

RAKHINE STATE (MAY 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.

- Prices were generally stable in May, more so than in March or April when prices were mostly rising;
- Food prices—including vegetables—were stable in May, although prices rose in isolated markets;
- Palm oil prices remained nearly double May 2021 levels, but there were few signs of further increases;
- Some product categories saw clear price shifts in certain markets, such as meat, fish and NFIs in Pauktaw (higher) and Kyauktaw (lower).

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable in May. Rice prices were stable in May, shifting no more than 10% in most markets. Palm oil prices dipped by slightly less than 5% in most markets, marking a second straight month without major increases. Prices for pulses showed typical stability.

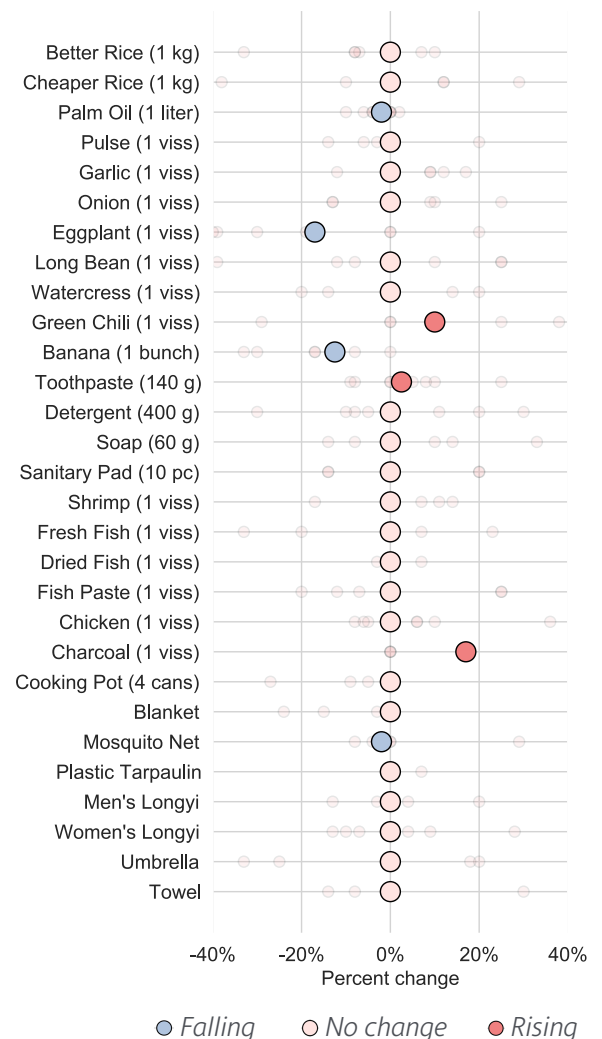
Vegetables – Vegetable prices were fairly stable in May, and a few markets saw many prices decline. Vegetable prices rose and fell in May with the usual volatility, although the degree of change was relatively slight. Vegetable prices generally rose in Minbya and Ponnagyun and fell in Maungdaw and Paletwa.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products extended a multi-month period of stability in May. Half of all markets monitored saw prices for hygiene products rise or fall in May, but in most case the shift was no more than 15%.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable again in May after prices climbed slightly in April. Meat and fish prices were stable, although less so than other food items. Meat and fish prices spiked or dipped by 20% or more in some cases, usually with reports from retailers of ordinary supply fluctuation.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable again in May, although prices trended upward or downward in some markets. While NFI prices were overall fairly stable, Kyauktaw and Sittwe saw NFI prices fall in May while Pauktaw saw NFI prices rise. Charcoal prices spiked in a few markets due to stock-outs of lower-quality charcoal.

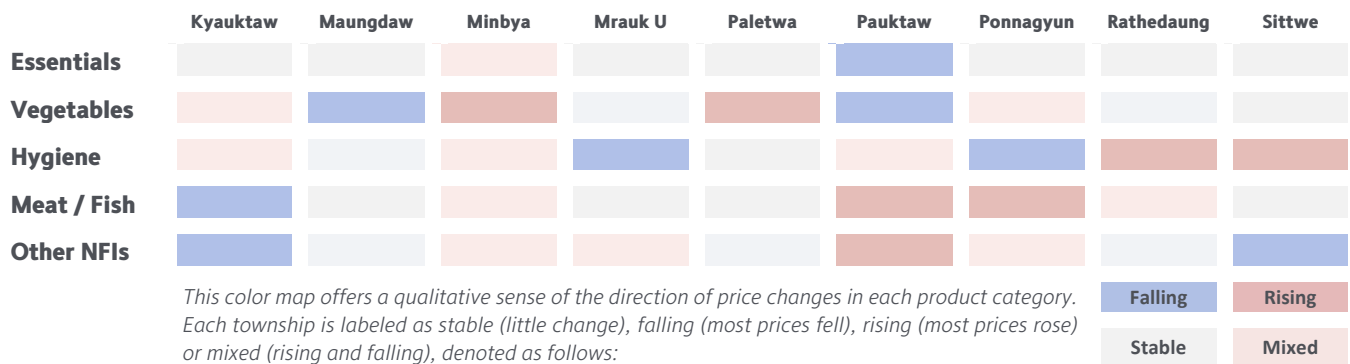
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

Maungdaw, Mrauk U, Paletwa, Rathedaung and Sittwe saw overall fairly stable prices in May, while other townships saw price shifts in certain categories. Minbya and Pauktaw saw the most price increases in May, while Maungdaw saw the least. Minbya saw a mix of rising and falling prices across all product categories, while Pauktaw saw higher prices for meat, fish and other NFIs (although vegetable and essential food prices fell). Kyauktaw saw falling prices for meat, fish and NFIs, while other categories were mixed. Some vegetable and meat prices spiked in Ponnagyun.

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



Twelve-Month Price Changes¹

Essential Foods – Essential food prices widened the gap slightly over May 2021 levels. The median twelve-month increase was 22-25% for high- and low-quality rice and 33% for pulses, while palm oil was nearly double last year’s price (Charts 3-14).

Vegetables – Some vegetable prices were on par with May 2021 levels, while others remained much higher. Garlic, long bean and watercress were mostly on par with last year, while eggplant and green chili saw median price increases of 21% and 39%, respectively.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products moved further away 2021 levels in May. The median twelve-month increase was 24% for sanitary pads, 30% for toothpaste and a far-steeper 44-47% for soap and detergent.

Meat and Fish – Shrimp and fresh fish prices came more in line with 2021 levels in May. The median price for shrimp, fresh fish and chicken were all within 10% of May 2021 levels, however dried fish prices remained 43% or more above last year.

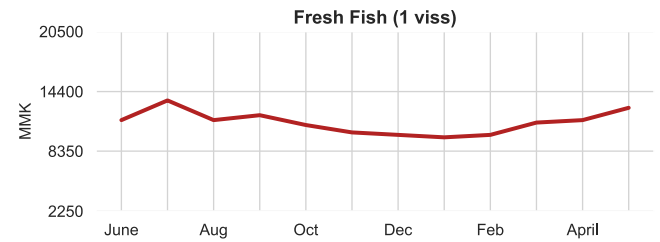
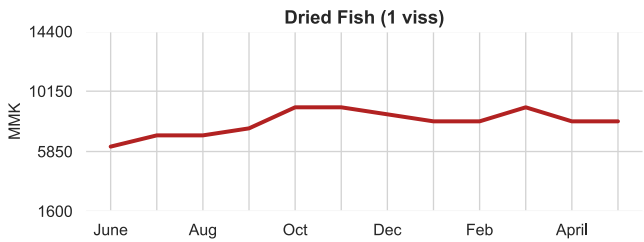
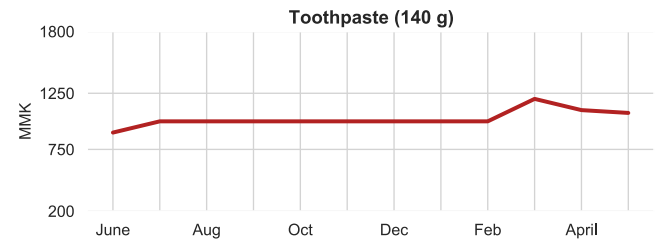
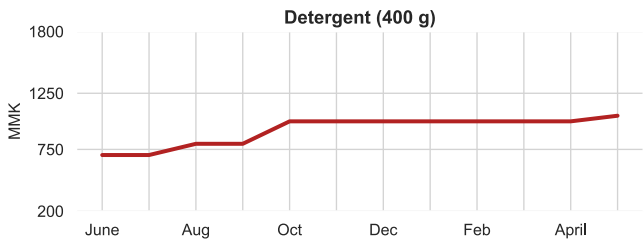
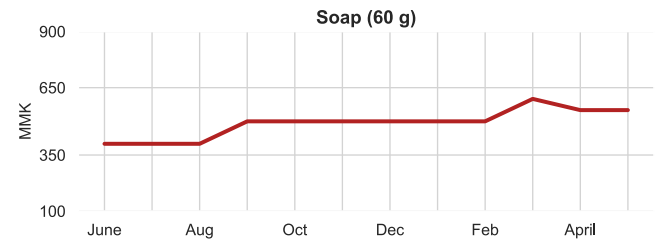
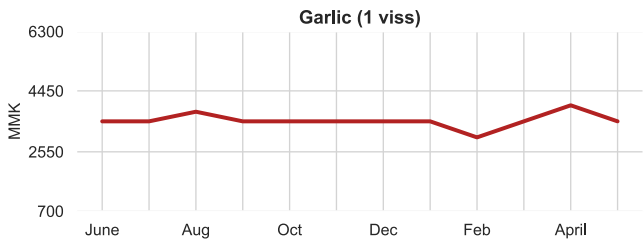
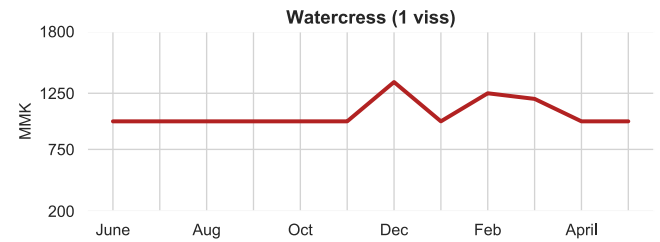
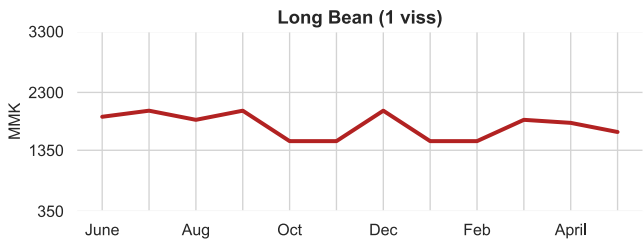
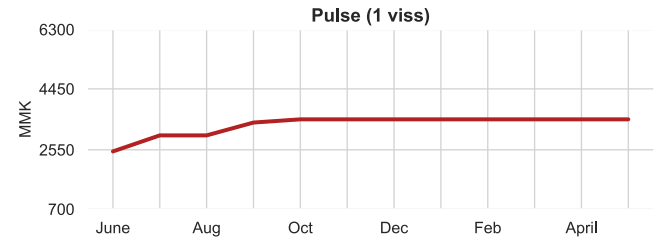
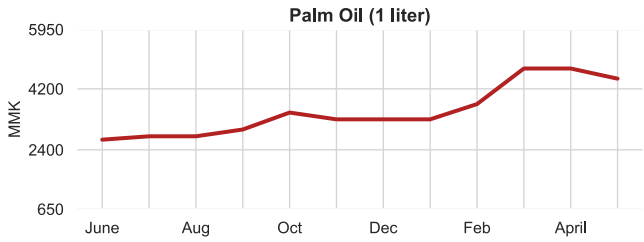
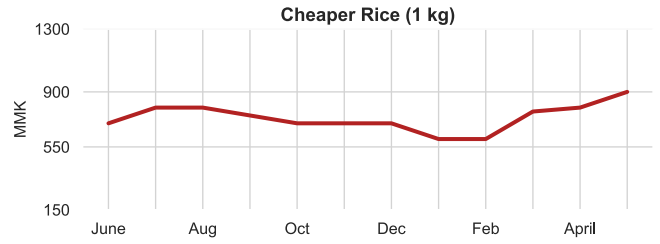
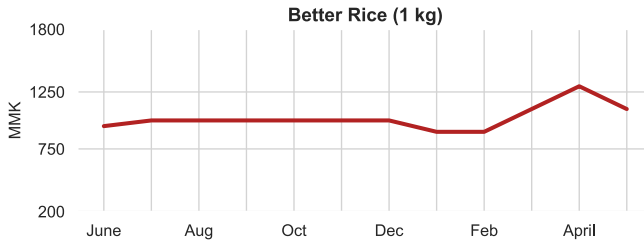
Other NFIs – NFI prices in May remained much higher than last year. The median twelve-month increase for most NFIs was 43% or more, although the gap was in some cases slightly narrower than last month.

What to Watch

- Recent stability in the **palm oil** market may prove fleeting as long as global markets remain choppy;
- Vegetable** prices will likely return to their usual volatility, particularly deeper into the monsoon season when expensive supply from central Myanmar increasingly supplements cheaper local supply;
- Township-level** price shifts may be visible again next month as markets correct for this month’s increases or decreases in particular product categories.

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 May 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,400	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,500	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,100
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	900	900	900	750	1,000	750	800	650	900
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,800	4,500	4,800	4,900	5,000	4,500	4,450	4,500	4,500
Pulse (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	4,250	3,600	3,500	3,800	3,000
Garlic (1 viss)	4,800	3,500	3,500	3,500	4,500	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,500
Onion (1 viss)	1,200	1,200	1,500	1,300	1,650	1,200	1,300	1,200	1,200
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,300	1,700	1,500	700	2,000	1,200	1,500	1,400	1,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,700	1,400	1,500	1,500	2,500	1,650	1,650	2,000	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	1,200	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	750	1,000	1,200	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	2,500	3,600	2,200	1,500
Banana (1 bunch)	500	700	1,200	1,100	-	1,000	600	1,000	1,500
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,000	800	1,300	1,100	-	1,050	1,000	1,100	1,500
Detergent (400 g)	1,200	1,000	1,200	900	1,200	1,050	950	1,000	1,300
Soap (60 g)	800	500	600	700	500	550	475	550	600
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	700	900	600	600	-	-	600	700	700
Shrimp (1 viss)	7,500	7,000	8,000	5,000	-	4,000	8,000	7,000	6,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	17,500	10,000	11,000	-	25,000	13,500	16,000	12,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	11,000	8,000	-	9,000	9,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	6,500
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,000	8,000	2,500	3,000	2,500	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Chicken (1 viss)	9,000	11,000	8,500	9,000	12,000	9,500	9,000	10,000	8,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	1,000	800	-	775	700	-	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,000	4,000	4,000	3,800	3,800	3,800	6,000	4,000	3,500
Blanket	3,500	6,000	-	6,000	5,000	7,500	8,000	7,000	5,500
Mosquito Net	5,500	-	-	4,500	-	3,500	6,000	3,500	3,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,500	6,000	-	6,000	-	4,800	-	5,600	6,500
Men's Longyi	6,000	5,500	-	5,500	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,500
Women's Longyi	5,000	5,000	-	4,500	6,000	5,750	6,000	6,000	6,500
Umbrella	-	-	-	6,000	-	5,000	6,000	4,000	6,500
Towel	3,500	1,400	-	1,100	2,500	3,250	-	2,000	3,000

*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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