

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.¹ Data and product specifications are available online through the MPR dashboard at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Essential food prices fell regionwide in February** due to tapering demand and lower transportation costs;
- **Local vegetable prices fell 40-80%** as winter supply continued to grow and market access improved;
- **Prices for hygiene items rose 18-50% in Maungdaw**, but elsewhere price trends varied by product;
- **Electricity cuts pushed charcoal up 35% in Sittwe**, and charcoal prices climbed 50% in nearby Ponnagyun;
- **Prices generally rose in Sittwe and fell elsewhere**, as the state capital grew increasingly isolated;
- **Sittwe prices will likely rise further in March** as inventory shrinks and supply remains disrupted;
- **NFI prices will likely continue upward regionwide** as linkages between Rakhine State and Central Myanmar become more fraught.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices declined regionwide in February due to weak demand and lower transport costs. Rice prices fell 5-30% across markets, and cooking oil fell 13-17% in some cases. Pulses showed no clear trend, but prices climbing 36% in Sittwe. Retailers said many households stocked up on rice in December and this contributed to reduced demand.

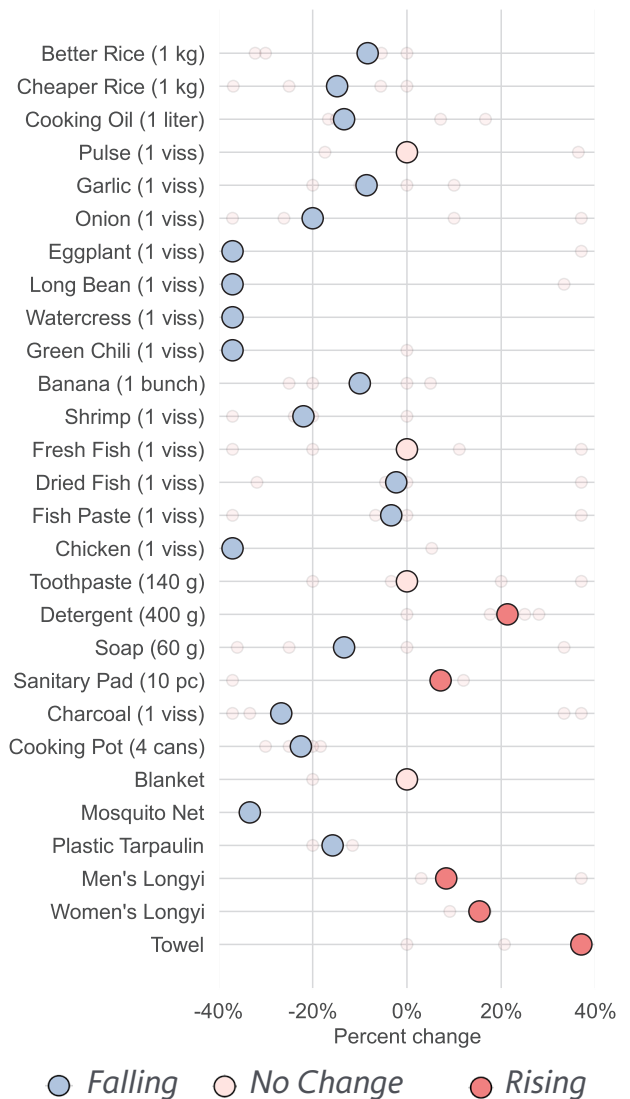
Vegetables – Local vegetable prices fell 40-80% as winter harvest and improved market access boosted supply. Eggplant, long bean, and green chili prices fell 40-80% in February, except in Sittwe which—isolated from other markets—saw prices rise 33-50%. Regional imports like garlic and onion also rose 10% in Sittwe and Maungdaw, but they fell 9-26% elsewhere.

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish price trends varied in February. Meat and fish prices declined 30-60% at village markets in Minbya and Ponnagyun, but they rose at least 50% in Sittwe. Meat and fish prices were mixed or stable in Pauktaw and Maungdaw.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products rose 18-50% in Maungdaw, but elsewhere trends varied by product. Beyond Maungdaw, markets saw a mix of rising and falling prices for hygiene products. Soap prices fell 13-36% in February, while detergent prices rose 18-28%.

Other NFIs – Charcoal prices spiked 35-50% in Sittwe and Ponnagyun, but otherwise some NFIs rose while others fell. Prices for longyis increased 3-15% in February, and towel prices were up 21-67%. Prices for cooking pots and plastic tarps were down 12-30%. Amid reports of power outages, charcoal prices rose 33% in Sittwe and 50% in neighboring Ponnagyun Township; charcoal prices they fell 27-50% in the other markets.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



¹ Due to town market closures in Minbya, Mrauk-U, Pauktaw, and Ponnagyun, prices were gathered in nearby village markets.

Township-Level Price Changes

Prices increased for half of all products monitored in Sittwe, but other markets saw lower prices particularly for food items. Half of all prices in Sittwe increased in February, and one-quarter rose at least 27%. Markets outside Sittwe generally saw lower prices. February's largest price cuts were in Minbya and Ponnagyun—where price hikes were largest last month—and Pauktaw also saw price cuts. Half of all products monitored in Pauktaw, Minbya, and Ponnagyun villages fell 10%, 14%, and 20%, respectively. Maungdaw was somewhere between Sittwe and the rest, with half of all products monitored falling at least 10% and one-quarter rising at least 9%.

Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township (One Month)

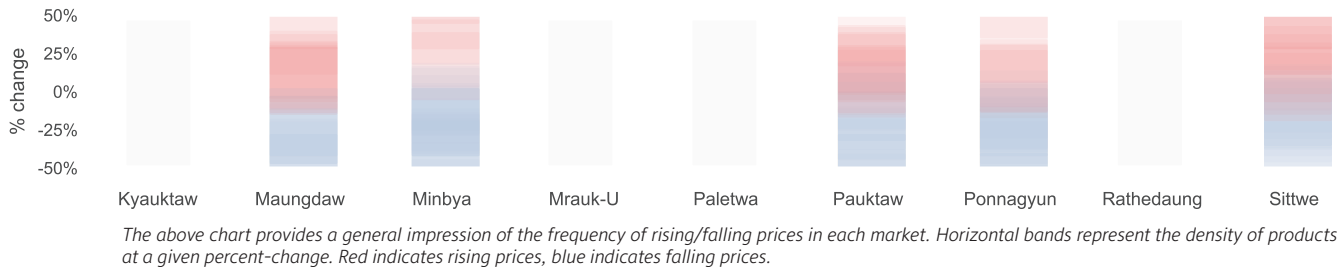


Chart 3. Direction of Price Change, by Township and Product Category (One Month)



Twelve-Month Price Changes²

Essential Foods – Rice prices were double February 2023 levels, while oil and pulses were far higher. Despite falling prices in February, rice remained 68-110% above last year. Prices for pulses and cooking oil, which fell less significantly, remained 180-200% higher.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices remained 100-200% higher than last year. Onion and garlic prices were five- or six-times higher than they were last year, and vegetable prices were often double or more. The twelve-month price increase remained large for eggplant (+130%), watercress (+230%), long bean (+62%), and green chili (+190%).

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices remained 64-150% above February 2023 levels. Recent price hikes remained in place, holding constant the median twelve-month price increase for shrimp (+150%), fresh fish (+67%), dried fish (+64%), fish paste (+130%), and chicken (+68%).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained 33-100% above last year. The median twelve-

month price increase was relatively unchanged for toothpaste (+67%) and soap (+67%), although it grew for detergent (+33%) and sanitary pads (+100%).

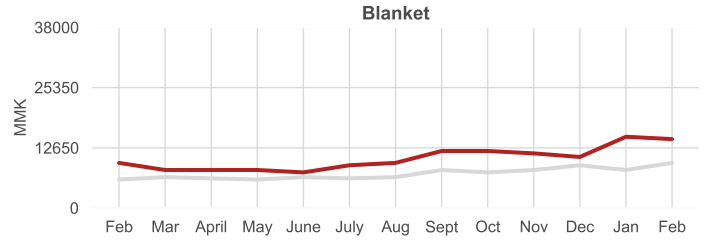
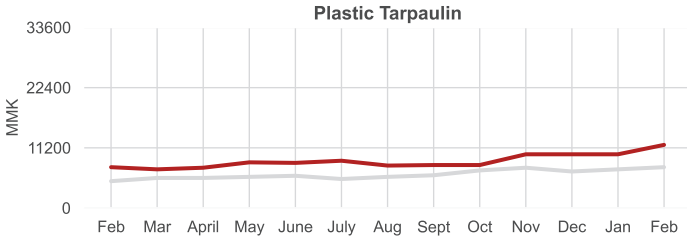
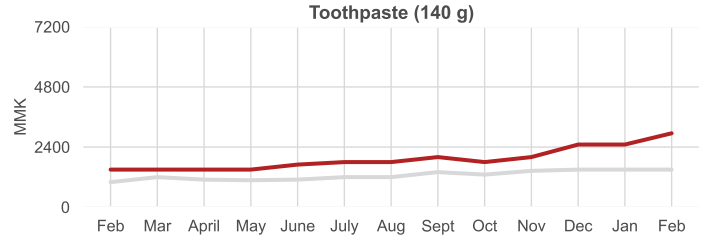
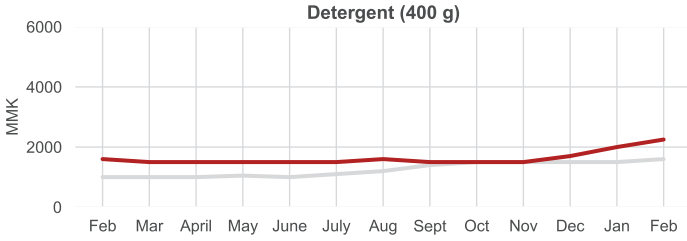
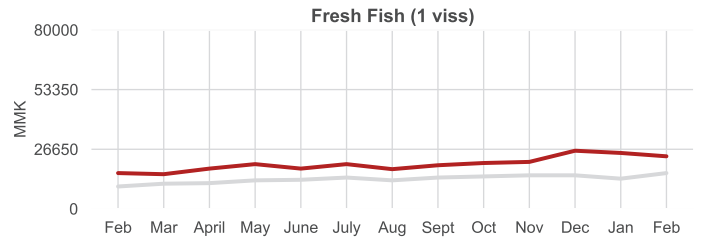
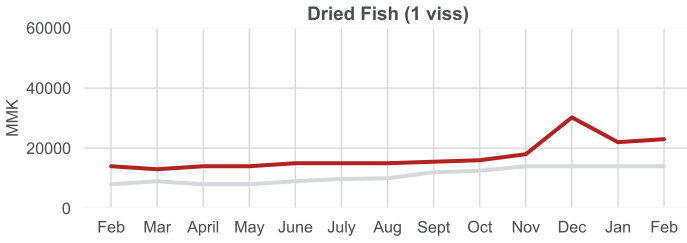
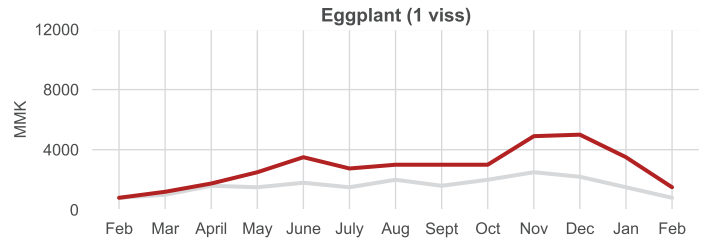
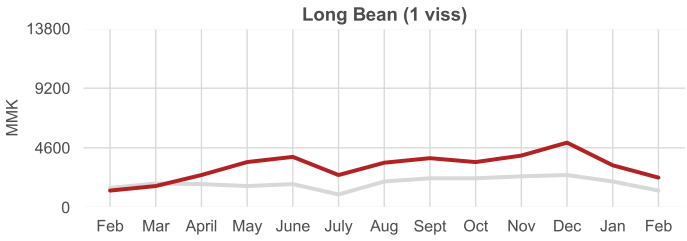
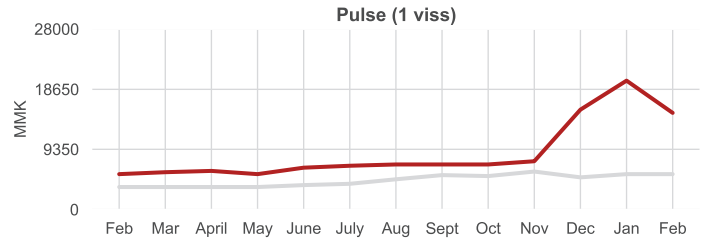
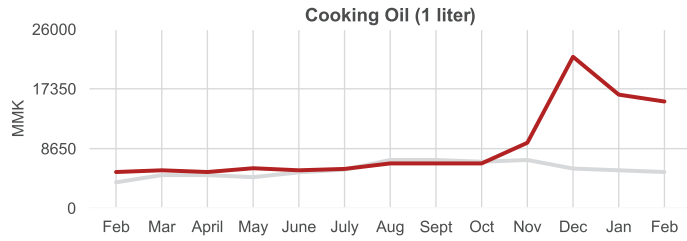
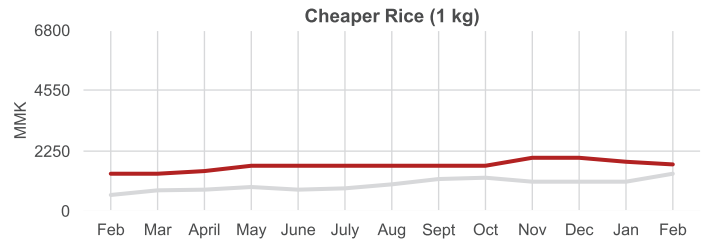
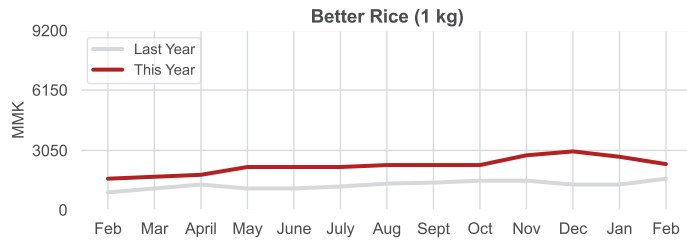
Other NFIs – NFI prices were less elevated than food prices but still remained 20-65% above last year. The median twelve-month price increase for most NFIs grew in February. Prices were much higher for blankets (+61%) and plastic tarps (+39%), and they were at least double for mosquito nets (+110%) and charcoal (+150%).

What to Watch

- Prices for **rice** and **vegetables** could remain lower through March if transportation improvements hold, but they are likely to rise again from April onward;
- Prices for **NFIs** are likely to continue upward as linkages between Rakhine State and central Myanmar remain fraught;
- Prices in **Sittwe** are likely to rise further in March as the township grows increasingly isolated and access to new supply becomes more difficult.

² 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 2024 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	-	3,500	2,500	1,700	-	2,000	2,200	-	3,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	-	3,000	1,700	1,200	-	1,200	1,800	-	2,300
Palm Oil (1 liter)	-	15,000	15,000	16,000	-	17,500	17,000	-	13,000
Pulse (1 viss)	-	-	5,000	16,000	-	15,000	19,000	-	15,000
Garlic (1 viss)	-	22,000	24,000	60,000	-	36,000	50,000	-	32,000
Onion (1 viss)	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	13,000	17,000	-	22,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	-	700	1,500	550	-	4,000	1,500	-	3,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	-	2,100	2,500	1,800	-	3,700	2,000	-	4,000
Watercress (1 viss)	-	1,000	2,300	1,500	-	3,500	1,500	-	-
Green Chili (1 viss)	-	7,000	10,000	6,000	-	8,000	6,000	-	2,500
Banana (1 bunch)	-	1,500	2,000	2,500	-	2,500	3,150	-	4,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	-	28,000	5,000	22,500	-	10,000	20,500	-	17,500
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	-	35,000	8,000	37,500	-	20,000	24,000	-	23,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	-	35,000	21,000	35,000	-	25,000	15,000	-	21,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	-	20,000	7,000	6,000	-	6,500	7,500	-	12,000
Chicken (1 viss)	-	-	10,000	-	-	20,000	25,000	-	-
Toothpaste (140 g)	-	3,000	2,900	3,000	-	3,000	2,400	-	2,300
Detergent (400 g)	-	2,000	2,500	1,500	-	2,500	3,200	-	1,500
Soap (60 g)	-	2,000	1,600	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	1,300
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	-	-	1,100	2,000	-	2,500	2,800	-	1,500
Charcoal (1 viss)	-	2,000	1,100	-	-	1,000	3,500	-	2,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	-	6,000	4,900	8,000	-	-	3,500	-	6,000
Blanket	-	11,000	20,000	14,000	-	-	15,000	-	-
Mosquito Net	-	-	-	6,000	-	12,000	12,000	-	-
Plastic Tarpaulin	-	8,000	11,500	12,000	-	13,000	-	-	-
Men's Longyi	-	-	12,000	14,000	-	15,000	13,000	-	8,500
Women's Longyi	-	-	14,000	10,500	-	-	12,000	-	9,000
Umbrella	-	3,000	8,000	5,250	-	4,500	5,500	-	3,500
Towel	-	3,500	2,500	1,700	-	2,000	2,200	-	3,500

*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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