

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

- All townships saw broad price increases in March, with Sittwe, Minbya and Paletwa most affected;
- Prices for rice and palm oil surged in March, with rice up 17% or more in many townships and palm oil up 25% or more in most townships;
- Vegetable prices—already 30% above March 2021—began a seasonal climb likely to last months;
- Palm oil prices further rose to levels 88% above March 2021, likely stressing household budgets;
- March’s unusually large price increases, if sustained, could prove disastrous for vulnerable households.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods** – Prices for rice and palm oil surged in March. Almost all townships saw higher rice prices, with better rice up 22-33% in five townships, and cheaper rice up 17% or more in six townships. All townships saw rising palm oil prices, in most cases 25% above February levels. Prices for pulses—usually quite steady—also rose 9-17% in three townships.

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices—which fell in January and February—were stable or rising in March. Long bean, watercress and green chili saw prices rise and fall in different townships. Garlic, onion and eggplant saw notable price increases, with price hikes in half or more of all townships monitored. Minbya township—which often boasts cheaper vegetables—saw the steepest vegetable price hikes in March.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products were fairly stable in March, and more stable than other NFIs. Half or more of all townships monitored saw no price change for hygiene products, while most other price fluctuations were small in size or reversed shifts from the previous month. Prices for sanitary pads rose in four townships, although not greatly.

**Meat and Fish** – Meat and fish prices were stable or rising, breaking slightly with several months of broad stability. Meat and fish were stable in half of all townships monitored but rising or mixed in the rest. Fresh fish prices rose 5-36% in five townships and dried fish rose 8-25% in four townships. The picture was more mixed for shrimp, fish paste and chicken.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

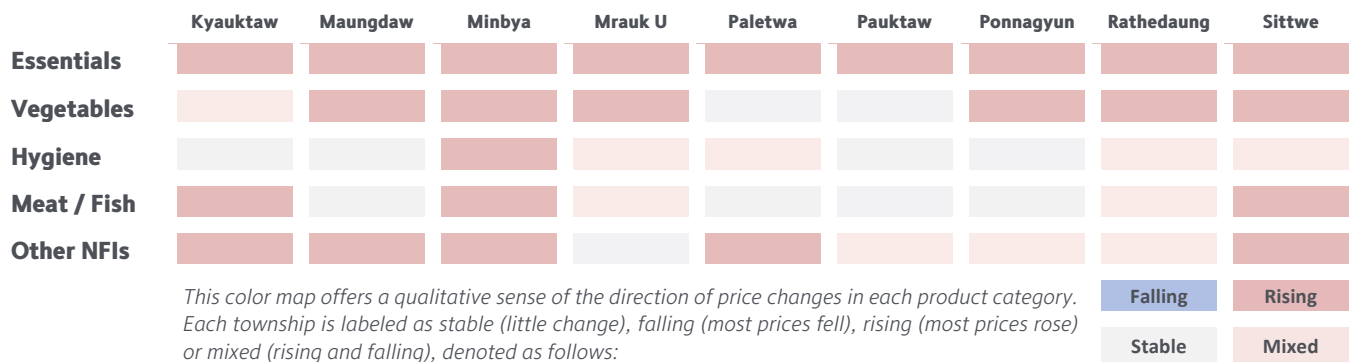


**Other NFIs** – NFI prices rose in March, particularly in Sittwe and Paletwa. Cooking pots, blankets, longyis, umbrellas and towels each saw price increases in five or more townships (while mostly stable elsewhere). NFI price increases were moderate in March—often 12% or less—although Sittwe and Paletwa sometimes saw sharp increases of 43% or more. NFI prices rarely fell in March, and only tarps showed broad stability.

## Township-Level Price Changes

All townships saw widespread price increases in March, with Sittwe, Minbya and Paletwa most affected. All townships saw higher prices for essential foods. Sittwe and Paletwa felt NFI price hikes more than other townships, and Minbya felt vegetable price hikes more than others. No township saw stable or falling prices.

**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 March 2021, and palm oil prices bent further upward. The median twelve-month increase for rice and pulses held around 20-30%, although palm oil reached levels 88% above last year (Charts 3-14).

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices pulled further away from 2021 levels in March. Vegetable prices began their seasonal climb after failing to reach winter lows comparable to 2021. Long bean, watercress and green chili—which were not more than 20% above 2021 levels in February—were up 31-33% in March.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products remained above 2021 levels, but no more than last month. The median twelve-month price increases for toothpaste and detergent were 23% and 50%, respectively. The median increase for soap was 67%.

**Meat and Fish** – Shrimp and fresh fish prices were similar to March 2021, but dried fish remained higher. Shrimp and fresh fish remained within 6% of

March 2021 levels, while the median twelve-month increase for dried fish remained around 40%. Chicken prices were 24% below March 2021 levels.

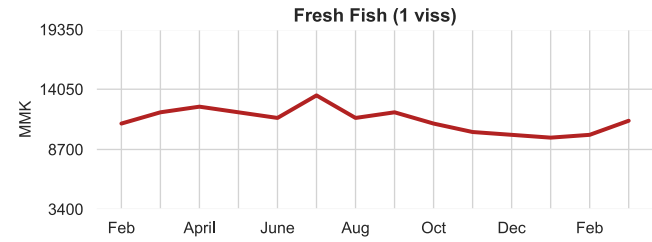
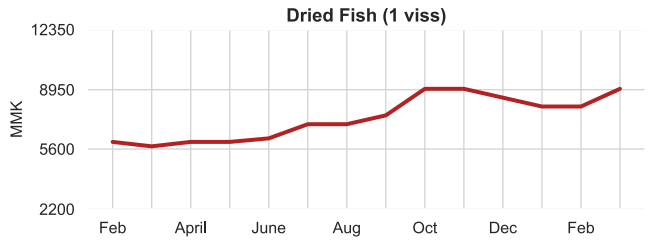
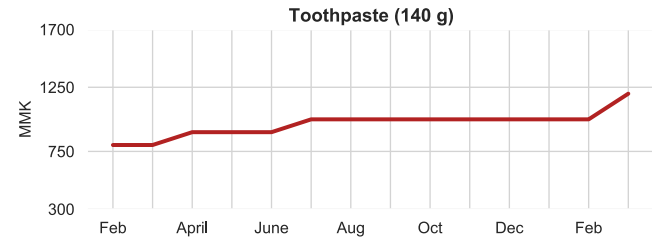
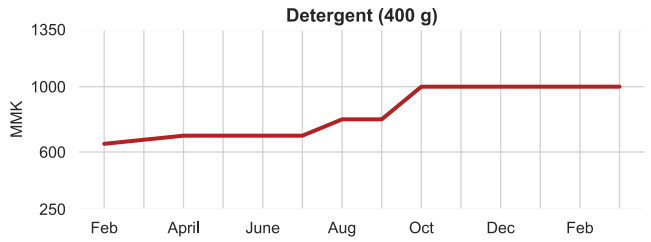
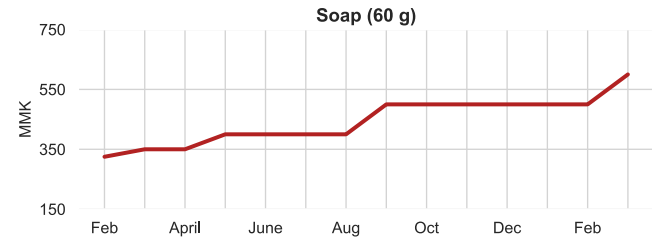
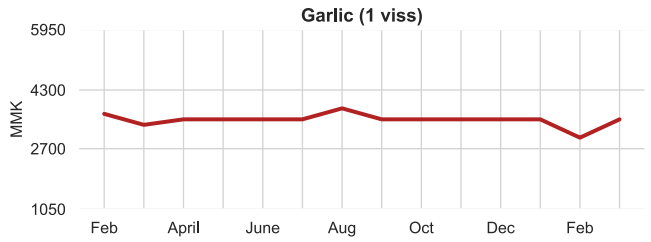
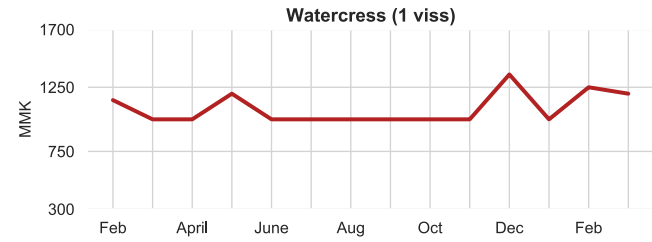
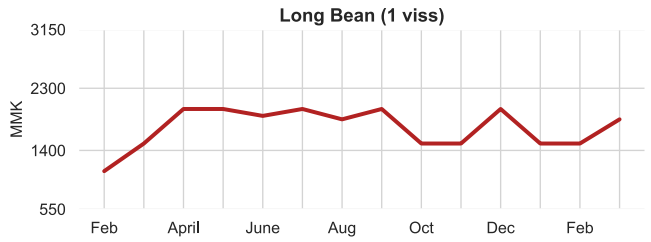
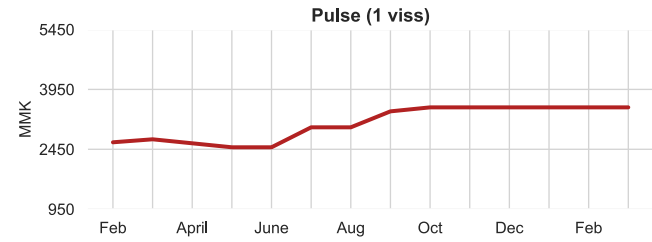
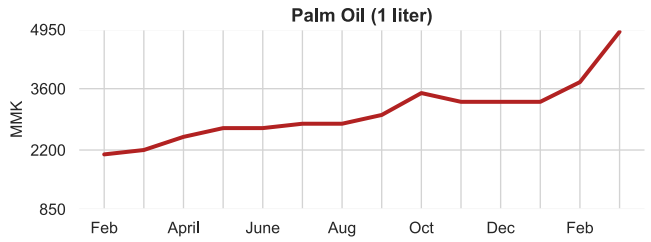
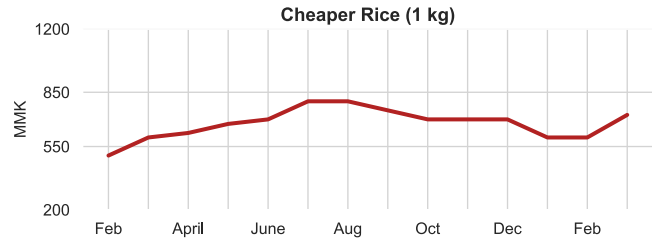
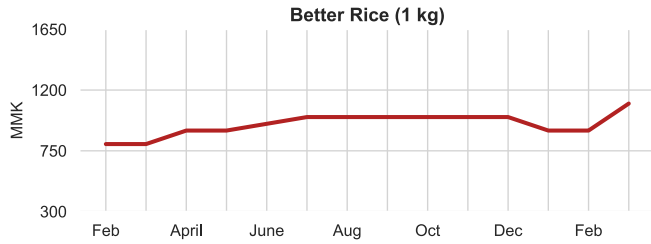
**Other NFIs** – NFI prices were generally higher than March 2021, particularly for mosquito nets. The median twelve-month increase was 16-54% for various NFIs, and only towels saw lower prices (-11%). Mosquito net prices, which have risen steadily, were up 112%.

### What to Watch

- Unusually high prices for **rice** and **palm oil**, if sustained, may badly strain household budgets;
- **Vegetables** prices—already 30% above last year—have likely begun a seasonal climb that will offer little relief until late-monsoon;
- Price hikes for **NFIs** in Sittwe may be passed along to other townships which source from here;
- Expensive **mosquito nets** could be problematic as monsoon season approaches.

<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 March 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,500	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,500	1,000	900	1,200	1,100
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	900	900	700	750	1,000	800	600	-	700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,800	4,700	5,000	4,900	5,500	4,750	4,700	5,500	4,500
Pulse (1 viss)	3,800	3,500	3,800	3,500	3,500	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,500
Garlic (1 viss)	3,900	3,500	3,500	4,000	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,300
Onion (1 viss)	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,200	1,500	1,000	1,350	1,300	1,200
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,400	850	1,000	800	500	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,500	-	2,000	1,200	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,700	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	1,300	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,500	2,000	1,000	1,200	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	1,400	2,800	1,400	2,000	2,500	2,800	1,250	2,000	1,500
Banana (1 bunch)	500	700	800	1,000	-	1,000	500	1,000	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,000	800	1,500	1,200	1,500	925	1,200	1,000	1,200
Detergent (400 g)	1,200	1,000	1,500	1,000	700	1,100	1,000	900	700
Soap (60 g)	700	500	400	600	600	500	775	500	600
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	700	800	700	700	800	700	500	700	700
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,000	7,000	7,000	3,000	-	6,500	7,250	6,000	6,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	14,000	15,000	12,000	-	8,500	10,500	16,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	11,000	8,000	10,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	7,750	8,000	6,500
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,000	8,000	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	3,500	4,000	3,000
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	12,000	6,500	7,250	10,000	7,500
Charcoal (1 viss)	600	1,000	600	800	-	500	550	-	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,000	4,000	6,000	4,000	4,500	3,500	6,500	4,000	3,500
Blanket	4,500	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,500	7,500	-	7,000	6,500
Mosquito Net	6,000	4,750	5,000	4,000	5,500	3,000	4,000	3,500	6,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,200	6,500	4,000	6,000	7,500	4,500	-	5,200	6,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	5,750	5,500	5,500	7,500	5,500	5,250	5,500	7,500
Women's Longyi	5,000	5,750	4,000	4,500	7,500	5,500	5,500	4,500	7,500
Umbrella	5,500	4,000	6,500	5,500	5,500	6,500	7,750	4,000	6,000
Towel	3,000	1,400	2,500	1,000	4,000	2,200	-	2,000	3,500

\*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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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Jon Keesecker, Kyaw Min Oo, Moh Moh Htet Kyaw and Thandar Nyo contributed to the design, analysis, writing and data visuals of this report.