

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR (DEC. 2021)

MARKET PRICE REPORT

Mercy Corps - Market Analysis Unit

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), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar) and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data will soon be available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

- **Hpruso's Myo Ma market was non-functional throughout December** as armed conflict led to widespread displacement and virtually all retailers remained closed for the month;
- **Prices for essential foods were stable in December**, and palm oil prices fell in Hpapun;
- **Prices were relatively stable in Hpapun and Loikaw Townships**, notwithstanding some outliers;
- **Prices were generally falling for many products in Taungoo Township** as wholesale prices declined;
- **There were few cases of large price hikes in December** (e.g., garlic, onion, detergent, some NFIs).

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable in December, although palm oil prices fell in Hpapun. Prices for essential foods rarely shifted more than 10% in December. The key exception was a 36% decline in palm oil prices in Hpapun (where prices fell for many products).

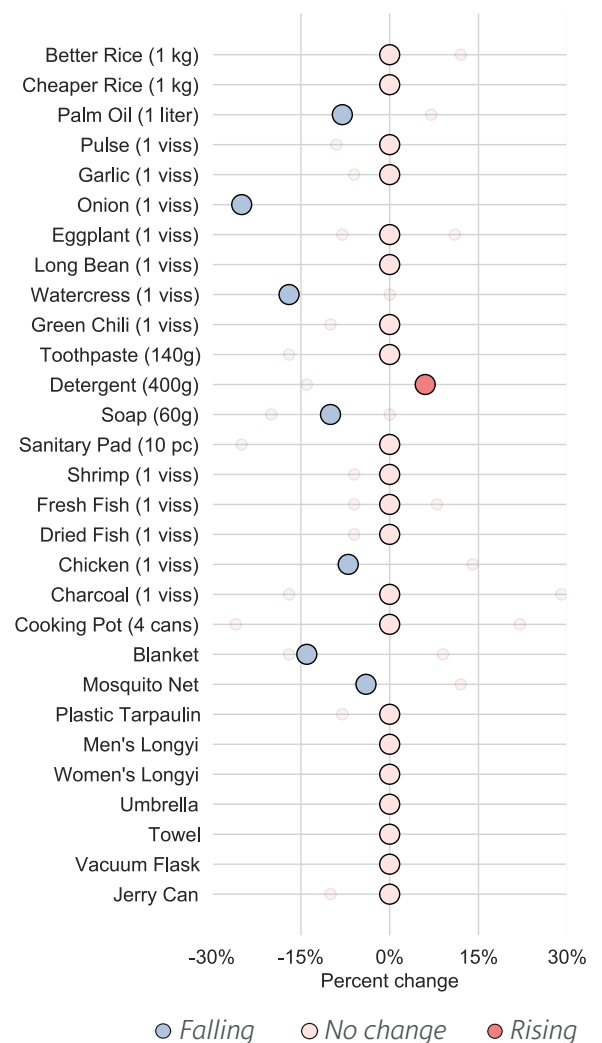
Vegetables – Vegetable prices were generally stable in December except for a few sharp price hikes. Eggplant and green chili were stable in all three markets, but other products saw isolated changes. For example, garlic prices appeared to rise as retailers supplemented existing imports from China with pricier local supply. Onion prices were most volatile, rising and falling in different markets.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were mostly stable in December, although prices declined in Taungoo. Prices fell by 14-25% in Taungoo for all four hygiene products monitored, although they were largely stable elsewhere. The key exception was detergent prices in Hpapun which spiked as cheaper brands in smaller packages were out of stock.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were quite stable in December, although prices trended downward in Taungoo. Meat and fish prices in Taungoo fell by 5-10% in December, but prices were mostly stable in Hpapun and Loikaw.

Other NFIs – Other NFI prices were stable in December, except

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

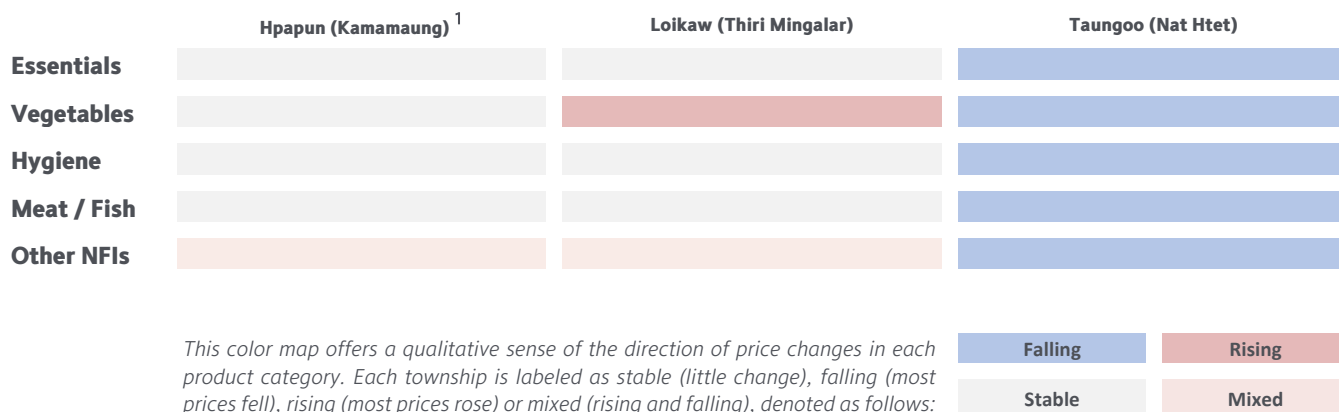


for a few outliers. Half of all NFIs monitored changed by 10% or less in each market, while the remaining products saw a mixture of rising and falling prices. For example, prices for charcoal and cookpots rose and fell by 20-30% in different markets, while blankets and mosquito nets also shifted (but less dramatically).

Township-Level Price Changes

Myo Ma market in Hpruso was closed throughout December, and prices fell in Taungoo on reports of lower prices from wholesalers. Myo Mya market in Hpruso ceased to function during the first week of December and remained closed throughout the month as armed conflict displaced households and retailers. In Taungoo, two-thirds of all products monitored saw prices decline in December (and there were no rising prices). That said, prices fell only moderately in Taungoo, usually not more than 15%. NFI prices in Hpapun and Loikaw shifted slightly in December, and some vegetable prices rose in Loikaw, but prices in these two townships were otherwise stable.

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



¹ Note that prices are tracked at Kamamaung Market in Hpapun Townships, as the main Hpapun market has limited functionality.

Prices for December 2021 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,450	1,250	1,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	550	800	700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	3,000	3,500	2,100
Pulse (1 viss)	3,000	3,500	3,200
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	3,000	3,000
Onion (1 viss)	600	1,000	500
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,350	2,000	1,100
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,300	2,800	1,200
Watercress (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	5,000	2,000	4,500
Toothpaste (140g)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Detergent (400g)	2,200	950	1,800
Soap (60g)	500	900	800
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	900	700	900
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,000	7,500	8,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	4,500	7,000	8,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	12,000	12,000	8,500
Chicken (1 viss)	10,000	15,000	11,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	8,000	7,000	5,500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	450	500	500
Blanket	4,450	5,500	4,500
Mosquito Net	6,000	5,000	6,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	12,500	14,500	9,000
Men's Longyi	21,000	16,000	12,000
Women's Longyi	5,750	5,000	5,000
Umbrella	6,000	5,800	4,500
Towel	3,500	4,650	4,000
Vacuum Flask	4,500	2,000	1,500
Jerry Can	16,000	12,000	8,000

*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

Mercy Corps' 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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