

## Some Business in *Dyrrachium* During I-III Centuries AD

**Arlind Kasa**

Doctor of Science,  
University "Aleksandër Moisiu" Durres,  
Faculty of Business, Albania

**Erald Shahini**

Master Scientific,  
Abkons Company,  
Tirana, Albania

### Abstract

*In this paper, we will analyze the data that are discovered in archaeological excavations in Dyrrachium, the modern city of Durres in Albania. The archaeological excavations that are made in the last fifty years have discovered interesting information about business in this city during the I-III centuries AD. The city of Dyrrachium was the most important city during the Roman Imperial Period in Albanian territory. It was inhabited by thousand citizens from I century AD to III century AD. In this study, we will analyze the results of excavations that are made in Durres where are discovered ruins of business building in I-III centuries AD. Naturally, it is impossible to identify all business that have existed in I-III centuries AD in Dyrrachium because the scarce archaeological and historical data. This paper will mention and analyze some of business that are found and study today. The majority of the business that are discovered were small of medium activity, only a few were big business.*

**Keywords:** Business, Fullonica, Thermopolium, ceramic manufacture, glass manufacture

### 1. Introduction

In these days, the archaeological studies are more and more focused in economic fields of the ancient society. The researchers are interested to know the economic situation of the ancient human society. For this purpose, our study is focused in economical situation of the inhabitant of the city of *Dyrrachium* during Roman Imperial Period.

This ancient city was one of the most important in the Albanian territory in Antiquity. Also, it was one of the most important at the western coast of the Balkan Peninsula during the Greco-Roman period. *Dyrrachium* was one of the great economical developed towns in Antiquity in Albania. It was one of the causes why stated The Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. Not only that, the city of *Dyrrachium* was the reason why started The Roman-Illyrian War.

The city of *Dyrrachium* during the I-III centuries AD was the most important port in

the east Adriatic coast. Some important roads have connected the city with the other parts of Balkan Peninsula. This city was the starting point of the ancient roman road named “*Via Egnatia*”. The port of Durres was an important connection point for the products that came from Italy to Balkan and vice versa. Also, the geographic position and the good climatic condition have influenced the development of the city in I-III century AD. This is demonstrated from the archaeological finds that are discovered in the excavations in Durres as monuments, ceramics, glass, coins etc.

The city of *Dyrrachium* during I-III centuries AD had about 40-50 thousand inhabitants. Nowadays, the classical study told that the business during the Antiquity was divided only in two categories: the big business and the small business. This study will tell that in Durres was not this classification in I-III centuries AD but they were divided in three categories: larger, middle and small businesses.

## 1.1 Project Objective

In the modern city of Durres are conducted much archaeological excavation during the last four decades by Albanian and by non-Albanian archaeologists. These archaeological excavations have discovered information about businesses that have existed in *Dyrrachium* during the I-III centuries AD. So, the project objectives of this study are:

To start with, we will the mention of the businesses during the Roman Imperial Period that are found in Durres during. We know that it is impossible to identify all the businesses that have existed in *Dyrrachium* because the data are scarce for some types of enterprises during the I-III centuries AD.

Secondly, in this study we will identify which business were large, middle and lower businesses. As we know, this objective is very difficult because anyone today has made such a study in Albania yet.

Thirdly, we will tell what each business has produced during the Roman Imperial Period in *Dyrrachium*. Although, we know that this is very difficult to do this because the historical and the archaeological information that we have today are still not totally complete.

On the other hand, these are the project objectives that we have in this paper. However, we know that these project objectives are not so easy to realized but the archaeological finds can help us in this study.

## 1.2 Research Methodology

In our scientific study, we have used scientific methods. The archaeology study has its methods that the scholar can use for make a scientific study. In this paper, we have used the scientific methods that archaeologists usually use in their study. We will mention all the scientific methods that we have used in this paper.

Firstly, the principal methods are the archaeological excavations. These excavations are made by Albanian archaeologists during the last four decades. In different archaeological excavations, they have found data about Businesses in Durres during the Roman Imperial Period. The archaeological data that we have analyzed are: epigraphic inscription, artifact, ceramic, coins, architectural etc. Consequently, if we want to know and understand the businesses of *Dyrrachium* in I-IV centuries AD, we have to analyze the archaeological data because they are very important.

Secondly, the ancient Greek and Roman authors have writing for *Dyrrachium* in Antiquity. In their books, they have given information for business that had existed in the city during Roman Period. As a result of, this information is very important to complete the archaeological data in those cases where they are not complete.

Also, we have studied the archaeological finds in some Museum in Albania, where they are preserved today. In the first place, we analyzed the data at the Archaeological Museum of Durres. Furthermore, the data at the Archaeological Museum of Tirana and the Historical Museum of Tirana are studied. The archaeological evidence told us much about the businesses in *Dyrrachium* during I-III centuries AD.

Fourthly, the last method that we have used in this paper is the publication study of the other archaeologists. Albanian and foreign archaeologists have published papers and books for *Dyrrachium*. In these scientific publications, they spoken for businesses of Durrës in the I-IV centuries AD but anyone of these scholars have mentioned one or two businesses during the Roman Imperial Period in this town.

All in all, these methods not only are scientific but are the most modern in the world. Today, they are use by all archaeologists in the world. Although, these are not all scientific methods that archaeologist use during their excavations and their studies. In this day, there are more and more archaeological methods for make e scientific study but for this paper we have used the four methods that we have mentioned before because we are conditioned from the archaeological data that are found until today. In the future, the other archaeological data and method will identify more social stratum in *Dyrrachium*.

## 2. Analysis Result

The city of Durres was the most important at the western coast of the Balkan Peninsula during the I-III centuries AD. In this period, the city was under the roman control and it was part of the Roman Empire. It is known by the ancient roman authors that the roman changed the Hellenistic name of Durres from *Epidamnus* to *Dyrrachium* (Mela 2002; Plini the Old 2002; Appianus 2002) because the word *damnus* for the roman brought bad luck. So, from the first century BC, Durres was called *Dyrrachium* by roman during all the Antiquity and Late Antiquity.

The port of *Dyrrachium* increases the importance of the city because here passed

the ancient trade roads that connected Italia with the roman Balkan provinces. The important naval and earthly roads connected the city with other parts of Balkan and Apennine Peninsula (Kasa 2015 page 28-34). So, products and goods came *in Dyrrachium* from Italy to Balkan and vice versa (Kasa 2013 page 118-124). Also, the geographic position and the climatic condition had influenced the development of the city in I-IV centuries AD.

In the I-III centuries AD, the city of *Dyrrachium* had its more economic development. This is demonstrated from the archaeological finds that are discovered in the archaeological excavations in *Dyrrachium* as coin, ceramic, glass production, statue, terra cotta, the amphitheater, roman bath, aqueduct etc. (Kasa 2017 page 125-150). It was a heterogeneity city during Roman Imperial Period (Kasa 2018 page 46-53) and the inhabitants of *Dyrrachium* were Romanize in the I-III centuries AD (Kasa 2014 page 22-31).

This economical development created good conditions to open businesses in the city. So, the entrepreneurs invested their capitals and open some businesses in this period. Data that prove the existence of these businesses in *Dyrrachium* during I-III centuries AD are discovered by the archaeological excavations inside and in the periphery of the modern city of Durres.

The businesses of the roman period that are discovered in Durres were: big, middle and small enterprises. We have to underline that all the businesses ruins of roman age in Durres are discovered only the foundations, with few data about their use. We have identified the big business but it is difficult to identify which were middle or small enterprises because the scarce information. So, the middle and the small businesses in *Dyrrachium* we have classified both as one.

The big businesses in *Dyrrachium* were organized as the roman model of these centuries. These were named *Villa Rustica* and they were aristocracy private property. These businesses were named *Rustica* or *Rusticum* by the ancient Romans because they were located in countryside. It would often comprise separate buildings to accommodate farm laborers and slaves, warehouse and barns for animals and crops etc. The roman *Villa Rustica* in I-III centuries had three differed parts: the *Urbana* or main house building, agricultural center and the *Rusticum* or farm area. The *Rusticum* part was the most important area in this business. In this area here worked the workers and slaves to produced all the products that the owner will sell in the market.

The archaeological excavations had discovered ruins of four *Villa* near *Dyrrachium*. These *Villa* are dated in I-III centuries AD and they are not discovered completely. One *Villa* ruins is discovered about 13 km in the north of Durres, near the modern Erzen river embouchure (Myrto 1986 page 257, Myrto 1989 page 90). This house is discovered partially and the major part of it is sill un-excavated. The archaeological excavation found the foundations of 9 rooms, a corridor and a courtyard. Unfortunately, the data that may help to understand the function of house space were scarce but the researcher

understood from the archaeological context that it was a Roman Villa *Rustica*.

Other two Roman Villa ruins are discovered partially 10 km in the south of the modern city of Durres, near the Kavaja cliff (Myrto 1984 page 143-144). Also, another roman Villa it is discovered 5 km in the east of Durres, today this area is called Shkozet. These three Roman Villa were inhabited from the second century BC to the second century AD. During the first half of the III century AD these fourth Roman Villa *Rustica* in *Dyrrachium* are destroyed. It is not clear what happen and why these agricultural estates are destroyed.

The Villa *Rustica* often was a hub of a large agricultural estate or *Latifundium* The Villa *Rustica* in the I-III centuries AD produced agriculture and livestock products. Around the Roman Villa *Rustica* located a very extensive parcel of privately owned land. In this time, this land was called *Latifundium* or *Latifundia*. This name composed from two Latin words: *Latus* translated it means spacious and *Fundium* translated it means farm or estate. These extensive parcel estates produced agricultural products destined for export as grain, olive oil or wine etc. Also, in Villa *Rustica* could be devoted to livestock for herd breeding sheep, folds, chicken, horses, pig etc. These animals and their animal products were destined for export.

So, the Villa *Rustica* was an agribusiness or a farm in this time. The Villa *Rustica* during the Roman Imperial Period would serve as a residence of the landowner, his family and retainers but also as a farm management centre. They supplied the city with all agriculture and livestock products that the marked need. These big businesses had near of a city, a pavement road and agricultural land. These characteristics were important to move the products in the city market with a pavement road. So, the Villa *Rustica* was the closest approximation to industrialized agriculture in Antiquity. All their economics and work depended upon slavery.

Also, in Durres are discovered middle and small businesses of Roman Imperial Period. The ancient Roman did not have a clear division between middle and small businesses. Roman called both businesses *Tabernae*. It was normal during the Roman Imperial Period to saw inside the defending city wall middle and small businesses in the Forum and in the first floor of the *Insulae*. So, *Tabernae* were "retail unit" within the Roman Empire Period. They were where many economic activities and many service industries were provided, including the sale of cooked food, wine, fish and bread.

The *Tabernae* were workshop or manufacture where were produced and sold the products. In this time, *Dyrrachium* was a major port area in Albania where imported luxury and exotic goods. These luxury and exotic goods were sold to the public. The function of *Tabernae* was a structural building that facilitated the sale of goods in the city. In the Roman Empire were two types of *Tabernae*: those that were found in domestic house and those that were found in public settings.

In *Dyrrachium* are discovered *Tabernae* in their external facade of Domestic houses, which were established in residential multi-storey apartment blocks called *Insulae*. As

the development of urban center of *Dyrrachium*, the Elite of the city continued to develop residential and commercial buildings to accommodate the large masses of people coming in and out of this market center. The *Insulae* in this city were constructed with *Tabernae*, located on the lower levels or first floor of them. In I-III centuries AD, the people who ran the *Tabernae* were called *Tabernari*. They were mainly urban freedman who had a *Tabernae* in his property or they were worked under a patron who is the owned the building and the *Tabernari* rent and used it for his activity.

The second type of *Tabernae* that had existed in the Roman Empire Period were similar to domestic businesses found in *Insulae* because they were in a fixed location within a complex of buildings. However, the difference was that they were located within public markets and forums. During the day, these areas received high amounts of human movement. The second type of *Tabernae* is not discovered in *Dyrrachium* yet. The public roman area in *Dyrrachium*, as market and forum, are un-discovered yet. These areas still are under the modern building of Durres and they are waiting to be discovered in the future archaeological excavations.

In the last forty years are excavated more than 120 sites in Durres. In these archaeological excavations, only in 56 sites belong to I-III centuries AD (Kasa 2017 page 51-67). The numbers of *Tabernae* that are discovered in Durres are 33 and they all are discovered in 7 different archaeological sites inside the city (Kasa 2017 page 51-67). In the Roman Imperial Period it was usually that the building where was the businesses had one or two floor. When they had one floor, it was used as workshop and shop but if the business had two floors, the first floor was used as workshop and shop while the second floor (*Mezzanine*) it used as place where the owner and his family sleep during the night.

So, in the archaeological site number 4 in Durres are discovered parts of four different *Tabernae*. Only in one of these businesses are found data that inform the archaeologists which products were produced here. In this *Tabernae* are discovered formworks used for products pottery. This business was a manufacture where were produced ware to used in cook, transport, house and for deposited products. In the other three *Tabernae* are not discovered data that can inform the researchers what were produced. All the four businesses are dated in II-IV centuries AD (Shehi 2007 page 167-169).

In the site number 7 in Durres are discovered another three *Tabernae* of I-II centuries AD (Shehi 2007 page 173-176). The data that are found told us that the largest of them was a *Thermopolium*. This was an ancient roman business where were produced and sold cooked food and drinks. From this *Thermopolium* are discovered two rooms, the largest room was used as a place where were served food and drink and the small room was a warehouse. In the other two *Tabernae* are not discovered data that could help the archaeologist to identify the types of businesses that they were in Roma Imperial Period.

In the end of second century AD these three businesses were burn. The owners rebuilt the businesses in the end of second century AD. This rebuilt was used by the owners to reorganize the internal space of three burn businesses of I-II centuries AD to created five *Tabernae*. So, the owners had more businesses to use or to rent them. This will give more economical benefit for the owners. The researchers did not found data that will help to understood what types of business activity were used them. These businesses existed until the middle of IV century AD, when the earthquake destroyed all five *Tabernae*.

The archaeological excavation in the site number 9 in Durres has discovered 21 roman *Tabernae* ruins. All the manufactures were discovered in the first floor of four roman residential blocks or *Insulae*. In some case it is discovered the function that businesses had in I-II centuries but in other cases not because the archaeological data were scarce. In this site are discovered a *Thermopolium*, three manufacture where were produced pottery, two manufacture for glass production, one manufacture for small metal products, a bar where were sold drinks, a *tabernae* where washed and strengthened the clothes color and two shops. In the other *Tabernae* are not discovered data which could inform us about their activity during I-III centuries AD.

The ruins of a roman bar are discovered in this site where the people came to drink or bought liquor. This roman bar had two rooms, divided from a wall, the dimensions of largest room was 4.70x3.40 m while the closely room dimensions was 4.70x1.40 m. The largest room has a door, which it is open to the street. This room was used as a place where the persons stayed and drank. The second room was smaller than the first. Inside of this room are discovered a lot of earthenware and a well. The earthenware were used for drank the wine or other liquor of this time. The well was used for cooled the drinks in the hot moment of the day or during the hot period of the year. The bar was active from first century AD to the third century AD, when it was burnt from a fire.

A second Roman *Thermopolium* it is discovered in the site number 9 in *Dyrrachium*. It was placed in the north of the bar that we spoke previously and both were divided from a wall. The archaeological data discovered inside of it, inform that this was a business where sold cereals or cooked food. This business had two rooms, both built in *Opus Incertum technique*. The first room had dimension 4.80x4.90 m and it is open to the road. This room was used as place where the clients ate or bought the trade products. The second room had dimension 1.40x9.20 m and it was a warehouse where the own hold the food or cereals that had to sold. In this room are discovered a lot of clay pots (*Dolium*), which were used during the I-III centuries to store products. Both rooms were connected with a door. This business was destroyed from a fire in the middle of second century AD.

Another business of I-II centuries AD discovered in the site number 9 in *Dyrrachium* was a *Fullonicae*. In this period, a *Fullonicae* was a laundry in the Roman Imperial Period. So, it was a business where the clients brought to wash and clean clothes. In this

business are discovered only five rooms, the other parts are still under the modern building of Durres. This first room was a shop with dimension 5.35x3.70 m. Behind the shop were three rooms, where were washed and cleaned the clothes. The first room has dimension 3.00x3.65 m, inside of this are discovered three clay tubs used for washed and cleaned the clothes. In the middle of the room was a well and in the north and east of it were the three tubs. Behind the second room was the third room and after that the fourth room. In the both are discovered a clay tub used for wash and cleaned clothes. Behind the fourth room was a courtyard, which was used to woven and dried the washed clothes. All the inside wall of these rooms were built in *Opus Mixtum* technique.

In *Fullonicae* worked the *Fullo*, the persons who wash and clean the clothes. Usually, *Fullo* were slaves in roman time. According to Pliny the Elder, the work of *Fullo* was taken very seriously and it was highly reputable profession in Roman Imperial Period. The *Fullonicae* were legally responsible for the clothes they were washing and if they returned the wrong or damaged clothes to the client, the *Fullonicae* were subject to penalties. This business was burnt in the middle of second century AD.

In another *Insulae* of site 9 are discovered seven businesses of the I-III centuries AD. In the north-east corner of this *Insulae* it is discovered a room with dimension 9.60x4.60 m. The foundation of this room was built in the roman technique *Opus Quadatum* but the north wall was built in *Opus Incertum* and the south wall in *Opus Quasi Reticulatum* technique. Inside of this room are discovered a sink, which was used to wash the pots of the shop, and some other parts of ceramics ware. So, this business was a shop where were sold products for house or cosmetics.

In the south of the shop, it is discovered a second business of I-II centuries. This was another *Thermopolium*, the third that is discovered in *Dyrrachium*. The room was 9.60 m long and 4.60 wide. Inside of this room, in the south-east it is discovered a place where were prepared and cooked the food. Near of this place, it is discovered a well with diameter 0.80 m and it was used during the cooked process to take water. In the north-east of the room it is discovered a counter built in brick and mortar, with dimension 1.10x0.30 m, where the clients orders what they want to ate or paid the orders.

In the south of *Thermopolium*, it discovered the ruins of a roman *Tabernae* of I-II centuries AD. This business it is discovered uncompleted because other parts are still under the modern road and building of Durres. The excavation found part of two rooms, both wall built in the roman technique *Opus Incertum*. The first room was wide 4.50 m and long 9.60 m. This room was opened to the street and it was a shop where were sold the products. Behind the shop are discovered partially a manufacture where were produced the small metal products for house as keys, keyhole, small metal kitchenware, candle holder etc. that were sold in the shop. The second room was a manufacture where were produced these small metal products for house because some of these are discovered unfinished yet. Both rooms are connected with each other through a wooden gate, which had a square brick and mortar colon in each side.



A roman business of I-III centuries AD was a room in the south of the metal manufacture that we just described. This room is not discovered completely because it continues under the modern road and building of Durrës. Inside of this room are discovered cesspool and sewerage, built in brick and mortar. So, this room was a *Latrina* of I-II centuries AD and it was a private property. If the inhabitants wanted to use this WC, they would pay for this service.

A *Tabernae* of I-II centuries AD it is identified in a roman *Insulae* of *Dyrachium*. This *Tabernae* had three parts: a workshop or manufacture, a shop and a courtyard. The shop was opened to the road with dimension 2.60x4.70 m. Inside of this room are discovered the ruins of a furnace, it was built with brick and clay, where were produced pots, brick or tiles. This room was connected with the other two parts of this *Tabernae*. In front of the workshop, it was the shop where were sold the products of this business. The shop was long 5.50 m and wide 4.00 m. The courtyard was long 4.90 m and wide 10.60 m. It is not completely clear the function of this courtyard in this *Tabernae*. This business was burnt in the end of II century AD and in the beginning of III century AD on the ruins of this *Tabernae* it was built a structure with unclear function.

In the east of the business that we just mentioned are discovered the ruins of a fourth *Thermopolium* in *Dyrachium*. This roman business had two rooms. The first room, with plan as L roman letter, it was opened to the road. In this room it is discovered a counter long 1.30 m, wide 0.25 m and high 1.05 m, where the clients paid or order for the food that they want to ate. So, this room was the space where the clients stay and ate in the *Thermopolium*. This room connected with a door 1.75 m wide to the second room of this business. It is not clear the function of this room because the archaeological data that are discovered inside were scarce. Maybe, it was the place where the owner keeps the food and drinks. This business was built in the middle of I century AD but in the middle of II century AD it burnt from a fire. This business was rebuilt in immediately and it was an active *Thermopolium* until the middle of IV century AD where a earthquake destroyed it.

The ruins of other five shops of I-II centuries AD are discovered in the site number 9. Unfortunately, inside of them are not found any information about the products that are sold in the Roman Imperial Period. All the shop are bunt and destroyed from a fire in the end of II century AD and the owners rebuilt them but not as business but as room of houses of III-IV centuries AD. Probably, in these centuries the conditions of business were not so good and the owner decided to use the rebuilt private building not as business but as house rooms.

Two businesses of I-II centuries AD where were produced glass are discovered in this archaeological site. Both are in the same *Insulae* and only the ruins are preserved. In the west side of the *Insulae*, was the smallest business. It had a single room large 8.00 m and wide 4.60 m. Inside of this room are discovered two brick pool and a furnace, which were used to produced the glass. The largest business was in the east side of the *Insulae*

and had many rooms but they were not preserved completely. This business had a U plan, where the rooms in the south side were shops and the room behind these shops was the place where was produced the glass. The pieces of unfinished glass inform that these glass business of Roman Imperial Period in Durres produced glass, cup, plates, bowl, server, bottle, window pane etc. Both of these businesses were built in I century AD and they were burnt from a fire in the second half of II century AD.

In Durres the archaeological excavation discovered in the site 12 a roman *Tabernae* where produced pottery. The excavation found three rooms ruin but only in one of these the researcher discovered an oven large 3.00, wide 3.00 and high 1.00 m. This oven was built with bricks and clay. It was used for baked the ceramics ware because on it were discovered unfinished clay ware, bricks and tiles (Shehi 2007 page 173-174). The upper part of the oven was found destroyed. This business was built in the III-II centuries BC and it was burnt from a fire in the first century AD, maybe by carelessness of a worker, and it was never rebuilt.

Data for a roman business it is discovered in the site 15 in Durres. In a mosaic of I-III centuries AD in a *Tabernae* it is discovered an inscription in Latin word where was written: OFF (CINAE) PONT (I) HER (MERACLEIUS (Zeqo 1988 page 258-260). So, the inscription tells us about a workshop and its owner named *Ponti Hermeracleius* but not what were produced in it. This was a early form of marketing and brand promotion during the Roman Imperial Period because the inscription was placed in a public place where all the persons that are going to enter in this business will see it.

The site 55 it is the last in *Dyrrachium* where it is discovered a damaged *Tabernae* of II-IV centuries AD. From this roman business are discovered only the some part of foundations of two rooms. Inside of one of this business are found negative ingot for ware productions. These told the researcher that it was a Workshop where were produced ceramics (Toçi 1974 page 382). These ingots were used to produce ware for house as plate, cup, bowl, lamp etc. In IV century AD, the workshop it is burnt from a fire and it never rebuilt.

In finished, the *Tabernae* have revolutionized the *Dyrrachium* economy in the I-III centuries AD because they were the first permanent retail structures within cities. They had signified persistent growth and expansion in the city economy in this period. These middle and small businesses provided places in *Dyrrachium* for a variety of agricultural and manufacture products to be sold, like wheat, bread, wine, jewelry and other items. The *Tabernae* were also the structures where grain would be sold to the public. Moreover, *Tabernae* were used in roman time as lucrative measures to gain upward social mobility for the freedmen class in *Dyrrachium*. The occupation of a merchant and a producer were not highly regarded in *Dyrrachium* economy. It still pervaded the freedman class as means to establish the financial stability and some influence in local government of the city.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The archaeological data discovered in excavations in Durres inform us that in this town existed and worked businesses during I-III centuries AD. These businesses were inside or in periphery of the city. The information that we have, tell that in *Dyrrachium* during the Roman Imperial Period were private businesses, with one or more owners.

Firstly, we will analyze the larger or bigger businesses of this time. These businesses had been private property of the high class or aristocracy. In the Roman Imperial Period the aristocracy businesses were named Villa Rustica. Usually, they were in the periphery of the city where the aristocracy had their properties. Some archaeological excavations near Durres have discovered the ruins of four Roman Villa. The Villa Rustica produced in these centuries agricultural and livestock products. So, the upper businesses were like modern farm. Also, large businesses in I-III centuries AD in *Dyrrachium* were the constructor industry. The aristocracy had capital to built building in the city where the inhabitants that did not lived inside the city could rent a house.

Secondly, the archaeological excavations discovered some middle and small businesses or manufacture during I-III centuries AD in Durres. The identification which was part of middle or small businesses in *Dyrrachium* it is difficult because the data are scarce. So, we have included these two categories in one group. We have named this group *Tabernae*, just like the ancient name which roman named these types of businesses. These were private enterprises inside the defensive wall of the city. The archaeological excavations discovered the ruins of some of these *Tabernae* as: Thermopolium, Fullonica, shops, bar, manufacture that worked and produced glass, pottery and metals.

In the other hand, these were the businesses that are discovered in Durres in the Roman Imperial Period. Other runis of ancient businesses are undiscovered and they still are under the modern city that are waiting to discovered by the future archaeologists.

### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the archaeological excavations in *Dyrrachium* prove that in I-III centuries was a development town. This city was a consumer city and his markets had to supply with products and goods every day. These market requests were fulfilled by imports and local productions. The local productions of the city were divided in three types of businesses: the big, middle and small. The big businesses, as *Villa Rustica* and the constructor industry, were property of the aristocracy of *Dyrrachium*. The middle and the small businesses, named *Tabernae*, were craft and trade enterprise in possession of the middle class of *Dyrrachium*. Usually, the businesses which were in possession of the aristocracy located outside of the city because there were in the property of the owner/s but the middle and the small businesses were inside of the city. So, Durres in I-

III centuries AD had good conditions for who want to open a business. This can explained the number of the businesses that were active during the Roman Imperial Period.

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