

Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index

Midwest Manufacturing Output Rises in April

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**2007 Release Dates:
June 27, 2007
July 26, 2007
August 27, 2007
September 27, 2007
October 29, 2007
November 27, 2007
December 27, 2007**

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) rose 0.6% in April 2007, to a seasonally adjusted level of 104.9 (2002 = 100). Revised data show the index increased 0.8% in March, to 104.3. The Federal Reserve Board's industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) was up 0.5% in April. Regional output in April was 0.1% higher than a year earlier, below the 2.0% increase in national output.

Three of the four of the regional industry sectors increased in April, while the other sector decreased:

- Regional auto sector output moved up 2.0%;
- Regional machinery sector output increased 0.4%;
- Regional steel sector output edged up 0.3%; and
- Regional resource sector output decreased 0.5%.

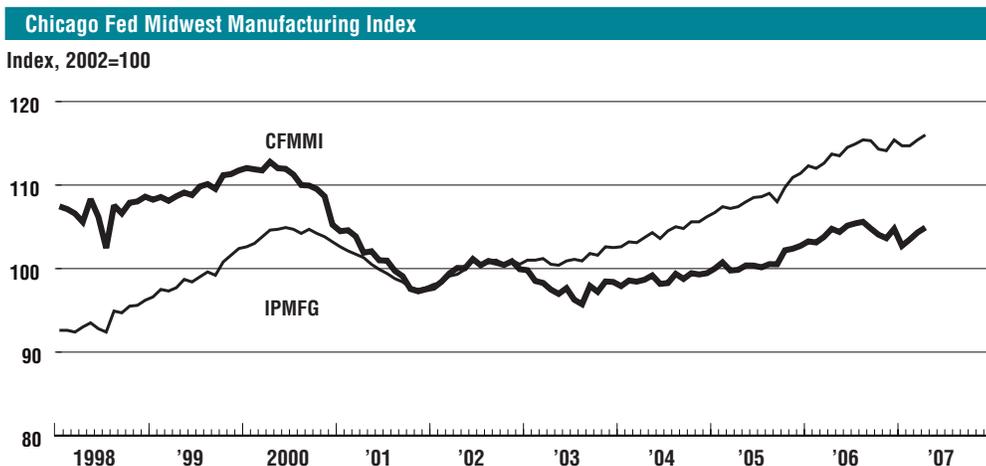
The Midwest's auto sector production moved up 2.0% in April after increasing 0.8% in March. The nation's auto output was also up 2.0% in April. Compared with a year earlier, the Midwest's automotive output was down 0.7%, while the nation's auto output was up 2.2%.

The Midwest's machinery sector output increased 0.4% in April after rising 1.1% in March. The nation's machinery output rose 1.4% in April. Regional machinery output in April was 0.8% above year-earlier levels, while national machinery output was up 8.5%.

The region's steel sector output rose 0.3% in April after rising 1.2% in March. The nation's steel output was also up 0.3% in April. Regional steel output was 1.2% above its April 2006 level, higher than the 0.6% decrease in the national steel output.

The Midwest resource sector's output was down 0.5% in April after increasing 0.4% in March. Two of the five subsectors of the resource sector—food and nonmetallic minerals production—decreased in April, while paper was unchanged, and the other two—wood production and chemicals production—increased. The nation's resource sector's output was down 0.2% in April. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was unchanged in April, while the national resource output was down 0.1%.

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



**The next CFMMI will be released:
June 27, 2007
Noon Eastern Time
11:00 am Central Time**

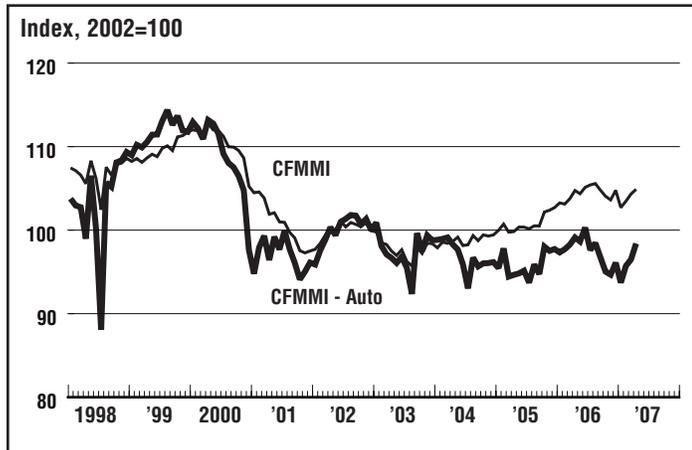
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Manufacturing output indexes—April

	percent change from		
	1 month ago	3 months ago	1 year ago
Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI)	0.6	2.1	0.1
US Industrial Production-Manufacturing (IPMFG)	0.5	1.1	2.0

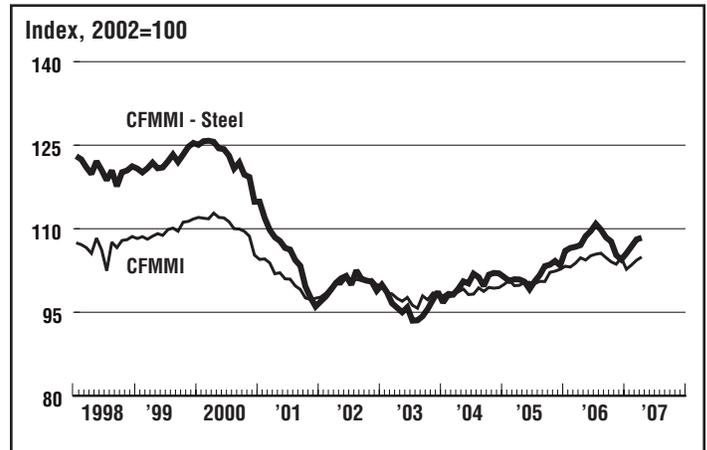
Tracking Midwest Manufacturing Activity by Sectors — April 2007

Auto Sector



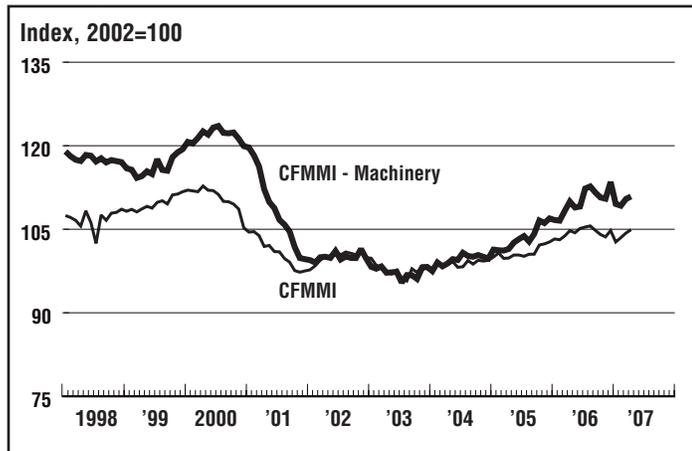
Auto Sector CFMMI Components:
Plastics and Rubber Products; Transportation Equipment

Steel Sector



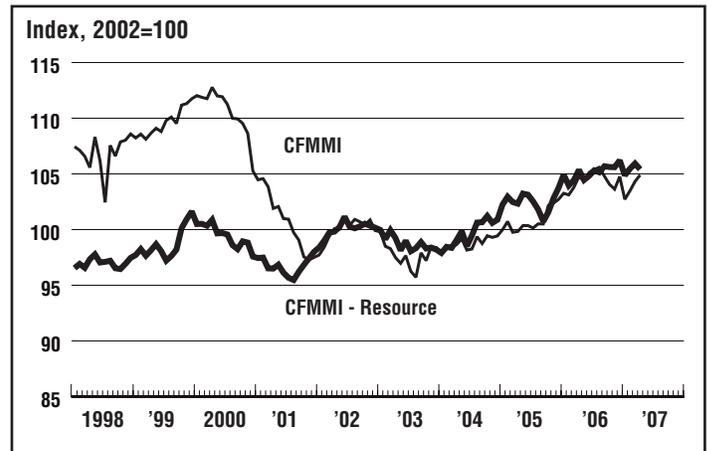
Steel Sector CFMMI Components:
Primary Metal Industries; Fabricated Metal Products

Machinery Sector



Machinery Sector CFMMI Components:
Machinery; Computer and Electronic Products; Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Components Manufacturing

Resource Sector



Resource Sector CFMMI Components:
Food; Wood Products; Paper; Chemicals; Nonmetallic Mineral Products

Manufacturing Activity: Summary Table

	Index, 2002=100			Percent change			
	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	Monthly			Annual Apr 06–Apr 07
				Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	
CFMMI	103.5	104.3	104.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.1
CFMMI - Auto	95.7	96.5	98.4	2.1	0.8	2.0	-0.7
CFMMI - Steel	106.8	108.1	108.4	1.2	1.2	0.3	1.2
CFMMI - Machinery	109.2	110.4	110.9	-0.3	1.1	0.4	0.8
CFMMI - Resource	105.5	105.9	105.4	0.6	0.4	-0.5	0.0
IPMFG	114.7	115.4	116.0	0.0	0.6	0.5	2.0

Note: One of the fifteen industries in the CFMMI is not included in any of the four sectors above. This industry is Miscellaneous Manufacturing.

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.

CFMMI and IPMFG historical data are available on the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Web site at <http://www.chicagofed.org>.