Vehicle Registrations June 2015

Release date: 05 August 2015

	Jun 15	May 15	Apr 15	Mar 15
New				
Registrations	262	196	198	189

Coronation celebrations drive a rise in registrations

Total number of vehicle registrations increased by 33.7% to 262 registrations over the month of June. This was due to a rise in all vehicle types except "Heavy vehicles" which recorded fewer registrations. Notably, "Government vehicles" increased by five times the previous month's registrations as a result of donor-funded vehicles from the Chinese Government. This coupled with a 22.7% rise in "Taxis & rentals" indicate preparation and expected high demand for the coronation. Despite banking data showing vehicle payments were relatively stable over June (refer to Figure 1), vehicle loans increased by more than triple over the month further supporting the monthly rise in registrations. In addition, the year-ended registrations rose by 28.9% (refer to Table 1 and Figure 2). This was caused by an increase in all vehicle types except "Motorcycles" which decreased.

Looking forward, the NRBT expects growth in vehicle registrations supported by a rise in the number of car dealers. 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. The NRBT will continue to closely monitor the country's economic and financial conditions in order to maintain an adequate level of foreign reserves.

Table 1.

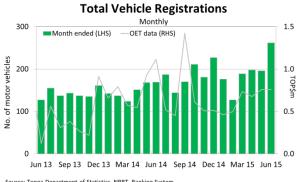
Total Number of Vehicle Registrations

	Month ended			Year ended			Мето	
	Jun 15	May 15	Apr 15	Jun 14	Jun 15	Jun 14	% growth	Share*
Total vehicles	262	196	198	169	2,268	1,759	28.9	100
Cars	109	81	72	65	915	670	36.6	40
Light vehicles+	93	66	83	60	886	780	13.6	39
Heavy vehicles++	19	25	17	13	220	151	45.7	10
Taxis and rentals	27	22	22	18	188	103	82.5	8
Motorcycles	1	0	3	4	13	19	-31.6	1
Government vehicles	10	2	0	7	25	24	4.2	1
Buses	3	0	1	2	21	12	75.0	1

^{*} Based on year-ended vehicle registration numbers.

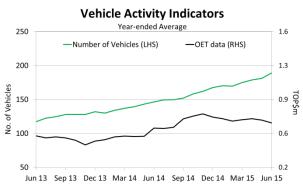
Source: Ministry of Infrastructure

Figure 1.



Source: Tonga Department of Statistics, NRBT, Banking System

Figure 2.



Source: Tonga Department of Statistics, NRBT, Banking System

⁺Vehicles lighter than 1500kgs excluding cars

⁺⁺Vehicles heavier than 1500kgs excluding Buses