



NEW MEXICO FLUNKS ITS FINANCIAL AUDIT

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THE FINANCIAL STATE OF NEW MEXICO

An analysis of the 2016 audited financial report found New Mexico had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$9,000, earning it a "D" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

New Mexico's elected officials have made repeated financial decisions that have left the state with a debt burden of \$5.1 billion, according to the analysis. That burden equates to \$9,000 for every state taxpayer. New Mexico's financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over many years. Of the \$19.1 billion in retirement benefits promised, the state has not funded \$5.5 billion in pension and \$2.5 billion in retiree health care benefits.

New Mexico's financial condition is not only alarming but also misleading as government officials have failed to disclose significant amounts of retirement debt on the state's balance sheet. Because New Mexico's financial statements received a disclaimer of opinion, its true financial condition is unknown. The state's financial statements are also unreliable because they are consistently published late, taking an average of 350 days to issue since 2009.

Here's the truth:

29

Rank

**\$5.1
billion**

Money needed to
pay bills

-\$9,000

Taxpayer
Burden

D

Financial grade

Data included in this report is derived from the state of New Mexico's 2016 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and retirement plans' actuarial reports. The 2017 CAFR was not made publicly available as of August 1, 2018.

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NEW MEXICO FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + New Mexico has \$9.2 billion available in assets to pay \$14.4 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$5.1 billion shortfall and a \$9,000 Taxpayer Burden.
- + The state is hiding \$1.1 billion of pension debt and \$2.5 billion of retiree health care debt from its balance sheet.
- + New Mexico's reported net position is inflated by \$427.5 million, largely because the state defers recognizing losses incurred when the net pension liability increases.

THE STATE'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$39,928,372,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$10,004,301,000
Restricted assets	-\$20,692,161,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$9,231,910,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$14,368,959,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$5,137,049,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$9,000

BILLS THE STATE HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$5,480,579,000
Other liabilities	\$3,275,898,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$2,383,483,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$5,484,622,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$2,511,343,000
Bills	\$14,368,959,000

GRADE: D

Bottom line: New Mexico does not have enough money to pay its bills, so it has received a "D" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A "D" grade is given to states with a Taxpayer Burden between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Because of New Mexico's balanced budget requirement, its Taxpayer Burden should be \$0.

Truth in Accounting is 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.