



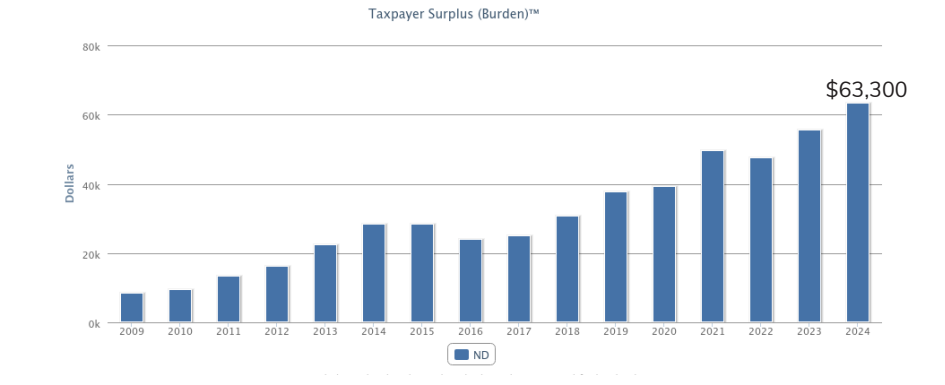


North Dakota's Financial Breakdown

Money Available to Pay Bills	\$18.3 billion	
Taxpayer Surplus	\$63,300	
Ranking (Out of 50)	1	
Financial Grade	A	

North Dakota made progress in 2024, improving its financial condition. It ended the year with \$18.3 billion more than needed to pay its bills. That means the state had a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$63,300 and earned an “A” grade from Truth in Accounting.

The state has sufficient assets to maintain a budget stabilization fund, providing a financial cushion in the event of an economic downturn. As part of its long-term financial strategy, the state took a significant step during the 2023–25 legislative session by passing a bill to close the Public Employees Defined Benefit plan no later than January 2025. This move is intended to limit future financial risk and improve the sustainability of the state’s retirement system.



North Dakota 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, North Dakota could see a \$1.2 billion reduction in federal funding, representing around 11 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 North Dakota’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](#).

North Dakota's Financial Facts

- FACT #1:**
North Dakota had \$27.1 billion available to pay \$8.8 billion worth of bills.
- FACT #2:**
The outcome was a \$18.3 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$63,300 per taxpayer.
- FACT #3:**
North Dakota may lose \$1.2 billion in federal funding (11 percent of expenses) if allocations return to 2019 levels, adjusted only for inflation.

The State's Assets Exceeded Its Bills

Total Assets	\$47,834,598,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$8,667,259,000
Restricted Assets	-\$12,083,969,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$27,083,370,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$8,786,326,000
Money Available to Pay Bills	\$18,297,044,000
Each Taxpayer's Share of this Surplus	\$63,300

*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$3,615,322,000
Other Liabilities	\$5,145,986,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$1,019,049,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$999,544,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$44,523,000
Total Bills	\$8,786,326,000

Grade:
A

Bottom line:
North Dakota had more than enough money to pay its outstanding bills and received an “A” grade for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting’s grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Surplus greater than \$10,000 is given an “A” grade.



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