

# 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

- **January saw relative price stability in most product categories** after November's ceasefire helped produce sweeping price reductions in December;
- **Essential food prices were fairly stable**, more or less tracking with this period last year;
- **Vegetable prices stood out in January, falling for a second month** as reductions in conflict enabled more local winter supply to reach markets;
- **Prices for meat/fish and NFIs were fairly stable**, much as they were in December but with fewer instances of falling prices this month;
- **Sittwe again saw more price hikes than other markets**, and Maungdaw again saw more price decreases;
- **A continued ceasefire could help extend current price stability** and possibly allow for another month of lower vegetable prices in February.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Essential food prices were fairly stable, although pulses resumed their climb in some markets.** Prices for pulses rose 15-22% in three markets, but they were stable elsewhere. Prices for cheaper and better rice fell by up to 17% in a few markets but were stable elsewhere. Palm oil showed rare stability, shifting by 8% or less in isolated cases.

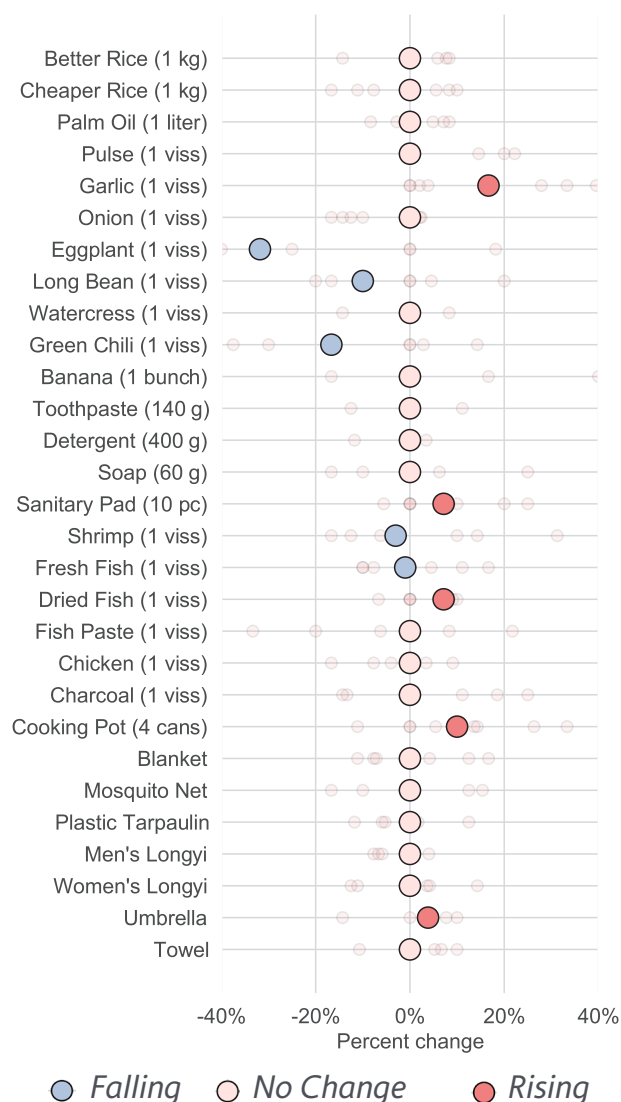
**Vegetables – Local winter supply helped reduce vegetable prices for a second straight month, but garlic prices rose.** Prices for garlic (imported to the state) were stable or rising, higher by 17% or more in most markets. Prices for eggplant, long bean and green chilli—which are widely grown locally—fell 10-40% in half of all markets. Prices for onion and watercress were stable or falling by 10% or more.

**Hygiene Products – Most hygiene products were again stable in January, but prices for sanitary pad returned to November levels.** Prices for toothpaste and detergent—which did not fall in December like many other products—were again stable in January. Soap prices fluctuated in a few markets but were generally stable. Prices for sanitary pads rose 7-25% in most markets in January, reversing December's price cuts.

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were mostly stable in January with some relatively minor price movement.** Dried fish rose by 7-10% in most markets in January, while shrimp and fresh fish saw modest price reductions of 2-12%. Prices for fish paste and chicken were fairly stable but fluctuated by up to 22% in some markets.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable in January with mostly moderate price fluctuation.** Prices for cooking pots rose at least 10% in most markets in January, and there were some stockouts

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

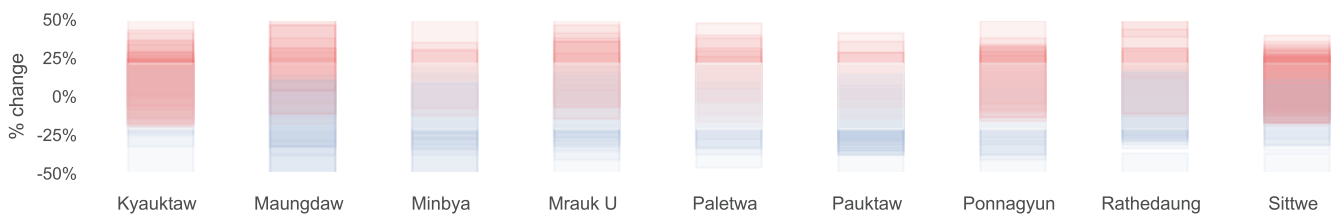


of umbrellas (likely due to lack of demand). Charcoal prices shifted by 11–25% in some markets, but otherwise most NFI prices changed by just 5–12%. Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe saw the most rising prices for NFIs in January.

## Township-Level Price Changes

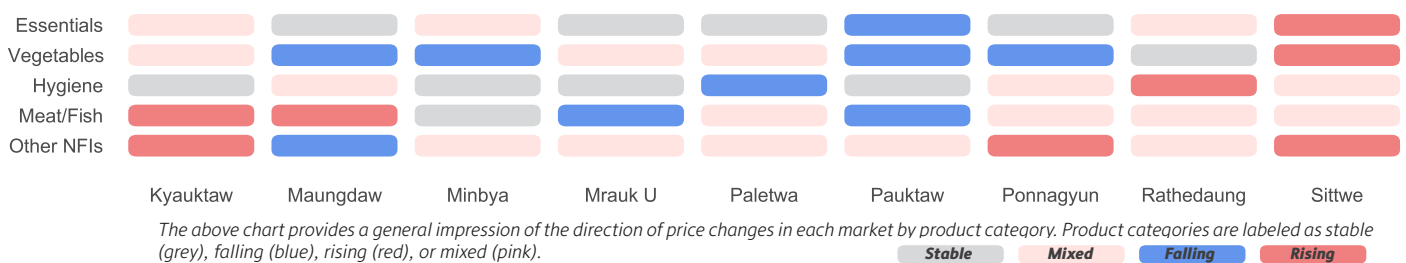
Prices for three-quarters of all products monitored were stable or falling in December, with Maungdaw and Ponnagyun experiencing the most price relief. Kyauktaw and Sittwe saw the most rising prices in January, but the impact was shallow: the median price change for all products in these townships was just 2–4%, and only one-quarter of all products monitored rose more than 7–8%. Maungdaw, Minbya and Pauktaw saw the most price-decreases, with one-quarter of all products monitored falling 11–13% (still a relatively small effect); for Minbya and Pauktaw this reversed some prices increases in December, while in Maungdaw some prices edged lower for a second month.

**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 – Stability for palm oil again brought prices closer to last year's levels.** Palm oil prices—rising slower than one year ago—drifted closer to early-2022 levels, although prices remained 81% higher. The median twelve-month increase for pulses remained 52% in January. High-quality rice remained 38% above last year, while low-quality rice maintained a larger gap of 56%.

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices remained well above last year, as falling prices in December and January mostly tracked with last year.** Eggplant, long bean and watercress prices remained 23–45% higher than last year, while recent spikes in garlic and green chili prices widened the gap over last year by 17–20 percentage points. Onion prices remained well above last year since large price increases began in June 2022.

**Hygiene Products – Stable prices for hygiene products maintained existing gaps over last year's prices.** The median twelve-month increase was again little-changed for toothpaste (+47%), sanitary pads (+51%), soap (+63%) and detergent (+58%).

**Meat and Fish – Stable meat/fish prices in January**

**slightly widened the gap over 2021 levels.** The median twelve-month increase grew for chicken (+61%), dried fish (+60%), fresh fish (+35%) and shrimp (+6%).

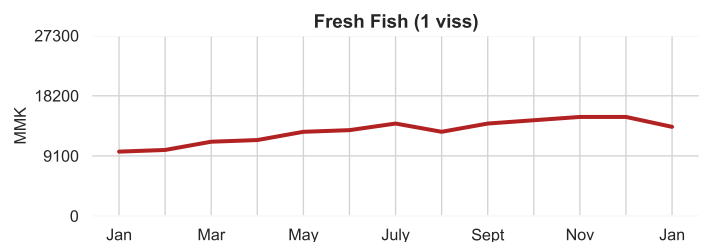
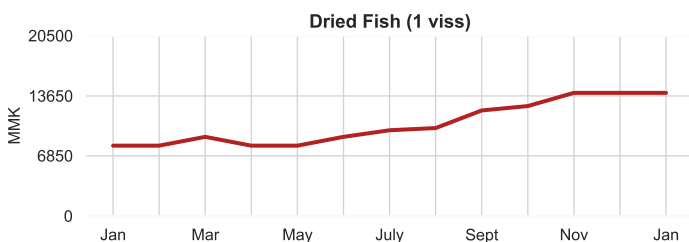
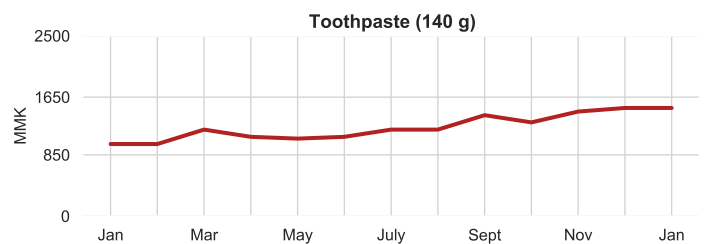
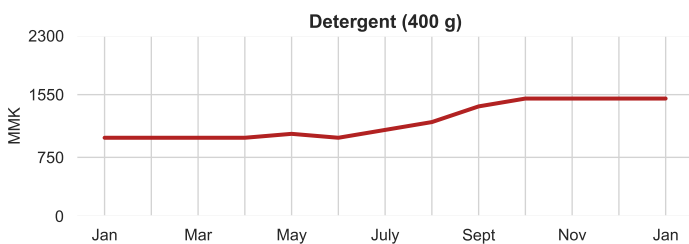
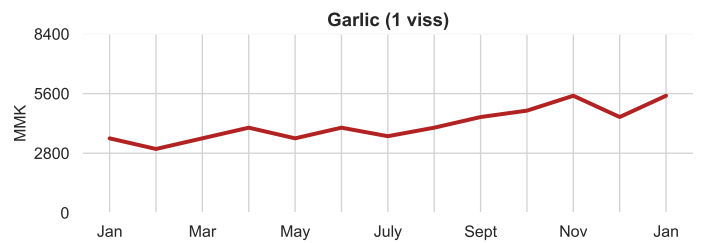
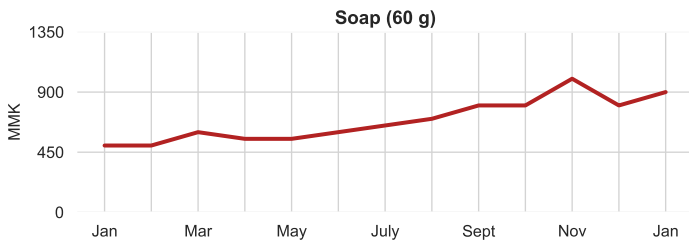
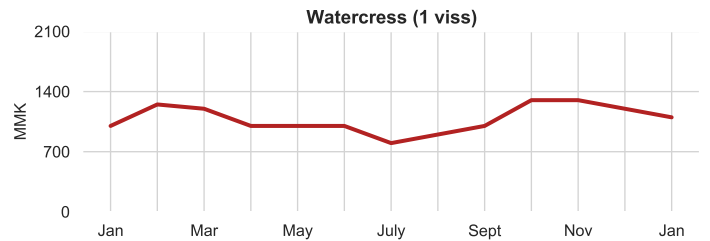
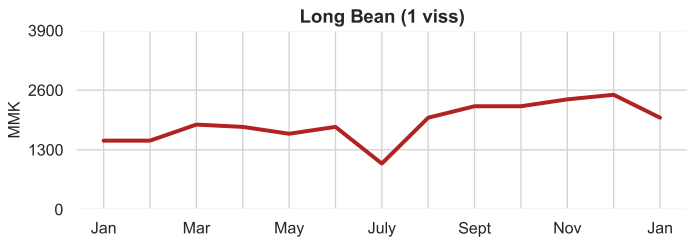
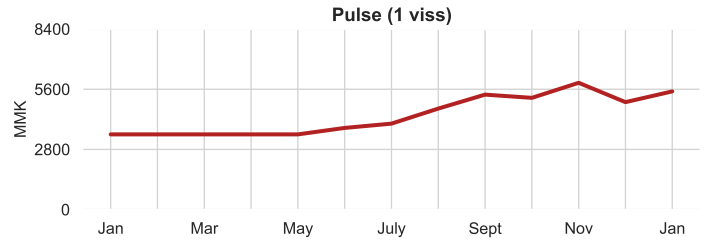
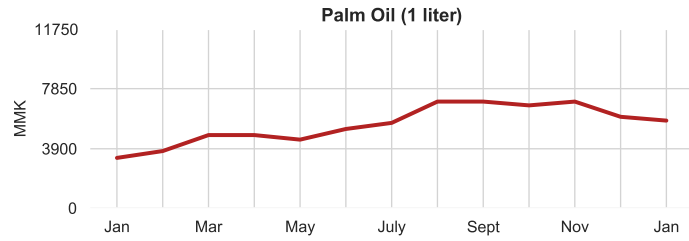
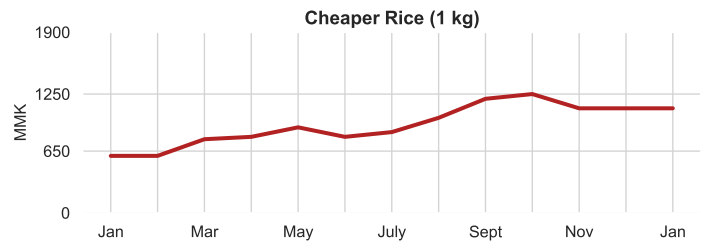
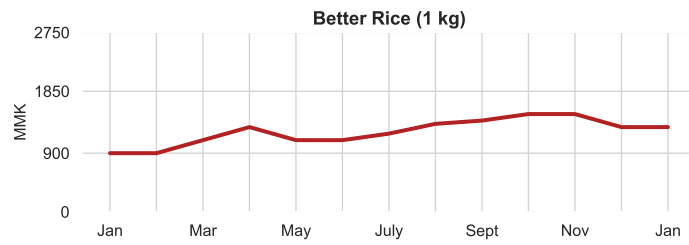
**Other NFIs – Relative stability for NFIs in January left most prices 30–68% above last year.** Recent NFI price changes were similar to last year, with higher prices for products like plastic tarps (+30%), cooking pots (33%) and blankets (40%). Prices for some products like charcoal and towels remained 65–68% higher.

### What to Watch

- An extended ceasefire could help prolong current price stability and possibly allow for another month of lower **vegetable** prices in February;
- The failure of **rice** prices to dip significantly following a second month of improved market conditions leaves some uncertainty about whether they have reached a seasonal bottom;
- Markets in the region with typically-higher prices—like **Maungdaw** and **Rathedaung**—may benefit the most from a continued reduction in conflict.

<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 January 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,300	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,500	1,200	1,300	1,700	1,800
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	800	1,200	1,000	1,100	1,300	1,000	1,100	1,200	950
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,500	5,000	5,250	-	6,000	7,500	5,000	5,500	8,600
Pulse (1 viss)	5,500	5,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	5,500	5,000	5,500	5,500
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	6,500	6,000	6,000	7,000	4,500	5,500	4,500	5,400
Onion (1 viss)	4,900	2,500	2,700	3,000	4,000	3,500	3,000	3,500	4,300
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,500	1,500	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,600
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,800	1,750	2,500	2,000	2,500	1,800	2,000	2,500	2,300
Watercress (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	-	3,000	1,200	800	1,300
Green Chili (1 viss)	7,200	3,500	2,500	4,000	5,000	6,500	2,500	5,000	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	700	1,000	1,000	700	300	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,750	1,500	1,500	1,300	1,500
Detergent (400 g)	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,700
Soap (60 g)	800	1,000	900	1,000	1,000	800	900	800	850
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	750	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	850	1,100	1,300
Shrimp (1 viss)	7,500	10,500	6,000	5,500	11,000	7,500	5,000	7,000	8,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	9,800	17,500	13,000	13,500	23,000	12,000	20,000	16,000	13,500
Dried Fish (1 viss)	15,000	11,000	13,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	13,000	14,000	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,800	7,000	2,500	2,000	4,000	2,000	3,500	6,500	7,500
Chicken (1 viss)	15,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	15,000	10,000	12,000	12,000	13,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	650	500	800	1,200	1,000	800	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,800	4,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	4,000	3,800	6,000	5,500
Blanket	4,500	8,000	10,000	12,000	10,000	6,000	14,000	6,500	7,500
Mosquito Net	7,500	-	-	4,000	5,000	7,000	4,500	4,500	4,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,900	6,000	-	7,200	8,000	4,500	7,200	8,000	7,500
Men's Longyi	6,500	6,000	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,000	8,000	7,800
Women's Longyi	5,700	6,000	7,000	8,000	7,500	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,500
Umbrella	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	7,000	5,500	6,000
Towel	3,500	2,200	2,000	4,000	3,500	4,500	4,000	4,000	2,500

\*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).

### **CONTACT**

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