

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), Hsihseng (main), Kawkareik (main), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar), Pekon (main), and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data are available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Essential food prices were stable or rising** in December, with rice, pulses, and cooking oil up 3-13% at times;
- **Vegetable prices rose sharply in Hsihseng** where prices climbed as much as 33%, but they were fairly stable in other markets monitored in December;
- **Meat/fish prices climbed 9-11% in December**, and they remained 15-35% higher than at this time last year;
- **Stable NFI prices remained 15-80% above last year** with charcoal, blankets, and mosquito nets up the most;
- **Disruptions near Kawkareik continue to hurt supply** as armed conflict makes it more difficult to ship goods from Myawaddy;
- **Hsihseng may see supply disruptions and price spikes** in January due to increased armed conflict in South Shan State.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable or rising slightly in December. Rice prices were up 3-13% in Hpapun and Hsihseng, while they were stable in Pekon. Rice prices fell to more normal levels in Taungoo after jumping sharply there in November. Prices for cooking oil and pulses were stable or rising 3-9% in December.

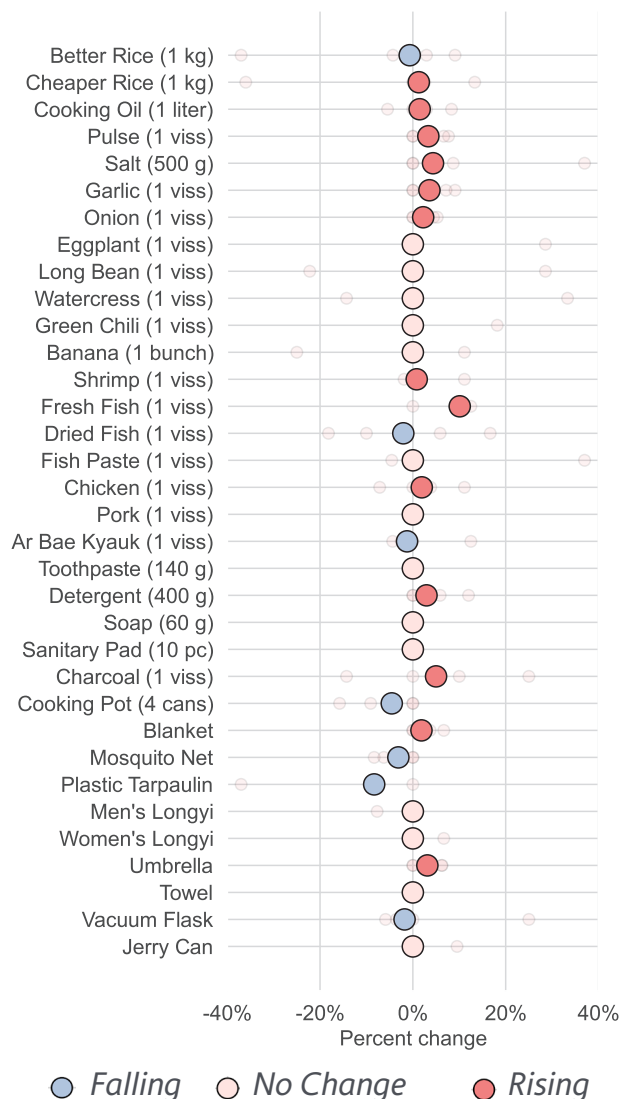
Vegetables – Vegetable price trends varied by township in December with Hsihseng seeing sharp increases of 5-33%. Vegetable prices were stable in Taungoo and Hpapun in December, but they rose sharply in Hsihseng. Pekon saw a mix of falling prices (e.g., long bean, watercress) and rising prices (e.g., onion, garlic).

Meat and Fish – Fresh fish prices climbed 9-11% in December, but other meat/fish prices were fairly stable. Although fresh fish prices rose in December, other meat/fish products were stable or shifting just 2-7%. The exception was Taungoo, where prices for various meat/fish products increased 9-17% in December.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were very stable in December. Detergent prices rose 6-12% in Hsihseng and Taungoo in December, but they were stable elsewhere. There was no change in prices for toothpaste, soap, or sanitary pads in any of the markets monitored in December.

Other NFIs – Prices for other NFIs rose and fell slightly in December. NFI price trends varied more by market than by product in December. NFI prices were stable or 6-16% lower in Taungoo, while NFI prices were extremely stable in Hpapun. Hsihseng and Pekon saw a mix of rising and falling prices, but price shifts there were usually not larger than 10%.

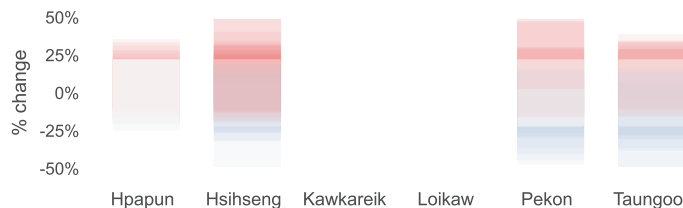
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

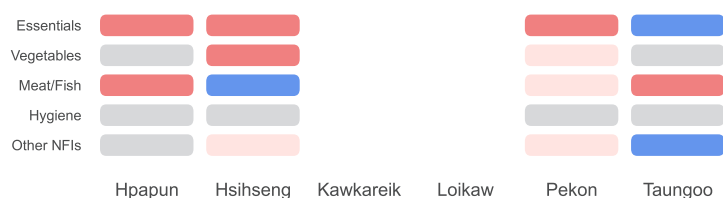
Although falling prices were somewhat rare in December, only Hsiseng saw very notable price hikes. Half of all prices monitored in Hsiseng increased in December, and one-quarter of all prices there rose at least 9%. Just one-quarter of all prices monitored in Pekon and Taungoo rose in December, and typically this was just 5% or so. Hpapun saw very stable prices in December, with three-quarters of all prices monitored remaining stable. In general, the markets monitored in December saw more price stability than they did November.

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 remained 40-60% above December 2022 levels. The median twelve-month increase was largely unchanged for pulses (+61%) and cheaper rice (+57%), while prices for better rice (+42%) drifted more in line with last year. Prices for cooking oil (-3%) remained on par with last year.

Vegetables – Many vegetable prices remained 20-40% higher than at this time last year. Prices remained higher for eggplant (+37%), long bean (+39%), watercress (+23%), and green chili (+40%). Prices for onion (+5%) were similar to last year, while prices for garlic (+170%) remained far higher.

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices lingered 15-35% higher than December 2022. Stable meat/fish prices in December meant that the median twelve-month increase was largely unchanged. Prices remained higher for chicken (+21%), pork (+13%), fresh fish (+27%), dried fish (+32%), shrimp (+34%), and fish paste (+28%).

Hygiene Products – Stable prices for hygiene products kept them 40-80% higher than last year. Prices remained much higher for toothpaste (+48%), detergent

(+83%), and soap (+42%). Prices for sanitary pads (+1%) remained nearly on par with last year.

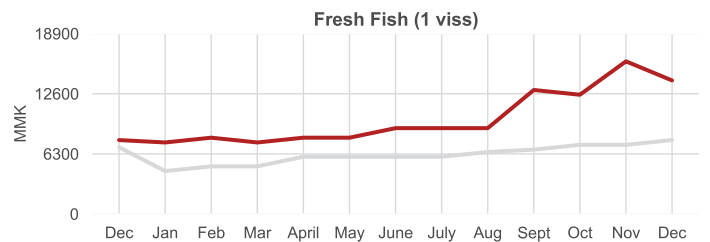
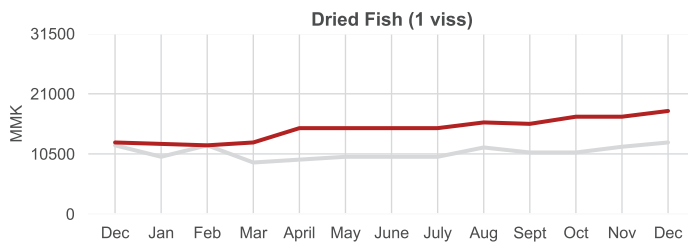
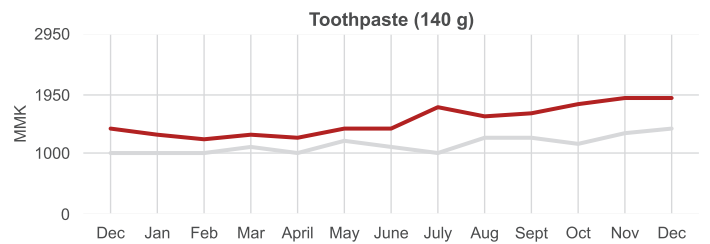
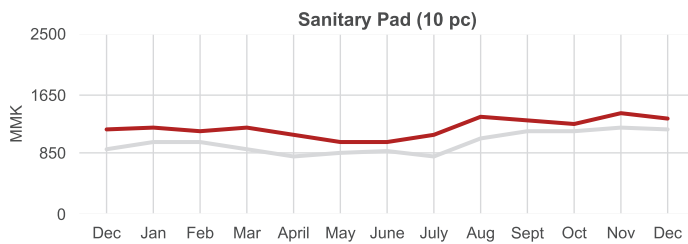
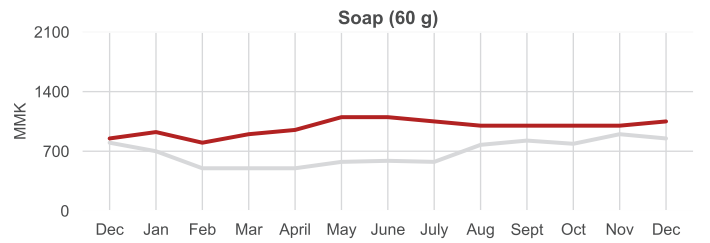
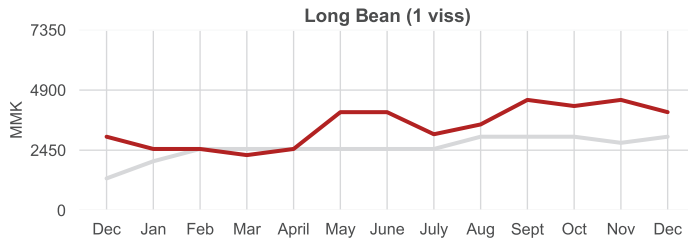
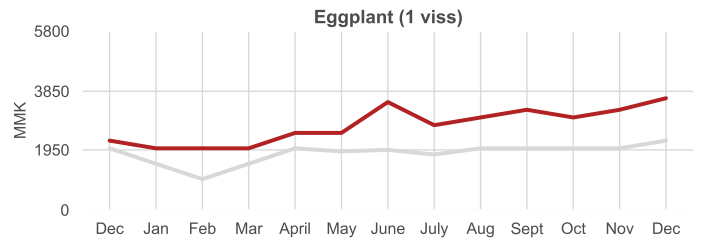
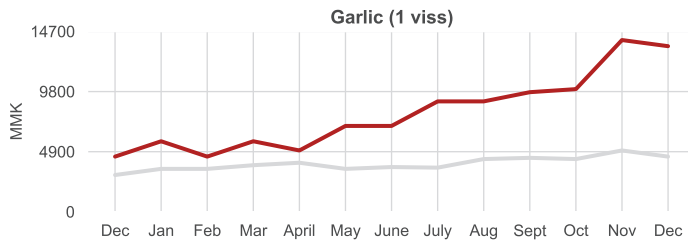
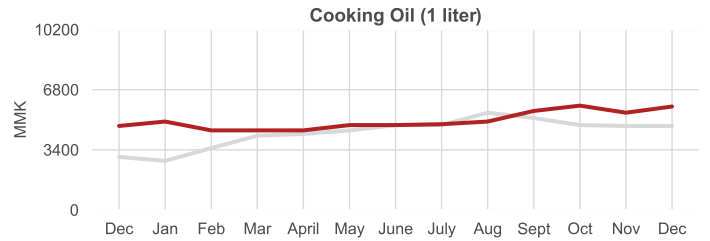
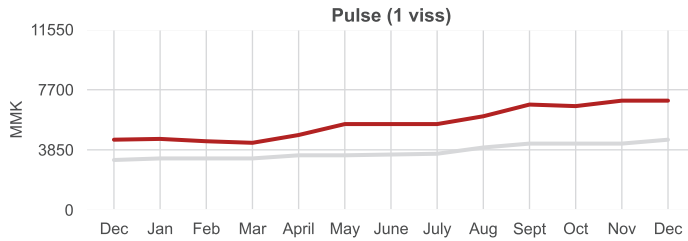
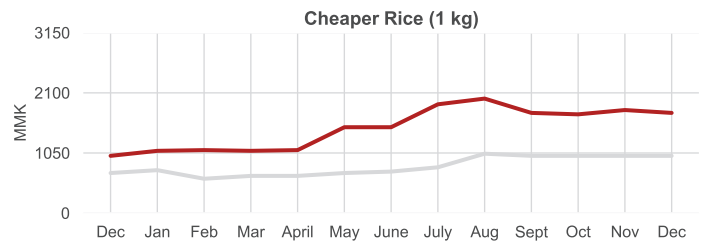
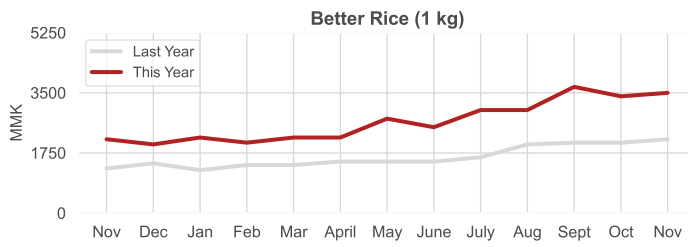
Other NFIs – Relatively stable NFI prices continued to drift closer to 2022 levels in December. Most NFI prices drifted 2-8 percentage points closer to December 2022 levels. Yet prices still remained higher for mosquito nets (+57%), charcoal (+35%), blankets (+29%), longyis (+17-24%), and plastic tarps (+16%).

What to Watch

- Increased conflict events near **Hsiseng** in mid-January may hamper the supply of goods and increase prices there;
- Although **NFI** prices held mostly stable for a second straight month, disruptions on the Myawaddy-Kawkareik road may yet push prices higher;
- Winter vegetable supply helped stabilize **vegetable** prices in December, but ongoing conflict in South Shan State could hamper regional distribution.

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 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Pekon (Main market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	3,000	7,000	-	-	3,350	2,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,700	4,000	-	-	1,800	1,600
Cooking Oil (1 liter)	4,800	7,000	-	-	6,500	5,200
Pulse (1 viss)	6,000	7,000	-	-	7,000	8,000
Salt (500 g)	400	250	-	-	500	300
Garlic (1 viss)	15,000	12,000	-	-	15,000	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	5,000	4,700	-	-	4,000	2,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,250	4,500	-	-	4,000	1,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	5,000	4,500	-	-	3,500	2,500
Watercress (1 viss)	3,250	2,000	-	-	3,000	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	6,500	13,000	-	-	4,000	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	2,500	2,000	-	-	1,500	1,800
Shrimp (1 viss)	15,250	13,000	-	-	8,000	10,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	10,000	18,000	-	-	16,000	12,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	18,000	18,000	-	-	18,000	14,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	6,000	10,500	-	-	12,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,500	16,000	-	-	13,000	10,000
Pork (1 viss)	-	18,000	-	-	18,000	14,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	19,500	22,000	-	-	32,000	18,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,450	2,000	-	-	1,800	2,500
Detergent (400 g)	2,000	1,800	-	-	1,200	2,800
Soap (60 g)	1,000	1,100	-	-	1,000	2,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,450	1,500	-	-	1,000	1,200
Charcoal (1 viss)	800	1,100	-	-	1,000	1,200
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	8,500	10,000	-	-	5,000	16,000
Blanket	7,750	14,000	-	-	15,000	16,000
Mosquito Net	23,500	27,000	-	-	15,000	22,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	-	14,500	-	-	25,000	22,000
Men's Longyi	9,500	12,000	-	-	12,000	7,000
Women's Longyi	10,000	-	-	-	9,500	8,000
Umbrella	8,000	8,500	-	-	8,500	7,000
Towel	5,750	4,000	-	-	2,000	1,800
Vacuum Flask	27,000	27,000	-	-	20,000	16,000
Jerry Can	8,000	11,500	-	-	8,000	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).

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