

Market Price Report

The MAU tracks market prices in 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.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Prices for palm oil and pulses rose a bit in December**, but rice prices were fairly stable;
- **NFI prices were generally stable in December**, with small and isolated price shifts;
- **Prices rose widely but moderately in Kawkareik and Taungoo in December**, while prices fluctuated in Taungoo and Loikaw;
- **Meat and fish prices were stable or rising**, except in Loikaw where meat and fish prices often fell;
- **Most prices widened the gap with 2021 levels in December**, particularly NFIs;
- **Rice and palm oil prices remained 62-70% above December 2021 levels**, and half of all other products monitored lingered at least 38% above 2021 levels.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Prices for palm oil and pulses rose slightly in December, but rice prices were fairly stable. Prices for pulses rose 5-11% in three of four townships monitored. Palm oil prices rose 5-12% in Hpapun and Taungoo. Cheaper rice rose 7% in Taungoo and fell 17% in Hpapun, but rice was otherwise stable.

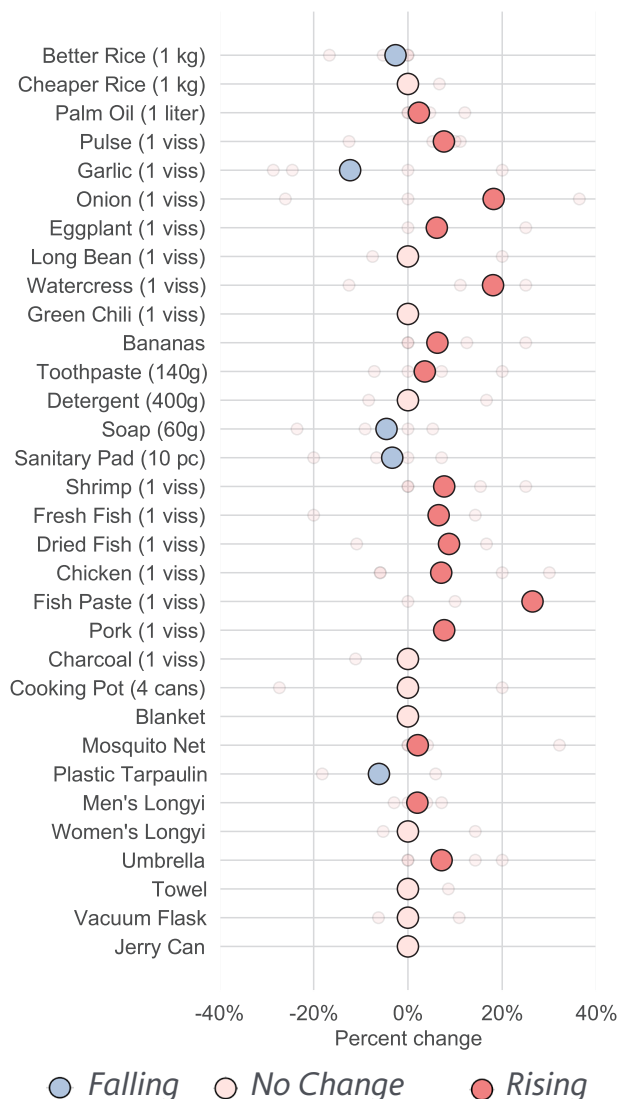
Vegetables – Vegetable prices varied more by township than by product in December, rising most notably in Kawkareik. Price changes were mixed for garlic, onion and long bean, which saw prices rise or fall by 20% or more. Prices were generally rising for eggplant and watercress and stable or falling for green chili. Many vegetable prices rose 20-25% in Kawkareik.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products varied more by township than by product in December. Prices for hygiene products shifted by 7-9% and in a few cases as much as 17-24%. Prices for hygiene products fell in Hpapun and Loikaw while rising in Kawkareik and Taungoo.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or rising in December, except in Loikaw where prices often fell. Pork and fish paste prices rose widely, and fresh/dried fish prices rose in all markets but Loikaw. Shrimp prices were stable or rising, while price changes for chicken were mixed.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were generally stable in December, with isolated price shifts. NFI prices were often stable or shifting by less than 10% in December, and no product stood out from the others. Kawkareik saw more NFI price increases than other townships, although these price increases were generally small in magnitude.

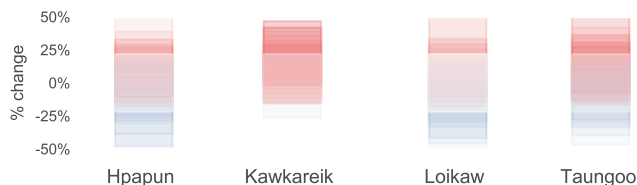
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

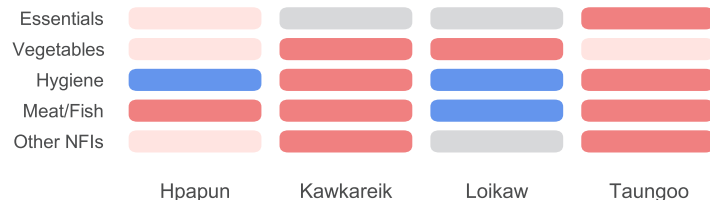
Prices rose widely but moderately in Kawkareik and Taungoo in December, while prices fluctuated in Hpapun and Loikaw. Nearly two-thirds of all products monitored in Kawkareik saw higher prices in December, in each case climbing at least 7%. In Taungoo, half of all products monitored rose by 5% or more. Hpapun and Loikaw saw mixed price changes in December, with one-quarter of all products monitored in these townships falling by 5-8%. Loikaw prices were often stable or falling, with declining prices largely limited to meat/fish and hygiene products.

Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township



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 Category



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 – Essential food prices maintained their lead over 2021 levels in December. The gap between 2021 and 2022 prices was largely unchanged in December, with rice and palm oil 62-70% above last year. Prices for pulses were 18% above 2021 levels (Charts 3-14).

Vegetables – Many vegetable prices remained well above 2021 levels in December. The median twelve-month price increase grew for onion and watercress while shrinking for long bean; it was unchanged for garlic, eggplant and green chili. Many vegetable prices remained at least 43% above 2021 levels, although eggplant and green chili were just 13-17% higher.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products generally tracked with 2021 in December. Toothpaste, sanitary pads and soap remained 13-40% over last year. Detergent prices were 15% below December 2021, but this was mainly due to a price spike last year.

Meat and Fish – Prices for shrimp, chicken and fresh fish remained higher than December 2021, while dried fish was on par. Other than dried fish, meat/fish products lingered 14-35% above last year in December.

Fresh fish narrowed the gap with last year's price, while chicken widened it by eleven percentage points.

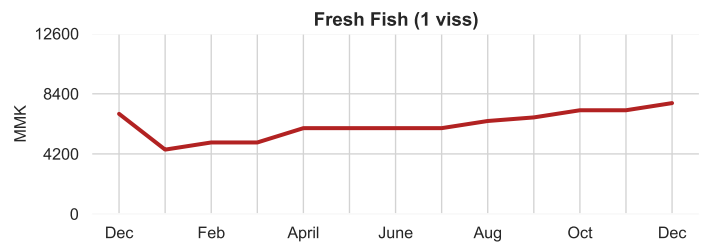
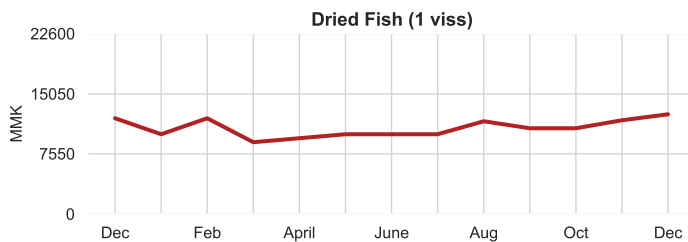
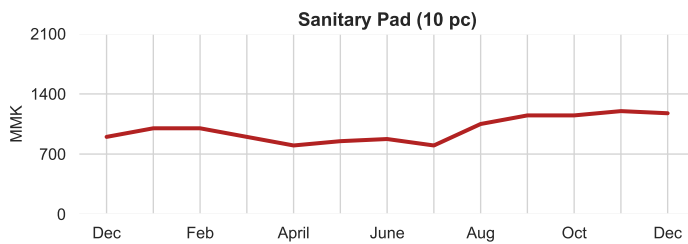
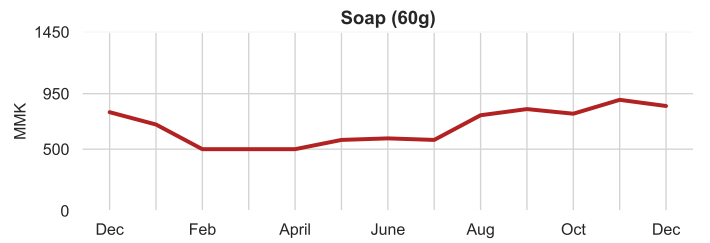
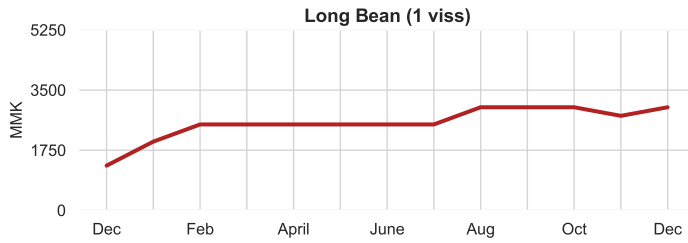
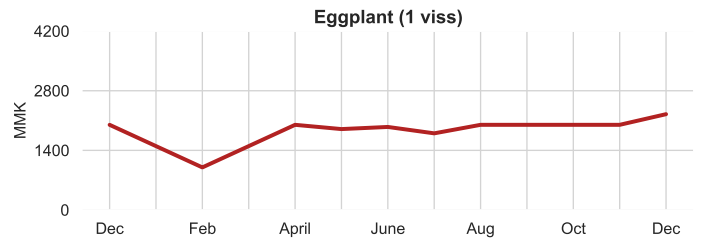
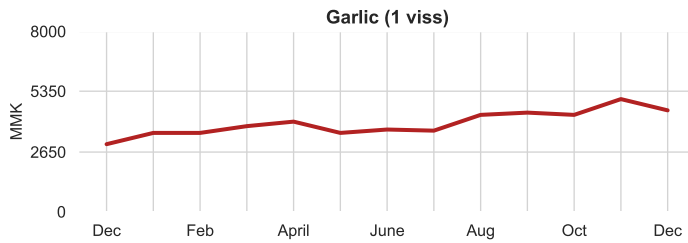
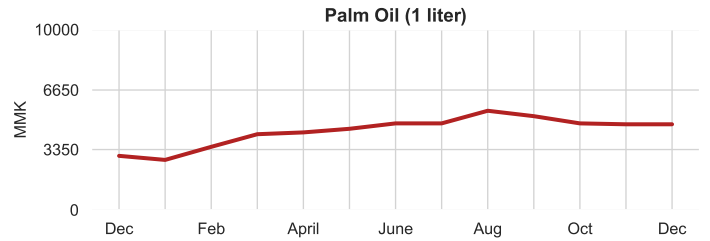
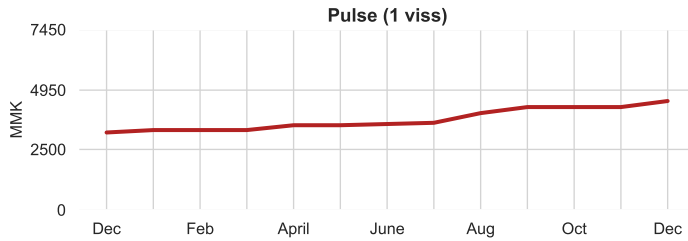
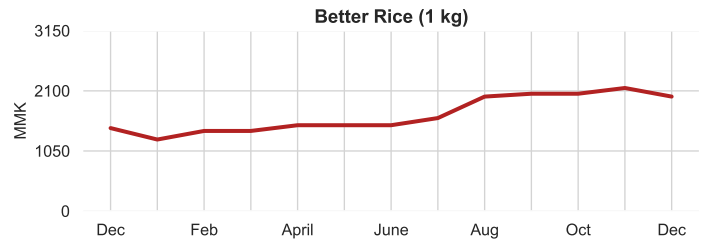
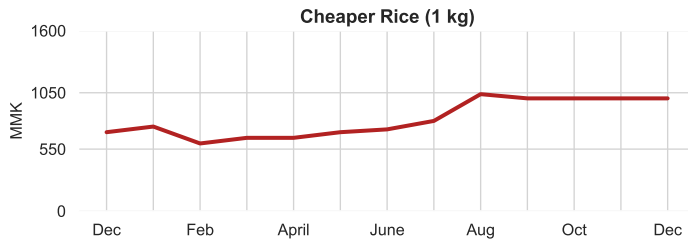
Other NFIs – Most NFI prices remained 24-57% above 2021 levels in December. The median twelve-month price increase for NFIs grew for mosquito nets (+24%), longyis (+7-12%) and vacuum flasks (+51%), while it shrunk slightly for plastic tarps (+1%), umbrellas (+57%) and jerry cans (+45%). Charcoal, cooking pots and towels maintained their lead over 2021.

What to Watch

- Relatively stable **rice** prices in December suggest winter supply may help stabilize food prices, although this has yet to have a noticeable effect on **vegetable** prices;
- Prices for **fresh fish** products could see some price relief in the near future if last year's late-winter price dip is reproduced;
- Newly-reopened markets in **Kawkareik** township could begin to relieve some price pressure created by escalating conflict in recent months.

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 December 2022 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,750	1,800	3,000	2,200
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,000	800	1,000	1,600
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,500	5,000	4,500	6,500
Pulse (1 viss)	5,000	5,500	3,500	4,000
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	6,000	2,500	4,000
Onion (1 viss)	3,700	4,000	1,500	3,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,650	2,500	2,000	850
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,000	3,000	4,500	1,850
Watercress (1 viss)	5,000	2,500	1,000	1,400
Green Chili (1 viss)	2,000	2,000	7,000	6,000
Bananas	2,000	2,500	900	1,500
Toothpaste (140g)	1,300	600	1,500	1,500
Detergent (400g)	1,500	1,400	1,100	1,200
Soap (60g)	1,000	700	650	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,400	1,500	800	950
Shrimp (1 viss)	10,000	15,000	6,000	15,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	7,500	9,000	6,000	8,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	14,000	13,000	10,250	12,000
Chicken (1 viss)	15,000	15,000	14,000	15,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	13,000	12,000	8,000	8,000
Pork (1 viss)	4,000	5,500	8,000	5,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	14,000	16,000	14,000	14,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	600	1,000	-	800
Blanket	6,000	12,000	3,500	16,000
Mosquito Net	6,500	9,000	7,250	14,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	25,000	10,000	12,000	18,500
Men's Longyi	-	18,000	-	18,000
Women's Longyi	8,250	7,500	6,500	7,000
Umbrella	9,000	8,000	6,500	7,500
Towel	5,500	6,000	6,250	8,000
Vacuum Flask	5,500	3,000	2,750	3,800
Jerry Can	25,500	-	9,500	15,000

*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).

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