

Vehicle Registrations

February 2015

Release date: 9 April 2015

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Dec 14 | Nov 14 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| New Registrations | 127 | 176 | 227 | 181 |

Registrations decline over the month

Vehicle registrations continued to fall over February by 27.8%. The decline was due to fewer registrations in all types of vehicles with “Light vehicles” dropping the most by 32.5%. The monthly decline for vehicle registrations proves to be a trend as shown in previous years. The ending of the festive season in January could also indicate less household expenditure, specifically on vehicles for the month of February. Additionally, banking data showed that there was a decrease in vehicle payments and loans for the month of January which could be reflected in February’s decline. “Taxis and rentals” increased whilst “Government vehicles” and “Motorcycles” both remained constant.

In year ended terms, total vehicle registrations increased by 26.5%. This increase was mainly driven by all types of vehicles except “Motorcycles” and “Government vehicles” which decreased over the year. ‘Taxis and rentals’ which rose by more than double indicate the high expectation for arrivals and increasing level of tourism over the year. Vehicle payments made through the banking system indicate a 31.7% increase as well, supporting the rise in total vehicle registrations. Additionally, new commitment loans for the vehicle sector increased by more than double which further supports the annual rise in registrations. Cheaper cars due to excess supply, evident from the increase number of car dealerships seem to be a driver for the increase. The declining global oil prices halfway through the year could have also contributed to the rise.

Looking ahead, NRBT projects growth in vehicle registrations in the near term supported by an increase in the number of car dealers and an expected influx of donor-funded vehicles for the upcoming coronation. Additionally, the increase in vehicle payments for the month of February could be reflected in the number of vehicle registrations for the upcoming month. Furthermore, anticipated strong growth for the tourism sector is expected to have spillover effects on public transport, car rental providers and vehicle registrations. However, foreign reserves continue to remain at a comfortable level and the developments in this release do not warrant a change in the NRBT's monetary policy settings in the near future.

Total Number of Vehicle Registrations

| | Month ended | | | Feb 14 | Year ended | | | Memo Share* |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|----------|-------------|
| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Dec 14 | | Feb 15 | Feb 14 | % growth | |
| Total vehicles | 127 | 176 | 227 | 137 | 2,035 | 1,609 | 26.5 | 100 |
| Cars | 46 | 68 | 96 | 51 | 793 | 620 | 27.9 | 39 |
| Light vehicles+ | 54 | 80 | 88 | 62 | 821 | 738 | 11.2 | 40 |
| Heavy vehicles++ | 13 | 17 | 22 | 10 | 212 | 131 | 61.8 | 10 |
| Taxis and rentals | 11 | 7 | 20 | 5 | 157 | 59 | 166.1 | 8 |
| Motorcycles | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 24 | -54.2 | 1 |
| Government vehicles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | -8.3 | 1 |
| Buses | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 13 | 46.2 | 1 |

* Based on year-ended vehicle registration numbers.

+Vehicles lighter than 1500kgs excluding cars

++Vehicles heavier than 1500kgs excluding Buses

Source: Ministry of Infrastructure

