

What is exactly *is* one TRILLION dollars?

All this talk about "stimulus packages" and "bailouts"...

A *billion* dollars...

A *hundred billion* dollars...

Eight hundred billion dollars...

One *TRILLION* dollars...

What does that look like? I mean, these various numbers are tossed around like so many doggie treats, so I thought I'd take [Google Sketchup](#) out for a test drive and try to get a sense of what exactly a trillion dollars *looks* like.

We'll start with a \$100 dollar bill. Currently the largest U.S. denomination in general circulation. Most everyone has seen them, slightly fewer have owned them. Guaranteed to make friends wherever they go.



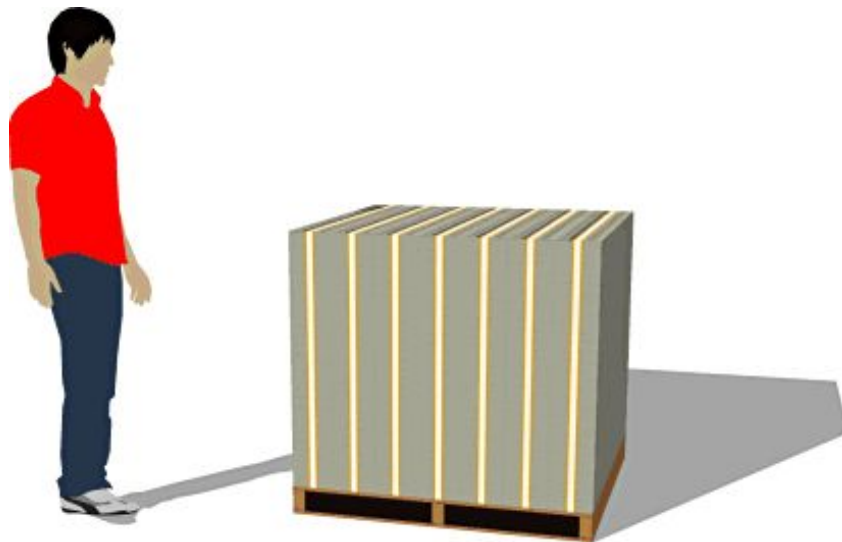
A packet of one hundred \$100 bills is less than 1/2" thick and contains \$10,000. Fits in your pocket easily and is more than enough for week or two of shamefully decadent fun.



Believe it or not, this next little pile is \$1 million dollars (100 packets of \$10,000). You could stuff that into a grocery bag and walk around with it.



While a measly \$1 million looked a little unimpressive, \$100 million is a little more respectable. It fits neatly on a standard pallet...



And \$1 BILLION dollars... now we're really getting somewhere...



Next we'll look at ONE TRILLION dollars. This is that number we've been hearing about so much. What is a trillion dollars? Well, it's a million million. It's a thousand billion. It's a one followed by 12 zeros.

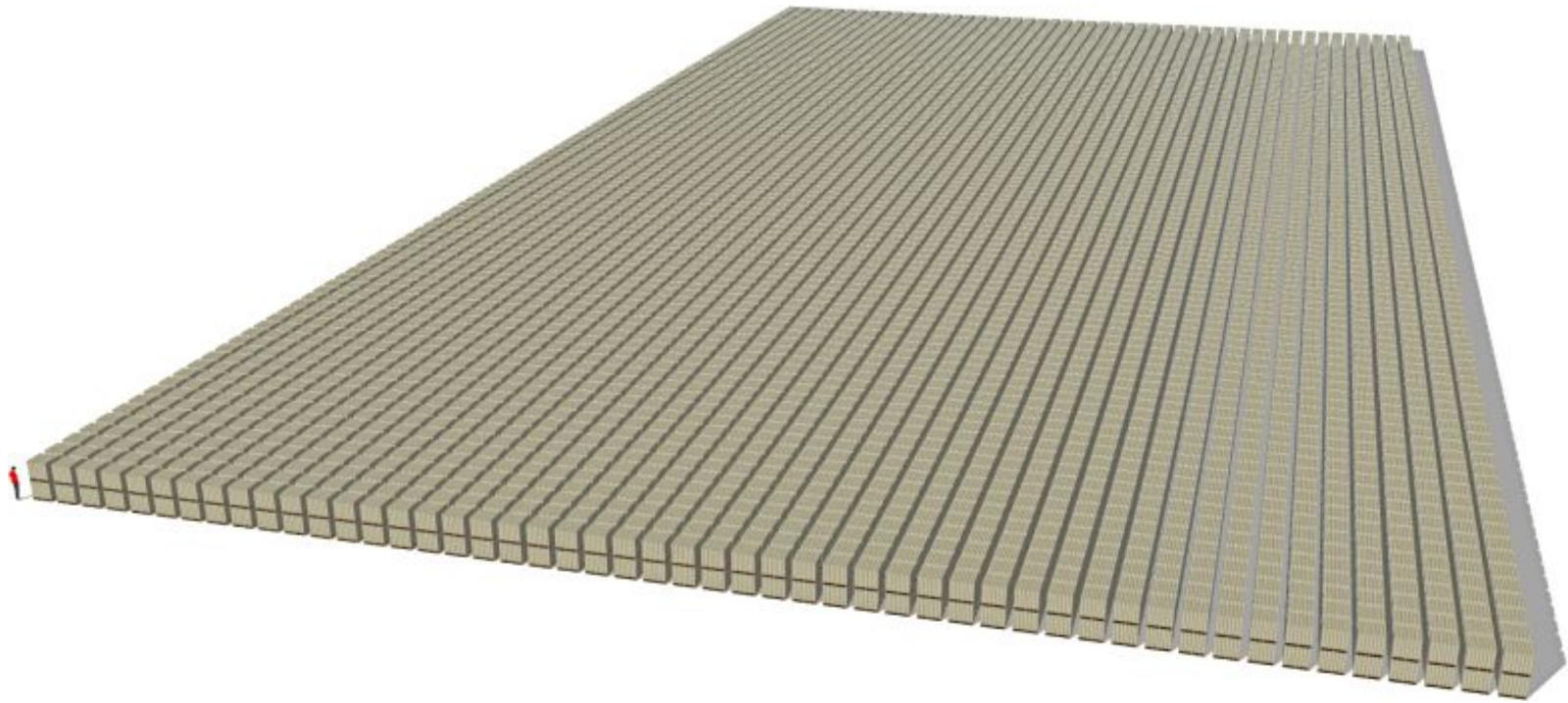
You ready for this?

It's pretty surprising.

Go ahead...

Scroll down...

Ladies and gentlemen... I give you *\$1 trillion dollars*...



(And notice those pallets are *double stacked*.)

So the next time you hear someone toss around the phrase "trillion dollars"... *that's* what they're talking about.

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"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." - Mahatma Gandhi