

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 rising moderately in January**, and rice prices were up 5%;
- **Vegetable prices were stable across markets** perhaps due to the arrival of winter supply, although eggplant prices rose sharply;
- **Meat/fish prices were stable or rising in January** with shrimp, fresh fish, and dried fish seeing price increases of 2-10%;
- **Stable NFI prices stayed 20-80% above last year** with blankets, mosquito nets, and hygiene items up the most;
- **Markets remained closed in Kawkareik and Hsihseng**, likely making it more difficult to supply some goods to area villages;
- **Rice prices should be watched closely** as transportation disruptions due to ongoing conflict may further increase prices.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices continued to rise steadily in January, and rice prices were up at least 5%. Rice prices were up 5-17% in January. Prices for pulses and cooking oil were fairly stable, although they rose 4-7% in some cases. January extended a three-month trend of steadily-rising essential food prices. Retailers in Demoso attributed rising prices to increased checkpoints pushing up transportation costs.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were stable across markets in January. Eggplant prices rose sharply in Hpapun and Taungoo as retailers reported some reduction in supply, but otherwise there were few product-level price trends. Vegetable prices were stable or rising in Hpapun and Taungoo, and they were fairly stable in Pekon.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or 2-10% higher in January. Prices for shrimp, fresh fish, and dried fish rose 2-10% in January, while chicken prices rose 7-20% in two markets. Fish paste prices spiked at the village market in Pekon due to supply limits, but prices for fish paste and pork were otherwise stable.

Hygiene Products – Price trends for hygiene products varied by market in January. Prices for hygiene products increased 3% or more in Hpapun, but they fell 11% or more in Taungoo. Prices for hygiene products were stable in Pekon.

Other NFIs – Prices for other NFIs were very stable in January. Notwithstanding several isolated price increases, NFI prices were quite stable. Prices for charcoal and cooking pots were up 6-12% in Hpapun, and prices for blankets fell in Taungoo, but otherwise there was little change in NFI prices in January.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

Price increases were common in Hpapun and Taungoo in January, but prices typically increased less than 9%. Prices increased widely in Hpapun in January, although the increases were small in magnitude. Half of all products monitored in Hpapun rose at least 2%, but only one-quarter rose 6% or more. Taungoo experienced fewer but steeper price hikes. One quarter of all products monitored in Taungoo increased 9% or more. Prices were very stable in Pekon in January with essential foods alone showing signs of rising prices.

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 50-80% above January 2023 levels. Prices remained far higher than last year for cheaper rice (+80%), better rice (+63%), and pulses (+56%). Cooking oil prices were 23% higher than in January 2023.

Vegetables – Stable vegetable prices lingered well above last year's level. Rising prices for eggplant (+81%) and in some case long bean (+55%) and green chili (+35%) stretched their lead by 10-20 percentage points. Prices remained far higher for watercress (+54%), onion (+30%), and particularly garlic (+180%).

Meat and Fish – Rising meat/fish prices increased at a pace similar to last year. Prices remained higher for chicken (+39%), pork (+29%), fresh fish (+87%), dried fish (+47%), and fish paste (+60%). Shrimp prices—which have fallen in recent months—were just 5% off last year's levels.

Hygiene Products – Stable prices for hygiene products kept some items 40-60% above last year. Prices remained much higher for toothpaste (+43%) and detergent (+54%), while prices for soap (+11%) and sanitary

pads (+10%) remained closer to January 2023 levels.

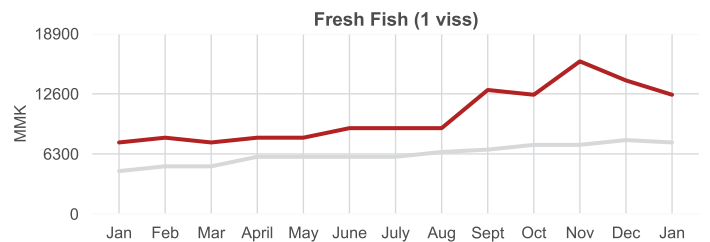
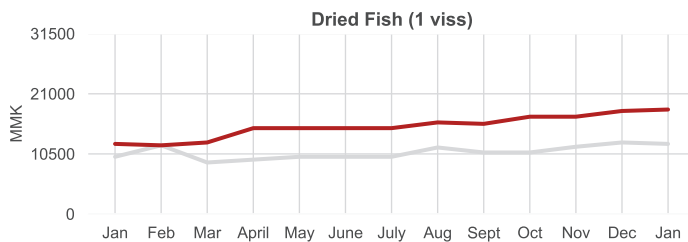
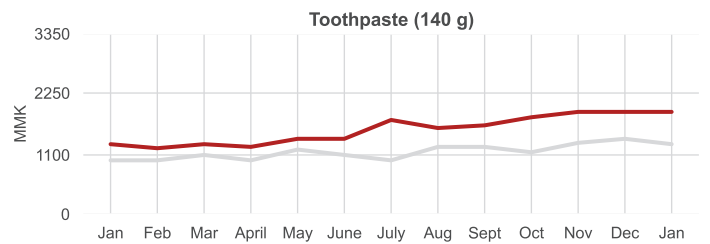
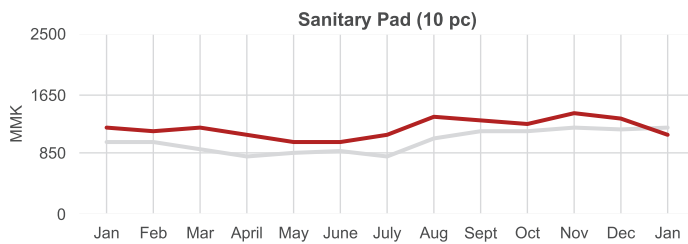
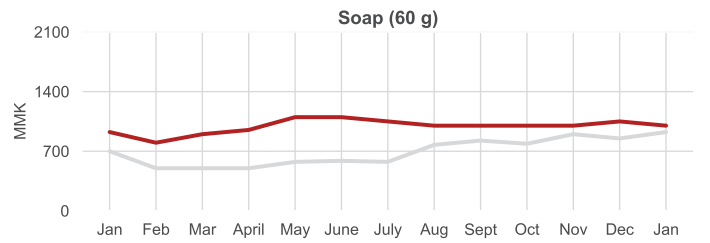
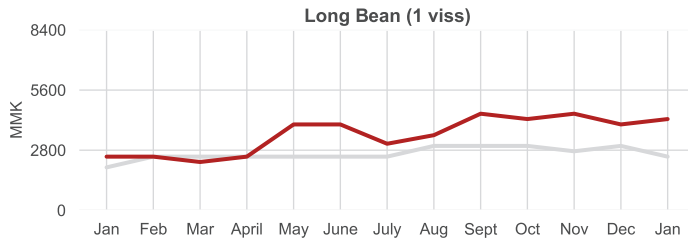
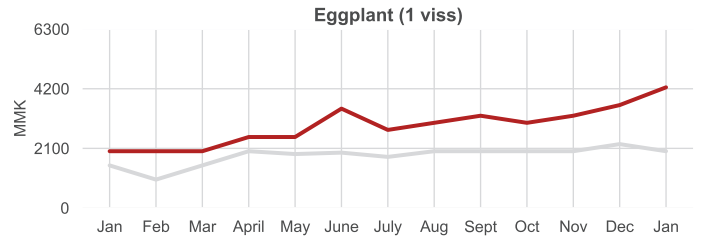
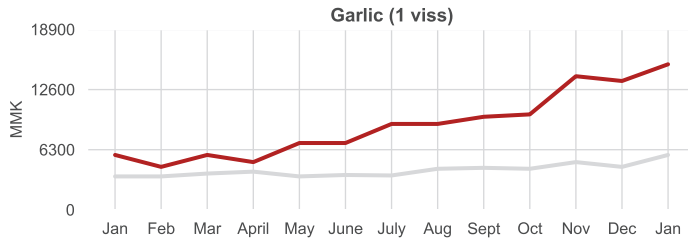
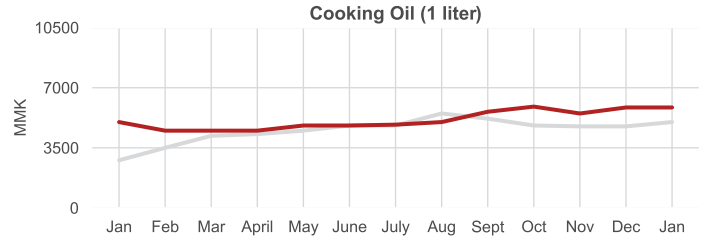
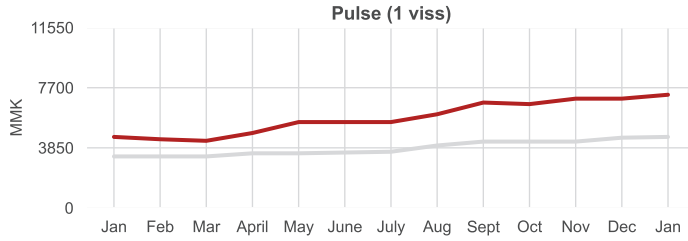
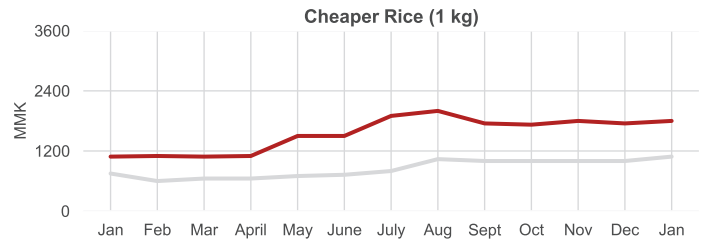
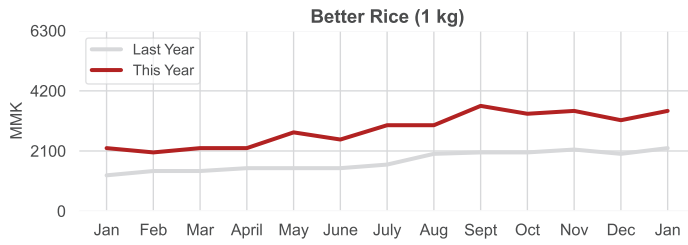
Other NFIs – Stable NFI prices remained 20-80% higher than last year. Prices remained higher for plastic tarps (+26%) and jerry cans (+23%), and prices were much higher for blankets (+66%) and mosquito nets (+75%) which saw prices climb in recent months. Prices for cooking pot were similar to last year (+3%), while prices for towels (-10%) remained slightly lower.

What to Watch

- Ongoing disruptions to markets in and around **Kawkareik** and **Hsiseng** may be limiting the availability of NFIs in area villages;
- Although some increase in **rice** prices is expected, prices should be watched closely as ongoing conflict continues to push up transportation costs;
- Prices for **vegetables** remained stable again, but a dip in prices due to increased winter supply has yet to materialize.

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 January 2023 (MMK)

Product	Demoso (Village market)	Hpapun (Kamarmaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Pekon (Main market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	5,500	3,500	-	-	-	3,500	3,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	5,500	1,800	-	-	-	1,800	1,800
Cooking Oil (1 liter)	7,000	5,000	-	-	-	6,500	5,200
Pulse (1 viss)	7,000	6,000	-	-	-	7,500	8,000
Salt (500 g)	1,000	500	-	-	-	500	400
Garlic (1 viss)	20,000	15,500	-	-	-	15,000	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	4,000	5,000	-	-	-	2,500	3,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	5,000	4,500	-	-	-	4,000	2,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	3,500	2,500
Watercress (1 viss)	3,300	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	8,000	6,500	-	-	-	4,000	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	4,000	3,000	-	-	-	1,500	2,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	-	15,500	-	-	-	8,500	11,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	-	11,000	-	-	-	16,000	12,500
Dried Fish (1 viss)	30,000	18,500	-	-	-	18,000	15,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	10,000	6,000	-	-	-	18,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	16,000	14,500	-	-	-	13,000	12,000
Pork (1 viss)	18,000	-	-	-	-	18,000	15,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	25,000	20,000	-	-	-	32,000	18,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	2,000	1,800	-	-	-	1,800	2,000
Detergent (400 g)	4,000	2,100	-	-	-	1,200	2,500
Soap (60 g)	1,500	900	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,000	1,500	-	-	-	1,000	1,200
Charcoal (1 viss)	-	900	-	-	-	1,000	1,200
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	19,500	9,000	-	-	-	5,000	19,000
Blanket	25,000	7,750	-	-	-	15,000	10,000
Mosquito Net	15,000	23,500	-	-	-	15,000	22,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	25,000	22,000
Men's Longyi	13,000	9,500	-	-	-	13,000	7,000
Women's Longyi	8,000	10,000	-	-	-	9,500	8,000
Umbrella	11,500	8,000	-	-	-	9,500	7,000
Towel	4,000	5,750	-	-	-	2,000	1,800
Vacuum Flask	15,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	16,000
Jerry Can	10,000	8,000	-	-	-	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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