

# Vehicle Registrations

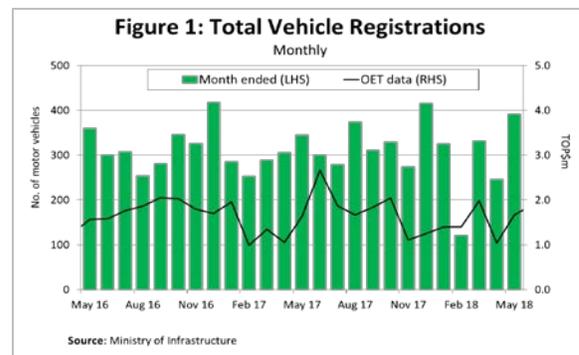
## May 2018

Release date: 5 October 2018

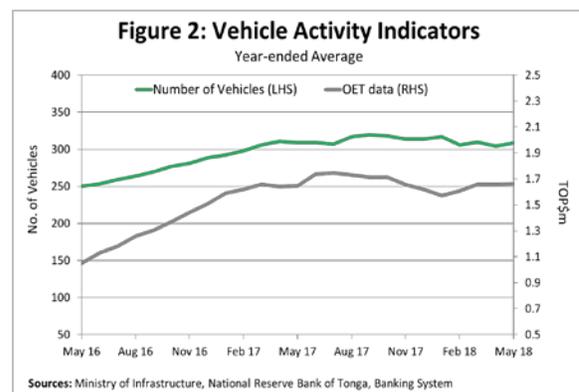
	May 18	Apr 18	Mar 18	Feb 18
New Registrations	391	246	332	121

## Private and business vehicles drove higher registrations

The registrations of new vehicles increased over the month for all types of automobiles which indicates strong activities in the transportation sector during May 2018. The total vehicle registrations rose over the month by 145 registrations (58.9%), recording a total of 391 new vehicles (Figure 1). Registrations for individual cars increased the most by 56 registrations (47.5%) and followed by a rise in taxis and rentals of 49 registrations. Liaison suggests that this trend was particularly driven by the events which occurs around May to July annually. This includes the churches annual conference, family month of May celebrated in Tonga and the Heilala festival. Registrations for all other vehicle types such as other light vehicles and government vehicles also rose over May 2018.



Additionally, import payments for vehicles also rose over the month by \$0.6 million to a total \$1.7 million coinciding with the rise in total vehicle registrations (Figure 2). This may have been supported by a \$9.1 million (34.7%) increase in remittances over the month.



In year ended terms, the total number of vehicles registered declined by 12 (0.3%) registrations. This was due to a decline in the registration of private vehicles (cars and other light vehicles), buses and motorcycles, which outweighed an increase in rentals & taxis, government and heavy vehicle registrations. However, the payments

for the import of vehicles recorded in the Overseas Exchange Transactions reports rose slightly by \$0.2 million (0.9%) over the year to May 2018.

The Reserve bank expects the total vehicle registrations to remain high in the short term given the events that are scheduled for the upcoming months and the return of seasonal employees during this time of the year. Additionally, the availability of vehicles' hire purchase, the convenience of vehicle online purchasing will remain an advantage.

Total Number of Vehicle Registrations								
	Month ended				Year ended			Shares of Total*
	May 18	Apr 18	Mar 18	May 17	May 18	May 17	% growth	
Total vehicles	391	246	332	345	3,698	3,710	-0.3	100
Cars	174	118	129	138	1,537	1,539	-0.1	42
Light vehicles+	107	79	122	134	1,345	1,393	-3.4	36
Heavy vehicles++	37	30	54	33	363	338	7.4	10
Taxis and rentals	66	17	24	31	331	322	2.8	9
Motorcycles	0	0	1	3	30	43	-30.2	1
Government vehicles	5	2	2	3	76	49	55.1	2
Buses	2	0	0	3	16	26	-38.5	0

\* 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