



BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2012

In the first quarter of 2012, the municipal authorities have issued **building permits** for construction of 868 residential buildings with 1 944 dwellings and 281 787 sq. m gross building area, of 35 administrative buildings/offices with 14 127 sq. m gross building area and 1 014 other buildings with 449 749 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the building permits for residential buildings decreased by 27.3%, their dwellings - by 34.0% and the gross building area - by 32.0%. The number of administrative buildings dropped by 37.5% and their gross building area - by 76.6%. The number of other buildings fell by 35.1% and their gross building area - by 29.6%.

As compared to the first quarter of 2011 the issued building permits for new residential buildings decreased by 8.7% and their dwellings - by 20.9%. The administrative buildings fell by 5.4%, while the other buildings increased by 6.3% (Figure 1). The drop in the gross building area was registered in the residential buildings - by 11.9%, the administrative buildings - by 35.5% and the other buildings - by 28.8% (Figure 2).

The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings was issued in the following districts: Plovdiv - 108, Varna - 102, Burgas - 93, Sofia (capital) - 67 and Blagoevgrad - 66. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Burgas - 445, Varna - 345, Plovdiv - 222, Sofia (capital) - 158 and Blagoevgrad - 148 (Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2012 has **begun the construction** of 382 residential buildings with 1 262 dwellings and 161 301 sq. m gross building area, 17 administrative buildings/offices with 6 281 sq. m gross building area and 394 other buildings with 257 945 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings decreased by 40.3%, their dwellings - by 27.5% and the gross building area - by 29.4%. A decrease was observed in the number of started administrative buildings - by 39.3%, the other buildings - by 41.2% and their gross building area fell by 49.5 and 42.9% respectively.

As compared to the first quarter of 2011 the number of started new residential buildings decreased by 16.8% and their dwellings - by 18.1%. The administrative buildings fell by 34.6% and the other buildings - by 3.7%. A decrease in the gross building area was registered in the residential buildings - by 17.2% and in the administrative buildings - by 55.4%, while the other buildings showed an increase of 23.5%.

The highest number of the construction of new buildings were started in the following districts: Burgas - 79 residential buildings and 43 other buildings; Varna - 63 residential buildings and 38 other buildings; Plovdiv - 33 residential buildings and 70 other buildings; Stara Zagora - 25 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 34 other buildings; Sofia (capital) - 32 residential buildings and 5 other buildings (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 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 and by quarter

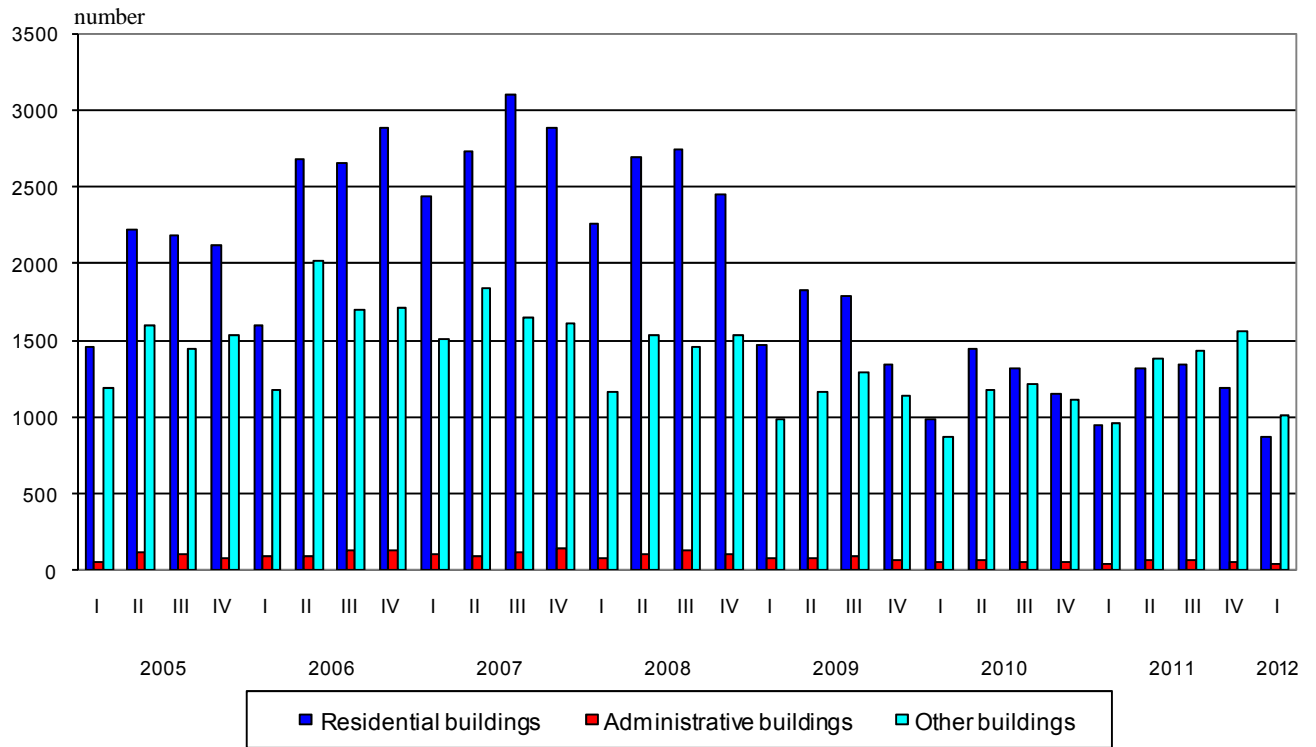




Figure 2. Building permits issued for construction - gross building area by type of buildings and by quarter

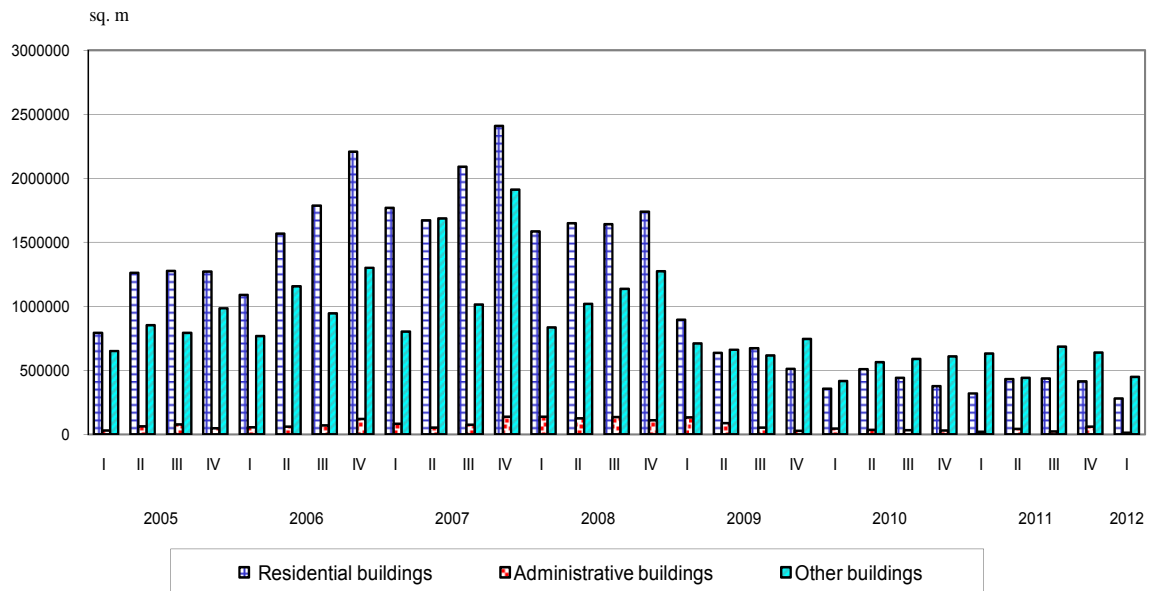




Table 1

Building permits issued for construction of new buildings in the first quarter of 2012¹

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	868	1944	281787	35	14127	1014	449749
Blagoevgrad	66	148	29225	4	1836	54	18737
Burgas	93	445	54629	..	..	63	60686
Varna	102	345	41531	..	..	80	45003
Veliko Tarnovo	25	26	3624	-	-	43	16972
Vidin	14	81	5967	..	..	8	803
Vratsa	5	5	618	..	..	26	4951
Gabrovo	7	6	1385	-	-	14	7034
Dobrich	14	21	3336	4	481	40	14440
Kardzhali	15	20	3147	-	-	9	1601
Kyustendil	7	8	1554	-	-	4	146
Lovech	17	17	2093	-	-	16	1261
Montana	3	2	1179	..	..	10	2544
Pazardzhik	50	64	10268	4	1202	55	11950
Pernik	23	24	5419	..	..	23	3320
Pleven	21	33	6292	..	..	18	6458
Plovdiv	108	222	34318	4	2322	125	74653
Razgrad	12	14	1303	-	-	20	7371
Ruse	11	11	2609	4	1225	22	7956
Silistra	9	9	1695	..	..	28	11671
Sliven	23	38	5826	-	-	19	6123
Smolyan	9	10	2152	..	..	26	4086
Sofia	52	53	8378	-	-	66	22166
Sofia cap.	67	158	25908	..	..	35	13926
Stara Zagora	52	104	15910	..	..	94	79627
Targovishte	7	10	1278	..	..	26	2975
Haskovo	20	25	3635	-	-	23	7732
Shumen	21	23	4914	-	-	40	6336
Yambol	15	22	3594	-	-	27	9221

¹ "..." - Confidential data.



Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2012¹

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	382	1262	161301	17	6281	394	257945
Blagoevgrad	25	31	5397	..	..	22	6937
Burgas	79	392	46698	..	..	43	47645
Varna	63	226	26751	..	..	38	17074
Veliko Tarnovo	12	16	1848	-	-	21	8247
Vidin	-	-	-	-	-	..	..
Vratsa	..	..	..	..	..	6	1118
Gabrovo	4	3	997	-	-	3	791
Dobrich	4	11	1035	4	529	10	3187
Kardzhali	-	-	-	..	..	3	882
Kyustendil	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
Lovech	4	4	584	-	-	15	10659
Montana	..	..	..	-	-	3	465
Pazardzhik	20	41	5365	-	-	20	7588
Pernik	10	10	3000	-	-	..	..
Pleven	3	13	1610	-	-	8	2327
Plovdiv	33	83	11660	-	-	70	15849
Razgrad	5	6	656	-	-	4	271
Ruse	4	17	1970	..	..	6	3344
Silistra	4	5	639	..	..	10	2440
Sliven	6	6	820	-	-	6	1216
Smolyan	..	..	..	-	-	9	1397
Sofia	22	22	2838	-	-	23	24750
Sofia cap.	32	288	35634	..	..	5	5896
Stara Zagora	25	43	6862	3	336	34	83097
Targovishte	3	4	604	-	-	6	420
Haskovo	9	13	1829	-	-	8	3067
Shumen	6	11	1552	-	-	8	1438
Yambol	4	11	1875	-	-	11	7572

¹ "..." - Confidential data.