

Quick Start Worksheet

This worksheet will get you started thinking like a Millionaire Employee. You will capture a snapshot of your career and financial world. Seeing this on paper in a simple form will be a big help in starting the process. Most people carry all of this around in the fuzzy, dark, shifting box that is their brain. Nothing is clear in there and every thought is continually interrupted by dozens of others. You have to bring this out of the fuzzy dark and onto the bright light of paper.

You are the only person who is going to see this paper. It is not an assignment. You are not turning it in. You will not share it with other people. **BE HONEST.** Do not try to hide facts from yourself. The urge to hide facts from yourself should set off the alarm that something is wrong.

EARNING

This group of factors determines how much money you earn and how that will grow over time.

Your education is a first and essential step in determining how much you earn.

Education
Degrees. What degrees have you earned or are you earning? Also list areas of specializations and minors.
Certifications. Have you earned any special certifications from associations or groups that control employment in your field?
Seminars. What seminars have you attended that gave you knowledge and insight into a field or practice that you can apply after college?
Self Study Topics. Are you studying professional, financial, or self improvement topics on your own? Include any where you have read 3 or more books.
Education Habit. Describe what your habit has been in pursuing an education. Who controls what you learn? Are you active in pursuing knowledge or guided by others?

Employment
Career/Professional Area. What area do you consider to be your profession, career, or focus? What are the starting salaries in these areas?
Hours Per Week. How many hours are you working per week? How many do you expect to work in your career area?
Professionals You Know. Who do you know in these fields? Do you know them well enough to make an appointment to talk with them about the field?
Associations. List some associations or societies that people in your field belong to. Have you joined these?
Character Traits. What do you consider to be your dominant character traits?
Love It. Does this field really excite you? Can you imagine working in it for 5 to 10 years? List some other fields that you really find attractive and exciting.

If you already have a paycheck, then get it out and enter the numbers in one of the columns. If you do not have a paycheck, then project an annual salary and use the percentages below.

Income	Weekly (52/year)	Bi-Weekly (26/year)	Monthly (12/year)
Pay Check (Gross)			
Federal Taxes (25%)			
State & Local Taxes (0%)			
OAHl Medicare (1.45%)			
OASI Social Security (7.65%)			
Insurance			
401(K) Retirement			
Take Home Pay (Net)			

*To convert from Weekly to Bi-Weekly, multiply by 2. To convert from Bi-Weekly to Monthly multiply by 2.17. Some people get paid every 4 weeks. In this case, change the monthly number to 13/year. The multiplier from Bi-Weekly is then 2.

GROWING

The items in this section look a lot like the savings section. However, they extend those ideas from just capturing the money and holding onto it, to really making that money grow over the long-term.

From each paycheck, how much do you regularly or automatically put into some form of savings?

Investing			
	Weekly (52/year)	Monthly (12/year)	% of Net Income
Savings Account			
Certificate of Deposit			
401(K) / IRA			
Stock Brokerage Account			
Treasury Bonds			
Real Estate			
Business			
Total Investing			

*To convert from Weekly to Bi-Weekly, multiply by 2. To convert from Bi-Weekly to Monthly multiply by 2.17. Some people get paid every 4 weeks. In this case, change the monthly number to 13/year. The multiplier from Bi-Weekly is then 2.

What do you really know about your tax situation?

Taxes
Federal Income Tax. What is your federal income tax rate? You can calculate this from the income numbers above or look it up in the tax tables at the end.
State and Local Income Tax. Are state and local income taxes deducted from your check? What percent? You can calculate this from the Income section above.
Deductions. Do you know how much you can contribute tax-free to a 401(K) or IRA? Do you have college tuition that you can deduct? Did you know you can deduct interest on a home loan?
Incorporate. Did you know you can create your own corporation and turn normal and necessary professional expenses into tax deductions? Do you know what an LLC and S-Corp are?

2008 IRS Tax Tables

Schedule X—If your filing status is **Single**

If your taxable income is:		The tax is:	
<i>Over—</i>	<i>But not over—</i>		<i>of the amount over—</i>
\$0	\$7,550	..... 10%	\$0
7,550	30,650	\$755.00 + 15%	7,550
30,650	74,200	4,220.00 + 25%	30,650
74,200	154,800	15,107.50 + 28%	74,200
154,800	336,550	37,675.50 + 33%	154,800
336,550	.....	97,653.00 + 35%	336,550

Schedule Y-1—If your filing status is **Married filing jointly** or **Qualifying widow(er)**

If your taxable income is:		The tax is:	
<i>Over—</i>	<i>But not over—</i>		<i>of the amount over—</i>
\$0	\$15,100	..... 10%	\$0
15,100	61,300	\$1,510.00 + 15%	15,100
61,300	123,700	8,440.00 + 25%	61,300
123,700	188,450	24,040.00 + 28%	123,700
188,450	336,550	42,170.00 + 33%	188,450
336,550	.....	91,043.00 + 35%	336,550

Schedule Y-2—If your filing status is **Married filing separately**

If your taxable income is:		The tax is:	
<i>Over—</i>	<i>But not over—</i>		<i>of the amount over—</i>
\$0	\$7,550	..... 10%	\$0
7,550	30,650	\$755.00 + 15%	7,550
30,650	61,850	4,220.00 + 25%	30,650
61,850	94,225	12,020.00 + 28%	61,850
94,225	168,275	21,085.00 + 33%	94,225
168,275	.....	45,521.50 + 35%	168,275

Schedule Z—If your filing status is **Head of household**

If your taxable income is:		The tax is:	
<i>Over—</i>	<i>But not over—</i>		<i>of the amount over—</i>
\$0	\$10,750	..... 10%	\$0
10,750	41,050	\$1,075.00 + 15%	10,750
41,050	106,000	5,620.00 + 25%	41,050
106,000	171,650	21,857.50 + 28%	106,000
171,650	336,550	40,239.50 + 33%	171,650
336,550	.....	94,656.50 + 35%	336,550