

To News Editors
For Immediate Release

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CUHK Releases Hong Kong Quality of Life Index 2013 Quality of Life in Hong Kong Declined

The Centre for Quality of Life at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) released the CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index 2013 today (13 August). Compared with 2012, the overall score of the Index declined in 2013. The economic sub-index even dropped to its record low since 2002.

The Index consists of 21 indicators that are grouped into three sub-indices: 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 is the indicator.

According to the latest CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index, the overall score in 2013 was 102.57, dropped 0.33 points from the revised score in 2012 (102.9). The result indicates that generally the quality of life in Hong Kong declined in the past year (Appendix 1).

Compared with the scores of 2012, the social sub-index slightly improved in 2013, while the economic and environmental sub-indices dropped in different degrees. Particularly, the economic sub-index decreased by 0.45 points, fell to its record low since 2002 (the base year) (Appendix 3). The result shows that the quality of life in economics and environment has declined for two consecutive years.

Seven out of the 21 indicators worsened in 2013 (Appendix 4), among which the housing affordability ratio was the most noticeable, as the lowest since the Index was launched. The result indicates that housing became continuously less affordable in 2013. The real rental index also dropped to a record low, showing that tenants have to bear heavy rental burden. Besides, the government performance index and press freedom index also worsened; the press freedom index has been decreasing for the fourth consecutive year. Two indicators under the environmental sub-index went down: air quality and the recycle rate of solid waste were comparatively worse than those in 2012.

Compared with 2012, 13 out of the 21 indicators improved in 2013 (Appendix 5), both the public expenditure on education and health (counted by the proportions to GDP) significantly increased. The press criticism and people's evaluations on current economic conditions also went up. The increase of the remaining indicators was insignificant. (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 21st 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 under the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, CUHK to conduct on-going quality of life research and release the results annually. In order to have further understanding of quality of life in Hong Kong, the Centre for Quality of Life compiled the MTR-CUHK Youth Quality of Life Index since 2012. The results of these two indices can be used for comparison and referencing.

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 website of the Centre for Quality of Life: www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkiaps/qol.

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Appendix 1: CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index ^{Note 1}

	2002 Base year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 compared with 2012
Social sub-index												
1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population)	4.76	4.76	4.76	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.26	5.26	5.51	5.51	5.76#	Better
2. Life expectancy at birth (in year)	4.76	4.78	4.77	4.82	4.81	4.82	4.84	4.85	4.88	4.88	4.89#	Better
3. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	4.76	4.76	4.05	3.70	3.88	3.59	3.77	3.59	3.43	3.68	3.92#	Better
4. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population)	4.76	5.83	5.81	5.35	4.86	6.48	0.78	5.67	5.58	6.46	6.16	Worse
5. Stress index	4.76	5.74	6.05	5.98	6.05	5.69	5.71	5.92	5.83	5.89	5.93	Better
6. General life satisfaction index	4.76	5.03	5.23	5.35	5.25	5.12	5.31	5.31	5.19	5.24	5.31	Better
7. Press freedom index	4.76	4.77	4.83	4.83	4.95	4.93	4.93	4.87	4.85	4.79	4.69	Worse
8. Press criticism index	4.76	4.33	3.75	3.68	3.90	3.98	3.77	3.96	4.11	4.23	4.55	Better
9. Government performance index	4.76	6.29	8.08	8.39	8.73	6.21	6.91	6.60	5.62	6.17	5.72	Worse
10. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population)	4.76	4.45	4.71	4.51	4.58	4.75	4.81	4.95	4.98	5.03	5.23	Better
Social sub-index	47.62	50.74	52.04	51.75	52.15	50.71	46.09	50.98	49.98	51.90	52.16	Better
Economic sub-index												
11. Housing affordability ratio	4.76	4.12	3.19	3.54	2.58	1.72	1.18	-0.85	-2.12	-3.49	-4.91	Worse
12. Real rental index	4.76	4.95	4.20	4.00	3.51	2.98	3.87	2.94	2.52	2.37	2.09	Worse
13. Unemployment rate	4.76	5.14	5.92	6.48	6.98	7.13	6.17	6.80	7.32	7.37	7.38	Better
14. Index of current economic conditions	4.76	6.22	6.82	6.81	7.26	5.07	5.19	5.98	5.50	5.58	5.95	Better
15. Real wage index	4.76	4.71	4.69	4.68	4.70	4.73	4.71	4.68	4.81	4.88	4.89	Better
16. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	4.76	4.99	4.53	4.41	4.06	3.95	5.22	3.83	3.83	3.86	4.41	Better
17. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes in local universities (in percent)	4.76	4.89	4.92	5.17	5.22	5.17	5.17	5.22	5.42	5.64	5.95	Better
Economic sub-index	33.32	35.02	34.27	35.09	34.31	30.75	31.51	28.60	27.28	26.21	25.76	Worse
Environmental sub-index												
18. Air index	4.76	4.51	4.94	4.88	4.87	4.97	5.23	5.18	5.03	5.30	5.17*	Better
19. Water index	4.76	5.01	5.16	5.17	5.16	5.23	5.21	5.39	5.57	5.48	5.48*	Same
20. Noise index (per 1000 population)	4.76	5.30	6.31	6.22	6.54	6.74	6.87	7.02	7.16	7.04	7.06*	Better
21. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste	4.76	5.29	5.65	5.98	5.90	6.24	6.46	6.81	7.04	6.97	6.94*	Worse
Environmental sub-index	19.04	20.11	22.06	22.25	22.47	23.18	23.77	24.40	24.80	24.79	24.65	Worse
Quality of Life index	100.00	105.87	108.37	109.09	108.93	104.64	101.37	103.98	102.06	102.90	102.57	Worse

^{Note 1} 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)⁽¹⁾ 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⁽²⁾ 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:

⁽¹⁾ Standardized mortality rate is compiled based on the world standard population published in the 1997-1999 *World Health Statistics Annual*.

⁽²⁾ 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 Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at CUHK through a telephone survey conducted from 12 to 21 August 2013. 1,004 Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above were successfully interviewed. All other indices are obtained from the government and related institutions.

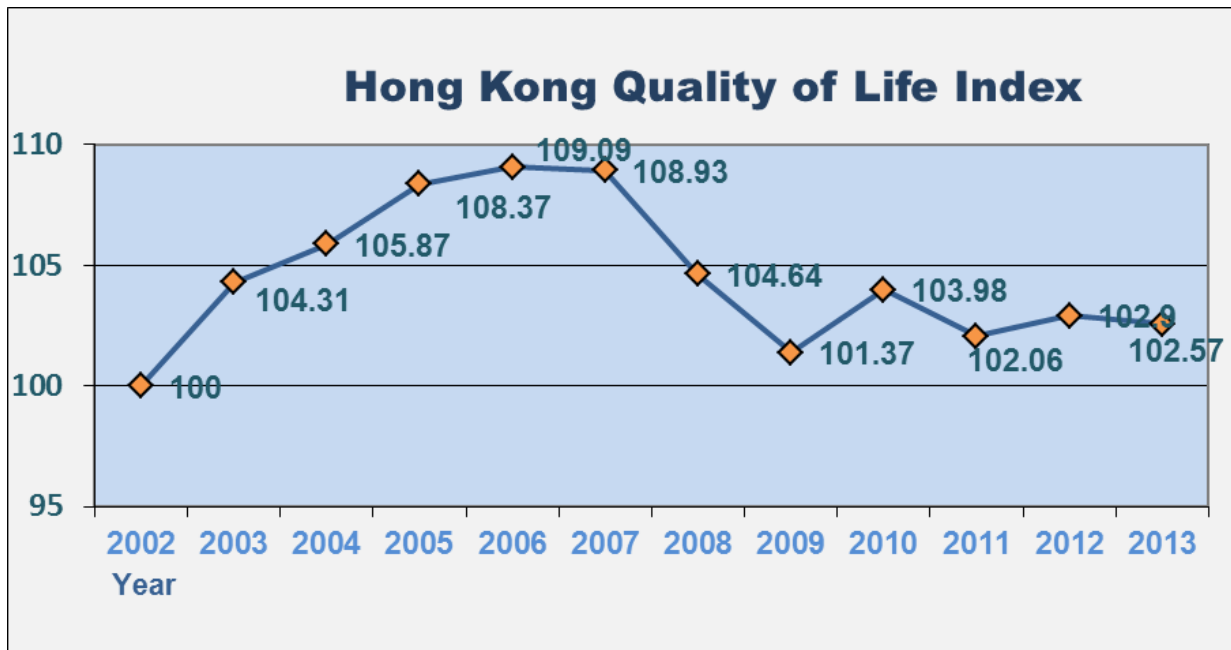
Data for Compiling the CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Social sub-index											
1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population)	3.80	3.80	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.0
2. Life expectancy at birth (in years)	女 : 84.5 男 : 78.5	女 : 84.7 男 : 79	女 : 84.6 男 : 78.8	女 : 85.5 男 : 79.4	女 : 85.5 男 : 79.4	女 : 85.5 男 : 79.3	女 : 85.9 男 : 79.7	F:86.0 M: 80.1	F:86.7 M:80.3	F:86.4 M:80.7	F: 86.6# M: 80.9#
3. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	2.64	2.70	2.30	2.10	2.20	1.99	2.09	1.99	1.90	2.04	2.17#
4. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population)	3.73	2.89	2.91	3.27	3.65	2.38	6.85	3.02	3.09	2.38	2.63
5. Stress index	100.00	79.51	72.95	74.42	72.91	80.36	80.00	75.53	77.45	76.35	75.51
6. General life satisfaction index	100.00	105.62	109.94	112.47	110.22	107.57	111.66	111.46	109.01	110.10	111.57
7. Press freedom index	100.00	100.26	101.43	101.55	103.92	103.64	103.54	102.30	101.95	100.72	98.53
8. Press criticism index	100.00	91.02	78.82	77.25	81.86	83.65	79.15	83.10	86.29	88.77	95.62
9. Government performance index	100.00	132.23	169.79	176.29	183.48	130.48	145.10	138.62	118.03	129.52	120.13
10. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population)	11.18	11.81	11.37	11.83	11.67	11.25	11.08	10.76	10.74	10.61	10.15
Economic sub-index											
11. Housing affordability ratio	4.68	5.31	6.22	5.88	6.83	7.67	8.19	10.22	11.44	12.79	14.19
12. Real rental index	87.97	84.55	93.11	96.68	105.27	114.54	98.99	115.38	122.68	125.43	130.28
13. Unemployment rate	7.34	6.76	5.55	4.69	3.92	3.68	5.17	4.20	3.39	3.31	3.30
14. Index of current economic conditions	76.55	99.95	109.75	109.48	116.70	81.55	83.40	96.22	88.50	89.72	95.74
15. Real wage index	117.53	116.35	115.78	115.48	116.08	116.68	116.30	115.45	118.65	120.58	120.83
16. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP	4.10	4.40	4.00	3.80	3.50	3.40	4.50	3.30	3.30	3.32	3.80
17. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes in local universities (in percent)	17.04	17.50	17.60	18.50	18.70	18.50	18.50	18.70	19.40	20.20	20.60
Environmental sub-index											
18. Air index	46.90	49.32	45.10	45.68	45.77	44.83	42.26	42.78	44.27	41.58	42.88*
19. Water index	74.40	78.30	80.80	80.80	80.70	81.70	81.40	84.20	87.07	85.61	85.63*
20. Noise index (per 1000 population)	1.84	1.63	1.24	1.28	1.15	1.07	1.02	0.97	0.91	0.96	0.95*
21. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste	36.30	40.35	43.09	45.59	44.96	47.58	49.30	51.95	53.65	53.13	52.91*

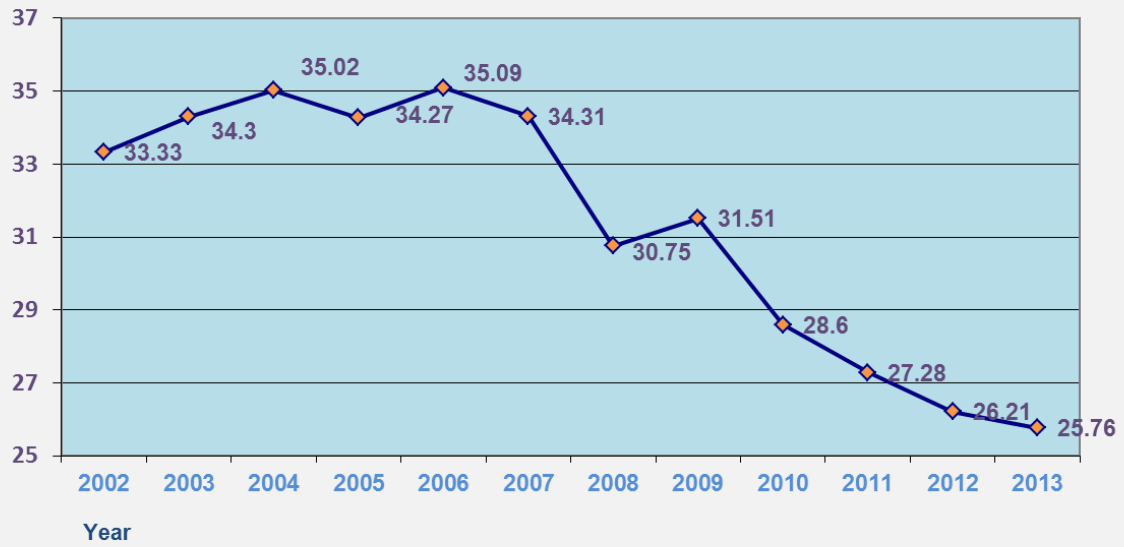
* Forecasted figure
Provisional figure
■ Revised figure

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

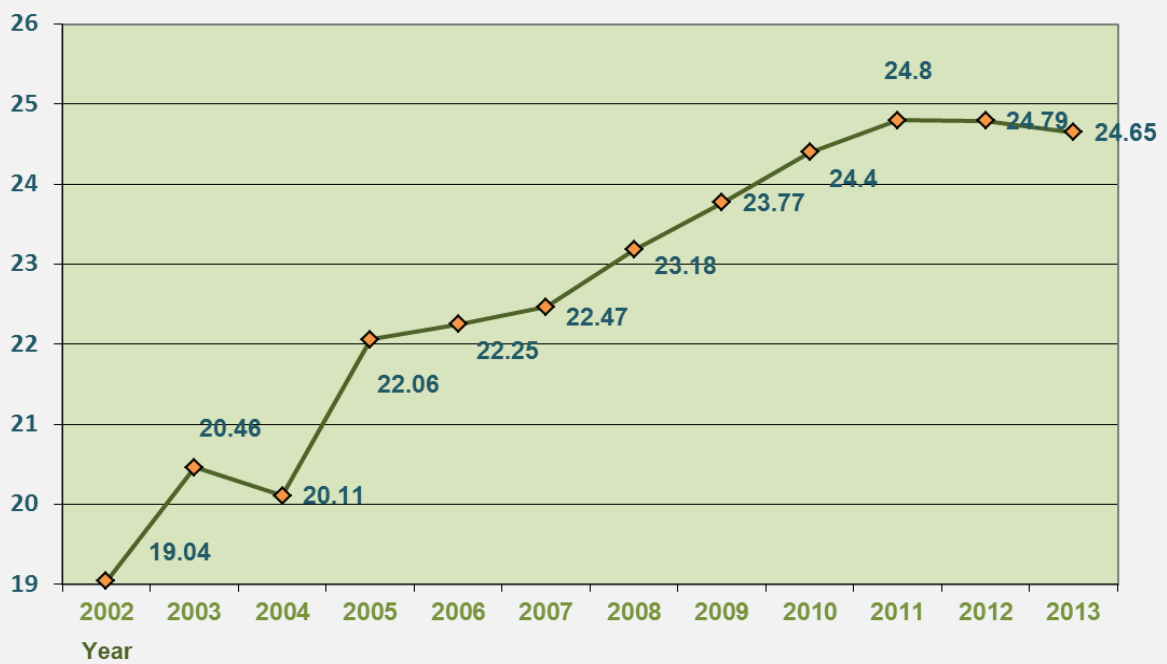
The higher the rate, the better performance for the indicator



Economic Sub-Index



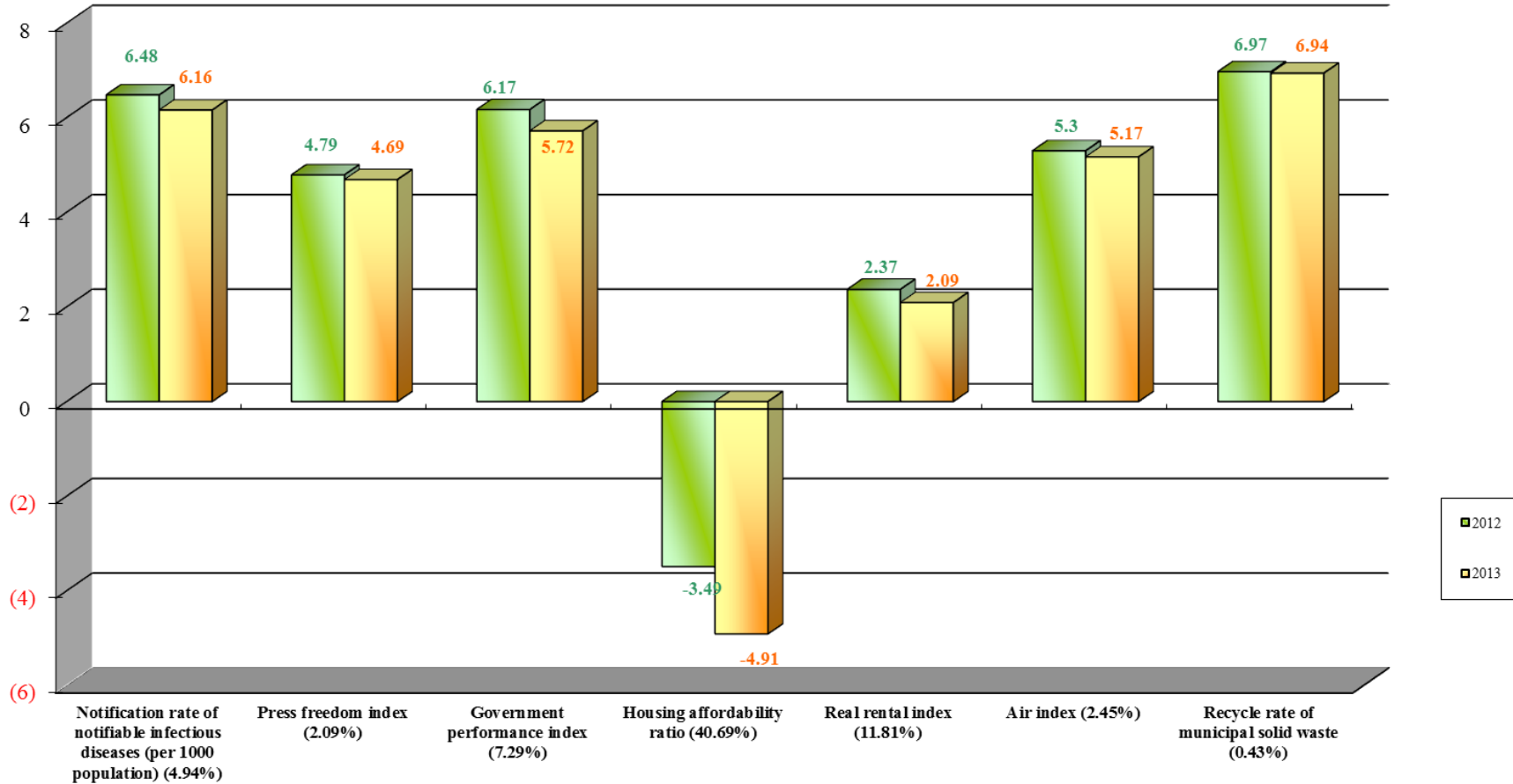
Environmental Sub-index



Appendix 4

**2012-2013 Quality of Life Indices
Worse Indices**

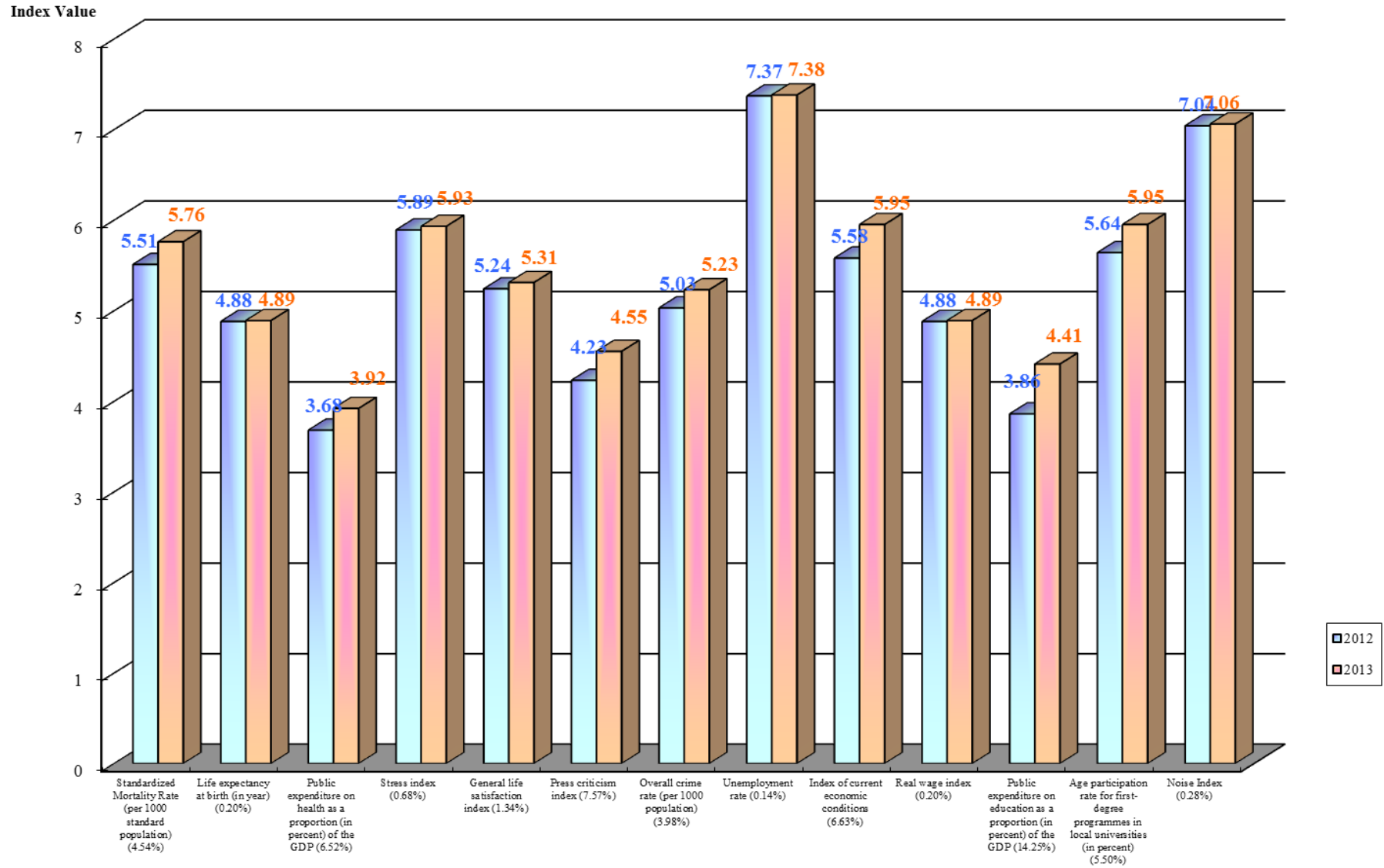
Index Value



(%) percentage decrease between 2012 and 2013

Appendix 5

2012-2013 Quality of Life Indices
Better Indices



(%) percentage increase between 12 and 13

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