

THE REAL MONEY BOOK

Budgeting With Irregular Income

**A Practical Workbook for Freelancers, Commission Earners,
Contractors & Entrepreneurs**

Why Traditional Budgets Fail

Most budgets assume your income is the same every month. If your income changes, your budget must be flexible.

The Baseline Income Method

Review the last 6–12 months and identify your lowest average monthly income. Build your budget around that number.

Separate Needs From Wants

Prioritize housing, utilities, food, transportation, insurance, and minimum debt payments before discretionary spending.

Create a Buffer Fund

Save excess income from high-income months to cover lower-income months.

Pay Yourself First

Even with variable income, allocate a percentage to savings before spending.

Use Percentage-Based Budgeting

Instead of fixed dollar amounts, use percentages for spending categories.

Recommended Percentage Budget

Category	Suggested %
Essentials	50-60%
Taxes	10-20%
Savings	10-15%
Debt Reduction	5-15%
Lifestyle Spending	10-20%

Income Stability Formula

Month Income → Allocate Percentages → Save Excess → Build Buffer → Reduce Stress

Low-Income Month Survival Plan

1. Cover essentials first. 2. Pause non-essential spending. 3. Use your income buffer. 4. Delay large purchases. 5. Focus on increasing income opportunities.

Financial Confidence Scorecard

Question	Score (1-10)
Can I cover all essentials?	
Do I have a buffer fund?	
Do I save consistently?	
Do I track income monthly?	
Do I have a spending plan?	

The Real Money Book Success Blueprint

Know Your Baseline Income → Budget Conservatively → Build a Buffer → Save Consistently → Invest for the Future

People with irregular income can absolutely build wealth. The key is creating stability before pursuing growth.