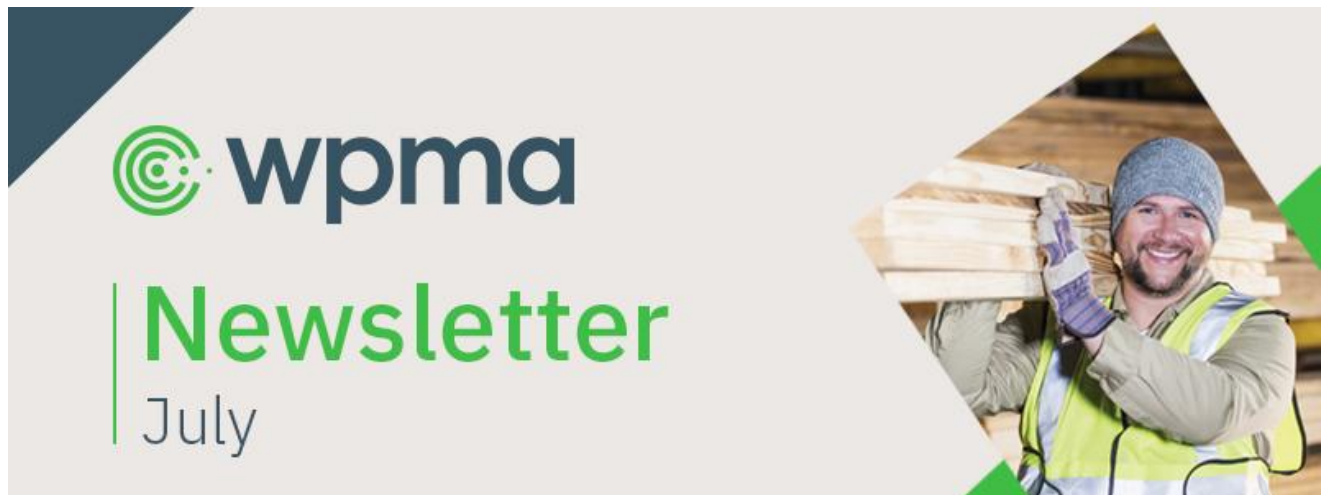




Message from Mark - Stay connected with WPMA on LinkedIn

If you are a LinkedIn member, we encourage you to follow our new LinkedIn Business Page. We will be sharing regular updates, including member achievements, industry news, upcoming events, and other information of interest to our community. You can access our page and follow us here [LinkedIn WPMA Business Site](#)



Mark

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U.S. Tariff on NZ timber and lumber remains at 10%

While most New Zealand exports to the United States will now be subject to the newly announced 12.5% Section 301 tariff, this tariff will not be stacked in addition to existing Section 232 tariffs. Timber and lumber products are already covered by Section 232 measures and currently face a 10% tariff. These products will continue to be subject to the Section 232 tariff regime and will not incur the new Section 301 tariff. An update on the U.S tariffs will be held by NZTE and MFAT on Thursday 30 July at 1.30pm. You can register here [Talking Tariffs - Briefing by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - July 2026 - Events - myNZTE](#)

Energy resilience for export growth -NZTE Webinar 4 August

Rising energy costs and increasing global uncertainty mean energy resilience is a growing priority for exporters. Join NZTE on 4 August for a practical webinar exploring how businesses can strengthen resilience, reduce costs, and improve long-term competitiveness through smarter energy management. You will hear from experts and businesses already taking action with practical insights on improving efficiency, managing risk, and preparing for future disruptions. [Find more info and register here](#)

Building the future – National's trade policy

Responding to National's recently released trade policy, *Building the Future: New Zealand's Next Billion Customers*, WPMA welcomed the focus on export growth, market access, and support for value-added wood products. Continued cross-party support for trade will be critical to unlocking greater value from New Zealand's forest resources, creating skilled regional jobs, and strengthening the sector's long-term contribution to the economy. See more detail here [Building the Future – New Zealand's Next Billion Customers](#)

Green Party Election 2026 Manifesto launched

The recently released Green Party manifesto sets out the party's policy priorities ahead of the 2026 Election. Of relevance is its support for expanding domestic wood processing to produce higher value timber products from plantation forests, including cross laminated timber for construction and solid biofuels derived from forestry slash. The party argues that this approach would help retain jobs, investment, and economic development within regional communities. The manifesto also proposes greater support for locally grown natural fibres, such as wood and wool, through their increased use in the construction and refurbishment of schools and other public buildings. You can read the document here [Green Party Manifesto 2026.pdf](#)

Public comment invited on AS/NZS Sustainable Forest Management Standard revision

Public comment is now being sought on an amendment to Australian/New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), with submissions due by 7 August 2026. Developed by Responsible Wood, AS/NZS 4708 sets out requirements for sustainable forest management in Australia and New Zealand, stewarding practices that support healthy forests, biodiversity, renewable timber supply, regional jobs, cultural values and community expectations. The review process helps ensure the Standard continues to reflect evolving industry practices, environmental priorities, scientific knowledge and stakeholder expectations. You can access the standard here [Standard ASNZS 4708 revision](#)

Forestry industry insights – latest edition is now available online

In this issue:

- On 11 June 2026, the [Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries \(SOPI\)](#) was launched at Fieldays in Mystery Creek. The report forecasts a decline in export revenue for forestry in 2026/27, mainly driven by softer log prices.
- New dwelling consents in April 2026 were 49.7% higher than April 2025.
- In June 2026, Juken New Zealand began a formal consultation process with employees regarding a proposal to close its Northland Mill.
- Despite the impact of the Middle East conflict New Zealand's total export value over March and April was higher than the same period last year.
- New Zealand's log export volume and revenue to China increased when comparing April 2026 to April 2025.
- Freight rates to India have increased more sharply than those to China, further reducing the relative competitiveness of the Indian market for exporters.

Download the report: [Issue 7 - June 2026 - Forestry industry insights \[PDF, 696KB\]](#)

WPMA backing timber and wood products in domestic construction

The Government's recent "Domestic Cement Production Secured" media announcement highlighted their view on the strategic importance of maintaining New Zealand's domestic cement manufacturing capability. In explaining its decision to support Golden Bay Cement, the Government stated within the release that "*Cement has no practical substitutes*" and is needed for the construction of homes, hospitals, schools, roads, and other nationally significant infrastructure. [Govt Press Release - Domestic Cement Production Secured](#)

In fact homes, hospitals, and schools are among those buildings where timber solutions do offer a practical substitute to cement and are proving particularly effective within New Zealand. Timber construction offers faster build times, reduced embodied carbon, lower building weight, and strong seismic performance, while also supporting domestic wood manufacturing and regional employment.

Roads, foundations, and many infrastructure projects will continue to require concrete and cement. However, it is equally important for this Government to recognise that for many building projects, timber and wood products are already a proven and practical substitute. The continued growth of mass timber demonstrates that innovation is expanding the range of options available to designers, builders, and building owners and that, in many cases, there are practical alternatives to cement already in use today. You can read our full release here [Cement has no practical substitutes? Not quite](#)

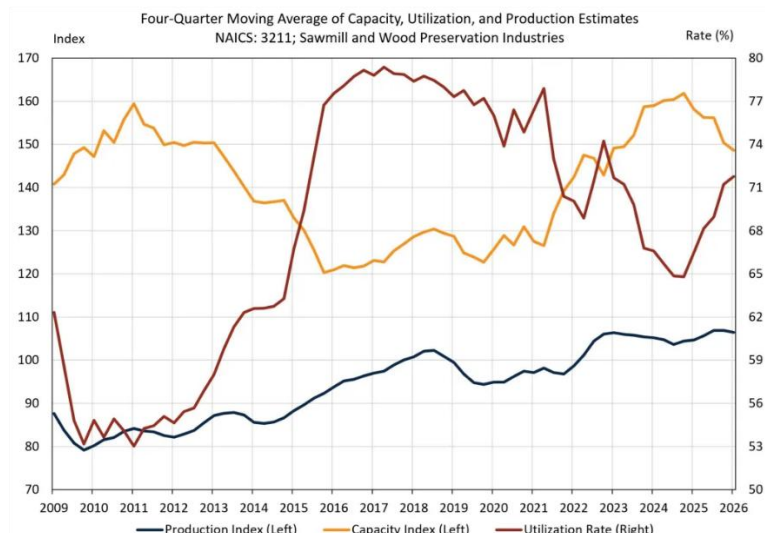


Locally manufactured CLT and LVL has replaced concrete and steel in the soon to be completed six-storey parliamentary building.

U.S. Sawmill Output Continues to Shrink

The lumber industry in the United States is showing signs of tightening capacity, a trend that could have implications for home builders if demand accelerates in the future. According to the Federal Reserve's G.17 Industrial Production report, U.S. sawmill

production declined in the first quarter of 2026, marking the second consecutive quarterly decrease. On a four-quarter moving average basis, production slipped 0.4% from the previous quarter, although it remained 1.7% above the same period last year. Overall, sawmill output has been largely unchanged since 2023 after the sharp production gains that followed the pandemic.



Source: *G.17 Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization, Quarterly Survey of Plant Capacity Utilization; NAHB Analysis*

Based on the Census Bureau and Federal Reserve data, NAHB estimates that U.S. sawmills' full production capacity fell 6.0% over the year.

Lumber prices moved modestly higher during the first quarter. [Softwood lumber prices](#) — a key driver of residential construction costs — increased 6.1% from the previous quarter. However, softwood lumber prices were 3.8% lower than a year prior. More details, including hardwood lumber pricing and sawmill employment trends are in [this Eye On Housing article](#).

Manufacturing as a career - The Future Makers Career Guide is now live

Developed by Advancing Manufacturing Aotearoa, the Career Guide has been created to help students, school leavers, careers advisers, parents and whānau better understand the world of modern manufacturing - and the many pathways into it. Manufacturing is one of New Zealand's most important sectors, but it is still often misunderstood. Too many young people do not yet see the scale, innovation, creativity, technology and opportunity that exists across our industry. The new Career Guide brings together sector stories, career identities, learning pathways, employer profiles, summer opportunities and real examples of people building meaningful careers in manufacturing.

[Career Guide - Advancing Manufacturing Aotearoa](#)

Upcoming Events

2026 NZIF Conference

Back to Business: Forward with Confidence
Showcasing how we can and do get forestry right.
Dunedin, 26-28 August 2026

Join industry leaders, innovators, researchers, and practitioners as we share success stories, highlight cutting-edge innovation, and explore strong partnerships that deliver both environmental and economic gains. Together, we'll demonstrate what good forestry looks like – sustainable, safe, and forward-focused and rebuild confidence in an industry that is vital to New Zealand's future

For more information click [here](#)

WoodWorks Conference, Hastings, 28-29 August 2026

WoodWorks will continue to showcase the practical experiences of a range of building professionals and focus on completed New Zealand and Australian projects. Each year, we also showcase inspirational wood experts from leading tall timber exemplar building projects overseas.

For more information click here [WoodWorks 2026 Conference](#)



In the News

U.S. – tariff actions add further uncertainty to housing market

Recent tariff developments could create more uncertainty for home builders over building material supply chains and pricing.

[Latest Tariff Actions Add Uncertainty to Housing Market | NAHB](#)

The Times of India article – NZ Wood Processing Hub

Kaingaroa has long sat amid some of the country's largest forestry resources yet has not fully benefited from the wealth they generate.

[India Times NZ Forestry Village Wood Processing Hub](#)

Wood – a practical alternative to concrete and cement

Our message to the Government is simple. When it comes to building homes, hospitals, schools, and multi-storey buildings, there is a practical, proven, and readily available alternative to construction materials such as concrete and cement. That alternative is New Zealand grown, harvested, and manufactured wood products.

[Wood is a practical alternative to concrete and cement](#)

Mass Modular Timber – Red Stag VoMo

"The future of construction isn't just being designed differently, it is being manufactured differently," Cordes said, with a single production line at the group's European partner already completing more than eight finished modules a day, the output the New Zealand operation wants to match.

[Red Stag VoMo mass modular timber](#)

WIDE Trust – apply for funding towards your wood processing apprenticeship programmes

Do you need funds to progress an initiative, project or programme in your business?

Do your employees need funds to progress wood processing studies, projects or qualifications?

Apply to the WIDE Trust for support...

**\$6 MILLION
AWARDED IN
GRANTS TO DATE!**

**Apply online
www.widetrust.org.nz**

The Wood Industry Development and Education Trust (WIDE Trust) is a charitable trust established in 2018. The Trust supports businesses undertaking research, development and other initiatives to advance the wood or forestry industry sectors in New Zealand and students undertaking career-related studies or projects in these industry sectors.

Initiatives supported by the Trust include:

- apprenticeship programmes
- in-house training programmes
- international study tour to seek out industry innovations and best practice
- attendance at industry events
- assessor training
- timber design and wood processing awards



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