



How to create a 2024 financial calendar

Personal financial planning can be a stressful process. This guide will help you create a financial calendar to stay on top of your financial details in 2024

Personal financial planning can be a stressful process. You must do quite a bit of research to gather all the important dates that affect your financial life throughout the coming year, such as Tax Day, car or house payment dates, deadlines for tuition, payoff dates for loans, retirement deadlines, quarterly payments, etc.

If you will spend a few hours, or even days, putting important financial dates onto a calendar at the beginning of the year, you will reap some unique benefits...

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Spring Balance (Balance Forward)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
End Income	\$ 7,287.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
End Expenses	\$ 5,391.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
End Income	\$ 1,896.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Projected End Balance	\$ 11,896.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
INCOME												
Salary/Wages	\$ 5,987.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Gifts	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Spouse	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Roth	\$ 119.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 7,287.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EXPENSES												
Emergency Fund	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer to Savings	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Withdrawals (401K, IRA)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investments	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Education	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 1,430.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SAVINGS												
Income	\$ 2,280.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 2,260.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Benefits of Using a Financial Calendar

Many who do this process find that they save more, feel less stress, feel empowered, and reach their financial goals faster. The alternative is getting blindsided by missed payments, forgotten financial deadlines, and low savings rates. If you only do only one New Year's resolution this year, I encourage you to create a financial calendar.

Continue below for help in creating a financial calendar.

1. Choose your medium

Do you like paper calendars or digital? Do you like open-ended calendars or guided financial prompts? You can use an existing calendar, make your own on something like Excel, download a free financial calendar online, or purchase a financial calendar from a service like Etsy. Pick something! I like using something I can spread out so that I can see the entire year at once.

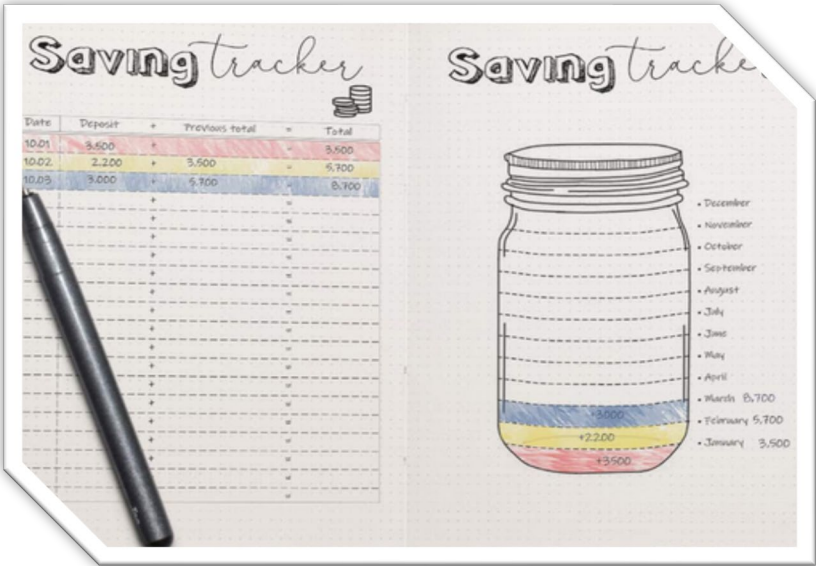
your money, then try to color code your expenses according to business-only, personal-only, and mixed-use expenses.

6. Add household maintenance costs

House maintenance costs often go under the radar and we fail to plan for them. Think ahead about the things you'll need or want to do to your home this year. Estimate the cost of those things. If you don't have any idea, then you can use an industry average that says people typically spend 1% per year on home maintenance, without any major repairs, such as a new roof or furnace. That's 1% of the value of the home, so clearly there's a lot of wiggle room here.

7. Add your financial goals

Do you want to buy a travel trailer this year? Are you hoping to vacation to Ecuador? Is this your year to buy a new house? Put the hoped-for purchase date on your calendar. Then add planning steps to accomplish that goal. Do you need to apply for a loan? Put it on the calendar. Do you need to book your flight? Put it on the calendar. If you need to save \$3,000 for the purchase, list the sources of that income on the calendar.



8. List your income sources and income

If you're not as wealthy as Bill Gates, then you need a budget. List the dates you have money coming in and how much it is. If it's regular income, color code it one way. If it's irregular income (such as investment income, gig income, or income from service contracts), leave room for it and add it as the year progresses.

9. Balance your budget monthly

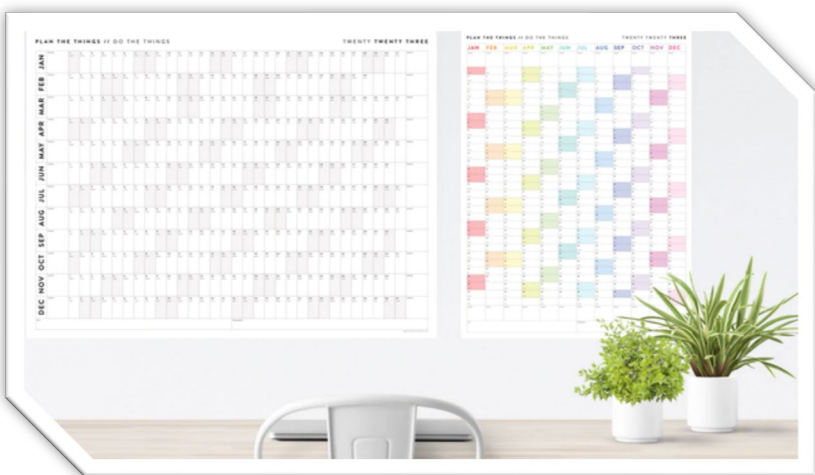
Now that you have listed your expenses and income, on a monthly basis, balance your budget to see if your spending is in alignment with your income...and your financial goals. See below.

10. Look at the big picture & tighten up

Next, look at the flow of money you have coming in and out over the year. Project how you'll get the money to pay for your big expenses while still managing your regular costs. Where can you tighten up? Where do you need to earn more money?

11. Keep it in sight

Finally, the only thing to do is to keep up with your calendar. Monthly, or at least every three months, spend time looking over your calendar to see if you're on track or need to adjust. Post it on your wall. Make sure it's not out of sight...because out of sight is usually out of mind. Keep it in sight and in mind!



Calendar suggestions

You can use a large annual wall calendar to put major dates, such as annual and quarterly payments, and major purchases you will need to make, such as buying a house. This lets you keep a bird's eye on your financial picture and keep your goals top of mind.

Then you can use a paper-based or digital system to track the details monthly.

Personally, I like using Excel or Google Sheets. Apps often require me to go to multiple screens to enter and then view data. Excel and Sheets are flexible tools that I can make it do what I need. Then once per month I can do a quick budget balancing from one big screen, rather than an app that might require different screens to access the big picture.

If you prefer an app, here are some free and low-cost options you can try: smartsheet.com (which is an Excel-based online system), [Mint](#), [Goodbudget](#), [YNAB \(You Need a Budget\)](#), and [Everydollar](#) from Dave Ramsey for serious money tracking. Also, there's [GnuCash](#) if you have a small business.

Buying a house in 2024?

If you're planning to buy a house, then you may want information about closing costs and loans to get a specific picture of the financial requirements. Contact me to start now.



Your real estate agent for life!