

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.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Essential food prices dipped in January** as rice prices fell 4% and cooking oil prices declined 10-32%;
- **Vegetable prices fell 25-75% across markets**, likely due in large part to new supply of local winter crops;
- **Vegetables remained 200-500% above last year**, even after falling prices unwound the latest price hikes;
- **Meat and fish prices rose another 10% in January**, and they lingered 60-120% above 2023 levels;
- **Prices for hygiene products climbed at least 17%** amid retailer reports of dwindling supply;
- **Access to NFIs from outside the region may worsen** as roads and town markets remain closed;
- **Lower rice and vegetable prices were a promising sign** and suggested that winter crop harvest may be reaching local markets despite mounting challenges.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices dipped modestly in January. Rice prices retreated by 4% or more in most markets monitored, while cooking oil prices fell 10-32% (one-time oil shipments to Sittwe in mid-January likely explain this in part). Prices for pulses rose another 10% or more in several markets.

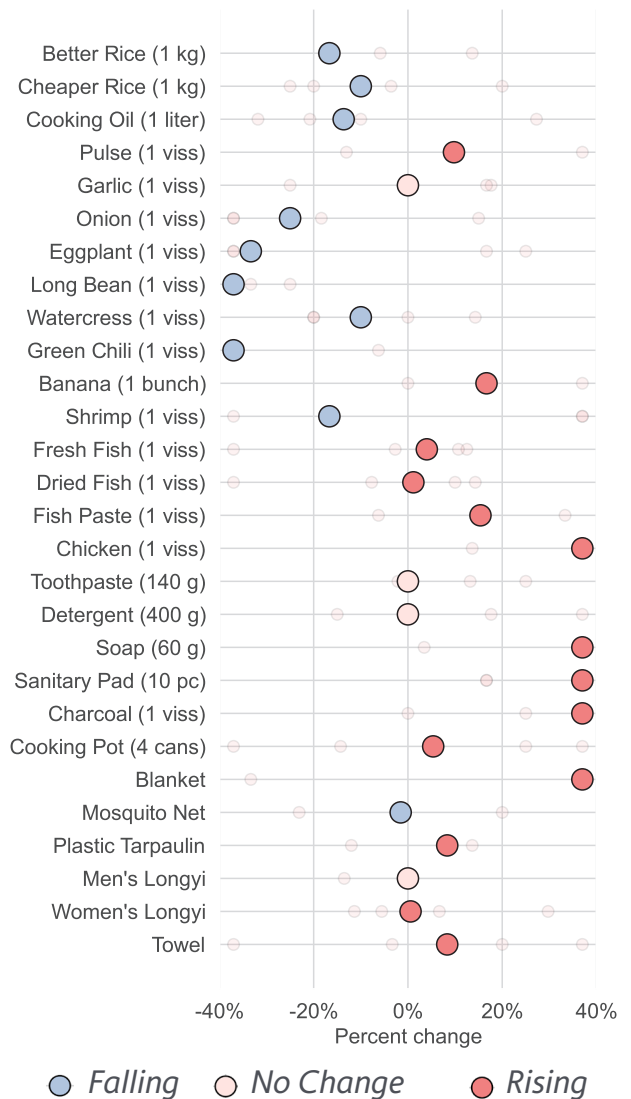
Vegetables – Vegetable prices fell 25-75% across markets, likely due to increased winter supply. Prices for onion, eggplant, garlic, and green chili retreated 25-75% in January, likely due to improved supply from winter harvest. Lower prices may also owe in part to a shift to measuring village prices (vegetables are often cheaper in villages where they are grown than in towns where they are sold with a mark-up for transportation costs).¹

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices increased 10% or more in most markets in January. Chicken prices rose more sharply than other foods in January and prices doubled in Ponnagyun. Meat/fish prices fell in some cases but rose in general. Sittwe saw notable increases of 10-30% for multiple meat/fish items.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products climbed at least 17% in January amid reports of dwindling inventory. Prices for soap, detergent, and sanitary pads doubled in some cases, and retailers reported low inventories. Prices for hygiene products were fairly stable in Sittwe and Maungdaw towns, but prices were higher in villages where town markets have closed.

Other NFIs – NFI prices climbed in January, particularly winter-related items like charcoal and blankets. Prices for charcoal and blankets increased 25-50% in January, while prices also rose in some markets for cooking pots, tarps and towels. Retailers worried about stockouts of NFIs supplied from afar.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



¹ Due to town market closures in Minbya, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung prices were gathered in nearby village markets. Compared to towns, prices in village may be on average lower for locally-grown food items and higher for NFIs imported to the region.

Township-Level Price Changes

The deepest and widest price increases in January were in Minbya and Ponnagyun, where half of all prices monitored rose 10% or more. One-quarter of all prices monitored in Minbya and Ponnagyun rose 19% and 25%, respectively, in January. This may be due in part to a shift from monitoring town to village prices, however prices also trended upward (albeit less dramatically) in Sittwe and Maungdaw towns. In Sittwe and Maungdaw, one-quarter of all prices monitored rose 16% and 19%, respectively. The primary outlier was Rathedaung which saw prices increase but also saw half of all prices monitored decline at least 6%. Prices were rarely stable in January.

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 – Essential food prices were double January 2023 levels. The median twelve-month increase for rice grew 20-23 percentage points, reaching levels 86-100% above last year. Prices remained exceptionally higher for cooking oil (+130%) and pulses (+93%).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were 200-500% higher than last year. New winter vegetable supply unwound recent price hikes, yet prices remained well above last year. The twelve-month price increase remained large for eggplant (+140%), watercress (+190%), long bean (+110%), and especially winter imports like onion (+370%), green chili (+320%), and garlic (+470%).

Meat and Fish – Stubbornly-high meat/fish prices reached levels 60-120% above January 2023. Recent price hikes remained in place, increasing the median twelve-month price increase for shrimp (+76%), fresh fish (+61%), dried fish (+80%), fish paste (+120%), and chicken (+65%).

Hygiene Products – Poor supply pushed soap and toothpaste prices 65-75% above last year. The medi-

an twelve-month price increase grew notably for toothpaste (+64%) and soap (+74%) amid reports of poor supply. Prices also remained higher for detergent (+17%) and sanitary pads (+33%).

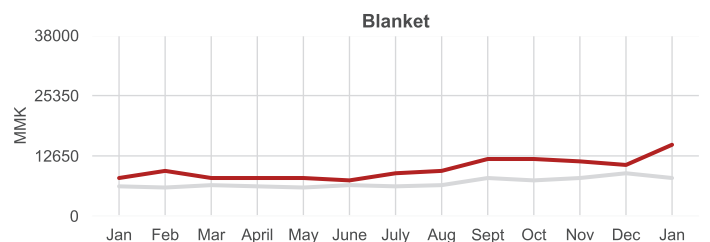
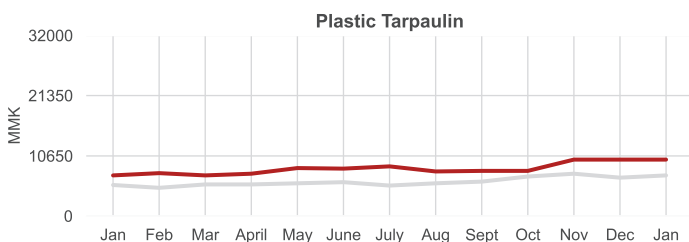
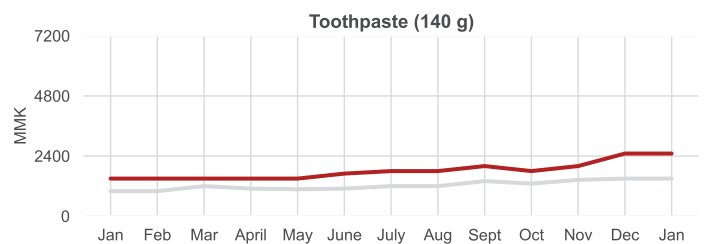
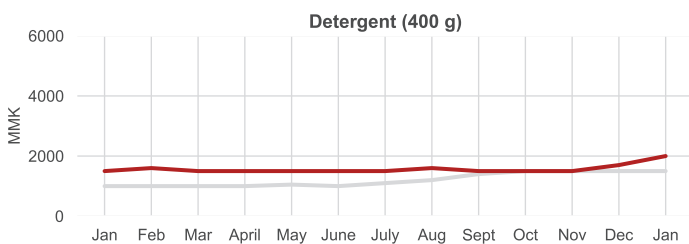
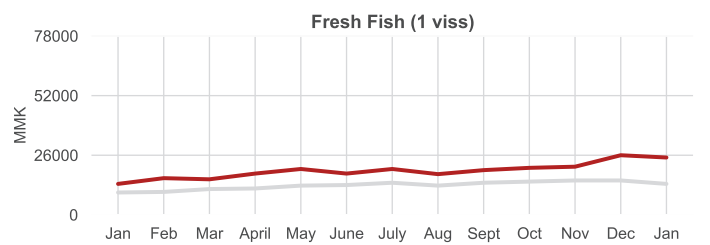
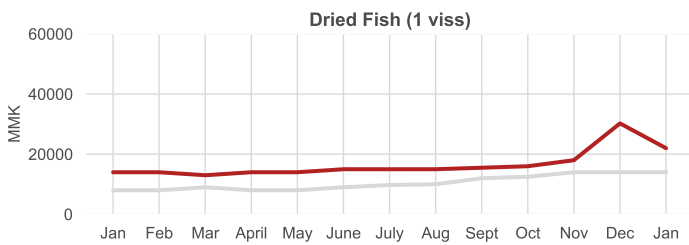
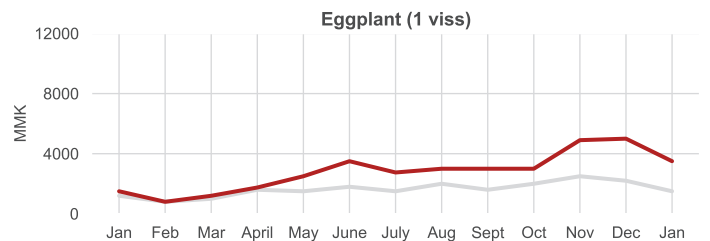
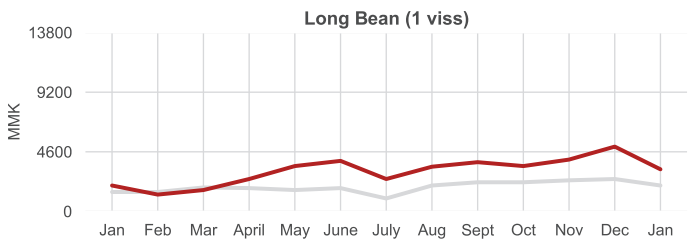
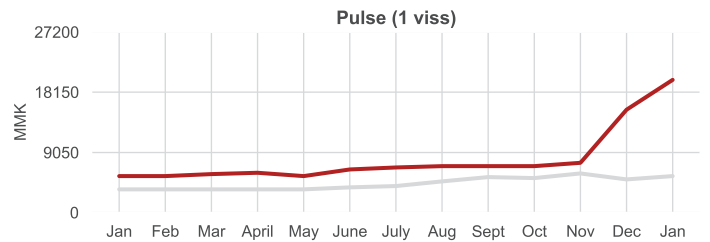
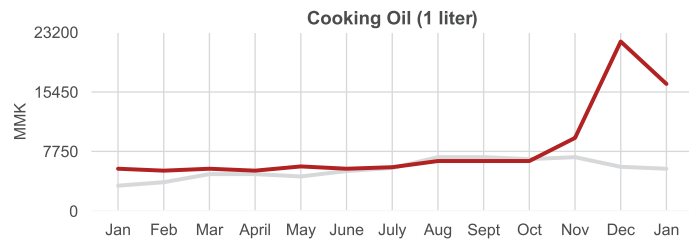
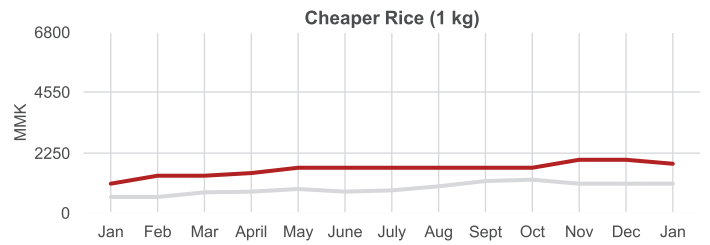
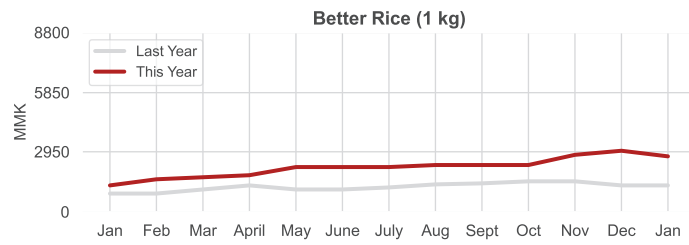
Other NFIs – Other NFI prices hewed closest to last year but remained 20-65% higher. The median twelve-month price increase for most NFIs grew slightly in January. Prices were notably higher for cooking pots (+34%), blankets (+44%), and plastic tarps (+38%).

What to Watch

- Falling **rice** and **vegetable** prices were a promising sign suggesting rural winter crop harvest may still be reaching local markets;
- Lower **cooking oil** prices may be short-lived as they are likely driven in part by temporary imports by sea to Sittwe;
- Access to **NFIs** from central Myanmar—particularly **hygiene** items already in short supply—will likely worsen as roads and town markets remain closed.

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 January 2024 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	-	5,000	2,500	-	-	2,950	2,400	2,500	3,700
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	-	4,000	1,800	-	-	1,900	1,800	1,500	2,700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	-	14,000	18,000	-	-	15,000	20,000	19,000	15,000
Pulse (1 viss)	-	20,000	5,000	-	-	-	23,000	30,000	11,000
Garlic (1 viss)	-	20,000	30,000	-	-	40,000	50,000	30,000	35,000
Onion (1 viss)	-	10,000	25,000	-	-	35,000	23,000	30,000	20,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	-	3,500	7,000	-	-	-	6,250	2,500	2,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	-	3,500	-	-	-	-	6,750	2,500	3,000
Watercress (1 viss)	-	2,000	3,900	-	-	-	4,000	5,000	8,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	-	14,000	10,000	-	-	20,000	37,500	15,000	6,000
Banana (1 bunch)	-	2,000	2,500	-	-	-	3,000	3,500	4,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	-	35,000	5,000	-	-	-	33,000	12,500	23,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	-	31,500	18,000	-	-	20,000	30,000	31,000	11,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	-	35,000	15,000	-	-	-	22,000	32,000	22,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	-	20,000	7,500	-	-	-	20,000	7,500	8,000
Chicken (1 viss)	-	-	30,000	-	-	19,000	43,000	25,000	25,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	-	2,000	3,000	-	-	2,500	3,000	2,500	2,300
Detergent (400 g)	-	1,700	2,000	-	-	-	2,500	2,000	1,500
Soap (60 g)	-	1,500	2,500	-	-	1,500	2,000	2,000	1,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	-	2,500	1,750	-	-	-	2,500	3,500	1,400
Charcoal (1 viss)	-	3,000	15,000	-	-	2,000	1,600	2,500	1,500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	-	8,000	6,000	-	-	-	5,000	4,500	7,500
Blanket	-	11,000	25,000	-	-	-	15,000	10,000	28,500
Mosquito Net	-	-	12,000	-	-	-	18,000	5,000	8,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	-	10,000	13,000	-	-	-	-	-	8,800
Men's Longyi	-	8,000	8,000	-	-	-	12,000	9,000	8,250
Women's Longyi	-	8,000	12,000	-	-	-	11,000	8,500	7,800
Umbrella	-	8,000	8,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Towel	-	3,000	4,800	-	-	-	3,500	2,500	2,900

*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).

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