



Mercury Dimes

Mercury Dime Facts Every Collector Should Know



Designed by: Adolph Alexander Weinman

Edge Style: Reeded

Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

Diameter: 17.9mm

Weight: 2.50g

Metallic Content: 90% Silver, 10% Copper

Silver Content: .18084 oz Pure Silver



Mercury Dimes

1916 was a very special year in the history of U.S. coinage. In that year, three new silver coins made their debut, and for the first time in American history, different designs were used on the dime, quarter and half dollar coins. Adolph A. Weinman, who also designed the famed Walking Liberty Half Dollar, designed the Mercury Dime, or Winged Liberty Dime. His monogram "AW" can be found to the right of Liberty's neck. The mintmark ("D" for Denver, "S" for San Francisco) can be found at the bottom of the reverse, just to the left of the fasces.

Mercury Dimes were made through 1945, when a new dime was designed bearing Franklin D. Roosevelt's image, in response to his death.

Are Mercury Dimes Rare?

As a group, Mercury Dimes are not rare. Over 2.5 billion were struck, and even if only 1% survived, that still leaves over 25 million today. During the deepest part of the depression, 1932-1933, no dimes were struck. As a result, collectors today divide Mercury Dimes into the early dates (1916-1931) and late dates (1934-1945). Nearly all of the late dates are common and can be found in roll quantity from online sources such as eBay or from dealers.



Enlarged view of monogram shown on obverse of coin.



The mint mark can be found at the bottom of the reverse.

What Are Mercury Dimes Worth?

Mercury Dimes contain .07234 ounces of pure silver, so at a silver price of \$20, that equates to about \$1.44.

With a 10% premium typical for silver coins, that gives us a base value of about \$1.60 for any Mercury Dime.

Note that this value only applies to common dates (usually 1934 and later) in circulated grades (usually Very Fine or lower).

Higher grades (XF and better) bring a small premium, and common uncirculated Mercury Dimes are worth roughly \$8.

Choice uncirculated pieces (MS-65) are around \$20 each, and gems (MS-67) are worth approximately \$75 each.

Again, these values apply to post-1935 and, usually, "P" mint coins.



What Are the Mercury Dime Key Dates?

So far, we have discussed values for the common dates. There are however, a handful of key dates that present a challenge to Mercury Dime collectors.

At the top of the list is the famous 1916-D. With an original mintage of only about 250,000, and a value of about \$1,000 — even in the lowest grades, gem examples have sold for as much as \$200,000. Not bad for a dime! The other two key dates are the 1921 and 1921-D. Both of these had only around 1 million originally made, and are worth around \$100 in low grade. In lightly circulated condition, they're worth around \$800, and uncirculated examples go into the mid four-figure range. The 1926-S is also scarce, but only considered a semi-key date. Aside from these key dates, few, if any, other regular issue Mercury Dimes are particularly rare or difficult to find.

However, two other Mercury Dimes are worthy of mention: the overdates of 1942/41 with either the Philadelphia or Denver mintmark. These coins show the "2" of the date overstruck on a "1." Both of these start at around \$500 in low grade, and go into the low four-figure price range in Mint State grades. Gem examples will bring prices in the mid five-figure range.



1916-D 10C

COINS MINTED

264,000

AUCTION RECORD

MS65 \$207,000



1921 10C

COINS MINTED

1,230,000

AUCTION RECORD

MS67 \$32,200



1926-S 10C

COINS MINTED

1,520,000

AUCTION RECORD

MS67 \$54,625

▲ RARE DATES

▼ COMMON DATES



1942/41 10C

COINS MINTED

Unknown

AUCTION RECORD

MS66 \$76,375

OVERDATE
CLOSE UP

How Do I Grade Mercury Dimes?

PCGS.COM/PHOTOGRADE

Mercury Dimes are not a particularly difficult coin to grade. They led an active life during their time in circulation, and many of the early dates (especially dates in the 'teens) wore down to grades of About Good 3 and Good 4.



A Mercury Dime in **Good-4** grade. Note the rim is worn into the tops of the lettering on the reverse, and the detail on the head and wings is nearly flat. Pre-1925 issues are often seen in this grade.



A Mercury Dime in **Fine-15**. The rim on the obverse and reverse should be full, and some interior detail is visible in both the head and wings as well as the fasces on the reverse. Dates in the late 1920s and 1930s are frequently encountered in this grade.

How Do I Grade Mercury Dimes? (continued)



An **Extremely Fine (XF-40)** example. Nearly all the head and wing detail is visible, and the diagonal bands on the fasces should be visible. Dates in the 1940s are widely available in grades like this.



An **uncirculated**, or **Mint State** Mercury Dime should show full luster on both sides, and all detail should be sharp. Values for uncirculated specimens vary widely depending on factors such as surface preservation, strike, luster and overall eye appeal.

What Are Full Split Bands?

On the reverse of the Mercury Dime, there are two bands in the center of the fasces holding the bundles of sticks together. Many uncirculated coins do not show a full separation in these two bands. Coins that do show separation bring a premium price (often substantially higher) than those that do not. See the two illustrations below.



**NO SEPARATION
BETWEEN BANDS**



FULL SPLIT BANDS

Yes, the image of Liberty donning a winged hat akin to the Roman god Mercury on the obverse makes Mercury Dimes unique, but these dimes are also unique because of the man who designed them and the year they were minted. These Adolph A. Weinman-designed coins were minted during an unprecedented year, 1916, in U.S. coinage history — a year that featured updated designs on dimes, quarters and half dollars for the first time ever. Mercury Dimes are also relatively easy to grade, which can make them an attractive choice for novice graders.

1916 - 1945 Mercury Dimes

Mintage and Collectible Value

Year	Mintage	Good	Fine	Extra Fine	Uncirculated
1916	22,180,000	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$5.50 - \$6.50	\$10.00 - \$11.50	\$22.00 and up
1916 D	264,000	\$600.00 - \$700.00	\$1750.00 - \$2000.00	\$3750.00 - \$4300.00	\$8500.00 and up
1916 S	10,450,000	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$22.00 - \$25.00	\$25.00 and up
1917	55,230,000	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$8.00 - \$9.00	\$18.00 and up
1917 D	9,402,000	\$4.50 - \$5.25	\$8.50 - \$10.00	\$29.00 - \$34.00	\$100.00 and up
1917 S	27,330,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$10.50 - \$12.00	\$45.00 and up
1918	26,680,000	\$3.50 - \$4.00	\$6.00 - \$7.00	\$20.00 - \$24.00	\$50.00 and up
1918 D	22,674,800	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$5.50 - \$6.50	\$19.50 - \$22.00	\$100.00 and up
1918 S	19,300,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$4.50 - \$5.25	\$15.00 - \$17.00	\$90.00 and up
1919	35,740,000	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$10.50 - \$12.00	\$25.00 and up
1919 D	9,939,000	\$5.00 - \$6.00	\$9.00 - \$10.50	\$27.00 - \$32.00	\$140.00 and up
1919 S	8,850,000	\$3.50 - \$4.00	\$8.00 - \$9.00	\$23.00 - \$26.00	\$125.00 and up
1920	59,030,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$8.50 - \$10.00	\$26.00 and up
1920 D	19,171,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$4.50 - \$5.25	\$16.00 - \$18.00	\$85.00 and up
1920 S	13,820,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$5.50 - \$6.25	\$13.00 - \$15.00	\$85.00 and up
1921	1,230,000	\$40.00 - \$50.00	\$85.00 - \$100.00	\$375.00 - \$425.00	\$900.00 and up
1921 D	1,080,000	\$75.00 - \$80.00	\$125.00 - \$140.00	\$500.00 - \$575.00	\$1050.00 and up
1923	50,130,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$20.00 and up
1923 S	6,440,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$7.00 - \$8.25	\$42.00 - \$50.00	\$125.00 and up
1924	24,010,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$11.00 - \$13.00	\$30.00 and up
1924 D	6,810,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$7.00 - \$8.25	\$35.00 - \$39.00	\$150.00 and up
1924 S	7,120,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$36.00 - \$41.00	\$160.00 and up
1925	25,610,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$8.00 - \$9.00	\$27.00 and up
1925 D	5,117,000	\$5.00 - \$6.00	\$12.00 - \$13.50	\$80.00 - \$95.00	\$265.00 and up
1925 S	5,850,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$50.00 - \$55.00	\$150.00 and up
1926	32,160,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$22.00 and up
1926 D	6,828,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$18.00 - \$21.00	\$90.00 and up

1916 - 1945 Mercury Dimes

Mintage and Collectible Value (continued)

Year	Mintage	Good	Fine	Extra Fine	Uncirculated
1927	28,080,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$6.00 - \$7.00	\$23.00 and up
1927 D	4,182,000	\$4.00 - \$4.50	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$50.00 - \$55.00	\$135.00 and up
1927 S	4,770,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$5.50 - \$6.50	\$17.50 - \$20.00	\$210.00 and up
1928	19,480,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$6.00 - \$7.00	\$21.00 and up
1928 D	4,161,000	\$4.00 - \$5.00	\$7.00 - \$8.00	\$36.00 - \$41.00	\$120.00 and up
1928 S	7,400,000	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$13.50 - \$16.00	\$90.00 and up
1929	25,970,000	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$5.00 - \$6.00	\$18.00 and up
1929 D	5,034,000	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$12.50 - \$14.00	\$20.00 and up
1929 S	4,730,000	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$8.00 - \$9.00	\$25.00 and up
1930	6,770,000	\$2.25 - \$2.75	\$3.50 - \$4.25	\$7.00 - \$8.25	\$21.00 and up
1930 S	1,843,000	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$5.25 - \$6.00	\$12.00 - \$13.50	\$55.00 and up
1931	3,150,000	\$3.25 - \$3.75	\$4.50 - \$5.25	\$8.50 - \$10.00	\$28.00 and up
1931 D	1,260,000	\$6.50 - \$7.50	\$9.00 - \$10.50	\$25.00 - \$29.00	\$65.00 and up
1931 S	1,800,000	\$4.50 - \$5.25	\$6.00 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.50	\$65.00 and up
1934	24,080,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1934 D	6,772,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1935	58,830,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1935 D	10,477,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1935 S	15,840,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1936	87,504,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1936 D	16,132,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1936 S	9,210,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1937	56,865,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1937 D	14,146,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1937 S	9,740,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1938	22,198,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1938 D	5,537,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up

1916 - 1945 Mercury Dimes

Mintage and Collectible Value (continued)

Year	Mintage	Good	Fine	Extra Fine	Uncirculated
1938 S	8,090,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1939	67,749,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1939 D	24,394,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1939 S	10,450,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1940	65,361,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1940 D	21,198,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1940 S	21,560,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1941	175,106,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1941 D	45,634,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1941 S	43,090,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$4.50	\$4.50 and up
1942	205,432,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1942 D	60,740,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1942 S	49,300,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.80	\$4.80 and up
1943	191,710,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1943 D	71,949,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1943 S	60,400,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1944	231,410,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1944 D	62,224,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1945	159,130,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1945 D	40,245,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.50	\$4.50 and up
1945 S	41,920,000	\$1.50 - \$2.00	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$3.00 - \$3.75	\$4.75 and up



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