Side Hustle Profit Tracker — read me first

Thanks for downloading this. It's free, there's nothing to activate, and it works offline.

The file you want is `Side-Hustle-Profit-Tracker.xlsx`**.** Open it and start on the **Start Here** tab — it has the five steps. This page is only about opening the file and what you're allowed to do with it.

Open it in Excel

1. Save `Side-Hustle-Profit-Tracker.xlsx` somewhere you'll find it again.
2. Double-click it. If Excel shows a yellow **Protected View** bar across the top, click **Enable Editing** — that bar appears on every file downloaded from the internet.
3. There are no macros in this file, so you will not be asked to enable any. If something ever asks you to enable macros in a file you think came from us, don't.

Works in Excel 2016 and newer, Excel for Mac, and Microsoft 365.

Open it in Google Sheets

1. Go to sheets.google.com and sign in.
2. **File** → **Import** (or **File** → **Open** → **Upload**).
3. Drag `Side-Hustle-Profit-Tracker.xlsx` in, choose **Create new spreadsheet**, and click **Import data**.
4. Google converts it and keeps the formulas, the dropdowns and the chart. Your copy lives in your own Drive — we never see it.

If you'd rather keep it as an Excel file inside Drive, upload it without importing and open it with the Office editing mode. Both work.

Open it in Numbers, LibreOffice or OpenOffice

Open the `.xlsx` directly. The formulas are deliberately plain ones that every spreadsheet program understands. Charts and dropdowns occasionally come across looking slightly different in these; the numbers won't change.

First two minutes

- The file arrives with **three months of made-up sample numbers** so the dashboard isn't a wall of zeros. They are illustrative, nothing more.
- **Start Here** tells you how to clear them in one step per tab.
- **Soft gold cells are yours to type in. Pale green cells are formulas** — type over one and the dashboard stops adding up. If you do it by accident, close without saving and open the original again.
- Dates run the whole thing. The bottom of the Dashboard has a check line that should read **$0.00**; if it doesn't, a date is mistyped or falls outside your 12-month window.

If a number looks wrong

Nine times out of ten it's one of these:

- An entry dated in the wrong month or the wrong year. Check the Dashboard check line.
- Hours never logged, which makes profit per hour look far better than it is.
- A one-time purchase marked **No** in the Expenses tab, which drags your running costs up forever.
- Platform fees typed into the Gross column instead of the Fees column. Gross is what the customer paid; Fees is the slice the platform kept.

Still stuck? Email **hello@thesideprofit.com** and tell me which cell. I'd rather fix the template than have you fight it.

What this is, and what it isn't

It's a tracking tool. It adds up numbers you type in and divides them a few useful ways. It is **educational only — not financial, tax or investment advice**, and it makes no prediction or promise about what any side hustle will earn. The set-aside percentage is a number *you* choose; the file has no opinion on what it should be. For advice about your own situation, talk to a qualified accountant or tax professional.

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Built by someone who has actually tracked money for a living. If this one is useful, there are tools for Etsy sellers and for pulling a self-employed year together coming next — that's what the email list is for.