BudgetSmart — Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Version V-35 · September 2026

What BudgetSmart is

Financial planning software for small and medium-sized businesses. It builds a detailed annual budget, translates it into a real cash-flow forecast based on payment terms, assesses the feasibility of an acquisition and estimates business value — and lets you track actual performance against the plan.

The tool is a single file that runs on your computer. There is no server, no registration and no data upload. Your data is stored in your browser only.

Who it is for

- Business owners who want a structured budget and cash-flow forecast.
- Consultants and finance managers working with several clients.
- Buyers evaluating an existing business who need a valuation and a feasibility check.
- Founders starting a new business who need to know how much working capital to fund on day one.

What the tool does

Area	What you get
Budget and forecast	Monthly profit and loss statement, seasonal spread, headcount planning, break-even
Cash flow	Monthly cash flow based on customer and supplier payment terms, running balance and early warnings
Feasibility and value	A verdict across three axes, a valuation range by multiples, a DCF cross-check, IRR and ROI
Financing	Amortization schedule, debt service coverage across the full life of the loan, sources and uses
Actual vs. forecast	Two measurement bases — budget and cash — and a table explaining where the gap between them comes from

The difference between the editions

Feature	Free	Pro
Budget, forecast, cash flow and break-even	✓	✓
Feasibility analysis and valuation	✓	✓
Actual vs. Budget	✓	✓
Actual vs. Cash Forecast and the profit-to-cash bridge	—	✓
Saving and loading a work file	—	✓
PDF and Excel export	—	✓
Balance-sheet adjustments	—	✓
Sensitivity analysis and scenarios	—	✓
The three valuation methods and the DCF cross-check	—	✓
Seasonality based on historical data	—	✓

Frequently asked questions

Is my data stored on your servers?

No. The tool runs on your computer and the data is stored in your browser only. We do not see it and have no access to it.

The Pro edition makes no automatic connection to the internet at all. The free edition loads a statistical measurement component (Google Analytics) that records which screens were opened, with the IP address anonymized — never any monetary value.

What happens if I clear my browser history?

Your work will be deleted. In the Pro edition you can save a work file — that is the only backup. Save at the end of every working session.

Why do profit and cash flow show different pictures?

Because they measure different things. Profit is counted when revenue is recognized; cash is counted when the money reaches the bank. A business collecting on Net 90 terms can be entirely profitable and still fall into a cash hole in the first quarter.

The profit-to-cash bridge in the Pro edition separates the two causes: profitability — fixed through price or costs, and timing — fixed through payment terms or a credit line. Two problems with two entirely different solutions.

What exactly does "GO" mean?

That no flag was raised on any of the three axes the tool checks — not that the transaction was examined in depth. Due diligence, contracts, liabilities and litigation are not part of the tool.

I entered a high required return and got "further review". Why?

The hurdle you set is a personal benchmark. A return below it is flagged and mentioned in the conclusion, but does not turn a sound transaction into a rejected one. Rejection is reserved for a zero or negative return.

Why are some numbers shown as "N/A"?

Because they have no value that can be calculated. For example, when the debt outstanding at the end of the period exceeds the exit value, equity value is negative, and a return metric in that situation would mislead in both directions. The tool prefers to say "N/A" rather than show zero.

What is DSCR and why is mine low?

The debt service coverage ratio — how many times operating cash flow covers debt service. The tool scans every year of the loan and shows the worst year, not the first, and names the year beside the figure. With a bullet loan or a long interest-only period, the early years flatter the deal and the true ratio only emerges once principal begins to amortize.

What do the balance-sheet adjustments do?

They correct the operating value to the actual company value — surplus cash, net debt and abnormal working capital. They affect the value; the return metrics derive from the price paid and are shown at their base figure, with the adjusted value beside them for information.

How much of my bank balance goes into the investment?

Only what you explicitly allocate. A balance that is not allocated stays as a cash buffer and is not absorbed into the investment automatically. The sources-of-funds card shows the three sources — cash applied, equity contributed and the loan — and their total, which equals the investment.

Is the tool suitable for a new business with no history?

Yes. In the feasibility track you enter the expected activity. Note that a new business has no opening receivables, so the gap between recognition and collection in the first months is real — this is the working capital to be funded on day one.

Can I work on several clients?

Yes, in the Pro edition — each client in a separate work file. The licence permits using the tool for your clients with no limit on the number of projects; what is prohibited is passing the file itself to a third party.

Does the tool calculate VAT or sales tax?

No. All amounts are exclusive of VAT or sales tax. Take particular care on the actuals page: an invoice report is usually already net of indirect tax, while a bank statement is not — deduct it before entering.

I saw a red alert saying the calculation failed. What do I do?

Reload the work file or start new work. While the alert is showing, the results are dimmed and export is blocked — so that no report leaves the tool that does not match the screen.

> BudgetSmart is a planning and assessment tool. It is not a substitute for due diligence, tax advice, legal advice or a professional valuation. Responsibility for the decisions and the data rests with the user.