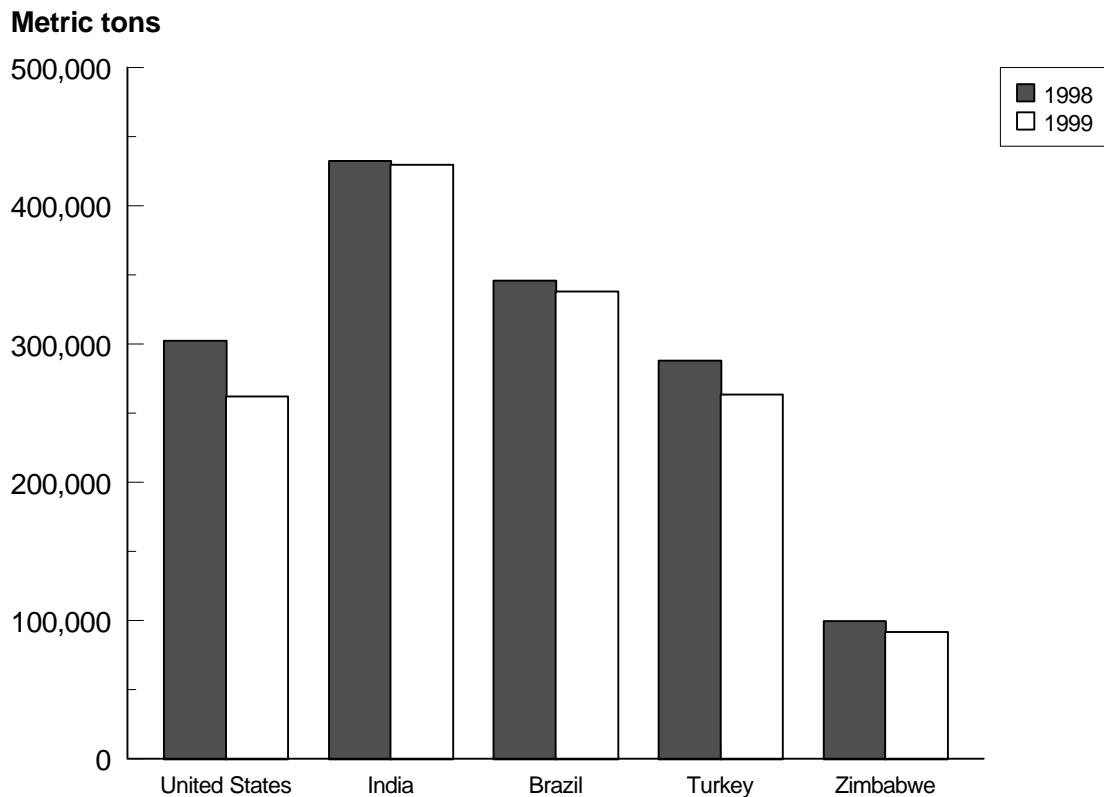




# Tobacco: World Markets and Trade

## Top Tobacco Producing Countries excluding China



World tobacco production is forecast to decline in 1999. Producers are reacting to global oversupply of leaf, which resulted in low prices and increased global competition, by reducing leaf production. China reportedly plans to reduce production by nearly 20 percent in 1999 in an attempt to draw down stocks by 12 percent.