

Student Loan Debt Statistics In 2018: A \$1.5 Trillion Crisis

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Student loan debt is now the second highest consumer debt category – behind only mortgage debt – and higher than both credit cards and auto loans.

According to [Make Lemonade](#), there are more than 44 million borrowers who collectively owe \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt in the U.S. alone. The average student in the Class of 2016 has \$37,172 in student loan debt.

The latest student loan debt statistics for 2018 show how serious the student loan debt crisis has become – for borrowers across all demographics and age groups.

If you are a student loan borrower, the following student loan debt statistics can help you make more informed decisions regarding [student loan refinance](#), student loan consolidation, student loan repayment and student loan forgiveness.

Student Loan Statistics: Overview

Total Student Loan Debt: \$1.52 trillion

Total U.S. Borrowers With Student Loan Debt: 44.2 million

Student Loan Delinquency Or Default Rate: 10.7% (90+ days delinquent)

Total Increase In Student Loan Debt In Most Recent Quarter: \$29 billion

New Delinquent Balances (30+ days): \$32.6 billion

New Delinquent Balances – Seriously Delinquent (90+ days): \$31 billion

(Source: As of 1Q 2018, Federal Reserve & New York Federal Reserve)

States With The Most Student Loan Debt

Not surprisingly, states with larger populations have higher aggregate student loan debt. California, Florida, Texas and New York are among the four highest states for total student loan debt outstanding among resident borrowers.

California, Florida, Texas and New York represent more than 20% of all U.S. student loan borrowers.

Rank	State	Balance (\$ in billions)	Borrowers (millions)
1	California	\$120.0	3.7
2	Texas	\$92.5	3.1
3	Florida	\$78.9	2.3
4	New York	\$78.4	2.3
5	Georgia	\$54.0	1.5
6	Pennsylvania	\$53.7	1.7
7	Ohio	\$53.5	1.7
8	Illinois	\$52.4	1.6
9	Michigan	\$44.1	1.4
10	North Carolina	\$38.2	1.1

SOURCE: ENTERPRISE DATA WAREHOUSE

High Student Loan Debt States & Low Student Loan Debt States

New Hampshire has the highest average student loan debt per student (\$36,367) from the Class of 2016.

Utah has the lowest average student loan debt per student (\$19,975) from the Class of 2016.

Highest Average Debt States	Average Student Loan Debt	Lowest Average Debt States	Average Student Loan Debt
1 New Hampshire	\$36,367	1 Utah	\$19,975
2 Pennsylvania	\$35,759	2 New Mexico	\$21,373
3 Connecticut	\$35,494	3 California	\$22,744
4 Delaware	\$33,838	4 Arizona	\$23,447
5 Minnesota	\$31,915	5 Nevada	\$24,128
6 Massachusetts	\$31,563	6 Florida	\$24,461
7 South Dakota	\$31,362	7 Washington	\$24,609
8 Maine	\$31,295	8 Wyoming	\$25,378
9 Alabama	\$31,275	9 North Carolina	\$25,562
10 Rhode Island	\$31,217	10 Oklahoma	\$25,856

THE INSTITUTE FOR COLLEGE ACCESS & SUCCESS

Student Loan Debt Per Capita In Select U.S. States

In the U.S., as of 2016, the average student loan debt per capita is \$4,920. Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan have among the highest student loan debt per capita in the nation.

Arizona: \$4,760

California: \$4,160

Florida: \$4,480

Michigan: \$5,330

New York: \$5,570

Ohio: \$5,700

Pennsylvania: \$5,690

Texas: \$4,510

Distribution Of Student Loan Borrowers By Balance

As of 2018, more than 42 million student loan borrowers have student loan debt of \$100,000 or less.

More than 2 million student loan borrowers have student loan debt greater than \$100,000, with 415,000 of that total holding student loan debt greater than \$200,000.

The largest concentration of student loan debt is \$10,000 – \$25,000, which accounts for 12.4 million student loan borrowers.

Student Loan Balance	Number of Borrowers
Less Than \$5,000	8,769,700
\$5,000 - \$10,000	7,554,100
\$10,000 - \$25,000	12,368,200
\$25,000 - \$50,000	8,483,600
\$50,000 - \$75,000	3,539,000
\$75,000 - \$100,000	1,503,800
\$100,000 - \$150,000	1,238,200
\$150,000 - \$200,000	554,500
\$200,000+	521,600

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE

Total Student Loan Balances By Age Group

Over the past five years, student loan debt balances have grown across each age category.

On a percentage basis, the largest increase in student loan debt has come from a surprising age group: 60 to 69-year-olds, who have experienced an 71.5% increase in student loan debt. However, on a dollar basis, this age group represents a \$35.6 billion increase over the same period, which is the lowest increase among all age groups.

On a dollar basis, the highest increase in student loan debt is among 30 to 39-year-olds, who as a group now hold over \$461 billion in student loans. On a percentage basis, the amount of student loan debt held by 30-39 year-olds has increased 30.2% over the past five years.

Year	Age				
	<30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
2013	\$362.0	\$354.1	\$188.1	\$124.9	\$49.8
2014	\$370.5	\$383.1	\$207.6	\$136.5	\$57.7
2015	\$376.4	\$408.4	\$229.6	\$149.7	\$66.7
2016	\$383.2	\$437.4	\$255.6	\$163.2	\$76.3
2017	\$383.8	\$461.0	\$278.9	\$177.2	\$85.4

SOURCE: FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK CONSUMER CREDIT PANEL / EQUIFAX

Number Of Student Loan Borrowers By Age Group

The largest concentration of student loan borrowers is under 30-years-old, followed by the 30-39 age group.

Therefore, there are 29.1 million student loan borrowers under the age of 39, with this group representing approximately 65% of all student loan borrowers.

As of 2017, here is the breakdown of student loan borrowers by age.

< 30-years-old: 16.8 million

30-39: 12.3 million

40-49: 7.3 million

50-59: 5.2 million

60+: 3.2 million

Student Loan Debt Outstanding By Student Loan Program

Over 33 million student loan borrowers hold approximately \$1.1 billion in Direct Loans. Another 14.5 million student loan borrowers hold \$301 billion in Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL).

Direct Loans: \$1,066.8 billion (33.3 million borrowers)

Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL): \$301.1 billion (14.5 million borrowers)

Perkins Loans: \$7.6 billion (2.5 million borrowers)

TOTAL: \$1,375.5 billion

Student Loan Debt Outstanding By Student Loan Type

Stafford Subsidized: \$272.2 billion (29.6 million borrowers)

Stafford Unsubsidized: \$463.3 billion (28.4 million borrowers)

Stafford Combined: \$735.5 billion (33.0 million unique borrowers)

Grad PLUS: \$59.6 billion (1.2 million borrowers)

Parent PLUS: \$83.7 billion (3.5 million borrowers)

Perkins: \$7.6 billion (2.5 million borrowers)

Consolidation: \$489.0 billion (12.0 million borrowers)

Student Loan Debt Statistics By Loan Status For Direct Loans

Approximately \$600 billion in Direct Loans across 17.8 million student loan borrowers are in student loan repayment. Approximately 11 million student loan borrowers are in student loan deferment, student loan forbearance or student loan default.

Student Loans In School: \$133.5 billion (7.4 million borrowers)

Student Loans In Repayment: \$600.0 billion (17.8 million borrowers)

Student Loans In Deferment: \$103.0 billion (3.3 million borrowers)

Student Loans in Forbearance: \$108.3 billion borrowers (2.6 million borrowers)

Student Loans In Default: \$88.4 billion (4.7 million borrowers)

Student Loans In Grace Period: \$25.9 billion borrowers (1.2 million borrowers)

Student Loan Debt Statistics By Repayment Plan For Direct Loans

There are 12.8 million borrowers with \$233.5 billion of student loan debt in the Level Student Loan Repayment Plan (student loan repayment in 10 years or less), which represents the largest concentration of borrowers in [student loan repayment](#).

The second most concentrated group of borrowers is enrolled in Income-Based Repayment (IBR) at \$192.0 billion and 3.6 million borrowers.

Level Repayment Plan (< 10 years): \$233.5 billion (12.8 million borrowers)

Level Repayment Plan (> 10 years): \$79.1 billion (1.8 million borrowers)

Graduated Repayment Plan (< 10 years): \$88.3 billion (3.3 million borrowers)

Graduated Repayment Plan (> 10 years): \$14.3 billion (0.3 million borrowers)

Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan: \$27.6 billion (0.6 million borrowers)

Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan: \$192.0 billion (3.6 million borrowers)

Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Plan: \$68.3 billion (1.2 million borrowers)

Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) Plan: \$108.8 billion (2.0 million borrowers)

Servicer Portfolio By Repayment Plan

As of December 31, 2017, AES/PHEAA (otherwise known as FedLoan Servicing) and Navient service the largest portfolios of student loans in repayment in the U.S. FedLoan Servicing is the largest servicer of federal direct and Federal Family Education Loans.

The most popular student loan repayment plan is the Level Repayment Plan, which means student loan repayment in less than 10 years, followed by REPAYE (Revised Pay As You Earn).

Servicer	Level: 10 Yrs or Less		Level: > 10 Yrs		Income-Contingent		Pay As You Earn		REPAYE	
	Dollars Outstanding (in billions)	Recipients (in millions)	Dollars Outstanding (in billions)	Recipients (in millions)	Dollars Outstanding (in billions)	Recipients (in millions)	Dollars Outstanding (in billions)	Recipients (in millions)	Dollars Outstanding (in billions)	Recipients (in millions)
AES/PHEAA	\$59.2	3.00	\$24.2	0.51	\$10.9	0.22	\$29.0	0.45	\$47.3	0.68
Great Lakes	\$57.4	3.18	\$13.8	0.31	\$3.3	0.08	\$18.7	0.36	\$20.9	0.49
Nelnet	\$48.3	2.61	\$11.9	0.26	\$4.0	0.10	\$10.7	0.20	\$17.6	0.38
Navient	\$59.2	2.78	\$21.2	0.44	\$7.2	0.15	\$9.8	0.18	\$17.0	0.31
Not-for-Profit Servicers	\$9.4	1.22	\$8.0	0.23	\$2.2	0.09	\$0.1	0.00	\$6.0	0.15

NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM

Other Important Student Loan Debt Statistics

In addition, there are several other startling statistics regarding the state of student loan debt:

- Nearly seven in 10 seniors (68%) who graduated from public and non-profit colleges in 2015 had student loan debt.
- In 2012, 1.3 million students graduated with student loan debt.
- In 2012, 66% graduated from public colleges, 75% graduated from private colleges and 88% graduated from for-profit colleges.
- Almost half (47%) of private loan borrowers in 2011-12 borrowed less than they could have in federal Stafford loans for college.
- While private loan volume peaked at \$18.1 billion in 2007-2008, private loan volume is now \$7.8 billion as of 2014-2015.
- 6% of all undergraduates – 1,373,000 students – borrowed private loans in 2011-12.
- Four out of five 2016 graduates with state loan debt attended schools in just four states: Texas, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and

New Jersey that awarded only 14% of bachelor's degrees.

- Of the 100 colleges where graduates borrow most in private loans, 85 are nonprofit four-year colleges and 34 are located in Pennsylvania.
- At public colleges, average debt in 2012 was \$25,550 (25% higher than in 2008, when the average was \$20,450).
- At private nonprofit colleges, average debt in 2012 was \$32,300 (15% higher than in 2008, when the average was \$28,200).
- At for-profit colleges, average debt in 2012 was \$39,950 (26% higher than in 2008, when the average was \$31,800).
- About 20% of the Class of 2012's student loans were private student loans.
- Graduates who receive Pell Grants are more likely to borrow more debt: 88% had student loans in 2012, with an average of \$31,200 per borrower.
- Graduates who did not receive Pell Grants: 53% of those who never received a Pell Grant had debt, with an average of \$26,450 per borrower — \$4,750 less than the average debt for Pell recipients with debt.

(Source: The Institute for College Access and Success)

Student Loan Forgiveness

[Student loan forgiveness](#) comes in several forms. Two of the most popular types of student loan forgiveness are Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Teacher Student Loan Forgiveness.

As of December 31, 2017, there are 802,040 cumulative Public Service Loan Forgiveness borrowers.

Since 2012, 1,361,184 employment certification forms have been approved and 705,362 have been denied.

(The above student loan debt statistics include data from The New York Federal Reserve Credit Panel/Equifax, The Institute For College Access and Success, National Student Loan Data System, Mark Kantrowitz, Federal Student Aid and FedLoan Servicing).

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2018/06/13/student-loan-debt-statistics-2018/amp/>