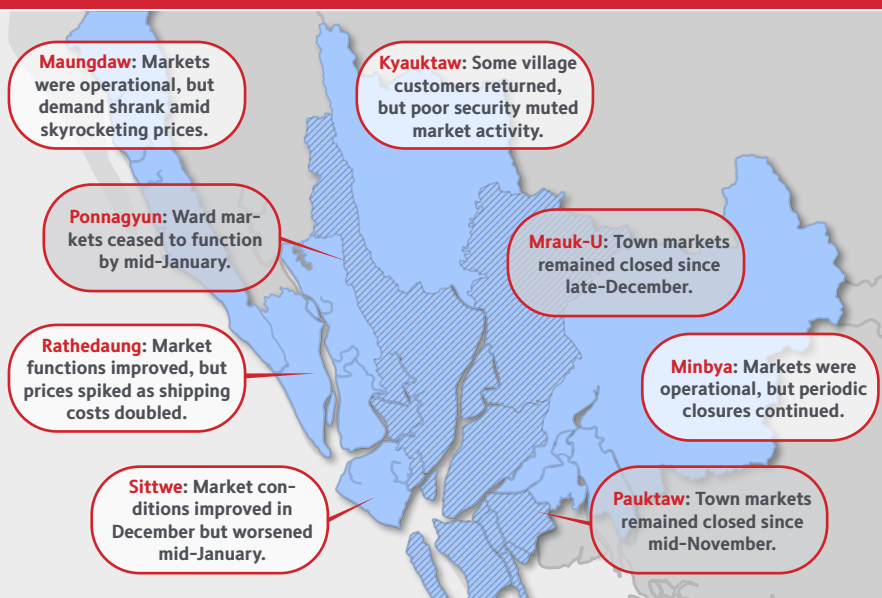


Market Snapshot

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 with retailers during Jan. 7-9, 2024 with minor updates during Jan.15-19. Reports available at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Retailers relocated from towns to villages** as markets in Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun closed;
- **Availability of goods improved in some cases**, like Rathedaung and Sittwe, but poor security and high prices drove customers away;
- **Shipping costs rose 300% since November**, and the regional movement of goods stumbled;
- **Medicine and rice were scarce in some markets**, and cooking oil supply was poor region-wide;
- **Essential food prices rose 50-100%** in many markets, with foods like pulses, vegetables, and cooking oil rising the most.



Kyauktaw Town Market - Village customers began returning to Kyauktaw market in early-January and goods were available, but poor security still hampered market activity. Closures at Kyauktaw market grew less frequent in early-January, but retailers still described security conditions in/around the market as poor. Some village customers had begun returning, but retailer and customer activity remained below-normal. Most product types were available in Kyauktaw market, but supply of cooking oil and some non-local vegetables (e.g., onion and garlic) was limited. Food prices were rising quickly, with prices for pulses and cooking oil up 110-140% in December and vegetable prices up 50-90%. Although retailers said demand and working capital improved slightly in January, transportation, supply, and security remained major challenges. Retailers said shipping between townships was feasible in early-January, but shipping costs had increased more than ten-fold since November and lead times on restocking inventory stood at one-to-four weeks.

Maungdaw Town Market - Market conditions remained poor in Maungdaw, and customer activity declined as food prices skyrocketed Market operations continued uninterrupted in Maungdaw in early-January, but retailers still described security as poor. Village customers still had not returned to the town market, leav-

ing customer activity and sales severely-reduced. Many products remained available in town, but supply of cooking oil, vegetables, eggs, and meat/fish products was poor; retailers said rice supply was particularly insufficient. Price increases for essential foods in Maungdaw were among the sharpest in the region in December, with rice up 80-100%, cooking oil up 57%, and pulses up 200%. Retailers were growing more concerned about poor demand amid rising prices, while security, transportation, and supply also remained major concerns.

Minbya Town Market - Minbya market continued to face periodic closures amid poor security, and retailers reported poor supply of medicines. Retailers said the security environment in/around Minbya market worsened in early-January, as market hours were reduced and periodic closures continued. Gunfire recently damaged some market stalls, and retailers regarded retail locations as unsafe. Some village customers had returned to the market, but retailer and customer activity remained severely-reduced. Goods were still generally-available, but retailers said supply of medicines, petrol, and cooking oil was insufficient. Cooking oil prices doubled in December, and vegetable prices rose 20-80%. Transportation and supply remained major challenge for retailers as shipping costs continued to rise, reaching levels 200-300% above October 2023.

Ponnagyun Ward Markets - Ponnagyun ward markets were largely closed by mid-January due to a deteriorating security environment. Periodic closures affected Ponnagyun ward markets in early-January, and by mid-January they were largely closed. Retailer and customer activity at the markets—which mainly served town residents—had been low amid security concerns. The supply of essential foods, meat/fish, and even some hygiene products improved at these markets in early-January, but cooking oil remained scarce and there were few retailers of household or shelter NFIs. Prices for pulses and palm oil in Ponnagyun were up nearly 300% since early-November, and rice prices were up 18-34%. It remained very difficult to ship goods between townships, and retailers said shipping costs were occasionally twenty-fold higher than in October 2023. By mid-January most Ponnagyun ward retailers had relocated from town to villages.

Rathedaung Town Market - Market conditions improved slightly in Rathedaung in early-January, but prices spiked amid rising transportation costs. Rathedaung market remained open and free of major incidents in early-January. Market hours had been extended since December, but retailers still regarded the market as relatively unsafe. Some village customers were returning to the town market, as well as some retailers, but activity remained below-normal. Supply of essential foods, vegetables, and meat/fish improved in early-January, although cooking oil and eggs remained scarce.

Shipping across township lines improved, and lead teams stood at five-to-six days. However, food and NFI prices continued sharply higher as retailers said shipping costs doubled or tripled again in December. Prices for pulses rose 43% in December, prices for cooking oil and vegetables doubled, and NFI prices climbed 11-30%. Retailers remained most concerned about poor demand due to high prices and the impact of rising transportation costs on their ability to continue restocking inventory.

Sittwe Town Market - Sittwe market was operational in early-January and food supply improved, but supply remained limited and conditions worsened mid-month. Sittwe market remained open in early-January and retailers said security around the market had improved, although events in mid-January were likely to change the situation significantly. Customer traffic remained low and the market still mainly served town residents, but some retailers had returned in early-January. The availability of meat/fish and other essential foods had improved, and other products were still fairly accessible, but the availability of rice and cooking remained poor. Shipping costs had increased four-to-ten-fold since October 2023, and food prices were up sharply. Prices were up 27-50% for rice, 43% for pulses, and more than triple for cooking oil. Retailer concerns about security had receded somewhat since December, however by mid-January the situation had significantly worsened. Retailers said poor demand, costly transportation, and limited supply were still their major challenges.

Kyauktaw Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 6am-2:30pm (8.5hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe.

Market Damage: No recent damage.

Closures: Reduced closures, and no closures in previous week.

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Greatly reduced (50% active)

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

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

Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Available	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)
Rice	7-18%
Cooking Oil	110%
Vegetables	39-88%
Meat/fish	23-140%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Occasionally possible

Lead-time: 1-4 weeks

Shipping Cost: 1300-1500% increase

Retailer Perspectives

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

Maungdaw Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 7:30am-5pm (9.5hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe.

Market Damage: No recent damage.

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
Vegetables	Available	Fruit
Meat/Fish	Available	Fish paste, dried fish
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	Charcoal, fuel

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	79-100%
Cooking oil	57%
Vegetables	25-100%
Various NFIs	7-33%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Occasionally possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: Unsure, or n/a

Retailer Perspectives

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

Minbya Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 8am-12pm (4hrs)

Market Security: Very unsafe.

Market Damage: Market stall damage from gunfire.

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 and villages, as well as some customers from nearby townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

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

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Cheaper Rice	-
Cooking Oil	100%
Vegetables	20-85%
Hygiene	6-50%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Occasionally possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: 170-260% increase

Retailer Perspectives

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

Ponnagyun Ward Market*

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 6-10:30am (4.5hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe.

Market Damage: No recent damage.

Closures: Occasional closures; near-complete closure of ward markets by mid-January.

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	Available	Cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	-
Meat/Fish	Available	-
Hygiene	Available	-
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: 2,000% increase

Retailer Perspectives

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

*Ponnagyun data collected prior to ward market closures in mid-January.

Rathedaung Town Market

Market Functionality

Opening Hours: 7-2pm (7hrs)

Market Security: Relatively unsafe.

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 and villages; few or no customers from nearby townships.

Supply Limitations, by Category

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

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	7-11%
Cooking Oil	130%
Vegetables	100-500%
Meat/fish	33-110%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Occasionally possible

Lead-time: 5-6 days

Shipping Cost: 300-600% 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: 6am-2pm (8hrs)

Market Security: Relatively safe

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	Available	Rice, cooking oil
Vegetables	Available	Chili, onion
Meat/Fish	Available	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Available	-
Shelter NFIs	Available	Fuel

Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	27-50%
Cooking Oil	240%
Vegetables	29-140%
Hygiene	11-34%

Transportation & Logistics

Inter-Township Shipping: Occasionally possible

Lead-time: Unsure, or n/a

Shipping Cost: 400-1000% 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	-	-

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 recently damage to market infrastructure and/or inventory has occurred.

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

Retailer/Customer Activity

Retailer Activity: Estimated portion of normal (e.g., October 2023) retailers who remained active in the market.

Customer Traffic: Estimated portion of normal (e.g., October 2023) customers visiting 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 December 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 since October 2023.

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).

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