

Penny Negative Brief

Response to cost argument:

1. Americans for Common Cents, 2025 (ACC conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.) Feb. 12, 2025 <https://pennies.org/the-us-penny-rethinking-us-coin-strategy/>

Quote “While it’s true that pennies cost more than their face value to mint, removing them from circulation wouldn’t fully erase these costs. The Mint operates with fixed overhead costs, which means that **eliminating one coin doesn’t erase fixed expenses—it redistributes them.**” **End Quote**

2. Americans for Common Cents, 2025 (ACC conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.) Feb. 12, 2025 <https://pennies.org/the-us-penny-rethinking-us-coin-strategy/>

Quote “Any structural change to US coinage should include **revamping the nickel**, in much the same way the penny metal content was changed in the early 80’s or the dime, quarter, and half-dollar were in the 60’s and 70’s. One option, a zinc-based alloy nickel, could reduce costs by up to 40% annually. Instead of eliminating the penny, we should be focusing on making our coin production more efficient.” **End Quote**

3. Americans for Common Cents, accessed 2025. (Americans for Common Cents (ACC) conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.) <https://pennies.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

Quote “The question of penny cost really comes down to how the Mint accounts for its overhead costs. In FY 2011, the Mint began allocating costs based on production volumes rather than the amount of direct labor consumed for each denomination. The accounting change dramatically inflated the cost of the penny where the coin image is stamped onto the planchet or “blanks” and transposed significant costs from the other denominations to

the penny. This approach actually double charges portions of the penny fabrication process not incurred by the Mint.” End Quote

4. Britannica, 2025. (*Britannica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “A penny can be used for decades and is more cost-efficient to produce than a nickel. Most U.S. coins have an expected circulation life of 20 to 30 years, meaning a single penny could be used thousands or even millions of times. So what if it costs more to make the coins than the coins’ face value? That’s a bargain for how many times it gets used.” **End Quote**

Response to Nuisance Argument

1. Americans for Common Cents, accessed 2025. (*Americans for Common Cents (ACC) conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) <https://pennies.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

Quote “Don’t pennies just make a one way trip to the dresser drawer or penny jar? No, pennies circulate. Two-thirds of the pennies going out of the banking system come back in every year, indicating that the penny is heavily used in commerce. Why consider removing the supply of a product that is in demand?” **End Quote**

Response to Precedent Argument:

1. Americans for Common Cents, accessed 2025. (*Americans for Common Cents (ACC) conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) <https://pennies.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

Quote “Haven’t other countries eliminated their low denomination coins without any problems? The US economy is 10 times larger than Canada, 15 times larger than Australia and over 100 times larger than New Zealand. As the largest economy in the world we need to be careful taking actions that might impact inflation or consumer confidence.” End Quote

Response to Wasted Time Argument:

1. Americans for Common Cents, accessed 2025. (*Americans for Common Cents (ACC) conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) <https://pennies.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

Quote “Time wasted at the cash register is perhaps the most outrageous argument penny opponents make. Some have suggested that time at the cash register has a value and there is lost worker productivity making change. First, it’s not at all clear that removing pennies and rounding will save any time. In fact there are many reasons to believe the net time associated with carrying out a purchase will, if anything, increase. Second, retail workers at the cash register are not paid according to their productivity. And it takes a leap of logic to link time “wasted” with pennies to a dollar equivalent productivity loss and then suggest time could have been used to clean or restock shelves.” End Quote

Disadvantage: Nickels

1. Americans for Common Cents, 2025 (*ACC conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) Feb. 12, 2025 <https://pennies.org/the-us-penny-rethinking-us-coin-strategy/>

Quote “The assumption that simply eliminating the penny would reduce costs ignores the unintended consequences of what would

happen in the absence of the penny. If the penny were phased out, demand for nickels would surge (as it did in other countries that eliminated their lowest denomination coin), driving production costs even higher. Currently, producing a single nickel costs nearly 14 cents —almost three times its face value. Without the penny, nickel production could double, compounding the Mint’s financial losses.” End Quote

2. Americans for Common Cents, accessed 2025. (*Americans for Common Cents (ACC) conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) <https://pennies.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

Quote “The government won’t save money if the penny is eliminated. Such a change would have a massive negative impact on the US Mint’s cost structure. For example, many Mint overhead costs would remain and have to be absorbed by other coins. Also, there would be greater demand for expensive nickels which also means more costs. The unit cost to make a nickel in 2023 was 11.54 cents, which is more than double the face value of the nickel itself. The Mint says penny elimination will likely double nickel production so the Mint will lose money making more nickels at the current cost.” End Quote

3. Britannica, 2025. (*Brittanica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “Without pennies, the Mint would be forced to make and ship more five-cent pieces. That would cost millions more annually than it would cost to keep making pennies.” End Quote

Disadvantage: Rounding Tax

1. Americans for Common Cents, 2025 (*ACC conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) Feb. 12, 2025 <https://pennies.org/the-us-penny-rethinking-us-coin-strategy/>

Quote “Low denomination currency, like pennies, nickels, and dimes, protect US consumers from inflation – both real and perceived. Price rounding disproportionately harms consumers and could be a form of an invisible “rounding tax.” **End Quote**

2. Britannica, 2025. (*Brittanica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “Preserving the penny keeps consumer prices down and avoids harming low-income households. Mark Weller, executive director of the pro-penny group Americans for Common Cents, says, “The alternative to the penny is rounding to the nickel, and that’s something that will negatively impact working families every time they buy a gallon of gas or a gallon of milk.” **End Quote**

3. Britannica, 2025. (*Brittanica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “The U.S. Federal Reserve found that minorities and low-income people are more likely to use cash than credit cards. Raymond Lombra, professor of economics at Pennsylvania State University, says the extra rounding charges would exceed \$600 million annually and would “be regressive, affecting the poor and other disadvantaged people groups disproportionately.” **End Quote**

4. Britannica, 2025. (*Brittanica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “One study found that penny rounding in Canada costs grocery store customers an estimated 3.27 million Canadian dollars (2.5 million USD) annually.” **End Quote**

Disadvantage: Low Income Consumers

1. Americans for Common Cents, 2025 (*ACC conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) Feb. 12, 2025 <https://pennies.org/the-us-penny-rethinking-us-coin-strategy/>

Quote “Despite the rise of digital payments, cash remains a crucial tool—especially for the economically underserved and underbanked. The role of cash in our economy cannot be overstated. The Federal Reserve reports that cash usage has stabilized since 2021, with billions of transactions under \$25 still conducted with physical currency.” **End Quote**

2. Americans for Common Cents, 2025 (*ACC conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny.*) Feb. 12, 2025 <https://pennies.org/the-us-penny-rethinking-us-coin-strategy/>

Quote “Low-income individuals and families living paycheck to paycheck would bear the brunt of any change, as they rely more heavily on cash purchases. National polling consistently shows that a majority of Americans favor keeping low denomination coins in circulation, especially the penny.” **End Quote**

Disadvantage: Charities

1. Britannica, 2025. (*Brittanica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “Pennies raise money for charities. Organizations such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Salvation Army, and the Ronald McDonald House ask people to donate pennies to raise funds. In 2009 the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society announced that school children had collected over 15 billion pennies in support of its charitable work—that’s \$150 million dollars for blood cancer research and treatment.” **End Quote**

2. Britannica, 2025. (*Brittanica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “Dagmar Serota, who created a nonprofit called Good Cents for Oakland, said, “Pennies are easy to ask for and they are easy to give. And it’s very easy for a child to say, ‘Will you help me support this nonprofit, will you give me your pennies?’” Elementary school students in Los Angeles gain significant leadership and civic engagement experience from the University of Southern California’s Penny Harvest program by choosing how to donate the money they raise.” **End Quote**

3. Britannica, 2025. (*Brittanica is a dynamic, continuously updated, rigorously fact-checked information source for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.*) <https://www.britannica.com/procon/US-penny-debate>

Quote “Common Cents, a nonprofit based in Dallas, has run a “Pennies from the Heart” program for 20 years, and the student-led efforts have raised over \$850,000 for local charities. The Ms. Cheap Penny Drive for Second Harvest in Tennessee raised enough to pay for 316,039 meals for the hungry in 2017.” **End Quote**