

LIVING CONDITIONS

Two measurements were obtained which indicate that the people of Dinuba live under material conditions that are measurably better than those enjoyed by the Arvin residents. The first of these is a level-of-living index based upon the possession of a series of items, while the second was an evaluation of the condition of the home based upon the observations of the enumerators.

The frequency of occurrence of seven of the eight items which make up the level-of-living scale is shown in table 25. Several items, which for purposes of making the level-of-living index were broken into series, have been simplified for purposes of this tabulation. Thus the degree of crowding is here indicated by a break between those with less than one person per room and those with more, while three categories were used for purposes of calculating the index.

TABLE 25.—Incidence of selected individual items on the level-of-living scale:
Arvin and Dinuba

Item	Arvin		Dinuba	
	Number reporting	Percent	Number reporting	Percent
1. Less than 1 person per room.....	36	28	149	72
2. Water in home.....	90	75	185	90
3. Electric lighting in home.....	128	97	203	98
4. Mechanical refrigeration.....	75	57	154	75
5. Radio.....	113	86	190	92
6. Telephone.....	17	13	80	39
7. Automobile.....	109	83	170	82

Source: Schedule data.

With a single exception (possession of automobiles) Dinuba people are better off than people in Arvin. The possession of electricity in the home is very nearly universal in both communities, but the difference in the possession of the other five items between Arvin and Dinuba is quite great. It should be pointed out that the lack of crowding in Dinuba is in part a reflection of the fact that more people are away from their homes, either in the armed service, or making homes of their own. The difference in this item is therefore somewhat exaggerated.

On the basis of these seven items and one other (type of home construction) a level of living scale was constructed with a range from 0 to 44.¹¹ Figure 9 shows the frequency distribution of level-of-living scores in Arvin and Dinuba, and the median and mean scores of each. It will be seen that Dinubans have an appreciably higher level.

Level of living as measured by this index is clearly associated with occupation. Only 21 percent of Arvin laborers have an index above the median point of the combined sample, while 70 percent of the independently employed farmers and white-collar workers are in this category. In Dinuba 43 percent of the laborers are above the median, and nearly 90 percent of the independently employed fall in the upper brackets. (The median point was calculated for the combined sample.) That a statistically significant association between occupation and living conditions exists was indicated by the Chi Square Test.¹²

¹¹ The method of calculating this index is presented in appendix E.

¹² See appendix F.