

# Economics of Donald Trump's border wall

The real cost of building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border is likely to be substantially more than the \$12 billion claim of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, according to researchers



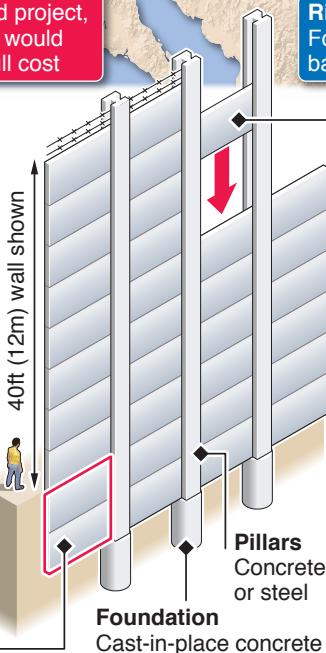
## HOW WALL MIGHT LOOK

### Height

Anywhere between 30-55ft (9-17m) according to Trump's statements

### Depth

Wall could extend up to 15ft (4.5m) below ground to deter shallow tunnelling



## Precast concrete panels

Most likely construction material due to strength and cost-effectiveness. Panels made in factories, transported to border and lowered into place between pillars

## ESTIMATED COSTS\*

**Concrete:** 9.7 million cubic metres required – **\$9 billion**

**Steel reinforcement**  
2.3 billion kg – **\$4.6 billion**

**Total:** Including labour, works out as roughly two to three times cost of materials – **up to \$40 billion**

*\*Assumes wall is 1,000 miles (1,600km) long, 50ft (15m) high, 1ft (30cm) thick and extends 15ft below ground*