U.S. brings an end to production of one-cent coin

23rd November 2026



The United States has officially brought an end to the production of its one-cent coin. President Donald Trump signed the Common Cents Act on Friday. However, the coin will remain legal tender and continue circulating. The US Mint had actually stopped manufacturing the penny (the nickname for the coin) in November 2025. Businesses now have to round cash transactions up or down to the nearest five cents when exact change is unavailable. The decision to discontinue minting the penny was an economic one. In 2024, each coin cost 3.69 cents to produce. The bill's author, Lisa McClain, said: "This legislation will save $85 million per year by permanently ending penny production. It's common sense."

The penny's history dates back to the founding years of the United States. Congress established the US Mint in 1792. The following year, the mint distributed more than 11,000 one-cent coins. The penny underwent numerous design changes. Early designs included an image of Liberty, a Native American chief's headdress, and an eagle. In 1909, it featured a portrait of former President Abraham Lincoln to commemorate the centenary of his birth. The last major redesign was in 2010. Rising manufacturing costs gradually undermined the coin's viability, consigning it to history. Wikipedia stated that the coin was eventually "viewed as a burden to businesses, banks, government, and the public".

Sources: cbsnews.com / *aol.com* / *wikipedia.org*

Writing

A cashless, digital society is best. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United States / one cent / coin / legal tender / manufacturing / cash / common sense / history / penny / design changes / liberty / eagle / portrait / centenary / history

True / False

1) The Common Sense Act brought the end of the one-cent coin. T / F
2) People can continue to use the coin to pay for things. T / F
3) The US Mint stopped production of the coin in 2025. T / F
4) The coin cost more than three times to produce than its face value. T / F
5) The penny coin was first minted over 200 years ago. T / F
6) The article says the first coins had Abraham Lincoln on them. T / F
7) The last time the coin was redesigned was last century. T / F
8) Wikipedia stated the coin had become a burden for businesses. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**production**	a.	image
2.	**signed**	b.	spreading
3.	**circulating**	c.	gave out
4.	**exact**	d.	manufacture
5.	**permanently**	e.	ultimately
6.	**established**	f.	forever
7.	**distributed**	g.	penned
8.	**portrait**	h.	celebrate
9.	**commemorate**	i.	precise
10.	**eventually**	j.	set up

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What do you think of coins?
c) What do you think of the US dollar?
d) What do you think should be on the two sides of coins?
e) When will coins and banknotes be consigned to history?
f) Do you ever flip a coin?
g) What have you used coins for in the past few days?
h) What questions would you like to ask a coin collector?

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Phrase Match

1. officially brought an end
2. the coin will remain legal
3. round cash transactions
4. when exact change is
5. It's common
6. The penny's history dates back
7. The penny underwent
8. commemorate the centenary
9. costs gradually undermined
10. consigning it

a. numerous design changes
b. sense
c. the coin's viability
d. tender
e. to the founding years
f. unavailable
g. to history
h. to the production
i. of his birth
j. up or down

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you know about the American one-cent coin?
b) How much do you like the coins in your country?
c) Why do we need coins?
d) Do you think we still need cash?
e) How attached are to your country's currency?
f) What do you think of collecting coins as a hobby?
g) What is the best way to coin it?
h) Do any of the coins in your country have nicknames?

Spelling

1. legal ertden
2. continue itrucingcal
3. cash assntoianrct
4. The decision to ituocsednni minting
5. nlpanemyert ending penny production
6. It's common esens
7. Congress istdehsabel the US Mint
8. underwent nouermsu design changes
9. it featured a rroptita
10. commemorate the cenyntaer
11. undermined the coin's ibvyaitil
12. viewed as a udebrn to businesses

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. b	4. i	5. f
6. j	7. c	8. a	9. h	10. e

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What is the name of the act that brought an end to the one-cent coin?
2.	What will the coin remain being?
3.	What is the nickname for the one-cent coin?
4.	How much did it cost to make one one-cent coin?
5.	How much money will the US save by ending the one-cent coin?
6.	When was the US Mint set up?
7.	When did the US Mint distribute 11,000 one-cent coins?
8.	Why was Abraham Lincoln featured on a one-cent coin?
9.	What happened to the coin in 2010?
10.	What was the coin being viewed as by banks and businesses?

Speaking – We Need Coins

Rank these with your partner. Put the things we need coins for most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Vending machines
- Buses
- Tips
- Game machines
- Laundry machines
- Public toilets
- Coin lockers
- Saving money

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	F	8	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

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