

RAKHINE STATE (DEC. 2021)

MARKET PRICE REPORT

Mercy Corps - Market Analysis Unit

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.

- Prices were generally stable in December, with essential foods and NFIs being particularly stable;
- Vegetables and hygiene products were stable or rising, while some fish and meat prices fell;
- Price increases were most pronounced in Kyauktaw, Mrauk U, Paletwa and Rathedaung townships;
- Prices for essential foods and NFIs remained well above December 2020 levels, while prices for vegetables, meat and fish were quite similar to last year;
- A second month without widespread price increases could be a sign of greater price stability.

Product-Level Price Changes

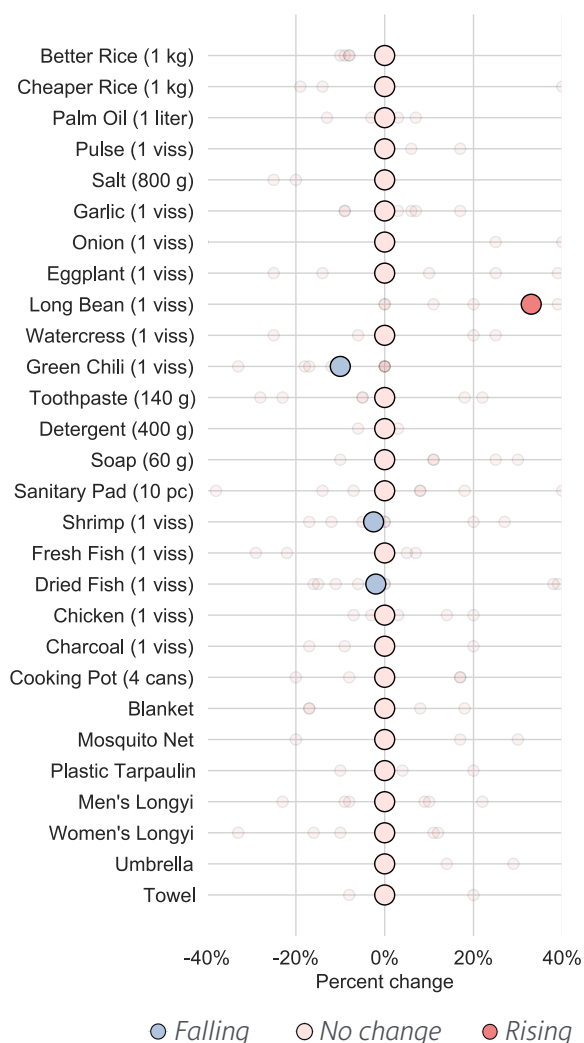
Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable again in December, and rice prices fell further in some markets. Rice prices were flat or down 10-20% in most markets, although they rose in Pauktaw (where retailers reported less-than-expected new supply) and in Mrauk U and Paletwa (where prices had dipped in November). Prices for palm oil and pulses were stable, except in Sittwe where they rose 7-17%.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were stable or rising in December amid reports from some retailers of poor yields. Retailers said damage from pests hurt long bean and eggplant harvests, driving prices up. Long bean prices rose the most, climbing in six of nine markets. Onion, garlic, watercress and eggplant prices—although mostly stable—also rose in a few markets. After two months of rising prices, a good green chili harvest drove prices 17-33% lower in many markets.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable or rising in December, with isolated price hikes. Prices for soap and sanitary pads rose 8% or more in four markets, but they were stable or falling elsewhere. There were also a few price hikes of 40% or more as suppliers raised prices (e.g., detergent in Kyauktaw and Mrauk U, sanitary pads in Rathedaung).

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or falling slightly in December. Shrimp and dried fish prices were down

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



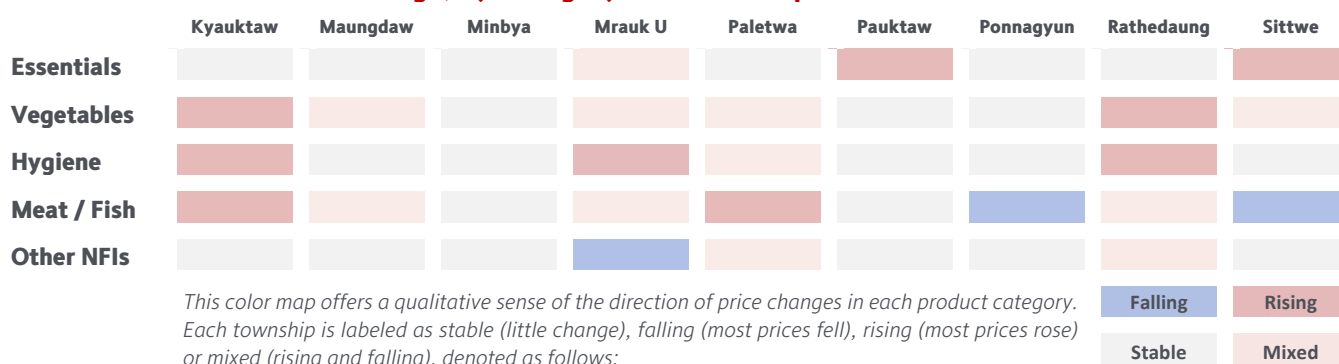
5% or more in four markets, although dried fish was up steeply in two (due to rising shipping costs for suppliers).

Other NFIs – NFI prices were mostly stable for a second straight month in December. Half of the NFI prices monitored were quite stable—including tarps, umbrellas, and towels—while others saw a mix of price changes.

Township-Level Price Changes

Most townships saw stable prices in December, with fewer price decreases than last month. Pauktaw and Ponnagyun saw only minor price shifts in December, while Maungdaw and Minbya saw very little change whatsoever. Yet there were some exceptions. Kyauktaw and Rathedaung townships—which were stable last month—saw some prices rise in December, and in Mrauk U prices rose for a second straight month. Prices also rose in Paletwa, reversing November’s decline. In general, however, no township saw deep or wide price shifts.

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



Twelve-Month Price Changes¹

Essential Foods – Essential food prices stayed well above December 2020 levels. Prices for rice and pulses were up 27-29%, and palm oil was up 77% (Charts 3-14). Some twelve-month price changes were smaller this month than in November because prices were rising in December 2020.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were very similar to December 2020 although slightly lower. All five products monitored were within 17% of December 2020 levels, although long bean, watercress and green chili were lower this year than last.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained well above last year. Prices for toothpaste and soap were 25-32% above December 2020 levels, while detergent was 50% higher. Prices for sanitary pads remained about 20% below December 2020 levels, as they were in November.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices remained level with last year, although dried fish prices were much higher. Chicken and fresh fish were within 7% of December 2020 levels, and shrimp prices remained roughly 20% lower. Dried fish prices were up 48% since last year.

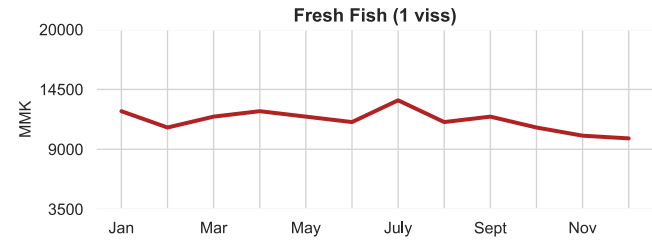
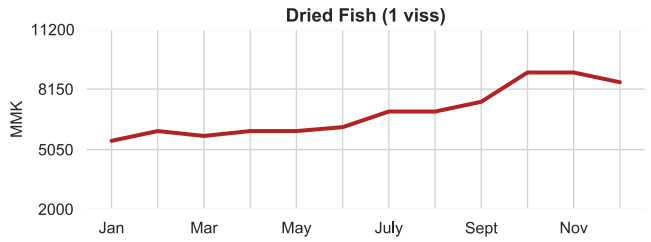
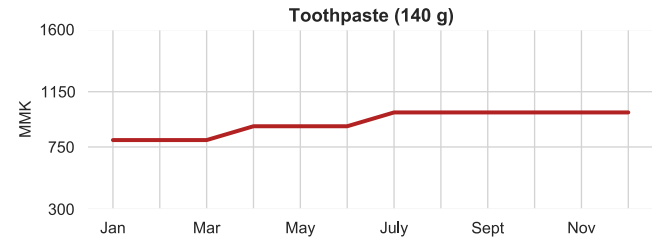
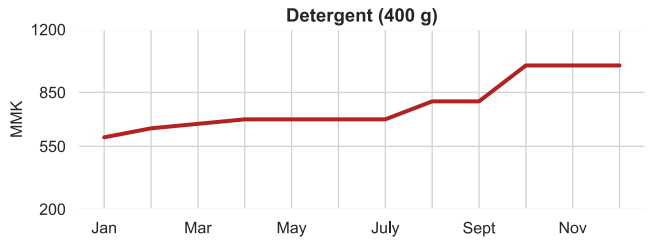
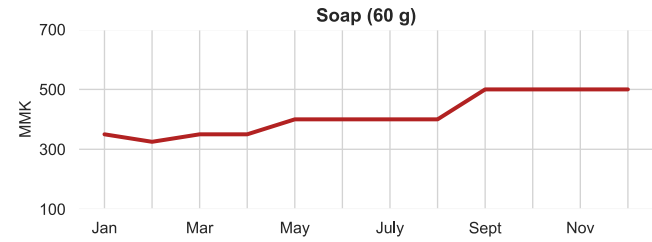
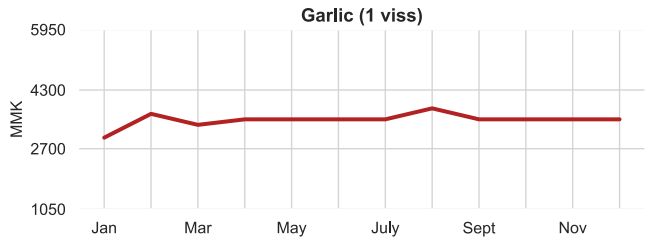
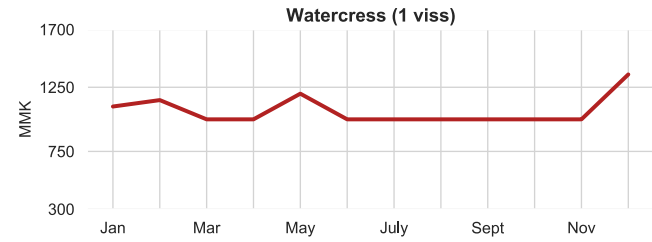
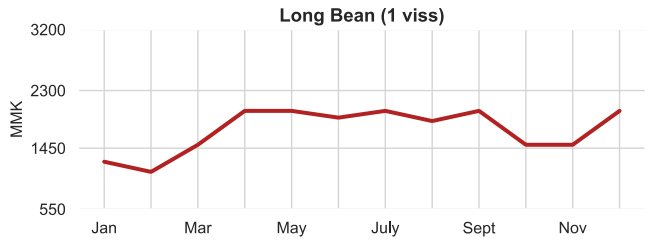
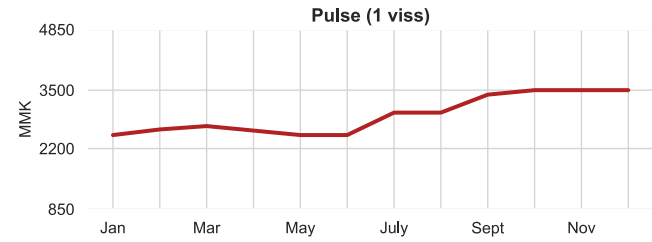
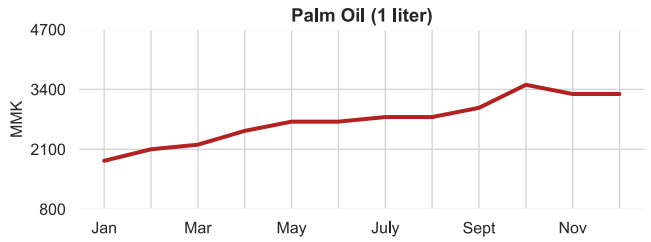
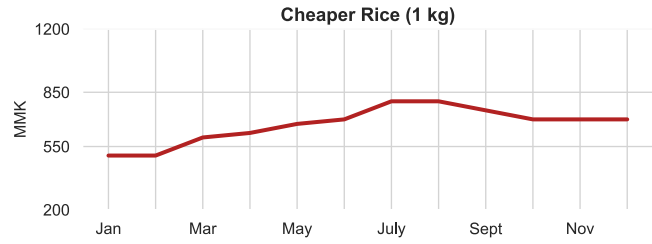
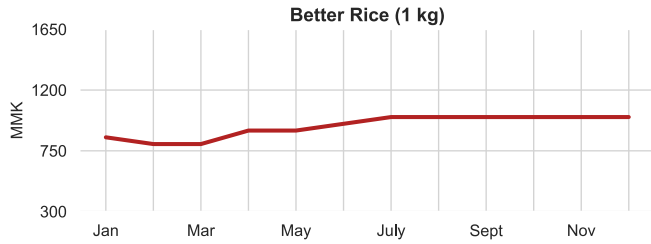
Other NFIs – Prices for some NFIs remained higher than last year. Blankets and towels were similar to last year, but umbrellas and mosquito nets were up 25-45%.

What to Watch

- Local winter crop yields may determine whether limited supply drives **vegetable** prices higher;
- High shipping costs could push prices up for **NFIs** and **hygiene** goods, especially in remote markets;
- Continued **price stability** may provide households with relief from steady price increases over 2020.

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

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



Prices for December 2021 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	600	700	650	700	-	1,000	600	700	800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	3,500	3,300	3,500	3,300	3,500	3,300	3,100	3,300	3,100
Pulse (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	4,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Salt (800 g)	200	250	150	300	400	200	450	200	200
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	4,000	3,500	3,200	4,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,200
Onion (1 viss)	1,200	1,000	800	1,000	800	1,200	1,400	1,000	1,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,000	1,800	2,500	2,200	1,200	2,500	2,000	2,000	1,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,500	2,500	2,000	1,000	3,000	3,000	1,500	1,800	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	600	2,500	1,000	2,000	-	1,500	750	1,200	1,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	3,500	4,200	1,800	1,800	4,000	2,800	2,500	2,000	2,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,000	800	1,200	1,100	1,000	900	950	1,000	1,300
Detergent (400 g)	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100	600	1,000	850
Soap (60 g)	500	500	450	600	650	500	400	500	500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	650	700	700	700	1,000	600	500	700	600
Shrimp (1 viss)	7,500	7,000	7,000	5,000	-	5,000	7,000	6,000	6,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	7,500	11,000	-	10,000	-	9,000	10,000	14,000	7,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	10,500	8,000	8,000	12,500	11,000	9,000	8,500	8,000	5,500
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	9,000	8,000	7,500	12,000	7,000	7,250	10,000	7,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	300	1,000	500	500	-	500	500	-	500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	4,500	3,500	3,500	3,700	3,200	2,000	4,500	3,500	3,500
Blanket	3,500	7,000	6,000	6,500	5,000	7,500	8,000	6,500	5,000
Mosquito Net	-	4,000	4,000	4,000	-	3,500	4,000	3,500	4,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	4,800	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,200	4,500	4,000	5,600	6,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	5,000	5,500	5,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,500
Women's Longyi	5,000	5,000	4,500	4,000	4,000	4,500	5,000	4,500	6,000
Umbrella	-	-	4,500	5,500	4,000	7,500	8,000	4,000	4,500
Towel	2,500	1,300	2,000	1,200	3,000	2,500	1,550	1,700	2,500

*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

Mercy Corps' 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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