

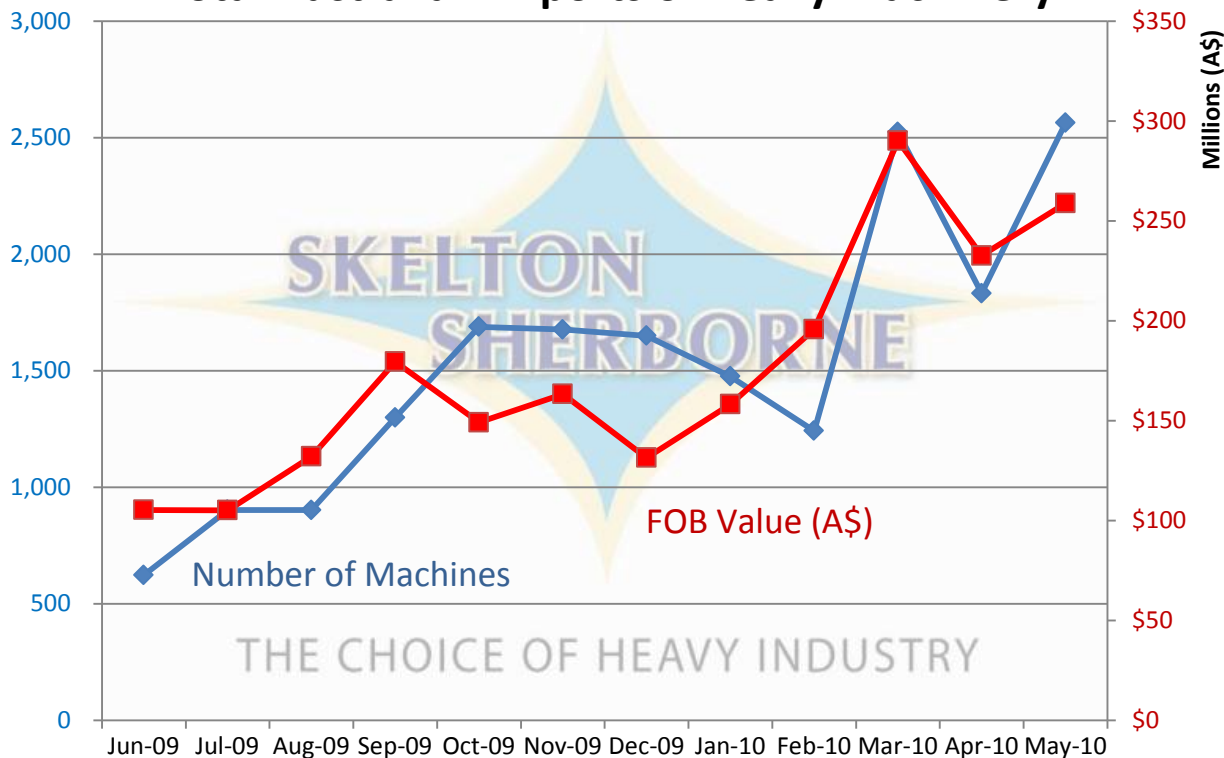


THE CHOICE OF HEAVY INDUSTRY

Skelton Sherborne Shipping Index

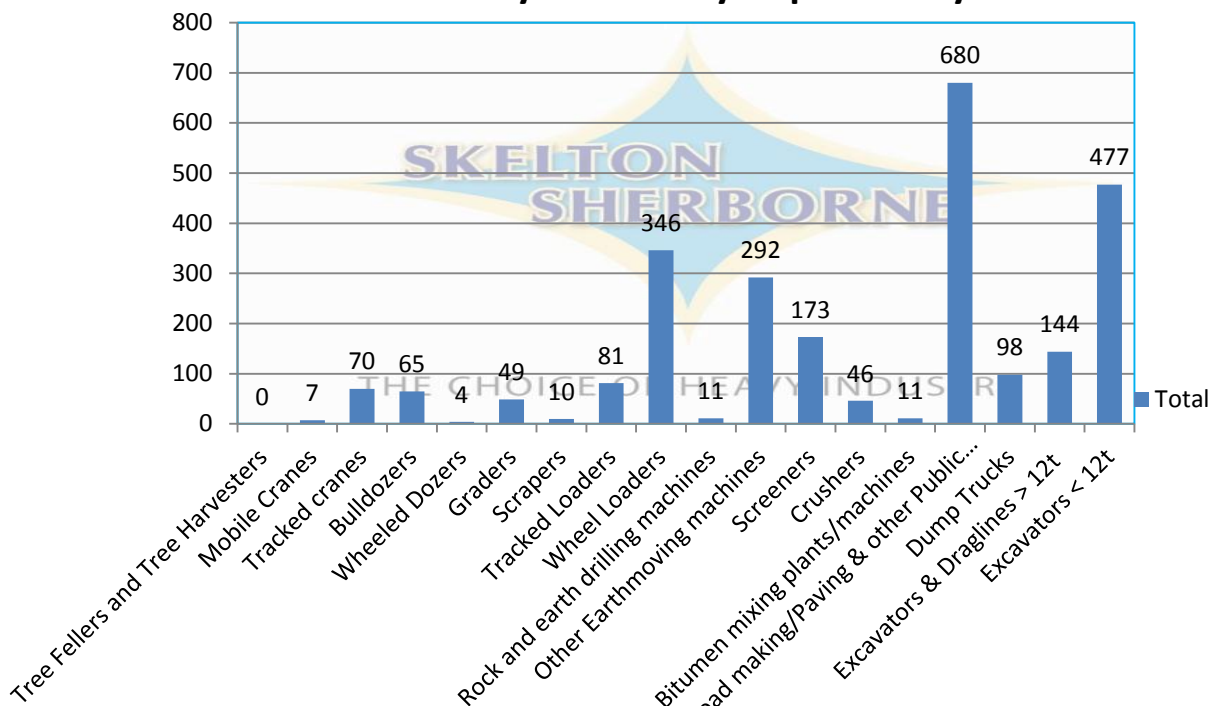
May 2010

Total Australian Imports of Heavy Machinery



Data source : A.B.S. and Skelton Sherborne "The Choice of Heavy Industry" - Australia's largest international freight forwarder of mining & construction equipment www.SkeltonSherborne.com

Australian Heavy Machinery Imports May 2010



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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	DOWN	100%
Mobile Cranes	UP	40%
Tracked Cranes	UP	6900%
Graders	UP	53%
Road Making / Paving & Public Works Equipment	UP	536%
Dump Trucks	UP	36%
Crushers	UP	21%

- New finance contracts for Construction and Earthmoving equipment:

	AUD
May 2009	28m
June 2009	21m
July 2009	9m
August 2009	6m
September 2009	3m
October 2009	5m
November 2009	4m
December 2009	6m
January 2010	4m
February 2010	1m
March 2010	6m
April 2010	3m

- 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.
- To be notified of the release of the next Skelton Sherborne Shipping Index automatically you can [subscribe](#) to our news feeds.
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- More specific information is available from Skelton Sherborne on request. Please note that we take confidentiality of our customers business very seriously. Only general and unrestricted information will be released and no particular importer/make/model will ever be identified. For further information please contact: Brad Skelton brad@skeltonsherborne.com Ph: + 61 7 3348 7810