

AMERICAN EAGLE & AMERICAN BUFFALO

UNITED STATES MINT

SECTIONS

| | |
|--|----------|
| United States Mint | |
| Foundation | 2 |
| Minting Locations | 2 |
| Precious Metal Coins | 2 |
| Historical Gold Bar Manufacture | 3 |
| International Communication | 3 |
| American Eagle & American Buffalo | |
| Authorization | 3 |
| Range | 3 |
| Legal Tender Status | 4 |
| Important Features | 4 |
| International Distribution | 5 |
| Technical Description | 5 |
| Visual Description | 6 |
| Annual Sales Statistics | 8 |



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

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.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Americas | USA, Canada |
| Europe | Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, United Kingdom |
| Far East | 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 |
| 2011 | 910,000 | 65,000 | 82,000 | 370,000 | 1,427,000 | 1,000,000 |
| 2012 | 667,000 | 71,000 | 76,000 | 315,000 | 1,129,000 | 753,000 |
| 2013 | 743,500 | 29,000 | 30,500 | 53,500 | 856,500 | 770,975 |
| Totals | 16,684,500 | 2,583,800 | 3,407,300 | 11,987,500 | 34,663,100 | 20,026,975 |

Source: United States Mint

34 million American Eagle gold bullion coins (20.0 million oz – 623 tonnes) have been issued since 1986.

In 2013, 856,500 American Eagles (770,975 oz – 24 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 |
| 2011 | 174,500 | 174,500 |
| 2012 | 132,000 | 132,000 |
| 2013 | 239,000 | 239,000 |
| Totals | 1,617,000 | 1,617,000 |



Source: United States Mint

1.6 million American Buffalo gold bullion coins (50 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

Refer to disclaimer on website: www.goldbarsworldwide.com

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