Claimant Count Briefing Jan 2020

Introduction

This briefing contains the December data for Cumbria relating to the standard Claimant Count and the November data for the "alternative" claimant count (see note in section 3). There are 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 6,690 claimants of JSA or UC (out of work and required to seek work) in December, giving a rate of 2.3% in Cumbria. This compares to 2.9% nationally, but the rate in Barrow (3.1%) is above the national average. The claimant count rose by 35 from November with rises in each district except Carlisle and Copeland. The standard claimant count in Cumbria is 985 higher than a year ago, a rise of 17.2% compared to a national rise of 25.2% 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 6,757 claimants in November 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 rose by 75 from October but is 60 lower than a year ago. Barrow (3.1%) has the highest rate in Cumbria, in line with the national average while South Lakeland has the lowest (1.1%);

- In November 1,145 people joined the claimant register (alternative) whilst 1,096 left it (balance of +49), the second successive month where more people joined than left. This follows 6 months where off flows exceeded on flows. Allerdale is the only district where more people left the register than joined;

- There were 18,310 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria in December (both in and out of work and also including those not required to seek work), a rise of 568 from November and 6,893 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 441 young people classed as NEET in November (270 NEET and 171 whose status was Not Known and who are counted as NEET), a fall of 23 from October. This gives a NEET rate of 4.5%, which compares to 8.1% nationally and 9.1% 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 1,761 job postings in December, a fall of 522 from November and 215 fewer than the same month last year. The highest volume of postings was for science, research, engineering & technology professionals (266), followed by health professionals (154);

- There were 468 business start-ups in the quarter to end November, a fall of 5 from the previous quarter (-4.3% compared to a fall of -0.5% nationally). However, it is 40 more than the same period last year.

2. NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

- The UK employment rate was estimated at a record high of 76.3%, 0.6 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.5 percentage points up on the previous quarter.

- The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 3.8%, 0.2 percentage points lower than a year earlier but largely unchanged on the previous quarter.

- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at a record low of 20.6%, 0.4 percentage points lower than the previous year and the previous quarter.

- Estimated annual growth in average weekly earnings for employees in Great Britain remained unchanged at 3.2% for total pay (including bonuses) and slowed to 3.4% from 3.5% for regular pay (excluding bonuses); the annual growth in total pay was weakened by unusually high bonus payments paid in October 2018 compared with more typical average bonus payments paid in October 2019.

- In real terms (after adjusting for inflation), annual growth in total pay is estimated to be 1.6%, and annual growth in regular pay is estimated to be 1.8%.

- There were an estimated 805,000 vacancies in the UK for October to December 2019; this is 11,000 fewer than the previous quarter and 49,000 fewer than a year earlier.

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 - December 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	705,245	3.4	505,380	2.4	1,210,625	2.9	13,860	1.2	0.0	243,405	25.2	0.6
North West	95,480	4.2	65,870	2.9	161,350	3.6	1,020	0.6	0.0	27,780	20.8	0.6
Cumbria	4,020	2.7	2,670	1.8	6,690	2.3	35	0.5	0.0	985	17.3	0.3
Allerdale	920	3.2	660	2.3	1,580	2.7	40	2.5	0.1	-40	-2.5	-0.1
Barrow in Furness	795	3.9	470	2.3	1,270	3.1	5	0.6	0.0	320	34.0	0.8
Carlisle	965	3.0	610	1.8	1,575	2.4	-25	-1.4	0.0	370	30.9	0.6
Copeland	755	3.6	460	2.2	1,215	2.9	-5	-0.5	0.0	-35	-2.9	-0.1
Eden	255	1.6	185	1.2	440	1.4	10	2.1	0.0	120	37.5	0.4
South Lakeland	325	1.1	280	0.9	610	1.0	10	1.5	0.0	250	68.9	0.4
LDNPA	110	0.9	100	0.9	210	0.9	20	10.0	0.1	70	49.3	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 - December 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	3,820	225,900	158,130	155,480	136,775	114,925	112,010	109,055	99,265	84,765	1,210,625
NW	450	30,520	22,190	22,100	18,915	15,255	14,740	13,655	12,355	9,945	161,350
Cumbria	20	1,340	935	855	740	565	565	590	565	455	6,690
Allerdale	5	325	215	190	185	135	145	140	130	100	1,580
Barrow	0	310	180	155	125	100	100	100	110	85	1,270
Carlisle	5	305	245	220	160	150	115	140	120	100	1,575
Copeland	0	235	155	155	140	105	95	110	115	90	1,215
Eden	0	65	65	50	60	35	40	45	35	35	440
South Lakeland	5	100	75	85	70	40	65	55	55	45	610
LDNPA	0	30	20	20	35	25	20	20	25	15	210
	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	3.5	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.9
NW	0.3	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.6
Cumbria	0.2	3.9	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.2	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.3
Allerdale	0.2	4.9	4.2	3.8	3.5	2.7	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	2.7
Barrow	0.0	6.0	4.4	3.9	3.4	2.8	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.2	3.1
Carlisle	0.2	3.8	3.8	3.6	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.6	2.4
Copeland	0.0	5.1	3.9	4.1	3.7	2.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.9
Eden	0.0	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.4
South Lakeland	0.2	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.4	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0
LDNPA	0.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.8	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.9

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 April 2020 for data up to February 2020)**

Figure 3: Alternative Claimant Count - November 2019

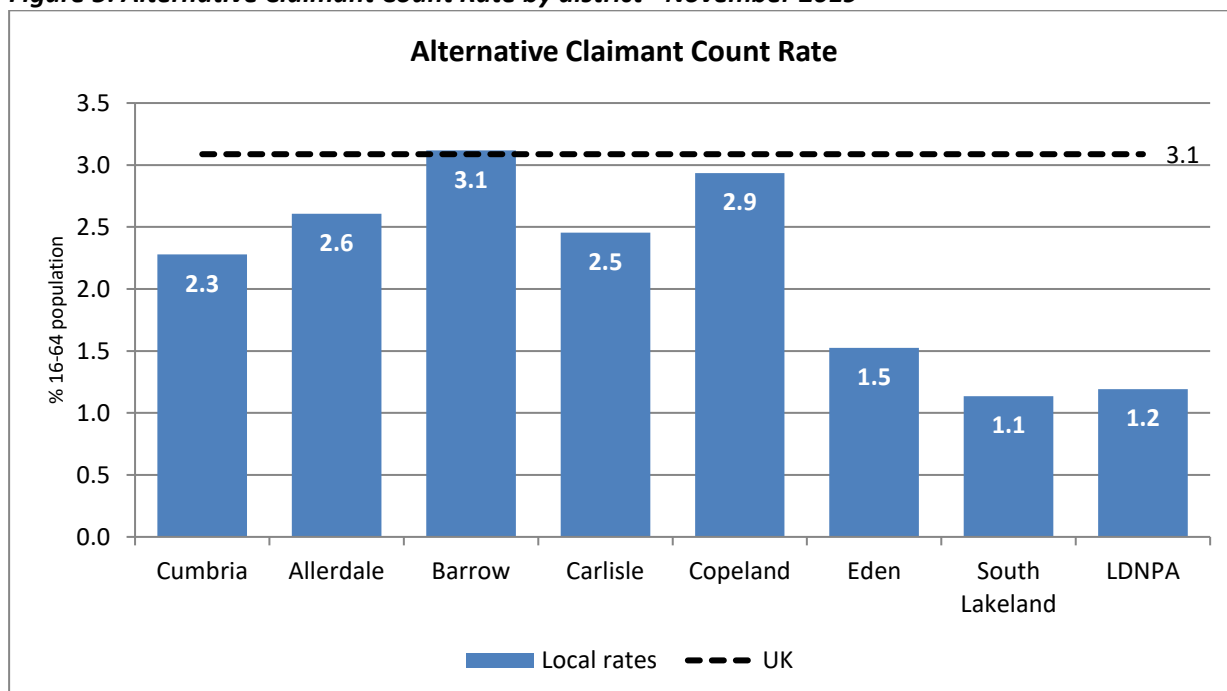|	Male		Female		All Persons		Monthly Change (all persons)			Annual Change (all persons)		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	% chg	Rate chg	No	% chg	Rate chg
Great Britain	660,666	3.3	588,628	2.9	1,249,295	3.1	9,336	0.8	0.0	55,078	4.6	0.1
Cumbria	3,745	2.5	3,011	2.0	6,757	2.3	75	1.1	0.0	-60	-0.9	0.0
Allerdale	820	2.9	684	2.4	1,504	2.6	-6	-0.4	0.0	-144	-8.7	-0.2
Barrow in Furness	770	3.8	501	2.4	1,276	3.1	7	0.6	0.0	-73	-5.4	-0.2
Carlisle	878	2.7	728	2.2	1,615	2.5	18	1.1	0.0	162	11.1	0.2
Copeland	705	3.4	512	2.5	1,220	2.9	33	2.8	0.1	-121	-9.0	-0.3
Eden	247	1.6	219	1.4	469	1.5	13	2.9	0.0	22	4.9	0.1
South Lakeland	314	1.1	363	1.2	679	1.1	2	0.3	0.0	101	17.5	0.2
LDNPA	132	1.1	150	1.3	281	1.2	5	1.8	0.0	33	13.3	0.1

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

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

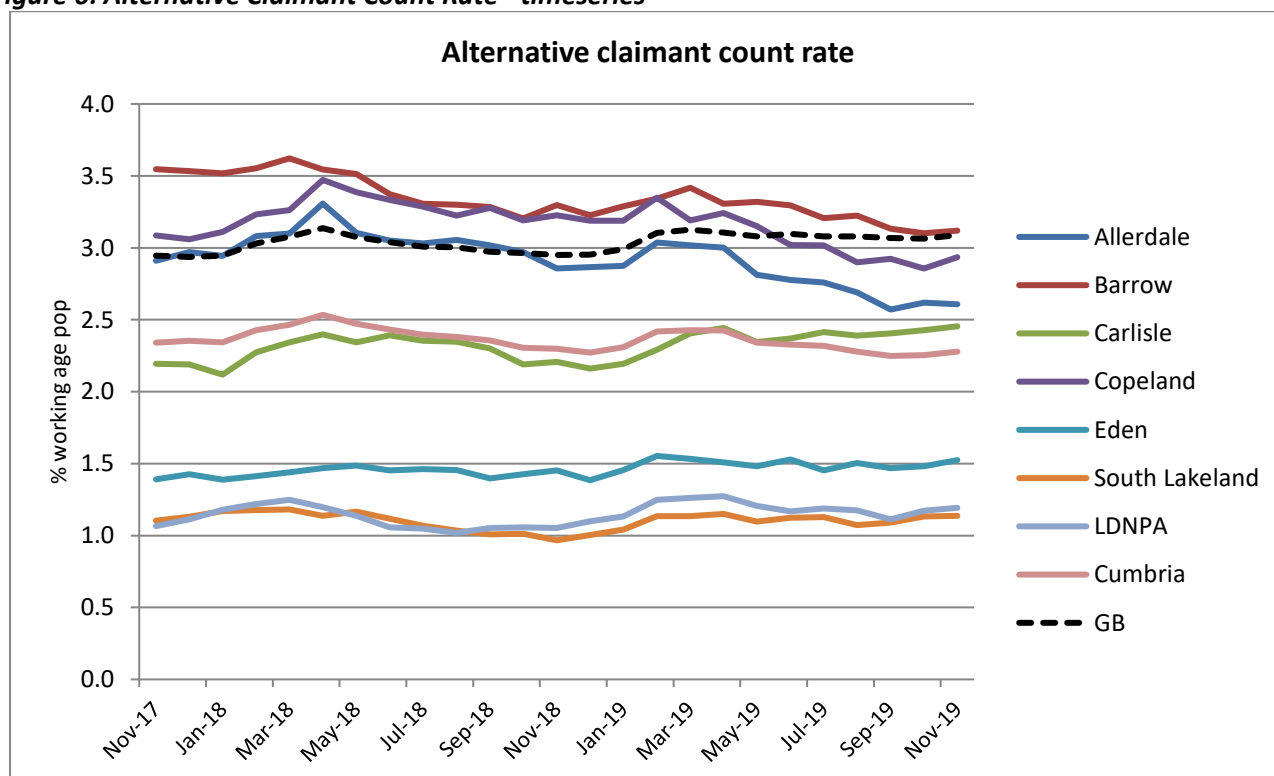|	Alternative Claimant Count by Age										
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
GB	3,410	202,908	154,900	163,222	150,268	128,559	123,312	114,880	103,599	104,237	1,249,295
Cumbria	20	1,169	865	868	731	639	593	630	601	633	6,757
Allerdale	0	265	193	184	165	142	132	152	134	140	1,504
Barrow	0	281	174	145	127	102	107	101	124	111	1,276
Carlisle	9	249	233	232	164	186	134	144	121	145	1,615
Copeland	5	232	134	159	130	104	104	117	124	118	1,220
Eden	0	62	53	58	63	40	47	55	38	53	469
South Lakeland	7	82	81	87	78	67	71	69	64	68	679
LDNPA	0	24	25	37	32	37	31	35	32	24	281
	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	0.2	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.9	3.1
Cumbria	0.2	3.4	3.2	3.4	2.7	2.4	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.3
Allerdale	0.0	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.2	2.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.6
Barrow	0.0	5.5	4.3	3.6	3.5	2.9	2.3	1.9	2.6	2.7	3.1
Carlisle	0.4	3.1	3.6	3.8	2.5	3.1	1.8	1.8	1.5	2.1	2.5
Copeland	0.4	5.0	3.3	4.2	3.4	2.9	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.9
Eden	0.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.5
South Lakeland	0.3	1.3	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1
LDNPA	0.0	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.2

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

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

Alternative Claimant Count Rate

Local rates — UK

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

Figure 6: Alternative Claimant Count Rate - timeseries

Alternative claimant count rate

Allerdale — Barrow — Carlisle — Copeland — Eden — South Lakeland — LDNPA — Cumbria — GB

Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population 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
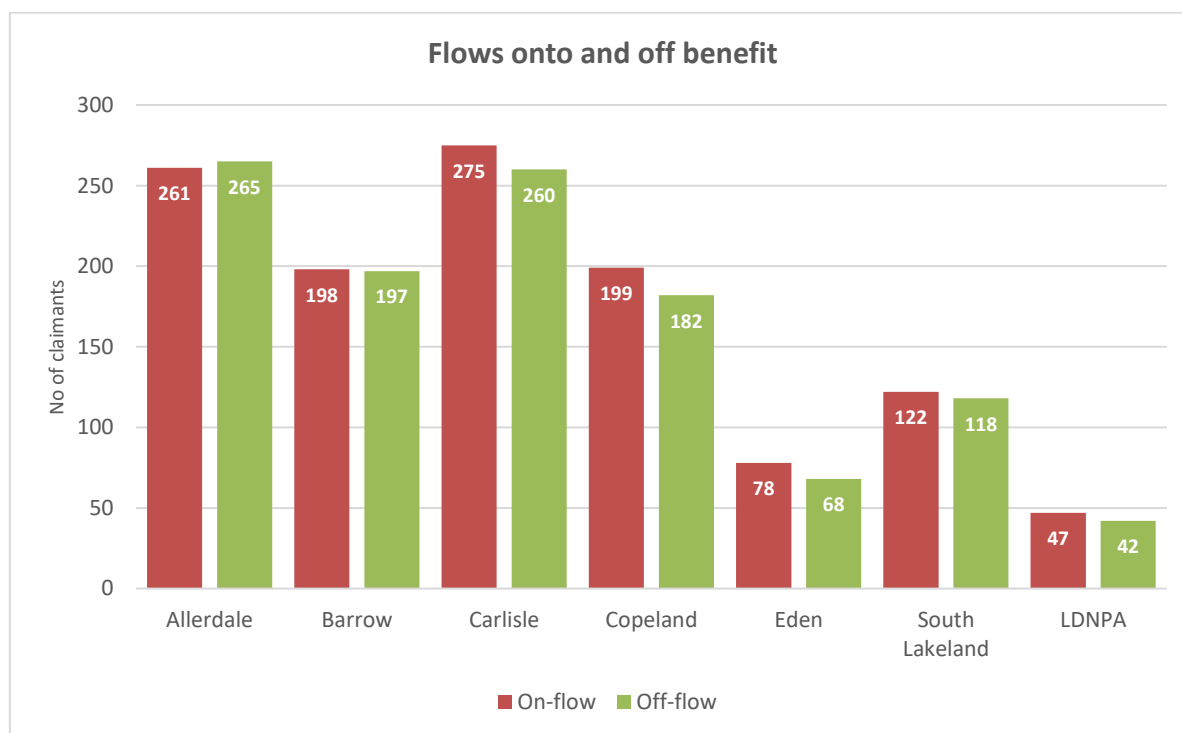*Off-flow: the number of people no longer claiming in a month who were claiming in the previous month*

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

	Allerdale	Barrow	Carlisle	Copeland	Eden	South Lakeland	LDNPA	Cumbria	GB
On-flow	261	198	275	199	78	122	47	1,145	184,454
Off-flow	265	197	260	182	68	118	42	1,096	176,427
Balance	-4	1	15	17	10	4	5	49	8,027

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

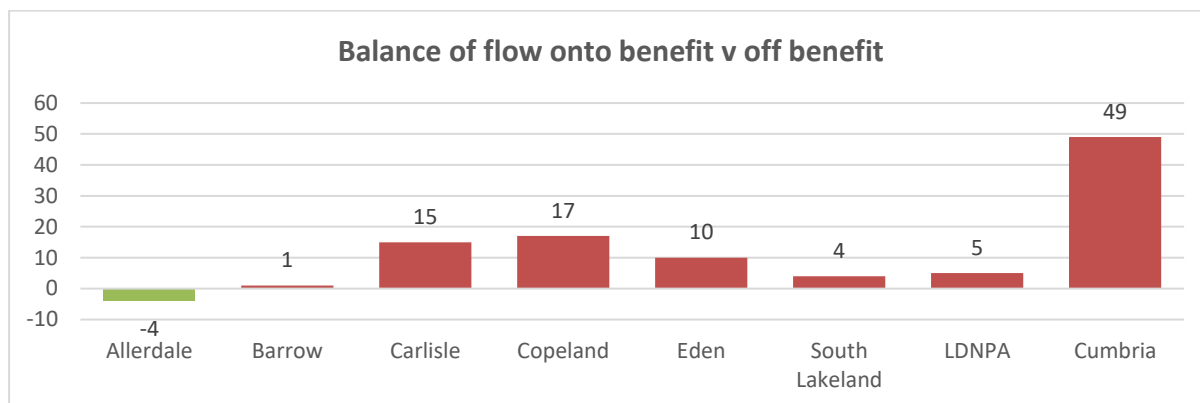*Figure 8: Flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count – November 2019*

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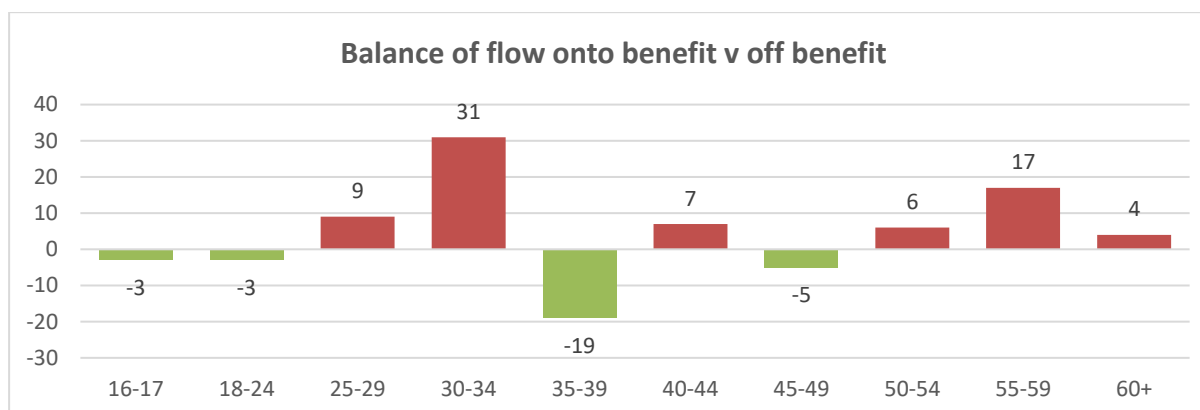*LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP*

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

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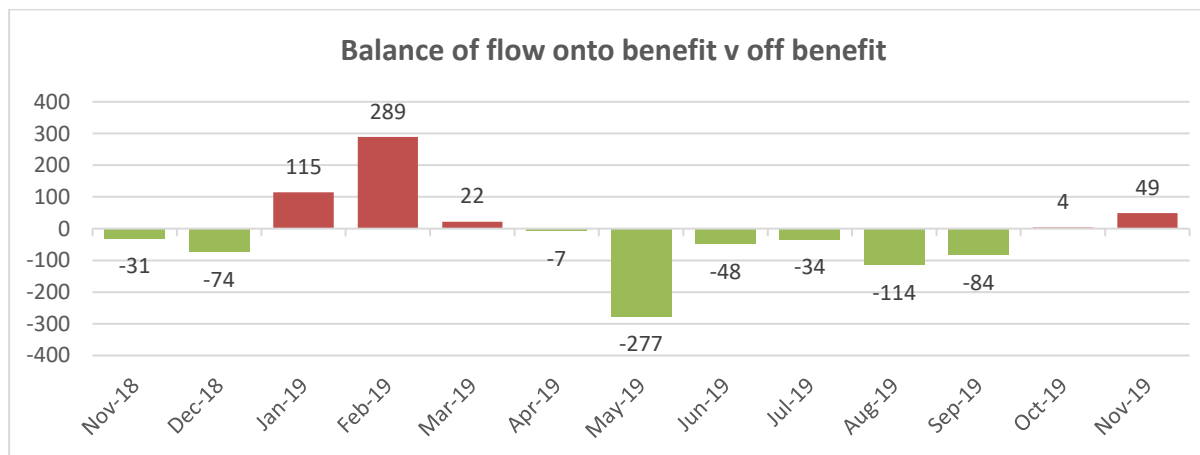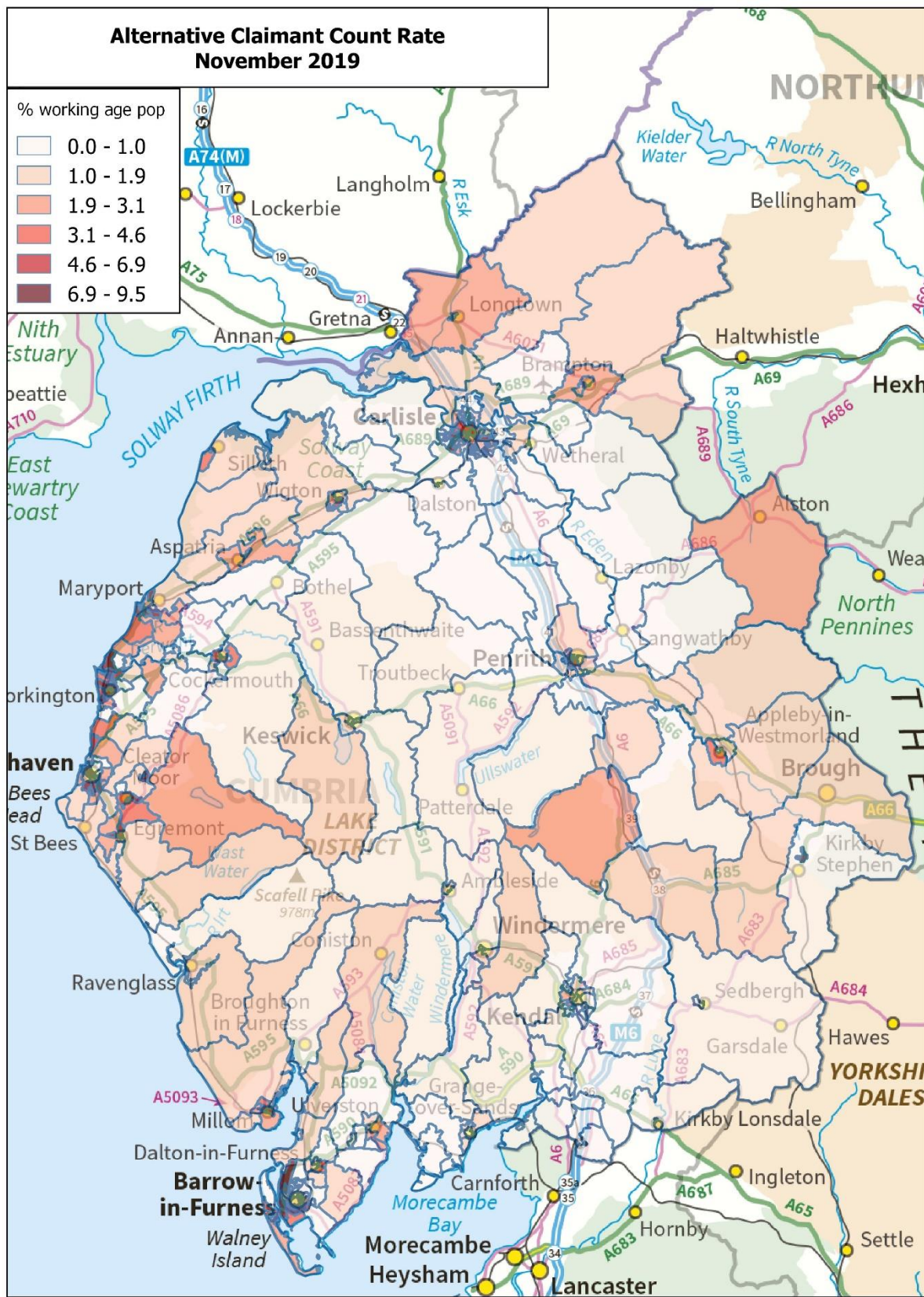

Balance of flow onto benefit v off benefit

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

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

Balance of flow onto benefit v off benefit

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

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

Balance of flow onto benefit v off benefit

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

Cumbria
Intelligence
Observatory

Figure 12: Alternative Claimant Rate (by LSOA)

Alternative Claimant Count Rate
November 2019

% working age pop

0.0 - 1.0
1.0 - 1.9
1.9 - 3.1
3.1 - 4.6
4.6 - 6.9
6.9 - 9.5

© Crown copyright and database rights 2011, Ordnance Survey Licence 100019596 Cumbria County Council