

# **On the Measurement of Wealth: New Issues and Evidence from WID.world**

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- World Wealth and Income Database (WID.world): continuation of Kuznets 1953, Atkinson-Harrison 1978 and the World Top Incomes Database 2011. Main novelties:
  - Extension to emerging countries
  - Coverage of full distribution, from bottom to top
  - **first global inequality study in World Inequality Report 2018**
  - Extension to wealth inequality (and not only income inequality)
  - **unfortunately data sources are more limited on wealth than on income. HFCS = major progress, but not enough.**
- Self-reported wealth data needs to be supplemented with proper administrative/fiscal data. Major measurement and policy issue.**

WORLD

BY COUNTRY ▾

DATA

WORLD  
**WEALTH & INCOME**  
DATABASE

METHODOLOGY ▾

ABOUT US ▾

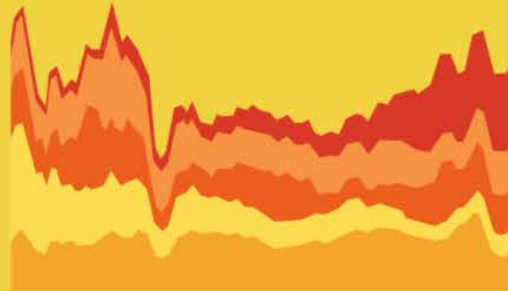
NEWS ▾

## WORLD VIEW



Compare inequality between countries on an interactive world map

## COUNTRY GRAPHS



Follow the evolution of inequality within countries with user-friendly graphs

## DATA TABLES

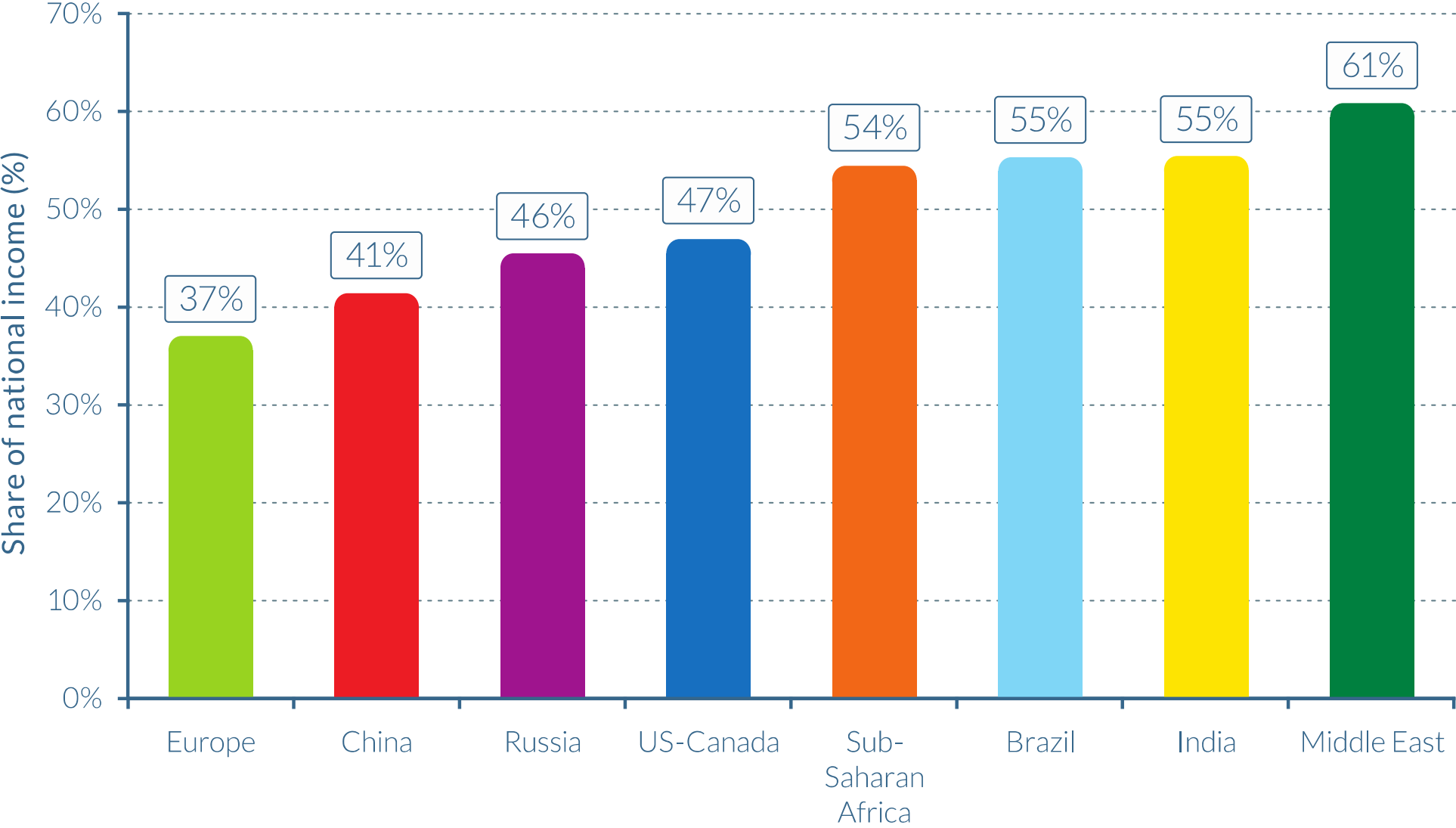
A stylized table icon with a color gradient from blue to red, set against a dark blue background.

Download our open-access datasets

- The WID.world project: more than 100 researchers over the five continents. All the data is entirely open source + transparent to feed public debates.
- This report: first systematic assessment of globalization in terms of inequality. Global top 1% captured twice as much growth as bottom 50% since 1980. Under Business as usual, even with optimistic growth assumptions in the emerging world, global inequality will continue to rise.
- Rising inequality is not inevitable: different types of policies can be implemented to promote equitable growth pathways in the coming decades.

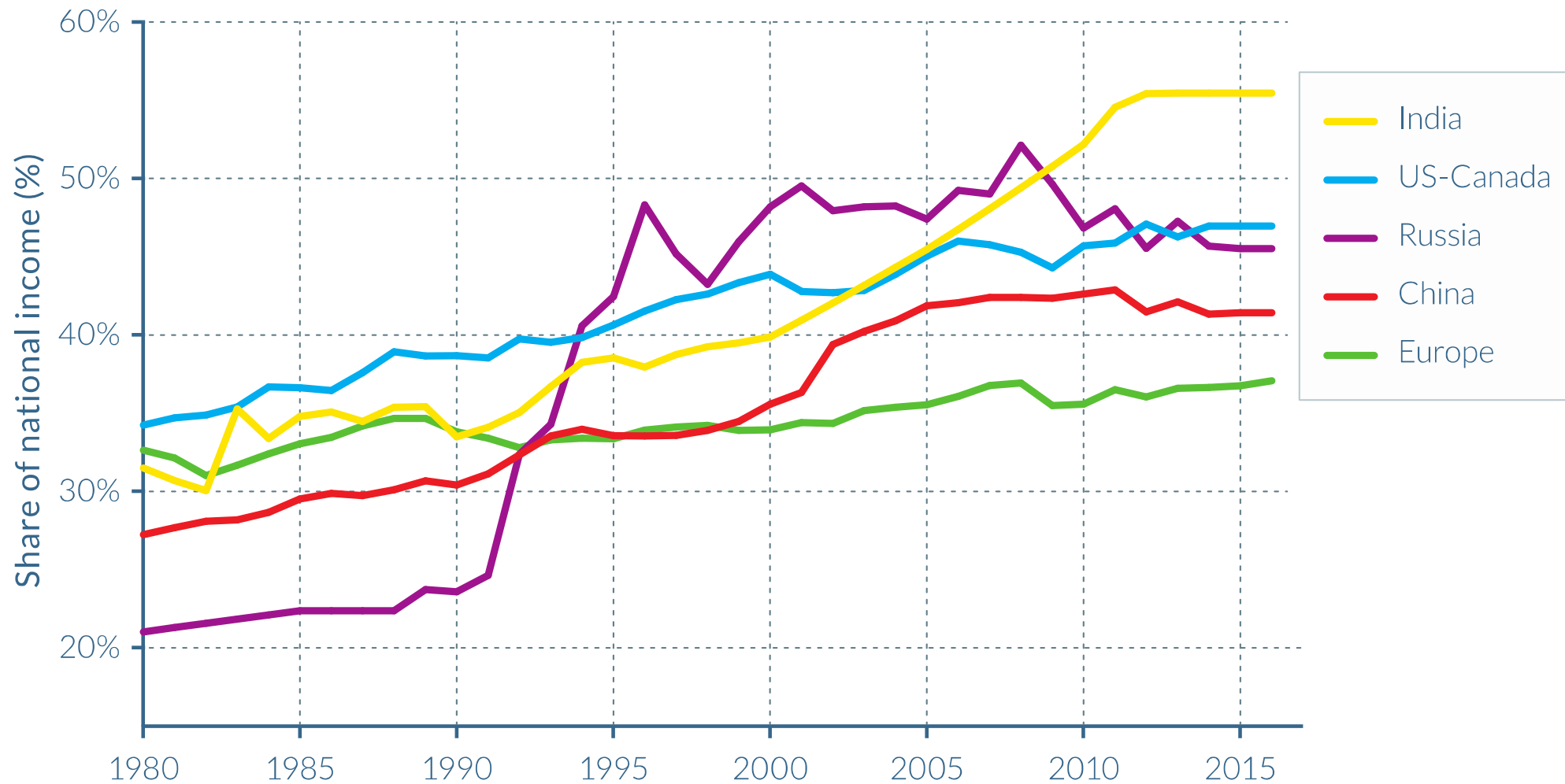


# Top 10% national income share across the world, 2016



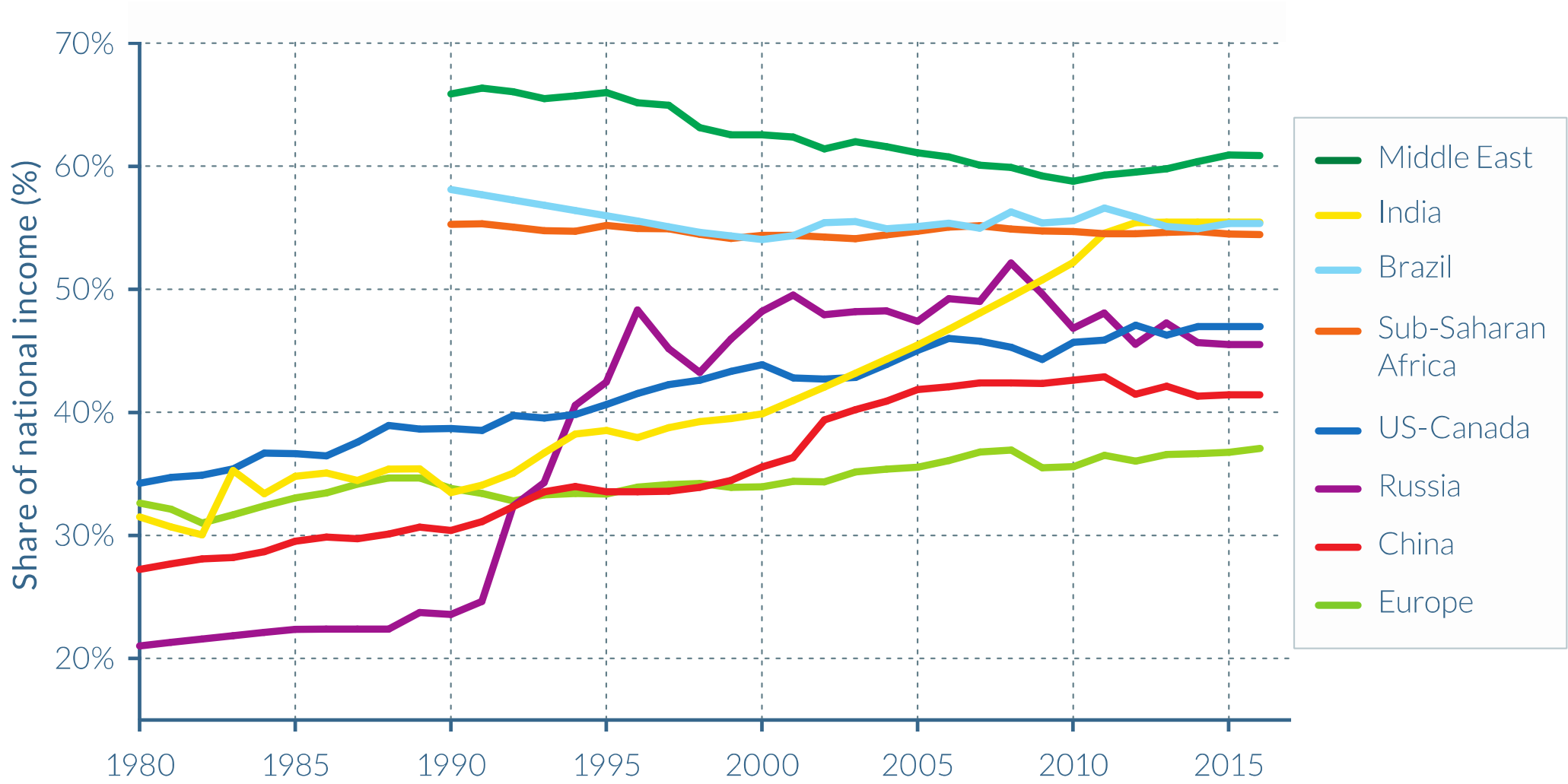
Source: World Inequality Report 2018, Figure 2.1.1. See wir2018.wid.world for data sources and notes.

## Top 10% income shares across the world, 1980-2016





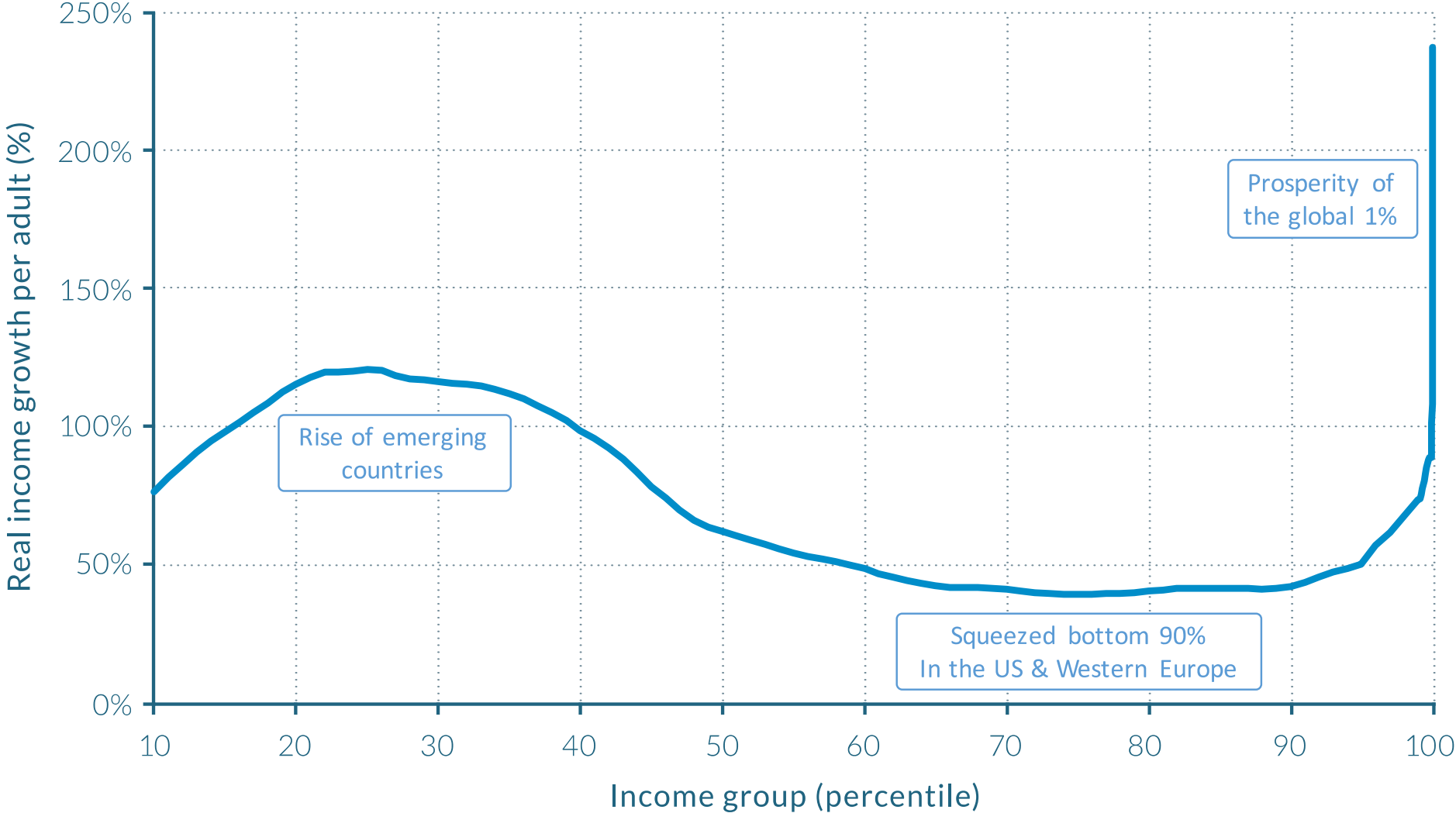
### Top 10% income shares across the world, 1980-2016



Source: World Inequality Report 2018, Figure 2.1.1. See [wir2018.wid.world](http://wir2018.wid.world) for data sources and notes.



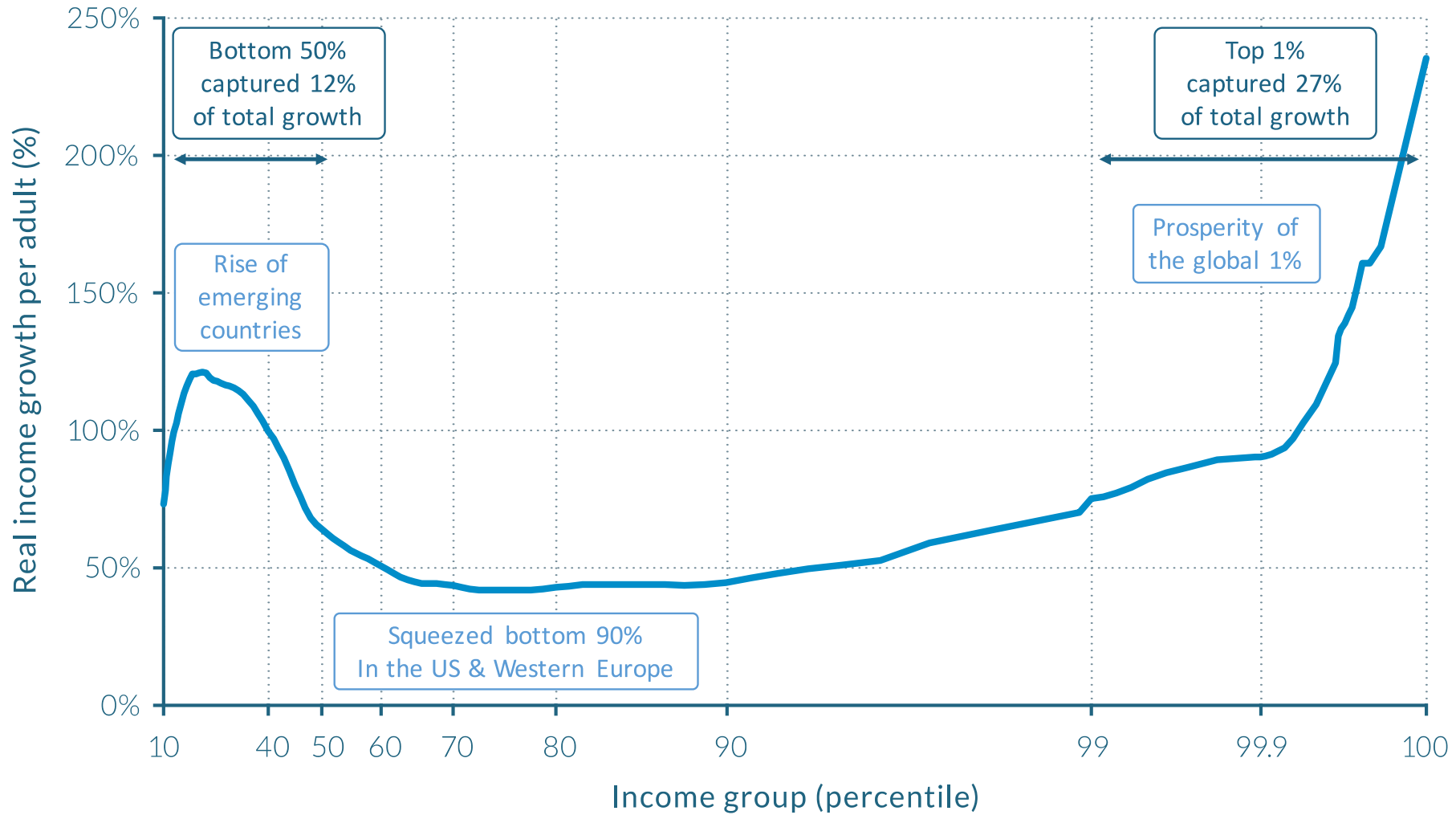
### Total income growth by percentile across all world regions, 1980-2016: Scaled by population



Source: World Inequality Report 2018, Appendix Figure A1. See [wir2018.wid.world](http://wir2018.wid.world) for data sources and notes.

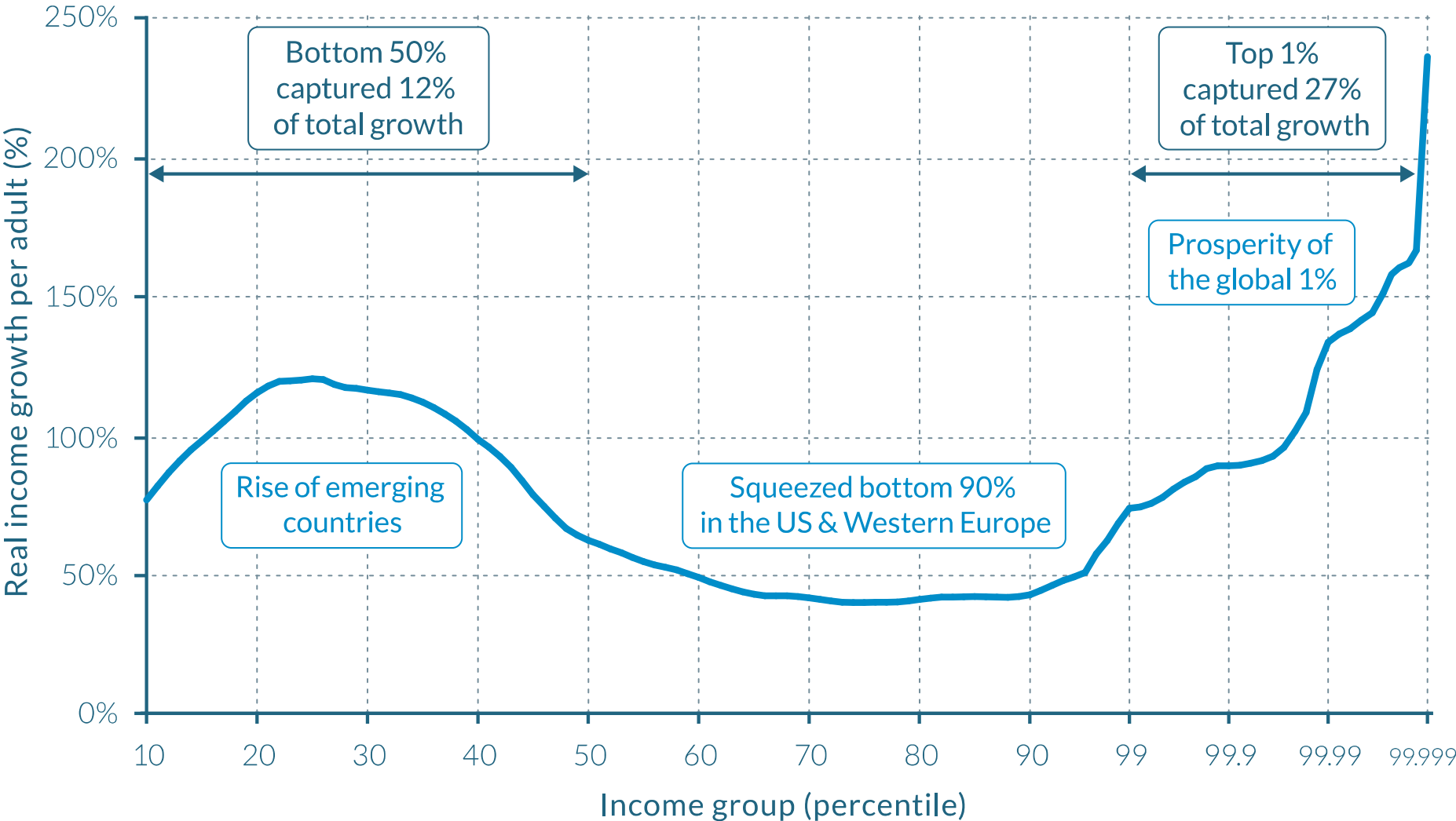


## Total income growth by percentile across all world regions, 1980–2016: Scaled by share of growth captured



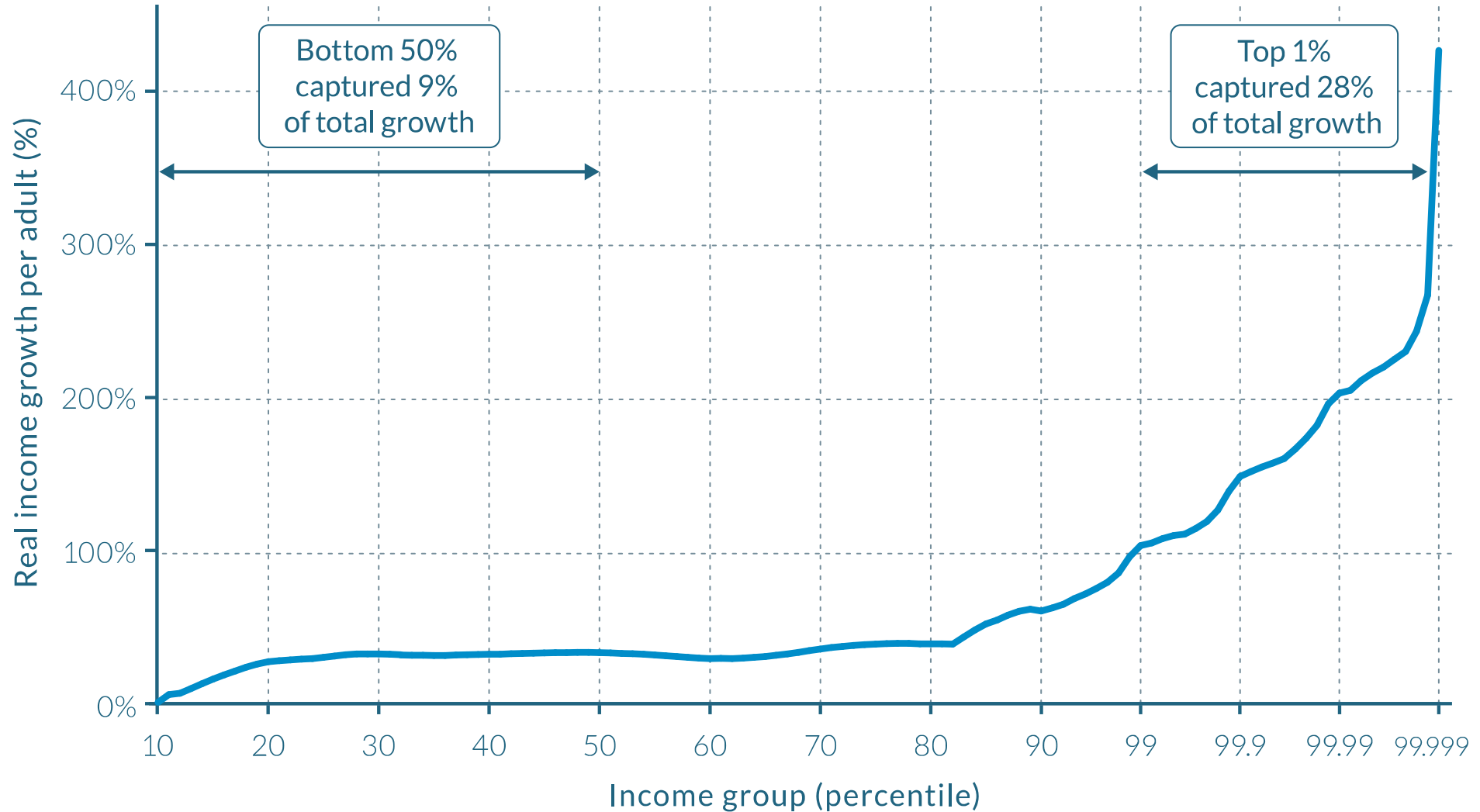


# Total income growth by percentile across all world regions, 1980-2016

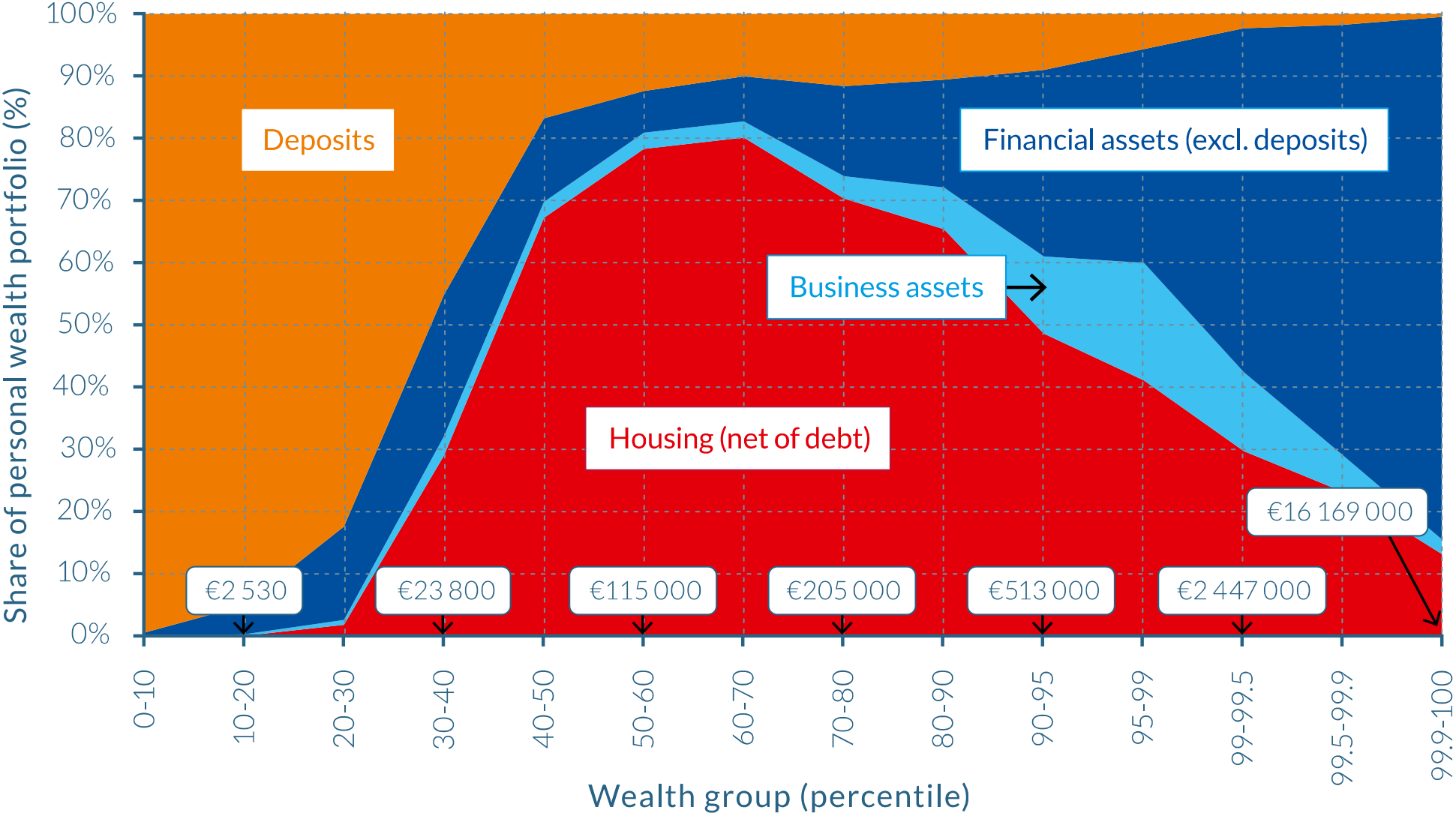


Source: World Inequality Report 2018, Figure 2.1.4. See [wir2018.wid.world](http://wir2018.wid.world) for data sources and notes.

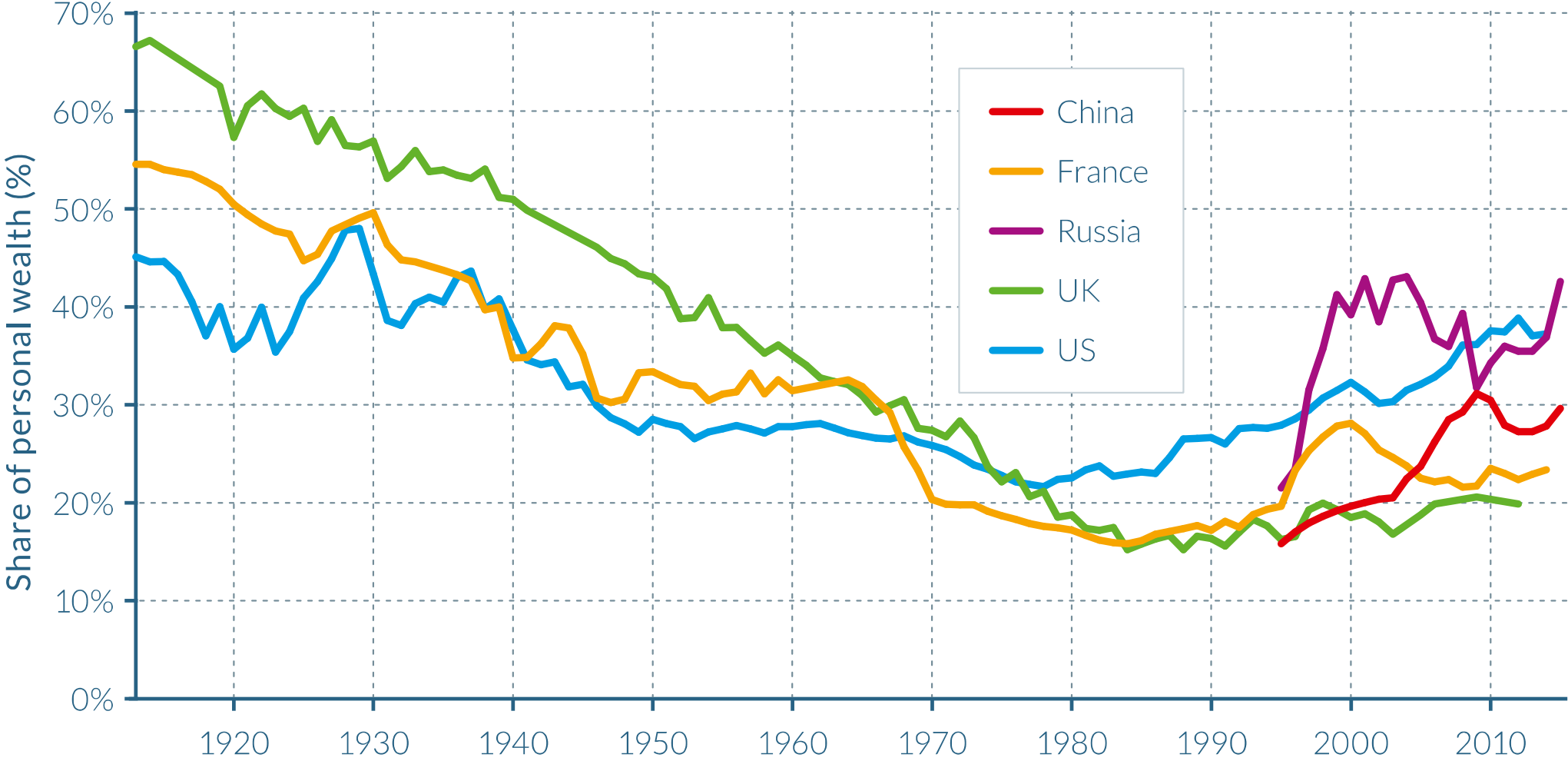
## Total income growth by percentile in US-Canada and Western Europe, 1980–2016



# Asset composition by wealth group in France, 2012



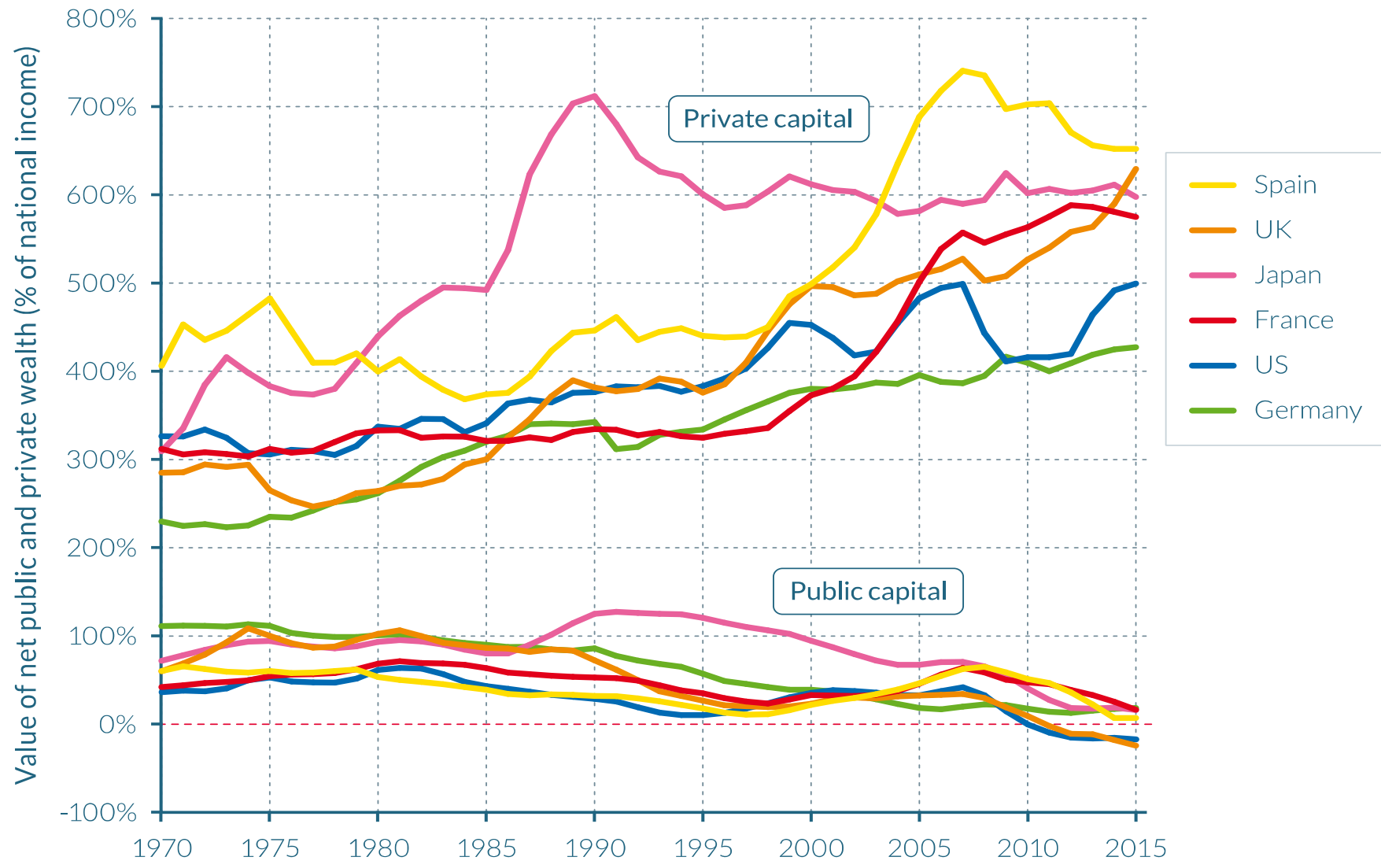
# Top 1% personal wealth share in emerging and rich countries, 1913–2015



Source: World Inequality Report 2018, Figure 4.2.1. See [wir2018.wid.world](http://wir2018.wid.world) for data sources and notes.



### The rise of private capital and the fall of public capital in rich countries, 1970-2016



Source: World Inequality Report 2018, Figure E6. See [wir2018.wid.world](http://wir2018.wid.world) for data sources and notes.