The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) slipped 0.1% in September, to a seasonally adjusted level of 105.2 (2002 = 100). Revised data show the index declined 0.6% in August, to 105.4. The Federal Reserve Board’s industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) was unchanged in September. Regional output in September was 0.5% higher than a year earlier, below the 1.6% increase in national output.

Two of the four regional industry sectors decreased in September:
- Regional auto sector production declined 1.2%;
- Regional steel sector output decreased 0.3%;
- Regional resource sector output inched up 0.1%; and
- Regional machinery sector output rose 0.7%.

The Midwest’s auto sector production declined 1.2% in September after rising 0.5% in August. The nation’s auto output was also down 1.2% in September. The Midwest’s automotive output was unchanged in September relative to its year-ago value, while the nation’s auto output was up 2.5%.

The region’s steel sector output was down 0.3% in September after decreasing 0.9% in August. The nation’s steel output was up 0.6% in September. Regional steel output was up 0.3% from its September 2006 level, while the national steel output increased 1.7%.

The Midwest resource sector’s output edged up 0.1% in September after declining 1.0% in August. One of the five subsectors of the resource sector—chemicals—increased, while food was unchanged and nonmetallic minerals, paper, and wood production decreased from August to September. The national resource sector’s output increased 0.3% in September. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was up 1.8% in September, higher than the 1.3% increase in the national resource output.

The Midwest’s machinery sector output increased 0.7% in September after falling 1.1% in August. The nation’s machinery output was up 0.3% in September. Regional machinery output in September was 0.1% above year-earlier levels, while national machinery output was up 4.9%.

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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.