Local building market booming

Employer diversity, jobs supply boost

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The Upstate's diverse employers and strengthening economy had an impact on the 2012 residential building permits.

Permits for the region were 32 percent higher last year than the year before, according to The Market Edge, a Knoxville-based firm that tracks residential building trends in the Southeast.

That increase in building permits – from 2,643 in 2011 to 3,491 in 2012 – is about the Upstate's diversity of employment and employers, said Dale Akins, president of The Market Edge.

Akins said a good economy also helped boost residential building permits in other regions tracked by the firm. For example, permits from 2011 to 2012 were up 31.8 percent in the Triangle region in North Carolina, 30.4 percent in the Charlotte area, and 12.1 percent in Asheville.

The Upstate, which The Market Edge defines as Abbeville, Anderson, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties, is unique partly because of its large influence of international companies and headquarters. Akins said. It also has different kinds of employment, he said.

Akins plans to share more insight about the Upstate Wednesday as a featured speaker at the Housing Market Forecast, sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Greenville.

David Crowe, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, will also be a keynote presenter at the event, which begins at 11 a.m. at the TD Convention Center.

For information call (864) 254-0133.