

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.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Both food and NFI prices rose sharply in August**, with essential foods especially higher;
- **Rice prices rose at least 14% in three of five markets** monitored in August, and prices for palm oil and pulses were up at least 4% in four of five markets;
- **Vegetable and meat/fish prices continued upward**, contributing to significantly-higher overall food prices in most markets monitored;
- **NFI prices continued rising in August**, although they continued to rise a bit slower last year;
- **Regional food insecurity could be exacerbated** in the months ahead by rising prices for rice, cooking oil and other food items;
- **Food prices continued to rise faster than NFIs** in August, although both categories of goods presented cause for concern.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose sharply again in August, and increases were steeper than in recent months. Rice prices rose at least 14% in three of five markets monitored, and prices for pulses and palm oil were up 4% or more in four of five markets. Essential food prices were most stable in Hpapun, but there too prices were rising.

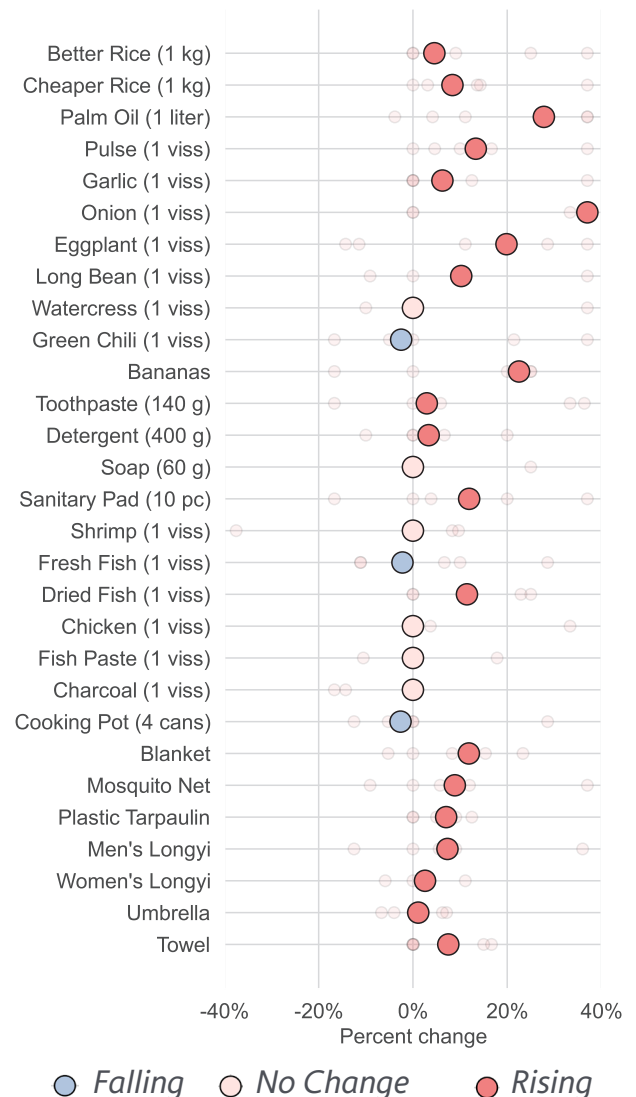
Vegetables – Vegetable prices rose across markets again in August, and Loikaw saw particularly steep price hikes. Onion, eggplant, and long bean saw prices increase 9% or more in three of five markets in August. Nearly all vegetables monitored increased by 11% or more in Loikaw. By contrast, vegetable prices were stable in Kawkareik and some fell 10-17% in Taungoo.

Hygiene Products – Price for hygiene products rose in August, although trends varied by market. Loikaw saw prices for hygiene products increase by 20-33%, while Taungoo saw them fall by 10-17%. Hpapun, Hsiseng, and Kawkareik saw a mix of stable or rising prices for hygiene products in August.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices maintained their upward trend in August. Meat/fish prices were stable or rising in August. Prices for fresh fish and dried fish were up 6% or more in some markets, while other meat/fish prices increased in one or two markets. Only Taungoo saw very stable meat/fish prices.

Other NFIs – NFI prices increased in August, and prices increased in more markets than in July. NFI prices increased in most markets for nearly all NFIs monitored, and typically they rose by 7% or more. Hpapun, Hsiseng, and Loikaw saw broad NFI price increases, while prices were stable in Kawkareik and falling by 5-7% in Taungoo. NFI price increases were steepest in Loikaw in August.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



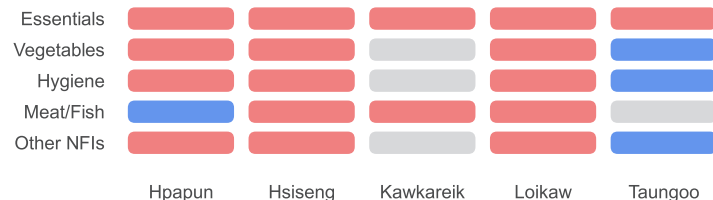
Township-Level Price Changes

NFI prices rose sharply in Hpapun, Loikaw, and Hsiseng in August, while Taungoo stood out for slightly-falling prices. The most dramatic price increases in August were in Hsiseng and Loikaw, where half of all products monitored were up at least 8% and 21%, respectively. Taungoo and Hpapun—where price increases were broadest in July—experienced the most price relief in August, but beyond Taungoo price reductions were generally rare. Prices were relatively stable in Kawkareik in August, although rice prices rose sharply there.

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 Changes¹

Essential Foods – Rising essential food prices climbed a little slower in August than last year. Prices still remained much higher than last year for better rice (+44%), cheaper rice (+82%), and pulses (+42%), while palm oil prices were down 6% from August 2022.

Vegetables – Rising vegetable prices mostly tracked with their behavior in August 2022. Garlic prices remained nearly double what they were last year, while other vegetables were 10-50% higher, particularly eggplant (+47%), watercress (+43%), and green chili. Onion and long bean prices were just 11-12% above last year.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained 30-70% higher than last year. Prices for toothpaste (+38%), detergent (+54%), and soap (+68%) drifted closer to 2022 levels. Prices for sanitary pads remained 33% higher than last year.

Meat and Fish – Rising meat/fish prices tracked with August 2022, holding prices 20-50% above last year. Prices remained much higher than last year for chicken (+52%), pork (+23%), fresh fish (+33%), dried fish (+40%), and shrimp (+25%). Fish paste prices were up

18% from August 2022.

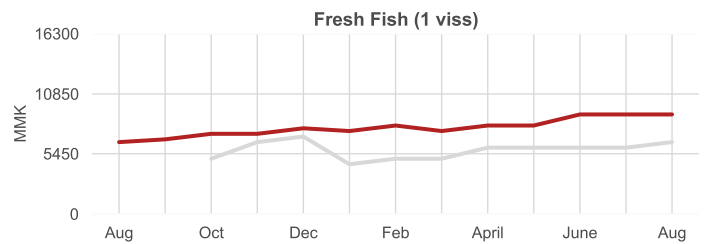
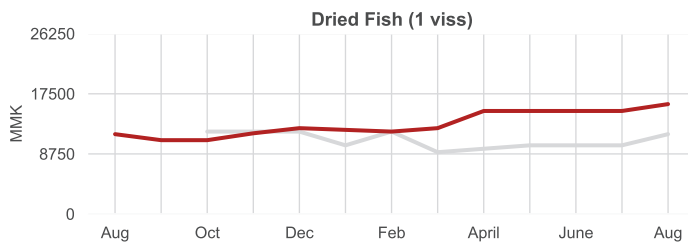
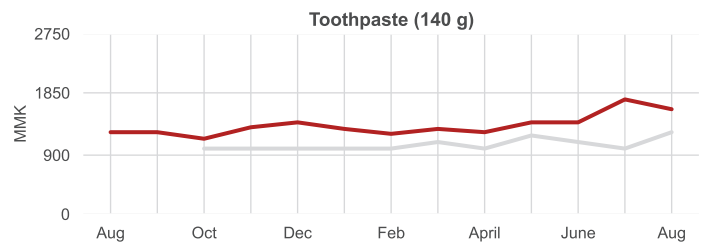
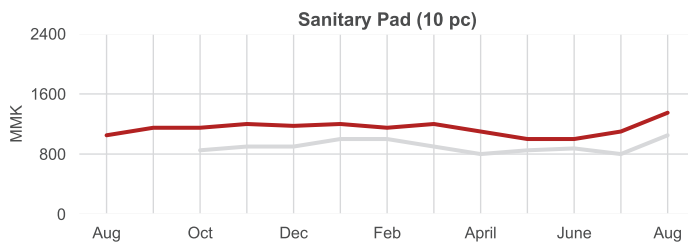
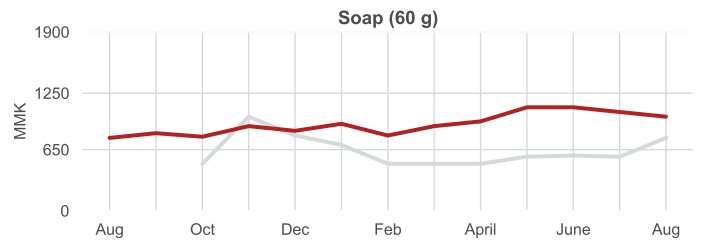
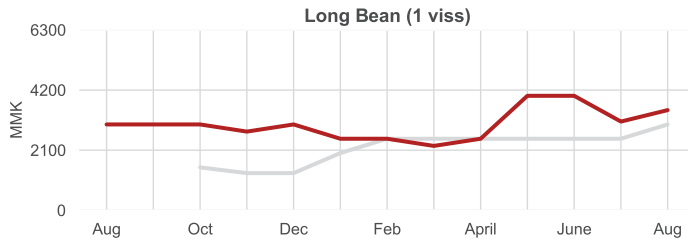
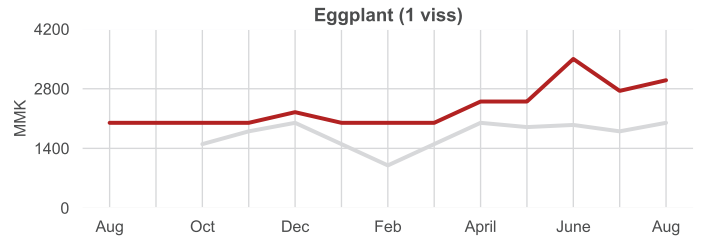
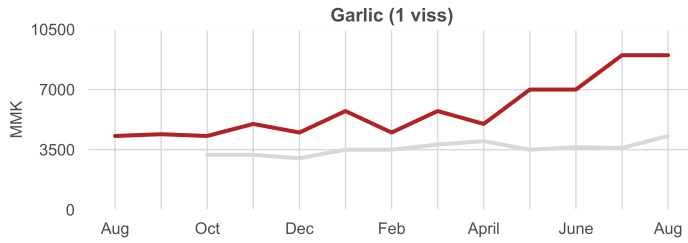
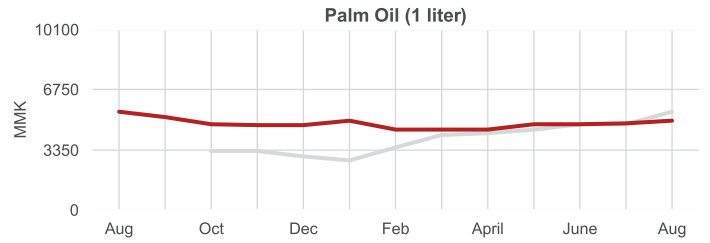
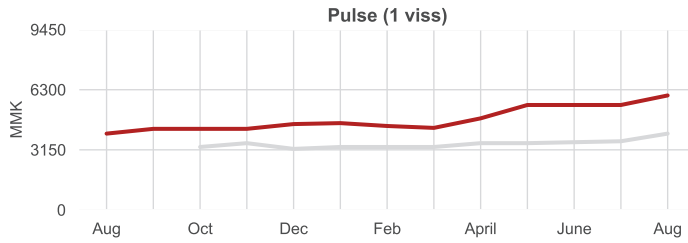
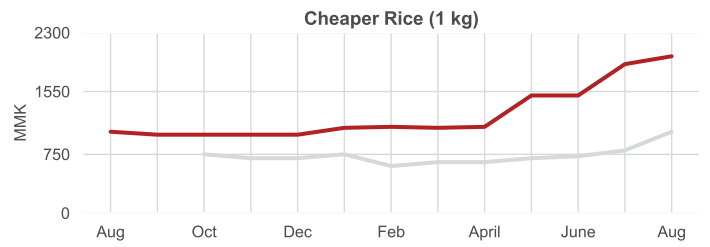
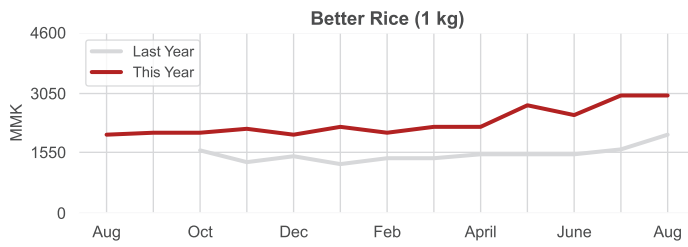
Other NFIs – NFI prices climbed a little slower than last year but remained 20-40% higher. Most NFI prices drifted at least 5-8 percentage points closer to August 2022 levels. Prices remained much higher for cooking pots (+32%), blankets (+32%), longyis (+25-29%), and charcoal (+43%). Mosquito nets (+32%), and plastic tarps (+16%) stretched their lead over 2022.

What to Watch

- Another month of rising **rice** prices—and signs of rising **cooking oil** prices—could spell trouble for food insecurity in the region;
- Rising fuel prices and depreciation of the kyat could conspire to keep recent price hikes in place for longer, particularly for imported **NFIs**;
- Dramatic price increases in **Loikaw** may be due to infrequent restocking there, and that may also mean that price relief could be less immediate.

¹ 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 August 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	3,000	6,000	3,000	3,000	3,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,650	4,000	2,000	1,500	2,500
Palm Oil (1 liter)	5,000	11,000	5,000	6,500	5,000
Pulse (1 viss)	5,500	6,800	5,500	6,000	7,000
Garlic (1 viss)	10,000	9,000	7,500	8,000	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	4,500	4,000	2,500	3,000	2,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,000	4,500	3,100	3,000	2,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	10,000	3,500	3,000	5,000	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	4,000	1,500	3,000	1,000	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	4,750	12,000	4,000	8,500	5,000
Bananas	2,500	1,800	3,000	1,000	1,500
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,800	2,000	1,500	1,600	1,500
Detergent (400 g)	1,500	1,600	2,500	1,200	1,800
Soap (60 g)	1,000	1,100	900	1,000	1,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,350	1,500	1,500	1,200	1,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	15,000	13,000	17,000	8,000	10,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	16,000	11,000	9,000	8,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	16,000	20,000	18,000	14,750	14,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	16,000	14,000	12,000	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	4,250	8,250	13,000	6,000	5,000
Pork (1 viss)	-	18,000	18,000	15,000	16,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	600	833	1,000	-	1,200
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	7,000	11,000	15,000	4,500	18,000
Blanket	7,500	13,000	8,500	9,250	18,000
Mosquito Net	27,500	28,000	13,000	20,000	20,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	28,000	21,000	18,000	18,000	24,000
Men's Longyi	9,500	12,000	8,000	8,500	7,000
Women's Longyi	10,000	-	8,000	7,500	8,000
Umbrella	7,500	8,500	5,000	6,000	7,000
Towel	6,000	3,500	4,000	3,450	1,800
Vacuum Flask	29,000	27,000	-	10,500	16,500
Jerry Can	8,000	11,500	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

Market Analysis Unit
market.analysis.unit@gmail.com