

budget crush

WORKBOOK

A budget completely changed my life. It can change yours too! Create a simple budget in 4 easy steps!



THEBUDGETMOM.COM



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WORKBOOK INSTRUCTIONS

WRITE DOWN YOUR MONTHLY INCOME

If you have regular income, then this step is easy! Simply add up all of your paychecks, and that's what you need to write down on your monthly budget.

If you have irregular income, you always want to focus on the worst-case scenario. If you know you make between \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month, then you would use \$1,000 as your total monthly take-home pay. If you are not sure what your minimum take-home pay is, try looking over the last three months of pay stubs. Find the paycheck that shows the lowest amount and use that value on your monthly budget.

Note: You can also try averaging the last three months' worth of paystubs.

LIST ALL OF YOUR BILLS/EXPENSES

Use the expense tracker to list all of your recurring fixed expenses. These are the bills that you every single month that are usually the same amount month-to-month. Make sure to write these bills on your "Fixed Expenses" section of your budget. Use the Bill Tracker to keep track of when you pay your bills, so you never miss a payment.

You will also need to list all of your variable expenses on your budget. These are expenses that change in value from month-to-month. Use the prepopulated Variable Expense List to figure out where your money is going. The best way to see this is by looking at the last two months of bank statements. Write down the average amount that you are spending in each category and add those values to your budget. Use the blank lines in the Variable Expense List to fit your own life.

SUBTRACT YOUR INCOME FROM YOUR EXPENSES

Use the bottom of the budget to subtract your income from your expenses. This should ALWAYS equal zero. The primary goal is to develop a zero-based budget. Every dollar of income is being budgeted. If you have a positive number, allocate your extra money towards your own money goals. Maybe you want to save for a new car or grow a larger emergency savings account.

If you come up with a negative number, look at your variable expenses and see where you can cut back. Maybe you are comfortable only spending \$100/month on entertainment instead of \$150/mo. Adjust your variable expenses until you end up with \$0.

UPDATE FREQUENTLY

Use the Monthly Spending Calendar to document your spending. Take 10 minutes in the evening to write down where you spent money that day. I suggest keeping your receipts throughout the day. This will also help you narrow down and perfect your variable expense values on your budget. Adjust your budget to accommodate the changes in your Monthly Spending Calendar.

MONTHLY BUDGET

MONTH: _____

MONTHLY TAKE HOME PAY

Income Source #1	
Income Source #2	
Bonus Income	
TOTAL	

FIXED EXPENSES

	BUDGETED	SPENT
Mortgage/Rent		
Utilities		
Water/Trash		
Cable		
Internet		
Phone		
TOTAL		

VARIABLE EXPENSES

	BUDGETED	SPENT
Gas		
Entertainment		
Dining Out		
Clothing		
Health/Beauty		
Groceries		
TOTAL		

DEBT

	BUDGETED	SPENT
Credit Card #1		
Credit Card #2		
Credit Card #3		
Car Payment #1		
Car Payment #2		
Student Loans		
TOTAL		

DEBT

	BUDGETED	SPENT
Emergency Fund		
Retirement		
College Savings		
Giving		
TOTAL		

TOTAL INCOME

(MINUS)

TOTAL EXPENSES

(EQUALS)

VARIABLE EXPENSE LIST

VARIABLE EXPENSE CATEGORY

AVERAGE MONTHLY
AMOUNT

VARIABLE EXPENSE CATEGORY	AVERAGE MONTHLY AMOUNT
Gas	
Entertainment	
Eating Out	
Clothing	
Health/Beauty	
Personal Care	
Groceries	