

COMPOSITION OF CANADIAN COINS

The following information, available from the Canadian Mint, is invaluable for teachers wishing to make up a lab involving the analysis of currency. Thank you to Gordon Gore for referring me to this web site.

Reference: http://www.mint.ca/en/collectors_corner/circulation

| Value | Years | Mass (g) | Composition |
|--|---------|----------|--|
| 1¢ | 1908-20 | 5.67 | 95.5% Cu, 3.0% Sn, 1.5% Zn |
| | 1920-41 | 3.24 | 95.5% Cu, 3.0% Sn, 1.5% Zn |
| | 1942-77 | 3.24 | 98.0% Cu, 0.5% Sn, 1.5% Zn |
| | 1978-79 | 3.24 | 98.0% Cu, 1.75% Sn, 0.25% Zn |
| | 1980-81 | 2.8 | 98.0% Cu, 1.75% Sn, 0.25% Zn |
| | 1982-96 | 2.5 | 98.0% Cu, 1.75% Sn, 0.25% Zn |
| | 1997-99 | 2.25 | 98.4% Zn, 1.6% Cu plating |
| | 2000- | 2.35 | 94.0% steel, 4.5% Cu, 1.5% Ni, (*) (NOTE: Magnetic!) |
| (*) Note that some pennies in 2000-01 had copper-plated steel compositions, as evidenced by a small "P" under the Queen. | | | |
| 5¢ | 1908-19 | 1.167 | 7.5% Cu, 92.5% Ag |
| | 1920-21 | 1.167 | 20% Cu, 80% Ag |
| | 1922-42 | 4.54 | 99% Ni |
| | 1942-43 | 4.54 | 88% Cu, 12% Zn |
| | 1944-45 | 4.54 | chrome plated steel |
| | 1946-51 | 4.54 | 99.9% Ni |
| | 1951-54 | 4.54 | chrome plated steel |
| | 1955-81 | 4.54 | 99.9% Ni |
| | 1982-99 | 4.6 | 75% Cu, 25% Ni |
| | 2000- | 3.95 | 94.5% steel, 3.5% Cu, 2% Ni plating |
| 10¢ | 1908-10 | 2.32 | 7.5% Cu, 92.5% Ag |
| | 1910-11 | 2.33 | 7.5% Cu, 92.5% Ag |
| | 1920-67 | 2.33 | 80.0% Ag; 20.0% Cu |
| | 1968-77 | 2.07 | 99.9% Ni |
| | 1978-99 | 2.07 | 99% Ni |
| | 2000- | 1.75 | 92% steel, 5.5% Cu, 2.5% Ni plating |
| | 25¢ | 1908-10 | 5.81 |
| 1910-19 | | 5.93 | 7.5% Cu, 92.5% Ag |
| 1920-67 | | 5.83 | 80.0% Ag; 7.5% Cu |
| 1967-68 | | 5.05 | 50.0% Ag; 50.0% Cu |
| 1968-99 | | 5.05 | 99.9% Ni |
| 2000- | | 4.4 | 94% steel, 3.8% Cu, 2.2% Ni plating |
| \$1 | 1987- | 7 | 91.5% Ni electroplated with 8.5% bronze plating |
| \$2 | 1996- | 7.3 | outer ring = 99% Ni Inner core = 92% Cu, 2% Ni, 6% Al |