



**THE TRUTH**

Money Available to Pay Future Bills

**\$1.5 billion**

Taxpayer Surplus™

**\$5,200**

Financial Grade

**B**

Ranking

**5 out of 50**

## South Dakota Ranked In Top Five For Fiscal Health



September 2021

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### Financial State of South Dakota

South Dakota’s healthy financial condition helped the state weather the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based upon the state’s latest audited financial report for fiscal year 2020, South Dakota had a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$5,200, earning it a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting.

Unlike most states, South Dakota had more than enough resources available, \$1.5 billion, to pay all of its bills, including public employees’ retirement benefits. This means South Dakota’s elected officials truly balanced their budgets. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills resulted in a surplus of \$5,200 for each South Dakota taxpayer.

Even though South Dakota was financially sound before and during the pandemic, the state still received federal support from COVID-19 related grants. The surplus South Dakota had and additional funds will help the state to weather any future public health or economic crises and downturns in the market, which can cause the value of a government’s assets to fluctuate. The uncertainty surrounding this current crisis makes it impossible to determine how much will be needed to maintain government services and benefits.

The data included in this report is derived from the state of South Dakota’s 2020 audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and retirement plans’ reports. To compare states’ financial information go to [Data-Z.org](http://Data-Z.org).

## South Dakota’s Financial Breakdown

### Fast Facts

- South Dakota had \$5.3 billion available to pay \$3.8 billion worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$1.5 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$5,200 per taxpayer.
- South Dakota’s overall financial condition improved by almost 50 percent mostly because the state received over \$1 billion in COVID-related grants.

### THE STATE’S ASSETS EXCEEDED ITS BILLS

Total assets	\$14,305,598,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$5,946,835,000
Restricted assets	-\$3,045,419,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$5,313,344,000
Minus: Total bills	-\$3,806,653,000
Money available (needed) to pay future bills	\$1,506,691,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$5,200

### BILLS THE STATE ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$2,327,857,000
Other liabilities	\$2,208,293,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$728,007,000
Unfunded pension benefits	-\$1,490,000
Unfunded retiree health care benefits	\$0
Total bills	\$3,806,653,000

**Grade:**

**B**

Bottom line: South Dakota had more than enough money to pay its bills, so it received a “B” for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A “B” grade is given to states with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$100 and \$10,000.

Truth in Accounting is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government and its budget process, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.