

# CROATIAN KUNA



During the breakup of Yugoslavia and democratic changes, the monetary independence of Croatia became one of the main goals of the independent Croatia. After the declaration of Croatia's independence and during the Homeland War, the Croatian dinar was used as a temporary currency before the introduction of the final Croatian currency, which was supposed to be the “Croatian kuna” divided into 100 banica. However, in July 1993, the Parliament decided that the Croatian currency would nevertheless be the Croatian kuna. The kuna was officially introduced on 30th May 1994, on Croatia's Statehood Day, replacing the previous Croatian dinar.

The first series of kuna banknotes was issued in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000. The name of the kuna monetary unit comes from the Croatian name for the European pine marten, an animal that inhabits Croatian forests and whose fur in Croatian regions in the past served as a means of commodity exchange, i.e. it had the function of money. The designers of the kuna banknotes were Miroslav and Šimun Šutej and Vilko Žiljak. Each banknote has its own basic colour. On the face of the banknote is the image of a famous figure from Croatian history and culture, whilst on the 5 kuna banknote, there are two family-related Croatian noblemen together. The reverse side of all banknotes shows a panorama or a characteristic motif of a Croatian city.

Kuna and lipa coins were issued in denominations of 5, 2 and 1 kuna and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 lipa. Choosing the name of the kuna required an appropriate adjustment for its hundredth part (one kuna was divided into one hundred lipa). As the name kuna (pine marten) originates from the animal world, a counterpart in the plant world was sought. The name lipa (lime tree) was proposed, a name that also has a certain basis in Croatian folklore, literary and historical tradition. On the face of coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 lipa, the nominal value is placed on a base of a branch of a lime tree with leaves and flowers, and on the kuna, the background for denominations 1, 2 and 5 is the figure of a running pine marten. The name of the money is placed below the figure and background. On the reverse side of all lipa and kuna denominations, there is a motif of a plant (on the lipa) or an animal species (on the kuna) present in Croatia along with the year.

On 1st January 2023, the kuna was replaced by the euro.

