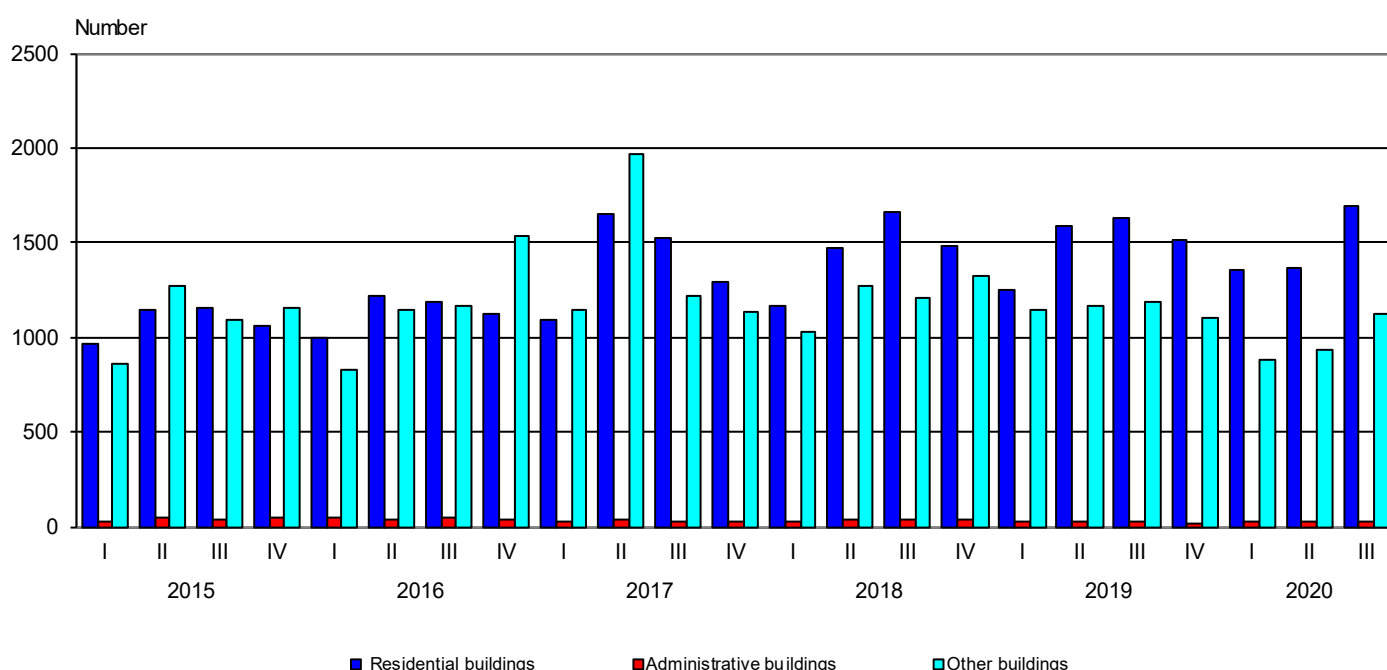


BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2020

In the third quarter of 2020, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 696 residential buildings with 7 414 dwellings and 964 166 sq. m gross building area, of 28 administrative buildings/offices with 47 213 sq. m gross building area and 1 121 other buildings with 505 065 sq. m gross building area.

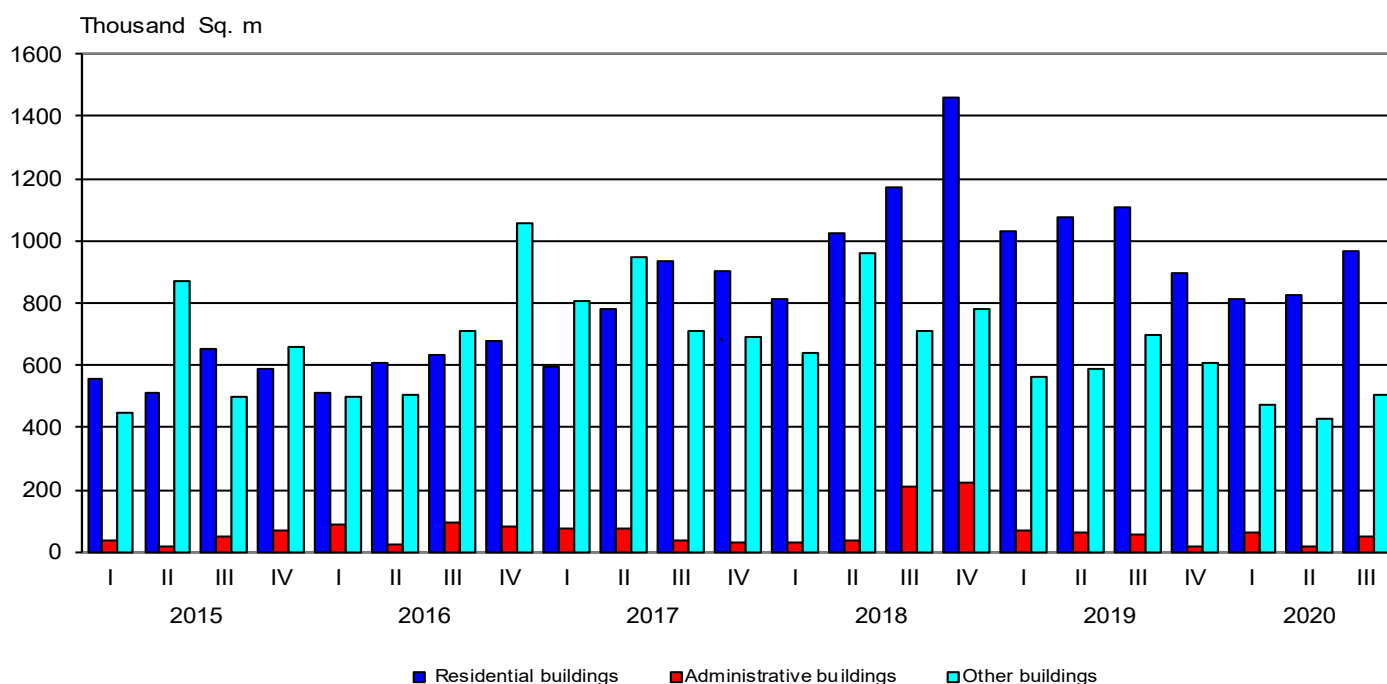
As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings rose by 24.5%, their dwellings - by 25.1% and their gross building area - by 17.1%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings fell by 9.7%, but their gross building area growth by 157.6%. The issued building permits for other buildings shown an increase by 19.9% and their gross building area - by 18.1%.

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



As compared to the third quarter of 2019 the issued building permits for new residential buildings rose by 4.0%, while their dwellings decreased by 17.8% and the gross building area - by 13.2%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings growth by 21.7%, but their gross building area declined by 19.2%. The issued building permits for other buildings fell by 5.6% and their gross building area - by 27.3%.

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

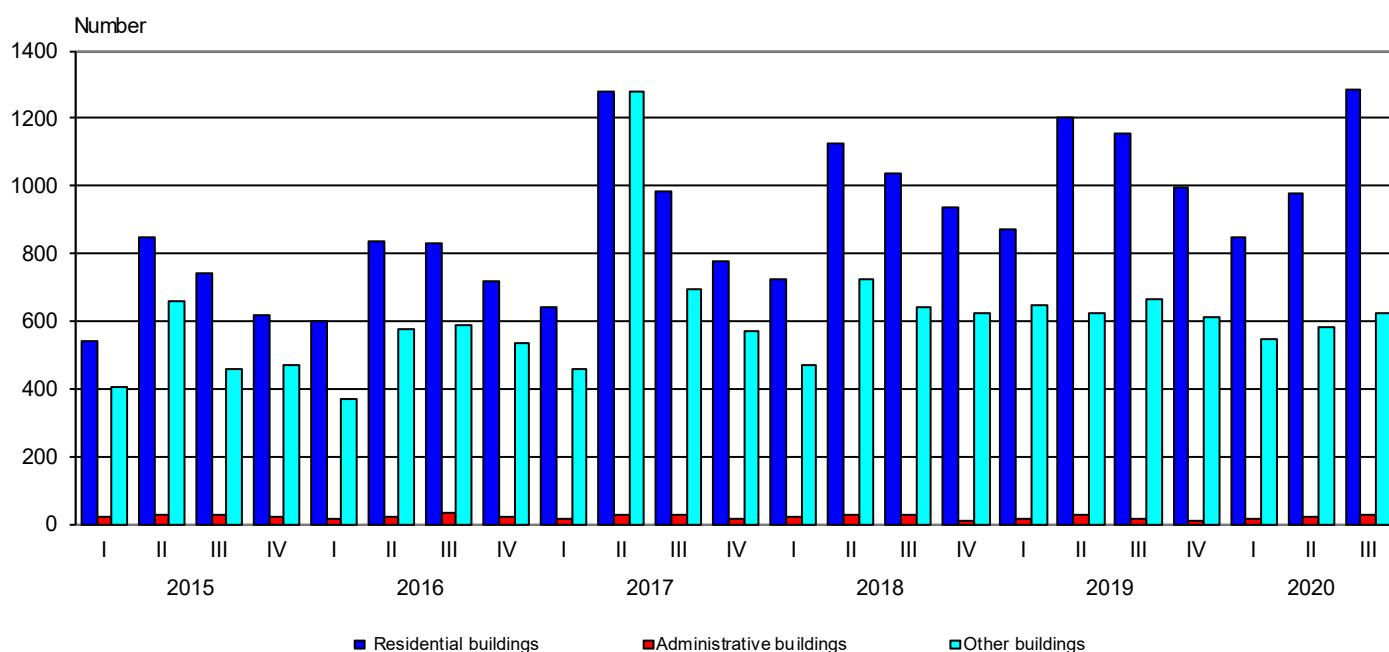


The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings was issued in the following districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 301, Plovdiv - 257, Sofia - 138, Varna - 128 and Blagoevgrad - 116. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 2 141, Plovdiv - 1 613, Varna - 1 003, Burgas - 706 and Stara Zagora - 289 (Annex, Table 1).

In the third quarter of 2020 **began the construction** of 1 282 residential buildings with 5 899 dwellings and 726 896 sq. m gross building area, of 25 administrative buildings/offices with 39 738 sq. m gross building area and of 624 other buildings with 524 359 sq. m gross building area.

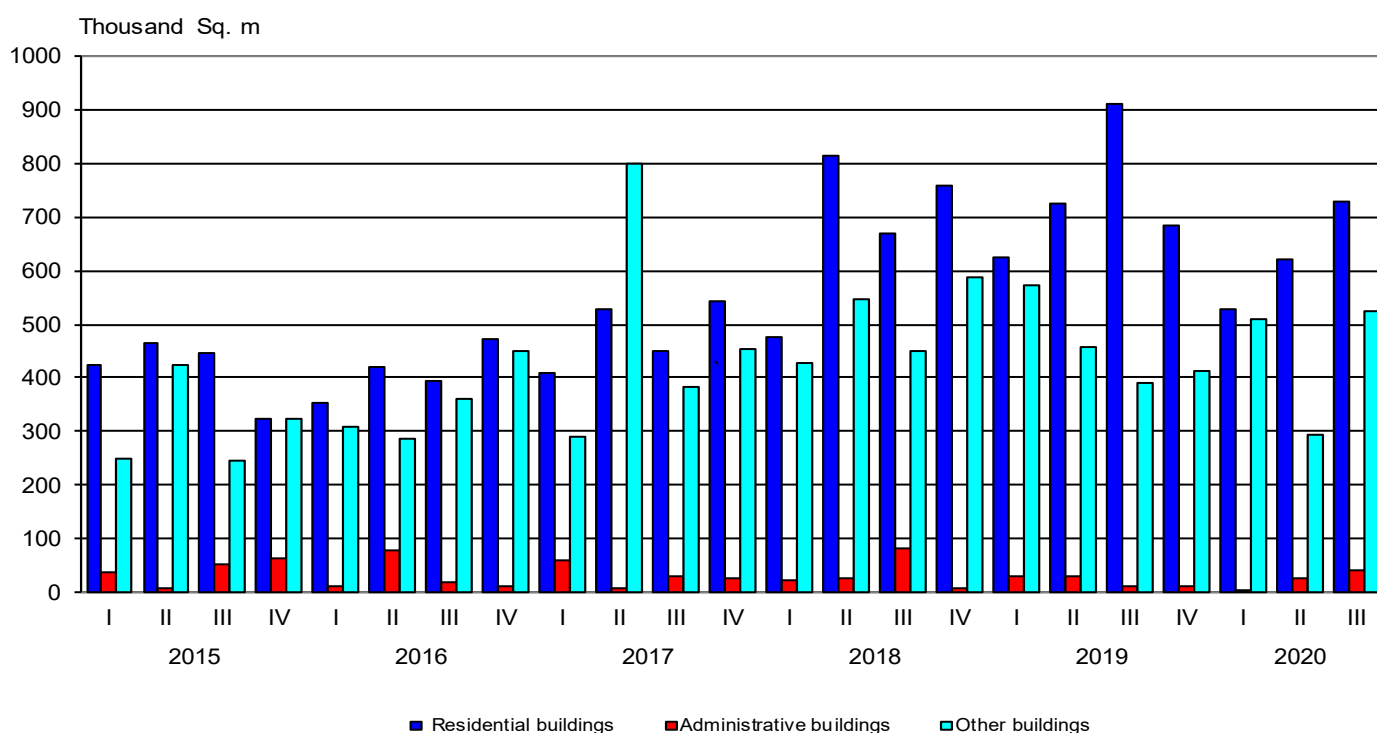
As compared to the previous quarter the started residential buildings rose by 30.9%, their dwellings - by 23.8% and the gross building area - by 16.8%. The number of started administrative buildings increased by 19.0% and their gross building area - by 48.1%. The started other buildings grew by 6.8% and their gross building area - by 78.3%.

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



As compared to the third quarter of 2019 the started new residential buildings increased by 10.9%, while their dwellings fell by 16.0% and their gross building area - by 20.0%. The number of started administrative buildings rose by 92.3% and their gross building area - more than twice. The started other buildings fell by 6.3%, but their gross building area rose by 34.2%.

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 - 176 residential buildings, 5 administrative buildings and 89 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 211 residential buildings and 18 other buildings; Sofia - 137 residential buildings and 35 other buildings; Varna - 130 residential buildings, 12 administrative buildings and 20 other buildings; Stara Zagora - 65 residential buildings and 71 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 third quarter of 2020¹

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	1696	7414	964166	28	47213	1121	505065
Blagoevgrad	116	270	38802	..	..	81	13243
Burgas	112	706	86937	..	..	41	29245
Varna	128	1003	133220	9	658	44	29768
Veliko Tarnovo	32	112	16170	-	-	34	14452
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	4	1108
Vratsa	14	18	2955	..	..	21	3064
Gabrovo	12	14	2595	-	-	26	11963
Dobrich	31	54	5824	-	-	44	13533
Kardzhali	26	87	12475	-	-	11	2507
Kyustendil	17	21	2829	-	-	23	4088
Lovech	21	21	3179	-	-	23	6040
Montana	..	..	..	-	-	10	3721
Pazardzhik	99	201	24827	..	..	42	12481
Pernik	68	90	19605	-	-	30	3431
Pleven	14	29	3960	-	-	37	12110
Plovdiv	257	1613	171643	..	..	121	145078
Razgrad	19	25	10268	-	-	40	6328
Ruse	29	75	9164	-	-	38	9850
Silistra	20	92	9909	-	-	45	22988
Sliven	34	55	7648	-	-	35	12369
Smolyan	13	15	4052	-	-	32	5932
Sofia	138	148	22498	..	..	64	20974
Sofia (stolitsa)	301	2141	302999	4	12205	32	38615
Stara Zagora	76	289	34431	-	-	124	30334
Targovishte	13	13	2209	..	..	12	11362
Haskovo	44	72	10976	-	-	50	20565
Shumen	30	152	15057	3	2354	39	11549
Yambol	23	86	8297	3	5344	18	8367

¹ ‘..’ - Confidential data.

‘-’ - No case.

Table 2

Building construction started in the third quarter of 2020¹

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	1282	5899	726896	25	39738	624	524359
Blagoevgrad	77	239	28779	..	..	30	9416
Burgas	68	476	64172	..	..	16	209304
Varna	130	1641	143657	12	9440	20	5101
Veliko Tarnovo	30	95	14805	-	-	18	3897
Vidin	-	-	-	-	-	6	3893
Vratsa	..	..	..	..	..	12	5586
Gabrovo	14	15	2680	-	-	10	9634
Dobrich	26	31	4462	-	-	34	11058
Kardzhali	27	284	33553	-	-	13	6201
Kyustendil	7	7	1306	-	-	11	4296
Lovech	19	19	2267	-	-	14	3263
Montana	..	..	..	-	-	8	2918
Pazardzhik	83	181	23454	-	-	38	7771
Pernik	60	88	22818	..	..	..	..
Pleven	8	23	2812	-	-	15	6244
Plovdiv	176	459	63643	5	2033	89	88156
Razgrad	6	10	6334	..	..	20	6278
Ruse	18	30	4700	..	..	25	6670
Silistra	14	11	3682	-	-	31	7860
Sliven	25	55	7182	-	-	17	12008
Smolyan	7	8	2639	-	-	13	2252
Sofia	137	170	26872	-	-	35	55071
Sofia (stolitsa)	211	1659	212459	-	-	18	16116
Stara Zagora	65	225	24583	..	..	71	23937
Targovishte	8	8	1384	-	-	..	..
Haskovo	29	40	6765	-	-	26	11528
Shumen	20	95	17501	-	-	12	942
Yambol	9	22	3347	..	..	15	3670

¹ ‘..’ - Confidential data.

‘-’ - No case.