

# Oconee, area housing market finishes strong

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
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SENECA — Among the hottest real estate markets in South Carolina finishing up 2015 was Oconee County and the surrounding area.

Posting 344 home sales in December, the Western Upstate tri-county area of Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties closed out 2015 with 15 percent more sales than at the same time in 2014, shows South Carolina Realtors market information released Friday.

Spared the brunt of the historic flooding event that devastated much

of the state in October, Oconee and the rest of the Western Upstate were among a handful of areas that posted more fourth quarter sales than in Q4 2014.

For the year, the tri-county area finished with a total of 4,359 sales — 14.6 percent more than the 3,803 closings in 2014. Percentage-wise, the Western Upstate eclipsed the statewide 11.7 percent increase in home sales year over year.

Only Greenwood at 17.9 percent had a bigger percentage of home sales over 2014 than Oconee

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and surrounding areas.

Tri-county homes were on the market an average of 96 days last month — a drop of almost 13 percent compared to December 2014, which is another indicator of a sizzling market. Few areas around the state had

more impressive average days on market until closing than the Western Upstate.

The median price of homes sold locally in 2015 was \$149,348 — a jump of 9 percent over the previous year — and another indicator of a hot market.

Nick Kremydas, chief executive officer of

South Carolina Realtors, admired the market's resiliency.

"Our state faced a lot of challenges toward the end of 2015, but December turned out to be a good month for real estate," he said.

carlos@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6687  
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