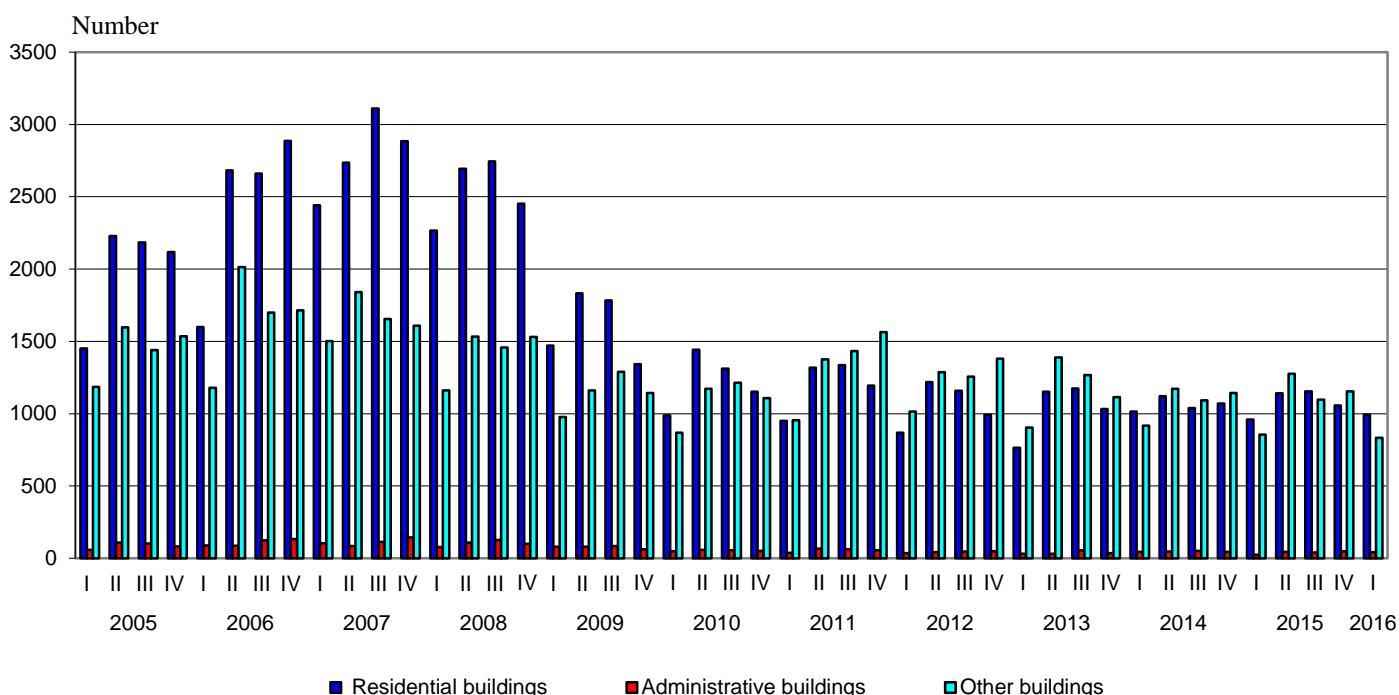




BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2016

In the first quarter of 2016, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 993 residential buildings with 3 434 dwellings and 508 473 sq. m gross building area, of 43 administrative buildings/offices with 87 744 sq. m gross building area and 832 other buildings with 497 883 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 6.0%, their dwellings - by 29.1% and the gross building area fell by 13.9%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings and other buildings marked a drop by 12.2% and by 27.9% respectively. The gross building area of administrative buildings rose by 31.5%, while the gross building area of other buildings fell by 24.7%.

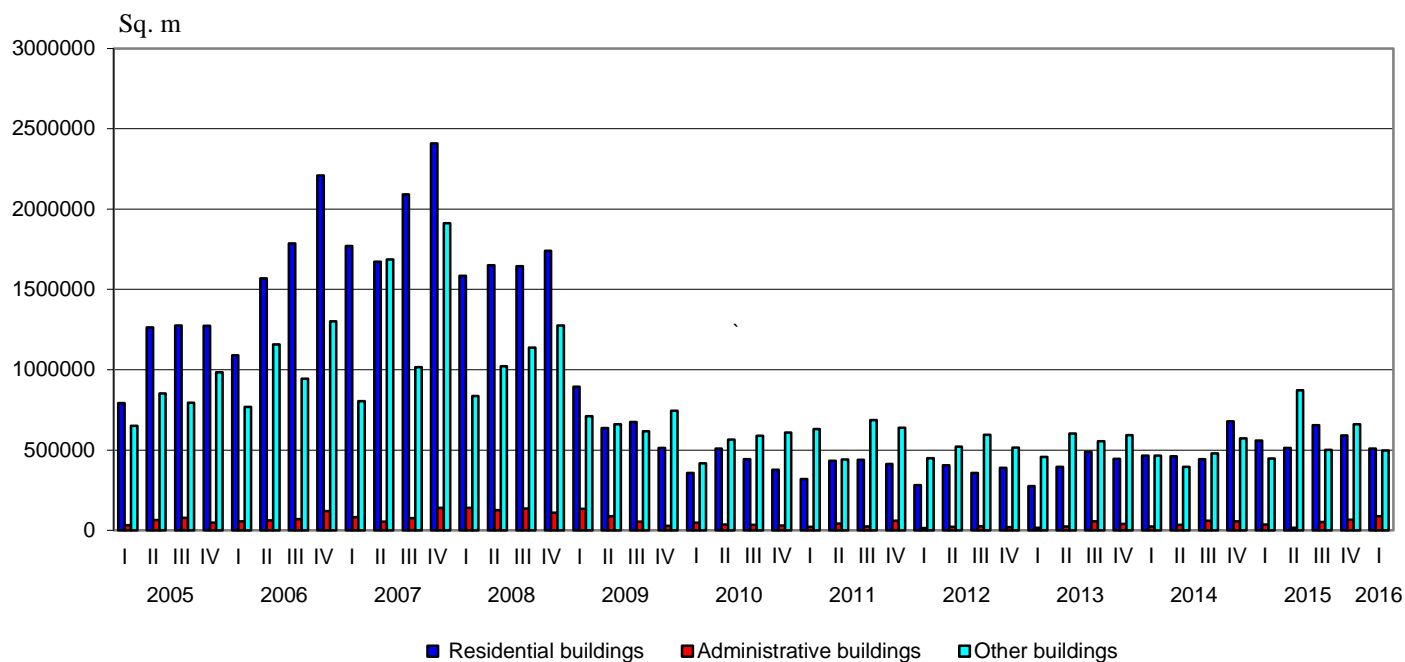
Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and quarter



As compared to the first quarter of 2015 the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 3.4%, but their dwellings fell by 20.1% and the gross building area - by 9.0%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings rose by 79.2% and their gross building area - by 135.0% (Figure 1). Issued building permits of other buildings decreased by 2.8%, but their gross building area rose by 11.3% (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 - 143, Sofia (stolitsa) - 139, Burgas - 124 and Varna - 100. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 1 321, Varna - 429, Plovdiv - 362 and Burgas - 344 (Annex, Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2016 **began the construction** of 601 residential buildings with 2 605 dwellings and 353 542 sq. m gross building area, of 14 administrative buildings/offices with 10 176 sq. m gross building area and 369 other buildings with 309 206 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings marked a decrease by 2.9%, but the number of their dwellings rose by 6.2% and the gross building area - by 9.0%. The drop in the number of administrative buildings and of other buildings was by 30.0% and by 21.2% respectively, as the gross building area of administrative buildings fell by 84.0%, and the gross building area of other buildings - by 4.5%.

As compared to the first quarter of 2015 the started new residential buildings increased by 10.7%, while their dwellings fell by 19.0% and the gross building area - by 16.9%. The number of started administrative buildings dropped by 22.2% and their gross building area - by 73.9%. The started other buildings decreased by 8.7%, but their gross building area rose by 24.3%.

The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 109 residential buildings, 6 administrative buildings and 29 other buildings; Plovdiv - 85 residential buildings and 57 other buildings; Burgas - 104 residential buildings and 32 other buildings; Varna - 80 residential buildings and 9 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 first quarter of 2016¹

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	993	3434	508473	43	87744	832	497883
Blagoevgrad	53	129	20004	..	..	43	14165
Burgas	124	344	47160	..	..	45	57628
Varna	100	429	62067	6	7990	32	4955
Veliko Tarnovo	24	61	7323	-	-	15	5626
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	3	780
Vratsa	5	5	1438	-	-	17	3983
Gabrovo	13	14	2487	-	-	16	20341
Dobrich	29	41	7284	-	-	24	13717
Kardzhali	24	140	19595	-	-	19	5226
Kyustendil	11	12	1408	..	..	25	8159
Lovech	17	20	3848	-	-	11	9863
Montana	..	..	..	..	..	11	4296
Pazardzhik	44	55	8616	6	2209	53	22741
Pernik	26	26	14938	..	..	21	8874
Pleven	11	18	3356	-	-	23	53792
Plovdiv	143	362	51803	3	288	98	74835
Razgrad	10	11	1690	-	-	31	9368
Ruse	17	74	9503	..	..	48	12543
Silistra	6	6	1358	-	-	20	7451
Sliven	28	29	5326	-	-	23	18493
Smolyan	10	21	4010	-	-	13	2666
Sofia	67	71	11886	4	2933	44	16740
Sofia (stolitsa)	139	1321	192612	11	69362	39	37444
Stara Zagora	55	185	21611	..	..	63	34412
Targovishte	4	6	1272	-	-	8	2297
Haskovo	14	17	2192	..	..	41	13993
Shumen	10	11	2563	-	-	28	18621
Yambol	5	22	2411	..	..	18	14874

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2016¹

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	601	2605	353542	14	10176	369	309206
Blagoevgrad	17	106	23915	-	-	16	6056
Burgas	104	302	39754	-	-	32	57724
Varna	80	341	47268	..	..	9	2931
Veliko Tarnovo	3	4	600	-	-	5	4686
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	..	..
Vratsa	-	-	-	-	-	4	1808
Gabrovo	..	..	..	-	-	5	11488
Dobrich	27	47	8356	-	-	14	2375
Kardzhali	18	160	19289	-	-	5	934
Kyustendil	6	6	835	-	-	..	..
Lovech	3	3	451	-	-	9	2666
Montana	..	..	..	-	-	9	10401
Pazardzhik	16	19	3038	3	1493	18	9785
Pernik	4	4	1471	-	-	3	3278
Pleven	3	3	767	-	-	11	12063
Plovdiv	85	220	32141	-	-	57	53146
Razgrad	6	6	1052	-	-	25	14274
Ruse	8	52	9658	..	..	19	21610
Silistra	..	..	..	-	-	7	1465
Sliven	9	11	1798	-	-	6	2149
Smolyan	..	..	..	-	-	..	..
Sofia	33	37	6552	..	..	19	7782
Sofia (stolitsa)	109	1014	123212	6	6416	29	48633
Stara Zagora	46	237	28596	-	-	21	14806
Targovishte	..	..	..	-	-	6	716
Haskovo	8	16	1978	-	-	15	5302
Shumen	6	6	1298	-	-	10	1967
Yambol	3	3	211	..	..	11	10983

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.