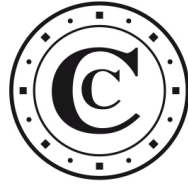


Cour des comptes



Chambres régionales
& territoriales des comptes

PUBLIC SPENDING ON THE 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES: AN INITIAL CENSUS

Progress report

Public thematic report

June 2025

Summary

An initial estimate of public expenditure linked to the organisation of the Games on an anticipated timetable

In the autumn of 2024, the financial jurisdictions began work on a review of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This work was undertaken immediately after the event in order to continue the process of informing the public about its organisation. It was carried out by the Court and the regional audit chambers (CRC) of Île-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, which are responsible for the main local authorities involved in the organisation of these Games. This initial estimate of public spending takes on added significance in the context of preparations for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, awarded to France in 2024.

This progress report is based on data available as at 31 March 2025. It therefore does not claim to draw all the lessons from the organisation of these Games, which can only be assessed at the end of longer-term work on the legacy of the event. The full details of local authority spending will not be known until the CRCs have completed their investigations, which were underway at the time of publication. Due to the unavailability of data, the note does not include an analysis of the positive and negative effects of the Games on economic activity and tax revenues, nor an assessment of the tax expenditure associated with their organisation. On this last point, the tax authorities informed the Court that no overall estimate was planned "for the moment". This position is unsatisfactory, and the Court calls for the State to undertake an evaluation of this tax expenditure without delay.

An assessment of public spending on the Games that distinguishes between organisational spending and infrastructure spending

The estimate made in this report includes all public spending linked to the Games.

First of all, there is the public expenditure involved in organising the Games, in addition to the private expenditure of the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (COJOP). It also includes expenditure on popular mobilisation and support for the high performance of French athletes which, although not absolutely essential to the delivery of the Games, enabled the commitments made at the time of the bid to be honoured and ensured the sporting success of the event for the French delegations. This estimate also takes account of spending on infrastructure, which is a long-term investment that enhances the nation's heritage and constitutes a material legacy.

These two types of expenditure on organisation and infrastructure, which reflect the mobilisation of public finances to meet the many needs arising from the staging of the Games, must be clearly distinguished because of their different impacts: one-off for the former, lasting for the latter.

On the basis of this initial estimate, the cost to the public authorities of organising the Games can be put at €2.77 billion and the cost of infrastructure at €3.19 billion.

Organisational spending characterised by high security-related costs

Minority public funding for the Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (COJOP), which was largely self-financed

State and local authority subsidies paid to the COJOP amounted to €224.1m, mainly for the Paralympic Games in order to balance their structural deficit. The total public funding allocated to the COJOP, which is mainly financed by private resources, amounted to €286.9m, or 6.4 % of its total revenue (€4.48bn). The Organising Committee has forecast a profit of €26.8m as at 31 March 2025. Confirmation of this surplus would free the State from having to implement the guarantee it made to finance any deficit.

The preponderance of security expenditure reflects the importance of the State in the organisation of an exceptional event

Organisational spending, over and above public contributions to the COJOP budget, is estimated at €2.09 billion.

These are mainly organisational expenses to ensure the security of the event and the provision of transport for spectators and accredited persons. These expenses were not included in the COJOP budget, and it was only in the final months of preparations for the Games that they became known. The amounts identified are consistent with the exceptional nature of the Games and underline, beyond the role of the COJOP, the decisive importance of the public authorities in the organisation of such an event.

Security expenditure is estimated at €1.44 billion. The State has assumed 95 % of these responsibilities, in line with its role as a public authority. The second area of organisational spending relates to transport and mobility, estimated by the Court at €570m, of which €335m relates to increased services, 83 % of which were financed by the *Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens* (RATP) and the *Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français* (SNCF).

Other spending by ministries, State operators and local authorities known at 31 March 2025 is estimated at €69m, including €21.6m for healthcare expenditure. Interministerial coordination costs, mainly borne by the Interministerial Delegation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (DIJOP), amount to €14.3m.

Spending targeted at the high performance of French athletes, with the State and local authorities playing a major role in mobilising the public

Organisational expenses linked to the high performance of French athletes¹ and the mobilisation of the general public are estimated at €421.7m.

The resources allocated to support the high performance of the French delegations at the Games amount to €80.3m. They mainly relate to the measures managed by the *Agence nationale du sport* (ANS) aimed at optimally preparing 600 athletes in the "performance cell", the "Win in France" approach, support for the Paralympic delegation, bonuses paid to athletes and their coaches, and the priority research programme "Very high performance sport".

¹ This expenditure relates to the resources mobilised to ensure the performance of France's top athletes.

Public spending on popular mobilisation is estimated at €341.4m. They include the special resources deployed by the State and its operators (€256.9m), including the audiovisual resources provided by *France Télévisions* and the local authorities (€84.5m).

Expenditure on infrastructure designed as a legacy and covering few new large-scale projects

Substantial funding of sports facilities by local authorities, urban regeneration for Olympic and Paralympic villages

Public spending on sports and non-sports infrastructure totalled €2.07 billion. The investments made in these infrastructures, which were used during the Games, with the exception of structures built solely for legacy purposes (schools in the new neighbourhoods linked to the villages, for example), were designed with this same legacy in mind.

Expenditure on sports infrastructure (competition and training venues, preparation centres for the Games) and equipment used during the events is estimated at €1.24 billion, half of which was spent on competition venues. Three quarters of this investment was financed by local authorities.

There were also urban developments (€839m), of which almost three quarters of the costs related to public improvements carried out as part of the development projects associated with the construction of the Olympic and Media Villages. The State's share of public funding for urban development was predominant, accounting for almost 70 % of estimated expenditure.

Transport expenditure marked by acceleration costs attributable to the Games

Expenditure on transport infrastructure can be estimated at €595m. Some of this expenditure involves new infrastructure, of which there are very few (Pleyel urban crossing, Pleyel interchange, for example). €236m was recognised to cover the additional costs of speeding up or changing the timetable for projects which, although they already existed prior to the Games, had their schedule modified to take account of them (metro line 14 and the East- West Liaison Express - EOLE project, for example).

The "baignade" (swimming) plan: uncertainties in determining the amount of public expenditure linked to the Games

The objective of ensuring that the Seine is "swimmable" by 2024, in line with the commitments made in the bid, resulted in a major mobilisation of the public authorities, in order to enable the open water swimming and triathlon events to take place in the river and ensure that permanent bathing sites are open after the Games. These investments also contributed to meeting the obligations set out in two European directives on water quality (the water framework directive of 2000, and the urban wastewater directive of 1991, revised in 2024).

For this reason, despite the scale and targeting of the actions carried out in the run-up to the Games, there is some uncertainty regarding the estimate of public expenditure relating to the implementation of the "baignade" plan linked to the Games, which leads us to estimate its amount at between €200m and €1bn. These estimates are therefore not included in the total Games-related spending presented in this note. This does not prejudice the Court's final position on this particular point.