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# Non-residential building permit applications drop off sharply

By: **Staff Writer**Posted: **06/5/2012 11:15 AM** | Comments: **0 (including replies)**

WINNIPEG — Building permit activity hit the proverbial brick wall in April, as builders hit the brakes on new non-residential construction projects and the value of permits issued plummeted by nearly 26 per cent.

Statistics Canada figures released today show only \$168.2-million worth of permits were issued in April by Manitoba municipalities. That was a drop of 25.8 per cent from March's total of \$226.7 million.

The dropoff in activity was concentrated solely on the non-residential side of the construction industry, where permit values plunged by 48.5 per cent to \$63.6 million from \$123.4 million a month earlier.

Residential permit values, on the other hand, increased by a modest 1.2 per cent to \$104.6 million from \$103.3 million.

Despite April's dropoff in activity, permit values were still running 49.6 per cent ahead of last year's pace after the first four months — \$790.1 million versus \$528.2 million.

Nationally, the total value of building permits fell by 5.2 per cent to \$6.5 billion in April, halting a two-month run of strengthening permit activity.

Statistics Canada said the decline was largely the result of lower construction intentions for institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings in Ontario.

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