

There are great stretches of country in Newfoundland, the northern portions of Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia with very few people and very few roads, but the more densely populated portions are well supplied. The Northwest Highway System (the Alaska Highway), built for military purposes during 1942 and extending 1,600 miles from Fort St. John, B.C., to Fairbanks, Alaska, serves civilian as well as military traffic. It opens up a vast area of hitherto virgin territory and affords a means of all-weather land communication from Alaska through Canada to the United States. Completed in 1949, the Mackenzie Highway which runs 386 miles from Grimshaw, Alta., to Hay River, N.W.T., has been of great value in the development of the Great Slave Lake region and the entire Mackenzie River Valley.

Statistics of urban streets have been collected since 1935 from cities and principal towns; the small municipalities omitted would increase the totals very little. For 1952, the total number of miles of street reported was 15,189, composed of 4,219 miles of bituminous pavements, 869 miles of portland cement concrete, 3,014 miles of bituminous surfaces, 3,996 miles of gravel and crushed stone and 70 miles of other surfaces; making a total of 12,168 miles of surfaced streets and 3,022 miles of earth roads. These figures for urban streets or roads are not included in Table 1.

1.—Mileage of each Type of Road, by Province, as at Mar. 31, 1953

NOTE.—The figures for Canada are the sums of the milages so reported. Urban streets are not included in the figures.

Classification	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon and N.W.T.	Canada
	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles
SURFACED ROAD												
Portland cement concrete.....	—	4	7	—	296	1,442	97	—	—	33	—	1,879
Bituminous pavements.....	30	—	25	—	6,441	4,786	—	—	—	1,704	—	12,986
Bituminous surface.....	97	335	1,363	1,900	844	4,654	978	987	1,700	924	2	13,784
Gravel—												
Crushed stone..	2,300	2,079	6,997	11,244	21,351	51,902	8,624	15,643	21,359	9,495	1,616	152,610
Other surfaces....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	—	—	—	47
TOTALS, SURFACED ROAD.....	2,427	2,418	8,392	13,144	28,932	62,784	9,699	16,677	23,059	12,156	1,618	181,306
NON-SURFACED ROAD												
Improved earth..	—	1,298	3,033	—	—	11,386	7,832	83,349	29,758 ¹	9,758	383	146,797
Other earth roads	3,940	—	3,749	—	13,092	—	74,172	55,680 ¹	32,327 ¹	1,641	91	184,692
TOTALS, NON-SURFACED ROAD..	3,940	1,298	6,782	—	13,092	11,386	82,004	139,029	62,085	11,399	474	331,489
Grand Totals.....	6,367	3,716	15,174	13,144	42,024	74,170	91,703	155,706¹	85,144	23,555	2,092	512,795

¹ Excludes surveyed road allowances not in use.

² Includes all road allowances.

Expenditure on Roads and Highways.—The roads and highways of Canada, except those in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Indian reserves and the National Parks, are under the jurisdiction of the respective provincial or municipal authorities. Expenditure was sharply curtailed during the war years 1939-45 and a considerable backlog of essential repair, improvement and expansion work