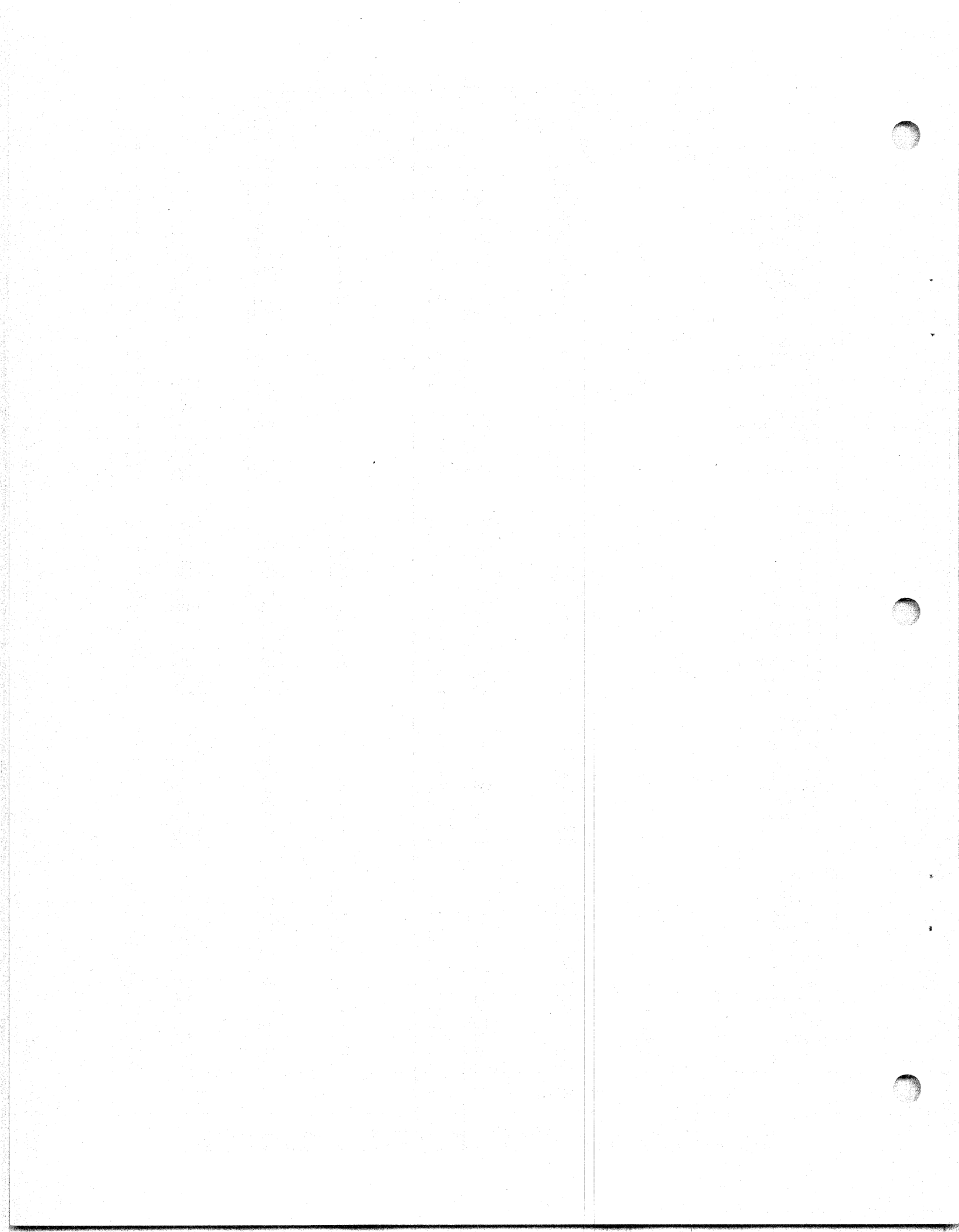
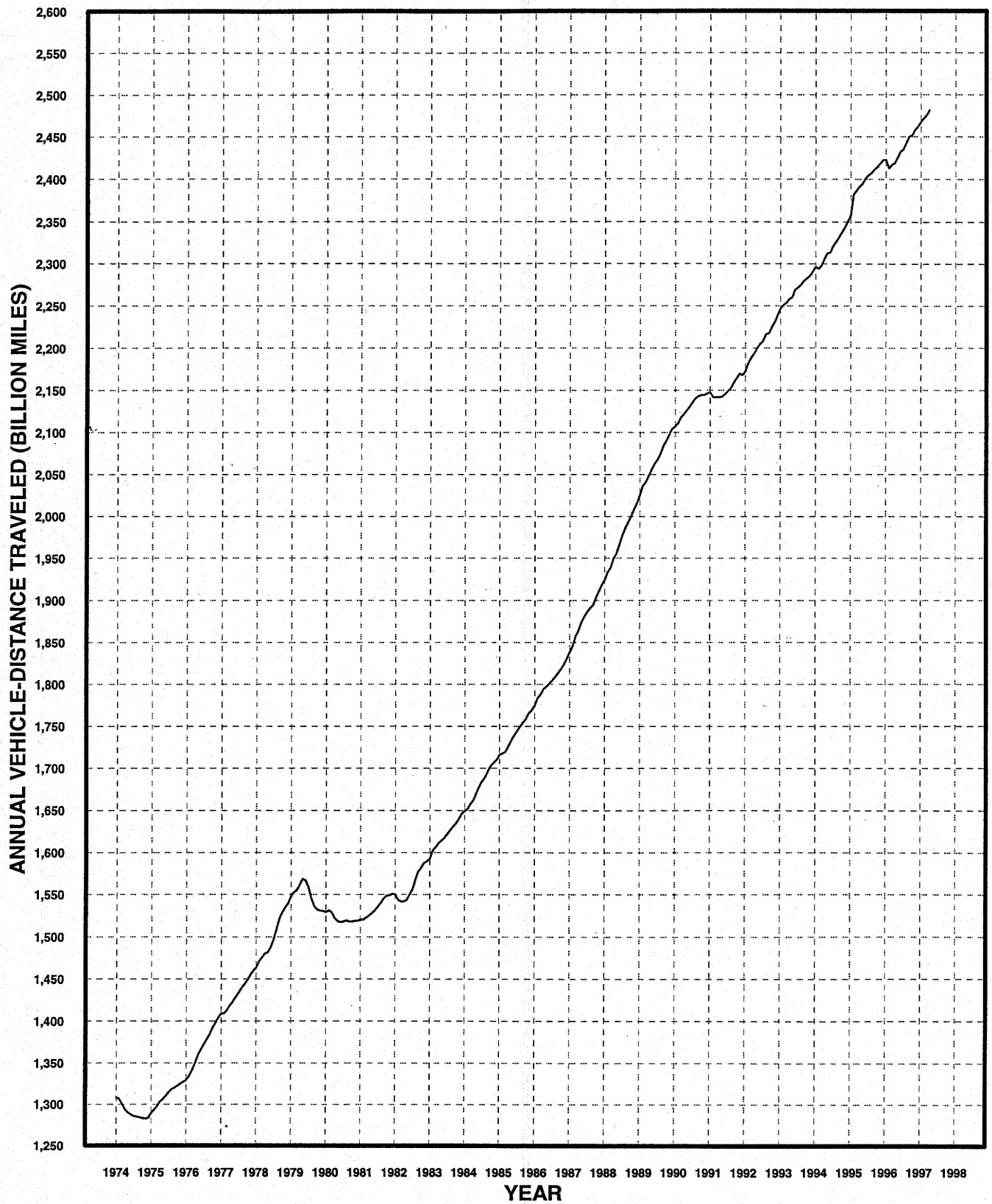


FIGURE 1 - MOVING 12-MONTH TOTAL ON ALL HIGHWAYS



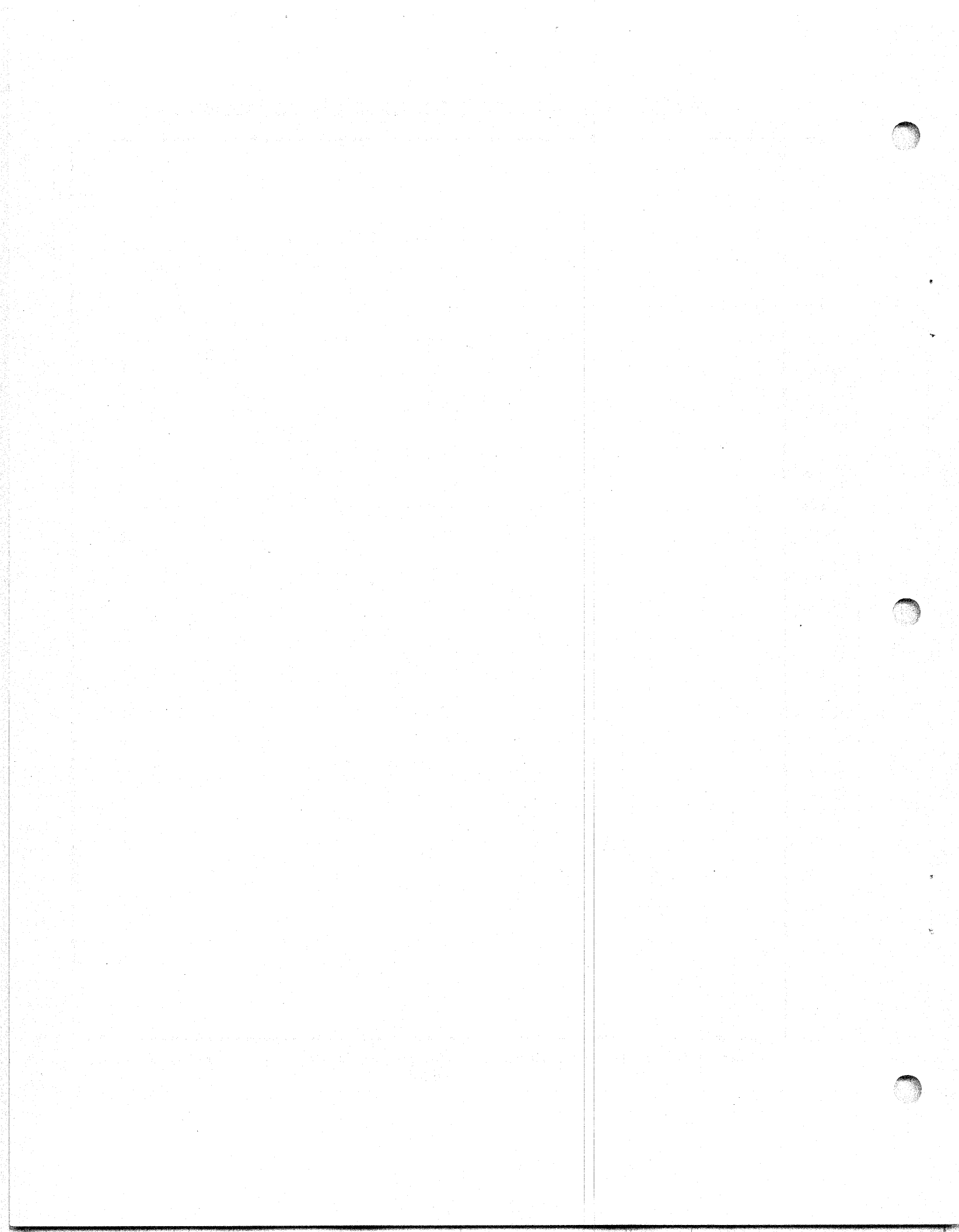
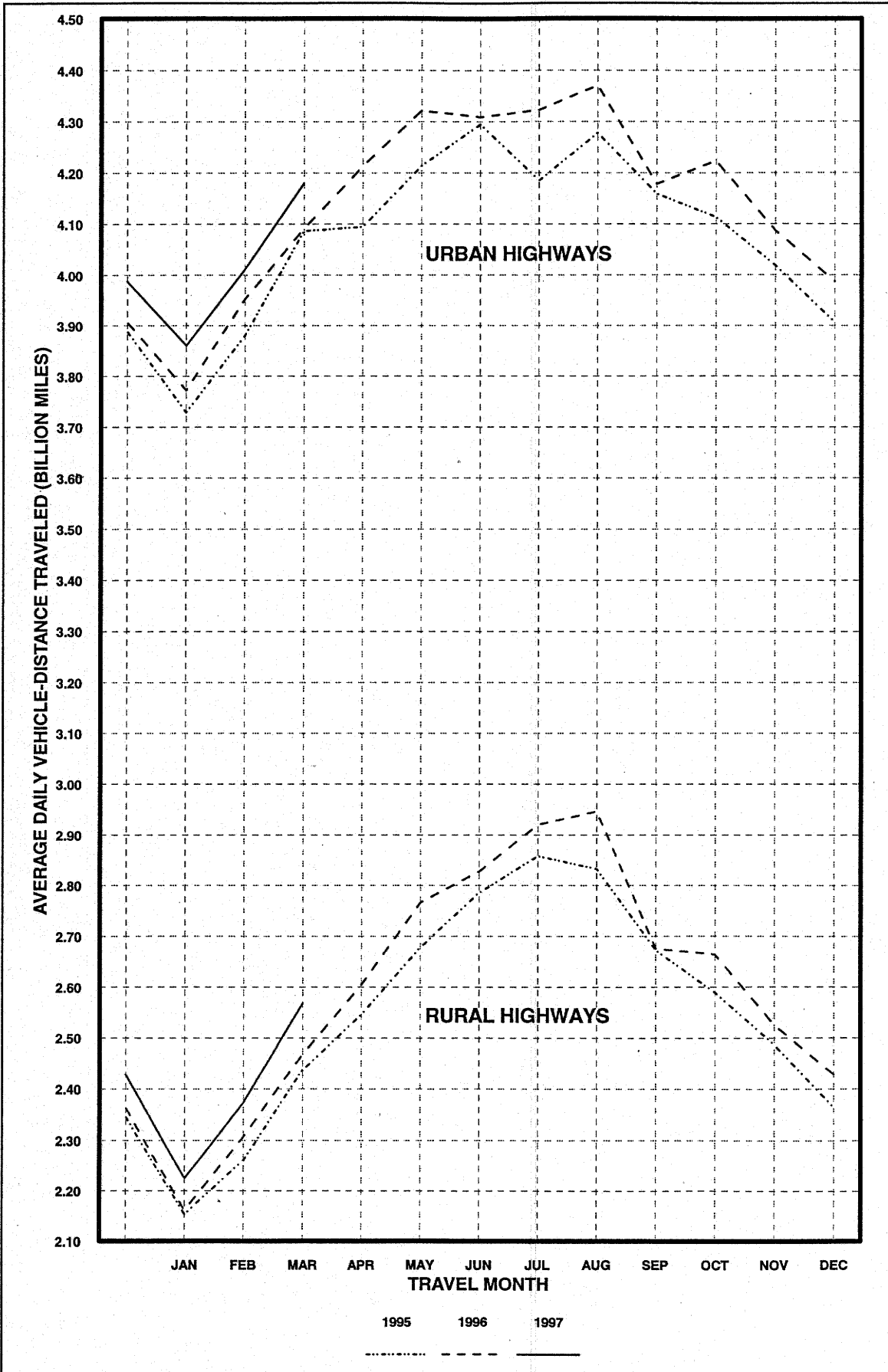
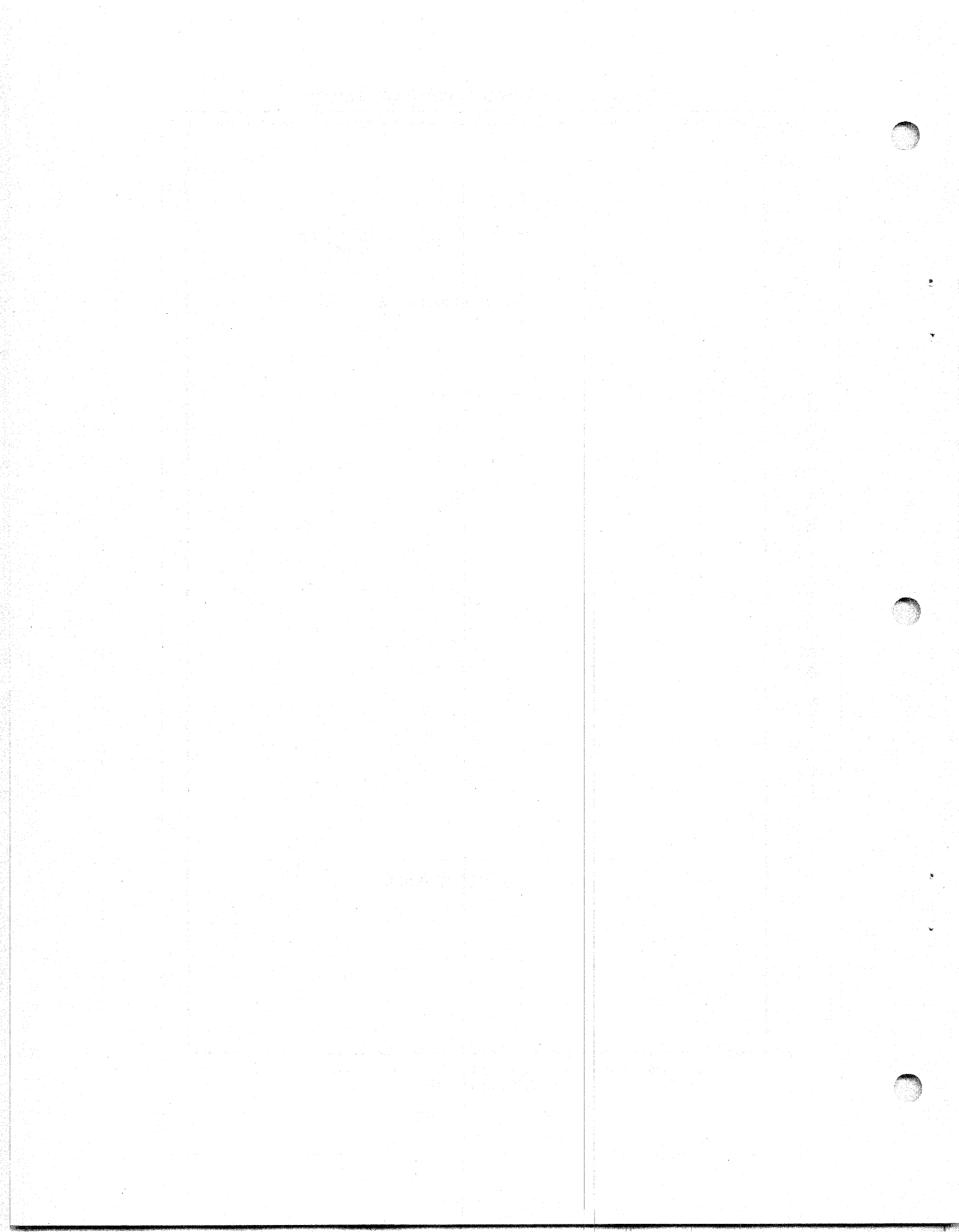


FIGURE 2 - TRAVEL ON U.S. HIGHWAYS BY MONTH



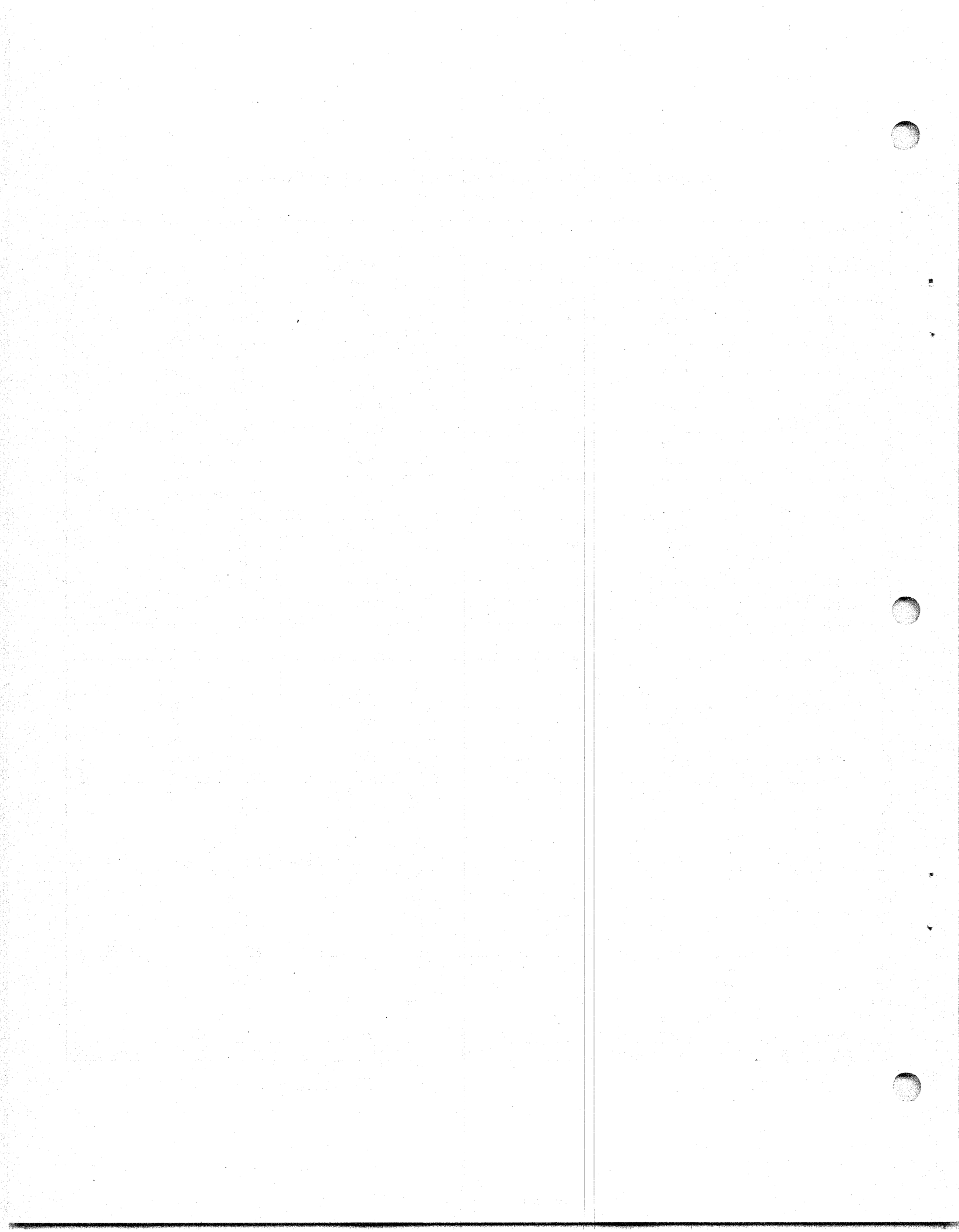


Traffic Volume Trends Rural*
Estimated Vehicle Miles (Millions) and Percent Change from Same Period Previous Year
(Includes Preliminary Data for March 1997)

Year - 1996														
Rural Interstate			Rural Other Arterial			Other Rural			Total Rural			All Systems		
		%			%			%			%			%
Jan	15,438	1.1	Jan	26,784	0.2	Jan	24,764	0.1	Jan	66,986	0.4	Jan	183,910	0.9
Feb	15,100	2.4	Feb	25,611	1.8	Feb	23,881	2.1	Feb	64,592	2.0	Feb	175,269	1.9
Mar	18,624	3.7	Mar	30,008	0.9	Mar	27,893	0.2	Mar	76,525	1.3	Mar	203,349	0.6
Q1	49,162	2.5	Q1	82,403	0.9	Q1	76,538	0.7	Q1	208,103	1.2	Q1	562,528	1.1
Apr	18,793	2.2	Apr	30,699	2.3	Apr	28,645	2.3	Apr	78,137	2.3	Apr	204,535	2.7
May	20,187	4.6	May	34,319	3.1	May	31,242	2.6	May	85,748	3.3	May	219,698	2.8
Jun	20,807	3.1	Jun	33,323	1.2	Jun	30,694	0.8	Jun	84,824	1.5	Jun	214,091	0.8
Q2	59,787	3.3	Q2	98,341	2.2	Q2	90,581	1.9	Q2	248,709	2.4	Q2	638,324	2.1
1st Half	108,949	2.9	1st Half	180,744	1.6	1st Half	167,119	1.4	1st Half	456,812	1.8	1st Half	1,200,852	1.6
Jul	22,565	3.1	Jul	35,758	1.9	Jul	32,206	1.8	Jul	90,529	2.2	Jul	224,529	2.8
Aug	22,908	6.3	Aug	35,994	4.0	Aug	32,437	2.6	Aug	91,339	4.0	Aug	226,832	2.9
Sep	19,228	0.9	Sep	31,793	-0.0	Sep	29,230	-0.3	Sep	80,251	0.1	Sep	205,595	0.3
Q3	64,701	3.6	Q3	103,545	2.0	Q3	93,873	1.4	Q3	262,119	2.2	Q3	656,956	2.1
3 Qs	173,650	3.2	3 Qs	284,289	1.8	3 Qs	260,992	1.4	3 Qs	718,931	2.0	3 Qs	1,857,808	1.8
Oct	19,556	3.0	Oct	32,609	2.8	Oct	30,431	2.9	Oct	82,596	2.9	Oct	213,532	2.8
Nov	18,300	0.7	Nov	29,534	1.8	Nov	27,922	1.9	Nov	75,756	1.5	Nov	198,361	1.6
Dec	18,570	3.7	Dec	29,200	2.5	Dec	27,506	2.4	Dec	75,276	2.7	Dec	198,883	2.3
Q4	56,426	2.5	Q4	91,343	2.4	Q4	85,859	2.4	Q4	233,628	2.4	Q4	610,776	2.3
2nd Half	121,127	3.1	2nd Half	194,888	2.2	2nd Half	179,732	1.9	2nd Half	495,747	2.3	2nd Half	1,267,732	2.2
Year	230,076	3.0	Year	375,632	1.9	Year	346,851	1.6	Year	952,559	2.1	Year	2,468,584	1.9

Year - 1997														
Rural Interstate			Rural Other Arterial			Other Rural			Total Rural			All Systems		
		%			%			%			%			%
Jan	16,088	4.2	Jan	27,446	2.5	Jan	25,421	2.7	Jan	68,955	2.9	Jan	188,624	2.6
Feb	15,810	4.7	Feb	26,319	2.8	Feb	24,335	1.9	Feb	66,464	2.9	Feb	178,789	2.0
Mar	19,309	3.7	Mar	31,266	4.2	Mar	29,026	4.1	Mar	79,601	4.0	Mar	209,168	2.9
Q1	51,207	4.2	Q1	85,031	3.2	Q1	78,782	2.9	Q1	215,020	3.3	Q1	576,581	2.5
Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-
May	0	-	May	0	-	May	0	-	May	0	-	May	0	-
Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-
Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-
1st Half	51,207	4.2	1st Half	85,031	3.2	1st Half	78,782	2.9	1st Half	215,020	3.3	1st Half	576,581	2.5
Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-
Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-
Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-
Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-
3 Qs	51,207	4.2	3 Qs	85,031	3.2	3 Qs	78,782	2.9	3 Qs	215,020	3.3	3 Qs	576,581	2.5
Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-
Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-
Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-
Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-
2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-
Year	51,207	4.2	Year	85,031	3.2	Year	78,782	2.9	Year	215,020	3.3	Year	576,581	2.5

* formerly table 9B



Traffic Volume Trends Urban*
Estimated Vehicle Miles (Millions) and Percent Change from Same Period Previous Year
(Includes Preliminary Data for March 1997)

Year - 1996														
Urban Interstate			Urban Other Arterial			Other Urban			Total Urban			All Systems		
		%			%			%			%			%
Jan	26,377	2.3	Jan	64,590	0.8	Jan	25,957	1.0	Jan	116,924	1.2	Jan	183,910	0.9
Feb	25,403	2.7	Feb	60,613	1.5	Feb	24,661	2.0	Feb	110,677	1.9	Feb	175,269	1.9
Mar	29,422	0.6	Mar	68,953	-0.2	Mar	28,449	0.3	Mar	126,824	0.1	Mar	203,349	0.6
Q1	81,202	1.8	Q1	194,156	0.6	Q1	79,067	1.1	Q1	354,425	1.0	Q1	562,528	1.1
Apr	28,942	3.4	Apr	69,156	2.7	Apr	28,300	3.0	Apr	126,398	2.9	Apr	204,535	2.7
May	31,041	3.6	May	72,631	1.9	May	30,278	3.0	May	133,950	2.5	May	219,698	2.8
Jun	30,008	0.7	Jun	70,121	0.0	Jun	29,138	0.7	Jun	129,267	0.3	Jun	214,091	0.8
Q2	89,991	2.5	Q2	211,908	1.5	Q2	87,716	2.2	Q2	389,615	1.9	Q2	638,324	2.1
1st Half	171,193	2.2	1st Half	406,064	1.1	1st Half	166,783	1.7	1st Half	744,040	1.5	1st Half	1,200,852	1.6
Jul	30,744	2.9	Jul	73,224	3.7	Jul	30,032	2.7	Jul	134,000	3.3	Jul	224,529	2.8
Aug	31,307	2.6	Aug	73,979	2.1	Aug	30,207	2.1	Aug	135,493	2.2	Aug	226,832	2.9
Sep	28,986	1.1	Sep	68,698	0.5	Sep	27,660	-0.3	Sep	125,344	0.5	Sep	205,595	0.3
Q3	91,037	2.2	Q3	215,901	2.1	Q3	87,899	1.5	Q3	394,837	2.0	Q3	656,956	2.1
3 Qs	262,230	2.2	3 Qs	621,965	1.4	3 Qs	254,682	1.6	3 Qs	1,138,877	1.7	3 Qs	1,857,808	1.8
Oct	30,246	2.9	Oct	71,663	2.7	Oct	29,027	2.4	Oct	130,936	2.7	Oct	213,532	2.8
Nov	28,334	2.1	Nov	67,023	1.8	Nov	27,248	1.1	Nov	122,605	1.7	Nov	198,361	1.6
Dec	28,543	2.7	Dec	67,772	2.0	Dec	27,292	1.7	Dec	123,607	2.1	Dec	198,883	2.3
Q4	87,123	2.6	Q4	206,458	2.2	Q4	83,567	1.7	Q4	377,148	2.2	Q4	610,776	2.3
2nd Half	178,160	2.4	2nd Half	422,359	2.1	2nd Half	171,466	1.6	2nd Half	771,985	2.1	2nd Half	1,267,732	2.2
Year	349,353	2.3	Year	828,423	1.6	Year	338,249	1.6	Year	1,516,025	1.8	Year	2,468,584	1.9

Year - 1997														
Urban Interstate			Urban Other Arterial			Other Urban			Total Urban			All Systems		
		%			%			%			%			%
Jan	27,147	2.9	Jan	66,006	2.2	Jan	26,516	2.2	Jan	119,669	2.3	Jan	188,624	2.6
Feb	25,794	1.5	Feb	61,657	1.7	Feb	24,874	0.9	Feb	112,325	1.5	Feb	178,789	2.0
Mar	30,164	2.5	Mar	70,176	1.8	Mar	29,227	2.7	Mar	129,567	2.2	Mar	209,168	2.9
Q1	83,105	2.3	Q1	197,839	1.9	Q1	80,617	2.0	Q1	361,561	2.0	Q1	576,581	2.5
Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-	Apr	0	-
May	0	-	May	0	-	May	0	-	May	0	-	May	0	-
Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-	Jun	0	-
Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-	Q2	0	-
1st Half	83,105	2.3	1st Half	197,839	1.9	1st Half	80,617	2.0	1st Half	361,561	2.0	1st Half	576,581	2.5
Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-	Jul	0	-
Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-	Aug	0	-
Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-	Sep	0	-
Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-	Q3	0	-
3 Qs	83,105	2.3	3 Qs	197,839	1.9	3 Qs	80,617	2.0	3 Qs	361,561	2.0	3 Qs	576,581	2.5
Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-	Oct	0	-
Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-	Nov	0	-
Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-	Dec	0	-
Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-	Q4	0	-
2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-	2nd Half	0	-
Year	83,105	2.3	Year	197,839	1.9	Year	80,617	2.0	Year	361,561	2.0	Year	576,581	2.5

* formerly table 9B

