

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), Kawkareik (main), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar) and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data will soon be available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Markets were shuttered in Kawkareik township in late-October**, following intense fighting in the region;
- **Essential food prices in Loikaw and Taungoo held stable or declined slightly in October**;
- **Hygiene products registered the largest price decreases in October**, declining 9-17% in Loikaw and 6-29% in Taungoo;
- **Prices for NFIs fell in Loikaw while rising in Taungoo**, although the shifts were small in size;
- **Vegetable prices were generally stable in October**, with most price changes in the range of just 4-8%;
- **Disruptions in Kawkareik could impact neighboring markets**, reducing access to Thai imports and increasing the need for central Myanmar supply to satisfy the needs of communities to southern Kayin or Mon State.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable or falling in Loikaw and Taungoo in October. Essential food prices were generally stable in October, particularly in Taungoo where prices shifted by no more than 6%. The main exceptions were palm oil and better rice in Loikaw, which saw prices decline by 18-20%.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were fairly stable in October, except for small or isolated price decreases. Vegetable prices in Loikaw were stable or falling slightly, with most price changes in the range of just 4-8%. Taungoo also saw stable or falling prices, although some prices which fell saw deeper reductions of 17-33% (e.g., onion, green chili).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products trended lower in both Loikaw and Taungoo in October. Prices for hygiene products fell by 6-29% in Taungoo, and they fell by 9-17% in Loikaw. Prices for detergent fell more than other products, declining 17% and 29% in Loikaw and Taungoo, respectively.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were generally stable in October, with isolated price hikes. Limited supply pushed fresh fish prices up by 25% or more in both Loikaw and Taungoo. Products like dried fish, chicken, shrimp and pork were fairly stable, moving just 5-8% (usually downward). Prices were more volatile in Taungoo than in Loikaw, with prices rising for chicken and falling for fish paste.

Other NFIs – NFI prices fell in Loikaw and rose in Taungoo in October, although the shift was small.

Prices for most NFIs monitored fell by 3-8% in Loikaw. NFI prices were stable or rising in Taungoo, but only cooking pots and towel saw large price increases.

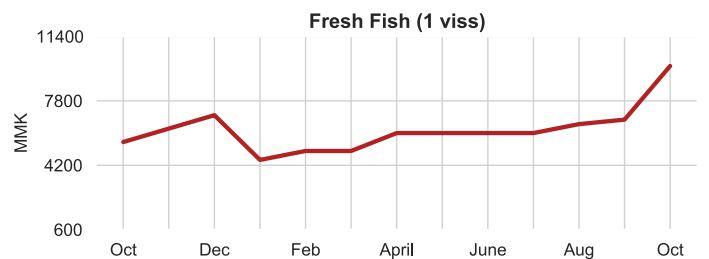
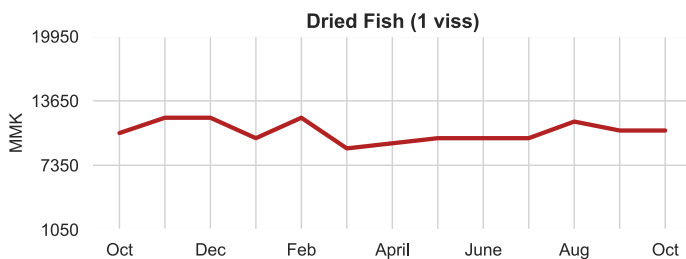
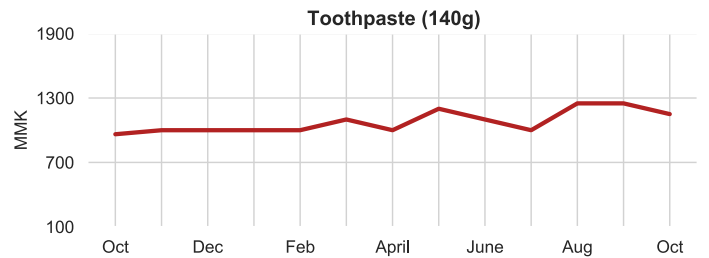
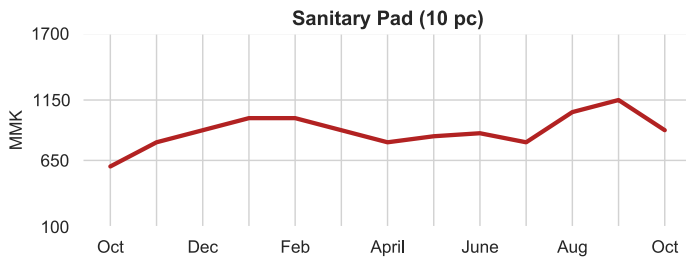
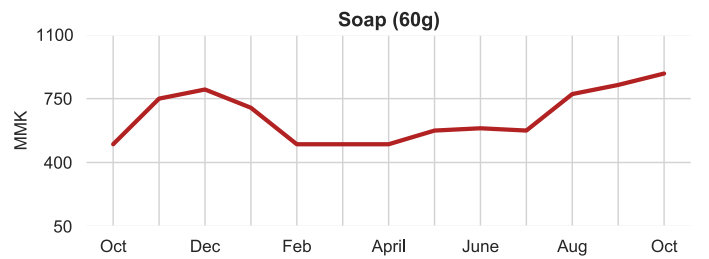
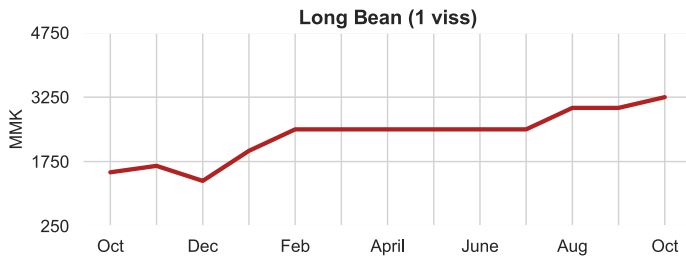
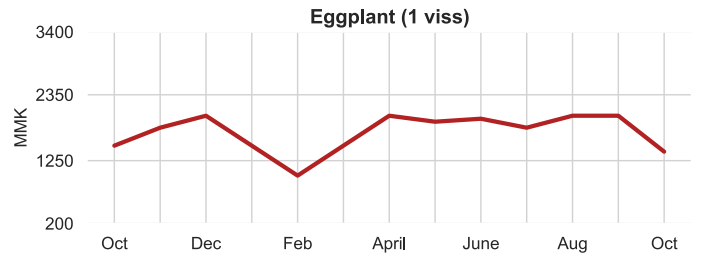
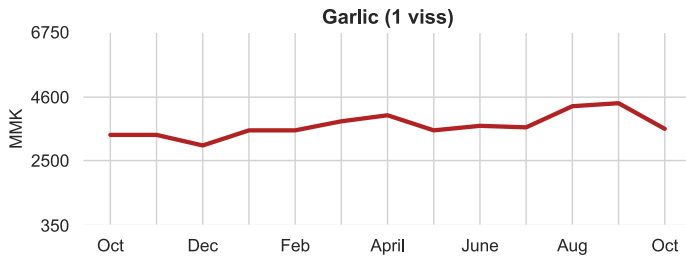
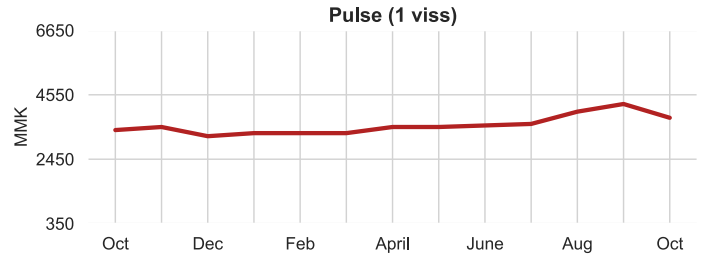
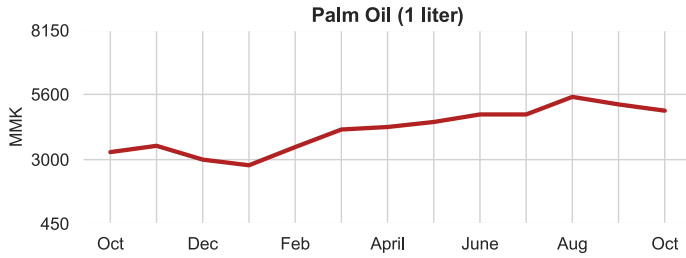
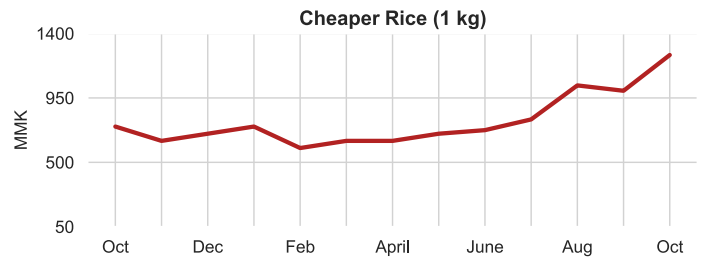
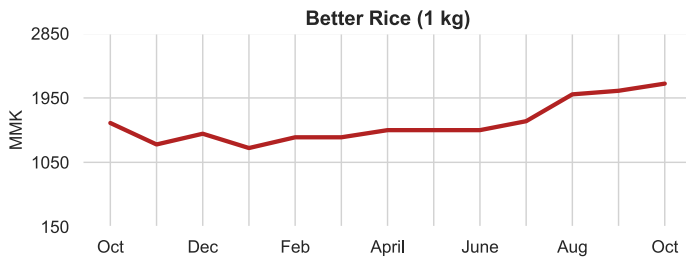
Township-Level Price Changes

Prices fell gently in Loikaw in October, but the picture was more mixed in Taungoo. In Loikaw—where prices were stable in September—two-thirds of all products monitored saw lower prices in October. Most price shifts in Loikaw were just 3-8%, but hygiene products, rice and palm oil fell by 9-20%. After seeing broad price hikes in September, October brought a mix of rising and falling prices in Taungoo. Although some prices in Taungoo held stable, hygiene products drifted lower and prices spiked for a few items (e.g., fresh fish, towels).

What to Watch

- Prices for **NFIs**—generally stable or rising across September and October—may spike as conflict in **Kawkareik** disrupts supply of Thai imports;
- The impacts of conflict in Kayin State could spillover to markets in **Taungoo** and **Hpapun**, as displaced communities rely more on supply from central Myanmar (rather than local supply or Thai imports);
- Prices for **vegetables**—which remain fairly stable—should drift lower as new harvest comes to market, particularly in **Loikaw** if access to Shan State supply remains good.

Charts 1-12. Median Township Price, Selected Products (Thirteen Months)



Prices for October 2022 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	-	-	2,400	1,900
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	-	-	1,000	1,500
Palm Oil (1 liter)	-	-	4,500	5,400
Pulse (1 viss)	-	-	4,000	3,600
Garlic (1 viss)	-	-	3,500	3,600
Onion (1 viss)	-	-	1,100	2,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	-	-	2,000	800
Long Bean (1 viss)	-	-	4,500	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	-	-	900	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	-	-	7,000	5,000
Bananas	-	-	800	1,000
Toothpaste (140g)	-	-	1,200	1,100
Detergent (400g)	-	-	1,000	1,000
Soap (60g)	-	-	775	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	-	-	1,000	800
Shrimp (1 viss)	-	-	6,000	15,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	-	-	7,500	12,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	-	-	11,500	10,000
Chicken (1 viss)	-	-	8,500	9,500
Fish Paste (1 viss)	-	-	5,500	3,000
Pork (1 viss)	-	-	13,000	12,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	-	-	-	800
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	-	-	3,500	12,000
Blanket	-	-	7,250	11,000
Mosquito Net	-	-	12,000	19,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	-	-	15,000	19,000
Men's Longyi	-	-	6,250	7,000
Women's Longyi	-	-	6,500	7,500
Umbrella	-	-	6,250	7,000
Towel	-	-	2,750	3,500
Vacuum Flask	-	-	9,500	14,000
Jerry Can	-	-	-	6,800

*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@gmail.com