

# 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

- **Prices were overall very stable in September** as just one-quarter of all products monitored rose 7% or more;
- **Palm oil prices rose 3-8% in September**, but oil prices increased less in September than they did in August;
- **Meat/fish prices were stable**, yet they remained 25-45% higher than at this time last year;
- **Vegetable prices were unusually stable in September**, but they remained 70% higher than last year;
- **Stable NFI prices drifted closer to 2022 levels**, although prices for some NFIs remained 40-70% higher;
- **Sittwe saw the most price increases**, although increases were small and isolated relative to past months;
- **Prices for palm oil should be watched closely** as volatile energy and currency markets continue to increase transportation and import costs.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Palm oil prices rose slower than last month, although they still climbed 3-8% in September.** Palm oil prices were 3-8% higher in most markets, although prices remained stable elsewhere. Prices for rice and pulses fluctuated slightly but were mostly stable. Rice prices rose or fell by 4-15% in different markets, while prices for pulses fluctuated by 4-7%.

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices were unusually stable in September following two months of volatility.** Vegetable prices were more stable than usual in September and rarely shifted more than 20%. A few markets saw garlic prices rise 5-10% and long-bean prices fall 20-30%, but most vegetable prices were stable. Mrauk U, Pauktaw and Sittwe saw the most vegetable price hikes.

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were fairly stable in September.** Prices for meat/fish products were stable or fluctuating by 3-8% in September. Shrimp prices were slightly more volatile than other meat/fish items, but in general prices held steady.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were quite stable in September.** Several markets saw prices for hygiene items rise 8-12%, but prices were overall fairly stable. Pauktaw and Ponnagyun saw higher prices in September for three of four hygiene prices monitored.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable or rising very slightly in September.** Prices for charcoal, cooking pots, blankets and towels saw the most volatility, fluctuating 7-33%. Other NFI prices were very stable and rarely shifted by more than 7%. Overall, NFI prices were just as often lower as they were higher, but price increases were larger than price decreases. Minbya, Paletwa and Rathedaung saw more NFI price increases than elsewhere.

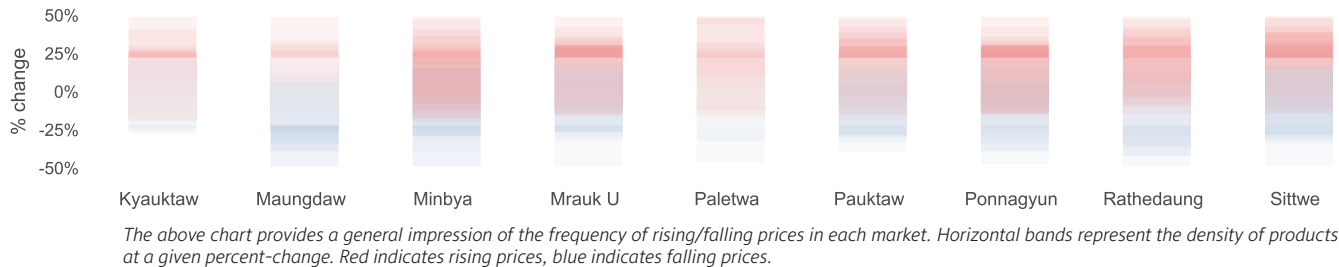
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



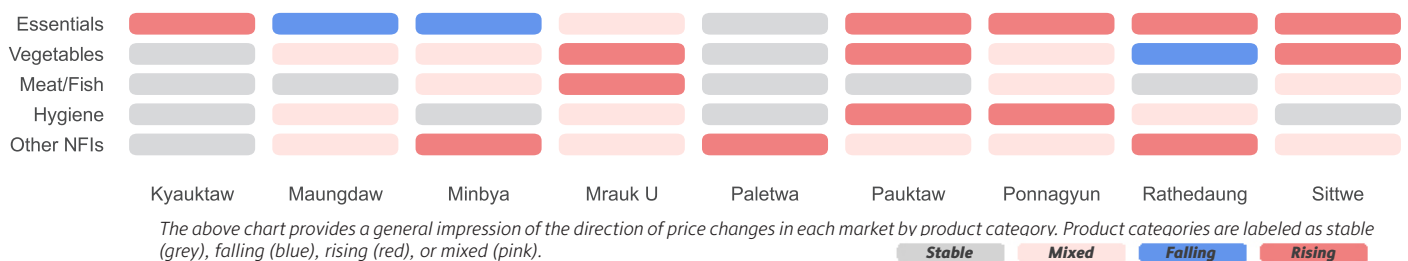
## Township-Level Price Changes

In a month of very-stable prices, Sittwe saw the most notable price increases while Kyauktaw and Paletwa experienced the most price-stability. Markets like Ponnagyun, Mrauk U, and Sittwe saw the most price increases in September, although even here fewer than half of all products monitored saw prices rise. Sittwe also saw the deepest price increases as one-quarter of all prices monitored rose 13% or more. Maungdaw and Minbya saw the most price decreases, with one-quarter of all products monitored falling at least 5%. There were few distinctions to be made at the product-category level in September as prices in general were relatively stable.

**Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township (One Month)**



**Chart 3. Direction of Price Change, by Township and Product Category (One Month)**



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

**Essential Foods – Prices for rice and pulses remained 50-70% higher than at this time last year.** The median twelve-month increase shrank by 8-15 percentage points for better rice (+69%), cheaper rice (+69%), and pulses (+47%), while rising palm oil prices remained nearly on par with September 2022 levels.

**Vegetables – Stable vegetable prices often remained at least 70% higher than last year.** Stable prices brought onion (+14%) and green chili (+1%) closer to last year's levels, but other staples like eggplant (+75%), long bean (+67%), and watercress (+93%) remained far higher.

**Meat and Fish – Stable meat/fish prices remained 25-45% higher than 2022 levels.** Stable meat/fish prices drifted 5-17 percentage points closer to last year, although prices remained much higher for shrimp (+33%), dried fish (+43%), chicken (+38%), fresh fish (+37%), and fish paste (+25%).

**Hygiene Products – Stable prices for hygiene products drifted closer to 2022 levels.** Prices for toothpaste (+38%) and soap (+68%) remained far higher

than September 2022, but prices for detergent (+18%) and sanitary pads (+13%) showed smaller increases.

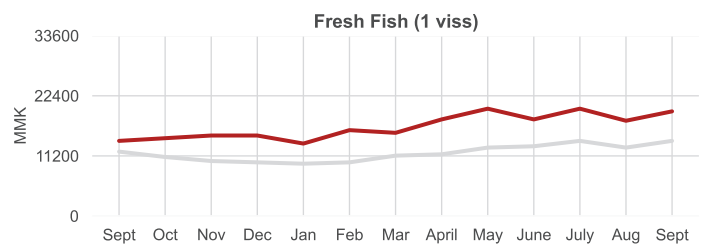
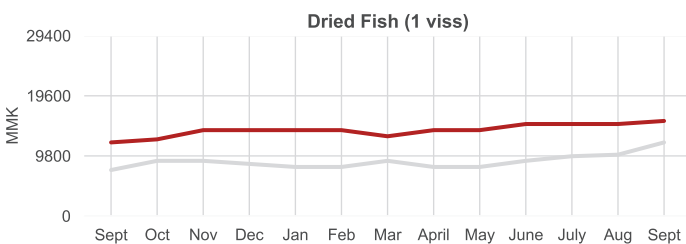
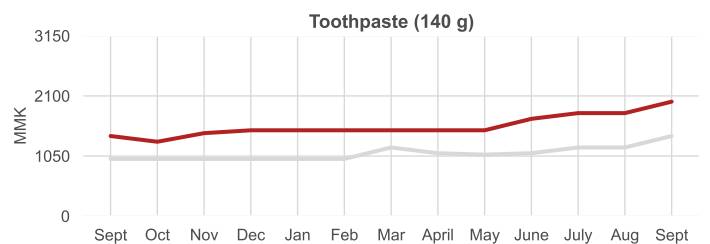
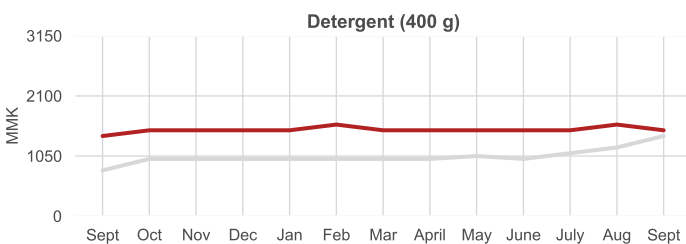
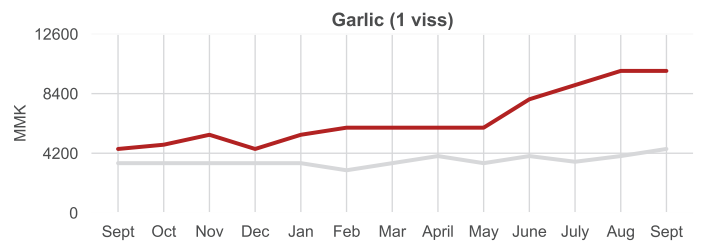
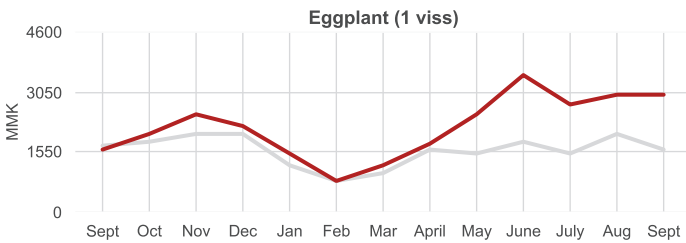
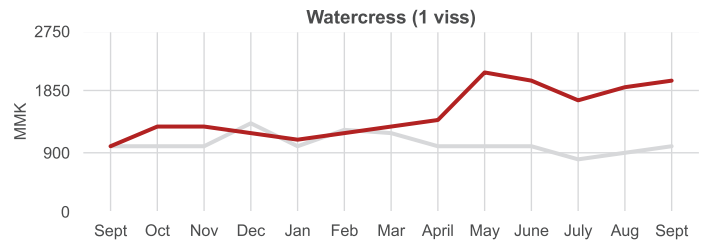
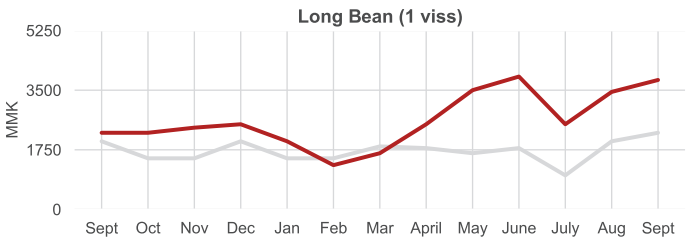
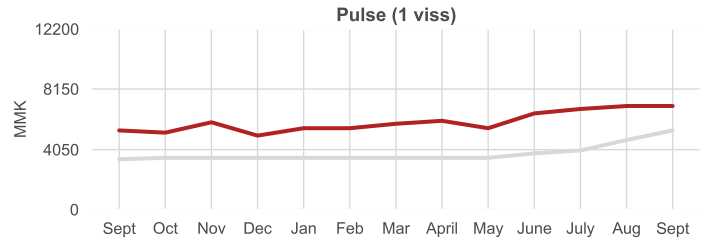
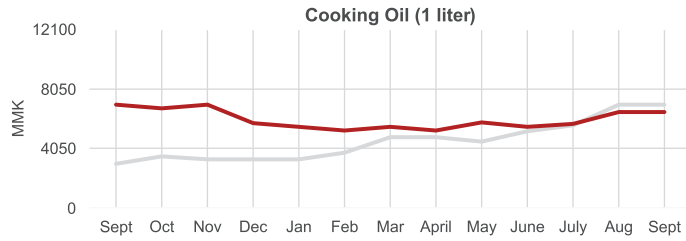
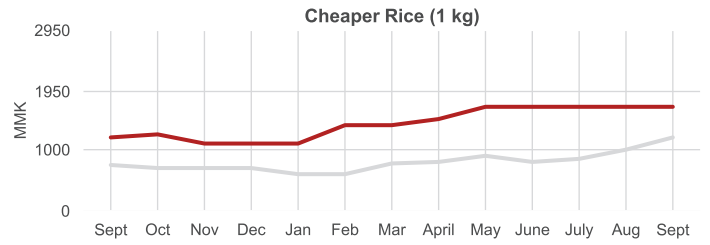
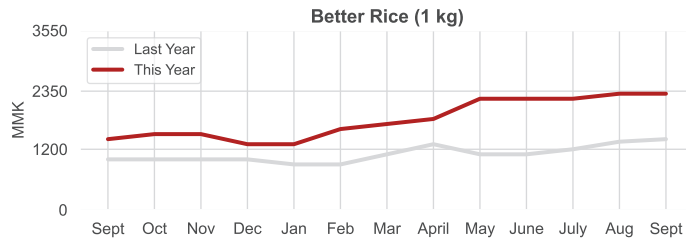
**Other NFIs – Stable NFI prices remained within 8-22% of 2022 levels for some products.** NFI prices rose slower in September than at this time last year, narrowing the gap for items like charcoal (+13%), longyis (+17-22%), umbrellas (+17%), mosquito nets (+7%), and blankets (+21%). Items like cooking pots (+39%), plastic tarps (+54%) remained much higher than last year.

### What to Watch

- Prices for **palm oil** should be watched closely as volatile energy and currency markets continue to increase transportation and import costs;
- Stable late-monsoon prices for **vegetable** and **rice** suggest cautious optimism for price moderation in the months ahead;
- Economic uncertainty means current price stability is unlikely to continue for long and food and NFI price hikes should be expected in some markets.

<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 September 2023 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,700	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,500	1,900	2,300	2,700	2,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,800	1,800	1,500	1,800	1,700	1,500	1,700	1,500	2,000
Palm Oil (1 liter)	6,300	6,800	6,300	6,500	6,500	7,000	6,500	7,000	6,500
Pulse (1 viss)	5,200	6,650	7,000	7,500	7,500	5,500	7,000	7,000	7,500
Garlic (1 viss)	11,500	10,000	10,000	13,000	12,000	8,000	10,000	10,000	11,000
Onion (1 viss)	5,000	3,800	4,000	4,000	4,500	5,000	3,800	4,500	3,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	1,700	3,000	2,500	3,000	2,500	3,000	3,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,900	3,500	2,500	2,500	3,800	3,500	4,500	4,000	4,000
Watercress (1 viss)	1,800	2,000	2,000	1,500	3,000	3,000	1,200	1,500	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	7,000	7,000	-	4,800	5,000	-	3,000	3,000	3,500
Banana (1 bunch)	-	1,000	-	1,300	500	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	11,000	7,000	10,000	7,500	-	12,000	6,500	5,000	9,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	15,000	21,000	18,000	24,000	-	15,000	31,000	28,000	18,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	15,500	15,000	16,000	18,000	17,000	15,500	14,500	14,000	14,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	3,900	8,000	4,000	4,500	5,000	-	6,000	6,000	5,500
Chicken (1 viss)	14,500	16,000	-	-	-	13,000	13,000	18,000	14,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	2,000	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,600	2,000	1,800
Detergent (400 g)	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,000	1,500	1,800	1,900	2,500	1,500
Soap (60 g)	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,300	1,200	900	1,000	1,200	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	950	1,000	800	500	700	1,000	1,000	900	1,300
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,500	5,000	6,500	7,250	7,500	5,000	7,000	7,000	5,500
Blanket	-	12,000	11,000	13,000	12,000	7,500	13,000	13,000	8,000
Mosquito Net	6,800	6,000	7,000	4,500	5,000	7,500	4,000	5,000	8,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	7,800	8,000	-	9,600	12,000	6,500	6,800	12,000	-
Men's Longyi	7,000	7,000	8,000	9,000	8,000	7,500	7,500	8,000	7,500
Women's Longyi	7,000	7,000	8,500	9,000	9,000	7,500	7,500	7,000	8,000
Umbrella	6,800	7,000	-	8,250	-	10,000	7,500	6,000	-
Towel	4,000	2,500	3,250	4,500	4,000	5,000	5,000	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)