

Container Registrations

January 2015

Release date: 26 February 2015

	Jan 15	Dec 14	Nov 14	Oct 14
Total	451	1,056	798	656
Business	257	570	457	410
Private	194	486	341	246

New Year registrations more than halved

The total number of container registrations for January dropped by more than half. The decline is driven by a 54.9% drop in business container registrations as well as a 60.1% drop in private container registrations. The fall coincides with the end of the festive and holiday season. However, container registrations were 16.5% higher in January 2015 in comparison to the same month last year. This reflects an increase in imports and vehicle registrations indicating more economic activities over the year.

In year-ended terms, total container registrations rose by 15.7% due to increases in both business and private container registrations. The private container registrations increased by 28.7% reflecting an active informal distribution sector. The year-ended average of 650 containers is the highest since January 1996 due to a number of factors including; an increase in population as per data from Tonga Department of Statistics; developing easier access to external markets through international aid programs and trade partnerships; and rising popularity of roadside stalls and fairs.

The NRBT expects construction works, vehicle registrations, and imports to rise in the near term due to the start of a new calendar year as well as preparation for the upcoming coronation. This should inevitably lead to an increase in container registrations. Given the NRBT's comfortable foreign reserves position,

developments in this release exert very limited pressure on the NRB's monetary policy stance.

Container Registrations
Total Number of Containers

	Month ended				Year ended		Share of Total
	Jan 15	Dec 14	Nov 14	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 14	
Total containers	451	1,056	798	387	7,800	6,739	100
Business	257	570	457	229	4,429	4,120	57
Private	194	486	341	158	3,371	2,619	43

Source: Tonga Ports Authority

Total Container Registrations

