

Journey Into the Unknown: Cuba's Economy Between Crisis and New Beginning



Where does Cuba stand today? Street scene in Havana (Source: [Commons](#))

Not everything fits into the scope of a blog article - especially not when it comes to Cuba. Under the title "Journey Into the Unknown: Cuba's Economy Between Crisis and New Beginning", the author of this page has taken a somewhat more detailed look at the current state of the economy and society in Cuba, based on an extended stay over the turn of the year 2023/24.

The article has now been released in the current issue of the "[International Journal of Cuban Studies \(IJCS\)](#)", which is published by Dr. Steve Wilkinson at the University of Buckingham in the United Kingdom and Al Campbell. Where does Cuba's economy stand today? What's the state of affairs of the known problems, and what new developments are emerging? And what has the currency reform changed in terms of information? An attempt is made to answer these and other questions. There are subjective and objective aspects: The article aims to be neither travel prose nor purely sober economic analysis. But best read for yourself...

Cuba at the beginning of "Year 66 of the Revolution". The streets of Havana seem strangely deserted after sunset, with just a few fishermen hanging around the Malecón. Transportation has been running on the back burner for four years now. Those who are not on the bus after the last rays of sun disappear behind the horizon sometimes wait many hours and risk becoming the victim of a mugging. Crime in the Cuban capital has increased noticeably, even if it is nowhere near the proportions of other Latin American capitals. Hospitals have to weigh up every intervention. There is not only a shortage of medicine and surgical instruments, but also of staff. Those

who have the means to buy their medication on the unofficial market may have more luck. Classes are being cancelled at schools. Young teachers are earning the money they need elsewhere, and universities are starting a “flexible” semester. Basic supplies via the “Libreta” ration booklet are delayed, there is no chicken even at the end of the year, and the subsidised rice is distributed in small rations. After a brief respite over the holidays, power cuts returned in the new year. In February, Cuba got a new minister of economics. The Central Bank and other key areas are also under new management. However, the most extensive government reshuffle in years does not give the new cabinet a grace period, as the challenges are enormous...

The article, as published in the journal, is freely accessible thanks to OpenAccess at Pluto Journals. You can [find the full text here](#) at ScienceOpen, or [here as a PDF](#) (DOI: 10.13169/intejcubastud.16.1.0009). ([Cubaheute](#))