

# 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](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Essential food prices rose again in September** with better rice and pulses rising 8% and 3%, respectively;
- **Vegetable prices varied by market** with prices falling in Hpapun and Hsiseng and prices rising in Kawkareik and Loikaw;
- **Meat and fish prices were stable or rising** except in Kawkareik where prices fell sharply;
- **NFI prices were stable or rising** with charcoal, cooking pots, and mosquito nets increasing 8% or more;
- **Cooking oil prices held fairly stable in September**, although prices may rise in the months ahead given nationwide reports of tighter markets;
- **Recent clashes may lead to price shocks in Kawkareik** if supply is disrupted—particularly for perishable food items that must be restocked frequently.

## Product-Level Price Changes

**Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose again in September, albeit more gradually than in July or August.** Better rice prices rose 8% or more in most markets in September, although cheaper rice prices were stable or falling slightly. Prices for palm oil fluctuated slightly, while prices for pulses climbed at least 3% in all markets monitored.

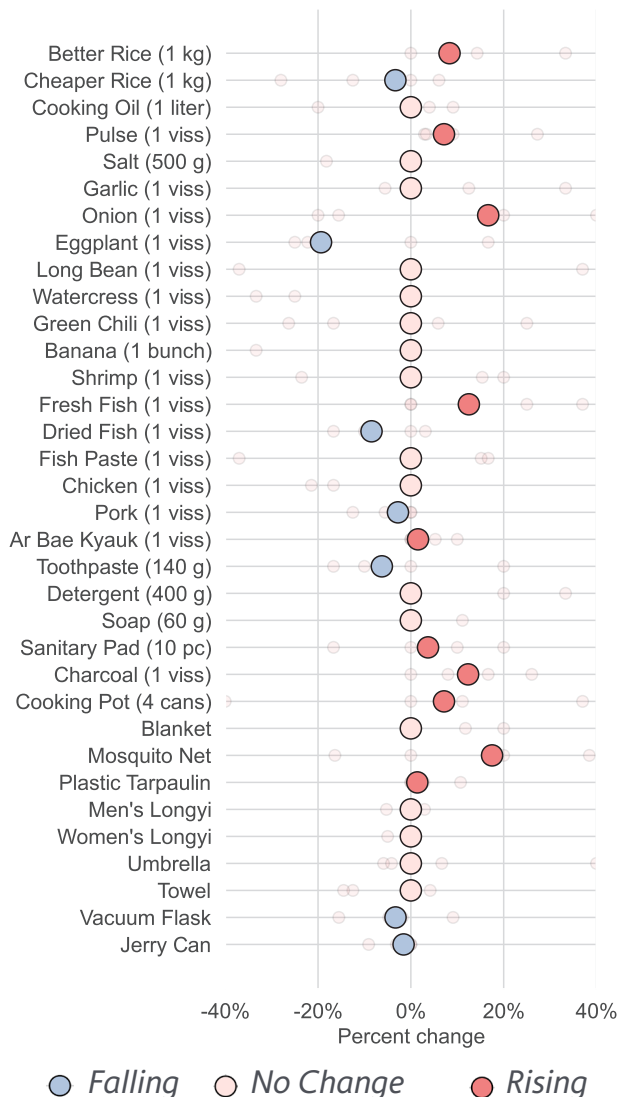
**Vegetables – Vegetable prices varied more by market than by product in September.** Vegetable prices fell in Hpapun and Hsiseng while holding stable in Loikaw and Taungoo. Onion, eggplant, and green chili prices were the most volatile in September—rising or falling 16-26% in several markets—although these shifts were relatively modest for vegetables.

**Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were stable or rising slightly, except in Kawkareik where prices fell.** Meat/fish prices fluctuated 5-20% in some cases in September, but prices were otherwise fairly stable. Most meat/fish prices fell 5% or more in Kawkareik, except fresh fish prices which rose in September.

**Hygiene Products – Price for hygiene products fluctuated in September, except in Kawkareik where prices rose.** Toothpaste prices fell 6-17% in several markets, while prices for sanitary pads rose 4-20%. Prices for hygiene products rose 10-20% in Kawkareik in September.

**Other NFIs – Prices for NFIs like charcoal and mosquito nets rose in September, while other NFI prices were mostly stable.** Prices for charcoal, cooking pots, and mosquito nets rose at least 8% in several markets in September. Prices for longyis were very stable, while prices for other NFIs drifted 3-16% lower.

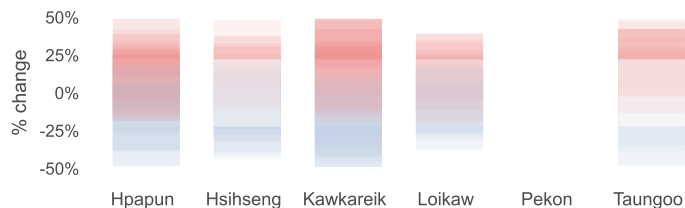
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



## Township-Level Price Changes

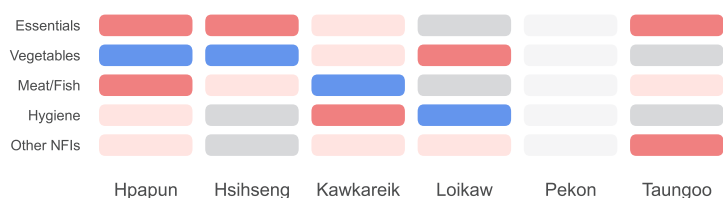
**Kawkareik and Hpapun saw the steepest price hikes in September, while prices were more stable in Hsihseng and Loikaw.** Kawkareik saw both the deepest and widest price increases in September, as one-quarter of all prices monitored rose 20% or more, and half of all products monitored rose 3% or more; however, Kawkareik also saw the deepest price cuts with one-quarter of all products monitored down 16% or more. Hsihseng, Loikaw, and Taungoo saw the most price stability. One-quarter of all products monitored in Hpapun rose at least 8% and price cuts were rare.

**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 Changes<sup>1</sup>

**Essential Foods – Rising essential food prices pushed further beyond 2022 levels in September.** Prices remained much higher than last year for better rice (+65%), cheaper rice (+64%), and pulses (+46%), while prices for palm oil (-4%) lingered near September 2022 levels.

**Vegetables – Relatively-stable vegetable prices drifted closer to September 2022 levels.** Vegetable prices drifted 5-16 percentage points closer to 2022 levels, although most prices remained 20-40% higher. Prices remained higher for eggplant (+43%), long bean (42%), watercress (+27%), and green chili (25%).

**Meat and Fish – Rising meat/fish prices again tracked with 2022, holding prices 20-50% above last year.** Prices remained much higher than last year for chicken (+48%), pork (+24%), fresh fish (+36%), dried fish (+36%), shrimp (+26%), and fish paste (+14%).

**Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products remained 20-50% higher than last year.** Prices for hygiene products drifted 10-20 percentage points closer to last year—when prices were rising more quickly—yet prices remained higher for toothpaste (+32%), detergent

(+43%), soap (+46%), and sanitary pads (+21%).

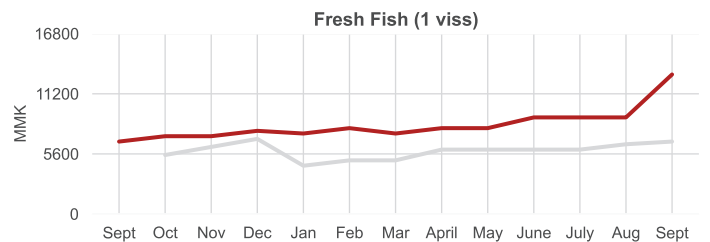
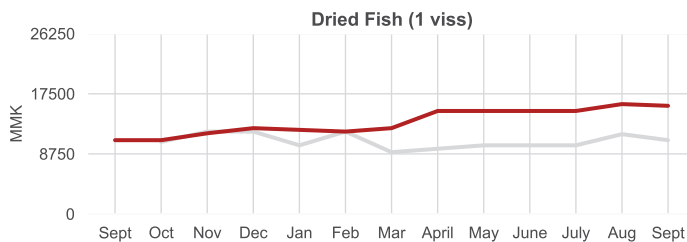
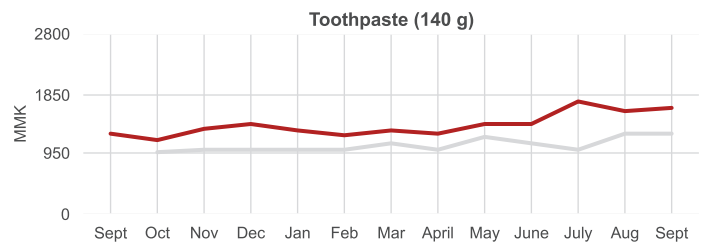
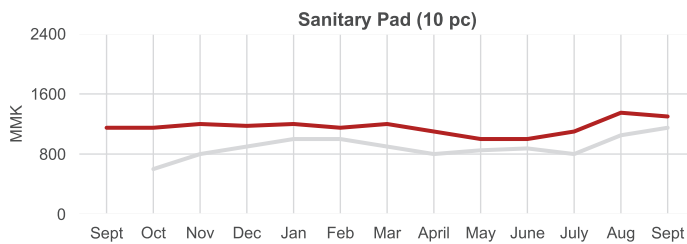
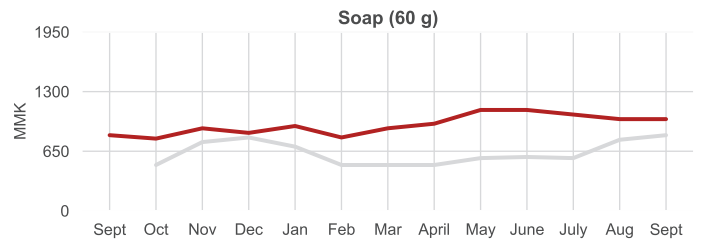
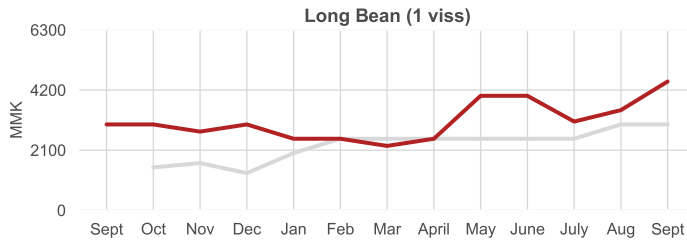
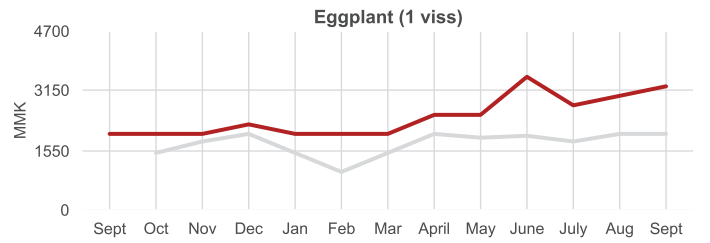
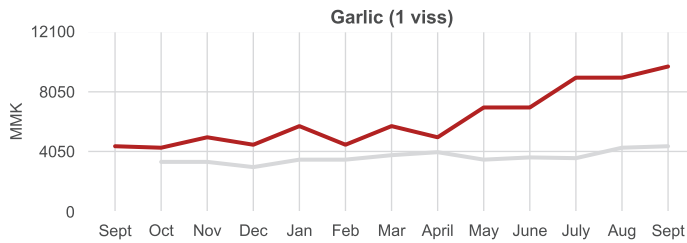
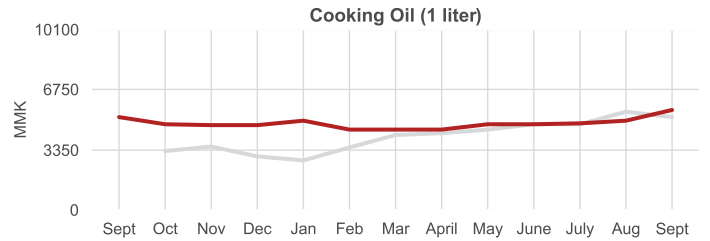
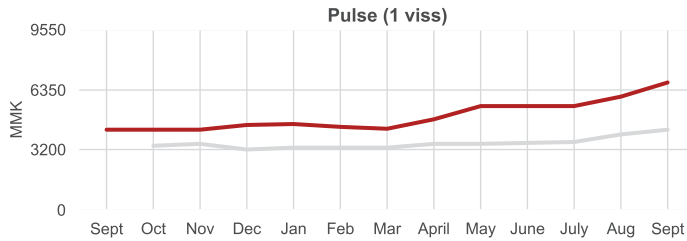
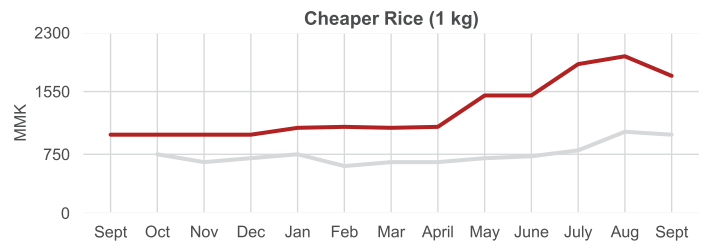
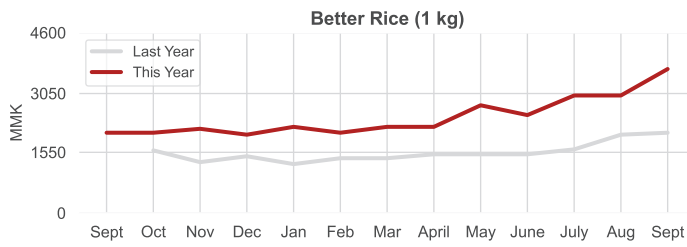
**Other NFIs – NFI price increases largely tracked with last year and generally remained 20-40% higher.** Some NFI prices drifted a bit closer to Septembers 2022 levels, but prices remained much higher for mosquito nets (+52%), charcoal (+52%), blankets (+32%), and longyis (+28-30%). Cooking pots, plastic tarps, towels, and jerry cans were 10-20% higher.

### What to Watch

- Additional price hikes for **rice** and **pulses** remain concerning, and **cooking oil** prices may rise still further given nationwide reports of tighter markets;
- Prices trends for **vegetables** may continue to vary by market as winter season approaches and variations in seasonal cropping play a greater role;
- Reports of clashes in **Kawkareik** in October may lead to further supply and price shocks, particularly for frequently-restocked food items.

<sup>1</sup> 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 September 2023 (MMK)

| Product               | Hpapun<br>(Kamamaung) | Hsiseng<br>(Main market) | Kawkareik<br>(Main market) | Loikaw<br>(Thiri Mingalar) | Pekon<br>(Main market) | Taungoo<br>(Nat Htet) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Better Rice (1 kg)    | 4,000                 | 6,500                    | 3,250                      | 3,000                      | 3,350                  | 4,000                 |
| Cheaper Rice (1 kg)   | 1,750                 | 4,000                    | 1,750                      | 1,450                      | 1,500                  | 1,800                 |
| Cooking Oil (1 liter) | 5,000                 | 12,000                   | 4,000                      | 6,500                      | 6,000                  | 5,200                 |
| Pulse (1 viss)        | 6,000                 | 7,000                    | 7,000                      | 6,200                      | 6,500                  | 7,500                 |
| Garlic (1 viss)       | 10,000                | 8,500                    | 10,000                     | 9,000                      | 9,500                  | 12,000                |
| Onion (1 viss)        | 3,800                 | 3,200                    | 3,500                      | 3,500                      | 3,500                  | 3,000                 |
| Eggplant (1 viss)     | 3,500                 | 3,500                    | 2,500                      | 3,000                      | 4,000                  | 1,500                 |
| Long Bean (1 viss)    | 5,000                 | 3,500                    | 6,000                      | 5,000                      | 4,000                  | 2,000                 |
| Watercress (1 viss)   | 3,000                 | 1,500                    | 2,000                      | 1,000                      | 2,500                  | 1,800                 |
| Green Chili (1 viss)  | 3,500                 | 10,000                   | 5,000                      | 9,000                      | 2,500                  | 5,000                 |
| Banana (1 bunch)      | 2,500                 | 1,800                    | 2,000                      | 1,000                      | 2,250                  | 1,500                 |
| Shrimp (1 viss)       | 15,000                | 15,000                   | 13,000                     | 8,000                      | 8,000                  | 12,000                |
| Fresh Fish (1 viss)   | 9,000                 | 16,000                   | 16,000                     | 9,000                      | 16,000                 | 10,000                |
| Dried Fish (1 viss)   | 16,500                | 18,000                   | 15,000                     | 13,500                     | 18,000                 | 14,000                |
| Fish Paste (1 viss)   | 4,250                 | 9,500                    | 6,000                      | 7,000                      | 5,200                  | 5,000                 |
| Chicken (1 viss)      | 13,000                | 16,000                   | 11,000                     | 12,000                     | 13,000                 | 10,000                |
| Pork (1 viss)         | -                     | 18,000                   | 17,000                     | 15,000                     | 18,000                 | 14,000                |
| Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss) | 22,000                | 28,000                   | 20,000                     | 16,500                     | 32,000                 | 18,000                |
| Toothpaste (140 g)    | 1,500                 | 1,800                    | 1,800                      | 1,500                      | 1,800                  | 1,500                 |
| Detergent (400 g)     | 2,000                 | 1,600                    | 3,000                      | 1,200                      | 1,200                  | 1,800                 |
| Soap (60 g)           | 1,000                 | 1,100                    | 1,000                      | 1,000                      | 950                    | 1,500                 |
| Sanitary Pad (10 pc)  | 1,400                 | 1,500                    | 1,650                      | 1,000                      | 1,000                  | 1,200                 |
| Charcoal (1 viss)     | 700                   | 1,050                    | 1,080                      | 7,000                      | 700                    | 1,200                 |
| Cooking Pot (4 cans)  | 7,500                 | 11,000                   | 9,000                      | 5,000                      | 5,000                  | 28,000                |
| Blanket               | 9,000                 | 13,000                   | 9,500                      | 9,250                      | 14,750                 | 18,000                |
| Mosquito Net          | 23,000                | 28,000                   | 18,000                     | 23,500                     | 16,000                 | 24,000                |
| Plastic Tarpaulin     | -                     | 23,250                   | 18,500                     | 18,000                     | 23,000                 | 24,000                |
| Men's Longyi          | 9,000                 | 12,000                   | 8,000                      | 8,750                      | 10,000                 | 7,000                 |
| Women's Longyi        | 9,500                 | -                        | 8,000                      | 7,500                      | 9,500                  | 8,000                 |
| Umbrella              | 8,000                 | 8,000                    | 7,000                      | 5,750                      | 6,250                  | 7,000                 |
| Towel                 | 6,250                 | 3,500                    | 3,500                      | 2,950                      | 2,000                  | 1,800                 |
| Vacuum Flask          | 24,500                | 26,500                   | 15,000                     | 10,000                     | 15,500                 | 18,000                |

\*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).

### **CONTACT**

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