

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.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Prices were stable or rising in March**, although most prices changed by less than 10%;
- **Rice and palm oil prices were fairly stable in March**, while prices for pulses fell slightly;
- **Vegetable prices were fairly stable in March**—more so than at this time last year, when prices fell—increasing their lead over March 2022 levels;
- **Prices for hygiene products rose by 7% in some markets**, in contrast to generally-lower prices in February;
- **NFI prices were stable in March**, leaving most products at least 20% higher than last year;
- **Prices were stable in Loikaw and Kawkareik in March**, while Hpapun and Taungoo saw a mix of higher, lower and stable prices.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were fairly stable in March. Prices for some essential foods shifted up or down in March, but the change was usually less than 5%. Palm oil prices increased sharply in Taungoo in March, reversing February's lower prices.

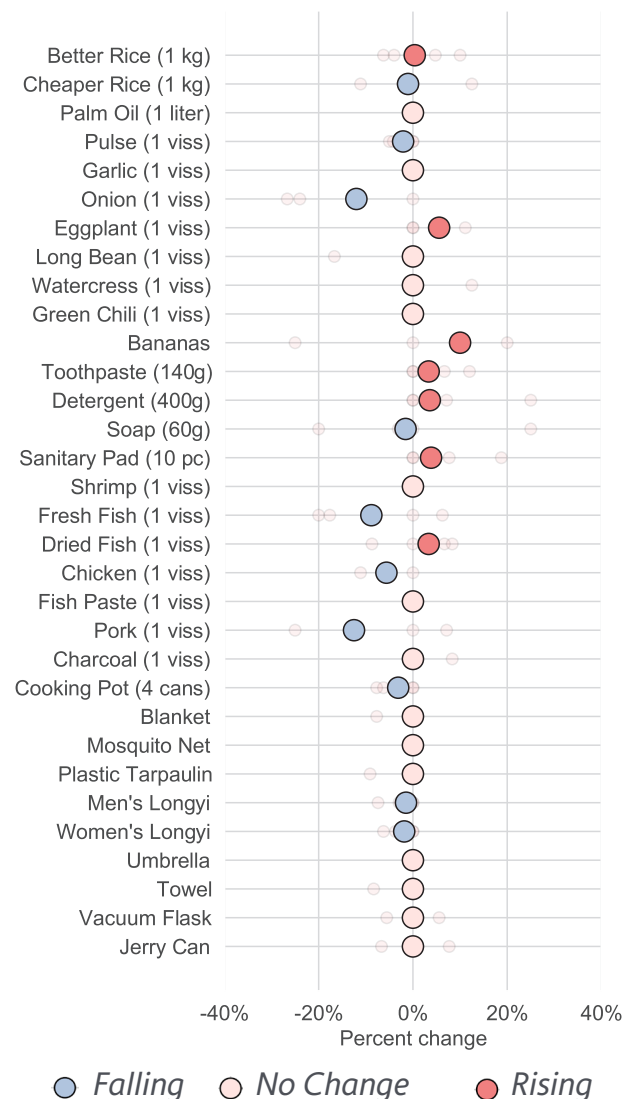
Vegetables – Vegetable prices fluctuated in March, with most prices varying more by township than by product. Vegetable prices were stable in Loikaw and Kawkareik in March, but prices increased in Taungoo and they were mixed in Hpapun. Taungoo saw the most dramatic vegetable price shifts, with eggplant and garlic prices up sharply.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products rose in Hpapun and Taungoo in March while holding stable elsewhere. Prices for toothpaste, detergent and sanitary pads rose by 7% or more in Hpapun and Taungoo, but all three were stable in Kawkareik and Loikaw. Price hikes for hygiene products were largest in Taungoo.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or falling in March. Prices for shrimp and fish paste were stable in March, while chicken prices fell by 5-11% in three of four markets monitored. The picture was more mixed for fresh fish, dried fish and pork, with prices rising or falling by 6% or more for each of these products.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable or falling slightly in March. NFI prices were virtually unchanged in Kawkareik in March, and elsewhere they shifted by less than 10%. None of the NFIs monitored saw price cuts across all markets, but items like cooking pots and longyis saw price cuts in two of four markets. Price increases for NFIs were very rare in March.

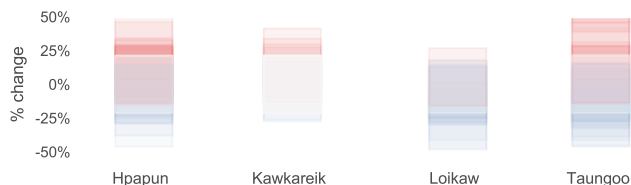
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

Prices were fairly stable in Loikaw and Kawkareik in March, while Hpapun and Taungoo saw a mix of higher, lower and stable prices. Prices were generally stable in Loikaw and Kawkareik—where prices had already fallen in February—although Loikaw saw prices for some products decline for a second straight month. Hpapun and Taungoo saw a mix of rising, falling and stable prices, with one-quarter of all products monitored rising by 7-8% (which is still fairly modest compared to past months).

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 30-50% higher than last year. Compared to March 2022, prices remained considerably higher for better rice (+45%), palm oil (+32%) and pulses (+52%). Prices for cheaper rice—which fell in February, but far less than at this time last year—remained almost double 2022 levels.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices stretched their lead over 2022 levels as prices failed to dip significantly this winter. Most vegetable prices were at least 33% higher than in March 2022, with prices higher for egg-plant (+50%), green chili (+33%), and garlic (+86%). Only long bean prices (+7%), which have fallen of late, drifted closer to 2022 levels.

Hygiene Products – Higher prices for hygiene products in March pushed prices to 30-60% above last year. The median twelve-month increase grew for detergent (+47%) and soap (+60%) in March, while it remained unchanged for toothpaste (+27%) and sanitary pads (+37%).

Meat and Fish – Shrimp and fish prices expanded the gap over March 2022 levels, while chicken and pork tracked with last year. Prices remained considerably higher than last year for chicken (+39%) and pork

(+51%), and the gap grew for dried fish (+39%), fresh fish (+66%), and shrimp (+25%). Fish paste (+26%) drifted closer to last year as prices proved more stable than at this time last year.

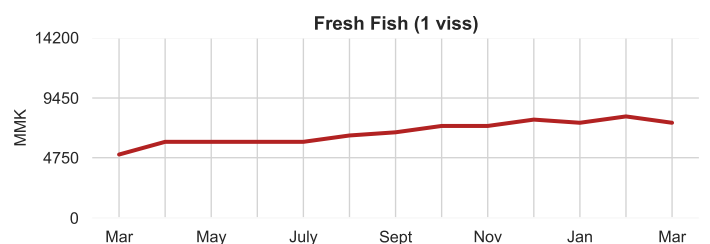
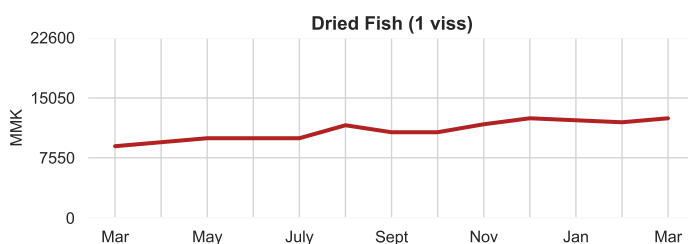
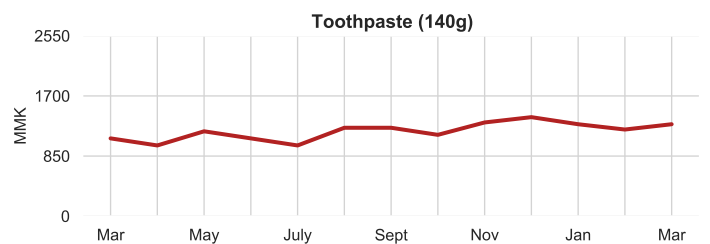
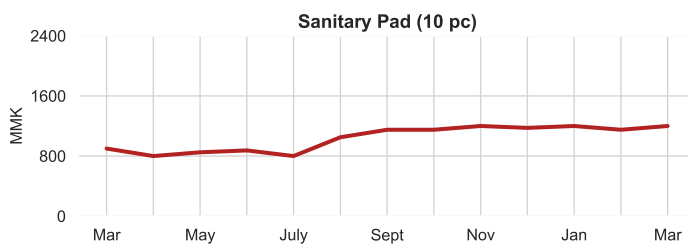
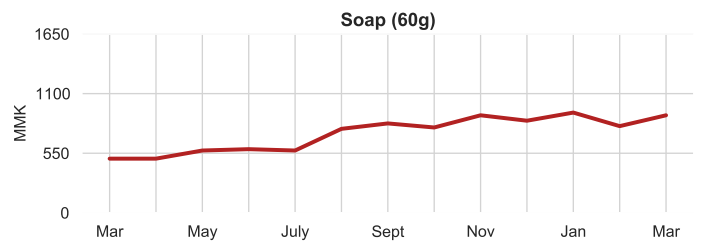
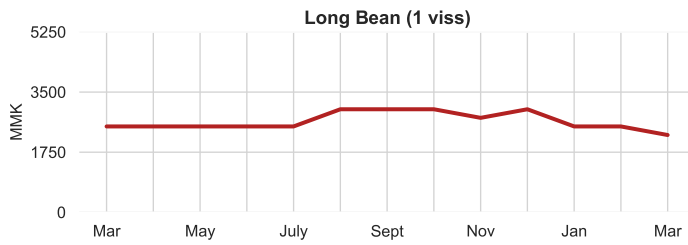
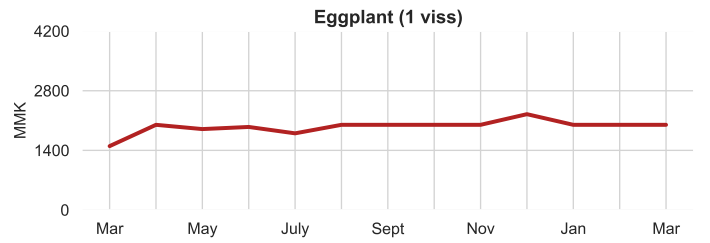
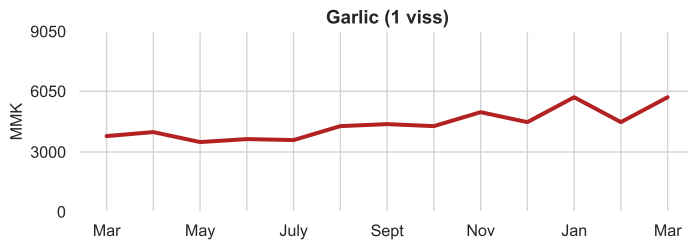
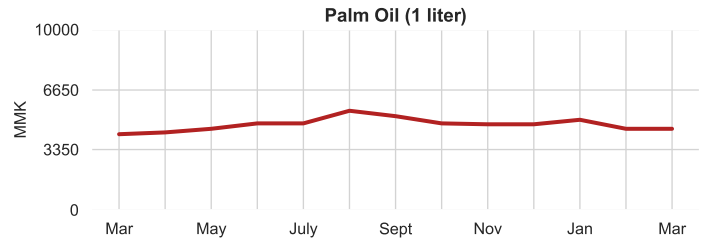
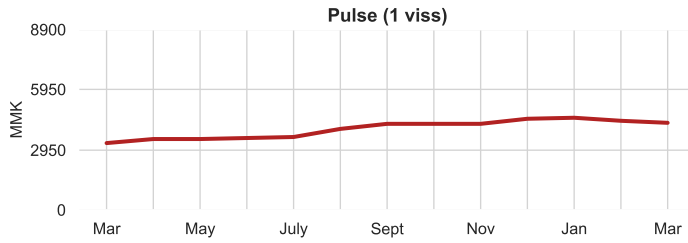
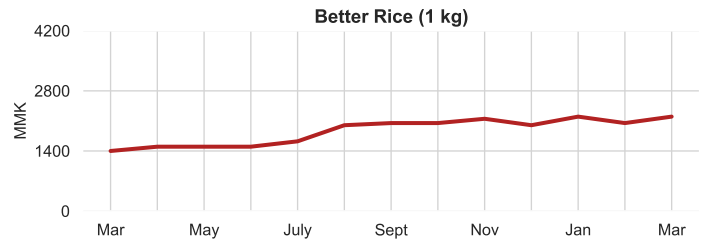
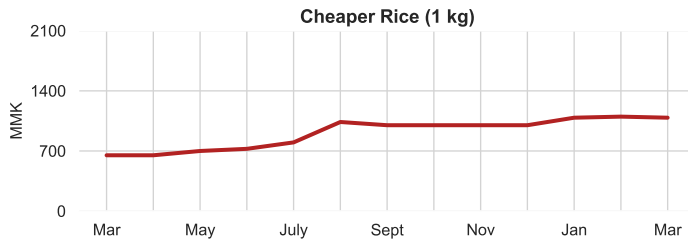
Other NFIs – Market stability brought NFI prices slightly closer to 2022 levels. NFI prices were at least 20% higher than March of 2022. Prices for mosquito nets (+46%), umbrellas (+39%) and towels (+22%) drifted closer to 2022 levels in March. Other NFIs like charcoal (+36%), cooking pots (+27%), longyis (+40-50%) and jerry cans (+26%) maintained their lead over last year.

What to Watch

- Little sign of further price cuts for **rice** could mean low-quality rice prices will remain higher than usual in the months ahead;
- Prices for **vegetables** may begin to rise until or unless upland monsoon cultivation begins to deliver new supply to local markets;
- Very stable prices in **Kawkareik** and **Loikaw** could presage large price shifts in coming months if retailers restock inventory at higher or lower wholesale prices.

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 March 2023 (MMK)

| Product | Kyauktaw | Maungdaw | Minbya | Mrauk U | Paletwa | Pauktaw | Ponnagyun | Rathedaung | Sittwe |
|----------------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Better Rice (1 kg) | 1,400 | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 1,700 | 2,000 | 1,700 |
| Cheaper Rice (1 kg) | 900 | 1,600 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 1,500 | 1,200 | 1,400 | 1,600 | 1,400 |
| Palm Oil (1 liter) | 6,500 | 5,000 | 5,500 | - | 6,000 | 7,500 | 5,200 | - | 5,000 |
| Pulse (1 viss) | 6,800 | 6,000 | 5,500 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 5,500 | 5,800 | 5,000 | 5,500 |
| Garlic (1 viss) | 7,300 | 6,500 | 5,750 | 6,500 | 7,500 | 4,500 | 6,000 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| Onion (1 viss) | 4,000 | 2,000 | 2,300 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 3,800 | 2,000 | 3,500 | 2,500 |
| Eggplant (1 viss) | 2,500 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 700 | 800 | 2,000 | 800 | 2,000 | 1,600 |
| Long Bean (1 viss) | 1,800 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,500 |
| Watercress (1 viss) | 1,300 | 1,000 | 1,500 | 1,200 | 2,000 | 2,500 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 1,500 |
| Green Chili (1 viss) | 7,300 | 6,000 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 6,000 | 3,500 | 5,000 | 4,000 |
| Banana (1 bunch) | 800 | 1,500 | - | 700 | 300 | 1,300 | 1,500 | 1,200 | 1,000 |
| Toothpaste (140 g) | 1,300 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,700 |
| Detergent (400 g) | 1,400 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| Soap (60 g) | 900 | 1,200 | 900 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 900 | 1,100 | 800 | 1,000 |
| Sanitary Pad (10 pc) | 800 | 1,300 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,300 |
| Shrimp (1 viss) | 8,000 | 10,500 | 7,000 | 6,125 | 11,000 | 8,500 | 7,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 |
| Fresh Fish (1 viss) | 10,000 | 21,000 | 18,000 | 12,500 | 20,000 | 13,000 | 30,000 | 15,500 | 15,000 |
| Dried Fish (1 viss) | 14,000 | 11,000 | 13,000 | 15,000 | 14,000 | 15,000 | 13,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Fish Paste (1 viss) | 2,600 | 7,000 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 4,500 | 2,000 | 4,000 | 6,500 | 8,000 |
| Chicken (1 viss) | 14,500 | 13,000 | 10,000 | 13,000 | - | 13,000 | 14,000 | 12,000 | 14,000 |
| Charcoal (1 viss) | 700 | 1,000 | 650 | 500 | 700 | 1,400 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Cooking Pot (4 cans) | 5,500 | 4,000 | 5,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 4,000 | 6,000 | 5,000 | 5,500 |
| Blanket | 4,000 | 7,500 | 8,250 | 12,000 | 8,000 | 5,500 | 12,500 | 6,500 | 10,000 |
| Mosquito Net | 6,500 | 5,000 | 6,250 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 7,000 | 4,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Plastic Tarpaulin | 5,800 | 6,800 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 4,800 | 7,200 | 7,000 | 7,800 |
| Men's Longyi | 6,500 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 |
| Women's Longyi | 5,800 | 6,500 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 | 8,500 |
| Umbrella | - | - | - | 6,800 | - | 7,000 | 7,000 | 5,500 | 8,000 |

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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