



Where the Money Went 10 little expenses that add up fast

We have all heard the saying, "money goes nowhere, these days", but did you ever stop to think how easy it is to blow thousands, a few dollars at a time? Little daily expenses can add up fast and become real traps for your money. Learn to avoid these expenses and you will be on your way to real wealth.

Bottled water: A 20-ounce bottle of Aquafina at a convenience store costs about \$1.79. Just do the math, \$653.35 per year, not to say what it costs the environment.

Coffee: The popular coffee shops charges about \$1.83 for a medium coffee. There are roughly 260 weekdays per year, so buying a coffee on your way to work costs \$475.80 per year.

Cigarettes: Yes, they are bad for your body and your pocketbook. In the United States a pack of smokes costs \$5.26. A pack-a-day smoker can expect to have \$1,919 go up in smoke!

Alcohol: Assuming a beer costs \$5 per bottle at your favorite place and you have two beers a day there after work, this could easily add up to \$3,650 per year.

Car washes: According to Costhelper.com, the average car costs \$5.99 per wash. The tab for this is a cool \$143.76 per year if you have your car washed twice a month.

Weekday lunches out: A decent lunch out most workdays can run you about \$9 dollars. Buying instead of packing a lunch for work will average you about \$2,340 per year.

Manicures: At your favorite day spa you will be paying about \$25 with the tip. Having this little pleasure twice a month will be a \$1,300 bite out of your wallet.

Unused memberships at gyms: The usual charge for memberships are between \$35 and \$45 per month, thus running about \$480 per year.

Interest charges on credit cards: The median amount of credit card debt for Americans is \$6,600, with an interest rate of about 13%. It will take you 250 months to pay this amount off and cost you \$4,868 in interest. Ouch!

Vending machine snacks: You say that a pack of cookies in the afternoon is a good thing? It could be, but it adds up to \$260 per year and a substantial increase in your waistline.



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SAVINGS RATES

PRODUCT	RATE	YIELD
Regular Savings:	1.05%	1.06%
Money Market:		
Balance 2,500 to 9,999.99	2.00%	2.02%
Balance 10,000 to 24,999.99	2.50%	2.53%
Balance 25,000 and over	4.25%	4.33%
IRA Accumulator:	3.00%	3.04%
Certificates of Deposits / IRA Certificates of Deposit		
6 Months	4.65%	4.75%
12 Months	4.85%	4.96%
18 Months	4.50%	4.60%
24 Months	4.50%	4.60%
30 Months	4.50%	4.60%
36 Months	4.75%	4.86%
48 Months	4.75%	4.86%
60 Months	5.00%	5.12%

As of November 2007

*All rates subject to change without notice

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out our
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LOAN RATES

LOAN RATES	TERM	RATE
	As Low As*	
Personal Loans:	2 Years	8.99%
	5 Years	10.99%
Car Loans:	3 Years	5.85%
	4-5 Years	5.99%
	72 Months	6.99%
First Mortgages:	15 Years	6.25%
	30 Years	6.375%
Second Mortgages:	5 Years	5.99%
	10 Years	6.50%
	15 Years	6.95%
Home Equity Line of Credit:	10 Year Draw	6.50%
<small>Special until 1/1/08</small>		
Recreational Vehicle (Boat, ATV etc.):		6.99%

As of November 2007.

*Rates may vary based upon your credit history.

*All rates subject to change without notice.

Money Does Matter

Up with ROTHs: Now that Roth 401(k) plans are here to stay, more than 60% of employers are likely to offer them.

Heirs Apparent: More than 25% adult children say that they wouldn't know what to do or whom to contact about settling a parent's estate.

Savings Tip: If you use direct deposit for your pay check, you could save about \$1,000 more per year than people who deposit checks or cash to their accounts. Over 10 years at 5% interest, that adds up to almost \$15,000.

Drug discounts: Don't have prescription drug coverage? Depending on your income, you may qualify for a free drug discount card at www.togetherrxaccess.com that could save you up to 40%.

Slow Down: Every 5 miles per hour you drive over 60 mph is like paying about 20 cents more for a gallon of gas.

Be Happy: Put joy in your life. Depressed people spend more on impulse buying as a means of comfort. Smelling the roses is free!

Staying Healthy at School

Drinking fountains at school are the biggest offenders when it comes to being germy. According to Dr. Robert Donofrio, Director of Microbiology for NSF International, anywhere from 62,000 to 2.7 million bacteria per square inch live on water fountain spigots! Other school hot spots: cafeteria trays, sink handles, computer keyboards and desktops. Yes, kids do not always practice the best personal hygiene and because of this 22 million school days are lost each school year to colds alone.

Reduce the risk: Take the time to talk to your children about good health practices. It all really begins at home. Provide your child with plenty of her/his own beverages and instruct them not to drink out of other children's bottles. Give them a bottle or packets of hand sanitizer and tell them to keep their hands and desktop clean especially before eating. Washing hands before and after using the bathroom is essential to good health.

If you and your schools work together to create a healthy school environment, absenteeism could be cut in half. And of course, don't drink from the water fountain!

Christmas Club

money will be deposited into your

Checking/Saving Account on

November 1, 2007



WE WANT YOU!

The Meriden Schools FCU wants you to enjoy all the benefits of your membership with us! If you are not doing all your financials with us, you actually may be short changing yourself in savings. As your hometown credit union since 1936, we keep our promises to give you the best return on savings and the best rates on loans. And our service is second to none in accuracy and courteous treatment. "Count on Us." is much more than a slogan, it is the personal philosophy of every member of our staff.

Please consider just a few of our products and services:

- No fee Checking Accounts
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We would like you to call or come in and discuss your financial needs and goals with our trained, professional staff. They are here to help. Building meaningful, enduring relationships one member at a time is what matters. Call Krissey, Ext. 16, or Renee, Ext. 15, at 203.237.6424.

Jobs for Teens

Teens need financial responsibility. One of the best ways to accomplish this is by having a part-time job. There are many, many jobs that they can find or create.

The following are a few that could have great pay-offs. With extra money, your child should be encouraged to open a savings/ money market account with us and really see their money grow!

- **Be a computer guru.** Many people buy computers and have trouble setting them up. You can set-up, solve problems, show how to e-mail, upload digital photos etc.
- **Tutoring.** Some teens need extra help with difficult subjects, you can earn \$5-20 per hour helping others.
- **Pet-sitting.** Taking care of neighbor's pets while they are on vacation or when they have to work extra hours.
- **Be crafty.** If you enjoy arts and crafts you might make jewelry and sell them on eBay.
- **Caddy at a golf course.** This not only helps you learn a sport, but gives a teen a chance to meet to meet and interact with adults in business.
- **Serve the elderly.** Many older people need help with everyday living.
- **You could run errands,** clean house, shop and deliver groceries and do small odd job. Very rewarding from the heart!
- **Volunteer.** If all else fails or even as a first choice, consider volunteering, the benefits of embracing a larger world are priceless.



We welcome

The Village at Kensington Place
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Federal Credit Union. We look forward to
serving their financial needs.