



Denominations that have been retired (or should be)

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Denominations in 1792

Denominations per the 1792 Mint Act	Fraction of a Dollar	Nominal Value
Gold Eagle	10	\$ 10.000
Gold Half Eagle	5	\$ 5.000
Gold Quarter Eagle	2½	\$ 2.500
Silver Dollar	1	\$ 1.000
Silver Half dollar	1/2	\$ 0.500
Silver Quarter dollar	1/4	\$ 0.250
Silver Dime	1/10	\$ 0.100
Silver Half Dime	1/20	\$ 0.050
Copper Cent	1/100	\$ 0.010
Copper Half Cent	1/200	\$ 0.005
Mille	1/1000	\$ 0.001

U.S. Half Cent retired in 1857



Obverse



Reverse

U.S. Two-Cent, 1864-1872



Obverse



Reverse

U.S. Three-Cents, 1851-1889



Silver



Nickel

U.S. Half Dime, 1794-1873



U.S. Twenty-Cents, 1875-1876



U.S. Fifty-Cents, sporadic this century

AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



U.S. Gold coins, 1933



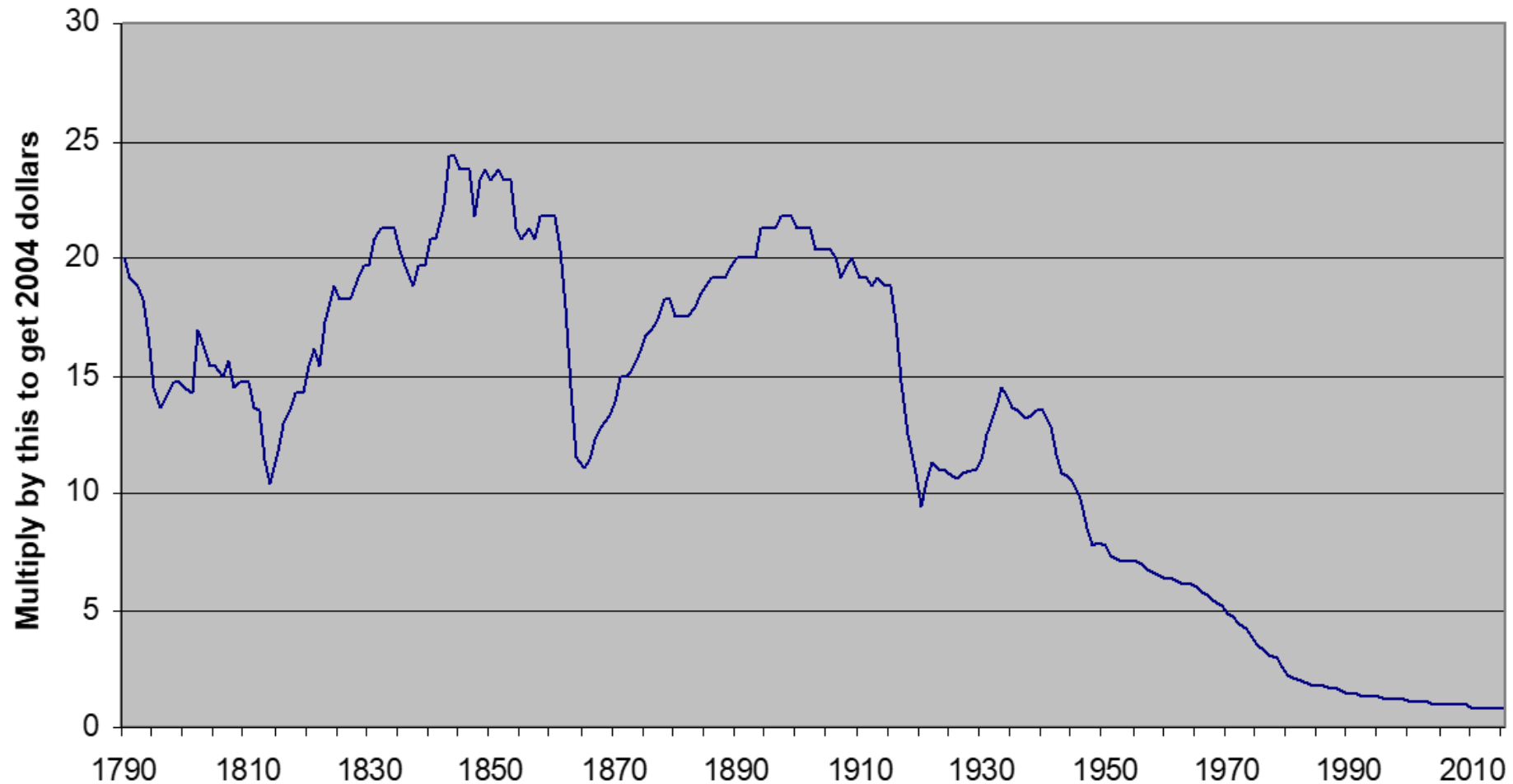
Canada, One Cent, 2012



U.K., Farthing, 1956



Inflation's effects: How the dollar has shrunk since 1792



The dollar in 2004 is 1/5th what it was in 1969, 1/10th of 1945, 1/20th of 1906

1856 vs. Today

½ Cent then



Obverse



Reverse



17 Cents today

We never minted a mille coin in 1793.

But the mille –
 $1/1000^{\text{th}}$ of a dollar, $1/10^{\text{th}}$ of a cent –
in 1793 money,
is the equivalent of
three of today's one-cent coins.
Today's nickel has only slightly more value.

1917 one cent == 2025 quarter dollar
Same purchasing power!



Full-size candy bar: \$1.79

About
1950



Two nickels then.
36 nickels today.



Erosion of the Dollar Over Time

2x: What cost \$10 in 1997 costs \$20 today.

5x: What cost \$10 in 1977 costs \$50 today. What 1¢ bought in 1977 costs 5¢ today.

10x: What cost \$10 in 1965 costs \$100 today. What 1¢ bought in 1965 costs 10¢ today.

20x: What cost \$10 in 1942 costs \$200 today. What 5¢ bought in 1942 costs \$1 today.

25x: What cost \$10 in 1917 costs \$250 today. What 1¢ bought in 1917 costs 25¢ today.

35x: What cost \$10 in 1844 costs \$350 today. What \$2.50 bought then costs \$87 today.

Today's \$100 bill would have been \$50 in 1997 money.

Today's \$100 bill would have been \$20 in 1977 money.

Today's \$100 bill would have been \$10 in 1965 money.

Today's \$100 bill would have been \$5 in 1942 money.

Today's \$100 bill would have been a little more than a quarter eagle, the smallest gold piece, in 1844.

Lifespan of U.S. Paper Money

(as of May 2025)

Denomination	Estimated Lifespan
\$1	7.2 years
\$5	5.8 years
\$10	5.7 years
\$20	11.1 years
\$50	14.9 years
\$100	24.0 years

Source: [Lifespan Data | U.S. Currency Education Program](https://www.uscurrency.gov/life-cycle/data/life-span/)
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Coin or bill	Proposal	1942 Equivalent
One cent	Discontinue	
Five cent	Discontinue	
Dime	Discontinue	
Quarter dollar	No change	One cent
Half dollar	Discontinue	
\$1 bill	Discontinue	
\$1 coin	No change	Five cent
\$2 bill	Discontinue	
\$5 bill	Discontinue	
\$5 coin	New	Quarter dollar
\$10 bill	Discontinue	
\$10 coin	New	Half dollar
Higher bills	No change yet	

Q & A

