



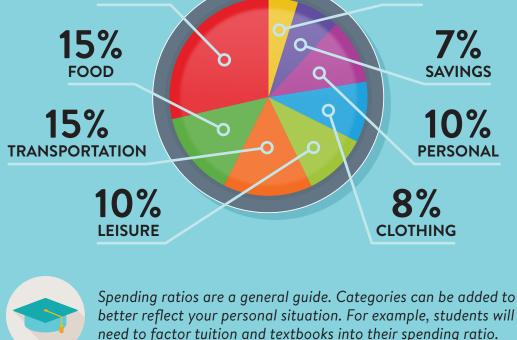
Are you ready to make the big move?

There's more to it than paying rent—living on your own creates new expenses that you may not have considered, such as rental insurance, commuting expenses and furnishing your new place. Here are a number of things to consider as you plan for your big move.

You will need a budget before you move. It's the only way to understand what you can afford, and it will help you make sense of all the expenses that come with your new independence.

BUILD A BUDGET

If you're just starting out, a spending ratio, like the one below, can help you evaluate your spending habits and understand what you can and can't afford.





Using the sample ratio above as a starting point, you can do a quick calculation to see what's in your price range.

CALCULATE YOUR HOUSING SPENDING RATIO

Add up your regular household expenses

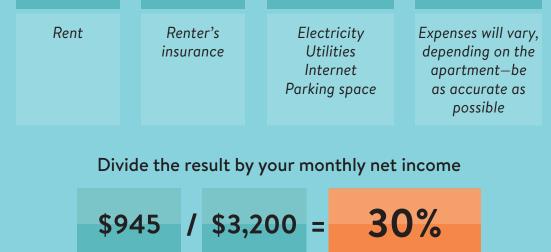
\$945

Ideally, your housing

expenses should be

30%, or less, of your

\$750 \$180 **\$15**



net monthly income

Monthly

income

(after tax)

Household

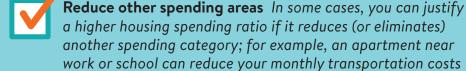
expenses



expectations, especially if it's your first time living on your own; compare many different apartments to understand how much more that extra square footage or that view will cost you

Share the space Taking on a roommate can give you access

Look in a different location Rental rates vary widely across the country; check out the pricing in nearby suburbs and cities



to that dream apartment for less money

AVERAGE RENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY Housing costs in certain geographic areas, such as the San Francisco Bay Area and New York, are very high. If your spending

ratio is a few percentage points above 30 for housing, you're OK. But when it starts climbing over 45%, you should probably re-evaluate where you live, consider living with a roommate or look at saving in other areas, such as transportation. For instance, you may be able to do without owning a car in a dense urban area.

\$898

INDIANAPOLIS

\$848

CINCINNATI

\$3,082 NEW YORK CITY

\$1,005

KANSAS CITY

\$3,877

SAN FRANCISCO

\$1,227 LAS VEGAS

month's rent

to see if a move would make sense in the long run



When taking your total housing costs into consideration, be sure to look past your rent payment. Here are a few items to take into consideration. Depending on your situation, there may be other expenses to consider.

ONE-TIME EXPENSES First & last Packing Moving Starter

ONGOING EXPENSES

expenses

furniture

materials



Don't overlook this Your first apartment doesn't need expense-price out to be a palace-spend an amount renting a moving truck versus a full-service move and don't forget boxes, tape and other supplies; if you have access to a pickup truck and willing friends, you may be able to save some money

Total

Miscellaneous

that you're comfortable with on furniture, and remember that, aside from the basics, you don't need to buy everything all at once; consider visiting thrift shops intermittently; end tables, lamps, bookshelves and the like can be purchased gradually—so think of furniture as a recurring expense for the first year, rather than as one lump sum Be sure to have enough set aside for

1,000

4,100

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

This is a rough example

only. Amounts will vary,

depending on where you

are moving to or how far

you are moving.



It's a Money Thing is a registered trademark of Currency Marketing

Sources: Consolidated Credit Counseling Services, Forbes,

other miscellaneous expenses including

utility deposits, renter's insurance and

basic cleaning supplies

Moveln, Inc., MyFirstApartment.com