

WOLFGANG MAENNIG / CHRISTIAN WELLBROCK
LONDON 2012
MEDAL PROJECTION
MEDAILLENVORAUSBERECHNUNG



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Wolfgang Maennig & Christian Wellbrock

London 2012

Medal Projection

Medaillenvorausberechnung

Abstract: We project the medal number and medal ranking for the Olympic Games in London in 2012. The largest relative increase is predicted for Brazil (80% more medals) and the UK (+28%). UK will continue to rank 4th. The largest decreases in medal numbers are predicted for Australia (-13%, but remains in 5th place) and the USA (-13%, remains No. 1). Germany should retain a rank of 6th and will win 38 medals (compared to 41 in 2008).

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(For german translation see text below, p. 3.)

The result of the medal projection by Maennig and Wellbrock (2008a) for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing was indeed disappointing for many people, especially in Germany. However, it turned out to be relatively accurate (Maennig & Wellbrock 2008b).

The following projections for the Olympic Games in London in 2012 use the latest available data. The empirical strategy of Maennig & Wellbrock (2008) remains unchanged.¹ Overall, this projection yields similar results to the 2008 medal table, with changes in only a few ranks (Table 1):

- The largest relative increase is predicted for Brazil (80% more medals, a ranking improvement of 8 positions, new rank 10).
- The second highest relative increase should be achieved by the UK, with a 28% increase in medals. UK will continue to rank 4th.

¹ Cf. for further literature on this subject Maennig & Wellbrock (2008).

- The largest decreases in medal numbers are predicted for Australia and the USA. Australia will win 13% fewer medals than in 2008 (reduction from 46 to 40 medals), but will continue to remain in 5th place. The USA will lose 13% of the medals it obtained in 2008 (reduction from 110 to 96), but will remain the nation with the most medals.
- Germany should retain a rank of 6th and will win 38 medals (compared to 41 in 2008).

Such projections partly fail to explain the medal success of low-population and poor but relatively successful countries such as Ethiopia, Jamaica and Kenya (Reinsch, 2012). For such countries, "take the last ranking" approaches sometimes yield better results (Raab & Philippen 2008).

In view of this and other points of critique, it should be emphasized that such calculations indicate in particular how many medals a nation should win given its resources and assuming a world-average efficiency for its high-performance sports system (Maennig and Wellbrock 2008a,b). Countries that win more (fewer) than the projected number of medals have a high-performance sports system with above-average (below-average) efficiency. Our calculations may act as a benchmark for characterizing national sports systems.

In the case of Germany, which won two fewer medals in 2008 than predicted based on our calculations, this socio-economic benchmark is particularly significant against a background of foreseeable developments: "Germany's population is declining — particularly in age groups with medal-winning potential — and previous know-how advantages compared to many countries, which is approximated by GDP per capita, are shrinking. Socioeconomic calculations indicate ... that Germany will have to accept a further reduced medal haul in the future. Those who do not want to accept this would be well advised to adopt a family-friendly policy, a qualitatively oriented immigration policy, and an innovation and growth initiative in Germany. Socio-economic models may prevent future collective disappointment and, even more importantly, excessive allocation of public resources to professional sports, invested (in vain) against an overwhelming trend" (Maennig & Wellbrock 2008b).

Die Medaillenvorausberechnung von Maennig und Wellbrock (2008a) für die Olympischen Sommerspiele 2008 in Peking ergab zwar für viele Menschen, insbesondere in Deutschland, enttäuschend wenige Medaillen, stellte sich jedoch als relativ treffsicher heraus (Maennig und Wellbrock 2008b).

Die folgenden Vorausberechnungen für die Olympischen Spiele in London 2012 nutzen die neuesten verfügbaren Daten; die empirische Strategie von Maennig und Wellbrock (2008) bleibt unverändert.¹ Insgesamt ergeben sich in dieser Vorausberechnung gegenüber dem Medaillenspiegel 2008 nur wenige Rangpositionenveränderungen (vgl. Tabelle 1):

- Der größte vorausberechnete relative Zuwachs ergibt sich für Brasilien (80% mehr Medaillen, 8 Plätze verbessert, neu: Rang 10).
- Den zweitstärksten relativen Zuwachs sollte Großbritannien mit 28% Medaillenzuwachs erreichen, und damit weiterhin Platz 4 realisieren.
- Die stärksten Medaillenverluste werden für Australien und USA vorausberechnet. Australien wird demnach 13% weniger Medaillen erzielen als in 2008 (von 46 auf 40 Medaillen), aber weiter auf Platz fünf verbleiben. Die USA werden 13% der in 2008 gewonnenen Medaillen verlieren (von 110 auf 96), aber die medaillenreichste Nation bleiben.
- Deutschland sollte weiter auf Platz 6 liegen und 38 Medaillen erreichen (nach 41 in Peking 2008).

Derartige Vorausberechnungen haben teilweise Probleme, Medaillenerfolge von (bevölkerungs)armen, relativ medaillenträchtigen Ländern wie Äthiopien, Jamaika und Kenia gut zu erklären (Reinsch, 2012). Für derartige Länder funktionieren einfache „take the last ranking“ Ansätze (Raab und Philippen 2008) teilweise besser.

Angesichts dieser und anderer Kritiken ist zu betonen, dass solche Berechnungen vor allem andeuten, wie viele Medaillen eine Nation angesichts seiner Ressour-

¹ Zu einem Literaturüberblick zu anderen Arbeiten auf diesem Gebiet vgl. Maennig & Wellbrock (2008).

cenausstattung bei *welt-durchschnittlicher Effizienz* seines Hochleistungssportsystems gewinnen sollte (Maennig und Wellbrock 2008a und b). Länder, die mehr (weniger) Medaillen gewinnen als vorausberechnet, weisen ein überdurchschnittlich (unterdurchschnittlich) effizientes Hochleistungssportsystem auf. Unsere Berechnungen haben also Benchmark- und Soll-Charakter bzw. die Funktion eines vorgehaltenen Spiegel für die nationalen Sportsysteme.

Im Falle von Deutschland, das 2008 zwei Medaillen weniger gewonnen, als es nach den Benchmark-Berechnungen hätte tun sollen, ist dieser Benchmark-Charakter der sozioökonomischen Berechnungen besonders vor dem Hintergrund absehbarer Entwicklungen bedeutsam: „Deutschlands Bevölkerung sinkt – übrigens besonders stark in den medaillenverdächtigen Altersgruppen – und sein ehemaliger Know-how-Vorsprung gegenüber vielen Ländern, welcher durch das Sozialprodukt pro Kopf approximiert wird, schrumpft. Sozioökonomische Medaillenberechnungen indizieren „..., dass Deutschland sich in Zukunft mit einer weiter verringerten Medaillenausbeute abfinden wird müssen. Wer dies nicht will, ist mit einer familienfreundlichen Politik, offensiven, aber qualitativ orientierten Zuwanderungspolitik sowie einer Innovations- und Wachstumsinitiative in Deutschland gut beraten. Sozioökonomische Modelle bauen ... zukünftigen kollektiven Enttäuschungen – und ebenfalls wichtig: einer überzogenen Allokation von öffentlichen Ressourcen in den Spitzensport – vor, mit denen man sich (vergeblich) gegen einen übermächtigen Trend stemmen mögen.“ (Maennig und Wellbrock 2008b).

Medals / Medaillen 2012 vs. 2008

Country / Land	Medal Projection/ Vorausberechnete Medaillenzahl	2012		2008	
		Rank	Effective Number of Medals/ Ist Medaillenzahl	Rank	2008
United States of America	96	1	110	1	1
China	91	2	100	2	
Russian Federation	66	3	73	3	
Great Britain	60	4	47	4	
Australia	40	5	46	5	
France	38	6	41	6	
Germany	38	6	41	7	
Korea	29	8	31	8	
Brazil	27	9	15	17	
Italy	26	10	27	9	
Ukraine	26	10	27	10	
Japan	26	10	25	11	
Belarus	19	13	19	13	
Canada	19	13	18	14	
Spain	19	15	18	15	
Cuba	18	16	24	12	
Netherlands	16	17	16	16	
Poland	13	18	10	21	
Kazakhstan	12	19	13	19	
Hungary	11	20	10	22	
Romania	9	21	8	25	
Turkey	9	21	8	26	
Norway	8	23	9	23	
Argentina	8	23	6	31	
Czech Republic	8	23	6	32	
Kenya	7	26	14	18	
New Zealand	7	26	9	24	
Denmark	7	26	7	27	
Switzerland	7	26	7	28	
Slovakia	7	26	6	33	
India	7	26	3	50	
Bulgaria	6	32	5	37	
Indonesia	6	32	5	38	
Sweden	6	32	5	39	
Azerbaijan	5	35	7	29	
Uzbekistan	5	35	6	34	
Lithuania	5	35	5	40	
Finland	4	38	4	43	
Greece	4	38	4	44	

Country / Land	Medal Projection/ Vorausberechnete Medaillenzahl	Rank	2012		2008	
			Effective Number of Medals/ Ist Medaillenzahl	Rank 2008	Effective Number of Medals/ Ist Medaillenzahl	Rank 2008
Thailand	4	38	4	45		
Chinese Taipei / Taiwan	4	38	4	46		
Austria	4	38	3	51		
Mexico	4	38	3	52		
Belgium	4	38	2	56		
Georgia	3	45	6	35		
Croatia	3	45	5	41		
Slovenia	3	45	5	42		
Ireland	3	45	3	53		
Portugal	3	45	2	57		
Chile	3	45	1	68		
Pakistan	3	45	0			
Jamaica	2	52	11	20		
Armenia	2	52	6	36		
Nigeria	2	52	4	47		
Latvia	2	52	3	54		
Islamic Republic of Iran	2	52	2	58		
Israel	2	52	1	69		
Columbia	1	58	2	59		
Estonia	1	58	2	60		
Egypt	1	58	1	70		
Malaysia	1	58	1	71		
South Africa	1	58	1	72		
Ethiopia	0		7	30		
Mongolia	0		4	48		
Zimbabwe / Rhodesia	0		4	49		
Yugoslavia / Serbia & Montenegro	0					
Algeria	0		3	55		
Bahamas	0		2	61		
Dominican Republic	0		2	62		
Kyrgyzstan	0		2	63		
Morocco	0		2	64		
Tajikistan	0		2	65		
Trinidad & Tobago	0		2	66		
Afghanistan	0		2	67		
Cameroon	0		1	73		
Ecuador	0		1	74		
Iceland	0		1	75		
Republic of Moldova	0		1	76		
Mauritius	0		1	77		

Country / Land	Medal Projection/ Vorausberechnete Medaillenzahl	Rank	2012	2008
			Effective Number of Medals/ Ist Medaillenzahl	Rank 2008
Panama	0		1	79
Singapore	0		1	80
Sudan	0		1	81
Togo	0		1	82
Tunisia	0		1	83
Venezuela	0		1	
Vietnam	0		1	
Antilles	0		0	
Albania	0		0	
Antigua	0		0	
Bangladesh	0		0	
Barbados	0		0	
Burundi	0		0	
Benin / Dahomé	0		0	
Bermuda	0		0	
Bhutan	0		0	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0		0	
Belize / British Honduras	0		0	
Bolivia	0		0	
Botswana	0		0	
Bahrain	0		0	
Brunei	0		0	
Burkina Faso	0		0	
Central Africa	0		0	
Cambodia	0		0	
Congo, Peoples Rep.	0		0	
Chad	0		0	
Côte d'Ivoire	0		0	
Comoros	0		0	
Cape Verde	0		0	
Costa Rica	0		0	
Cyprus	0		0	
Djibouti	0		0	
Dominica	0		0	
Eritrea	0		0	
El Salvador	0		0	
Fiji	0		0	
Gabun	0		0	
Gambia	0		0	
Guinea-Bissau	0		0	
Equatorial Guinea	0		0	

Country / Land	Medal Projection/ Vorausberechnete Medaillenzahl	Rank	<u>2012</u>	<u>2008</u>	Effective Number of Medals/ Ist Medaillenzahl	Rank 2008
Ghana	0		0	0	0	
Grenada	0		0	0	0	
Guatemala	0		0	0	0	
Guinea	0		0	0	0	
Guyana	0		0	0	0	
Haiti	0		0	0	0	
Hong Kong	0		0	0	0	
Honduras	0		0	0	0	
Iraq	0		0	0	0	
Jordan	0		0	0	0	
Kiribati	0		0	0	0	
Saudi Arabia	0		0	0	0	
Kuwait	0		0	0	0	
Laos	0		0	0	0	
Libya	0		0	0	0	
Liberia	0		0	0	0	
Saint Lucia	0		0	0	0	
Lesotho	0		0	0	0	
Lebanon	0		0	0	0	
Luxembourg	0		0	0	0	
Madagascar	0		0	0	0	
Malawi	0		0	0	0	
Maldives	0		0	0	0	
Micronesia	0		0	0	0	
Rep. Of Macedonia	0		0	0	0	
Mali	0		0	0	0	
Malta	0		0	0	0	
Mozambique	0		0	0	0	
Mauritania	0		0	0	0	
Namibia	0		0	0	0	
Nicaragua	0		0	0	0	
Nepal	0		0	0	0	
Niger	0		0	0	0	
Oman	0		0	0	0	
Paraguay	0		0	0	0	
Peru	0		0	0	0	
Philippines	0		0	0	0	
Papua New Guinea	0		0	0	0	
Puerto Rico	0		0	0	0	
Qatar	0		0	0	0	
Rwanda	0		0	0	0	

Country / Land	Medal Projection/ Vorausberechnete Medaillenzahl	Rank	<u>2012</u>	<u>2008</u>
			Effective Number of Medals/ 1st Medaillenzahl	Rank 2008
Western Samoa	0		0	
Senegal	0		0	
Seychelles	0		0	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0		0	
Sierra Leone	0		0	
Solomon Islands	0		0	
Somalia	0		0	
Sri Lanka / Ceylon	0		0	
Sao Tome and Principe	0		0	
Suriname	0		0	
Swaziland	0		0	
Syria	0		0	
Tanzania	0		0	
Tonga	0		0	
Turkmenistan	0		0	
United Arab Emirates	0		0	
Uganda	0		0	
Uruguay	0		0	
Vanuatu	0		0	
San Vincent & the Grenadines	0		0	
Yemen	0		0	
Zaire / Dem. Rep. Congo	0		0	
Zambia / Northern Rhodesia	0		0	
Angola	0			

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