

FREE DOWNLOAD · QUICK START

Freelancer Tax Set-Aside Calculator

Uneven income makes taxes feel like a surprise bill. This calculator turns every payment into two numbers: **what to move to tax savings** and **what's yours to spend**.

1 • Payment lands

Enter the amount and any platform fees.



2 • Your % applies

Set-aside = net × the rate you chose.



3 • Move it

Transfer the set-aside to a separate savings account.



4 • Spend the rest

Budget only what's left.

Use it in 3 minutes

- **Calculator tab:** type *your* set-aside % in the cream cell. The 25% is just an example.
- **Step 2:** enter a payment and fees to see the split.
- **Cheat sheet:** edit the amounts to match your usual invoices.
- **Payment Log tab:** log each payment and mark "Yes" once you've moved the money. "Still to move" keeps a running total.

Choosing your % (your call)

- Look at **last year's return:** total tax on freelance income ÷ net freelance income. The calculator's helper does this math.
- Ask a **qualified tax professional** for an estimate.
- Use your tax authority's **official estimator**, if it has one.
- Revisit it when your income or situation changes.

Freelancer Tax Set-Aside Calculator CENTS & SHEETS

Free tool by Cents & Sheets · Type in the cream cells. Everything else is automatic.
Educational purposes only — not tax advice. YOU choose your set-aside %. This tool does not know the tax rules where you live. The 25% below is an EXAMPLE, not a recommendation.

STEP 1 - YOUR SET-ASIDE RATE

My set-aside rate 25.0%

EXAMPLE value — replace with your own %.

Optional: estimate a starting % from YOUR last tax year

Total tax you owed last year on freelance income	6,200.00
Your net freelance income last year (after expenses)	31,000.00
Your effective rate last year	20.0%
Optional cushion you'd like to add (percentage points)	3.0%
A starting % you could consider	23.0%

Example numbers — use the result only if it fits your situation.
Not sure? A qualified tax pro can help you pick a rate.

CHEAT SHEET AT YOUR RATE

If you're paid...	Set aside	Yours to spend
100.00	25.00	75.00
250.00	62.50	187.50
500.00	125.00	375.00
1,000.00	250.00	750.00
1,500.00	375.00	1,125.00
2,500.00	625.00	1,875.00
5,000.00	1,250.00	3,750.00
10,000.00	2,500.00	7,500.00

Edit the amounts in the left column to match your usual invoices.

STEP 2 - A PAYMENT JUST LANDED

Amount received	1,200.00
Platform / processing fees (if any)	36.00
Net amount	1,164.00
MOVE THIS TO TAX SAVINGS	291.00
Yours to spend / budget	873.00

WANT THE WHOLE SYSTEM?

Paychecks-to-Plan adds an income log by client, a running tax reserve, a minimum-month budget, a cash-buffer goal, a debt snowball/avalanche planner and a monthly dashboard with charts.

Educational purposes only — not tax, legal, accounting, or financial advice. This spreadsheet is an organizing and planning tool. Tax rules and rates depend on where you live and your personal situation; the set-aside % you enter is your own choice. Consider talking with a qualified tax professional or financial advisor about your specific situation.

Works with

Microsoft Excel and Google Sheets (upload to Drive → File → Save as Google Sheets).

Want the whole system? *Paycheck-to-Plan* adds an income log by client and platform, a running tax reserve, a minimum-month budget, a cash-buffer goal tracker, a snowball/avalanche debt planner and a monthly dashboard with charts.

Educational purposes only — not tax, legal, accounting or financial advice. This tool doesn't know the tax rules where you live and doesn't present any tax rate as correct for you. The percentage you enter is your own choice. For advice about your situation, talk with a qualified tax professional.