

Money Needed
\$2.4 billion



Taxpayer Burden™
\$1,000



Financial Grade



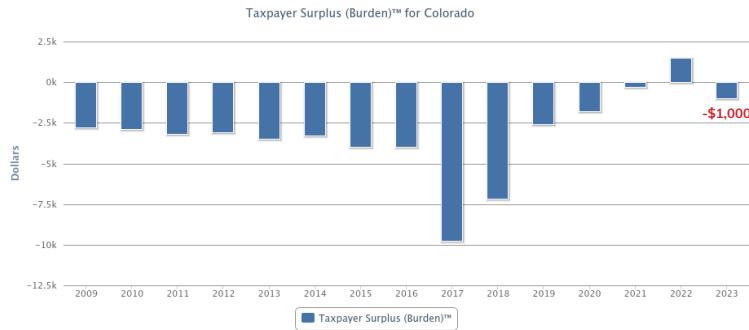
Ranking

25 out of 50



Unlike most states, Colorado saw a substantial decrease in its pension investments, which caused it to move from having money available in 2022 to needing money to pay bills for 2023. While Colorado's fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, its net pension liability was measured at December 31, 2022, when pension funds' investment values were low. When other states measured their net pension liabilities at June 30, 2023, the pension investment markets had turned more favorable. This highlights how the volatility in the markets can affect a state's unfunded pension debt and financial conditions.

Based on the pension measurement date, the state appeared to have deteriorated by \$5.6 billion. Its net pension liability was up \$6.7 billion with unrealized losses of 13.5 percent as of December 31, 2022. The good news is at the 2023 calendar year end unrealized losses had turned to unrealized gains and according to its 2023 audited financial report, Colorado's revenues surpassed expenses by \$877.5 million.



Unfunded retirement obligations impaired Colorado's ability to pay its bills regardless of market fluctuations. As outlined in our comprehensive 2024 Financial State of the States report, inflation, market volatility, and other economic factors may further affect the state's financial condition. Colorado needed \$2.4 billion to pay its bills. The state had a Taxpayer Burden of \$1,000, earning it a "C" grade from Truth in Accounting.

- Colorado had \$31.4 billion available to pay \$33.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.4 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,000 per taxpayer.
- In 2023, Colorado revenues exceeded its expenses driven by higher program revenues and targeted spending reductions.

The State's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$67,586,042,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$26,720,115,000
Restricted Assets	-\$9,503,655,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$31,362,272,000
Minus: Total Bills*	\$33,753,195,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$2,390,923,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,000

*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$4,854,712,000
Other Liabilities	\$23,138,922,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$10,803,112,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$15,153,217,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$1,409,456,000
Total Bills	\$33,753,195,000

Grade:

C

Bottom line: Colorado would need \$1,000 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its outstanding bills and received a "C" grade for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden between \$0 and \$4,999 is given a "C" grade.