

OREGON IN GOOD FINANCIAL CONDITION

September 2018 truthinaccounting.org

THE FINANCIAL STATE OF OREGON

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial reports found Oregon had a Taxpayer Surplus[™] of \$1,000, earning it a "B" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Unlike most states, Oregon's state government has enough resources available to pay all of its bills, including public employees' retirement benefits. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$1,000 for each Oregon taxpayer.

Although Oregon has enough money to pay all of its bills, it is still not completely transparent with taxpayers. The state's balance sheet excludes \$33.7 million of other post-employment benefit liabilities. While this analysis includes these liabilities, a new accounting standard (GASB 75) to be implemented in the next fiscal year will require the state to recognize these liabilities.



Data included in this report is derived from the state of Oregon's 2017 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports. Photo Credit: flickr.com; Jonathan Miske

OREGON FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + Oregon has \$21.4 billion available in assets to pay \$20.1 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$1.4 billion surplus, which breaks down to \$1,000 per taxpayer.
- + Despite reporting all of its pension debt, the state continues to hide \$33.7 million of its retiree health care debt.
- + Oregon's reported net position is inflated by \$2.5 billion, largely because the state defers recognizing losses incurred when the net pension liability increases.

THE STATE'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS	
Assets	\$51,065,104,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$19,591,046,000
Restricted assets	-\$10,028,394,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$21,445,664,000
Minus: Bills	-\$20,060,694,000
Money available to pay bills	\$1,384,970,000
Each taxpayer's share of surple	us \$1,000
BILLS THE STATE HAS ACCUMULATED	
	ACCUMULATED
Bonds	\$13,004,560,000
Bonds	\$13,004,560,000
Bonds Other liabilities	\$13,004,560,000
Bonds Other liabilities <i>Minus:</i> Debt related to	\$13,004,560,000 \$9,057,928,000
Bonds Other liabilities <i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	\$13,004,560,000 \$9,057,928,000 -\$6,238,117,000

GRADE: B

Bottom line: Oregon has enough money to pay its bills, so it has 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 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.