

Container Registrations

August 2014

Release date: 24 September 2014

	Aug 14	Jul 14	Jun 14	May 14
Total	612	560	855	447
Business	338	346	487	238
Private	274	214	368	209

Private container driving the increase

The total number of container registrations rose in August, due to an increase in private container registrations that was offset slightly by a dip in business container registrations. Of the containers registered, 71.6 per cent were from New Zealand with the remaining from Australia (28.4 per cent).

In year-ended terms total container registrations rose 12.6 per cent, due to a strong rise in private container registrations. This partly reflects rising utilisation of private containers as a means for supplying the informal distribution sector. Business container registrations declined slightly over the year.

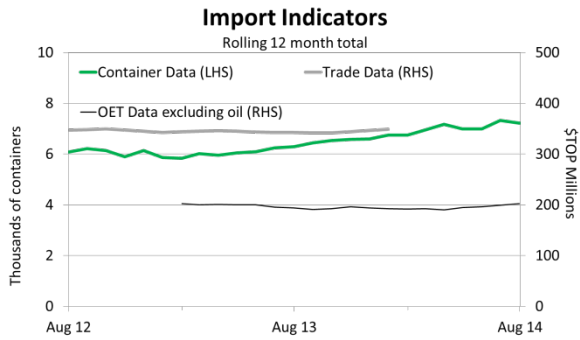
As a partial indicator, strong imports data suggest growth in the distribution sector (also known as wholesale and retail sectors). Banks' foreign transaction data to date supports similar growth. The significant increase in private container registrations though, indicates much of the growth is generated by the less formal parts of the sector, such as the roadside fairs.

Given the NRBT's comfortable foreign reserves position, developments in this release exert very limited pressure on the NRBT's monetary policy stance.

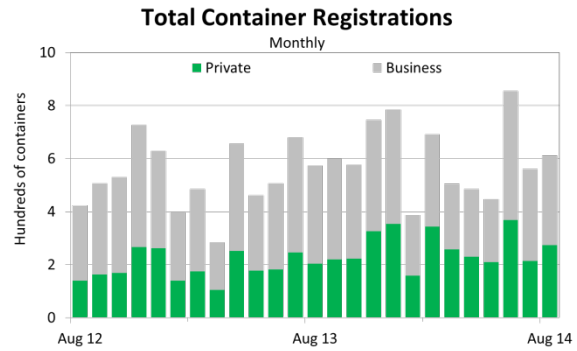
Container Registrations
Total Number of Containers

	Month ended			3 months-ended			Year ended		Share of total Sample ave.
	Aug 14	Jul 14	Jun 14	Aug 14	May 14	Feb 14	Aug 14	Aug 13	
Total containers	612	560	855	2027	1436	1863	7247	6436	100
Business	338	346	487	1171	739	1007	4070	4097	56
Private	274	214	368	856	697	856	3177	2339	44

Source: Tonga Ports Authority



* Break in 2012 due to introduction of foreign exchange dealer reporting
Sources: Banking System, Foreign Exchange Dealers, Statistics Department, Tonga Ports Authority



Sources: NRBT, Statistics Department, Tonga Ports Authority

