

# 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

- **Most prices were stable or rising in February**, although the size of these increases was seldom more than 10%;
- **Rice prices jumped 20%**, with some retailers reporting lower-than-expected supply due to poor yields;
- **Vegetable prices fell for a third straight month**, with prices plummeting for onion, eggplant and long bean;
- **Prices for hygiene products were stable or rising**, and lower prices were very rare;
- **Prices for meat/fish and NFIs were again stable**, yet they remained 40–60% higher than February 2022;
- **Rathedaung saw the deepest price increases**, although prices rose in Minbya and Ponnagyun as well;
- **Food prices—particularly rice and vegetables—will likely rise further in coming months** as the volume of new supply begins to taper off.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Rice prices rose steeply in February, although palm oil and pulses remained stable.** High- and low-quality rice prices rose at least 21% in most markets in February, amid reports of poor yields and lower-than-expected supply. Palm oil prices fell by 5–13% in three markets, but oil and pulses were otherwise fairly stable.

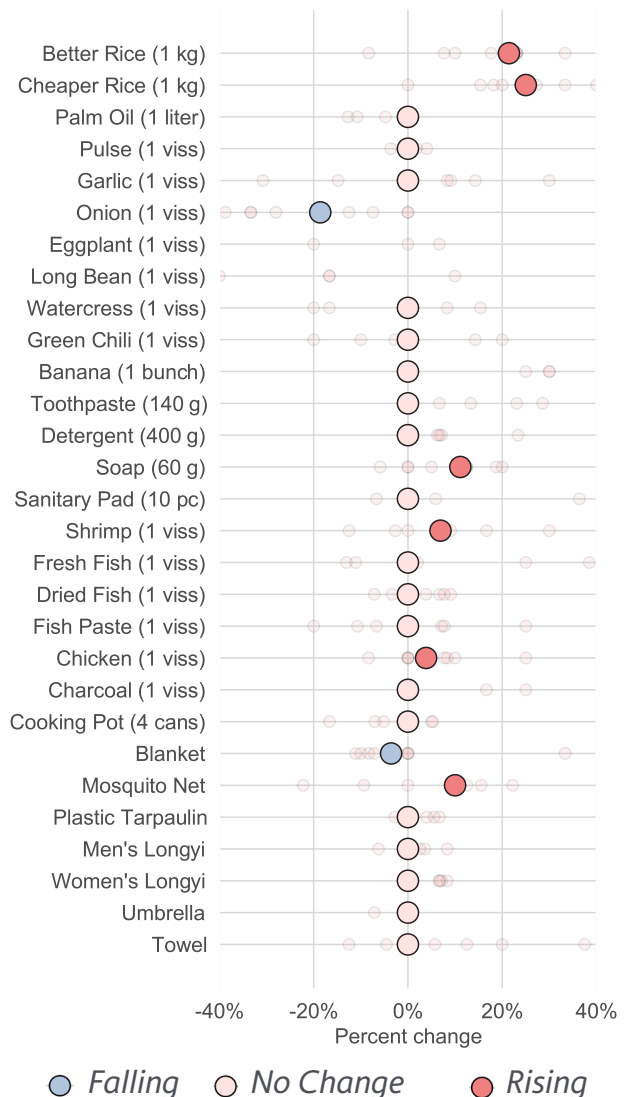
**Vegetables – Eggplant and long bean prices plummeted in February, but other vegetable prices were stable.** February marked a third month of falling vegetable prices. Eggplant and long bean prices fell by 43% or more in most markets, and onion prices fell by 19% or more. The picture was more mixed for garlic, watercress and green chili, with prices up or down by 20–40%.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable or rising in February.** Soap prices rose 11–20% in most markets in February. Toothpaste and detergent prices rose by at least 6% in four markets, yet they were stable in the other five markets monitored. Prices for sanitary pads—which climbed last month—were stable in most markets (besides Rathedaung and Ponnagyun).

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices rose in some markets, but price shifts were again modest in February.** Shrimp and chicken prices rose 4–7% in most markets. Prices for dried fish and fish paste rose at least 4% in three or four markets, but elsewhere they were stable or down slightly. Fresh fish prices were relatively stable with a few price spikes in Minbya and Ponnagyun.

**Other NFIs – NFI price changes were relatively modest in February, although prices climbed in Sittwe.** Most NFI prices rose or fell by no more than 10% in February, although mosquito net prices rose 10–22% in some markets. Although NFIs were often stable, prices rose in some markets (e.g., Sittwe, Mrauk U).

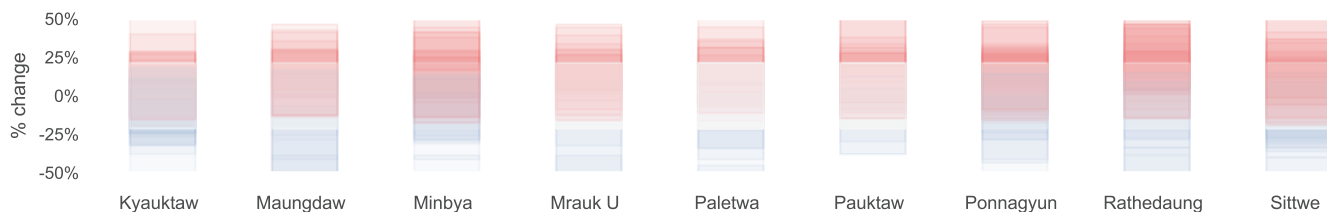
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



## Township-Level Price Changes

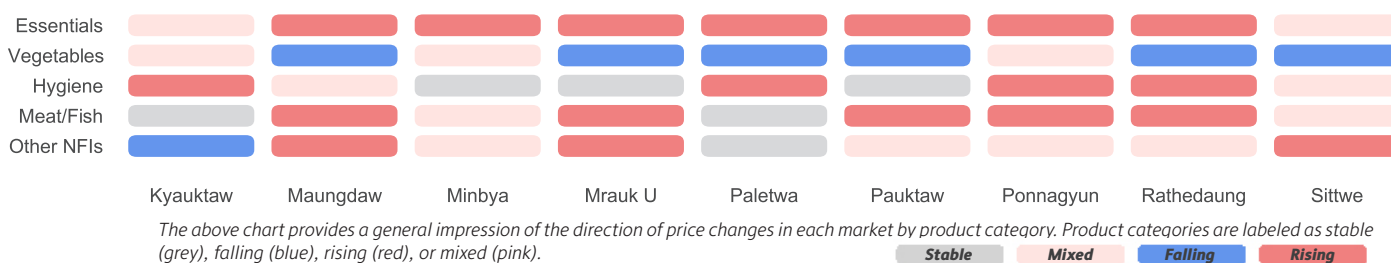
No markets saw wide price swings in February, although Rathedaung saw the deepest and widest increases. but Falling prices were fairly rare in February (besides vegetables), and roughly half of all prices monitored were stabled in markets like Maungdaw, Mrauk U, Paletwa, Paletwa and Pauktaw. Price increases were most common in Minbya, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung, but only Rathedaung saw very deep price increases. In most markets, the great majority of price increases were in the range of 5-9%; however, in Rathedaung Township one-quarter of all products monitored rose by 23% or more.

**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 – In February essential food prices remained at least 40% higher than last year.** Calmer palm oil markets again brought prices closer to 2022 (+62%), while pulses remained 48% higher than last year. Rising rice prices pushed higher-quality rice (+50%) and lower-quality rice (+83%) further from 2022 levels.

**Vegetables – Unlike in December and January, February's vegetable price cuts outpaced those of last year.** Falling prices brought vegetables closer to 2022 levels, with eggplant, long bean and watercress higher by only 7-19%. However, prices for garlic, onion and green chili all remained at least 60% higher than last year.

**Hygiene Products – Slightly-rising prices for hygiene products tracked with 2022, holding prices 50-70% above last year.** Prices remained considerably higher for toothpaste (+45%), detergent (+50%), soap (+67%) and sanitary pads (+70%). Recent price increases for sanitary pads widened the gap with 2022 levels.

**Meat and Fish – Stable meat/fish prices in February maintained their lead over 2022 levels.** The median twelve-month increase for most meat/fish prices was virtually unchanged in February, yet it remained quite large for chicken (+62%), dried fish (+59%), fresh fish (+37%) and fish paste (+42%). Shrimp remained an out-

lier among meat/fish products, with prices remaining just 4% higher than last year.

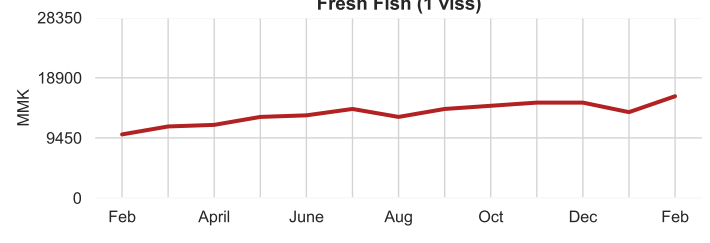
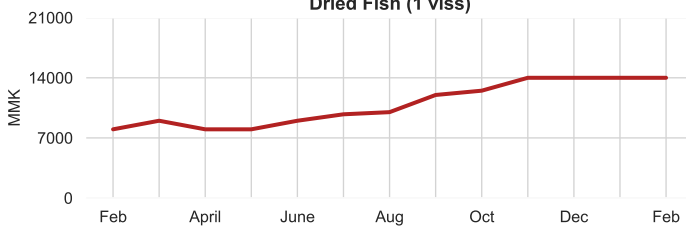
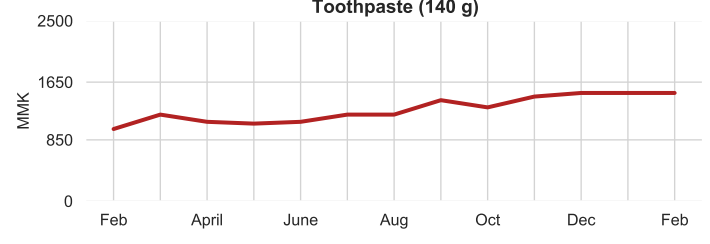
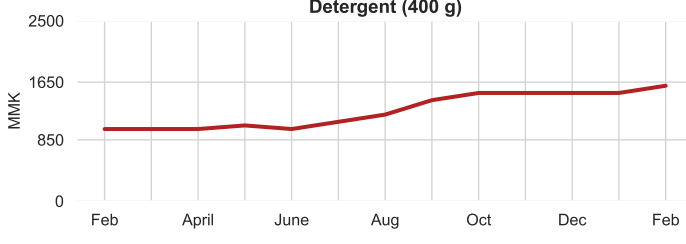
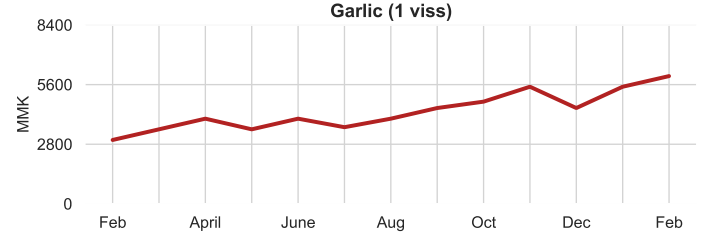
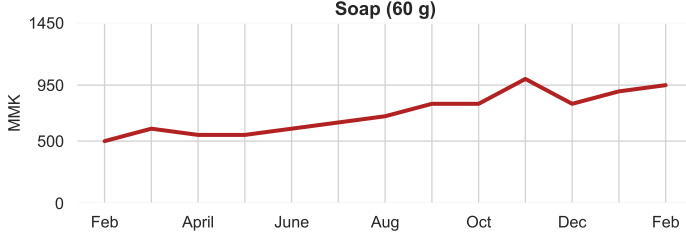
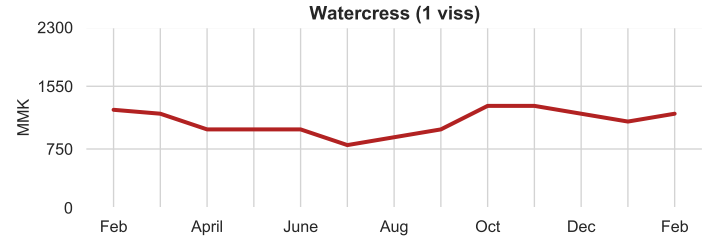
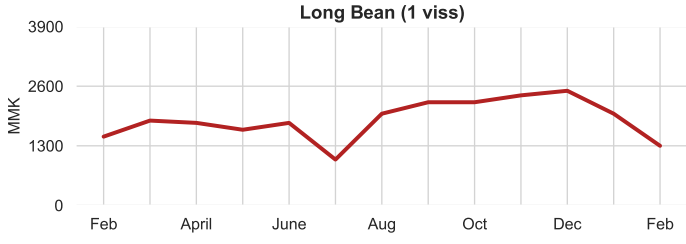
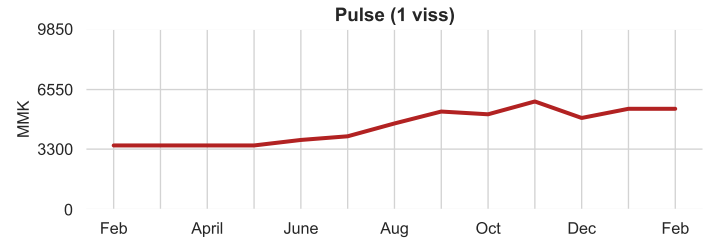
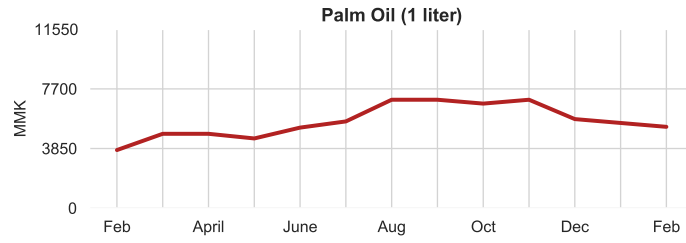
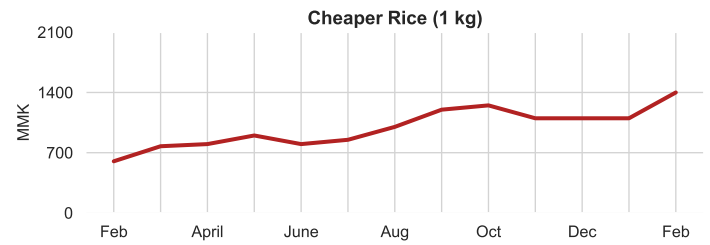
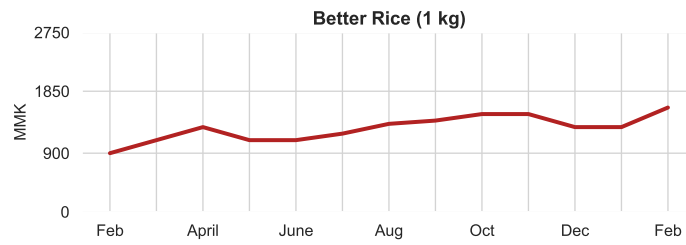
**Other NFIs – Relatively minor price changes for NFIs in February pinned most NFI prices 20-66% above last year.** Most NFI prices did not change dramatically in February. Prices remained considerably higher for blankets (+61%), towels (+66%), plastic tarps (+28%), and cooking pots (30%). Charcoal prices (+45%) rose slower than last year, drifting slightly closer to February 2022 levels.

### What to Watch

- Prices for **vegetables** have probably reached a seasonal low, suggesting fewer and smaller price cuts in the months ahead;
- Prices for **rice**—which seem to have begun their seasonal rise slightly earlier than 2022—may rise further in March before leveling out after the Thingyan holiday;
- Despite a continued ceasefire in the region, reports of rising transportation costs from some retailers may be worth watching.

<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 February 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,400	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,600	1,600	2,000	1,650
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	800	1,500	1,200	1,300	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,600	1,350
Palm Oil (1 liter)	5,800	5,000	5,000	-	6,000	7,500	5,000	5,500	4,800
Pulse (1 viss)	5,300	5,000	5,200	6,000	6,000	5,500	5,000	5,500	5,600
Garlic (1 viss)	6,500	4,500	6,500	6,000	8,000	4,500	6,000	4,500	4,600
Onion (1 viss)	3,000	1,800	2,500	2,000	3,500	3,500	2,000	3,500	3,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,600	700	300	600	500	2,000	800	900	1,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,500	700	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,500	2,200	1,000	1,300
Watercress (1 viss)	1,000	800	1,000	1,200	1,500	2,500	1,300	1,200	1,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	7,000	4,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	6,500	2,500	2,800	4,500
Banana (1 bunch)	700	1,000	-	700	300	1,300	1,000	1,500	1,300
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,250	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,700
Detergent (400 g)	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,850	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,700
Soap (60 g)	950	1,200	900	1,000	1,050	900	1,000	900	800
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	750	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	900	1,500	1,300
Shrimp (1 viss)	7,300	10,500	7,000	6,000	-	8,000	6,500	7,500	7,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	10,000	17,500	18,000	12,000	20,000	12,000	25,000	16,000	13,500
Dried Fish (1 viss)	14,500	12,000	14,000	15,000	14,000	16,000	13,500	13,000	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,500	7,500	2,000	2,500	4,000	2,000	3,500	7,000	7,000
Chicken (1 viss)	15,000	12,000	11,000	13,000	-	11,000	12,000	15,000	14,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	650	500	800	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,500	4,000	4,650	5,250	6,000	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,500
Blanket	4,000	8,000	9,000	12,000	10,000	5,500	13,000	-	10,000
Mosquito Net	6,800	-	-	4,500	5,500	7,000	3,500	5,500	5,200
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,900	6,000	8,000	7,600	8,000	4,800	7,000	8,000	7,800
Men's Longyi	6,500	6,500	7,250	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,000	7,500	8,000
Women's Longyi	5,700	6,500	7,500	8,000	7,500	7,000	7,500	8,000	8,000
Umbrella	6,500	-	-	-	-	7,000	6,500	5,500	6,000
Towel	3,700	2,100	2,750	4,000	3,500	4,500	4,500	3,500	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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