



Edstart

SCHOOL FEES REPORT

2023

edstart.com.au/report

Overview

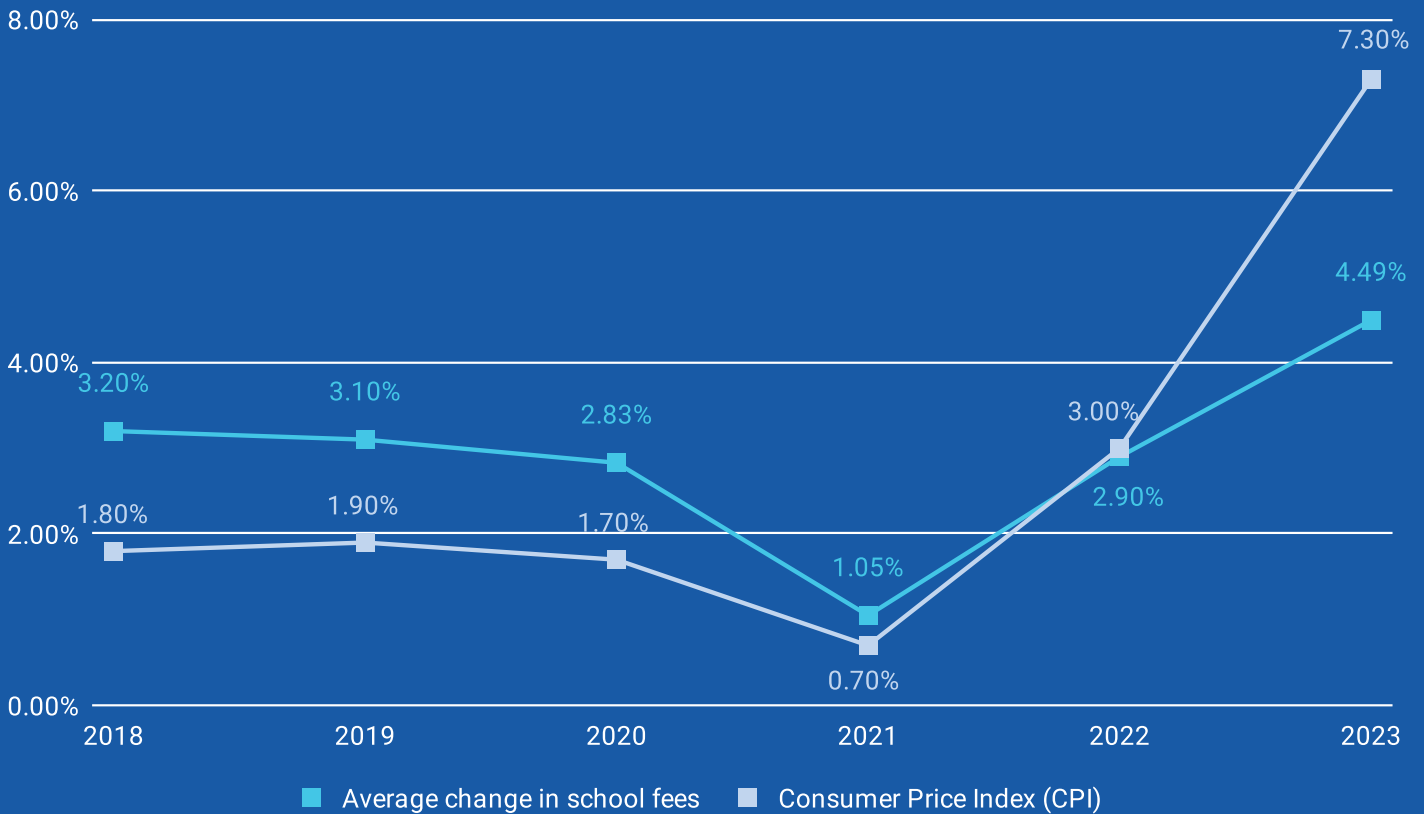
Edstart's School Fees Report is an annual report designed to help you understand the trends in school fees at non-government schools across the country. Our 2023 report analysed fees from 635 schools looking at the cost of tuition, compulsory additional fees and boarding fees.

Average school fees increase below inflation despite higher costs

The average school fee increase in 2023 is 4.49%, up from 2.90% last year, as things return to normal after disruptions over the past couple of years and rising inflation in the economy starts to drive up costs for schools. With inflation running above 7%, schools have faced significant increases to their input costs, particularly in relation to facility maintenance and construction. Increases to teacher salaries, which represent the largest portion of expenses for schools, have also contributed to a material increase in operating costs. A majority of schools have told us that fee increases won't fully cover the additional costs incurred by the school.

Despite this, many schools have recognised the cost of living pressures on families and have chosen to minimise fee increases where possible with the average school fee increase well below the current inflation rate. We found that 85% of schools increased their fees below inflation, which is up from 56% in 2022.

Average fee increase vs inflation



We also saw a wider variance in fee increases compared to recent years as schools manage a multitude of different factors impacting their finances.

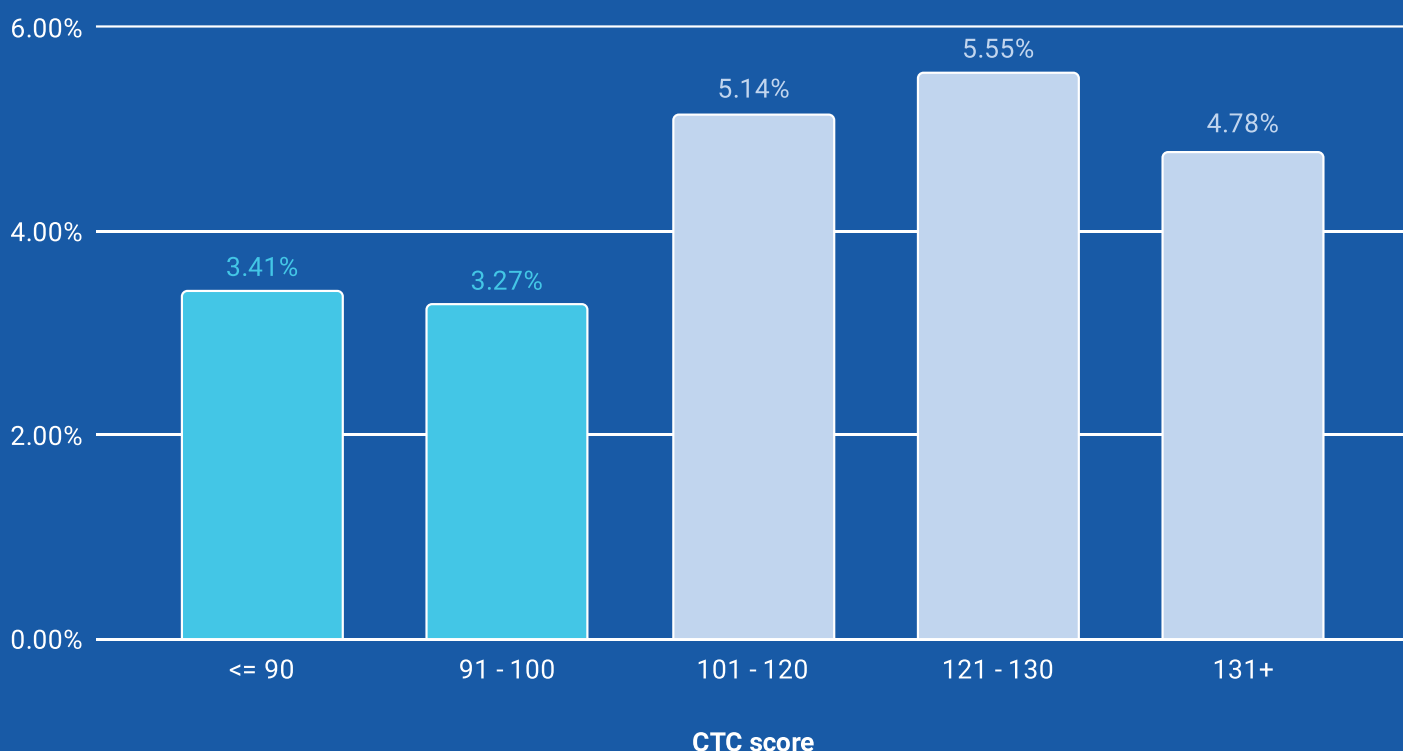
Changes to government funding have been a factor in fee changes

Our analysis found a correlation between the demographic of a school's parent community and the average fee increase. Under the Federal Government's Quality Schools Package, each school is given a Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score which measures a school community's capacity to contribute to the ongoing costs of running the school.

The CTC score is a key factor in determining the amount of base recurrent funding each school attracts from the Australian Government, where schools with a score below 100 typically attract more government funding than those above 100. As part of the transition to the new funding model in 2023, all CTC scores for schools are set according to the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) which is based on the median income of parents or guardians.

We found schools that have CTC scores below 100 with families on lower incomes had smaller average fee increases of below 3.5% compared with schools above 100 where parent incomes are higher.

Average fee increase by CTC score



As schools with very high CTC scores above 130 have traditionally received less funding on a per student basis in the past, they are less impacted by the recent changes and have increased their fees at a slightly lower rate.

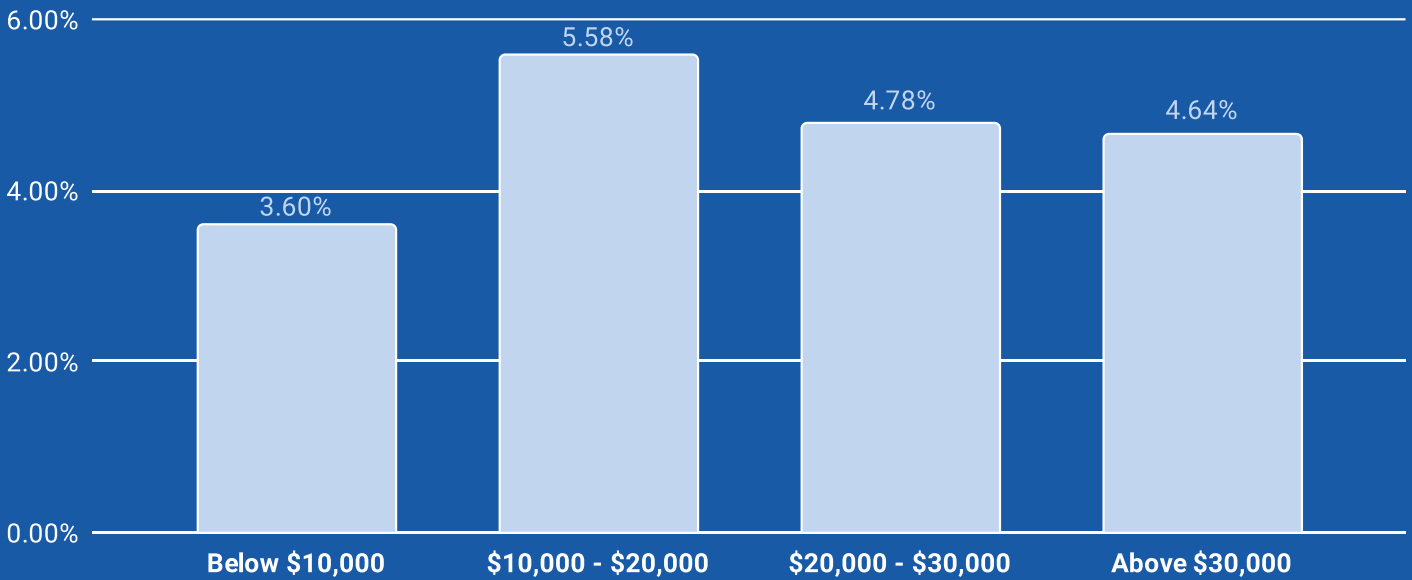
The trend between CTC scores and average fee increase was consistent across all of the major states.

State	CTC - 100 or less	CTC - Above 100
NSW	+2.58%	+5.16%
Victoria	+4.42%	+4.71%
Queensland	+4.50%	+6.31%
Western Australia	+1.88%	+4.75%
South Australia	+1.40%	+2.83%

Lower fee schools recorded the lowest average increase

Across the different fee tiers, we found that schools with annual fees of below \$10,000 had a lower average increase compared to their higher-fee counterparts.

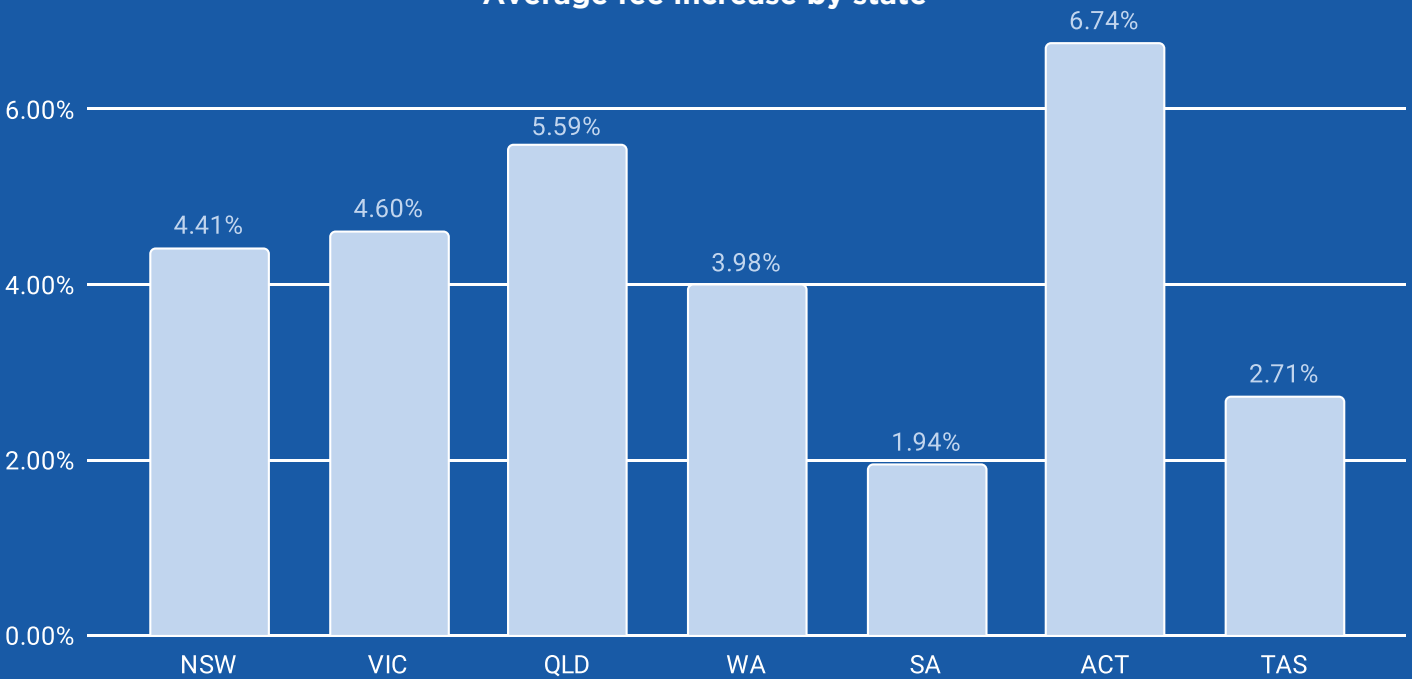
Average fee increase by fee tier



School fees varied between states

The average fee increase varied between states with the ACT and Queensland recording higher increases of above 5%, while for the second year running South Australia recorded the lowest average fee increase at 1.94%.

Average fee increase by state



NSW came close to matching Victoria as the state with the highest fee school, with the top fee in both states reaching above \$46,000 in 2023 and an increasing number of schools raising their fees above the \$40,000 mark.

While the highest fee schools in other states also saw fee increases, they are still significantly below NSW and Victoria. The top fee schools in Western Australia and Queensland is \$15,000 less than the two most populous states at around \$31,000, while South Australia is just under \$30,000.

These higher fee schools often attract more attention but they make up a very small portion of the non-government school sector in Australia. The median fee across all states is between \$8,985 and \$13,150, with the majority of students attending low to middle fee schools.

Highest and median school fee by state



The 2023 edition of our report is the largest analysis of school fees across Australia with a detailed look at key trends within each state. We hope you find our analysis informative.

Jack Stevens
CEO, Edstart

National trend

Average school fee increase

4.49%

(+1.59% from 2022)

% of schools with no increase

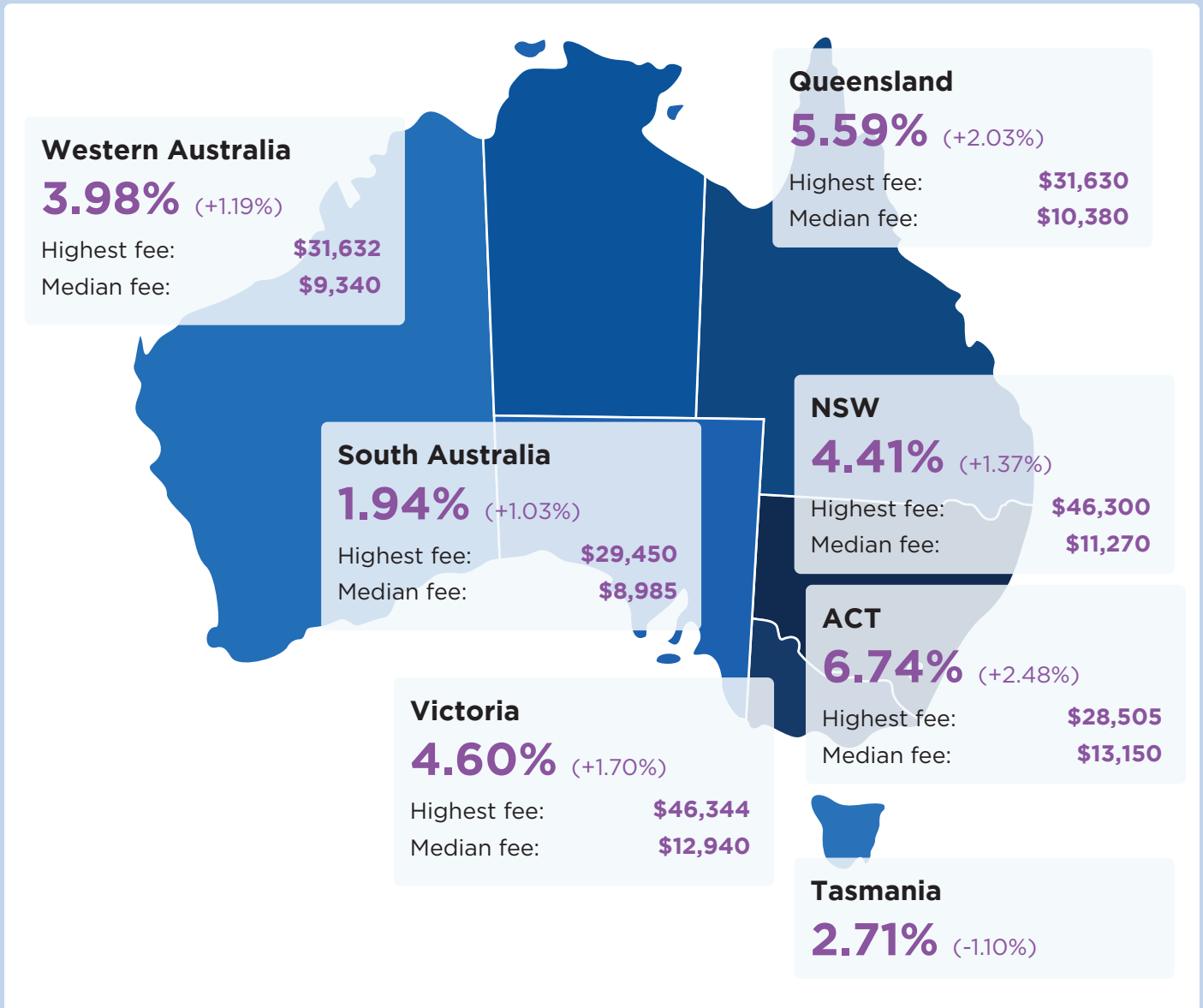
4%

(-2% from 2022)

% of schools with increases below CPI

85%

(+29% from 2022)



By location

Location	Average increase
Metro	+4.60%
Regional	+4.19%

By sector

Sector	Average increase
Independent	+4.69%
Catholic (Systemic)	+3.71%

By fee tier

Annual fees - Year 12 student	Average increase
Less than \$10,000	+3.60%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	+5.58%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	+4.78%
\$30,000+	+4.64%

By Capacity to Contribute score¹

CTC Score	Average increase
90 or below	+3.41%
91 to 100	+3.27%
101 to 120	+5.14%
121 to 130	+5.55%
131 or above	+4.78%

By school type

Type	Average increase
Co-Ed	+4.18%
Girls	+4.76%
Boys	+5.91%

¹ The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score measures a school community's capacity to contribute to the ongoing costs of running the school and is based on the median income of parents or guardians of students at a non-government school. The CTC score is a key factor in determining the amount of base recurrent funding each school attracts from the Australian Government, with schools with a score below 100 typically attracting more funding and vice versa for schools above 100.

NSW

Average school fee increase

4.41%

(+1.37% from 2022)

Highest school fee

\$46,300

(+\$3,003 from 2022)

Median school fee

\$11,270

(-\$1,680 from 2022)

School fees by region

NSW Regional

Average increase: **4.59%**

Median fee: **\$9,061**

Sydney - North West

Average increase: **3.66%**

Median fee: **\$14,400**

Sydney - West

Average increase: **2.76%**

Median fee: **\$5,757**

Sydney - North

Average increase: **5.05%**

Median fee: **\$28,530**

Sydney - Inner West

Average increase: **5.26%**

Median fee: **\$35,270**

Sydney - East

Average increase: **5.73%**

Median fee: **\$39,702**

Sydney - South West

Average increase: **3.79%**

Median fee: **\$10,514**

Sydney - South

Average increase: **6.30%**

Median fee: **\$15,851**

By sector

Sector	Average increase
Independent	+4.66%
Catholic (Systemic)	+3.42%

By fee tier

Annual fees - Year 12 student	Average increase
Less than \$10,000	+3.60%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	+5.88%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	+3.52%
\$30,000+	+4.74%

By Capacity to Contribute score¹

CTC Score	Average increase
100 or below	+2.58%
Above 100	+5.16%

By school type

Type	Average increase
Co-Ed	+4.50%
Girls	+3.57%
Boys	+5.16%

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Victoria

Average school fee increase

4.60%

(+1.70% from 2022)

Highest school fee

\$46,344

(+\$2,684 from 2022)

Median school fee

\$12,940

(-\$1,200 from 2022)

School fees by region

VIC Regional

Average increase: **4.34%**

Median fee: **\$8,125**

Melbourne - North

Average increase: **4.22%**

Median fee: **\$8,690**

Melbourne - West

Average increase: **5.86%**

Median fee: **\$10,399**

Melbourne - East

Average increase: **4.49%**

Median fee: **\$26,944**

Melbourne - South

Average increase: **4.79%**

Median fee: **\$35,173**

Melbourne - South-East

Average increase: **4.40%**

Median fee: **\$12,269**

Geelong

Average increase: **5.00%**

Median fee: **\$10,700**

Mornington

Average increase: **4.22%**

Median fee: **\$11,312**

By sector

Sector	Average increase
Independent	+4.55%
Catholic (Systemic)	+4.59%

By fee tier

Annual fees - Year 12 student	Average increase
Less than \$10,000	+4.60%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	+4.57%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	+5.01%
\$30,000+	+4.52%

By Capacity to Contribute score¹

CTC Score	Average increase
100 or below	+4.42%
Above 100	+4.71%

By school type

Type	Average increase
Co-Ed	+4.42%
Girls	+4.99%
Boys	+4.90%

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Queensland

Average school fee increase

5.59%

(+2.03% from 2022)

Highest school fee

\$31,630

(+\$1,380 from 2022)

Median school fee

\$10,380

(-\$1,044 from 2022)

School fees by region

QLD Regional

Average increase: **4.55%**

Median fee: **\$6,606**

Moreton Bay

Average increase: **6.85%**

Median fee: **\$8,390**

Brisbane

Average increase: **8.19%**

Median fee: **\$14,540**

Redland City

Average increase: **4.61%**

Median fee: **\$12,718**

Ipswich

Average increase: **4.05%**

Median fee: **\$11,612**

Logan City

Average increase: **4.03%**

Median fee: **\$7,501**

Gold Coast

Average increase: **4.23%**

Median fee: **\$11,061**

By sector

Sector	Average increase
Independent	+5.59%
Catholic (Systemic)	+4.42%

By fee tier

Annual fees - Year 12 student	Average increase
Less than \$10,000	+4.52%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	+6.45%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	+6.89%
\$30,000+	+6.04%

By Capacity to Contribute score¹

CTC Score	Average increase
100 or below	+4.50%
Above 100	+6.31%

By school type

Type	Average increase
Co-Ed	+4.81%
Girls	+7.03%
Boys	+7.86%

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Western Australia

Average school fee increase

3.98%

(+1.19% from 2022)

Highest school fee

\$31,632

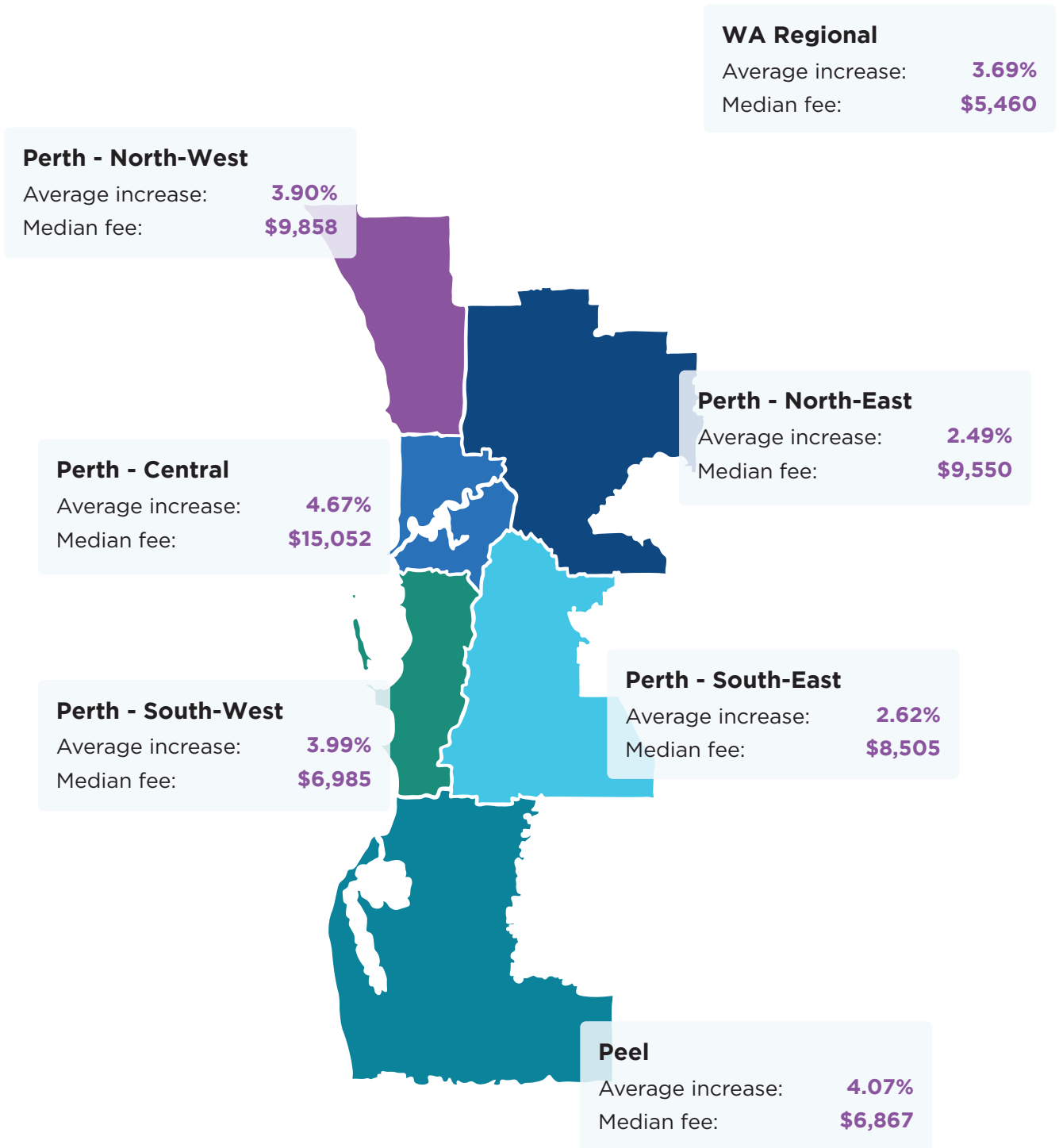
(+\$1,362 from 2022)

Median school fee

\$9,340

(-\$341 from 2022)

School fees by region



By sector

Sector	Average increase
Independent	+4.21%
Catholic (Systemic)	+3.15%

By fee tier

Annual fees - Year 12 student	Average increase
Less than \$10,000	+3.08%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	+4.97%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	+5.66%
\$30,000+	+4.54%

By Capacity to Contribute score¹

CTC Score	Average increase
100 or below	+1.88%
Above 100	+4.75%

By school type

Type	Average increase
Co-Ed	+3.52%
Girls	+5.18%
Boys	+6.55%

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South Australia

Average school fee increase

1.94%

(+1.03% from 2022)

Highest school fee

\$29,450

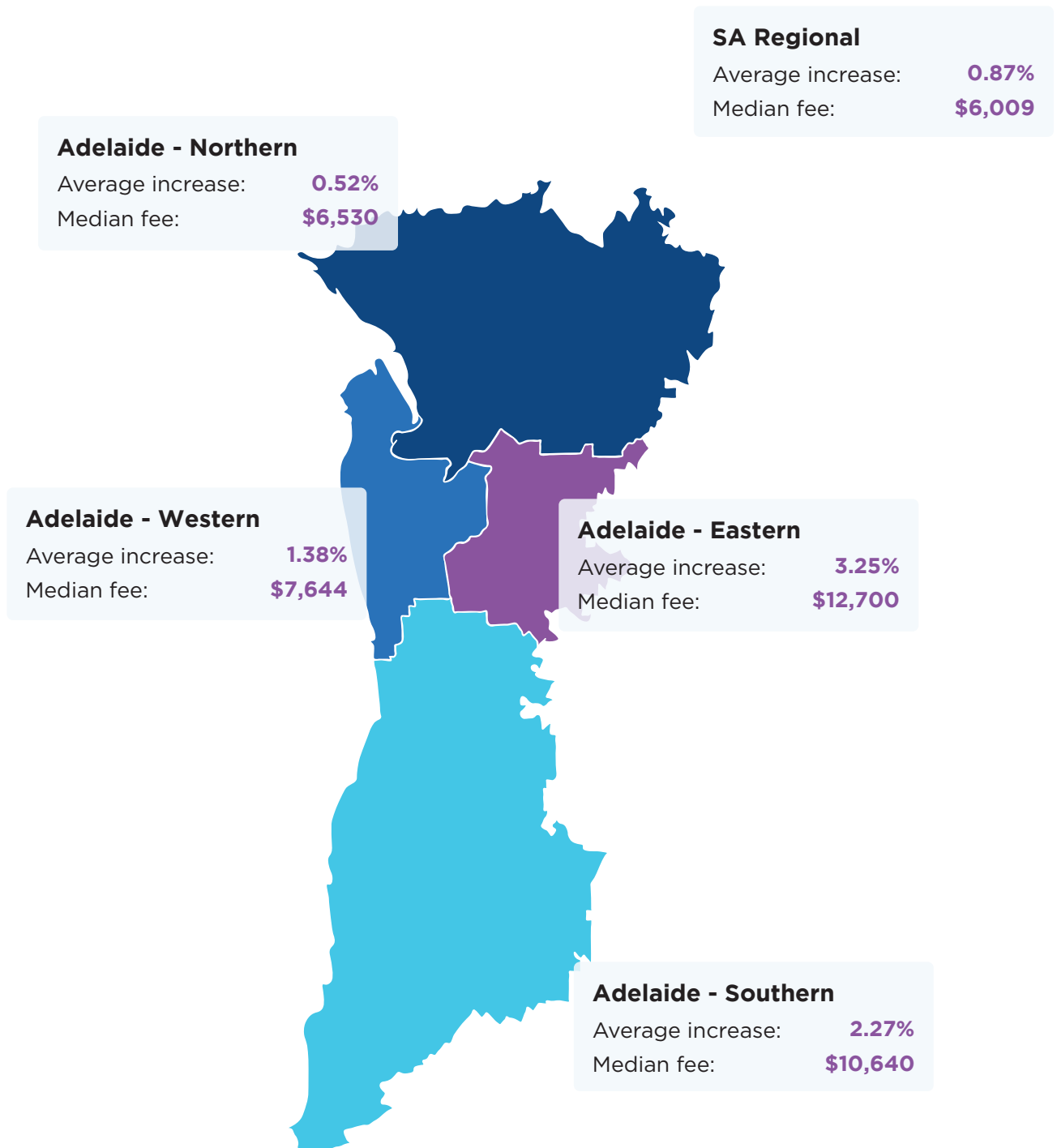
(+\$870 from 2022)

Median school fee

\$8,985

(+\$237 from 2022)

School fees by region



By sector

Sector	Average increase
Independent	+2.05%
Catholic (Systemic)	+1.47%

By fee tier

Annual fees - Year 12 student	Average increase
Less than \$10,000	+1.15%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	+2.81%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	+3.70%
\$30,000+	n/a

By Capacity to Contribute score¹

CTC Score	Average increase
100 or below	+1.40%
Above 100	+2.83%

By school type

Type	Average increase
Co-Ed	+1.74%
Girls	+2.17%
Boys	+3.45%

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Boarding

Average boarding fee increase

4.72%

(+2.16% from 2022)

% of schools with no increase

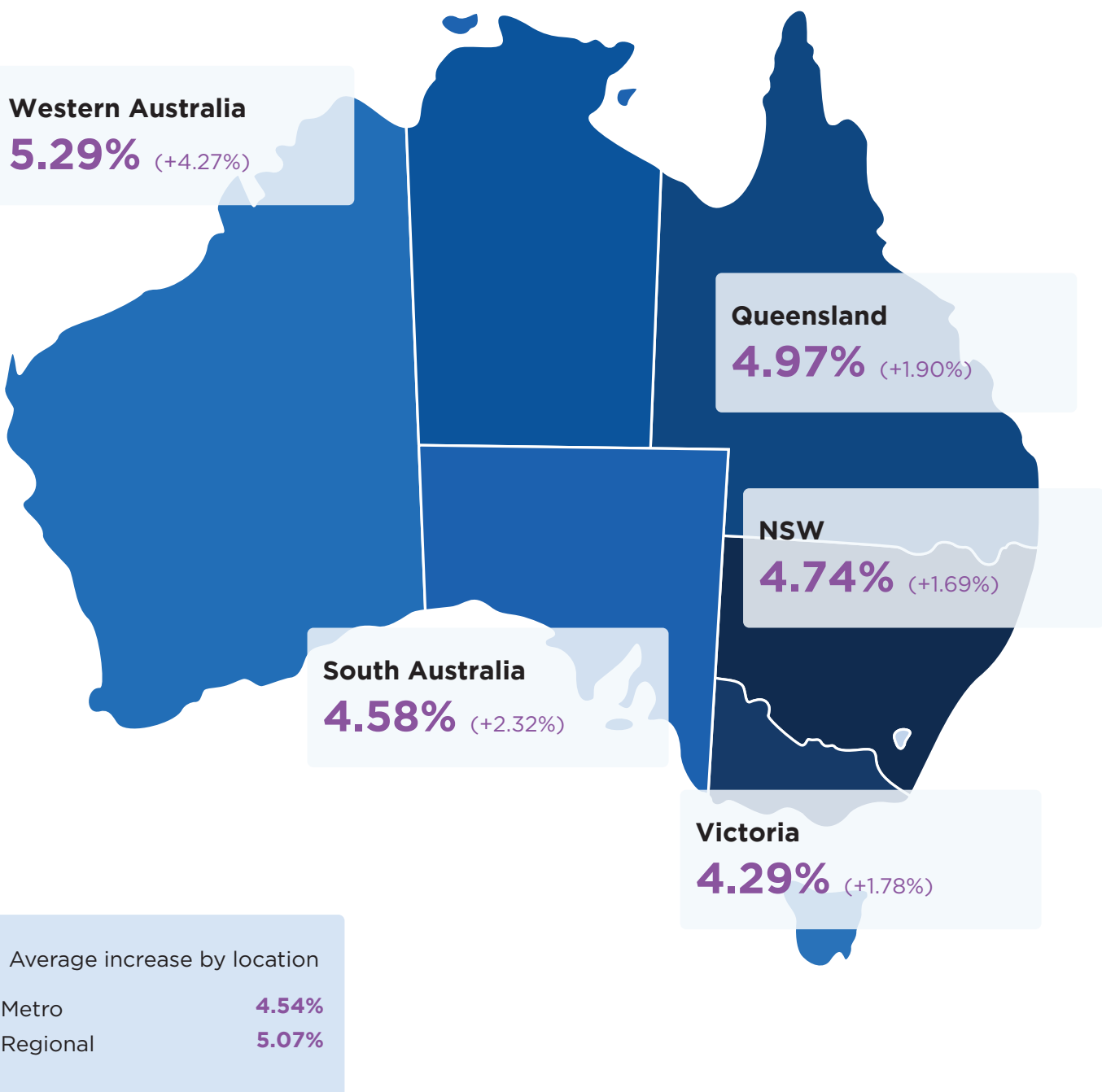
3%

(-10% from 2022)

% of schools with increases below CPI

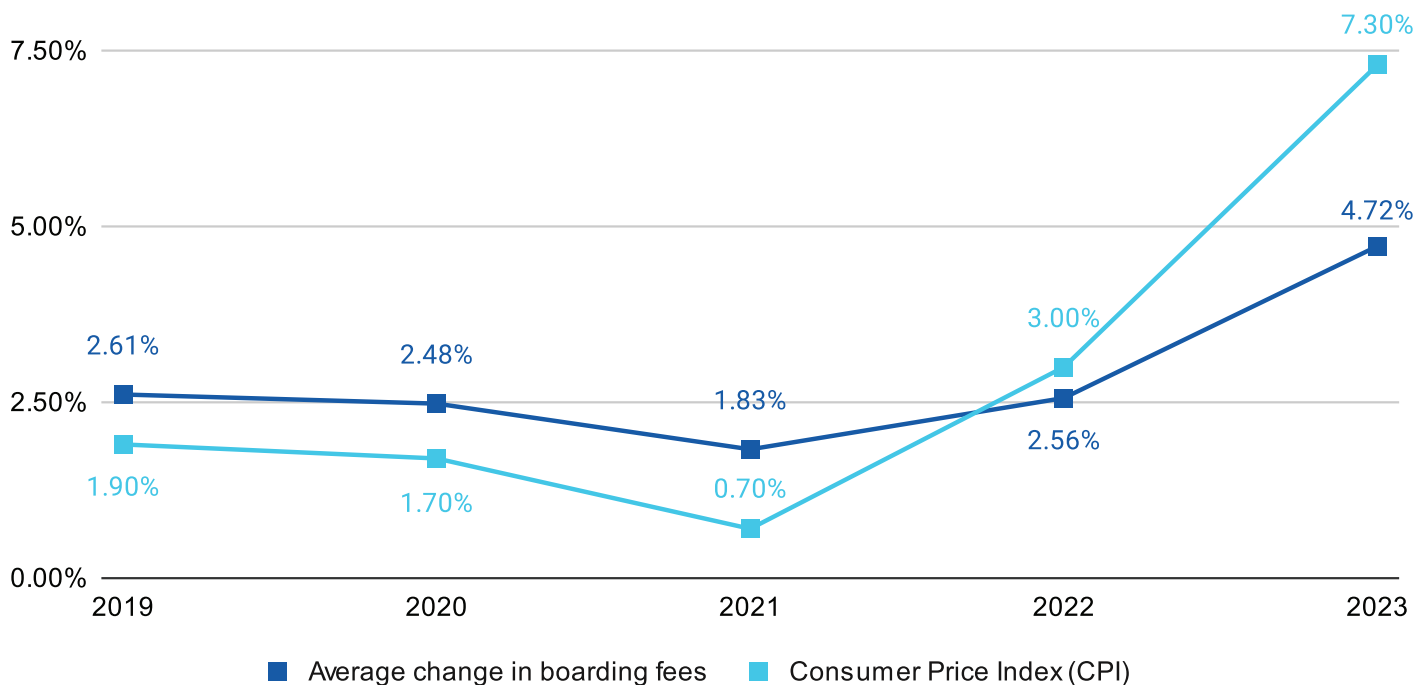
89%

(+29% from 2022)



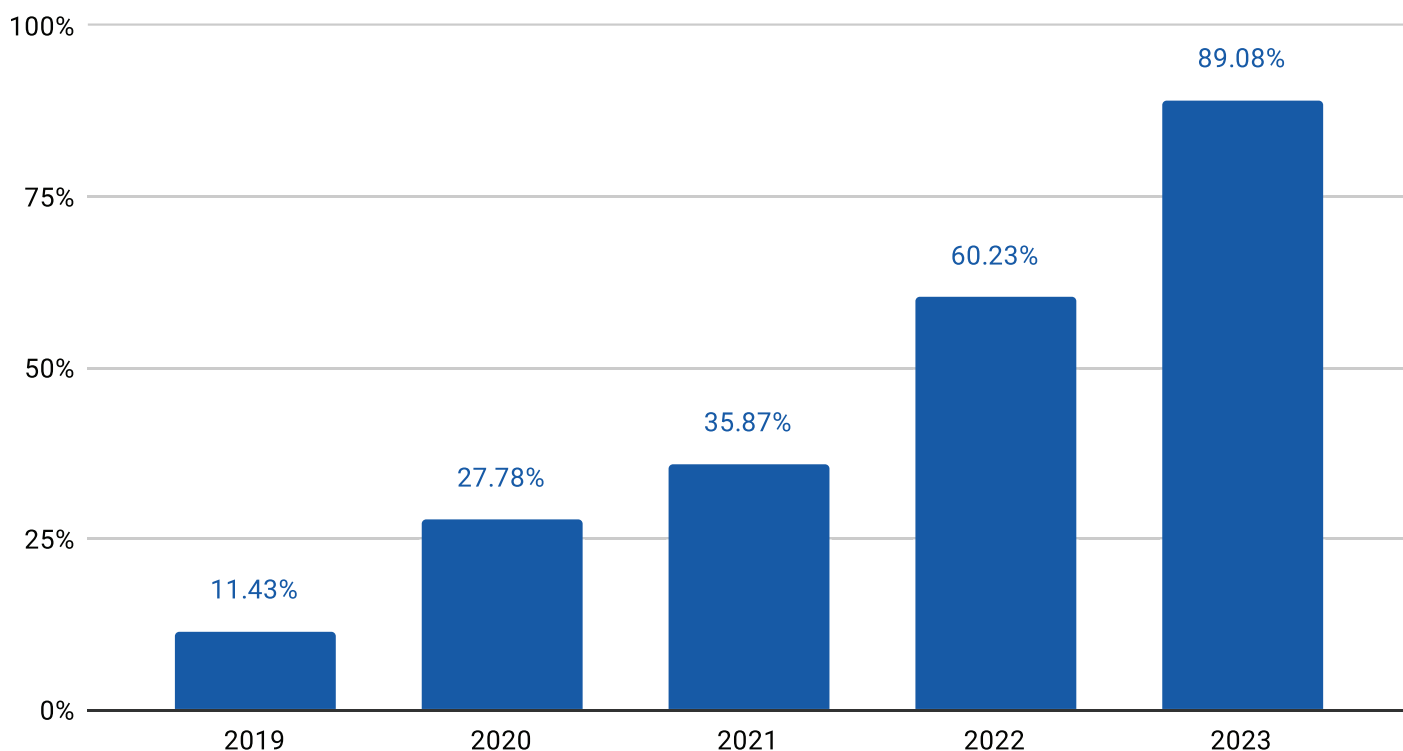
Increasing cost pressures for boarding schools due to rising inflation in the economy have seen the average increase in boarding fees rise from 2.56% in 2022 to 4.72% this year.

Average boarding fee increase vs inflation



Our analysis found that almost 9 in 10 boarding schools kept their fee increases below inflation.

Boarding schools with fee increase below inflation



About Edstart

Edstart is a leading technology and financial services company providing funding and payment services for education.

We offer fee management solutions to schools to help improve the payment and collection experience, and flexible payment plans for parents to help align school fees with their budget.

Our goal is to help make education costs sustainable, flexible and easier to manage for schools, families and students.

 1300 139 445

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The Edstart School Fees Report is based on an analysis of 635 non-Government schools in Australia. Schools that haven't made their fee schedule available to the general public as at 16 January 2023 have not been included. Inflation data based on the consumer price index (CPI) was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Whilst all the information and statements have been prepared with all reasonable care, no responsibility or liability is accepted by any member of Edstart for any errors or omissions or misstatements however caused or arising.

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