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HOW LONG DO ASSETS LAST DURING LOSS OF INCOME?

WSI Distribution Report 2017

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AT A GLANCE

A key function of assets is securing the level of consumption during loss of income. In Germany, 30 % of households can secure their current level of consumption from their assets for a few weeks or months at the most. These households have no appreciable assets at their disposal, or are even in debt. The median figure, which splits all households into two halves of equal size, is just under two years. 10 % of households can secure their current consumption for at least just under 13 years, and 5 % can even do so for more than 21 years.

The securing of consumption in East Germany is markedly lower than in West Germany. Broken down into age groups, although the securing of consumption rises with age, in every age bracket at least 20 % of households could not secure their current level of consumption at all or could so for only a very short time by using up their assets. Single parents in particular are reliant on their regular income.

The results show that the majority of households have only very limited private provision in the form of assets at their disposal. Generally speaking, a household's consumption can be secured on a private or state level. There should be securing of consumption on one of the two levels, otherwise major risks are not covered. There is a patent need for political action on both levels.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

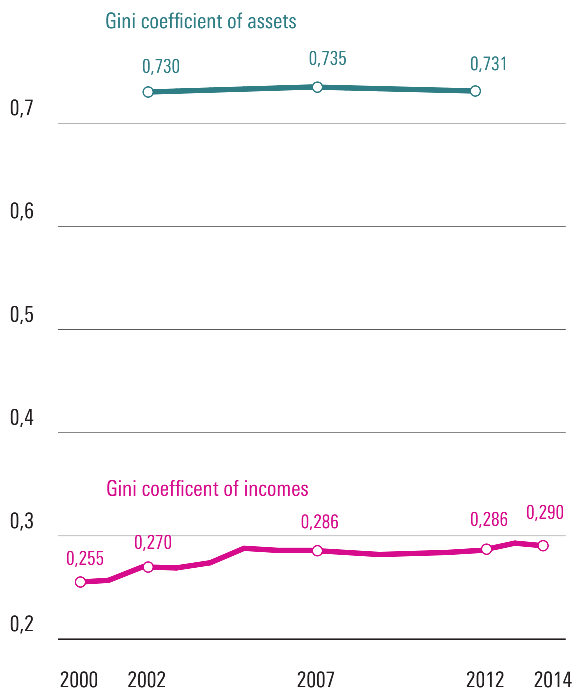
In Germany, the distribution of household incomes is at the heart of debates on inequality. This is justified, because income secures the current standard of living: i.e. consumer spending, and savings to generate assets.

Besides income distribution, however, the focus must also be on the distribution of assets, because only the two resources taken together adequately represent a household's level of prosperity. If a household has assets, they can be liquidated in the event of loss of income, e.g. due to unemployment or protracted illness, enabling consumption/ standard of living to be secured. However: private assets in Germany are manifestly more unequally distributed than disposable income (Figure 1).[1] This means that not everybody has the option of this securing function to the same extent. This year's WSI Distribution Report demonstrates how long the net assets of households in Germany would stretch, in the event of total loss of income, to secure their current level of consumption.

The report is divided into three parts. The first part defines the terms "income", "assets" and "consumption", and describes the report's bases for calculation and the methodology. The second section focuses on the question of how long a household's assets would last to secure consumption in the event of loss of income. This analysis is broken down into different age groups of the head of the household, different household structures, levels of consumption and material endowments. The third section summarises the core findings and outlines the political implications derived from the results.

Figure 1

Income and asset inequality in Germany



Explanation: disposable household income equivalised with the new OECD equivalence scale and per capita household net assets. The higher the Gini coefficient, the more unequal the distribution. With a Gini of 0, every person owns an equal amount. With a Gini of 1, one person owns everything and everyone else nothing.

Source: WSI Distribution Monitor, © WSI 2017

1 Comprehensive data on the distribution of income and assets in Germany and other relevant economic policy indicators are available on the WSI Distribution Monitor: https://www.boeckler.de/wsi_47204.htm.

Definition of income, assets and consumption

Income and assets are a household's two central material resources. **Income** is a flow variable, usually disposable anew every month. Disposable household income can comprise earned and capital income, state insurance benefits based on previous earned income (e.g. pension payments or unemployment benefit), and transfer payments (e.g. child benefit or unemployment assistance). Taxes and contributions are deducted. Income usually goes on consumer spending or (in part) is saved to generate assets.

A household's **assets** are stock. They comprise tangible and financial assets (e.g. property and shares). When liabilities (e.g. mortgages and loans) are deducted, the result is net assets.[2] Projected credits with a public pension fund are assets in a broader sense, as they cannot be liquidated, but only produce monthly pension payments once retirement age is reached. Hence they are not included in the calculation.

Assets fulfil various functions (see inter alia Lauterbach/Ströing 2014; Grabka/Westermeier 2014): they can be generated through interest or rental revenue, properties can be used themselves, but assets can also enable a certain status in society. They can be used to finance children's education or also be gifted and bequeathed. Considerable assets can bestow power. Assets can also be used up to secure the current level of consumption during loss of income. In the long term this can be in the retirement phase, as well of course in the short and medium term during loss of income, for instance during unemployment or a protracted illness. The focus of this year's WSI Distribution Report is on the latter scenario.

Consumption comprises all household expenditure on goods and services, e.g. food, electricity, or visits to the hairdresser. It results from disposable income minus expenditure on savings and repayments to generate assets – for instance, transfers into a savings account or into a fund, or paying off a mortgage on a property.

2 In the report, the word "assets" is used synonymously with "net assets".

Infobox 1

Basis for calculation and methodology

The data on which all the calculations in the WSI Distribution Report 2017 are based come from the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) Socio-economic Panel (SOEP) (Wagner et al. 2008). Every five years, the representative household survey records data on the assets of private households in Germany – the last time was in 2012.[1] One disadvantage of the SOEP data is that multimillionaires and billionaires are de facto not included in the random sample (Grabka/Westermeier 2014). The consequence of this is that the top one per cent of the income and assets distribution cannot be analysed separately in this report.

Below, the report studies how long the assets to secure the current level of consumption last if the regular income is lost. This means the net assets currently available are divided by the current annual consumption, producing the **consumption protection level** expressed in years and months. This is based on various assumptions:

- The level of analysis is the household, as decisions on consumption and savings are usually taken in this context;
- All kinds of income are omitted, viz. also state insurance and transfer payments or capital income;
- In the asset erosion phase, only consumption is taken into account, and no other savings or repayments.[2]
- Negative assets are set at zero;
- The current level of consumption is maintained;
- All asset values are liquidated, e.g. also (owner-occupied) properties, business assets and private pension schemes;[3]
- Projected credits with a public pension fund are not included in the calculation, as they cannot be liquidated, but only produce monthly pension payments once retirement age is reached;
- For households that own a property and live in it, a fictitious rental value is estimated and added to consumer spending, as a sale of the property is assumed;
- In the case of all property owners with mortgages, interest and repayments are deducted from consumption, as these no longer have to be made because of the sale;
- Interest on the assets is calculated at a flat rate of 2% per annum.[4] Consumption is adjusted for inflation at a flat rate of 2% per annum;
- The term "lifelong" securing of consumption by using up assets is applied when a household can cover a period of up to 100 years with them.

1 Assets, income and calculated consumption refer in this year's WSI Distribution Report to the base year 2012.

2 The exception is consumer credit, e.g. for televisions, furniture or cars. This carries on being paid off, as there is no corresponding value recorded in the SOEP assets balance sheet.

3 The cost of liquidation varies, depending on the type of assets; however, this cannot be taken into account here.

4 For households with few assets, this is a rather generous assumption; for households with considerable assets, a rather conservative one.

Some of the assumptions may initially seem extensive; others not extensive enough. For instance, public pension payments will not simply be completely forfeited from one day to the next; however, an illness resulting in inability to work and thus a loss of earned income is perfectly feasible. Another objection is that there is a certain amount of material cover in Germany owing to unemployment assistance/basic provision in old age. To be entitled to this, however, one first has to have dis-saved assets.[5] In the random sample studied, though, there are relatively few households that can secure their level of consumption solely through their capital income and thus support themselves indefinitely. Moreover, an owner-occupied property or a company one has built up oneself would probably only be sold very reluctantly, and also private pension insurance would certainly only be cancelled in the most extreme emergency – but all constellations outlined are possible. Excluding certain asset values from the calculation reduces the protection of consumption. Whether in the event of a loss of income a household would exactly maintain its consumption constantly or make a slight downward adjustment to it and thus draw on its assets somewhat longer, also depends on the initial level and is contingent on how long the loss of income continues. Reducing the loss of income prolongs the protection of consumption.

Altogether we can say that the calculation below represents a possible scenario. Adjustments to the assumptions in one direction or another, as indicated, would result in a longer or shorter protection of consumption.

5 Because of certain allowances (protected assets), in such a case not all of the assets have to be dis-saved, as assumed here.

HOW LONG DO ASSETS LAST TO SECURE CONSUMPTION?

If we classify households in groups (deciles) by the consumption protection level3 – measured in years and months – we see that 30 % of households in Germany could secure their current level of consumption4 from their assets for a few weeks or months at most (Table 1 and Figure 2). These households have no appreciable assets, or are even in debt, and are thus reliant on a regular income. A further 20 % of households can compensate for a loss of income for just under two years at the most. The median for all households is 1 year and 11 months. A further 30 % can maintain their current level of consumption for a maximum of just under eight years. 10 % of households can secure their consumption for at least just under 13 years, and 5 % even over 21 years. The level of medium consumption rises continually up to the 8th decile and then tails off slightly again. The reasons for this include the household and age structure. The medium assets level rises continually (Figure 2 and Table A1 and A2 in the Annexe). However, in (al-most) every consumption protection decile there are some households with a relatively high level of consumption and therefore relatively rapidly dwindling assets, and some very thrifty households whose assets would last for a long time because of their restrained consumption. Some households (the upper limit of the 10th decile - which corrospondents to the 100th percentile) could maintain their current level of consumption until the end of their life (defined as up to a period of 100 years) by using up their assets. That is a summarising synopsis of the findings. Over and above that there are some other important aspects, though.

3 Definition: current net assets divided by current annual consumption – for further assumptions behind the calculation, see the section "Basis of calculation and methodology".

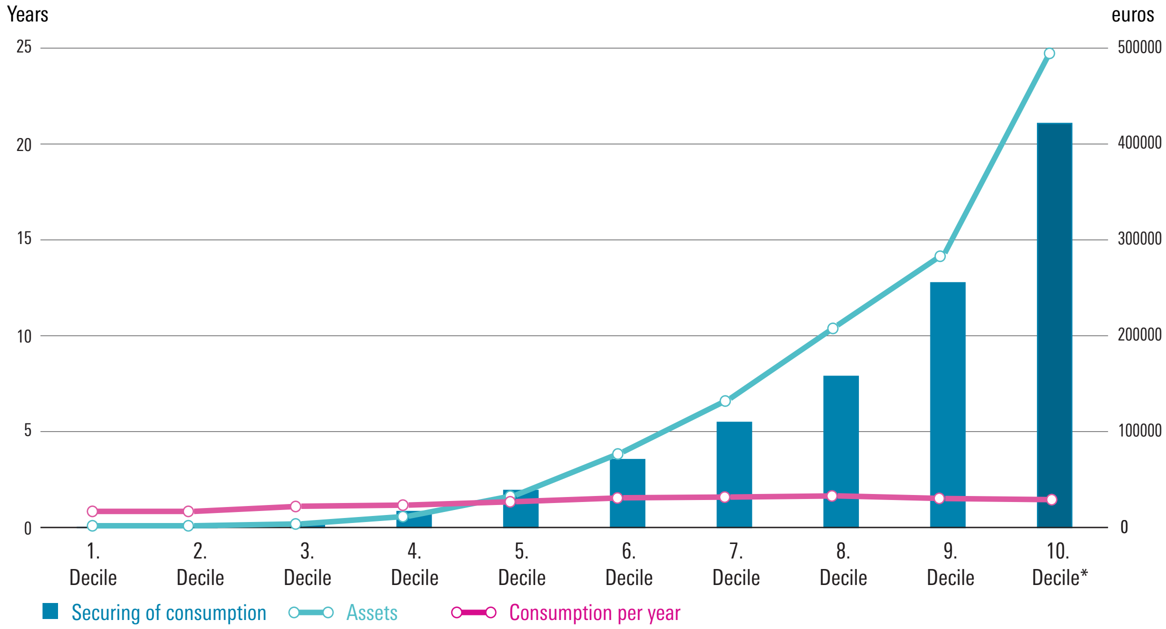
4 The median level for the calculations is €2.000 a month per household. Per capita this produces a median value of €1.110 a month. For the median consumption level of the individual consumption protection percentiles, see Table A1 in the Annexe.

East and West Germany

A striking difference between East and West Germany becomes evident. (Table 1) We can state categorically that the figures for West Germany are all above the figures for Germany as a whole, and the figures for East Germany are below them. The same applies to the level of consumption and assets (Table A1 and A2 in the Annexe). The median, which divides the households in two halves of equal size, is slightly more than two years in West Germany, and less than one year in East Germany. 40 % of households in East Germany could maintain their current level of consumption for only a few weeks or months (30 % in West Germany). 10 % of households in East Germany could secure their current level of consumption for at least seven and a half years; 5 % a little more than 11 years. In West Germany, on the other hand, 10 % of households could maintain their current level of consumption for

Figure 2

Securing of consumption (in years), consumption and assets (in euros)



Explanation: the households are classified from left to right by the hight of their consumption protection level (in years). They are subdivided into groups, each equating to ten per cent of the households. The columns represent the highest protection of consumption in the respective group. The exception to this is the 10th decile marked with * – here the column represents the median value (this corresponds to the maximum value of the 95th percentile). The highest consumer protection value for the 10th decile is 100 years (not shown in the figure). The flat line shows the respective group's median consumption (in euros) per year. The steep line shows the respective group's median assets per household.

Source: SOEP wave 29, own calculations WSI Distribution Report (2017)

over 14 years, and 5 % even almost 23 years. That is twice as long as the comparative figures in East Germany. Both in East and West Germany there are households which, in the event of a complete loss of income, could maintain their current level of consumption until the end of their life by using up their assets.

Age and types of household

Broken down by the age of the head of the household, the figures show that the securing of consumption by assets rises with age (Table 1). However, in every age bracket there are at least 20 % of households that could secure their current level of consumption by using up their assets for only a very short time, and are therefore reliant on a steady income. Conversely, in each age bracket there are households that could secure their current level of consumption until the end of their life through their assets. However, it is not possible here to make statements on mobility, i. e. how these households have developed over time or to what extent this will happen in the future, whether for instance they ascend or descend.

Heads of household aged between 45 and 54 represent approximately the whole of Germany figures of potential for securing consumption. The figures for younger heads of household are below that, those for older heads of household above that. In the 80th percentile, the figure for heads of household between 25 and 34 years of age is below the median for the whole of Germany. The median for heads of household over the age of 65 is twice as high as the median for the whole of Germany.

When we look at the securing of consumption by household types, single parents stand out (Table 1). Nearly half of these households have not banked any assets at all and are totally reliant on steady income to secure their consumption. Figures for single households are likewise below the figures for the whole of Germany – figures for couple households are above them.[5] Couples with children are likewise above the figures for the whole of Germany up to the 80th percentile, after that just below it.

5 Of course, this is also due to the average household consisting of two people.

Table 1

Protection of the current level of consumption (in years) by assets

	10th percentile	20th percentile	30th percentile	40th percentile	50th percentile (Median)	60th percentile	70th percentile	80th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile
All Germany	**0**	**0**	**3 M.**	**10 M.**	**1 Y. 11 M.**	**3 Y. 6 M.**	**5 Y 6 M.**	**7 Y. 11 M.**	**12 Y. 9 M.**	**21 Y. 1 M.**
East	**0**	**0**	**1 M.**	**4 M.**	**10 M.**	**1 Y. 8 M.**	**3 Y. 1 M.**	**4 Y. 9 M.**	**7 Y. 6 M.**	**11 Y.**
West	**0**	**0**	**4 M.**	**1 Y. 1 M.**	**2 Y. 5 M.**	**4 Y. 2 M.**	**6 Y. 3 M.**	**8 Y. 8 M.**	**14 Y. 3 M.**	**22 Y. 10 M.**
By age of the head of household*										
25-34 y.	0	0	0	1 M.	4 M.	7 M.	1 Y.	1 Y. 9 M.	3 Y. 5 M.	5 Y. 6 M.
35-44 y.	0	0	2 M.	7 M.	1 Y. 1 M.	2 Y.	3 Y. 3 M.	5 Y.	8 Y. 9 M.	14 Y.
45-54 y.	0	0	4 M.	11 M.	2 Y. 1 M.	3 Y. 6 M.	5 Y. 2 M.	7 Y. 6 M.	12 Y. 11 M.	19 Y. 10 M.
55-64 y.	0	0	6 M.	1 Y. 9 M.	3 Y. 6 M.	5 Y. 2 M.	6 Y. 10 M.	8 Y. 7 M.	14 Y.	24 Y. 11 M.
From 65 y.	0	1 M.	8 M.	2 Y. 1 M.	3 Y. 11 M.	5 Y. 10 M.	7 Y. 9 M.	10 Y. 3 M.	16 Y. 3 M.	24 Y.
By type of household										
Single	0	0	0	3 M.	9 M.	1 Y. 11 M.	3 Y. 10 M.	6 Y. 10 M.	11 Y. 10 M.	19 Y.
Couple	0	4 M.	1 Y.	2 Y. 3 M.	3 Y. 9 M.	5 Y. 6 M.	7 Y. 2 M.	9 Y. 6 M.	15 Y.	23 Y. 6 M.
Single-parent	0	0	0	0	2 M.	6 M.	1 Y. 3 M.	3 Y. 4 M.	7 Y. 1 M.	14 Y. 4 M.
Couple with child(ren)	0	2 M.	9 M.	1 Y. 7 M.	2 Y. 10 M.	4 Y. 1 M.	5 Y. 6 M.	7 Y. 7 M.	12 Y. 3 M.	22 Y. 9 M.

Explanation: the households are classified from left to right by the hight of their consumption protection level (in years and months). They are subdivided into groups, each equating to ten or five per cent of households. The years and months represent the highest protection of consumption of the respective group, viz. the lower limit for the next higher group. The highest figure for the 100th percentile (not shown in the table) is always 100 years.
*Heads of household under 25 years of age are not shown, as the numbers of cases are too small.

Source: SOEP wave 29, WSI Distribution Report (2017) own calculations.,

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Different levels of consumption

So far, a continuation of the previous level of consumption has been assumed. Below, the same level of consumption (per capita) is now allocated to every household, to establish how large the differences from the current level of consumption are. The median consumption per capita (€1110) is specified as the middle level of consumption. The low level of consumption equates to the 25% quantile and the high level to the 75% quantile per capita (€800 and €1550) respectively. The number of people living in a household was taken into account for calculating the securing of the level of consumption.

The households in Table 2 are again classified in ascending order by the consumption protection level, measured in years and months. For the middle level of consumption, for the lower 60% of households there are comparable figures to those for calculating the actual level of consumption. For the percentiles above that, the figures for the middle level of consumption are higher, which means that the actual level of consumption of these households is higher. For the low level of consumption, the figures are all above those for the actual level of consumption, and for the high level they are all below it.

Income and assets

In the previous scenarios, the households have always been presented broken down into groups by their current consumption protec-tion level – measured in years and months. In an alternative scenario, the households are now clas-sified by the amount of their current income or assets, and the consumption protection level is cal-culated for the individual deciles. It is evident

Table 2

Securing a low, middle and high level of consumption (in years) by assets

	10th percentile	20th percentile	30th percentile	40th percentile	50th percentile (Median)	60th percentile	70th percentile	80th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile
Low (25%)	0	0	4 M.	1 Y. 1 M.	2 Y. 7 M.	5 Y.	8 Y. 7 M.	13 Y.	21 Y. 11 M.	35 Y. 5 M.
Middle (50%)	0	0	3 M.	9 M.	1 Y. 11 M.	3 Y. 8 M.	6 Y. 2 M.	9 Y. 5 M.	15 Y. 9 M.	25 Y. 6 M.
High (75%)	0	0	2 M.	7 M.	1 Y. 4 M.	2 Y. 8 M.	4 Y. 5 M.	6 Y. 8 M.	11 Y. 3 M.	18 Y. 3 M.

Explanation: the middle level of consumption equates to the median consumption per capita (1110 euros) – viz. 2,220 euros for a two-person household. The low level of consumption equates to the 25 per cent quantile, and the high level to the 75 per cent quantile (800 euros and 1550 euros respectively) – viz. 1600 and 3100 euros respectively for a two-person household.

Source: SOEP wave 29, WSI Distribution Report (2017) own calculations, © WSI 2017

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that the securing of consumption rises both on average and in the median with (almost) every income/assets decile (Table 3 and Figure 3 for assets). This means that with increasing material resources the households can secure their current level of consumption.

Both the average level of consumption and the median likewise rise with the amount of income and assets (Table A3 and A4 in the Annexe). Thus households with more material resources spend on average more money for consumption purposes, yet could still maintain their level of consumption, in the event of a loss of income, longer than households with fewer material resources. Households with fewer material resources in turn spend on average less money for consumption purposes, yet could maintain their level of consumption, in the event of a loss of income, for a much shorter period than households with more material resources. Of course, in every decile there are also households that have a relatively high level of consumption and therefore could secure their current consumption only for a relatively short time.

Table 3

Securing consumption (in years) with assets by amount of income and assets

	Median	Average		Median	Average
By income			**By assets**		
1. decile	0	2 Y. 10 M.	1. decile	0	0
2. decile	4 M.	5 Y. 8 M.	2. decile	0	1 M.
3. decile	9 M.	4 Y. 4 M.	3. decile	1 M.	2 M.
4. decile	1 Y. 4 M.	4 Y. 8 M.	4. decile	6 M.	7 M.
5. decile	2 Y. 2 M.	5 Y 11 M.	5. decile	1 Y. 4 M.	2 Y. 1 M.
6. decile	2 Y. 4 M.	5 Y. 6 M.	6. decile	2 Y. 11 M.	4 Y. 9 M.
7. decile	2 Y. 7 M.	6 J. 1 M.	7. decile	4 Y. 7 M.	6 Y. 7 M.
8. decile	3 Y. 2 M.	7 Y. 7 M.	8. decile	6 Y. 9 M.	9 Y. 5 M.
9. decile	4 Y.	8 Y. 6 M.	9. decile	8 Y. 7 M.	12 Y. 9 M.
10. decile	4 Y. 10 M.	10 Y.	10. decile	16 Y. 5 M.	24 Y. 5 M.

Explanation: the households are classified upwards by the amount of their income/assets. They are subdivided into groups, each equating to ten per cent of households. The years and months represent the average/median securing of consumption of the respective group.

Source: SOEP Welle 29, WSI Distribution Report (2017) own calculations, © WSI 2017

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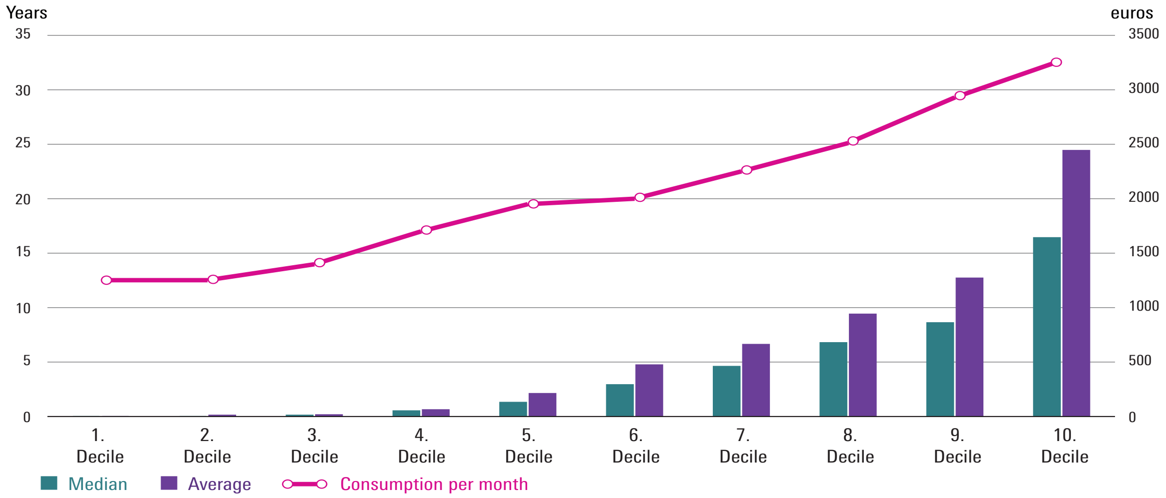
Figure 3

Securing of consumption (in years) and consumption (in euros) by asset percentiles



Explanation: the households are classified from left to right by the amount of their assets (in euros). They are subdivided into groups (deciles), each equating to ten per cent of the households. The columns represent how long the respective group on average/in the median can secure its consumption (in years). The line shows the respective group's median consumption (in euros) per month.

Quelle: Berechnungen des WSI 2017, © WSI 2017

Conversely in many income deciles – and for assets in the upper half of the distribution – there are households that could secure their current consumption with their assets until the end of their life. So below, it is not the highest figure of the respective decile that is evaluated (this would frequently be 100 years) as hitherto, but the average or the median.

Households in the top 10 % of the income/assets distribution could on average maintain their current level of consumption for ten years or over 24 years respectively. The median of the top 10 % is just under five years and over 16 years respectively. Household with a median income or median assets could on average maintain their current level of consumption for just under six years and two years respectively. In the median, even only slightly over two years and one year respectively. Some low-income households have assets and could therefore secure their consumption for a certain period of time. Classified by assets, the lower 30 % of households possess no appreciable assets and are thus permanently reliant on their income.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The subject of the WSI Distribution Report 2017 is the consumption-securing function of private assets in the event of the loss of steady income. In concrete terms, it is about the questions for which households in the event of any loss of income the previous level of consumption is secured by private assets, and for what period of time existing assets can compensate for the loss of regular income. The conclusion is: in Germany, 30 % of households can secure their current level of consumption from their assets for a few weeks or months at the most. These households have no appreciable assets or are even in debt, and therefore reliant on a regular income. Especially single parents and their children are in that group. The median, which divides all households into two halves of equal size, is 1 year and 11 months. 10 % of households can secure their consumption for at least just under 13 years, and 5 % for even over 21 years. Breaking this down by the amount of income and assets, it is evident that on average the more material resources households have, the longer they could secure their current level of consumption, and on a higher level.

The results show that the majority of households have only a very limited private provision in the form of assets. As soon as the regular income stops, these households are very quickly reliant on state support – which is usually below their current level of consumption. Against the background of these findings, the often-heard political appeal to protect oneself better against the risk of loss of income through individual provision seems plausible. However, adequate private cover of specific risks is not always readily available, and is certainly not possible for everyone.

The ability to make individual provision presupposes a regular, reliable income above immediate subsistence. In view of the current distribution of income, that is not the case for everyone by a long chalk. There are also incalculable risks, such as loss of earned income through job loss owing to protracted illness. If there is no entitlement to reduced earning capacity pension, and no private occupational disability insurance was taken out to cover this, the private assets must first be used to secure consumption until class II unemployment benefit can be claimed. Another factor to be taken into account is that some households (out of necessity) dispense with taking out private occupational disability insurance for financial reasons, since such insurance is only inexpensive when one is young and healthy and does not have a high-risk job. As soon as one of these factors changes, it becomes (very) expensive (DGB 2016).

That is why the appeal to the political players is firstly to improve the general conditions for private provision to secure consumption; secondly, direct state measures to secure consumption must be taken precisely when private provision is not possible for material reasons. As already stated, to be able to save on a private level, households must have a sufficiently high (earned) income. Being well covered under collective wage agreements plays a crucial role here both for middle and low wage groups (Horn et al. 2017). Another precondition is adequate and free childcare, to enable parents to be employed at all. Assets are also generated by paying off a loan (on property) (Grabka/Westermeier 2015). State funding in this area – geared to lower and medium income groups – would enable more people to have their own property. In addition there is, for example, also a need for free information and advice on forms of investment that can still generate reasonable provision in times of low interest rates.

With regard to state benefits for securing the level of consumption, there is a need for earnings replacement benefits and a living unemployment assistance. This entails scrutinising standard rates in a transparent procedure to define the sociocultural subsistence level (Spannagel et al. 2017). It is also important to increase protected assets. In addition, the preconditions for access to reduced earning capacity pension must be relaxed. There is a need in conurbations for adequate investment in public housing. And last but not least, guaranteeing the protection of consumption in old age necessitates a poverty-proof public pension system (Blank 2017).

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ANNEXE

Table A1

Median consumption per month of the consumption protection deciles

Euros	1. decile	2. decile	3. decile	4. decile	5. decile	6. decile	7. decile	8. decile	9. decile	10.decile
Total consumption	1,300	1,300	1,700	1,800	2,100	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,400	2,300
West consumption	1,300	1,300	1,800	2,000	2,300	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,500	2,300
East consumption	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,600	1,500	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,100	1,700

Explanation: the figures shown equate to the median consumption of the respective consumption protection decile – including estimated rental values (see "Basis for calculation and methodology").

Source: SOEP Welle 29, WSI Distribution Report (2017) own calculations, © WSI 2017

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Table A2

Median assets of the consumption protection deciles

Euros	1. decile	2. decile	3. decile	4. decile	5. decile	6. decile	7. decile	8. decile	9. decile	10.decile
Total assets	0	0	2,000	10,000	32,000	77,100	132,800	209,300	284,500	498,200
West assets	0	0	3,000	15,000	45,000	100,500	164,900	229,700	313,500	532,500
East assets	0	0	300	4,000	10,000	26,000	57,500	89,200	157,000	220,000

Explanation: the figures shown equate to the median assets of the respective consumption protection decile.

Source: SOEP Welle 29, WSI Distribution Report (2017) own calculations, © WSI 2017

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Table A3

Median consumption per month of the income and asset deciles

Euros	1. decile	2. decile	3. decile	4. decile	5. decile	6. decile	7. decile	8. decile	9. decile	10.decile
Consumption by income	700	1,100	1,400	1,600	1,900	2,200	2,500	2,900	3,500	4,700
Consumption by assets	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,700	2,000	2,000	2,300	2,500	2,900	3,300

Explanation: the figures shown equate to the median consumption of the respective income or asset decile – including estimated rental values (see "Basis for calculation and methodology").

Source: SOEP Welle 29, WSI Distribution Report (2017) own calculations, © WSI 2017

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Table A4

Median assets of the income and asset deciles

Euros	1. decile	2. decile	3. decile	4. decile	5. decile	6. decile	7. decile	8. decile	9. decile	10.decile
by income	0	4,000	11,000	24,000	44,000	55,000	77,000	101,100	162,000	275,300
by assets	0	0	2,200	10,000	30,300	71,000	123,500	199,800	296,600	567,500

Explanation: the figures shown equate to the median assets of the respective income or asset decile.

Source: SOEP Welle 29, WSI Distribution Report (2017) own calculations, © WSI 2017

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