

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

- **Price changes in September varied more by township than by product**, with different trends in each location;
- **Prices rose in Hpruso and Taungoo in September**, while they were down in Kawkareik and static in Loikaw;
- **Most prices shifted by 8% or less in September**, although Taungoo saw slightly larger price increases than elsewhere;
- **Essential food prices were generally stable**, and cooking oil prices fell in Hpapun and Taungoo;
- **Prices for hygiene products were generally stable or rising**, shifting slightly more than other NFIs;
- **Prices are likely to continue rising in October**, particularly in Kawkareik where prices fell in September and conflict-related tensions have since grown.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Rice prices were fairly stable September, although prices were higher for pulses and lower for oil. Most markets enjoyed stable rice prices in September, although in a few cases prices shifted 5-8%. Palm oil prices fell by 16-17% in September, following steep increases in August. Prices for pulses—which rose only moderately in August—climbed 6-20% in September.

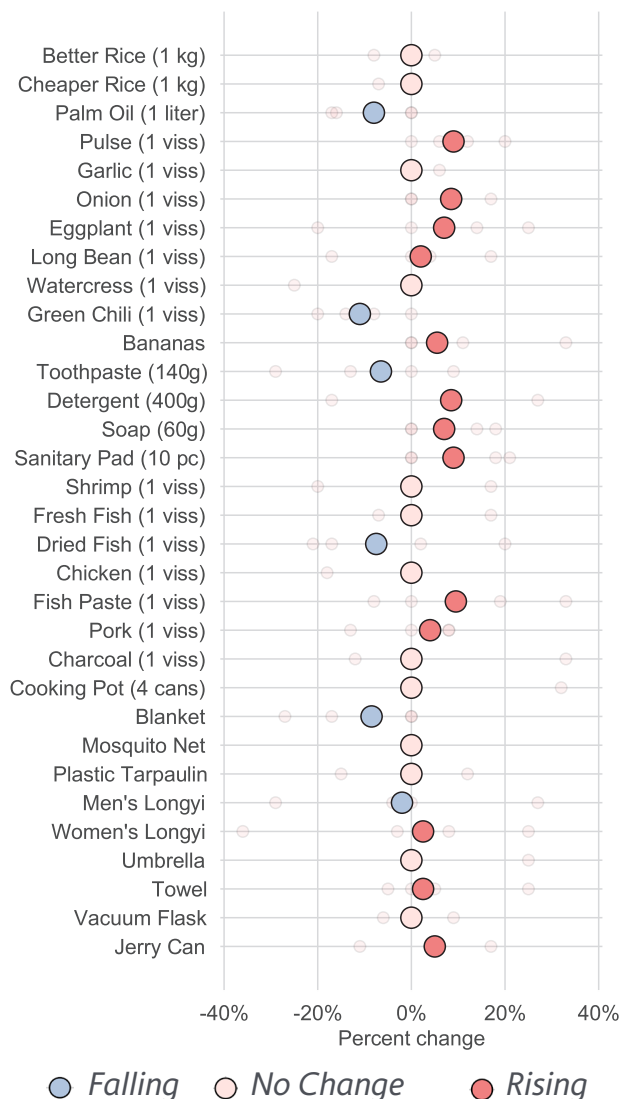
Vegetables – Vegetable prices behaved differently in different markets in September, but the general picture was one of stability. Prices for green chili fell by 8-20% in September, but otherwise there were few clear trends. Vegetable prices in Taungoo and Hpruso rose, while prices in Kawkareik fell. Vegetable prices were stable in Loikaw in September.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were generally stable or rising in September, with clear township-level trends. Prices for hygiene products behaved differently in different markets, with prices up in Taungoo and Hpapun and stable or falling in Kawkareik; prices were stable in Loikaw.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices—which generally rose in August—both rose and fell in September. Chicken and fresh fish were relatively stable, but product-level trends stopped there. Meat/fish prices generally rose in Taungoo and Hpapun while falling in Kawkareik; prices were stable in Loikaw.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were slightly more stable than other products in September, but they exhibited similar trends at the township-level. NFI prices rose in Taungoo, and they were stable-or-rising in Hpapun. NFI prices were stable in Loikaw and stable-or-falling in Kawkareik.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

Price changes in September varied more by township than by product, with prices rising in Hpruso and Taungoo, static in Loikaw, and falling in Kawkareik. Two-thirds of all products monitored rose in price in Hpruso and Taungoo in September, while in Kawkareik two-thirds fell (in Loikaw, a similar portion of goods was stable). Most price changes in September were 8% or less, but Taungoo experienced slightly deeper increases than other townships. In Taungoo, one-quarter of all products monitored rose by 21% or more. Price changes were rarest in Loikaw and also smaller in magnitude, with most prices shifts in September in the range of 2-11%. Loikaw retailers attributed price stability there to low turnover, as many retailers are still selling inventory purchased months ago. Kawkareik retailers said that lower fuel prices in September allowed NFI prices to drift lower (although this was not true of locally-produced foods there).

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

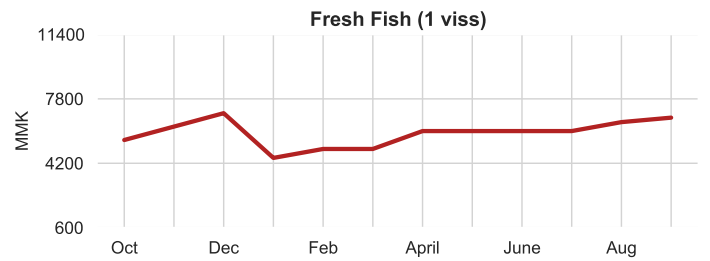
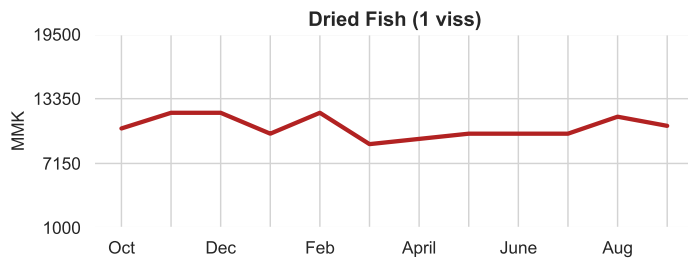
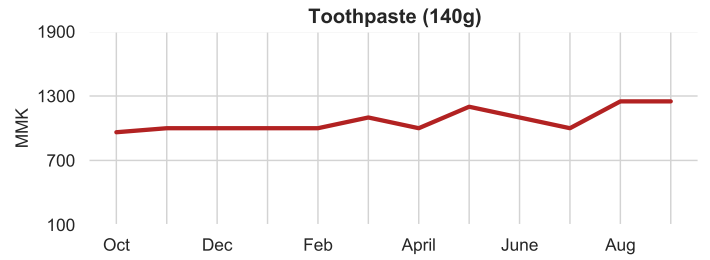
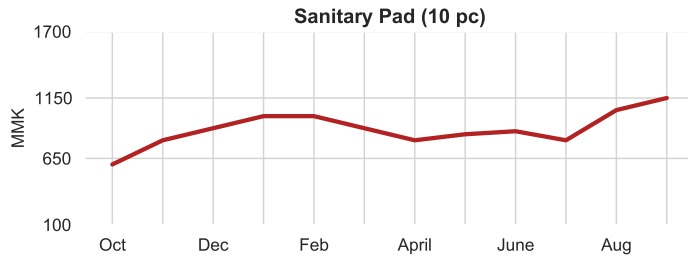
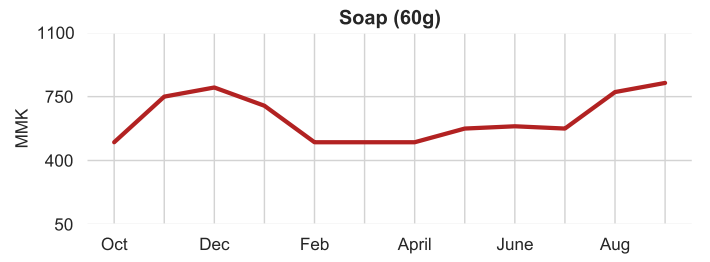
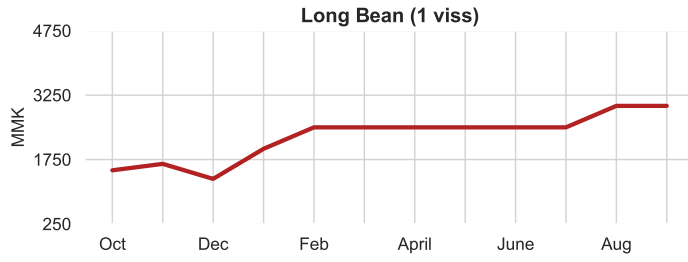
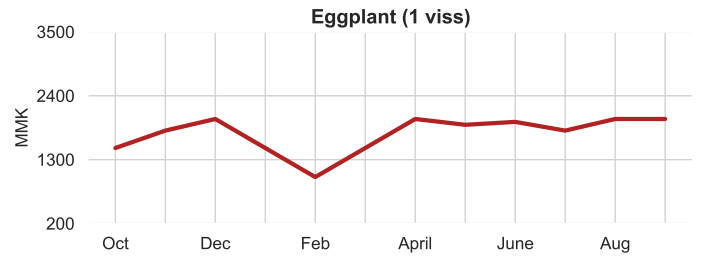
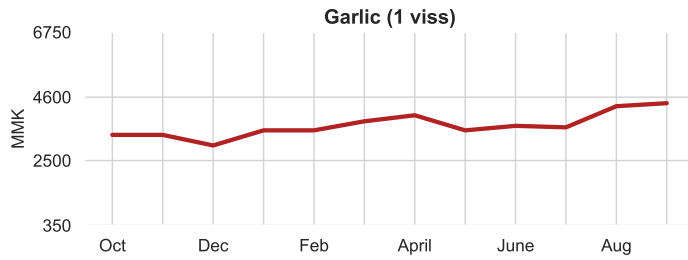
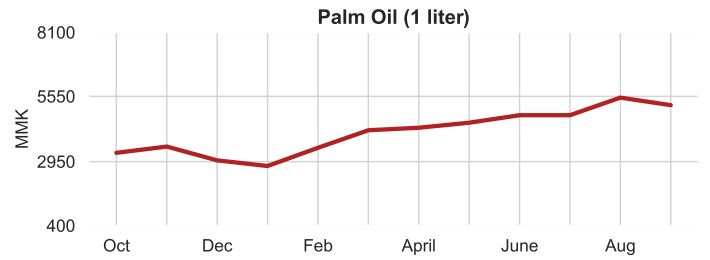
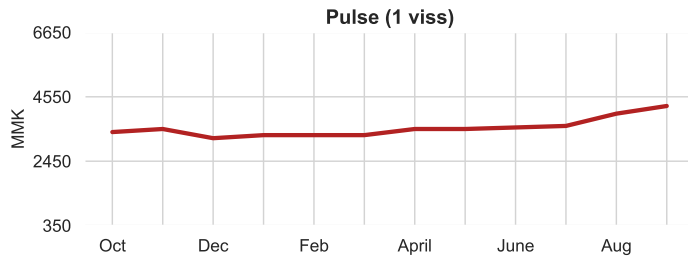
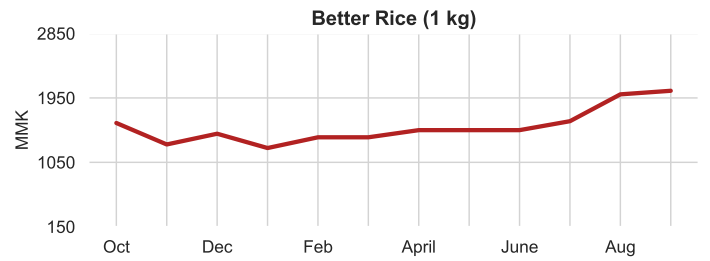
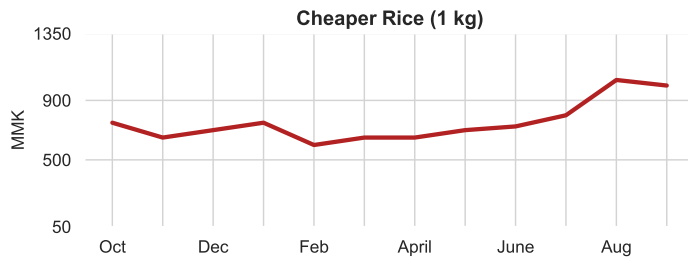


The above chart provides a general impression of the direction of price changes in each market by product category. Product categories are labeled as stable (grey), falling (blue), rising (red), or mixed (pink).

What to Watch

- Prices for **vegetables** and **rice** should start to slip downward in October and November as more winter supply comes to market;
- The relatively gradual nature of **NFI** price increases in September—even in Hpapun and Taungoo—suggests more increases may be yet to come;
- An increase in conflict-related events in **Kawkareik** township in October may lead to higher prices if transportation is badly affected.

Charts 4-15. Median Township Price, Selected Products (Twelve Months)



Prices for September 2022 (MMK)

Product	Hpapun (Kamamaung)	Kawkareik (Main market)	Loikaw (Thiri Mingalar)	Taungoo (Nat Htet)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,100	2,000	3,000	1,800
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500
Palm Oil (1 liter)	4,600	5,000	5,500	5,400
Pulse (1 viss)	4,800	4,500	4,000	3,800
Garlic (1 viss)	5,000	5,000	3,500	3,800
Onion (1 viss)	3,500	4,000	1,200	4,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,500	2,000	2,000	800
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,500	2,500	4,700	1,800
Watercress (1 viss)	1,000	1,500	900	1,800
Green Chili (1 viss)	3,000	2,000	7,500	6,000
Bananas	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,500
Toothpaste (140g)	1,300	500	1,400	1,200
Detergent (400g)	1,400	1,000	1,200	1,400
Soap (60g)	800	500	850	1,000
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,300	1,400	1,000	850
Shrimp (1 viss)	10,000	12,000	6,000	14,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	7,000	6,500	6,000	7,500
Dried Fish (1 viss)	12,000	10,000	11,500	9,500
Chicken (1 viss)	8,000	7,000	9,000	8,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	4,750	5,000	5,500	4,000
Pork (1 viss)	13,000	13,000	14,000	13,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	500	700	-	800
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	8,250	10,000	3,800	8,000
Blanket	5,000	8,000	7,750	11,000
Mosquito Net	15,000	10,000	12,500	18,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	18,000	17,000	18,000	18,000
Men's Longyi	6,000	5,000	6,250	7,000
Women's Longyi	6,500	4,500	7,000	7,500
Umbrella	5,500	5,000	6,750	7,500
Towel	5,000	3,000	3,000	2,500
Vacuum Flask	18,000	17,000	9,800	12,000
Jerry Can	7,000	8,500	-	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).

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