

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822294803321
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Titolo	Failure by design : the story behind America's broken economy // Josh Bivens ; foreword by Lawrence Mishel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, : ILR Press, 2011
ISBN	0-8014-6113-8 0-8014-6065-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (116 p.)
Collana	Economic Policy Institute
Altri autori (Persone)	MishelLawrence
Disciplina	330.973
Soggetti	Global Financial Crisis, 2008-2009 Financial crises - United States - History - 21st century Working class - United States - Economic conditions - 21st century United States Economic conditions 2001-2009 United States Economic conditions 2009-
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 (p. 99).
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Table of Contents -- List of Figures -- Acknowledgments -- Foreword -- The Great Recession: The damage done and the rot revealed -- The Great Recession's Trigger: Housing bubble leads to jobs crisis -- The Policy Response to the Great Recession: What was done, and did it work? -- The Great Recession Ended More Than a Year Ago- so, "Mission Accomplished"? -- The Cracked Foundation Revealed by the Great Recession -- Where to from Here? -- Bibliography -- About EPI -- About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	In Failure by Design, the Economic Policy Institute's Josh Bivens takes a step back from the acclaimed State of Working America series, building on its wealth of data to relate a compelling narrative of the U.S. economy's struggle to emerge from the Great Recession of 2008. Bivens explains the causes and impact on working Americans of the most catastrophic economic policy failure since the 1920's.As outlined clearly here, economic growth since the late 1970's has been slow and inequitably distributed, largely as a result of poor policy choices. These choices only got worse in the 2000's, leading to an anemic economic expansion. What growth we did see in the economy was fueled by

staggering increases in private-sector debt and a housing bubble that artificially inflated wealth by trillions of dollars. As had been predicted, the bursting of the housing bubble had disastrous consequences for the broader economy, spurring a financial crisis and a rise in joblessness that dwarfed those resulting from any recession since the Great Depression. The fallout from the Great Recession makes it near certain that there will be yet another lost decade of income growth for typical families, whose incomes had not been boosted by the previous decade's sluggish and localized economic expansion. In its broad narrative of how the economy has failed to deliver for most Americans over much of the past three decades, *Failure by Design* also offers compelling graphical evidence on jobs, incomes, wages, and other measures of economic well-being most relevant to low- and middle-income workers. Josh Bivens tracks these trends carefully, giving a lesson in economic history that is readable yet rigorous in its analysis. Intended as both a stand-alone volume and a companion to the new State of Working America website that presents all of the data underlying this cogent analysis, *Failure by Design* will become required reading as a road map to the economic problems that confront working Americans.
