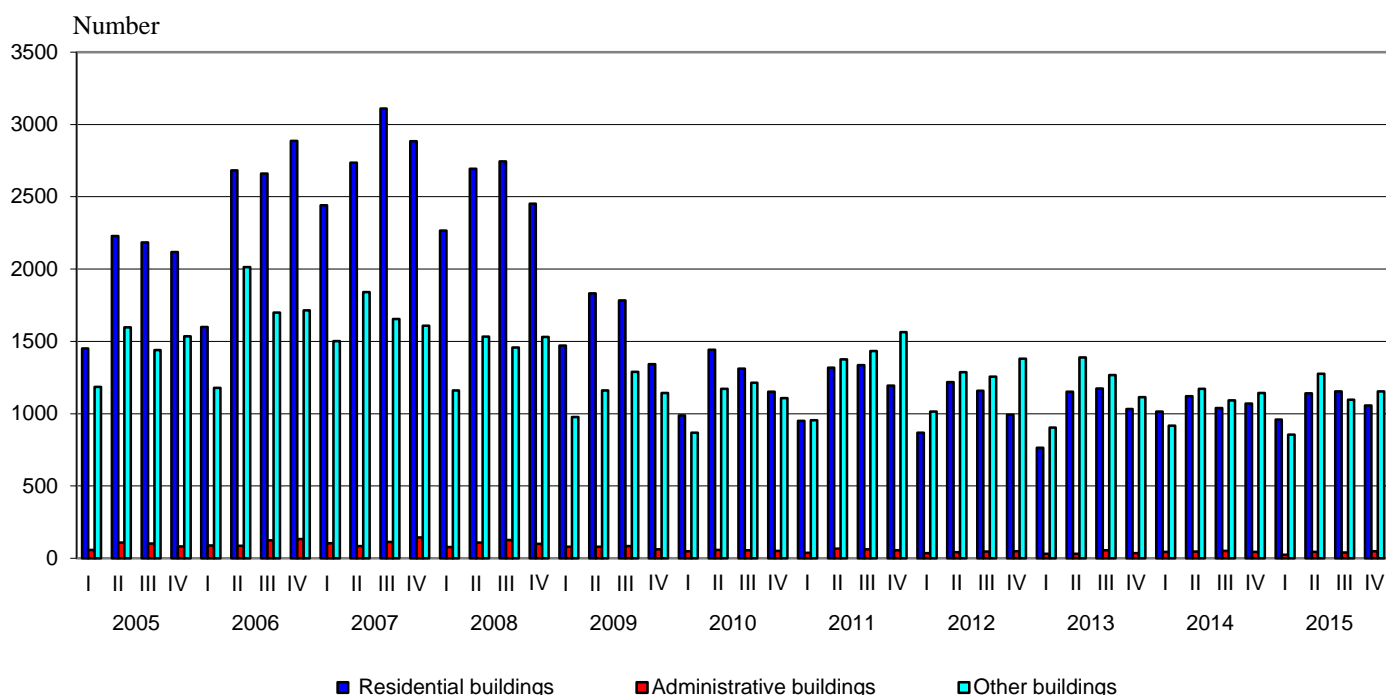




## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2015

In the fourth quarter of 2015, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 056 residential buildings with 4 842 dwellings and 590 883 sq. m gross building area, of 49 administrative buildings/offices with 66 710 sq. m gross building area and 1 154 other buildings with 661 010 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 8.5%, the gross building area fell by 9.7%, while their dwellings increased by 3.7%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings rose by 22.5% and the gross building area - by 27.8%. An increase is observed in the number of issued building permits of other buildings by 5.2% and in the gross building area - by 31.9%.

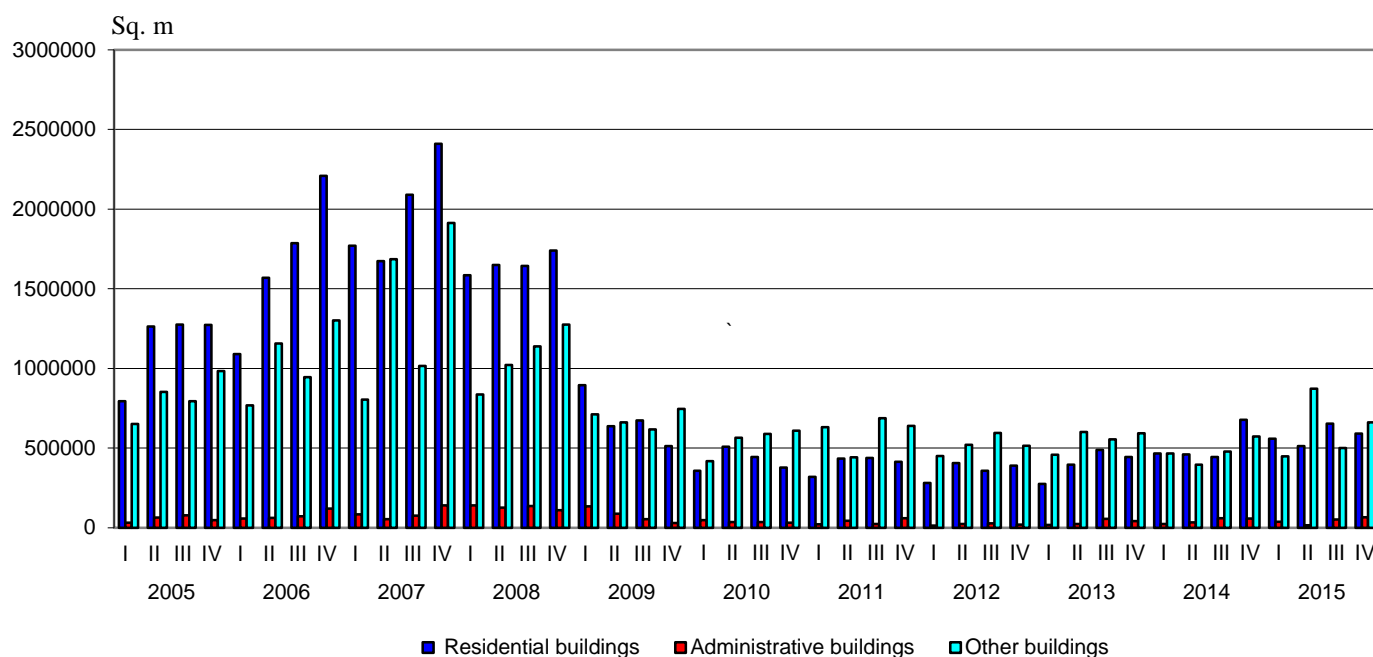
**Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and quarter**



As compared to the fourth quarter of 2014 the issued building permits for new residential buildings decreased by 1.3%, their dwellings - by 12.8% and the gross building area - by 12.9%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings rose by 11.4% and their gross building area - by 16.8% (Figure 1). Issued building permits of other buildings increased by 1.1% and their gross building area - by 15.4% (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: Plovdiv - 168, Sofia (stolitsa) - 141, Varna - 119 and Burgas - 92. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 1 851, Plovdiv - 1 114, Varna - 712 and Blagoevgrad - 218 (Annex, Table 1).

In the fourth quarter of 2015 **began the construction** of 619 residential buildings with 2 454 dwellings and 324 318 sq. m gross building area, of 20 administrative buildings/offices with 63 728 sq. m gross building area and 468 other buildings with 323 798 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings marked a decrease by 16.5%, the number of their dwellings - by 18.4% and the gross building area - by 27.3%. Started administrative buildings fell by 20.0%, but their gross building area rose by 24.0%. The number of started other buildings increased by 2.4% and their gross building area - by 32.4%.

As compared to the fourth quarter of 2014 the number of started new residential buildings increased by 13.8%, the gross building area - by 3.0%, while their dwellings fell by 12.0%. In the number of started administrative buildings also observed a rise by 11.1% and their gross building area increased above five times. The started other buildings fell by 10.5% but their gross building area rose by 21.5%.

The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 91 residential buildings, 4 administrative buildings and 70 other buildings; Burgas - 109 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 33 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 78 residential buildings, 5 administrative buildings and 13 other buildings; Varna - 62 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 19 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 2015<sup>1</sup>**

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>4842</b>	<b>590883</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>66710</b>	<b>1154</b>	<b>661010</b>
Blagoevgrad	53	218	31583	-	-	53	30744
Burgas	92	188	30936	..	..	44	30988
Varna	119	712	94117	..	..	50	13316
Veliko Tarnovo	31	31	10164	..	..	47	60928
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	3	4156
Vratsa	11	20	3608	..	..	13	4598
Gabrovo	12	12	3142	-	-	28	13273
Dobrich	66	85	6359	..	..	44	21511
Kardzhali	19	41	5397	-	-	14	3798
Kyustendil	10	11	1379	-	-	26	6081
Lovech	23	24	3296	..	..	19	8987
Montana	..	..	..	..	..	20	12027
Pazardzhik	39	75	12702	..	..	72	35844
Pernik	19	25	3496	..	..	22	2221
Pleven	8	17	2807	-	-	19	9287
Plovdiv	168	1114	126366	6	15569	166	151314
Razgrad	6	6	1015	..	..	31	11398
Ruse	22	61	9942	..	..	45	17543
Silistra	11	11	2179	..	..	29	23599
Sliven	15	17	2096	..	..	25	14384
Smolyan	7	8	1155	-	-	24	5377
Sofia	63	66	9464	4	3122	82	28046
Sofia (stolitsa)	141	1851	195441	10	29459	49	42931
Stara Zagora	65	163	21589	5	6451	90	39144
Targovishte	6	7	1276	..	..	20	8798
Haskovo	26	49	7005	-	-	56	25648
Shumen	13	13	1722	..	..	34	23225
Yambol	7	13	2159	..	..	29	11844

<sup>1</sup> ‘..’ - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the fourth quarter of 2015<sup>1</sup>

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>2454</b>	<b>324318</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>63728</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>323798</b>
Blagoevgrad	36	102	14154	-	-	23	7436
Burgas	109	400	53413	3	2306	33	32188
Varna	62	331	45351	3	3424	19	11291
Veliko Tarnovo	5	3	4045	-	-	5	2156
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	..	..
Vratsa	..	..	..	..	..	8	700
Gabrovo	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
Dobrich	29	56	8463	-	-	22	11054
Kardzhali	18	48	9260	-	-	4	3341
Kyustendil	3	3	298	-	-	4	1404
Lovech	6	6	1026	..	..	13	1506
Montana	-	-	-	-	-	4	433
Pazardzhik	22	51	6764	-	-	36	5875
Pernik	11	14	2357	-	-	3	150
Pleven	4	19	1821	-	-	10	1376
Plovdiv	91	170	25263	4	1963	70	79056
Razgrad	4	5	1198	-	-	13	6256
Ruse	8	39	5582	-	-	17	12869
Silistra	3	3	826	-	-	10	3372
Sliven	15	17	2937	-	-	21	13495
Smolyan	3	4	848	-	-	..	..
Sofia	34	43	5870	..	..	25	12468
Sofia (stolitsa)	78	910	102716	5	52821	13	73672
Stara Zagora	35	164	21197	..	..	45	26194
Targovishte	3	3	458	-	-	7	948
Haskovo	21	35	5373	-	-	34	9054
Shumen	4	4	881	-	-	15	5668
Yambol	10	10	1554	-	-	10	1609

<sup>1</sup> ‘..’ - confidential data.