

Olympic boom – or curse of the rings

1976

Cost: \$1.5 billion

Montreal, Canada

Financial disaster in which Quebec takes three decades to repay its debt. "Big Owe" stadium is completed 11 years after Games



1984

\$546 million

Los Angeles, U.S.

First Olympics to make money since 1932. Sponsorship, TV rights and ticket sales make \$222.7 million profit



1988

\$4 billion

Seoul, South Korea

Legacy of Games sees nation's transition to democracy and elevation to fifth largest economy in Asia after China, India, Japan and Russia



1992

\$9.4 billion

Barcelona, Spain

Games generate profit of \$5m. Modernization programme transforms city into business capital of southern Europe

2004

\$12.8 billion

Athens, Greece

Despite most lucrative sponsorship and TV revenues in Games' history, costs exceed budget by \$8.2bn, contributing to Greece's current financial crisis

1996

\$1.8 billion

Atlanta, U.S.

Cost recouped through commercial sponsorship – Centennial Games serve as catalyst for Atlanta's ongoing urban regeneration



ATHENS 2004



Beijing 2008



Most expensive Games on record leaves legacy of new highways, subways, and airport terminal. Some venues are assigned long-term educational use

2000

\$3.8 billion

Sydney, Australia

Planning and delivery widely regarded as exemplary but Games lose \$2.1bn. Tourism falls from 3.4% to 2.6% of GDP by 2008

2008

\$44 billion

Beijing, China

Most expensive Games on record leaves legacy of new highways, subways, and airport terminal. Some venues are assigned long-term educational use