

## RAKHINE STATE (Nov. 2021)

# MARKET PRICE REPORT

## Mercy Corps - Market Analysis Unit

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).

- Prices were more stable in November than October, with fewer and more moderate price increases;
- Paletwa, Pauktaw and Sittwe saw prices fall in November, although this may be only a short-term shift;
- Prices for vegetables and NFIs continued to rise in November, while meat and essentials fell slightly;
- Essential food prices remained well above November 2020 levels, especially palm oil and cheaper rice;
- Hygiene products and other NFIs were slightly above last year, while fish and vegetables were lower;
- November's relative price stability may be short-lived absent consistency in fundamental price drivers.

### Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods** – Rice prices dipped in November as the new harvest reached markets, but in general essential foods were stable. Rice prices rose or fell by 17% or more in half of all markets, often reversing changes observed in October. Meanwhile, prices for palm oil and pulses were mostly stable after months of edging upward.

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices rose and fell in different markets in November. Long bean prices fell in half of all markets, likely due to the arrival of winter harvest. Onion prices often fell by 17-20% in November, partly reversing October's large increases. Chili prices rose sharply for a second straight month, while increases in eggplant and watercress prices partly erased October's declines.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products rose and fell in different markets in November, with toothpaste and sanitary pads seeing the largest swings. Prices for sanitary pads fell 14-25% in five markets, and prices for toothpaste climbed at least 20% in four markets (although they were stable elsewhere). Soap and detergent prices rose at least 10% in some markets.

**Meat and Fish** – Meat and fish prices were generally stable in November, despite declining prices in some markets. Prices for fresh fish, dried fish and shrimp each declined by at least 10% in four markets, and price increases were rare. Chicken was also fairly stable, with little or no change in four markets.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

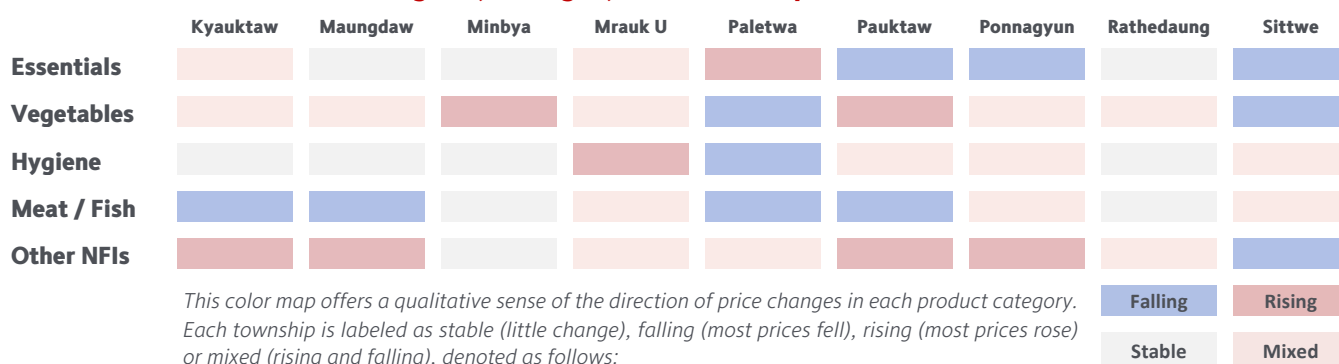


**Other NFIs** – NFI prices leveled off slightly after two months of steep increases, although some goods still inched upward. NFI prices fluctuated in November, with umbrellas, blankets, longyis and cooking pots increasing 60% or more in some markets. Only mosquito nets saw notable price decreases, falling 10-17% in four markets.

## Township-Level Price Changes

Several townships saw greater price stability in November than last month, and Paletwa, Pauktaw and Sittwe saw many prices decline. Prices in Minbya were stable for a second month, while Maungdaw and Rathedaung saw greater stability than last month (Chart 2). Kyauktaw and Mrauk U saw slightly more price increases in November than October, while Paletwa, Pauktaw and Sittwe saw prices decrease or at least rise less dramatically than last month. However, rather than indicate a long-term trend, this may point to merely a short-term correction following steep increases in September and October.

**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 November 2020 levels. Prices for rice and pulses are roughly 20-40% higher, and the median increase for palm oil is 75% (Charts 3-14).

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices were fairly similar to November 2020. Prices for green chili, long bean and garlic were not far off 2020 levels, although watercress prices often declined by 20% or more.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for some hygiene products were above last year. Prices for detergent and toothpaste are up by about 20%, although soap was only slightly above 2020 levels. Prices for sanitary pads are generally lower than last year.

**Meat and Fish** – Fresh fish prices were similar to last year, but shrimp prices were much lower. Shrimp prices were nearly 20% below November 2020 levels,

while fish prices were also lower but still mostly within 10% of last year.

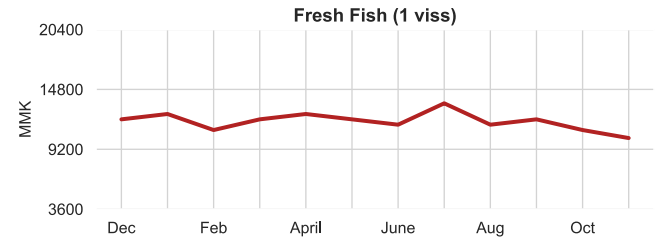
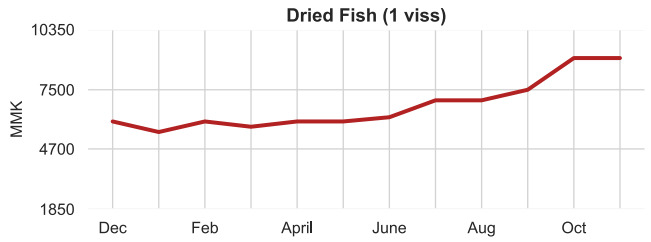
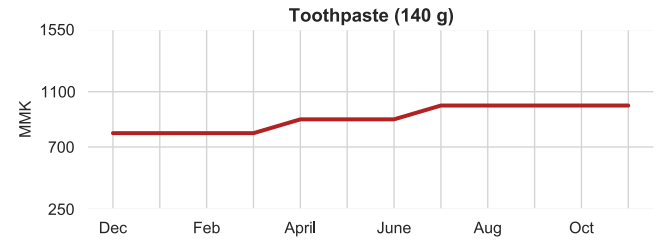
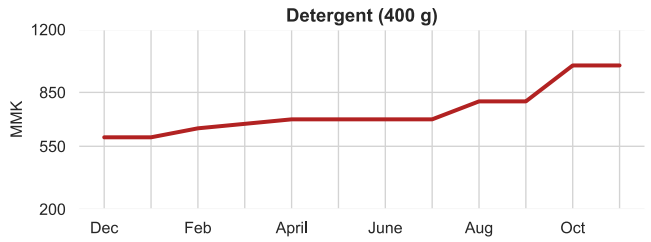
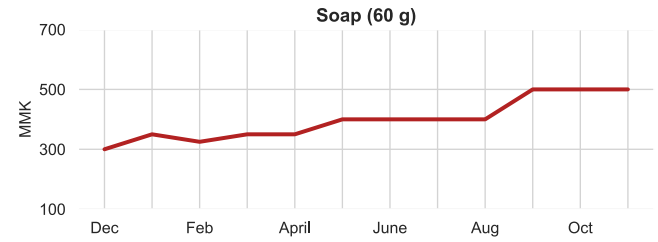
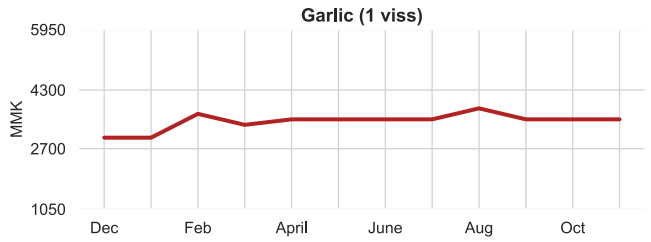
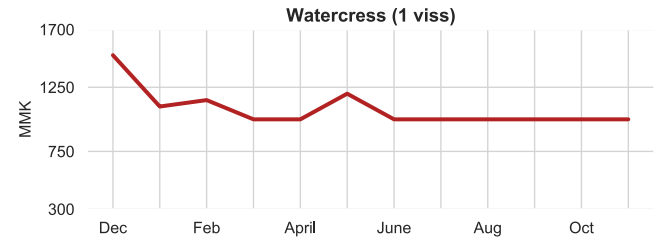
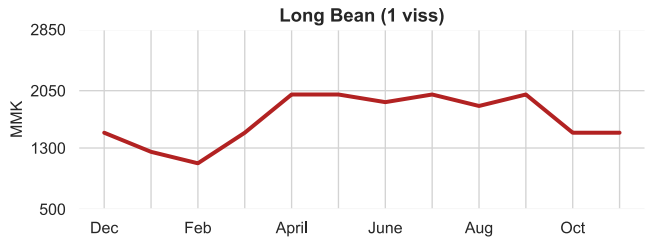
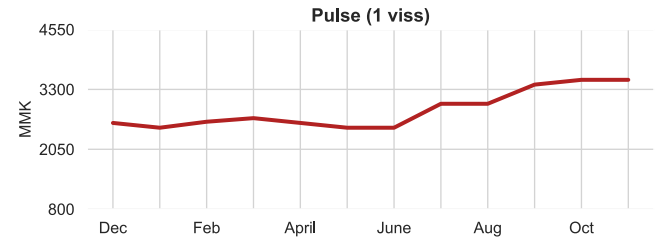
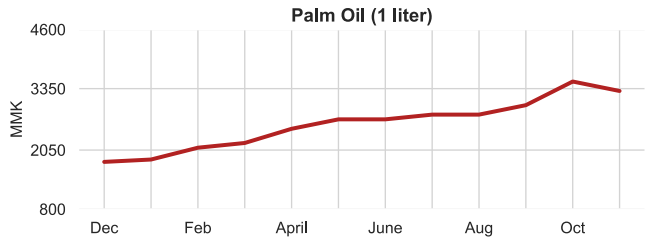
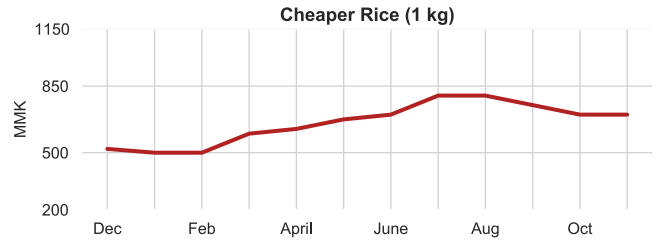
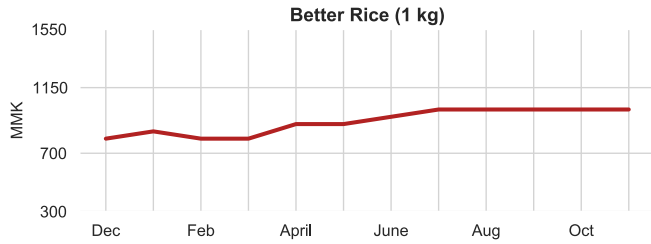
**Other NFIs** – Prices for some NFIs remain moderately higher than last year. Prices for umbrellas, towels and blankets were slightly higher than in November 2020.

### What to Watch

- Prices for **rice** and **vegetables** could fall in December as more new harvest arrives;
- Falling prices in **Sittwe** may mean lower prices in December in townships which source NFIs there;
- Long-term **price stability** will continue to depend on key price drivers like import conditions and local transport costs.

<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 November 2021 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,300	800	1,000	1,300	1,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	700	700	800	500	800	500	600	700	800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	3,500	3,300	3,400	3,800	3,500	3,300	3,200	3,300	2,900
Pulse (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	4,500	3,500	3,500	3,300	3,000
Salt (800 g)	200	250	150	400	275	200	450	200	250
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	4,000	3,400	3,500	4,250	3,000	3,000	2,800	3,500
Onion (1 viss)	800	1,000	800	1,000	1,350	1,200	1,000	1,000	800
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,600	2,100	1,800	2,000	2,250	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	950	1,800	1,800	1,000	1,125	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Watercress (1 viss)	600	2,000	1,000	1,000	-	2,000	800	1,000	1,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	4,000	5,100	1,800	2,000	6,000	2,800	2,500	2,400	2,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,000	800	1,200	900	1,300	950	1,000	850	1,800
Detergent (400 g)	1,200	1,000	1,000	700	1,000	1,100	600	975	900
Soap (60 g)	400	450	500	600	500	500	400	450	500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	600	750	700	650	850	700	800	500	600
Shrimp (1 viss)	5,900	7,000	7,000	5,250	-	6,000	8,000	5,000	13,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	7,000	10,500	12,000	14,000	-	9,000	10,000	14,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	10,750	9,000	8,000	9,000	8,000	9,000	9,000	9,500	6,500
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	9,000	7,000	7,250	10,000	7,500	7,500	10,000	7,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	250	1,000	500	550	-	500	600	-	500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	4,500	3,500	3,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	4,500	3,000	3,500
Blanket	3,500	7,000	6,000	5,500	6,000	7,500	-	6,000	6,000
Mosquito Net	-	-	4,000	5,000	3,500	2,700	4,000	3,000	4,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	4,800	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	-	5,600	5,000
Men's Longyi	5,500	5,000	4,500	6,000	6,500	5,000	5,000	5,500	5,000
Women's Longyi	4,500	5,000	4,000	6,000	4,750	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,000
Umbrella	6,500	-	4,500	5,500	3,500	7,500	8,000	4,000	3,500
Towel	2,500	1,300	2,000	1,300	2,500	2500	-	1,700	2,500

\*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

## Mercy Corps' 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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