Are you ready to make the big move?

There's a meter to 30 percent—living on your own can be expensive. Examine your budget to see if you can afford to move outside of your current expenses. Rents are rising across the country; check out the pricing in nearby suburbs and cities to see if a move would make sense in the long run. Taking on a roommate can give you access to additional space and reduce your monthly transportation costs. Be realistic about your budget, especially if it's your first time living on your own; you'll likely be subjected to increased expenses. For instance, you may be able to save some money by giving up your car and using public transportation instead. Be sure to have enough set aside for ongoing expenses, like rent, utilities, and food. Average rents across the country:

- Las Vegas: $774
- Jacksonville: $789
- Charlotte: $725
- San Antonio: $680
- Indianapolis: $680
- San Francisco Bay Area: $945
- New York: $2,902

To get a sense of what you can afford, divide your first and last month's rent by your net monthly income. If the result is a few percentage points above 30 for housing, you're ok. If you are spending more than 30% of your income on housing, consider reducing your rent or finding a place in a more affordable area.

MORE THAN JUST THE RENT CHECK

Add up your regular household expenses:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Internet
- Parking household
- Phone
- Cable
- Internet

Divide the result by your net monthly income after tax. Depending on your living situation, your spending category might include:

- Housing
- Food
- Transportation
- Leisure
- Debt
- Savings
- Clothing
- Personal

If the spending ratio is in line, that doesn't mean you're done yet. You will need to have a few thousand dollars saved up prior to making the final leap to renting your first apartment. Consider the amount you are moving and don't forget to be prepared for packing, like the one below, which you're often charged for.

BUILD A BUDGET

How much rent can you afford?

Using the sample ratio above as a starting point, you can do a quick calculation to see what's in your price range. You can help yourself budget by using the sample ratio above and dividing your first and last month's rent by your net monthly income. This is a rough example of how much rent you can afford, but it's way outside your spending ratio?

First & last month's rent $ 750
Security deposit $ 750
Background & credit check $ 100
Moving costs $ 500
Starter furniture $ 1,800

This is only a 30% ratio, but it's the only way to be sure to look past your rent payment. Here are a few items you will need to consider when furnishing your new place. Here are a number of things you can help yourself budget by using.

HOW MUCH RENT CAN YOU AFFORD?

Rent will be cheaper in the suburbs and rural areas. Rent will be cheaper in the suburbs and rural areas.

BUILD A BUDGET

How much rent can you afford?

Using the sample ratio above as a starting point, you can do a quick calculation to see what's in your price range. You can help yourself budget by using the sample ratio above and dividing your first and last month's rent by your net monthly income. This is a rough example of how much rent you can afford, but it's way outside your spending ratio?

First & last month's rent $ 750
Security deposit $ 750
Background & credit check $ 100
Moving costs $ 500
Starter furniture $ 1,800

This is only a 30% ratio, but it's the only way to be sure to look past your rent payment. Here are a few items you will need to consider when furnishing your new place. Here are a number of things you can help yourself budget by using.