

# December 2016 - Detailed Financial Report #24 - Net Worth \$527,668 [+66.1% for 2016]

*GYFG here checking in for the December monthly financial report. If you have been reading these reports for a while you will notice that I introduce each month with the same intro month after month. I do this for two reasons; a) for the newbies to the site (which make up about 50% of the sites traffic); and b) to remind everyone what these reports are all about. By all means if you have read the intro at least once, then please feel free to skip down to the [“Summary of December 2016”](#) section where the new content begins (click the orange link to be taken there automatically).*

*For those of you that are new around this corner of the internet, I wanted to fill you in as to what these reports are all about. These monthly reports are about full transparency. They are just as much for me as they are for you. It’s a hard decision to make all of your financial details public, but it’s also a very motivating one. It’s not just the post, but the process of putting this post together that really benefits me.*

*My sincere hope is that my transparency will inspire you to take the helm of your own financial ship and be intentional with its direction. I truly believe that anyone can reach financial freedom, if they are willing to do things differently. If you earn an average salary and have an average savings rate, then you can expect an average result! That means you will likely have to work at a job you may or may not enjoy until you’re 65 and then **maybe** you can retire **IF you’re lucky**.*

Hey, there is nothing wrong with average. If you’re happy with average, then by all means keep doing what everyone else is doing. Not sure how you feel about that, but I have no interest in living an average life. I want **EXTRAORDINARY**.

Most people don’t want to live below their means in order to reach **FINANCIAL FREEDOM**, because that’s painful. They think it involves cutting out all the joy in life. You know what I’m talking about, those financial gurus that tell you that in order to get rich you need to cut out the \$5 lattes and stop going out to eat. Then

after 40 years of diligent and above average savings and super low spending, you will be a millionaire. Basically, you have to live like a college student and suppress all the things you want to do in life and then when you're old you will be rich.

Okay, that doesn't sound like the plan for me either.

The good news is there is another way. This site and these reports are here to show you the **OTHER** path to financial freedom. There is a way where you can have your cake and eat it too. I believe and hope that over time I will be able to convince you of the following:

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**In order to reach financial freedom you can choose to live below your means by cutting expenses to the bone and living in a state of scarcity or you can expand your means and live in a state of abundance by increasing your income and enjoying the \$5 latte or other indulgence of your choice.**

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Not only that, but if you're diligent you can reach financial freedom a lot sooner than anyone has ever led you to believe.

### **Our Mission Statement:**

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**To Humanize Finance, Build Wealth, and Reach Financial Freedom.**

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I know I don't have to publish my juicy details every month, but it's important to me that you know that I put my money where my mouth is (because not that many finance blogs or people giving financial advice do this). I publish all of my financial details not to brag, but instead to show you what is working as well as what's not working. Sometimes finance can get pretty dense, but I think real life examples and numbers can help slice through the complexities (and BS). Personally, I have always enjoyed the financial reports put out by other bloggers around the blogosphere.

As always, you can find all my previous reports on the [Financial Stats](#) page (as well as annual trends and a few other financial metrics not found on this report). In these monthly reports the plan is to give you a month over month update on Gross Income, Assets, Liabilities, Net Worth, Expenses, Contributions, Savings Rate, and progress on the [mortgage pay down goal](#).

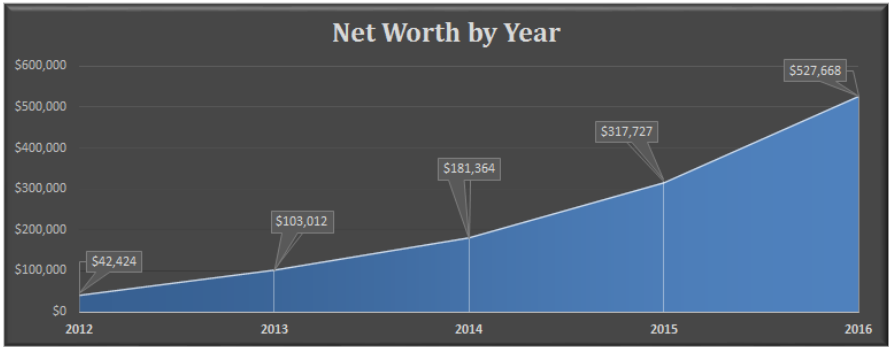
Shall we begin?

## **Summary of December 2016**

**GEN Y FINANCE GUY**  
**FINANCIAL STATS**

**NET WORTH TRENDS**

| Year | Actual Net Worth | YoY % Change |
|------|------------------|--------------|
| 2012 | \$ 42,424        |              |
| 2013 | \$ 103,012       | 143%         |
| 2014 | \$ 181,364       | 76%          |
| 2015 | \$ 317,727       | 75%          |
| 2016 | \$ 527,668       | 66%          |
| 2017 |                  |              |
| 2018 |                  |              |
| 2019 |                  |              |
| 2020 |                  |              |
| 2021 |                  |              |
| 2022 |                  |              |
| 2023 |                  |              |
| 2024 |                  |              |
| 2025 |                  |              |

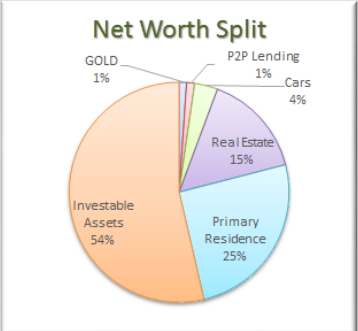
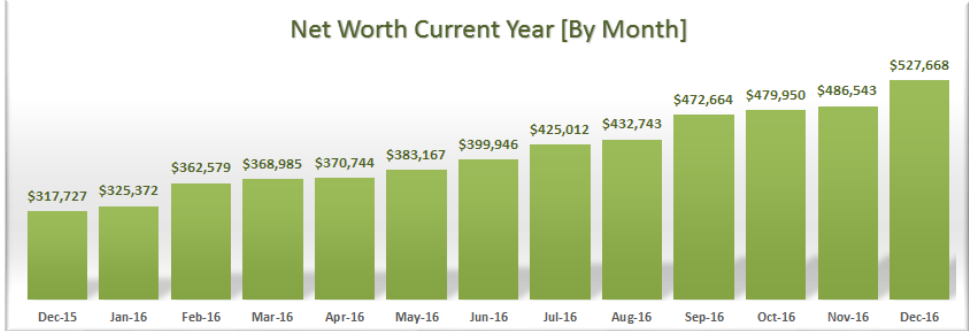


|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>      | \$ 992,970   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> | \$ (465,302) |
| <b>NET WORTH</b>         | \$ 527,668   |

**Goal: \$10,000,000 by January 31, 2035**

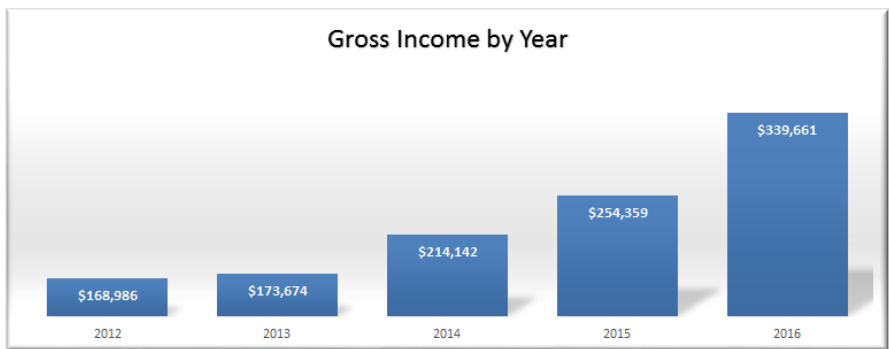
**5.3% Of Net Worth Goal**

Everyone has a number and ours is \$10,000,000



**GROSS INCOME TRENDS**

| Year | Gross Income | YoY % Change |
|------|--------------|--------------|
| 2012 | \$ 168,986   |              |
| 2013 | \$ 173,674   | 3%           |
| 2014 | \$ 214,142   | 23%          |
| 2015 | \$ 254,359   | 19%          |
| 2016 | \$ 339,661   | 34%          |
| 2017 |              |              |
| 2018 |              |              |
| 2019 |              |              |
| 2020 |              |              |
| 2021 |              |              |
| 2022 |              |              |
| 2023 |              |              |
| 2024 |              |              |
| 2025 |              |              |



**REAL ESTATE EQUITY AND MORTGAGE PAYOFF (PRIMARY RESIDENCE)**

**Goal: Pay off Mortgage on Primary Residence by January 31, 2022**

**15.2% Paid Off**

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>Condo Equity</b> |
| 31,645              |
| 13.5%               |

|                    |
|--------------------|
| <b>Home Equity</b> |
| 134,064            |
| 30.8%              |

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>Total Equity</b> |
| 165,709             |
| 24.7%               |

We set a goal to pay off the mortgage on our house before we were 35 years old. The original mortgage was for \$355,000 and we started the goal on January 1st, 2015.

## Wonder how I pull all this information together every month?

*Note: You may be wondering why I don't use a bunch of screenshots from personal capital in these reports, and that is a fantastic question. As many of the other bloggers out there who use personal capital, post nothing but the graphics from within the application. I personally only use it as an aggregation that feeds into my own database that creates all the graphics you see in this post. The tool is fantastic, but I personally think the graphics are a bit limited, and prefer my visualizations.*

We use [Personal Capital](#) to aggregate and consolidate our transactions from across all of our financial accounts (checking, savings, retirement, credit cards, mortgages, HSA, and other investment accounts). At the end of the month I then drop that information into my financial stats spreadsheet in order to produce this (beautiful) monthly report.

Tracking your finances is, in my opinion, *the best* way to stay on top of your finances. **You can't optimize what you don't measure.** You can't make informed decisions if you don't know what you having coming in vs. going out. Without a holistic view of how much you spend every month, there's no way to set savings, debt repayment, or investment goals. It's a financial freedom must!

If you don't already have a **FREE** account with Personal Capital, **stop reading** and **[go sign up for your account right now!](#)** (Seriously, this financial update will be here when your done. There's no time like the present to take action. You will thank me later!)

### Month Over Month Financial Summary

| Gross Income          | JOB       | Other   | Rental Income | Total     |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| December-2016         | \$ 25,009 | \$ 585  | \$ 1,350      | \$ 26,944 |
| Previous Month        | \$ 22,317 | \$ 387  | \$ 1,350      | \$ 24,054 |
| Change vs. Last Month | ↑ 2,692   | ↑ 198   | ⇒ -           | ↑ 2,890   |
| % Change              | ↑ 12.1%   | ↑ 51.2% | ⇒ 0.0%        | ↑ 12.0%   |

| Assets                | Pre-Tax Investments | Liquid Cash | Real Estate | CARS      | P2P      | GOLD     | Total      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| December-2016         | \$ 157,947          | \$ 134,609  | \$ 670,459  | \$ 18,000 | \$ 6,197 | \$ 5,759 | \$ 992,970 |
| Previous Month        | \$ 155,738          | \$ 119,220  | \$ 640,459  | \$ 18,000 | \$ 6,207 | \$ 5,874 | \$ 945,497 |
| Change vs. Last Month | ↑ 2,208             | ↑ 15,390    | ↑ 30,000    | ⇒ -       | ↓ (10)   | ↓ (116)  | ↑ 47,473   |
| % Change              | ↑ 1.4%              | ↑ 12.9%     | ↑ 4.7%      | ⇒ 0.0%    | ↓ -0.2%  | ↓ -2.0%  | ↑ 5.0%     |

| Liabilities           | Condo Mortgage | House Mortgage | Credit Float | Total        |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| December-2016         | \$ (154,289)   | \$ (300,936)   | \$ (10,077)  | \$ (465,302) |
| Previous Month        | \$ (154,789)   | \$ (301,537)   | \$ (2,628)   | \$ (458,954) |
| Change vs. Last Month | ↓ (500)        | ↓ (601)        | ↑ 7,449      | ↑ 6,348      |
| % Change              | ↑ 0.3%         | ↑ 0.2%         | ↓ -283.4%    | ↓ -1.4%      |

| Net Worth             | Assets - Liabilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| December-2016         | \$ 527,668           |
| Previous Month        | \$ 486,543           |
| Change vs. Last Month | ↑ 41,125             |
| % Change              | ↑ 8.5%               |

Goal: Pay off Mortgage on Primary Residence by January 31, 2022

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
|  | <b>15.2% Paid Off</b> |
|--|-----------------------|

We set a goal to pay off the mortgage on our house before we were 35 years old. The original mortgage was for \$355,000 and we started the goal on January 1st, 2015.

### Just three things to point out in case you missed it:

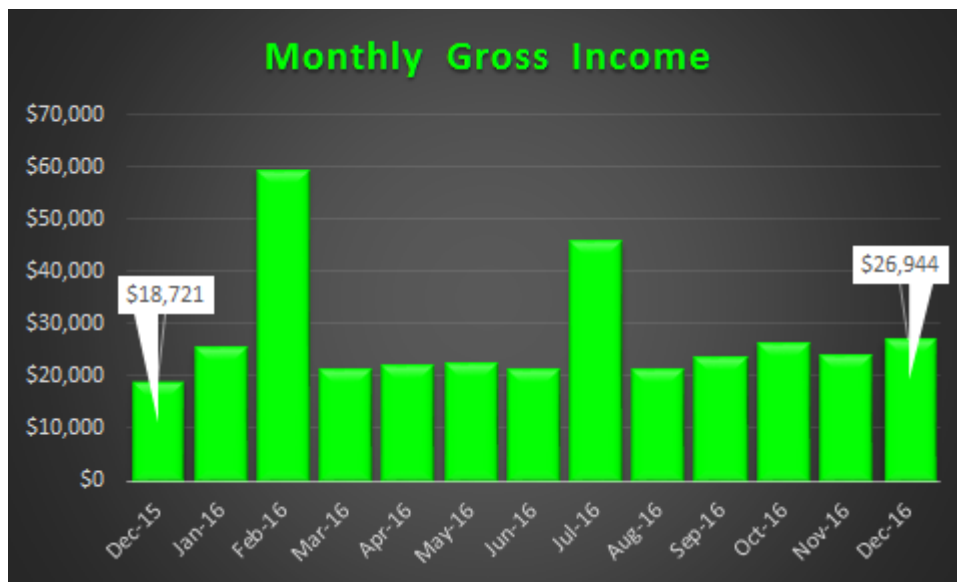
1. Income was up 12%; Mostly due to a 3rd pay period for me, due to a bi-weekly pay schedule..
2. Cash is up \$15,390 or 12.9%. A part of this increase has to do with the timing of our credit cards not being paid until January (they are set to auto-pay in full).
3. We moved the value of our rental condo up to the latest comp from November of 2016, which brought resulted in a \$30,000 increase in net worth this month. We were previously holding the value of our condo at \$205,000 for the prior 6-months even when units were selling for more than this. The most recent unit with the same exact floor plan as ours sold in November of 2016 for \$245,000 and it was just a basic unit and doesn't even have all the upgrades ours has. However, we only adjusted our condo up by \$30,000 instead of a full \$45,000 to be conservative.

*Note: We are currently carrying the most amount of cash we ever have, and will continue to build the cash stash through January of 2017. However, we will be cutting a \$105,000 check for a new investment ([click here for the details](#)). I project our cash balance to be around \$165,000 by the time we have to cut this check.*

## What went down in December?

The GYFG household finished 2016 strong on the income side of the equation. Besides Mrs. GYFG killing it again month after month this year, December also got a bit of a boost due to an additional pay period for me (I am paid on a bi-weekly schedule, which comes with 2 months a year that have 3 pay periods instead of 3

Here is a look at the trend for the last 13 months:



Back in October of 2015 I shared our [2016 forecast](#)(first pass), which had only projected income of \$261,600 (as you will see below, this did increase slightly to \$281,600 by the end of 2015), and we finished the year with actual income of \$339,661 for 2016 (blowing our original expectations out of the water, beating it by +30%). If you do the math, we brought in \$78,061 or \$6,500/month in additional income. I wish I could take credit for this, but my income was largely known for 2016, it was Mrs. GYFG who really got to see the fruits of her labor this year in a big way.

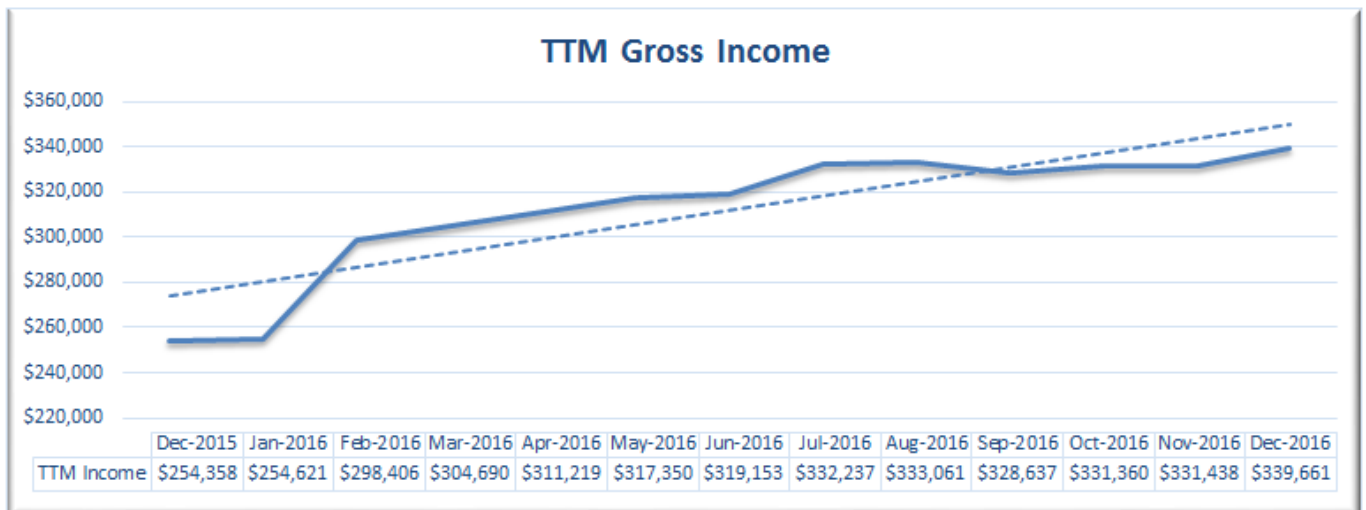
She has been building up her book of business for the past couple years, and the big bonus checks she received month after month this year, are the dividends of her efforts (lots of networking, working long hours, working weekends, and fulfilling special requests that most in her business don't do).

If you've read my [blueprint for how I plan to reach \\$10M](#), you will notice that **we**

**have jumped about 7 years ahead of schedule on the income front.**

I didn't have us at this earning level until 2023 in the [original blueprint](#).

For those of you not familiar with the TTM acronym, it is short for 'Trailing Twelve Months'. The month marks a NEW ***all-time high*** of \$339,661. In January I am projecting around \$390,000 depending on what my bonus comes in at, and how well Mrs. GYFG does with her bonus for the month. Overall, income was up 34% in 2016 vs. 2015.



## The Juicy Details

**December Income = \$26,944**

- Previous Month: \$24,081
- Difference: +\$2,890

## Now where did all that money go?

I have come to the realization that there are always going to be unplanned expenses. [Our goal is to save 50% of our income](#) and live off and enjoy the difference guilt free. With that type of rule governing our financial life, it is a free pass to inflate our lifestyle, but only proportional to our income. You can see prior financial reports [here](#). We do however try to line up expenses with expected income as much as possible.

Since it is the end of the year, instead of looking at the month over month expenses, I thought this would be a good time to compare the full year 2016 actual vs. what we had planned. You will notice that the full year budget numbers are slightly different from the link I shared above as we made a few last minute changes to the budget to bring income up and expenses down.

| Monthly Expenses                | Actual       |                  | Budget       |                  | Var. Fav/(Unfav) |                   |               |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
|                                 | December YTD |                  | December YTD |                  | \$\$\$           |                   |               |
|                                 | 2016         |                  | 2016         |                  | %%%              |                   |               |
| <b>Income</b>                   | \$           | <b>339,661</b>   | \$           | <b>286,600</b>   | \$               | <b>53,061</b>     | <b>18.5%</b>  |
| <i>House Mortgage &amp; HOA</i> |              | \$55,497         |              | \$48,393         |                  | (\$7,104)         | -14.7%        |
| <i>Home Improvement</i>         |              | \$10,944         |              | \$12,000         |                  | \$1,056           | 8.8%          |
| <i>Condo-Mortgage &amp; HOA</i> |              | \$16,343         |              | \$15,918         |                  | (\$425)           | -2.7%         |
| <i>Food &amp; Dining</i>        |              | \$26,882         |              | \$17,300         |                  | (\$9,582)         | -55.4%        |
| <i>Shopping &amp; Other</i>     |              | \$26,745         |              | \$12,000         |                  | (\$14,745)        | -122.9%       |
| <i>Travel &amp; Hotel</i>       |              | \$4,195          |              | \$8,925          |                  | \$4,730           | 53.0%         |
| <i>Deposit Reimbursement</i>    |              | \$0              |              | \$0              |                  | \$0               | 0.0%          |
| <i>Auto &amp; Transport</i>     |              | \$7,918          |              | \$7,533          |                  | (\$385)           | -5.1%         |
| <i>Medical &amp; Dental</i>     |              | \$0              |              | \$0              |                  | \$0               | 0.0%          |
| <i>Bills &amp; Utilities</i>    |              | \$5,711          |              | \$5,870          |                  | \$159             | 2.7%          |
| <i>Health &amp; Fitness</i>     |              | \$3,813          |              | \$4,248          |                  | \$435             | 10.2%         |
| <i>Business Services</i>        |              | \$1,684          |              | \$1,153          |                  | (\$531)           | -46.1%        |
| <i>Personal Development</i>     |              | \$190            |              | \$0              |                  | (\$190)           | 0.0%          |
| <i>Time Share</i>               |              | \$380            |              | \$760            |                  | \$380             | 50.0%         |
| <b>Expense Total</b>            |              | <b>\$160,303</b> |              | <b>\$134,100</b> |                  | <b>(\$26,203)</b> | <b>-19.5%</b> |
| <i>Deduct Amortizations</i>     |              | \$39,766         |              | \$33,600         |                  | (\$6,166)         | -18.4%        |
| <b>Real Expense Total</b>       |              | <b>\$120,537</b> |              | <b>\$100,500</b> |                  | <b>(\$20,037)</b> | <b>-19.9%</b> |

**Income** - Overall income was up 18.5% vs. the final budget we put together in 2016. Again, as I mentioned above, this was all due to Mrs. GYFG hitting it out of the park in 2016

**House Mortgage & HOA** - This ended higher due to the [mid-year refinance we completed to lock in 2.25% with a 3/1 ARM](#). This allowed us to free up ~\$5,500/year in cash flow for a cash on cash return of ~20%. Based on our [7-year plan to pay off the mortgage](#), we don't need to make any additional payments until April of 2017.

**Home Improvement** - Although this looks like it's under budget, there are some expenses that got coded to Shopping and Other, which I didn't bother changing, had I made those changes we would have been slightly over budget on this line item.

**Condo Mortgage & HOA** - Our rate adjusted slightly increasing the payment. Our HOA was increased from \$250/month to \$265/month. We will plan to follow through with the refinance we tried for early in 2016, which will allow us to free up about \$300-\$400 a month in cash flow (we won't have to bring any money in, except for about \$1,500 in closing costs). This will get done in Q1 of 2017.

**Food & Dining** - Yikes! This one got a little out of hand...again. It is a little misleading because there is at least \$3,000 related to my day job that I was reimbursed for, but I code all those reimbursements to the Travel & Hotel line (which is where the majority of my work related expenses hit). I didn't bother breaking this out and won't going forward either. Additionally, we also through a 30th birthday bash that cost about \$1,500 for food and booze. We spent a lot of time working, which didn't leave much time for cooking, we knowingly accepted the increase here. However, we plan to slow down in 2017 and cook a lot more. We have budgeted \$19,000 here in 2017.

**Shopping & Other** - Like I mentioned above, there were home improvement expenses that hit here that shouldn't have. There is also about \$600 that hit here for FIOS internet that should had hit the Bills & Utilities line. That said, we need to pay closer attention to what is hitting this line. I will plan to dig in as part of my deeper annual review.

**Travel & Hotel** - The common theme continues, there is irregularities and coding issues. I code 100% of my expense reimbursements from work here, event though some of those expenses hit the Food & Dining line item. Additionally, this is where all of the cash back rewards from our credit cards gets coded (worth about \$2,000 in credits). I [plan to try and earn about \\$2,000 to \\$4,000 a year in cash back](#), which will always be netted against expenses. I look at it as a discount to spending we were already going to do.

**Auto & Transport** - Not much to say here, pretty much on target. I have a post coming out in the near future that looks at the cost of use of a car. I hadn't realized how expensive it really is, and the wealth destroying effect it can have on your net worth (to be published in Q1 of 2017).

**Bills & Utilities** - This is missing about \$600 for FIOS internet, that mistakenly got coded to the Shopping & Other line. But other than that it is close enough.

**Health & Fitness** - Under budget, mostly due to me ending my cross-fit career early because of an injury (which took 6 months to recover from fully, and 24 visits to the chiropractor). It was my fault not cross-fit. I let my ego get in the way of using proper form and went way to heavy and got sloppy.

**Business Services** - Large percentage bust, but small dollars. No reason to waist any more words here.

**Personal Development** - Same as above.

**Time Share** - Looks like another issue with expense coding, as I know we paid 4 payments, totaling \$760. It looks like January of 2016 and October of 2016 were coded to the wrong place (probably Shopping & Other).

Overall we spent about \$20,000 more than expected, but to put it into context, we also earned \$53,000 more than expected. More importantly, as you will read below, we hit our 50% savings target (up from 42% in 2015).

Here is the trend for the last 13 months:

*Note: I have now changed the chart to reflect the add-back of loan amortizations to reflect what I call "real spending" above. This is done because amortizations are really just a balance sheet transfer from cash to pay down liabilities, it has no impact to net worth.*



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**CALL OUT:** It is crazy how slippery money can be. Because of this I totally recommend you automate as much of your finances as possible, especially the saving and investing piece. We set our financial goals at the beginning of the year and then automate the process of reaching them.

**Examples:**

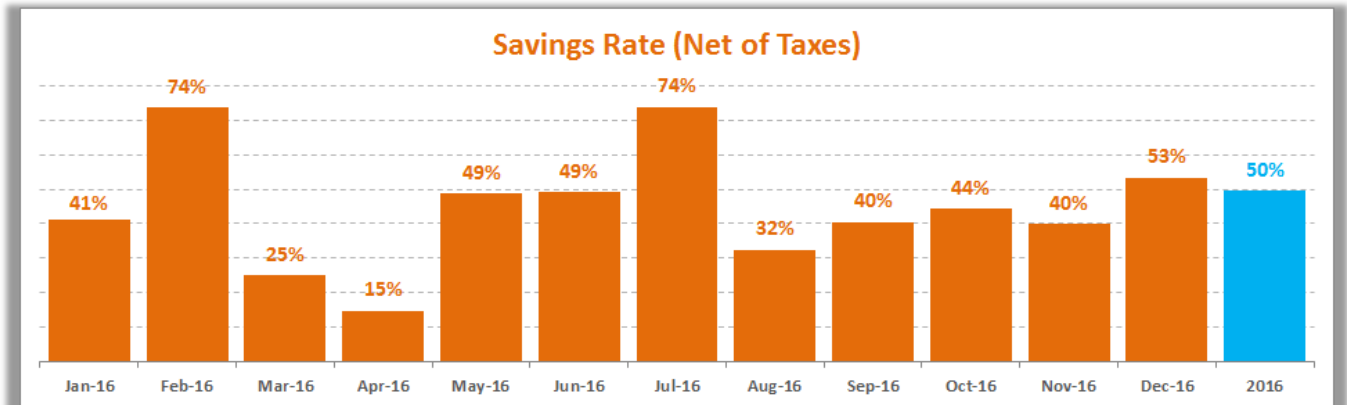
1. Our mortgage payment is automatically set up to pay \$1,600 in additional principal. **This will be put on hold until 2017**
2. My 401K contribution is automatically deducted at a rate that will ensure I max out by year end (\$18,000)
3. My HSA contribution is automatically deducted at a rate that will ensure I max out by year end (\$6,750)
4. **In 2017 we will be adding additional automated savings (more to come soon)**

All of these things take priority over any spending that we do in a given month. We monitor expenses but don't really manage them. Instead we manage savings and investments and let the expenses work themselves out.

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## Savings Rate

Below is how we did vs. our goal of [saving 50% of our after tax income](#).



You can see that although [our goal for the year is 50%](#), we bounce all over the place on a monthly basis.

**We hit our goal of saving 50% of our after tax income.** This is up substantially from 2015, where we had a savings rate of 42%. Although we spent more than we budgeted, our income and savings outpaced our spending. On a gross basis, we ended up saving 37% of our gross income, [in 2017 we are aiming for 42% gross savings and 63% after tax](#).

Speaking of savings rate, have you checked out [my post](#) where I mathematically prove the importance of your savings rate as a higher priority than the compound return? If you're trying to build wealth quickly, then you have to read this post.

## Net Worth and Mortgage Pay Down Update

My ultimate goal is to [build up a Net Worth of \\$10M](#) returning 6% a year or \$50,000/month in gross income (at the end of December we are officially 5.3% there). Don't freak out, this is only about \$5.5M in today's dollars when you take into account a 3% inflation rate.

Can't believe we are half-way to a 7-figure net worth. It's growing at a very respectable rate (just take a look in the side bar for growth at a glance). If you want to see how I plan to get there you can read all about it [here](#).

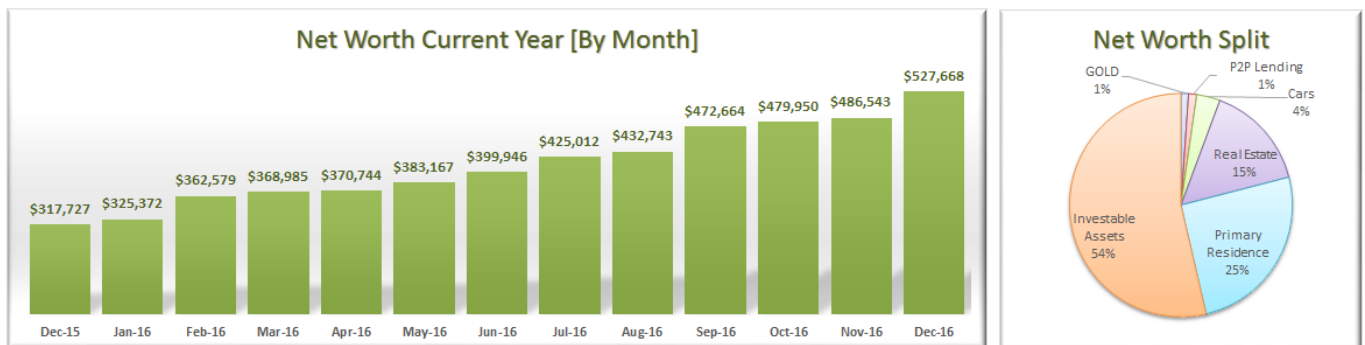
**December Net Worth \$527,668 (this puts us up \$209,941 or 66.1% vs. 2015)**

- Previous month: \$486,544
- Difference: +\$41,125

Since publishing the first financial report we have been able to post **24 consecutive months of positive gains to Net Worth**. Let's see how long we can continue this trend. The larger the number becomes (and the more invested we become), the more difficult it will be to continue this trend.

**Net Worth is up 1,144% since 2012 (More than 10X in 4 years)!**

### **Net Worth Component Break Down:**



In January you will see a new category added to the net worth allocation to reflect [our new \\$105K investment](#).

Net Worth increased by \$210K in 2016 vs. [our original goal](#) of \$112K. I would call this a grand slam of a year. We are projecting an increase of around the same dollar amount in 2017, before accounting for any increases due to dividends, interest, and market appreciation (or depreciation if the market turns sour). Either way, at this point in our journey our contributions should still be far greater than any decline in the markets to continue to show a year over year increase in 2017 ([remember the secret to wealth building is to get a little wealthier every day on average](#)).

Something I have been thinking about and worth pointing out is that **our net worth was actually negative to the tune of almost -\$300K back in early 2009**, so we have come a long way in a short period of time. Until now I had only reported our ending net worth from 2012. I am thinking up a post that would give the full

story of how we started so negative right out of college and how we have improved it so dramatically in such a short period of time (it's on the list). I mention the first drag in this post about our [investment condo](#).

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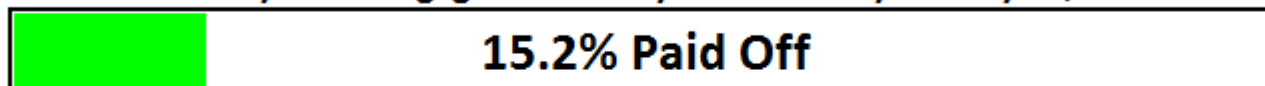
**Note:** I think people tend to glaze over the fact that the savings rate plays a much bigger role in increasing your net worth than the rate of return on your investments (in the early days of your journey). In the short term, savings rate has a bigger impact on net worth. The goal is to eventually build a big enough asset base that the gains from compounding will eventually outpace the gains from savings. Actually, check out the post I recently wrote: [Savings Rate - The Most Important Variable to Wealth Building \[and the math to prove it\]](#)

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## Progress On Our Mortgage Payoff Goal

You can read about our [strategy to pay off our mortgage in 7 years](#) (and 3 months). When you break it down and follow the 3 simple rules, it's not as hard as it sounds. We bought our house in February of 2014 and then refinanced it into a 5/5 ARM in September of 2014 to remove PMI and free up cash-flow to put towards the principal and keep us on track to pay the mortgage off at an accelerated pace. We have since refinanced again into a 3/1 ARM at 2.25%, which has freed up an additional \$400/month.

### Goal: Pay off Mortgage on Primary Residence by January 31, 2022



We set a goal to pay off the mortgage on our house before we were 35 years old. The original mortgage was for \$355,000 and we started the goal on January 1st, 2015.

The progress chart above shows how much of our goal we have completed. The goal completion percentage is up 0.1% vs. November. We will begin making more rapid progress on this goal starting sometime in early 2017.

## The End

I hope these reports inspire and move you to action. Don't take a passive role in your finances and hope for the best. There is a famous Jim Rohn quote that I think everyone should keep in mind:

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**If you don't plan your future, somebody else will. And you know what they have planned for you? NOT MUCH!**

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You have to be intentional with your finances if you ever want a fighting chance to make it to financial freedom. It doesn't have to take 40-50 years of slaving away for the man before you have the option to retire. I personally think that 15-20 years is really all you need, and for the folks that are more aggressive (i.e. extremely frugal, **not us**) or very high earners you can probably reach financial independence in 10 years or less (**maybe us, it's yet to be seen but income is our focus vs. expenses**).

I am looking forward to chatting with you all in the comments below. How was your month? Also, if you have a blog, I encourage you to write a monthly financial report and come back here and share the link. I would love to be part of your support and accountability.

One last thing before we go. If you are new or even if you're not new and you have been wanting a more guided tour of the blog, I finally launched a "[Start Here](#)" page. I highly recommend you check it out.

Cheers!

- Gen Y Finance Guy

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**Oh, you're still reading.**

**Do you want to help keep our lights on? You're under no obligation, but if**

**you were already thinking about it or were a little bit curious, why not help us out?**

**Here are a few ways you can help us out:**

1. **Personal Capital** - You know how big I am on tracking my finances, that's why I totally recommend Personal Capital's FREE software that helps you see all your financial accounts in one secure and convenient place (checking, savings, investments, and retirement accounts). Without a tool like Personal Capital, these reports would take 2-3 times as long to complete. You want to track your income? Your expenses? How about your Net Worth (who doesn't like watching that bad boy climb). Just sign up and link your accounts today. **Absolutely FREE to you!**
2. **TD Ameritrade** - They are hands down the best broker for the retail investor. TD Ameritrade provides a number of investing platforms that are more robust than any other platform I have ever used. My particular favorite is the "Think or Swim" platform. **Oh, and did I mention that they have over 100 ETFs that you can trade commission FREE?**
3. **Blue Host** - Have we inspired you to create your own blog? Well let me save you some money. This is the hosting company that I use for this blog. It is stupid cheap and the customer service is amazing. The normal price is \$5.99/month, but if you use this link you will get a 34% discount (only \$3.99/month). It took me less than 5 minutes to buy my domain, install wordpress, and get the first version of this site up and running.

**OR** you can check out our [Recommended Products and Resources page](#).



## **Gen Y Finance Guy**

**Hey, I'm Dom** - the man behind the cartoon. You'll notice that I sign off as "Gen Y Finance Guy" on all my posts, due to the fact that I write this blog anonymously (at least for now). I like to think of myself as the *Chief Freedom Officer* here of my little

corner of the internet. In the real world, I'm a 30-something former C-Suite executive turned entrepreneur turned capital allocator. I am trying to humanize finance by sharing my own journey to Financial Freedom. I believe in total *honesty* and *transparency*. That is why before I ever started blogging, I decided that I would share all of my own [financial stats](#). I do this not to brag, but instead to inspire motivate, and also to hold myself accountable. My goal is to be a beacon of hope, motivation, and inspiration for *you*, the reader, by living life by example and sharing it **all** here on the blog. My sincere hope is that you will be able to learn from me - both from my successes and my failures! [Read More](#)