**Wedding spending distribution**

| **Spending Range** | **Percent of Weddings** |
| --- | --- |
| <$5000 | 20.70% |
| $5,000 | 25.20% |
| $10,001 | 29.00% |
| $20,001 | 14.70% |
| $30000+ | 10.50% |

**Wedding License**

* **Average cost: $30 to $100**
The legally binding part of your wedding is usually the cheapest. While wedding license fees vary by state, they typically cost $30 to $100.

**Entertainment**

* **Average cost: 0 to $5,000+ plus**
As part of your wedding planning process, compare the average costs of entertainment. The average cost of a wedding band is approximately $4,500, while the average cost of a reception Average cost of DJ is closer to $1,300.
This is one area where averages don’t mean much for your wedding budget. You don’t technically have to pay for entertainment — there is no rule that says you can’t plug your laptop into a speaker and DJ all by yourself.

**Venue**

* **Average cost: 0 to $20,000**
Wedding venue price tags can vary quite a bit. Lots of couples have opted for a barn or a backyard for their ceremony and reception. In fact, those were the most popular wedding venues in 2020, according to [Wedding Wire](https://www.wedinsights.com/report/weddingwire-newlywed-report-covid). Family backyards cost 0, while a rustic barn could easily set you back $20,000.

**Food and Drink**

* **Average cost: $27 to $70 Per Person ($1,800 to $7,000)**
For a sit-down dinner, couples can expect to spend $40 to $70 per person. (In a more expensive market, like [New York City](https://www.thecut.com/weddings/listings/caterers/), seated dinners will cost closer to $100 to $200.)
Buffets and simple menus of tacos or barbecue are significantly cheaper, but also less popular due to Covid. (For the record, those types of buffet meals cost closer to $27 per person.)

**Cake**

* **Average cost: $400 to $500**
Tiered cakes can cost a pretty penny. If your wedding cake is going to break the bank, think about having a smaller “slicing cake” for the cake-cutting ceremony, and then serve a variety of cupcakes, cookies, or other desserts.

**Drinks**

* **Average cost: $300 to $12,000**
Open bars can be exceptionally expensive, especially if you plan to serve high-end liquor. Many couples opt to save money by sticking to wine and beer, or wine and beer plus *one* signature cocktail.

**Wedding Planner**

* **Average cost: $1,500 to $4,000**
Wedding planners usually charge a percentage of the vendor and venue cost, typically around 20%. Couples sometimes choose to save money by going without a wedding planner or opting for a day-of wedding coordinator instead. With that said: Time is money. If you choose not to pay a planner, you will end up investing quite a few (hundred) hours of your own time into wedding planning.

**Wedding Photographer**

* **Average cost: $300 to $4,500**
This is another category with a lot of wiggle room. You can find less experienced photographers who will only charge a few hundred bucks or get the all-star treatment for thousands of dollars.

**Wedding Videographer**

* **Average cost: $1,000 to $2,500**
Wedding videographers can be a significant expense, but they spare you a lifetime of only having your family’s home videos. (Why does your uncle only point the camera at his shoes?!)

**Florist**

* **Average cost: $150 to $2,000**
The average wedding bouquet costs between $150 and $350. Bouquets for bridesmaids are only slightly less. Floral budgets start to add up when you rely heavily on flowers for décor. You may want flowers as centerpieces, garlands, flower girl wreaths, and cake toppers.

**Wedding Attire**

* **Average cost: $1,600**
The average wedding dress cost doesn’t include a veil, comfortable heels, or other accessories.
Don’t forget: The groom needs to wear something, too! Although you probably won’t rent a tuxedo for a backyard wedding, a nice formal outfit for a groom will probably cost around $200 to $300.
Brides can expect to spend around $300 for professional hair and makeup.

**Wedding Transportation**

* **Average cost: $500 to $1,000**
Shuttles are a great idea (one could argue a must-have) for wedding receptions that serve alcohol.

**Wedding Budget Breakdown Cost**

* Venue and Catering: 40 percent of your budget
* Photography and Videography: 15 percent of your budget
* Wedding Attire and Beauty: 5 percent of your budget
* Music/Entertainment: 10 percent of your budget
* Flowers: 10 percent of your budget
* Favors and Gifts: 2 percent of your budget
* Transportation: 3 percent of your budget
* Stationery: 3 percent of your budget
* Cake: 2 percent of your budget
* Décor: 10 percent of your budget