



Olympics: Key Facts and Figures

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Author: Sophie Gick

Social and General Statistics Section

The purpose of this note is to draw together key facts and figures about the Summer Olympic Games, including the performance record of British athletes competing in Team GB.

Details on the London 2012 Olympic Games can be found in the following Library Standard Notes:

[Financing the London 2012 Olympic Games](#) (SN/SG/3790)

[2012 Olympics – London bid](#) (SN/HA/1978)

[The National Lottery and the London Olympics](#) (SN/HA/4332)

[London Olympics 2012: transport](#) (SN/BT/3722)

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A. Overview

Ancient Olympic Games

According to historical records, the first ancient Olympic Games can be traced back to 776 BC. They were dedicated to the Olympian gods and were staged on the ancient plains of Olympia. They continued for nearly 12 centuries, until Emperor Theodosius decreed in 393 A.D. that all such "pagan cults" be banned.

Modern Olympic Games

On 23 June 1894, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French pedagogue who was convinced of sport's moral and educational value, began the task of reviving the Olympic Games. He set up a committee in charge of organising the first Games and created an international Olympic Movement. Hence the first Games of the modern era were staged in Athens in 1896 and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was officially created.¹

Great Britain has hosted the Olympic Games twice previously, in 1908 and 1948, both in London. In 2005 the city was also chosen as the host for the 2012 Games, which will make it the second city to host three editions of the Games, along with Athens.

Summer Olympic Games chronology

1896	Athens	1932	Los Angeles	1976	Montreal
1900	Paris	1936	Berlin	1980	Moscow
1904	St. Louis	1948	London	1984	Los Angeles
1906	Athens	1952	Helsinki	1988	Seoul
1908	London	1956	Melbourne	1992	Barcelona
1912	Stockholm	1960	Rome	1996	Atlanta
1920	Antwerp	1964	Tokyo	2000	Sydney
1924	Paris	1968	Mexico City	2004	Athens
1928	Amsterdam	1972	Munich	2008	Beijing

Future Olympic Games

2012 London

Cities hosting the highest number of Olympic Games

Athens (3)

London (3 - including 2012)

Paris (2)

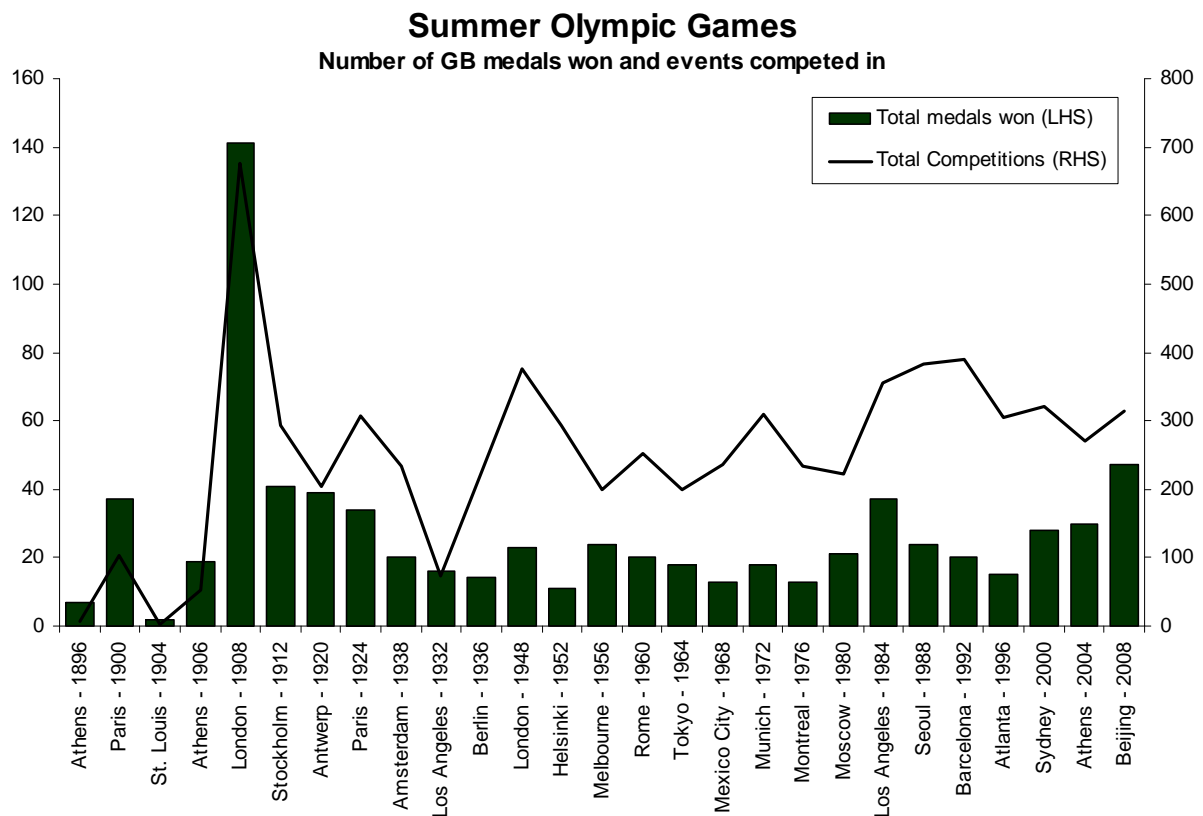
Los Angeles (2)

¹ Official website of the Olympic Movement: http://www.olympic.org/uk/games/index_uk.asp

B. Performance Statistics

1. Medals

Great Britain is the only country to have won at least one gold medal at every edition of the Summer Olympic Games and has gold and overall total medal tallies bettered only by the United States and the Soviet Union. Great Britain has topped the Games' medal table on only one occasion, when it took advantage of being the host nation at the 1908 Games.²

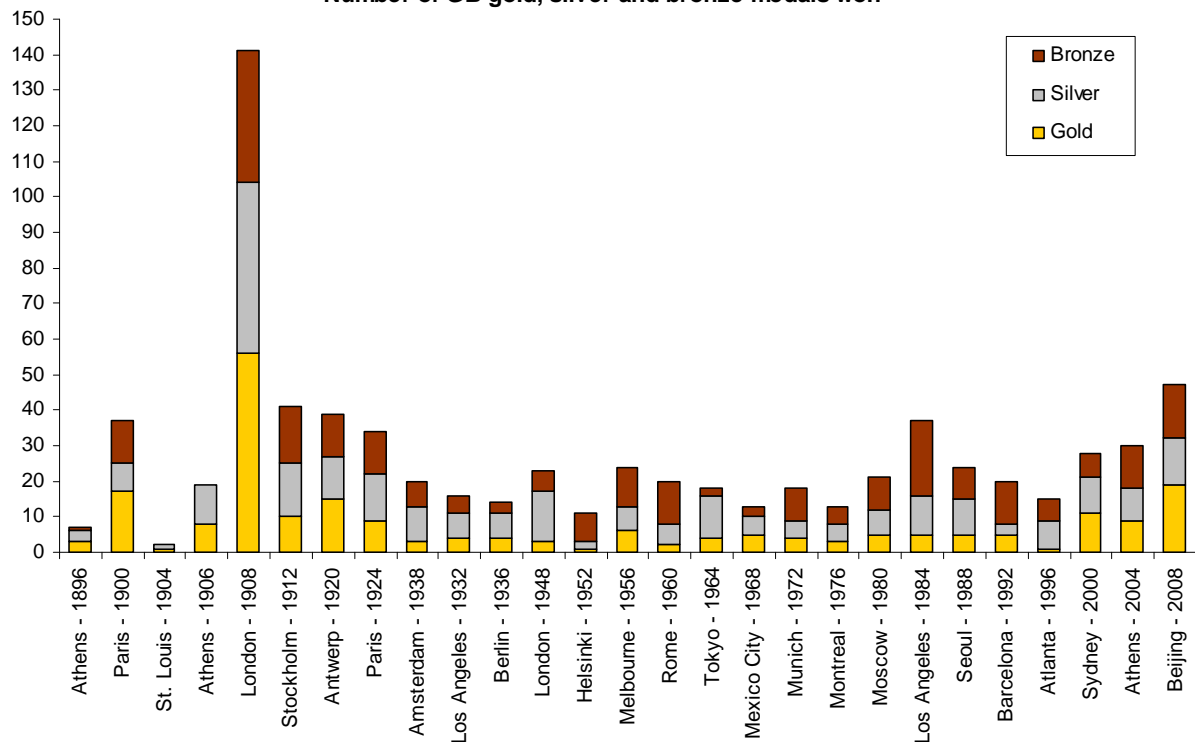


Source: British Olympic Association

² British Olympic Association Statistics: <http://www.olympics.org.uk/statistics.aspx>

Summer Olympic Games

Number of GB gold, silver and bronze medals won



Source: British Olympic Association

Historically, Great Britain's strongest sports are athletics, rowing and sailing, with athletics providing the most gold medals, but it is the sport of rowing that produced the country's most successful Olympian. At the 2000 Olympic Games, at the age of 38, Steve Redgrave joined an elite group of Olympians who had won gold medals in five consecutive Games. He won his first title at the 1984 Games in the coxed four, at the 1988, 1992 and 1996 Games in the coxless pairs and at the 2000 Games as a member of the coxless fours crew. Redgrave's crewmate in the 1992, 1996 and 2000 successes, Matthew Pinsent, also went on to add a fourth consecutive gold at the 2004 Games, again as part of a coxless fours crew.

In the sport of athletics only the United States and the Soviet Union have won more Games medals than Great Britain and the country has produced many Olympic stars, most notably two-time 1,500m gold medallist and now chairman of the 2012 Games' organising committee Sebastian Coe, two-time decathlon champion Daley Thompson and double gold medal winner from the 2004 Games in Athens Kelly Holmes.

Rowing and sailing remain among Britain's most competitive sports, while track cycling has also emerged in recent years as a steady provider of Olympic medals, as shown in the table overleaf.³

³ Beijing Olympic Games official website, NOC biography - GBR:
<http://results.beijing2008.cn/WRM/ENG/BIO/NOC/GBR.shtml>

GB Olympic medals by sport

Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Archery	2	2	5	9
Athletics	49	80	61	190
Badminton	0	1	1	2
Boxing	14	11	23	48
Canoe/Kayak - Flatwater	1	0	3	4
Canoe/Kayak - Slalom	0	4	1	5
Cricket	1	0	0	1
Cycling - Road	1	7	4	12
Cycling - Track	17	17	17	51
Diving	0	2	4	6
Equestrian - Eventing	5	6	7	18
Equestrian - Jumping	1	3	5	9
Fencing	1	8	0	9
Football	2	0	0	2
Golf	0	1	1	2
Gymnastics - Artistic	0	1	3	4
Hockey	3	2	5	10
Jeu de Paume	0	1	1	2
Judo	0	7	9	16
Lacrosse	0	1	0	1
Modern Pentathlon	2	1	3	6
Polo	2	3	1	6
Rackets	2	2	3	7
Rowing	24	17	9	50
Rugby Union	0	2	0	2
Sailing	23	16	12	51
Shooting	12	15	16	43
Swimming	15	22	28	65
Taekwondo	0	0	1	1
Tennis	15	13	12	40
Tug Of War	2	2	1	5
Water Motorsports	2	0	0	2
Water Polo	4	0	0	4
Weightlifting	1	3	3	7
Wrestling - Freestyle	3	4	10	17
Total	204	254	249	707

Source: Official website of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

2. Records

a. Medal winners

By number

Top medal winners

	Name	NOC	Sport	Medals
Most medals won (men)	Nikolai Andrianov	URS	Gymnastics	15
Most medals won (women)	Larisa Latynina	URS	Gymnastics	18
Most gold medals won (men)	Michael Phelps	USA	Swimming	12
Most gold medals won (women)	Larisa Latynina	URS	Gymnastics	9

Source: Official website of the Olympic Movement

By discipline

Great Britain currently holds the record for most Olympic medals won in the disciplines of men's rowing and men's tennis. Steve Redgrave holds the record for most medals won in men's rowing, winning a total of 6 medals (five gold and one bronze) during 1984-2000. Charles Percy Dixon still holds the record for men's tennis, winning a total of five medals (one gold, two silver and two bronze) during 1908-12.⁴

By age

The youngest known male medallist in an individual event was Nils Skoglund (DEN), who won a silver medal in high diving at the 1920 Olympic Games, aged 14 years and 11 days. The youngest known female medallist was Inge Sorensen (DEN), who won a bronze medal for 200m breaststroke at the 1936 Games, aged 12 years and 24 days.

The youngest known male gold medallist in an individual event was Kusuo Kitamura (JAP) in 1500m freestyle at the 1932 Games, aged 14 years and 309 days. The youngest known female gold medallist was Marjorie Gestring (USA) in 3m springboard at the 1936 Games, aged 13 years and 268 days.

⁴ International Olympic Committee Factsheet: *Records and Medals, Summer Olympic Games*: <http://www.olympics.org.uk/contentpage.aspx?page=311>

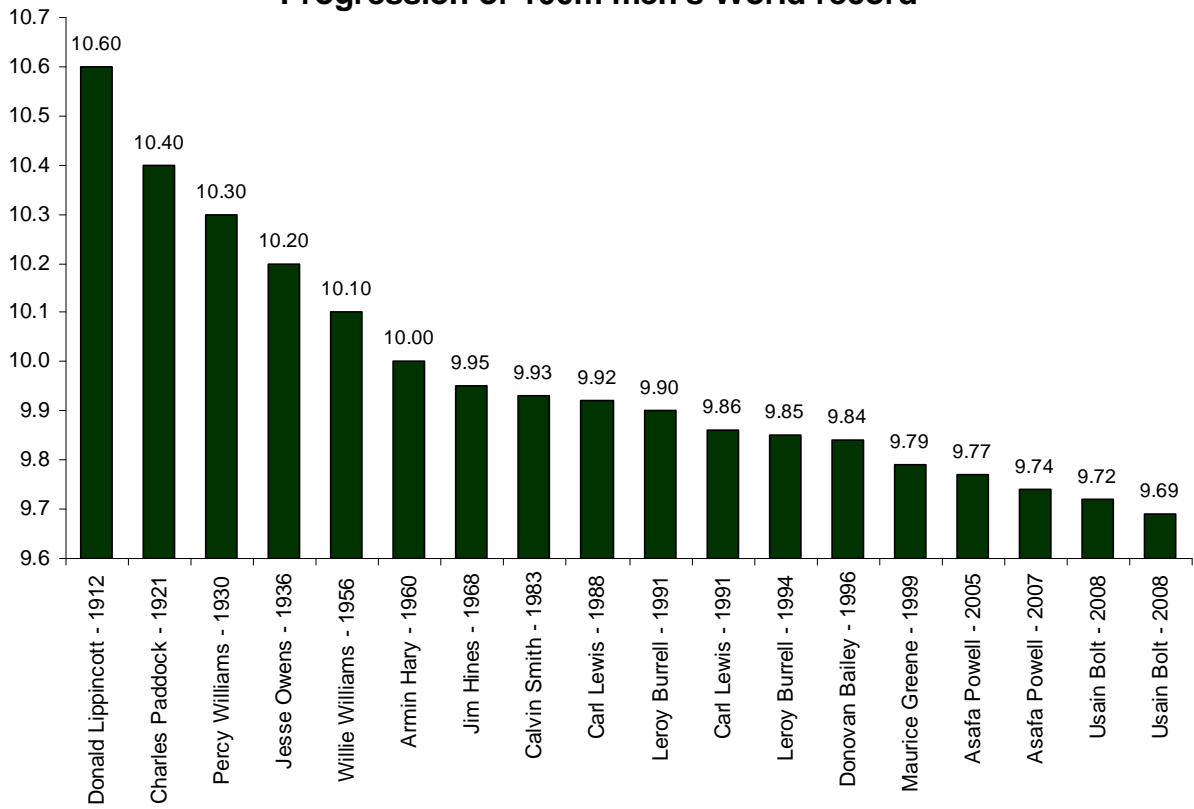
b. Olympic and World records

Current World and Olympic records - selected athletics events

Event	Male/Female	WR/OR	Result	Name	NOC	Date	Location
100m	Male	WR	9.69	Usain Bolt	JAM	16/08/2008	Beijing (CHN)
		OR	9.69	Usain Bolt	JAM	16/08/2008	Beijing (CHN)
	Female	WR	10.49	Florence Griffith Joyner	USA	16/07/1988	Indianapolis (USA)
		OR	10.62	Florence Griffith Joyner	USA	24/09/1988	Seoul (KOR)
200m	Male	WR	19.30	Usain Bolt	JAM	20/08/2008	Beijing (CHN)
		OR	19.30	Usain Bolt	JAM	20/08/2008	Beijing (CHN)
	Female	WR	21.34	Florence Griffith Joyner	USA	29/09/1988	Seoul (KOR)
		OR	21.34	Florence Griffith Joyner	USA	29/09/1988	Seoul (KOR)
400m	Male	WR	43.18	Michael Johnson	USA	26/08/1999	Seville (ESP)
		OR	43.49	Michael Johnson	USA	29/07/1996	Atlanta (USA)
	Female	WR	47.60	Marita Koch	n/a	06/10/1985	Canberra (AUS)
		OR	48.25	Marie-Jose Perec	FRA	29/07/1996	Atlanta (USA)
800m	Male	WR	1:41.11	Wilson Kipketer	DEN	24/08/1997	Cologne (GER)
		OR	1:42.58	Vebjorn Rodal	NOR	31/07/1996	Atlanta (USA)
	Female	WR	1:53.28	Jarmila Kratochvilova	n/a	26/07/1983	Munic (GER)
		OR	1:53.43	Nadezhda Olizarenko	n/a	27/07/1980	Moscow (RUS)
1500m	Male	WR	3:26.00	Hicham El Guerrouj	MAR	14/07/1998	Rome (ITA)
		OR	3:32.07	Noah Ngeny	KEN	29/09/2000	Sydney (AUS)
	Female	WR	3:50.46	Qu Yunxia	CHN	11/09/1993	Beijing (CHN)
		OR	3:53.96	Paula Ivan	ROM	26/09/1988	Seoul (KOR)
Marathon	Male	WR	2:03:29	Haile Gebrselassie	ETH	28/09/2008	Berlin (GER)
		OR	2:06:32	Samuel Wanjiru	KEN	24/08/2008	Beijing (CHN)
	Female	WR	2:15:25	Paula Radcliffe	GBR	13/04/2003	London (GBR)
		OR	2:23:14	Naoko Takahashi	JPN	24/09/2000	Sydney (AUS)
110m hurdles	Male	WR	12.87	Dayron Robles	CUB	12/06/2008	Ostrava (CZE)
		OR	12.91	Liu Xiang	CHN	27/08/2004	Athens (GRE)
100m hurdles	Female	WR	12.21	Yordanka Dunkova	BUL	20/08/1988	Stara Zagora (BUL)
		OR	12.37	Joanna Hayes	USA	24/08/2004	Athens (GRE)
Long jump	Male	WR	8.95m	Mike Powell	USA	30/09/1991	Tokyo (JPN)
		OR	8.90m	Bob Beamon	USA	18/10/1968	Mexico City (MEX)
	Female	WR	7.52m	Galina Chistyakova	n/a	11/06/1988	Leningrad (RUS)
		OR	7.40m	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	USA	29/09/1988	Seoul (KOR)
Triple jump	Male	WR	18.29m	Jonathan Edwards	GBR	07/08/1995	Gothenburg (SWE)
		OR	18.09m	Kenny Harrison	USA	27/07/1996	Atlanta (USA)
	Female	WR	15.50m	Inessa Kravets	UKR	10/08/1995	Gothenburg (SWE)
		OR	15.39m	Francoise Mbango	CMR	17/08/2008	Beijing (CHN)
High jump	Male	WR	2.45m	Javier Sotomayor	CUB	27/07/1993	Salamanca (ESP)
		OR	2.39m	Charles Austin	USA	28/07/1996	Atlanta (USA)
	Female	WR	2.09m	Stefka Kostadinova	BUL	30/08/1987	Rome (ITA)
		OR	2.06m	Yelena Slesarenko	RUS	28/08/2004	Athens (GRE)

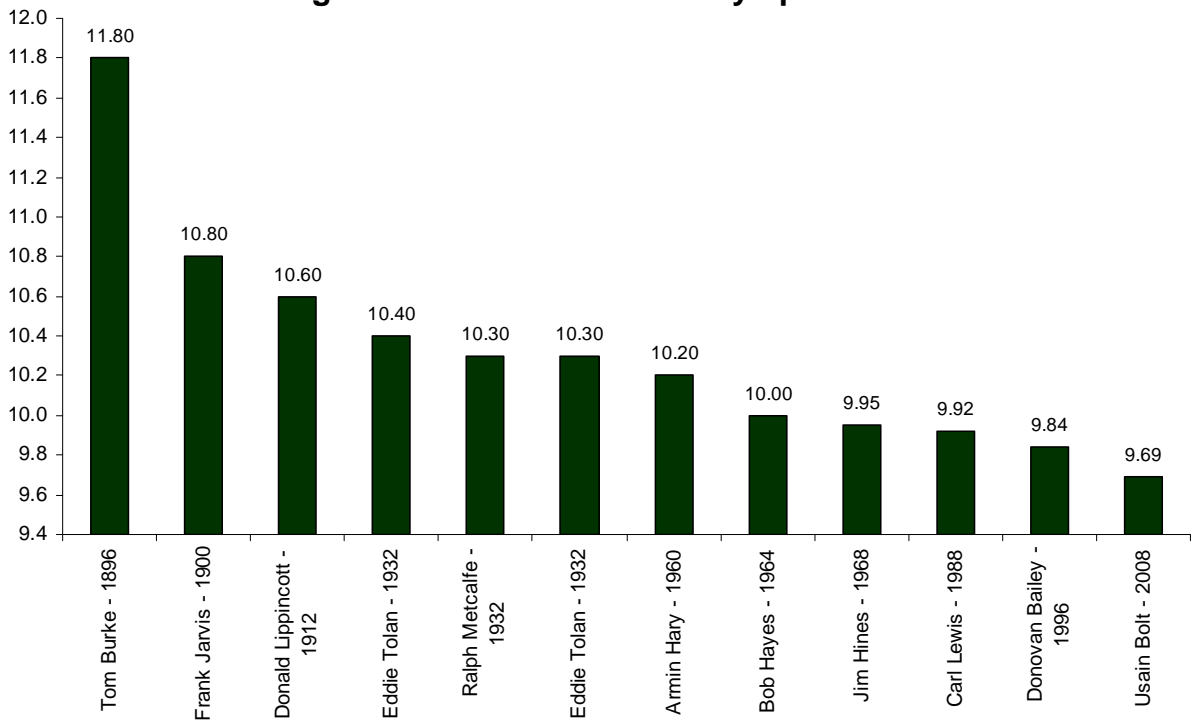
Source: Official website of the Olympic Movement

Progression of 100m men's World record



Source: Official website of the Olympic Movement

Progression of 100m men's Olympic record



Source: Official website of the Olympic Movement

C. Beijing 2008

Beijing was elected as the host city for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad on 13 July 2001 in Moscow, shaking off competition from Istanbul, Osaka, Paris and Toronto. The Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games took place on 8 August 2008, in which swimmer Mark Foster carried the flag for Team GB. Sixteen days of intense competition followed as 10,500 elite athletes from around the world competed for the 302 gold medals on offer across 28 sports. The Closing Ceremony brought down the curtain on 24 August 2008. Besides Beijing, Qingdao held the sailing competition; Hong Kong was the location for the equestrian events; Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao were the co-host cities for the football tournament. The Paralympic Games took place between 6-17 September 2008.

1. Events

There were 28 sports in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, with 302 events in total.⁵

- 1 Aquatics (including diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and waterpolo)
- 2 Archery
- 3 Athletics (a total of 47 events: 24 for men and 23 for women)
- 4 Badminton
- 5 Baseball
- 6 Basketball
- 7 Boxing
- 8 Canoeing (including flatwater and slalom)
- 9 Cycling (including BMX, track cycling, mountain bike and road cycling)
- 10 Equestrian (Including dressage, eventing and show jumping)
- 11 Fencing (6 disciplines, including 6 individual and 4 team events)
- 12 Football
- 13 Gymnastics (including artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and trampoline)
- 14 Handball
- 15 Hockey
- 16 Judo
- 17 Modern Pentathlon (Shooting-Fencing-Swimming-Riding-Cross-country running)
- 18 Rowing (includes 14 different classes of boat and 1-8 rowers)
- 19 Sailing
- 20 Shooting (including pistol, rifle and shotgun)
- 21 Softball (played exclusively by women)
- 22 Table Tennis
- 23 Taekwondo (including eight weight categories)
- 24 Tennis (including singles and doubles events)
- 25 Triathlon (Swimming-Cycling-Running)
- 26 Volleyball (including traditional and beach volleyball)
- 27 Weightlifting
- 28 Wrestling (including freestyle and Greco-Roman)

⁵ British Olympic Association, Sports Info: <http://www.olympics.org.uk/beijing2008/Sports.aspx>

2. Team GB

Great Britain's total delegation to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games was 549, comprising 313 athletes (169 men and 144 women) and 236 officials.⁶

Team GB - Beijing 2008

Sport	Athletes			Officials			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
AQUATICS	26	23	49	18	6	24	73
<i>Diving</i>	5	5	10	5	1	6	16
<i>Swimming</i>	21	16	37	13	3	16	53
<i>Synchronised Swimming</i>	0	2	2	0	2	2	4
ARCHERY	3	3	6	1	2	3	9
ATHLETICS	32	36	68	26	4	30	98
BADMINTON	3	3	6	3	2	5	11
BOXING	8	0	8	4	0	4	12
CANOE/KAYAK	3	4	7	8	1	9	16
<i>Flatwater</i>	1	3	4	4	0	4	8
<i>Slalom</i>	2	1	3	4	1	5	8
CYCLING	18	7	25	23	0	23	48
<i>BMX</i>	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
<i>Mountain Bike</i>	2	0	2	-	-	-	2
<i>Road</i>	4	3	7	-	-	-	7
<i>Track</i>	11	3	14	-	-	-	14
EQUESTRIAN	5	7	12	12	6	18	30
<i>Dressage</i>	0	3	3	-	-	-	3
<i>Jumping</i>	4	0	4	-	-	-	4
<i>Eventing</i>	1	4	5	-	-	-	5
FENCING	2	1	3	3	0	3	6
GYMNASTICS	2	7	9	4	3	7	16
<i>Artistic</i>	2	6	8	-	-	-	8
<i>Trampoline</i>	0	1	1	-	-	-	1
HOCKEY	16	16	32	10	4	14	46
JUDO	4	3	7	10	1	11	18
MODERN PENTATHLON	2	2	4	4	1	5	9
ROWING	24	19	43	15	4	19	62
SAILING	11	7	18	15	3	18	36
SHOOTING	3	2	5	4	1	5	10
TAEKWONDO	2	1	3	4	0	4	7
TENNIS	2	0	2	2	0	2	4
TRIATHLON	3	2	5	2	1	3	8
WEIGHTLIFTING	0	1	1	1	0	1	2
Team GB HQ	-	-	-	11	17	28	28
Total	169	144	313	180	56	236	549

Source: British Olympic Association

The youngest British athlete in Team GB was Tom Daley (Aquatics - Diving), aged 14 years and 82 days on his first day of competition in Beijing. The oldest British athlete was John Whitaker (Equestrian), aged 54 years and 12 days on his first day of competition.

⁶ British Olympic Association: <http://www.olympics.org.uk/beijing2008/Default.aspx>

Team GB had four sets of siblings competing in Beijing:

- Richard & Simon Mantell (hockey)
- Andy & Jamie Murray (tennis)
- Alex & Ashlee Nelson (athletics)
- John & Michael Whittaker (equestrian – show jumping)

John and Michael Whittaker are the only brothers to have competed for Team GB at five Olympic Games together: Los Angeles 1984, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Beijing 2008.

3. Results

Great Britain was ranked 4th in terms of gold medal wins in Beijing, with British athletes bringing home a total of 47 Olympic medals: 19 gold, 13 silver and 15 bronze. The top three gold medal winners were China (51), the USA (36) and Russia (23). This was an improvement on Britain's 10th place gold medal ranking in the previous Summer Olympic Games in Athens in 2004.

Sports in which Britain won the most medals in Beijing were cycling (14), rowing (6), sailing (6) and swimming (6). Of the individual Team GB competitors, the most medals were won by Chris Hoy (3 gold - cycling), Bradley Wiggins (2 gold – cycling), Rebecca Adlington (2 gold - swimming), Kenny Jason (1 gold, 1 silver – cycling), Tim Brabants (1 gold, 1 bronze - kayak) and Kristina Cook (2 bronze – equestrian).

In addition, new World and Olympic records were set by British athletes in the following disciplines:

British Olympic and World records set in Beijing 2008

Event	WR/OR	Result	Name	Date
Aquatics - 800m freestyle (women)	OR	8:14.10	Rebecca Adlington	16/08/2008
	WR	8:14.10	Rebecca Adlington	16/08/2008
Cycling, track - individual sprint (men)	OR	9.815	Chris Hoy	17/08/2008
Cycling, track - individual pursuit (men)	OR	4:15.031	Bradley Wiggins	15/08/2008
Cycling, track - team pursuit 4000m (men)	OR	3:53.314	Ed Clancy	18/08/2008
			Geraint Thomas	
			Paul Manning	
			Bradley Wiggins	
	WR	3:53.314	Ed Clancy	18/08/2008
			Geraint Thomas	
			Paul Manning	
			Bradley Wiggins	
Cycling, track - individual pursuit (women)	OR	10.963	Victoria Pendleton	17/08/2008

Source: Official website of the Olympic Movement

Medals Table - Beijing 2008

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	51	21	28	100	Latvia	1	1	1	3
United States	36	38	36	110	Belgium	1	1	-	2
Russian Federation	23	21	28	72	Dominican Republic	1	1	-	2
Great Britain	19	13	15	47	Estonia	1	1	-	2
Germany	16	10	15	41	Portugal	1	1	-	2
Australia	14	15	17	46	India	1	-	2	3
Korea	13	10	8	31	Iran	1	-	1	2
Japan	9	6	10	25	Bahrain	1	-	-	1
Italy	8	10	10	28	Cameroon	1	-	-	1
France	7	16	17	40	Panama	1	-	-	1
Ukraine	7	5	15	27	Tunisia	1	-	-	1
Netherlands	7	5	4	16	Sweden	-	4	1	5
Jamaica	6	3	2	11	Croatia	-	2	3	5
Spain	5	10	3	18	Lithuania	-	2	3	5
Kenya	5	5	4	14	Greece	-	2	2	4
Belarus	4	5	10	19	Trinidad/Tobago	-	2	-	2
Romania	4	1	3	8	Nigeria	-	1	3	4
Ethiopia	4	1	2	7	Austria	-	1	2	3
Canada	3	9	6	18	Ireland	-	1	2	3
Poland	3	6	1	10	Serbia	-	1	2	3
Hungary	3	5	2	10	Algeria	-	1	1	2
Norway	3	5	2	10	Bahamas	-	1	1	2
Brazil	3	4	8	15	Colombia	-	1	1	2
Czech Republic	3	3	-	6	Kyrgyzstan	-	1	1	2
Slovakia	3	2	1	6	Morocco	-	1	1	2
New Zealand	3	1	5	9	Tajikistan	-	1	1	2
Georgia	3	-	3	6	Chile	-	1	-	1
Cuba	2	11	11	24	Ecuador	-	1	-	1
Kazakhstan	2	4	7	13	Iceland	-	1	-	1
Denmark	2	2	3	7	Malaysia	-	1	-	1
Mongolia	2	2	-	4	South Africa	-	1	-	1
Thailand	2	2	-	4	Singapore	-	1	-	1
Korea	2	1	3	6	Sudan	-	1	-	1
Argentina	2	-	4	6	Vietnam	-	1	-	1
Switzerland	2	-	4	6	Armenia	-	-	6	6
Mexico	2	-	1	3	Chinese Taipei	-	-	4	4
Turkey	1	4	3	8	Afghanistan	-	-	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	3	-	4	Egypt	-	-	1	1
Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7	Israel	-	-	1	1
Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6	Republic of Moldova	-	-	1	1
Slovenia	1	2	2	5	Mauritius	-	-	1	1
Bulgaria	1	1	3	5	Togo	-	-	1	1
Indonesia	1	1	3	5	Venezuela	-	-	1	1
Finland	1	1	2	4					

Source: Beijing Olympic Games Official Website

Team GB medal winners - Beijing 2008

Discipline	Event	Medal	Name
Athletics	Men's High Jump	S	MASON Germaine
	Men's Triple Jump	S	IDOWU Phillips
Boxing	Women's 400m Hurdles	B	DANVERS Tasha
	Men's Middle (75kg)	G	DEGALE James
	Men's Light Heavy (81kg)	B	JEFFRIES Tony
Canoe/Kayak - Flatwater	Men's Super Heavy (+91kg)	B	PRICE David
	Kayak Single (K1) 1000m Men	G	BRABANTS Tim
Athletics	Kayak Single (K1) 500m Men	B	BRABANTS Tim
	Women's 400m	G	OHURUOGU Christine
Canoe/Kayak - Slalom	Canoe Single (C1) Men	S	FLORENCE David
Rowing	Women's Double Sculls	B	LAVERICK Elise, BEBINGTON Anna
	Men's Double Sculls	B	WELLS Matthew, ROWBOTHAM Stephen
Cycling - Road	Men's Four	G	JAMES Tom, WILLIAMS Steve, REED Pete, TRIGGS HODGE Andrew
	Lightweight Men's Double Sculls	G	PURCHASE Zac, HUNTER Mark
	Women's Road Race	G	COOKE Nicole
Rowing	Women's Quadruple Sculls	S	VERNON Annie, FLOOD Debbie, HOUGHTON Frances, GRAINGER Katherine
	Men's Eight	S	PARTRIDGE Alex, STALLARD Tom, LUCY Tom, EGINGTON Richard, WEST Josh, HEATHCOTE Alastair, LANGRIDGE Matt, SMITH Colin, NETHERCOTT Acer
Cycling - Road	Women's Individual Time Trial	S	POOLEY Emma
Cycling - Track	Men's Sprint	G	HOY Chris
	Men's Keirin	S	KENNY Jason
		G	HOY Chris
	S	EDGAR Ross	
	Men's Team Sprint	G	HOY Chris, KENNY Jason, STAFF Jamie
	Men's Individual Pursuit	G	WIGGINS Bradley
	B	BURKE Steven	
G	CLANCY Ed, MANNING Paul, THOMAS Geraint, WIGGINS Bradley		
Sailing	RS:X Women	B	SHAW Bryony
	Laser	G	GOODISON Paul
	Finn	G	AINSLIE Ben
Cycling - Track	470 Men	S	ROGERS Nick, GLANFIELD Joe
	Men's Points Race	B	NEWTON Chris
	Women's Sprint	G	PENDLETON Victoria
	Women's Individual Pursuit	G	ROMERO Rebecca
Sailing	Star	S	HOUVENAGHEL Wendy
	Yngling	G	PERCY Iain, SIMPSON Andrew
Equestrian	Eventing Individual	G	AYTON Sarah, WEBB Sarah, WILSON Pippa
	Eventing Team	B	COOK Kristina
Swimming	Women's 400m Freestyle	B	DICK Daisy, FOX-PITT William, COOK Kristina, HUNT Sharon, KING Mary
		G	ADLINGTON Rebecca
	Women's 800m Freestyle	B	JACKSON Joanne
Gymnastics Artistic	Men's Pommel Horse	G	ADLINGTON Rebecca
	Women's Marathon 10km	B	SMITH Louis
Swimming	Men's Marathon 10km	S	PAYNE Keri-Anne
		B	PATTEN Cassandra
Taekwondo	Women +67kg	S	DAVIES David
	Men's Marathon 10km	B	STEVENSON Sarah
Modern Pentathlon	Women	S	FELL Heather

Source: Beijing Olympic Games Official Website

D. Paralympics

1. Overview

a. *Background*

In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttman organised a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord-related injury in Stoke Mandeville, England. Four years later, competitors from Holland joined the Games, and the international movement, now known as the Paralympics, was born. Olympic-style games for athletes with a disability were organised for the first time in Rome in 1960. In Toronto in 1976, other disability groups were added and the idea of merging together different disability groups for international sports competitions was born. In the same year, the first Paralympic Winter Games took place in Sweden.

The movement has grown dramatically since its early days. The number of athletes participating in the Summer Paralympic Games has increased from 400 athletes in Rome in 1960 to 3,806 athletes from 136 countries in Athens in 2004.

The Paralympic Games have always been held in the same year as the Olympic Games. Since the 1988 Seoul Summer Games and the 1992 Albertville Winter Games, they have also taken place at the same venues as the Olympic Games. On 19 June 2001, an agreement was signed between the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee aiming to secure the organisation of the Paralympic Games. The agreement reaffirmed that the Paralympic Games, from 2008 on, will always take place shortly after the Olympic Games, using the same sporting venues and facilities. The Paralympic Games in Beijing took place during 6-17 September 2008.

b. Paralympic Events

There are currently 25 Paralympic sports: 20 Paralympic Summer sports and 5 Paralympic Winter Sports.

Summer

Archery
Athletics
Boccia
Cycling
Equestrian
Football 7-a-side
Football 5-a-side
Goalball
Judo
Powerlifting
Rowing
Sailing
Shooting
Swimming
Table Tennis
Volleyball (Sitting)
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Fencing
Wheelchair Rugby
Wheelchair Tennis

Winter

Alpine Skiing
Biathlon
Cross-Country Skiing
Ice Sledge Hockey
Wheelchair Curling

2. GB performance – Beijing 2008

Britain was ranked second behind China in the number of medals won at the 2008 Summer Paralympic Games in Beijing, winning a total of 102 medals: 42 gold, 29 silver and 31 bronze. This compared with total of 94 medals won in Athens in 2004 (35 gold, 30 silver and 29 bronze).

Beijing 2008 Paralympic medal table - top ten

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	89	70	52	211
2	Great Britain	42	29	31	102
3	United States	36	35	28	99
4	Ukraine	24	18	32	74
5	Australia	23	29	27	79
6	South Africa	21	3	6	30
7	Canada	19	10	21	50
8	Russian Federation	18	23	22	63
9	Brazil	16	14	17	47
10	Spain	15	21	22	58

Source: Official Website of the Beijing Paralympic Games

E. References

Official website of the Olympic Movement

http://www.olympic.org/uk/index_uk.asp

Beijing 2008 official website:

<http://en.beijing2008.cn/>

British Olympic Association (BOA) homepage:

<http://www.olympics.org.uk>

BOA Beijing homepage:

<http://www.olympics.org.uk/beijing2008/gamesinfo.aspx?id>About>

London 2012 official website:

<http://www.london2012.com/>

Olympic fact sheets:

<http://www.olympics.org.uk/contentpage.aspx?page=311>

BOA Paralympics homepage:

http://www.olympic.org/uk/games/paralympic/index_uk.asp

Beijing Paralympic Games homepage:

<http://en.paralympic.beijing2008.cn/index.shtml>

International Paralympic Committee (IPC):

http://www.paralympic.org/release/Main_Sections_Menu/index.html