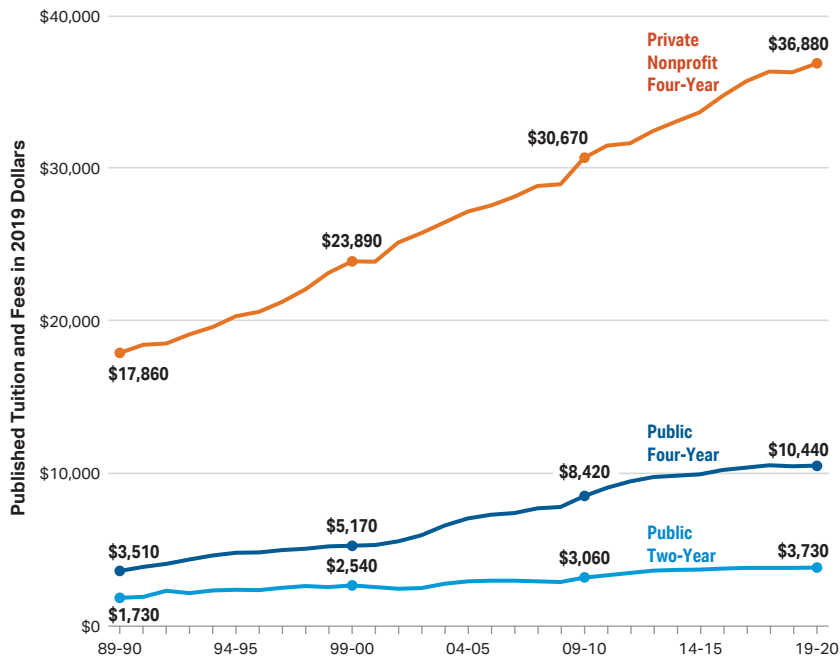


Published Charges over Time

Between 2009-10 and 2019-20, average published tuition and fee prices rose by \$670 (in 2019 dollars) at public two-year colleges, by \$2,020 at public four-year institutions, and by \$6,210 at private nonprofit four-year colleges and universities.

FIGURE 3 Average Published Tuition and Fees in 2019 Dollars by Sector, 1989-90 to 2019-20



- The average published tuition and fee price at public two-year colleges was 49% of the average price at public four-year institutions in 1989-90 and 1999-00; it was 36% of the public four-year price in 2009-10 and 2019-20.
- 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 1989-90 and 3.5 times that price in 2019-20.

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 2 are adjusted for inflation and are smaller than the unadjusted figures in Table 1.

TABLE 2 Average Tuition and Fees and Room and Board in 2019 Dollars, 1989-90 to 2019-20, Selected Years

Academic Year	Tuition and Fees in 2019 Dollars						Tuition and Fees and Room and Board in 2019 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
89-90	\$17,860		\$3,510		\$1,730		\$25,900		\$9,730	
99-00	\$23,890	\$6,030	\$5,170	\$1,660	\$2,540	\$810	\$33,060	\$7,160	\$12,440	\$2,710
09-10	\$30,670	\$6,780	\$8,420	\$3,250	\$3,060	\$520	\$41,780	\$8,720	\$18,160	\$5,720
19-20	\$36,880	\$6,210	\$10,440	\$2,020	\$3,730	\$670	\$49,870	\$8,090	\$21,950	\$3,790
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
09-10	\$30,670		\$8,420		\$3,060		\$41,780		\$18,160	
10-11	\$31,500	2.7%	\$8,980	6.7%	\$3,220	5.2%	\$42,920	2.7%	\$19,040	4.8%
11-12	\$31,660	0.5%	\$9,400	4.7%	\$3,370	4.7%	\$43,120	0.5%	\$19,490	2.4%
12-13	\$32,470	2.6%	\$9,690	3.1%	\$3,530	4.7%	\$44,180	2.5%	\$19,960	2.4%
13-14	\$33,090	1.9%	\$9,760	0.7%	\$3,560	0.8%	\$44,990	1.8%	\$20,190	1.2%
14-15	\$33,690	1.8%	\$9,850	0.9%	\$3,600	1.1%	\$45,710	1.6%	\$20,390	1.0%
15-16	\$34,770	3.2%	\$10,140	2.9%	\$3,660	1.7%	\$47,170	3.2%	\$21,040	3.2%
16-17	\$35,720	2.7%	\$10,310	1.7%	\$3,690	0.8%	\$48,350	2.5%	\$21,480	2.1%
17-18	\$36,380	1.8%	\$10,460	1.5%	\$3,710	0.5%	\$49,260	1.9%	\$21,790	1.4%
18-19	\$36,330	-0.1%	\$10,390	-0.7%	\$3,700	-0.3%	\$49,160	-0.2%	\$21,790	0.0%
19-20	\$36,880	1.5%	\$10,440	0.5%	\$3,730	0.8%	\$49,870	1.4%	\$21,950	0.7%

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

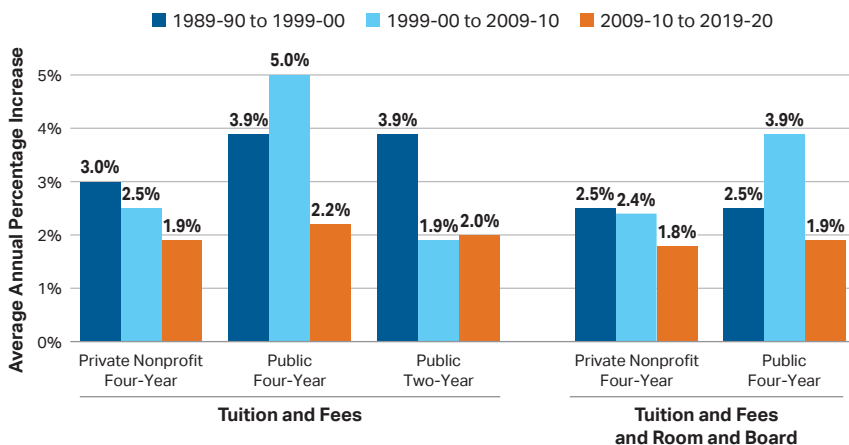
SOURCES: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, IPEDS Fall Enrollment data.



Published Charges over Time

Between 2009-10 and 2019-20, published in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions increased at an average rate of 2.2% per year beyond inflation, compared with average annual increases of 3.9% and 5.0% over the two prior decades.

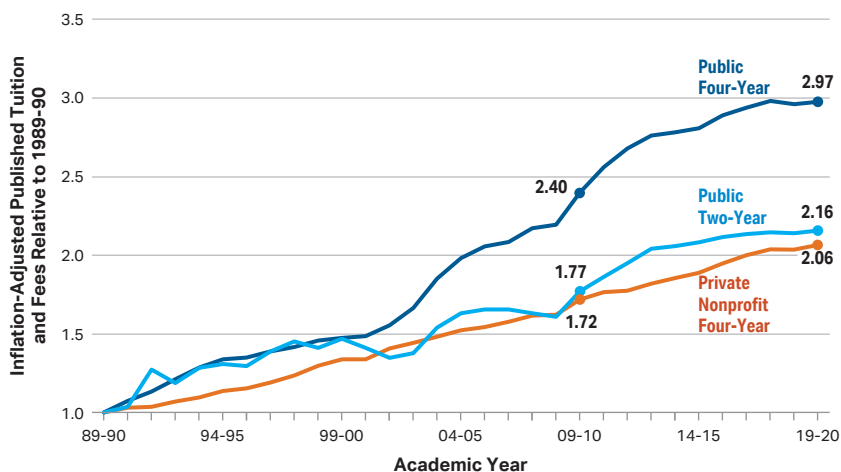
FIGURE 4A Average Annual Percentage Increase in Inflation-Adjusted Published Prices by Decade, 1989-90 to 2019-20



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 2009-10 to 2019-20, average published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year colleges increased by an average of 1.9% 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 1989-90, 1989-90 to 2019-20 (1989-90 = 1.0)



NOTES: Figure 4B shows published tuition and fees by sector, adjusted for inflation, relative to 1989-90 published prices. For example, a value of 2.97 indicates that the tuition and fee price in the public four-year sector in 2019-20 is 2.97 times as high as it was in 1989-90, 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.

- Between 2009-10 and 2019-20, published in-state tuition and fees in the public four-year sector increased by an average of \$200 per year in 2019 dollars, compared with \$170 per year between 1989-90 and 1999-00 and \$330 per year between 1999-00 and 2009-10. (Table 2)
- The average annual rate of increase in published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year institutions declined from 3.0% between 1989-90 and 1999-00 to 2.5% over the next decade and to 1.9% between 2009-10 and 2019-20. The average dollar increases were \$600, \$680, and \$620, per year, respectively, over the three decades. (Table 2)
- Between 2009-10 and 2019-20, total tuition, fees, room, and board rose at average rates of 1.9% per year at public four-year and 1.8% per year at private nonprofit four-year institutions.
- In 2019-20, 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 1989-90. Published prices are 2.16 as high in the public two-year sector and 2.06 times as high in the private nonprofit four-year sector in 2019-20 as they were in 1989-90.
- Published tuition and fee prices rose by about 50% in both the public four-year and public two-year sectors from 1989-90 through 1999-00. By 2009-10 the public four-year price had risen by another 63%, compared with 20% at public two-year colleges. Since then, 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 1.0% per year between 1989 and 1999, fell by 0.5% per year between 1999 and 2009, and rose by 1.2% per year between 2009 and 2018 (after adjusting for inflation). It was 19% higher in 2018 than in 1988. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Income Data, Table F-7; calculations by the authors)
- The largest inflation-adjusted annual increases in tuition and fees between 1989-90 and 2019-20 were: public four-year—11.1% (2003-04) and 9.4% (2009-10); private nonprofit four-year—5.3% (2001-02) and 5.9% (2009-10); public two-year—22.9% (1991-92) and 11.8% (2003-04). The published price increase was smaller than the rise in the Consumer Price Index in all three sectors in 2018-19 and in one additional year in the private nonprofit four-year sector and seven additional years in the public two-year sector.