

# Vehicle Registrations

## May 2015

Release date: 31 July 2015

	May 15	Apr 15	Mar 15	Feb 15
New Registrations	196	198	189	127

### Registrations dropped slightly over May

Total vehicle registrations were relatively stable over May with only 2 vehicles less than last month. “Light vehicles” declined the most but was offset by an increase in ‘Cars’ and ‘Heavy Vehicles’. Banking data shows that monthly vehicle payments were also relatively stable over April supporting the stability. However, it increased in May indicating potential increase next month. “Taxis & Rentals” remained constant during the month.

In annual terms, total vehicle registrations increased by 26.7% due to increases in all vehicle types except “Motorcycles” which decreased. Notably, “Taxis & Rentals” rose by more than double over the year indicating expansions in the public transport sector. Liaisons with the tourism sector confirmed that programs were in place to improve tours and transport for the expected rise in international arrivals this calendar year. Additionally, vehicle payments made through the banking system rose by 32%, reflecting the annual increase in total vehicle registrations.

Looking forward, the NRBT expects growth in vehicle registrations supported by a rise in the number of car dealers and influx of donor-funded vehicles that have been brought for the 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. 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

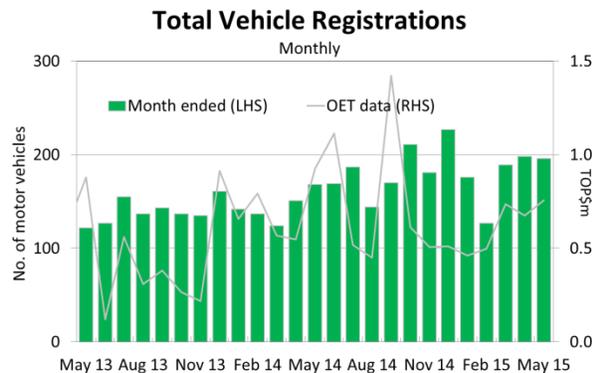
	Month ended				Year ended			Memo Share*
	May 15	Apr 15	Mar 15	May 14	May 15	May 14	% growth	
Total vehicles	196	198	189	168	2,175	1,717	26.7	100
Cars	81	72	87	65	871	657	32.6	40
Light vehicles+	66	83	73	80	853	775	10.1	39
Heavy vehicles++	25	17	16	12	214	151	41.7	10
Taxis and rentals	22	22	7	5	179	86	108.1	8
Motorcycles	0	3	3	1	16	18	-11.1	1
Government vehicles	2	0	0	2	22	19	15.8	1
Buses	0	1	3	3	20	11	81.8	1

\* Based on year-ended vehicle registration numbers.

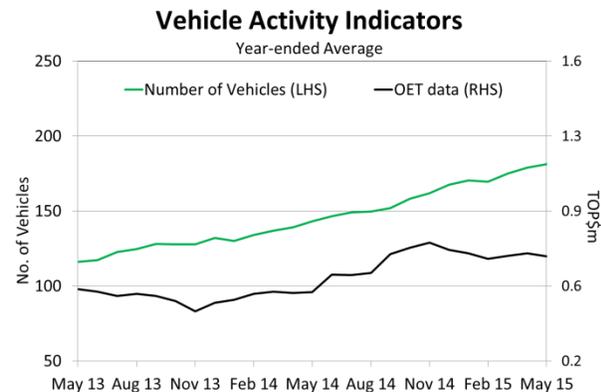
+Vehicles lighter than 1500kgs excluding cars

++Vehicles heavier than 1500kgs excluding Buses

Source: Ministry of Infrastructure



Source: Tonga Department of Statistics, NRBT, Banking System  
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