Goal Setting
The main personal finance goals are growing your Net Worth and managing Cash Flow.
Net Worth = Assets − Liabilities
Cash Flow = Income − Expenses

Life Goals include: Education • Family • Career • Lifestyle • Home • Transportation • Vacations • Retirement
Risk profile determines how much risk you are willing to take to generate a desired return. Make a list of your goals. Consider:
• The amount of money you want to make.
• The minimum amount of money you need.
• When you need the money.
• The amount of loss you can tolerate.
• Your knowledge level as an investor.

Making Money Grow
Four things you can do with your money: Spend, Store, Invest, or Gamble.

Savings and Debt Investments
Depositing money in a bank savings account is lending your money to the bank. Similarly, purchasing a Bond is lending money to the Bond issuer. Type of return: Interest or Discount on Face Value.

Equity Investments
Stocks, Mutual Funds, Commodities, Precious Metals, Derivatives, and Capital Assets such as Real Estate, Art and Collectibles, Gems, and other Property. Type of return: Dividend or Capital Gain.

Qualified Retirement Plans
Allow you to make certain investments while deferring income tax due.

Banking
Account Types
Checking and Savings. Access accounts via bank branches, ATMs, Internet, and phone.
Debit Card
Provides access to your bank accounts and can be used to make purchases. PIN: Personal Identification Number (password) used to access a Debit Card.
Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF)
Occurs when you write a check but do not have sufficient funds in your account to cover the amount.
Overdraft Protection
A feature offered with checking accounts where the bank will honor checks you write even if your account has insufficient funds.
Deposit Insurance
Federal government guarantees your bank savings (up to a certain amount) in the event of bank bankruptcy.

Savings and Debt
5-Year growth with compound interest.

Savings — Initial deposit of $50 with a 3.5% interest rate compounded monthly. Small monthly deposits made as shown.
Debt — Starting balance of $1,000 with 18% interest rate compounded monthly.

Credit
Credit has three different common definitions:
• Similar to Debt or Loan.
• Your capacity to borrow, or the maximum amount of money you can borrow.
• A refund or reduction in what you owe.

Credit Card
A card (usually plastic) that can be used to borrow money or make purchases.

Line of Credit
A pre-authorized loan with your bank or financial institution that you can access as needed.

Revolving Credit
Debt arrangement that allows you to borrow and repay and then borrow again.

Credit History
Your past record of making payments on your liabilities. Good credit means you have a history of paying your debts on time.

Credit Rating
Your capacity to borrow, often expressed as a score, such as FICO®. Credit bureaus track credit history and assign credit ratings. You can request your credit history report for free.

Insurance
A contract, called a policy, that protects against financial loss. Most common types are Life, Health, Automobile, and Property.

Tax
Consumption tax, such as Sales Tax, is levied on goods and services you purchase.
Income tax is assessed on your earnings. Capital Gains tax arises from the sale of assets.
Wealth tax is based upon your net worth.

Retirement
The time in life where you no longer work to generate income.

Definitions
Asset
An item of economic value, which you own, and which is cash or could be sold for cash.

Liability
Money or debt that you owe someone else, such as a loan or bill.

Income
Money in. Earned income is from employment wages. Unearned income is from all other sources, like investments, interest on savings, etc.

Expense
Money out. Cost of living expenses include housing, transportation, food, and clothing. Discretionary expenses are entertainment, extra clothes, hobbies, education, donations — items not required for you to live.

Borrow, Debt, or Loan
To receive something of value, with a promise of giving something of equal or greater value back at some point in the future. A secured loan requires you to pledge another asset against the debt, which you will lose if you default. An unsecured loan has no pledged assets. A Demand Loan must be repaid in full upon request by the lender.

Mortgage
A loan to finance the purchase of real estate.

Creditor or Lender
An individual or organization that is owed money or other item of value. The borrower is often called the Debtor.

Principal
The amount borrowed.

Interest
The fee charged to a borrower by a lender. Sometimes referred to as Prime Rate for a bank loan and Coupon Rate for a bond.

Default
Failing to meet a financial obligation.

Rent or Lease
An agreement to pay for the use of an asset.

Budget
A list of estimated expenditures and the expected ways to pay for them.

Appreciation
An increase in value of an item.

Depreciation
A decrease in value of an item.

Foreign Exchange Rate
Value of a country’s currency compared to another country’s currency.

Financial Market
A market that facilitates the buying and selling of financial securities, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and precious metals.
Investing Definitions

Investments
Assets which you have obtained in order to provide future increases in value. This may be periodic payments received from interest income or dividends, or from appreciation.

Portfolio
A collection of investments.

Liquidity
The ability of an asset to be converted to cash quickly and without any price discount.

Dividend
A portion of company profits distributed to its shareholders.

Bull Market
Period of rising prices.

Bear Market
Period of declining prices.

Investment Concepts

Risk and Return
Risk is uncertainty in how much of an investment could be lost. Generally, the higher the risk the higher the return and vice versa.

Time Value of Money
Inflation
As time passes, and costs of goods increase, a dollar will usually buy less and less value. The opposite of inflation is Deflation.

Opportunity Cost
An estimate of the value you did not get from other possible uses of your money.

Return on Investment (ROI)
The extra value earned from an investment. There are three type of ROI: Interest Income, Dividends, and Capital Gains.

ROI = \( \frac{\text{Future Value} - \text{Starting Value}}{\text{Starting Value}} \times 100\% \)

Future Value = StartingValue \times (RateOffReturn + 1)

Rate of Return (ROR)
Simple ROR
ROI as a % of the original investment

Simple Annual ROR
Divide the Simple ROR by the number of years of the investment.

Compound Annual ROR
\( Y = \text{Years} \)

\( \text{Future Value} = \frac{\text{Starting Value}}{1} \times (1 + \frac{\text{ROR}}{100\%}) ^ Y \)

Rule of 72
72 ÷ ROR = number of years it will take an investment or debt to double.

Economic Influences

Interest Rate
Affects the cost of borrowing. High interest tends to slow new investments because borrowing is more expensive.

Inflation
Affects the price of goods and cost of living.

Foreign Exchange Rates
Affect the cost of travel, imported goods and services, and exported goods and services.

Financial Markets
Affect the price of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, precious metals, commodities, and other types of investments.

Government Spending and Policy
Governments use various "levers" to speed up or slow down economic growth, such as tax, interest rates, and government spending.

Global Events
Affect the quantity and costs of imports and exports, foreign investments, and government's access to funds.

Economic Indicators
An Economic Indicator is a set of statistical data that shows trends in the economy. A Leading Indicator helps predict trends of what may happen before the economy has actually changed. A Lagging Indicator shows trends of change after the change has occurred. Common indicators are described below.

Gross Domestic Product - Economic Growth
GDP is the total of all goods and services produced in a nation in a given year. Nominal GDP includes inflation. Real GDP does not.

Unemployment Rate
The percentage of individuals in a nation who are actively seeking employment but do not currently have a full-time or part-time job.

Consumer Price Index
CPI measures the rate of inflation by monitoring the average change in the price of several hundred goods and services in the country.

Prime Rate
Interest rate set by major banks for loans to their best customers. Most people are offered interest rates at "Prime plus" some amount.

Other Economic Indicators
Employment Growth, Housing Starts, Motor Vehicle Sales, Personal Savings Rate, Value of the Dollar.

Investing Definitions

Common Investments

Common Investments
Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, Real Estate, Precious Metals, and Money Market.

Stock is ownership in a corporation. Bond is lending money to an organization.

Common Portfolio Management Issues

Common Frauds and Scams

Unethical Business Practices
Bait and Switch Advertising, Greenwashing, Shilling, Spamming, Pyramid Scheme.

Common Frauds and Scams
Telemarketers promising prizes, Opportunities to invest in fraudulent schemes, Bank Examiner con, Travel Companies giving free trips, the Pigeon Drop, Funeral Chasers, Home Repair, Stolen Checks, Fake Contests.

Online Frauds and Scams
Virus, Worm, Spam, Phishing, Spyware.

Protection from Identity Theft
• Protect your Social Security Number, bank account, credit card numbers, PINs, passwords, and other personal information.
• Don’t throw away financial documents without shredding them first.
• Never send financial information via email. Only use trusted websites that are secure.

US Federal Reserve

Acts as a bank to the banks by:
• Setting and implementing monetary policy, including the Federal Funds Rate and Discount Rate.
• Acting as the government’s bank.
• Supervising and regulating banks and financial institutions.
• Providing banking services to banks and financial institutions.

The Board of Governors and 12 Banks serve different regions: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas, San Francisco. In Canada, the Bank of Canada performs the same role.

Discount Rate
Interest rate at which banks borrow money from the government. In Canada, it is called the Bank Rate.

Federal Funds Rate
Interest rate at which banks borrow money from other banks. In Canada, it is called the Overnight Rate.

Prime Rate
Interest rate banks provide to their best customers. Each bank sets its own Prime Rate, but it is often based on (but higher than) the Discount and Federal Funds Rates.

Reserve Requirement
Minimum level of cash a bank must have available for depositor withdrawals.

Consumer Protection