

Market Price Report

The MAU tracks market prices in Central and Northern Rakhine State and Chin State. Data are collected from three vendors per product per market in the last week of each month.¹ Data and product specifications are available online through the MPR dashboard at www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit.

KEY FINDINGS

- Rice prices rose 4-8% in May**, but in general essential food prices were more stable than other product types;
- Vegetables prices rose 15-37%**, and recent price increases outpaced those at this time last year;
- Hygiene NFI prices rose at their fastest rate in months**, adding 16-54% on top of five months of past price hikes;
- Meat/fish prices rose 6-10% in May**, although recent months have seen prices falling more often than rising;
- Mosquito net prices spiked in May**, although NFI prices were other stable following April's sharp increases;
- Hygiene NFI prices were 100-200% above last year**, while other NFIs were often double 2023 levels;
- Wholesale price and supply should be monitored** as retailers suggest local conflict is not their only challenge;
- Relentless price hikes for hygiene NFIs may be critical** as prices push three-times above last year's levels.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices were stable or slightly higher again in May, with rice prices up 4-8%. Rice prices fluctuated in May but trended upward slightly as retailers worried about stable access to supply. Prices for cooking oil also fluctuated but were overall 3% lower. Prices for pulses were flat after rising steadily in March and April.

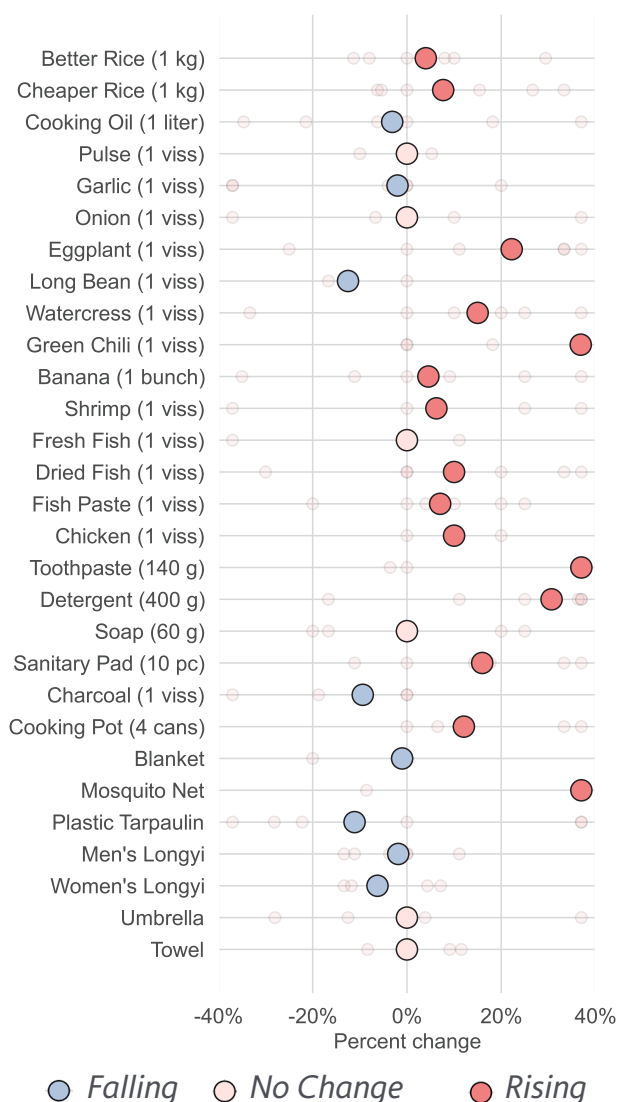
Vegetables – Vegetables saw a third straight month of rising prices amid continued reports of falling supply. Prices for eggplant and watercress rose 15-22%, and green chili prices were up 37%. Other vegetable prices fluctuated with little clear trend, although Minbya saw a number of falling prices.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices rose 6-10% in May. Shrimp and fish paste prices rose 6-7% in May, while prices for chicken and dried fish rose 10%. Fresh fish prices varied by market. Retailers said reduced supply of fresh fish increased demand (and therefore prices) for substitutes like dried fish.

Hygiene Products – Hygiene product prices climbed 16-54%, marking the largest increase in six months of higher prices. Prices for sanitary pads and detergent rose 16% and 31%, respectively, while toothpaste rose 54%. Soap prices rose and fell in different markets. Multiple retailers reported rising wholesale prices for hygiene items and overall less supply than normal.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were relatively stable in May, although mosquito net prices jumped 50%. Plastic tarp prices fell in several markets but spiked 40-60% in Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun. Prices for charcoal and longyis fell 2-9%. Prices for cooking pots and mosquito nets rose, while other NFIs were stable. Retailers said Yangon supplies had begun raising mosquito net prices.

Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)

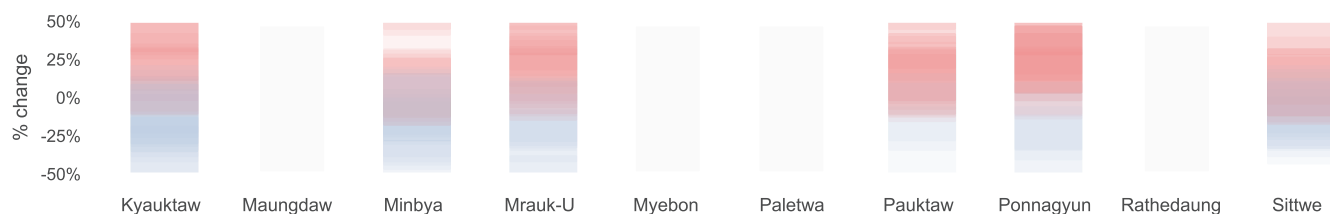


¹ Due to town market closures in Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung, prices were gathered in nearby village markets.

Township-Level Price Changes

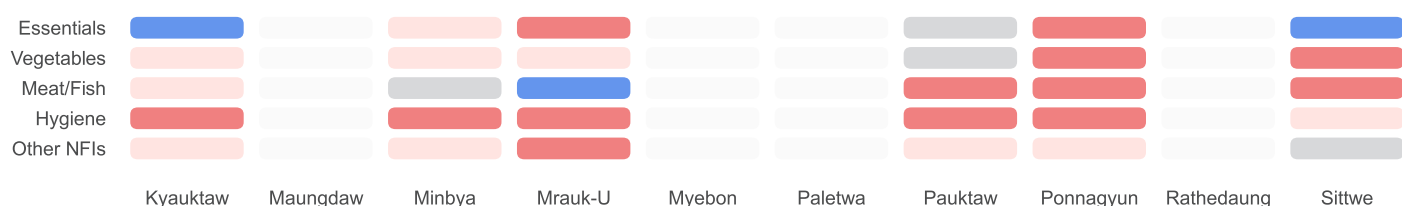
Ponnagyun and Mrauk-U saw the sharpest price hikes in May, while Kyauktaw saw moderate price relief amid reports of improved supply as more retailers returning to the market at month's end. Half of all prices monitored in Kyauktaw fell at least 4%, and one-quarter fell at least 15%. By contrast, half of all prices monitored in Ponnagyun increased at least 20% in May, and one-quarter of all prices increased at least 29%. Half of all prices monitored in Mrauk-U increased at least 12%, while one-quarter increased at least 36%. Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun retailers said reduced supply for some products in May alongside rising NFI wholesale prices helped push prices up.

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 drifted closer to 2023 levels in May but were still much higher. The median twelve-month increase for better rice (+39%), cheaper rice (+13%), and cooking oil (+120%) narrowed 8-10 percentage points as prices rose slower this year. Prices for pulses (+280%) remained triple 2023 levels.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices rose faster than last year and lingered at least 60% above May 2023. Prices for eggplant (+71%), long bean (+60%), watercress (+64%), and green chili (+120%) stretched their lead over 2023, while onion and garlic prices remained four- or five-times higher than last year.

Meat and Fish – Meat/fish prices were 40-100% higher than May 2023 levels. Meat/fish prices drifted closer to 2023 levels in May despite modest price hikes. The median twelve-month increase for shrimp (+100%), fish paste (+78%), chicken (+41%), fresh fish (+39%), and dried fish (+43%) narrowed by 20-50 percentage points.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were double May 2023 and rising considerably faster. The

median twelve-month price increase grew 17-25 percentage points for toothpaste (+130%), soap (+120%), and detergent (+100%). Sanitary pads (+200%) were triple last year's price.

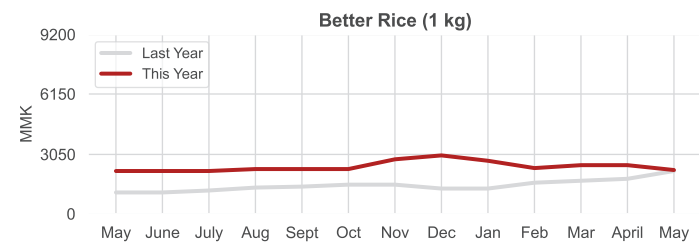
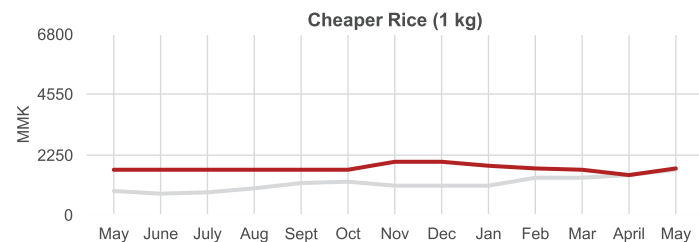
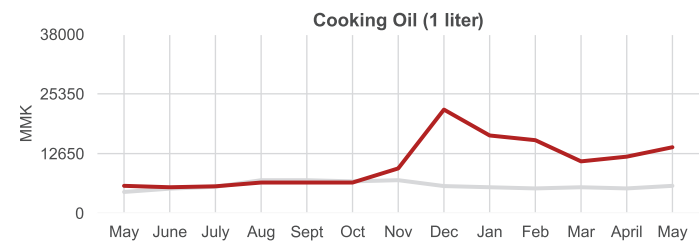
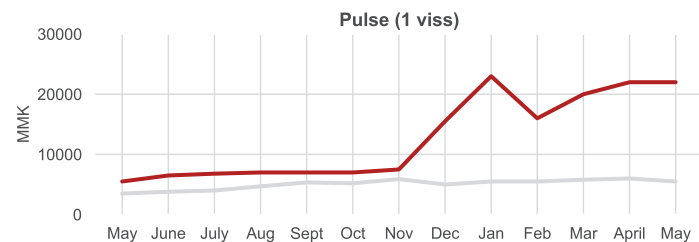
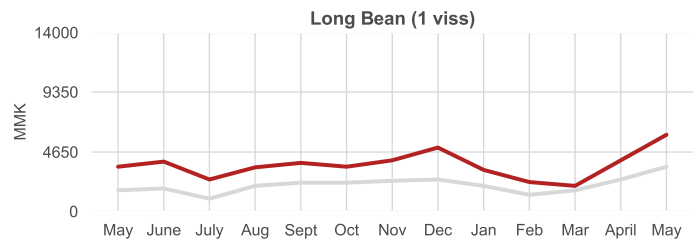
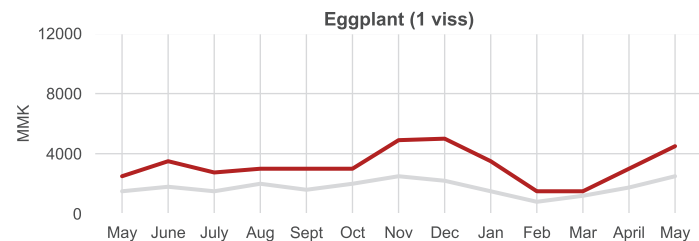
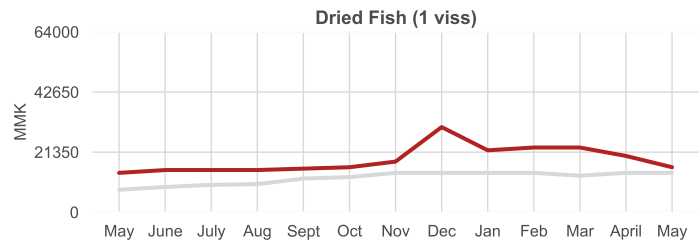
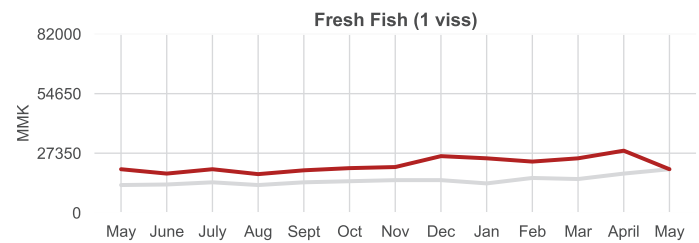
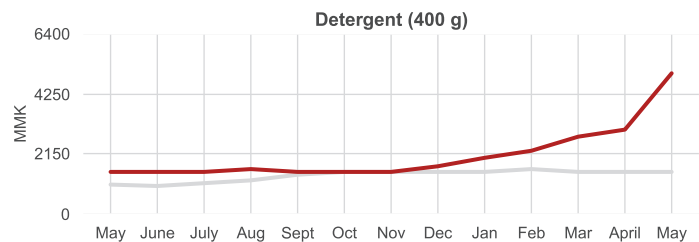
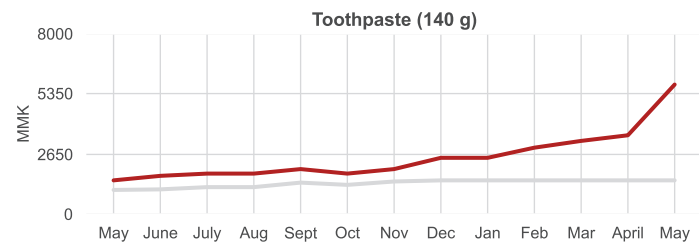
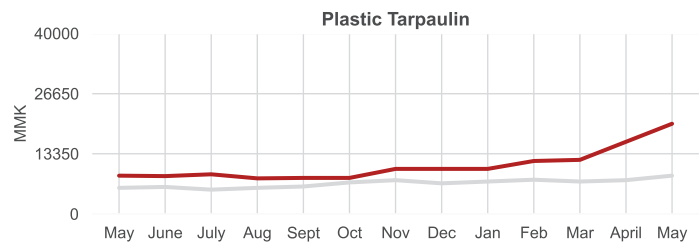
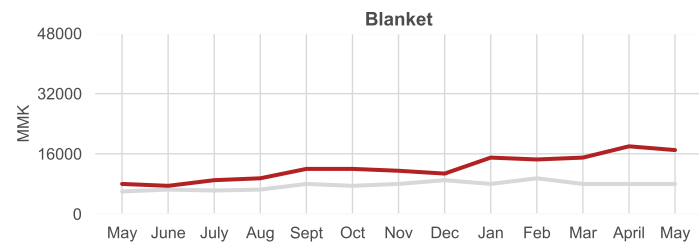
Other NFIs – NFI prices were twice as high as last year, and they were rising faster. Prices for blankets (+110%), plastic tarps (+110%), longyi (+110%), and towels (+50%) sprinted ahead of 2023. Charcoal (+78%) and mosquito net (+100%) prices were double last year.

What to Watch

- More sharp price hikes for **hygiene** NFIs in May, alongside reports of poor supply, continue to sound alarms for monsoon season health conditions;
- With **vegetable** prices rising faster than last year in recent months, local conflict may yet be impacting food prices even in recently-stabilized markets;
- Rising wholesale prices for **mosquito nets** and hygiene NFIs from out-of-state suppliers suggest price hikes may be driven not only by local conflict.

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 3-14. Median Township Price, Selected Products (Thirteen Months)



Prices for May 2024 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Myebon	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,300	-	2,200	2,200	2,200	-	2,300	2,700	2,200	4,700
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	1,900	-	1,500	1,500	1,700	-	1,500	2,000	1,800	3,500
Palm Oil (1 liter)	8,500	-	15,000	15,000	13,000	-	13,000	15,000	15,000	5,500
Pulse (1 viss)	18,000	-	25,000	20,000	19,000	-	24,000	25,000	30,000	20,000
Garlic (1 viss)	24,000	-	30,000	22,000	30,000	-	40,000	30,000	25,000	25,000
Onion (1 viss)	12,000	-	15,000	14,000	15,000	-	13,000	15,000	19,000	5,500
Eggplant (1 viss)	5,000	-	7,500	3,500	5,000	-	3,000	2,000	7,500	4,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	3,500	-	10,000	-	6,000	-	4,000	-	7,500	-
Watercress (1 viss)	1,500	-	3,500	2,500	2,500	-	2,200	1,000	4,000	7,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	35,000	-	35,000	13,000	35,000	-	10,000	20,000	20,000	5,500
Banana (1 bunch)	1,300	-	2,400	1,300	2,000	-	2,500	2,500	4,000	8,000
Shrimp (1 viss)	19,000	-	12,000	10,000	17,000	-	8,500	25,000	27,000	-
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	16,000	-	22,000	-	18,000	-	10,000	30,000	40,000	-
Dried Fish (1 viss)	20,000	-	20,000	14,000	17,000	-	12,000	12,000	15,000	30,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	4,000	-	5,200	6,000	6,000	-	9,000	10,000	8,000	12,000
Chicken (1 viss)	45,000	-	19,000	-	17,000	-	24,000	-	-	-
Toothpaste (140 g)	5,500	-	6,000	6,000	5,250	-	5,500	6,000	6,500	2,700
Detergent (400 g)	5,000	-	5,000	3,000	4,000	-	12,000	5,000	5,500	1,500
Soap (60 g)	2,500	-	2,800	2,000	2,000	-	3,000	2,500	-	1,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	4,000	-	1,500	4,000	3,500	-	4,000	4,500	5,000	2,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	1,300	-	1,000	1,300	3,000	-	1,500	1,300	1,200	4,000
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	13,000	-	4,900	15,000	16,000	-	20,000	5,000	22,000	6,000
Blanket	-	-	24,000	16,000	15,000	-	18,000	15,000	18,000	-
Mosquito Net	15,000	-	16,000	11,000	12,500	-	12,000	17,000	15,000	-
Plastic Tarpaulin	15,000	-	28,000	20,000	20,000	-	11,500	22,000	26,000	12,000
Men's Longyi	13,000	-	13,000	16,000	13,000	-	20,000	17,000	16,000	15,000
Women's Longyi	13,000	-	-	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	15,000	9,000	12,000
Umbrella	28,000	-	27,000	25,000	15,000	-	21,000	18,000	20,000	-
Towel	5,500	-	8,000	7,250	6,000	-	6,000	7,000	9,000	3,500

*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).

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