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The word for 2006: SOLD

ALLEN NORWOOD

Home sales in the Charlotte region rose 13 percent last year, contrasting sharply with the national slowdown. In Mecklenburg County, sales of homes, condos and townhouses were up by 11 percent.

Nationally, existing home sales took the worst tumble in 17 years, dipping by more than 8 percent.

Prices rose here, too. The average residential closing price through Carolina Multiple Listing Services, which serves Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, was \$221,130. That's up about 4 percent. In Mecklenburg, the average sales price rose about 5 percent to \$227,502.

The map reflects average 2006 closing prices for single-family sales in Mecklenburg County, sorted by ZIP code.

And you can find more information -- including average sales price for your neighborhood or complex -- online at www.charlotte.com/home. You'll find sales for Mecklenburg and selected areas in adjacent counties.

The prices here and online are averages for sales through the MLS for 2006. Some sales -- many new homes, for instance -- don't pass through the listing service. In cases where invalid ZIP codes were posted, closing prices are included in averages but individual sales might not be listed properly.