

NO GAMES: Chicago [factsheet]

WILL THE OLYMPICS PRODUCE JOBS & HELP THE ECONOMY?

Based on the 13 Summer Games between 1964 in Tokyo and London in 2012, the overall costs have exceeded a billion dollars ten times, with a net profit only once.

Source: Chris Shaw. Five Ring Circus: Myths and Realities of the Olympic Games

'Long-term unemployed and workless communities were largely unaffected by the staging of the Games in each of the [last four host] cities. Much of the employment was temporary, and there was also little evidence that volunteer skills transferred to the post-Games economy,' says the report co-authored by Dr Iain MacRury. 'Greece actually lost 70,000 jobs in the three months following the [2004] Games, mostly in the construction industry.'

Source: www.london.gov.uk/assembly/index.jsp

A report by Roger G. Noll and Andrew Zimbalist of Stanford University found that a new sports facility has an extremely small (perhaps even negative) effect on overall economic activity and employment. Stadia rarely earn anything approaching a reasonable return on investment and sports facilities attract neither tourists nor new industry. Spending on sports for other recreational spending concentrates income, reduces the total number of jobs, and replaces full-time jobs with low-wage, part-time jobs.

Source: "Sports, Jobs, and Taxes: The Economic Impact of Sports Teams and Stadiums"

DO THE OLYMPICS INCREASE TOURISM?

Olympic Games cause about a 10% fall in whole country tourist numbers from a year before the Games to two years afterwards.

Source: Chris Shaw. Five Ring Circus: Myths and Realities of the Olympic Games

WHAT ABOUT HOUSING AND DISPLACEMENT?

Approximately 30,000 poor residents were displaced from their homes in Atlanta by gentrification, the demolition of public housing, rental speculation, and urban renewal projects associated with the Olympics. Approximately 2,000 public housing units were demolished and nearly 6,000 residents displaced. African-Americans were disproportionately affected by displacements, housing unaffordability, and harassment and arrests of the homeless. The criminalisation of homelessness was a key feature of the 1996 Atlanta Games: 9,000 arrest citations were issued to homeless people in Atlanta in 1995 and 1996 as part of the Olympic Games 'clean up'.

The staging of the Olympic Games exacerbated the escalation of housing costs in Sydney. Between 1993 (when Sydney was selected as the Host City of the 2000 Summer Olympic Games) and 1998, Sydney's rents increased by 40 percent, compared with Melbourne, the Australian city with the next biggest increase in rents, which was only 9.6 percent over the same period.

The Olympic Games have displaced more than two million people in the last 20 years, disproportionately affecting minorities such as the homeless, the poor, Roma and African-Americans, according to... Fair Play for Housing Rights: Mega-Events, Olympic Games and Housing Rights.

Source: Center on Housing Rights and Evictions

<http://www.cbc.ca/olympics/history/story/2008/05/09/f-olympics-history-1976.html>

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