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Trump's Cabinet picks so far worth a combined \$13b

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Clockwise from top left: Betsy DeVos, Steven Mnuchin, Wilbur Ross, Elaine Chao, Jeff Sessions, and Tom Price.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 20, 2016

President-elect Donald Trump boasted about his wealth during his campaign. Now he's surrounding himself with people who have similarly unimaginable riches.

Collectively, the wealth of [his Cabinet choices so far](#) is about five times greater than President Obama's Cabinet and about 34 times greater than the one George W. Bush led at the end of his presidency.

And Trump still has four more key advisory spots left to fill.

The net worth of the Cabinet Trump had selected as of Monday was at least \$13.1 billion, based on available estimates, or more than the [annual gross domestic product](#) of about 70 small countries.

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That included the \$3.7 billion Trump is estimated to be worth, according to [Forbes](#). (Trump has claimed to be worth much more — around \$10 billion.)



Donald Trump's

administration: the key players

A look at who will be joining Trump at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Infographic: A look at Trump's administration

It also included the \$5.1 billion in net worth that Forbes estimated belongs to the family of Betsy DeVos, the former Michigan Republican Party chair and education activist selected to be education secretary.

Investor Wilbur Ross, picked to become commerce secretary, is estimated to be worth \$2.5 billion, according to Forbes.

Linda McMahon, a former WWE executive and U.S. Senate candidate, has been picked to serve as small business administrator. She and her husband Vincent McMahon are worth at least an estimated \$1.35 billion, according to [Bloomberg](#).

Exxon Mobile CEO Rex Tillerson, nominated to become secretary of state, is estimated to be worth \$365 million, according to Bloomberg.

Steven Mnuchin, the former Goldman Sachs executive in line to become Treasury secretary, is worth at least \$46 million, according to [Politico](#).

Retired neurosurgeon and former presidential candidate Ben Carson, who is in line to become the housing and urban development secretary, was worth \$26 million, according to a Forbes estimate from 2015.



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The pick for transportation secretary, Elaine Chao, the former labor secretary, was worth an estimated \$16.9 million as of 2008, when she last held public office, according to the [Center for Responsive Politics](#), a Washington-based nonprofit that tracks campaign finance data.

Two other Cabinet picks — Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions for attorney general and Georgia Representative Tom Price for health and human services secretary — were estimated to be worth about \$7.5 million and \$13.6 million, respectively, as of 2014, according to the center.

Former Texas governor and presidential candidate Rick Perry, selected to be energy secretary, is estimated to be worth about \$3 million, according to the [Associated Press](#).

U.S. Representative from South Carolina Mick Mulvaney, picked to become director of the Office of Management and Budget, was worth an estimated \$2.6 million as of 2014, according to the center.

Fast-food executive Andrew Puzder, picked to fill the role of labor secretary, is also a multi-millionaire, according to Politico.

U.S. Representative from Montana Ryan Zinke, picked to become interior secretary, was worth an estimated \$675,000 as of 2014, according to the center.

One of the least wealthy members of the Cabinet was actually Trump's running mate. Vice President-elect Mike Pence was worth about \$211,000 as of 2012, data from the center show.

A wealthy bunch | Trump's cabinet picks so far

Beyond what's listed below, the president-elect still has to fill two more official cabinet positions and two more "cabinet-rank" spots.

Cabinet position	Name	Estimated net worth
Education Secretary	Betsy DeVos	\$5.1 billion
President	Donald Trump	\$3.7 billion
Commerce Secretary	Wilbur Ross	\$2.5 billion
*Small Business Administrator	Linda McMahon	\$1.35 billion
Secretary of State	Rex Tillerson	\$365 million
Treasury Secretary	Steven Mnuchin	\$46 million
Housing and Urban Development Secretary	Ben Carson	\$26 million
Transportation Secretary	Elaine Chao	\$16.9 million

Health and Human Services Secretary	Tom Price	\$13.6 million
Attorney General	Jeff Sessions	\$7.5 million
Energy Secretary	Rick Perry	\$3 million
*Office of Management and Budget Director	Mick Mulvaney	\$2.6 million
Interior Secretary	Ryan Zinke	\$675,500
Vice President	Mike Pence	\$211,000
Labor Secretary	Andrew Puzder	NA (multi-millionaire)
Secretary of Defense	James Mattis	NA
Homeland Security Secretary	John F. Kelly	NA
*Chief of Staff	Reince Priebus	NA
*EPA Administrator	Scott Pruitt	NA
*U.N. Ambassador	Nikki R. Haley	NA

* = "cabinet-rank" positions

Note: All are current estimates, except for Carson (2015); Sessions, Zinke, Price, and Mulvaney (2014); Pence (2012); and Chao (2008). Trump has said he is worth about \$10 billion. DeVos' estimate is her family's net worth. Mnuchin's is described as "at least."

SOURCES: Forbes; Center for Responsive Politics; Politico; Bloomberg; Associated Press

Trump still has to fill the following spots: agriculture secretary, veterans affairs secretary, US trade representative, and chairperson of the Council of Economic Advisers.

By comparison, the collective estimated net worth of Obama's entire current Cabinet is less than \$3 billion, according to available estimates. And the vast majority of that wealth is held by just one member, Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, who is worth \$2.4 billion, according to Forbes.

The Cabinet that served Bush at the end of his presidency was worth about \$390 million collectively.

The figures above consider only the presidents and their [official Cabinet members and officials holding "cabinet-rank" positions](#).

The calculations do not consider other important presidential appointments.

If they did, the collective net worth of Trump's Cabinet would grow by at least \$7 billion.

Chicago Cubs co-owner Todd Ricketts has been picked to serve as deputy commerce secretary. Forbes estimates Todd Ricketts and his family are worth \$5.3 billion.

Vincent Viola, an Army veteran, Wall Street executive, and Florida Panthers owner, has been selected

to become Army secretary. He is estimated to be worth \$1.79 billion, according to Forbes.

Two other key appointments: Gary Cohn, the Goldman Sachs president who is in line to become director of the National Economic Council, and former Breitbart executive Steve Bannon, who will be Trump's chief strategist, are also multimillionaires, according to Bloomberg and Politico.

Trump's affluent Cabinet picks are, in some ways, not surprising. He touted his own wealth and business experience as being key attributes that qualified him to be president and would help him boost the country's economy. He also regularly stressed that he wanted to upend the existing political establishment.

But Trump's critics [have said](#) that the picks represent a departure from his anti-Wall Street rhetoric during the campaign, and that they are out of touch with the working-class Americans whom he vowed to champion during the campaign.

President-elect Donald Trump's administration

Click each name for more details. Some positions require Senate confirmation. Positions left blank have not yet been filled.

Last updated: Jan. 12.

Title	Name	Known for
Official Cabinet positions (in order of succession to the presidency)		
President	Donald Trump	Businessman
Vice President	Mike Pence	Governor, Indiana
Secretary of State	Rex Tillerson	Exxon Mobil CEO
Treasury Secretary	Steven Mnuchin	Former Goldman Sachs executive
Defense Secretary	James Mattis	Retired Marine general
Attorney General	Jeff Sessions	U.S. Senator, Alabama
Interior Secretary	Ryan Zinke	U.S. Representative, Montana
Agriculture Secretary	-	-
Commerce Secretary	Wilbur Ross	Investor
Labor Secretary	Andrew Puzder	Fast-food executive
Health and Human Services Secretary	Tom Price	U.S. Representative, Georgia
Housing and Urban Development Secretary	Ben Carson	Retired neurosurgeon, presidential candidate

Transportation Secretary	<u>Elaine Chao</u>	Former Labor secretary
Energy Secretary	<u>Rick Perry</u>	Former Texas governor, presidential candidate
Education Secretary	<u>Betsy DeVos</u>	Former chair Michigan Republican Party, education activist
Veterans Affairs Secretary	<u>David Shulkin</u>	Physician, under secretary of Veterans Affairs
Homeland Security Secretary	<u>John F. Kelly</u>	Retired Marine general

"Cabinet-rank" positions

Chief of Staff	<u>Reince Priebus</u>	RNC chairman
EPA Administrator	<u>Scott Pruitt</u>	Oklahoma attorney general
Office of Management and Budget Director	<u>Mick Mulvaney</u>	U.S. Representative, South Carolina
U.S. Trade Representative	<u>Robert Lighthizer</u>	Lawyer, deputy trade representative during Reagan administration
U.N. Ambassador	<u>Nikki R. Haley</u>	Governor, South Carolina
Council of Economic Advisers Chair	-	-
Small Business Administrator	<u>Linda McMahon</u>	Former WWE executive, U.S. Senate candidate

Other key appointments

Chief Strategist	<u>Steve Bannon</u>	Former head of Breitbart News
White House Counsel	<u>Donald McGahn</u>	Lawyer, former chair of Federal Election Commission
Senior Policy Advisor	<u>Stephen Miller</u>	Trump campaign policy adviser, aide to Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions
CIA Director	<u>Mike Pompeo</u>	U.S. Representative, Kansas
National Security Adviser	<u>Mike Flynn</u>	Retired lieutenant general
Deputy National Security Adviser	<u>Kathleen Troia "KT" McFarland</u>	Fox News analyst, Reagan administration official
National Intelligence Director	<u>Dan Coats</u>	Former Senator, Indiana
Deputy Commerce Secretary	<u>Todd Ricketts</u>	Co-owner Chicago Cubs
National Economic Council Director	<u>Gary Cohn</u>	Goldman Sachs president
Army Secretary	<u>Vincent Viola</u>	Wall Street executive, Florida Panthers owner, Army veteran
National Trade Council Leader	<u>Peter Navarro</u>	Economics and public policy professor, Trump campaign adviser
Regulatory Reform Advisor	<u>Carl Icahn</u>	Investor
Counselor to the President	<u>Kellyanne Conway</u>	Trump campaign manager
Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Adviser	<u>Thomas Bossert</u>	President of CDS Consulting firm, former homeland security adviser to President George W. Bush


Special Representative for International Negotiations	Jason Greenblatt	Trump Organization executive vice president and chief legal officer
Securities and Exchange Commission Chair	Jay Clayton	Wall Street lawyer
Senior Advisor	Jared Kushner	CEO of Kushner Companies, Trump's son-in-law
Cybersecurity Advisor	Rudy Giuliani	Former New York City mayor
Senior Counselor for Economic Initiatives	Dina Powell	Goldman Sachs executive, served in George W. Bush administration

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