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Plenty review: A budgeting app made for millennial couples



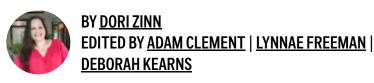
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In a nutshell



Updated September 10, 2024

In a nutshell

When Mint — one of the top budgeting apps on the market — suddenly closed, millions of users scrambled to find a replacement. With dozens of options available, consumers are looking for a solid alternative. Plenty is hoping to stand out from the crowd.

- Plenty is a wealth management app targeting couples.
- It launched in 2022 and costs \$100 a year after a 14-day free trial.
- The app offers budgeting as well as a highyield cash account when investing.



PLENTY

Fees \$100 a year

D • **14 day trial**.

e • Budget

s with a

c **partner.**

ri • Budget

p **forecasting.**

ti • Robo-

o **advisor**

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The AP Buyline roundup

Plenty is a good idea in theory, especially for millennials who are partnering up long after they've managed their own money. It has a nice "yours, mine, ours" interface, where you and your partner both get individual accounts even if they are for the same household and budget. It gives you a full understanding of your dual income while also providing some privacy on accounts.

However, the product's execution falls short, attempting to offer too many things at once, which makes it hard to manage. There's the high-yield cash account that you can take advantage of once you use the roboadvisor investment account (and that's separate from the budgeting, goal creation and finance tracking). Finally, the high price tag — \$100 per person, per year — doesn't make this a budget-friendly option. Plenty isn't without its faults and for that, we're looking at other budgeting apps for couples with commingled finances.

Who is Plenty for?

Plenty is designed for millennial couples who are combining their finances. While it's accessible for singles, it's designed to help two-person households budget their money.

Many millennials are getting married after managing their finances independently for years, but many budgeting apps are geared toward solo users. While many single folks can use Plenty, it's mostly designed for dual-income households. Your dashboard has an option to invite a partner when you're ready.

PROS:	CONS:
Easy to add accounts.	Very, very buggy.
Financial goals are paramount.	Some accounts don't show.
User-friendly interface.	It gets pricey.

Plenty: Just the facts

Cost

- Plenty has a free 14-day trial and then costs \$100 per year, per person.
- For investing, there's a 0.20% annual investment fee for each account.

Offerings

- Budget with a partner.
- Budget forecasting.
- Sharing and private interface options.
- Net worth tracking.
- Robo-advisor investing.
- 5.08% APY for cash in investing account.

Customer service

You can reach Plenty via email at members@withplenty.com between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST and get a response within 24 hours. There is no public phone number or in-app chat. Although there is an option to share feedback inside the app, it's not an Al-powered bot or a two-way chat with a representative.

Benefits of Plenty

Easy to add accounts

You can add every type of account you have, including credit cards, loans, checking accounts, savings and more. Most banks, credit unions and financial institutions are available to link and, from there, it's easy to rename accounts or adjust accordingly. For instance, you can manually input your interest rate and minimum monthly payments for each of your loans.

Financial goals are paramount

It's easy to create custom goals or find one that fits your needs. This could be building up your emergency fund, having a baby, saving for retirement or other milestones.

You can create a goal just for you or with your partner (or both, if you'd like to set up several goals at once).

User-friendly interface

The user dashboard makes it easy to see all your accounts and activity in one place, whether it's

just for you or for both you and your partner. You can also separate items that belong to each of you individually and for you as a couple.

Where Plenty doesn't measure up

Very, very buggy

After registering my email I got a sign-up link that never worked, even on different browsers. A few hours after contacting support, it did work. Then a few days later, I tried loading the site and got another error that didn't disappear, even after clearing browser data, closing my browser and restarting my computer.

When I tried logging out and logging back in, I was greeted with another sign-up page to get a special link that once again, did not work. A few hours later and another round of contacting support, it started to work again. I'm not sure how many users are going to reach out to support like I did for this review, which means many users might give up on the app and move on before issues like these get fixed.

Some accounts don't show

My mortgage company is one of the largest in the country and I wasn't able to add them to Plenty. I was able to find my main bank where I have a checking, credit card and auto loan, but after adding the bank, only my credit card linked. Deleting and relinking the account doesn't fix the trick. This is problematic because

it means it doesn't show all my expenses or income.

From my research, this isn't uncommon with other budgeting apps (like Monarch Money), but it means users aren't getting a full picture of their money. For me, it was difficult to find a reason to use an app where my most used account wasn't showing up.

It gets pricey

Plenty is \$100 per person, per year. For dual-income households, that's \$200 a year for a budgeting app. While each person gets their own login and essentially their own budgeting interface (since your partner can only see what you approve), Plenty is more expensive than its competitors.

An annual subscription to budgeting powerhouse <u>YNAB</u> is \$99 a year, and you can add a partner at no additional cost. It also comes with a 34-day free trial, more than twice as long as you get with Plenty. <u>Monarch Money</u> is also \$99 a year and allows an additional user for free.

How does Plenty compare?

Feature Plenty <u>YNAB</u> <u>Mo</u>

Offers joint accounts	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost	\$100/person, per year	\$99/year; free to add others	\$99
Syncs with banks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mobile apps	Yes	Yes	Yes
Investment options	Yes	No	Yes

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Are budget apps worth it?

If you're trying to get your finances on track and need some extra help, a budgeting app might help — especially if you can't afford to hire a financial planner. If you know where your money goes and track your transactions, savings, investments and earnings, you may not need a budgeting app.

Are budget trackers safe?

Most budgeting apps are safe. You can take extra security measures by enabling two-factor authentication, using complex and unique passwords and keeping your login information confidential.

What is the difference between a financial planner and a budget planner?

Budgeting is looking at your finances and crafting a spending plan based on your income and debt. Financial planning is a long-term holistic strategy used to help you meet financial goals, like strategic investments, paying down debt, estate planning and more. While you may budget on your own, it might help to reach out to a certified financial planner or advisor who can help you with long-term needs.

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