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HONG KONG PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

香 港 民 意 研 究 所

Latest Tracking Poll Results

February 28, 2024

Presentation Flow

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- “POP Panel” Online Survey Latest Results
 - People’s appraisal of society’s conditions
 - Trust and confidence indicators
 - Social and freedom indicators
 - Analysis of responses to open-ended questions
- PSI Report No. 6.23

Contact Information – “POP Panel” Online Survey

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- Date of survey: 9-16/2/2024
- Target population: POP Panel members
(Including “Hong Kong People Representative Panel” and “Hong Kong People Volunteer Panel”)
- Survey method: Online survey
- Sample size: 722 (all respondents were aged 18 or above)
- Success rate: 4.6%
- Sampling error: Sampling error of percentages not more than +/-4%, that of net values not more than +/-7% and that of ratings not more than +/-0.29 at 95% conf. level
- Weighting method: Rim-weighted according to 1) gender-age distribution, educational attainment (highest level attended) distribution and economic activity status distribution of Hong Kong population from Census and Statistics Department; 2) appraisal of political condition and political inclination distribution from regular tracking telephone surveys.

Survey Result – Appraisal of Society’s Current Conditions

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- **Net satisfaction rates of society’s conditions**

	“POP Panel” Online Survey		
	5-12/1/2024 [^]	9-16/2/2024	Change
Political condition	-6%	-6%	----
Livelihood condition	-19%	-17%	▲3%
Economic condition	-41%	-36%	▲5%

- Results of online survey show that people’s latest satisfaction rates with the current political, livelihood and economic conditions are 34%, 25% and 19% respectively, the net satisfaction rates are negative 6, negative 17 and negative 36 percentage points respectively, which have not changed much compared to results of last month’s online survey.

[^] Only includes the samples from respondents aged 18 or above.

Survey Result – Trust and Confidence Indicators

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• People’s trust in the HKSAR Government

	“POP Panel” Online Survey		
	5-12/1/2024 [^]	9-16/2/2024	Change
Trust	46%	39%	▼7%*
Distrust	38%	42%	▲4%
Net value	9%	-3%	▼11%*
Mean value	2.9	2.8	▼0.1

- Results of online survey shows that 39% of the respondents expressed trust in the SAR Government, while 42% distrust it. The net trust value is negative 3 percentage points, which has **significantly decreased** compared to results of last month’s online survey. Meanwhile, the mean score is 2.8, meaning close to “half-half” in general.

* Significant change

[^] Only includes the samples from respondents aged 18 or above.

Survey Result – Trust and Confidence Indicators

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- **People’s confidence in the future of Hong Kong**

	“POP Panel” Online Survey		
	5-12/1/2024 [^]	9-16/2/2024	Change
Confidence	50%	44%	▼6%*
No-confidence	39%	49%	▲10%*
Net confidence	11%	-6%	▼16%*

- Results of online survey show that 44% expressed confidence in the future of Hong Kong, while 49% had no confidence. Net confidence stands at negative 6 percentage points, which has registered a **very significant decrease** compared to results of last month’s online survey.

* Significant change

[^] Only includes the samples from respondents aged 18 or above.

Survey Result – Core Social Indicators

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	“POP Panel Online Survey”
	9-16/2/2024
Compliance with the rule of law	5.24
Degree of stability	5.19
Degree of freedom	4.82
Degree of prosperity	4.57
Degree of democracy	4.08

- On a scale of 0 to 10, people’s ratings on the five core social indicators ranked from the highest to the lowest are “rule of law”, “stability”, “freedom”, “prosperity” and “democracy”. Their scores are 5.24, 5.19, 4.82, 4.57 and 4.08 respectively.

Survey Result – Non-core Social Indicators

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	“POP Panel” Online Survey
	9-16/2/2024
Degree of public order	5.31
Degree of efficiency	5.28
Degree of corruption-free practices	5.18
Degree of civilization	5.14
Degree of social welfare sufficiency	5.02
Degree of equality	4.69
Degree of fairness	4.57

- As for the seven non-core indicators, “public order” and “efficiency” got the highest ratings, followed by “corruption-free practices”, “civilization” and “social welfare sufficiency”. “Equality” and “fairness” got relatively lower ratings.

Survey Result – Freedom Sub-indicators

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	“POP Panel” Online Survey
	9-16/2/2024
Freedom to enter or leave Hong Kong	6.61
Freedom of religious belief	6.56
Freedom to engage in academic research	5.32
Freedom to engage in artistic and literary creation	5.17
Freedom of speech	4.91
Freedom of press	4.70
Freedom of publication	4.69
Freedom of association	4.59
Freedom to strike	4.28
Freedom of procession and demonstration	3.92

Survey Result – Rule of Law Sub-indicators

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	“POP Panel” Online Survey
	9-16/2/2024
Impartiality of the courts	5.22
Fairness of the judicial system	4.98

- Regarding the two rule of law sub-indicators, “impartiality of the courts” got 5.22 marks, while “fairness of the judicial system” got 4.98 marks.

“POP Panel” Online Survey – Open-ended Questions

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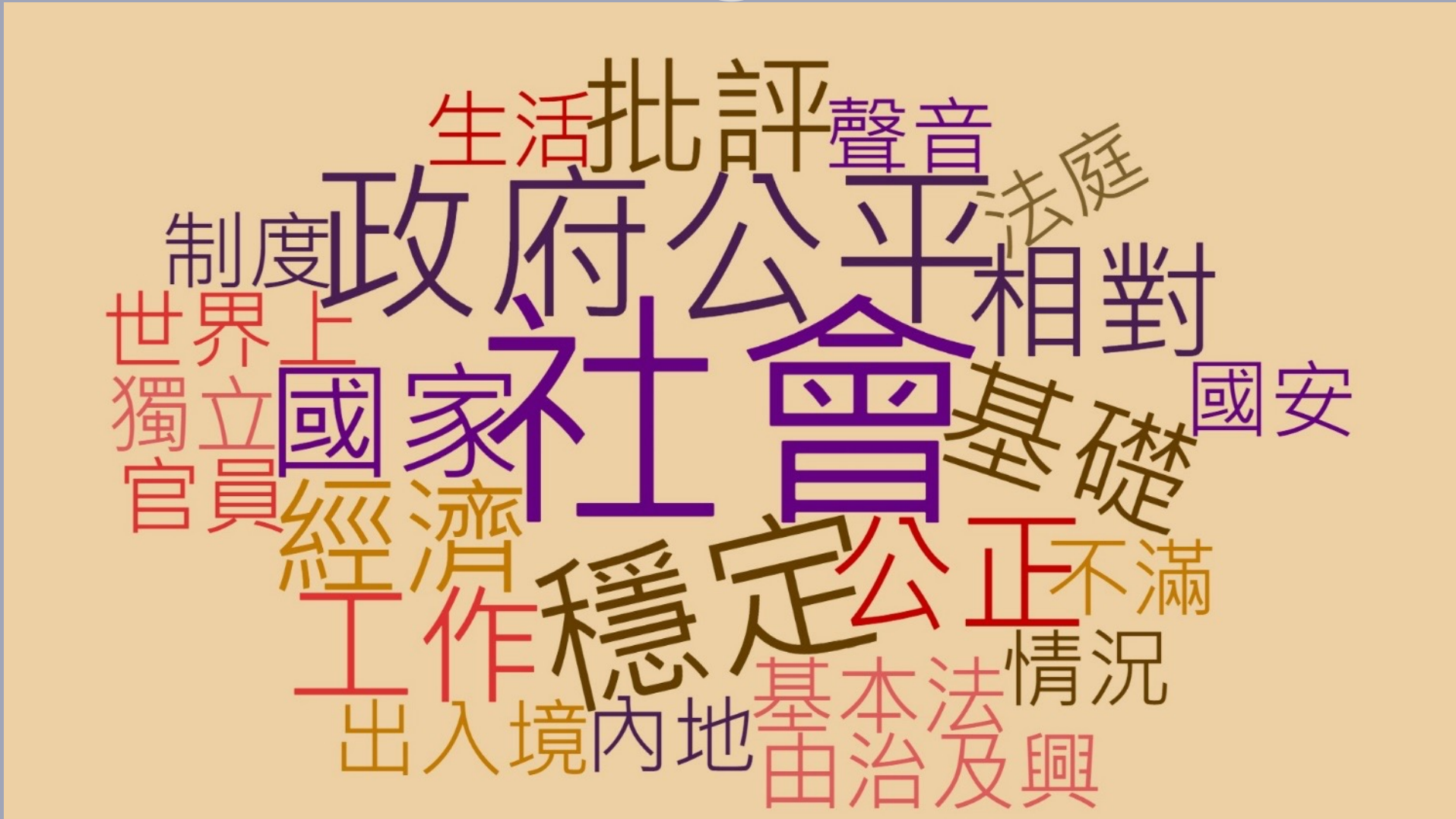
- **Inclusion of open-ended questions:**

- Randomly drawn from one of the five core social indicators, namely “democracy”, “freedom”, “prosperity”, “stability” or “rule of law”, then asked respondents to provide the reasons for their ratings given.

- **Steps for processing the responses:**

- Using the median of the weighted rating of each indicator, we divided all open-ended responses collected into two groups – **“reasons of giving relatively lower marks”** and **“reasons of giving relatively higher marks”**;
- Subjected to word segmentation using "PyCantonese";
- Remove unmeaningful words, words that appear only once, punctuations and 1-letter words;
- Select 50 words or more **in both groups respectively** that appeared the most in raw samples;
- Generate a word cloud with selected words using “HTML5 Word Cloud”.

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions Responses – Reasons of giving relatively higher marks



“POP Panel” Online Survey – Open-ended Questions

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- **Summarized all open-ended responses by Perplexity AI**
 - Clustering the reasons for “**prosperity**” and “**stability**” ratings as one group, while those for “**democracy**”, “**freedom**” and “**rule of law**” as another group
 - Using the median of the weighted rating of each indicator, we divided the responses in each group into two categories – “**reasons of giving relatively lower marks**” and “**reasons of giving relatively higher marks**” (4 groups in total);
 - The four resulting groups of answers were then uploaded respectively to Perplexity AI with the prompt to “**sort the content into 3 categories**”;
 - Record the **original responses** given by Perplexity AI

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Responses – Reasons for “Prosperity” and “Stability” Ratings

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Reasons of giving relatively HIGHER marks

- **Economic Stability and Development**
 - Residents express a positive outlook on Hong Kong's transition from chaos to stability since around 2000 or 1997.
 - Acknowledgment of accelerated development in China, advanced infrastructure, and increased international engagement.
 - Mention of high internal security rating and overall stability in society.
 - Positive remarks on initiatives like One Belt, One Road and advanced transportation links with mainland China.
 - Recognition of efforts by the government to address various issues and provide freedom and convenience in daily life.
- **Social Stability and Prosperity**
 - Noting low unemployment rates and cautious behavior post-COVID-19.
 - Mention of overall peace, stability, and prosperity in society.
 - Acknowledgment of relatively stable social conditions.
 - Positive comments on the general freedom, convenience in daily life, and availability of jobs for citizens.
- **Infrastructure and Living Standards**
 - Reference to advanced infrastructure projects and high living standards globally.
 - Mention of the overall advanced level of infrastructure and material well-being for citizens.
 - Positive comments on the ease of travel, implementation of certain initiatives like "One Country, Two Systems," and improved transportation links with mainland China.

Reasons of giving relatively LOWER marks

- **Political and Governance Issues**
 - Criticism of the government's alignment with mainland China and lack of focus on Hong Kong's interests.
 - Concerns about the erosion of freedoms, democracy, and rule of law.
 - Perception of a lack of accountability and responsiveness from the government.
 - Criticism of recent political changes impacting Hong Kong's international image.
 - Criticism of the government's policies leading to economic stagnation and decline in living standards.
 - Perception of a lack of effective governance and leadership.
- **Economic Challenges**
 - Economic issues such as slow recovery, lack of economic growth post-Covid-19, and dependence on China's economy.
 - Criticism of economic policies leading to wealth disparity, lack of investment, and economic decline.
 - Concerns about job losses, talent emigration, and a decline in Hong Kong's international financial status.
- **Social Stability and Public Dissatisfaction**
 - Perception of social unrest, law enforcement issues, and a decline in social stability.
 - Criticism of the lack of freedom of speech, press suppression, and restrictions on dissenting voices.
 - Concerns about rising crime rates, low case resolution rates, and overall dissatisfaction among the population.
 - Perception of a lack of public voice due to fear of persecution or repercussions.

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Responses – Reasons for “Democracy”, “Freedom” and “Rule of Law” Ratings

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Reasons of giving relatively **HIGHER** marks

- **Fairness and Independence of Judicial System**
 - The judicial system in Hong Kong is perceived as relatively fair and independent, with court decisions based on legal principles and evidence, and courts being relatively independent.
 - Trust in Hong Kong's legal system is expressed, believing in the fairness and independence of judges.
- **Freedom of Speech and Movement**
 - There is adequate freedom of speech and movement in Hong Kong within legal boundaries, allowing citizens to express themselves as long as it is reasonable and lawful.
 - Citizens have the freedom to criticize as long as it does not harm national security or divulge state secrets.
- **Legal Protection for Vulnerable Groups**
 - Calls for better legal protection for vulnerable groups are highlighted, emphasizing the need for fair legal safeguards for disadvantaged individuals.
 - Mention of the importance of caring for grassroots and disabled individuals within the legal framework.

Reasons of giving relatively **LOWER** marks

- **Concerns about Erosion of Freedoms and Legal Issues**
 - Judges align with government in political cases, limiting freedoms.
 - Restrictions on criticizing the government and political discourse.
 - Erosion of freedoms like freedom of speech and assembly.
 - Unfair laws, unclear legal provisions, biased court judgments.
 - Concerns about lack of judicial independence and unfair legal practices.
 - Selective law enforcement and constraints on civil liberties.
- **Impact of National Security Law**
 - National Security Law limits freedoms, stifles dissenting voices.
 - No freedom with the National Security Law in place.
 - Fear of consequences for expressing opinions under the law.
- **Political Climate and Governance Issues**
 - Government control leading to self-censorship and fear of consequences.
 - Challenges to democracy, disappearance of opposing voices.
 - Concerns about the diminishing democracy and increased government control.

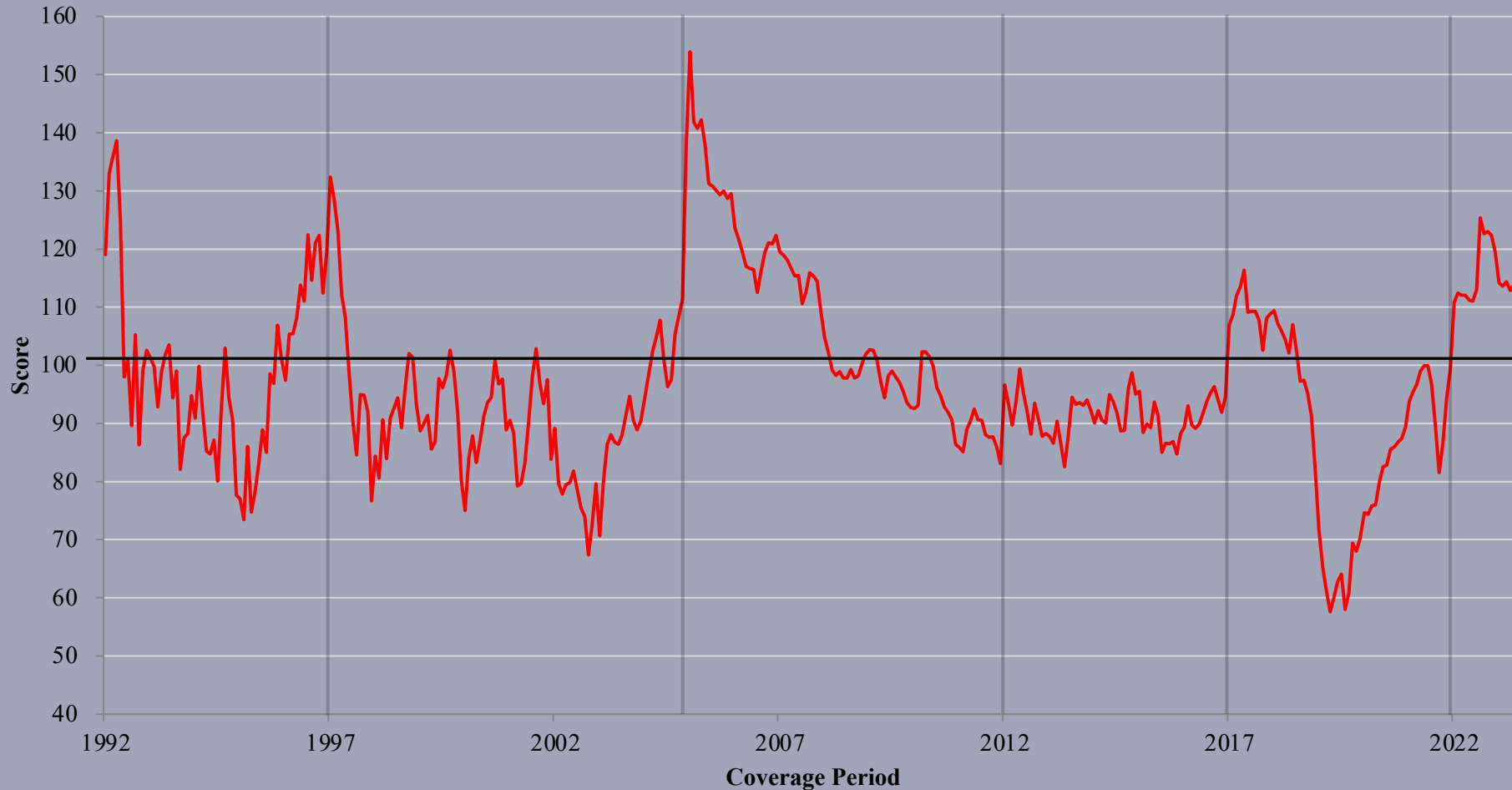
Presentation Flow

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- “POP Panel” Online Survey Latest Results
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- **PSI Report No. 6.23**

PSI Report No. 6.18: Update on Second Generation PSI series

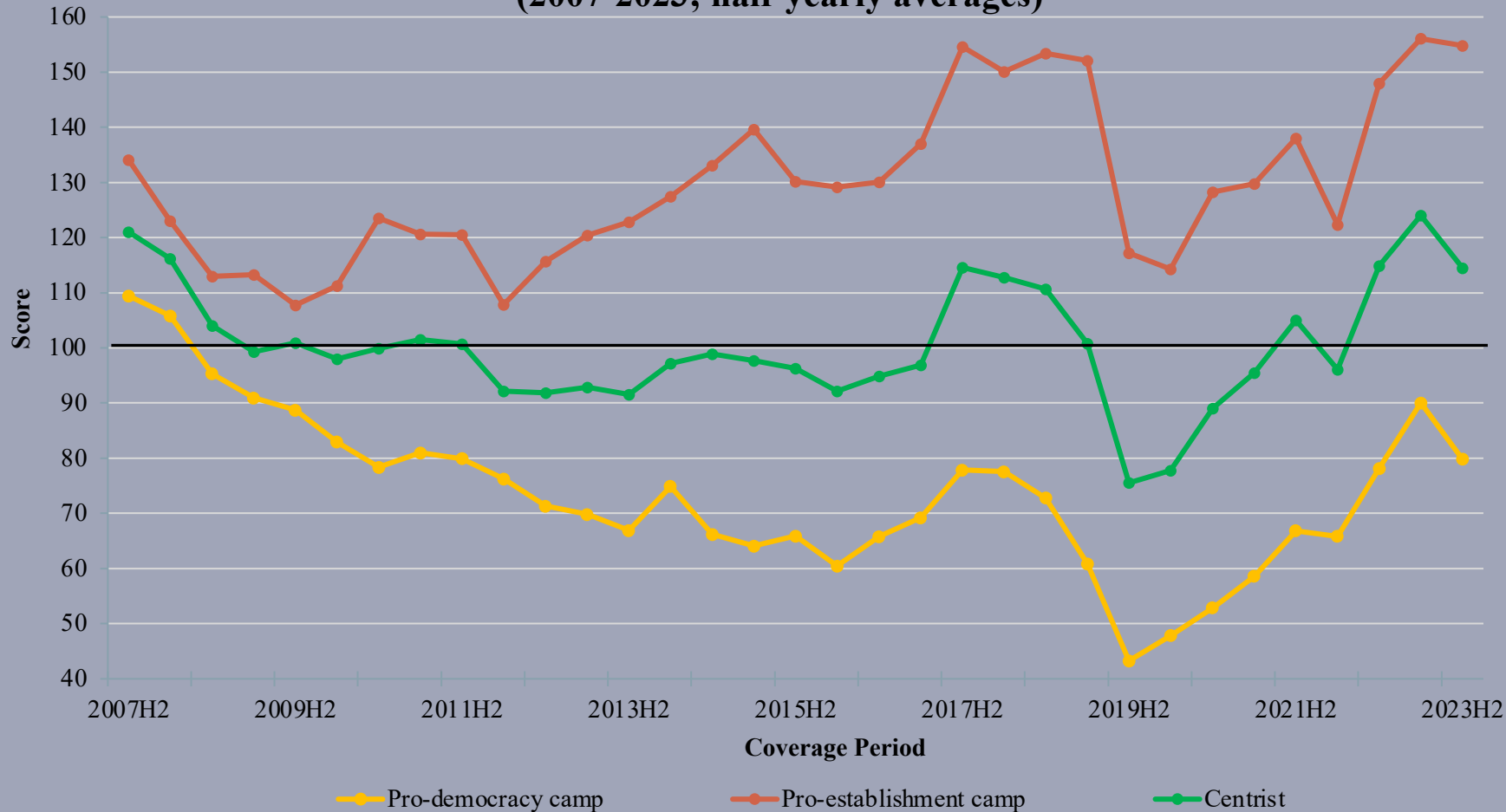
PSI 1992-2023 (Monthly figures)



Coverage Period	Government Appraisal (GA)	Society Appraisal (SA)	Public Sentiment Index (PSI)
July 2022	109.4	104.3	110.8
August 2022	111.9	105.3	112.4
September 2022	111.3	105.2	112.1
October 2022	111.3	105.2	112.1
November 2022	110.2	104.5	111.2
December 2022	109.8	104.5	111.0
January 2023	113.8	104.5	112.9
February 2023	117.8	126.8	125.4
March 2023	112.3	126.6	122.6
April 2023	113.2	126.5	123.0
May 2023	115.5	123.1	122.4
June 2023	109.5	122.9	119.4
July 2023	111.2	109.9	114.1
August 2023	110.2	109.8	113.6
September 2023	111.7	109.8	114.3
October 2023	110.8	107.8	112.9
November 2023	112.9	107.8	113.9
December 2023	113.4	107.7	114.1

PSI Report No. 6.19: PSI per Political Camps

PSI among Supporters of Different Political Camps
(2007-2023; half-yearly averages)

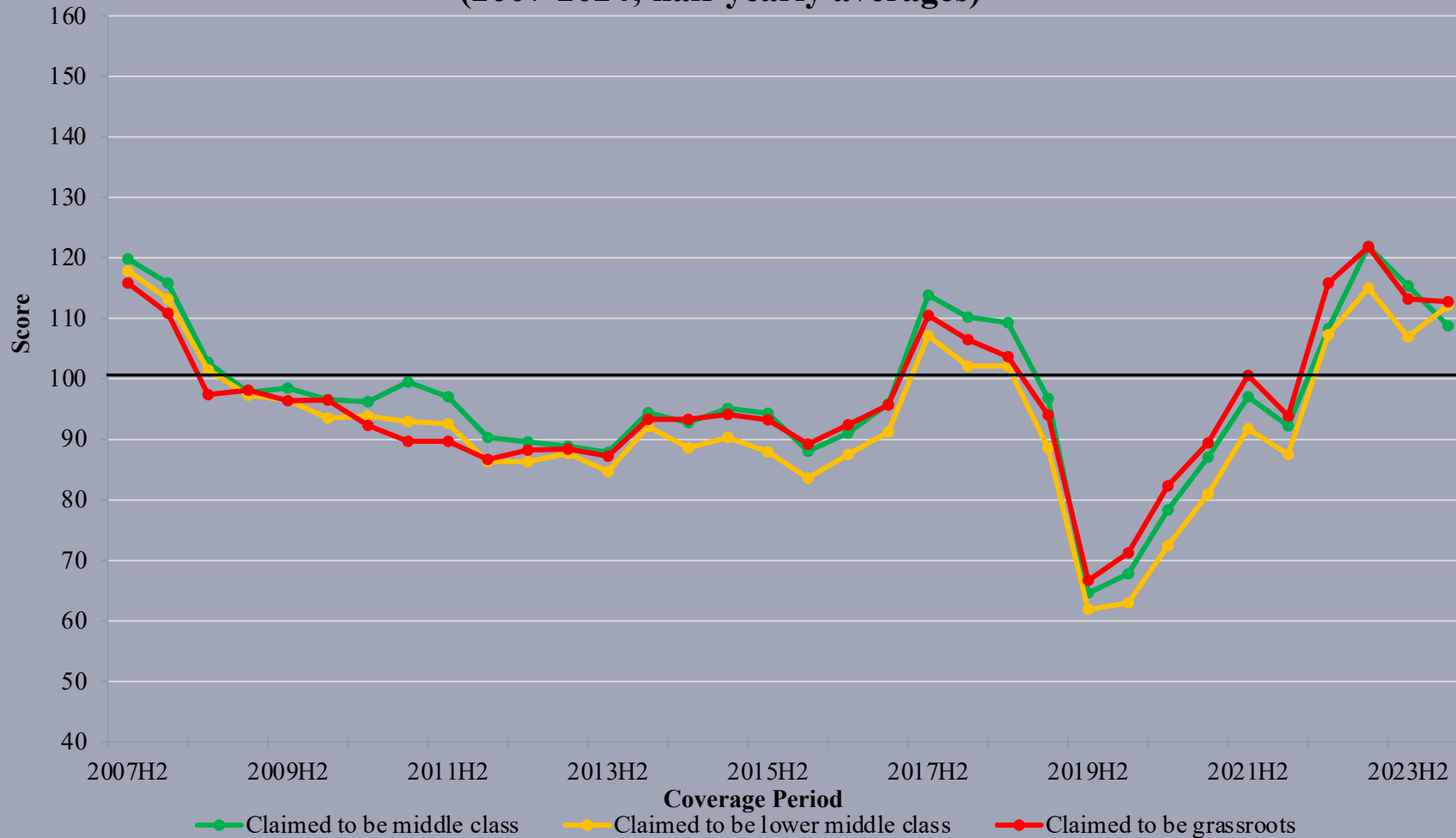


Half-year period	Sample size	Pro-democracy camp supporters	Centrist supporters	Pro-establishment camp supporters
2007H2	13,157	109.4	121.0	134.1
2008H1	15,361	105.8	116.2	123.1
2008H2	13,121	95.3	104.0	113.0
2009H1	14,138	90.9	99.3	113.3
2009H2	14,104	88.7	100.9	107.8
2010H1	12,150	82.9	98.0	111.3
2010H2	14,144	78.4	99.9	123.6
2011H1	13,291	81.0	101.5	120.6
2011H2	15,209	79.9	100.7	120.5
2012H1	14,259	76.3	92.1	107.8
2012H2	12,174	71.3	91.8	115.7
2013H1	12,229	69.8	92.8	120.4
2013H2	12,154	66.9	91.6	122.8
2014H1	12,255	74.9	97.1	127.5
2014H2	12,147	66.2	98.9	133.1
2015H1	12,349	64.1	97.7	139.6
2015H2	11,108	65.9	96.3	130.2
2016H1	12,088	60.5	92.2	129.2
2016H2	12,074	65.8	94.9	130.1
2017H1	12,128	69.2	96.9	137.0
2017H2	12,200	77.9	114.6	154.6
2018H1	12,092	77.5	112.8	150.0
2018H2	12,072	72.8	110.6	153.4
2019H1	12,151	60.9	100.8	152.1
2019H2	12,298	43.3	75.5	117.2
2020H1	12,062	47.9	77.7	114.3
2020H2	12,206	52.9	89.0	128.3
2021H1	12,086	58.6	95.5	129.8
2021H2	12,080	66.8	105.0	138.0
2022H1	12,059	65.8	96.1	122.4
2022H2	6,107	78.1	114.9	148.0
2023H1	6,056	90.0	124.0	156.1
2023H2	11,535	79.8	114.5	154.8
Total sample size	404,644	126,761	45,970	152,972

PSI Report No. 6.20: PSI per Social Strata

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**PSI among Different Social Strata
(2007-2024; half-yearly averages)**

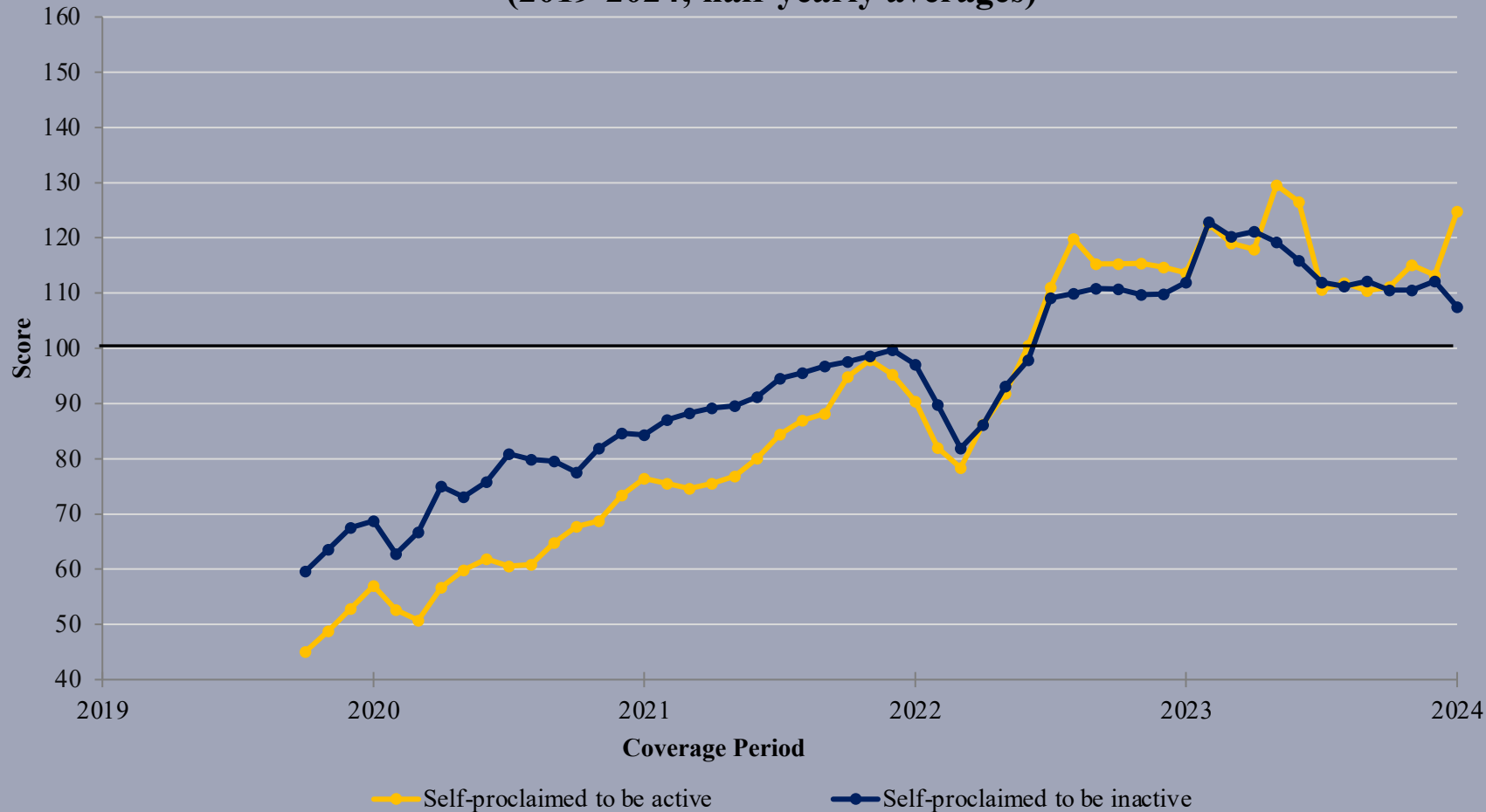


Half-year period	Sample size	Claimed to be middle class	Claimed to be lower middle class	Claimed to be grassroots
2007H2	13,157	119.9	117.9	115.9
2008H1	15,361	115.8	113.2	110.8
2008H2	14,302	102.8	101.5	97.4
2009H1	14,138	97.7	97.3	98.1
2009H2	14,104	98.5	96.5	96.5
2010H1	12,150	96.5	93.5	96.5
2010H2	14,144	96.3	93.9	92.3
2011H1	13,291	99.5	93.0	89.7
2011H2	15,209	97.1	92.6	89.7
2012H1	14,259	90.3	86.4	86.7
2012H2	12,174	89.6	86.3	88.3
2013H1	12,229	88.9	87.7	88.5
2013H2	12,154	87.8	84.7	87.2
2014H1	12,255	94.4	92.1	93.3
2014H2	12,147	92.8	88.6	93.4
2015H1	12,349	95.2	90.4	94.1
2015H2	11,108	94.3	88.0	93.2
2016H1	12,088	88.1	83.6	89.2
2016H2	12,074	91.1	87.5	92.4
2017H1	12,128	95.8	91.2	95.7
2017H2	12,200	113.9	107.2	110.5
2018H1	12,092	110.3	102.1	106.4
2018H2	12,072	109.3	102.2	103.7
2019H1	12,151	96.8	88.6	94.1
2019H2	12,298	64.6	61.9	66.7
2020H1	12,062	67.8	63.0	71.3
2020H2	12,206	78.4	72.5	82.4
2021H1	12,086	87.1	81.0	89.4
2021H2	12,080	97.0	91.8	100.6
2022H1	12,059	92.2	87.5	93.9
2022H2	6,107	108.3	107.3	115.9
2023H1	6,056	121.9	115.1	121.8
2023H2	6,020	115.4	107.0	113.2
2024H1 (Preliminary figures)	669	108.8	112.1	112.7
Total sample size	400,979	115,303	122,851	133,954

PSI Report No. 6.21: PSI per Activeness in Civil Society

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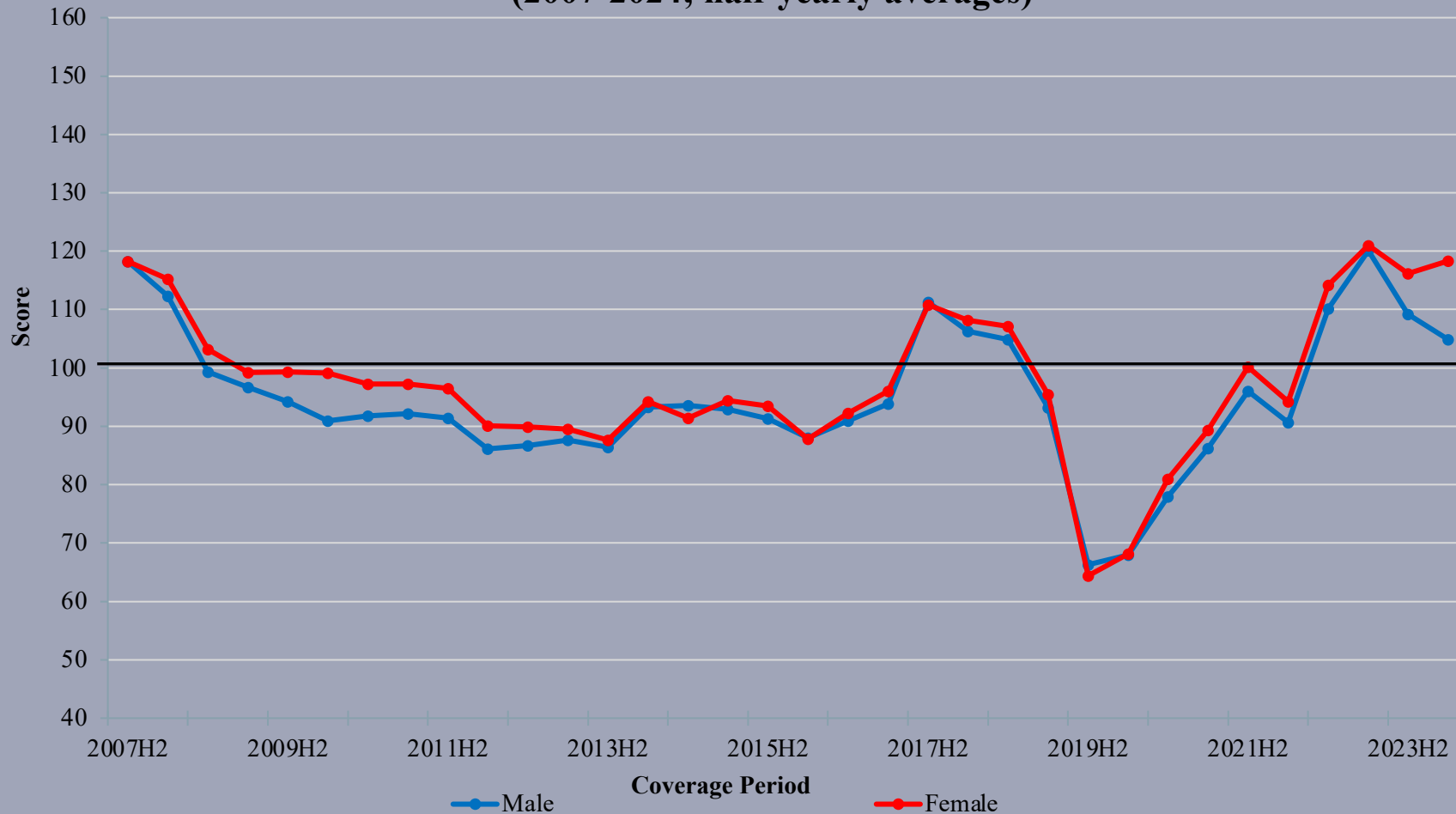
**PSI per Activeness in Civil Society
(2019-2024; half-yearly averages)**



Survey month	Self-proclaimed to be active	Self-proclaimed to be inactive
January 2023	113.7	111.9
February 2023	122.5	122.9
March 2023	119.0	120.3
April 2023	117.9	121.2
May 2023	129.6	119.2
June 2023	126.5	115.9
July 2023	110.6	111.9
August 2023	111.9	111.3
September 2023	110.5	112.1
October 2023	111.2	110.6
November 2023	115.1	110.5
December 2023	113.3	112.2
January 2024	124.8	107.5

PSI Report No. 6.22: PSI per Gender

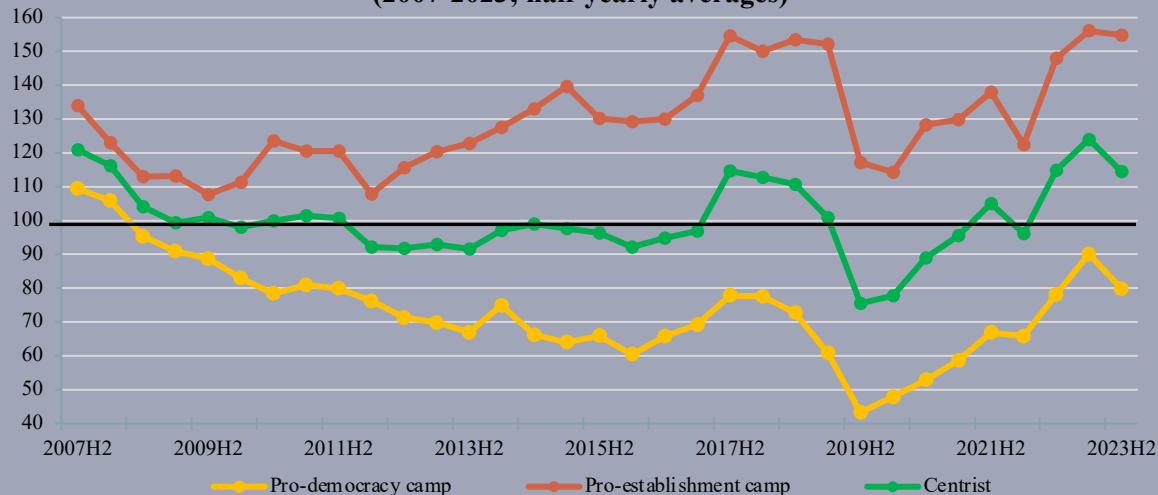
**PSI among Male and Female Respondents
(2007-2024; half-yearly averages)**



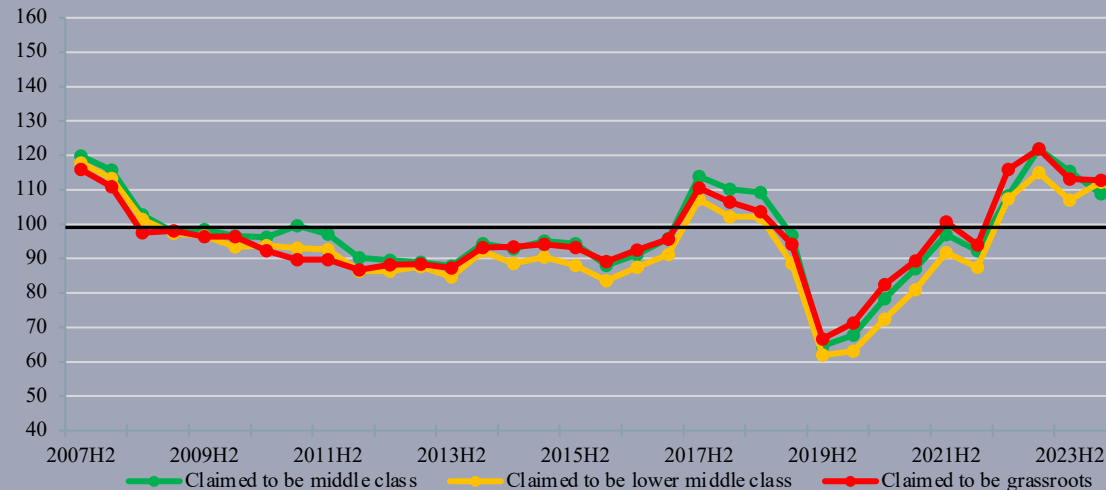
Half-year period	Sample size	Male	Female
2007H2	13,157	118.2	118.2
2008H1	15,361	112.3	115.2
2008H2	14,302	99.3	103.2
2009H1	14,138	96.7	99.2
2009H2	14,104	94.2	99.3
2010H1	12,150	90.9	99.1
2010H2	14,144	91.8	97.2
2011H1	13,291	92.2	97.2
2011H2	15,209	91.4	96.5
2012H1	14,259	86.1	90.1
2012H2	12,174	86.7	89.9
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2013H2	12,154	86.4	87.6
2014H1	12,255	93.3	94.2
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2015H1	12,349	92.9	94.4
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2018H1	12,092	106.3	108.2
2018H2	12,072	104.9	107.1
2019H1	12,151	93.2	95.5
2019H2	12,297	66.3	64.4
2020H1	12,062	68.0	68.2
2020H2	12,206	77.9	81.0
2021H1	12,086	86.2	89.3
2021H2	12,080	96.0	100.2
2022H1	12,059	90.7	94.2
2022H2	6,107	110.1	114.2
2023H1	6,056	120.1	121.0
2023H2	6,020	109.2	116.2
2024H1 (Preliminary figures)	669	104.9	118.3
Total sample size	400,978	179,633	221,345

PSI Report No. 6.23

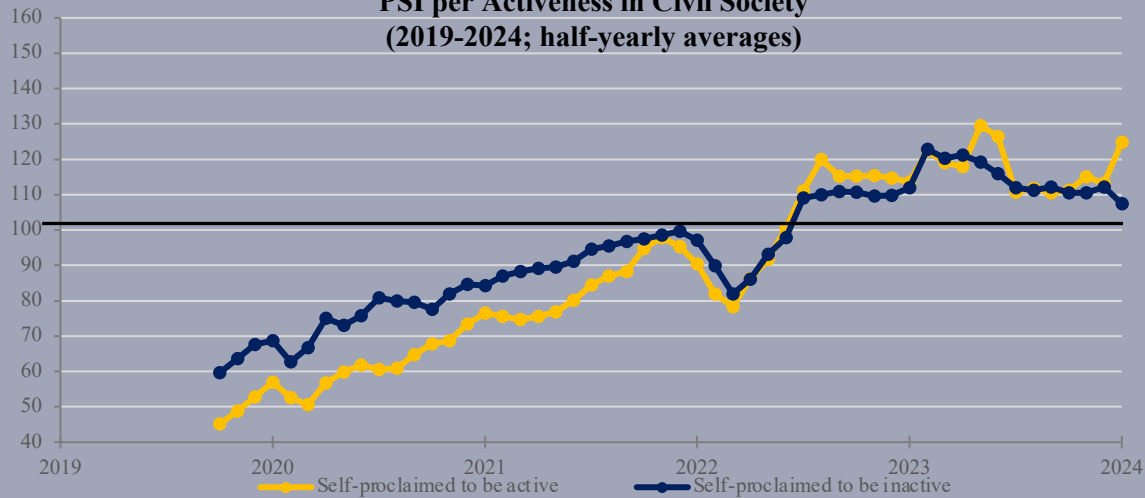
**PSI among Supporters of Different Political Camps
(2007-2023; half-yearly averages)**



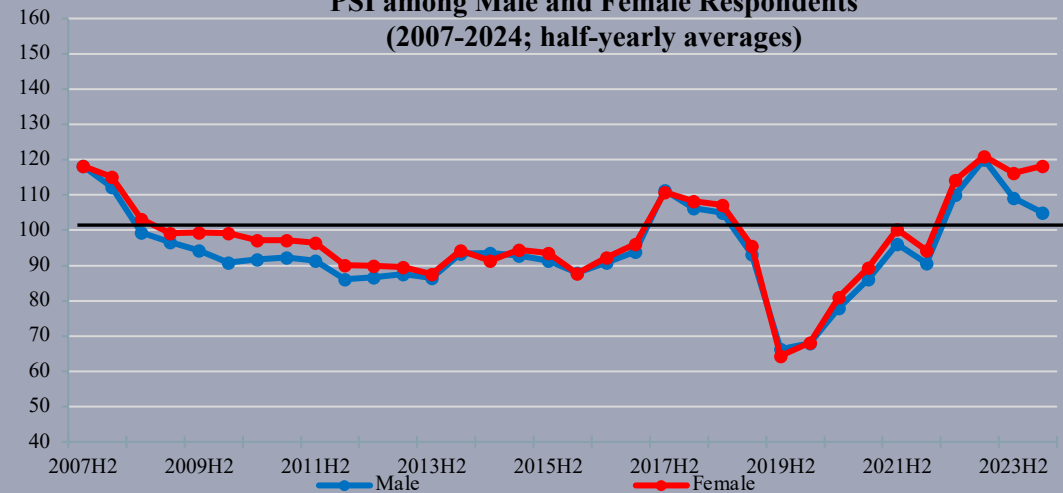
**PSI among Different Social Strata
(2007-2024; half-yearly averages)**



**PSI per Activeness in Civil Society
(2019-2024; half-yearly averages)**



**PSI among Male and Female Respondents
(2007-2024; half-yearly averages)**



PSI Report No. 6.23 – Concluding Remarks

- From the analyses of four demographic variables (i.e. **political alignment, social strata, civil activeness and gender**) in this fourth aggregate report, the gap in sentiment is the widest across respondents with different political alignments. Pro-establishment camp supporters consistently remain to be the happiest, and the differences between political camps began to widen in 2009.
- Meanwhile, the gaps among various social strata, civil activeness and gender groups are relatively narrower, which tend to remain more stable, and also covariate with each other.