

Lumber Prices Surge Despite Housing Slump

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By

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Lumber prices have risen this summer to their highest level in four years, even as home sales slump and renovation spending loses steam, the WSJ's Ryan Dezemmer writes.

Back in 2022, the price of two-by-fours was falling after a record-setting surge during the Covid-19 pandemic, which set off a suburban building boom and sent stuck-at-home Americans into a do-it-yourself frenzy.

This time around, reduced supply rather than booming demand has driven lumber prices higher. Imports are down because of steep duties on Canadian boards and President Trump's 10% softwood-lumber tariff. Meanwhile, low prices last year prompted sawmill curtailments and closures from British Columbia to northern Florida.

"I don't anticipate that those mills that have been shut down are going to come back.

There's a certain amount of volume that's just out of the system."

— [Weyerhaeuser CEO Devin Stockfish](#)