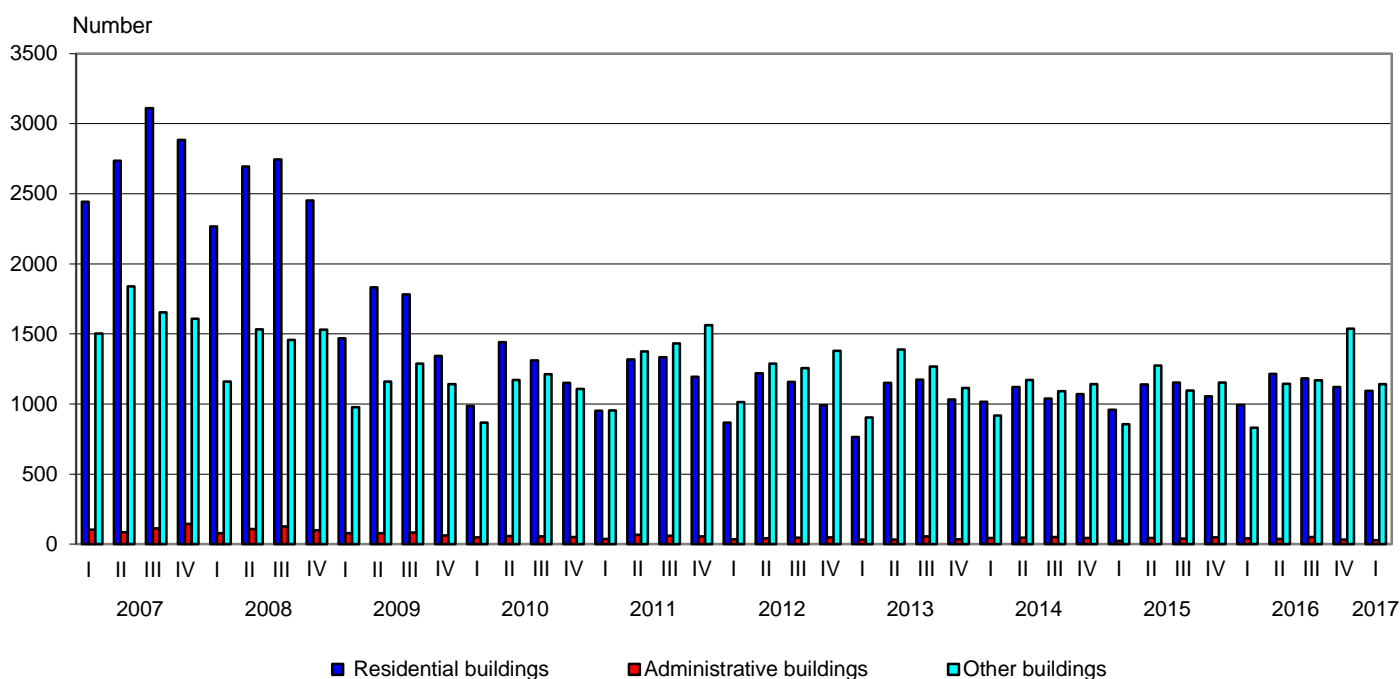




BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2017

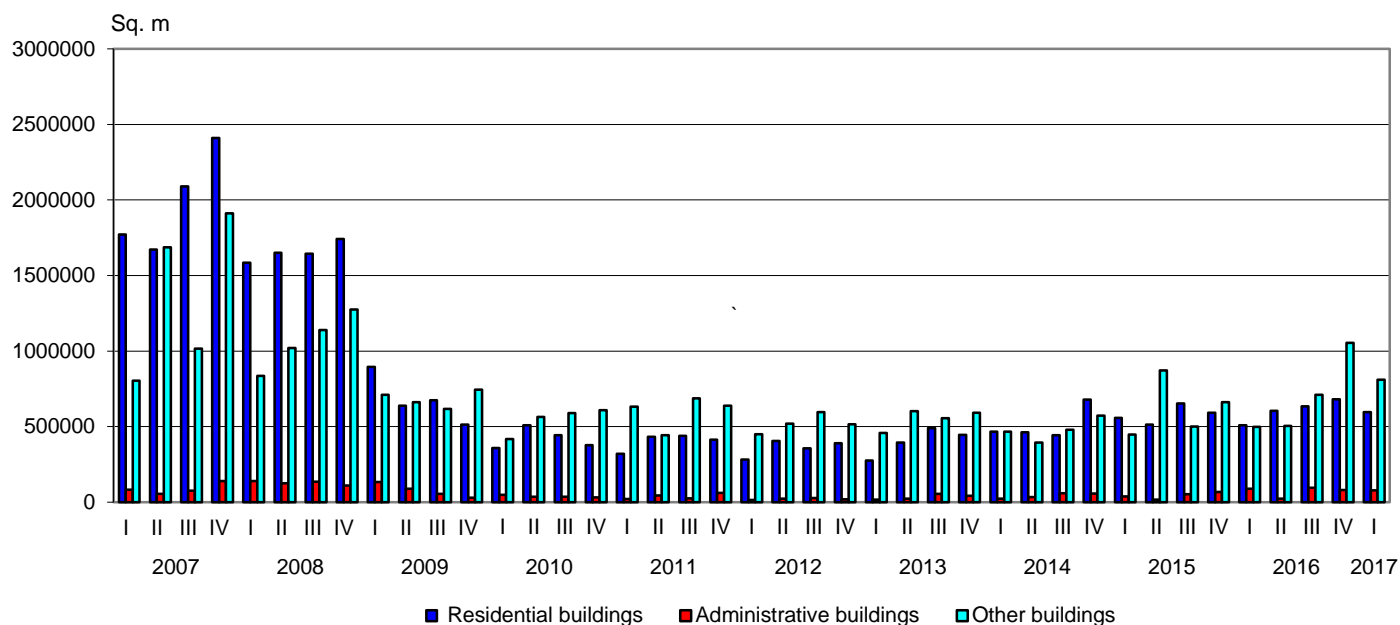
In the first quarter of 2017, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for construction of 1 093 residential buildings with 4 692 dwellings and 595 048 sq. m gross building area, of 29 administrative buildings/offices with 77 285 sq. m gross building area and 1 141 other buildings with 809 774 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the issued building permits for residential buildings fell by 2.6%, their dwellings - by 12.3% and the gross building area - by 12.5%. The issued building permits of administrative buildings decreased by 9.4% and their gross building area - by 3.5%. The issued building permits of other buildings fell by 25.8% and their gross building area - by 23.1%.

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



As compared to the first quarter of 2016 the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 10.1%, the number of dwellings - by 36.6% and their gross building area - by 17.0%. The number of issued building permits of administrative buildings fell by 32.6% and their gross building area - by 11.9%. In the other buildings was observed an increase of issued building permits by 37.1% (Figure 1) and of their gross building area - by 62.6% (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) - 157, Plovdiv - 144, Varna - 112 and Burgas - 94. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 1 712, Varna - 744, Plovdiv - 598 and Stara Zagora - 321 (Annex, Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2017 **began the construction** of 639 residential buildings with 3 218 dwellings and 407 719 sq. m gross building area, of 16 administrative buildings/offices with 59 203 sq. m gross building area and of 460 other buildings with 290 719 sq. m gross building area. As compared to the previous quarter the number of started residential buildings fell by 11.3%, the number of their dwellings - by 15.0% and their gross building area - by 13.8%. The number of started administrative and other types of buildings marked a decline by 20.0% and 14.2% respectively, but the gross building area of administrative buildings increased by over four times, while the gross building area of other buildings decreased by 35.5%.

As compared to the first quarter of 2016 the started new residential buildings rose by 6.3%, their dwellings - by 23.5% and the gross building area - by 15.3%. The number of started administrative buildings increased by 14.3% and their gross building area - by nearly five times. The started other buildings rose by 24.7%, but their gross building area decreased by 6.0%.

The construction of the highest number of new buildings were started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 84 residential buildings and 75 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 117 residential buildings and 20 other buildings; Varna - 82 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 23 other buildings; Burgas - 68 residential buildings and 23 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 2017¹

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	1093	4692	595048	29	77285	1141	809774
Blagoevgrad	91	169	25078	-	-	58	21709
Burgas	94	235	32322	-	-	70	41932
Varna	112	744	100941	3	2695	83	42306
Veliko Tarnovo	20	188	25541	-	-	25	24321
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	3	1464
Vratsa	5	12	2068	..	..	19	5904
Gabrovo	17	21	3177	-	-	13	9171
Dobrich	37	54	7670	..	..	26	11645
Kardzhali	19	44	6636	-	-	10	5512
Kyustendil	6	8	1225	-	-	24	5221
Lovech	11	17	2189	-	-	14	8449
Montana	7	7	1172	-	-	20	5122
Pazardzhik	57	143	16293	3	1470	57	32885
Pernik	25	26	3818	..	..	24	10100
Pleven	9	13	1350	-	-	21	7146
Plovdiv	144	598	75794	..	..	159	229370
Razgrad	..	..	..	-	-	15	5019
Ruse	31	87	11627	..	..	48	12810
Silistra	7	8	1181	..	..	7	1882
Sliven	29	33	5720	..	..	28	13949
Smolyan	5	7	726	..	..	30	6470
Sofia	89	91	15062	-	-	101	34079
Sofia (stolitsa)	157	1712	200708	9	67440	34	121409
Stara Zagora	65	321	35647	..	..	147	42205
Targovishte	9	45	3541	-	-	16	10727
Haskovo	25	71	10012	-	-	26	35728
Shumen	10	25	3750	..	..	47	50676
Yambol	7	8	1172	-	-	16	12563

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.

Table 2



Building construction started in the first quarter of 2017¹

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	639	3218	407719	16	59203	460	290719
Blagoevgrad	39	60	9319	-	-	23	12722
Burgas	68	323	39974	-	-	23	29214
Varna	82	436	66756	3	1052	23	30061
Veliko Tarnovo	12	159	21177	-	-	20	16095
Vidin	-	-	-	-	-	3	2080
Vratsa	3	3	288	-	-	9	1015
Gabrovo	8	8	1336	-	-	7	8861
Dobrich	26	31	4257	-	-	10	9479
Kardzhali	7	10	2444	-	-	-	-
Kyustendil	..	..	..	-	-	..	..
Lovech	13	13	1496	-	-	4	917
Montana	..	..	..	-	-	10	3807
Pazardzhik	8	8	1332	-	-	24	11810
Pernik	10	10	1671	-	-	7	954
Pleven	12	47	5688	-	-	14	9130
Plovdiv	84	242	26224	..	..	75	30065
Razgrad	3	3	603	-	-	9	5020
Ruse	18	99	10217	..	..	20	5924
Silistra	4	5	1596	-	-	..	..
Sliven	11	23	3571	-	-	7	7079
Smolyan	..	..	..	-	-	13	5132
Sofia	37	44	7057	..	..	21	10115
Sofia (stolitsa)	117	1438	165791	..	..	20	23101
Stara Zagora	36	176	24102	4	2425	56	27643
Targovishte	5	5	802	-	-	8	4187
Haskovo	20	35	6042	-	-	27	25524
Shumen	4	19	2689	..	..	12	6184
Yambol	7	15	2110	..	..	10	3936

¹ ‘..’ - confidential data.