WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITIES IN AN AGE OF SLOW GROWTH

ALEX USHER
HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY ASSOCIATES
World Class Universities

- “Everyone wants a world class university, no country feels it can do without one, but that no one knows what it is or how to get one” – P. Altbach

- “Time, Talent and Money” – J. Salmi

- What happens to higher education when public money runs short?
Project

- Focus is on 10 countries which make up 49 of top 50 and 91 of top 100 in ARWU

- US, UK, Japan, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, France, Netherlands, Germany and Sweden

- Attempt is to normalize for inflation and changes in student numbers.
US ARWU Universities
UK ARWU Universities Adjusted

- ARWU-100 Universities
- All Universities

Data ranges from 2006-07 to 2013-14.
Canada Universities, Unadjusted

The graph shows the trend of ARWU-100 and all universities from 2000-01 to 2012-13. The ARWU-100 line increases consistently over the years, while the line for all universities shows a similar trend but with a slightly lower value compared to ARWU-100.
Canada Universities, Adjusted
Swiss Universities Unadjusted
Swiss Universities, Adjusted
Swedish Universities, Unadjusted
Swedish Universities, Adjusted
Australian Universities, Unadjusted
Australian Universities, Adjusted

[Graph showing the adjusted rankings of Australian universities from 2008 to 2013. The graph compares ARWU-100 and All Universities with a downward trend over the years.]
Germany
Netherlands
France
Conclusions

- Real spending is generally up across ten countries, but not always in per-student terms.

- ARWU universities do better than others in US, Switzerland, Canada, worse in Sweden, Australia.

- Per-student gap between US, UK & Switzerland and Australia has widened 25% since 2008.

- Short-term income fluctuations seem to have little bearing on international ranking positions.
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