

December 2002

U.S. COINS

Public Views on
Changing Coin Design





U.S. COINS

Public Views on Changing Coin Design

Highlights of [GAO-03-206](#), a report to the Senate Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government and the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government, Senate and House Committees on Appropriations.

Why GAO Did This Study

The designs on three of the most common U. S. coins, the penny, nickel, and dime, have remained largely unchanged for over 50 years. The 50 State Quarters Program, involving a set of recurring designs commemorating each state, has been credited with generating renewed interest in the quarter by collectors and the public. A recent redesign of the new dollar coin has also increased the public's interest in collecting the coin, but it is not widely circulating.

Concerned about the level of public interest in coins and the circulation of the dollar coin, Congress mandated a GAO review of U.S. coin design, with particular attention to increasing circulation of the dollar coin. GAO contracted with the Gallup Organization to survey a representative sample of U.S. adults to obtain public views on various coin design questions, including public preference for coin denominations, coin design features, the frequency of change in coin design, and ways to increase acceptance and use of the new dollar coin. This report also includes a summary of findings from focus groups held in four U.S. cities.

www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-206.

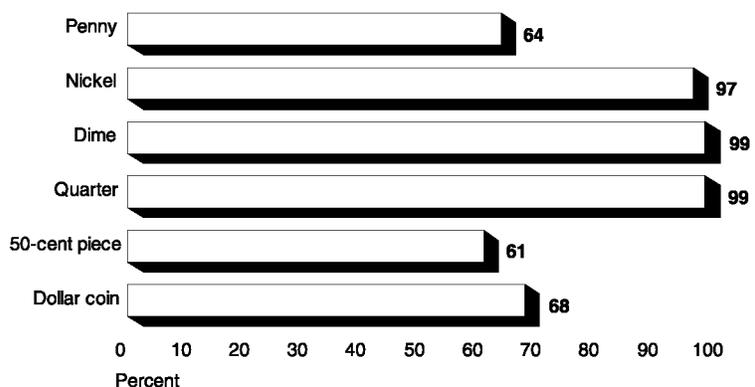
To view the full report, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Bernard L. Ungar at 202-512-2834 or ungarb@gao.gov.

What GAO Found

Overall, the public is satisfied with coin denominations used, coin design features, and the frequency of changes in coin designs. Although most people are not using the new dollar coin, a program with a rotating series of images could significantly increase new dollar coin collection, but only 26 percent said it would increase new dollar coin use. The Gallup Survey indicated the following:

- Most adults in the continental United States were satisfied with current coin denominations. Over half of the respondents were opposed to the use of rounding values in cash transactions to the closest 5-cent interval to eliminate the need for the penny. Most respondents were opposed to the production of a 2-dollar coin.
- Most adults were satisfied with current coin designs. Most respondents said there is the right amount of wording on coins. Survey respondents were split on whether the actual number of cents should be shown on coins, such as including the numeral 25 on the quarter.
- Most adults were satisfied with how frequently coin designs are changed. Most respondents said the government should wait at least 10 years before changing the design on a coin, but there were some differences among age groups. Younger respondents were in favor of more frequent coin design changes, while older respondents favored less frequent changes. The survey also indicated that most people are interested in the 50 State Quarters Program.
- Most adults are not using the new dollar coin because of familiarity with the dollar bill, the coin not being widely available, and not wanting to carry around more coins. Most respondents said they were opposed to the elimination of the dollar bill to promote the coin's use, but when annual government savings of half a billion dollars were mentioned, most people then favored elimination of the dollar bill.

Responses to Survey Questions on Whether the Mint Should Continue Producing Certain Coins



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Contents

Letter

Results in Brief	1
Background	2
Most People Are Satisfied with Current Denominations of Coins	4
Most People Are Satisfied with the Current Design of Coins	8
Most Respondents Are Satisfied with the Frequency of Change in Coin Designs	14
Most People Are Using the Dollar Bill and Not the New Dollar Coin and Changing the Dollar Coin's Design Is Unlikely to Substantially Increase Use	15
Agency Comments and Our Evaluation	18
	29

Appendixes

Appendix I: Objectives, Scope, and Methodology	31
Public Opinion Survey	31
Focus Group Discussions	34
Appendix II: Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin Design and Overall Responses	35
Appendix III: Comments from the United States Mint	62

Tables

Table 1: Disposition of Sampling Units	32
--	----

Figures

Figure 1: Percentage of Total Coin Production for Each Circulating Coin Produced, FYs 1992 to 2001	5
Figure 2: Number of Years Since Last Coin Redesign for Front of Each Circulating Coin Denomination	6
Figure 3: Responses to Survey Questions on Whether the Mint Should Continue Producing Certain Coins	9
Figure 4: Responses to Survey Questions on Whether the Mint Should Stop Producing Certain Coins	10
Figure 5: Responses to Survey Question on What Respondents Do with Pennies When They Receive Them as Change	12
Figure 6: Responses to Survey Question on Whether Respondents Favor or Oppose Rounding	13
Figure 7: Responses to Survey Question on How Frequently Respondents Think Coin Designs Should Be Changed	16

Figure 8: Responses to Survey Question on How Long the Government Should Wait Before Changing Coin Designs	17
Figure 9: Responses to Survey Question on How Often Respondents Look to See If They Receive New Quarters	18
Figure 10: Results of Survey Question regarding Why Adults Are Not Using the New Dollar Coin (Those Who Had Heard of the New Dollar Coin)	19
Figure 11: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Favor or Oppose Eliminating the Dollar Bill	21
Figure 12: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Favor or Oppose Replacing the Dollar Bill with the Dollar Coin If It Saved the Government \$500 Million Dollars Each Year	22
Figure 13: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Features of the New Dollar Coin Are Okay As Is or Should Be Changed (Those Who Had Possessed the Coin)	23
Figure 14: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Would Be More Likely or Less Likely to Use the New Dollar Coin for Purchases If It Had a Series of Images Over Time	25
Figure 15: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Would Be More Likely or Less Likely to Collect the New Dollar Coin If It Had a Series of Images Over Time	26
Figure 16: Results of Survey Question regarding the Extent That Adults Favor or Oppose the Following Design Themes for the New Dollar Coin If It Had a Series of Images Over Time	27
Figure 17: Results of Survey Question regarding the Extent That Adults Favor or Oppose the Following Design Themes for the New Dollar Coin If It Had a Series of Images Over Time	28



United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

December 17, 2002

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman
The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Treasury
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Ernest J. Istook, Jr.
Chairman
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Treasury,
Postal Service, and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

Circulating coins serve as a medium of exchange and also symbolize our nation's heritage. In addition, the public's collection of circulating coins generates additional funding for the Treasury. Recent coin redesigns, which began in 1999 with the 50 State Quarters Program, and a new dollar coin issued in 2000, have brought attention to these circulating coins and increased coin collection by the public.¹ The designs for the front of three of our most common circulating coins, the penny, nickel, and dime, have remained largely unchanged for over 50 years. This report responds to a congressional mandate that we conduct a study to identify any changes necessary to maximize public interest in and acceptance of U.S. coins and achieve a better balance in the numbers of coins of different denominations in circulation, with particular attention to increasing the circulation of the dollar coin.²

As agreed with your offices, our objective was to obtain public opinion regarding (1) the denominations of coins used; (2) the design of coins,

¹P.L. 105-124 authorized the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program and the production of a new dollar coin (31 U.S.C. 5112 and notes following).

²The Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2002 (P.L. 107-67).

including who or what is depicted and the color, size, weight, wording, and numerals on coins; (3) the frequency of change in coins design; and (4) ways to increase acceptance and use of the new dollar coin.

We contracted with The Gallup Organization, a national public opinion research firm, to conduct a poll and to use focus groups to obtain public opinion on these issues. Gallup conducted a telephone survey of 1,003 adults in July and August 2002 and held eight focus groups in four cities in July 2002. Appendix I provides further details about our objective, scope, and methodology. Overall results for each survey question are provided in appendix II.

In addition to reporting overall results, we report the results for some of our survey data by demographic subgroups. Data are reported at the demographic subgroup level if subgroup differences are relevant, if differences in subgroup responses are statistically significant, and if there was at least a 10 percentage point difference between these subgroup responses. Focus group views are summarized to supplement the overall results of the survey; however, focus group views are not statistically representative of the U.S. adult population.

We requested comments on a draft of this report from the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Mint. The comments we received are discussed near the end of this letter and reproduced in appendix III. We did our work in Washington, D.C.; Towson, Maryland; Atlanta, Georgia; Seattle, Washington; and Detroit, Michigan between January 2002 and December 2002 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Results in Brief

The Gallup Survey indicated that most adults in the continental United States were satisfied with current coin denominations. At least 97 percent of survey respondents thought the government should continue to produce the dime, nickel, and quarter. At least 61 percent thought the government should continue to produce the penny, 50-cent piece, and new dollar coin. Over half of the respondents were opposed to the use of rounding values to the closest 5 or 10 cents in cash transactions to eliminate the need for the penny. In addition, most respondents were opposed to the production of a 2-dollar coin.

The survey indicated that most respondents were also satisfied with current coin designs. Survey respondents were asked if the design features

of coins should be changed, such as who or what is depicted and the color, size, and weight. At least 92 percent of survey respondents were satisfied with the design features of the penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. Although the majority of respondents were also satisfied with the design features of the 50-cent piece and the new dollar coin, fewer respondents were satisfied with these coins than with the penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. Ninety-three percent of respondents said there is the right amount of wording on coins. Survey respondents were split on whether the actual number of cents should be shown on coins.

The survey indicated that most adults in the continental United States were satisfied with how frequently coin designs are changed. Sixty-eight percent of respondents said that designs should be changed about as frequently as they currently are. Respondents who said they were interested in the 50 State Quarters Program also said they do not avoid receiving the older quarters.

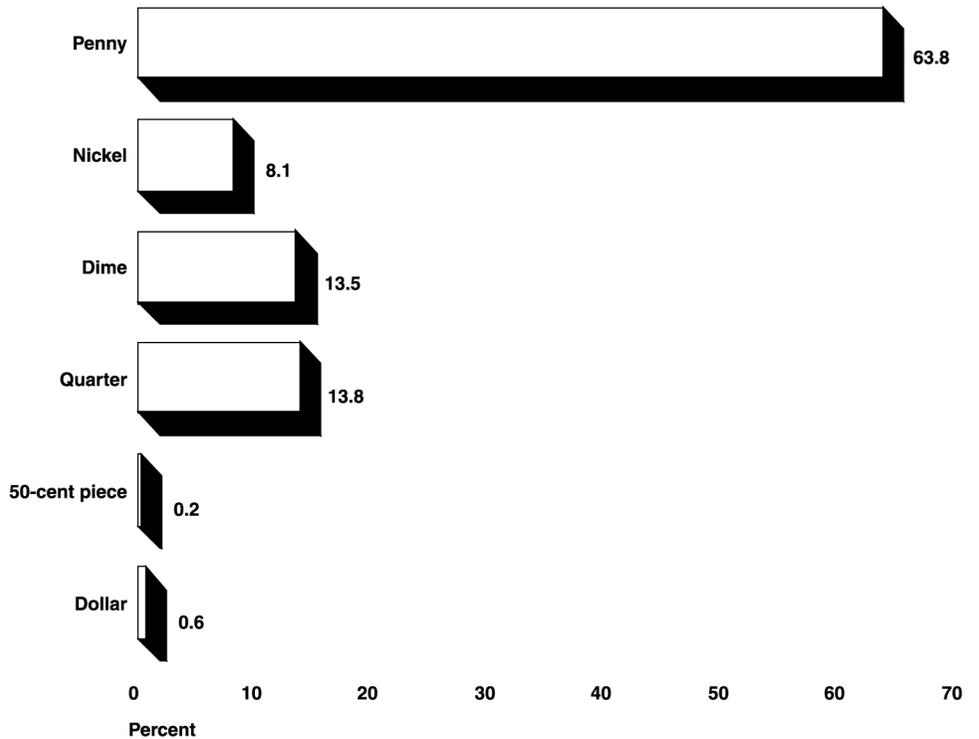
The survey indicated that most respondents are not using the new dollar coin; however, a program with a rotating series of images could increase dollar coin use somewhat and collection significantly. When respondents were asked why they are not using the new dollar coin, 93 percent cited familiarity with the dollar bill as a reason. Sixty-four percent of respondents are opposed to the elimination of the dollar bill, but the number opposed decreased to 37 percent when potential government savings were mentioned. Over 80 percent of survey respondents were satisfied with aspects of the new dollar coin's design, although some said the coin's size should be changed. Twenty-six percent of respondents said that they would be more likely to use the dollar coin if the design were changed with a series of different images over a period of time, similar to the 50 State Quarters Program; and 49 percent of respondents said they would be more likely to collect the dollar coin with such a program. If the new dollar coin were issued with a series of images, the survey respondent's most popular design theme choices were symbols of America, historical events, American heroes, and U.S. presidents. Overall results for each survey question are provided in appendix II. In commenting on a draft of this report, the Director of the Mint said she appreciated our comprehensive assessment and that many people believe that periodic coin redesign would encourage coin collecting and help emphasize our national character, pride, history, and heritage.

Background

The United States has six coins for general circulation: the penny, nickel, dime, quarter, 50-cent piece, and dollar coin. Other coin denominations that were issued in the past and then discontinued include a half-cent, 2- and 3-cent pieces, a half-dime, a 20-cent piece, and various dollar denominations of gold coins. The United States Mint, a bureau of the Department of the Treasury, manufactures all coins used in commerce. These coins are generally distributed by the Federal Reserve to banks and armored carriers. Circulating coin production levels for various denominations are driven by demand and the amount of reuse of previously issued coins. The Mint and the Federal Reserve monitor several factors, such as economic growth, coin collection activity, and Federal Reserve coin inventories, to determine the number of coins to produce and ship to the Federal Reserve.

Of all U.S. circulating coins, the penny is produced in the highest volume. In fiscal year 2001, the Mint produced 12.8 billion pennies, 1.7 billion nickels, 3.1 billion dimes, 5.5 billion quarters, 27 million 50-cent pieces, and 102 million dollar coins. From fiscal years 1992 to 2001, pennies represented about 64 percent of all circulating coins produced in the United States. In general, there has been relatively low demand for and production of the dollar coin and the 50-cent piece. Mint production of these coins represented less than 1 percent of total circulating coin production from fiscal years 1992 to 2001. (See fig. 1 for the relative production levels of denominations during this period.)

Figure 1: Percentage of Total Coin Production for Each Circulating Coin Produced, FYs 1992 to 2001



Source: United States Mint.

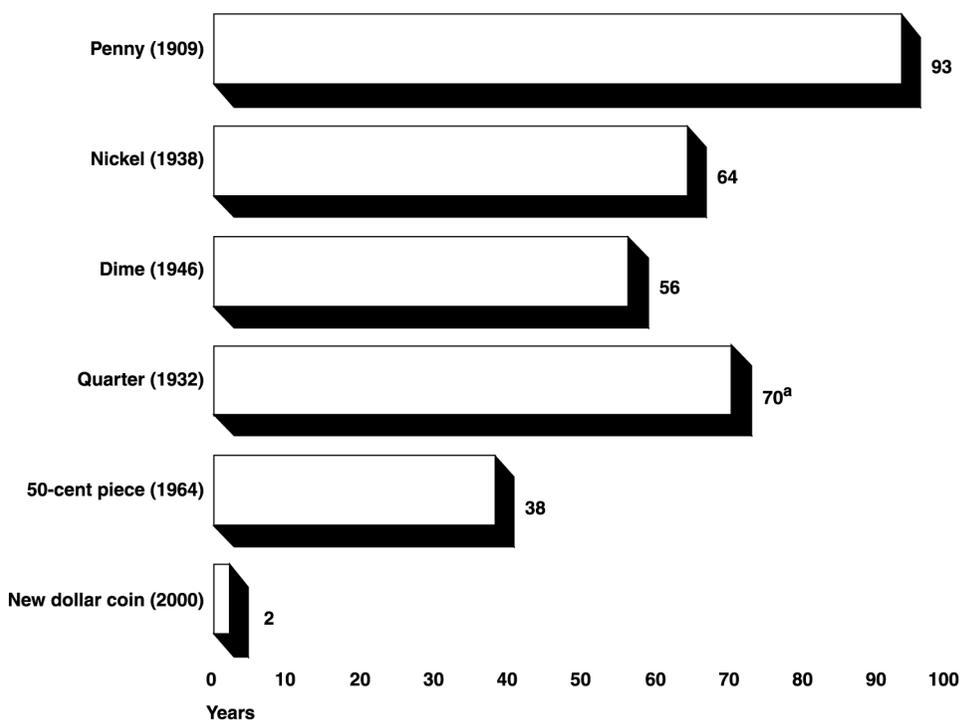
The law authorizes the circulating coins that are to be produced by the Mint, the wording or inscriptions that are to appear on them, and their physical characteristics, such as size and weight.³ The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to change the design of a coin, but the law restricts design changes to no more than once every 25 years.

The age of the designs on the fronts and backs of U.S. circulating coins varies by denomination. Some designs, such as the fronts of the penny, nickel, and dime, have not changed for over 50 years. In contrast, the dollar coin was issued with a new design in 2000, and the quarter began to have a series of images commemorating the 50 states in 1999 that continues to

³31 U.S.C. 5112.

2008. Figure 2 shows the number of years since the last redesign of the images on the front of coins currently in circulation.

Figure 2: Number of Years Since Last Coin Redesign for Front of Each Circulating Coin Denomination



Source: United States Mint.

Note: Bicentennial quarters, 50-cent pieces, and Eisenhower dollar coins celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence were issued in 1975 and 1976. The fronts of these coins were dated 1776-1976. The back of these coins had a temporary Bicentennial image: on the quarter, a Colonial Drummer; on the 50-cent piece, Independence Hall; and on the Eisenhower Dollar, an image of the Liberty Bell and the Moon.

^aUnder current law, the front of each 50 State Quarter issued from 1999 to 2008 under the 50 State Quarters Program retains the image of Washington. However, to make room for images commemorating the states on the back of each coin, the inscription "United States of America" and the designation of value "Quarter Dollar" were moved to the front of the coin. In addition, the year that the coin is minted was moved from the front to the back.

The first change since 1932 in the quarter's design was authorized by the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act. The act provides for circulating quarters honoring each of the 50 states and authorizes the Mint to issue five new quarters each year. For quarters produced under the program from 1999 to 2008, the front of the quarter will retain the image of George Washington, and the back will have a design emblematic of the state it commemorates. Officials, citizens, and artists in each state develop designs commemorating each state that are to appear on the back of the coin.⁴ Final selection of each state design is made by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with state officials and the Commission of Fine Arts, with review by the Citizen's Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee (CCCAC).⁵ CCCAC endorsed the 50 State Quarters Program and has recommended that Congress authorize other circulating commemorative coins. CCCAC has also noted that some coin designs have remained unchanged for many years and recommended that new designs for U.S. circulating coins be considered. According to a June 2002 public opinion poll, about half of adult Americans were collecting the 50 State Quarters.⁶ Each quarter produced generates \$0.21 in profits, or seigniorage, for the Mint.⁷

A redesign of the dollar coin was authorized by the United States \$1 Coin Act of 1997 to replace the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin. The \$1 Coin Act required the coin to have a golden color and a distinctive edge and authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with Congress, to select the design of the new coin. In May 1998, the Secretary established a Dollar Coin Advisory Committee to consider alternatives and recommend a design concept for the front of the new dollar coin. The final design selected was an artist's rendition of Sacagawea, a Shoshone interpreter who assisted the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804–06 to the Pacific

⁴The District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act, which was agreed to in the House on October 7, 2002, would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue, during 2009, redesigned quarter dollars commemorating the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories (See H.R. 4005 [107th Congress]).

⁵Established in 1993, the CCCAC advises the Secretary of the Treasury on the selection of subjects and designs for commemorative coins (31 U.S.C. 5135).

⁶Coinstar National Currency Poll, June 2002.

⁷Seigniorage is the difference between the face value of a coin and the coin's cost of production. Seigniorage does not directly offset expenditures but can be used to reduce the amount of money that must be borrowed from the public to finance the deficit and the interest that must be paid on this borrowing.

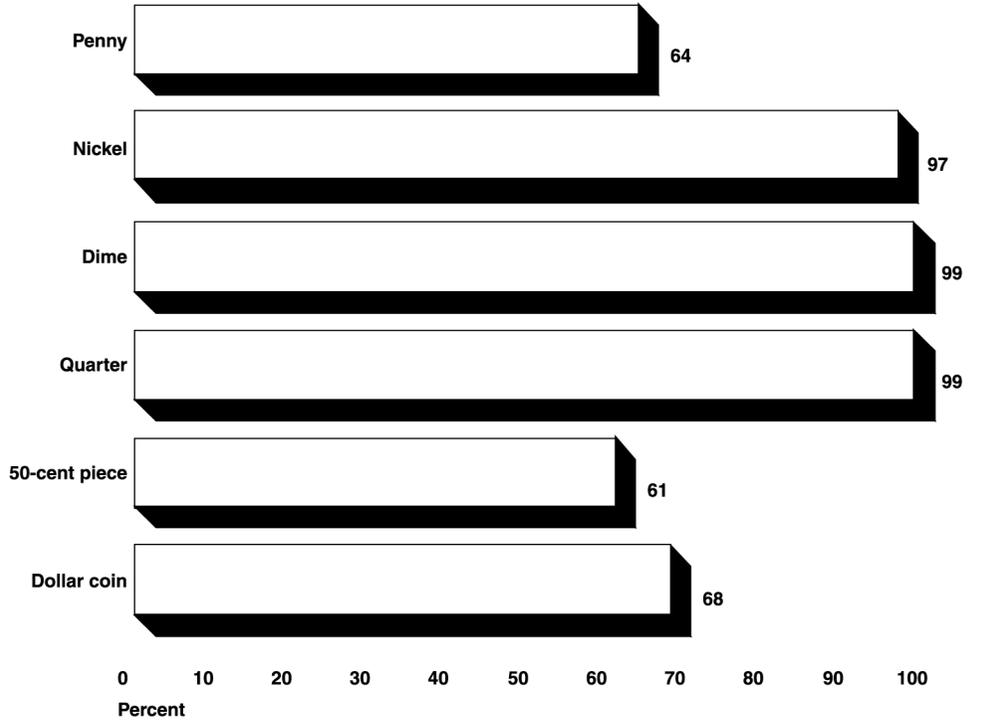
Ocean. The new dollar coin was first issued to the public in January 2000. Public opinion polls show that many people are collecting the new dollar coin; however, the coin has not been a popular circulating coin.⁸

Most People Are Satisfied with Current Denominations of Coins

The Gallup Survey indicated that most adults in the continental United States are satisfied with current coin denominations. When asked if the Mint should continue or stop producing nickels, dimes, or quarters, at least 97 percent of the respondents to the Gallup Survey said they should continue each of these coins. Less than 3 percent of respondents said that the Mint should stop producing nickels, dimes, or quarters. Fewer respondents, but still a majority, thought the Mint should continue to produce the penny, the 50-cent piece, and the dollar coin. Sixty-four percent of respondents said the Mint should continue to produce the penny, 61 percent said the Mint should continue to produce the 50-cent piece, and 68 percent said the Mint should continue to produce a dollar coin. Thirty-three percent of respondents said that the Mint should stop producing the penny, 36 percent said the Mint should stop producing the 50-cent piece, and 28 percent said the Mint should stop producing a dollar coin. (See figs. 3 and 4.)

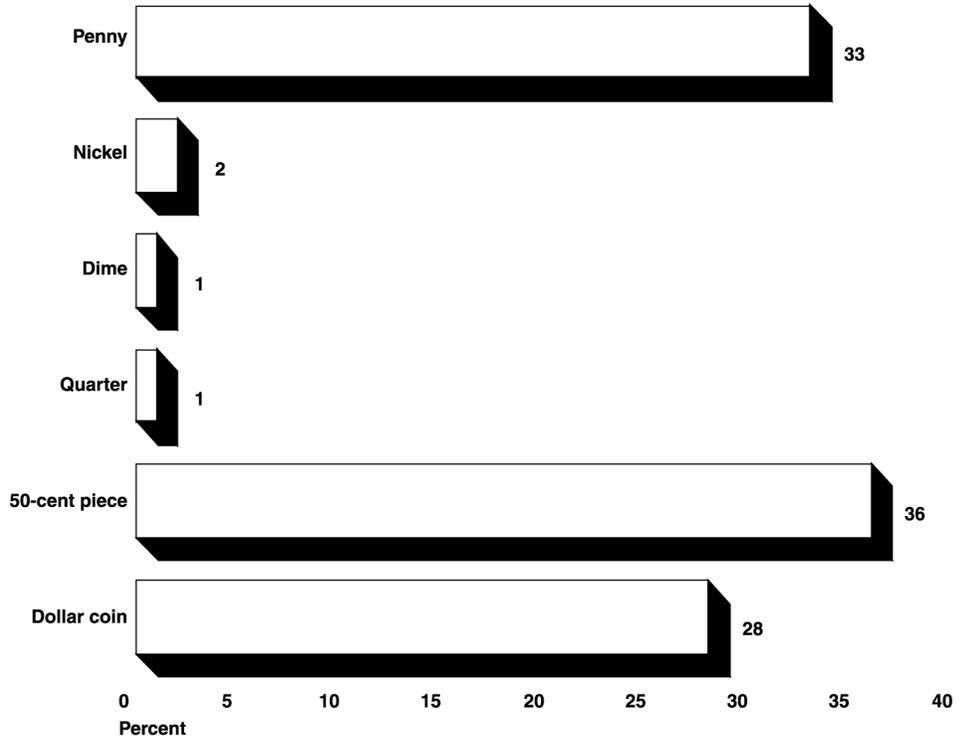
⁸U.S. General Accounting Office, *New Dollar Coin: Marketing Campaign Raised Public Awareness but Not Widespread Use*, [GAO-02-896](#) (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 13, 2002).

Figure 3: Responses to Survey Questions on Whether the Mint Should Continue Producing Certain Coins



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Figure 4: Responses to Survey Questions on Whether the Mint Should Stop Producing Certain Coins



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Some opinions on coin denominations varied according to survey respondents' ages. Younger respondents (ages 18 to 34) were more supportive of the production of a dollar coin than older respondents (ages 65 and above). Seventy-eight percent of respondents ages 18 to 34 said the Mint should continue to produce a dollar coin, and 49 percent of respondents ages 65 and above were in favor of the production of a dollar coin. Twenty percent of respondents ages 18 to 34 said the Mint should stop producing a dollar coin, and 46 percent of respondents ages 65 and above said the Mint should stop producing a dollar coin.

Survey respondents ages 55 to 64 were more in favor of the elimination of the penny than respondents ages 65 and above. Forty-three percent of respondents ages 55 to 64 said the Mint should stop producing the penny. In contrast, 18 percent of respondents ages 65 and above said the Mint should stop producing the penny.

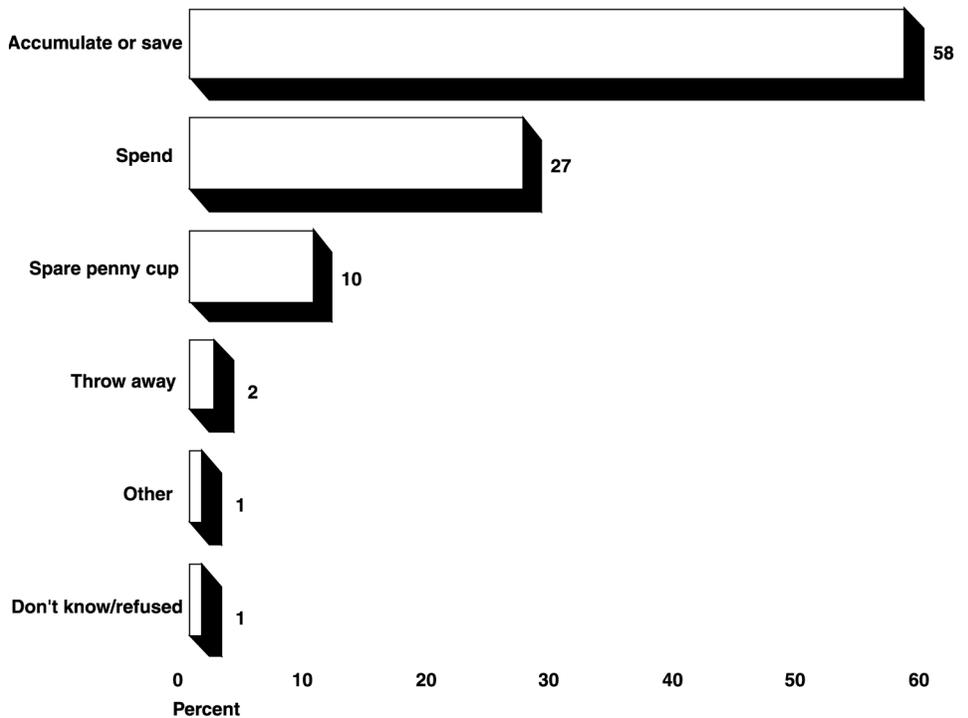
Over half of all survey respondents were somewhat or strongly opposed to the production of a 2-dollar coin. However, older respondents were more opposed to a 2-dollar coin than younger respondents were. Forty-four percent of respondents ages 18 to 34 were somewhat or strongly opposed to the production of a 2-dollar coin, and 71 percent of respondents ages 65 and above were somewhat or strongly opposed to a 2-dollar coin.

People Are Reluctant to Eliminate the Penny and Use Rounding for Cash Transactions

Sixty-four percent of survey respondents said the Mint should continue to produce the penny. Some focus group participants said that the penny is useful for paying in exact change and that the penny is an important part of U.S. currency and the U.S. economy. However, other focus group participants thought the penny should no longer be in circulation. They argued that the penny has no value, citing that nothing can be bought for 1 cent, and that retailers and customers often give pennies away at spare penny cups at cash registers.

The survey results indicated that when people receive pennies, they generally do not use them for purchases. Twenty-seven percent of survey respondents spend pennies when they receive them as change. However, 58 percent of survey respondents said that when they receive pennies as change, they accumulate or save them in a piggy bank, jar, drawer, or the like. (See fig. 5.)

Figure 5: Responses to Survey Question on What Respondents Do with Pennies When They Receive Them as Change



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

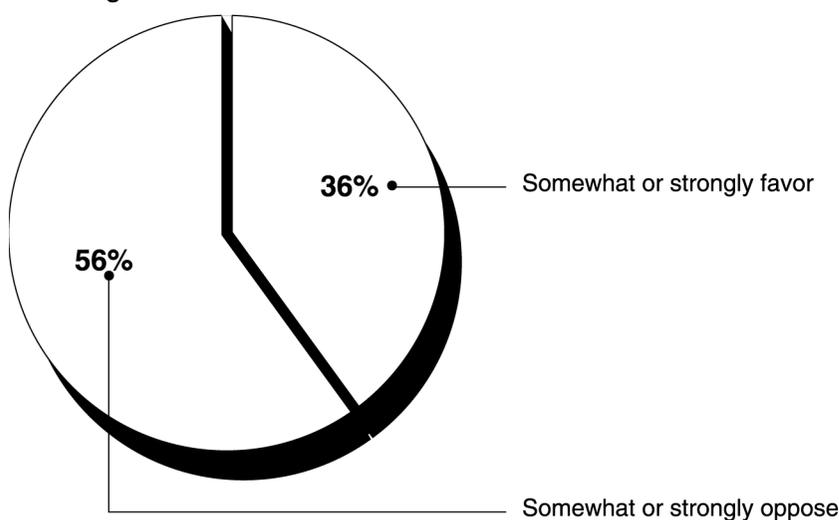
More older than younger respondents said they are likely to spend the pennies they receive as change. Fourteen percent of survey respondents ages 18 to 34 said that they spend the pennies they receive as change. Forty-three percent of respondents ages 65 and above said they spend the pennies they receive as change.

Focus group participants discussed varied uses for the penny. Some participants said they save pennies in jars. Others said they carry pennies to help create exact change for purchases or they put them in spare penny cups at cash registers. Some participants said they give pennies to children and a few said they throw pennies away.

The survey indicated that over half of adults in the United States somewhat or strongly oppose rounding to the closest 5 or 10 cents to eliminate the need for the penny. Fifty-six percent of survey respondents somewhat or

strongly opposed a proposal to round total purchase prices of cash transactions up or down to the nearest 5 or 10 cents. (See fig. 6.)

Figure 6: Responses to Survey Question on Whether Respondents Favor or Oppose Rounding



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100 because "Neither favor nor oppose," "Don't know," and "Refused" responses are not included.

When asked about rounding if the government's cost of producing and distributing the penny was more than 1 cent, respondents were more even in their answers. Forty-two percent of survey respondents somewhat or strongly opposed rounding transactions if it cost the federal government more than 1 cent to produce and distribute each penny, and 49 percent somewhat or strongly favored rounding.

Respondents with a college degree or more education were more supportive than respondents with a high school degree or less of rounding if the government's cost of producing and distributing the penny was more than 1 cent. Thirty-eight percent of respondents with a high school degree or less and 60 percent of respondents with a college degree or more were somewhat or strongly in favor of rounding. In addition, respondents' views on rounding after hearing about possible costs to the government varied according to household income. Forty-three percent of respondents with a household income of less than \$30,000 were somewhat or strongly in favor

of rounding; 66 percent of respondents with a household income of \$75,000 or more were somewhat or strongly in favor of rounding.

Some focus group participants were also reluctant to support rounding. Participants were skeptical of the fairness of rounding and worried that retailers would find ways to change their pricing scheme so that transactions would be rounded up more often than rounded down. They understood that it would depend on the total purchase price, including taxes, but they still felt that retailers would find a way to make the system work in their favor. Some participants were opposed to rounding because they felt it would create an increased burden for retail clerks, who would be responsible for rounding correctly. However, other participants were in favor of rounding. These proponents felt that rounding would make transactions easier, make pockets lighter, and lead to greater usage of the dollar coin (by eliminating one coin in favor of another).

Most People Are Satisfied with the Current Design of Coins

The survey indicated that most adults in the continental United States are satisfied with current coin designs. Respondents were asked if they thought any aspect of the design, such as who or what is depicted, color, size, and weight of the penny, nickel, dime, and quarter should be changed. At least 92 percent of survey respondents thought that the designs did not need to be changed.

Focus group participants were also satisfied with current coin designs. They said they were so accustomed to pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters that they had no desire to see the features changed.

Fewer survey respondents were satisfied with the size of the 50-cent piece and the new dollar coin than with other coins but, nevertheless, the majority of people were still satisfied with the sizes. Seventy-four percent of the respondents said that they were satisfied with the size of the 50-cent piece, and 67 percent of those respondents who had seen the new dollar coin were satisfied with its size. In addition, 72 percent of respondents said they were satisfied with the weight of the 50-cent piece. Nearly all focus group participants agreed that the new dollar coin should be larger in size to make it easier to differentiate from the quarter, in spite of its golden color.

Most survey respondents said they were satisfied with the amount of wording on U.S. coins. Ninety-three percent said there is “just about the right amount of wording.”

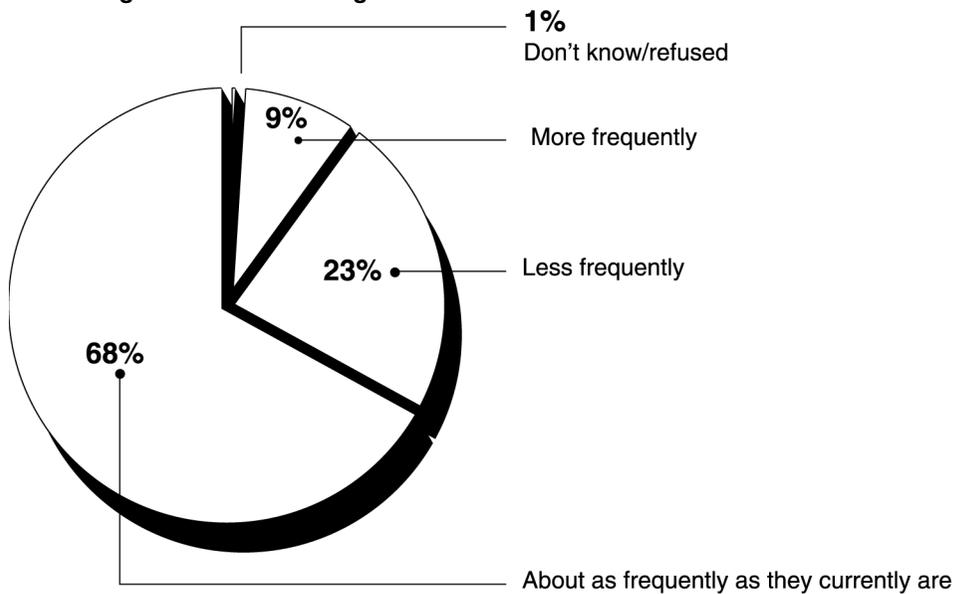
Survey respondents differed on whether the actual number of cents should be shown on coins. Forty-six percent of respondents somewhat or strongly agreed that a numeral indicating how many cents coins are worth should be shown on coins, while 35 percent of respondents somewhat or strongly disagreed that the actual number of the cents should be shown.

In contrast, some focus group participants said that it is not necessary to have a numeral on coins indicating their value. Some said “we all grew up with it and know what they are.” However, there were other participants who supported having a numeral on coins. They mentioned that other countries have numerals on their coins, and that numerals on coins would be helpful for foreigners who are unfamiliar with U.S. currency.

Most Respondents Are Satisfied with the Frequency of Change in Coin Designs

The survey indicated that most adults in the continental United States were satisfied with how frequently coin designs are changed. Sixty-eight percent of respondents said that the design of U.S. coins should be changed as frequently as they currently are. (See fig. 7.)

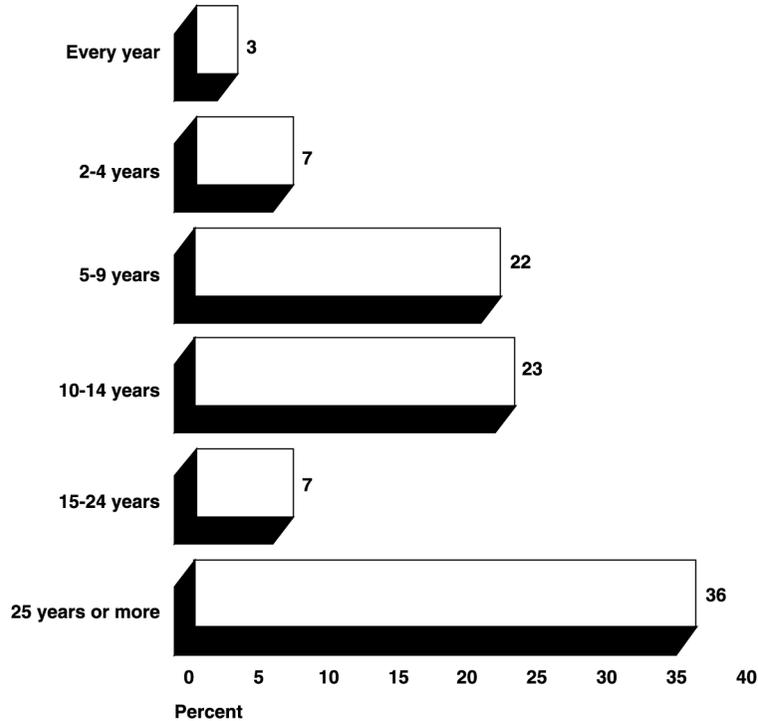
Figure 7: Responses to Survey Question on How Frequently Respondents Think Coin Designs Should Be Changed



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

About two-thirds of respondents said the government should wait at least 10 years before changing the design on a coin. (See fig. 8.)

Figure 8: Responses to Survey Question on How Long the Government Should Wait Before Changing Coin Designs



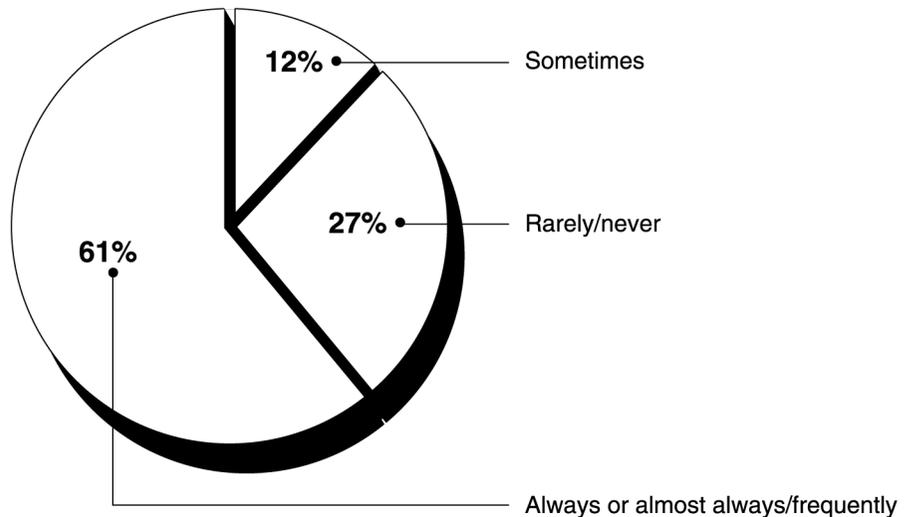
Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100 because “Don’t know” and “Refused” responses are not included.

Survey respondents’ opinions on the frequency of design changes varied by age. Younger survey respondents were in favor of more frequent design changes, while older respondents favored less frequent changes. Thirty-one percent of survey respondents ages 18 to 34 and 9 percent of respondents ages 65 and above said the Mint should change the design of coins every 5 to 9 years. In addition, 24 percent of respondents ages 18 to 34 and 54 percent of respondents ages 65 and above said that coin designs should be changed every 25 years or more.

The survey indicated that many people are interested in the 50 State Quarters Program. Sixty-one percent of respondents said that when they receive quarters as change, they frequently look on the back of the quarters to see if they received one of the new 50 State Quarters. (See fig. 9.)

Figure 9: Responses to Survey Question on How Often Respondents Look to See If They Receive New Quarters



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Focus group participants also expressed support of the 50 State Quarters Program. Participants said they were very satisfied with the program and thought it encouraged collection and interest in coins. Despite the popularity of the quarter program, 82 percent of the survey respondents said they do not try to avoid receiving quarters that were produced before the 50 State Quarters Program was introduced.

Most People Are Using the Dollar Bill and Not the New Dollar Coin and Changing the Dollar Coin's Design Is Unlikely to Substantially Increase Use

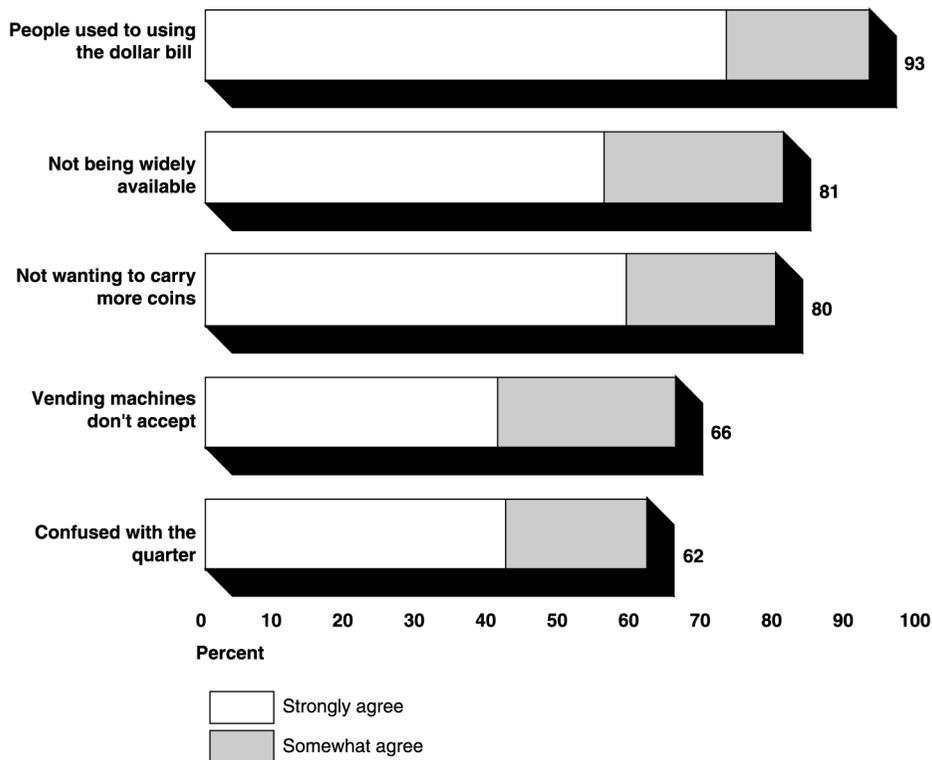
The survey indicated that most people have heard of the new dollar coin, but few people are using it. About 70 percent of respondents had heard of the new dollar coin. However, only about 5 percent of respondents said they had received it as change from a cashier or used it to pay for something at a cash register in the past month. Less than 2 percent of respondents have used the coin for other purchases such as in vending machines, stamp machines, tollbooths, or mass transit in the last month.

Focus group participants said that, rather than use the coin for everyday transactions, they were more likely to save the new dollar coin or give it as a gift. However, some participants pointed to the advantages of the coin,

such as its convenience for use in tollbooths, vending machines, and other coin-operated purchases.

Though respondents had a number of reasons for not using the new dollar coin, familiarity with the dollar bill was the most common. Of those who had heard of the new dollar coin, 93 percent of these respondents agreed that people are not using the new dollar coin because they are used to using the dollar bill. In addition, 81 percent of those who had heard of the new dollar coin said the coin not being widely available and 80 percent said not wanting to carry around more coins are reasons why the public does not use the coin. (See figure 10 for results from various categories.)

Figure 10: Results of Survey Question regarding Why Adults Are Not Using the New Dollar Coin (Those Who Had Heard of the New Dollar Coin)



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

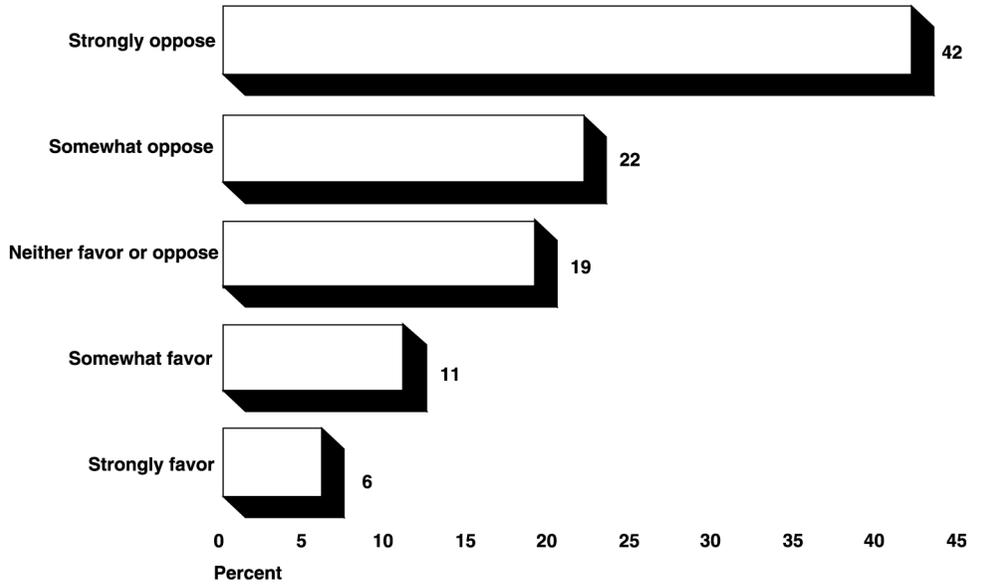
Focus group participants cited many of the same reasons for why they do not use the new dollar coin. Participants said that they prefer the dollar bill because it is easier to use when paying for transactions. Other participants said replacing their dollar bills with dollar coins would mean more weight to carry and that the new dollar coin is too similar to the quarter and Susan B. Anthony dollar coin. Some participants preferred the dollar coin over the dollar bill in vending and other coin-operated machines.

Focus group participants were also asked to come up with ways to increase public interest in the new dollar coin. The focus groups responded that the government should increase the circulation of the new dollar coin, stop circulating the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin and eliminate the dollar bill.

Many People Are Opposed to Eliminating the Dollar Bill, but Change Opinion When They Hear about the Potential Government Savings

The survey results indicated that about half of adults would only use the new dollar coin if the dollar bill were eliminated; however, most adults oppose a decision by the government to replace the dollar bill with the dollar coin. When asked if they favored or opposed a decision to stop making the dollar bill and replace it with the dollar coin, 64 percent of survey respondents said they were opposed. (See fig. 11 for results from various categories.)

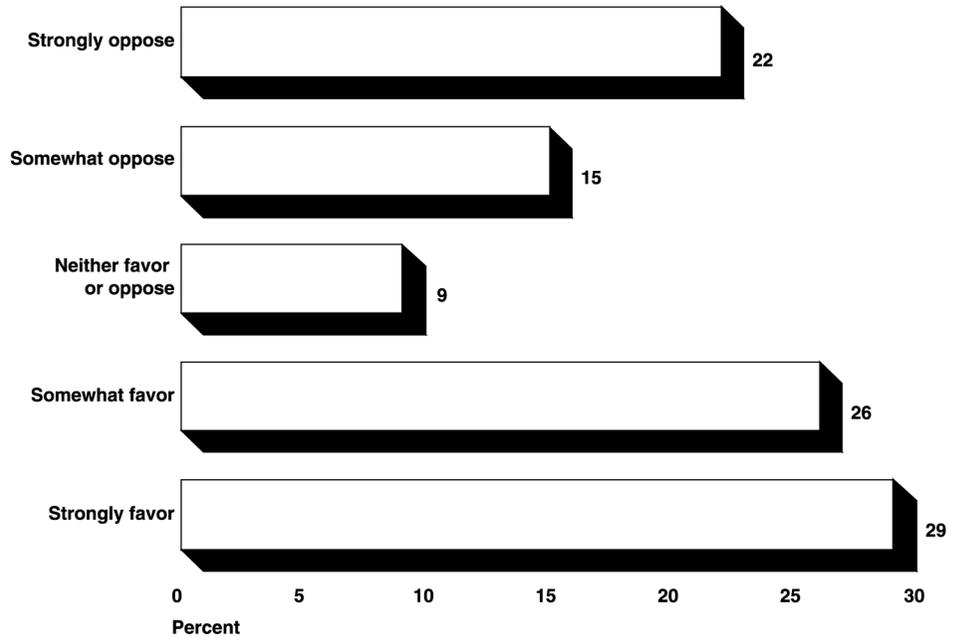
Figure 11: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Favor or Oppose Eliminating the Dollar Bill



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

The percentage of survey respondents who opposed replacing the dollar bill with a dollar coin decreased when government savings are mentioned. When told that it would save about half a billion dollars a year if the U.S. government replaced the dollar bill with the dollar coin, the number who said they were opposed dropped from 64 percent to 37 percent and those who said they were in favor of such a proposal increased from 17 percent to 55 percent. (See fig. 12 for results from various categories.)

Figure 12: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Favor or Oppose Replacing the Dollar Bill with the Dollar Coin If It Saved the Government \$500 Million Dollars Each Year



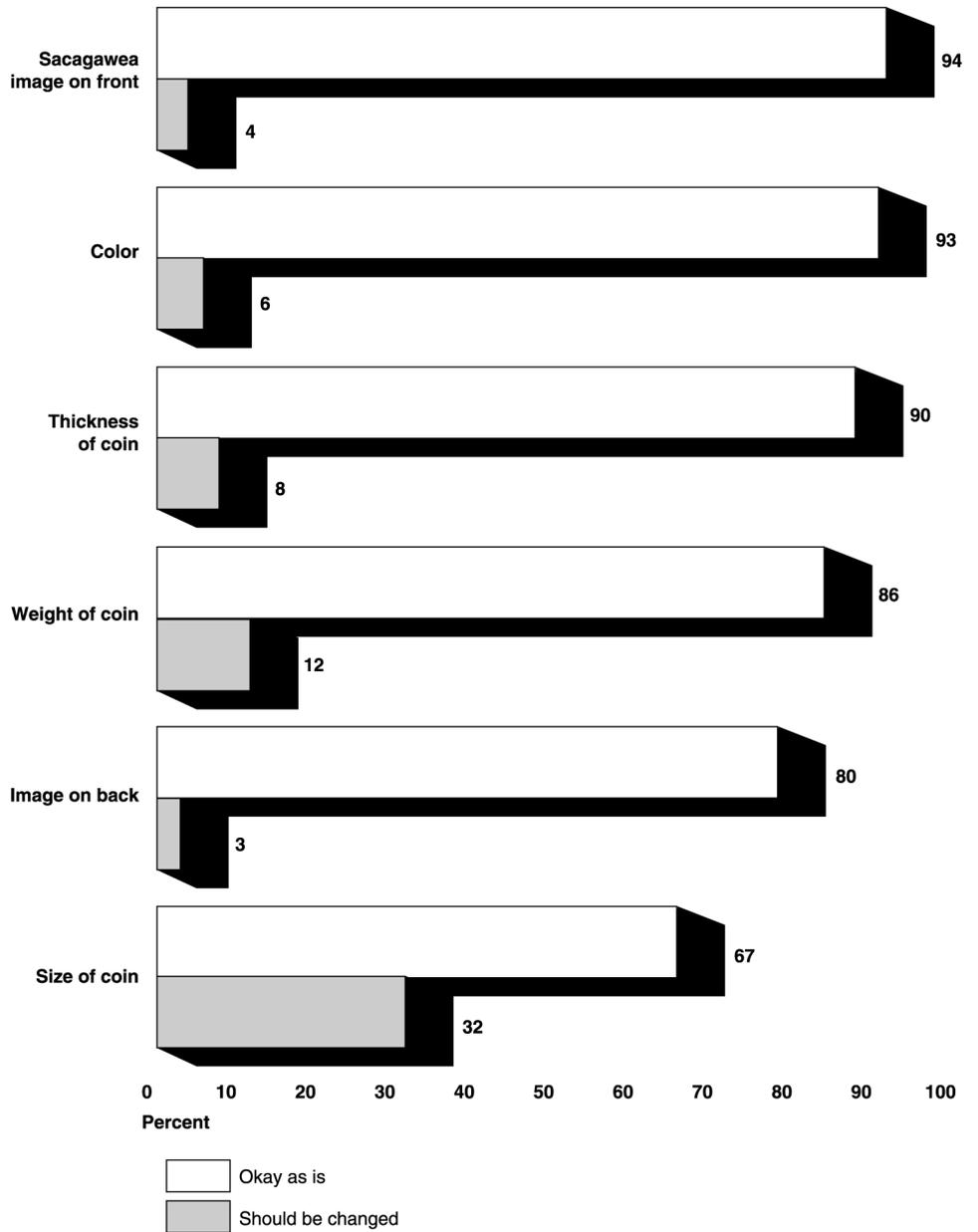
Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Focus group reactions were mixed when participants heard about potential government savings. Some said the savings justified replacing the dollar bill with the dollar coin. However, other participants questioned if the savings would be put to good use by the government.

Most People Are Satisfied with the Current New Dollar Coin Design, but a Rotating Image Program Could Increase New Dollar Coin Use Somewhat and Collection Significantly

The survey results indicated that most adults who had the new dollar coin in their possession were satisfied with its design features. Over 80 percent of survey respondents who had possessed the coin were satisfied with aspects of the new dollar coin’s design, such as the image on the front and back of the coin and its color, thickness, and weight. However, 32 percent of respondents who had the coin in their possession said that the size of the new dollar coin should be changed. (See fig. 13 for results from various categories.)

Figure 13: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Features of the New Dollar Coin Are Okay As Is or Should Be Changed (Those Who Had Possessed the Coin)



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

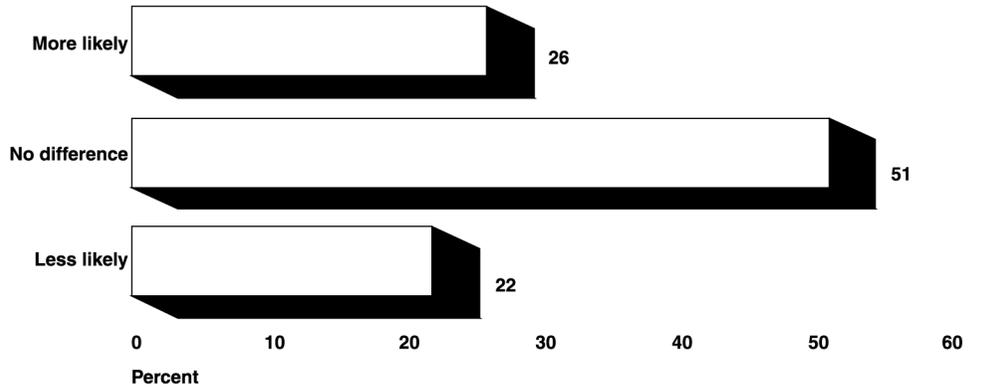
When asked what could be done differently to get people to use the new dollar coin, 37 percent of the survey responses fell into a category of “make the coin more available.”⁹ In addition, about 13 percent of the responses could be grouped under changes to the physical characteristics of the dollar coin such as changes to “make the dollar coin easier to distinguish,” “make it larger” or “make it smaller,” or “make it lighter in weight.” When grouped into categories, some of the open-ended responses seemed to conflict with each other. For example, 4 percent of responses on changes that might increase the dollar coin’s use could be grouped under “make it larger;” however, almost 3 percent of responses could be grouped under “make it lighter in weight.” Less than 5 percent of responses to other potential changes to increase the dollar coin’s use were grouped under “make vending machines accept them,” “give the coin away,” and increase the coin’s “awareness and advertising or education.”

Focus group participants’ opinions varied on the design of the new dollar coin. Participants’ opinions included suggestions that the coin should be larger because the coin is too similar to the quarter and that the coin should be thicker and heavier so that it would not be confused with the quarter. Other suggestions for design included comments that the golden color of the coin is liked, but when the dollar coin tarnishes it loses its luster making it less attractive. Some focus group participants also commented that they liked the image of Sacagawea on the coin, but others questioned why she was chosen for the front of the new dollar coin since many people do not know who she was.

When all survey respondents were asked if they would be more likely to use the new dollar coin for purchases if the coin was issued with a series of images over a period of time, most respondents said such a program would not make a difference. A total of 51 percent of the respondents said it would make no difference in their use of the coin, 26 percent said they would be more likely to use the coin, and 22 percent said they would be less likely to use the coin with a series of images program. (See fig. 14 for results from various categories.)

⁹In our report, *New Dollar Coin: Marketing Campaign Raised Public Awareness but Not Widespread Use*, GAO-02-896 (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 13, 2002), we concluded that while the Mint could address some of the distribution barriers and make the coin more available, this would not necessarily result in increased demand for the coin.

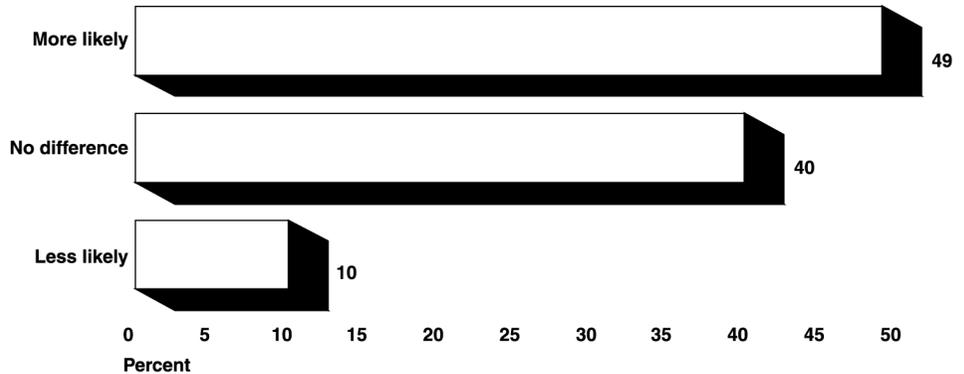
Figure 14: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Would Be More Likely or Less Likely to Use the New Dollar Coin for Purchases If It Had a Series of Images Over Time



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Almost half of the respondents said that they would be more likely to collect the new dollar coin if it were issued with a series of different images similar to the 50 State Quarters Program. Forty-nine percent of all survey respondents said they would be more likely to collect the new dollar coin under such a program, 40 percent said it would make no difference, and 10 percent said they would be less likely to collect the new dollar coin. (See fig. 15 for results from various categories.)

Figure 15: Results of Survey Question regarding Whether Adults Would Be More Likely or Less Likely to Collect the New Dollar Coin If It Had a Series of Images Over Time



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

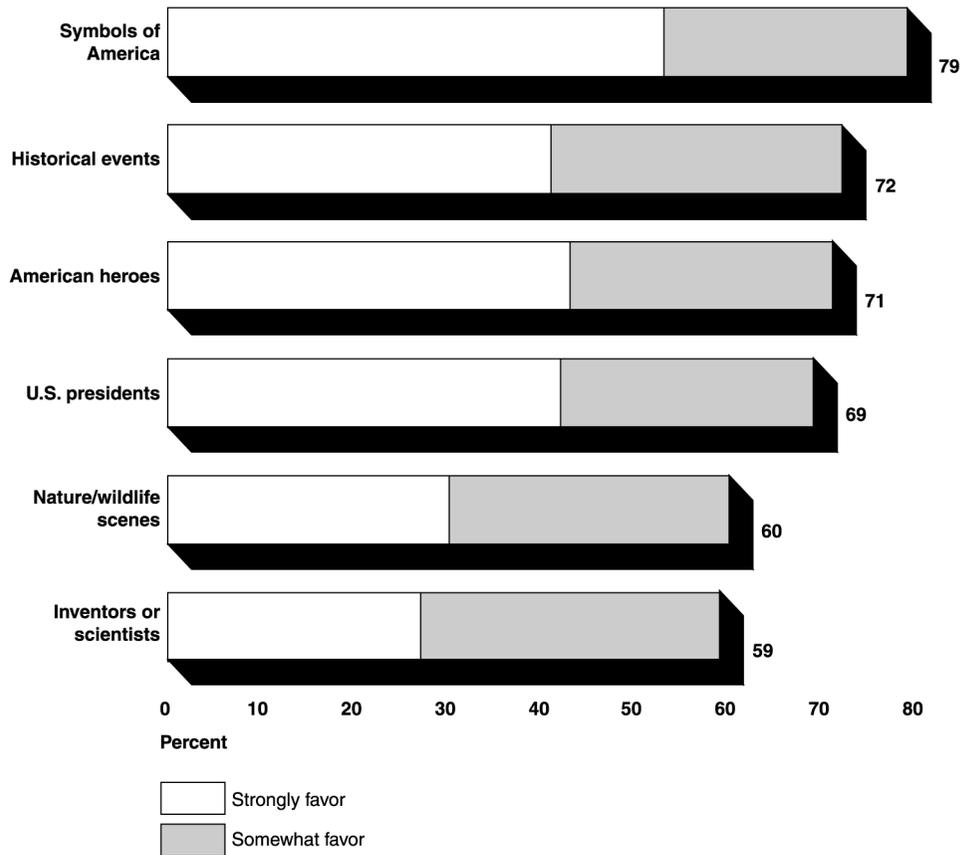
Survey respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 said they would be more likely to collect the new dollar coin if it were issued with a series of different images similar to the 50 State Quarters Program. Fifty-six percent of the survey respondents ages 18 to 34 said they would be more likely to collect the new dollar coin under such a program compared with 31 percent of respondents 65 and over.

Focus group participant reactions were mixed when the proposal for a series of recurring images was mentioned as a way to increase use of the new dollar coin. Some participants said that the excitement generated by such a program would increase their interest in using the dollar coin. However, other participants felt that people would only collect commemorative circulating dollar coins, and that the dollar coin's overall use would not increase.

All survey respondents were asked which design themes they would favor if the new dollar coin were designed on a recurring basis like the 50 State Quarters Program. Survey respondents' most popular coin design themes for such a recurring design program were symbols of America, historical events, American heroes, and U.S. presidents. The least popular coin design themes were sports and entertainment personalities, social activists, and ethnic diversity. (See figs. 16 and 17 for results from various categories.)

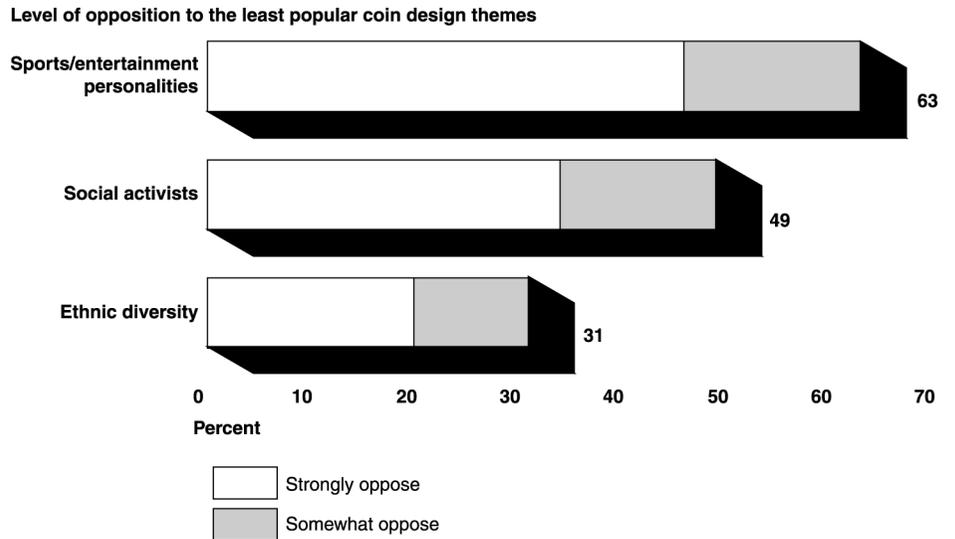
Figure 16: Results of Survey Question regarding the Extent That Adults Favor or Oppose the Following Design Themes for the New Dollar Coin If It Had a Series of Images Over Time

The most popular design themes



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Figure 17: Results of Survey Question regarding the Extent That Adults Favor or Oppose the Following Design Themes for the New Dollar Coin If It Had a Series of Images Over Time



Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey.

Survey respondents of all age groups were equally supportive of U.S. presidents as a design theme. Respondents between the ages of 18 to 34 were more likely to favor social activists as a design theme for a series of recurring designs. Thirty-eight percent of the survey respondents ages 18 to 34 favored social activists as a design theme compared with 11 percent of respondents 65 and over. Respondents who identified themselves as Black or African American were more likely to strongly favor ethnic diversity as a design theme for a series of recurring designs. Forty percent of those who identified themselves as Black or African American strongly favored the ethnic diversity design theme compared with 18 percent of respondents who identified themselves as White.

When asked their preference for a recurring design theme, focus group participants selected American heroes, historical events, and symbols of America as their top three choices. Participants were less likely to favor other themes, such as U.S. presidents, inventors or scientists, nature or wildlife scenes, ethnic diversity, social activists, or sports and entertainment personalities.

Focus group participants mentioned specific names, places, and events for the most popular design themes. For American heroes they were: Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein, first man on the moon, General Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, firefighters, teachers, Benjamin Franklin, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Daniel Boone, and Helen Keller. For historical events they were: first landing of a man on the moon, Pearl Harbor, Panama Canal, Iwo Jima, Wright brothers' first flight, signing of Declaration of Independence, WWII, Korean War, Oklahoma City (memorial), Bunker Hill, Fort McKinley, and the Alamo. For Symbols of America they included: Statue of Liberty, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Washington Monument, Mt. Rushmore, the Grand Canyon, the Capitol Building, the Liberty Bell, and the American flag. Participants in one focus group also felt ethnic diversity was an important theme to portray on the coins and mentioned Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Alaskans, and Puerto Ricans.

Agency Comments and Our Evaluation

We provided copies of the draft of this report for comment to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Mint. On November 22, 2002, we received written comments from the Director of the Mint, which are reprinted in appendix III. The Secretary did not provide comments.

In commenting on a draft of this report, the Director of the Mint said she appreciated our comprehensive assessment and that many people believe that periodic coin redesign would encourage coin collecting and help emphasize our national character, pride, history, and heritage.

We are sending copies of this report to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the House Committee on Financial Services; the Secretary of the Treasury; the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and other interested parties. We also will make copies available to others upon request. In addition, the report will be available at no charge on the GAO Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

Major contributors to this report were John S. Baldwin, Sr., Brad Dubbs, Emily Dolan, Donna Leiss, Susan Michal-Smith, Walter Vance, and Greg Wilmoth. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me on (202) 512-2834 or at ungarb@gao.gov.



Bernard L. Ungar
Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues

Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

This report responds to a Congressional mandate that we conduct a study and identify any changes to maximize public interest and acceptance in U.S. coins, with particular attention to increasing circulation of the dollar coin.¹⁰ Our objectives were to assess U.S. public opinion regarding (1) the denominations of coins used; (2) the design of coins including who or what is depicted, color, size, and weight of coins; (3) the frequency of change in coins' design; and (4) ways to increase acceptance and use of the new dollar coin.

To gather data for our report, we contracted with the Gallup Organization, Washington D.C., a national public opinion research firm, to conduct a telephone survey of the U.S. population and hold a series of eight focus group discussions in four regions of the United States.

Public Opinion Survey

Gallup conducted a telephone survey of adults, age 18 years or older in the United States. Survey participants were contacted in July and August 2002. The telephone survey contained questions about coin denominations, coin design, frequency of design changes and the Sacagawea dollar coin. (See app. II.)

Telephone numbers for the sample were drawn using the Casady-Lepkowski Truncated List-Assisted RDD (Random Digit Dialing) sampling method. Survey Sampling Inc. provided a probability sample of telephone numbers drawn from 100 banks of telephone numbers that contained a minimum of three listed numbers. The adult with the most recent birthday was selected for interviewing within each household. Interviewers made at least 7 attempts on different days and at different times of day to contact the selected respondent at each household. The sampling method yielded 1,003 completed interviews with adults age 18 years or older in the United States. The resulting sample is weighted to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to varying household sizes and numbers of telephones. The sample is also weighted to match U.S. Census Population Projections for age, race, ethnicity (Hispanic, non-Hispanic) and gender.

¹⁰The Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2002 (P.L. 107-67).

The initial Random Digital Dial telephone survey included 6745 telephone numbers. Of these telephone numbers, 4565 represented households (not businesses) and had at least one adult age 18 years or older living in the household. Completed interviews were conducted with 1003 respondents from the 4565 telephone numbers representing eligible households and households whose eligibility could not be determined. Table 1 summarizes the outcomes of the telephone interviewing and the response to the survey.

Table 1: Disposition of Sampling Units

Disposition of sampled elements	Number
Telephone numbers in original sample	6,745
Not in the study population: ineligible elements	
Nonhouseholds (e.g., businesses, nonworking telephone numbers).	2,170
Respondents who failed screening questions. (screening involved determination of 18 years or older adult living in the household).	10
Subtotal of ineligible elements	2,180
Elements whose eligibility was undetermined	
Household status unknown (e.g., no answer or busy signal, and the number was dialed at least seven times)	829
Respondents who were disqualified because they answered "don't know" or "refused" to screening questions. Unable to determine whether or not they qualify for the study.	54
Screening questions were begun but were not completed; call arrived in call back status and survey was never completed.	523
Other (respondent ill, no eligible respondent available during term of study).	310
Physical limitations prevented the interview, such as illness, or lack of hearing, non-English or Spanish speaker.	126
Subtotal of elements whose eligibility is undetermined	1,842
In the study population: eligible elements	
Nonrespondents	
Refusal	1,337
Telephone answering machine was reached and at least seven attempts were made to complete the interview, or the designated respondent could not be contacted and at least seven attempts were made to contact the selected adult.	316
Respondents who suspended interview after it had begun.	45

(Continued From Previous Page)

Disposition of sampled elements	Number
Screening questions were completed; call arrived in call back status and survey was never completed.	22
Respondents – completed interviews	1,003
Subtotal of eligible elements	2,723

Source: July/August 2002 Gallup Survey Response Report.

The practical difficulties of conducting any survey introduce various types of errors, such as nonsampling errors. These survey results represent the views of respondents and do not represent the views of those who could not or chose not to respond to the survey. No determination can be made as to whether the individuals who did not complete the survey for various reasons have views that are significantly different from those who did respond to the survey. Several actions were taken by the Gallup organization to increase the response rate, including (1) making at least seven attempts to contact each sampled household; (2) training interviewers how to conduct the interview, avoid refusals, and persuade potential respondents to participate; and (3) recontacting households that deferred from participating in the interview when first called.

Differences in how a particular question is interpreted and differences in the sources of information available to respondents can also be a source of nonsampling error. In addition, the views that respondents express to survey interviewers might not accurately describe or predict the actual behaviors of these same respondents. We included steps in both the data collection and data analysis stages for the purpose of minimizing such nonsampling errors. For example, we developed our survey questions with the aid of our survey specialists and the Gallup organization specialists. Pretesting of the questions and questionnaire was done by the Gallup organization. After pretesting the survey, some questions were eliminated or revised to shorten the duration of the interview. Time constraints and concerns about nonsampling error limited the length of both the introduction and individual questions. For example, we did not provide the survey respondents with the number of years since the last redesign for each denomination.

Because the survey is based on a sample instead of the entire population, the survey results are subject to sampling error. Results for the total survey are surrounded by a 95 percent confidence interval of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points or less. Confidence intervals are larger for population

subgroups, with a subgroup of n = 300 having a 95 percent confidence interval ranging between approximately +/- 4 to 6 percentage points.

Focus Group Discussions

Gallup conducted a total of eight, 2-hour focus group discussions. Two focus group sessions were conducted at contractor arranged facilities in each of four cities in the United States: Towson, MD; Detroit, MI; Atlanta, GA; and Seattle, WA. Each focus group discussion was designed to contain a minimum of 8 to 10 individuals. The organization of the discussions in the focus groups closely followed the subject areas covered in the public opinion survey. The focus group discussions were held after the questionnaire for the public opinion survey was finalized. The focus group discussions took place while the public opinion survey was being conducted.

Focus group participants were asked to discuss issues such as the denominations of coins used in the United States, the design of U.S. coins, the frequency of change in coins' design, and ways to increase acceptance and use of the new dollar coin. New dollar coins were provided to focus group participants during discussions about various aspects of the new dollar coin's design. Participants mentioned some coins from other countries, such as the euro, but examples of these coins were not provided during the focus group sessions. The focus group sessions were conducted by moderators from the Gallup organization.

In all focus group sessions, efforts were made to ensure that participants represented a diverse range of age, race, ethnicity, and sex. Focus group participants were paid an honorarium of approximately \$50 for their participation.

We did our audit work from January to December 2002 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin Design and Overall Responses

GAO U.S. Coin Design Survey Conducted by The Gallup Organization

Note: Because of rounding, percentages do not always total to 100 percent.

1. Have you ever heard of the Sacagawea golden dollar coin?

Response	Percent
Yes	69.2
No	30.5
Don't know	0.4
Refused	-
Total	100.1

2. In the past year have you had in your possession a Sacagawea golden dollar coin?

Response	Percent
Yes	46.3
No or had not heard of the Sacagawea new dollar coin	53.0
Don't know	0.7
Refused	-
Total	100.0

3. Have you EVER RECEIVED the Sacagawea golden dollar coin as change from?

- A. A vending machine

Response	Percent
Yes	12.4
No or had not heard of the Sacagawea new dollar coin	87.2
Don't know	0.3
Refused	-
Total	99.9

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

B. A cashier

Response	Percent
Yes	24.5
No or had not heard of the Sacagawea new dollar coin	74.4
Don't know	1.1
Refused	-
Total	100.0

4. In the last month, have you received the Sacagawea golden dollar coin as change from the following?

A. A vending machine

Response	Percent
Yes	5.1
No or have never received the new dollar coin as change	95.0
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.1

B. A cashier

Response	Percent
Yes	5.3
No or have never received the new dollar coin as change	94.7
Don't know	0.1
Refused	-
Total	100.1

5. Have you EVER USED the Sacagawea golden dollar coin to pay for something (make a purchase)?

Response	Percent
Yes	25.7
No or have never heard of the Sacagawea new dollar coin	74.1
Don't know	0.2
Refused	-
Total	100.0

6. How about in the last month? Have you used the Sacagawea golden dollar coin to pay for something (make a purchase)?

Response	Percent
Yes	6.1
No or have never used the new dollar coin to pay for something	93.9
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

**Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses**

7. In the last month, have you used the golden dollar coin in any of the following ways?

A. As cash to pay for a purchase at a cash register

Response	Percent
Yes	4.5
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	95.5
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

B. At a postal stamp machine

Response	Percent
Yes	1.4
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	98.6
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

C. At a vending machine

Response	Percent
Yes	1.5
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	98.5
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

D. For mass transit, like to purchase bus tokens or subway rides

Response	Percent
Yes	0.8
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	99.2
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

E. As a tip for service

Response	Percent
Yes	1.9
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	98.1
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

F. At a coin-operated car wash

Response	Percent
Yes	0.5
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	95.5
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

G. At a pay phone

**Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses**

Response	Percent
Yes	0.2
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	99.8
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

H. At a parking meter

Response	Percent
Yes	0.2
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	99.8
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

I. At a Laundromat

Response	Percent
Yes	0.4
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	99.6
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

J. At a tollbooth

Response	Percent
Yes	1.3
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	98.5
Don't know	0.2
Refused	-
Total	100.0

K. As a gift

Response	Percent
Yes	1.7
No or have never used the new dollar coin in the last month to pay for something	98.3
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

9. For each of the following features of the Sacagawea golden dollar coin, please tell me whether you think it is okay as is, or whether it should be changed.

A. Color of the coin

Response (Those who had ever possessed the new dollar coin)	Percent
Okay as is	93.1
Should be changed	5.8
No opinion	0.6
Don't know	0.2

**Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses**

Refused	0.3
Total	100.0

B. Size of the coin

Response (Those who had ever possessed the new dollar coin)	Percent
Okay as is	66.7
Should be changed	32.2
No opinion	0.6
Don't know	0.4
Refused	-
Total	99.9

C. Weight of the coin

Response (Those who had ever possessed the new dollar coin)	Percent
Okay as is	85.7
Should be changed	12.0
No opinion	1.6
Don't know	0.7
Refused	-
Total	100.0

D. Thickness of the coin

Response (Those who had ever possessed the new dollar coin)	Percent
Okay as is	90.1
Should be changed	7.9
No opinion	1.6
Don't know	0.3
Refused	-
Total	99.9

E. Showing Sacagawea on the face or front of the coin

Response (Those who had ever possessed the new dollar coin)	Percent
Okay as is	94.3
Should be changed	4.3
No opinion	1.4
Don't know	-
Refused	-
Total	100.0

F. The image that is on the back of the coin

Response (Those who had ever possessed the new dollar coin)	Percent
Okay as is	80.2
Should be changed	3.4
No opinion	7.3
Don't know	9.2
Refused	-
Total	100.1

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

10. How strongly would you favor or oppose a U.S. government decision to stop making the dollar bill and replace it with the dollar coin?

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	5.9
Somewhat favor	10.8
Neither favor nor oppose	19.3
Somewhat oppose	21.9
Strongly oppose	41.7
Don't know	0.3
Refused	0.1
Total	100.0

11. If the U.S. government replaced the dollar bill with the dollar coin, it would save at least half a billion dollars a year, mainly because coins last longer than paper bills. Knowing this, how strongly do you favor or oppose replacing the dollar bill with the dollar coin?

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	28.6
Somewhat favor	25.6
Neither favor nor oppose	8.5
Somewhat oppose	14.5
Strongly oppose	21.5
Don't know	1.1
Refused	0.2
Total	100.0

12. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Response	Percent
I would use the dollar coin even if BOTH the bill and the coin were available	48.1
I would ONLY use the dollar coin if the dollar bill were no longer available	49.0
Don't know	1.9
Refused	1.0
Total	100.0

13. If both the dollar bill and the dollar coin were equally available and accepted, how much of the time do you think you would use the dollar COIN instead of the dollar BILL? Would use the coin?

Response	Percent
All of the time	3.0
Most of the time	15.8
Some of the time	23.5
Hardly ever	4.4
Not asked (would only use the dollar coin if the dollar bill was not longer available)	51.9

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Would never use the coin	0.2
Don't know	1.0
Refused	0.3
Total	100.1

14. Survey question deleted.

15. How strongly do you agree or disagree that each of the following has been a reason that people are not using the new Sacagawea golden dollar coin more? Please tell me if you think that each of the following is a reason people are not using the golden dollar coin more.

A. People being used to the paper dollar

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	2.5
Somewhat disagree	2.5
Neither agree nor disagree	1.5
Somewhat agree	20.2
Strongly agree	72.5
Don't know	0.3
Refused	0.5
Total	100.0

B. People feeling uncomfortable using a new type of money

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	14.7
Somewhat disagree	21.1
Neither agree nor disagree	6.4
Somewhat agree	32.8
Strongly agree	23.3
Don't know	1.3
Refused	0.4
Total	100.0

C. It not being widely available

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	4.7
Somewhat disagree	8.5
Neither agree nor disagree	3.6
Somewhat agree	25.4
Strongly agree	55.5
Don't know	1.2
Refused	1.2
Total	100.1

D. Vending machines either not accepting the coin or not being marked that they accept the coin

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
---	---------

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Strongly disagree	7.1
Somewhat disagree	10.1
Neither agree nor disagree	8.2
Somewhat agree	25.4
Strongly agree	40.8
Don't know	7.9
Refused	0.5
Total	100.0

E. There being no specific place (slot) for them in cash registers

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	14.6
Somewhat disagree	12.3
Neither agree nor disagree	13.9
Somewhat agree	25.9
Strongly agree	29.2
Don't know	3.7
Refused	0.4
Total	100.0

F. People thinking it is a commemorative coin and not for circulation

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	10.3
Somewhat disagree	12.7
Neither agree nor disagree	7.1
Somewhat agree	29.3
Strongly agree	39.1
Don't know	1.1
Refused	0.4
Total	100.0

G. People not liking who is on the face of the coin (Sacagawea)

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	58.0
Somewhat disagree	19.9
Neither agree nor disagree	9.4
Somewhat agree	5.9
Strongly agree	3.4
Don't know	3.1
Refused	0.2
Total	99.9

H. People not wanting to carry around MORE coins in their pockets or purses

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	6.3

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Somewhat disagree	9.5
Neither agree nor disagree	3.6
Somewhat agree	21.4
Strongly agree	58.9
Don't know	0.3
Refused	-
Total	100.0

I. The Susan B. Anthony dollar coin still being in circulation

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	33.2
Somewhat disagree	18.9
Neither agree nor disagree	13.0
Somewhat agree	16.4
Strongly agree	12.5
Don't know	4.3
Refused	1.6
Total	99.9

J. It being too much like the quarter and being hard to tell them apart

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Strongly disagree	17.8
Somewhat disagree	14.9
Neither agree nor disagree	3.3
Somewhat agree	20.5
Strongly agree	41.9
Don't know	1.5
Refused	0.1
Total	100.0

16. What could be done differently to get you to use the new Sacagawea golden dollar coin more? (Open-ended responses)

Response	Percent
Make it more available	37.4
Nothing	16.6
Take away the dollar bill	13.5
Make vending machines take them	4.2
Changes to physical characteristics such as:	
Make it easier to distinguish	5.5
Make it larger	3.9
Make it lighter	2.6
Make it smaller	0.9
Other	2.7
Increase advertising/education	2.3
Give them to me free	3.1
Don't know	6.8
Refused	0.5
Total	100.0

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

17. To the best of your knowledge, is the federal government still producing or has it permanently stopped producing the Sacagawea golden dollar coin?

Response (Those who had heard of the new dollar coin)	Percent
Still producing	43.7
Permanently stopped producing	20.6
Don't know	35.2
Refused	0.5
Total	100.0

18. The 50 State Quarter program authorizes the Mint to issue 50 new quarters commemorating all 50 states over a period of 10 years. If the dollar coin were issued with a series of different images over a period of time, similar to the Quarter program, would this make you more likely, make no difference or make you less likely?

- A. To USE the dollar coin for purchases

Response	Percent
More likely	25.8
No difference	50.7
Less likely	22.1
Don't know	0.8
Refused	0.3
Depends on new design of the coin	0.3
Total	100.0

- B. To COLLECT the dollar coin

Response	Percent
More likely	48.9
No difference	39.7
Less likely	10.0
Don't know	1.0
Refused	0.4
Depends on the new design of the coin	-
Total	100.0

19. If the dollar coin were redesigned on a recurring basis, like the Quarter program, how strongly would you favor or oppose each of the following images being shown on the front of the coin?

- A. Nature or wildlife scenes

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	29.5
Somewhat favor	30.3
Neither favor nor oppose	19.1
Somewhat oppose	9.2
Strongly oppose	11.3
Don't know	0.6
Refused	-
Total	100.0

B. Symbols of America

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	53.3
Somewhat favor	25.7
Neither favor nor oppose	12.4
Somewhat oppose	2.4
Strongly oppose	5.3
Don't know	0.5
Refused	0.3
Total	99.9

C. U.S. Presidents

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	41.9
Somewhat favor	26.9
Neither favor nor oppose	15.0
Somewhat oppose	6.0
Strongly oppose	9.2
Don't know	0.5
Refused	0.5
Total	100.0

D. American heroes

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	43.2
Somewhat favor	27.9
Neither favor nor oppose	15.1
Somewhat oppose	4.6
Strongly oppose	8.0
Don't know	0.9
Refused	0.3
Total	100.0

E. Inventors or scientists

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	27.2
Somewhat favor	31.6
Neither favor nor oppose	20.0
Somewhat oppose	7.2
Strongly oppose	13.1
Don't know	0.7
Refused	0.1
Total	99.9

**Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses**

F. Social activists

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	9.2
Somewhat favor	18.2
Neither favor nor oppose	21.8
Somewhat oppose	15.2
Strongly oppose	34.2
Don't know	1.1
Refused	0.2
Total	99.9

G. Sports or entertainment personalities

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	7.0
Somewhat favor	13.9
Neither favor nor oppose	15.4
Somewhat oppose	17.4
Strongly oppose	45.9
Don't know	0.2
Refused	0.1
Total	99.9

H. Historical events

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	40.8
Somewhat favor	30.7
Neither favor nor oppose	15.2
Somewhat oppose	5.0
Strongly oppose	7.1
Don't know	0.7
Refused	0.4
Total	99.9

I. Ethnic diversity

Response	Percent
Strongly favor	20.5
Somewhat favor	21.2
Neither favor nor oppose	23.8
Somewhat oppose	11.3
Strongly oppose	19.7
Don't know	3.4
Refused	0.1
Total	100.0

**J. Is there something else you would prefer to see? What else would you prefer?
(Open ended)**

Response	Percent
No nothing else	80.9
Landmarks/historical sights/world events	3.8
The states	1.2

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Wildlife/extinct animals	1.1
Women in history	0.9
Presidents	0.8
In God we trust	0.7
Flag/patriotism	0.7
Eagles	0.6
Other	7.2
Don't know	2.1
Refused	-
Total	100.0

20. During the last YEAR, how often, if ever, have you

A. Received a 50-cent coin as change

Response	Percent
Never	46.0
Once or twice	39.4
Several times	8.1
Frequently	5.4
Don't know	1.2
Total	100.1

B. Used a 50-cent coin to make a purchase

Response	Percent
Never	57.6
Once or twice	30.0
Several times	7.2
Frequently	3.5
Don't know	1.4
Refused	.2
Total	99.9

C. Given or received a 50-cent coin as a gift

Response	Percent
Never	77.6
Once or twice	15.4
Several times	4.6
Frequently	1.2
Don't know	.9
Refused	.3
Total	100.0

21. How strongly do you agree or disagree that each of the following has been a reason people are not using the 50-cent coin more?

A. The size of the coin being too large

Response	Percent
----------	---------

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Strongly disagree	25.9
Somewhat disagree	21.8
Neither agree nor disagree	7.4
Somewhat agree	21.0
Strongly agree	21.5
Don't know	2.1
Refused	.3
Total	100.0

B. The weight of the coin being too heavy

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	28.1
Somewhat disagree	21.8
Neither agree nor disagree	9.5
Somewhat agree	20.7
Strongly agree	17.8
Don't know	1.9
Refused	.2
Total	100.0

C. It not being widely available

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	5.8
Somewhat disagree	7.0
Neither agree nor disagree	2.5
Somewhat agree	24.4
Strongly agree	59.1
Don't know	1.0
Refused	.3
Total	100.1

D. Vending machines either not accepting the coin or not marked that they accept the coin

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	10.4
Somewhat disagree	7.5
Neither agree nor disagree	6.1
Somewhat agree	27.3
Strongly agree	43.5
Don't know	4.9
Refused	.4
Total	100.1

E. There being no specific place (slot) for them in cash registers

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	19.8
Somewhat disagree	15.3
Neither agree nor disagree	9.3
Somewhat agree	22.4
Strongly agree	28.4
Don't know	4.4

**Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses**

Refused	.4
Total	100.0

F. People thinking it is a commemorative coin and not for circulation

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	22.7
Somewhat disagree	17.3
Neither agree nor disagree	5.5
Somewhat agree	26.5
Strongly agree	24.3
Don't know	3.0
Refused	.7
Total	100.0

G. People not liking who is on the face of the coin (John F. Kennedy)

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	61.4
Somewhat disagree	17.7
Neither agree nor disagree	10.0
Somewhat agree	5.0
Strongly agree	3.7
Don't know	1.7
Refused	.5
Total	100.0

22. For each of the following features of the 50-cent coin please tell me whether you think it is okay as is, or whether it should be changed.

A. Color of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	91.7
Should be changed	4.2
No opinion	3.1
Don't know	.7
Refused	.3
Total	100.0

B. Size of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	74.0
Should be changed	21.7
No opinion	3.3
Don't know	.9
Refused	.1
Total	100.0

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

C. Weight of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	71.8
Should be changed	24.1
No opinion	2.9
Don't know	1.0
Refused	.3
Total	100.1

D. Thickness of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	82.2
Should be changed	13.0
No opinion	3.5
Don't know	1.1
Refused	.2
Total	100.0

E. Who is on the face or front of the coin (John F. Kennedy)

Response	Percent
Okay as is	91.1
Should be changed	4.5
No opinion	3.3
Don't know	1.0
Refused	.1
Total	100.0

F. The image that is on the back of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	84.1
Should be changed	3.2
No opinion	7.1
Don't know	5.4
Refused	.1
Total	99.9

23. Would you miss the 50-cent coin if it were not produced or distributed any longer?

Response	Percent
Yes	23.0
No	76.3
Don't know	.6
Refused	.1
Total	100.0

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

24. Do you think any aspect of the design of the quarter such as its color, size, weight, or image, needs to be changed or is the quarter okay as is?

Response	Percent
Okay as is	97.3
Should be changed	2.1
No opinion	.4
Refused	.2
Total	100.0

25. Please tell me whether you think each of the following features of the quarter is okay as is, or whether it should be changed.

A. Color of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	1.9
Should be changed	.2
Not asked (thought design was okay)	97.9
Total	100.0

B. Size of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	1.9
Should be changed	.2
Not asked (thought design was okay)	97.9
Total	100.0

C. Weight of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	1.5
Should be changed	.5
Don't know	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	97.9
Total	100.0

D. Thickness of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	1.7
Should be changed	.3
Don't know	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	97.9
Total	100.0

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

E. Who is on the face or front of the coin (George Washington)

Response	Percent
Okay as is	1.7
Should be changed	.3
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	97.9
Total	100.0

F. The image that is on the back of the new 50-state coins

Response	Percent
Okay as is	1.9
Should be changed	.1
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	97.9
Total	100.0

G. The image that is on the back of the old coin with the eagle

Response	Percent
Okay as is	1.6
Should be changed	.6
Not asked (thought design was okay)	97.9
Total	100.1

26. If you receive quarters as change, how often do you look at the back side to see if you have received the older coin with the eagle or one of the new 50-state quarters?

Response	Percent
Never	15.9
Rarely	11.1
Sometimes	12.4
Frequently	15.5
Always or almost always	45.2
Total	100.1

27. Do you try to avoid receiving the older quarter with the eagle image that was produced before the 50-state quarter program?

Response	Percent
Yes	2.5
No	81.5
Don't know	.1

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Refused	.1
Not asked (rarely or never look at back of quarters)	15.9
Total	100.1

28. Now on the dime. Do you think any aspect of the design of the DIME (such as, its color, size, weight, or image) needs to be changed or is the dime okay as is?

Response	Percent
Okay as is	91.8
Should be changed	7.6
No opinion	.5
Refused	.2
Total	100.1

29. Please tell me whether you think each of the following features of the dime is okay as is, or whether it should be changed.

A. Color of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	6.7
Should be changed	.8
Not asked (thought design was okay)	92.4
Total	99.9

B. Size of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	2.8
Should be changed	4.7
Not asked (thought design was okay)	92.4
Total	99.9

C. Weight of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	4.7
Should be changed	2.8
Refused	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	92.4
Total	100.0

D. Thickness of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	4.5

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Should be changed	3.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	92.4
Total	100.0

E. Who is on the face or front of the coin (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

Response	Percent
Okay as is	5.1
Should be changed	2.3
No opinion	.1
Refused	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	92.4
Total	100.0

F. The image that is on the back of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	5.5
Should be changed	2.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	92.4
Total	100.0

30. Now about the nickel. Do you think any aspect of the design of the NICKEL (such as its color, size, weight, or image) needs to be changed or is the nickel okay as is?

Response	Percent
Okay as is	93.2
Should be changed	6.2
No opinion	.4
Don't know	.2
Total	100.0

31. Please tell me whether you think each of the following features of the nickel is okay as is, or whether it should be changed.

A. Color of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	5.5
Should be changed	.7
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.8
Total	100.0

B. Size of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	3.8

**Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses**

Should be changed	2.4
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.8
Total	100.0

C. Weight of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	3.6
Should be changed	2.6
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.8
Total	100.0

D. Thickness of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	3.8
Should be changed	2.4
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.8
Total	100.1

E. Who is on the face or front of the coin (Thomas Jefferson)

Response	Percent
Okay as is	4.5
Should be changed	1.7
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.8
Total	100.1

F. The image that is on the back of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	3.8
Should be changed	2.3
Don't know	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.8
Total	100.0

G. General appearance of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	4.4
Should be changed	1.8
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.8
Total	100.0

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

32. Do you think any aspect of the design of the PENNY (such as its color, size, weight, or image) needs to be changed or is the penny okay as is?

Response	Percent
Okay as is	92.6
Should be changed	6.9
No opinion	.1
Don't know	.2
Refused	.1
Total	99.9

33. Do you think each of the following features of the penny is okay as is, or whether it should be changed?

A. Color of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	4.3
Should be changed	2.4
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.1
Total	99.9

B. Size of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	5.4
Should be changed	1.4
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.1
Total	100.0

C. Weight of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	5.9
Should be changed	.8
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.1
Total	99.9

D. Thickness of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	6.1
Should be changed	.7
No opinion	.1
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.1
Total	100.0

E. Who is on the face or front of the coin (Lincoln)

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Response	Percent
Okay as is	5.1
Should be changed	1.4
No opinion	.3
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.1
Total	99.9

F. The image that is on the back of the coin

Response	Percent
Okay as is	4.5
Should be changed	2.3
No opinion	.2
Not asked (thought design was okay)	93.1
Total	100.1

34. When you receive pennies as change, do you most often...?

Response	Percent
Do something else	1.2
Don't know	.4
Refused	.4
All/everything	.2
Accumulate or save them in a piggy bank, jar, drawer, or the like	58.3
Spend them	26.7
Put them in the spare penny cup at the cash register	10.3
Throw them away	2.4
Total	99.9

35. A proposal has been made for the rounding of values in CASH transactions to eliminate the need for the penny coin. If the proposal was approved, the prices (of goods and services) would still be shown in cents and when paying by check or credit card, the exact amount of purchase would continue to be paid.

However, when using cash to pay for a purchase, the amount due for the TOTAL of all items would be rounded up or down to the nearest five or ten cents. If the total ended in 1, 2, 6 or 7, the purchase would be rounded down. If it ended in 3, 4, 8 or 9 it would be rounded up.

How strongly would you favor or oppose rounding values for cash transactions?

Response	Percent
Strongly oppose	47.7
Somewhat oppose	8.1
Neither favor nor oppose	7.4
Somewhat favor	14.3
Strongly favor	21.5
Don't know	.6
Refused	.4

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

Total	100.0
-------	-------

36. Rounding the total purchase value up or down to the nearest five or ten cents has been used on U.S. military bases as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Knowing this, how strongly would you favor or oppose rounding values for cash transactions?

Response	Percent
Strongly oppose	42.3
Somewhat oppose	10.4
Neither favor nor oppose	6.7
Somewhat favor	16.6
Strongly favor	22.3
Don't know	1.5
Refused	.2
Total	100.0

37. If the cost to the federal government for producing and distributing the penny was more than one cent each, how strongly would you favor or oppose rounding values for cash transactions?

Response	Percent
Strongly oppose	28.5
Somewhat oppose	13.0
Neither favor nor oppose	7.5
Somewhat favor	19.8
Strongly favor	28.8
Don't know	1.5
Refused	.8
Total	99.9

38. In your opinion, should the design of U.S. coins be changed more frequently, less frequently or about as frequently as they currently are?

Response	Percent
More frequently	8.6
Less frequently	22.5
About as frequently as they are now	67.7
Don't know	.7
Refused	.5
Total	100.0

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

39. In general, how frequently should the design of U.S. coins be changed?

Response	Percent
Every year	2.5
Every 2 to 4 years	7.3
Every 5 to 9 years	21.7
Every 10 to 14 years	23.0
Every 15 to 24 years	6.7
Every 25 years or less frequently	35.6
Don't know	2.3
Refused	.9
Total	100.0

40. Currently, U.S. coins show the value in words, such as “one dime” and do not have a number, such as “10” showing how many cents the coin is worth. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the actual number of the cents be shown on our coins as a numeral?

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	24.6
Somewhat disagree	10.6
Neither disagree nor agree	17.8
Somewhat agree	15.7
Strongly agree	29.9
Don't know	.8
Refused	.6
Total	100.0

41. How do you feel about the AMOUNT of wording on U.S. coins?

Response	Percent
Too much	4.4
Too little	1.0
Just about the right amount of wording	92.8
Don't know	1.2
Refused	.5
Total	99.9

42. Please tell me if you think the U.S. Mint should continue or stop producing each of the following coins.

A. Dollar coin (any dollar coin)

Response	Percent
----------	---------

**Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses**

Continue producing	67.6
Stop producing	28.2
Don't know	3.6
Refused	.6
Total	100.0

B. Fifty-cent piece

Response	Percent
Continue producing	60.5
Stop producing	36.2
Don't know	3.1
Refused	.3
Total	100.1

C. Quarter

Response	Percent
Continue producing	98.8
Stop producing	.7
Don't know	.2
Refused	.3
Total	100.0

D. Dime

Response	Percent
Continue producing	98.5
Stop producing	1.0
Don't know	.3
Refused	.2
Total	100.0

E. Nickel

Response	Percent
Continue producing	97.2
Stop producing	2.3
Don't know	.3
Refused	.2
Total	100.0

F. Penny

Response	Percent
Continue producing	64.4
Stop producing	33.3
Don't know	2.2
Refused	.2
Total	100.1

Appendix II
Questionnaire for GAO Survey on U.S. Coin
Design and Overall Responses

43. Other industrialized countries have stopped production of paper money equivalent to the dollar bill and now produce coins for the equivalent of the 1-dollar and 2-dollar bills. How strongly do you favor or oppose the production of a 2-dollar coin?

Response	Percent
Strongly oppose	39.6
Somewhat oppose	15.0
Neither favor nor oppose	11.5
Somewhat favor	17.9
Strongly favor	14.8
Don't know	1.1
Refused	.2
Total	100.1

44. What other denominations of coins, if any, do you think should be added?

First response

Response	Percent
Other	1.7
Don't know	3.5
Refused	1.0
None	80.0
All	.1
\$5.00	10.2
\$2.00	.9
\$20.00	1.4
\$10.00	.3
\$1.00	.8
Total	99.9

Second response

Response	Percent
Other	.3
\$5.00	.3
\$2.00	.1
\$20.00	.2
\$10.00	2.5
No more responses	13.4
Not asked (did not have a second response)	83.2
Total	100.0

Comments from the United States Mint



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES MINT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

DIRECTOR
OF THE
MINT

November 22, 2002

Bernard L. Ungar
Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues
United States General Accounting Office

Dear Mr. Ungar:

We have reviewed the General Accounting Office's (GAO) draft report, "U.S. Coins - Public Views on Changing Coin Design." The issue of coin redesign is of considerable interest to the United States Mint, and we appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in the GAO for your comprehensive assessment of this issue.

Historically, U.S. coinage has represented the values and strengths of our great Nation. As noted within your report, designs for the obverse (front) of three of our most common circulating coins - the penny, nickel, and dime - have remained largely unchanged for over 50 years. Many believe that new designs and a policy of periodic redesign would have numerous benefits and would be popular with the American public. This is evidenced by the outstanding success of the 50 State Quarters[®] Program, and the more than 139 million Americans who collect these coins. Many believe that new designs and a policy of periodic redesign would encourage interest in collecting American coinage both inside and outside of the coin collecting hobby, as well as inspire a renewed emphasis on our national character, pride, history, and heritage.

Additionally, coinage redesign gives us the opportunity to spur popular interest in important historical events, and to reemphasize issues of importance to us as a Nation. The 50 State Quarters Program has shown this effect with educational lesson plans on state quarters which motivate Americans to learn more about each state and its history, geography and contributions to our Nation. Educators use them in the classroom as a springboard for research into each state and as a way to engage students in subjects of civic consequence.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on your report.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Holsman Fore
Director
United States Mint

GAO's Mission

The General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, exists to support Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and accountability of the federal government for the American people. GAO examines the use of public funds; evaluates federal programs and policies; and provides analyses, recommendations, and other assistance to help Congress make informed oversight, policy, and funding decisions. GAO's commitment to good government is reflected in its core values of accountability, integrity, and reliability.

Obtaining Copies of GAO Reports and Testimony

The fastest and easiest way to obtain copies of GAO documents at no cost is through the Internet. GAO's Web site (www.gao.gov) contains abstracts and full-text files of current reports and testimony and an expanding archive of older products. The Web site features a search engine to help you locate documents using key words and phrases. You can print these documents in their entirety, including charts and other graphics.

Each day, GAO issues a list of newly released reports, testimony, and correspondence. GAO posts this list, known as "Today's Reports," on its Web site daily. The list contains links to the full-text document files. To have GAO e-mail this list to you every afternoon, go to www.gao.gov and select "Subscribe to daily E-mail alert for newly released products" under the GAO Reports heading.

Order by Mail or Phone

The first copy of each printed report is free. Additional copies are \$2 each. A check or money order should be made out to the Superintendent of Documents. GAO also accepts VISA and Mastercard. Orders for 100 or more copies mailed to a single address are discounted 25 percent. Orders should be sent to:

U.S. General Accounting Office
441 G Street NW, Room LM
Washington, D.C. 20548

To order by Phone: Voice: (202) 512-6000
 TDD: (202) 512-2537
 Fax: (202) 512-6061

To Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in Federal Programs

Contact:

Web site: www.gao.gov/fraudnet/fraudnet.htm

E-mail: fraudnet@gao.gov

Automated answering system: (800) 424-5454 or (202) 512-7470

Public Affairs

Jeff Nelligan, managing director, NelliganJ@gao.gov (202) 512-4800
U.S. General Accounting Office, 441 G Street NW, Room 7149
Washington, D.C. 20548

**United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548-0001**

**Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

Address Service Requested

**Presorted Standard
Postage & Fees Paid
GAO
Permit No. GI00**

