

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

- **May brought a third month of generally-rising prices**, although increases were less severe than in April;
- **Rice prices climbed 11-20% across markets in May**, while palm oil prices increased slightly and prices for pulses were stable;
- **Prices fell widely in Loikaw in May** following April's increases, with one-quarter of all products monitored down 11% or more;
- **Prices rose sharply in Hpapun and Hsiseng in May**, particularly for food items;
- **Prices should pull-back a bit in Hsiseng in June** after particularly-sharp price increases in May, while Loikaw may expect stable or rising prices;
- **Food prices will likely rise in the months ahead** as supply tapers throughout monsoon season, although different markets may experience individual trends.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose widely in May, with rice prices up 11% or more. Rice prices climbed at least 11% across markets in May, and Hpapun saw even steeper increases of 30%. Some retailers attributed price increases to rising transportation costs. Prices for palm oil and pulses were stable or rising, except in Loikaw where prices fell.

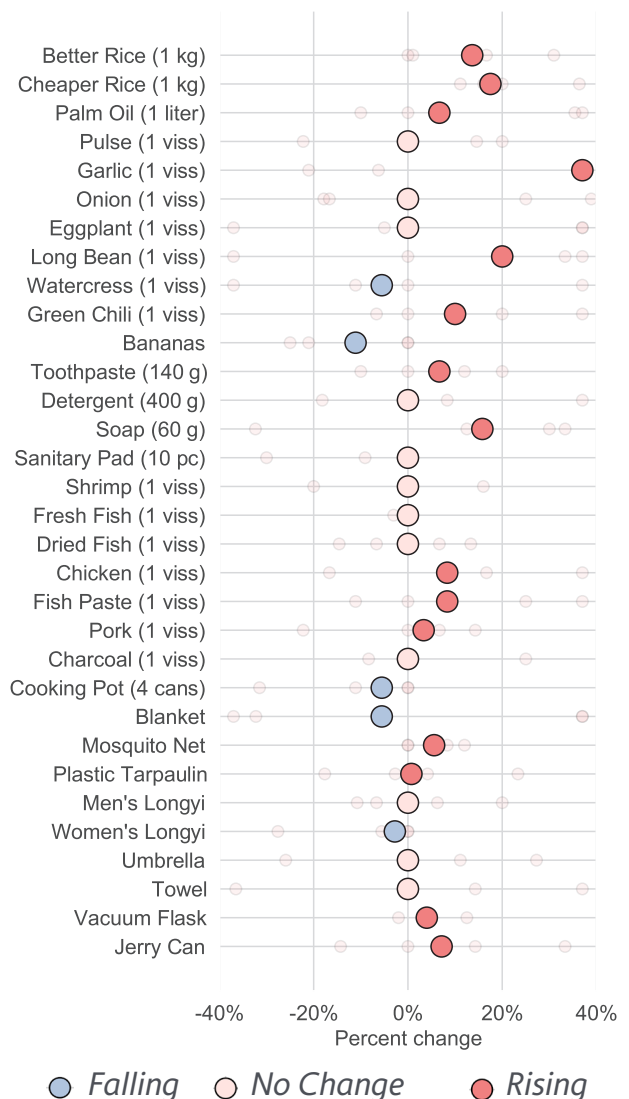
Vegetables – Hpapun and Hsiseng saw steep price hikes for vegetables in May, although elsewhere prices were stable or falling. In Hpapun and Hsiseng, most vegetable prices rose 33% or more in May (only onion prices fell); yet prices were down gently in Loikaw and sharply in Taungoo. Vegetable prices were stable in Kawkareik, where prices increased the previous month.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products climbed in Taungoo in May and fell in Loikaw. Prices for hygiene products rose 20% or more in Taungoo in May, while they were stable or rising slightly in other markets. Loikaw was the exception, with prices down 18-32% for hygiene products in May.

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices rose in most markets in May, although they fell in Loikaw and Taungoo. Meat/fish prices fell 11-20% in Loikaw and Taungoo even as they rose by 7% or more in other markets. Shrimp and fresh fish were most stable in May, while chicken prices were generally rising by 8% or more.

Other NFIs – NFI price trends varied by market in May, with Hsiseng seeing the largest increases. In Kawkareik and Loikaw—where NFI prices rose sharply last month—NFI prices were stable and falling, respectively. Hpapun and Hsiseng saw rising NFI prices in May, while the picture was more mixed in Taungoo. NFI prices were seldom stable in May, yet there were few clear product-level trends across markets.

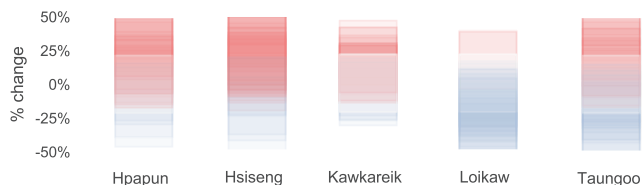
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

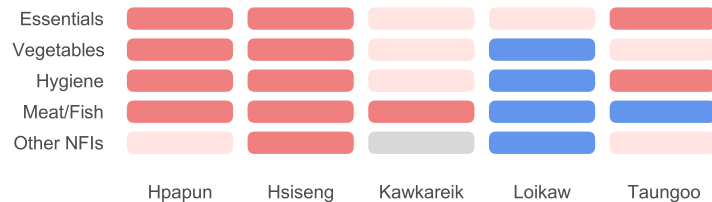
Hpapun and Hsiseng saw rising prices in May, while prices were falling in Loikaw and somewhat stable elsewhere. In Loikaw half of all products monitored were down 11% or more in May, reversing many of last month's larger price increases. In Kawkareik, where prices were stable, many of April's increases were locked-in for a second month. In Hsiseng, three-quarters of all prices monitored rose 6% or more, and in Hpapun half of all prices rose 8% or more. Taungoo saw a mix of rising and falling prices in May, with one-quarter up 20% and one-quarter down 11%.

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 drifted closer to 2022-levels in May, despite another month of increases. Essential food prices rose slower than last year in May, narrowing the gap with 2022 by 7-9 percentage points. Prices still remained much higher than last year for better rice (+62%), cheaper rice (+74%), and pulses (+42%). Palm oil prices were up just 6% since 2022.

Vegetables – Some vegetable prices remained much higher than May 2022, while others were only marginally higher. Prices were far higher than last year for garlic (+59%) and eggplant (+39%), while other products were up less dramatically, such as chili (+11%), long bean (+3%), and watercress (+23%).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products drifted slightly closer to 2022 levels in May. Price changes for hygiene products tracked with last year, as prices drifted 2-5 percentage points closer to May 2022; this kept prices 30-80% higher for toothpaste (+30%), soap (+79%), detergent (+40%), and sanitary pads (+31%).

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices again rose slower than last year, bringing prices within 30-40% of May 2022. Prices remained much higher than last year for chicken (+38%), pork (+34%), dried fish (+44%), and

shrimp (+18%). The price gap widened slightly for dried fish (+44%).

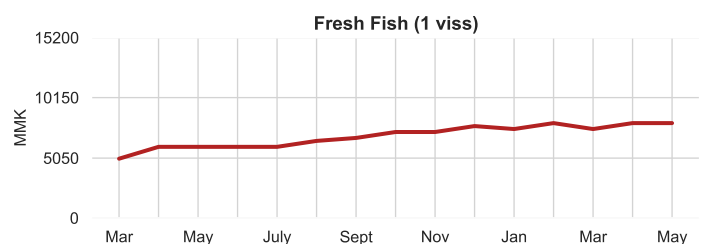
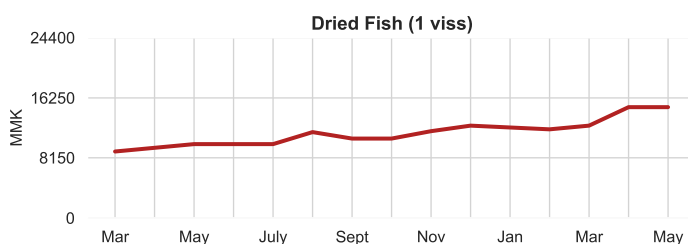
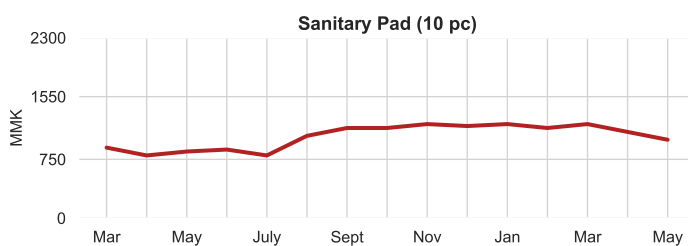
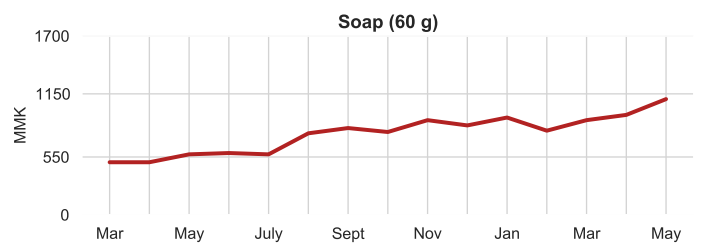
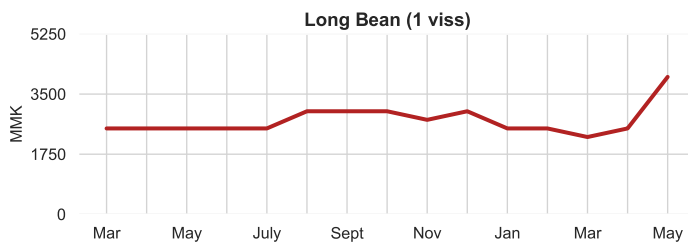
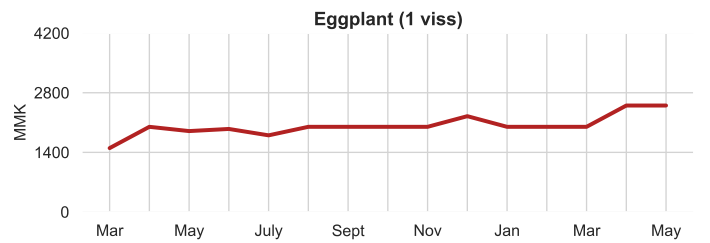
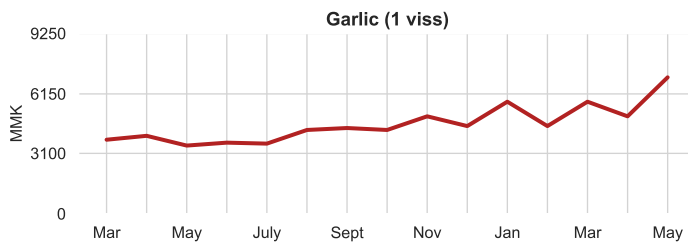
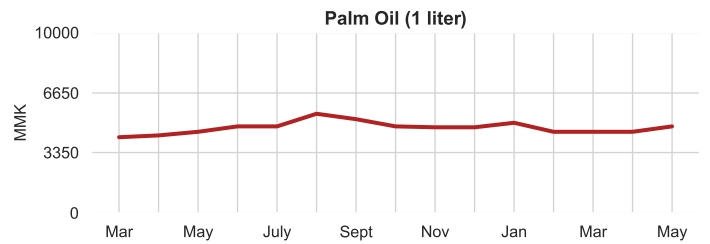
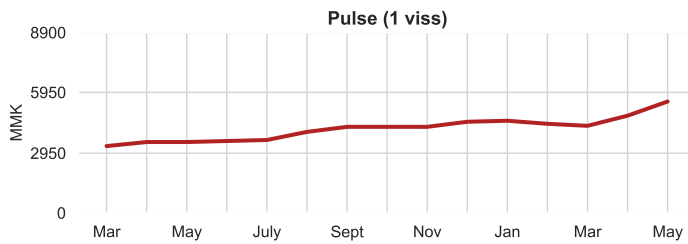
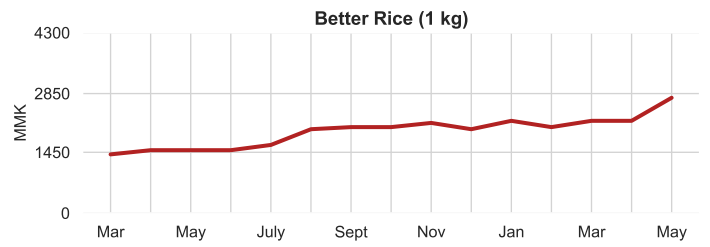
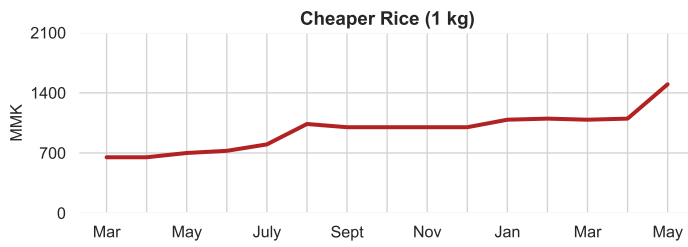
Other NFIs – NFI prices continued to rise slower than last year, although most were still up 30% or more. The gap with 2022 narrowed by 7-10 percentage points in May for longyis (+33-43%), umbrellas (+28%), and vacuum flasks (+59%), while it held stable for jerry cans (+17%), blankets (+34%), charcoal (+36%), and plastic tarps (11%). Towels (+36%) and cooking pots (+57%) stretched their lead over last year.

What to Watch

- Absent deeper disruptions to regional supply networks, **rice** prices may stabilize in June before marching higher in late-monsoon season;
- Food prices will rise throughout monsoon, but south-east markets likely require separate analyses as markets appear to exhibit individual trends of late;
- Prices should pull-back a bit in **Hsiseng** in June after particularly-sharp price increases in May, although **Loikaw** should expect stable or rising 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 May 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,750	4,850	1,500	3,500	2,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,500	3,250	1,200	1,175	2,000
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,500	6,500	4,800	4,500	6,000
Pulse (1 viss)	5,500	6,000	5,500	3,500	4,800
Garlic (1 viss)	7,000	4,500	7,500	3,000	9,000
Onion (1 viss)	2,300	2,500	2,500	1,200	2,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	4,000	5,000	2,500	1,900	1,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	4,000	4,000	3,000	4,500	1,200
Watercress (1 viss)	4,000	3,000	3,000	800	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	6,500	13,000	2,000	7,000	6,000
Bananas	1,500	1,500	3,000	800	1,500
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,400	1,600	900	1,200	1,800
Detergent (400 g)	1,500	1,300	2,500	900	1,800
Soap (60 g)	1,100	1,300	900	575	1,600
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,300	1,000	1,500	700	1,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	10,000	14,500	15,000	6,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	8,000	10,000	6,000	8,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	15,000	17,000	16,000	10,250	14,000
Chicken (1 viss)	14,000	14,000	13,000	7,500	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	5,000	7,000	13,000	6,000	4,000
Pork (1 viss)	-	16,000	16,000	14,000	14,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	550	12,500	1,000	-	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,000	9,250	15,000	-	16,000
Blanket	10,000	15,750	8,500	5,250	9,000
Mosquito Net	25,000	28,000	13,000	12,500	19,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	-	18,500	18,000	14,000	25,000
Men's Longyi	8,500	9,000	8,000	5,800	7,000
Women's Longyi	8,500	-	8,000	5,250	8,000
Umbrella	7,000	7,500	5,000	5,000	7,000
Towel	5,500	3,000	4,000	2,000	1,800
Vacuum Flask	26,000	24,500	-	-	18,000
Jerry Can	8,000	8,000	11,000	-	6,000

*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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