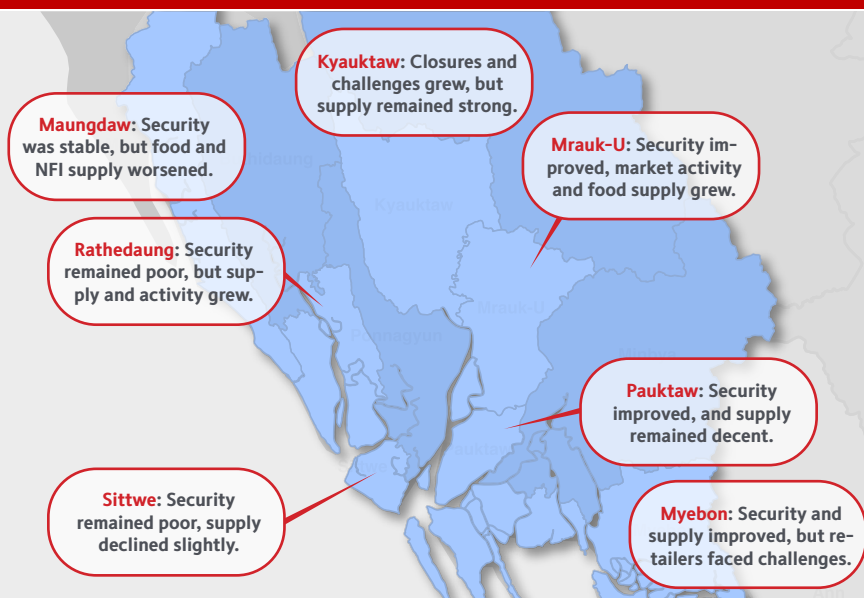


# Rapid Market Assessment

This Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) is a supplement to the MAU Market Price Report in Rakhine State. It provides township-level data on market functionality, activity, supply, and logistics. Data were collected through observation and KIIs with retailers during February 20-21, 2024. Reports available at [www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Markets were open and operational**, and reports of market damage or closures were rare;
- **Market security improved since December**, but it worsened in Kyauktaw where market closures grew;
- **Markets with poor security saw activity fall**, such as in Kyauktaw and Rathedaung;
- **Vegetable supply grew further in February**, and essential food supply improved slightly as well;
- **Shipping costs and supply lead-times fell** region-wide as petrol prices remained relatively low;
- **Retail challenges were greatest in the northeast** at markets in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Myebon.



## Regional Overview

**Market Functionality - Markets remained operational in February, and security improved in some.** All markets monitored remained open, there were no reports of damage, and closures were rare. Security improved in/around Mrauk-U, Pauktaw and Myebon markets, and it remained good in two others. Security remained poor near Sittwe, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw markets, and there were periodic closures in Kyauktaw.

**Market Activity - Market activity grew in Rathedaung and Maungdaw, but it retreated elsewhere.** Retailer activity fell in markets with the poorest security, particularly Kyauktaw. On the other hand, retailer and customer traffic increased in Mrauk-U, Myebon, and Pauktaw, where security improved in February. Most markets continued to receive customers from surrounding villages and townships, except in Sittwe.

**Availability of Goods - Vegetable supply improved again in February, but NFI supply was stable.** Supply of vegetables and essential foods improved, although meat/fish supply declined. Supply of fuel improved slightly, but supply of hygiene NFIs worsened. Both food and NFIs drove notable supply improvements in Rathedaung and Myebon, although supply worsened in Maungdaw and Sittwe, driven by meat/fish and NFIs.

**Transport & Logistics - Shipping costs continued to fall, and restocking lead-times declined as well.** Retailers across the region reported stable or falling shipping costs in February as petrol prices remained well below November's highs. Restocking lead-times declined by at least one day in four markets, and they were stable in most others.

**Retailer Challenges - Retailers in townships along the state's northern highway reported the most retail challenges.** Challenges grew for retailers in Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U, and Myebon retailers continued to report major hurdles. On the other hand, Pauktaw and Sittwe retailers reported fewer challenges, and Minbya and Ponnagyun retailers reported the fewest. Retailer concerns were evenly distributed across areas related to safety, cash, transportation, demand, and supply.

## What to Watch

- Supply of **vegetables** may rise further in March, but there are few signs yet of improved rice supply;
- Price and supply remain highly vulnerable to changes in **petrol** prices and in turn **shipping** costs;
- Security conditions in/around markets will remain volatile as some like Kyauktaw continue to fluctuate.

## 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.

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

**Closures:** Whether market-wide closures affected the location in preceding month.

### Market Activity

**Retailer Activity:** Estimated count of retailers active in the market on a given day.

**Customer Traffic:** Estimated count of customers visiting the market on a given day.

**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 specific challenges:

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.

