



BILLION BOARD FOOT CLUB RANKING: 2019

SLOW GLOBAL DEMAND RESULTS IN LOWER OUTPUT

April 27, 2020 — Vancouver, BC

The annual FEA-Canada Billion Board Foot Club list of top global lumber companies' production recorded a net decline in 2019. The list highlights firms that reach the threshold of one billion board feet (nominal count) of annual lumber output. The same 15 companies that made the list in 2018 did so again in 2019, with only a half-dozen firms increasing their output (and most with minor increases). These and other industry highlights were recently released in the April 2020 issue of *WOOD Markets Monthly International Report*. The team at FEA Canada/WOOD MARKETS in Vancouver B.C. have conducted this survey annually since 2000.

For the global top 15 sawmill companies, the average decrease in production was 2.5%; this compares to gains in each of the previous five years. The list is based on companies with reported softwood lumber output that exceeds one billion board feet (bf) on a nominal basis (or, for mills outside North America, more than ~2.3 million m3 on a net count basis). Eleven of the companies that have made the list each year since 2005 did so again in 2019.

The collective 2019 output of these 15 firms was 35.7 billion bf nominal (60.6 million m3 net), a decrease of 900 million bf (-2.5%) from 2018's 36.6 billion bf. The collective global market share of the group of firms was nearly 16% (a slight drop from 2018).

Four of the top 10 largest global sawmilling firms are based in B.C.: **West Fraser**, **Canfor**, **Interfor** and **Tolko** (now with two U.S. South joint venture mills). The other firm with sawmills in both the U.S. and Canada is **Weyerhaeuser**. Together, these five companies accounted for 18.7 billion bf of production (31.5% of total North America lumber output) at 102 mills (38 in Canada and 64 in the U.S.); these volumes represented 9% of global lumber output.

The Top 5 Companies

West Fraser remained the largest global softwood lumber producer in 2019 for the twelfth straight year. Total lumber output for the year was 5.9 billion bf, a significant decline of 695 million bf from 2018. One B.C. mill was closed in 2019.

In second place was **Canfor**, with 4.8 billion bf of output (down 3.6% from 2018, due mainly to curtailments caused by high log costs in B.C. and low prices during most of last year). The addition of production at Vida, and Elliott Sawmilling for parts of the year were not enough to offset its major output declines in North America (total drop of 768 million bf).

Weyerhaeuser stayed in third position with 4.7 billion bf, an increase of 164 million bf from 2018.

Vancouver-based **Interfor** retained fourth spot with production of 2.7 billion bf (+0.4% from 2018).

Rounding out the top 5 was privately held **Georgia-Pacific** remained in fifth spot with output of ~2.6 billion bf at 16 sawmills.

Today, amid the fallout from COVID-19, all bets are off about many lumber companies' ability to make the list in 2020. Also included in the April issue of *WOOD Markets Monthly* is a list of the **top European sawmills** with over one billion board feet – when they are converted to a nominal count, 13 companies make the list!

The complete Billion Board Foot Club List and further analysis are available to subscribers of *WOOD Markets Monthly International Report*.



BILLION BOARD FOOT CLUB

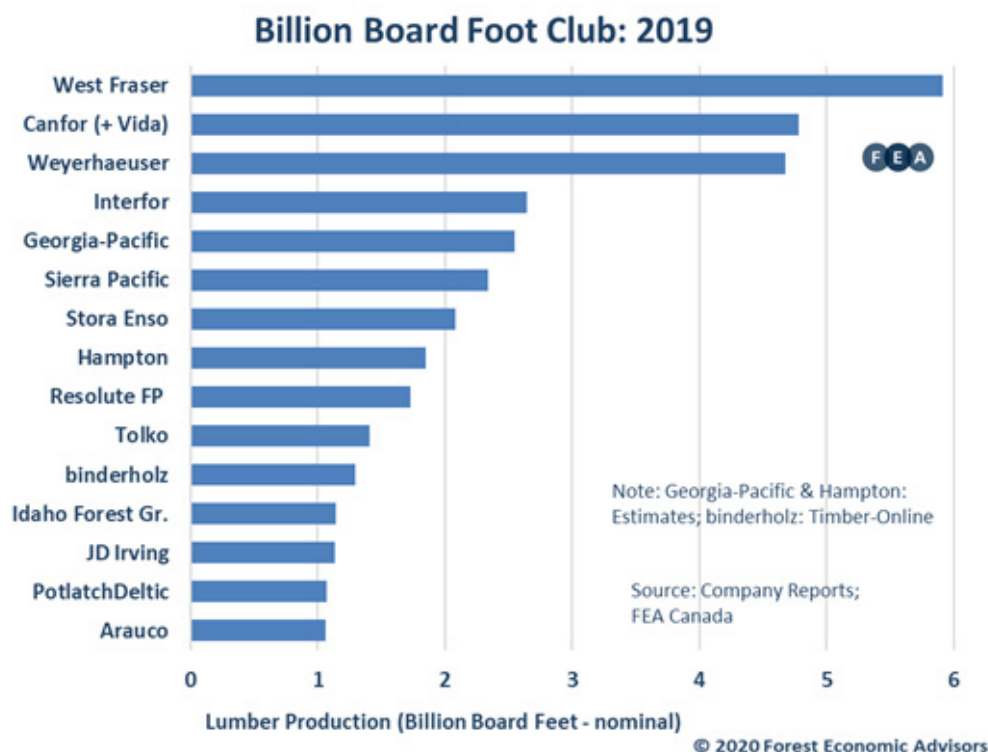
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For any comments or questions on the “**Billion Board Foot Club**” as well as the “**Top Canada, U.S. and Europe sawmill lists**”, please contact: Russ Taylor at (+1) 604-801-5996 or rtaylor@getfea.com.

If you interested in learning more about *WOOD Markets Monthly International Report* and/or its many features, please contact: David Battaglia, VP Sales and Marketing at (+1) 770-265-7150 or dbattaglia@getfea.com.

This press release can also be viewed at <https://www.getfea.com/news>.



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Russ Taylor’s career in the forest industry started in 1974 and has encompassed forestry, manufacturing, marketing and consulting positions. Russ gained hands-on expertise in sales and marketing of lumber and specialty products throughout North America and overseas and led WOOD MARKETS beginning in 1992; he now manages the FEA-Canada team.