UTAH LUMBER

Sawdust Signals

A practical field read for lumber buyers, sellers, manufacturers and distributors

CLEAR INFORMATION. STRONG RELATIONSHIPS. TRUSTED INSIGHT.

Volume 1 | Issue 8

September 15, 2026

Document: ULI-SS-2026-008

THE SHOW-ME-THE-ORDER EDITION

THE BOTTOM LINE

After August's price-cutting marathon, some mills have finally put the scissors down. Buyers are asking whether the order file got longer or the sales manager just got tired of hearing the same counter.

Six Utah Lumber averages continued the move lower, Euro held, and SYP saw minor gains. Green DF led the weekly declines. The eight-category simple average slipped about $4.4/m, versus $7.5/m last week. The descent is slowing; a broad recovery still needs orders behind it not only for today but the coming weeks.

SYP narrows, selected structural items and scarce 4x4/4x6 Green DF deserve fresh replacement checks. Commodity studs and prompt Low Grade remain bid territory. **Panels have a stronger supply story, while freight keeps collecting its share of every deal.** Monday's board gains were led by expiring September; Tuesday's screen has given back part of the move. The cash test is still orders.

MARKET DIRECTION	Slower declines; selective firmness, with six of eight averages still lower.
DEMAND QUALITY	Immediate needs dominate. Repeat buying is the next test.
BEST OPPORTUNITY	Prompt commodity wood with a specific tally and workable delivered cost.
MARKET CAUTION	Firm offers can reflect restricted supply without stronger consumption.

Prepared by Utah Lumber Co. | Lead Market Commentary: Tyrone Konecny, President

Utah Lumber Market Averages

Indicator	4 Weeks Ago	2 Weeks Ago	1 Week Ago	Current	4 Week	1 Week
2x4 & 2x6 HF/DF Dimension	570	525	515	**510**	**-60**	**-5**
KD Studs	540	490	475	**470**	**-70**	**-5**
Low Grade	345	300	290	**285**	**-60**	**-5**
Green Doug Fir Studs & Dimension	560	525	510	**495**	**-65**	**-15**
WSPF	495	465	460	**455**	**-40**	**-5**
ESPF	580	555	550	**545**	**-35**	**-5**
Euro	620	600	590	**590**	**-30**	-
SYP	435	415	425	**430**	**-5**	**+5**

All values $/MBF. Source: Utah Lumber Sawdust Signals Price Table 9-15-26. Historical columns are August 18, September 1 and September 8. Averages are directional; actual prices vary by size, grade, tally, shipment, freight and availability.

Market Overview

Last week's seven-down, one-up scorecard is now **six down, one flat, one up.** SYP added $5/m after last week's $10/m gain. Euro stopped falling at $590/m. Green DF lost $15/m, while the other five declining categories each slipped $5/m.

Low Grade and KD Studs each posted their smallest weekly decline in the last three issues. That is progress in the rate of decline, not proof that unsold inventory has cleared. **All eight averages remain below their four-week reference prices.**

LESS RED INK. STILL THE HEADLINE

Our simple average is $472.50/m, down $4.38/m for the week. Most items have moderated but the overall weaker tone still dominates the conversation.

SYP's rebound is still strongest in the narrows and varies by region and length. Green DF's combined average remains weak even while scarce 4-inch items trade on their own supply conditions. A category average will not tell you which product pile the mill is tired of looking at.

From the Trading Desk

THE SHOW-ME-THE-ORDER TEST

A firmer quote is a conversation starter. A disappearing pile and a later shipping week are better evidence. Before retiring the counteroffer, ask what sold, what remains and when the next run will be ready.

Category	Current Field Read	Buyer Move
WSPF	Restricted mill offerings are helping common dimension hold closer to recent levels. Selected 2x6 MSR remains difficult; ordinary stock is still negotiable where lengths accumulate.	Bid the available tally. Check structural items replacement separately.
ESPF / Euro	Eastern sellers show less appetite for deep discounts, although business remains need-based. Our ESPF average fell $5/m; Euro products for the most part held steady.	Price the exact trim, arrival and destination. All the details matter most right now.
HF/DF Coast / Inland	Coast order flow improved in spots; fir and larch showed resilience. Inland HF/WF and excess mixed Low Grade still face pressure.	Ask whether firmness reflects sales or a protected quote.
Green DF	Our combined average fell $15/m to $495/m. Prompt 2x4 RL and weaker PET trims remain exposed; 2x10 and scarce 4-inch material require separate action.	Press available narrows. Protect confirmed needs in scarce items but don’t fall in love with harder to find items…the correction may be on the horizon.
SYP	Another small gain in our average. Narrows retain support, but post-holiday demand was uneven and wides are not sharing a uniform rebound.	Refresh 2x4 offers and cover near term needs; check 2x6, wides and decking by item as there is more disparity forming on lists.
Studs	KD Studs slipped $5/m on average. Trim and species differences remain wide; Coast studs and some Green DF trims still meet buyer resistance.	Bid visible commodity trims. Refresh fingerjoint on its own merits.
Low Grade / Economy	Our average eased $5/m to $285/m. A smaller decline coexists with block-buy opportunities where mixed stock or specific lengths accumulate.	Tie the counter to quality, full tally and a workable pickup.

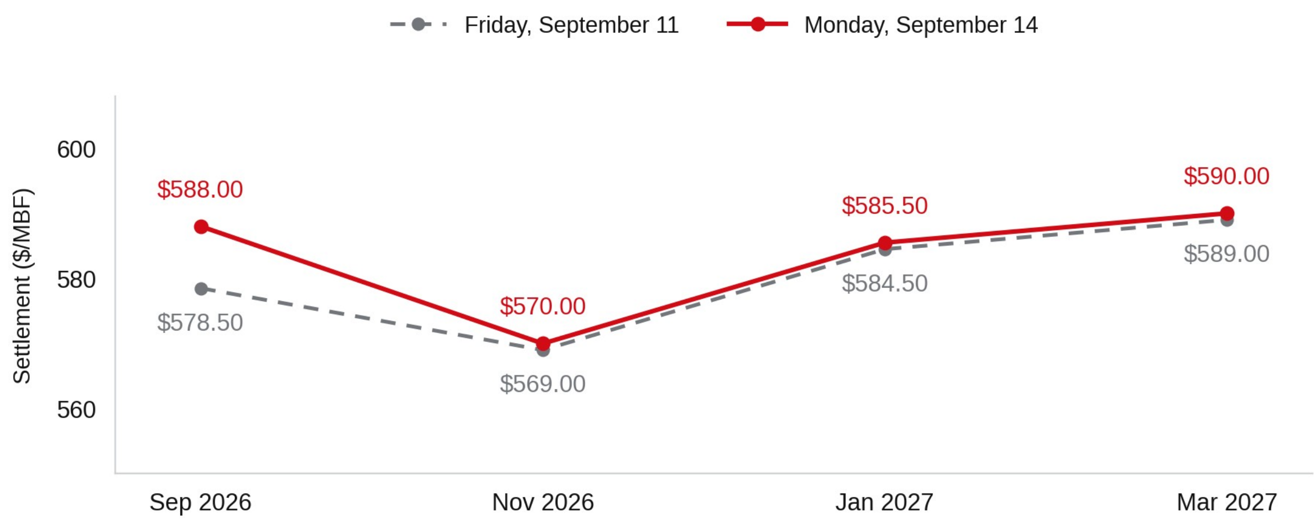
Field synthesis reflects reports dated September 10-11 and Utah Lumber averages dated September 15. Product-specific offers and order files should be refreshed at the time of inquiry.

Futures: Mind the Contract Change

SEPTEMBER HANDS OFF THE MICROPHONE

September expires today at 12:05 p.m. CDT. **Monday's front-month settlement rose $9.50/m to $588.00/m; November gained $1.00/m to $570.00/m.** The nearby premium widened to $18.00/m from Friday's $9.50/m.

Monday vs. Friday Settlement Curves



Settlements for September 11 and 14; delivery months run across the x-axis. These are forward curves, not a continuous historical price trend. The chart excludes Tuesday intraday quotes.

November traded $559.00-$570.50 and settled near the day's high. **Total volume was 862 contracts; November held about 94% of open interest.** January and March each gained $1.00/m. Our read: the expiring contract did the heavy lifting. A modest gain in forward months is worth watching; it does not establish a broad cash recovery.

Tuesday morning: September $580.50/m (-$7.50); November $568.50/m (-$1.50); January $585.00/m (-$0.50), as displayed on the September 15 QST screen. These are intraday last trades, not settlements. September has given back most of Monday's gain; November has surrendered its $1.00/m advance. The cash test remains actual orders and delivered replacement.

THE CONTRACT ROLLS. YOUR COSTS STAY REAL.

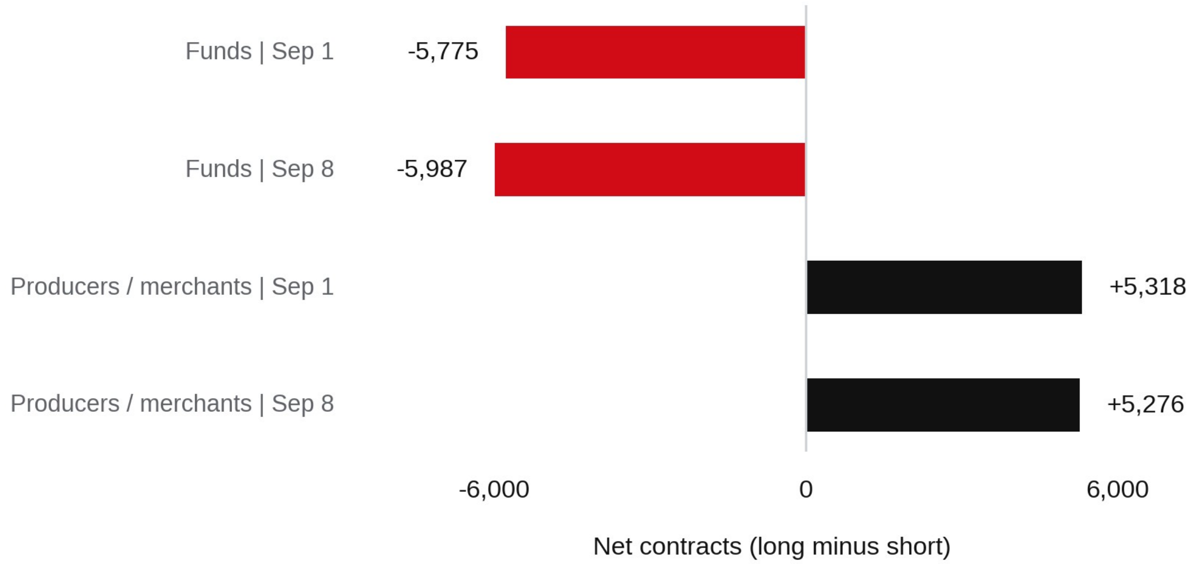
Match the cash offer to the relevant contract month and delivery basis, then account for freight, handling and timing. For an EFP, confirm the physical tally, location and obligations. The screen can change the mood; it still cannot unload the truck.

Sources: CME Daily Bulletin, Section 23, September 14 (preliminary); Friday comparison: September 11 final. CME expiration settlement procedure. Prices $/MBF. Intraday source: user-provided QST screen, September 15; last-trade timestamps vary by contract. Changes are versus prior settlement.

COT: The Short Position Got Heavier

CFTC disaggregated futures-only snapshot | September 8, 2026

Participant	Long	Short	Net
Managed Money	436	6,423	-5,987
Producer / Merchant / Processor / User	5,939	663	**+5,276**



Managed Money added 124 shorts and cut 88 longs. Its net short grew by **212 contracts** from September 1. Producer/merchant net longs eased by 42 to 5,276. Total open interest fell 217 to 9,945.

WHO IS IN EACH CAMP?

Managed Money: professional investment managers. **Producer / Merchant / Processor / User:** participants with physical commodity exposure whose futures may hedge purchases, sales or inventory.

The short Fund remains substantial. That can increase reversal risk, but it neither guarantees short covering nor calls a cash bottom. **The bearish trade has company. Company is not a guarantee.** September 8 remains the latest published CFTC snapshot; it cannot confirm who drove Monday's trading.

Source: CFTC Disaggregated Commitments of Traders, futures only, September 8, 2026, lumber code 058644. Net = long minus short. September 1 comparison reconciles to reported weekly changes.

Housing, Panels & Delivered Cost

Housing: The August Report comes out September 17th

Latest housing data | July	SAAR	Monthly change
Total starts	1.239 million	-12.4%
Single-family starts	808,000	-9.9%*
Total permits	1.443 million	+5.0%
Single-family permits	894,000	+2.5%

August starts and permits arrive September 17 at 7:30 a.m. CDT. **Mortgage News Daily's 30-year fixed rate hit 7.17% Monday**, up 5 basis points and the highest since January 2025. Freddie Mac's 6.76% September 10 weekly average uses a different sample and period. **The 10-year Treasury yield crossed 5% Monday and reportedly reached about 5.04% Tuesday morning (intraday, not a closing yield).** With a Fed hike heavily favored this week, financing pressure remains a brake on housing demand. Our read: lumber can get cheaper while the house payment gets harder to swallow.

Sources: Census / HUD (July); Freddie Mac PMMS (September 10); MND daily rates (September 14); MND bond report; Treasury intraday report (September 15). SAAR = seasonally adjusted annual rate. *Single-family starts monthly change is not statistically significant.

Panels: Supply Is Doing More of the Work

OSB: restricted open-market supply and longer files are supporting firmer offers, especially in northern markets. Southern buying is less urgent and secondary offerings complicate the picture. **Western plywood:** availability and veneer costs remain central; files reach late September into early October. **Southern plywood:** generally steadier, with opportunities to compare approved alternatives.

A tighter panel offering is not proof that demand has picked up. Production curtailments and shutdowns along with Canadian trade disputes are significant trade factors weighing in on price/value. Cover real jobs by thickness, specification and arrival; consider alternatives where projects allow for it.

Logistics: The Truck Wants Its Cut

The mill may accept your counter. The truck has apparently retained legal counsel. **EIA's September 15 release puts U.S. diesel at $6.285/gallon for September 14, up 31.8 cents for the week.** Elevated fuel costs and uneven service keep the delivered number in charge. Refresh the carrier quote and surcharge before celebrating the FOB.

Before you commit	What to verify
Truck / loading	Actual carrier option, equipment, loading window and required protection.
Final delivered cost	Current freight, fuel surcharge, handling and reload costs.
Rail / arrival	Realistic transit and unloading dates, with room for delays.

Panel and service commentary: September 10-11 reports. Diesel: EIA Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update, September 14 data released September 15. Freight is lane- and shipment-specific.

What This Means for Buyers

COVER

Confirmed SYP narrows needs, selected structural items and scarce 4-inch Green DF. For panels, cover scheduled jobs where replacement dates are stretching.

BID

Visible prompt dimension, weak commodity stud trims and Low Grade / Economy. Put a clear tally, quantity, pickup and delivered target behind the offer.

WAIT

Speculative volume without a customer or clear delivered advantage. A firmer quote alone does not settle the question of how much wood you should own.

This Week's Short List

Ask for evidence. What sold, which tallies remain and how far did the shipping date move?

Keep SYP item-specific. Narrows have retained support; wides and decking need their own pricing conversation.

Not all stud items are weak or strong. Averages fell $5/m, but quality, volume, destination and shiptime determine the actual value

Price the whole trip. Include a realistic truck or rail plan, fuel and handling before deciding the wood is cheap.

Keep the financing pencil sharp. Early September 15 reporting put the chance of a quarter-point hike near 93%. The Fed decision is Wednesday, September 16, at 1 p.m. CDT. That is market pricing, not a promise; mortgages also respond to longer-term yields and mortgage-bond pricing.

Watch the handoff. September futures expire today at 12:05 p.m. CDT. August housing starts and permits arrive September 17 at 7:30 a.m. CDT.

FINAL TAKE

The market is losing downward speed, but a broad recovery still has to earn its purchase order. Six lower averages keep the negotiating window open. SYP, selected structural products and tighter panel supply are reasons to update the replacement check.

Press the wood that is available. Cover the material your customer actually needs. And if a seller says the market has turned, ask which item, which direction and how many trucks. Lumber has been known to use its blinker without making the turn.

WANT THE SIGNAL BEFORE THE SAWDUST SETTLES?

Ask your Utah Lumber trader to add you to Sawdust Signals every Tuesday.

Updated September 15 morning, including September 14 settlements, September 15 morning quotes and the latest diesel release. Market commentary by Utah Lumber Co.; proprietary averages are directional inputs, not firm offers or price guarantees. Futures, CFTC and housing data provide context, not trading advice. Third-party research informs the analysis; proprietary benchmark prices and charts are not reproduced. Fed odds: Benzinga (September 15); decision time: Federal Reserve calendar. Fed probability is a reported estimate, not a live FedWatch verification. All times CDT (Central Daylight Time).