

Article

# Spatio-Temporal Changes and Dependencies of Land Price Development: A Case Study of the City of Olomouc

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**Abstract:** Land price sustainability issues have been addressed by many authors in the past. Most of these researchers used land prices (from land price maps) as the primary data source in their studies. Only a few papers analysed official land price maps, which are available very rarely. For this reason, we studied the spatial and temporal changes of land prices in the city of Olomouc based on an analysis of official land price maps from 1993 to 2017. We proposed several research hypotheses to confirm some general statements about land price development. We concluded that some macroeconomic indicators had a significant impact on changes in land prices. In the residential and commercial areas and historical centre, land prices are significantly higher than in other monitored aspects (land-use types). We also concluded that no link existed between land-use stability and land price stability. Surprisingly, no long-term stable areas were found in the area of interest. The analysis also confirmed that land price and its change over time varied in different spatial aspects. Surprisingly, the smallest influence was reflected in the economic aspect. Regarding natural events in recent decades, we observed a significant drop in land prices in the vicinity of watercourses threatened by flooding. These findings can assist in better understanding local development and changes in land price.

**Keywords:** land price map, land-use development, GIS, spatio-temporal changes, sustainability, Olomouc

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Land Price Sustainability

Land price plays an important role in guiding land resource allocation for urban planning and development, particularly in big cities of fast developing countries where infrastructures and populations change frequently [1]. This is one of the main reasons why land price sustainability issues have been previously addressed by other authors (e.g., [2] or [3]). The research centres on issues linked to land price volatility [4,5], inflation [3], structure [6], development [7–9] and factors influencing land price [1,10–12]. The specific research field deals with predictive models [13], implementation of GIS (Geographic Information System) software [14] and many others.

Researchers in the Czech Republic studied land prices after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. After 40 years of communism, ownership of land was returned in restitution processes to the original owners (or their descendants), and prices started to grow rapidly. Almost all Czech studies have looked at general housing prices issues or land price analysis at the regional or state level (e.g., [15]). Lux and Musil [16–18] studied the housing system and its development during the transition period. Sklenička et al. [19] focused their research on farmland prices; Temelová et al. [20] elaborated on

housing estate issues associated with segregation. Other researchers examined price bubbles and their determinants in the Czech Republic [21] and compared the housing system to those in other countries [15].

Another area of research investigated land price maps of building parcels. Official land price maps are essential documents which influence and control the real estate market in the big cities of the Czech Republic. They are one of the most critical aspects of a city's economy for entrepreneurs and citizens. Land price map analysis in the Czech Republic has been pursued by only a few authors [22–28]. Dobiášová [22] compared the price maps of selected EU countries, Chrudimská [23] and Pászto et al. [27] proposed a new procedure for updating the land price map of Olomouc in the ArcGIS for Desktop software. Emphasis was placed on the technological process, which would automate and improve the efficiency of processing land price maps. Šindelářová [28] and Kovaříková [25] also analysed price maps, describing the development and practical use of price maps in the Czech Republic using the price maps of Brno and Olomouc. The land price map in relation to rent was discussed in dissertation thesis [26]. The author investigated the relationship between land rent and price in price maps of the Czech Republic. The author questioned whether it was possible to use this to determine the rental price of similar plots in the same way as with price maps. According to Kubíček [26], with a sufficient amount of quality data, it would be possible to set a coefficient for price conversion in the price map to the rental price of the land.

Only a few authors performed a detailed analysis of land price at a local level (municipality) [24], [28]. This is surprising, because local studies can explain many connections, relationships and dependencies which are not visible at a national level. This is due to the fact that only a few cities in the Czech Republic produce land price maps as the primary land price data source. For this reason, we decided to perform an in-depth analysis of land prices in the city of Olomouc, which has produced land price maps since 1993. This issue has not been previously studied and is currently highly relevant because land prices in Olomouc (100,494 population in 2018) are the third highest in the Czech Republic after Brno (379,527 population in 2018) and Prague (1,294,513 population in 2018) [29], [30]. This is mainly explained by the high attractiveness of Olomouc (UNESCO heritage, quiet city, high standard of living), which is, however, in contrast to average regional salaries (third lowest in the Czech Republic) [2].

Based on these findings, our study examined the spatial and temporal changes of land prices in Olomouc by analysing official land price maps from 1993 to 2017. For this purpose, the following research hypotheses were proposed: 1) Changes of land prices are dependent on macro-economic indicators; 2) The highest increase in land prices can be observed in residential and commercial areas and the historical city centre; 3) Stable areas exist (comparable to stabilized land-use) where land prices do not change over time; 4) Land price sustainability is influenced by spatial factors (environmental, economic and social).

## *1.2. Land Price Maps in the Czech Republic*

Two land price sources can be found in the Czech Republic in the form of official or unofficial land price maps. The official land price map (land price map of building plots) is defined by the relevant legislation ([31,32]) and its acquisition and updating is maintained by the respective municipality. This type of map displays the prices of building plots and is created according to prices in purchase contracts (managed by the regional cadastral offices) and modified according to the type of land and its other characteristics.

According to Act No. 151/1997 Coll. [31], the land price map is defined as a graphical representation of land price and building plots in the territory of a municipality with a scale of 1: 5000 or more detailed level. Building parcels on the price map are valued by the actually negotiated prices contained in the purchase contracts (base price), although it is not always possible to value all parcels. In some cases, it is not possible to determine an actual price or the price data is out of date or not comparable to the prices of similar parcels (too high or too low price). Very heterogeneous prices on adjacent parcels may also cause problems. In this case, prices are determined by the prices of comparable parcels in the municipality or a similar municipality (according to the legislation, [32]).

A comparable parcel means land that is intended for the same use and located in a similar location as the parcel being valued. The final price of a building parcel is calculated as a multiple of the base price of the group of land to which it belongs and its total area in square metres. The price of the parcel is then increased by the price of the building(s) standing on the parcel and by the price of green areas. The price map does not include prices of agricultural or forested land or water areas. Information about the parcel is taken from the Land Register of the Czech Republic.

The land price map is updated at the end of each year by adding new prices of land parcels. After the price map is processed, the municipality is obliged to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic, which subsequently publishes it in the Price Bulletin. Any citizen can see the content of the price map of a given municipality free of charge. The land price map serves as a basis for evaluating issues addressed by court experts, banks or government officials.

Land price maps have been created in the Czech Republic since 1991 for 54 municipalities, but many municipalities have ceased this activity due to fluctuating prices and the need for regular updates. Eight municipalities in the Czech Republic have created more than ten price maps. Most of these were published in Ostrava (18), Prague (21) and Olomouc (21). Currently (3 October 2018), price maps are valid only in seven municipalities in the Czech Republic.

Besides the price maps governed by law, several unofficial price maps (e.g., [33]) are also available and are usually created by real estate agencies who process them very individually. These maps, however, do not show land prices but rather the average prices of apartments and houses or rents. Data sources are most often recorded by real estate agencies from achieved sales or rentals. The validity of these maps is not guaranteed by law and depends only on the quality of processing [28]. Access to these maps often requires payment.

### *1.3 Land Price Map of the City of Olomouc*

The first land price map of Olomouc was created in 1939 because people had foreknowledge of the Second World War. During the 1930s, many Czech people invested their money primarily in real estate, which caused a disproportionate increase in land prices. The government was therefore forced to fix prices at the level current at the time, which was subsequently taken into account in a price map to prevent further price increases. After the Second World War, land price maps were not used, and city development was mainly based on master plans ([34,35]). The first modern land price map of Olomouc was created in 1993. The city was divided into zones according to the character and function of individual areas. For these zones, the average purchase price (base price) was used to calculate the actual price of a parcel. For each zone type, coefficients were defined to multiply the base price. This procedure was based on the relevant legislation and has been preserved to this day, except for 1993, 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2002, when the price map was not updated because of minimal changes. The only significant difference in the pricing methodology was in connection with parcels which had not been valued. These are predominantly areas used for public administration, education, culture, health, security, defence, communications and other technical equipment that practically do not change ownership and their price cannot be determined regularly.

In total, 21 price maps were created in Olomouc between 1993 and 2017. Since 2006, they have been created digitally (CAD and GIS) and are also published via the web map application available at <http://apps.hfbiz.cz/apps/olomouc/cm/>.

## **2. Data and Methods**

### *2.1. Used Datasets*

As our primary data source, official land price maps of the city of Olomouc in a scale of 1:5000 were used. The maps cover the whole Olomouc area (100,494 population; 103.4 km<sup>2</sup>). The city is the regional capital of the Olomouc Region. Land price maps from the period 1993–2005 are available only in analogue format (each map comprises 36–39 map sheets), and it was necessary to digitize them. Because digitization is extremely time-consuming, two representative time periods were

selected (1993 and 1999). Land price maps from the period 2006–2017 are available in vector format (dgn), and all of them were used for the analysis.

In order to digitize and georeference analogue land price maps, cadastral maps from the comparable period were used. In order to analyze different land-use types, the master plans of the city of Olomouc from 1999 and 2016 were used. Master plans (land-use types, flood areas, evaluated soil ecological units, urban conservation areas, urban conservation zones), cadastral maps and land price maps were obtained from the Magistrate of the City of Olomouc (Department of Research and Development).

For the statistical analysis, the following data sources were used: Czech Statistical Office – Statistical Yearbook of the Olomoucký Region [36], Statistics on Income and Living Conditions [37]; Czech National Bank – CNB official discount rates [38].

**Table 1.** Descriptive Statistics – Correlation and Regression Analyses.

Variables	Max	Min	Average	Median
Land price	1500	600	1121.8	1170
GDP	346,788.5	232,639.2	291,319.2	296,889.1
Income	219,580.6	161,811.629	195,917.1	196,452.4
Unemployment	28.2	11.5	22.3	23.5
Discount	2.39	0.05	0.64	0.25
Inhabitants	233,992	228,956	232,062.1	232,226
Started flats	1209	379	700	663
Finished flats	1156	534	783	733
Econ. subjects	140,735	130,427	136,051	136,229
Time	2016	2006	2011	2011

Details of the variables presented in the Table 1 are as follows: “Land price” – in Olomouc in CZK per square metre, calculated as a median of all prices of all land in Olomouc in certain years in the period 2006–2016; “GDP” – per capita in CZK per year, Olomouc Region [36]; “Income” – total net income per capita in CZK per year in municipalities with a population of 100,000+ [37]; “Unemployment” – number of unemployed people in thousands, Olomouc Region [36]; “Discount” – average discount rate per year, Czech Republic [38]; “Population” – number of inhabitants, district of Olomouc [36]; “Started flats” – number of started flats, district of Olomouc [36]; “Finished flats” – number of finished flats, district of Olomouc [36]; “Econ. subjects” – registered economic entities (31 December), district of Olomouc [36]; “Year” – the period 2006–2016.

## 2.2. Data Processing

As mentioned above, land price maps were available in vector and analogue (printed) format. Data in digital format (dgn files) from 2006–2016 (11 layers) were imported into the spatial geodatabase in GIS. Analogue land price maps (maps from 1993 and 1999) were georeferenced (each map comprised 36–39 map sheets) and digitized. Historical cadastral maps from suitable years were used for georeferencing. The output polygons of land price maps were checked and repaired by using topology rules in ArcGIS for Desktop, and the final layers were imported into the spatial geodatabase of all land price maps.

Comparing the absolute values of land prices over the 15-year period was not appropriate. In such a timeframe, the impact of inflation must also be taken into account to make the prices between the years comparable. Inflation is a general rise in the price level in the economy—the value of the same amount of goods in the time interval changes, mostly upwards. This change in price level needs to be included in any analysis and the original absolute value of land prices over the reference period must be adjusted [39]. Inflation is monitored through several indexes, such as the consumer price index or product price index. The CZSO monitors these in the Czech Republic. The calculated values of the average annual index were used to adjust land prices to a comparable level. The year 2016 was

chosen as the reference year, and all other years across all dates were recalculated to produce a time series of comparable values.

### 2.3. Data Analysis

#### 2.3.1. Spatial Analysis

Several basic statistical characteristics were calculated from the available data: mean, median and mode. For the reasons given above, the same quantity of priced parcels was not available for each time interval. The number of valued parcels in the years had decreased from 44% to 28%. Medium-value indicators have served as a general tool for assessing land price developments over the past 15 years.

For spatial analysis of the development of the land price map in Olomouc, the data was modified with overlay operations to be able to monitor the development of land price at each location. Only three years were selected for spatial analyses: 1993, 2006 and 2016. These years have approximately the same time interval. Adding additional years would increase the number of unvalued parcels obtained by overlay operations. Using a GIS tool, a new layer was created to aggregate changes in the periods 1993–2006 and 2006–2016. This processing tool performs the geometric union of all input layers. The result contains information from all inputs, which allows the development in every part of the original area of interest to be analysed. Since not all parcels in the input data were valued, it was necessary to remove those areas where price for one of the years was absent. A total of 5020 new areas with an area of 4109 ha were created, of which 1999 ha (48.7%) were valued in all three years. In these areas, land prices were analysed to identify stable / developing sites. These were subsequently classified into synthetic classes describing the development of land prices in years.

#### 2.3.2 Regression Analysis

For the purposes of analysing possible dependencies between economic, social and demographic indicators, methods of correlation and regression analysis were used. Since suitable data are not available for all years in the period 1993–2016 and both statistical methods are based on a regular time period, we used the data for the period 2006–2016.

Correlation analysis serves as a means for observing possible relationships between certain variables mainly if a statistically significant positive or negative relationship exists. A Pearson correlation coefficient was therefore used.

The second step required a more complex model to be created in order to include all possible variables at once and to detect any variable(s) within the model which could be important in increasing the land price in the selected region. Based on this key idea and the results obtained from the correlation analysis, different regression models were tested. For the purposes of our analysis, three regression models MOD1, MOD2 and MOD3 are presented. Certain models differ in parts of independent variables, while the dependent variable is the same in all tested models. MOD2 represents the most suitable model, MOD1 and MOD3 represent other selected models for the purposes of comparing and evaluating certain possibilities which include possible independent variables. MOD1 is based on indicators connected mainly with households and their behaviour, MOD3 also includes a commercial parameter and calculates the number of economic entities in Olomouc. Detailed characteristics of regression models are as follows.

#### **MOD1**

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \beta_5X_5 + \beta_6X_6 + \beta_7X_7 + \beta_8X_8 + u \quad (1)$$

where  $\beta_0.. \beta_8$  represent regression coefficients which can show the influence of independent variables on a dependent variable. Dependent variable Y is represented by land price in Olomouc in CZK per square metre, calculated as a median of all prices of all land in Olomouc in certain years of the period 2006–2016. Variable u represents a dummy variable. MOD1 is based on the following independent variables:

- X1 – GDP per capita per year, Olomouc Region (GDP);



- X2 – total net income per capita in CZK per year, municipalities with a population of 100 000+ (Inc);
- X3 – number of unemployed people in thousands, Olomouc Region (Unem);
- X4 – average discount rate per year, Czech Republic (Disc);
- X5 – population/number of inhabitants, district of Olomouc (Inhab);
- X6 – number of started flats, district of Olomouc (Flatst);
- X7 – number of finished flats, district of Olomouc (Flatfi);
- X8 – time/years 2006–2016 (Time).

**MOD2**

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \beta_5X_5 + u \quad (2)$$

where  $\beta_0.. \beta_5$  represent regression coefficients which can show the influence of independent variables on a dependent variable. Dependent variable Y is represented by land price in Olomouc in CZK per square metre, calculated as a median of all prices of all land in Olomouc in certain years of the period 2006–2016. Variable u represents a dummy variable. MOD2 is based on the following independent variables:

- X1 – GDP per capita per year, Olomouc Region (GDP);
- X2 – number of unemployed people in thousands, Olomouc Region (Unem);
- X3 – population/number of inhabitants, district of Olomouc (Inhab);
- X4 – number of started flats, district of Olomouc (Flatst);
- X5 – number of finished flats, district of Olomouc (Flatfi).

**MOD3**

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \beta_5X_5 + \beta_6X_6 + \beta_7X_7 + \beta_8X_8 + \beta_9X_9 + u \quad (3)$$

where  $\beta_0.. \beta_9$  represent regression coefficients which can show the influence of independent variables on a dependent variable. Dependent variable Y is represented by land price in Olomouc in CZK per square metre, calculated as a median of all prices of all land in Olomouc in certain years of the period 2006–2016. Variable u represents a dummy variable. MOD3 is based on the following independent variables:

- X1 – GDP per capita per year, Olomouc Region (GDP);
- X2 – total net income per capita in CZK per year, municipalities with a population of 100 000+ (Inc);
- X3 – number of unemployed people in thousands, Olomouc Region (Unem);
- X4 – average discount rate per year, Czech Republic (Disc);
- X5 – population/number of inhabitants, district of Olomouc (Inhab);
- X6 – number of started flats, district of Olomouc (Flatst);
- X7 – number of finished flats, district of Olomouc (Flatfi);
- X8 – registered economic entities (31 December), district of Olomouc (EconS);
- X9 – time/years 2006–2016 (Time).

**3. Temporal Dependencies and Changes in Land Prices***3.1. Temporal Changes*

The first analytical step was evaluating temporal development of the price map in Olomouc. Several basic statistical characteristics were calculated: the arithmetic mean, median and mode. For the reasons given in the chapter on data, the same quantity of priced parcels was unfortunately not available for each time interval. The number of parcels had decreased over the monitored period from 44% to 28%. These indicators of central tendency have served as a general tool for assessing price development over the past 15 years. The median was used as the main measurement of development, which is not, as opposed to the mean, so affected by extreme values.



Inc	<b>0.975</b>	0.958	1							
Unem	-0.366	-0.519	-0.353	1						
Disc	<b>-0.763</b>	-0.671	-0.744	-0.141	1					
Inhab	<b>0.979</b>	0.954	0.981	-0.408	-0.702	1				
Flatst	-0.434	-0.325	-0.407	-0.470	0.831	-0.346	1			
Flatfi	-0.261	-0.286	-0.169	-0.004	0.343	-0.084	0.308	1		
Econs	<b>0.923</b>	0.9321	0.932	-0.417	-0.659	0.906	-0.394	-0.291	1	
Time	<b>0.967</b>	0.9776	0.955	-0.371	-0.785	0.941	-0.462	-0.350	0.903	1

In the key variable “Land price”, we observe a statistically significant positive correlation between Price and GDP, Income, Inhabitants and Time. By contrast, a statistically significant negative correlation can be seen between Price and Discount rate. The possible relationship between Price and Unemployment rate, Flats started and Flats finished is rather negative, but not statistically significant.

In the second step, we created and tested more complex regression models, working with all the variables used in the correlation analysis. Based on the results of the correlation analysis, three regression models MOD1, MOD2 and MOD3 were created. Detailed characteristics of these regression models are described in Chapter 2. The Durbin-Watson test was used for the purposes of eliminating autocorrelation.

All models work with the same dependent variable Y, which is represented by land price in Olomouc in CZK per square meter, calculated as a median of all prices of all land in Olomouc in certain years in the period 2006–2016. The key results of all regression models are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Regression Analysis.

	MOD1		MOD2		MOD3	
	Sig.	Coef.	Sig.	Coef.	Sig.	Coef.
X1 - GDP	<b>0.08410</b>	-0.00619	<b>0.01251</b>	<b>-0.00326</b>	0.17305	-0.00571
X2 - Inc	0.33726	0.002482	x	x	0.29034	0.00373
X3 - Unem	<b>0.08191</b>	-9.3093	<b>0.02902</b>	<b>-6.20463</b>	0.14726	-9.99564
X4 - Disc	0.19618	43.78856	x	x	0.22963	51.09622
X5 - Inhab	<b>0.01031</b>	<b>0.241803</b>	<b>0.00000</b>	<b>0.23893</b>	<b>0.05240</b>	<b>0.24664</b>
X6 - Flatst	<b>0.06849</b>	-0.17491	<b>0.01204</b>	<b>-0.10439</b>	0.13683	-0.20732
X7 - Flatfi	<b>0.01634</b>	<b>-0.36197</b>	<b>0.0001</b>	<b>-0.33761</b>	<b>0.07061</b>	-0.39304
X8 - EconS	x	x	x	x	0.38877	-0.00727
X9 - Time	0.31664	19.51697	x	x	0.53013	11.9059
Constant	<b>0.08927</b>	-92337.5	<b>0.00000</b>	<b>-52896.8</b>	0.207289	-77492.7
Observ.	11		<b>11</b>		11	
R2	0.99967		<b>0.99885</b>		0.999893	
Signif	<b>0.00261</b>		<b>0.00000</b>		<b>0.034093</b>	
DW	2.33		<b>2.15</b>		3.19	

The key question, also suggested at the beginning of our research as one of the hypotheses in our research, is whether land price is influenced by the development of macroeconomic indicators. Focusing on regression models MOD1, MOD2 and MOD3, we can see that the answer is neither yes nor no. Generally, some of macroeconomic indicators are statistically significant in the selected models, namely GDP and unemployment. However, other economic indicators such as net income, average discount rate and number of registered economic entities are not statistically significant.



Looking at the models in more detail, MOD1 represents in general a statistically significant model, the Durbin-Watson test simultaneously confirming no autocorrelation. Not all included variables are statistically significant, though. Therefore, we excluded some of the non-significant variables and created the shorter yet statistically significant model MOD2.

Model MOD2 also contains no autocorrelation. Regarding the significance of certain variables, we can distinguish 0.01 and 0.05 as two levels of significance. Regarding the 0.01 significance level, we can say that the number of inhabitants influences land price in Olomouc rather positively and the number of finished flats rather negatively. Other coefficients represent variables with 0.05 significance level, and their influence is rather negative (GDP, unemployment, number of started and finished flats).

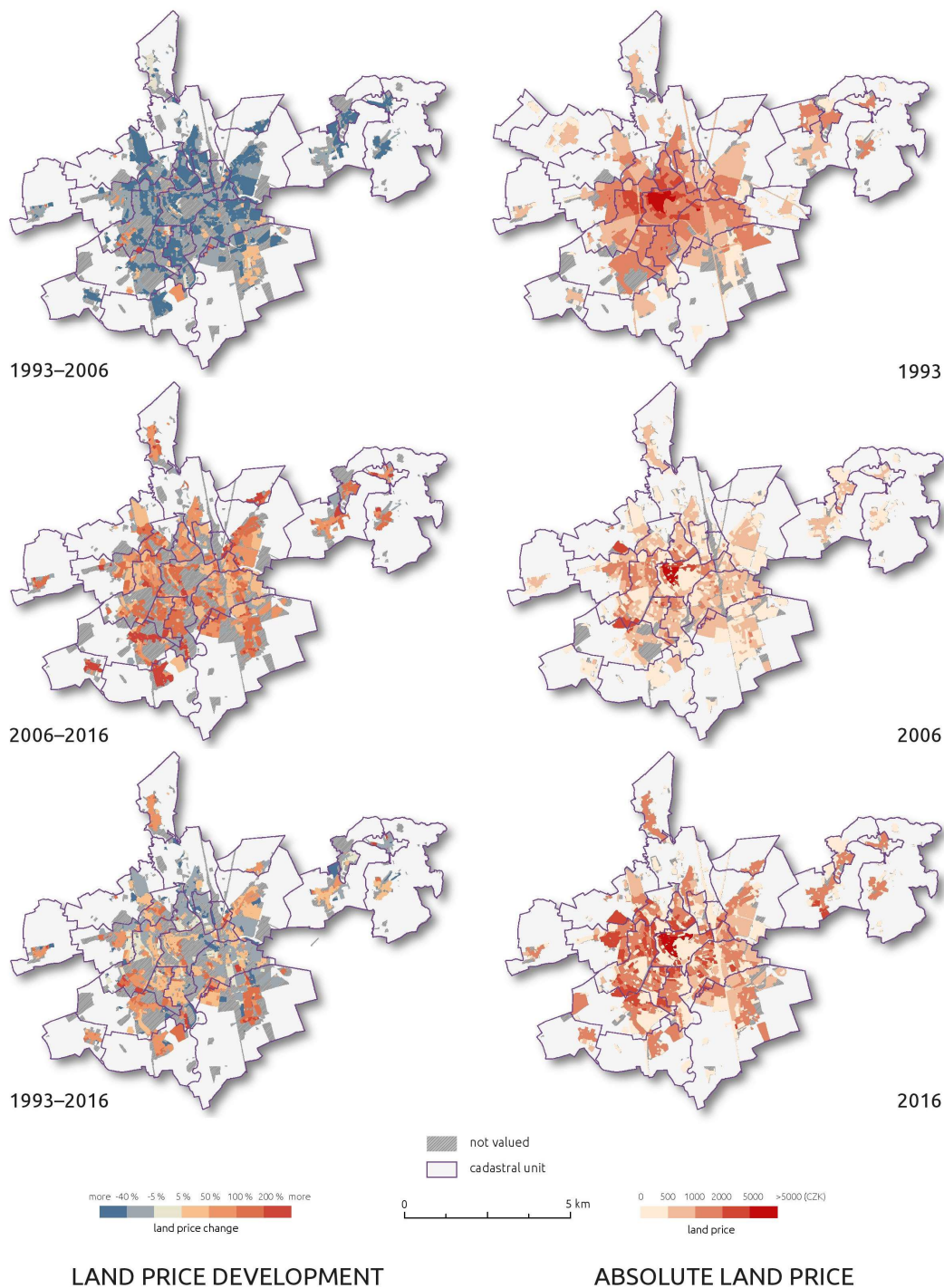
Compared to MOD1 and MOD2, MOD3 also includes the number of registered economic entities. However, based on the results of regression analysis, this model is not statistically correct, the Durbin-Watson test showing autocorrelation. Furthermore, the influence of certain macroeconomic indicators on land price development is not statistically significant in this model.

#### 4. Spatial Dependencies and Changes in Land Prices

The first objective was to identify areas where prices did not change significantly over time or where price development might have been occurring. For this analysis, the data was modified as described in Chapter 2.3. First, the absolute price difference between two years was calculated, which was then converted to a relative value for better mutual comparison. The values were adjusted to log: 0% – the price did not change; 100% – the price increased by 100%, (i.e., twice the original value), etc. Stable areas were defined as areas where the price changed by a maximum of 5%. Both absolute values and temporal developments were visualized (Fig. 2) and the basic spatial distribution of prices and changes was evaluated.

In the first part of the monitored period (1993–2006), the overall decline in prices in most parts of the city, even in the historical centre, which was the most expensive area (the absolute value of the land is still, however, in the highest category above CZK 5000), was observed. In this period, the value grew only in the south-eastern part Holic, where areas of individual housing dominate. A significant area of long-term growth is also located in the south of Nemilany, where a retail/industrial complex has gradually been established. The highest land prices were in the historical city centre. In the following period (2006–2016), prices increased across the city. Relevant growth was seen in the city districts Slavonín and Řepčín (the southern and north-western parts of the city), which both had new shopping centres established in 2002 and 2005. In part of the city centre, prices were strengthened, for example, by the completion of the Šantovka shopping centre, which increased the attractiveness of this locality. Another increase is also found in the Nedvězí and Nemilany cadastres. Here, areas of personal housing dominate, and the rise in prices is related to an overall trend of suburbanization when areas in the suburbs started being attractive for living and several new residential areas of individual housing were created.

Regarding the absolute price of parcels, spatial distribution changed over time. In 1993, it was possible to see a pattern of increasing prices towards the centre, the highest prices being in the historical centre of the town. In the peripheral areas, most of the parcels were in the two cheapest price categories, i.e., up to CZK 1000 (except for the eastern parts Svatý Kopeček, Lošov and Radíkov). In 2006, the price of most parcels fell significantly, while the highest prices were maintained in the historical centre and in two areas on the outskirts—the new shopping centres (Olomouc City in Řepčín and Centrum Haná in Slavonín/Nová Ulice). By 2016, expensive land again remained in the historical centre, but the value of more parcels in the outer parts of the city was also increasing. By contrast, many areas in the inner part of the town had fallen to the lowest price category. From a temporal point of view, the permanent preservation of high prices in the historical centre is seen, other areas have changed over time and peripheral areas have become more attractive.



**Figure 2.** Land price development changes in Olomouc.

However, the overall change in land price does not indicate the dynamics of the changes in the period analysed or the trend of price behaviour. For this reason, a typology of areas was designed concerning price development. We determined whether a decrease or growth occurred in the time interval and whether this change was above the significance limit (i.e., greater than + 5%). The typology is summarized in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Typology of Land Price Changes.

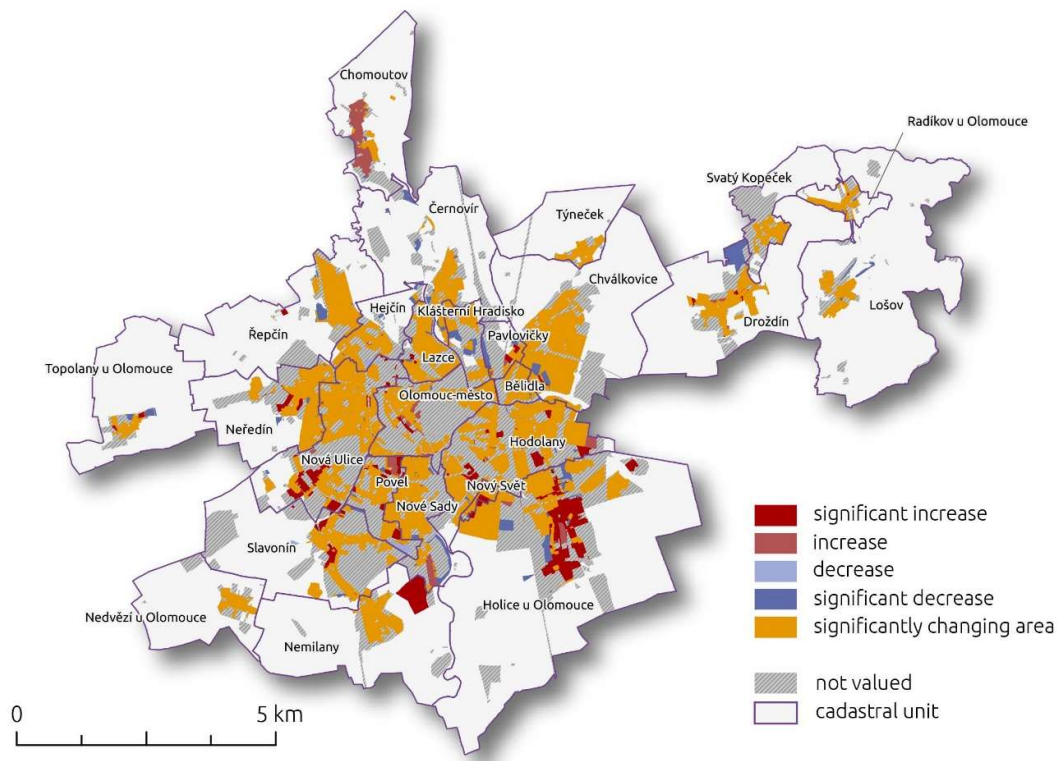
1993–2006	2006–2016	Development Category	Area Ratio
+	+	significant increase	9.2%
/ or +	+ or /	increase	3.7%
/	/	stable area	0%
/ or -	- or /	decrease	0.5%
-	-	significant decrease	5.2%
+ or -	+ or -	significantly changing area	81.4%

where:

+ means a significant price increase (more than 5%)

- means a significant price decrease (more than 5%)

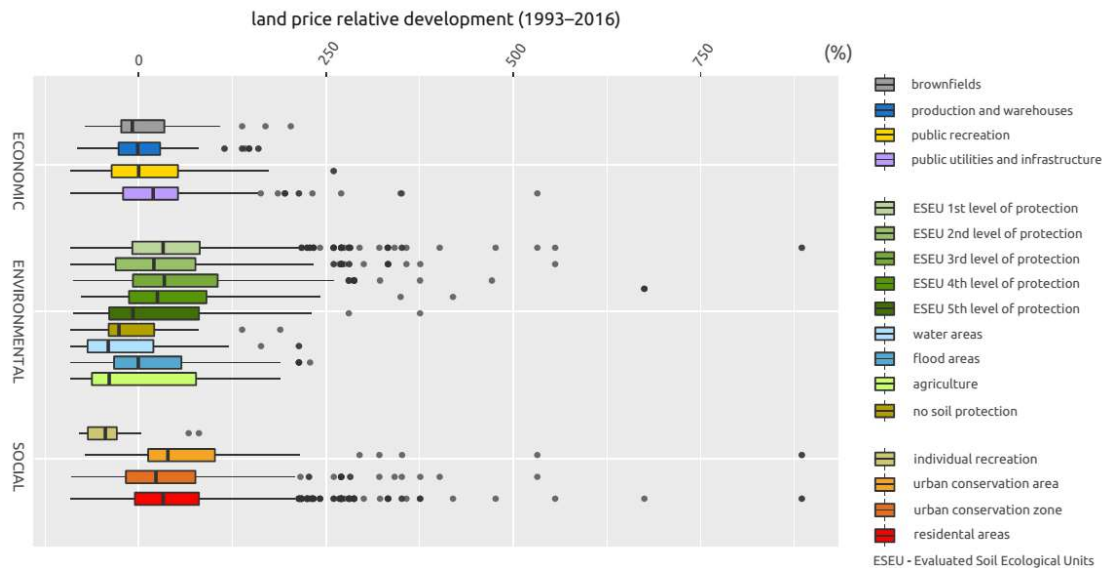
/ means no significant change (less than 5%)

**Figure 3.** Land price development changes in Olomouc.

This analysis shows that the temporal evaluation dominates areas where the price has changed significantly in both directions and no clear trend can be observed. This behaviour follows the overall drop in prices in the initial period and their subsequent growth in the second half of the monitored period, as described in Chapter 3.1. No long-term stable areas were found in the area of interest, with a 5% tolerance of change. Different tolerance limits were tested: with 15% tolerance, only 1.3% is stable; with 20% tolerance, 4.5% is stable; with 30% tolerance, 6% is stable. Even with higher tolerances for change, an insignificant number of areas is categorized as stable in terms of price. This is surprising, because several stabilized areas exist, as defined by Burian [35,40] from the master plans of the city of Olomouc. Probably, there is no correlation between stability of land-use and stability of

land prices. Long-term rising price parcels are located mainly in the suburbs; their largest representation is in the residential south-eastern part of the city.

Since the changing patterns of parcel price dominates the typology, we concluded that partial temporal changes and trends are not significantly decisive for overall spatial assessment. Therefore, relative price development in the period 1993–2016 followed by absolute price in 2016 were used to assess overall sustainability in three individual aspects (environmental, social and economic). These were defined as a key part of evaluating sustainability development. In each aspect, we identified several topics for assessing price development in a spatial context. All topics and their values are presented in the following figures and subchapters.



**Figure 4.** Land price development changes related to economic, environmental and social aspects.



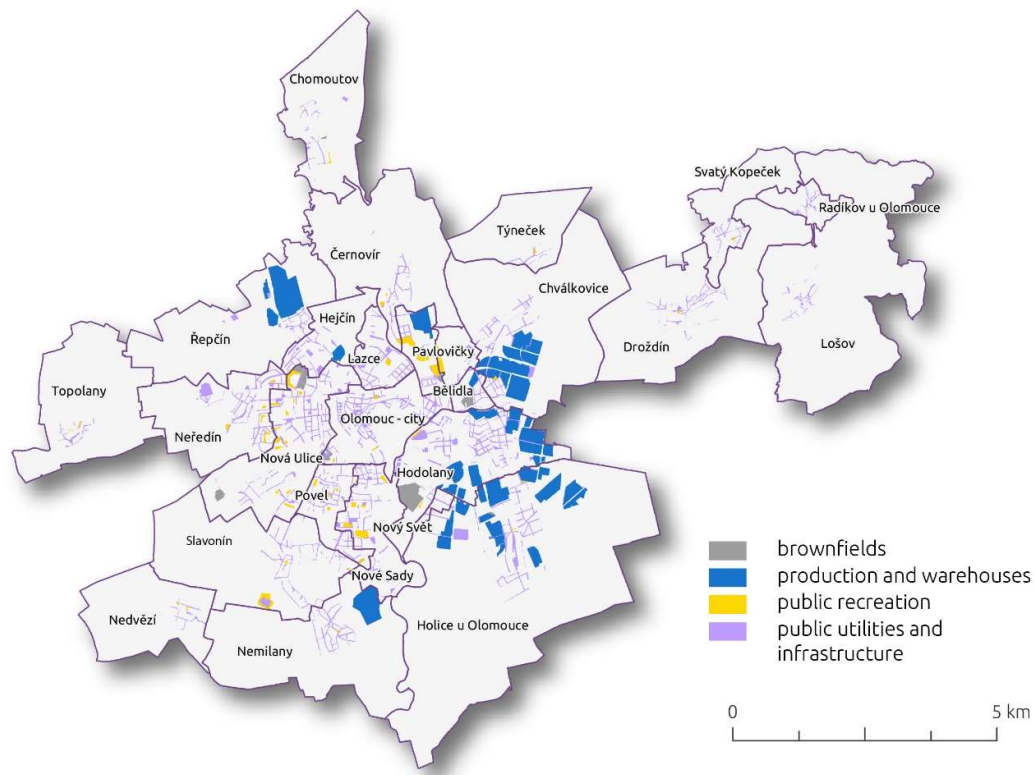
**Figure 5.** Land prices related to economic, environmental, and social aspects.

#### 4.1. Economic Aspects

From an economic point of view, land prices were analysed in categories defined by the Olomouc master plan as brownfields, production and warehouses, public recreation and public



utilities and infrastructure (Fig. 6). The aim was to elaborate on the dependencies between land-use type and land price and to find out whether any land-use category was more significant for the real estate market than others. Surprisingly, prices did not develop as dramatically as in other aspects. For brownfields, we observed even a slight overall decline in prices, as these locations are probably not interesting to investors, perhaps because of the higher costs for reconstruction and elimination of environmental burdens. From a spatial point of view, these categories do not have any spatial pattern, except for production and warehouses located mainly in the eastern part of the city near rail transport. Generally, it is possible to say that the four selected economic spatial aspects are the most stable in terms of price development and did not record any dramatic changes in the monitored period. Also, regarding absolute price (2016), the price of most land in economic land-use categories did not exceed CZK 2500.



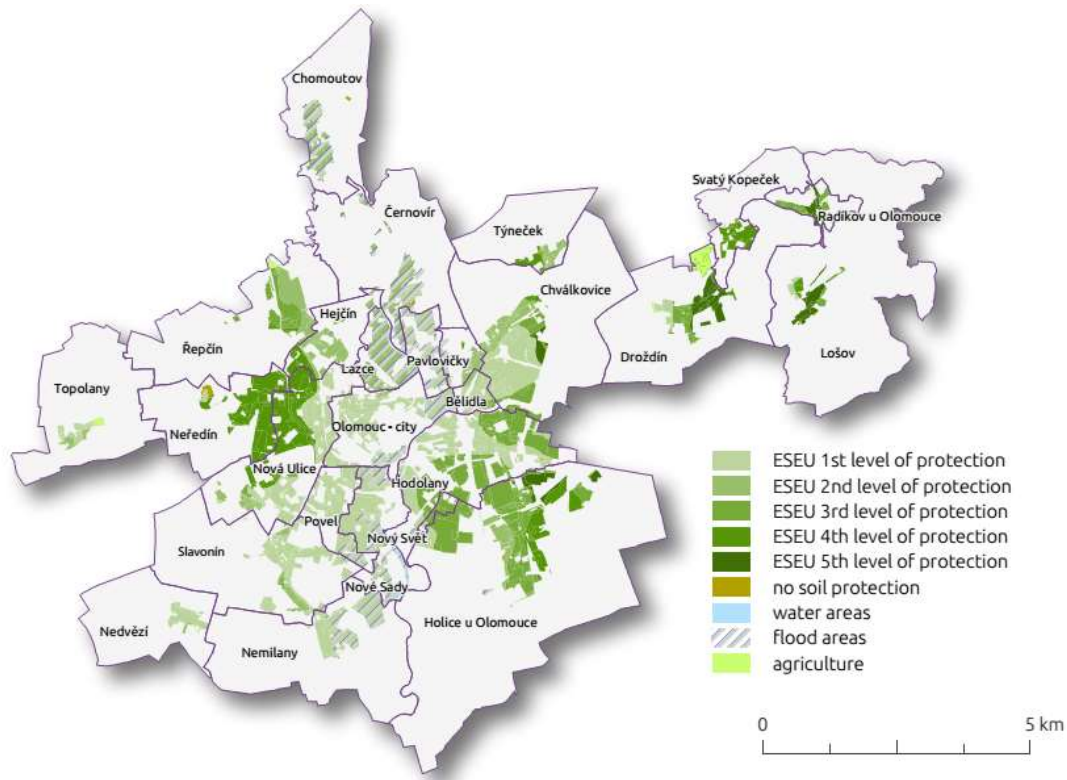
**Figure 6.** Spatial distribution of economic aspects.

#### 4.2. Environmental Aspects

From an environmental point of view (Fig. 7), the significant impact of soil protection level (ESEU – Evaluated Soil Ecological Unit) on the development of its price is evident. The highest increase is in the price of land in the first and third protection levels, which covers the majority of the area of priced parcels. The zone of these soils passes through the city from north to south and occupies more than 50% of parcels. However, a noticeable stagnation/decrease can be seen for 5th level of soil protection and soils without any ecological protection. These areas are in the eastern outskirts of the city (Droždín, Lošov, Svatý Kopeček and Radíkov). In this part of the city, the slope of the terrain changes significantly and increases the degree of afforestation. Top quality soils (the first four degrees of protection) went up considerably in price over the years. Their absolute price is also higher than for the remaining levels (5th level and land without protection). An interesting category is land related to watercourses—parcels in the flood zone of 20-year water and areas classified as ‘water areas’ (which are the closest parcels to watercourses) were selected. These categories (as one of the few) declined in price. This is probably due to the floods in 1997 (100-year floods), which had a significant impact on the city. Disastrous floods affected a third of the city, 50 people died, and more



than 26,000 inhabitants were evacuated from the area [41]. The propensity of these locations to flooding was therefore reflected in the price of land. The most significant decline occurred in the northern part of the city in the Černovír, Klášterní Hradisko and Lazce cadastral units. The flood area mostly comprises areas of individual housing. Least important for the analysis is the agricultural area category, which covers only a few parcels of the monitored area. Similarly, the water area category includes only a limited number of parcels, but flood areas complement it.

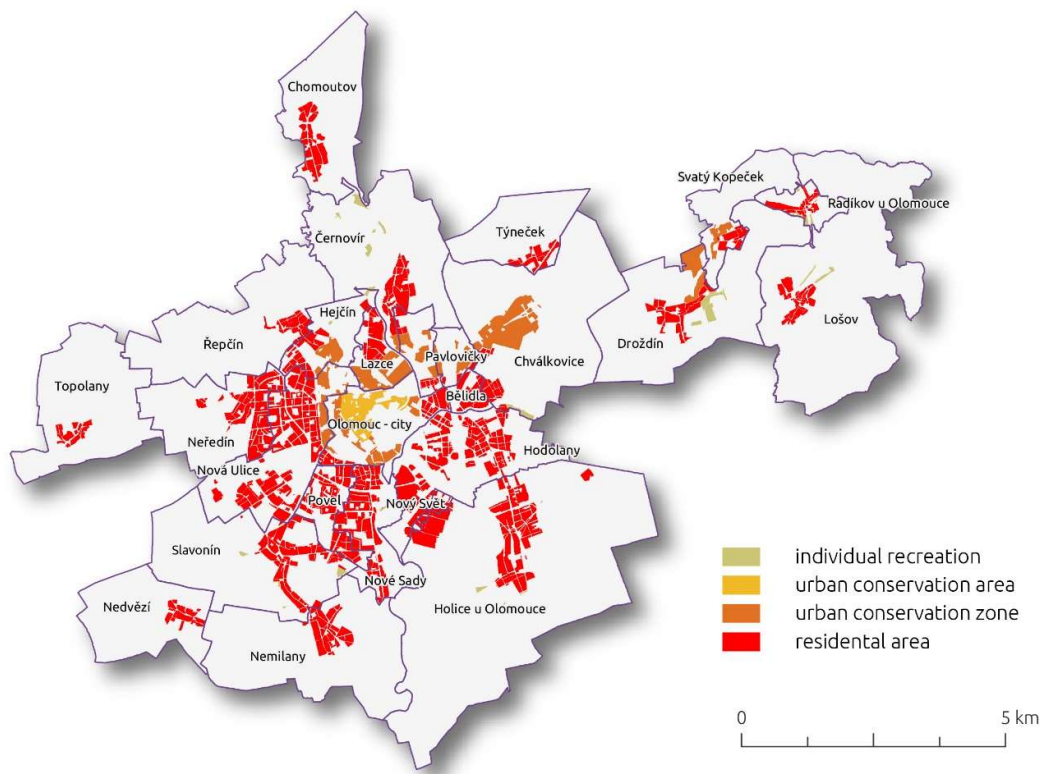


**Figure 7.** Spatial distribution of environmental aspects.

#### 4.3. Social Aspects

The social aspect (Fig. 8) is the most interesting to analyse regarding land price. The most significant developments and overall price increases were expected in residential areas. For this assessment, residential areas, individual recreational areas and parcels located in the urban conservation zone and area (historical centre of the city) were selected. Individual recreational areas, most of them being gardening and cottage areas, showed a strong drop in price. These areas have minor representation and are located mainly in the city suburbs. Currently, interest in these gardening activities is low, engaging mainly seniors, and overall demand is declining. This is evident in the price trend, which has the most significant drop in all the monitored categories. Also, the absolute value of these parcels is the lowest. Progressing conversely, prices in residential areas and protected areas changed. The current demand for personal housing in Olomouc is very high and the price of these parcels is continually increasing. Several locations are experiencing intensive construction of new units designed for individual housing. Generally, residential areas are relatively equally distributed across the city. In the studied period, this category experienced a significant price increase across the city, even more extensively than in the urban conservation zone. Except for the city centre itself, price has grown significantly in peripheral parts of the city (the south-eastern cadastre of Holice and southwestern Slavonín, Nové Sady and part of Nová Ulice). Concerning absolute price, however, conservation areas still lead. A specific category is the historical centre, which is protected as an urban conservation area. Here, a strong price increase is observed, and

regarding absolute price, it is unequivocally the highest. The variation of prices here is also great; however, even 50% of all parcels in this category surpass all other assessed aspects.



**Figure 8.** Spatial distribution of social aspects.

The overall assessment points to the most significant impact of social and environmental spatial aspects: a rise in prices occurred in these categories. Categories with a decrease in price are minimal—these are primarily risk areas near watercourses which are prone to flooding. The growth of land prices for high-quality land is also significant. This might be because the Olomouc Region is characterized by soil of the highest quality in the Czech Republic. Parcels with lower soil quality were built on in the past and the city can now only be developed on parcels with higher soil protection levels. These classes compare to those of personal housing, which has seen increased interest in recent years and lead construction activities to being focused on this type of housing. The analysis confirmed the expectation that the most lucrative parcels are located in the city's historical core. This is demonstrated both in the absolute price of land and its change over the monitored period.

#### 4. Discussion

Regarding the influence of the development of macroeconomic indicators on land price, the results of the regression analysis show that the most significant indicators for land price increase/decrease in time are the indicators “number of inhabitants” and “number of finished flats”. Other indicators with a significant impact are “GDP”, “unemployment” and “number of started flats”. It partially corresponds to the results of Yang [12], where the influence of immigrant population, GDP and investment in residential buildings were observed. However, the influence of “net income per capita” is not significant for land price development in Olomouc compared to results obtained by Mou [10] in his analysis, which also includes the influence of average wages of employees on land price in selected cities.

It is important to emphasize that the results presented in this study are based on a detailed data set for one city: Olomouc. However, the studies mentioned above examine a selected group of cities,

and their results show that the significance, direction and magnitude of the relationships between selected factors can vary across cities [10].

Based on an analysis of master plans, Burian [35] explored the changes in several stable areas in Olomouc (450 ha of agricultural land; 352 ha of housing areas; and 128 ha of city parks and public services areas). We assumed that these stable areas would have been linked to stable land prices. Surprisingly, no long-term stable areas were found in the area of interest, with a 5% (or higher) tolerance of change. There is a link, however, between price increase and some changes in the land-use type in the master plan. This study shows that long-term rising parcel prices are seen mainly in the suburbs, their largest representation being in the residential south-eastern part of the city. Most are located in areas marked by Burian [35] as the most variable localities. Two of them are represented by commercial activities (Globus shopping centre in the Řepčín cadastre and Šantovka shopping centre in the city's centre).

In relation to the spatial analysis of the impact of different aspects, some valued parcels overlap and a parcel may comprise several aspects (for example, parcels in the historical centre are included in both residential area and urban conservation area categories). As evaluation was performed from different points of view, this phenomenon cannot be avoided. This means the differences in price changes in individual categories are not so significant, however, the analysis offers a more complex evaluation.

The overall assessment of total prices and their changes over the three time intervals revealed some patterns in price map behaviour. The most conspicuous is the city's historical centre: here, we can see the highest long-term land prices, even in the period of decrease in prices. As we move away from the city centre, prices gradually decreased. In the second interval of the monitored period, the original spatial pattern disappeared as the value of peripheral parts of the city increased because of personal housing construction. The temporal development described in Chapter 3.1 is also reflected in the spatial visualization. An overall decline in prices in most parts of the city, even in the most expensive historical centre, was observed. Between 1993 and 2016, there was primarily an increase of price; the decrease is particularly evident in some parts of the city, affected mainly by the environmental aspect of flood areas.

## 5. Conclusions

Land price sustainability issues have been analysed by other authors previously. Based on the literature review, we discovered that only a few researchers had focused on an analysis of official land price maps, which are available very rarely. These maps are very significant documents which influence and control the real estate market in the larger cities of the Czech Republic. For this reason, we decided to perform an in-depth analysis of land prices of the city of Olomouc. Official land price maps from 1993 to 2016 were used as the primary data source for temporal and spatial dependencies and changes in land prices in Olomouc. Spatial changes were analysed from three aspects of sustainability: economic, environmental, and social. We proposed several research hypotheses to confirm some general statements about land price development.

The first research hypotheses concerned the link between changes in land prices and changes in macroeconomic indicators. The results of the regression analysis and consequent development of certain variables for the observed period suggests the answer to this question is partially affirmative. Some macroeconomic indicators had a significant impact on the changes in land prices in Olomouc in the period 2006–2016, but not in the case of all the observed macroeconomic indicators. We can conclude that the development of land prices is influenced by a mixture of economic, demographic and social indicators. It is also important to highlight that the analysis is based on land prices in CZK per square meter in Olomouc, calculated as a median of all prices of all land in Olomouc only. In case of using different prices for different localities, the results can be more precise.

In the residential and commercial areas and historical centre, land prices are significantly higher than in other monitored aspects. Overall price is dominated by the city's historical core. From the point of view of development during the monitored period, part of the hypothesis can be rejected: no significant growth in the commercial categories (represented here by the economic aspect) was

revealed. The price increase in three selected factors was quite low. Brownfields even showed a decrease in price. The hypothesis concerning residential areas and the historical centre is valid: price changes were highest in the three monitored categories. Absolute price in residential areas, especially those located in the historical centre, have been highest in the long term.

We assumed that there would be stable areas with no land price change which were comparable to stabilized land-use. Based on our analysis, we conclude that no connection exists between land-use stability and land price stability. Surprisingly, no long-term stable areas were found in the area of interest. Parcels with changes in land-use type are located mostly in areas with a significant land price increase (commercial areas).

The analysis confirmed that land price and its change over time varied in different spatial aspects. Surprisingly, the smallest influence was reflected in the economic aspect. However, price was significantly affected by land quality and its location within or outside the protected urban conservation area, as discussed above. Regarding natural events in recent decades, we observed a significant drop in land prices in the vicinity of watercourses threatened by flooding.

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