

Building permits issued for construction of new buildings, first quarter of 2009¹

In the first quarter of 2009 municipal authorities have issued building permits for construction of 1 470 residential buildings with 6 530 dwellings and 895 173 sq.m gross building area, of 79 administrative buildings/offices with 133 761 sq.m gross building area and 978 other buildings with 711 048 sq.m gross building area. Compared to the previous quarter the number of building permits for residential buildings decreased by 40.0%, their dwellings - by 49.3% and respectively gross building area - by 48.6%. The administrative buildings fell by 21.0%, while gross building area increased by 21.0%. The other buildings decreased by 36.1% and respectively their area by 44.2%.

By comparison with the same period of 2008 issued building permits for new residential building fell by 35.2%, and their dwellings - by 42.9%. In the administrative buildings there was registered an increase - by 1.3%, while other buildings decreased by 15.7% (Fig.1).

The gross building area of residential buildings compared to the corresponding period of previous year fell by 43.5%, the administrative buildings - by 4.3% and the other buildings - by 15.0% (Fig.2).

In the first quarter of 2009 there is a hold on of the trend significant number of building permits for new residential buildings to be issued in the larger administrative, resorts and industrial centers, divided into districts: Bourgas - 185, Sofia (capital) - 182, Varna - 170, Plovdiv - 158, as dwellings in Sofia (capital) are 1 340, in Varna - 1 305, Bourgas - 896, Blagoevgrad - 668 and Plovdiv - 537 (Table 1).

¹The quarterly statistical survey of permits issued for construction collects information about issued building permits for the type of buildings and the gross building area by municipal authorities. This information may be used as a prognostic 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 purpose, 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 centers, 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.

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

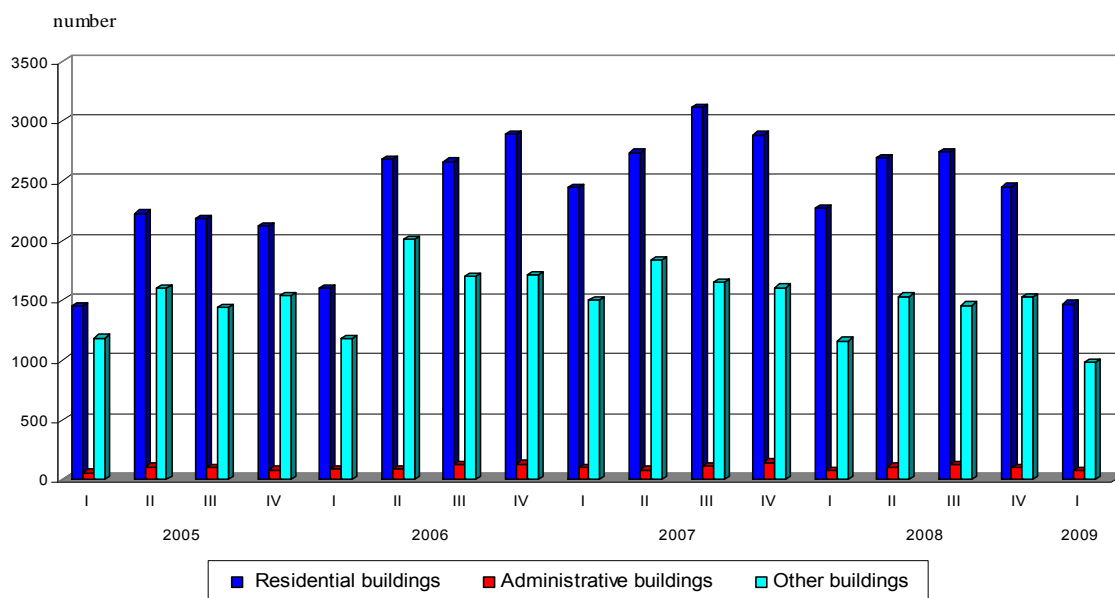


Figure. 2. Building permits issued for construction - gross building area by type of buildings

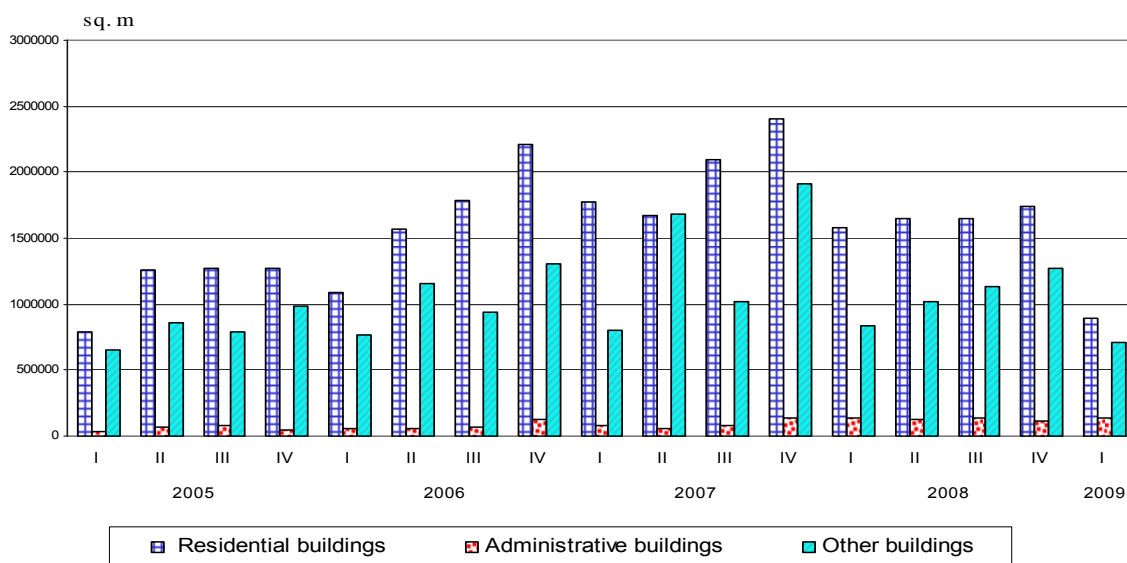


Table 1

Building permits issued for construction of new buildings in first quarter of 2009²

Districts	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
	number	of which: dwellings	Gross building area-sq.m	number	Gross building area-sq.m	number	Gross building area-sq.m
Total	1470	6530	895173	79	133761	978	711048
Blagoevgrad	82	668	66257	3	633	68	18031
Burgas	185	896	125971	9	28189	54	49932
Varna	170	1305	212632	8	47321	54	53490
Veliko Tarnovo	27	103	12475	-	-	49	13954
Vidin	6	6	1345	-	-	3	102
Vratsa	18	75	9018	-	-	25	7370
Gabrovo	19	41	6472	..	..	23	9264
Dobrich	52	82	11056	4	1157	29	8557
Kardzhali	18	57	15286	-	-	18	4239
Kyustendil	17	46	7420	4	3180	17	4775
Lovech	40	124	15408	..	..	22	16282
Montana	3	8	1237	..	..	21	7438
Pazardzhik	57	111	18361	..	..	39	41662
Pernik	31	39	5960	..	..	24	3973
Pleven	31	86	12715	3	1939	22	11902
Plovdiv	158	537	70434	9	11540	121	269962
Razgrad	15	31	4140	..	..	22	9007
Ruse	27	167	14708	3	14895	29	13920
Silistra	7	37	5429	..	..	18	11419
Sliven	37	136	17004	-	-	21	9382
Smolyan	14	26	3920	..	..	24	10415
Sofia cap.	182	1340	180235	8	16555	29	15707
Sofia	100	129	19257	..	..	62	63402
Stara Zagora	92	257	33406	5	3077	68	20370
Targovishte	8	25	2066	5	1216	11	2899
Haskovo	44	81	10839	..	..	46	7913
Shumen	19	42	5662	4	543	37	12049
Yambol	11	75	6460	..	..	22	13632

²Note: ' .. ' - Confidential data