

Container Registrations

February 2015

Release date: 10 April 2015

	Feb 15	Jan 15	Dec 14	Nov 14
Total	469	451	1,056	798
Business	257	257	570	457
Private	212	194	486	341

Slight rise in registrations over the month

Container registrations increased by 4% over the month of February. This was due to a 9% rise in private container registrations and business container registrations remaining constant. Despite a decrease in import payments for February, the lag effect of an increase in January's import payments may have contributed to the rise in container registrations for February. Additionally, the rise in private container registrations indicates an active informal sector.

Over the year, container registrations rose by 9.1%. This was driven by increases in both private and business container registrations. Private container registrations increased by 16.2% whereas business container registrations increased by 4.3%. Banking data show import payments rose by 12.2% which supports the annual increase in both container registrations. The rise in private container registrations suggests increasing activity in the informal sector which includes roadside stalls and fairs.

Looking forward, the NRBT expects imports to increase in the near term due to preparation for the upcoming coronation, church conferences, and school anniversaries. Additionally, NRBT anticipates strong growth for the tourism, transportation and construction sectors which will have spillover effects on imports and trade sector. Given the NRBT's comfortable foreign reserves position,

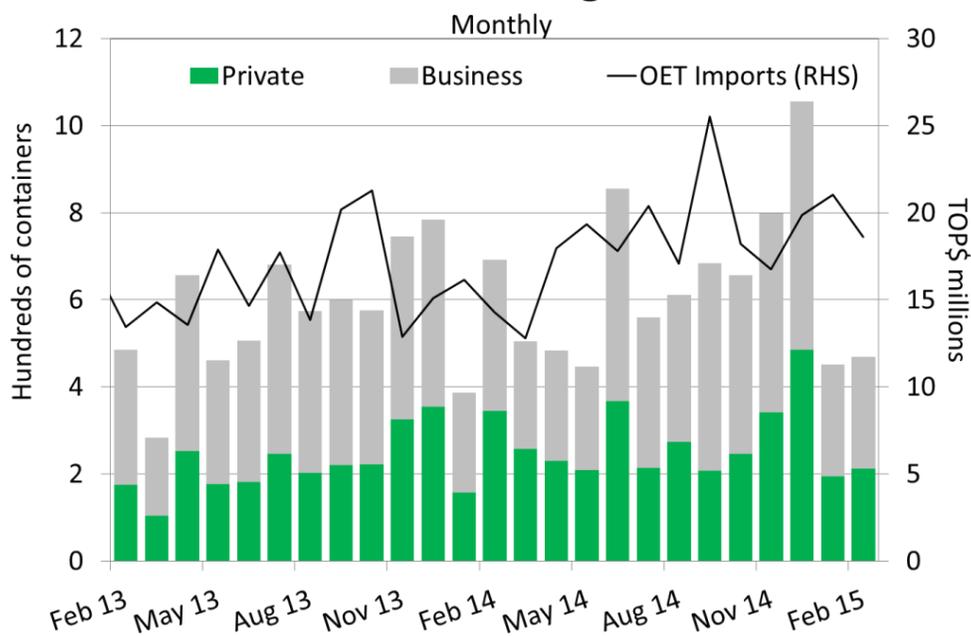
developments in this release exert limited pressure on the NRBT's monetary policy stance.

Container Registrations
Total Number of Containers

	Month ended			Feb 14	Year ended		Share of Total
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Dec 14		Feb 15	Feb 14	
Total containers	469	451	1056	692	7577	6946	100
Business	257	257	570	348	4338	4158	57
Private	212	194	486	344	3239	2788	43

Source: Tonga Ports Authority

Total Container Registrations



Sources: NRBT, Statistics Department, Tonga Ports Authority