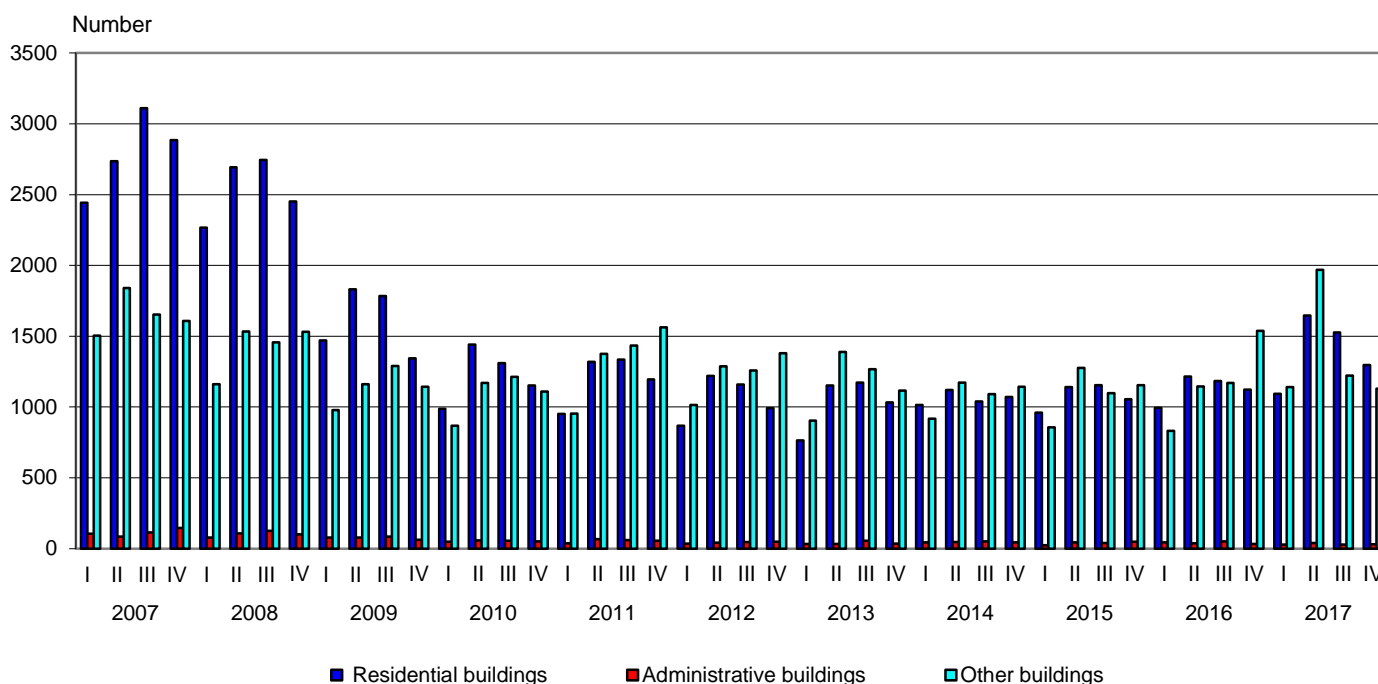




BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2017

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 296 residential buildings with 7 327 dwellings and 904 953 sq. m gross building area, of 30 administrative buildings/offices with 29 251 sq. m gross building area and 1 130 other buildings with 691 264 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 15.1%, the gross building area - by 3.2%, while the number of their dwellings rose by 2.7%. The issued building permits of administrative buildings shown an increase by 7.1%, but their gross building area fell by 25.3%. The number of issued building permits of other buildings decreased by 7.5% and their gross building area - by 3.1%.

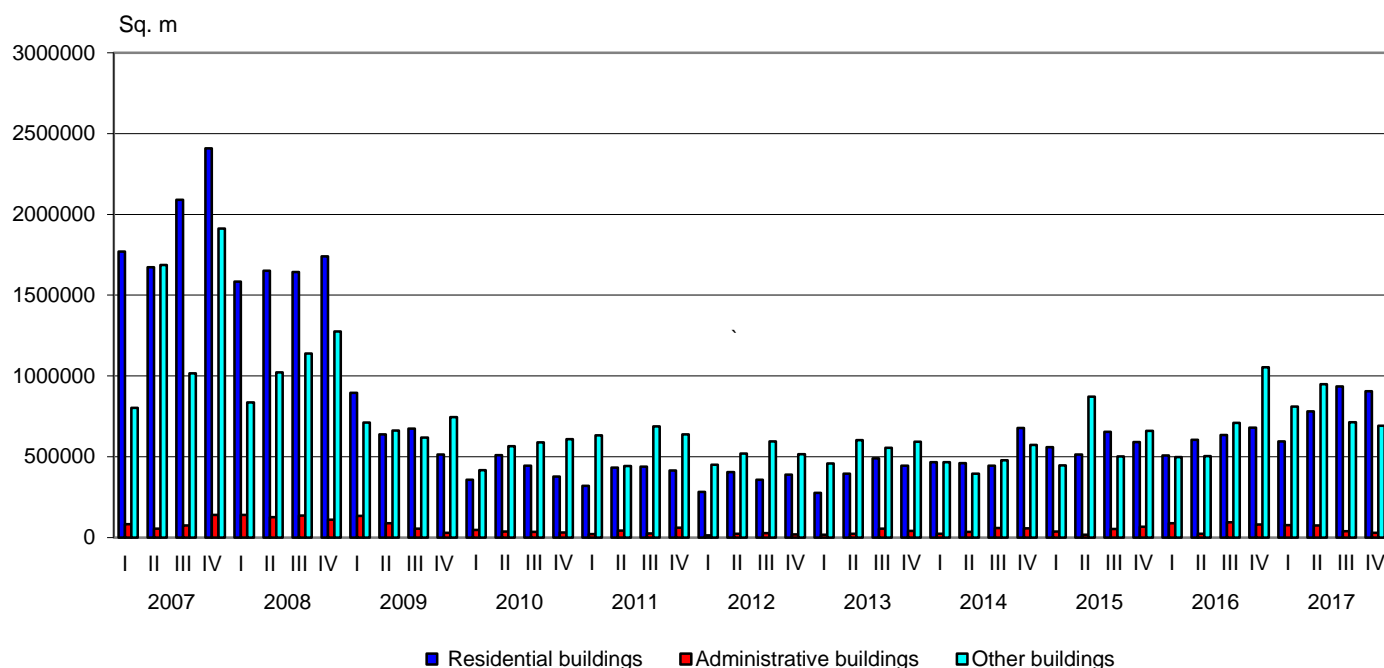
Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and quarter



As compared to the fourth quarter of 2016 the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 15.5%, their dwellings - by 37.0% and their gross building area - by 33.1%. The issued building permits of administrative buildings and of other buildings fell by 6.3% and 26.5% respectively (Figure 1), and the decline in their gross building area was by 63.5% and 34.4% (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 - 215, Sofia (stolitsa) - 201, Burgas - 123 and Varna - 116. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 2 703, Plovdiv - 1 642, Varna - 697 and Burgas - 531 (Annex, Table 1).

In the fourth quarter of 2017 **began the construction** of 779 residential buildings with 4 215 dwellings and 543 767 sq. m gross building area, of 16 administrative buildings/offices with 27 158 sq. m gross building area and of 570 other buildings with 454 681 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings fell by 20.7%, while the number of their dwellings increased by 23.6% and their gross building area - by 20.4%. The number of started administrative buildings marked a decline by 40.7% and their gross building area - by 11.4%. The started other buildings decreased by 17.6%, but their gross building area rose by 18.2%.

As compared to the fourth quarter of 2016 the started new residential buildings increased by 8.2%, their dwellings - by 11.4% and the gross building area - by 15.0%. The number of started administrative buildings fell by 20.0%, while their gross building area grew by 134.1%. The started other buildings increased by 6.3% and their gross building - by 1.0%.

The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 108 residential buildings and 87 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 131 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 36 other buildings; Varna - 105 residential buildings and 27 other buildings; Burgas - 87 residential buildings and 36 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 2017¹

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	1296	7327	904953	30	29251	1130	691264
Blagoevgrad	72	313	27908	..	..	89	52821
Burgas	123	531	68239	3	9148	57	35625
Varna	116	697	101147	5	3453	77	64628
Veliko Tarnovo	32	86	12028	-	-	35	22040
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	3	1322
Vratsa	11	22	1955	-	-	21	8677
Gabrovo	17	17	3337	-	-	15	7778
Dobrich	23	46	7343	..	..	18	7892
Kardzhali	43	153	18522	-	-	13	5377
Kyustendil	10	12	1317	-	-	32	3775
Lovech	11	11	1852	-	-	61	17404
Montana	..	..	..	..	..	23	19656
Pazardzhik	74	122	18764	..	..	53	56953
Pernik	33	73	9222	-	-	34	27258
Pleven	7	16	1837	-	-	26	8288
Plovdiv	215	1642	211748	4	10777	132	65559
Razgrad	11	20	2981	..	..	28	15855
Ruse	30	98	10700	-	-	51	36331
Silistra	18	24	4256	-	-	14	3715
Sliven	33	53	8039	-	-	16	4195
Smolyan	8	10	1668	-	-	21	12680
Sofia	64	77	14035	5	959	65	21170
Sofia (stolitsa)	201	2703	303552	3	2681	38	116734
Stara Zagora	62	410	49559	..	..	65	21086
Targovishte	11	51	4330	..	..	12	19234
Haskovo	24	63	9823	-	-	55	12895
Shumen	25	44	4219	..	..	59	14900
Yambol	15	26	4630	-	-	17	7416

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the fourth quarter of 2017¹

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	779	4215	543767	16	27158	570	454681
Blagoevgrad	41	328	22629	..	..	33	30912
Burgas	87	544	61639	..	..	36	37774
Varna	105	919	147544	-	-	27	23285
Veliko Tarnovo	14	15	2299	-	-	10	6107
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	5	2319
Vratsa	..	..	..	-	-	4	4788
Gabrovo	8	8	1750	-	-	3	4133
Dobrich	15	20	3640	-	-	17	20491
Kardzhali	9	50	5276	-	-	4	889
Kyustendil	..	..	..	-	-	5	3360
Lovech	4	4	663	-	-	12	2827
Montana	3	3	368	..	..	9	2457
Pazardzhik	44	115	15786	-	-	27	35527
Pernik	16	18	2458	-	-	4	216
Pleven	3	12	1463	-	-	13	2598
Plovdiv	108	206	31336	..	..	87	46247
Razgrad	7	8	1492	..	..	11	4490
Ruse	14	15	2421	-	-	24	14650
Silistra	3	3	1119	-	-	21	8601
Sliven	19	35	5171	-	-	17	9095
Smolyan	-	-	-	-	-	4	2532
Sofia	44	72	8867	4	774	40	19699
Sofia (stolitsa)	131	1452	184153	3	15572	36	98513
Stara Zagora	34	235	24975	..	..	44	31598
Targovishte	5	36	2458	..	..	6	808
Haskovo	28	49	7767	-	-	34	8599
Shumen	22	40	4758	..	..	23	16241
Yambol	9	19	2653	-	-	14	15925

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.