

Major World Currencies — Purchasing Power Loss Over the Last 100 Years (c. 1923 – 2023)

All currencies listed are still in existence today. Where a currency was replaced (e.g. Franc→Euro, Lira→Euro), the loss reflects the predecessor's full history feeding into the successor. Purchasing power loss estimates are based on cumulative CPI data, exchange rate history, and central bank records (BIS, IMF, Fed, BoE, ECB, academic sources).

Rank	Currency Name	Country / Region	Start Date	End Date	Duration (Years)	Largest Note Denomination	Est. Purchasing Power Loss
RESERVE & MAJOR WESTERN CURRENCIES							
1	U.S. Dollar	United States	1913	2023	110	100 Dollars	~96–97%
2	British Pound Sterling	United Kingdom	1923	2023	100	50 Pounds	~98%
3	Euro	Eurozone (19 nations)	1999	2023	24	500 Euros	~37%
4	Swiss Franc	Switzerland	1923	2023	100	1,000 Francs	~93%
5	Canadian Dollar	Canada	1923	2023	100	100 Dollars	~97%
6	Australian Dollar	Australia	1966	2023	57	100 Dollars	~85%
7	New Zealand Dollar	New Zealand	1967	2023	56	100 Dollars	~86%
8	Norwegian Krone	Norway	1923	2023	100	1,000 Kroner	~98%
9	Swedish Krona	Sweden	1923	2023	100	1,000 Kronor	~98%
10	Danish Krone	Denmark	1923	2023	100	1,000 Kroner	~97%
EUROPEAN CURRENCIES							
11	Swedish Krona (detail)	Sweden	1923	2023	100	1,000 Kronor	
11	Deutsche Mark / Euro (Germany)	Germany	1948	2023	75	500 Euros (via DM→EUR)	~80%
12	French Franc / Euro (France)	France	1923	2023	100	500 Euros (via Franc→EUR)	~99.5%
13	Italian Lira / Euro (Italy)	Italy	1923	2023	100	500 Euros (via Lira→EUR)	~99.97%
14	Spanish Peseta / Euro (Spain)	Spain	1923	2023	100	500 Euros (via Peseta→EUR)	~99.9%
15	Dutch Guilder / Euro (Netherlands)	Netherlands	1923	2023	100	500 Euros (via Guilder→EUR)	~97%
16	Belgian Franc / Euro (Belgium)	Belgium	1923	2023	100	500 Euros (via Franc→EUR)	~99%
17	Polish Złoty	Poland	1995	2023	28	500 Złotych	~50%
18	Czech Koruna	Czech Republic	1993	2023	30	5,000 Korun	~55%
19	Hungarian Forint	Hungary	1946	2023	77	20,000 Forint	~99.9%+
20	Turkish Lira (new)	Turkey	2005	2023	18	200 Lira	~85%
ASIAN & PACIFIC CURRENCIES							
21	Japanese Yen	Japan	1923	2023	100	10,000 Yen	~99.7%
22	Chinese Renminbi (Yuan)	China	1955	2023	68	100 Yuan	~97%
23	Indian Rupee	India	1947	2023	76	2,000 Rupees	~98%

24	South Korean Won	South Korea	1962	2023	61	50,000 Won	~99%+
25	Indonesian Rupiah	Indonesia	1965	2023	58	100,000 Rupiah	~99.99%
26	Malaysian Ringgit	Malaysia	1967	2023	56	100 Ringgit	~90%
27	Thai Baht	Thailand	1923	2023	100	1,000 Baht	~99%+
28	Singapore Dollar	Singapore	1967	2023	56	10,000 Dollars	~70%
29	Hong Kong Dollar	Hong Kong	1935	2023	88	1,000 Dollars	~97%
30	Philippine Peso	Philippines	1949	2023	74	1,000 Pesos	~99%+

LATIN AMERICAN CURRENCIES

31	Mexican Peso (new)	Mexico	1993	2023	30	1,000 Pesos	~75%
32	Brazilian Real	Brazil	1994	2023	29	200 Reais	~75%
33	Argentine Peso (current)	Argentina	1992	2023	31	2,000 Pesos	~99.99%
34	Colombian Peso	Colombia	1923	2023	100	100,000 Pesos	~99.9%
35	Chilean Peso	Chile	1975	2023	48	20,000 Pesos	~97%

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICAN CURRENCIES

36	South African Rand	South Africa	1961	2023	62	200 Rand	~99%
37	Egyptian Pound	Egypt	1923	2023	100	200 Pounds	~99.9%+
38	Nigerian Naira	Nigeria	1973	2023	50	1,000 Naira	~99.9%
39	Kenyan Shilling	Kenya	1966	2023	57	1,000 Shillings	~98%
40	Israeli New Shekel	Israel	1985	2023	38	200 Shekels	~55%

Note: 'Still in existence' includes currencies whose predecessor fed into a current successor (e.g. French Franc → Euro). Duration reflects the full measurement window used for the loss estimate. All figures are approximations; exact purchasing power loss varies by methodology and base year chosen.