

Container Registrations

June 2014

Release date: 18 July 2014

	Jun 14	May 14	Apr 14	Mar 14
Total	855	447	484	505
Business	487	238	254	247
Private	368	209	230	258

Businesses drive significant rise in June

The total number of container registrations increased markedly in June, with business containers more than doubling. Private container registrations also reported strong growth. The rise coincides with an expected increase in consumption during the King's Birthday festivities in Vava'u and the Heilala festival. The TOP remained relatively stable over the month, in nominal terms, against the NZD and AUD (origin of majority of containers), enabling stable trade prices.

In year-ended terms total container registrations rose 17.4 per cent, due to a strong rise in private container registrations. Business container registrations also gained, albeit slightly.

Imports data are important for our assessment of the distribution sector which is anticipated to have grown firmly in 2013-14 and further strengthen in 2014-15. Much of the growth we expect to be generated by less formal parts of the sector, such as the Saturday morning fairs.

According to banks' overseas transactions data to date, import payments have remained steady over the year to May. Given this, current import growth is exerting very limited pressure on the NRBT's foreign reserves position.

Container Registrations Total Number of Containers

	Month ended			3 months-ended			Year ended		Share of total Sample ave.
	Jun 14	May 14	Apr 14	Jun 14	Mar 14	Dec 13	Jun 14	Jun 13	
Total containers	855	447	484	1786	1584	2105	7329	6241	100
Business	487	238	254	979	824	1203	4191	4042	57
Private	368	209	230	807	760	902	3138	2199	43

Source: Tonga Ports Authority

