

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

- **Rice prices were up 10-20% in most markets in May**, twice the size of April's rice price increases;
- **Vegetable prices spiked sharply in May** on reports of cyclone crop damage, and stockouts were common;
- **Prices increased for processed fish products** like dried fish and fish paste, but other meat/fish were stable;
- **Prices for pulses and palm oil were mostly stable**, although prices climbed in Sittwe and Ponnagyun;
- **Prices for some NFIs returned to pre-cyclone levels**, but stockouts remained a problem especially in Sittwe;
- **Tarp prices remained 15-30% higher than in April**, down from far-larger increases after Cyclone Mocha;
- **Food security and nutrition warrant greater attention** as rising rice prices and poor vegetable supply risk exacerbating the usual monsoon season challenges.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Rice prices rose for a second straight month in May, climbing 10% or more in most markets. Rice prices increased at least 10% and 20% for cheaper rice and better rice, respectively. Prices for palm oil and pulses were generally stable in May, although they too rose in Sittwe, Minbya, and Ponnagyun.

Vegetables – Vegetables saw a third month of sharp price hikes in May, and many items were unavailable. Most markets monitored saw at least a 30% increase in prices for onion, eggplant, long bean, watercress, and green chili in May. Vegetable stockouts were common—particularly in Minbya, Mrauk-U, Paletwa, and Pauktaw—as retailers reported poor supply due to crop damage following Cyclone Mocha.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products returned to pre-cyclone levels in most markets in May. Prices for most hygiene products—which climbed at least 10-20% following Cyclone Mocha—returned to pre-cyclone levels in late-May (Kyauktaw was an exception, with prices still rising). However, some retailers sold hygiene products at lower prices because the goods were damaged during Cyclone Mocha.

Meat and Fish – Prices increased for processed goods like dried fish and fish paste, but other meat/fish were stable. Most markets saw dried fish and fish paste prices increase 4-7%, partly due to inventory damage during Cyclone Mocha. Prices for other meat/fish items like shrimp, fresh fish, and chicken were overall stable (although they rose or fell in some markets).

Other NFIs – NFI prices began returning to pre-cyclone levels in May, but many goods remained out of stock. Prices for plastic tarps were 15-30% higher than April (after spiking 200-400% following Cyclone Mocha). Blanket and mosquito net prices

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

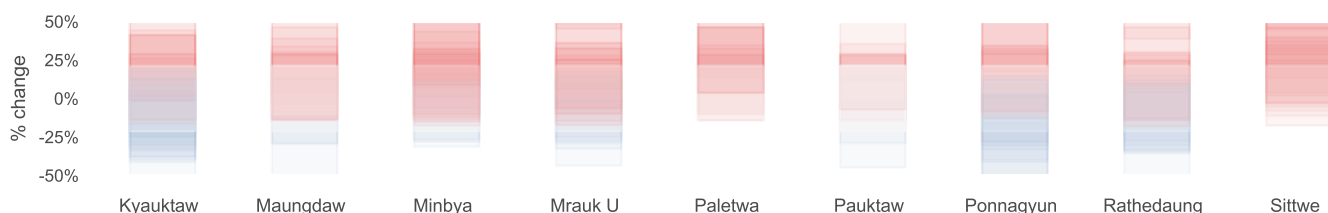


es—which climbed in some markets after the storm—were on par with April, while longyis and umbrellas were up 3-6%. NFIs like blankets, mosquito nets, and towels remained unavailable in some markets, particularly in Sittwe. According to retailers, ongoing electrical outages drove rising charcoal prices in some markets.

Township-Level Price Changes

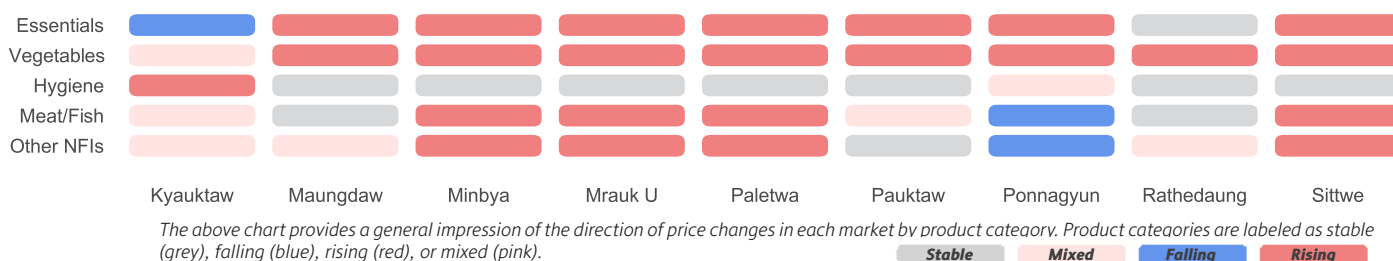
Prices increases and stockouts were most severe in Sittwe in late-May, although Minbya, Mrauk-U, and Paletwa Townships also saw a large share of rising prices. Price increases were most severe in Sittwe, where prices for half of all products monitored were up 30% or more nearly one month after Cyclone Mocha. Price increases were notable but less severe in Minbya, Mrauk-U, Paletwa and Ponnagyun, where one-quarter of all products monitored were up 11% or more. Most markets followed a similar pattern of rising food prices and increasingly-stable NFI prices, although in some markets NFI prices had not fully recovered from Cyclone Mocha.

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 – Essential food prices rose faster in May than at this time last year. The median twelve-month price increase grew by 5-10 percentage points for better rice (+64%), cheaper rice (+92%), and pulses (+65%). Palm oil palm oil prices remained 16% higher than May 2022.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices lurched far ahead of where they were in May of 2022. Many vegetables stretched their lead over 2022 by 30-50 percentage points in May, including eggplant (+28%), long bean (+20%), watercress (+70%), and green chili (+190%). Garlic and onion prices lingered 66% above last year.

Hygiene Products – Stable markets for hygiene products again kept prices 30-80% above May 2022. Prices remained elevated for toothpaste (+33%), detergent (+50%), soap (+80%), and sanitary pads (+67%).

Meat and Fish – Stable markets held meat/fish prices 20-60% above last year. The median twelve-month increase grew slightly for shrimp (+28%), while other products lingered higher, including chicken (+59%), dried fish

(+67%), fresh fish (+45%) and fish paste (+26%).

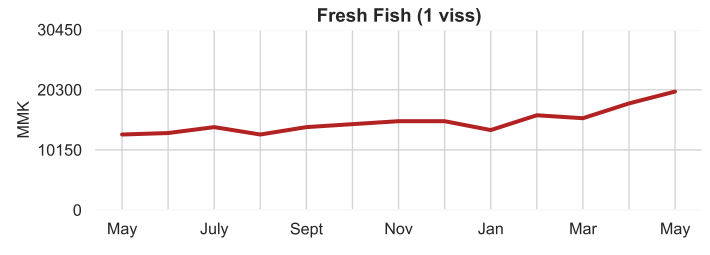
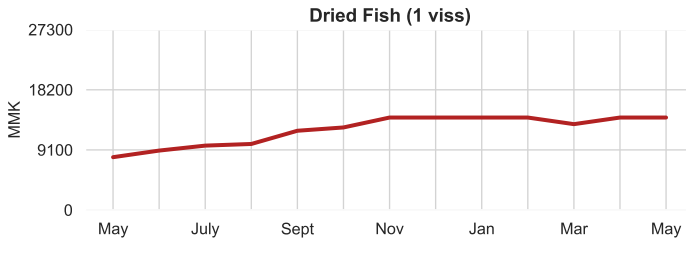
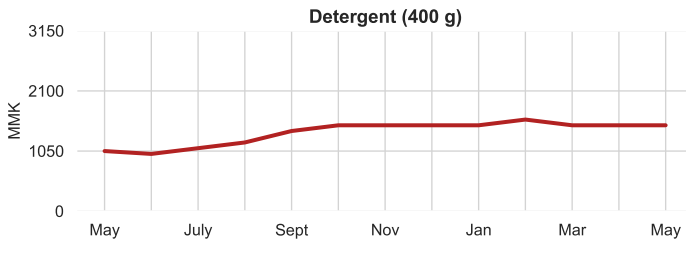
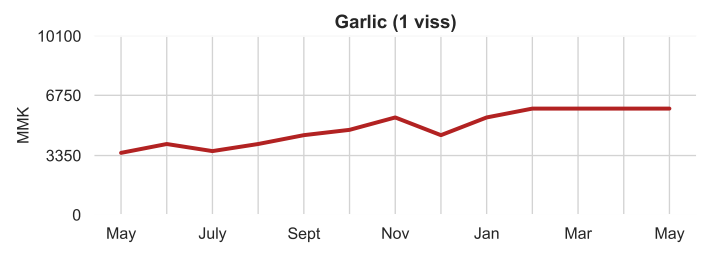
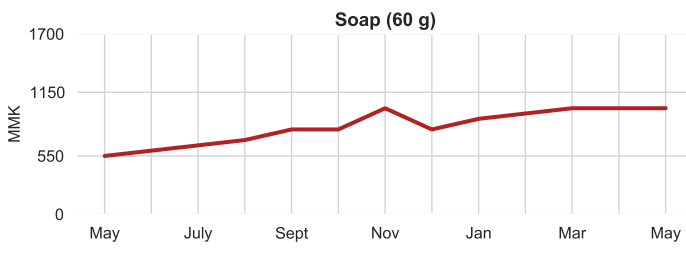
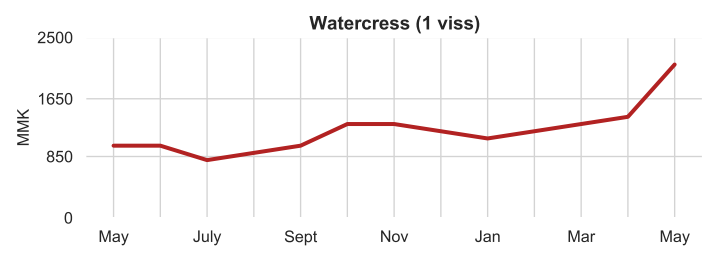
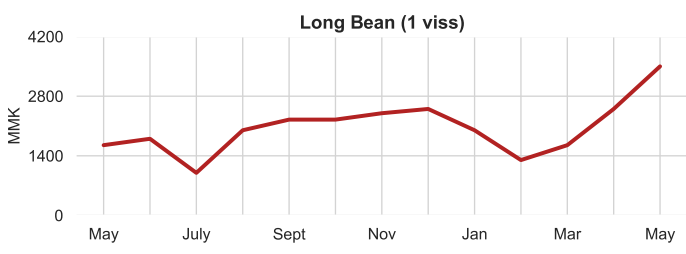
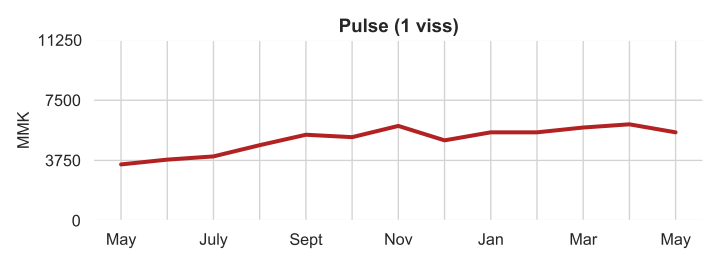
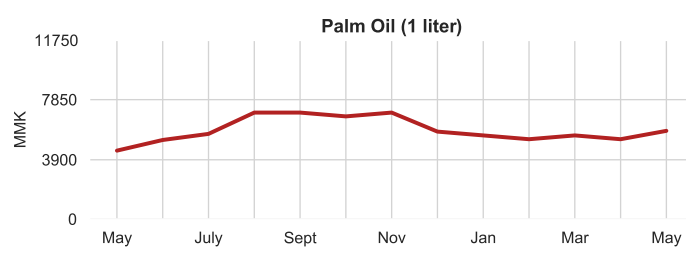
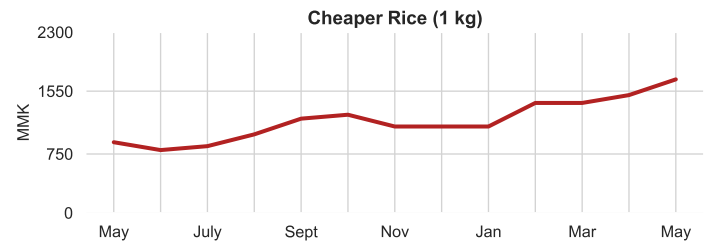
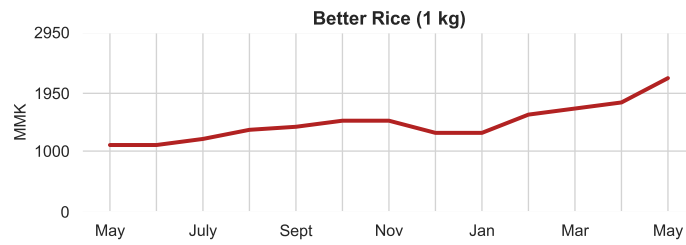
Other NFIs – In May NFI prices once again increased slower than at this time last year. NFI prices remained higher than May 2022 levels, but the gap again narrowed by 1-7 percentage points for most NFIs monitored. Prices nonetheless remained significantly higher than last year for blankets (+33%), towels (+55%), plastic tarps (+31%), cooking pots (22%), charcoal (+17%), and mosquito nets (+8%).

What to Watch

- Prices for **rice** and **vegetables** are likely to continue rising in June, although perhaps more slowly than in April and May;
- Greater attention to **food security** and **nutrition** is warranted, particularly given the impact of vegetable stockouts on dietary diversity;
- Access to **shelter** and **NFIs** remains a major concern, particularly in **Sittwe** where many goods were still expensive or simply unavailable.

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 May 2023 (MMK)

| Product | Kyauktaw | Maungdaw | Minbya | Mrauk U | Paletwa | Pauktaw | Ponnagyun | Rathedaung | Sittwe |
|----------------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Better Rice (1 kg) | 2,400 | 2,000 | 2,200 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 1,700 | 2,500 | 2,200 | 2,200 |
| Cheaper Rice (1 kg) | 1,600 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 1,400 | 1,900 | 1,500 | 1,700 |
| Palm Oil (1 liter) | 6,500 | 5,000 | 5,250 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 7,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,800 |
| Pulse (1 viss) | 5,000 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 5,500 | 6,200 | 5,000 | 8,000 |
| Garlic (1 viss) | 7,000 | 8,000 | 5,750 | 6,000 | 7,500 | 4,500 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 10,000 |
| Onion (1 viss) | 4,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,000 | 4,000 | 5,200 |
| Eggplant (1 viss) | 2,000 | - | - | - | 2,500 | - | 5,000 | 2,500 | 4,200 |
| Long Bean (1 viss) | 2,800 | 14,000 | - | 2,000 | 4,000 | - | 5,000 | 2,600 | 3,500 |
| Watercress (1 viss) | 2,000 | 1,500 | 2,250 | 1,250 | - | 4,000 | 2,500 | 1,300 | 3,000 |
| Green Chili (1 viss) | 14,000 | 14,000 | - | - | - | 7,000 | 10,000 | 12,250 | 8,000 |
| Banana (1 bunch) | 1,100 | 1,000 | - | 800 | 300 | - | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 |
| Toothpaste (140 g) | 1,400 | 1,200 | 1,800 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 1,500 | 1,000 | 1,500 | 1,750 |
| Detergent (400 g) | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,400 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 2,000 | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| Soap (60 g) | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 900 | 1,000 | 600 | 1,200 |
| Sanitary Pad (10 pc) | 1,200 | 1,400 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 1,300 | 1,350 |
| Shrimp (1 viss) | 10,000 | 10,500 | 8,000 | 6,875 | 20,000 | 6,500 | 7,500 | 9,000 | 13,000 |
| Fresh Fish (1 viss) | 16,000 | 28,000 | 20,000 | 18,500 | 20,000 | 12,000 | 28,000 | 25,000 | 23,000 |
| Dried Fish (1 viss) | 14,000 | 12,000 | 14,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 13,000 | 14,000 | 15,000 |
| Fish Paste (1 viss) | 2,800 | 8,000 | 4,500 | 2,500 | 5,000 | 2,000 | 5,000 | 7,250 | 10,000 |
| Chicken (1 viss) | 12,000 | 15,000 | 13,500 | 15,000 | - | 12,000 | 14,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Charcoal (1 viss) | 800 | 1,000 | 800 | 500 | 750 | 1,400 | 1,000 | 650 | 1,500 |
| Cooking Pot (4 cans) | 5,800 | 4,000 | 6,000 | 6,250 | 6,000 | 4,000 | 6,500 | 5,000 | 6,500 |
| Blanket | 3,500 | 8,000 | - | 12,000 | 8,000 | 5,500 | 8,000 | 6,000 | - |
| Mosquito Net | 6,800 | - | - | 3,500 | 5,000 | 7,000 | 3,000 | 5,000 | - |
| Plastic Tarpaulin | 8,000 | 4,040 | 8,000 | 9,200 | 10,000 | 4,800 | 8,500 | 9,800 | 25,000 |
| Men's Longyi | 6,700 | 7,000 | 7,500 | 7,800 | 8,000 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | - |
| Women's Longyi | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,500 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,500 | - |
| Umbrella | 6,500 | - | - | 7,250 | - | 8,000 | 6,500 | 5,500 | 9,500 |
| Towel | 3,500 | 2,200 | 3,250 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 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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