

MANAGING YOUR MONEY

MANAGING YOUR MONEY IN THE NEW FINANCIAL ERA

Many Irish families and individuals are facing yet another financially challenging year.

But this doesn't have to mean unnecessary stress and debt. We hope that encouraging you to look at your finances will help highlight where your money is going and put you on the first steps to effective budgeting and money management.

WHO CAN HELP?

If you find yourself in a difficult financial situation, having trouble paying your bills, loan repayments and other expenses, just remember you are not alone. There are useful, non-judgemental and free advisory services available to you.

- ▶ Talk - in confidence - to your local credit union. Find your local credit union at creditunion.ie and download the credit union budgeting app (MyBudgetBuddy) for iPhone and Android smart phones.
- ▶ The Citizens Information Centre - The one stop shop for your rights, entitlements and information at citizensinformation.ie.
- ▶ MABS (Monetary Advice and Budgeting Service) mabs.ie is a national, free, confidential and independent service for people in debt or in danger of getting into debt.

GOLDEN RULES FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

"I don't know where my money goes every month!"

"Why are my monthly outgoings so high!"

"I don't save!"

Have you ever heard yourself say these? If so here are our golden rules to help you gain control.

- ▶ **TRACK**
Keep track of your spending. Keep your receipts or take note of what you spend your money on. It will help you understand where your money is going and it might just be an eye opener.

- ▶ **BUDGET**
Estimate your income and expenditure for a set period and budget accordingly. But be realistic and don't underestimate!
- ▶ **SAVE**
Get into the habit of saving. Try to save at least 5% of your regular income for emergencies.
- ▶ **BE PRUDENT**
Shop around and get the best deals and look at cost comparison websites such as bonkers.ie, compare.ie, comreg.ie, itsyourmoney.ie and hia.ie to name but a few.
- ▶ **BORROWING**
There are times in our lives when we run short of funds. If you have to take out a loan, be sure you only borrow what you can comfortably afford to repay. You should match the repayment term to the purpose of the loan i.e. don't make the mistake of paying off Christmas over a number of years. Best advice is to stay away from credit cards and not to use Money Lenders.

WHERE DO I START?

While most of us find budgeting boring it is absolutely essential - a budget is a plan of money you expect to receive and how you expect to spend it. A budget is important because it will show you:

- ▶ How much money is coming into your household.
- ▶ How much money is going out.
- ▶ How much you can afford to offer to those you owe money to.
- ▶ How you can best plan your spending in the future.



BUDGET PLANNER

Your monthly expenses should not be more than your monthly income.

If it is, it's time to look at where you can make some savings and/or cut backs.

INCOME	€ Monthly
Your wages (after tax)	
Your partner's wages (after tax)	
Children's allowance and other social welfare	
Mortgage interest relief (if paid into bank account directly)	
Other	
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	

EXPENSES	€ Monthly
Loans & Debts	
Car finance/loan repayments	
Credit card repayments	
Credit union repayments	
Personal loans repayments	
Other	
Savings (including emergency fund)	
Savings	
Investment plan	
Other	
(gifts/rental income etc.)	
Work Related	
Lunches and snacks	
Transport	
Other	
Pension	
Extra pension contributions (not taken from salary)	
Home Expenses	
Broadband	
Electricity	
Food/Groceries	
Gas	
House/garden maintenance	
Management fees	
Oil	
Pets (food/care/insurance)	
Rent/mortgage payments	
TV Licence	
TV package (cable/satellite)	
Waste charges	
Water charges	
Septic Tank charges	
Other	
Phone Expenses	
Mobile Costs	
Landline	
Insurance	
Health insurance	
Home insurance	
Life insurance	
Mortgage protection insurance	
Motor insurance	
Travel insurance	
Other	

Car Costs	
Breakdown recovery	
NCT	
Parking fees	
Petrol/diesel	
Tax	
Tolls	
Servicing/maintenance	
Leisure	
Alcohol/cigarettes	
CD's/DVD's/music/books/magazines	
Club membership/hobbies	
Eating out/takeaways	
Entertainment/family day outs	
Other	
Occasional Expenses	
Birthdays	
Charity donations	
Christmas	
Clothes/shoes	
Hairdressers/barbers	
Holidays	
Household goods/furniture	
Medical/dentist expenses	
Weddings	
Family Costs	
Baby sitting	
Child care	
Children's pocket money	
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	

TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	–

BALANCE	=
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Issuing details:

This leaflet is issued by the Irish League of Credit Unions in respect of its affiliated credit unions and is for guidance only. Members should always check with their own credit union for further details.

Membership of and all transactions with any credit union are subject to the rules of the credit union which may be obtained from your credit union.

Loans are subject to approval. Terms and conditions apply. If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating which may limit your ability to access credit in the future. Credit unions in the Republic of Ireland are regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.