

Issues facing Cuba's next leader

When Raúl Castro steps down as president in April, he will hand his successor the unfinished task of reforming the economy – Cuba's most urgent and increasingly controversial challenge



1953-59: Uprising, led by **Fidel Castro** (above) overthrows dictatorship of **Fulgencio Batista**. Castro nationalises most businesses



Feb 2008: Fidel Castro resigns at age of 81. National Assembly selects his brother **Raúl Castro** as Cuba's leader



Apr 19, 2018: **Miguel Díaz-Canel** – likely to be next president – has accused some self-employed of being counter-revolutionary

1 Unification of dual currency and exchange rates



Cuban pesos (CUP)

Convertible pesos (CUC)



CUP: Exchanges 25-to-1 with CUC
CUC: Pegged to U.S. dollar

State employees: 4.2 million
Paid 780 CUP/month – about \$31

Self-employed: 567,982 (2017)
Can earn CUCs in tourism industry, making \$200-500/month

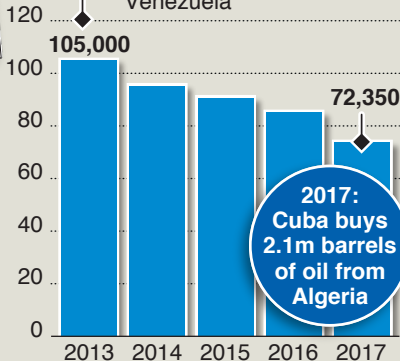


2014: Tourism booms after **Obama administration** re-starts diplomatic relations

2017: 4.7 million visitors – including 619,000 Americans – pump more than \$3 billion into Cuba's \$142 billion economy

2 Venezuela's economic collapse has hit cheap oil imports for Cuba's "oil-for-doctors" programme (crude and refined products, thousand barrels per day)

2013: **Nicolas Maduro** becomes president of Venezuela



3 Trump effect: U.S. travellers must now stay in supervised groups. Most staff withdrawn from U.S. embassy in Havana