



PORTS UPDATE REPORT

REPORT ON CONTAINER MOVEMENTS AT FOUR KEY AUSTRALIAN PORTS

ISSUE 4

30 September 2009

PORTS UPDATE REPORT

Report on Container Throughput - Trends at 4 Australian Ports

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Background

In early 2009 the Union commenced reporting container throughput at 4 key container ports in response to the impact of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and the subsequent recovery.

This 4th report covers port performance over the financial year 2008/09. For 2 ports – Port Botany and Port of Brisbane - July 2009 data is also included in this report.

The 4 ports reported on are Port Botany, Port of Melbourne, Port of Brisbane and Port of Fremantle. The data utilised in this report has been collected from the relevant port authorities.

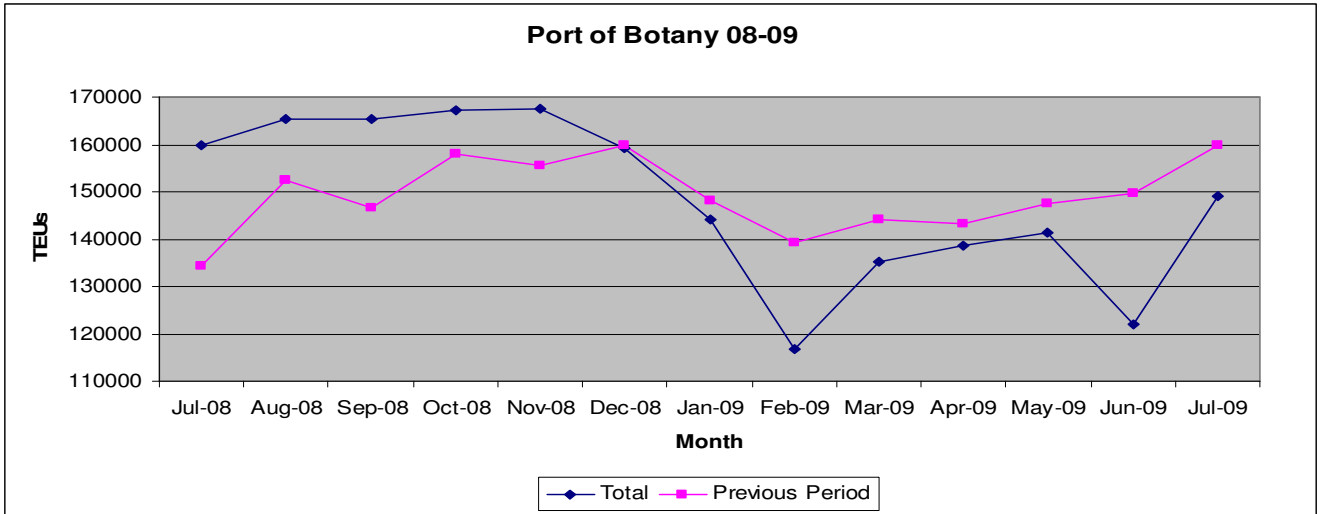
The first part of the report contains individual graphic representation of container throughput in each of the 4 ports, with a comparison of the same period one year previously, followed by a short interpretation of the data. The second part of the report summarises the container trends aggregated across the 4 ports, also with a comparison of the same period one year previously.

At **Attachment A** are the detailed statistics for reference.

Container throughput in 4 ports

In the following figures, 'total' indicates the combined import and export TEUs in a particular month. 'Previous period' means the data from the same month in the previous year.

Port of Botany

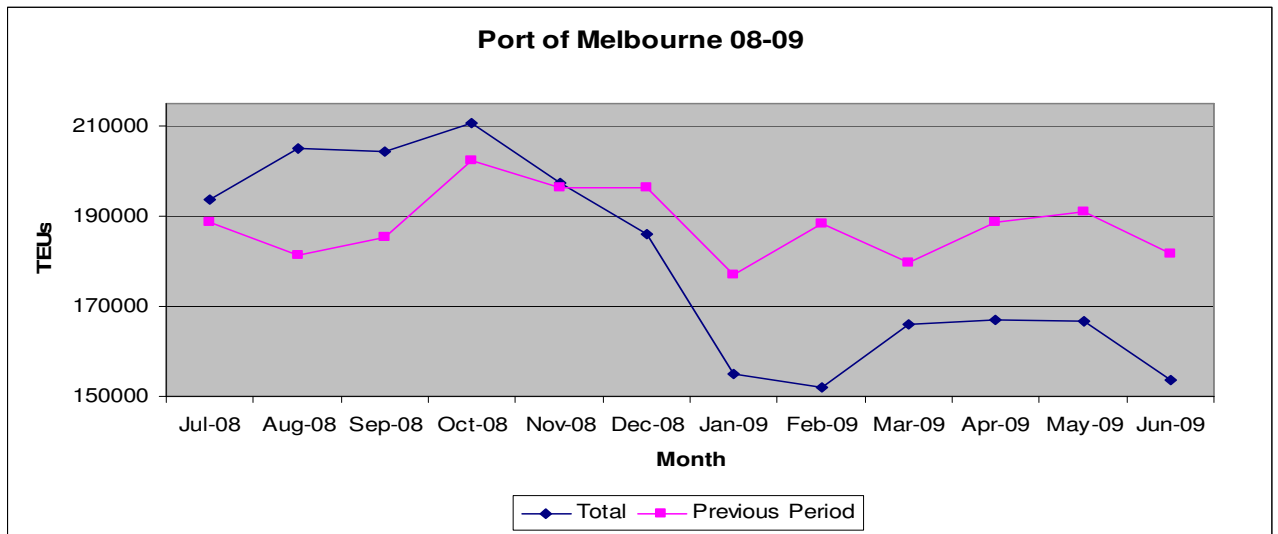


Source: Sydney Ports Corporation <http://www.sydneyports.com.au/>

Interpretation

While the first 5 months of the financial year showed strong overall container trade growth, the second half of the financial year reflects the influence of the global economic slowdown. Since November 2008, container volumes exhibited a sharp decline to the low point at February 2009. Volumes then start reviving with fluctuation. Up to July 2009, volumes recovered considerably and are rising. Despite the global economic downturn, total container trade through Port Botany reached a record 1.784 million TEUs to 30 June 2009, up 0.3% compared to the previous financial year.

Port of Melbourne

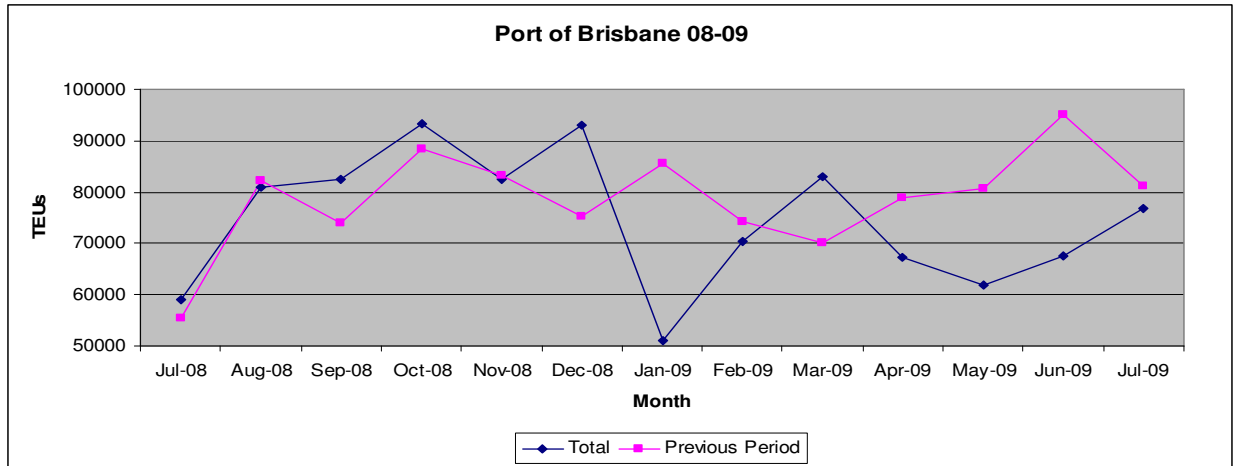


Source: Port of Melbourne Corporation <http://www.portofmelbourne.com/>

Interpretation

In a year of two halves, container throughput surged to over 200,000 TEUs per month in August, September and October 2008 before slowing in the second half of the financial year as the affects of a global fall in consumer confidence and business investment began to emerge. With a total throughput of 2.16 million TEUs in the year to 30 June 2009, the Port of Melbourne consolidated its position as Australia's leading container port despite a 4.4% decrease in the core container trade.

Port of Brisbane



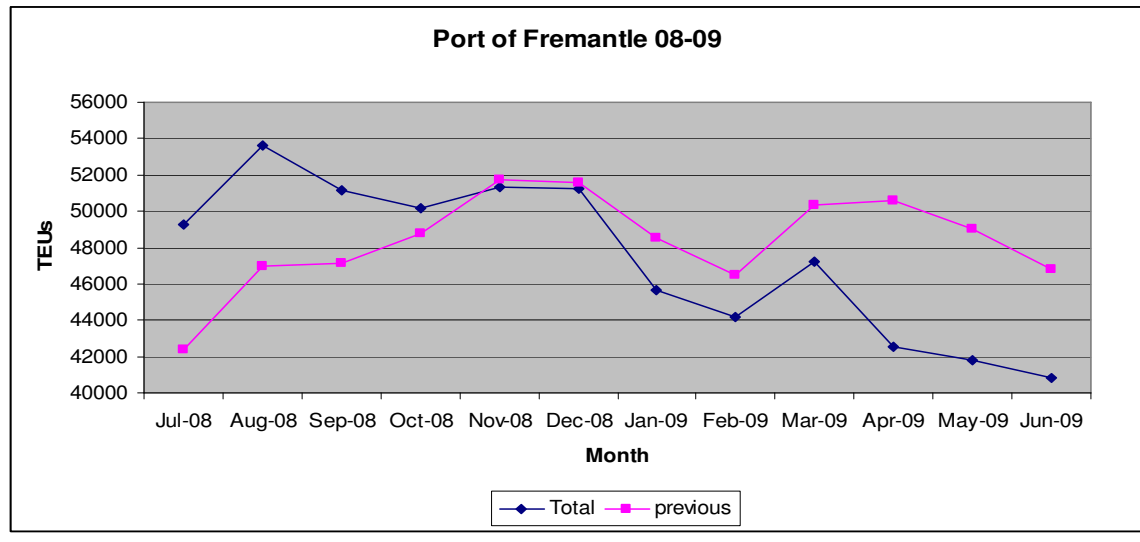
Source: Port of Brisbane Corporation <http://www.portbris.com.au/>

Interpretation

Comparing with the previous period, volumes were maintained, and in fact increased until December 2008 where trade plunged within a month. Since then there has been a steady increase in volumes until March 2009, followed by another decline over April and May 2009. Since May 2009, the volumes have been continuing to grow. The Port of Brisbane Corporation believes that with the opening of Patrick's Berth 10 Autostrad® Terminal, which marked the completion of a \$125m expansion of the world's only fully automated marine container terminal,¹ Brisbane Ports will be well placed to take advantage once the market improves.

¹ Corporate news <http://www.portbris.com.au/news/autostradBerth10>

Port of Fremantle



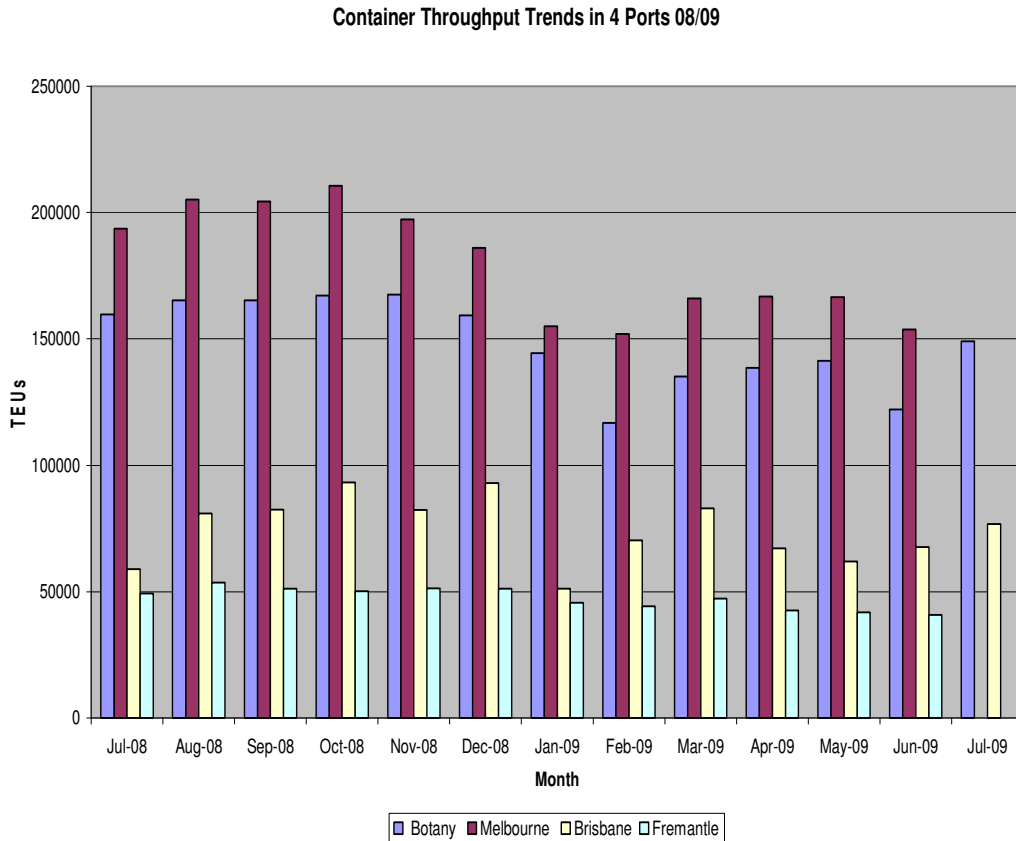
Source: Fremantle Port Authority <http://www.fremantleports.com.au/>

Interpretation

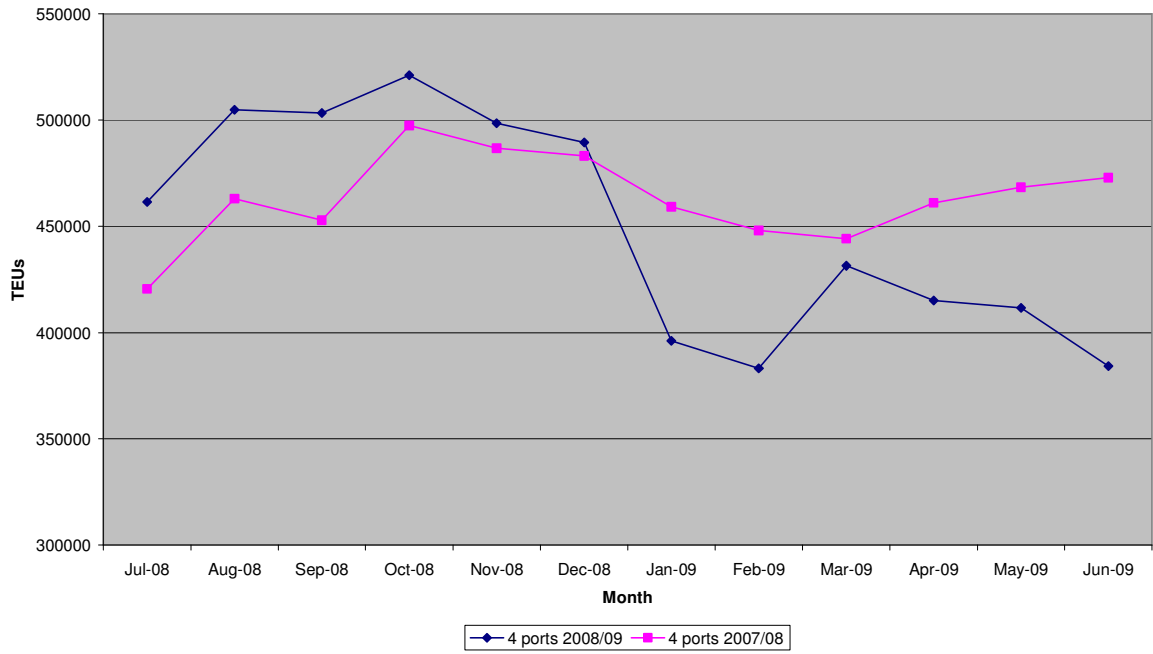
The data shows that there was a general increase in volumes in the first part of the financial year. Container trade in 2008/09 was 2.6% lower than in 2007/08. Container trade for June 2009 compared to June 2008 was down by 12.7%. Full import volumes were 7.4% lower than June 2008.

General Observations

In summary, the global financial crisis has had an inevitable impact on port performance across the 4 major Australia container ports. These data are an important indication of the state of the nation's economy. Generally there has been a decline in container throughput since October 2008, which reflects the impact of the global financial downturn on the productive economy. However, a general recovery of all 4 ports started from February 2009, with Port of Botany and the Port of Brisbane showing a strong catch-up to 2007/08 volumes as at July 2009



Container throughput - 4 ports - 2008/09 compared to 2007/08



Detailed statistics – Australia's key container ports – 2008/09

Port of Botany

2008/2009						
	Imports	Exports	Month	Total	Previous Period	Percentage Variation
Jul-08	83274	76424	Jul-08	159698	134239	118.97
Aug-08	84074	81193	Aug-08	165267	152412	108.43
Sep-08	85447	79886	Sep-08	165333	146579	112.79
Oct-08	86902	80212	Oct-08	167114	157924	105.82
Nov-08	85640	81967	Nov-08	167607	155402	107.85
Dec-08	75151	84164	Dec-08	159315	159968	99.59
Jan-09	75019	69285	Jan-09	144304	148189	97.38
Feb-09	64811	51930	Feb-09	116741	139238	83.84
Mar-09	63976	71139	Mar-09	135115	144007	93.83
Apr-09	72347	66276	Apr-09	138623	143209	96.80
May-09	68301	73017	May-09	141318	147599	95.74
Jun-09	63318	58751	Jun-09	122069	149604	81.59
Jul-09	77602	71397	Jul-09	148999	159698	93.30

Port of Melbourne						
2008/2009						
	Imports	Exports	Month	Total	Previous Period	Percentage Change
Jul-08			Jul-08	193600	188636	102.63
Aug-08			Aug-08	205104	181482	113.02
Sep-08			Sep-08	204398	185252	110.34
Oct-08			Oct-08	210611	202397	104.06
Nov-08			Nov-08	197333	196384	100.48
Dec-08			Dec-08	186074	196383	94.75
Jan-09			Jan-09	154976	176981	87.57
Feb-09			Feb-09	152000	188194	80.77
Mar-09			Mar-09	166079	179725	92.41
Apr-09			Apr-09	166838	188590	88.47
May-09			May-09	166541	191048	87.17233
Jun-09			Jun-09	153806	181530	84.72759

Port of Brisbane						
2008/2009						
	Imports	Exports	Month	Total	Previous Period	Percentage Change
Jul-08	31822	27102	Jul-08	58924	55311	106.53
Aug-08	42030	38913	Aug-08	80943	82227	98.44
Sep-08	43914	38588	Sep-08	82502	73869	111.69
Oct-08	47415	45774	Oct-08	93189	88407	105.41
Nov-08	41522	40833	Nov-08	82355	83297	98.87
Dec-08	43870	49060	Dec-08	92930	75213	123.56
Jan-09	27882	23277	Jan-09	51159	85538	59.81
Feb-09	34142	36168	Feb-09	70310	74170	94.80
Mar-09	39251	43738	Mar-09	82989	70184	118.24
Apr-09	34495	32651	Apr-09	67146	78756	85.258266
May-09	30595	31358	May-09	61953	80705	76.764761
Jun-09	34806	32799	Jun-09	67605	95039	71.133956
Jul-09	36668	40129	Jul-09	76797	81217	94.55779

Port of Fremantle						
2008/2009						
	Imports	Exports	Month	Total	Previous Period	
Jul-08	26,640	22,610	Jul-08	49,250	42,365	116.25
Aug-08	27,046	26,549	Aug-08	53595	46,996	114.04
Sep-08	26,602	24,596	Sep-08	51198	47,167	108.55
Oct-08	25,600	24,607	Oct-08	50207	48,754	102.98
Nov-08	27,377	23,929	Nov-08	51306	51,754	99.13
Dec-08	25,088	26,146	Dec-08	51234	51,530	99.43
Jan-09	22,193	23,470	Jan-09	45663	48,522	94.11
Feb-09	20,634	23,510	Feb-09	44144	46,503	94.93
Mar-09	23318	23932	Mar-09	47250	50331	93.878524
Apr-09	21975	20598	Apr-09	42573	50592	84.149668
May-09	21270	20564	May-09	41834	49050	85.288481
Jun-09	20219	20617	Jun-09	40836	46781	87.291849