

Penny Details

- The Mint estimates that it will issue 11.4 billion pennies in fiscal year 2007 .
- The U.S. one-cent coin is 19 millimeters in diameter and weighs 2.5 grams. (See also coin specifications via the U.S. Mint.)
- The composition of the penny is 97.5% zinc and 2.5 % copper.
- There have been 11 different designs featured on the penny.
- Since its beginning, the U.S. Mint has produced over 288.7 billion pennies. Lined up edge to edge, these pennies would circle the earth 137 times. (Figures are est.)
- According to the U.S. Treasury, a circulating coin (e.g., penny, nickel, dime) lasts nearly 30 years. (See also coin production and circulation data via the Treasury)
- The most "expensive" penny is a rare one minted in 1793. Only four are known to exist today and their worth is estimated at more than \$275,000.
- An average of 1,040 pennies are produced every second, adding up to 30 million a day. (Figures are est.)
- During its early penny-making years, the U.S. Mint was so short on copper that it accepted copper utensils, nails and scrap from the public to melt down for the coins.
- The Lincoln penny was the first U.S. coin to feature a historic figure. President Abraham Lincoln has been on the penny since 1909, the 100th anniversary of his birth.
- The Lincoln penny was the first cent on which appeared the words "In God We Trust."
- About half of all coins produced by the U.S. Mint are pennies. (See also coin production figures via the U.S. Mint.)

