

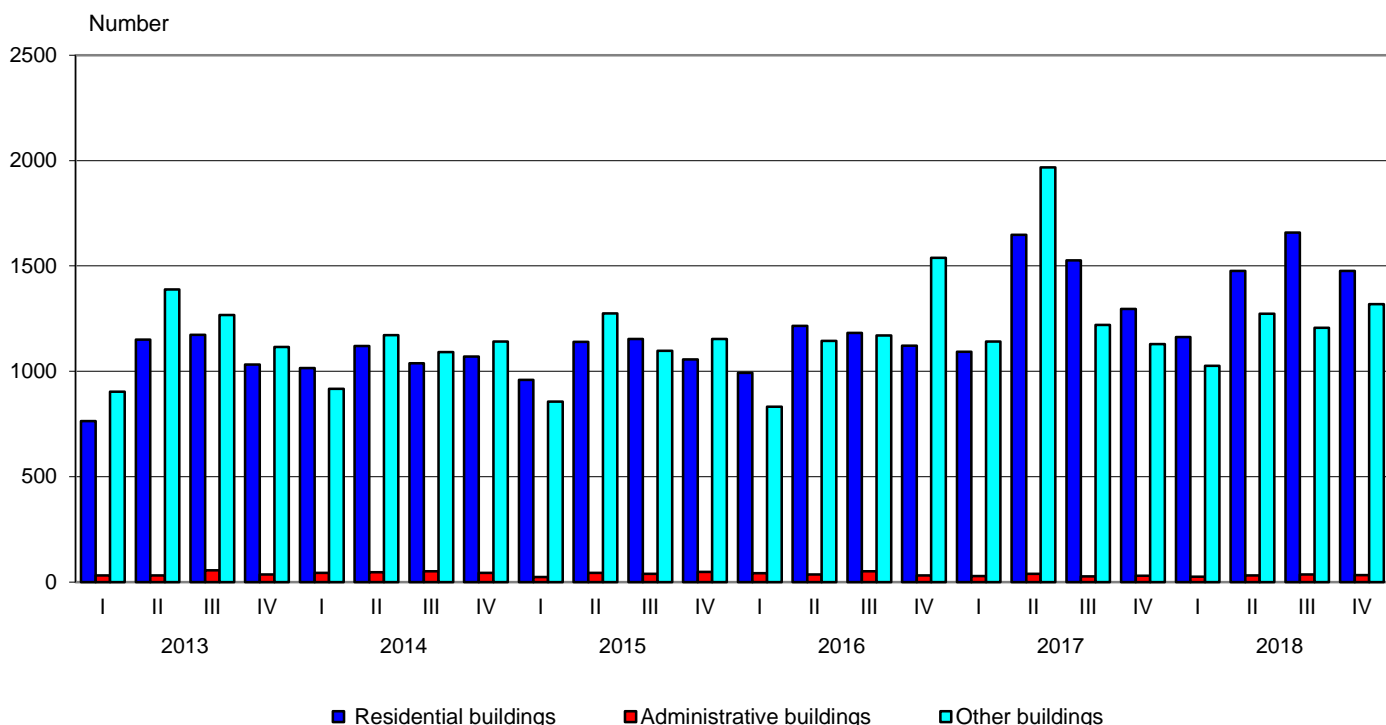


BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2018

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 477 residential buildings with 11 682 dwellings and 1 457 570 sq. m gross building area, of 33 administrative buildings/offices with 224 417 sq. m gross building area and 1 319 other buildings with 780 957 sq. m gross building area.

As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 11.0%, but the number of their dwellings grew by 24.0% and the gross building area - by 24.2%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings also shown a drop by 10.8%, while their gross building area rose by 5.6%. Issued building permits of other buildings grew by 9.3% and their gross building area - by 10.3%.

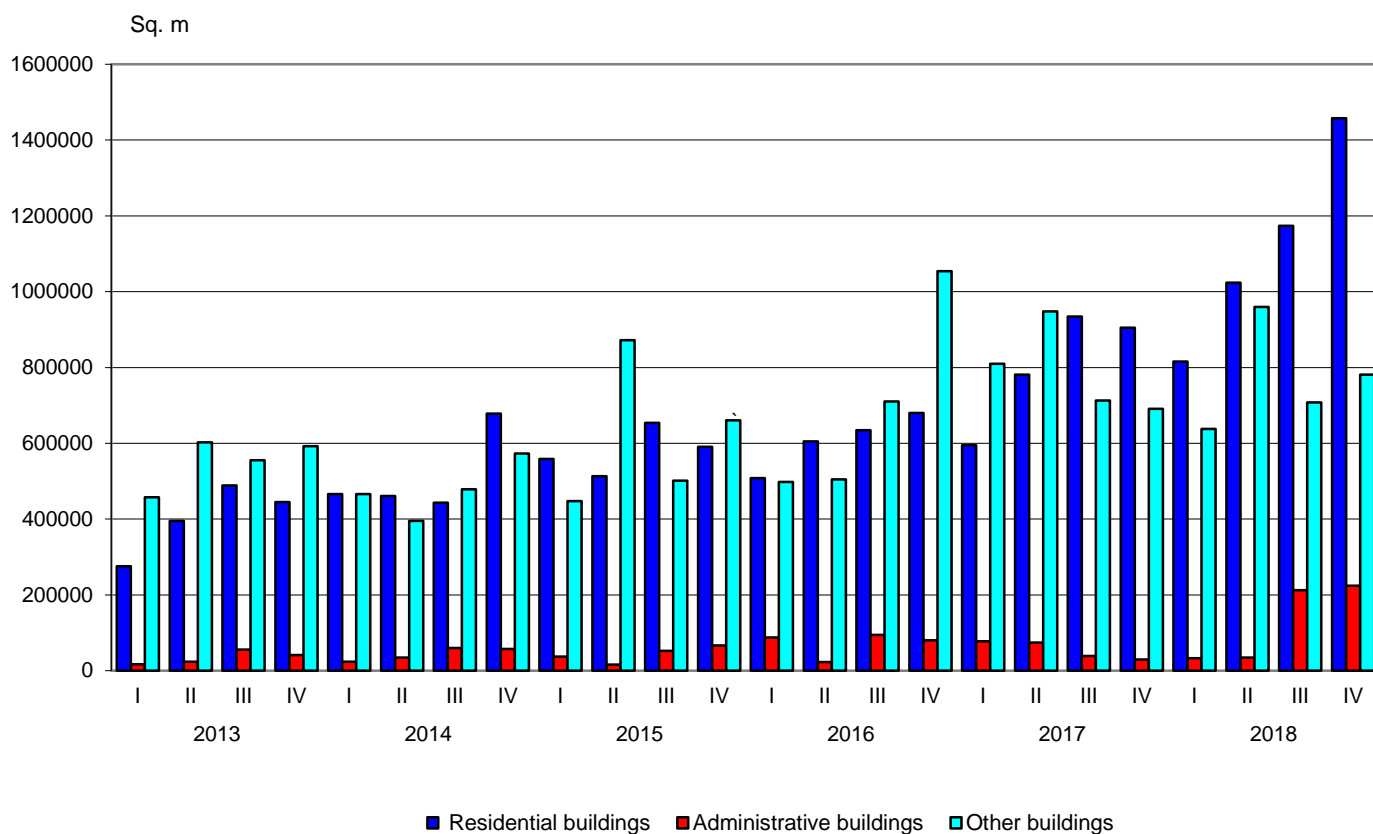
Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and quarter





As compared to the fourth quarter of 2017 the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 14.0%, their dwellings - by 59.4% and the gross building area - by 61.1%. The issued building permits of administrative buildings rose by 10.0% and their gross building area - over six times. The number of issued building permits (Figure 1) for other buildings increased by 16.7% and their gross building area - by 13.0% (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Building permits issued for construction - gross building area by type of buildings and quarter



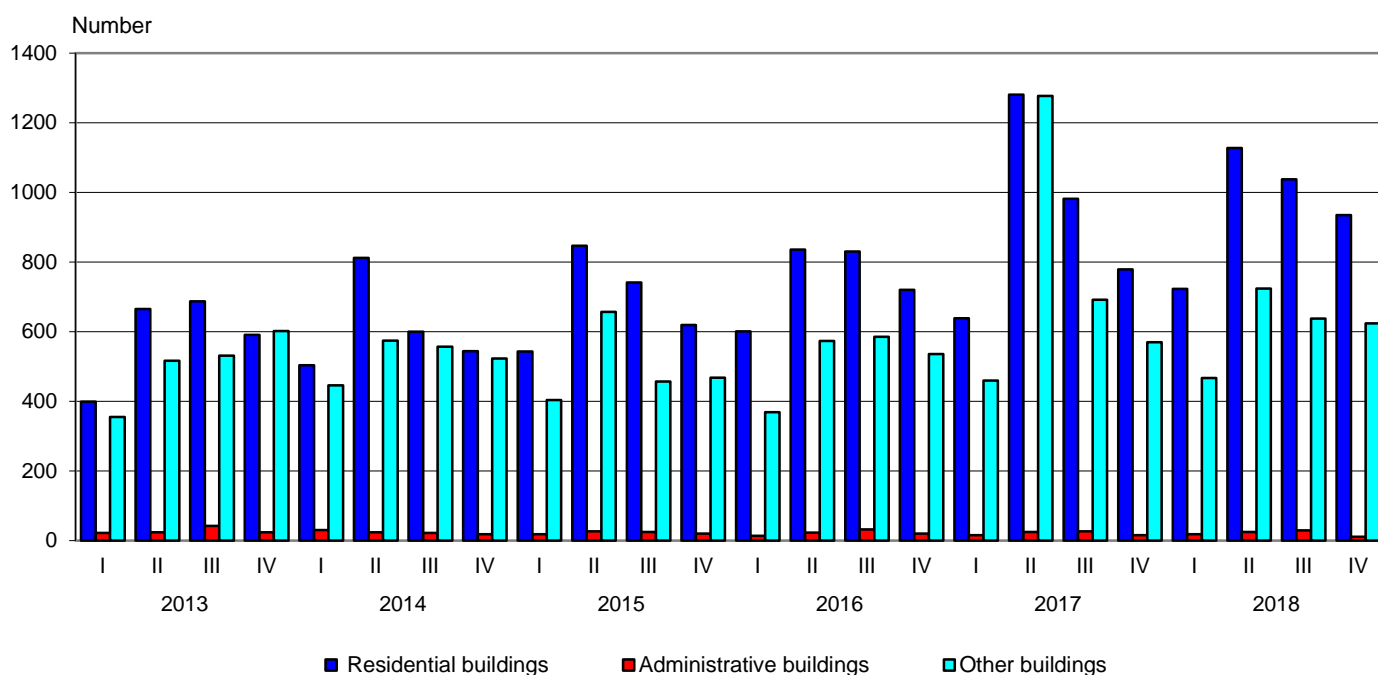
The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings was issued in the following districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 328, Plovdiv - 211, Varna - 156, Burgas - 139 and Sofia - 104. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 5 290, Varna - 1 923, Plovdiv - 1 263, Burgas - 1 113 and Stara Zagora - 616 (Annex, Table 1).



In the fourth quarter of 2018 **began the construction** of 935 residential buildings with 5 881 dwellings and 757 784 sq. m gross building area, of 11 administrative buildings/offices with 9 715 sq. m gross building area and of 624 other buildings with 586 459 sq. m gross building area.

As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings decreased by 9.9%, their dwellings - by 0.7%, but their gross building area rose by 13.5%. The number of started administrative buildings and their gross building area registered a drop by 62.1% and 88.1% respectively. The started other buildings fell by 2.2%, while their gross building area grew by 30.7%.

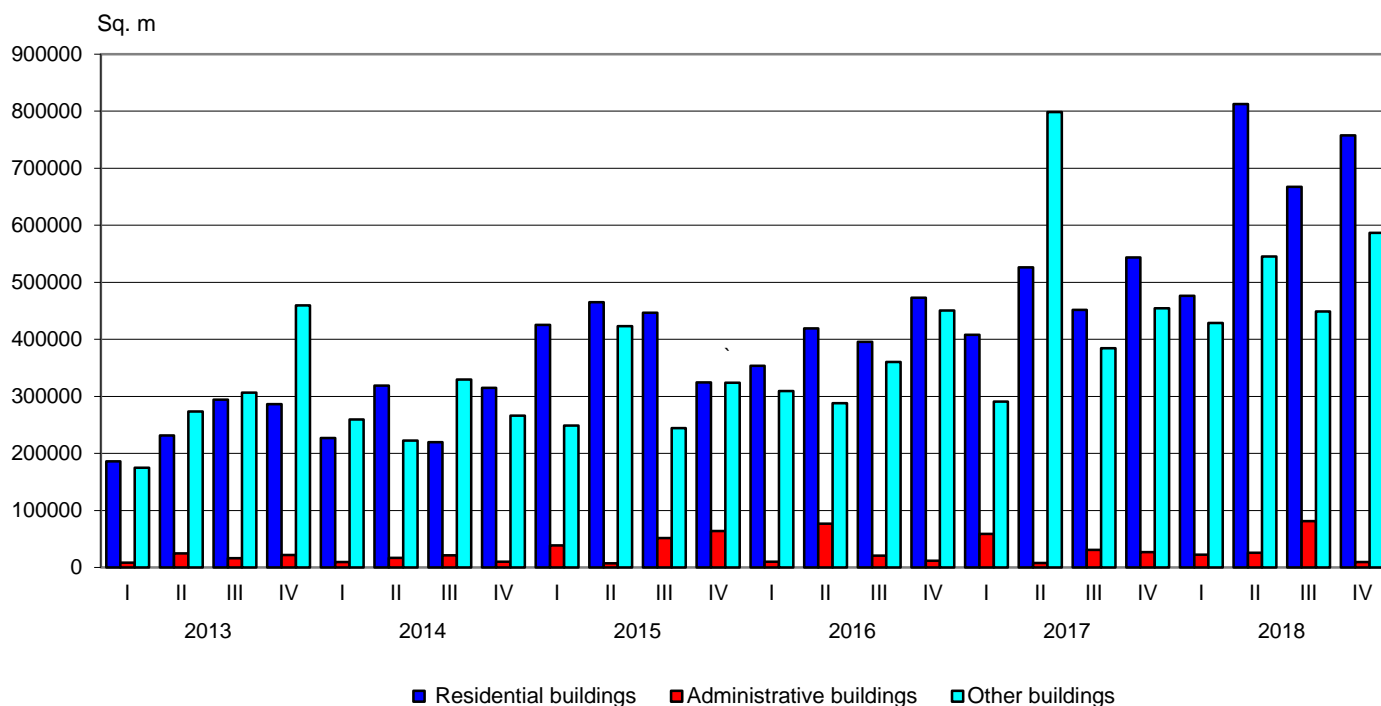
Figure 3. Started construction of new buildings by type and quarter



As compared to the fourth quarter of 2017 the started new residential buildings increased by 20.0%, their dwellings - by 39.5% and their gross building area - by 39.4%. The number of started administrative buildings fell by 31.3% and their gross building area - by 64.2%. The started other buildings rose by 9.5% (Figure 3) and their gross building area - by 29.0% (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Started construction - gross building area by type of buildings and quarter



The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 159 residential buildings and 84 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 151 residential buildings and 21 other buildings; Burgas - 99 residential buildings and 74 other buildings; Varna - 116 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 31 other buildings; Sofia - 85 residential buildings and 41 other buildings (Annex, Table 2).



Methodological notes

The quarterly statistical survey of permits issued for construction collects information about building permits, issued by municipal authorities as well as for the started construction of new buildings according to their type and gross building area. This information may be used as an indicator of future construction activity of enterprises in the country.

Type of buildings is classified according to the Classification of types of construction (CC) and is divided into:

- Residential - buildings for which the useful floor area is mostly used for permanent residential habitation.
- Non-residential - buildings for various purposes, including:
 - administrative - offices and buildings for administrative work of departments and other organizations and associations (representative buildings - banks, post offices, government department offices, conference and congress centres, low courts, municipalities);
 - other buildings - buildings used for different activities: production, trade, transport, education, cultural, sports, agriculture, health, recreation and facilities for short stay (hotels, motels, rest houses, huts and others).

Gross building area - a sum of all floors areas in external dimensions.



Annex

Table 1

Building permits issued for construction of new buildings in the fourth quarter of 2018¹

Districts	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
	Number	Number of dwellings	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m
Total	1477	11682	1457570	33	224417	1319	780957
Blagoevgrad	76	181	26497	7	5419	78	32191
Burgas	139	1113	116636	..	..	64	78159
Varna	156	1923	223473	-	-	63	29594
Veliko Tarnovo	23	79	10571	..	..	34	9033
Vidin	-	-	-	-	-	4	1645
Vratsa	6	48	7146	-	-	15	8354
Gabrovo	16	53	6534	-	-	27	11366
Dobrich	25	43	5224	-	-	42	19362
Kardzhali	37	212	26380	..	..	21	6363
Kyustendil	10	15	2166	..	..	47	8213
Lovech	17	16	2849	..	..	33	7769
Montana	4	3	1487	..	..	15	5417
Pazardzhik	57	152	20668	-	-	71	29084
Pernik	34	49	8148	-	-	23	3137
Pleven	12	33	5388	-	-	36	10476
Plovdiv	211	1263	172850	-	-	174	144955
Razgrad	18	48	5407	-	-	36	18793
Ruse	18	110	12871	-	-	43	5409
Silistra	9	24	2429	..	..	40	16756
Sliven	24	65	9621	-	-	27	5503
Smolyan	13	17	3190	-	-	25	6166
Sofia	104	141	23869	-	-	79	125427
Sofia (stolitsa)	328	5290	668036	13	215332	48	103157
Stara Zagora	69	616	71456	..	..	121	35868
Targovishte	9	49	3916	-	-	13	3972
Haskovo	33	61	8385	..	..	62	26868
Shumen	20	61	10125	..	..	50	13204
Yambol	9	17	2248	-	-	28	14716

¹ '..' - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the fourth quarter of 2018¹

Districts	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
	Number	Number of dwellings	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m
Total	935	5881	757784	11	9715	624	586459
Blagoevgrad	39	84	12023	3	1425	19	7739
Burgas	99	649	77831	-	-	74	106886
Varna	116	1173	150408	3	3682	31	56422
Veliko Tarnovo	7	156	17838	-	-	8	2405
Vidin	..	..	..	..	..	3	1005
Vratsa	..	..	..	-	-	..	..
Gabrovo	5	6	1158	-	-	..	..
Dobrich	24	34	3942	-	-	17	12370
Kardzhali	26	240	28966	-	-	..	..
Kyustendil	3	5	906	-	-	5	907
Lovech	5	5	621	..	..	33	15758
Montana	3	3	753	-	-	9	7157
Pazardzhik	33	126	16615	-	-	48	24039
Pernik	19	32	3625	-	-	6	375
Pleven	4	26	3013	-	-	14	5773
Plovdiv	159	460	72022	-	-	84	85690
Razgrad	8	21	2372	-	-	25	20513
Ruse	20	91	14349	-	-	21	6722
Silistra	..	..	..	-	-	17	6626
Sliven	16	57	8659	-	-	8	4300
Smolyan	3	3	587	-	-	12	2063
Sofia	85	90	16409	-	-	41	93188
Sofia (stolitsa)	151	2177	270042	..	..	21	28941
Stara Zagora	52	327	36209	-	-	47	45364
Targovishte	6	31	2629	-	-	7	1370
Haskovo	24	29	5075	-	-	33	21955
Shumen	12	33	7771	-	-	23	12725
Yambol	11	17	3190	..	..	12	12422

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.