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Consumer price inflation for the month of October was 37.62%. The national government announced at the end of the month that beginning in November, electricity rates would be increased 61.08%, while prices for milk and bread were raised 35% and 34%, respectively. According to Notimex, private businesspersons are outraged by the government's actions. Under a non-binding pact between government and the private sector, the latter reportedly agreed to limit price hikes to only 90% of the previous month's inflation. Recently, the Brazilian national congress acted to set up a congressional committee to study price hikes on new automobiles over the past two years. In 1987, automobile manufacturers increased prices by 578%, compared to general price level inflation of 365%. In 1988, automobile prices rose an average 1,144% compared to annual consumer price inflation of 933%. Thus far in 1989, auto prices have increased an average 1,303%. The consumer price index for the month of September increased 35.95%. Government officials have asserted there are no new anti-inflation packages in the works. Brasilia has decided to wait until March 15 when the new administration takes power. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/02/89)

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