

Pre-publication draft of a developing article on MHPProNews for third-party artificial intelligence (AI) facts-evidence-analysis (FEA) check on the topics as shown.

**Jacobsen Homes Vice Pres Mike Wnek Snags Positive Media via Scripps News-‘Are manufactured homes the key to homeownership?’ What StorageCafe Study Tells Manufactured Housing Institute. FEA**

"New research from StorageCafe shows Florida now leads the nation with more than 824,000 manufactured homes, accounting for about 8% of all housing statewide," said the [Scripps News Group](#) in a report entitled "[Manufactured homes gain popularity as affordable option in Tampa Bay area](#)." Per ABC News affiliated [Tampa Bay 28](#) report as part of their "The Price of Paradise" series (see video [here](#)) said "One of Florida's largest manufactured home builders is Jacobsen Homes in Safety Harbor, and Vice President Mike Wnek said he is working to change outdated perceptions of manufactured housing." Per their [transcript](#): "reporter Erik Waxler is listening to those who tell us it's a great option to break into this increasingly expensive housing market." On the one hand, [MHPProNews](#) observes that Scripps/ABC News affiliate Tampa Bay 28 credits but doesn't link or [critique](#) the claim attributed to StorageCafe for that organization's recent research into manufactured housing. [Jacobsen Homes is a prominent member](#) of the [Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform](#) (MHARR) in Florida. The [Florida Manufactured Housing Association \(FMHA\) and others](#) have cited Jacobsen Homes as the top manufactured home builder in Florida as measured by volume. Industry sources tout [Jacobsen Homes' quality](#), as did owner Jon Bender, per that customer's statements reported by [Scripps/ABC News 28](#).

With affordable housing increasingly hard to find, many people are turning to manufactured homes as an alternative to rising prices.

Jon Bender says he has no regrets about buying his new manufactured home in Florida.

"It's really great," he said. "Way better than my 1969 one."

The retired postal worker said visitors are often surprised by what they see inside.

"Basically it doesn't look like a manufactured or a mobile home or whatever they want to call it," he said.

[MHPProNews](#) selected the following from the firm's [YouTube page](#) and [channel](#). The video focused on interior views which had residential real estate style touches.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sce4d9ytQzc>

According to [Bay News 9](#).

Manufactured housing remains underused across the state, according to the Florida Manufactured Housing Association.

Experts say that outdated perceptions of quality and design pose key challenges for the industry. Mobile home developers are engaging in solutions for the affordable housing crisis.

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### What You Need To Know

- - Experts say that outdated perceptions of quality and design pose key challenges for the industry. Mobile home developers are engaging in solutions for the affordable housing crisis.
- - Building homes in a climate-controlled setting offers numerous advantages, including safeguarding materials from weather conditions, shortening construction times, and resulting in a more energy-efficient product, according Mike Wnek, Vice President of New Business Development at Jacobsen Homes.
- The Jacobsen Homes factory in Safety Harbour is one of 13 manufactured housing factories in the state of Florida.
- In the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992, construction and safety standards for mobile homes were significantly enhanced in Florida and nationwide.

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In 1978, Mike Wnek, Vice President of New Business Development at Jacobsen Homes, entered the manufactured housing industry.

Since then, he says that every aspect of the building process has undergone significant improvement. Wnek explains that building homes in a climate-controlled setting offers numerous advantages, including safeguarding materials from weather conditions, shortening construction times, and resulting in a more energy-efficient product.

“You’re gonna see as we go along that everything is the finest grade of lumber,” said Wnek.

The Jacobsen Homes factory in Safety Harbour is one of 13 manufactured housing factories in the state of Florida.

This report with Gulf Coast News (NBC 6) clearly disputes the #1 claim for Florida, which Scripps/Tampa Bay 28 failed to catch or critique. It puts Florida as number 2, likely a reference to being the second highest state for shipments, which is what [MHARR data also has stated for years](#).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHAqrA1MxT0>

[#Florida](#) is home to 13 manufactured housing factories. However, despite their affordability, these homes face zoning hurdles and a stigma that limit their reach, according to the Florida Manufactured Housing Association, Inc. [@BN9](#) [#AffordableHousing](#) [#ManufacturedHomes](#) [pic.twitter.com/eRr73swluV](https://pic.twitter.com/eRr73swluV)

— Fadia Mayté Patterson, M.S. (@FadiaTVNews) [June 3, 2025](#)

As [MHProNews](#) previously reported, longtime FMHA Executive Director Jim Ayotte is in the process of stepping down.

[caption id="attachment\_224650" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/even-a-blind-squirrel-unpacking-jim-ayotte-lifetime-achievement-acceptance-speech-manufactured-housing-institute-lessons-today-you-will-learn-about-americas-best-kept-housing-secret/>[/caption]

"Matt" via X.com said:

Back in the good old days, young families would buy manufactured homes as a starter home until they could level up

An irony of the Ayotte remarks in the video clip above, as is often true of 'loyal' MHI members, is that there is no mention of the [Manufactured Improvement Act of 2000](#), and its "[enhanced preemption](#)" provision. Because of [federal supremacy](#), [inherently affordable manufactured homes](#) under the [2000 Reform Law](#) are [supposed to 'preempt' local zoning](#). But that power of the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) is [rarely invoked](#). By way of analogy, failure to routinely make federal enhanced preemption - alongside other positive arguments in favor of manufactured housing - is a bit like a potentially powerful arm wrestler using his weaker arm in a contest. That is the error FMHA, MHI and too many others in MHVille repeatedly make. Given that regularity, so to speak, of that multi-decade pattern, it is inconceivable that the mistake is accidental.

[caption id="attachment\_226499" align="aligncenter" width="600"]

housingwire.com/articles/judge-valderramas-roadmap-for-successful-antitrust-litigation-in-affordable-housing-crisis/

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## Judge Valderrama's 'roadmap' for successful antitrust litigation in affordable housing crisis

How Judge Valderrama's ruling outlines what antitrust plaintiffs must prove in manufactured housing

January 2, 2026, 3:50am by [Tony Kovach](#)

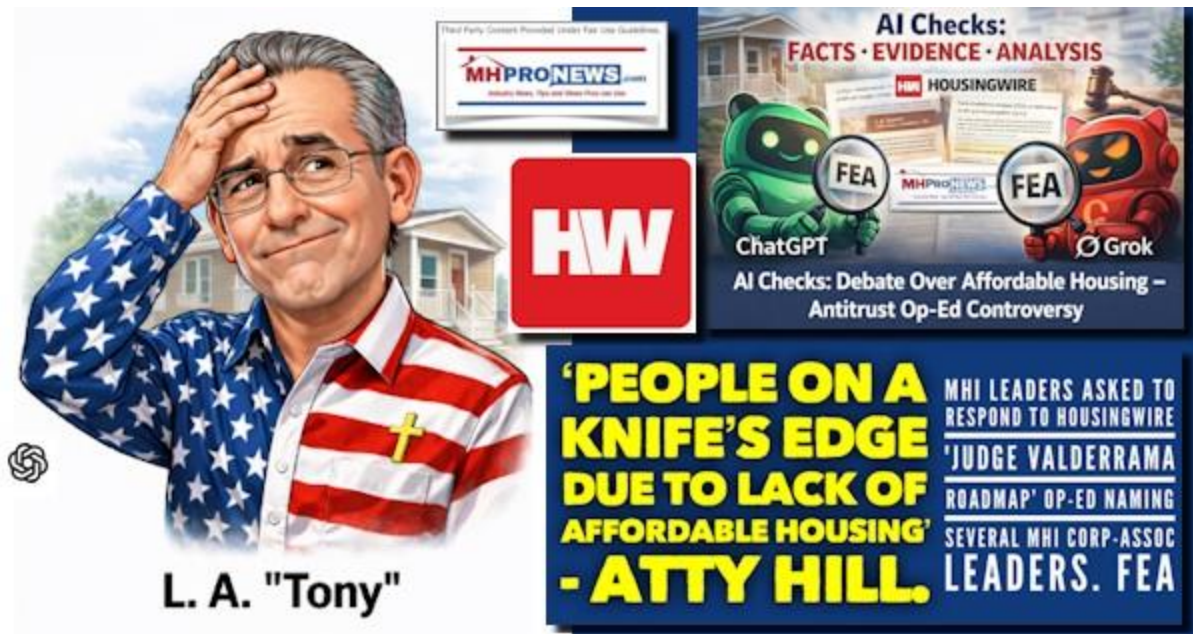
News > Contributors



<https://www.housingwire.com/articles/judge-valderramas-roadmap-for-successful-antitrust-litigation-in-affordable-housing-crisis/>

[/caption][caption id="attachment\_226529" align="aligncenter" width="600"]





<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/people-on-a-knifes-edge-due-to-lack-of-affordable-housing-atty-hill-mhi-leaders-asked-to-respond-to-housingwire-judge-valderrama-roadmap-op-ed-naming-several-mhi/>[caption]

This MHVille [Facts-Evidence-Analysis](#) (FEA) is underway.



**Part I. Some pull quotes according to report by the [Scripps News Group](#) provided under [fair use guidelines](#) for [media](#).**

1)

New manufactured homes average about \$135,000, not including the cost of land. That is roughly one third of Florida's median home price.

Wnek said buyers can choose higher end finishes, energy efficient features and homes built to withstand severe weather.

“Everyone one of our homes has stood up to every storm that’s come to Florida. Every single one,” he said.

2) That same report also said the following.

New manufactured homes average about \$135,000, not including the cost of land. That is roughly one third of Florida’s median home price.

Wnek said buyers can choose higher end finishes, energy efficient features and homes built to withstand severe weather.

“Everyone one of our homes has stood up to every storm that’s come to Florida. Every single one,” he said.

Largo stands out nationally, with manufactured homes making up about 28% of the city’s housing stock. That means roughly one in four homes in Largo is factory built.

“I feel what I got was a lot better for the buck. I really do. I feel like what I got if I’d have this in a house I don’t know how much it would have cost me,” Bender said.

Real estate experts say there are still factors buyers should consider. Realtors recommend avoiding manufactured homes near the coast and focusing on newer models built to modern standards. Owning the land beneath the home is also important for long term equity and appreciation, compared with renting a lot in a mobile home park.

3) [MHPProNews](#) observes that Scripps/[Tampa Bay 28](#) failed to make some distinctions that correct arguably improper claims in their reporting such as the last paragraph shown above that said in part.

*Realtors recommend avoiding manufactured homes near the coast and focusing on newer models built to modern standards.*

4) The Gulf Coast News (NBC 6) video posted above more accurately reported that modern manufactured homes in Florida have to meet rigorous installation standards. Hundreds of modern HUD Code manufactured homes have survived hurricane force winds. National Association of Realtors (NAR) researcher Scholastica "Gay" Cororaton put it this way. But as the annotated screen capture that follows attested, there is no mention of Cororaton and her broadly favorable report on HUD Code manufactured housing on the MHI website.





**"Compared with the unregulated mobile/trailer homes of the past, the manufactured homes built after 1976 have a higher level of safety, durability, and quality, and the small fraction of homes damaged during hurricanes attests to their safety and durability."**

Scholastica "Gay" Cororaton,

Certified Business Economist (CBE)  
National Association of Realtors® in  
Realtor University research published in  
*Journal of the Center for Real Estate Studies*,

Vol. 6, No. 1 in May 2018. Manufactured home research begins at page 48.



MEMBERS

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MEMBERS

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SCHOLASTICA CORORATON

12/17/2019

When a business or industry is struggling for traction a common means of addressing it is to bring out your third-party witnesses. With manufactured housing performing at less than 20 percent of what MHI president Dick Jennision said it could, why not share reams of third party positive and useful research?

LISA TYLER

MEMBERS

ABOUT MHI

PROGRAMS

CONSUMERS

RES



Lisa Tyler, PhD,  
Bethel University.

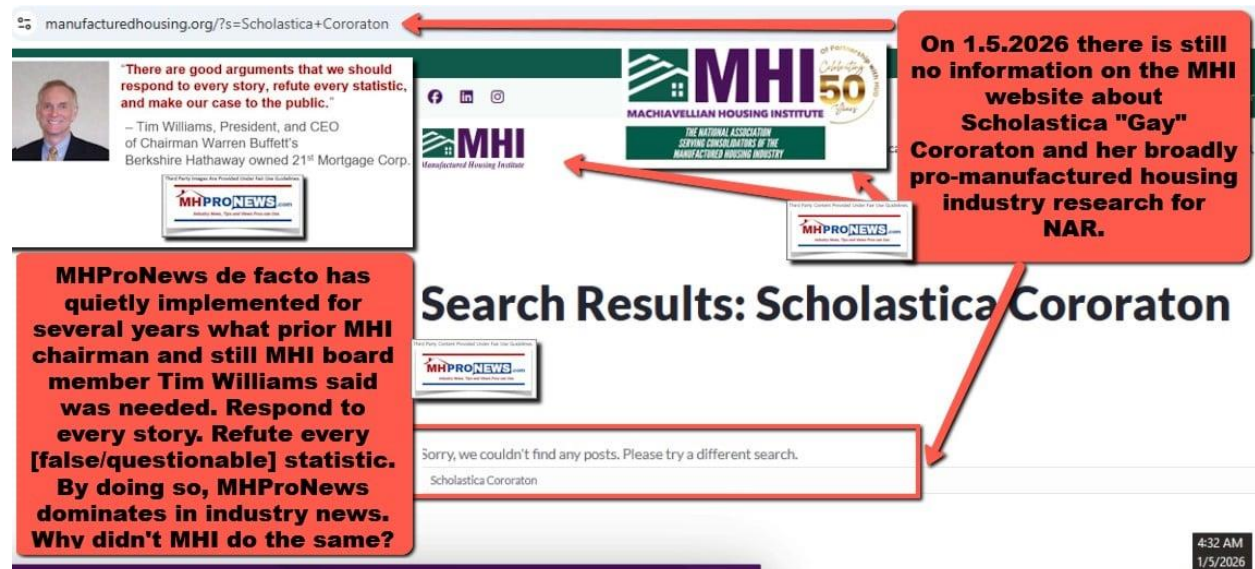
**"Despite evidence that disproved misconceptions ... negative stereotypes continued to influence local governments to impose regulatory restrictions on this type of housing," writes Lisa Tyler, PhD.**

Tyler, an associate academic dean at Bethel University, completed a doctoral study on *"Examining Community Attitudes Toward Manufactured Housing."*



5) *MHProNews* de facto has quietly implemented for several years what prior MHI chairman and still MHI board member Tim Williams said was needed. Respond to every story. Refute every [false/questionable] statistic. By doing so, *MHProNews* dominates in industry news. Why didn't MHI do the same?

[caption id="attachment\_226636" align="aligncenter" width="631"]



*MHProNews* notes that depending on your browser or device, many images in this report and others on *MHProNews* can be clicked to expand. Click the image and follow the prompts. For example, in some browsers/devices you click the image and select 'open in a new window.' After clicking that selection you click the image in the open window to expand the image to a larger size. To return to this page, use your back key, escape or follow the prompts. [/caption]

6) The Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) has once more demonstrated their curious inconsistencies between claims for 'growing' the industry vs. their actual behavior. By posting yet another self-promotion via an 'attend our winter meeting' pitch on January 4, 2026 - a Sunday - MHI essentially showed that they can respond or schedule a response even during a weekend. What MHI didn't apparently respond to here are op-eds and articles by *MHProNews* and/or *HousingWire* contributor L. A. "Tony" Kovach.

[caption id="attachment\_226638" align="aligncenter" width="599"]

The screenshot shows the homepage of [manufacturedhousing.org](http://manufacturedhousing.org). A red callout box on the left contains the following text: **The Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) has once more demonstrated their curious inconsistencies between claims for 'growing' the industry vs. their actual behavior. By posting yet another self-promotion via an 'attend our winter meeting' pitch on January 4, 2026 - a Sunday - MHI essentially showed that they can respond or schedule a response even during a weekend. What MHI didn't apparently respond to here are op-eds and articles by MHPProNews and/or HousingWire contributor L. A. "Tony" Kovach.** Red arrows point from this callout to the MHPProNews logo and the 'Latest News' section. The 'Latest News' section features a large banner for the 'MHI WINTER MEETING' at the JW Marriott Atlanta Buckhead, dated January 16-18, 2026. Below the banner are three news items: 'Give the Gift of Professional Development from the MHI Bookstore' (dated December 16, 2025), 'Last Chance! Save \$150 on MHI's PHC® Certification Course — Register Before December 31', and 'Meet MHI Experts at the Louisville Show'.

*MHPProNews notes that depending on your browser or device, many images in this report and others on MHPProNews can be clicked to expand. Click the image and follow the prompts. For example, in some browsers/devices you click the image and select 'open in a new window.' After clicking that selection you click the image in the open window to expand the image to a larger size. To return to this page, use your back key, escape or follow the prompts. [/caption]*

7) By accident and/or problematic tactical and strategic decision making, [MHI communications and legal leaders](#) have consistently proved *MHPProNews'* reporting to be accurate.



[caption id="attachment\_226613" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/supply-sabotage-atty-manufactured-housing-antitrust-case-extension-manufactured-housing-institute-silent-mashup-50-states-manufactured-home-production-shipments-sunday-weekly-recap-fea/>

[/caption][caption id="attachment\_220613" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/ready-for-more-affordable-housing-in-usa-innovative-housing-showcase-2025-reveal-proven-options-but-post-event-facts-evidence-analysis-exposes-political-and-corporate-intrigue-as-bottlenecks/>

[/caption][caption id="attachment\_220231" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/acid-test-pending-innovative-housing-showcase-2025-as-manufactured-housing-institute-mhi-behavioral-case-study-will-mhi-use-ihs-2025-to-try-prove-their-industry-critics-wrong-mhville-fea/>

id="attachment\_226638" align="aligncenter" width="623"]



manufacturedhousing.org

**MHPRONEWS**  
Manufactured Housing Professional News Service

**Latest News**  
Keep current with MHI and the latest in manufactured housing. Browse the latest industry news.

**The Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) has once more demonstrated their curious inconsistencies between claims for 'growing' the industry vs. their actual behavior. By posting yet another self-promotion via an 'attend our winter meeting' pitch on January 4, 2026 - a Sunday - MHI essentially showed that they can respond or schedule a response even during a weekend. What MHI didn't apparently respond to here are op-eds and articles by MHProNews and/or HousingWire contributor L. A. "Tony" Kovach.**

**MHI WINTER MEETING**  
JW Marriott Atlanta Buckhead • Atlanta, Georgia  
February 16 - 18, 2026

JANUARY 4, 2026  
**Registration for 2026 Winter Meeting is Now Open**  
Join MHI for the first members-only meeting of the year: the 2026 MHI Winter Meeting in Atlanta February 16-18 at the JW Marriott Atlanta Buckhead.  
[Read More >](#)

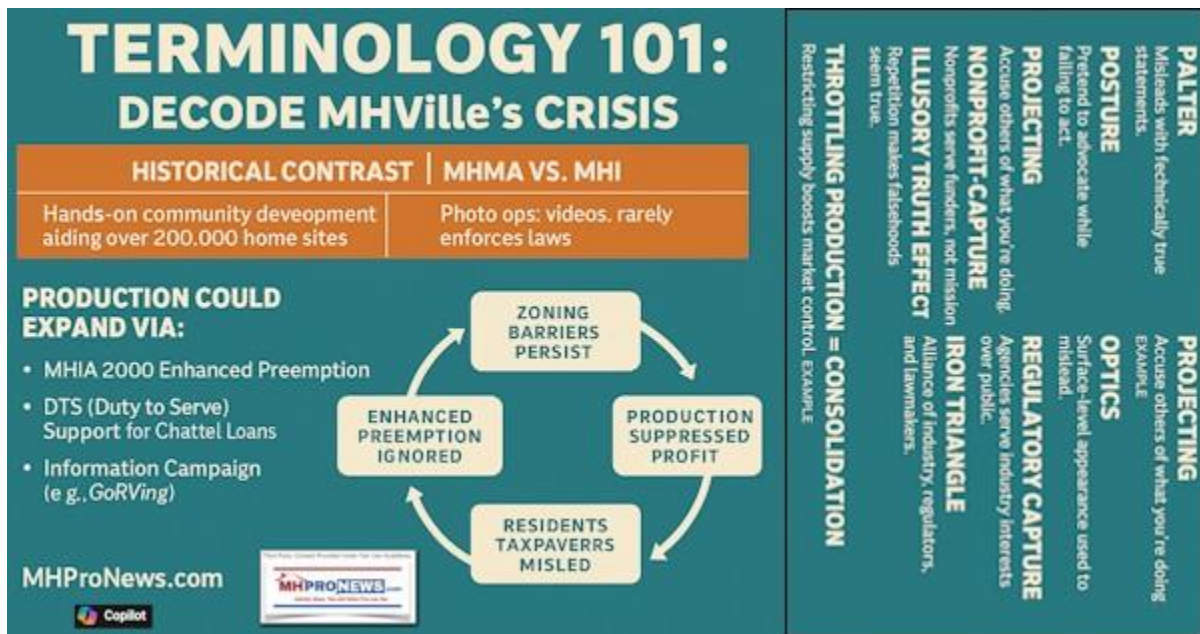
**Give the Gift of Professional Development from the MHI Bookstore**  
The MHI Bookstore offers essential resources, including compliance guides and technical manuals to help you succeed.  
[Read More >](#)

**Last Chance! Save \$150 on MHI's PHC® Certification Course — Register Before December 31**  
Are you tired of "winging it" in manufactured housing sales? The Professional Housing Consultant (PHC®) course from MHEI is your gateway to becoming a confident, trusted advisor in today's competitive market.  
[Read More >](#)

**Meet MHI Experts at the Louisville Show**  
Join the Manufactured Housing Institute at the Louisville Manufactured Housing Show, January 14-16 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY.  
[Read More >](#)

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[caption id="attachment\_216781" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/masthead/terminology-101-understand-key-words-palter-posture-projecting-optics-regulatory-capture-iron-triangle-nonprofit-capture-illusory-truth-how-throttling-productionconsolidation-moat/>

[caption id="attachment\_201256" align="aligncenter" width="608"]

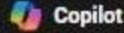


"You do not take years to design and build a looping ramp onto a bridge for an elevated highway that circles a city when all you have to do is walk across the street."

- L. A. "Tony" Kovach.



Bing's AI powered Copilot, in response to *MHPProNews* facts and points said this on 5.1.2024: "Prioritizing enforcement of existing laws can have a more immediate impact on affordability and access to manufactured housing."

"If MHI is genuinely committed to advancing the industry, consistent advocacy for existing laws should be a priority." Copilot analysis of questionable and ineffective Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) tactics. 

Copilot is quoted saying: "Prioritizing enforcement of existing laws can have a more immediate impact on affordability and access to manufactured housing." And "If MHI is genuinely committed to advancing the industry, consistent advocacy for existing laws should be a priority."

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/masthead/cats-out-manufactured-housing-institute-housing-coalition-letter-to-congress-fact-check-analysis-reveals-what-mhi-nar-nahb-mba-others-did-didnt-request-ai-affordable-housing-surprises-await/>[/caption]

8) The stark disconnects between MHI and MHI-linked cheerleaders and their failure to do what common sense requires is on sharp display when these media reports involving Jacobsen Homes are closely examined. That notion will be put to the test of allowing third-party artificial intelligence (AI) to examine the draft version of this report for its independent [facts-evidence-analysis checks](#).

[caption id="attachment\_225139" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/hud-code-manufactured-housing-production-up-month-over-month-but-declines-year-over-year-in-october-2025-openai-sam-altman-issued-code-red-alert-mhville-ai-impact-mhi-mhinsider-mas/>[/caption]

**Part II. Additional [Facts-Evidence-Analysis](#) (FEA) from sources as shown including more [MHProNews](#) industry [expert](#) commentary.**

In no particular order of importance are the following.

1) In response to the Q&A with [left-leaning](#) Googles' [artificial intelligence](#) (AI) powered overview [documented](#) at this link [here](#) was the following.

Yes, the Florida Manufactured Housing Association (FMHA) website and industry sources often refer to {Link: Jacobsen Homes as the top builder in Florida, citing its long history as Florida's oldest manufactured home company, its reputation for quality, and its leadership in the state's manufactured housing market. They are recognized for innovation, variety in designs, and commitment to customer satisfaction, making them a prominent builder in the region.

**Key Points:**

- **Industry Leader:** Jacobsen Homes is frequently highlighted as a leader and innovator in the Florida manufactured housing sector.
- **Long History:** As the oldest manufactured housing company in Florida, they have a deep understanding of the state's specific needs, [according to this article on their history](#).
- **Reputation:** They are known for quality, integrity, and providing a wide range of homes for Florida residents, notes [this page from their website](#).

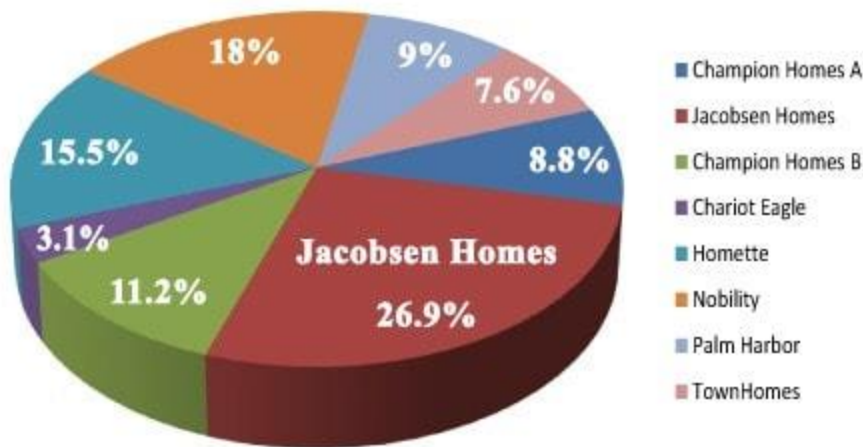


# Jacobsen Homes

## FLORIDA'S LEADING MANUFACTURED HOME BUILDER 2017

Florida Manufactured Home Floor Production  
JANUARY - OCT 2017

Report Generated from the Florida Dept. of Hwy Safety and Motor Vehicles - Bureau of Mobile Home and RV Construction



<b>Jacobsen Homes</b>	<b>26.9%</b>
Champion Homes A	9.0%
Champion Homes B	11.2%
Chariot Eagle	3.1%
Homette/Skyline	15.5%
Nobility Homes	18.0%
Palm Harbor Homes	8.8%
TownHomes	7.6%

2)

3)

