

Cuba's 2021 MSME Legalisation — Private Enterprise Returns at Scale, Then Stalls

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Cuba

Quality score: 38/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Cuba's August 2021 decree legalising private micro, small and medium enterprises grew to over 11,000 registered mipymes by early 2024, employing ~297,000 people and driving 44% of retail sales — before active-firm numbers fell in 2024 amid forex shortages and new price controls.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability	1/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

[Ministerio de Economía y Planificación \(MEP\), Government of Cuba](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

[Americas Quarterly — The Truth About Cuba's Private Sector](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

[Cuba Study Group — Special Report on Cuba's Private Sector](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

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