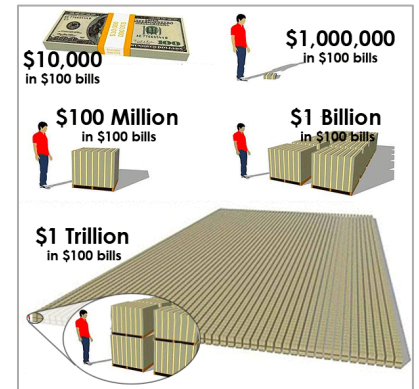


How much is a trillion dollars?

Congress is now debating an infrastructure bill that could cost the government between 1 and 3 trillion dollars. I, personally, can't fathom how much money that is.

1. What ideas do you have for how could I visualize or get an idea of how big a trillion is?



The simple answer is 1 and 12 zeroes = 1,000,000,000,000 or 10^{12} .

But how do you get a feel for the size of that amount of money?

2. What suggestions do you have for realizing how big 1 trillion dollars is?

3. Think about something that costs a lot of money, or weighs a huge amount, or is really far away and that you can imagine its size and describe it here.

4. How many of those things would it take to cost a trillion dollars or weigh a trillion tons or be a trillion miles away?

Let's look at time.

5. Express a million seconds in a more understandable time period

6. Now try to express a billion seconds in some time frame that you can understand.

7. How long would a trillion seconds be?

8. Did all of these comparisons surprise you?

Sources: https://www.grc.nasa.gov/www/k-12/Numbers/Math/Mathematical_Thinking/how_big_is_a_trillion.htm
<https://betterexplained.com/articles/how-to-develop-a-sense-of-scale/>