

Economic Cost of War in Afghanistan

The War in Afghanistan has cost U.S. Tax payers \$172 billion to date, with a request for roughly \$13.4 billion to fund the war through the remainder of Fiscal year 2009 expected in March or April. This brings the total cost through FY 2009 to \$185.1 billion.

This figures reflect the budgetary cost alone. Projected costs over the long term are likely to total more than half a trillion dollars when future occupation and veteran's benefits are taken into account. Interest payments could add another \$200 billion to that figure.¹ All told, this is more than the size of the recent bailout of Wall Street, and rivals the historic economic stimulus bill just passed by Congress.

Countries outside the United States have spent additional billions on the War in Afghanistan, with the UK contributing roughly £4.5billion² and the cost to Canada totaling \$7.7 billion to \$10.5 billion in Canadian dollars through 2008.³

Consider that the US spends a mere \$100 million per year, or less than one percent of the yearly cost of the Afghanistan war, to assist refugees and returnees from Afghanistan through the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).⁴

Also consider that the cost of building a new school with twelve classrooms, one office, and a store in Kabul, Afghanistan, is roughly \$128,000 in US dollars. [That's 1.4 billion schools]. The cost of one set of science lab equipment is a mere \$1500, and for \$4000, 100 students can have chairs and desks.⁵

[An xx bed orthopedic hospital can be constructed and operated for \$ per year. The operating cost of the Malalai Clinic, which serves Afghan refugees, is \$ per year.]

Iraq War Costs

\$656.1 Billion in budgetary costs so far
with another \$53.6 expected by the end of FY 2009.

At least \$2 trillion in future costs including Veteran's benefits

Over 4200 US deaths

Hundreds of Thousands of Civilian Iraqi Deaths.

Will Afghanistan be the Next Iraq?

1 The three trillion dollar war: The true cost of the Iraq War
J Stiglitz, L Bilmes - 2008 - New York: WW Norton.

2 "Cost of war in Afghanistan soars to £2.5bn" The Guardian Online. Richard Norton-Taylor, February 13, 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/feb/13/afghanistan-iraq-bill-british-military>

3 Methodology for Estimating the Fiscal Impact of the Costs Incurred by the Government of Canada in Support of the Mission in Afghanistan Ottawa, Canada October 9, 2008
www.parl.gc.ca/pbo-dpb

4 <http://www.state.gov/g/prm/>

5 Peter Lems, AFSC.

The War in Afghanistan has cost U.S. Tax payers \$185.1 billion through FY 2009, and the projected costs are likely to total more than half a trillion dollars when future occupation and veteran's benefits are taken into account. This does not include interest on that money. The following table shows the cost to each state of the budgetary costs to date, the number of goods and services that could have been provided with that money, and the number of US soldiers' lives lost.

	Cost of the War in Afghanistan through 1st part of FY 2009	Number of Head Start Places for Children that Could Have Been Provided for One Year	Number of People Who Could have been Provided with Health Care for One Year	Number of Homes that Could Have Been Provided With Renewable Electricity for One Year	Number of US Soldiers Killed as of February 7, 2009
United States	\$185,100,000,000	25,401,400	54,554,136	191,626,198	6
Alabama	\$1,695,823,827	263,286	706,802	1,251,759	
Alaska	\$316,758,736	40,568	44,517	441,579	
Arizona	\$2,548,440,101	327,985	575,800	2,183,288	
Arkansas	\$1,733,678,138	292,752	1,146,431	1,448,635	
California	\$23,448,026,946	2,804,788	9,650,903	41,778,565	
Colorado	\$2,829,589,493	411,098	861,369	3,729,874	
Connecticut	\$4,520,454,101	627,492	1,493,526	5,581,262	
Delaware	\$1,160,149,520	183,539	314,481	1,033,849	
District Of Columbia	\$794,748,971	108,900	203,371	1,406,301	
Florida	\$10,155,302,035	1,385,633	3,583,154	7,141,995	
Georgia	\$5,339,650,726	753,124	1,358,365	4,165,339	
Hawaii	\$598,503,707	80,617	199,745	996,411	
Idaho	\$503,093,132	65,790	138,667	416,579	
Illinois	\$10,022,950,884	1,483,563	4,186,854	13,328,822	
Indiana	\$2,818,419,476	421,540	834,872	2,678,779	
Iowa	\$1,401,487,354	211,929	419,432	1,576,943	
Kansas	\$1,460,527,795	241,689	467,071	1,503,564	
Kentucky	\$1,421,229,890	214,137	391,762	1,143,898	
Louisiana	\$1,409,205,801	213,937	420,412	1,020,971	
Maine	\$498,238,248	71,391	156,832	764,962	
Maryland	\$3,587,385,623	480,947	704,493	3,330,411	
Massachusetts	\$5,230,269,414	625,630	1,567,587	8,154,713	
Michigan	\$4,918,511,541	743,539	1,849,329	6,912,722	
Minnesota	\$4,445,237,024	644,891	1,278,745	5,102,475	
Mississippi	\$720,250,435	120,062	161,997	533,183	

Missouri	\$2,822,631,534	418,540	1,059,853	2,464,255
Montana	\$283,468,258	40,072	50,968	308,456
Nebraska	\$1,330,903,314	189,560	366,401	1,251,983
Nevada	\$1,658,155,322	190,155	380,079	1,505,750
New Hampshire	\$756,831,513	93,286	199,835	1,056,005
New Jersey	\$8,454,941,784	966,169	776,393	11,835,091
New Mexico	\$563,434,064	81,151	150,522	881,297
New York	\$16,604,935,101	1,891,869	3,062,184	31,087,896
North Carolina	\$5,010,306,242	679,917	1,073,032	3,974,857
North Dakota	\$223,352,958	30,935	68,637	193,650
Ohio	\$6,492,364,218	1,010,799	2,301,163	7,271,070
Oklahoma	\$2,811,546,620	472,529	1,394,319	2,339,751
Oregon	\$1,490,617,018	223,113	303,262	1,401,189
Pennsylvania	\$7,058,104,579	1,106,286	1,743,190	8,488,396
Rhode Island	\$741,108,717	106,696	252,616	1,261,947
South Carolina	\$1,356,608,605	203,603	727,162	984,439
South Dakota	\$281,510,858	42,737	110,867	273,097
Tennessee	\$2,853,930,995	396,434	595,682	2,113,088
Texas	\$15,139,700,220	2,170,255	3,457,279	11,529,534
Utah	\$993,019,323	146,701	339,308	1,214,670
Vermont	\$269,138,174	31,147	88,277	402,482
Virginia	\$5,013,381,052	699,216	1,403,805	4,138,048
Washington	\$4,203,255,003	473,820	666,792	3,744,373
West Virginia	\$505,482,262	76,798	158,890	444,314
Wisconsin	\$2,952,074,297	444,590	1,903,336	3,600,501
Wyoming	\$317,711,692	46,531	86,502	336,320

*Total number of soldiers killed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom from March 19, 2001, through February 7, 2009.

<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm> accessed February 16, 2009. Total includes 16 soldiers from US Territories.

