# Hardwood Lumber Domestic Market Update WESTERN HARDWOODS ASSOCIATION Annual Convention

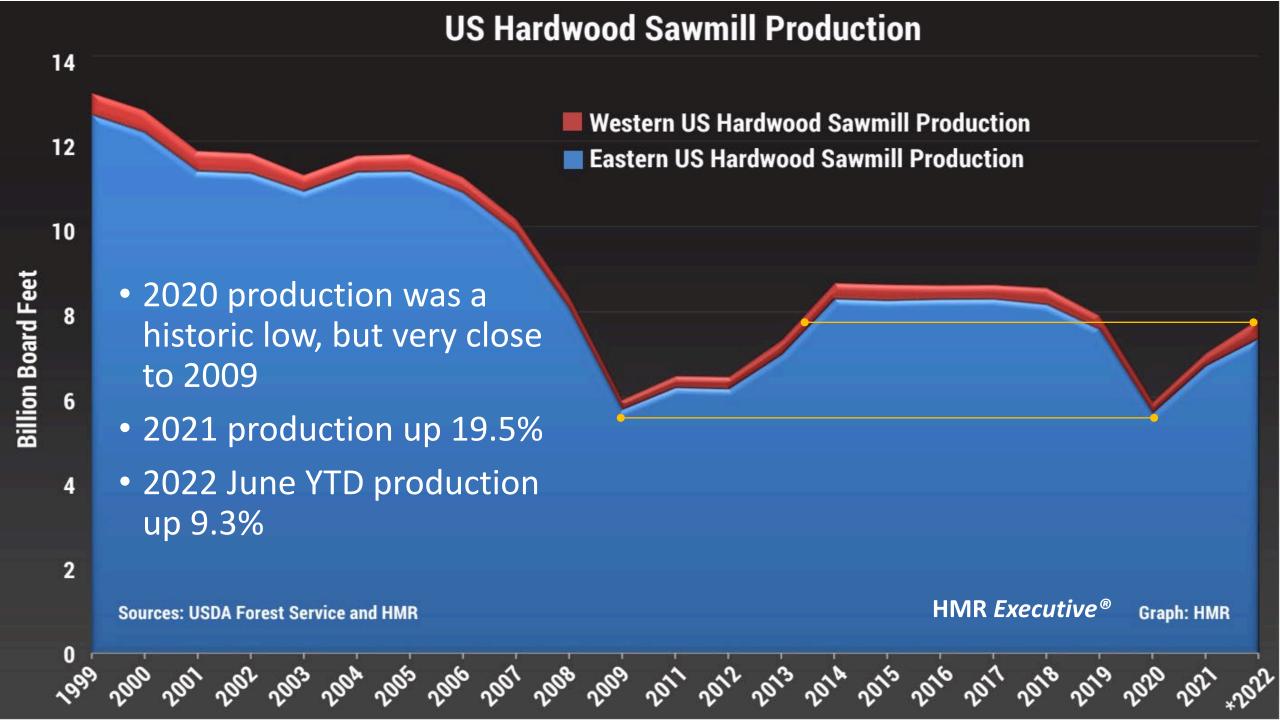
Dr. Kent Wheiler
Associate Professor and Director
Center for International Trade in Forest Products

Lincoln City, Oregon August 18, 2022

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOREST SCIENCES

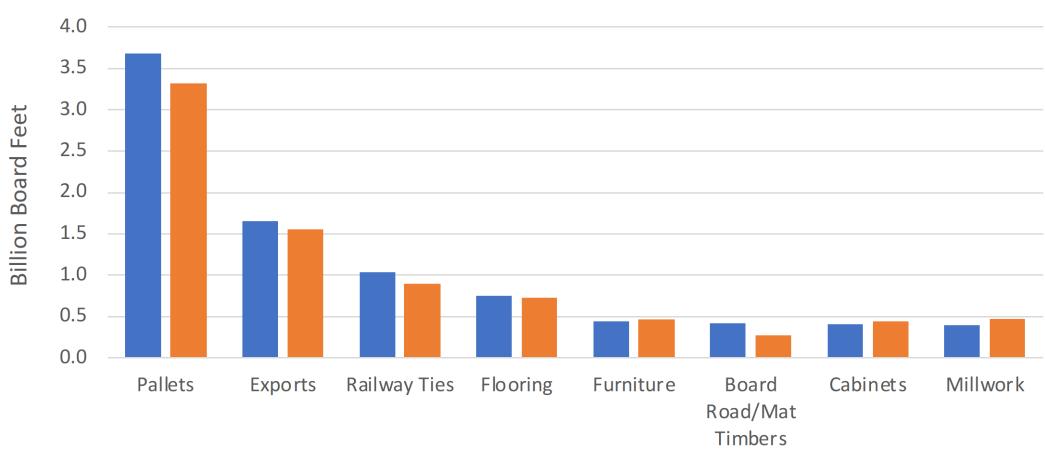
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON College of the Environment





# Consumption of Hardwood Lumber by Major U.S. Markets





Source: HMR Executive

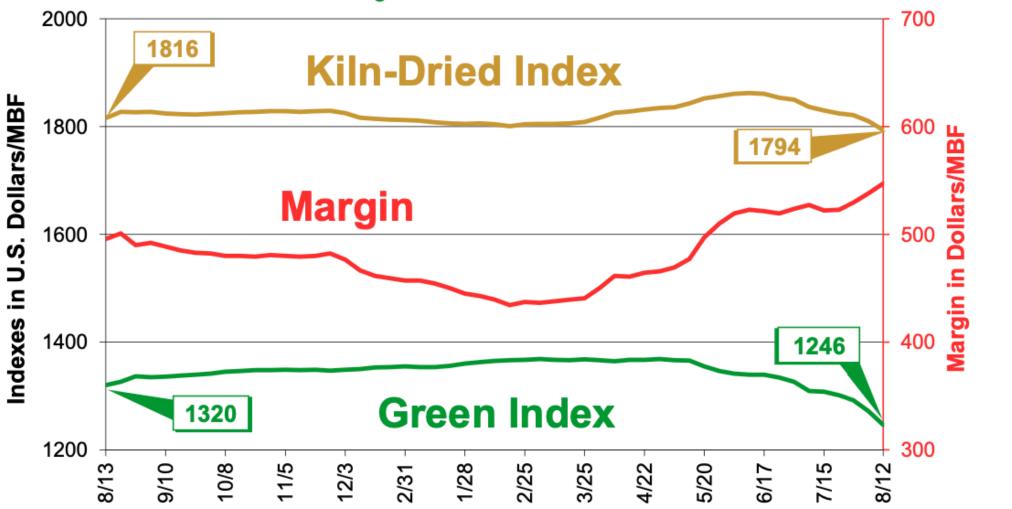




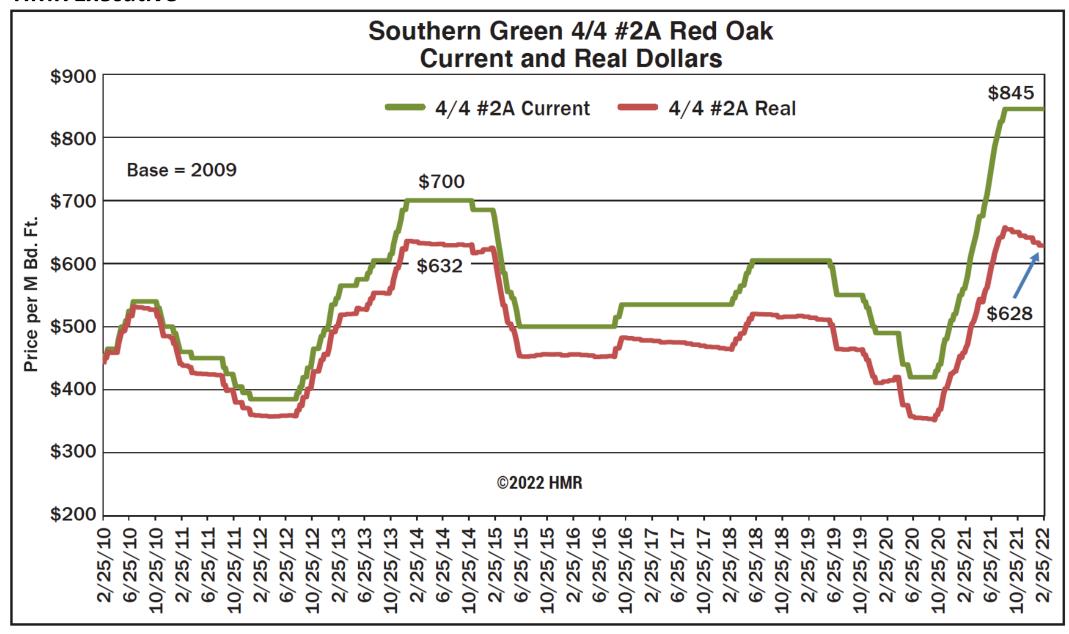
#### **Hardwood Lumber Price Indexes**

One-Year Change in Kiln-Dried Price Index: -1.22%

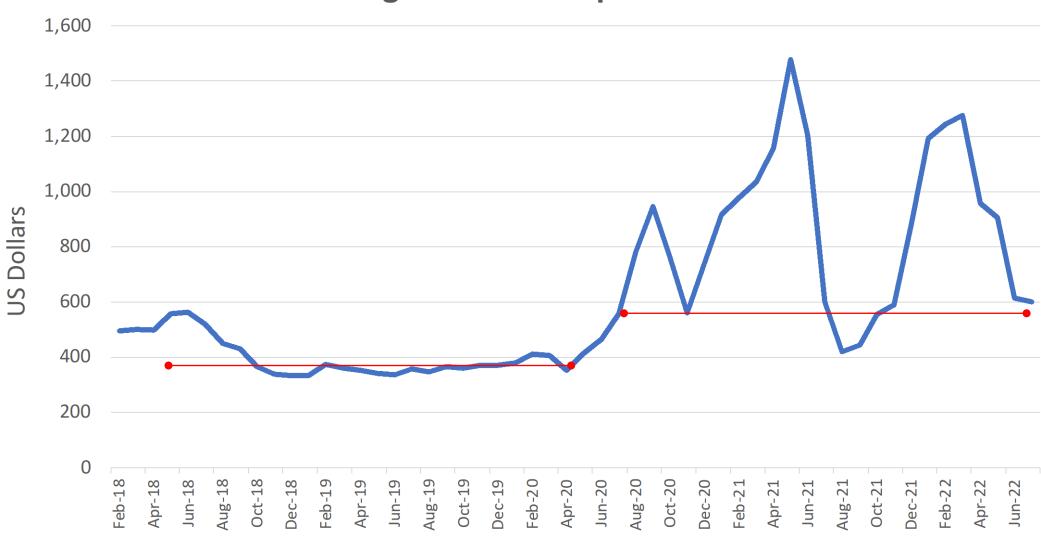
One-Year Change in Green Price Index: -5.57%



#### HMR Executive®

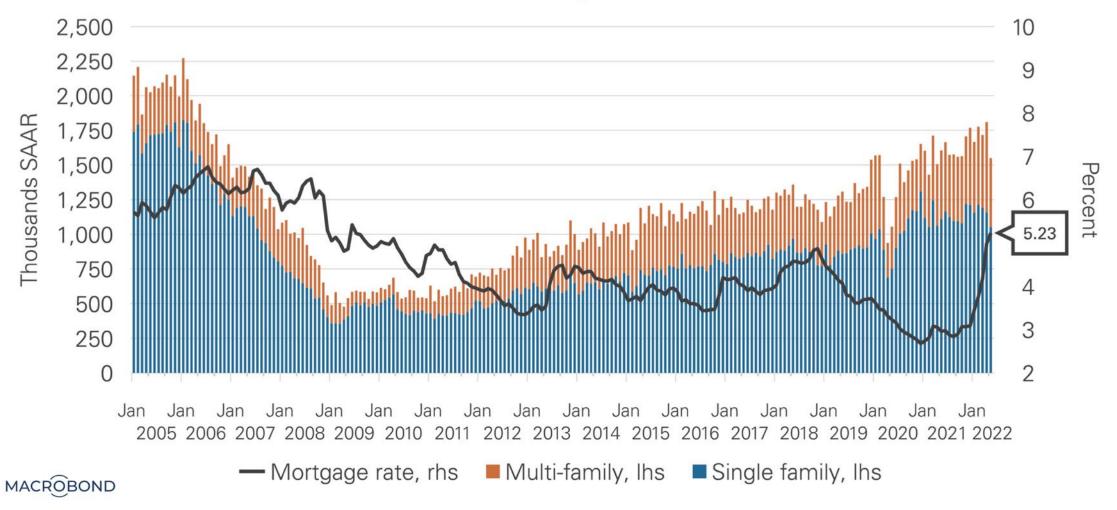


# Random Lengths Framing Lumber Composite Price



Source: Random Lengths

#### **US** housing starts



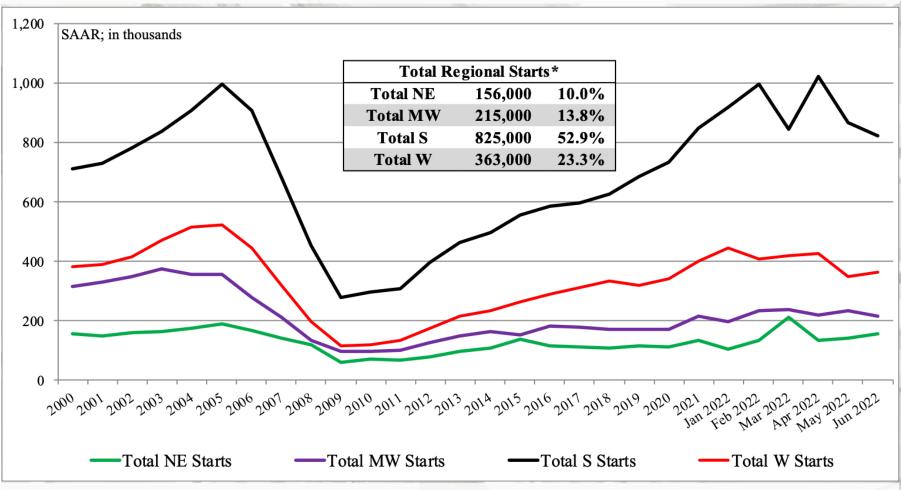
# New Housing Starts

	Total Starts*	SF Starts	MF 2-4 Starts**	MF ≥5 Starts
June	1,559,000	982,000	9,000	568,000
May	1,591,000	1,068,000	29,000	494,000
2021	1,664,000	1,165,000	11,000	488,000
M/M change	-2.0%	-8.1%	-69.0%	15.0%
Y/Y change	-6.3%	-15.7%	-18.2%	16.4%

<sup>\*</sup> All start data are presented at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR).

<sup>\*\*</sup> US DOC does not report 2 to 4 multi-family starts directly; this is an estimation ((Total starts – (SF + 5-unit MF)).

# **New Housing Starts by Region**

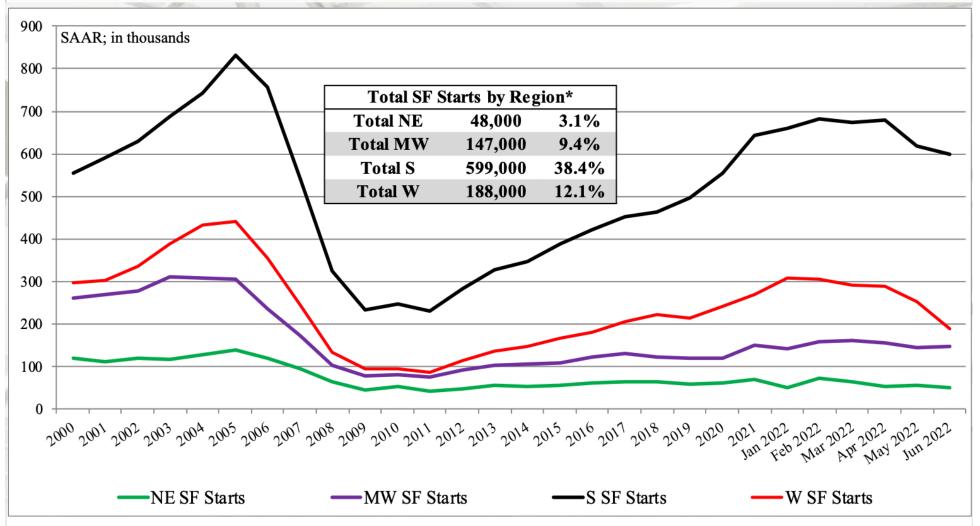


NE = Northeast, MW = Midwest, S = South, W = West

US DOC does not report 2 to 4 multi-family starts directly; this is an estimation (Total starts – (SF +  $\geq$  5 MF starts).

\* Percentage of total starts.

# **Total SF Housing Starts by Region**

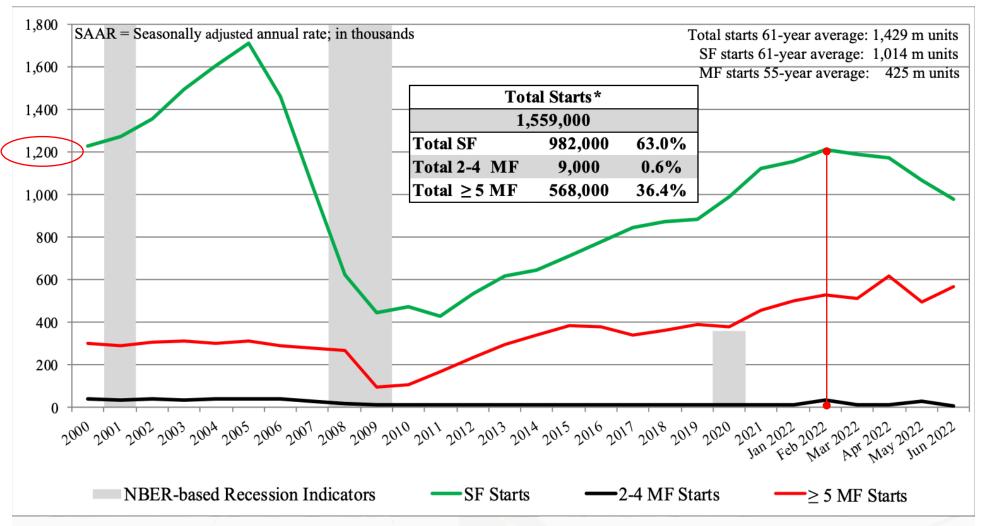


NE = Northeast, MW = Midwest, S = South, W = West

US DOC does not report 2 to 4 multi-family starts directly; this is an estimation (Total starts – (SF  $+ \ge 5$  MF starts).

\* Percentage of total starts.

## **New Housing Starts**



US DOC does not report 2 to 4 multi-family starts directly; this is an estimation: ((Total starts – (SF +  $\geq$  MF)).

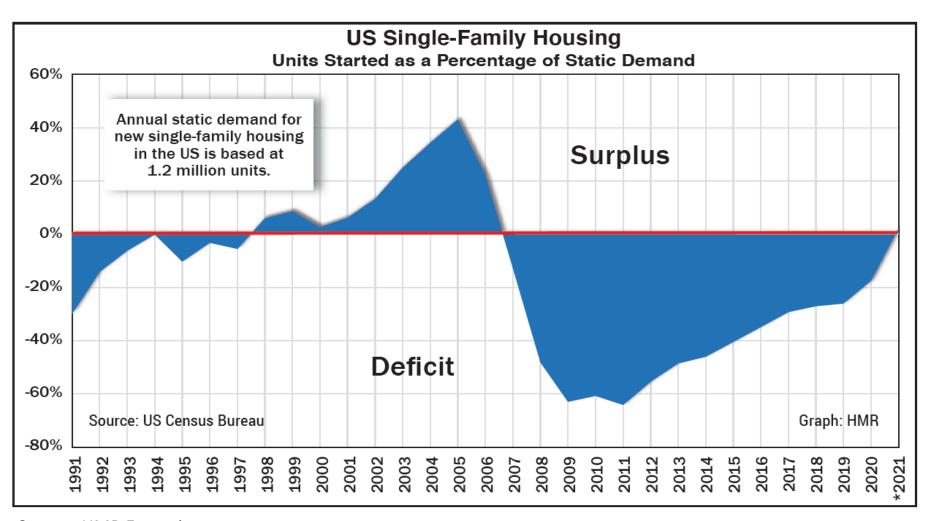
NBER based Recession Indicator Bars for the United States from the Period following the Peak through the Trough (FRED, St. Louis).

Source: Virginia Tech-USDA Forest Service Housing Commentary

<sup>\*</sup> Percentage of total starts.

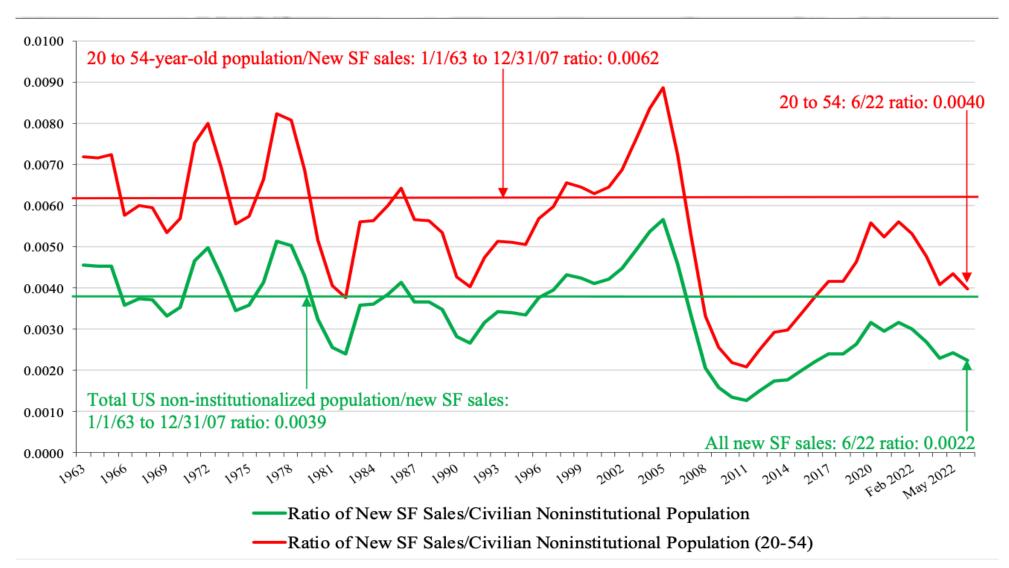
#### U.S. housing supply had been under-supplied for a decade

- The U.S. now has its largest adult population in its history. That population is growing and getting younger.
- There is a severe shortage of single-family houses in the U.S.



Source: HMR Executive

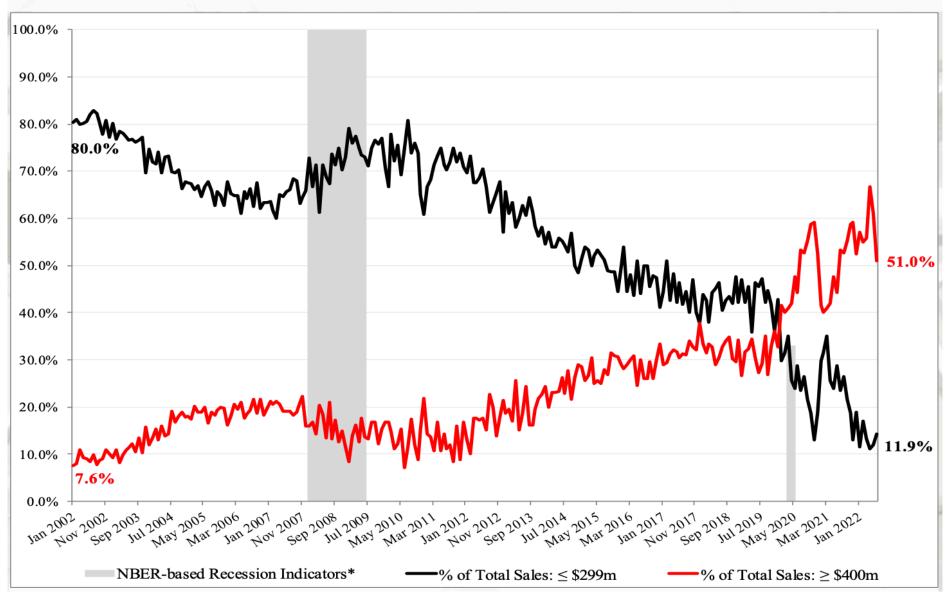
## Single-family housing sales relative to population





There remains a severe shortage of single-family houses in the U.S.

# **New SF House Sales**



### Soaring home prices have increased pressure on rents



#### Leading Indicator of Remodeling Activity – Second Quarter 2022



Notes: Improvements include remodels, replacements, additions, and structural alterations that increase the value of homes. Routine maintenance and repairs preserve the current quality of homes. Historical estimates since 2019 are produced using the LIRA model until American Housing Survey benchmark data become available.

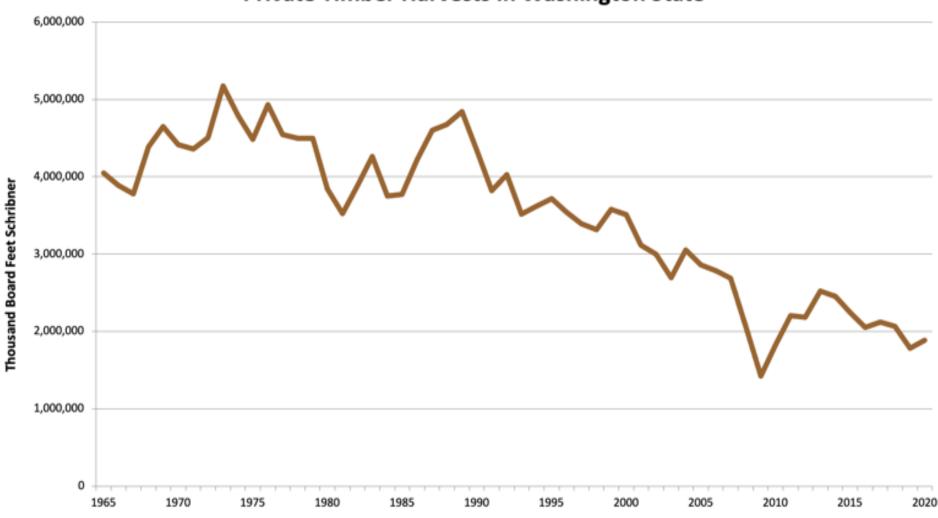
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Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University JCHS



## Timber Harvests in the West are Shrinking





Source: Washington State Dept. of Revenue

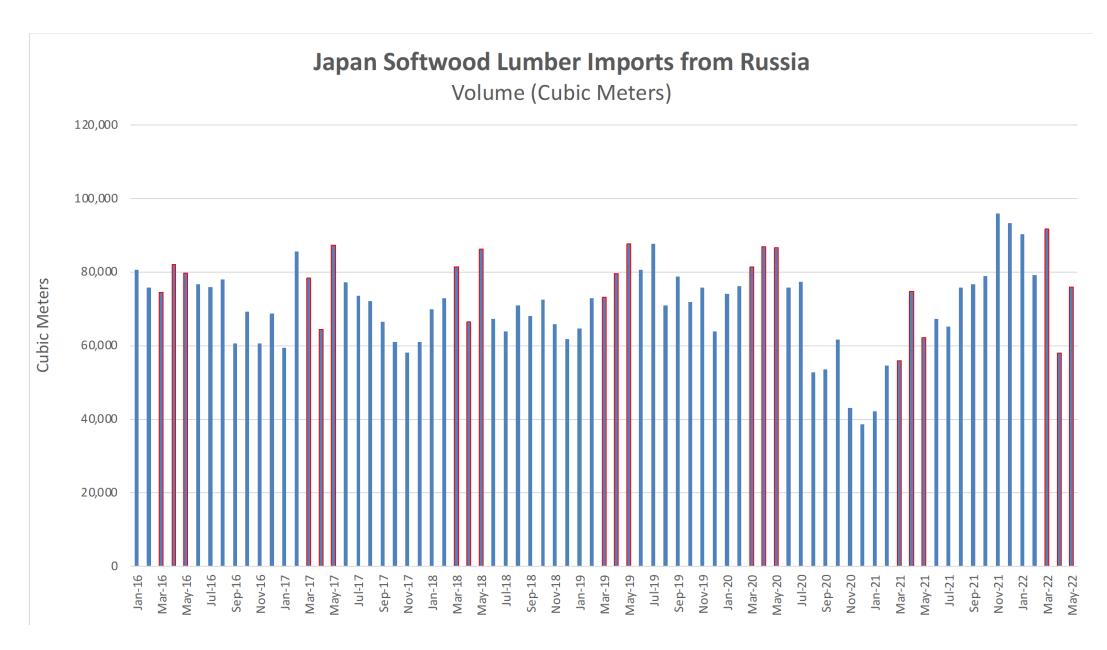


# **Northwest Timber Supply**

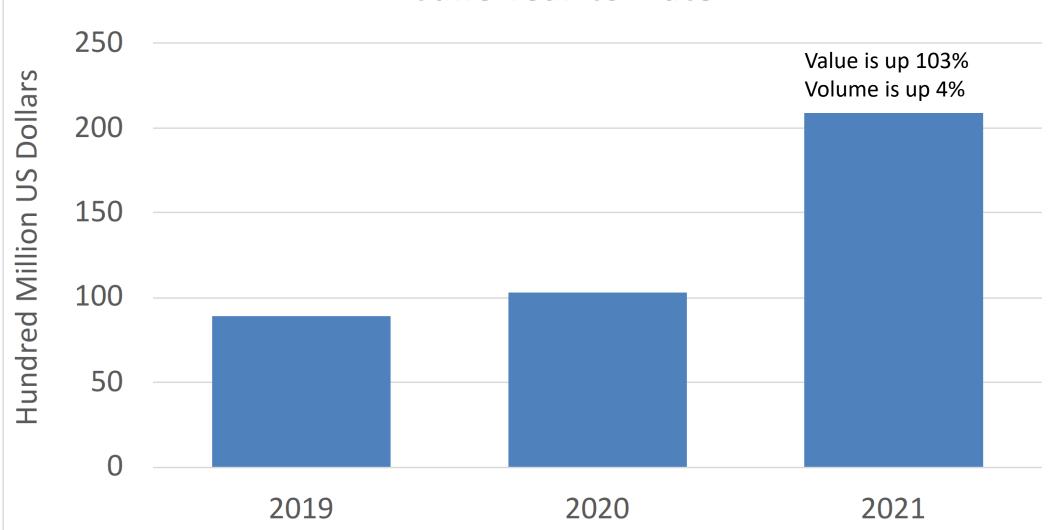
- Recent and planned changes will reduce the annual harvest in Western Oregon and Washington by more than 575 million board feet, or about nine percent of the combined harvest in both states.
- Nine percent equates to approximately eight average size mills.
  - Oregon 2020 Labor Day Fires (175 mmbf annually for 40 years)
  - Oregon Forest Accord (270 mmbf)
  - Washington DNR Sustainable Harvest Calculation (85 mmbf)
  - Oregon Department of Forestry Habitat Conservation Plan (45 mmbf)
- Plus, more reductions in British Columbia due to the Old Growth Strategic Review and 2.2 million acres burned in the summer of 2021.

#### Russian invasion of Ukraine

- Total lumber exports from Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine were 34 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2021.
  - About half to China, 15.4 million m<sup>3</sup>
  - 9.3 million m<sup>3</sup> to Europe
- Many countries have announced sanctions against Russia and Belarus.
- FSC and PEFC have labeled all timber from Russia and Belarus as "conflict timber".
- It is estimated that Russia/Belarus exports may drop 10 million m<sup>3</sup>.

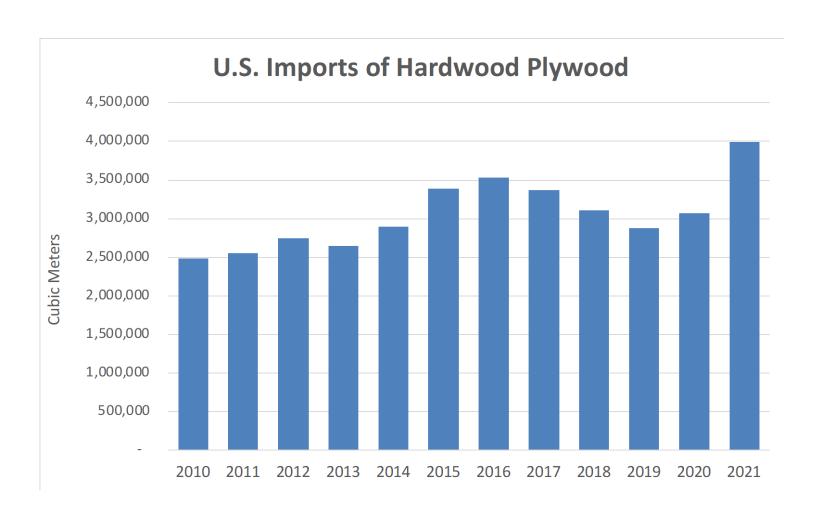


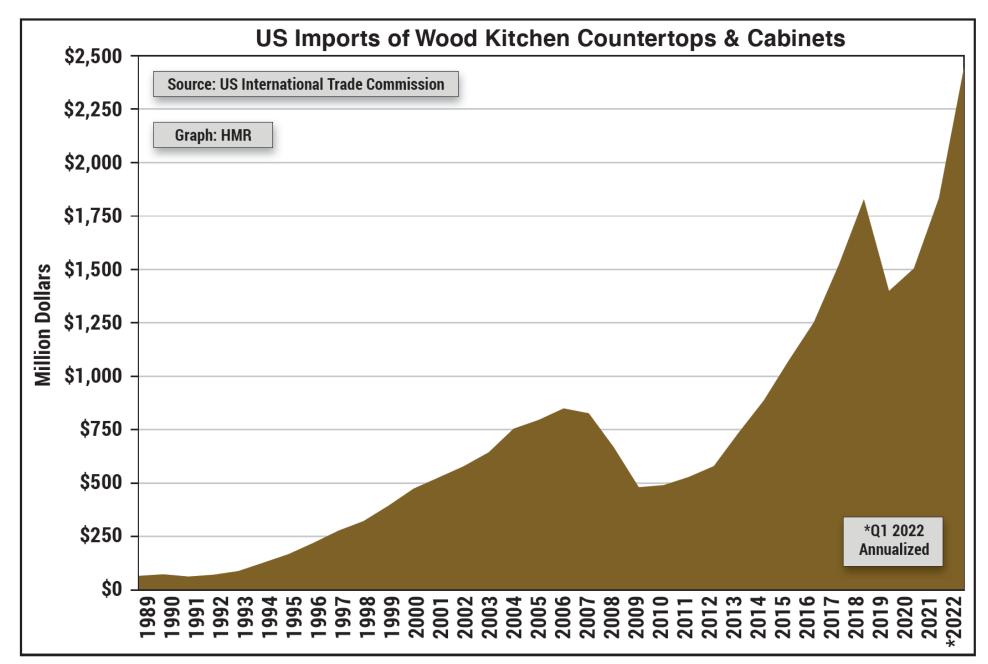
# U.S. Imports of Hardwood Plywood from Russia June Year-to-Date



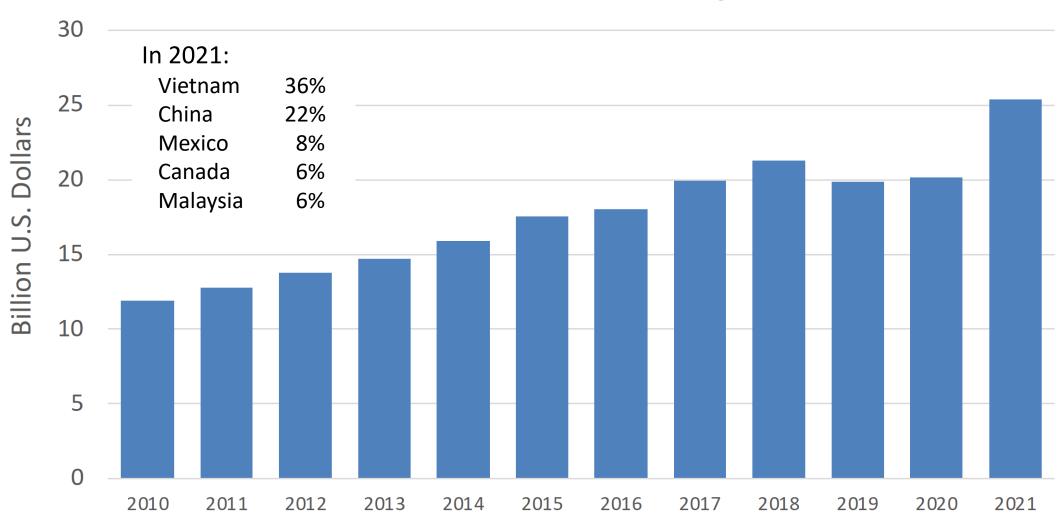
## Hardwood plywood imports

- \$2.86 billion in 2021
- 2022 1st half
  - Up 57% in value
  - Up 34% in volume
- In 2016 China was 57% of supply
- In 2021:
  - Indonesia 22%
  - Vietnam 22%
  - Russia 14%
  - China 6%

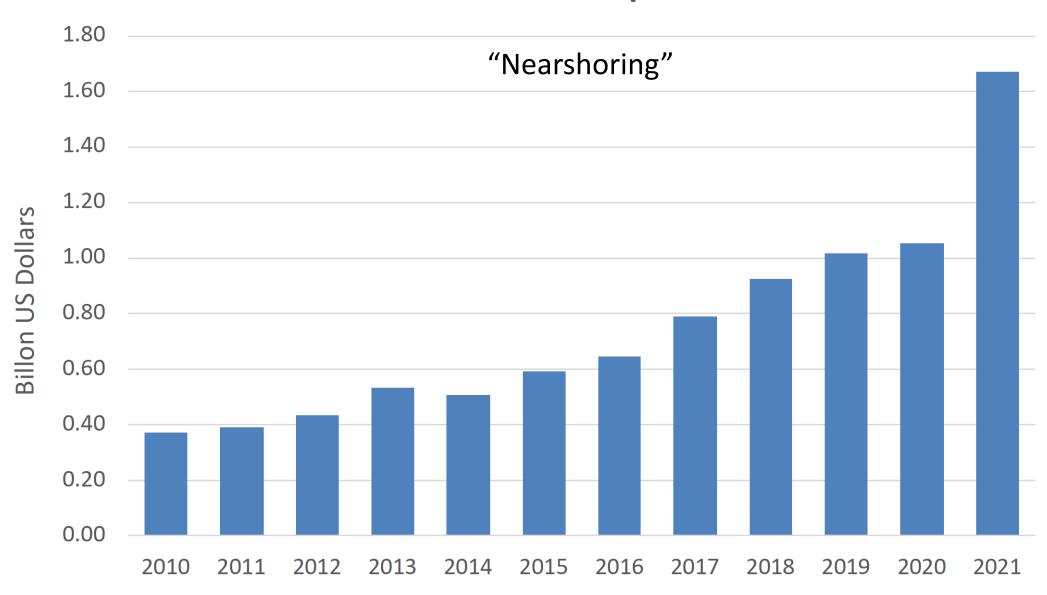




#### **U.S. Wood Furniture Imports**

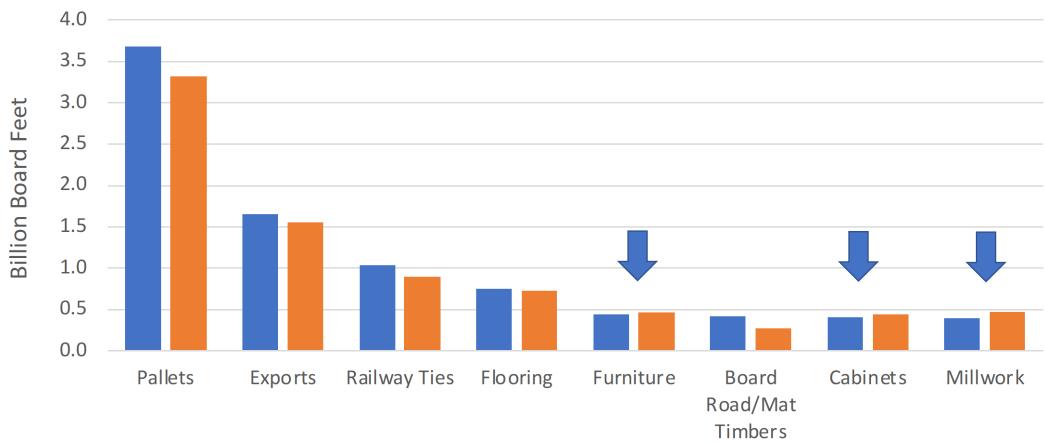


#### Mexico Wood Furniture Exports to the U.S.



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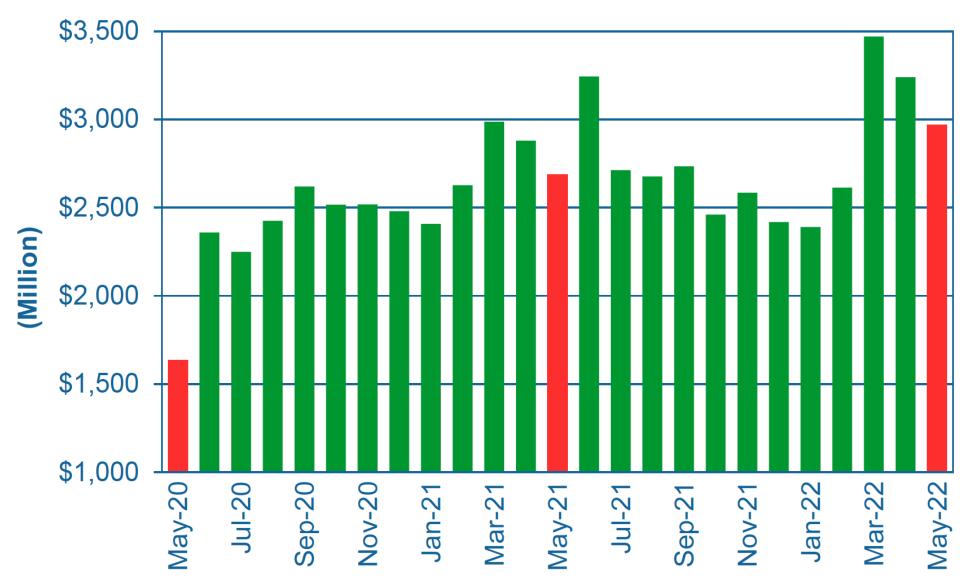
# Reshoring furniture production

Over the past three years, 12,000 furniture jobs have been brought back to the U.S.





#### **U.S. Furniture Factory Shipments**



Source: Smith Leonard PLLC

## Summary

- Pressure on wood supply and prices will remain.
  - BC supply not coming back for a while.
  - U.S. West harvests decline due to fires, environmental initiatives, and carbon credits for delayed harvest.
- Housing construction and R&R spending will stay strong.
- Labor will remain tight especially in trades.
- Europe's domestic needs will increase as supply from Russia is suspended.
- Import options for the U.S. are limited.
- "High" lumber prices may be the new normal.

