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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. U. S. Labor Force Estimates and Economic Growth, 1800-1860 -- 2. American Economic Growth before the Civil War: The Testimony of the Capital Stock Estimates -- 3. Inequalities in the Standard of Living in the United States, 1798-1875 -- 4. Wages and Prices during the Antebellum Period: A Survey and New Evidence -- 5. Consumer Behavior, Diet , and the Standard of Living in Late Colonial and Early Antebellum America, 1770-1840 -- 6. Stature and Living Standards in the United States -- 7. The Productivity Consequences of Market Integration: Agriculture in Massachusetts, 1771-1801 -- 8. Invention, Innovation, and Manufacturing Productivity Growth in the Antebellum Northeast -- Contributors -- Author Index -- Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	This benchmark volume addresses the debate over the effects of early

industrialization on standards of living during the decades before the Civil War. Its contributors demonstrate that the aggregate antebellum economy was growing faster than any other large economy had grown before. Despite the dramatic economic growth and rise in income levels, questions remain as to the general quality of life during this era. Was the improvement in income widely shared? How did economic growth affect the nature of work? Did higher levels of income lead to improved health and longevity? The authors address these questions by analyzing new estimates of labor force participation, real wages, and productivity, as well as of the distribution of income, height, and nutrition.

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