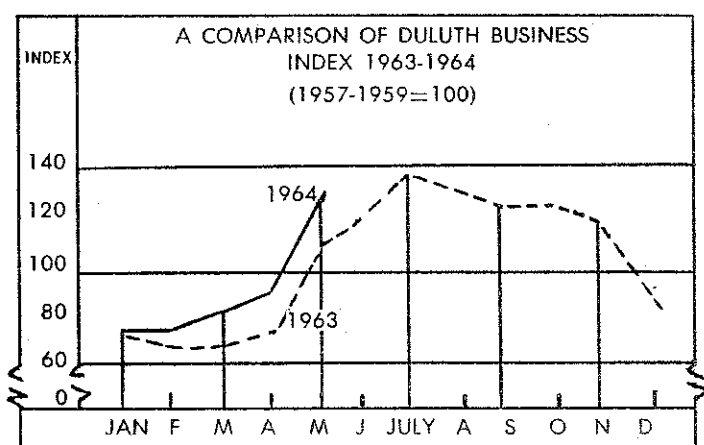


155  
Darius

# duluth business indicators May 1964



TIME PERIOD	DULUTH INDEX
May, 1964 .....	130.2
April, 1964 .....	89.1
Change, April to May '64 .....	+ 41.1
Normal Seasonal Change, April to May .....	+ 39.2
May, 1963 .....	110.3
Change, May '63 to May '64 .....	+ 19.9

Duluth business activity continued to show an upward trend in May. The Duluth business index in May was 130.2 (1957-1959 = 100) compared to 89.1 for April. In May of 1963 the Duluth index was 110.3.

The Index of U.S. Industrial production for May, 1964 as reported by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors was 131.7. The April index was 131.1 or a gain of 0.6 points for May over April.

While business activity reflected a normal seasonal rate of increase between April and May, the index, however, during the first five months of 1964 has maintained a higher level than it did for the same period in 1963. Since the first of the year, the Duluth index has averaged approximately 14% above a like period last year.

April-May increases were most pronounced in dollar volume of building permits issued, grain shipments, iron ore shipments, general and bulk cargo other than grain and department store sales. The most significant individual rise was noted in port terminal activity where tonnages handled jumped from 2,210 tons in April to 57,369 tons in May and in the dollar value of building permits issued (adjusted to 1957-1959 dollars) which increased from \$233,397 to \$1,152,787. This component, however, will generally show a greater month-to-month variation than will the other factors in the index. Altogether 11 of the 15 components of the Duluth index recorded increases over April.

So far this year, there has been a general improvement in the economic picture of Duluth over last year. Increased activity in May was noted in 12 of the 15 components of the index. Only in postal receipts, number of electric customers, and coal receipts did decreases occur from the May level in 1963.

Index-wise the most substantial decrease in the May 1963 and May 1964 comparison was noted in coal shipments. Conversely the greatest single gain over May of 1963 was in the port terminal activity with significant gains also showing up in building permits dollar valuations, and grain shipments among others.

Nonagricultural employment in Duluth, the most heavily weighted single component of the index, also reflected a seasonal rise between April and May. In May employment was 38,600 compared to 37,300 in April. This represents an increase of 3.5%. Gains were concentrated primarily in construction and transportation.

-----

The Duluth Index of general business activity was originated and compiled by Dr. Cecil H. Meyers, Professor Business and Economics, University of Minnesota, Duluth, and Glenn O. Gronseth, Research Analyst, Minnesota State Employment Service, Duluth. The monthly release is made available to the general public through the cooperation of the Area Development Department of the Minnesota Power & Light Company, Arthur C. Barschdorf, Director. Additional copies of this report can be obtained from the Division of Social Sciences-UMD, or the Duluth office of the Minnesota State Employment Service.