



# FINANCIAL STATE OF THE CITIES 2025



Truth in Accounting



Daniels College of Business  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



# Table of Contents

---

Alphabetical List and Ranking.....	Page 4
Summary of Findings.....	Page 5
Executive Summary.....	Page 6
Introduction and Background.....	Page 9
Pensions and Market Volatility.....	Page 12
Grading the Cities.....	Page 15
75 Cities Ranking.....	Page 16
Sunshine and Sinkhole Cities.....	Page 19
Top Five Sunshine Cities.....	Page 20
Bottom Five Sinkhole Cities.....	Page 22
Methodology.....	Page 24
Individual City Reports.....	Page 26
Recommendations.....	Page 176
Timely Cities Report.....	Page 178
Tardy Cities Report.....	Page 179
Appendices.....	Page 180
Acknowledgements.....	Page 186
Support Our Work.....	Page 187

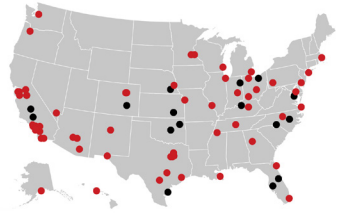
# Alphabetical List & Ranking

Albuquerque, ranking 45, page 26  
Anaheim, ranking 49, page 28  
Anchorage, ranking 27, page 30  
Arlington, ranking 12, page 32  
Atlanta, ranking 41, page 34  
Aurora, ranking 7, page 36  
Austin, ranking 63, page 38  
Bakersfield, ranking 14, page 40  
Baltimore, ranking 68, page 42  
Boston, ranking 62, page 44  
Charlotte, ranking 13, page 46  
Chicago, ranking 74, page 48  
Chula Vista, ranking 25, page 50  
Cincinnati, ranking 66, page 52  
Cleveland, ranking 5, page 54  
Colorado Springs, ranking 15, page 56  
Columbus, ranking 37, page 58  
Corpus Christi, ranking 17, page 60  
Dallas, ranking 65, page 62  
Denver, ranking 22, page 64  
Detroit, ranking 33, page 66  
El Paso, ranking 39, page 68  
Fort Wayne, ranking 20, page 70  
Fort Worth, ranking 47, page 72  
Fresno, ranking 9, page 74  
Greensboro, ranking 29, page 76  
Henderson, ranking 30, page 78  
Honolulu, ranking 71, page 80  
Houston, ranking 52, page 82  
Indianapolis, ranking 43, page 84  
Irvine, ranking 3, page 86  
Jacksonville, ranking 60, page 88  
Kansas City, MO, ranking 57, page 90  
Las Vegas, ranking 23, page 92  
Lexington, ranking 51, page 94  
Lincoln, ranking 2, page 96  
Long Beach, ranking 36, page 98  
Los Angeles, ranking 28, page 100  
Louisville, ranking 10, page 102  
Memphis, ranking 58, page 104  
Mesa, ranking 46, page 106  
Miami, ranking 67, page 108  
Milwaukee, ranking 69, page 110  
Minneapolis, ranking 24, page 112  
Nashville, ranking 32, page 114  
New Orleans, ranking 72, page 116  
New York City, ranking 75, page 118  
Oakland, ranking 56, page 120  
Oklahoma City, ranking 6, page 122  
Omaha, ranking 53, page 124  
Orlando, ranking 18, page 126  
Philadelphia, ranking 70, page 128  
Phoenix, ranking 42, page 130  
Pittsburgh, ranking 61, page 132  
Plano, ranking 11, page 134  
Portland, ranking 73, page 136  
Raleigh, ranking 8, page 138  
Riverside, ranking 34, page 140  
Sacramento, ranking 40, page 142  
Saint Paul, ranking 48, page 144  
San Antonio, ranking 31, page 146  
San Diego, ranking 44, page 148  
San Francisco, ranking 64, page 150  
San Jose, ranking 54, page 152  
Santa Ana, ranking 50, page 154  
Seattle, ranking 35, page 156  
St. Louis, ranking 59, page 158  
Stockton, ranking 26, page 160  
Tampa, ranking 4, page 162  
Toledo, ranking 38, page 164  
Tucson, ranking 55, page 166  
Tulsa, ranking 19, page 168  
Virginia Beach, ranking 21, page 170  
Washington, DC, ranking 1, page 172  
Wichita, ranking 16, page 174



# Summary of Findings

## 54 cities did not have enough money to pay their bills



Red= Taxpayer Burden  
Black= Taxpayer Surplus

When cities do not have enough money to pay their bills, Truth in Accounting (TIA) divides the money needed to pay bills by the estimated number of city taxpayers (a number provided by the IRS). We call the resulting number a Taxpayer Burden™. Conversely, a Taxpayer Surplus™ is the amount of money left over after all of a city's bills are paid, divided by the estimated number of taxpayers in the city. On the map, we rank the cities according to these numbers.

## \$300.7 billion in debt



The total debt for all 75 cities was \$300.7 billion at the end of the 2023 fiscal year.\*

## Unfunded pensions and volatile investment markets put taxpayers and retirees at risk.



\*While a few cities have issued their 2024 reports, a comprehensive fiscal year 2024 report could not be completed as many cities have not yet provided their data.

# Executive Summary

This is our ninth annual Financial State of the Cities report, a comprehensive analysis of the fiscal health of the nation's 75 most populous cities based on their latest annual comprehensive financial reports (ACFR) dated 2023. Please note that when we finished our research for this report on December 15, 2024, three cities had not released their financial documents. Some of these cities are negotiating upcoming budgets without considering this critical information.

Government financial reports are lengthy, cumbersome, and sometimes misleading documents. TIA believes taxpayers and citizens deserve easy-to-understand, truthful, and transparent financial information from their governments. Until that happens, we will provide this service to educate the taxpayer free of charge with this Financial State of the Cities report, our annual Financial State of the States, and the Financial State of the Union.

At the end of the fiscal year 2023, 54 cities did not have enough money to pay all their bills. This means that to claim their budgets were balanced—as is required by law in the 75 cities—elected officials have not included the full cost of the government in their budget calculations and have pushed costs onto future taxpayers.

The 75 cities had \$321 billion worth of assets available to pay bills; their debt, including unfunded retirement benefit promises, amounted to \$621.7 billion. Pension debt totaled \$192.1 billion, and other post-employment benefits (OPEB), mainly retiree health care, totaled \$136.4 billion.

Last year's report highlighted how cities continued to receive and spend federal COVID-19 relief funds, and as the U.S. economy reopened, they took in additional tax revenue. However, these economic gains were offset by increases in pension liabilities due to decreases in the market value of pension investments.

This year's research indicates that as the U.S. economy continues to recover, cities have reported revenues surpassing their expenses. However, the growing burden of unfunded pension and retiree

# Executive Summary

healthcare liabilities has overshadowed these financial gains. These liabilities now account for more than half of the cities' non-capital debt and are laden with risks and uncertainties that often lie beyond the control of legislators, taxpayers, and even those managing the plans.

Unfunded liabilities are calculated by comparing the estimated future benefit payments, adjusted to today's dollars, with the market value of the plan investments. City plan investments have become riskier due to recent market volatility. In 2022, many cities saw their investments rise due to unrealized gains, but in 2023, these gains reversed into losses, exacerbating the unfunded pension liabilities. Factors such as the pandemic, inflation, and shifts in interest rates have contributed to market fluctuations, making it harder to rely on consistent returns. Despite this, many cities have continued to rely on long-term growth assumptions, heightening the risk of underperformance and potentially leading to larger funding gaps or difficulty meeting future obligations.

The uncertainty surrounding estimated future benefit payments is significant, as it depends on unpredictable factors such as life expectancy, inflation rates, healthcare costs, and investment performance. Even small changes in these assumptions can drastically alter the total future liabilities. For example, in more than 20 cities, a reduction in the discount rate—the interest rate used to determine the amount of money needed today to cover future benefits—resulted in a notable decrease in the dollar amount of unfunded retiree healthcare benefits. Cities without funds set aside for these benefits are assumed to need to borrow money to cover the costs, meaning the discount rate must reflect the borrowing rate the government would face. This reduction in the discount rate was driven by the Federal Reserve's decision to lower interest rates, which in turn led to a notable decrease in the rate at which governments could borrow money. The variability in these assumptions makes it challenging for cities to plan accurately for future obligations, further complicating efforts to ensure sufficient funding.

# Executive Summary

The complexities of pension and retiree healthcare obligations are difficult for the average citizen to fully understand due to the technical nature of these assumptions. Taxpayers and beneficiaries deserve protection from the risks and uncertainties surrounding these plans because their money is at stake. This is why TIA believes Congress should consider extending ERISA protections to taxpayers and beneficiaries in cities and states, especially as these governments become increasingly reliant on federal support during “unexpected” crises that seem to occur every eight to ten years.

The lack of transparency and accountability in funding both pension and retiree healthcare benefits is unacceptable. Without clear, enforceable rules, elected officials can defer or obscure the immediate costs of these obligations. Related compensation costs, including accruing retirement benefits, are often underreported in budgets, and contributions are frequently understated due to unrealistic assumptions about necessary funding.

Pension and post-retirement obligations must be fully accounted for in state and local government budgets and overall financial health, as they represent current costs associated with employees’ compensation. These obligations, if not properly funded and reported, present significant risks to taxpayers and beneficiaries. Fluctuating investment returns and shifting assumptions—such as life expectancy, inflation, and the interest rate used to calculate current funding needs—directly impact the financial health of retirement plans. If these obligations are not properly tracked and funded, they pose a major risk, underscoring the critical need for transparency and responsible management.

# Introduction & Background

Since all levels of government derive their powers from the consent of the governed, government officials are responsible for reporting their actions and results to the electorate in truthful and understandable ways. Providing accurate and timely information to citizens and the media is essential for government accountability.

“Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

-Thomas Jefferson

By the time our research period concluded on December 15, 2024, three cities—Anchorage, Bakersfield, and Saint Paul—had not yet released their annual financial reports. Timely financial reporting is essential for ensuring the reliability and usefulness of the information. For financial data to be relevant and effective in decision-making, it must be available when needed. Delays in reporting can undermine the ability of stakeholders to make informed choices, as outdated information becomes less relevant and less reliable.

Late reports are a clear example of how government financial transparency can fall short, making it harder to meet the responsibility of accountability. This is precisely why we developed this report—to provide a comprehensive analysis of the assets and liabilities of these cities, including those often under-reported. By offering an honest and transparent assessment, we are giving taxpayers a clearer picture of their government’s financial health.

All 75 cities included in this report have balanced budget requirements designed to prevent future financial difficulties and promote accountability. As noted by the GASB, these requirements are intended “to require financing and spending practices that enable governmental entities to avoid financial difficulty and to ‘live within their means.’”

# Introduction & Background

“Politicians should not have the pleasure of spending (getting votes) without the pain of taxing (losing votes).”

-Former U.S. Treasury official Frank Cavanaugh

By definition, if a city has a balanced budget requirement, then spending should not exceed earned revenue brought in during a specific year. Balanced budget requirements are meant to prevent elected officials from shifting the burden of paying for current-year services onto future-year taxpayers and avoid accumulating unsustainable debt.

So how can cities claim their budgets are balanced while our report shows many are in debt?

The answer is in the accounting tricks used by municipalities to calculate the budgets, such as the following:

- Inflating revenue assumptions
- Counting borrowed money as income
- Understating the true costs of government by leaving pension and other retirement costs “off the books”
- Delaying the payment of current bills until the start of the next fiscal year so they aren’t included in the budget calculations

The most common accounting trick cities use to understate government costs is not including true compensation costs in the budget. For instance, cities provide employees with salaries and employee benefits, such as healthcare, life insurance, and pensions. While pension and other post-employment costs, such as health care, will not be paid until the employees retire, they still represent current compensation costs earned and incurred throughout the employees’ tenure.

To ensure elected officials are held accountable for their commitments, each budget should include contributions to the government’s

# Introduction & Background

pension and retiree healthcare plans that are sufficient to meet future obligations. This includes the annual cost of benefits earned by employees during the budget year, as well as payments to address any prior funding shortfalls. Unfortunately, some elected officials have diverted portions of the money owed to pension and OPEB funds in order to keep taxes low or pay for politically popular programs, further exacerbating funding gaps.

Rather than funding promised benefits today, politicians have essentially shifted the cost to future taxpayers. This practice makes the current budget appear balanced, but it increases the city's long-term debt.

Our reports reveal that while some cities claim to have balanced budgets, they are, in fact, accumulating significant debt. How is that possible?

It's accounting—many budgets are prepared on essentially the cash basis, an outdated method that only accounts for actual cash inflows, such as loan proceeds, and outflows, like checks written. This approach can give a misleading picture of a city's financial health. We recommend FACT-based budgeting and accounting, which stands for full accrual calculations and techniques. FACT-based accounting goes beyond cash-based methods to provide more accurate and truthful budgeting and financial reporting, offering a clearer picture of a city's financial reality.

At Truth in Accounting (TIA), our nonpartisan mission is to educate and empower citizens with understandable, reliable, and transparent government financial information. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we bring together business, community, and academic leaders dedicated to improving government financial reporting. TIA doesn't make policy recommendations, but we advocate adopting better budgeting and accounting practices, like FACT-based accounting, to help the public better understand government finances and become more informed voters.

# Pensions and Market Volatility

All 75 cities in this report provide their employees with salaries and employee benefits, such as healthcare, life insurance, and pensions. While some of these benefits will not be paid until the future, they still represent current compensation costs earned and incurred throughout the employees' tenure.

TIA believes every budget should allocate enough funds to cover the government's pension and retiree healthcare obligations. This means accounting for the current year's cost of benefits earned by employees, along with making contributions to reduce any existing funding gaps from previous years. Detroit's experience serves as a stark reminder of the long-term consequences of failing to fund these obligations properly.

Unfortunately, instead of focusing on long-term financial stability, some elected officials have treated pension and OPEB funds as a piggy bank for politically motivated spending. By failing to make the necessary contributions, they are effectively charging future taxpayers for benefits that should be paid now. This prevents the funds from growing through compound interest, and while it may make the budget appear balanced, it ultimately increases city debt and shifts the financial burden to future generations.

A government's unfunded pension obligations, or net pension liabilities, are determined by subtracting the market value of its pension plan investments from the estimated future benefit payments. As we've seen in recent years, the net pension liability can vary significantly depending on market conditions, as it is directly impacted by the fluctuating value of pension plan investments.

As one of the largest liabilities for most governments, the net pension liability significantly impacts their overall net position, which is calculated by subtracting liabilities from assets. This means that the market volatility affecting pension investments can cause substantial fluctuations in a government's net position. To mitigate the effects of such volatility, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board allows



# Pensions and Market Volatility

governments to smooth out market value fluctuations by amortizing them over time.

Truth in Accounting believes that a government's net position should accurately reflect market fluctuations rather than shielding them. Taxpayers, who bear the ultimate responsibility, must be fully aware of the reality of pension plan investments. Reporting the market value of pension liabilities doesn't create unnecessary volatility; it simply reflects the reality of market risks. Taxpayers need to recognize this volatility and the associated risks that governments are taking on, as they are the ones who will ultimately bear the burden.

In this report, the "money needed to pay bills" is calculated using the market value of pension investments without any amortization of the unrealized gains or losses in market value. This provides a clearer picture of the true financial condition, without smoothing out or deferring the effects of market fluctuations.

For example, in most cities' fiscal year 2022 pension data, we observed a significant increase in the value of pension investments, which led to a reduction in pension liabilities and the amount of money needed to cover bills. In contrast, in fiscal year 2023, many cities saw a decline in the value of those investments, leading to an increase in pension liabilities and a greater need for funds to cover obligations. Given the volatility in the markets, these numbers continue to change dramatically from year to year, causing significant fluctuations in pension liabilities and net positions. This highlights the inherent risks tied to pension plan investments. Taxpayers are left hoping that when it's time to liquidate these investments to cover benefits, the market will be favorable. If the market value is unfavorable, taxpayers may be forced to pay higher taxes to cover the benefits promised to retired government employees.

This report includes each city's net pension liability based on its fiscal year 2023 data, where available. However, most city financial reports

# Pensions and Market Volatility

use prior-year data to determine net pension liability. This means that a city's June 30, 2023 financial report will reflect its net pension liability as of June 30, 2022. Using outdated pension data clouds the city's financial condition and undermines the trust in government financial data. It also contradicts the fundamental accounting principle that financial statements should reflect a snapshot of a government's finances at a specific point in time. Timely financial information is crucial for accurate assessments and effective decision-making, and the delay in reporting these figures undermines the transparency needed to fully understand a city's financial position.

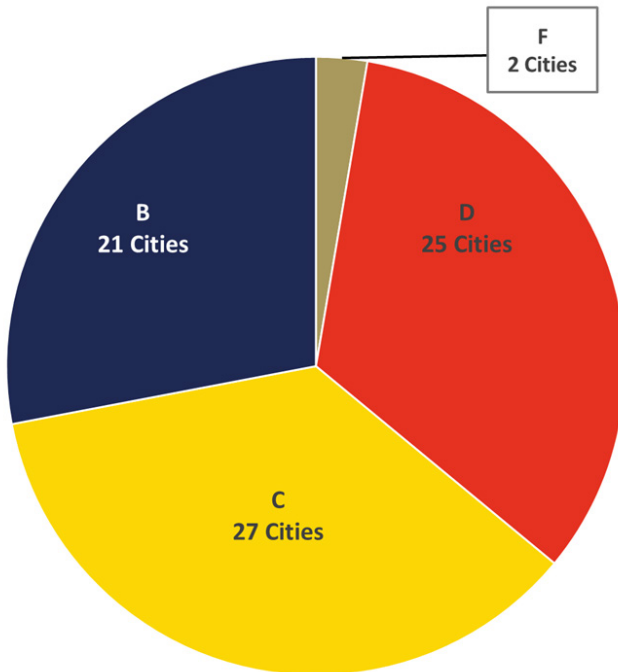
**Thank you to our generous donors.  
Your support makes our research  
possible, driving education that  
creates a lasting impact. We  
couldn't do it without you!**

# Grading the Cities


























To provide further context, we assign grades to each city's Taxpayer Burden or Taxpayer Surplus.

If a city has met its balanced budget requirements and has a Taxpayer Surplus, it is assigned an "A" or "B" grade. A passing grade of a "C" is given if the government comes close to meeting its balanced budget requirement with a Taxpayer Burden below \$5,000. We reserve the "D" and "F" grades for governments with unbalanced budgets and Taxpayer Burdens of \$5,000 and above.


























- A grade: Taxpayer Surplus greater than \$10,000 (None)
- B grade: Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999 (21 cities)
- C grade: Taxpayer Burden between \$0 and \$4,999 (27 cities)
- D grade: Taxpayer Burden between \$5,000 and \$20,000 (25 cities)
- F grade: Taxpayer Burden greater than \$20,000 (2 cities)






# 75 Cities Ranking

City Name	Taxpayer Burden or Surplus	Ranking
Washington, DC	 \$9,000	1
Lincoln, NE	 \$4,300	2
Irvine	 \$4,200	3
Tampa	 \$3,400	4
Cleveland	 \$2,900	5
Oklahoma City	 \$2,900	6
Aurora, CO	 \$2,800	7
Raleigh	 \$2,700	8
Fresno	 \$2,700	9
Louisville	 \$2,600	10
Plano	 \$2,300	11
Arlington, TX	 \$1,500	12
Charlotte	 \$1,000	13
Bakersfield	 \$800	14
Colorado	 \$800	15
Wichita	 \$700	16
Corpus Christi	 \$400	17
Orlando	 \$300	18
Tulsa	 \$200	19
Fort Wayne	 \$200	20
Virginia Beach	 \$25	21
Denver	 -\$15	22
Las Vegas	 -\$500	23
Minneapolis	 -\$600	24
Chula Vista	 -\$600	25

# 75 Cities Ranking

City Name	Taxpayer Burden or Surplus	Ranking
Stockton	 -\$1,000	26
Anchorage	 -\$1,000	27
Los Angeles	 -\$1,000	28
Greensboro	 -\$1,100	29
Henderson, NV	 -\$1,200	30
San Antonio	 -\$1,400	31
Nashville	 -\$1,600	32
Detroit	 -\$1,600	33
Riverside	 -\$1,700	34
Seattle	 -\$1,700	35
Long Beach	 -\$1,800	36
Columbus, OH	 -\$2,000	37
Toledo	 -\$2,200	38
El Paso	 -\$2,300	39
Sacramento	 -\$2,500	40
Atlanta	 -\$3,100	41
Pheonix	 -\$3,200	42
Indianapolis	 -\$3,600	43
San Diego	 -\$3,900	44
Albuquerque	 -\$4,000	45
Mesa	 -\$4,000	46
Fort Worth	 -\$4,100	47
Saint Paul	 -\$4,200	48
Anaheim	 -\$5,100	49
Santa Ana	 -\$5,400	50

# 75 Cities Ranking

City Name	Taxpayer Burden or Surplus	Ranking
Lexington	 -\$5,500	51
Houston	 -\$5,700	52
Omaha	 -\$6,400	53
San Jose	 -\$6,700	54
Tucson	 -\$6,900	55
Oakland	 -\$7,800	56
Kansas City, MO	 -\$8,800	57
Memphis	 -\$9,100	58
St. Louis	 -\$9,800	59
Jacksonville, FL	 -\$9,800	60
Pittsburgh	 -\$10,500	61
Boston	 -\$10,600	62
Austin	 -\$11,700	63
San Francisco	 -\$12,800	64
Dallas	 -\$13,300	65
Cincinnati	 -\$13,400	66
Miami	 -\$13,400	67
Baltimore	 -\$14,400	68
Milwaukee	 -\$15,100	69
Philadelphia	 -\$17,300	70
Honolulu	 -\$17,400	71
New Orleans	 -\$18,300	72
Portland, OR	 -\$18,600	73
Chicago	 -\$40,600	74
New York City	 -\$56,800	75

# Sunshine & Sinkhole Cities

TIA evaluates each city based on its Taxpayer Burden™ or Taxpayer Surplus™. A Taxpayer Burden™ represents the amount of money each taxpayer would need to contribute if the city were to pay off all of its accumulated debt. On the other hand, a Taxpayer Surplus™ indicates the amount of money remaining after a city's financial obligations are met, divided by the estimated number of taxpayers in the city. To better illustrate the financial health of cities, we categorize them into two groups: Sinkhole Cities, which do not have the necessary funds to cover their obligations, and Sunshine Cities, which have sufficient resources to meet their financial responsibilities.

## Top Five Sunshine Cities

Ranking	City	Taxpayer Surplus™
1	Washington, D.C.	\$9,000
2	Lincoln, NE	\$4,300
3	Irvine	\$4,200
4	Tampa	\$3,400
5	Cleveland	\$2,900

## Bottom Five Sinkhole Cities

Ranking	City	Taxpayer Burden™
71	Honolulu	-\$17,400
72	New Orleans	-\$18,300
73	Portland, OR	-\$18,600
74	Chicago	-\$40,600
75	New York City	-\$56,800

# Top Five Sunshine Cities

(1) Despite a decline in its financial condition, **Washington, D.C.**, maintained its top ranking this year as expenses outpaced revenues. While the district has some reserves to navigate the current challenges, the uncertainty of the economy makes it difficult to predict the necessary funds to sustain government services and benefits. Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 13.3% of the district's population lived below the poverty line in 2022, compared to 11.5% nationwide. This may add to the District's financial challenges in the coming years.

(2) **Lincoln, Nebraska**, came in at number two this year, moving up from number four the previous year. The city's available funds grew primarily due to reported revenues exceeding expenses, with investment income rising as market values responded to interest rate changes. Additionally, sales and use tax revenue increased by \$5.2 million (4.5%) in 2023, driven by an improving economy, changing spending habits of residents and visitors to Lincoln, as well as the effects of inflation and rising prices, which directly impacted tax collections.

(3) **Irvine, California**, deserves recognition for maintaining a strong financial record and continued ranking in our top five year-over-year. However, it came in at number two last year, shifting one position to number three. Its money available to pay future bills fell from \$550.1 million to \$510.7 million, a deterioration in position. Yet, the per-taxpayer surplus declined to \$4,200 due to an increase in the number of taxpayers. Irvine's available funds are primarily due to revenues exceeding expenses, with investment income rising as market values responded to interest rate changes, and an increase in sales and use tax revenue.



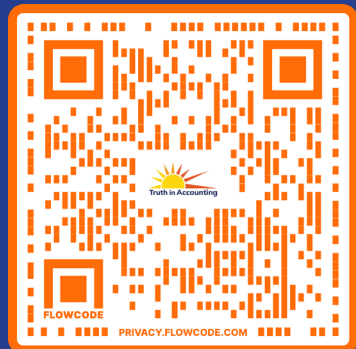
# Top Five Sunshine Cities

(4) **Tampa, Florida**, rose in this year's rankings from 12th to 4th. Tampa's financial condition improved largely due to a reduction in its pension liability. After facing substantial investment losses in 2022, the city's pension plans rebounded strongly in 2023. Notably, the Firefighters and Police Officers' Pension Trust Fund, which experienced a 15.6% loss in 2022, reported a 17.1% investment gain, helping to restore its unfunded pension liability to more typical levels.

(5) **Cleveland, Ohio**, moved into our top five this year. It moved up in the rankings from 21st to 5th. Cleveland's financial condition improved by \$366.4 million, primarily due to reported revenues surpassing expenses by \$323 million, driven by higher investment earnings from improved market returns. Additionally, the city's share of Ohio's pension system debt declined as unrealized losses from 2022 transitioned into unrealized gains in 2023.

**Help us celebrate cities who are operating within their balanced budget requirements.**

**Support our mission today with a donation.**



# Bottom Five Sinkhole Cities

(71) **Honolulu's** elected officials have consistently made financial decisions that have resulted in a debt burden of \$2.25 billion, translating to \$17,400 per taxpayer. While this represents an improvement over last year's burden of \$24,200, the city's financial outlook remains troubling. The improvement was driven by higher reported revenues exceeding expenses and a reduction in the unfunded retiree healthcare liability, largely due to favorable adjustments in actuarial assumptions. Despite these positive changes, Honolulu's overall fiscal health remains dire, earning it a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting.

(72) **New Orleans'** ranking fell from 70th to 72nd. Based upon our analysis of the city's fiscal year 2023 audited financial report, New Orleans had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$18,300. The city needed an additional \$2 billion to pay its bills, earning it a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting. The primary driver of the city's financial deterioration was the Firefighters' Pension Fund actuaries' determination that the plan lacks sufficient assets to fully cover benefits for all current members. As a result, the rate used to calculate the funds needed to pay future healthcare benefits was lowered from 7.5% to 3.26%, thereby increasing the unfunded healthcare liability.

(73) **Portland, Oregon,** did not have enough money set aside to pay its bills and has been in poor fiscal shape for years. It moved from a ranking of 71 to 73 in this year's report. Portland's financial condition declined slightly by \$95.5 million, mainly because investment income and contributions to its fire and police pension plan failed to keep up with rising accrued liabilities, leading to an increase in the city's unfunded pension obligations. Based upon the city's fiscal year 2023 audited financial report, Portland had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$18,600, earning it a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting. Portland's elected officials have consistently made financial decisions that have resulted in a debt burden of \$4.5 billion for the city.

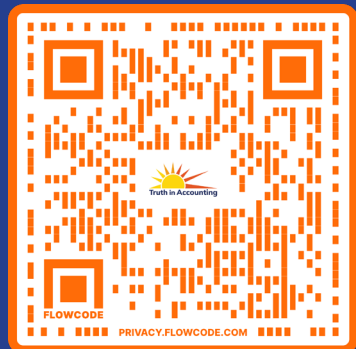
# Bottom Five Sinkhole Cities

(74) **Chicago** remained in the 74th position and thus is considered one of Truth in Accounting's Sinkhole Cities. Chicago's revenues increased by nearly \$2.2 billion, including a 55% rise in property taxes, but expenses grew at an even faster rate, leading to a reported \$580 million shortfall. The Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago saw its unfunded liability rise by \$1.2 billion, largely due to a state law that increased benefit levels. Chicago had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$40,600, earning it an "F" grade from Truth in Accounting. The financial decisions made by Chicago's elected officials have left the city with a debt burden of \$40.9 billion.

(75) **New York City's** elected officials repeatedly made financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of \$184.2 billion. That burden came to \$56,800 for every city taxpayer which appears to be an improvement over the previous year's debt burden of \$61,800. This is because the number of taxpayers rose as the economy reopened following the pandemic. However, New York City's financial condition actually declined by \$6.6 billion, primarily driven by a \$5.1 billion increase in liabilities from its retiree health care plan. The plan operates on a pay-as-you-go basis, with only six cents set aside for every dollar of promised benefits.

**Help us prevent cities from accumulating debt while claiming a balanced budget.**

**Support our mission today with a donation.**



# Methodology

The financial data in our reports comes from each government's annual comprehensive financial report and retirement system reports. TIA researchers use a thorough and detailed methodology to evaluate the financial health of governments. This approach assesses a government's obligations, including those related to retirement systems, while excluding debt linked to capital assets such as land, buildings, and infrastructure. We also exclude assets that are restricted by law or contract. Additionally, we do not consider capital assets, as it is not prudent to sell long-term assets to meet short-term financial obligations. This method offers a more accurate picture of the government's available resources to cover its liabilities.

To simplify government finances, we break them down to a per-taxpayer level using taxpayer numbers provided by IRS data. We then calculate a single dollar amount called a Taxpayer Burden™ or Taxpayer Surplus™. In some cities, we found that the taxpayer burden decreased despite the deterioration of the city's finances. This was due to an increase in the number of taxpayers, as the economy reopened from the pandemic, as reflected in the IRS data.

The Taxpayer Burden™ represents the amount each taxpayer would need to pay over time to eliminate the government's non-capital debt. To calculate this, we subtract "total bills" from "assets available to pay bills," then divide the resulting "money needed to pay bills" by the estimated number of taxpayers in the city who have a positive federal income tax liability (based on IRS data).

Conversely, a Taxpayer Surplus™ represents each taxpayer's share of the government's available assets after all bills have been paid. While some may argue that this surplus should be returned to citizens, it can play a crucial role in mitigating the risks and uncertainties surrounding the funds needed to cover pension and healthcare benefits. A surplus provides a financial buffer, ensuring that the government can meet its future obligations even in the face of unforeseen economic challenges or fluctuations.

# Methodology

In addition to our Taxpayer Burden™ calculation, we provide a grading system to offer further context. Each government receives a grade based on its ability to remain debt-free and balance its budget in a way that truly reflects fiscal responsibility. Our letter grades give taxpayers a meaningful alternative to the credit ratings commonly used by agencies, which often prioritize the interests of bondholders over those of taxpayers. We believe that credit ratings, while useful for assessing a government's ability to pay bondholders, overlook other significant liabilities, such as unfunded pension obligations. This reliance on credit ratings can give taxpayers an incomplete view of a city's true financial health.



## Make unlimited charts for free

---

*Yes. We believe that government financial data is for everyone.*

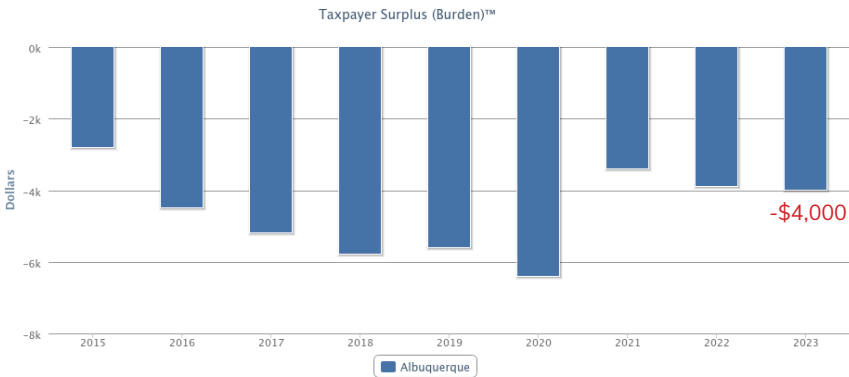


**\$768.5 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$4,000**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Albuquerque’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 \$768.5 million to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$4,000, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



The city recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic’s economic impact with improved investment income and program revenues offsetting rising expenses. However, its financial condition worsened primarily due to an increase in the unfunded pension liability, which grew to \$1 billion, highlighting the need to finance earned and promised benefits, and putting pressure on long-term fiscal stability.

Governmental activities expenditures rose by \$143.4 million, from \$948.3 million in fiscal year 2022 to \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2023. This increase was driven by higher spending in various areas, primarily due to upticks in grant funding and inflation. These factors contributed to a broader rise in expenditures, reflecting the city’s need to address growing financial demands.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF ALBUQUERQUE



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**45 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Albuquerque had \$1.1 billion available to pay \$1.9 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$768.5 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$4,000 per taxpayer.
- Despite improved investment income and program revenues, rising expenses and increasing pension liabilities led to the city's financial decline.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$6,075,144,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$4,407,681,000
Restricted Assets	-\$556,962,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,110,501,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,878,974,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$768,473,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$4,000

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$902,565,000
Other Liabilities	\$494,793,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$673,464,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,016,826,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$138,254,000
Total Bills	\$1,878,974,000

### Grade:

**C**

### Bottom line:

Albuquerque would need \$4,000 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.

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.

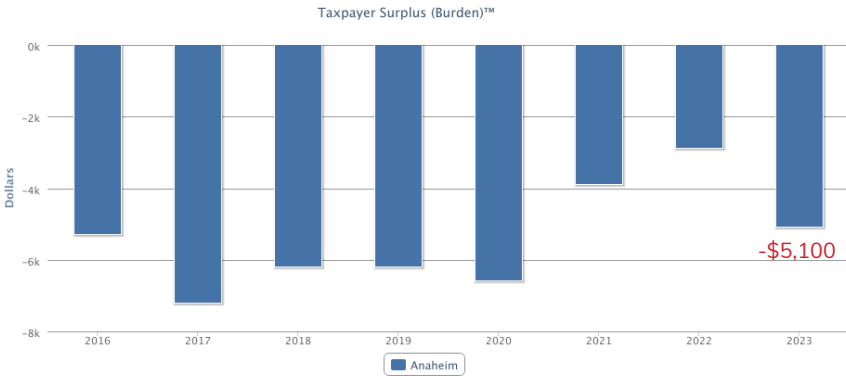


**\$663.7 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$5,100**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Anaheim’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 \$663.7 million to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$5,100, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



The city’s available funds declined primarily due to unrealized investment losses in its pension systems, reflecting market fluctuations. These losses increased financial pressures, highlighting the challenges of maintaining long-term pension stability. However, key revenue sources demonstrated strong growth, helping to offset some of the strain.

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue surged by 27% compared to the previous fiscal year, marking a full recovery from the pandemic. This increase set a record for the highest TOT revenue in the city’s history, proving the resilience of the local tourism industry. Maintaining this momentum while addressing pension liabilities will be crucial for long-term fiscal stability.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF ANAHEIM



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**49 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Anaheim had \$1.4 billion available to pay \$2.1 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$663.7 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$5,100 per taxpayer.
- Pension investment losses offset strong TOT revenue growth, causing a deterioration in Anaheim's finances despite the revenue boost.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$5,598,906,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,827,039,000
Restricted Assets	-\$377,444,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,394,423,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,058,142,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$663,719,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$5,100

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,884,245,000
Other Liabilities	\$591,319,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,455,972,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$915,828,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$122,722,000
Total Bills	\$2,058,142,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Anaheim would need \$5,100 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.

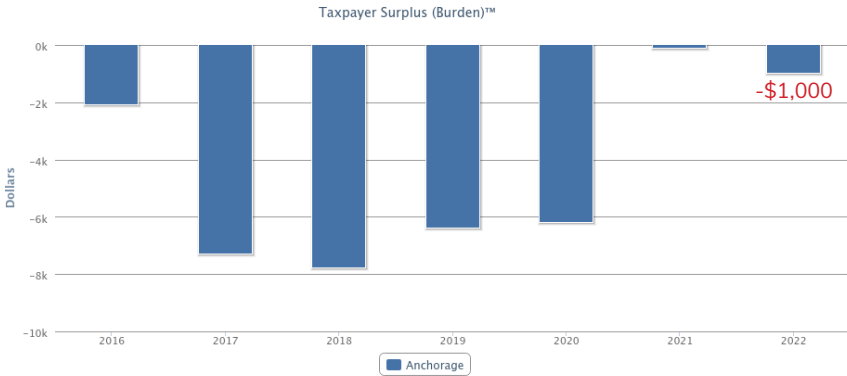


**\$115.4 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,000**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

As of December 15, 2024, Anchorage had not released its fiscal year 2023 annual financial report. Based on our analysis of its 2022 financial report, the city needed \$115.4 million to cover its financial obligations, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden of \$1,000. This led to a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, classifying it as a Sinkhole City.



Anchorage’s 2023 financial report was unavailable for this analysis, so we relied on 2022 data. Timely financial information is essential for informed decision-making. Elected officials and citizens need up-to-date data to address the city’s challenges and plan for the future. In 2022, Anchorage’s resources to cover its outstanding obligations grew from \$5.4 million to \$115.4 million. Anchorage’s financial condition declined despite revenues exceeding expenses, primarily due to a 6% increase in its share of the Alaska Public Employees’ Retirement System net pension liability from unrealized losses.

Unfortunately, when critical budget decisions were made, city officials and taxpayers were unaware if all of its obligations had increased in 2023. However, in a rare and commendable approach among cities, the Chief Financial Officer consolidated figures for both the primary government and component units within the financial statements, enhancing clarity and accountability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF ANCHORAGE



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**27 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Anchorage had \$1.1 billion available to pay \$1.2 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$115.4 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,000 per taxpayer.
- Anchorage’s 2023 financial data was unavailable, but its 2022 report showed increased obligations, a declining financial condition, and pension liabilities.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$8,302,450,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$6,516,179,000
Restricted Assets	-\$671,781,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,114,490,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,229,840,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$115,350,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$1,000

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,551,725,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,080,062,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,077,791,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$895,721,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	-\$219,877,000
Total Bills	\$1,229,840,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b> Anchorage 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.
<b>C</b>	

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.

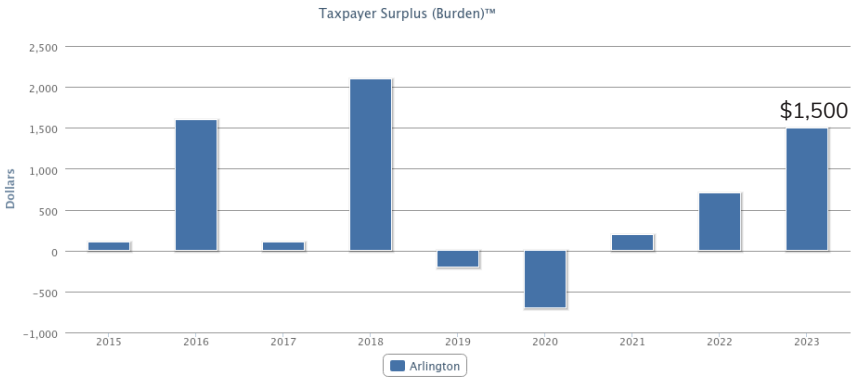


**\$208.5 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$1,500**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Arlington’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$208.5 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$1,500.



Arlington’s available funds to pay bills improved by \$127.5 million, driven by the removal of the restriction on assets designated solely for pensions and a revenue surplus. However, the city’s net pension liability rose due to unrealized investment losses, calculated based on outdated data from December 31, 2022. While the fiscal year ended on September 30, 2023, the pension liability was determined using older data, raising concerns about the accuracy of the city’s financial health. The snapshot should reflect current conditions, particularly amid market volatility.

In 2023, property tax collections increased by \$25.5 million, driven by a 14.8% rise in residential values and a 17.9% increase in commercial values. Despite this growth, the property tax rate decreased to \$0.5998 per \$100 assessed valuation from \$0.6198, reflecting efforts to balance revenue generation with taxpayer relief.

The data included in this report is derived from Arlington’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF ARLINGTON, TX



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**12 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Arlington had \$949.6 million available to pay \$741.1 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$208.5 million surplus, which breaks down to \$1,500 per taxpayer.
- Arlington’s financial position improved by \$127.5 million, driven by a revenue surplus and increased property tax collections.

## The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$5,136,423,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,898,499,000
Restricted Assets	-\$288,366,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$949,558,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$741,101,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$208,457,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$1,500

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,587,297,000
Other Liabilities	\$240,692,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,303,909,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$108,770,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$108,251,000
Total Bills	\$741,101,000


**Grade:**

**B**

**Bottom line:**

Arlington had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

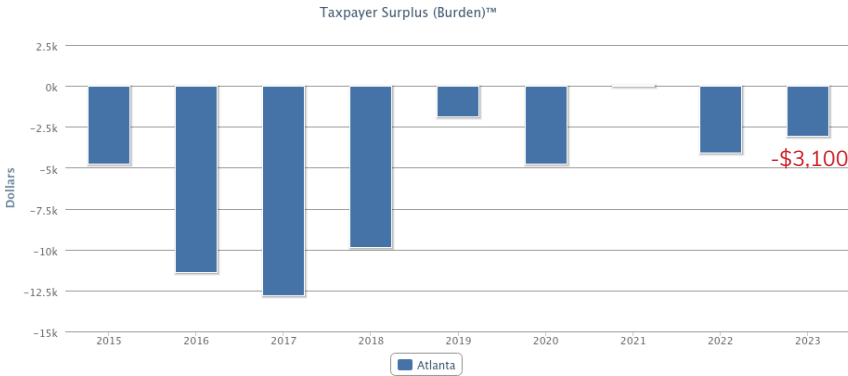


**\$521.2 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$3,100**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Atlanta’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$521.2 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$3,100. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Atlanta’s financial condition improved slightly, with reported revenues exceeding expenses, boosted by a \$165.8 million increase from higher air passenger traffic. Higher charges for services also contributed to this growth. However, despite these gains, pension liabilities rose to \$1.5 billion due to reported investment losses exceeding 11%. This increase adds long-term financial pressure, highlighting the need for strategic management to address future pension obligations while maintaining fiscal stability.

Atlanta’s retiree healthcare liability decreased due to a more favorable discount rate, helping to offset rising pension obligations. While increased passenger traffic and service revenues strengthened the city’s finances, managing pension liabilities remains a challenge. Strategic fiscal planning is essential to balance revenue growth with long-term financial responsibilities and ensure continued economic stability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF ATLANTA



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**41 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Atlanta had \$3.3 billion available to pay \$3.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$521.2 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$3,100 per taxpayer.
- Atlanta's finances improved with higher air traffic revenues, but rising pension liabilities, due to investment losses, add long-term pressure.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$21,613,116,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$15,270,155,000
Restricted Assets	-\$3,059,860,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,283,101,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$3,804,329,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$521,228,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$3,100

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$7,818,196,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,606,779,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$7,893,084,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,515,998,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$756,440,000
Total Bills	\$3,804,329,000


### Grade:

**C**

#### Bottom line:

Atlanta would need \$3,100 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.

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.

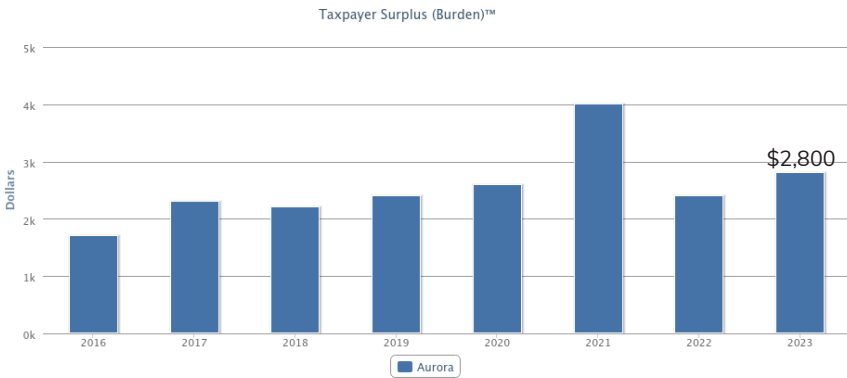


**\$445.9 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$2,800**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Aurora’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$445.9 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,800.



The city experienced overall financial growth in 2023, despite a slight \$25 million increase in pension debt. Investment earnings surged by more than \$68 million, and tax collections rose by over \$20 million, driven by strong economic expansion. These revenue gains helped offset rising obligations, reinforcing the city’s fiscal stability.

To comply with TABOR legislation, the city enacted a temporary property tax reduction in 2024 to address the year’s revenue surplus. While these measures provide short-term relief to taxpayers, long-term financial planning will be essential to managing pension liabilities and sustaining economic growth while continuing to fund essential public services.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF AURORA, CO



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**7 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Aurora had \$1.1 billion available to pay \$611.2 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$445.9 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,800 per taxpayer.
- Aurora saw financial growth in 2023 with higher investment earnings and tax collections, but faces pension liability challenges ahead.

## The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$8,409,624,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$7,074,219,000
Restricted Assets	-\$278,339,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,057,066,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$611,151,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$445,915,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$2,800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$735,023,000
Other Liabilities	\$612,865,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$942,313,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$183,005,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$22,571,000
Total Bills	\$611,151,000

### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Aurora had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

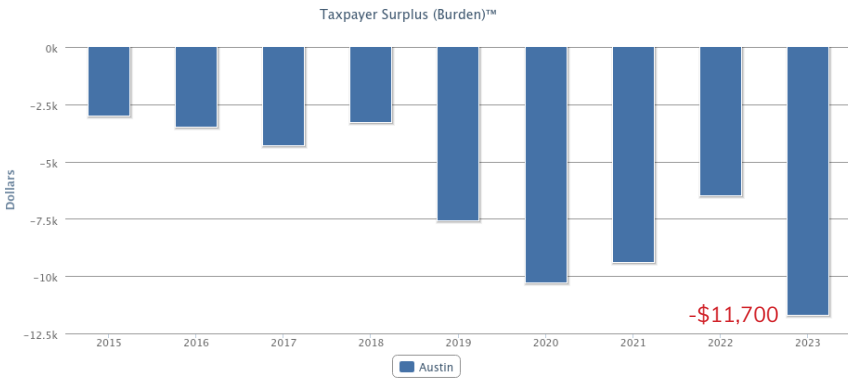


**\$3.9 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$11,700**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Austin’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 \$3.9 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$11,700, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Austin’s investment in capital assets, after accounting for related debt, grew by \$1.3 billion, enhancing the long-term value of public infrastructure and services. However, this increase in capital investment reduced the funds available to address other debts. Simultaneously, the city’s financial challenges worsened as its pension debt rose by \$1.9 billion, primarily driven by unrealized investment losses exceeding 11% as of December 31, 2022, adding significant strain to its finances.

The local housing market slowed significantly, with the median price of an Austin-area home dropping 10.5% to \$450,000 in 2023. This decline could negatively impact property tax revenue, a vital income source for the city. Combined with rising pension debt, the city will need to carefully manage its finances to maintain fiscal stability and address these challenges.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF AUSTIN



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**63 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Austin had \$5.9 billion available to pay \$9.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$3.9 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$11,700 per taxpayer.
- Increased capital investments limited available funds for the city's bills, while a \$1.9 billion rise in pension debt further strained finances.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$21,756,074,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$13,987,296,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,884,251,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$5,884,527,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$9,801,715,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$3,917,188,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$11,700

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$7,965,970,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,351,663,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$7,830,226,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$3,959,590,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$3,354,718,000
Total Bills	\$9,801,715,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Austin would need \$11,700 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.



**\$124.4 million**

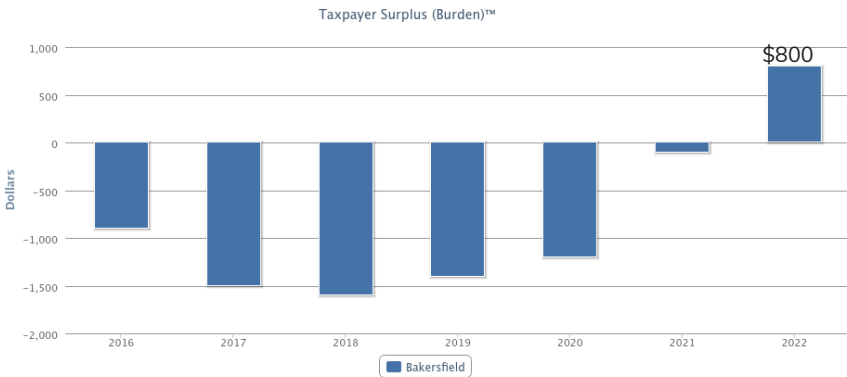
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$800**

TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

As of December 15, 2024, Bakersfield had not released its fiscal year 2023 annual financial report. Based on our analysis of its 2022 financial report, the city had \$124.4 million available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus of \$800. This led to a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, classifying it as a Sunshine City.



Bakersfield’s 2023 financial report was unavailable during our research. Based on its fiscal year 2022 and pension data from 2021—a period of strong financial market performance—the city’s net pension liability seemed to have decreased, giving the appearance of an improved financial condition. However, more recent data from 2022 and 2023 for other cities indicate that pension investments experienced significant market losses.

If Bakersfield’s pension investments followed similar trends, its net pension liability likely increased in the following years, leading to a deterioration of its financial condition. Without updated financial reports, the full impact remains uncertain, highlighting the importance of timely fiscal transparency and long-term pension management strategies.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF BAKERSFIELD



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**14 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Bakersfield had \$713.1 million available to pay \$588.7 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$124.4 million surplus, which breaks down to \$800 per taxpayer.
- Bakersfield’s late 2023 report created uncertainty about rising pension liabilities, highlighting the need for timely fiscal transparency and planning.

## The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$2,980,754,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,225,877,000
Restricted Assets	-\$41,736,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$713,141,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$588,729,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$124,412,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$120,698,000
Other Liabilities	\$238,909,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$101,758,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$315,293,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$15,587,000
Total Bills	\$588,729,000

### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Bakersfield had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

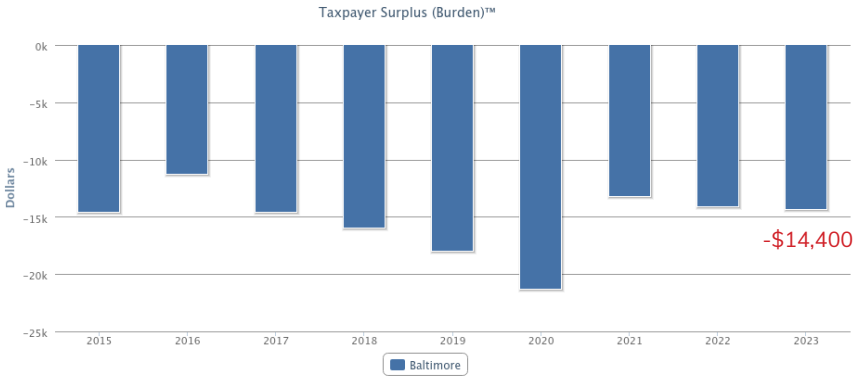


**\$3.2 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$14,400**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Baltimore’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 \$3.2 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$14,400, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Baltimore’s finances declined as its primary government reported expenses exceeded revenues by nearly \$179 million. Additionally, pension debt grew, with accruing benefits and interest surpassing investment income and contributions. On a positive note, Baltimore uses up-to-date pension data for its city plans, a practice uncommon among cities that typically rely on outdated, one-year-old data. This proactive approach ensures more accurate financial reporting.

In fiscal year 2023, governmental expenses rose by \$1 billion, with notable increases across various sectors. Public safety and regulation saw the largest rise, increasing by \$400.2 million, followed by education expenses, which grew by \$248.2 million. Health conservation expenses rose by \$122.1 million, and spending on highways and streets increased by \$118.5 million. These growing expenditures reflect Baltimore’s focus on critical services and infrastructure needs, but also highlight the financial strain in balancing the budget.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND School of Accountancy
---------------	---	--

The data included in this report is derived from Baltimore’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF BALTIMORE



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**68 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Baltimore had \$4.1 billion available to pay \$7.3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$3.2 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$14,400 per taxpayer.
- Baltimore's finances declined, reporting expenses \$179 million higher than revenues, while pension debt grew due to accruing benefits.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$16,268,231,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$11,124,302,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,071,885,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$4,072,044,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$7,267,103,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$3,195,059,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$14,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$4,547,839,000
Other Liabilities	\$4,157,478,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$3,466,781,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,007,618,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$20,949,000
Total Bills	\$7,267,103,000

**Grade:**

**D**

**Bottom line:**

Baltimore would need \$14,400 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.



**\$2.9 billion**

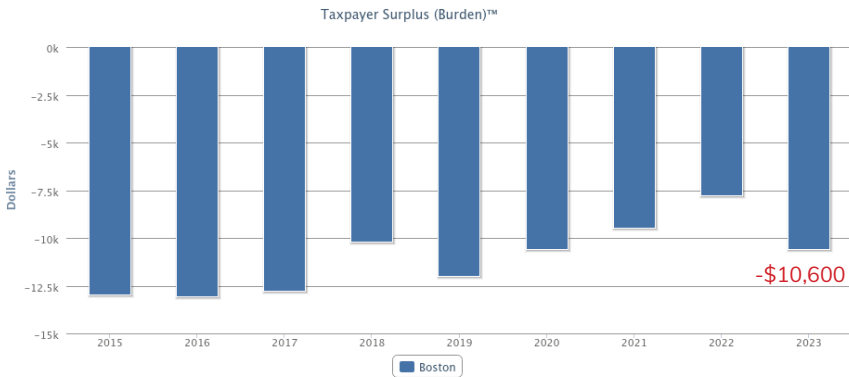
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$10,600**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Boston’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 \$2.9 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$10,600, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Boston’s finances deteriorated by \$870.5 million, mainly due to an increase in the city’s share of the Boston Retirement System and unrealized pension investment losses of 10.2%, measured as of December 31, 2022, when market values were down. In 2023, the city’s unfunded pension liability doubled, indicating growing financial risks.

Boston’s governmental activities reported a shortfall of \$3.53 billion, with expenses surpassing program revenues. This deficit was primarily offset by taxes and unrestricted grants. However, the city continues to face significant financial challenges, driven by escalating pension liabilities and its dependence on volatile investment markets. The risks associated with defined pension benefits and market fluctuations underscore the critical need for prudent financial management to safeguard Boston’s long-term fiscal stability.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF BOSTON



**D**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**62 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Boston had \$5.6 billion available to pay \$8.4 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.9 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$10,600 per taxpayer.
- Boston's finances declined by \$870.5 million due to pension investment losses and rising liabilities, highlighting the risks of defined pension benefits.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$8,874,824,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,067,366,000
Restricted Assets	-\$243,184,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$5,564,274,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$8,436,203,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$2,871,929,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$10,600

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,917,966,000
Other Liabilities	\$3,652,896,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,769,317,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,210,294,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$2,424,364,000
Total Bills	\$8,436,203,000

#### Grade:

**D**

#### Bottom line:

Boston would need \$10,600 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.



**\$321.8 million**

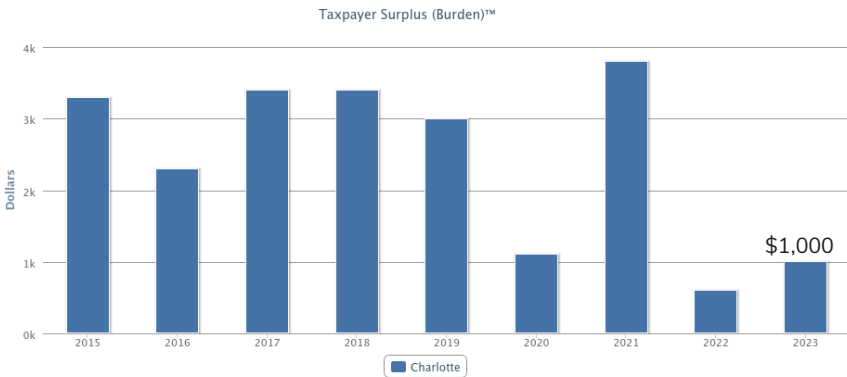
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$1,000**

TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Charlotte’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$321.8 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$1,000.



Charlotte’s financial performance showed positive growth, with reported revenues exceeding expenses and a reduction in retiree healthcare debt, thanks to an increase in the rate used to calculate the current value of future retiree healthcare benefits. The city reported \$2.95 billion in government-wide revenues, primarily from fees, fines, charges for services (43%), and taxes (37%), reflecting an 8.8% increase from the prior year.

Expenses totaled \$2.37 billion, with transportation (33%) and public safety (24%) making up the largest portions. This reflects Charlotte’s focus on infrastructure and safety. As the city continues to grow financially, balancing revenue increases with strategic investments in essential services and infrastructure will be crucial for long-term fiscal health.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF CHARLOTTE



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**13 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Charlotte had \$3 billion available to pay \$2.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$321.8 million surplus, which breaks down to \$1,000 per taxpayer.
- Charlotte’s financial performance improved with increased revenues, reduced retiree healthcare debt, and a focus on infrastructure and public safety.

### The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$20,828,573,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$16,922,576,000
Restricted Assets	-\$867,489,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,038,508,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,716,757,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$321,751,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$1,000

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$4,073,370,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,735,423,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$5,475,926,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,149,825,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$234,065,000
Total Bills	\$2,716,757,000

#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Charlotte had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.



**\$40.9 billion**

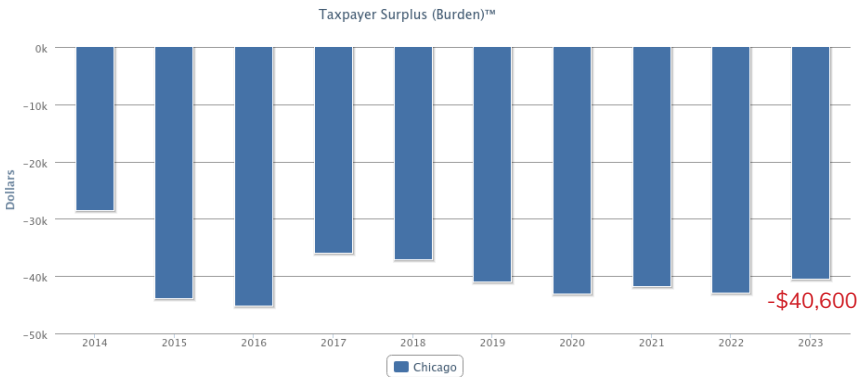
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$40,600**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Chicago’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 \$40.9 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$40,600, earning the city an “F” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Chicago saw a substantial increase in revenues, which rose by nearly \$2.2 billion, primarily due to a 55% increase in property taxes. However, despite this growth, the city’s expenses outpaced its revenue, leading to a reported shortfall of \$580 million.

Various factors contributed to a \$2.6 billion rise in the funds needed to cover Chicago’s outstanding obligations, with the city’s escalating unfunded pension debt being a major factor. The Illinois legislature worsened the city’s financial outlook by passing a law that increased the Policemen’s Annuity and Benefit Fund’s unfunded liability by \$1.2 billion. This legislation adds to Chicago’s financial strain, highlighting the growing burden of pension liabilities on its long-term fiscal health.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF CHICAGO



**F**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**74 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Chicago had \$13.1 billion available to pay \$54.1 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$40.9 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$40,600 per taxpayer.
- The Illinois legislature worsened the city’s financial outlook by passing a law increasing the Policemen’s Annuity Fund liability by \$1.2 billion.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$49,838,182,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$30,629,411,000
Restricted Assets	-\$6,099,634,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$13,109,137,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$54,050,903,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$40,941,766,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$40,600

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$29,102,170,000
Other Liabilities	\$12,475,799,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$26,746,562,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$37,204,096,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$2,015,400,000
Total Bills	\$54,050,903,000


#### Grade:

**F**

#### Bottom line:

Chicago would need \$40,600 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its outstanding bills and received an “F” grade for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting’s grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden greater than \$20,000 is given an “F” 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.

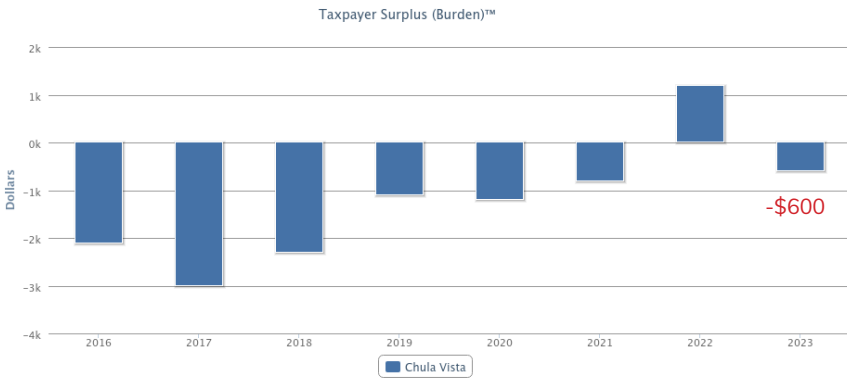


**\$60.4 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$600**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Chula Vista’s financial condition worsened in 2023, transitioning from a Sunshine City to a Sinkhole City. Based upon our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city needed \$60.4 million to cover its bills. This led to a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$600, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting.



The city’s financial situation shifted from a surplus to needing additional funds, primarily due to an increase in its share of CalPERS liability. Since CalPERS did not provide the city with 2023 pension data, the liability was based on 2022 values, which reflected unrealized losses in CalPERS investments, contributing to the increase. The lack of timely pension data clouds the understanding of the city’s financial condition.

On a positive note, to address future pension obligations, the city established an irrevocable trust to manage upcoming CalPERS contributions. Furthermore, the city experienced revenue growth, with property tax collections rising significantly due to higher property values and increased economic activity.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF CHULA VISTA



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**25 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Chula Vista had \$502.8 million available to pay \$563.1 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$60.4 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$600 per taxpayer.
- Based on outdated pension data, the city’s finances deteriorated, but the establishment of an irrevocable trust proactively addressed pension issues.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$2,456,001,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,691,560,000
Restricted Assets	-\$261,689,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$502,752,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$563,127,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$60,375,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$600

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$457,783,000
Other Liabilities	\$161,438,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$137,312,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$53,514,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$27,704,000
Total Bills	\$563,127,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b>
C	Chula Vista would need \$600 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.

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.

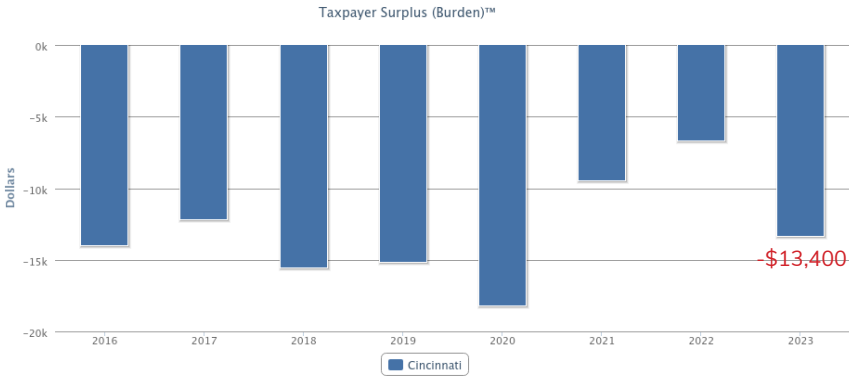


**\$1.6 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$13,400**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Cincinnati’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 \$1.6 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$13,400, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Cincinnati’s financial obligations grew significantly, primarily due to the doubling of the Cincinnati Retirement System’s pension debt. This increase resulted largely from a reduction in the discount rate from 7.2% to 6.9%, which is used to estimate the current value of future benefit payments. While this raised the estimated liability, it likely provides a more realistic projection of the funds needed to meet pension obligations, highlighting the uncertainties surrounding these estimations.

The Department of Police budget increased by \$2 million, driven by higher spending on Police Visibility Overtime to address the surge in violent crime. Additionally, greater-than-expected officer attrition resulted in larger lump sum payments. As pension liabilities and public safety expenses rise, Cincinnati faces the challenge of balancing these financial pressures with sustainable revenue strategies to maintain fiscal stability while continuing to provide essential services.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF SINKHOLE School of Accountancy
---------------	---	--

The data included in this report is derived from Cincinnati’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.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF CINCINNATI



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**66 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Cincinnati had \$1.1 billion available to pay \$2.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.6 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$13,400 per taxpayer.
- Cincinnati's pension debt doubled to \$1.9 billion, and the police budget increased by \$2 million due to overtime and attrition.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$4,629,472,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,737,517,000
Restricted Assets	-\$818,045,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,073,910,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,658,422,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,584,512,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$13,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,146,125,000
Other Liabilities	\$702,805,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$986,061,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,914,011,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	(\$118,458,000)
Total Bills	\$2,658,422,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Cincinnati would need \$13,400 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.

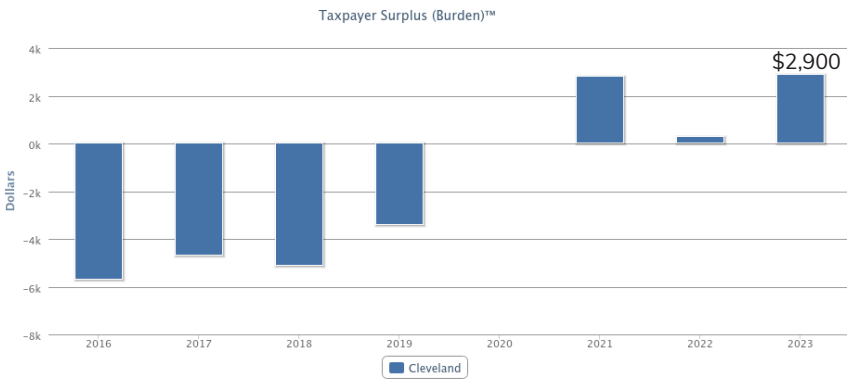


**\$400.9 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$2,900**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Cleveland’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$400.9 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,900.



Cleveland’s financial condition improved by \$400.9 million, driven by reported revenues exceeding expenses by \$323 million. This growth stemmed from strong investment earnings resulting from higher market returns and a reduction in the city’s share of Ohio’s pension system debt. Unrealized losses from 2022 transitioned into gains in 2023, but this highlights the risks to the city and its taxpayers due to investment market volatility, emphasizing the need for cautious financial planning moving forward.

Income tax revenue rose by \$19.9 million, driven by increased collections due a lower unemployment rate. Other taxes grew by \$6.3 million (15.8%) due to the recovery of sports, entertainment, and hotel revenues as pandemic restrictions eased. This economic strength highlights Cleveland’s resilience, which will be needed to manage its bills, including \$1.1 billion in unfunded pension liabilities.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF CLEVELAND



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**5 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Cleveland had \$2.7 billion available to pay \$2.3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$400.9 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,900 per taxpayer.
- Cleveland’s financial condition improved by \$400.9 million, driven by strong investment earnings and higher tax revenues, despite pension liabilities.

### The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$7,364,341,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$4,214,910,000
Restricted Assets	-\$450,800,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,698,631,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,297,760,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$400,871,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$2,900

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,835,933,000
Other Liabilities	\$903,648,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,581,954,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,107,697,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$32,436,000
Total Bills	\$2,297,760,000


#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Cleveland had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

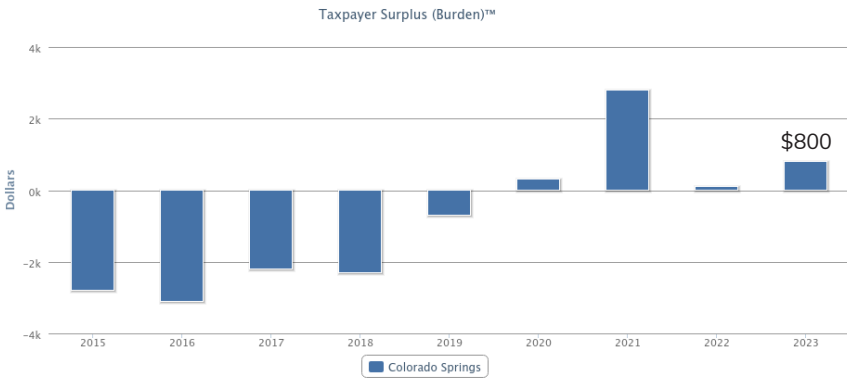


**\$155.2 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$800**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Colorado Springs’ financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$155.2 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$800.



Colorado Springs’ financial condition improved by \$140.8 million, driven by reported revenues exceeding expenses and a reduction in net pension liability. The city’s share of PERA declined, benefiting from a 13.4% unrealized gain on plan investments, which helped ease long-term financial obligations. These positive fiscal trends strengthened the city’s overall financial position.

Public safety expenses rose by \$58.2 million, with 15 new police and 32 new fire positions. While enhancing safety, these additions increased operational costs. Strategic budget planning is essential to balance services and financial stability. As Colorado Springs grows, maintaining fiscal responsibility while supporting critical public services will be key to sustaining the city’s economic health.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF COLORADO SPRINGS



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**15 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Colorado Springs had \$2.205 billion available to pay \$2.050 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$155.2 million surplus, which breaks down to \$800 per taxpayer.
- Colorado Springs improved by \$140.8 million, driven by higher revenues and reduced pension liability, while public safety expenses increased.

### The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$9,473,032,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$7,133,670,000
Restricted Assets	-\$133,657,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,205,705,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,050,495,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$155,210,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$800

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$3,311,007,000
Other Liabilities	\$911,417,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,663,416,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$438,139,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$53,348,000
Total Bills	\$2,050,495,000

#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Colorado Springs had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

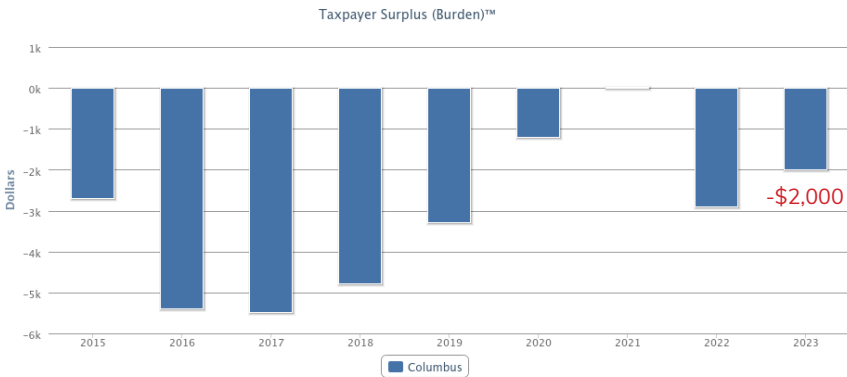


**\$699.5 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$2,000**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Columbus’ financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$699.5 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$2,000. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Columbus reported a \$258 million surplus in 2023, with revenues exceeding expenses. Total revenues rose by 12%, with a notable 56% increase in income tax receipts. However, expenses grew by 22%, signaling potential challenges in managing costs. Despite this, the city made progress in reducing long-term liabilities, cutting pension and retiree healthcare debt by \$62.2 million and \$29.6 million, respectively.

While these reductions are positive steps toward financial stability, the higher growth of expenses relative to revenue highlights the need for careful fiscal management. Columbus will need to balance rising costs with continued growth in income tax receipts and other revenue sources. Ensuring long-term financial health will require strategic planning and disciplined budgeting to address the city’s evolving financial needs.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF COLUMBUS, OH



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**37 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Columbus had \$3 billion available to pay \$3.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$699.5 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$2,000 per taxpayer.
- Columbus' financial condition improved, but the growth in expenses outpaced revenue, which may pose future financial challenges.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$11,645,978,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$8,357,638,000
Restricted Assets	-\$299,544,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,988,796,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$3,688,290,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$699,494,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$2,000

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$5,241,711,000
Other Liabilities	\$821,483,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$4,467,841,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,004,076,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$88,861,000
Total Bills	\$3,688,290,000


### Grade:

**C**

### Bottom line:

Columbus would need \$2,000 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.

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.

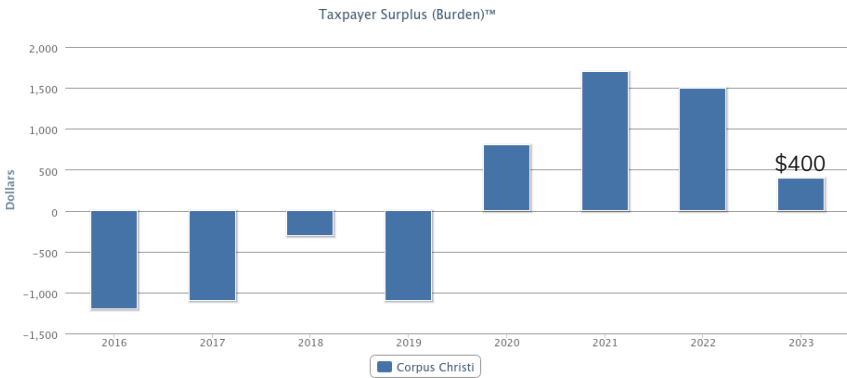


**\$40.2 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$400**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Corpus Christi’s financial condition worsened, but based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, it still had \$40.2 million available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$400. Even with this downturn, the city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting and maintained its status as a Sunshine City.



The city’s available funds declined primarily due to unrealized investment losses in its pension systems as of December 31, 2022. These losses, driven by market fluctuations, added financial strain despite overall economic resilience.

Meanwhile, the city’s port experienced record tonnage shipment levels for the sixth consecutive year in 2023. Increased European demand for crude oil, refined products, and liquified natural gas fueled this growth, reinforcing the port’s critical role in global trade. This sustained economic activity provided a strong revenue stream, helping offset financial challenges related to pension liabilities.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF CORPUS CHRISTI



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**17 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Corpus Christi had \$881.3 million available to pay \$841.1 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$40.2 million surplus, which breaks down to \$400 per taxpayer.
- Corpus Christi's port saw record growth, boosting revenue, but pension investment losses led to a deterioration in the city's finances.

### The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$4,156,614,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,049,744,000
Restricted Assets	-\$225,595,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$881,275,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$841,093,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$40,182,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$400

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,476,448,000
Other Liabilities	\$420,028,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,378,217,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$310,921,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$11,913,000
Total Bills	\$841,093,000

#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Corpus Christi had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

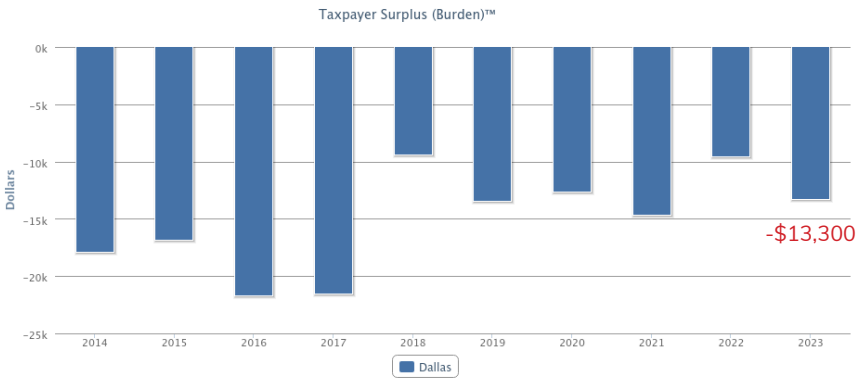


**\$5.9 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$13,300**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Dallas’ financial condition worsened. Based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, its financial hole deepened with a need for \$5.9 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$13,300, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



While Dallas’ reported revenues exceeded expenses by over \$759 million, the city’s overall financial condition worsened by \$2.2 billion, primarily due to unrealized investment losses in its pension systems. These losses, recorded as of December 31, 2022, were a result of the market value of pension investments being notably low, contributing to a significant increase in liabilities.

Rising salaries and benefits increased expenses across all governmental activities, including public safety, public works, and culture and recreation. With growing pension liabilities and rising operational costs, Dallas must carefully manage its financial resources and long-term investments. Strategic planning will be essential to maintain fiscal health while ensuring continued support for essential public services and infrastructure.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF DALLAS



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**65 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Dallas had \$3.9 billion available to pay \$9.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$5.9 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$13,300 per taxpayer.
- Dallas’ financial condition worsened by \$2.2 billion, due in part to unrealized pension investment losses and rising operational costs.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$18,534,839,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$13,383,097,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,290,580,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,861,162,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$9,748,271,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$5,887,109,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$13,300

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$6,629,922,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,834,574,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$6,385,570,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$6,460,923,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$208,422,000
Total Bills	\$9,748,271,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b>
D	Dallas would need \$13,300 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.

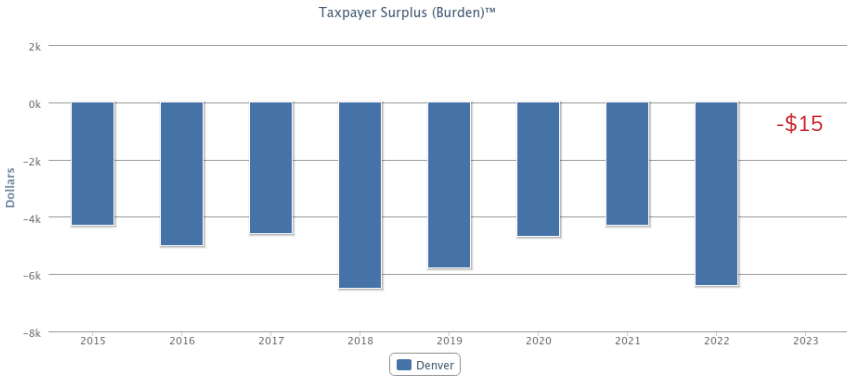


**\$4.5 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$15**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Denver’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$4.5 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$15. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting.



Denver’s finances reported an annual surplus exceeding \$1 billion, driven by strong investment income of \$351.6 million and a \$181 million increase in charges for services. However, the city still faced a \$4.5 million shortfall in covering its liabilities, though the per-taxpayer share of this debt remains relatively minimal.

Denver’s investment and interest income surged by 262.64% due to rising interest rates, while its lodger’s tax revenue increased by \$15.35 million (11.10%), driven by a strong tourism sector and low unemployment. These positive results reflect robust economic growth. However, managing long-term liabilities and sustaining this momentum will be crucial for maintaining the city’s fiscal stability in the future.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF DENVER



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**22 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Denver had \$7.151 billion available to pay \$7.155 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$4.5 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$15 per taxpayer.
- Denver posted a \$1 billion surplus with strong investment income and increased charges, but managing pension system risks remains essential.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$21,568,096,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$12,195,720,000
Restricted Assets	-\$2,220,880,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$7,151,496,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$7,155,963,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$4,467,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$15

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$10,314,447,000
Other Liabilities	\$3,631,139,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$8,991,413,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,969,331,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$232,459,000
Total Bills	\$7,155,963,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b> Denver would need \$15 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.
<b>C</b>	

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.

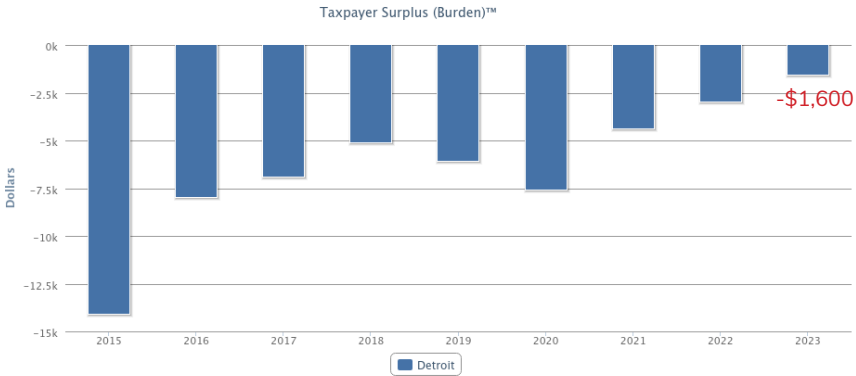


**\$381.8 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,600**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Detroit’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$381.8 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,600. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Detroit’s financial condition improved by \$381.8 million, although the city still faces a gap in paying its bills, including unfunded pension benefits. Reported revenues, including taxes, increased, and expenses decreased, mainly due to lower pension costs established during the city’s bankruptcy restructuring. Notably, expenses for Development and Management and Public Protection decreased by \$156.7 million and \$158.9 million, respectively.

Taxpayer payments for governmental activities through city taxes totaled \$1.08 billion, or 50.4% of total revenues, a \$174.5 million increase from the prior year. This was mainly due to a \$135.6 million rise in Municipal Income Taxes from updated data on tax collections. Detroit has worked to control costs, but challenges remain in closing the gap between revenues and liabilities. Continued fiscal management is essential for addressing pension obligations and ensuring long-term financial health.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF DETROIT



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**33 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Detroit had \$4.4 billion available to pay \$4.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$381.8 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,600 per taxpayer.
- Detroit improved its financial condition by \$381.8 million, with increased revenues, reduced expenses, but still faces pension liabilities challenges.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$9,336,983,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$4,239,314,000
Restricted Assets	-\$727,917,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$4,369,752,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$4,751,525,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$381,773,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,600

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,414,892,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,604,052,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,909,299,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,640,494,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$1,386,000
Total Bills	\$4,751,525,000

**Grade:**

**C**

**Bottom line:**

Detroit would need \$1,600 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.

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.

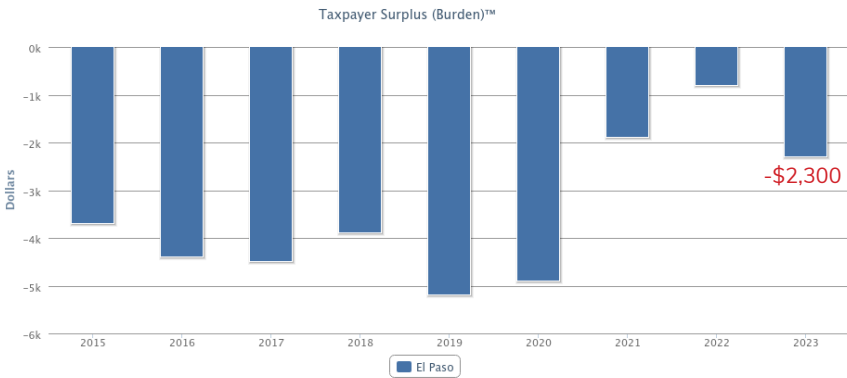


**\$526.4 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$2,300**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

El Paso’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 \$526.4 million to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$2,300, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



El Paso’s financial position declined by \$369.6 million, primarily due to unrealized pension investment losses exceeding 9%. The city’s fiscal year ended on August 31, 2023, but pension investments and liabilities were valued as of December 31, 2022, when market conditions were unfavorable. This raises concerns about the accuracy of the city’s financial health, as the fiscal snapshot should reflect a specific point in time, especially given market volatility.

While El Paso is committed to providing pension and healthcare benefits to employees, the city—and taxpayers—incur risks associated with these retirement systems. These include market volatility affecting system investments and uncertainty surrounding actuarial assumptions for future benefit payments. This highlights the importance of managing pension investments prudently to mitigate the impact of market downturns, ensuring long-term fiscal stability.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF EL PASO



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**39 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- El Paso had \$2.2 billion available to pay \$2.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$526.4 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$2,300 per taxpayer.
- El Paso’s finances declined by \$369.6 million due to pension investment losses, highlighting financial risks and uncertainty in funding benefits.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$7,023,904,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$4,539,693,000
Restricted Assets	-\$328,453,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,155,758,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,682,122,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$526,364,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$2,300

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,876,268,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,312,849,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,456,794,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$822,954,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$126,845,000
Total Bills	\$2,682,122,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b>
C	El Paso would need \$2,300 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.

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.

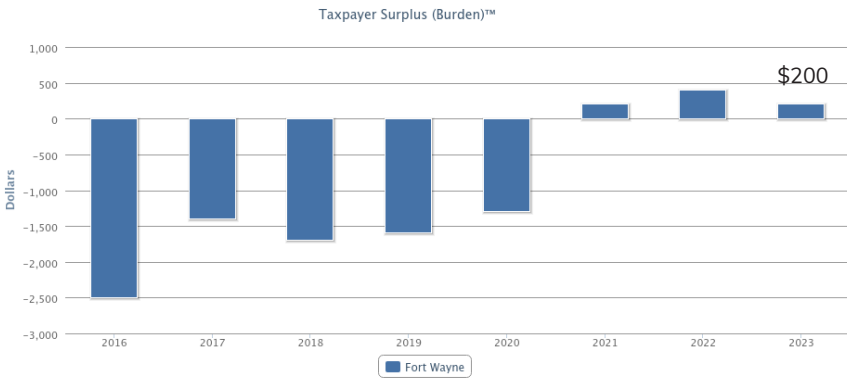


**\$21.8 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$200**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Fort Wayne’s financial condition worsened, but based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, it still had \$21.8 million available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$200. Even with this downturn, the city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting and maintained its status as a Sunshine City.



Fort Wayne’s available funds declined by nearly \$22 million as its pension fund’s estimated accrued benefits outpaced contributions and unrealized investment income. However, the city demonstrated financial transparency by using current-year pension data to assess its liabilities, a rare practice among city and state governments, ensuring a more accurate representation of its fiscal position.

Despite the decline in available funds, Fort Wayne secured \$7.8 million in capital contributions and a \$5 million American Rescue Plan grant, boosting infrastructure and development projects. While these investments support long-term growth, the city will need to balance pension liabilities with financial planning to maintain stability and continue enhancing public services and infrastructure.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF FORT WAYNE



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**20 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Fort Wayne had \$764.9 million available to pay \$743.1 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$21.8 million surplus, which breaks down to \$200 per taxpayer.
- Fort Wayne’s funds declined due to pension liabilities, but it secured funding for capital projects and maintained resources to cover obligations.

### The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$3,497,821,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,606,879,000
Restricted Assets	-\$126,086,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$764,856,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$743,089,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$21,767,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$200

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$401,931,000
Other Liabilities	\$877,630,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$962,564,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$263,348,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$162,744,000
Total Bills	\$743,089,000

#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Fort Wayne had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.



**\$1.4 billion**

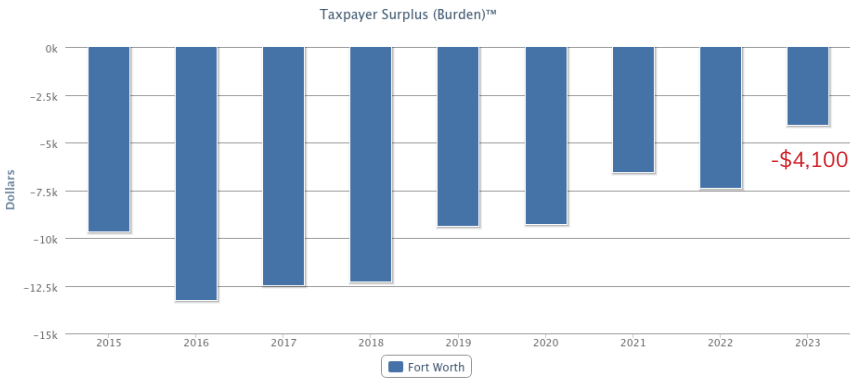
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$4,100**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Fort Worth’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$1.4 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$4,100. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Fort Worth reported that revenues exceeded expenses, but still faced a \$1.4 billion shortfall to cover its bills. However, the city’s unfunded retiree healthcare benefits liabilities decreased by \$383.6 million, largely due to a change in the rate used to calculate the current value of retiree healthcare promises, increasing from 2.21% to 5.5%.

Fort Worth’s sales tax collections have nearly doubled from \$125.5 million in 2014 to an estimated \$250 million for FY 2024, reflecting a 99.2% increase. Additionally, the city’s unemployment rate dropped from 7.9% during the COVID-19 crisis to 3.84%, signaling a strong recovery. While these improvements indicate positive economic growth, Fort Worth must address fiscal challenges for long-term stability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF FORT WORTH



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**47 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Fort Worth had \$3.2 billion available to pay \$4.6 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.4 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$4,100 per taxpayer.
- Fort Worth reported revenues exceeding expenses, but still faced a \$1.4 billion shortfall, despite a decline in healthcare liabilities.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$11,283,942,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$7,673,751,000
Restricted Assets	-\$394,519,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,215,672,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$4,585,066,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,369,394,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$4,100

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,248,157,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,449,344,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,095,096,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,502,231,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$480,430,000
Total Bills	\$4,585,066,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b> Fort Worth would need \$4,100 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.
<b>C</b>	

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.

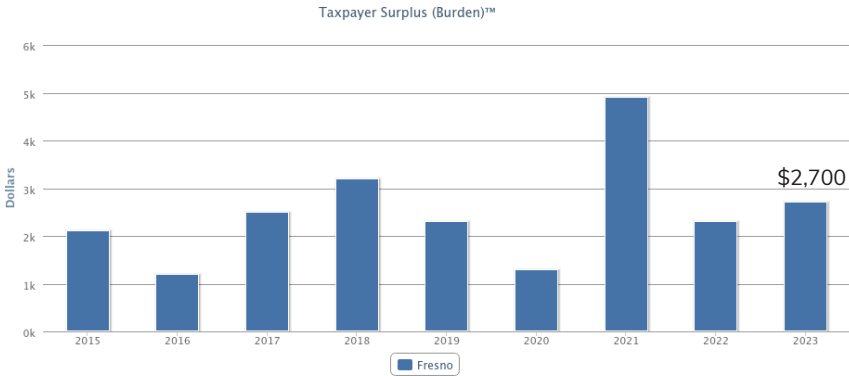


**\$557.1 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$2,700**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Fresno’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$557.1 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,700.



Fresno’s financial position strengthened as revenues exceeded expenditures, driven by a 62% increase in grant revenues. The city’s pension systems rebounded from a 7.12% unrealized investment loss in 2022 to a 9.74% unrealized gain in 2023, reinforcing long-term fiscal stability. While the systems appear to be overfunded, it is advisable to maintain this status due to risks associated with volatile investment markets and uncertainties in estimating future funding needs.

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Fresno’s economy, with over 400 commercial crops contributing \$8.1 billion in 2022, a slight increase from the previous year. This sector continues to drive jobs, businesses, and local revenues. Despite positive growth, the city must remain cautious of market fluctuations and investment risks to ensure continued progress and long-term financial stability.

The data included in this report is derived from Fresno’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF FRESNO



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**9 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Fresno had \$1.2 billion available to pay \$666 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$557.1 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,700 per taxpayer.
- Fresno’s financial position improved with increased revenues and grant funding, while agriculture remains vital. Its pension systems show strong performance.

### The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$4,417,440,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,781,679,000
Restricted Assets	-\$412,704,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,223,057,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$665,967,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$557,090,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$2,700

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$459,558,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,227,288,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$836,129,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	-\$295,731,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$110,981,000
Total Bills	\$665,967,000

#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Fresno had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

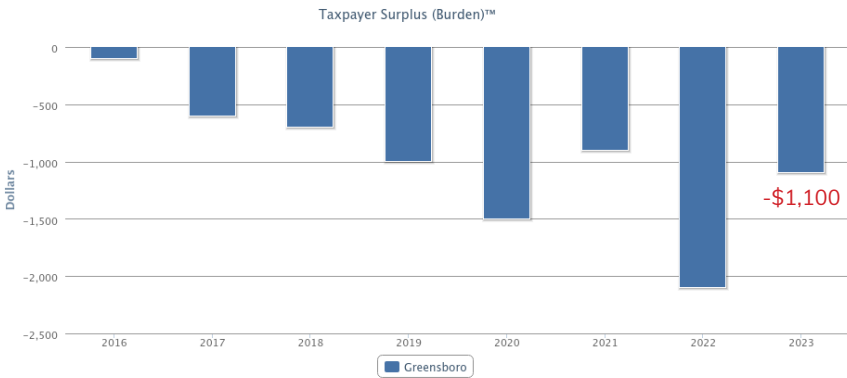


**\$116.8 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,100**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Greensboro’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$116.8 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,100. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



The city’s financial position strengthened in FY 2023, with reported revenues exceeding expenses by over \$100 million. This growth was primarily fueled by a surge in property tax receipts and increased operating grants. Property tax revenue rose by 18.4%, or approximately \$34.5 million, largely due to a property revaluation that expanded the city’s taxable base.

An increase in operating grants further bolstered the city’s finances, supporting key programs and infrastructure investments. Even though Greensboro’s finances improved, it still needed \$116.8 million to pay its unfunded obligations, including unfunded pension promises. While the city saw positive revenue growth, continued financial planning is necessary to manage long-term liabilities and ensure fiscal stability.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF GREENSBORO



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**29 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Greensboro had \$521.6 million available to pay \$638.4 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$116.8 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,100 per taxpayer.
- Greensboro's finances strengthened with increased property tax revenue and grants, but lacked resources to cover its unfunded obligations.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$2,664,128,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,894,020,000
Restricted Assets	-\$248,505,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$521,603,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$638,355,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$116,752,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,100

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$883,028,000
Other Liabilities	\$255,107,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$798,938,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$184,478,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$114,680,000
Total Bills	\$638,355,000

#### Grade:

**C**

#### Bottom line:

Greensboro would need \$1,100 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.

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.

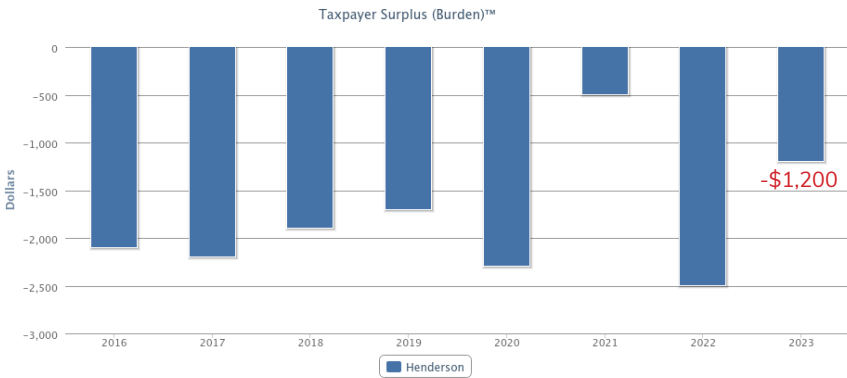


**\$160.1 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,200**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Henderson’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$160.1 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,200. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Henderson continued to experience steady growth in assessed property valuation and population, with moderate expansion expected. Economic indicators remained strong, supported by low unemployment, increasing visitor volume, the return of in-person conventions, and record gaming revenues, all signaling sustained near-term growth.

While its finances improved, the city still needed resources to pay its unfunded obligations, including pension debt. Henderson expects major events like the Formula 1 Grand Prix and the Super Bowl to boost tourism and local businesses. However, its reliance on tourism makes the economy vulnerable to downturns.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF HENDERSON, NV



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**30 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Henderson had \$822.9 million available to pay \$983 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$160.1 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,200 per taxpayer.
- Henderson experienced growth in property valuation, population, and tourism, but still needed resources for unfunded obligations, including pension debt.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$4,275,776,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,184,714,000
Restricted Assets	-\$268,130,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$822,932,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$982,991,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$160,059,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,200

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$397,747,000
Other Liabilities	\$247,363,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$293,295,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$563,424,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$67,752,000
Total Bills	\$982,991,000

#### Grade:

**C**

#### Bottom line:

Henderson would need \$1,200 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.

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.



**\$2.2 billion**

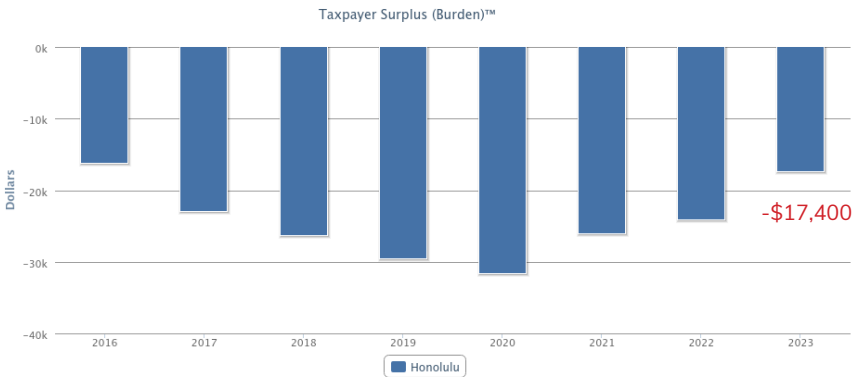
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$17,400**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Honolulu’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$2.2 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$17,400. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Honolulu’s financial condition improved as revenues outpaced expenses, and its unfunded retiree healthcare liability declined due to favorable actuarial adjustments. However, changes in actuarial assumptions highlight the uncertainty surrounding the future financial needs to fully fund promised benefits. This uncertainty could impact long-term planning for essential services and infrastructure investments.

Oahu’s tourism industry continues to drive economic growth, with visitor days rising 12.9%, arrivals up 16.6%, and expenditures increasing 3.9%. This steady recovery is boosting job creation and local business activity. However, despite these positive trends, Honolulu still faces a significant \$2.2 billion shortfall to cover its liabilities. Addressing this gap through effective financial management and strategic planning is essential for ensuring long-term fiscal stability and supporting critical services.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF HONOLULU



**D**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**71 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Honolulu had \$3.9 billion available to pay \$6.1 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.2 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$17,400 per taxpayer.
- Honolulu’s finances improved with rising revenues, but uncertainty over the estimated value of its unfunded employee retirement benefits.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$20,160,840,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$14,976,541,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,285,372,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,898,927,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$6,147,553,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$2,248,626,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$17,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$7,194,689,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,870,222,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$7,009,852,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,678,920,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$1,413,574,000
Total Bills	\$6,147,553,000


**Grade:**

**D**

**Bottom line:**

Honolulu would need \$17,400 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.

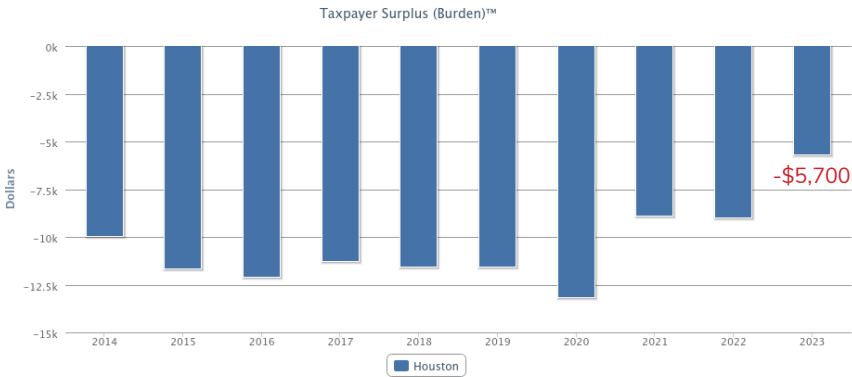


**\$4.5 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$5,700**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Houston’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$4.5 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$5,700. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Houston’s financial position improved by \$1.6 billion, with reported revenues exceeding expenses for the year. A significant contributor to this positive change was a surge in investment income, which increased by \$15.4 million, or 219.8%. This growth was driven by higher interest earnings on deposits and investments, as well as lower fair value adjustments and reduced losses on investments, boosting the city’s overall financial standing.

Houston’s \$577.5 million reduction in retiree healthcare liability was driven by favorable changes in interest rates used by actuaries to estimate future benefit payments’ value. However, the city still faces a need for additional funds to cover incurred expenses, highlighting the importance of strong financial management. This includes balancing promised retirement benefits with risks associated with pension investment market volatility and changing actuarial assumptions.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF SENECA School of Accountancy
---------------	---	--

The data included in this report is derived from Houston’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF HOUSTON



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**52 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Houston had \$6.5 billion available to pay \$11 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$4.5 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$5,700 per taxpayer.
- Houston’s financial position improved by \$1.6 billion, driven by increased investment income and a \$577.5 million reduction in healthcare liability.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$32,451,667,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$23,025,101,000
Restricted Assets	-\$2,935,773,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$6,490,793,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$10,997,135,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$4,506,342,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$5,700

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$13,950,818,000
Other Liabilities	\$5,537,997,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$12,629,116,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,368,559,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$1,768,877,000
Total Bills	\$10,997,135,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Houston would need \$5,700 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.



**\$1.1 billion**

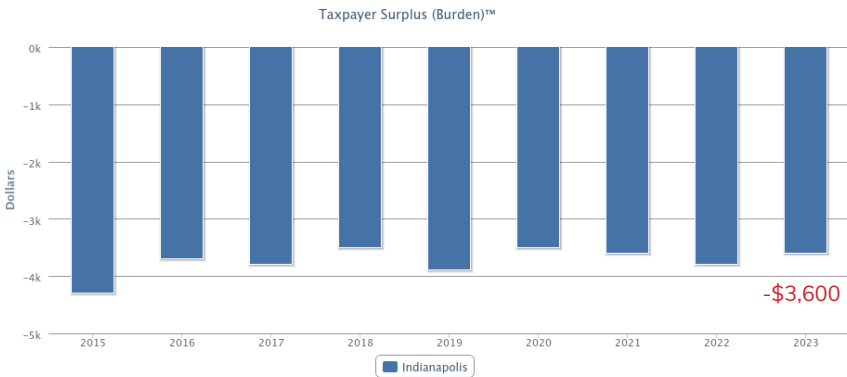
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$3,600**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Indianapolis' financial condition worsened. Based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, its financial hole deepened with a need for \$1.1 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$3,600, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Indianapolis' financial condition saw a minor decline of \$69.2 million, but the city still faced a significant \$1.1 billion shortfall to cover its obligations. On a positive note, the city uses pension data that aligns with its fiscal year-end, unlike many other cities and states that often rely on data from the previous fiscal year. This practice provides more reliable financial information, ensuring that the city's fiscal health is based on the most current and accurate data available.

In 2023, Indianapolis welcomed 29.2 million visitors, including 350,000 at the Indy 500, contributing to a \$5.6 billion economic impact from convention tourism. The city's robust tourism sector plays a key role in its economy, generating essential revenue that helps address long-term financial challenges, including increasing funds to cover liabilities like pension debt.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF INDIANAPOLIS



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**43 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Indianapolis had \$1.6 billion available to pay \$2.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.1 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$3,600 per taxpayer.
- Indianapolis' use of up-to-date pension data provides greater transparency, but the city still faces a \$1.1 billion shortfall.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$4,113,875,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,031,952,000
Restricted Assets	-\$480,954,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,600,969,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,733,974,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,133,005,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$3,600

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,989,603,000
Other Liabilities	\$634,784,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$988,762,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$811,053,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$287,296,000
Total Bills	\$2,733,974,000


### Grade:

**C**

#### Bottom line:

Indianapolis would need \$3,600 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.

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.

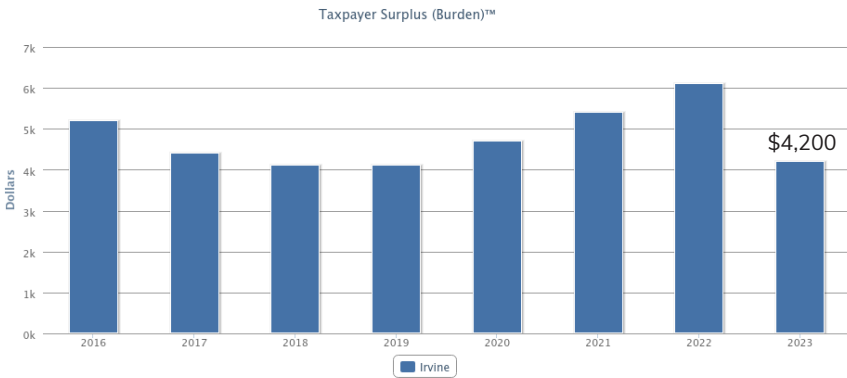


**\$510.7 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$4,200**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Irvine’s financial condition worsened, but based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, it still had \$510.7 million available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$4,200. Even with this downturn, the city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting and maintained its status as a Sunshine City.



Irvine’s financial condition weakened, though the city maintained sufficient funds to meet its obligations, including pension liabilities. The decline was primarily due to an increase in its net pension liability, measured using year-old data when investments experienced unrealized losses and a reduction in the interest rate used to estimate the funds that need to be set aside now to pay promised benefits.

The use of outdated pension data clouded the city’s financial condition and contradicts the principle that financial statements should reflect finances at a specific point in time. On a positive note, sales tax revenues rose 12.2% to \$94.2 million, and property tax revenue grew 6.5% to \$90.8 million, driven by increased consumer spending and rising property values.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF IRVINE



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**3 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Irvine had \$1.1 billion available to pay \$636.3 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$510.7 million surplus, which breaks down to \$4,200 per taxpayer.
- Based on outdated pension data, Irvine’s financial condition weakened, but the city had sufficient resources to meet long-term obligations.

## The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$4,420,064,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,965,007,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,308,030,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,147,027,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$636,344,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$510,683,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$4,200

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$333,668,000
Other Liabilities	\$145,471,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$20,765,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$168,966,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$9,004,000
Total Bills	\$636,344,000

### Grade:

**B**


### Bottom line:

Irvine had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

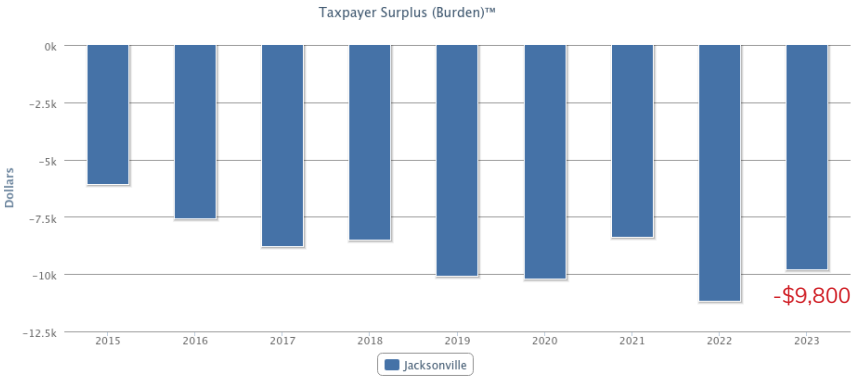


**\$3.6 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$9,800**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Jacksonville’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 \$3.6 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$9,800, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Jacksonville’s financial condition experienced a slight decline, with a less than 1% decrease in overall performance. Despite this, the city faced a substantial \$3.6 billion shortfall in covering its obligations. Governmental activity expenses increased by \$433.7 million from fiscal year 2022 to 2023, outpacing the \$304.5 million rise in associated revenues.

Public safety expenses, which account for 53% of total governmental costs, rose by \$418.1 million adding financial strain. Property taxes, the largest revenue source, remain crucial to Jacksonville’s fiscal health. Managing rising costs, particularly in public safety, and ensuring sustainable revenue will be key to maintaining stability. Strategic planning and budgeting are essential to overcoming financial challenges and supporting services.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF JACKSONVILLE, FL



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**60 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Jacksonville had \$4.6 billion available to pay \$8.2 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$3.6 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$9,800 per taxpayer.
- Jacksonville’s financial condition declined slightly, facing a \$3.6 billion shortfall and rising public safety expenses, straining fiscal stability.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$15,811,496,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$10,636,673,000
Restricted Assets	-\$568,731,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$4,606,092,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$8,186,509,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$3,580,417,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$9,800

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$5,336,135,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,572,461,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$5,188,576,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$5,102,350,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$364,139,000
Total Bills	\$8,186,509,000

#### Grade:

**D**

#### Bottom line:

Jacksonville would need \$9,800 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.

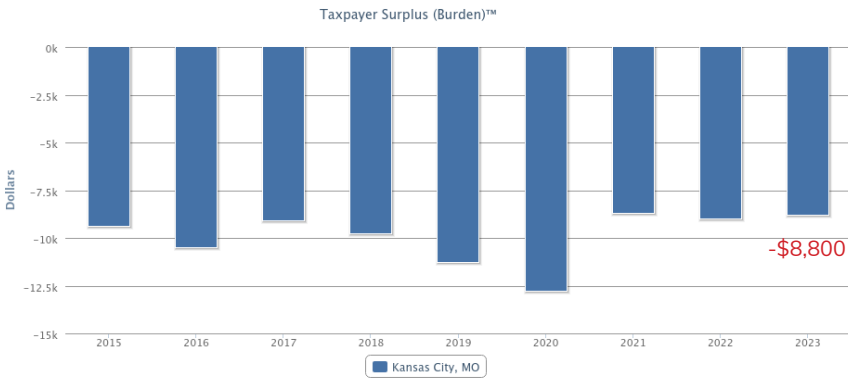


**\$1.6 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$8,800**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Kansas City’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 \$1.6 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$8,800, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Kansas City reported an operating surplus, but rising unfunded pension liabilities caused a reduction in its available funds. Two of the city’s three pension systems faced financial strain due to unrealized investment losses and actuarial adjustments, including revised salary growth projections and updated mortality rates. These changes increased long-term pension costs, putting pressure on the city’s budget.

Despite fiscal pressures, Kansas City benefited from the NFL Draft, generating a \$164.3 million economic impact, including \$108.8 million in direct spending and \$55.5 million in indirect contributions. The event boosted businesses, tourism, and jobs, strengthening the local economy. However, balancing economic growth with sustainable financial planning remains essential for the city’s long-term fiscal stability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF KANSAS CITY, MO



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**57 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Kansas City, MO, had \$2.4 billion available to pay \$4 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.6 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$8,800 per taxpayer.
- Kansas City's operating surplus was offset by rising pension liabilities, while the NFL Draft boosted the economy.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$11,988,336,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$8,641,711,000
Restricted Assets	-\$929,041,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,417,584,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$4,005,716,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,588,132,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$8,800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$4,694,297,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,764,823,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$3,821,952,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,246,141,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$122,407,000
Total Bills	\$4,005,716,000


### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Kansas City, MO, would need \$8,800 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.

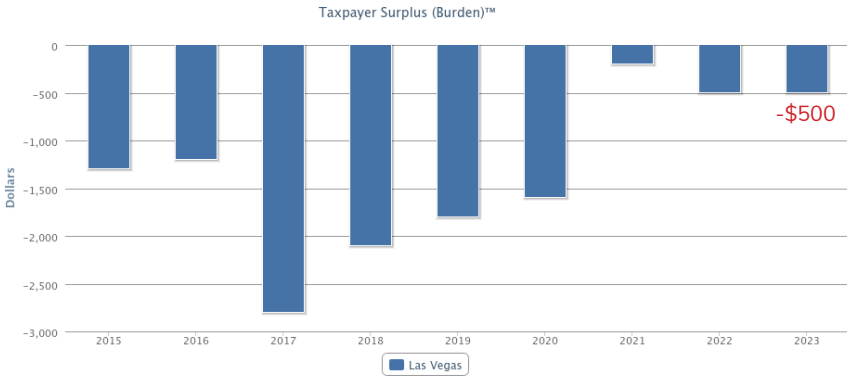


**\$123.5 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$500**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Las Vegas’ financial condition worsened. Based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, its financial hole deepened with a need for \$123.5 million to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$500, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Las Vegas experienced a financial decline of \$20.9 million, despite reported revenues exceeding expenses by \$159.5 million. The city’s positive financial performance was overshadowed by a significant increase in its net pension liability. While the Public Employees’ Retirement System reported unrealized gains of 9.2% on investments and made contributions to the pension fund, these efforts were not enough to offset the growth in accrued benefits and interest, straining the city’s overall financial position.

The city’s primary revenue sources include property taxes at \$175 million and state-shared taxes at \$428 million, making up 48.9% of total governmental revenue of \$1.23 billion. While these funds are essential for the budget, the growing pension liability remains a significant challenge to long-term financial stability. On a positive note, as of June 2023, Las Vegas’ unemployment rate dropped to 6.3%, though it is still higher than the U.S. rate of 3.6%.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF LAS VEGAS



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**23 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Las Vegas had \$1.4 billion available to pay \$1.6 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$123.5 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$500 per taxpayer.
- Las Vegas faced a \$20.9 million decline due to rising pension liabilities, despite strong revenues and reduced unemployment.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$7,026,023,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$5,247,598,000
Restricted Assets	-\$330,640,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,447,785,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,571,321,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$123,536,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$500

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$602,127,000
Other Liabilities	\$390,082,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$610,381,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,130,994,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$58,499,000
Total Bills	\$1,571,321,000

**Grade:**

**C**

**Bottom line:**

Las Vegas would need \$500 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.

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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF LEXINGTON

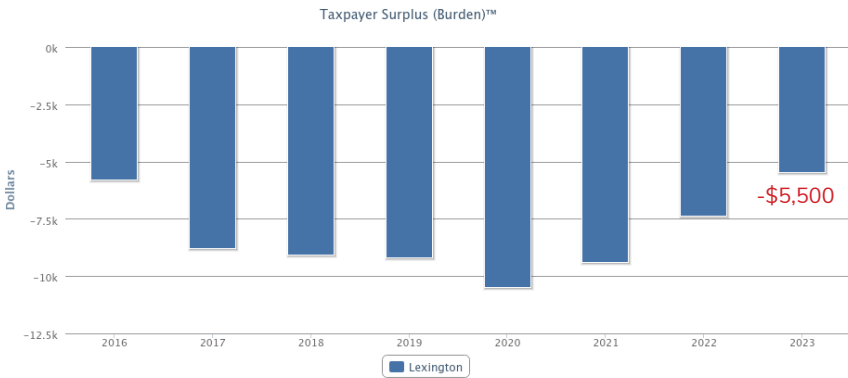



**\$578.5 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$5,500**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Lexington’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$578.5 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$5,500. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Lexington’s financial condition strengthened in 2023, with revenues for governmental activities growing by 8.61% and business-type activities increasing by 6.15%. Despite rising expenses, the city posted a revenue surplus of \$101.5 million. While the increase in net pension liability was largely offset by a reduction in unfunded retiree healthcare liability, the city still lacked sufficient funds to cover its accumulated financial obligations, including those in its business-type activities.

Lexington’s economic recovery remains steady, with a 3.7% unemployment rate as of June 2023. Economic growth has boosted tax revenues and business activity. To ensure long-term stability, the city must implement sustainable fiscal policies, balance pension obligations, and invest in essential services while supporting continued economic development.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY School of Accountancy
---------------	---	--

The data included in this report is derived from Lexington’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF LEXINGTON



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**51 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Lexington had \$717 million available to pay \$1.3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$578.5 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$5,500 per taxpayer.
- Lexington’s financial condition improved with strong revenue growth, but the city still lacked funds to cover accumulated obligations.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$2,869,523,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,024,681,000
Restricted Assets	-\$127,832,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$717,010,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,295,498,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$578,488,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$5,500

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$779,926,000
Other Liabilities	\$411,090,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$757,574,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$625,367,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$236,689,000
Total Bills	\$1,295,498,000


#### Grade:

**D**

#### Bottom line:

Lexington would need \$5,500 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.

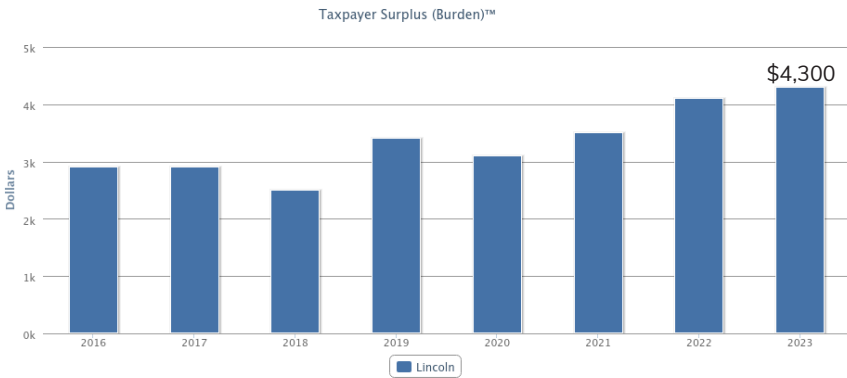


**\$470.7 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$4,300**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Lincoln’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$470.7 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$4,300.



Lincoln’s financial position strengthened as available funds grew, driven by reported revenues exceeding expenses. Investment income saw notable gains due to market value changes from interest rate fluctuations, while sales and use tax revenue increased by \$5.2 million (4.5%) in 2023. This growth was fueled by an improving economy, changing consumer spending habits, inflation, and rising prices.

The city saw increased spending by both residents and visitors, reflecting some economic recovery. However, while these revenue gains supported Lincoln’s financial stability, continued growth will depend on managing economic fluctuations and maintaining balanced budgets.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF LINCOLN, NE



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**2 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Lincoln had \$953.7 million available to pay \$483 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$470.7 million surplus, which breaks down to \$4,300 per taxpayer.
- Lincoln's finances strengthened with increased revenues and investment gains, and the city is fortunate to have ample resources to cover its outstanding debt.

### The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$4,540,725,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,329,118,000
Restricted Assets	-\$257,943,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$953,664,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$482,978,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$470,686,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$4,300

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,160,923,000
Other Liabilities	\$438,777,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,222,541,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$88,897,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$16,922,000
Total Bills	\$482,978,000

#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Lincoln had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

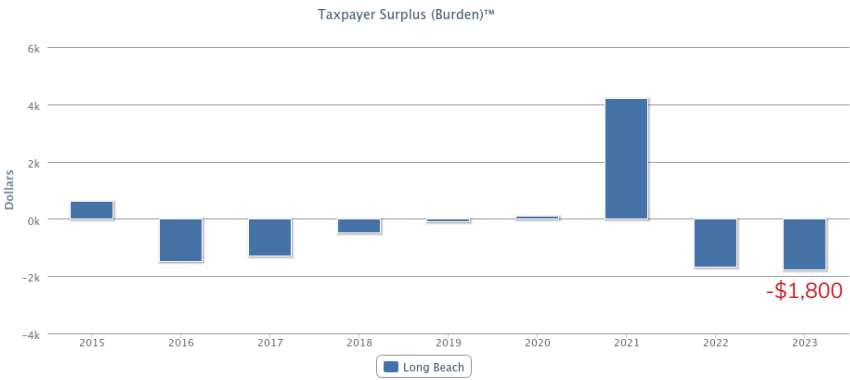


**\$302.8 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,800**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Long Beach’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 \$302.8 million to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,800, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Long Beach’s financial condition declined by \$43 million, primarily due to pension-related challenges. While CALPERS rebounded from unrealized investment losses in 2022 to gains in 2023, the city’s pension debt still grew. City contributions and investment growth were insufficient to keep up with the rising benefits and interest. A modest increase in pension liabilities highlights the continuing fiscal pressures the city faces in managing its retirement funding obligations.

Despite financial challenges, Long Beach remained a top filming location for NCIS: LA, Lone Star 911, Physical, SWAT, Barbie, and 1923. This steady entertainment industry presence boosted local businesses and the city’s net position. While these revenues help offset financial pressures, sustainable pension management remains essential for Long Beach’s long-term fiscal stability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF LONG BEACH



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**36 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Long Beach had \$3.2 billion available to pay \$3.5 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$302.8 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,800 per taxpayer.
- Long Beach’s financial decline of \$43 million was driven by growing pension debt despite a rebound in CALPERS investments.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$10,529,666,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$6,345,460,000
Restricted Assets	-\$952,002,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,232,204,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$3,534,999,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$302,795,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$1,800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,722,160,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,430,827,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,095,262,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,430,092,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$47,182,000
Total Bills	\$3,534,999,000


### Grade:

**C**

### Bottom line:

Long Beach would need \$1,800 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.

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.

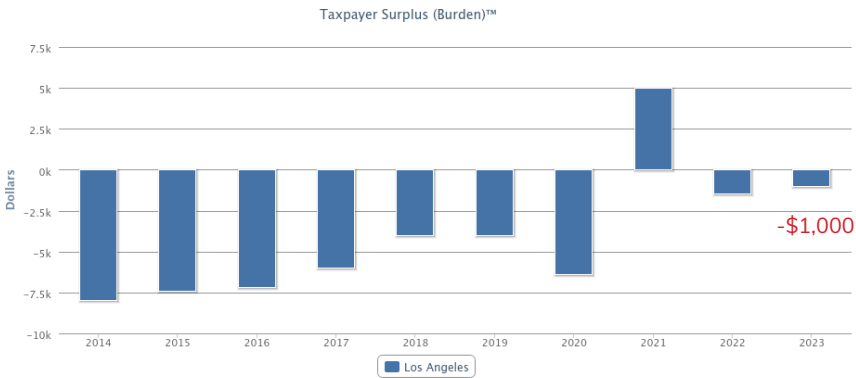


**\$1.5 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,000**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Los Angeles’ financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$1.5 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,000. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Although Los Angeles still faces a \$1.5 billion shortfall to cover its obligations, the city’s financial health has shown improvement, largely due to a reduction in the liabilities of its funded retiree healthcare benefit plans. What distinguishes Los Angeles from many other municipalities is its commitment to pre-funding these plans, a rare practice that helps ensure long-term financial stability. This proactive approach has strengthened the city’s funding status, making it better equipped to manage future liabilities.

Additionally, unrealized investment gains have played a critical role in addressing the city’s unfunded retiree healthcare liabilities. These gains have helped reduce the gap between the city’s obligations and available resources, providing some financial relief. While the city still faces significant challenges, its strategic planning and commitment to funding retiree benefits have placed it in a better position to tackle its financial hurdles in the future.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF LOS ANGELES



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**28 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Los Angeles had \$20.3 billion available to pay \$21.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.5 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,000 per taxpayer.
- Its retiree healthcare plan reported unrealized investment gains, improving Los Angeles' financial health, but the city still faces a \$1.5 billion shortfall.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$86,862,336,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$59,643,430,000
Restricted Assets	-\$6,873,875,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$20,345,031,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$21,839,033,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,494,002,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,000

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$38,757,050,000
Other Liabilities	\$11,215,580,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$36,901,386,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$8,291,940,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$475,849,000
Total Bills	\$21,839,033,000


### Grade:

**C**

### Bottom line:

Los Angeles 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.

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.

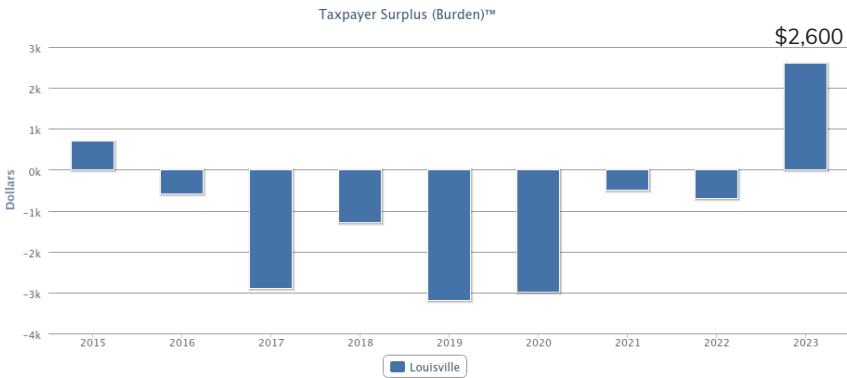


**\$524.6 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$2,600**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Louisville’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$524.6 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,600.



Louisville’s financial condition improved, shifting from needing funds to cover bills to having money for future expenses. This change was largely due to a \$306.2 million reduction in the city’s share of the Kentucky County Employees Insurance Fund’s retirees’ healthcare debt, driven by adjustments in actuaries’ estimates. Factors like inflation, healthcare trends, and mortality rates influenced these changes, leading to a more favorable assessment of the city’s unfunded retiree healthcare benefits.

The Kentucky Public Pension Authority enacted a 12.3% reduction in employer contribution rates for fiscal year 2024. While this provides temporary financial relief, it may hinder the city’s ability to address its unfunded pension liabilities, which total \$1.1 billion. Balancing short-term financial relief with long-term pension obligations will require careful management to ensure the city’s fiscal stability and its ability to meet future pension commitments.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF LOUISVILLE



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**10 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Louisville had \$2.6 billion available to pay \$2.1 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$524.6 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,600 per taxpayer.
- Louisville’s finances improved with a \$306.2 million reduction in retiree healthcare liability, but reduced pension contributions may cause future challenges.

## The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$9,266,763,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$6,268,799,000
Restricted Assets	-\$350,097,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,647,867,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,123,253,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$524,614,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$2,600

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$3,786,968,000
Other Liabilities	\$770,167,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$3,536,022,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,075,071,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$27,069,000
Total Bills	\$2,123,253,000

### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Louisville had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

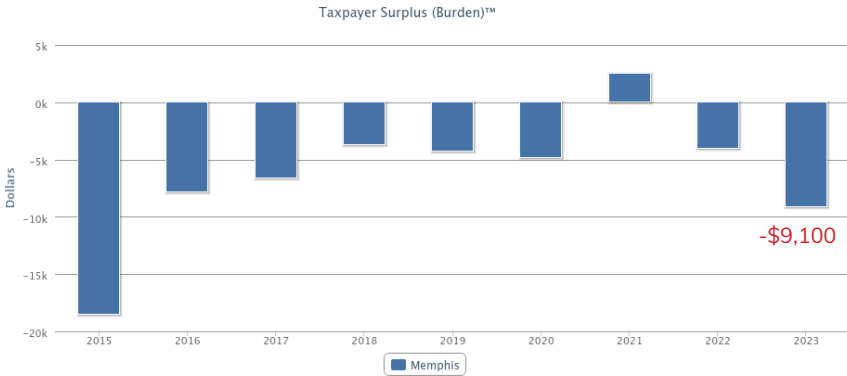


**\$2 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$9,100**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Memphis’ financial condition worsened. Based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, its financial hole deepened with a need for \$2 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$9,100, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Memphis reported total revenues exceeding expenses by \$510.7 million, but the funds required to cover its bills grew due to unrealized investment losses from the city’s retirement systems. The Memphis Light, Gas, and Water Division Pension Plan saw a \$367 million loss for 2022, with unrealized losses of 11.22%. Additionally, its retiree healthcare liability increased by over \$100 million.

Tennessee’s unemployment rate dropped to 3.2% in June 2023, down from 4.4% in June 2021, while the national rate fell to 3.6%. However, in June 2023 the state faced a labor shortage, with 4.3 job openings for every unemployed person, an 80% increase from 2022. This gap highlights the challenge of matching workforce supply with demand.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF MEMPHIS



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**58 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Memphis had \$2.8 billion available to pay \$4.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$9,100 per taxpayer.
- Memphis reported revenue exceeding expenses, but experienced growing liabilities from pension investment losses and rising retiree healthcare costs.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$10,210,213,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$6,491,895,000
Restricted Assets	-\$887,270,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,831,048,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$4,808,495,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,977,447,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$9,100

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,993,375,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,091,141,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,957,838,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$775,304,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$906,513,000
Total Bills	\$4,808,495,000

#### Grade:

**D**

#### Bottom line:

Memphis would need \$9,100 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.

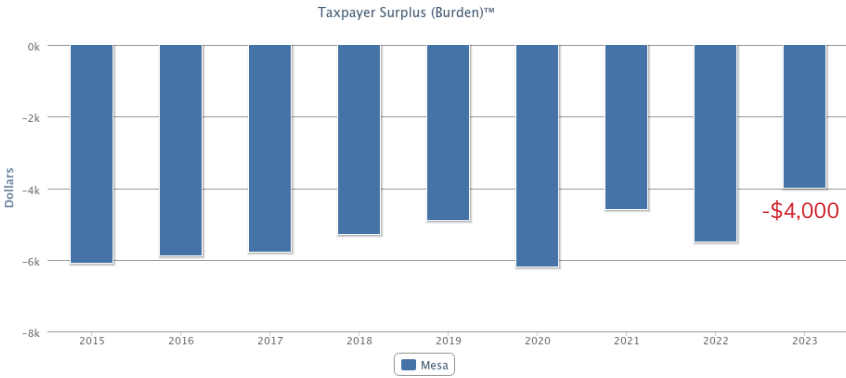


**\$740.7 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$4,000**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Mesa’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$740.7 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$4,000. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



The city’s financial condition improved by \$158.7 million in fiscal year 2023, driven by historically high sales tax revenue, which rose by \$29.3 million. Another key factor was a significant reduction in Mesa’s unfunded retiree healthcare liability. This decrease resulted primarily from an increase in the discount rate used to calculate future benefit payments, which rose from 2.18% to 4.09%. This fluctuation highlights the uncertainty surrounding the money needed to fund benefits, as interest rates have been highly unstable recently.

Strong sales tax performance, along with favorable actuarial adjustments, has bolstered the city’s financial position. However, maintaining long-term fiscal health will require continued strategic management of liabilities and revenue sources. While economic growth and tax revenues provide short-term stability, the city must remain proactive in managing pension and healthcare obligations to ensure sustainable financial health in the future.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF MESA



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**46 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Mesa had \$1.7 billion available to pay \$2.4 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$740.7 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$4,000 per taxpayer.
- The city experienced a decrease in retiree healthcare liability, though this estimate remains uncertain due to fluctuating interest rates.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$5,270,857,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,146,615,000
Restricted Assets	-\$472,204,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,652,038,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,392,723,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$740,685,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$4,000

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,806,386,000
Other Liabilities	\$605,977,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,824,536,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,022,777,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$782,119,000
Total Bills	\$2,392,723,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b>
C	Mesa would need \$4,000 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.

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.

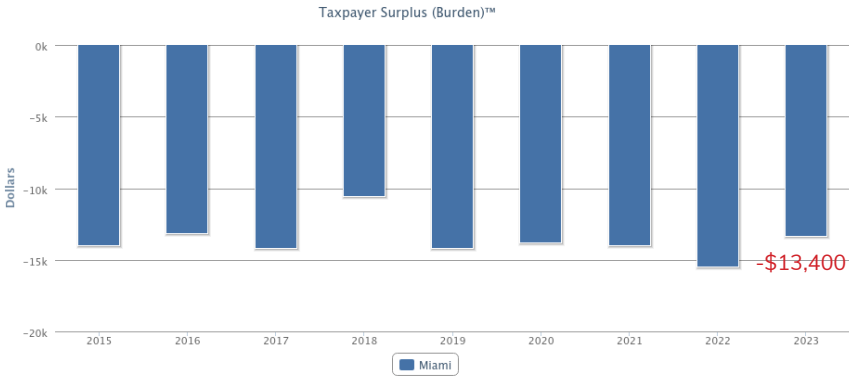


**\$2.3 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$13,400**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Miami’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$2.3 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$13,400. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



The city’s money needed to pay bills decreased slightly. Miami International Airport served 52.3 million passengers in 2023, reinforcing its role as a major economic driver for the region. The airport’s operations contributed an estimated \$32 billion annually to the local economy, benefiting businesses, tourism, and infrastructure development. As a crucial hub for both domestic and international travel, Miami International Airport’s continued growth enhances the city’s economic position and strengthens its global connectivity, ensuring long-term prosperity.

Miami led all metro areas in job gains across key industries, with leisure and hospitality adding 12,200 jobs. Construction, professional services, financial activities, and manufacturing also saw growth, reflecting a strong economy driven by business expansion and infrastructure investments. This strong economic base will be essential in helping the city address the \$2.3 billion of unfunded bills it incurred in prior years.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF MIAMI



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**67 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Miami had \$962.5 million available to pay \$3.2 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.3 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$13,400 per taxpayer.
- Miami's economy strengthened with job growth, airport success, and strong industry performance, but this solid base will be needed to cover its \$2.3 billion in unfunded bills.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$2,679,892,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,249,933,000
Restricted Assets	-\$467,461,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$962,498,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$3,217,028,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$2,254,530,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$13,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$499,175,000
Other Liabilities	\$867,027,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$431,641,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,436,215,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$846,252,000
Total Bills	\$3,217,028,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Miami would need \$13,400 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.



**\$3.3 billion**

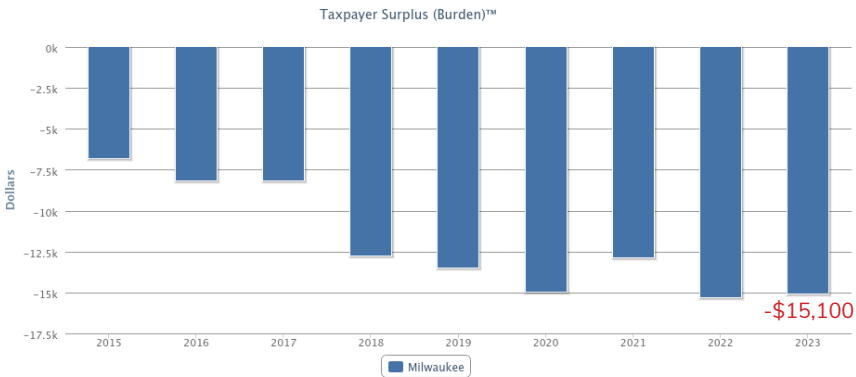
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF MILWAUKEE



**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

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

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.

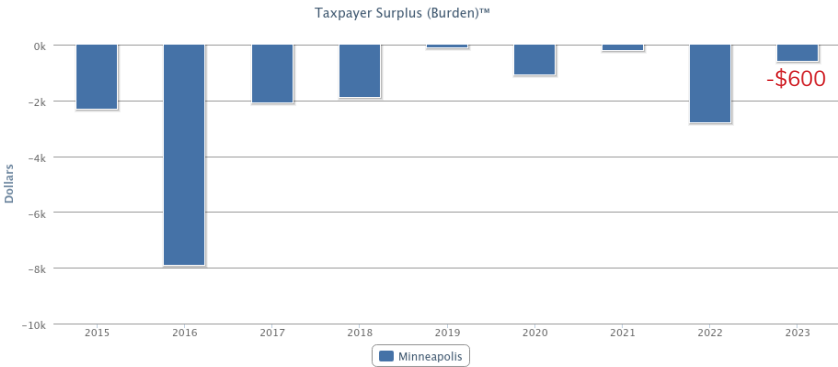


**\$93.9 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$600**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Minneapolis’ financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$93.9 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$600. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Despite reduced American Rescue Plan Act funding, the city’s financial outlook improved due to a reduction in pension debt. The Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota reported an unrealized gain of nearly 9%, easing long-term liabilities. Additionally, an increase in the discount rate decreased estimated future benefit payments. However, these developments highlight the need for city officials to carefully manage Minneapolis’ defined benefit pension funds, considering market risks and the uncertainty in estimating the funds required to cover benefits.

As in many other jurisdictions, employee wages and benefit costs make up over 63.5% of the city’s General Fund 2023 expenditure budget, driven by rising wages, inflation, and overtime expenses. In light of this significant growth, the city’s commitment to transparency is commendable, particularly for including a column that consolidates figures for both its primary government and component units within the financial statements, enhancing clarity and accountability.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA School of Accountancy
---------------	---	---

The data included in this report is derived from Minneapolis’ 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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF MINNEAPOLIS



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**24 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Minneapolis had \$1.2 billion available to pay \$1.3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$93.9 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$600 per taxpayer.
- Despite reduced federal COVID funding, the city’s financial outlook improved through pension debt reduction and discount rate changes.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$5,450,808,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,819,692,000
Restricted Assets	-\$412,526,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,218,590,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,312,532,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$93,942,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$600

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$788,139,000
Other Liabilities	\$623,279,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$786,059,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$562,749,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$124,424,000
Total Bills	\$1,312,532,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b>
<b>C</b>	Minneapolis would need \$600 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.

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.

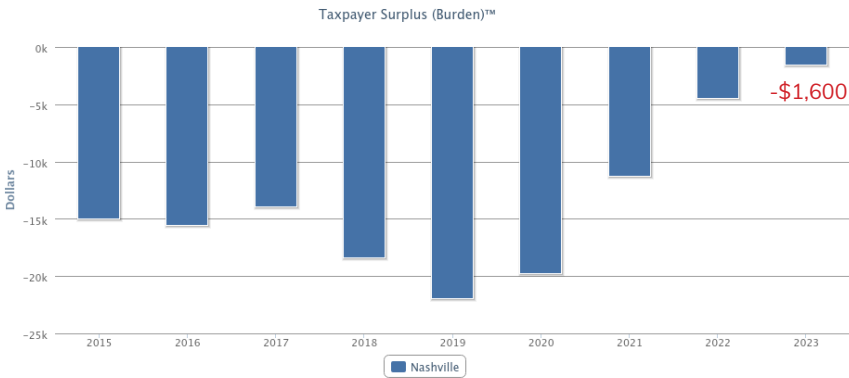


**\$389.1 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,600**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Nashville’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$389.1 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,600. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Nashville’s finances showed positive growth with an improvement of \$566.6 million, driven by revenues exceeding expenses. However, pension debt increased by \$284.5 million as the MetroPlan shifted from being overfunded to underfunded, largely due to poor investment returns and unfavorable actuarial assumptions changes.

Nashville made significant progress in reducing retiree healthcare liabilities by \$218.8 million, primarily through changes to the School Professional Employees’ Insurance Plan. The city streamlined healthcare costs by making the Medicare Advantage Plan the exclusive option for retirees on Medicare.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF NASHVILLE



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**32 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Nashville had \$6.4 billion available to pay \$6.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$389.1 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,600 per taxpayer.
- Nashville's finances improved by \$566.6 million, but pension debt increased, offset by a reduction in retiree healthcare liabilities.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$20,174,400,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$12,674,046,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,137,992,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$6,362,362,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$6,751,438,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$389,076,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,600

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$8,552,572,000
Other Liabilities	\$3,818,672,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$8,366,445,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$303,148,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$2,443,491,000
Total Bills	\$6,751,438,000

### Grade:

**C**

### Bottom line:

Nashville would need \$1,600 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.

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.

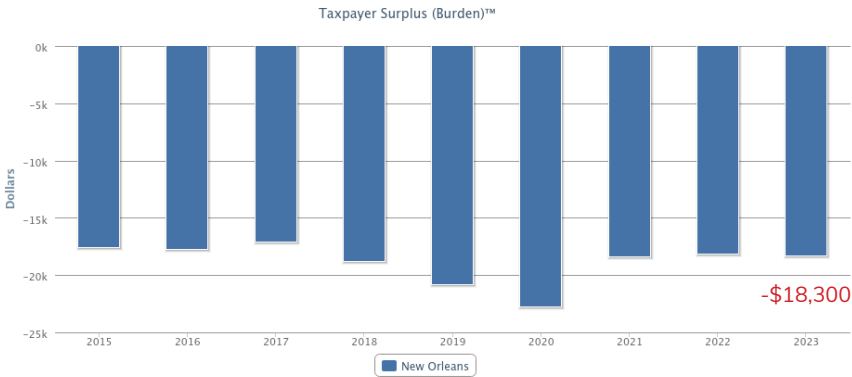


**\$2.1 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$18,300**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

New Orleans’ financial condition worsened. Based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, its financial hole deepened with a need for \$2.1 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$18,300, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



The city’s financial condition deteriorated primarily due to challenges within the Firefighters’ Pension Fund. Actuaries projected that the plan’s assets would fall short of covering benefits for current members. As a result, the actuaries decreased the interest rate used to calculate the present value of future benefit payments from 7.5% to 3.26%. This adjustment significantly raised the estimated pension liability, adding further strain to the city’s long-term financial outlook.

Despite pension challenges, general fund revenues grew by \$4 million in 2023, driven by increased red-light camera enforcement and traffic fines. While these revenues provide some fiscal relief, the city needs a comprehensive long-term solution to fund its \$1.5 billion of unfunded pension benefits and \$388.6 million of unfunded retiree healthcare benefits. To ensure stability, the city must implement balanced strategies to manage obligations and maintain services, focusing on sustainable growth and resilience.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY of SENSER School of Accountancy
---------------	---	--

The data included in this report is derived from New Orleans’ 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.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF NEW ORLEANS



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**72 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- New Orleans had \$1.5 billion available to pay \$3.5 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.1 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$18,300 per taxpayer.
- The city's financial challenges stemmed mostly from pension liabilities, despite revenue growth. Long-term solutions are needed for fiscal stability.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$10,849,775,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$8,487,835,000
Restricted Assets	-\$885,104,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,476,836,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$3,528,173,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$2,051,337,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$18,300

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,759,735,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,917,082,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$3,084,331,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,547,119,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$388,568,000
Total Bills	\$3,528,173,000

#### Grade:

**D**

#### Bottom line:

New Orleans would need \$18,300 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.

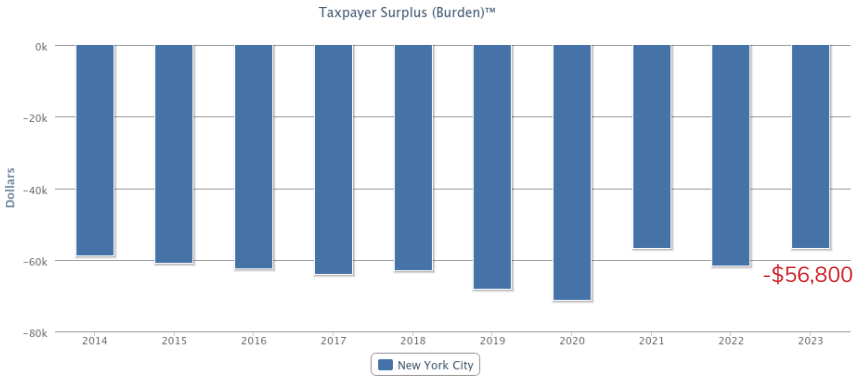


**\$184.2 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$56,800**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

New York City’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 \$184.2 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$56,800, earning the city an “F” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



New York City is grappling with significant challenges stemming from both financial pressures and demographic shifts. In fiscal year 2023, the city’s financial condition worsened by \$6.6 billion, primarily due to a \$5.1 billion increase in liabilities from its retiree health care plan, which operates on a pay-as-you-go basis. This growing liability puts additional strain on the city’s finances, complicating its ability to fund other services and programs.

At the same time, the Census Bureau estimated the city’s population at 8.3 million in 2023, reflecting a 5.3% decline since April 2020. This decline is driven by more people leaving the city, fewer people moving to the city, a decrease in births, and higher death rates linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF NEW YORK CITY



**F**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**75 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- New York City had \$92.4 billion available to pay \$276.6 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$184.2 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$56,800 per taxpayer.
- New York City faces financial strain due to rising liabilities and a 5.3% population decline, complicating its long-term growth.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$239,591,920,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$135,861,973,000
Restricted Assets	-\$11,298,568,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$92,431,379,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$276,603,225,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$184,171,846,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$56,800

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$150,886,359,000
Other Liabilities	\$109,086,846,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$128,397,606,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$43,337,345,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$101,690,281,000
Total Bills	\$276,603,225,000

**Grade:**

**F**

**Bottom line:**

New York City would need \$56,800 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its outstanding bills and received an "F" grade for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden greater than \$20,000 is given an "F" 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.

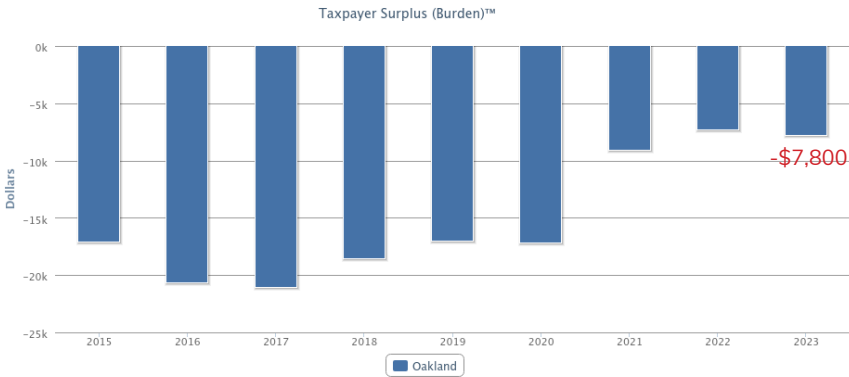


**\$1.3 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$7,800**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Oakland’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 \$1.3 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$7,800, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



The city’s financial position declined by \$247 million, largely driven by an increase in Net Pension Liability (NPL) due to unrealized losses on pension investments. Market fluctuations and lower-than-expected investment returns contributed to this growing liability, placing additional strain on long-term fiscal stability. Managing pension obligations will remain a key challenge, requiring strategic financial planning to ensure sustainability.

According to city officials, the pandemic’s impact on downtown office utilization appears long-lasting, potentially affecting commercial property values, construction, transit, and local businesses. Remote work may also reshape residential property demand. While outcomes remain speculative, the economic effects of the global pandemic are expected to be enduring, with lasting changes to various sectors, including real estate and business operations.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF SENECA School of Accountancy
---------------	---	--

The data included in this report is derived from Oakland’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF OAKLAND



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**56 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Oakland had \$3.7 billion available to pay \$5 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.3 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$7,800 per taxpayer.
- The city's financial decline was driven by increased pension liabilities, market losses, and the pandemic's long-term economic impacts.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$8,149,295,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,559,382,000
Restricted Assets	-\$877,511,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,712,402,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$5,022,167,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,309,765,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$7,800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,462,028,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,968,073,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,045,225,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,071,495,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$565,796,000
Total Bills	\$5,022,167,000


### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Oakland would need \$7,800 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.

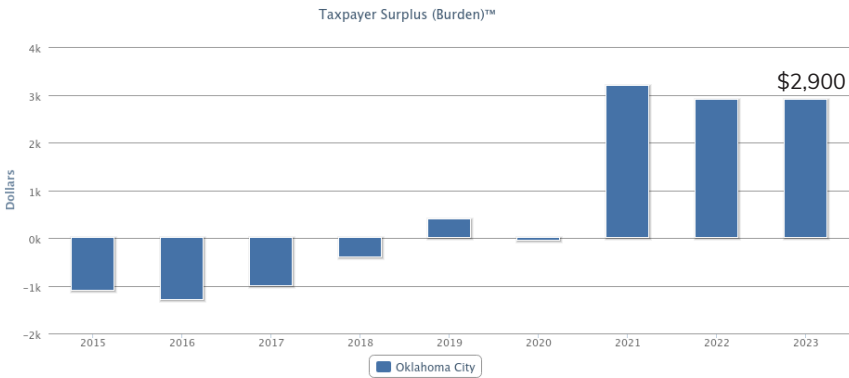


**\$646.3 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$2,900**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Oklahoma City’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$646.3 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,900.



The available funds to pay bills grew by \$95.9 million, mainly due to higher sales, use, and other tax collections. This revenue increase reflects Oklahoma City’s economic strength. However, the city faces an unfunded pension liability of \$412.2 million, which is subject to investment market volatility and uncertainties in estimating the funds needed to meet promised benefits.

Sales taxes played a critical role in the city’s overall governmental revenue, making up 48% of the total in fiscal year 2023. A slight increase in sales tax revenue is a direct result of stronger consumer spending and higher sales and use tax collections. These positive economic trends indicate continued growth, providing the city with a stable foundation for future budgeting and financial planning. The outlook remains optimistic as the economy shows resilience.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF OKLAHOMA CITY



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**6 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Oklahoma City had \$2.5 billion available to pay \$1.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$646.3 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,900 per taxpayer.
- Oklahoma City's funds grew by \$95.9 million, mainly from higher sales tax revenues, though it faces \$412.1 million pension liability.

## The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$8,977,841,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$5,631,457,000
Restricted Assets	-\$883,402,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,462,982,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,816,662,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$646,320,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$2,900

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,905,313,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,237,132,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,001,194,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$412,181,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$263,230,000
Total Bills	\$1,816,662,000

### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Oklahoma City had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

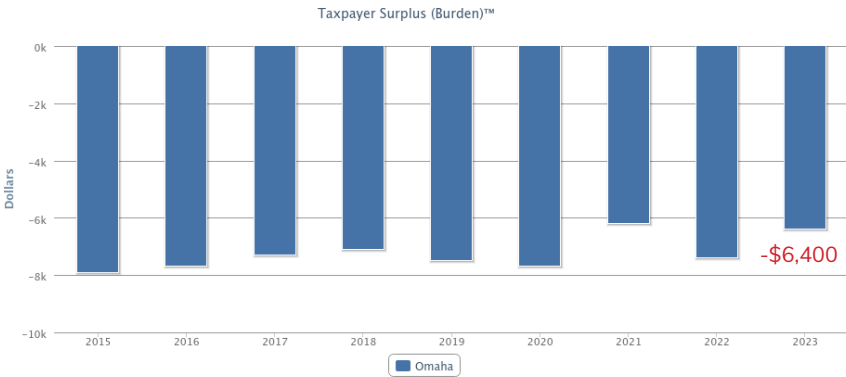


**\$1.1 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$6,400**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Omaha’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$1.1 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$6,400. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Omaha’s investment in capital assets, after accounting for related debt, grew by \$245 million, or 14.4%, compared to 2022. This increase was primarily driven by the city’s riverfront development (\$81.2 million), Sewer Revenue Fund (\$150.4 million), and transportation services (\$102.4 million). However, this boost in capital investment limited the funds available for addressing other debts. Therefore, while the city reported revenues exceeding expenses, the money needed to pay bills decreased only slightly, remaining at \$1.1 billion.

Omaha’s governmental revenues surged in fiscal year 2023, with sales and use tax surpassing property tax as the city’s primary revenue source. Strong consumer spending and a robust economy exceeded budget expectations, bolstering financial stability. To ensure long-term growth, the city must strategically invest in infrastructure and essential services while effectively managing its \$1 billion unfunded pension and \$546.8 million unfunded retiree healthcare liabilities.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF OMAHA



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**53 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Omaha had \$977.9 million available to pay \$2.1 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.1 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$6,400 per taxpayer.
- Omaha's capital investment grew, limiting funds for debt payments. Strong revenues bolstered financial stability, despite rising pension liabilities.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$4,657,192,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,407,844,000
Restricted Assets	-\$271,407,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$977,941,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,124,366,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,146,425,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$6,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,131,539,000
Other Liabilities	\$863,538,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,441,790,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,024,312,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$546,767,000
Total Bills	\$2,124,366,000


### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Omaha would need \$6,400 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.

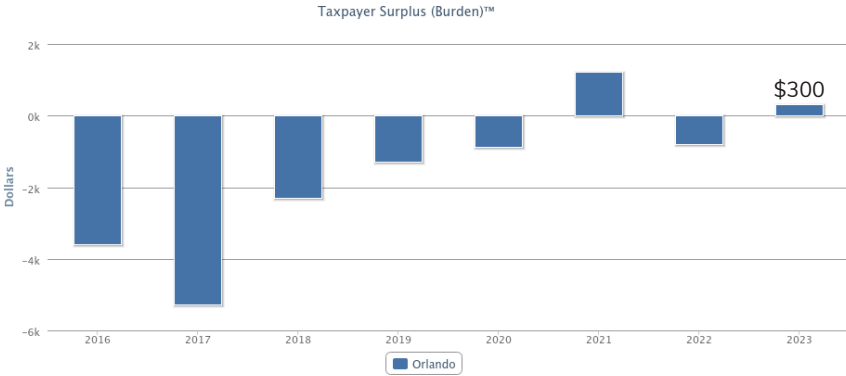


**\$37.6 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$300**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Orlando’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$37.6 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$300.



The city’s finances appeared to improve as of September 30, 2023, largely due to a reduction in its net pension liability. However, this liability was measured as of September 30, 2022, when the market value of pension investments was higher. Cities with pension data available for 2023 have found that market fluctuations negatively impacted pension investments, increasing unfunded pension obligations, and it is likely the same will occur with Orlando.

The use of pension data that is a year older than the other financial data for the city created confusion about the city’s financial condition. This practice fails to align with the fundamental accounting principle that financial statements should provide a snapshot of an entity’s financial status at a specific point in time. On a positive note, tourism remained a key economic driver, with record \$359.3 million in tourist development tax collections supporting public services and infrastructure.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF ORLANDO



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**18 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Orlando had \$1.107 billion available to pay \$1.070 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$37.6 million surplus, which breaks down to \$300 per taxpayer.
- Orlando’s finances improved due to reduced pension liability, but this was based on 2022 pension data, which is misaligned with the 2023 financial data.

## The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$4,183,475,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,654,214,000
Restricted Assets	-\$421,497,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,107,764,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,070,180,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$37,584,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$300

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$729,760,000
Other Liabilities	\$414,230,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$733,363,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$409,839,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$249,714,000
Total Bills	\$1,070,180,000

**Grade:**

**B**

**Bottom line:**

Orlando had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

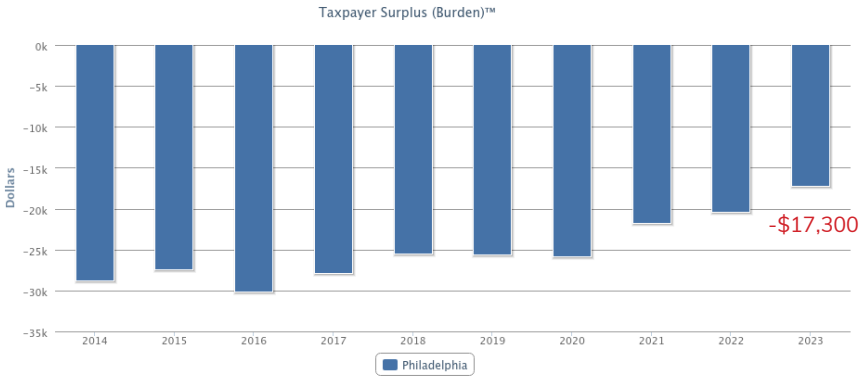


**\$10.3 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$17,300**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Philadelphia’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$10.3 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$17,300. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Philadelphia’s finances showed significant improvement, with a net gain of \$884.1 million, as reported revenues outpaced expenses. The city’s Governmental Activities charges for services rose by \$71.7 million, driven largely by \$200.1 million in revenue from the Opioid Settlement. However, this boost was partially offset by declines in general management charges (\$101.9 million) and health service charges (\$21.9 million), which impacted overall revenue growth.

Additionally, the city’s retiree healthcare benefit liability decreased by \$357 million, mainly due to a favorable adjustment in the interest rate used to calculate future benefit payments. While these improvements strengthened Philadelphia’s fiscal position, the city still faced a significant financial challenge. It was unable to cover \$10.3 billion in accumulated bills, underscoring the ongoing need for fiscal strategies to address long-term obligations and balance its budget effectively.

February 2025	<a href="http://www.truthinaccounting.org">www.truthinaccounting.org</a>   <a href="http://www.data-z.org">www.data-z.org</a>	 Daniels College of Business UNIVERSITY OF SHERIDAN School of Accountancy
---------------	---	--

The data included in this report is derived from Philadelphia’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF PHILADELPHIA



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**70 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Philadelphia had \$10.3 billion available to pay \$20.6 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$10.3 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$17,300 per taxpayer.
- Philadelphia's finances improved by \$884.1 million, boosted by \$200.1 million in opioid settlement revenue and reduced retiree healthcare.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$27,873,545,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$14,662,298,000
Restricted Assets	-\$2,861,669,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$10,349,578,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$20,641,512,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$10,291,934,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$17,300

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$9,972,600,000
Other Liabilities	\$10,631,532,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$10,893,733,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$8,610,063,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$2,321,050,000
Total Bills	\$20,641,512,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Philadelphia would need \$17,300 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.



**\$1.9 billion**

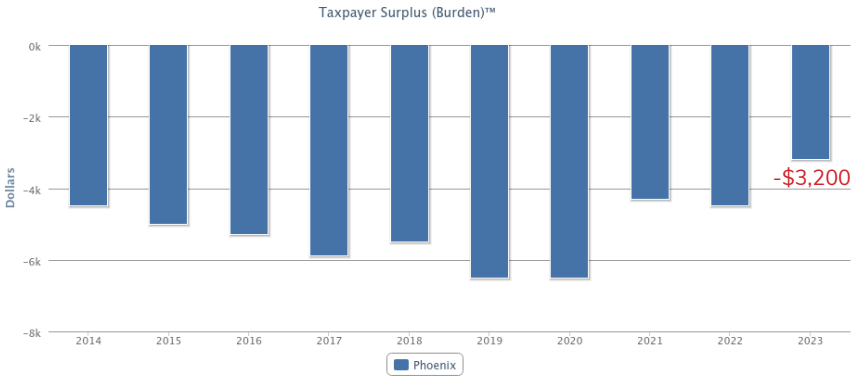
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$3,200**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Phoenix’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$1.9 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$3,200. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Phoenix’s financial health improved by \$455.1 million, primarily due to higher tax revenues. State-shared revenues saw a significant boost, particularly from state income and sales taxes. The city also benefited economically from hosting Super Bowl LVII events. Excise taxes increased as retail sales, construction activity, restaurant and bar spending, hotel and motel lodging, and rental services surged. Additionally, Phoenix experienced gains in transportation program revenues, largely driven by its investment in Valley Metro Rail Inc.

Despite these financial gains, Phoenix faced challenges with its public safety retirement system. The city’s net pension liability rose by \$213 million, partly due to unrealized investment losses. This underscores the ongoing fiscal pressures associated with retirement system funding. While the city’s revenue growth has strengthened its financial position, managing pension liabilities remains a critical issue for long-term fiscal stability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF PHOENIX



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**42 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Phoenix had \$6.8 billion available to pay \$8.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.9 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$3,200 per taxpayer.
- Phoenix's financial health improved by \$455.1 million due to higher tax revenues, but pension liabilities are still a long-term challenge.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$22,965,168,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$14,178,380,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,961,362,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$6,825,426,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$8,708,312,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,882,886,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$3,200

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$6,611,824,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,891,615,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$6,124,756,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$5,261,974,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$67,655,000
Total Bills	\$8,708,312,000

### Grade:

**C**

### Bottom line:

Phoenix would need \$3,200 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.

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.



**\$1.2 billion**

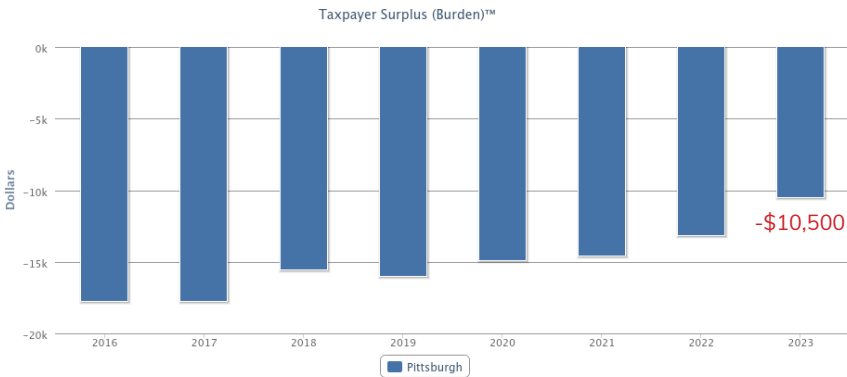
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$10,500**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Pittsburgh’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$1.2 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$10,500. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Pittsburgh’s reported revenues exceeded expenses, and its net pension liability declined. After 2022 investment losses, the city’s pension plans rebounded in 2023, benefiting from market gains and favorable actuarial adjustments. Despite these improvements, Pittsburgh still faced a \$1.2 billion shortfall to cover outstanding obligations, including unfunded pension liabilities influenced by fluctuating investment values and uncertain funding estimates.

Pandemic-related economic fluctuations impacted Pittsburgh’s revenue, with deed transfer taxes falling \$21.1 million short due to lower home sales and real estate taxes missing budgeted amounts by \$10.3 million. These shortfalls highlight the city’s economic vulnerabilities. To maintain financial stability, Pittsburgh will need to manage pension obligations, adapt to revenue fluctuations, and invest in essential services and infrastructure.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF PITTSBURGH



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**61 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Pittsburgh had \$1 billion available to pay \$2.2 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.2 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$10,500 per taxpayer.
- Pittsburgh's revenues exceeded expenses, but a \$1.2 billion shortfall remains due to pension liabilities and economic revenue fluctuations.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$2,920,107,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,656,487,000
Restricted Assets	-\$250,302,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,013,318,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,232,239,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,218,921,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$10,500

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,871,892,000
Other Liabilities	\$532,543,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,300,606,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$812,955,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$315,455,000
Total Bills	\$2,232,239,000


### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Pittsburgh would need \$10,500 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.

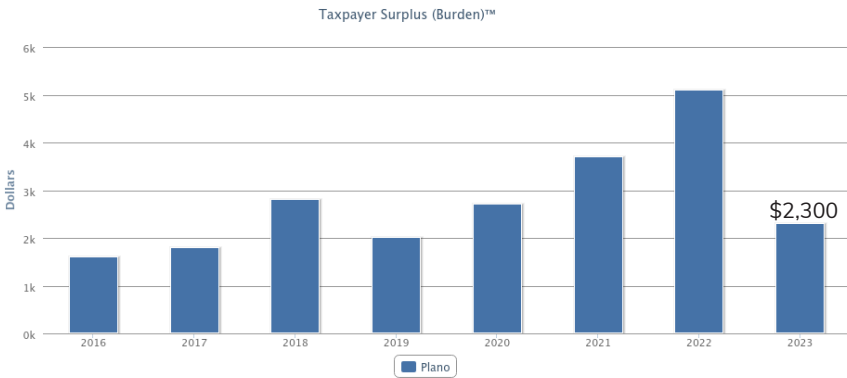


**\$223 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$2,300**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Plano’s financial condition worsened, but based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, it still had \$223 million available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,300. Even with this downturn, the city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting and maintained its status as a Sunshine City.



The city’s available funds declined by over \$200 million, primarily due to an increase in the city’s portion of the Texas Municipal Retirement System liability. This rise stemmed from unrealized losses on pension system investments, reflecting broader market volatility. Managing these pension obligations will be crucial to maintaining long-term financial stability and ensuring the city’s fiscal health.

Plano’s job market faced challenges in 2023, with unemployment rising from 3.0% to 3.7%, which is still lower than the national average. While the local economy had not experienced severe disruptions and available funds decreased, the city retained sufficient resources to meet its obligations, including unfunded pension promises.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF PLANO



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**11 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Plano had \$690.9 million available to pay \$467.9 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$223 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,300 per taxpayer.
- Plano's unfunded pension liabilities increased and its unemployment rose slightly; but the city still had resources for obligations.

## The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$2,717,083,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,959,470,000
Restricted Assets	-\$66,710,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$690,903,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$467,936,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$222,967,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$2,300

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$693,604,000
Other Liabilities	\$152,469,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$596,846,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$196,374,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$22,335,000
Total Bills	\$467,936,000


### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Plano had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

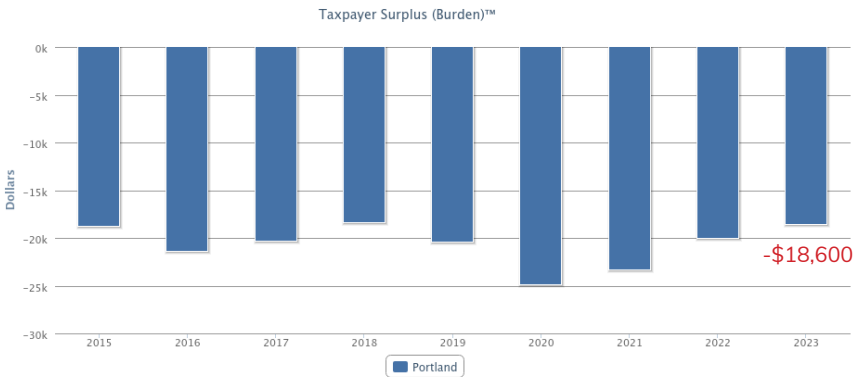


**\$4.5 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$18,600**  
TAXPAYER 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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF PORTLAND, OR



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**73 out of 75**  
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:

**D**

#### 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.

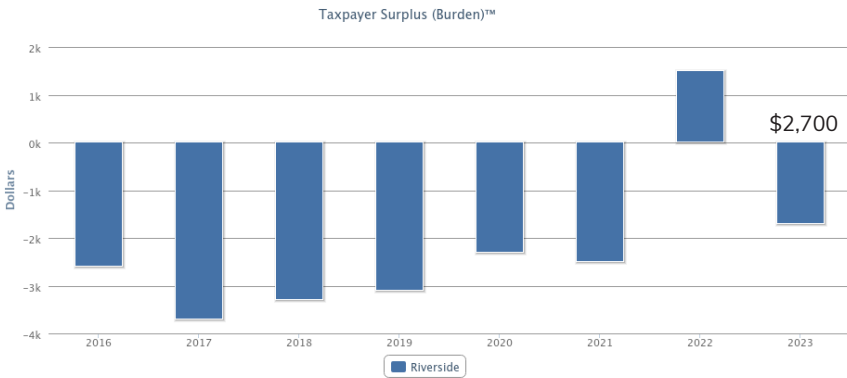


**\$450.6 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$2,700**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Raleigh’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$450.6 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,700.



The city’s financial position improved by \$120.8 million, driven by strong revenue growth from general property taxes, other taxes, and service charges across governmental and business activities. This positive trend reflects a robust local economy and increased demand for city services, contributing to overall fiscal stability. However, the city must carefully manage its unfunded pension and retiree healthcare liabilities, which stand at \$294 million and \$218.8 million, respectively, to ensure long-term financial health.

Tourism played a significant role in this growth, with 17.8 million visitors—a 12.7% increase from 2021—fueling a record \$3 billion in tourist spending. This surge boosted local businesses, hospitality, and city revenues, reinforcing the city’s economic vitality. As tourism continues to thrive, maintaining balanced growth while managing infrastructure and public services will be crucial to sustaining long-term financial health.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF RALEIGH



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**8 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Raleigh had \$1.4 billion available to pay \$900.9 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$450.6 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,700 per taxpayer.
- The city's financial position improved by \$120.8 million, but it must manage \$294 million in pension and \$218.8 million healthcare liabilities.

## The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$5,875,711,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$4,067,623,000
Restricted Assets	-\$456,559,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,351,529,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$900,918,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$450,611,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$2,700

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,167,470,000
Other Liabilities	\$928,309,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,707,711,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$294,022,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$218,828,000
Total Bills	\$900,918,000

### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Raleigh had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

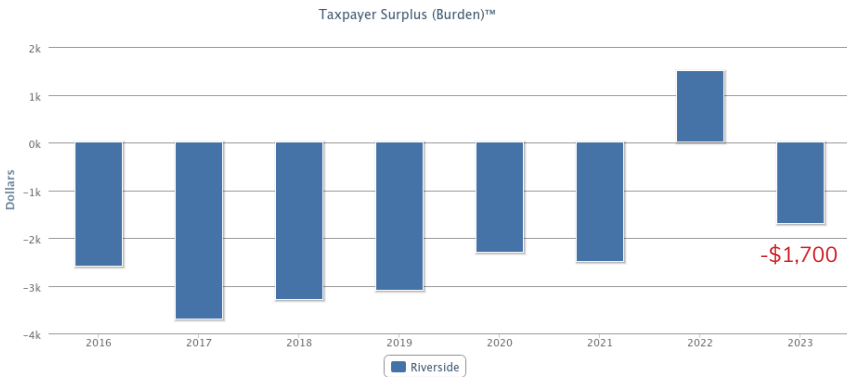


**\$205.4 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,700**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Riverside’s financial condition worsened in 2023, transitioning from a Sunshine City to a Sinkhole City. Based upon our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city needed \$205.4 million to cover its bills. This led to a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,700, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting.



The city’s pension plans shifted from overfunded to underfunded due to unrealized investment losses, reflecting market volatility. These losses increased long-term financial obligations, putting pressure on the city’s budget. Managing pension liabilities will require careful planning to balance obligations while maintaining fiscal stability and essential public services.

Consumer prices in the Riverside metro area rose by 3.4% in 2023, with food prices up 5.4%, while energy costs fell by 9.1%, offering some relief. These shifts affect household budgets and city operations, influencing economic policies. To ensure financial stability, the city must adapt to changing conditions while fostering sustainable growth and maintaining essential services.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF RIVERSIDE



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**34 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Riverside had \$1.2 billion available to pay \$1.4 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$205.4 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,700 per taxpayer.
- Unrealized pension losses increased financial obligations, while rising consumer prices and falling energy costs challenge Riverside’s fiscal stability and growth.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$4,792,427,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,302,316,000
Restricted Assets	-\$335,439,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,154,672,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,360,057,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$205,385,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$1,700

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,663,466,000
Other Liabilities	\$666,679,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,312,657,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$297,098,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$45,471,000
Total Bills	\$1,360,057,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b> Riverside would need \$1,700 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.
<b>C</b>	

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.

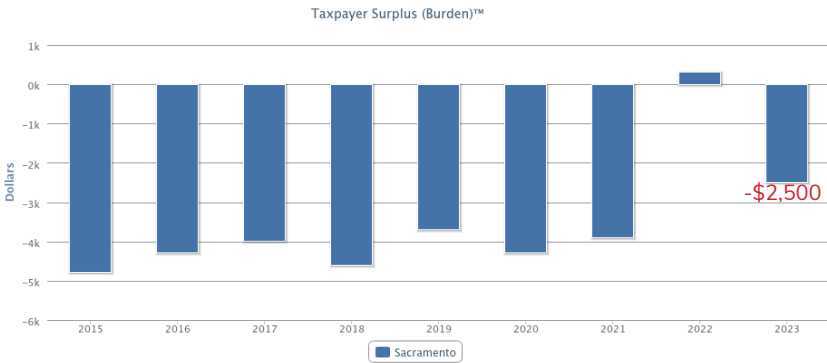


**\$515.4 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$2,500**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Sacramento’s financial condition worsened in 2023, transitioning from a Sunshine City to a Sinkhole City. Based upon our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city needed \$515.4 million to cover its bills. This led to a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$2,500, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting.



With CalPERS pension data for June 30, 2023, unavailable, the city relied on the previous year’s data, which showed investment losses. These losses played a key role in Sacramento’s shift from having sufficient funds to cover bills to requiring additional resources to meet its obligations. The increased financial strain highlights the impact of market fluctuations on long-term fiscal planning and the city’s ability to maintain essential services.

Rising pension costs increased police and fire expenses, driven by actuarial changes and lower-than-expected projected earnings. Growing pension liabilities add financial pressure, making it challenging to fund public safety while ensuring fiscal stability. Addressing these issues requires strategic planning to balance essential services with long-term pension obligations and maintain the city’s financial health.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF SACRAMENTO



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**40 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Sacramento had \$1.5 billion available to pay \$2 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$515.4 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$2,500 per taxpayer.
- Sacramento faces financial strain due to rising pension costs, including a decrease in the pension system’s investment values.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$5,693,595,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,705,154,000
Restricted Assets	-\$537,240,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,451,201,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,966,587,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$515,386,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$2,500

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,208,969,000
Other Liabilities	\$654,156,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,405,849,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,302,841,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$206,470,000
Total Bills	\$1,966,587,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b> Sacramento would need \$2,500 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.
<b>C</b>	

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.

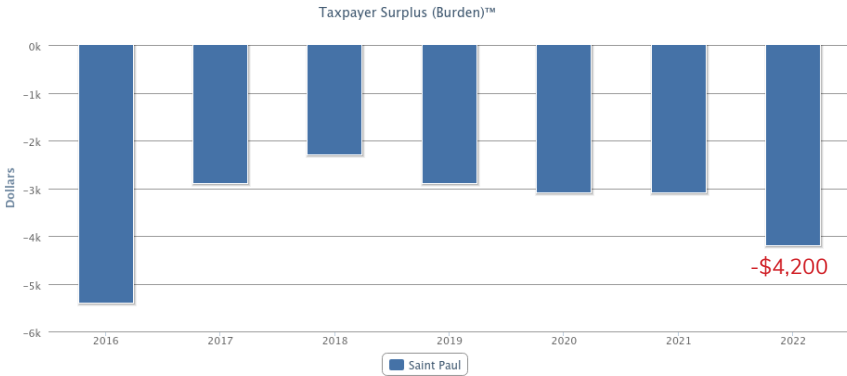


**\$516.6 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$4,200**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

As of December 15, 2024, Saint Paul had not released its fiscal year 2023 annual financial report. Based on our analysis of its 2022 financial report, the city needed \$516.6 million to cover its financial obligations, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden of \$4,200. This led to a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, classifying it as a Sinkhole City.



Saint Paul’s 2023 financial report was unavailable during this analysis, which therefore relied on 2022 data. Timely financial information is crucial for accurate assessments and effective decision-making. In 2022, the city’s financial condition weakened due to investment losses within the Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association pension system, significantly increasing the city’s net pension liability.

Despite financial pressures, Saint Paul remained a key economic hub, with employment reaching 172,872 in 2022 and projected job growth of 32.4% by 2040. However, the city’s money needed to pay bills increased by \$334 million to \$516.6 million. Moving forward, managing pension obligations while fostering investments in infrastructure, workforce development, and economic resilience will be critical to ensuring long-term financial stability and sustaining growth.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF SAINT PAUL



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**48 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Saint Paul had \$1 billion available to pay \$1.5 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$516.6 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$4,200 per taxpayer.
- Saint Paul’s 2022 financial challenges, including rising pension liabilities, highlight the importance of timely financial data for informed decision-making.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$3,728,011,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,477,357,000
Restricted Assets	-\$232,599,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,018,055,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,534,652,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$516,597,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$4,200

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$550,678,000
Other Liabilities	\$861,431,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$608,004,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$508,034,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$222,513,000
Total Bills	\$1,534,652,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<p><b>Bottom line:</b> Saint Paul would need \$4,200 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.</p>
<b>C</b>	

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.



**\$730.8 million**

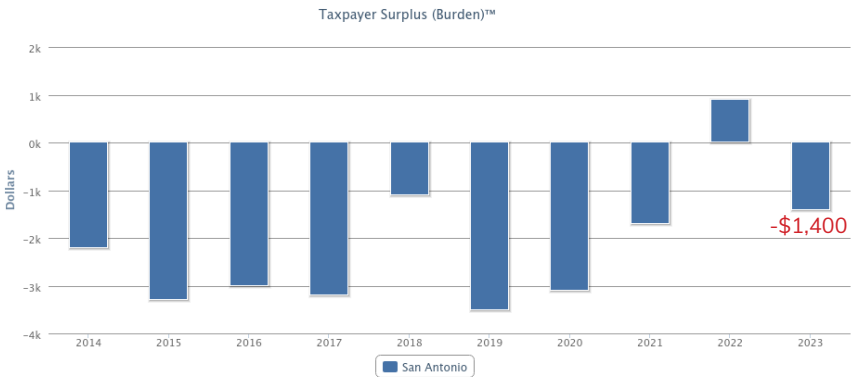
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,400**

TAXPAYER BURDEN™

San Antonio’s financial condition worsened in 2023, transitioning from a Sunshine City to a Sinkhole City. Based upon our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city needed \$730.8 million to cover its bills. This led to a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,400, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting.



San Antonio’s financial condition worsened despite reporting revenues exceeding expenses, primarily due to a \$1.2 billion increase in pension debt. The Fire and Police Pension Fund faced unrealized losses of 10.6% as of December 31, 2022, significantly contributing to the rise in liabilities. These pension-related challenges led to escalating public safety expenses, particularly from increases in unfunded pension liability.

Higher interest rates may impact property tax revenue. While home prices remained stable through 2023, with the median price reaching \$915,500 in August, home sales slowed significantly, with a 25.8% decrease from September 2022 to September 2023. This decline is attributed to rising interest rates, which have created unfavorable lending conditions. Fewer home sales can reduce the overall property tax base, affecting future tax revenue.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF SAN ANTONIO



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**31 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- San Antonio had \$7.9 billion available to pay \$8.6 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$730.8 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,400 per taxpayer.
- San Antonio's financial condition worsened with a \$1.2 billion pension debt increase, while home sales declined significantly.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$33,175,282,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$23,561,949,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,699,753,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$7,913,580,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$8,644,407,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$730,827,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$14,066,600,000
Other Liabilities	\$5,828,637,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$13,756,274,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,779,975,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$725,469,000
Total Bills	\$8,644,407,000

### Grade:

**C**


### Bottom line:

San Antonio would need \$1,400 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.

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.

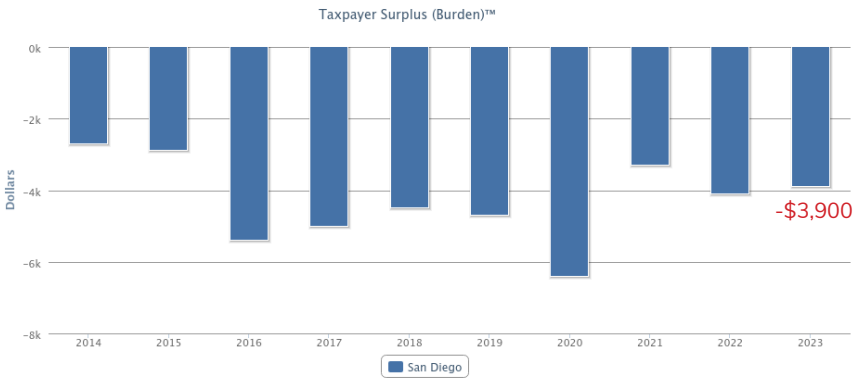


**\$2.1 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$3,900**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

San Diego’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 \$2.1 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$3,900, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



A city proposition passed in 2012 had closed San Diego’s pension plan to new hires, excluding police officers. However, in 2021, the San Diego Superior Court invalidated the measure, reopening the plan to new employees. This decision significantly increased the city’s pension liability by \$332.7 million in fiscal year 2023, further straining its finances.

In addition, property tax revenue remains the largest source of general revenue, accounting for 32.4% of the total general revenue. However, rising interest rates could lead to a slowdown in property sales, which may reduce the overall property tax base and, in turn, affect this critical income stream.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF SAN DIEGO



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**44 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- San Diego had \$3.8 billion available to pay \$5.9 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.1 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$3,900 per taxpayer.
- In 2021, a court reopened San Diego’s pension plan to new hires, increasing pension liabilities by \$332.7 million in 2023.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$19,535,211,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$13,470,554,000
Restricted Assets	-\$2,266,367,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,798,290,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$5,867,401,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$2,069,111,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$3,900

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,729,743,000
Other Liabilities	\$3,499,482,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$3,688,469,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,922,939,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$403,706,000
Total Bills	\$5,867,401,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<p><b>Bottom line:</b> San Diego would need \$3,900 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.</p>
<b>C</b>	

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.

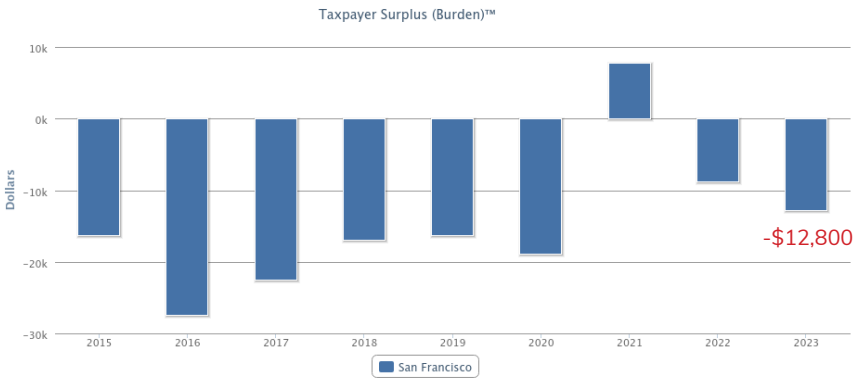


**\$4 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$12,800**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

San Francisco’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 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$12,800, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



San Francisco’s finances deteriorated by \$1.6 billion, mainly due to an increase in its net pension liability. The city’s pension system, after a difficult investment year in 2022, saw an unrealized 5.26% return on investments in 2023. Despite this gain and additional contributions, rising service costs and interest on pension liabilities led to an increase in the system’s liability by nearly \$1 billion.

San Francisco’s recovery from the pandemic was mixed. While international travel, hotel tax revenue, and sales tax revenues saw increases, domestic travel and real property transfer tax collections declined. This highlights ongoing economic challenges and the need for balanced financial management to address rising pension liabilities and economic volatility, ensuring long-term fiscal stability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF SAN FRANCISCO



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**64 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- San Francisco had \$14.4 billion available to pay \$18.4 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$4 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$12,800 per taxpayer.
- San Francisco’s finances deteriorated by \$1.6 billion due to rising pension liabilities, a mixed recovery, and ongoing challenges.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$51,522,801,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$33,007,897,000
Restricted Assets	-\$4,132,463,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$14,382,441,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$18,375,925,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$3,993,484,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$12,800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$22,208,751,000
Other Liabilities	\$10,247,847,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$22,014,599,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$4,013,165,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$3,920,761,000
Total Bills	\$18,375,925,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

San Francisco would need \$12,800 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.

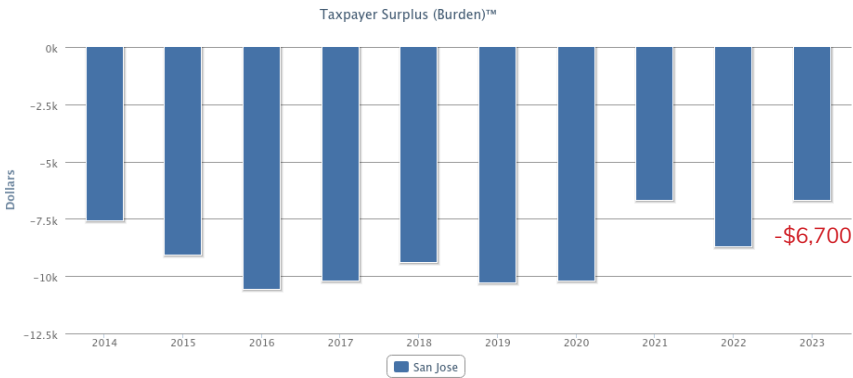


**\$2.5 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$6,700**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

San Jose’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$2.5 billion to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$6,700. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



San Jose’s pension plan debt decreased by \$111.8 million, primarily due to unrealized investment gains of 7.94%. Despite this reduction, the city continued to face challenges related to its primary revenue sources. Property tax revenue remained the largest contributor to the city’s general fund, accounting for 27% of governmental activities revenue.

The local real estate market has slowed, with homes staying on the market longer—an average of 24 days in 2022-2023 compared to 14 days in 2021-2022. Property sales also dropped 33.4% over eight consecutive months. This decline could negatively impact property tax revenue, highlighting the need for the city to diversify its revenue sources for fiscal stability.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF SAN JOSE



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**54 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- San Jose had \$2.5 billion available to pay \$5 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.5 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$6,700 per taxpayer.
- San Jose's pension debt decreased by \$111.8 million, while the decline in property sales may affect future revenue stability

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$11,312,497,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$7,386,343,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,422,061,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,504,093,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$4,989,030,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$2,484,937,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$6,700

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,753,147,000
Other Liabilities	\$877,604,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,510,525,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$3,096,365,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$772,439,000
Total Bills	\$4,989,030,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

San Jose would need \$6,700 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.

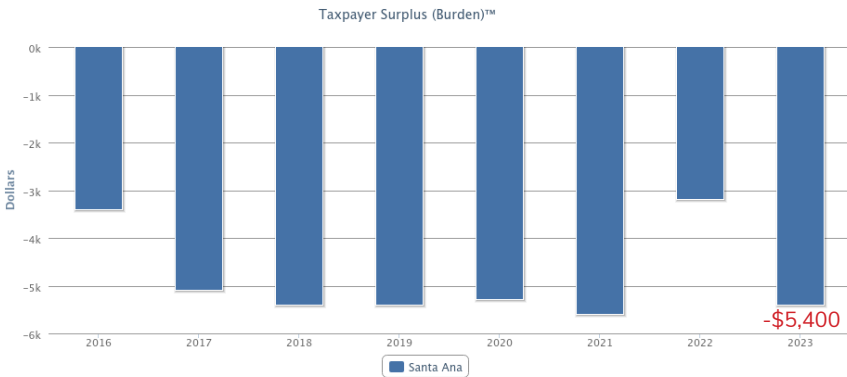


**\$651.2 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$5,400**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Santa Ana’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 \$651.2 million to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$5,400, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Santa Ana’s financial obligations grew due to an increase in its unfunded CalPERS pension liability. In 2022, the city issued bonds to reduce this burden, but investment losses and unfavorable actuarial assumptions offset much of the effort, raising the estimated cost to cover benefits. These factors led to a higher net pension liability, straining the city’s long-term financial outlook.

Police Department expenses rose by \$51 million due to pension liability adjustments, higher interest costs, and increased employee compensation. While these investments enhance public safety, they also create financial strain. To maintain fiscal stability, the city must balance rising obligations with sustainable revenue strategies and prudent financial planning to support essential services and long-term economic health.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF SANTA ANA



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**50 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Santa Ana had \$545.4 million available to pay \$1.2 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$651.2 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$5,400 per taxpayer.
- Santa Ana's pension liability grew despite bond contributions, straining finances. Rising police costs added pressure, requiring balanced revenue strategies for stability.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$2,044,224,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,269,384,000
Restricted Assets	-\$229,419,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$545,421,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,196,581,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$651,160,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$5,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$480,099,000
Other Liabilities	\$396,792,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$106,920,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$383,897,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$42,713,000
Total Bills	\$1,196,581,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Santa Ana would need \$5,400 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.

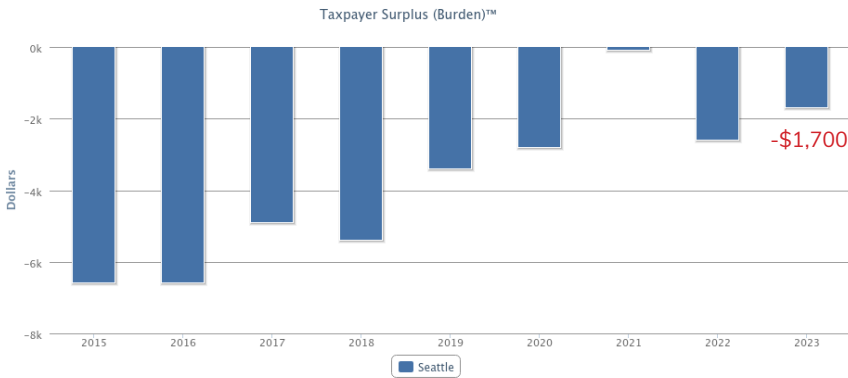


**\$518.5 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,700**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Seattle’s financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$518.5 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,700. This earned the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Seattle’s financial performance showed some positive results, with reported revenues exceeding expenses and the Seattle City Employees’ Retirement System experiencing unrealized gains of 12.30%, reducing its unfunded pension liability by \$171.2 million. These gains, however, were small in comparison to the \$684 million loss (10.8%) from 2022. Despite this, the city continues to face significant challenges in managing its pension liabilities.

Public safety is Seattle’s largest expense, totaling \$790.7 million in 2023 (15.2% of citywide expenses), reflecting the city’s commitment to essential services. However, rising costs, driven by higher regional inflation due to strong income growth and rapidly rising housing costs, are creating additional financial pressures. These challenges highlight the need for the city to implement careful financial management to ensure long-term fiscal health and service sustainability.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF SEATTLE



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**35 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Seattle had \$4.4 billion available to pay \$4.9 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$518.5 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,700 per taxpayer.
- Seattle’s finances showed growth with higher revenues and reduced pension liabilities, but public safety costs and inflation pressures remained challenges.

### The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$18,972,270,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$13,218,724,000
Restricted Assets	-\$1,371,857,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$4,381,689,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$4,900,183,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$518,494,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$1,700

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$5,784,376,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,693,465,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$5,336,504,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,217,793,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$541,053,000
Total Bills	\$4,900,183,000

#### Grade:

**C**

#### Bottom line:

Seattle would need \$1,700 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.

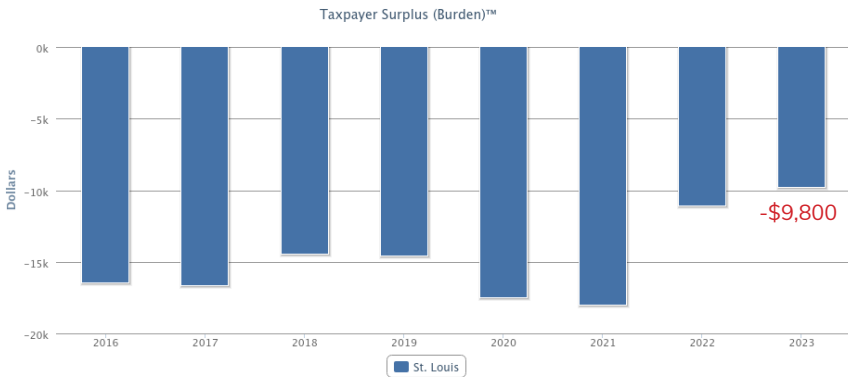


**\$967.5 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$9,800**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

St. Louis' financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$967.5 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$9,800. This earned the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Strong revenue performance, including a \$280 million Rams settlement and COVID relief funds, helped improve St. Louis' financial condition. This was despite a \$395 million rise in pension liabilities due to unrealized investment losses as of September 30, 2022, reflecting broader market downturns. With the city's fiscal year ending on September 30, 2023, using 2022 pension data contradicts the accounting principle that financial statements should reflect a snapshot of finances at a specific point in time.

Taxes made up 42.4% of the city's revenue, down from 58.5% last year, but overall tax revenue rose by \$46.9 million due to higher sales and payroll taxes. Wage growth and inflation drove this increase, reflecting a strong local economy. However, despite this revenue growth, St. Louis still faced a funding gap to cover its existing financial obligations.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF ST. LOUIS



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**59 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- St. Louis had \$2.1 billion available to pay \$3.1 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$967.5 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$9,800 per taxpayer.
- St. Louis' finances improved with strong revenues, but pension liabilities and a funding gap remained, despite economic growth and tax increases.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$5,027,368,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,628,270,000
Restricted Assets	-\$301,268,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$2,097,830,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$3,065,378,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$967,548,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$9,800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,522,516,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,218,289,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$868,770,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$748,767,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$444,576,000
Total Bills	\$3,065,378,000

### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

St. Louis would need \$9,800 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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF STOCKTON

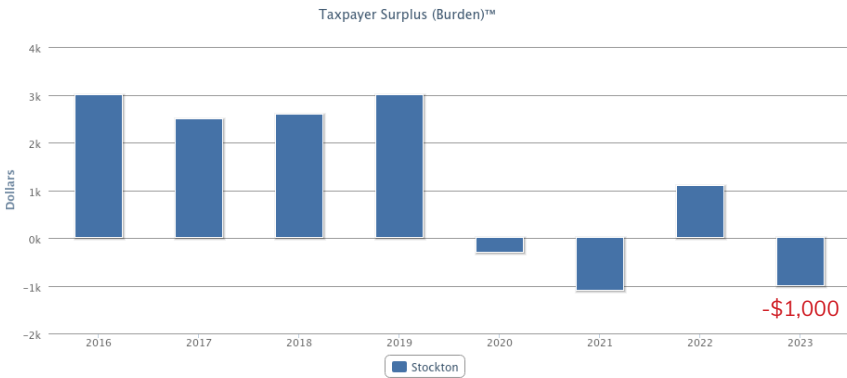



**\$117 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$1,000**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Stockton’s financial condition worsened in 2023, transitioning from a Sunshine City to a Sinkhole City. Based upon our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city needed \$117 million to cover its bills. This led to a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$1,000, earning the city a “C” grade from Truth in Accounting.



Stockton reported revenues exceeding expenses; however, its financial obligations grew due to a rise in its CalPERS unfunded pension liability. This increase stemmed from reported investment losses and a reduction in the discount rate used to estimate future pension costs, requiring the city to allocate more funds to cover long-term benefit obligations. Managing these growing liabilities will be crucial for Stockton’s fiscal stability.

Stockton’s unemployment rate rose from 5.7% in July 2022 to 7.2% in July 2023, signaling economic strain for residents and businesses. As the city faces rising financial and employment challenges, strategic planning will be crucial to support economic recovery, manage pension liabilities, and sustain essential public services for long-term fiscal stability.

The data included in this report is derived from Stockton’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.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF STOCKTON



**C**

FINANCIAL GRADE



**26 out of 75**

RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Stockton had \$717.1 million available to pay \$834.1 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$117 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$1,000 per taxpayer.
- Stockton's reported revenues exceeded expenses, but rising pension liabilities and increasing unemployment pose challenges for long-term fiscal stability.

### The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$2,965,573,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,727,393,000
Restricted Assets	-\$521,062,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$717,118,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$834,110,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$116,992,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$1,000

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$314,393,000
Other Liabilities	\$356,599,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$436,739,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$599,857,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$0
Total Bills	\$834,110,000


#### Grade:

**C**

#### Bottom line:

Stockton 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.

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.

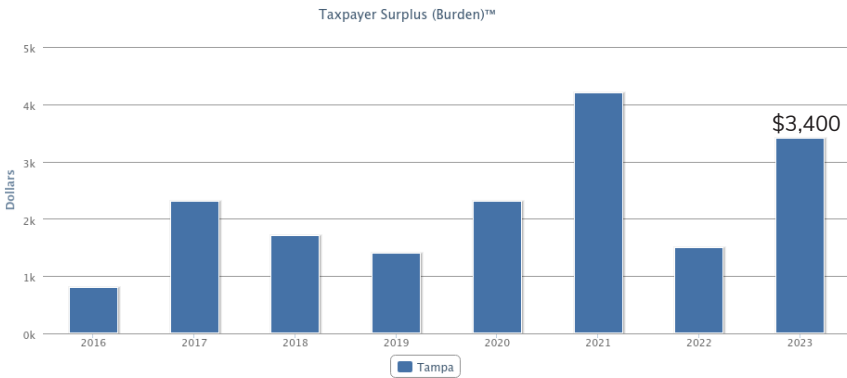


**\$505.5 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$3,400**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Tampa’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$505.5 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$3,400.



Tampa’s financial condition improved in 2023, mainly due to a reduction in its pension liability. After significant investment losses in 2022, the city’s pension plan investments rebounded, with the Firefighters and Police Officers’ Pension Trust Fund recovering from a 15.6% loss to a 17.1% gain. This recovery brought the fund’s unfunded pension liability closer to historical levels.

Additionally, property tax revenues rose by \$40.3 million, fueled by the continued economic growth in the Tampa Bay Area. The combination of rising revenues and improved pension stability strengthened the city’s fiscal outlook. However, sustaining long-term financial health will require strategic planning to balance future pension obligations, infrastructure investments, and essential public services.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF TAMPA



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**4 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Tampa had \$1.5 billion available to pay \$1 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$505.5 million surplus, which breaks down to \$3,400 per taxpayer.
- Tampa's financial health improved in 2023, driven by the recovery of pension investment values and a rise in property tax revenues.

## The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$4,880,938,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,285,598,000
Restricted Assets	-\$59,363,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,535,977,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,030,435,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$505,542,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$3,400

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,317,334,000
Other Liabilities	\$476,231,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,208,703,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$371,274,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$74,299,000
Total Bills	\$1,030,435,000

### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Tampa had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

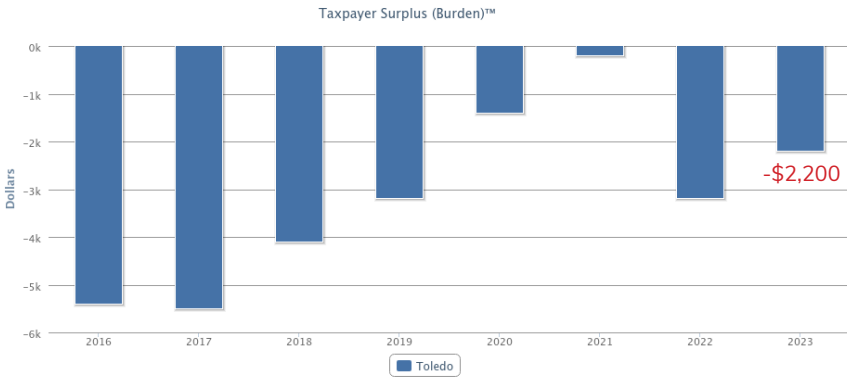


**\$222.6 million**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$2,200**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Toledo's financial condition showed some improvement. But based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, the city still needed \$222.6 million to cover its bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$2,200. This earned the city a "C" grade from Truth in Accounting, marking it as a Sinkhole City.



Toledo's financial condition showed notable improvement, with reported revenues exceeding expenses. However, the city still faced substantial outstanding liabilities. These obligations have been incurred, but officials have opted for gradual payments over time. While the city had estimated its unfunded pension liabilities, the exact amount required to cover promised benefits remained unclear. This challenge stemmed from volatile market conditions and fluctuating actuarial assumptions, such as mortality rates and salary increases.

In recent years, Toledo has experienced the creation of thousands of new jobs and over \$2 billion in capital investment, driving economic growth. While these developments contributed to the city's financial stability, failing to address long-term liabilities could ultimately burden residents with higher taxes to cover obligations from the past.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF TOLEDO



**C**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**38 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Toledo had \$723.7 million available to pay \$946.3 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$222.6 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$2,200 per taxpayer.
- Toledo’s financial condition improved with economic growth, but unresolved liabilities may burden residents with higher taxes in the future.

## The City’s Bills Exceeded Its Assets


Total Assets	\$3,005,832,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$2,085,468,000
Restricted Assets	-\$196,703,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$723,661,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$946,299,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$222,638,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this burden	\$2,200

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$478,551,000
Other Liabilities	\$884,554,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$954,419,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$514,304,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$23,309,000
Total Bills	\$946,299,000

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Bottom line:</b> Toledo would need \$2,200 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.
<b>C</b>	

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.

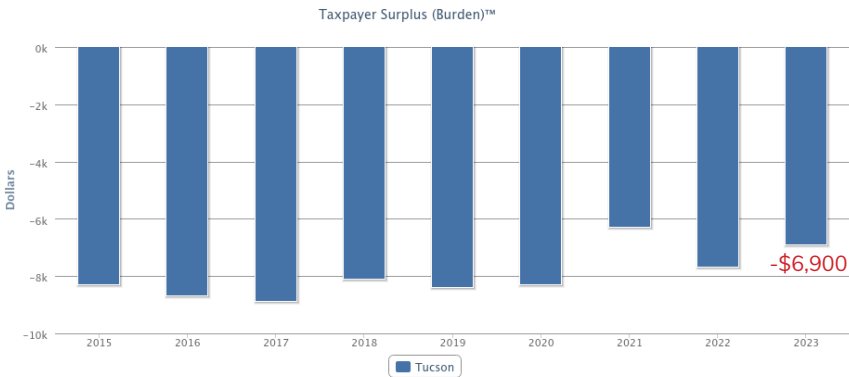


**\$1.4 billion**  
MONEY NEEDED TO PAY  
BILLS



**\$6,900**  
TAXPAYER BURDEN™

Tucson’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 \$1.4 billion to cover its bills. This created a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$6,900, earning the city a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting and solidifying its status as a Sinkhole City.



Tucson’s financial needs grew by \$26.8 million, primarily due to an increase in its unfunded pension liability, which rose to \$1.6 billion. This is the highest amount of liability since before 2015, with less than 50 cents set aside for every dollar of promised benefits. This growing pension burden significantly strained the city’s long-term fiscal health, presenting challenges for budget management and the ability to meet future obligations.

Tucson faced challenges securing external funding, with operating grants down \$87 million and capital grants falling by \$16.6 million. These declines in grant funding impacted the city’s ability to rely on outside financial support. As a result, Tucson may have to find alternative ways to balance its budget and meet financial obligations while addressing rising costs and reduced external assistance.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF TUCSON



**D**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**55 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Tucson had \$1.6 billion available to pay \$3 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.4 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$6,900 per taxpayer.
- Tucson's financial challenges included rising pension liabilities, reduced grant funding, and a need to find alternative solutions for budget balance.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$5,943,478,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,830,090,000
Restricted Assets	-\$505,308,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,608,080,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$2,963,182,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,355,102,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$6,900

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$451,021,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,382,120,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$638,184,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,592,972,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$175,253,000
Total Bills	\$2,963,182,000


### Grade:

**D**

### Bottom line:

Tucson would need \$6,900 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.

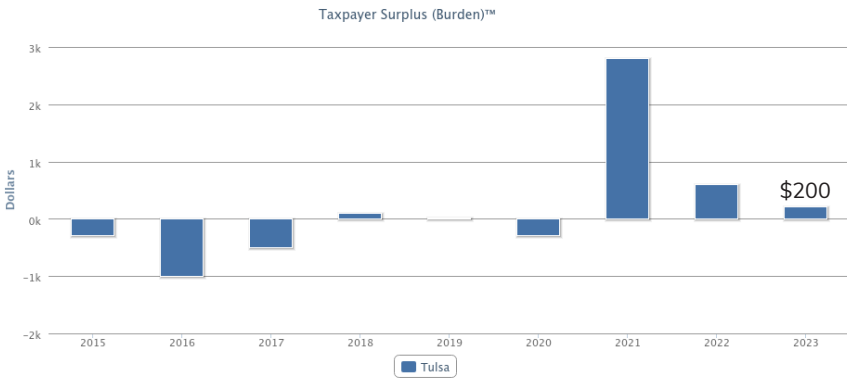


**\$30.1 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$200**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Tulsa’s financial condition worsened, but based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, it still had \$30.1 million available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$200. Even with this downturn, the city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting and maintained its status as a Sunshine City.



Despite a decline in Tulsa’s financial position, the city maintained \$30.1 million in available funds to meet its obligations. The deterioration was largely driven by a significant increase in Tulsa’s share of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension System, reflecting rising pension costs. Market fluctuations and actuarial adjustments contributed to higher liabilities, adding financial pressure to the city’s long-term stability.

Public safety expenses rose to \$274.4 million, a \$58.8 million (27.3%) increase, driven by higher salaries and pensions. While essential for community safety, these costs added financial strain. Tulsa must balance competitive compensation for first responders with sustainable fiscal planning to ensure long-term stability while maintaining critical public services amid rising financial challenges.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF TULSA



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**19 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Tulsa had \$1.344 billion available to pay \$1.314 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$30.1 million surplus, which breaks down to \$200 per taxpayer.
- Tulsa's financial position declined due to rising pension costs and increased public safety expenses, adding pressure to long-term stability.

## The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$6,722,835,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$4,774,818,000
Restricted Assets	-\$603,166,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,344,851,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,314,768,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$30,083,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$200

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,064,270,000
Other Liabilities	\$624,501,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$852,828,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$473,411,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$5,414,000
Total Bills	\$1,314,768,000


### Grade:

**B**

### Bottom line:

Tulsa had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

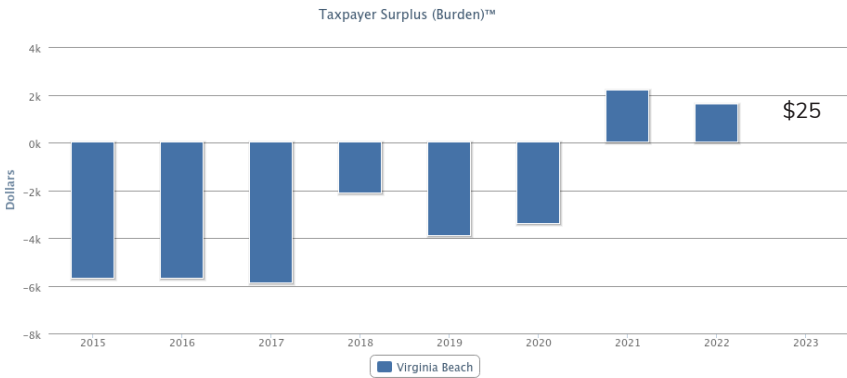


**\$4.3 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$25**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Virginia Beach’s financial condition worsened, but based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, it still had \$4.3 million available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$25. Even with this downturn, the city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting and maintained its status as a Sunshine City.



Virginia Beach’s financial condition declined due to rising pension liabilities, despite reported revenues exceeding expenses. The city’s finances were bolstered by a \$50 million increase in real estate tax revenue, which reached \$683.1 million. As the city’s largest revenue source, real estate taxes accounted for 42% of total revenues, helping to sustain essential services and obligations, including contributions to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

Virginia Beach’s rising net pension liability stems from higher estimated accrued benefits in VRS, driven by actuarial changes in inflation, healthcare trends, and mortality rates. While financially stable, the city must manage growing pension obligations to maintain long-term fiscal health. Strategic planning is essential to balancing revenue growth with liabilities while sustaining essential services and infrastructure investments.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF VIRGINIA BEACH



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**21 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Virginia Beach had \$1.734 billion available to pay \$1.729 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$4.3 million surplus, which breaks down to \$25 per taxpayer.
- Virginia Beach's financial condition declined due to rising pension liabilities, despite a \$50 million increase in real estate tax revenue.

### The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$7,520,436,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$5,569,359,000
Restricted Assets	-\$216,813,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,734,264,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$1,729,981,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$4,283,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$25

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,250,856,000
Other Liabilities	\$692,879,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,376,977,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$921,067,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$242,156,000
Total Bills	\$1,729,981,000


#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Virginia Beach had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

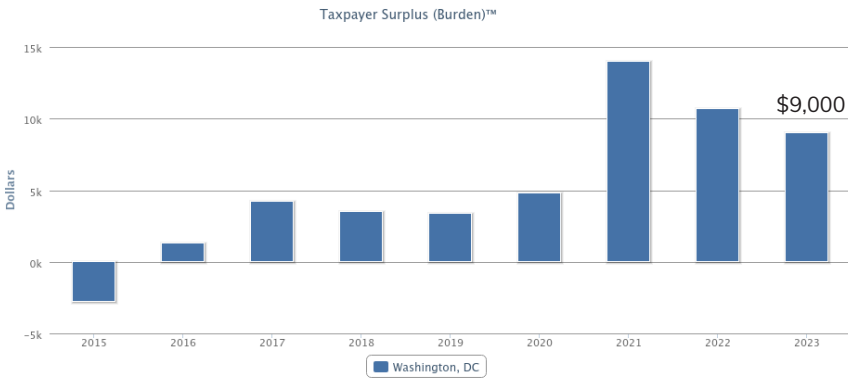


**\$2.5 billion**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$9,000**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Washington, D.C.’s financial condition worsened, but based on our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, it still had \$2.5 billion available to cover future bills, resulting in a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$9,000. Even with this downturn, the city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting and maintained its status as a Sunshine City.



Washington, D.C., saw a decline in its financial condition, with expenses surpassing revenues. The decrease in total revenues was primarily driven by lower charges for services and reduced deed and property taxes, reflecting a slowdown in sales and real estate financing within the District.

Washington, D.C., stands out for pre-funding retiree healthcare benefits, setting aside 91 cents for every dollar of obligations. This approach puts the city ahead of many others that do not pre-fund such commitments. In addition, the city’s pension systems are nearly 100% funded, which is highly advisable. This level of funding helps ensure that funds will be available to pay promised benefits and helps mitigate risks from investment volatility and uncertainties in estimating the amount needed to cover future benefit obligations.



# FINANCIAL STATE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**1 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Washington, D.C., had \$9.2 billion available to pay \$6.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$2.5 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$9,000 per taxpayer.
- Washington, D.C., pre-funds retiree healthcare benefits, but a revenue shortfall highlights the need for continued fiscal management and stability.

### The City's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$30,397,093,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$18,842,446,000
Restricted Assets	-\$2,351,695,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$9,202,952,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$6,660,985,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$2,541,967,000
Each taxpayer's share of this surplus	\$9,000

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$14,495,010,000
Other Liabilities	\$6,716,284,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$14,783,291,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$60,106,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$172,876,000
Total Bills	\$6,660,985,000


#### Grade:

**B**

#### Bottom line:

Washington, D.C., had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a "B" grade. A "B" grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

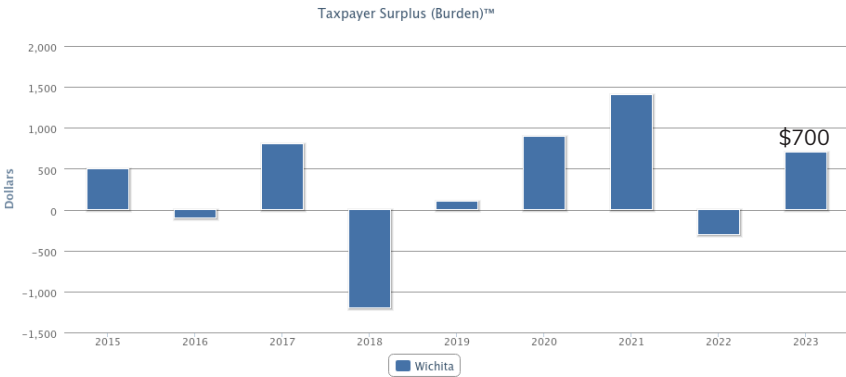


**\$103 million**  
MONEY AVAILABLE TO PAY  
FUTURE BILLS



**\$700**  
TAXPAYER SURPLUS™

Wichita’s financial condition continued to improve according to our analysis of its audited financial report for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its status as a Sunshine City. The city earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting, with \$103 million available to cover future bills and a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$700.



Wichita’s financial turnaround was driven by a slight decrease in the net pension liability, due to unrealized investment gains in 2023. However, despite these gains, the unfunded pension liability remained elevated compared to recent years, highlighting the ongoing challenge of managing long-term pension obligations. City officials must continue closely monitoring the defined benefit pension systems due to risks associated with dedicated investments and the uncertainties in estimating the funds required to cover benefits.

The city saw increases in property tax revenue and special assessments, reflecting a strong economy. While these revenues helped improve its fiscal health, strategic planning is needed to balance pension obligations, infrastructure investments, and public services. Long-term economic resilience will depend on careful resource management and sustainable financial policies.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF WICHITA



**B**  
FINANCIAL GRADE



**16 out of 75**  
RANKING

## FINANCIAL FACTS

- Wichita had \$737 million available to pay \$634 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$103 million surplus, which breaks down to \$700 per taxpayer.
- Wichita’s financial improvement stemmed from reduced a pension liability and rising property tax revenues, though pension obligations remain a challenge.

### The City’s Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$4,953,419,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$3,680,402,000
Restricted Assets	-\$536,020,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$736,997,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$633,981,000
Money available to pay future bills	\$103,016,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$700

### \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$1,254,128,000
Other Liabilities	\$774,717,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,665,576,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$232,039,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$38,673,000
Total Bills	\$633,981,000

**Grade:**

**B**

**Bottom line:**

Wichita had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999.

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.

# Recommendations

## Recommendations to citizens:

- Visit [www.data-z.org](http://www.data-z.org) to gain a clearer understanding of government finances.
- Visit [www.truthinaccounting.org](http://www.truthinaccounting.org) and sign our financial reporting petition.
- Advocate for honest and transparent budgeting by encouraging politicians to balance the budget truthfully.
- Hold elected officials accountable by advocating for the use of full accrual accounting methods (FACT) in the budgeting process.
- Urge your members of Congress to consider extending ERISA protections to taxpayers and beneficiaries in cities and states.

## Recommendations to elected officials:

- Support the use of FACT-based budgeting and accounting.
- Ensure the true debt of the city is calculated, including all pension and post-employment benefit obligations.
- Stop deferring expenses to the future, which burdens future generations with increasing debt, while claiming a balanced budget.
- Access your city's financial report and better understand its condition by visiting [www.data-z.org](http://www.data-z.org).
- Demand that city financial information be provided to taxpayers in a timely manner.
- Use the information from your city's previous annual report and this Financial State of the Cities report during the budget process.
- Consider adding ERISA-like protections for your taxpayers and beneficiaries.

# Recommendations

## Recommendations to government financial report preparers:

- Ensure financial reports are released within 100 days of the fiscal year-end.
- Use pension and OPEB data calculated as of the government's fiscal year-end in the annual financial report, even if it results in a delayed release.
- Make financial reports easily accessible online in a searchable format, such as XBRL.
- Present a net position that accurately reflects the government's financial health, without distortion from misleading or confusing deferred items.
- Require that city and retirement system annual reports undergo an independent audit by a certified public accounting firm.

## Recommendations to standard setters:

- Require governments to calculate their net pension and OPEB liabilities using measurement dates that align with the fiscal year-end of the government's financial report.
- Revise GASB 68, 75, and other relevant standards to eliminate the use of deferred outflows and inflows.
- Adopt FACT-based accounting for all governmental funds, including the general fund.

# Timely Cities Reports

The following table shows the number of days each city took to publish its annual financial report after the fiscal year-end (FYE). Cities that met the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) standard of reporting within 180 days are highlighted on this page.

City	Days issued after FYE
Columbus	88
Plano	97
Washington, DC	116
New York City	118
Pittsburgh	120
Portland	122
Raleigh	122
Charlotte	123
Nashville	123
Greensboro	123
Riverside	131
Houston	140
San Jose	140
Dallas	151
Fort Worth	152
Oklahoma City	158
Virginia Beach	160
Austin	164
Santa Ana	164
Tampa	165
Mesa	166

City	Days issued after FYE
Colorado Springs	166
Arlington	166
Albuquerque	167
Henderson	167
Phoenix	168
Lexington	168
Sacramento	172
Detroit	174
Tulsa	174
Atlanta	175
Anaheim	175
El Paso	176
Indianapolis	178
Fort Wayne	178
San Antonio	179
Seattle	179
Wichita	179
Cleveland	179
Chicago	180
Oakland	180

# Tardy Cities Reports

The following tables list cities that did not publish their financial reports within the GFOA's 180-day deadline.

City	Days issued after FYE
<b>Miami</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Toledo</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Chula Vista</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>San Diego</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>Memphis</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>Cincinnati</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Orlando</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Las Vegas</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Aurora</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Honolulu</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Tucson</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Denver</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Milwaukee</b>	<b>207</b>

City	Days issued after FYE
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Irvine</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Minneapolis</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Kansas City, MO</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>Louisville</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Long Beach</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Boston</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>Jacksonville</b>	<b>272</b>
<b>Omaha</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Saint Paul</b>	<b>396</b>
<b>Bakersfield</b>	<b>545</b>
<b>Anchorage</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# Appendix: Taxpayer Burden/Surplus

(in Billions)								
Ranking	City	Reported Assets*	Less: Capital Assets	Less: Assets Restricted By Law or Contract	Assets Available to Pay Bills	Less: Bills	Money Available (Needed) to Pay Bills	Taxpayer's Surplus (Burden)
45	Albuquerque, NM	\$6.1	(\$4.4)	(\$0.6)	\$1.1	(\$1.9)	(\$0.8)	(\$4,000)
49	Anaheim, CA	\$5.6	(\$3.8)	(\$0.4)	\$1.4	(\$2.1)	(\$0.7)	(\$5,100)
27	Anchorage, AK	\$8.3	(\$6.5)	(\$0.7)	\$1.1	(\$1.2)	(\$0.1)	(\$1,000)
12	Arlington, TX	\$5.1	(\$3.9)	(\$0.3)	\$0.9	(\$0.7)	\$0.21	\$1,500
41	Atlanta, GA	\$21.6	(\$15.3)	(\$3.1)	\$3.3	(\$3.8)	(\$0.5)	(\$3,060)
7	Aurora, CO	\$8.4	(\$7.1)	(\$0.3)	\$1.1	(\$0.6)	\$0.4	\$2,800
63	Austin, TX	\$21.8	(\$14.0)	(\$1.9)	\$5.9	(\$9.8)	(\$3.9)	(\$11,700)
14	Bakersfield, CA	\$3.0	(\$2.2)	(\$0.04)	\$0.7	(\$0.6)	\$0.1	\$800
68	Baltimore, MD	\$16.3	(\$11.1)	(\$1.1)	\$4.1	(\$7.3)	(\$3.2)	(\$14,400)
62	Boston, MA	\$8.9	(\$3.1)	(\$0.2)	\$5.6	(\$8.4)	(\$2.9)	(\$10,600)
13	Charlotte, NC	\$20.8	(\$16.9)	(\$0.9)	\$3.0	(\$2.7)	\$0.3	\$1,000
74	Chicago, IL	\$49.8	(\$30.6)	(\$6.1)	\$13.1	(\$54.1)	(\$40.9)	(\$40,600)
25	Chula Vista, CA	\$2.5	(\$1.7)	(\$0.3)	\$0.5	(\$0.6)	(\$0.1)	(\$600)
66	Cincinnati, OH	\$4.6	(\$2.7)	(\$0.8)	\$1.1	(\$2.7)	(\$1.6)	(\$13,400)
5	Cleveland, OH	\$7.4	(\$4.2)	(\$0.5)	\$2.7	(\$2.3)	\$0.4	\$2,900
15	Colorado Springs, CO	\$9.5	(\$7.1)	(\$0.1)	\$2.2	(\$2.1)	\$0.2	\$800
37	Columbus, OH	\$11.6	(\$8.4)	(\$0.3)	\$3.0	(\$3.7)	(\$0.7)	(\$2,000)
17	Corpus Christi, TX	\$4.2	(\$3.0)	(\$0.2)	\$0.9	(\$0.8)	\$0.0	\$400
65	Dallas, TX	\$18.5	(\$13.4)	(\$1.3)	\$3.9	(\$9.7)	(\$5.9)	(\$13,300)
22	Denver, CO	\$21.6	(\$12.2)	(\$2.2)	\$7.2	(\$7.2)	(\$0.0)	(\$15)
33	Detroit, MI	\$9.3	(\$4.2)	(\$0.7)	\$4.4	(\$4.8)	(\$0.4)	(\$1,600)
39	El Paso, TX	\$7.0	(\$4.5)	(\$0.3)	\$2.2	(\$2.7)	(\$0.5)	(\$2,300)
20	Fort Wayne, IN	\$3.5	(\$2.6)	(\$0.1)	\$0.8	(\$0.7)	\$0.0	\$200
47	Fort Worth, TX	\$11.3	(\$7.7)	(\$0.4)	\$3.2	(\$4.6)	(\$1.4)	(\$4,100)
9	Fresno, CA	\$4.4	(\$2.8)	(\$0.4)	\$1.2	(\$0.7)	\$0.6	\$2,700
29	Greensboro, NC	\$2.7	(\$1.9)	(\$0.2)	\$0.5	(\$0.6)	(\$0.1)	(\$1,100)
30	Henderson, NV	\$4.3	(\$3.2)	(\$0.3)	\$0.8	(\$1.0)	(\$0.2)	(\$1,200)
71	Honolulu, HI	\$20.2	(\$15.0)	(\$1.3)	\$3.9	(\$6.1)	(\$2.2)	(\$17,400)
52	Houston, TX	\$32.5	(\$23.0)	(\$2.9)	\$6.5	(\$11.0)	(\$4.5)	(\$5,700)
43	Indianapolis, IN	\$4.1	(\$2.0)	(\$0.5)	\$1.6	(\$2.7)	(\$1.1)	(\$3,600)
3	Irvine, CA	\$4.4	(\$2.0)	(\$1.3)	\$1.1	(\$0.6)	\$0.5	\$4,200
60	Jacksonville, FL	\$15.8	(\$10.6)	(\$0.6)	\$4.6	(\$8.2)	(\$3.6)	(\$9,800)
57	Kansas City, MO	\$12.0	(\$8.6)	(\$0.9)	\$2.4	(\$4.0)	(\$1.6)	(\$8,800)
23	Las Vegas, NV	\$7.0	(\$5.2)	(\$0.3)	\$1.4	(\$1.6)	(\$0.1)	(\$500)
51	Lexington, KY	\$2.9	(\$2.0)	(\$0.1)	\$0.7	(\$1.3)	(\$0.6)	(\$5,500)
2	Lincoln, NE	\$4.5	(\$3.3)	(\$0.3)	\$1.0	(\$0.5)	\$0.5	\$4,300
36	Long Beach, CA	\$10.5	(\$6.3)	(\$1.0)	\$3.2	(\$3.5)	(\$0.30)	(\$1,800)
28	Los Angeles, CA	\$86.9	(\$59.6)	(\$6.9)	\$20.3	(\$21.8)	(\$1.5)	(\$1,000)



# Appendix: Taxpayer Burden/Surplus

<i>(in Billions)</i>								
Ranking	City	Reported Assets*	Less: Capital Assets	Less: Assets Restricted By Law or Contract	Assets Available to Pay Bills	Less: Bills	Money Available (Needed) to Pay Bills	Taxpayer's Surplus (Burden)
10	Louisville, KY	\$9.3	(\$6.3)	(\$0.4)	\$2.6	(\$2.1)	\$0.5	\$2,600
58	Memphis, TN	\$10.2	(\$6.5)	(\$0.9)	\$2.8	(\$4.8)	(\$2.0)	(\$9,100)
46	Mesa, AZ	\$5.3	(\$3.1)	(\$0.5)	\$1.7	(\$2.4)	(\$0.7)	(\$4,000)
67	Miami, FL	\$2.7	(\$1.2)	(\$0.5)	\$1.0	(\$3.2)	(\$2.3)	(\$13,400)
69	Milwaukee, WI	\$4.3	(\$2.7)	(\$0.3)	\$1.3	(\$4.7)	(\$3.3)	(\$15,100)
24	Minneapolis, MN	\$5.5	(\$3.8)	(\$0.4)	\$1.2	(\$1.3)	(\$0.09)	(\$600)
32	Nashville, TN	\$20.2	(\$12.7)	(\$1.1)	\$6.4	(\$6.8)	(\$0.4)	(\$1,600)
72	New Orleans, LA	\$10.8	(\$8.5)	(\$0.9)	\$1.5	(\$3.5)	(\$2.1)	(\$18,300)
75	New York City, NY	\$239.6	(\$135.9)	(\$11.3)	\$92.4	(\$276.6)	(\$184.2)	(\$56,800)
56	Oakland, CA	\$8.1	(\$3.6)	(\$0.9)	\$3.7	(\$5.0)	(\$1.3)	(\$7,800)
6	Oklahoma City, OK	\$9.0	(\$5.6)	(\$0.9)	\$2.5	(\$1.8)	\$0.6	\$2,900
53	Omaha, NE	\$4.7	(\$3.4)	(\$0.3)	\$1.0	(\$2.1)	(\$1.1)	(\$6,400)
18	Orlando, FL	\$4.2	(\$2.7)	(\$0.4)	\$1.1	(\$1.1)	\$0.0	\$300
70	Philadelphia, PA	\$27.9	(\$14.7)	(\$2.9)	\$10.3	(\$20.6)	(\$10.3)	(\$17,300)
42	Phoenix, AZ	\$23.0	(\$14.2)	(\$2.0)	\$6.8	(\$8.7)	(\$1.9)	(\$3,200)
61	Pittsburgh, PA	\$2.9	(\$1.7)	(\$0.3)	\$1.0	(\$2.2)	(\$1.2)	(\$10,500)
11	Plano, TX	\$2.7	(\$2.0)	(\$0.1)	\$0.7	(\$0.5)	\$0.2	\$2,300
73	Portland, OR	\$12.0	(\$8.2)	(\$1.6)	\$2.1	(\$6.6)	(\$4.5)	(\$18,600)
8	Raleigh, NC	\$5.9	(\$4.1)	(\$0.5)	\$1.4	(\$0.9)	\$0.5	\$2,700
34	Riverside, CA	\$4.8	(\$3.3)	(\$0.3)	\$1.2	(\$1.4)	(\$0.2)	(\$1,700)
40	Sacramento, CA	\$5.7	(\$3.7)	(\$0.5)	\$1.5	(\$2.0)	(\$0.5)	(\$2,500)
48	Saint Paul, MN	\$3.7	(\$2.5)	(\$0.2)	\$1.0	(\$1.5)	(\$0.5)	(\$4,200)
31	San Antonio, TX	\$33.2	(\$23.6)	(\$1.7)	\$7.9	(\$8.6)	(\$0.7)	(\$1,400)
44	San Diego, CA	\$19.5	(\$13.5)	(\$2.3)	\$3.8	(\$5.9)	(\$2.1)	(\$3,900)
64	San Francisco, CA	\$51.5	(\$33.0)	(\$4.1)	\$14.4	(\$18.4)	(\$4.0)	(\$12,800)
54	San Jose, CA	\$11.3	(\$7.4)	(\$1.4)	\$2.5	(\$5.0)	(\$2.5)	(\$6,700)
50	Santa Ana, CA	\$2.0	(\$1.3)	(\$0.2)	\$0.5	(\$1.2)	(\$0.7)	(\$5,400)
35	Seattle, WA	\$19.0	(\$13.2)	(\$1.4)	\$4.4	(\$4.9)	(\$0.5)	(\$1,700)
59	St. Louis, MO	\$5.0	(\$2.6)	(\$0.3)	\$2.1	(\$3.1)	(\$1.0)	(\$9,800)
26	Stockton, CA	\$3.0	(\$1.7)	(\$0.5)	\$0.7	(\$0.8)	(\$0.1)	(\$1,000)
4	Tampa, FL	\$4.9	(\$3.3)	(\$0.1)	\$1.5	(\$1.0)	\$0.5	\$3,400
38	Toledo, OH	\$3.0	(\$2.1)	(\$0.2)	\$0.7	(\$0.9)	(\$0.2)	(\$2,200)
55	Tucson, AZ	\$5.9	(\$3.8)	(\$0.5)	\$1.6	(\$3.0)	(\$1.4)	(\$6,900)
19	Tulsa, OK	\$6.7	(\$4.8)	(\$0.6)	\$1.3	(\$1.3)	\$0.0	\$2,700
21	Virginia Beach, VA	\$7.5	(\$5.6)	(\$0.2)	\$1.7	(\$1.7)	\$0.0	\$25
1	Washington, DC	\$30.4	(\$18.8)	(\$2.4)	\$9.2	(\$6.7)	\$2.5	\$9,000
16	Wichita, KS	\$5.0	(\$3.7)	(\$0.5)	\$0.7	(\$0.6)	\$0.10	\$700
<b>All Cities</b>		<b>\$1,129.1</b>	<b>(\$725.1)</b>	<b>(\$83.1)</b>	<b>\$321.0</b>	<b>(\$621.7)</b>	<b>(\$300.7)</b>	

# Appendix: Bills

(in Billions)						
City	State Bonds	Other Liabilities	Less: Debt Related to Capital Assets	Unfunded Pension Benefits	Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	Total Bills
Albuquerque, NM	\$0.9	\$0.5	\$0.7	\$1.0	\$0.1	\$1.9
Anaheim, CA	\$1.9	\$0.6	\$1.5	\$0.9	\$0.1	\$2.1
Anchorage, AK	\$1.6	\$1.1	\$2.1	\$0.9	(\$0.2)	\$1.2
Arlington, TX	\$1.6	\$0.2	\$1.3	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.7
Atlanta, GA	\$7.8	\$1.6	\$7.9	\$1.5	\$0.8	\$3.8
Aurora, CO	\$0.7	\$0.6	\$0.9	\$0.2	\$0.02	\$0.6
Austin, TX	\$8.0	\$2.4	\$7.8	\$4.0	\$3.4	\$9.8
Bakersfield, CA	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$0.6
Baltimore, MD	\$4.5	\$4.2	\$3.5	\$2.0	\$0.0	\$7.3
Boston, MA	\$1.9	\$3.7	\$1.8	\$2.2	\$2.4	\$8.4
Charlotte, NC	\$4.1	\$2.7	\$5.5	\$1.1	\$0.2	\$2.7
Chicago, IL	\$29.1	\$12.5	\$26.7	\$37.2	\$2.0	\$54.1
Chula Vista, CA	\$0.5	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.03	\$0.6
Cincinnati, OH	\$1.1	\$0.7	\$1.0	\$1.9	(\$0.1)	\$2.7
Cleveland, OH	\$1.8	\$0.9	\$1.6	\$1.1	\$0.0	\$2.3
Colorado Springs, CO	\$3.3	\$0.9	\$2.7	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$2.1
Columbus, OH	\$5.2	\$0.8	\$4.5	\$2.0	\$0.1	\$3.7
Corpus Christi, TX	\$1.5	\$0.4	\$1.4	\$0.3	\$0.01	\$0.8
Dallas, TX	\$6.6	\$2.8	\$6.4	\$6.5	\$0.2	\$9.7
Denver, CO	\$10.3	\$3.6	\$9.0	\$2.0	\$0.2	\$7.2
Detroit, MI	\$2.4	\$2.6	\$1.9	\$1.6	\$0.0	\$4.8
El Paso, TX	\$1.9	\$2.3	\$2.5	\$0.8	\$0.1	\$2.7
Fort Wayne, IN	\$0.4	\$0.9	\$1.0	\$0.3	\$0.2	\$0.7
Fort Worth, TX	\$2.2	\$1.4	\$2.1	\$2.5	\$0.5	\$4.6
Fresno, CA	\$0.5	\$1.2	\$0.8	(\$0.3)	\$0.1	\$0.7
Greensboro, NC	\$0.9	\$0.3	\$0.8	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.6
Henderson, NV	\$0.4	\$0.2	\$0.3	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$1.0
Honolulu, HI	\$7.2	\$1.9	\$7.0	\$2.7	\$1.4	\$6.1
Houston, TX	\$14.0	\$5.5	\$12.6	\$2.4	\$1.8	\$11.0
Indianapolis, IN	\$2.0	\$0.6	\$1.0	\$0.8	\$0.3	\$2.7
Irvine, CA	\$0.3	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.2	\$0.01	\$0.6
Jacksonville, FL	\$5.3	\$2.6	\$5.2	\$5.1	\$0.4	\$8.2
Kansas City, MO	\$4.7	\$1.8	\$3.8	\$1.2	\$0.1	\$1.0
Las Vegas, NV	\$0.6	\$0.4	\$0.6	\$1.1	\$0.1	\$1.6
Lexington, KY	\$0.8	\$0.4	\$0.8	\$0.6	\$0.2	\$1.3
Lincoln, NE	\$1.2	\$0.4	\$1.2	\$0.1	\$0.02	\$0.5
Long Beach, CA	\$1.7	\$2.4	\$2.1	\$1.4	\$0.05	\$3.5
Los Angeles, CA	\$38.8	\$11.2	\$36.9	\$8.3	\$0.5	\$21.8

# Appendix: Bills

(in Billions)						
City	State Bonds	Other Liabilities	Less: Debt Related to Capital Assets	Unfunded Pension Benefits	Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	Total Bills
Louisville, KY	\$3.8	\$0.8	\$3.5	\$1.1	\$0.0	\$2.1
Memphis, TN	\$3.0	\$2.1	\$2.0	\$0.8	\$0.9	\$4.8
Mesa, AZ	\$1.8	\$0.6	\$1.8	\$1.0	\$0.8	\$2.4
Miami, FL	\$0.5	\$0.9	\$0.4	\$1.4	\$0.8	\$3.2
Milwaukee, WI	\$1.4	\$1.3	\$0.9	\$1.7	\$1.1	\$4.7
Minneapolis, MN	\$0.8	\$0.6	\$0.8	\$0.6	\$0.12	\$1.3
Nashville, TN	\$8.6	\$3.8	\$8.4	\$0.3	\$2.4	\$6.8
New Orleans, LA	\$2.8	\$1.9	\$3.1	\$1.5	\$0.4	\$3.5
New York City, NY	\$150.9	\$109.1	\$128.4	\$43.3	\$101.7	\$276.6
Oakland, CA	\$1.5	\$2.0	\$1.0	\$2.1	\$0.6	\$5.0
Oklahoma City, OK	\$1.9	\$1.2	\$2.0	\$0.4	\$0.3	\$1.8
Omaha, NE	\$1.1	\$0.9	\$1.4	\$1.0	\$0.5	\$2.1
Orlando, FL	\$0.7	\$0.4	\$0.7	\$0.4	\$0.2	\$1.1
Philadelphia, PA	\$10.0	\$10.6	\$10.9	\$8.6	\$2.3	\$20.6
Phoenix, AZ	\$6.6	\$2.9	\$6.1	\$5.3	\$0.1	\$8.7
Pittsburgh, PA	\$1.9	\$0.5	\$1.3	\$0.8	\$0.3	\$2.2
Plano, TX	\$0.7	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$0.2	\$0.02	\$0.5
Portland, OR	\$3.1	\$1.1	\$2.5	\$4.8	\$0.1	\$6.6
Raleigh, NC	\$1.2	\$0.9	\$1.7	\$0.3	\$0.2	\$0.9
Riverside, CA	\$1.7	\$0.7	\$1.3	\$0.3	\$0.05	\$1.4
Sacramento, CA	\$1.2	\$0.7	\$1.4	\$1.3	\$0.2	\$2.0
Saint Paul, MN	\$0.6	\$0.9	\$0.6	\$0.5	\$0.2	\$1.5
San Antonio, TX	\$14.1	\$5.8	\$13.8	\$1.8	\$0.7	\$8.6
San Diego, CA	\$2.7	\$3.5	\$3.7	\$2.9	\$0.4	\$5.9
San Francisco, CA	\$22.2	\$10.2	\$22.0	\$4.0	\$3.9	\$18.4
San Jose, CA	\$2.8	\$0.9	\$2.5	\$3.1	\$0.8	\$5.0
Santa Ana, CA	\$0.48	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$0.4	\$0.0	\$1.2
Seattle, WA	\$5.8	\$2.7	\$5.3	\$1.2	\$0.5	\$4.9
St. Louis, MO	\$1.5	\$1.2	\$0.9	\$0.7	\$0.4	\$3.1
Stockton, CA	\$0.3	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.6	\$0.0	\$0.8
Tampa, FL	\$1.3	\$0.5	\$1.2	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$1.0
Toledo, OH	\$0.5	\$0.9	\$1.0	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.9
Tucson, AZ	\$0.5	\$1.4	\$0.6	\$1.6	\$0.2	\$3.0
Tulsa, OK	\$1.1	\$0.6	\$0.9	\$0.5	\$0.01	\$1.3
Virginia Beach, VA	\$1.3	\$0.7	\$1.4	\$0.9	\$0.2	\$1.7
Washington, DC	\$14.5	\$6.7	\$14.8	\$0.1	\$0.17	\$6.7
Wichita, KS	\$1.3	\$0.8	\$1.7	\$0.2	\$0.04	\$0.6
<b>All Cities</b>	<b>\$453.6</b>	<b>\$257.6</b>	<b>\$418.0</b>	<b>\$192.1</b>	<b>\$136.4</b>	<b>\$621.7</b>

# Appendix: Retirement Liabilities

City	<i>(in Billions)</i>		
	Unfunded Pension Benefits	Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	Total Unfunded Retirement Benefits
Albuquerque, NM	\$1.0	\$0.1	\$1.2
Anaheim, CA	\$0.9	\$0.1	\$1.0
Anchorage, AK	\$0.9	(\$0.2)	\$0.7
Arlington, TX	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
Atlanta, GA	\$1.5	\$0.8	\$2.3
Aurora, CO	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.2
Austin, TX	\$4.0	\$3.4	\$7.3
Bakersfield, CA	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$0.3
Baltimore, MD	\$2.0	\$0.0	\$2.0
Boston, MA	\$2.2	\$2.4	\$4.6
Charlotte, NC	\$1.1	\$0.2	\$1.4
Chicago, IL	\$37.2	\$2.0	\$39.2
Chula Vista, CA	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.1
Cincinnati, OH	\$1.9	(\$0.1)	\$1.8
Cleveland, OH	\$1.1	\$0.0	\$1.1
Colorado Springs, CO	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$0.5
Columbus, OH	\$2.0	\$0.1	\$2.1
Corpus Christi, TX	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$0.3
Dallas, TX	\$6.5	\$0.2	\$6.7
Denver, CO	\$2.0	\$0.2	\$2.2
Detroit, MI	\$1.6	\$0.0	\$1.6
El Paso, TX	\$0.8	\$0.1	\$0.9
Fort Wayne, IN	\$0.3	\$0.2	\$0.4
Fort Worth, TX	\$2.5	\$0.5	\$3.0
Fresno, CA	(\$0.3)	\$0.1	(\$0.2)
Greensboro, NC	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.3
Henderson, NV	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.6
Honolulu, HI	\$2.7	\$1.4	\$4.1
Houston, TX	\$2.4	\$1.8	\$4.1
Indianapolis, IN	\$0.8	\$0.3	\$1.1
Irvine, CA	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.2
Jacksonville, FL	\$5.1	\$0.4	\$5.5
Kansas City, MO	\$1.2	\$0.1	\$1.4
Las Vegas, NV	\$1.1	\$0.1	\$1.2
Lexington, KY	\$0.6	\$0.2	\$0.9
Lincoln, NE	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.1
Long Beach, CA	\$1.4	\$0.0	\$1.5
Los Angeles, CA	\$8.3	\$0.5	\$8.8

# Appendix: Retirement Liabilities

	<i>(in Billions)</i>		
City	Unfunded Pension Benefits	Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	Total Unfunded Retirement Benefits
Louisville, KY	\$1.1	\$0.0	\$1.1
Memphis, TN	\$0.8	\$0.9	\$1.7
Mesa, AZ	\$1.0	\$0.8	\$1.8
Miami, FL	\$1.4	\$0.8	\$2.3
Milwaukee, WI	\$1.7	\$1.1	\$2.8
Minneapolis, MN	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.7
Nashville, TN	\$0.3	\$2.4	\$2.7
New Orleans, LA	\$1.5	\$0.4	\$1.9
New York City, NY	\$43.3	\$101.7	\$145.0
Oakland, CA	\$2.1	\$0.6	\$2.6
Oklahoma City, OK	\$0.4	\$0.3	\$0.7
Omaha, NE	\$1.0	\$0.5	\$1.6
Orlando, FL	\$0.4	\$0.2	\$0.7
Philadelphia, PA	\$8.6	\$2.3	\$10.9
Phoenix, AZ	\$5.3	\$0.1	\$5.3
Pittsburgh, PA	\$0.8	\$0.3	\$1.1
Plano, TX	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.2
Portland, OR	\$4.8	\$0.1	\$4.9
Raleigh, NC	\$0.3	\$0.2	\$0.5
Riverside, CA	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$0.3
Sacramento, CA	\$1.3	\$0.2	\$1.5
Saint Paul, MN	\$0.5	\$0.2	\$0.7
San Antonio, TX	\$1.8	\$0.7	\$2.5
San Diego, CA	\$2.9	\$0.4	\$3.3
San Francisco, CA	\$4.0	\$3.9	\$7.9
San Jose, CA	\$3.1	\$0.8	\$3.9
Santa Ana, CA	\$0.4	\$0.0	\$0.4
Seattle, WA	\$1.2	\$0.5	\$1.8
St. Louis, MO	\$0.7	\$0.4	\$1.2
Stockton, CA	\$0.6	\$0.0	\$0.6
Tampa, FL	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$0.4
Toledo, OH	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.5
Tucson, AZ	\$1.6	\$0.2	\$1.8
Tulsa, OK	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.5
Virginia Beach, VA	\$0.9	\$0.2	\$1.2
Washington, DC	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.2
Wichita, KS	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.3
<b>All Cities</b>	<b>\$192.1</b>	<b>\$136.4</b>	<b>\$328.2</b>

# Acknowledgements

---

Thank you to the interns and Truth in Accounting team members who made this research report possible:

Sheila Weinberg, *Founder & CEO*

Christine Kuglin, *Truth in Accounting Project Director at the University of Denver*

Grayson Askew (Eastern Washington University intern)

Shawn Cruce

Karen Danford

Sajit Ghani (intern)

Safiatou Guiro (intern)

Courtney Houtz

Bright Ikwetie (University of Denver intern)

Sam Kormi (Eastern Washington University intern)

Justin Lefkowitz (intern)

Wendi Lougy (intern)

Ajitha Kumar Kasi Murali (University of Denver intern)

Mausam Parajuli (University of Denver intern)

Eric Piatek (DePaul University intern)

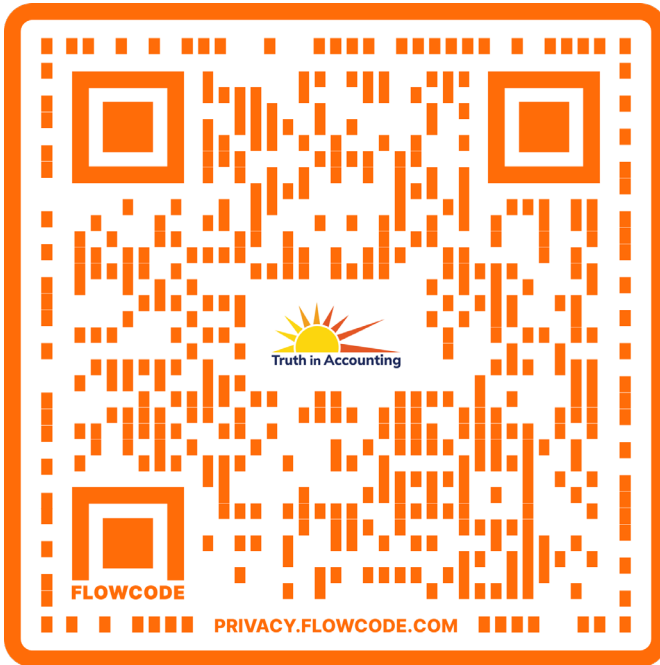
Judi Willard

Grace Zhang

# Support Our Work

**Your support fuels our mission to expose the true cost of government by advancing higher standards in accounting and financial reporting.**

**Donate!**



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera and follow the link to donate!



**Daniels College of Business**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

[www.truthinaccounting.org](http://www.truthinaccounting.org)

[www.data-z.org](http://www.data-z.org)

[@truthinacct](https://twitter.com/truthinacct)