

Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index

Midwest Manufacturing Output Rises in March

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) rose 0.9% in March, to a seasonally adjusted level of 117.0 (1997=100). Revised data show the index increased 1.7% in February, to 116.0. The Federal Reserve Board's industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) was up 0.1% in March. Regional output in March was 6.7% higher than a year earlier, a larger increase than the nation's 3.8%.

Output in three of the four CFMMI sub-sectors rose in March and the fourth sector's production was unchanged. Regional auto sector output posted the strongest gain, rising 1.8% in March. Output for Midwest machinery was up 0.7% in March. Midwest resource sector production gained 0.2% in March. Regional steel sector output in March was unchanged from its February level.

Midwest auto sector production rose 1.8% in March after increasing 1.9% in February. The nation's auto output was down 1.1% in March. Compared with a year earlier, Midwest automotive output was 12.6% higher in March while national output was up 4.3%.

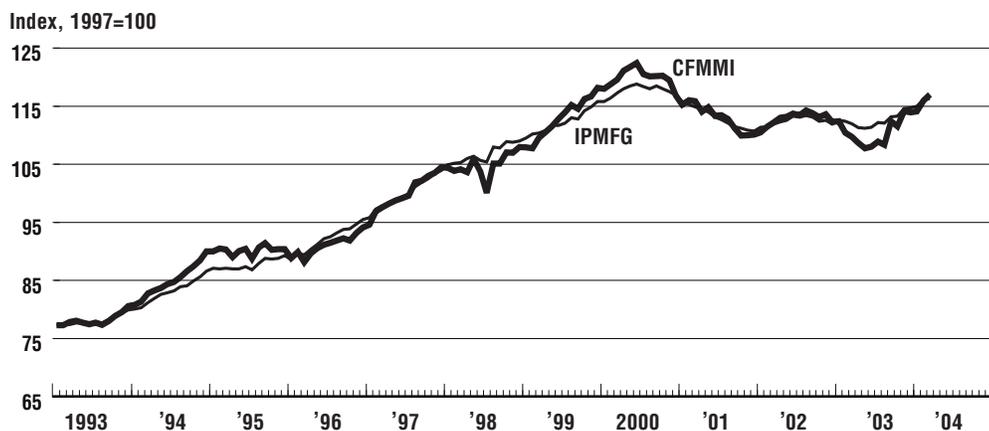
Midwest machinery sector output rose 0.7% in March after a very strong 2.4% increase in February. The nation's output increased at a similar 0.8% pace in March. Regional machinery output in March was 7.4% above year-earlier levels while national output was up 13.5%.

The Midwest resource sector's output was up 0.2% in March after rising 0.4% in February; the March advance matched the nation's gain. March increases in regional nonmetallic mineral, paper, and food production were offset slightly by a drop in wood and chemical production. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was up 0.4% in March while the nation's output was up 2.1%.

The region's steel sector output was unchanged in March, after a 2.2% increase in February. The nation's steel output was down a slight 0.1% in March. Regional steel output was 5.4% above its March 2003 level compared with a 2.6% increase in the nation.

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11:00 am Central Time
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**2004 Release Dates:
June 10
July 12
August 11
September 9
October 12
November 10
December 9**

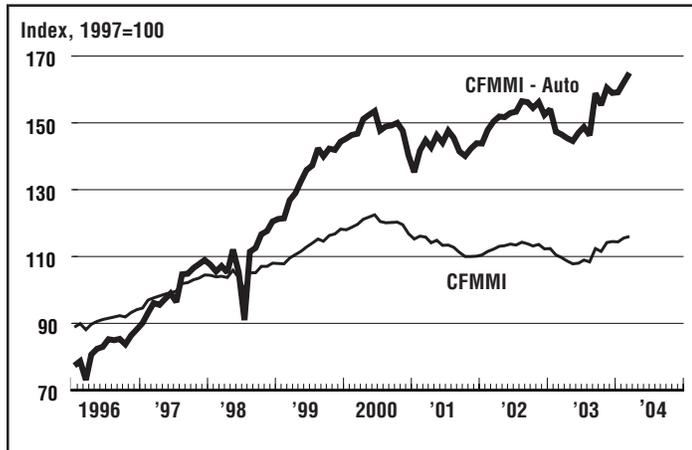
**The next CFMMI will be released:
June 10, 2004
Noon Eastern Time
11:00 am Central Time**

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Manufacturing output indexes—March	percent change from		
	1 month ago	3 months ago	1 year ago
Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI)	0.9	2.7	6.7
US Industrial Production-Manufacturing (IPMFG)	0.1	1.4	3.8

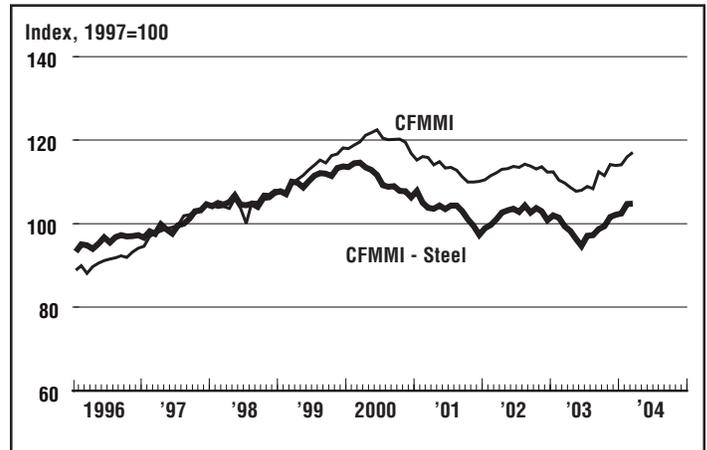
Tracking Midwest Manufacturing Activity by Sectors — March 2004

Auto Sector



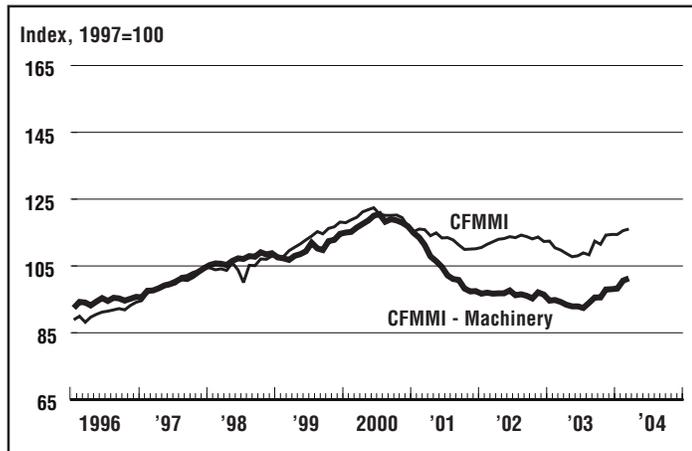
Auto Sector CFMMI Components:
Plastics and Rubber Products; Transportation Equipment

Steel Sector



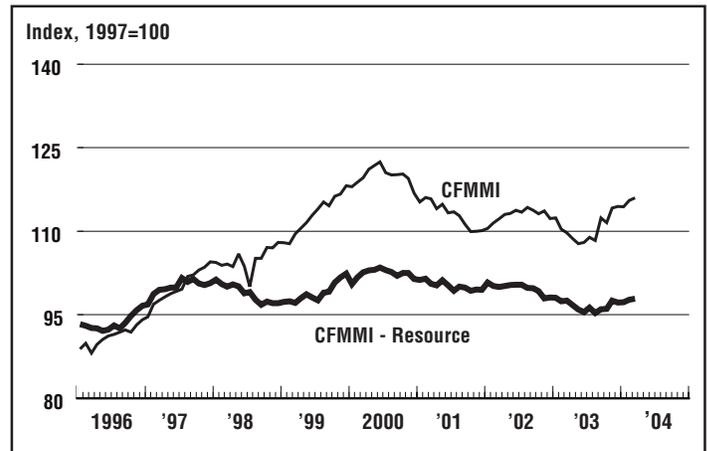
Steel Sector CFMMI Components:
Primary Metal Industries; Fabricated Metal Products

Machinery Sector



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

Resource Sector



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

Manufacturing Activity: Summary Table

	Index, 1992=100			Percent change			
	Jan 04	Feb 04	Mar 04	Monthly			Annual Mar 03–Mar 04
				Jan 04	Feb 04	Mar 04	
CFMMI	114.1	116.0	117.0	0.2	1.7	0.9	6.7
CFMMI - Auto	159.1	162.1	165.0	0.1	1.9	1.8	12.6
CFMMI - Steel	102.5	104.7	104.8	0.3	2.2	0.0	5.4
CFMMI - Machinery	98.3	100.6	101.2	0.2	2.4	0.7	7.4
CFMMI - Resource	97.3	97.7	97.9	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4
IPMFG	115.0	116.2	116.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	3.8

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 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.

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