

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), Hsiseng (main), 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 rose more significantly in July than in June**, although vegetable prices were lower in some markets;
- **Rice prices were up 7% or more across markets**, with sharp increases in Loikaw and Taungoo erasing any price relief those markets enjoyed in June;
- **Meat and fish prices rose across markets in July**, while vegetable prices dipped slightly in markets like Hpapun and Hsiseng;
- **NFI prices continued their steady march upward**, although they rose slower than at this time last year;
- **Three months of rising rice prices will likely strain household budgets**, particularly in Hpapun and Taungoo where prices hikes have been sharpest;
- **Food prices appear to be rising faster than NFIs**, yet the steady upward march of NFI prices also remains a significant cause for concern.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Rice prices rose in July, particularly in Taungoo and Loikaw where they had fallen the month prior. Rice prices climbed at least 7% across markets, and they rose at least 20% in Loikaw and Taungoo (erasing June's price reductions there). Prices for palm oil and pulses were more volatile than last month, but there was no clear trend.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices fell in Hpapun and Hsiseng in July, but they rose in Taungoo. Vegetable prices were down 12% or more in Hpapun and Hsiseng, but they rose sharply in Taungoo and were stable in Loikaw. Garlic prices were higher across markets in July, but other vegetable prices showed no clear trend across locations.

Hygiene Products – Toothpaste and detergent prices rose in July, but prices for other hygiene products held steady. Prices for toothpaste and detergent rose 11% or more in most markets in July, while price for soap and santiary pads were fairly stable.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices rose in July, even more than last month. Prices for chicken and fresh fish rose 6% or more in most markets, and other meat/fish products saw prices rise in at least two markets. Only Hpapun saw some prices fall, with chicken and fish paste 10-14% lower.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable or rising in July. NFI prices varied more by market than by product in July (although falling prices were rare). Most NFI prices rose 6% or more in Hpapun and Taungoo, while NFI prices in Loikaw were stable. Hsiseng saw a mix of rising and falling prices, though typically not more than 10%. Charcoal and cooking pots saw the steepest price increases among NFIs in July, with prices up 17% or more in Hpapun and Taungoo.

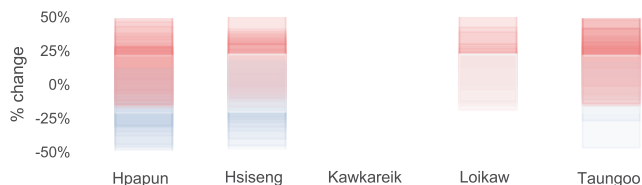
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

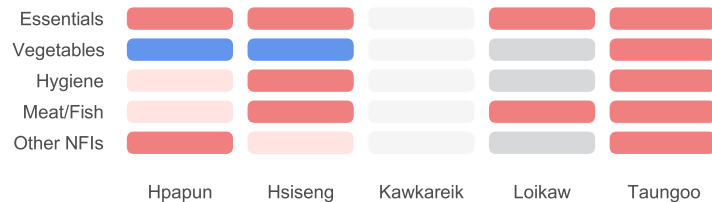
Hpapun and Hsiseng saw last month's price stability give way to rising prices in July, while Taungoo saw a second straight month of heavy price increases. Taungoo and Hpapun saw broader price increases than other markets in July, with half of all products monitored up at least 7% and 4%, respectively. Price increases were steepest in Taungoo, with one-quarter of all products monitored up 26% or more. In other markets, one-quarter of all products monitored increased at least 8-12% in July.

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 – Rising prices for essential foods more or less tracked with this time last year. Prices remained much higher than last year for better rice (+67%), cheaper rice (+94%), and pulses (+46%). Prices for palm oil (+1%) remained on par with July 2022.

Vegetables – Fluctuating vegetable prices lingered well above 2022 levels. Rising garlic prices (+110%) sped well beyond July 2022 levels. Prices also remained higher for onion (+15%), eggplant (+40%), and watercress (+50%), green chili (+30%), and long bean (+11%).

Hygiene Products – Rising toothpaste and detergent prices lurched further ahead of July 2022 levels. Prices for toothpaste (+50%) and detergent (+70%) departed further from 2022 levels, while soap (+82%) and sanitary pads (+32%) maintained their lead.

Meat and Fish – Rising meat/fish prices tracked with July 2022, keeping prices 20–60% above last year. Prices remained much higher than last year for chicken (+59%), pork (+20%), fresh fish (+38%), and dried fish (+42%), while shrimp prices remained just 15% higher than July 2022.

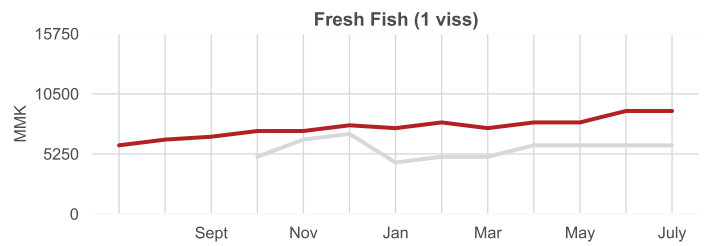
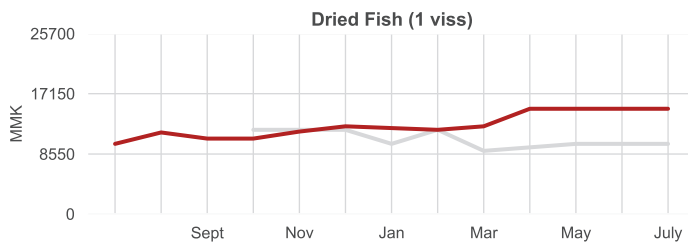
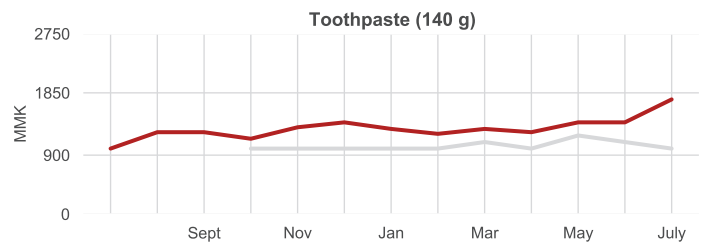
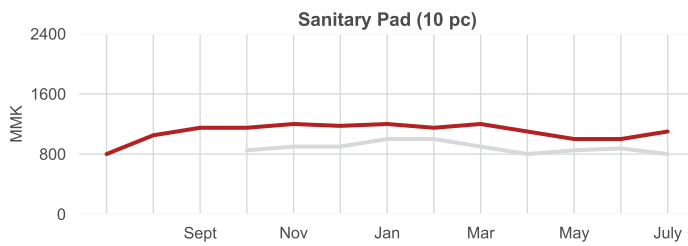
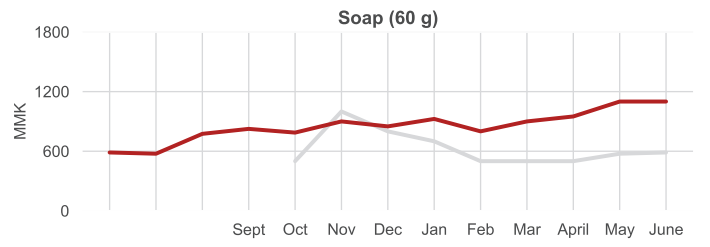
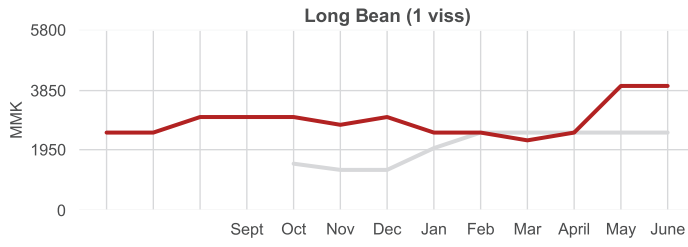
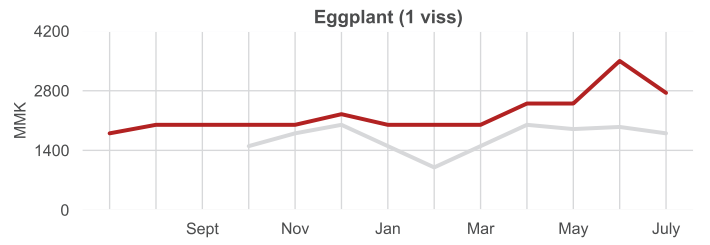
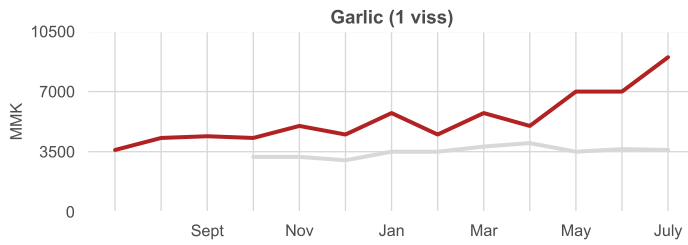
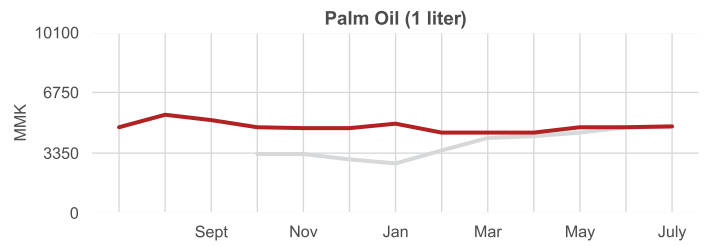
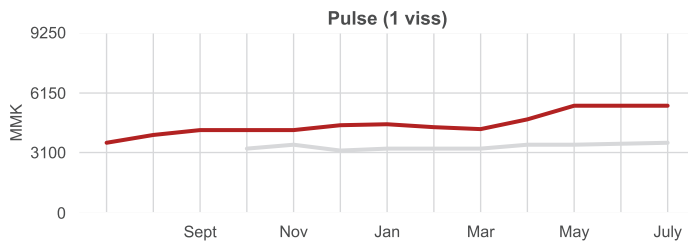
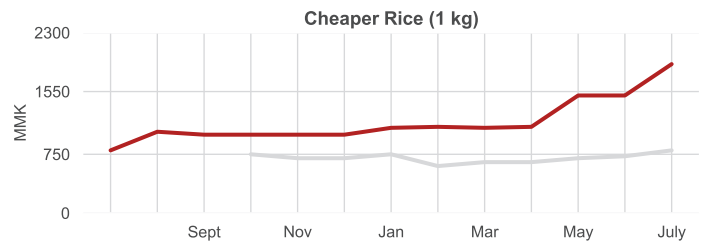
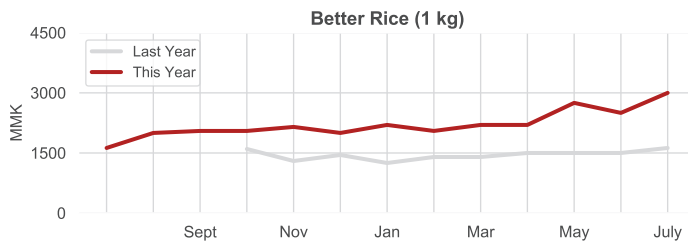
Other NFIs – Even as some NFI prices climbed higher in July most rose slower than at this time last year. Most NFIs monitored drifted 4–9 percentage points closer to last year in July, including cooking pots (+55%), blankets (+40%), longyis (+27–34%), and umbrellas (+16%). A few NFIs drifted further above 2022 levels, including charcoal (+43%), mosquito nets (+24%), and jerry cans (+33%).

What to Watch

- Three months of rising **rice** prices are likely straining household budgets, particularly in **Hpapun** and **Taungoo** where increases have been steepest;
- Lower vegetable prices is promising for households, but higher rice and **meat/fish** provide reason to worry about household nutrition;
- Although **NFI** prices have risen slower than food prices lately—and slower than at this time last year—compounding increases are still cause for concern.

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 July 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	3,000	5,500	-	3,000	2,800
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,600	3,500	-	1,500	2,200
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,500	7,000	-	4,500	5,200
Pulse (1 viss)	5,000	6,500	-	4,000	6,000
Garlic (1 viss)	10,000	8,000	-	3,500	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	2,800	3,000	-	1,000	2,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	-	2,000	1,800
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,000	3,200	-	4,500	2,200
Watercress (1 viss)	2,750	1,500	-	1,000	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	5,000	12,000	-	7,000	6,000
Bananas	2,000	1,500	-	800	1,800
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,700	2,000	-	1,200	1,800
Detergent (400 g)	1,500	1,500	-	1,000	2,000
Soap (60 g)	1,000	1,100	-	800	1,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,300	1,000	-	1,000	1,200
Shrimp (1 viss)	-	12,000	-	8,000	16,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	9,000	15,000	-	7,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	16,000	16,000	-	12,000	14,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	16,000	-	9,000	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	4,750	7,000	-	6,000	5,000
Pork (1 viss)	-	18,000	-	14,000	16,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	10,000	-	-	1,200
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	8,000	11,000	-	3,500	19,000
Blanket	6,500	12,000	-	7,500	19,000
Mosquito Net	26,000	25,000	-	12,000	22,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	28,000	20,000	-	16,000	22,000
Men's Longyi	9,000	11,000	-	6,250	8,000
Women's Longyi	9,750	-	-	6,750	8,500
Umbrella	7,000	8,000	-	6,250	7,500
Towel	6,000	3,000	-	3,000	1,800
Vacuum Flask	27,000	25,500	-	9,500	16,000
Jerry Can	8,000	8,000	-	-	7,500

*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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