

# 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

- **Essential food prices skyrocketed in December**, as prices for cooking oil and pulses doubled;
- **Vegetable prices added 50% to last month's hikes**, as some prices doubled once more;
- **Meat and fish prices rose 23% in many cases**, and most NFI prices started the year at least 7% higher;
- **Rathedaung and Maungdaw saw the most price hikes**, but no markets were spared rising prices;
- **Cooking oil and pulses are increasingly out of reach** for many households following December's price hikes;
- **Village-level access to goods will grow uncertain**, as armed conflict shutter markets in multiple towns;
- **Disruptions in Sittwe will affect supply regionwide**, although high prices may reach crisis-levels soonest in Rathedaung and Muangdaw where hikes have surged.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods** – Essential food prices skyrocketed in December as prices for pulses and cooking oil doubled. Most markets monitored saw cooking oil prices double in December, while prices for pulses popped 43% in some markets and 100-200% in others. Rice prices spiked in Sittwe and Maungdaw, although they held steady elsewhere.

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices bounded higher, often adding 50% increases to last month's price hikes. Most markets saw garlic, green chili, and onion prices climb 50%, 80%, and 200%, respectively. Prices for eggplant, long bean, and watercress typically rose 20-40%. These increases compounded November's increases of 100-300%. Rathedaung saw the largest vegetable price hikes in December.

**Meat and Fish** – Meat and fish prices again rose slower than other foods, but they too added at least 23% in most cases. Price hikes for meat/fish were more moderate in Sittwe—and prices were fairly stable in Minbya—but elsewhere prices lurched higher. Dried fish rose 11-62%, fish paste rose 33-140%, and shrimp climbed 67-110%.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for most hygiene products climbed at least 14% in December. Toothpaste prices rose 11-34% in December, while prices for sanitary pads rose 5-73%. Soap and detergent prices were stable or rising in December, but retailers reported stockouts of some common soaps.

**Other NFIs** – Prices for other NFIs also climbed by 7% or more in December, and charcoal prices doubled. Charcoal prices increased 36-100% in December, although prices held stable in Sittwe. Retailers in several markets reported stockouts of blankets. Most other NFIs saw price increases of 4-18%, while Rathedaung registered the deepest price hikes.

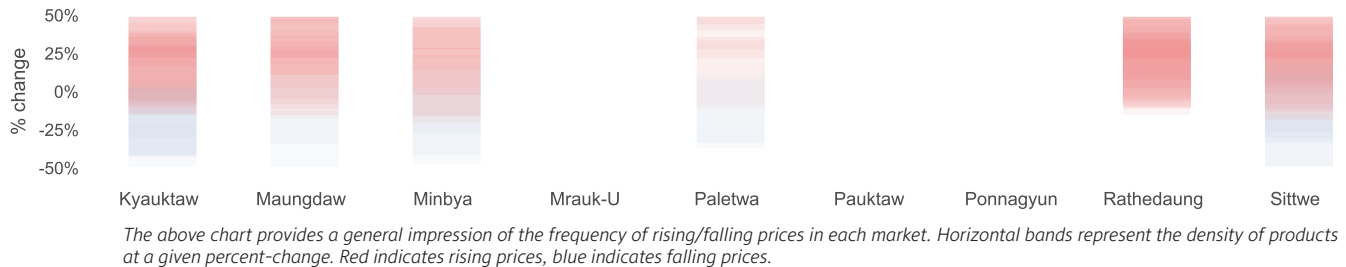
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



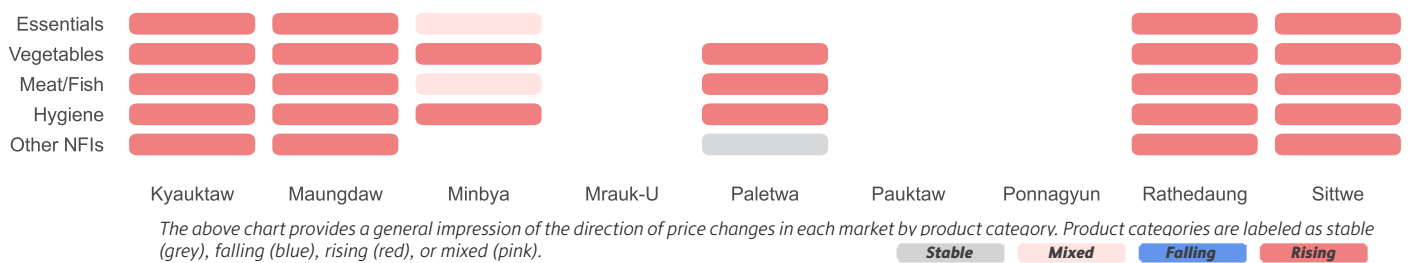
## Township-Level Price Changes

**Rathedaung and Maungdaw were most affected by price hikes in December, although nearly all markets monitored saw a second month of widespread price increases of 10% or larger.** Virtually all prices monitored in Rathedaung climbed higher in December, and half of all prices there were up at least 30%. Maungdaw and Kyauktaw also saw numerous price hikes, with half of all prices increasing 29% and 16%, respectively. Paletwa retailers reported more price stability than elsewhere, owing largely to stable NFI prices. The few instances of modestly-falling prices were typically observed in Sittwe, Minbya, or Kyauktaw.

**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 – Essential food prices were up 60-78% from last year.** The median twelve-month price increase for rice grew 14-17 percentage points, reaching levels 67-78% above last year. Spiking prices for cooking oil and pulses widened the gap by 65 and 29 percentage points, respectively, moving prices 60-66% higher.

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices were 100-300% higher than December 2022 levels.** A second month of skyrocketing vegetable prices stretched the twelve-month price increase for eggplant (+87%), watercress (+90%), long bean (+100%), and especially winter imports like onion (+200%), green chili (+200%), and garlic (260%).

**Meat and Fish – Rising meat/fish prices reached levels 35-56% higher than December 2022.** The median twelve-month price increase for meat/fish grew 11-17 percentage points, with prices much higher for shrimp (+39%), fresh fish (+50%), dried fish (+37%), fish paste (+56%), and chicken (+35%).

**Hygiene Products – Some prices for hygiene products remained higher than 2022 levels.** The median twelve-

month price increase for hygiene products grew 7-16 percentage points, with far-higher prices for toothpaste (+37%) and soap (+30%) but only moderately-higher prices for detergent (+7%) and sanitary pads (+13%).

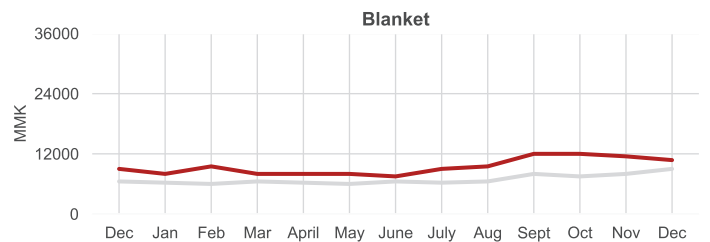
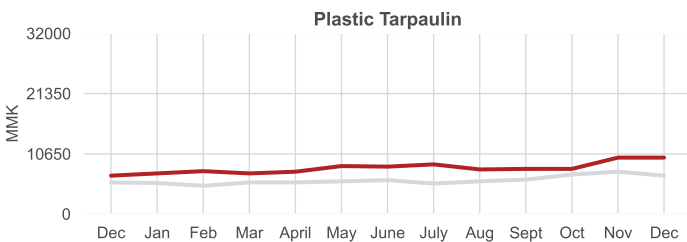
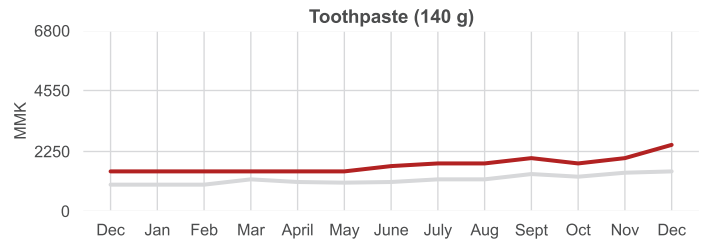
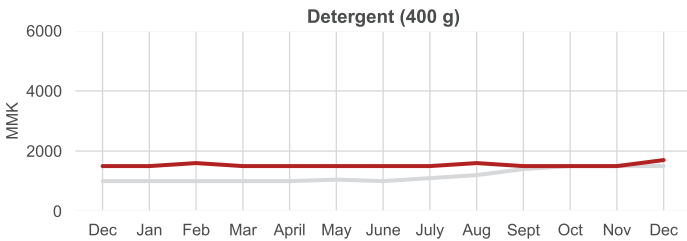
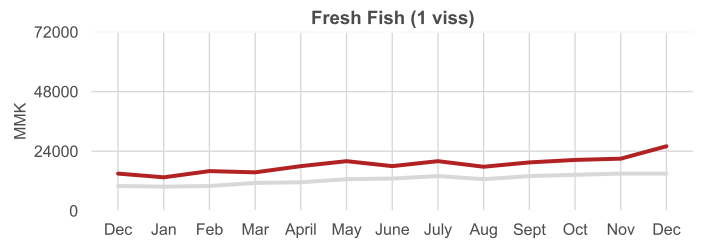
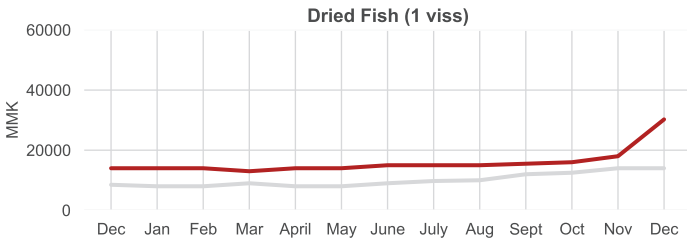
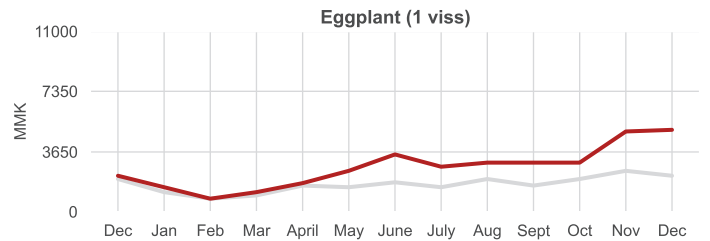
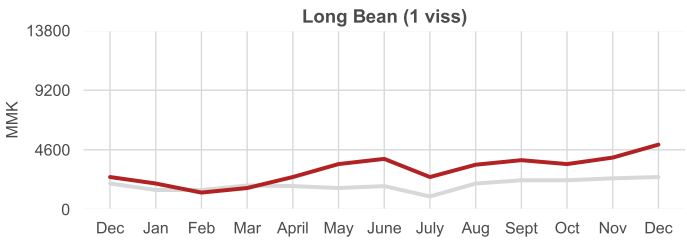
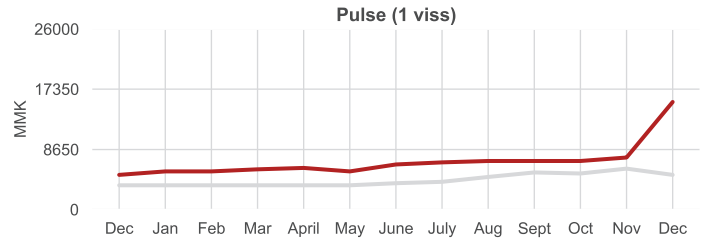
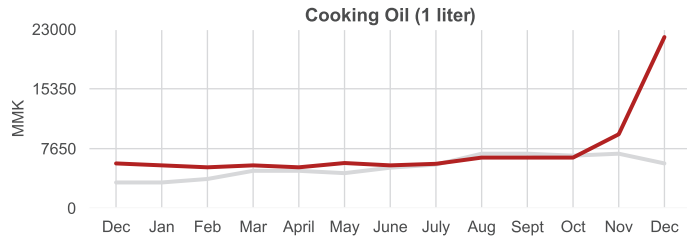
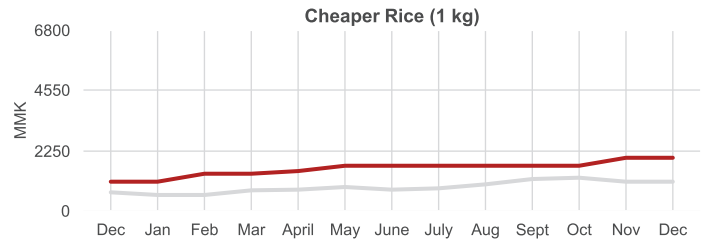
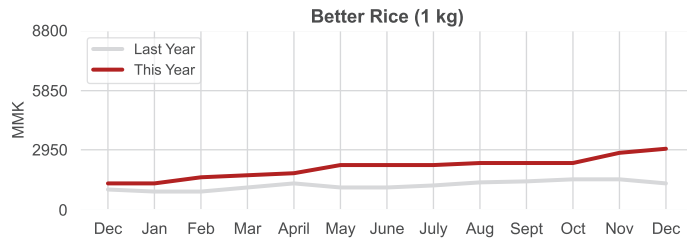
**Other NFIs – NFI prices were 10-35% above December 2022 levels.** The median twelve-month price increase for most NFIs grew 1-7 percentage points in December. Prices were notably higher for cooking pots (+36%), blankets (+35%), and plastic tarps (+27%).

### What to Watch

- Essential foods like **cooking oil** and **pulses** were increasingly out-of-reach for many households as monthly price increases hit triple-figures;
- Village-level access to goods will grow more uncertain as armed conflict shutter markets in multiple towns in Rakhine State;
- Disruptions in **Sittwe** are likely to affect supply regionwide, although high prices may reach crisis-levels soonest in **Rathedaung** and **Maungdaw**.

<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 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	3,000	6,000	2,200	-	-	-	2,550	3,000	4,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	2,000	5,000	1,500	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	25,000	11,000	20,000	-	-	-	25,250	22,000	22,000
Pulse (1 viss)	15,500	23,000	-	-	-	-	21,000	10,000	10,000
Garlic (1 viss)	40,000	20,000	30,000	-	30,000	-	42,500	40,000	30,000
Onion (1 viss)	30,000	20,000	40,000	-	40,000	-	20,000	40,000	24,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,500	14,000	6,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	6,500	3,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,600	6,500	5,000	-	5,000	-	9,000	6,500	4,500
Watercress (1 viss)	2,500	2,500	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	7,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	36,000	42,000	27,500	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	19,000
Banana (1 bunch)	1,700	2,000	-	-	500	-	-	3,000	2,750
Shrimp (1 viss)	13,000	17,500	8,000	-	-	-	40,000	15,000	14,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	26,000	28,000	18,500	-	-	-	-	28,000	20,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	43,000	-	16,250	-	32,500	-	41,500	28,000	20,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	11,000	-	6,500	-	9,000	-	-	8,000	6,000
Chicken (1 viss)	23,500	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	18,000	22,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	2,500	2,000	2,400	-	2,500	-	2,650	2,500	2,350
Detergent (400 g)	2,000	2,000	1,700	-	1,500	-	1,200	2,000	1,500
Soap (60 g)	1,500	-	-	-	1,250	-	1,450	1,000	1,450
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,900	1,100	1,500	-	1,150	-	1,600	1,500	1,200
Charcoal (1 viss)	2,100	2,000	1,500	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,000	5,500	7,000	-	7,500	-	-	8,000	6,000
Blanket	6,800	-	11,500	-	10,000	-	-	15,000	-
Mosquito Net	7,500	-	10,000	-	5,000	-	-	6,500	-
Plastic Tarpaulin	6,400	8,800	12,000	-	-	-	-	12,000	10,000
Men's Longyi	8,500	8,000	9,250	-	8,000	-	-	9,000	8,250
Women's Longyi	9,500	7,500	9,250	-	9,000	-	-	9,000	8,800
Umbrella	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	6,000
Towel	4,500	2,500	3,000	-	4,000	-	-	5,000	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**

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