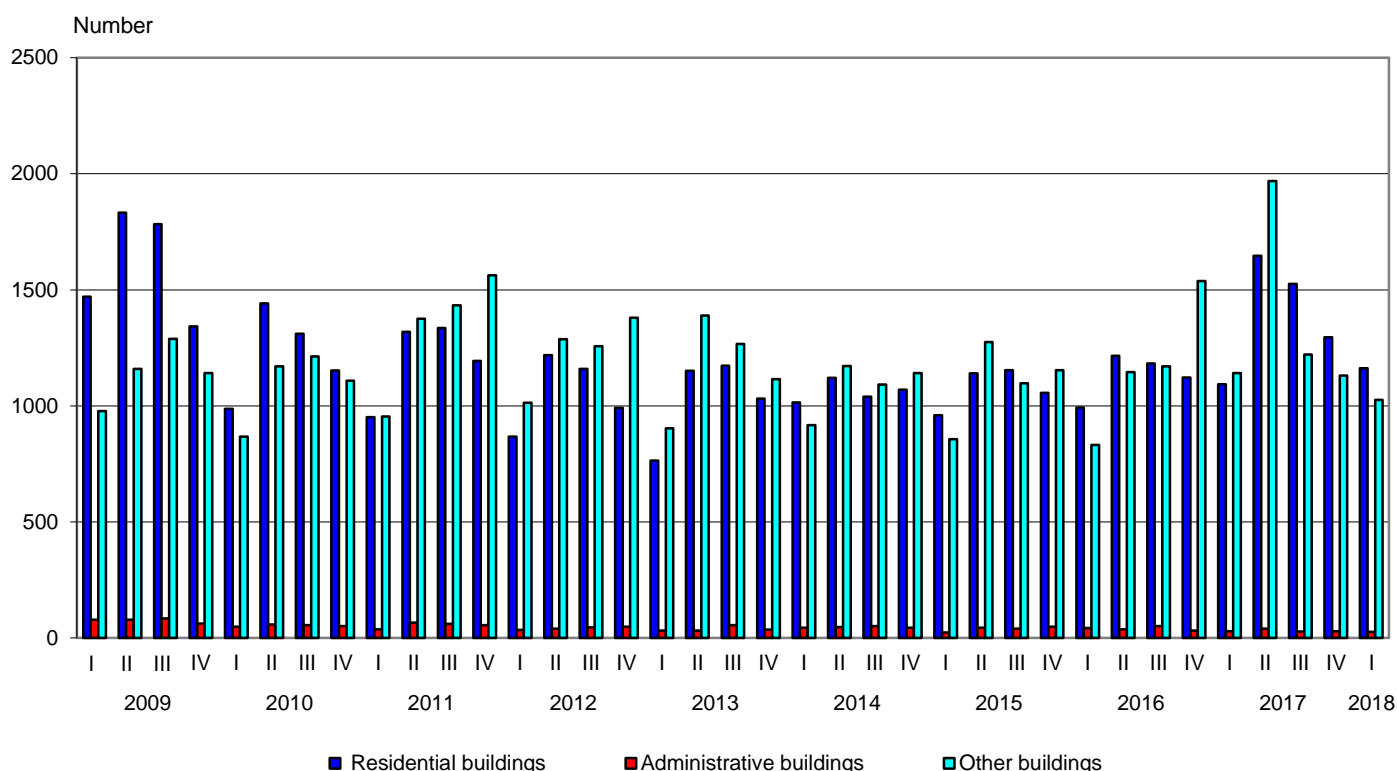




BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2018

In the first quarter of 2018, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 162 residential buildings with 6 247 dwellings and 815 987 sq. m gross building area, of 26 administrative buildings/offices with 33 101 sq. m gross building area and 1 026 other buildings with 638 272 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 10.3%, the number of their dwellings - by 14.7% and the gross building area - by 9.8%. The issued building permits of administrative buildings and of other buildings shown a drop by 13.3% and 9.2% respectively, as the gross building area of administrative buildings rose by 13.2%, while the gross building area of other buildings decreased by 7.7%.

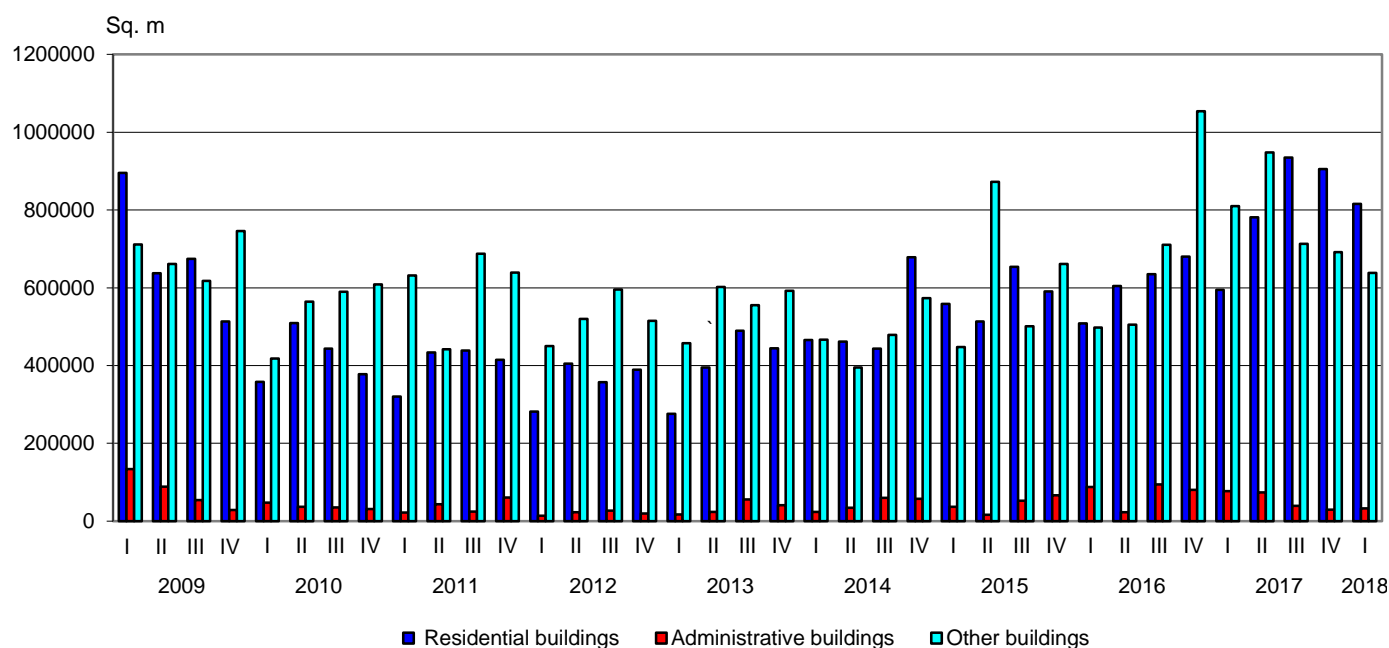
Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and quarter



As compared to the first quarter of 2017 the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 6.3%, their dwellings - by 33.1% and their gross building area - by 37.1%. The issued building permits of administrative buildings and of other buildings fell by 10.3% and 10.1% respectively (Figure 1) and the decline in their gross building area was by 57.2% and 21.2% (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) - 205, Plovdiv - 176, Varna - 108 and Burgas - 102. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 2 337, Plovdiv - 1 355, Burgas - 754 and Varna - 687 (Annex, Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2018 **began the construction** of 723 residential buildings with 4 157 dwellings and 476 224 sq. m gross building area, of 18 administrative buildings/offices with 22 623 sq. m gross building area and of 467 other buildings with 428 856 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings fell by 7.2%, their dwellings - by 1.4% and their gross building area - by 12.4%. The started administrative buildings marked a rise by 12.5%, but their gross building area decreased by 16.7%. The number of started other buildings dropped by 18.1% and their gross building area - by 5.7%.

As compared to the first quarter of 2017 the started new residential buildings increased by 13.1%, their dwellings - by 29.2% and the gross building area - by 16.8%. The number of started administrative buildings grew by 12.5%, while their gross building area declined by 61.8%. The started other buildings increased by 1.5% and their gross building area - by 47.5%.

The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 140 residential buildings and 66 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 123 residential buildings, 7 administrative buildings and 19 other buildings; Burgas - 91 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 29 other buildings; Varna - 83 residential buildings and 28 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 2018¹

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	1162	6247	815987	26	33101	1026	638272
Blagoevgrad	79	138	20978	..	..	68	24468
Burgas	102	754	70956	4	4682	99	69048
Varna	108	687	120775	..	..	58	46037
Veliko Tarnovo	20	35	5743	-	-	46	10722
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	3	854
Vratsa	12	54	7830	-	-	17	8127
Gabrovo	9	10	1829	-	-	8	6288
Dobrich	19	27	2560	-	-	31	24323
Kardzhali	22	148	18864	-	-	4	1533
Kyustendil	15	17	5019	-	-	32	4439
Lovech	15	15	2573	3	1375	13	2558
Montana	..	..	..	-	-	15	2317
Pazardzhik	47	99	12332	3	634	55	19459
Pernik	32	48	7245	-	-	20	11160
Pleven	9	27	3591	-	-	26	13828
Plovdiv	176	1355	159706	3	14835	120	120619
Razgrad	12	12	2859	-	-	16	28821
Ruse	17	49	7417	..	..	41	12063
Silistra	11	12	3504	..	..	23	3470
Sliven	36	38	6385	..	..	16	2404
Smolyan	5	5	912	-	-	37	8409
Sofia	89	93	17550	3	1204	55	35130
Sofia (stolitsa)	205	2337	301550	..	..	43	55728
Stara Zagora	62	112	15459	-	-	77	81839
Targovishte	6	80	4965	-	-	9	2450
Haskovo	24	43	7137	-	-	38	9774
Shumen	16	37	5713	..	..	39	21388
Yambol	10	11	1709	..	..	17	11016

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2018¹

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	723	4157	476224	18	22623	467	428856
Blagoevgrad	40	80	11558	..	..	38	22275
Burgas	91	446	48211	3	2035	29	62037
Varna	83	734	76456	-	-	28	53713
Veliko Tarnovo	13	13	2572	-	-	19	5013
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
Vratsa	..	..	..	-	-	6	4496
Gabrovo	4	4	942	-	-	4	8761
Dobrich	19	46	5436	-	-	9	10440
Kardzhali	18	134	17267	-	-	..	..
Kyustendil	3	3	908	-	-	4	803
Lovech	8	8	1558	-	-	13	7384
Montana	..	..	..	-	-	4	3839
Pazardzhik	18	64	7336	-	-	36	9180
Pernik	11	47	5510	-	-	6	439
Pleven	3	4	534	-	-	13	6504
Plovdiv	140	499	57465	..	..	66	41968
Razgrad	3	4	801	-	-	16	37048
Ruse	12	40	4006	-	-	16	19666
Silistra	8	8	2107	-	-	9	1709
Sliven	6	6	1186	..	..	13	4589
Smolyan	-	-	-	-	-	14	1306
Sofia	31	36	7958	..	..	18	12920
Sofia (stolitsa)	123	1729	193114	7	15653	19	19944
Stara Zagora	46	158	16479	..	..	27	70452
Targovishte	-	-	-	-	-	..	..
Haskovo	19	29	5632	-	-	31	8068
Shumen	10	17	1243	..	..	18	5648
Yambol	9	11	2480	-	-	8	8543

¹ .. - confidential data.