

'CUHK'
Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

Faculty of Social Science
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Faculty of Social Science of The Chinese University of Hong Kong is committed to contributing knowledge to the world and Hong Kong through teaching, research and community services. One of our goals is to promote and advocate the well being of individuals, their families and communities.
- 1.2 Hong Kong is undergoing a drastic change in the 21st century. In face of economic downturn, budget deficit, income inequality, environmental pollution and other problems, the quality of life in Hong Kong is adversely affected. It is timely to compile a composite index to monitor the quality of life in Hong Kong.
- 1.3 We compiled the **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index** in 2003 to serve as an objective and analytic tool to examine the quality of life in Hong Kong. The Index is released annually at year-end.

2 Objectives

The objectives of **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index** are to:

- Measure and keep track of Hong Kong’s quality of life in the 21st century;
- Engage relevant parties in promoting and advocating quality of life in Hong Kong;
- Provide policy makers and the community with a useful statistic on Hong Kong’s quality of life; and
- Draw public attention to the issue of quality of life.

3 Composition of **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index**

- 3.1 **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index** is a composite index. It consists of 21 indicators that are grouped into three subgroups (See Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The indicators are selected according to the coverage, measurability, representativeness, and importance to the quality of life in Hong Kong. Among the 21 indicators, six are compiled by the Faculty of Social Science of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, namely Stress Index, General Life Satisfaction Index, Press Freedom Index, Press Criticism Index, Government Performance Index and Index of Current Economic Conditions. The data on the remaining 15 indicators are obtained from public sources.
- 3.3 Taking the year of 2002 as the base year of the study, the **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index** of 2002 is 100. If the Index of a year is above 100, it means that the quality of life

in Hong Kong in that year is better than that in 2002. If it is below 100, it reveals that the quality of life in Hong Kong in that year is worse than that in 2002. If the Index is 100, it indicates that the Hong Kong quality of life in that year is the same as that in 2002.

- 3.4 The Index is compiled with two sets of weighting. One is on the basis of an equal weighting, and the other is based on unequal weighting which is decided on the basis of advice and research of renowned local and international scholars in the fields of quality of life and social indicators.

4 Major Findings of ‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index 2003

- 4.1 According to the first ‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index released this year, the preliminary score of the Index of 2003 based on equal weighting is 103.26 (See Appendix 2) while the preliminary score based on unequal weighting is 102.32 (See Appendix 3). All the three subgroups of indices are slightly higher than that in 2002, indicating that the quality of life in Hong Kong has been slightly improved since last year.

- 4.2 As compared with last year, among 21 indicators, thirteen were improved in 2003 (See Appendixes 2–4). They are:

- i) Expectancy of Life at Birth;
- ii) Notification Rate of Notified Infectious Disease;
- iii) Stress Index;
- iv) General Life Satisfaction Index;
- v) Press Freedom Index;
- vi) Press Criticism Index;
- vii) Government Performance Index;
- viii) Affordability Index;
- ix) Rental Indices;
- x) Index of Current Economic Conditions;
- xi) Age Participation Rate for First-Degree Programmes and Postgraduate Programmes in Local Universities;
- xii) Air Index; and
- xiii) Recycle Rate of Municipal Solid Waste.

- 4.3 Seven indicators were worse compared with last year (See Appendixes 2-4):

- i) Public Expenditure on Health as a Proportion to GDP;
- ii) Overall Crime Rate;
- iii) Unemployment Rate;
- iv) Real Wage Indices;

- v) Public Expenditure on Education as a Proportion to GDP;
- vi) Water Index; and
- vii) Noise Index.

5 Conclusion

5.1 In sum, thirteen indicators were better, seven were worse while the Standardized Mortality Rate remained unchanged. Overall, the quality of life is improved slightly in 2003 as compared with the year of 2002.

Members of Working Group in 'CUHK' Hong Kong Quality of Life Index:

Prof. Paul S.N. Lee (Coordinator)

Director and Professor

School of Journalism & Communication, CUHK

Tel: 2609-7665

Email: plee@cuhk.edu.hk

Prof. Andy C.C. Kwan

Associate Professor

Department of Economics, CUHK

Tel: 2609-8196

Email: kwan1882@cuhk.edu.hk

Prof. Chan Ying Keung

Professor

Department of Sociology, CUHK

Tel: 2609-6619

Email: yingkchan@cuhk.edu.hk

Prof. Ng Sai Leung

Assistant Professor

Department of Geography and Resource Management, CUHK

Tel: 2609-6527

Email: sing@cuhk.edu.hk

Prof. Chong Tai Leung

Associate Professor

Department of Economics, CUHK

Tel: 2609-8193

Email: chong2064@cuhk.edu.hk

Prof. Catherine S.K. Tang

Professor

Department of Psychology, CUHK

Tel: 2609-6503

Email: ctang@cuhk.edu.hk

Appendix 1: Composition of 'CUHK' Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

SOCIO-CULTURAL SUB-INDEX

1. Standardized Mortality Rate (per 1000 standard population*) refers to the number of deaths per 1000 standard population.
2. Expectancy of Life at Birth (in years) refers to the life expectancy at birth for males and females.
3. Public Expenditure on Health as a Proportion to GDP.
4. Notification Rate of Notified 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.
6. General Life Satisfaction Index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people to their current lives.
7. Press Freedom Index refers to the degree of press freedom in Hong Kong.
8. Press Criticism Index refers to the frequency of criticisms by the press to Hong Kong Corporation, Hong Kong SAR Government and the People's Republic of China Government.
9. Government Performance Index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people to the performance of Hong Kong SAR Government.
10. Overall Crime Rate (per 1000 population) refers to the total number of violent and non-violent crimes reported per 1000 population.

* Standardized Mortality Rate is compiled based on the world standard population published in the 1997-1999 World Health Statistics Annual.

ECONOMIC SUB-INDEX

11. Affordability Index refers to the annual average of affordable property price.
12. Rental Indices refer to the rental indices for Hong Kong property market.
13. Unemployment Rate refers to the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (in %).
14. Index of Current Economic Conditions refers to the public attitude towards economic conditions in Hong Kong.
15. Real Wage Indices refer to the real wage for employees up to supervisory level (excluding managerial and professional employees) in all selected industry sectors.
16. Public Expenditure on Education as a Proportion to GDP.
17. Age Participation Rate for First-Degree Programmes and Postgraduate Programmes in Local Universities refers to the percentage of relevant age group (age 17-20) provided with first-degree places.

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 is categorized as 'Good' and 'Excellent' by the monitoring station.
20. Noise Index (per 1000 population) refers to the number of noise complaints received by Environmental Protection Department and the Police per 1000 population.
21. Recycle Rate of Municipal Solid Waste refers to the recycle rate solid waste from households, commercial and industrial sources.

Appendix 2: 'CUHK' Hong Kong Quality of Life Index 2003 (Based on Equal Weighting)

INDICATORS	BASE YEAR	BASE RATE	BASE QOL VALUE	CURRENT YEAR	CURRENT RATE	% CHANGE	QOL IMPACT	QOL 2003
SOCIO-CULTURAL SUB-INDEX								
1. Standardized Mortality Rate (per 1000 standard population)	2002	3.70	4.761905	2003	3.70*	0.00%	NIL	4.761905
2. Expectancy of Life at Birth	2002	84.70# (F), 78.70# (M)	4.761905	2003	84.83* (F), 78.84* (M)	0.17%	POS	4.770000
3. Public Expenditure on Health as a Proportion to GDP	2002	2.70	4.761905	2003	2.60*	-3.70%	NEG	4.585715
4. Notification Rate of Notified Infectious Diseases (per 1000 population)	2002	3.73	4.761905	2003	2.40*	-35.66%	POS	6.460000
5. Stress Index	2002	100.00	4.761905	2003	88.75	-11.25%	POS	5.297619
6. General Life Satisfaction Index	2002	100.00	4.761905	2003	100.68	0.68%	POS	4.794286
7. Press Freedom Index	2002	100.00	4.761905	2003	101.22	1.22%	POS	4.820000
8. Press Criticism Index	2002	100.00	4.761905	2003	103.75	3.75%	POS	4.940476
9. Government Performance Index	2002	100.00	4.761905	2003	103.23	3.23%	POS	4.915715
10. Overall Crime Rate (per 1000 population)	2002	11.18	4.761905	2003	11.21*	0.26%	NEG	4.749324
SOCIO-CULTURAL COMPOSITE			47.619050					50.095240
ECONOMIC SUB-INDEX								
11. Affordability Index (Annual Average of Affordable Property Prices)	2002	4.68	4.761905	2003	4.20*	-10.24%	POS	5.249624
12. Rental Index	2002	83.41	4.761905	2003	73.80*	-11.52%	POS	5.310476
13. Unemployment Rate	2002	7.34	4.761905	2003	8.13*	10.78%	NEG	4.248572
14. Index of Current Economic Conditions	2002	76.55	4.761905	2003	80.90*	5.68%	POS	5.032381
15. Real Wage Index	2002	117.53	4.761905	2003	117.25*	-0.23%	NEG	4.750983
16. Public Expenditure on Education as a Proportion to GDP	2002	4.10	4.761905	2003	3.80*	-7.32%	NEG	4.413334
17. Age Participation Rate for First-Degree Programmes and Postgraduate Programmes in Local Universities	2002	17.04	4.761905	2003	17.70	3.87%	POS	4.946191
ECONOMIC COMPOSITE			33.333335					33.951431
ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-INDEX								
18. Air Index	2002	48.00	4.761905	2003	42.00*	-12.50%	POS	5.357143
19. Water Index	2002	74.40	4.761905	2003	73.50*	-1.21%	NEG	4.704286
20. Noise Index (per 1000 population)	2002	1.84	4.761905	2003	2.11*	14.81%	NEG	4.056667
21. Recycle Rate of Municipal Solid Waste	2002	36.06	4.761905	2003	38.61*	7.07%	POS	5.098572
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPOSITE			19.047620					19.216668
QOL COMPOSITE INDEX			100					103.263330

* Forecasted figures

Provisional figures

Appendix 3: 'CUHK' Hong Kong Quality of Life Index 2003 (Based on Unequal Weighting)

INDICATORS	BASE YEAR	BASE RATE	BASE QOL VALUE	CURRENT YEAR	CURRENT RATE	% CHANGE	QOL IMPACT	QOL 2003
SOCIO-CULTURAL SUB-INDEX								
1. Standardized Mortality Rate (per 1000 standard population)	2002	3.70	2.89	2003	3.70*	0.00%	NIL	2.89
2. Expectancy of Life at Birth	2002	84.70# (F), 78.70# (M)	4.67	2003	84.83* (F), 78.84* (M)	0.17%	POS	4.68
3. Public Expenditure on Health as a Proportion to GDP	2002	2.70	3.43	2003	2.60*	-3.70%	NEG	3.30
4. Notification Rate of Notified Infectious Diseases (per 1000 population)	2002	3.73	3.25	2003	2.40*	-35.66%	POS	4.41
5. Stress Index	2002	100.00	4.41	2003	88.75	-11.25%	POS	4.91
6. General Life Satisfaction Index	2002	100.00	6.01	2003	100.68	0.68%	POS	6.05
7. Press Freedom Index	2002	100.00	4.28	2003	101.22	1.22%	POS	4.33
8. Press Criticism Index	2002	100.00	3.07	2003	103.75	3.75%	POS	3.19
9. Government Performance Index	2002	100.00	4.67	2003	103.23	3.23%	POS	4.82
10. Overall Crime Rate (per 1000 population)	2002	11.18	4.59	2003	11.21*	0.26%	NEG	4.58
SOCIO-CULTURAL COMPOSITE			41.25					43.16
ECONOMIC SUB-INDEX								
11. Affordability Index (Annual Averages of Affordable Property Price)	2002	4.68	3.95	2003	4.20*	-10.24%	POS	4.35
12. Rental Indices	2002	83.41	4.27	2003	73.80*	-11.52%	POS	4.76
13. Unemployment Rate	2002	7.34	7.63	2003	8.13*	10.78%	NEG	6.81
14. Index of Current Economic Conditions	2002	76.55	5.35	2003	80.90*	5.68%	POS	5.65
15. Real Wage Indices	2002	117.53	5.46	2003	117.25*	-0.23%	NEG	5.45
16. Public Expenditure on Education as a Proportion to GDP	2002	4.10	5.51	2003	3.80*	-7.32%	NEG	5.11
17. Age Participation Rate for First-Degree Programmes and Postgraduate Programmes in Local Universities	2002	17.04	4.39	2003	17.70	3.87%	POS	4.56
ECONOMIC COMPOSITE			36.56					36.69
ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-INDEX								
18. Air Index	2002	48.00	6.05	2003	42.00*	-12.50%	POS	6.81
19. Water Index	2002	74.40	5.64	2003	73.50*	-1.21%	NEG	5.57
20. Noise Index (per 1000 population)	2002	1.84	5.30	2003	2.11*	14.81%	NEG	4.52
21. Recycle Rate of Municipal Solid Waste	2002	36.06	5.20	2003	38.61*	7.07%	POS	5.57
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPOSITE			22.19					22.47
QOL COMPOSITE INDEX			100.00					102.32

* Forecasted figures

Provisional figures

Appendix 4

‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index 2003			
	Performance compared with last year (2002)		
Socio-Cultural Sub-Index			
1. Standardized Mortality Rate	↔		
2. Expectation of Life at Birth			
3. Public Expenditure on Health as a Proportion to GDP			
4. Notification Rate of Notified Infectious Diseases			
5. Stress Index			
6. General Life Satisfaction Index			
7. Press Freedom Index			
8. Press Criticism Index			
9. Government Performance Index			
10. Overall Crime Rate			
Economic Sub-Index			
11. Affordability Index			
12. Rental Indices			
13. Unemployment Rate			
14. Index of Current Economic Conditions			
15. Real Wage Indices			
16. Public Expenditure on Education as a Proportion to GDP			
17. Age Participation Rate for First-Degree Programmes and Post-Graduate Programmes in Local Universities			
Environmental Sub-Index			
18. Air Index			
19. Water Index			
20. Noise Index			
21. Recycle Rate of Municipal Solid Waste			

Notes:

↑ denotes better

↓ denotes worse

↔ denotes unchanged