



To News Editors  
For Immediate Release

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## **CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index: Quality of Life in Hong Kong Declined**

The CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index, compiled by the Centre for Quality of Life of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), shows that the quality of life in Hong Kong declined in 2011, which is the second lowest score since the launch of Index in 2003.

According to the latest CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index, the overall score in 2011 was 102.56, went down by 1.57 points from 2010 (104.13). The result indicates that the quality of life in Hong Kong declined (Appendix 1) in 2011.

The Index consists of 21 indicators that are grouped into three sub-indices, viz. social, economic and environmental (Appendix 2). The indicators are selected according to the coverage, measurability, representativeness, and importance to the quality of life in Hong Kong. The higher the score, the better the performance of the indicator.

Compared with the scores of 2010, only the environmental sub-index slightly improved in 2011, while the social sub-index and economic sub-index dropped. The economic sub-index even sank to its record low since 2002 (the base year) (Appendix 3.1). The result shows that the social and economic situation worsened in 2011.

Among the 21 indicators, 9 of them worsened in 2011 (Appendix 4), with the most notable being the housing affordability ratio (from -0.87 to -2.12), the lowest since the Index was launched. The result indicates that housing became significantly less affordable in 2011. The real rental index also dropped to a record low, which shows that tenants have to bear heavy rental burden. For the Government Performance Index, the scores dropped nearly 15% from 2010, which is only higher than the score of 2003.

Compared with 2010, 11 out of the 21 indicators improved in 2011 (Appendix 5), while the increase of most indicators were mild. Three indicators under the environmental sub-index went up, indicating that water quality, noise pollution and the recycle rate of solid waste had improved. Besides, public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP remained unchanged (Appendix 1).

The CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index was designed by the Faculty of Social Science in 2003. This composite index is intended to measure and keep track of the quality of life in Hong Kong in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and to provide policy makers and the community with a useful reference tool. It also aims at enhancing the quality of life in Hong Kong by drawing the public's attention to this issue. For this reason, the Centre for Quality of Life has been set up to conduct on-going quality of life research. Starting from the year of 2003, the Index has been released annually.

2002 was the base year of the study, and the CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index for that year was set at 100. If the Index of a subsequent year is above 100, it means that the quality of life in Hong Kong in that year is better than that of 2002. If the index is below 100, it reveals that the quality of life in Hong Kong in that year is worse than that of 2002. If the Index is 100, it indicates that the Hong Kong quality of life in that year is the same as that of 2002.

For more information on the CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index, please visit The Centre for Quality of Life website: [www.cuhk.edu.hk/ssc/qol](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ssc/qol).

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## Appendix 1: CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index<sup>Note1</sup>

	2002 (Base year)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011 compared with 2010
<b>Social sub-index</b>											
1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population)	4.76	4.63	4.63	4.76	5.02	5.02	5.02	5.15	5.15	5.4#	Better
2. Life expectancy at birth (in year)	4.76	4.75	4.78	4.77	4.81	4.81	4.81	4.83	4.85	4.88#	Better
3. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	4.76	4.76	4.76	4.05	3.70	3.88	3.53	4.05	3.88	4.05	Better
4. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population)	4.76	6.55	5.83	5.81	5.35	4.86	6.48	0.78	5.67	5.58	Worse
5. Stress index	4.76	5.30	5.74	6.05	5.98	6.05	5.69	5.71	5.92	5.83	Worse
6. General life satisfaction index	4.76	4.79	5.03	5.23	5.35	5.25	5.12	5.31	5.31	5.19	Worse
7. Press freedom index	4.76	4.82	4.77	4.83	4.83	4.95	4.93	4.93	4.87	4.85	Worse
8. Press criticism index	4.76	4.94	4.33	3.75	3.68	3.90	3.98	3.77	3.96	4.11	Better
9. Government performance index	4.76	4.91	6.29	8.08	8.39	8.73	6.21	6.91	6.60	5.62	Worse
10. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population)	4.76	3.99	4.49	4.68	4.48	4.55	4.73	4.80	4.94	4.97	Better
<b>Social sub-index</b>	<b>47.62</b>	<b>49.44</b>	<b>50.65</b>	<b>52.01</b>	<b>51.59</b>	<b>52.00</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>46.24</b>	<b>51.15</b>	<b>50.48</b>	<b>Worse</b>
<b>Economic sub-index</b>											
11. Housing affordability ratio	4.76	4.95	4.12	3.19	3.54	2.58	1.72	1.18	-0.87	-2.12	Worse
12. Real rental index	4.76	5.21	4.95	4.20	4.00	3.51	2.98	3.87	2.94	2.52	Worse
13. Unemployment rate	4.76	4.38	5.14	5.92	6.48	6.98	7.13	6.17	6.80	7.32	Better
14. Index of current economic conditions	4.76	5.06	6.22	6.82	6.81	7.26	5.07	5.19	5.98	5.50	Worse
15. Real wage index	4.76	4.77	4.71	4.69	4.68	4.70	4.73	4.71	4.68	4.81	Better
16. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	4.76	4.99	4.99	4.53	4.41	4.06	3.95	5.22	3.83	3.83	Same
17. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes in local universities (in percent)	4.76	4.94	4.89	4.92	5.17	5.22	5.17	5.17	5.22	5.42	Better
<b>Economic sub-index</b>	<b>33.32</b>	<b>34.30</b>	<b>35.02</b>	<b>34.27</b>	<b>35.09</b>	<b>34.31</b>	<b>30.75</b>	<b>31.51</b>	<b>28.58</b>	<b>27.28</b>	<b>Worse</b>
<b>Environmental sub-index</b>											
18. Air index	4.76	4.45	4.51	4.94	4.88	4.87	4.97	5.23	5.18	5.03	Worse
19. Water index	4.76	4.84	5.01	5.16	5.17	5.16	5.23	5.21	5.39	5.57*	Better
20. Noise index (per 1000 population)	4.76	5.82	5.30	6.31	6.22	6.54	6.74	6.87	7.02	7.16	Better
21. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste	4.76	5.35	5.29	5.65	5.98	5.90	6.24	6.46	6.81	7.04*	Better
<b>Environmental sub-index</b>	<b>19.04</b>	<b>20.46</b>	<b>20.11</b>	<b>22.06</b>	<b>22.25</b>	<b>22.47</b>	<b>23.18</b>	<b>23.77</b>	<b>24.40</b>	<b>24.80</b>	<b>Better</b>
<b>Quality of Life index</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>104.20</b>	<b>105.78</b>	<b>108.34</b>	<b>108.93</b>	<b>108.78</b>	<b>104.43</b>	<b>101.52</b>	<b>104.13</b>	<b>102.56</b>	<b>Worse</b>

Note1 The higher the score, the better the performance of the indicator.

\* Forecasted figure

# Provisional figure

■ Revised figure

## **Appendix 2: Composition of and Data for Compiling the CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index**

### **SOCIAL SUB-INDEX**

1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population)<sup>(1)</sup> refers to the number of deaths per 1000 standard population.
2. Life expectancy at birth (in years) refers to the life expectancy at birth for males and females.
3. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP.
4. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population) refers to the number of notified infectious diseases per 1000 population.
5. Stress index refers to the stress that the Hong Kong people are facing (base rate = 100).
6. General life satisfaction index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people with their current lives (base rate = 100).
7. Press freedom index refers to the degree of press freedom in Hong Kong (base rate = 100).
8. Press criticism index refers to the frequency of criticisms by the press of the Hong Kong Corporation, the Hong Kong SAR Government, and the People's Republic of China Government (base rate = 100).
9. Government performance index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people with the performance of Hong Kong SAR Government (base rate = 100).
10. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population) refers to the total number of violent and non-violent crimes reported per 1000 population.

### **ECONOMIC SUB-INDEX**

11. Housing affordability ratio refers to the annual average of affordable property price (i.e. average property price times 39.9 sq. feet, divided by monthly medium income times 12).
12. Real rental index refers to the real rental index for the Hong Kong property market.
13. Unemployment rate refers to the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (in percent).
14. Index of current economic conditions refers to the public attitude towards economic conditions in Hong Kong.
15. Real wage index<sup>(2)</sup> refers to the real wages for employees up to supervisory level (excluding managerial and professional employees) in all selected industry sectors.
16. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP.
17. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes in local universities (in percent).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-INDEX**

18. Air index refers to the daily air pollution index.
19. Water index refers to the percentage of rivers in Hong Kong categorized as 'good' and 'excellent' by the monitoring station.
20. Noise index (per 1000 population) refers to the number of noise complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department and the Police per 1000 population.
21. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste refers to the recycle rate (in percent) of solid waste from households and from commercial and industrial sources.

#### **Notes:**

- <sup>(1)</sup> Standardized mortality rate is compiled based on the world standard population published in the 1997-1999 *World Health Statistics Annual*.
- <sup>(2)</sup> The real wage index is derived by deflating the nominal wage indices by the CPI(A).

#### **Sources:**

Stress index, general life satisfaction index, press freedom index, press criticism index, government performance index and index of current economic conditions are compiled by the Faculty of Social Science of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. All other indices are obtained from the government and related institutions.

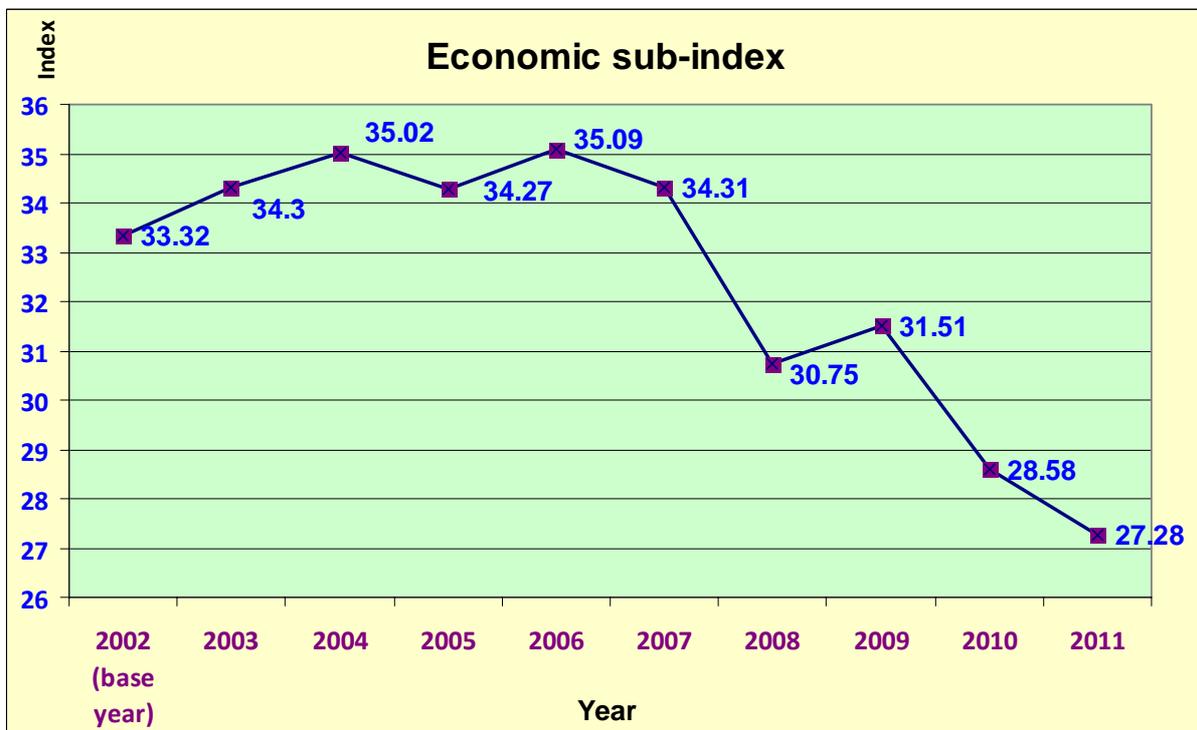
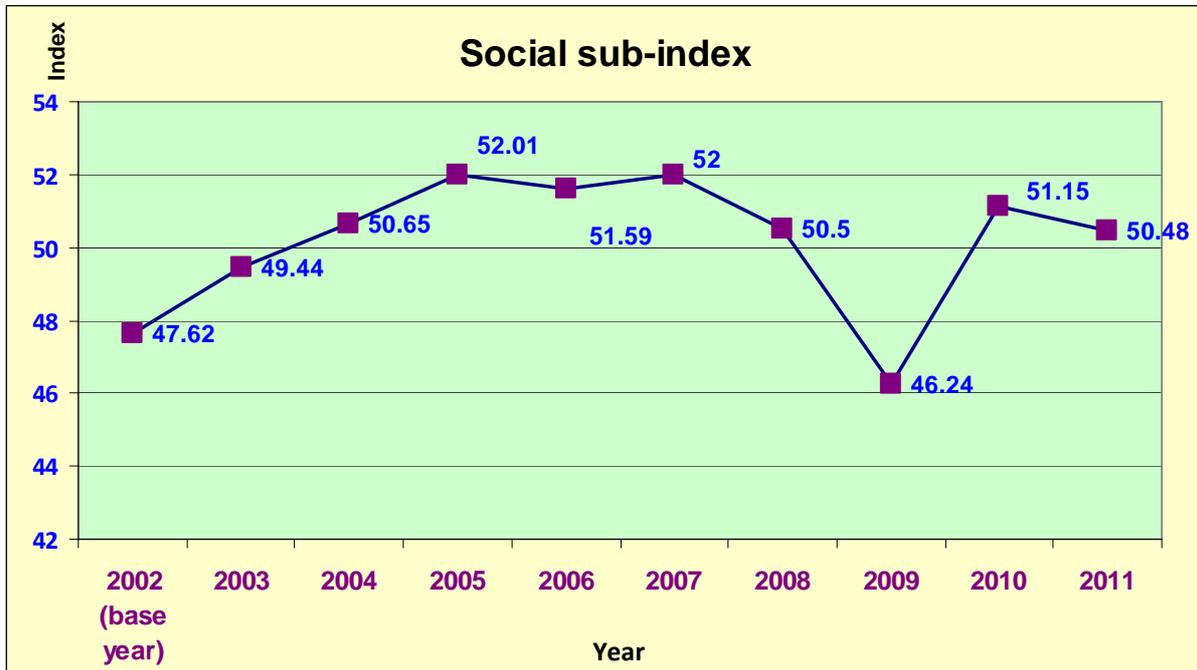
## Data for Compiling the CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

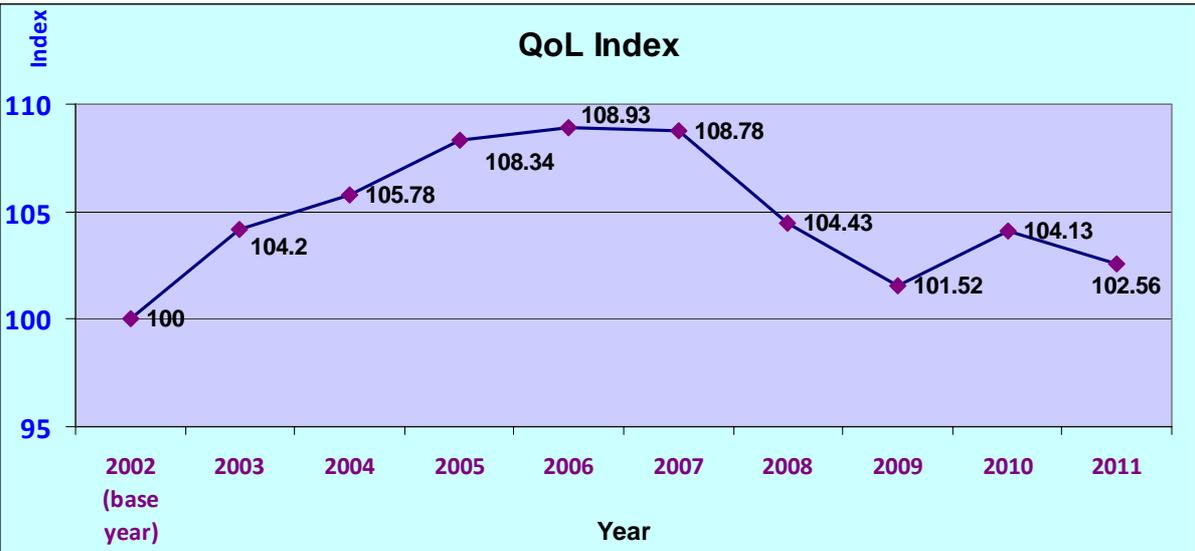
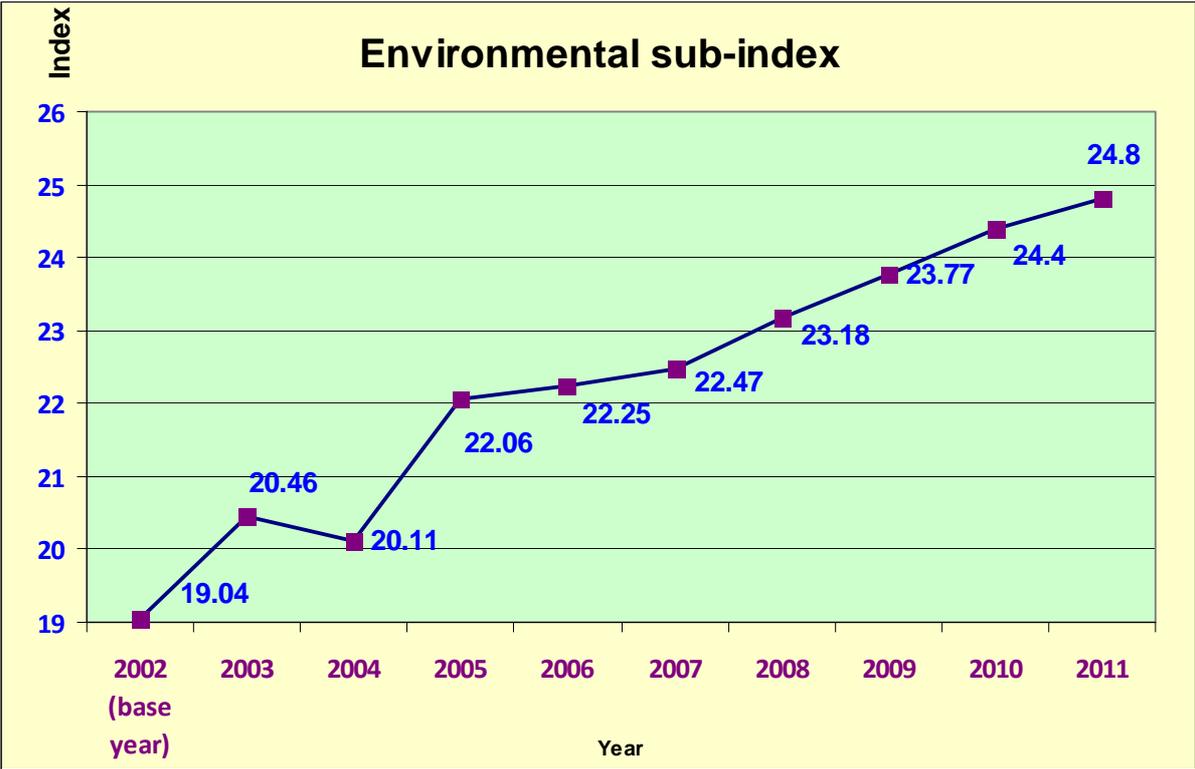
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Social sub-index</b>										
1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population)	3.70	3.80	3.80	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.4	<b>3.2#</b>
1. Life expectancy at birth (in years)	F : 84.5 M : 78.6	F : 84.3 M : 78.5	F : 84.7 M : 79	F: 84.6 M: 78.8	F: 85.5 M: 79.4	F: 85.5 M: 79.4	F: 85.5 M: 79.3	F: 85.9 M: 79.7	F: <b>86.0</b> M: <b>80.1</b>	F: <b>86.7#</b> M: <b>80.5#</b>
11. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.30	2.10	2.20	2.00	2.30	2.20	<b>2.30</b>
3. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population)	3.73	2.33	2.89	2.91	3.27	3.65	2.38	6.85	3.02	<b>3.09</b>
4. Stress index	100.00	88.75	79.51	72.95	74.42	72.91	80.36	80.00	75.53	<b>77.45</b>
5. General life satisfaction index	100.00	100.68	105.62	109.94	112.47	110.22	107.57	111.66	111.46	<b>109.01</b>
6. Press freedom index	100.00	101.22	100.26	101.43	101.55	103.92	103.64	103.54	102.30	<b>101.95</b>
7. Press criticism index	100.00	103.75	91.02	78.82	77.25	81.86	83.65	79.15	83.10	<b>86.29</b>
8. Government performance index	100.00	103.23	132.23	169.79	176.29	183.48	130.48	145.10	138.62	<b>118.03</b>
9. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population)	11.18	12.99	11.81	11.37	11.83	11.67	11.25	11.08	10.76	<b>10.68</b>
<b>Economic sub-index</b>										
10. Housing affordability ratio	4.68	4.49	5.31	6.22	5.88	6.82	7.67	8.20	10.22	<b>11.44</b>
11. Real rental index	87.97	79.67	84.55	93.11	96.68	105.27	114.54	98.99	115.38	<b>122.68</b>
12. Unemployment rate	7.34	7.93	6.76	5.55	4.69	3.92	3.68	5.17	4.20	<b>3.39</b>
13. Index of current economic conditions	76.55	81.32	99.95	109.75	109.48	116.70	81.55	83.40	96.22	<b>88.50</b>
14. Real wage index	117.53	117.70	116.35	115.78	115.48	116.08	116.68	116.30	115.45	<b>118.65</b>
15. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	4.10	4.40	4.40	4.00	3.80	3.50	3.40	4.50	3.30	<b>3.30</b>
16. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes in local universities (in percent)	17.04	17.70	17.50	17.60	18.50	18.70	18.50	18.50	<b>18.70</b>	<b>19.40</b>
<b>Environmental sub-index</b>										
17. Air index	46.90	49.93	49.32	45.10	45.68	45.77	44.83	42.26	42.78	<b>44.27</b>
18. Water index	74.40	75.60	78.30	80.80	80.80	80.70	81.70	81.40	<b>84.20</b>	<b>87.07*</b>
19. Noise index (per 1000 population)	1.84	1.43	1.63	1.24	1.28	1.15	1.07	1.02	0.97	<b>0.91</b>
20. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste	36.30	40.82	40.35	43.09	45.59	44.96	47.58	49.30	<b>51.95</b>	<b>53.65*</b>

\* Forecasted figure  
# Provisional figure  
Revised figure

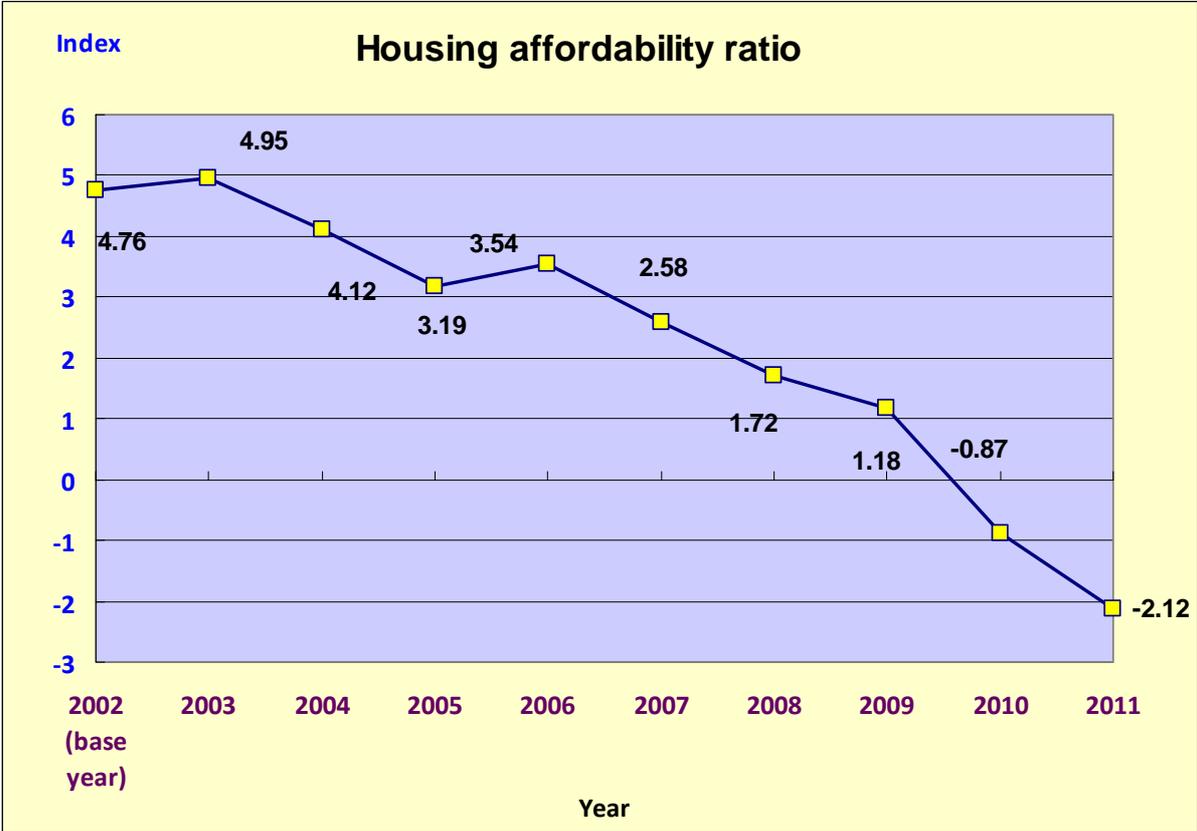
### Appendix 3.1: Line Charts of CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index and Sub-indices

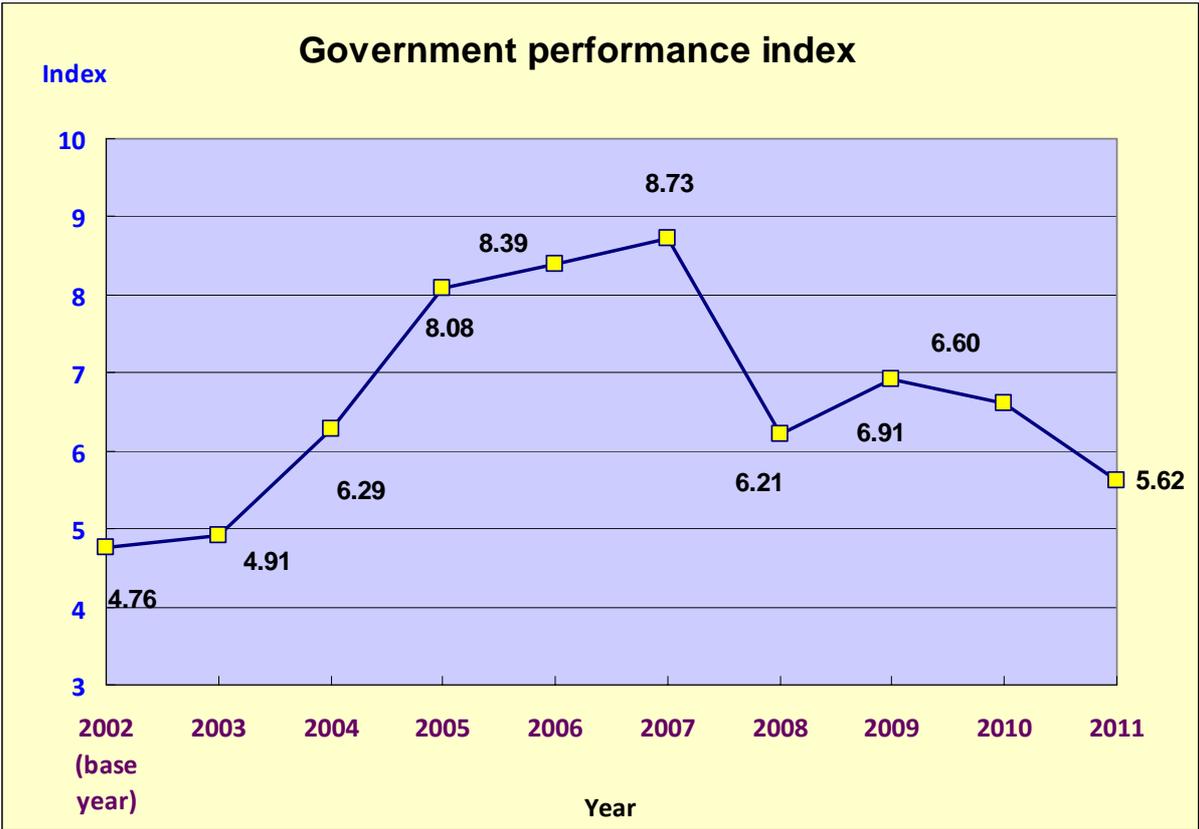
The higher the rate, the better performance for the indicator





**Appendix 3.2: Line Charts of Selected Index**

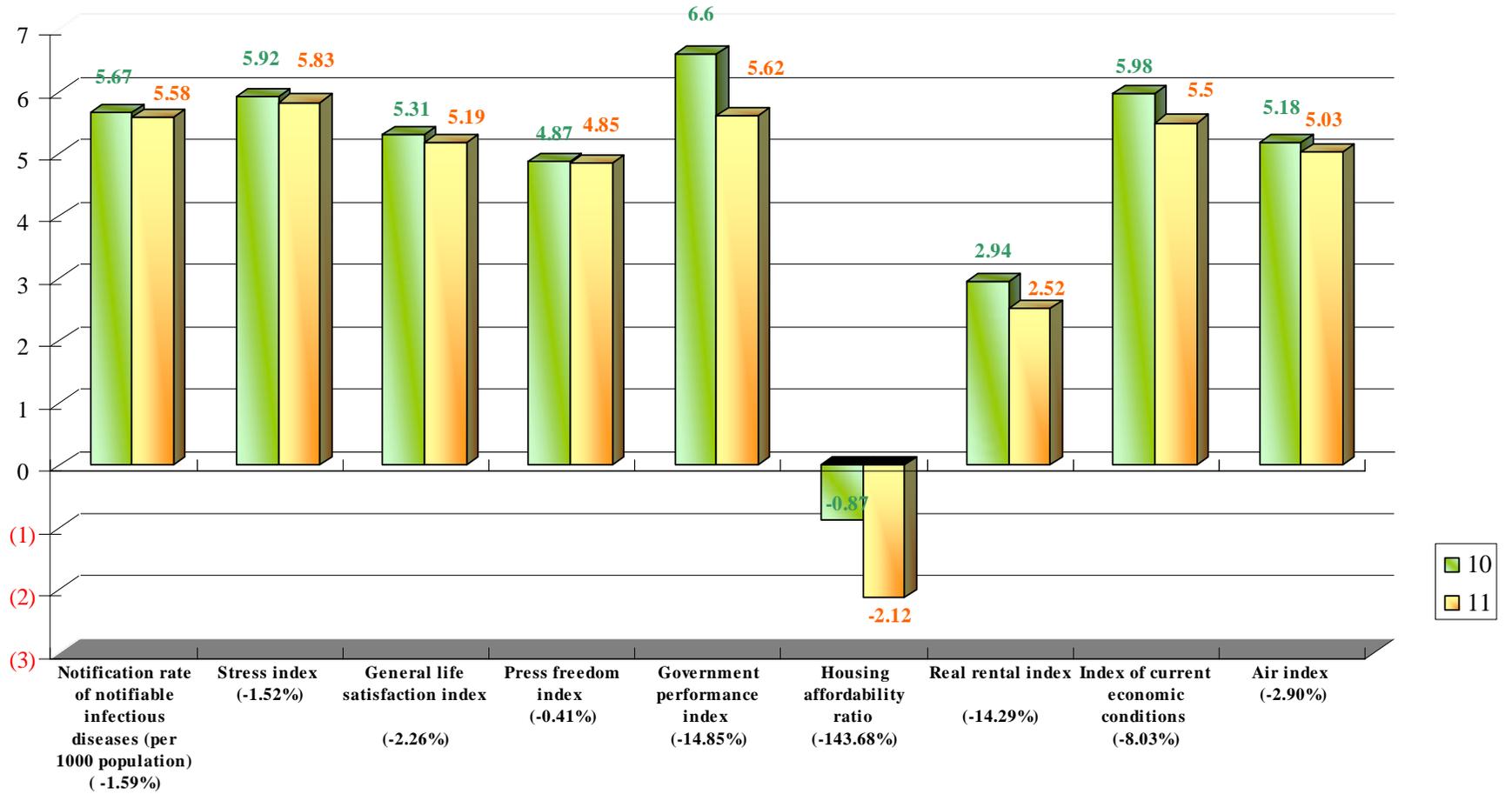




**Appendix 4**

**2010-2011 Quality of Life Indices  
Worse Indices**

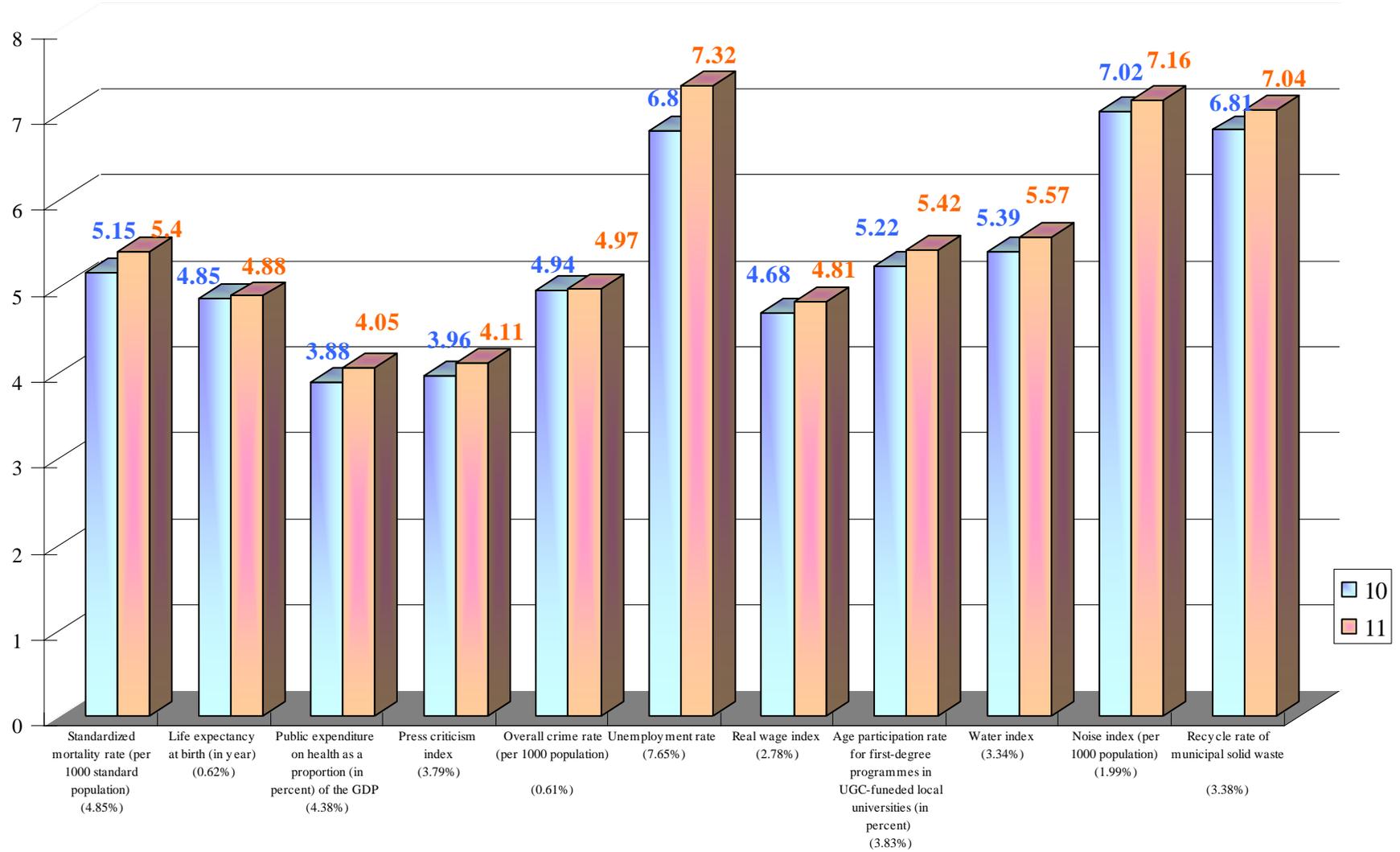
Quality of Life Index



( ) % decrease between 10 and 11

**2010-2011 Quality of Life Indices**  
**Better Indices**

Quality of Life Index



( ) % increase between 10 and 11

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