



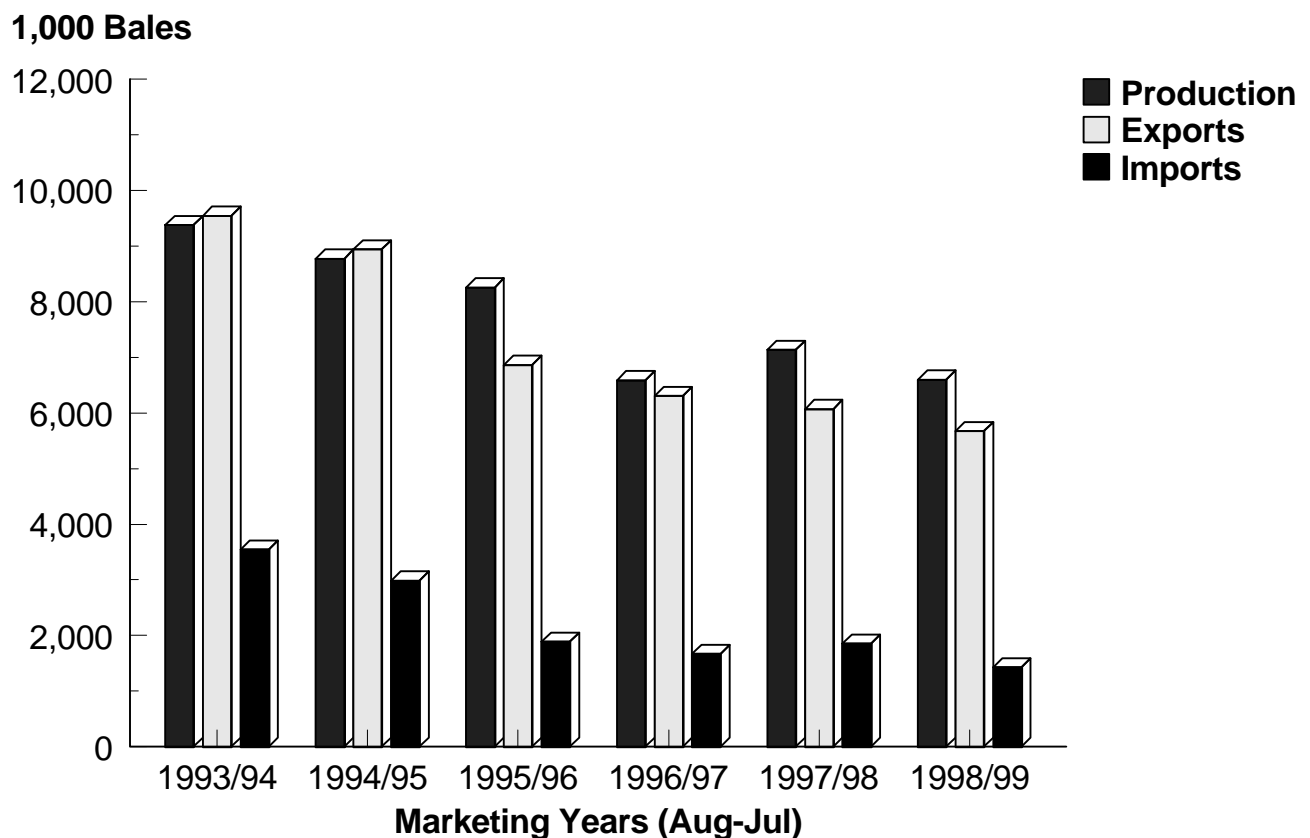
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Cotton: World Markets and Trade

Former Soviet Union Cotton Production and Trade



Cotton production in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) is forecast to reach 6.6 million bales (480-lb.) in 1998/99. This represents a decrease in production of 8 percent from last year. Lower production levels in Uzbekistan, by far the leading producer in the FSU, account for the decline. Uzbekistan's production dropped nearly 12 percent this year to 4.6 million bales due to poor weather conditions along with substantial pest and disease problems. FSU cotton exports are also forecast lower this year, totaling 5.7 million bales. Lower production levels and reduced cotton quality account for this decline. The FSU's cotton import levels have trended lower in recent years. Much of this decline is due to poor economic conditions in Russia, the leading cotton importing nation in the FSU.