

# 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

- September saw continued price increases across all product categories, although increases were less steep than in August;
- Vegetable prices showed typical volatility, although some markets saw lower prices for eggplant and chili;
- Prices for rice and pulses rose at least 4-8% in most markets, although oil stabilized slightly following August's record increases;
- Prices for NFIs continued upward at a pace similar to August, a trend which retailers attributed in part to reduced supply from road closures;
- Poor supply lifted meat and fish prices in September, which had been uniquely stable in August;
- Sittwe, Rathedaung and Maungdaw were most affected by price hikes in September, while Kyauktaw saw the fewest price increases.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose again in September but not as steeply as in August.** Rice and pulses saw median price increases in September of 4-8%, although some markets saw price hikes as large as 20%. Palm oil prices rose and fell in different markets, offering some reprieve from August's record increases. Price increases for essential foods were most notable in Sittwe, Mrauk U and Pauktaw.

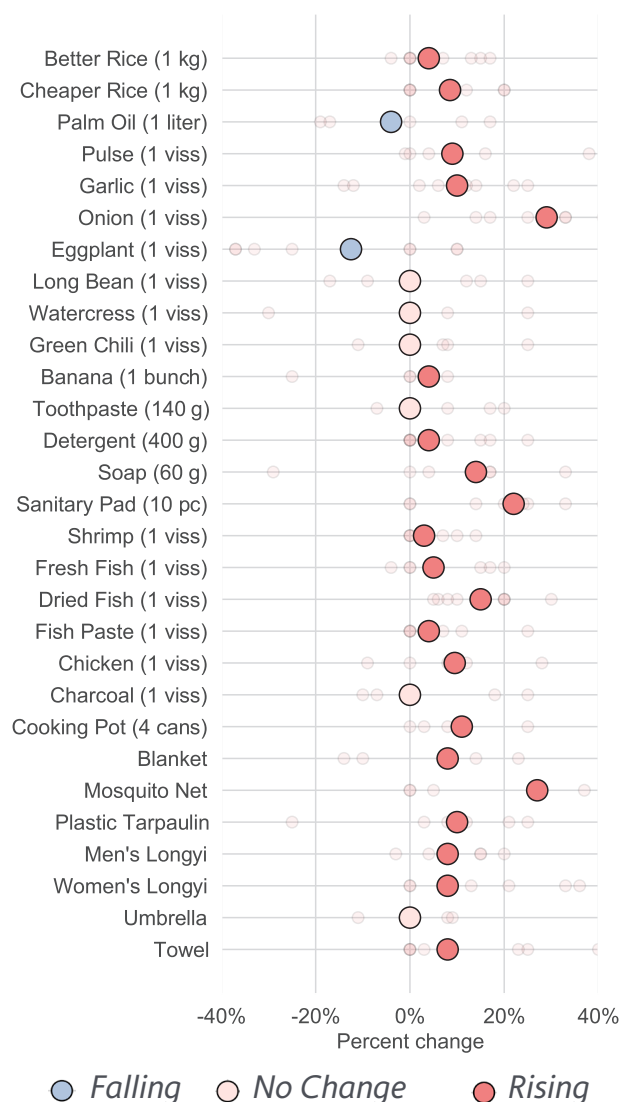
**Vegetables – Vegetable prices both rose and fell in September, although they generally rose in Sittwe, Rathedaung and Maungdaw.** Eggplant prices generally fell in September, and chili and long bean fell in some markets as well. In particular, import-reliant markets like Sittwe, Rathedaung and Maungdaw saw vegetable prices climb higher in September.

**Hygiene Products – As in August, September brought a mix of stable or rising prices for hygiene products.** Toothpaste prices were stable in most markets in September, but other hygiene products saw a median price increase of 8% or more. Retailers reported higher wholesale prices for sanitary pads, which were up 14% or more in most markets. Maungdaw and Mrauk U saw more price increases for hygiene products, while Kyauktaw and Paletwa saw fewer.

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices—which showed exceptional stability in August—rose in September.** The median price increase for shrimp, fresh fish and fish paste was 3-6% in September, while it was 8-15% for chicken and dried fish. Price increases for meat/fish were most notable in Sittwe, Pauktaw and Minbya. Traders attributed meat/fish price hikes to low supply.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices rose in September and they rose more widely than in August.** Most NFIs saw median price increases

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

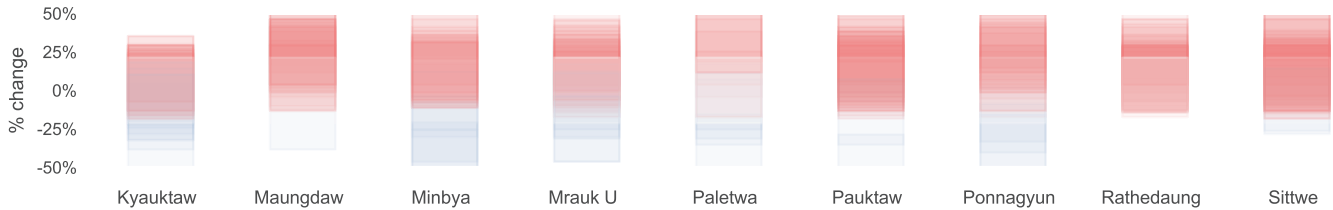


of 8-11% in September. Stockouts affected some NFIs, like blankets, plastic tarps and umbrellas. Retailers attributed rising NFI prices to wholesale price increases and supply reductions due to transport route closures.

## Township-Level Price Changes

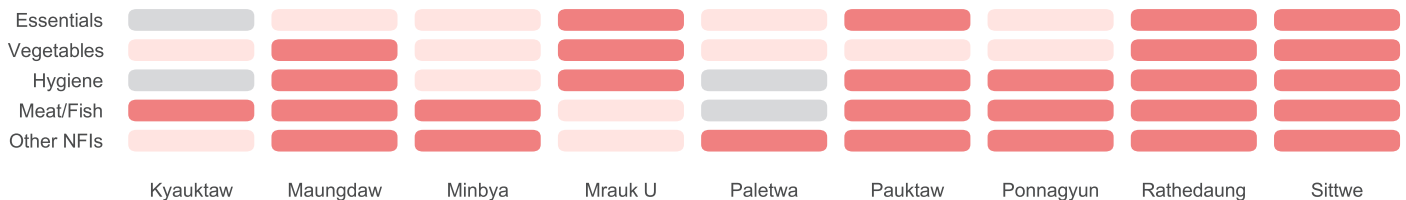
**Prices rose across all markets in September, with Sittwe, Pauktaw and Maungdaw weathering the most wide-spread price increases.** Price increases were most widespread in Maungdaw and Sittwe, where two-thirds of all products monitored were costlier in September (Rathedaung also saw many price increases, but it also saw some price stability). Price increases were deepest in Maungdaw, Minbya and Ponnagyun, where one-quarter of all products monitored saw prices rise at least 23%. Kyauktaw and Paletwa saw the most price stability, while Minbya also saw lower products for a few products. In general, most township saw higher prices for meat/fish and NFIs, while price increases essential foods and vegetables affected some townships more than others.

**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 – The gap between 2021 and 2022 essential food prices widened in September.** The median twelve-month increase for high- and low-quality rice grew from 23% in August to 31-33% in September, and pulses widened to 54%. Palm oil prices in September were more than double 2021 levels (Charts 3-14).

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices in September drifted closer to 2021 levels.** The median twelve-month price increase for garlic, eggplant, and watercress narrowed slightly to 8-17% in September, and long bean prices were 8% below 2021 levels. In most markets, green chili prices were more than double 2021 levels.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained well above 2021 levels in September.** The median twelve-month increase grew for detergent (65%) and a second month of increases pushed sanitary pads to 53% above 2021 levels. Prices for toothpaste and soap remained 30% and 78% over 2021, respectively.

**Meat and Fish – Prices for some meat and fish products stretched further beyond 2021 levels.** The median

twelve-month increase grew by roughly ten percentage points for chicken (25%) and dried fish (45%). Fresh fish remained 14% above 2021 levels in September, while shrimp narrowed the gap to 40% above 2021 levels.

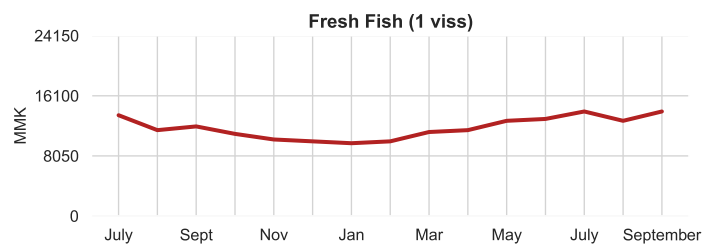
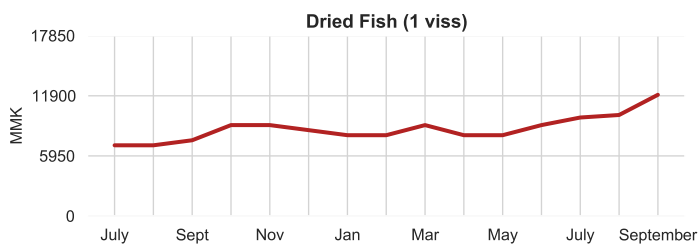
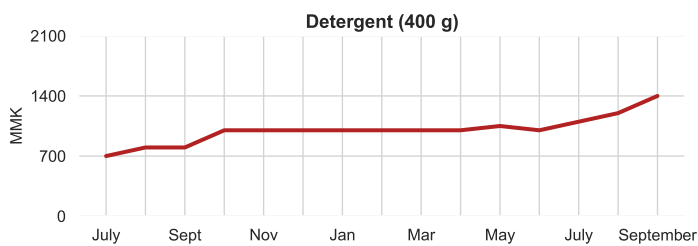
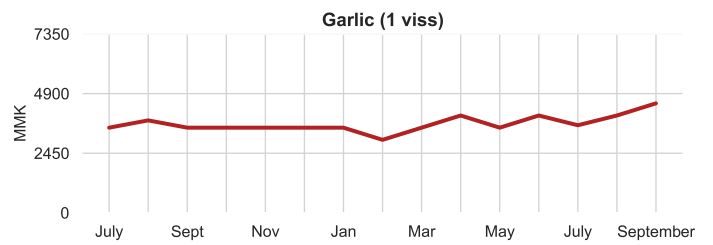
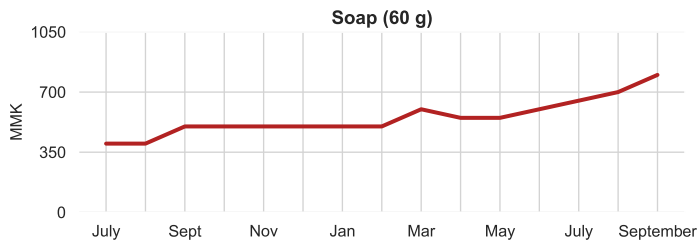
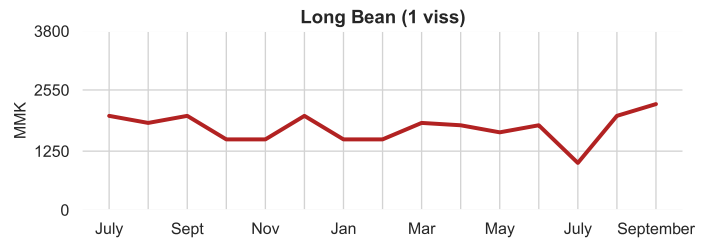
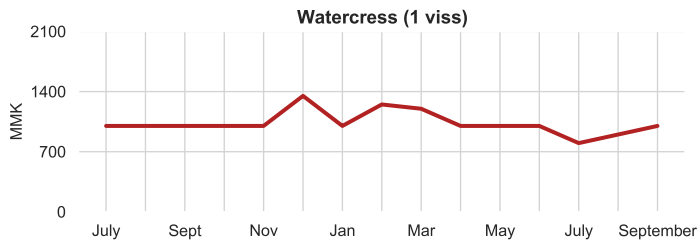
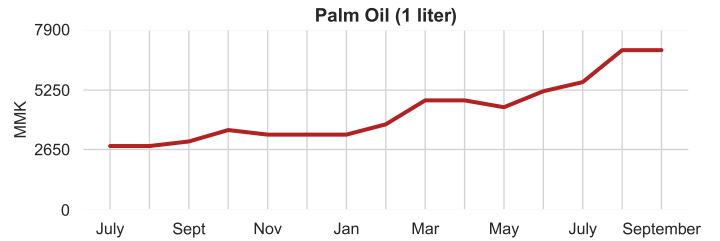
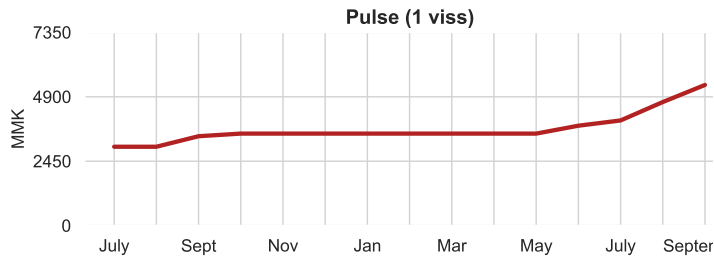
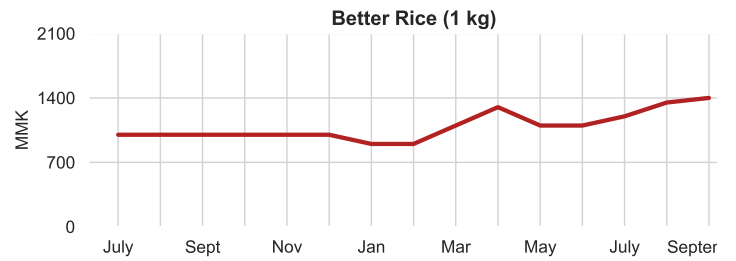
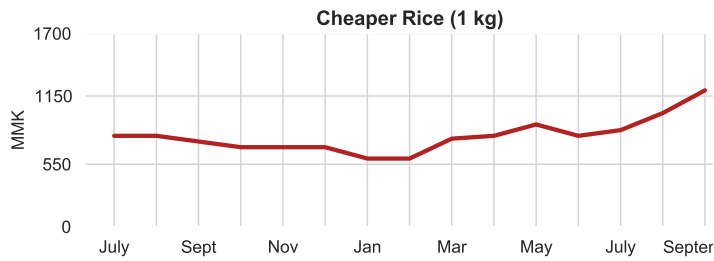
**Other NFIs – NFI prices remained well above September 2021 levels.** Prices for most NFIs—which were 30-50% above 2021 levels in August—reached 46-65% above 2021 in September. As of September, blankets and mosquito nets saw the largest twelve-month increase.

### What to Watch

- Rising supply of **rice** from the coming harvest may reduce pressure on prices by December, but the reverse could be true if the harvest is poor;
- Prices for **vegetables** should pull back further in October and November as local winter supply starts to come to market;
- Road closures or other impacts from increased conflict may raise prices, particularly in **Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Kyauktaw** and **Paletwa** townships.

<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 (Twelve Months)



## Prices for September 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,400	1,500	1,300	1,500	1,300	1,400	1,350	1,600	1,700
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,200	-	1,200	1,000	1,300	1,350
Palm Oil (1 liter)	7,000	7,500	6,750	-	7,000	7,000	5,500	-	6,650
Pulse (1 viss)	3,650	6,000	5,500	4,800	-	5,500	5,200	5,500	5,200
Garlic (1 viss)	4,100	5,000	4,400	4,500	4,500	4,000	3,500	5,500	5,300
Onion (1 viss)	3,600	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,500	4,000	4,500	4,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,000	1,400	1,500	-	1,700	1,200	1,800	2,200	2,200
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,000	4,200	2,000	2,250	2,000	1,100	2,500	2,300	2,500
Watercress (1 viss)	650	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,000	2,000	700	800	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	8,500	7,000	2,500	3,750	5,000	2,000	3,500	5,500	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	700	1,500	700	600	700	1,200	-	1,200	1,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,200	1,200	1,500	1,300	1,500	1,400	1,500	1,300	1,400
Detergent (400 g)	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,700	1,300
Soap (60 g)	800	700	850	725	800	800	700	800	700
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	800	1,200	1,250	1,050	1,000	800	1,200	1,200	1,200
Shrimp (1 viss)	6,000	7,000	5,500	5,000	-	8,000	-	8,000	8,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	11,500	17,500	14,000	12,000	-	12,000	-	15,000	15,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	9,500	12,000	12,000	11,000	-	11,000	12,000	13,000	13,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	2,500	7,500	-	2,000	4,000	2,500	-	6,500	7,500
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	12,000	13,500	10,000	-	11,000	12,500	13,000	13,500
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	575	500	675	1,200	700	1,000	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,500	3,600	6,500	5,000	5,000
Blanket	4,000	8,000	15,000	9,000	9,000	6,000	15,000	7,000	7,000
Mosquito Net	6,800	-	12,000	3,500	14,000	7,000	12,000	4,500	4,800
Plastic Tarpaulin	5,600	6,800	-	6,000	-	4,500	-	7,500	6,200
Men's Longyi	5,800	6,500	7,500	7,500	6,500	6,500	7,500	7,500	7,000
Women's Longyi	5,500	6,500	8,500	8,500	8,000	6,500	8,500	7,000	6,500
Umbrella	6,000	6,000	-	-	6,500	7,000	-	6,000	5,500
Towel	3,600	2,000	4,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	4,000	3,500	2,700

\*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**

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