

Summary Personal Budgeting and the Opportunity Cost of Choices

A budget line represents the various combinations of goods and services a consumer can purchase with a fixed income at given prices. It highlights the economic reality of scarcity, where individuals cannot enjoy all their desires due to limited resources. For example, if a student has a £100 monthly allowance to spend on alcohol and DVDs with gas priced at \$ per gallon and DVDs at £ each, the budget line shows all possible combinations of these two goods. Spending the entire income on one good means giving up the other (e.g., 50 gallons of gas and 0 DVDs or 0 gallons of gas and 10 DVDs). Intermediate choices such as buying both gas and DVDs are also plotted along the line.

Points on or below the budget line are attainable while points above it are unattainable due to resource limits. Choosing below the line leaves extra money for saving.

on Spending elsewhere Changes in

income on Prices shift the budget line
higher income or lower Prices shift it outward
increasing options: lower income or higher
Prices shift it inward reducing opportunities
Dilation reduces consumption purchasing Power
by Pushing the line inward The concept of
opportunity cost is central to the budget
line Opportunity cost is the value of the
next best alternative foregone. For instance if
one DVD costs £10 and a book costs £5 per all on
then each DVD requires sacrificing 2 books
as opposed to each book only costs one fifth
of a DVD. Thus opportunity cost depends
on relative Prices not just monetary costs

In microeconomics, the budget line illustrates trade
offs between choices and constraints faced by
consumers. It demonstrates how scarcity and
opportunity cost

shape decision-making emphasizing the need to
allocate limited income efficiently among
competing