

CUHK
Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies
Centre for Quality of Life

July 2017

Hong Kong Quality of Life Index 2016

Quality of Life Improves Visibly

According to the latest ‘CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index’ (the Index), the overall score in 2016 was 105.39, an increase of 4.07 points from the score in 2015 (101.32). The result indicated that the quality of life in Hong Kong generally improved in the past year, which is also an increase for the first time since 2010 (Appendix 1). The Economic sub-index has increased for the first time in ten years; the Health, Social, Culture and Leisure, and Environmental sub-indices increased as well.

The Index consists of 23 indicators that are grouped into five sub-indices: Health, Social, Culture and Leisure, Economic, and Environmental (Appendix 2). The indicators are selected according to the coverage, representativeness, measurability, and importance to the quality of life of Hong Kong people. The higher the indicator scores, the better it performs.

Compared with 2015, all five sub-indices have improved in different degrees in 2016 (Appendix 3). Particularly, the Economic sub-index went up to 14.51 with a significant increase of 1.95 points. The Social sub-index increased 0.76 points to 27.67, second only to the highest point in 2009 (27.90). The Environmental sub-index increased 0.62 points to 21.6 while the Culture and Leisure sub-index increased 0.49 points to 17.45. The Health sub-index slightly increased 0.25 points to 24.16. The result shows that the five aspects of the quality of life in Hong Kong improved in the past year.

19 out of the 23 indicators improved in 2016 (Appendix 4). A noticeable increase in real rental index and housing affordability ratio were observed, with 18.89% and 17.46% increased between 2015 and 2016, respectively. The overall crime rate, real wage index, overseas travel index and air index also improved significantly, with an increase ranged from 6.37% to 7.82%. The increase of the remaining indicators was relatively mild, ranging from 0.19% to 4.97%.

Compared with 2015, 4 out of the 23 indicators worsened in 2016 (Appendix 5). The cultural programmes attendance index decreased significantly, with 8.97% decline between 2015 and 2016. The decrease of freedom of speech index, average patient days and press criticism index was relatively mild, ranging from 0.99% to 2.69%.

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 raising the awareness of enhancing the quality of life of Hong Kong people. To continue this mission, in 2006, the Centre for Quality of Life was set up by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, CUHK to conduct on-going quality of life research and release the latest Index annually. Since 2012, the Centre for Quality of Life of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies has also compiled the ‘MTR-CUHK Youth Quality of Life Index’. The results of these two indices can be used for comparison and cross-reference.

2002 was the base year of the ‘CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index’, and the value of the Index for that year was set at 100. If the value of 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 value of 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 value of Index is 100, it indicates that

the quality of life in Hong Kong in that year is the same as that of 2002.

In order to measure and monitor more aspects of the quality of life in Hong Kong, based on the stage of social development, the research team of the Centre of Quality of Life of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies will refine the composition and calculation methodology of the Index from time to time. From last year onwards, the number of sub-indices of the 'CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index' has been increased from three to five, namely, **Health, Social, Culture and Leisure, Economic and Environmental** sub-indices. The number of indicators included in the Index has been increased from 21 to 23.

For more information on the 'CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index,' please visit the website of the Centre for Quality of Life, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, CUHK: www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkiaps/qol.

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

| | 2002 Base year | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2016 compared with 2015 |
|---|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Health sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Life expectancy at birth (years) | 4.35 | 4.40 | 4.40 | 4.42 | 4.43 | 4.45 | 4.46 | 4.48 | 4.48 | 4.50 | 4.50 @ | No change |
| 2. Public expenditure on health | 4.35 | 3.21 | 3.25 | 3.65 | 3.57 | 3.40 | 3.67 | 4.60 | 4.94 | 3.96 @ | 4.03 @ | Better |
| 3. Average patient days | 4.35 | 5.13 | 5.21 | 5.23 | 5.32 | 5.28 | 5.34 | 5.15 | 5.26 | 5.23 | 5.17 | Worse |
| 4. Stress index ^ | 4.35 | 5.52 | 5.20 | 5.22 | 5.41 | 5.33 | 5.38 | 5.36 | 5.31 | 5.38 | 5.39 | Better |
| 5. General life satisfaction index ^ | 4.35 | 4.79 | 4.68 | 4.85 | 4.85 | 4.74 | 4.79 | 4.85 | 4.79 | 4.84 | 5.07 | Better |
| Health sub-index | 21.74 | 23.05 | 22.73 | 23.37 | 23.58 | 23.20 | 23.63 | 24.44 | 24.78 | 23.91 | 24.16 | Better |
| Social sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Freedom of speech index ^ | 4.35 | 4.18 | 4.19 | 4.19 | 4.25 | 4.26 | 4.32 | 4.29 | 4.11 | 4.05 | 4.01 | Worse |
| 7. Press criticism index | 4.35 | 3.56 | 3.64 | 3.44 | 3.61 | 3.75 | 3.86 | 4.16 | 4.00 | 4.09 | 3.98 | Worse |
| 8. Government performance index ^ | 4.35 | 7.94 | 5.66 | 6.28 | 6.01 | 5.11 | 5.62 | 5.20 | 5.01 | 4.67 | 4.86 | Better |
| 9. Overall crime rate | 4.35 | 4.19 | 4.35 | 4.39 | 4.52 | 4.55 | 4.60 | 4.78 | 5.08 | 5.18 | 5.51 | Better |
| 10. Public expenditure on education | 4.35 | 3.37 | 3.38 | 4.84 | 3.51 | 3.36 | 3.57 | 3.84 | 3.62 | 3.29 @ | 3.40 @ | Better |
| 11. Enrolment rate of the relevant age groups (age 17-20) for first-year-first degree places of UGC-funded programmes | 4.35 | 4.79 | 4.76 | 4.76 | 4.79 | 4.96 | 5.17 | 5.27 | 5.45 | 5.63 | 5.91 | Better |
| Social sub-index | 26.09 | 28.03 | 25.98 | 27.90 | 26.69 | 25.99 | 27.14 | 27.54 | 27.27 | 26.91 | 27.67 | Better |
| Culture & Leisure sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Cultural programmes attendance index | 4.35 | 3.43 | 2.71 | 2.46 | 2.55 | 2.42 | 2.49 | 2.43 | 2.31 | 2.23 | 2.03 * | Worse |
| 13. Recreation and sport activities participation index | 4.35 | 5.54 | 6.26 | 6.05 | 5.60 | 6.31 | 5.71 | 6.49 | 5.64 | 6.30 | 6.35 | Better |
| 14. Overseas travel index | 4.35 | 5.23 | 5.26 | 5.35 | 5.73 | 5.95 | 6.44 | 7.06 | 7.51 | 8.43 | 9.07 | Better |
| Culture & Leisure sub-index | 13.04 | 14.21 | 14.23 | 13.86 | 13.88 | 14.67 | 14.63 | 15.97 | 15.46 | 16.96 | 17.45 | Better |
| Economic sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Housing affordability ratio | 4.35 | 2.23 | 1.45 | 0.94 | -0.90 | -2.03 | -3.34 | -4.54 | -5.17 | -6.13 | -5.06 | Better |
| 16. Real rental index | 4.35 | 3.88 | 3.44 | 4.16 | 3.42 | 2.45 | 2.31 | 2.06 | 2.14 | 1.80 | 2.14 | Better |
| 17. Unemployment rate | 4.35 | 6.38 | 6.52 | 5.64 | 6.21 | 6.69 | 6.74 | 6.74 | 6.78 | 6.76 | 6.86 | Better |
| 18. Index of current economic conditions ^ | 4.35 | 6.63 | 4.63 | 4.74 | 5.46 | 5.03 | 5.10 | 5.44 | 5.79 | 5.75 | 5.89 | Better |
| 19. Real wage index | 4.35 | 4.29 | 4.32 | 4.30 | 4.27 | 4.39 | 4.46 | 4.47 | 4.36 | 4.38 | 4.68 | Better |
| Economic sub-index | 21.74 | 23.41 | 20.36 | 19.78 | 18.46 | 16.52 | 15.27 | 14.17 | 13.90 | 12.56 | 14.51 | Better |
| Environmental sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20. Air index | 4.35 | 3.43 | 3.73 | 4.37 | 4.45 | 4.00 | 4.71 | 4.26 | 4.64 | 4.99 | 5.38 | Better |
| 21. Water index | 4.35 | 4.72 | 4.77 | 4.91 | 4.92 | 4.78 | 4.99 | 5.06 | 4.99 | 4.77 | 4.88 * | Better |
| 22. Noise index | 4.35 | 5.99 | 6.17 | 6.28 | 6.41 | 6.56 | 6.45 | 6.59 | 7.08 | 6.98 | 7.04 * | Better |
| 23. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste | 4.35 | 5.46 | 5.84 | 5.91 | 6.22 | 5.74 | 4.65 | 4.39 | 4.37 | 4.24 | 4.30* | Better |
| Environmental sub-index | 17.39 | 19.60 | 20.51 | 21.47 | 22.01 | 21.08 | 20.80 | 20.29 | 21.08 | 20.98 | 21.60 | Better |
| CUHK Quality of Life Index | 100.00 | 108.30 | 103.81 | 106.37 | 104.62 | 101.47 | 101.47 | 102.41 | 102.49 | 101.32 | 105.39 | Better |

Note 1 The higher the indicator scores, the better it performs.

^ subjective index (data from telephone survey)

@ provisional figures

* forecasted figures

■ revised figures

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

HEALTH SUB-INDEX

1. Life expectancy at birth (in years) refers to the expectancy of life at birth for males and females.
2. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
3. Average patient days (per person) refer to the number of days stayed in hospitals for treatment per person.
4. Stress index refers to the stress that the Hong Kong people are facing (base rate = 100).
5. General life satisfaction index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people with their current lives (base rate = 100).

SOCIAL SUB-INDEX

6. Freedom of speech index refers to public attitude towards freedom of speech in Hong Kong (base rate = 100).
7. Press criticism index refers to the frequency of criticisms on the Hong Kong Corporations, the Hong Kong SAR Government, and the People's Republic of China Government by the press (base rate = 100).
8. Government performance index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people with the performance of Hong Kong SAR Government (base rate = 100).
9. Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population) refers to the total number of violent and non-violent crimes reported per 1,000 population.
10. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
11. Enrolment rate of the relevant age groups (age 17-20) for first-year-first degree (FYFD) places of UGC-funded programmes (in percent).

CULTURE & LEISURE SUB-INDEX

12. Cultural programmes attendance index (per 1,000 population) refers to the number of attendances of indoor cultural programmes organized at the venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department per 1,000 population.
13. Recreation and sport activities participation index (per 1,000 population) refers to the number of participants of recreation and sport activities organized or subvented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department per 1000 population.
14. Oversea travel index (per person) refers to the number of departures by the airport per person.

ECONOMIC SUB-INDEX

15. 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).
16. Real rental index refers to the real rental index of the Hong Kong property market.
17. Unemployment rate refers to the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (in percent).
18. Index of current economic conditions refers to the public attitude towards the economic conditions in Hong Kong.
19. Real wage index⁽¹⁾ refers to the real wages for employees up to supervisory level (excluding managerial and professional employees) in all selected industry sectors.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-INDEX

20. Air quality index refers to the annual air quality of all general stations.
21. Water index refers to the percentage of the inland waters of Hong Kong graded as 'good' and 'excellent' by the monitoring stations.
22. Noise index (per 1,000 population) refers to the number of noise complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department and the Police Force per 1,000 population.
23. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste refers to the recycle rate of solid domestic waste, and commercial and industrial waste (in percent).

Notes:

- (1) The real wage index is derived by deflating the nominal wage indices by the CPI(A).

Sources:

Stress index, general life satisfaction index, freedom of speech index, government performance index and index of current economic conditions are compiled based on the results of telephone survey.

Press criticism index is compiled based on the content analysis of six major local newspapers.

Data for all other indices are obtained from the government or related institutions.

Data for Compiling the CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

| | 2002 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Health sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Life expectancy at birth (years) | F: 84.5 M:78.5 | F: 84.8 M:79.0 | 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:79.8 | F: 86.0 M:80.1 | F: 86.7 M:80.3 | F: 86.4 M:80.7 | F: 86.7 M:81.1 | F: 86.9 M:81.2 | F: 87.3 M:81.4 | F:87.3@ M:81.3@ |
| 2. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP | 2.63 | 2.60 | 2.28 | 2.10 | 1.95 | 1.97 | 2.21 | 2.16 | 2.06 | 2.22 | 2.79 | 2.99 | 2.40@ | 2.44@ |
| 3. Average patient days @ | 1.40 | 1.18 | 1.12 | 1.14 | 1.15 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.09 | 1.10 | 1.08 | 1.14 | 1.11 | 1.12 | 1.14 |
| 4. Stress index ^ | 100.00 | 79.55 | 72.95 | 74.43 | 72.95 | 80.33 | 80.01 | 75.55 | 77.46 | 76.34 | 76.70 | 77.86 | 76.35 | 76.00 |
| 5. General life satisfaction index^ | 100.00 | 100.69 | 105.59 | 109.92 | 112.44 | 110.20 | 107.55 | 111.63 | 111.44 | 108.99 | 110.09 | 111.52 | 110.25 | 116.53 |
| Social sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Freedom of speech index ^ | 100.00 | 100.26 | 101.43 | 101.60 | 103.92 | 103.53 | 103.54 | 102.23 | 102.08 | 100.73 | 98.64 | 94.53 | 93.04 | 92.20 |
| 7. 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 | 92.03 | 93.96 | 91.51 |
| 8. Government performance index ^ | 100.00 | 131.92 | 168.63 | 175.52 | 182.54 | 130.07 | 144.49 | 138.20 | 117.58 | 129.25 | 119.66 | 115.52 | 107.35 | 112.14 |
| 9. Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population) | 11.25 | 11.99 | 11.37 | 11.83 | 11.67 | 11.25 | 11.13 | 10.81 | 10.74 | 10.61 | 10.14 | 9.35 | 9.09 | 8.25 |
| 10. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP | 4.06 | 4.32 | 3.86 | 3.61 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 4.52 | 3.28 | 3.14 | 3.33 | 3.58 | 3.38 | 3.07@ | 3.18@ |
| 11. Enrolment rate of the relevant age groups (age 17-20) for first-year-first degree places of UGC-funded programmes | 17.00 | 17.60 | 18.00 | 18.50 | 18.70 | 18.60 | 18.60 | 18.70 | 19.40 | 20.20 | 20.60 | 21.30 | 22.00 | 23.10 |
| Culture & Leisure sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Cultural programmes attendance (per 1,000 population) | 253.28 | 181.72 | 190.24 | 195.03 | 199.67 | 157.73 | 143.03 | 148.40 | 140.74 | 144.79 | 141.28 | 134.74 | 130.19 | 118.41* |
| 13. Recreation and sport activities participation (per 1,000 population) | 303.13 | 337.42 | 344.33 | 366.78 | 386.59 | 436.65 | 421.92 | 390.25 | 440.10 | 397.96 | 452.66 | 392.93 | 438.99 | 443.01 |
| 14. Oversea travel times | 0.74 | 0.79 | 0.80 | 0.84 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.91 | 0.97 | 1.01 | 1.09 | 1.20 | 1.27 | 1.43 | 1.54 |
| Economic sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Housing affordability ratio | 4.60 | 5.30 | 6.11 | 5.89 | 6.85 | 7.67 | 8.20 | 10.16 | 11.35 | 12.73 | 14.00 | 14.67 | 15.68 | 14.55 |
| 16. Real rental index | 108.29 | 104.08 | 114.60 | 110.20 | 119.99 | 130.78 | 112.86 | 131.39 | 155.60 | 159.08 | 165.23 | 163.38 | 171.86 | 163.31 |
| 17. Unemployment rate | 7.34 | 6.76 | 5.55 | 4.69 | 3.92 | 3.68 | 5.17 | 4.20 | 3.39 | 3.31 | 3.30 | 3.24 | 3.28 | 3.09 |
| 18. 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 | 102.01 | 101.24 | 103.77 |
| 19. Real wage index | 92.91 | 91.98 | 91.42 | 91.28 | 91.76 | 92.23 | 91.90 | 91.26 | 93.79 | 95.32 | 95.51 | 93.18 | 93.54 | 99.91 |
| Environmental sub-index | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20. Air quality index | 2.24 | 3.00 | 2.72 | 2.67 | 2.71 | 2.56 | 2.23 | 2.18 | 2.42 | 2.05 | 2.28 | 2.09 | 1.91 | 1.71 |
| 21. Water index | 74.40 | 76.90 | 80.80 | 80.80 | 80.70 | 81.70 | 84.10 | 84.20 | 81.80 | 85.40 | 86.60 | 85.40 | 81.70 | 83.55* |
| 22. Noise index (per 1000 population) | 1.85 | 1.39 | 1.24 | 1.28 | 1.15 | 1.07 | 1.03 | 0.97 | 0.91 | 0.96 | 0.90 | 0.69 | 0.73 | 0.70* |
| 23. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste | 36.30 | 40.46 | 43.09 | 45.59 | 45.62 | 48.76 | 49.30 | 51.95 | 47.94 | 38.85 | 36.61 | 36.48 | 35.37 | 35.92* |

^ subjective index (data from telephone survey)

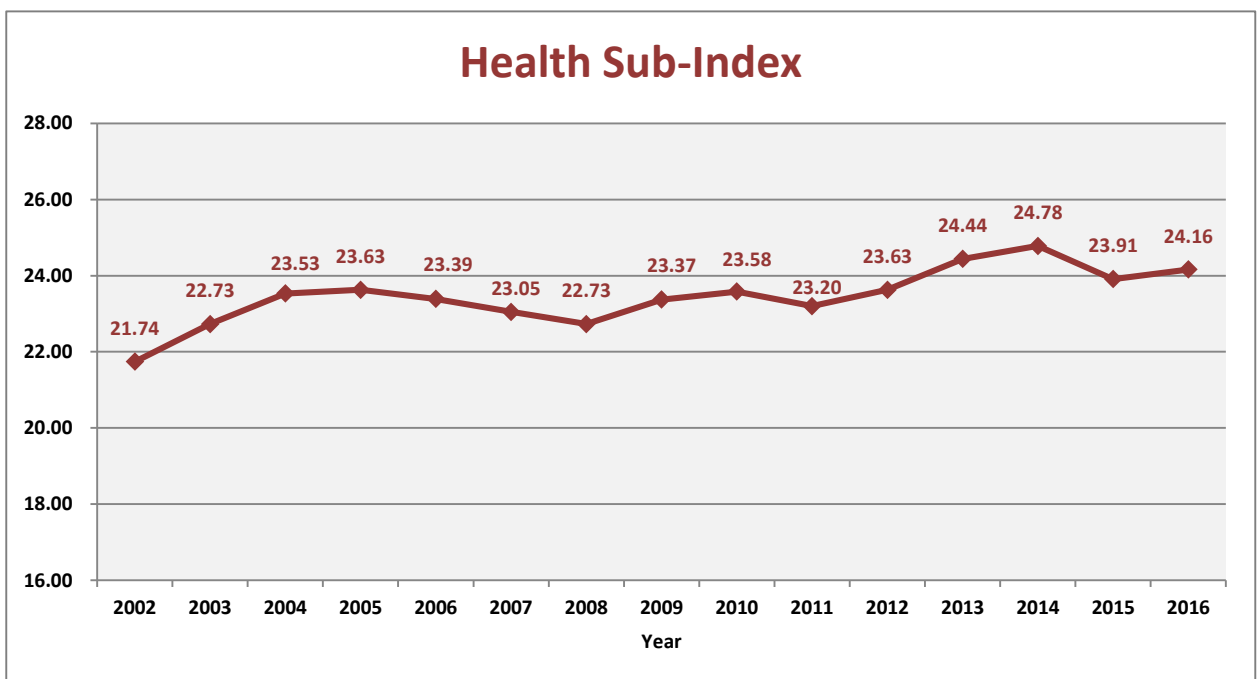
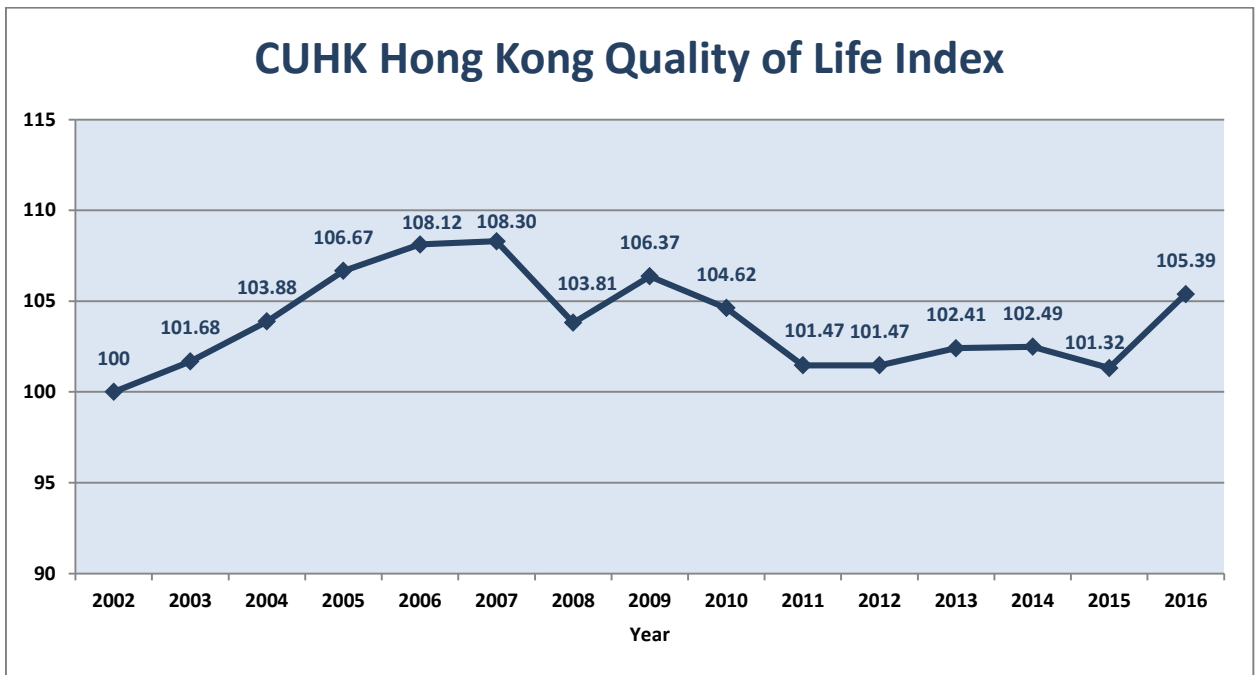
@ provisional figures

* forecasted figures

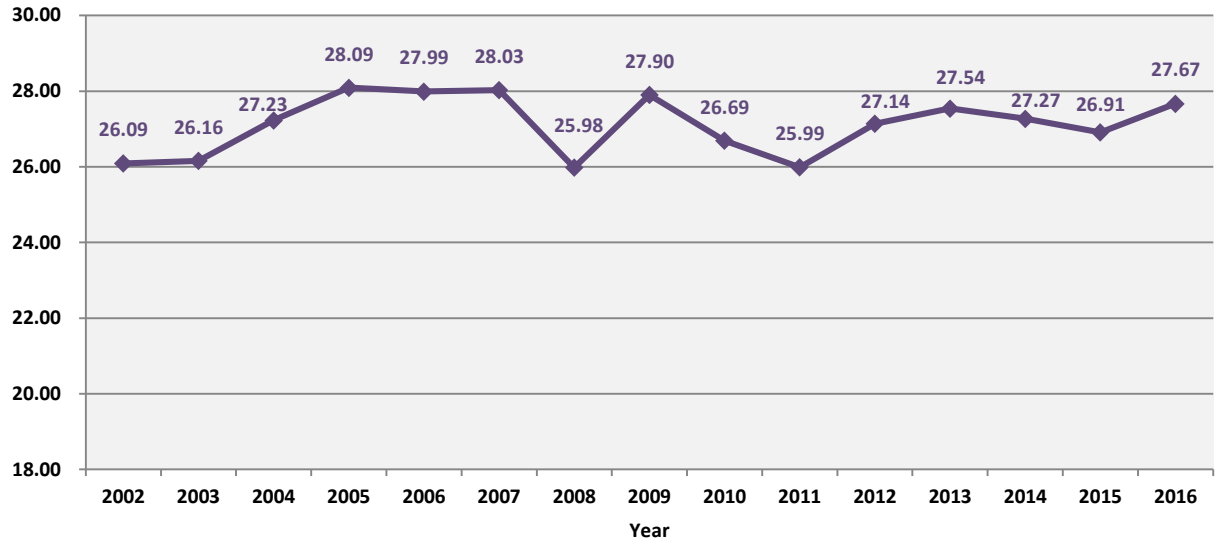
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Appendix 3: Line Charts of CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index and Sub-indices

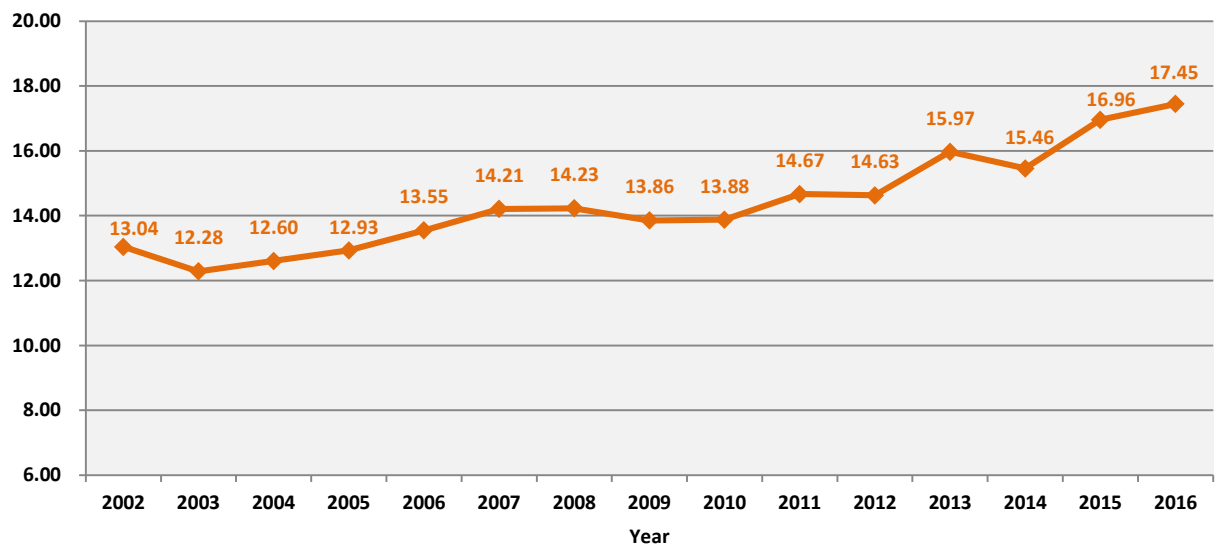
The higher the indicator scores, the better it performs.

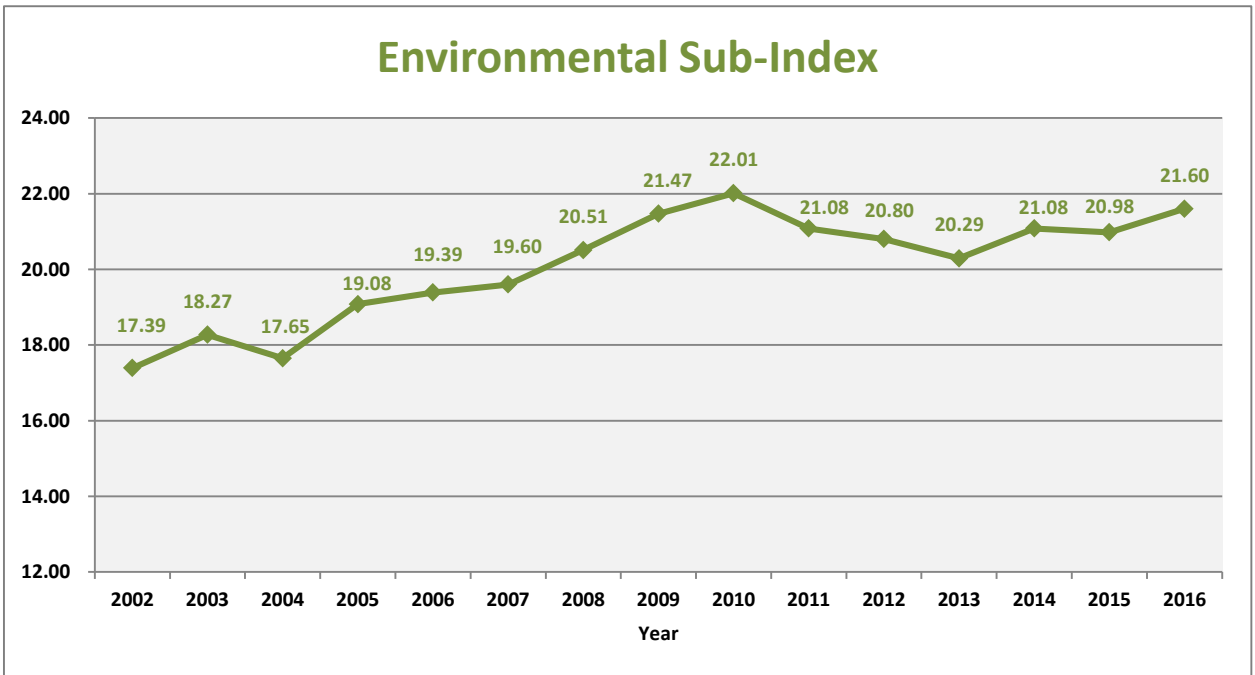
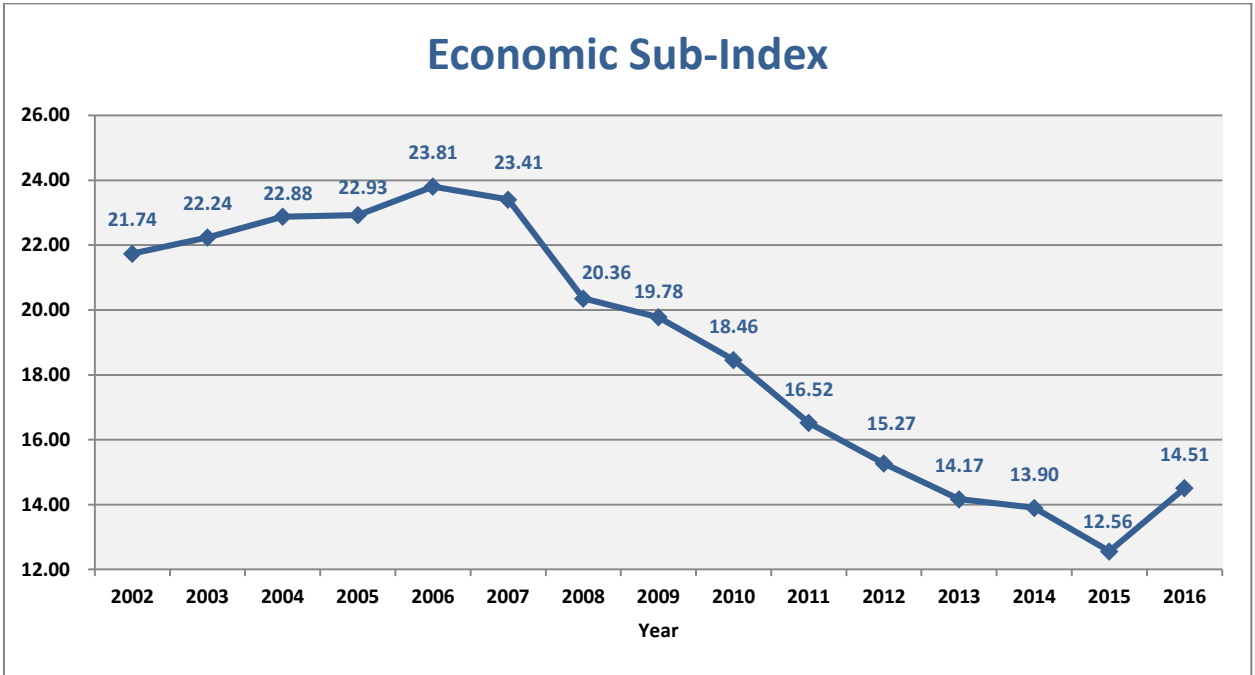


Social Sub-Index



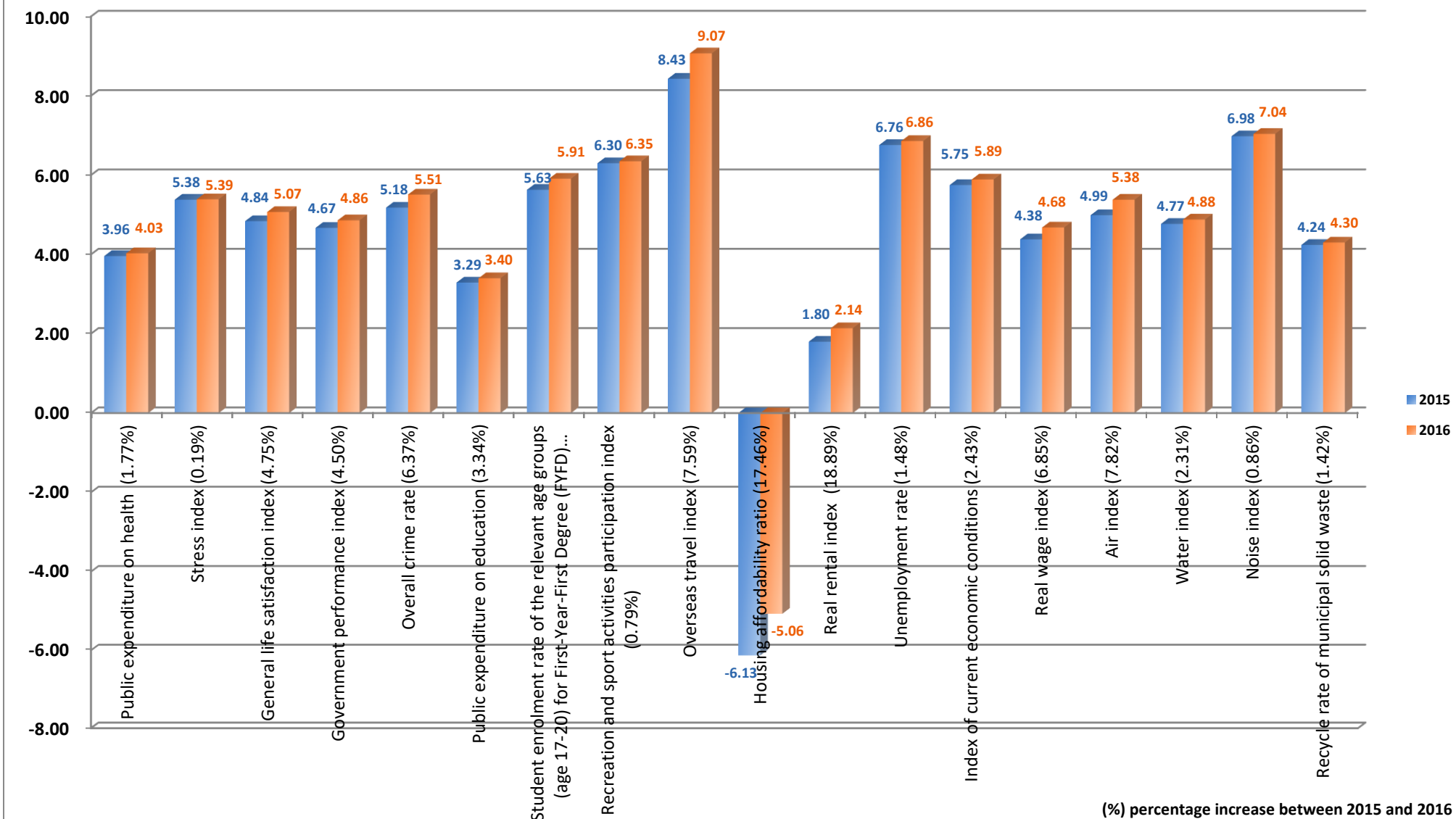
Culture & Leisure Sub-Index





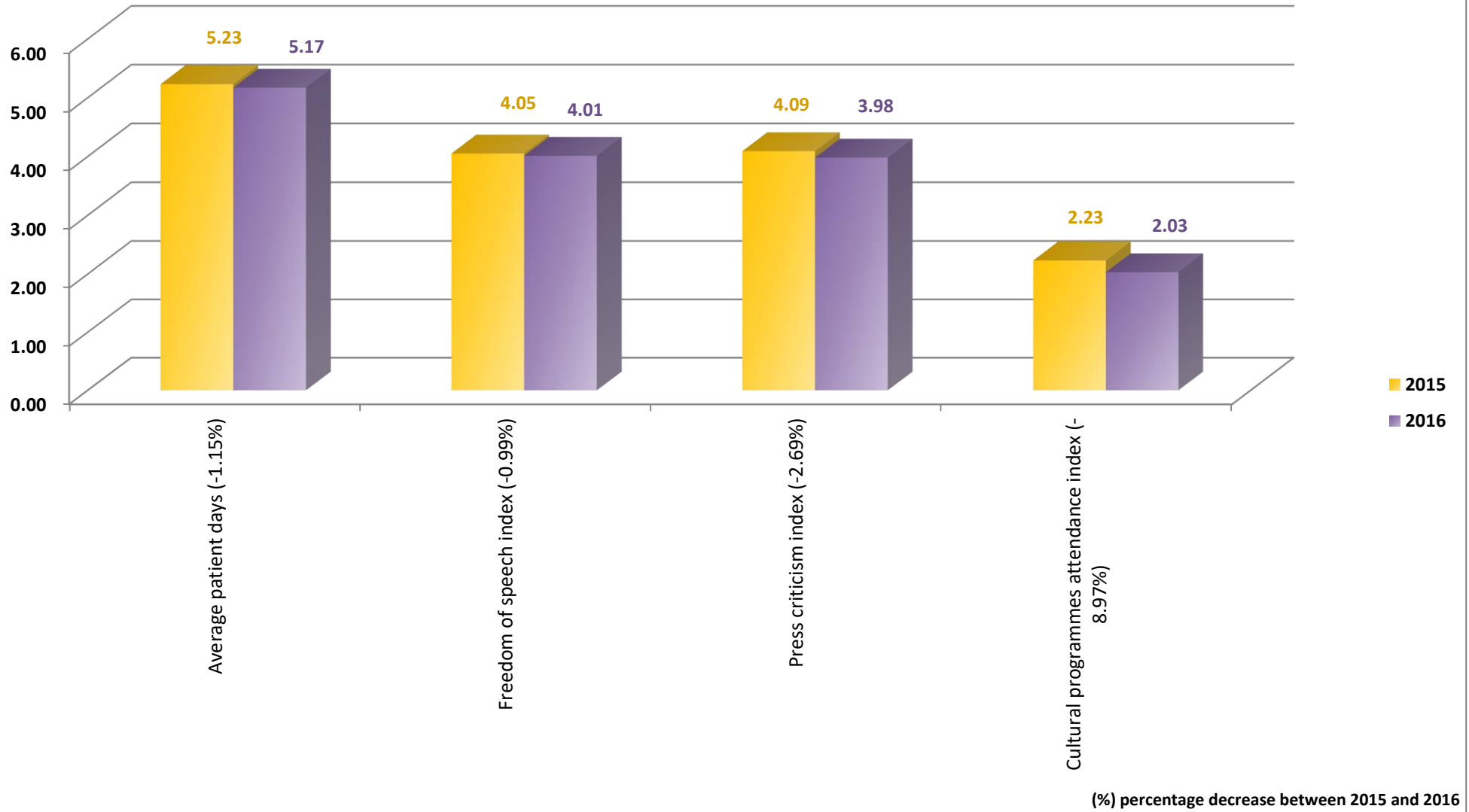
Appendix 4

2015-2016 CHUK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index - Better Indicators



Appendix 5

2015-2016 CUHK Hong Kong Quality of Life Index - Worse Indicators



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