Going into the coronavirus pandemic, Wyoming had some resources set aside. Based upon the state’s latest audited financial report, which is dated before the crisis began, Wyoming had a Taxpayer Surplus™ of $19,600, earning it an “A” grade from Truth in Accounting. According to rough estimates by Truth in Accounting, Wyoming is projected to lose $1 billion in revenue as a result of this crisis.

Unlike most states before the crisis, Wyoming had more than enough resources available, $4 billion, to pay all of its current bills, including public employees’ retirement benefits. Because a large percentage of the state’s revenue is derived from taxes related to the energy industry, the state’s surplus may be at risk if energy prices or production decrease. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills resulted in a surplus of $19,600 for each Wyoming taxpayer.

The surplus Wyoming had will help the state to weather the current pandemic and downturns in the market, which can cause the value of a government’s assets to fluctuate. But the uncertainty surrounding this 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 Wyoming’s 2019 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans’ reports. To compare states’ financial information go to Data-Z.org.