

The Cost of Mass Deportations in the United States

The economic, fiscal, and societal costs of a proposed mass deportation of undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Here are the key points:

1. Scale and Cost of Mass Deportation:

- Deporting 13.3 million undocumented immigrants (11 million as of 2022 plus 2.3 million recent arrivals) is estimated to cost at least \$315 billion for a one-time operation, which includes arrests, detention, legal processing, and removals.
- A sustained operation deporting 1 million immigrants annually over 10+ years would cost \$967.9 billion, requiring the construction of thousands of new detention centers and hiring tens of thousands of enforcement agents.

2. Economic Impact:

- Mass deportation could reduce the U.S. GDP by 4.2% to 6.8% (\$1.1 to \$1.7 trillion), akin to or worse than the Great Recession.
- Undocumented immigrants contribute significantly to the economy, including \$46.8 billion in federal taxes and \$29.3 billion in state/local taxes in 2022.

3. Labor Market Effects:

- Deportations would exacerbate labor shortages, particularly in construction, agriculture, and hospitality, where undocumented workers constitute a substantial percentage.
- deportations would lead to supply chain disruption, and inflation, passing the costs of milk, eggs and other grocery items to everyday American consumers.
- The removal of 1 million undocumented entrepreneurs would disrupt local businesses and community services.

4. Human and Social Costs:

- Around 5.1 million U.S.-born children live with undocumented family members, and deportation would cause family separations, emotional stress, and economic hardship.
- The operation could strain social cohesion, leading to increased hate crimes and fear among immigrant communities.

Source: American Immigration Council