

CIRCULATING U.S. TYPE COIN MINTAGES IN ASCENDING ORDER

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The following comments and tables were compiled with help from the "Red book", 2003, (1), "United States Coins by Design Types" by Q. David Bowers, (2), "The Comprehensive Catalog of and Encyclopedia of U.S. coins" (3), "One Hundred Greatest U.S. Coins" (4) and Coin World published mintage figures (5). I generated it, being a long term type coin collector, to look for trends in the series. In general, I have included and excluded some rather controversial choices in the list. For example, the Gobrecht dollars were struck in proof, but released into circulation, thus I consider them true circulating U.S. type coins. Also are proof only silver versions of circulating U.S. clad coins to be included? I say yes, based upon their inclusion in "United States Coins by Design Types" by Q. David Bowers. The 1792 half dime was struck in large quantities (>1000) for a "pattern" and was released into circulation. Thus it is widely considered a legitimate type coin. Four dollar gold "stella's", although extremely popular, are definitely patterns and cannot be included. Of course mintages can be very deceiving. Early coins were reported by numbers of coins struck in the year. Many dyes from previous years were used until cracked or broken! Also, many gold coins, especially those struck prior to 1834, were extensively melted, as their gold content came to exceed their face value in bullion markets. However, I still feel the mintage list arranged in this novel manner has a general value as a reflection of intrinsic scarcity and as an indication of the growth of the American industrial economy. The following trends can be gleaned from the data.

- 1) The "top 20" in terms of low mintage are very tough for the collector of moderate means. High quality reproductions of many are available at moderate cost. Companies such as the Gallery Mint Museum and Royal Oak Mint sell excellent quality, original size reproductions with the government mandated word COPY prominently displayed.
- 2) Surviving mintages of 18th and most nineteenth century type coins are quite low, making the numerical rankings quite deceiving. In particular, the pre 1834 gold was extensively melted, as its metallic gold content came to exceed its face value. Less than 2% of these survive (ref 4). Thus numbers 2,5,9-11,,14,23,26,35 and 41 are far, far rarer than official mintages would indicate. For example, the single year 1808 quarter eagle type coin has an estimated survival rate of 50-60 specimens from a mintage of 2,710 pieces (ref 4). 18th and early nineteenth century copper and silver type also have very low survival rates, with high quality specimens particularly rare.
- 3) Extensive meltings of other gold coins occurred after the 1933 gold recall. 1954 data published by the mint indicate that the mint alone melted 39% of all double eagles struck, 37% of all eagles, 35% of all half eagles and 15.4% of all quarter eagles! (ref 3). Numismatists also know that 270,232,722 silver dollars (mostly Morgans, some seated's?) were melted in 1918 under the Pittman act, thus the total Morgan mintage of 656,989,387 must be taken as the original pre-melt figure. Mass meltings of 90% silver coins occurred in the nineteen sixties and in 1980 when silver reached \$50 per ounce.
- 4) There are some "sleepers" in the series. For example, the 1840-1857 half cents have a low total mintage, but are moderately priced compared to other type coins of comparable mintage. Low popularity of the half cent series is largely responsible. Also the 1921 high relief Peace dollar, at ~ 1,000,000 mintage, appears to be a good value at present levels. The \$10.00 GOLD 1907-1908 INDIAN NO MOTTO and \$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD also appear to me to be undervalued in today's market.
- 5) Silver state quarters are a good value. They are low mintage, and in demand both as a type coin and by collectors of the state quarter series. They are widely dispersed among collectors.
- 6) The mintage data show the explosive growth of the American economy in the 19th and 20th centuries through westward expansion, industrialization and concurrent population increases. While localized mintage dips do occur, as in the 1930's depression, the overall mintages over the decades

always increase for the "big four" of cent, nickel, dime and quarter. The half dollar and dollar are now basically non circulating collector coins. The half dollar once circulated extensively, but after 1964 it was hoarded, probably out of nostalgia for the Kennedy era. A local vending machine swallowed one of mine recently with neither credit nor refund! Table I shows a breakdown of the mintage ranking figures by century.

TABLE 1, TYPE COINS MINTAGE RANKING BY CENTURY, 161 FINAL MINTAGES

TOP 20 (20 lowest mintages)

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	15	4	1	75	20	5

TOP 50

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	22	22	6	44	44	12

TOP 100

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	22	67	11	22	67	11

BOTTOM 61 (61 highest mintages)

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	0	17	44	0	28	62

As one can see, the bottom 61 highest mintages are heavily weighted to 20/21st century coinage, with most being in the hundreds of millions to multiple billions. The top 20 lowest mintages are heavily weighted to the 18th century, as would be expected for the infant, largely agricultural economy. The workhorse denominations of cent through quarter show the most explosive growth from 1900 onwards. The final figures for the clad Roosevelt dime, Jefferson nickel and clad Washington eagle back quarter could dwarf some of the highest final mintages already listed. The old style clad quarter could be resumed in 2009, so its "final" figure through 1998 is not listed. Through 1998 35,455,052,592 clad business strikes and 85,596,592 clad proofs had been produced, a lot of quarters! The final total mintages for the clad state quarters will also add up to a stupendous figure. Table 2 lists mintages of current type coins excluding state quarters through 2002. The Jefferson nickel design could be final later this year, although what happens after 2005 is anybody's guess.

TABLE 2

CURRENT TYPE COIN MINTAGES THROUGH 2002 (a)

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>BUSINESS STRIKES</u>	<u>PROOFS</u>
CENT, COPPER/ZINC 1982-	217,413,872,337	48,662,477
JEFFERSON NICKEL 1938-*	43,870,644,813	117,478,703
CLAD DIMES 1965-	59,396,420,858	95,560,671

CLAD QUARTERS 1965-1998**	35,455,052,334	85,596,592
CLAD HALF 1971-***	2,246,546,645	79,850,536
SACAGAWEA DOLLAR 2000-	1,427,061,110	N/A

* NO WAR NICKELS
INCLUDED

** NO BICENTENNIAL INCLUDED

*** NO BICENTENNIAL INCLUDED

a) COMPUTED FROM DATA IN REFS 1, 2 AND 5 WITH MICROSOFT EXCEL

7) Despite the difficulty with the top 20, there are still over 140 type coins, including series still in production, that are available to the collector of moderate means. Table 3 lists in ascending order all U.S. type coins with final mintages from 1792 to date. It was generated from data in references 1), 2) and 5), added and sorted with Microsoft Excel software.

I hope all collectors enjoy these tables!

TABLE 3. CIRCULATING U.S. TYPE COIN FINAL MINTAGES IN ASCENDING ORDER

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CIRCULATION MINTAGE</u>	<u>PROOFS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1	SILVER DOLLAR GOBRECHT 1839	300 (Proofs)	300	PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
2	\$2.50 GOLD 1796 NO STARS	963		MOST MELTED, EST 100-200 REMAIN (REF 4)
3	HALF DISME 1792	EST 1,000-2000		PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
4	SILVER DOLLAR GOBRECHT 1836	1600 (Proofs)	1,600	PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
5	\$2.50 GOLD 1808	2,710		MOST MELTED, 50-60 KNOWN (REF 4)
6	HALF DOLLAR 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	3,918		EST 200-300 REMAIN (REF 2)
7	QUARTER 1796	6,146		MANY UNC(REF 4)
8	\$20.00 GOLD ROMAN NUMERALS 1907 HIGH RELIEF	11,250	<25	POPULAR, 4-5 THOUSAND SURVIVE (REF 4)
9	\$10.00 GOLD 1795-1797 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	13,344		MOST MELTED
10	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1798 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	18,512		MOST MELTED
11	\$2.50 GOLD 1796-1807 CAPPED BUST STARS	18,524		MOST MELTED
12	HALF CENT 1793	35,334		FEW HUNDRED SURVIVE (REF 2)
13	CENT 1793 CHAIN	36,103		MOST LOW GRADE
14	\$2.50 GOLD 1821-1834 CAPPED HEAD TO LEFT	42,065	<150	MOST MELTED
15	DIME 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	47,396		MOST LOW GRADE
16	HALF DIME 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	54,757		MOST LOW GRADE

17	CENT 1793 WREATH	63,353		MOST LOW GRADE
18	HALF DIME 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	86,416		MOST LOW GRADE
19	\$10.00 GOLD 1797-1804 HERALDIC REVERSE	119,248		MOST MELTED
20	SILVER DOLLAR 1795-1798 DR BUST SM EAGLE	123,434		POPULAR
21	HALF DIME 1800-1805 DR BUST H.E.	124,270		VERY SCARCE, MOST LOW GRADE
22	SILVER DOLLAR 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	162,053		POPULAR
23	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1807 HERALDIC EAGLE	316,867		MOST MELTED
24	HALF DOLLAR 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	323,144		MOST LOW GRADE
25	HALF CENT 1794-1797 LIBERTY CAP	359,529		MOST LOW GRADE
26	\$5.00 GOLD 1807-1812 CAPPED BUST LEFT	399,013		MOST MELTED
27	DIME 1796-1807 DR BUST HERALDIC EAGLE	422,010		MOST LOW GRADE
28	\$10.00 GOLD 1907-1908 INDIAN NO MOTTO	483,448		SLEEPERS
29	\$3.00 GOLD 1854-1889	538,074	EST 2,060	POPULAR
30	HALF CENT 1840-1857 BRAIDED HAIR	544,510	<1,500	SLEEPERS
31	QUARTER 1804-1807 DR BUST, H.E.	554,900		MOST LOW GRADE
32	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 1999	804565 (Proofs)	804,565	GOOD VALUE
33	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 2001	889697 (Proofs)	889,697	GOOD VALUE
34	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 2000	965421 (Proofs)	965,421	GOOD VALUE
35	\$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD	968,228	<50	SLEEPERS
36	SILVER DOLLAR 1921 PEACE HIGH RELIEF	1,006,473		SLEEPER
37	DIME 1837-1838 L.S. NO STARS	1,088,534	<50	GOOD VALUE
38	SILVER DOLLAR 1798-1804 DR BUST H.E.	1,153,709		POPULAR
39	QUARTER 1815-1828 CAPPED BUST, LARGE	1,290,584	<100	
40	TWENTY CENT PIECE 1875-1878	1,349,840	5,000	
41	\$5.00 GOLD 1813-1834 CAPPED BUST LEFT	1,385,612	<150	MOST MELTED
42	HALF DIME 1837-1838 L.S. NO STARS	1,475,000	<50	
43	SILVER 3 CENT, 1859-1873 TYPE 111	1,572,600	10,840	
44	CENT 1793-1796 LIBERTY CAP	1,577,902		MOST LOW GRADE
45	HALF DOLLAR 1801-1807 DR BUST, H.E.	1,600,787		
46	GOLD DOLLAR 1854-1856 TYPE 11	1,633,426	<50	MOST WEAKLY STRUCK
47	\$5.00 GOLD 1834-1838 CLASSIC HEAD	2,113,612	<50	SLEEPER
48	QUARTER 1873-1874 ARROWS	2,302,822	1,240	
49	SILVER DOLLAR 1840-1865 LIBERTY SEATED	2,890,563	<5,500	
50	HALF CENT 1800-1808 DR BUST	3,416,950		
51	SILVER DOLLAR 1866-1873 L.S. WITH MOTTO	3,597,888	6,060	
52	HALF DOLLAR 1836-1837 R.E. 50 CENTS	3,631,020	<40	
53	HALF CENT 1809-1836 CLASSIC HEAD	3,635,712	~100-200	
54	QUARTER 1831-1838 CAPPED BUST, SMALL	4,202,400	<150	
55	CENT 1808-1814 CLASSIC HEAD	4,757,722		MOST POORLY STRUCK OR POROUS
56	HALF DOLLAR 1853 ARROWS AND RAYS	4,860,708	<10	
57	SILVER 3 CENT, 1854-1858 TYPE 11	4,914,000	<300	MOST WEAKLY STRUCK
58	DIME 1809-1827 CAPPED BUST LARGE	4,931,844	<150	
59	HALF DOLLAR 1873-1874 WITH ARROWS	5,070,310	1,250	
60	HALF DOLLAR 1838-1839 CAP BUST HALF DOL	5,117,972	<50	
61	\$10.00 GOLD 1838-1866 CORONET	5,292,499	EST 400	
62	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 NO MOTTO	5,294,968	<5	
63	GOLD DOLLAR 1856-1889 TYPE 111	5,327,363	EST 8,700	

64	NICKEL 5 CENT LIBERTY, NO CENTS	5,474,000	5,219	MANY HOARDED
65	DIME 1873-1874 L.S. WITH ARROWS	6,041,608	1,500	
66	DIME 1828-1837 CAPPED BUST LARGE	6,778,350	<200	
67	\$2.50 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	7,250,261	1,827	MANY MELTED IN 1933
68	\$5.00 GOLD 1839-1866 CORONET	9,114,049	EST 450	
69	DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
70	HALF DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
71	QUARTER 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
72	\$2.50 GOLD 1840-1907 CORONET	11,921,171	EST 4,232	MANY MELTED IN 1933
73	QUARTER 1916-1917 STANDING LIBERTY TYPE 1	12,253,200		
74	GOLD DOLLAR 1849-1854 TYPE 1	12,565,273	<50	
75	HALF DOLLAR 1854-1855 ARROWS	12,799,450	<140	
76	DOLLAR 1971-1978 EISENHOWER SILVER CLAD	12,844,726	8,397,090	
77	HALF DIME 1829-1837 CAPPED BUST	13,058,700	EST HUNDREDS	
78	\$5.00 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	14,078,066	1,077	MANY MELTED IN 1933
79	\$10.00 GOLD 1908-1933 INDIAN WITH MOTTO	14,385,139	768	MANY MELTED IN 1933
80	CENT 1837-1839 MODIFIED MATRON HEAD	15,057,161	<100	
81	HALF DIME 1860-1873 LEGEND	15,552,600	10,040	
82	CENT 1796-1807 DRAPED BUST	16,111,810		
83	\$20.00 GOLD 1866-1876 CORONET WITH MOTTO	16,160,758	335	
84	QUARTER 1853 ARROWS AND RAYS	16,542,000	<10	
85	NICKEL 5 CENT SHIELD, RAYS	16,761,500	EST 500	
86	QUARTER 1854-1855 ARROWS	17,293,400	<140	
87	DIME 1853-1855 ARROWS	21,493,010	<150	
88	\$20.00 GOLD 1849-1866 CORONET	23,526,676	EST 375	
89	HALF DIME 1853-1855 ARROWS	25,060,020	<150	
90	CENT LINCOLN 1909 V.D.B.	28,479,000	420	POPULAR
91	NICKEL 3 CENT 1865-1889	31,332,527	EST 56,000	
92	TRADE DOLLAR 1873-1885	35,954,535	11,404	MANY CHOPMARKED
93	SILVER 3 CENT, 1851-1853 TYPE 1	36,230,940	<60	
94	CENT 1859 INDIAN, LAUREL WREATH	36,400,000	EST 800	
95	\$10.00 GOLD 1866-1907 CORONET WITH MOTTO	37,391,767	2,327	MANY MELTED IN 1933
96	NICKEL 5 CENT 1913 BUFFALO TYPE 1	38,434,270	1,250	
97	CENT 1856-1858 FLYING EAGLE	42,050,000	<2000	
98	HALF DIME 1838-1859 L.S. STARS	42,705,774	<1,500	
99	DIME 1838-1860 L.S. WITH STARS	42,962,915	<1,500	
100	TWO CENT PIECE 1864-1873	45,601,000	EST 7,500	
101	QUARTER 1838-1865 LIBERTY SEATED	46,685,313	<5,500	
102	CENT 1816-1837 MATRON HEAD	47,765,912	A FEW HUNDRED	
103	\$5.00 GOLD 1866-1908 CORONET WITH MOTTO	51,503,654	2,938	MANY MELTED IN 1933
104	HALF DOLLAR 1866-1891 WITH MOTTO	56,138,834	20,923	
105	\$20.00 GOLD 1877-1907 CORONET TWENTY DOLLARS	64,137,477	2,426	MANY MELTED IN 1933
106	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 WITH MOTTO	64,981,248	687	
107	CENT 1839-1857 BRAIDED HAIR	70,916,803	<1,000	

108	QUARTER 1866-1891 WITH MOTTO	72,680,181	20,923	
109	HALF DOLLAR 1839-1866 LIBERTY SEATED	76,238,285	<5,500	
110	HALF DOLLAR 1807-1836 CAPPED BUST, L.E.	82,339,124	200-300	
111	NICKEL 5 CENT SHIELD, NO RAYS	111,256,110	EST 31,000	
112	CENT 1860-1864 INDIAN, COPPER NICKEL	122,321,000	<2,500	
113	HALF DOLLAR 1892-1915 BARBER	135,916,889	17,313	
114	DIME 1860-1891 LEGEND	175,889,677	25,403	
115	SILVER DOLLAR 1922-1935 PEACE LOW RELIEF	189,570,806	<50	
116	QUARTER 1917-1930 STANDING LIBERTY TYPE 11	214,516,400		
117	DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	220,565,274	6,995,180	
118	QUARTER 1892-1916 BARBER	264,670,880	17,299	
119	HALF DOLLAR 1964 KENNEDY SILVER	429,509,450	3,950,962	
120	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2003 ILLINOIS	463,200,000	N/A	
121	HALF DOLLAR 1948-1963 FRANKLIN	465,814,455	15,866,955	
122	DOLLAR 1971-1978 EISENHOWER CLAD	466,001,887	11,751,840	
123	HALF DOLLAR 1916-1947 WALKING LIBERTY	485,320,340	74,400	
124	DIME 1892-1916 BARBER	504,317,075	17,353	
125	HALF DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	521,873,248	7,059,099	
126	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 MISSISSIPPI	579,600,000	N/A	Ref 5
127	NICKEL 5 CENT LIBERTY, WITH CENTS	596,535,965	79,923	
128	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 OHIO	632,032,000	N/A	
129	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 TENNESSEE	648,068,000	N/A	Ref 5
130	SILVER DOLLAR 1878-1921 MORGAN	656,989,387	23,723	MANY MELTED IN 1918
131	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 NEW JERSEY	662,228,000	N/A	Ref 5
132	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 INDIANA	689,800,000	N/A	Ref 5
133	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 PENNSYLVANIA	707,332,000	N/A	Ref 5
134	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 KENTUCKY	723,564,000	N/A	Ref 5
135	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 LOUISIANA	763,804,000	N/A	Ref 5
136	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 DELAWARE	774,824,000	N/A	Ref 5
137	HALF DOLLAR 1965-1970 KENNEDY SILVER CLAD	848,895,006	8,608,947	
138	NICKEL 5 CENT 1942-1945, JEFFERSON, SILVER	869,896,100	27,600	MANY MELTED IN 1980
139	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 RHODE ISLAND	870,100,000	N/A	Ref 5
140	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 VERMONT	882,804,000	N/A	Ref 5
141	DOLLAR 1979-1999 SUSAN B. ANTHONY	898,584,452	>11,295,064	
142	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 GEORGIA	939,932,000	N/A	Ref 5
143	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 NORTH CAROLINA	1,055,476,000	N/A	Ref 5
144	CENT LINCOLN 1943 STEEL	1,093,838,670		CORRODE EASILY
145	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 MASS	1,163,784,000	937,600	Ref 5
146	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,169,016,000	937,600	Ref 5
147	NICKEL 5 CENT 1913-1938 BUFFALO TYPE 11	1,174,464,771	4,439 MATTE	
148	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 MARYLAND	1,234,732,000	937,600	Ref 5
149	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 NEW YORK	1,275,040,000	N/A	Ref 5
150	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 SOUTH CAROLINA	1,308,784,000	937,600	Ref 5

151	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 CONNECTICUT	1,346,624,000	N/A	Ref 5
152	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 VIRGINIA	1,594,616,000	937,600	Ref 5
153	QUARTER 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	1,669,902,855	7,059,099	
154	CENT INDIAN 1864-1909 BRONZE	1,690,839,942	EST 98,000	
155	DIME 1916-1945 MERCURY	2,677,153,880	78,648	
156	QUARTER 1932-1964 WASHINGTON, SILVER	3,780,077,001	19,911,592	MANY MELTED IN 1980
157	CENT LINCOLN 1944-1946 SHELL CASE ALLOY	5,142,736,000		
158	DIME 1946-1964 ROOSEVELT, SILVER	6,595,617,673	19,837,717	MANY MELTED IN 1980
159	NICKEL, JEFFERSON, NO FS INITIALS, 1938-1965	6,885,197,900	19,931,995	
160	CENT LINCOLN 1909-1958 WREATH	19,552,500,823	15,314 MATTE	
161	CENT LINCOLN 1959-1982 MEMORIAL REVERSE	158,150,469,076	65,103,802	

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5) Coin World published mintage figures, SEE
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