

# Market Snapshot

*This rapid Market Snapshot is a supplement to the MAU Market Price Report in Southeast Myanmar and provides further township-level data on market functionality, activity, access, and supply. Data were collected through observation and KIIs with retailers during Dec. 5-8, 2023. Reports available at [www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).*

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Town markets remained partly-functional**, but challenges were growing and safety issues were paramount;
- **Pekon and Kawkareik had few remaining sellers**, and availability of many goods was limited;
- **Demoso, Kawkareik, and Pekon saw market closures** at times but nonetheless continued to function;
- **Shipping costs were up 50-200% in Pekon**, and lead-times were doubling across markets;
- **Supply limits were most notable for essential foods** like rice and cooking oil but also for some NFIs;
- **Vegetable prices were up 8-67% across markets**, while essential foods were up a relatively modest 2-8%;
- **Retailers worried most about safety in/near markets** and damage to market infrastructure, although transportation, supply, and demand were also common concerns.

## Market Summaries

**Demoso Village Market (Cherry Kone) - Village markets in Demoso Township continued to supply goods from neighboring townships to area villages.** Many products remained available, although retail and customer activity was greatly reduced. Larger village markets in the area (e.g., Chery Kone, Be Kin, Se Bu) continued to serve area villages and import goods from Pinlaung Township; however, frequent road closures made restocking unpredictable, and lead-times increased from one day to five days. Retailers reported facing many challenges and continued to worry most about poor safety and security in the township.

**Hsiseng Town Market - Hsiseng market remained operational, and goods were relatively well-stocked.** The town market remained operational with no known damage or forced-closures in recent weeks, and retailers described the area in/around the market as safe. Retailer and customer activity was slightly reduced, but the market continued to do commerce with nearby villages and townships (lead-times increased from one half-day to one day). Most foods and NFIs remained available, although retailers reported limited supply of clothing, and NFI prices were up 4-14% in the past month. Although goods remained available, retailers worried about the security environment and their ability to continue stocking items.

**Kawkareik Town Market - Kawkareik market saw periodic market closures and dwindling supply amid increased conflict events in the area.** Observers reported unspecified damage to the market which had closed at times in recent days due to security incidents. Retailer activity and customer traffic was severely reduced as many buyers and sellers left town (and visiting traders and customers from neighboring villages and townships had dwindled). Food items were in limited supply, and prices were rising in the past month. Cooking oil prices were up 8%, vegetables were up 8-67%, and prices for hygiene products were up 6-9%.

**Pekon Town Market - Pekon market faced occasional closures, and security remained a major concern.** Although there was no reported damage at Pekon market, the market operated only in the mornings and had closed periodically in recent days. During closures, some retailers or traders operated from nearby markets in Pinlaung Township. Although shipping from Pinlaung Township remained possible at times, transportation costs were up 50-200%. Supply of essential foods and NFIs were limited, including rice and clothing. Essential food prices were up a modest 3-6% in the past month, but vegetable prices rose 9-40%, and NFI prices were up 5-19%. Retailers worried about transportation and supply, but they worried most about local security.

## Demoso Village Market (Cherry Kone)

### Market Functionality

**Opening Hours:** 6am-6pm (12hrs)

**Market Security:** Relatively unsafe

**Market Damage:** Limited shop damage

**Closures:** Occasional closures; alternative retail locations in nearby villages (e.g., Be Kin, Se Bu).

### Retailer/Customer Activity

**Retailer Activity:** Greatly reduced (50% active)

**Customer Traffic:** Greatly reduced (50% remain)

**Customers Served:** Area villages, including some outside of Demoso Township.

### Supply Limitations, by Category

Category	Supply Limits	Notable Shortages
Essentials	Available	-
Vegetables	Available	-
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	-
Vegetables	-
Hygiene	-

### Transportation & Logistics

**Inter-Township Shipping:** Yes, sometimes possible

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

**Shipping Cost:** Unsure

### Retailer Perspectives

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

## Hsihseng Town Market

### Market Functionality

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

**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:** Slightly reduced (75-100% remain)

**Customers Served:** Area villages and locations outside of Hsihseng Township.

### Supply Limitations, by Category

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

### Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Rice	3%
Cooking oil	0%
Vegetables	10-29%
Various NFIs	4-14%

### Transportation & Logistics

**Inter-Township Shipping:** Yes, possible

**Lead-time:** Increased from half-day to 1 day

**Shipping Cost:** Unsure

### Retailer Perspectives

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

## Kawkareik Town Market

### Market Functionality

**Opening Hours:** 6am-12pm (6hrs)

**Market Security:** Relatively unsafe

**Market Damage:** Damage reported, extent unknown

**Closures:** Occasional closures; limited alternative retail locations.

### 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	-
Meat/Fish	Severe Limits	-
Hygiene	Severe Limits	-
Home NFIs	-	-
Shelter NFIs	-	-

### Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Cheaper Rice	2%
Cooking Oil	8%
Vegetables	8-67%
Hygiene	6-9%

### Transportation & Logistics

**Inter-Township Shipping:** Unsure

**Lead-time:** Unsure, or n/a

**Shipping Cost:** Unsure

### Retailer Perspectives

Feature	Major Concern	Top Priority
Transportation	n/a	n/a
Inventory	n/a	n/a
Demand	n/a	n/a
Cash/credit	n/a	n/a
Damage	n/a	n/a
Safety	n/a	n/a

## Pekon Town Market

### Market Functionality

**Opening Hours:** 6-9am (3hrs)

**Market Security:** Relatively unsafe

**Market Damage:** Little or none

**Closures:** Occasional closures; alternative retail locations in Pinlaung Township.

### 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	Rice
Vegetables	Available	-
Meat/Fish	Available	-
Hygiene	Available	-
Home NFIs	Severe Limits	Clothes
Shelter NFIs	Severe Limits	-

### Price Change, Selected Products/Categories

Product(s)	Percent Increase (1 month)
Cheaper Rice	6%
Pulses	3%
Vegetables	9-40%
Various NFIs	5-19%

### Transportation & Logistics

**Inter-Township Shipping:** Yes, sometimes possible

**Lead-time:** Increased from 1 day to 2 days

**Shipping Cost:** 50-200% increase

### Retailer Perspectives

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

## 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**

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