

# **SOCIETAL AND INDIVIDUAL WELL-BEING IN SWITZERLAND AND ITS EVOLUTION OVER THE PAST DECADES**

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# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- how to conceptualize and to measure well-being, notably the different dimensions of societal and individual of well-being
- what are the drivers of (societal and individual) well-being in Switzerland
- how have the different components of well-being (societal and individual WB) evolved in Switzerland over the past years

# OVERVIEW

- Insights from global indices of well-being, and economic and social progress
- Insights from Swiss research on well-being
- Well-being as a multidimensional concept
- Dimensionality of Well-being: empirical evidence from Swiss research
- Drivers of societal and individual SWB in Switzerland
- The quality of Swiss society: The evolution of societal well-being
- The evolution of individual well-being and quality of life across life domains

# INSIGHTS FROM WELL-BEING INDICES

<i>Well-being index</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> country</i>		<i>Ranking top 3</i>		
	<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>SWE</i>	<i>NOR</i>
HDI 2012	Norway	Australia	9	7	1
Legat. Prosp. Ind 2013	Norway	Switzerl.	2	4	1
Glob. Comp. Ind 2013	Switzerl.	Singapore	1	6	11
GDP per capita 2012	Luxembg	Norway	3	7	2
Happy life yrs 2000-09	Costa Rica	Iceland	3	5	6
Healthy life years 2011	Malta	Sweden	11	2	3
Human Cap. Ind. 2013	Switzerl.	Finland	1	5	7
Life satisfaction 2013	Switzerl.	Norway	1	4	2
Better Life Index 2009	Australia	Sweden	5	2	4
Wealth per cap. 2012	Switzerl.	USA	1	11	26
Progress Ind. 2000-08	Norway	Switzerl.	2	3	1
Mean ranking on all indicators			3.6	5.1	5.8

# INSIGHTS FROM SWISS RESEARCH

- Swiss exceptionalism: de Rougement (1965), Deutsch (1976), Katzenstein (1984), Schmidt (1985), Segalman (1986), Steinberg (1996)
- The malaise of Swiss happiness: L. Boltanski (1966)
- Democracy makes people happy: B. Frey, A. Stutzer
- Research on employment security, working conditions and job satisfaction: R. Winkelmann, D. Oesch/O. Lipps, A. Stutzer etc.
- Research on the impact of deprivation, poverty and precariousness on well-being: R. Leu et al. (1997), Ch. Suter, M. Budowski etc.

# MULTIDIMENSIONALITY OF WB (1)

- Subjective and objective characteristics of WB, e.g. Wolfgang Zapf's (1984) distinction between:
  - Well-being
  - Deprivation
  - Adaptation
  - Dissonance
- Domain-specific components of well-being and quality of life
- Individual / personal well-being, and societal / national / ecological well-being

# MULTIDIMENSIONALITY OF WB (2)

- The three components of mental health suggested by Keyes (2002):
  - Emotional well-being
  - Psychological well-being
  - Social well-being
- Hedonic and eudaimonic components of well-being:
  - Hedonic components : Emotional and cognitive dimensions (Kahneman, Diener & Schwarz 1999)
  - Eudaimonic component: engagement, goal pursuit

# DIMENSIONALITY OF WELL-BEING

## EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM SWISS RESEARCH

- Two-dimensional structure of SWB based on the comparative Euromodule survey (2000):
  - Individual SWB: satisfaction with standard of living, household income, health, education
  - Societal SWB: satisfaction with public safety, satisfaction with environmental situation
- Two-dimensional structure of SWB based on SHP (2005)
  - Individual SWB: satisfaction with financial situation, leisure, health, job
  - Societal SWB: satisfaction with public safety, satisfaction with democracy, trust in people
- Five-dimensional structure of WB based on the European Social Survey (ongoing research of Marc Bühlmann)



# FACTORAL ANALYSIS FOR SWB BASED ON EUROMODULE SURVEY OF 2000

	<i>Switzerland</i>			<i>Austria</i>			<i>Germany</i>		
	<i>factor 1</i>	<i>factor 2</i>	<i>extraction communalities</i>	<i>factor 1</i>	<i>factor 2</i>	<i>extraction communalities</i>	<i>factor 1</i>	<i>factor 2</i>	<i>extraction communalities</i>
<b><i>satisfaction with:</i></b>									
standard of living	0.81	—	0.67	0.83	—	0.70	0.83	—	0.71
household income	0.76	—	0.60	0.83	—	0.70	0.82	—	0.69
health	0.62	—	0.38	0.42	—	0.47	0.59	—	0.36
education	0.53	—	0.28	0.61	—	0.41	0.66	—	0.44
public safety	—	0.79	0.64	—	0.70	0.51	—	0.82	0.70
environmental situation	—	0.82	0.68	—	0.78	0.61	—	0.84	0.72
percent of explained variance	31.9	22.2		32.7	23.9		36.2	24.1	
n (unweighted)	1570			502			2413		
chi square	732.9			483.7			3006		
	7								
sig	0.000			0.000			0.000		
weight	yes			yes			yes		

# FACTORIAL ANALYSIS FOR SWB (SHP)

<u>Items</u>	2 dimensions		1 dimension
	Individual	Societal	
financial situation	0.460	--	0.435
leisure activities	0.474	--	0.427
health status	0.452	--	0.419
job in general	0.484	--	0.442
pers. security / public safety	--	0.528	0.473
democracy	--	0.452	0.402
trust in people	--	0.485	0.428
<b>N</b>	6533		
<b>RMSEA</b>	0.041		0.056
<b>CFI</b>	0.952		0.905
<b>WRMR</b>	1.214		1.678
<b>Correlation between factors</b>	0.683		-
<b>Correlation general life satisf.</b>	0.792	0.467	0.733

Notes: CFI: Comparative Fit Index; RMSEA: Root Mean Square Error of Approximation, WRMR: Weighted Root Mean Square Residual

# DRIVERS OF SWB IN SWITZERLAND

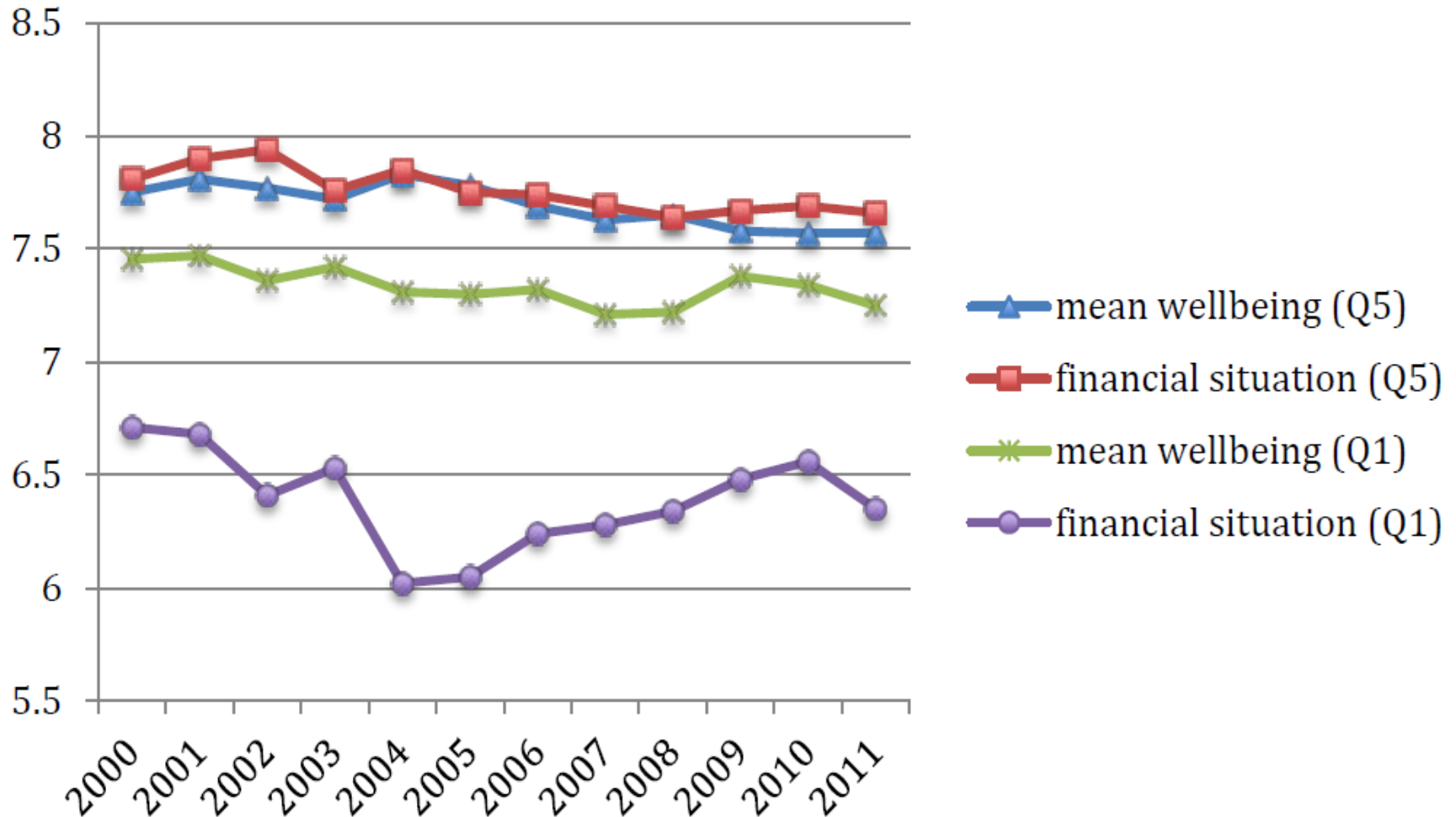
## Core factors explaining individual SWB:

- Euromodule Surey (2000):
  - Strong negative impact of non-monetary deprivation;
  - other important factors are income (quintiles), social class, long-term unemployment, state of health
- SHP data (2000-11) :
  - State of health
  - Deprivation and financial precariousness
  - Labour market status, notably unemployment
  - Sociodemographic factors (age)
  - Trust

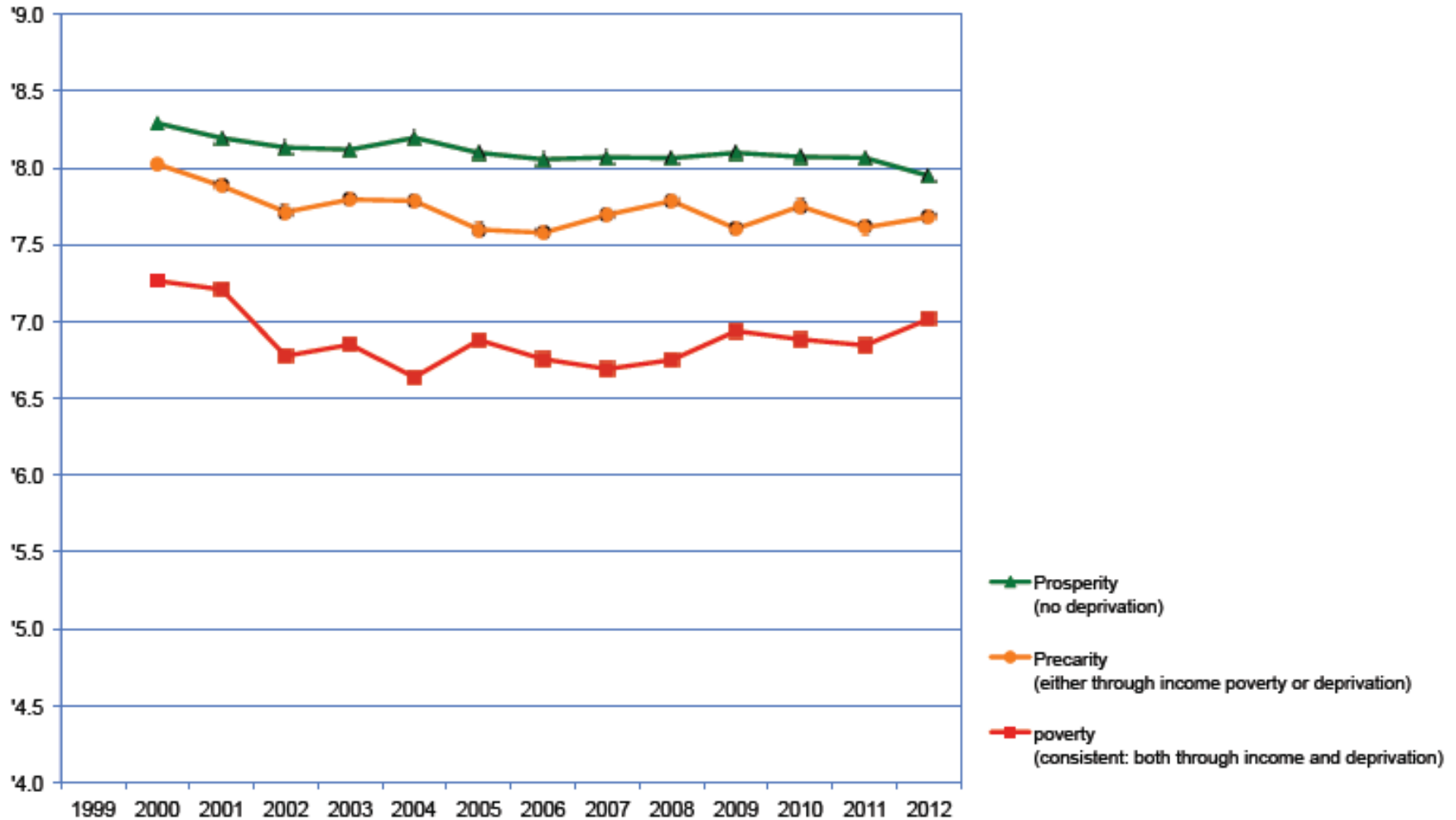
## Factors explaining societal SWB:

- No impact of deprivation (and other structural/individual attributes) on societal SWB, but some impact of aspects of quality of society (conflicts in society, crime, anomie/anxiety)

# INDIV. SWB FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> QUINTILES



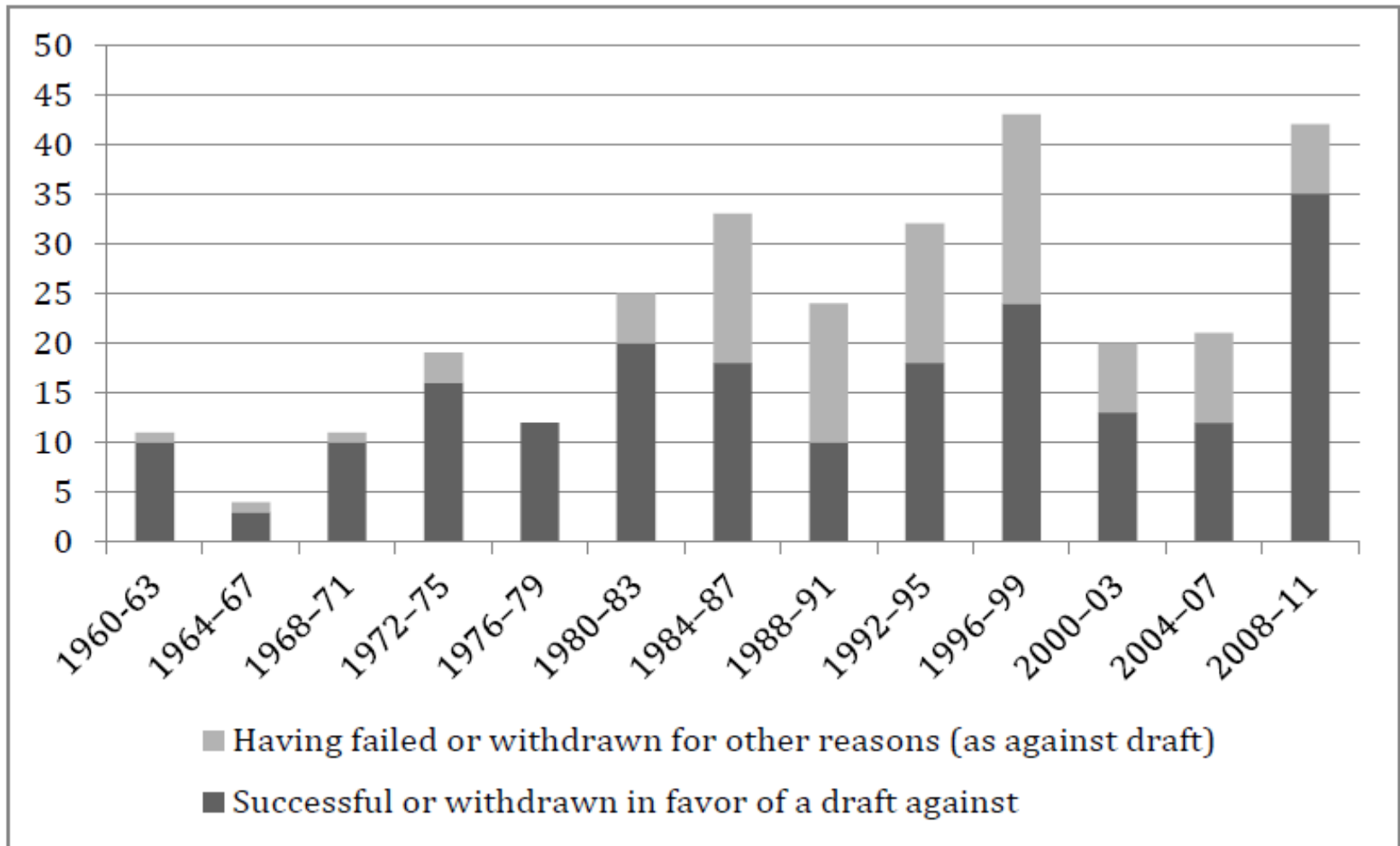
# LIFE SATISFACTION AND POVERTY



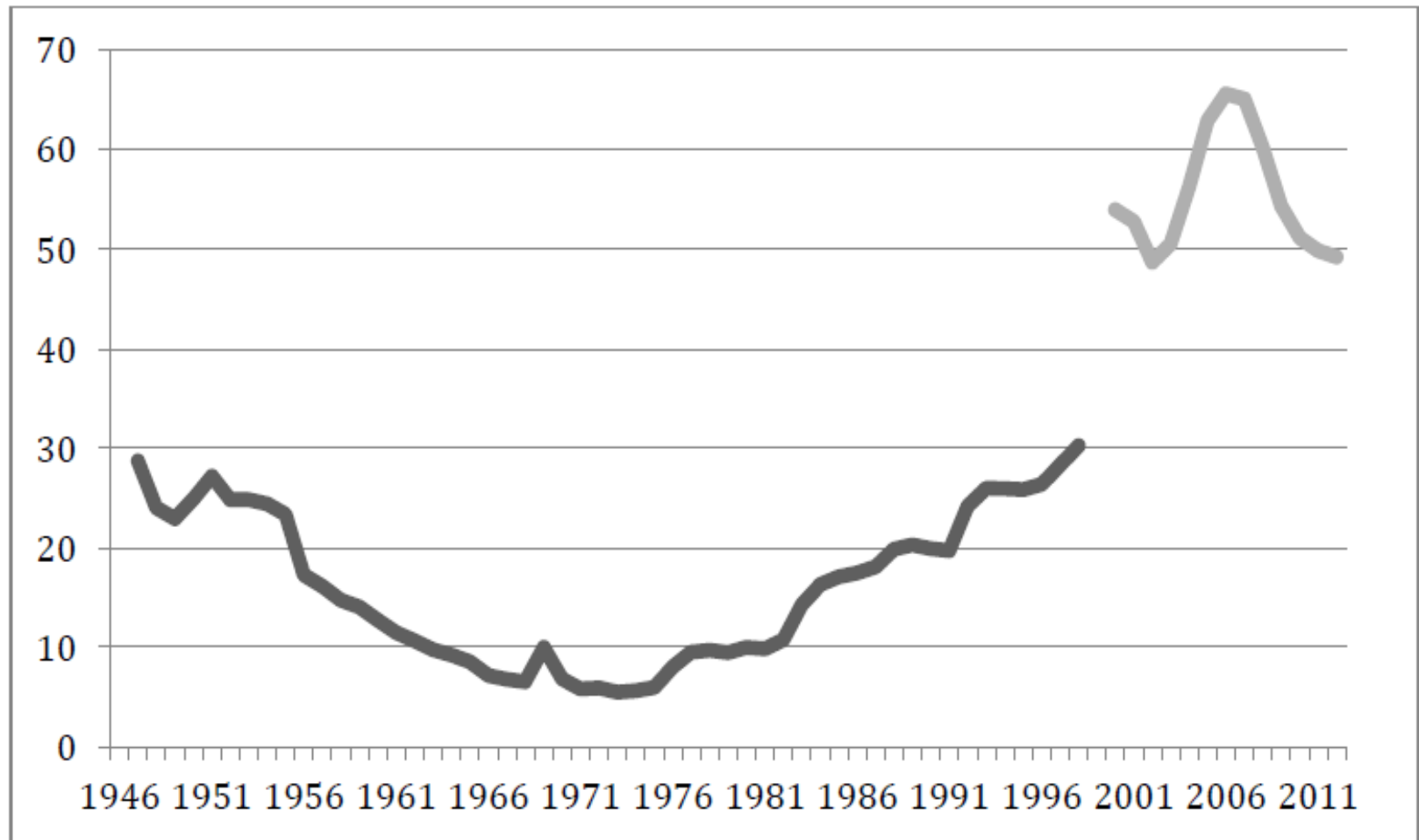
# QUALITY OF SWISS SOCIETY: 7 KEY AREAS

- Freedom
- Social security and welfare state, solidarity
- Equity, fairness and social inequalities
- Trust in institutions (political trust)
- Social cohesion
- Public safety and public services
- Ecological sustainability

# NUMBER OF POPULAR INITIATIVES (1960-2011)

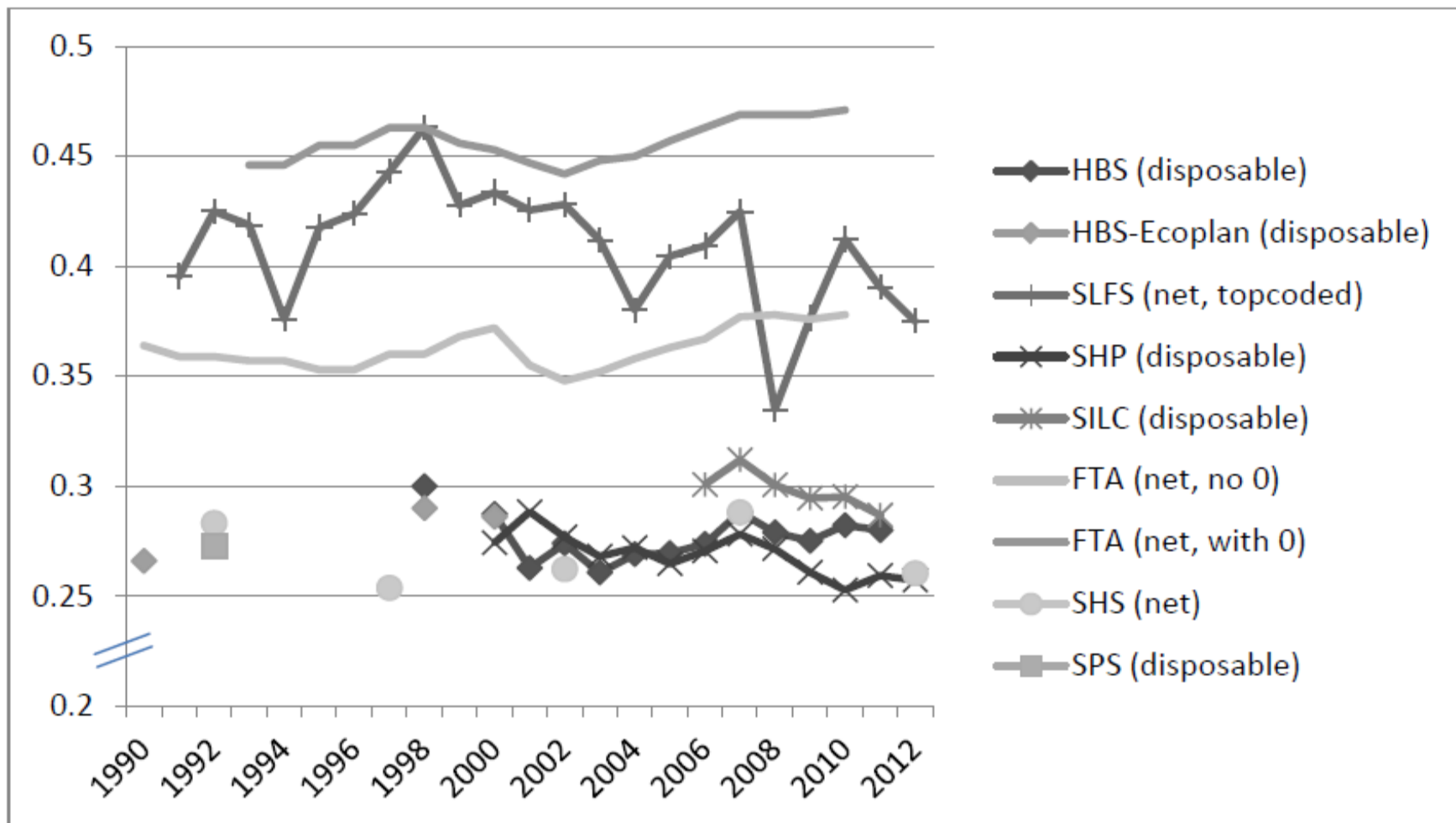


# EVOLUTION OF WELFARE DEPENDENCY IN THE CITY OF ZURICH, 1946-2011

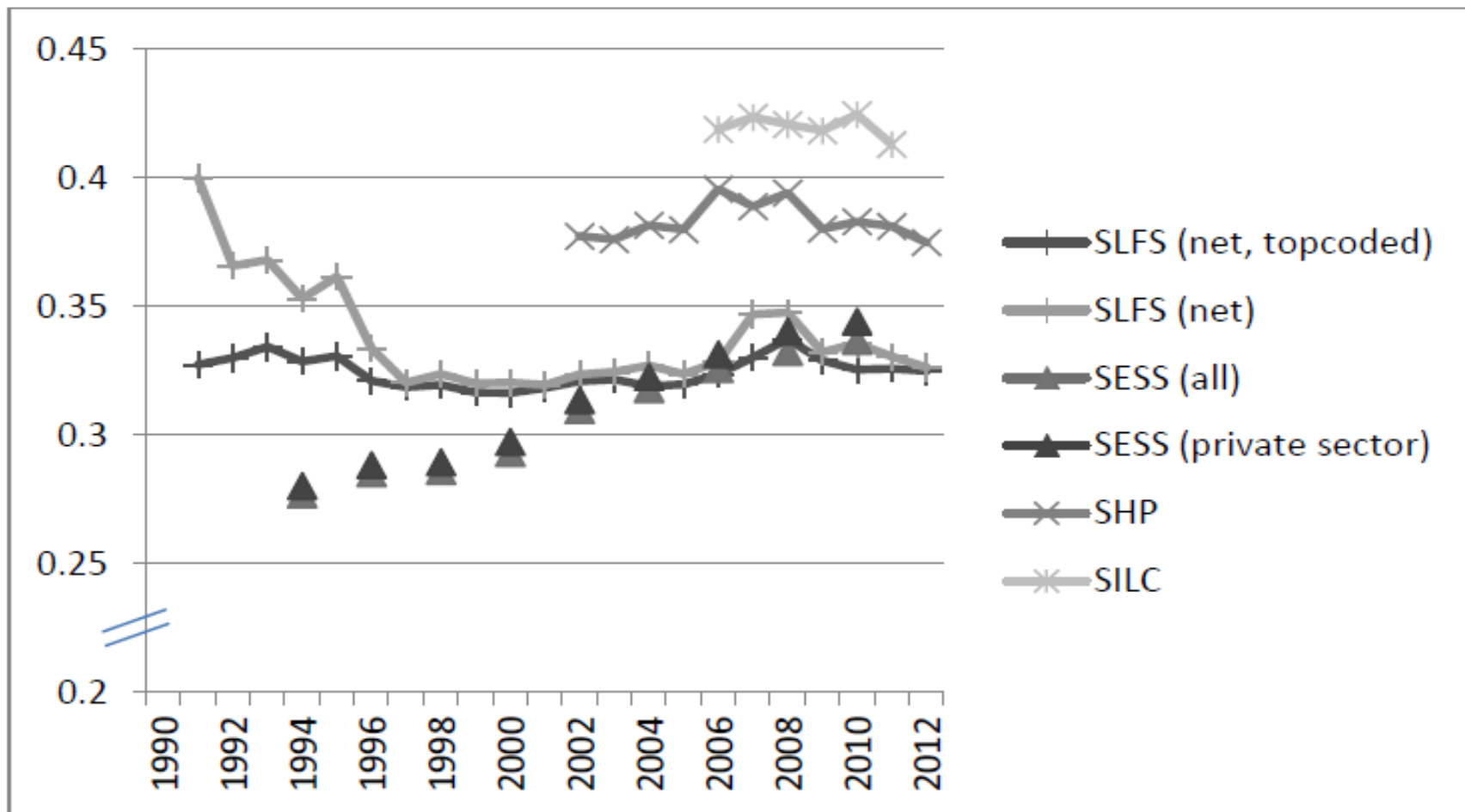




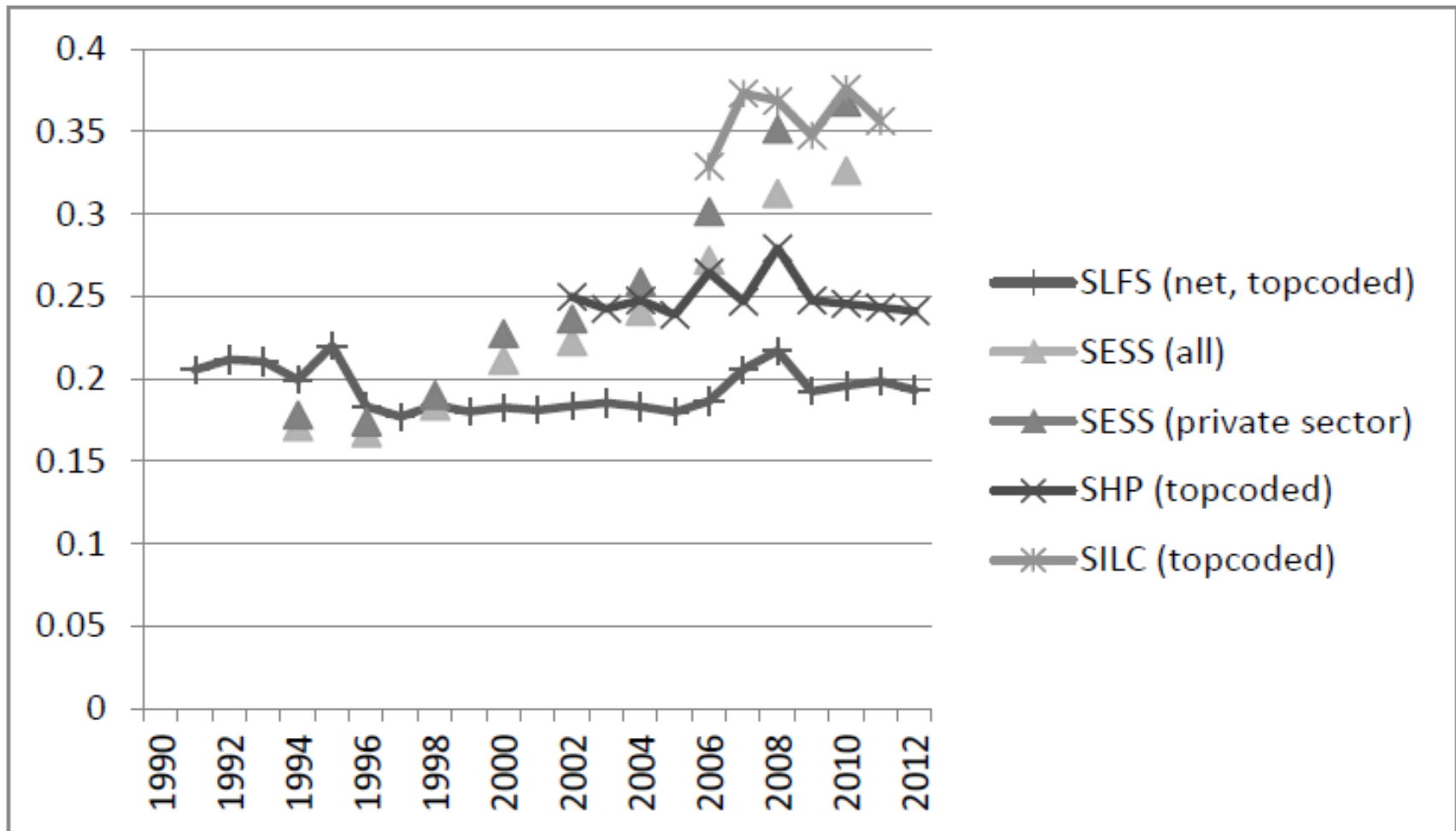
# GINI COEFFICIENT OF HOUSEHOLD EQUIVALISED INCOME, 1990-2012



# GINI COEFFICIENT OF INDIVIDUAL EARNINGS, 1990-2012



# SQUARED COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION OF INDIVIDUAL EARNINGS, 1990-2012

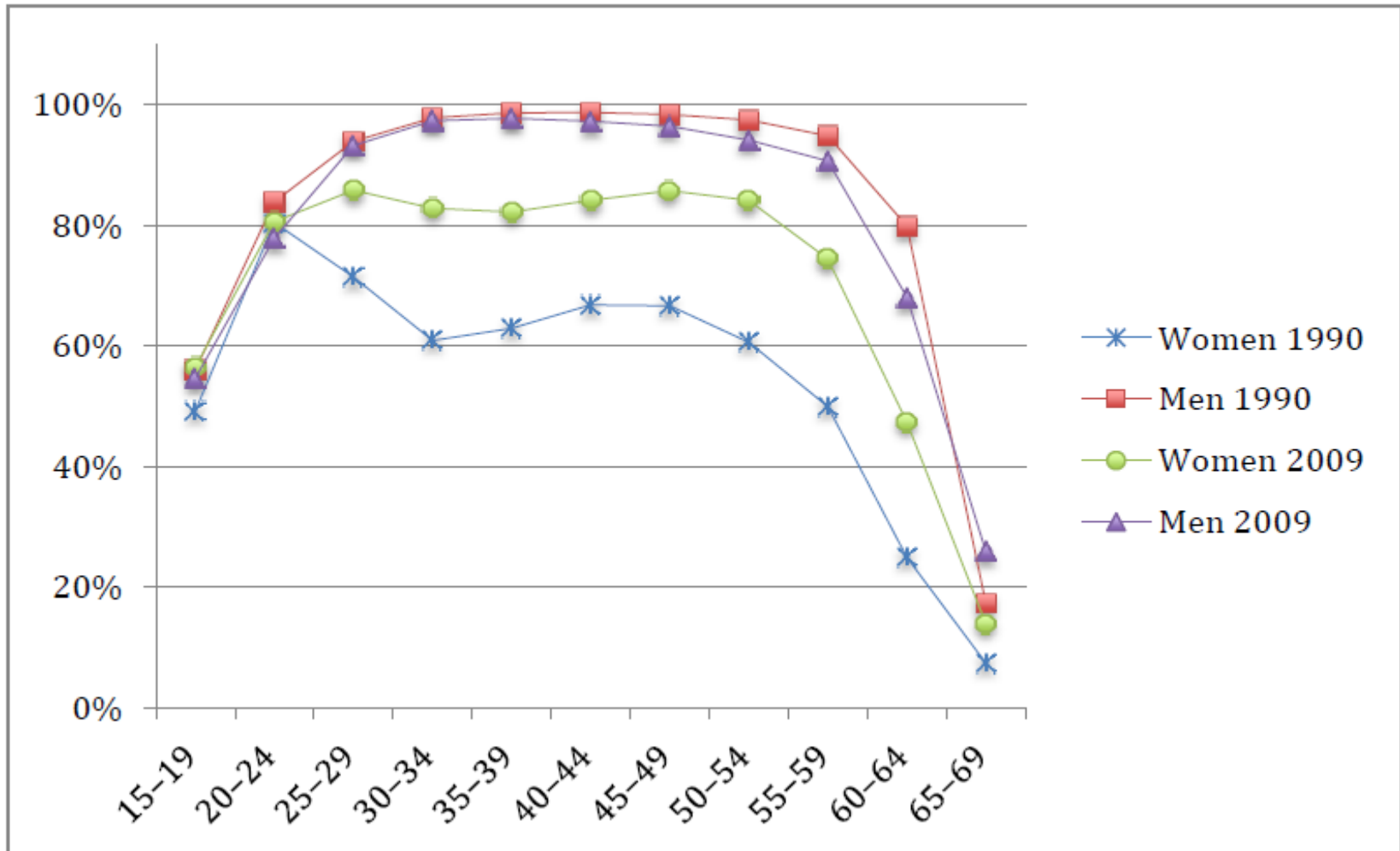


# INDIVIDUAL QUALITY OF LIFE AND SWB ACROSS LIFE DOMAINS

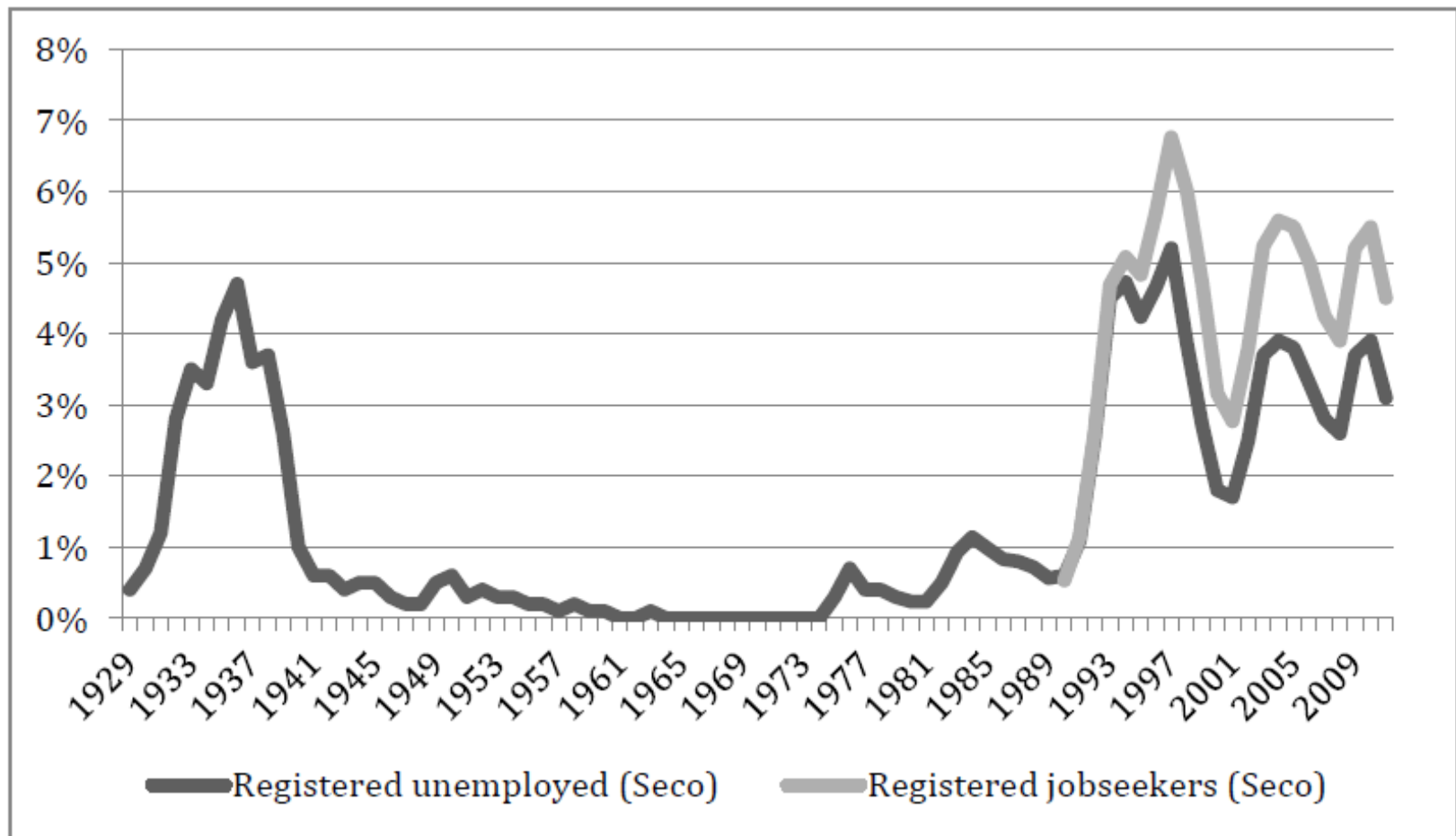
- Education
- Employment and work
- Income and poverty
- Housing
- Health
- Leisure
- Political participation

# EMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX AND AGE

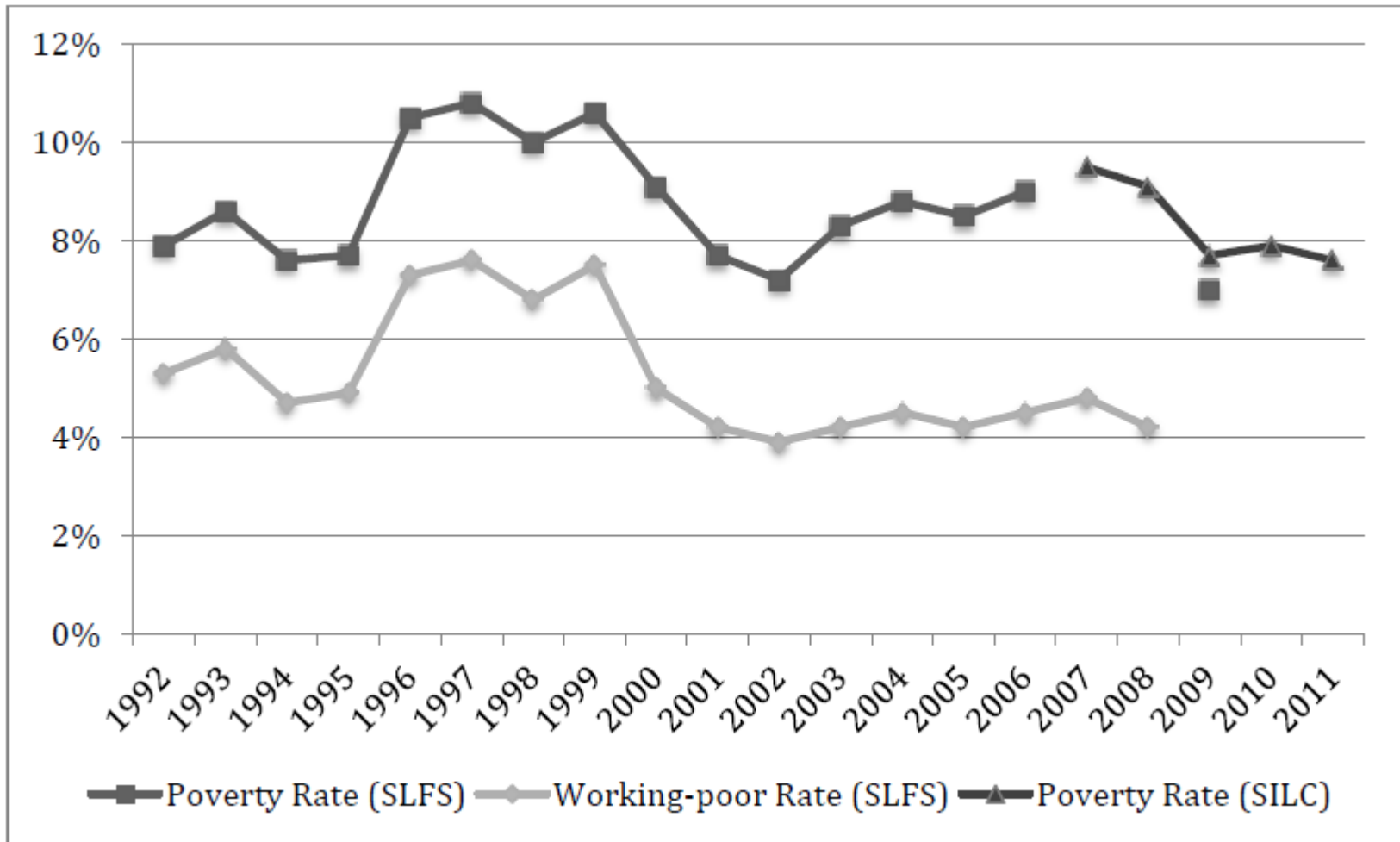
## 1990 AND 2009



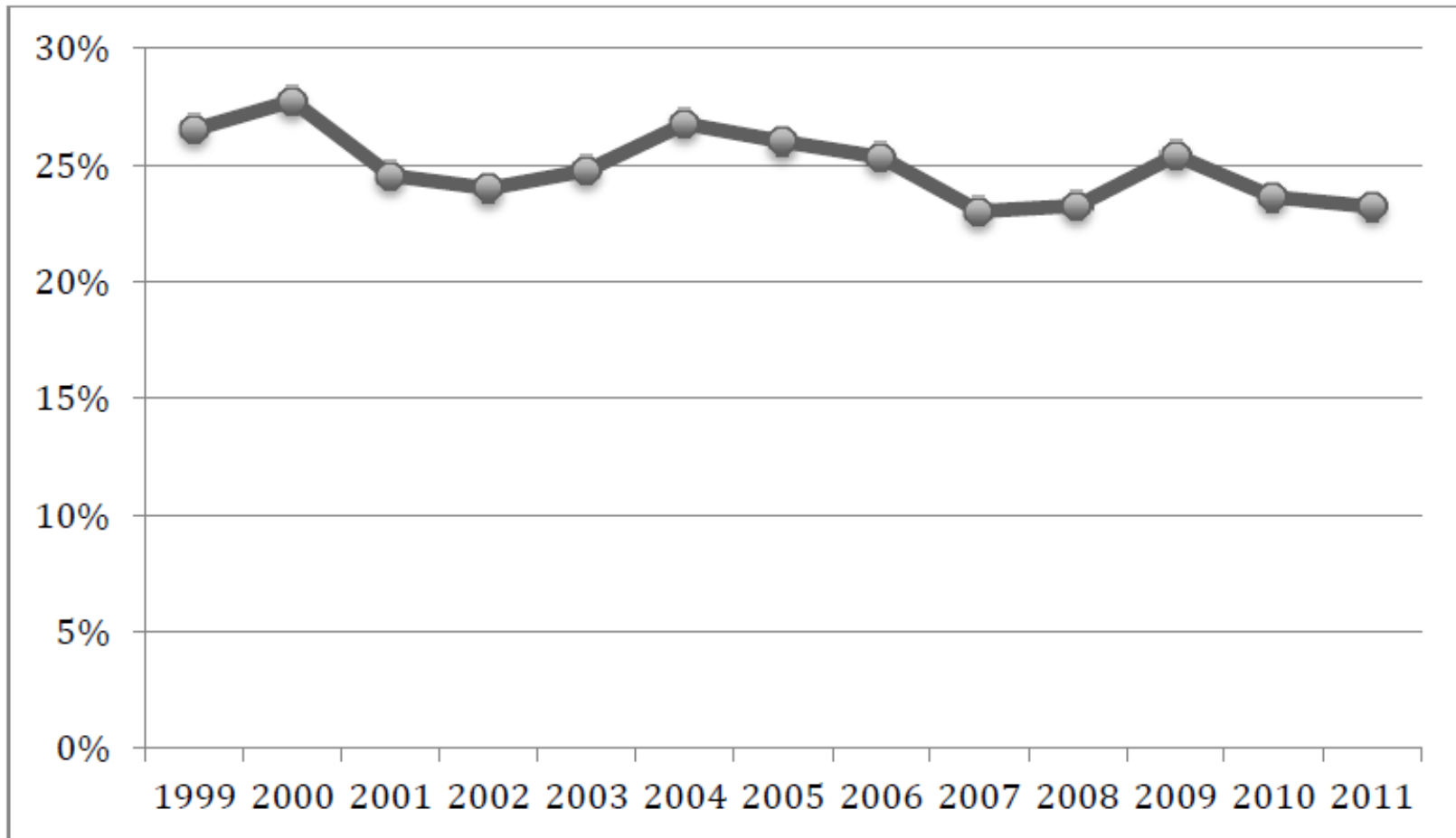
# UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 1929-2011



# POVERTY RATES, 1992-2011

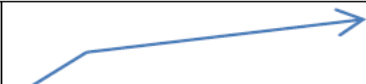
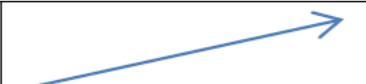
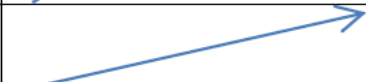
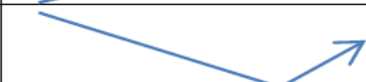









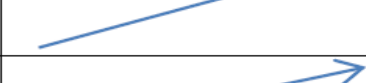
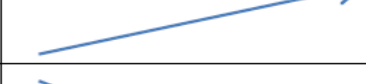

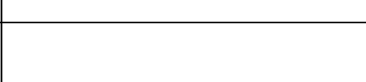



# PROPORTION OF POPULATION AFFECTED BY DEPRIVATION, 2000-2011





# STYLIZED PATTERN OF LONG-TERM CHANGE OF SOCIETAL & INDIV. WB IN SWITZERLAND ACROSS LIFE DOMAINS SINCE THE MID-1960

Societal well-being		Individual well-being	
Freedom		Education	
Social security		Employment	
Equity, fairness, Social inequalities		Income	
Political trust		Poverty	
Social cohesion		Housing	
Public safety		Health	
Sustainability		Leisure	
		Political participation	
		Subjective wellbeing	
Total		Total	

# CONCLUSION (1)

- Empirical evidence confirms the multidimensional nature of quality of life and SWB in Switzerland, notably the two dimensions of individual and societal SWB.
- The drivers of individual Well-being are strongly related to relative income and deprivation, labor market integration and health, whereas societal factors (trust, conflicts in society) seem to be less important.
- Societal WB seem to be less associated with structural factors and objective living conditions, but more with subjective perceptions (notably of societal characteristics)
- Societal and individual WB have differently evolved over the past decades (life domains, population groups etc.).

## CONCLUSION (2)

- Levelling off of WB as result of the crisis of the early 1990s; in the 2000s increase in individual WB
- “Normalization “ of Swiss exceptionalism: The pattern of dissonance observed by Boltanski in the early 1960s has been moving towards well-being and adaptation.
- “... we live in an environment that is healthy, that is safe, it is beautiful, we have a beautiful country. We have money ... life is beautiful. For me life is beautiful ... it is like it is, but it is ... that’s good. I am very, very happy. Voilà!”  
(statement of Céline living in precarious living conditions)