

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

KEY FINDINGS

- **Essential food prices were very stable in February**, although rice prices fell in Demoso as new supply arrived;
- **Vegetable prices were stable or falling**, declining sharply in Demoso while other markets saw a mix of higher and lower prices;
- **Meat/fish prices were stable or falling in February** with dried fish and fish paste down 3-8%;
- **Prices for hygiene products rose 6-18% in February** on reports of limited supply;
- **Markets remained closed in Kawkareik and Hsihseng**, although other village markets continued to operate in these townships;
- **Food prices may remain flat in the near term** as new supply gradually tapers off leading into the hot season, after which prices will likely increase.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were very stable in February with the exception of a few cases. Rice and cooking oil prices were largely stable except in Taungoo where they rose 6-11%. Prices for pulses were stable except in Demoso where the price of pulses was up 29%.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were stable or occasionally falling, and they were down most sharply in Demoso. Onion prices fell 12-14% and green chili fell 12-25%, but other vegetable prices varied. Taungoo and Pekon saw a mix of rising and falling prices, and Hpapun prices were stable. Demoso vegetable prices fell 25-60% in most cases.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or 3-8% lower in February. Prices for dried fish and fish paste fell 3-8% in February, while pork prices rose 7% in some markets. Meat and fish prices were stable in Kamarmaung in February.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products trended higher regionwide in February. Prices for soap, detergent, and toothpaste rose 6%, 10%, and 18%, respectively. Prices for sanitary pads were stable except in Demoso where they increased 50%. Although prices for most NFIs rose in February, prices for hygiene-related NFIs rose more than other NFIs.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable or rising in February, except in Demoso where prices both rose and fell. Prices for towels, charcoal, and plastic tarps were up 6%, 11%, and 12%, respectively. Most other NFIs were generally stable, although prices shifted considerably in Demoso. Demoso saw a mix of rising prices (e.g., plastic tarps, towels) and falling prices (e.g., blankets, jerry cans, cooking pots).

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

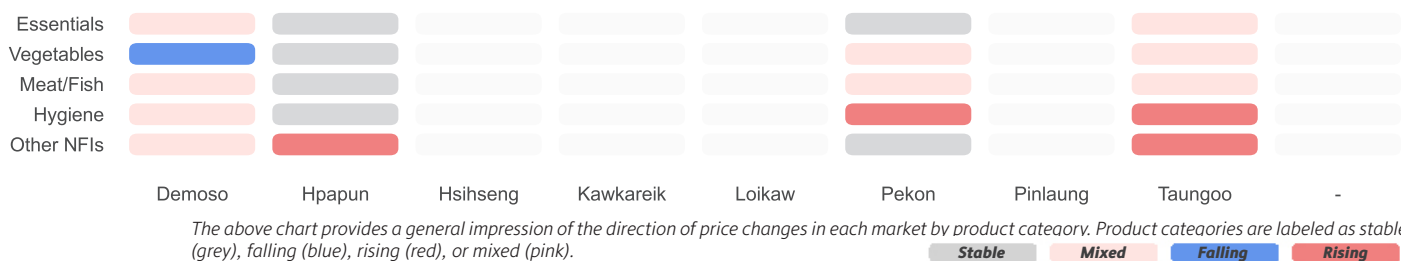
Price largely fell in Demoso in February, but prices rose in Taungoo and were fairly stable in Hpapun and Pekon. Prices trends varied considerably by township in February. Half of all prices monitored fell at least 19% in Demoso, and one-quarter fell at least 39%; Demoso also had its share of rising prices, with one quarter of all prices monitored up 10% or more. Taungoo prices were most clearly moving on an upward-trajectory, with one-quarter of all prices monitored at least 19% higher in February. Prices were fairly stable in Hpapun and Pekon, although even here NFI prices trended upward.

Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township (One Month)



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 Township and Product Category (One Month)



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 Changes²

Essential Foods – Essential food prices remained 60-70% above February 2023 levels. Prices remained far higher than last year for cheaper rice (+66%), better rice (+71%), and pulses (+61%). Cooking oil prices were by comparison just 23% above February 2023, but the gap widened in recent months.

Vegetables – Stable vegetable prices remained 30-80% above February 2023 levels. Prices for eggplant (+81%), long bean (+60%), and green chili (+35%) maintained their lead over last year, while onion (+14%) and watercress (+28%) narrowed the gap. Prices for garlic (+230%) were triple 2023 levels.

Meat and Fish – Stable meat/fish were 20-70% above last year. Prices remained higher for chicken (+45%), pork (+24%), fresh fish (+68%), dried fish (+49%), and fish paste (+60%). Shrimp prices were still just 5% above last year's level.

Hygiene Products – Rising prices kept toothpaste and detergent 20-60% above last year. Prices remained much higher for toothpaste (+46%) and detergent

(+62%), while prices for soap (+18%) were much closer to February 2023 and sanitary pads (+2%) were on par.

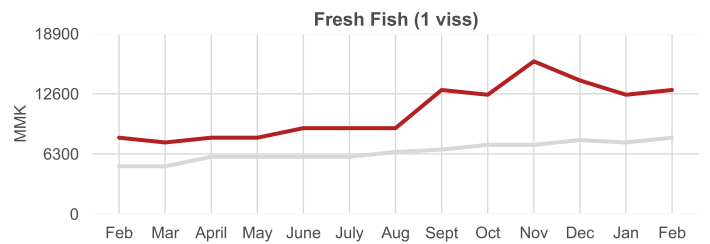
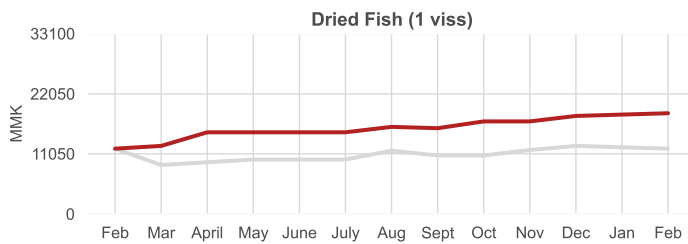
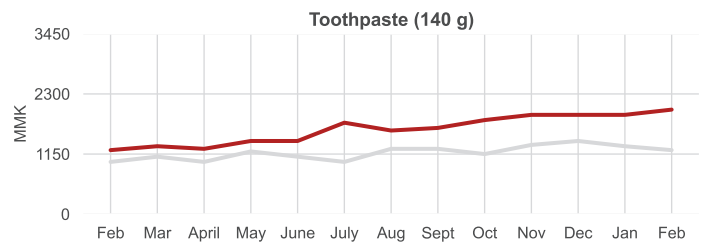
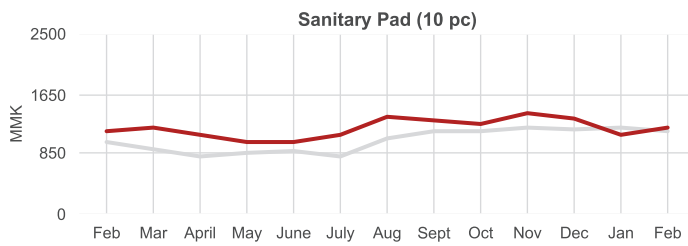
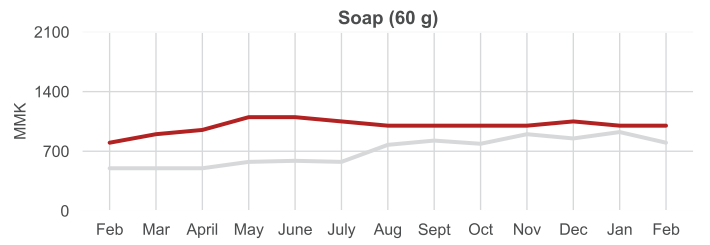
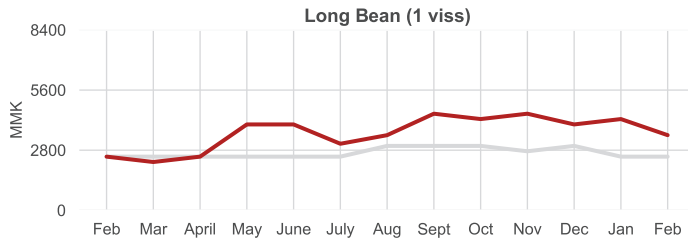
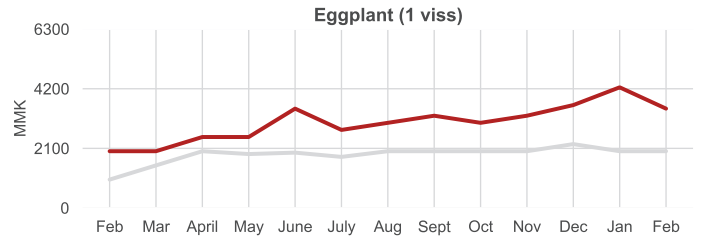
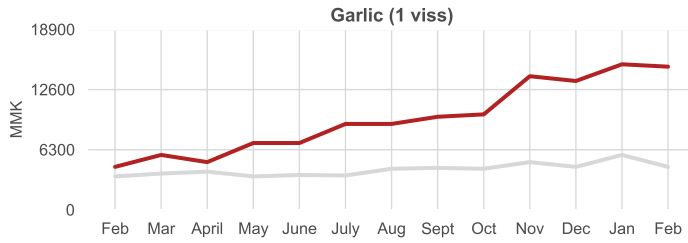
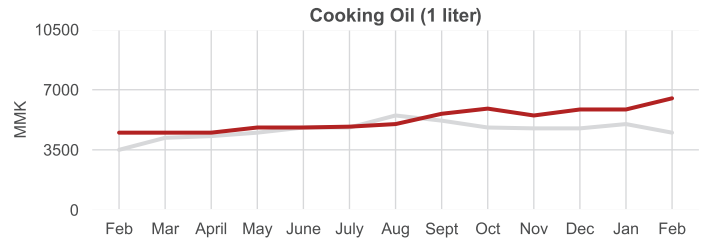
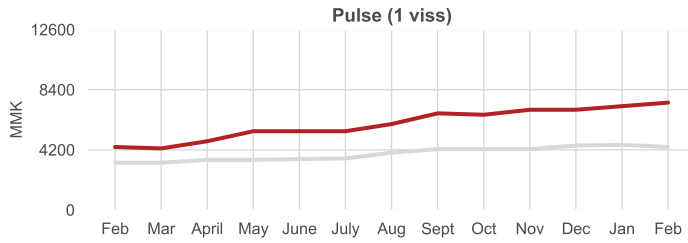
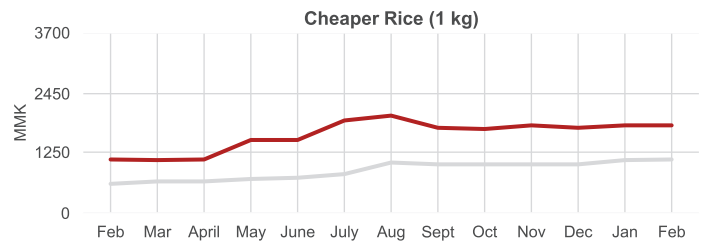
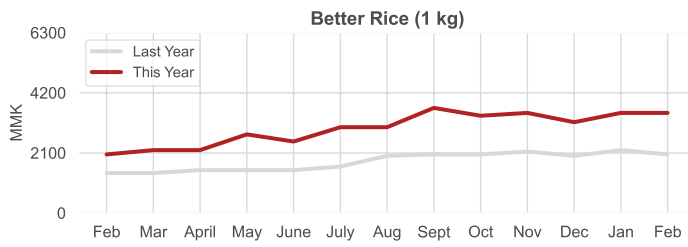
Other NFIs – A few NFI prices increased faster than they did at this time last year. Prices for cooking pots (+18%) and blankets (+78%) rose faster than at this time last year, while mosquito nets (+49%) and jerry cans (+14%) drifted closer to last year. NFI prices were still overall much higher, except for towels which were 10% below last year (in part due to specification differences).

What to Watch

- Prices for **rice** may hold stable as new supply reaches market, but new **vegetable** supply will likely taper off soon sending prices gradually higher;
- Reports of limited supply of **hygiene** products suggest February's higher prices could continue upward next month;
- Prices in **Demoso** may rebound higher in March following a slew of lower prices this month, particularly for vegetables which were down sharply.

² 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 2024 (MMK)

Product	Demoso (village)	Hpapun (Kamarmaung)	Hsiseng (town)	Kawkareik (town)	Loikaw (town)	Pekon (village)	Pinlaung (town)	Taungoo (town)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,250	3,500	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	3,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	-	1,800	-	-	-	1,800	1,800	2,000
Cooking Oil (1 liter)	7,000	5,000	-	-	-	6,500	6,500	5,500
Pulse (1 viss)	9,000	6,000	-	-	-	7,500	7,500	8,000
Salt (500 g)	500	500	-	-	-	500	500	300
Garlic (1 viss)	12,000	15,500	-	-	-	20,000	15,000	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	3,500	5,000	-	-	-	2,500	3,000	3,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,500	4,500	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	2,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,000	5,000	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	3,000
Watercress (1 viss)	2,000	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	2,500	2,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	6,000	5,000	-	-	-	3,500	4,000	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,800
Shrimp (1 viss)	22,000	15,500	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	13,500	11,000	-	-	-	16,000	13,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	22,000	18,500	-	-	-	20,000	13,000	14,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	7,000	6,000	-	-	-	15,000	18,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	16,000	14,500	-	-	-	14,000	13,000	10,000
Pork (1 viss)	20,000	-	-	-	-	18,000	15,500	16,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	35,000	20,000	-	-	-	32,000	-	18,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	2,500	1,800	-	-	-	2,000	1,300	2,500
Detergent (400 g)	2,500	2,100	-	-	-	1,500	1,300	3,000
Soap (60 g)	1,500	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,500	1,500	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,200
Charcoal (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	13,500	10,000	-	-	-	5,000	8,800	18,000
Blanket	13,500	7,750	-	-	-	15,000	18,000	19,000
Mosquito Net	13,000	23,500	-	-	-	15,000	28,000	26,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	28,000	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	28,250	22,000
Men's Longyi	8,500	9,500	-	-	-	13,000	15,000	7,000
Women's Longyi	8,500	10,000	-	-	-	9,500	10,000	8,000
Umbrella	12,000	8,000	-	-	-	8,500	8,500	7,000
Towel	6,000	5,750	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Vacuum Flask	25,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	28,500	19,000
Jerry Can	1,500	8,000	-	-	-	8,000	8,500	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

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