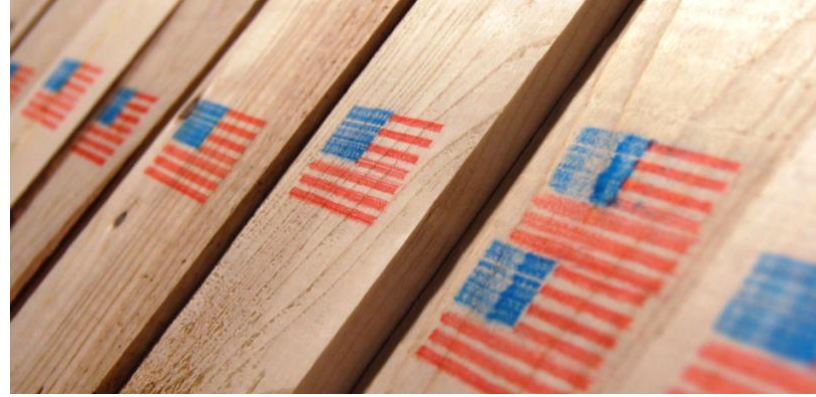


U.S. Trade Law Enforcement Results in Dramatic Growth of Domestic Lumber Supply



Enforcement of the U.S. Trade Laws is a win-win for America — The softwood lumber trade cases to offset Canadian lumber subsidies and unfair trade and the Section 232 Tariff have resulted in more U.S. lumber being produced by U.S. workers to build U.S. homes. Every Administration since the Reagan Administration has investigated the lumber trade issue with the same conclusion — import duties are warranted because Canadian lumber producers are subsidized and unfairly trade in the U.S. market to the detriment of U.S. companies and workers. U.S. trade laws duties simply offset unfair pricing by Canadian producers and the subsidies that these producers receive from their government allowing U.S. lumber manufacturers to grow to their natural size.

Since the U.S. industry filed the trade cases in 2016, and with the more recent Section 232 tariff measures, domestic sawmill investment and capacity expansion has been robust. The U.S. industry has produced over 36 billion additional board feet of softwood lumber during this period. That amounts to an average of 4 billion board feet a year of added production by U.S. producers. These increases have more than offset any decline in unfairly traded Canadian import volumes and represent enough lumber to build 2.4 million single-family homes. Continued enforcement of U.S. trade laws will maximize long-term domestic production and lumber availability produced by U.S. workers to build U.S. homes.

U.S. companies continue to invest in expanding their production capabilities. Milling more lumber from American trees by American workers to build American homes also creates more American jobs, not just in the mills themselves but also in typically rural communities that support those workers.

Reality shows that claims by homebuilders that trade law enforcement has harmed U.S. homebuyers are wrong.



Lumber only makes up 1–5% of the cost of a new home — with price fluctuations having near zero impact on home buyers.



Softwood lumber prices have not kept up with inflation since the duties on subsidized and dumped Canadian imports were imposed in 2017. Nor have softwood lumber prices kept up with inflation in the past two decades.



The U.S. Census Bureau's average cost for a new home sold in December 2025 was \$532,600. About 15 thousand board feet of lumber is used to construct an average 2,500 square foot home. In mid-March 2026, the price of lumber was \$445 per thousand board feet; thus, the total cost of lumber to the builder (including delivery and markup) was \$9,204, or about 1.7% of the price of an average new home.



One must look elsewhere for a solution to new home prices. Land cost, labor costs, interest rates, permitting costs, profit margins for homebuilders, and the free market reality of homebuilding demand that has boosted many homebuilding input prices. Since the total cost of lumber to the builder in an average new home is less than two percent, it simply is not credible to state that lumber cost drives housing affordability.

Continued full enforcement of the U.S. trade laws is exactly what must happen to expand U.S. lumber manufacturing and availability to meet demand to build more American homes. Failure to fully enforce the trade laws would only undermine long-term confidence in expanding U.S. sawmilling capacity and jobs in the American softwood lumber industry.



For more information on the positive results of U.S. trade law enforcement on American softwood lumber production to supply U.S. homebuilding visit: www.uslumbercoalition.org