How to Set Up Your
Quick-Start Budget

Getting everything on paper first is super helpful. Then, might we suggest EveryDollar—our free budgeting tool to help you keep up with the budget all month? (We might. We will.)

Pro Tip: Before you start, open up your online bank account or grab your bank statements to help as you start filling out these numbers.

1 List your income.

In the Planned column for income, list out each paycheck (and any side hustles) coming in this month. Add that up. This is how much you have to work with this month!
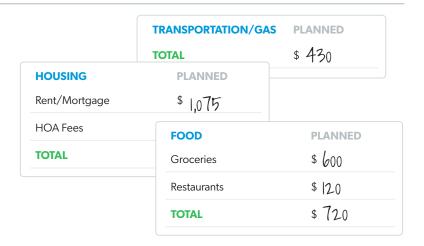
INCOME	PLANNED
Paycheck 1	$ 2,150
Paycheck 2	$ 2,150
TOTAL	$ 4,300

2 List your expenses.

Plan for everything you're spending money for this month.

You'll see lots of common budget categories and lines. Skip any you don't need. As you go, add the planned amounts inside each box.

TRANSPORTATION/GAS	PLANNED
TOTAL	$ 430

HOUSING	PLANNED
Rent/Mortgage	$ 1,075
HOA Fees	
TOTAL	

FOOD	PLANNED
Groceries	$ 600
Restaurants	$ 120
TOTAL	$ 720

3 Subtract expenses from your income.

This should equal zero. If you've got money left over, put it toward your debt or other money goal. If you've got a negative number, lower your planned totals or cut extras until you get zero.

4 Track your expenses (all month long).

How do you stay on top of your spending? Track. Your. Transactions. That means you're tracking everything that happens with your money all month long.

5 Make a new budget (before the month begins).

Your budget won't change too much from month to month, but no two months are exactly the same. So, create a new budget every single month! Don't forget month-specific expenses (like holidays or seasonal purchases).

Quick-Start Budget

INCOME	PLANNED
Paycheck 1	$
Paycheck 2	$
TOTAL	$

GIVING	PLANNED
TOTAL	$

SAVING	PLANNED
TOTAL	$

FOOD	PLANNED
Groceries	$
Restaurants	$
TOTAL	$

UTILITIES	PLANNED
Water	$
Electricity	$
TOTAL	$

HOUSING	PLANNED
Rent/Mortgage	$
HOA Fees	$
TOTAL	$

TRANSPORTATION/GAS	PLANNED
TOTAL	$

INSURANCE	PLANNED
Health	$
Auto	$
Renters	$
Term Life	$
TOTAL	$

DEBT	PLANNED
Credit Cards	$
Student Loans	$
Car Payments	$
Medical	$
TOTAL	$

FUN MONEY	PLANNED
TOTAL	$

MISCELLANEOUS	PLANNED
TOTAL	$

TOTAL INCOME	$
TOTAL EXPENSES	$

Your Goal Every Month:
Total Income - Total Expenses = $0

What's Next?

Download EveryDollar, plug in your numbers,
and make this way easier month to month.