# Quick start guide to managing money after college

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# Introduction

Graduating from college is a huge accomplishment, and putting your degree to use in the workplace can be exciting and fulfilling. Financially, there's a lot to consider — from searching for a job and resetting your budget to learning how to invest and plan for retirement in the future. This guide is designed to help you navigate your next adventures.

- Download or print it to make the most of the included worksheets and checklists.
- Keep it handy and reference it as you plan and make decisions.
- Follow the links to more helpful resources online.

We're committed to helping recent grads like you navigate financial decisions and bring your future goals into focus.

## Contents

# Part 1: Starting your career

Whether you're trying to land your dream job, start your own business, or create a steady income flow as a freelancer, you're going to need some guidance. In this section, you'll find advice and resources to help you kick-start your career.

# Job search checklist

☐ **Refresh your resume.**
Update your resume with relevant skills and recent work experience. You can include volunteer work or positions in student organizations, especially if they demonstrate skills that translate to the jobs you want. Use a resume template, like this one from Indeed®*, that's formatted to be scannable by companies' digital HR systems, which often filter out resumes before recruiters review them.

☐ **Stay online.**
Keep your profiles on LinkedIn® and other job searching sites up to date and check them for new jobs regularly. You can also set up notifications about job openings that are posted in your preferred industry and locations.

☐ **Research potential employers.**
Start by making a list of the employers you'd most like to work for and check for openings at those places. As you search for other job openings, research the employers carefully. Your research can lead you to other opportunities and prevent you from wasting time applying to companies that aren't a good fit for you. Also, watch out for hiring scams.

☐ **Contact your references.**
You should have a few personal and professional references lined up, as most job applications require them. They should be people who aren't related to you but who you've known for at least a year — longer is better. Contact your potential references and make sure they're OK with being contacted by your potential employers.

☐ **Be social.**
Talk to your former classmates or professors about where to find work. They may even be willing to act as a reference or put in a good word for you with someone they know who's hiring. You can also contact your school to see what kind of career services and resources are available for recent graduates.





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# Job interview checklist

- ☐ **Practice interviewing.**
  Research some common interview questions and practice answering them. In your interview, you may be asked about times when you were given responsibility or accomplished a difficult task. Think about those occasions and be prepared to discuss them. Ask someone you know who's interviewed people before, or who you know is a good interviewer, to ask the questions and give you feedback. Check with friends who have interviewed for jobs to learn what they experienced.

- ☐ **Keep an outfit ready.**
  Keep at least one outfit ready to wear in case you schedule an interview on short notice. Standard interview attire typically is a two-piece suit in a dark color like black, navy, gray, or brown, but this can vary depending on the company's culture.

- ☐ **Prepare questions.**
  Interviews are chances for you to learn more about the hiring company and the position. Preparing a few questions to ask about the company will show them you've carefully considered the responsibilities. Both you and the employer are trying to determine if you're the best fit for the job and company.

- ☐ **Contact your references.**
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- ☐ **Be yourself.**
  Don't think of your interview as just an opportunity to impress your potential employer. Think of it as a chance to show them who you are and tell them what you have to offer. Aim to give them thoughtful responses to your questions, but also show them what kind of personality you would bring to their workplace.

- ☐ **Follow up.**
  After the interview, send an email to thank each interviewer for their time. It's a small, simple gesture, but it will reinforce your interest in the position and just might set you apart from another candidate with similar qualifications.

# 5 steps to accepting a job offer

If you've been offered your dream job at a salary you can't imagine anyone realistically paying you, your immediate response may be to say yes before anyone thinks twice. But that's not always the case. Accepting a full-time job is a big decision, and it should be made carefully.

Learn what to expect when it comes time to respond to a job offer.

## 1. Respond to the offer.

When you first receive the offer, thank the recruiter or hiring manager and tell them you need some time to review the terms. Ask them when they need a decision, and let them know when they can expect one from you. Be clear and set expectations.

## 2. Review the terms.

Before you decide whether to accept, you'll need all the information. Find out how much paid time off you get, whether unused paid time off carries from year to year, and if the company offers other benefits like tuition reimbursement and matching 401(k) contributions. Find out what the health insurance plan's premiums and deductibles are. Ask if the company will reimburse you for moving expenses, or if they'll provide transportation benefits such as a company car, transportation allowance, or parking.

## 3. Negotiate the terms.

If you're not comfortable accepting a job at the salary offered, request a meeting to negotiate the terms. Before your meeting, decide what amount you're prepared to accept. Keep in mind that this can vary depending on geography. Provide a counteroffer that's above the salary you're comfortable accepting, and be prepared to settle somewhere in between.

## 4. Formally accept or decline the offer.

Once you've made your decision, you should formally accept or decline the offer. This can be done through a brief but professional email. If you're accepting the offer, it should include a review of the key terms of your employment, such as salary, benefits, and start date, to make sure both parties are on the same page.

## 5. Ask about what's next.

Ask what steps you may need to take in preparation for your start date. You may need to sign a contract or fill out some paperwork as part of the onboarding process. If you require workplace or schedule accommodations due to disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you may need to discuss those specific requirements with your employer at this time.

### *Ask yourself:*

**Will I earn enough?**

Create a mock budget at the salary you've been offered. Is it enough to cover your necessities, including any student loan payments? How much will you be able to save? Are there good benefits to add value to the salary offered? Also consider the potential for career advancement and earnings growth, and whether the company provides stock options or ownership stake.

**Can I picture myself working there?**

Imagine your day-to-day life at the job. If it's a job in your area, you could even wake up one day and make the commute just to see what it'd be like. It may seem silly, but if you can't imagine yourself being content working there for a while, it may be a sign that you'd rather hold out for something else.

**Will this job help me achieve my goals?**

Even if you don't see yourself there in five years, the position you've been offered may help you achieve other goals. Will the money you earn help you pay off your debt, buy a house, or start your own business? Will the experience make you more qualified for your actual dream job?

# Where'd my pay go?

**Gross pay** is the salary you agreed to, before deductions and withholdings.*

## Withholdings

*You may get a federal or state income tax refund after you file your taxes or may find you owe if you did not withhold enough.

| Social Security tax[1] | Medicare tax[1] | Federal and state income tax[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 6.2% | 1.45% | X% |
| of income | of income | of income (varies by income and location) |

## Deductions

**Insurance premiums**

Health, life, disability, etc.

Amounts vary; usually shared with employer

**Contributions**

401(k), health savings account, flexible spending account

You determine amounts based on eligible participation; employers may match

**Wage garnishment**

Debt, child support, alimony, etc.

Garnishment amounts limited by federal law

**Net pay**, or take-home pay, is the amount you receive after deductions and withholdings.



Source: https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics

# Freelance and side gig resources

If you're passionate about something and think you're ready to turn it into a business, you may want to consider freelancing after graduation. You can freelance either as a side gig (if your employer allows it) or as a full-time job.

## Freelancing pros and cons

### Pros

- Flexibility to set work hours and schedule time off
- Freedom to choose where you perform your work
- Ability to be more selective about what work you do
- Potential to use multiple skill sets across different projects

### Cons

- Lack of benefits like paid time off, health insurance, etc.
- Potential for extra facility, utility, and equipment costs
- Extra responsibilities (managing projects, tech troubleshooting, etc.)
- Potential to miss out on career development resources offered to full-time workers

If you're not the freelancing type, maybe you have an idea for a business. Either way, you may benefit from taking some of the following steps to help your freelancing business or small business operate smoothly and eventually grow.

**Consider making your business more than a hobby.**
Whether you're freelancing or operating a small business from your home, you may benefit from forming a limited liability company (LLC) to conduct your business. It can help you avoid personal liability if your business is sued, and it'll be useful to have the business structure already in place if you have an opportunity to grow.

See the sidebar to make sure you're on the right track and to find more resources to help start your business.

### *How to form a new business:*

Pick a business structure — typically, a sole proprietorship, partnership, or limited liability company (LLC).

Sole proprietors can conduct business using their legal names without registering as a business entity. You may, however, miss out on liability protection and benefits afforded to businesses registered as such.

If you decide to register your business, here's a good place to start:

Choose a name* and perform a business entity search to make sure it's not already in use in your state.

Register your business* with the proper government entities.

Apply for an employer identification number* (EIN).

Apply for any licenses or permits* you may need to do business in your area.

Consider a separate business bank account* to keep finances separate.

Consider getting business insurance.*

*Find more guidance for planning, launching, and operating your business in the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Business Guide.**

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# Freelance and side gig resources, continued

**Separate your personal and business finances.**
Small business bank accounts help make it easier to separate and keep track of your business income, expenses, and savings. Here's what you'll need to bring with you to establish a business bank account based on your business type (sole proprietorship, general partnership, etc.).

Not only will it be easier to track your business finances, but keeping a business account separate from your personal accounts can help save a lot of work when it's time to file taxes. You'll also want to be sure you're saving a portion of your earnings for tax payments so you're more prepared when it comes time to file. The IRS provides good information about this self-employment tax here.

***Tip:*** *Use spreadsheets and project trackers to keep track of your business's ongoing and completed projects. Track revenues, expenses, dates of requests, deadlines, and payments you receive.*

**Links to Wells Fargo Small Business Resources**

- Small Business Resources
- Wells Fargo Small Business Banking Product Selector
- Solutions for Women Entrepreneurs

**IRS Links**

- Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center*
- Tax Information for Partnerships*
- Gig Economy Tax Center*
- Industry and Profession-Specific Tax Centers*
- Employer Identification Number*(EIN)

**Small Business Administration (SBA) Links**

- Business Guide*
- 10 Steps to Start Your Business*
- Small Business Development Centers *(SBDC)
- Funding Programs*
- SBA Learning Platform*

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# Part 2: Managing your money

In this section, you'll learn how to build a solid financial foundation on good saving and budgeting habits.

# Saving and banking tips for recent graduates

- **Open a savings account if you don't already have one.** Many graduates already have a savings account from college, but if you don't, consider opening one to set money aside. Unlike a digital payment app or an investment account, bank savings accounts are insured up to $250,000 per depositor, per insured financial institution, for each account ownership category by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

  Savings accounts have different features. Some offer higher interest rates in exchange for a larger minimum balance or for agreeing to limit the number of transactions each month. Others have digital tools built in that make small, automatic transfers to your savings account when you spend out of your checking account. Compare Wells Fargo savings accounts and certificates of deposit.

- **Open a checking account if you don't already have one.** Like a savings account, a checking account is an FDIC-insured place to deposit your money. You don't actually need to use paper checks to find a checking account useful. Many people today only use their checking account for debit card or electronic transactions such as online purchases, bill pay, and mobile payment services. Checking accounts often come with digital tools such as automatic bill pay, spending trackers, and access to check your credit score. Compare Wells Fargo checking accounts.

- **Avoid overdrafts, but don't panic if you do overdraft**. An overdraft occurs when you spend more money than you have available in your account and the bank covers your transaction. It can happen to anyone. You can choose to set up optional Overdraft Protection to help avoid the inconvenience of declined transactions and overdrafts. For example, if you tie your savings account to your checking account for overdraft protection, the bank can use some of your savings balance to cover the overdraft. Learn exactly what to do when you overdraft.

### *What to bring to open a bank account:*

These are some of the most common requirements for opening an account. Actual requirements may vary. Check with your bank to see what options you have.

- A valid and current photo ID, such as a driver's license, state ID card, or passport.
  - This should show your legal name, date of birth, and country of citizenship.
  - If your current address is different from the one on your ID, a utility bill with your current address is required.
  - If you do not have either a photo ID or passport, check with your bank to see what your options are.
- A Social Security card or number
- Funds to deposit into your new account

# Saving and banking tips for recent graduates, continued

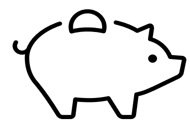
- **If you're eligible, open a health savings account (HSA)**. HSAs are a type of savings account created to work in partnership with affordable health insurance that carries a high deductible. A deductible is the amount of money you must pay out of pocket for health care before your insurance begins to pay its percentage. HSAs are a way to set aside pretax money for qualified health-related costs, including your deductible, co-pays, prescriptions, and more.

  How do you know if you're eligible? First, you need to have your own insurance, either through your employer or through the open market; if you're still on your parents' health insurance plan, you can't open your own HSA. Second, you need to have a deductible on that insurance plan that's at least $1,400 for an individual.

  You can learn more about HSAs from the American Bankers Association* or from the Internal Revenue Service.*

- **Prioritize savings with proven tactics**. Financial experts know that managing money is one of the most challenging things we do in our daily lives. So they don't just say "Do it." They have several research-backed recommendations for how to tackle that challenge, particularly for saving.

Here are **three savings fundamentals** you can use to get on track right now:



1. Tackle life's challenges with an emergency savings fund

2. Save money by paying yourself first

3. Manage your spending to save more

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# Create your post-college budget

Month __________ Year __________

## Income

| | Amount |
|---|---|
| Employer pay (after withholding) | |
| Side gigs or freelance income | |
| Gifts/other income | |
| **Total income** | |

## Savings (Pay yourself first!)

| Type | Goal | Monthly amount | Current balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emergency fund | | | |
| Medical savings *(health savings account, for example)* | | | |
| Retirement savings | | | |
| Other *(house down payment, car, etc.)* | | | |
| **Total saved** | | | |

***Tip:*** *Wells Fargo customers also have access to Budget Watch — an online budget for effective and convenient money management.*

## Expenses

| | Amount |
|---|---|
| Housing | |
| Furniture and decor | |
| Rent | |
| Renters insurance | |
| Other | |
| Utilities | |
| Electric, gas, water | |
| Internet | |
| Phone | |
| Other | |
| Transportation | |
| Car insurance | |
| Car payment | |
| Gasoline | |
| Parking | |
| Public transportation/rideshare | |
| Other | |
| Food | |
| Groceries | |
| Dining out | |

# Create your post-college budget, continued

Month __________ Year __________

## Expenses

| | Amount |
|---|---|
| Health and personal care | |
| Clothes | |
| Household items | |
| Medicine (with/without prescriptions) | |
| Other personal care products/services | |
| Giving | |
| Donations | |
| Other | |
| Entertainment and recreation | |
| Events | |
| Fitness memberships | |
| Streaming services | |
| Travel | |
| Other | |
| Debt | |
| Credit card payments | |
| Student loans | |
| Other loans | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| **Total expenses** | |

Now, calculate your income minus your savings and expenses.

**Total** ______

### If your results =

**Zero:**
Congratulations, you have a balanced budget! Keep up the good work each month by tracking your progress and adjusting as needed so you stay in control of your money.

**Less than zero:**
Think about your needs versus wants, and take another look at your expenses to determine where you may be able to cut. Here are a few tips on managing your money better. And if it works for your situation, you may also consider ways to increase your income to help you cover costs.

**More than zero:**
Great news — you're covering all your savings and expenses with your current income! With cash left over, consider saving even more toward your goals or paying down debts, if you have them. Here are a few more ideas to help you manage your money.

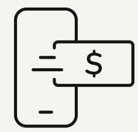
# Your relationships and your money

Money can sometimes have a big impact on your relationships. You've probably heard (or experienced) that finances are one of the most common reasons for disagreements between couples and roommates. But when you both get on the same page about money, it can help to strengthen relationships! Living with a friend or partner, making a big purchase together like a house or trip, or committing to one another as spouses can go more smoothly if you learn about one another's financial attitudes, habits, and priorities. So start talking, and consider using some of these questions to guide your conversation.

| Questions | Answers |
|---|---|
| **Fair share**<br>How will we split costs for things we both or all use? Is it fair for everyone to pay an equal amount, or should someone pay more or less? | |
| **Setting a budget**<br>How will we decide how much we can afford? Will we borrow money together for big purchases? Will we pool our savings to reach important goals? Creating a budget together will help you determine and align on shared priorities. | |
| **Outside help**<br>Do we feel comfortable asking our families for money, either loaned or given? If one of us receives a gift of cash, does anyone but the recipient have a say in how it's spent? | |
| **Financial values**<br>What matters most to us about money? Share stories of important money-related events in your life, good or bad, and how they shaped the way you think about money. | |
| **Goals**<br>What are some of our big financial goals, together or separately? These could include starting a business, paying off student debt, becoming a homeowner, or learning to invest. | |

# Balancing acts

We all have more than one goal that takes money to achieve. That's great — we should always dream big! Managing your money well can be about balancing competing priorities. This worksheet can help you identify and map your route to those multiple goals.



**Wells Fargo offers customers many digital tools** that help make setting and reaching your financial goals easier. See details and enroll today at mobile and online banking with Wells Fargo.

**Identify your list of goals and document your impressions here:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Example goal:** | *Pay off student loans* |
| Progress so far: | *Have automatic debit set up to make payments on time* |
| What's next: | *Use side gig income to pay ahead of schedule* |
| Importance: | *Very important* |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal 1:** | |
| Progress so far: | |
| What's next: | |
| Importance: | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal 2:** | |
| Progress so far: | |
| What's next: | |
| Importance: | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal 3:** | |
| Progress so far: | |
| What's next: | |
| Importance: | |

# Retirement and investing basics

Information about the stock market, the economy, and ways to invest is all around you. Where do you start?

Investing puts your money to work so it has the potential to grow — in some cases, tax-free. With taxable investment accounts, you can either invest by yourself, with the guidance of a financial investor, or in a robo-advisor account, where technology does all the investment work for you after you've answered a few simple questions about your financial goals, time horizon, and tolerance for investment risk. Tax-advantaged investment accounts, such as an individual retirement account (IRA) and other retirement savings accounts, are designed for a specific purpose and include tax penalties for early withdrawal of your money.

1. **Set retirement goals.** At what age would you like to retire? How much income do you want to have in retirement? Your answers to these questions will help you determine the total amount you'll need to save.
2. **Start early.** Make a habit now of contributing to an employer-sponsored retirement accounts such as a 401(k) or 403(b) or an individual retirement account (IRA) — or both depending on your situation. Determine if your employer fully or partially matches your contributions. If they do, try to contribute at least the maximum they will match. This is extra money you don't want to pass up. Your future self will thank you.
3. **Find and automate your path to saving.** Even when money is scarce, there are still simple steps you can take.
   - Use our retirement savings calculator in My Retirement Plan® to estimate how much you should be saving toward retirement each month.
   - Have retirement contributions sent directly from your paycheck to the plan.
   - Find out if your retirement plan has an option to automatically increase the percentage you contribute as your income increases.
   - Look at expert shortcuts like automatic portfolio rebalancing or target date funds that adjust to the market and your timeline.
   - Don't be tempted to borrow from or take money out of your retirement account. You'll harm your money's potential to grow significantly.
4. **Save even more with an IRA.**
   - If your employer does not offer a plan, consider opening an IRA and contributing the maximum amount each year.
   - You are still eligible to contribute to an IRA even if you contribute to a workplace retirement plan Traditional IRAs offer tax-deferred growth potential. Roth IRAs offer tax-free growth potential.

**Check out these additional resources:**

- Investing Basics for guidance on why to invest, savings vs. investing, and different ways to invest.
- Lifescapes from Wells Fargo Advisors provides insights and strategies related to investing, retirement, and personal finance.

# Retirement and investing basics, continued

## Investment risk and risk tolerance

Investing your money is inherently different from saving it. There is more potential reward, as your investments may gain value. But there is also more potential risk, as they may lose value. Here's a look at what to know about investment risk.

When you save your money in a deposit account at the bank, you are guaranteed to keep at least as much as you put in, minus any monthly or annual account fees, and plus any interest you may earn.

When you invest your money in an account that holds shares of a mutual fund, stock, or bond, or when you use an alternative method like a cryptocurrency account, you are not guaranteed to keep your original investment. You take the risk that your investment may lose value.

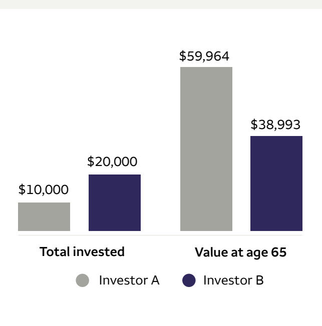
**Every investment you consider has inherent risks along with the potential for return:** Risk is an investment's chance of producing a lower-than-expected return or even losing value. Return is the amount of money you earn on the assets you've invested or the investment's overall increase or decrease in value. Increased risk provides the opportunity for higher returns and greater losses. Lower-risk investments typically offer lower return potential.

The amount of risk you carry depends on your appetite — or tolerance — for risk. Only you can decide how much risk you're willing to take for the potential of higher returns. But it will depend on your attitude toward risk, your goals, your risk tolerance and circumstances, and how much of your money you're investing.

### How diversification* could help

Diversification, or holding a variety of investments, can be a sound strategy. If you have several types of investments, you are better protected against overall loss than if you only have one kind of investment.

For example, one investment could drop in value, while others might increase, which could offer you some protection. If you aren't diversified and your one investment isn't successful, you could be in a tougher spot.




### Putting time on your side

Investor A contributes $1,000 per year for 10 years ($10,000) to an IRA beginning at age 30. Investor B contributes $1,000 per year for 20 years ($20,000) to an IRA beginning at age 45. See what kind of impact time has on each investor's retirement savings.

The example is hypothetical and assumes a 6% annual fixed rate of return and annual compounding. The growth of the assets is before tax, and when distributions are taken from the account a portion will be taxed at an ordinary income rate. The chart does not represent the returns of any particular investment and shouldnot be used to predict or project performance. There is no guarantee you will earn 6% on investments, and your account value may fluctuate over time. It assumes all earnings are reinvested and does not include transaction costs, fees, or expenses associated with the account or any individual investment made in the account.

*Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to help manage risk. They do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate risk of loss including in a declining market.

# Part 3: Debt and borrowing

In this section, you'll learn strategies for using debt to establish good credit, stay financially flexible, and build wealth.

# Do's and dont's of paying off student loans

## DO

**Pay more than the minimum.**

If you can afford to, paying more than the required minimum toward the principal helps you pay the debt off faster and reduces the amount of interest you pay over the term of the loan.

**Research your options for student loan forgiveness.**

In some circumstances — especially if you're a public servant, if you're unable to work due to disability, or if your school closes — you may be eligible to have your loans partially or fully forgiven. It never hurts to look into your options for student loan forgiveness, discharge, or cancellation.*

**Contact your lender if you're struggling to make payments.**

If your financial situation changes and you're unable to make your payments as scheduled, your lender may be able to help you get on a revised payment plan that works for your situation.

## DON'T

**Don't wait to start paying your loans.**

If you can afford to start paying your loans back before you graduate, you'll pay them off faster and be charged less interest.

**Don't forget to plan your strategy if you have multiple loans.**

You have options for getting out of debt more quickly than the lenders' schedules. You can try the "snowball" method, where you pay off your smallest loan first, then next-smallest, and so on. Or use the "avalanche" method, where you prioritize paying the loan with the highest interest first. Compare your options to choose which approach works best for you.

**Don't stop making your payments.**

If you don't keep up with at least the minimum payments, the loan will go into default and your lender may seek to collect the debt by garnishing wages or taking money from your tax refunds.

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# 4 common types of loans

You may already be familiar with student loans if you used them to pay for your education. Read on to learn about four other kinds of loans you might encounter.

## 1. Personal loans

You might consider a personal loan for a variety of purposes. Some common uses include home improvements, moving costs, emergency expenses, or large purchases.

If you have higher-interest debt, a debt consolidation loan at a lower interest rate could potentially reduce your interest burden and help you pay the debt off quicker. It can help make paying off your debt simpler, since the single loan replaces multiple debts. Use a debt consolidation calculator to see if it might be a fit for you.[2]

## 2. Auto loans

Many people use auto loans to purchase vehicles, either new or used. An auto loan will often come with lower interest rates than other types of loans; in exchange, you agree that the lender can repossess the vehicle if you don't make the payments.

## 3. Mortgages

One major milestone in many people's lives is to switch from renting to owning their home. For most Americans, that wouldn't be possible without a home loan, also known as a mortgage.

## 4. Business loans

If you are a current or aspiring business owner, you may seek a small business loan or line of credit to cover the costs of starting or expanding your business.

**Tip:** If you're a Wells Fargo customer, you may be eligible for access to Credit Close-Up®, which provides a complimentary credit report, access to your credit score, and personalized tips to maintain or improve your score.[3]

### Credit report vs. credit score

**Your credit report** contains details of your credit history, including balances, credit limits, and payment statuses.

Lenders, apartment managers, employers, and others can check it to see how responsible you are with money.

You can (and should) check your credit report for inaccuracies once each year for free at annualcreditreport.com.*

Your **credit score** is a number that summarizes how you've used credit. The higher your score, the better.

Lenders use it to make credit decisions like determining your interest rate when you apply for a loan.

Knowing your credit score can help you better understand your options when you need to borrow money.

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# Credit cards and credit resources

Credit cards, when used strategically and paid off regularly, can help build a positive credit history.

Having good credit can help you:

- Stay financially flexible in case of emergencies
- Realize your future goals that require borrowing

## When shopping for a credit card, you should consider its:

**Credit limit**, or the maximum balance you can carry on your card.

**Interest rate**, or annual percentage rate (APR). This is the amount of interest your lender charges on your balance if you don't pay it in full.

**Benefits and rewards** such as roadside assistance, purchase protection, cash rewards, reward points, and welcome bonuses.

## How to manage your credit card payments:

**Pay off your balance** each month. This can help you avoid paying interest.

**Pay more than the minimum** amount due, even if you can't pay the full balance. Pay as much as your budget allows to avoid paying more interest later.

**Pay on time or early** to avoid penalties, such as late fees or interest rate increases.

**More resources:**

- Visit the Wells Fargo Smarter Credit Center to find more information that can help you build or improve your credit.
- Use the Wells Fargo My Spending Report to thoroughly track and visualize your spending in order to more easily manage your debt.
- Find out how to navigate a credit crisis.

Compare and learn more about Wells Fargo's credit card options here.

1. Wells Fargo and Company and its Affiliates do not provide tax or legal advice. This communication cannot be relied upon to avoid tax penalties. Please consult your tax and legal advisors to determine how this information may apply to your own situation. Whether any planned tax result is realized by you depends on the specific facts of your own situation at the time your tax return is filed.

2. Before you apply, we encourage you to carefully consider whether consolidating your existing debt is the right choice for you. Consolidating multiple debts means you will have a single payment monthly, but it may not reduce or pay your debt off sooner. The payment reduction may come from a lower interest rate, a longer loan term, or a combination of both. By extending the loan term, you may pay more in interest over the life of the loan. By understanding how consolidating your debt benefits you, you will be in a better position to decide if it is the right option for you. New credit accounts are subject to application, credit qualification, and income verification.

3. You must be a Wells Fargo account holder of an eligible Wells Fargo consumer account with a FICO® Score available, and enrolled in Wells Fargo Online®. Eligible Wells Fargo consumer accounts include deposit, loan, and credit accounts, but other consumer accounts may also be eligible. Contact Wells Fargo for details. Availability may be affected by your mobile carrier's coverage area. Your mobile carrier's message and data rates may apply.

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