



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Quarter over quarter, the net change of sawmill closures and openings resulted in less than a 1% increase for North American lumber capacity.

ATHENS, GEORGIA – September 12, 2024 – Over the past quarter, Forisk updated 136 mills out of over 2,300 mills in the [North American Forest Industry Capacity Database](#) (“Mill Capacity Database”). The updates included 10 closures, 12 new mill startups or restarts, and 11 mills completing expansions. “Forisk’s team uses many sources to stay on top of forest industry news and provide real-time facility updates on our new digital platform,” remarked Dr. Shawn Baker.

“Forisk’s Mill Capacity Database had 48 lumber mills with updates over the quarter. For example, of the 10 closures mentioned earlier, 8 were lumber mills, resulting in a loss of 788 MMBF of capacity; however, 8 lumber mills began operating, resulting in an additional 765 MMBF of capacity” notes Pat Jolley, Product Manager of Forisk’s Mill Capacity Database. He explains, “The net change for the lumber sector including all updates over the period resulted in less than a 1% increase for North American lumber capacity.” Regionally over this time frame, Eastern Canada and the U.S. South gained over 1% of their respective capacity, the U.S. North and Western Canada were flat, while the U.S. West lost less than 1%. All sectors in the database combined grew by 0.33% or just over 3,000,000 tons for the quarter.

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, chip mills, and nonstructural panel mills by region across five North American geographies: U.S. North, U.S. South, U.S. West, Eastern Canada, and Western Canada. Updated quarterly, the database includes detailed information for over 2,300 facilities, including location, mill type, wood use estimates, and species. It also provides ownership and capacity data by year for 2013-2023, with estimates for 2024-2026. 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:
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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*, or the North American Forest Industry Capacity Database; supporting benchmarking studies related to forest operations and mill capacities; and attending educational workshops. www.forisk.com.