

RAKHINE STATE (AUGUST 2022)

MARKET PRICE REPORT

Market Analysis Unit (MAU)

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.

- Price increases in August were among the deepest and widest seen in the past twelve months;
- Rising transportation costs and weak vegetable supply drove up food prices across markets;
- Palm oil, rice and pulses were often up 20%, with oil notching its largest increase in one year;
- Prices for hygiene and other NFIs continued to rise, due to higher transport costs and wholesale prices;
- All markets saw price hikes in August, but price increases were sharpest in Sittwe and Minbya.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose steeply across markets in August, often driven by rising transport costs. Rice, palm oil and pulses all saw median price increases of about 20% in August. Price hikes for rice and palm oil were largest in Maungdaw and Minbya. August saw the largest one-month price increase for palm oil in the region in the past two years.

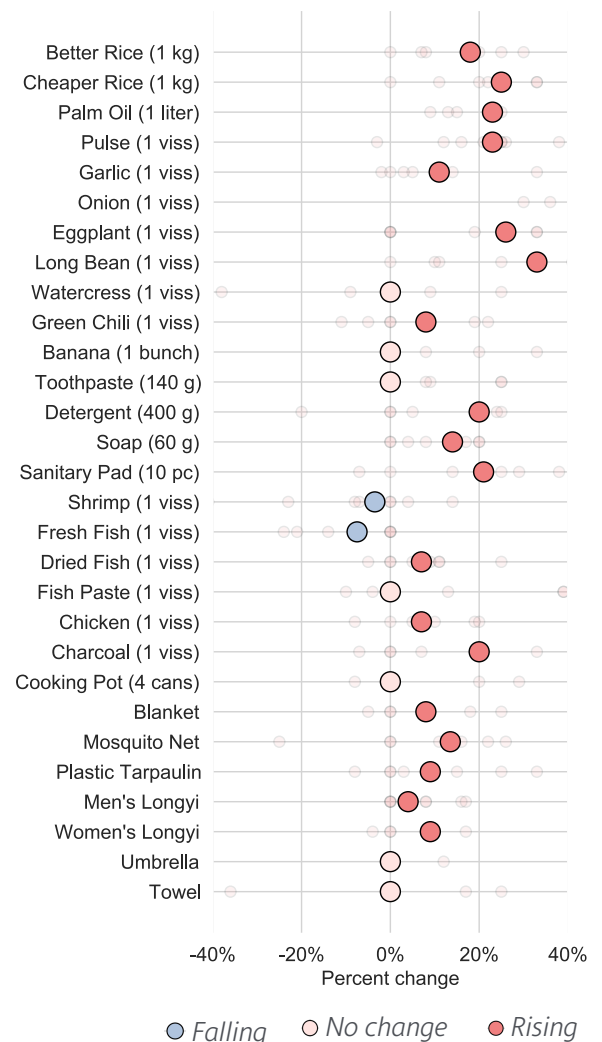
Vegetables – Weak supply drove vegetable prices up in August putting an end to relief offered by July's price dips. Onion and long bean prices rose sharply across markets in August, while garlic, eggplant and green chili saw a mix of stable or rising prices. Only watercress and banana were stable.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable or rising in August, with price spikes in Sittwe and Minbya. Detergent, soap and sanitary pads all saw median price increases of about 20% in August. Half of all markets monitored saw higher toothpaste prices (the rest were stable). Increases for hygiene products were felt most in Minbya and Sittwe and least in Kauktaw and Pauktaw.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices continued to fluctuate in August but were more stable than other product categories. Chicken and dried fish saw a median price increase of 7-9% in August, while shrimp and fresh fish saw a median decrease of 7%. Fish paste prices were stable or rising in August.

Other NFIs – NFI prices rose in August, buffeted by higher wholesaler prices and transportation disruptions. Plastic tarps

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

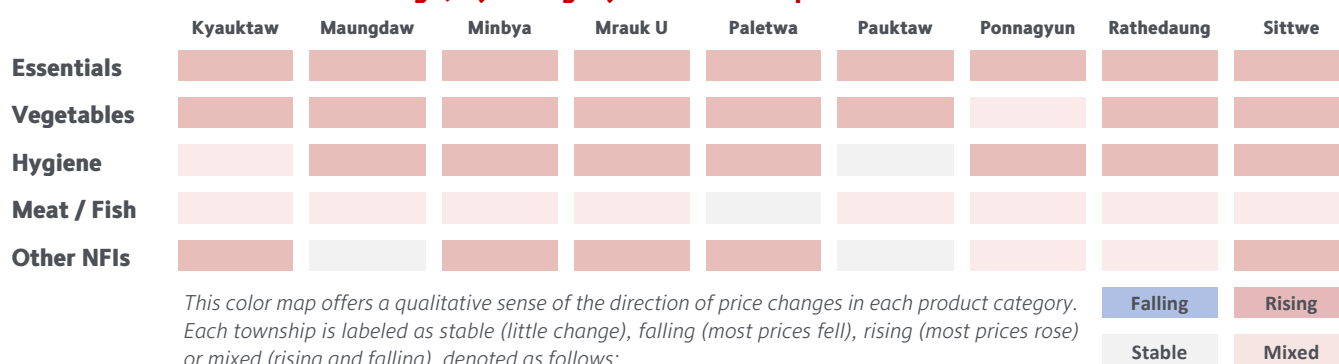


blankets, mosquito nets and longyis saw median price increases of 4-14%, while charcoal prices often rose by 20% or more. Prices were generally stable for cooking pots, umbrellas and towels.

Township-Level Price Changes

All markets monitored saw higher prices in August—often due to higher cost of goods and transportation. All townships saw a similar trend in August: steep price increases for rice, oil and vegetables, combined with smaller but significant increases for NFIs and a mixed picture for meat and fish. The main difference among townships was the magnitude of the price increases. Price hikes were widespread in Sittwe, and they were both deep and wide in Minbya. Prices increases in Pauktaw were less severe than elsewhere. In Maungdaw and Paletwa, road closures throttled supply and drove up prices for goods like rice, dried fish, charcoal and even vegetables (often sourced from other townships). Many retailers blamed higher prices on transport costs and currency fluctuation.

Chart 2. Direction of Price Change, by Category and Township



Twelve-Month Price Changes¹

Essential Foods – The gap between 2021 and 2022 prices for essential foods widened further in August. The median twelve-month increase for high- and low-quality rice increased eight percentage points to 23%, and pulses reached 50%. Palm oil prices were double August 2021 levels (Charts 3-14).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices in August pushed further above 2021 levels. The median twelve-month price increase for garlic, eggplant, and watercress was 11-19% (it was 12% in July), although long bean prices were similar to last year. In most markets, green chili prices were double 2021 levels.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products pressed further above 2021 levels in August. The median twelve-month increase remained 49% for detergent, but the gap reached 78% for soap. The median increase for sanitary pads and toothpaste increased from 14-21% in July to 27-29% in August.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices remained somewhat above 2021 levels in August. The median twelve-month increase for fresh fish and chicken rose from 10% in July to 14-15% in August, while the median increase was largely unchanged for shrimp (47%) and dried fish (37%).

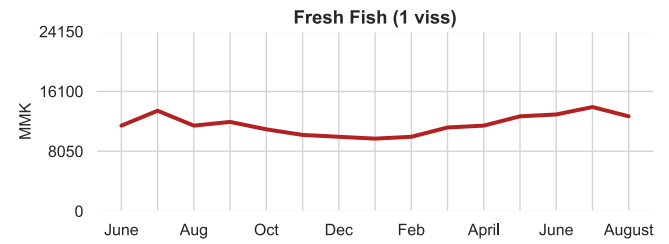
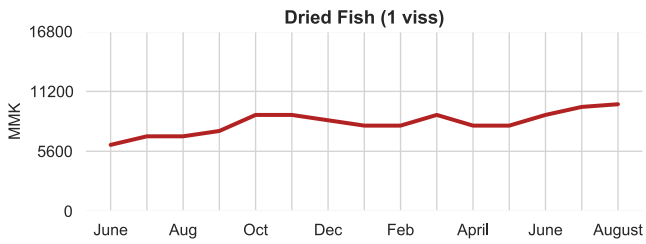
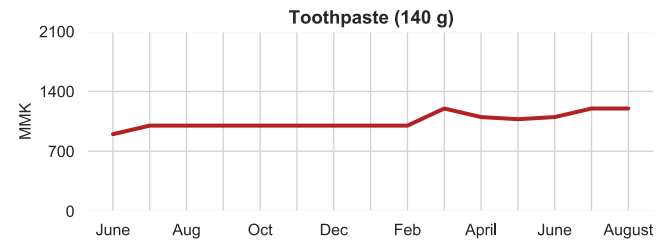
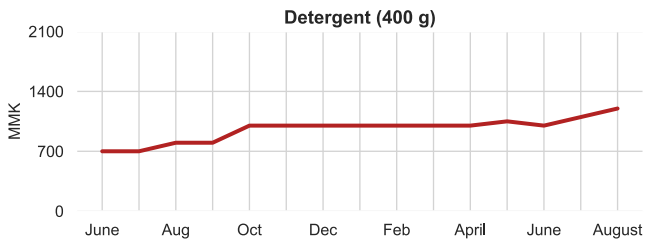
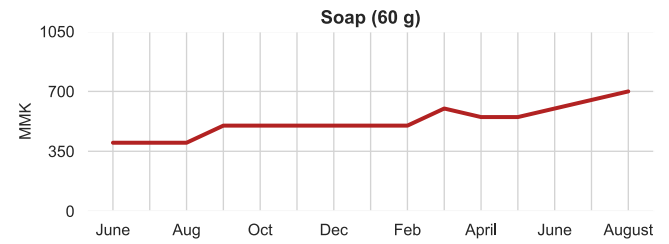
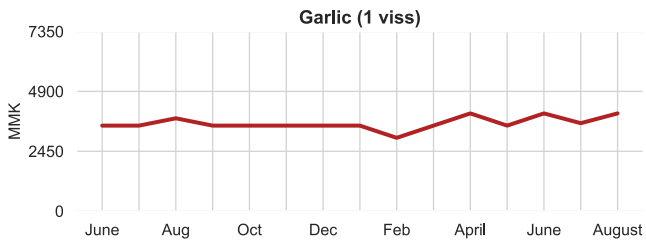
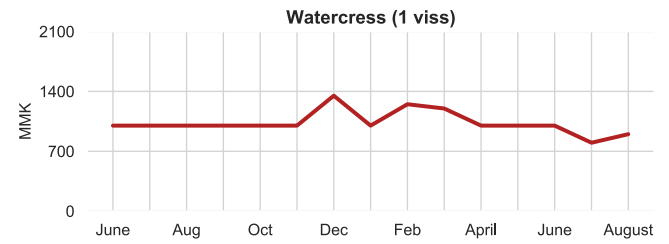
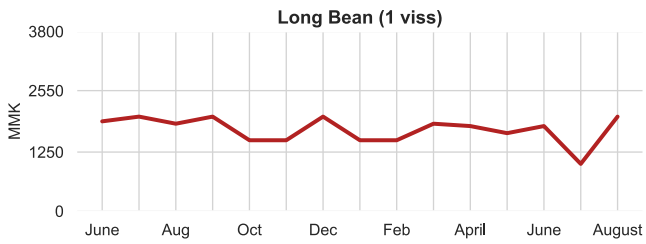
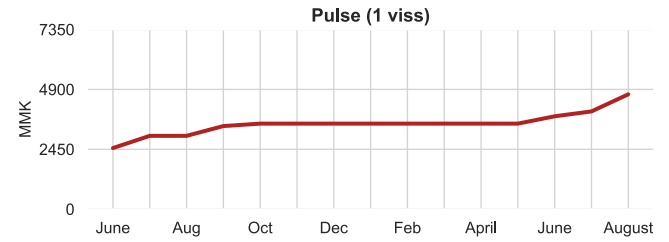
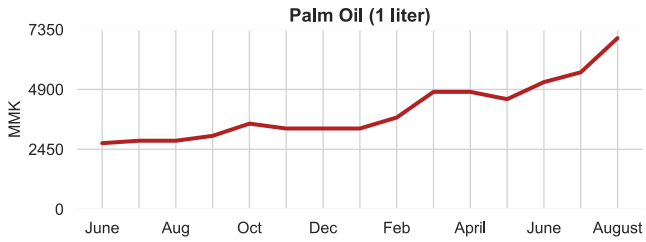
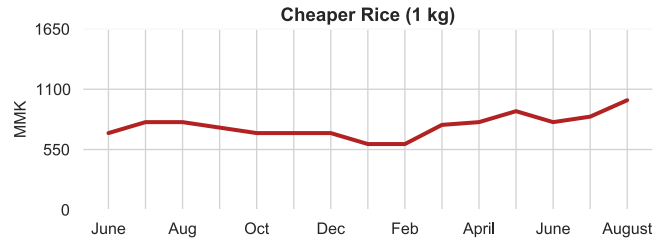
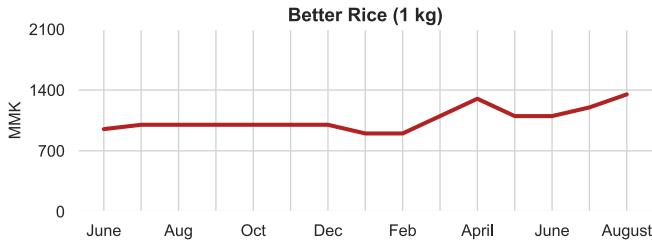
Other NFIs – NFI prices remained well above August 2021 levels. Prices for most NFIs were 30-50% above levels observed in August 2021.

What to Watch

- **Vegetable** prices may pull back in September as local supply fluctuates, but perhaps not in Maungdaw and Paletwa if road closures persist;
- **NFIs** prices may be in for an extended climb if fuel and currency concerns continue;
- Relentless price hikes for **essential foods** may portend a rise in negative coping behaviors.

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 (Twelve Months)



Prices for August 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,400	1,500	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,200	1,300	1,500	1,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,100	1,200	1,000	1,000	850	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200
Palm Oil (1 liter)	7,000	9,000	7,000	-	6,000	6,300	6,750	-	7,000
Pulse (1 viss)	3,700	4,350	5,000	4,600	-	5,000	4,500	5,500	4,800
Garlic (1 viss)	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	5,250	3,500	4,000	4,500	5,000
Onion (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,200	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,200
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,500	1,400	2,000	-	2,700	1,200	2,850	2,000	2,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,200	2,800	2,200	2,000	2,000	1,100	2,500	2,000	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	600	1,000	1,000	750	-	2,000	1,000	800	800
Green Chili (1 viss)	9,500	7,000	4,750	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,250	5,500	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	650	-	400	800	500	800	900	1,200	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,200	1,000	1,500	1,200	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,500
Detergent (400 g)	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,200	1,500	1,400	1,150	1,700	1,200
Soap (60 g)	800	600	1,200	700	600	700	700	700	600
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	700	900	1,000	850	1,000	800	900	1,000	850
Shrimp (1 viss)	6,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	-	7,000	10,000	7,500	7,800
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	11,000	17,500	12,000	12,500	-	10,000	13,000	15,000	13,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,500	10,000	12,000	10,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,500	6,750	1,800	2,000	4,000	2,000	4,250	6,250	7,000
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	11,000	9,500	11,000	-	10,000	9,750	12,000	12,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	750	1,000	1,000	500	750	1,200	700	800	850
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,000	4,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	3,500	6,000	4,500	4,500
Blanket	3,500	6,500	6,250	10,000	-	7,000	-	6,500	6,500
Mosquito Net	6,500	5,000	5,000	3,500	-	5,500	6,000	4,500	3,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,200	5,600	4,800	8,000	9,000	4,000	-	6,000	6,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,250	6,000	6,250	7,000	6,500
Women's Longyi	5,500	6,000	7,500	7,000	6,000	6,000	6,250	7,000	6,000
Umbrella	6,750	6,000	5,500	6,250	-	6,500	6,000	5,500	5,500
Towel	3,500	1,600	2,500	3,500	3,500	2,500	3,250	3,500	2,500

*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

Market Analysis Unit (MAU)

The Market Analysis Unit provides development practitioners, policymakers and private sector actors in Myanmar with data and analysis to better understand the impacts of Covid-19, 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 service).

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