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Forisk Consulting, LLC
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Southern US Sawmills Expand While Canadian Sawmills Close

North American softwood lumber production rose 1% in Q1 2026 but fell 4% year-over-year according to WWPA. Forisk tracks over 2,350 forest industry mills, including planned capacity changes, to publish the [North American Forest Industry Capacity Database](#) ("Mill Capacity Database") and generates industry research and projections in the [Forisk Research Quarterly](#). Several mills opened in the US South, and lumber manufacturers in the US North and West are investing. Canadian sawmill closures continue.

"Sawmills in the US South plan to add 2.1 billion board feet of lumber production capacity from 2026 to 2028, net of closures," says Amanda Lang, President and COO of Forisk Consulting. "Meanwhile, Canadian sawmills continue to close, removing 1.7 billion board feet of lumber production capacity in 2025 and 2026 combined."

Sawmill Activity in the US South

Harrigan Lumber restarted a second shift in Monroeville, AL. **Rex Lumber** completed a rebuild of the Brookhaven, MS sawmill, increasing capacity by 25 MMBF. **The Lumber Manufactory** plans a second sawmill in Colbert County, AL. **Olla Hardwoods** purchased and restarted the former Hunt FP Olla hardwood sawmill in LA. **Pine Plantation Products** in Metcalfe, GA and **Doman Estill** in Estill, SC started up.

Update for US North, US West, and Canada

The Robbins family plans to rebuild the **Robbins Lumber** Seasmont, ME sawmill after a fire that killed three people and injured twelve people. **J.D. Irving** installed a robotic shavings bagging system at the Dixfield, ME sawmill. **J.D. Irving** plans to double the capacity of the Ashland, ME sawmill from 130 MMBF to 250 MMBF. **Tahoe Forest Products** plans to rebuild the sawmill in Carson City, NV by 2027. **Patrick Lumber** completed the sawmill expansion in Philomath, OR earlier this year by adding two continuous dry kilns and optimizing loading processes.

In Canada, **Carrier Forest Products** will indefinitely curtail operations at their Big River, SK sawmill on October 16, 2026. **Western Forest Products** curtailed the Cowichan Bay, BC sawmill on May 11, 2026 and extended the curtailment until at least September. **Interfor** added a second shift to the Grand Forks, BC sawmill. In addition, **Canfor** will permanently close the Fox Creek sawmill in Alberta.

Figure. North American Sawmill Project Updates, Q3 2026



North American Sawmill Project Updates, Q3 2026					
Mill Name	State/ Province	Region	Mill Change	Capacity Change	Capacity Units
Rex Lumber Brookhaven	MS	US South	Capacity Increase	25	MMBF
Harrigan Lumber	AL	US South	Capacity Increase	125	MMBF
TLM Muscle Shoals	AL	US South	New Facility	40	MMBF
Olla Hardwoods	LA	US South	Reopening	11	MMBF
J.D. Irving Dixfield	ME	US North	Investment	0	MMBF
J.D. Irving Ashland	ME	US North	Capacity Increase	120	MMBF
Robbins Lumber Searsmont	ME	US North	New Facility	30	MMBF
Tahoe Forest Products	NV	US West	Reopening	60	MMBF
Carrier Lumber Big River	SK	East Canada	Closing	-250	MMBF
Western FP Cowichan Bay	BC	West Canada	Closing	-140	MMBF
Interfor Grand Forks	BC	West Canada	Capacity Increase	82	MMBF
Canfor Fox Creek	AB	West Canada	Closing	-120	MMBF

Data source: Forisk North American Mill Capacity Database

Each quarter, Forisk Consulting compiles data on mill activity through its ongoing tracking of wood-using facilities as part of Forisk's [North American Mill Capacity Database](#), a database of over 2,350 wood-using mills in North America. Mill updates are published in each quarter in the [Forisk Research Quarterly \(FRQ\)](#).

About the Mill Capacity Database

Forisk's [North American Mill Capacity Database](#) provides forest industry stakeholders with detailed capacity, ownership, and wood-use data for wood-using mills across North America. The database supports strategic planning, competitive benchmarking, investment analysis, and supply chain assessment. For more information, visit www.forisk.com or contact Nick DiLuzio at ndiluzio@forisk.com.