

TOP STORIES

Trade Court Orders Two Chinese Plywood Exporters Kept Out of the 2018 Duty Order

The US Court of International Trade on October 5 ordered the Commerce Department to keep two Chinese hardwood plywood exporters, Xuzhou Jiangyang Wood Industries and Zhejiang Dehua TB Import & Export, out of the January 2018 antidumping duty order on hardwood plywood from China. Neither company may be assessed an antidumping margin. Judge Jennifer Choe-Groves denied the government's request for more time to calculate individual rates for the pair. Commerce had excluded both at zero in an earlier remand, after they submitted full records as voluntary respondents. The trade court sustained that result in 2023. The Federal Circuit affirmed it this year. The court held the question settled and said reopening the record would not be in accordance with law. Commerce's remand redetermination is due October 26, with comments due November 9 and November 23. In the newer cases on hardwood and decorative plywood from China, Indonesia and Vietnam, Commerce had not published duty orders in the Federal Register as of October 8.

Two Quebec Sawmills Move Toward Restart

Produits forestiers Petit Paris plans to restart its sawmill at Saint-Ludger-de-Milot, in Quebec's Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, in mid-October after nearly two years down, according to a report Tuesday. Stephane Gagnon, who heads the Petit Paris forestry cooperative, confirmed about 20 hires. The restart will be gradual. The town's mayor said resuming production is also needed to keep the mill's wood supply guarantee. The complex has run since 1989 and has two sawing lines, dry kilns and planing equipment. On the North Shore, Domtar is working on a plan that could restart harvesting and its Outardes sawmill, according to a report Monday. The plan would move harvesting south, closer to the mill. Domtar said the current Outardes harvest area is not economically viable. It requires regulatory steps and consultation with the Pessamit Innu, whose council is reviewing the company's requests. Roads and camps must be built before winter, or harvesting could slip to late spring 2027. Domtar puts the mill's capacity at 189 million board feet a year. It said in July the mill would stop indefinitely this fall unless conditions improved. Domtar has not confirmed a restart date.

BLM Sold About 121 Million Board Feet of Timber in the Third Quarter

The Bureau of Land Management said October 7 that it sold about 121 million board feet of timber across 5,300 acres in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Idaho in July, August and September. The sales brought in \$29.8 million. The agency plans nine sales in October offering about 46 million board feet on more than 1,200 acres. The bureau manages 58 million acres of forest and woodland, including 2.4 million acres in western Oregon.

WHAT YOU MISSED YESTERDAY

Wednesday, October 7 — business, markets, and the broader economy.

- US stocks fell Wednesday. The S&P 500 lost 17.16 points, or 0.22 percent, to 7,801.77. The Dow fell 341.41 points, or 0.66 percent, to 51,179.87. The Nasdaq Composite slipped 0.22 percent.
- The 10-year Treasury par yield rose 1 basis point to 5.28 percent, and the 2-year fell 2 basis points to 4.77 percent. The Treasury sold \$39 billion of 10-year notes at a high yield of 5.300 percent, with a bid-to-cover ratio of 2.77.
- Minutes of the Federal Reserve's September 15-16 meeting, released Wednesday, said most participants judged that another increase in the federal funds target range would likely be appropriate by year end. The committee voted 12-0 at that meeting to raise the range to 3.75 to 4 percent. Several participants described the current rate as not restrictive or only mildly restrictive. The minutes described financing conditions as somewhat restrictive for residential mortgage borrowers.
- US commercial crude inventories fell 3.2 million barrels to 424.1 million in the week ended October 2, the Energy Information Administration reported Wednesday. November WTI settled at \$88.28 a barrel, down \$1.16, and December Brent fell 38 cents to \$100.20.
- US consumer credit grew at a 1.9 percent annual rate in August, the Federal Reserve reported Wednesday. Revolving credit fell at a 4.2 percent rate, or \$4.8 billion, to \$1,352.4 billion. Nonrevolving credit grew at a 4.1 percent rate.

INDUSTRY & COMPANY NEWS

- **The US Lumber Coalition**, the US petitioner, said Wednesday that a binational panel under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has issued its final ruling in the appeal of Commerce's countervailing duty investigation of Canadian softwood lumber. Canada's foreign affairs department has confirmed the panel upheld Commerce's revised determination, according to a trade report Thursday. The panel's previous decision, published in the Federal Register March 11, affirmed Commerce in part and sent other issues back to the department.

- **Corbets Group** of Gympie, Queensland, is preparing a development application for site works on a laminated veneer lumber (LVL) plant using plantation hoop pine, according to a trade report Wednesday. The plant would sit at the former Monkland particleboard plant, which closed earlier this year. It would make LVL beams, lintels and joists and burn mill residues on site for energy and steam. Trial LVL was made under contract in Shuyang, China. Early site works are targeted for 2027, subject to approvals. The company has not disclosed capital cost, capacity or jobs.
- **Mozambique's** processed timber exports rose to 24,648 cubic meters in the first half of 2026 from 5,995 cubic meters a year earlier, on government figures reported Monday. Veneer accounted for 22,460 cubic meters, up from none. Sawn board exports fell 80 percent to 1,119 cubic meters, and furniture fell 62 percent to 128 cubic meters. China, Mauritius, Vietnam and South Africa were the main buyers.
- **ABC Supply** said this week that chief information officer Tony Vaden will retire January 1, 2027. Larry Sullivan, its vice president of information technology for software, data and digital transformation, will succeed him. Sullivan joined the company in 2017.
- **Wildfire status.** Thursday morning's national situation report held the national and Northwest preparedness levels at 2, with no new Northwest fires reported. Northwest personnel fell by 71 to 1,320. The Little Giant Fire on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Washington, where 40 structures were lost, was 93 percent contained. The Grasshopper Fire southwest of Dufur, Oregon, where 33 structures were lost, was 98 percent contained. The Sisi Fire near Stehekin was 29 percent contained with residences threatened.

■ DEEP DIVE: THE SEVENTH REVIEW

A Final Due by Mid-October

Commerce published preliminary results of its seventh administrative review of the softwood lumber duty orders on Canada in the Federal Register on April 14. The review covers shipments made from January 1 to December 31, 2024. The countervailing duty notice set a 120-day target for final results, which passed in mid-August. British Columbia's government expects them in October. A full 180-day extension from the April publication runs out in mid-October. As of October 8, no final results had appeared in the Federal Register. Commerce revised the countervailing side on June 30 with post-preliminary results that supersede the April figures. Until the finals publish, deposits stay at the sixth review's rates, including the all-others rate of 35.16 percent. The separate 10 percent Section 232 duty applies on top. The sixth review's finals took effect in two steps: antidumping on July 29, 2025, countervailing on August 12.

Ten Points Off the Border Rate

If the finals match the June figures, the all-others deposit falls to 25.18 percent from 35.16 percent: 10.66 percent antidumping and 14.52 percent countervailing. With the Section 232 duty, the total charge at the border would drop to 35.18 percent from 45.16 percent. Antidumping supplies 9.87 points of the cut, falling from 20.53 percent. Countervailing slips 0.11 point from 14.63 percent. Canfor's rate would fall to 31.37 percent from 47.59 percent and West Fraser's to 20.92 percent from 26.47 percent. Resolute's would be 25.49 percent. The all-others final rate rose in each of the last two reviews, to 14.40 percent and then 35.16 percent. A final at 25.18 percent would be the first decline since the fourth review in 2023. Finals have moved from the preliminary figures before. In the third review, the all-others total fell to 8.59 percent at the final from 11.64 percent. In the sixth, it rose to 35.19 percent from 34.45 percent.

The Bill for 2024 Shipments

The final rates also settle what 2024 entries owe. The all-others deposit rate was 8.05 percent until August 19, 2024, when it rose to 14.54 percent, later amended to 14.40 percent. The difference is collected with interest when the entries are finally assessed. Western Forest Products said its 2024 shipments carried weighted-average rates of 3.62 percent countervailing and 6.78 percent antidumping. If the final rates match, it expects a non-cash expense of US\$26.6 million plus accrued interest of about US\$5.5 million. Interfor expects a non-cash charge of about US\$76.0 million including interest in the second half of 2026, based on the preliminary all-others rate. West Fraser said in April it expected to record a US\$73 million non-cash charge in the first quarter. The charge covers 2024 countervailing duties the company had expensed at 2.19 and 6.85 percent, against a 15.93 percent preliminary rate. The US Lumber Coalition said in April that the preliminary results left Canadian producers owing about US\$173 million on top of US\$6.8 billion paid through 2024.

Older Money and the Next Review

Interfor received refunds of US\$4.6 million in the second quarter and US\$1.0 million in July as antidumping deposits from the 2017 gap period, August 26 to December 27, were liquidated. West Fraser said in April it expected a US\$15 million refund from the first review in 2026. The eighth review, covering 2025 shipments, began in March. Western Forest Products has kept its Cowichan Bay sawmill curtailed for the rest of 2026, citing weak markets and high duties and tariffs.

■ MARKETS & LABOR SNAPSHOT

INDICATOR	VALUE	TREND
Initial jobless claims, week to October 3	197,000	Down 2,000 from a revised 199,000; four-week average 198,000
Washington insured unemployment rate, week to September 19	1.8%	Second highest among states, behind New Jersey at 2.0%; Oregon 1.5%
Oregon initial claims, week to October 3 (advance, unadjusted)	4,512	Up 779 on the week; Washington 4,814, up 280
30-year Treasury par yield, October 7	5.67%	Up 3 basis points; 20-year at 5.71%
US dollar in Canadian dollars, October 7	C\$1.4257	From C\$1.4226; Canadian dollar weaker
Euro in Canadian dollars, October 7	C\$1.5953	From C\$1.6017

■ ON DECK

Tue, Oct 13	Comments on proposed PS 2-25, the revised voluntary product standard for wood structural panels, are due to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
Wed, Oct 14	- Statistics Canada publishes August building permits at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. - The federal weekly retail diesel survey is released a day later than usual because of Monday's holiday.
Thu, Oct 15	- September US producer prices, including softwood lumber, hardwood lumber and millwork, are due at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. - Statistics Canada publishes August manufacturing sales at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. - EU Implementing Regulation 2026/1565, which changes how due diligence statements under the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) are filed, enters into force.
Fri, Oct 16	- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports September housing starts. - Advance voting opens in British Columbia's provincial election and runs through October 21.
Mon, Oct 19	- Bids open at 2 p.m. on the Oregon Department of Forestry's Lone Corndog sale on the Sun Pass State Forest: 1,323 MBF of ponderosa pine at a \$28.11 minimum and 821 MBF of white fir at \$113.13. - The October builder confidence index is due at 10 a.m. Eastern.
Tue, Oct 20	- September US housing starts and permits are due at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. - Bids are scheduled to open on the Shelter Cove timber sale, about 4 million board feet, on the Tongass National Forest near Ketchikan, Alaska.
Thu, Oct 22	Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies releases its quarterly remodeling activity forecast.