

## AMERICAN EAGLE & AMERICAN BUFFALO

UNITED STATES MINT

### SECTIONS

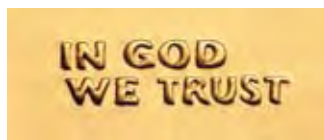
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American Eagle  
22 carat  
Issued since 1986



American Buffalo  
24 carat  
Issued since 2006



A national motto inscribed on many U.S. coins since 1864.

The United States Mint is the world's largest manufacturer of ounce-denominated gold bullion coins.

The **United States Mint** is owned by the United States Government as a bureau of the **U.S. Department of Treasury**.

The Mint is responsible for the minting of American Eagle and American Buffalo gold bullion coins, as well as for their sale, distribution and marketing worldwide.

American Eagle and American Buffalo gold bullion coins are minted at the West Point Mint (New York State), about 60 miles (95 km) north of New York. The United States Mint's national headquarters is in Washington (DC).



**UNITED STATES MINT****FOUNDATION**

The **United States Mint** was established, following formal authorisation by the U.S. Congress on 2 April 1792, and located in Philadelphia (the U.S. capital at that time). It was the first federal building to be erected by the Government under the new Constitution (ratified in 1788) following the Declaration of Independence from England in 1776. The first coins were minted in 1793.

The Mint focuses on the minting of circulating coins and precious metal coins (gold, silver and platinum), as well as commemorative coins and official medals. It is also a custodian of official U.S. gold and silver reserves.

**MINTING LOCATIONS**

The United States Mint, the world's largest manufacturer of circulating coinage (between 11 - 20 billion coins annually) operates mints at 4 locations: Philadelphia Mint (Pennsylvania) since 1793, Denver Mint (Colorado) since 1906, San Francisco Mint (California) since 1854, and West Point Mint (New York State).

The Fort Knox Depository (Kentucky), for which the United States Mint is also responsible, was established in 1936.

The West Point Mint, originally established as the West Point Depository (in 1938), was officially designated a Mint in 1988, although it has minted coins since 1984, including all American Eagle and American Buffalo gold bullion coins.

The Denver and Philadelphia Mints are wholly responsible for minting circulating coinage (although both also manufacture numismatic products). The San Francisco Mint mints only numismatic products. The West Point Mint mints gold, silver and platinum bullion coins, as well as other numismatic products.

The Fort Knox Depository stores gold and other assets, supported by the West Point and Denver Mints, which also store gold and silver bullion.

**PRECIOUS METAL COINS**

The United States Mint, a major producer of precious metal bullion coins, launched the gold American Eagle and silver American Eagle in 1986, the platinum American Eagle in 1997 and the gold American Buffalo in 2006.

Over the past 200 years, the Mint has produced more than 350 million gold coins. The first gold coin, minted in 1795, was the \$5 Half Eagle (gold content 0.26 oz, purity 91.67%).

The most popular gold coin was the \$20 Double Eagle (gold content 0.97 oz, purity 91.67). More than 170 million were issued over 82 years (1850 – 1932).

For 50 years, 1933 – 1983, no gold coins were minted.



The United States Mint, established in 1792, has its national headquarters in Washington (DC).



**HISTORICAL GOLD BAR MAUFACTURE**

Historically, the United States Mint also refined gold and manufactured gold bars at 3 locations: 129 years at the U.S. Assay Office, New York (1853 – 1982), 102 years at the U.S. Mint, San Francisco (1854 – 1956) and 94 years at the U.S. Mint, Denver (1863 – 1957).

The United States Mint is famous for its large London Good Delivery 400 oz gold bars which, although no longer produced, are held as part of the official gold reserves of many central banks around the world.

Number of employees at the United States Mint: 1,800

**INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION****Public Enquiries**

Within the 50 United States: 1-800-USA-MINT (872 6468)

Outside the 50 United States: +1-202-898 6468

Or mail:

Customer Service Center, United States Mint  
2799 Reeves Road, Plainfield, IN 46168

**For General, Non-Product Related Enquiries**

(202) 756 6468

Or mail:

United States Mint  
801, 9th Street NW, Washington, DC 20220-0001

**Website:** [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov)

**AMERICAN EAGLE & AMERICAN BUFFALO****AUTHORISATION**

The United States Mint is authorized by U.S. Department of Treasury to mint American Eagle and American Buffalo gold bullion coins.

**RANGE****American Eagle**

The American Eagle, which has a gold purity of 91.67% (22 carat), is available in 4 sizes that contain a specified weight of fine gold content: 1 oz, 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz and 1/10 oz

The coin was launched on 20 October 1986.

Since their launch, the coin design has remained unaltered apart from one small change. Between 1986 and 1991, the year date on the obverse was recorded in Roman numerals (e.g. "MCMLXXXVI" as 1986). Since 1992 the year date has been recorded in standard numerals (e.g. "1992").

**American Buffalo**

The American Buffalo, which has a gold purity of 99.99% (24 carat), is available in one size only: 1 oz

The coin was launched on 20 June 2006.



The United States Mint mints gold bullion coins at its West Point Mint in New York State.



**LEGAL TENDER STATUS**

American Eagle gold bullion coins are legal tender under the *Gold Bullion Coin Act of 1985*. American Buffalo gold bullion coins are legal tender under the *Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005*.

Each size of coin has a face value denominated in U.S. dollars:

Gold Bullion Coin	Face Value in U.S. Dollars	
	American Eagle	American Buffalo
1 oz	50	50
1/2 oz	25	-
1/4 oz	10	-
1/10 oz	5	-

Production of American Eagle coins was authorized by “Public Law 99-185, dated December 17, 1985”.

Production of American Buffalo coins was authorized by “Public Law 109-145, dated December 22, 2005”.

Copies of the documents can be obtained from the Government Printing Office (GPO) in Washington.

**IMPORTANT FEATURES**

**From the United States Mint – the largest mint in the Western world**

The United States Mint, established in 1792, has minted between 11 and 20 billion coins annually in recent years at its 4 mints in Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco and West Point. Over the past 200 years it has minted more than 350 million gold coins.

**From the U.S. – a leading gold producing country**

The U.S. has been a major source of gold for the international market since the first gold rush to California in 1848. In recent years, annual gold mine output has ranged between 220 – 250 tonnes. In general, American Eagle and American Buffalo gold bullion coins are obliged to be made from gold mined in the U.S.

**From the U.S. – a major national gold bullion coin market**

There has always been strong demand for gold bullion coins since U.S. citizens, in January 1975, were permitted to own gold for investment purposes after 41 years of prohibition. Over the past 35 years, the U.S. has absorbed in excess of 50 million ounces of gold bullion coins.

**From the U.S. – the world’s leading custodian of official gold reserves**

The U.S. holds more gold (around 250 million oz, 8,000 tonnes) in its official gold reserves than any other country, much stored at Fort Knox and in the vaults of The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which is the world’s leading depository of gold for central banks around the world.

**Durable – American Eagle**

American Eagle gold bullion coins are sturdy and durable. The coins are alloyed with a small amount of silver. This hardens the coins, enabling them to resist scratching and denting. The gold purity is 91.67% (22 carat), the traditional purity of circulating gold coins designed to be handled as currency. The United States Mint’s first gold coin, minted in 1795, had this same purity.



The United States Mint offers investors two types of gold bullion coins.

American Eagles (22 carat) are more durable.

American Buffalos (24 carat) have the highest gold purity.



**Highest Gold Purity – American Buffalo**

American Buffalo gold bullion coins are the first 24 carat gold coins to be minted by the United States Mint. Gold purity is 99.99%.

**Attractive designs**

Attractive designs are included on both sides of the coins. American Eagle: “lady Liberty” and a family of eagles. American Buffalo: profile of an American Indian, and a buffalo, as representative of the “native beauty of the American West”.

**Traded at low premiums**

American Eagle and American Buffalo gold bullion coins are designed for gold investors. They are wholesaled (exclusive of distribution costs) to authorised distributors worldwide at low premiums (mark-ups) above the prevailing value of their fine gold content:



The United States Mint minted its first gold coin (\$5 Half Eagle) in 1795.

Over the past 215 years, it has minted over 350 million gold coins.

**INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION**

The United States Mint wholesales American Eagle and American Buffalo gold bullion coins in bulk quantities to authorised distributors. They are located in major gold markets, including the following countries.

<b>Americas</b>	USA, Canada
<b>Europe</b>	Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, United Kingdom
<b>Far East</b>	Hong Kong, Japan

As many distributors trade internationally, the coins are available in many other countries.

**Retail Distribution within the U.S.**

The website of the United States Mint lists over 20 “National Dealers” and 300 “Local Dealers” in the U.S. that deal in gold bullion coins.

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION**

Category		American Eagle				American Buffalo
		1 oz	1/2 oz	1/4 oz	1/10 oz	1 oz
Gold content	Troy ounce	1.000	0.500	0.250	0.1000	1.000
	Gram	31.1035	15.5517	7.7759	3.1103	31.1035
Fineness*	%	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	99.99
Gross weight	Troy ounce	1.0909	0.5455	0.2727	0.1091	1.0001
	Gram	33.931	16.966	8.483	3.393	31.108
Diameter	Inch	1.287	1.063	0.866	0.650	1.287
	Millimetre	32.70	27.00	22.00	16.50	32.70
Thickness	Inch	0.111	0.085	0.070	0.050	0.116
	Millimetre	2.83	2.16	1.79	1.27	2.95
Face value	US\$	50	25	10	5	50
First Issued	Year	1986	1986	1986	1986	2006

Source: United States Mint

Note: \*American Eagle: gold purity is 91.67% (22 carat) – the gold is alloyed with copper (5.33%) and silver (3%). American Buffalo: gold purity is 99.99% (24 carat).



VISUAL DESCRIPTION

AMERICAN EAGLE

OBVERSE



1 oz

The “**lady Liberty**”, the traditional U.S. symbol of freedom, is encircled by 50 stars, representative of the 50 States in the U.S.

The lady Liberty wears a loose tunic. Her long hair blows in the wind. She carries a torch (right hand) and an olive branch (left hand). Her left foot stands on a rock. Near her right foot is a representation of the Capitol building (where the U.S. Congress is based) in Washington.

The lady Liberty design is based on that drawn by August Saint-Gauden for the \$20 Double Eagle gold coin, issued over the period, 1907 – 1932. The design was modified for the American Eagle gold bullion coin by Matthew Peloso.

REVERSE



1 oz



1/2 oz



1/4 oz



1/10 oz

A **family of eagles**. The male, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies above a nest containing a female eagle and two hatchlings.

The eagle is a national emblem of the U.S.

The design is by Miley Busiek. It was engraved by Sherl Winter.



**AMERICAN BUFFALO****OBVERSE**

1 oz

The portrait is believed to have been based on three different **American Indians**, including *Chief Iron Tail* of the Lakota Sioux and *Chief Two Moons* of the Cheyenne.

**REVERSE**

1 oz

The **American buffalo** (also known as a bison) is believed to have been modelled on the buffalo, *Black Diamond*, at the New York Zoological Gardens.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The designs on the obverse and reverse sides of the **American Buffalo** gold bullion coins are the same as appear on "Type 1" of the U.S. 5-cent circulating coin, which was issued in 1913.

The original designs for the 5-cent coin, which "showcases the native beauty of the American West", were by the sculptor, James Earle Fraser.



**ANNUAL SALES STATISTICS**

**AMERICAN EAGLE**

Gold Bullion Coins

Year	Number of Coins				Total Coins	Total Ounces
	1 oz	1/2 oz	1/4 oz	1/10 oz		
1986	1,312,500	486,500	587,000	852,000	3,238,500	1,787,750
1987	1,028,500	198,000	294,000	520,000	2,040,500	1,253,000
1988	494,000	48,000	74,000	235,000	851,000	560,000
1989	426,000	62,000	76,000	275,000	839,000	503,500
1990	405,000	33,000	55,000	222,000	715,000	457,450
1991	204,000	39,000	44,000	185,000	472,000	253,000
1992	326,000	50,800	54,800	207,000	638,600	385,800
1993	439,000	72,000	70,000	215,000	796,000	514,000
1994	243,500	64,000	62,000	190,000	559,500	310,000
1995	226,000	52,000	90,000	232,500	600,500	297,750
1996	194,500	42,000	68,000	425,000	729,500	275,000
1997	661,500	74,500	96,000	485,000	1,317,000	771,250
1998	1,518,500	182,000	342,000	1,445,000	3,487,500	1,839,500
1999	1,511,000	251,000	570,000	2,765,000	5,097,000	2,055,500
2000	94,000	60,000	64,000	245,000	463,000	164,500
2001	245,000	57,000	72,000	335,000	709,000	325,000
2002	239,500	72,000	66,000	230,000	607,500	315,000
2003	405,500	76,000	70,000	235,000	786,500	484,500
2004	437,000	105,000	76,000	275,000	893,000	536,000
2005	351,500	96,000	80,000	295,000	822,500	449,000
2006	201,500	42,000	46,000	270,000	559,500	261,000
2007	147,500	50,000	32,000	180,000	409,500	198,500
2008	794,000	50,000	58,000	270,000	1,172,000	860,500
2009	1,315,500	110,000	110,000	270,000	1,805,500	1,425,000
2010	1,143,000	46,000	62,000	390,000	1,641,000	1,220,500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,364,000</b>	<b>2,418,800</b>	<b>3,218,800</b>	<b>11,249,000</b>	<b>31,250,600</b>	<b>17,503,000</b>

Source: United States Mint

**31 million American Eagle gold bullion coins (17.5 million oz – 540 tonnes) have been issued since 1986.**

**In 2010, 1.6 million American Eagles (1.2 million oz – 38 tonnes) were issued.**

**LATIN NUMERAL YEAR DATES**

On **American Eagle** coins dated 1986 – 1991, the year date was recorded in Roman numerals as follows:

1986	MCMLXXXVI	1989	MCMLXXXIX
1987	MCMLXXXVII	1990	MCMLXC
1988	MCMLXXXVIII	1991	MCMLXCI

Source: United States Mint



**AMERICAN BUFFALO**

Gold Bullion Coins

Year	Number of Coins	Total Ounces
	1 oz	
2006	323,000	323,000
2007	167,500	167,500
2008	172,000	172,000
2009	200,000	200,000
2010	209,000	209,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,071,500</b>	<b>1,071,500</b>



Source: United States Mint

**1.1 million oz of American Buffalo gold bullion coins (33 tonnes) have been issued since 2006.**

**TRADITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS ON AMERICAN EAGLE AND AMERICAN BUFFALO GOLD BULLION COINS**

The words, **Liberty** and **United States of America**, as well as a year date, have appeared on U.S. coins following the Mint Act of 2 April 1792.

The Latin words, **E Pluribus Unum**, have appeared on many U.S. coins since the 1790s. The English translation, “out of many, one”, is indicative of the many States and peoples which constitute the U.S.

The words, **In God we trust**, have also appeared on many U.S. coins since 1864. The statement was declared a national motto in 1956.

Source: United States Mint



The United States of America was founded in 1776.

Source of information and copyright photographs of gold bullion coins  
**United States Mint**

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