

Market Snapshot

This rapid Market Snapshot is a supplement to the MAU Market Price Report in Rakhine State and provides further township-level data on market functionality, activity, access, and supply. Data were collected through observation and KIIs during Dec. 5-8, 2023. Reports available at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Most town markets remained operational**, but customer traffic was typically down by half or more;
- **Minbya, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung had few sellers** still active in/around the markets;
- **Periodic market closures affected Minbya, Mrauk-U, and Kyauktaw**, but retailers still sold from home/wards;
- **Shipping costs were often up 150-400%** due to movement restrictions, and this stymied restocking efforts;
- **Dwindling supply was most severe for essential foods**, particularly cooking oil and in some cases rice as well;
- **Food prices were up sharply**, with rice up 4-47%, cooking oil up 4-88%, and vegetables often up 50-400%;
- **Retailers often worried about transportation limits** and their inability to restock essential foods and NFIs, although some retailers worried most about basic safety.

Market Summaries

Kyauktaw Town Market - Kyauktaw market experienced occasional closures, and retailer activity was severely reduced. Many products remained available, but prices were up 88% and 100-400%, respectively, for cooking oil and vegetables as supplies dwindled. Retailers faced numerous concerns, and market functionality varied from day to day due to conflict-related events.

Maungdaw Town Market - Maungdaw market remained operational, but rice and cooking oil were scarce and expensive. The town market remained operational and many goods were available, but essential foods were becoming scarce. Rice prices were up 36-47%, and vegetables were up 50-250%. Retailers said 400% increases in shipping costs would limit supply.

Minbya Town Market - Minbya market activity was severely reduced, and retailers worried most about personal safety. Supply of cooking oil and certain NFIs was particularly scarce, and prices were up 33-200% for various food items. Retailers cited broad operational challenges, and shipping costs increases of 200% prevented retailers from restocking most items.

Mrauk-U Town Market - Mrauk-U market remained operational in the morning, and many products remained available. The market was closed on occasion due to conflict-related events, and retailers said customer traffic had dwindled. Resupply of goods remained difficult due to shipping cost increases of 150%. Rice and cooking oil prices were up 11-54%, while prices for vegetables were up 60-300%.

Paletwa Town Market - Paletwa market remained operational, but retailers reported broad challenges. The market remained open throughout the day and many products were available, but price increases were large and retailers said rice supply in particular was limited. Retailers faced a broad set of challenges, such as declining inventories and 700% increases in shipping costs.

Ponnagyun Ward Market - Damage to Ponnagyun market pushed customers to smaller ward markets where supply was severely limited. The town's morning-only ward markets (and retailers located outside the main market) struggled to supply essential foods, meat/fish, and NFIs. Retailers were most concerned with limited inventories and 1000% increases in shipping costs.

Rathedaung Town Market - Rathedaung market operated only in the morning, and retailer/customer activity was severely reduced. Supply limits were particularly severe for food items like cooking oil, and vegetables—while available—saw prices rise 50-200%. Retailers worried about 150% increases in transportation costs and poor demand as village customers no longer visited the town market to buy goods.

Sittwe Town Market - Sittwe market remained operational, but rice and cooking oil inventories were severely limited and customer traffic was low. Retailers emphasized numerous serious challenges as transportation limits cut off regional traders from this commercial hub. Vegetable prices—often supplied from nearby townships—were up 50-800%.

Kyauktaw Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 6am-2pm (8hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe

Market Damage: Little or none

Closures: Occasional closures; limited alternative selling locations.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Slightly reduced (75-100% active)

Customer Traffic: Severely reduced (25-50% remain)

Customers Served: Town only; few or no customers from nearby villages/townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Severe Limits	Cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	Onion, garlic, chili
Meat/Fish	Available	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	-

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Better Rice	12%
Cooking Oil	88%
Vegetables	100-400%
Hygiene	16-47%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: No, not possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: Unsure

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	-
Inventory	Yes	-
Demand	Yes	Highest Priority
Cash/credit	Yes	-
Damage	-	-
Safety	Yes	-

Maungdaw Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 7am-5:30pm (10.5hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe

Market Damage: Little or none

Closures: No closures in previous week.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Slightly reduced (75-100% active)

Customer Traffic: Severely reduced (25-50% remain)

Customers Served: Town only; few or no customers from nearby villages/townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Severe Limits	Rice, cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	Onion, garlic, chili, fruit
Meat/Fish	Available	Chicken, dried fish
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	-

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	36-47%
Cooking oil	8%
Vegetables	50-250%
Various NFIs	10-25%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: No, not possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: 200-400% increase

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	Highest Priority
Inventory	Yes	-
Demand	-	-
Cash/credit	-	-
Damage	-	-
Safety	Yes	-

Minbya Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 6am-2pm (8hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe

Market Damage: Little or none

Closures: Occasional closures; retailers selling from home or ward markets.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Severely reduced (25-50% active)

Customer Traffic: Severely reduced (25-50% remain)

Customers Served: Town only; few or no customers from nearby villages/townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Severe Limits	Cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	-
Meat/Fish	Available	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	Baby items, medicines
Shelter NFIs	Available	-

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Cheaper Rice	33%
Cooking Oil	59%
Vegetables	33-200%
Hygiene	11-20%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: No, not possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: 200% increase

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	-
Inventory	Yes	-
Demand	Yes	-
Cash/credit	Yes	Highest Priority
Damage	-	-
Safety	Yes	Highest Priority

Mrauk-U Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 6:30-11am (4.5hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe

Market Damage: Little or none

Closures: Occasional closures; limited alternative selling locations.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Greatly reduced (50% active)

Customer Traffic: Severely reduced (25-50% remain)

Customers Served: Town and nearby villages; few or no customers from nearby townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Severe Limits	Cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	Onion, garlic, chili
Meat/Fish	Available	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	Fuel

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Cheaper Rice	11%
Cooking Oil	54%
Vegetables	60-300%
Various NFIs	3-25%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: No, not possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: 150-200% increase

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	Highest Priority
Inventory	Yes	Highest Priority
Demand	Yes	-
Cash/credit	-	-
Damage	-	-
Safety	-	-

Paletwa Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 6am-5pm (11 hrs)

Market Security: Relatively safe

Market Damage: Little or none

Closures: No closures in previous week.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Slightly reduced (50-75% active)

Customer Traffic: Greatly reduced (50% remain)

Customers Served: Town and nearby villages; few or no customers from nearby townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Available	Rice
Vegetables	Available	Onion
Meat/Fish	Available	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	-

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	-
Cooking Oil	4%
Vegetables	20-200%
Hygiene	10-12%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Yes, possible

Lead-time: Increased from 1 day to 4-5 days

Shipping Cost: 550-700% increase

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	Highest Priority
Inventory	Yes	Highest Priority
Demand	Yes	-
Cash/credit	Yes	-
Damage	-	-
Safety	Yes	-

Ponnagyun Ward Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 6-9am (3hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe

Market Damage: Severe damage to main market

Closures: Indefinite closure of main market; retailers active in ward markets (e.g., San Pya, Ywar Haung).

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Severely reduced (25-50% active)

Customer Traffic: Severely reduced (25-50% remain)

Customers Served: Town only; few or no customers from nearby villages/townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Severe Limits	Cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	-
Meat/Fish	Severe Limits	-
Hygiene	Severe Limits	-
Home NFIs	Severe Limits	-
Shelter NFIs	Severe Limits	Fuel

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	-
Cooking Oil	-
Vegetables	-
Various NFIs	-

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Occasionally possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: 150-1,000% increase

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	-
Inventory	Yes	Highest Priority
Demand	-	-
Cash/credit	-	-
Damage	Yes	-
Safety	Yes	-

Rathedaung Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 7-10am (3hrs)
Market Security: Relatively unsafe.
Market Damage: Little or none
Closures: No closures in previous week.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Severely reduced (25-50% active)
Customer Traffic: Severely reduced (25-50% remain)
Customers Served: Town only; few or no customers from nearby villages/townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Severe Limits	Cooking oil
Vegetables	Severe Limits	Chili
Meat/Fish	Severe Limits	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	-

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	4-20%
Cooking Oil	36%
Vegetables	50-200%
Hygiene	0-11%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: No, not possible
Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a
Shipping Cost: 150% increase

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	Highest Priority
Inventory	Yes	-
Demand	Yes	Highest Priority
Cash/credit	Yes	-
Damage	-	-
Safety	-	-

Sittwe Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 7am-1pm (6hrs)
Market Security: Relatively safe
Market Damage: Little or none
Closures: No closures in previous week.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Greatly reduced (50% active)
Customer Traffic: Severely reduced (25-50% remain)
Customers Served: Town only; few or no customers from nearby villages/townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Severe Limits	Rice, cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	Chili
Meat/Fish	Severe Limits	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	-

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	10-20%
Cooking Oil	0%
Vegetables	50-800%
Hygiene	5-9%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Occasionally possible
Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a
Shipping Cost: 150-250% increase

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	Yes	Highest Priority
Inventory	Yes	Highest Priority
Demand	Yes	-
Cash/credit	Yes	Highest Priority
Damage	-	-
Safety	Yes	-

Indicator Descriptions

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: Typical market hours in the week prior to data collection.

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

Market Damage: Whether significant damage recently damaged market infrastructure and/or inventory.

Closures: Whether market-wide closures affected the location in the week prior to data collection.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Estimated portion of normal retailers who remained active in the market.

Customer Traffic: Estimated portion of normal customer traffic which remained present in the market.

Customers Served: Provenance of customers served by the market.

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Examples
Essentials	Rice, cooking oil, pulses, etc.
Vegetables	Eggplant, watercress, chili, etc.
Meat/Fish	Chicken, dried fish, fresh fish, etc.
Hygiene	Soap, detergent, toothpaste, etc.
Home NFIs	Clothing, cooking pots, blankets, etc.
Shelter NFIs	Jerry can, plastic tarp, rope, etc.

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Data sourced from November 2023 MAU Market Price report.

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Whether shipping between township (permitted or unpermitted) was generally possible.

Lead-time: Change in lead-time for resupplying goods from other towns or markets during the past month.

Shipping Cost: Changes in shipping costs to villages within the township during the past month.

Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Description
Transportation	Price and availability of shipping / transportation services.
Inventory	Existing on-hand supply of goods within the market.
Demand	Customer traffic and active demand for goods.
Cash/credit	Availability of cash and/or credit (often for resupplying goods).
Damage	Damage to market infrastructure and/or inventory.
Safety	Personal safety of retailers and/or customers in/around market.

Market Analysis Unit (MAU)

The Market Analysis Unit is an independent project that provides donors, humanitarian responders, development practitioners and private sector actors in Myanmar with data and analysis to better understand the impacts of market developments, conflict and other crises on:

- Household purchasing power, including coping mechanisms, safety nets and access to basic needs;
- Supply chains, including trade, cross-border dynamics and market functionality (particularly as it relates to food systems);
- Financial services, including financial services providers, household and business access to finance and remittances; and
- Labor markets (formal and informal), with a focus on agricultural labor and low-wage sectors (e.g., construction, food services).

CONTACT

Market Analysis Unit
market.analysis.unit@gmail.com



