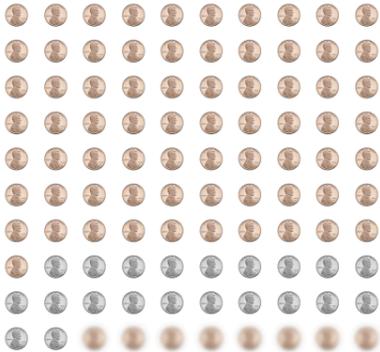


SHOULD THE PENNY BE ELIMINATED?

A penny for your thoughts—or a nickel? The U.S. Mint officially ended production of new pennies on November 12, 2025. Why? Because each copper-colored coin costs 3.69 cents to make. The Secretary of the Treasury said this leads to big losses for the government. The 114 billion pennies already in circulation will still be used for now, and digital payments are not affected. In the future, there may be questions about how cash purchases will be rounded, and some states are already working on rules. Some Americans are happy to see the end of a coin that is often tossed aside, but others worry about people who rely on cash and about losing an important piece of history.



Which are you more likely to do when you see a penny on the ground?



Each penny represents a poll respondent.

- 71%  Pick it up
- 21%  Leave it on the ground
- 8%  Not sure

YES, PENNY PRODUCTION SHOULD STOP

Pennies are a thing of the past. Most people use cards or online payments, so making pennies is a waste of money. The U.S. Treasury estimates that about \$56 million could be saved by stopping penny production, and that money could be used for more important needs. Also, a penny is worth only 1 cent, so rounding to the nearest \$0.05 would not change most purchases very much. Finally, making pennies requires mining large amounts of copper and zinc, which harms the environment. Since billions of pennies already exist, why make more?

NO, PENNY PRODUCTION SHOULD CONTINUE

Eliminating the penny could harm lower-income Americans who rely on cash because cash prices might be rounded higher. Even small increases can add up. And who else still uses cash? Kids! Many children pay with cash and collect coins for charity drives like “Pennies for Patients,” which has raised more than \$68 million for people with leukemia and lymphoma. Pennies also last a long time, which helps balance their cost. The penny was the first coin approved by the United States, and with Abraham Lincoln’s face on it, it remains a symbol of American history and pride. In this case, saving money may not matter more than the coin’s meaning.

Did you know?

In 2010, a penny could buy 1/100th of a Hershey’s chocolate bar. Now, it can only buy 1/180th!



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