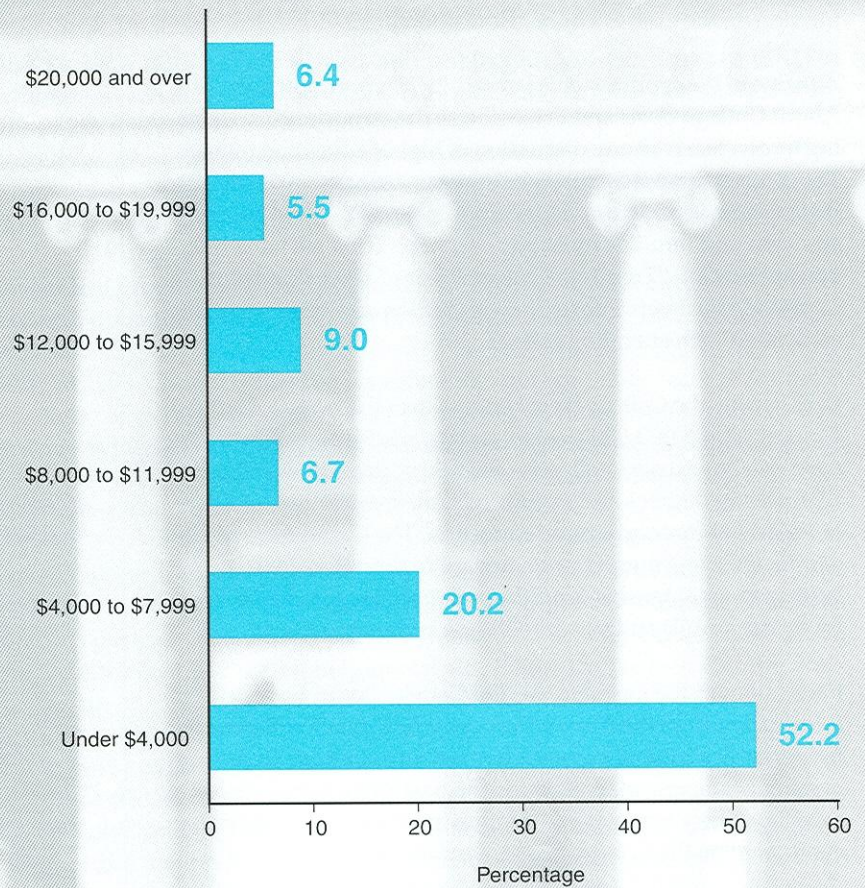


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# in College Pricing

FIGURE 1. *Distribution of Full-Time Undergraduates at Four-Year Institutions by Tuition and Fees Charged, 1998-99*



1998



# INTRODUCTION

The price of college, commonly referred to as “college costs,” attracts much attention from the media, public policymakers, and our nation’s students and families. Average tuition and fees charged by institutions of higher education continue to rise faster than inflation, leading Congress to establish a National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education in 1997.

A theme of the commission’s January 1998 report, “Straight Talk About College Costs and Prices,” was the importance of defining terms clearly in any discussion of higher education finance. The commission made a useful distinction between expenditures that colleges incur to provide education — *costs* — and expenses students and families must pay — *prices*. Thus we have titled this publication “Trends in College Pricing” since its purpose is to provide the latest information on tuition and other expenses associated with attending college.

Each spring, the College Board administers the *Annual Survey of Colleges (ASC)* to 3,000 postsecondary institutions across the country. The survey collects a wealth of data on enrollment, admissions, degrees and majors, tuition, financial aid, and other aspects of undergraduate education. The College Board has conducted the Annual Survey for more than two decades, resulting in an extensive longitudinal data file about two-year, four-year, public and private colleges and universities.

Each fall over the past decade, the College Board has released information from the Annual Survey on how much colleges and universities plan to charge undergraduate students in the upcoming academic year. And for the past three years we have simultaneously released information from a counterpart survey conducted by the College Board, *Trends in Student Aid*.

This year we are publishing companion reports. Just as *Trends in Student Aid* has become widely respected for accuracy and consistency since it was first published in 1983, we hope that *Trends in College Pricing* will become a standard reference useful for policymakers, researchers, and media representatives.

Taken together, these two studies tell much about the financing of postsecondary educational opportunity in America. One provides the latest information on how much college “costs.” The other tracks the amount of financial assistance available to help pay these expenses. In both publications we report trend data in both current and constant (inflation-adjusted) dollars.

This report presents pricing data from the *Annual Survey of Colleges* for the 1998-99 academic year, including:

- average fixed charges for undergraduates — tuition and fees and room and board;
- average non-fixed budget components — books and supplies, transportation, and other expenses; and
- sample student budgets for each type of institution.

The report also provides trend data over the past 25 years and analysis of college prices in relation to family income as well as available financial aid. In all cases, we have tried to present the data in ways that may be useful to different audiences, while ensuring the integrity of the data.

This report would not have been possible without the cooperation and work of the following individuals at the College Board: Renee Gernand and the Annual Survey of Colleges staff in Guidance Publishing; Hal Higginbotham, Jack Joyce, and Kathy Payea of the College Scholarship Service; and the Communications and Government Relations Division, including John Childers, Jeffrey Penn, Robert Caruano and many others who have supported the development and dissemination of this report.

We welcome reader comments and suggestions on these *Trends* reports. Visit College Board Online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for an electronic version of this document and its counterpart, *Trends in Student Aid 1998*. Both reports are downloadable in PDF format, complete with additional data not provided in the print versions.

## Defining Terms

According to the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education, defining “cost,” “price,” and “subsidy” is not just a technical sidenote: it is critical to clarifying the issues in financing postsecondary education.

- **Costs** refer to the expenditures associated with delivering instruction, including physical plant and salaries.
- **Prices** are the expenses that students and parents face. **Sticker price** is the posted price institutions charge for tuition as well as room and board in the case of students residing on campus. A full student budget also includes books, supplies, and transportation. **Net price** is what the student and/or family must cover after financial aid awards are subtracted.
- General **subsidies** make it possible for institutions to charge less than the actual costs of instruction. State, federal, and local appropriations, as well as private philanthropy, reduce the prices faced by all students — whether or not they receive financial aid.

This report focuses on the sticker prices facing students and parents. It does not include estimates of average net price. However, we refer readers to the companion publication, *Trends in Student Aid 1998*, for data on the grant, loan, and work-study funds available to help families cover the expenses of college attendance.

This report also does not focus on the underlying costs of instruction or subsidies to institutions, although we do include an overview of sources of institutional revenue and how they have shifted over time.



### 1998-99 Tuition and Fees

For the 1998-99 academic year, the average tuition charged by public four-year colleges and universities is \$3,243, up from \$3,111 in 1997-98, an increase of 4 percent. Private four-year college tuition increased by 5 percent, from \$13,785 to \$14,508. Two-year public and private institutions are charging an average of \$1,633 and \$7,333 respectively, up 4 percent in each case. (Table 1)

The average surcharge for out-of-state or out-of-district students at public institutions is \$3,096 at two-year colleges and \$5,228 at four-year colleges. (Table 4)

### Regional Differences

The Southwest offers the lowest tuition rates at both private and public four-year institutions (\$10,701 and \$2,526 respectively). New England has the highest rates, averaging \$19,211 at four-year private institutions and \$4,635 at four-year publics. (Table 4)

### Room & Board

This year's room and board charges are between 3 and 5 percent higher than the previous year. Room and board averages \$5,042 at four-year private colleges and \$4,342 at four-year public colleges. (Table 1)

### Tuition & Fee Trends

In the 1970s there was little if any real growth in college prices. Since 1980, however, college prices have been rising at twice and sometimes three times the Consumer Price Index. (Figure 4; Tables 5 and 6a)

Over the ten-year period ending in 1998-99, after adjusting for inflation, average public four-year tuition and fees rose 53 percent compared to 35 percent for private four-year colleges. Since 1980-81, both public and private four-year college tuitions increased on average more than 100 percent over inflation. Private college tuition rose most sharply in the early and mid-1980s, while public tuition increased the most in the late 1980s and early 1990s. (Tables 5 and 6a)

### Affordability

More than half of the students attending four-year institutions pay less than \$4,000 in tuition and fees, and almost three quarters face tuition charges of less than \$8,000. Only 6 percent attend institutions charging tuition of \$20,000 or more per year. (Figure 1) For most Americans, college remains accessible, especially with the availability of more than \$60 billion in financial aid. (Figure 8; Table 9; also see companion *Trends in Student Aid* report)

Combined with stagnant family income over the past 15 years, however, trends in college tuition present serious problems for low- and moderate-income families. While average, inflation-adjusted tuition has more than doubled at both public and private four-year institutions, median family income has risen only 12 percent since 1981. Student aid, meanwhile, has increased in total value, but not enough to keep pace with the rise in tuition, and most of the growth in aid has been in the form of student borrowing. (Figure 6)

Median family income, moreover, tells only part of the story, because incomes have grown steadily less equal during the 1980s and 1990s. The share of family income required to pay college expenses has increased for all families, but it has gone up the most for those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder. (Figure 7; Table 8)

### Institutional Revenue

In 1994-95, tuition and fees covered 27 percent of the revenue raised by institutions of higher education. Although the federal government is responsible for about three-quarters of available student financial aid, it contributes only 12 percent of the total revenues of colleges and universities. The states contribute approximately twice that amount.

In 1980-81, tuition and fees generated 21 percent of the revenue of institutions. In the intervening years, a decline in state and federal funding for higher education has shifted more of the cost burden to students and families. (Figure 10)

### College Participation

Enrollment in postsecondary education has been rising for all income groups in the 1980s and 1990s. Yet an individual's chances of entering and completing college remain closely correlated with economic background and circumstance. Wide gaps in opportunity persist between those at the bottom of the income ladder and those at the top. (Figure 9; Table 10)



**TABLE 1. Average Fixed Charges for Undergraduates, 1998-99**

Sector	Tuition and Fees			Room and Board		
	1998-99	1997-98	% Change	1998-99	1997-98	% Change
Two-Year Public	1,633	1,567	4%	*	*	*
Two-Year Private	7,333	7,079	4%	4,666	4,442	5%
Four-Year Public	3,243	3,111	4%	4,530	4,358	4%
Four-Year Private	14,508	13,785	5%	5,765	5,575	3%

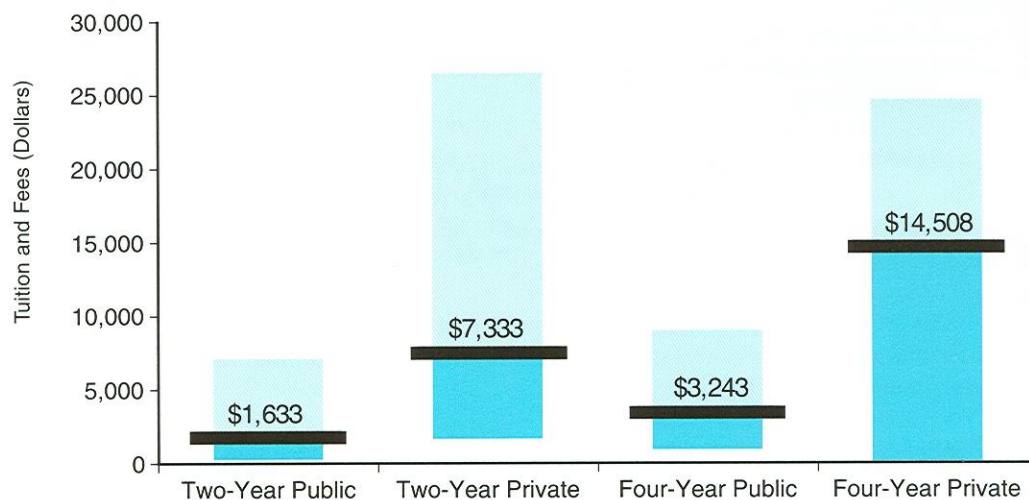
**TABLE 2. Average Expenses in Nonfixed Budget Components, 1998-99**

Sector	All Students	Resident Students		Commuter Students		
	Books/Supplies	Trans.	Other	Board Only	Trans.	Other
Two-Year Public	624	*	*	2,039	978	1,171
Two-Year Private	663	562	998	2,163	880	1,162
Four-Year Public	662	612	1,411	2,098	1,011	1,491
Four-Year Private	667	547	1,046	2,101	861	1,233

\* The sample was too small to provide meaningful information.  
*These are enrollment-weighted averages, intended to reflect the average costs that students face in various types of institutions.*  
*See technical notes on page 18 for a description of enrollment weighting.*

SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.

**FIGURE 2. Average and Range of Tuition and Fee Charges at Postsecondary Institutions, 1998-99**



SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.



**TABLE 3. Sample Undergraduate Budgets (average), 1998-99**

Sector	Tuition & Fees	Books & Supplies	Room & Board	Transportation	Other Expenses	Total** Expenses
<b>Two-Year Public</b>						
<i>Resident</i>	1,633	624	*	*	*	*
<i>Commuter</i>	1,633	624	2,039	978	1,171	6,445
<b>Two-Year Private</b>						
<i>Resident</i>	7,333	663	4,666	562	998	14,222
<i>Commuter</i>	7,333	663	2,163	880	1,162	12,201
<b>Four-Year Public</b>						
<i>Resident</i>	3,243	662	4,530	612	1,411	10,458
<i>Commuter</i>	3,243	662	2,098	1,011	1,491	8,505
<i>Out-of-State</i>	8,471	662	4,530	612	1,411	15,686
<b>Four-Year Private</b>						
<i>Resident</i>	14,508	667	5,765	547	1,046	22,533
<i>Commuter</i>	14,508	667	2,101	861	1,233	19,370

\* The sample was too small to provide meaningful information.

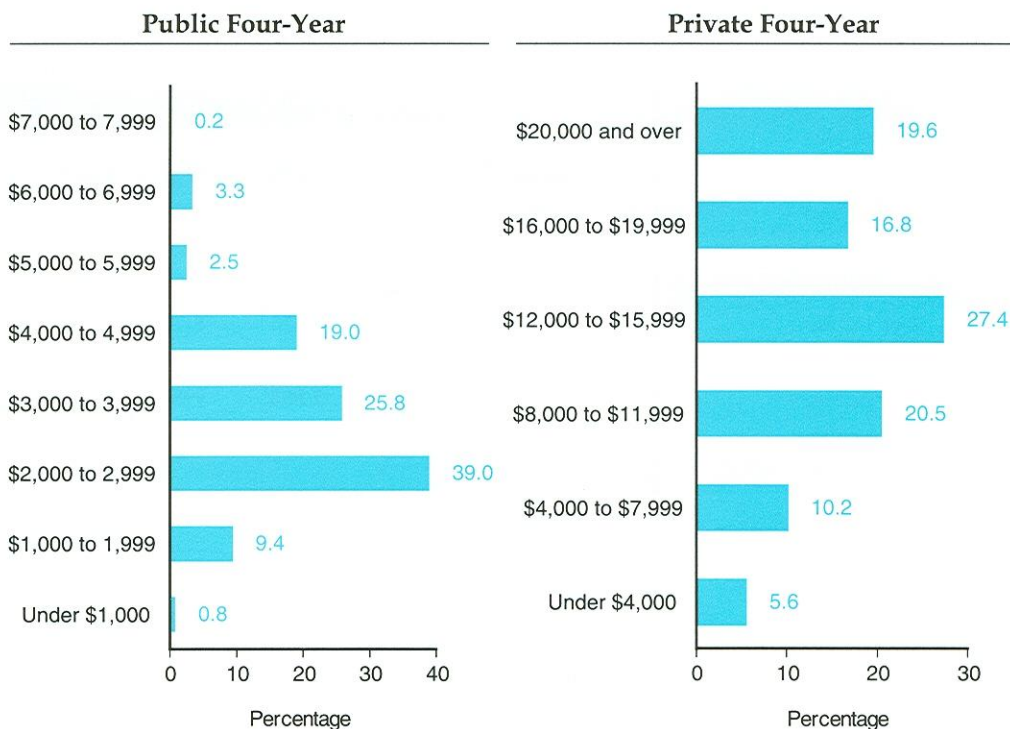
\*\*Based on estimated average student expenses.

These are enrollment-weighted averages, intended to reflect the average costs that students face in various types of institutions.

SOURCE: Annual Survey of Colleges, The College Board, New York, NY.

**FIGURE 3. Distribution of Full-Time Undergraduates at Public and Private Four-Year Institutions by Tuition and Fees Charged, 1998-99**

The cover graphic on this report shows the distribution of full-time undergraduates at all four-year colleges and universities, by tuition and fees charged. The two graphics to the right divide this overall picture into separate distributions for public and private institutions. Readers may also find a distribution of four-year institutions (as opposed to students enrolled) by tuition and fees charged on page 18.



SOURCE: Annual Survey of Colleges, The College Board, New York, NY.



**TABLE 4. Average Student Expenses, by College Board Region, 1998-99**

	Tuition & Fees	Out-of-state tuition	Books & supplies	Residential			Commuter		
				Room and board	Trans.	Other costs	Board only	Trans.	Other costs
<b>NATIONAL</b>									
2-yr public	1,633	3,096	624	—	—	—	2,039	978	1,171
2-yr private	7,333		663	4,666	562	998	2,163	880	1,162
4-yr public	3,243	5,228	662	4,530	612	1,411	2,098	1,011	1,491
4-yr private	14,508		667	5,765	547	1,046	2,101	861	1,233
<b>New England</b>									
2-yr public	2,302	4,120	595	—	—	—	2,014	987	1,163
2-yr private	12,237		<i>680</i>	6,647	490	809	4,249	873	990
4-yr public	4,635	5,475	615	5,051	417	1,021	1,745	1,012	1,234
4-yr private	19,211		674	6,963	440	1,008	2,221	828	1,057
<b>Middle States</b>									
2-yr public	2,622	2,891	595	—	—	—	1,765	907	1,236
2-yr private	9,276		662	<i>5,394</i>	482	961	1,922	942	1,446
4-yr public	4,201	4,544	690	5,225	515	1,282	2,019	862	1,435
4-yr private	15,381		649	6,597	391	969	1,941	830	1,285
<b>South</b>									
2-yr public	1,235	2,850	593	—	—	—	2,019	1,112	919
2-yr private	9,250		574	<i>4,213</i>	476	978	1,737	1,186	1,254
4-yr public	2,675	5,219	659	3,935	723	1,357	2,167	1,224	1,520
4-yr private	12,636		681	5,042	711	1,065	1,974	888	1,070
<b>Midwest</b>									
2-yr public	1,834	3,291	<i>638</i>	—	—	—	<i>1,860</i>	1,047	1,224
2-yr private	7,950		674	3,894	521	1,101	1,609	718	1,057
4-yr public	3,647	4,794	615	4,250	501	1,480	1,790	945	1,459
4-yr private	14,007		667	4,824	524	1,006	2,311	847	1,248
<b>Southwest</b>									
2-yr public	995	1,487	658	2,524	<i>842</i>	<i>1,043</i>	<i>2,055</i>	<i>1,076</i>	<i>1,150</i>
2-yr private	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-yr public	2,526	4,798	656	3,885	998	1,331	2,019	1,343	1,375
4-yr private	10,701		651	4,481	761	1,303	2,069	1,082	1,297
<b>West</b>									
2-yr public	<i>1,053</i>	<i>3,761</i>	<i>666</i>	—	—	—	—	<i>772</i>	<i>1,361</i>
2-yr private	<i>3,779</i>		<i>683</i>	—	—	—	—	<i>865</i>	<i>1,052</i>
4-yr public	2,660	6,945	717	5,349	690	1,695	2,518	833	1,639
4-yr private	14,290		738	5,946	655	1,256	2,128	867	1,372

SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.

Note: Averages in *italicized type* indicate that while the number of institutions reporting data on this item was large enough to support an analysis, the sample size was marginal. Data are enrollment weighted.

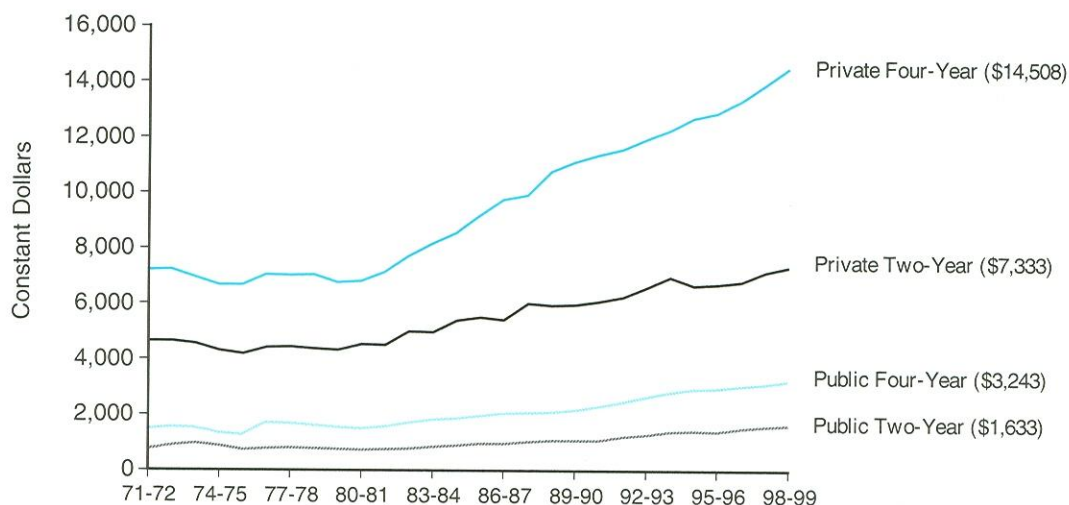


**TABLE 5. Average Tuition & Fees, 1971-72 to 1998-99, in Current and Constant Dollars**

Academic Year	Tuition and Fees - Current Dollars				Tuition and Fees - Constant Dollars			
	Private Four Year	Private Two Year	Public Four Year	Public Two Year	Private Four Year	Private Two Year	Public Four Year	Public Two Year
71-72	1,820	1,172	376	192	7,218	4,648	1,491	761
72-73	1,898	1,221	407	233	7,236	4,655	1,552	888
73-74	1,989	1,303	438	274	6,962	4,561	1,533	959
74-75	2,117	1,367	432	277	6,671	4,308	1,361	873
75-76	2,272	1,427	433	245	6,686	4,199	1,274	721
76-77	2,534	1,592	617	283	7,046	4,427	1,716	787
77-78	2,700	1,706	655	306	7,035	4,445	1,707	797
78-79	2,958	1,831	688	327	7,047	4,362	1,639	779
79-80	3,225	2,062	738	355	6,780	4,335	1,551	746
80-81	3,617	2,413	804	391	6,814	4,546	1,515	737
81-82	4,113	2,605	909	434	7,133	4,518	1,576	753
82-83	4,639	3,008	1,031	473	7,714	5,002	1,714	786
83-84	5,093	3,099	1,148	528	8,166	4,969	1,841	847
84-85	5,556	3,485	1,228	584	8,573	5,377	1,895	901
85-86	6,121	3,672	1,318	641	9,180	5,507	1,977	961
86-87	6,658	3,684	1,414	660	9,769	5,405	2,075	968
87-88	7,048	4,265	1,485	739	9,929	6,009	2,092	1,041
88-89	8,004	4,411	1,578	799	10,778	5,940	2,125	1,076
89-90	8,663	4,638	1,696	841	11,134	5,961	2,180	1,081
90-91	9,340	4,990	1,908	884	11,382	6,081	2,325	1,077
91-92	9,812	5,290	2,107	1,022	11,586	6,247	2,488	1,207
92-93	10,449	5,754	2,334	1,116	11,965	6,589	2,673	1,278
93-94	11,007	6,228	2,535	1,245	12,285	6,951	2,829	1,390
94-95	11,719	6,128	2,705	1,310	12,716	6,649	2,935	1,421
95-96	12,216	6,339	2,811	1,330	12,904	6,696	2,969	1,405
96-97	12,994	6,613	2,975	1,465	13,345	6,792	3,055	1,505
97-98	13,785	7,079	3,111	1,567	13,909	7,143	3,139	1,581
98-99	14,508	7,333	3,243	1,633	14,508	7,333	3,243	1,633

SOURCE: 1987-88 to 1998-99: enrollment-weighted data from the *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY; 1971-72 to 1986-87: non-weighted data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

**FIGURE 4.**  
Average Tuition and Fee Charges, 1971-72 to 1998-99 (in constant dollars)



SOURCE: See Table 5 above.



**TABLE 6. Average Annual Tuition and Fees, Room and Board, and Total Fixed-Costs for Undergraduates, by Institution Type, 1988-89 to 1998-99, in Current Dollars**

Sector	Tuition & Fees										
	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99
Two-Year Public	799	841	884	1,022	1,116	1,245	1,310	1,330	1,465	1,567	1,633
Two-Year Private	4,411	4,638	4,990	5,290	5,754	6,228	6,128	6,339	6,613	7,079	7,333
Four-Year Public	1,578	1,696	1,908	2,107	2,334	2,535	2,705	2,811	2,975	3,111	3,243
Four-Year Private	8,004	8,663	9,340	9,812	10,449	11,007	11,719	12,216	12,994	13,785	14,508

Sector	Room and Board										
	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99
Two-Year Public	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Two-Year Private	3,063	3,258	3,481	3,734	3,750	3,980	4,040	4,243	4,231	4,543	4,666
Four-Year Public	2,879	3,039	3,161	3,351	3,526	3,680	3,826	3,963	4,152	4,361	4,530
Four-Year Private	3,637	3,898	4,153	4,386	4,575	4,793	4,976	5,199	5,361	5,549	5,765

Sector	Total Fixed Costs										
	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99
Two-Year Public	799	841	884	1,022	1,116	1,245	1,310	1,330	1,465	1,567	1,633
Two-Year Private	7,474	7,896	8,471	9,024	9,504	10,208	10,168	10,582	10,844	11,622	11,999
Four-Year Public	4,457	4,735	5,069	5,458	5,860	6,215	6,531	6,774	7,127	7,472	7,773
Four-Year Private	11,641	12,561	13,493	14,198	15,024	15,800	16,695	17,415	18,355	19,334	20,273

All data are enrollment-weighted averages, intended to reflect the average costs that students face in various types of institutions.  
 SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.





**TABLE 6a. Average Annual Tuition and Fees, Room and Board, and Total Fixed-Costs for Undergraduates, by Institution Type, 1988-89 to 1998-99, in Constant Dollars with Annual and Ten-Year Percentage Changes**

		Tuition & Fees												
Sector		88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	10-yr change	10-yr % change
<b>Two-Year Public</b>		1,076	1,081	1,077	1,207	1,278	1,390	1,421	1,405	1,505	1,581	1,633	557	52
(% Change)		8.1	0.5	-0.3	12.0	5.9	8.7	2.3	-1.2	7.1	5.1	3.3		
<b>Two-Year Private</b>		5,940	5,961	6,081	6,247	6,589	6,951	6,649	6,696	6,792	7,143	7,333	1,393	23
(% Change)		3.4	0.4	2.0	2.7	5.5	5.5	-4.3	0.7	1.4	5.2	2.7		
<b>Four-Year Public</b>		2,125	2,180	2,325	2,488	2,673	2,829	2,935	2,969	3,055	3,139	3,243	1,118	53
(% Change)		6.3	2.6	6.7	7.0	7.4	5.9	3.7	1.2	2.9	2.7	3.3		
<b>Four-Year Private</b>		10,778	11,134	11,382	11,586	11,965	12,285	12,716	12,904	13,345	13,909	14,508	3,730	35
(% Change)		13.6	3.3	2.2	1.8	3.3	2.7	3.5	1.5	3.4	4.2	4.3		

		Room & Board												
Sector		88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	10-yr change	10-yr % change
<b>Two-Year Public</b>		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(% Change)														
<b>Two-Year Private</b>		4,125	4,187	4,242	4,409	4,294	4,442	4,384	4,482	4,345	4,584	4,666	541	13
(% Change)		6.1	1.5	1.3	3.9	-2.6	3.5	-1.3	2.2	-3.0	5.5	1.8		
<b>Four-Year Public</b>		3,877	3,906	3,852	3,957	4,037	4,107	4,151	4,186	4,264	4,400	4,530	653	17
(% Change)		4.9	0.7	-1.4	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.1	0.8	1.9	3.2	2.9		
<b>Four-Year Private</b>		4,898	5,010	5,061	5,179	5,239	5,350	5,399	5,492	5,506	5,599	5,765	867	18
(% Change)		7.5	2.3	1.0	2.3	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.7	0.3	1.7	3.0		

		Total Fixed Costs												
Sector		88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	10-yr change	10-yr % change
<b>Two-Year Public</b>		1,076	1,081	1,077	1,207	1,278	1,390	1,421	1,405	1,505	1,581	1,633	557	52
(% Change)		8.1	0.5	-0.3	12.0	5.9	8.7	2.3	-1.2	7.1	5.1	3.3		
<b>Two-Year Private</b>		10,065	10,149	10,323	10,656	10,883	11,394	11,033	11,178	11,137	11,727	11,999	1,934	19
(% Change)		4.5	0.8	1.7	3.2	2.1	4.7	-3.2	1.3	-0.4	5.3	2.3		
<b>Four-Year Public</b>		6,002	6,086	6,177	6,445	6,710	6,937	7,086	7,155	7,319	7,539	7,773	1,771	30
(% Change)		5.4	1.4	1.5	4.3	4.1	3.4	2.2	1.0	2.3	3.0	3.1		
<b>Four-Year Private</b>		15,676	16,145	16,443	16,765	17,203	17,635	18,115	18,396	18,851	19,508	20,273	4,597	29
(% Change)		11.6	3.0	1.9	2.0	2.6	2.5	2.7	1.6	2.5	3.5	3.9		

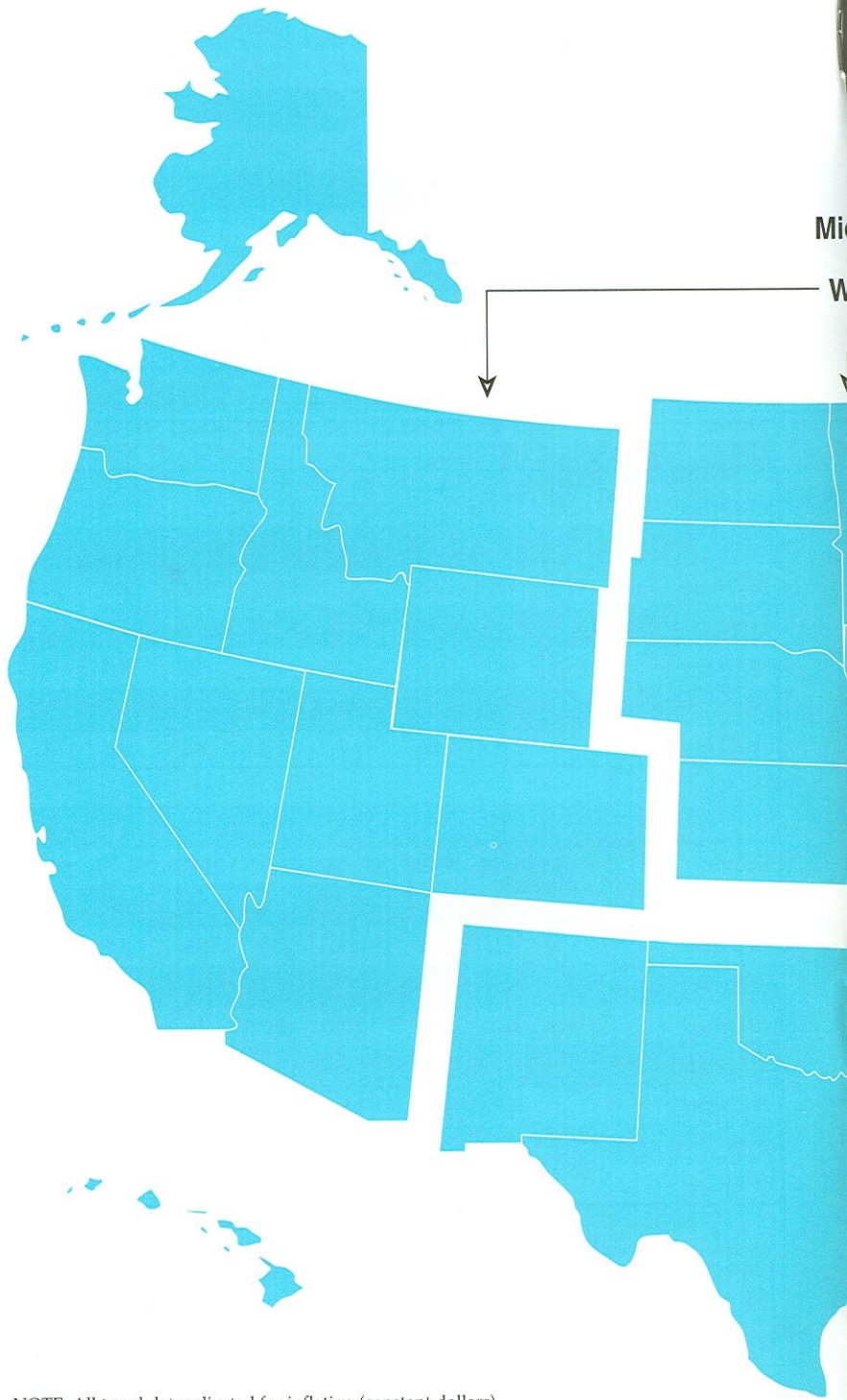
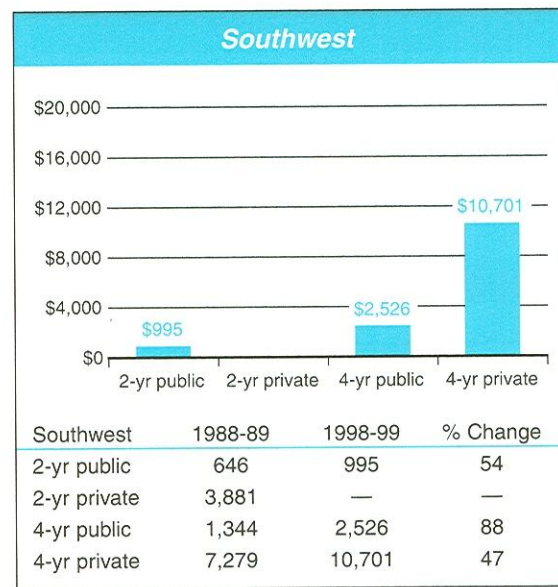
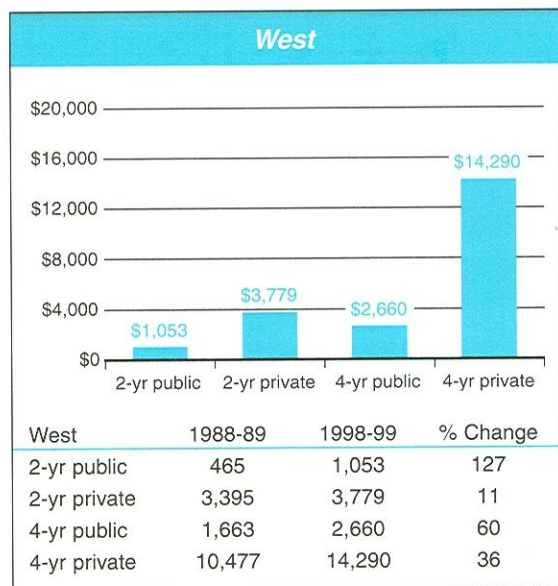
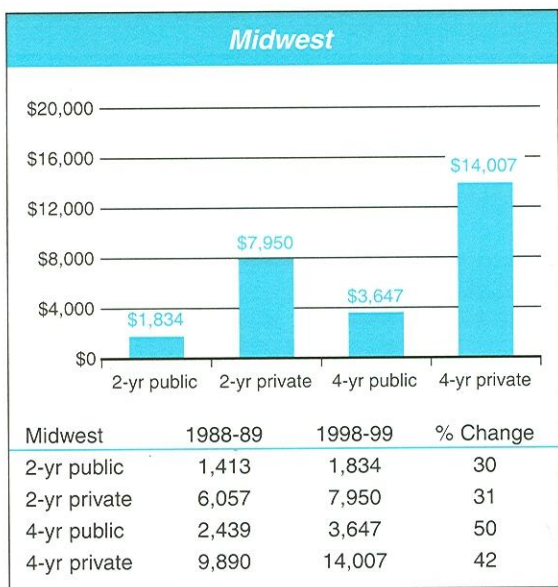
All data are enrollment-weighted averages, intended to reflect the average costs that students face in various types of institutions.  
SOURCE: Annual Survey of Colleges, The College Board, New York, NY.



FIGURE 5

# REGIONAL TUITION

## by College Board Region

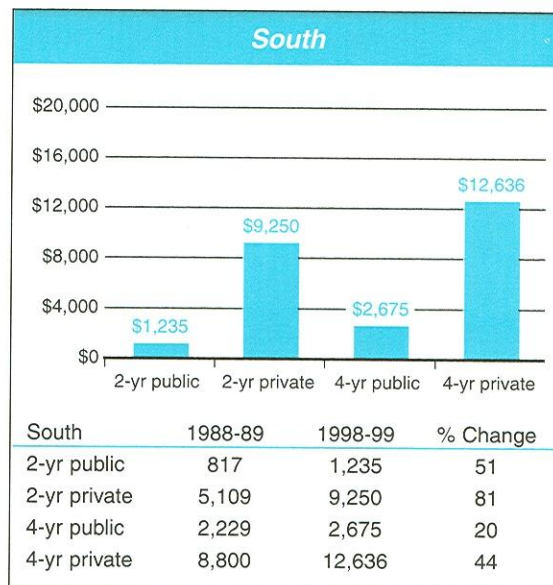
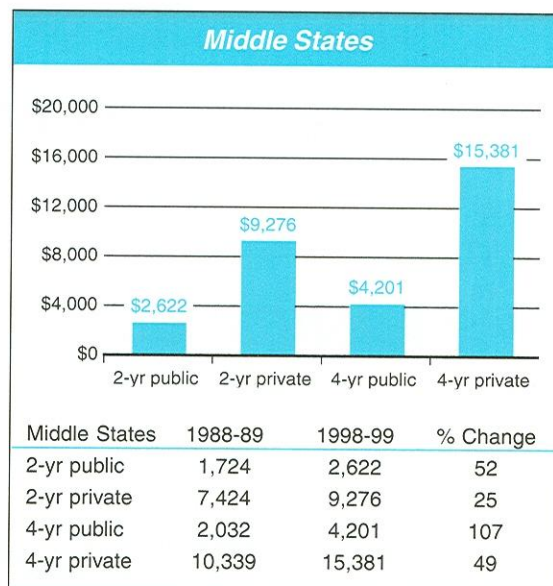
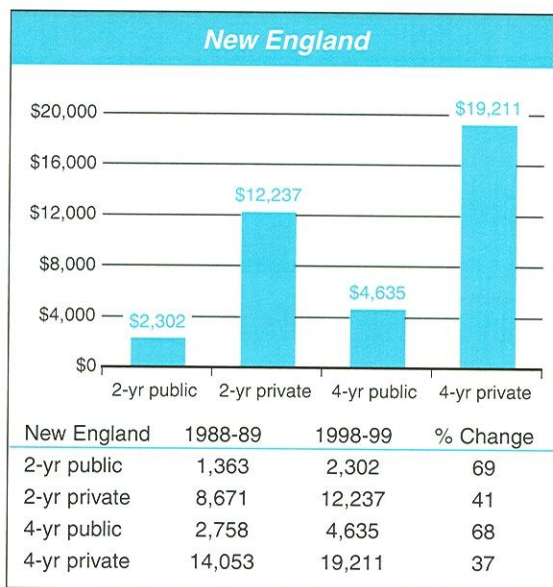
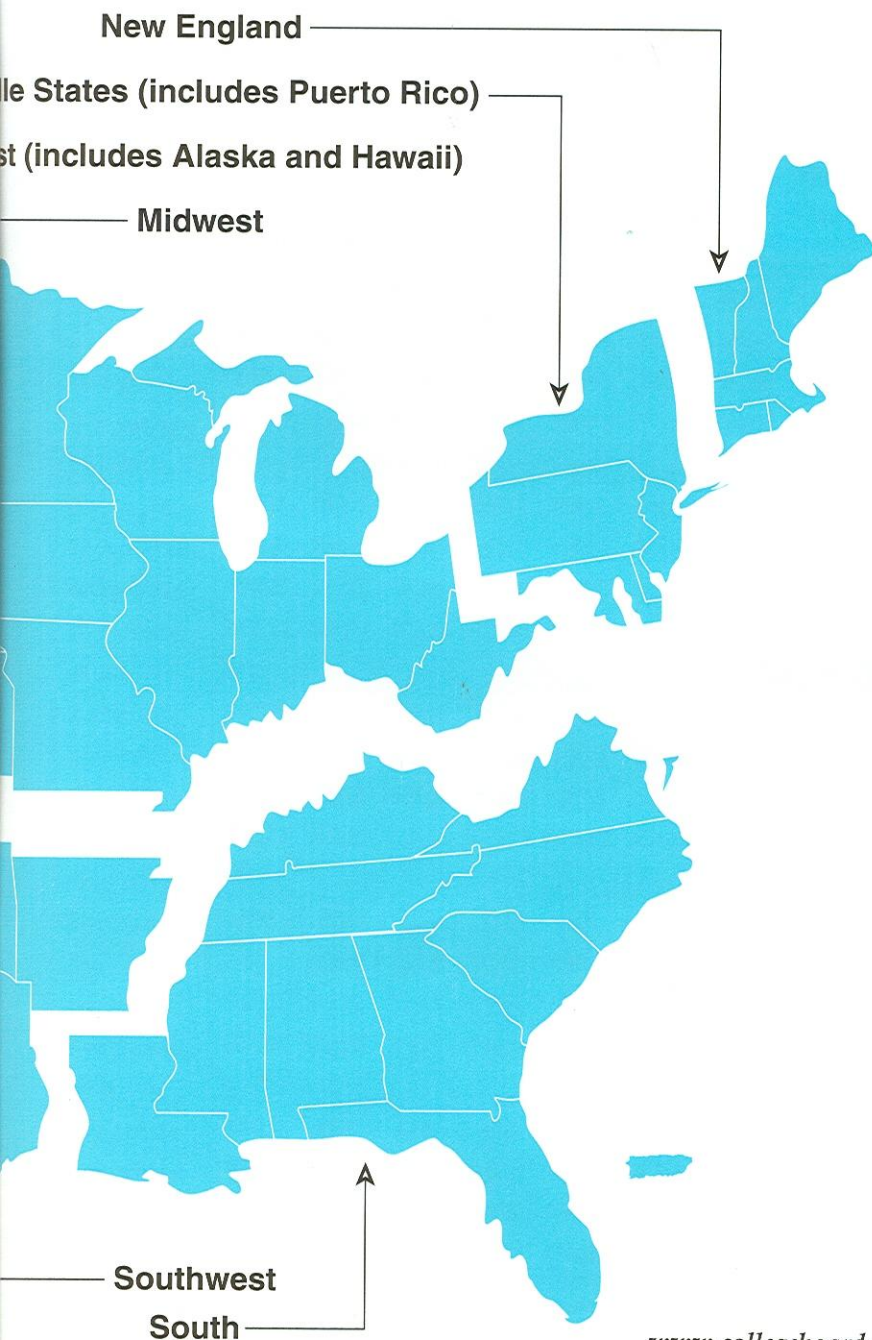


NOTE: All trend data adjusted for inflation (constant dollars).  
 "—" sample too small to provide meaningful information.  
 SOURCE: *The Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.



# AND FEE CHARGES

on, 1988-89 and 1998-99.





**TABLE 7. Ten-year Comparison of Tuition and Fees, by Region and Institution Type, in Current Dollars**

Sector	Tuition & Fees										
	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99
<b>National</b>											
2-yr public	799	841	884	1,022	1,116	1,245	1,310	1,330	1,465	1,567	1,633
2-yr private	4,411	4,638	4,990	5,290	5,754	6,228	6,128	6,339	6,613	7,079	7,333
4-yr public	1,578	1,696	1,908	2,107	2,334	2,535	2,705	2,811	2,975	3,111	3,243
4-yr private	8,004	8,663	9,340	9,812	10,449	11,007	11,719	12,216	12,994	13,785	14,508
<b>New England</b>											
2-yr public	1,012	1,172	1,356	1,749	1,891	2,134	2,236	2,230	2,285	2,343	2,302
2-yr private	6,439	6,780	7,643	7,835	8,216	8,636	9,503	10,801	10,867	12,548	12,237
4-yr public	2,048	2,067	2,550	3,439	3,650	3,921	4,168	4,272	4,313	4,487	4,635
4-yr private	10,436	11,305	12,313	13,487	14,095	14,942	15,593	16,416	17,196	18,050	19,211
<b>Middle States</b>											
2-yr public	1,280	1,336	1,403	1,812	1,915	1,913	1,978	2,202	2,497	2,602	2,622
2-yr private	5,513	6,060	6,440	7,098	7,684	8,330	8,827	8,001	7,987	8,728	9,276
4-yr public	1,509	1,721	2,081	2,770	3,129	3,261	3,490	3,876	3,892	4,054	4,201
4-yr private	7,678	9,471	9,967	10,469	11,079	11,669	12,396	13,201	13,603	14,603	15,381
<b>South</b>											
2-yr public	607	697	712	840	907	969	1,002	1,028	1,075	1,180	1,235
2-yr private	3,794	4,160	4,571	4,617	4,691	5,569	6,586	7,426	7,047	8,387	9,250
4-yr public	1,655	1,760	1,804	1,873	2,027	2,175	2,265	2,337	2,419	2,541	2,675
4-yr private	6,535	7,353	7,856	8,478	8,996	9,541	10,096	10,777	11,124	11,961	12,636
<b>Midwest</b>											
2-yr public	1,049	1,118	1,201	1,273	1,400	1,516	1,554	1,632	1,687	1,767	1,834
2-yr private	4,498	4,622	4,360	4,541	5,663	6,135	6,301	6,361	6,681	6,662	7,950
4-yr public	1,811	1,991	2,132	2,348	2,523	2,780	2,930	3,104	3,251	3,440	3,647
4-yr private	7,344	8,028	8,800	9,446	10,075	10,656	11,203	11,875	12,433	13,277	14,007
<b>Southwest</b>											
2-yr public	480	—	599	665	701	743	756	812	895	894	995
2-yr private	2,882	2,850	2,904	—	—	3,338	3,989	4,008	4,121	5,079	—
4-yr public	998	1,140	1,176	1,284	1,411	1,534	1,707	1,910	2,147	2,363	2,526
4-yr private	5,405	5,642	6,528	7,106	7,542	7,976	8,691	9,019	9,522	10,123	10,701
<b>West</b>											
2-yr public	345	398	405	477	0	794	812	808	834	925	1,053
2-yr private	2,521	—	2,662	2,714	2,781	3,251	3,407	3,404	3,337	—	3,779
4-yr public	1,235	1,325	1,398	1,673	1,973	2,267	2,467	2,561	2,588	2,680	2,660
4-yr private	7,780	8,309	9,028	9,793	10,252	10,884	11,616	12,245	12,893	13,587	14,290

All data are **enrollment-weighted averages**, intended to reflect the average costs that students face in various types of institutions.  
 SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.



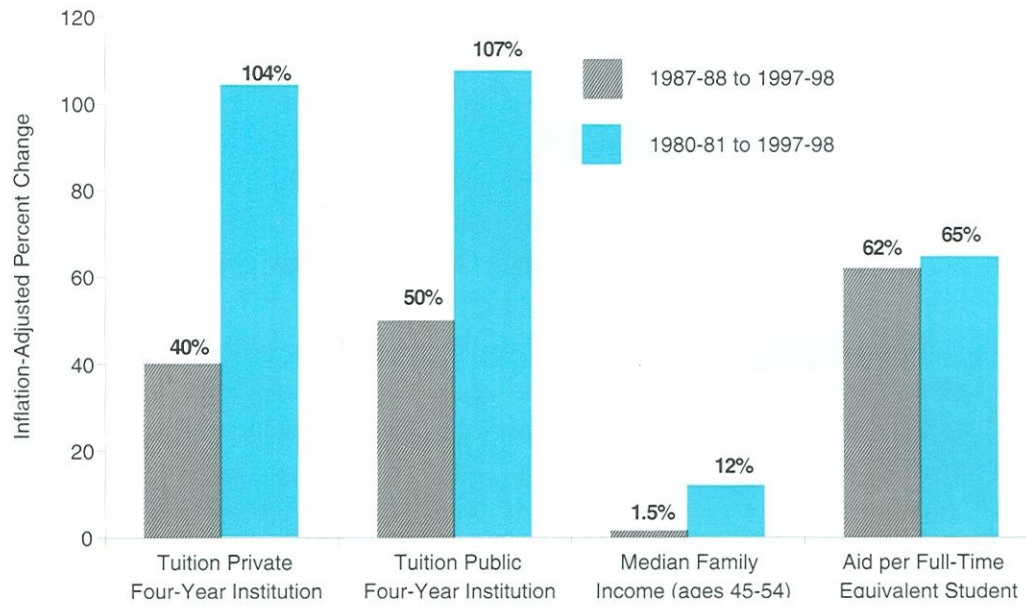
**TABLE 7a. Ten-year Comparison of Tuition and Fees, by Region and Institution Type, in Constant Dollars**

Sector	Tuition & Fees											10-yr change	10-yr % change
	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99		
<b>National</b>													
2-yr public	1,076	1,081	1,077	1,207	1,278	1,390	1,421	1,405	1,505	1,581	1,633	557	52
2-yr private	5,940	5,961	6,081	6,247	6,589	6,951	6,649	6,696	6,792	7,143	7,333	1,393	23
4-yr public	2,125	2,180	2,325	2,488	2,673	2,829	2,935	2,969	3,055	3,139	3,243	1,118	53
4-yr private	10,778	11,134	11,382	11,586	11,965	12,285	12,716	12,904	13,345	13,909	14,508	3,730	35
<b>New England</b>													
2-yr public	1,363	1,506	1,653	2,065	2,165	2,382	2,426	2,356	2,347	2,364	2,302	939	69
2-yr private	8,671	8,714	9,314	9,252	9,408	9,639	10,311	11,409	11,160	12,661	12,237	3,566	41
4-yr public	2,758	2,657	3,108	4,061	4,179	4,376	4,522	4,513	4,429	4,527	4,635	1,877	68
4-yr private	14,053	14,530	15,005	15,926	16,140	16,678	16,919	17,340	17,660	18,213	19,211	5,158	37
<b>Middle States</b>													
2-yr public	1,724	1,717	1,710	2,140	2,193	2,135	2,146	2,326	2,564	2,625	2,622	898	52
2-yr private	7,424	7,789	7,848	8,382	8,799	9,298	9,578	8,452	8,203	8,807	9,276	1,852	25
4-yr public	2,032	2,212	2,536	3,271	3,583	3,640	3,787	4,094	3,997	4,091	4,201	2,169	107
4-yr private	10,339	12,173	12,146	12,362	12,686	13,024	13,450	13,944	13,970	14,735	15,381	5,042	49
<b>South</b>													
2-yr public	817	896	868	992	1,039	1,082	1,087	1,086	1,104	1,191	1,235	418	51
2-yr private	5,109	5,347	5,571	5,452	5,371	6,216	7,146	7,844	7,237	8,463	9,250	4,141	81
4-yr public	2,229	2,262	2,198	2,212	2,321	2,428	2,458	2,469	2,484	2,564	2,675	446	20
4-yr private	8,800	9,451	9,574	10,011	10,301	10,649	10,955	11,384	11,424	12,069	12,636	3,836	44
<b>Midwest</b>													
2-yr public	1,413	1,437	1,464	1,503	1,603	1,692	1,686	1,724	1,733	1,783	1,834	421	30
2-yr private	6,057	5,941	5,313	5,362	6,484	6,848	6,837	6,719	6,861	6,722	7,950	1,893	31
4-yr public	2,439	2,559	2,598	2,773	2,889	3,103	3,179	3,279	3,339	3,471	3,647	1,208	50
4-yr private	9,890	10,318	10,724	11,154	11,537	11,894	12,156	12,544	12,769	13,397	14,007	4,117	42
<b>Southwest</b>													
2-yr public	646	—	730	785	803	829	820	858	919	902	995	349	54
2-yr private	3,881	3,663	3,539	—	—	3,726	4,328	4,234	4,232	5,125	—	—	—
4-yr public	1,344	1,465	1,433	1,516	1,616	1,712	1,852	2,018	2,205	2,384	2,526	1,182	88
4-yr private	7,279	7,252	7,955	8,391	8,636	8,902	9,430	9,527	9,779	10,214	10,701	3,422	47
<b>West</b>													
2-yr public	465	512	494	563	0	886	881	853	857	933	1,053	588	127
2-yr private	3,395	—	3,244	3,205	3,184	3,629	3,697	3,596	3,427	—	3,779	384	11
4-yr public	1,663	1,703	1,704	1,976	2,259	2,530	2,677	2,705	2,658	2,704	2,660	997	60
4-yr private	10,477	10,679	11,002	11,564	11,739	12,148	12,604	12,935	13,241	13,710	14,290	3,813	36

All data are enrollment-weighted averages, intended to reflect the average costs that students face in various types of institutions.  
SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.

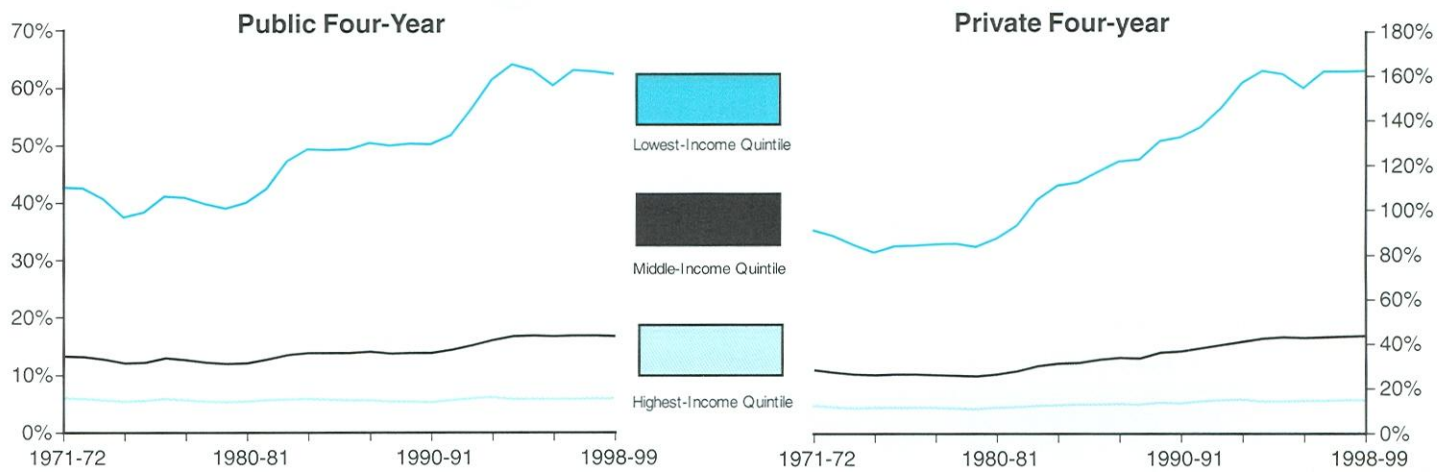


**FIGURE 6.** *Inflation-Adjusted Changes in Tuition, Family Income, and Student Aid, 1987-88 to 1997-98 and 1980-81 to 1997-98*



SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges & Trends in Student Aid 1998*, The College Board, New York, NY.  
 NOTE: The end-year for this graphic analysis is 1997-98 rather than 1998-99 because family income and financial aid data are not available for the latter year.

**FIGURE 7.** *Cost of Attendance of Four-Year Public and Private Institutions, as a Share of Family Income, 1971-72 to 1998-99*



SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY; data pre-1987-88 from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; income data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics.



**TABLE 8. Cost of Attendance at Four-Year Public and Private Institutions as a Percentage Share of Family Income; Cost of Attendance; and Mean Family Income Figures, 1971-72 to 1998-99 (in Constant Dollars)**

Year	Percentage					Constant Dollar Amounts											
	Public Four-Year			Private Four-Year		COA		Mean Family Income by Quintiles					Highest				
	Low Income	Middle Income	High Income	Low Income	Middle Income	High Income	Public Four-Year	Private Four-Year	Lowest Fifth	Second Fifth	Middle Fifth	Fourth Fifth	Highest Fifth	Lowest Fifth	Second Fifth	Middle Fifth	Fourth Fifth
1971-72	42%	13%	6%	91%	29%	12%	5,382	11,569	12,695	27,635	40,433	54,758	94,315				
1972-73	42%	13%	6%	88%	28%	12%	5,558	11,582	13,118	28,623	42,043	57,414	99,575				
1973-74	40%	13%	5%	84%	26%	11%	5,310	11,075	13,133	28,447	41,797	57,121	98,004				
1974-75	37%	12%	5%	81%	26%	11%	4,925	10,723	13,235	27,938	40,788	55,881	94,161				
1975-76	38%	12%	5%	84%	27%	12%	4,903	10,779	12,851	27,167	40,395	55,309	93,206				
1976-77	41%	13%	6%	84%	27%	12%	5,383	11,056	13,152	27,834	41,520	56,730	95,481				
1977-78	41%	13%	5%	85%	26%	11%	5,310	11,048	13,046	27,888	41,943	57,858	97,472				
1978-79	40%	12%	5%	85%	26%	11%	5,110	10,981	12,927	28,035	42,096	57,999	98,418				
1979-80	39%	12%	5%	84%	26%	11%	4,894	10,538	12,609	27,261	41,113	56,601	97,083				
1980-81	40%	12%	5%	87%	27%	11%	4,806	10,539	12,078	26,293	39,720	55,106	92,782				
1981-82	42%	13%	5%	93%	28%	12%	4,977	10,977	11,798	25,655	39,239	55,091	92,437				
1982-83	47%	14%	6%	105%	30%	12%	5,313	11,849	11,315	25,673	39,201	55,611	96,093				
1983-84	49%	14%	6%	111%	31%	13%	5,504	12,441	11,203	25,776	39,659	56,522	98,003				
1984-85	49%	14%	6%	112%	32%	13%	5,681	13,040	11,605	26,571	40,995	58,622	101,884				
1985-86	49%	14%	5%	117%	33%	13%	5,788	13,841	11,802	27,081	41,812	59,934	106,512				
1986-87	50%	14%	5%	122%	34%	13%	6,071	14,729	12,087	27,907	43,235	61,776	111,268				
1987-88	50%	14%	5%	123%	34%	13%	5,959	14,695	11,985	28,051	43,558	62,340	113,928				
1988-89	50%	14%	5%	131%	36%	14%	6,002	15,676	11,978	27,894	43,407	62,339	114,383				
1989-90	50%	14%	5%	133%	37%	14%	6,086	16,145	12,164	28,300	43,965	63,253	119,099				
1990-91	52%	14%	5%	137%	38%	14%	6,177	16,443	11,983	27,950	43,046	61,905	115,047				
1991-92	56%	15%	6%	146%	40%	15%	6,445	16,765	11,494	27,283	42,334	61,399	112,804				
1992-93	61%	16%	6%	157%	41%	15%	6,710	17,203	10,977	26,475	41,826	60,796	113,134				
1993-94	64%	17%	6%	162%	43%	14%	6,937	17,635	10,870	26,107	41,371	61,328	123,912				
1994-95	63%	17%	6%	161%	43%	14%	7,086	18,115	11,270	26,665	42,108	62,245	125,440				
1995-96	60%	17%	6%	155%	43%	15%	7,155	18,396	11,899	27,417	42,925	62,805	126,179				
1996-97	63%	17%	6%	162%	43%	15%	7,319	18,851	11,644	27,572	43,614	63,728	129,020				
1997-98*	63%	17%	6%	162%	44%	15%	7,539	19,508	12,041	28,364	44,838	65,202	132,096				
1998-99*	62%	17%	6%	162%	44%	15%	7,773	20,273	12,504	29,400	46,489	67,236	136,460				

\*1997-98 and 1998-99 income data are estimated using a three-year rolling average.  
 NOTE: Low, middle, and high income labels above refer to the lowest, middle, and highest income quintiles from the right side of the table.  
 SOURCE: 1987-88 to 1998-99 Cost of Attendance Data compiled from the College Board's *Annual Survey of Colleges*; pre-1987-88 from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; income data from the U.S. Census Bureau web site ([www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/f03.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/f03.html)).

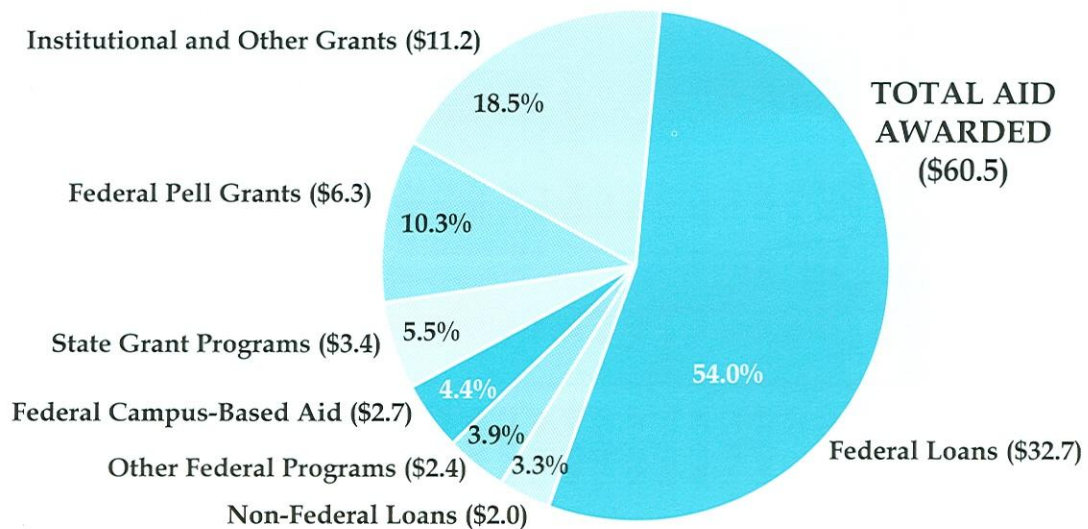


**TABLE 9. Aid Awarded to Postsecondary Students, 1987-88 to 1997-98  
in Current and Constant Dollars (in Millions)**

	Current Dollars		Constant Dollars		
	Preliminary		Preliminary	Preliminary	10-year
	1987-88	1997-98	1987-88	1997-98	% Change
<b>Federally Supported Programs</b>					
Pell Grants	3,754	6,256	5,242	6,256	19
SEOG	412	583	575	583	1
SSIG	75	46	105	46	-57
FWS	635	1,007	887	1,007	14
Perkins Loans	805	1,058	1,124	1,058	-6
Income Contingent Loans	5	-	7	-	
<b>Ford Direct Loans</b>	-	<b>10,906</b>	-	<b>10,906</b>	
<i>(Subsidized Stafford)</i>	-	<i>(6,107)</i>	-	<i>(6,107)</i>	
<i>(Unsubsidized Stafford)</i>	-	<i>(3,704)</i>	-	<i>(3,704)</i>	
<i>(PLUS)</i>	-	<i>(1,095)</i>	-	<i>(1,095)</i>	
<b>Family Education Loans</b>	<b>11,385</b>	<b>21,808</b>	<b>15,896</b>	<b>21,808</b>	<b>37</b>
<i>(Subsidized Stafford)</i>	<i>(9,119)</i>	<i>(11,830)</i>	<i>(12,732)</i>	<i>(11,830)</i>	<b>-7</b>
<i>(Unsubsidized Stafford)</i>	-	<i>(7,947)</i>	-	<i>(7,947)</i>	
<i>(SLS)</i>	<i>(1,830)</i>	-	<i>(2,555)</i>	-	
<i>(PLUS)</i>	<i>(436)</i>	<i>(2,031)</i>	<i>(609)</i>	<i>(2,031)</i>	<b>234</b>
Specially Directed Aid	1,502	2,323	2,097	2,323	11
<b>Total Federal Aid</b>	<b>18,573</b>	<b>43,986</b>	<b>25,933</b>	<b>43,986</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>State Grant Programs</b>	1,503	3,349	2,099	3,349	60
<b>Non-Federal Loans</b>	-	1,991	-	1,991	
(State-sponsored)	-	(345)	-	(345)	
(Private Sector)	-	(1,646)	-	(1,646)	
<b>Institutional and Other Grants</b>	3,808	11,205	5,317	11,205	111
<b>Total Federal, State, and Institutional Aid</b>	<b>23,885</b>	<b>60,532</b>	<b>33,348</b>	<b>60,532</b>	<b>82</b>

SOURCE: *Trends in Student Aid 1998*, The College Board, New York, NY.

**FIGURE 8. Estimated Student Aid by Source for Academic Year 1997-98  
(Current Dollars in Billions)**





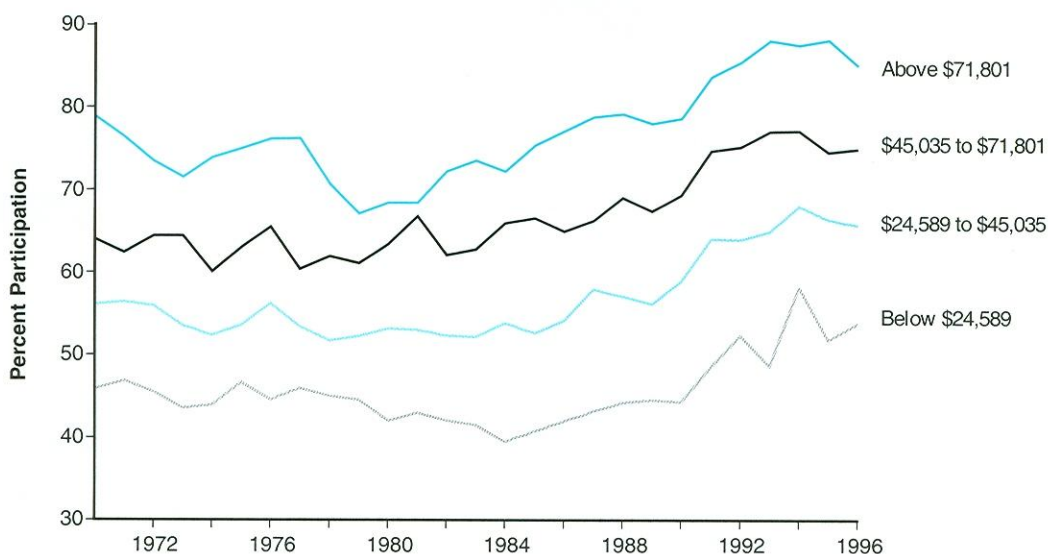


**TABLE 10. College Participation Rates for Unmarried 18- to 24-Year-Old High School Graduates, 1970 to 1996, by Family Income Quartile, in Percent**

Year	Bottom Quartile	Second Quartile	Third Quartile	Highest Quartile
	<i>Below \$24,589</i>	<i>\$24,589 to \$45,035</i>	<i>\$45,035 to \$71,801</i>	<i>Above \$71,801</i>
1970	46	56	64	79
1971	47	57	62	77
1972	45	56	64	74
1973	44	54	64	72
1974	44	52	60	74
1975	47	54	63	75
1976	45	56	66	76
1977	46	54	60	76
1978	45	52	62	71
1979	45	52	61	67
1980	42	53	63	69
1981	43	53	67	69
1982	42	52	62	72
1983	42	52	63	74
1984	40	54	66	72
1985	41	53	67	76
1986	42	54	65	77
1987	43	58	66	79
1988	44	57	69	79
1989	45	56	67	78
1990	44	59	69	79
1991	49	64	75	84
1992	52	64	75	86
1993	49	65	77	88
1994	58	68	77	88
1995	52	67	75	88
1996	54	66	75	85

SOURCE: Mortenson, T. (1998). *Postsecondary Education Opportunity*, Oskaloosa, IA. Analysis based on U.S. Census Bureau data.

**FIGURE 9.**  
*College Participation Rates for Unmarried 18- to 24-Year-Old High School Graduates, 1970 to 1996, by Family Income Quartile*



SOURCE: Mortenson, T. (1998). *Postsecondary Education Opportunity*, Oskaloosa, IA. Analysis based on U.S. Census Bureau data.



## Notes & Sources

### Source of Data

Average tuition, fees, room and board, and other fixed and non-fixed costs are based on data reported by colleges and universities as part of the College Board's *Annual Survey of Colleges (ASC)*. Data analysis was performed by the College Scholarship Service (CSS), the financial aid arm of the College Board.

Data were collected on questionnaires distributed in early 1998, and subjected to intensive review and follow-up where necessary through August 1998.

### Composition of the Sample

Data from approximately 99 percent of the respondents (2,781 of 2,804) to the Annual Survey of Colleges were examined as part of this year's analysis. Following past practice, the sample was further reduced to include only those institutions for which two consecutive years' worth of current price and enrollment data was available (see Table A). The purpose of this restriction is to minimize the distortions that might otherwise be caused by institutions responding one year and not the next, and thus appearing and disappearing in the sample.

Because institutions are not required to report information in all categories, rates of response vary considerably by budget component. With the single exception of "Books and Supplies," which draws a response rate similar to that for "Tuition

Table A. Composition of Sample for Tuition and Fees (T&F) Analysis

	Universe	Sample N included in T&F Analysis	Percentage of institutions in Sample where T&F are projected (not firm)
2-yr Public	1,006	656 (65%)	9% 62 schools
2-yr Private	119	76 (64%)	0% 0 schools
4-yr Public	547	486 (89%)	2% 10 schools
4-yr Private	1,132	1,009 (89%)	0% 0 schools

and Fees," averages in particular cells (e.g., room and board) are always derived from smaller subsets of the whole. Tables such as the foregoing are constructed for every data cell to ensure that there are sufficient observations to support analysis.

Restricting the analysis to those institutions for which two consecutive years' worth of data are available also requires that CSS annually *recompute* the base-year averages at the same time as it calculates new averages and rates of change. Thus, the base-year values for 1997-98 used in this new analysis differ somewhat from the 1997-98 averages that were reported last year.

### "Fixed Charges" and "Estimated Expenditures"

The 1998-99 data analysis differentiates between fixed charges (sometimes also called "direct charges"), such as tuition, fees, and on-campus room and board, and estimated student expenditures in non-fixed budget categories, such as books and supplies, transportation, personal expenses, and commuters' board-only expenses.

Both kinds of expenses should be taken into account by families in planning to meet educational expenses, *and* by institutions in constructing student aid budgets for purposes of determining need and eligibility. However, students do have some degree of discretionary control over the non-fixed components of their budgets.

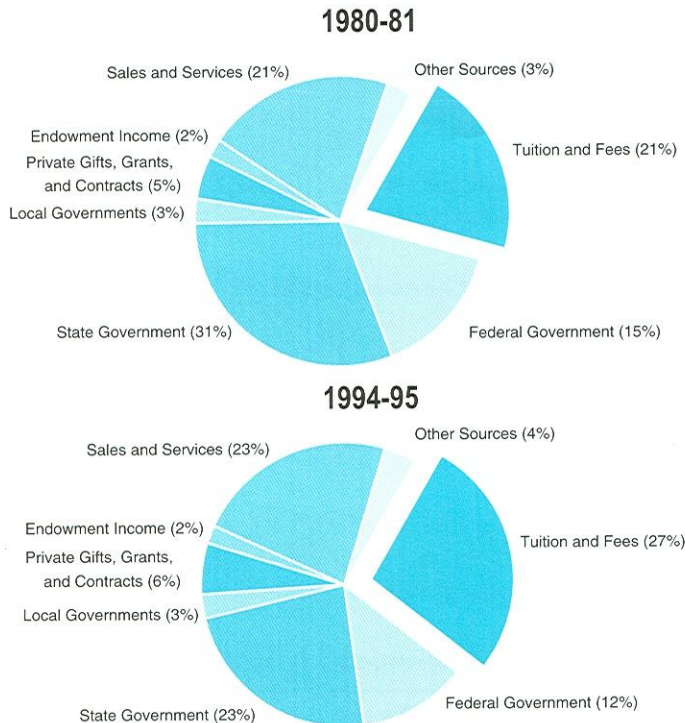
### "Enrollment-Weighted" and "Unweighted" Averages

This report provides enrollment-weighted averages, or average prices that students confront. The College Board also calculates unweighted average tuition charges, which are shown in Table 1a of page 19 of this report.

Weighted and unweighted averages represent two different vantage points from which costs can be viewed:

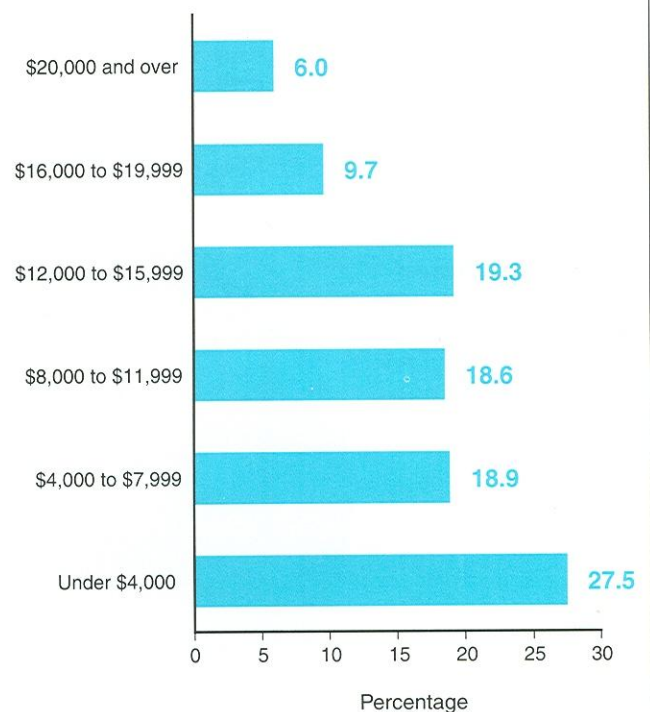
- The experience of the average student in incurring charges [weighted], and
- An averaging of institutional charges [unweighted].

FIGURE 10. Current-Fund Revenues for Institutions of Higher Education, 1980-81 and 1994-95.



SOURCE: *Digest of Education Statistics 1997*, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

FIGURE 11. Distribution of Four-Year Institutions by Tuition and Fees Charged, 1998-99.



SOURCE: *The Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.



When weights are used in the calculations, fixed charges and estimated expenditures reported by colleges with larger enrollments are weighted more heavily than institutions with smaller enrollments. When calculations are performed without weighting, the fixed charges and estimated expenditures of all reporting institutions are treated the same and simply averaged.

Neither set of averages is more or less "correct" than the other; they simply described different phenomena. The College Board produced weighted averages for the first time in 1987, having previously computed unweighted averages only. The College Board believes that the weighted averages are generally more helpful to students and families in planning to meet future education expenses, as well as more easily compared with other enrollment-weighted data produced by other major data sources.

However, some researchers, policy analysts, and academic administrators find the unweighted averages useful in maintaining ongoing longitudinal studies and evaluating a particular institution's practices against a larger set. Thus the College Board continues to compute and publish unweighted averages as well. For additional information on how the weights are applied, please contact the College Board or visit College Board Online.

#### Inflation Adjustment

The Consumer Price Index for all urban dwellers (the CPI-U) is used to adjust for inflation. Updated

CPI data are available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website (<http://stats.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>). The academic base year for 1998-99 was extrapolated from current CPI data and is inclusive of July 1998 to June 1999.

#### Formula for Constant Dollar Conversion

$$\text{CONSTANT (base year) Dollars} = \text{CURRENT year dollars} \times \frac{\text{CPI for the base year}}{\text{CPI for the current year}}$$

The table below provides academic and calendar year CPI data. The factor column provides the user with a multiplication factor equal to that of CPI (base year) divided by CPI (current year), as illustrated in the right-hand side of the above equation. A simple multiplication of a current year figure by the associated factor will yield a constant-dollar result.

#### Consumer Price Indexes (1982-84=100)

Academic Year			Calendar Year		
Year	CPI	Factor	Year	CPI	Factor
1988-89	121.2	1.3466	1988	118.3	1.3737
1989-90	127.0	1.2853	1989	124.0	1.3105
1990-91	133.9	1.2187	1990	130.7	1.2434
1991-92	138.2	1.1808	1991	136.2	1.1929
1992-93	142.5	1.1451	1992	140.3	1.1578
1993-94	146.2	1.1162	1993	144.5	1.1246
1994-95	150.4	1.0850	1994	148.2	1.0960
1995-96	154.5	1.0563	1995	152.4	1.0661
1996-97	158.9	1.0270	1996	156.9	1.0357
1997-98	161.7	1.0090	1997	160.5	1.0121
1998-99	163.2	1.0000	1998	162.5	1.0000

#### Data Limitations

The longitudinal data provided in this report provide a best approximation of the changes in fixed and non-fixed costs from year to year. Because the institutional sample varies slightly each year, annual increases reported on longitudinal tables may vary slightly from actual increases. This, however, does not apply to the annual changes reported for 1998-99 and 1997-98, as these data are derived from exact same sample of institutions.

Data from years prior to 1987-88 were extracted from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Database System (IPEDS). Differences in the collection and analysis of IPEDS data and the College Board's *Annual Survey of Colleges* data result in slight variations in terms of average tuition and fee charges for institutions. Some of these differences may be attributed to the enrollment weights attached to the ASC data. Internal analysis, however, shows that the two data sets track very closely.

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**TABLE 1a. Average Fixed Charges for Undergraduates, 1998-99 (unweighted)**

Sector	Tuition and Fees			Room and Board		
	1998-99	1997-98	% Change	1998-99	1997-98	% Change
Two-Year Public	1,587	1,528	4%	*	*	*
Two-Year Private	7,748	7,381	5%	4,315	4,162	4%
Four-Year Public	3,163	3,042	4%	4,342	4,172	4%
Four-Year Private	12,378	11,812	5%	5,042	4,871	4%

\* The sample was too small to provide meaningful information. These averages are NOT weighted for enrollment, as in Table 1.

SOURCE: *Annual Survey of Colleges*, The College Board, New York, NY.

# The Washington Office of the College Board

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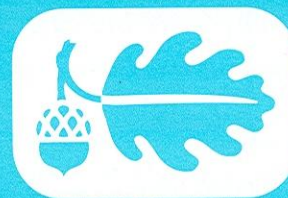
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This report provides the most recent and complete statistics available on pricing of U.S. public and private non-profit postsecondary institutions. Based on the College Board's Annual Survey of Colleges, data presented in this publication cover tuition and fees, room and board, and other costs associated with going to college.



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