

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 Demoso (village), Hpapun (Kamamaung), Hsihseng (main), Kawkareik (main), Loikaw (main), Pekon (main), and Taungoo (Nat Htet). Data are available online at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Prices rose sharply in Taungoo and Demoso in April**, but other markets monitored saw relative price stability;
- **Vegetable prices rose 10-40% as seasonal supply fell**, with eggplant and long bean recording the largest price increases;
- **Meat/fish prices rose in Taungoo in April**, but they were largely stable in other markets monitored;
- **Hygiene product prices rose 10% in some markets**, and price increases were particularly large in Demoso;
- **Many prices remained 40-70% above last year**, as April price increases largely tracked with price trends at this time last year;
- **Route closures will continue to raise transport costs** and increase the price of goods in Kayin State, especially as road quality worsenes in monsoon season.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Rice prices were a bit lower in April, although other essential food prices rose in some markets. Rice prices fell 10-20% in several markets in April, although prices for pulses and cooking oil were stable. The exception was Hpapun, where rice prices rose 3-5%. Cooking oil prices rose 8-9% in Demoso and Hpapun while holding stable elsewhere.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices rose 14-37% in April as seasonal supply shifted. Prices for eggplant, long bean, watercress, and green chili rose at least 14% across markets, and prices often doubled in Taungoo. By contrast, garlic and onion prices were stable in three of five markets monitored.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices rose in Taungoo while holding stable or falling elsewhere. Prices for dried fish, fish paste, chicken, and pork increased sharply in Taungoo, but they were stable or 6-17% lower elsewhere. Shrimp and fresh fish prices rose 25% in Demoso but they were stable elsewhere.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products rose sharply in Taungoo and Demoso, but they were mixed elsewhere. Prices for hygiene products rose 20-33% in Demoso in April, and they rose 10% or more in Taungoo. Prices for hygiene products were stable in Pinlaung in April, and they fluctuated in Pekon and Hpapun.

Other NFIs – NFI prices spiked in Demoso and Taungoo, but they were stable in Pekon and Pinlaung. Most NFI prices monitored climbed 20-50% in Demoso and 32% or more in Taungoo in April. Some NFI prices did fall in these markets, such as charcoal and cooking pots in Taungoo and longyis in Demoso. NFI prices were exceptionally stable in Pekon and Pinlaung in April, except for cooking pot prices which fell 38%.

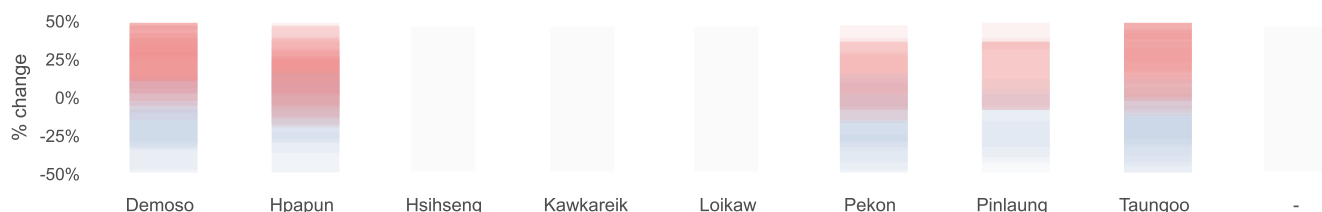
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

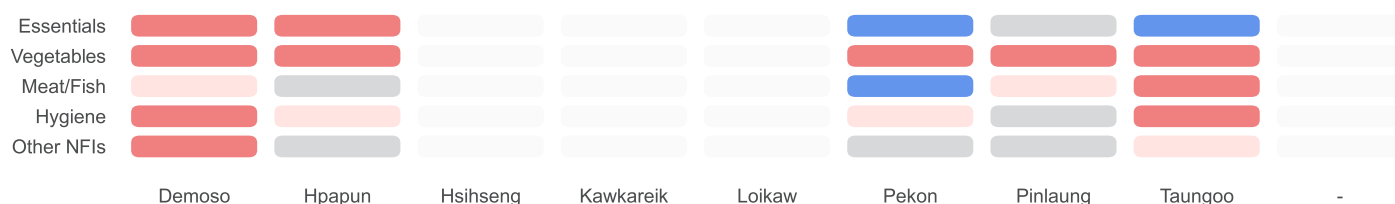
Prices rose sharply in Demoso and Taungoo in April, while Pekon and Pinlaung saw relative price stability. Half of all prices monitored in Taungoo rose 20% or more in April, and one-quarter of all prices rose 43% or more. Half of all prices monitored in Demoso rose 17% or more in April, and one-quarter of all prices rose at least 31%. Both Taungoo and Demoso saw price increases across all product categories. By contrast, in Pekon and Pinlaung more than half of all prices monitored were stable in April. Although vegetable prices rose in Pekon and Pinlaung, prices for other foods and NFIs were largely unchanged.

Chart 2. Price Change for All Products, by Township (One Month)



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 Township and Product Category (One Month)



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 Changes²

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were 40-70% above 2023 levels in April. Prices for cheaper rice (+64%), better rice (+59%), pulses (+70%), and cooking oil (+44%) all remained far higher in April 2024 than they were in April 2023.

Vegetables – Rising vegetable prices tracked closely with price hikes at this time last year. Prices for egg-plant (+75%), long bean (+40%), watercress (+58%), and green chili (+18%) remained 18-75% above last year. Onion prices were just 11% above last year, while garlic prices were threefold higher.

Meat and Fish – Shifting meat/fish prices remained 30-60% above April 2023 levels. Prices remained higher than last year for chicken (+47%), pork (+29%), fresh fish (+62%), dried fish (+48%), and fish paste (+60%). By contrast, shrimp prices were just 9% higher than April of last year.

Hygiene Products – Rising prices for hygiene products largely tracked with April 2023. Prices remained much higher for toothpaste (+44%) and detergent (+54%),

while prices for soap (+11%) and sanitary pads (+4%) were closer to April 2023.

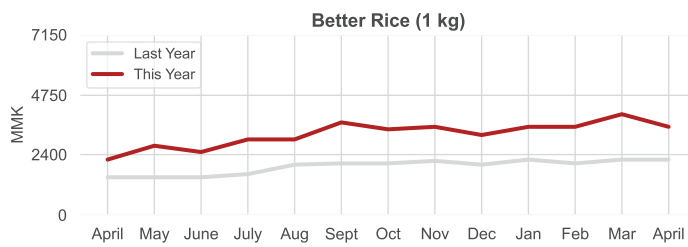
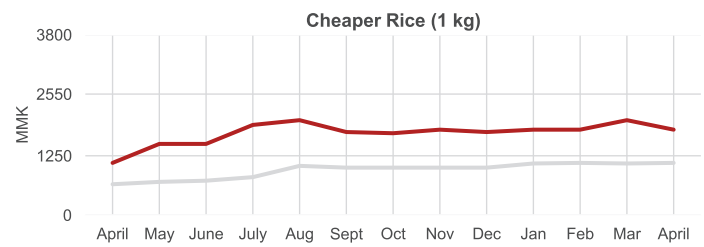
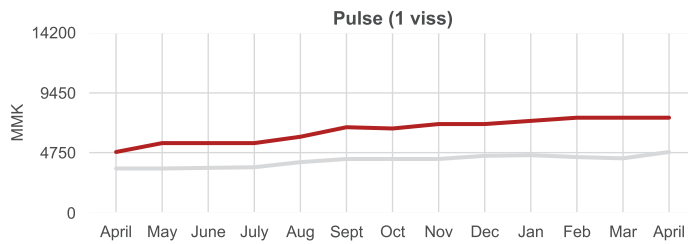
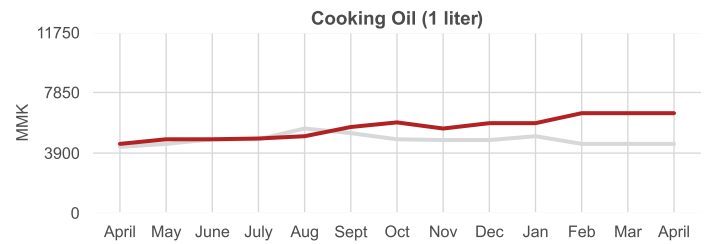
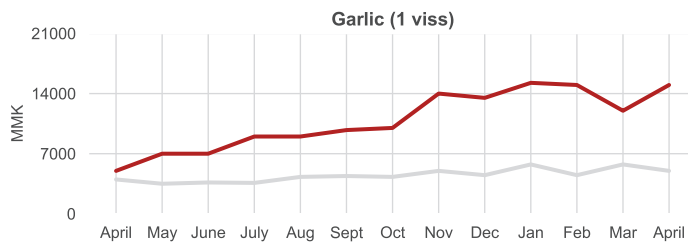
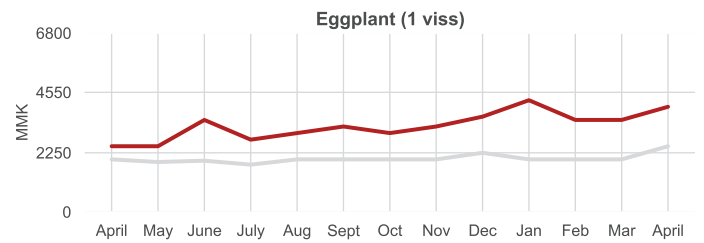
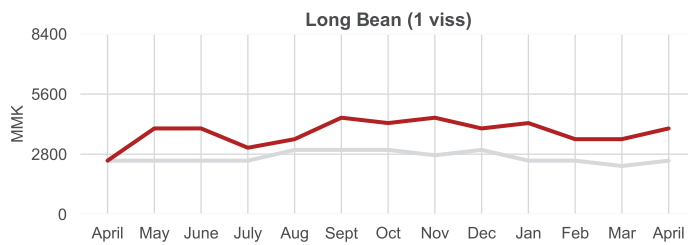
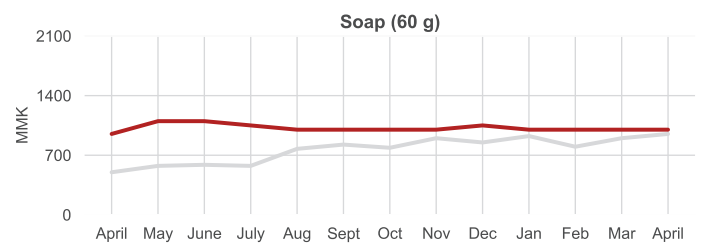
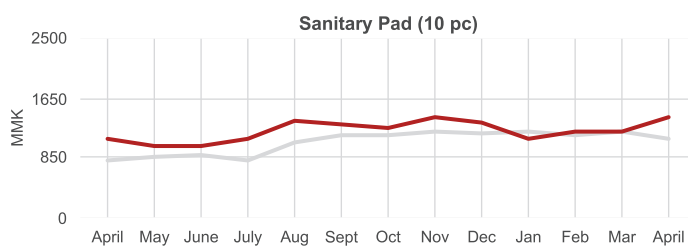
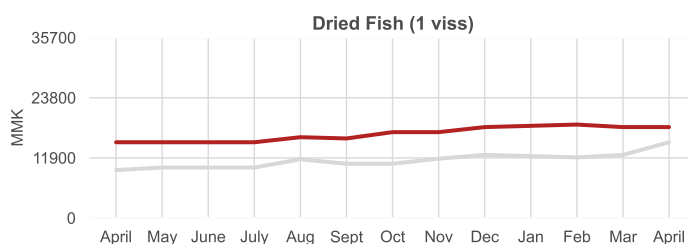
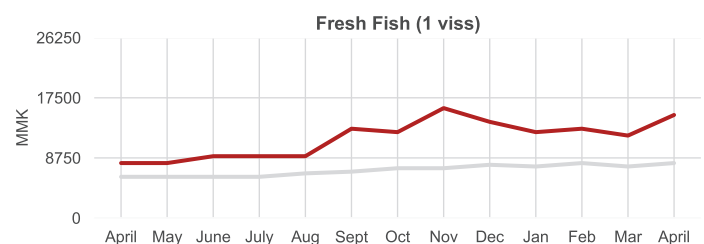
Other NFIs – Rising NFI prices were nearly double 2023 levels for blankets and charcoal. Prices for charcoal (+88%), blankets (+97%), and plastic tarps (+65%) all stretched their lead over 2023 levels in April. By contrast, mosquito nets (+19%) did not rise as quickly as last year in April. Prices for other NFIs like longyis and jerry cans remained 10-40% above last year.

What to Watch

- Higher **rice** prices in other states/regions in April did not register in the markets monitored, which suggests they may see larger increases next month;
- Sharply-rising prices for **plastic tarps** should be monitored as monsoon season boosts demand, and **mosquito net** prices are likely to rise as well;
- Road closures in Kayin State will continue to inflate prices for transportation and various goods, especially as road quality worsens in monsoon season.

² 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 April 2024 (MMK)

Product	Demoso (village)	Hpapun (Kamarmaung)	Hsiseng (town)	Kawkareik (town)	Loikaw (town)	Pekon (village)	Pinlaung (town)	Taungoo (town)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,250	4,200	-	-	-	3,500	4,000	2,700
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	-	2,050	-	-	-	1,800	1,800	1,600
Cooking Oil (1 liter)	7,000	6,000	-	-	-	6,500	6,500	5,250
Pulse (1 viss)	9,000	-	-	-	-	7,500	7,500	5,800
Salt (500 g)	500	500	-	-	-	500	500	300
Garlic (1 viss)	10,000	15,500	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	7,800
Onion (1 viss)	3,000	5,000	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	3,000
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,500	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	7,500
Watercress (1 viss)	3,500	-	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	3,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	4,250	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	10,000
Banana (1 bunch)	3,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	2,000	2,500
Shrimp (1 viss)	15,000	17,000	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	11,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	15,000	12,000	-	-	-	16,000	16,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	16,000	-	-	-	-	18,000	20,000	-
Fish Paste (1 viss)	8,000	-	-	-	-	8,000	10,000	7,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	15,500	-	-	-	13,000	14,000	13,500
Pork (1 viss)	20,000	-	-	-	-	18,000	18,000	18,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	32,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	28,000	22,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	1,800	1,800	2,200
Detergent (400 g)	2,000	2,100	-	-	-	1,200	1,200	2,300
Soap (60 g)	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,750
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,500	1,400	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,750
Charcoal (1 viss)	1,200	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	13,500	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	14,000
Blanket	18,000	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	12,000
Mosquito Net	28,000	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	-
Plastic Tarpaulin	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	35,000	37,000
Men's Longyi	12,000	-	-	-	-	13,000	13,000	11,000
Women's Longyi	9,000	-	-	-	-	9,500	9,500	8,000
Umbrella	12,000	-	-	-	-	8,500	8,500	11,500
Towel	3,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	-
Vacuum Flask	22,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	25,000
Jerry Can	8,500	-	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	9,500

*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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