

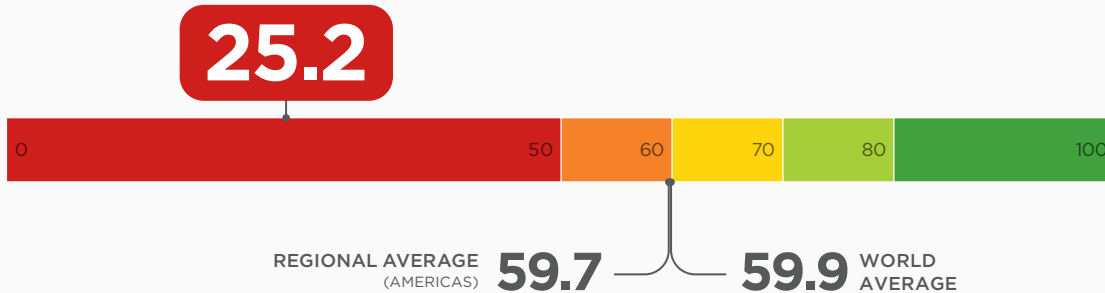
WORLD RANK: **175** | REGIONAL RANK: **32**
 ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

CUBA

Cuba's economic freedom score is 25.2, making its economy the 175th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.2 point from last year, and Cuba is ranked 32nd out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Cuba's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2026 *Index*.

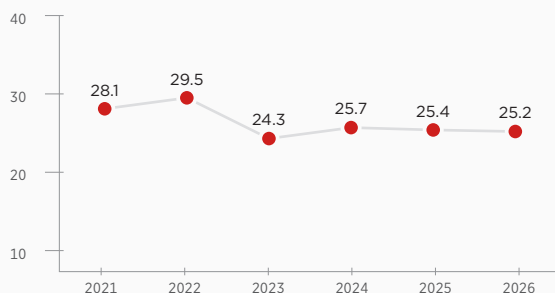
Cuba's inefficient state-run economy performs very poorly, and its component scores are far below world averages in many categories. The absence of an independent and fair judiciary weakens the rule of law. Rigid state control has long shackled the private sector. Regulatory efficiency is poor, and private entrepreneurship is limited. Regulations are applied inconsistently and not transparently. The state-controlled labor market has led to a large informal sector. Monetary stability is vulnerable to state interference, and prices are subject to controls.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -2.6

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
11.3 million

GDP (PPP):
\$256 billion
-1.5% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: n/a
n/a per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
n/a

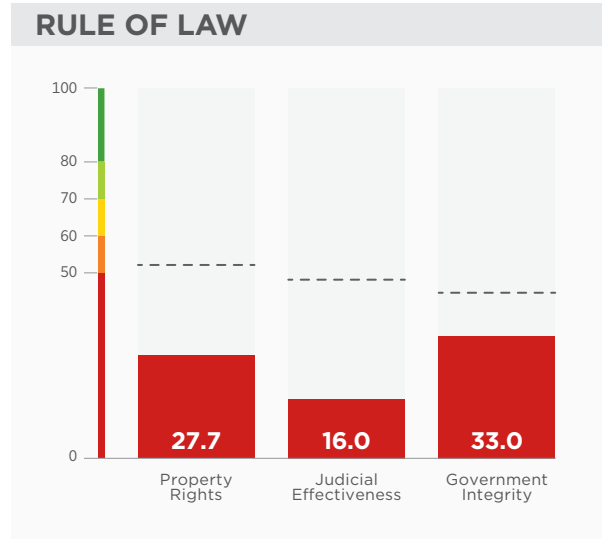
INFLATION (CPI):
14.1%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: n/a

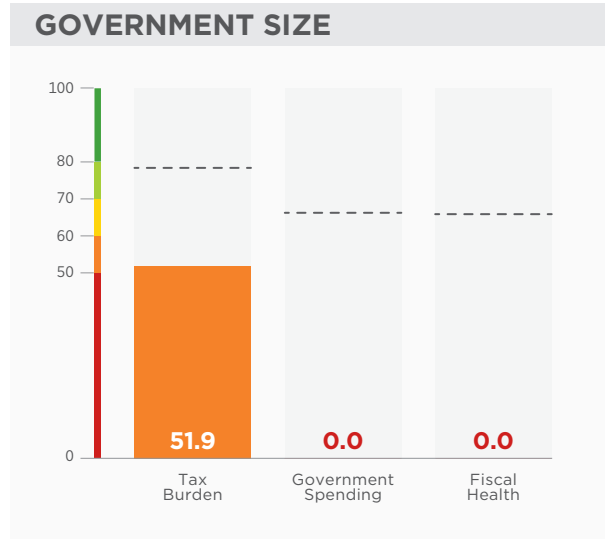
PUBLIC DEBT:
119.0% of GDP

2025 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of January 2026.

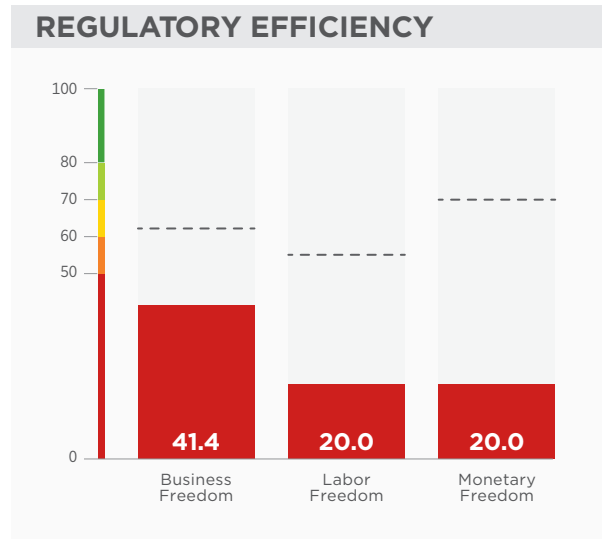
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CUBA



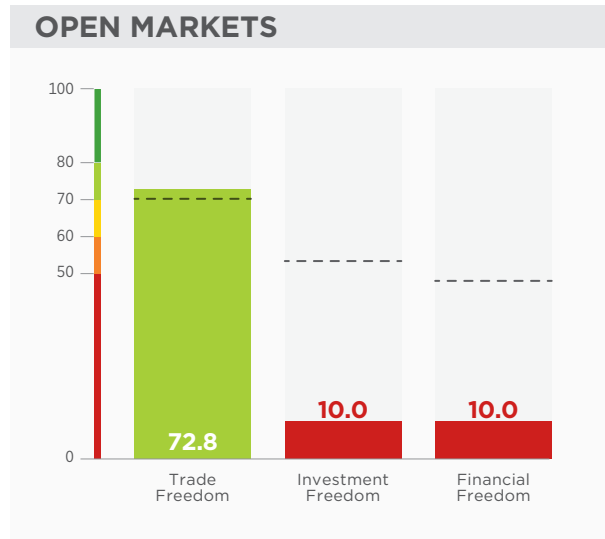
The overall rule of law is weak in Cuba. The country’s property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 50 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 37.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 63.9 percent and -11.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 119.0 percent of GDP.



Cuba’s overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country’s business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.6 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. State-owned enterprises significantly distort the economy. The shallow financial market severely impedes access to credit for private-sector activity. The state remains firmly in control of the banking sector.