

Simple Personal Expense Tracker

Author: Atharva Malviya

Course: Introduction to Programming and Problem Solving

Date: November 2025

Introduction Managing money is something that everyone has to deal with, but it is often hard to keep track of where the cash actually goes. I realized that writing things down on paper is annoying and using complex apps is too much work for simple needs. That is why I decided to build a Personal Expense Tracker using Python. This project helps users log their daily spending and see a summary of where their money is going, which is important for maintaining good financial health.

Problem Statement The main problem I wanted to solve was the lack of a quick way to record expenses on my laptop without needing internet or paid software. Many people forget what they bought by the end of the week. This project addresses that by providing a simple command-line tool where a user can quickly add an expense, view their history, and see a total calculation of their spending.

Requirements: The app is built to handle the basic needs of tracking money. basically, it allows the user to input a new expense by typing the date, category, description, and cost. It saves this information so it doesn't get lost. The user can also choose to view a full history of what they bought, displayed in a list. Finally, the program can calculate the total amount spent and show a breakdown by category, like how much was spent on "Food" vs "Travel." I also made sure the program doesn't crash if someone types a letter instead of a number; it just asks them to try again

Features & Design Basically, the app lets you add expenses with a date, category, and cost. It saves everything to a CSV file ("expenses.csv") so data isn't lost when you close the program. I didn't use a database because that felt too complex; the CSV file works fine as permanent storage. You can also view a history list or see a total summary. I used a dictionary to calculate the totals because it was the easiest way to group the categories.

Testing & Challenges I tested the code by running it manually in the terminal and adding different items. It was a good way to learn file handling.

Future Scope In the future, I would like to add a feature to delete specific entries if I make a mistake. I could also add a way to filter expenses by a specific month, because right now it shows everything. eventually, building a graphical user interface (GUI) would make it even easier to use.