Financing Consumption by Age in France: Mutations in Savings over the Last Forty Years

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Context and methodology

- Partnership with France Strategy
- Project with Hippolyte d'Albis and Julien Navaux
- The NTAs have been constructed for the years 1979 to 2019 using surveys based on family Budget, wealth or life history of INSEE, and data from DREES.
- A database containing profiles by age and by cohort of 60 variables for all years from 1979 to 2019.
- Private consumption (education, health, others)
- Public consumption and public transfers (in cash)
- Taxes
- Family transfers
- Individual resources (from labour and assets)
- Private savings as the residual of the equation

Context and methodology (2)

- NTA methodology (Mason et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2011; United Nations, 2013)
- Decomposition by introducing the age dimension :

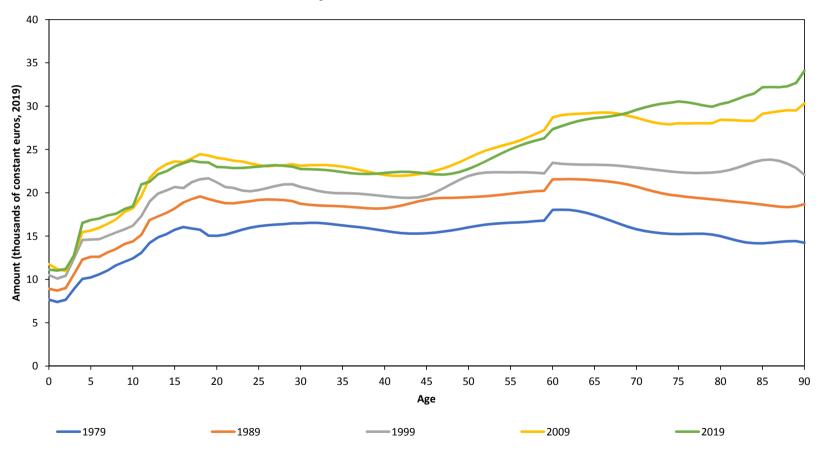
$$C(a) - YL(a) = T_{+}(a) - T_{-}(a) + YA(a) - S(a)$$

- Three steps: Individual profiles, aggregates, adjustment.
- Alternative decomposition by distinguishing public and private transfers (d'Albis et al., 2015, 2017, 2019) :

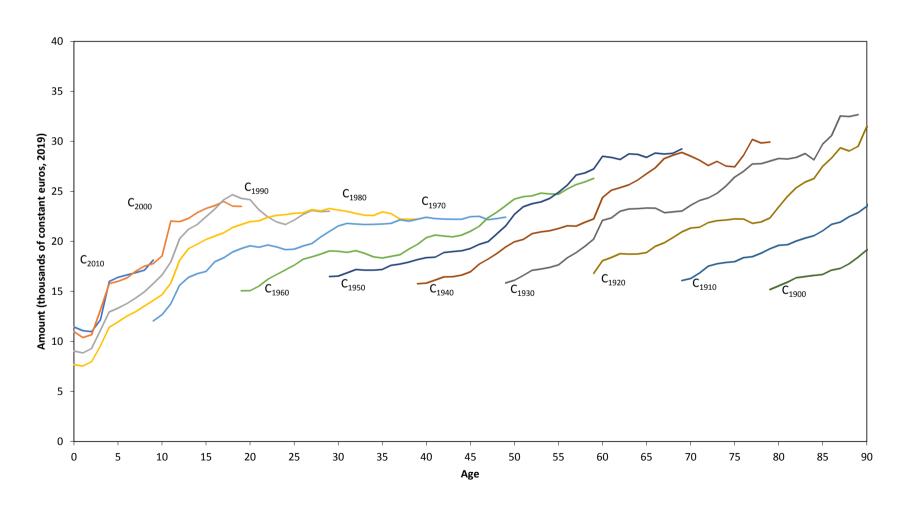
$$C(a) = [YL(a) + YAF(a) - SF(a)] + [TG_{+}(a) - TG_{-}(a) + YAG(a) - SG(a)] + [TF_{+}(a) - TF_{-}(a)]$$

Public and private consumption is thus financed by three main components: individual resources, government financing, net family transfers.

Consumption spending over age – per capita profiles



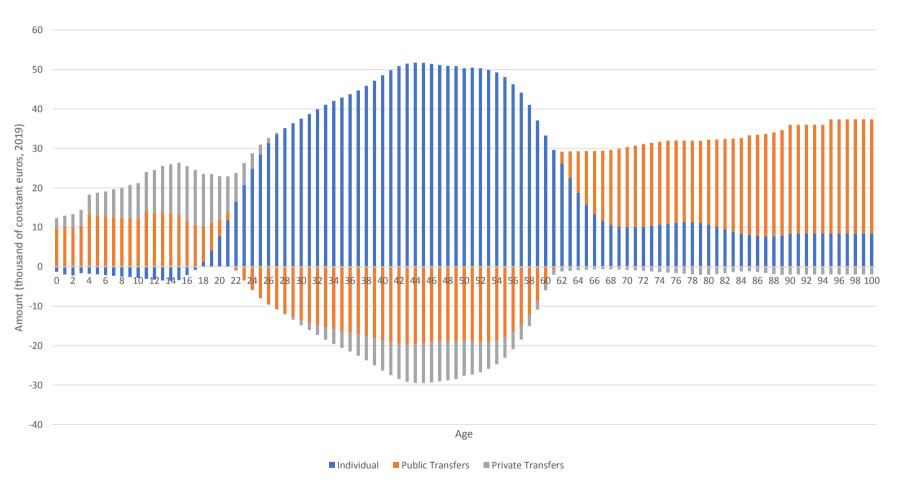
Consumption spending over age by birth cohorts – per capita profiles



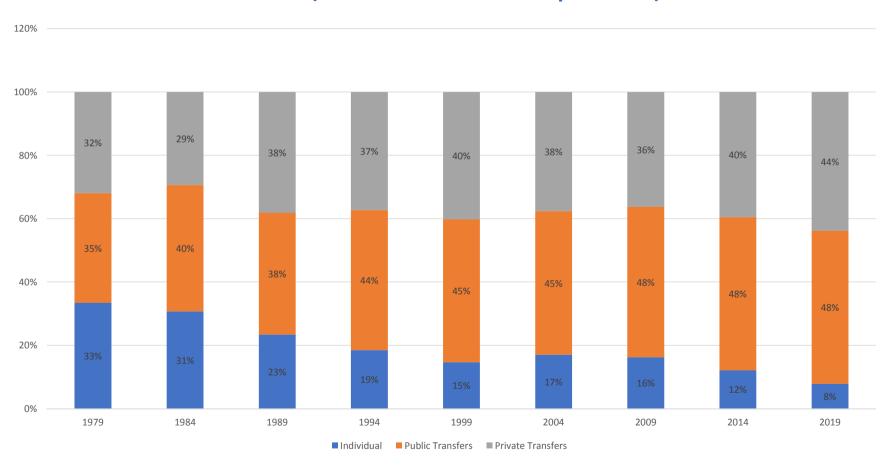
Financing consumption

- Net public transfers
- Net private transfers
- Individual revenues and savings

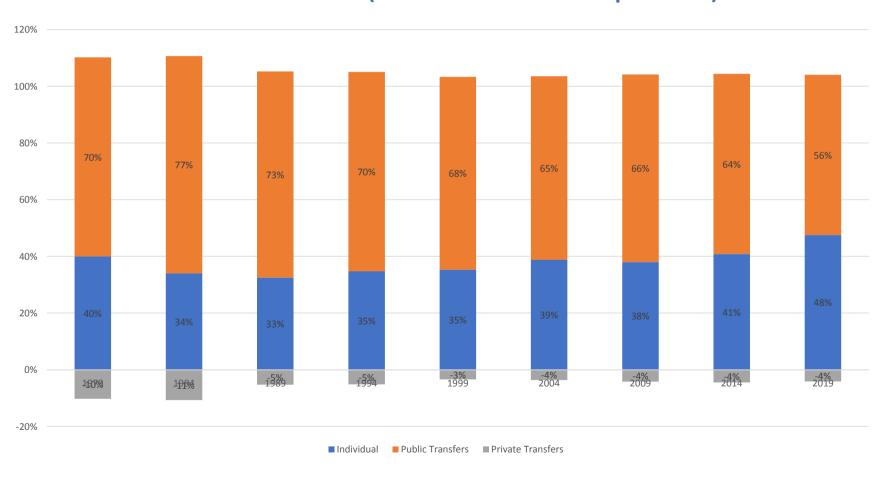
Consumption financing over age



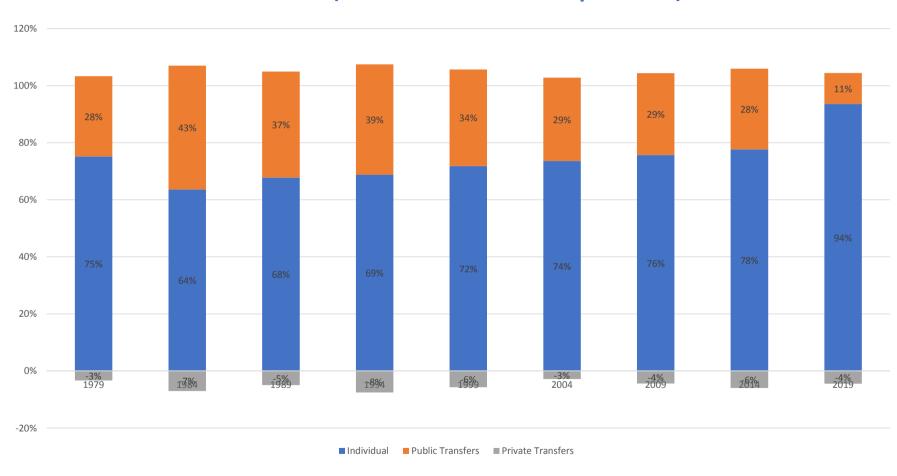
Variation in consumption financing for people aged 0-24 (% of consumption)



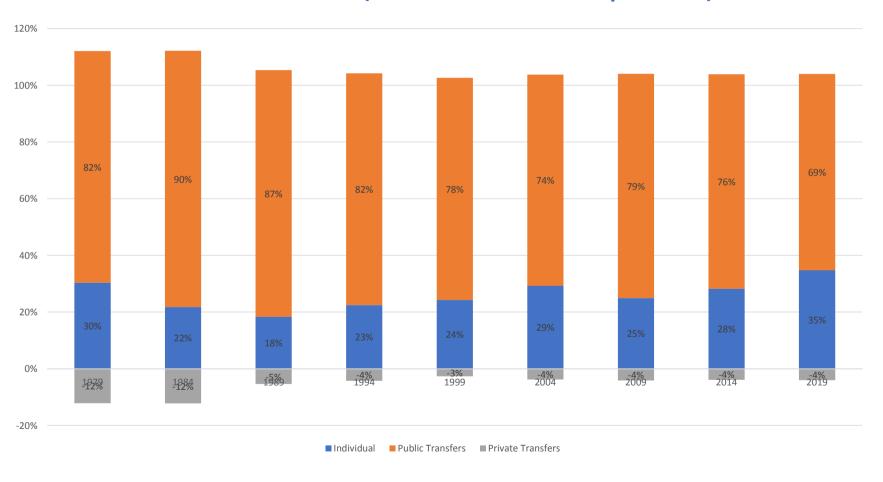
Variation in consumption financing for people aged 60 and over (% of consumption)



Variation in consumption financing for people aged 60-64 (% of consumption)



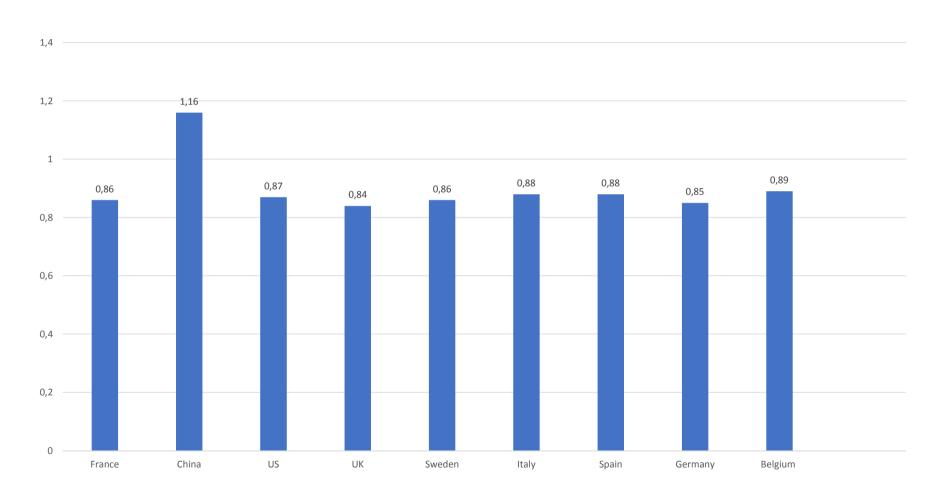
Variation in consumption financing for people aged 65 and over (% of consumption)



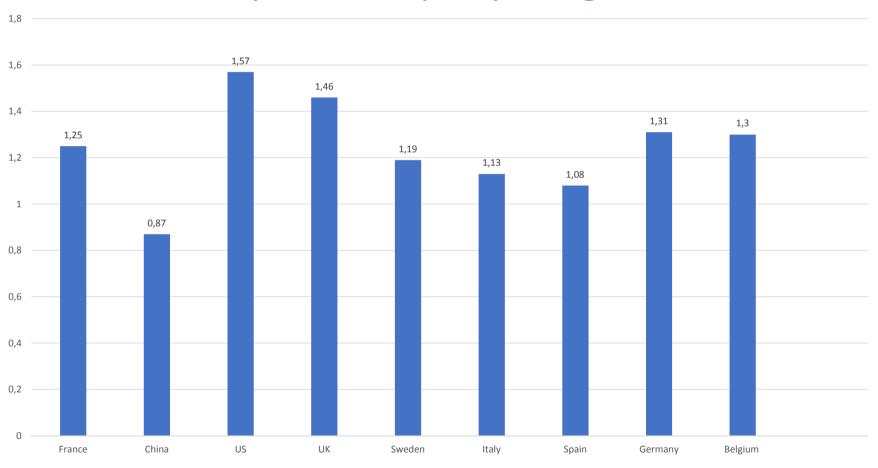
International comparisons

- ⇒European countries : AGENTA (2010)
- ⇒Household surveys : EU-SILC (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions)
- ⇒European account system ESA
- ⇒China and US: NTA for 2009 and 2011
- ⇒French data for 2010

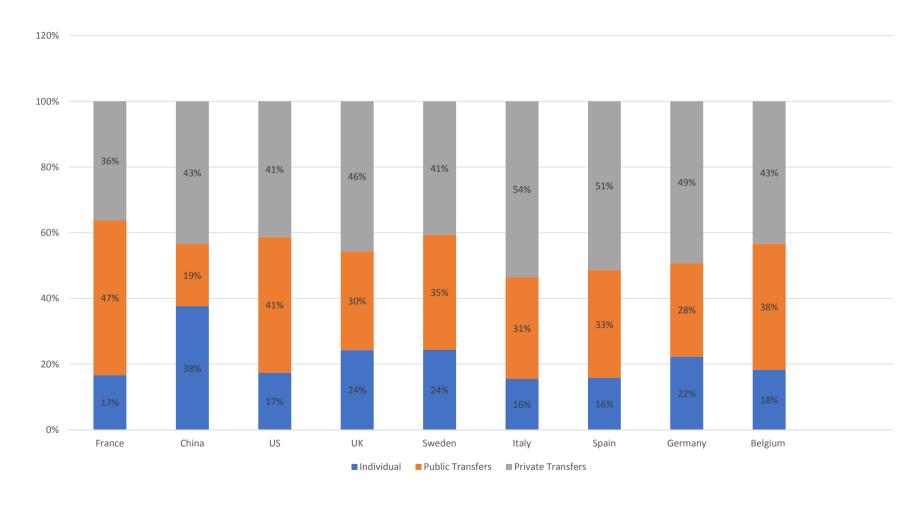
Consumption for people aged 0-24 / consumption for people aged 25-44



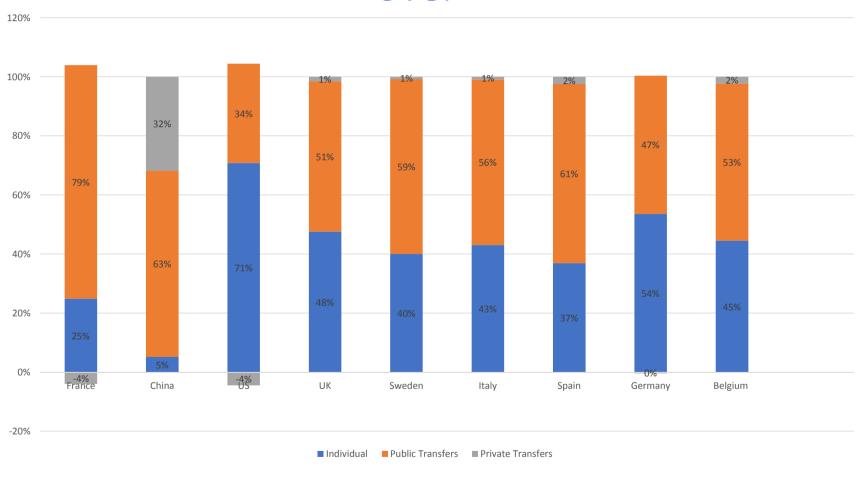
Consumption for people aged 65 and over / consumption for people aged 25-44



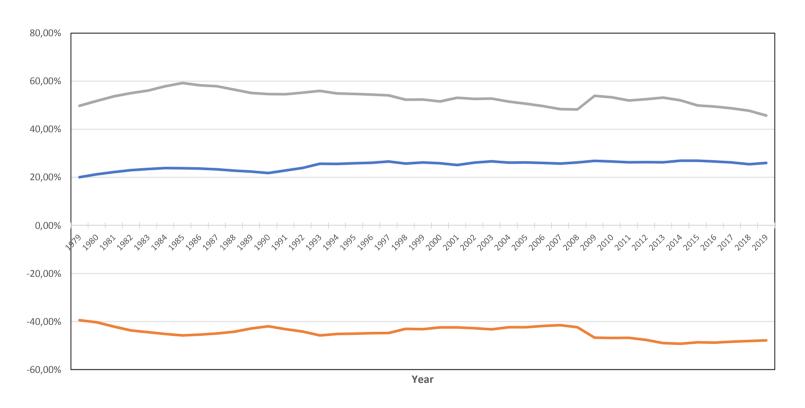
Consumption financing for people aged 0-24



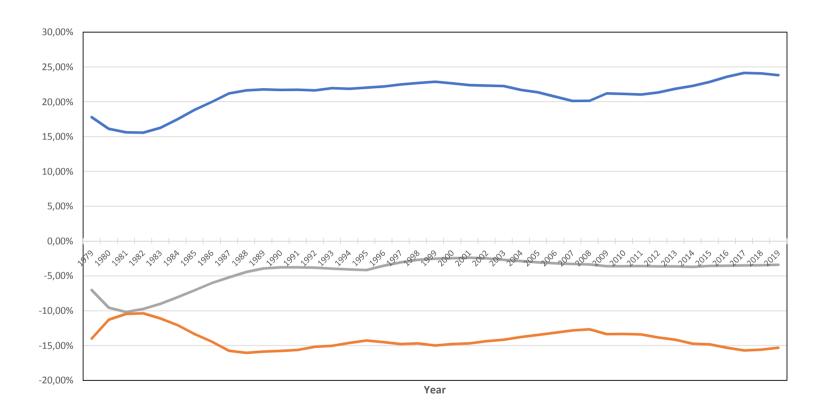
Consumption financing for people aged 65 and over



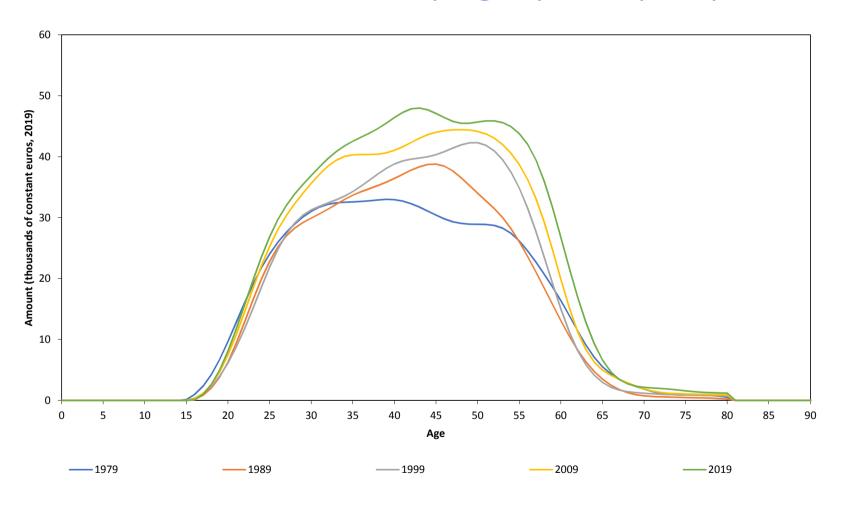
Public net transfers variations (% of GDP per capita)



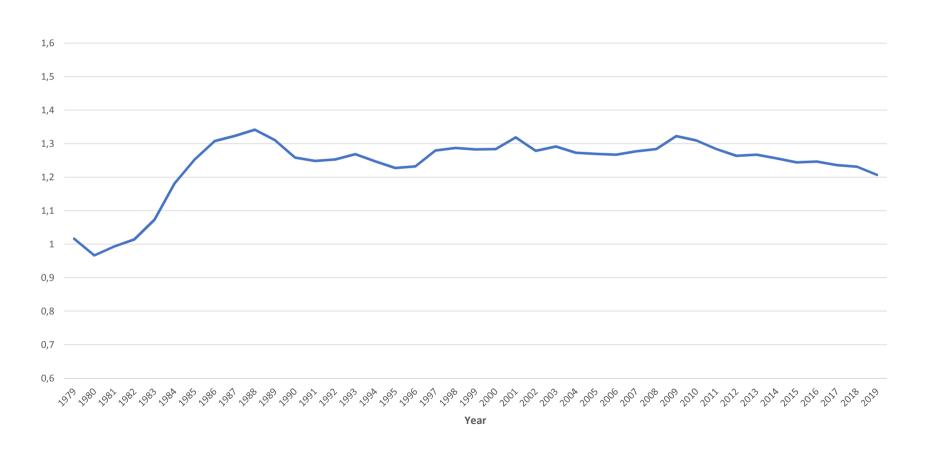
Private net transfers variations (% of GDP per capita)



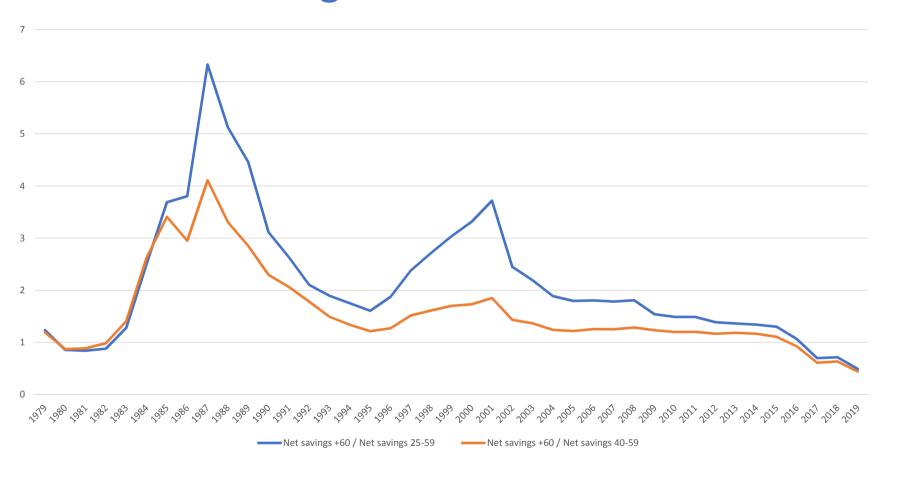
Variation of labour income by age: per capita profiles



Ratio of total income for people aged 60 and over to 25-59 year olds



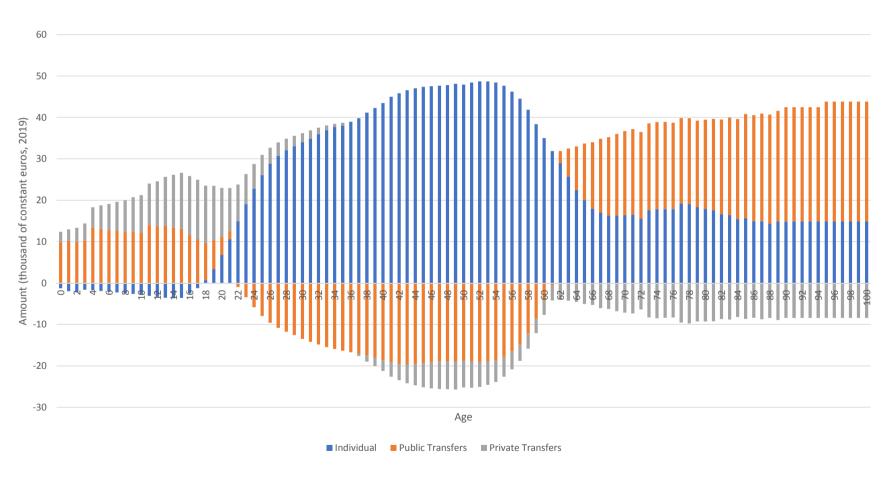
Ratio of net savings for people aged 60 and over / net savings for 25-59 and 40-59



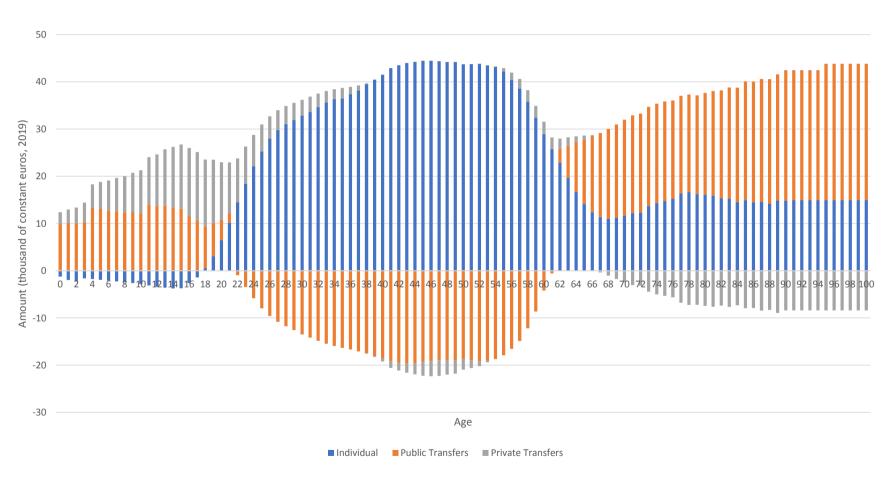
Alternative methodology – Taking into account living donations and inheritances

- ⇒French survey *Patrimoine* about wealth
- ⇒Construction of new aggregates for the profiles
- ⇒Both living donations and inheritances increasing throughout the period

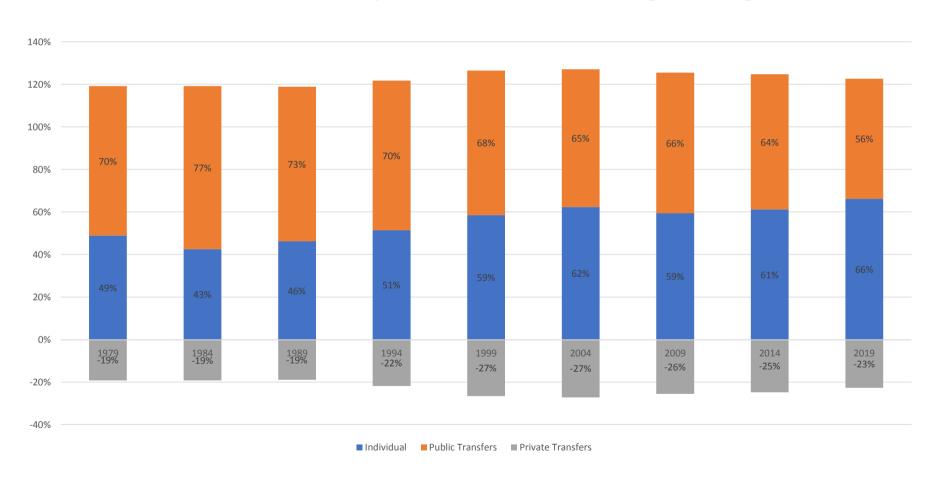
Consumption financing over age – including living donations



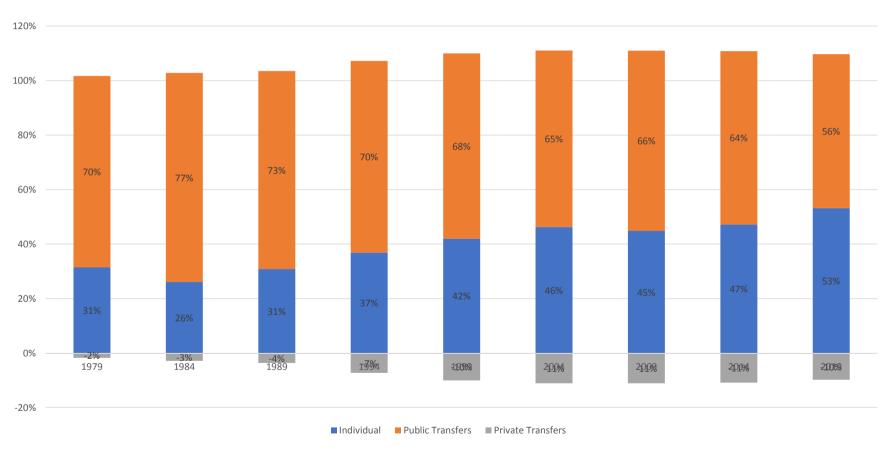
Consumption financing over age – including living donations and inheritances



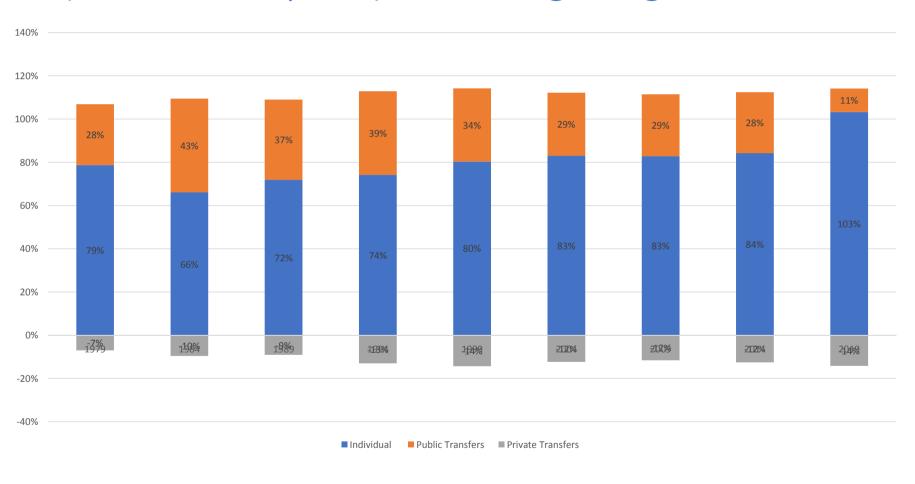
Variation in consumption financing for people aged 60 and over (% of consumption) – Including living donations



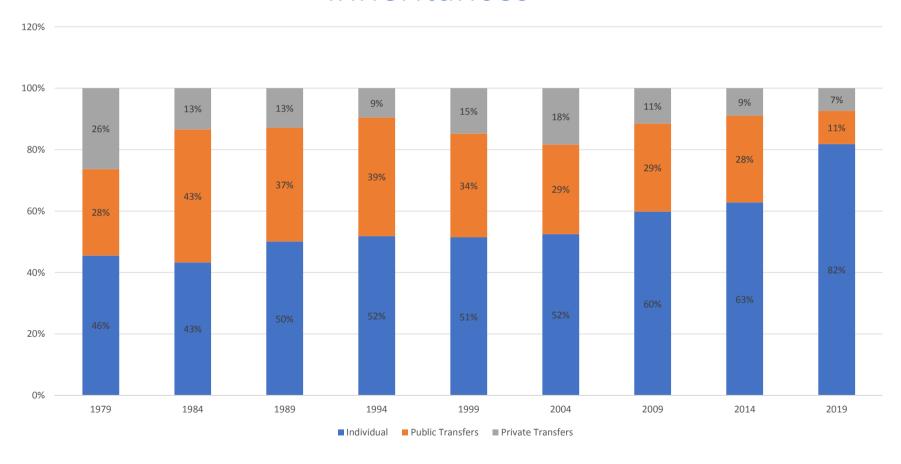
Variation in consumption financing for people aged 60 and over (% of consumption) – Including living donations and inheritances



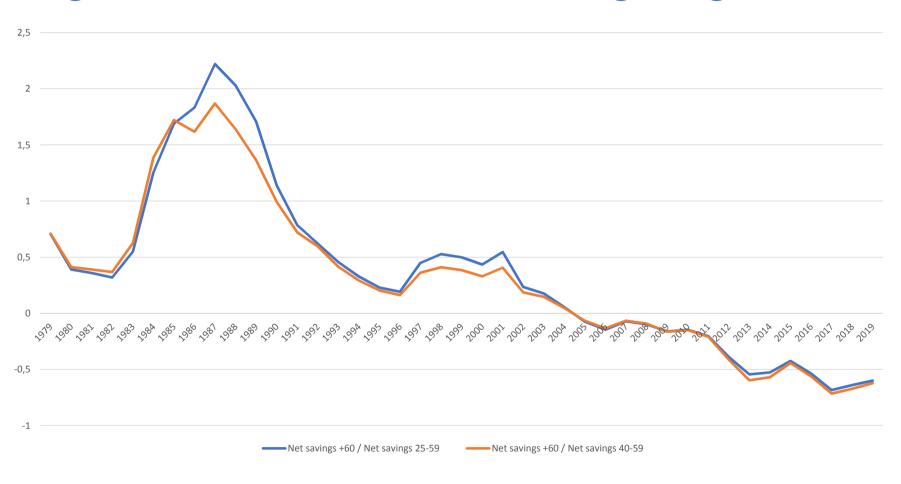
Variation in consumption financing for people aged 60-64 (% of consumption)— Including living donations



Variation in consumption financing for people aged 60-64 (% of consumption)— Including living donations and inheritances



Ratio of net savings for people aged 60 and over / net savings for 25-59 and 40-59 — Including living donations



Ratio of net savings for people aged 60 and over / net savings for 25-59 and 40-59 — Including living donations and inheritances

