

# 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), Kawkareik (main), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar) and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data will soon be available online at [www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Prices were fairly stable in January**, although the picture differed in each market;
- **NFI prices were generally stable in January** with frequent but small price shifts;
- **Prices in Loikaw rose widely after several months of stability**, while prices in Hpapun were fairly stable and changes in Kawkareik and Taungoo were mixed;
- **Prices for hygiene products rose in January**, more so than other NFIs;
- **Most NFI prices remained 33-59% higher than January 2022**, and this was little-changed in January;
- **Rice and palm oil prices remained 43-59% above January 2022 levels**, and half of all other products monitored lingered at least 35% higher than last year.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Rice prices increased in Hpapun in January, but essential foods were otherwise fairly stable.** Rice prices rose 17-25% in Hpapun, but they were unchanged elsewhere. Prices for pulses and palm oil rose in Loikaw but drifted a bit lower in other markets.

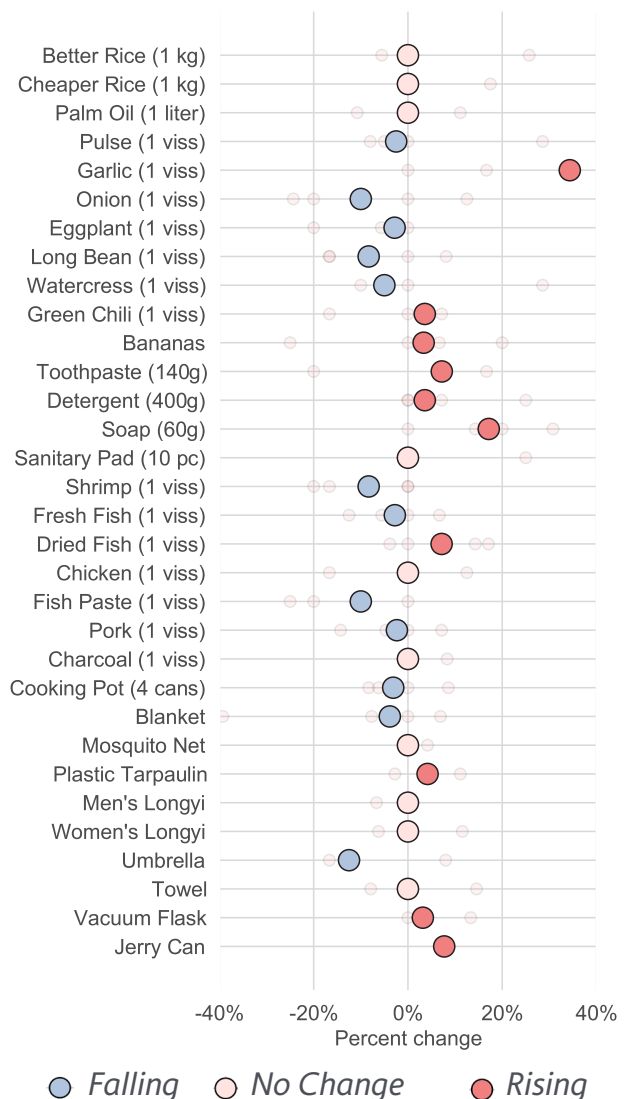
**Vegetables – Garlic prices climbed steeply in January, while other vegetable prices fluctuated.** Many vegetable prices rose or fell by 10-20% in January, and a few steeper price shifts reversed changes in December. However, vegetable prices varied more by township in January than by product, with prices generally rising in Hpapun and falling in Taungoo (it was mixed in Loikaw and Kawkareik).

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products climbed in January.** Toothpaste and detergent prices often rose by 7% or more, while soap prices rose by 14% or more. Prices for sanitary pads were stable, except in Loikaw where January reversed December's price cuts.

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish fluctuated, with prices higher in Hpapun and Loikaw and lower in Kawkareik and Taungoo.** Hpapun and Loikaw saw meat/fish prices hold steady or rise by 7-17%, while Kawkareik and Taungoo saw prices fall by 4-20%. There were no clear product-level trends for meat/fish.

**Other NFIs – NFI prices were relatively stable in January, with few price changes greater than 8%.** NFI prices fluctuated in January, but as with other product categories these changes varied by township. NFI prices rose 3-15% in Loikaw, while holding stable or falling by 6-8% in Kawkareik. NFI prices were stable in Hpapun but fluctuating in Taungoo.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



## Township-Level Price Changes

**Loikaw experienced the most price increases in January, while Hpapun prices were more stable than elsewhere.** In Loikaw, half of all prices monitored rose in January, and fewer than one-in-four prices fell; however, these price changes were relatively gentle, with only a small number of products seeing prices rise 12% or more. Half of all products monitored in Hpapun were stable, while Kawkareik and Taungoo saw a mix of rising and falling prices. No township saw across-the-board price increases or decreases.

**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 Changes<sup>1</sup>

**Essential Foods – Essential food prices remained well above 2022 levels in January.** Better rice drifted closer to 2022 levels, but changes in other essential food prices tracked with last year. Rice prices remained 47-74% above last year, while the median twelve-month price change for pulses was just 12%.

**Vegetables – Most vegetable prices remained far higher than January of last year.** Onion prices were three-fold higher than January 2022, while garlic, long bean and watercress were often 53-71% higher. The median twelve-month price change for eggplant and green chili was 10-25%.

**Hygiene Products – Prices for soap and detergent were similar to last year in January, but toothpaste and sanitary pads were higher.** Soap and detergent prices were within 8% of January 2022 prices, however the median twelve-month price change was higher for toothpaste (+27%) and sanitary pads (+40%).

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices widened the gap over 2022 levels in January.** Fresh and dried fish were 21-31% higher than January 2022, while chicken and

fish paste were 39-45% higher. Shrimp prices remained within 6% of January 2022 levels.

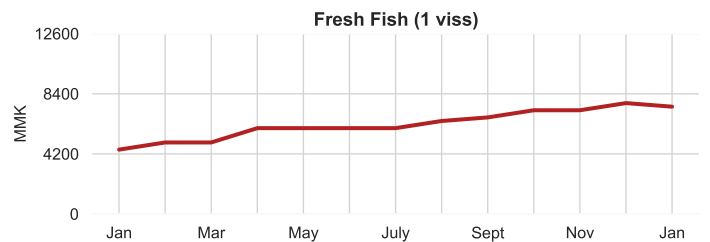
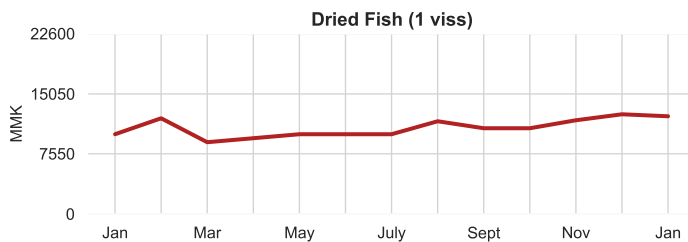
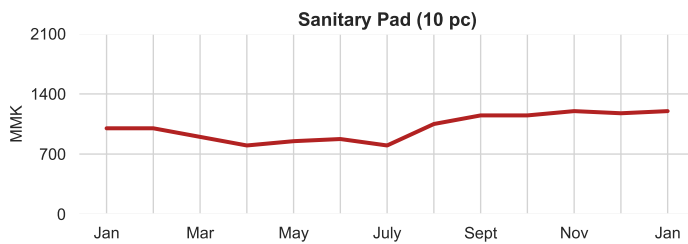
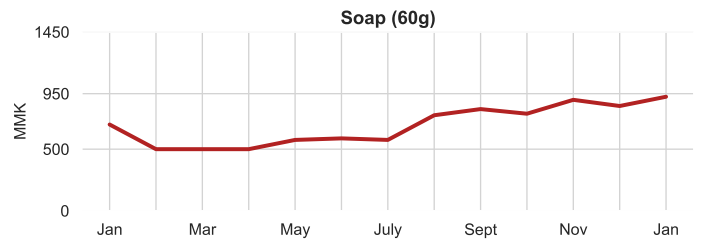
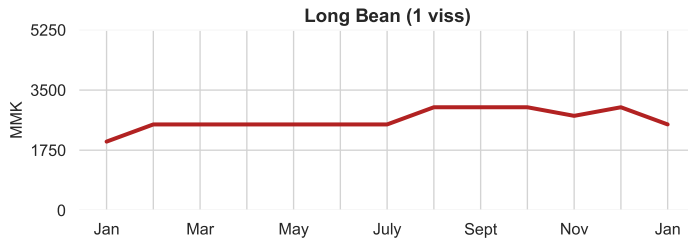
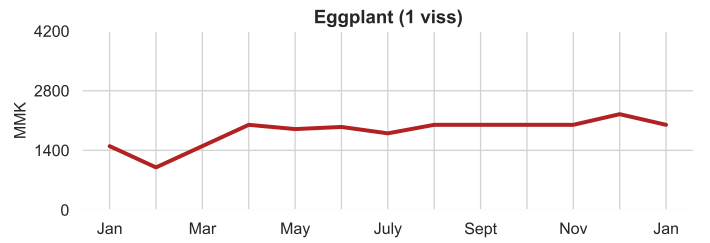
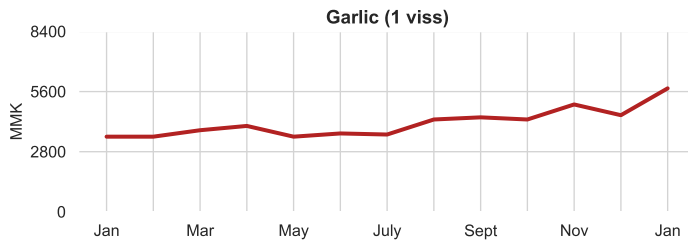
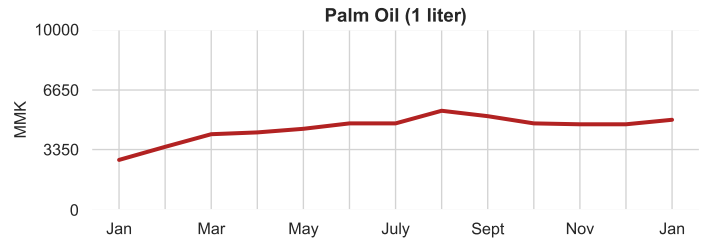
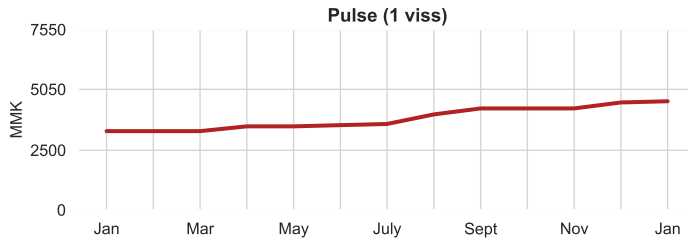
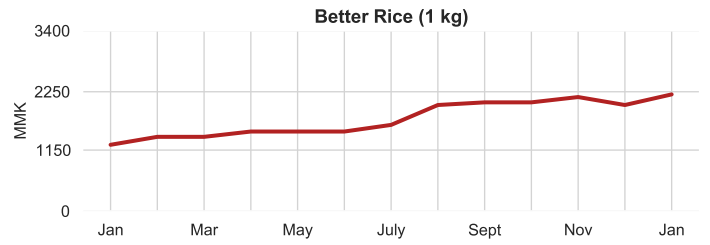
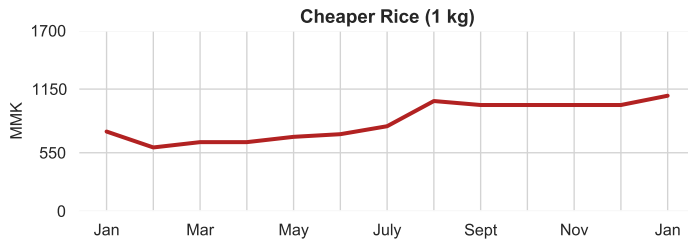
**Other NFIs – In January most NFI prices remained 33-59% higher than 2022.** The median twelve-month price increase for NFIs shifted by less than 10 percentage points for most NFIs, yet prices remained significantly higher for mosquito nets (+33%), longyis (+35-51%), blankets (+24%) and towels (+33%). Prices for plastic tarps were just 9% higher than last year.

### What to Watch

- Prices for cheaper **rice**—stable throughout the last quarter of 2022—may still dip slightly in February if last year's monsoon crop increases supply for retailers the region;
- Prices for **vegetables** will likely fall a bit further in the months ahead as more winter supply comes to market;
- January's price hikes in **Loikaw** township are unlikely to be fully reversed in February, since the township had not seen many price increases in recent months.

<sup>1</sup> 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 January 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,200	1,700	3,000	2,200
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,175	800	1,000	1,600
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,500	5,000	5,000	5,800
Pulse (1 viss)	4,600	5,500	4,500	3,800
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	7,000	3,800	6,500
Onion (1 viss)	2,800	4,500	1,200	3,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,500	2,000	2,000	1,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,500	2,500	4,500	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	2,500	2,500	900	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	3,500	2,000	7,500	5,000
Bananas	1,500	3,000	900	1,600
Toothpaste (140g)	1,400	700	1,200	1,600
Detergent (400g)	1,500	1,500	1,100	1,500
Soap (60g)	1,000	800	850	1,200
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,400	1,500	1,000	950
Shrimp (1 viss)	10,000	12,500	6,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	8,500	6,000	7,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	16,000	12,500	12,000	12,000
Chicken (1 viss)	18,000	15,000	16,000	15,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	13,000	10,000	9,000	8,000
Pork (1 viss)	4,000	15,000	6,000	4,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	15,000	15,250	14,000	12,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	650	1,000	-	800
Blanket	6,000	11,000	3,800	15,000
Mosquito Net	6,000	9,000	7,750	8,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	25,000	10,000	12,500	-
Men's Longyi	-	17,500	17,000	20,000
Women's Longyi	8,250	7,000	6,500	7,000
Umbrella	9,000	7,500	7,250	7,500
Towel	-	5,000	6,750	7,000
Vacuum Flask	5,500	3,000	3,150	3,500
Jerry Can	25,500	-	9,800	17,000

\*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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