**Midwest Economy Index**

Index suggests Midwest growth decreased substantially in March

The Midwest Economy Index (MEI) fell to −1.02 in March from −0.16 in February. Contributions to the March MEI from three of the four broad sectors of nonfarm business activity and all five Seventh Federal Reserve District states decreased from February. The relative MEI increased to +0.26 in March from +0.02 in February. Contributions to the March relative MEI from two of the four sectors and three of the five states increased from February.

**MEI and the Seventh Federal Reserve District States**

![Map showing contributions to growth in Midwest economic activity from each of the five states in the Seventh Federal Reserve District (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin).]

**March MEI**

- Illinois: -0.12
- Indiana: -0.01
- Iowa: -0.07
- Michigan: -0.09
- Wisconsin: -0.05
- Regional: -0.33

**Relative MEI**

- Illinois: -0.12
- Indiana: +0.04
- Iowa: +0.01
- Michigan: +0.04
- Wisconsin: +0.06
- Regional: +0.17

**Notes:** The table summarizes the most recent contribution to the MEI and relative MEI by sector and geography. The sectoral (rows) and geographic (columns) contributions may not sum to the index in each time period because of rounding. Manufacturing and construction and mining are composed of production and employment indicators. Services contains only employment indicators, while consumer spending contains employment, unemployment, per capita personal income, and home and retail sales indicators.
The manufacturing sector’s contribution to the MEI decreased to –0.33 in March from –0.22 in February. The pace of manufacturing activity decreased in Iowa and Michigan, but was unchanged in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Manufacturing’s contribution to the relative MEI moved down to –0.25 in March from –0.16 in February.

The construction and mining sector contributed +0.05 to the MEI in March, up slightly from +0.03 in February. The pace of construction and mining activity was faster in Illinois and Wisconsin, but slower in Indiana and unchanged in Iowa and Michigan. Construction and mining’s contribution to the relative MEI moved up to +0.17 in March from +0.10 in February.

The service sector’s contribution to the MEI decreased to –0.07 in March from +0.04 in February. The pace of service sector activity was down in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin, but unchanged in Indiana. The service sector’s contribution to the relative MEI decreased to –0.01 in March from +0.08 in February.

Consumer spending indicators contributed –0.66 to the MEI in March, down from –0.01 in February. Consumer spending indicators were, on balance, down in all five states. Consumer spending’s contribution to the relative MEI rose to +0.35 in March from a neutral value in February.