



IDAHO RANKS NO. 6 FOR ITS FISCAL HEALTH

September 2018
truthinaccounting.org

THE FINANCIAL STATE OF IDAHO

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial reports found Idaho had a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,700, earning it a "B" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Unlike most states, Idaho's state government has enough resources available to pay all of its bills, including public employees' retirement benefits. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$2,700 for each Idaho taxpayer.

Although Idaho has enough money to pay all of its bills, it is still not completely transparent with taxpayers. The state's balance sheet excludes \$74.9 million of other post-employment benefit liabilities. While this analysis includes these liabilities, a new accounting standard (GASB 75) to be implemented in the next fiscal year will require the state to recognize these liabilities.

Here's the truth:

6

Rank

**\$1.3
billion**

Money available to
pay future bills

\$2,700

Taxpayer
Surplus

B

Financial grade

Data included in this report is derived from the state of Idaho's 2017 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.

IDAHO

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + Idaho has \$3.9 billion available in assets to pay \$2.6 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$1.3 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$2,700 per taxpayer.
- + Despite reporting all of its pension debt, the state continues to hide \$74.9 million of its retiree health care debt.
- + Idaho's reported net position is inflated by \$245.5 million, largely because the state defers recognizing losses incurred when the net pension liability increases.

THE STATE'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

Assets	\$17,582,998,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$7,962,773,000
Restricted assets	-\$5,692,901,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$3,927,324,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$2,606,402,000
Money available to pay bills	\$1,320,922,000
Each taxpayer's share of surplus	\$2,700

BILLS THE STATE HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$2,067,477,000
Other liabilities	\$1,182,636,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$1,190,627,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$421,437,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$125,479,000
Bills	\$2,606,402,000

GRADE: B

Bottom line: Idaho has enough money to pay its bills, so it has received a "B" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A "B" grade is given to states with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$100 and \$10,000.

Truth in Accounting is committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable, and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government and its budget process, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.