



Baby Budget Checklist

Having a baby is a time filled with happiness and warm thoughts of the future. To best prepare yourself financially for your new arrival, it can help to create a separate budget just for the increased expenses baby will bring. Below is a list of expense and considerations you will want to factor in should you decide to create a baby budget to take the stresses out of making ends meet the first year.

Budget categories

- Baby bathtub
- Baby book/scrapbook
- Baby monitor
- Bassinet
- Bedding/blankets
- Bibs
- Birth announcements
- Bottles
- Car seat
- Carrier/sling
- Childcare
- Childproofing supplies
- Clothes
- Crib and mattress
- Decorations
- Diaper bag
- Diaper pail
- Diapers
- Doctor visits
- First aid kit with thermometer
- Food
- Formula
- Furniture (rocking chair, extra dresser, changing table, etc.)
- Grooming supplies (baby nail clipper, comb, etc.)
- Hamper
- Highchair
- Humidifier
- Laundry expense increases (utilities, detergent)
- Nursing clothes
- Pacifiers
- Plates, bowls, cups and utensils
- Playpen
- Pump
- Safety gates
- Stroller
- Toiletries (wipes, baby powder, lotion, etc.)
- Toys/books
- Walker

Other factors to consider:

- Can you save money on any of these items by using hand-me-downs, or by getting items from thrift stores, yard sales or on websites like <http://www.freecycle.org> or <http://www.swapmamas.com>?
- Can money be saved by breastfeeding whenever possible instead of buying formula?
- Will there be income lost from time away from work?
- Will there be expenses related to writing or re-writing wills?
- Can you expect increases in premiums for life or disability insurance?
- Will you be making contributions to college or other savings for the child?
- Will you need to buy a new car or move to a larger home?
- In what other areas will money be saved, like taxes or entertainment expenses?