



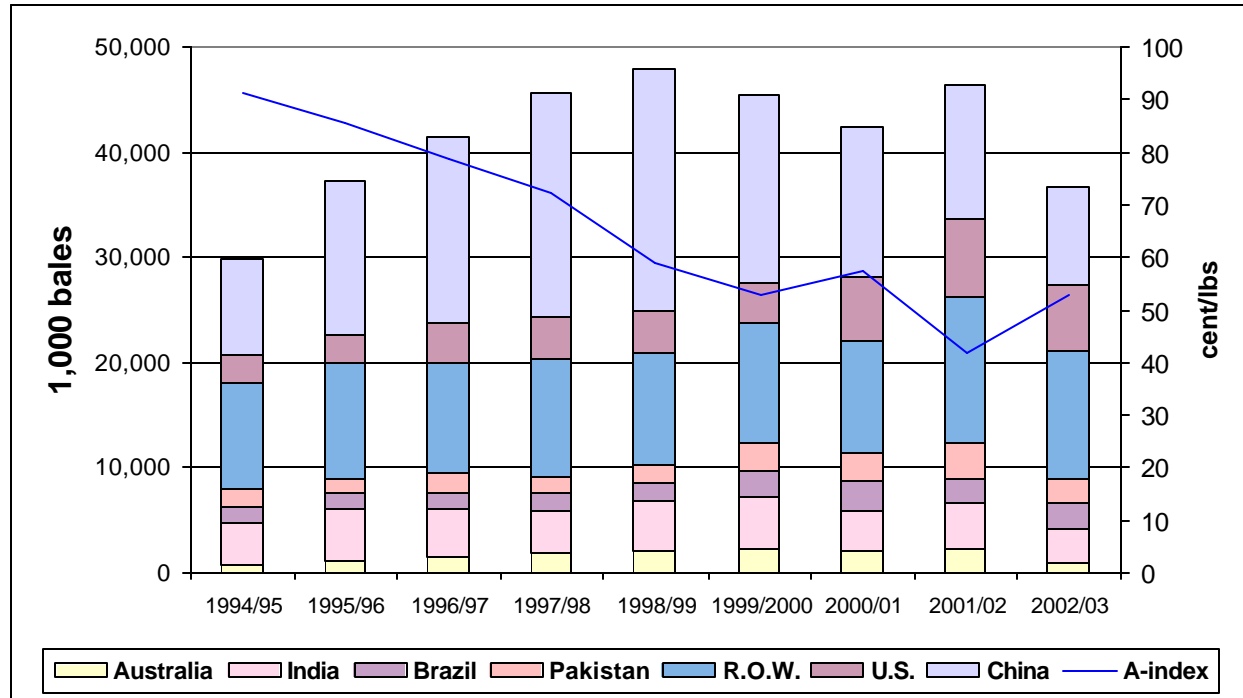
United States
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Cotton: World Markets and Trade

World Stocks at Lowest Level Since 1994/95



The April estimate for MY2002/03 has total ending stocks at 36.6 million bales, down 941,000 bales from the March estimate. Stocks tightened this month as use increased and production decreased. Lower stocks are forecast in Pakistan, Egypt, India, Brazil, and China.

Ending stocks for 2002/03 are forecast down 21 percent or nearly 10 million bales from 2001/02. Tightening stocks in China account for over one third (3.6 million bales) of the total decrease from 2001/02. Stocks tightened by over one million bales in Australia, India and the United States. Lower stocks are forecast in most producing countries, while stocks in non-production consuming countries are generally stable or down slightly. The tightening stock situation is reflected in the A-index. The 2002/03 average (1 Aug. 2002 to date) is more than 25 percent above last season's average.

Ending stocks for 2002/03 are now forecast at the lowest level since 1994/95 and are down nearly 25 percent from the record 47.9 million bale ending stock level in 1998/99. Much of the decrease in recent years is due to lower stock levels in China. China's 2002/03 ending stocks are forecast at 9.3 million bales down 28 percent from 2001/02 and down 60 percent from 1998/99. In fact, 2002/03 world-less-China ending stocks are higher than in 1998/99. While U.S. ending stocks for 2002/03 are forecast down 15 percent from the previous year, they are still nearly double the average seen during the 1990's.