

Market Price Report

The MAU tracks market prices in Central and Northern Rakhine State and Chin State. Data are collected from three vendors per product per market in the last week of each month. Data and product specifications are available online through the MPR dashboard at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Rice prices increased by 6-12% in most markets** in April, although pulses and palm oil prices were stable;
- **Palm oil prices were just 17% above April 2022**, after eight months of fairly calm oil markets;
- **Vegetable prices rose for a second straight month** following a seasonal pattern for this time of year;
- **Prices for hygiene products were again stable**, remaining 40-70% above April 2022 levels;
- **Meat/fish prices increased significantly in April**, registering their largest increases in five months;
- **Kyauktaw, Rathedaung and Minbya saw steep hikes** in April, while Paletwa and Pauktaw prices were stable;
- **Further price increases are likely in May**—particularly for essential foods but perhaps also NFIs—as cyclone preparation absorbs existing inventory.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Rice prices increased widely in April, although prices for pulses and palm oil were fairly stable. Rice prices increased by 6-12% in half of all markets monitored in April, although higher rice prices after the Thingyan holiday are not unusual. Prices for palm oil and pulses were stable in most cases, although they fluctuated by 10-20% in isolated cases.

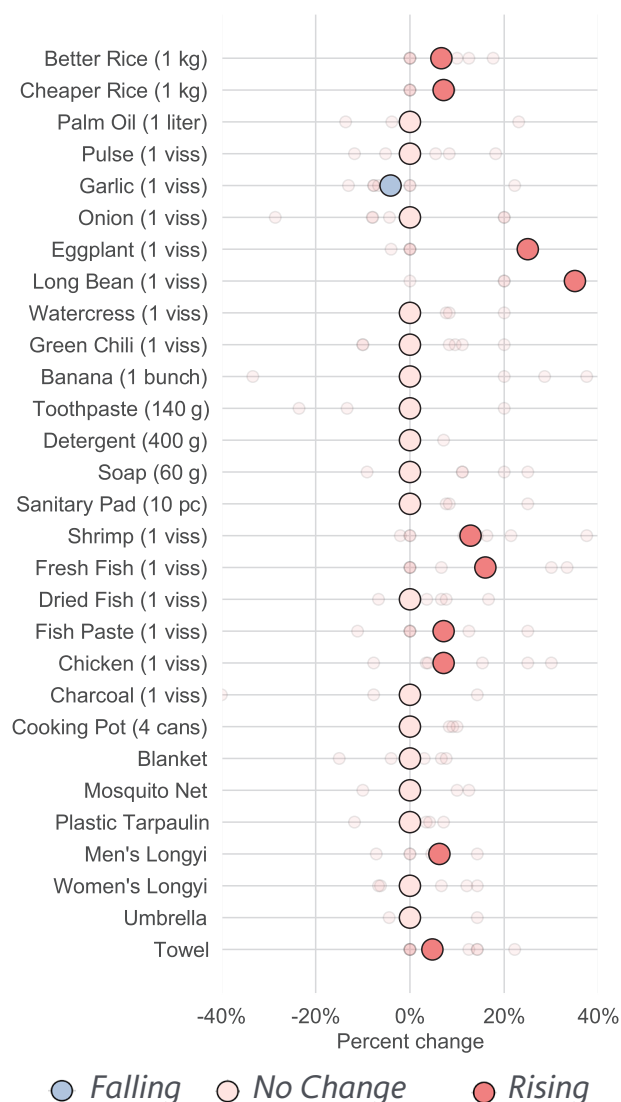
Vegetables – Vegetable prices increased for a second straight month in April. Eggplant and long bean prices rose widely, often up 40% or more. Townships were evenly split between stable and rising prices for most other vegetables monitored (often rising in the range of 10-20%); lower prices were rare. Only garlic saw falling prices, down 4-13% in a few cases.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were very stable in April, except in Kyauktaw where prices rose. Soap prices increased by 11-25% in multiple markets, but price shifts were otherwise fairly isolated for hygiene products. The only falling prices were toothpaste prices in two markets

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices rose in April, marking their clearest increase since November 2022. Chicken and fish paste prices rose at least 7% in most markets monitored in April, while fresh fish and shrimp prices rose at least 13%. Dried fish prices were more stable, although they too rose 4-8% in some cases. Only Paletwa and Pautaw saw occasionally-lower prices.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable or rising in April, with most price increase in the range of 5-14%. Prices for towels and longyis increased at least 5% in most markets, while plastic tarps, blankets and cooking pots rose 3-7% in a few markets. Isolated stockouts affected umbrellas and mosquito nets, but most other NFI prices were stable.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

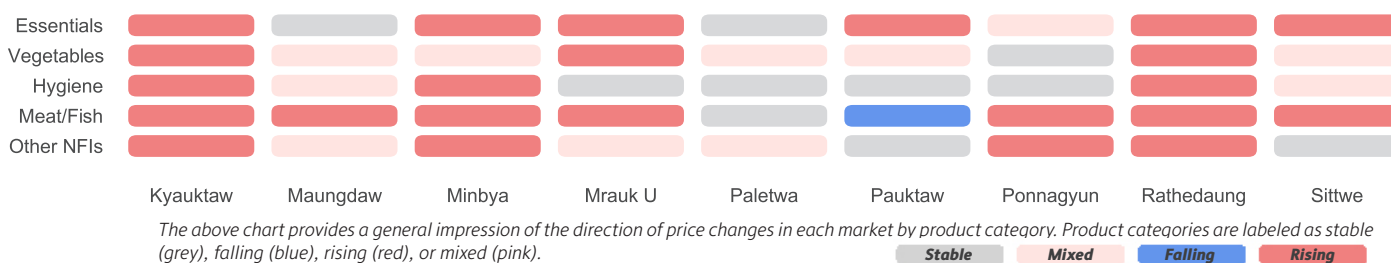
There was clear township-level price variation in April, with the deepest and widest price increases in Kyauktaw, Rathedaung and Minbya Townships. Half of all prices monitored increased by at least 8% in Kyauktaw and Rathedaung Townships, and in these markets one-quarter of all prices rose by 26% and 18%, respectively. Maungdaw, Mrauk U, Ponnagyun and Sittwe also saw one-quarter of all prices increase at least 6-11%. Pauktaw and Paletwa stood out in April for strong price stability, with at least two-thirds of all prices unchanged; just one-in-seven products saw rising prices in these townships in April.

Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township (One Month)



The above chart provides a general impression of the frequency of rising/falling prices in each market. Horizontal bands represent the density of products at a given percent-change. Red indicates rising prices, blue indicates falling prices.

Chart 3. Direction of Price Change, by Township and Product Category (One Month)



The above chart provides a general impression of the direction of price changes in each market by product category. Product categories are labeled as stable (grey), falling (blue), rising (red), or mixed (pink).

Twelve-Month Price Changes¹

Essential Foods – Recent rice price increases were more or less on track with last year. The median twelve-month price increase held steady for better rice (+55%) and cheaper rice (+87%). As in March, calmer markets for palm oil (+17%) brought prices closer to April 2022 levels. Prices for pulses remained 60% higher.

Vegetables – Although vegetable prices climbed in April, they rose a little slower than last year. Rising prices for eggplant (+0%) and long bean (-12%) brought these products more or less in line with April 2022. However, prices for garlic (+62%), watercress (+27%) and green chili (+140%) remained far higher.

Hygiene Products – Market stability for hygiene products again kept prices 40-70% above last year. Prices in April remained considerably higher for toothpaste (+39%), detergent (+50%), soap (+76%) and sanitary pads (+71%).

Meat and Fish – Stable meat/fish prices in April kept prices 25-65% above last year. The median twelve-month increase for some meat/fish prices narrowed slightly in April, yet it remained large for chicken (+65%), dried fish (+62%), fresh fish (+36%) and fish paste

(+25%). Prices for shrimp (+16%) remained only marginally higher than April 2022 levels.

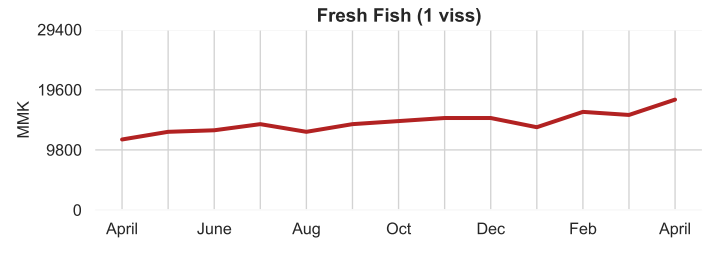
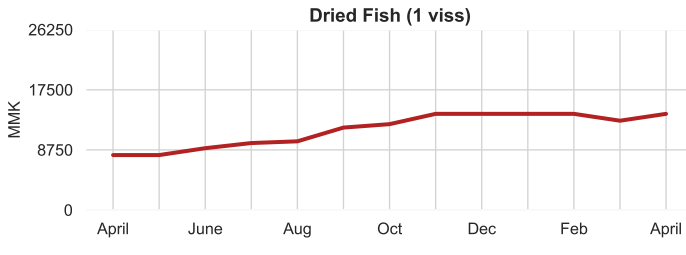
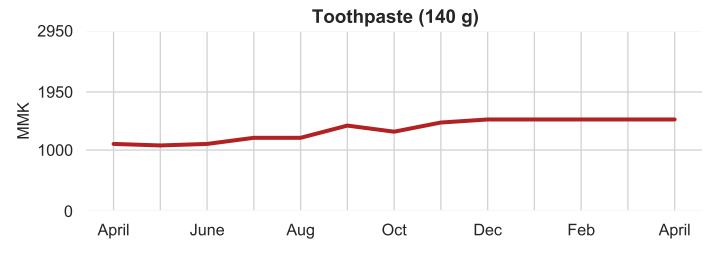
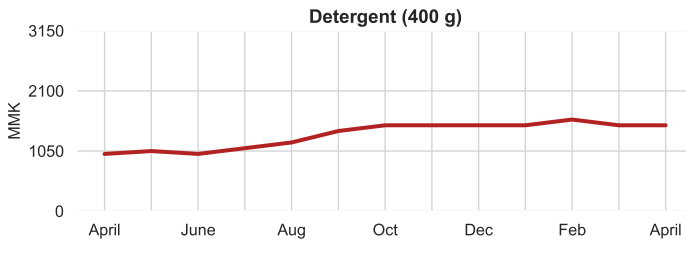
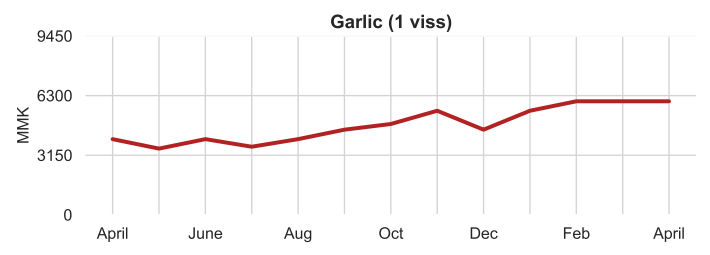
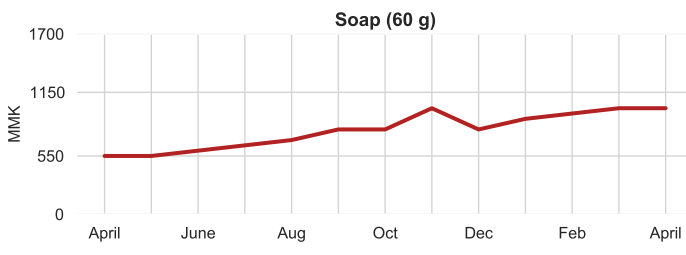
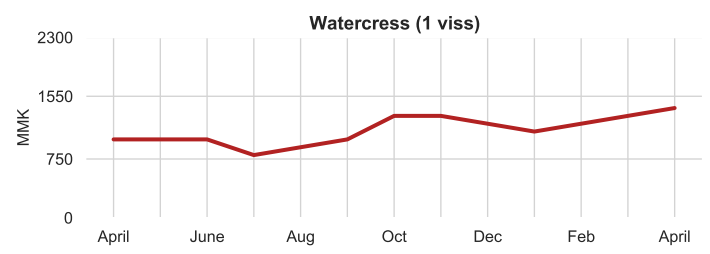
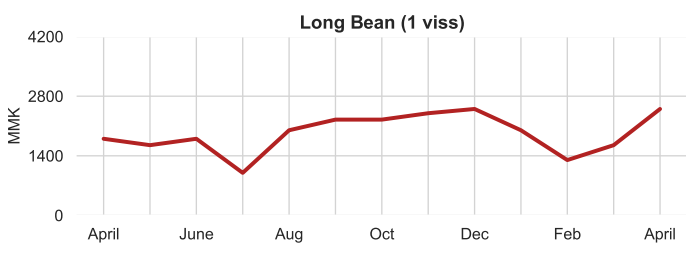
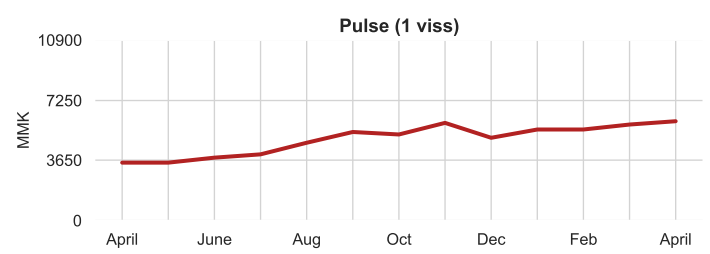
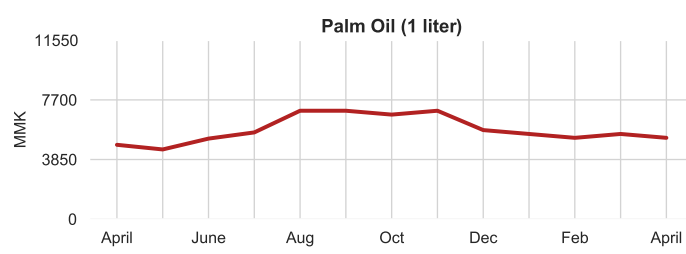
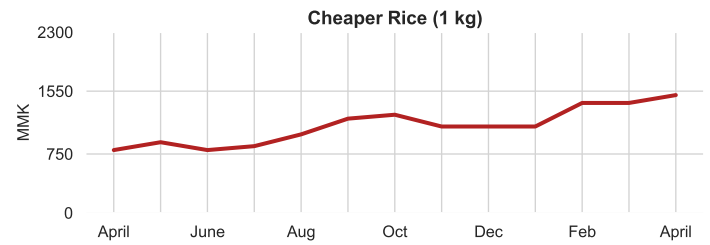
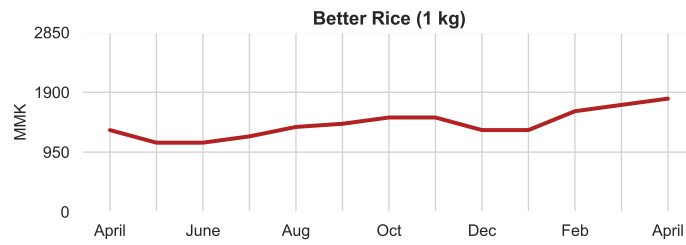
Other NFIs – NFI prices—which continued to rise slower this year than last—drifted still closer to 2022 levels. Most NFI prices remained higher than April 2022 levels, but the gap narrowed by 2-8 percentage points for all NFIs monitored. Prices nonetheless remained significantly higher than last year for blankets (+39%), towels (+56%), plastic tarps (+26%), cooking pots (30%), charcoal (+11%), and mosquito nets (+13%).

What to Watch

- Further price increases are likely in May—particularly for **essential foods** but perhaps also **NFIs**—as cyclone preparation absorbs existing inventory;
- Prices for **vegetables** will likely continue to rise in May preceeding the arrival of monsoon-season supply;
- Among markets, **Pauktaw** and **Paletwa** are most likely to see higher prices in May, as April's increases did not yet register in these markets.

¹ Twelve-month price changes are based on three-month rolling averages. This is meant to smooth monthly price fluctuations and help capture trends.

Charts 3-14. Median Township Price, Selected Products (Thirteen Months)



Prices for April 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,000	1,700	1,800	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,800	2,200	2,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,800	1,600	1,400	1,300	1,500	1,300	1,400	1,700	1,500
Palm Oil (1 liter)	8,000	5,000	4,750	-	6,000	7,500	5,000	5,500	5,000
Pulse (1 viss)	6,000	6,000	5,800	6,500	6,000	5,500	5,500	5,000	6,500
Garlic (1 viss)	7,000	6,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	4,500	6,000	5,500	6,500
Onion (1 viss)	6,200	2,400	2,200	3,000	2,500	3,500	2,000	2,500	2,300
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,400	2,800	1,000	1,000	1,750	2,000	1,200	2,500	1,600
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,800	3,000	2,500	1,200	-	2,000	-	3,000	1,800
Watercress (1 viss)	1,400	1,000	1,500	1,200	2,000	3,000	1,300	1,300	1,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	8,000	6,000	5,000	4,500	4,500	6,500	3,500	6,000	3,600
Banana (1 bunch)	1,100	1,000	-	900	300	1,300	1,500	1,200	1,200
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,300	1,300	1,800	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,300
Detergent (400 g)	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,700	1,700
Soap (60 g)	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,000	900	1,000	1,000	1,200
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,000	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,300	1,300
Shrimp (1 viss)	11,000	10,500	8,000	6,000	-	8,500	8,500	8,725	7,800
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	13,000	28,000	18,000	14,500	20,000	13,000	35,000	25,000	16,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	14,500	11,000	13,000	16,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,600	7,500	5,000	2,500	4,000	2,000	4,500	7,000	10,000
Chicken (1 viss)	15,000	15,000	13,000	13,500	-	12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	800	1,000	600	500	-	1,400	1,000	600	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,000	4,000	5,500	6,500	6,000	4,000	6,000	5,000	5,500
Blanket	4,000	8,000	8,500	12,000	8,000	5,500	12,000	7,000	8,500
Mosquito Net	6,500	-	-	4,500	4,500	7,000	4,500	5,500	5,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	6,000	6,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	4,800	7,500	7,500	7,800
Men's Longyi	6,800	6,500	7,500	7,500	8,000	7,500	7,500	8,000	8,500
Women's Longyi	6,500	6,500	8,000	7,500	8,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	8,500
Umbrella	6,500	-	-	6,500	-	7,000	8,000	5,500	8,000
Towel	3,500	2,200	2,500	4,500	4,000	4,500	5,500	4,000	3,000

*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

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).

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