CPI PROFILE
JAZAN

وزارة الشــؤون
البلدية و القروية
Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

مستقبل المدن السعودية
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

The Future Saudi Cities Programme
CPI PROFILE - Jizan

Disclaimer

Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia jointly launched the "Future Saudi Cities Programme (FSCP)". The UN-HABITAT Office has been providing technical support to the MOMRA and targets 17 main cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabouk, Dammam, Qatif, Al Ahsa, Abha, Najran, Jazan, Hail, Araar, AlBaha, Buraydah, and Sakaka, to respond to national and local urban challenges.

UN-Habitat provides a new approach for measuring urban prosperity: which is holistic, integrated and essential for the promotion and monitoring of socio-economic development, inclusion and progressive realization of the urban-related human rights for all. This new approach redirects cities to function towards an urban future that is economically, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The new approach or monitoring framework, The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI), is a multidimensional framework that integrates six carefully selected dimensions made up of several indicators that relate to factors and conditions necessary for a city to thrive and prosper. The six dimensions include productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of 'The Wheel of Urban Prosperity' and the 'Global Scale of Urban Prosperity' to enable stakeholders to assess achievements in their respective cities. The City Prosperity Index (CPI) not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Under the FSCP, UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, and Jazan Municipality together with its Local Urban Observatory has been working on developing urban statistics and spatial information (analyzed through Geographic Information System(GIS)) to provide relevant urban information that strongly supports evidence-based decision-making process on urban development and urban planning in the city.

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework and provides a summary of the basic information and urban statistics about the City and gives an overview of the city's achievements, opportunities and potential areas that contribute to its prosperity in areas such productivity, infrastructure development, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI was developed by UN-Habitat to provide a new approach for measuring urban prosperity: which is holistic, integrated and essential for the promotion and monitoring of socio-economic development, inclusion and progressive realization of the urban-related human rights for all. This new approach redirects cities to function towards an urban future that is economically, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates six dimensions made up of several indicators that relate to factors and conditions necessary for a city to thrive and prosper. The six dimensions include productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of 'The Wheel of Urban Prosperity' and the 'Global Scale of Urban Prosperity' to enable cities assess achievements in terms of service delivery to their residents. The CPI not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Geography and Location

Jazan city is the capital of Jizan region located to the south west corner of the Kingdom and adjacent to the north border of Yemen. The region is the second smallest in the Kingdom after Al Baha, it covers an area of about 11,671 square kilometers; attached to it are 100 islands, the most important of which is called Farasan Island. Jazan city is located on the south west of the city of Abha on the west of the tropical Red Sea coast. The city covers an area of about 140 square kilometers, but the urban development or the built-up area is about 45 square kilometers. Jizan is the third most important seaport on the Red Sea.

Jazan area consists of fertile plains, forests and mountains. The fertile plains, which extend behind the coastal swampland, have been created by the alluvial deposits brought down from the mountains by rivers and floods. The forest region (the Alhazoun district), which is also subject to flooding, consists of forest interspersed with some areas of rich pasture. The mountain region is part of the Al sarawat mountain range which constitutes the jagged backbone of the Arabian Peninsula. The highest peak in Jazan is the Fifa Mountain which rises 11,000 feet above sea level.

Jazan has a hot desert climate with an average annual temperature above 30 °C (86 °F). The weather is generally very hot all year round except during the winters which are very mild.

It is very humid but parched in some months; sandstorms are quite common in areas further from the sea. It is situated at an elevation of 40m above sea level.

Demographic Background

Jazan City is situated on the coast of the Red Sea and serves a large agriculturally productive region. According to the 2010 census, the population of the region was about 1.5 million. Over the years the population of Jazan city has increased steadily. In1992, the city had a population of about 56,000 people and passed the 100,000 mark in 2004 reaching 127,740 in 2010. Between 2010 and 2014 there was a surge and the population increased to 178,210 representing a positive mean growth rate of 8.68% per year. At this rate of growth, Jazan's population should surpass the 200,000 by end of 2017.

Figure 1: Population Growth

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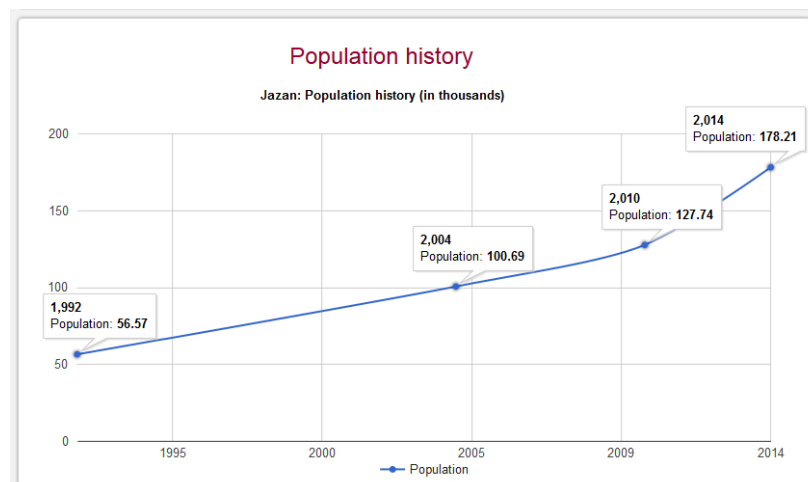
The city is among the most densely populated cities in the Kingdom, it has population density of about 4000 people per square kilometer. The average household size in the city is about 6.7 persons per household. The number of households has been increasing gently but steadily as shown in the figure2; in 2010 the number of households was 22855, by 2013 the number increased to 24827 and in 2015 the number of households in the city was 26070. It is estimated that by 2025 the number of households in the city will be 31081.

Figure 2: Estimated Population and Number of Households
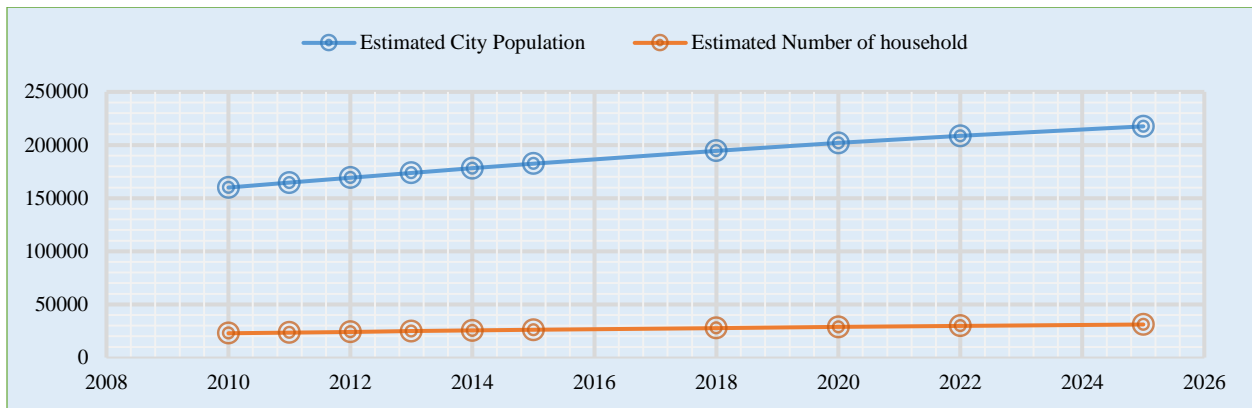
Socio-economic Background

The city is the headquarters of the Governorate, local councils and branches of governmental departments so these government institutions are significant sources of employment in the city. Jazan is one of the Kingdom's regions with highest agricultural production, remarkable for both the quality and variety of its agricultural produce. The area is known for its production of coffee beans, grain crops (barley, millet and wheat) and fruit (apples, bananas, grapes, lemons, mangoes, oranges, papayas, plums and tamarinds).

Located on an ancient caravan route, trade in agricultural produce is still one of the most important sources of livelihood for many residents of the city.

City Prosperity Index (CPI) Assessment

Prosperity implies success, wellbeing, thriving conditions, safety and security, long life etc. Prosperity in cities therefore is about successfully meeting today's needs without compromising tomorrow and working together for a smart, competitive economy, in a socially inclusive society and a healthy, vibrant environment for individuals, families, and communities. Prosperity in cities is a process and cities can be at different levels of prosperity. To measure the level and track how cities progress on the path to becoming more prosperous, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework: The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI is a composite index with six carefully selected dimensions that captures all important elements of a prosperous city. This index along with a conceptual matrix, The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and a Global Scale of City Prosperity,

are intended to help city authorities, decision-makers, partners and other stakeholders to use existing evidence and formulate clear policies and interventions for their cities.

Figure 3: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity
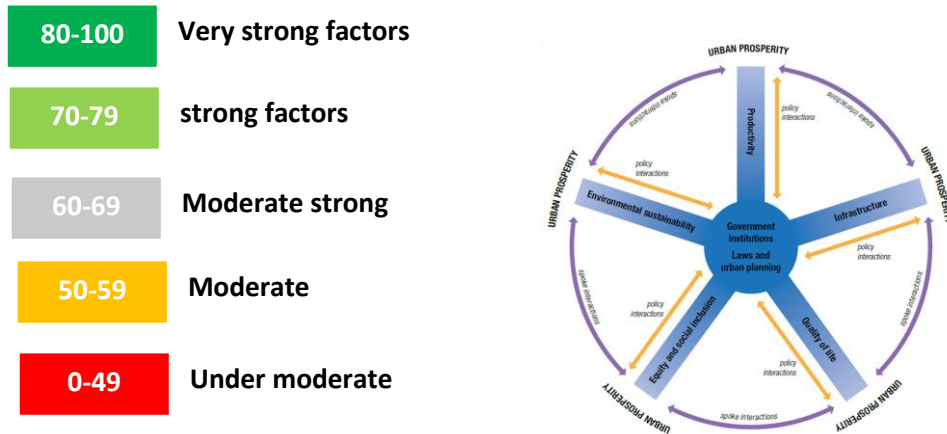
The UN-Habitat's Cities Prosperity Index (CPI) allows authorities and local groups to identify opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments to make their cities more prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that

are not only related but also have a direct and indirect influence on fostering prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the following six dimensions: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Governance and Legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of several indicators measured differently. Since the indicators are measured in different units, the first step in the index computation involves the normalization of the indicators into values ranging between 0 and 1; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

The following sections applies the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Global Scale of Urban Prosperity to assess the level of prosperity in the city of Jazan. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (as per the scale of urban prosperity); it also provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set prosperity goals (based on the magnitude of the CPI scores); and highlights whether there are disparities between and within the six dimensions of prosperity (based on the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity). An in-depth analysis of the findings will help to identify which sub dimensions and indicators contribute to the high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

The Overall City Prosperity Index for Jazan

The overall CPI is the aggregate of the indices of the six dimensions of the CPI. Due to data unavailability, the CPI for Jazan was calculated using five dimensions. The city of Jazan has an

overall prosperity index score of 62.7%, which according to the global scale of urban prosperity is indicative of moderately strong prosperity factors. This relatively high overall score can partly be associated with the high score in environmental sustainability (86%). If the overall CPI of the city is calculated without the environmental sustainability index, the remaining four dimensions should have a score of 55.9%, which is moderate according to the prosperity scale. Therefore, there is a need to consider the causes of weaknesses in the other dimensions and improve the overall CPI score of the city. Prosperity of cities require a good balance of all the indicators of prosperity, it discourages a combination of indicators where some are too low and others very high. This is the case in Jazan where there is anundesirable imbalance between dimensions. In figure 4, the blue line represents the dimensional indices and the orange line represents the overall CPI. The chart shows that apart from the environmental dimension that is very strong, Equity and social inclusion and Quality of life dimensions are also rated as moderately strong. However, the city seems to be closer to achieving a balance on all indicators than other cities in the kingdom

Figure 4: Dimensional Indices
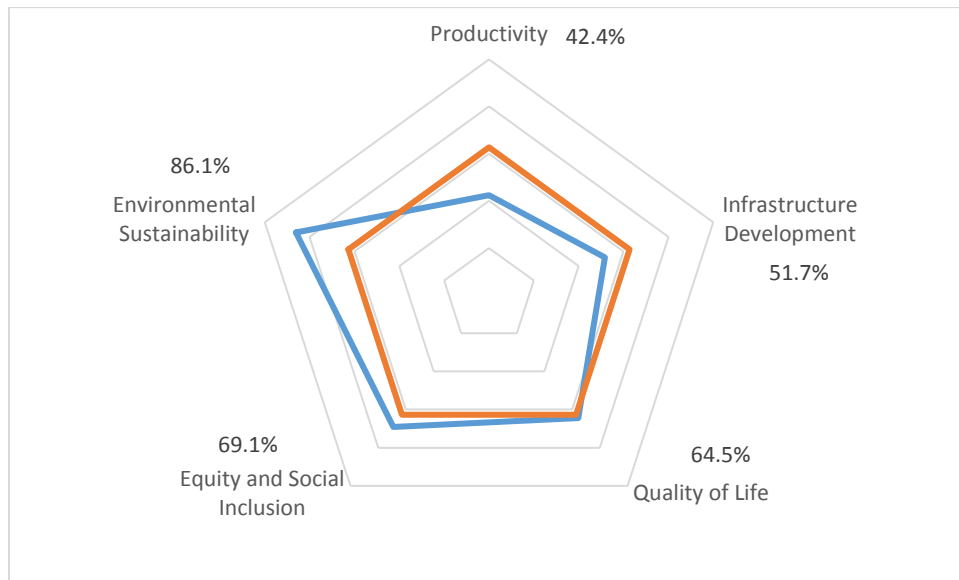
Analysis in the next sections will analyse all the five dimensions of prosperity individually and identify areas of strengths and weaknesses for appropriate interventions.

The Productivity Dimension

The productivity dimension measures achievement by cities based on how cities contribute to economic growth and development, how they generate income, employment and equal opportunities, and how they provide adequate living conditions for the population. The finding in table 2 shows that Jazan has an overall productivity index of 42.4%, and according to the prosperity scale it means that the city's productivity is under moderate. This weak state could be linked to the low economic agglomeration sub dimension (3.8%) and moderate economic growth dimension sub dimension (59.1%).

Table 2: Productivity Index

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Economic Growth (59.1%)	City Product per Capita	8021.33	USD (PPP)/ Inhabitant	48.1%	Under moderate
	Mean Household Income	29588.21	USD(PPP)	60.5%	M. Strong
	Old Age Dependency Ratio	6.65	%	68.6%	M. Strong
Employment (64.2%)	Employment to Population Ratio	51.00	%	46.1%	Under moderate
	Informal Employment	1.55	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Unemployment Rate	8.26	%	46.5%	Under moderate
Economic Agglomeration (3.8%)	Economic Density	32601807.16	USD (PPP)/ Km2	3.8%	Under moderate

Under moderate indicators are found in all 3 dimensions. In the economic growth sub dimension there is City product per capita with 48.1%; under the Employment sub dimension there are employment to population ratio and unemployment rate and under economic agglomeration, economic density is under moderate. Some of the strong indicators include; under economic growth sub dimension are mean household income and Old age dependency ratio; under employment sub dimension is informal employment.

The chart below clearly shows the disparities among the indicators of productivity.

Figure 5: Productivity Indicators
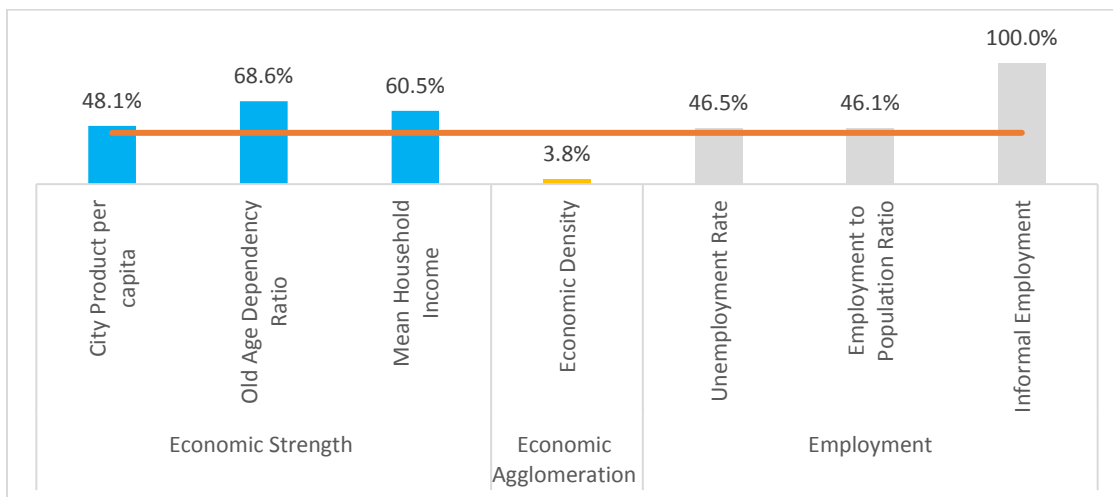
The Infrastructure Development Dimension

The infrastructure dimension measures the level of a city's achievement in the use of available resources to deploy a functional and efficient city infrastructure. Infrastructural assets and services such as piped clean water, sanitation, electricity, road network, ICT are essential in supporting the city population, economy, and in ensuring a better quality of life. The city of Jazan has an infrastructure development index of 51.7%, which is moderate on the global scale of prosperity. That notwithstanding, it has a mix of strong and weak sub dimensions and indicators. Among the moderately strong and strong sub dimensions include the housing infrastructure (64.5%) and ICT infrastructure (64.6%) ,while street connectivity infrastructures (74.8%). Social infrastructure and urban mobility still have under moderate (21.2%) and (33.3%), respectively.

Table 3: Infrastructure Development Index

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Housing Infrastructure (64.5%)	Access to Electricity	94.45	%	94.0%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Sanitation	80.70	%	77.3%	Strong
	Access to Improved Water	62.28	%	24.6%	Under moderate
	Access to Improved Shelter	96.80	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Population Density	3968.98	Inhabitants/ Km^2	26.5%	Under moderate
Social Infrastructure (21.2%)	Number of Public Libraries	0.54	#/100,000 inhabitants.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Physician Density	1.53	#/1,000 inhabitants.	42.5%	Under moderate
ICT (64.6%)	Home Computer Access	39.29	%	39.3%	Under moderate
	Internet Access	90.00	%	90.0%	V. Strong
Urban Mobility (33.3%)	Average Daily Travel Time	21.60	Minutes	100.0%	V. Strong
	Road Safety (traffic fatalities)	36.09	#/100,000 inhabitants.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Use of Public Transport	0.00	%	0.0%	Under moderate
Street Connectivity (74.8%)	Intersection Density	105.50	#/Km^2	100.0%	V. Strong
	Land Allocated to Streets	22.72	%	55.7%	moderate
	Street Density	13.71	Km/KM^2	68.6%	M. Strong

The strong indicators under the Housing sub dimension includes access to electricity, improved sanitation, and access to improved shelter; the weak ones are improved water and population density. All the indicators under the social infrastructure are under-moderate. The ICT infrastructure sub dimension also has weakness in terms of access to home computers. The strength of the urban mobility sector is in average daily travel time which is at about 22 minutes round trip; the biggest weakness in the urban mobility sector is lack of road safety and security in terms of fatal traffic accidents. In term of street connectivity infrastructure where the city is performing very well, the two strong indicators are the intersection density and the street density; while on the other hands its weakest indicator is the land allocated to streets.

The bar chart below shows the level of disparity between the indicators of the infrastructure development. It displays the weak indicators which need to be improved as a matter of priority and the strong factors which need to be consolidated strong to attain some balance as well as achieve higher levels of prosperity. Some of the indicators which need urgent attention include the following: the number of public libraries, physician density in the health sector, internet speed, use of public transport, deal with the high traffic accident rate and land allocated to streets.

Figure 6: Infrastructure Development Indicators
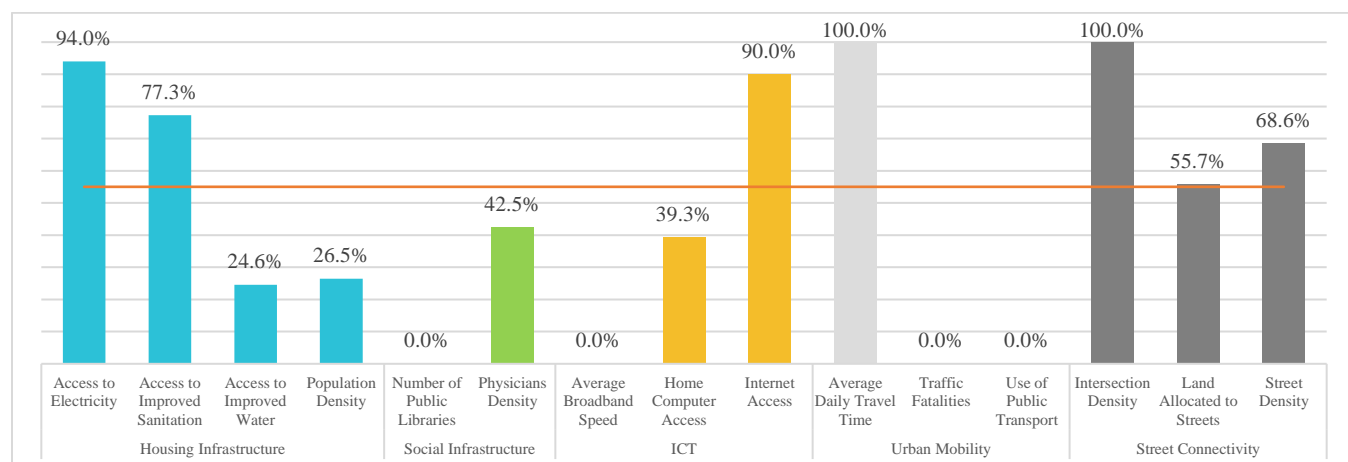
The Quality of Life Dimension

The quality of life dimension measures the cities achievements in the provision of important amenities such as social services, education, health, public recreation facilities, and safety and security required for achieving a high standard of living and enabling the citizens to maximize their individual potential and to lead long fulfilling lives. In general, the quality of life dimension in Jazan is ranked as moderately high with CPI score of 64.5%. The moderately strong performance in the city may be attributed to the good healthcare system with 77.5% and good safety and security with 71.3%. The city is doing well in the health care provision and this can be reflected in the high life expectancy and they have kept high vaccination coverage as well. However, there is a big problem in under five mortality rate which in terms of absolute numbers (14/1000 birth) and has a score of 58.1%, which is moderate. The high rate of deaths of children is not good for the city.

Table 4: Quality of Life Index (64.5%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Health care (77.5%)	Life Expectancy at Birth	75.00	years	75.4%	Strong
	Eradicate Under-5 Mortality	14.00	#/1000 live births	58.1%	Moderate
	Vaccination Coverage	99.00	%	99.0%	V. Strong
Education (44.6%)	Early Childhood Education	4.11	%	4.1%	v
	Net Enrolment in Higher Education	46.25	%	46.3%	Under moderate
	Literacy Rate	85.92	%	83.5%	V. Strong
Safety and Security (71.3%)	Homicide Rate	40.18	#/100,000 inhabitants.	50.2%	Moderate
	Theft Rate	56.79	#/100,000 inhabitants.	92.4%	V. Strong

Safety and security in the city achieves a moderately strong prosperity score, which is generally good for the city. The good performance in security is attributable to the efforts made to keep the theft rate in the city at negligible level. However, there is a significantly high rate of homicides in the city, in absolute number it stands at 40 persons per 100,000 inhabitants; this is a fairly high rate and is equivalent to moderately weak, an indication of a problem in the security sector.

The education sector also has some weaknesses, apart from the high literacy rate in the city, all other indicators are under moderate; Early childhood education program is under moderate with 4%, and net enrolment in higher education is also under moderate at 46%.

Figure 7: Quality of Life Indicators.
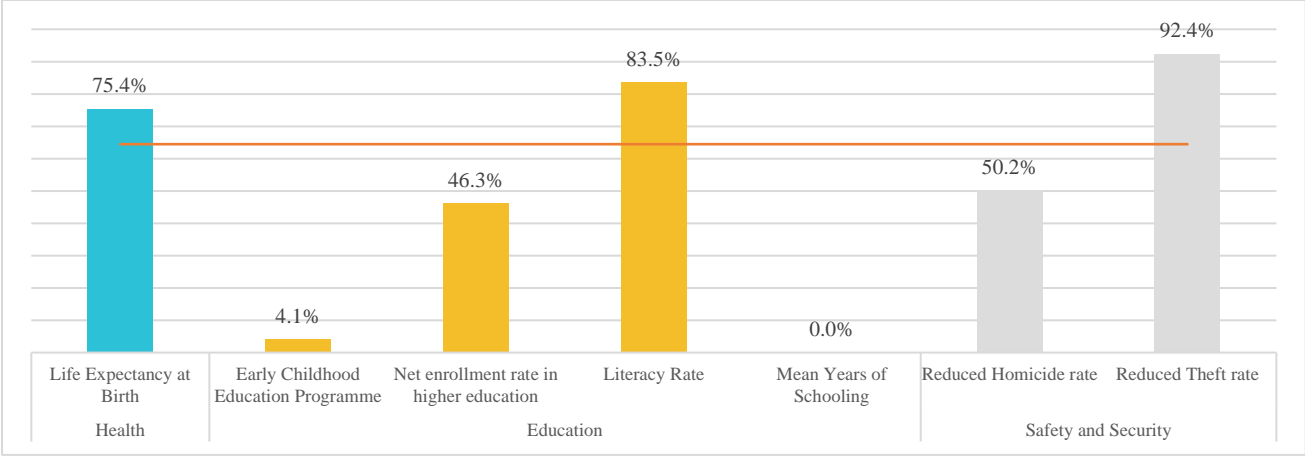
Figure 7: Quality of Life Indicators.
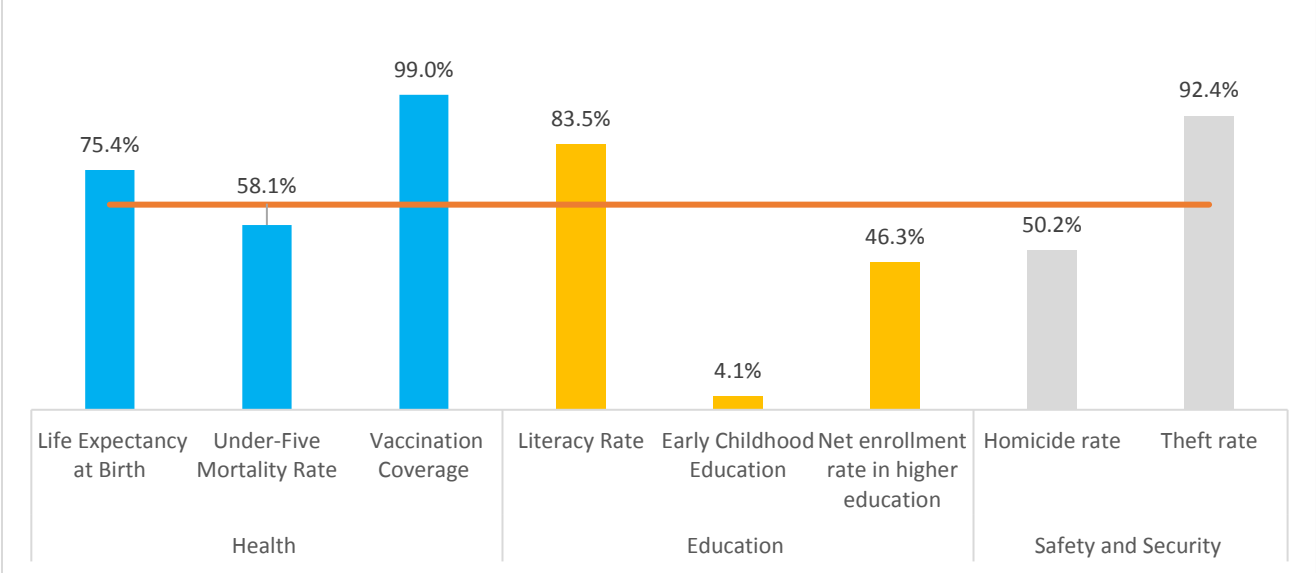
The level of imbalance can be seen from the heights of the bars in the chart above. It is clear that there is significant amount of disparity among the indicators of quality of life. The city has both extremes of very weak and very strong indicators. To improve the quality of life in the city, a

decrease in the level of disparities is require and at the same time addressing the extremely low indicators while keeping the strong indicators strong.

The Equity and Social Inclusion Dimension

Studies have shown that disparity in any sector be it social or economic is not sustainable; studies have also shown that equitability and inclusion create an environment that spur faster growth. Cities which are socially inclusive and economically equitable are more likely to be more productive, exhibit higher living standard and have good quality of life. No matter how high the productivity or average income or level of infrastructure a city has, no city can claim to be prosperous when a segment of its inhabitants lives in poverty or deprivation.

The equity and social inclusion dimension measures the level of achievement of cities in the distribution or sharing of the benefits of prosperity among its inhabitants. Due to data unavailability problems only one of the three sub dimensions of equity and inclusion was used, the gender inclusion sub dimension. Based on the available data, the city of Jazan has a gender inclusion sub dimensional index of 69.1%. This is indicative of a fairly gender inclusive city.

The main source of strength within the gender inclusion sub dimension is equitable secondary enrolment and women in local government with 75.9% and 99.4%, respectively. The main source of weakness is the number of women in the city's workforce with a score of 32%.

Table 5: Equity and Social Inclusion Index (69.1%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Gender Inclusion (69.1%)	Equitable Secondary School Enrollment	0.76		75.9%	Strong
	Women in local government	49.71	%	99.4%	V. Strong
	Women in the workforce	16.02	%	32.0%	Under moderate

The chart below shows some disparity among the indicators in the gender inclusion sub dimension. To achieve higher prosperity and improve the balance among the indicators, the number of women in the city's workforce must be increased; more effort should be directed at improving the gender parity in secondary schools.

Figure 8: Equity and Social Inclusion Indicators.
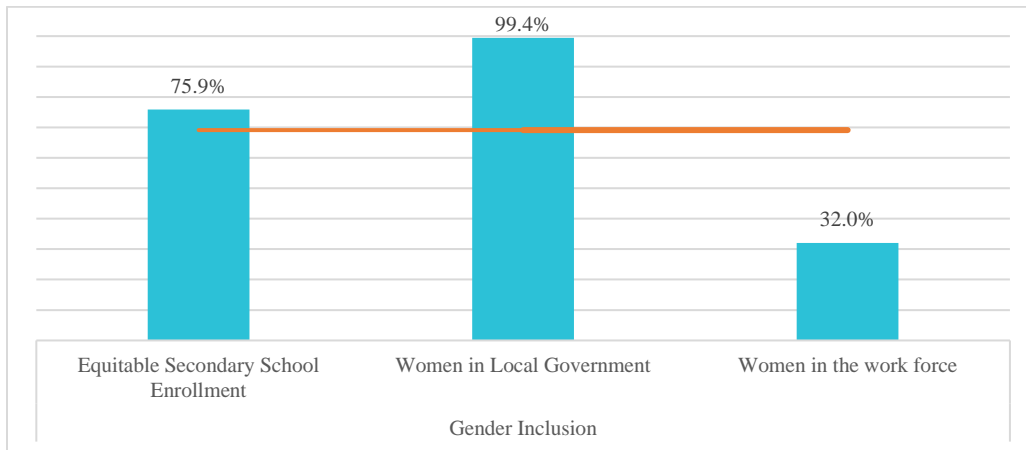
The Environmental Sustainability Dimension

The city and its people need an environment that is healthy and productive. Sustainability is about keeping the city environment healthy and productive for people now and in the future. Prosperous cities ensure that as they grow and develop economically the city's environment is not destroyed or degraded but remains healthy and liveable; the city's natural assets and resources are preserved for posterity for the sake of its future inhabitants. This dimension therefore, measures the achievements of the city in the preservation and conservation of the environment. Due to data unavailability problems, a few indicators for this dimension were not included in the calculations. Based on the available data, the findings show that the city generally performs well with an environmental sustainability score of 86% implying very strong prosperity factors in the global scale of prosperity.

Table 6: Environmental Sustainability Index

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Air Quality (96.9%)	Number of Monitoring stations		#	-	-
	PM10 Concentration	0.03	ug/m3	93.8%	V. Strong
	PM2.5 Concentration	0.01	ug/m3	100.0%	V. Strong
Waste Management (75.2%)	Solid Waste Collection	-	%	-	-
	Solid waste recycling share	98.41	%	98.4%	V. Strong
	Waste water treatment	52.00	%	52.0%	Under moderate

Unlike many other cities in Saudi Arabia, Jazan has very high air quality scores, apparently due to low particulate matter content in the air (PM10 and PM2); these indicators exhibits poor performance across the cities. The level of solid waste recycling is also very good (98.4%), but on the other hand much less is being done to recycle waste water in the city (52%).

Figure 9: Environmental Sustainability Indicators.
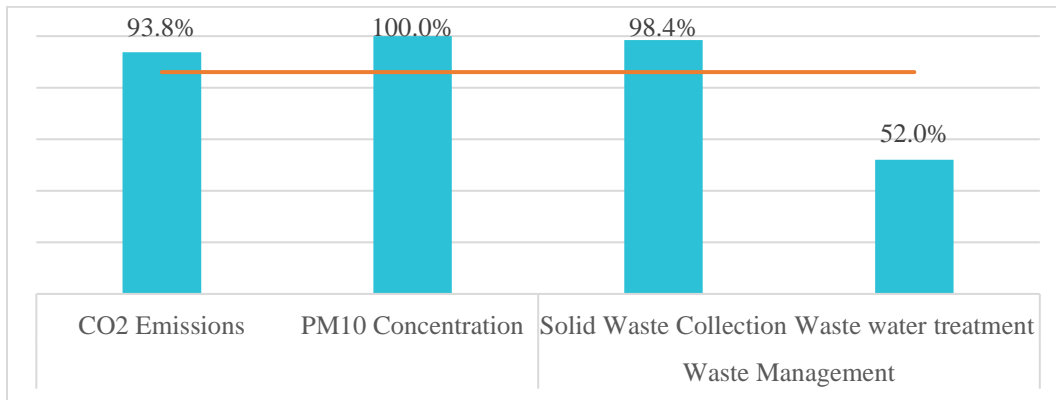
Apart from low level of waste water treatment, the city has achieve a relatively good level of balance between environmental indicators.

The Governance and Legislation Dimension

Good governance and proper legislation are prerequisites for sustainability and growth. Through good urban governance and accountable leadership, a city can be able to deploy appropriate and effective policies, laws and regulations, and create adequate institutional frameworks required for growth and prosperity. The Governance and legislation dimension measures the level of achievement cities have attained regarding creating an enabling policy environment that fosters prosperity and growth. This dimension has the following sub dimensions and indicators: under the Participation and accountability sub dimension there are Voter turnout rate, Civic participation, and Corruption index; under the Municipal finance sub dimension the indicators are Own revenue collection, Days to Start a business and Local expenditure efficiency; and lastly under the Urban form sub dimension there are Land use mix and Urban sprawl.

The governance dimension is a very important dimension of prosperity in cities, therefore, more efforts should be put in data collection to ensure its include in the next CPI estimation.

SWOT Analysis based on City Prosperity Index

This section further analyses and breaks down the findings of the CPI to identify areas of Strength, Weaknesses or challenges, Opportunities and Threats that the city may have so that appropriate recommendations and actions can be designed for more in-depth analysis.

Table 7: SWOT Analysis base on City Prosperity Index

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
1. Good economic growth factors such as moderately high household income, moderately low old age dependency ratio and no informal employment sets a good environment for improvement.	1. Low economic density- possibly due to the low city product per capita and possible urban sprawl. The unemployment rate is also relatively high compare to other cities. The high unemployment rate can partly be attributed to the low employment to population ration which is a measure of the city's ability to create jobs.
2. Housing infrastructure have good elements like access to electricity, improved sanitation and improved shelter. These factors are good for the sector. The ICT sector has good level of internet access, should improve other indicators as well. The efficiency of Urban mobility infrastructure is very good, it has good average travel time. Two of the of the three street connectivity indicators are good, they are intersection density and street density.	2. The housing sector needs to increase number of houses with access to improved water. The social infrastructure is generally weak, more public libraries and more medical professionals. Access to home computers is a big problem in the city. Urban mobility has two main problems which are high rate of fatal traffic accidents and lack of Use of public transport system, may be due to over dependence on private cars for transport even for short distances. The only problem with street connectivity is the land allocated to streets.
3. The health sector is doing well generally as reflected in the high life expectancy and high vaccination coverage. High literacy rate: the youth and women have untapped potential to contribute allot to economic growth. There is allot of unutilised skilled manpower (human capital) especially among women.	3. One of the most important indicators of a good health care system is low under 5 mortalities rate, in the case of Jazan this is still moderately high. Enrolment rates in early childhood education and secondary schools are critically too low for the city – need to be addressed urgently. Another big challenge in the city which need urgent attention is safety and security.
4. Gender parity in secondary school is good and number of women working in the local government is also very impressive but the number women in the general workforce is very bad.	4. The number of women in the general city workforce if very low and should be increased affirmatively.
5. Environmental sustainability is good especially the air quality indicators and solid waste recycling is also very good.	5. The share of waste water treated is still too low, it amounts to wastage of water resources.
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
1. High street intersection density and street density which should encourage alternative means of transport such as walking and cycling especially early morning and evening.	1. The rate of under 5 mortalities is high, this needs urgent attention.
2. Ownership of home computers should be encouraged, it will further increase internet access.	
3. Overall productivity is low, the city can take advantage of its economic strengths to spur economic growth and productivity.	
4. The housing sector needs more connections or access to improved water.	
5. The number of women in the general workforce of the city needs to be increase, their presence in the local government is a demonstration that they can be part of other sectors also.	

Local Urban Observatory

Global Urban Observatory Network (GUO-Net) is a worldwide information and capacity-building network established by the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) to help implement the New Urban Agenda at the national and local levels. The GUO-NET consists of national and city-level institutions that function as National and Local Urban Observatories.

The purpose of GUO-Net is to support governments, local authorities and civil society:

- To improve the collection, management, analysis and use of information in formulating more effective urban policies;
- To improve information flows between all levels for better urban decision-making;
- To stimulate broad-based consultative processes to help identify and integrate urban information needs;
- To provide information and analyses to all stakeholders for more effective participation in urban decision-making;
- To share information, knowledge and expertise using modern information and communication technology (ICT);
- To create a global network of local, national and regional platforms for sharing information about the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- To share some tools and benefits provided by the GUO network;
- Training on using the urban indicator toolkit for data collection and analysis;
- Training on how to use the results of the urban indicators data for fund raising activities;
- Conferences of the network members for information exchange and city-to-city networking;
- Access to internet resources available at UN-Habitat's website including urban indicators databases and Urban Info system;
- Data used for evaluations done for the World Cities Report published biannually by UN-Habitat.

UN-HABITAT achieves these objectives through a global network of local, national and regional urban observatories and through partner institutions that provide training and other capacity building expertise.

The UN-Habitat and MOMRA have previously established Local Urban Observatories in the 17 cities covered by the FSCP. A rapid survey conducted by UN-Habitat-KSA in June 2015 targeting the 17 LUO/cities, found out that only 15 LUOs existed. The findings also showed that 88% of Local Urban Observatories are under Municipal Departments while 12% are under Authority for Development within Municipality. It also revealed that 71% of the Local Urban Observatories were active while the operations of 23% of them were suspended due to unaccomplished staff/contractual arrangements.

Some of the data the Local Urban Observatories are required to collect in collaboration with the Municipals are GIS related, so there is need to have a collaborative work relation between the LUOs and the GIS departments within the Municipalities. The survey revealed that in terms of connections with the GIS departments, 59% of the LUOs have work relations with the GIS department while 18% do not. There was evidence that 71% of the LUOs have GIS data while 6% do not have.

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