

New Orleans

The Truth



Money Needed to Pay Bills
\$1.8 billion



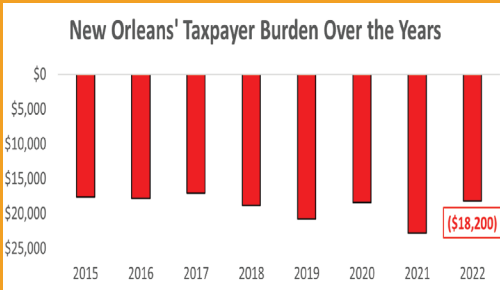
Taxpayer Burden™
\$18,200



Financial Grade
D



Ranking
70 out of 75



Financial State of New Orleans

New Orleans' financial condition appeared to improve due in part to increased tax collections and federal COVID relief funds. Despite the good news, they still had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$18,200, earning it a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting.

According to the city's 2022 financial report, the city continued to spend federal COVID-19 relief funds, and as the U.S. economy reopened the city took in additional tax revenue. The city's pension debt decreased, because the value of pension investments was measured at a time when the markets were performing well. Over the past few years investment market values have swung dramatically. This volatility demonstrates the risk to taxpayers when their city offers defined pension benefits to its employees.

New Orleans had set aside only 52 cents for every dollar of promised pension benefits and no money set aside for promised retiree health care benefits.

It is important to note that continued market fluctuations, changing investment values, decreased COVID relief funds, and a stabilizing economy that may slow tax collections, could worsen the city's financial health. City officials should continue to try to reduce the Taxpayer Burden by following the recommendations in our 2024 Financial State of the Cities report, which would also bring greater transparency and accountability to city finances.

New Orleans' Financial Breakdown

Fast Facts

- New Orleans had \$1.9 billion available to pay \$3.7 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.8 billion shortfall, a decrease of \$80.1 million from the prior year, and a burden of \$18,200 per taxpayer.
- New Orleans received COVID-19 relief funds and increased tax collections. In addition the city's pension investment values were measured when the markets were performing well. These factors helped reduce its Taxpayer Burden by \$200.

The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$10,599,052,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$7,976,097,000
Restricted Assets	-\$730,584,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$1,892,371,000
Minus: Total Bills*	\$3,660,235,000
Money needed to pay bills	\$1,767,864,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	\$18,200

*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,731,615,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,055,765,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,702,183,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,241,410,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$333,628,000
Total Bills	\$3,660,235,000

Grade:

D

Bottom line: New Orleans would need \$18,200 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.

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