

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), Pekon (main), and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data are available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Prices were stable or occasionally rising in October**, although different markets saw slightly different trends;
- **Prices for hygiene products rose in Taungoo** in October, but there were otherwise few dramatic trends and prices rarely moved more than 15%;
- **Taungoo and Pekon saw the most price hikes** in October, while Kawkareik saw the most price cuts;
- **Wet-season rice supply could help reduce prices** and mute the worst affects of recent market disruptions;
- **Loikaw, Pekon and Hsiseng may expect price hikes** in November, as recent conflict closed market and disrupted critical transportation routes;
- **Conflict in Shan State may impact southeast markets** and beyond, as it is a source for local vegetables and NFIs imported from China.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Price trends for essential foods varied by market in October. Rice and cooking oil prices rose 4-17% in Loikaw and Pekon while falling 4-11% in Hsiseng and Taungoo. Prices for pulses rose or fell by up to 7% in different markets. Essential food prices were most stable in Hpapun and Kawkareik.

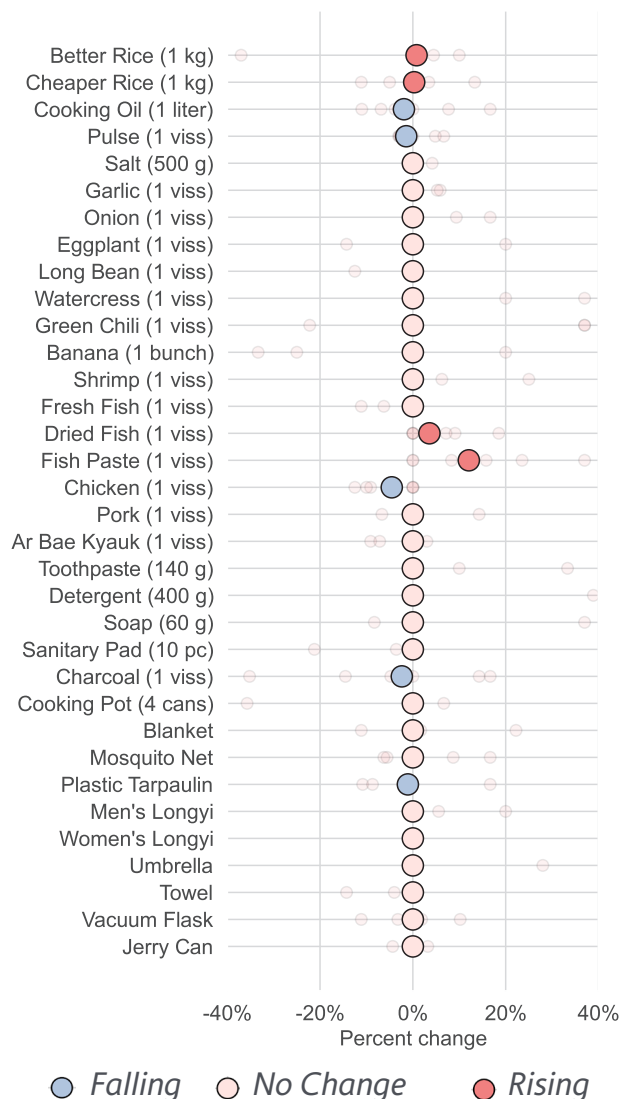
Vegetables – Vegetable prices were fairly stable in October. Vegetable prices were were stable in most markets, although prices for some vegetables rose in Taungoo and they fluctuated in Pekon. There were no product-level trends for vegetables, although prices generally rose more often than they fell.

Meat and Fish – Dried fish, fish paste, and shrimp prices rose in October, but other meat/fish prices were stable or falling. Fish paste prices rose 8% or more in some markets, and shrimp and dried fish prices rose at least 6%. Prices for fresh fish and chicken were stable or falling by 6-12% in a few markets.

Hygiene Products – Price for hygiene products spiked in Taungoo in October, but they were stable elsewhere. Prices for toothpaste, soap, and detergent rose by at least 33% in Taungoo, but other markets saw little change. Only Kawkareik saw lower prices for hygiene products, with soap and sanitary pads down 8-21%.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were mostly stable in October, but some prices fell in Kawkareik and rose in Hpapun and Taungoo. Prices for charcoal, blankets, mosquito nets, and plastic tarps rose 17-22% in Taungoo, while cooking pots, mosquito nets, longyis, and jerry cans rose 4-10% in Hapapun. Some of these same products saw prices decline 6% or more in other markets, but NFI prices were overall fairly stable in October.

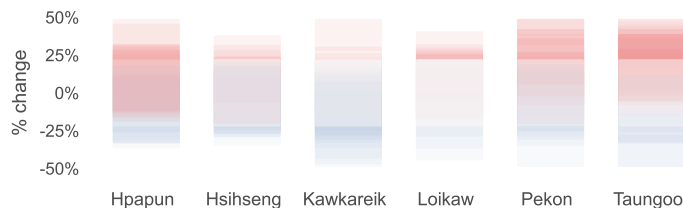
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

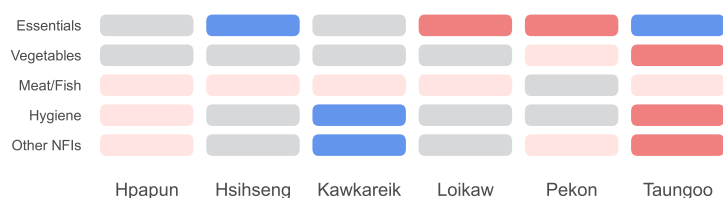
Taungoo and Pekon saw the most price hikes in October, while Kawkareik saw the most price cuts. Only Taungoo saw very notable price trends in October as essential food prices moved slightly lower while most other prices moved higher. Taungoo and Pekon saw rising prices for one-third of all products monitored in October, although the magnitude was small relative to past months. In Kawkareik, one-quarter of all products monitored fell at least 5%. In general, most markets saw broad price stability in October.

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 50-70% above 2022 levels in October. Essential food prices, while stable, nonetheless remained much higher than last year for better rice (+66%), cheaper rice (+58%), and pulses (+52%). Palm oil prices (-4%) remained near October 2022 levels.

Vegetables – Most vegetable prices remained at least 25% higher than they were at this time last year. Some vegetable prices pushed 7-9 percentage points further above 2022 levels, yet most tracked with last year. Prices remained higher for eggplant (+43%), long bean (48%), watercress (+36%), and green chili (25%).

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices tracked with last year, remaining 20-50% higher than October 2022. Prices remained much higher than last year for chicken (+46%), pork (+24%), fresh fish (+32%), dried fish (+42%), shrimp (+23%), and fish paste (+34%).

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were 30-50% higher than last year. Prices remained much higher for toothpaste (+34%), detergent (+54%) and soap (+59%), while prices for sanitary pads (+9%) were

just slightly higher than October 2022.

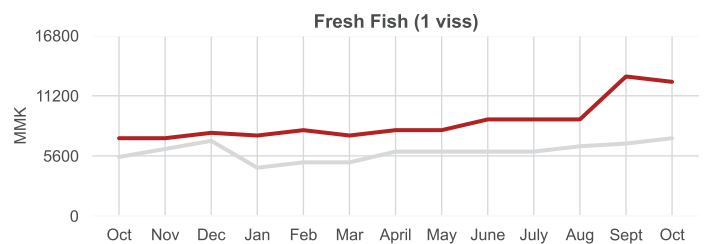
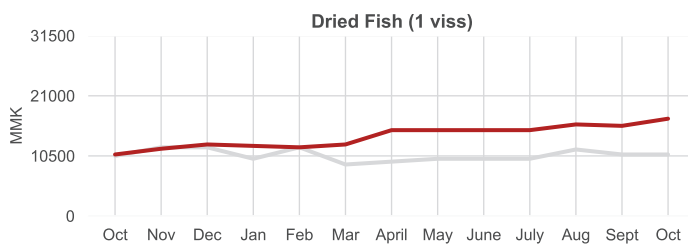
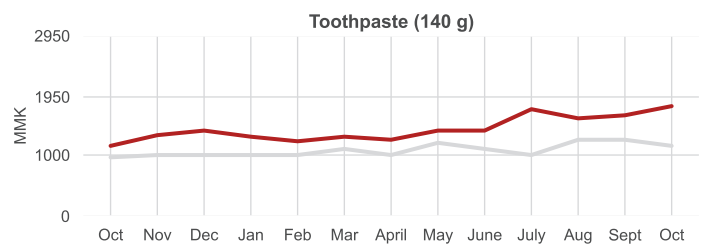
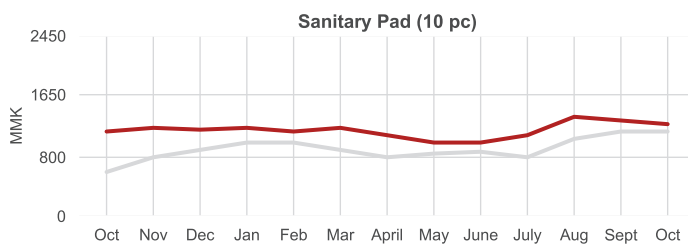
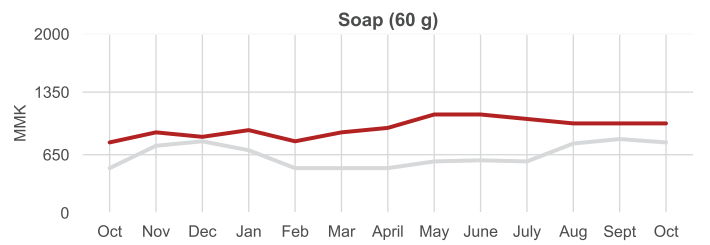
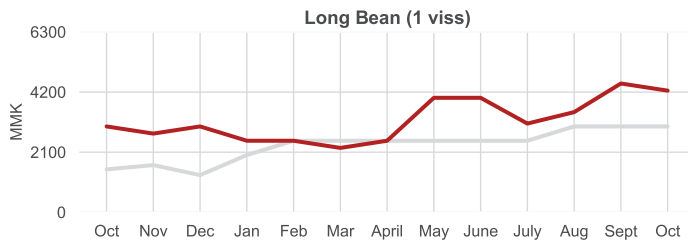
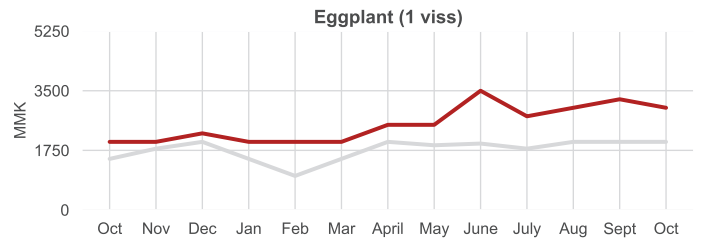
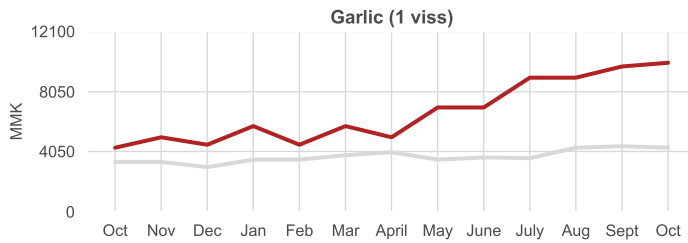
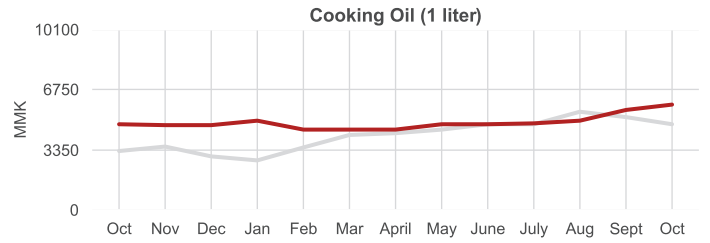
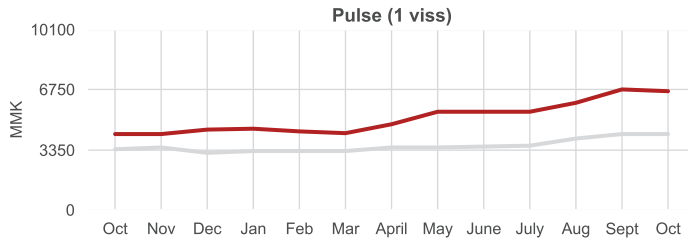
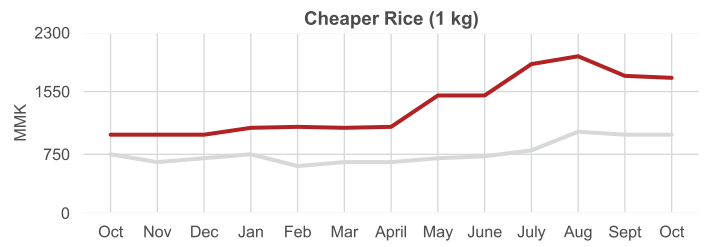
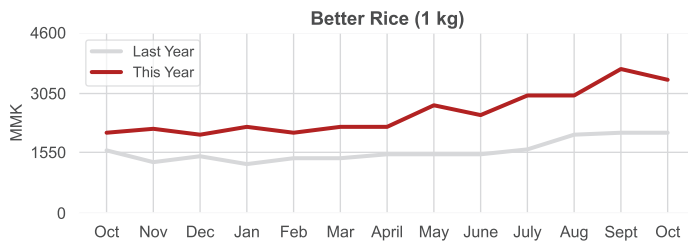
Other NFIs – NFI price drifted slightly further above 2022 levels in October. Most NFI prices pushed 3-12 percentage points beyond October 2022 levels. Prices remained much higher for mosquito nets (+64%), charcoal (+33%), blankets (+38%), longyis (+32-39%), and plastic tarps (+25%). Prices for cooking pots and jerry cans were 17-20% higher than last year.

What to Watch

- Markets in **Loikaw, Pekon** and **Hsihseng** may expect price hikes in November, as recent conflict closed market and disrupted critical transportation routes;
- Wet-season **rice** supply could help reduce prices in the months ahead and mute the worst affects of recent market disruptions;
- Conflict in Shan State may impact southeast markets and beyond, as it is a source for local **vegetables** and **NFIs** imported from China.

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 October 2023 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Hsiseng (Main market)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Pekon (Main market)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	4,000	6,600	3,252	3,300	3,500	2,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,750	3,800	1,760	1,500	1,700	1,600
Cooking Oil (1 liter)	4,450	6,800	4,000	7,000	7,000	5,000
Pulse (1 viss)	6,000	6,800	6,800	6,500	6,300	8,000
Salt (500 g)	400	450	500	300	300	300
Garlic (1 viss)	10,000	9,000	10,000	9,000	10,000	12,000
Onion (1 viss)	3,800	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	3,000	3,500	2,500	3,000	4,000	1,800
Long Bean (1 viss)	5,000	3,500	6,000	5,000	3,500	2,000
Watercress (1 viss)	3,000	1,500	3,000	1,000	3,000	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	5,000	10,000	5,000	7,000	4,000	5,000
Banana (1 bunch)	2,500	1,800	1,500	1,000	1,500	1,800
Shrimp (1 viss)	15,000	15,000	13,000	8,500	8,000	15,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	8,000	16,000	15,000	9,000	16,000	10,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	18,000	18,000	15,000	16,000	18,000	15,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	5,250	11,000	6,500	7,000	8,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	14,000	10,000	12,000	13,000	9,000
Pork (1 viss)	-	18,000	17,000	14,000	18,000	16,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	20,000	26,000	20,000	17,000	32,000	18,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,650	1,800	1,800	1,500	1,800	2,000
Detergent (400 g)	2,000	1,600	3,000	1,200	1,200	2,500
Soap (60 g)	1,000	1,100	917	1,000	950	2,800
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,350	1,500	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,200
Charcoal (1 viss)	700	1,000	700	1,000	800	1,400
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	8,000	11,000	9,000	5,000	5,000	18,000
Blanket	8,000	13,000	9,500	9,250	15,000	22,000
Mosquito Net	25,000	28,000	17,000	23,500	15,000	28,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	-	23,000	16,500	18,000	21,000	28,000
Men's Longyi	9,500	12,000	8,000	8,750	12,000	7,000
Women's Longyi	9,500	-	8,000	7,500	9,500	8,000
Umbrella	8,000	8,000	7,000	5,750	8,000	7,000
Towel	6,000	3,500	3,000	2,950	2,000	1,800
Vacuum Flask	27,000	27,000	15,000	10,000	15,000	16,000
Jerry Can	8,000	11,000	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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