

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

- **Rice prices rose 7% in May and pulses were up 6%**, although cooking oil prices were fairly stable;
- **Vegetable prices were unusually stable in May**, and eggplant prices pulled back from April's relatively large price increases;
- **Meat/fish price trends varied by market in May**, although prices for fish paste were 6% higher and prices for fish paste were 19% lower;
- **Prices for hygiene products varied by market May**, and they rose sharply in Hpapun;
- **Food and NFI prices were 20-90% above last year**, although prices for hygiene products were just 5-10% above last year;
- **Near-term prices increases are more likely than not** for items like mosquito nets, essential foods, and various hygiene products.

Product-Level Price Changes

Essential Foods – Essential food prices rose in May, and the sharpest increases were in Taungoo. Rice prices rose 7% or more in various markets in May, and prices for pulses were 6% higher. Cooking oil prices were stable except in Taungoo. Essential food prices were sometimes stable but rarely falling.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices were unusually stable in May, and some vegetable prices fell. Prices for onion and eggplant fell 25% and 10%, respectively. Other vegetable prices were generally stable, although there were isolated instances of prices rising or falling.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices varied by market in May. Fish paste prices rose 6% in May, while dried fish prices fell 19%. Prices for shrimp, fresh fish, chicken, and pork rose and fell in different markets but were overall mostly stable. Meat and fish prices were generally stable in Pekon, rising in Taungoo, and falling in Pinlaung.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products varied considerably by market. Prices for hygiene products climbed sharply in Hpapun where some produces were out of stock. Prices for hygiene products fluctuated in Taungoo while remaining quite stable in three other markets.

Other NFIs – NFI prices also varied considerably by market, with falling prices in Taungoo but a mixed picture elsewhere. Prices for charcoal, umbrellas, and plastic tarps fell a modest 4-12% in May. Prices for cooking pots and jerry cans rose 12% or more across markets. Pekon and Pinlaung saw a second month of stable NFI prices, while Taungoo saw lower prices for a number of NFIs in May.

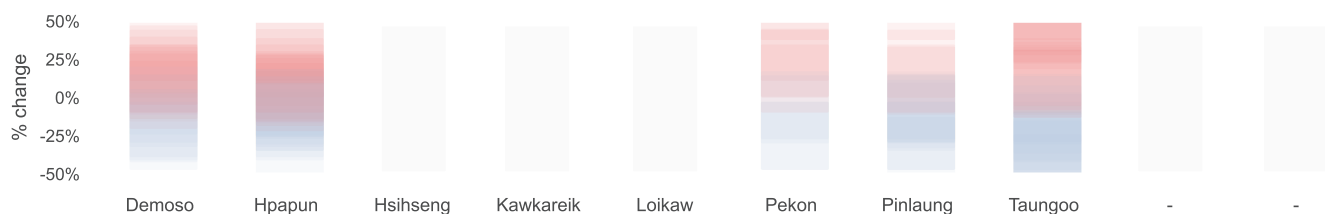
Chart 1. Median Price Change (One Month)



Township-Level Price Changes

Taungoo and Hpapun saw the most price increases in May, while Pekon and Pinlaung saw a second month of relative price stability. Half of all prices monitored in Taungoo rose 9% or more in May, and one-quarter of all prices rose 44% or more. Half of all prices monitored in Hpapun rose 7% or more, and one-quarter of all prices rose at least 33%. Prices increases in Taungoo in May were similar in magnitude to those in April. By contrast, half of all prices monitored in Pinlaung were stable, and three-quarters of all prices in Pekon were stable. The picture was more mixed in Demoso where one-quarter of all prices monitored rose 8%.

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 remained 40-80% above 2023 levels in May. Prices for cheaper rice (+82%), better rice (+73%), pulses (+56%), and cooking oil (+44%) remained far higher than last year, and rice prices rose faster than they did a year ago.

Vegetables – Most vegetable prices remained 40-80% higher than they were at this time last year. Prices for onion (+60%), long bean (+60%), and watercress (+84%) stretched their lead over last year, while eggplant (+60%) closed the gap slightly. Prices for green chili (+6%) were just slightly above last year, while prices for garlic (+160%) were more than twofold higher.

Meat and Fish – Meat and fish prices were 20-80% above May 2023 levels. Prices remained higher than last year for chicken (+12%), pork (+29%), fresh fish (+75%), dried fish (+20%), and fish paste (+80%). Prices for shrimp (+0%) were on par with May of last year.

Hygiene Products – Relatively stable prices for hygiene products were often just 5-10% above last year. Prices remained far higher for toothpaste (+38%), but

prices for detergent (+7%), soap (+5%), and sanitary pads (+9%) were fairly close to May 2023 levels.

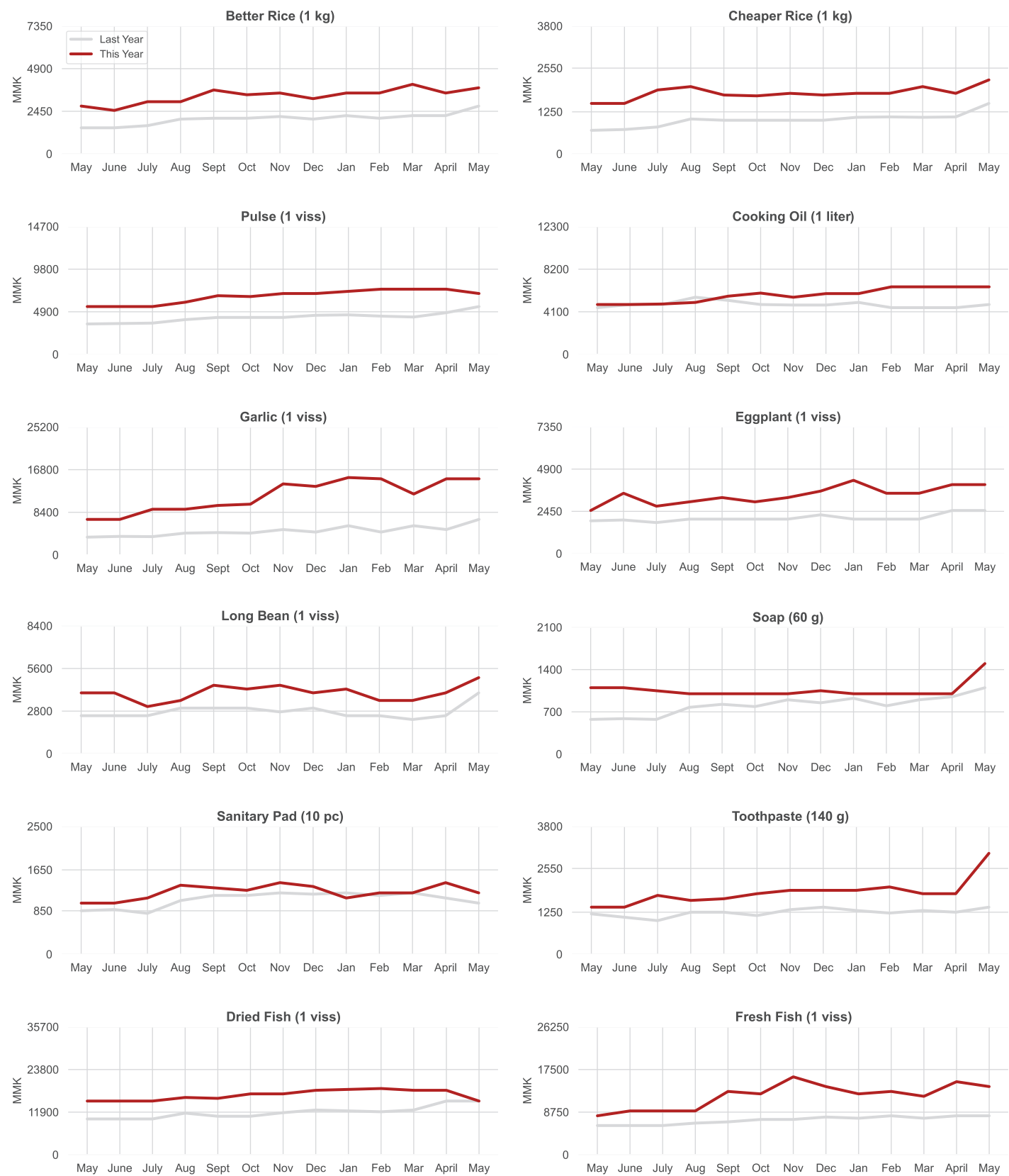
Other NFIs – NFI prices were generally 20-90% above 2023 levels. Most NFI prices were rising slower than at this time last year, and prices for cooking pots (-24%) and mosquito nets (-17%) were recently lower. Prices for charcoal (+88%), blankets (+67%), plastic tarps (+94%), and longyis (+60%) all remained far higher than at this time last year.

What to Watch

- Higher prices for **essential foods** may still be ahead, as prices often continue to rise throughout the monsoon season;
- Lower prices for **mosquito nets** may be due to the availability of only lower-quality products, therefore higher prices may be observed when shops restock;
- Relatively stable prices for **hygiene** products may give way to higher prices in the near term if demand for these items increases 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 May 2024 (MMK)

Product	Demoso (village)	Hpapun (Kamarmaung)	Hsiseng (town)	Kawkareik (town)	Loikaw (town)	Pekon (village)	Pinlaung (town)	Taungoo (town)
Better Rice (1 kg)	2,400	4,000	-	-	-	4,300	3,800	3,800
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	-	2,000	-	-	-	2,200	2,200	2,500
Palm Oil (1 liter)	7,000	6,500	-	-	-	6,500	6,500	8,000
Pulse (1 viss)	10,000	7,000	-	-	-	7,500	7,000	6,500
Salt (500 g)	500	500	-	-	-	500	500	350
Garlic (1 viss)	9,000	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	17,000
Onion (1 viss)	3,000	3,500	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	2,800
Eggplant (1 viss)	2,000	5,000	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	3,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	5,000	8,000	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	6,000
Watercress (1 viss)	3,500	4,000	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	3,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	8,000	5,000	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	-
Bananas	3,500	4,000	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	4,000
Toothpaste (140g)	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	1,800	1,800	4,000
Detergent (400g)	2,000	2,800	-	-	-	1,200	1,200	-
Soap (60g)	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	1,500	1,500	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,200
Shrimp (1 viss)	15,000	30,000	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	12,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	15,000	10,000	-	-	-	16,000	14,000	13,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	13,000	15,000	-	-	-	18,000	13,000	26,000
Ar Bae Kyauk (1 viss)	36,000	21,000	-	-	-	28,500	25,000	32,000
Chicken (1 viss)	13,000	19,000	-	-	-	13,000	13,000	15,000
Fish Paste (1 viss)	9,000	10,000	-	-	-	8,000	10,000	8,000
Pork (1 viss)	20,000	15,000	-	-	-	18,000	20,000	18,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	1,200	1,000	-	-	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	13,750	15,000	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	7,500
Blanket	18,000	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	8,700
Mosquito Net	27,500	25,000	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	10,000
Plastic Tarpaulin	32,500	36,000	-	-	-	35,000	35,000	34,000
Men's Longyi	13,000	10,000	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	12,000
Women's Longyi	12,000	10,000	-	-	-	9,500	9,500	5,000
Umbrella	10,000	9,000	-	-	-	8,500	8,500	8,000
Towel	6,000	7,000	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	6,000
Vacuum Flask	16,500	24,000	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	16,000
Jerry Can	10,000	25,500	-	-	-	9,000	9,000	6,500

*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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