

Money Available  
**\$2.6 billion**



Taxpayer Surplus™  
**\$7,300**



Financial Grade



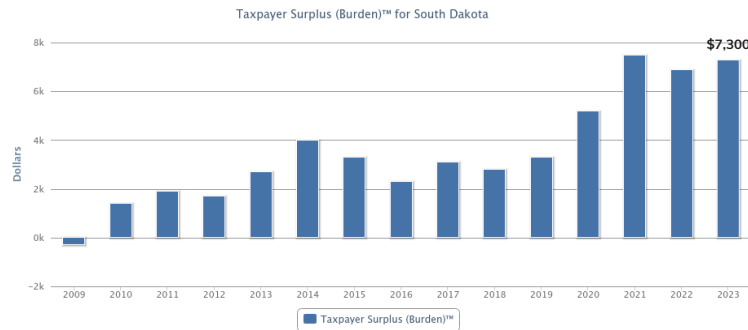
Ranking

**9 out of 50**



South Dakota, like most other states, improved its financial condition in 2023. This is a positive development, and Truth in Accounting applauds the state's commitment to improving its fiscal solvency. The state increased its money available to pay bills by \$424.7 million. This means the state had a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$7,300, earning it a “B” grade.

In 2023, South Dakota experienced several key financial successes. The state's overall financial position increased by \$424.7 million, bringing it to \$2.6 billion, indicating strong financial health. The South Dakota Retirement System maintained its fully funded status, making it one of the strongest pension systems in the country. South Dakota is in the enviable position of having no retiree healthcare liabilities.



Although South Dakota ended its 2023 fiscal year in strong financial health, as outlined in the comprehensive 2024 Financial State of the States report, market fluctuations in pension values, coupled with uncertainty around inflation and employment, make it challenging to predict the future resources needed to sustain government services and benefits. In light of these uncertainties, it's reassuring that the state has retained funds to cover its financial obligations.

- South Dakota had \$6.5 billion available to pay \$4 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.6 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$7,300 per taxpayer.
- The South Dakota Retirement System is overfunded by \$3.2 million, but maintaining a surplus is advisable because the value of pension plan investments has fluctuated dramatically in the last few years.

## The State's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Assets                          | \$16,836,759,000 |
| Minus: Capital Assets                 | -\$6,566,759,000 |
| Restricted Assets                     | -\$3,720,017,000 |
| Assets Available to Pay Bills         | \$6,549,983,000  |
| Minus: Total Bills*                   | \$3,983,867,000  |
| Money available to pay bills          | \$2,566,116,000  |
| Each taxpayer's share of this surplus | \$7,300          |

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bonds                                 | \$2,520,215,000 |
| Other Liabilities                     | \$2,203,029,000 |
| Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets | -\$736,146,000  |
| Unfunded Pension Benefits             | -\$3,231,000    |
| Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits | \$0             |
| Total Bills                           | \$3,983,867,000 |

**Grade:**

**B**

Bottom line: South Dakota had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999 is given a “B” grade.