Midwest Manufacturing Output Increased in August

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) increased 1.5% in August, to a seasonally adjusted level of 96.7 (2007 = 100). Revised data show the index was down 0.7% in July. The Federal Reserve Board’s industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) moved up 0.7% in August. Regional output rose 4.0% in August from a year earlier, and national output increased 2.8%.

Production in three of the four regional sectors increased in August:

- Regional auto sector production rose 4.1%;
- Regional machinery sector production increased 0.8%;
- Regional resource sector output moved up 0.4%; and
- Regional steel sector output moved down 0.1%.

The region’s auto sector production rose 4.1% in August after falling 2.8% in July. The nation’s auto production increased 2.4% in August. Midwest automotive output was up 8.4% in August relative to its year-ago level, and national automotive output was up 4.8%.

The Midwest’s machinery sector production increased 0.8% in August after decreasing 0.4% in July. The nation’s machinery production increased 1.2% in August. Regional machinery output was up 1.5% in August from its year-ago level, while national machinery output was up 4.8%.

The Midwest resource sector’s output moved up 0.4% in August after increasing by the same percentage in July. The national resource sector’s output moved up 0.2% in August. Production in the regional resource sector’s food, wood, paper, and nonmetallic mineral subsectors increased from July to August, while production in its chemical subsector decreased. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was up 1.9% in August, and national resource output was up 1.2%.

The region’s steel sector output moved down 0.1% in August, following an increase of 1.3% in July. The nation’s steel output moved up 0.1% in August. Regional steel output was up 2.2% from its August 2012 level, and national steel output was up 1.6%.

— William A. Strauss • Senior Economist and Economic Advisor • 312-322-8151

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

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO
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 in the Seventh Federal Reserve District—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The CFMMI is a composite index of 15 manufacturing industries (identified by three-digit North American Industry Classification System 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% of its total.

CFMMI and IPMFG historical data are available on the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago’s website at www.chicagofed.org/cfmmi.