

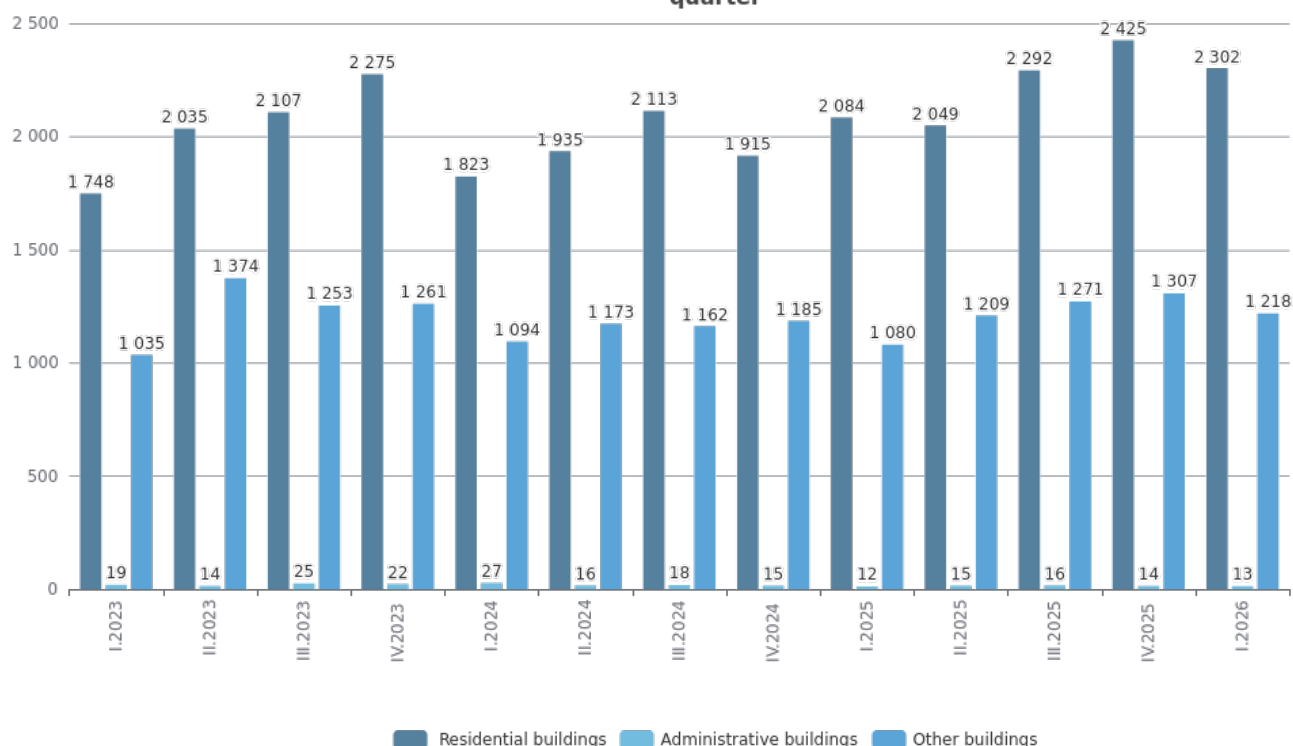


## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION STARTED - FIRST QUARTER OF 2026

In the first quarter of 2026, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for the construction of 2 302 residential buildings with 13 567 dwellings and 1 735 449 sq. m gross building area, 13 administrative buildings/offices with 6 762 sq. m gross building area, and 1 218 other buildings with 640 381 sq. m gross building area.

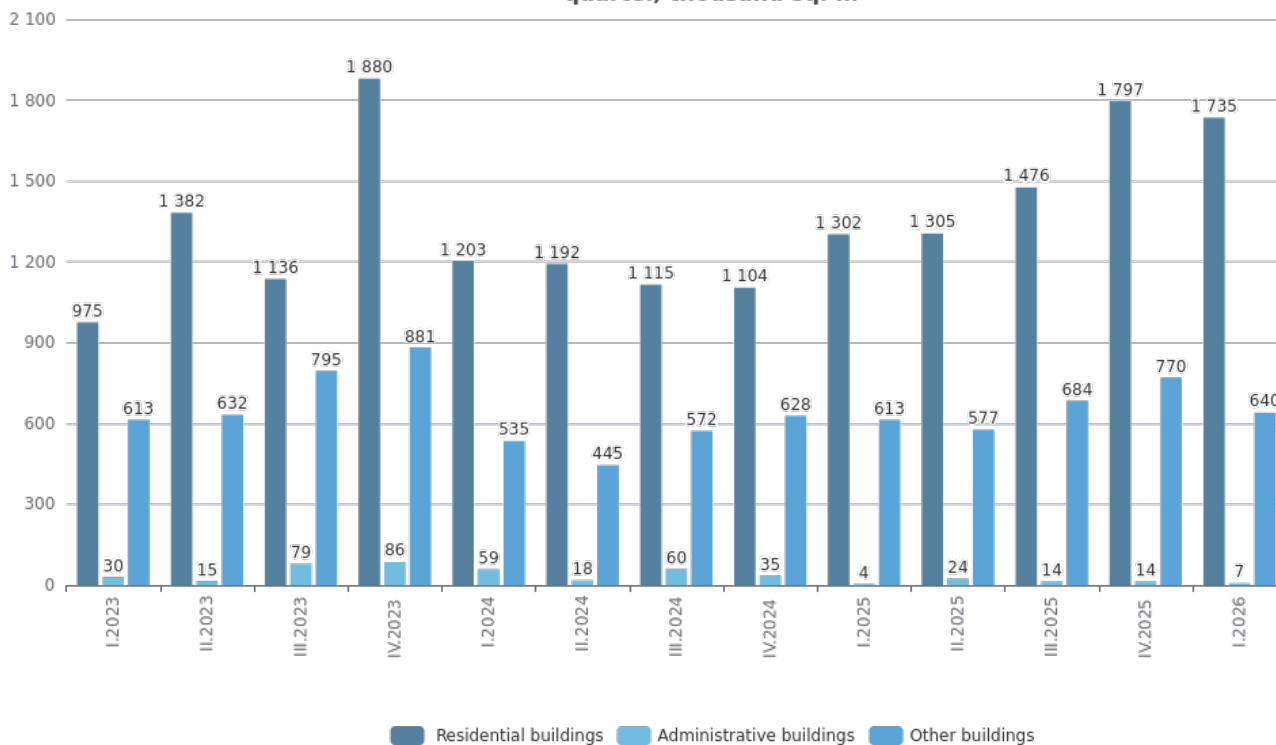
Compared to the previous quarter, the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 5.1%, their dwellings - by 13.3% and the gross building area - by 3.4%. The issued building permits for administrative buildings and their gross building area decreased by 7.1% and by 50.0%, respectively. The issued building permits for other buildings fell by 6.8%, as did their gross building area - by 16.8%.

Figure 1. Number of building permits, issued for the construction of new buildings by type and by quarter



Compared to the first quarter of 2025, the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 10.5%, their dwellings - by 28.3%, and the gross building area - by 33.3%. The issued building permits for administrative buildings and their gross building area went up by 8.3% and 81.6%, respectively. The issued building permits for other buildings grew by 12.8% and their gross building area - by 4.5%.

**Figure 2. Building permits, issued for construction - gross building area by type of buildings and by quarter, thousand sq. m**

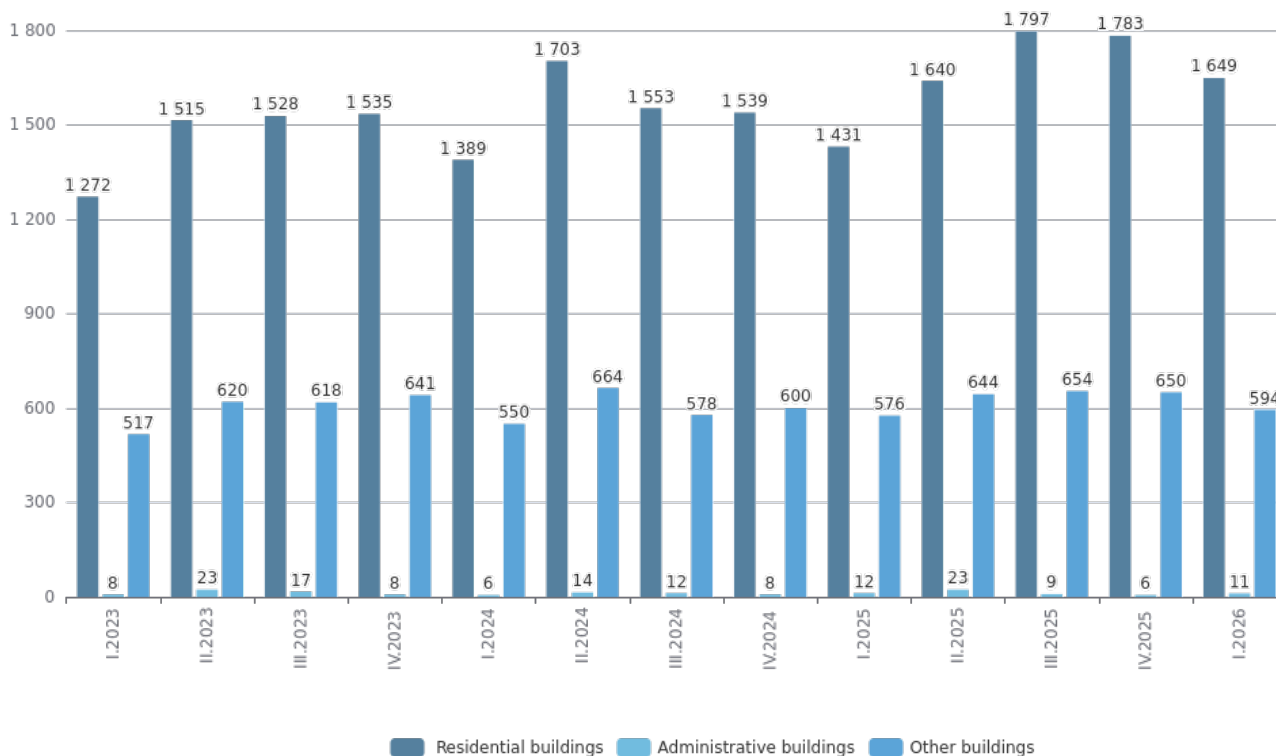


The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings was issued in the following districts: Plovdiv - 368, Sofia - 287, Sofia (stolitsa) - 265, Varna - 200 and Burgas - 169. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 3 948, Plovdiv - 2 235, Burgas - 2 018, Varna - 1 200, and Ruse - 591 (Annex, Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2026, **the construction** of 1 649 residential buildings with 10 193 dwellings and 1 168 008 sq. m gross building area, 11 administrative buildings/offices with 8 881 sq. m gross building area, and 594 other buildings with 355 460 sq. m gross building area **began**.

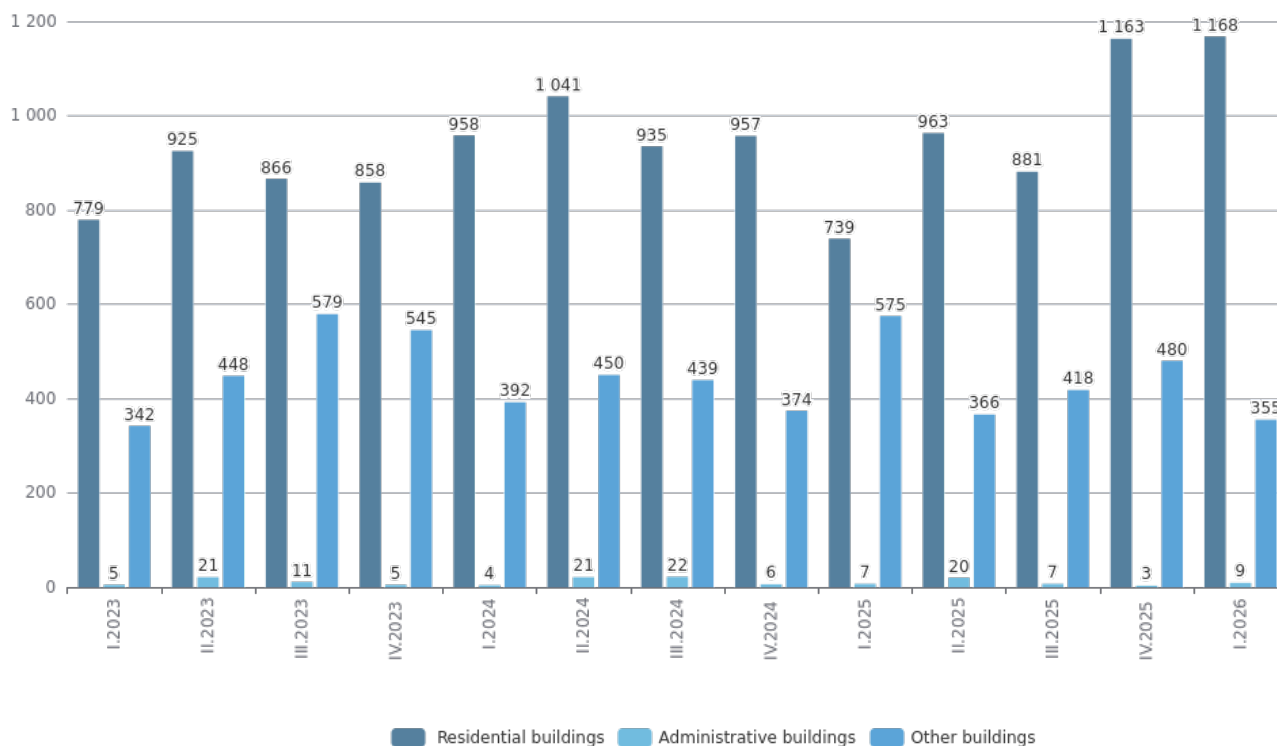
Compared to the previous quarter, the started residential buildings fell by 7.5%, but their dwellings increased by 11.1% and the gross building area - by 0.4%. The started administrative buildings and their gross building area registered an increase of 83.3% and 196.1%, respectively. The started other buildings reduced by 8.6%, and their gross building area - by 26.0%.

**Figure 3. Number of started construction of new buildings by type and by quarter**



Compared to the first quarter of 2025, the number of started new residential buildings increased by 15.2%, their dwellings - by 67.4%, and the gross building area - by 58.1%. The number of started administrative buildings decreased by 8.3%, but their gross building area went up by 26.0%. The construction of 3.1% more other buildings has started with a 38.1% less gross building area.

**Figure 4. Started construction - gross building area by type of buildings and by quarter, thousand sq. m**



The construction of the highest number of new buildings was started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 288 residential buildings and 100 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 312 residential buildings and 22 other buildings; Sofia - 174 residential buildings and 49 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 the future construction activity of enterprises in the country.

**Types of buildings** are classified according to the Classification of types of construction (CC) and are 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, culture, sports, agriculture, health, recreation and facilities for a 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 the construction of new buildings in the first quarter of 2026							
	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
Districts	Number	Number of dwellings	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m
<b>Total</b>	<b>2302</b>	<b>13567</b>	<b>1735449</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6762</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>640381</b>
Blagoevgrad	149	537	64105	..	..	58	53283
Burgas	169	2018	219527	-	-	35	57420
Varna	200	1200	129576	..	..	66	127962
Veliko Tarnovo	44	50	9514	-	-	38	13220
Vidin	7	9	919	..	..	7	967
Vratsa	17	17	2569	-	-	21	5075
Gabrovo	31	44	8372	-	-	15	2894
Dobrich	88	153	22158	-	-	16	3787
Kardzhali	34	142	15879	-	-	6	1097
Kyustendil	40	51	8960	-	-	23	3337
Lovech	20	20	3558	-	-	27	5706
Montana	13	14	2348	-	-	8	5242
Pazardzhik	81	341	41131	..	..	58	35066
Pernik	61	107	17547	..	..	48	5504
Pleven	21	354	34974	..	..	27	6666
Plovdiv	368	2235	259304	..	..	127	88708
Razgrad	16	16	2160	..	..	16	4359
Ruse	40	591	60994	-	-	123	28018
Silistra	13	13	2587	-	-	41	9278
Sliven	51	115	14972	..	..	30	13006
Smolyan	11	17	2527	-	-	14	2191
Sofia	287	466	84492	-	-	91	18981
Sofia (stolitsa)	265	3948	602160	-	-	28	53093
Stara Zagora	114	445	46004	-	-	156	34968
Targovishte	18	164	14376	-	-	16	5130
Haskovo	66	296	32511	-	-	49	12132
Shumen	46	168	25673	-	-	55	33262
Yambol	32	36	6552	..	..	19	10029
'..' - Confidential data.							
'-' - No cases.							

Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2026							
	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
Districts	Number	Number of dwellings	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m	Number	Gross building area - sq. m
<b>Total</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>10193</b>	<b>1168008</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8881</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>355460</b>
Blagoevgrad	84	539	55875	..	..	11	7274
Burgas	141	2092	209586	-	-	28	25297
Varna	123	825	89485	..	..	47	55243
Veliko Tarnovo	28	43	6010	-	-	25	8283
Vidin	5	13	1376	-	-	3	699
Vratsa	11	14	2192	..	..	..	..
Gabrovo	13	60	6786	-	-	12	3786
Dobrich	57	85	12188	-	-	4	1697
Kardzhali	26	193	19887	-	-	..	..
Kyustendil	32	32	5864	-	-	8	657
Lovech	16	16	1947	-	-	20	2328
Montana	8	8	1427	-	-	8	2253
Pazardzhik	61	343	39013	-	-	39	33557
Pernik	24	45	8388	..	..	3	477
Pleven	5	17	1773	-	-	..	..
Plovdiv	288	1223	155577	..	..	100	80482
Razgrad	6	31	2854	-	-	4	1432
Ruse	22	572	59122	-	-	19	14757
Silistra	9	7	3407	-	-	20	6529
Sliven	38	109	13272	..	..	10	1703
Smolyan	5	9	1779	-	-	9	1221
Sofia	174	283	40983	..	..	49	11939
Sofia (stolitsa)	312	2885	345196	..	..	22	38408
Stara Zagora	91	410	42658	..	..	87	28016
Targovishte	10	80	7566	-	-	4	1607
Haskovo	34	201	24491	-	-	16	3186
Shumen	17	47	7202	-	-	30	19190
Yambol	9	11	2104	-	-	10	3854
'..' - Confidential data.							
'-' - No case.							