

# Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index

## Midwest Manufacturing Output Was Down in April

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) was down 1.1% in April, to a seasonally adjusted level of 81.0 (2002 = 100). Revised data show the index decreased 2.9% in March, to 81.8. The Federal Reserve Board's industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) edged down 0.2% in April. Regional output in April was down 22.7% from a year earlier—lower than the 14.3% decrease in national output.

Three of the four regional industry sectors decreased in April:

- Regional steel sector output declined 3.4%;
- Regional auto sector production moved down 2.0%;
- Regional machinery sector output decreased 1.8%; and
- Regional resource sector output rose 0.5%.

The region's steel sector output declined 3.4% in April after dropping 6.1% in March. The nation's steel output was down 1.8% in April. Regional steel output dropped 36.0% from its April 2008 level, and national steel output fell 25.3%.

Regional auto sector production moved down 2.0% in April after decreasing 0.8% in March. The nation's auto output was unchanged in April. The Midwest's automotive output was down 33.3% in April relative to its year-ago value, and the nation's auto output was down 19.3%.

The Midwest's machinery sector output decreased 1.8% in April after moving down 5.3% in March. The nation's machinery output edged down 0.4% in April. Regional machinery output in April was 24.7% below year-earlier levels, and national machinery output was down 16.7%.

The Midwest resource sector's output rose 0.5% in April after decreasing 1.9% in March. The national resource sector's output edged up 0.2% in April. Four of the five subsectors of the resource sector—food, paper, nonmetallic mineral, and wood production—increased from March to April, while chemical production edged down. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was down 10.7% in April, and the national resource output declined 8.6%.

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

**Embargoed for release:**  
**May 28, 2009**  
**Noon Eastern Time**  
**11:00 am Central Time**

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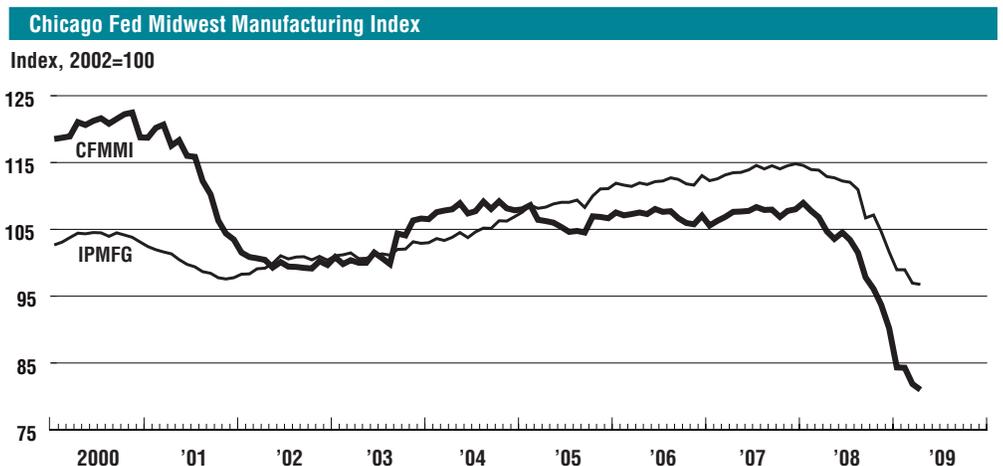
**Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**  
**230 South LaSalle Street**  
**Chicago, IL 60604**

**2009 Release Dates:**  
**June 29, 2009**  
**July 27, 2009**  
**August 24, 2009**  
**September 30, 2009**  
**October 26, 2009**  
**November 30, 2009**  
**December 28, 2009**

NOTE: The Chicago Fed's Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) has been revised due to changing availability of data.

**The next CFMMI will be released:**  
**June 29, 2009**  
**Noon Eastern Time**  
**11:00 am Central Time**

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK**  
**OF CHICAGO**

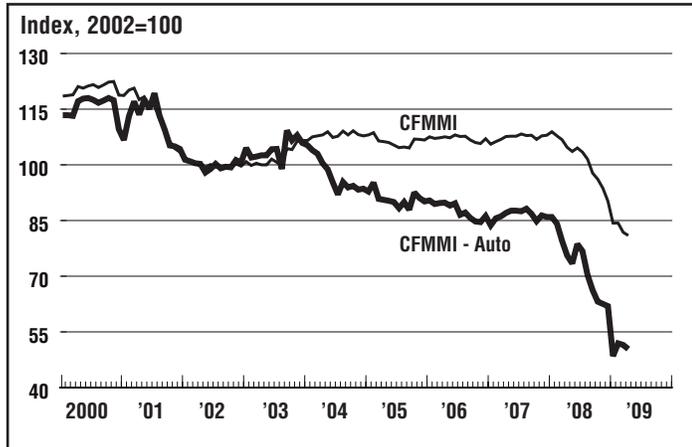


### Manufacturing output indexes—April

	percent change from		
	1 month ago	3 months ago	1 year ago
Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI)	-1.1	-4.0	-22.7
US Industrial Production-Manufacturing (IPMFG)	-0.2	-2.2	-14.3

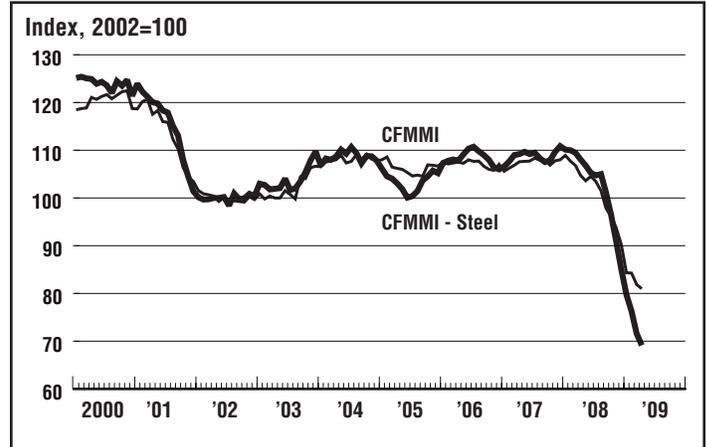
# Tracking Midwest Manufacturing Activity by Sectors — April 2009

## Auto Sector



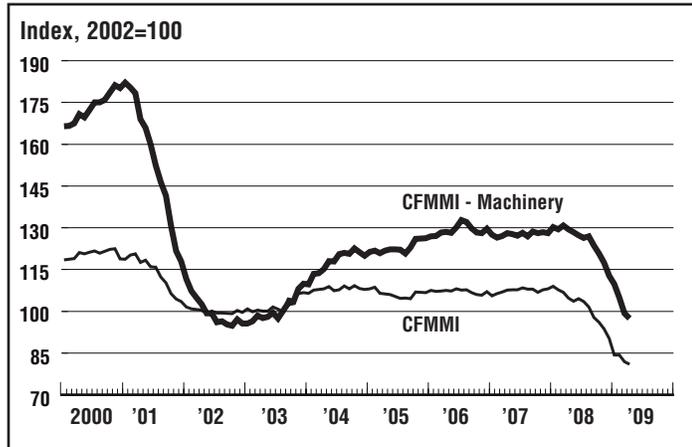
Auto Sector CFMMI Components:  
Plastics and Rubber Products; Transportation Equipment

## Steel Sector



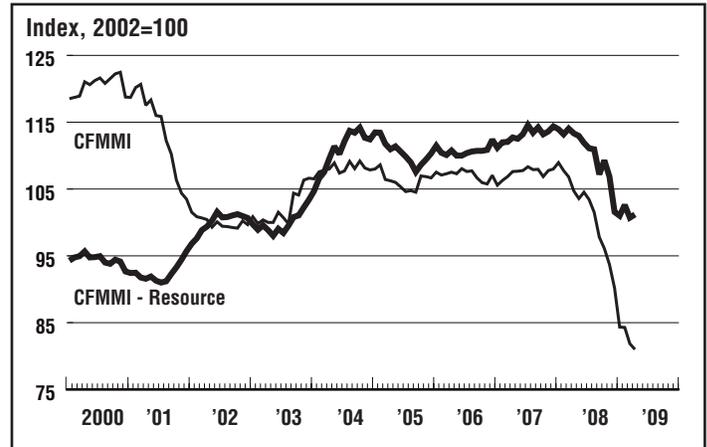
Steel Sector CFMMI Components:  
Primary Metal Industries; Fabricated Metal Products

## 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 09	Mar 09	Apr 09	Monthly			Annual Apr 08–Apr 09
				Feb 09	Mar 09	Apr 09	
CFMMI	84.3	81.8	81.0	0.0	-2.9	-1.1	-22.7
CFMMI - Auto	51.9	51.5	50.4	6.9	-0.8	-2.0	-33.3
CFMMI - Steel	76.3	71.6	69.2	-4.3	-6.1	-3.4	-36.0
CFMMI - Machinery	104.9	99.3	97.5	-4.4	-5.3	-1.8	-24.7
CFMMI - Resource	102.6	100.7	101.2	1.6	-1.9	0.5	-10.7
IPMFG	98.9	97.0	96.8	0.0	-2.0	-0.2	-14.3

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>.