

# SOUTHEAST MYANMAR (AUGUST 2022)

# MARKET PRICE REPORT

## Market Analysis Unit (MAU)

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), 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).

- Prices were up sharply for many products in August, matching a broader national trend;
- NFI prices rose by 10-30% in August, which retailers attributed to rising wholesale and fuel prices;
- Food prices rose more than NFIs in Kawkareik, while NFIs rose more than food in Loikaw;
- Taungoo saw relative price stability in August after a month of steep increases in July;
- Hpapun prices were often lower than elsewhere, possibly due to less-frequent restocking of inventory.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods** – Prices for essential foods rose sharply in August, driven by rising wholesale prices and fuel costs. Cheaper rice rose by 15% or more in three markets, and rice spiked in Loikaw. Palm oil prices rose by 4-25% in August, while pulses rose only in Loikaw (14%).

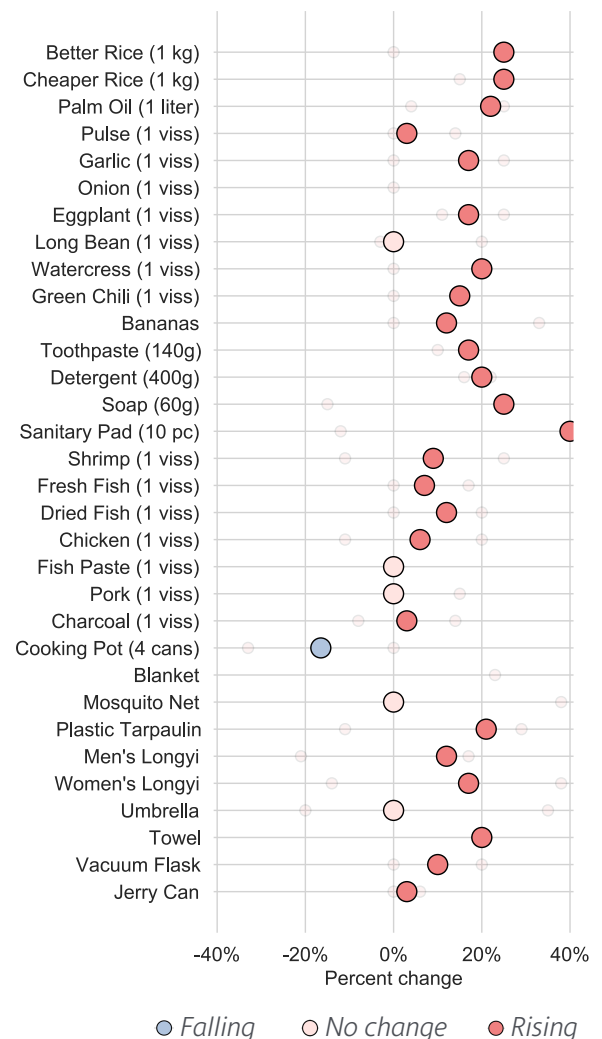
**Vegetables** – Vegetable prices climbed higher in August. Many vegetable prices increased by 11-25% in August, although Taungoo (where prices rose already in July) saw slightly fewer and smaller increases. Onion prices—already at seasonal highs in June and July—spiked again in Kawkareik and Taungoo.

**Hygiene Products** – Prices for hygiene products rose by 10% or more in August. Toothpaste prices rose by 10-17% across markets, while detergent rose by 16-22%. Prices for soap and sanitary pads rose sharply in Kawkareik and Loikaw but fell slightly in Taungoo (reversing July's increases).

**Meat and Fish** – Meat and fish prices were stable or rising slightly in August. Kawkareik saw the most notable increases, adding 6-25% on top of last month's modest increases. Loikaw prices were also up 9-20% (July had been stable). By contrast, Taungoo rolled back July's meat/fish price increases.

**Other NFIs** – Higher transportation costs lifted NFI prices in Kawkareik and Loikaw, although prices fell in Taungoo. Many NFI prices rose 14-23% in Kawkareik and 29% or more in Loikaw. NFI prices fell 8-33% in Taungoo, where prices had already spiked a month earlier in July.

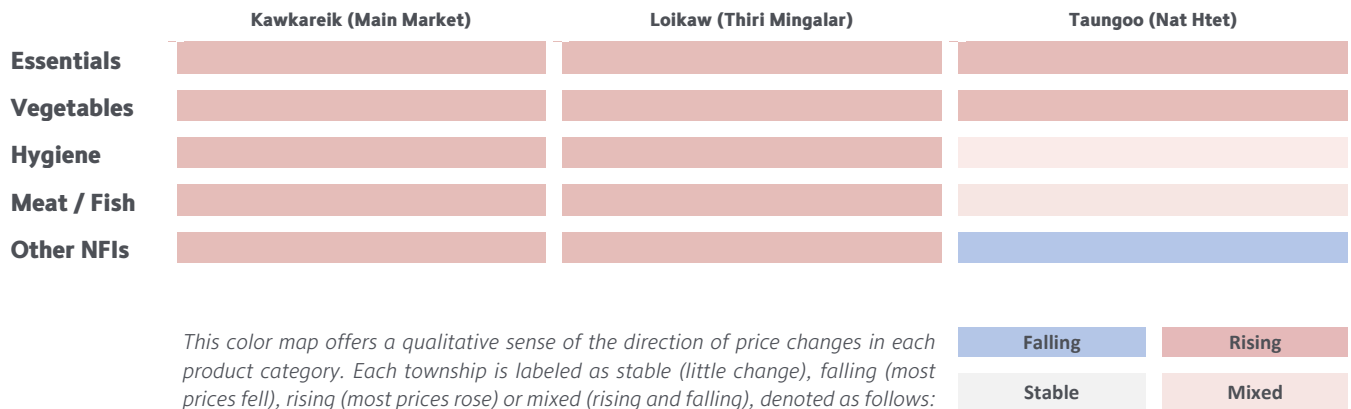
**Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)**



## Township-Level Price Changes

Prices rose widely in Kawkareik and Loikaw in August, although the picture was more mixed in Taungoo. After relative stability in July, August brought dramatic price increases for Kawkareik and Loikaw. Price hikes were most widespread in Kawkareik, where food prices rose the more than NFIs. Loikaw saw widespread increases as well, although NFIs rose more aggressively than food. In Taungoo—where prices were already rising in July—food items held stable or rose slightly while NFI prices pulled back to levels closer to June.

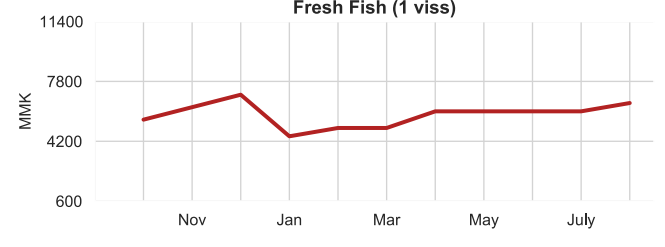
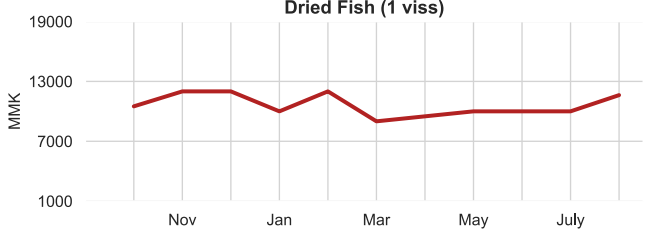
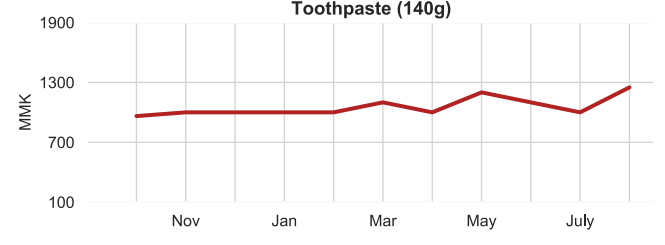
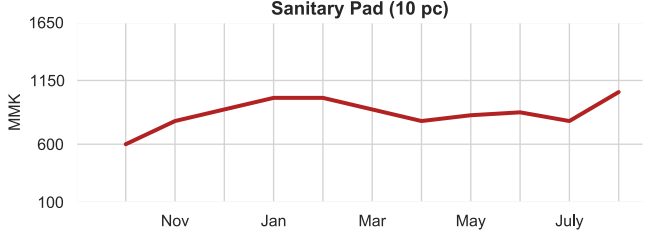
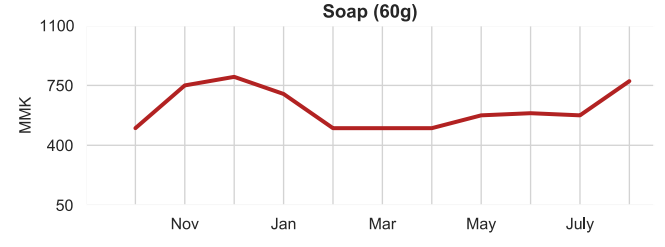
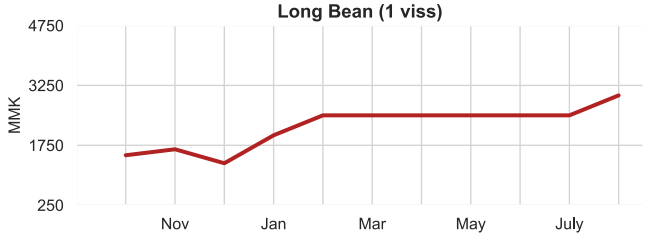
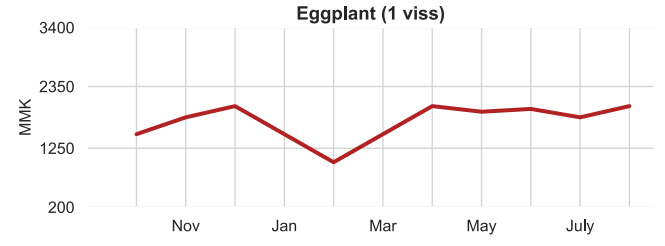
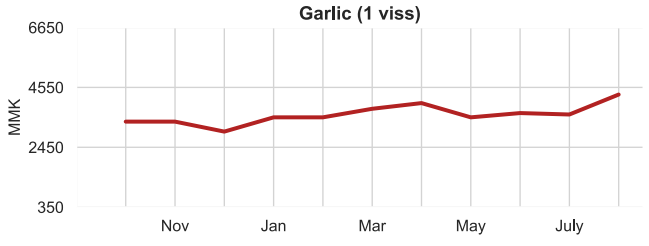
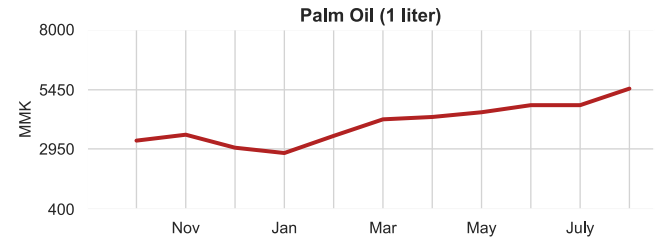
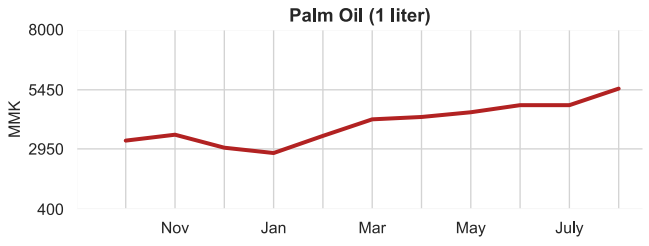
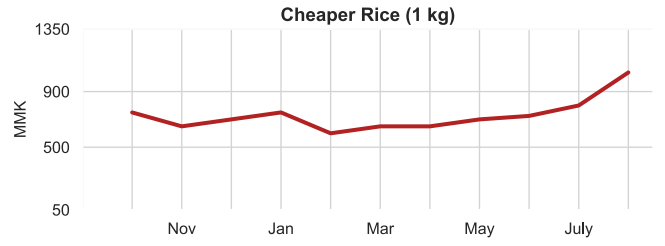
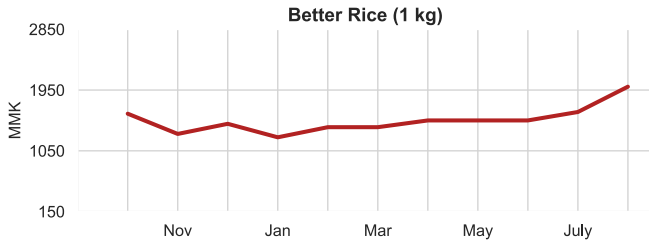
**Chart 2. Direction of Price Change, by Category and Township**



### What to Watch

- Prices for **NFIs** may rise further as long as the kyat remains unstable and fuel costs remain high;
- After a month of steep increases, some **vegetable** prices may pull back next month as supply increases;
- After breaking with months of stability, **Loikaw** prices should be watched closely as retailers restock new, perhaps costlier inventories;
- Relatively low prices in **Hpapun** may climb higher in the near term if suppliers in Taungoo and Kawkareik pass along price increases.

### Charts 3-14. Median Township Price, Selected Products (Twelve Months)



## Prices for August 2022 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,000	2,000	3,250	1,800
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,000	1,075	1,500
Palm Oil (1 liter)	5,500	6,000	5,500	5,400
Pulse (1 viss)	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,600
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	5,000	3,500	3,600
Onion (1 viss)	3,000	4,000	1,200	2,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,000	2,500	2,000	700
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,000	3,000	4,500	1,800
Watercress (1 viss)	1,000	2,000	900	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	3,500	2,500	7,500	6,500
Bananas	1,500	2,000	900	1,500
Toothpaste (140g)	1,500	700	1,400	1,100
Detergent (400g)	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100
Soap (60g)	700	500	850	850
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,100	1,400	1,000	700
Shrimp (1 viss)	10,000	15,000	6,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	6,000	7,000	6,000	7,500
Dried Fish (1 viss)	10,000	12,000	11,250	12,000
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	8,500	9,000	8,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	4,000	5,000	6,000	3,000
Pork (1 viss)	12,000	15,000	14,000	12,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	500	800	-	600
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,250	10,000	3,800	8,000
Blanket	6,000	8,000	7,750	15,000
Mosquito Net	15,000	10,000	12,500	18,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	18,000	20,000	18,000	16,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	7,000	6,500	5,500
Women's Longyi	6,000	7,000	7,250	6,000
Umbrella	5,500	5,000	6,750	6,000
Towel	4,750	3,000	3,150	2,000
Vacuum Flask	16,500	18,000	9,800	12,000
Jerry Can	6,000	9,500	-	6,500

\*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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