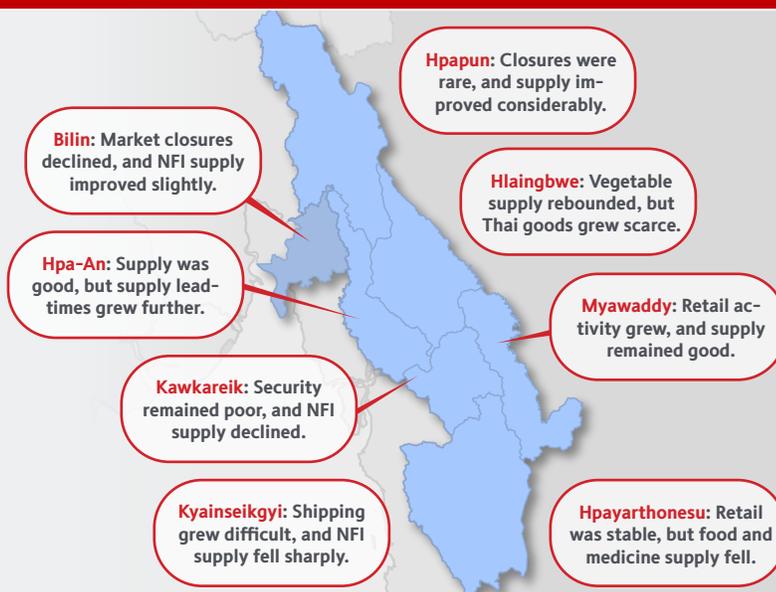


Rapid Market Assessment

This Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) is a supplement to the MAU Market Price Report in Kayin State. It provides township-level data on market functionality, activity, supply, and logistics. Data were collected through observation and KIIs with retailers during December 25-31, 2024. Reports available at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Markets were fairly safe and closures declined**, indicating overall stable retail operations in the region;
- **Vegetable and meat/fish supply rebounded**, but food supply was still very poor in some markets;
- **Fuel and medicine supply continued to decline**, although supply of other NFIs was largely stable;
- **Kawkareik market remained troubled by security**, and there were growing signs of strain in Hpa-An;
- **Shipping costs continued to rise gradually**, and supply lead-times grew in Hpa-An and Hlaingbwe;
- **Retailers overall reported fewer challenges**, with Myawaddy and Hlainbwe improving the most.



Regional Overview

Market Functionality - Most market monitored remained safe, and there were no reports of closures. Kawkareik market was still described as unsafe, both other markets were described as relatively safe to visit. All markets monitored remained open throughout the entire day. The occasional market closures reported in Bilin and Hpaun in October were not reported in December.

Market Activity - Retail contracted in Bilin, Hpaun, and Hpa-An markets, but elsewhere it was fairly stable. Although market functions were more consistent in Bilin and Hpaun, there were fewer retailers operating in December than in October. Myawaddy continued to see an uptick in retailer activity in December, as did Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik, and Kyainseikgyi. Customer traffic on the other hand was generally unchanged, except in Hpa-An where it declined.

Availability of Goods - Food supply improved in December, while overall NFI supply was generally stable. Supply of meat/fish and vegetables improved, and essential foods were stable. Supply of fuel and medicines continued to decline, but other NFIs were stable. Supply improved in Hpaun—particularly for food—but it worsened slightly in Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi, where overall supply was poorest.

Transport & Logistics - Shipping costs continued rising, but there were some signs of relief. Retailers in Kawkareik and Myawaddy reported some signs of lower shipping costs, and resupply lead-times in these markets fell as well. However, all other markets reported stable or rising prices, and shipping lead-times in Hpa-An and Hlaingbwe rose from a couple days to one week. Retailers continued to source goods from the same locations.

Retailer Challenges - Retailers reported fewer challenges as market security improved. Supply and transportation remained the greatest challenges for retailers, while concerns related to security declined. Retailers in Hpa-An and Kawkareik reported the most challenges, while retailers in Bilin and Hpayarthonesu reported the fewest. Hpaun and Myawaddy saw the largest decline in reported retail challenges in December.

What to Watch

- Fewer reports of market **closures** was a positive sign for retail access in the region;
- Growing challenges and rising **shipping** costs in **Hpa-An** may begin to strain market operations;
- Especially-poor supply of goods in **Kawkareik** and **Kyainseikgyi** should be monitored closely.

Indicator Descriptions

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: Typical market hours during the week of data collection.

Market Security: Observer's assessment of security environment in/around market, relative to preceding months.

Market Damage: Whether significant recent damage to market infrastructure and/or inventory has occurred.

Closures: Whether market-wide closures affected the location during the week of data collection.

Market Activity

Retailer Activity: Estimated portion of normal (e.g., early-November 2023) retailers active in the market.

Customer Traffic: Estimated portion of normal (e.g., early-November 2023) customers visiting the market.

Customers Served: Provenance of customers served by the market.

Availability of Goods, by Category

Availability: Estimated portion of goods in each category with reliable availability.

Category	Examples
Essentials	Rice, cooking oil, pulses, etc.
Vegetables	Eggplant, long bean, watercress, green chili, etc.
Meat/Fish	Chicken, dried fish, fresh fish, fish paste, etc.
Hygiene	Soap, detergent, sanitary pads, toothpaste, etc.
Shelter	Plastic tarp, wood, nails, wire, construction tools, etc.
Household	Blanket, clothing, towels, jerry can, cooking pots, etc.
Medicines	Paracetamol, amoxicillin, etc.
Fuel	95 octane, 92 octane, etc.

Transportation & Logistics, by Modality

Inter-Township: Whether or not inter-township shipping is formally allowed, according to retailers.

Suppliers: Primary source of goods supplied to the market, according to retailers.

Lead Time: Time needed to receive goods after order is placed, according to retailers.

Shipping Costs: Whether shipping costs are falling, stable, or rising in recent weeks.

Example Rates: Example one-way shipping costs, according to retailers.

Retailer Challenges

Measure: Qualitative estimate of the frequency / severity of challenge: low (white), medium (yellow), or high (red).

Challenge	Description
Transport Limits	Price and availability of shipping / transportation services.
Supply Limits	Ability to maintain and replenish inventory with new supply.
Weak Demand	Customer purchases and active demand for goods.
Market Damage	Damage to market infrastructure and/or inventory.
Cash Access	Availability of desired cash and/or credit (for business operations).
Personal Safety	Personal safety of retailers and/or customers in/around market.

