



Tracking Expenses

Typically, people know how much they earn and they know their fixed expenses (e.g. rent and car payment). Usually, they don't know where the rest of their money goes.

The way to find out where your money goes is to track your expenses. You (and every member of your family) need to write down every penny that you spend each day. Try this for one month. You will learn where your money goes and you will find that you have more money than you realized.

A Real-Life Example

In January, every Monday through Friday, Mr. Smith ate lunch at a fast food restaurant. He spent \$5.00 a day on fast food, which totaled \$100.00 per month. Additionally, he spent \$1.00 a day at the soft drink machine, which totaled \$20.00 per month. During the month of January, Mr. Smith spent \$125.00 for fast food lunches and soft drinks.

In February, he packed his lunch some days and ate at the fast food restaurant other days. He also bought soda at the grocery store, which was cheaper than the soft drink machine. As a result, Mr. Smith had \$75.00 more in February than he did in January.

How? He tracked his expenses, found out where he was spending his money, and then he made better spending choices.

Please review and use the tracking forms. Also, please contact your loan coordinator if you would like to receive versions of these forms electronically.

Good luck, enjoy your extra money, and use it wisely!