

Money Matter\$ - 18 December 2025 By Standard Chartered Bank

Title: Year end bonus is coming!

The year end bonus time is coming up and there are just so, so many things to do and buy with your hard earned money. What exactly are you going to do with all this money?

Indeed, as the thought crosses your mind, it is actually better for you to plan ahead what you will do with your bonus money before the time comes. In this case, better to count your eggs before they hatch, because if you did not make a proper plan of what you are going to do with the sudden large amount of funds coming in, you may be ill-prepared to manage it wisely.

Avoid temptation when you cannot afford it! Deal with priorities first.

Avoid the temptation to buy frivolous items like a new big screen TV, especially when you have other more urgent priorities that need to be attended to like your children's school supplies, bill payments, insurance premiums and savings.

This is a good reason why you should plan ahead about what you will do with your extra funds sooner than later. Draw up your plan and list down what needs to be paid for or attended to first. If you have outstanding bills, be sure to settle them first. Then move on to necessary purchases like children's school books, uniforms and supplies. Then give a good long think about your insurance plans if you don't already have any. Lastly make sure you have a plan to set aside some of your hard earned money aside for your retirement or other long term needs such as house loan repayment, etc. Car repairs and servicing, car insurance premiums should all be kept aside now so that you don't get caught up with large bills to settle when the expiry dates come round.

These are considered the pre-requisites that you need to attend to. Only after you have drawn out your priority list, can you then move on to your 'want' items.

Be selective about your 'want' items. Don't buy everything you see.

Everybody's 'want' list can be a mile long if given the chance. But of course, the amount of money you have to fund your 'want' list will dictate what you can have and what you cannot.

If you have leftover bonus money after settling your priorities, see how much you have left and then decide about what you want to spend your money on. If you had actually settled all your priorities, you may find that the leftover money is now more precious and you may not even feel like spending it on unnecessary items. But if the urge to spend still strikes then ensure that the purchase you make is a wise spend.

It is extremely important to make sure that your purchases are made with the cash you have rather than with a credit facility if you don't need to. Buy better quality items to prolong the life of your investment. If you cannot afford the better quality items, then go without it. If you have survived this long without the item then you can certainly survive another year without it.

Most times, people tend to spend their money and then never realize where it went to as they have nothing concrete to show for it.

Take stock of your financial situation

Bonus times are a great time to really take stock of your financial situation and to see whether you are in the clear or in the reds. There is no shame on admitting that you need to get financially fitter, no matter what life stage you are in. Yet if you are in a good position and have been disciplined in your financial habits, then continue to safeguard your position and find ways to further build your wealth.

If you are in a financially unfit state, use your bonus money to help rectify your situation. If you have outstanding bills, settle as much of it as you can. It is better not to owe any money if you can avoid it. If you are lacking basic insurance coverage, speak to an insurance agent and ask for a plan that you can afford to ensure that you protect yourself and your loved ones. If you lack savings, now is a great time to start. Set aside a larger proportion of your bonus money and lock them away in fixed deposits where you cannot touch it.

Ultimately, your bonus is a great financial gift which you should safeguard and when used wisely will help you gain better financial health and stability.

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