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Duluth--- The Duluth Business Index for October was the highest on record for that month and one point higher than the September level.

The unadjusted Index for October was 147 (1957-59=100) with seven of the 15 business barometers showing gains. Normally, seasonal factors cause a drop of three points for October.

The Index is published by the Department of Business and Economics at the University of Minnesota, Duluth and authored by Dr. Cecil H. Meyers, head of economics at UMD and Glenn O. Gronseth, research analyst of the Minnesota State Employment Service, Duluth.

Bank debits in October were up seven points or almost \$11,000,000. Valuations of building permits, based on 1957-59 dollars, continued to run high, particularly for one-family dwellings and garages. There also was a 52% increase in permits for repairs and alterations. Postal receipts were up \$52,000 due partly to a lower-than-normal September level.

Kilowatt hours, both commercial and residential, were up seasonally. Grain shipments by rail were up but sharply down by water borne movements. Lake cargo other than grain rose almost 20,000 tons.

Iron ore shipments tapered off as expected and department store sales were off by 5 points from September.

The unemployed in October numbered 1,300 or 2.8% of the labor force, the lowest for that month since 1956. Unemployment benefits were being received by 510 persons, also the lowest for any single month since 1956.

Gronseth and Meyers said the October index of 147 was 11 points higher than for the same month a year ago. And business in general for the 1st 10 months of 1965 was 8% higher than for the corresponding period in 1964 with 12 of the 15 components showing gains.