

Should people get rid of pennies?

A dollar is worth 100¢. A quarter is 25¢. A dime is worth 10¢. And a penny is worth... 1¢? That seems like a really small value.

People have been debating whether to stop the manufacturing of the penny. Some people say yes, and some people say no.

I think that penny manufacturing should stop. Why? There's a couple of reasons.

1. It takes more money to make a penny than how much money a penny is worth.

A penny costs 1.8¢ to make, because each penny is made of zinc and copper. But a penny is only worth 1¢. This means that for each penny made, the government loses 0.8¢. It might not seem much, but over time it builds up. If a thousand pennies are made, the manufacturer loses 800¢, or \$8. And the government makes much more than a thousand pennies. In fact, in 2017, the government lost a lot of money trying to make pennies.

69 million dollars, to be exact. And the year before that, the government lost 46 million dollars! If the government stopped production, they could have used millions of dollars to build things people really need, like hospitals and schools, rather than wasting millions on pieces of zinc and copper, that, in the American currency circulation, are basically worthless.

2. Pennies are too much weight for too little money.

A penny weighs 2.5 grams. Let's say you have \$4 worth of pennies in your pocket—400 pennies. That means that you have 1000 grams, or 1 kilogram of metal weighing you down.

Would you rather be carrying around 1 kilogram of clanking, heavy pieces of metal, or would you rather have four small pieces of paper in your pocket which have the same value as 400 pennies in your pocket?

Plus, in a couple decades, pennies will be even more useless than they are now. Why? Because of inflation. Soon, two pennies will equal one cent. Then they'll have a value that's even smaller than it was before!

3. People might say that we need to respect Abraham Lincoln by keeping the penny in circulation. They might also say that lots of pennies together can be worth something.

But, Abraham Lincoln is also on the 5 dollar bill. So getting rid of pennies won't hurt his reputation at all. In fact, if we keep Lincoln on the penny, then people might think that he wasn't such a good president if he was discarded down to the lowest value in American circulation.

And while hundreds of pennies make a couple dollars, if you go down to the nearest convenience store right now, the cashier would probably give you a dirty look. Why? Because people don't like getting paid in pennies! They'd rather be paid in bills. In bulk, pennies are heavy, inconvenient, and noisy.

4. Almost all vending machines don't take pennies.

Why? For the same reasons why people don't like getting paid in pennies. Plus, pennies take up too much space. Vending machines would rather have you stuff a small piece of green paper worth \$1 into its slot rather than dumping dozens and dozens of copper and zinc into the slot.

Only the old vending machines take pennies, because a penny was worth more back then. But now, because of inflation, a penny is just a penny—a piece of metal with almost no value.

That's why people like getting paid in dollars rather than in almost worthless coins. Also, in this time of pandemic, there's a shortage of coins. So why don't people just get rid of the penny once and for all so other coins with higher values can be made?

In conclusion, pennies are basically worthless, inconvenient, and people don't like to be paid with them. Abraham Lincoln is on the 5 dollar bill, so we don't need to keep the penny to remember him. It's no wonder that Australia, Brazil, Italy, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, and Russia have all stopped manufacturing pennies completely.