

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR (OCT. 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 the townships of Hpapun (Kamamaung market), Hpruso (Myo Ma market), Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar market) and Taungoo (Nat Htet market). Data will be available via the MPR dashboard at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

- **Product availability was poor in Hpruso Township** relative to other townships in October;
- **Hpapun prices were often lower than elsewhere**, but this may be due to different product specs;
- **Vegetable prices were higher in Hpruso and Hpapun** compared to Loikaw and Taungoo;
- **Prices for hygiene products and some NFIs varied by market**—likely due in part to differences in product specifications—although half of all NFIs were similarly priced in most markets;
- **Essential food prices were similar across markets.**

Product-Level Summary

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were somewhat similar across markets in October. Pulses sold for 3,100–4,000 MMK/viss in October. Prices for low- and high-quality rice were 625–800 MMK/viss and 1,300–1,600 MMK/viss, respectively. Palm oil sold for 3,300–3,800 MMK/liter in Loikaw and Taungoo but was unavailable in Hpapun (where substitute shrimp oil sold for 1,900 MMK/liter).

Vegetables – Vegetable prices varied widely across markets in October, especially watercress. Watercress prices ranged from 1,000–5,000 MMK/viss, while eggplant and long bean sold for 1,200–2,000 MMK/viss. Garlic and onion were fairly similar across markets at 2,500–3,500 MMK/viss and 700–1,200 MMK/viss, respectively.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products varied somewhat across markets in October. The price variation is likely due to the unavailability of standard products across markets. Detergent sold for 1,000–2,500 MMK/unit, while soap sold for 500–800 MMK/60g. Toothpaste sold for 925–1,000 MMK/140g in three townships (the price of 500 MMK in Hpruso is likely due to differences in product

specifications). Likewise, sanitary pads sold for just 600 MMK/10pc in Loikaw and Hpruso while selling for 1,100 MMK/10pc in Hpapun.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices varied across markets in October, with the exception of shrimp. Shrimp sold for a fairly-consistent 8,000–9,000 MMK/viss, while fresh fish sold for 4,000–6,000 MMK/viss in three townships and a much-higher 9,000 MMK/viss in Taungoo. Chicken sold for 5,000–8,000 MMK/viss, while dried fish sold for 9,000–12,500 MMK/viss.

Other NFIs – Prices for some NFIs were similar across markets in October, while others varied greatly. The more consistent NFIs included charcoal (375–500 MMK/viss), tarps (15,000–16,500 MMK/unit), longyis for men and women (4,900–5,500 MMK/unit), umbrellas (3,500–4,250 MMK/unit) and jerry cans (3,500–5,300 MMK/unit). NFIs which showed wider variation included cookpots, blankets, mosquito nets and towels. This was partly due to the limited availability of comparable products in all markets.

Township-Level Summary

Hpruso had less availability than other townships, and Hpapun prices were often lower than elsewhere.¹ In general, essentials were cheaper in Hpapun (and in Hpruso they were often unavailable at specification). In both Hpruso and Hpapun, vegetables were generally more expensive and less available. Prices for NFIs were somewhat lower in Hpapun than elsewhere, possibly due to the substitution of cheaper alternative goods with slightly different specifications (e.g., brand, size). No township stood out with respect to prices for hygiene products or meat/fish. Overall, Hpruso had the most cases of a product being unavailable at the time of measurement.

Prices for October 2021 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun	Hpruso	Loikaw	Taungoo
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,300	-	1,600	1,600
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	625	-	750	800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	1,900	-	3,800	3,300
Pulse (1 viss)	3,100	4,000	3,300	3,500
Garlic (1 viss)	3,500	3,500	2,500	3,200
Onion (1 viss)	1,200	1,200	700	950
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,000	-	1,500	1,200
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,500	-	2,000	1,200
Watercress (1 viss)	-	5,000	2,000	1,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	2,500	2,250	2,000	5,000
Toothpaste (140g)	925	500	1,000	1,000
Detergent (400g)	1,450	2,500	1,000	1,900
Soap (60g)	500	500	500	800
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,100	600	600	-
Shrimp (1 viss)	8,000	-	9,000	8,500
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	4,000	6,000	5,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	12,500	9,000	12,000	9,000
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	7,000	6,500	5,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	375	-	500	450
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	5,500	6,500	4,500	5,000
Blanket	5,500	10,000	5,750	8,000
Mosquito Net	13,500	-	15,000	23,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	16,500	15,000	16,000	15,000
Men's Longyi	4,500	-	4,900	5,000
Women's Longyi	5,500	-	5,000	5,000
Umbrella	3,500	4,250	-	4,500
Towel	3,500	2,500	2,500	1,200
Vacuum Flask	12,000	8,500	-	8,000
Jerry Can	3,500	5,300	4,500	4,500

*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

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

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).

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