

Vehicle Registrations

July 2017

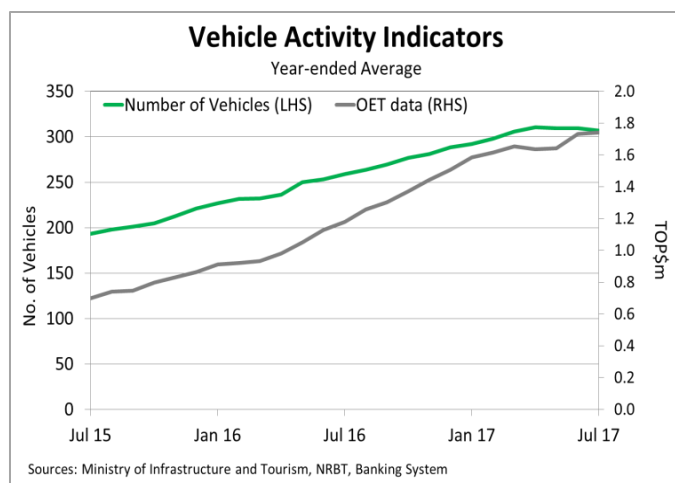
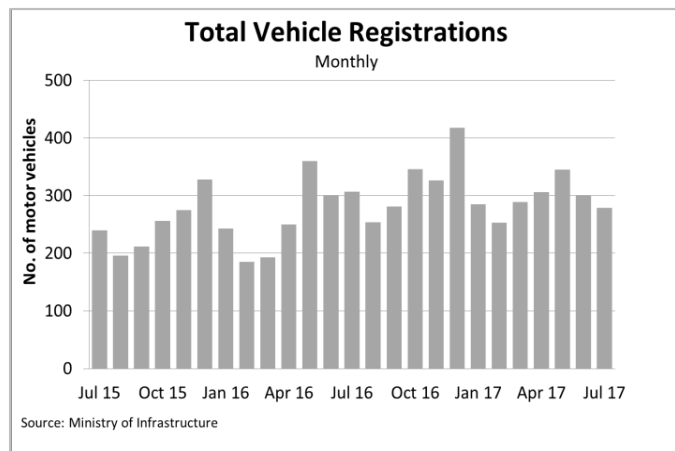
Release date: 17th October 2017

	July17	Jun 17	May 17	Apr17
New Registrations	279	300	345	306

Lower registrations in light vehicles drove decline in total vehicle registrations

The total number of new vehicles registered over the month of July 2017 fell to 279 registrations, 21 registrations (7.0%) lower compared to previous month. This was driven by lower registrations in light vehicles, which declined by 33 registrations (25.0%), followed by a 19 registrations (15.2%) fall in registered cars. The decline in registrations over the month was consistent with a \$0.8 million (29.6%) fall in vehicle import payments. However, new taxis and rental vehicles registered in July increased by 22 vehicles due to higher import of new vehicles to replace old taxis & rental vehicles. Additionally, government and heavy vehicle registrations also increased by 3 (33.3%) and 7 (35.0%) respectively over the month.

In year ended July 2017, the total number of vehicle registered rose by 577 registrations (18.6%), reflecting the continued strong demand for



vehicles. Majority of the annual rise in registered vehicles were for cars which increased by 258 (20.3%) followed by a 185 (15.4%) rise in light vehicle registrations. The rise in vehicle registrations over the year was in line with the \$6.7 million (47.6%) increase in import payments for vehicles recorded in the Overseas Exchange Transactions reports. In addition, vehicle loans rose by \$0.2 million over the year which adds to the annual rise. Moreover, the rise in purchasing power of the returning Recognised Seasonal Employees (RSE) may have also contributed to the annual rise. The annual increase in the level of vehicle registrations can also be attributed to the availability of vehicles' hire purchase, and the convenience of vehicle online purchasing.

Vehicle registrations are projected to rise in the near term. This is supported by the return of Recognised Seasonal Employees from Australia and New Zealand. Furthermore, locals' preference for second hand cars ordered online from Japan is expected to remain high as the price is cheaper and the road conditions in Tonga are improving, this would support more imports of vehicles in the future.

Total Number of Vehicle Registrations

	Month ended				Year ended			Memo Share*
	Jul 17	Jun 17	May 17	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 16	% growth	
Total vehicles	279	300	345	307	3,682	3,105	18.6	100
Cars	106	125	138	121	1,532	1,274	20.3	42
Light vehicles+	99	132	134	123	1,383	1,198	15.4	38
Heavy vehicles++	27	20	33	35	322	271	18.8	9
Taxis and rentals	32	10	31	19	317	281	12.8	9
Motorcycles	3	2	3	0	47	12	291.7	1
Government vehicles	12	9	3	7	58	44	31.8	2
Buses	0	2	3	2	23	25	-8.0	1

* Based on year-ended vehicle registration numbers.

+Vehicles lighter than 1500kgs excluding cars

++Vehicles heavier than 1500kgs excluding Buses

Source: Ministry of Infrastructure and Tourism