



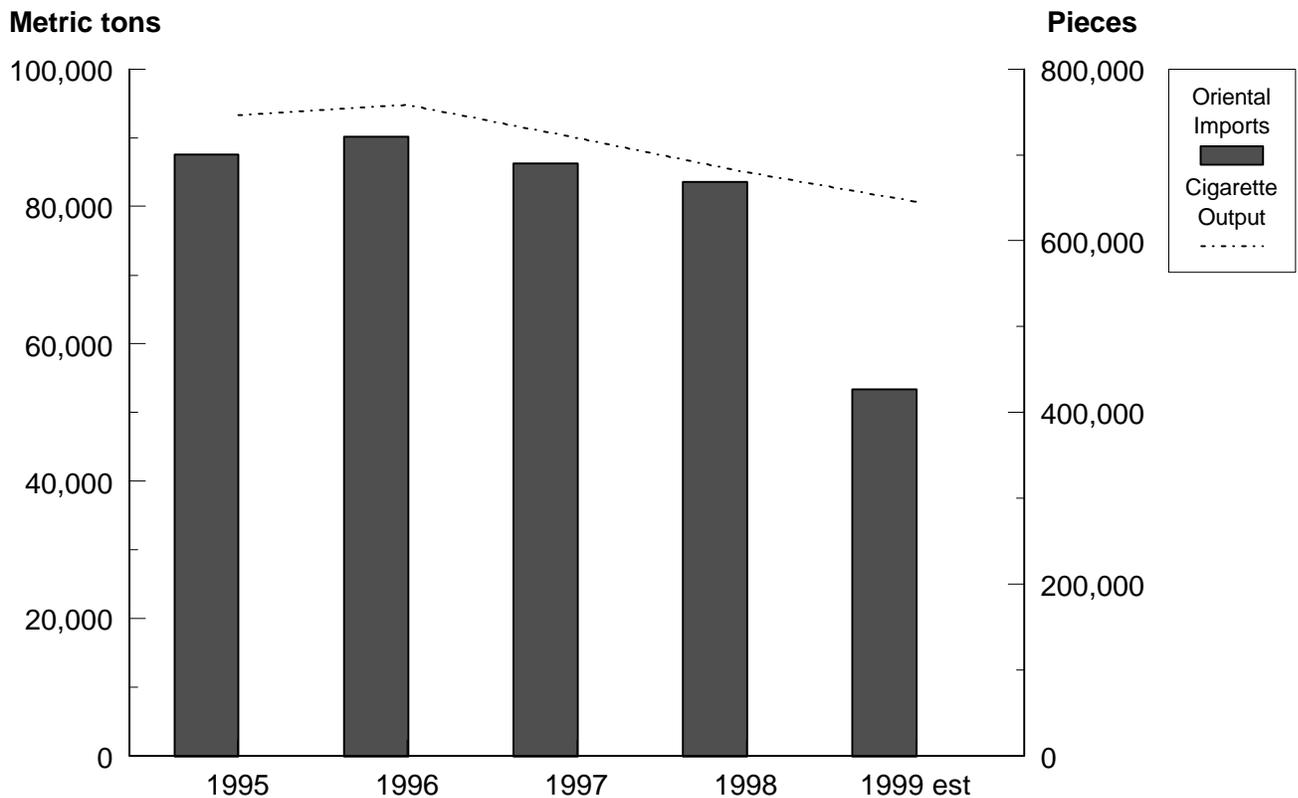
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
FT-12-99
December 1999

Tobacco: World Markets and Trade

Oriental Leaf Imports in 1999 Projected To Fall Below Historical Levels



Oriental leaf imports for consumption so far in 1999 are down by 39 percent, compared to the same period last year. The primary reason for the decline is a 4-percent fall in cigarette production due to declines in domestic consumption and exports. Cigarette production was trending high through the mid-nineties, resulted in higher oriental imports. However, it is likely that U.S. cigarette production will continue to trend lower and result in falling demand for oriental leaf in the United States.