

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779501003321
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Titolo	Inflation and Income Inequality : : Is Food Inflation Different? // James Walsh, Jiangyan Yu
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : International Monetary Fund, , 2012
ISBN	1-4755-7529-7 1-4755-3330-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (23 p.)
Collana	IMF Working Papers
Altri autori (Persone)	YuJiangyan
Soggetti	Food prices Income distribution Inflation (Finance) Inflation Macroeconomics Price Level Deflation Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions Urban, Rural, and Regional Economics: General Aggregate Factor Income Distribution Agriculture: Aggregate Supply and Demand Analysis Prices Income inequality Personal income National accounts Income India
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; I. Introduction and Background; II. Stylized Facts; A. Inflation and Macroeconomic Data; B. Inequality Data; Figures; Figure 1: Cross Country: GDP Per Capita and Change of Gini, 2000-2010; Figure 2: Cross Country: Food Inflation and Change of Gini, 2000-2010;

Figure 3: Cross Country: Non-food Inflation and Change of Gini, 2000-2010; C. China; Figure 4. China: Provincial GDP Per Capita and Change of Inequality, 2000-2005; Figure 5. China: Food Inflation and Change of Theil Index, 2000-2005; D. India; E. Other Data
Figure 6. China: Non-food Inflation and Change of Theil Index, 2000-2005
Figure 7. India: Inequality and GDP per capita by State; Figure 8. Per capita GDP growth and change in GINI; III. Methodology; IV. Results; A. International Sample; B. China; C. India; V. Conclusion; Tables; 1. International Sample: Headline Inflation; 2. International Sample: Food and Nonfood CPI; 3. China: Headline Inflation; 4. China: Food and Nonfood CPI; 5. India: Headline CPI, Rural Areas; 6. India: Headline CPI, Urban Areas; 7. India: Food and Nonfood CPI, Rural Areas; 8. India: Food and Nonfood CPI, Urban Areas
References

Sommario/riassunto

There is an extensive literature noting that high inflation can add to income inequality, and a parallel literature assessing the effect of rising food prices on the poor. This paper attempts to combine these strands by dividing inflation into food and nonfood inflation and assessing whether food inflation affects income inequality differently from nonfood inflation. In an international sample and a sample of Chinese provinces, nonfood inflation exacerbates income inequality while the role of food inflation is more mixed. In a sample of Indian states broken down into urban and rural areas, we find that nonfood inflation adds to income inequality in both areas, while food inflation has a neutral to positive effect on income inequality in rural areas, providing support for the theory that rural wages may respond elastically to food prices.
