CLARIDENCE WEALTH

Financial Foundations
SMART STRATEGIES. STRONGER FUTURES.

Timely insights and practical tips to help you build financial confidence and achieve your goals.



NOVEMBER TOPIC

Holding Spending Without Holiday Debt

Celebrate the Season. Protect Your Progress.



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Holiday Spending Without Holiday Debt

The holidays should bring connection and joy, not bills that follow you into the new year. Gifts, meals and travel can add up quickly, especially when every sale feels urgent. A little planning now can help you celebrate generously while protecting the financial progress you have worked hard to make.

Start with what you can afford. Before shopping, review your November and December budgets. Cover essentials and required debt payments first, then set a holiday limit using money already saved and income you can set aside before purchases. Give each dollar a purpose, and keep your holiday plans within the amount your household can comfortably afford. [1]

PLAN THE JOY. SKIP THE DEBT.

$300	GIFTS & GIVING
$125	FOOD & GATHERINGS
$75	TRAVEL & EXTRAS

Illustrative $500 budget | Choose your own limit

Make a list beyond gifts. Include food, travel, decorations, charitable giving, shipping and taxes. Set a limit for each person and category. If the total is too high, scale back the plan before you spend. [1]

Pay with money you have. Use cash envelopes or a debit card tied to your holiday budget. Skip credit cards and buy now, pay later offers. Track every purchase, and stop when the money allocated is gone. [1][2]

Give thoughtfully, without the pressure. Talk with family early about a gift limit or drawing names. Homemade treats, a shared meal or an offer to help can be just as meaningful as something from a store. You do not need to match someone else's spending to show that you care. [2]

Keep sales in perspective. A discount only helps when the purchase fits your list and budget. Compare prices, include shipping costs and pause before buying an unplanned item. If you are paying down debt, keep the holidays modest so January does not bring another balance to tackle. [2]

Check in before you check out. Take a few minutes each week to compare your purchases with your plan. Subtract what you have spent to see what remains. If one category runs over, reduce another before buying more. Keep a shared list if others in your household are shopping, too, so duplicate purchases and small extras do not quietly push you over budget.

Give next year a head start. After the holidays, review what you actually spent. Starting in January, build a holiday sinking fund: money set aside regularly for a planned expense. Divide your goal by the number of paychecks before you will shop. Keep emergency savings for true surprises. [1]

Money Minute

Write down your total holiday spending limit today. List everyone you plan to buy for, add the other seasonal costs and make the total fit. Choose one tradition that costs little or nothing, and put it on your calendar.

Helpful Resources

[1] Ramsey Solutions - How to Set Up Your Christmas Budget
[2] Ramsey Solutions - How to Save Money This Christmas