

Container Registrations

December 2014

Release date: 30 January 2015

	Dec 14	Nov 14	Oct 14	Sep 14
Total	1,056	798	656	684
Business	570	457	410	477
Private	486	341	246	207

Registrations soared over the month

Total container registrations rose significantly in December 2014, reaching a new record high. The rise was driven by notable increases in both business and private container registrations. Private container registrations rose by 42.5% over the month, reaching a new high record. Similarly, business container registrations almost reached its highest record of 571 registrations in October 2011. Extra savings as a result of low domestic fuel prices may have contributed to the rise over the month.

In year-ended terms, total container registrations grew by 14.6% due to increases in both private and business container registrations. The rise is expected to boost growth in the distribution sector.

Private container registrations now accounts for 43.1% of total container registrations over the year compared to 38.5% the same time last year. The rise suggests increased activity in the informal parts of the distribution sector, such as Saturday and roadside fairs, which seems to be growing at a faster pace than the formal sector.

Given the seasonal nature of container registrations over time, the NRBT anticipates a decline in container registrations over January. Nonetheless, imports and container registrations are expected to grow in year-ended terms and consequently trade activities in the distribution sector to improve. Higher credit growth is expected which further supports these expectations. Nevertheless, developments in this release are exerting very limited pressure on the NRBT's foreign reserves position and its current monetary policy stance.

Container Registrations
Total Number of Containers

	Month ended				Year ended		Share of Total
	Dec 14	Nov 14	Oct 14 ¹	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 13	
Total containers	1,056	798	656	784	7,736	6,749	100
Business	570	457	410	430	4,401	4,148	57
Private	486	341	246	354	3,335	2,601	43

Source: Tonga Ports Authority

