



# Collector's Guide to Valuable U.S. Coins

*Quarters, Half Dollars & Dimes Worth Searching For*

## Welcome to Your Coin Collecting Journey!

This guide highlights valuable years and varieties for three popular U.S. coin denominations. Whether you're just starting or expanding your collection, these coins represent some of the most sought-after pieces in numismatics.

**Key factors that make coins valuable:** Rarity (low mintage), condition, historical significance, silver content, and minting errors.



**Exceptional Value** - Particularly rare or valuable coins



**Silver Content** - Pre-1965 coins contain 90% silver



**Error Variety** - Minting mistakes increase value



## Valuable Quarters

## Early American Quarters (1796-1839)

### 1796 Draped Bust Quarter



The first U.S. quarter ever minted. Mintage: 6,146 coins. Features Lady Liberty with flowing hair and a small eagle on reverse.

**Value: \$50,000+ (high grades can exceed this significantly)**

### 1804 Draped Bust Quarter



Early rarity with mintage of only 6,738 coins. Highly sought after by collectors of early American coinage.

**Value: \$40,000 - \$60,000**

### 1823/2 Capped Bust Quarter

Overdate error - the "2" is visible under the "3". Features Liberty with a liberty cap.

**Value: \$30,000 - \$50,000**

## Mid-19th Century (1840-1915)

### 1849-O Seated Liberty Quarter

New Orleans Mint issue. Low mintage of 16,000. Features Liberty seated with shield.

**Value: Up to \$10,000 (uncirculated)**

### 1870-CC Seated Liberty Quarter

Carson City Mint rarity. Only 8,340 produced. Highly collectible due to CC mint mark.

**Value: Up to \$15,000 (high grades)**

## Washington Quarters - Silver Era (1932-1964)

### 1932-D Washington Quarter



Key date! Mintage: 436,800. First year of Washington quarter design from Denver Mint.

**Value: Up to \$40,000 (mint state)**

### 1932-S Washington Quarter



Key date! Mintage: 408,000. First year from San Francisco Mint. Rarest regular-issue Washington quarter.

**Value: Up to \$35,000 (mint state)**

### 1937 Doubled Die Obverse

Visible doubling on date and motto. Error variety highly sought by collectors.

**Value: Up to \$20,000**

### 1943-S Doubled Die Obverse

Another doubled die error from San Francisco. Doubling visible on "IN GOD WE TRUST".

**Value: Around \$10,000**

### 1964-D Washington Quarter

Last year of 90% silver composition. Special doubled die varieties can be very valuable.

**Value: \$15-\$35 (circulated), \$20,000+ (doubled die errors in high grade)**

## Modern Quarters - Clad Era (1965-Present)

## 1965 Washington Quarter

First year of copper-nickel clad composition. Transitional errors (struck on silver planchets) are valuable.

**Value: \$10,000+ (silver planchet errors)**

## 1982 Washington Quarter

Low availability in uncirculated due to economic recession. No mint sets produced.

**Value: \$20+ (mint state)**

## 1983-P Washington Quarter

Similar to 1982, scarce in high grades due to lack of mint set production.

**Value: \$20+ (mint state)**

## 2004-D Wisconsin Quarter

State Quarter with error! "Extra Leaf" varieties (high and low) on corn stalk. Die preparation error.

**Value: \$300 - \$1,200 (depending on variety and condition)**

## 2005-P Minnesota Quarter

Doubled Die varieties showing extra tree images. Over 60 varieties documented!

**Value: \$150 - \$800 (major varieties)**

## 2019-W San Antonio Missions Quarter

Ultra-rare "W" mint mark from West Point. Part of Great American Coin Hunt. Very low mintage.

**Value: Up to \$75,000 (top grades)**

### 2020-W V75 Varieties



Special privy mark commemorating end of WWII. Limited release with "V75" mark.

**Value: Around \$40,000 (high grades)**



## Valuable Half Dollars

### Early Half Dollars (1794-1839)

#### 1796-1797 Draped Bust Half Dollar



Extremely rare early issue. Only about 3,918 struck. The 1797 with 15 stars has fewer than 250 survivors.

**Value: \$100,000+ (mint state)**

#### 1838-O Capped Bust Half Dollar



Legendary rarity! Only 20 pieces minted, primarily for presentation. New Orleans Mint issue.

**Value: Six figures at auction**

### Liberty Seated Half Dollars (1839-1891)

#### 1878-S Liberty Seated Half Dollar

Low mintage of only 12,000 from San Francisco. Poor survival rate in high grades.

**Value: \$30,000+ (mint state)**

## Walking Liberty Half Dollars (1916-1947)

### 1916-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar

Key rarity! Mintage: 508,000. Beautiful design by Adolph Weinman. Highly sought after.

**Value: \$100,000+ (top grades)**

## Kennedy Half Dollars (1964-Present)

### 1964 SMS SP68 Kennedy Half Dollar

Rarest Kennedy half dollar! Only about 12 known. Special Mint Set with unique satin finish. Experimental issue.

**Value: \$156,000 (2019 sale)**

### 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar

First year of issue, 90% silver. Commemorates President Kennedy. High-grade examples and error varieties valuable.

**Value: \$10-\$20 (circulated), \$100,000+ (top grades/errors)**

### 1964 Accented Hair Variety

Early design variety with more detailed hair on Kennedy's portrait. Changed mid-year.

**Value: \$19,975+ (proof grades)**

### 1964-D Kennedy Half Dollar

Denver Mint, 90% silver. Doubled die varieties can be extremely valuable.

**Value: \$40+ (doubled die in circulated), \$22,000+ (high grades)**

### 1967 SMS MS69 Kennedy Half Dollar

Special Mint Set issue during proof coin hiatus. No mint mark, 40% silver.

**Value: \$31,200 (auction record)**

### 1968-S PF70 Deep Cameo Kennedy Half Dollar

First proof Kennedy with 40% silver. Perfect grade with deep cameo contrast.

**Value: \$24,000**

### 1970-D Kennedy Half Dollar



Last 40% silver circulation strike! Only available in mint sets, never released for circulation.

**Value: Up to \$15,600 (MS66)**

### 1971-D Kennedy Half Dollar

First year of no silver in circulation strikes. Low mintage for circulation.

**Value: \$13,000 (2018 sale for high grade)**

### 1987-P/D Kennedy Half Dollar

Scarce in high grades. Limited availability from this era.

**Value: Premium for high grades**

### 1998-S Matte Proof Kennedy Half Dollar

Special matte finish proof. Part of special mint set. Limited production.

**Value: \$25 - \$140 (top grades)**

## 2014 High Relief Kennedy Half Dollar

Special 50th anniversary issue with enhanced design detail. Collector edition.

**Value: Premium in proof/special editions**



## Valuable Dimes

### Early Dimes (1796-1837)

#### 1796 Draped Bust Dime



First year of U.S. dime production! Mintage: 22,135. Estimated 200-300 survivors.

**Value: \$2,600+ (low grades), \$1.2 million+ (top grades)**

#### 1797 Draped Bust Dime



Early rarity with similar low mintage. Highly collectible first-year type coin.

**Value: \$2,500+ (circulated), \$50,000+ (higher grades)**

#### 1822 Capped Bust Dime

Low mintage year in Capped Bust series. Features Liberty with cap design.

**Value: \$16,600 - \$27,900**

### Seated Liberty Dimes (1837-1891)

### 1843-O Seated Liberty Dime

New Orleans Mint issue with low survival rate in high grades.

**Value: \$20,000 - \$38,000 (higher grades)**

### 1846-P Seated Liberty Dime

Philadelphia issue with limited high-grade examples available.

**Value: \$13,000 - \$41,000 (higher grades)**

### 1871-CC Seated Liberty Dime

Carson City Mint rarity. Western mint coins highly collectible.

**Value: \$3,000+ (circulated)**

### 1872-CC Seated Liberty Dime

Another Carson City rarity with limited production.

**Value: \$4,000+ (circulated)**

### 1873-CC Seated Liberty Dime (No Arrows)

Legendary rarity! Mintage: 12,400, but only ONE known survivor. Result of weight standard change.

**Value: \$1.84 million (auction sale)**

## Barber Dimes (1892-1916)

### 1894-S Barber Dime



The "King of Dimes"! Only 24 minted, 9 known survivors. Created under mysterious circumstances.

**Value: \$2.5 million+ (auction record)**

## Mercury Dimes (1916-1945)

### 1916-D Mercury Dime



Key date! Mintage: 484,000. Most valuable Mercury dime. Look for "Full Bands" on fasces for premium.

**Value: \$1,000+ (low grades), \$10,000+ (uncirculated with Full Bands)**

### 1942/1 Mercury Dime

Overdate error! The "1" is visible under the "2". Philadelphia Mint. Die reuse created this variety.

**Value: \$400-\$500 (circulated), \$2,500+ (uncirculated)**

### 1942/1-D Mercury Dime

Denver Mint overdate error. Similar to Philadelphia but from different mint.

**Value: \$400-\$500 (circulated), \$2,500+ (uncirculated)**

## Roosevelt Dimes (1946-Present)

### 1949-S Roosevelt Dime

Low mintage for the era from San Francisco Mint. 90% silver.

**Value: \$50-\$80 (mint state)**

### 1955 Roosevelt Dime

All mints (P, D, S) from this year are collectible. 90% silver content.

**Value: \$5-\$20 (various mints, mint state)**

### 1964-D Doubled Die Reverse

Clear doubling on reverse lettering. Last year of 90% silver. Error variety.

**Value: \$100-\$170**

### 1975 No-S Proof Dime



Ultra-rare! Only 2 known examples. Missing "S" mint mark on proof coin. Major mint error.

**Value: \$456,000 (auction sale)**

### 1982 No Mint Mark Dime

Philadelphia issue missing "P" mint mark. Die error resulted in blank mint mark area.

**Value: \$55-\$260 (depending on quality)**



## Collecting Tips & Best Practices

✓ **Check Your Change:** Many valuable modern errors can still be found in circulation, especially State Quarters and recent issues.

✓ **Look for Mint Marks:** Letters D (Denver), S (San Francisco), W (West Point), CC (Carson City), and O (New Orleans) can significantly affect value.

- ✓ **Condition Matters:** Coins in uncirculated (mint state) or proof condition are worth significantly more than worn examples.
- ✓ **Silver Content:** Pre-1965 quarters, half dollars, and dimes contain 90% silver. 1965-1970 half dollars contain 40% silver.
- ✓ **Get Grading Services:** For valuable coins, professional grading from PCGS or NGC adds authenticity and can increase value.
- ✓ **Never Clean Coins:** Cleaning reduces value dramatically. Store coins properly to prevent damage.
- ✓ **Learn to Spot Errors:** Use magnification to look for doubled dies, extra leaves, missing mint marks, and overdates.
- ✓ **Build Complete Sets:** Collecting full date/mint mark sets for a series can be rewarding and valuable.
- ✓ **Research Market Values:** Stay informed about current prices as the coin market fluctuates with silver prices and collector demand.
- ✓ **Join Collecting Communities:** Local coin clubs and online forums provide valuable knowledge and trading opportunities.

## Happy Collecting!

Remember: The values listed are approximate and can vary based on condition, market demand, and authentication.

*Disclaimer: This guide is for informational purposes only. Always consult with professional coin dealers or grading services for accurate valuations. Values are based on 2025 market data and are subject to change.*