

Market Price Report

The MAU tracks market prices in 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), Hsihseng (main), Kawkareik (main), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar), Pekon (main), and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data are available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Essential food prices rose slightly in November**, and in a few cases prices spiked amid reports of limited supply;
- **Vegetable prices were stable or rising**—particularly for garlic, onion, long bean, and watercress—and there were rarely reports of prices falling;
- **Prices for hygiene products rose in Kawkareik**, and elsewhere they were stable-or-rising;
- **Many NFI prices were suprisingly stable**, although this is unlikely to last given recent trade disruptions;
- **Kawkareik may see rising prices in the month ahead** due to growing instability in and around the town and its market;
- **Increased nationwide conflict may impact rice supply** in the region as recent instability coincides with the arrival of wet-season rice supply.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose slightly in November and spiked in some cases of limited supply. Rice prices were generally stable, although they rose in Taungoo due to supply difficulties and fell in Hpapun. Prices for pulses spiked 25% in Kawkareik amid supply disruptions, but elsewhere prices were stable. Cooking oil prices increased 8-10% in some markets.

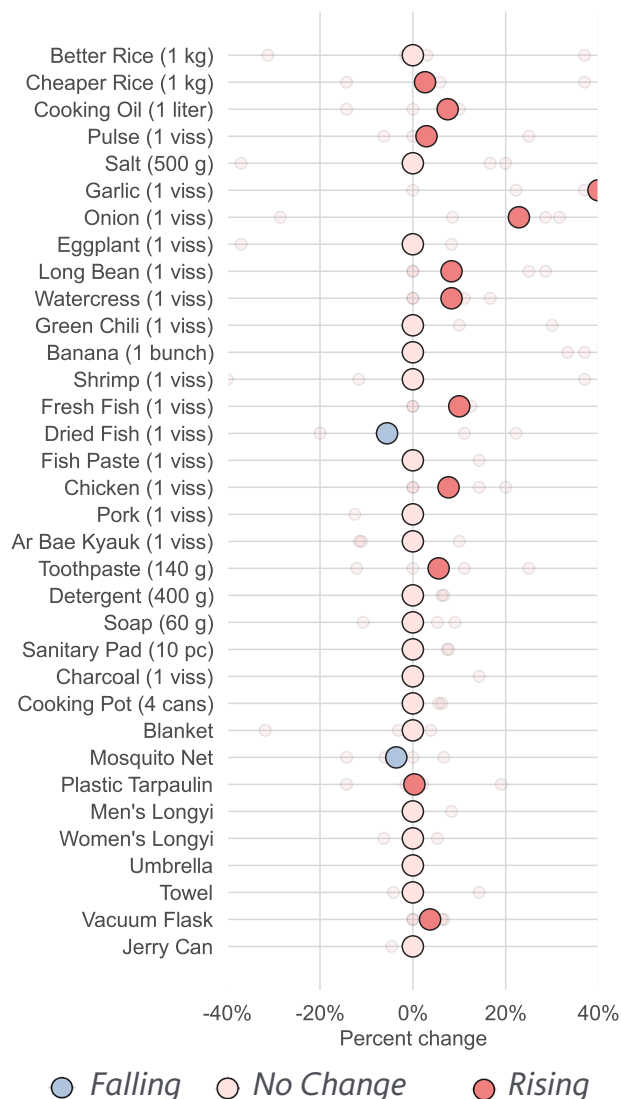
Vegetables – Vegetable prices were stable or rising in November, and prices rarely fell. Prices for garlic and onion climbed 8-50% in November, and prices for long bean and watercress rose 8-29%. Prices for eggplant and green chili were fairly stable but spiked in some townships.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices fluctuated slightly in November. Prices for chicken and fresh fish rose 8-20%, while dried fish prices fell 6-20%. Prices for pork and fish paste were fairly stable in November. Meat and fish prices declined in general in Taungoo.

Hygiene Products – Price for hygiene products were stable or rising, and they increased most in Kawkareik. Prices for toothpaste increased 6-25% in November, while other products saw a mix of stable or rising prices. In Kawkareik all four hygiene products monitored rose 6-9%.

Other NFIs – Prices for other NFIs were fairly stable in November. While Taungoo saw some falling prices for NFIs and Pekon saw some rising prices, NFI prices in general were mostly unchanged or shifted just 3-8%. NFI prices were particularly flat in Kawkareik, even though most other prices monitored there climbed higher in November. No townships saw very large price shifts for NFIs in November.

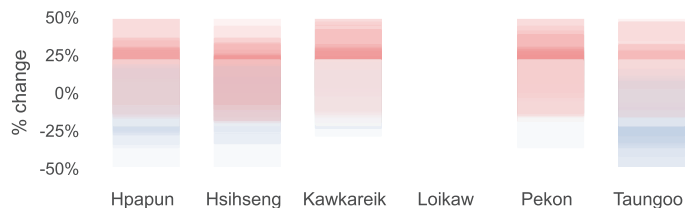
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

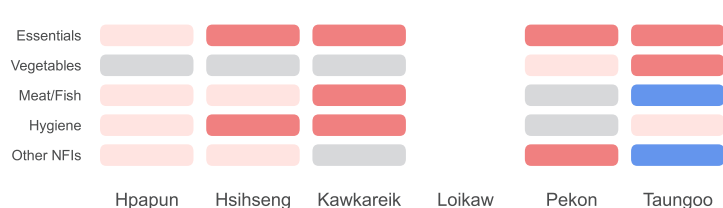
Pekon and Kawkareik saw the most price hikes in November, while Taungoo saw the most price cuts. In Pekon and Kawkareik, one-quarter of all prices monitored increased at least 8% and 10%, respectively. Only Taungoo saw notable price reductions, with one-quarter of all products monitored falling 11% or more. Hsiseng and Hpapun both experienced a mix of stable and rising prices. While most markets experienced fairly broad price increases in November, many price hikes were not very large relative to price hikes observed in past months.

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 remained 50-60% above November 2022 levels. The median twelve-month increase grew by seven percentage points for pulses (+59%), but it held steady for better rice (+64%) and cheaper rice (+57%). Prices for cooking oil were nearly the same as those of this time last year.

Vegetables – Many vegetable prices remained 24-40% higher than at this time last year. Prices remained higher for eggplant (+40%), long bean (31%), watercress (+36%), and green chili (24%). Onion prices were similar to last year, while garlic prices were 150% higher.

Meat and Fish – Most meat/fish prices remained 26-38% higher than November 2022. Meat and fish prices rose slower than last year in recent months, reducing the median twelve-month increase by 6-9 percentage points. Yet prices were higher for chicken (+38%), pork (+16%), fresh fish (+26%), dried fish (+36%), shrimp (+33%), and fish paste (+27%).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were 42-64% higher than last year. Prices remained much higher for toothpaste (+42%), detergent (+64%) and

soap (+46%). Prices for sanitary pads (+3%) remained nearly on par with last year.

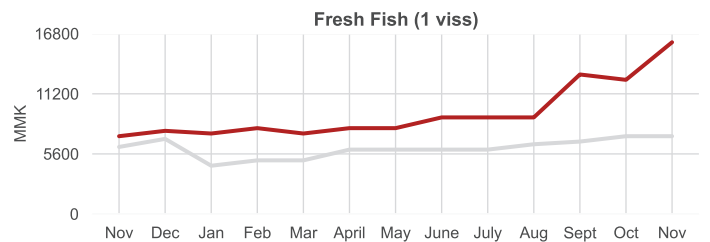
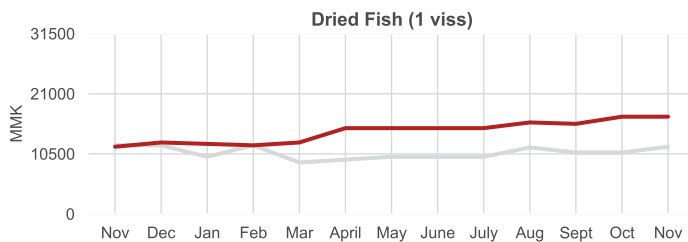
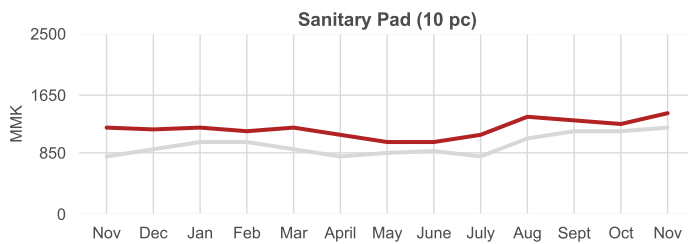
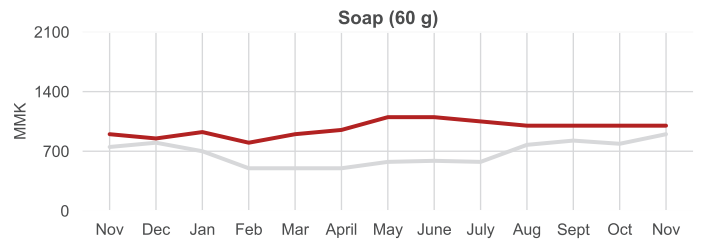
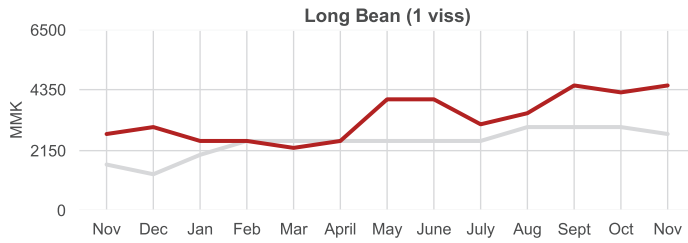
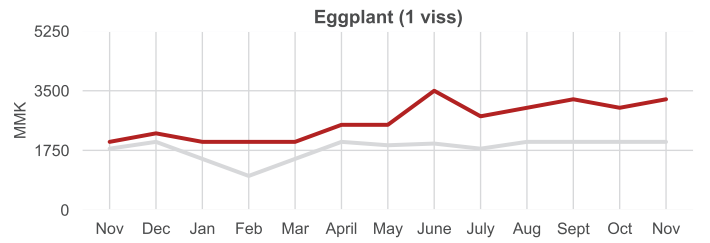
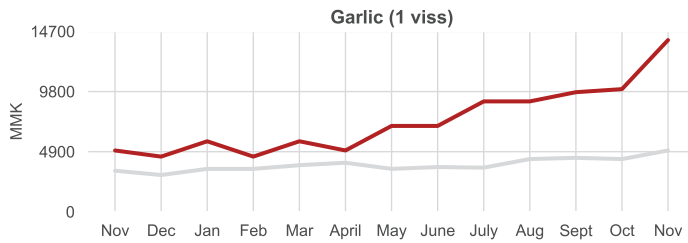
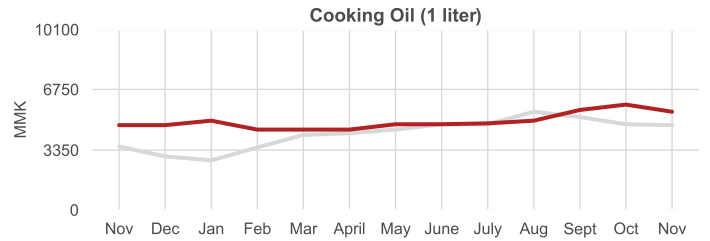
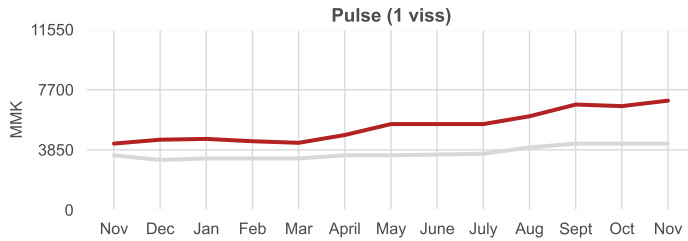
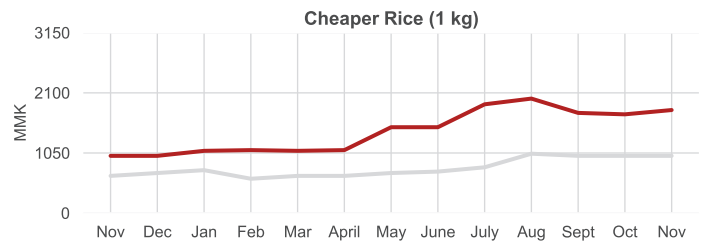
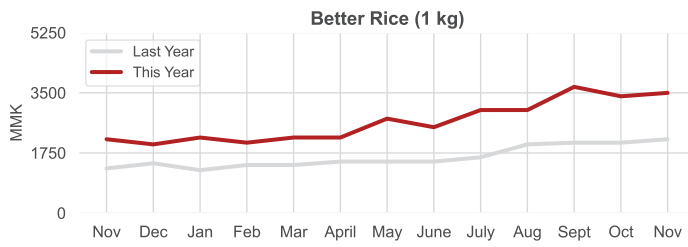
Other NFIs – NFI price drifted slightly closer to 2022 levels in November. Most NFI prices drifted 3-14 percentage points closer to November 2022 levels. Yet prices remained higher for mosquito nets (+61%), charcoal (+38%), blankets (+37%), longyis (+21-38%), and plastic tarps (+10%).

What to Watch

- Market disruptions in and around **Kawkareik** may impact regional supply in the month ahead as it sits on a key supply route;
- Prices for **NFIs** are unlikely to remain stable amid conflict-related disruptions on the main trade corridor in Kayin State;
- As new wet-season **rice** supply begins to reach markets, increased conflict nationwide may already be impacting price and supply in the region;

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 November 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Pekon (Main market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,750	6,800	3,200	-	3,500	3,600
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,500	3,900	1,800	-	1,800	2,500
Cooking Oil (1 liter)	4,800	6,800	4,300	-	6,000	5,500
Pulse (1 viss)	6,000	7,000	8,500	-	6,500	7,500
Salt (500 g)	400	230	600	-	350	300
Garlic (1 viss)	15,000	11,000	14,000	-	14,000	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	5,000	4,500	4,300	-	3,800	2,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,250	3,500	2,500	-	4,000	1,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	5,000	3,500	6,500	-	4,500	2,500
Watercress (1 viss)	3,250	1,500	3,000	-	3,500	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	6,500	11,000	5,000	-	4,000	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	2,500	1,800	2,500	-	2,000	1,800
Shrimp (1 viss)	15,000	13,250	20,000	-	8,000	9,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	9,000	16,000	16,500	-	16,000	11,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	17,000	20,000	14,000	-	22,000	12,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	6,000	11,000	6,500	-	8,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	16,000	12,000	-	14,000	9,000
Pork (1 viss)	-	18,000	17,000	-	18,000	14,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	20,000	23,000	22,000	-	32,000	16,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,450	2,000	1,900	-	1,800	2,500
Detergent (400 g)	2,000	1,700	3,200	-	1,200	2,500
Soap (60 g)	1,000	1,100	1,000	-	1,000	2,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,450	1,500	1,400	-	1,000	1,200
Charcoal (1 viss)	800	1,000	700	-	800	1,400
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	8,500	11,000	9,000	-	5,000	19,000
Blanket	7,750	13,500	9,500	-	15,000	15,000
Mosquito Net	23,500	27,000	17,000	-	16,000	24,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	-	23,500	16,250	-	25,000	24,000
Men's Longyi	9,500	12,000	8,000	-	13,000	7,000
Women's Longyi	10,000	-	8,000	-	9,500	7,500
Umbrella	8,000	8,000	7,000	-	8,000	7,000
Towel	5,750	4,000	3,000	-	2,000	1,800
Vacuum Flask	27,000	28,000	15,000	-	16,000	17,000
Jerry Can	8,000	10,500	10,000	-	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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