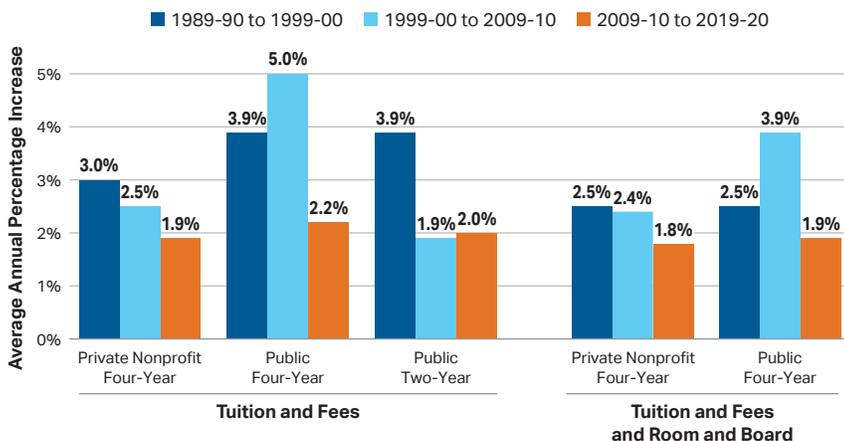


Published Charges over Time

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.

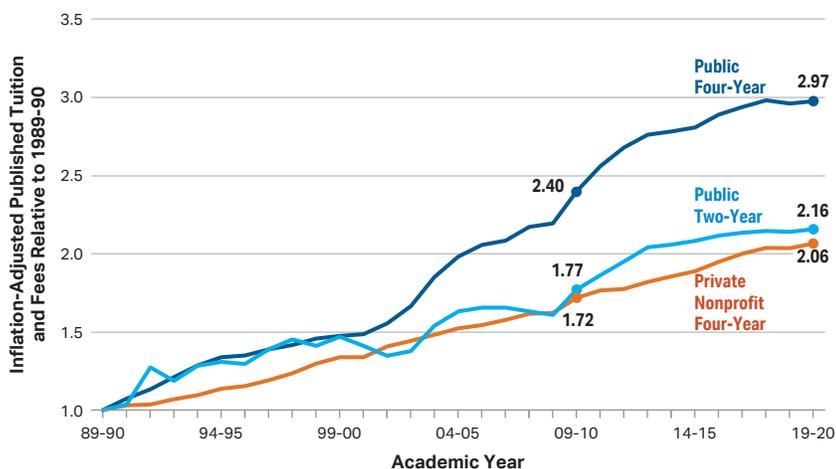
FIGURE 4A Average Annual Percentage Increase in Inflation-Adjusted Published Prices by Decade, 1989-90 to 2019-20



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.