

Foreign visitors to the Olympic and Winter Games

Tokyo in 1964 recorded 130,000 foreign visitors, whereas in 1968 only 50,522 foreigners made the trip to Mexico City, again perhaps explained by the distance factor.

The Munich Organising Committee produced fairly comprehensive statistics—approximately 260,000 spectators from abroad, of which 13.4% from the North American continent, 29% from Western Europe, 2.4% from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, 4% from Japan and 1.2% from South Africa.

For the last Olympic Games in Montreal there were an estimated 200,000 foreign visitors—but this figure also includes Canadians outside Quebec province.

Due to the far smaller scale of the Winter Games, the organisers have tended not to mention the breakdown between foreign and national visitors. But we have been able to ascertain that there were approximately 15,000 foreign spectators at Oslo in 1952 and 6,860 at Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956. The Sapporo Organising Committee estimated there were 3,000 foreign visitors per day for the 1972 Winter Games.

Below we publish for information a table showing the number of actual spectators for each Games. In most cases these figures equal the number of tickets sold for all the events.

Olympic Games

1948	London	1,247,283
1952	Helsinki	1,136,166
1956	Melbourne	1,341,483
	Stockholm	—
1960	Rome	1,436,091
1964	Tokyo	1,928,000
1968	Mexico	4,457,252
1972	Munich	4,435,583
1976	Montreal	3,137,287

Winter Games

1948	St. Moritz	several thousand
1952	Oslo	541,407
1956	Cortina d'Ampezzo	500,000 approx.
1960	Squaw Valley	249,653
1964	Innsbruck	1,073,000
1968	Grenoble	—
1972	Sapporo	547,958
1976	Innsbruck	1,500,000

For the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, approximately twenty-five per cent of the seats will be made available for spectators from abroad. We thought it would be interesting to try and ascertain the number of foreign spectators at previous Games and we consulted the official reports established by each Organising Committee. Although not all Organising Committees specified the number of foreign spectators, we have been able to find the following figures.

In 1956 at Melbourne there were approximately 8000 foreigners—a comparatively low figure compared to that of 147,743 spectators four years later in Rome, but nevertheless understandable due to Australia's great distance from the other continents.