



## Highlights

- Durable goods manufacturing sales fall by 1.9 per cent while non-durable goods manufacturing sales decline by 2.0 per cent
- Canadian permits fell in April
- B.C. issued fewer building permits in both residential non-residential sectors

## B.C. manufacturing sales fell for a third consecutive month in April

*Eloho Ennah, Economic Analyst*

Manufacturing sales in B.C. continued falling in April for the third consecutive month. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, manufacturing sales in the province declined by 1.9 per cent to \$5.2 billion. The monthly decrease was due to lower durable goods sales, which fell by 1.9 per cent to \$2.8 billion and reduced non-durable good sales, down by 2.0 per cent to \$2.4 billion. Unadjusted sales are up year-to-date by 1.8 per cent.

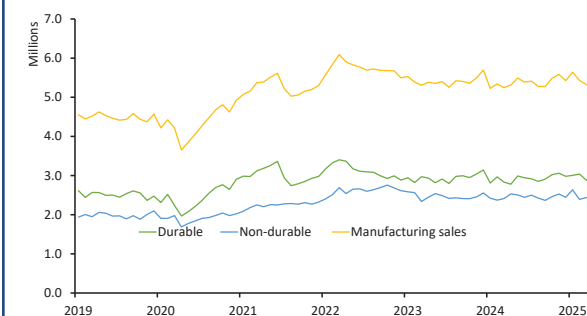
Within the durable goods sector, wood product manufacturing sales led the monthly decline, falling by 8.1 per cent (-\$73.2 million). This was the third back-to-back decrease. Transportation equipment sales also declined sharply by 14.3 per cent (-\$46.2 million), especially in the motor vehicle parts category, which saw sales decline by 17.3 per cent (-\$8.3 million). Offsetting some of those losses, primary metal and fabricated metal product sales increased by 12.0 per cent (\$42.3 million) and 9.8 per cent (\$29.6 million) respectively.

Data for most subsectors in the non-durable goods category is suppressed for confidentiality reasons, but food manufacturing sales increased in April by 0.9 per cent (\$9.2 million). Year-over-year, unadjusted non-durable goods sales have fallen by 5.7 per cent.

In the Vancouver metro area, overall manufacturing sales decreased by 4.1 per cent. Durable goods industries sales were down by 4.0 per cent while non-durable goods sales decreased by 4.2 per cent.

## B.C. Manufacturing sales continued falling in April

B.C. manufacturing sales, \$ billions



Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1

latest: Apr/25

The United States being one of the top destinations for B.C.'s exported manufacturing products raises uncertainty for the future of the sector given strained trade ties. In April, manufacturers reported increased prices and higher costs for raw materials, shipping and labour, while some also noted changes in demand for their products. The food and forestry sectors in B.C. play a key role in the province's economy and tariffs on the sector's products will result in further sales declines and potentially significant layoffs in these sectors.

## B.C. construction sector permit decreased in April

*Ivy Ruan, Senior Analyst*

Canadian building permits fell 6.6 per cent in April, following the decline in the previous month, to a seasonally-adjusted \$11.7 billion. Residential permits led the drop, down 11.6 per cent from \$8.4 billion to \$7.4 billion, while non-residential permits rose 3.3 per cent to \$4.3 billion.

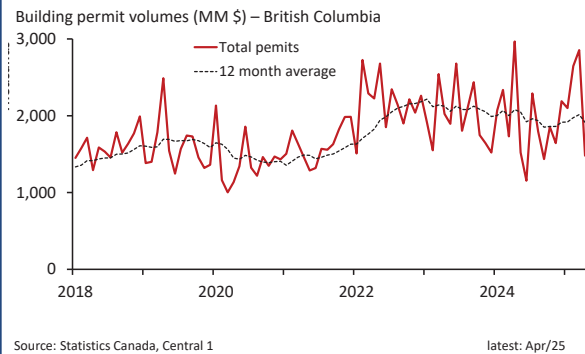
In B.C., building permit issuances fell substantially by 44.7 per cent in April following a 6.0 per cent growth in March, coming in at a seasonally adjusted \$1.5 billion. Compared to a year ago, building permits fell 49.4 per cent. Although permits are volatile, April marked the lowest permits issuance level since June 2024. Despite the monthly decline, year-to-date permit volumes in B.C. were 6.1 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Driving B.C.'s decline was the residential sector, which saw a 52.2 per cent drop (-\$837.4 million) in multiple dwelling buildings permits, following the large increase the previous month. B.C.'s multi-dwelling permit level in April was less than half of last April. Single dwelling buildings permits were also down 7.8 per cent (-\$19.8 million) and were 7.7 per cent below last April's level. That said, year-to-date residential permits were still 7.4 per cent higher than the first four months of 2024.

B.C.'s non-residential sector also saw building permits decrease 41.5 per cent in April, with widespread decreases among sectors. Institutional and governmental permits fell 47.4 per cent (-\$158.2million), while commercial building permits dropped 37.2 per cent (-\$164.5 million). Industrial building permits also declined by 40.2 per cent (-\$18.3 million). Despite the monthly volatility, year-to-date permits in B.C.'s non-residential sector were still 3.3 per cent higher than the same period last year.

In B.C.'s metro areas, four out of the seven saw lower permit volumes compared to March. Vancouver reported a notable monthly decline at 68.0 per cent, offsetting the growth in some areas such as Victoria, which saw a jump in building permits at 59.5 per cent in April.

## B.C. building permits fell in April



The steep decline in B.C.'s April permits underscored the broader cooling in construction activity as higher interest rates, elevated project costs, and softening housing market conditions—particularly in Metro Vancouver—continued to weigh on both residential and non-residential investment. While year-to-date volumes remained modestly above last year's levels, the volatility and weakness in recent months pointed to a more cautious investment environment, with developers pausing or scaling back projects amid economic uncertainty and tighter financial conditions.

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