



GETTING STARTED

WE KNOW IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT CAN MAKE ALL THE
DIFFERENCE

A Guidebook for Those Setting the
Foundation
(Built for individuals in their 20's, 30's)

WHERE YOU ARE

You are just starting out and are interested in guidance regarding the type of accounts to open, 401(k) questions and how to prioritize goals such as down payment for house, emergency fund, car purchase, etc. OR perhaps you have been in the workforce for a little while but need to get a handle on your finances and prioritize where you should be directing your money.



KNOW WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Nearly half of millennials say they're living paycheck to paycheck and only 28% say they are prepared for the unexpected, according to a new survey from the Aging Well Hub at Georgetown University's Business for Impact, in partnership with Bank of America.

Millennials also say they spend an average of \$478 a month on "nonessential" purchases, such as dining out, entertainment, luxury items and vacations.

According to Bank of America, of those with debt, 16% say they owe \$50,000 or more.

Experian reports that the average millennial has over \$4,000 in credit card debt.

Millennials hold 31.94% of all student debt, accounting for more than \$500 billion.

<https://www.Capitalcounselor.com/millennial-spending-statistics/>

Use our cash flow template. Available upon request via phone call or email.

Main Street Advisors, LLC

PERSONAL BUDGET SCHEDULE

Income												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Net Paycheck												
Investments												
Other												
Total Monthly Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenses												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mortgage/Rent												
HELOC or Home Equity Loan												
Utilities (water, gas, electric)												
Propane												
Telephone												
Groceries												
Car Payment												
Car Maintenance/Gasoline												
T.V./Internet												
HOA Dues												
Medical copays/Prescriptions												
Insurance												
Car												
Home												
Health												
Life												
Other												
Credit Card Payments												
Credit Card Payments (other)												
Continuing Education Expenses												
College loan debts												
Home Maintenance/Repairs/Improvements												
Charity												
Taxes												
Quarterly Estimated Payments												
Property Tax (personal)												
Real Estate Tax												
Self-employment Tax												
Gift's Given												
Yearbooks												
Sports												
College loan debt												
Summer camps												
Tutoring												
529 contributions												
Music												
Allowance												
School expenses (tuition if private, lunch money, pics, etc.)												
Clothing												
Health Club												
Organization Dues												
Subscriptions												
Dry Cleaning												
Hair, nails, etc.												
Dining Out												
Movies/Amusement												
Bars/Spirits												
Vacation/Getaways												
Other												
Miscellaneous												
Total Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Am I saving or overspending?	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Savings												
Checking												
Savings												
Monthly Savings												
401(k)												
Education Funding (529, prepaid)												
Investments												
Total Monthly Savings	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS YEAR TO YEAR

Your net worth can be a great tool in gauging your overall financial progress from year to year.

Your net worth is the figure you get when you add up everything you own (value of your home to the cash in your bank account) and then subtract all your debts (this may include a mortgage, car or student loans and credit card balances).

Essentially, it is what you would have left if you sold everything you owned and paid off all of your debts.

To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#)

Use our net worth template. Available upon request via phone call or email!

Main Street Advisors, LLC
Net Worth Statement

	7/1/2020	7/1/2021	7/1/2022	7/1/2023
Taxable				
Checking Account(s)				
Savings Account				
Automobiles -				
Automobiles -				
Home - Market Value				
Total Taxable Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tax Deferred				
Work 401(k) Pre-Tax				
IRA				
403(b)				
Total Tax Deferred Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tax Free				
(Example: Roth IRA or H.S.A. Account)				
Total Tax Free Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIABILITIES				
Loans				
Home Mortgage				
HELOC				
Auto Loan				
Auto Loan				
Credit cards				
Credit cards				
Other loan				
Student loans				
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET WORTH CALCULATION				
TOTAL ASSETS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET WORTH	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

FINANCIAL GOALS & MILESTONES TO AIM FOR

TWENTIES



- Start putting money away for an emergency fund. You should have at least 3 month's- worth of expenses saved up.
- Start contributing to your employer sponsored retirement account such as a 401(k) or 403(b). Stash away 10% of your annual salary. If you can't put aside this much, choose a lesser amount but increase it every year. Take advantage of any company matching opportunities! If your workplace doesn't have one, open a traditional IRA and begin making monthly contributions. Automate the contributions.
- Plan to pay off debt (high interest credit card debt and student loans).
- Save before you buy. Make smart financial decisions. If it isn't broken, why buy a new one?

- Create a budget and track spending. Consider using the 50/30/20 guideline (50% of your income goes towards needs, 30% goes towards wants and 20% goes towards debt payments/savings/investing).
- Consider renter's insurance. It pays to replace your stuff due to things like fire or a burst pipe but also covers theft and the cost to stay somewhere else if your apartment is temporarily unavailable. It is about \$15/month.



BUDGETING RESOURCES

Mint: <https://www.mint.com/>
YNAB: <https://youneedabudget.com/>
Good Budget: <https://goodbudget.com/>
Every Dollar: <https://everydollar.com/>

FINANCIAL GOALS & MILESTONES TO AIM FOR

THIRTIES



- Completely eliminate student loan debt and high interest credit card debt if you haven't already.
- Save at least 15% of every paycheck.
- Have at least 1X your annual income in retirement savings.
- Increase your savings rate with every raise or bonus and at the very least with every new year. Try to start or continue to max out your 401(k).
- Consider saving for a down payment on a home.
- Establish a will and update it every year.
- Start an investment portfolio (once you've eliminated debt and secured an emergency fund). Use money you won't need within the next 5 years.



STUDENT LOAN RESOURCES

[Financial Aid](#)

[Student Loan Refinancing Calculator](#)

[Student Loan Consolidation](#)

FINANCIAL GOALS & MILESTONES TO AIM FOR

FORTIES



- Ensure you have eliminated all non-mortgage consumer debt.
- Have a plan for your kid's college (perhaps open a 529 plan and make monthly automatic contributions). However, prioritize retirement savings first. Rule of thumb: multiply your child's age by 2,000 and this is the amount you should have saved by now (assumes 4-year public college and covering half of the cost).
- Continue saving. Contribute 10-15% of your annual salary to your retirement accounts – 401(k), 403(b), IRAs.
- Have at least 2X – 3X your annual income in retirement savings.
- Consider the benefits of opening a ROTH IRA.
- Consider opening a taxable investment account that can be used in the early retirement years as your tax-deferred account.
- Avoid lifestyle inflation.



OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

[Financial Calculators](#)

[Recommended Reading](#)

[Web Resources](#)

MILLENNIAL CHECKLIST

Insurance

Review deductibles and coverages to ensure properly covered.

Consider obtaining renter's insurance if renting property.

Consider obtaining umbrella policy.

Financial planning/investment planning

Consider hiring [Main Street Advisors, LLC](#) to help you create a financial plan, help you create a budget, create a debt reduction plan and invest your money wisely.

Create a net worth sheet to track your financial progress from year to year.

Invest in a 401(k), 403 (b) and/or IRA for retirement savings.

Create an emergency fund (3 months of expenses)

Start contributing to a 529 plan if you have children

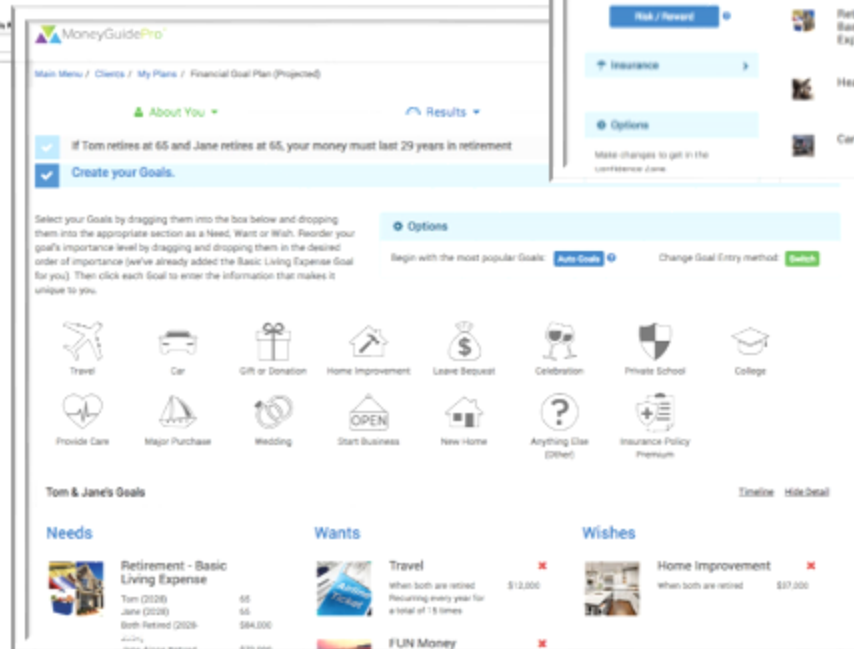
Estate planning

Secure a financial power of attorney, health power of attorney and last will and testament



MONEYGUIDEPRO®

- Life is full of decisions emanating from many different areas: **charitable giving, education planning, investment planning, estate planning, retirement planning, social security claiming strategies, tax reduction, risk management, cash flow/income sourcing and more.**
- The complex nature of these initiatives and the way in which they are interlinked causes each one to have a significant impact on the other, which requires a comprehensive solution tailored specifically to the individual client. To help us achieve this, we utilize one of the industry's leading financial planning software programs, MoneyGuidePro®.
- This enhanced solution gives us the ability to offer varying degrees of plans ranging from a more targeted perspective focusing on specific areas such as **retirement planning** or **college planning** to a more comprehensive approach, encompassing every area of your financial life. This tool affords our clients the ability to visually see the financial impact their decisions can have on their short and long-term goals, and ultimately overall financial future.



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)
[TO LEARN MORE](#)



HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON!



CFP@MAINSTADVISORS.COM



[HTTPS://WWW.MAINSTADVISORS.COM](https://www.mainstadvisors.com)



410-840-9200

Connect with us!



Main
Street
Advisors, LLC

THANK YOU!

Hometown Service | Thoughtful
Solutions | Powerful Results.

*We know it's the little things that
can make all the difference.*

Main Street Advisors, LLC is a Registered Investment Advisor. The articles & opinions expressed in this material were gathered from multiple sources, but are reviewed by Main Street Advisors, LLC prior to its dissemination. All sources are believed to be reliable but do not constitute specific investment advice. The views expressed are those of the firm as of the date of the material being shared and are subject to change. These opinions are not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of results, or investment advice. Information shared is general in nature. Investors must consider their own individual circumstances and seek appropriate counsel from their investment advisor before making any investment choices. Main Street Advisors, LLC is not responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.