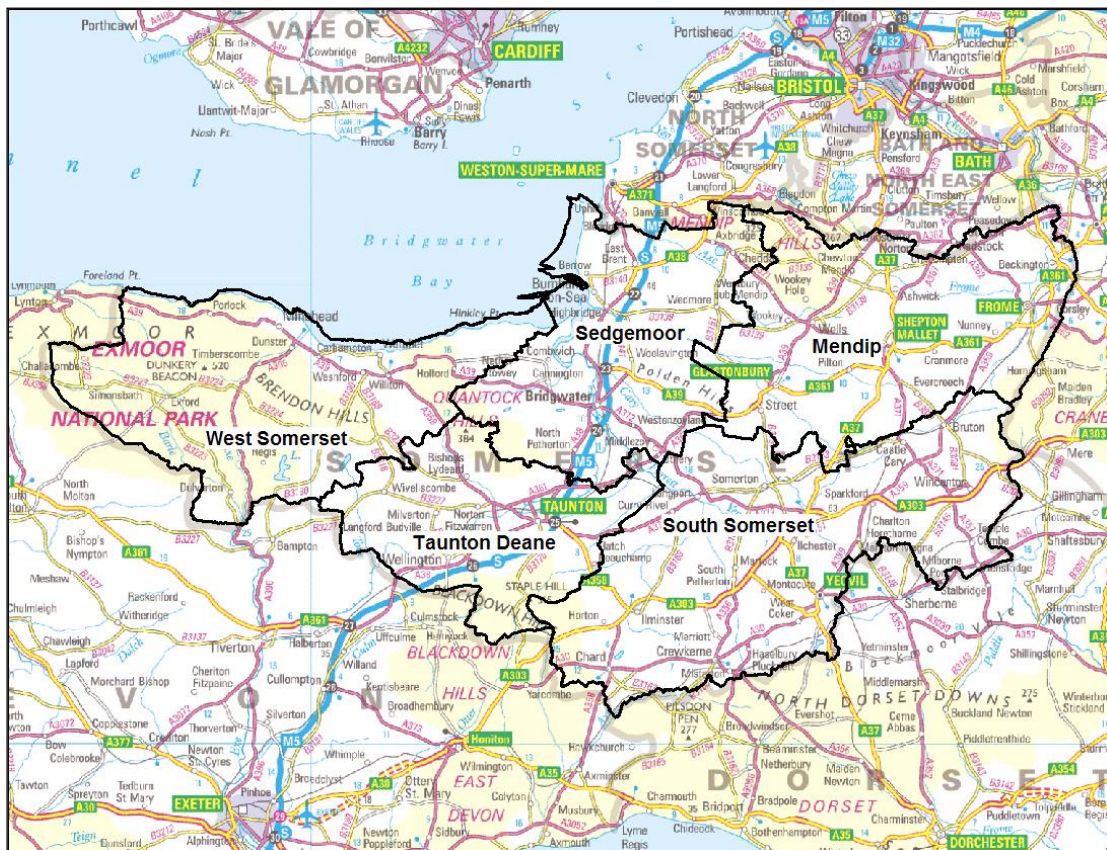


Somerset: Facts and Figures

Somerset: Facts and Figures tells the story of Somerset by means of some key facts and figures about our county. These are drawn from a variety of national, regional and local data sources and together provide a taster of the more comprehensive range of intelligence to be found on the Somerset Intelligence website: www.somersetintelligence.org.uk.

This digest of statistics, current at September 2018, is grouped in themes as follows:-

1. People and Neighbourhoods
2. Crime and Community Safety
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Environment and Transport
5. Economy and Jobs
6. Education, Skills and Learning
7. Housing



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1. People and Neighbourhoods

- An estimated 555,195 people live in Somerset (June 2017) ([NOMIS MYE](#))
- The population rose by an average of 4,000 per year over the last 5 years (June 2017) ([NOMIS MYE](#))
- 48% of the population live in a Rural area (England: 18%) ([Census 2011](#))
- 18% of the current population are children (0 to 15 years) (17.54% in 2016) ([NOMIS MYE](#))
- Almost 1 in 4 of the residents of the county are over the age of 65 (23.78% in 2016) ([NOMIS MYE](#))
- West Somerset has the highest % of people aged 65+ in the UK (33.7% in 2017) ([NOMIS MYE](#))
- There were 5,470 live births in Somerset in 2016 ([ONS](#))
- 6% of Somerset residents (31,761) were born outside the UK ([Census 2011](#))
- Apart from the UK, the most common country of birth was Poland ([Census 2011](#))
- Between 2014 and 2017, more than 13,600 migrant workers applied for a National Insurance number ([Stat-Xplore](#))
- In the year to June 2017, 3,404 more people moved to Somerset from elsewhere in the UK than left the county. However, amongst those of university-age (18-20), there was a net flow out of Somerset of 2,292 ([ONS](#))
- 537 Traveller caravans were counted in Somerset in July 2017 ([GOV](#))
- 27% of Somerset people claimed no religious affiliation in 2011 ([Census 2011](#))
- The county comprises:-
 - 5 Districts (Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, Taunton Deane and West Somerset)
 - 54 County Electoral Divisions
 - 138 District electoral wards
 - 330 Parishes (excluding Taunton, which is 'unparished') and 276 parish or town councils
- Somerset covers 3,452 square kilometres (1,333 square miles)
- 420,000 people are eligible to vote in local government elections (Dec 2017) ([ONS](#))
- Approximately 150,000 residents volunteer at least once a month ([Community Life Survey 2016/17](#))
- 40,000 Somerset people live in one of the 20% most deprived areas in England, but 74,000 live in one of England's 20% least deprived areas. ([IMD](#))

2. Crime and Community Safety

- Avon & Somerset Constabulary has 11 Police stations in Somerset ([A&S Police](#))
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue (DSFRS) has 24 Fire stations (3 whole-time and on-call, 21 on-call only) in Somerset ([D&S Fire](#))
- In Somerset in 2015/16, there were:-
 - 7,118 emergency incidents reported to DSFRS
 - 292 dwelling fires
 - 2,230 Home safety visits and 132 schools talks made by DSFRS
- The number of reported casualties on Somerset's roads in 2016 was 1,553. This represents a 22% decrease since 2012 ([Somerset Road Safety](#))



3. Health and Wellbeing

- Somerset has:-
 - 1 Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
 - 74 GP practices
 - 2 NHS Hospital Trusts (Musgrove Park, Taunton and Yeovil)
 - 12 NHS community hospitals
 - 103 pharmacies
 - 75 NHS opticians
 - 81 NHS dentists
 - 68 Nursing/Care homes
- Life expectancy in Somerset is 80.3 for males and 84.1 for females (December 2017) ([ONS](#))
- Cancers and circulatory diseases are the main causes of death in Somerset (52% of the total) (2017). This has decreased slightly in recent years, partly due to coding changes introduced in 2014 (**SCC**)
- There were 4,625 Somerset patients on GP registers in 2016/17 diagnosed with a mental health condition ([PHE Fingertips](#))
- In 2011, 58,382 people in Somerset indicated that they provided unpaid care, of which 12,313 did so for at least 50 hours per week ([Census 2011](#))
- 81% of Somerset people say their health is good or very good ([Census 2011](#))
- About 12% of the adult population of Somerset currently smokes (2016) ([PHE Fingertips](#))
- 66.1% of adult Somerset residents are overweight or obese ([APS 2012-14](#))
- 22.3% of Somerset reception children and 30.3% of children in Year 6 are overweight or obese (2016/17) ([NCMP](#))



- 13% of Somerset children under 16 were considered to be living in poverty in 2015, the lowest proportion in the last decade ([GOV](#)).
- There are 475 looked after children in Somerset (at 31 March 2017) ([Somerset Intelligence](#))
- 14,234 adults received a package of care in 2015/16 ([Somerset Intelligence](#))
- 80.53% of clients with a Learning Disability are able to live in their own home or with family members (2017/18) (SCC Adults Social Care)

4. Environment and Transport

- Around 15% of Somerset is either at or just above sea-level.
- The highest point is Dunkery Beacon, at 520m above sea level
- Somerset contains:-
 - 1 National Park (Exmoor),
 - 4 Areas of Outstanding National Beauty: the Quantock Hills, Mendip Hills, Blackdown Hills, and part of Cranborne Chase);
 - 127 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 3.12 million passengers used the 10 railway stations in Somerset in 2016/17. Usage has risen 65% in the past decade ([Office of Rail and Road](#))
- 7.2 million bus passengers a year (2016/17), the lowest for 7 years ([GOV](#))
- 1,012 licensed taxis and private hire vehicles (down 5% in 10 years) (March 2017) ([GOV](#))
- Somerset has 4,235 miles (6,816km) of roads (2017) ([GOV](#))
- Somerset collects 264,600 tonnes of waste a year (2016/17) ([GOV](#))
- 52% of Somerset County Council's household waste is sent for reuse, recycling or composting (2016/17) ([GOV](#))



5. Economy and Jobs

- Somerset's economy is worth £11.6 billion (2016) ([ONS](#))
- The county has 34,360 businesses ([ONS](#))
- 77.8% of Somerset's businesses have fewer than 5 employees (2017) ([ONS](#))
- 76.5% of people aged 16-64 are employed (2017-18) ([NOMIS](#))
- Median gross annual pay for Somerset is £26,532 (UK £28,758) ([ASHE NOMIS](#))
- Somerset has a high concentration of employment in the aerospace and food and drink sectors compared with the national level ([Somerset Economic Assessment](#))
- 4,670 MoD personnel work in Somerset (1st October 2017) ([GOV](#))
- Between August 2016-April 2017 there were 4,380 apprenticeship starts in Somerset ([GOV](#))



6. Education, Skills and Learning

- There are 254 state-funded schools (including 86 Academies), 4 FE colleges, 1 Free school and 31 Independent schools in Somerset (January 2018) ([GOV](#))
- 69,000 pupils attend state-funded schools and 8,300 attend Independent schools (January 2018) ([GOV](#))
- 63.6% of pupils achieved a standard 9-4 pass in English and Maths GCSEs in 2016/17 ([GOV](#))
- 74% of students achieved at least 2 A-levels (2016/17) ([GOV](#))
- 34.3% of Somerset residents aged 16-64 have a Level 4 (degree or equivalent) qualification (2017) ([NOMIS](#))
- 41% of Somerset pupils go into Higher Education institutions (2015/16) ([GOV](#))
- 9,902 pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), 14% of all pupils ([January 2017 School Census](#))
- 82.4% of schools in Somerset were judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding in their most recent overall effectiveness judgement (August 2018) ([GOV](#))



7. Housing

- There are about 227,000 households in Somerset in 2011 ([Census 2011](#))
- 24,562 people claim Housing Benefit (March 2018) ([Stat-Xplore](#))
- Median house prices vary from £485,000 in the Beckington and Selwood area of Mendip to £130,000 in parts of Bridgwater (Dec 2017) ([ONS](#))
- Lower quartile house prices in West Somerset are 10 times the lower quartile earnings (England: 8 times) (2017) ([ONS](#))
- The number of long-term vacant dwellings fell 20% between 2010-17 ([GOV](#))
- 3,108 dwellings in the county are second homes. In West Somerset, 5% of all dwellings are second homes, the 11th highest of any LA in England (October 2017) ([GOV](#))
- A total of 421 households were accepted as being homeless and in priority need during 2016/17 ([GOV](#))
- 18,700 people in 8,200 households were on the Homefinder Somerset Social Housing register at 31st March 2017 ([Homefinder](#))

