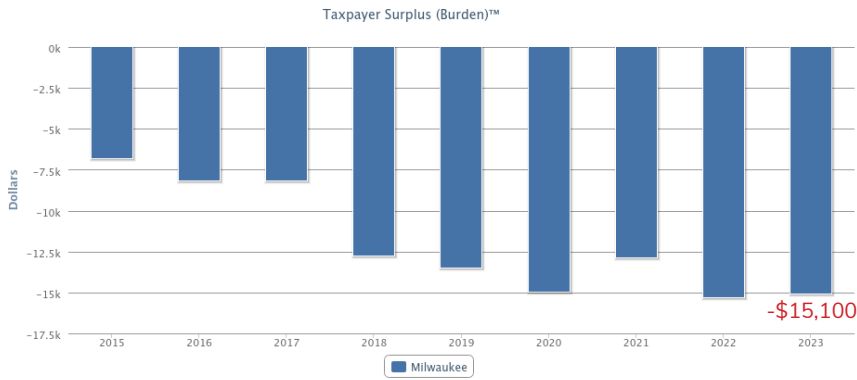




**\$3.3 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY BILLS

**\$15,100**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Milwaukee’s financial condition worsened. Based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, its financial hole deepened with a need for \$3.3 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$15,100, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Milwaukee’s financial condition worsened by \$279.7 million, primarily due to an increase in its unfunded pension liability. This was largely driven by state legislation that allowed the city to impose a sales tax but also required it to adopt the Wisconsin Retirement System’s discount rate, which was lowered from 7.5% to 6.8%. This change significantly increased the city’s pension liability, placing additional strain on its finances.

Milwaukee reported governmental expenses of \$1.15 billion, with combined program revenues totaling \$171 million, creating a gap of \$987 million. However, general revenues, transfers, and capital grants contributed \$1 billion, resulting in a small operating surplus. Despite this, the city’s growing unfunded pension liability outweighed the surplus, putting additional financial pressure on Milwaukee’s long-term fiscal stability.

The data included in this report is derived from Milwaukee’s 2023 audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and retirement plans’ reports. To compare prior years and other states’ and cities’ financial, demographic, and economic information, go to Data-Z.org.

**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE

**69 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Milwaukee had \$1.3 billion available to pay \$4.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$3.3 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$15,100 per taxpayer.
- Milwaukee’s finances worsened by \$279.7 million mostly due to a rising pension liability, driven by a state-mandated discount rate reduction.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$4,329,898,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,736,678,000
Restricted Assets	-\$256,352,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,336,868,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$4,667,701,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$3,330,833,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$15,100

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,395,709,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,297,360,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$875,075,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,734,862,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$1,114,845,000
Total Bills	\$4,667,701,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b>
<b>D</b>	Milwaukee would need \$15,100 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its outstanding bills and received a “D” grade for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting’s grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden between \$5,000 and \$20,000 is given a “D” grade.

Truth in Accounting is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to educating and empowering you with understandable, reliable, and transparent government financial information so you can be a knowledgeable participant in your government and its budget process.