

PERSONAL MONTHLY BUDGET

PROJECTED MONTHLY INCOME	Income 1	
	Extra income	
	Total monthly income	

ACTUAL MONTHLY INCOME	Income 1	
	Extra income	
	Total monthly income	

PROJECTED BALANCE	
(Projected income minus expenses)	
ACTUAL BALANCE	
(Actual income minus expenses)	
DIFFERENCE	
(Actual minus projected)	

HOUSING	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Mortgage or rent			
Phone			
Electricity			
Gas			
Water and sewer			
Cable			
Waste removal			
Maintenance or repairs			
Supplies			
Other			
Subtotal			

TRANSPORTATION	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Vehicle payment			
Bus/taxi fare			
Insurance			
Licensing			
Fuel			
Maintenance			
Other			
Subtotal			

INSURANCE	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Home			
Health			
Life			
Other			
Subtotal			

FOOD	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Groceries			
Dining out			
Other			
Subtotal			

PETS	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Food			
Medical			
Grooming			
Toys			
Other			
Subtotal			

PERSONAL CARE	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Medical			
Hair/nails			
Clothing			
Dry cleaning			
Health club			
Organization dues or fees			
Other			
Subtotal			

ENTERTAINMENT	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Video/DVD			
CDs			
Movies			
Concerts			
Sporting events			
Live theater			
Other			
Other			
Other			
Subtotal			

LOANS	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Personal			
Student			
Credit card			
Credit card			
Credit card			
Other			
Subtotal			

TAXES	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Federal			
State			
Local			
Other			
Subtotal			

SAVINGS OR INVESTMENTS	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Retirement account			
Investment account			
Other			
Subtotal			

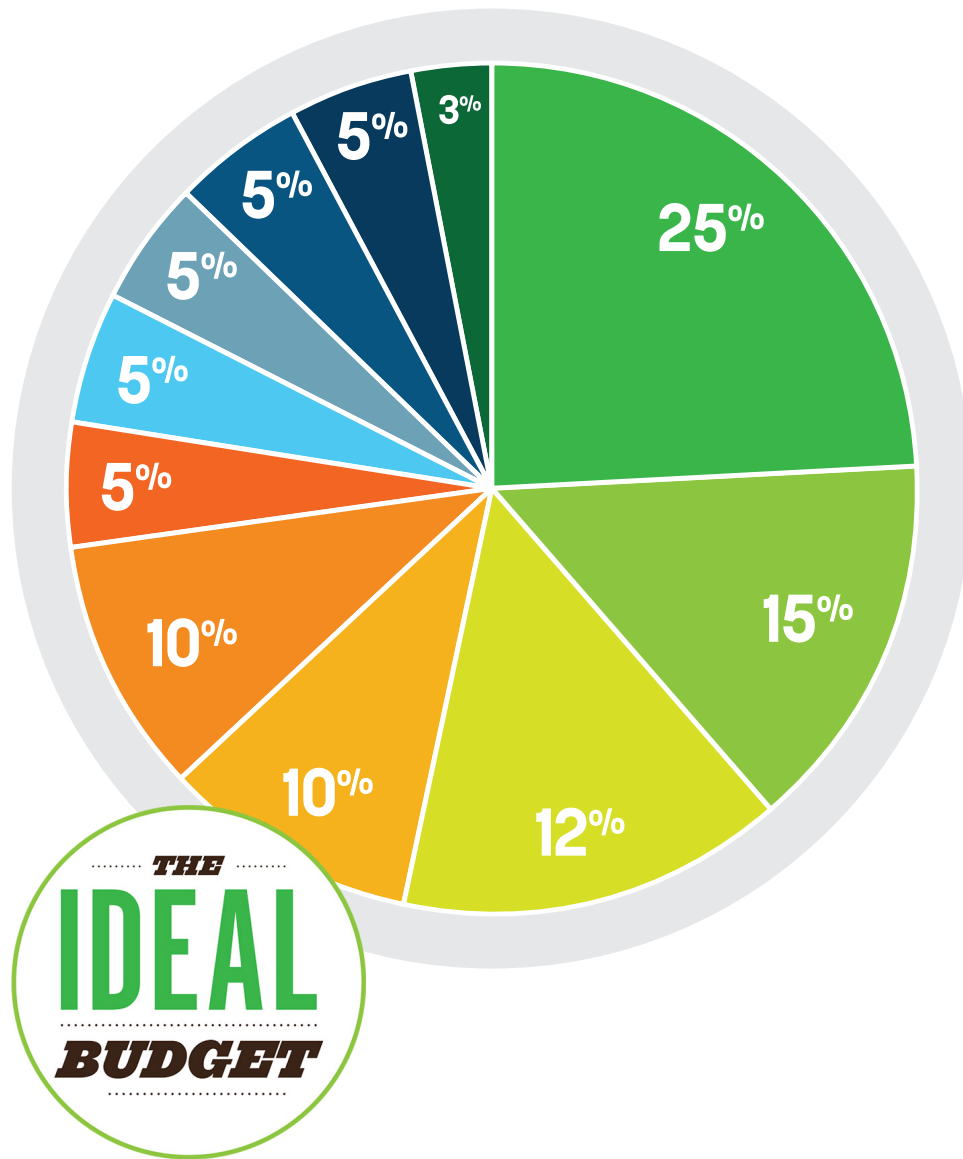
GIFTS AND DONATIONS	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Charity 1			
Charity 2			
Charity 3			
Subtotal			

LEGAL	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Attorney			
Alimony			
Payments on lien or judgment			
Other			
Subtotal			

TOTAL PROJECTED COST	
TOTAL ACTUAL COST	
TOTAL DIFFERENCE	

What is your total household take-home pay (minus taxes and retirement contributions) per month?

\$



25% HOUSING

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

15% TRANSPORTATION

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

12% GROCERIES/DINING

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

10% SAVINGS

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

10% UTILITIES/PHONE

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

5% CHARITY

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

5% ENTERTAINMENT

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

5% MEDICAL

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

5% HOLIDAYS/GIFTS

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

5% CLOTHING

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

3% MISC.

\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
IDEAL	ACTUAL

Want a great financial life? You need numbers. Real numbers. Start with the Pete the Planner® Ideal Budget (Yeah, I named the budget after myself).

The percentages on the Ideal Budget are called *ideal* for a reason. You won't always match my percentages exactly and that's okay... for the most part. The two categories I want you to avoid going over are Housing and Transportation. Exceeding the ideal percentages in these two categories can really put your financial life in a bind. The rest of the budget is somewhat flexible. Your goal is to use 100% (and no more) of your budget. Notice I said "use" not "spend." Saving is an integral part of this budget. If you tithe, have daycare expenses, or debt payments, you'll have to fit those in where you can. This budget covers broad categories, it's up to you to make sure your expenses fit your budget. Budgeting takes communication, accountability, and true awareness of your spending habits. But budgeting can also create flexibility, and flexibility is a beautiful thing.