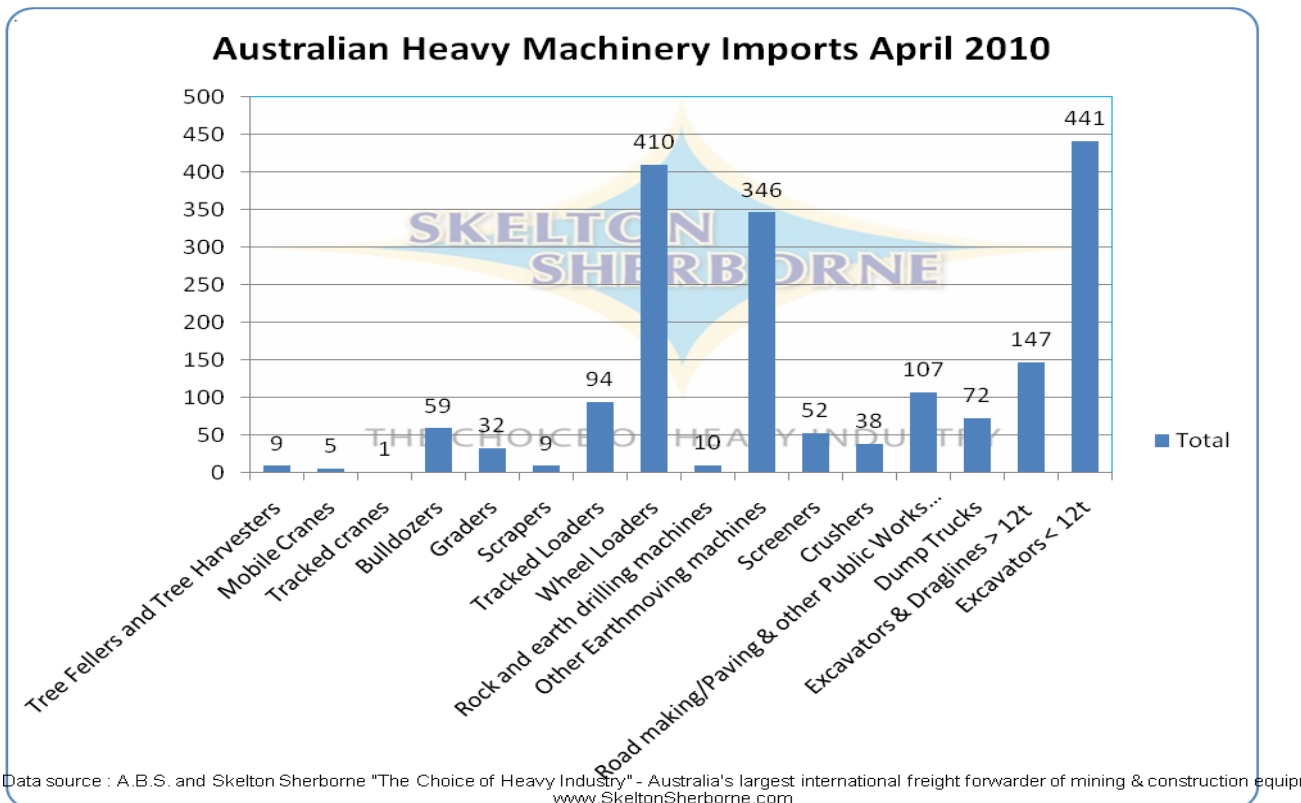
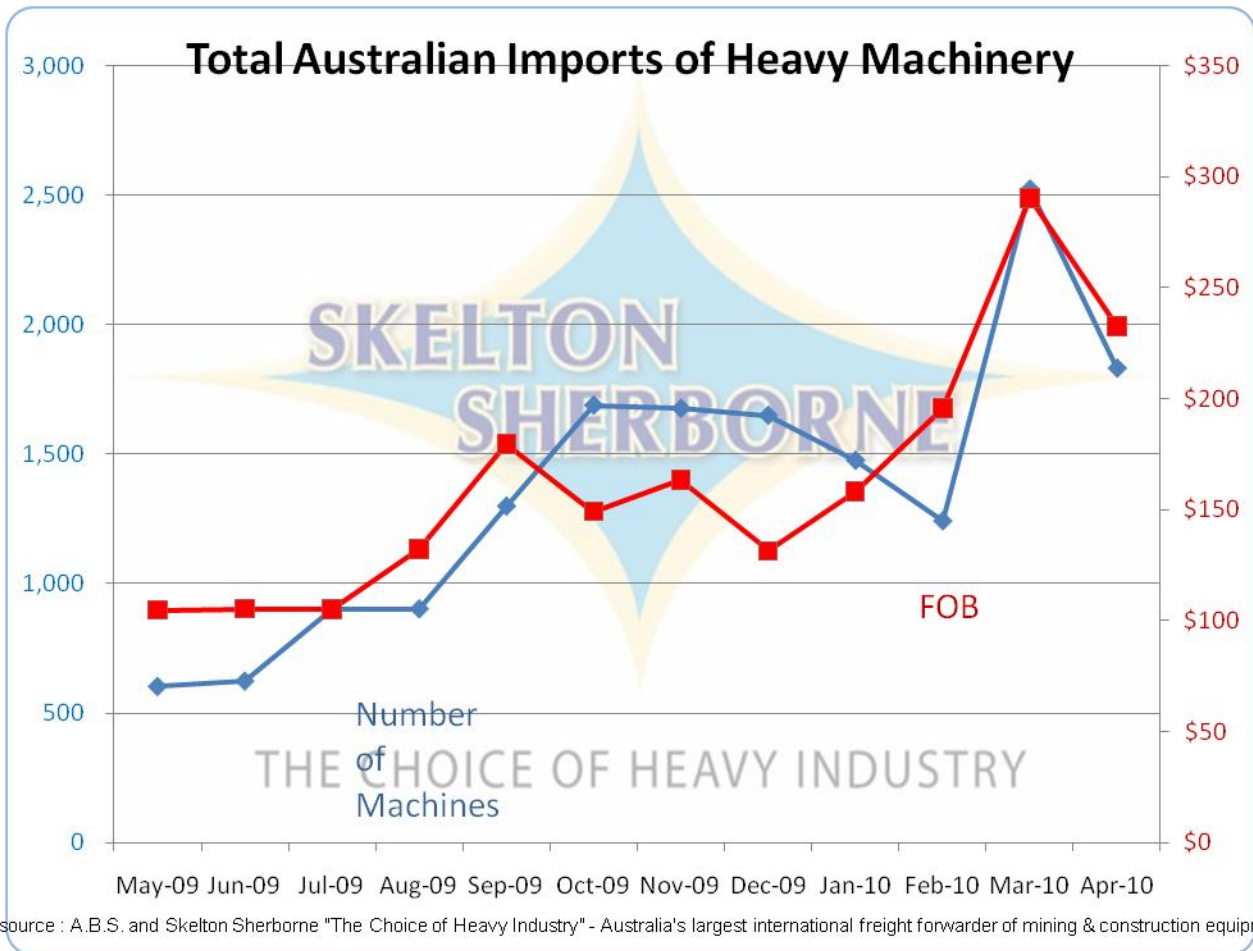


Skelton Sherborne Shipping Index

April 2010



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THE CHOICE OF HEAVY INDUSTRY

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- Imports in April seemed to take a breather with a 27% fall from the March totals. This is quite normal in the early stages of an economic recovery cycle with businesses undertaking stock replenishment and then taking a slight pause. The total number of units imported was 1832. We can report that our customer's forward orders still appear buoyant even though all are voicing serious concerns over the negative impact of the Government's proposed 40% mining tax if it gets through.
- The Customs FOB value fell from \$290m in March to \$233m in April as expected with import numbers decreasing, however, the average value per unit actually increased from 115k in March to 127k.
- Import figures are down in the majority of categories. Although not a high volume category, not a single wheel dozer was imported. A few categories defied the downward trend and rose to include Tree Fellers and Tree Harvesters up 80% to 9 units and Tracked Loaders up 65% to 94 units.
- As usual mini excavators < 12t represented the category with largest number of units imported in April at 441 units or 24% of the total imports, followed closely by Wheel Loaders at 410 units or 22%. These two categories combined for 851 units imported which represents 46% of the total imports for the month.

- Other noticeably movements:

Tree Fellers and Tree Harvesters	UP	80%
Mobile Cranes	UP	25%
Scrapers	DOWN	50%
Tracked Loaders	UP	65%
Wheeled Dozers	DOWN	100%
Bull Dozers	UP	34%
Road Making / Paving & other Public Works Equipment	DOWN	77%
Graders	DOWN	38%
Rock and earth drill machines	DOWN	33%

- As anticipated last month, new finance contracts for Construction and Earthmoving equipment has finally increased in March to \$6m from the low point in February of \$1m. This a positive sign that financiers are coming back slowly in support of this industry segment.

	AUD
October	5m
November	4m
December	6m
January	4m
February	1m
March	6m

- The [Baltic Shipping Index](#) has tracked upwards from 3,009 since our last report to 3,832 as of May 20th. Certainly space in some trade lanes is becoming tighter.
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