

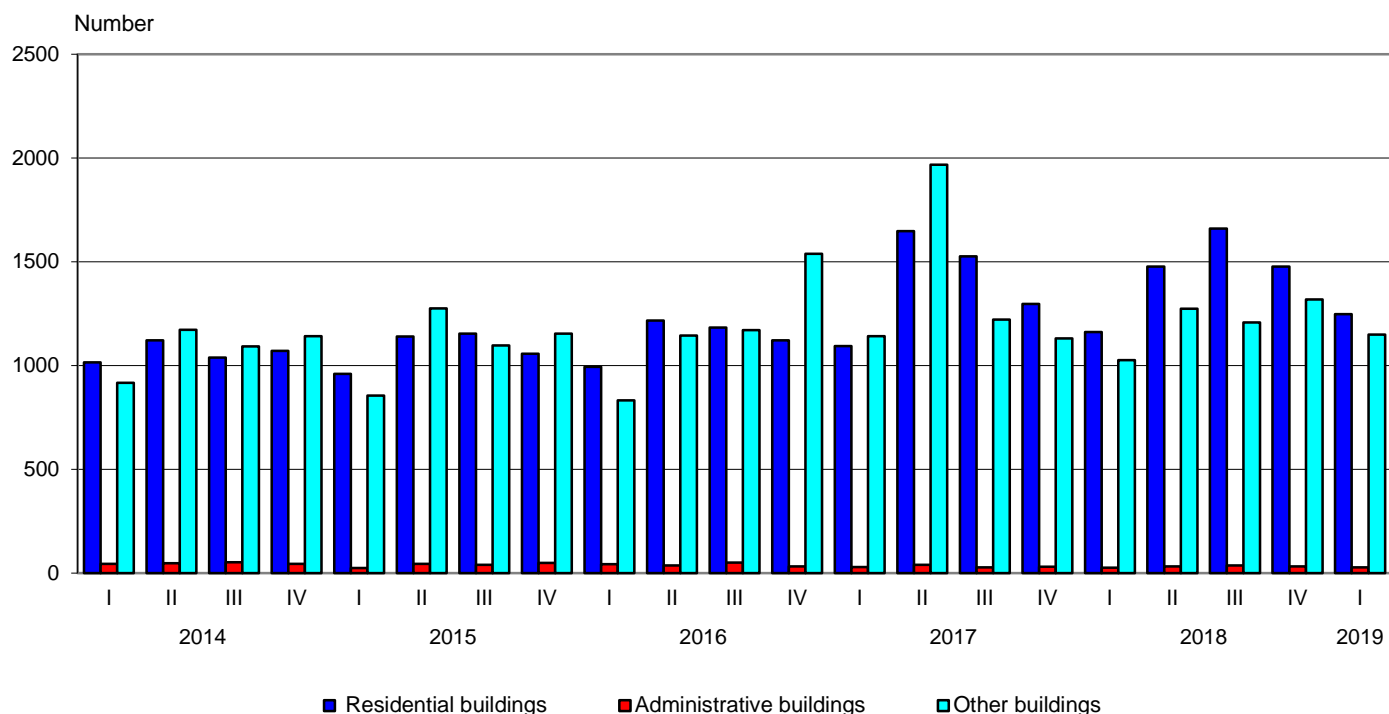


BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2019

In the first quarter of 2019, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 247 residential buildings with 7 832 dwellings and 1 032 933 sq. m gross building area, of 28 administrative buildings/offices with 67 404 sq. m gross building area and 1 149 other buildings with 560 208 sq. m gross building area.

As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 15.6%, the number of their dwellings - by 33.0% and the gross building area - by 29.1%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings and other buildings also shown a drop by 15.2% and 12.9% respectively, and their gross building area - by 70.0% and 28.3%.

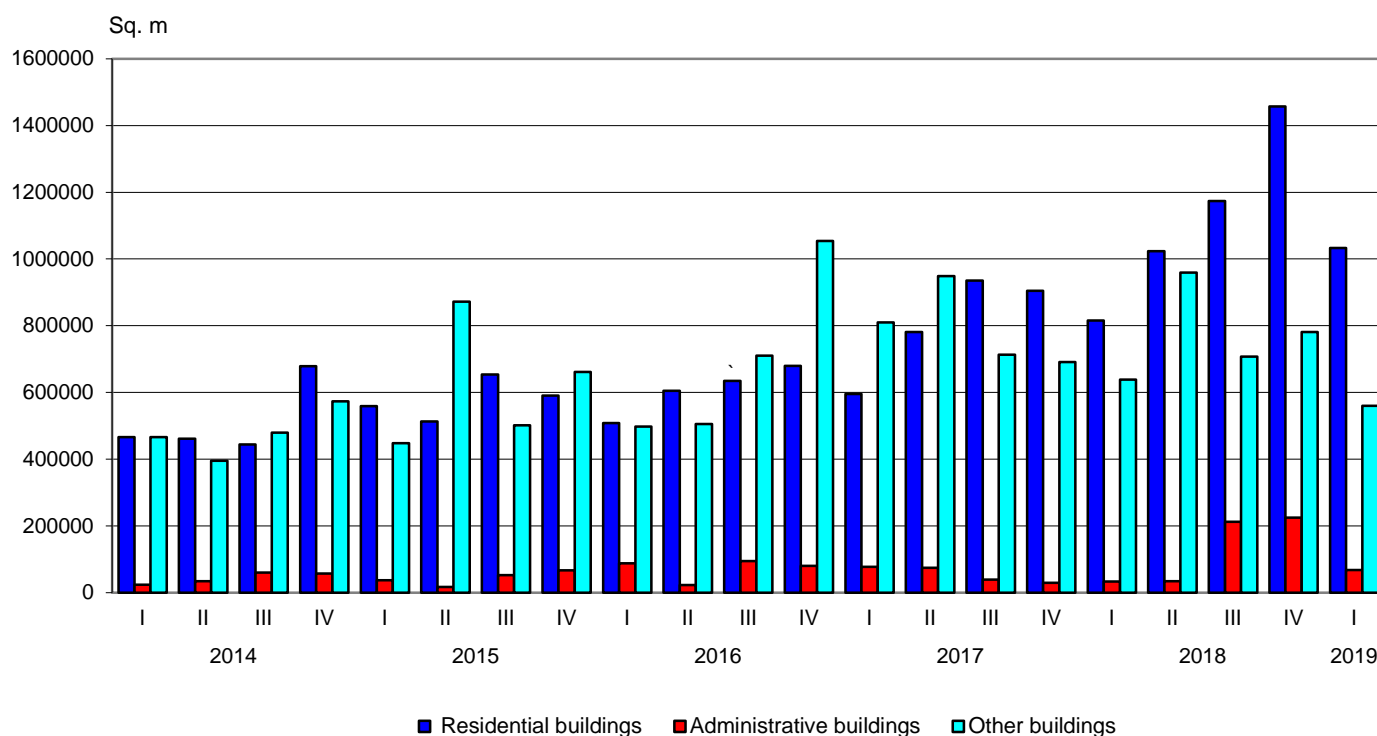
Figure 1. Building permits issued for construction of new buildings by type and quarter





As compared to the first quarter of 2018 the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 7.3%, their dwellings - by 25.4% and the gross building area - by 26.6%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings rose by 7.7% and their gross building area - by 103.6%. The issued building permits for other buildings also growth by 12.0%, but their gross building area fell by 12.2%.

Figure 2. Building permits issued for construction - gross building area by type of buildings and quarter



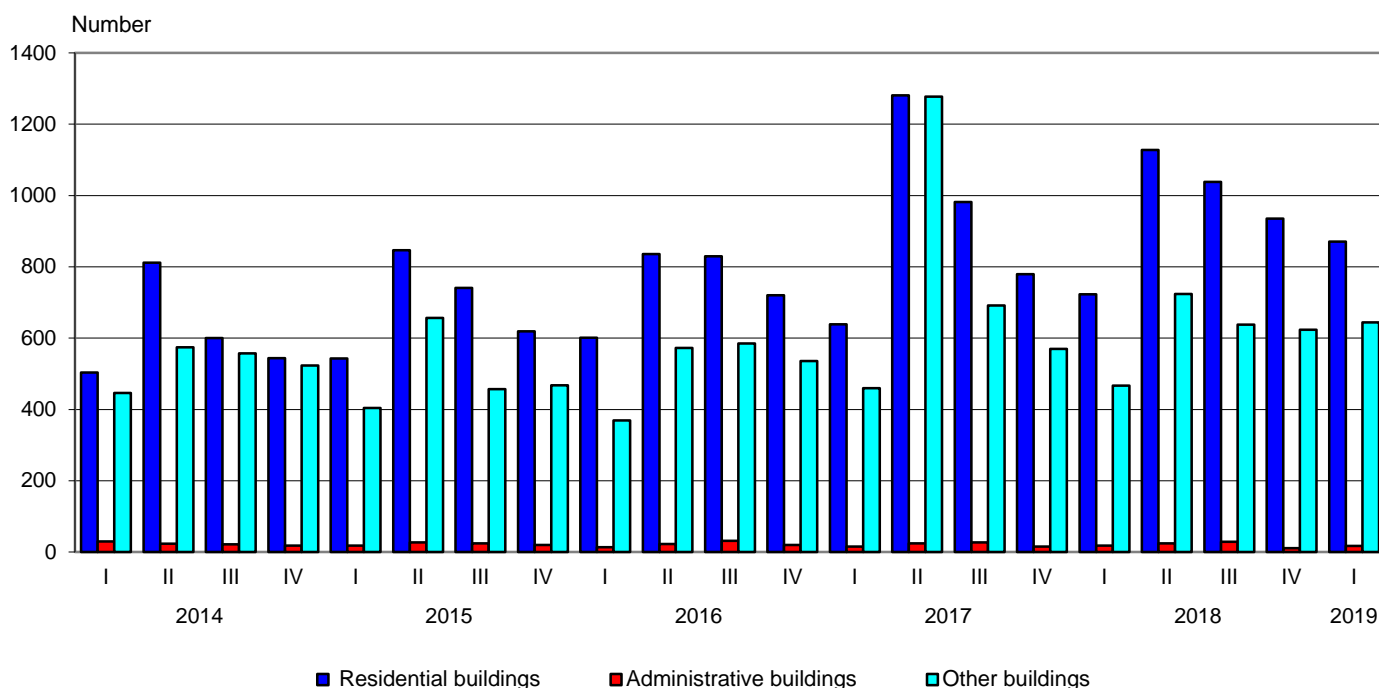
The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings was issued in the following districts: Plovdiv - 220, Sofia (stolitsa) - 213, Varna - 107, Sofia - 107 and Burgas - 96. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 2 906, Plovdiv - 1 389, Burgas - 620, Kardzhali - 600 and Varna - 582 (Annex, Table 1).



In the first quarter of 2019 **began the construction** of 871 residential buildings with 4 481 dwellings and 625 846 sq. m gross building area, of 17 administrative buildings/offices with 30 743 sq. m gross building area and of 644 other buildings with 573 305 sq. m gross building area.

As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings decreased by 6.8%, their dwellings - by 23.8% and their gross building area - by 17.4%. The number of started administrative buildings growth by 54.5% and their gross building area - by 216.4%. The started other buildings increased by 3.2%, while their gross building area fell by 2.2%.

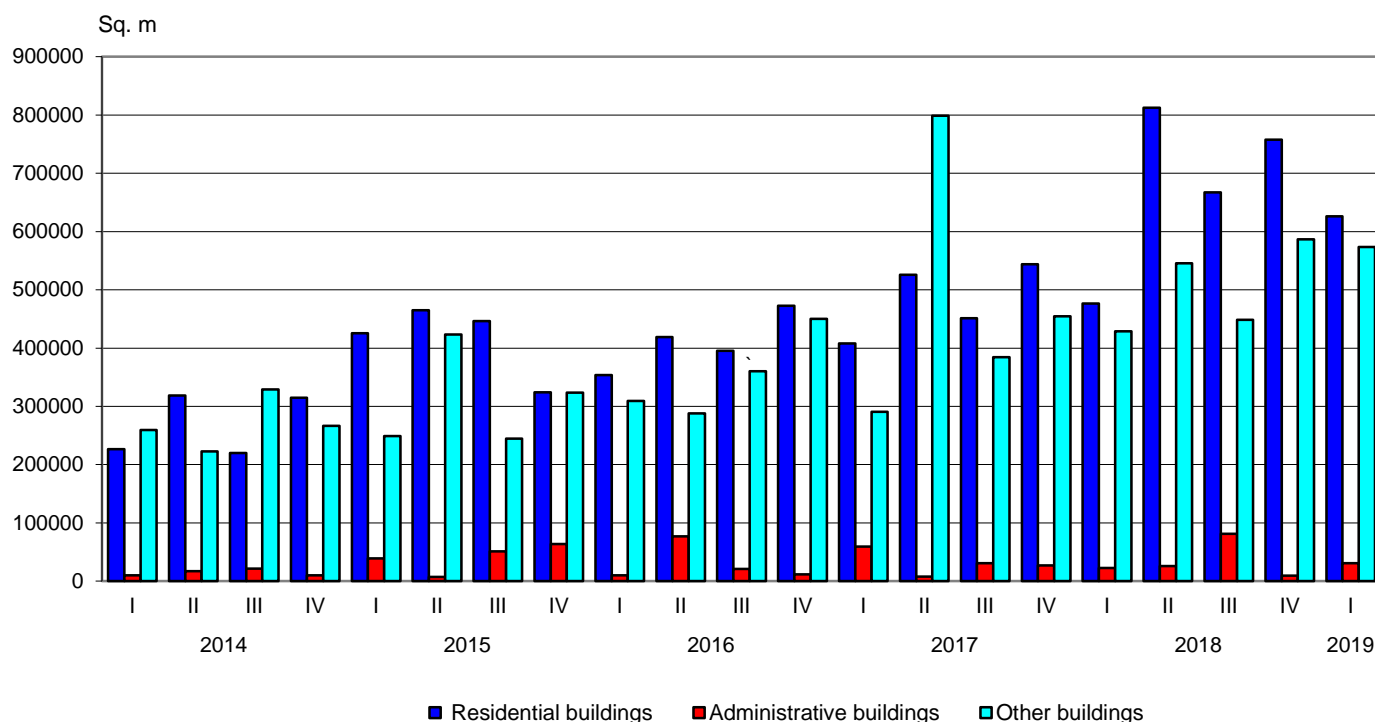
Figure 3. Started construction of new buildings by type and quarter



As compared to the first quarter of 2018 the started new residential buildings rose by 20.5%, their dwellings - by 7.8% and their gross building area - by 31.4%. The number of started administrative buildings fell by 5.6%, but their gross building area growth by 35.9%. The started other buildings shown an increase by 37.9% and their gross building area - by 33.7%.



Figure 4. Started construction - gross building area by type of buildings and quarter



The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 153 residential buildings and 101 other buildings; Burgas - 107 residential buildings and 50 other buildings; Varna - 119 residential buildings and 22 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 110 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 23 other buildings; Stara Zagora - 70 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 53 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 2019¹

| 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 | 1247 | 7832 | 1032933 | 28 | 67404 | 1149 | 560208 |
| Blagoevgrad | 71 | 116 | 19743 | 3 | 1035 | 65 | 48508 |
| Burgas | 96 | 620 | 59278 | .. | .. | 45 | 66722 |
| Varna | 107 | 582 | 133525 | .. | .. | 57 | 19429 |
| Veliko Tarnovo | 24 | 120 | 15847 | .. | .. | 28 | 19553 |
| Vidin | .. | .. | .. | - | - | 4 | 2319 |
| Vratsa | 10 | 16 | 2302 | .. | .. | 13 | 4688 |
| Gabrovo | 10 | 10 | 1770 | - | - | 9 | 3080 |
| Dobrich | 20 | 28 | 3178 | .. | .. | 19 | 5175 |
| Kardzhali | 42 | 600 | 75741 | - | - | 32 | 14578 |
| Kyustendil | 12 | 14 | 3477 | - | - | 29 | 7054 |
| Lovech | 15 | 15 | 1999 | - | - | 26 | 4033 |
| Montana | .. | .. | .. | - | - | 14 | 9984 |
| Pazardzhik | 50 | 108 | 18454 | - | - | 82 | 28536 |
| Pernik | 30 | 85 | 10487 | .. | .. | 24 | 15935 |
| Pleven | 18 | 79 | 8825 | - | - | 25 | 13885 |
| Plovdiv | 220 | 1389 | 174777 | 3 | 1981 | 115 | 96995 |
| Razgrad | 10 | 18 | 3124 | .. | .. | 31 | 9023 |
| Ruse | 20 | 94 | 14590 | - | - | 46 | 16086 |
| Silistra | 12 | 15 | 2644 | - | - | 14 | 3312 |
| Sliven | 25 | 39 | 5283 | - | - | 29 | 13028 |
| Smolyan | 11 | 13 | 4724 | - | - | 25 | 2175 |
| Sofia | 107 | 302 | 31925 | .. | .. | 60 | 31356 |
| Sofia (stolitsa) | 213 | 2906 | 357787 | 8 | 54044 | 46 | 59165 |
| Stara Zagora | 72 | 565 | 68741 | - | - | 199 | 27632 |
| Targovishte | 10 | 12 | 1654 | - | - | 10 | 5832 |
| Haskovo | 17 | 42 | 6351 | .. | .. | 51 | 17578 |
| Shumen | 13 | 31 | 4172 | - | - | 27 | 8054 |
| Yambol | 8 | 8 | 1526 | - | - | 24 | 6493 |

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2019¹

| 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 | 871 | 4481 | 625846 | 17 | 30743 | 644 | 573305 |
| Blagoevgrad | 35 | 137 | 17542 | .. | .. | 38 | 15001 |
| Burgas | 107 | 613 | 98326 | .. | .. | 50 | 92745 |
| Varna | 119 | 531 | 96508 | - | - | 22 | 37200 |
| Veliko Tarnovo | 18 | 125 | 15556 | .. | .. | 19 | 11627 |
| Vidin | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vratsa | .. | .. | .. | - | - | 8 | 4306 |
| Gabrovo | 4 | 4 | 1223 | - | - | 4 | 1828 |
| Dobrich | 24 | 39 | 5041 | - | - | 19 | 12727 |
| Kardzhali | 27 | 311 | 40802 | .. | .. | 8 | 4162 |
| Kyustendil | 5 | 6 | 512 | - | - | 5 | 547 |
| Lovech | 10 | 10 | 1668 | .. | .. | 20 | 7720 |
| Montana | .. | .. | .. | - | - | 8 | 8919 |
| Pazardzhik | 29 | 85 | 14836 | - | - | 35 | 25662 |
| Pernik | 18 | 73 | 9036 | .. | .. | 10 | 2300 |
| Pleven | 7 | 66 | 6134 | - | - | 17 | 12501 |
| Plovdiv | 153 | 449 | 56000 | .. | .. | 101 | 126428 |
| Razgrad | 14 | 25 | 3236 | - | - | 20 | 12667 |
| Ruse | 9 | 30 | 5278 | - | - | 24 | 9558 |
| Silistra | 8 | 8 | 1020 | - | - | 18 | 5313 |
| Sliven | 14 | 22 | 3080 | - | - | 20 | 10225 |
| Smolyan | .. | .. | .. | - | - | 10 | 424 |
| Sofia | 54 | 73 | 13870 | .. | .. | 27 | 42455 |
| Sofia (stolitsa) | 110 | 1495 | 179988 | 3 | 20829 | 23 | 54858 |
| Stara Zagora | 70 | 303 | 41506 | 3 | 1296 | 53 | 36949 |
| Targovishte | 4 | 4 | 668 | - | - | 5 | 6014 |
| Haskovo | 14 | 29 | 4828 | - | - | 49 | 20657 |
| Shumen | 8 | 25 | 4039 | .. | .. | 19 | 5420 |
| Yambol | 5 | 8 | 1696 | - | - | 12 | 5092 |

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.