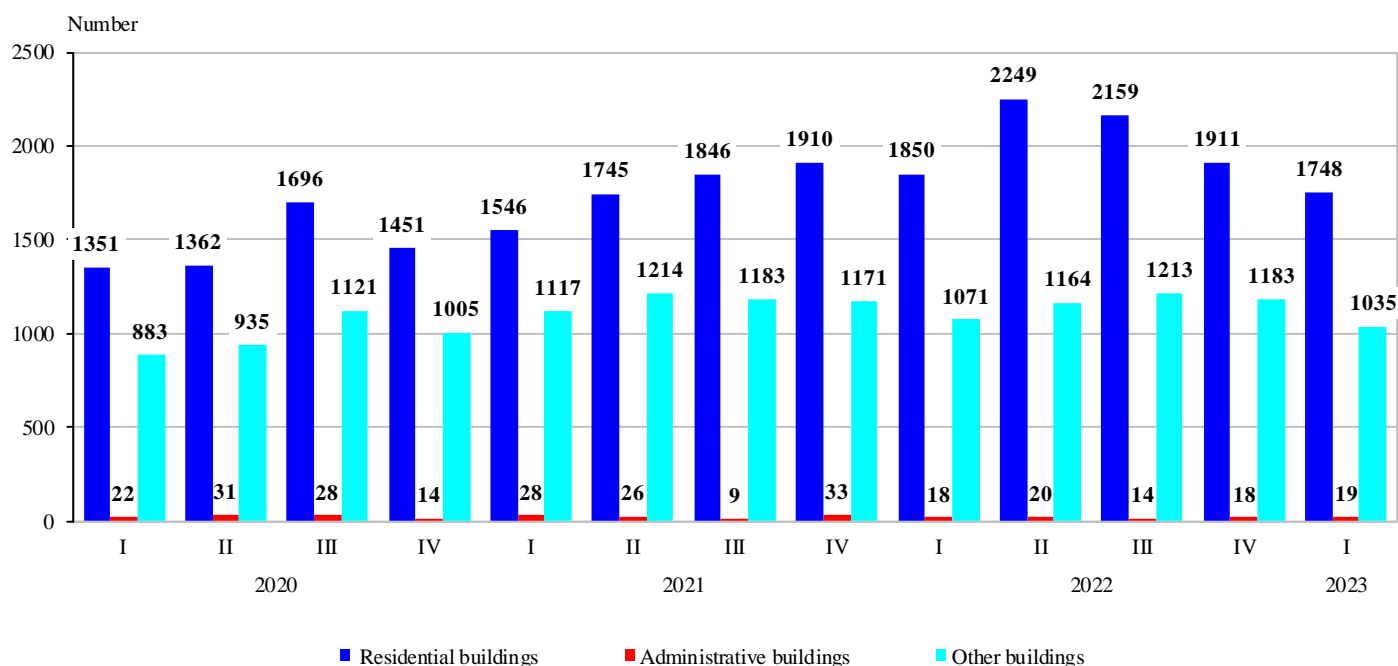


## BUILDING PERMITS, ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2023

In the first quarter of 2023, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for the construction of 1 748 residential buildings with 8 619 dwellings and 975 149 sq. m gross building area, 19 administrative buildings/offices with 30 266 sq. m gross building area and 1 035 other buildings with 612 927 sq. m gross building area.

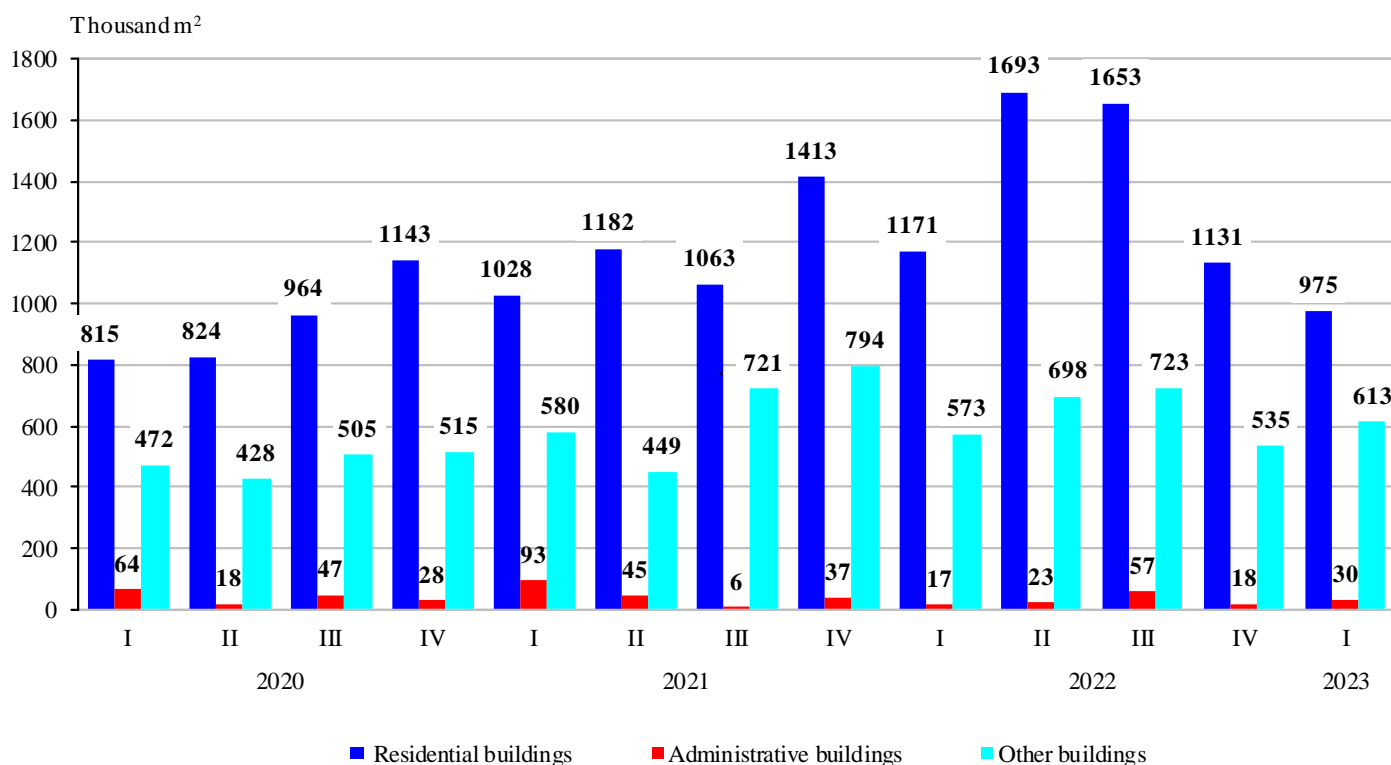
As compared to the previous quarter, the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 8.5%, the number of their dwellings - by 15.5%, and the gross building area - by 13.8%. Permits were issued for 5.6% more administrative buildings, with 71.2% greater gross building area. The issued building permits for other buildings fell by 12.5%, while their gross building area went up by 14.6%.

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



As compared to the first quarter of 2022, the issued building permits for new residential buildings decreased by 5.5%, their dwellings - by 9.2%, and the gross building area - by 16.8%. The issued building permits for administrative buildings have shown an increase of 5.6% and their gross building area - by 80.5%. Issued building permits for other buildings fell by 3.4%, while their gross building area went up by 7.0%.

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

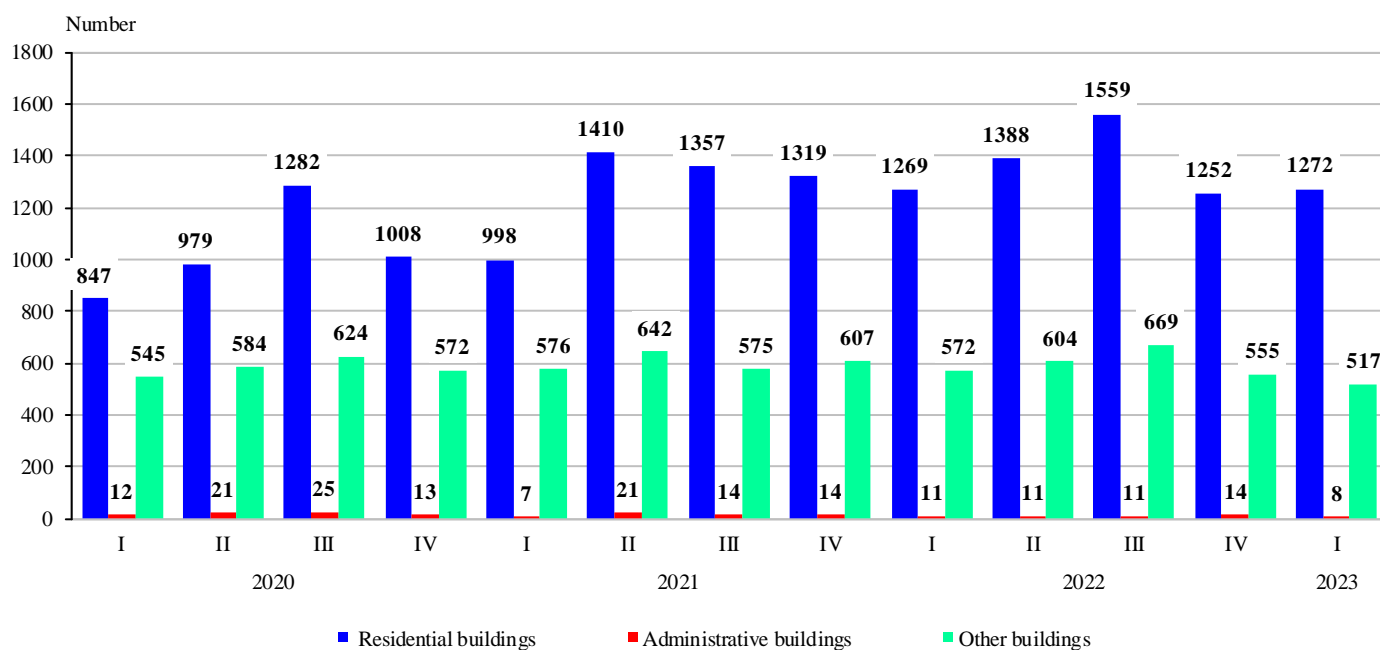


The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings was issued in the following districts: Plovdiv - 264, Sofia (stolitsa) - 242, Sofia - 224, Varna - 198, and Burgas - 175. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 4 565, Burgas - 895, Plovdiv - 868, Varna - 694, and Blagoevgrad - 324 (Annex, Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2023, **the construction** of 1 272 residential buildings with 6 597 dwellings and 778 614 sq. m gross building area, 8 administrative buildings/ offices with 4 982 sq. m gross building area and 517 other buildings with 342 079 sq. m gross building area **began**.

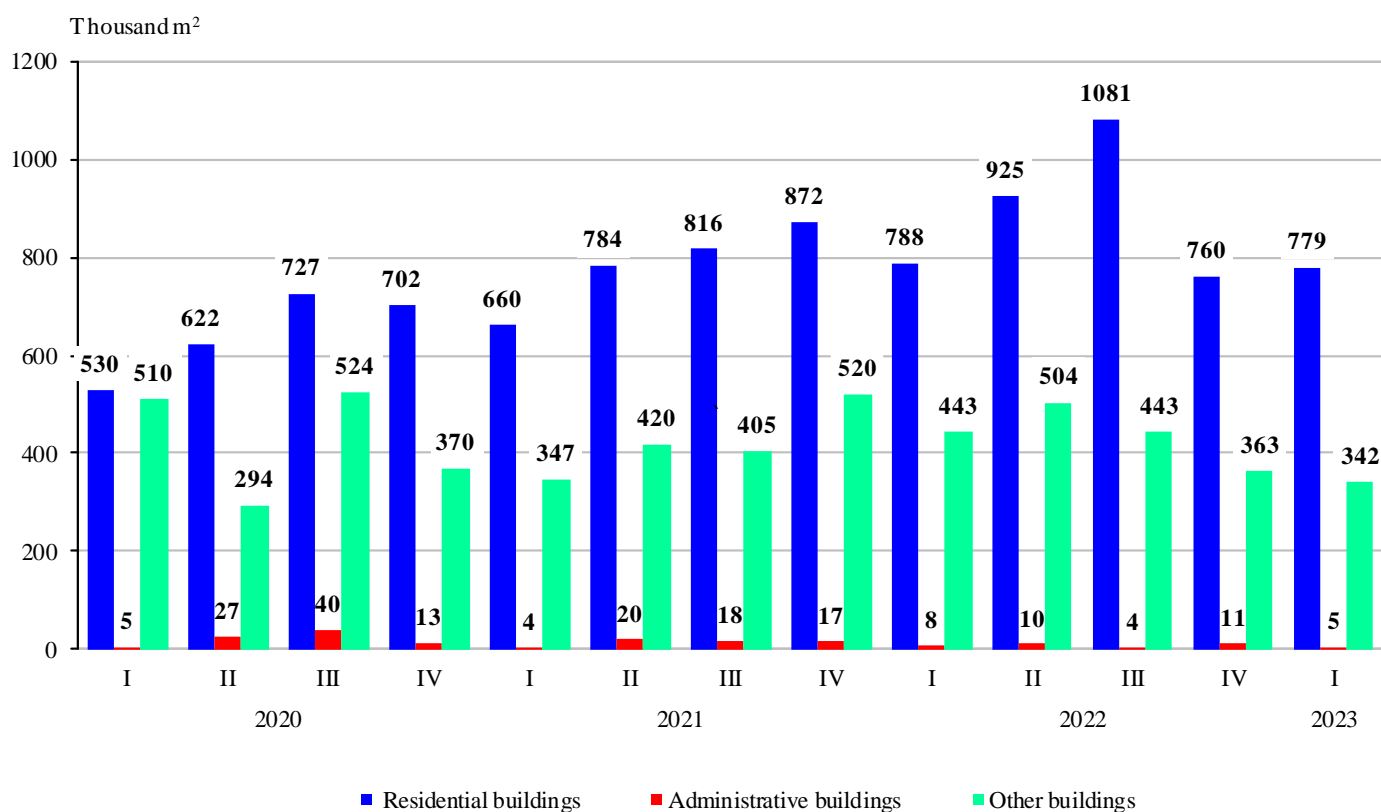
As compared to the previous quarter, the started residential buildings increased by 1.6%, the gross building area - by 2.4%, while their dwellings decreased by 0.5%. The number of started administrative buildings and their gross building area registered a drop of 42.9% and 56.5% respectively. The started other buildings fell by 6.8% and their gross building area - by 5.9%.

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



As compared to the first quarter of 2022, the number of started new residential buildings increased by 0.2%, but their dwellings fell by 13.8% and the gross building area - by 1.2%. The number of started administrative buildings decreased by 27.3% and their gross building area - by 38.4%. The started other buildings reduced by 9.6% and their gross building area - by 22.7%.

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



The construction of the highest number of new buildings was started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 239 residential buildings and 77 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 189 residential buildings and 18 other buildings; Varna - 149 residential buildings and 34 other buildings; Burgas - 157 residential buildings and 12 other buildings; Stara Zagora - 60 residential buildings and 75 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 the future construction activity of enterprises in the country.

**Types of buildings** are classified according to the Classification of types of construction (CC) and are 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, culture, sports, agriculture, health, recreation and facilities for a 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 the construction of new buildings in the first quarter of 2023

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1748</b>	<b>8619</b>	<b>975149</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30266</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>612927</b>
Blagoevgrad	107	324	41290	-	-	49	14387
Burgas	175	895	65557	-	-	53	13007
Varna	198	694	90778	-	-	69	42690
Veliko Tarnovo	30	139	18618	-	-	25	10451
Vidin	3	3	464	-	-	7	696
Vratsa	8	8	1361	..	..	13	4039
Gabrovo	27	40	5709	-	-	12	8240
Dobrich	42	53	9261	-	-	23	14553
Kardzhali	18	56	8752	6	957	14	1183
Kyustendil	16	26	3763	-	-	18	4073
Lovech	13	13	1531	-	-	27	3474
Montana	11	11	2071	-	-	15	2053
Pazardzhik	78	105	15548	..	..	38	26492
Pernik	46	98	18057	-	-	41	3029
Pleven	15	33	4394	-	-	35	23340
Plovdiv	264	868	109370	..	..	136	127850
Razgrad	10	31	3303	-	-	36	3295
Ruse	27	59	6330	-	-	40	12528
Silistra	9	9	1222	..	..	18	7698
Sliven	35	57	8614	-	-	24	8927
Smolyan	3	5	1049	-	-	21	9921
Sofia	224	298	44873	..	..	47	106319
Sofia (stolitsa)	242	4565	474512	7	27495	62	108031
Stara Zagora	68	126	20896	-	-	114	24876
Targovishte	10	9	2060	-	-	6	3322
Haskovo	34	37	6380	-	-	28	11200
Shumen	19	34	5189	-	-	36	10644
Yambol	16	23	4197	-	-	28	6609

'..' - Confidential data.

'-' - No case.



Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2023

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1272</b>	<b>6597</b>	<b>778614</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4982</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>342079</b>
Blagoevgrad	71	187	29282	-	-	31	8792
Burgas	157	632	81654	..	..	12	10252
Varna	149	934	106150	..	..	34	54329
Veliko Tarnovo	24	153	17774	-	-	18	4084
Vidin	..	..	..	-	-	..	..
Vratsa	..	..	..	-	-	4	1077
Gabrovo	13	39	4560	-	-	9	3005
Dobrich	32	49	9457	-	-	11	7383
Kardzhali	14	44	6842	-	-	4	2671
Kyustendil	9	20	2650	-	-	13	2263
Lovech	11	11	1745	-	-	20	5119
Montana	6	16	2933	-	-	..	..
Pazardzhik	51	77	11270	-	-	27	21182
Pernik	35	35	6235	-	-	6	3458
Pleven	5	19	2279	-	-	21	11475
Plovdiv	239	711	89817	..	..	77	65964
Razgrad	3	3	642	-	-	7	1690
Ruse	18	60	6552	-	-	24	17125
Silistra	11	11	2023	-	-	12	5557
Sliven	17	18	4257	-	-	20	5340
Smolyan	10	45	4654	..	..	16	1967
Sofia	96	125	20737	..	..	12	47071
Sofia (stolitsa)	189	2978	315765	..	..	18	14841
Stara Zagora	60	265	33838	-	-	75	22524
Targovishte	3	3	424	-	-	3	2693
Haskovo	19	35	4756	-	-	17	9678
Shumen	15	92	7293	-	-	9	452
Yambol	10	30	4268	-	-	13	10202

‘..’ - Confidential data.

‘-’ - No case.