



CUBA
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Introduction

Cuba

Background: The native Amerindian population of Cuba began to decline after the European discovery of the island by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1492 and following its development as a Spanish colony during the next several centuries. Large numbers of African slaves were imported to work the coffee and sugar plantations, and Havana became the launching point for the annual treasure fleets bound for Spain from Mexico and Peru. Spanish rule, marked initially by neglect, became increasingly repressive, provoking an independence movement and occasional rebellions that were harshly suppressed. It was US intervention during the Spanish-American War in 1898 that finally overthrew Spanish rule. The subsequent Treaty of Paris established Cuban independence, which was granted in 1902 after a three-year transition period. Fidel CASTRO led a rebel army to victory in 1959; his iron rule held the subsequent regime together for nearly five decades. He stepped down as president in February 2008 in favor of his younger brother Raul CASTRO. Cuba's Communist revolution, with Soviet support, was exported throughout Latin America and Africa during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The country is now slowly recovering from a severe economic downturn in 1990, following the withdrawal of former Soviet subsidies, worth \$4 billion to \$6 billion annually. Cuba portrays its difficulties as the result of the US embargo in place since 1961. Illicit migration to the US - using homemade rafts, alien smugglers, air flights, or via the southwest border - is a continuing problem. The US Coast Guard intercepted 2,864 individuals attempting to cross the Straits of Florida in fiscal year 2006.

Geography

Cuba

Location: Caribbean, island between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, 150 km south of Key West, Florida

Geographic coordinates: 21 30 N, 80 00 W

Map references: Central America and the Caribbean

Area: *total:* 110,860 sq km

land: 110,860 sq km

water: 0 sq km

Area - comparative: slightly smaller than Pennsylvania

Land boundaries: *total:* 29 km

border countries: US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay 29 km

note: Guantanamo Naval Base is leased by the US and remains part of Cuba

Coastline: 3,735 km

Maritime claims: *territorial sea*: 12 nm
contiguous zone: 24 nm
exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

Climate: tropical; moderated by trade winds; dry season (November to April); rainy season (May to October)

Terrain: mostly flat to rolling plains, with rugged hills and mountains in the southeast

Elevation extremes: *lowest point*: Caribbean Sea 0 m
highest point: Pico Turquino 2,005 m

Natural resources: cobalt, nickel, iron ore, chromium, copper, salt, timber, silica, petroleum, arable land

Land use: *arable land*: 27.63%
permanent crops: 6.54%
other: 65.83% (2005)

Irrigated land: 8,700 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources: 38.1 cu km (2000)

Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural): *total*: 8.2 cu km/yr (19%/12%/69%)
per capita: 728 cu m/yr (2000)

Natural hazards: the east coast is subject to hurricanes from August to November (in general, the country averages about one hurricane every other year); droughts are common

Environment - current issues: air and water pollution; biodiversity loss; deforestation

Environment - international agreements: *party to*: Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands
signed, but not ratified: Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note: largest country in Caribbean and westernmost island of the Greater Antilles

People	Cuba
Population:	11,423,952 (July 2008 est.)
Age structure:	<i>0-14 years</i> : 18.5% (male 1,088,311/female 1,030,499) <i>15-64 years</i> : 70.5% (male 4,029,381/female 4,025,154) <i>65 years and over</i> : 10.9% (male 569,002/female 681,605) (2008 est.)

Median age: *total*: 36.8 years
male: 36.1 years
female: 37.5 years (2008 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.251% (2008 est.)

Birth rate: 11.27 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Death rate: 7.19 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Net migration rate: -1.57 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Sex ratio: *at birth*: 1.06 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1.06 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 1 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.83 male(s)/female
total population: 0.99 male(s)/female (2008 est.)

Infant mortality rate: *total*: 5.93 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 6.64 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 5.17 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *total population*: 77.27 years
male: 75.02 years
female: 79.64 years (2008 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.6 children born/woman (2008 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: less than 0.1% (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 3,300 (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: fewer than 200 (2003 est.)

Major infectious diseases: *degree of risk*: intermediate
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea and hepatitis A
vectorborne diseases: dengue fever (2008)

Nationality: *noun*: Cuban(s)
adjective: Cuban

Ethnic groups: white 65.1%, mulatto and mestizo 24.8%, black 10.1% (2002 census)

Religions: nominally 85% Roman Catholic prior to CASTRO assuming power; Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, and Santeria are also represented

Languages: Spanish

Literacy: *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 99.8%
male: 99.8%
female: 99.8% (2002 census)

People - note: illicit emigration is a continuing problem; Cubans attempt to depart the island and enter the US using homemade rafts, alien smugglers, direct flights, or falsified visas; Cubans also use non-maritime routes to enter the US including direct flights to Miami and over-land via the southwest border

Government

Cuba

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Cuba
conventional short form: Cuba
local long form: Republica de Cuba
local short form: Cuba

Government type: Communist state

Capital: *name:* Havana
geographic coordinates: 23 07 N, 82 21 W
time difference: UTC-5 (same time as Washington, DC during Standard Time)
daylight saving time: +1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions: 14 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia) and 1 special municipality* (municipio especial); Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Ciudad de La Habana, Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Isla de la Juventud*, La Habana, Las Tunas, Matanzas, Pinar del Rio, Sancti Spiritus, Santiago de Cuba, Villa Clara

Independence: 20 May 1902 (from Spain 10 December 1898; administered by the US from 1898 to 1902); not acknowledged by the Cuban Government as a day of independence

National holiday: Triumph of the Revolution, 1 January (1959)

Constitution: 24 February 1976; amended July 1992 and June 2002

Legal system: based on Spanish civil law and influenced by American legal concepts, with large elements of Communist legal theory; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage: 16 years of age; universal

Executive branch: *chief of state*: President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers Gen. Raul CASTRO Ruz (president since 24 February 2008); First Vice President of the Council of State and First Vice President of the Council of Ministers Gen. Jose Ramon MACHADO Ventura (since 24 February 2008); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government
head of government: President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers Gen. Raul CASTRO Ruz (president since 24 February 2008); First Vice President of the Council of State and First Vice President of the Council of Ministers Gen. Jose Ramon MACHADO Ventura (since 24 February 2008)
cabinet: Council of Ministers proposed by the president of the Council of State and appointed by the National Assembly or the 31-member Council of State, elected by the Assembly to act on its behalf when it is not in session
elections: president and vice presidents elected by the National Assembly for a term of five years; election last held 24 February 2008 (next to be held in 2013)
election results: Gen. Raul CASTRO Ruz elected president; percent of legislative vote - 100%; Gen. Jose Ramon MACHADO Ventura elected vice president; percent of legislative vote - 100%

Legislative unicameral National Assembly of People's Power or Asamblea Nacional del
branch: Poder Popular (number of seats in the National Assembly is based on population; 614 seats; members elected directly from slates approved by special candidacy commissions to serve five-year terms)
elections: last held 20 January 2008 (next to be held in January 2013)
election results: Cuba's Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposed

Judicial branch: People's Supreme Court or Tribunal Supremo Popular (president, vice president, and other judges are elected by the National Assembly)

Political parties Cuban Communist Party or PCC [Fidel CASTRO Ruz, first secretary]
and leaders:

Political pressure Human Rights Watch; National Association of Small Farmers
groups and
leaders:

International ACP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IFAD, IFRC, IHO, ILO,
organization IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, LAES,
participation: LAIA, NAM, OAS (excluded from formal participation since 1962),
OPANAL, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, Union Latina,
UNITAR, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO,
WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US: none; note - Cuba has an Interests Section in the Swiss Embassy, headed by Principal Officer Jorge BOLANOS Suarez; address: Cuban Interests Section, Swiss Embassy, 2630 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009; telephone: [1] (202) 797-8518; FAX: [1] (202) 797-8521

Diplomatic representation from the US: none; note - the US has an Interests Section in the Swiss Embassy, headed by Principal Officer Michael E. PARMLY; address: USINT, Swiss Embassy, Calzada between L and M Streets, Vedado, Havana; telephone: [53] (7) 833-3551 through 3559 (operator assistance required); FAX: [53] (7) 833-3700; protecting power in Cuba is Switzerland

Flag description: five equal horizontal bands of blue (top, center, and bottom) alternating with white; a red equilateral triangle based on the hoist side bears a white, five-pointed star in the center

Economy	Cuba
Economy - overview:	The government continues to balance the need for economic loosening against a desire for firm political control. It has rolled back limited reforms undertaken in the 1990s to increase enterprise efficiency and alleviate serious shortages of food, consumer goods, and services. The average Cuban's standard of living remains at a lower level than before the downturn of the 1990s, which was caused by the loss of Soviet aid and domestic inefficiencies. Since late 2000, Venezuela has been providing oil on preferential terms, and it currently supplies about 100,000 barrels per day of petroleum products. Cuba has been paying for the oil, in part, with the services of Cuban personnel in Venezuela, including some 20,000 medical professionals. In 2007, high metals prices continued to boost Cuban earnings from nickel and cobalt production. Havana continued to invest in the country's energy sector to mitigate electrical blackouts that had plagued the country since 2004.
GDP (purchasing power parity):	\$51.11 billion (2007 est.)
GDP (official exchange rate):	\$45.1 billion (2007 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:	7% (2007 est.)
GDP - per capita (PPP):	\$4,500 (2007 est.)
GDP - composition by sector:	<i>agriculture</i> : 5.2% <i>industry</i> : 25% <i>services</i> : 69.8% (2007 est.)

Labor force: 4.956 million
note: state sector 78%, non-state sector 22% (2007 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: *agriculture: 20%*
industry: 19.4%
services: 60.6% (2005)

Unemployment rate: 1.8% (2007 est.)

Population below poverty line: NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share: *lowest 10%: NA%*
highest 10%: NA%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 3.1% (2007 est.)

Investment (gross fixed): 13.1% of GDP (2007 est.)

Budget: *revenues: \$41.84 billion*
expenditures: \$43.9 billion (2007 est.)

Public debt: 36.8% of GDP (2007 est.)

Agriculture - products: sugar, tobacco, citrus, coffee, rice, potatoes, beans; livestock

Industries: sugar, petroleum, tobacco, construction, nickel, steel, cement, agricultural machinery, pharmaceuticals

Industrial production growth rate: 2.5% (2007 est.)

Electricity - production: 16.45 billion kWh (2006)

Electricity - consumption: 13.87 billion kWh (2006)

Electricity - exports: 0 kWh (2006)

Electricity - imports: 0 kWh (2006)

Oil - production: 50,850 bbl/day (2006 est.)

Oil - 150,000 bbl/day (2006 est.)
consumption:

Oil - exports: 0 bbl/day (2006)

Oil - imports: 98,100 bbl/day (2005)

Oil - proved reserves: 243.6 million bbl (1 January 2006 est.)

Natural gas - 1.058 billion cu m (2006)
production:

Natural gas - 1.058 billion cu m (2006)
consumption:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2006)
exports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2006)
imports:

Natural gas - 67.89 billion cu m (1 January 2006 est.)
proved reserves:

Current account balance: -\$750 million (2007 est.)

Exports: \$3.702 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

Exports - commodities: sugar, nickel, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus, coffee

Exports - partners: Canada 28%, China 27.9%, Netherlands 11.1%, Spain 4.7% (2006)

Imports: \$10.08 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

Imports - commodities: petroleum, food, machinery and equipment, chemicals

Imports - partners: Venezuela 28%, China 13.2%, Spain 9.8%, Canada 5.5%, US 4.8%, Brazil 4.6% (2006)

Economic aid - recipient: \$87.8 million (2005 est.)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: \$4.247 billion (31 December 2007 est.)

Debt - external: \$16.79 billion (convertible currency); another \$15-20 billion owed to Russia (31 December 2007 est.)

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home: \$11.24 billion (2006 est.)

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad: \$4.138 billion (2006 est.)

Currency (code): Cuban peso (CUP) and Convertible peso (CUC)

Exchange rates: Convertible pesos per US dollar - 0.9259 (2007), 0.9231 (2006)
note: Cuba has two currencies in circulation: the Cuban peso (CUP) and the convertible peso (CUC); in April 2005 the official exchange rate changed from \$1 per CUC to \$1.08 per CUC (0.93 CUC per \$1), both for individuals and enterprises; individuals can buy 24 Cuban pesos (CUP) for each CUC sold, or sell 25 Cuban pesos for each CUC bought; enterprises, however, must exchange CUP and CUC at a 1:1 ratio.

Fiscal year: calendar year

Communications Cuba

Telephones - main lines in use: 972,900 (2006)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 198,300 (2007)

Telephone system: *general assessment:* greater investment beginning in 1994 and the establishment of a new Ministry of Information Technology and Communications in 2000 has resulted in improvements in the system; wireless service is expensive and must be paid in convertible pesos which effectively limits mobile cellular subscribership
domestic: national fiber-optic system under development; 95% of switches digitized by end of 2006; fixed telephone line density remains low, at less than 10 per 100 inhabitants; domestic cellular service expanding but remains at only about 2 per 100 persons
international: country code - 53; fiber-optic cable laid to but not linked to US network; satellite earth station - 1 Intersputnik (Atlantic Ocean region)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 169, FM 55, shortwave 1 (1998)

Television broadcast stations: 58 (1997)

Internet country .cu
code:

Internet hosts: 3,388 (2007)

Internet users: 240,000

note: private citizens are prohibited from buying computers or accessing the Internet without special authorization; foreigners may access the Internet in large hotels but are subject to firewalls; some Cubans buy illegal passwords on the black market or take advantage of public outlets to access limited email and the government-controlled "intranet" (2006)

Transportation	Cuba
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Airports: 165 (2007)

Airports - with *total:* 70
paved runways: *over 3,047 m:* 7
2,438 to 3,047 m: 9
1,524 to 2,437 m: 18
914 to 1,523 m: 5
under 914 m: 31 (2007)

Airports - with *total:* 95
unpaved runways: *1,524 to 2,437 m:* 1
914 to 1,523 m: 23
under 914 m: 71 (2007)

Pipelines: gas 49 km; oil 230 km (2007)

Railways: *total:* 4,226 km
standard gauge: 4,226 km 1.435-m gauge (140 km electrified)
note: an additional 7,742 km of track is used by sugar plantations; about 65% of this track is standard gauge; the rest is narrow gauge (2006)

Roadways: *total:* 60,858 km
paved: 29,820 km (includes 638 km of expressway)
unpaved: 31,038 km (2000)

Waterways: 240 km (2007)

Merchant marine: *total:* 11 ships (1000 GRT or over) 29,953 GRT/43,637 DWT
by type: bulk carrier 2, cargo 3, passenger 1, petroleum tanker 3, refrigerated cargo 2
foreign-owned: 1 (Spain 1)
registered in other countries: 15 (Bahamas 1, Cyprus 1, Netherlands Antilles 1, Panama 11, Spain 1) (2008)

Ports and terminals: Cienfuegos, Havana, Matanzas

Military	Cuba
Military branches:	Revolutionary Armed Forces (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, FAR): Revolutionary Army (ER; includes Territorial Militia Troops, MTT), Revolutionary Navy (Marina de Guerra Revolucionaria, MGR; includes Marine Corps), Revolutionary Air and Air Defense Force (DAAFAR), Youth Labor Army (EJT) (2008)
Military service age and obligation:	17-28 years of age for compulsory military service; 2-year service obligation; both sexes subject to military service (2006)
Manpower available for military service:	<i>males age 16-49</i> : 3,094,388 <i>females age 16-49</i> : 3,024,876 (2008 est.)
Manpower fit for military service:	<i>males age 16-49</i> : 2,543,044 <i>females age 16-49</i> : 2,481,823 (2008 est.)
Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:	<i>males age 16-49</i> : 79,945 <i>females age 16-49</i> : 76,014 (2008 est.)
Military expenditures - percent of GDP:	3.8% (2006 est.)
Military - note:	the collapse of the Soviet Union deprived the Cuban Army of its major economic and logistic support, and had a significant impact on equipment numbers and serviceability; the army remains well trained and professional in nature; while the lack of replacement parts for its existing equipment and the current severe shortage of fuel have increasingly affected operational capabilities, Cuba remains able to offer considerable resistance to any regional power (2008)

Transnational Issues	Cuba
Disputes - international:	US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay is leased to US and only mutual agreement or US abandonment of the facility can terminate the lease

- Trafficking in persons: *current situation:* Cuba is principally a source country for women and children trafficked within the country for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and possibly for forced labor; the country is a destination for sex tourism, including child sex tourism, which is a problem in many areas of the country; some Cuban nationals willingly migrate to the United States, but are subsequently exploited for forced labor by their smugglers; Cuba is also a transit point for the smuggling of migrants from China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Lebanon, and other nations to the United States and Canada
- tier rating:* Tier 3 - Cuba does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so; exact information about trafficking in Cuba is difficult to obtain because the government does not acknowledge or condemn human trafficking as a problem in Cuba; tangible efforts to prosecute offenders, protect victims, or prevent human trafficking activity do not appear to have been made during 2007; Cuba has not ratified the 2000 UN TIP Protocol (2008)
- Illicit drugs: territorial waters and air space serve as transshipment zone for US- and European-bound drugs; established the death penalty for certain drug-related crimes in 1999

Information current as of 7 August, 2008

SOURCES: The CIA World Factbook

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