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Duluth--- The Canadian Seaway strike affected a drop in Duluth business activity during June, according to the Duluth Business Index.

Decreases in freight carloadings, grain and iron ore shipments and general lake cargo other than grain were primarily responsible for the June level of Duluth business falling two points below May and eight points lower than June, 1967.

The June unadjusted index was 132 (1957-1959 equals 100), according to DBI authors Dr. Cecil H. Meyers, professor and head of economics at UMD, and Glenn O. Gronseth, research analyst for the Minnesota Employment Service in Duluth.

June freight carloadings hit their lowest month this year -- a three point drop compared to a normal 12 point rise in the May-June period. Grain shipments fell seven points from the May volume contrary to a historical 10 point rise for the period in recent years. Iron ore shipments were down 16 per cent from May.

General bulk lake cargo, other than grain, also fell during June. Meyers and Gronseth credit the Canadian strike, which closed Seaway locks on June 20, as the main factor.

"In general, Great Lakes shipping in June was the lowest in seven years. It has been estimated that the port suffered a loss of at least \$1 million in ways, dockage fees, etc. due to the strike," the DBI authors said.

Recording gains during May to June were bank debits, value of building permits issued and under construction, postal receipts and coal receipts.

With the influx of school youth in the labor market, the number of job openings unfilled at the end of June was down 42 per cent from May. Of the unfilled openings, 68 per cent were chiefly in the clerical and professional categories, Meyers and Gronseth noted.

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The January-June average business index was 2 per cent above the first six months of 1967.

The retail sales index for June was 144 compared to 142 last year, representing an overall gain of 1 per cent.

The Duluth Business Index 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.