

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR (MAR. 2022)

MARKET PRICE REPORT

Market Analysis Unit (MAU)

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) and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data will soon be available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

- **Essential food prices increased in March**, particularly in Taungoo and Hpapun townships;
- **Palm oil prices rose in all three townships in March**, up as much as 40% in Hpapun;
- **Increasing vegetable prices pointed to the end of peak winter supply** and likely higher future prices;
- **Kawkareik saw fairly stable prices in March**, with only isolated cases of food price increases;
- **Increasing food prices could strain household budgets in the difficult monsoon months**, particularly if regional conflict continues to disrupt livelihoods and income.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose moderately in March, with palm oil seeing the largest increases. Palm oil prices rose at least 9% in each township, and most rice prices trended upward somewhat. Prices for pulses rose 14% in Hpapun but were stable elsewhere.

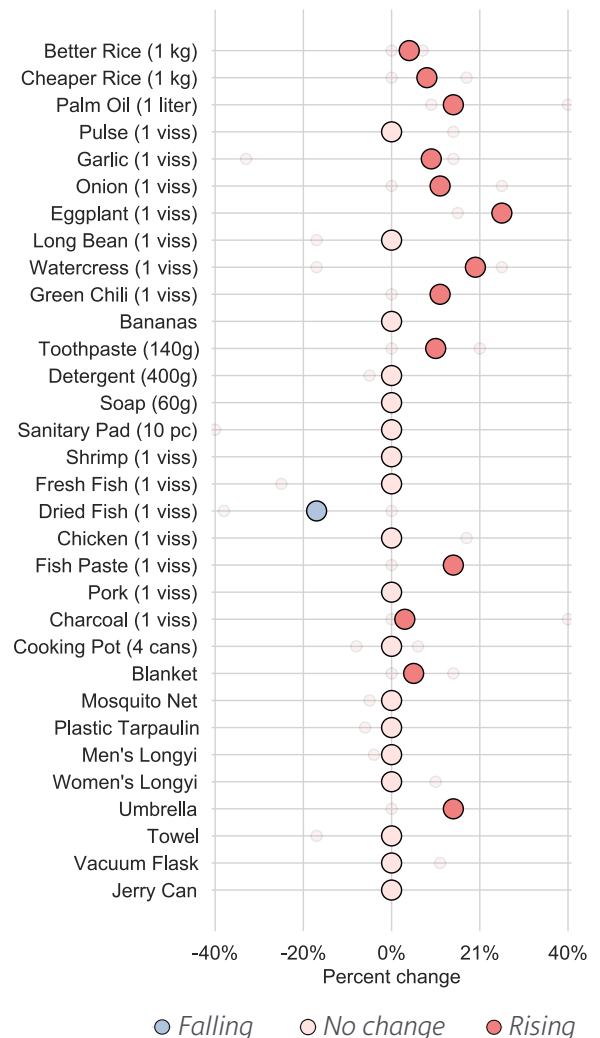
Vegetables – Vegetable prices were generally rising in March as winter supply tapered off. Eggplant prices were up 15-50% after two months of declining prices, and most other vegetables were up in two of three townships monitored. Decreases in vegetable prices were rare and usually reversed increases observed in February.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable or rising in March. Soap, detergent and sanitary pads were all fairly stable, although toothpaste prices rose 10% and 20% in Taungoo and Hpapun, respectively.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were again quite stable in March. Fish prices fell for a second straight month in Taungoo, but otherwise meat and fish prices were largely unchanged.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were very stable in March, although Taungoo saw prices drift slightly upward. Half of all NFIs monitored in Taungoo saw moderate price increases of 6-15%, while other products were stable. NFI price changes in Hpapun and Kawkareik were rare and/or moderate in size.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

Taungoo and Hpapun townships saw higher prices in March, while prices in Kawkareik were quite stable. Hpapun stood out in March for having the most dramatic food price increases, although this was also true to a lesser degree in Taungoo. Taungoo also saw moderate price increases for some NFIs in March (which were mostly stable in Hpapun). Despite nearby disruptions to transportation in March, Kawkareik prices were quite steady, possibly due to stability in Thai markets (which supply to Kawkareik) or high levels of existing inventory.

Chart 2. Direction of Price Change, by Category and Township

	Hpapun (Kamamaung) ¹	Kawkareik (Main Market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Essentials	Rising	Stable	Rising
Vegetables	Rising	Rising	Rising
Hygiene	Rising	Stable	Rising
Meat / Fish	Stable	Stable	Rising
Other NFIs	Stable	Stable	Rising

This color map offers a qualitative sense of the direction of price changes in each product category. Each township is labeled as stable (little change), falling (most prices fell), rising (most prices rose) or mixed (rising and falling), denoted as follows:

Falling	Rising
Stable	Mixed

What to Watch

- Rising prices for **essential foods** in Taungoo and Hpapun will place greater pressure on household budgets and may lead to further belt-tightening in the coming monsoon season;
- **Vegetables** prices (at least in Taungoo and Hpapun) will likely continue rising through monsoon season;
- Higher **Palm oil** prices are not likely to retreat soon, as cooking oil prices increase nationwide.

¹ Note that prices are tracked at Kamamaung Market in Hpapun Townships, as the main Hpapun market has limited functionality.

Prices for March 2022 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,500	1,400	1,400
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	650	600	700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,200	4,000	4,900
Pulse (1 viss)	3,200	3,300	3,500
Garlic (1 viss)	4,000	3,800	3,000
Onion (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,500	1,500	1,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,500	2,500	1,800
Watercress (1 viss)	2,500	1,000	950
Green Chili (1 viss)	2,000	1,500	7,800
Bananas	1,500	1,500	1,000
Toothpaste (140g)	1,200	500	1,100
Detergent (400g)	2,200	800	950
Soap (60g)	500	400	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,000	600	900
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,000	12,000	7,500
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	5,000	4,500	6,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	10,000	9,000	7,500
Chicken (1 viss)	15,000	12,000	12,800
Fish Paste (1 viss)	8,000	7,500	7,000
Pork (1 viss)	4,000	5,000	4,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	8,000	10,000	10,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	450	700	600
Blanket	5,500	7,500	8,500
Mosquito Net	5,750	6,000	5,800
Plastic Tarpaulin	13,000	9,500	9,500
Men's Longyi	20,000	15,000	12,000
Women's Longyi	5,750	5,500	5,000
Umbrella	6,000	5,000	5,500
Towel	3,500	4,000	5,500
Vacuum Flask	4,500	2,500	1,200
Jerry Can	16,000	12,000	10,000

*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

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).

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