



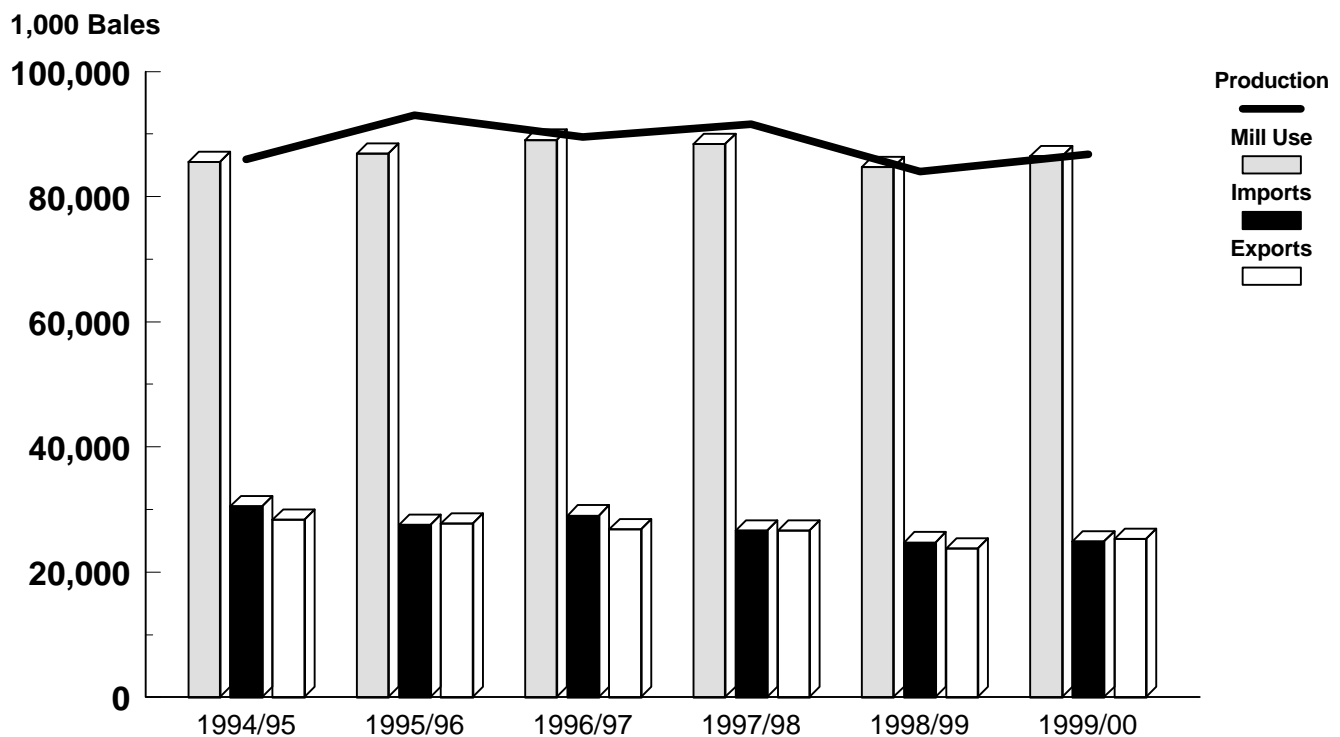
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
FC 5-99
May 1999

Cotton: World Markets and Trade

1999/2000 World Cotton Outlook Production, Supply and Distribution



World cotton production for marketing year 1999/2000 is forecast to reach 87.0 million bales (480-lb), 3.5 percent higher than USDA's current estimate for MY 1998/99 of 84.1 million bales. A sizable increase in U.S. production, after 1998/99's poor crop performance, will account for much of the increase in world production. World cotton consumption next year will show modest growth and reach 86.5 million bales, 2 percent higher than this year. Improved economic conditions in Brazil and Asia are expected to push mill use higher in these regions and in regions dependent on trade to these markets. Exports are expected to react to higher production and consumption levels and reach 25.0 million bales, an increase of over 5 percent from this year's exports of 23.74 million bales.