

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

- **Prices were generally stable or rising in March**, although most price changes were fairly small;
- **Essential food prices were mostly stable in March**, although rice prices increased 4-12% in some markets;
- **Vegetable prices rose sharply** after three months of falling prices as winter crop supply tapered off;
- **Prices for hygiene products were stable**, lingering 40-70% above March 2022 levels;
- **Prices for meat/fish and NFIs were again stable**, remaining 30-70% higher than this time last year;
- **Prices fell in Rathedaung in March** following sharp increases in February;
- **Vegetable prices are likely to rise further** until the arrival of monsoon-season vegetables.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were relatively stable in March, although they rose slightly in a few townships.

Prices for pulses, palm oil and low-quality rice increased in four of nine markets monitored in March, but the increase was rarely larger than 12%. Relatively stable markets this month locked-in February's steep price increases for rice. Essential foods prices increased most in Kyauktaw and Minbya in March.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices turned sharply higher in March, ending several months of falling prices.

Eggplant and green chili prices rose widely, and prices for all other vegetable rose significantly in four of nine markets monitored. Price increases were most dramatic in import-reliant markets like Maungdaw, Paletwa and Rathedaung.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were fairly stable in March.

Prices for hygiene products were largely unchanged this month, and those which did change rarely shifted more than 11%. Paletwa and Rathedaung stood out for slightly-lower prices, but there were no other notable trends.

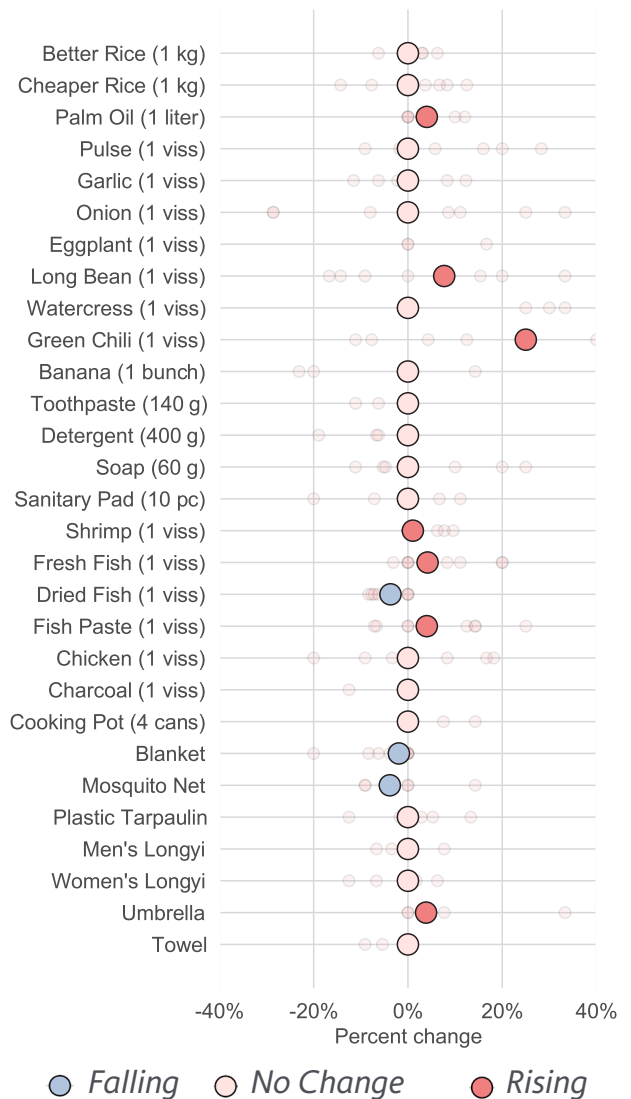
Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices fluctuated slightly in March, but there were no dramatic price changes.

Half of all markets monitored saw higher prices for shrimp, fresh fish and fish paste in March, but prices rarely increased by more than 14%. Prices for dried fish fell by a modest 4-8% in March, and other products were unchanged from last month.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable in March, with most prices shifting by 12% or less.

Prices for blankets and mosquito nets fell by 4-9% in some markets, but there were otherwise few product-level trends in March. Minbya and Paletwa saw slightly-lower prices, while elsewhere prices were stable or mixed.

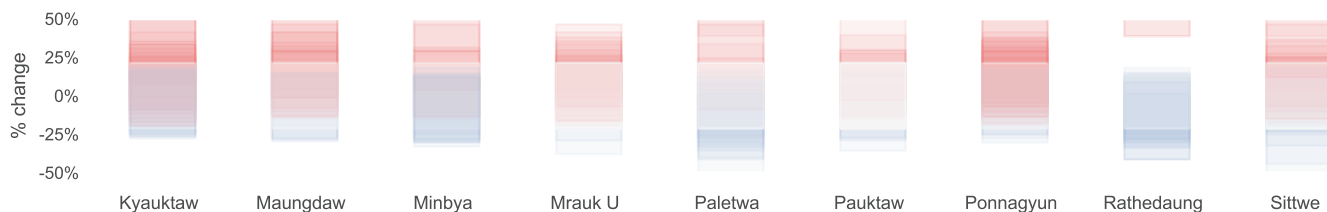
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

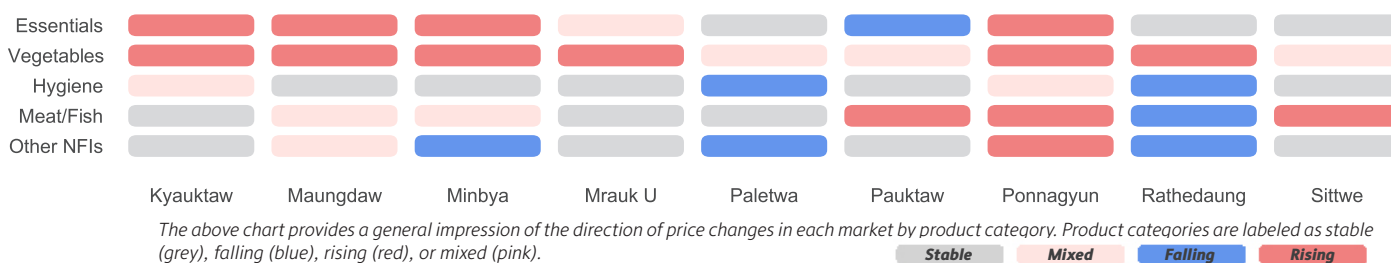
Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and Maungdaw saw the most price increases in March, but no markets saw very deep or wide price increases. Half of all products monitored saw rising prices in Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw, but price increases were rarely larger than 14%. Rathedaung and Paletwa saw the most price cuts, but like other markets they also saw many stable prices this month. Pauktaw and Mrauk U showed the most price stability in March. In general, most markets saw a similar pattern in March: rising prices for vegetables, isolated price increases for essential food items, and relatively-stable prices for NFIs.

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 Changes¹

Essential Foods – A calm palm oil market brought prices closer to 2022 levels in March. Palm oil prices—rising at this time last year, and generally falling or stable of late—were just 33% higher than last year in March. By contrast, prices for rice and pulses remained 50-80% above last year.

Vegetables – Rising vegetable prices pulled further away from 2022 levels in March. Rising prices pushed vegetables beyond 2022 levels, with garlic, eggplant and watercress 20-60% higher than last year and onion and chili prices double those of March 2022. Long bean prices were nearly on par with this period last year.

Hygiene Products – Stable prices for hygiene products kept prices 40-70% above March of last year. Prices remained considerably higher for toothpaste (+41%), detergent (+50%), soap (+68%) and sanitary pads (+71%).

Meat and Fish – Stable meat and fish prices in March kept prices 30-70% above last year. The median twelve-month increase for most meat/fish prices was unchanged in March and remained large for chicken (+69%), dried fish (+62%), fresh fish (+33%) and fish paste (+32%). By contrast, shrimp prices remained on par with 2022.

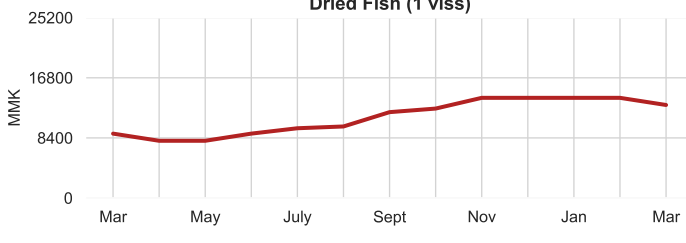
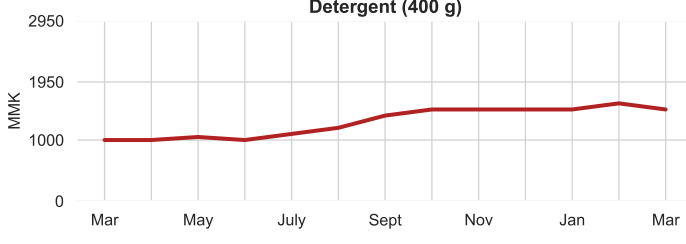
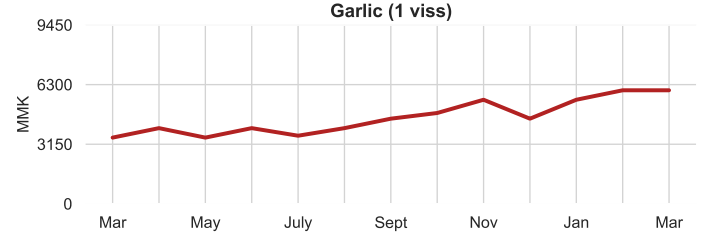
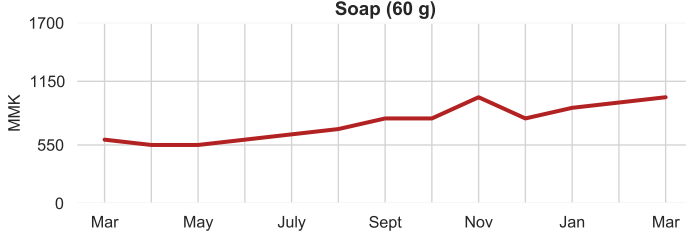
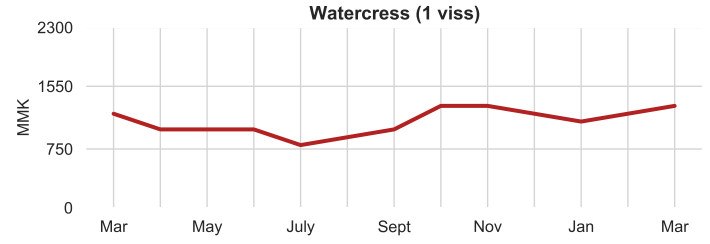
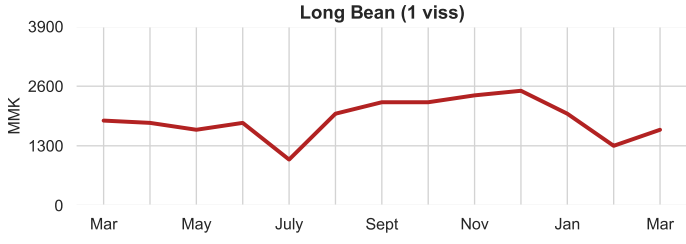
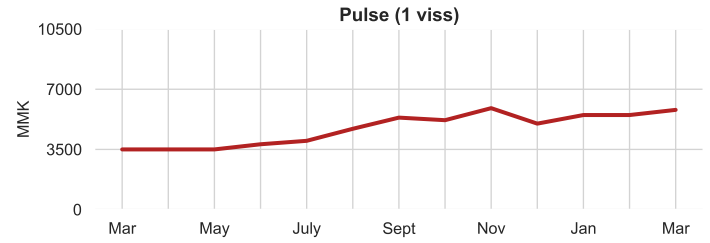
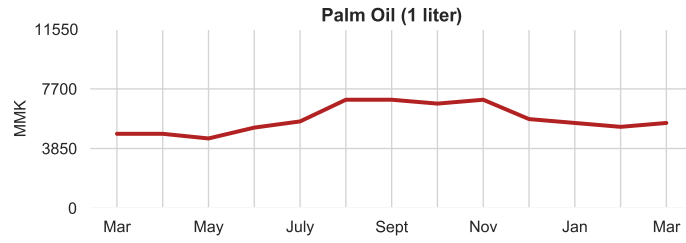
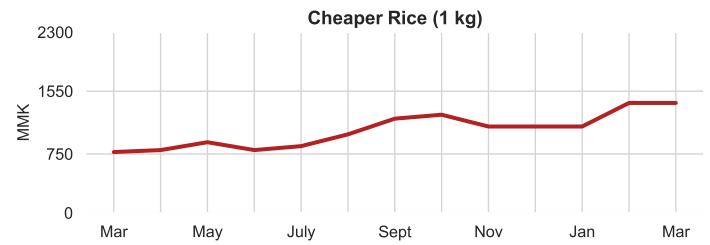
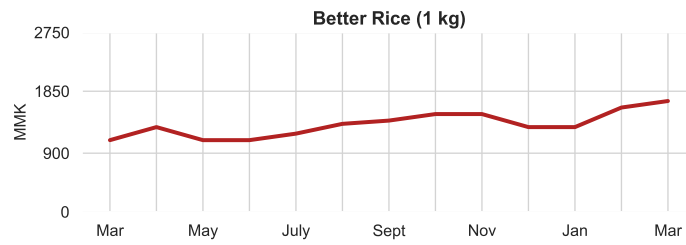
Other NFIs – Some NFI prices drifted closer to 2022 levels, as prices demonstrated more stability than last year. Most NFI products remained at least 20% higher than March 2022, although this gap is somewhat narrower than it has been at times in the past year. That said, prices remained significantly higher than last year for blankets (+47%), towels (+64%), plastic tarps (+28%), cooking pots (35%), charcoal (+20%) and mosquito nets (+16%).

What to Watch

- Prices for **vegetables** will likely continue rising in the near term until monsoon-season vegetables begin to arrive in local markets;
- Prices for **rice** may hold stable or rise slightly in April, barring any major disruptions to transportation or local markets;
- Prices in **Rathedaung** Township are likely to rise in April, rebounding from widely-falling prices this month.

¹ 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 March 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,400	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,500	1,700	2,000	1,700
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	900	1,600	1,300	1,200	1,500	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,400
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,500	5,000	5,500	-	6,000	7,500	5,200	-	5,000
Pulse (1 viss)	6,800	6,000	5,500	6,000	6,000	5,500	5,800	5,000	5,500
Garlic (1 viss)	7,300	6,500	5,750	6,500	7,500	4,500	6,000	4,500	4,500
Onion (1 viss)	4,000	2,000	2,300	2,500	2,500	3,800	2,000	3,500	2,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,500	1,200	1,000	700	800	2,000	800	2,000	1,600
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,800	-	1,000	1,000	1,200	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,500
Watercress (1 viss)	1,300	1,000	1,500	1,200	2,000	2,500	1,300	1,200	1,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	7,300	6,000	4,500	4,500	5,000	6,000	3,500	5,000	4,000
Banana (1 bunch)	800	1,500	-	700	300	1,300	1,500	1,200	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,700
Detergent (400 g)	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,700	1,700
Soap (60 g)	900	1,200	900	1,200	1,000	900	1,100	800	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	800	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,300
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,000	10,500	7,000	6,125	11,000	8,500	7,000	7,500	7,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	10,000	21,000	18,000	12,500	20,000	13,000	30,000	15,500	15,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	14,000	11,000	13,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	13,000	12,000	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,600	7,000	2,500	2,500	4,500	2,000	4,000	6,500	8,000
Chicken (1 viss)	14,500	13,000	10,000	13,000	-	13,000	14,000	12,000	14,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	650	500	700	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,500	4,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	4,000	6,000	5,000	5,500
Blanket	4,000	7,500	8,250	12,000	8,000	5,500	12,500	6,500	10,000
Mosquito Net	6,500	5,000	6,250	4,500	5,000	7,000	4,000	5,000	5,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,800	6,800	8,000	8,000	8,000	4,800	7,200	7,000	7,800
Men's Longyi	6,500	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,000	7,000	8,000
Women's Longyi	5,800	6,500	7,000	8,000	7,500	7,000	7,500	7,000	8,500
Umbrella	-	-	-	6,800	-	7,000	7,000	5,500	8,000
Towel	3,500	2,100	2,500	4,000	3,500	4,500	4,500	3,500	3,000

*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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