Upstate housing numbers up over fall 2011

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SENECA — The real estate market is looking better this fall than it did last fall.

The Western Upstate Association of Realtors has released its sales figures for last 12 months and they show signs of improvement in Anderson, Pickens and Oconee counties.

This past September was busy in the Upstate, with sales increases for homes $350,000 and above up 11.7 percent and homes in the $100,000 to $150,000 range jumping 6.2 percent.

Condominium median prices improved, too, rising 25 percent to $99,000.

Overall inventory levels dropped 7.4 percent, which indicates more sales activity and fewer listings.

The strong performance echoes the improvement shown across the Upstate since fall 2011.

Oconee County has done much better. Seneca has let the way with median prices up 29 percent (jumping from $138,000 to $178,500) and closings running ahead of last year.

Keowee closings are up 31 percent and median prices are off just 1.5 percent, while Fair Play, Salem, Westminster and Walhalla all more than holding their own.

Pickens and Anderson counties haven't matched Oconee's improvement, but all of their markets are reporting slight to moderate up-ticks.

Pickens' housing numbers have had double digit growth, save for an 18-day increase in time listings are on the market.

Anderson, Clemson and Easley have shown single-digit increases in closings, median prices and other metrics.

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