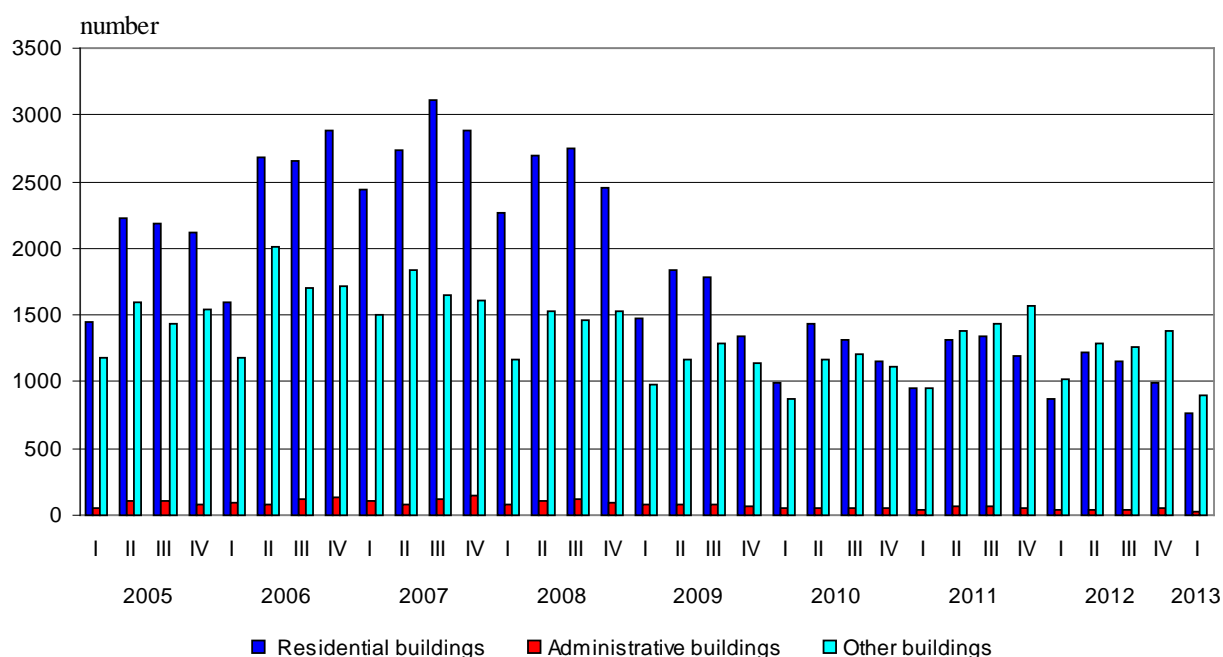




BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2013

In the first quarter of 2013, the municipal authorities have issued **building permits** for construction of 764 residential buildings with 1 877 dwellings and 275 874 sq. m gross building area, of 32 administrative buildings/offices with 17 022 sq. m gross building area and 903 other buildings with 457 734 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the building permits for residential buildings fell by 23.0%, their dwellings - by 40.6% and the gross building area - by 29.1%. The administrative buildings dropped by 33.3% and their gross building area - by 14.1%. Other buildings decreased by 34.5%, while their gross building area - by 11.1%.

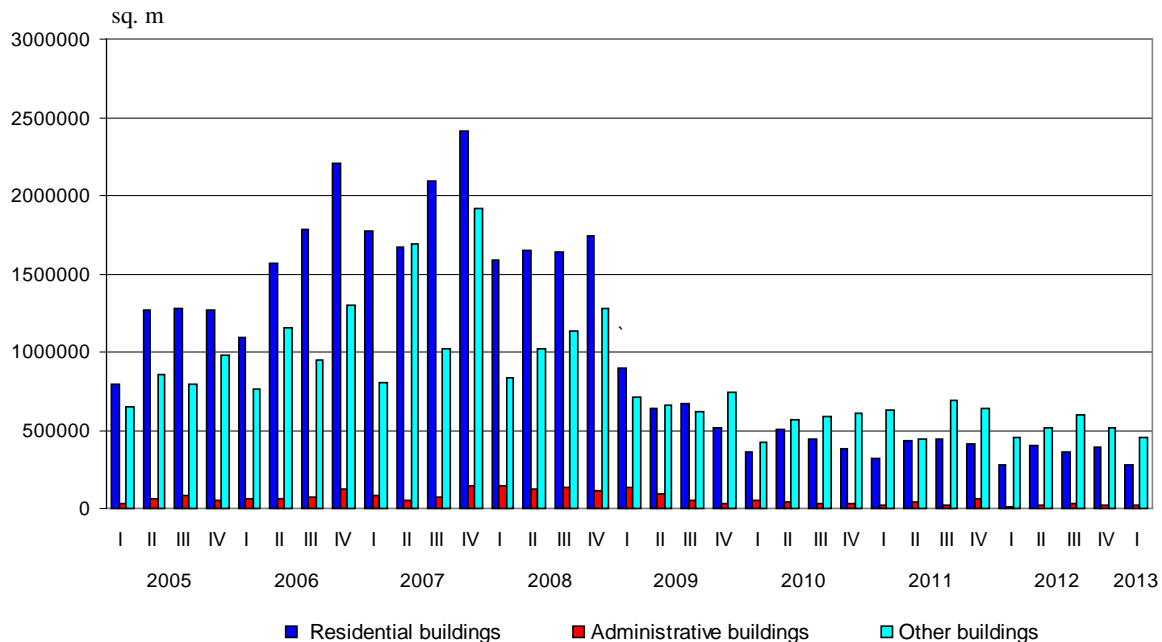
Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and by quarter



As compared to the first quarter of 2012 the issued building permits for new residential buildings fell by 12.0% and their dwellings - by 3.4%. The administrative buildings dropped by 8.6% and the other buildings - by 10.9% (Figure 1). In the residential buildings a decrease in the gross building area by 2.1% was registered, but in the administrative and other buildings the gross building area rose by 20.5 and 1.8% respectively (Figure 2).



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



The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings has been issued in the following districts: Burgas - 97, Plovdiv - 89, Varna - 82 and Sofia (capital) - 62. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Plovdiv - 313, Varna - 308, Burgas - 236 and Sofia (capital) - 219 (Annex, Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2013 **began the construction** of 399 residential buildings with 1 513 dwellings and 185 927 sq. m gross building area, of 22 administrative buildings/offices with 8 486 sq. m gross building area and 355 other buildings with 174 681 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings decreased by 33.6%, their dwellings - by 29.5% and the gross building area - by 14.3%. Started administrative buildings registered an increase by 10.0% and their gross building area - by 20.2%. Other buildings marked a decline by 33.1% and their gross building area - by 24.2%.

As compared to the first quarter of 2012 the started new residential buildings rose by 4.5%, their dwellings - by 19.9% and the gross building area - by 15.3%. The number of administrative buildings marked an increase by 29.4% and their gross building area - by 35.1%. Started other buildings fell by 9.9% and the gross building area - by 32.3%.

The highest number of the construction of new buildings were started in the following districts: Burgas - 78 residential buildings and 26 other buildings; Varna - 56 residential building and 23 other buildings; Plovdiv - 47 residential buildings, 24 other buildings; Blagoevgrad - 27 residential buildings and 34 other buildings; Stara Zagora - 33 residential buildings and 25 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 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.

Annex

Table 1

Building permits issued for construction of new buildings in the first quarter of 2013¹

Districts	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
	Number	Dwellings	Gross building area-sq.m.	Number	Gross building area-sq.m.	Number	Gross building area-sq.m.
Total	764	1877	275874	32	17022	903	457734
Blagoevgrad	41	149	15828	6	712	37	11927
Burgas	97	236	33446	-	-	26	18248
Varna	82	308	39139	3	2634	65	89357
Veliko Tarnovo	30	38	5378	3	387	55	10822
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	5	2738
Vratsa	3	4	751	-	-	13	2499
Gabrovo	9	13	2427	-	-	12	16145
Dobrich	27	42	8937	..	..	42	26867
Kardzhali	14	51	8838	-	-	12	5086
Kyustendil	11	17	2086	-	-	13	2274
Lovech	29	28	4730	-	-	20	2181
Montana	5	5	1622	..	..	11	5072
Pazardzhik	31	55	7745	..	..	47	11816
Pernik	31	54	10493	..	..	36	11101
Pleven	18	20	4069	-	-	35	19338
Plovdiv	89	313	41346	..	..	133	132510
Razgrad	7	8	1739	-	-	20	2754
Ruse	7	20	1755	..	..	25	7299
Silistra	10	9	1742	-	-	12	5087
Sliven	29	38	7186	-	-	21	6096
Smolyan	13	16	2188	-	-	23	4271
Sofia	38	42	5955	3	1139	35	10039
Sofia cap.	62	219	43690	3	5472	27	11637
Stara Zagora	38	120	15070	-	-	64	16109
Targovishte	4	5	528	-	-	15	3677
Haskovo	25	33	4542	..	..	28	4197
Shumen	11	31	3710	..	..	29	6790
Yambol	..	..	..	..	..	42	11797

¹ ".." - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2013¹

Districts	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
	Number	Dwellings	Gross building area-sq.m.	Number	Gross building area-sq.m.	Number	Gross building area-sq.m.
Total	399	1513	185927	22	8486	355	174681
Blagoevgrad	27	113	10781	..	..	34	11733
Burgas	78	542	57590	-	-	26	26783
Varna	56	271	32497	-	-	23	21455
Veliko Tarnovo	14	13	2038	3	484	29	5855
Vidin	-	-	-	-	-	..	..
Vratsa	-	-	-	-	-	4	1581
Gabrovo	3	3	507	-	-	3	11705
Dobrich	15	50	4730	-	-	10	15229
Kardzhali	6	20	5509	-	-	3	1012
Kyustendil	-	-	-	-	-	..	..
Lovech	11	9	3294	-	-	12	4780
Montana	3	3	596	..	..	..	..
Pazardzhik	10	30	4031	-	-	20	7109
Pernik	16	16	3040	-	-	7	3290
Pleven	4	4	682	..	..	15	3773
Plovdiv	47	171	21840	..	..	24	9217
Razgrad	4	5	861	-	-	14	2881
Ruse	..	..	..	..	..	5	4010
Silistra	..	..	..	-	-	6	1632
Sliven	6	6	1300	-	-	10	4196
Smolyan	3	3	442	-	-	9	1298
Sofia	22	22	3286	8	160	11	6331
Sofia cap.	17	109	18019	3	3483	12	10567
Stara Zagora	33	93	10750	-	-	25	11517
Targovishte	..	..	..	-	-	7	689
Haskovo	14	20	2463	..	..	15	1846
Shumen	4	4	1001	-	-	-	-
Yambol	..	..	..	..	..	27	4211

¹ ".." - confidential data.