

The table of road mileages below includes all roads under provincial jurisdiction and local roads in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario and estimates of local roads in the four western provinces. There are great stretches of country in the northern portions of Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia with very few people and very few roads, but the southern portions are well supplied. The Trans-Canada Highway provides a strategic link between Eastern and Western Canada that permits motorists to traverse the Dominion without entering United States territory.

1.—Classification of Highways, by Provinces, 1945

NOTE.—The date for which the mileage was reported is indicated for each province. The figures for Canada are the sums of the mileages so reported. Urban streets are not included in the figures. Dashes indicate that no mileages were reported under corresponding stub items.

Classification	P.E.I. ¹	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Total
	Mar. 31, 1945	Nov. 30, 1945	Oct. 31, 1945	Mar. 31, 1946	Mar. 31, 1946	Apr. 30, 1946	Apr. 30, 1946	Mar. 31, 1946	Mar. 31, 1945	
	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles
SURFACED ROAD										
Portland cement concrete....	4	7	—	333	2,091	37	—	—	41	2,513
Bituminous pavement.....	205	902	—	3,176	2,212	—	—	90	114	6,699
Bituminous surface.....	—	33	977	974	3,406	509	132	644	1,452	8,127
Gravel—crushed stone.....	242	6,048	7,681	18,703	49,425	8,385	8,529	6,922	8,056	113,991
Other surfaces.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	—	47	123
TOTALS, SURFACED ROAD....	451	6,990	8,658	23,486	57,134	8,931	8,737	7,656	9,710	131,453
NON-SURFACED ROAD										
Improved earth.....	2,352	3,207	2,670	—	9,058	8,171	72,031	14,967	9,765	122,221
Other earth roads.....	903	4,907	984	16,590	6,809	74,236 ²	132,118	59,114	2,680	298,341
TOTALS, NON-SURFACED ROAD.....	3,255	8,114	3,654	16,590	15,867	82,407	204,149	74,081	12,445	420,562
Grand Totals.....	3,706	15,104	12,312	39,776	73,001	91,338	212,886	81,737	22,155	552,015

¹ 1944 mileage.

² Includes road allowances.

The Alaska Highway.—The Alaska Highway, a 1,600-mile roadway, 24 to 36 feet wide, extends from Fort St. John, B.C.,* through Whitehorse, to Fairbanks, Alaska. It was virgin territory, and a pioneer air route, in the spring of 1942; on Nov. 20, 1942, it was officially opened for wheeled traffic. About 10,000 United States engineer troops and 4,000 civilians, of whom half were Canadians, hewed their way through the bush, bridged the rivers, overcame mountain grades and surfaced a roadbed, to permit a continuous journey by car. The maximum grade in hill country is 10 p.c.; in foothill country, 5 p.c. The Dominion Government supplied the right-of-way and exempted all shipments of construction equipment and material from customs duty and the United States Government carried out the work. On Apr. 3, 1946, the Canadian section of the Highway, from Edmonton to the Alaska border, together with the Northwest Staging Route airfields, telephone system and other defence projects (see 1945 Year Book, pp. 706 to 711) were taken over by Canada from the United States under agreement between the two countries.

* Dawson Creek, about 30 miles to the southwest, is the railhead from which supplies are trucked in to Fort St. John. The existing road between Dawson Creek and Fort St. John has been improved and to all intents and purposes forms part of the main highway.