

## RAKHINE STATE (OCT. 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).

- Most prices are 10% or more above October 2020, with essential foods and NFIs elevated the most;
- Price hikes this month were numerous, particularly in Mrauk U, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe;
- NFI prices rose even more dramatically than last month, up 25% or more in many markets;
- Palm oil prices rose at least 9% in six markets, while pulses and better rice also rose in some markets;
- Hygiene product prices rose again in October, with detergent up 11% or more in five markets;
- Shrimp and dried fish prices increased, although prices for chicken and fresh fish fell in October.

### Product-Level Price Changes

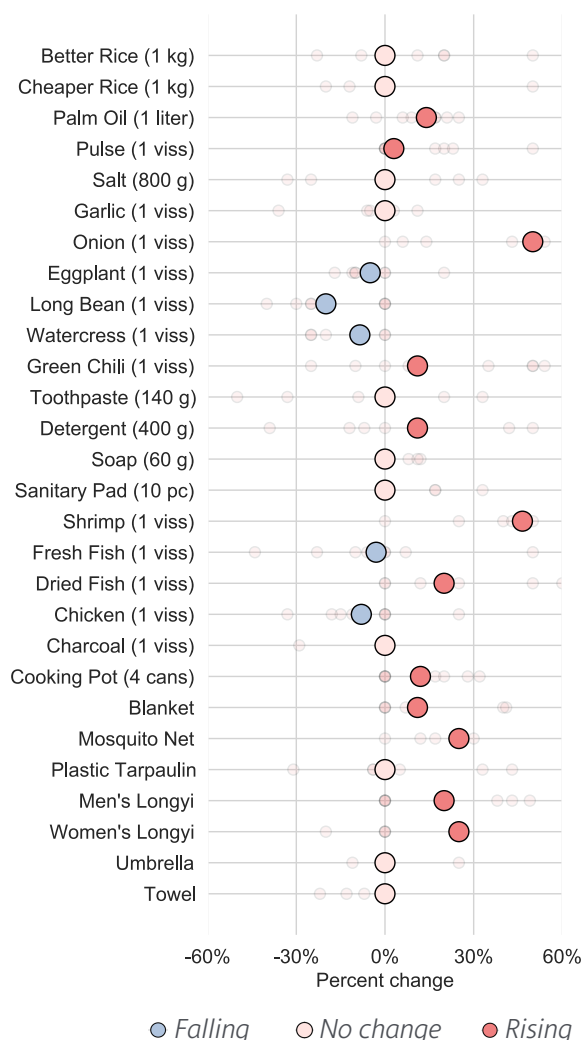
**Essential Foods** – Essential food prices climbed higher in October. Palm oil prices rose +9% or more in six markets, and pulses rose +17% or more in four (Chart 1). Cheaper rice held stable, but better rice rose at least +11% in four markets. Rice prices fell only in Paletwa, where retailers reported a locally-imposed mandatory price ceiling.

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices rose and fell in October but displayed some clear trends. Onion and green chili rose in most markets, with onion up at least +50% in six markets and green chili up at least +35% in four. On the other hand, prices for long bean, watercress and eggplant pulled back in most markets. In half of all markets, long bean fell -20% or more, watercress fell -7% or more, and eggplant fell -10% or more. Garlic prices were stable.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products rose again in October, albeit less so than in September. Detergent prices rose the most, up +11% or more in five markets. Soap and sanitary pads—which already rose in September—were mostly stable. In three townships, sanitary pads rose at least +17% and soap rose at least +8% (yet both were stable elsewhere). Toothpaste saw a mixture of rising and falling prices.

**Meat and Fish** – Shrimp and dried fish prices rose on irregular supply, while chicken and fresh fish fell. In seven markets, prices for shrimp and dried fish prices rose at least +25% and

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



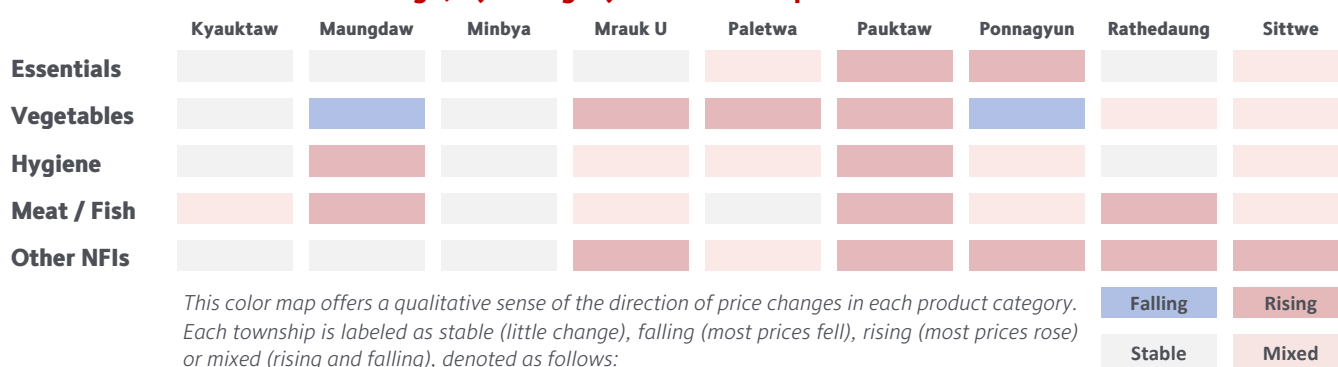
+12%, respectively. In half of all markets, prices fell at least -8% and -6% for chicken and fresh fish, respectively.

**Other NFIs** – Many NFI prices rose in October, even more notably than in September. Longyis, tarps, mosquito nets, blankets and cookpots rose +25% or more in some markets, partly due to rising transportation costs (from central Myanmar). Charcoal and umbrellas were stable, while towel prices fell -7% or more in four townships.

## Township-Level Price Changes

Price hikes were widespread in all markets except Kyauktaw, Maungdaw and Minbya, where prices had already risen in September. Pauktaw stands out in October, with large increases for essential foods, meat / fish, hygiene products and NFIs (Chart 2). Prices for NFIs and particularly vegetables rose sharply in Mrauk U. Rathedaung Township also stood out for rising meat/fish prices. In Sittwe, where prices were already increasing in September, further increases pushed prices even higher, particularly for NFIs. Minbya prices were very stable.

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



## Twelve-Month Price Changes<sup>1</sup>

**Essential Foods** – Essential food prices remain much higher than October 2020. The median price change for palm oil is +63% (Charts 3-14). Meanwhile, the increase for lower- and higher-quality rice is +54% and +16%, respectively. Pulses are up +33%.

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices are both somewhat higher and lower than last year. Watercress and long bean prices have seen a median change of -28% and -14%, respectively. The median change for green chili and garlic is +14% and +6%, respectively.

**Hygiene Products** – Hygiene products are higher than last year. Toothpaste stands out with a median change of +57%, while detergent is up +14%. Soap and sanitary pads are only +4% above last year.

**Meat and Fish** – Shrimp and fresh fish prices are a bit

below last year. The median change in the price of shrimp and fresh fish is -19% and -8%, respectively.

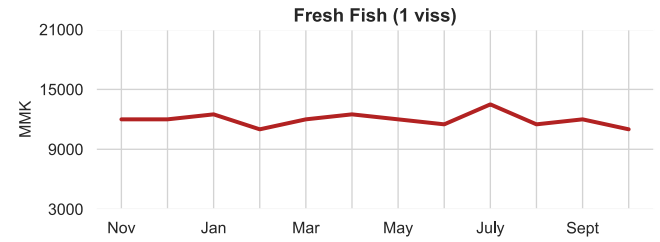
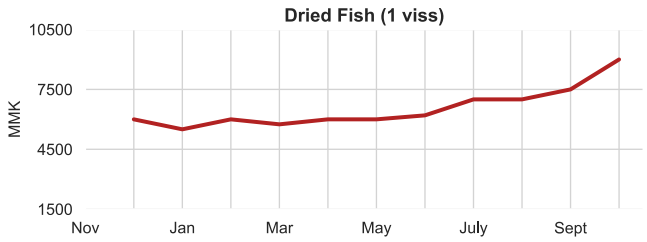
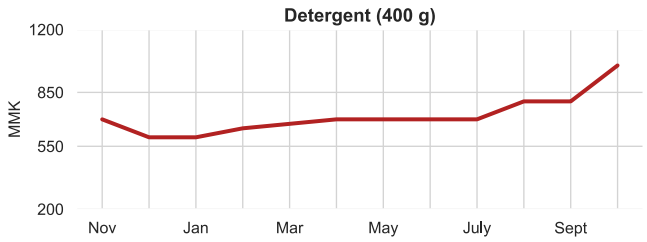
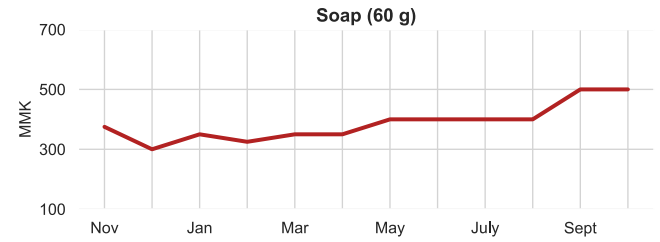
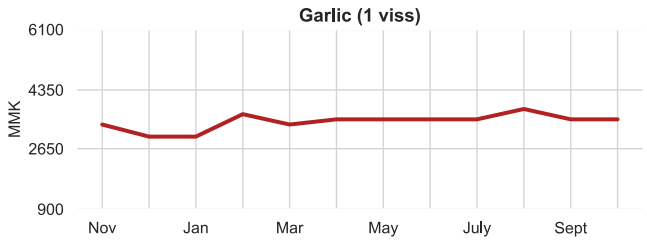
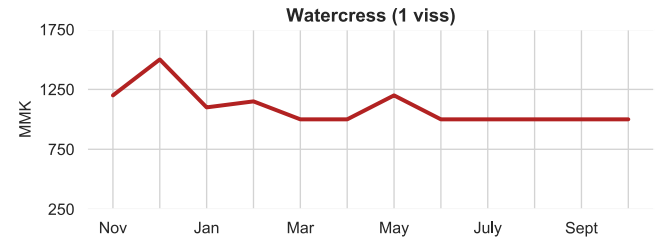
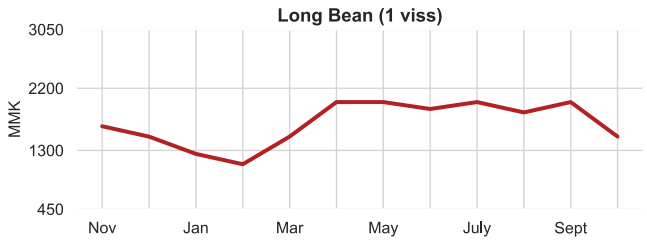
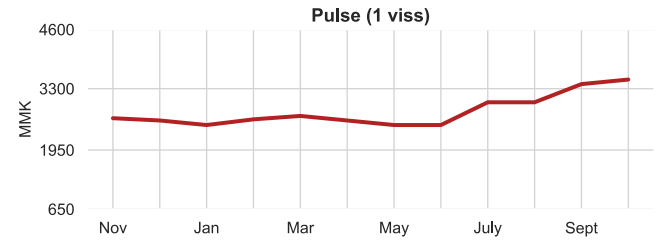
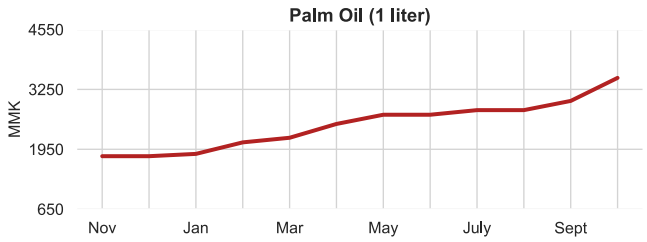
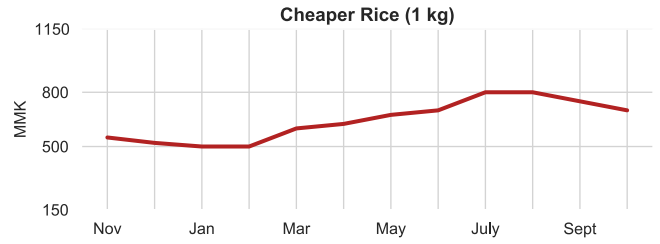
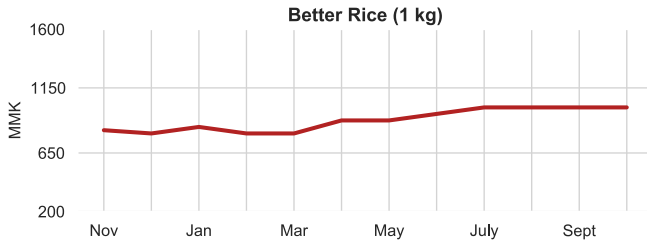
**Other NFIs** – Some NFI prices are well above last year. The median price change for mosquito nets and umbrellas is +32% and +20%, respectively. The median change is just +9% for blankets and -7% for towels.

### What to Watch

- Exchange rates and high gas prices may drive prices even higher for **hygiene products** and **NFIs**.
- Prices for **rice** and **vegetable** may remain high until the new harvest hits markets in late-November.
- In November, townships supplied by **Sittwe** may inherit steady price increases seen there in September and October.

<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 October 2021 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,000	900	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	800	700	700	700	600	900	900	-	700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	3,200	3,500	3,500	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,300	3,500	3,300
Pulse (1 viss)	4,000	3,600	3,500	3,500	4,500	3,000	3,200	3,500	3,500
Salt (800 g)	250	250	150	300	350	200	200	200	150
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,300	5,000	3,600	3,000	3,600	3,500
Onion (1 viss)	800	1,200	800	1,200	2,000	1,200	900	1,200	1,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	4,000	2,500	800	2,500	-	1,200	1,800	1,700	1,800
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,200	2,100	1,200	6,000	3,000	1,500	1,500	2,000	1,500
Watercress (1 viss)	700	1,200	1,000	1,000	-	1,500	600	900	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	2,800	4,500	1,300	1,500	5,000	1,800	3,500	2,000	3,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,000	800	1,000	600	1,000	1,200	1,000	900	1,200
Detergent (400 g)	1,200	1,000	1,000	550	1,100	1,350	700	950	700
Soap (60 g)	500	400	500	500	650	450	500	450	500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	800	700	800	800	1,000	600	600	500	700
Shrimp (1 viss)	7,500	7,000	7,000	5,000	-	13,000	12,000	6,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,500	12,000	12,000	9,000	-	15,000	10,000	15,000	10,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	9,000	10,000	8,000	9,000	9,000	10,000	7,500	9,000	8,000
Chicken (1 viss)	8,250	9,000	7,000	8,000	12,000	6,000	7,000	10,000	5,500
Charcoal (1 viss)	500	1,000	600	500	-	500	500	-	500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	4,500	4,500	4,200	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,500	3,000	3,200
Blanket	4,800	6,000	6,000	6,500	5,000	4,500	6,500	2,500	7,000
Mosquito Net	3,500	3,500	4,500	6,000	-	3,000	3,500	2,500	5,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	3,900	4,800	6,000	6,000	5,000	5,500	5,500	4,800	4,800
Men's Longyi	4,500	4,500	4,500	5,500	5,000	5,000	5,500	5,500	7,500
Women's Longyi	4,500	4,500	4,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	5,500	7,500
Umbrella	3,500	4,000	4,500	5,000	4,500	3,500	4,500	4,000	5,000
Towel	1,500	1,300	2,000	300	3,500	2,500	2,500	1,800	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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