Cuba

- **Capital:** Havana (23°8′N, 82°23′W)
- **International airport(s):** José Martí International Airport
- **Official language(s):** Spanish
- **Currency:** Cuban peso
- **Time:** UTC -5
- **Region:** Caribbean

### GEOGRAPHY

Cuba consists of an archipelago of islands located in the northern Caribbean Sea. Cuba is the main island, surrounded by four smaller island groups: the Colorados, the Sabana-Camagüey, the Jardines de la Reina and the Canarreos. The main island is 1 250 km long. It is the largest island in the Caribbean and 17th largest island in the world measured by land area. The Sierra Maestra mountains are located in the southeast on the main island with the highest point, “Pico Turquino” reaching 1 974 m. All in all, the country consists of more than 1 600 islands, islets and cays. The second largest individual island is the Isla de la Juventud (the Isle of Youth), which is part of the Canarreos archipelago. Havana is the largest city of Cuba and its capital. Other large cities include Santiago de Cuba and Camagüey.

### CLIMATE

Cuba has a tropical climate with a rainy season in summer. Cuba is highly vulnerable to climate variability, with rainwater its only water resource. Therefore, rain also has an important impact on agricultural activity. Average monthly temperatures range from 23 to 28 °C. The annual average rainfall is 1 376 mm. Although Cuba does not have annual hurricanes, September and October are prone to heavy rains. Monthly rainfall exceeds 150 mm from May to October. These are also the warmest months of the year. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Travel and tourism are important for Cuba. In 2018, over 4.7 million tourists visited Cuba (UNWTO, 2021). With few natural or mineral resources and water shortages, exacerbated by cycles of sustained drought, agriculture is mostly subsistence-level. According to the FAO (2020), over 28 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. The soil is highly fertile, but agriculture is highly dependent on precipitation. The main crops grown include among others sugarcane, tobacco, rice, citrus fruits and potatoes. Sugar, beverages and tobacco are important export products, and the main export destinations include China, Canada and Venezuela (UNCTAD, 2021).

In 2019, agriculture accounted for about 18 per cent of employment in Cuba; roughly 24 per cent for men and 7 per cent for women. In total, two in three Cubans worked in services, four in five among women. Industry employed 10 per cent of women and 20 per cent of men. (ILO, 2020a) The Cuban economy is dominated by state-run enterprises and most people are employed by the state. Cuba is classified as an upper middle income country (World Bank, 2021a) and GDP reached US$9 295 per capita in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Music is an important part of Cuban culture and brings together influences from both Spanish and African music. The traditional music of Cuba includes cha-cha-cha, charanga, danzon, mambo, and rumba, among others. Salsa evolved from these rhythms.

In addition to music, Cuba is well known for its handmade cigars. The country produces several million cigars per year, and the International Havana Cigar Festival brings many tourists to the country.

Pork is the meat of choice for traditional feasts and is often served with rice and beans. Black beans are a common ingredient and in several types of dishes. Rice with black beans is called arroz congri. Cuban cuisine uses tomatoes, cassava, lettuce, and, when afforded, chicken, beef, pork and eggs. Cuban coffee is famous, but most of its coffee is exported and Cubans themselves consume imported coffee, often from Africa.

Baseball is the most popular sport in Cuba, though other sports also play an important role in Cuban society. In the warm local climate, Cubans often wear cool and relaxed clothing with a tradition of simplicity. Guayabera is the most famous traditional clothing worn by men as a classic linen or cotton shirt, usually in white, and women wear Guayabera dresses.
ECONOMIC TRENDS

**Gross domestic product**
US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value in millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP per capita**
2019
US$9,296

**Productive Capacity Index**
2018: 30.6

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**
2019: 28

**Consumer Price Index growth**
2019: 5.4%

**Unemployment rate**
2018: Total 1.7%
Female 1.8%, Male 1.6%

**Main economic sectors, 2019**
Percentage of GDP

**Tourist arrivals**
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

**External financial resources**
Percentage of GDP

**Public debt as % of GDP**
2018: 78.2%
## MARITIME TRANSPORT

### Fleet size

**Number of ships**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fleet</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil tankers</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk carriers</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General cargo</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container ships</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other types of ships</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Port performance

**Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>SIDS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of port calls</td>
<td>1,933</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>16,520</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Container throughput

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>340,950 TEU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

**Top 5 partners**

- Canada
- Spain
- Italy
- Portugal
- Jamaica

### Liner shipping connectivity index

Maximum China Q1 2006=100

- Q1 2006: 6
- Q1 2008: 10
- Q1 2010: 12
- Q1 2012: 8
- Q1 2014: 10
- Q1 2016: 12
- Q1 2018: 8
- Q1 2020: 6
### POPULATION

**Total population**  
Thousands of people, share of urban population

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**Population development indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount (% of population)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Life expectancy at birth**  
2019: 79 years

**Population density**  
2019: 109 persons per km²

**Dependency ratio**  
2019: Child: 23.5, Old-age: 22.8

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**Age structure by gender, 2019**  
Percentage of total population

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**Cuba**
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade
US dollars in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019 (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise exports</td>
<td>2.319</td>
<td>4.914</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>1,923</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness
Goods and services
2018: 14% of GDP
2019: 0.24

Food import dependency
Average 2015-2019: 15.76

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019
Exports in millions US dollars

- China
- Canada
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)
- Spain
- Russian Federation

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Services exports by category, 2019

- Travel
- Other
**ENVIRONMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CO₂ emissions per capita Kg per capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CO₂ emissions per GDP Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017
Percentage of total energy consumption

- Renewable energy: 13.8kg
- Non-renewable energy: 16.6%

Disasters indicators
Data not available

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade in ICT goods</th>
<th>Trade in ICT services</th>
<th>Share of internet users</th>
<th>Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Number of subscriptions per 100 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Exports: 0.7% Imports: 2.1%
- Exports: ..% Imports: ..%
- 57%

Cuba
References

- UNEP (2021). 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1 (accessed 13 January 2021).