

KANSAS CITY FINANCES STRUGGLING



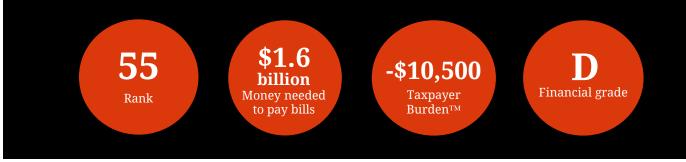
THE FINANCIAL STATE OF KANSAS CITY, MO.

Truth in Accounting's (TIA) new city report ranks and grades the 75 most populous cities in the United States by their financial health. Kansas City ranks No. 55, earning it a "D" on TIA's grading scale.

Decisions by city officials have left the city with a debt burden of \$1.6 billion, according to TIA's analysis of its 2016 financial filings. That burden equates to \$10,500 for every Kansas City taxpayer.

Kansas City's financial problems are largely driven by long-term debt and entitlement obligations in the form of pension benefits. The city has \$896.5 million in unfunded pension promises and \$144.1 million in unfunded retiree healthcare benefits. While Kansas City has promised these benefits, little money has been set aside to fund them.

These statistics are jarring, but what's also alarming is that city government officials continue to hide significant amounts of retirement debt from their balance sheets, despite new rules to increase financial transparency. This skewed financial data gives residents a false impression of their city's overall financial health.



Data included in this report is derived from the Kansas City 2016 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports. Visit statedatalab.org for more information.

KANSAS CITY FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + Kansas City has \$1.2 billion available in assets to pay \$2.8 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$1.6 billion shortfall and a \$10,500 Taxpayer BurdenTM.
- + Kansas City reports most of its retirement liabilities on its balance sheet. However, \$333.5 million of pension and retiree healthcare obligations have been excluded.

THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS	
Assets	\$8,556,174,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$6,882,195,000
Restricted assets	-\$437,472,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$1,236,507,000
Minus: Bills	-\$2,795,169,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$1,558,662,000
Each taxpayer's share of this	dobt \$\$10,000
Lach taxpayer s share of this	debt -\$10,500
Lach taxpayer s share of this	dept -\$10,500
BILLS THE CITY HAS A	
BILLS THE CITY HAS A	CCUMULATED
BILLS THE CITY HAS A Bonds	CCUMULATED \$2,748,221,000
BILLS THE CITY HAS A Bonds Other liabilities	CCUMULATED \$2,748,221,000

Unfunded retiree healthcare

GRADE: D

Bills

Bottom line: Kansas City does not have enough money to pay its bills, so it has received a "D" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A "D" grade is given to cities with a Taxpayer BurdenTM between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

\$144,129,000

\$2,795,169,000

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