Record Nr. UNINA9910136700603321

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Titolo Fading Ricardian Equivalence in Ageing Japan / / Ikuo Saito

Pubbl/distr/stampa Washington, D.C.:,: International Monetary Fund,, 2016

ISBN 9781475541731

1475541732

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (19 pages)

Collana IMF Working Papers

Disciplina 382.0952

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Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

**Formato** 

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Monografia

Nota di bibliografia

Includes bibliographical references.

Sommario/riassunto

Japan seems to be turning less Ricardian, a trend set to continue. First, the discount wedge seems to have risen, suggesting that consumers have become more myopic. Second, some evidence points to the possibility that an increasing number of households are liquidity constrained. If these developments continue, the impact of fiscal policy on the economy will gradually rise. While this will facilitate using fiscal policy to manage the economic cycle, it also calls for starting fiscal consolidation soon and in a gradual and steady manner, given the unsustainable public debt and the likely increasing challenges in funding the government's rising debt domestically.