

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 rose in most markets in November**, which retailers attributed to armed clashes, tighter security checkpoints, and transportation disruptions;
- **Essential food prices were fairly stable**, but price hikes and stockouts affected rice in Maungdaw and Paletwa;
- **Vegetable prices rose in most townships in November** amid continued reports of inadequate supply in productive areas like Kawkaw;
- **Prices for hygiene products rose 6-18% in most markets in November**, although other NFIs saw both rising and falling prices;
- **Paletwa weathered another month of broad price hikes** and product stockouts;
- **Local rice and vegetable supply should be watched closely**, as it remains unclear whether lingering high prices are due in part to poor supply.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Route closures pushed rice prices higher in Maungdaw and Paletwa in November, but essential foods were otherwise stable. Rice prices rose 12-23% in Maungdaw (on top of October's 7-8% increase), and the temporary closure of the Kyauktaw-Paletwa waterway contributed to rice stockouts in Paletwa. Prices for pulses rose 6-20% in most markets.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices increased in November as retailers reported poor supply. Prices for garlic, onion, eggplant and green chili rose 14% in most markets. Price hikes were steepest in Kyauktaw, Paletwa and Pauktaw. In Kyauktaw—an area with much vegetable production—retailers said armed conflict drove some rural households into town, contributing to higher urban demand (and possibly also lower rural supply).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products resumed their upward march in November after a brief pause in October. Most markets saw prices increase 6-18% for hygiene products in November. Retailers in Maungdaw and Pauktaw said stricter checkpoints on supply routes drove up transport costs.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices rose in most townships in November, although trends differed by market. Meat/fish prices rose at least 17% in most markets, and larger price hikes were not uncommon (e.g., Maungdaw), yet some markets saw prices remain stable (e.g., Minbya) or even fall (e.g., Kyauktaw). Retailers attributed price shifts to normal change in supply.

Other NFIs – NFI prices both rose and fell again in September, with prices higher in some markets and lower in others. Charcoal prices fell in November, but this was only a partial correction for October's much-steeper price hikes (which retailers attributed to power cuts and higher demand). NFI prices varied

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

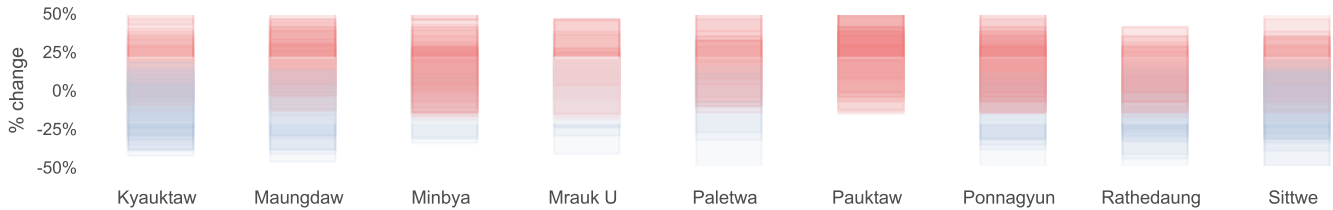


by market, with prices falling in some locations (e.g., Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Sittwe) and rising in others (e.g., Minbya, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Paletwa).

Township-Level Price Changes

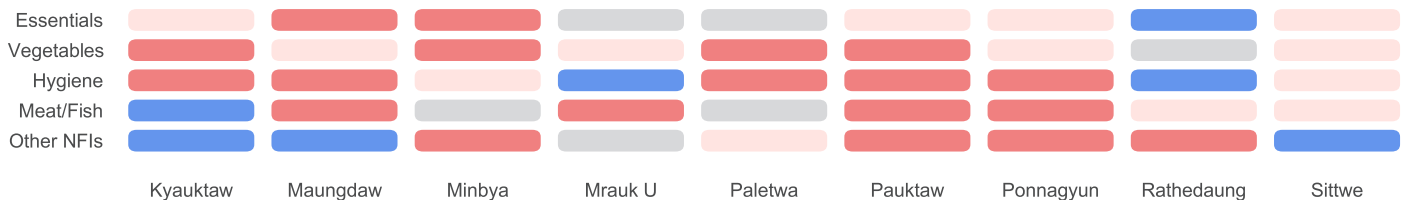
Half of all markets monitored saw broad price increases, but among the other half the picture was more mixed. Maungdaw, Minbya, Paletwa, Pauktaw and Ponnagyun bore the brunt of the price increases in November, with one-quarter of all products monitored rising by at least 17% (moreover, no prices fell in Pauktaw). November marked a second straight month of broad price increases for Paletwa and brought stockouts for critical items like rice, palm oil, and meat/fish. The picture was more mixed in Kyauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe: one-quarter of all products monitored rose by at least 7%, but one-quarter also fell by at least 6%. In Mrauk U—where prices already rose significantly a month earlier in October—also saw price increases in November, but fewer than other markets.

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 – Low-quality rice prices climbed further above 2021 levels in November. The median twelve-month increase was unchanged for palm oil (+110%), pulses (+59%) and high-quality rice (+38%), but prices for low-quality rice (+59%) were still rising faster than they were one year ago (Charts 3-14).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices in November widened their lead over 2021 levels. The median twelve-month price increase grew by 11-16 percentage points for garlic (+27%), long bean (+18%), and watercress (+28%). The gap with 2021 prices narrowed by 14 to 15 percentage points for green chili (+115%) and eggplant (+15%).

Hygiene Products – Rising prices for hygiene products moved in lock step with November 2021. The median twelve-month increase was essentially unchanged for toothpaste (+40%), sanitary pads (+48%), soap (+79%), and detergent (+63%).

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices maintained their lead over 2021 levels in November. The median twelve-month increase widened by 5 to 13 percentage points

for fresh fish (+22%), dried fish (+58%), and chicken (+13%), although shrimp prices fell further in line with 2021 (+9%).

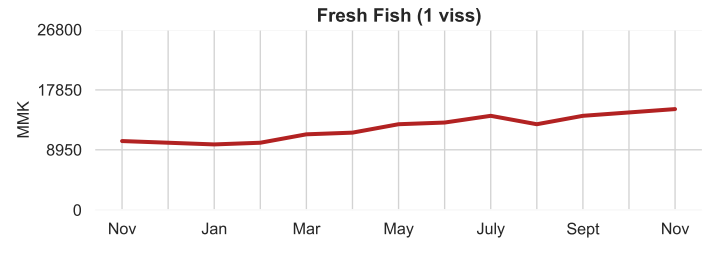
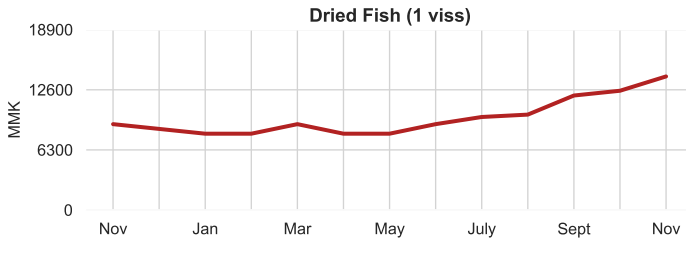
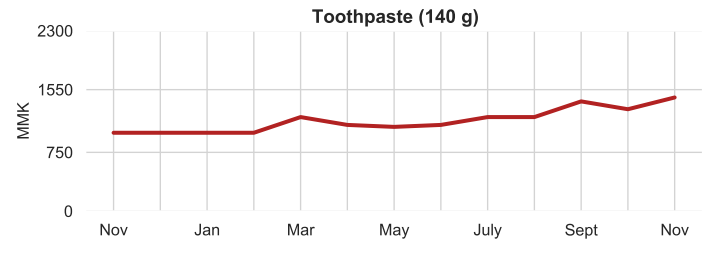
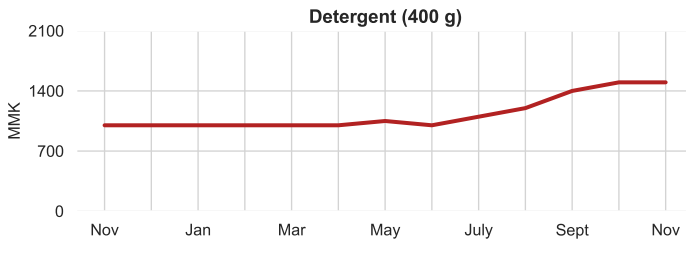
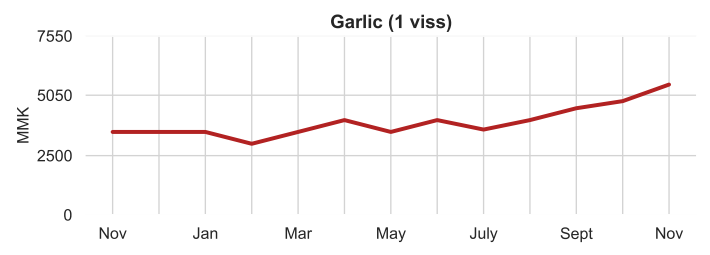
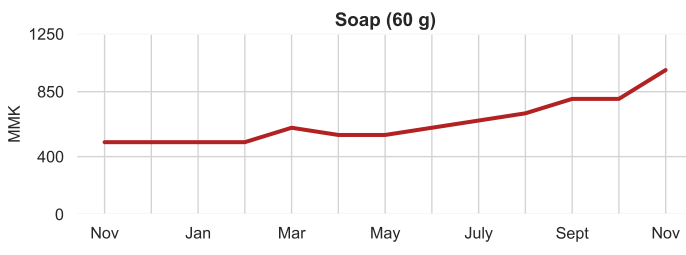
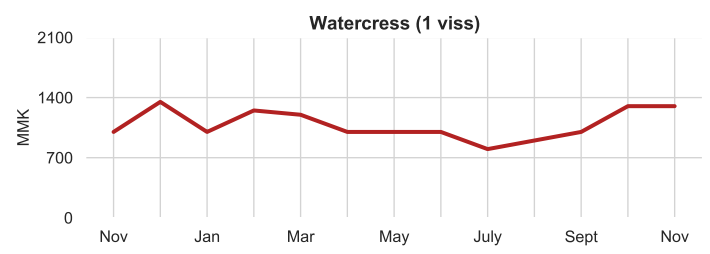
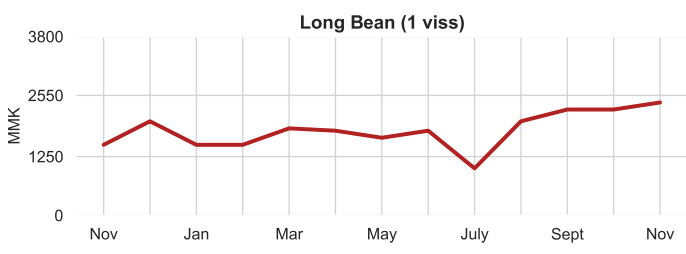
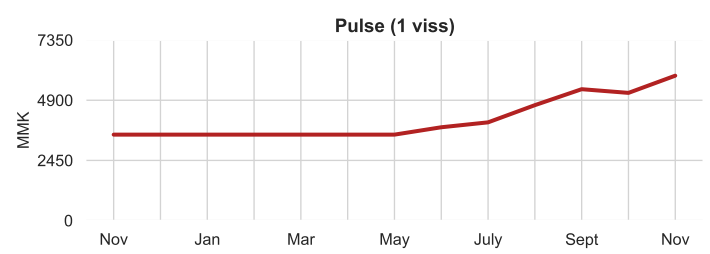
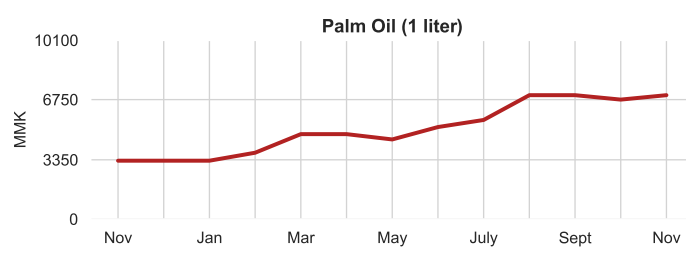
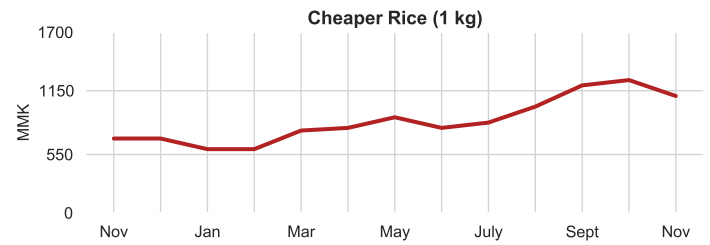
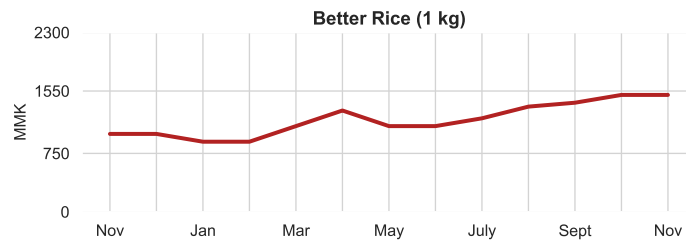
Other NFIs – Despite upward movement, NFIs prices fell more in line with 2021 levels in November. Most NFIs monitored narrowed the gap with 2021 prices by 5 to 10 percentage points in November, although prices generally remained at least 30% higher than they were one year ago (when prices were rising more quickly).

What to Watch

- Supply of **rice** and **vegetables** should be monitored closely, as it remains unclear whether lingering high prices are due to poor supply and/or rising costs;
- Relief from rising prices may prove elusive in **Maungdaw** and particularly **Paletwa** due limited supply routes serving these townships;
- Local transportation proved highly problematic in November due to security concerns, and this is likely to remain the case if clashes continue in December.

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 November 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,400	1,800	1,300	1,600	-	1,300	1,300	1,700	1,800
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,200	1,600	900	1,300	-	1,000	900	1,300	900
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,000	6,500	8,400	5,300	7,000	7,000	5,500	8,000	7,800
Pulse (1 viss)	5,900	6,000	5,500	5,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	5,000	5,500
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	6,000	4,500	5,500	7,000	4,500	4,500	5,500	5,500
Onion (1 viss)	5,000	6,000	4,500	5,000	7,000	4,000	5,000	4,500	4,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,500	3,500	3,000	2,500	2,000	1,500	3,000	2,000	3,200
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,500	3,500	2,400	2,000	2,500	1,400	2,000	2,500	2,800
Watercress (1 viss)	1,300	1,500	1,300	1,200	1,000	3,000	1,500	1,200	1,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	6,700	7,000	5,000	3,800	8,000	7,000	4,000	12,000	13,000
Banana (1 bunch)	800	1,200	950	800	300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,450	2,000	1,400	1,500	1,300	1,300
Detergent (400 g)	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,700
Soap (60 g)	1,000	1,500	1,000	825	1,000	800	1,000	800	800
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	800	1,200	1,000	1,100	1,000	1,200	900	1,200	1,300
Shrimp (1 viss)	6,000	14,000	6,000	6,250	-	8,500	7,500	8,000	7,800
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	12,000	17,500	15,000	15,500	22,500	12,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	13,000	17,500	14,000	14,000	15,000	14,000	14,000	15,000	13,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,500	8,500	3,000	2,000	4,500	3,000	4,500	6,500	7,000
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	14,000	10,000	13,500	13,500	12,000	12,000	13,000	14,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	1,000	500	800	1,400	1,000	800	900
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,500	4,500	5,225	4,900	5,000	4,000	3,800	5,500	5,000
Blanket	4,500	8,000	8,000	12,000	8,000	6,500	13,000	7,500	7,000
Mosquito Net	6,500	-	5,000	4,000	5,000	7,000	4,000	4,500	4,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,800	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	4,500	7,200	7,500	7,500
Men's Longyi	6,500	6,000	8,000	7,500	7,500	7,000	7,500	9,000	7,300
Women's Longyi	5,800	6,000	7,500	8,000	7,500	7,000	7,500	8,000	6,500
Umbrella	6,000	-	6,000	6,500	6,000	7,000	7,000	5,000	6,000
Towel	3,500	2,200	2,500	4,250	4,000	4,500	4,000	4,000	2,800

*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).

CONTACT

Market Analysis Unit
market.analysis.unit@gmail.com