

Homefinder Somerset Equalities Report September 2023

Introduction

This report provides the latest equalities information from Homefinder Somerset.

The data presented in this report is correct as of 26 September 2023 and relates to the main applicant for households with a Live application and those who are being considered for a property (with the status of 'Offered').

Please note: On 1 April 2023 the 4 district councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West & Taunton, and South Somerset) and Somerset County Council were replaced by a single council called Somerset Council. This report provides information for Somerset as a whole and for the 4 Housing Options Team Areas: East (which covers the former Mendip DC area), North (which covers the former Sedgemoor DC area), South (which covers the former South Somerset DC area) and West (which covers the former Somerset West & Taunton Council area).

Age

Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset

Just under half (49%) of households registered with Homefinder Somerset have a main applicant aged between 18 and 39 years old (Table 1 and Chart 1). This is significantly higher than the proportion of the Somerset population aged between 20 and 39 (21% - 2021 Census). This is perhaps not surprising as people in this age will include people most likely to be: moving to their first home, forming a relationship and seeking a place to live together, or having children and so needing a bigger home.

The West Housing Options Team area has a larger proportion of households headed by someone over 60 than the other areas (23% compared to 17% to 20% in the other 3 areas). These proportions are lower than for Somerset population, where people over 60 account for 32% of the population (2021 Census).

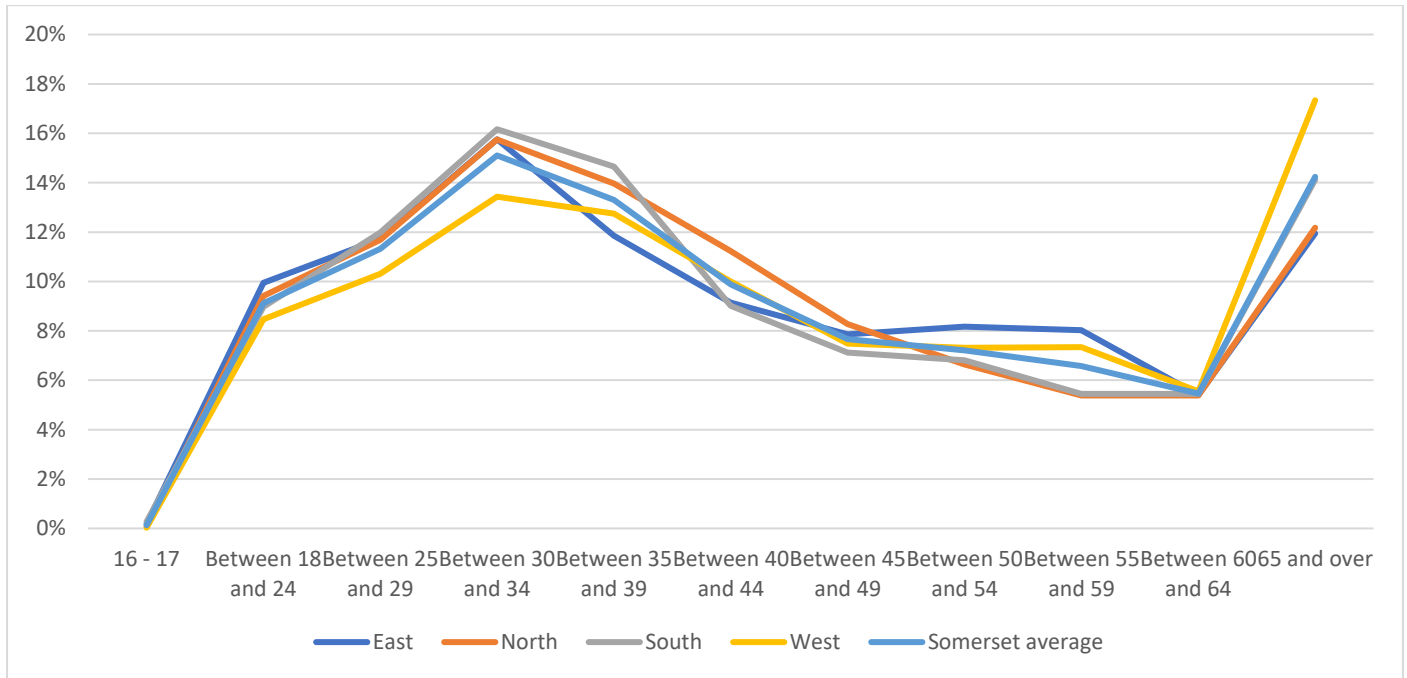
Table 1: Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset by local authority. Data uses the age of the main applicant.

| | East | | North | | South | | West | | Total | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 16 - 17 | 4 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 7 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 14 | 0% |
| Between 18 & 24 | 224 | 10% | 248 | 9% | 232 | 9% | 299 | 8% | 1,003 | 9% |
| Between 25 & 29 | 264 | 12% | 308 | 12% | 310 | 12% | 364 | 10% | 1,246 | 11% |
| Between 30 & 34 | 355 | 16% | 415 | 16% | 418 | 16% | 474 | 13% | 1,662 | 15% |
| Between 35 & 39 | 267 | 12% | 368 | 14% | 379 | 15% | 450 | 13% | 1,464 | 13% |
| Between 40 & 44 | 206 | 9% | 296 | 11% | 233 | 9% | 353 | 10% | 1,088 | 10% |
| Between 45 & 49 | 177 | 8% | 218 | 8% | 184 | 7% | 264 | 7% | 843 | 8% |
| Between 50 & 54 | 184 | 8% | 175 | 7% | 176 | 7% | 258 | 7% | 793 | 7% |
| Between 55 & 59 | 181 | 8% | 142 | 5% | 141 | 5% | 259 | 7% | 723 | 7% |
| Between 60 & 64 | 122 | 5% | 142 | 5% | 141 | 5% | 196 | 6% | 601 | 5% |
| 65 & over | 269 | 12% | 321 | 12% | 365 | 14% | 612 | 17% | 1,567 | 14% |
| Total | 2,253 | 100% | 2,635 | 100% | 2,586 | 100% | 3,530 | 100% | 11,004 | 100% |

Note: The percentages refer to the proportion of households registered with an area that have a main applicant in that Age Band (e.g. 16% of households registered with North have a main applicant in the 30 – 34 year old Age Band). The percentage given for the total refers to the proportion of all households with a main applicant in that Age Band (e.g. 14% of all households have a main applicant aged 65 or over).

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Chart 1: Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset by Team Area and Age Band. Data uses the age of the main applicant.



Sex

Two thirds (66%) of households registered with Homefinder Somerset have a woman identified as the main applicant (Table 2). This varies from 65% in East and West to 67% in North and South. Please note that these proportions refer to 9,647 households where the sex of the main applicant is specified.

The proportion of households headed by a woman is significantly different to the profile of the Somerset population, where 51% of the population are female (2021 Census). The reasons for this are not clear.

Table 2: Sex of main applicant of households registered with Homefinder Somerset by Team Area

| | East | | North | | South | | West | | Total | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Female | 1,323 | 65% | 1,575 | 67% | 1,566 | 67% | 1,916 | 65% | 6,380 | 66% |
| Male | 696 | 34% | 760 | 32% | 758 | 33% | 1,038 | 35% | 3,252 | 34% |
| Other | 3 | 0% | 5 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 6 | 0% | 15 | 0% |
| Total | 2,022 | 100% | 2,340 | 100% | 2,325 | 100% | 2,960 | 100% | 9,647 | 100% |

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Just over a quarter (27%) of households included a joint applicant reported as 'partner' to the main applicant (Table 3). The East Area had a slightly lower proportion (25%) than the other 3 areas.

Table 3: Households including a joint applicant described as 'Partner' to the main applicant.

| | No. | % |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| East | 543 | 24% |
| North | 764 | 29% |
| South | 725 | 28% |
| West | 910 | 26% |
| Total | 2,943 | 27% |

Important note: The remaining data below relates to the 9,657 households who had completed a new application or updated an existing application between 2 August 2021 (when the current IT system went live) and 26 September 2023.

Disability

Across Somerset a third (33%) of households reported that at least 1 member of their household has a disability (Table 4). The proportion was very similar across Somerset, ranging from 32% in West to 35% in South.

Table 4: Number and proportion of households who stated that someone in their household has a disability.

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| East | 686 | 34% |
| North | 765 | 33% |
| South | 812 | 35% |
| West | 873 | 32% |
| Total | 3,136 | 33% |

The most common disability reported was a physical disability, followed by mental health issues (Table 5). It should be noted that the data relates to one member of a household. In many cases that person will have more than 1 disability (which explains the difference between 3,136 households stating that someone in their household has a disability, and the 5,177 disabilities reported in Table 5 below). It should also be noted that a number of households include more than 1 person with a disability.

Table 5: Type of disability

| | East | | North | | South | | West | | Total | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Autism spectrum condition | 160 | 14% | 155 | 12% | 165 | 12% | 177 | 13% | 657 | 13% |
| Cognitive impairment | 36 | 3% | 29 | 2% | 42 | 3% | 37 | 3% | 144 | 3% |
| Hearing or sight loss | 50 | 4% | 50 | 4% | 77 | 6% | 83 | 6% | 260 | 5% |
| Learning Disability | 131 | 12% | 120 | 10% | 135 | 10% | 129 | 9% | 515 | 10% |
| Mental health issues | 314 | 28% | 356 | 28% | 408 | 30% | 411 | 29% | 1,489 | 29% |
| Physical Disability | 337 | 30% | 393 | 31% | 400 | 29% | 431 | 30% | 1,561 | 30% |
| Other | 111 | 10% | 147 | 12% | 146 | 11% | 147 | 10% | 551 | 11% |
| Total | 1,139 | 100% | 1,250 | 100% | 1,373 | 100% | 1,415 | 100% | 5,177 | 100% |

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Gender reassignment

Most households (98%) reported that their gender was the same as the sex they were registered at birth. 2% of households chose not to answer this question, whilst 1% reported that their gender was not the same as the sex they were registered at birth (Table 6).

Table 6: Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?

| | East | | North | | South | | West | | Total | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| No | 15 | 1% | 11 | 0% | 8 | 0% | 19 | 1% | 53 | 1% |
| Prefer not to say/ Missing | 60 | 3% | 33 | 1% | 40 | 2% | 48 | 2% | 181 | 2% |
| Yes | 1,947 | 96% | 2,288 | 98% | 2,252 | 98% | 2,662 | 98% | 9,149 | 98% |
| Total | 2,022 | 100% | 2,332 | 100% | 2,300 | 100% | 2,729 | 100% | 9,383 | 100% |

Military Status

271 households across Somerset reported that they had served in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or British Reserve Forces. This accounted for 3% of all households (Table 7).

35 of these applicants reported that they are currently serving in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or left in the last 5 years (Table 8). Such applicants are exempt from the local connection requirement to register with Homefinder Somerset.

44 applicants reported that they need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition (including mental health) or disability sustained as a result of their service (Table 9). 7 of these applicants reported that they are currently serving or left in the last 5 years.

Table 7: Served in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or British Reserve Forces

| | No. | % |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| East | 42 | 2% |
| North | 62 | 3% |
| South | 73 | 3% |
| West | 94 | 3% |
| Total | 271 | 3% |

Table 8: Currently serving in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or left in the last 5 years

| | No. |
|--------------|-----------|
| East | 3 |
| North | 6 |
| South | 16 |
| West | 10 |
| Total | 35 |

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Table 9: Need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition (including mental health) or disability sustained as a result of their service

| | No. |
|--------------|------------|
| East | 6 |
| North | 9 |
| South | 18 |
| West | 11 |
| Total | 44 |

Pregnancy and Maternity

As stated above, two thirds (66%) of households registered with Homefinder Somerset have a woman identified as the main applicant. 5% of these women reported that they are pregnant (Table 10). The proportion ranges from 4% of households headed by a woman in North and West to 6% in East.

Table 10: Households headed by a woman who is pregnant

| | No. | % |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| East | 82 | 6% |
| North | 70 | 4% |
| South | 83 | 5% |
| West | 80 | 4% |
| Total | 315 | 5% |

Please note that data is not collected on maternity (the period of 26 weeks after the birth, which reflects the period of a woman's ordinary maternity leave entitlement from employment)

Ethnic Origin

Most households (88%) are headed by main applicants who describe their ethnic origin as White British (Table 12). This is lower than proportion of the Somerset population (95% - 2011 Census).

The next most common ethnic group is White Other at 7%. Overall, 95% of main applicants described their ethnic origin as White.

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Table 11: Ethnicity of main applicant

| | East | | North | | South | | West | | Total | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Arab | 1 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 9 | 0% | 15 | 0% |
| Asian / Asian British | 12 | 1% | 23 | 1% | 14 | 1% | 18 | 1% | 67 | 1% |
| Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi | 6 | 0% | 10 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 5 | 0% | 23 | 0% |
| Asian / Asian British: Chinese | 1 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 5 | 0% |
| Asian / Asian British: Indian | 2 | 0% | 4 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 8 | 0% |
| Asian / Asian British: Pakistani | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 2 | 0% |
| Asian / Asian British: Other | 3 | 0% | 7 | 0% | 9 | 0% | 10 | 0% | 29 | 0% |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British | 7 | 0% | 14 | 1% | 7 | 0% | 10 | 0% | 38 | 0% |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: African | 4 | 0% | 13 | 1% | 4 | 0% | 7 | 0% | 28 | 0% |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Caribbean | 3 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 8 | 0% |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Other | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 2 | 0% |
| Gypsy or Irish Traveller | 16 | 1% | 7 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 28 | 0% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups | 22 | 1% | 25 | 1% | 24 | 1% | 39 | 1% | 110 | 1% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Asian | 6 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 7 | 0% | 17 | 0% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black African | 3 | 0% | 4 | 0% | 6 | 0% | | 0% | 13 | 0% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black Caribbean | 9 | 0% | 13 | 1% | 12 | 1% | 22 | 1% | 56 | 1% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Other | 4 | 0% | 5 | 0% | 5 | 0% | 10 | 0% | 24 | 0% |
| White | 1,905 | 94% | 2,223 | 95% | 2,201 | 96% | 2,597 | 95% | 8,926 | 95% |
| White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British | 1,771 | 88% | 2,067 | 89% | 2,014 | 88% | 2,425 | 89% | 8,277 | 88% |
| White: Irish | 10 | 0% | 8 | 0% | 5 | 0% | 12 | 0% | 35 | 0% |
| White: Other | 124 | 6% | 148 | 6% | 182 | 8% | 160 | 6% | 614 | 7% |
| Any other ethnic group | 4 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 11 | 0% | 7 | 0% | 25 | 0% |
| Prefer not to say | 55 | 3% | 35 | 2% | 37 | 2% | 47 | 2% | 174 | 2% |
| Total | 2,022 | 100% | 2,332 | 100% | 2,300 | 100% | 2,729 | 100% | 9,383 | 100% |

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Religion or Belief

Most applicants (61%) stated that they had no religion. This varied from 58% in South to 63% in North. Just under a third (31%) of applicants described themselves as Christian, whilst 5% preferred not to answer this question.

Table 12: Religion of main applicant

| | East | | North | | South | | West | | Total | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Buddhist | 13 | 1% | 10 | 0% | 9 | 0% | 12 | 0% | 44 | 0% |
| Christian | 552 | 27% | 690 | 30% | 792 | 34% | 831 | 30% | 2,865 | 31% |
| Hindu | 3 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 4 | 0% |
| Jewish | 4 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 9 | 0% |
| Muslim | 13 | 1% | 19 | 1% | 14 | 1% | 31 | 1% | 77 | 1% |
| No religion | 1,225 | 61% | 1,478 | 63% | 1,323 | 58% | 1,681 | 62% | 5,707 | 61% |
| Other | 80 | 4% | 47 | 2% | 59 | 3% | 58 | 2% | 244 | 3% |
| Prefer not to say | 132 | 7% | 85 | 4% | 102 | 4% | 114 | 4% | 433 | 5% |
| Total | 2,022 | 100% | 2,332 | 100% | 2,300 | 100% | 2,729 | 100% | 9,383 | 100% |

Sexual Orientation

Most applicants (88%) described themselves as heterosexual. There is little variation in this proportion across Somerset, ranging from 87% in East to 89% in North. This proportion is lower than the 94% for the UK population as a whole ([Annual Population Survey 2019](#)). This may be accounted for by the fact that 6% of applicants preferred not to answer this question.

The proportion of applicants who identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual was 5%, nearly double that for the UK population as a whole (2.7% - [Annual Population Survey 2019](#)).

Table 13: Sexual Orientation of main applicant

| | East | | North | | South | | West | | Total | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Bisexual | 65 | 3% | 80 | 3% | 50 | 2% | 108 | 4% | 303 | 3% |
| Gay man | 15 | 1% | 24 | 1% | 28 | 1% | 27 | 1% | 94 | 1% |
| Gay woman/lesbian | 10 | 0% | 22 | 1% | 30 | 1% | 28 | 1% | 90 | 1% |
| Heterosexual/straight | 1,758 | 87% | 2,068 | 89% | 2,053 | 89% | 2,413 | 88% | 8,292 | 88% |
| Other | 20 | 1% | 16 | 1% | 18 | 1% | 19 | 1% | 73 | 1% |
| Prefer not to say | 154 | 8% | 122 | 5% | 121 | 5% | 134 | 5% | 531 | 6% |
| Total | 2,022 | 100% | 2,332 | 100% | 2,300 | 100% | 2,729 | 100% | 9,383 | 100% |

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