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Expenditure patterns of older Americans, 1984-97

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Older consumers, who are expected to account for an increasing share of consumer expenditures, have spending trends similar to those of younger consumers; however the underlying tastes and preferences of subgroups of older consumers did not change significantly over the period studied. This article includes elements from earlier studies, but takes the analysis further: first, expenditure trends are analyzed for different age groups within the older population; second, experiments are designed to test whether tastes and preferences differ over time for older consumers.

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