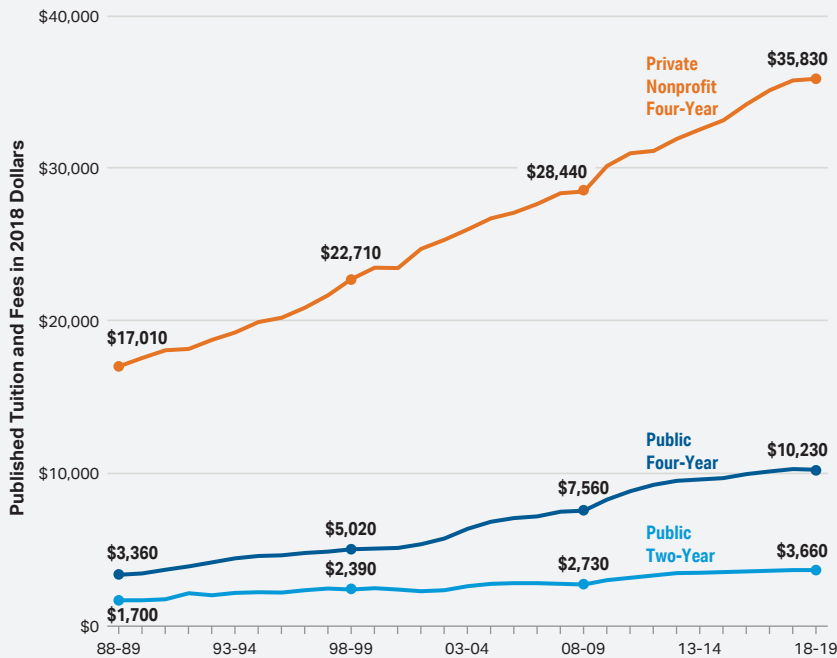


# Published Charges over Time

Between 2008-09 and 2018-19, average published tuition and fee prices rose by \$930 (in 2018 dollars) at public two-year colleges, by \$2,670 at public four-year institutions, and by \$7,390 at private nonprofit four-year colleges and universities.

**FIGURE 3** Average Published Tuition and Fees in 2018 Dollars by Sector, 1988-89 to 2018-19



- The average published tuition and fee price at public two-year colleges was 51% of the average price at public four-year institutions in 1988-89 and 36% in 2008-09 and 2018-19.
- The average published tuition and fee price at private nonprofit four-year institutions was 5.1 times the average price at public four-year institutions in 1988-89 and 3.5 times that price in 2018-19.

## ALSO IMPORTANT:

- The increases in the net prices that students actually pay, after taking grant aid and tax benefits into consideration, have been smaller over the long term than increases in published prices. See Figures 8, 9, and 10 for details on estimated average net prices over time.
- The price increases reported in Table 1 are larger than those in Table 2 because they are not adjusted for inflation.

**TABLE 2** Average Tuition and Fees and Room and Board in 2018 Dollars, 1988-89 to 2018-19, Selected Years

Academic Year	Tuition and Fees in 2018 Dollars						Tuition and Fees and Room and Board in 2018 Dollars			
	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Ten-Year \$ Change	Public Four-Year	Ten-Year \$ Change	Public Two-Year	Ten-Year \$ Change	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Ten-Year \$ Change	Public Four-Year	Ten-Year \$ Change
88-89	\$17,010		\$3,360		\$1,700		\$24,800		\$9,480	
98-99	\$22,710	\$5,700	\$5,020	\$1,660	\$2,390	\$690	\$31,590	\$6,790	\$12,000	\$2,520
08-09	\$28,440	\$5,730	\$7,560	\$2,540	\$2,730	\$340	\$38,720	\$7,130	\$16,460	\$4,460
18-19	\$35,830	\$7,390	\$10,230	\$2,670	\$3,660	\$930	\$48,510	\$9,790	\$21,370	\$4,910
Academic Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	One-Year % Change	Public Four-Year	One-Year % Change	Public Two-Year	One-Year % Change	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	One-Year % Change	Public Four-Year	One-Year % Change
08-09	\$28,440		\$7,560		\$2,730		\$38,720		\$16,460	
09-10	\$30,120	5.9%	\$8,270	9.4%	\$3,010	10.3%	\$41,040	6.0%	\$17,830	8.3%
10-11	\$30,940	2.7%	\$8,820	6.7%	\$3,170	5.3%	\$42,160	2.7%	\$18,700	4.9%
11-12	\$31,100	0.5%	\$9,240	4.8%	\$3,310	4.4%	\$42,350	0.5%	\$19,140	2.4%
12-13	\$31,890	2.5%	\$9,510	2.9%	\$3,460	4.5%	\$43,390	2.5%	\$19,600	2.4%
13-14	\$32,500	1.9%	\$9,590	0.8%	\$3,500	1.2%	\$44,190	1.8%	\$19,830	1.2%
14-15	\$33,090	1.8%	\$9,680	0.9%	\$3,530	0.9%	\$44,900	1.6%	\$20,020	1.0%
15-16	\$34,150	3.2%	\$9,960	2.9%	\$3,590	1.7%	\$46,330	3.2%	\$20,660	3.2%
16-17	\$35,080	2.7%	\$10,130	1.7%	\$3,620	0.8%	\$47,490	2.5%	\$21,100	2.1%
17-18	\$35,720	1.8%	\$10,270	1.4%	\$3,670	1.4%	\$48,380	1.9%	\$21,400	1.4%
18-19	\$35,830	0.3%	\$10,230	-0.4%	\$3,660	-0.3%	\$48,510	0.3%	\$21,370	-0.1%

**NOTE:** Average tuition and fee prices reflect in-district charges for public two-year institutions and in-state charges for public four-year institutions.

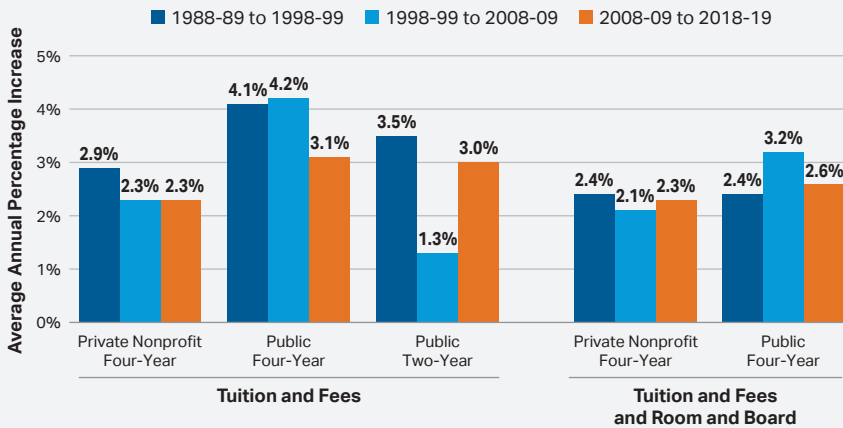
**SOURCES:** College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, IPEDS Fall Enrollment data.



# Published Charges over Time

Between 2008-09 and 2018-19, published in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions increased at an average rate of 3.1% per year beyond inflation, compared with average annual increases of 4.1% and 4.2% over the two prior decades.

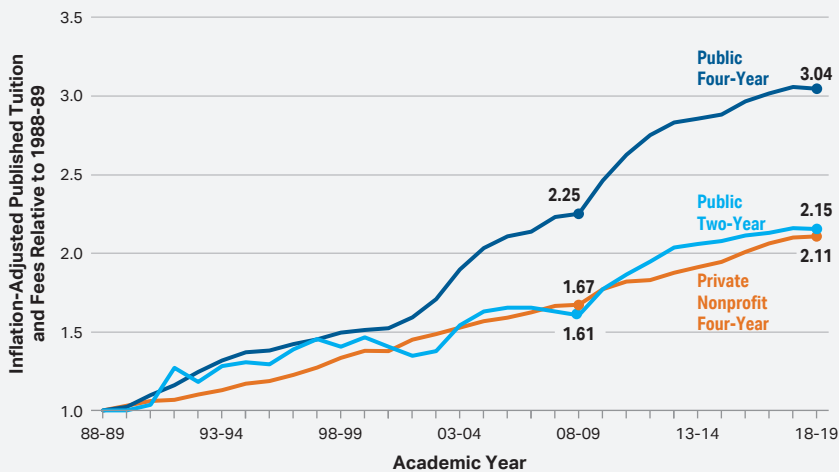
**FIGURE 4A** Average Annual Percentage Increase in Inflation-Adjusted Published Prices by Decade, 1988-89 to 2018-19



**NOTES:** Each bar in Figure 4A shows the average annual rate of growth of published prices in inflation-adjusted dollars over a 10-year period. For example, from 2008-09 to 2018-19, average published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year colleges increased by an average of 2.3% per year beyond increases in the Consumer Price Index. Average tuition and fee prices reflect in-district charges for public two-year institutions and in-state charges for public four-year institutions.

**SOURCES:** College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, IPEDS Fall Enrollment data.

**FIGURE 4B** Inflation-Adjusted Published Tuition and Fees Relative to 1988-89, 1988-89 to 2018-19 (1988-89 = 1.0)



**NOTES:** Figure 4B shows published tuition and fees by sector, adjusted for inflation, relative to 1988-89 published prices. For example, a value of 3.04 indicates that the tuition and fee price in the public four-year sector in 2018-19 is 3.04 times as high as it was in 1988-89, after adjusting for increases in the Consumer Price Index. Average tuition and fee prices reflect in-district charges for public two-year institutions and in-state charges for public four-year institutions.

**SOURCES:** College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, IPEDS Fall Enrollment data.

- The 3.1% average annual rate of increase in published in-state tuition and fees in the public four-year sector between 2008-09 and 2018-19 corresponds to an average annual increase of \$270 in 2018 dollars, compared with \$170 per year between 1988-89 and 1998-99 and \$250 per year between 1998-99 and 2008-09. (Table 2)
- The average annual rate of increase in published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year institutions declined from 2.9% between 1988-89 and 1998-99 to 2.3% over the next two decades. The average dollar increases were \$570 per year over the first two decades and \$740 between 2008-09 and 2018-19. (Table 2)
- Room and board charges generally rise more slowly than tuition and fees, but between 2008-09 and 2018-19, the two prices rose at about the same rate in the private nonprofit four-year sector.
- In 2018-19, the average in-state tuition and fee price in the public four-year sector is about three times as high in inflation-adjusted dollars as it was in 1988-89. In the public two-year and private nonprofit four-year sectors, published prices are 2.15 and 2.11 times as high in 2018-19 as they were in 1988-89, respectively.
- Published tuition and fee prices moved at about the same rate in the public two-year and four-year sectors from 1988-89 through 1999-00, rising by about 50%. By 2009-10, however, the public four-year price had risen by another 63%, compared with just 21% at public two-year colleges. Since that time, the rate of price increase has been similar in the two sectors.

## ALSO IMPORTANT:

- Median family income in the United States increased at an average rate of 0.9% per year between 1988 and 1998, 0.0% per year between 1998 and 2008, and 0.8% per year between 2008 and 2017 (after adjusting for inflation). Median family income was 18% higher in 2017 than in 1987. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Income Data, Table F-7; calculations by the authors)