

Vehicle Registrations

April 2015

Release date: 12 June 2015

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Feb 15	Jan 15
New Registrations	198	189	127	176

Registrations continue to rise over the month

Total vehicle registrations increased by 4.8% over the month of April. This was driven by rises in all vehicle types except “Cars” and “Buses” which recorded fewer registrations. In particular, “Taxis and rentals” increased by more than threefold whilst “Light vehicles” rose by 13.7%. Additionally, “Motorcycles” and “Government vehicles” remained relatively constant over the month. Banking data shows that vehicle payments decreased over April; however, it rose by 47.9% over March indicating potential lag effect. Furthermore, vehicle loans rose coinciding with the monthly increase.

Over the year, total vehicle registrations rose by 28.5% due to increases in all vehicle types except “Motorcycles”. “Buses” and “Taxis and rentals” contributed the most to the annual rise, with registrations for both vehicle types rising by 97% and 130% respectively since the previous year. This suggests upcoming expansions within the public transportation industry. Liaisons with the tourism sector confirmed that new programs were in place to improve tours and transport for the expected rise in international arrivals this year. Furthermore, vehicle payments made through the banking system increased by 35.6% over the year, reflecting the rise in total vehicle registrations.

Looking forward, the NRBT expects further growth in vehicle registrations supported by a rise in the number of car dealers and influx of donor-funded vehicles for the upcoming coronation. Additionally, an increase in new commitment loans for the vehicle sector further supports the projected rise in registrations for the near-term. Anticipated strong

growth for the tourism sector is also expected to have spillover effects on public transport, car rental providers and vehicle registrations. However, this indicates that vehicle imports are expected to rise, thus exerting downward pressure on the foreign reserves. Therefore, the NRBT will continue to closely monitor the country's economic and financial conditions in order to maintain an adequate level of foreign reserves.

Total Number of Vehicle Registrations

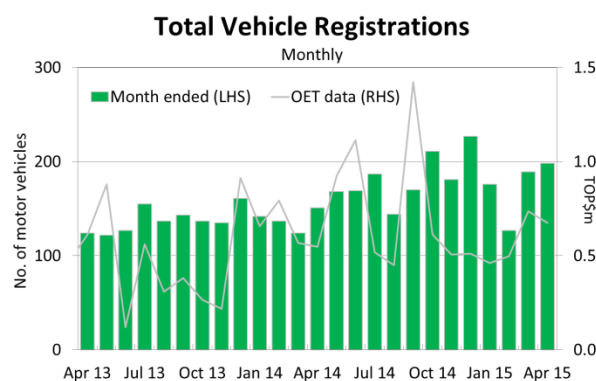
	Month ended				Year ended			Memo Share*
	Apr 15	Mar 15	Feb 15	Apr 14	Apr 15	Apr 14	% growth	
Total vehicles	198	189	127	151	2,147	1,671	28.5	100
Cars	72	87	46	46	855	642	33.2	40
Light vehicles+	83	73	54	62	867	749	15.8	40
Heavy vehicles++	17	16	13	24	201	150	34.0	9
Taxis and rentals	22	7	11	19	162	82	97.6	8
Motorcycles	3	3	1	0	17	19	-10.5	1
Government vehicles	0	0	0	0	22	19	15.8	1
Buses	1	3	2	0	23	10	130.0	1

* Based on year-ended vehicle registration numbers.

+Vehicles lighter than 1500kgs excluding cars

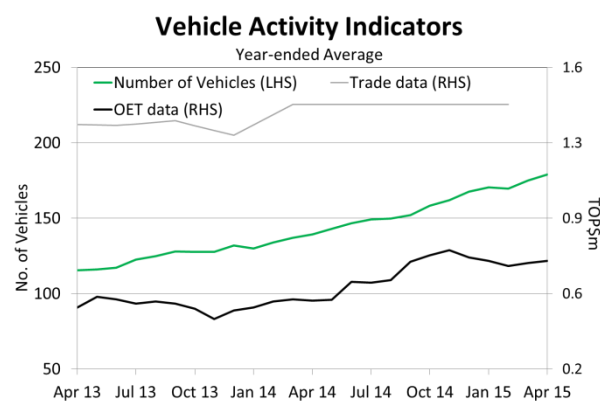
++Vehicles heavier than 1500kgs excluding Buses

Source: Ministry of Infrastructure



Source: Tonga Department of Statistics, NRBT, Banking System

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