GOLD BULLION COINS
AN INTERNATIONAL GUIDE

The Gold Bars Worldwide website incorporates extensive information on gold bullion coins issued by government institutions.

This section – for investors – offers a worldwide overview.

WHAT ARE GOLD BULLION COINS?
The coins are called gold “bullion” coins to emphasize that they are issued primarily for gold investors.

Standard features:

- **Issued at prices that are not fixed but based on the prevailing value of their fine gold content.** This enables the coins to be traded by dealers and investors as gold investment products at prices that reflect the international gold price.

- **Mass-produced in large quantities.** This normally ensures that the premiums at which they are traded above the value of their fine gold content are relatively stable.

- **Legal tender coins in their country of issue.** Like all coins, their technical specifications are guaranteed by national Acts and regulations.

- **Nominal or no face values.** Whether issued with or without monetary face values, their market value is directly related to the value of their fine gold content.

Most gold bullion coins, issued around the world, are denominated in troy ounces.

Some countries, however, issue notable gold bullion coins that are denominated in grams. For example, the bullion coins issued in irregular gram weights in Turkey and the United Kingdom, and the 10 kg and 1 kg bullion coins issued in Australia.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT
The Krugerrand (South Africa), the first ounce-denominated gold bullion coin, was launched in mass-produced quantities in 1970.

During the 1960s, the ounce-denominated bullion coin concept had been developed by South Africa’s gold producers, whose annual gold output accounted for 70% of the world’s annual gold mine output at that time.

Anticipating the abandonment of the Gold Standard, which finally came to an end in 1971, and the removal of restrictions inhibiting the private ownership of gold in many countries, their objective was to make it easy to invest in gold in the form of gold coins.

In this context, they proposed the minting of a gold “bullion” coin that would contain exactly one troy ounce of fine gold - for issue at a price directly related to the prevailing value of its fine gold content.
For a period of 9 years (1970-1979), the Krugerrand was the only ounce-denominated gold bullion coin available to the international market.

However, its worldwide success stimulated many countries to issue their own ounce-denominated bullion coins, especially when international sanctions were widely applied against South Africa and the Krugerrand between 1985 and the early 1990s.

Historical launch dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year First Issued</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Current Range</th>
<th>Gold Purity %</th>
<th>Face Value* 1 oz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Krugerrand</td>
<td>1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10 oz</td>
<td>91.67</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Maple Leaf</td>
<td>1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20 oz</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>C$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Libertad</td>
<td>1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10 oz</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Panda</td>
<td>1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20 oz</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>Yuan 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>American Eagle</td>
<td>1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10 oz</td>
<td>91.67</td>
<td>US$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australian Kangaroo</td>
<td>1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10 oz</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>A$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Britannia</td>
<td>1, 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz, 1/10 oz</td>
<td>99.99**</td>
<td>£100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Vienna Philharmonic</td>
<td>1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10 oz</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>Euro 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australian Lunar Series</td>
<td>10, 2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20 oz</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>A$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>American Buffalo</td>
<td>1 oz</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>US$50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National mints. Note: Ounce-denominated bullion coins, issued by other countries, will be included over time. # Formerly known as “The Australian Nugget”: renamed “Australian Kangaroo” in 2008. * Refers to current face values. **Gold purity of the Britannia was increased from 91.666% to 99.99% in January 2013.

FINE GOLD WEIGHTS

Gold bullion coins, denominated in ounces, are normally issued in 4 sizes, containing specified weights of fine gold:

1 oz, 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz, 1/10 oz

However, some mints also issue 1/20 oz bullion coins, while The Perth Mint (Australia) includes 10 kg and 1 kg bullion coins within its standard range.

The 1 oz bullion coin is by far the most important, accounting for over 80% of the total amount of gold used in the manufacture of ounce-denominated bullion coins.

The reason for this is that 1 oz coins normally have a lower percentage premium (mark-up) above the value of their fine gold content – and usually a smaller spread (the difference between the buying and selling price).

The South African Mint was the first to issue the smaller 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz and 1/10 oz coins in 1980 and China Gold Coin Incorporation the 1/20 oz coin in 1983. The Perth Mint (Australia) has minted 1 kg coins since 1991 and 10 kg coins since 2006.

PURITIES

The gold purities of bullion coins, issued around the world, vary.

They can contain 99.99%, 99.9%, 91.67% or 90% gold.
Gold Bullion Coins

It can be noted that the weight, as recorded on a coin (e.g. “1 oz”), reflects the weight of fine gold content, not the gross weight.

For example, a 22 carat (91.67%) bullion coin, containing 1 oz of fine gold, has a gross weight that is significantly more than 1 oz, as the coin includes an additional alloy content, usually copper or silver, to make the coin more durable.

**DIAMETERS – 1 OZ**

The dimensions of 1 oz bullion coins, featured in this section, vary.

The diameters range from 30.0 mm (Maple Leaf) up to 39.34 mm (Australian Lunar).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Diameter – 1 oz mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australian Lunar</td>
<td>39.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Vienna Philharmonic</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Libertad</td>
<td>34.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Krugerrand</td>
<td>32.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>American Buffalo</td>
<td>32.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>American Eagle</td>
<td>32.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Britannia</td>
<td>32.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australian Kangaroo</td>
<td>32.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Panda</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Maple Leaf</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National mints. Note: In some cases, the diameters are referred to as “standard”, in others as “maximum”.

**DECORATIVE DESIGNS**

All gold bullion coins incorporate an attractive decorative design on their reverse side.

While most have a permanent design, some have designs that are changed each year to provide a supplementary collectable dimension.

For example, Australian Kangaroo, Australian Lunar and Chinese Panda bullion coins (and the Britannia in most years since 1997).

**INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION**

Since 1970, approximately 250 million gold bullion coins (3,500 tonnes of fine gold) have been issued.

They are traded in many countries, including the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>USA, Canada, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>Turkey, Iran, UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far East</td>
<td>China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>Australia, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>Russia, Ukraine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It can be noted that, while some countries exempt designated gold bullion coins from import duties and sales taxes (e.g. European Union), other countries levy import duty, sales or other taxes (e.g. many States in the USA, Russia and Japan).
The **Perth Mint** manufactures Australia’s gold bullion coins, while **GoldCorp Australia** is responsible for their international sale and marketing. Both are subsidiaries of **Gold Corporation**, an autonomous institution that is owned by the Government of Western Australia.

**Rand Refinery** is responsible for manufacturing the blanks for Krugerrand gold bullion coins, as well as for undertaking their sale and marketing worldwide. The **South African Mint**, owned by the Reserve Bank of South Africa, is responsible for minting Krugerrand gold bullion coins.
FURTHER EXAMPLES OF 1 OZ GOLD BULLION COINS

**AMERICAN BUFFALO**

United States Mint

**AMERICAN EAGLE**

United States Mint

**BRITANNIA**

The Royal Mint
**LIBERTAD**

Obverse

Reverse

Mexican Mint

**MAPLE LEAF**

Obverse

Reverse

Royal Canadian Mint

**PANDA**

Obverse

Reverse - 2014

China Gold Coin Incorporation
Gold Bullion Coins

AUSTRALIAN LUNAR SERIES

Obverse
Reverse - 2014
Year of the Horse
The Perth Mint
Australia

Australian Lunar gold bullion coins illustrate each year the animal appropriate to the year in the Chinese lunar calendar.

Australian Lunar, Australian Kangaroo and Chinese Panda bullion coins are distinctive as their surfaces incorporate frosting – the milky or cameo effect that is normally confined to proof coins.

Rand Refinery
South Africa

Circular blanks are stamped out from strips of rolled gold for minting into gold bullion coins.
Some countries issue gram-denominated bullion coins that contain irregular amounts of fine gold (e.g. 32.154 g), while others issue gram-denominated bullion coins that contain regular amounts (e.g. 1 kg).

For example:

The Turkish State Mint, the world’s largest manufacturer of gold bullion coins over the decade 2000 – 2010, mints a range of five Ziynets and five Meskuks that contain irregular amounts of fine gold, ranging from 1.607 g to 32.154 g.

The Royal Mint (United Kingdom) mints a range of three Sovereigns that contain irregular amounts of fine gold, ranging from 1.8305 g to 7.3223 g.

The Austrian Mint mints a range of restrikes of historical Austrian gold coins. The restrike of the 1 Dukat (dated 1915), which accounts for approximately 85% of the Mint’s annual sales of restrikes, contains an irregular amount of 3.4424 g of fine gold.

The Perth Mint (Australia) mints Australian Kangaroos and Australian Lunars that contain 1 kg of fine gold.

It can be noted that, during the period of the Gold Standard, many countries issued gold coins, which contained irregular amounts of fine gold, at face values as recorded on the coins or in legislation.

Millions of these historical coins are still in circulation and are purchased by some investors as “bullion” coins, when offered by dealers at low premiums above the prevailing value of their fine gold content.

Historical launch dates of gram-denominated bullion coins featured in this section:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year First Issued*</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gross Weight Grams</th>
<th>Fine Gold Content Grams</th>
<th>Gold Purity %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1817</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Sovereign</td>
<td>3 current sizes</td>
<td>Largest: 7.98805</td>
<td>91.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Largest: 7.3223</td>
<td>Smallest: 1.8305</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Ziynet**</td>
<td>5 sizes</td>
<td>Largest: 35.080</td>
<td>91.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Largest: 32.15432</td>
<td>Smallest: 1.754</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Meskuk**</td>
<td>5 sizes</td>
<td>Largest: 36.082</td>
<td>91.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Largest: 33.07354</td>
<td>Smallest: 1.804</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915#</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Dukat</td>
<td>2 sizes</td>
<td>Largest: 3.4908</td>
<td>98.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.4424</td>
<td>Smallest: 13.9635</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991##</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australian Kangaroo</td>
<td>1 size</td>
<td>Largest: 1,000.1</td>
<td>99.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7696</td>
<td>Smallest: 1 kg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australian Lunar</td>
<td>2 sizes</td>
<td>Largest: 1,000.1</td>
<td>99.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,001</td>
<td>Smallest: 1 kg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 kg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National mints. *Refers to the year when the first size was issued. **Gross weights for Ziynets and Meskuks are “normal” weights – the fine gold content weights are derived figures. # 1 and 4 Dukat restrikes have always been dated 1915. The restrikes are not legal tender coins, but as they are authorized by the European Union, the coins are not subject to VAT. ## Issued as The Australian Nugget with a kangaroo design.
Meskuk

Obverse

Reverse

33.070 g fine

Turkish State Mint

Dukat

Obverse

Reverse

1 Dukat – 3.4424 g fine

Austrian Mint

Australian Kangaroo

Reverse

1 kg fine

The Perth Mint

Australia

Australian Lunar Series

Reverse - 2014

1 kg fine

The Perth Mint

Australia
If you are planning to buy gold bullion coins for the first time, it is important to select a reputable dealer that sells and buys them back at competitive prices.

Although no gold-related association, mint or marketing agent can guarantee the reliability of any dealer, some publish (with a prominent disclaimer) a list of active dealers.

For example, the World Gold Council includes the names of gold dealers in over 25 countries on its website: www.gold.org

Some mints and marketing agents also publish a list of dealers on their websites:

- Rand Refinery Limited: www.randrefinery.com
- The Perth Mint: www.perthmint.com.au
- United States Mint: www.usmint.gov

**Pricing**

When bullion coins are sold by a dealer, the premium above the value of fine gold content normally includes the following costs: refining, coin manufacture, delivery of the coin to the dealer and dealer overheads.

The premium may also be affected by the extent to which the coin is available on the market, and whether the gold price is stable or volatile.

For example, when the gold price is volatile, the coin’s premium above the value of its gold content can be higher and the spread can be wider. The reason for this is that dealers are exposed to greater risk during these times and are obliged to increase their spreads.

It can be noted that, in countries where duties, sales or other taxes are applied to gold bullion coins, some dealers incorporate them within their quoted spreads, while others record them separately.

If you should wish to transfer your bullion coins to other countries, it can be borne in mind that restrictions, import duties and taxes may apply.

**BASIC CHECKLIST FOR NEW INVESTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dealer</th>
<th>Does the dealer have a good reputation?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pricing</td>
<td>What is the current gold price?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is the quoted price to buy the coin?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calculate the % premium (mark-up) of the coin above the current value of its fine gold content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is the quoted price if you were to sell back the coin?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calculate the “spread” – the difference between the purchase and sell-back price of the coin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage – if applicable</td>
<td>Are the coins allocated or unallocated?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery – if applicable</td>
<td>What are the storage costs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is the delivery and insurance cost?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Costs</td>
<td>Are there any other transaction-related costs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For example, taxes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Historical advertisements.

For many investors in many countries, the gold bullion coin has offered an easy way to own gold. Notably, in North America, Europe, Turkey (and region) and the Far East.

Sources of Gold Bullion Coin Photographs

- Vienna Philharmonic: ©Austrian Mint
- Krugerrand: ©Rand Refinery
- Maple Leaf: ©Royal Canadian Mint
- American Buffalo: ©United States Mint
- American Eagle: ©United States Mint
- Australian Kangaroo: ©The Perth Mint
- Australian Lunar Series: ©The Perth Mint
- Britannia: ©The Royal Mint

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