

# Market Price Report

The MAU tracks market prices in Southeast Myanmar. Data are collected from three vendors per product per market in the last week of each month. The data include prices from Hpapun (Kamamaung market), Hsiseng (main), Kawkareik (main), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar) and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data will soon be available online at [www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Prices increased notably for a second straight month** and they rose more widely than in March;
- **Prices for rice and pulses rose 11% or more in several markets**, although stable palm oil prices remained relatively close to April 2022 levels;
- **Prices increased widely in Kawkareik and Loikaw markets in April**, while prices were stable in Hpapun and mixed in Taungoo;
- **Meat and fish prices rose by 12% in most markets**, yet they largely tracked with changes at this time last year;
- **Rice and some NFI prices may rise further in May** if Cyclone Mocha impacts regional demand and supply networks;
- **Stable prices in Hpapun are likely to rise in May**, while Loikaw may be able to look forward to some price relief absent major market disruptions.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable or rising in April.** Prices for rice and pulses rose 11% or more in several markets, although palm oil prices remained stable. The picture for essential foods differed slightly by township, with Loikaw in particular seeing higher prices.

**Vegetables – Vegetable prices were stable or rising in April, although onion prices fell sharply.** Many vegetable prices rose 7% or more in April. The only vegetable prices which fell in April included onion and a few products in Hpapun. Kawkareik stood out for particularly large vegetable price increases.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products fluctuated in April, rising and falling in different markets.** Prices for hygiene products were stable or falling in Taungoo and Hpapun and rising in Kawkareik and Loikaw. Prices for hygiene products fell 7-11% in Hpapun, but some prices rose 40% or more in Kawkareik; price increases were due partly to stockouts of goods in smaller packaging.

**Meat and Fish – Most meat and fish prices rose sharply in April.** Meat/fish prices increased 12% or more in most markets in April. Kawkareik and Taungoo saw the most-widespread meat/fish price increases, while Hpapun stood out for unusually-stable meat/fish prices; dried fish and pork prices fell 6% in Hpapun.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices lurched upward in April, particularly in Kawkareik and Loikaw.** Most NFI prices Kawkareik—which were stable last month—rose 9% or more in April, and they rose 3% or more in Loikaw. Stockouts of products in smaller packages caused some larger price swings in April (i.e., products were only available in larger sizes). Hpapun township was an outlier in April, with fairly-stable NFI prices.

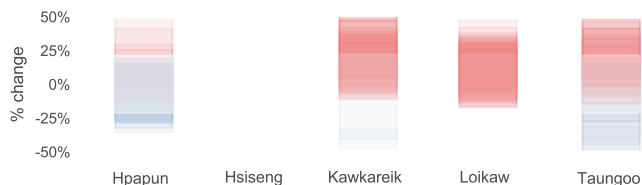
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



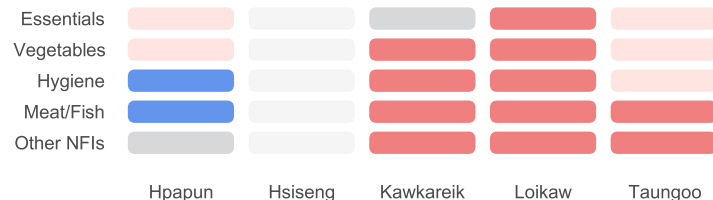
## Township-Level Price Changes

Prices increased sharply across markets in April, except in Hpapun where many prices were stable or falling. Kawkareik and Loikaw saw widespread price increases, with almost all prices monitored increasing in April. Half of all products monitored increased at least 13% in Kawkareik, and half of them increased at least 8% in Loikaw. Taungoo saw some falling prices for vegetables and NFIs, but there too many prices increased. Hpapun stood out for stable prices in April; one-quarter of all prices monitored in Hpapun fell by 6% or more, while most other prices remained stable.

**Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township**



**Chart 3. Direction of Price Change, by Category**



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. 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** – Essential food prices drifted closer to 2022-levels in April yet were still much higher. The gap with April 2022 prices remained the same or narrower for better rice (+49%), cheaper rice (+83%), and pulses (+49%). Prices for palm oil (+12%) were only slightly higher than at this time last year.

**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices increased more slowly than last year but still remained much higher. Despite recent price increases, the gap between 2023 and 2022 vegetable prices narrowed in April, including for garlic (+35%), eggplant (+44%), and chili (+20%). Prices for long bean (-6%) remained close to April 2022 levels.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products remained 30-80% above April of last year. The median twelve-month increase grew for toothpaste (+48%) and soap (+83%) in April, but it was largely unchanged for detergent (+42%) and sanitary pads (+33%).

**Meat and Fish** – Rising meat/fish prices tracked closely with early-2022, keeping prices 30-50% above last year. Prices remained much higher than last year for chicken (+40%), pork (+50%), dried fish (+37%), and shrimp (+25%). The price gap widened slightly for fish paste (+32%), and it narrowed for fresh fish (+50%).

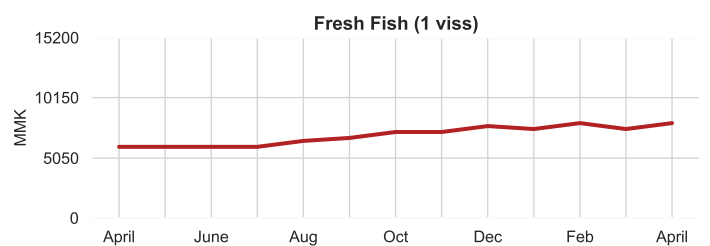
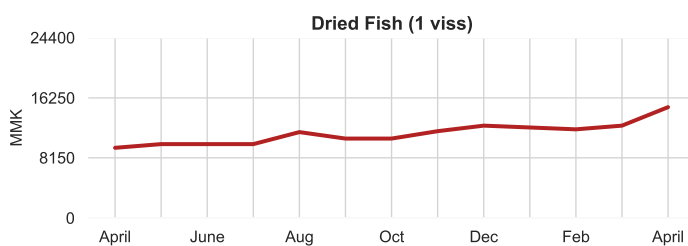
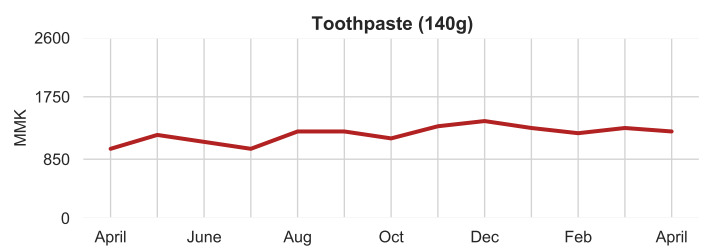
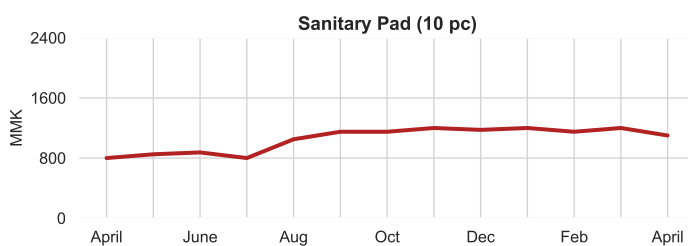
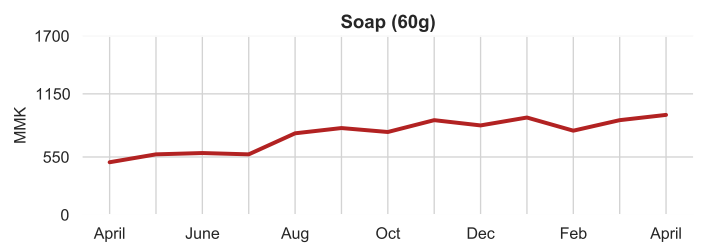
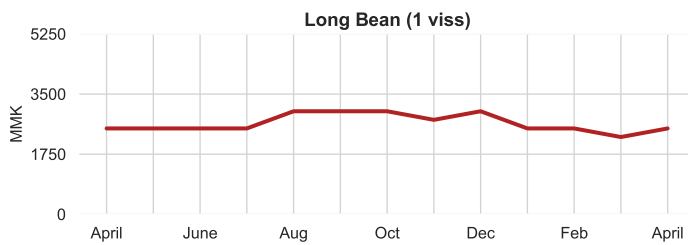
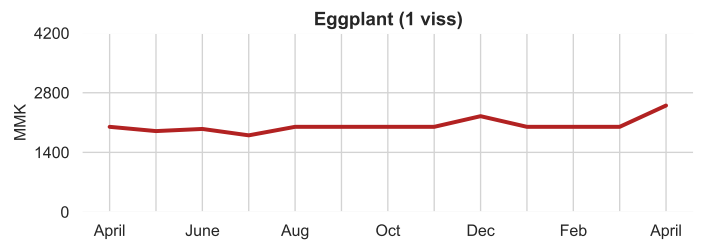
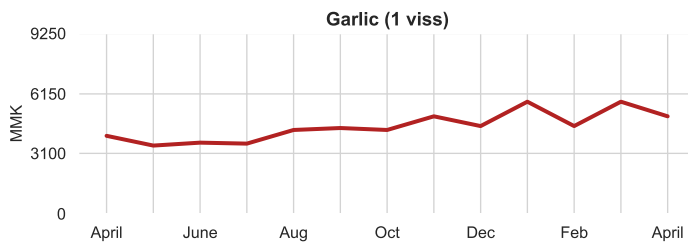
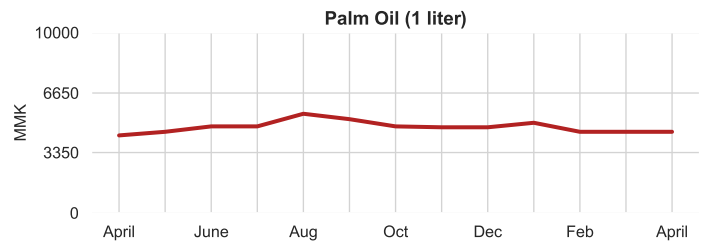
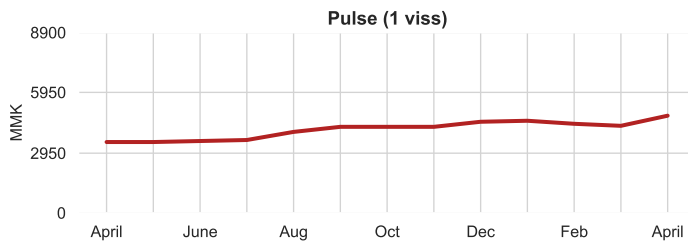
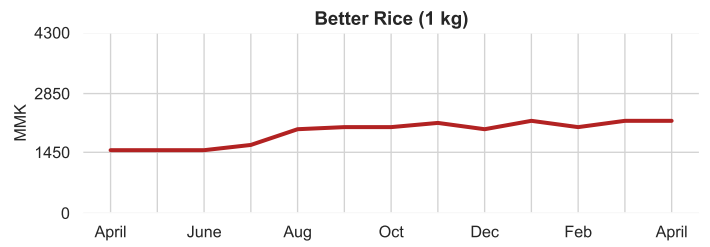
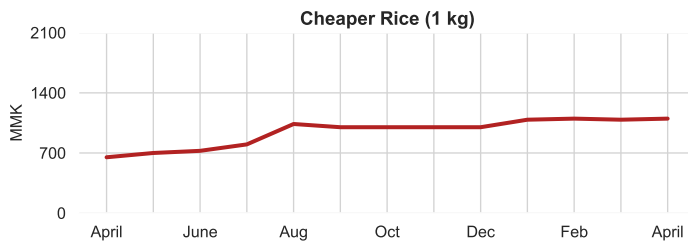
**Other NFIs** – While NFI prices rose in April, they did so more slowly than at this time last year. NFI prices were at least 10% higher than last year in April, but NFIs with extremely-high prices moved closer to 2022 levels. The gap with 2022 was unchanged for longyis (+40-50%), umbrellas (+37%), and towels (+19%), but it narrowed for mosquito nets (+65%), vacuum flasks (+67%), and jerry cans (+16%); cooking pots (+46%) and blankets (+32%) widened the gap. Prices for charcoal (+0%) and plastic tarps (9%) were close to 2022 levels in April.

### What to Watch

- Prices for **rice** may increase further in May, as the impacts of cyclone Mocha in the country's northwest affects demand and regional supply networks;
- The impact of Cyclone Mocha on **NFI** prices in south-east Myanmar is less clear and should be monitored, as nearby Thai imports could mute its affects;
- Prices are likely to rise in **Hpapun** in May, as April's increases were absent here; meanwhile **Loikaw** may see some price relief from recent price hikes.

<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 4-15. Median Township Price, Selected Products (Thirteen Months)



## Prices for April 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,100	4,800	1,500	3,000	2,200
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,100	2,800	1,000	1,000	1,800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,500	4,800	4,500	5,000	3,800
Pulse (1 viss)	4,800	5,000	5,500	4,500	4,800
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	3,000	8,000	3,800	5,000
Onion (1 viss)	2,800	3,000	2,000	1,200	1,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,500	2,750	2,500	2,000	1,900
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,000	2,350	2,500	4,500	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	2,000	-	3,000	900	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	3,000	-	2,000	7,500	5,000
Bananas	2,000	1,900	3,000	900	1,500
Toothpaste (140g)	1,250	1,500	1,000	1,200	1,500
Detergent (400g)	1,500	1,200	2,500	1,100	1,200
Soap (60g)	950	1,000	800	850	1,200
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,300	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,100
Shrimp (1 viss)	10,000	12,500	15,000	6,000	15,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	8,250	10,000	6,000	8,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	15,000	15,000	15,000	12,000	15,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	12,000	12,000	9,000	8,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	4,000	5,000	12,000	6,000	4,500
Pork (1 viss)	14,000	14,000	15,000	14,000	18,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	600	-	1,000	-	800
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,000	13,500	15,000	3,800	18,000
Blanket	6,500	9,750	9,000	7,750	15,000
Mosquito Net	25,000	25,000	12,000	12,500	18,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	18,000	15,000	18,500	17,000	24,000
Men's Longyi	8,000	7,500	8,000	6,500	7,500
Women's Longyi	9,000	-	8,000	7,250	8,000
Umbrella	5,500	6,750	5,000	6,750	7,000
Towel	5,500	2,000	3,500	3,150	1,800
Vacuum Flask	25,000	25,000	-	9,800	16,000
Jerry Can	7,000	6,000	11,000	-	7,000

\*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**

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