Midwest Manufacturing Output Increased in October

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) increased 0.4% in October, to a seasonally adjusted level of 97.4 (2007 = 100). Revised data show the index was up 0.3% in September. The Federal Reserve Board’s industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) moved up 0.3% in October. Regional output rose 5.7% in October from a year earlier, and national output increased 3.6%.

Production in two of the four regional sectors increased in October:
- Regional steel sector output increased 2.2%;
- Regional resource sector output moved up 0.3%;
- Regional auto sector production moved down 0.2%; and
- Regional machinery sector production decreased 0.4%.

The region’s steel sector output increased 2.2% in October, following a decrease of 0.4% in September. The nation’s steel output increased 1.0% in October. Regional steel output was up 5.9% from its October 2012 level, and national steel output was up 4.6%.

The Midwest resource sector’s output moved up 0.3% in October after decreasing 1.3% in September. The national resource sector’s output moved up 0.3% in October. Production in the regional resource sector’s food, wood, paper, and chemical subsectors increased from September to October, while production in its nonmetallic mineral subsector decreased.

Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was up 1.7% in October, and national resource output was up 1.2%.

The region’s auto sector production moved down 0.2% in October after increasing 1.2% in September. The nation’s auto production moved down 0.3% in October. Midwest automotive output was up 8.7% in October relative to its year-ago level, and national automotive output was up 5.5%.

The Midwest’s machinery sector production decreased 0.4% in October after increasing 1.6% in September. The nation’s machinery production increased 0.3% in October. Regional machinery output was up 4.5% in October from its year-ago level, and national machinery output was up 4.8%.

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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 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.