

Tobacco Companies

Philip Morris is the world's largest transnational tobacco company, whose Marlboro brand is the world leader. In 1999 the company had sales of over US\$47 billion. However, excluding the US domestic market, BAT sells the most cigarettes worldwide and has the largest network in the most countries.

The tobacco industry is a mixture of some of the most powerful transnational commercial companies in the world. Tobacco companies, which frequently merge, own other huge industries and run an intricate variety of joint ventures.

State tobacco monopolies have been in decline since the 1980s. About 7,000 medium to large state-owned enterprises were privatised in the 1980s and a further 60,000 in the 1990s after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. From the late 1990s, the IMF has pressurised countries such as the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand and Turkey to privatise their state tobacco industry as a condition of loans.

The remaining monopolies represent a combined consumption of 2 billion cigarettes or 40 percent of the world's total cigarette consumption.

Since the early 1990s, the cigarette companies have massively increased their manufacturing capacity in developing countries and eastern Europe. Where once the rich countries exported "death and disease", increasingly these are manufactured locally.

"We see the new markets opening up in Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States as really being the future of BAT well into the next century."

BAT, 1994

Leading manufacturer by country



headquarters location of major transnational tobacco companies

- Philip Morris
- British American Tobacco (BAT)
- Japan Tobacco International (JTI)
- Reemsta
- Altadis
- Austria Tabak
- Gallaher
- state monopoly
- other
- no data

