

# Vehicle Registrations

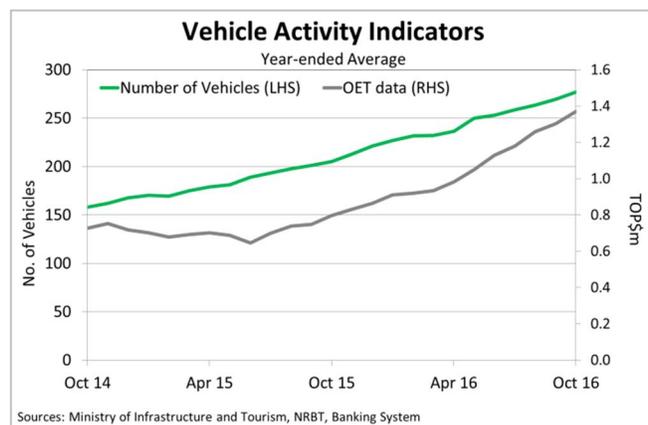
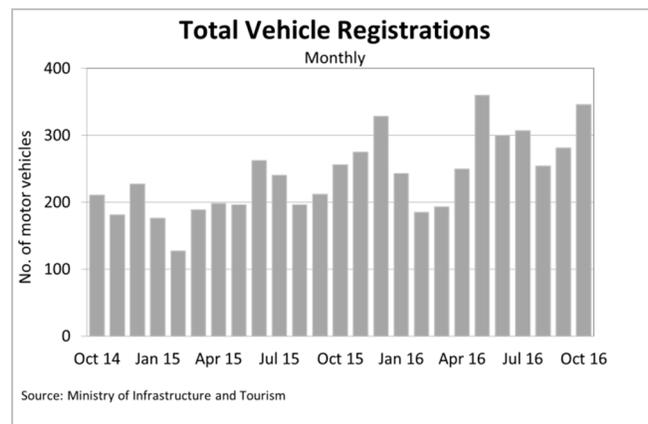
## October 2016

Release date: 23 March 2017

	Oct 16	Sept 16	Aug 16	Jul 16
New Registrations	346	281	254	307

### Demand for light vehicles and cars continue to drive rise in registrations

Vehicle registrations increased by 65 vehicles (23.1%) over October 2016. This is higher than the monthly growth recorded over October 2015. Additionally, it is the second highest monthly vehicle registrations after the peak of 360 registrations in May 2016. More registrations of light vehicles and cars largely contributed to the monthly rise. Cars increased the most by 48 registrations followed by 41 registrations for light vehicles. Furthermore, taxis and rentals recorded 5 vehicle registrations (35.7%) during the month, whilst the remaining categories noted fewer registrations than the previous month.



Despite the rise in vehicle registrations over the month, vehicle import payments slightly decreased by \$0.03 million (1.4%) reflecting the time lag between the payment for imports and the arrival of the vehicles in Tonga.

Over the year, the number of vehicles registered increased by 90 vehicles (35%) driven by rises in all vehicle types except taxis and rentals, and government vehicles. The majority of the annual rise was for cars and light vehicles which increased by 40 (30.2%) and 50 (34.5%) vehicle registrations respectively. In addition, vehicle import payments rose over the year by \$6.9 million (71.8%) to \$16.4 million.

Looking forward, vehicle registrations are projected to remain firm in the near term, despite the expected increase in fuel prices. Anticipated growth for the tourism sector is expected to have positive spill over effects on the transportation sector, and therefore vehicle registrations, specifically for public transport, car rental providers, and taxis.

Total Number of Vehicle Registrations								
	Month ended				Year ended			Memo Share*
	Oct 16	Sep 16	Aug 16	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 15	% growth	
Total vehicles	346	281	254	256	3,322	2,460	35.0	100
Cars	150	102	106	110	1,349	1,036	30.2	41
Light vehicles+	147	106	104	97	1,286	956	34.5	39
Heavy vehicles++	23	34	24	17	306	217	41.0	9
Taxis and rentals	19	14	13	26	272	201	35.3	8
Motorcycles	4	13	0	1	26	16	62.5	1
Government vehicles	1	10	7	5	57	18	216.7	2
Buses	2	2	0	0	26	16	62.5	1

\* Based on year-ended vehicle registration numbers.

+Vehicles lighter than 1500kgs excluding cars

++Vehicles heavier than 1500kgs excluding Buses

Source: Ministry of Infrastructure and Tourism