

Current Month: Sample Budget

Income	\$\$\$
Income	\$\$\$
Recurring Fixed Monthly	\$
Recurring Fixed Monthly	\$
Recurring Fixed Monthly	\$
Recurring Fixed Monthly	\$
Recurring Fixed Monthly	\$
Recurring Fixed Monthly	\$
Recurring Fixed Monthly	\$
Changes Every Month	\$
Changes Every Month	\$
Changes Every Month	\$
Category 1	\$
Category 2	\$
Category 3	\$
Category 4	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Savings	\$

Welcome to Making a Budget!! Budgets don't have to be scary or over-complicated. I looked for a long time to find a budget that I liked, and I finally ended up creating this one. I've labeled each section of the budget, and you can refer to my explanations below:

Current Month: This is where you put the Month/Year of your budget. My husband gets paid every Friday, so I choose to have my budget cover Friday-Friday. This means that I may have a couple days of the previous/next month in my budget. You'll need to decide if you want to budget by pay-period or by the actual days of the month.

Income: Put all income for that month here. I have two spaces since my husband and I each have different income, but you may need more or less than that. Adapt as needed.

Recurring Fixed Monthly: These are all of your recurring fees that stay the same amount every month (and are charged monthly). For me, that is Hulu, Internet, Car Insurance, Mortgage, Health Insurance, and the amount we give to charities.

Changes Every Month: These are the monthly payments that you know are coming, but change from month to month. For me, that is our church giving (because it changes based on my income each month) and our utilities. While these change every month, I always have a ballpark idea of what they will be. For example, I know my water bill is going to be less than \$50, so that's what I put on the budget at the beginning of the month. When I get the actual bill, I update the amount to reflect what is actually owed.

Categories: In our family, we have 4 categories: Walmart, Gas, Restaurants, and Miscellaneous. On Page 2 of the budget, we keep up with those categories on a weekly basis. At the end of the month, I compare what we actually spent in those categories to what I budgeted for them. For example, we allow ourselves \$115/week to spend in Category 1: Walmart. If I am budgeting for a 4-week month, then that is \$460/month in Category 1: Walmart. As we go shopping each week, I write down what we spend each time we go to Walmart, trying to keep it under \$115/week. At the end of the month, I calculate the total and bring it over to front.

Savings: This is how much is left over after you take your Income and subtract all of your expenses. For us, this varies GREATLY from month to month. As you can see, I've left some spaces blank after the categories. Those are for big things that come up that don't fit into your categories. I've even had to pencil in stuff on the bottom/back of the budget before. That's why it's a good idea to do this in pencil. You never know when the car is going to break down or your fridge is going to stop working. However, it is always best to know where our money is going in order to have any chance of controlling it and making the best decisions we can with what we have.

