

PORI

HONG KONG PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

香 港 民 意 研 究 所

Latest Tracking Poll Results

August 29, 2024

Presentation Flow

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- World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR)
Annual Conference Inspirations
- HKPORI's Latest Development
- “POP Panel” Online Survey Qualitative Opinion Data
Analysis
 - People's Most Concerned Problems
- PSI Report No. 6.41

World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) Annual Conference Inspirations

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World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) Annual Conference Inspirations

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NOTES

Researchers believe that by letting people's voices be heard, public opinion research can help resolve conflicts.

WAPOR 2024

“
Maybe one day, we will be asking our members to bid for conferences, global or regional, annual or otherwise, just like bidding for the Olympic Games.

President Robert Chung
World Association for Public Opinion Research

WAPOR 2024
WAPOR 77th and WAPOR Asia Pacific 7th Joint Annual Conference
28th - 31st July 2024 Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

”

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HKPORI's Latest Development

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HKPORI Report 08/2024

1) Release of July Survey Results & Uploaded Paid Items

Popularity of CE & Secretaries of Departments

Popularity of Government Appraisal of Society's Conditions

Popularity of Disciplinary Forces & PLA Hong Kong Garrison

Feeling towards different Governments and Peoples

Taiwan and Tibetan Issues

2) Continuous Update of Public Sentiment Index

Monitoring social sentiment fluctuations, analyzed by place of birth, housing type and ownership, and level of civic engagement

3) Release of 2023 Press Freedom Index Survey

Commissioned by the Journalists Association, annual survey of Hong Kong Press Freedom Index since 2013

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- **I. Updated July survey data products**
 - All survey data from July telephone survey are uploaded to PORI's website and are available for purchase. There are over 1,100 data products (covering 41 survey items in 15 series) available on our platform, among which 893 are for free and 240 are paid items. HKPORI members enjoy a 50% discount, and \$100 is the minimum price
- **II. Continuous update of PSI**
 - Figures show that the PSI of those born in Hong Kong is on the low side, with the latest score of 101 being barely above the normal level (100). Besides, the latest PSI of both renters and homeowners is quite close to the normal level, ranging from 107 to 111. It is different from that of the private rental sector in the past, which remained relatively low.
- **III. Released 2023 Press Freedom Index Survey**

2023 Press Freedom Index Survey

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合作進行

2023 年度新聞自由指數調查

調查報告

鍾庭耀、彭嘉麗及朱祖良聯合撰寫

2024 年 6 月 18 日

本報告內所有資料的版權由香港民意研究所及香港記者協會聯合擁有。
香港民研積極推動公開數據和技術，以及自由思想、知識和資訊。

- HKPORI continues to be commissioned by the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) to conduct the Press Freedom Index (PFI) survey. Questions include the degree of press freedom rating, the extent of scruples of the media in criticizing the parties concerned, specific problems faced by the media, the efficacy of legal protection and monitoring, and so on.
- The full 2023 Report was released on August 20 and is available on the HKPORI's website.
- Sample size: 1007 Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above, and 251 Journalist
- Press Freedom Indexes (0 to 100)
- Public: 42.2 marks; Journalists: 25.0 marks
- Summary
- Years of data found that journalists' scores **significantly dropped** from 40.9 in 2018 to 26.2 in 2021, and remain low. **The current score of 25.0 is a record low.** The public's score, while dropping notably in 2018 and 2019, has stayed between 40 and 50 throughout 2013 to 2023, **lengthening its distance from journalists' scores.**

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“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions - People’s Most Concerned Problems

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- “POP Panel” online survey open-ended questions in August
 - Compared to a year ago, the percentage of respondents who are most concerned with **economic problems** has **significantly increased by 15 percentage points**, reaching a record high since June 2009, what do you think are the reasons?
 - Compared to a year ago, the percentage of those most concerned with **livelihood problems** has **dropped significantly by 10 percentage points** to reach a record low since December 2008, what do you think are the reasons?
 - Compared to a year ago, the percentage of respondents who are most concerned with **political problems** has **slightly dropped by 4 percentage points**, which is within sampling errors, what do you think are the reasons?
- A total of 566 respondents aged 12 or above responded to the questions

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions - People’s Most Concerned Problems

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- **Steps for processing the responses**
 - Responses were subjected to word segmentation using “PyCantonese”;
 - Remove unmeaningful words, words that appear only once, punctuations and 1-letter words;
 - Around 50 words that appeared most frequently in the raw samples were selected in each of the 3 groups for the generation of word clouds using “HTML5 Word Cloud”.
- The word clouds are available in Chinese only.

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions - People’s Most Concerned Problems

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- **Summarized the reasons collected by Perplexity AI**
 - We uploaded the responses related to the 3 domains above to Perplexity AI respectively with the prompt to “sort the content into 3 categories”;
 - Record the **original responses** given by Perplexity AI.

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions - People’s Guesses as to Why Significantly More People Are Most Concerned with Economic Problems

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Worsening Economic Landscape

- Many retail shops have closed, reflecting a declining economy
- Unemployment and salary cuts are affecting a large portion of the workforce
- The economy is perceived as the worst it has been since 2009
- Inflation is rising, making daily living increasingly difficult
- The overall economic outlook remains pessimistic and uncertain

Political Instability and Its Economic Impact

- The National Security Law has led to a loss of investor confidence
- Political tensions have resulted in talent and capital fleeing Hong Kong
- The government's focus on national security overshadows economic recovery efforts
- Deteriorating relations between China and the West are harming economic prospects
- Many citizens feel political issues overshadow their economic concerns

Personal Economic Struggles and Daily Life Concerns

- Citizens experience direct impacts on employment and consumption due to economic decline
- Increased living costs are straining household budgets and financial stability
- Many are shifting spending habits to mainland China due to local economic conditions
- The fear of unemployment and financial instability is pervasive among residents
- Daily observations of economic struggles, such as shop closures, heighten concerns

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions - People’s Guesses as to Why Significantly Fewer People Are Most Concerned with Livelihood Problems

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Economic Priorities Over Livelihood Issues

- Respondents prioritize immediate financial stability over broader social concerns
- Rising living costs divert attention from other pressing issues
- Fear of job loss leads to a focus on economic survival
- Disillusionment with government effectiveness reduces interest in livelihood discussions
- Emigration trends diminish local engagement in social issues

Political Disillusionment and Apathy

- Widespread distrust in government diminishes public engagement
- Fear of repercussions for voicing opinions discourages discussion of social issues
- Many feel their voices are ineffective in the current political climate
- Lack of genuine representation leads to apathy towards public welfare
- Perceived authoritarianism alienates citizens from participating in social discourse

Changing Social Dynamics and Cultural Values

- Cultural shift emphasizes individual survival over collective welfare
- Community engagement has weakened, leading to feelings of isolation
- Normalization of struggles reduces urgency in addressing social issues
- Decreased media coverage contributes to a false sense security about social problems
- Generational changes result in less connection to local issues among younger citizens

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions - People’s Guesses as to Why Slightly Fewer People Are Most Concerned With Political Problems

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Political Environment and Its Impact on Civic Engagement

- Fear of repercussions due to National Security Law suppresses political expression
- Government's oppressive measures discourage open discussions on political issues
- Stability is prioritized over freedoms, leading to resignation among citizens
- Lack of significant political events fosters apathy towards political engagement
- Widespread belief that the government ignores public opinion increases feelings of powerlessness

Public Sentiment Reflecting Despair and Apathy

- Deep sense of hopelessness regarding political change leads to disengagement
- Normalization of political apathy as citizens feel it is futile to engage
- Migration trends affect political concern, as those most worried have left
- Cynicism grows as many believe political issues will not improve
- Increased caution in discussing politics due to fear of legal consequences

Socioeconomic Factors Shaping Political Priorities

- Economic concerns overshadow political issues, prioritizing daily survival
- Economic downturn shifts focus away from political engagement
- Disconnection from politics as citizens feel it does not affect their daily lives
- Survival mentality leads to reduced interest in political matters
- Growing belief that political engagement is less valuable than economic stability

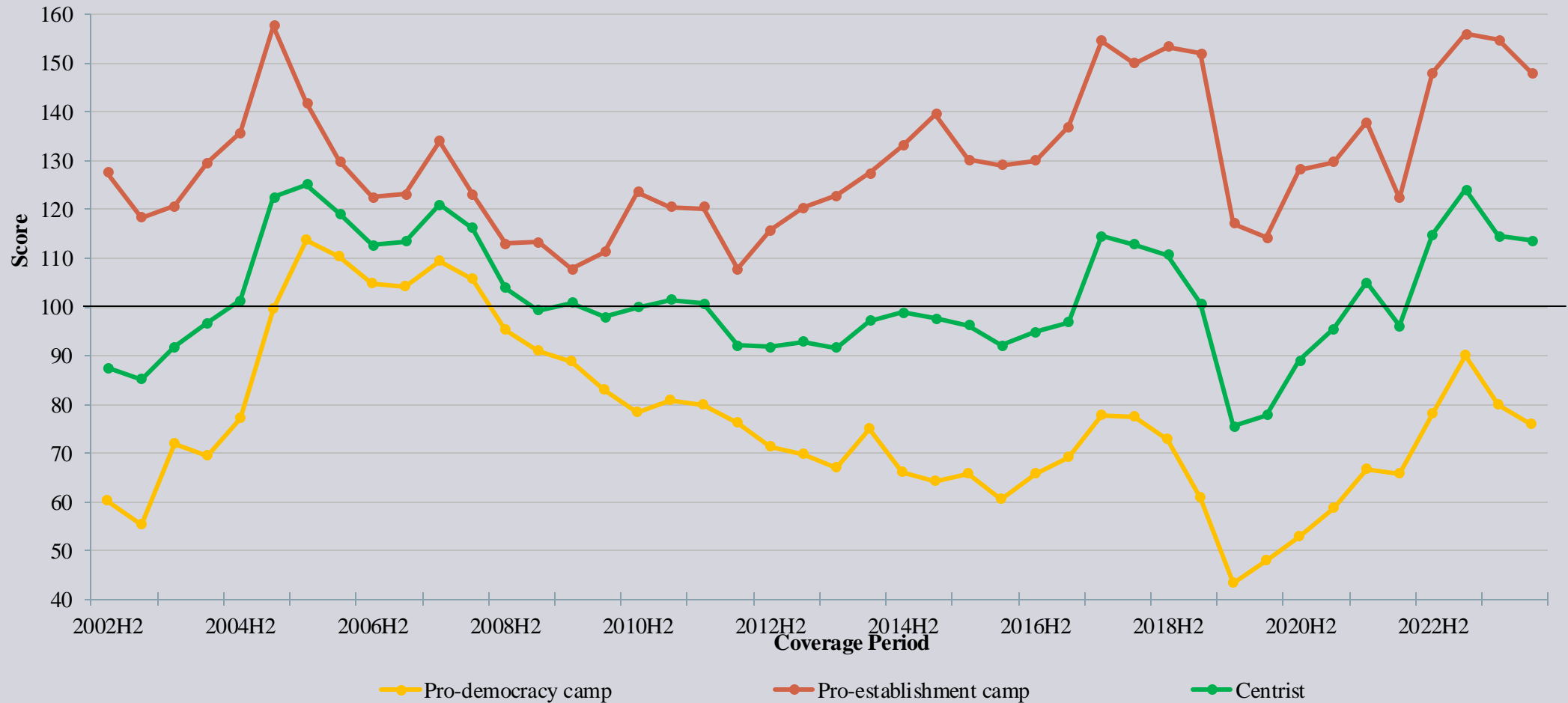
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- **PSI Report No. 6.41**

PSI Report No. 6.35: PSI per Political Camps

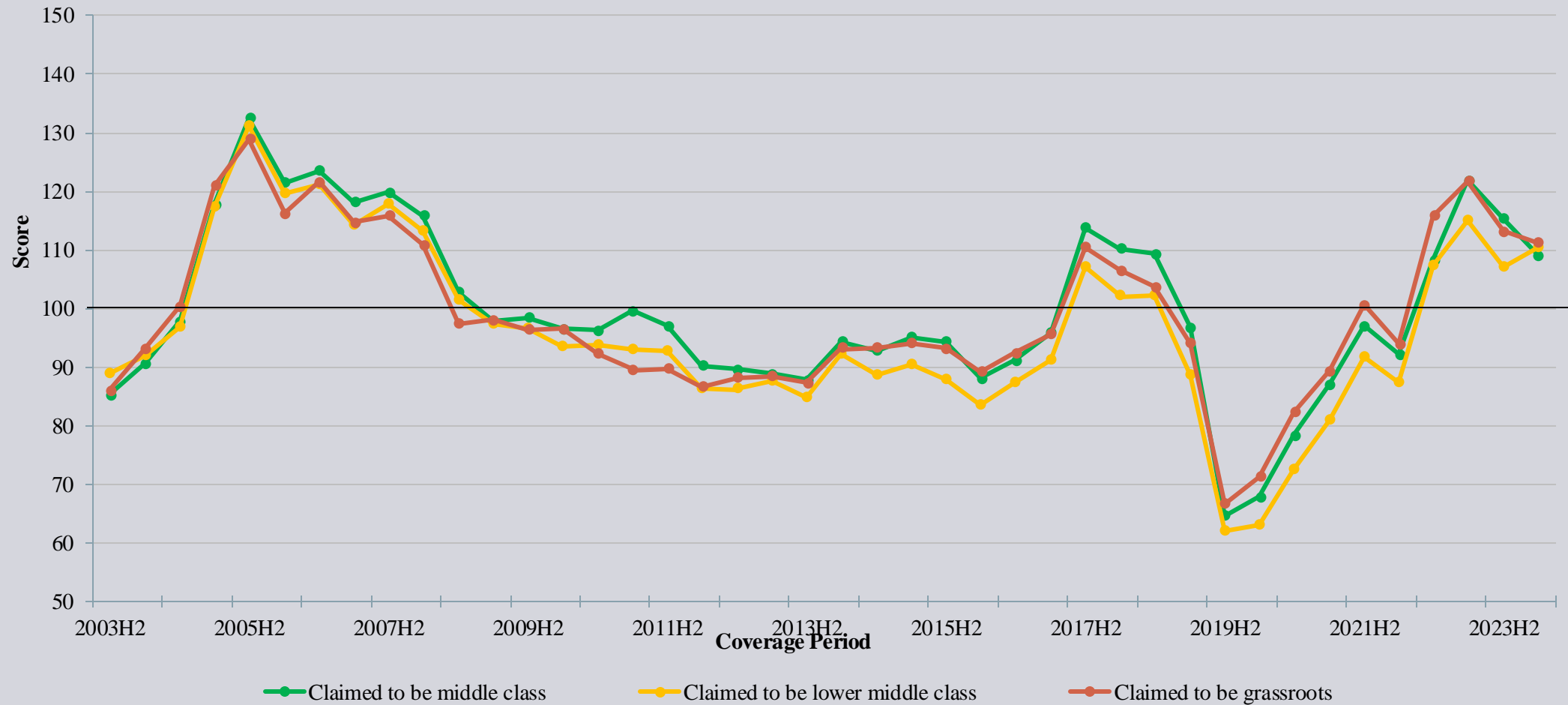
PSI among supporters of different political camps (2002-2024; half-yearly averages)



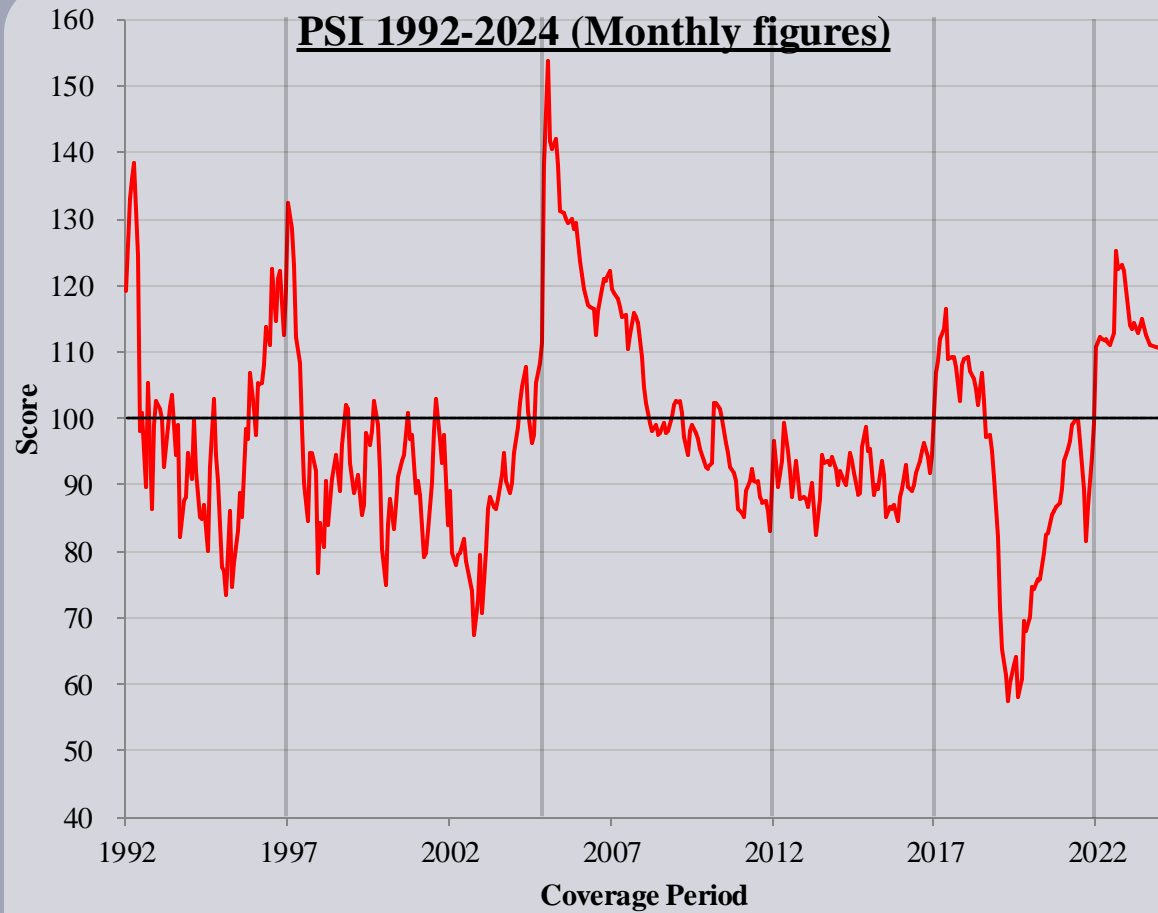
PSI Report No. 6.36: PSI per Social Strata

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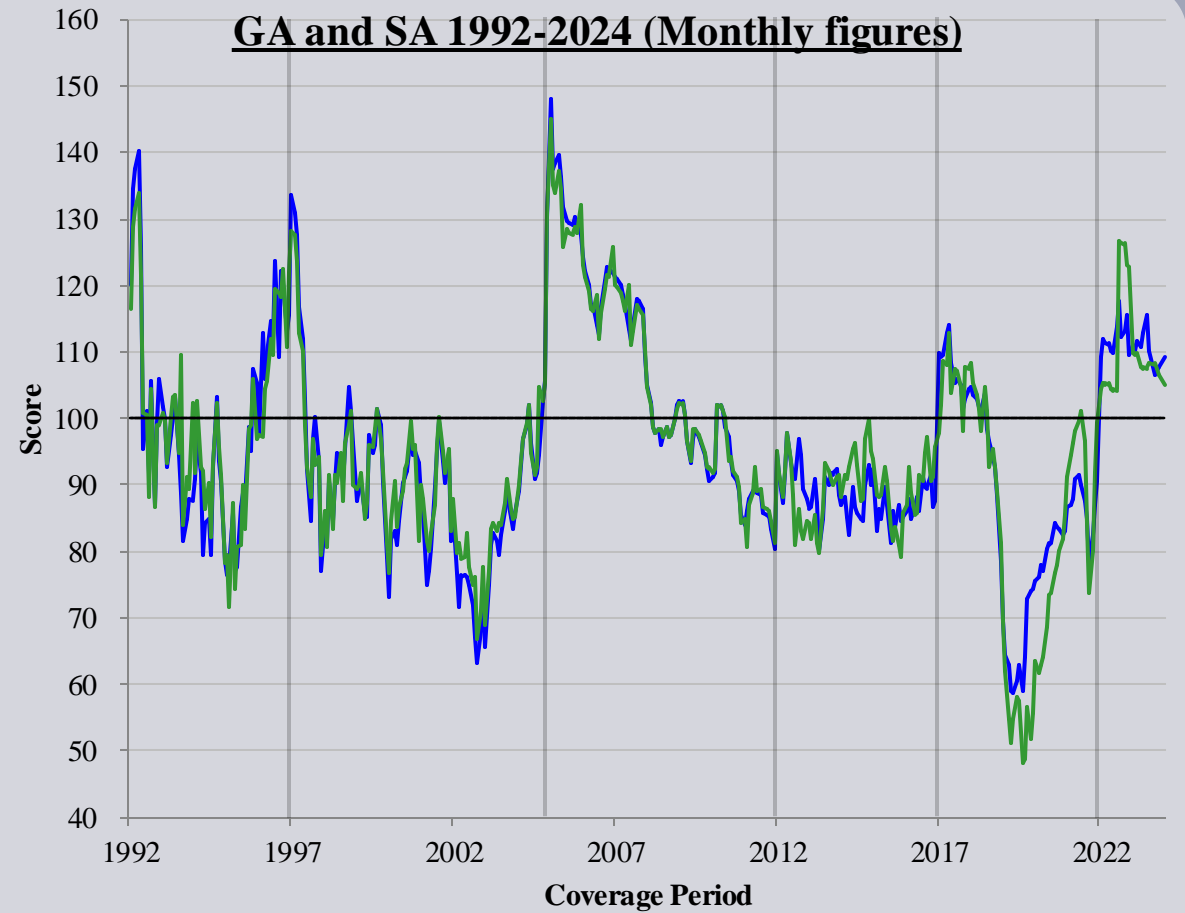
PSI among different social strata (2003-2024; half-yearly averages)



PSI Report No. 6.37: Monthly PSI Figures



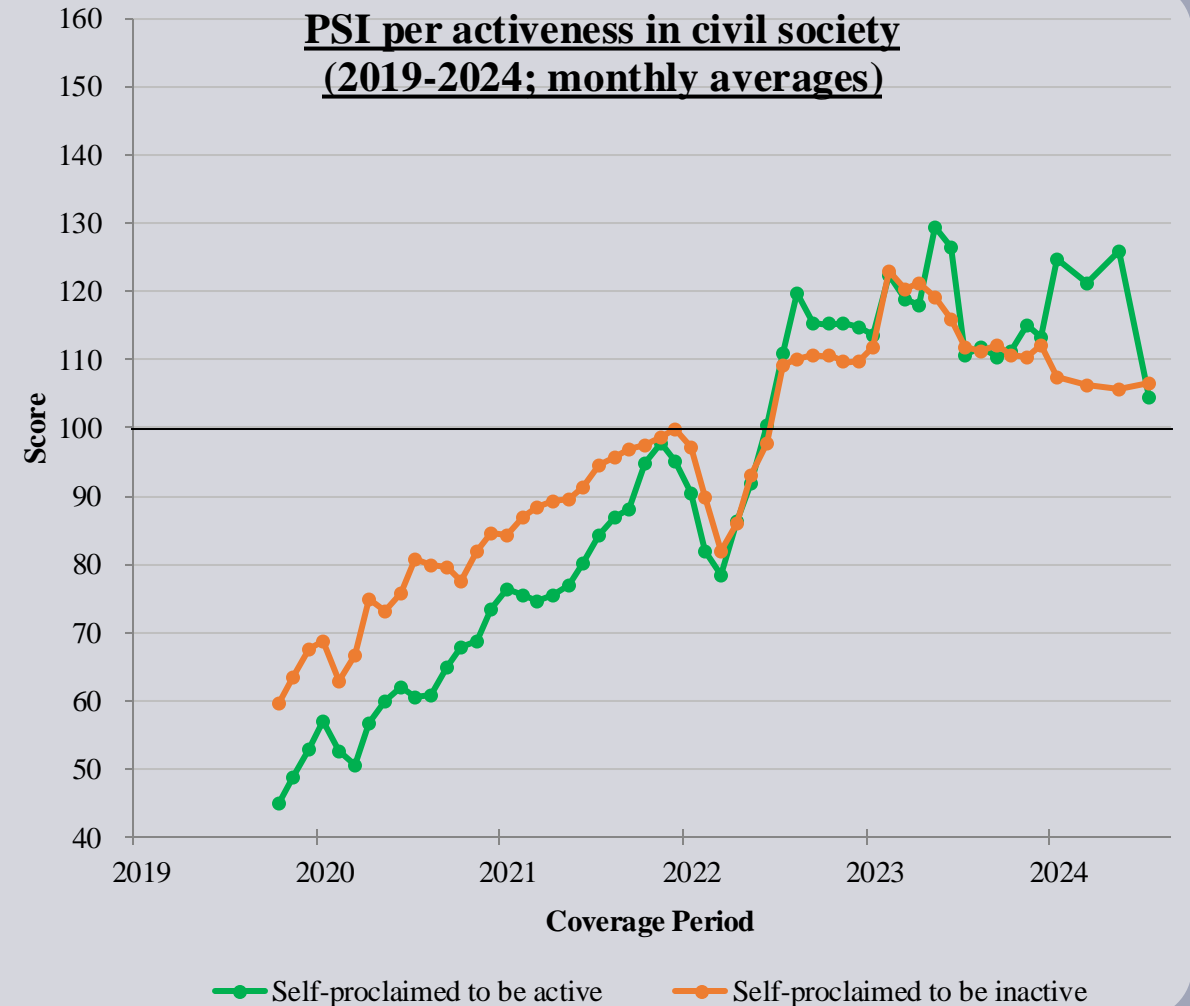
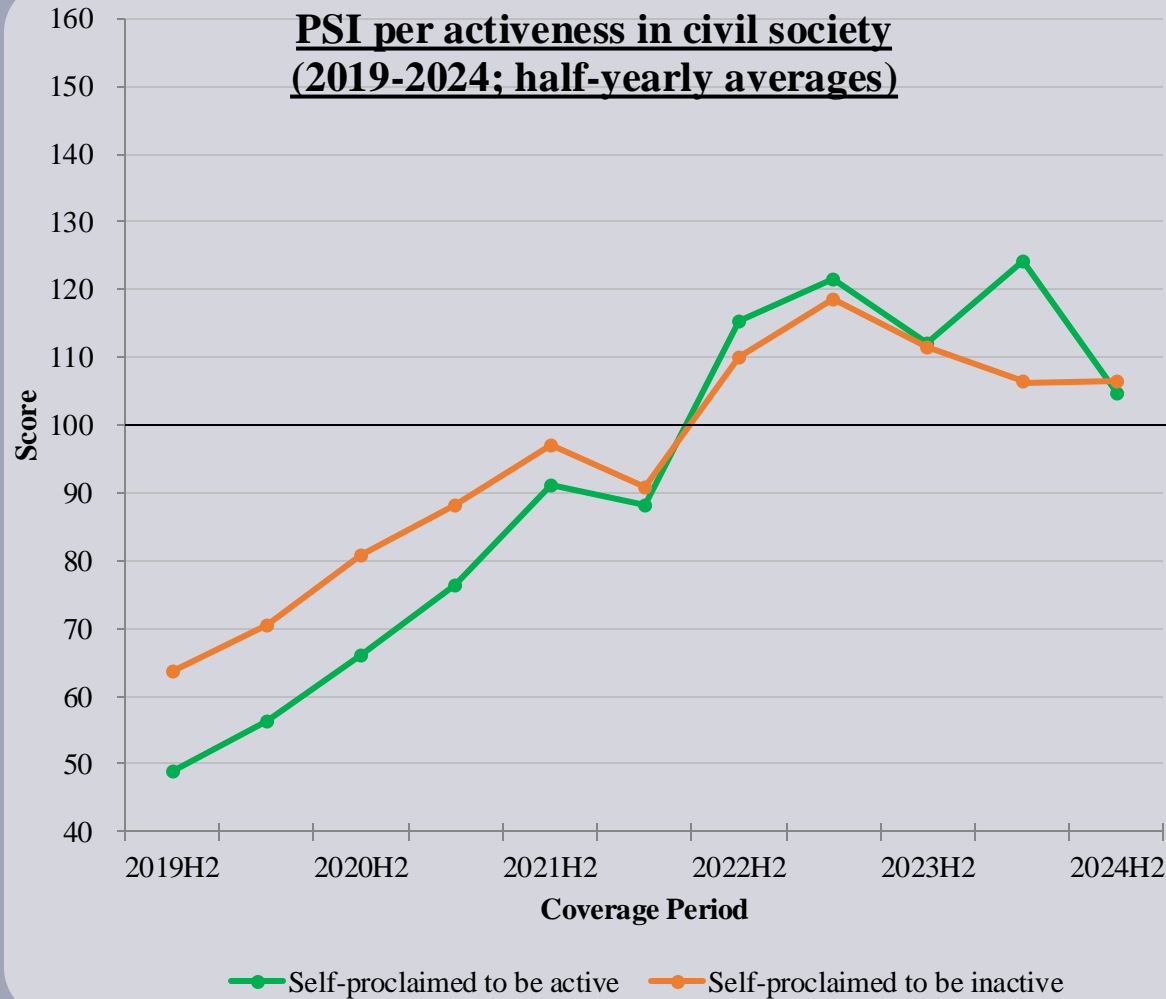
— Public Sentiment Index (PSI)



— Government Appraisal (GA)

— Society Appraisal (SA)

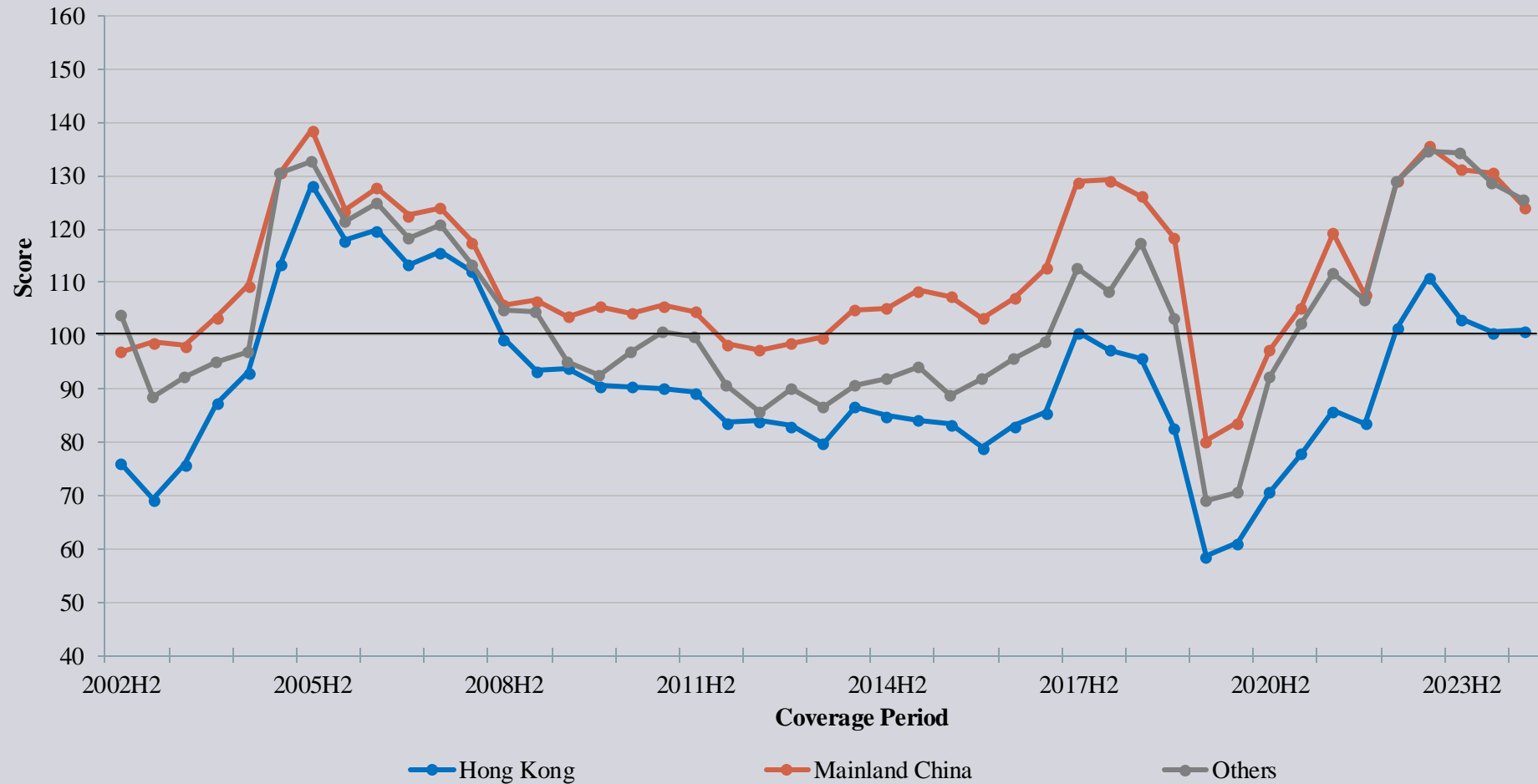
PSI Report No. 6.38: PSI per Activeness in Civil Society



PSI Report No. 6.39: PSI per Place of Birth

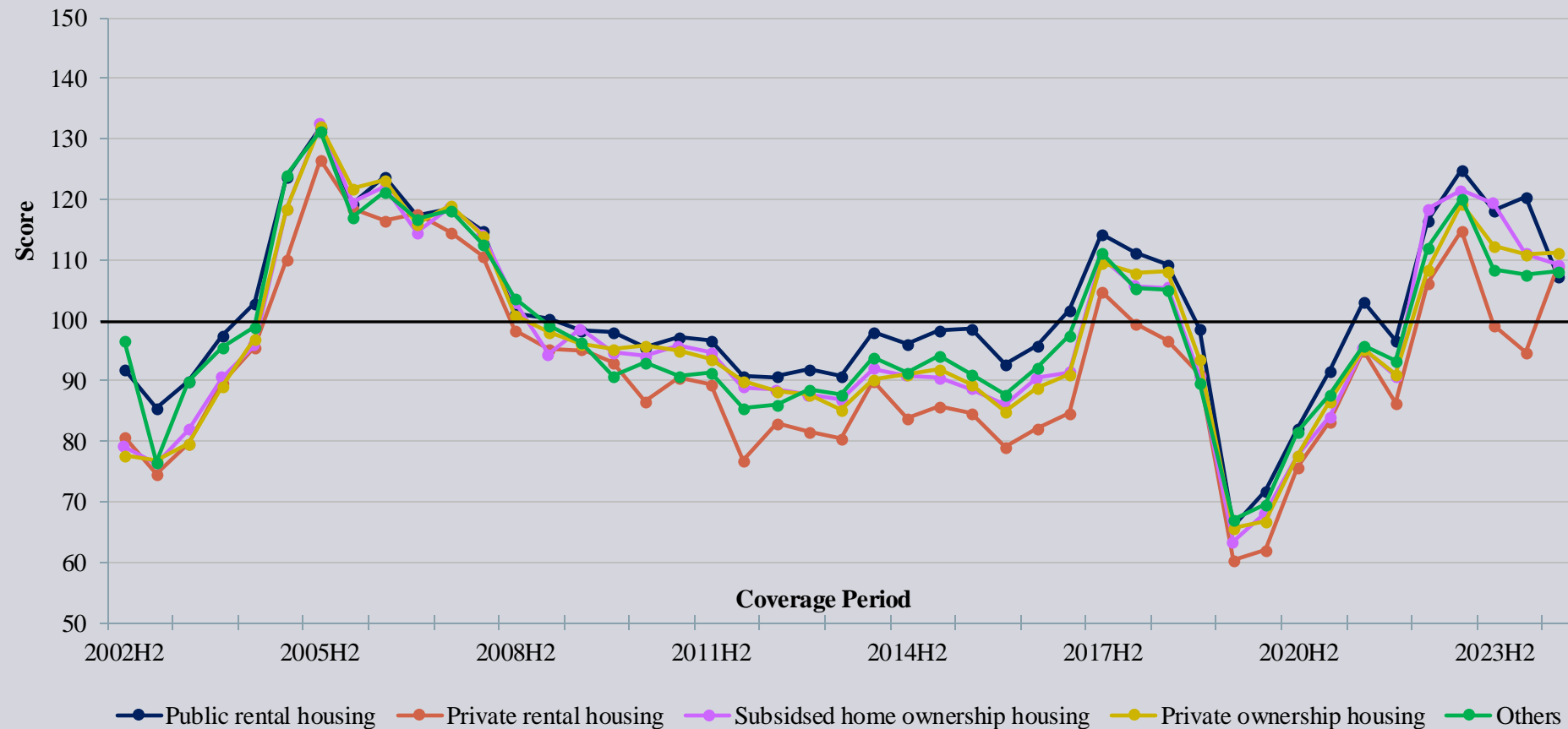
23

PSI among people from different places of birth (2002-2024; half-yearly averages)



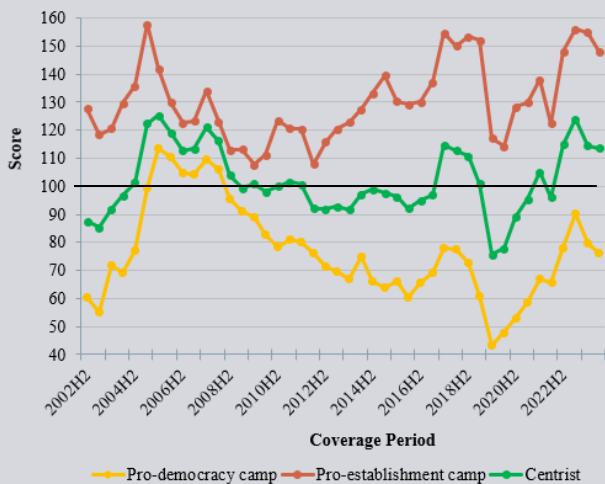
PSI Report No. 6.40: PSI per Housing Type and Ownership

PSI among people with different housing types and ownerships
(2002-2024; half-yearly averages)

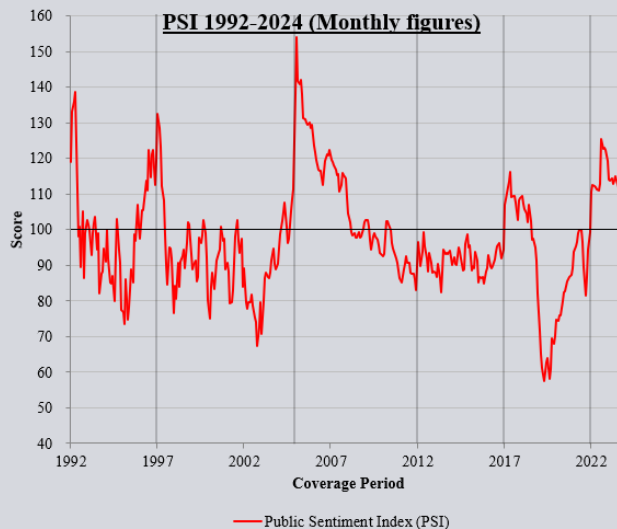


PSI Report No. 6.41 – Combined Charts

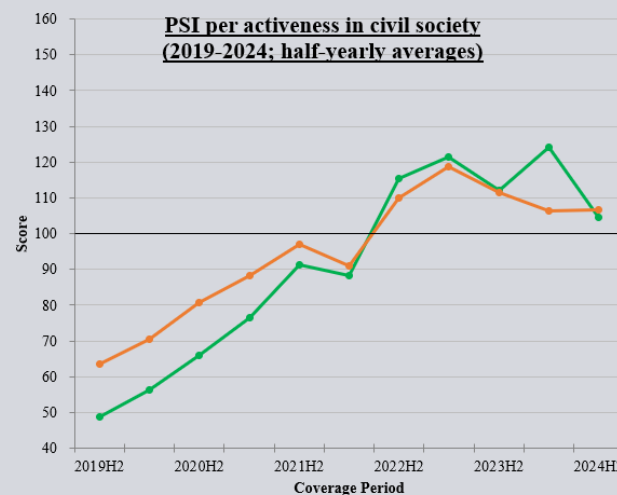
PSI among supporters of different political camps (2002-2024; half-yearly averages)



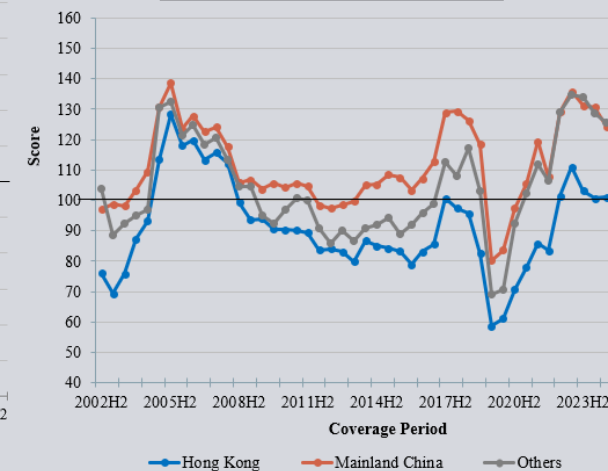
PSI 1992-2024 (Monthly figures)



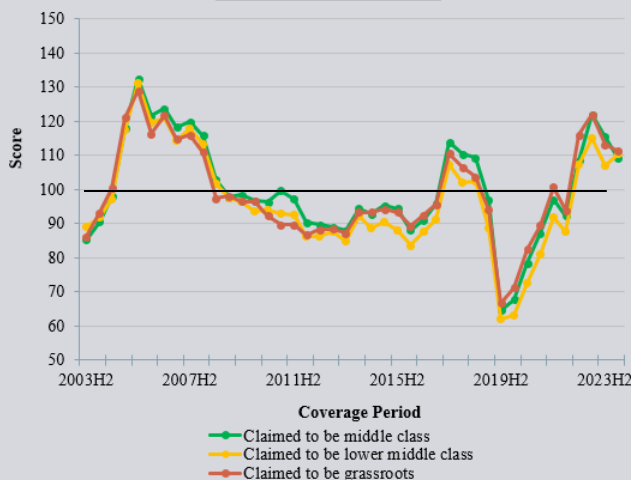
PSI per activeness in civil society (2019-2024; half-yearly averages)



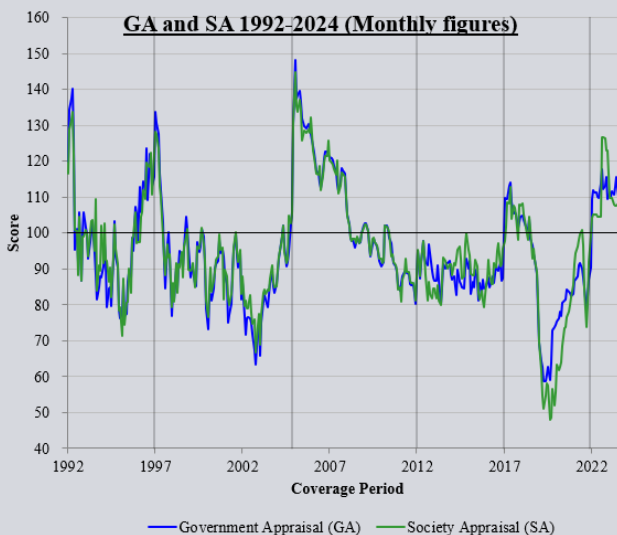
PSI among people from different places of birth (2002-2024; half-yearly averages)



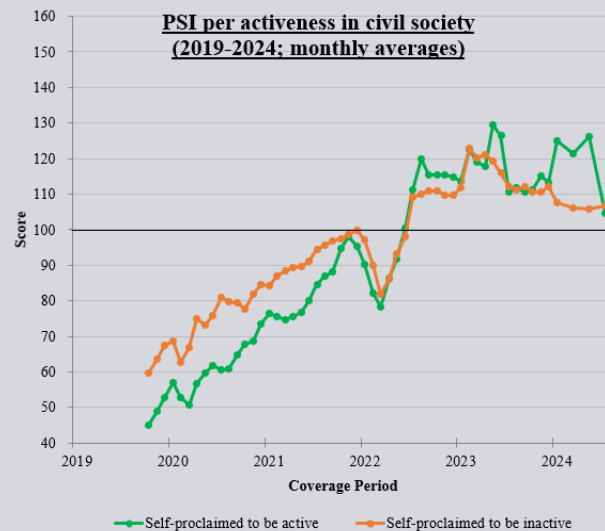
PSI among different social strata (2003-2024; half-yearly averages)



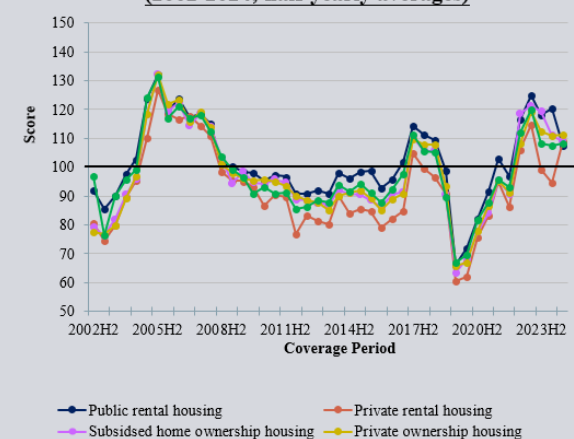
GA and SA 1992-2024 (Monthly figures)



PSI per activeness in civil society (2019-2024; monthly averages)



PSI among people with different housing types and ownerships (2002-2024; half-yearly averages)



PSI Report No. 6.41 – Concluding Remarks

- Brushing aside the overall PSI analysis, from the analyses of five different demographic variables (namely, **political camps, social strata, activeness in civil society, place of birth, and housing type and ownership**) in this seventh aggregate report, almost all results show concurrent upward and downward movement, meaning that all public sentiment factors have affected all demographic groups in similar ways.
- In terms of sentiment structures, the difference is most conspicuous among supporters of different political camps and those with different places of birth, especially over the last decade when the gap has remained at over 70 marks between supporters of pro-democratic and pro-establishment camps. It is also worth noting that the gaps between different social strata, people of different activeness in civil society, of different housing types and ownerships have narrowed significantly in our latest survey, but the long-term trend remains to be seen.