



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Forisk tracking of forest industry mills and capital investments indicates net increases in wood use exceeding 40 million tons in the U.S. South, West, and North combined.**

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – August 30, 2023 – While some forest industry mills have closed, investments into new wood-using facilities and expansions of existing ones from 2021 and planned through 2026 indicate a net increase in wood use exceeding 40 million tons per year according to data from Forisk’s North American Forest Industry Capacity Database. “However,” notes Amanda Lang, Forisk’s VP of Client Services, “this growth varies significantly by U.S. region.” For example, in the U.S. South, 106 mills plan to open or expand, and 24 mills closed or plan to reduce wood use. The net change in the South is 37 million tons of wood demand, with openings and expansions adding 53 million tons, while closures and reductions removing 16 million tons of wood use. Most of the increase comes from sawmills and wood pellet plants. Closures at pulp/paper mills account for nearly 60% of the reductions.

“Tracking North America’s forest industry mill-by-mill helps us look past the headlines of mill closures and quantify actual changes on a local market basis,” says Dr. Shawn Baker, Forisk’s VP of Research. “The U.S. West is a good example.” While the region closed, or plans to close, nine mills from 2021 to 2025, the region is also opening or expanding 15 mills with a net wood use increase of 2.1 million tons. In the U.S. North, which includes the Lake States and New England, 16 mills plan to open or expand while five closed or reduced wood use for a net increase of 1.1 million tons.

Forisk’s [North American Forest Industry Capacity Database](#) (“Mill Capacity Database”) compiles mill capacity for softwood and hardwood lumber, structural panels (OSB and plywood), engineered wood products, 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 2,200 facilities, including location, mill type, wood use estimates, and species, with ownership and capacity data by year for 2011-2022 and estimates for 2023 and 2024. Forisk’s Mill Capacity Database is available as an annual subscription or as a one-time purchase.

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

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**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).