

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 fell gently but widely in February**, with many prices down by about 5%;
- **Rice and palm oil prices fell by 5% or more in most markets in February**, although pulses were stable;
- **Vegetable prices fell in February, but less dramatically than they did this month last year**, slightly increasing the gap with 2022 levels;
- **February reversed January's price increases for hygiene products**, as price fell 6% or more;
- **Most NFI prices remained 30-50% higher than last year**, despite gently-falling prices in February;
- **Loikaw partly reversed January's price increases in February** and prices fell in Kawkareik too, but the picture was mixed in Hpapun and Taungoo.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Rice and palm oil prices fell by around 5% in February. Prices for palm oil and cheaper rice fell by 5% or more in nearly all markets in February. Prices for higher-quality rice remained stable, and pulses saw prices rise or fall by 5-10%. Hpapun's January price increases for rice remained in place.

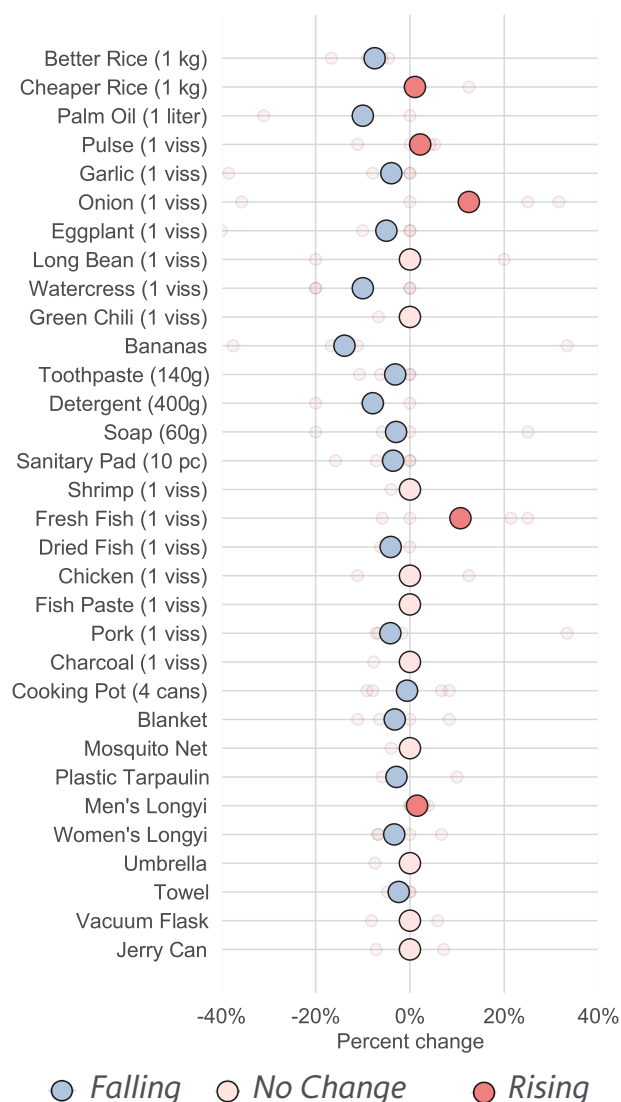
Vegetables – Vegetable prices were stable or falling in February. January's vegetable price fluctuations gave way to falling prices in February. Garlic, eggplant, watercress and bananas all saw price cuts of 8% or more in several markets, while prices were mostly flat for other vegetables. Only onion prices saw notable increases, rising in Loikaw and Taungoo.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products fell in all markets except Kawkareik. All markets saw prices fall by 6% or more for at least two of four products monitored, and there were few instances of rising prices. Hpapun and Taungoo saw the most cuts, with some priced down 20%.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or falling slightly in February. Three-in-four markets saw multiple meat/fish prices decline by 4-11% in February. However, Taungoo stood out in February for rising meat and fish prices, with fresh fish, chicken and pork up 12% or more.

Other NFIs – NFI prices fluctuated very gently in February, but they more often fell than rose. Loikaw saw across-the-board price reductions of 4-8% for NFIs in February, reversing January's increases. Kawkareik also saw prices down 3-11% for half of all products monitored (although most other products were stable). Taungoo and Hpapun saw considerable stability mixed with some price increases of 3-8%.

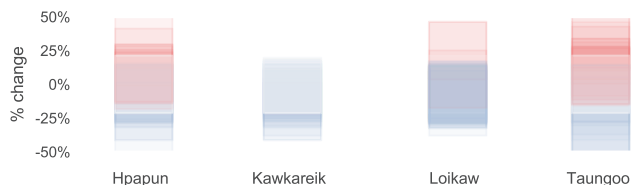
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

Loikaw and Kawkareik saw prices fall widely—albeit gently—in February, while Hpapun and Taungoo saw a mix of rising and falling prices. Price cuts were widespread in Loikaw in February, with half of all products monitored down at least 6%. Kawkareik saw fairly stable prices, however all prices which changed did so downward (never up). The picture was more mixed in Hpapun and Taungoo, where prices for one-quarter of all products monitored increased by at least 10% and 6%, respectively, but other products were stable or falling.

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 50-60% higher than last year. Compared to February 2022, prices remained considerably higher for cheaper rice (+47%), better rice (+62%), palm oil (+44%) and pulses (+49%).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices remained higher than February 2022 as winter prices cuts appeared more shallow than last year. Long bean prices (+48%) drifted close to 2022 levels, but other products maintained or stretched their lead due to February's price cuts being the same or smaller than last year. Onion, long bean and watercress prices were much higher than February 2022, while prices were up only moderately for eggplant (+22%), green chili (+19%), and bananas (+22%).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained 30-40% higher than last year. The median twelve-month increase was largely unchanged for toothpaste (+31%), detergent (+9%) and santiary pads (+47%). Soap prices in February lurched higher than last year (+37%), mainly because soap prices declined significantly in February 2022.

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish maintained their lead over 2022 levels, despite modest price cuts. Prices

remained considerably higher for fresh fish (+30%), chicken (+47%), fish paste (+58%) and pork (+54%). The median twelve-month price increase remained more moderate for shrimp (+11%) and dried fish (+22%).

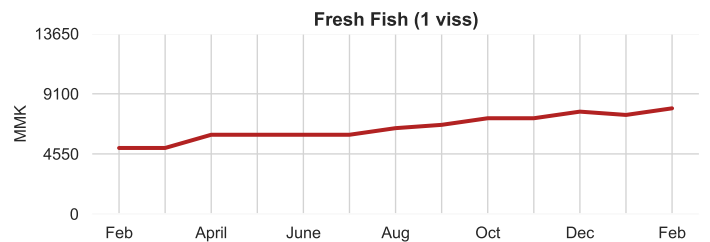
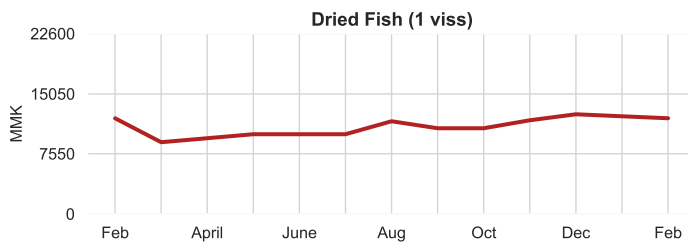
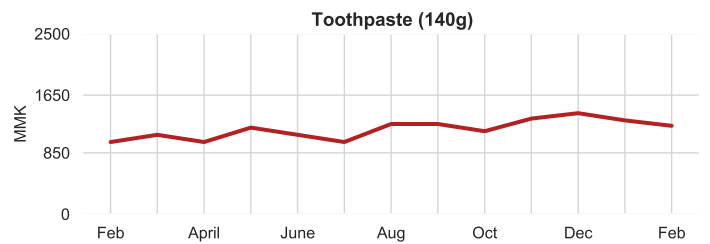
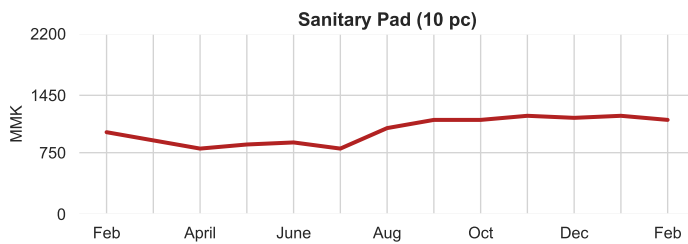
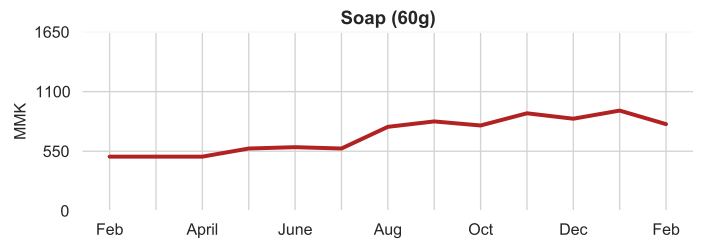
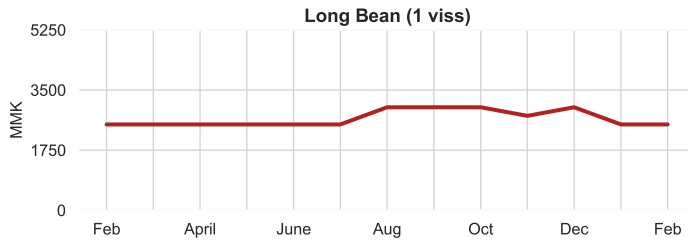
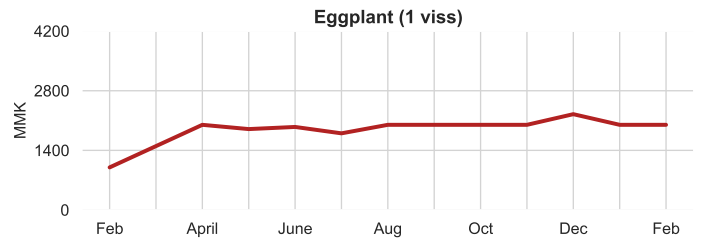
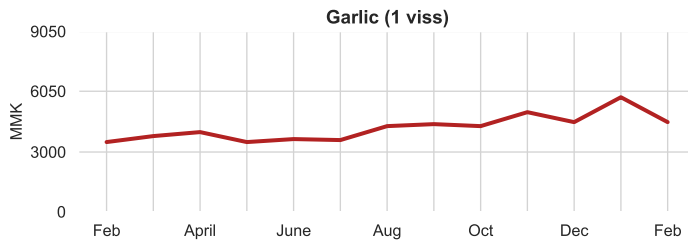
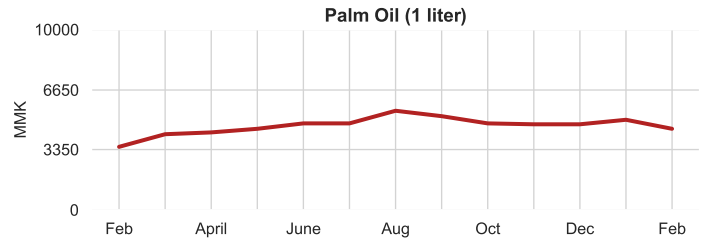
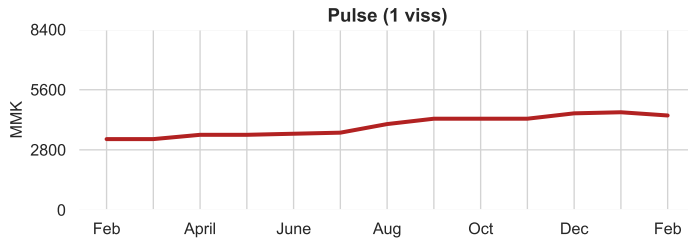
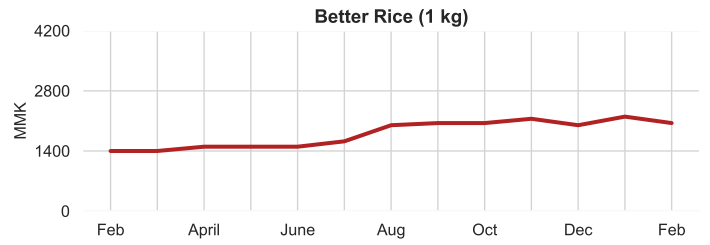
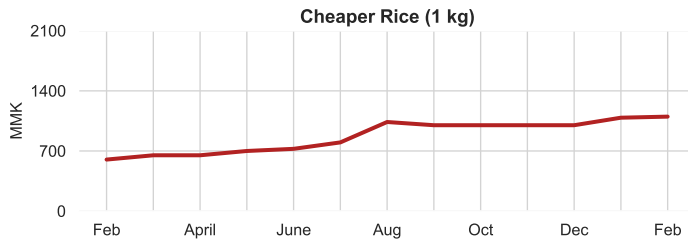
Other NFIs – Gently-falling prices for NFIs in February left most NFI prices 30-50% higher than last year. The median twelve-month price increase for NFIs shifted very little in February, leaving prices much higher for mosquito nets (+46%), longyis (+36-50%), blankets (+36%) and towels (+35%). Prices for plastic tarps remained just 9% higher than last year.

What to Watch

- While **rice** prices fell gently in February, it remains to be seen whether prices have bottomed-out or whether they will dip further before beginning their gradual march higher;
- Prices for **vegetables** will likely see fewer and smaller price cuts in the months ahead, as winter supply begins to taper off;
- Little change in conflict dynamics in **Kawkareik** in March could lock-in recent price cuts, but regional tensions still threaten to disrupt markets system.

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 February 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,100	1,600	2,500	2,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,200	800	1,000	1,800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,000
Pulse (1 viss)	4,800	5,500	4,000	4,000
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	7,000	3,500	4,000
Onion (1 viss)	1,800	4,500	1,500	5,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,250	2,000	2,000	900
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,000	2,000	4,500	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	2,000	2,000	900	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	3,500	2,000	7,000	5,000
Bananas	2,000	2,500	800	1,000
Toothpaste (140g)	1,250	700	1,200	1,500
Detergent (400g)	1,400	1,500	1,000	1,200
Soap (60g)	800	800	800	1,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,300	1,500	1,000	800
Shrimp (1 viss)	10,000	12,000	6,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	8,000	7,500	8,500
Dried Fish (1 viss)	15,000	12,000	11,500	12,000
Chicken (1 viss)	17,000	15,000	14,750	14,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	13,000	10,000	8,000	9,000
Pork (1 viss)	4,000	15,000	6,000	4,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	14,000	15,000	13,000	16,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	600	1,000	-	800
Blanket	6,500	10,000	3,500	16,000
Mosquito Net	6,500	8,000	7,250	8,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	25,000	10,000	12,000	20,000
Men's Longyi	-	17,000	16,000	22,000
Women's Longyi	8,500	7,000	6,750	7,000
Umbrella	9,000	7,000	6,750	8,000
Towel	-	5,000	6,250	7,000
Vacuum Flask	5,500	3,000	3,000	1,800
Jerry Can	25,500	-	9,000	18,000

*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