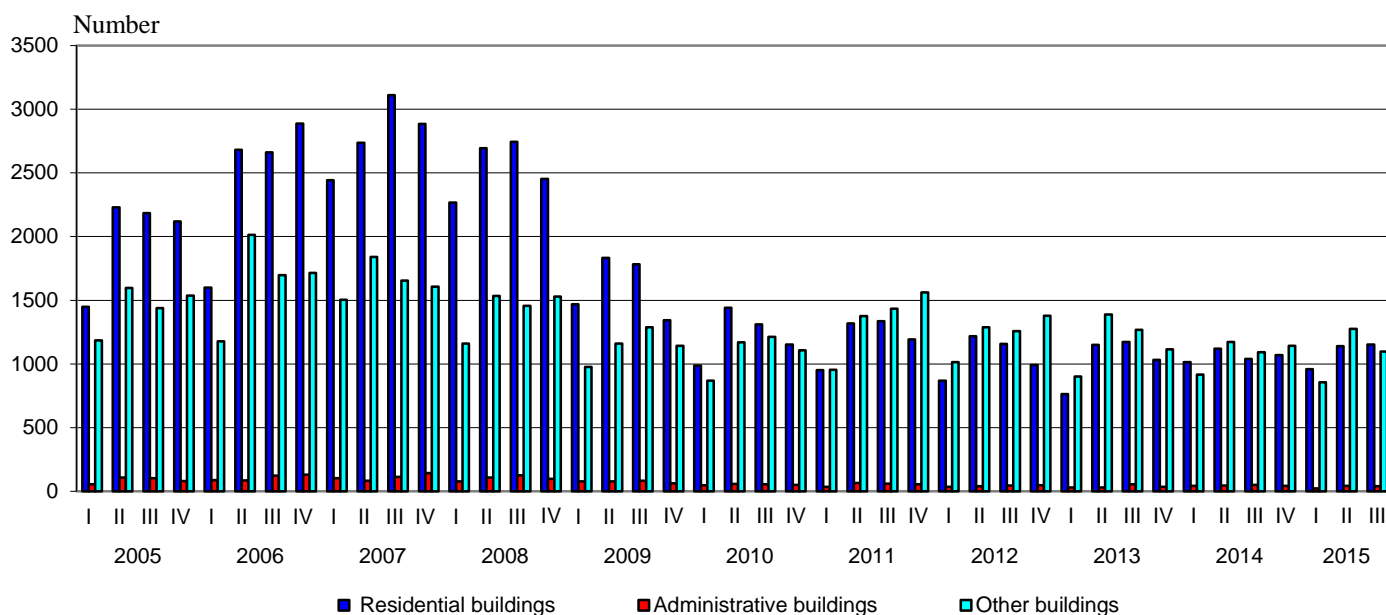




BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2015

In the third quarter of 2015, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 154 residential buildings with 4 670 dwellings and 654 082 sq. m gross building area, of 40 administrative buildings/offices with 52 197 sq. m gross building area and 1 097 other buildings with 501 156 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings increased by 1.2%, their dwellings - by 35.2% and the gross building area - by 27.5%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings and other buildings fell by 9.1% and by 14.0% respectively. The gross building area of administrative buildings rose by 218.1%, but of other buildings marked a decrease by 42.5%.

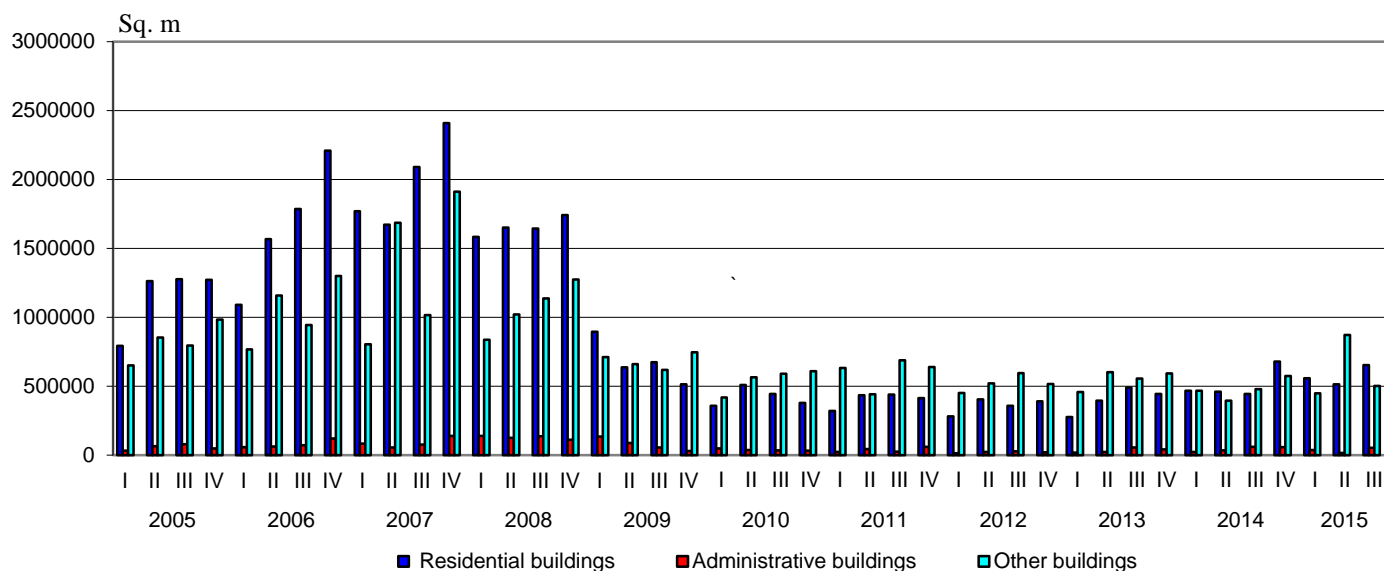
Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and quarter



As compared to the third quarter of 2014 the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 11.1%, their dwellings - by 35.8% and the gross building area rose by 47.4%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings fell by 23.1% and their gross building area - by 12.7% (Figure 1). Issued building permits of other buildings increased by 0.5% and their gross building area - by 4.6% (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) - 179, Plovdiv - 167, Varna - 116, Burgas - 105, and Sofia - 77. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 1 779, Plovdiv - 766, Burgas - 572, Varna - 527, and Blagoevgrad - 250 (Annex, Table 1).

In the third quarter of 2015 **began the construction** of 741 residential buildings with 3 006 dwellings and 446 375 sq. m gross building area, of 25 administrative buildings/offices with 51 410 sq. m gross building area and 457 other buildings with 244 568 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings decreased by 12.5%, the number of their dwellings - by 17.2% and the gross building area - by 4.0%. The number of started administrative buildings fell by 7.4%, but their gross building area rose almost six time. Started other buildings marked a decreased by 30.4% and their gross building area - by 42.2%.

As compared to the third quarter of 2014 the started new residential buildings increased by 23.5%, their dwellings - by 75.3% and the gross building area - by 103.0%. In the number of started administrative buildings observed a rise by 13.6% and their gross building area - by 139.4%. The started other buildings fell by 18.0% and their gross building area - by 25.7%.

The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 107 residential buildings and 65 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 121 residential buildings, 6 administrative buildings and 17 other buildings; Varna - 104 residential buildings, 4 administrative buildings and 23 other buildings; Stara Zagora - 42 residential buildings and 39 other buildings; Sofia - 46 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 29 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 third quarter of 2015¹

| 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 | 1154 | 4670 | 654082 | 40 | 52197 | 1097 | 501156 |
| Blagoevgrad | 66 | 250 | 30461 | .. | .. | 78 | 34245 |
| Burgas | 105 | 572 | 63367 | 4 | 3801 | 49 | 46052 |
| Varna | 116 | 527 | 74935 | .. | .. | 49 | 29070 |
| Veliko Tarnovo | 27 | 25 | 11182 | - | - | 36 | 18587 |
| Vidin | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 9785 |
| Vratsa | 12 | 43 | 7008 | - | - | 28 | 9689 |
| Gabrovo | 15 | 17 | 5400 | .. | .. | 22 | 8818 |
| Dobrich | 43 | 48 | 7647 | .. | .. | 22 | 8357 |
| Kardzhali | 24 | 64 | 9469 | .. | .. | 8 | 1230 |
| Kyustendil | 13 | 18 | 2177 | - | - | 32 | 2768 |
| Lovech | 12 | 12 | 1886 | .. | .. | 30 | 8998 |
| Montana | 5 | 5 | 561 | .. | .. | 17 | 8406 |
| Pazardzhik | 49 | 79 | 11606 | .. | .. | 62 | 30532 |
| Pernik | 38 | 38 | 7197 | - | - | 25 | 2065 |
| Pleven | 18 | 19 | 3556 | .. | .. | 29 | 5597 |
| Plovdiv | 167 | 766 | 128954 | 3 | 859 | 137 | 83385 |
| Razgrad | 9 | 11 | 2638 | - | - | 31 | 7726 |
| Ruse | 26 | 40 | 7594 | .. | .. | 60 | 19825 |
| Silistra | .. | .. | .. | - | - | 27 | 11176 |
| Sliven | 22 | 31 | 4408 | .. | .. | 32 | 9611 |
| Smolyan | 6 | 9 | 1993 | .. | .. | 11 | 3426 |
| Sofia | 77 | 80 | 13681 | 5 | 2709 | 51 | 24186 |
| Sofia (stolitsa) | 179 | 1779 | 220517 | 6 | 34889 | 53 | 48222 |
| Stara Zagora | 51 | 138 | 20679 | 3 | 1466 | 67 | 37559 |
| Targovishte | 10 | 10 | 1825 | .. | .. | 13 | 2408 |
| Haskovo | 28 | 31 | 5716 | - | - | 58 | 15202 |
| Shumen | 17 | 39 | 6349 | .. | .. | 42 | 4148 |
| Yambol | 15 | 15 | 2244 | .. | .. | 20 | 10083 |

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the third quarter of 2015¹

| 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 | 741 | 3006 | 446375 | 25 | 51410 | 457 | 244568 |
| Blagoevgrad | 36 | 115 | 16547 | .. | .. | 26 | 9019 |
| Burgas | 54 | 373 | 40822 | 4 | 1979 | 12 | 4381 |
| Varna | 104 | 499 | 69727 | 4 | 16192 | 23 | 13520 |
| Veliko Tarnovo | 5 | 4 | 3208 | - | - | 7 | 2538 |
| Vidin | - | - | - | - | - | .. | .. |
| Vratsa | 5 | 15 | 2274 | - | - | 11 | 2368 |
| Gabrovo | 9 | 9 | 4248 | - | - | 4 | 1540 |
| Dobrich | 21 | 31 | 3900 | .. | .. | 14 | 4185 |
| Kardzhali | 17 | 95 | 13192 | .. | .. | 3 | 1258 |
| Kyustendil | 5 | 5 | 967 | - | - | .. | .. |
| Lovech | 11 | 11 | 1729 | .. | .. | 11 | 2213 |
| Montana | 3 | 3 | 767 | - | - | 9 | 2617 |
| Pazardzhik | 36 | 65 | 10715 | - | - | 34 | 14555 |
| Pernik | 9 | 9 | 1659 | - | - | 4 | 155 |
| Pleven | 11 | 11 | 1945 | - | - | 16 | 2049 |
| Plovdiv | 107 | 331 | 40631 | .. | .. | 65 | 27414 |
| Razgrad | 9 | 11 | 1723 | - | - | 20 | 7095 |
| Ruse | 11 | 48 | 5082 | .. | .. | 22 | 8955 |
| Silistra | 5 | 5 | 661 | .. | .. | 9 | 6114 |
| Sliven | 23 | 30 | 3940 | .. | .. | 10 | 2410 |
| Smolyan | 4 | 5 | 1342 | - | - | 11 | 1195 |
| Sofia | 46 | 49 | 9448 | 3 | 1038 | 29 | 33562 |
| Sofia (stolitsa) | 121 | 1076 | 183015 | 6 | 31001 | 17 | 17551 |
| Stara Zagora | 42 | 141 | 18961 | - | - | 39 | 16369 |
| Targovishte | 6 | 6 | 764 | - | - | 8 | 593 |
| Haskovo | 20 | 21 | 3622 | - | - | 18 | 2879 |
| Shumen | 12 | 14 | 2330 | - | - | 18 | 4588 |
| Yambol | 9 | 24 | 3156 | - | - | 15 | 55020 |

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.