Pennsylvania's Financial Breakdown

Money Needed to Pay Bills	**$43.1 billion**	
Taxpayer Burden	$9,400	
Ranking (Out of 50)	40	
Financial Grade	**D**	

In 2024, Pennsylvania experienced an improvement in its financial situation, similar to that of many other states. But it still didn't have enough money to pay all of its bills and needed $43.1 billion to fill the gap. That means each taxpayer would have to contribute $9,400 to help pay off the commonwealth's debt. As a result, Pennsylvania earned a "D" grade from Truth in Accounting.

Pennsylvania's finances improved by $6.9 billion as revenues outpaced expenses. A big part of this was a $2.9 billion drop in pension debt, thanks to strong investment gains—12.2 percent for the State Employees' Retirement System and 8 percent for the Public School Employees' Retirement System. The commonwealth also lowered its retiree health care debt by $1.9 billion, mainly due to updated assumptions about future healthcare costs and retiree numbers, showing how changes in estimates can impact long-term costs.

Taxpayer Surplus (Burden)™
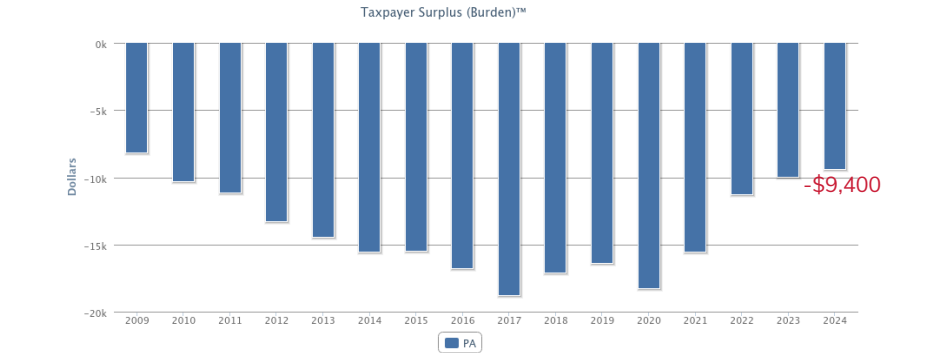
Pennsylvania has received substantial temporary federal aid since 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. This additional funding contributed to improvements in the commonwealth's financial condition and increased its available resources to pay bills. However, as this aid declines and national budget tightening continues, future funding may return to more typical levels. This analysis models a return to 2019 federal grants and contributions, adjusted only for inflation. If that occurs, Pennsylvania could see a $8.5 billion reduction in federal funding, which represents around 7 percent of projected expenses for the commonwealth's primary government and may present challenges for maintaining services and balancing the budget.

The data in this report is derived from Pennsylvania'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.

Pennsylvania's Financial Facts

FACT #1:
Pennsylvania had $66.1 billion available to pay $109.2 billion worth of

FACT #2:
The outcome was a $43.1 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of $9,400 per taxpayer.

FACT #3:
Pennsylvania may lose $8.5 billion in federal funding (7 percent of expenses) if allocations return to 2019 levels, adjusted only for inflation.

The Commonwealth's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	$142,559,106,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-$58,451,572,000
Restricted Assets	-$17,985,155,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	$66,122,379,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-$109,216,827,000
Money Needed to Pay Bills	$43,094,448,000
Each Taxpayer's Share of this Burden	$9,400

*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	$40,744,155,000
Other Liabilities	$30,717,909,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-$18,251,603,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	$40,588,117,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	$15,418,249,000
Total Bills	$109,216,827,000

Grade: D

Bottom line:
Pennsylvania would need $9,400 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.