

Container Registrations

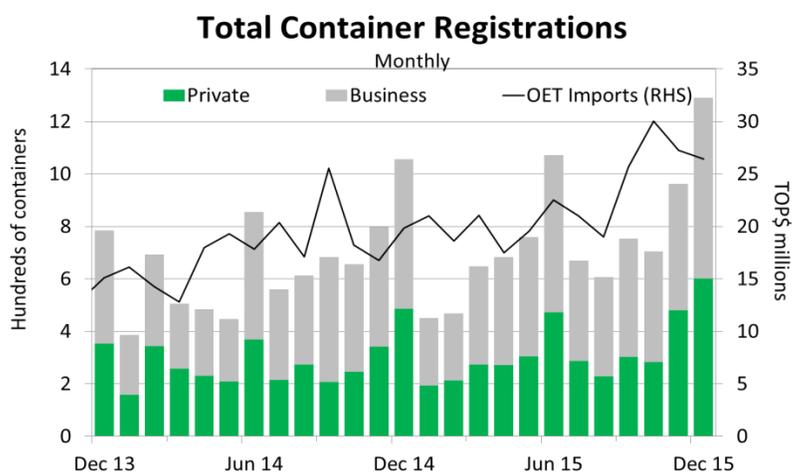
December 2015

Release date: 16 February 2015

	Dec 15	Nov 15	Oct 15	Sep 15
Total	1,290	962	704	753
Business	688	482	421	450
Private	602	480	283	303

New record high for container registrations

Total container registrations reached a new record high for December as it increased by 34.1% to 1,290 containers. Mainly due to the holiday season, both private and business container registrations rose by 25.4% and 42.7% respectively, reflecting the seasonal pick-up in activity in the trade sector. The increase in registrations reflected a 36.0% rise in freezer containers of imported meats and fruits from the United States and New Zealand. The volume of imported construction materials particularly timber, rose by 88.2 tonnes in December suggesting a continued pickup in construction activities. The number of imported vehicles changed little over the month from 252 vehicles in November to 250 vehicles in December, but still remained at a high level. The high record in container registrations may have contributed to the high government revenue collection of TOP\$13.9 million during the month.



Sources: NRBT, Statistics Department, Tonga Ports Authority

Annual container registrations increased by 17.2% to a record high, with business container registrations increasing the fastest. This is driven by the domestic economy which has been lively over the year due to more scheduled events in addition to a very active informal sector. The yearly movement coincides with NRBT's expectations for growth in the distribution sector. The overall increase in container registrations is consistent with improvements in credit conditions, indicating strong economic activities in the country.

The NRBT expects imports and consequently container registrations to generally increase in 2015/16. This may support an increase in customs collections and an upturn in government revenue. Credit growth has rebounded and will continue to grow over 2015/16 which is likely to support growth in imports. Furthermore, liaisons with the construction and transport sector indicate more imports in the future due to high demand. On-going projects such as the construction of the St. George Palace, Retirement Fund Building, LDS chapels, renovations of the Tanoa Hotel and new private residential constructions are anticipated to contribute to the rise. Spill over effects on the trade, tourism and construction sectors are also expected.

Container Registrations							
Total Number of Containers							
	Month ended			Dec 14	Year ended		<i>Share of Total</i>
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Oct 15		Dec 15	Dec 14	
Total containers	1290	962	704	1056	9,069	7,736	100
Business	688	482	421	570	5,156	4,401	57
Private	602	480	283	486	3,913	3,335	43

Source: Tonga Ports Authority