

# 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

- **Products and markets were more stable in July** compared to June and particularly May;
- **Prices for rice, oil and pulses were stable**, yet this held in place the price hikes following Cyclone Mocha in May;
- **Stockouts continued to affect some vegetables**, while poorer-quality goods may have pushed prices lower;
- **Prices for hygiene products and NFIs were stable**, with few signs of rising prices;
- **Prices in Kyauktaw fell widely**, which retailers credited to delayed supply improvements after Cyclone Mocha;
- **NFI prices remained 20-50% higher than last year**, and hygiene products lingered 40-60% higher;
- **Rice prices will likely rise in the coming months** after recently settling into new-highs, and wholesaler decisions could push NFI prices higher.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable for again in July, locking in place May's large price hikes.** Rice prices fluctuated slightly in July but were overall stable. Prices for palm oil and pulses rose 3-12% in several markets, but elsewhere prices were stable.

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices fell in July, but this may have been driven as much by falling quality as by rising supply.** Eggplant and green chili were down 12% or more in July, although some markets these products saw stockouts. Watercress and long bean were generally available, and prices were down 6% and 40%, respectively. Retailers said local vegetable yields were good, but product quality was low due to poor monsoon-season storage. By contrast, garlic prices rose again in July—up 12% in most markets—as seasonal supply continued to ebb.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were mostly stable in July, although prices shifted in some markets.** Toothpaste prices were up 6-20% in several markets, while soap, detergent, and sanitary pads were down 6% or more in some cases.

**Meat and Fish – Shrimp rose and fresh fish prices fell, while other meat/fish prices fluctuated.** Shrimp prices fell at least 7% in most markets in July, while fresh fish prices rose at least 6%. Prices for other meat/fish products showed no clear trend.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices were relatively stable in July, and stockouts were less frequent than the previous month.** Prices for plastic tarps fell 12% or more in some markets, and prices for blankets were up 6% or more. A few markets saw higher prices for towels, longyis, and cooking pots, but NFI prices were otherwise relatively stable (even more so than in June).

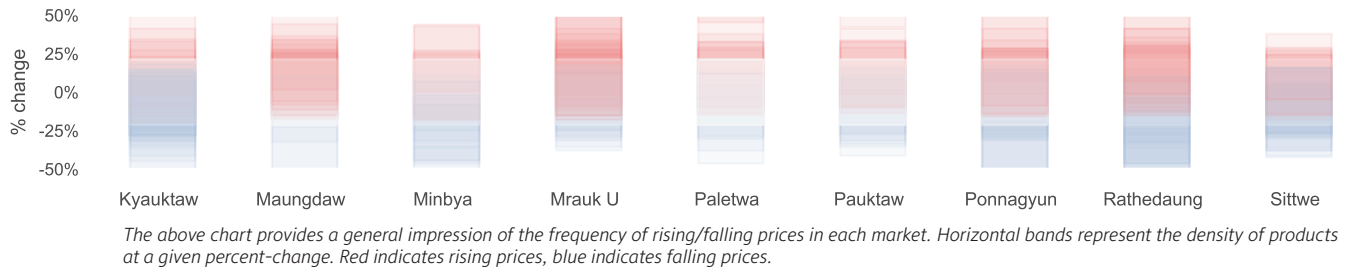
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



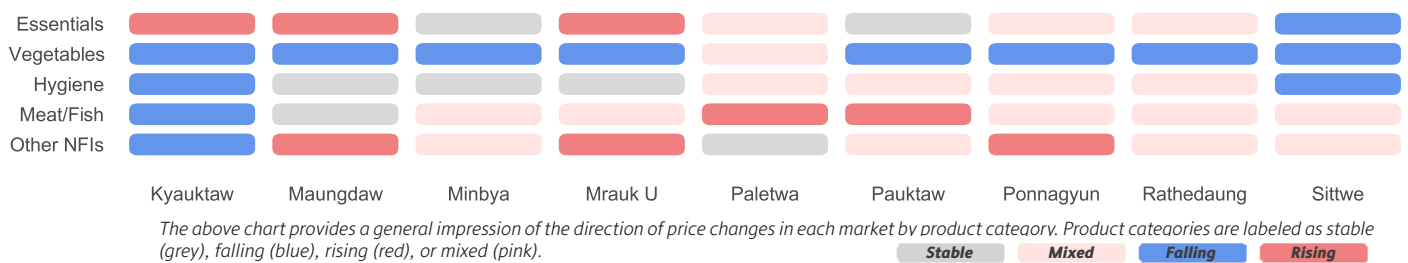
## Township-Level Price Changes

Most markets saw a second month of growing price stability in July, although Rathedaung some saw notable price increases and many prices fell in Kyauktaw and Mrauk U. Prices fell widely in Kyauktaw in July, with half of all products monitored down 6% or more; retailers attributed this in part to delayed recovery from Cyclone Mocha. Mrauk U and Rathedaung saw the most price increases in July, with one-quarter of all products up at least 11% and 9%, respectively; Rathedaung also saw the most price decreases, with one-quarter down at least 25%. In general, most markets saw less price volatility in July than in the previous month.

**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 Changes<sup>1</sup>

**Essential Foods – Stable markets held essential food prices 70-100% above July 2022 levels.** The median twelve-month increase was largely unchanged for better rice (+80%), cheaper rice (+98%), and pulses (68%), all of which remained far higher than last year. Prices for palm oil (+13%) were up slightly from last year.

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices remained 80-100% above July 2022 levels.** Despite some falling prices in July, garlic (+94%), eggplant (+92%), watercress (+94%), long bean (+88%), and green chili (+97%) all remained nearly-double what they were last year. Stable prices for onion (+79%) again drifted closer to 2022.

**Hygiene Products – Stable prices for hygiene products remained 40-60% above July 2022 levels.** Prices remained elevated for toothpaste (+39%), detergent (+37%), sanitary pads (+58%), and soap (+89%).

**Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices changed at a pace similar to last year, staying 30-60% higher than 2022.** Prices for shrimp (+27%), dried fish (+65%), chicken (+52%), fresh fish (+59%), and fish paste (+40%) in-

creased slightly more gradually than last year.

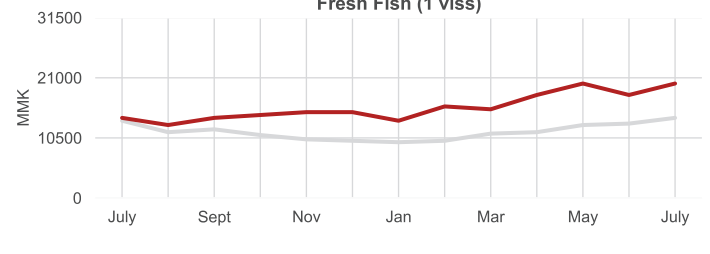
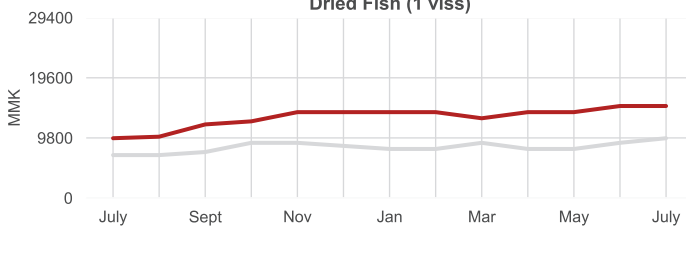
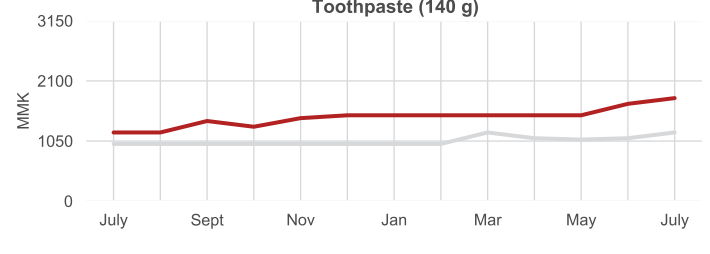
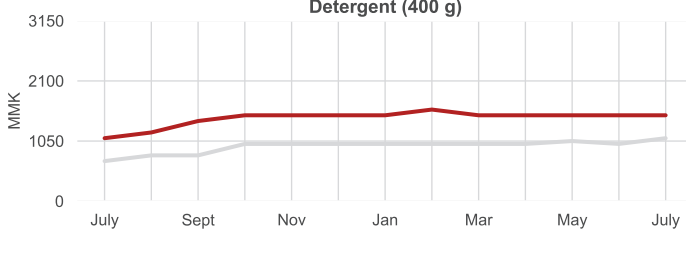
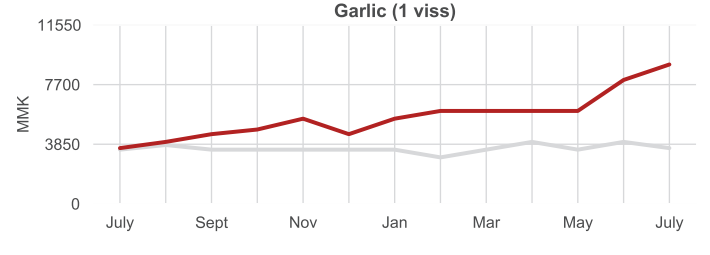
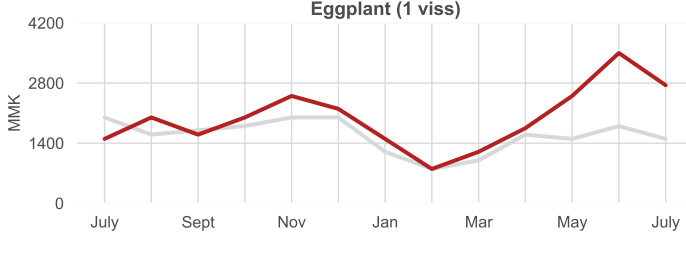
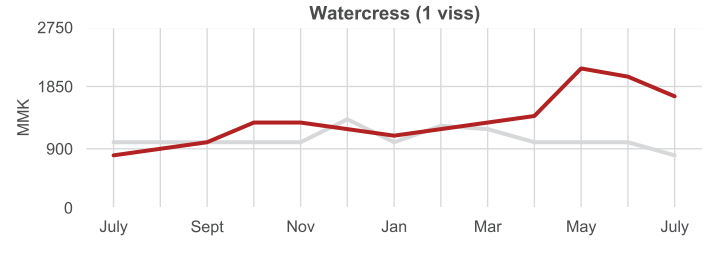
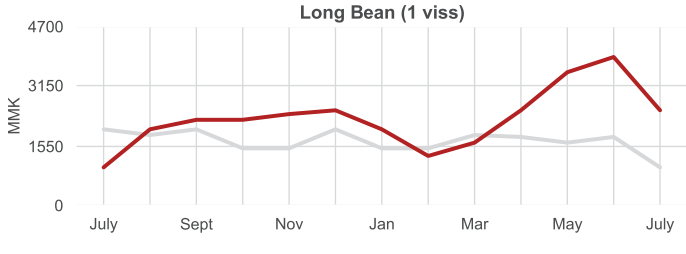
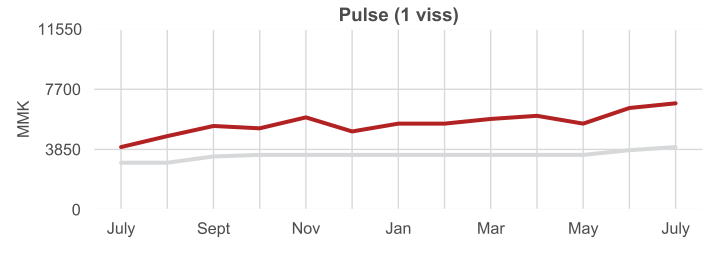
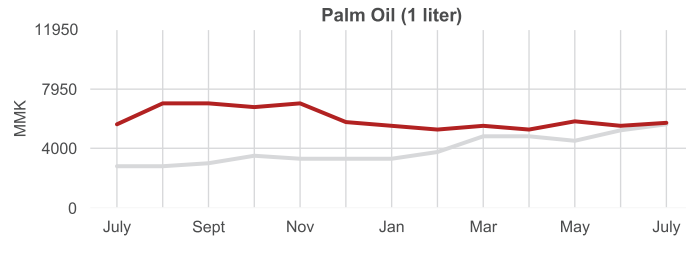
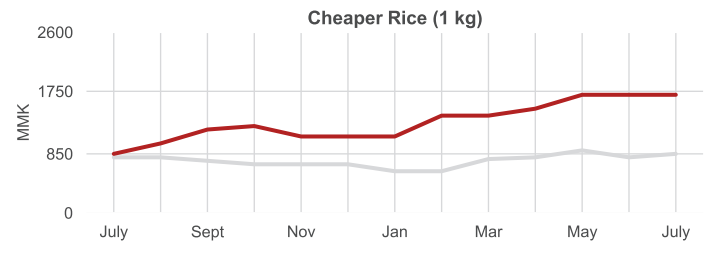
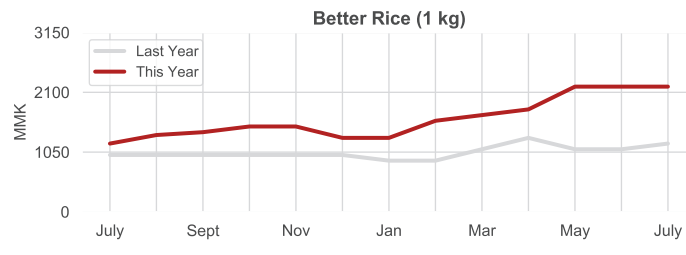
**Other NFIs – Stable NFI prices remained 20-50% higher than last year.** NFI prices changed in step with July of last year, which NFI markets began to stabilize somewhat. Nonetheless, July prices remained far higher than last year for umbrellas (+20%), mosquito nets (+21%), blankets (+26%), longyi (+26-30%), cooking pots (33%), charcoal (+33%) towels (+45%), and plastic tarps (+53%).

### What to Watch

- Already-high **rice** prices may be unusually-stable at present but will likely succumb to seasonal upward pressure in the months ahead;
- Seasonal changes in supply could push **meat/fish** prices still higher in August before starting their gradual decline;
- Worries among **NFI** wholesalers about new, higher-denomination kyat notes and the health of Myanmar's economy could spur wholesale price hikes.

<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 July 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,500	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,500	1,800	2,300	2,400	2,200
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,700	1,500	1,700	1,500	1,700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	5,700	5,200	5,500	6,500	6,000	6,500	5,800	5,500	5,000
Pulse (1 viss)	5,600	6,200	6,750	7,000	7,250	5,500	7,000	6,800	7,000
Garlic (1 viss)	8,000	9,000	9,500	8,500	10,000	8,000	9,000	9,000	10,000
Onion (1 viss)	4,000	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,300	-	2,500	3,750	1,750	2,000	3,000	3,500	3,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,800	2,800	1,500	1,800	1,100	2,000	2,500	2,500	3,500
Watercress (1 viss)	1,700	2,000	1,500	1,250	1,500	2,000	2,500	1,500	2,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	7,000	7,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	-	3,500	4,000	8,000
Banana (1 bunch)	900	1,000	-	1,200	300	1,300	1,500	1,000	1,500
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,300	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,000	1,500	1,000	2,000	1,700
Detergent (400 g)	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,800	1,800	1,500	1,600
Soap (60 g)	1,400	-	1,000	1,200	1,000	900	1,000	1,200	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	900	1,000	1,200
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,500	10,500	8,500	6,875	20,000	9,500	7,000	5,000	8,500
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	14,000	28,000	15,250	20,000	25,000	14,000	32,000	28,000	19,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	14,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	16,000	15,000	14,000	14,000	15,500
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,600	9,000	4,500	4,000	5,000	3,000	5,000	6,000	9,000
Chicken (1 viss)	14,500	16,000	10,000	16,000	-	14,000	14,000	18,000	14,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	900	1,000	850	700	700	1,000	1,000	800	1,200
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,600	4,000	6,000	6,250	6,500	5,000	7,500	6,000	6,500
Blanket	3,500	8,500	10,000	13,000	8,000	9,000	9,500	11,000	7,500
Mosquito Net	6,800	-	5,000	4,500	5,000	7,500	3,500	5,500	5,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	8,000	8,000	10,000	9,400	8,800	7,000	6,800	10,000	15,000
Men's Longyi	6,500	7,500	7,750	8,500	8,000	7,500	7,500	8,000	9,000
Women's Longyi	5,800	8,000	7,500	8,500	8,000	7,000	7,500	8,500	8,000
Umbrella	6,700	7,000	-	7,750	-	10,000	6,500	5,500	9,000
Towel	3,200	2,200	3,000	4,500	4,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	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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