



START AT THE BEGINNING MONTHLY INCOME & EXPENSES





BUDGET CHECKLIST

Not sure where all of your money is going? You're not alone! Only 1/3° of American households budget!

Before you can start living on a budget, you need to see where you stand financially. Here is a checklist of items that will help you get a better idea of your financial health

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Current Income		•
 Your NET (take-home) income: \$ Your partner's NET (take-home) income: \$ Additional income (rental income, additional job(s), ch 	nild s	support etc.): \$
Total Monthly Income: \$		
Current Monthly Expense Categories		
 Utility: \$ Internet/TV: \$ Credit card(s): \$ Mortgage/rent: \$ Insurance: \$ Childcare: \$ Total Fixed Monthly Expenses: \$ 		Cell phone: \$ Car payment(s): \$ List of subscription(s): \$ Student loan(s): \$ Medical bill(s): \$ Other: \$
Additional Monthly Expenses that you will need to estimat	e	
Gas: \$ Education (tuition): \$ Food (groceries): \$ Entertainment (eating out): \$ Laundry/Cleaning Products: \$ Charitable Donations: \$ Medication/Prescriptions: \$		Kids (ex: sports/activities): \$ Home Improvement: \$ Pets (food/veterinary care): \$ Personal Care (grooming, gym memberships): \$ Taxes (business owner): \$ Clothing: \$ Other: \$
Total Additional Monthly Expenses: \$		

START AT THE BEGINNING



DON'T FORGET TO TRACK YOUR SAVINGS

It is important to include paying yourself first when creating a budget. This can mean starting small, with a \$1,000 emergency savings fund, but we ultimately encourage you to build your savings to cover three to six months' worth of living expenses. From there, you can build to include a range of savings goals like a: college fund, retirement/401k, or vacation.

Current Savings Account Balance: \$
Total Savings Goal (We advise maintaining a minimum \$1,000 Emergency Savings Account): \$
Monthly Savings contribution needed to meet your Savings Goal: \$
Now is the time to take control of your future! With a bit of hard work, diligence and sacrifice, you can reach
your goals and beyond!

YEARLY SAVINGS GOALS BROKEN DOWN BY MONTH

IF YOU WANT THIS MUCH	SAVE THIS MUCH BI-WEEKLY	MONTHLY TOTAL
\$1,000	\$41.67	\$83.34
\$2,000	\$83.33	\$166.67
\$3,000	\$125.00	\$250.00
\$4,000	\$167.67	\$333.34
\$5,000	\$208.33	\$416.67
\$6,000	\$250.00	\$500.00
\$7,000	\$291.67	\$583.34
\$8,000	\$333.33	\$666.67
\$9,000	\$375.00	\$750.00
\$10.000	\$416.67	\$833.34
\$15,000	\$625.00	\$1,250.00
\$20,000	\$833.33	\$1666.67

BE ABLE TO COVER AN UNEXPECTED EXPENSE OF \$400, OR WOULD BE ABLE TO COVER IT BY SELLING SOMETHING OR BORROWING MONEY.

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Your yearly savings goal: \$	SAVINGS	TRACKER		
How will you reach your savings goal?	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

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START AT THE BEGINNING



CALCULATE YOUR DEBTS

While you calculated your monthly expenses as part of your budget, understanding your total amount of debt is important for long term planning.

Identify all of your debts (smallest to largest).

	Total Credit Card debt(s)
_	Use the chart to list individual credit lines
	and amounts
	Auto Loan(s): \$
	RV/Boat/Toy Loan(s): \$
	Personal Loan(s): \$
	HELOC or Home Equity Loan: \$
	Student Loan(s): \$
	Mortgage: \$
	Other: \$

CARD/RETAILER	BALANCE	APR	MONTHLY PAYMENT

Budget Cuts

If you are working on getting out of debt, it will be critical that you cut all the non-essentials out of your budget. These cuts don't have to be forever, just while you are learning this new budget.

This might include:

Total Debt: \$

- Eating out
- Coffee
- Entertainment
- Hair/nails
- Clothing
- Cable
- Subscriptions
- Memberships

Still not enough money coming in?

Would an extra \$1,000 a month change your life drastically? It might be time to consider other sources of income.



LET'S BUILD A BUDGET



Not sure where all of your money is going or unsure of how much you're actually spending?



For one month track all of your expenses.

ITEM	CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Example: Coffee	Food	\$5.50
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ITEM	CATEGORY	AMOUNT

MONTH END RECAP				
SPENDING CATEGORY	TOTAL SPENT			
Example: Eating Out	\$60			





LET'S BUILD A BUDGET



SAMPLE BUDGET . .*

ITEM	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
INCOME			
Income #1	\$2,000	\$2,004	+\$4
Income #2	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$0
Other Income	\$800	\$800	\$0
Investment	\$20	\$20	\$0
SAVING			
Emergency Fund (\$1,000)	\$84	\$84	\$0
Savings (3-6 month expenses)	\$0	\$0	\$0
SINKING FUNDS (Pla	nning for cost	s you know ha	ppen)
Vehicle (Tabs, Tires & Oil Changes)	\$20	\$20	\$0
House (\$500 suggested)	\$20	\$20	\$0
Birthday/Holiday (They Happen Every Year)	\$25	\$25	\$0
Holiday (\$ you spend divided by 12)	\$50	\$50	\$0
Other			
HOUSING			
Mortgage/Rent	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$0
Second Mortgage	\$75	\$75	\$0
Other			
UTILITIES			
Electricity/Gas/Oil	\$165	\$145	\$+20
Water & Sewer	\$105	\$105	\$0
Garbage	\$40	\$40	\$0
Cell Phone	\$140	\$140	\$0
Cable/Streaming	\$65	\$65	\$0
Internet	\$50	\$50	\$0

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What worked well? I carpooled 2x per week to save on gas and came in under budget on grocery costs. I applied the extra money I saved to my credit card bill.

What didn't work well? We ate out more than expected.

ITEM	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
TRANSPORTATION			
Car Payment #1	\$507	\$507	\$0
Car Payment #2	\$200	\$200	\$0
Insurance	\$98	\$98	\$0
Gas	\$150	\$100	+\$50
FOOD			
Groceries	\$700	\$600	+\$100
Coffee	\$25	\$25	\$0
Eating Out	\$50	\$125	-\$75
Other	\$50	\$0	+\$50
PERSONAL			
Clothing	\$50	\$45	+\$5
Personal Care (Hair, Nails, etc.)	\$50	\$50	\$0
Daycare	\$600	\$600	\$0
Child School Expenses	\$70	\$70	\$0
Pet Care	\$100	\$100	\$0
Entertainment	\$50	\$45	+\$5
Health Insurance	\$88	\$88	\$0
Medical (Medications, Co-Pays)	\$75	\$75	\$0
CHARITABLE GIVING			
Donation #1	\$5	\$5	\$0
Donation #2	\$0	\$0	\$0
DEBT (Snowbal	l Method)		
Credit Card #1	\$25	\$100	+\$75
Credit Card #2	\$85	\$85	\$0
Credit Card #3	\$140	\$140	\$0
Student Loan	\$363	\$363	\$0
Personal Loan	\$75	\$75	\$0
Medical Bills	\$45	\$45	\$0

TOTALS	
Total Income	\$5,404
Total Expenses	\$5,271
Total Savings Contribution	\$133

LET'S BUILD A BUDGET



Now it's your turn. Using the numbers you gathered on page 2 (Income, Fixed Expenses, Additional Expenses and Savings amounts), track your monthly budget below.

ITEM	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
INCOME			
Income #1			
Income #2			
Other Income			
Total Income			
SAVING			
Emergency Fund (\$1,000)			
Savings (3-6 month expenses)			
SINKING FUNDS (Pla	nning for cost	s you know ha	ppen)
Vehicle (Tabs, Tires & Oil Changes)			
House (\$500 suggested)			
Birthday/Holiday (They Happen Every Year)			
Holiday (\$ you spend divided by 12)			
Other			
HOUSING			
Mortgage/Rent			
Second Mortgage			
Other			
UTILITIES			
Electricity/Gas/Oil			
Water & Sewer			
Garbage			
Cell Phone			
Cable/Streaming			
Internet			

BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
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What worked well?	
What didn't work well?	

TOTALS	
Total Income	
Total Expenses	
Total Savings Contribution	

WINNING AT YOUR BUDGET



PUTTING YOUR MONEY PLAN INTO ACTION

Open communication is critical. Make this a fun process!	
Who's the saver?	
Who's the spender?	
What frustrates each of you about money?	
Name:	
Name:	
Take time to talk and work through your budget. This shou	ıld happen at least two times a month.
What days will you work on this?	
Who will do what?	
Why do you want to get your finances under control? Th	his is different for everyone.
Julie is getting close to retirement. She knew if she paid off he about how she would make ends meet in retirement. This sens in order to pay her house off.	
What's your why?	
What would you do with your money if you didn't owe it to the lake? Go on a trip of a lifetime? Pay for your child	
	REMEMBER, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO BEGIN TALKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT SAVING AND BUDGETING AS WELL. Start simple by taking them to open a savings account, then encourage them to set a savings goal. Talking about money can be fun and will build a foundation for long-term financial well-being.