

STATEMENT OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AT CANADIAN BORDER POINTS, APRIL 1941.

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

Tourist entries into Canada by motor vehicle for the month of April 1941, compared with the corresponding month of 1940, indicate a falling-off in the amount of non-permit (local) traffic but an increase in the number of travellers' vehicles in the permit class. In the former group the figures show 142,420 entries as compared with 155,449 in April 1940; in the latter group there were 55,022 entries as compared with 43,368 in April 1940.

It is pointed out however that the figures for 1941 and 1940 are not strictly comparable. On April 1st of this year a new method of dealing with tourist statistics was inaugurated and all permits and entry records are now being sent to the Bureau of Statistics for compilation. The result of this change will be greater uniformity in regard to classification of traffic and more comprehensive analysis of the data.

In this connection, the following are a few points which should be noted:

Non-Permit Class

In April 1940 many commercial vehicles were included in the non-permit motor car (48-hour) class, while this year they are shown as a separate group. This would normally result in the 1941 figures being too low for comparison with 1940. On the other hand the count of motor cars in the non-permit class was more complete in April 1941 and includes repeat trips by commuters, some of which were not counted in the April 1940 statement. It is thus impossible to state exactly the extent of the decline in the number of entries in this non-permit class of vehicle.

Travellers' Vehicle Permits.

This group is roughly comparable to the combined 60-day and 6-month classifications of former statements, but there are now included a considerable number of commuters' permits not previously covered. Allowing 10 - 15% for this special group however, there is no doubt that the number of permits issued for tourists' vehicles in April was greater than in the corresponding month of last year.

Canadian Cars

At some ports the count of less-than-24-hour Canadian cars, as published in the statements of previous years, was not complete, and this fact precludes an accurate comparison between the present figures and those of former months. As from April 1st of this year however, complete figures of Canadian traffic abroad, in both length-of-stay categories, will be published.

NOTES

The terminology used in this bulletin differs somewhat from that of previous statements, and the following notes are included in order to define briefly the classifications now used:

(1) Foreign Cars Inwards

(a) Non-Permit Class

Local vehicles which are not required to take out formal Customs permits. They are restricted to travel within the jurisdiction of the port and may not remain in Canada more than 48 hours.

Also included are the repeat trips of commuters and others who cross the border frequently on commuting permits. (see below)

(b) Travellers' Vehicle Permits.

Permits are issued to all vehicles which

1. travel beyond the jurisdiction of the port of entry, or
2. remain in Canada more than 48 hours, or
3. leave the country by another port than the one by which they entered.

These permits are usually issued for periods of 60 days or 6 months, but a considerable number of these vehicles are in Canada less than 48 hours.

Also included in this class are commuting permits which entitle the holders to cross the border frequently during the tenure of their permits. Repeat trips after

the first, however, are included in the non-permit class, as mentioned above.

(c) Commercial Vehicles

Trucks which enter Canada for commercial purposes.

(2) Canadian Cars Inwards.

Canadian cars returning to Canada are classified by length-of-stay according as they were abroad for more or less than 24 hours.

"Commercial Vehicles" are Canadian trucks travelling in the United States for commercial purposes.

(3) All automobile classifications include bicycles and motorcycles but these groups are of relatively small importance.

(4) The following types of vehicles are not included in this traffic statement:

(a) Regular commercial buses travelling on scheduled routes,

(b) Horse-drawn vehicles.

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