

A Visual Guide to \$114.5 Trillion



One Hundred Dollars

**\$100 - Most counterfeited money denomination in the world.
Keeps the world moving.**



Ten Thousand Dollars

**\$10,000 - Enough for a great vacation or to buy a used car.
Approximate earnings from one year of work for the average human on earth.**

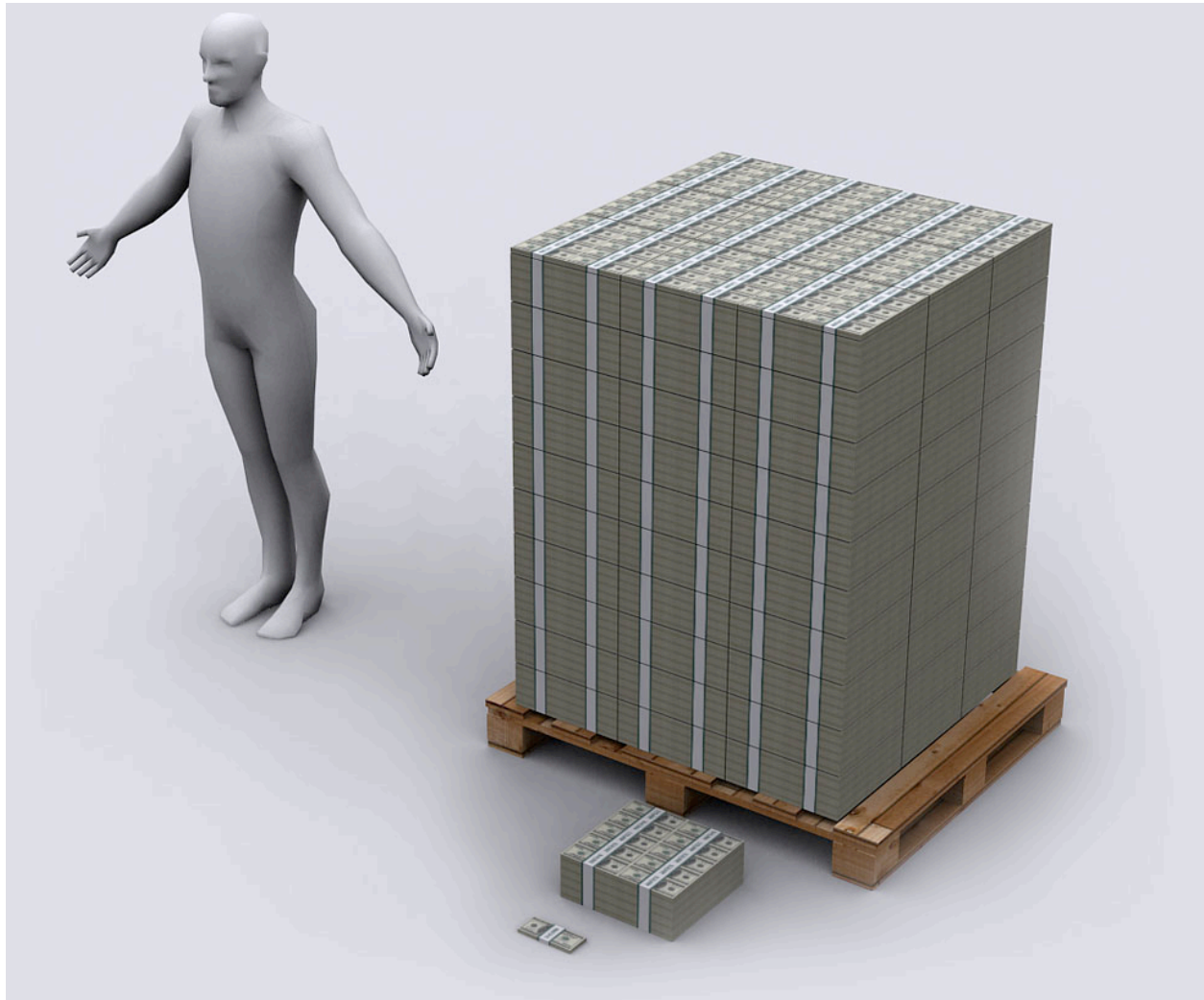
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One Million Dollars

**\$1,000,000 - Not as big of a pile as you thought, huh?
Still this is 92 years of work for the average human on earth.**

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One Hundred Million Dollars

**\$100,000,000 - Plenty to go around for everyone.
Fits nicely on an ISO/Military standard-sized pallet.**

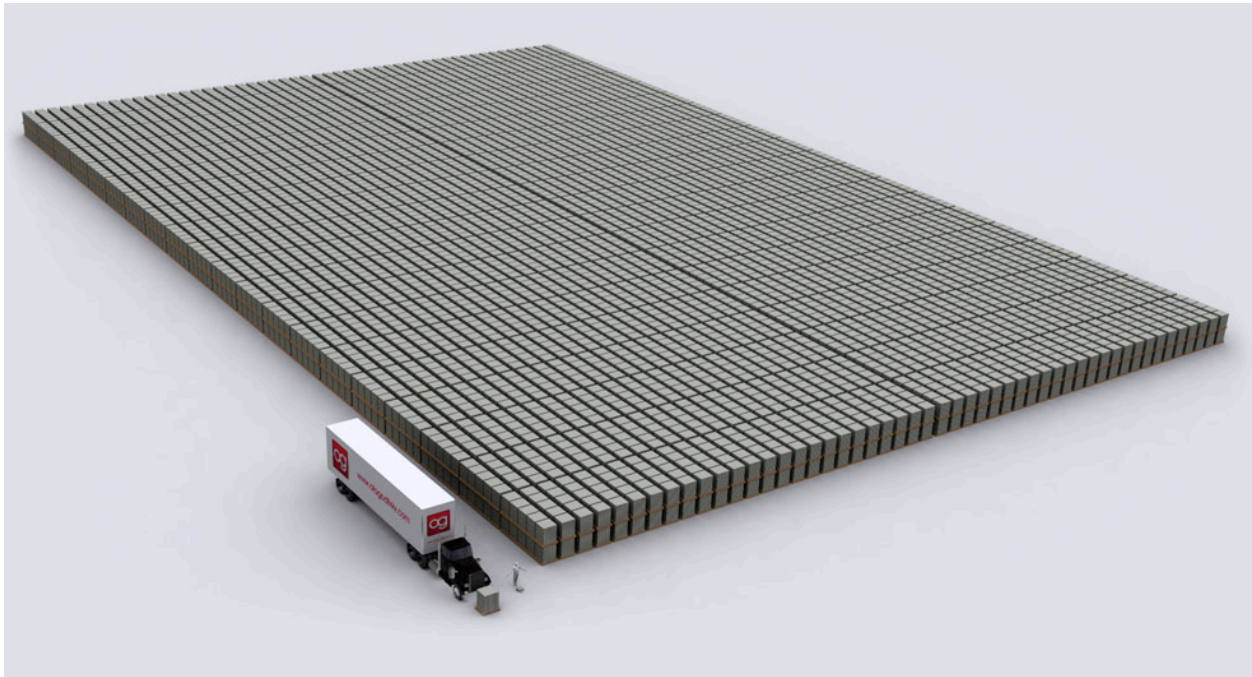
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One Billion Dollars

**\$1,000,000,000 - You will need some help when robbing the bank.
Now we are getting serious!**

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One Trillion Dollars

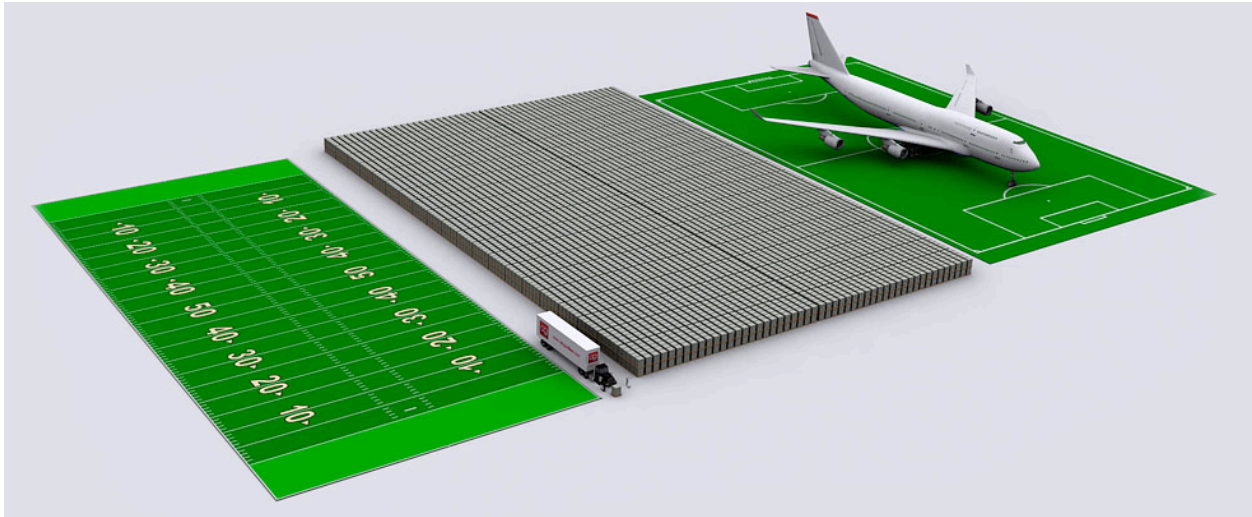
\$1,000,000,000,000 [= 1000 billion = 1 million million]

When the U.S government speaks about a \$1.7 trillion deficit - this is the volume of cash the U.S. Government borrowed in 2010 to run itself.

Keep in mind it is double-stacked pallets of \$100 million dollars each, full of \$100 dollar bills. You are going to need a lot of trucks to freight this around.

If you spent \$1 million a day since Jesus was born, you would have not spent \$1 trillion by now...but ~\$700 billion - same amount the banks got during the bailout.

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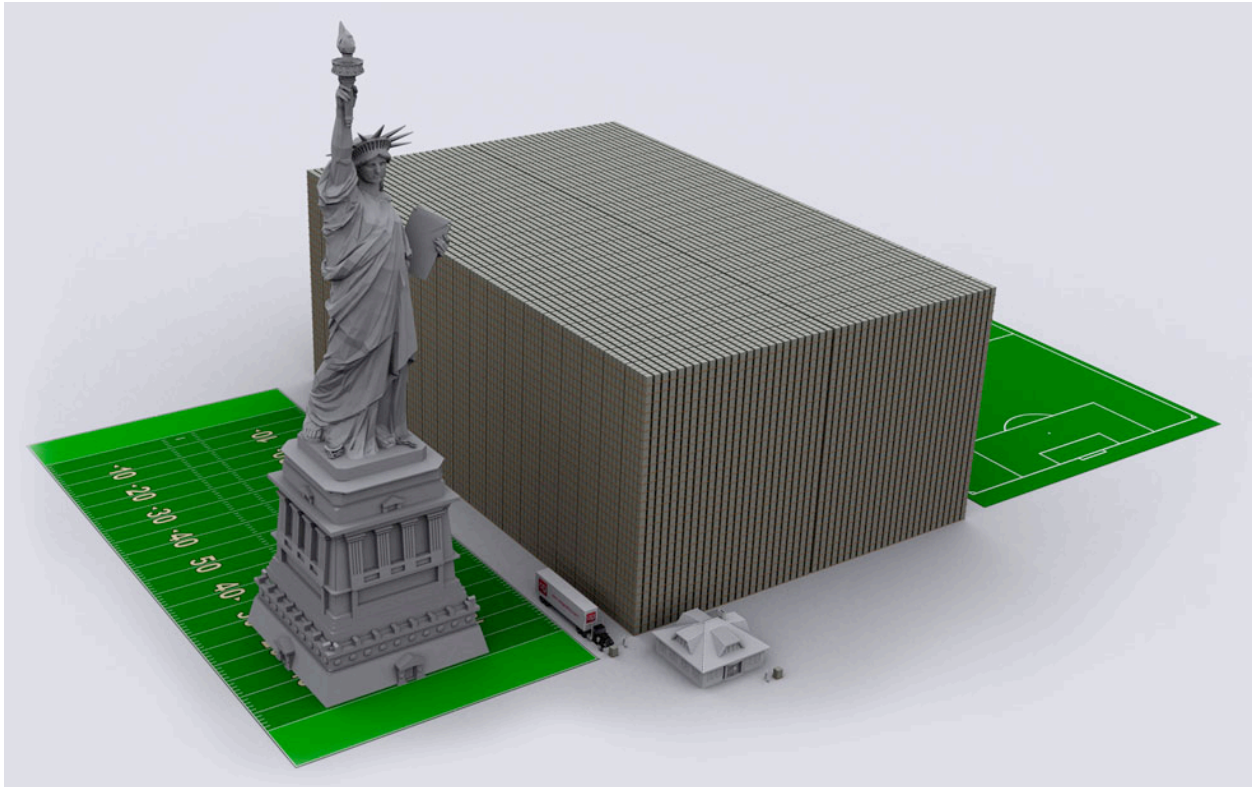


One Trillion Dollars

Comparison of \$1,000,000,000,000 dollars to a standard-sized American Football field and European Football (Soccer) field.

Say hello to the Boeing 747-400 trans-continental airliner that's hiding on the right. This was until recently the biggest passenger plane in the world.

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15 Trillion Dollars

\$15,000,000,000,000 - Unless the U.S. government fixes the budget, US national debt (credit card bill) will exceed \$15 trillion by Christmas 2011.

The Statue of Liberty seems rather worried as U.S. national debt passes 20% of the entire world's combined GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

In 2011 the U.S. National Debt will exceed 100% of the U.S.'s GDP, and venture into the 100%+ debt-to-GDP ratio that the European PIIGS have (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece & Spain) bankrupting nations).

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114.5 Trillion Dollars

\$114,500,000,000,000. - U.S. unfunded liabilities

To the right you can see the pillar of cold hard \$100 bills that dwarfs the World Trade Center & Empire State Building - both at one point the world's tallest buildings. If you look carefully you can see the Statue of Liberty.

The 114.5 Trillion dollar super-skyscraper is the amount of money the U.S. Government knows it does not have to fully fund the Medicare, Medicare Prescription Drug Program, Social Security, military and civil servant pensions. It is the money the USA knows it will not have to pay all its bills.

The unfunded liability is calculated on current tax and funding inputs, and future demographic shifts in the U.S. Population.

Note: On the above \$114.5T image, the size of the base of the money pile is half a trillion, not 1 trillion as on the \$15 trillion image; the height is double. This was done to reflect the bases of the Empire State and WTC buildings more closely.

Source: Federal Reserve & www.USdebtclock.org - use this link to see the debt in real time and get a better grasp of this amazing number.

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OK, now you've seen the size of the problem that Congress is wrestling with this week. But what can we, and our elected Reps, do about this, to prevent a future recurrence?

Well, here's an idea from Warren Buffett (July 24th on CNBC):

"I could end the deficit in five minutes. You just pass a law that says that anytime there is a deficit of more than three percent of GDP all sitting members of Congress are ineligible for reelection."