OSU center examines
Ohio economic trends

By Dick Gill

Researching and reporting the ups and downs of Ohio's economy is a shifting responsibility but one readily accepted by the Ohio State University Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER).

A staff of specialists and assistants, headed by Reed M. Powell, dean of the College of Administrative Science and director of research, works full-time to conduct organized studies of economic and business trends in the state.

The CBER changed from a bureau to a center three years ago when the College of Commerce was reorganized under the College of Administrative Science. Since that time the Center has become an integral part of the division of research, Powell said.

In addition to making or aiding research in the business community, the center also serves as an educational facility, he said.

The CBER maintains and administers facilities and technical services for graduate, faculty and independent research, thus contributing to an increasing awareness of the importance in research activities on the graduate level, he added.

Analysis of trends

A graduate or faculty member interested in research can obtain information from the center's library which has more than 5,000 reference sources.

In recent years analysis of economics and business trends has taken on greater importance, according to Powell.

For 1971-72 the research division received 11 proposals for the study of problems. The proposals received funds of more than $34,000, double that of previous years, Powell said.

Powell noted in addition to large volumes of economic and business materials received from federal, state and local governments, banks and businesses, the center also exchanges data with associated members.

The CBER is a founding member of Associated University Centers of Business and Economic Research of which 56 colleges and universities around the country are members.

Only data of value

The center compiles economic data and business tendencies in the Ohio area and publishes its findings in the monthly "Bulletin of Business Research."

Articles appearing in the bulletin provide the reader with an analysis of business and industry with monthly reports on Ohio employment and payrolls, personal income, retail sales and specific problems of the economy in Ohio.

At present faculty members from 19 departments in 10 University colleges are associated with the CBER in projects of program development, Powell said.

According to Powell the CBER will only research data that is of value to the entire community. No research is undertaken for the sole benefit of an individual business or firm.