

Homefinder Somerset Equalities Report – March 2025

Introduction

This report provides the latest equalities information from Homefinder Somerset.

The data presented in this report is correct as of 11 March 2025 and unless stated 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').

Age

Over half (54%) 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 those 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.

16% of households registered with Homefinder Somerset are headed by people over 60, which is significantly lower than the proportion seen across the general Somerset population (32%) at the 2021 Census.

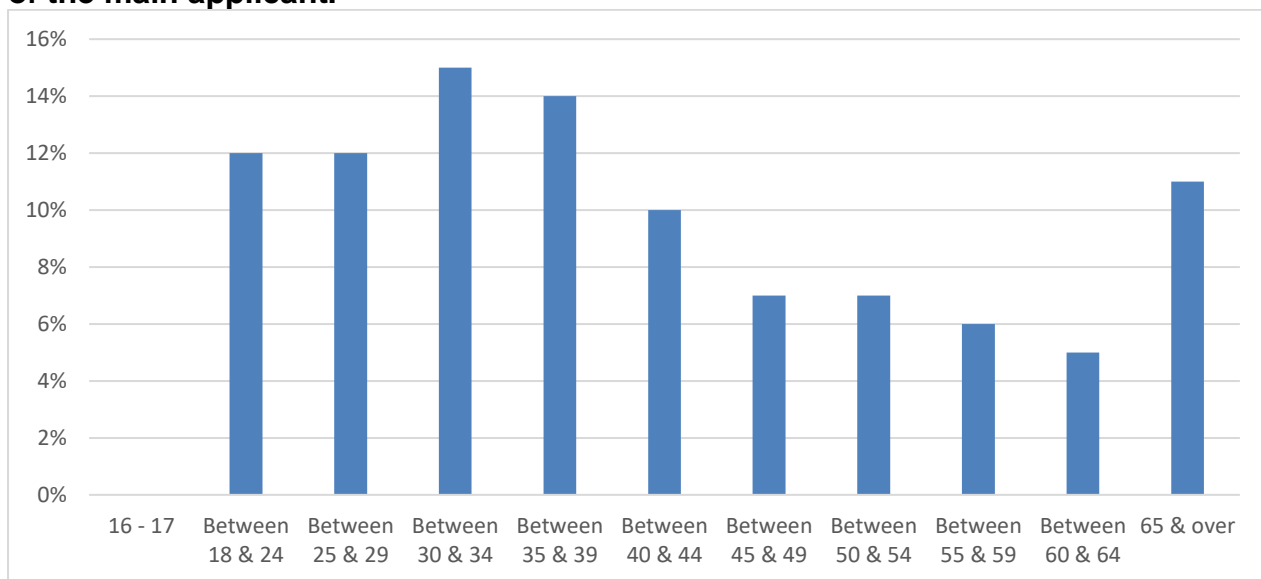
Table 1: Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset. Data uses the age of the main applicant.

| | No. | % |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 16 - 17 | 35 | 0% |
| Between 18 & 24 | 1,494 | 12% |
| Between 25 & 29 | 1,523 | 12% |
| Between 30 & 34 | 1,887 | 15% |
| Between 35 & 39 | 1,760 | 14% |
| Between 40 & 44 | 1,234 | 10% |
| Between 45 & 49 | 862 | 7% |
| Between 50 & 54 | 830 | 7% |
| Between 55 & 59 | 774 | 6% |
| Between 60 & 64 | 650 | 5% |
| 65 & over | 1,383 | 11% |
| Total | 12,432 | 100% |

Note: The percentages refer to the proportion of households registered that have a main applicant in that Age Band (e.g. 15% of households registered have a main applicant in the 30 – 34 year old Age Band).

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Chart 1: Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset. 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).

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

| | No. | % |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Female | 8,149 | 66% |
| Male | 4,250 | 34% |
| Other | 33 | 0% |
| Total | 12,432 | 100% |

Gender reassignment

The vast majority of main applicants (97%) reported that their gender was the same as the sex they were registered at birth. 3% of main applicants reported that their gender was not the same as the sex they were registered at birth (Table 3), which had increased from 1% since the last report in 2023.

Table 3: Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?

| | No. | % |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| No | 320 | 3% |
| Prefer not to say/ Missing | 12 | 0% |
| Yes | 12,100 | 9% |
| Total | 12,432 | 100% |

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Marriage and Civil Partnership

Just over a fifth (21%) of households included a joint applicant reported as ‘partner’ to the main applicant. This has fallen from 25% when the last Equalities report was run in September 2023.

Pregnancy and Maternity

As stated above, two thirds (66%) of households registered with Homefinder Somerset have a woman identified as the main applicant. 2% of these women reported that they are pregnant.

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)

Disability

36% of households registered with Homefinder Somerset reported that at least 1 member of their household has a disability. This is nearly twice the rate seen for the general Somerset population (19% - 2021 Census).

The most common disability reported was mental health issues, followed by physical disability (Table 4). It should be noted that the data relates to the main applicant. In many cases someone will have more than 1 disability. This explains the difference between 4,432 households stating that the main applicant has a disability, and the 7,609 disabilities reported in Table 3 below. It should also be noted that many households include more than 1 person with a disability.

Table 4: Type of disability of main applicant

| | No. | % |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Autism spectrum condition | 1,099 | 14% |
| Cognitive impairment | 216 | 3% |
| Hearing or sight loss | 352 | 5% |
| Learning Disability | 759 | 10% |
| Mental health issues | 2,198 | 29% |
| Physical Disability | 2,146 | 28% |
| Other | 839 | 11% |
| Total | 7,609 | 100% |

Military Status

296 households registered with Homefinder Somerset reported that the main or joint applicant (or both) had served in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or British Reserve Forces. This accounted for 3% of all households. Such applicants are exempt from the local connection requirement to register with Homefinder Somerset.

44 of these households reported that they are currently serving in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or left in the last 5 years.

52 households 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. 7 of these applicants reported that they are currently serving or left in the last 5 years.

Ethnic Origin

Most households (89%) are headed by main applicants who describe their ethnic origin as White British (Table 5). This is lower than the proportion of the Somerset population (91% - 2021 Census).

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The next most common ethnic group is White Other at 6%. Overall, 95% of main applicants described their ethnic origin as White.

Table 5: Ethnicity of main applicant

| | No. | % |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Asian / Asian British | 87 | 0.7% |
| Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi | 26 | 0.2% |
| Asian / Asian British: Chinese | 7 | 0.1% |
| Asian / Asian British: Indian | 10 | 0.1% |
| Asian / Asian British: Pakistani | 4 | 0.0% |
| Asian / Asian British: Other | 40 | 0.3% |
| | | |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British | 72 | 0.6% |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: African | 46 | 0.4% |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Caribbean | 14 | 0.1% |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Other | 12 | 0.1% |
| | | |
| Gypsy or Irish Traveller | 50 | 0.4% |
| | | |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups | 117 | 0.9% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Asian | 26 | 0.2% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black African | 22 | 0.2% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black Caribbean | 63 | 0.5% |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Other | 32 | 0.3% |
| | | |
| White | 11,775 | 94.7% |
| White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British | 11,043 | 88.8% |
| White: Irish | 42 | 0.3% |
| White: Other | 690 | 5.6% |
| | | |
| Any other ethnic group | 50 | 0.4% |
| | | |
| Prefer not to say | 255 | 2.1% |
| Total | 12,432 | 100% |

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Religion or Belief

Most applicants (62%) stated that they had no religion. This is a much higher proportion than for the general Somerset population (44% - 2021 Census). 29% of applicants described themselves as Christian, whilst 5% preferred not to answer this question.

Table 6: Religion of main applicant

| | No. | % |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Buddhist | 47 | 0% |
| Christian | 3,652 | 29% |
| Hindu | 5 | 0% |
| Jewish | 7 | 0% |
| Muslim | 100 | 1% |
| No religion | 7,679 | 62% |
| Other | 334 | 3% |
| Prefer not to say | 608 | 5% |
| Total | 12,432 | 100% |

Sexual Orientation

Most applicants (88%) described themselves as heterosexual. This proportion is slightly lower than the 90% for the county population as a whole (2021 Census).

Table 7: Sexual Orientation of main applicant

| | No. | % |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Bisexual | 438 | 4% |
| Gay man | 118 | 1% |
| Gay woman/lesbian | 133 | 1% |
| Heterosexual/straight | 10,929 | 88% |
| Other | 108 | 1% |
| Prefer not to say | 716 | 6% |
| Total | 12,432 | 100% |