

Immediate Release
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Duluth--- Duluth business activity in 1967 was the second highest in the past 15 years, according to a special study released today at the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD).

Duluth recorded a business index of 121 in 1967, based on a 1957-59 average of 100. This was just two per cent below the all-time high of 123 set in 1966, and 29 index points above the low of 92 recorded in 1961.

The 1952-67 study, first of its kind in Duluth, was made by Dr. Cecil H. Meyers, professor and head of the Department of Economics at UMD, and Glenn O. Gronseth, research analyst, Minnesota Department of Employment Security, Duluth.

The study has been published as the first project of the UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Dr. Meyers and Gronseth also are authors of the Duluth Business Index, the monthly report which has gained wide acceptance since it was initiated in May, 1964.

Meyers and Gronseth predict that the Duluth economy will experience a three per cent gain in 1968 over the 1967 level.

The special study showed that six of the 15 Duluth Business Index barometers climbed to 15-year highs during 1967.

Bank debits rose to an index of 132 compared to a 1954 low of 81. Postal receipts reached 148 points, 56 points higher than the 1953 low of 92. The number of telephones showed an index in 1967 of 127 compared with 83 points in 1953. Commercial and industrial electric power registered an index of 150 in 1967 or 79 points higher than the 1953 low of 71. Residential electric power similarly rose to 178 points compared with 62 in 1953. And the Duluth Retail Sales Index climbed to a record 142 points, 54 points above the 1954 level of 88 points.

(more)

Of the seven predictors which were below previous highs, freight car-loadings showed an index of 99 in 1967 compared with a high of 125 in 1955 and a low of 82 in 1962. Building permits had a 1967 index of 108, just one point below the record 109 of 1957 and 46 points above the low of 62 in 1963. The number of electric customers showed a 1967 index of 100, compared with highs of 101 in 1959, 1960, '61 and '62 and a low of 96 in 1953.

Grain shipments in 1967 dropped to 119 from a high of 172 in 1966 but considerably above the low of 79 in 1953. Coal receipts showed an index of 71 compared with a high of 147 in 1956 and a low of 67 in 1961. Iron ore shipments had an index of 130 in 1967 compared with a high of 210 in 1953 and a low of 35 in 1962.

Other lake cargo had a 1967 index of 176 as opposed to a high of 198 in 1964 and a low of 53 in 1960, the first year of activity after the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Non-agricultural employment had an index of 100 in 1967 compared with a high of 108 in 1953 and a low of 90 in 1962 and '63. State metal mining employment had an index of 85 in 1967 compared with a high of 118 in 1957 and a low of 71 in 1963.

Dr. Meyers and Gronseth expect to release a similar study later this year which will combine economic data on Duluth and Northeastern Minnesota.

(Editors Note: Dr. Meyers and Mr. Gronseth will be available at 2 p.m. Friday in the UMD Campus Club lounge if anyone wishes to interview them concerning this release. It is the ONLY time they will be available Friday).