

Your Wedding Planning Sheet

According to the wedding industry research organization, *The Wedding Report*, the average 2009 wedding cost \$19,580. They also collected information about how much of that total went to each of the primary expense categories for a full-fledged wedding.

Of course, your wedding may cost more or less than the average; however good planning involves keeping track of your budget, and having a sense of how much of your budget should ideally go to each line item. If you can save in some areas, you might be able to splurge a bit in other areas that are more important to you - or, keep some valuable money in your pocketbook!

Here is the breakdown of the average wedding, a wedding priced at \$10,000, and a wedding priced at \$5,000. You can enter your budget in the last column – or start from the fixed expenses you know you are facing, and work up to a total cost.

Use pencil, so you can adjust your figures to arrive at your own best ratios. And be creative about ways to cut costs where you can so you can afford the costs you can't trim. The three books mentioned in the accompanying blog article, "You Can Spend Wisely and Still Have a Perfect Wedding," are excellent resources to help you do just that, without sacrificing the look, feel and – most importantly – the experience of your wedding ceremony.

Category & Percentage	Budget Targets			Your Budget
	<u>\$19,580</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	
Venue & Catering (37%)	7,245	3,750	1,850	_____
Jewelry (12%)	2,350	1,200	600	_____
Honeymoon (11%)	2,154	1,100	550	_____
Video and Photography (7%)	1,371	700	350	_____
Attire and Accessories (6%)	1,175	600	300	_____
Flowers and Decorations (6%)	1,175	600	300	_____
Entertainment (5%)	979	500	250	_____
Planner/Consultant (3%)	587	300	150	_____
Invitations (2%)	392	200	100	_____
Transportation (2%)	392	200	100	_____
Gifts and Favors (2%)	392	200	100	_____
Beauty and Spa Services (2%)	392	200	100	_____
Wedding Officiant (1%)	196	100	50	_____
Miscellaneous (4%)	783	400	200	_____