

Home Budget Planner



The Consumer Council

Where does your money go?

Knowing where and how you spend money can help you save. This can help you pay for unexpected bills and plan for occasions like holidays and Christmas.

To create your Home Budget Planner, gather all the paperwork that you need. For example, electricity, phone, gas bills, grocery receipts, bank/credit card statements and all other spending receipts. To make this budget planner work for you, you must work out your total bills, spending and income either **weekly** or **monthly** - stick to this throughout the exercise.

Here is a guide on how to work out your budget:

Calculating Monthly?	What to Do
Monthly bills	Enter amount in 'monthly' column
Quarterly bills (eg telephone)	÷ 3
Yearly bills (eg Christmas)	÷ 12
Weekly bills (eg PAYG Mobile)	x 52 then ÷12

Calculating Weekly?	What to Do
Weekly bills	Enter amount in 'weekly' column
Quarterly bills (eg telephone)	÷ 13
Yearly bills (eg Christmas)	÷ 52
Monthly bills (eg mobile phone)	x 12 then ÷ 52

How much do you spend?

Step by step instructions to work out how much you spend.

1. To help you budget, the typical household spend is divided into seven sections.
2. Place your weekly or monthly spend for each item in the box that applies to you.
3. Add up the items in each section and place the totals in the Total box. You should have seven totals at the end of the exercise.
4. Place all seven totals beside the section they apply to in the Spending box.

At different times of the year, you will need to pay annual expenses: eg Christmas, summer holidays, an MOT or a rates bill. Write down the bill amount in the yearly column. To work out how much this annual bill is each week or month, divide the annual amount by either 52 for a weekly or by 12 for a monthly total. You will need to put this into your weekly/monthly budget.

5. Add all your totals together to give you an overall total weekly or monthly spend.

(1) HOUSEHOLD BILLS	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Rent/Mortgage/Secured Loan			
Electricity			
Heating Oil/Gas			
Water			
TV Licence			
Building Insurance			
Contents Insurance			
Rates			
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD	£	£	£

(5) TRAVEL	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Child Bus/Train/Taxi			
Adult Bus/Train/Taxi			
Road Tax			
Parking			
Car Insurance			
Petrol/Diesel			
Car Servicing and MOT			
Car Wash			
TOTAL TRAVEL	£	£	£

(2) FINANCIAL	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Car Loan/Hire Purchase			
Credit Card			
Catalogue/Mail Order			

(6) PERSONAL CARE	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Medical/Prescriptions			
Dentist			
Optician			

Store Card				
Loan Repayments				
Life Assurance				
Pension Contribution				
University/College Fees				
Savings				
TOTAL FINANCIAL	£	£	£	£

Hobby/Gym				
Hair				
Beauty Treatments				
Toiletries and Make-up				
DVDs, Games, Books				
TOTAL PERSONAL CARE	£	£	£	£

(3) FOOD/CLOTHES	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Fruit/Vegetables			
Bread			
Meat			
Other Groceries			
School Lunches			
Work Lunches			
Clothes/Shoes/Uniforms			
TOTAL FOOD & CLOTHES	£	£	£

(7) MISCELLANEOUS	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Cigarettes			
Alcohol			
Going out/Socialising			
Take-away			
Newspapers/Magazines			
Birthday Presents			
Christmas Presents			
Holidays			
Home Decorating			
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	£	£	£

(4) OTHER BILLS	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Telephone			
Mobile Phone			
Home Repairs			
Satellite TV			
Childminding/Nursery			
Vet Bills			
Computer/Internet			
Window Cleaner			
TOTAL OTHER BILLS	£	£	£

SPENDING	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Household Bills			
Financial			
Food/Clothes			
Other Bills			
Travel			
Personal Care			
Miscellaneous			
TOTAL SPENDING	£	£	£

What is your income?

You need to fill in your total **weekly** or **monthly** income beside the items that apply to you. Add your income/s together and place the total in the Total Income box.

INCOME	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Wages/Salary (you/partner and/or other)			
Benefits			
Pension			
Maintenance / Child Support			
Contributions from People Living with You			
Student Loan			
Other			
TOTAL INCOME	£	£	£

Overall budget

1. Place your total weekly or monthly income in the total income box below.
2. Place your total weekly or monthly spend in the total spending box below.
3. To find out how much money you have left at the end of each week or month take your total spending amount away from your total income amount and place in Total Left box.

TOTALS	Each Week	Each Month	Each Year
Total Income			
Total Spending - (minus)			
TOTAL LEFT	£	£	£

You may find that you are spending more than you have coming in. Look carefully at your spending, is there anything you can cut down on? Are there cheaper items available? Try keeping all your receipts (eg one week), this will help you see where you are spending your money.

If you feel you are struggling to make ends meet and need help, contact a money advisor at one of the following organisations:

Advice NI: 028 9064 5919
Citizens Advice: 028 9023 1120
Consumer Credit Counselling Service: Freephone 0800 027 4990

To download a copy of this budget planner visit www.consumerCouncil.org.uk



The Consumer Council

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