

# 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](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Food prices rose notably in August**, led by palm oil, vegetables, and meat/fish;
- **Palm oil prices rose at least 11% in most markets**, marking their largest single-month increase in one year;
- **Meat/fish and vegetable prices rose across markets** in August, although rice and pulses were relatively stable;
- **Nearly all markets saw an upward price trend** except Sittwe which a number of price reductions;
- **Kyauktaw saw the broadest and deepest price hikes**, reversing July's price reductions there;
- **Rising food prices climbed slower than last year**, while moderate NFI price increases kept pace with last year;
- **Food prices must be watched closely in September**—particularly for vegetables and palm oil—as fuel costs rise and supply changes with shifting growing seasons.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Palm oil prices rose again August, notching their largest increase in one year.** Palm oil prices rose for a second straight month in August, and they saw their steepest single-month increase in one year. Palm oil prices rose at least 11% in half of all markets monitored. Prices for rice rose 4-6% in some markets but held steady elsewhere. Prices for pulses were stable.

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices rose sharply across markets in August following July's dip, although in Sittwe prices drifted still lower.** Prices for garlic, onion, watercress, and long bean all rose at least 10% in most markets monitored. Eggplant and green chili prices were stable. Sittwe stood out for a second month of lower vegetable prices—even as prices spiked elsewhere—possibly due to the lower quality of goods supplied from further afield.

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices rose in most markets in August, although they fell slightly in Sittwe.** Shrimp, fresh fish, and dried fish all saw prices increase at least 4% in most markets, and fish paste rose 12-22% in four markets. Chicken prices were stable in August, while in Sittwe prices for fish products fell.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable or rising in August.** Prices for hygiene products were largely stable, although each of the items monitored saw isolated price hikes of 11% or more in a couple markets. Prices for hygiene products rose sharpest in Kyauktaw and Rathedaung.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices fluctuated in August, but NFI prices rose more often than they fell.** There were few price cuts for NFIs in August, except for charcoal prices which were stable or falling by 11-29%. Cooking pots, blankets, and longyis saw prices rise 5% or most in most markets, while towels, umbrellas and mosquito nets also saw price hikes in multiple markets.

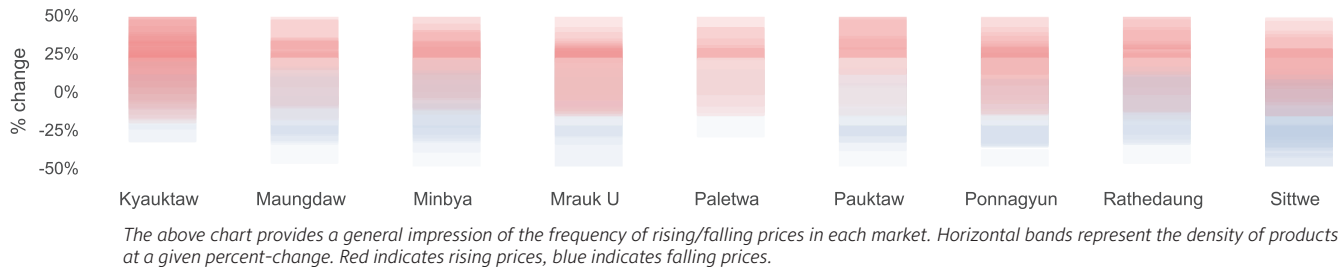
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



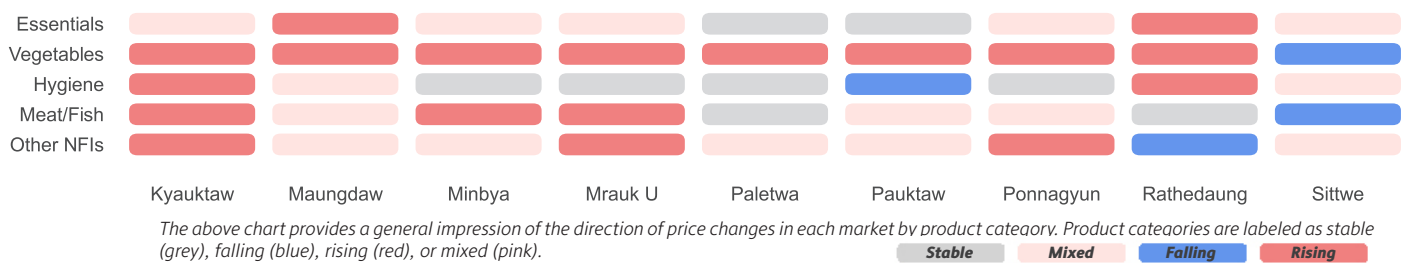
## Township-Level Price Changes

Food prices were up sharply across markets in August, even as they drifted somewhat lower in Sittwe. Sittwe prices fell in August even as most other markets experienced rising prices for NFIs and particularly food. Half of all prices monitored in Sittwe were down at least 4% in August (most often vegetables and meat/fish). By contrast, markets outside of Sittwe saw notable price hikes, with one-quarter of all prices monitored up at least 9% in each market. Kyauktaw saw the widest and deepest price hikes, with half of all prices monitored up at least 11% and one-quarter of all prices up at least 25%.

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



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



## Twelve-Month Price Changes<sup>1</sup>

**Essential Foods – Gently-rising essential food prices rose slower than at this time last year.** The median twelve-month increase was largely unchanged for better rice (+78%) and pulses (+61%), while cheaper rice (+81%) drifted closer to last year's levels. Palm oil prices were nearly on par with August 2022 levels.

**Vegetables – Spiking vegetable prices largely resembled price trends in August of last year.** Prices remained far higher for eggplant (+75%), watercress (+94%), and long bean (+92%) while also remaining significantly higher for green chili (+49%) and onion (+46%).

**Hygiene Products – Stable-or-rising prices for hygiene products remained 40-80% above last year.** Prices remained elevated for toothpaste (+41%), detergent (+34%), sanitary pads (+40%), and soap (+84%).

**Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices rose a little slower than last year but stayed 30-40% above 2022 levels.** Prices increased slightly slower than last year for shrimp (+31%), dried fish (+60%), chicken (+42%), fresh fish (+42%), and fish paste (+40%).

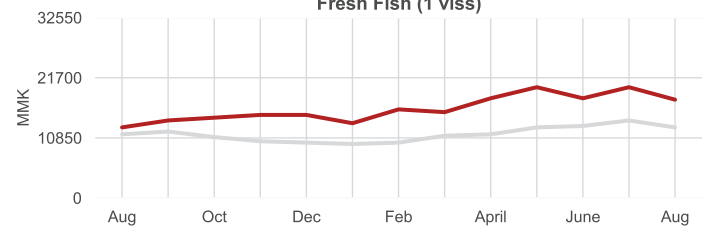
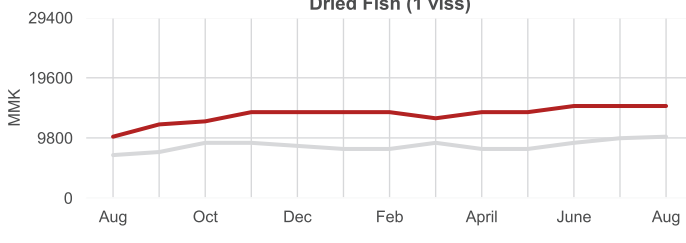
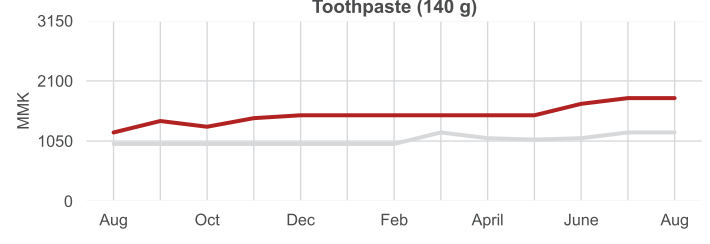
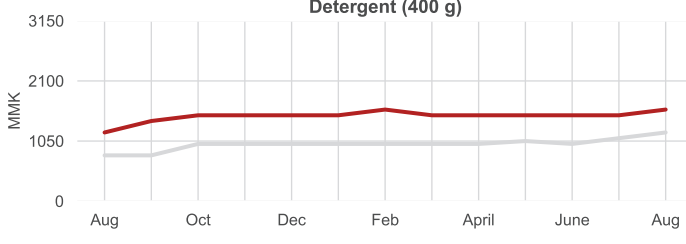
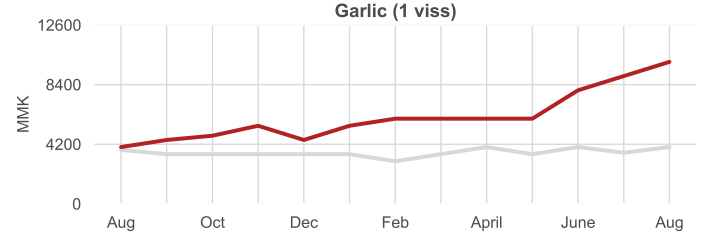
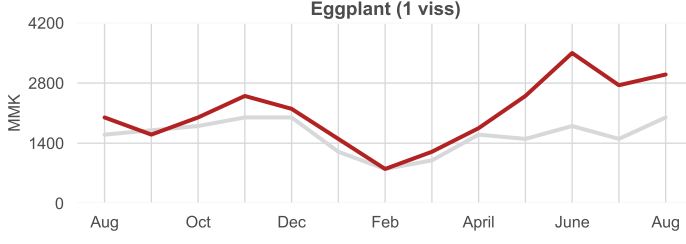
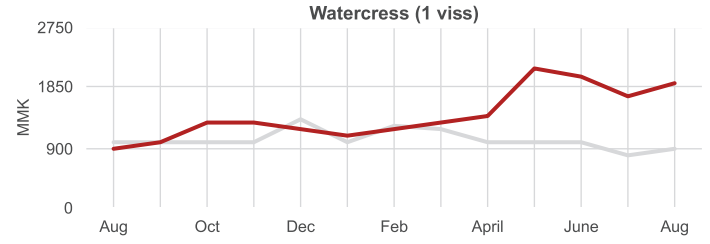
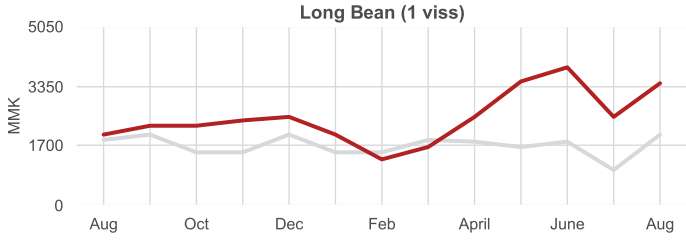
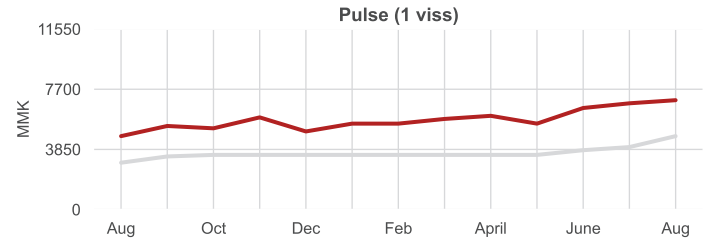
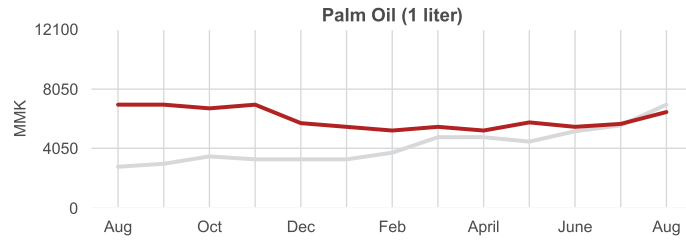
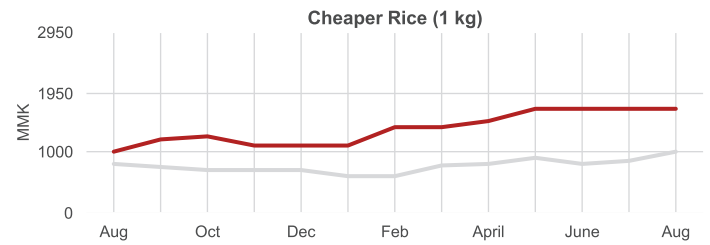
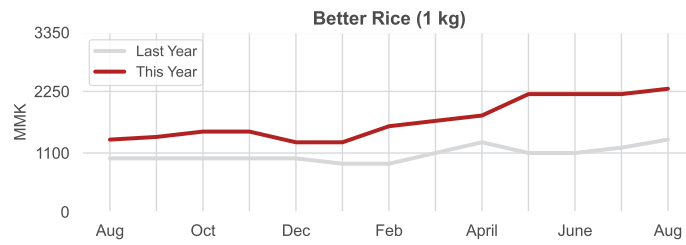
**Other NFIs – Shifting NFI prices lingered 20-30% above last year's levels.** NFI price changes largely tracked with August 2022, despite some prices rising slightly. August prices remained higher than last year for charcoal (+27%), cooking pots (+27%), blankets (+31%), towels (+36%), longyis (+24-26%), and umbrellas (+25%). Prices remained much higher for plastic tarps (+69%) and slightly higher for mosquito nets (+18%).

### What to Watch

- Food prices should be watched closely in September—particularly **palm oil** prices—as fuel and transportation costs rise;
- August's sharp price increases for **meat/fish** and **vegetables** may begin to moderate slightly in the months ahead as seasons shift;
- Fluctuating **NFI** prices may reflect wholesaler worries and could be pushed higher in September by rising fuel costs.

<sup>1</sup> 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 August 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,500	2,300	2,200	2,300	2,500	1,900	2,000	2,500	2,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,700	2,000	1,600	2,000	1,700	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,300	6,500	6,500	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,000	6,500	6,300
Pulse (1 viss)	5,000	7,000	7,500	7,000	7,250	5,500	7,000	7,000	6,500
Garlic (1 viss)	11,000	10,000	9,500	12,000	12,000	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Onion (1 viss)	5,000	3,500	4,000	3,500	5,000	4,000	3,500	4,500	3,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,900	5,000	3,000	2,500	5,000	3,000	-	5,000	3,000
Watercress (1 viss)	1,900	1,800	2,000	1,500	3,000	2,500	1,000	1,600	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	7,000	7,000	3,600	5,000	5,000	6,500	3,000	3,000	3,000
Banana (1 bunch)	1,200	1,000	1,500	1,200	300	1,300	2,000	1,500	1,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	11,000	10,500	8,000	7,500	-	12,000	6,000	7,500	10,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	15,000	21,000	18,000	17,500	-	16,000	35,000	28,000	15,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	15,500	15,500	15,000	16,000	17,000	15,000	15,000	14,000	13,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	3,000	8,000	5,500	4,500	5,000	2,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Chicken (1 viss)	15,000	16,000	13,000	-	-	13,000	12,000	18,000	14,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	2,000	1,700	2,000	1,800	2,000	1,500	1,000	2,000	1,800
Detergent (400 g)	1,600	1,700	1,500	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,800	2,000	1,700
Soap (60 g)	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	800	1,000	1,500	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	900	1,200	1,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	800	1,000	700	500	700	1,000	1,000	700	1,200
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,600	6,000	7,000	6,750	6,000	5,000	6,500	6,500	7,500
Blanket	5,000	9,500	10,000	14,000	9,000	7,500	12,000	11,000	8,500
Mosquito Net	6,800	6,000	5,000	4,500	5,000	8,000	4,000	5,000	6,200
Plastic Tarpaulin	7,800	8,000	7,000	10,000	-	7,000	6,800	10,000	8,500
Men's Longyi	6,800	7,000	7,650	9,000	8,000	7,500	7,500	7,000	8,000
Women's Longyi	7,000	7,000	8,250	8,500	8,500	7,000	8,000	8,000	8,500
Umbrella	6,800	7,000	-	8,500	-	10,000	7,000	6,000	-
Towel	4,000	3,000	2,750	4,500	4,000	6,000	6,000	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).

### **CONTACT**

Market Analysis Unit  
[market.analysis.unit@gmail.com](mailto:market.analysis.unit@gmail.com)