

Container Registrations

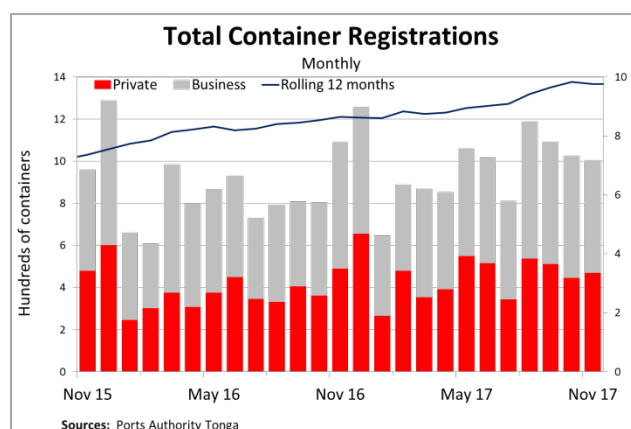
November 2017

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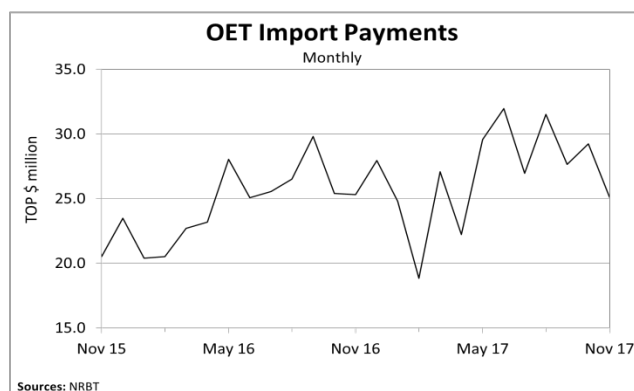
	Nov 17	Oct 17	Sept 17	Aug 17
Total	1,005	1,025	1,093	1,189
Business	535	580	581	652
Private	470	445	512	537

Lower business containers during the month

The total container registrations slightly declined over the month by 20 containers (2.0%) to 1,005 registrations. However this level remained higher than the average number of containers recorded in the same month of the past 5 years. The decline over the month was largely due to business containers falling by 45 containers (7.8%) and was partially offset by the rise in private containers by 25 containers over the month. New Zealand continued to be the major originating source country for these containers, followed by Indonesia and Australia.



Total import payments (excluding oil) declined by \$4.1 million (14.2%) over the month to a total \$25.1 million. Payments for wholesale and retail imported commodities declined the most by \$1.7 million (7.8%) followed by payments for other imports such as medical and technological goods, motor vehicles, and construction materials. This coincided with the decline in business containers.



In year ended terms, the total container registrations rose by 1,348 registrations (13.0%), driven by a 928 (20.2%) rise in private containers indicating a rise in the informal distribution sector. Additionally, business containers rose over the year by 420 registrations (7.3%) indicating a

vibrant trade sector. The large number of events and celebrations held during the year, and the increase in private constructions supported this annual growth. In addition, 7 extra cargo ships arrived during the year to November 2017 compared to the previous year, which may have also supported the transportation sector. This was also consistent with a \$26.9 million (9.1%) rise in import payments (excluding oil) as a result of higher import payments for wholesale & retail goods, miscellaneous goods (such as electrical infrastructure materials, medical, and technological goods), vehicles, and construction materials.

The Reserve Bank expects imports and consequently container registrations to generally increase in the near term. On-going construction projects and new private residential constructions are anticipated to contribute to the rise. Spill over effects on the trade, tourism, construction sectors and other sectors in the economy are also anticipated.

Container Registrations							
Total Number of Containers							
	Month ended				Year ended		<i>Share of Total</i>
	Nov 17	Oct 17	Sep 17	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 16	
Total containers	1005	1025	1093	1091	11,721	10,373	100
Business	535	580	581	602	6,202	5,782	53
Private	470	445	512	489	5,519	4,591	47

Source: Ports Authority Tonga