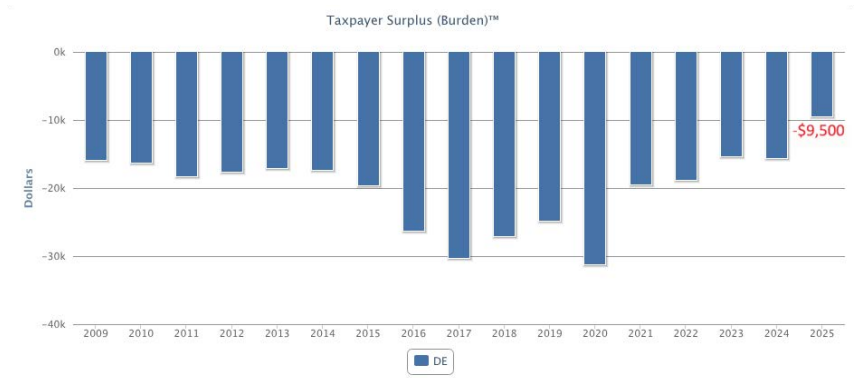
DELAWARE'S FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Money Needed to Pay Bills	**$3.6 billion**	Ranking (Out of 50)	**41**
Taxpayer Burden™	**$9,500**	Financial Grade	**D**

In 2025, Delaware's financial situation improved, but it still didn't have enough money to pay all of its bills and needed $3.6 billion to fill the gap. That means each taxpayer would have to contribute $9,500 to help pay off the state's debt. As a result, Delaware earned a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting.

Delaware's financial condition improved largely because its reported retiree healthcare obligation decreased. However, the promised retiree healthcare benefits did not actually decrease. Instead, actuaries increased the discount rate used to calculate the present value of those future benefits. A higher discount rate lowers the reported value of benefits that will be paid in the future, making the obligation appear smaller today even though the benefits promised to retirees have not changed.



Delaware received approximately $4.4 billion in federal grants, which represented 29 percent of its revenue. The federal government mandates that entities receiving significant federal funds undergo a Single Audit. These audits are intended to be the taxpayers' first line of defense against potential fraud and abuse. Delaware's 2025 audit found unresolved unemployment insurance accounting problems, missing federal grant reporting, weak payroll documentation, poor records supporting whether applicants were eligible for benefits, and documentation gaps tied to a $22 million library contract.

The data in this report is derived from Delaware's audited 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and its retirement systems' reports. To explore prior years or compare financial, demographic, and economic data across other states and cities, visit Data-Z.org.

DELAWARE'S FINANCIAL FACTS

FACT #1:
Delaware had $8.7 billion available to pay $12.4 billion worth of bills.

FACT #2:
The outcome was a $3.6 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of $9,500 per taxpayer.

FACT #3:
Delaware received 29 percent of its revenue from federal grants and was required to undergo a Single Audit, which identified potential fraud and abuse.

THE STATE'S BILLS EXCEEDED ITS ASSETS

	$24,261,693,000	Total Assets
−	$12,444,643,000	Minus: Capital Assets
−	$3,101,003,000	Minus: Restricted Assets
=	$8,716,047,000	Assets Available to Pay Bills
−	$12,358,471,000	Minus: Total Bills*
=	$3,642,424,000	Money Needed to Pay Bills
/	Divide by the estimated number of taxpayers	
=	$9,500	Each Taxpayer's Share of This Burden

*BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL BILLS

	$5,658,339,000	Bonds
+	$3,955,764,000	Other Liabilities
−	$4,843,442,000	Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets
+	$1,231,663,000	Unfunded Pension Benefits
+	$6,356,147,000	Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits
=	$12,358,471,000	Total Bills

Grade: D

Bottom line:
Delaware would need $9,500 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.