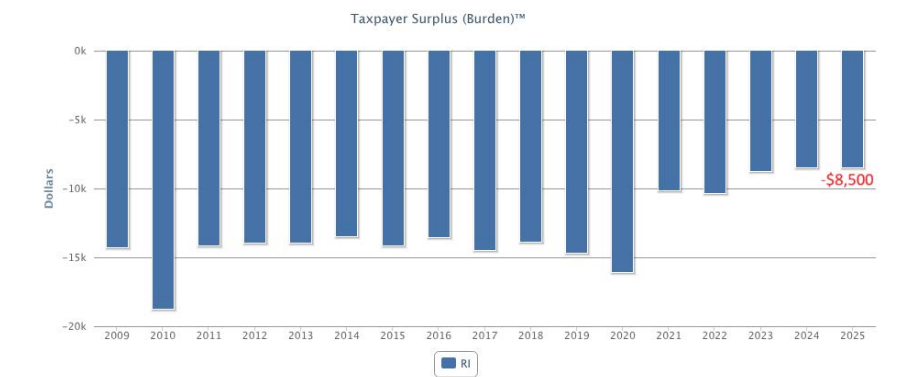


RHODE ISLAND'S FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Money Needed to Pay Bills	\$3.6 billion	Ranking (Out of 50)	38
Taxpayer Burden™	\$8,500	Financial Grade	D

Rhode Island needed more money to pay its bills in 2025, with the shortfall rising to \$3.6 billion. This resulted in a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$8,500, which led to a “D” grade from Truth in Accounting.

Money needed to pay bills increased primarily due to higher net investment in capital assets. Although these assets support essential public services, they are not available to meet financial obligations or pay bills. In other areas revenues exceeded expenses despite increased spending on education, public safety, and health and human services. The state’s net pension liability was reduced by \$236.2 million due to high investment returns; however, these reductions were more than offset by funds committed to capital assets.



Rhode Island received approximately \$6.5 billion in federal grants, which represented 41 percent of its revenue. The federal government mandates that entities receiving significant federal funds undergo a Single Audit. These audits are intended to be the taxpayers’ first line of defense against potential fraud and abuse. As of September 1, 2026, Rhode Island had not released its Single Audit.

The data in this report is derived from Rhode Island’s audited 2025 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.

RHODE ISLAND'S FINANCIAL FACTS

- FACT #1:**
Rhode Island had \$9.5 billion available to pay \$13.1 billion worth of bills.
- FACT #2:**
The outcome was a \$3.6 billion shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of \$8,500 per taxpayer.
- FACT #3:**
The state’s pension liability fell due to strong asset returns, while money needed to pay bills rose as additional resources were directed toward capital assets.

THE STATE'S BILLS EXCEEDED ITS ASSETS

\$23,341,082,000	→	Total Assets
- \$9,254,624,000	→	Minus: Capital Assets
- \$4,633,804,000	→	Minus: Restricted Assets
= \$9,452,654,000	→	Assets Available to Pay Bills
- \$13,072,885,000	→	Minus: Total Bills*
= \$3,620,231,000	→	Money Needed to Pay Bills
/ Divide by the estimated number of taxpayers		
= \$8,500	→	Each Taxpayer's Share of This Burden

*BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL BILLS

\$6,991,277,000	→	Bonds
+ \$4,316,817,000	→	Other Liabilities
- \$1,402,249,000	→	Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets
+ \$2,987,132,000	→	Unfunded Pension Benefits
+ \$179,908,000	→	Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits
= \$13,072,885,000	→	Total Bills



Bottom line:
Rhode Island would need \$8,500 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