



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brooks Mendell  
President & CEO, Forisk Consulting  
770.725.8447  
bmendell@forisk.com

### **North American Softwood Sawmill Capacity Increased by 1.4 Billion Board Feet Over the Past Year.**

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – May 19, 2021 – In a period of record lumber prices, Forisk’s North American Forest Industry Capacity Database (“Mill Database”) documents shifts in capacity across the U.S. and Canada. According to Shawn Baker, Forisk’s Vice President of Research, “Over the past twelve months, North American softwood sawmill capacity increased by 1.4 billion board feet. The U.S. South received the greatest proportion of the growth, 1.1 billion board feet, expanding southern softwood lumber capacity by almost 5%.” The Mill Database also provides an outlook on future activity. “The Q2 2021 database projects capacity through 2022 based on announced capital investments,” Dr. Baker said, “and we project another 1.6 billion board feet of capacity will come online in the second half of 2021.”

Forisk’s [North American Forest Industry Capacity Database](#) compiles mill capacity for softwood and hardwood lumber, structural panels (OSB and plywood), pulp, veneer, wood pellets, and chip mills by region across five North American geographies – U.S. North, U.S. South, U.S. West, Eastern Canada, and Western Canada. The underlying data, which is updated quarterly, includes mill-by-mill details for over 1,800 facilities, including location, mill type, wood use estimates, and species, with ownership and capacity data by year for 2009-2021 and estimates for 2022. The Q2 2021 release highlights changes to 77 mills in the database documented over the last three months and the addition of seven mills.

For more information or to subscribe to Forisk’s Mill Database, contact: Heather Clark, [hclark@forisk.com](mailto:hclark@forisk.com), 770.725.8447.

---

About Forisk Consulting: Forisk delivers forecasts and analysis of forest industry markets and timberland investments. Firms participate in Forisk’s research program by subscribing to the *Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ)*, *Forisk Wood Fiber Review*, *Forisk Market Bulletin*, or the North American Forest Industry Capacity Database; supporting benchmarking studies related to forest operations and mill capacities; and attending educational workshops and the annual “Wood Flows & Cash Flows” conference. [www.forisk.com](http://www.forisk.com).