

## Geographical Assessment of Economic Activities in Hinthada Town

Zin Mar Tun<sup>1</sup>, Khin Hnin Phyu<sup>2</sup>, Khine Khine Shein<sup>3</sup>

### Abstract

The research work highlights the relationship between economic activities and urban infrastructure in the period from 2014 to 2023. Hinthada Town is located at an accessible area and growth of primary, secondary and tertiary economic activities are found. The existing economic activities support local people and location of these economic are controlled by population and accessibility. The objectives of the research paper are to examine types of economic conditions in Hinthada Town, to explain the spatial distribution of economic activities and to analyze changes in economic activities in Hinthada Town. Primary data were collected through field observation and secondary data are obtained the Administrative Offices. Topographic maps and plates are used for explanation The descriptive methods were applied in presenting the paper. GIS tools were applied in portraying distribution of economic activities.

**Keywords:** primary activities, secondary activities, tertiary economic activities, spatial distribution, transportation

### Introduction

In economic sectors, the primary sector is concerned with raw materials production which includes mining, fishing, livestock forestry, farming, and etc. The secondary economic sectors that produce finished, marketable goods through manufacturing or industries. Tertiary sector is also known as the service sector and servicing and trading involved in tertiary sectors helping in the development of primary and secondary sectors. Therefore it is the most important sector among all sectors (<https://blogmedia.testbook.com>).

The collection of economic activities in an area is considered as a key factor for economic growth of that area (Audretsch, et al, 1996 and Romer, 1990). High unemployment rates may be lower levels by emerging economic activities in an area (Johansson, 2000; Hurst and Lusardi, 2004). Existing economic activities in an area are advantage for that area and it supports local economy, poverty reduction and regional development.

Geographical concentration of industries supports economic growth (Caragliu et al., 2016; Dissart, 2003; Wagner, 2000). Hinthada Town possess many economic activities. Although agriculture is major economy of the area, it also has various economic activities such as agriculture ( primary economic activities), industries ( secondary economic activities, tertiary activities, etc.)

Hinthada Town included in Ayeyarwady deltaic region is one of the most densely populated areas in Myanmar. To meet the needs of increasing population, industries are established and tertiary sector, consequently, is developed. Therefore, to present assessment on economic activities, Hinthada Town was selected as study area and presented from geographical point of view.

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<sup>1</sup> Tutor, Department of Geography, Hinthada University

<sup>2</sup> Head of Professor, Dr., Department of Geography, Hinthada University

<sup>3</sup> Lecturer, Dr., Department of Geography, Hinthada University

## Study Area

Hinthada Town is located in the Northern portion of the Ayeyarwady Region. It lies between North latitudes between  $17^{\circ} 15'$  and  $17^{\circ} 39'$  North and also between East longitudes  $95^{\circ} 13'$  and  $95^{\circ} 30'$ . The town comprises 21 wards in urban area rectangular shape. The study area has favourable conditions which support economic activities of the study area.



Figure 1. Location of Hinthada Township

Source: General Administrative Department in Hinthada Township

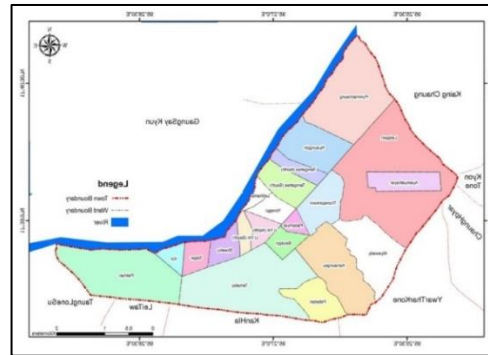


Figure 2. Location of Hinthada Town in Hinthada Township

Source: General Administrative Department in Hinthada Township

## Research Questions

This research questions are:

1. Which types of economic activities are found in Hinthada Town?
2. How do economic activities distribute in the study area?
3. How do they change in the study area?

## Objectives

- To examine types of economic conditions in Hinthada Town
- To explain the spatial distribution of economic activities.
- To analyze changes in economic activities in Hinthada Town.

## Materials and Methods

Primary data were collected from field observation and interviews in the study area between 2014 and 2023. Field observation was thoroughly done to understand spatial distribution of economic activities. Secondary data are obtained the Administrative Offices such as Agriculture Department, Agriculture land management and Statistics Department and Ministry Planning and Finance Department in Hinthada Township. Topographic maps and plates are used for explanation and so on.

## Results and Findings

### Economic activities in Hinthada Town

#### Primary Economic Activities

In Hinthada Town, smaller populations of population engaged in agriculture. Of the 21 wards of the town, 6 wards: Pyin Ma Chaung, Lel Ti Kwin, Shwe Ku, Nyaung Pin, Pa Kham and Tar Ka Lay have farmland for the cultivation of crops.

#### Agriculture of Hinthada Town

##### Cereal Crops

The cereal crops grown in Hinthada Town are paddy and corn.

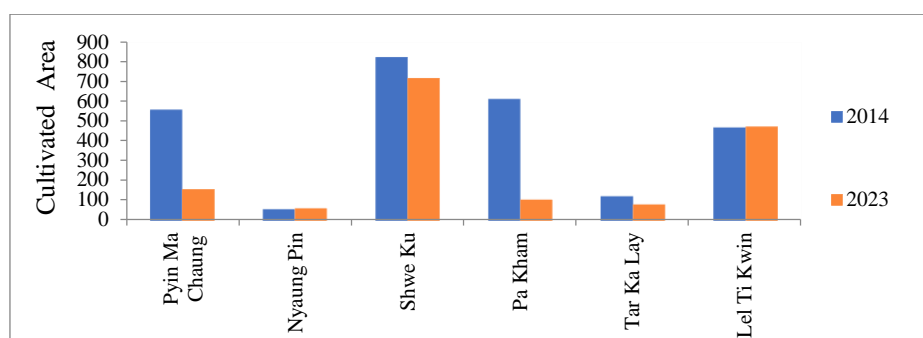


Figure 3. Cultivated Area in Hinthada Town (2014-2023)

Source: Agriculture Land Management and Statistics Department in Hinthada Township

The area occupied by cereal crops in 2014 was 2634 acres. In 2023, area decreased to 2490 acres. The decrease in the town area of cereal crops was not due to climate, but because of the extension of settlement land on Ya land and also of the river bank collapse.

#### Major crops of Hinthada Town

The Hinthada Town, only monsoon paddy is grown in the rainy season. The cultivation of monsoon paddy usually begins in the third of May and harvested in the second week of October. Last 2 decades, the Le land was tilled by drought animal cattle. The nursery bed was raised and replanted by human labor. Agriculture machines were introduced in 2015. In the harvest time, combine harvester was used. The paddy seeds were broadcasted instead of raising in the necessary bed and replanting to reduce labor cost. Farm mechanization takes less time to completes the job and need less labor. By applying chemical fertilizer, the yield and economics return increase.

Corn is grown the Kaingkyun land. Corn seeds are picked off by machine. There are two types of corn harvesting machines, the one is to peed off the cover and another does not need to do it. Nowadays corn is cultivated more extensively because of low cost of production and high yield per unit area. The yield depends on the availability of water. It is an exportable crop and usually it is exported to Thailand, India, China and other.

Oil-seed crops are also grown in Hinthada Town on Kaingkyun land and other. Oil-seed crops in the study area are groundnut and sunflower. Nowadays, chili and corn are given first priority the groundnut. Sunflower is no longer grown in the study area due to low yield and low suitability to this existing soils as well as unfavourable climatic condition.

Pulses were grown on the Kaingkyun land and Ya land in the past. It is grown mostly on Kaing land. Black grown is grown on Le land. Ocean grown, bocate (cow pea), pelunphyu, peluni and other are grown on Kaing land.

Other crops grown in Hinthada Town are chilli, onion, tomato, braingle, cabbage and tobacco. Since 2017, corn and chili have been prioritizing in having land.

### Mineral Production (Gravel and Sand)

Hinthada Town is included in Hinthada Township and Hinthada District, occupying the northern part of Ayeyarwady Region. Hinthada is composed of 21 wards. The extraction of sand and gravel from the river is carried out mostly in the rainy season. Motor-boat is used in sucking out sands and gravels from the river bed and ship is used for transport of sands and gravels. The annual production amount of sands is 120,000 kyins (10' x 10' x 1) and 150,000 kyins of gravels. The current price of sand is ks 14000 per kyin and that of gravel is ks 35,000 per kyin. There are 5 groups lugaging in the extraction of these materials, Aungdana and Myanadi are large in scale of operation using larger machines and greater number of workers. This extraction activity is carried out in the river close to Pakhan Ward.

### Secondary Economic Activities

Hinthada is composed of 21 wards. Secondary economics activities are mainly concentrated in the urban area. Secondary economic activities found of Hinthada Town can be classified as food and beverage industries, workshop industries and miscellaneous industries. Food and beverage industries ranked first in number because it plays important role in daily requirement (Table – 1).

Table 1. Growth of Secondary Economic Activity in Hinthada Town (2014-2023)

No.	Types of Industries	2014	2023
1	Food and Beverage Industries	75	184
2	Clothing and Apparel Industries	30	126
3	Construction Material Industries	20	58
4	Household Goods Industries	12	53
5	Printing and Publishing Industries	10	32
6	Miscellaneous Industries	12	51
Totals		159	504

Source : Ministry Planning and Finance Department in Hinthada Township



Plate 1. Mokehinkhar work



Plate 2. Bread Work

Source: Photo© taken by Zin Mar Tun June ,2019

Food and Beverage Industries are mainly found in Pa Be Dan, Thone Pin Kwin, Tar Ka Lay and Nyaung Pin wards. Clothing and Apparel Industries are found all wards have this

types of industries. Among them Nyaung Pin, Tar Ka Lay, Lel Ti Kwin, Thone Pin Kwin and Mya Wadi have larger number of clothing and apparel industries. Printing and Publishing Industries are found in 8 wards of which Mya Wadi and Let Tha Mar wards have the greatest number. This type of industries has been more improved than in the past (Fig – 4).

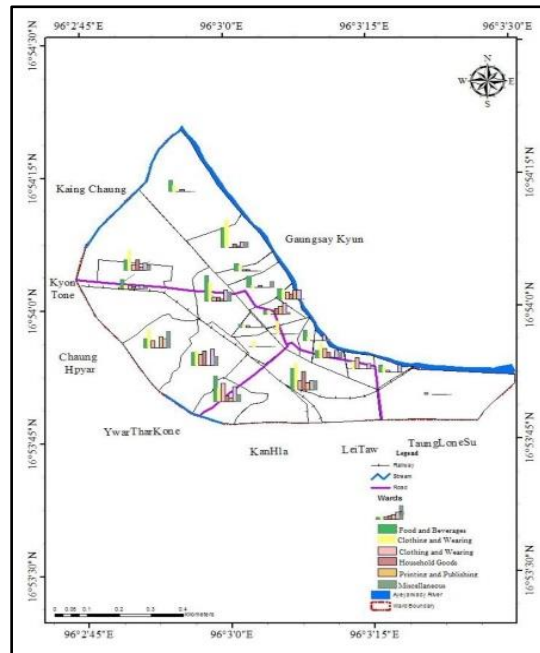


Figure 4. Distributions of Secondary Economic Activities in Hinthada Town

Source : Ministry Planning and Finance Department in Hinthada Township

**Tertiary Economic Activities**

Hinthada is composed of 21 wards. Tertiary economic activities can be differentiated into two types such as retailing and services.

In Hinthada Town, retailing embraces building materials shops, food and beverage shops, wholesale shops, personal shops, textile and garment shops, etc. Personal and professional services contain hotel services, photo studio and photo copying services, beauty parlour and tailor, computer and electronic services, education services, health care services motor vehicles workshops and other services (Fig- 5).

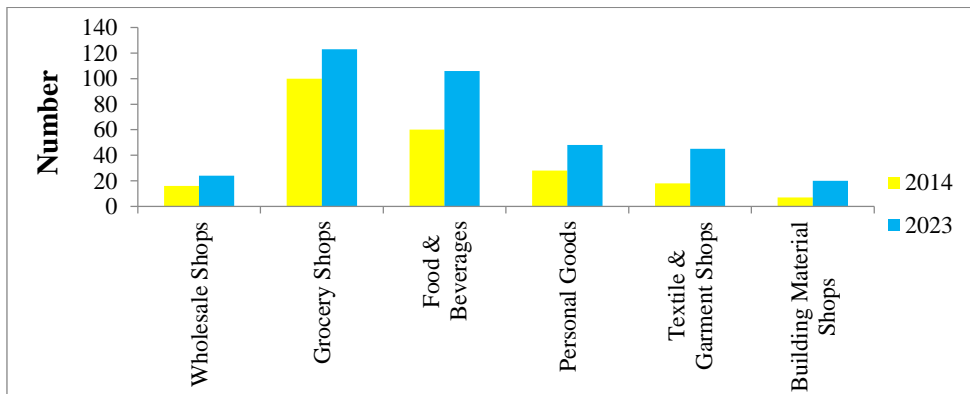


Figure 5. Developments of Retailing and Wholesale Shops in Hinthada Town (2014 and 2023)

Source : Ministry Planning and Finance Department in Hinthada Township

Retailing includes retail and wholesale shops, personal food shops, textile and garment shops, building material shops. Among shops, grocery shops and food and beverage shops are largest in number because of daily essential items.

Service activities include hotel service, photo studio, photo copying, beauty parlor, tailor service, bank service health care service, education services, motor vehicle repair workshop, workshop industries, cinema and sport (Table – 2)

Table 2. Development of Services Activities in Hinthada Town (2014 and 2023)

No	Types	2014	2023
		Number	Number
1	Hotel Service	10	18
2	Photo Studio and Photo Copying	10	21
3	Beauty Palour and Tailor Services	32	70
4	Bank Services	10	12
5	Health Care Services	22	58
6	Education Services	19	32
7	Motor Vehicle Services	9	21
8	Workshop Services	22	75
9	Sport	5	13
Total		139	320

Source: Ministry Planning and Finance Department in Hinthada Township

**Retail and Wholesale Shops**

Retailing include retail and wholesale shops, personal goods shops, textile and garment shops, households and building material shop.



Plate 3. Three Season – Fashion Shop Myotpat Road, Mya Wadi Ward



Plate 4. GIORDANO – Fashion Shop Myit- kwe-kyang Road, Yone Gyi Ward



Plate 5. Phyo- Building Material Shop Nat Maw Road, Pa Be Dan Ward

Source: Photo© taken by Zin Mar Tun June ,2019

Total number of retailing and wholesale shops was 229 in 2014 and 366 in 2023. Grocery shops are greatest in number, followed by food and beverage shops. These shops are found on main roads. The number of wholesale and retail shops are the urban area is high in population concentration of various items. The necessary sale items are required mostly from Yangon ( Plate- 3,4, and 5).

### Market, Bazzars, Mini - marts, Mart and Stores

Hinthada Town is located in Hinthada District and it is part of the Ayeyarwady Delatic Region. Hinthada Town is composed of 21 Wards. Hinthada Town has Are Kar Market, Htay Win Market and Pa Day Thar Market. Zay Gyi has large shops that sell construction materials, household and personal were goods and food and beverages. Htay Win Market occupies grocery shops and meat, fish shops, while Pa Day Thar Market has textile and clothing shops, fresh goods and dry good shops.

In addition, Hinthada Town has roadside sellers, vender and a few home shops. Some wards have stores, mini-marts, mart, and stores. The largest wards have number of morning bazzars, evening bazzars, mini-marts, mart , stores and market (Plate – 6,7 and 8).



Plate 6. Morning Bazaar  
Bu Hpa Yar Road, Ka  
Naung Su Ward



Plate 7. Golden Lion - Mini-  
Mart In Ga Po Road, Thone Pin  
Kwin Ward



Plate 8. Htay Win Market  
Bo Gyoke Road, U Yin  
(North) Ward

Source: Photo© taken by Zin Mar Tun June ,2019

### Services Activities

Services activities may be grouped into nine types such as beauty parlor and tailor services, health care services, education services, hotel services, motor vehicle, workshop services, photo studio & photo copying services, bank services and sports. Total number of services was 139 in 2014 and 320 in 2023 ( Plate – 9 and 10).



Plate 9. Shwe Mie Hotel  
Nat Maw Road, Tarkalay Ward



Plate 10. KBZ Bank  
Nat Maw Road, Kanaungsu Ward

Source: Photo© taken by Zin Mar Tun June ,2019

In Hinthada Town, hotel services is found in 8 wards, photo studio and photo copying services in 6 wards, beauty parlor and tailor services in 15 wards, bank services in 5 wards, health care services in 11 wards, education services in 16 wards, motor vehicle in 9 wards, workshop services in 14 wards and sport services in 7 wards. Workshop, Beauty parlor and Tailor services are greatest in number, followed by Healthcare services. With the increasing population and improvement in living standard. Services activity has increased both in number and quality.

### **Transportation**

Ayeyarwady Region is teeming with river and creek more than other States and Regions. The rivers and creeks were natural barrier for speedy transport of commodities and passengers in the past. Nowadays Bridges have been built for the improvement of socio-economic conditions in the study area. Yangon Highway, Kyan Gyi-Pa Kokku railroad, Hinthada - Nyaung Don railroad and motor roads support growth of economic activities in the area.

New and upgraded roads are constructed and certain parts of the existing road have been upgraded as essential infrastructure to improve economic condition and standard of living. Major paved roads are Hinthada-Pa Thein Road and Hinthada-Yangon Road, Hinthada-Myan Aung-Kyan Gin Road, Hinthada-Myo Kwin-Kwin Gauk-Pa Thein-Monywa Road. Major railroads are Hinthada-Pa Thein-Kyan Gin and Hinthada Nyaung Don Road. The study area is connected by road transport to Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Pa Thein, Pyay and other town on the way. The construction of Bo Myat Tun, Nawa Day bridges after 1990 has enhanced the smooth and speedy transportation as well as development of the area.

Rail transport began since colonial time and Hinthada-Pathein railroad was opened in 1902. At present, Hinthada-Seik Kan railroad is no longer used and the total railroad length is 263.88 km (164.82 miles).

It is navigable down Zalun to Yangon and up to Mandalay and even to Myitkyina to the Ayeyarwady River, to Pa Thein along to the Nga Won River. The use of waterway has been decreasing due to emergence of sandbanks because of river sand extraction and very low water level of the channel in summer.

### **Trade**

There are two types of trade, local trade and trade with other parts of Myanmar. Local trade deals with food stuffs produced from this town. Furthermore, surplus food-stuffs, especially rice, vegetables, betel leaves, fish and pulses (Matpe-black gram) are sold to other townships and foreign marked. A Transport and New Trade Centre emerged in 2010, like Bayinnaung depot.

After the construction of Bo Myat Htun Bridges, the buying selling and carrying of commodities have become mobile trade pattern, reducing the time in transit. Nyaung Don Bridge across the Ayeyarwady River was opened in 2012, including both car-road and rail road. The bridge enhances the smooth and speedy flow of open and commodities from Ayeyarwady Region and to Yangon, Pathein, and Central Myanmar in the study area.



### **Conclusion**

Hinthada Town is included in Hinthada District of Ayeyarwady Region. Population of Hinthada Town increased in the study period and to fulfil the needs of the people live in the area, various economic activities has been increasing.

As primary economic activities, agriculture especially crop cultivation is found in Hinthada Town. The secondary economic activities especially clothing and apparel industries and food and beverage industries are found and tertiary activities include services and trading activities such as town market, general retail shops, wholesale shops, swimming pools, parks, recreation centers and etc.

Spatially, large scale, secondary and tertiary activities situated at the sides of main road. Its shows that transportation roads really have affected on growth and distribution of economic activities in Hinthada Town. Very small scale activities are remarkably concentrated in inner part of the study area and it is found that there are little effects on transportation roads on these small economic activities.

Hinthada-Nyaung Don Rail Road, parallel to Hinthada-Yangon Highway enhances the movement of bulky and heavy commodities. The installations of such infrastructural facilities benefit the trade sector generation more income from the sector.

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