

## **Best Cell Phone Apps to track personal expenses**

- **Mint:** Best Budgeting App For Monitoring Daily Activity
  - Mint is an excellent budgeting app choice for the everyday consumer.
  - The app provides several features to monitor and analyze your personal finances, including personalized insights, customizable budgets and subscription monitoring. These features are helpful for tracking multiple credit cards, paying monthly bills, managing debt and growing your net worth. With the Mint app, all of your banking activity is easily integrated through your bank login. Simply plug your bank login information into the app, and your financial activity will import to Mint.
  - The standout features of Mint are the customizable budgets and alerts. In the app, you are easily able to create a budget for yourself, and all of your purchases will automatically categorize. In addition, the app creates personalized insights into your spending to help you spend smarter, save more and pay down debt.
  - Additionally, Mint provides alerts for bank fees or upcoming bills due. This is a great feature, as Americans pay billions of dollars a year in overdraft and late fees. Mint can help you avoid these mistakes. Whether it's a late fee, overdraft fee, missed payment or reminder to pay a bill, the app will alert you prior to these situations' happening.
- **YNAB (You Need A Budget):** Best Budgeting App For Achieving Financial Goals
  - YNAB, short for You Need A Budget, is an award-winning budgeting program that specializes in helping consumers to save money and get out of debt.
  - YNAB prides itself not on looking into past financial insights, but rather on focusing on your present situation and future possibilities. The app assists users with figuring out their financial priorities and goals, along with giving each dollar a job. These priorities have resulted in positive sentiment from many of its customers.
  - Within the app, there are several features to put customers on the path to efficient budgeting. Features such as financial goal tracking, reporting on financial habits and support from YNAB staff—with dozens of online workshops available—makes budgeting an easier experience.
  - YNAB is accessible both from desktop and mobile platforms, and also from voice-activated devices.
  - There is no upfront commitment with YNAB. You can try it risk-free for the first 34 days.
- **Stash:** Best Budget App For Getting Started With Investing
  - When you subscribe to Stash, you will be given access to: several budgeting tools, a taxable brokerage account, a debit card that earns you stocks when you use it for expenses and a digital checking account.
  - Within the budgeting portion of the app, Stash comes with features where you can track your spending and set savings goals. If you want to automate these goals, you can use tools like round-ups and automatic investing to help you achieve your goals passively. Along with passive saving, the checking account Stash offers has no overdraft fees, no minimum balance, no hidden fees and checks received through direct deposit are received up to two days early.

- As for investing, Stash makes it possible for everyone—even with just a few dollars—to start through what are called fractional shares, or portions of a single share of stock. You can begin investing in your favorite companies, without having to buy an entire share.
  - Stash comes in two different plans, each including base features such as investing, banking and budgeting tools. Stash Growth, a \$3 monthly plan, also offers access to Stash Smart Portfolios and retirement IRA accounts. The \$9-per-month Stash+ account includes \$10,000 in life insurance coverage, investing for children within a custodial account and premium investing research and advice.
- **Goodbudget:** Best Budget App For Budgeting Using Envelopes
    - The envelope system is one of the original ways to manage money. It involved physically dividing your funds up into envelopes labeled with their purposes, such as rent, groceries, bills and typically one envelope for fun. With the Goodbudget app, you can use this same budgeting method, but digitally.
    - This principle is modeled after Kakeibo, which means “household account book” in Japanese. This method is excellent for saving for a large purchase, saving for a down payment for a home or simply paying down debt.
    - The Goodbudget app is also great for managing a shared household budget, as you can sync the budget with more than one person. Additionally, Goodbudget provides educational resources, including budget bootcamp webinars, podcasts and informative blog posts to further your financial prowess.
    - The free version is very similar to the paid version. The plus version contains all of the same features, but with extended capabilities. For example, the free version gives each account 20 envelopes for organizing your finances, while the paid version gives you unlimited envelopes.
- **PocketGuard:** Best Budgeting App For Tracking Spending
    - PocketGuard is an effective budgeting app for its ability to show the simple numbers: how much you have, how much your bills are and how much is left over. The app also shows you—in a helpful customizable pie chart—which expenses are taking up most of your budget. To help remind yourself of possible overspending, you can establish spending limits directly in the app.
    - One excellent feature of the app is that by linking your recurring bills, it can help you negotiate better rates on your bills such as your cable bill or cellphone. The app does this by serving tailored offers to its users once they input information in their profile section about themselves.
    - The In My Pocket feature helps you manage cash flow by showing you how much money you have to save or spend after you cover your bills, budgets and goals. Linking your bank accounts and credit accounts is required for In My Pocket. After identifying your recurring income, expenses and savings goals, PocketGuard will calculate the spend/save amount each month.
    - Keep in mind that the app limits some features in the free version, such as tracking your cash flow and the ability to create your own spending categories.