

# United States



**REGION: CANZAUS**

Also included in this region: Australia, Canada, New Zealand

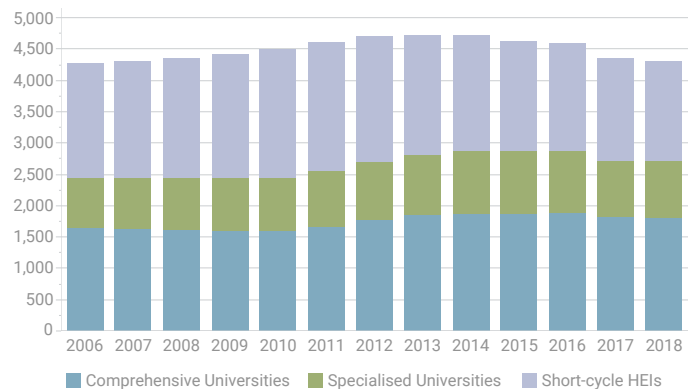
**PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

The United States HE system fits the North American model. Most students attended comprehensive universities in 2018, though a substantial minority enrolled in short-cycle HEIs. Total enrolments grew strongly from 2006 to 2011, but subsequently declined slowly. HEI counts shrunk roughly in line with the decline in student numbers. Just over 70% of enrolments were with public providers in 2018, which was below the average for the rest of CANZAUS.

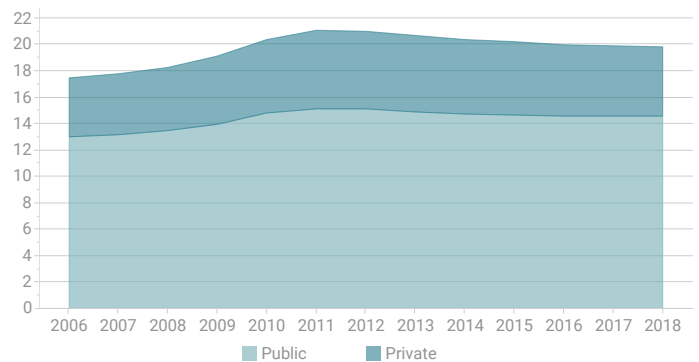
**TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers**

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive Universities</b>	Four-year institutions that are not special-focus or baccalaureate/associate's colleges	606	1,198	1,804
<b>Specialised Universities</b>	Special-focus four-year institutions	53	861	914
<b>Short-Cycle HEIs</b>	Two-year colleges; Baccalaureate/associate's colleges	967	628	1,595

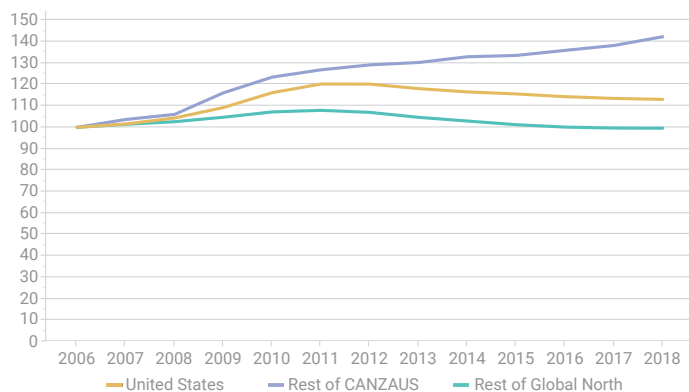
**FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018**



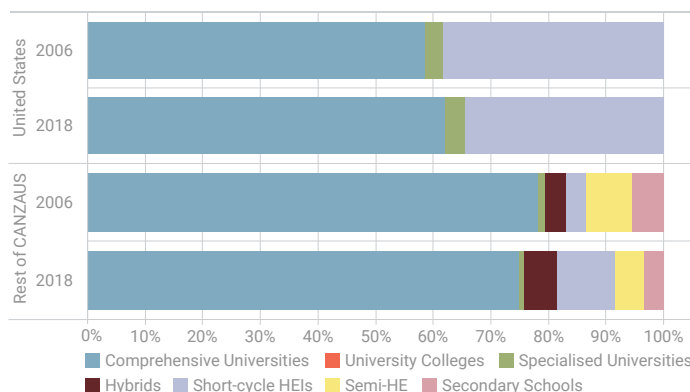
**FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)**



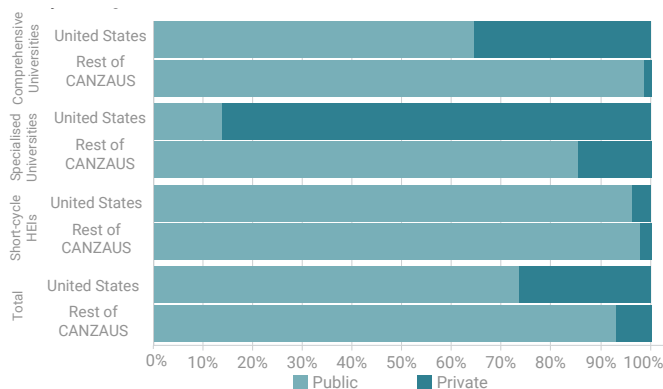
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in the United States, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



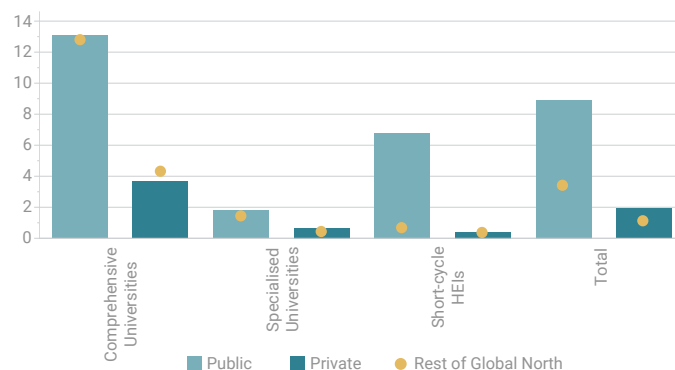
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in the United States and the rest of CANZAUS, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in the United States and the rest of CANZAUS, 2018



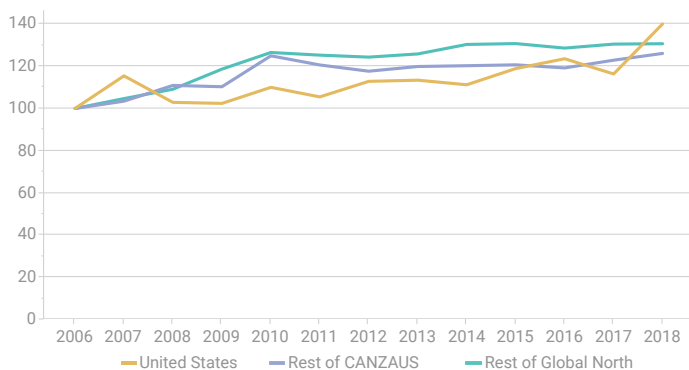
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type, in the United States and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



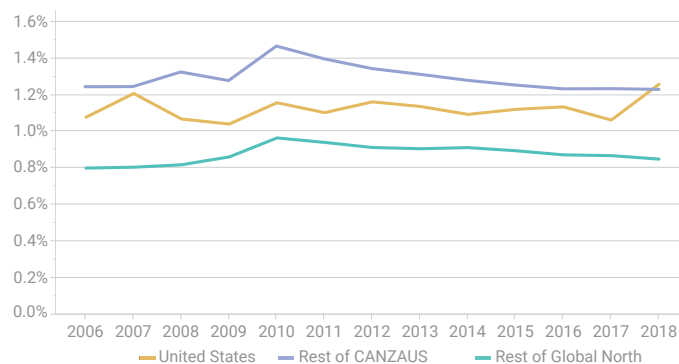
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending the United States rose by a little over 25% from 2006 to 2018, roughly in line with spending across the rest of CANZAUS and the Global North (the large jump in 2018 largely related to an accounting quirk in the way the United States calculates losses on student loans). As a percentage of GDP, however, public HE spending stayed relatively constant, more or less in line with wider comparator averages. Expenditures of public HEIs grew much more quickly, thanks to income from non-government sources including especially compulsory student fees. Per-student expenditures at private HEIs was slightly higher in 2018 than at public HEIs.

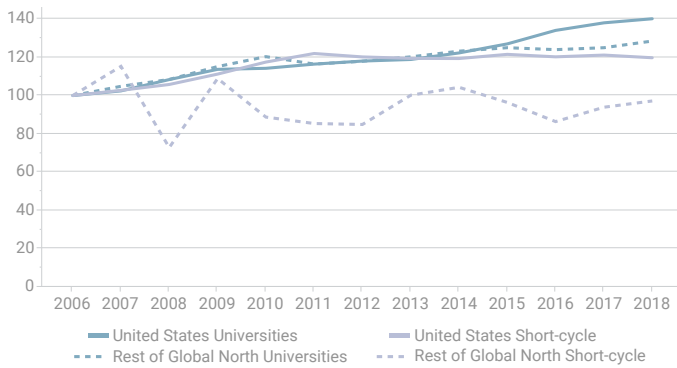
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in the United States, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



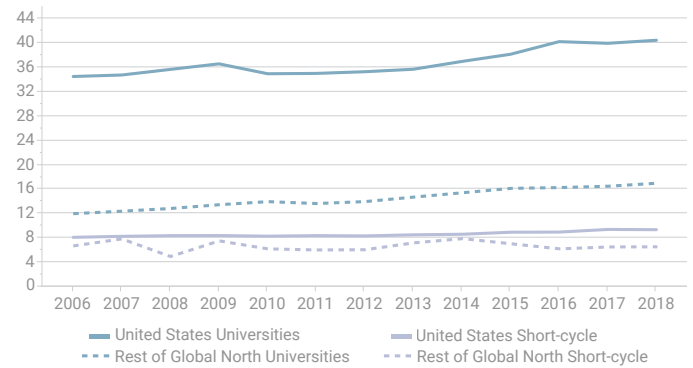
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in the United States, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



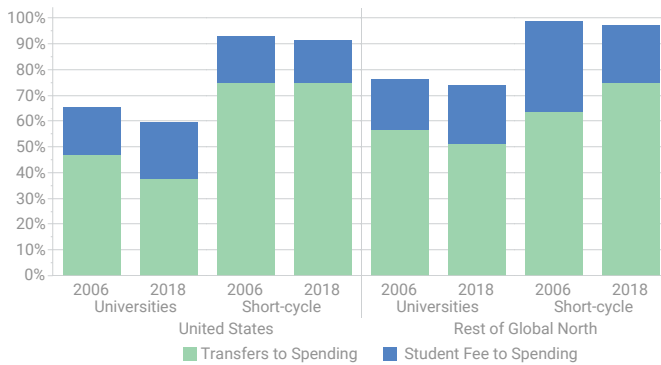
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type, in the United States and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



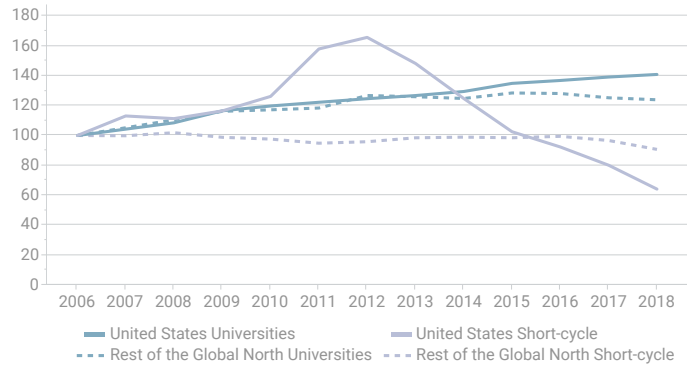
**FIGURE 10** – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in the United States and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



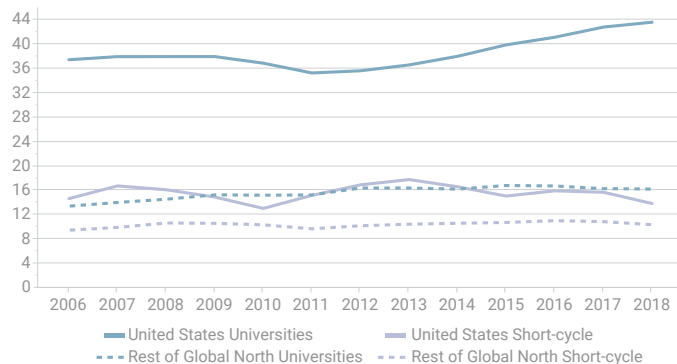
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type, in the United States and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



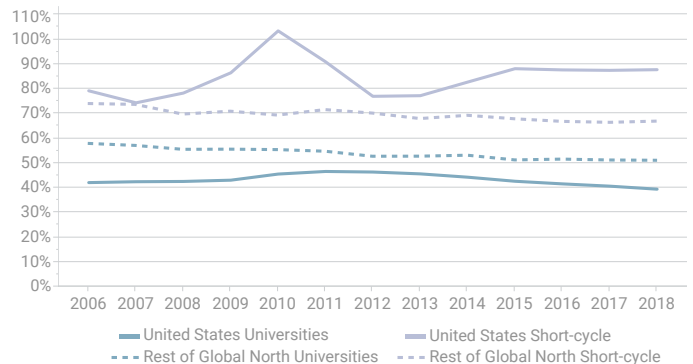
**FIGURE 12** – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type, in the United States and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 13** – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type, in the United States and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



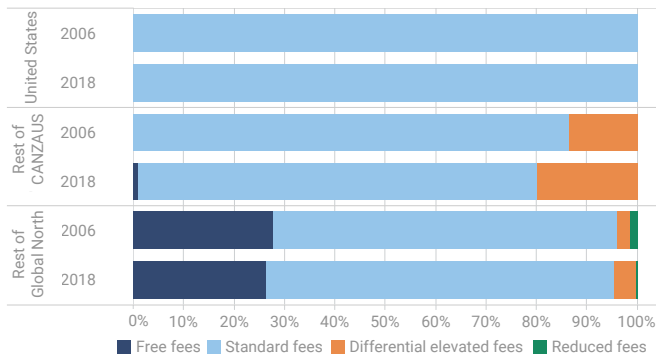
**FIGURE 14** – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type, in the United State and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



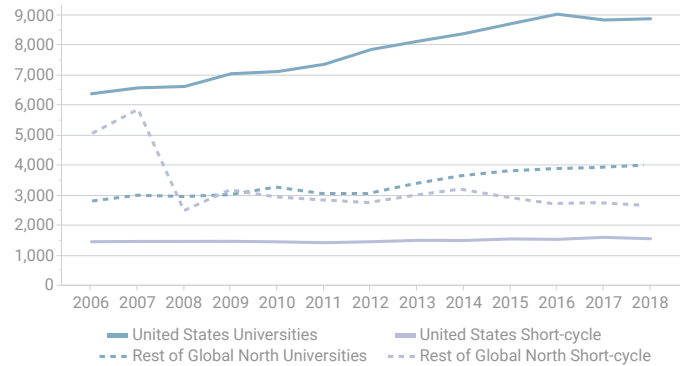
### PART III: STUDENT FEES

All students pay fees in the United States. At public HEIs, international and out-of-state students typically pay substantially higher fees than in-state students, but we were unable to gather data on these fee revenues. Fee revenue per student at public HEIs was about half that at private HEIs in 2018. Real fee revenues per student rose substantially at public universities from 2006 to 2018 but less so at private universities.

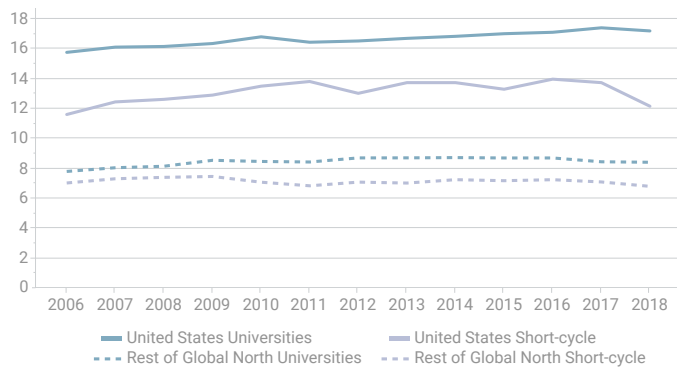
**FIGURE 15** — Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in the United States, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



**FIGURE 16** — Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 17** — Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



MIT, Stata Center, United States



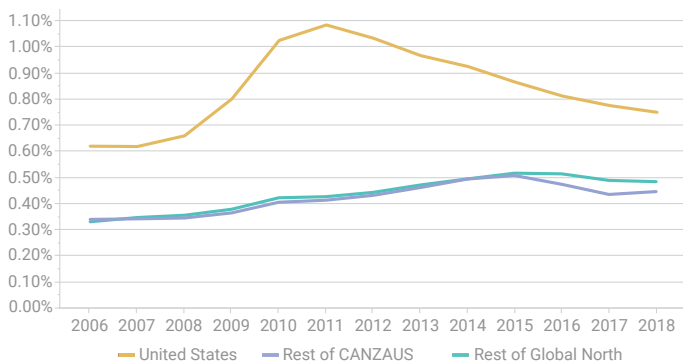
**PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

Government student financial aid in the United States is comprised of a mix of grants and loans. In 2018, loans were roughly twice as significant a form of financial aid as grants. Disbursements of both loans and grants rose substantially from 2006 to 2018, more so for grants than for loans due to the Obama Administration’s major expansion of the Pell grant system. The number of both loan and grant recipients peaked about midway through Obama’s tenure and subsequently fell, and total disbursements of both types of aid followed essentially the same trajectory. Student aid disbursements reached an astonishing 1.1% of GDP in 2011 before falling to 0.75% of GDP in 2018. Still, this 2018 level remained much higher than averages for the rest of CANZAUS and the Global North.

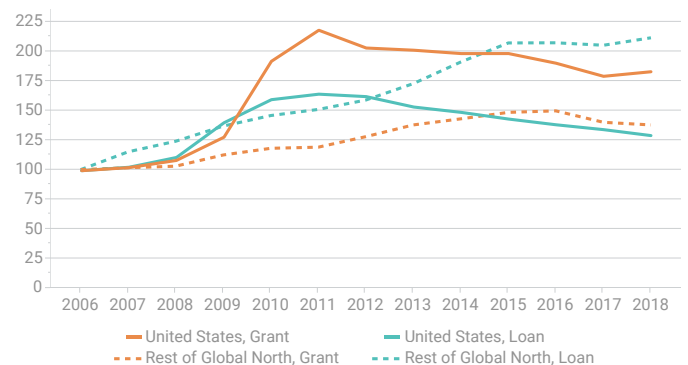
**TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018**

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
<b>Grants</b>	Federal, state and local grants	Predominantly need-based, although there are some merit-based state and local grants	6,726,521	53,011,042,429
<b>Loans</b>	Federal loan programs	Need-based or simple enrolment based	7,949,197	93,365,908,750

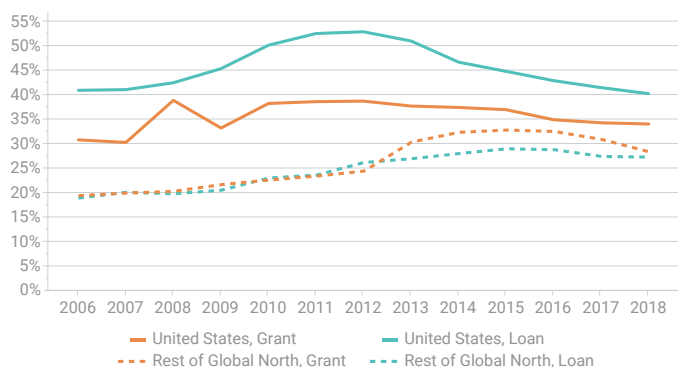
**FIGURE 18 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in the United States, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018**



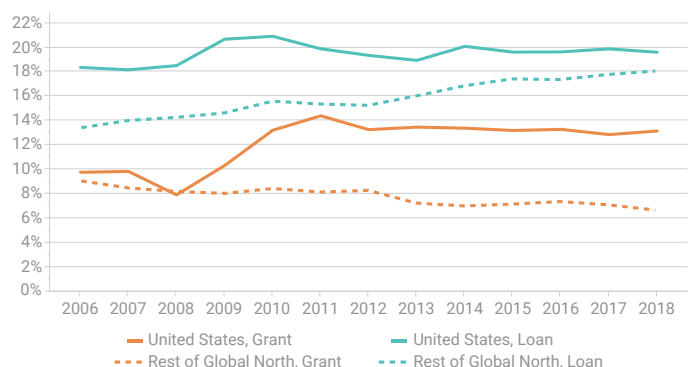
**FIGURE 19 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid, in the United States and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)**



**FIGURE 20 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type, in the United States and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018**



**FIGURE 21 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid, in the United States and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018**



**\*Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see Appendices A and B.**