

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR (Nov. 2021)

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. The data include prices from Hpapun (Kamamaung market), Hpruso (Myo Ma), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar) and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data will soon be available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

- Prices were fairly stable across most categories in November, with few prices shifting dramatically;
- Rice prices fell in all four townships monitored, although the change was generally modest;
- The most notable price increases were for NFIs in Hpapun and hygiene products in Taungoo;
- Taungoo saw slightly more overall stability than other markets, particularly for rice and vegetables.

Product-Level Price Changes

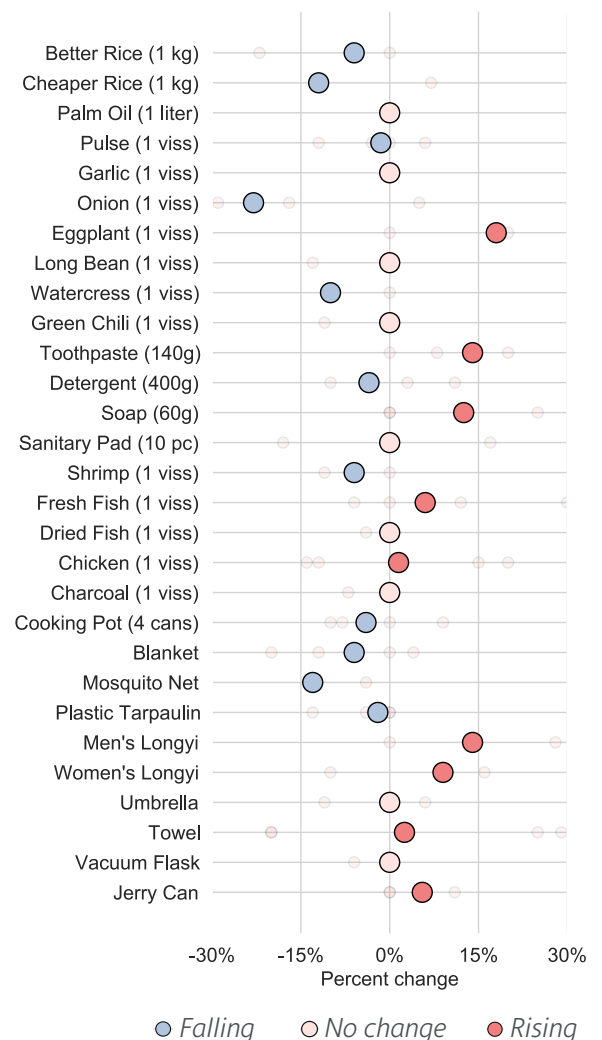
Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable or falling in November. Rice prices fell by 6-22% in three townships, while prices for pulses and palm oil were mostly stable. The sole exception was in Hpapun, where the price of shrimp oil rose 47% (palm oil was unavailable in Hpapun’s Kamamaung Market in October and November).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were stable in November, except for onion which fell and eggplant which rose. Prices for onion and watercress fell by 10-40% in November, while eggplant rose 18-20%. Prices for garlic, green chili and long bean were fairly stable (except in Hpapun where chili prices rose with the availability of a different variety).

Hygiene Products – Price changes for hygiene products varied somewhat by market in November. Prices for toothpaste rose 8-20% in November (and far more in Hpruso where small packages were unavailable). Detergent prices were stable except in Hpruso where prices fell 60%, possibly due to brand availability. Soap prices were stable in two markets but rose by 25-100% in Loikaw and Taungoo. Prices for sanitary pads were variable, possibly due to brand availability.

Meat and Fish – Fish and shrimp were mostly stable in November, while chicken prices varied by market. Fish and shrimp prices were quite stable, except for fresh fish in Loikaw (30% increase) and dried fish in Hpruso (44% increase). Chicken prices rose or fell by 12-20% in different markets.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

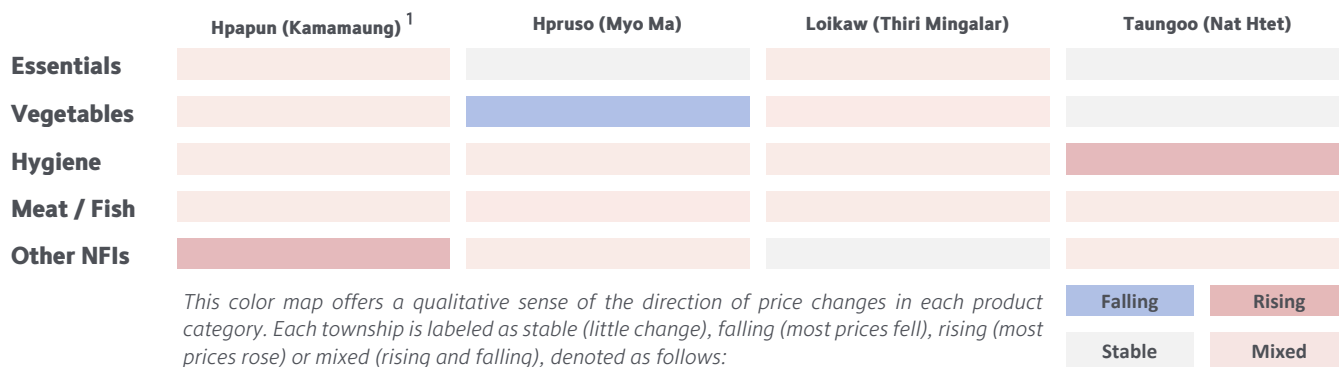


Other NFIs – Prices for NFIs were stable in November, notwithstanding a few outliers. Prices for cooking pots, plastic tarps and umbrellas were stable across markets; charcoal, blankets and longyis were also stable with the exception of one outlier in each case. Prices for mosquito nets were also stable, although in Taungoo they appeared to fall significantly due to the availability of different brands in November.

Township-Level Price Changes

All townships saw a mixture of rising, falling and stable prices in November, although Taungoo saw broad stability for vegetables and essential foods. Several vegetables rose 10% or more in Hpruso, hygiene products rose 11-25% in Taungoo, and some NFIs rose 28-43% in Hpapun. Otherwise, each township generally saw a mixture of rising and falling prices with no clear trend.

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



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

Prices for November 2021 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hpruso (Myo Ma)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,300	-	1,250	1,500
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	550	600	800	700
Palm Oil (1 liter)	2,800	4,500	3,800	3,300
Pulse (1 viss)	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	1,000	3,200
Onion (1 viss)	800	1,000	500	1,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,350	-	1,800	1,200
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,300	2,500	2,000	1,200
Watercress (1 viss)	2,000	4,500	1,200	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	5,000	2,000	2,000	5,000
Toothpaste (140g)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200
Detergent (400g)	1,500	1,000	900	2,100
Soap (60g)	500	500	1,000	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	900	600	700	1,200
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,000	4,000	8,000	8,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	4,500	6,000	6,500	8,500
Dried Fish (1 viss)	10,000	16,000	10,000	14,000
Chicken (1 viss)	7,000	6,000	7,500	6,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	350	-	500	600
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	6,000	6,000	4,500	4,500
Blanket	5,500	8,000	6,000	7,000
Mosquito Net	13,000	17,000	13,000	9,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	15,850	15,000	16,000	13,000
Men's Longyi	5,750	4,000	-	5,000
Women's Longyi	6,000	4,000	5,800	4,500
Umbrella	3,500	4,500	-	4,000
Towel	4,500	2,000	2,000	1,500
Vacuum Flask	16,000	8,000	8,500	8,000
Jerry Can	3,500	5,300	4,500	4,500

*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

Mercy Corps' 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

Jonathan Bartolozzi
Director of Programs
jbartolozzi@mercycorps.org

Jon Keesecker
Market Analysis Unit Team Leader
jkeesecker@mercycorps.org

4th floor of Rangoun Business Center,
No. (97), West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township,
Yangon, Myanmar.
mercycorps.org

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