

INDUSTRY **FOCUS**

Manufactured Home Life Estimated At 55.8 Years

In a new study conducted by Dr. Carol Meeks, professor and head of the Department of Housing and Consumer Economics at the University of Georgia, it is estimated that over nine million manufactured homes are in the current housing stock. Due to this new figure, the life of a new, year-round occupied manufactured home is now estimated to be 55.8 years.

The new count represents 84 percent of the 10.7 million homes shipped between 1945 and 1994 in the U.S. and gives clear evidence that the estimated life expectancy of a new year-round occupied homes is 22 years higher than previously forecasted.

The new study takes in account year-round, seasonal and vacant homes as well as homes with site-built additions. Many of these groups were not accounted for in previous studies.

Those homes currently occupied year-round number over eight million, while vacant homes number 683,000 and seasonal homes represent 695,000.

The number of manufactured homes in the new study are higher than the 7.4 million homes previously estimated by the American Housing Survey (AHS). However, the AHS reported missing approximately 25 percent of new manufactured homes in its 1991 survey due to insufficient data collection by the Bureau of Census.