Holidays on a Budget

How to manage your wallet without losing your mind

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Overview

★ Shopping stats
★ Survey results
★ Helpful tips
★ How to’s
★ Resources
How much will you spend?

- U.S. consumers plan to spend an average of $832 this holiday season on gifts.

- 26% of shoppers say they will spend less this year due to the current financial crisis.

- 60% of U.S. shoppers say they will spend less due to higher gas prices.
You either shop right after the holidays for the next year or after Thanksgiving.

Most report that they were not last minute shoppers.

Some traditions that you considered doing without this year were…
More survey results...

Top 3 most stressful:

- Spending too much money: 8
- Creating a holiday budget: 6
- Deciding what gifts to buy: 2
3 Least stressful

- Taking care of your health
- Decorating for holiday events
- Not enough time to shop
Tips to Control Your Budget

★ Make a list and stick to it!
   ★ Figure out everything that you need to purchase

★ Prioritize
   ★ What do you really need?

★ Buy in bulk
More Helpful Tips

★ Shop online
  ★ Those that shop online are less likely to impulse buy
  ★ Look for free shipping! [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

★ Make it yourself

★ Use recycled items
Make it easy on yourself

★ Pay with cash
  ★ Those that pay with credit card spend more!

★ Look for coupons for holiday meal items
  ★ [www.couponmom.com](http://www.couponmom.com)

★ Get others involved
  ★ Have a potluck dinner instead of cooking it all.

★ Simplify your gift list
How to Boost Your Budget

★ Make a wish list for the holiday season.
★ Categorize list into needs, wants and extras.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Wants</th>
<th>Extras</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts for 2 children</td>
<td>New lights for tree</td>
<td>New PJ’s for kids Christmas morning pics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas money for trip home</td>
<td>Gifts for children’s teachers (2)</td>
<td>Ice skating trip with family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money for homeless shelter donation</td>
<td>Host work party at our house</td>
<td>Fancy gift wrap and bows for presents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food for Christmas dinner</td>
<td>Gifts for babysitter and neighborhood kids (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You need to assign an honest, realistic price tag to each column.

Keep track of all of your expenses to make sure you stick to your budget. Carry this chart with you as you shop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Wants</th>
<th>Extras</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts for our children (2)</td>
<td>New lights for tree</td>
<td>New PJ’s for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amt: $100.00</td>
<td>Amt: $15.00</td>
<td>Amt: $50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas money for trip home</td>
<td>Gifts for children’s teachers (2)</td>
<td>Ice skating trip with family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amt: $200.00</td>
<td>Amt: $20.00</td>
<td>Amt: $40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money for charitable donation</td>
<td>Host work party at our home</td>
<td>Fancy gift decorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amt: $100.00</td>
<td>Amt: $50.00</td>
<td>Amt: $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food for family gathering</td>
<td>Gifts for babysitter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amt: $75.00</td>
<td>Amt: $20.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: $475.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total: $105.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total: $100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

Helpful websites:

www.FatWallett.com
www.SlickDeals.net
www.SundaySaver.com
www.Sales.Cirular.com
Questions?