

Economic Opportunities on the Myanmar-India Border

Sagaing Region Profile

Location: northwest side of Myanmar

Shared borders: Sagaing Region shares a long border with India, where it is adjoined to the State of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur. It also shares a boundary with Kachin State, Shan State, Magway Region and Mandalay Region.

Area: 93,527 sq.km (the second largest constituent unit of Myanmar)

Population: 5,325,347 (according to the Myanmar National Population and Housing Census 2014), or 10.3 percent of the total population of Myanmar.

Population density: 56.8 persons per square kilometer, which ranks 9th in state population density in Myanmar. For the population in urban and rural areas, the census results showed that for every 100 persons, 83 persons live in rural areas while 17 persons live in urban areas.

Economy Overview:

Agriculture is the mainstay of the local economy in Sagaing. Although the main common crop is rice, Sagaing is the main producer of wheat. Other crops are sugarcane, sesame, millet, peanuts, pulses, cotton, and tobacco. Sagaing is the local with main rivers for transportation, communication and trade. The region also has some agro-industrial activities such as rice mills, edible oil mills, saw mills, cotton mills, and mechanized weaving factories. In the other hand, natural resources as gold, coal, salt have been extracted and small amounts of petroleum also produced from the region.

Kalewa

Kalewa has a population of 56,432 people. It is a small township situated on the conjunction of major rivers. With 35 village tracts and 3 urban wards, the administration reported 85 percent of population living in rural areas.

Kalewa Port

The port of Kalewa consists of a passenger boat, which is located in the center of Kalewa and a general cargo facility, which is located East at the fork of the Chindwin river and the Myitthar river. There are no jetties or berths, and vessels moor at the river bank.



Figure 1 Kalewa Passenger port (Photo: LCA)

However, Kalewa port is quite busy with transportation of construction material such as cement, iron, corrugated sheets and it functions as a hub between Monywa, Kale, Tamu and Khanti. Kalewa port performance in 2015 was approximately 30 vessels visit per day, average 720 vessels per month. Although the port management is sub-contracted there are no statistics maintained on the volume of cargo and port calls.



Figure 2 Kalewa Cargo port (Photo: LCA)



Figure 3 Kalewa Cargo Port (Photo: LCA)

Kalaymyo

With a population of 348,573 people, Kalaymyo is the principal city in a fertile rural part of Sagaing Division, which is close to Chin State. Most of the population belongs to the Chin ethnicity and Kalaymyo is the gateway to the northern Chin State. The region is far away from commercial influences. There are scarce employment opportunities for the local people. The development of the India-Myanmar Friendship Highway would enable people to travel along the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo route in a matter of hours, compared to the present few days.

Imphal: Capital of Manipur

With a population of 28,55,794 people, Manipur is located in the northeastern corner of India, with the city of Imphal as its capital. Manipur is bordered by the Indian State of Nagaland in the north, Mizoram in the south and Assam in the west. It also shares a border with Myanmar in the east and south. The area is 22,327 sq.km and the population density is 128 per sq.km.

The key industries in the state are tourism, handloom and handicraft, sericulture, food processing, and bamboo processing. According to government statistics, out of the estimated 34,358 manufacturing enterprises, 45.32% of enterprises are engaged in the manufacture of textiles, 38.73% of enterprises are engaged in the manufacture of garments and 4.75% are engaged in the manufacture of wood and cork.

Imphal is the small capital city of Manipur, with a total population of 277,196 people. The key industry in Imphal is tourism. The climate in Imphal is moderate with the landscape of green, blue hills, lush field and low clouds like a beautiful painting.