

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2009¹

In the fourth quarter of 2009, the municipal authorities have issued building permits for construction of 1 343 residential buildings with 3 921 dwellings and 513 059 sq.m gross building area, of 63 administrative buildings/offices with 28 903 sq.m gross building area and 1 142 other buildings with 745 449 sq.m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the building permits for residential buildings and their dwellings decreased by 24.7%, and the gross building area - by 23.9%. The administrative buildings rose by 25.0% and their gross building area - by 47.1%. The other buildings fell by 11.4%, while their gross building area increased by 20.6 %.

As compared to the fourth quarter of 2008 issued building permits for new residential building decreased by 45.2%, and their dwellings - by 69.6%. The administrative buildings fell by 37.0% and the other buildings - by 25.4% (Fig.1). In all types of buildings a decline in the gross building area was registered, in the residential buildings - by 70.5%, in the administrative buildings - by 73.9%, and in the other buildings - by 41.5% respectively (Fig.2).

In the fourth quarter of 2009, the highest number of building permits for new residential buildings has been issued in the following districts: Burgas - 155, Sofia (capital) - 150, Plovdiv - 143, Sofia - 141, Varna - 128. Most dwellings to be launched in the districts: Sofia (capital) - 773, Varna - 604, Plovdiv - 450 and Burgas - 419 (Table 1).

¹The quarterly statistical survey of permits issued for construction collects information about issued building permits for the type of buildings and the gross building area by municipal authorities. This information may be used as a prognostic 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 purpose, 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 centers, 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.

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

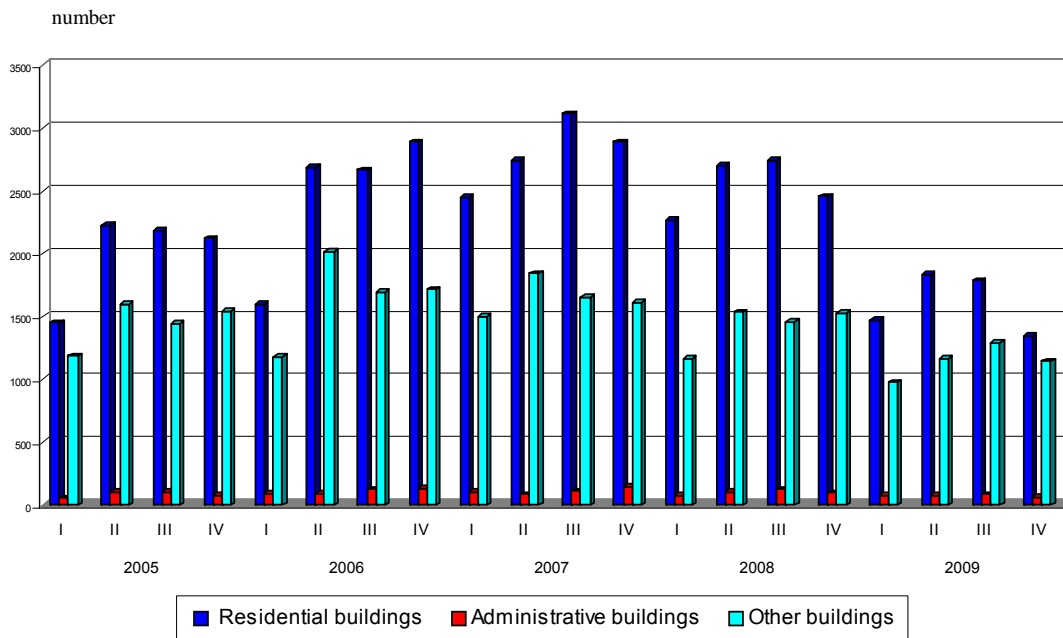


Figure 2. Building permits issued for construction - gross building area by type of buildings

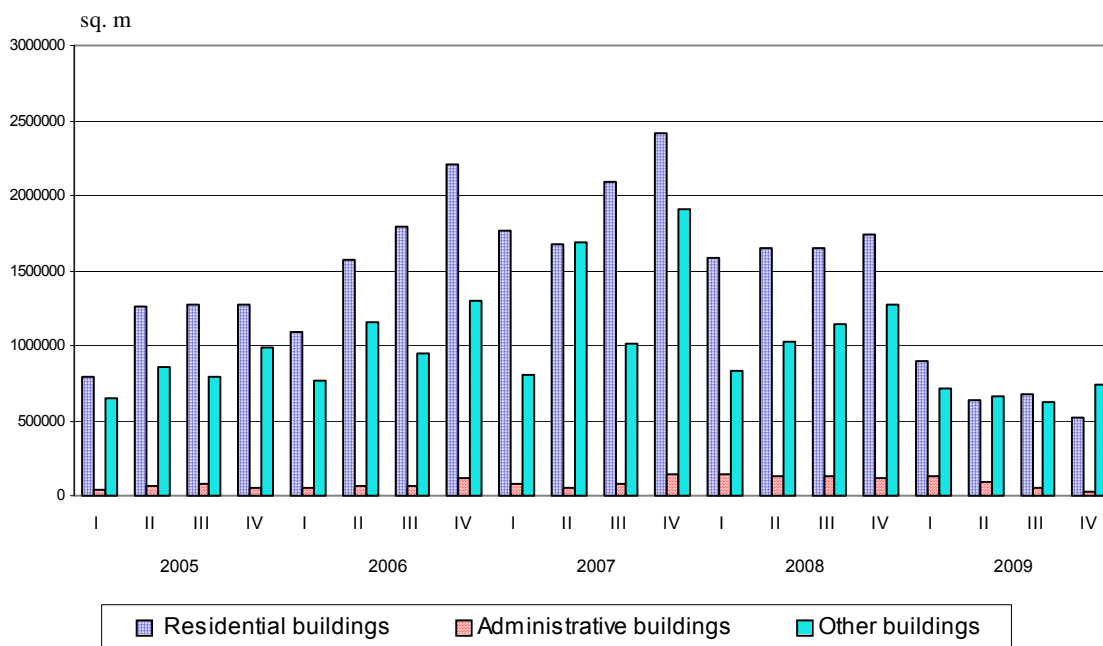


Table 1
Building permits issued for construction of new buildings in the fourth quarter of 2009²

Districts	Residential buildings			Administrative buildings		Other buildings	
	number	dwellings	Gross building area- sq.m	number	Gross building area- sq.m	number	Gross building area- sq.m
Total	1343		3921	63	28903	1142	745449
Blagoevgrad	82		381	11	2770	64	13941
Burgas	155		419	..	..	55	50188
Varna	128		604	..	..	74	136797
Veliko Tarnovo	25		98	3	318	58	27488
Vidin	..		..	3	672	10	1870
Vratsa	11		18	..	..	23	6464
Gabrovo	19		26	-	-	7	3090
Dobrich	60		82	8	3924	44	40572
Kardzhali	23		39	..	..	11	2811
Kyustendil	20		56	..	..	29	4963
Lovech	35		36	..	..	8	1453
Montana	9		16	-	-	38	12075
Pazardzhik	49		112	..	..	46	20974
Pernik	35		50	..	..	20	5508
Pleven	15		69	..	..	29	10497
Plovdiv	143		450	..	..	152	228876
Razgrad	20		68	..	..	30	7079
Ruse	17		77	-	-	24	7959
Silistra	15		34	-	-	8	3153
Sliven	23		27	..	..	13	9350
Smolyan	13		19	-	-	41	13824
Sofia cap.	150		773	5	7439	33	18441
Sofia	141		172	4	794	108	53498
Stara Zagora	86		164	5	2190	67	28759
Targovishte	10		14	-	-	20	6768
Haskovo	34		64	6	667	56	7534
Shumen	18		37	..	..	61	14584
Yambol	..		..	..	..	13	6933

² ".." Confidential data