

Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index

Midwest Manufacturing Output is Down in March

The Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI) decreased 0.7% in March, to a seasonally adjusted level of 107.6 (2002 = 100). Revised data show the index decreased 0.8% in February, to 108.4. The Federal Reserve Board's industrial production index for manufacturing (IPMFG) was unchanged in March. Regional output in March was 0.6% higher than a year earlier, below the 1.4% increase in national output.

Two of the four regional industry sectors decreased in March:

- Regional auto sector production declined 5.3%;
- Regional steel sector output decreased 0.2%;
- Regional machinery sector output rose 0.6%;
- Regional resource sector output increased 1.5%.

The Midwest's auto sector production moved down 5.3% in March after decreasing 1.5% in February. The nation's auto output was down 2.6% in March. The Midwest's automotive output was down 7.6% in March relative to its year-ago value, while the nation's auto output was down 2.0%.

The region's steel sector output edged down 0.2% in March after rising 0.4% in February. The nation's steel output was down 0.5% in March. Regional steel output was up 1.8% from its March 2007 level, while the national steel output increased 2.5%.

The Midwest's machinery sector output rose 0.6% in March after decreasing 0.3% in February. The nation's machinery output was up 1.4% in March. Regional machinery output in March was 2.9% above year-earlier levels, while national machinery output was up 11.2%.

The Midwest resource sector's output increased 1.5% in March after decreasing 0.8% in February. All five of the subsectors of the resource sector—food, paper, nonmetallic minerals, chemicals, and wood production—increased from February to March. The national resource sector's output was up 0.8% in March. Compared with a year ago, regional resource output was up 3.0% in March, and the national resource output increased 1.3%.

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

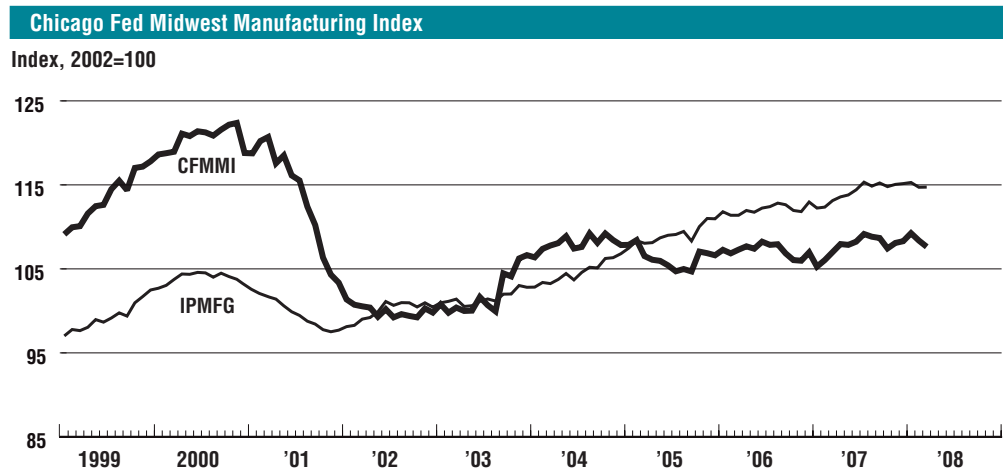
**Embargoed for release:
April 28, 2008
Noon Eastern Time
11:00 am Central Time**

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**2008 Release Dates:
May 27, 2008
June 26, 2008
July 28, 2008
August 27, 2008
September 29, 2008
October 27, 2008
November 26, 2008
December 29, 2008**

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



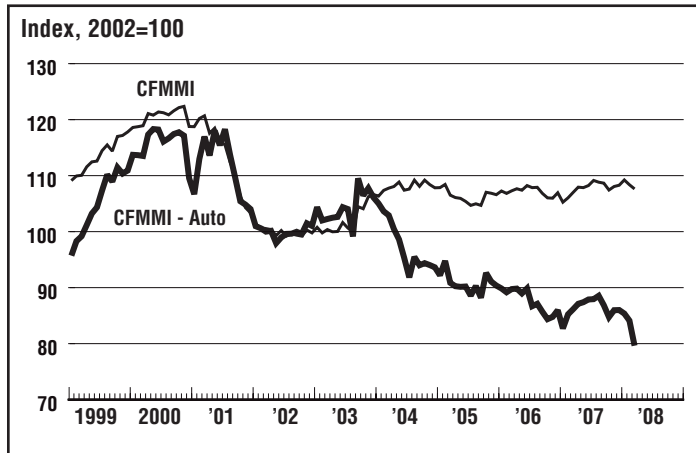
**The next CFMMI will be released:
May 27, 2008
Noon Eastern Time
11:00 am Central Time**

Manufacturing output indexes—March

	percent change from		
	1 month ago	3 months ago	1 year ago
Chicago Fed Midwest Manufacturing Index (CFMMI)	-0.7	-0.6	0.6
US Industrial Production-Manufacturing (IPMFG)	0.0	-0.4	1.4

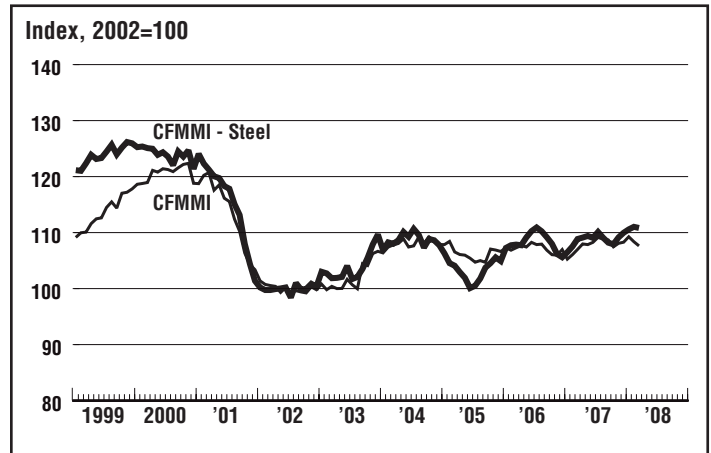
Tracking Midwest Manufacturing Activity by Sectors — March 2008

Auto Sector



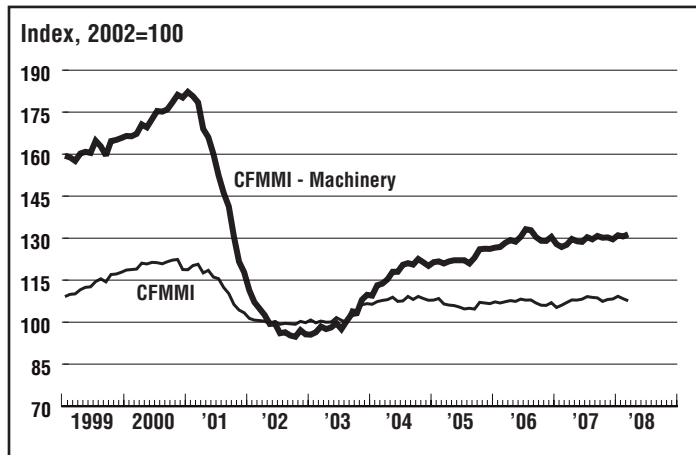
Auto Sector CFMMI Components:
Plastics and Rubber Products; Transportation Equipment

Steel Sector



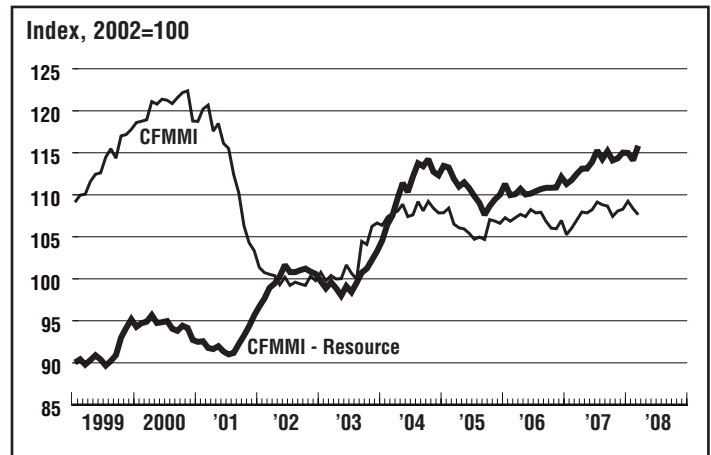
Steel Sector CFMMI Components:
Primary Metal Industries; Fabricated Metal Products

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			
	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Monthly		Annual	
				Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Mar 07-Mar 08
CFMMI	109.2	108.4	107.6	0.9	-0.8	-0.7	0.6
CFMMI - Auto	85.4	84.1	79.6	-0.7	-1.5	-5.3	-7.6
CFMMI - Steel	110.6	111.0	110.8	0.5	0.4	-0.2	1.8
CFMMI - Machinery	131.0	130.6	131.4	1.1	-0.3	0.6	2.9
CFMMI - Resource	115.0	114.1	115.8	0.0	-0.8	1.5	3.0
IPMFG	115.3	114.7	114.7	0.1	-0.5	0.0	1.4

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>.