

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

- **Rice prices rose 11-14% in March**, although other essential food prices were mostly stable;
- **Vegetable prices were unusually stable**, particularly in Taungoo and Hpapun (Kamamaung) where supply was good and prices remained flat;
- **Meat/fish prices were stable or rising 3-5% in March**, reversing the fairly modest price reductions observed in February;
- **Prices for hygiene products were stable in March**, except in Taungoo where prices retreated;
- **NFI prices fluctuated in Demoso and Pinlaung**, but NFI prices were otherwise mostly stable across markets in March;
- **Prices for monsoon-related NFIs are likely to rise** in the months ahead, including items like mosquito nets and plastic tarps.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Rice prices rose 11-14% in March, while other essential food prices were mostly stable. Rice prices were stable in Demoso and Taungoo, but they rose in other markets monitored. Prices for pulses and cooking oil were stable, except in Demoso where they fell 7-11%.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were unusually stable in March as supply was steady. Garlic prices fell 17-40% in some markets, while long bean and watercress prices rose 14-50% in some markets but otherwise held steady. Taungoo and Hpapun saw particularly stable vegetable prices in March.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or 3-5% higher in March. Prices for fresh fish, dried fish, and chicken drifted 3-5% higher in March. Pork, fish paste, and shrimp prices were mostly stable notwithstanding several instances of rising or falling prices.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were stable or falling in March. Prices for hygiene products fell 20-33% in Taungoo in March, while other markets saw price stability or the occasional rising price. Detergent prices fell 8% or more in three of five markets monitored in March.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were stable in March, although Demoso and Pinlaung saw more price fluctuation. Prices for plastic tarps rose 5% across markets as the monsoon season approached, and charcoal prices spiked in Pekon and Pinlaung. NFI prices otherwise did not shift much in March. At a township-level, NFI prices were falling in Pinlaung, but they were generally stable elsewhere. NFI prices were most stable in Taungoo and Hpapun, while Demoso saw a few rising and falling prices.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



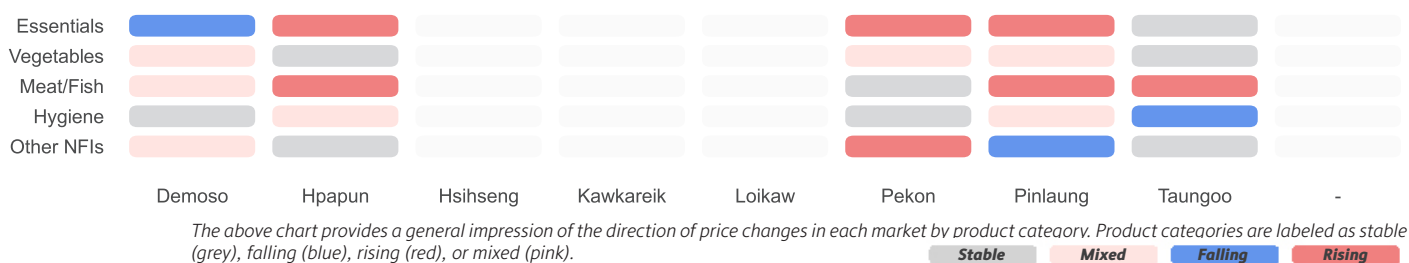
Township-Level Price Changes

Prices were generally quite stable across townships in March, although Pinlaung and Demoso saw slightly more falling prices than other markets. One-quarter of all prices monitored in Pinlaung fell 6% or more in March, while one-quarter of prices monitored in Demoso fell 11% or more. However, one-quarter of all prices monitored in Pinlaung also rose 11% or more. One-quarter of prices monitored in Hpapun rose a modest 3% or more. Pekon and Taungoo saw the most price stability with three-quarters of all prices monitored remaining virtually the same in March as they were in February.

Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township (One Month)



Chart 3. Direction of Price Change, by Township and Product Category (One Month)



Twelve-Month Price Changes²

Essential Foods – Essential food prices remained 40-70% above March 2023 levels. Prices remained far higher than last year for cheaper rice (+66%), better rice (+59%), and pulses (+70%). Rising prices for cooking oil (+44%) in recent months moved further above 2023 levels in March.

Vegetables – Stable vegetable prices remained 20-80% above last year. Prices for eggplant (+75%) and long bean (+40%) maintained a large lead over last year, while prices for onion (+6%) and green chili (+18%) were much closer. Prices for garlic (+160%) were more than double 2023 levels.

Meat and Fish – Stable meat/fish remained 20-70% above March 2023 levels. Prices remained high for chicken (+47%), pork (+24%), fresh fish (+67%), dried fish (+49%), and fish paste (+67%). Shrimp prices were just 9% higher than March of last year.

Hygiene Products – Stable prices for hygiene products were high but drifted closer to March 2023 levels. Prices remained much higher for toothpaste (+46%) and

detergent (+40%), while prices for soap (+11%) were closer to March 2023. Prices for sanitary pads (+0%) were on par with last year.

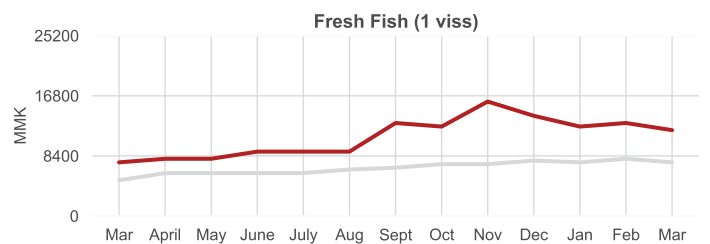
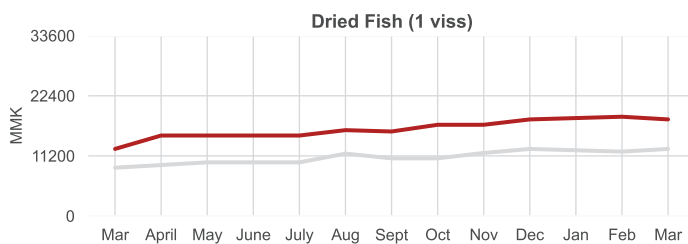
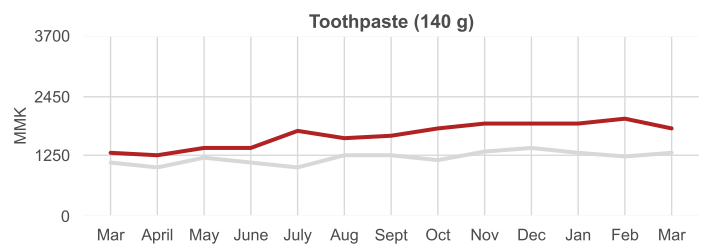
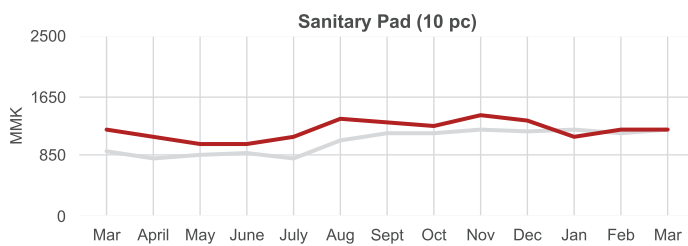
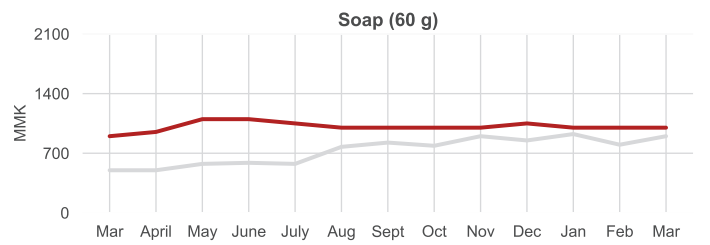
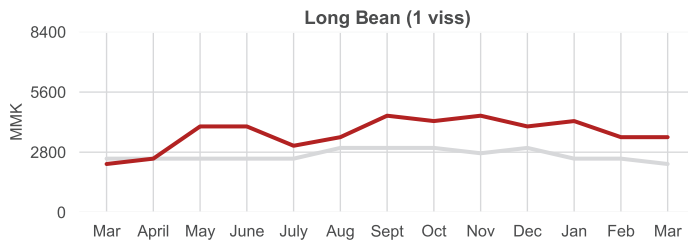
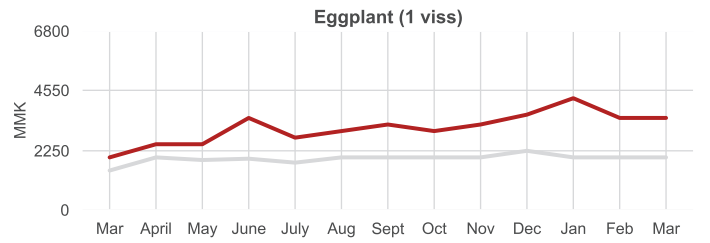
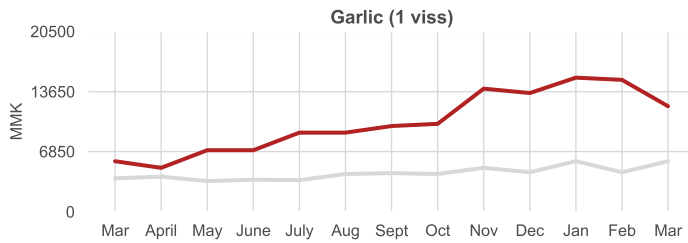
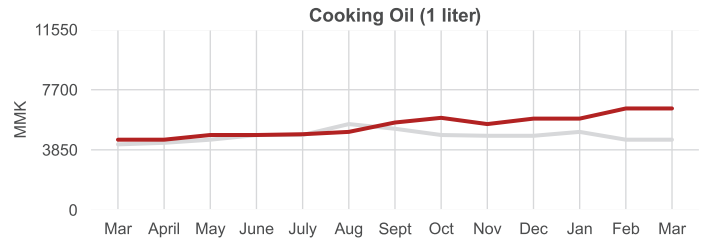
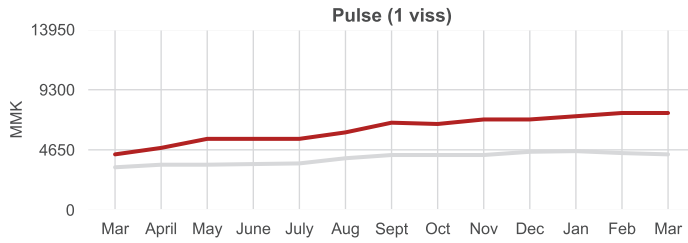
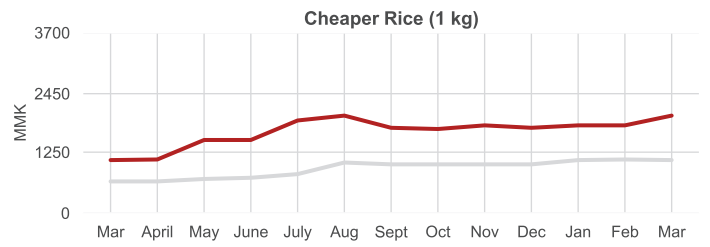
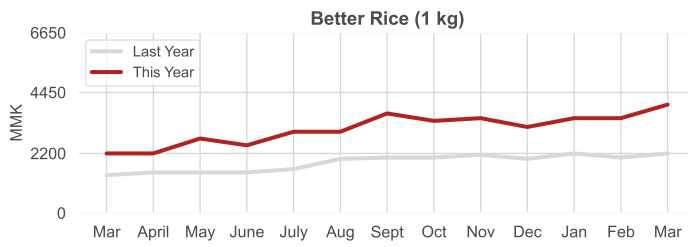
Other NFIs – NFI prices remained 10-80% higher than last year. Prices remained much higher for blankets (+77%), mosquito nets (+52%), plastic tarps (+47%), and longyi (+27-36%). Prices were also higher but less so for cooking pots (+27%), charcoal (+25%), and jerry cans (+14%).

What to Watch

- Prices for **rice** should be watched closely as March's increases may signal an early start to higher monsoon-season prices;
- Prices for **NFIs** like **mosquito nets** and **plastic tarps** are likely to climb higher in coming months as monsoon season sets in;
- Conflict-related events affecting key trade routes in Karen/Kayin state could disrupt otherwise stable prices in markets reliant on these goods.

² 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 2024 (MMK)

Product	Demoso (village)	Hpapun (Kamarmaung)	Hsiseng (town)	Kawkareik (town)	Loikaw (town)	Pekon (village)	Pinlaung (town)	Taungoo (town)
Better Rice (1 kg)	-	4,000	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	3,200
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	2,250	2,000	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Cooking Oil (1 liter)	6,500	5,500	-	-	-	6,500	6,500	5,500
Pulse (1 viss)	8,000	6,000	-	-	-	7,500	7,500	8,000
Salt (500 g)	500	500	-	-	-	500	500	300
Garlic (1 viss)	10,000	15,500	-	-	-	12,000	15,000	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	3,000	5,000	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	3,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	1,500	4,500	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	2,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,000	5,000	-	-	-	4,000	3,500	3,000
Watercress (1 viss)	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	2,500
Green Chili (1 viss)	6,000	5,000	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,800
Shrimp (1 viss)	12,000	17,000	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	12,000	11,500	-	-	-	16,000	16,000	10,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	23,000	19,000	-	-	-	18,000	13,000	14,500
Fish Paste (1 viss)	9,000	6,000	-	-	-	15,000	12,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	15,000	-	-	-	14,000	14,000	11,000
Pork (1 viss)	20,000	-	-	-	-	18,000	18,000	16,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	35,000	20,000	-	-	-	32,000	35,000	18,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	2,500	1,800	-	-	-	1,700	1,800	2,000
Detergent (400 g)	1,500	2,200	-	-	-	1,500	1,200	2,000
Soap (60 g)	1,500	800	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,500	1,500	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,200
Charcoal (1 viss)	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	10,500	15,000	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	18,000
Blanket	13,500	7,750	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	10,000
Mosquito Net	19,000	23,500	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	26,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	28,000	25,000	-	-	-	32,500	35,000	23,000
Men's Longyi	8,000	9,500	-	-	-	13,000	13,000	7,000
Women's Longyi	12,000	10,000	-	-	-	9,500	9,500	8,000
Umbrella	-	8,000	-	-	-	8,500	8,500	7,000
Towel	3,000	5,750	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Vacuum Flask	25,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	19,000
Jerry Can	1,500	8,000	-	-	-	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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