

5,000-peso bill: Cuba to introduce new banknotes on April 1



Starting April 1, the 5,000-peso bill will be the largest denomination in Cuba (Source: [BCC](#))

The Cuban Central Bank (BCC) has [announced](#) the introduction of two new banknotes with denominations of 2,000 and 5,000 pesos (CUP). Starting April 1, 2026, the 5,000-peso notes will first be put into circulation in Havana and gradually rolled out across the entire country. The timing for the issuance of the 2,000-peso note will be announced at a later date.

The issuance of the new notes is intended to facilitate cash transactions and reduce the logistical burden of handling large amounts of cash. The measure is a direct response to inflation, which has significantly increased the demand for higher denominations in the economy. In addition, the future structure of the coin and banknote system will be further reviewed, according to the BCC.

Since the 2021 currency reform and the subsequent inflation of around 800 percent, wallets on the island have grown increasingly thick. According to the official exchange rate for private individuals, 5,000 pesos currently equate to around nine euros.

The new banknotes break with the previous design tradition of Cuban currency. For the first time in the history of Cuban numismatics, women are depicted on the bills: The 2,000-peso note features the freedom fighter and anti-slavery activist [Mariana Grajales Cuello](#), who is revered as the "Mother of the Fatherland," while the 5,000-peso note depicts [Celia Sánchez Manduley](#), a heroine of the revolution in the Sierra Maestra. The reverse side of each bill depicts a corresponding memorial site—Grajales's tomb at the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery in Santiago de Cuba and the Celia Sánchez Manduley Monument in Lenin Park in Havana.

The new bills also differ from the previous ones in technical terms. They utilize the entire surface of the 150-by-70-millimeter paper and are printed on special security paper that

meets international standards. The 2,000-peso bill features shades of violet and pink, while the 5,000-peso bill is blue.



The improved security features include, among other things, a watermark featuring the portrait of the respective patriot, a vertically embedded security thread with a motion effect on which the initials BCC and the face value are visible, as well as a high-relief portrait on the front. Another new feature is the depiction of the Cuban national flower, the *Mariposa* (butterfly lily), on both sides of the bills, which displays a rainbow-like color effect when tilted. Additionally, the bills feature tactile elements for identification by visually impaired individuals.

The introduction of the new denominations underscores the extent of currency devaluation in Cuba. Until now, the 1,000-peso note, [introduced in 2015](#), has been the highest denomination. At the time, it was equivalent to around 42 euros and was initially considered exotic, with some places

refusing to accept it. Today, its value has shrunk to around 1.80 euros. ([Cubaheute](#))