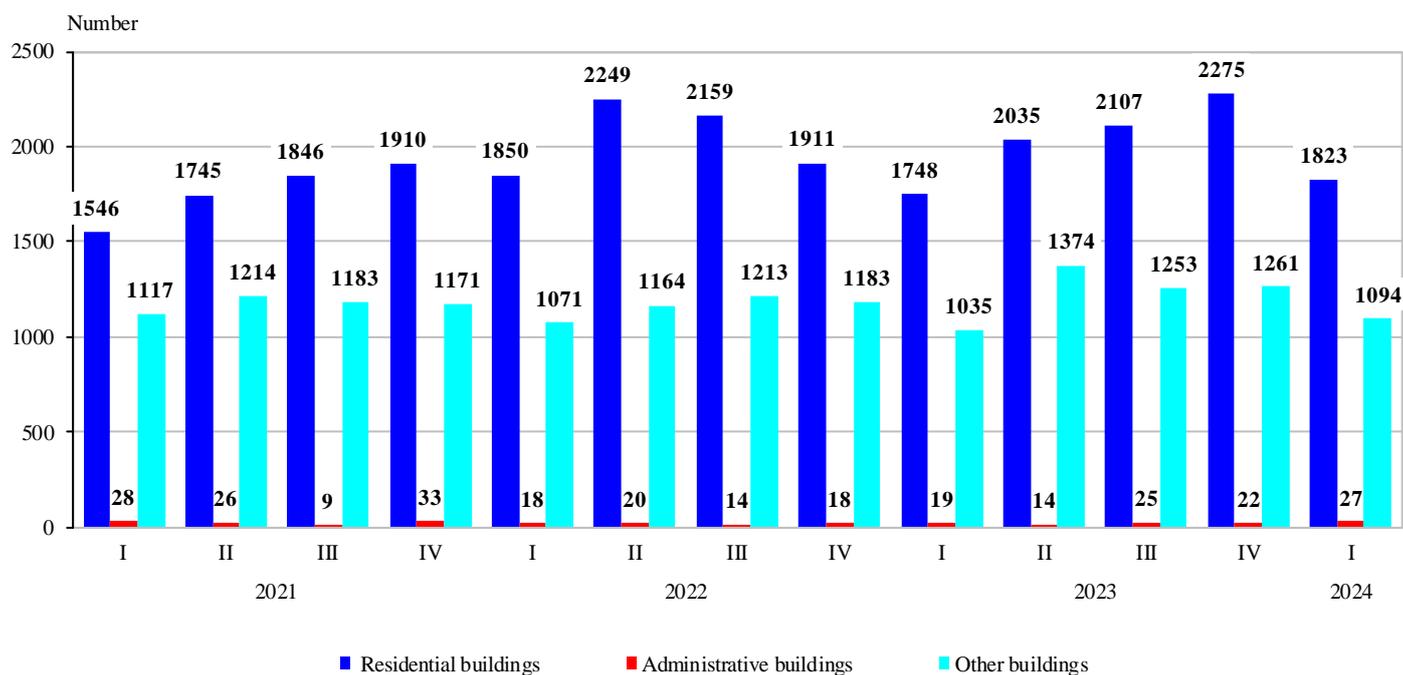


BUILDING PERMITS, ISSUED AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS STARTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024

In the first quarter of 2024, the municipal authorities issued **building permits** for the construction of 1 823 residential buildings with 10 487 dwellings and 1 203 134 sq. m gross building area, 27 administrative buildings/offices with 58 771 sq. m gross building area and 1 094 other buildings with 534 982 sq. m gross building area.

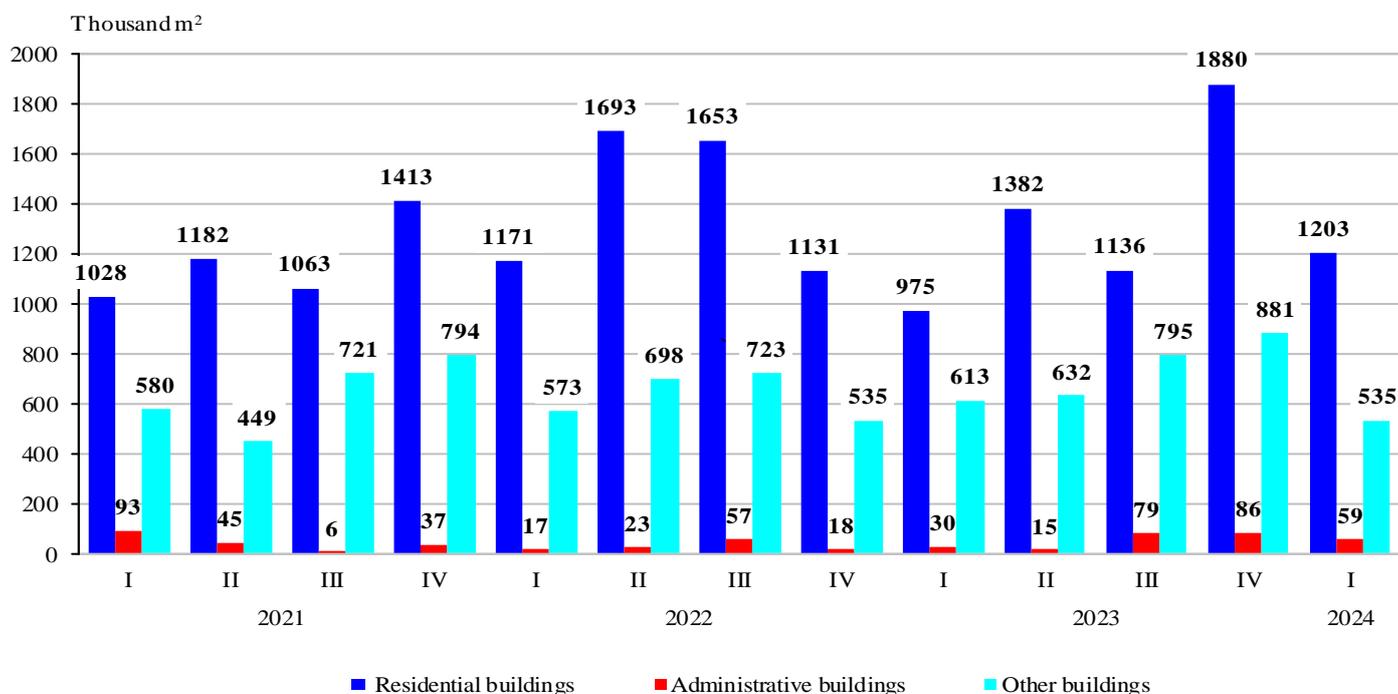
As compared to the previous quarter, the issued building permits for residential buildings decreased by 19.9%, their dwellings - by 37.5%, and the gross building area - by 36.0%. Permits were issued for 22.7% more administrative buildings, with a 31.9% fewer gross building area. The issued building permits for other buildings fell by 13.2%, as well as their gross building area - by 39.3%.

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



As compared to the first quarter of 2023, the issued building permits for new residential buildings increased by 4.3%, their dwellings - by 21.7%, and the gross building area - by 23.4%. The issued building permits for administrative buildings and other buildings rose by 42.1% and 5.7%, respectively. At the same time, the gross building area of administrative buildings increased by 94.2%, but for other buildings was down by 12.7%.

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

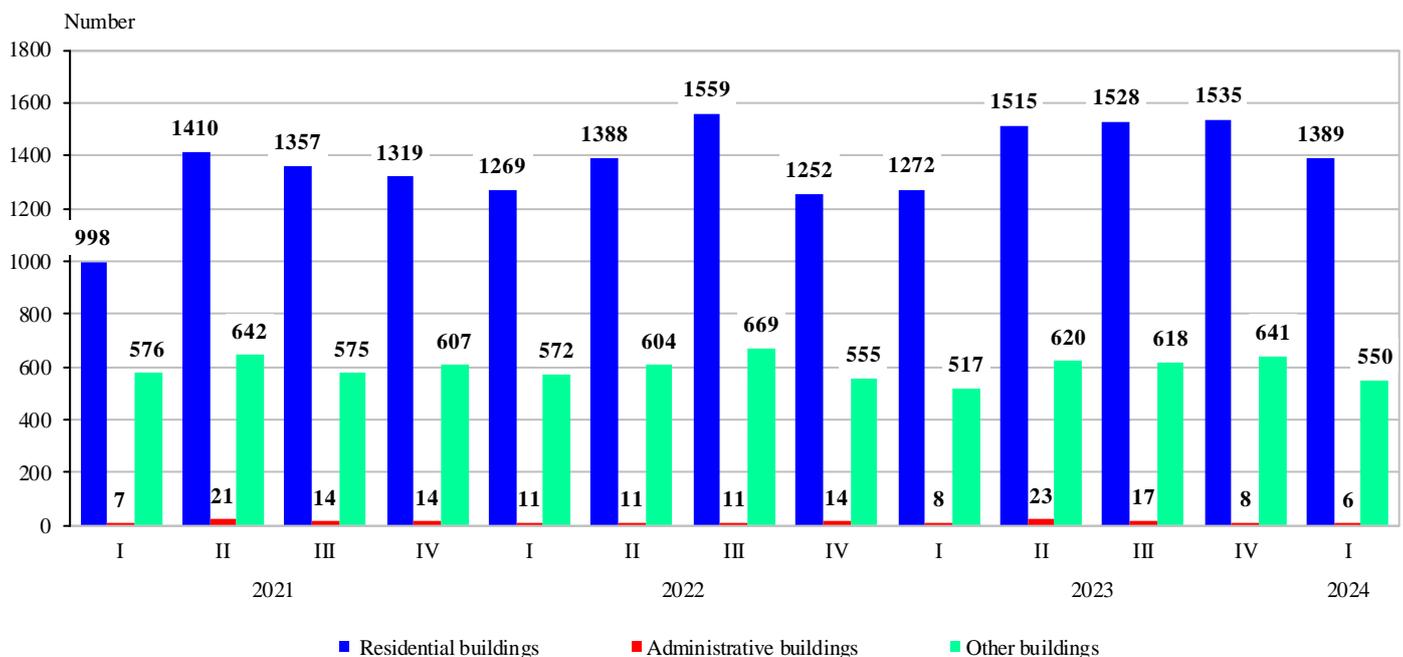


The highest number of building permits for new residential buildings was issued in the following districts: Plovdiv - 278, Sofia (stolitsa) - 217, Varna - 212, Sofia – 168, and Blagoevgrad - 126. Most dwellings are to be built in the districts: Sofia (stolitsa) - 3 329, Plovdiv - 1 909, Varna - 1 206, Burgas - 1 032, and Stara Zagora - 763 (Annex, Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2024, **the construction** of 1 389 residential buildings with 9 089 dwellings and 957 599 sq. m gross building area, 6 administrative buildings/offices with 3 998 sq. m gross building area and 550 other buildings with 392 189 sq. m gross building area **began**.

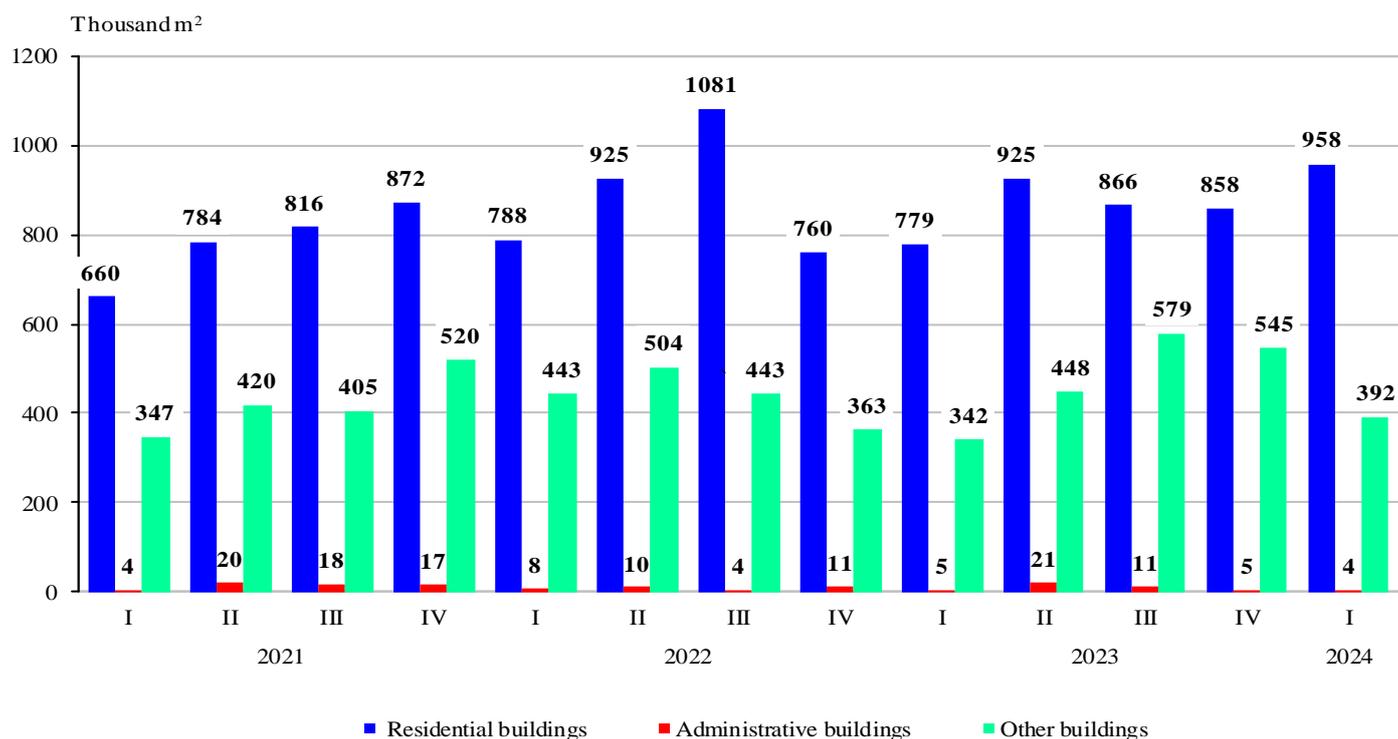
As compared to the previous quarter, the started residential buildings fell by 9.5%, but their dwellings increased by 23.1% and the gross building area - by 11.6%. The started administrative buildings and their gross building area registered a drop of 25.0% and 23.3%, respectively. The started other buildings went down by 14.2% and their gross building area - by 28.1%.

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



As compared to the first quarter of 2023, the number of started new residential buildings increased by 9.2%, their dwellings - by 37.8%, and the gross building area - by 23.0%. The number of started administrative buildings decreased by 25.0% and their gross building area - by 19.8%. The construction of 6.4% more other buildings has started, with a 14.6% larger gross building area.

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



The construction of the highest number of new buildings has started in the following districts: Plovdiv - 255 residential buildings, 3 administrative buildings and 102 other buildings; Sofia (stolitsa) - 229 residential buildings and 21 other buildings; Varna - 174 residential buildings and 19 other buildings; Stara Zagora - 76 residential buildings and 94 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 2024

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	1823	10487	1203134	27	58771	1094	534982
Blagoevgrad	126	309	44962	..	..	64	24223
Burgas	116	1032	106244	..	..	30	51470
Varna	212	1206	151911	5	14184	50	12859
Veliko Tarnovo	20	139	12471	-	-	34	8032
Vidin	4	4	692	-	-	7	3411
Vratsa	14	40	4766	-	-	17	9663
Gabrovo	24	42	6128	-	-	9	1606
Dobrich	59	173	25396	-	-	21	13311
Kardzhali	27	212	21664	-	-	12	6447
Kyustendil	27	39	8499	..	..	41	11766
Lovech	25	27	3555	-	-	18	3778
Montana	7	16	2256	-	-	8	3515
Pazardzhik	88	206	26020	-	-	25	9621
Pernik	76	154	24883	-	-	30	4872
Pleven	29	85	13723	..	..	14	5280
Plovdiv	278	1909	208871	6	5903	135	129466
Razgrad	13	18	2759	..	..	36	6770
Ruse	32	133	16196	..	..	80	15129
Silistra	9	9	1897	-	-	21	4783
Sliven	29	77	13922	-	-	21	4484
Smolyan	13	18	3807	-	-	34	17147
Sofia	168	240	37687	-	-	60	32567
Sofia (stolitsa)	217	3329	346442	8	36112	35	52994
Stara Zagora	105	763	81678	-	-	164	60186
Targovishte	20	115	8457	-	-	12	7663
Haskovo	48	118	17338	-	-	40	12138
Shumen	19	46	7492	-	-	63	15730
Yambol	18	28	3418	..	..	13	6071

‘..’ - Confidential data.

‘-’ - No case.



Table 2

Building construction started in the first quarter of 2024

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	1389	9089	957599	6	3998	550	392189
Blagoevgrad	64	211	25770	-	-	25	17711
Burgas	114	1470	107791	..	..	23	66143
Varna	174	1910	167035	-	-	19	13282
Veliko Tarnovo	16	50	5515	-	-	12	7524
Vidin	3	3	456	-	-	..	..
Vratsa	4	18	1407	..	..	..	..
Gabrovo	19	35	6148	-	-	7	2695
Dobrich	42	73	8417	-	-	11	10881
Kardzhali	22	317	39880	-	-	6	2540
Kyustendil	19	35	4558	-	-	21	7033
Lovech	14	14	2181	-	-	6	968
Montana	10	10	1546	-	-	4	2077
Pazardzhik	51	129	14176	-	-	16	2070
Pernik	24	75	11600	-	-	5	443
Pleven	8	28	3658	-	-	4	1448
Plovdiv	255	1152	125642	3	1828	102	112725
Razgrad	10	14	2396	-	-	10	1199
Ruse	20	195	20987	-	-	23	12972
Silistra	5	5	967	-	-	33	12097
Sliven	39	57	7995	-	-	12	6309
Smolyan	6	11	1794	-	-	13	1901
Sofia	95	95	17482	-	-	17	11165
Sofia (stolitsa)	229	2506	304863	-	-	21	23086
Stara Zagora	76	466	51652	-	-	94	38439
Targovishte	9	63	4508	-	-	4	1030
Haskovo	33	64	11266	-	-	16	9169
Shumen	16	61	5650	-	-	28	15356
Yambol	12	22	2259	-	-	13	10526

‘..’ - Confidential data.

‘-’ - No case.