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Canadian Wood Fiber Price Increases Outweighed by Price Decreases in the U.S. Pacific Northwest and Lake States

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – September 28, 2023 – North American wood fiber prices decreased 4% year-over-year through Q2 2023 according to the *Forisk Wood Fiber Review (FWFR)*. Tepid fiber demand from pulp and paper mills coupled with generally favorable logging conditions contributed to excess supplies and falling fiber prices throughout North America.

Canadian roundwood prices increased 15% year-over-year and chip prices rose 22% year-over-year. Softwood pulplogs in British Columbia and the Maritimes decreased 4% while increasing 6% in Eastern Ontario/Quebec for the quarter in U.S. dollars. Delivered softwood chip prices decreased or remained flat across Canada, with the largest decrease in the British Columbia region, down 17% for the quarter. “The industry is in a difficult supply situation, leading to higher costs and closures,” according to Vickie Swanton, Forisk’s Western Region Representative. “The sawmill sector continues to shed capacity, with some facilities reducing shifts or permanently closing. The outlook for pulp and paper mills is not much better, with additional news of curtailments or permanent closures.”

U.S. roundwood and chip prices fell around 4% and 7% year-over-year, respectively. U.S. South fiber prices fell year-over-year for all product types in the South Central and Southeast regions. Prices for the Northeast softwood roundwood and residual chips dropped 3% and 11%, respectively. “Pulp and paper mills continue to drive fiber markets across the South. With the closures or announced closures of four pulp and paper mills, suppliers are stuck in the difficult position of finding new homes for their products in an already tight market. The reduced demand bodes well for the survivors, as prices expect to continue decreasing.” noted Stephen Wright, Product Manager for the *FWFR*. “With logger health already an issue prior to recent mill closures, the decrease in fiber markets further pressures the future availability of logging capacity.”

Wood fiber costs account for over half of total pulp manufacturing cost worldwide. The *Forisk Wood Fiber Review* includes prices and market commentary for all major North American regions, providing essential data for anyone that needs to track pulpwood, wood chips, and biomass prices in the world’s largest and most dynamic wood fiber markets. The *FWFR* provides updates of softwood and hardwood prices for all major markets in North America. Prices are reported for wood delivered to consuming plants as a range and average price. Each report also updates U.S. and Canada trade statistics for lumber, logs, wood pellets, wood chips and pulp.

For more information or to subscribe to the [Forisk Wood Fiber Review](#), visit www.forisk.com or contact: Heather Clark, hsclark@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.