The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index rose 0.5% in November, to a seasonally adjusted level of 105.0 (2002 = 100). Revised data show the index decreased 1.1% in October, to 104.5. The Federal Reserve Board’s industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) was also up 0.5% in November. Regional output in November was 1.3% higher than a year earlier, below the 2.5% increase in national output.

All four of the regional industry sectors increased in November:

- Regional auto sector production moved up 1.0%;
- Regional steel sector output increased 0.6%;
- Regional machinery sector rose 0.5%; and
- Regional resource sector ticked up 0.1%.

The Midwest’s auto sector production moved up 1.0% in November after falling 1.8% in October. The nation’s auto output rose 1.2% in November. The Midwest’s automotive output was up 1.3% in November relative to its year-ago value, while the nation’s auto output was up 3.4%.

The region’s steel sector output increased 0.6% in November after edging down 0.1% in October. The nation’s steel output was up 0.3% in November. Regional steel output was up 3.2% from its November 2006 level, while the national steel output increased 4.2%.

The Midwest’s machinery sector output rose 0.5% in November after falling 1.1% in October. The nation’s machinery output was up 1.6% in November. Regional machinery output in November was 0.8% above year-earlier levels, while national machinery output was up 6.1%.

The Midwest resource sector’s output ticked up 0.1% in November after decreasing 0.9% in October. Four of the five subsectors of the resource sector—nonmetallic minerals, food, paper, and wood production—decreased, while chemicals increased from October to November. The national resource sector’s output increased 0.2% in November. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was up 2.0% in November, which was the same as the increase in the national resource output.

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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.