

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR (JAN. 2022)

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

- Prices rose for more than half of all products monitored in Taungoo in January, although the increases were relatively moderate in size;
- Prices for essential foods like rice and oil rose by 7-14% in Taungoo, while prices for fresh and dried fish—usually supplied by other townships—rose by a more dramatic 25-41%;
- NFI prices were fairly stable in both Taungoo and Hpapun;
- Prices were stable or occasionally falling slightly in Hpapun in January;
- Hpruso's Myo Ma market remained non-functional in January after escalating conflict in December.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose slightly in Taungoo in January, but they remained stable in Hpapun. Rice and palm oil prices rose by 7-14% in Taungoo, while they were stable or falling in Hpapun. Pulses rose by 3-7% in both townships.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices rose moderately in Taungoo, but they were stable or falling in Hpapun. Prices for four out of six vegetables monitored rose by 8-20% in Taungoo, while prices for two others (garlic and eggplant) declined. In Hpapun, onion, eggplant and green chili saw falling prices, while garlic and water cress held steady (long bean prices rose considerably).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products rose in Taungoo and remained stable in Hpapun. Prices for sanitary pads, soap and toothpaste rose by 11% or more in Taungoo amid reports from retailers that suppliers raised prices. By contrast, detergent prices fell in both Taungoo and Hpapun. Prices for other hygiene products in Hpapun were stable.

Meat and Fish – Fish prices rose in Taungoo in January, while prices for other meats were mostly stable. Fresh and dried fish prices rose by 25-41% in Taungoo, driven by higher transportation costs (fish is seldom supplied locally). Chicken prices fell by 6-9% in both townships and shrimp prices held stable.

Other NFIs – Prices for NFIs were fairly stable in both Hpapun and Taungoo. Prices for half of all NFI monitored in Taungoo were stable in January, and the remainder rose 8-33% (particularly charcoal and mosquito nets). In Hpapun, prices for cookpots rose but other prices were either stable or falling by 10% or less.

Township-Level Price Changes

Prices were generally rising in Taungoo in January, while prices in Hpapun were stable or occasionally falling. Prices rose at least 7% for more than half of all products monitored in Taungoo, and prices declined for only two products. By contrast, prices fell at least 8% for one-third of all products monitored in Hpapun, while most other prices remained stable (six products saw higher prices in January). Prices for goods in Kawkareik's main

market—monitored for the first time this month—were generally higher than in Taungoo or Hpapun, partly because this market supplies slightly different goods imported from the nearby Thai border.

Prices for January 2022 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,150	1,250	1,600
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	550	750	800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	2,775	3,800	2,400
Pulse (1 viss)	3,200	3,500	3,300
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	4,000	1,200
Onion (1 viss)	450	1,000	600
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,000	1,500	1,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,000	2,500	1,300
Watercress (1 viss)	2,000	1,500	1,200
Green Chili (1 viss)	1,800	15,000	5,000
Toothpaste (140g)	-	1,750	1,800
Detergent (400g)	1,000	1,000	1,500
Soap (60g)	1,525	1,000	900
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	500	700	1,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	15,000	8,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	4,500	4,000	10,000
Chicken (1 viss)	10,000	9,000	12,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	13,000	12,000	16,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	7,500	7,500	5,000
Blanket	3,500	5,000	3,000
Mosquito Net	8,000	10,000	12,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	440	1,000	600
Men's Longyi	6,000	9,500	5,000
Women's Longyi	5,500	8,000	6,000
Umbrella	13,000	9,500	12,000
Towel	19,000	16,000	13,000
Vacuum Flask	5,750	5,500	5,000
Jerry Can	6,000	5,000	4,500

*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).

CONTACT

Jonathan Bartolozzi
Director of Programs
jbartolozzi@mercycorps.org

Jon Keesecker
Market Analysis Unit Team Leader
jkeesecker@mercycorps.org

No. 659, Mya Kan Thar 1 Street, Kamaryut Township,
Yangon, Myanmar.
mercycorps.org

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