

New Orleans, LA Earned 'F' Grade for Fiscal Health



The Truth

Money Needed to Pay Bills **\$2.3 billion**

Taxpayer Burden™ **\$22,800**

Financial Grade **F**

Ranking **71 out of 75**

Financial State of New Orleans

New Orleans is extremely tardy with its annual financial report compared to most other cities in this report. As of January 15, 2022, New Orleans had not released its fiscal year 2021 annual financial report. Based upon the state's fiscal year 2020 audited financial report, New Orleans had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$22,800, earning it an "F" grade from Truth in Accounting.

Without timely financial information New Orleans' elected officials have repeatedly made decisions that left the city with a debt burden of \$2.3 billion in 2020, including unfunded employees' retirement liabilities. The city had only set aside 55 cents for every dollar of promised pension benefits and no money for promised retiree health care benefits.

Like all other cities, New Orleans received federal assistance from COVID-19 related grants in 2020, but without the 2021 report, it is impossible to determine how New Orleans financially weathered the pandemic. In the past the city has not been properly funding its pension and retiree health care promises and there is no information to determine if this has changed. This lack of information about pensions may place a burden on future taxpayers. Without the information from a current financial report, citizens and elected officials are left in the dark about the city's fiscal status.

The data included in this report is derived from New Orleans' 2020 audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and retirement plans' reports. To compare prior years and other cities' financial, demographic, and economic information, go to Data-Z.org.

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www.truthinaccounting.org
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New Orleans' Financial Breakdown

Fast Facts

- New Orleans' numbers are from 2020 since the city had not released their 2021 report.
- In 2020 New Orleans needed \$2.3 billion to pay its bills, which was \$213.6 million more than in 2019.
- This means each taxpayer would have to pay \$22,800 in future taxes for which they would receive no related services or benefits.

The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$8,769,807,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$7,412,011,000
Restricted Assets	-\$497,065,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$860,731,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$3,151,857,000
Money Needed to Pay Bills	\$2,291,126,000
Each Taxpayer's Share of this Burden	\$22,800

*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$2,505,130,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,659,020,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$2,553,824,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,129,425,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$412,106,000
Total Bills	\$3,151,857,000

Grade:

F

Bottom line: New Orleans would need \$22,800 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received an "F" for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden greater than \$20,000 receives an "F."