Claimant Count Briefing Nov 2019

Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

Introduction

This briefing contains the October data for Cumbria relating to the standard Claimant Count and the May data for the "alternative" claimant count (see note in section 3). There are a several different measures of joblessness and claimant unemployment. Each has merits and caveats but care should be taken not to make comparisons between measures as they use different methodologies, population denominators and cover different time periods. In particular, the figures used in the national media are survey based measures of joblessness for which there are no local reliable equivalent measures and therefore they should not be compared with the claimant data contained here.

1. KEY FINDINGS FOR CUMBRIA

- According to the standard claimant count there were 6,550 claimants of JSA or UC (out of work and required to seek work) in October, giving a rate of 2.2% in Cumbria. This compares to 2.9% nationally, but the rate in Barrow (3.0%) is above the national average. The claimant count rose by 90 from August with rises in each district except Carlisle and Copeland where it was unchanged. The standard claimant count in Cumbria is 1,105 higher than a year ago, a rise of 20.3% compared to a national rise of 28.3% but this is heavily influenced by the rollout of Universal Credit which draws more people into the count than was the case under JSA;
- According to the alternative claimant count there were 6,902 claimants in August 2019 (JSA, UC out of work and required to seek work, plus a modelled estimate of the additional claimants who would be brought into the count as a result of Universal Credit where the rollout is not complete). This gives a rate of 2.3% in Cumbria compared to 3.1% nationally. The count fell by 10 from July and by 93 from a year ago, a fall of -1.3% compared to a rise of 5.7% nationally. Barrow (3.3%) was the only district with a rate above the national average;
- There were 17,237 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria in October (both in and out of work and also including those not required to seek work), a rise of 636 from September and 6,382 more than a year ago;
- There were 14,210 households claiming Universal Credit in Cumbria in August, a rise of 448 from July and a rise of 5,797 from a year ago;
- There were 572 young people classed as NEET in September (150 NEET and 422 whose status was Not Known and who are counted as NEET), a fall of 18 from August. This gives a NEET rate of 5.8%, which compares to 31.8% nationally and 30.2% for Cumbria's statistical neighbours (NB: this time of year is an unreliable indicator of NEET activity as young people are still making post Year 11/12 choices and other parts of the country record very high levels of Not Knowns due to different approaches to tracking activity);
- There were 2,338 job postings in Oct, a rise of 409 from September and 279 more than the same month last year. The highest volume of postings was for health professionals (355), followed by science, research, engineering & technology professionals (216);
- There were 499 business start-ups in the quarter to September, a fall of 4 from the previous quarter (-0.8% compared to a fall of -5.1% nationally). However, it is 39 more than the same period last year.

2. NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

- Estimated employment rates for men and women aged between 16 and 64 years have generally been increasing since early 2012, reaching a record high of 76.1% in early 2019, however, the rates have levelled off in recent periods. In the most recent quarter the UK employment rate was estimated at 76.0%; 0.5 percentage points higher than a year earlier but 0.1 percentage points lower than last quarter;
- The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 3.8%; 0.2 percentage points lower than a year earlier and 0.1 percentage points lower than last quarter;
- The estimated UK unemployment rate for men was 4.1%; 0.1 percentage points lower than a year earlier and 0.1 percentage points lower than the previous quarter;
- The estimated UK unemployment rate for women was 3.6%, a joint record low; this is down 0.4 percentage points on the year and down 0.1 percentage points on the quarter;
- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at 20.8%; 0.3 percentage points lower than a year earlier but 0.1 percentage points higher than last quarter;
- Estimated annual growth in average weekly earnings for employees in Great Britain was 3.6% for both total pay (including bonuses) and regular pay (excluding bonuses);
- In real terms (after adjusting for inflation), annual growth in total pay is estimated to be 1.8% and annual growth in regular pay is estimated to be 1.7%;
- For August to October 2019, there were an estimated 800,000 vacancies in the UK, 18,000 fewer than for the three months to July 2019 (this is the ninth consecutive fall on the previous three months) and 53,000 fewer than a year earlier (this is the fifth consecutive annual fall).

3. STANDARD & ALTERNATIVE CLAIMANT COUNTS

Important note: The phased nature of the UC rollout means that standard claimant count trends over time and between areas can give a misleading impression of labour market conditions and so this data should only be used as an administrative measure of claimants under the arrangements currently in place in each area. The quarterly "alternative" claimant count (section 3b) which includes modelling of the impact of UC, should be used for labour market monitoring as it "smooths out" the discontinuities between areas and over time.

3a. STANDARD CLAIMANT COUNT (*released monthly*)

Figure 1: Standard Claimant Count - October 2019

	Male		Female		All Persons		Monthly Change (all persons)			Annual Change (all persons)		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	% chg	Rate chg	No	% chg	Rate chg
United Kingdom	691,215	3.3	503,095	2.4	1,194,310	2.9	29,570	2.5	0.1	263,170	28.3	0.6
North West	94,375	4.2	66,435	2.9	160,810	3.5	3,915	2.5	0.1	31,350	24.2	0.7
Cumbria	3,895	2.6	2,660	1.8	6,550	2.2	90	1.4	0.0	1,105	20.3	0.4
Allerdale	890	3.1	645	2.2	1,535	2.7	15	1.1	0.0	-70	-4.2	-0.1
Barrow in Furness	780	3.8	450	2.2	1,235	3.0	25	2.0	0.1	285	29.8	0.7
Carlisle	930	2.9	650	1.9	1,585	2.4	0	0.0	0.0	500	46.2	0.8
Copeland	735	3.5	475	2.3	1,210	2.9	0	0.1	0.0	-10	-0.7	0.0
Eden	255	1.6	165	1.1	420	1.4	5	1.2	0.0	135	47.9	0.4
South Lakeland	305	1.0	265	0.9	570	1.0	45	8.6	0.1	260	85.1	0.4
LDNPA	90	0.8	85	0.7	175	0.7	25	16.6	0.1	65	55.8	0.3

Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 2: Standard Claimant Count / Rate by Age Group in Cumbria - October 2019

	Claimant Count by Age										
	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
UK	3,670	226,450	155,990	152,360	133,390	112,220	110,895	108,115	98,325	83,770	1,194,310
NW	450	30,805	22,215	21,940	18,540	15,020	14,825	13,615	12,340	10,025	160,810
Cumbria	20	1,365	900	830	715	560	560	570	540	440	6,550
Allerdale	0	325	200	185	175	130	145	130	130	100	1,535
Barrow	5	305	175	145	120	90	95	100	100	85	1,235
Carlisle	10	310	255	205	175	160	120	145	110	90	1,585
Copeland	5	260	135	155	140	95	110	100	115	85	1,210
Eden	0	70	60	50	45	35	35	45	40	40	420
South Lakeland	5	90	75	85	65	50	55	45	50	40	570
LDNPA	0	15	15	25	25	25	15	20	15	15	175
	Claimant Rate by Age										
	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
UK	0.3	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.9
NW	0.3	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.1	3.6	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.5
Cumbria	0.2	4.0	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.2
Allerdale	0.0	4.9	3.9	3.7	3.4	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.7
Barrow	0.3	5.9	4.3	3.6	3.3	2.5	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.2	3.0
Carlisle	0.5	3.8	4.0	3.4	2.7	2.7	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.4	2.4
Copeland	0.4	5.6	3.4	4.1	3.7	2.6	2.3	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.9
Eden	0.0	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.4
South Lakeland	0.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0
LDNPA	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7

Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

3b. *ALTERNATIVE CLAIMANT COUNT (released quarterly – next release will be Jan 2020 for data up to Nov 2019)*

Figure 3: Alternative Claimant Count - August 2019

	Male		Female		All Persons		Monthly Change (all persons)			Annual Change (all persons)		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	% chg	Rate chg	No	% chg	Rate chg
Great Britain	671,999	3.3	590,556	2.9	1,262,555	3.1	19,782	1.6	0.0	68,504	5.7	0.2
Cumbria	3,884	2.6	3,022	2.0	6,902	2.3	-10	-0.1	0.0	-93	-1.3	0.0
Allerdale	890	3.1	710	2.4	1,603	2.8	-14	-0.9	0.0	-184	-10.3	-0.3
Barrow in Furness	803	3.9	544	2.7	1,341	3.3	27	2.1	0.1	24	1.8	0.1
Carlisle	882	2.7	715	2.1	1,591	2.4	1	0.1	0.0	90	6.0	0.1
Copeland	734	3.5	505	2.5	1,242	3.0	-32	-2.5	-0.1	-125	-9.1	-0.3
Eden	257	1.7	212	1.4	469	1.5	19	4.2	0.1	43	10.1	0.1
South Lakeland	316	1.1	340	1.1	652	1.1	-17	-2.5	0.0	54	9.0	0.1
LDNPA	128	1.1	143	1.2	270	1.1	-2	-0.7	0.0	40	17.4	0.2

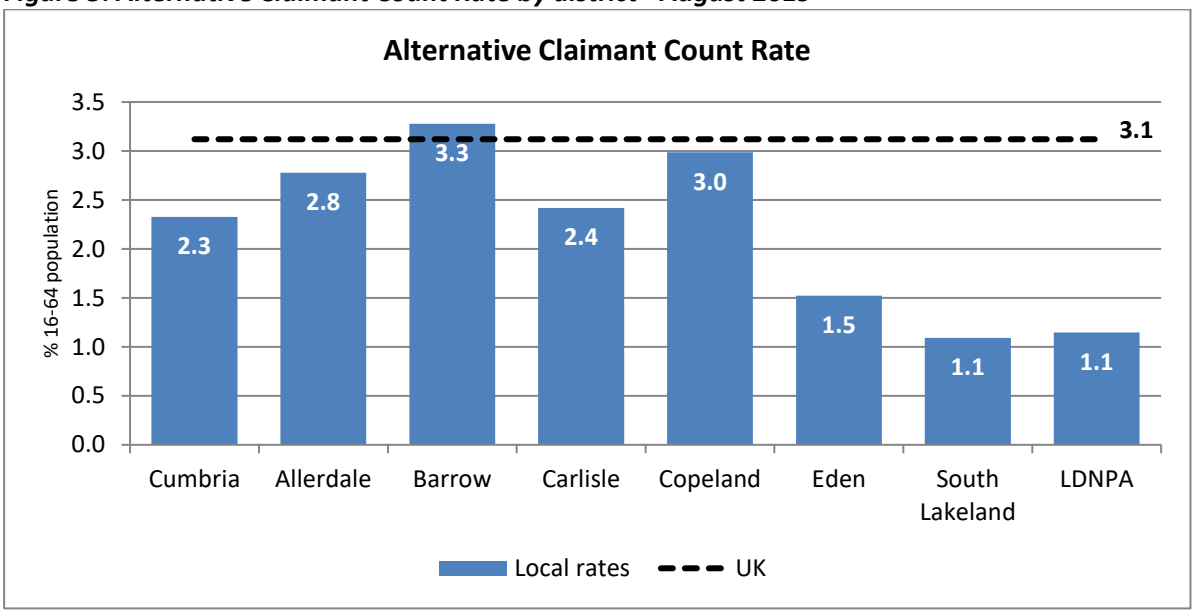
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 4: Alternative Claimant Count / Rate by Age Group in Cumbria - August 2019

	Alternative Claimant Count by Age										
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
GB	59,037	150,771	158,415	163,015	147,773	126,511	123,602	118,476	107,558	107,398	1,262,555
Cumbria	380	875	932	847	741	624	623	642	620	624	6,902
Allerdale	72	208	213	198	179	145	157	165	136	145	1,603
Barrow	74	210	185	151	125	128	115	106	125	119	1,341
Carlisle	88	208	249	201	170	155	119	142	130	134	1,591
Copeland	95	151	150	158	140	85	128	111	117	109	1,242
Eden	24	40	61	52	58	46	43	61	37	49	469
South Lakeland	25	55	81	85	69	68	65	62	75	65	652
LDNPA	0	20	26	27	30	40	30	31	47	29	270
	Alternative Claimant Rate by Age										
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
GB	2.1	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.1
Cumbria	1.9	3.6	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.3
Allerdale	1.8	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.4	2.9	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.8
Barrow	2.6	5.6	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.6	2.4	2.0	2.6	2.9	3.3
Carlisle	2.0	3.5	3.9	3.3	2.6	2.6	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.9	2.4
Copeland	3.7	4.4	3.7	4.2	3.7	2.4	2.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	3.0
Eden	1.2	1.9	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.5
South Lakeland	0.6	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1
LDNPA	0.0	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.1	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.1

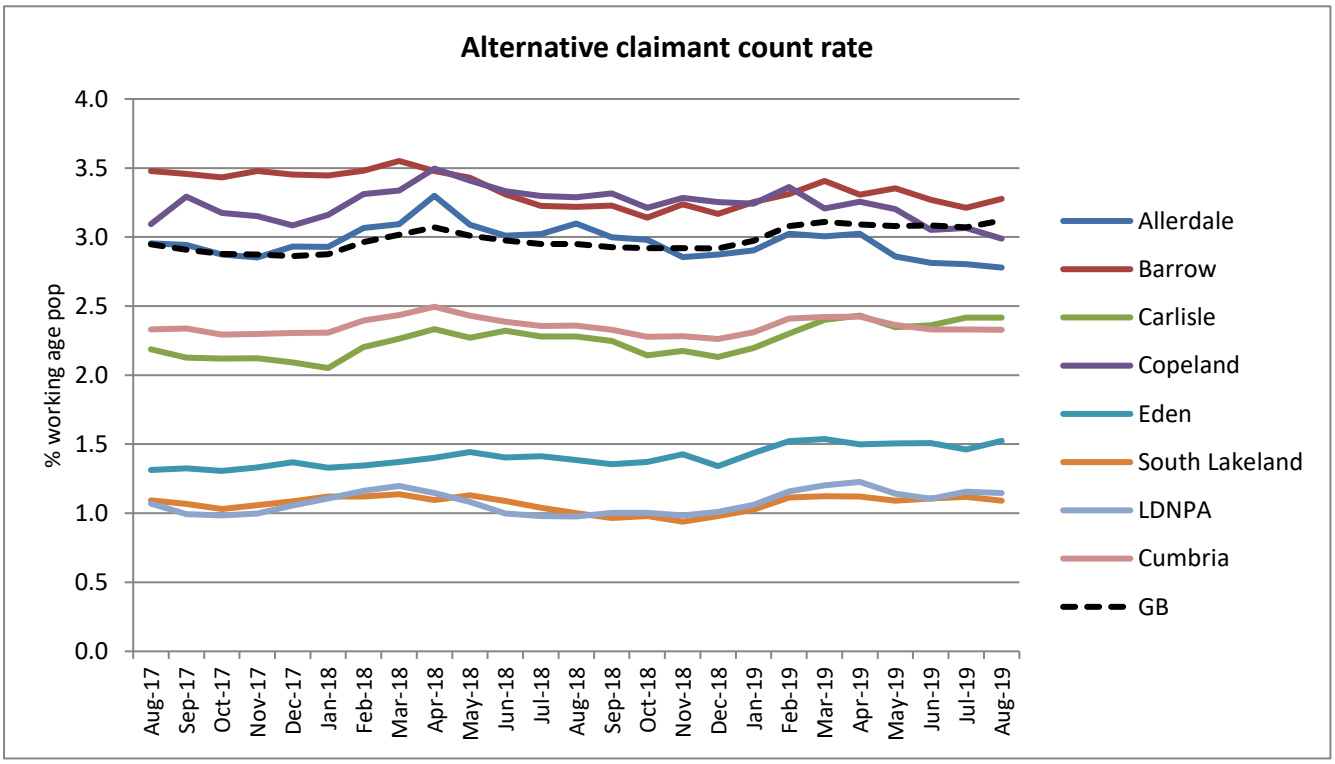
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 5: Alternative Claimant Count Rate by district - August 2019



Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 6: Alternative Claimant Count Rate - timeseries



Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Alternative Claimant Count –flows on and off the register

A useful indicator of the amount of churn within the labour market comes from the flow of people on and off the claimant register.

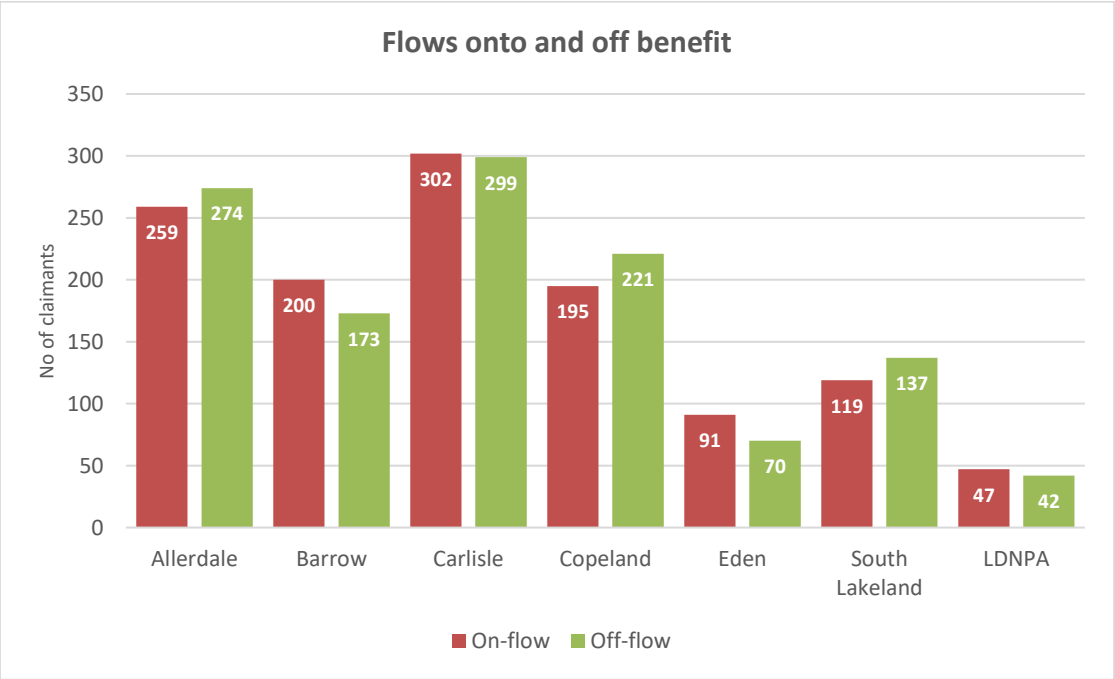
On-flow: the number of people claiming in a month who were not claiming in the previous month
Off-flow: the number of people no longer claiming in a month who were claiming in the previous month

Figure 7: Flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count – August 2019

	Allerdale	Barrow	Carlisle	Copeland	Eden	South Lakeland	LDNPA	Cumbria	GB
On-flow	259	200	302	195	91	119	47	1,172	204,712
Off-flow	274	173	299	221	70	137	42	1,172	183,359
Balance	-15	27	3	-26	21	-18	5	0	21,353

Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note:
LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

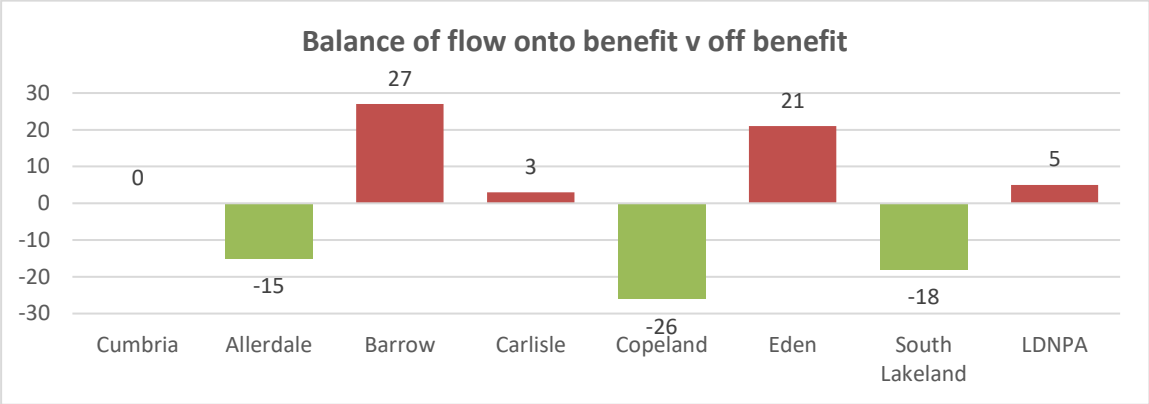
Figure 8: Flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count – August 2019



Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note:
LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

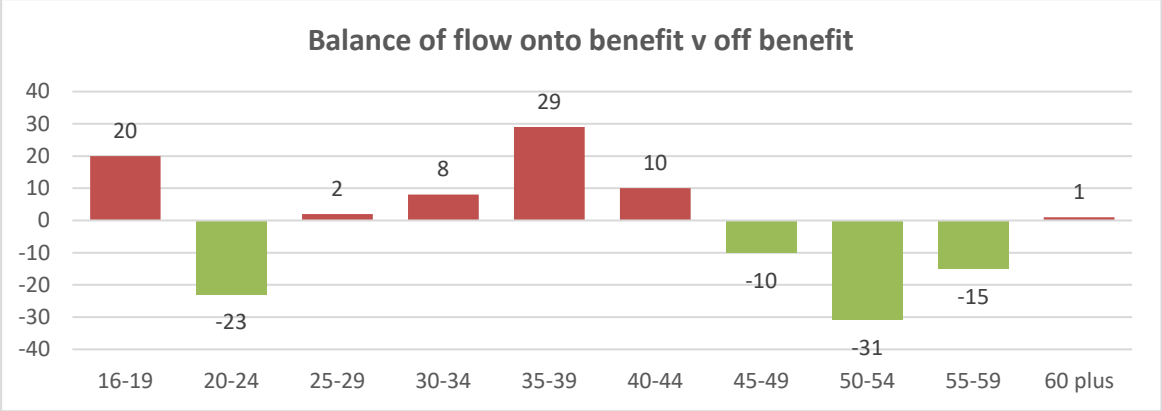
The following 3 charts show the balance of on and off flows by district and age group in August 2019 and over time (red columns indicate more people joined the register than signed off whilst green columns indicate the opposite).

Figure 9: Balance of flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count by district – August 2019



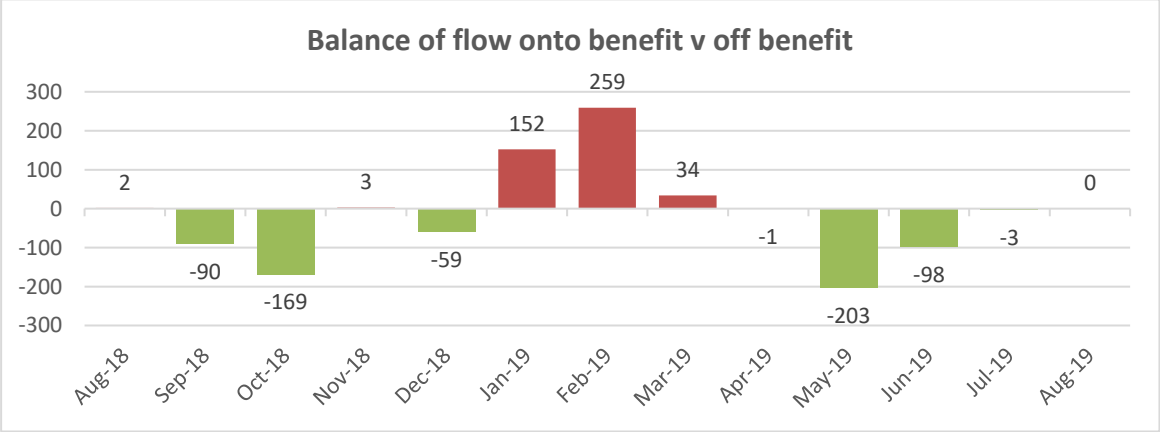
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note:
LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 10: Balance of flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count by age – August 2019



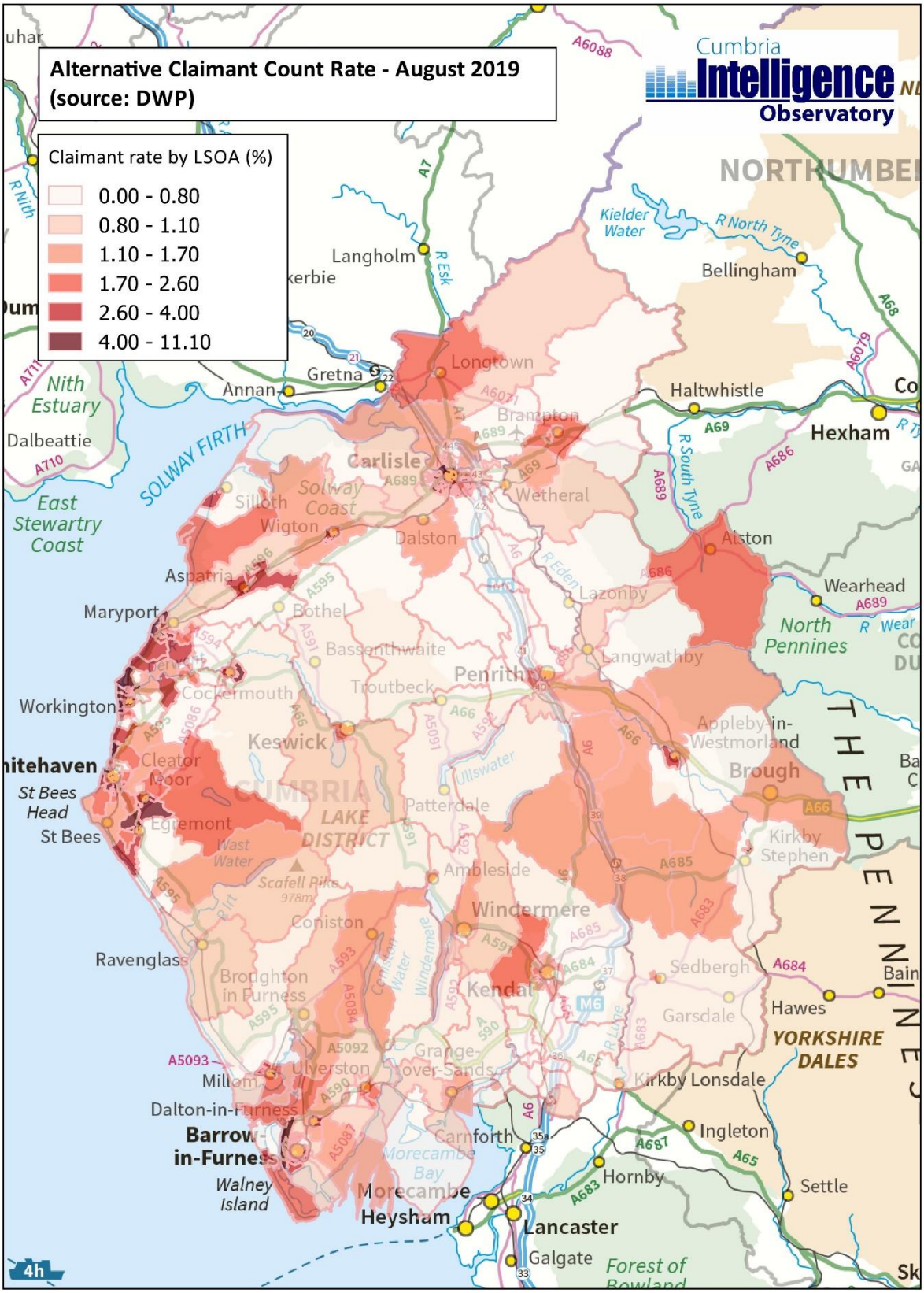
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum

Figure 11: Balance of flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count – timeseries



Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum

Figure 12: Alternative Claimant Rate (by LSOA)



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