

## RAKHINE STATE (JAN. 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](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).

- **Essential food prices were stable or falling in January**, and rice prices inched downward;
- **Vegetable prices fell significantly in January as winter harvest increased supply**, although these lower prices did not extend to less-productive areas like Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships;
- **In Sittwe prices fell at least slightly for half of all products monitored**, but other townships were stable;
- **Prices for essential foods and NFIs remained well above January 2021 levels**, while vegetable prices were slightly lower and meat and fish prices were generally similar to last year.

### Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods** – Essential food prices were stable or falling in January, and rice prices inched lower. Half of all markets saw both high- and low-quality rice prices fall (often by 10-20%) likely due to new, cheaper rice replacing old inventory. Prices for palm oil and pulses were stable, shifting by 6% or less.

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices fell in January as winter harvest boosted local supply. Pest damage in December gave way to improved yields in January, boosting vegetable supply and driving down prices. At least half of all markets saw lower prices for eggplant, long bean, watercress and green chili, (often 20-60% lower). Onion and garlic were less stable in January than in December but with no clear trend.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products were stable again in January, and even more so than in December. Most townships saw little change in prices for hygiene products and the rest saw fairly moderate shifts of 10-20%.

**Meat and Fish** – Meat and fish prices were generally stable or falling slightly in January, much as they were in December. Most townships saw no more than a 10% change in meat and fish prices, most often in a downward direction. Yet there were isolated cases of larger price swings, both downward (dried fish) and upward (shrimp) as volume of supply fluctuated.

**Other NFIs** – NFI prices were stable again in January, although

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

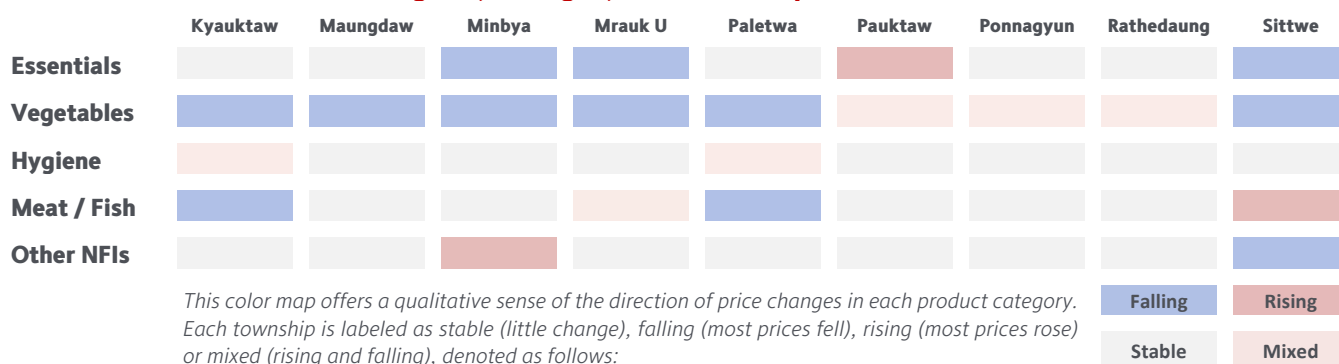


some NFIs saw prices rise. Most NFIs saw isolated price shifts of 10-20% as some retailers reported suppliers raising prices. Men’s and women’s longyis rose about 10% in some townships, and cooking pots were up at least 8% in five townships. Charcoal prices rose 20% or more in four townships, possibly due to power outages.

## Township-Level Price Changes

Most townships saw fairly stable prices in January, although with more price decreases than in December. Prices in Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships were quite stable in January, as were prices in Maungdaw (notwithstanding vegetables). Other townships saw slightly more price variation, and Sittwe stood out the most in January with lower prices for half of all products monitored.

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



## Twelve-Month Price Changes<sup>1</sup>

**Essential Foods** – Essential food prices remained well above January 2021 levels, but no more so than the previous month. Prices for rice and pulses were 20-25% higher, and palm oil was up 76% (Charts 3-14).

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices were slightly lower than in January 2021. Long bean, watercress and green chili had median price changes of 5-20% lower than last year, while onion and eggplant were on par with January 2021.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products remained well above January 2021 levels. Prices for toothpaste and soap were 27-38% above December 2020 levels, while detergent was 53% higher. Prices for sanitary pads remained about 10% below January 2021 levels (slightly less dramatic than in December).

**Meat and Fish** – Meat and fish prices were level with last year, although dried fish prices were much higher. Chicken and fish were within 12% of last year,

and shrimp prices remained roughly 20% lower. Dried fish prices were nearly 50% higher than January 2021.

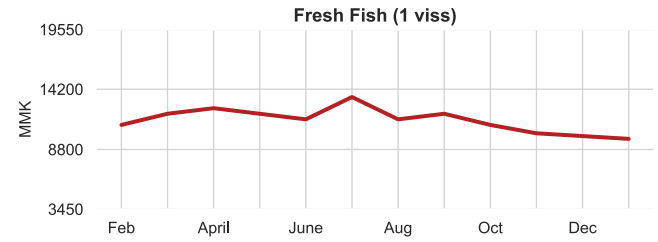
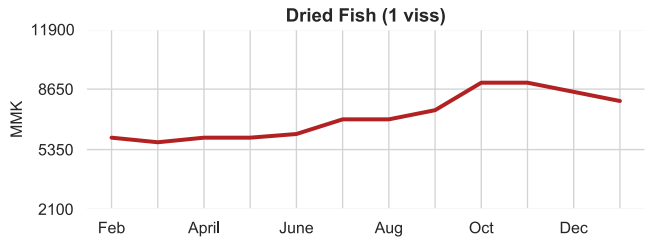
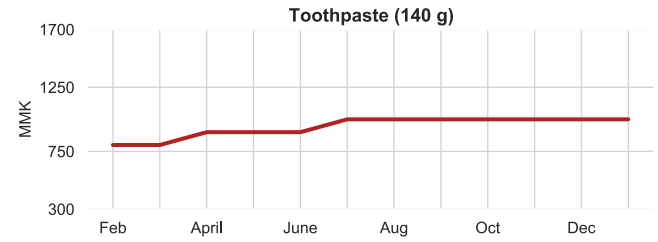
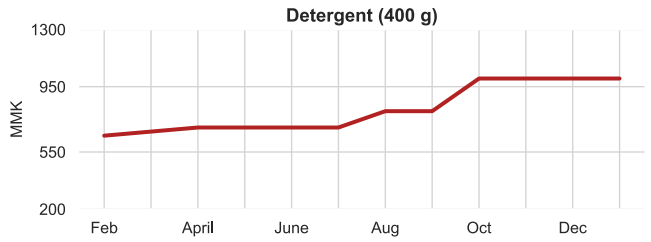
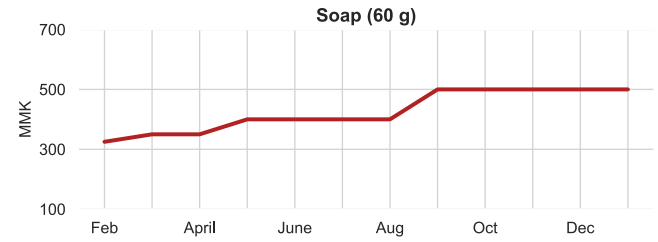
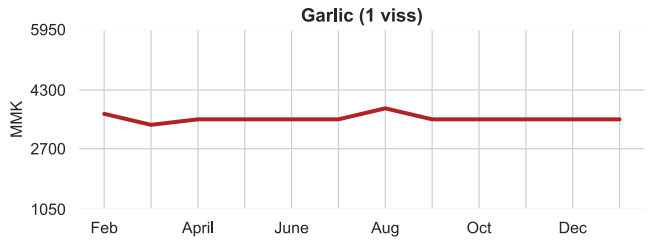
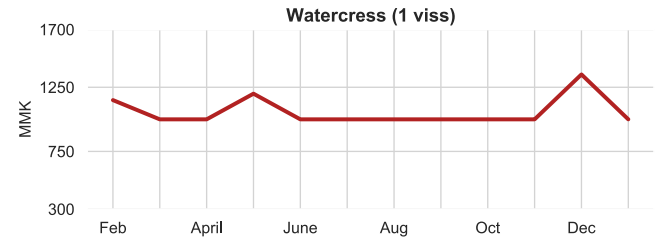
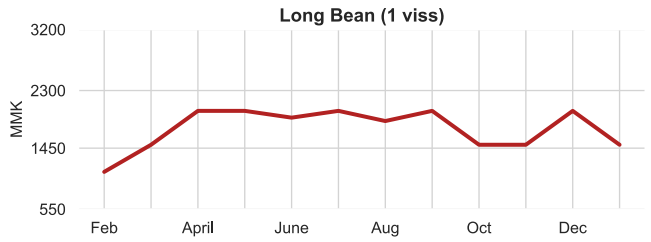
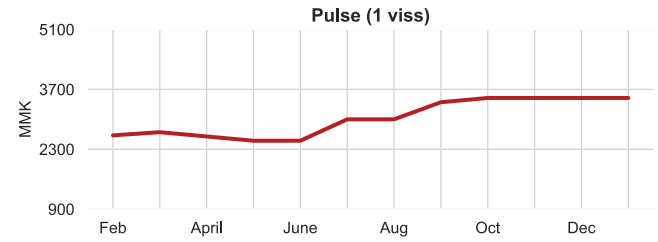
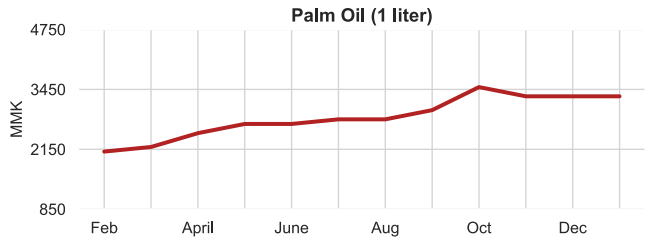
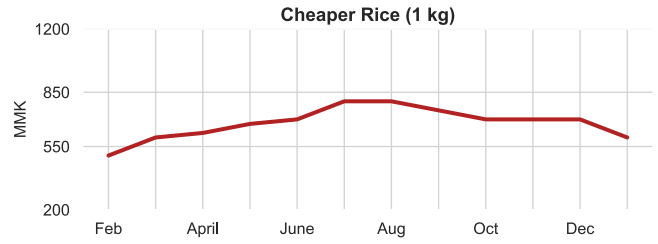
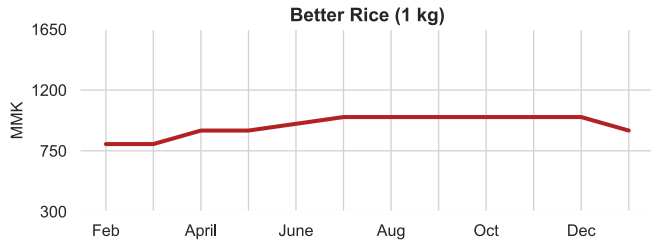
**Other NFIs** – Prices for some NFIs remained higher than last year. Blankets and towels were similar to last year, while umbrellas and mosquito nets remained much higher.

### What to Watch

- **Rice** prices may fall further as retailers further shift from pricier 2020 inventory to cheaper supply from the recent 2021 harvest;
- **Vegetable** prices should remain low in the near term as farmers send their yields to market, but the financial and nutritional benefits of this may not be felt in less-productive townships;
- Although **NFI** prices plateaued in recent months, transportation costs could push prices still higher.

<sup>1</sup> 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 January 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	900	1,000	800	900	1,200	1,500	900	1,200	900
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	600	600	500	600	800	1,200	600	700	750
Palm Oil (1 liter)	3,500	3,400	3,300	3,500	3,500	3,300	3,200	3,300	3,300
Pulse (1 viss)	3,500	3,650	3,500	3,200	4,500	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,000
Salt (800 g)	250	250	250	300	275	250	450	200	150
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	3,750	2,500	3,500	4,000	3,500	3,400	3,000	2,800
Onion (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	800	1,300	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200	900
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,450	700	800	700	1,350	2,500	1,400	1,200	1,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,150	1,400	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,700	1,500
Watercress (1 viss)	650	1,000	800	1,500	-	2,000	900	1,600	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	1,400	2,100	800	1,000	3,000	2,800	1,550	2,400	1,500
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,050	800	1,200	800	1,300	900	1,000	1,000	1,500
Detergent (400 g)	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,000	1,100	1,100	600	1,000	900
Soap (60 g)	750	500	500	600	500	500	400	500	500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	675	800	600	700	750	700	500	500	600
Shrimp (1 viss)	6,350	-	7,000	6,500	-	9,000	7,000	6,000	7,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	6,900	17,000	12,000	9,500	-	8,500	10,000	13,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	9,500	8,000	8,000	9,000	8,500	8,500	8,000	8,000	6,000
Chicken (1 viss)	7,250	9,000	-	8,000	7,000	6,500	7,500	10,000	7,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	600	1,000	600	700	-	500	500	-	700
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	4,500	4,000	4,500	4,000	3,500	2,000	5,000	3,500	3,000
Blanket	4,000	6,000	6,000	6,500	6,250	7,500	8,000	6,500	4,500
Mosquito Net	6,000	4,000	5,000	4,000	4,500	3,500	4,000	3,500	4,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	4,800	6,000	4,500	5,500	-	4,500	-	5,600	6,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	6,000	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,000	5,250	5,000	5,500
Women's Longyi	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,500	5,250	4,500	5,500	4,500	6,000
Umbrella	5,000	-	5,000	5,500	3,500	7,500	8,000	4,000	3,500
Towel	2,500	1,200	2,500	1,000	-	2,500	1,600	1,700	2,000

\*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

## Mercy Corps' 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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