

Western Union resumes money shipments from all US states

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Western Union operates around 400 branches in Cuba (Source: [Commons](#))

The financial services provider Western Union announced that it will resume accepting remittances to Cuba from all 50 US states. On 4 January, Western Union began sending remittances to Cuba again after a three-year pause due to the sanctions, but only through branches in the Miami area. That restriction will now expire at the end of the trial period today, the company said.

Money remittances from family members and friends abroad were Cuba's second most important source of foreign exchange until 2020. In the context of the current economic crisis, the boom remains strong, while at the same time money transfers had become continuously more difficult. Former US President Donald Trump had brought the firm's Cuba business to a halt in November 2020 with new sanctions against Fincimex, a financial services provider run by the Cuban military. Fincimex had previously been Western Union's most important partner on the island for decades. With the shutdown of Western Union, all 400 branches of the provider on the island had to close at that time.

In the wake of the Biden administration's announcement of minor easing steps on 16 May 2022, the blocks on private money transfers that had been in place until then were softened and limits were raised again. Cuba had previously created Orbit S.A., a new state-owned financial service provider that is not affiliated with the military.

The transfer limit is 2000 US dollars per transaction. With the opening for all states, transfers can also be ordered again via a website and app. Currently, the service is only available in the United States, money transfers from third countries are still not possible with Western Union. Info: For a list of providers who transfer money to Cuba from Europe, see the article: [Sending money to Cuba, but how?](#) (February 18, 2021)

As the state news portal "Cubadebate" reports, Western Union shipments can again be received through the usual channels, including transfers to foreign exchange accounts of the banks BPA, Bandec and the Banco Metropolitano (Banmet).

Other sanctions, which are being discussed for removal, remain in force after last May's relaxations. Cuba, for example, was again listed as a "state sponsor of terrorism" according to a report published on Wednesday with a reference year of 2021, which excludes Cuba from the global financial system. It is unclear whether, given the renewed listing in the US, removal would still be possible by presidential decree this year. Cuba criticised the reinstatement under Trump as an arbitrary measure.