

The Impact of Cutting Alcohol Duties on Drinking Patterns in Hong Kong

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Sotheby's

LOT 1141 HK\$ 800,000

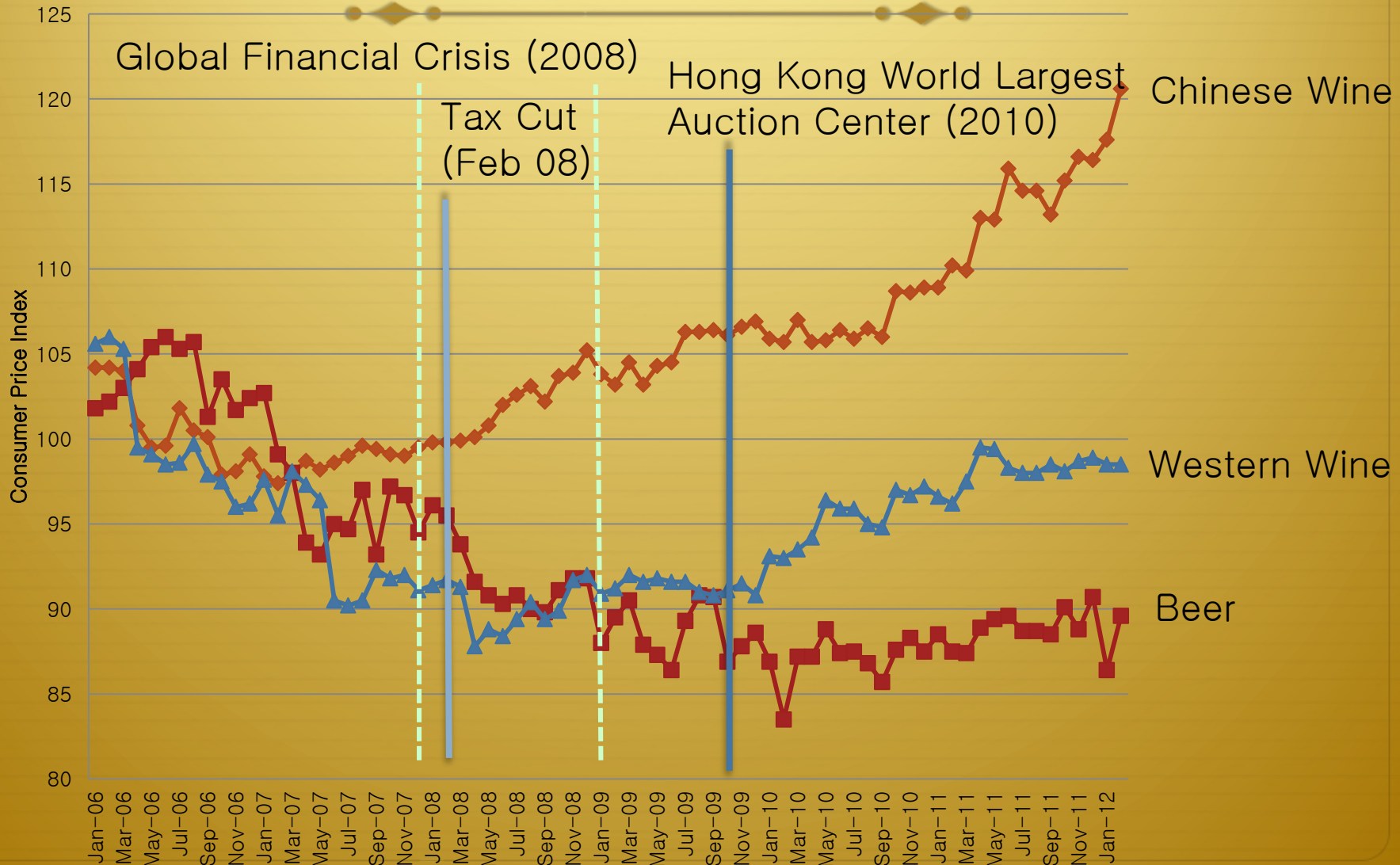
USD	102,400
CNY	676,000
TWD	2,868,800
SGD	132,000
GBP	64,000
EUR	76,000
IDR	929,768,000
MYR	314,400
THB	3,120,000
JPY	8,480,000



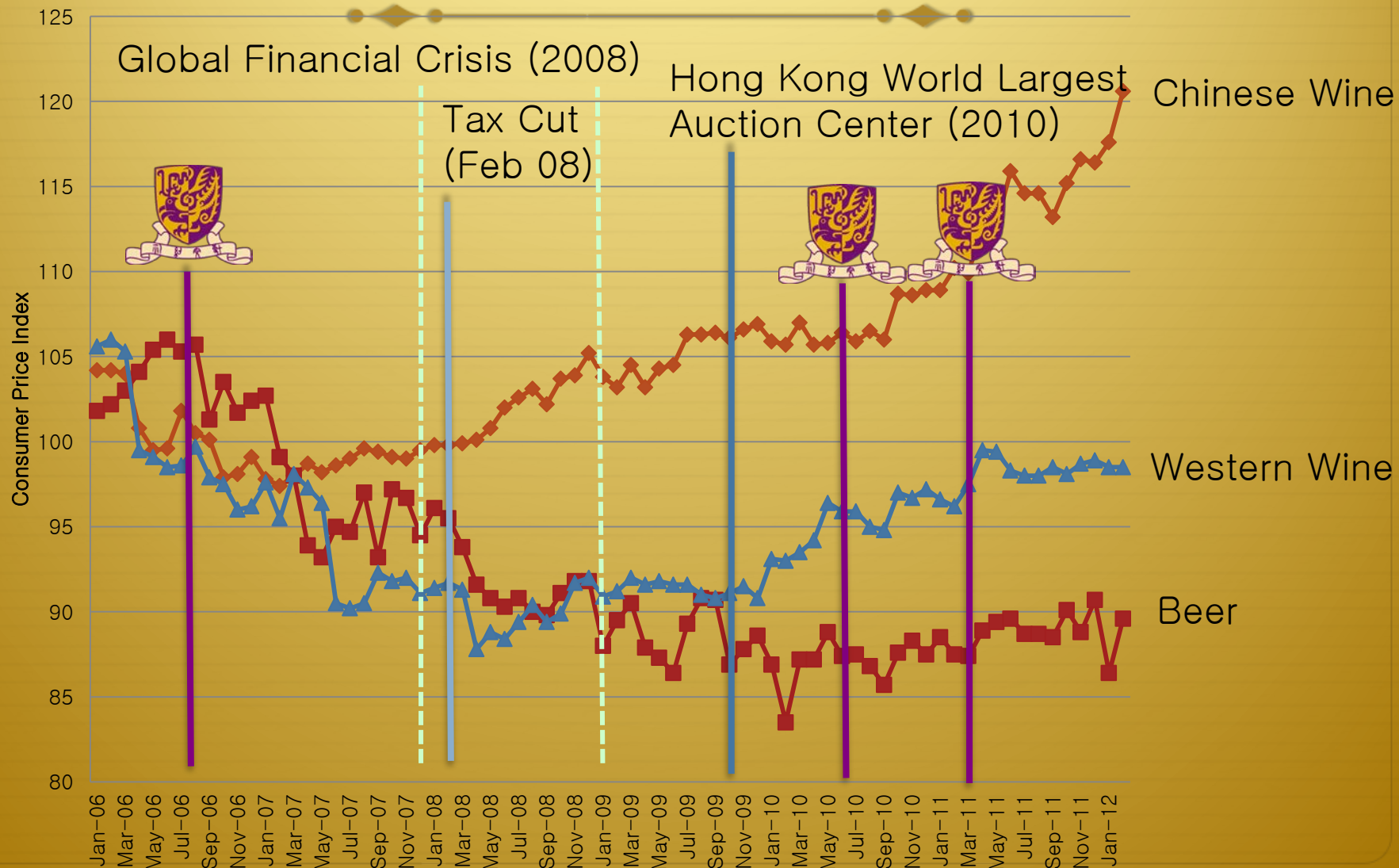
Sotheby's

A man in a suit is speaking at a podium with the Sotheby's logo. In front of him, several people are seated at a table with laptops. The background is a large screen showing a night view of a city skyline.

Composite Consumer Price Indices for different types of alcohol, 2006 to 2012



Composite Consumer Price Indices for different types of alcohol, 2006 to 2012



Demographic characteristics of respondents from the 2006, 2011 and 2012 surveys

	2006 (n = 9896)	2011 (n = 4800)	2012 (n = 1001)
Female	4946 (50%)	2439 (50.8%)	546 (54.5%)
Age- group: 36-50	3815 (38.6%)	1691 (35.2%)	320 (32%)
Married or co- habiting	6505 (65.7%)	3208 (66.8%)	754 (75.3%)
Employed	6035 (61%)	2929 (61%)	531 (53%)
Secondary or below	6222 (62.9%)	2863 (59.6%)	612 (61.1%)

Prevalence of alcohol usage pattern:

2006, 2011 and 2012

Drinkers	2006 (95% CI)	2011 (95% CI)	2012 (95% CI)
Ever	66.6% (65.6–67.5)	82.0% (80.9–83.1)	85.2% (83.0–87.4)
Current	47.3% (46.3–48.3)	50.1% (48.7–51.6)	59.4% (56.4–62.5)
Binge	9.0% (8.4–9.6)	7.1% (6.4–7.8)	7.7% (5.7–8.9)

Sub-group Analysis: Female Ever drinkers 2011/12 vs 2006

Age	Marital	OR	95% CI
51–70	Married	3.00	(2.49, 3.61)
36–50	Married	2.61	(2.18, 3.13)
51–70	Single	2.26	(1.66, 3.07)
36–50	Single	1.97	(1.46, 2.65)
18–35	Married	1.92	(1.49, 2.47)

Sub-group Analysis: Male Ever drinkers 2011/12 vs 2006




Marital	OR	95% CI
Married	3.54	(2.97, 4.22)
Single	2.05	(1.65, 2.55)

Sub-group Analysis: Male Current drinkers 2011/12 vs 2006



Age	Marital	OR	95% CI
Student	Married	2.27	(1.51, 3.42)
Retired	Married	1.84	(1.41, 2.40)
Unemployed	Married	1.69	(1.14, 2.50)
Employed	Married	1.27	(1.11, 1.45)

Sub-group Analysis: Female Current drinkers 2011/12 vs 2006



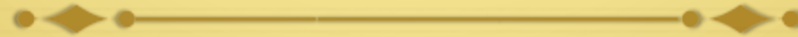
- ✦ ORs ranged from 1.4 – 2.51 (twelve sub-groups)
- ✦ Married female > Single female
- ✦ Age group: “51–70” > “36–50” > “18–35”
- ✦ Unemployed > Student > Employed (no change)

Sub-group Analysis: Male Binge drinkers 2011/12 vs 2006



Education	Marital	OR	95% CI
Low	Single	0.46	(0.34, 0.61)
Low	Married	0.65	(0.50, 0.85)
High	Single	0.76	(0.62, 0.95)

Sub-group Analysis: Female Binge drinkers 2011/12 vs 2006



Employment	Education	Marital	OR	95% CI
Unemployed	High	Married	6.71	(1.97, 22.87)
Unemployed	Low	Married	4.54	(1.39, 14.80)
Unemployed	High	Single	3.73	(1.23, 11.33)
Retired	High	Married	1.99	(1.02, 3.87)
Employed	High	Married	1.94	(1.13, 3.34)

Alcohol Abuse & Dependence

- ✦ DSM – IV
- ✦ Abuse: 2.5% (2006) → 0.4% (2011)
- ✦ Dependence: 0.7% (2006) → 0.3% (2011)
- ✦ A&D: 0.8% (2006) → 0.3% (2011)
- ✦ Effect not appearing in such short period?

DISCUSSION



- ✦ Cutting duty increased the prevalence of ever drinking and current drinking.
- ✦ In the 2012 survey, 10.2% emerged as new drinkers since 2008, of whom 65.5% continued to drink alcohol.
- ✦ Chinese culture/genetic variant may explain the low rates of binge drinking, abuse and dependence.
- ✦ East vs West: Sweden, Denmark and Finland

Limitation



- ✦ Representativeness
- ✦ 2011–2012 survey used a different bingeing criteria.
- ✦ Other policy changes, such as breath test on drivers, were not considered.
- ✦ Education as proxy measure of socio-economic status

Our other studies



- ✦ Time-series Analysis revealed a positive relationship between cardiovascular death rates in Hong Kong and the 2007–2008 tax change. (Pun et al., 2013)
- ✦ Alcohol tax policy and related mortality using Age-Period-Cohort model, by Prof Roger Chung
- ✦ Tax vs Random breath testing on drivers, by Prof Jean Kim
- ✦ Clinical usefulness of abbreviated AUDIT
- ✦ Why do young adults binge drinking, by Alvin Wong.