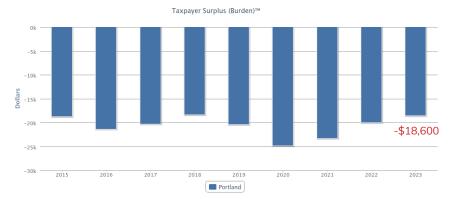
FINANCIAL STATE OF PORTLAND, OR



4.5 billion MONEY NEEDED TO PAY BILLS

518.600 AXPAYER BURDEN™

Portland'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 \$4.5 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden[™] of \$18,600, earning the city a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Portland's financial position declined slightly by \$95.5 million, largely due to investment income and contributions to the fire and police pension plan falling short of growing liabilities. This mismatch led to an increase in the city's unfunded pension obligations, exacerbating the financial pressures. As pension liabilities continue to rise, Portland faces ongoing challenges in managing its fiscal health and ensuring long-term stability in meeting its obligations.

Total governmental activities net expenses rose by \$186.95 million compared to the prior year. The increase was primarily driven by a \$97.99 million rise in public safety expenses. Of that increase, \$88 million was attributed to higher pension-related costs. As pension obligations continue to grow, Portland will need to address these rising liabilities, and explore sustainable revenue solutions to strengthen its financial position.

February 2025



Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF DENVER School of Accountance

The data included in this report is derived from Portland'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. 136

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73 out of 75 FINANCIAL GRADE RANKING

FINANCIAL FACTS

- Portland had \$2.1 billion available to pay \$6.6 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$4.5 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$18,600 per taxpayer.
- Portland's finances declined primarily due to rising pension liabilities, increasing expenses, and a need to manage increasing expenses and seek sustainable revenue sources.

The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$11,995,398,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$8,227,080,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,628,889,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,139,429,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$6,630,820,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$4,491,391,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$18,600

*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$3,148,877,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,085,211,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,479,040,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$4,773,846,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$101,926,000
Total Bills	\$6,630,820,000

Grade: Bottom line:

Portland would need \$18,600 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