





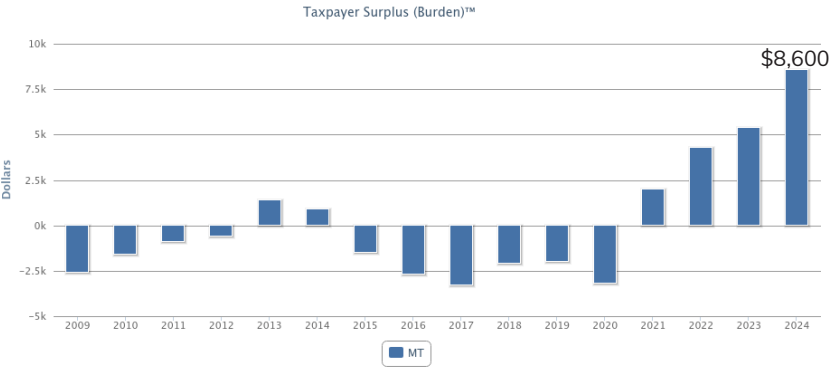
# Montana's Financial Breakdown

Money Available to Pay Bills	\$3.5 billion	
Taxpayer Surplus	\$8,600	
Ranking (Out of 50)	8	
Financial Grade	B	

Montana made progress in 2024, improving its financial condition. It ended the year with \$3.5 billion more than needed to pay its bills. That means the state had a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$8,600 and earned a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting.

Montana’s finances improved in 2024 as revenues exceeded expenses, though the Public Employees’ Retirement System’s unfunded liability still grew slightly despite 9 percent investment gains.

The state also paid off its remaining bonds in 2024, reducing future borrowing needs. Meanwhile, Montana continues to use federal COVID relief funds from the \$1.7 billion American Rescue Plan Act allocation; by June 30, 2024, it had spent \$1.1 billion plus another \$299 million since. The funds are fully obligated and will be expended by June 30, 2026.



Montana has received substantial temporary federal aid since 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. This additional funding contributed to improvements in the state’s financial condition and increased its money available to pay bills. However, as this aid diminishes and national budget tightening continues, future funding may return to more typical levels. This analysis models a return to 2019 federal grants and contributions, increased only by inflation. If so, Montana could see a \$704 million reduction in federal funding, representing around 7 percent of projected expenses for the state’s primary government. This may present challenges for maintaining services and balancing the budget.

The data in this report is derived from Montana’s audited 2024 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](#).

# Montana's Financial Facts

- FACT #1:**  
Montana had \$10.8 billion available to pay \$7.4 billion worth of bills.
- FACT #2:**  
The outcome was a \$3.5 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$8,600 per taxpayer.
- FACT #3:**  
Montana may lose \$704 million in federal funding (7 percent of expenses) if allocations return to 2019 levels, adjusted only for inflation.

## The State's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$26,350,756,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$9,493,713,000
Restricted Assets	-\$6,034,537,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$10,822,506,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$7,371,414,000
Money Available to Pay Bills	\$3,451,092,000
Each Taxpayer's Share of this Surplus	\$8,600

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$0
Other Liabilities	\$5,520,236,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$689,092,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$2,469,748,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$70,522,000
Total Bills	\$7,371,414,000

**Grade:**  
**B**

**Bottom line:**  
Montana had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received a “B” grade for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting’s grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$9,999 is given a “B” grade.



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