

A black and white photograph of the trading floor of the Chicago Board of Trade in 1949. The image shows a large group of men in suits and ties, some standing and some sitting, engaged in various activities. Some are looking towards the camera, while others are looking away. The background is filled with the structure of the trading floor, including large windows and metal beams.

A Buying Guide Straight from *the Trading Desk*.

How to buy physical gold and silver: what you actually pay, what to buy first, and how an order travels from checkout to your door, insured. From Peter Thomas and the Ausecure desk, which started on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

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Cover: the trading floor of the Chicago Board of Trade, 1949.
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division.

§ Who wrote this, and how to read it.

START HERE

Most “free gold kits” exist to get a salesperson on the phone. This one exists so you can make a good first purchase on your own terms, at a live price, and know exactly what happens next.



Chicago Board of Trade, 1949. Library of Congress.



Harvesting wheat in Kansas, 1920. The Chicago pits were built on grain. Library of Congress.

HOW TO READ IT

Chapters 1 to 4 are the education: what you are buying and what it costs. Chapters 5 to 7 are the mechanics: ordering, paying and delivery, exactly as they work at Ausecure. Chapter 8 is the one page to keep by the keyboard when you place your first order.

Every figure in this guide, from the shipping fee to the fineness rules, comes from the published terms on ausecure.com as of October 2026. Where something depends on your situation, the guide says so and tells you whom to ask.

Gold is the money of kings, silver is the money of gentlemen, barter is the money of peasants, but debt is the money of slaves.

NORM FRANZ, *Money and Wealth in the New Millennium*, 2001

The saying is older than Franz. A Kansas senator called gold “the money of monarchs” in the 1870s, and a Cleveland paper printed “gold is the money of kings” in 1891. Franz added silver, barter and debt.

AUSECURE AT A GLANCE

Founded	2009, at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange
What Ausecure does	Buy and sell physical metal
Metals	Gold, silver, platinum, palladium, rhodium
Pricing	Live, off the global markets
Rating	A+ Better Business Bureau
Shipping	100% insured, tracked, discreet
Storage	Allocated, via Kingsbaker
Account	Free

QUESTIONS WHILE YOU READ

Call 1-855-528-4653 and a trader answers. Or write to sales@ausecure.com.

WHAT THIS GUIDE IS NOT

Investment, tax or legal advice. Ausecure prices and delivers metal; how much of your savings to hold in it is your decision, with your own advisers.

THE DESK BEHIND THE GUIDE

Peter Thomas

Chairman of Offshore Development. Licensed floor broker and veteran with more than fifty years in the commodities markets. Pete started as a filling broker in the silver pit in 1979, during the Hunt Brothers era, and has been an independent floor broker and trader at the Chicago Board of Trade. In the media: The Wall Street Journal, Barron’s, Forbes, Asharq Bloomberg, Sky News Arabia.



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WHY PHYSICAL METAL

Own the metal, not a claim on it.

Futures, ETFs and mining stocks are claims on metal, or on a company. Physical bullion is the metal itself, owned outright, with no counterparty between you and it.



Bars in a U.S. Treasury vault, c. 1935. National Archives.

Yours outright. Specific coins and bars in your hand or in your allocated vault space. Nothing to redeem, no shares to sell first, no statement to reconcile.

Easy to price and sell. Sovereign-mint coins and accredited-refinery bars are recognized worldwide and trade close to the metal price. A dealer with a live bid, like Ausecure, will quote you a buy-back price on the phone.

A long record. Gold pays no interest and is not money in the everyday sense. It has, however, served as a store of value for thousands of years, which is why many people hold it as insurance for their wealth rather than as a trade.

On inflation. Over long periods, precious metals have tended to preserve purchasing power as currencies lose value, though prices can be volatile in the short term.

FOUR WAYS TO “OWN GOLD”, SIDE BY SIDE

	PHYSICAL BULLION	GOLD ETF OR FUND	FUTURES CONTRACT	MINING STOCK
What you own	Specific coins and bars	Shares in a fund that holds metal	A contract on a future price	Shares in a company
Between you and the metal	Nothing	Fund, custodian, issuer	Exchange, broker, margin	Management, mines, costs
Delivery	Delivered to you, insured	Generally none	Rarely, in large lots	None
Ongoing costs	None to hold it yourself; vault storage optional	Fund fees	Rolling, margin, commissions	Follows the company
Tracks the metal price	Yes, plus a premium (chapter 3)	Closely, minus fees	Yes, with leverage	Loosely; company risk dominates

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THE FIVE METALS

Gold, silver, and the platinum group.

What each metal is, what drives its price, and the forms it is sold in.



Gold .9999 · .999 · .9167

The core holding for most buyers: the deepest market and the easiest metal to price and sell. Sold as sovereign coins (Eagle, Buffalo, Maple Leaf, Philharmonic, Kangaroo, Krugerrand) and refinery bars from one gram to one kilo.



Silver .999 · .9999

A lower price per ounce, so positions are bulkier and shipping matters more. Both a monetary and an industrial metal. Sold as 1 oz coins, tubes of 20, monster boxes of 500, 90% U.S. silver coinage, and bars from 1 oz to a kilo and larger.



Platinum .9995

Catalytic converters and fine jewelry are its two largest uses; also oil refining, electronics, medical devices and hydrogen fuel cells. Sold as Eagles, Maples, Kangaroos, Britannias and bars.



Palladium .9995

Mostly catalytic converters for gasoline engines; the auto industry is its largest source of demand. Sold as Maple Leafs and bars from one gram to one ounce and up.



Rhodium BY PHONE

One of the rarest precious metals, used mainly in catalytic converters. Its small market makes the price especially volatile, so the desk quotes it live by phone. Iridium and ruthenium, from the same family, are also traded by phone.

THREE TERMS YOU WILL SEE ON EVERY PRODUCT

Troy ounce

The standard unit for precious metals. One troy ounce is **31.1035 grams**, about 10% heavier than an everyday ounce (28.35 g). Every “1 oz” coin or bar holds one troy ounce of metal. The name traces back to the market town of Troyes, France.

Fineness

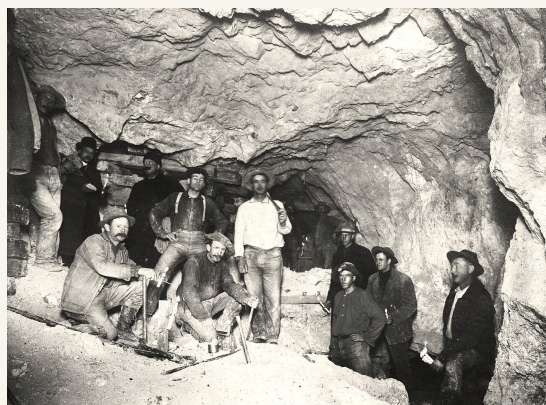
Purity, written as a decimal. **.9999** is 99.99% pure. A 22-karat American Gold Eagle is **.9167** fine, yet it still contains a full troy ounce of gold; the copper and silver alloy is added on top for durability, which is why the coin weighs 1.0909 oz in total.

Bullion vs. numismatic

Bullion is priced close to the value of its metal content. Numismatic coins carry an extra premium for rarity, condition or collector demand. For a 1 oz gold coin, that premium is roughly its market price minus the spot value of one ounce of gold. New buyers usually start with bullion.

LIVE PRICES

Bid and ask for all five metals, with the daily change, at ausecure.com/live-metal-prices.
Rhodium: 1-855-528-4653.



Where it starts: the Mohawk Mine, Goldfield, Nevada, c. 1900. California Historical Society, USC Libraries.

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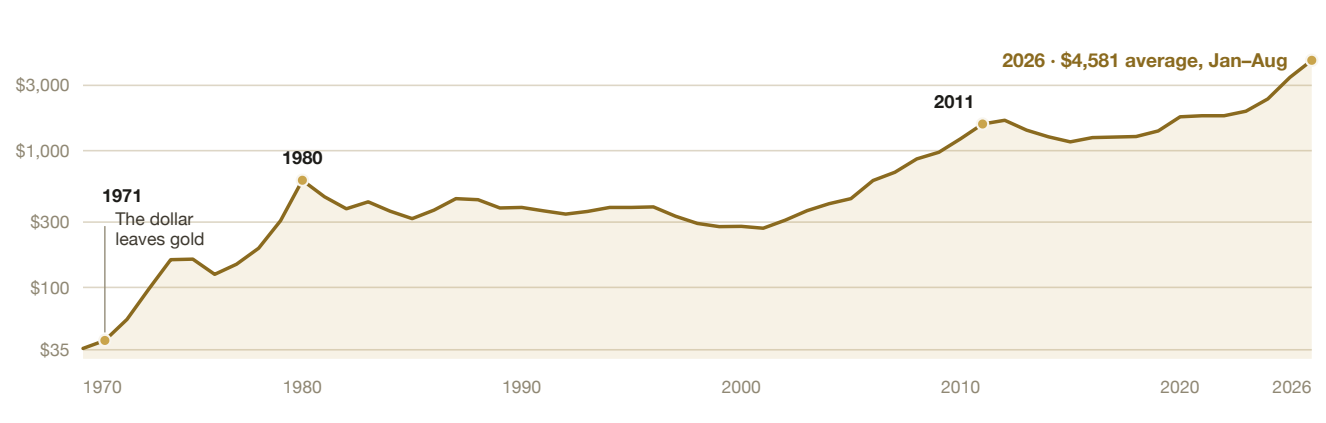
WHAT YOU PAY

Spot, premium, and the one number to watch.

Every bullion price has two parts: the metal itself, and a premium for turning it into a coin or bar and getting it to you. Compare products on the premium.

GOLD · ANNUAL AVERAGE, US\$ PER TROY OUNCE

1970–2026 · log scale · London price · 2026 through August



Spot price. The reference price for one troy ounce of pure metal, right now. Ausecure computes its reference live from the global markets, so it is today’s price, not yesterday’s print.

Premium, or “over spot”. The percentage a product costs above the value of its metal, covering minting, distribution, handling and insured delivery. Every product on ausecure.com shows a live “% over spot” figure under its price, so a coin, a bar and a tube compare at a glance.

Why premiums differ. *Form:* bars usually carry a lower premium than coins; sovereign coins cost more because they are legal tender and easiest to resell. *Size:* fractional coins cost more per ounce than 1 oz; a 10 oz bar costs less per ounce than ten 1 oz bars. *Quantity:* tubes and monster boxes are priced per coin below singles. *Conditions:* premiums widen when physical demand outruns mint supply.

ILLUSTRATION · 1 OZ GOLD COIN

Spot gold, per troy oz	\$4,000.00
Fine gold content	1.000 oz
Metal value	\$4,000.00
Premium, 2.5% over spot	+ \$100.00
Your price	\$4,100.00

Illustration only. Live prices and premiums are on every product page.

WHEN THE PRICE LOCKS

Prices follow the live market while you shop and are confirmed when you place your order. After that the price is final; cancellations need approval and may cost you the market move and restocking.

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WHAT TO BUY FIRST

Start with what is easiest to sell.

For a first order, choose products the whole market recognizes on sight. They carry a fair premium going in and the tightest bid when you sell.

Sovereign bullion coins MOST RECOGNIZED

American Gold Eagle · 1, ½, ¼, 1/10 oz	.9167
American Gold Buffalo · 1 oz	.9999
Canadian Gold Maple Leaf	.9999
Austrian Philharmonic · Australian Kangaroo	.9999
South African Krugerrand	.9167
American Silver Eagle · Silver Maple Leaf	.999 / .9999

Legal tender, with weight and purity guaranteed by the issuing government. The easiest bullion to sell anywhere.

Silver in volume PER-COIN PRICING

Tubes of 20 Silver Eagles or Maples
Monster boxes of 500 coins
90% U.S. silver coinage, sold by face value
10 oz and 100 oz bars

Silver is heavy. Tubes and boxes lower the premium per coin; shipping is insured and free on qualified wire orders.

Refinery bars LOWEST PREMIUM

PAMP Suisse, Valcambi, Perth Mint, Royal Mint, Heraeus	.9999
Gold: 1 g, 5 g, 10 g, 1 oz, 100 g, 10 oz, 1 kilo	
Silver: 1 oz, 10 oz, 100 oz, 1 kilo and larger	
Valcambi CombiBar: 100 × 1 g, snaps apart	
Serialized and sealed in assay cards by accredited refiners.	
Best price per ounce for larger positions.	

Fractional coins FLEXIBILITY

1/10, ¼ and ½ oz Gold Eagles, Maples, Kangaroos
1 g, 5 g and 10 g gold bars
Platinum and palladium fractions
A higher premium per ounce, in exchange for buying on a budget, selling a little at a time, or giving metal as a gift.



The American Gold Eagle

One troy ounce of gold, struck by the United States Mint, legal tender, and eligible for an IRA by statute. One of Ausecure’s best sellers, and the coin most first orders start with.



A U.S. Mint press room. National Archives.

BUYING FOR AN IRA

Eligibility comes from Internal Revenue Code §408(m)(3), not from a list of brands: minimum fineness, bullion rather than a collectible, and held by your IRA’s custodian, never at home. The Gold Eagle qualifies by statute despite being 22-karat. “IRA-eligible” is the accurate term; the IRS keeps no approved brand list, and custodians may add rules. **Ausecure is a dealer, not a custodian.** Full rules: ausecure.com/ira-eligible-metals.

Gold	.995 minimum
Silver	.999 minimum
Platinum	.9995 minimum
Palladium	.9995 minimum
American Gold Eagle	.9167, by statute

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HOW TO ORDER

Five steps from first visit to confirmed order.

Every order is tied to a verified account, so there is no guest checkout. The account is free, and it is where your tracking, order history and saved addresses live.

01 Open your free account

At ausecure.com/signup, with your email and a password, or continue with Uphold. Opening an account costs nothing and does not obligate you to buy.

02 Pick your product at a live price

Browse ausecure.com/shop or Pete's Picks. Each product shows its live price, its "% over spot", and an IRA label where it applies. Add it to your cart.

03 Check out

Confirm your billing and shipping address and phone number, choose a payment method and review the order. Any applicable sales tax is calculated here.

04 Place the order and pay

Your price is confirmed when you place the order. Payment is due on receipt: wire instructions arrive with your confirmation, cards and wallets are charged at checkout, checks must be postmarked within one day.

05 Payment clears, metal ships

Once payment clears, your metal is allocated to your order and usually ships within 3 to 5 days, 100% insured. Tracking is emailed to you and shown in My Account.

HAVE READY AT CHECKOUT

- ☐ Email address and a password
- ☐ Billing address; it must match your card if you pay by card
- ☐ Shipping address: a U.S. address, or an authorized depository
- ☐ Phone number, in case the desk needs to confirm something
- ☐ Your payment method decided (chapter 6)
- ☐ For wires: your bank's wire form or online wire screen

PREFER THE PHONE

Call 1-855-528-4653. The desk quotes live, including rhodium, iridium and ruthenium, which are not priced on the site.

SECURITY

The site runs on encrypted connections, and larger card orders may need additional verification before they ship.

THEN AND NOW

Orders used to be shouted across this floor. Today you place one from your screen, at a live price.

The Board of Trade in session, Chicago, 1905. Library of Congress.



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HOW TO PAY

Wire is fastest, and ships free.

Every method below is available at checkout. Payment is due on receipt and may be subject to bank clearing before Ausecure can allocate and ship your order.

PAYMENT METHODS AT CHECKOUT

METHOD	WHAT TO KNOW	COST
Wire transfer	Select Wire Payment at checkout; instructions come with your confirmation. Fastest to clear. Must be received within 24 hours to avoid cancellation fees. Qualified domestic orders paid by wire ship free.	NO FEES · SHIPS FREE
Paper check	Choose Mail Paper Check. Payable to Ausecure, mailed to the address shown with your order, postmarked within one day. The order ships once the check clears.	LISTED PRICE
Credit card	Visa, Mastercard, Amex, Discover, charged at the card price shown at checkout. Restrictions may apply; card payments may need a 7 to 15 business day clearing period, and larger orders extra verification. Over \$2,000, wire is recommended.	CARD PRICE
Apple Pay · Google Pay	Pay with the wallet on your device at the card price shown at checkout. Transaction restrictions may apply.	CARD PRICE
Crypto via Uphold	Choose Blockchain Payments, log in to Uphold and pick the wallet to pay from. The order total is sent straight from that wallet. Paid at the listed price; Uphold may charge its own conversion fee.	LISTED PRICE

FROM ORDER TO SHIPMENT

Order placed, price confirmed → payment clears → metal allocated to your order → ships insured, usually within 3 to 5 days of cleared payment. You get an email the moment your payment is received, and your order status updates in My Account.

WHY WIRE WINS

Fastest turnaround, no additional fees, and the only method that qualifies domestic orders for free insured shipping.

TAXES

Any applicable sales tax is calculated at checkout; a later sale at a profit can be taxable. Ausecure does not give tax advice, but works with tax lawyers and CPAs and can give you their number once your account is open. They charge their own fees.

SUPPORT, HERE IN AMERICA

All Ausecure employees are based in America, and every service call is answered here. Nobody will ask you how to spell John Smith. Support is smart, quick and concerned.

FULL DETAILS

Each method, step by step, including how to pay with Uphold: ausecure.com/sending-payments

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AFTER YOU ORDER

Delivered insured. Stored allocated. Bought back live.

SHIPPING

Coverage	100% insured
Tracking	Email and My Account
Packaging	Plain, unmarked
Ships	3–5 days after clearing
Arrives	5–7 business days
Wire orders	Free, if qualified
Other orders	\$24.95 flat

Final delivery may require a verified signature. Ausecure ships to U.S. addresses and to authorized depositories. Delivery restrictions may apply, and an untracked service with a longer time may be used to ensure arrival.

STORAGE

Holdings that outgrow a home safe can go to allocated, fully insured storage through Ausecure’s partner, Kingsbaker Metal Depository, with domestic and offshore options.	
Type	Allocated, not pooled
Metals	Au · Ag · Pt · Pd · Rh
Locations	Domestic and offshore
Clients	Individual to commercial

Allocated means specific coins and bars are held for you, not a claim on a shared pool. Metal is insured in the vault and in transit. Set it up by phone.

SELLING BACK

Ausecure makes two-way markets: it buys the same metals it sells, at competitive prices set by the live market.

- **Call for a quote.** The desk goes over your inventory and gives you an estimate.
- **Get your Order ID** and shipping instructions to a designated facility.
- **Ship it insured**, double-boxed, with the prepaid label. Email photos of the packed boxes to seller@ausecure.com.
- **Get paid** within 24 to 48 hours of receipt, once verified, by wire or check.

Ausecure is not responsible for incoming shipments without an Order ID.

When it ships

Orders ship as soon as the mints have stamped and certified the coins. If a country runs low on metal, delivery may be delayed.

Keep sealed bars sealed

Never take an ingot bar out of its sealed container. The packaging certifies its purity; opening it can lower the bar’s value.

Handle gold gently

Gold is soft. Hold coins by the edges. A scratched coin is no longer Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) and may sell at a discount.



TWO-WAY MARKETS

The traders who price your purchase also quote your buy-back.

Chicago Board of Trade, 1949. Library of Congress.

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YOUR FIRST ORDER

The checklist, and
the mistakes to skip.

BEFORE YOU BUY

- ☐ Decide what the metal is for: insurance, savings, a gift, an IRA. It changes what you buy.
- ☐ Start with recognized bullion: Eagles, Maples, Buffalos, or accredited-refinery bars.
- ☐ Compare the % over spot, not the sticker price.
- ☐ Pay by wire if you can: no fees, and free insured shipping on qualified orders.
- ☐ Know that the price is final once you have a confirmation number.
- ☐ Decide where it will live: home, a vault, or your IRA custodian's depository.
- ☐ Keep your confirmation and tracking emails. They are your record.

MISTAKES FIRST-TIME BUYERS MAKE

- ☒ **Paying a collector premium for bullion**
“Rare”, “proof” and “graded” coins can cost far more than their metal. Fine for collectors, costly for savers.
- ☒ **Buying from a seller who won't buy back**
A dealer without a bid has no reason to stand behind its products. Ask for the buy price first.
- ☒ **Shipping without full insurance**
Metal in the mail without insurance is a bet. Every Ausecure order is insured door to door.
- ☒ **Letting a “free kit” become a sales script**
Read, decide, then buy at a live price with no one on the line. Call the desk when you have a question, not because a salesperson called you.

CONTACTS AND LINKS

Call the desk	1-855-528-4653	Live inventory	ausecure.com/shop
Email	sales@ausecure.com	Live prices	ausecure.com/live-metal-prices
Sell shipments	seller@ausecure.com	Pete's Picks	ausecure.com/pete
Open a free account	ausecure.com/signup	Questions	ausecure.com/faqs

This guide is general information about buying, paying for, shipping, storing and selling physical precious metals. It is not investment, tax or legal advice, and Ausecure does not give investment or tax advice regarding the purchase of precious metals; it works with tax lawyers and CPAs and can share their number once your account is open; they charge their own fees. Ausecure is a precious metals dealer, not an IRA custodian or trustee; talk to your custodian and a tax professional before buying metal for an IRA. Prices follow the live market and are confirmed when you place your order. Orders ship as soon as the mints have stamped and certified the coins; delivery may be delayed when a country runs low on metal. Shipping times, payment terms, card pricing and free-shipping qualification are current as of October 2026 and may change; the Ausecure Terms of Use and your order confirmation govern every order. Photographs are in the public domain: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division (Chicago Board of Trade, 1905, 1920 and 1949; Kansas wheat harvest, 1920); U.S. National Archives (Treasury vault, c. 1935; Mint press room); California Historical Society Collection, USC Libraries (Goldfield, Nevada, c. 1900). Portrait of Peter Thomas: digital illustration made for Ausecure. Gold Eagle photographs: Ausecure. Gold price series: London market annual averages via datahub.io/core/gold-prices. © 2026 Ausecure. All rights reserved. This guide may be shared in full, unchanged.

GOLD ROSE. THE DOLLAR SHRANK.

1970
\$36



2026
\$4,581

1970
\$1



2025
12¢

**Paper money loses its value. Gold keeps it.
Protect your savings with metal you own.**

Gold: one troy ounce, London annual averages; 2026 is January to August. Dollar: buying power of \$1 from 1970 by the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, BLS via FRED); 2025 is the latest full year. The bill shows the 12% of its 1970 buying power that is left. Past results are not a forecast.

CALL THE DESK

1-855-528-4653

EMAIL

sales@ausecure.com

ONLINE

ausecure.com



Scan to open
a free account