

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910162943903321
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Titolo	A Tale of Transition : : An Empirical Analysis of Economic Inequality in Urban China, 1986–2009 // Haiyan Ding, Hui He
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : International Monetary Fund, , 2016
ISBN	1-4755-6007-9 1-4755-6931-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (53 pages) : illustrations (some color), tables, graphs
Collana	IMF Working Papers
Altri autori (Persone)	HeHui
Disciplina	330.951
Soggetti	Macroeconomics Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions Intertemporal Consumer Choice Life Cycle Models and Saving Macroeconomics: Consumption Saving Wealth Aggregate Factor Income Distribution Income inequality Consumption Income shocks Income Disposable income National accounts Income distribution Economics National income China Economic conditions China, People's Republic of
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.

Sommario/riassunto

This paper is the first comprehensive empirical study of earnings, income, and consumption inequality in urban China from 1986 to 2009, using unique micro-level data from the Urban Household Survey (UHS). The paper documents a drastic increase in economic inequality for the sample period. The paper finds that consumption inequality closely tracks income inequality, both over time and over the life cycle. The paper believes that the main driver of this co-movement could be a dramatic increase in noninsurable idiosyncratic permanent income shocks after the early 1990s, associated with the economic transition in urban China.
