

RAKHINE STATE (FEB. 2022)

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.

- Palm oil prices rose by 6% or more in most markets, but other essential food prices remained stable;
- Prices for many goods were quite stable in February, even more so than in December and January;
- Vegetable prices fell for a second straight month in February, albeit less dramatically than in January;
- Vegetable prices remained 10-20% above February 2021 levels, refusing to dip as sharply as last year, and prices for essential foods and NFIs remained well above January 2021 levels;
- Sittwe and Ponnagyun townships saw slightly more and larger price increases than elsewhere.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Palm oil prices moved higher after several months of stability, but other essential foods were flat. Prices for rice and pulses were stable in most markets in February, with the notable exception of Pauktaw where retailers sold new supply of cheaper rice from the 2021 harvest. Palm oil prices rose by 6% or more in all but two markets.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices fell again in February, although the decline was less extreme or universal than in January. Prices for garlic and eggplant fell by 9% or more in half of all markets while holding stable elsewhere; onion and long bean were stable in most markets but fell by 12% or more in some. The picture was mixed for watercress and green chili, which saw prices rise and fall in different markets.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable again in February, although a few prices spiked in some townships. Many townships saw no price change for hygiene products, while most others saw modest shifts of 15% or less. There were a few exceptions: Mrauk U, Ponnagyun and Sittwe each saw price hikes for one or two hygiene products.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable for a third straight month. Half of all townships saw no change in prices for chicken or fish, and most others saw less than a 13% price change. Shrimp prices shifted somewhat in almost all townships, but usually by no more than 14%.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable again in February, although

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

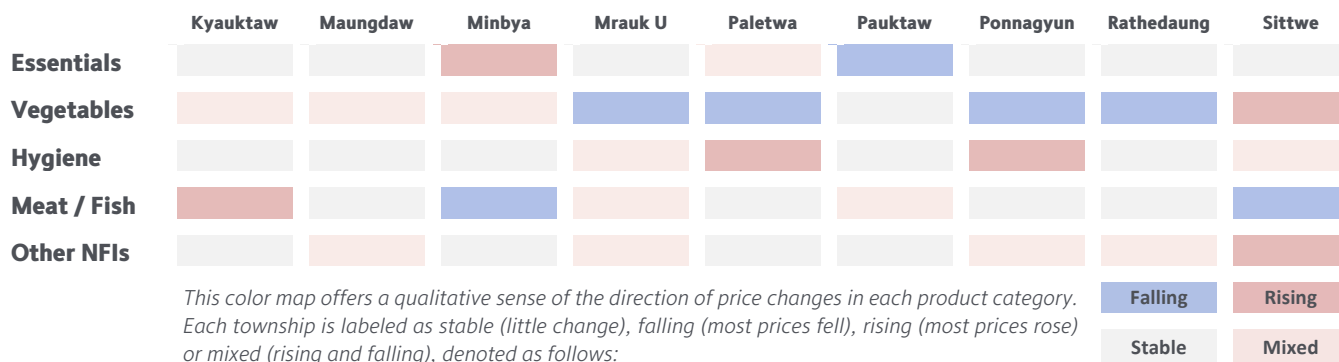


markets nearer to Sittwe saw slightly larger price increases. Half of all townships reported stable prices for most NFIs in February, while the others registered small shifts of 14% or less. Price increases were slightly larger in Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe (17-22%).

Township-Level Price Changes

Prices were stable across townships in February, although Mrauk U, Ponnagyun and Sittwe saw slightly more price increases than elsewhere. No township saw widespread price increases or decreases in February. That said, Mrauk U, Ponnagyun and Sittwe saw more price increases, and Pauktaw prices were usually stable or falling.

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



Twelve-Month Price Changes¹

Essential Foods – Essential food prices remained well above February 2021 levels, but no more so than last month. The median price increase since February 2021 for low- and high-quality rice was 20% and 29%, respectively, and pulses were up 30%. Palm oil is 77% above February 2021 levels (Charts 3-14).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices failed to dip as sharply as they did in February 2021, leaving them higher than last year. Eggplant, long bean and watercress—each of which was below 2021 levels in January—in February lingered 10-20% above last year. Green chili prices were nearly identical to last year.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained well above February 2021 levels. The median price increase since February 2021 for toothpaste and detergent was 24% and 54%, respectively. The median increase for soap was 67%.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were similar to last year, while dried fish prices remained higher. Chicken, fish and shrimp saw median price increases

of 9-12% since last year, and dried fish remained 46% above February 2021 (similar to January).

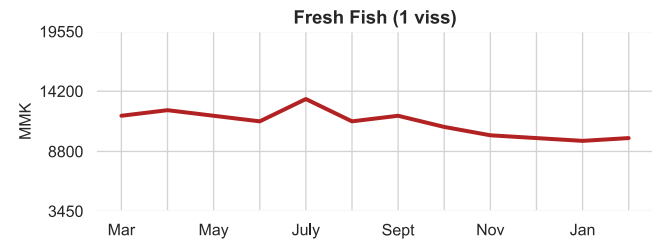
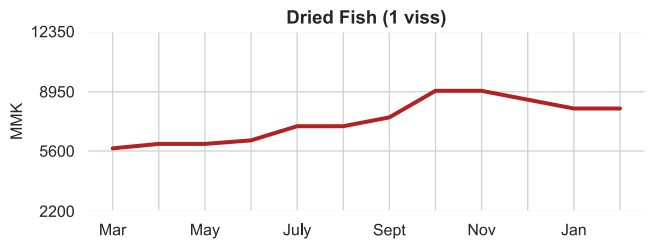
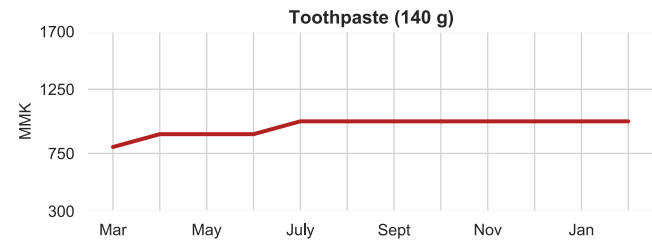
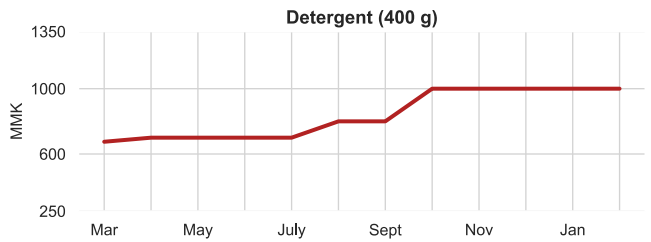
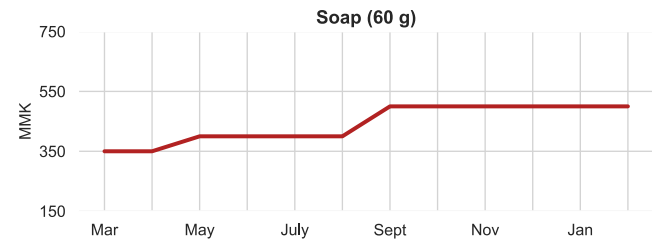
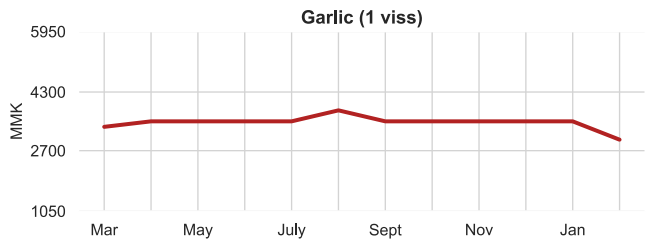
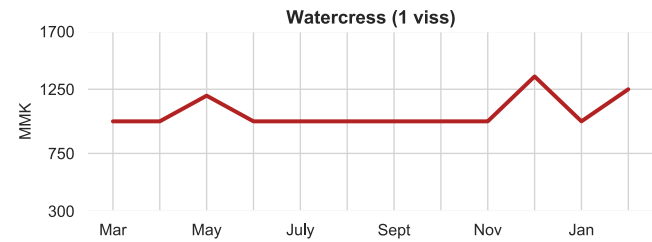
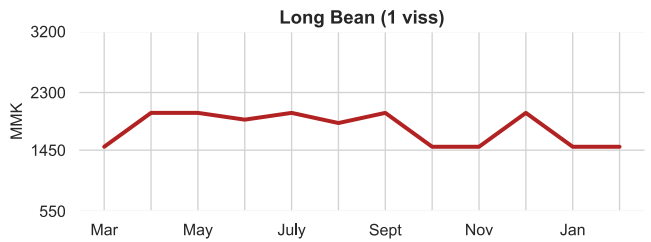
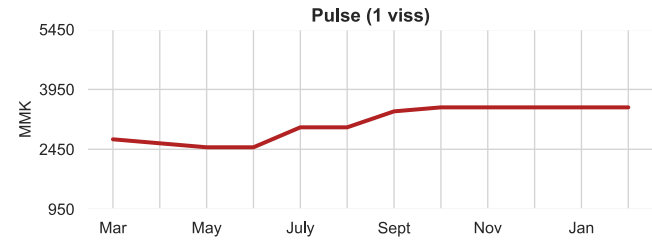
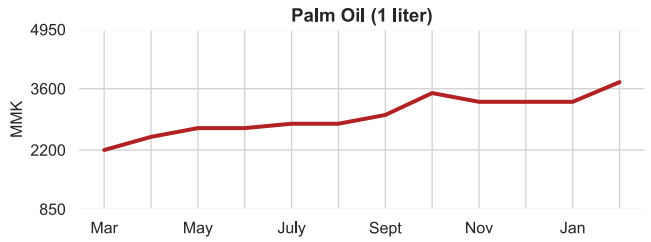
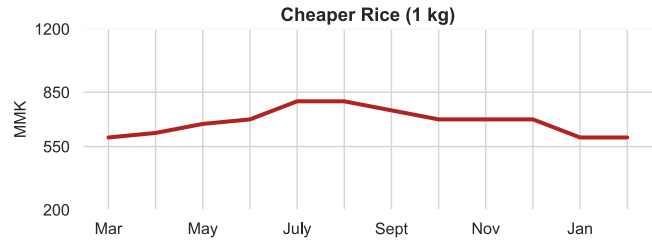
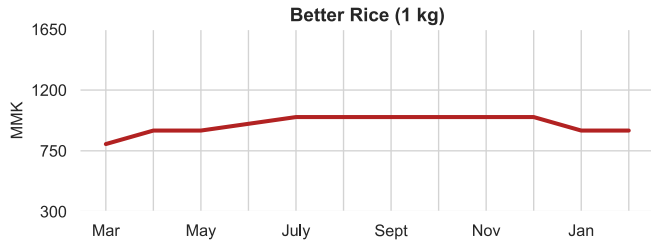
Other NFIs – NFI prices were generally higher than last year. The median price change for NFIs since February 2021 was 16-54% depending on the product. Towels were the exception, with half of all markets since prices 11% lower than last year.

What to Watch

- **Rice** prices may have already reached their season low, with higher prices in the months ahead;
- Prices for **vegetables** and **fish**—still above February 2021 levels—may yet fall slightly in March;
- Further increases in already-high **palm oil** prices could put cooking oils out of reach for many households;
- **Food** and **NFI** prices in general may climb higher as rising global oil prices increase transportation costs across the board.

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 February 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagayun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	900	1,000	900	900	1,150	800	900	1,200	900
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	600	600	600	600	700	500	600	-	700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,800	3,750	3,300	3,750	3,800	3,500
Pulse (1 viss)	3,500	3,550	3,500	3,500	4,500	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,000
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	3,250	2,500	3,200	3,000	3,000	3,500	2,600	2,800
Onion (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	700	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,250	1,200	900
Eggplant (1 viss)	700	700	700	500	800	2,500	800	1,200	1,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,500	1,400	1,200	1,500	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,800
Watercress (1 viss)	1,500	1,200	1,000	1,500	-	2,000	800	1,000	1,300
Green Chili (1 viss)	1,500	2,500	2,000	1,500	2,500	2,800	1,400	2,000	1,200
Banana (1 bunch)	-	1,350	1,450	1,000	-	1,000	900	900	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,000	800	1,300	1,200	1,500	900	1,000	1,000	1,200
Detergent (400 g)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,300
Soap (60 g)	700	500	500	700	500	500	800	500	500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	700	700	600	600	800	700	500	500	700
Shrimp (1 viss)	6,800	14,000	6,000	7,000	-	6,500	7,000	7,000	6,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	7,000	-	11,000	12,000	-	8,500	10,000	13,000	8,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	10,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	9,000	9,000	7,750	8,000	6,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,000	-	1,400	2,000	2,500	3,500	3,750	4,000	3,000
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	10,000	8,000	8,000	7,000	6,500	8,500	10,000	7,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	550	1,000	600	600	-	500	500	-	700
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	4,500	4,000	4,500	4,000	3,500	2,000	6,000	3,500	3,500
Blanket	4,000	6,500	6,000	6,000	6,000	7,500	7,750	6,500	4,500
Mosquito Net	6,000	4,000	4,500	4,000	-	3,500	4,750	3,500	4,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	4,800	6,000	4,000	6,000	-	4,500	4,000	5,200	6,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,000	5,000	5,500	6,000	6,000
Women's Longyi	4,750	5,500	5,000	4,500	5,000	4,500	5,500	5,500	6,000
Umbrella	5,250	-	5,000	5,000	-	7,500	6,500	4,000	3,500
Towel	2,500	1,300	2,500	1,200	2,500	2,500	3,500	1,700	2,000

*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).

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