

TOP STORIES

Trade Panel Sends Part of the First Softwood Duty Review Back to Commerce

A binational panel under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) on October 8 affirmed in part and remanded in part the Commerce Department's final results of the first countervailing duty administrative review on Canadian softwood lumber, which covered 2017 and 2018 entries. Commerce published those results December 1, 2020, and Canada, several provinces, industry groups and producers sought panel review that month. The panel's notice, filed for public inspection Tuesday and scheduled for Federal Register publication October 14, does not say which issues went back to Commerce or set a remand deadline. A separate panel under the North American Free Trade Agreement affirmed Commerce's second remand in the original countervailing duty investigation on October 5; its notice published Tuesday. Final results of the seventh administrative reviews, covering 2024 entries, had not appeared in the Federal Register as of Tuesday morning.

El Paso Wood Products Acquires Pinecrest, the Door Line It Has Built Since 1978

El Paso Wood Products, a Texas maker of entry and passage doors, has acquired Pinecrest Inc., a door and architectural millwork company in Nisswa, Minnesota, according to a joint statement to customers reported Monday. Terms were not disclosed. El Paso Wood Products, founded in 1975, has manufactured Pinecrest's products since 1978. Francisco Fernandez, president and chief executive of El Paso Wood Products, becomes president and owner of Pinecrest. The companies said the combined line will offer more wood species and grades, along with hardware from Emtek, Rocky Mountain Hardware, FritsJurgens and Tectus.

Most Union Workers Return to Nippon Dynawave's Longview Mill

Most union members at Nippon Dynawave Packaging's mill in Longview, Washington, returned to work Monday, nearly five months after the May 26 white-liquor tank failure that killed 11 workers, according to the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers. As of Monday the mill was not yet running at full capacity. The union's Washington area representative said employees not yet scheduled to return will keep receiving pay through January 17.

WHAT YOU MISSED YESTERDAY

Monday, October 12 — business, markets, and the broader economy.

- The S&P 500 slipped 4.30 points, or 0.06 percent, to 7,807.24 on Monday. The Dow rose 195.60 points, or 0.38 percent, to 51,850.55. The Nasdaq Composite fell 120.27 points, or 0.44 percent, to 27,245.90. Salesforce gained 2.1 percent after Bank of America upgraded it to buy from underperform.
- The bond market was closed Monday for Columbus Day, and the Treasury published no yield curve. The 10-year par yield finished last week at 5.24 percent, 7 basis points below its October 5 close. Canadian markets were closed for Thanksgiving.
- Japan's producer price index fell 0.3 percent in September and was 6.8 percent above a year earlier, down from a 7.6 percent annual rate in August, the Bank of Japan reported Tuesday, Tokyo time.
- Before Tuesday's open, JPMorganChase reported third-quarter net income of \$15.3 billion, or \$5.57 a share; earnings per share rose 10 percent. Reported revenue rose 8 percent to \$50.2 billion, and markets revenue rose 15 percent to \$10.3 billion. Home lending revenue fell 3 percent on lower production revenue.
- IonQ announced Monday an agreement to buy Elisity, a zero-trust security company, in an all-stock deal valued at up to \$1.3 billion, including up to \$150 million in earnout payments. IonQ expects the deal to close in the fourth quarter.

INDUSTRY & COMPANY NEWS

- **Windmöller**, the Detmold, Germany, maker of wineo floor coverings and acoustic products, is restructuring under a court-supervised protective-shield proceeding. The company said Monday that the Detmold local court approved the self-administered process by order dated October 9. Operations continue, and wages for about 280 employees are secured for now. The company cited a sharp drop in sales to the flooring retail trade over the past three months. It has annual revenue of about 83 million euros and subsidiaries in Poland and the United States.
- **Mercer International** halted the restart of its Rosenthal kraft pulp mill in Germany on October 1 after a report of discoloration near the mill's wastewater discharge point, the company said October 6. The restart followed a four-week maintenance shutdown. The mill stopped discharging and held wastewater in its own basins. District authorities issued a temporary swimming ban on the southern part of the Bleiloch Reservoir. Discharge into the Saale River resumed gradually on October 3, and the company said preparations were under way to resume pulp production. Rosenthal can make 360,000 metric tons of pulp a year.

- **European hardwood logs** shipped outside the European Union were worth 165.6 million euros from May through July, up from 142.0 million euros a year earlier, according to a trade analysis Monday of EU statistics office data. China took 90.6 million euros, up from 71.3 million, including 67.6 million euros of oak logs. Through July, extra-EU hardwood log exports totaled 488.6 million euros, against 437.0 million a year earlier. The same analysis put China's purchases of US hardwood logs at \$261.8 million from January through July, down from \$433.7 million in the same months of 2024.
- **Vietnam's** wood and wood product exports reached about US\$13.4 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 7.3 percent, on Ministry of Agriculture and Environment figures reported Saturday. September exports were US\$1.62 billion. Plantation timber harvest rose 5.3 percent to 18.9 million cubic meters over the same nine months.
- **New South Wales** introduced a bill Tuesday to create the Great Koala National Park on the state's Mid North Coast by transferring all or part of more than 40 state forests out of timber production. Parliament can pass the bill now, but the park's creation remains conditional on federal registration of its carbon project. A harvesting moratorium has applied to the area since September 2025.
- **Wildfire status.** Tuesday morning's national situation report held the Northwest preparedness level at 1 and the national level at 2. Northwest personnel fell by 145 to 920. Command of the Little Giant Fire in Washington, 172,906 acres and 95 percent contained with 40 structures lost, passes from an incident management team back to the local unit Tuesday. The Sisi Fire, also in Washington, grew 155 acres to 4,594 and was 34 percent contained with residences threatened.
- **Correction.** The October 7 and 8 editions said EU Implementing Regulation 2026/1565, on deforestation-rule due diligence statements, enters into force October 15. It entered into force July 17. One provision applies from October 15: due diligence statements go to the authorities of the member state where the operator is established or, for operators outside the EU, the member state linked to the operator's identifier in the EU system.

■ DEEP DIVE: THE SPOKANE REBUILD

649 Primary Residences in Four Counties

Washington's preliminary damage assessment, done with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and released by the governor's office September 28, counts 649 primary residences destroyed by the summer's fires in Benton, Okanogan, Spokane and Stevens counties and on the Spokane Indian Reservation, with 2,542 more homes damaged. Spokane County, where three fires started August 1, accounts for 615 of the destroyed residences. City officials said Monday that the City of Spokane lost 501 single-family homes. The count covers primary residences only; the 812 figure reported in August counted all structures lost. The Spokane County assessor has estimated rebuilding costs above \$1 billion.

Permits, Fees and the Federal Request

Six weeks after the fires, the city had issued 68 demolition permits and one single-family rebuild permit, with three more in review. City officials said Monday that review time for rebuild permits has fallen from about four weeks to three to five days, and that the most common problem is incomplete applications, often missing energy-code calculations. The city council voted September 30 to defer building permit fees for fire rebuilds until occupancy. On October 7 it passed two ordinances. One lets owners place an accessory dwelling unit, including a mobile home, on a fire lot before the main house is rebuilt. The other allows like-for-like rebuilds, waives general facilities charges when a rebuild keeps the same number of units, and expires at the end of 2029 unless extended. Spokane County halved inspection fees on September 22, saving the average affected homeowner seeking to rebuild more than \$600. The state waived its building permit fee in the affected counties. On September 28 the governor asked for a major disaster declaration, seeking \$11.2 million in individual assistance and \$117.7 million in public assistance for debris and emergency costs. An October 7 addendum sought up to \$13.2 million more for permanent repairs to roads, bridges and utilities.

The Energy Code Request

The governor said September 28 he would ask the State Building Code Council to adopt an emergency rule on energy codes for fire rebuilds. Homes built before 2015 could be rebuilt to the 2015 energy code, and newer homes to the code in effect when they were built. The relief would apply only to owners at the time of the fires. The council's October 16 meeting is scheduled to consider final adoption of the 2024 International Building Code and International Residential Code, scheduled to take effect May 3, 2027, though draft minutes say some items may move to October 30. Final adoption of the energy codes is targeted for November 20. The state's wildland-urban interface code amendments remain in reserved status until statewide wildfire hazard mapping is finished. After the 2023 Gray and Oregon Road fires, a 2024 law provided for a payment program for those rebuilds, contingent on state funding, that required compliance with current building and energy codes and limited the money to meeting newer energy-efficiency standards, electric-vehicle charging and solar. The mayor of Medical Lake, which lost 54 homes in 2023, puts the added cost of the newer energy code at \$30,000 to \$40,000 a home. The state insurance commissioner has said insurers told her homes not built to current codes may be harder to insure.

The Framing Estimate and the 2023 Rebuild

A national builders' estimate puts the average new single-family home at about 15,000 board feet of framing lumber, more than 2,200 square feet of plywood and more than 6,800 square feet of oriented strand board (OSB). Applied to Spokane County's 615 destroyed residences, that average yields derived totals of about 9.2 million board feet of framing lumber, 1.35 million square feet of plywood and 4.2 million square feet of OSB. Many of the lost houses were smaller than today's average new home, and not every owner will rebuild. The city's 501 lost homes are about 4.4 times the 115 single-family homes it permitted in the first nine months of 2025. The 2023 fires destroyed 366 homes. Insurers paid \$212.2 million on those fires by July 2024, an average of almost \$320,000 per paid claim, and 244 of 355 significant dwelling claims were paid to the full coverage limit, the state insurance commissioner's office reported. Three years on, Medical Lake's mayor says the city is fully rebuilt and the 185 homes on the west shore of Silver Lake are about 90 percent rebuilt.

■ MARKETS, WOOD PRICES & FIRE SNAPSHOT

INDICATOR	VALUE	TREND
S&P 500, October 12 close	7,807.24	Down 4.30 points; Dow up 195.60 to 51,850.55
5-year Treasury par yield, October 9	5.02%	Up 3 basis points on the day; down 4 from 5.06% on October 2
Japan lumber and wood products producer price index, September	148.9	Up 0.1% on the month and 8.5% on the year (August: 8.7%); 2020=100
Japan import price index, lumber, wood and forest products, September	173.2	Down 1.5% on the month in yen, flat in contract currency; up 7.9% on the year in yen
US wildfire acres burned, year to date, October 13	9,031,290	144% of the 10-year average; Northwest 3,026,570 acres

■ ON DECK

Wed, Oct 14	- September US consumer prices are due at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. - The Federal Reserve releases its Beige Book of regional economic conditions. - Statistics Canada publishes August building permits. - The weekly federal retail diesel survey for October 12 is released, a day late because of the holiday.
Thu, Oct 15	- September US producer prices, including softwood lumber, hardwood lumber, millwork and plywood, are due at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. - September US retail sales, including building material dealers, are due at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. - Statistics Canada publishes August manufacturing sales.
Fri, Oct 16	- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports September housing starts. - Washington's State Building Code Council meets with final adoption of the 2024 building and residential codes on its agenda; some items may move to October 30.
Mon, Oct 19	- Bids open on the Oregon Department of Forestry's Lone Corndog sale in Klamath County, 2,202 MBF. - Statistics Canada publishes September consumer prices.
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 on the Tongass National Forest near Ketchikan, Alaska. - September state employment figures are due, including Washington, Oregon and Idaho.