

Urban Issues & Challenges: Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro is found in **Brazil** and is the second largest city in Brazil; it was the **capital city** of Brazil until 1960. Brazil can be found in **South America**.

Rio de Janeiro is a city with **global influence**, and is well known around the world for a variety of reasons:





Source: Pens & Patrons

Rio's **carnivals** are world famous, attracting around **5 million visitors** to watch and take part each year. Many cities have tried to replicate carnivals, including Notting Hill in the UK.



Source: Conversant Traveller

Rio de Janeiro is home to Christ the Redeemer, a 38m statue built to overlook the city on the hilltops above. It is one of the seven modern wonders of the world.



Source: Business Review

Rio hosted the 2016 Olympic & Paralympic Games. There was great controversy within the city, because construction of the olympic site was delayed and many poor locals were evicted to clear land.



Source: joc.com

Rio is important to the rest of Brazil because it is a **major economic hub**. Some large Brazilian companies have their **headquarters** in Brazil, as well as use the port in Rio de Janeiro for imports and exports.



Source: Seeking Alpha

Brazil has the **largest** economy in South America, and the 8th largest in the world. This is because Brazil has large companies in oil manufacturing, mining and telecommunications (mobile phones).



Source: Booms Beat

Finally, Rio de Janeiro attracts 2 million international tourists for holidays and cultural trips. Rio is home to many art galleries and museums, as well as beaches and the Copacabana! (Which features in many films and songs

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Rio de Janeiro is **very attractive** for economic **business opportunities** as well as international **tourist holidays**. A combination of the two has helped Brazil's **economy** to grow, and Rio has had an influx of **migrants** wanting to live here (especially for new business opportunities).

Challenges with Growing Rio

However, Rio de Janeiro's population has **grown too quickly** for the city to grow with it, due to migration. This means that there aren't enough services and resources available for everyone, many people cannot **afford** houses in the city and there aren't enough **jobs** for everyone who needs one.

The city can be split into two; the **richer families** who can afford good housing and can access services easily, and the **poorer families** who cannot afford any housing in Rio and struggle to access services and resources. This is called **inequality**, when there is a difference in **quality of life** between the rich and poor. Take a look at the difference between two areas in Rio:



Rochina may be the biggest favela, but it is one of the **more developed** shanty towns. Instead, there are camps and more **temporary shelters** where new migrants have chosen to live somewhere else. So there are people living in **poorer conditions** than in Rochina.

There are other problems with living in crowded Rio:





- Access to **doctors and healthcare** varies across the city. This can be shown in pregnant mortality rates, which increase close to favelas.
- Approximately 12% of households in Rio don't have access to clean running water. This is because many of the favela's houses didn't have water pipes built into the house. In addition, the infrastructure and pipelines to carry water around the city is damaged, so clean water is leaking away.
- Many of the favela's residents tap illegally into the electricity of their richer neighbours. This means that electricity posts in the street can be made very unsafe, with many households connecting to one post. Rio de Janeiro suffers many power cuts.



Source: Daily Mail

 Crime rates have increased greatly as the city has grown in recent years. This may be because unemployment has increased, so there are more people trying to make money including pickpockets. However, Rio has a severe problem with youth crime and gang violence, especially in the favelas. Many residents feel unsafe in their homes as the gangs patrol the streets, with guns, and trade drugs for profit.



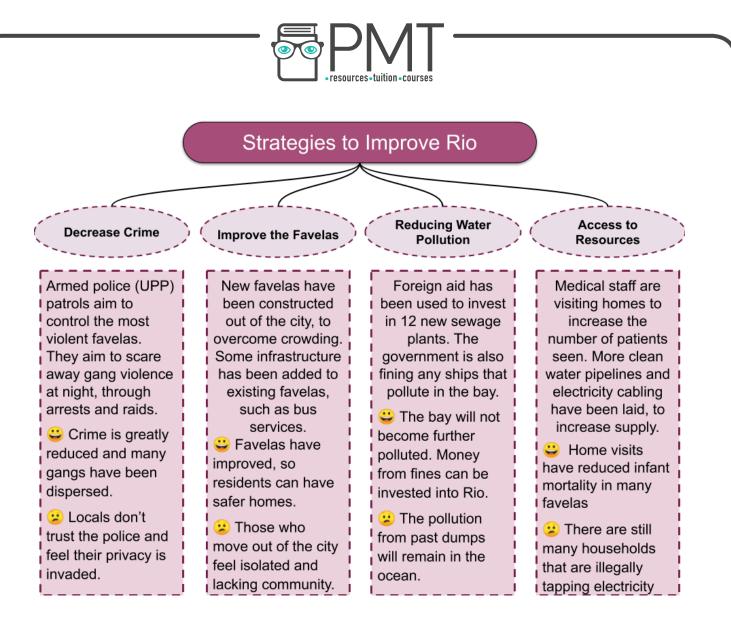
Source: Business Insider

• Finally, **sewage** isn't properly treated and disposed of from all neighbourhoods in Rio. This means that some neighbourhoods wash their sewage into local rivers and into the **Guanabara Bay**. This pollutes the water and has damaged the wildlife that lives in the bay.

However, Brazil's government wanted to **improve living conditions** for the people of Rio de Janeiro. This was prompted by the **Olympic Games**, because international athletes felt **unsafe** travelling to the city. There are many schemes and strategies to improve Rio's conditions:

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Source: The intercept.com

Source: ToledoBlade.com

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