

News Release

Embargoed for release:
8:30 am Eastern Time
7:30 am Central Time
May 30, 2013

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What is the Midwest Economy Index?

The index is a weighted average of 129 state and regional indicators encompassing the entirety of the five states in the Seventh Federal Reserve District (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin). The index measures growth in nonfarm business activity based on indicators of four broad sectors of the Midwest economy: 1) manufacturing, 2) construction and mining, 3) services, and 4) consumer spending.

Why are there two index values?

Over long periods, growth in Midwest economic activity has tended to coincide with growth in national economic activity. However, over shorter periods of time this has not always been the case. To highlight such differences, we construct two separate index values. The MEI captures both national and regional factors driving Midwest growth, and the relative MEI provides a picture of Midwest growth conditions relative to those of the nation.

What do the index numbers mean?

A zero value for the MEI indicates that the Midwest economy is expanding at its historical trend rate of growth; positive values indicate above-average growth; and negative values indicate below-average growth. A zero value for the relative MEI indicates that the Midwest economy is growing at a rate historically consistent with the growth of the national economy; positive values indicate above-average relative growth; and negative values indicate below-average relative growth.

The next MEI will be released:
June 28, 2013
8:30 am Eastern Time
7:30 am Central Time

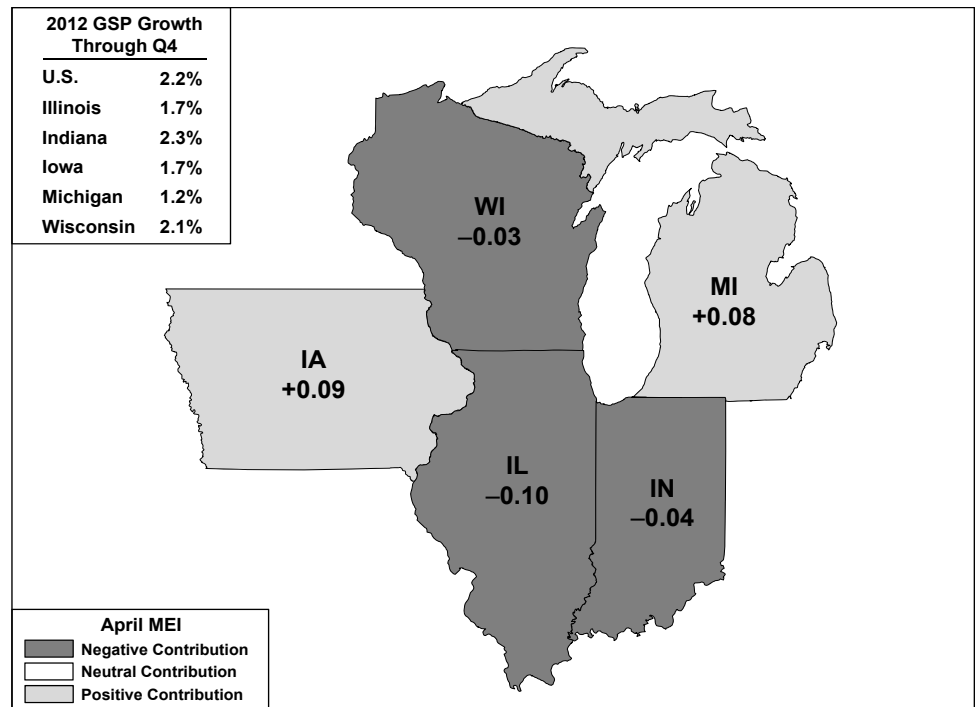
**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
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Midwest Economy Index

Index shows slower Midwest economic growth in April

The Midwest Economy Index (MEI) decreased to +0.03 in April from +0.25 in March, and the relative MEI declined to -0.21 in April from +0.10 in March. Significantly lower contributions from the Midwest's service sector led to declines in both indexes. April's value for the relative MEI indicates that Midwest economic growth was somewhat lower than would typically be suggested by the growth rate of the national economy.

MEI, GSP Growth, and the Seventh Federal Reserve District States



Notes: The map's shading summarizes the most recent contribution to growth in Midwest economic activity from each of the five states in the Seventh Federal Reserve District (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin). The values displayed in the table within the map are the year-to-date forecasts of annual growth in real gross state product (GSP) using data through the fourth quarter of 2012. U.S. GSP growth indicates year-to-date annual real gross domestic product growth over the same period.

Sectoral and Geographic Contributions to the MEI and Relative MEI

April 2013

MEI

	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Michigan	Wisconsin	Regional	
Manufacturing	-0.02	+0.01	+0.12	+0.03	+0.03	+0.02	+0.19
Construction	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.08
Services	-0.01	-0.03	-0.04	+0.04	-0.04	0.00	-0.07
Consumer	-0.04	-0.01	+0.03	+0.03	-0.02	0.00	-0.01
	-0.10	-0.04	+0.09	+0.08	-0.03	+0.01	+0.03

Relative MEI

	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Michigan	Wisconsin	Regional	
Manufacturing	-0.03	+0.01	+0.07	+0.02	+0.05	+0.01	+0.13
Construction	-0.01	0.00	-0.02	+0.01	+0.01	0.00	-0.02
Services	-0.03	-0.08	-0.12	+0.07	-0.12	0.00	-0.28
Consumer	-0.07	0.00	+0.02	+0.03	-0.02	0.00	-0.04
	-0.14	-0.08	-0.05	+0.12	-0.07	+0.01	-0.21

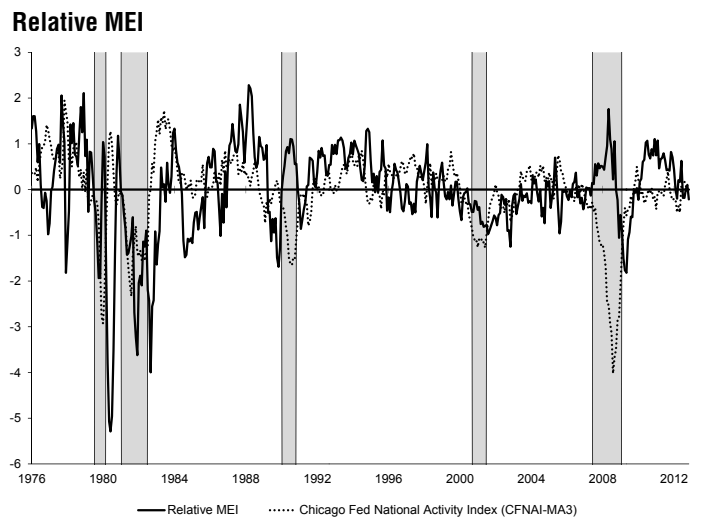
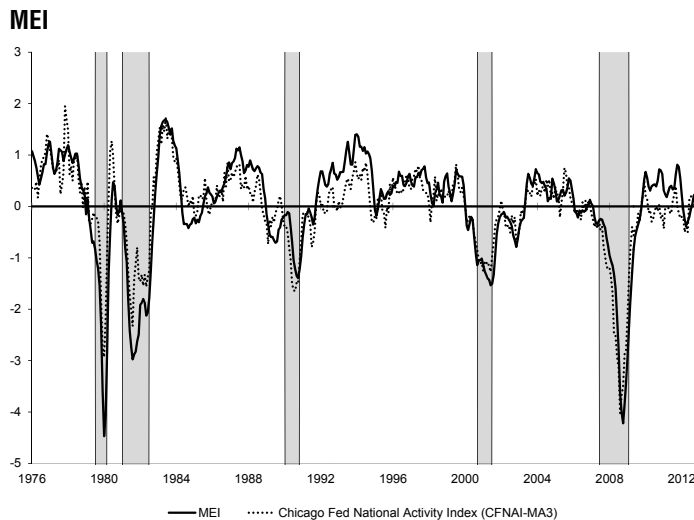
Notes: The table summarizes the most recent contribution to the MEI and relative MEI by sector and geography. The sectoral (rows) and geographic (columns) contributions may not sum to the index in each time period because of rounding. Manufacturing and construction and mining are composed of production and employment indicators. Services contains only employment indicators, while consumer spending contains employment, unemployment, per capita personal income, and home and retail sales indicators.

Manufacturing's contribution to the MEI edged down to +0.19 in April from +0.22 in March. The pace of manufacturing activity decreased in Illinois and Wisconsin, but increased in Iowa and Michigan and was unchanged in Indiana. Manufacturing's contribution to the relative MEI ticked down to +0.13 in April from +0.14 in March.

The construction and mining sector's contribution to the MEI decreased slightly to -0.08 in April from -0.07 in March. The pace of construction and mining activity decreased in Wisconsin, but increased in Indiana and was unchanged in Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan. Construction and mining's contribution to the relative MEI decreased to -0.02 in April from +0.02 in March.

The service sector contributed -0.07 to the MEI in April, down from +0.12 in March. The pace of service sector activity was lower in all five District states. The service sector's contribution to the relative MEI declined to -0.28 in April from +0.03 in March.

The contribution from consumer spending indicators to the MEI moved up slightly to -0.01 in April from -0.02 in March. Consumer spending indicators were, on balance, up in Iowa and Michigan, but down in Illinois and steady in Indiana and Wisconsin. Consumer spending's contribution to the relative MEI increased slightly to -0.04 in April from -0.08 in March.



Notes: Both the MEI and the CFNAI-MA3 have been standardized to have a zero mean and are expressed in standard deviation units. MEI values greater than zero indicate growth in Midwest economic activity above its historical trend, and CFNAI-MA3 values greater than zero indicate growth in national economic activity above its historical trend; negative values indicate the opposite. Shading indicates official periods of recession as identified by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Notes: Both the relative MEI and the CFNAI-MA3 have been standardized to have a zero mean and are expressed in standard deviation units. The relative MEI is constructed from the standardized residuals from linear regressions of each of the 129 MEI indicators on the CFNAI-MA3. Relative MEI values greater than zero indicate that growth in Midwest economic activity is higher on average than would typically be suggested based on the CFNAI-MA3; negative values indicate the opposite. Shading indicates official periods of recession as identified by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

2013 MEI Release Dates

<i>Date of Release</i>	<i>Monthly Data for</i>	<i>GSP Growth Forecasts through</i>
June 28, 2013	May 2013	2013:Q1
July 29, 2013	June 2013	
August 29, 2013	July 2013	
September 30, 2013	August 2013	2013:Q2
October 31, 2013	September 2013	
November 29, 2013	October 2013	
December 30, 2013	November 2013	2013:Q3

MEI historical data and background information are available at www.chicagofed.org/mei.