

## THE EVER-INCREASING COSTS OF PRODUCING AN OLYMPICS

The Oxford Olympics Study 2016: Cost and Cost Overrun at the Games

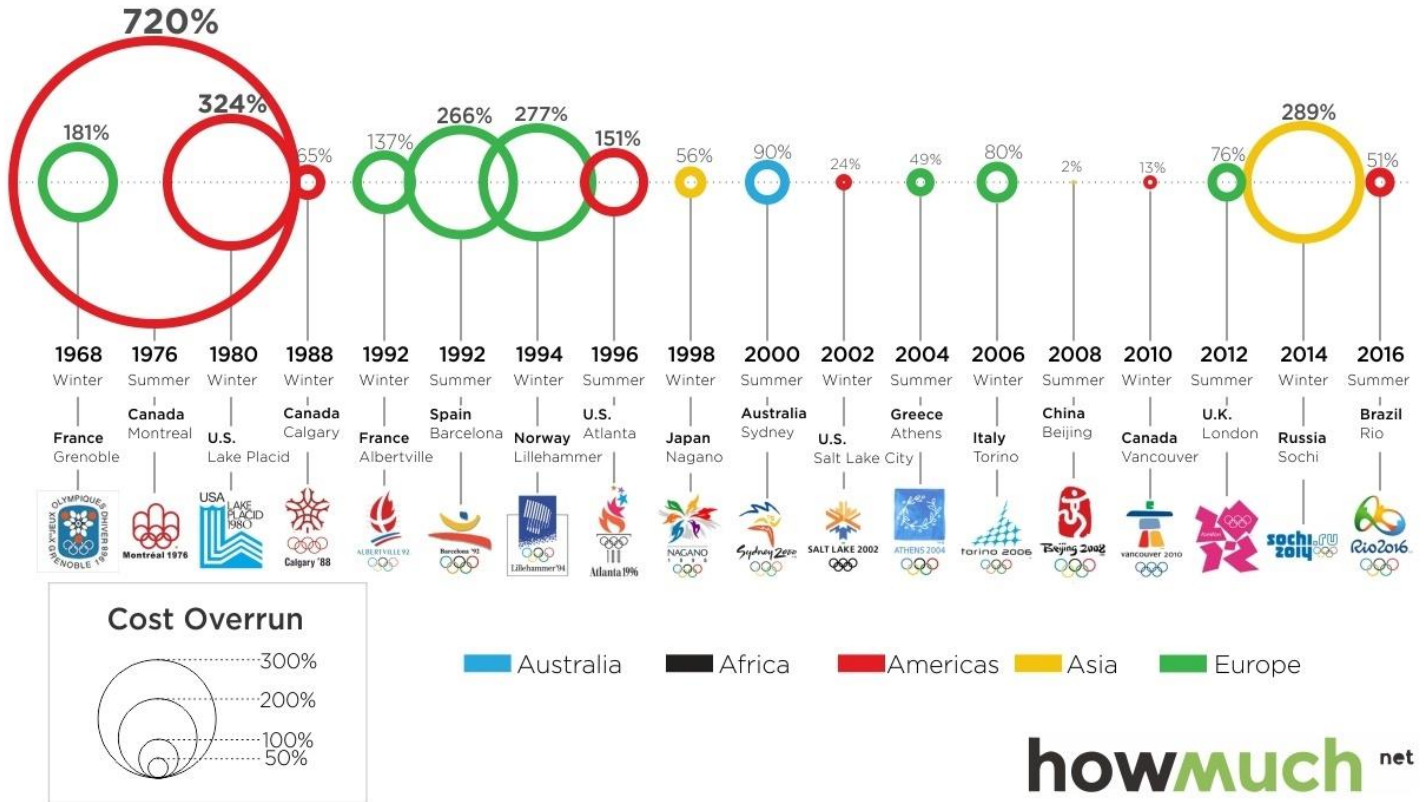
[www.researchgate.net/publication/305307721](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/305307721) The Oxford Olympics Study 2016 Cost and Cost Overrun at the Games

Table 3: Sports-related cost overruns, Olympics 1960-2016; calculated in local currencies, real terms

Games	Country	Type	Cost overrun %
Montreal 1976	Canada	Summer	720
Barcelona 1992	Spain	Summer	266
Atlanta 1996	United States	Summer	151
Sydney 2000	Australia	Summer	90
Athens 2004	Greece	Summer	49
Beijing 2008	China	Summer	2
London 2012	United Kingdom	Summer	76
Rio 2016*	Brazil	Summer	51
<i>Average</i>	-	<i>Summer</i>	<i>176</i>
<i>Median</i>	-	<i>Summer</i>	<i>83</i>
Grenoble 1968	France	Winter	181
Lake Placid 1980	United States	Winter	324
Sarajevo 1984	Yugoslavia	Winter	118
Calgary 1988	Canada	Winter	65
Albertville 1992	France	Winter	137
Lillehammer 1994	Norway	Winter	277
Nagano 1998	Japan	Winter	56
Salt Lake City 2002	United States	Winter	24
Torino 2006	Italy	Winter	80
Vancouver 2010	Canada	Winter	13
Sochi 2014	Russia	Winter	289
<i>Average</i>	-	<i>Winter</i>	<i>142</i>
<i>Median</i>	-	<i>Winter</i>	<i>118</i>

Sources are listed under References. \*) Projected final Rio 2016 costs have been used

# Costs Overruns of the Olympic Games 1968-2016



Time Magazine, October 20, 2014. <https://time.com/3462070/olympics-winter-2022>

**THE EXPLAINER** Time - 10/20/14

## Why Nobody Wants to Host the 2022 Winter Olympics

Oslo withdrew its bid on Oct. 1, making it the fourth city in recent months—after Stockholm; Lviv, Ukraine; and Krakow, Poland—to have second thoughts about hosting the Games. Beijing and Almaty, Kazakhstan, are the only remaining contenders.



**Huge costs**

Last year's Winter Olympics in Sochi set Russia back \$51 billion, exceptional even by Olympic standards. Vancouver, for example, spent \$6.8 billion in 2010.



**Limited payoff**

London poured \$14 billion into its 2012 Summer Olympics, but it remains unclear how much it wound up benefiting the city economically in the long run—if at all.



**Popular backlash**

Some cities are wary of citizen reactions after protests shook Brazil last year in part over the government's lavish spending to host the 2016 Summer Olympics.

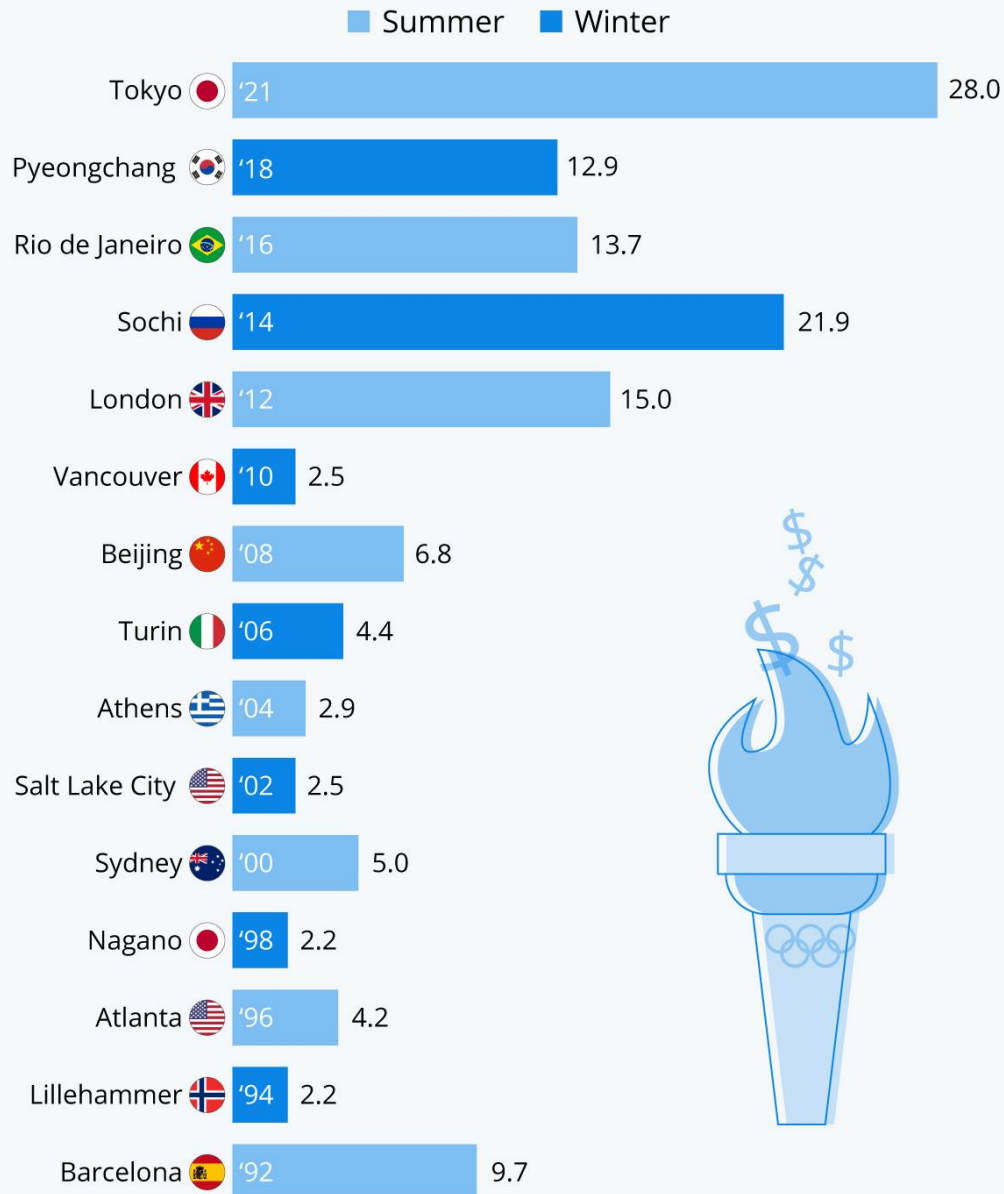


**Shady partner**

The International Olympic Committee, which works with the host to put on the Games, has been plagued by allegations of corruption and a lack of transparency.

# The Massive Costs Behind The Olympic Games

Cost of hosting the Olympic Games since 1992 (billion U.S. dollars)\*

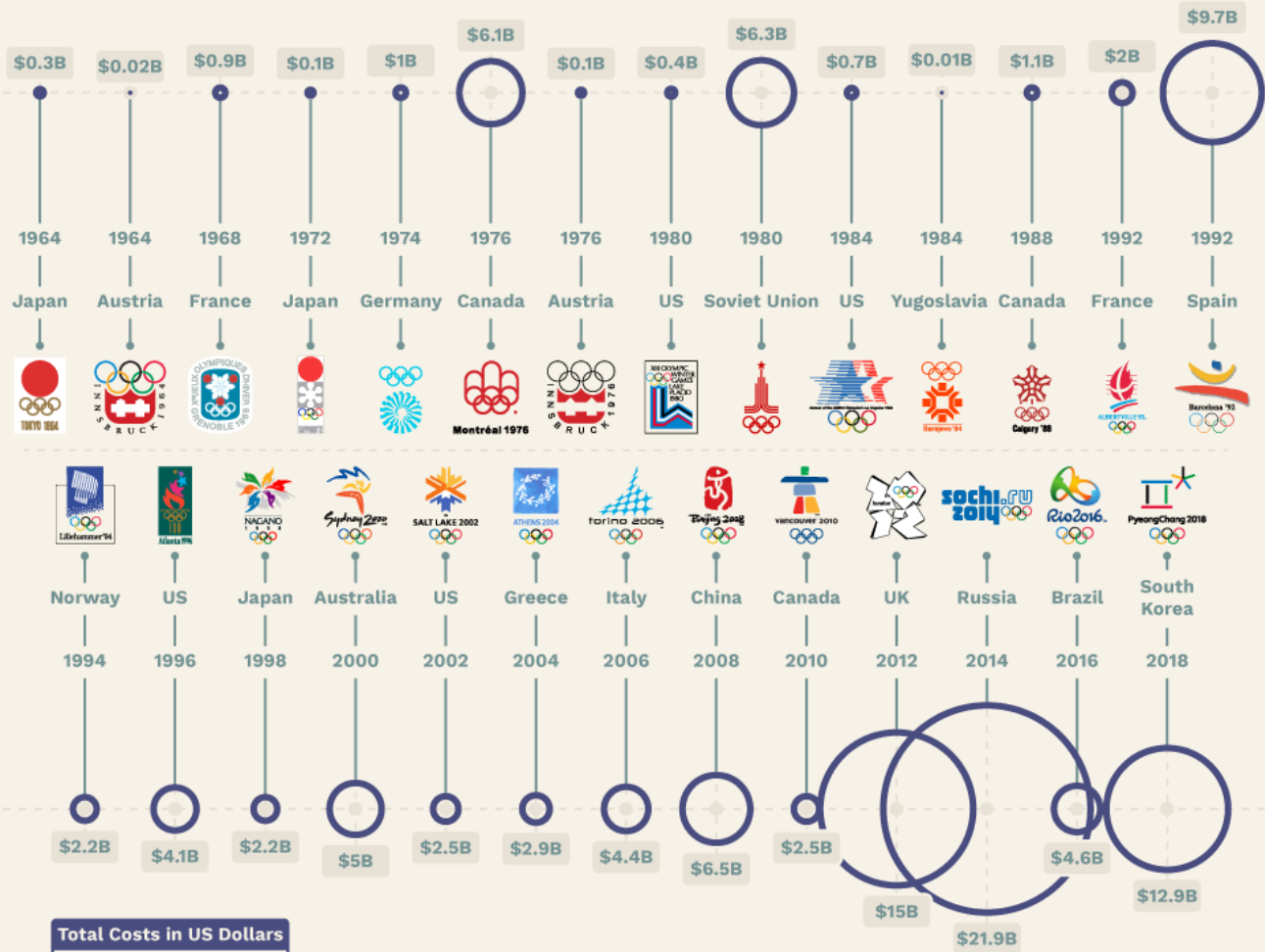


\* In 2015 dollars with the exception of Pyeongchang (2018) and Tokyo (2021). Tokyo value is an estimate.

Sources: Nikkei, Asahi, Forbes and Flyvbjerg et al. via Play the Game



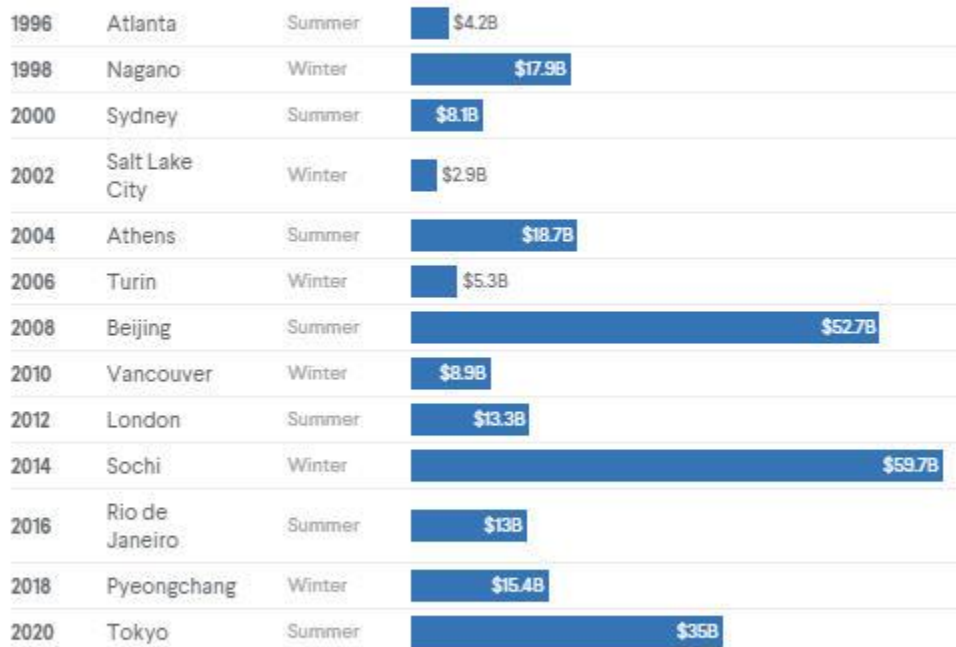
# Cost of Hosting Olympics per Year



**Sources:**  
 eureka.sbs.ox.ac.ukf  
 papers.ssrn.com  
 www.cnn.com

## Hosting the Olympics Has Grown More Expensive, but the Cost Varies by City

Estimated cost of hosting the Olympics, constant 2021 dollars



Note: Estimates include infrastructure and other indirect spending, as well as sports-related costs.

Sources: Robert Baade and Victor Matheson, "Going for the Gold: The Economics of the Olympics"; Andrew Zimbalist, *Circus Maximus*; Marketplace; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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# THE MASSIVE COST OF HOSTING THE OLYMPICS

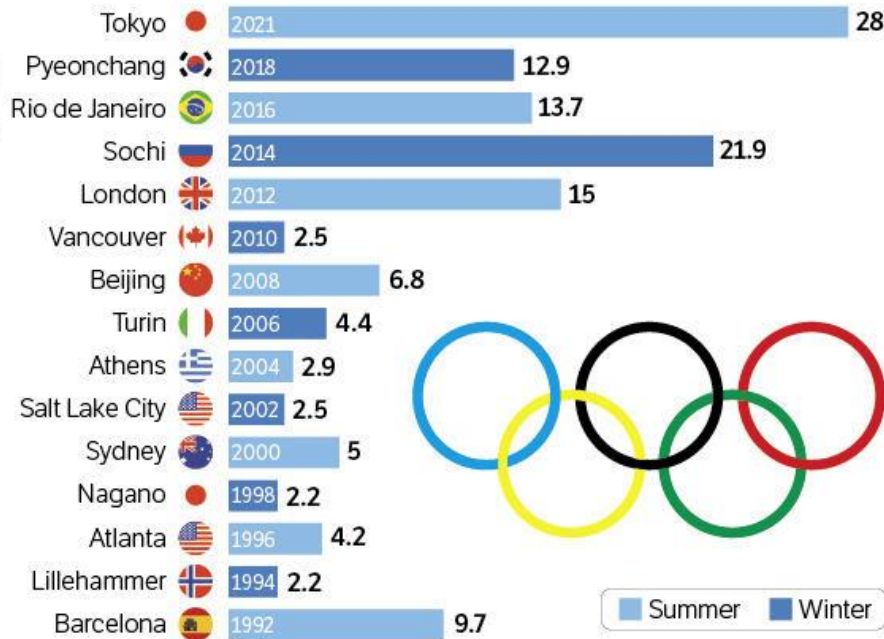
**\$7.3bn**

was what Tokyo expected to pay for the 2020 Olympic Games when Japan won the bid to host the games in 2013. By 2019, this figure had been revised to \$12.6bn

**\$28bn**

is the estimated end cost, after Covid forced a postponement

## Cost of hosting the Olympic Games since 1992 (\$bn)



**Tokyo is just the latest host city to spend more than expected**



**289%** was the overrun of the 2014 Winter Olympics held in Sochi



**352%** was the cost overrun of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro



**76%** was the overrun of the London Olympics in 2012

Source: Statista