

RAKHINE STATE (JULY 2022)

MARKET PRICE REPORT

Market Analysis Unit (MAU)

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.

- In July prices increased across markets for palm oil, pulses, meat/fish and hygiene products;
- Prices fell for many vegetables in July, and prices for NFIs generally drifted downward as well;
- The median twelve-month increase for many foods stood at 15% or less in July, although many NFIs remained nearly 50% higher than last year, and palm oil remained 86% above 2021 levels;
- Ponnagyun and Rathedaung Townships saw uniquely broad price increases in July.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Prices for palm oil and pulses rose again in July, while rice held stable. Prices for palm oil and pulses rose for a second straight month, increasing by at least 5% in most markets. Rice was fairly stable for a second month, although prices spiked in Rathedaung (which saw broad increases).

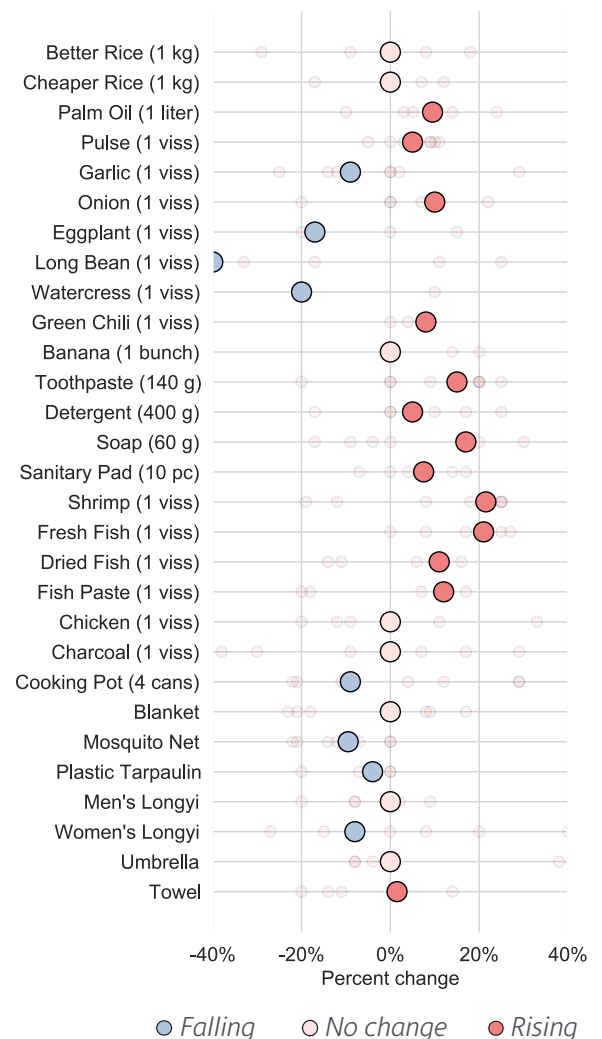
Vegetables – Vegetable prices generally fell in July, partly reversing large increases in June. Local monsoon supply reduced prices for eggplant, long bean and watercress by 18% or more in most townships, and garlic prices often fell by 9% or more. Onion and green chili prices continued rising in July, especially in low-production areas that accrue more transportation costs (e.g., Rathedaung and Sittwe).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products rose in July in what was the largest increase in nearly a year. More than half of all markets monitored saw at least a 15% increase for soap and toothpaste, while most markets saw increases of 4% or more for detergent and sanitary pads.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices rose in July following two months of stability. Most markets saw prices increase 8% or more for shrimp, fish paste, fresh fish and dried fish (partly a seasonal affect). Chicken prices were relatively stable in July, despite reduced supply in Rathedaung and Mrauk U. Kyauktaw and Pauktaw stood out for falling meat and fish prices in a month when most townships saw prices rise.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable or falling in July, reversing the upward trend observed in June. Prices for mosquito nets,

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

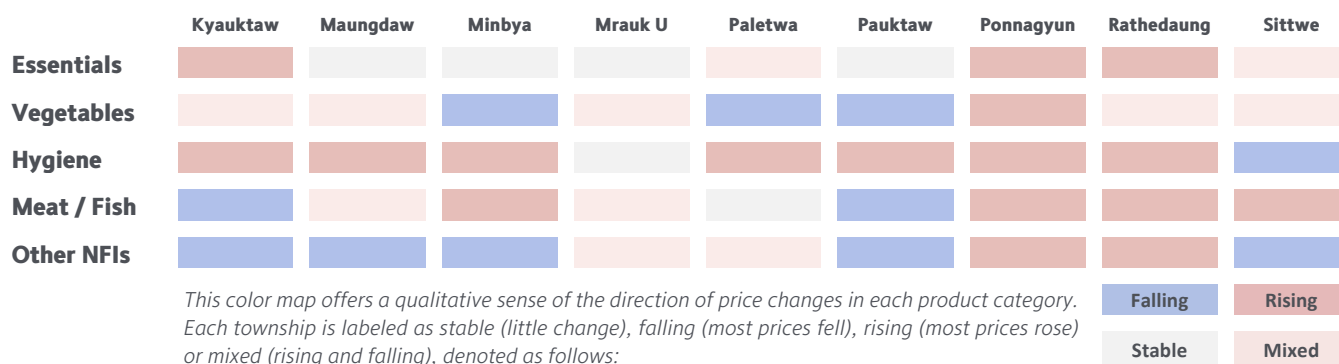


cooking pots, and women’s longyis fell by at least 7% in half of all markets monitored in July (other NFIs were fairly stable). NFI prices fell most often in Sittwe, while prices rose most often in Rathedaung township.

Township-Level Price Changes

Most townships observed similar trends at a category-level in July, although Ponnagyun and Rathedaung stood out for across-the-board increases. Prices increased across all product categories in Ponnagyun and Rathedaung, possibly due to limited local supply in monsoon and rising transportation costs. Sittwe, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw saw the most price decreases, although even these townships saw prices rise for hygiene and/or meat and fish products. In general, townships saw similar price trends at the category-level.

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



Twelve-Month Price Changes¹

Essential Foods – The gap between 2021 and 2022 prices for essential foods held steady in July. The median twelve-month increase for high- and low-quality rice narrowed slightly to 15-16% in July. The median increase for pulses remained at 43%, while palm oil edged up to 86% above 2021 (Charts 3-14).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices in July were not far off 2021 levels. The median prices for garlic, eggplant, long bean and watercress were all within 12% of July 2021 levels. In general, vegetable prices in July appeared to track with 2021 prices.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained well above 2021 levels in July. Rising prices for hygiene products pushed the median twelve-month increase for soap and detergent to 47-50% above last year. The median increase for sanitary pads and toothpaste remained at 14-21%.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices remained somewhat above 2021 levels in July. The median

twelve-month price change for fresh fish and chicken remained around 10%, although the median change for shrimp increased to 44% over July 2021 levels. Dried fish generally remained 35% above 2021 levels.

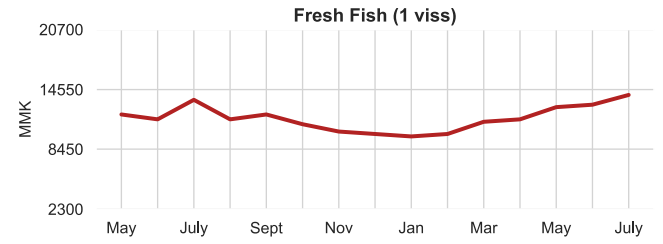
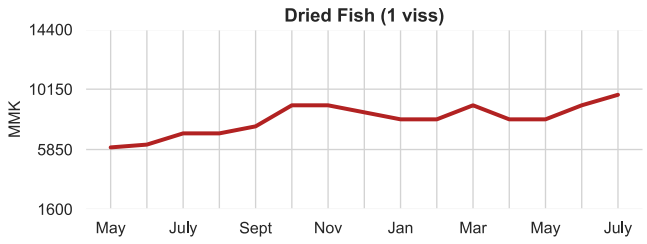
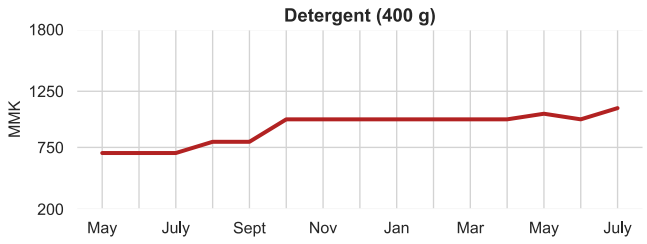
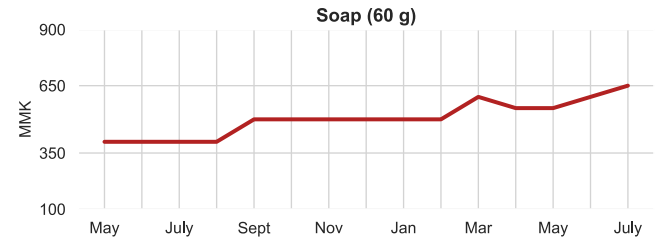
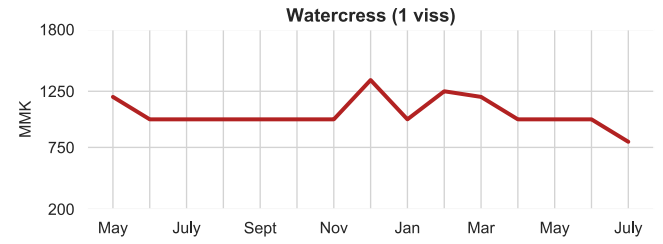
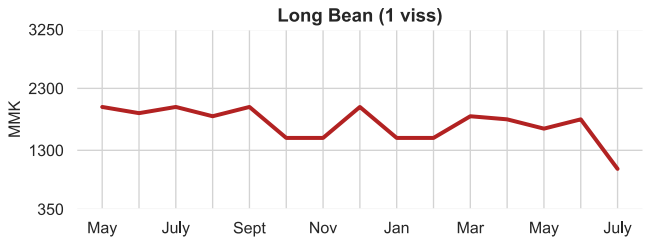
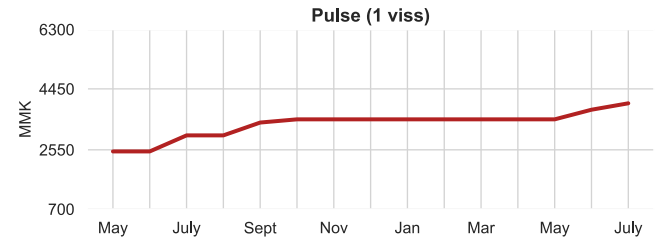
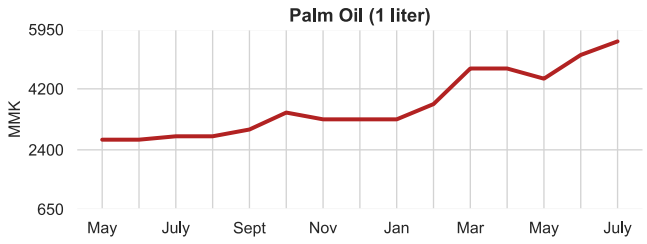
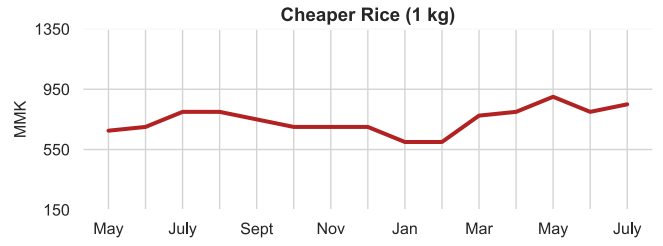
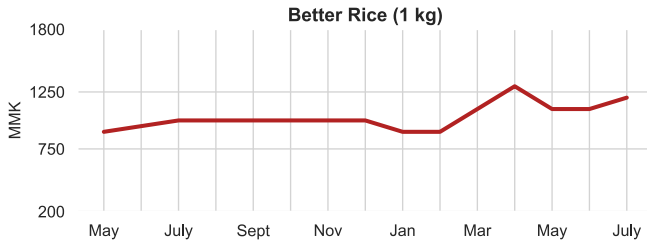
Other NFIs – NFI prices remained well above July 2021 levels. The median twelve-month increase for most NFIs remained 43% or more, although recent increases for NFI prices increased the gap slightly for some goods (e.g., cooking pots, blankets, longyis, umbrellas).

What to Watch

- **Palm oil** prices may rise further, although prices for **pulses** are unlikely to rise continuously;
- Local supply may help reduce **vegetable** prices, but transport costs may limit this effect to areas with good monsoon-season production;
- **NFIs** shook off June’s price increases in July, but price stability may be temporary if depreciation of the kyat further increases fuel costs.

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 July 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,100	1,250	1,000	1,300	1,400	1,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	900	900	700	750	850	800	900	1,000	750
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,200	5,700	4,500	-	5,500	5,500	5,400	6,000	5,700
Pulse (1 viss)	3,800	3,750	4,000	3,800	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,800
Garlic (1 viss)	4,100	4,000	3,000	3,600	5,000	3,400	3,500	3,000	4,500
Onion (1 viss)	2,000	2,200	2,200	2,000	2,000	2,200	2,300	2,000	2,200
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,500	850	1,500	1,650	500	1,200	2,400	2,000	1,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	850	700	1,000	2,000	600	1,000	2,000	1,500	1,800
Watercress (1 viss)	550	-	800	1,200	500	2,000	1,100	800	800
Green Chili (1 viss)	10000	7000	4000	3250	1500	4000	3650	4500	3500
Banana (1 bunch)	600	800	400	600	500	800	900	1000	1000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,100	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Detergent (400 g)	1,500	1,000	1,050	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,100	1,700	1,000
Soap (60 g)	700	600	800	675	500	700	600	650	500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	750	700	700	700	1,000	700	650	800	700
Shrimp (1 viss)	6500	7000	8500	6500	-	7500	8750	7500	7500
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	12,000	17,500	14,000	16,500	-	10,000	14,000	19,000	13,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	9,500	9,000	10,000	8,000	-	10,000	9,000	11,000	10,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	1,800	7,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	2,000	3,750	4,500	7,000
Chicken (1 viss)	7,500	10,000	8,000	12,000	-	9,500	9,750	-	10,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	500	500	300	1,000	750	600	700
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5000	4000	3000	4500	3500	3500	6500	4500	4500
Blanket	3700	6500	5000	7000	7000	7000	-	5500	6000
Mosquito Net	5,600	4,500	3,000	3,500	7,500	4,500	4,750	6,000	3,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,200	5,600	1,200	6,000	7,200	3,900	-	6,500	5,200
Men's Longyi	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,600	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Women's Longyi	5,000	5,500	2,500	6,000	5,500	6,000	6,500	7,000	5,500
Umbrella	6,000	6,000	5,500	6,250	8,000	6,500	6,000	5,500	5,500
Towel	3,000	1,600		3,500	3,500	2,500	3,500	3,500	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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