Fast facts
What the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants would cost the American taxpayer

The price tag

$285 billion
Total cost to deport the undocumented immigrant population and continue border interdiction and interior enforcement efforts over a five-year period (in 2008 dollars).¹

$85 billion
Cost of continuing enforcement over a five-year period.

$200 billion
Total cost to find and arrest, detain, legally process, and transport the undocumented population over a five-year period.

What this means
Total cost over five years: $285 billion, would mean new taxes of $922 for every man, woman, and child in our country.
$5,100 fewer dollars for the education of every public and private school student from prekindergarten to the 12th grade.

The people

Undocumented immigrants in the United States, according to the latest estimates by DHS

10.8 million

8.64 million
Number subject to forcible deportation

2.16 million
Estimated number of undocumented immigrants that would leave the United States before any contact with authorities

The cost of deportation
U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement budgets increased by 80 percent to $17.1 billion in fiscal year 2010 from $9.5 billion in FY 2005, yet the net increase in undocumented immigrants increased by 300,000 to 10.8 million.²

The numbers

$158 billion  Apprehension cost
with the cost per apprehension in FY 2008 of $18,310.

$29 billion  Detention cost
with the cost to detain one person for an average of 30 days in detention of $3,355.
Most of the detention space for those arrested and awaiting deportation is leased from local governments, but construction costs to meet new demand would be about $34 billion because a deportation strategy would more than double the number of people in American jails.

$7 billion  Legal processing cost
with the cost per one proceeding of $817.

$6 billion  Transportation cost
for 6.22 million people, with the cost per person of $1,000. (In FY 2008, about 28 percent of deportations were through voluntary departure orders that did not require government transportation. The same percentage drop was applied to 8.64 million undocumented immigrants who would be apprehended, reaching a total transportation number of 6.22 million people.)

Total cost of deportation campaign: $200 billion, with the cost per deportation of $23,482 for each person to be apprehended, detained, legally processed, and transported out of the country.

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