Inertia can be recognized as a measure of how internally coherent clusters are. It suffers from various drawbacks:

Inertia makes the assumption that clusters are convex and isotropic, which is not always the case. It responds poorly to elongated clusters or manifolds with irregular shapes.

Inertia is not a normalized metric: we just know that lower values are better and zero is optimal. But in very high-dimensional spaces, Euclidean distances tend to become inflated (this is an instance of the so-called “curse of dimensionality”). Running a dimensionality reduction algorithm such as Principal component analysis (PCA) prior to k-means clustering can alleviate this problem and speed up the computations.