

As recently as 1949 and 1950 there were no imports of Fig Paste into this country, although undoubtedly a small percentage of the Dried Fig Imports during that period of time were eventually utilized as Fig Paste. Between 1950 and 1955 Fig Paste Imports gradually increased and reached 5,900 tons during 1955. For the next two years, Fig Paste Imports gradually declined but in 1958 rose to 7,950 tons; followed by 8,141 tons in 1959 and the all time high of 13,334 tons in 1960.

A review of Table 7 indicates that this great volume at low prices resulted in a reduction in the average annual prices received by producers for the next two years. This is particularly noticeable in the Adriatic variety where prices declined \$38.00 per ton during this period. This drastic increase in Fig Paste Imports also resulted in the United States percentage of the Fig Paste Market in this country dropping to a record low of 41%.

Since 1961, California's share of the domestic Fig Paste Market has ranged from a low of 43% (Table 13) to a high of 70% with the 6 year average being 52%—10% below the 1955-60 average.

A review of the Table 6 shows a production cost ranging from 10.6 to 17.4 cents per pound for California Dried Figs and, when compared with Table 14, discloses that foreign fig paste can enter this country, in most instances, duty paid at a price lower than California Production Costs. When processing costs are added to California production figures, it is easily understood why imported fig paste has pre-empted such a large share of the Fig Paste Market in the United States.