Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index

Midwest Manufacturing Output Falls in April

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) fell 0.8% in April, to a seasonally adjusted level of 98.1 (1997=100). Revised data show the index declined 0.4% to 98.9 in March. The Federal Reserve Board’s industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) was down 0.6% in April. April output in the region was 3.5% lower than a year earlier, while output in the nation was 0.9% below year-ago levels.

Output in all four CFMMI sub-sectors fell in April. Midwest steel sector output posted the largest decline, falling 1.9%, while output in the Midwest machinery sector dropped 0.7%. The resource sector’s output fell by 0.6% and regional auto sector output decreased 0.5%.

The region’s steel sector output decreased 1.9% in April while the nation’s steel output was down 1.1%. Regional steel output was 3.3% below its April 2002 level, compared with a 1.9% decrease in the nation.

Midwest machinery output fell 0.7% in April while the nation’s output increased 0.2%. Regional machinery output in April was 2.5% below year-earlier levels while national machinery output was up 1.6%.

The Midwest resource sector’s output declined 0.6% in April while the nation’s output fell 0.3%. April losses in regional paper, nonmetallic mineral products, and chemical production were offset somewhat by gains in wood and food production. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was 3.8% lower in April, while the nation’s resource output was down 0.8%.

Midwest automotive output fell 0.5% in April, a smaller decline than the 1.1% loss in the nation. Compared with a year earlier, Midwest automotive output was 4.4% lower in April while national output was down 1.1%.

— William A. Strauss • Senior Economist and Economic Advisor • 312-322-8151
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 electrical power and 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 electrical power and hours worked data as measures of industry output for about 60 percent of its total production index.

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 electrical power and 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 electrical power and hours worked data as measures of industry output for about 60 percent of its total production index.