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Duluth-- An unusual seasonal rise in Duluth area business during October was recorded by the authors of the Duluth Business Index.

The October unadjusted index (1957-1959 equals 100) rose to 140 or ten points higher than in September. A three point decline over the same period has been normal.

Contributing to the increase were rises in bank debits, value of building permits (in 1957-1959 dollars), electric power consumption, postal receipts, grain shipments and other lake cargo.

Employment in Duluth showed no change from October to September, although a fractional decline is normally recorded during the period. Metal mining employment dropped four points in October, indicating the beginning of seasonal layoffs in the mines.

The Duluth Business Index is compiled monthly by Dr. Cecil H. Meyers, professor and head of economics at UMD, and Glenn O. Gronseth, research analyst for the Minnesota State Employment Service. It is published by the UMD Department of Economics in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Employment Security, the Duluth Chamber of Commerce and the Duluth Industrial Bureau.

Compared to the same period last year, October business activity was five points lower. Overall economic conditions for the first 10 months of 1967 averaged two per cent below last year.

Duluth employment, while higher than last year, failed to result in a lower level of unemployment. The October, 1967 rate of unemployment was 3.1 per cent compared to 2.3 per cent a year ago.

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Compared to a year ago, October losses were recorded in freight car-loading, coal, iron ore and grain shipments and the value of building permits.

Gains recorded over a year ago included general cargo imports and exports and amounts of grain by-products shipped.

October retail trade volume made a four per cent gain over the same month a year ago. General merchandise recorded a 12 per cent gain, while apparel stores were down by 10 per cent from October, 1966. A comparison of the January to October periods of 1966 and 1967 showed a nine per cent increase in overall retail sales volume this year.