

The Border Wall and The Economy

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Introduction:

Our group decided to work on the economic aspect of the border wall. We found that this topic caught our interest the most. We questioned how the money situation will work regarding the border wall. Our questions included, who is going to pay for it? How much money will it cost? What is going to be the long term effect of the border wall? These are all questions that should be answered if the border wall were to be built.

How much is the border wall going to cost:

The border wall is going to be an important factor when it comes to the United States economy. With the wall ranging over 1,000 miles to cover, the foundation needed to be 10 feet into the ground, and being as tall as 40 feet high the border wall is going to be a large expense (Vittert, 2018). The total volume of material is going to be around 11.2 million cubic yards (Vittert, 2018). The cost for the concrete will be approximately \$8.7 billion and roughly \$3.6 billion dollars (Vittert, 2018). Labor will approximate cost around \$12.3 billion (Vittert, 2018). The border wall cost is always different depending on who you ask as shown on this graph.

President Trump	House Speaker Paul Ryan	Dept. of Homeland Security	Washington Post	Senate Democrats' Report
\$ 12 billion	\$ 15 billion	\$ 22 billion	\$ 25 billion	\$ 70 billion

Who will fund the border wall:

The border wall will have funding from a few sources if it is agreed to get built. One of the most popular sources of funding that has happened just a couple of months back is regarding the funding that was raised from a Go Fund Me account. The account raised 23 million dollars in support of the wall. All the money was donated in order to help build the wall.

“\$1.375 billion from the Homeland Security appropriations bill
 \$600 million from the Treasury Department’s drug forfeiture fund
 \$2.5 billion from the Department of Defense’s drug interdiction program
 \$3.6 billion from the Department of Defense’s military construction account” *(-Amanda Macias)*

It is noted that multiple sources will contribute to the overall budget for the wall. Homeland Security, the Treasury Department, and the Department of Defense are just a couple of participating federal entities. Furthermore, there is speculation for future budget increases for spending. The federal spending budget for the border wall remains one of the fiery debates between Democratic and Republican members of Congress. The accumulation of revenue has begun not only on the federal side but private side as well. Eager Americans have created multiple crowdfunding campaigns as well to build the border wall along the Rio Grande Valley and Mexico.

Crowd-Funding and the border wall:

As time progresses talks about the cost of funding the border wall have increased. Individuals such as the United States President, Donald Trump, Senate Majority leader, Mitch McConnell and 54th Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, have given many estimations towards the cost of creating a border wall along the Rio Grande Valley. As each estimation becomes public information, some Americans have become fed-up.

As a call to action, some patriots have set up crowd-funding on the popular site Go Fund Me to raise money towards creating the border wall. According to a recent interview published by “CBS This Morning,” a group called, We Build the Wall, have fundraised over 23 million dollars. This money has been donated by other Americans who support the creation of the border wall. It is noted that this wall is privately owned, and was created with permission by the private landowner. When completed, the wall should span across a popular asylum seeker route.

A total of 8 million dollars of the funds previously listed have been poured into creating a mile-long wall in New Mexico. According to the leader of the We Build the Wall organization, spending of the money is carefully audited by internal and external committees. This is to ensure the ethical and efficient use of the funds. As the government continues to delegate on economic aspects of the wall, determined Americans are banding together to provide an increase in border protection.

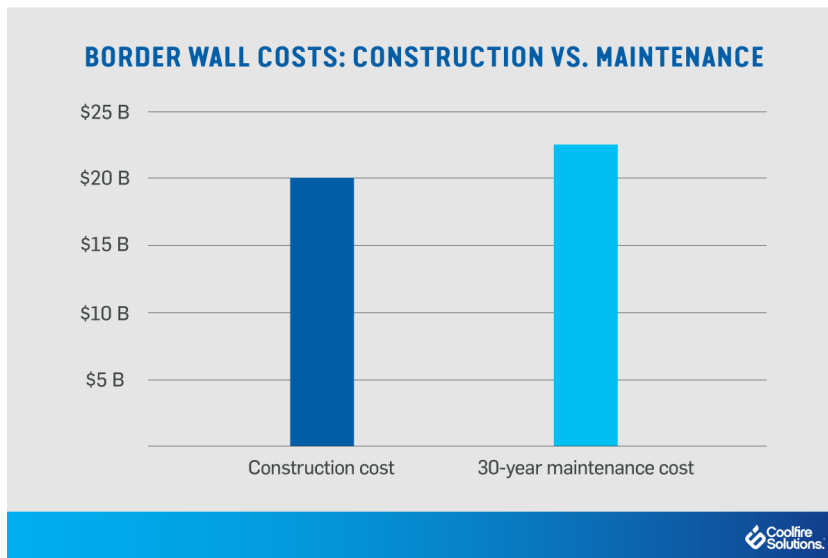
What are the long term effects of the border wall:

The predictions of the costs of building a border wall have been an ongoing debate. For as huge of an expense Americans will have to fork out to build the wall, there is the other side of that is not as often discussed, the cost of maintenance of the that same border wall. Nature or people can and will cause inevitable damage to the border wall requiring costly repairs and yearly maintenance. The kind of yearly maintenance repairs that will be done based on the U.S Customs and Border Protection (CPB) website is “...several hundred gates, thousands of miles of roads and bridges, approximately two thousand lighting and electrical systems, hundreds of drainage systems and grates, and thousands of acres of vegetation and debris removal from infrastructure” (“Border Wall System”).

Over the years, the United States has acquired a huge expense on the existing wall due to damages through breaches and corrosion caused by weathered metal and caving land. According to the *UPI* website, “between 2010 and 2015, CBP recorded a total of 9,287 breaches with repair costs averaging \$784 each. In 2009, the agency estimated that it would spend \$1 billion to repair existing barriers over the next two decades” (Timmons, 2019).

According to another source, the American Immigration Council, “the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 DHS budget, \$274 million was spent on border fence maintenance” (“The High Cost,

2017). This was the cost for maintenance on the existing border wall that is not yet completed. If or when the border wall is completed then the cost is expected to triple to more than \$750 million annually. Using all of these statistics, the border wall upkeep is estimated to cost the U.S over millions of dollars.



Conclusion:

This is something that we need to take into consideration. The border wall has its pros and cons. The long term effects of the wall including the maintenance the wall will bring will be an expense for years to come. The funding will have to come from everyone including everyday people. We will just have to wait and see what ends up happening with the wall.

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