



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North America's Pulping Capacity Fell 9% Since 2010 as Lumber Capacity Grew 9%

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – August 18, 2020 – This year marks the end of a decade now book-ended by recessions. Forisk Consulting's database of wood-using mills in North America documents the divergent fortunes of forest industry sectors over the past ten years. Total lumber capacity in North America increased 9% from its nadir in 2010 following the Great Recession, propelled by a 45% increase in the U. S. South. In contrast, pulping capacity fell 9%, driven by declines exceeding 15% in the U.S. North and East Canada, as newsprint and printing and writing mills contracted.

Forisk's updated [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 1,600 facilities, including location, mill type, wood use estimates, and species, with ownership and capacity data by year for 2009-2020 and estimates for 2021.

The Q3 2020 release highlights changes to 131 mills in the database documented over the last three months and the addition of 195 mills from expanded coverage of the capacity and ownership timelines for veneer mills and U.S. chip mills. In the U.S. South, chip mills supply close to 20% of total pulpwood demand. In the West, they supply close to 30%. The current release also highlights mill-specific COVID-19 related capacity impacts in the third quarter.

For more information or to subscribe to Forisk's Mill Capacity Database, contact: Heather Clark, 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*, or 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.

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