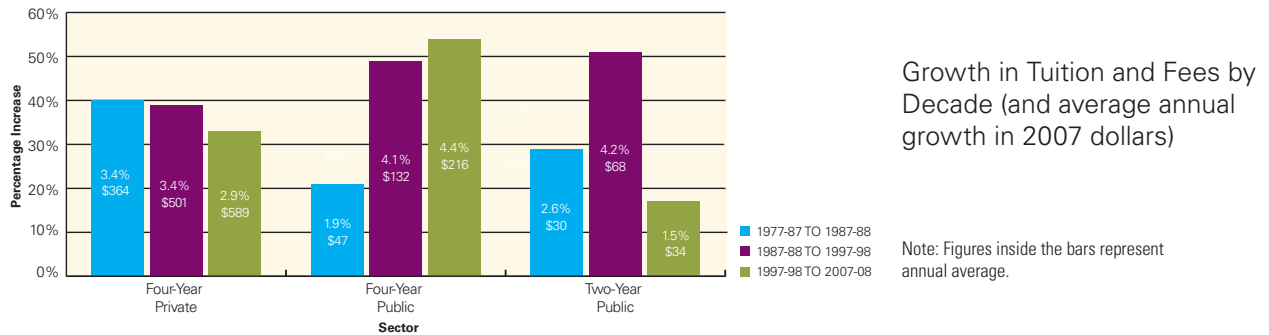


2007 Trends in Higher Education Series: Tuition and Fees over Time

A thirty-year look at college pricing reveals that rapidly rising prices are not a new development.



Note: Based on Table 3a, *Trends in College Pricing 2007*.

Public Four-Year Institutions

Over the past decade, from 1997-98 to 2007-08, published tuition and fees for full-time in-state students at public four-year colleges and universities rose 54 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars — an average of 4.4 percent per year. This increase compares to 49 percent for the preceding decade and 21 percent from 1977-78 to 1987-88.

Public Two-Year Institutions

Over the past decade, from 1997-98 to 2007-08, published tuition and fees for full-time students at public two-year colleges and universities rose 17 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars — an average of 1.5 percent per year. This increase compares to 51 percent for the preceding decade and 29 percent from 1977-78 to 1987-88.

Private Four-Year Institutions

Over the past decade, from 1997-98 to 2007-08, published tuition and fees for full-time students at private four-year colleges and universities rose 33 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars — an average of 2.9 percent per year. This increase compares to 39 percent for the preceding decade and 40 percent from 1977-78 to 1987-88.

Average Annual Increases in Inflation-Adjusted Dollars

In constant 2007 dollars, the average annual increases in published tuition and fees over the past decade were \$216 at public four-year colleges and universities, \$34 at public two-year colleges, and \$589 at private four-year institutions.

In 2007-08, the one-year increases in published tuition and fees for full-time students are \$381 for in-state students at public four-year institutions and universities, \$95 at public two-year colleges, and \$1,404 at private four-year colleges and universities.