**Fiscal Facts: Wisconsin’s Long-Term Fiscal Health Is Better, But Average Nationally**

With $15.8 billion in long-term liabilities and a population of 5.8 million, the state owed $2,739 per capita in 2017. That amount was down slightly from 2016 ($2,802), but was higher than all other years since 2002.

When liabilities are compared to total state assets, long-term health weakened during 2002-11, largely because of rising state debt. In 2002, liabilities were 34.4% of state assets; by 2011, they were 41.2%. After 2011, growth in state debt slowed and then levelled off. With total assets continuing to rise, Wisconsin’s long-term liability ratio dropped to 37.5% in 2014 and to 34.5% in 2017.

Wisconsin’s long-term health is improving. However, on all three commonly used long-term health measures, Wisconsin is about average when compared to other states. National figures from 2015 show Wisconsin ranked 24th among the states on long-term liabilities per capita; 25th on the long-term liability ratio; and 26th on net asset ratio.

*This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education.*