

# 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

- **Prices for many products fell widely in December**, which retailers attributed to less conflict and the reopening of local transportation routes;
- **Palm oil and pulses saw their largest price cuts in months**, although rice prices remained quite stable;
- **Vegetable prices fell across the region in December** in the first signs of new winter supply reaching markets, although some prices continued to rise in Pauktaw;
- **Prices for some hygiene products fell 8-20%**, more than erasing November's increases, although prices for toothpaste and detergent were stable;
- **Pauktaw, Minbya and Sittwe saw the most price increases**, while Maungdaw saw the most cuts;
- **Rice and vegetable prices have yet to complete their seasonal dip**, therefore January and/or February could bring further price cuts absent large market disruptions.

## Product-Level Price Changes

### Essential Foods – Prices for palm oil and pulses fell in December, although changes in rice prices varied by market.

Prices for pulses fell by 8-19% across markets, snapping a six-month streak of rising prices. Palm oil prices fell by 9% or more in half of all markets monitored, marking the largest decline in over one year. Retailers attributed lower prices to improved transportation. Half of all markets monitored also saw rice prices fall at least 6%, although some other markets saw rising prices for rice.

### Vegetables – The winter harvest helped reduce vegetable prices in December, although long bean and watercress prices rose in some markets.

Garlic, onion and green chili prices declined across the region in December, often falling 14% or more. Most other vegetables also saw lower prices, although long bean and watercress prices rose 12% or more in some markets. Eggplant and banana prices were fairly stable. Retailers attributed falling prices to increased local supply of vegetables.

### Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable or falling in December.

Prices fell for soap and sanitary pads in December, often declining by 8-20%. Prices for toothpaste and detergent were stable except for small shifts in some markets.

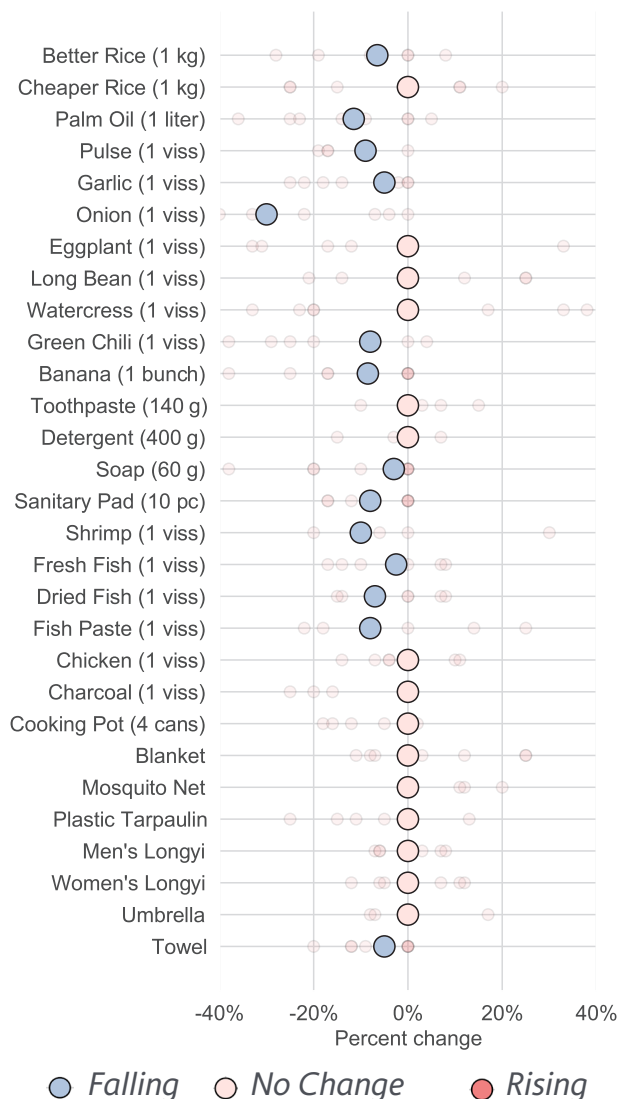
### Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or falling slightly in December.

Chicken prices were stable in most markets, and prices for other goods generally shifted by 10% or less. Maungdaw in particular saw across-the-board price decreases for meat/fish, while Kyauktaw saw isolated price increases.

### Other NFIs – NFI prices fluctuated in December, but rising prices were relatively rare.

In most markets monitored, many NFIs saw no price changes at all in December. Among products whose prices shifted, charcoal, cooking pots and plastic tarps

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

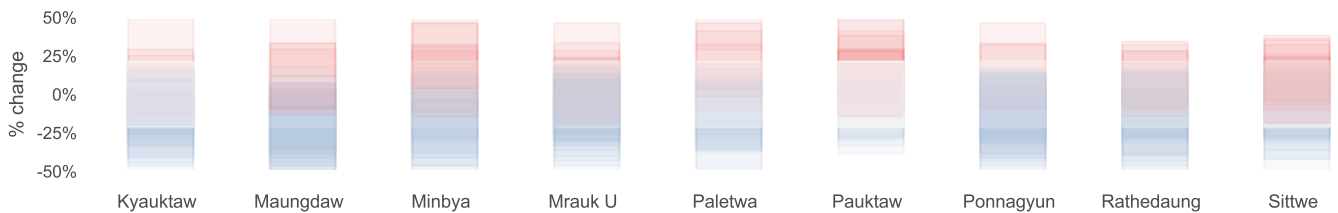


saw steeper price cuts than other NFIs and blankets and mosquito nets saw steeper price hikes. Retailers said improved transportation helped reduce NFI prices, although less so than with food items (which are restocked more frequently).

## Township-Level Price Changes

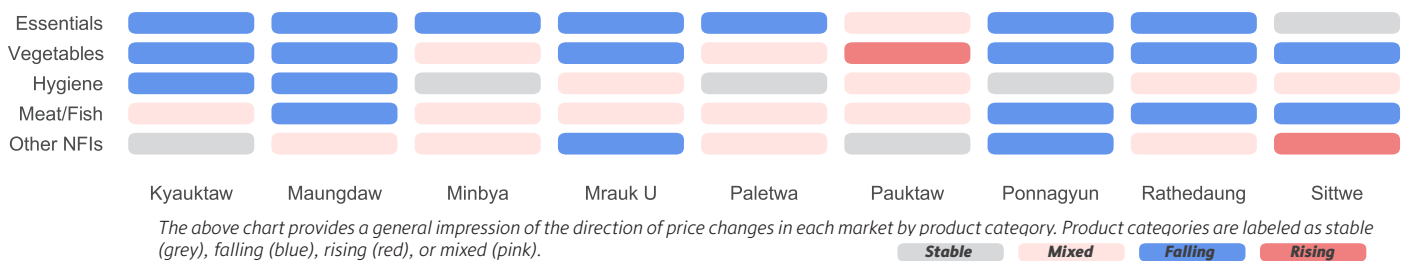
**Prices for three-quarters of all products monitored were stable or falling in December, with Maungdaw and Ponnagyun experiencing the most price relief.** Falling prices were most common in Maungdaw, Mrauk U and Ponnagyun—typically for rice and vegetables. Price cuts were deepest in Maungdaw, where prices for half of all products monitored fell by at least 15%. Price increases were most common in Minbya, Pauktaw and Sittwe—typically for rice, vegetables or NFIs. Pauktaw stood out in December for steeply-rising rice and vegetable prices. In general, in most markets December brought reversals of November's largest price shifts.

**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 Changes<sup>1</sup>

**Essential Foods – December brought prices for pulses and palm oil closer to 2021 levels, although this was not the case for rice.** The gap between 2021 and 2022 prices narrowed for pulses (+50%) and particularly palm oil (+88%). Yet the absence of significant price cuts for rice left high-quality rice 34% above last year and widened the gap for low-quality rice to 72% (Charts 3-14).

**Vegetables – A delayed boost in winter vegetable supply allowed prices to drift a bit further above December 2021 levels.** The median twelve-month price increase grew by 5-10 percentage points for garlic (+37%) and long bean (+22%), although it was essentially unchanged for eggplant and green chili. Prices for watercress (+53%) also stretched their lead over 2021 levels.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products rose at a pace similar to December 2021.** For a second month straight, the median twelve-month increase was essentially unchanged for toothpaste (+42%), sanitary pads (+47%), soap (+77%), and detergent (+56%).

**Meat and Fish – Lower meat/fish prices in December pushed prices slightly closer to 2021 levels.** The medi-

an twelve-month increase narrowed by 3 to 7 percentage points for dried fish (+51%), chicken (+43%), and shrimp (+2%). Fresh fish prices rose faster than in 2021 (+30%).

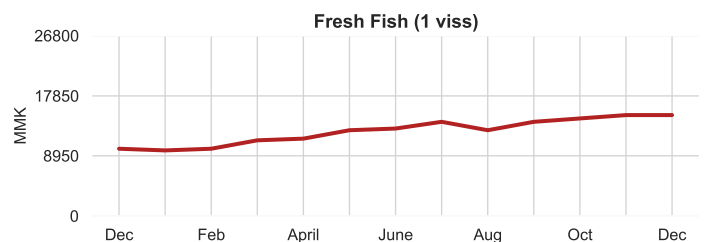
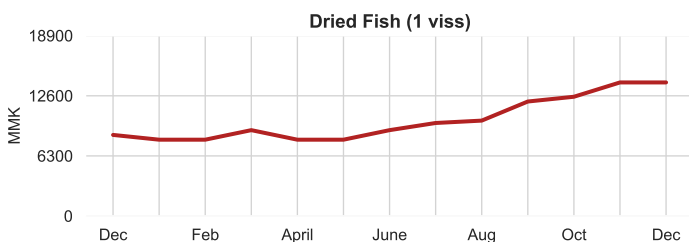
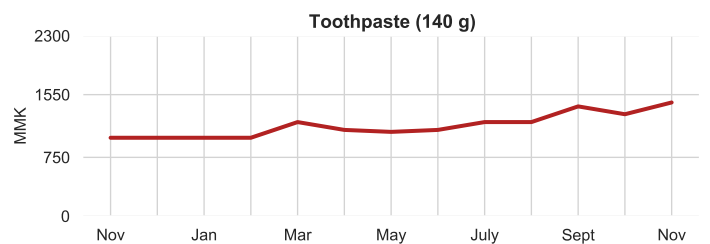
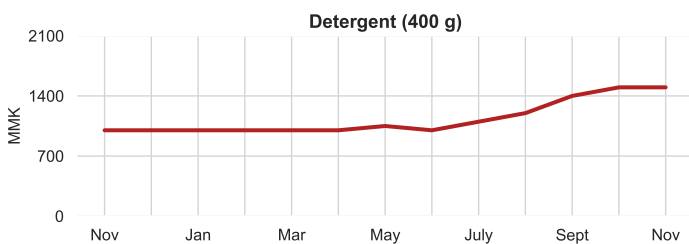
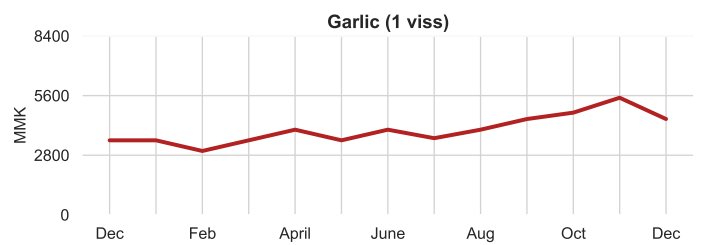
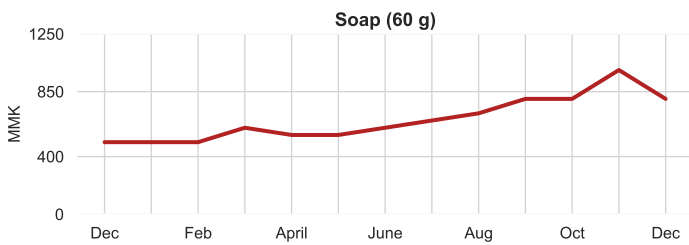
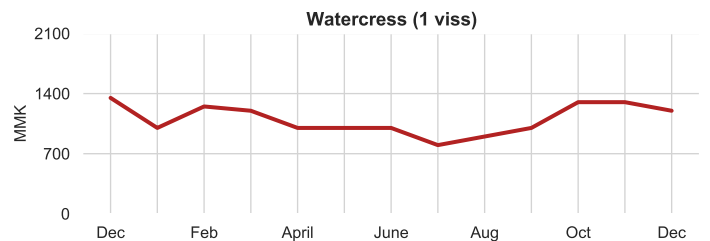
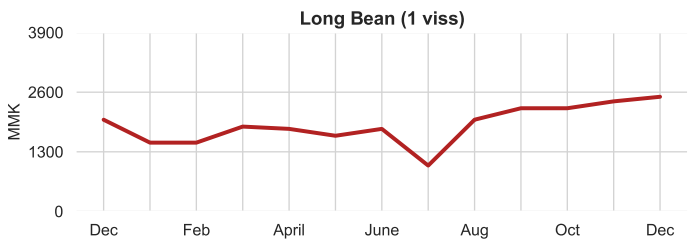
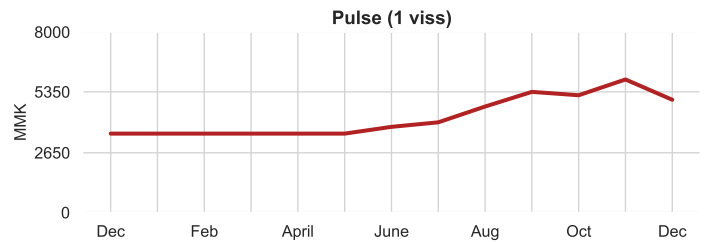
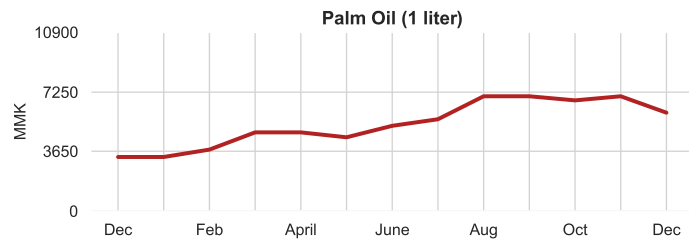
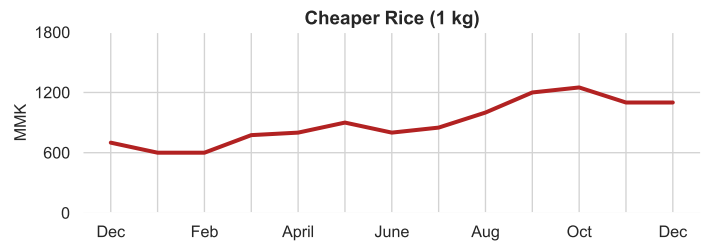
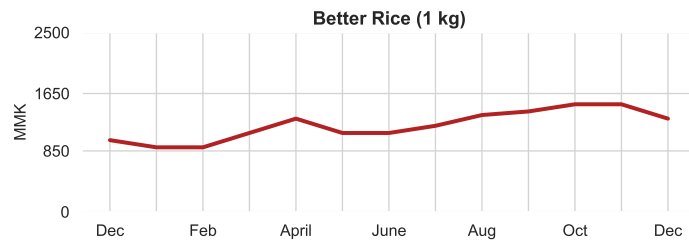
**Other NFIs – December brought NFI prices closer to 2021 levels, as there were fewer steep increases than last year.** For a second straight month, half of all NFIs monitored narrowed the gap with 2021 levels—this time by at least 10 percentage points—yet most prices still remained at least 30% higher than they were last year.

### What to Watch

- New supply of **rice** should lower prices in January and/or February, although a failure to materialize could cause hardship for vulnerable households;
- The usual rise-and-fall of prices suggests that markets which saw deep cuts in December—such as **Maungdaw** and **Ponnagyun**—may be most likely to experience price increases in January;
- Local ceasefires helped improve transportation and reduce prices in December, but Rakhine markets remain very sensitive to political developments.

<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 December 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,700	1,700
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	900	1,200	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,300	900
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,000	5,000	5,400	-	6,000	7,000	5,000	6,000	8,200
Pulse (1 viss)	4,800	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	5,500	5,000	4,500	5,500
Garlic (1 viss)	4,900	4,500	4,500	4,300	6,000	4,500	4,300	4,500	5,200
Onion (1 viss)	4,800	3,000	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,500	4,200
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,200	3,500	2,500	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,200
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,500	3,000	3,000	2,250	2,500	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,200
Watercress (1 viss)	1,000	2,000	1,800	1,200	1,500	3,500	1,200	800	1,200
Green Chili (1 viss)	7,000	5,000	4,000	3,500	5,000	6,500	3,000	12,000	12,000
Banana (1 bunch)	500	1,000	-	600	300	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,350	1,300	1,500
Detergent (400 g)	1,400	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,700
Soap (60 g)	800	1,200	900	800	1,000	800	1,000	500	800
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	700	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	1,000	1,200
Shrimp (1 viss)	7,800	8,000	-	5,625	10,000	8,000	6,000	8,000	7,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	10,000	15,000	-	15,000	22,000	13,000	18,000	16,000	15,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	14,000	10,000	13,000	15,000	15,000	14,000	12,000	14,000	11,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,300	7,000	-	2,500	-	3,000	3,500	6,000	8,000
Chicken (1 viss)	14,500	12,000	11,000	13,000	15,000	12,000	12,000	12,500	13,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	800	750	500	675	1,400	1,000	800	900
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,500	4,500	4,400	5,000	4,750	3,500	3,800	4,500	5,000
Blanket	4,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	10,000	6,500	12,000	7,000	7,200
Mosquito Net	6,500	6,000	5,000	4,000	6,000	7,000	4,500	5,000	4,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,800	6,800	6,000	7,600	8,000	4,500	6,400	8,500	7,500
Men's Longyi	6,500	6,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,000	8,500	7,500
Women's Longyi	5,500	6,750	8,000	7,000	7,500	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,200
Umbrella	-	5,600	-	6,000	-	7,000	6,500	5,000	7,000
Towel	3,500	2,000	2,000	3,750	3,500	4,500	3,800	4,000	2,800

\*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).

### **CONTACT**

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