

# Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index

## Midwest Manufacturing Output Moves Higher in February

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**2006 Release Dates:  
April 27, 2006  
May 30, 2006  
June 27, 2006  
July 27, 2006  
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September 27, 2006  
October 30, 2006  
November 27, 2006  
December 27, 2006**

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) rose 0.6% in February, to a seasonally adjusted level of 114.3 (2002=100). Revised data shows the index rose 0.7% in January, to 113.7. The Federal Reserve Board's industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) rose 0.1% in February. Regional output in February was 3.5% higher than a year earlier, lower than the nation's 4.5% increase.

Three of the four regional subsectors expanded in February. Regional auto production rose 1.3% from its January level. The regional steel output rose 0.6% and resource output increased 0.3% during the same time period. Output in the Midwest machinery sector decreased 0.2%.

Midwest auto sector production rose 1.3% in February after falling 0.5% in January. The nation's auto output was unchanged in February. Compared with a year earlier, Midwest automotive output was 1.1% higher in February compared with a 3.5% increase for the nation.

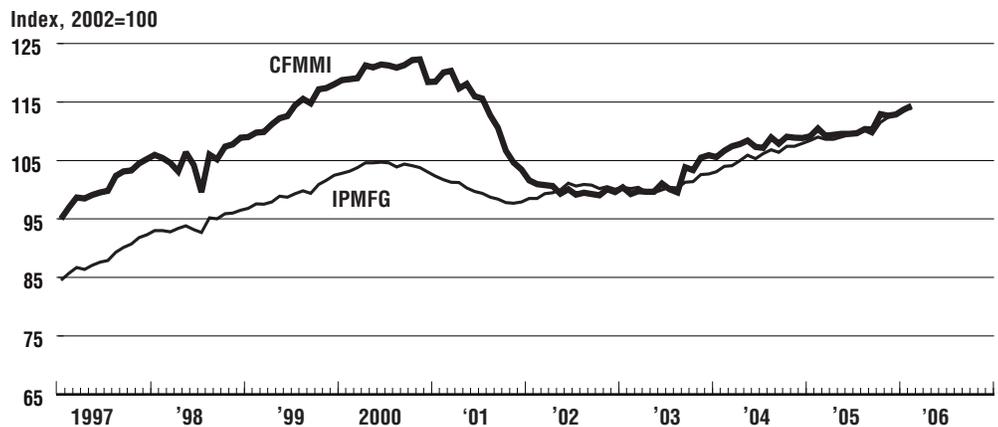
The region's steel sector output increased 0.6% in February, after rising 2.2% in January. The nation's steel output rose 0.4% in February. Regional steel output was 5.0% above its February 2005 level compared with a 4.7% increase in the nation.

The Midwest resource sector's output increased 0.3% in February after rising 1.1% in January. The nation's resource sector's output was unchanged in February. Increases in regional chemical, paper and food production were somewhat offset by a decrease in nonmetallic mineral and wood production in February. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was up 3.2% in February while national output was up 1.5%.

Midwest machinery sector output fell 0.2% in February after rising 0.8% in January. The nation's machinery output rose 0.5% in February. Regional machinery output in February was 7.5% above year-earlier levels while national output was up 13.5%.

— *William A. Strauss • Senior Economist and Economic Advisor • 312-322-8151*

### Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index



**The next CFMMI will be released:  
April 27, 2006  
Noon Eastern Time  
11:00 am Central Time**

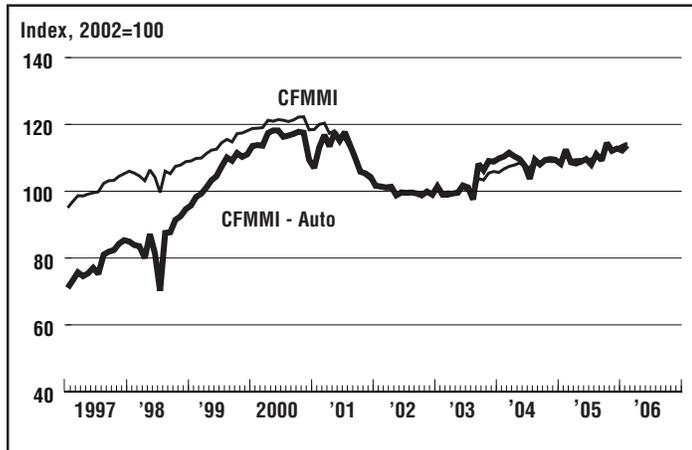
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### Manufacturing output indexes—February

	percent change from		
	1 month ago	3 months ago	1 year ago
Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI)	0.6	1.5	3.5
US Industrial Production-Manufacturing (IPMFG)	0.1	1.3	4.5

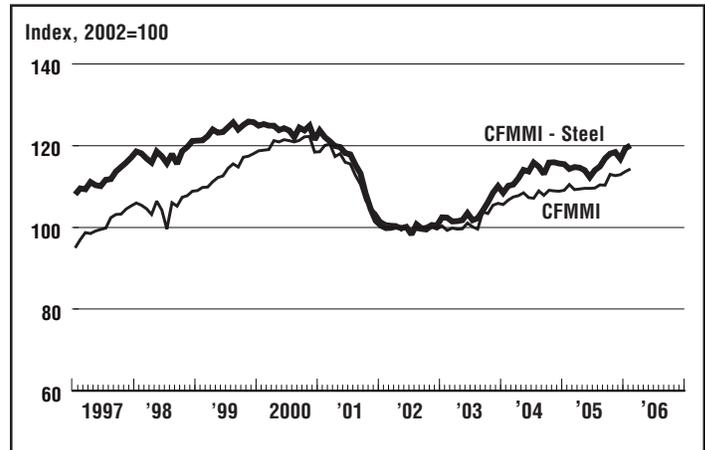
# Tracking Midwest Manufacturing Activity by Sectors — February 2006

## Auto Sector



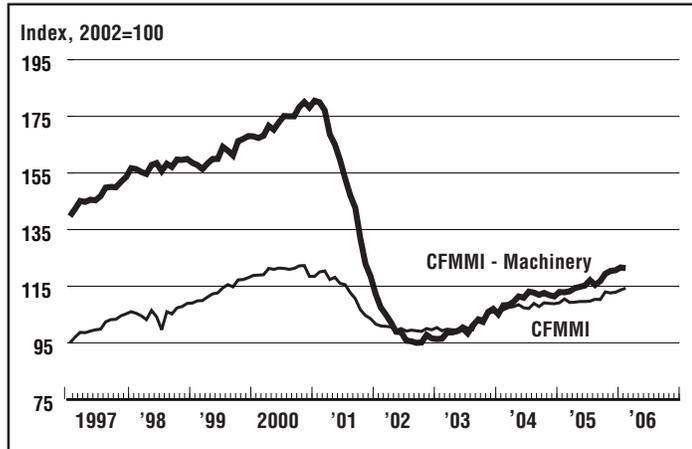
Auto Sector CFMMI Components:  
Plastics and Rubber Products; Transportation Equipment

## Steel Sector



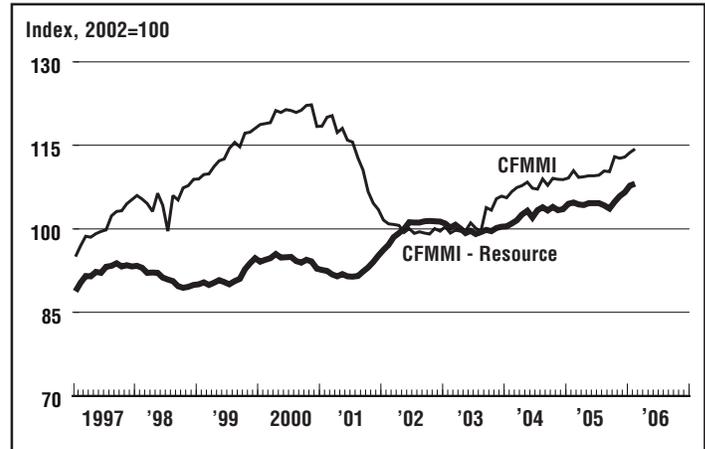
Steel Sector CFMMI Components:  
Primary Metal Industries; Fabricated Metal Products

## Machinery Sector



Machinery Sector CFMMI Components:  
Machinery; Computer and Electronic Products; Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Components Manufacturing

## Resource Sector



Resource Sector CFMMI Components:  
Food; Wood Products; Paper; Chemicals; Nonmetallic Mineral Products

## Manufacturing Activity: Summary Table

	Index, 2002=100			Percent change			
	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Monthly		Annual	
				Dec 05	Jan 06		Feb 06
<b>CFMMI</b>	112.9	113.7	114.3	0.2	0.7	0.6	3.5
<b>CFMMI - Auto</b>	112.7	112.2	113.7	0.6	-0.5	1.3	1.1
<b>CFMMI - Steel</b>	116.8	119.3	120.1	-1.4	2.2	0.6	5.0
<b>CFMMI - Machinery</b>	120.6	121.6	121.4	0.2	0.8	-0.2	7.5
<b>CFMMI - Resource</b>	106.6	107.8	108.1	0.7	1.1	0.3	3.2
<b>IPMFG</b>	112.8	113.8	113.9	0.4	0.9	0.1	4.5

*Note: Three of the seventeen industries in the CFMMI are not included in any of the four sectors above. These are Furniture and Related Products; Printing and Related Support Activities; Miscellaneous Manufacturing.*

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) is a monthly estimate of manufacturing output in the region by major industry. The Midwest is defined as the five states comprising the Seventh Federal Reserve District: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The CFMMI is a composite index of 15 manufacturing industries (identified by 3-digit NAICS codes) that uses hours worked data to measure monthly changes in regional activity. The CFMMI provides a regional comparison with the manufacturing component of the Industrial Production Index (IPMFG) compiled by the Federal Reserve Board. Although the IPMFG is constructed differently than the CFMMI, it also uses hours worked data as measures of industry output for about 60 percent of its total production index.

**CFMMI and IPMFG historical data are available on the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Web site at <http://www.chicagofed.org>.**