

# 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](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **October brought a second month of price stability**, but renewed conflict suggested this is unlikely to last;
- **Prices fell more often than they rose in October** with lower prices for onion, shrimp, chicken, and plastic tarps;
- **Sittwe saw the most price hikes in October** with one-quarter of all products monitored up at least 11%;
- **Stable markets kept prices closer to 2022 levels**, because October prices did not rise as fast as last year;
- **November will likely see price hikes and stockouts** due to market disruptions in Rakhine State;
- **Protracted conflict could mute seasonal price dips** for vegetables and rice if conflict pushes into December;
- **Market access may be limited in Mrauk-U, Minbya, Pauktaw, Rathedaung, Maungdaw, and Paletwa** in November, according to early indicators.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Essential food prices were very stable in October.** Rice and cooking oil prices were stable, with just two instances of price changes larger than 8%. Prices for pulses rose or fell by 5-15% in some markets in October but were generally stable.

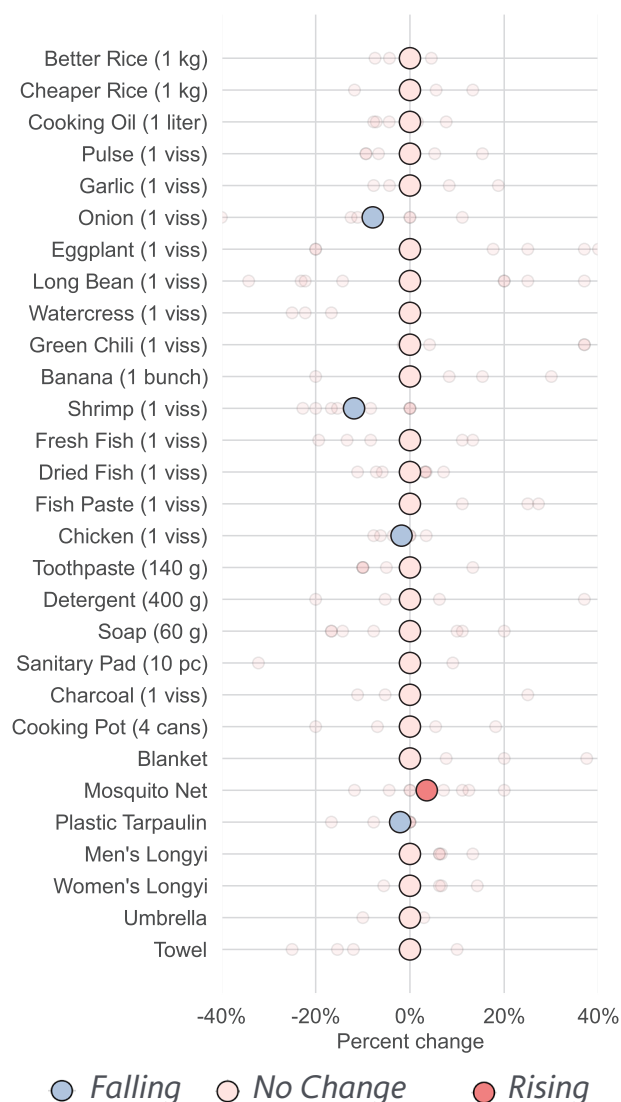
**Vegetables – Onion prices declined in October, but most other vegetable prices were stable.** Onion prices fell by 8-12% in most markets, but there were few clear price trends for other vegetables. Long bean prices fluctuated in October, rising or falling by 14-34%, but other vegetable prices were mostly stable.

**Meat and Fish – Shrimp prices fell in October, but most other meat/fish prices were stable.** Shrimp prices fell by 8-23% in most markets, but other meat/fish products were stable. Fish paste prices rose 11-27% in a few markets but were unchanged elsewhere. Although meat/fish prices were generally stable in October, prices fell more often than they rose.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable, although there were some signs of falling prices.** Toothpaste and soap prices fell 5-17% in multiple markets, although this was offset by increases of 10-20% in other markets. Prices for detergent and sanitary pads were fairly stable in October.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices were quite stable in October, and NFIs saw fewer price reductions than did food items.** Prices for mosquito nets were up 11-20% in some markets, while plastic tarp prices fell slightly in some markets. There was otherwise fairly broad price stability for NFIs in October. Price increases were slightly more common for NFIs than for food items, but the magnitude of NFI price increases was rarely more than 10%.

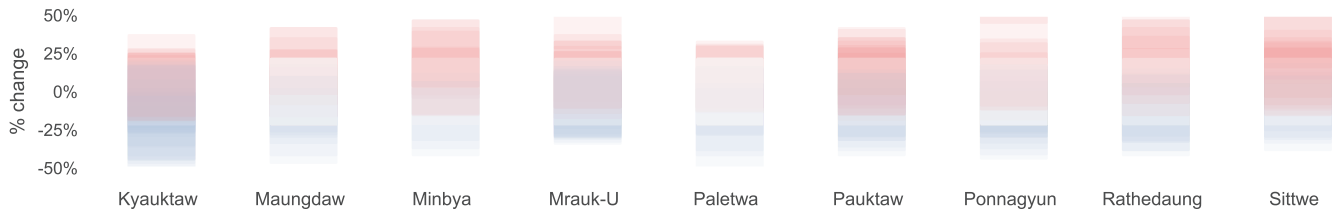
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



## Township-Level Price Changes

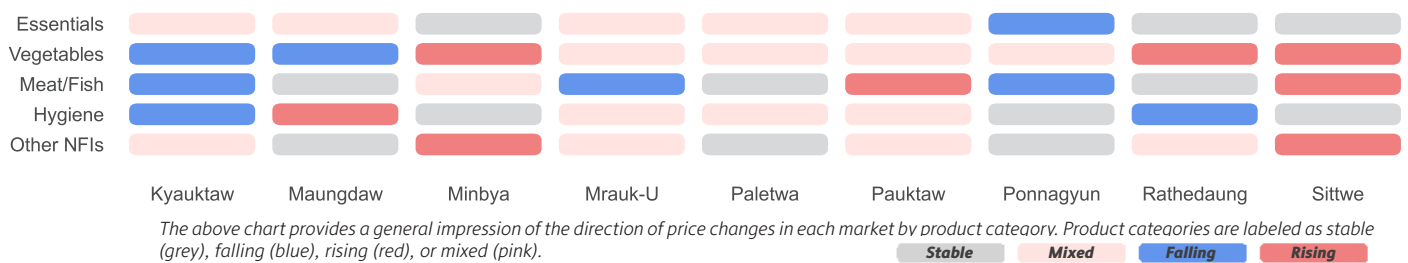
Sittwe saw the most noteworthy price increases in October—as it did in September—while Kyauktaw saw some notable price reductions. Prices increased most in Sittwe and Pauktaw, where one-quarter of all products monitored in October rose at least 11% and 7%, respectively. The only market to see notable price decreases was Kyauktaw, where with one-quarter of all products monitored were down at least 17%. Price shifts in October were not particularly large for any township, and most markets saw very stable prices. Roughly half of all products monitored were unchanged in all markets except for Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U.

**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 Changes<sup>1</sup>

### Essential Foods – Despite stable markets, rice and pulses remained 35-65% above last year's levels.

The median twelve-month price increase shrank by 4-16 percentage points for better rice (+65%), cheaper rice (+53%), and pulses (+36%). The three-month average for palm oil (-6%) dipped slightly below last year's level.

### Vegetables – Vegetable prices remained far higher than October 2022 levels.

Prices remained much higher than last year for eggplant (+42%), long bean (+76%), and watercress (+77%), while onion (+2%) and green chili (+4%) were roughly the same.

### Meat and Fish – Stable meat/fish prices remained 25-40% higher than 2022 levels.

Stable meat/fish prices remained much higher for shrimp (+31%), dried fish (+31%), chicken (+26%), fresh fish (+39%), and fish paste (+30%).

### Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were 15-40% higher than 2022 levels.

Prices remained far higher for toothpaste (+36%) and soap (+42%), and they were somewhat higher for detergent (+17%). Prices for

sanitary pads (-2%) were similar to this time last year.

### Other NFIs – Stable NFI prices kept most prices no more than 35% above October 2022 levels.

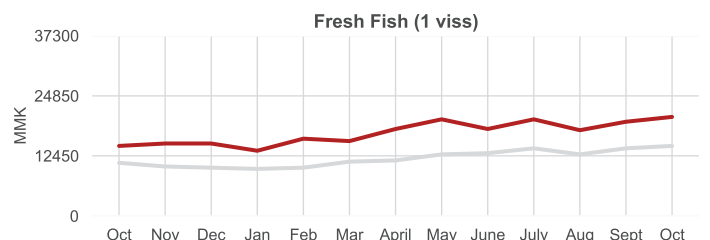
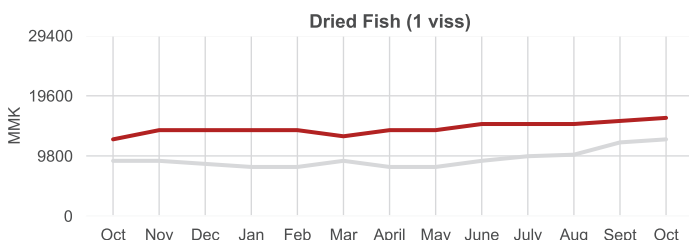
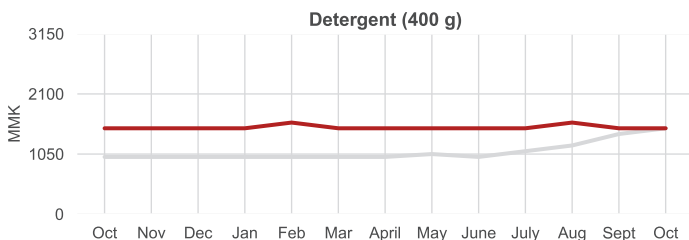
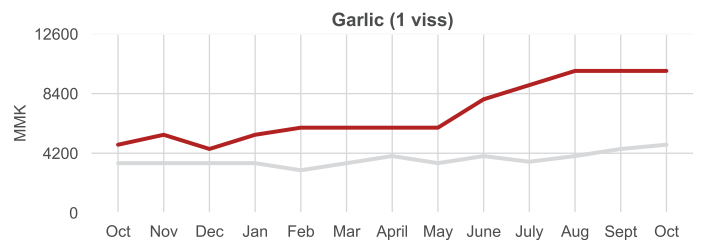
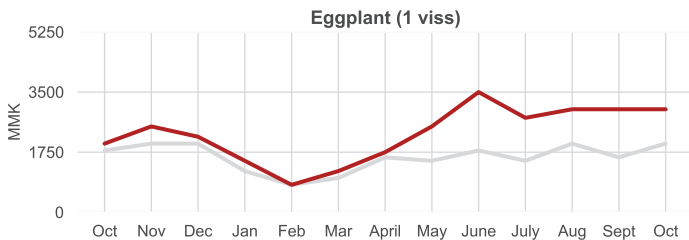
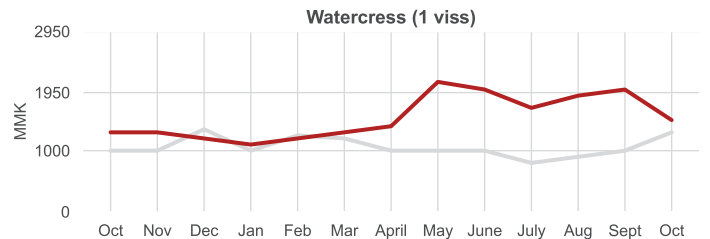
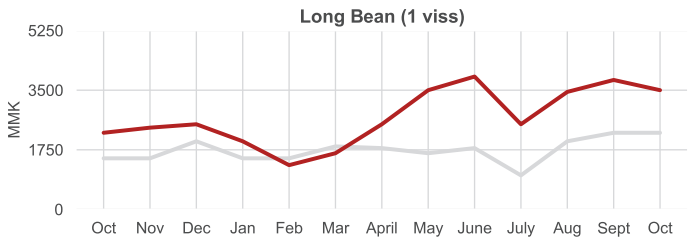
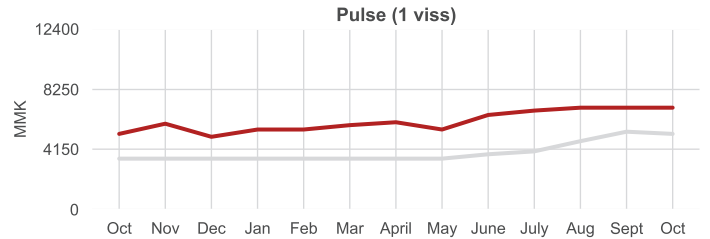
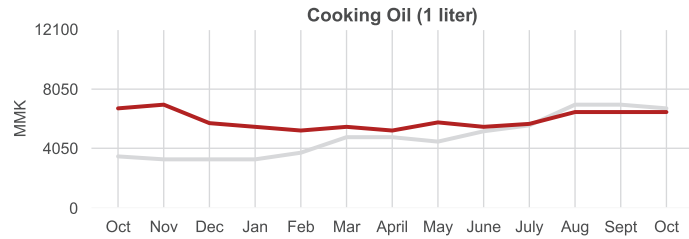
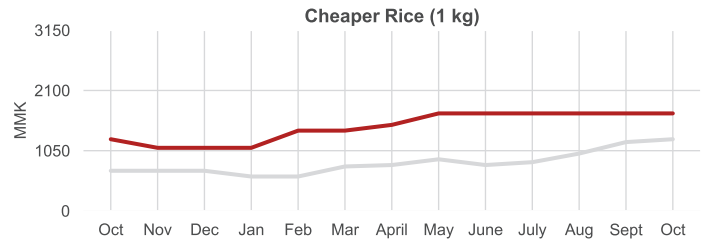
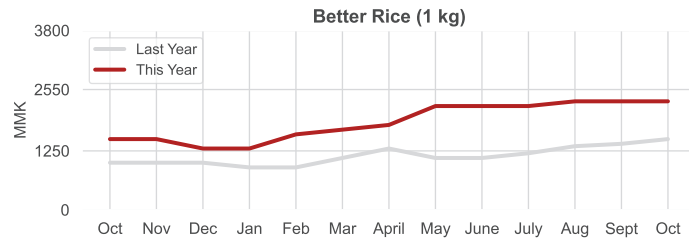
NFI prices continued to show more stability than they did at this time last year. Prices were slightly higher for longyis (11-13%), and they were the same for charcoal (+0%). Price increases were more significant for umbrellas (+19%), mosquito nets (+18%), blankets (+31%), cooking pots (+32%), plastic tarps (+33%), and towels (+23%).

## What to Watch

- November will likely see more price hikes and stock-outs due to recent outbreaks of armed conflict in Rakhine State;
- Protracted fighting could mute seasonal price dips for **vegetables** and **rice** if disruptions continued into December;
- Market access in **Mrauk U, Minbya, Pauktaw, Rathedaung, Maungdaw, and Paletwa** may particularly limited in late-September.

<sup>1</sup> 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 October 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,500	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,500	1,900	2,200	2,700	2,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,800	1,900	1,500	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500	2,000
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,400	6,500	6,300	6,500	7,000	6,500	6,000	7,000	6,500
Pulse (1 viss)	6,000	7,000	7,000	6,800	7,000	5,500	7,000	7,000	6,800
Garlic (1 viss)	11,000	10,000	10,000	12,000	13,000	9,500	10,000	10,000	11,000
Onion (1 viss)	3,000	3,500	4,000	3,500	5,000	5,000	3,500	4,000	3,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,800	2,800	2,000	3,000	2,500	3,000	3,500	3,750	6,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,000	4,200	3,000	6,000	2,500	3,000	3,500	5,000	4,000
Watercress (1 viss)	1,400	1,500	2,000	1,500	3,000	2,500	1,200	1,500	-
Green Chili (1 viss)	6,900	7,000	3,500	5,000	5,000	4,500	5,000	4,500	3,500
Banana (1 bunch)	1,300	1,000	-	1,500	400	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,300
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,500	7,000	8,000	6,875	-	12,000	5,500	5,000	7,500
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	13,000	21,000	18,000	22,000	-	17,000	25,000	28,000	20,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	16,000	15,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	15,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	3,900	8,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	7,000
Chicken (1 viss)	15,000	15,000	-	-	-	13,000	12,000	18,000	13,500
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,900	1,700	1,800	2,000	2,000	1,800	1,600	1,800	1,800
Detergent (400 g)	1,700	1,500	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,800	1,800	2,000	1,500
Soap (60 g)	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	950	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	900	1,000	1,000	500	700	1,000	1,000	800	1,300
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,800	5,000	-	6,750	7,500	4,000	7,000	7,000	6,500
Blanket	12,000	-	11,000	14,000	12,000	9,000	13,000	13,000	11,000
Mosquito Net	6,500	-	7,500	5,000	5,000	7,500	4,500	6,000	7,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	7,600	8,000	8,000	9,400	12,000	6,000	6,800	10,000	8,000
Men's Longyi	7,000	7,000	8,500	9,000	8,000	8,000	7,500	8,500	8,500
Women's Longyi	7,000	7,000	8,500	8,500	9,000	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,500
Umbrella	7,000	7,000	-	8,250	-	9,000	7,500	6,000	-
Towel	3,000	2,200	2,750	4,500	4,000	5,000	5,500	4,500	3,000

\*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**

Market Analysis Unit  
[market.analysis.unit@gmail.com](mailto:market.analysis.unit@gmail.com)