

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR (MAY 2022)

MARKET PRICE REPORT

Mercy Corps - Market Analysis Unit

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. Data are collected in Hpapun (Kamarmaung market), Kawkareik (main), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar) and Taungoo (Nat Htet) townships. MAU products are available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

- Prices for essential foods, meat and fish were fairly similar across markets monitored in May;
- Vegetable prices varied by market, yet no township stood out for consistently higher or lower prices;
- Prices for hygiene products and some NFIs varied by market—likely due in part to differences in product specifications—although more than half of all NFIs were similarly priced in most markets;
- Kawkareik Township saw overall slightly lower prices than elsewhere, but not dramatically so.

Product-Level Summary

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were similar across markets in May. Pulses sold for 3,200–3,500 MMK/viss in May, and palm oil sold for 4,500–4,600 MMK/liter. Prices for high- and low-quality rice were 1,500–1,600 MMK/viss and 650–700 MMK/viss, respectively (except in Loikaw, where low-quality rice was not available).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices varied across markets in May, especially long bean and green chili. Long bean prices ranged from 1,500–4,500 MMK/viss, and green chili varied widely from 1,500–7,000 MMK/viss (likely due to the availability of different varieties). Garlic and onion varied less at 3,500–4,100 MMK/viss and 900–1,500 MMK/viss, respectively.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products varied somewhat across markets in May. Sanitary pads sold for 850–1,000 MMK/10pc in May, while soap sold for 400–800 MMK/60g. Toothpaste sold for just 500 MMK/140g in Kawkareik and 1,200 MMK/140g in Loikaw and Taungoo. The price variation for hygiene products is likely due in part to the unavailability of standard products across markets. Detergent prices were similar across markets at 900 MMK/400g.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were fairly similar across markets in May, although shrimp was not. Chicken sold for 6,500–7,500 MMK/viss, while

pork sold for 12,000–14,000 MMK/viss. Fresh fish sold for 5,000–6,000 MMK/viss while dried fish 9,500–10,250 MMK/viss. Shrimp sold for 11,000–12,500 MMK/viss in Kawkareik and Taungoo while selling for just 6,000 MMK/viss in Loikaw.

Other NFIs – Prices for some NFIs were similar across markets in May, while other NFIs varied somewhat. The more consistent NFIs included cookpots (8,000–9,000 MMK/viss), longyis for men and women (5,250–6,00 MMK/unit), umbrellas (4,500–5,000 MMK/unit) and jerry cans (6,500–7,500 MMK/unit). NFIs which showed wider variation included charcoal, blankets, mosquito nets and plastic tarps.

Township-Level Summary

Kawkareik occasionally had lower prices than markets in Loikaw and Taungoo, but in general no township stood out for high or low prices in May. In general, essential food prices were similar across all three townships, and no township stood out for particularly high or low vegetable prices. Prices for meat and fish were generally highest in Loikaw in May and cheaper elsewhere. At the same time, NFI prices were slightly lower in Loikaw and Taungoo compared to Kawkareik (possibly due to the latter's reliance on more expensive Thai imports).

Prices for May 2022 (MMK)

Product	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,500	1,500	1,600
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	700	1,400	650
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,500	4,500	4,600
Pulse (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	3,200
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	3,000	4,100
Onion (1 viss)	1,500	1,200	900
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,000	1,900	800
Long Bean (1 viss)	2,500	4,500	1,500
Watercress (1 viss)	1,500	-	1,600
Green Chili (1 viss)	1,500	7,000	4,800
Bananas	1,500	800	1,500
Toothpaste (140g)	500	1,200	1,200
Detergent (400g)	900	900	900
Soap (60g)	400	575	800
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,000	700	850
Shrimp (1 viss)	12,500	6,000	11,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	5,000	6,000	6,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	9,500	10,250	10,000
Chicken (1 viss)	7,500	7,500	6,500
Fish Paste (1 viss)	5,000	6,000	4,000
Pork (1 viss)	13,000	14,000	12,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	800	1,000	700
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	9,000	-	8,000
Blanket	6,000	5,250	8,500
Mosquito Net	9,500	12,500	25,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	17,000	14,000	13,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	5,800	6,000
Women's Longyi	5,500	5,250	6,000
Umbrella	4,500	5,000	5,000
Towel	2,500	2,000	1,400
Vacuum Flask	16,000	-	12,000
Jerry Can	7,500	-	6,500

*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).

CONTACT

Market Analysis Unit
market.analysis.unit.myanmar@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jon Keesecker, Khaing Zaw Win and Moh Moh Htet Kyaw contributed to the design, analysis, writing and data visuals of this report.