North Somerset

Region: South West
LA Code: E06000024
1. Affordability

The average house price in North Somerset in 2018 was £265,000. The median ratio of house prices to local earnings is 8.3. This is approximately the same as the England average of 8.0, suggesting high house prices may be an issue.

According to 2016 ONS data, the average price per square metre was £2,551 with the average price per bedroom £57,205 - the corresponding national average figures were £2,463 and £55,087.

New homes made up 7.5% of the total 4,056 sales recorded by the Land Registry in 2018. 19.8% of total sales were flats, and 64.5% were under £300,000. By comparison, 66.0% of transactions nationally were under £300,000.
Private rents in North Somerset in the 12 months to September 2018 ranged from £475 per month for a lower quartile one bed to £1,500 for an upper quartile four (or more) bed property. The overall median private rent was £695, which is approximately the same as the England average of £690, suggesting high private rents may be a problem.

Social rents are approximately 59% of private rents in North Somerset. Average social rents have increased 9.0% over the past five years, compared with 9.3% at national level.

Note: Social rents based on simple average of RP and local authority stock, or RPs only where no local authority stock (e.g. LSVT).
The median full-time earnings in North Somerset were £30,245 in 2018, compared to £29,869 in England. Half of local full-time workers earn between the lower quartile of £20,211 and the upper quartile of £45,229, compared to national figures of £21,273 and £42,285.

This chart shows a simple comparison of initial mortgage costs and rents for a range of scenarios to represent potential FTB decisions.

*Note: Buying scenarios based on average terraced house value (flat in London), lower of £600k (HTB limit) or average new build for HTB, and includes +3% mortgage rate stress test.*
1. Affordability

House prices in North Somerset in December 2018 are higher than their 2007/08 peak by 27.0%, compared with England at +27.3%. This suggests that rapid house price growth through the current cycle may be a local problem. Values in 2018 increased by 5.5% annually.

An indicative rental yield (based on ave 2 bed rent vs. ave flat sales value) for North Somerset is 4.6%, compared with 3.4% nationally.

This chart shows the change in mortgage lending across the postcode districts in North Somerset. The total volume of lending in the 12 months to Q2 2018 was £5,678 million, compared with £5,566 million a year earlier, a change of +2.0%.
1. Affordability

### Second homes

![Graph of second homes in North Somerset and England](chart)

**Source: Council Tax Base**

0.5% of residential properties in North Somerset were recorded as second homes in 2018 according to Council Tax Base data. This is lower than the England average, suggesting high levels of second home ownership are unlikely to be a significant problem, though other sources should be considered.

### % households in PRS

![Bar chart of % household in PRS in North Somerset and England](chart)

**Source: 2001 and 2011 Census**

14.8% of households in North Somerset were rented privately according to the 2011 Census, compared to 8.2% in 2001. The England average changed from 8.8% to 15.4% over the same period.

0.8% of the PRS households in North Somerset comprised only students in 2011, compared with 3.7% in England, suggesting students are not a significant part of the local PRS market.
1. Affordability

North Somerset received an overall standardised score of 21.8 in the 2017 Social Mobility Index, compared to the England average of zero. North Somerset ranks as 84/324 for overall score across all English local authorities for which data is available. Local house price affordability could be a further barrier to social mobility in this area.

Employment in North Somerset changed from 80.1% in 2014/15 to 80.6% in 2017/18; unemployment changed from 3.7% to 2.8%; and economic inactivity changed from 17.6% to 17.3%.

By comparison, employment in England changed from 73.6% in 2014/15 to 75.3% in 2017/18; unemployment changed from 5.3% to 4.2%; and economic inactivity changed from 22.2% to 21.3%.
Gross domestic household income in North Somerset was £19,982 per person per year in 2016, compared with £15,533 in 2006. By comparison the figure for England changed from £15,349 to £19,878 over the same period. Based on this measure, North Somerset is an area of typical affluence.

Gross value added at district level was £22,882 per person per year in 2016, compared with £17,500 a decade earlier. By comparison the figure for England changed from £21,773 to £27,108 over the same period.

Source: ONS Regional Accounts
2. Availability

The measures of 'conventional' housebuilding for North Somerset are shown in this chart. The 'official' MHCLG supply figures for 2017-18 recorded 731 new build completions (excluding any conversions or change of use). Over the same period 640 completions were recorded in the 'unofficial' quarterly data, along with 310 starts.

This chart shows total supply for North Somerset. The 'official' MHCLG supply figures for 2017-18 recorded 863 net new homes in total (including conversions and change of use, and after demolitions), and the Council Tax Base changed by +727 homes in the same period.

EPCs issued for new homes are used as a lead indicator of supply and can often be used to estimate net supply: 636 were recorded in the 2018 calendar year in North Somerset.
The net new supply in North Somerset increased the existing housing stock by 0.9% in 2017/18. This is approximately the same as the England average of 0.9%, suggesting the level of local supply may be a problem. Note that the Government’s national target of 300,000 homes per year is equivalent to 1.3%.

The previous analysis in this section covers delivery of all tenures / by all types of developer. This chart shows only delivery of affordable housing. In North Somerset 105 new affordable homes were completed in 2017/18: 25 for social rent, 61 for affordable rent and 19 intermediate affordable homes.
2. Availability

Household and population projections

Population growth in North Somerset is set to average 1,582 people per year from 2020 to 2041, with projected average annual household growth of 874 households over the same period. The average household size in 2020 is projected to be 2.26, and 2.19 in 2041.

Housing delivery test

The most recent figures show that North Somerset delivered fewer new homes than required by the MHCLG Housing Delivery Test. 2,284 net new homes were supplied over the past three full years, compared with the 3,121 required. The result of the test is that an additional buffer is added to future land supply requirements.
These three charts show property characteristics for North Somerset from the 2011 Census, compared to the national averages.
2. Availability

Turnover in North Somerset was 4.7% in 2017 (the latest year with full data). This is significantly lower than the average before the global financial crisis (turnover from 2001-05 averaged 7.0%). For comparison turnover in England was 4.4% in 2017.

Note that the above analysis includes both standard Land Registry 'A' data and additional 'B' data (which covers repossessions, mortgaged buy-to-let and corporate transactions). In North Somerset in 2017 there were 173 'B' sales, 4.3% of the total.

The proportion of homes with no usual residents in North Somerset was 4.1% according to the 2011 Census. This level is approximately the same as the England average of 4.3%.
2. Availability

0.9% of residential properties in North Somerset were recorded as vacant in 2018 according to Council Tax Base data. This is much lower than the England average, suggesting high levels of vacant homes are unlikely to be a problem.

42.4% of homes in North Somerset had two or more spare bedroom, according to the 2011 Census. This is higher than the England average, suggesting the distribution of housing is likely to be a problem.
Overall, the population of North Somerset grew between 2001 and 2017, changing by +12.7%. Overall growth at national level over the same period was +12.5%. By age, the largest single contribution to growth was from 70 year olds.

The overall population in North Somerset changed by +0.6% due to migration in the 12 months to June 2017: +0.6% from domestic sources and +0.1% from international. By age, the largest single contribution to growth was from 22 year olds.
3. Suitability

These three charts show property characteristics for North Somerset from the 2018 Council Tax Base, compared to the national averages.
3. Suitability

16% of the LSOAs in North Somerset are in the three most deprived deciles, based on the 2015 indices of multiple deprivation. This suggests it is an area of low relative deprivation (the national average is 30%).

Residents of North Somerset scored their life satisfaction at 7.60 out of 10 on average in 2017/18, compared to the England average of 7.68. The corresponding figures for 2011/12 were 7.53 and 7.41 respectively.

Over all four categories combined, local people have approximately average levels of well-being in 2017/18, compared to the national figures.
3. Suitability

The population structure of North Somerset comprised 6.4% aged 18 to 24, 49.6% aged 25 to 64, and 23.7% aged 65 and over in 2017. The corresponding figures for England were 8.7%, 51.9% and 18.0.

This suggests that the local population may include a lower than average level of students, along with a higher than average level of older people.

The 65 and over population of North Somerset is expected to grow by 49.9% from 2017 to 2041, according to the latest ONS population projections. This is compared to an overall population change of +18.9%. The corresponding national figures are growth of 51.7% and 12.1% respectively.
In North Somerset in 2019 there are expected to be 408.2 people of state pension age for every 1,000 working-age people, compared to an average of 286.8 at national level. By 2041 these rates are projected to reach 491.1 and 366.4 respectively.

The average life expectancy for people born in 2015-17 in North Somerset is 80.0 years for men and 83.6 years for women. The equivalent national figures are 79.6 and 83.1 respectively.
North Somerset has below average public transport connectivity compared to the national figures, with an average travel time to reach the nearest 8 key services of 19.9 minutes (England average = 17.7).

Source: DfT Journey Time Statistics