

# Rio's Social Indicators Improved After the City Was Chosen for Hosting the Olympic Games

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Economista Marcelo Neri / Photo: Paulo Araújo



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Since October 2009, when Rio de Janeiro won the race to host the 2016 Olympiad, 36 of the city's social indicators had a positive evolution. The data is part of research presented this Thursday (Aug. 8), at the Rio Media Center (RMC) auditorium, by Economist and former Minister of Strategic Matters, Marcelo Neri, about the Olympic Games' social legacy.

Conducted by the Center for Social Policies, of the Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV), the study sought to observe if the population had already been impacted, since Rio's announcement as the hosting city for the Olympiads. For this, the study evaluated several areas, such as education, work, housing, public services utilities, transportation, digital inclusion, and social development, based on household surveys.

According to Neri, the survey generated 38 indicators, such as access to garbage collection, electricity, and home ownership, among others. Only two indicators presented negative results: transportation time about work location, and transportation time about salary.

The survey also compared 24 of Rio de Janeiro's data sets, with numbers from other municipalities of the metropolitan area. Before the announcement of the Games (1992 to 2008), Rio had a worse performance than the neighboring municipalities, in 10 indicators, equalized in seven, and was better in the other seven. Between 2008 and 2016, the situation changed. The city now presents 18 data results better than those of the municipalities in the

metropolitan area, with only one data type being worse, and five equalized.

“In general, there is an indication of inflection in the indicators, with the announcement of Rio as the hosting city for the Olympic Games,” stated Neri. According to the Economist, it is also possible to notice this change, by observing the ten indicators that have a longer historical development. An analysis of these data about the 40 years that preceded the announcement of the Games, and in later years, shows that there was a positive behavior in the numbers.

In comparison with the other cities, there was a downward trend for Rio, in all ten indicators, from 1970 to 2010. Between 2008 and 2016, the picture changes, with Rio’s evolution in 8 of the ten comparable data types. “We observed a change in trends. Indicators that were falling, began to rise,” said Neri.

According to the Economist, there is an idea that the Olympic Games do not impact the life of the ordinary citizen, only the life of those who come out for the competitions. The survey aimed at finding out if life changed or not locally, and who was more or less affected by the changes. “It might have been a coincidence, but we could not reject the hypothesis that there was a reversal in data trends,” he said.

Neri stressed the importance of a post-Olympic project, to follow up on the evolution of the indicators. According to the data presented by Neri, the demographic projections show that the proportion the population, in the active age range, begins to fall just from 2016 on, and at increasing rates. “A quality education agenda, with kindergartens and schools having a full-time schedule, in addition to a project that encourages the coming of new talents from other places. The visibility that the country gains with the Olympiads can help on that,” he said.

The research data is available on the website <http://cps.fgv.br/rio2016>

**Presentation (portuguese version):** [The Social Legacy from the Games](#)