

Introduction

This briefing contains the latest data relating to the standard Claimant Count and Universal Credit claimants – the count for both of these was taken on **12th March** which is before the COVID-19 “lockdown”. The briefing also contains the latest available data for the “alternative” claimant count (see note in section 3), other DWP benefits, NEETs, Participation, job postings and business start-ups & stocks.

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.

For more information about any of the data in the briefing or to be added / removed from the distribution list, please contact:

Ginny Murphy, Senior Analyst, Cumbria County Council / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

Email: ginny.murphy@cumbria.gov.uk Tel: 07826 859026

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1. KEY FINDINGS FOR CUMBRIA

- According to the standard claimant count there were 6,980 claimants of JSA or UC (out of work and required to seek work) on 12th March, giving a rate of 2.4% in Cumbria. This compares to 3.1% nationally. The claimant count rose by 70 from February which is an increase of 1.0% compared to 1.6% nationally. The count rose in Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle and South Lakeland was unchanged in Copeland and fell in Eden (-25). The standard claimant count in Cumbria is 565 higher than a year ago, a rise of 8.8% compared to a national rise of 16.8%. These changes are 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 7,155 claimants in February 2020 (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 2.4% in Cumbria compared to 3.2% nationally. The count rose by 272 from January but is 18 lower than a year ago. Barrow (3.2%) has the highest rate in Cumbria, in line with the national average while South Lakeland has the lowest (1.2%);
- In February 1,285 people joined the claimant register (alternative) whilst 1,043 left it (balance of +242), the second successive month where more people joined than left but a similar picture to the same month last year. All districts had more people join the register than leave with the highest net balance in Carlisle (+115);
- There were 19,845 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria on 12th March (both in and out of work and also including those not required to seek work), a rise of 509 from February and 6,722 more than a year ago;
- Almost two thirds of UC claimants in Cumbria were not in employment in January 2020 – 61.2% v 38.8% who were in employment (these data are a month in arrears of the main count);
- There were 15,724 households claiming Universal Credit in Cumbria in November, a rise of 489 from October and a rise of 5,852 from a year ago;
- There were 47,377 people of working age claiming some form of DWP benefit in August 2019 which is 16.0% of the working age population, compared to 17.3% nationally;
- There were 363 young people classed as NEET in February (226 NEET and 137 whose status was Not Known and who are counted as NEET), a fall of 23 from January and unchanged from the same month last year. This gives a NEET rate of 3.7%, which compares to 4.9% nationally and 5.1% for Cumbria's statistical neighbours;
- There were 2,560 job postings in March, a fall of 293 from February but 794 more than the same month last year. The highest volume of postings was for health professionals (338) and caring personal services (226).
- There were 26 job postings which specifically mentioned Coronavirus/Covid and there were 50% increases in postings for health professionals and nursing professionals compared to February. There was a 25% fall in hospitality & tourism postings;
- There were 411 business start-ups in the quarter December-February, a fall of 57 from the previous quarter but 64 more than the same quarter last year;
- There were 188 new Companies House incorporations in March, the same as in February but 33 fewer than a year ago;
- There were 31,400 active companies in Cumbria in March, 19 more than in February.

2. NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

- The estimates presented in this bulletin cover the period prior to the implementation of the coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.
- The UK employment rate in the three months to February 2020 was estimated at a record high of 76.6%, 0.4 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.2 percentage points up on the previous quarter.
- The UK unemployment rate for the three months to February 2020 was estimated at 4.0%, largely unchanged compared with a year earlier and 0.1 percentage point higher than the previous quarter.
- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at a record low of 20.2%, 0.4 percentage points lower than the previous year and 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous quarter.
- There were an estimated 795,000 vacancies in the UK in January to March 2020; this is 6,000 fewer than the previous quarter (not a statistically significant change) and 52,000 fewer than a year earlier.
- The annual fall of 52,000 vacancies is the tenth consecutive annual decrease.
- For December 2019, there were an estimated 35.83 million jobs in the UK; this is an increase of 67,000 jobs compared with September 2019 and an increase of 541,000 jobs when compared with the same period the previous year.
- The increase of 67,000 jobs was caused by self-employed jobs, which increased by 74,000 when compared with September 2019; employee jobs fell by 13,000 over the same period.
- Estimated annual growth in average weekly earnings for employees in Great Britain in the three months to February 2020 was 2.8% for total pay (including bonuses) and 2.9% for regular pay (excluding bonuses).
- Pay in February 2020 continued to grow faster than inflation, but its rate of growth has slowed since mid-2019.
- In real terms (after adjusting for inflation), annual growth is estimated to be 1.2% in total pay and 1.3% in regular pay, both down from a recent peak of 2.0% in the three months to June 2019.
- Annual growth in total pay is weakest in the manufacturing sector at 2.0%.

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. It is recommended that the quarterly “alternative” claimant count (section 3b) which includes modelling of the impact of UC, is used for labour market monitoring as it “smooths out” the discontinuities between areas and over time.

3a. STANDARD CLAIMANT COUNT (released monthly) – count taken 12th March 2020

Figure 1: Standard Claimant Count – March 2020

| | 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 | 750,975 | 3.6 | 524,600 | 2.5 | 1,275,575 | 3.1 | 19,805 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 183,770 | 16.8 | 0.4 |
| North West | 102,245 | 4.5 | 68,375 | 3.0 | 170,625 | 3.8 | 3,570 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 19,990 | 13.3 | 0.4 |
| Cumbria | 4,240 | 2.9 | 2,740 | 1.8 | 6,980 | 2.4 | 70 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 565 | 8.8 | 0.2 |
| Allerdale | 935 | 3.3 | 670 | 2.3 | 1,605 | 2.8 | 15 | 1.1 | 0.0 | -90 | -5.2 | -0.2 |
| Barrow in Furness | 820 | 4.0 | 435 | 2.1 | 1,250 | 3.1 | 15 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 130 | 11.8 | 0.3 |
| Carlisle | 1,075 | 3.3 | 660 | 2.0 | 1,735 | 2.6 | 50 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 305 | 21.2 | 0.5 |
| Copeland | 770 | 3.7 | 475 | 2.3 | 1,245 | 3.0 | 0 | -0.1 | 0.0 | -35 | -2.7 | -0.1 |
| Eden | 275 | 1.8 | 200 | 1.3 | 475 | 1.5 | -25 | -5.2 | -0.1 | 95 | 25.1 | 0.3 |
| South Lakeland | 370 | 1.2 | 300 | 1.0 | 665 | 1.1 | 15 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 155 | 30.5 | 0.3 |
| LDNPA | 120 | 1.0 | 100 | 0.9 | 220 | 0.9 | 20 | 10.0 | 0.1 | 40 | 20.9 | 0.2 |

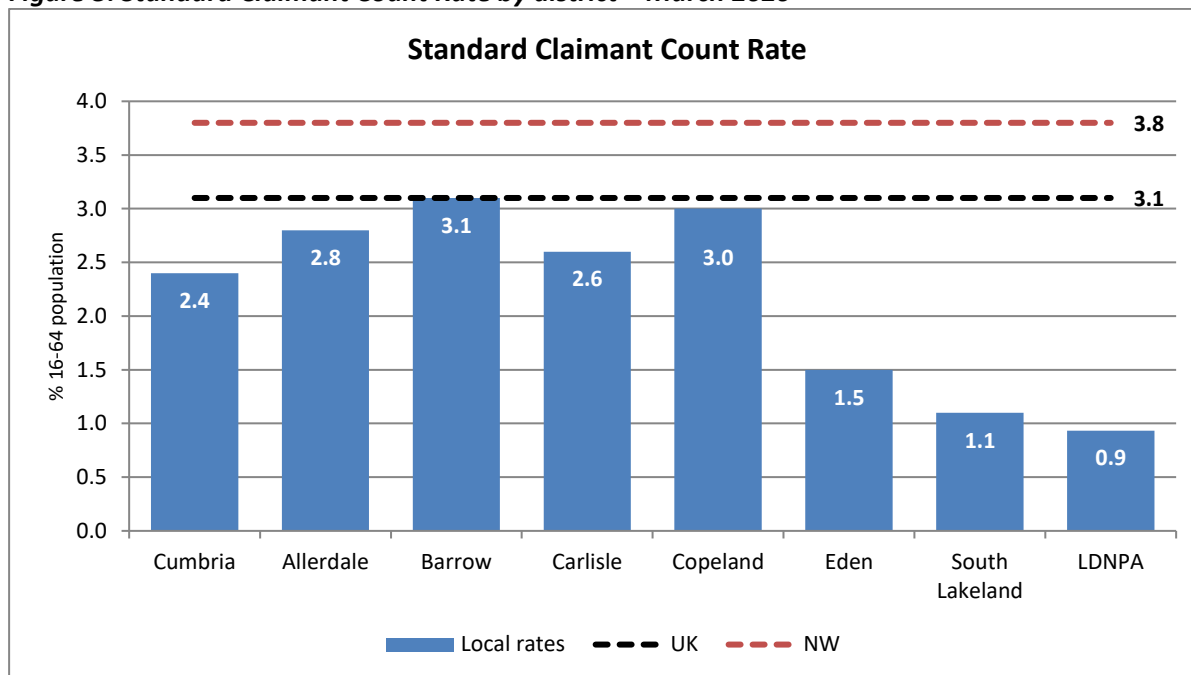
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a “best-fit” comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 2: Standard Claimant Count / Rate by Age Group in Cumbria - March 2020

| | 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 | 3,710 | 239,250 | 170,155 | 167,370 | 145,355 | 122,085 | 115,730 | 111,745 | 101,570 | 86,085 | 1,275,575 |
| NW | 425 | 32,690 | 23,845 | 23,950 | 20,115 | 16,185 | 15,250 | 14,030 | 12,490 | 10,235 | 170,625 |
| Cumbria | 20 | 1,370 | 1,010 | 915 | 785 | 575 | 600 | 585 | 570 | 480 | 6,980 |
| Allerdale | 0 | 320 | 235 | 200 | 180 | 135 | 150 | 120 | 135 | 105 | 1,605 |
| Barrow | 0 | 315 | 175 | 155 | 140 | 95 | 90 | 110 | 95 | 75 | 1,250 |
| Carlisle | 10 | 320 | 275 | 255 | 185 | 160 | 135 | 135 | 130 | 115 | 1,735 |
| Copeland | 0 | 235 | 175 | 165 | 140 | 100 | 95 | 115 | 110 | 95 | 1,245 |
| Eden | 0 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 70 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 45 | 45 | 475 |
| South Lakeland | 5 | 110 | 90 | 90 | 70 | 55 | 80 | 50 | 55 | 50 | 665 |
| LDNPA | 0 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 35 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 20 | 220 |
| | 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 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.1 |
| NW | 0.3 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 3.8 |
| Cumbria | 0.2 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 2.4 |
| Allerdale | 0.0 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.8 |
| Barrow | 0.0 | 6.1 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 3.1 |
| Carlisle | 0.5 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 2.6 |
| Copeland | 0.0 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 3.0 |
| Eden | 0.0 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| South Lakeland | 0.2 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.1 |
| LDNPA | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 |

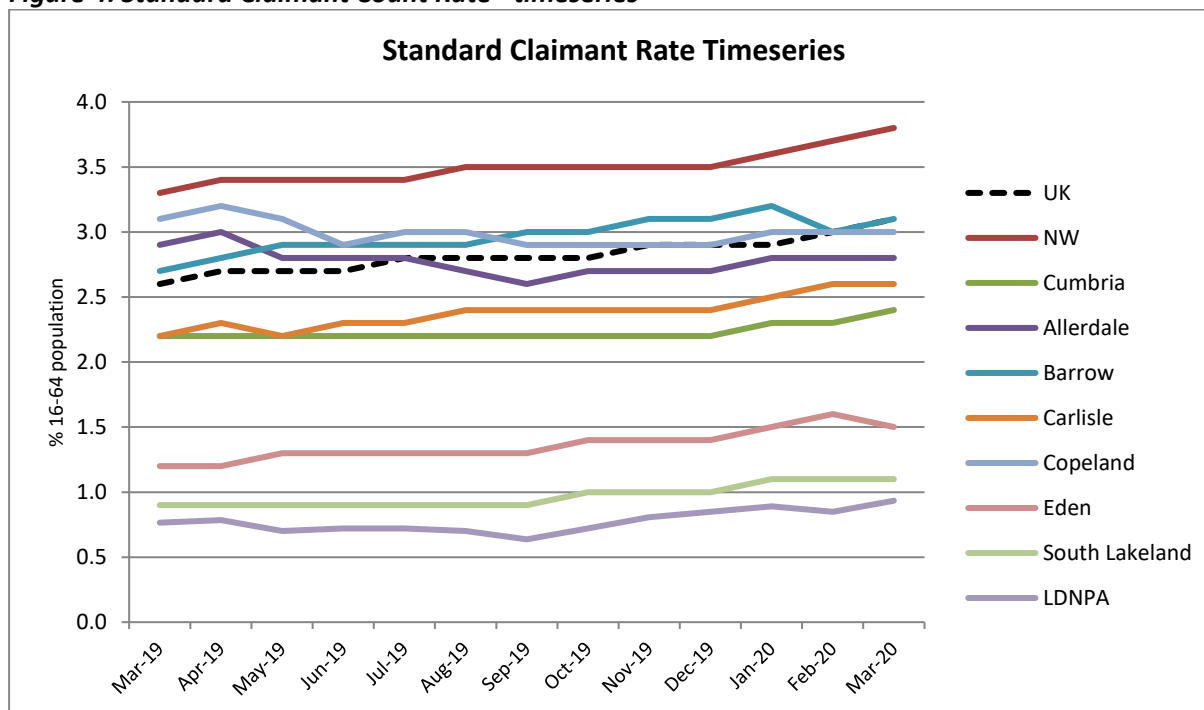
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a “best-fit” comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 3: Standard Claimant Count Rate by district – March 2020



Source: ONS/DWP

Figure 4: Standard Claimant Count Rate - timeseries



Source: ONS/DWP

3b. **ALTERNATIVE CLAIMANT COUNT** (released quarterly – next release will be in April 2020 for data up to February 2020)

Figure 5: Alternative Claimant Count – February 2020

| | 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 | 704,868 | 3.5 | 604,470 | 3.0 | 1,309,340 | 3.2 | 52,771 | 4.2 | 0.1 | 53,722 | 4.3 | 0.1 |
| Cumbria | 4,071 | 2.8 | 3,089 | 2.1 | 7,155 | 2.4 | 272 | 4.0 | 0.1 | -18 | -0.3 | 0.0 |
| Allerdale | 900 | 3.1 | 700 | 2.4 | 1,597 | 2.8 | 42 | 2.7 | 0.1 | -155 | -8.8 | -0.3 |
| Barrow in Furness | 796 | 3.9 | 519 | 2.5 | 1,315 | 3.2 | 5 | 0.4 | 0.0 | -52 | -3.8 | -0.1 |
| Carlisle | 981 | 3.0 | 734 | 2.2 | 1,712 | 2.6 | 136 | 8.6 | 0.2 | 204 | 13.5 | 0.3 |
| Copeland | 730 | 3.5 | 516 | 2.5 | 1,247 | 3.0 | 6 | 0.5 | 0.0 | -145 | -10.4 | -0.3 |
| Eden | 292 | 1.9 | 262 | 1.7 | 556 | 1.8 | 67 | 13.7 | 0.2 | 78 | 16.3 | 0.3 |
| South Lakeland | 374 | 1.3 | 359 | 1.2 | 730 | 1.2 | 19 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 52 | 7.7 | 0.1 |
| LDNPA | 147 | 1.2 | 163 | 1.4 | 305 | 1.3 | 8 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 11 | 3.7 | 0.0 |

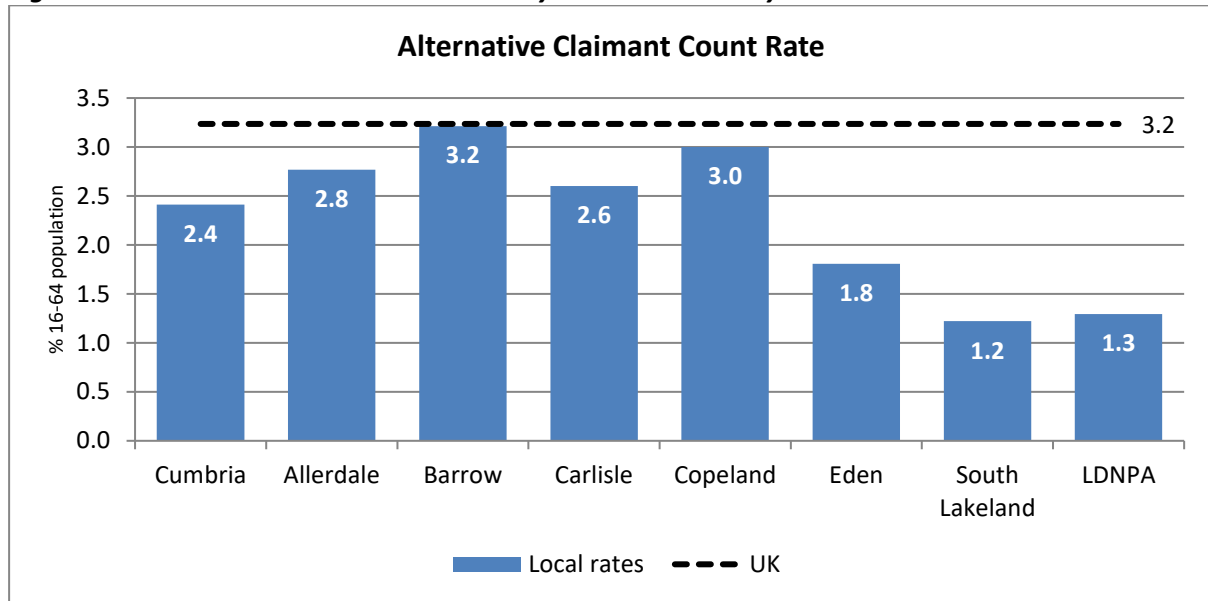
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP

Figure 6: Alternative Claimant Count / Rate by Age Group in Cumbria – February 2020

| | 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 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Cumbria | 0.2 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 2.4 |
| Allerdale | 0.0 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| Barrow | 0.0 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Carlisle | 0.6 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.6 |
| Copeland | 0.0 | 4.9 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 3.0 |
| Eden | 0.0 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| South Lakeland | 0.2 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| LDNPA | 0.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.3 |

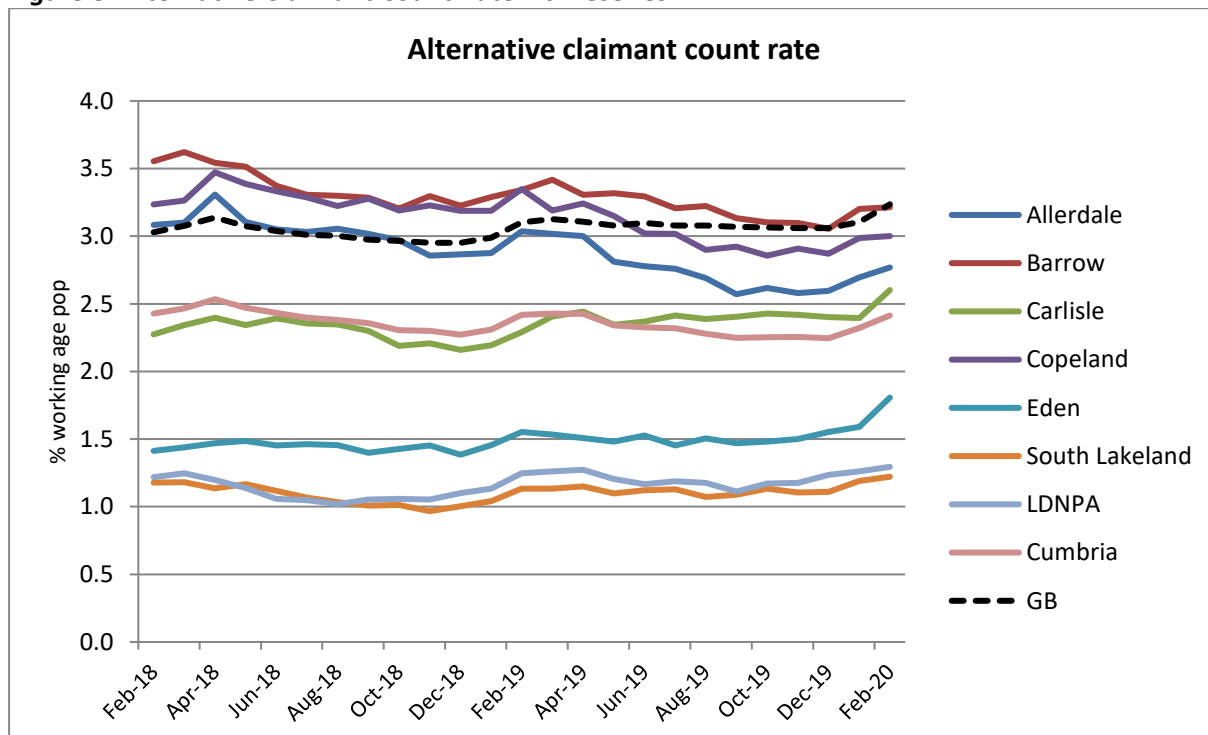
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP

Figure 7: Alternative Claimant Count Rate by district – February 2020



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: 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 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

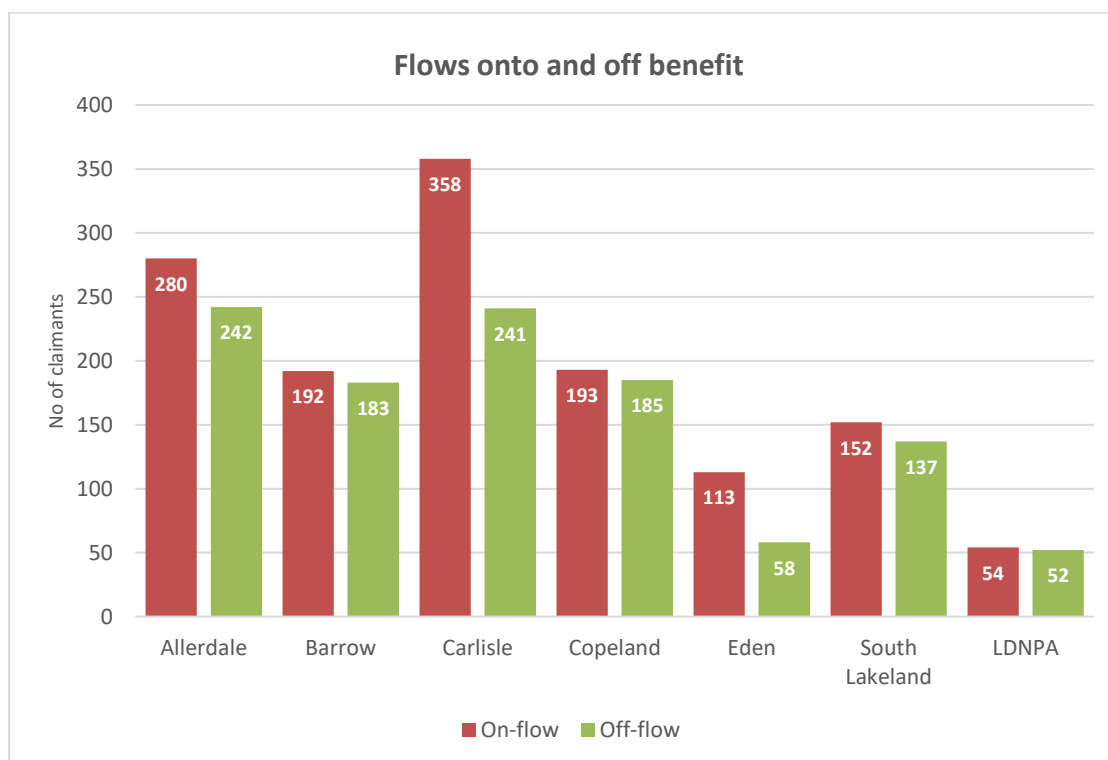
Figure 9: Flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count – February 2020

| | Allerdale | Barrow | Carlisle | Copeland | Eden | South Lakeland | LDNPA | Cumbria | GB |
|----------|-----------|--------|----------|----------|------|----------------|-------|---------|---------|
| On-flow | 280 | 192 | 358 | 193 | 113 | 152 | 54 | 1,285 | 209,255 |
| Off-flow | 242 | 183 | 241 | 185 | 58 | 137 | 52 | 1,043 | 163,612 |
| Balance | 38 | 9 | 117 | 8 | 55 | 15 | 2 | 242 | 45,643 |

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: Flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count – February 2020

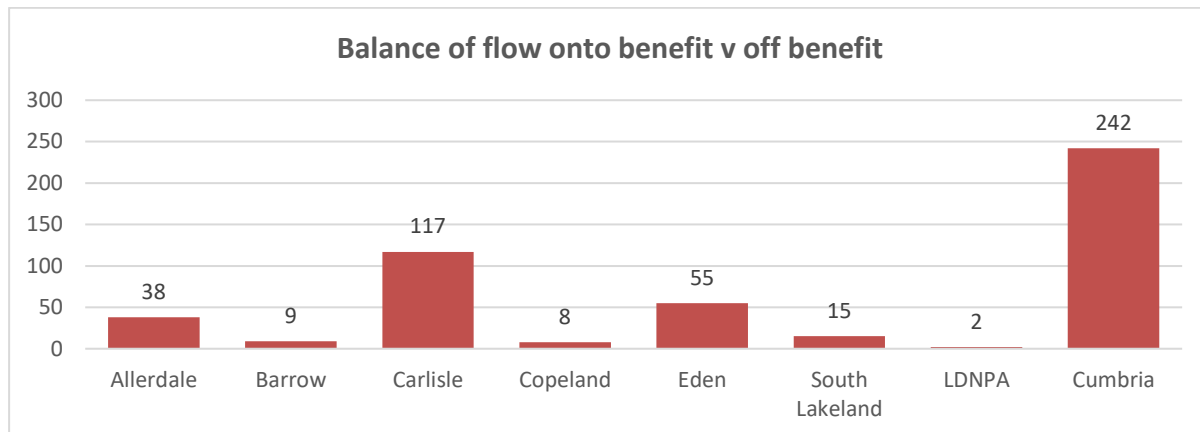


Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note:

LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP

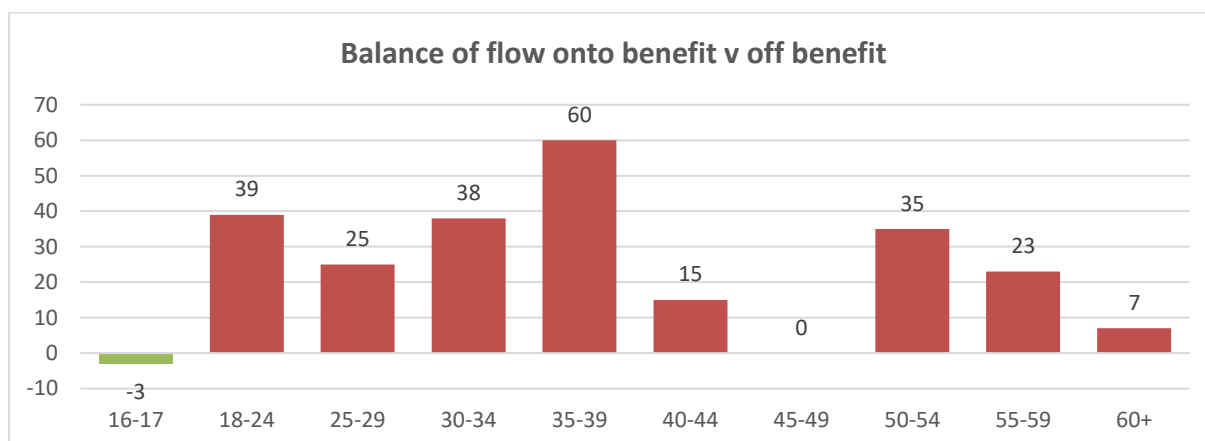
The following 3 charts show the balance of on and off flows by district and age group in November 2019 and over time (red columns indicate more people joined the claimant register than left it whilst green columns indicate the opposite).

Figure 11: Balance of flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count by district – February 2020



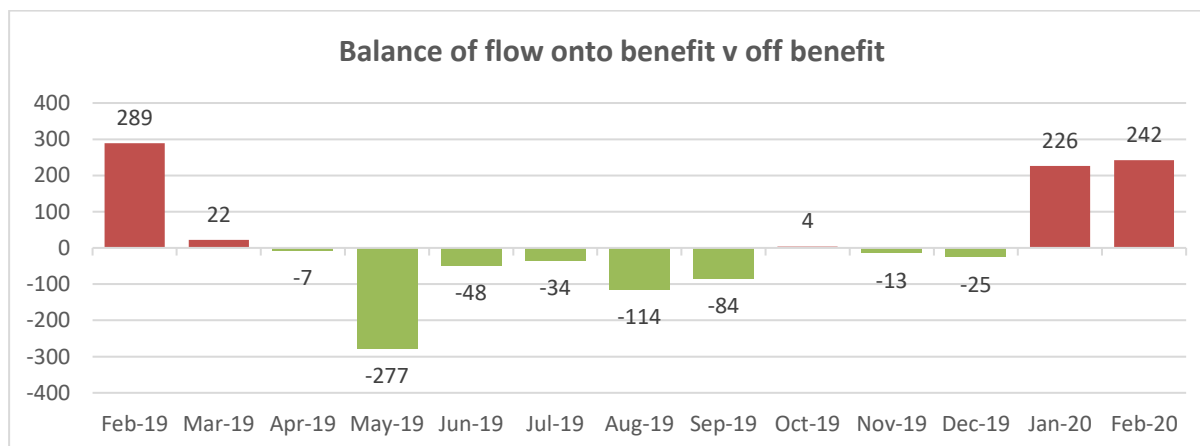
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note:
LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP

Figure 12: Balance of flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count by age – February 2020



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

Figure 13: Balance of flow on and off the Alternative Claimant Count – timeseries



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

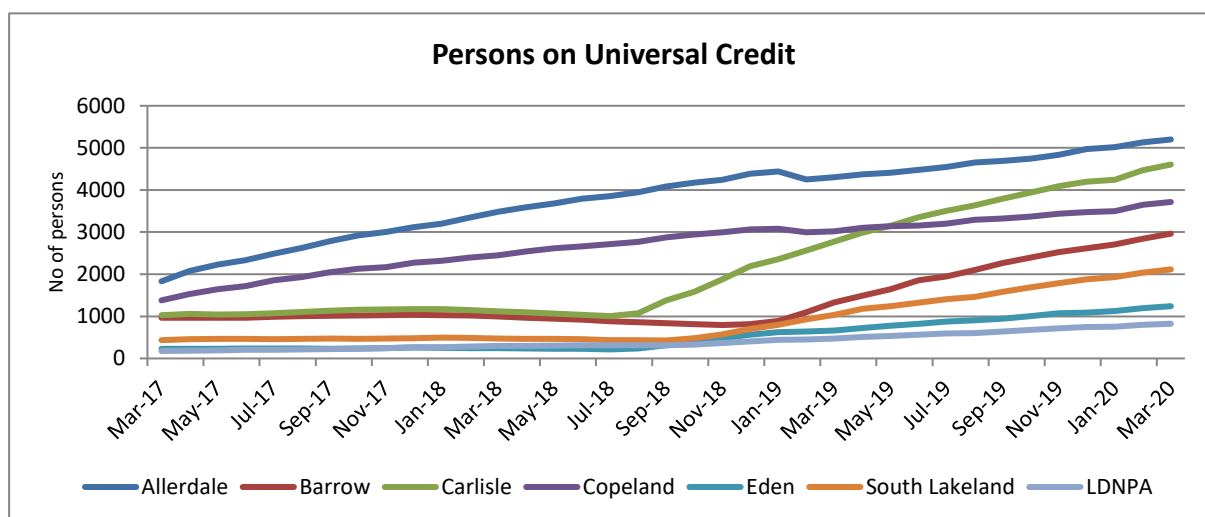
4. OTHER BENEFITS

4a. Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC) is a single monthly payment for people in or out of work which replaces existing benefits including Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance. UC is being rolled out across the country and the majority of new claims are now for UC. However, the Government has delayed the "managed migration" phase which transitions claimants on legacy benefits onto UC. **Note: due to the phased rollout, care should be taken when comparing areas or change over time.**

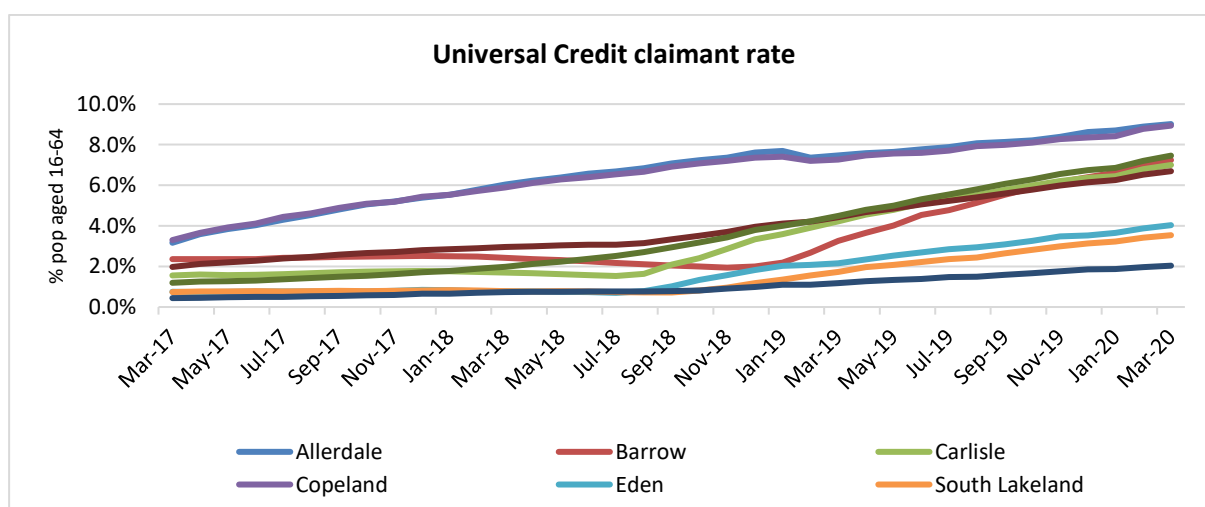
On 12th March 2020 there were 19,845 people on Universal Credit in Cumbria (both in work and out of work). This is a rise of 509 from the previous month and 6,722 more than a year ago. The highest numbers of UC claimants were in Allerdale (5,200) and Carlisle (4,605).

Figure 14: Universal Credit claimants by district (in and out of work)



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Figure 15: Universal Credit claimant rate by district (in and out of work)



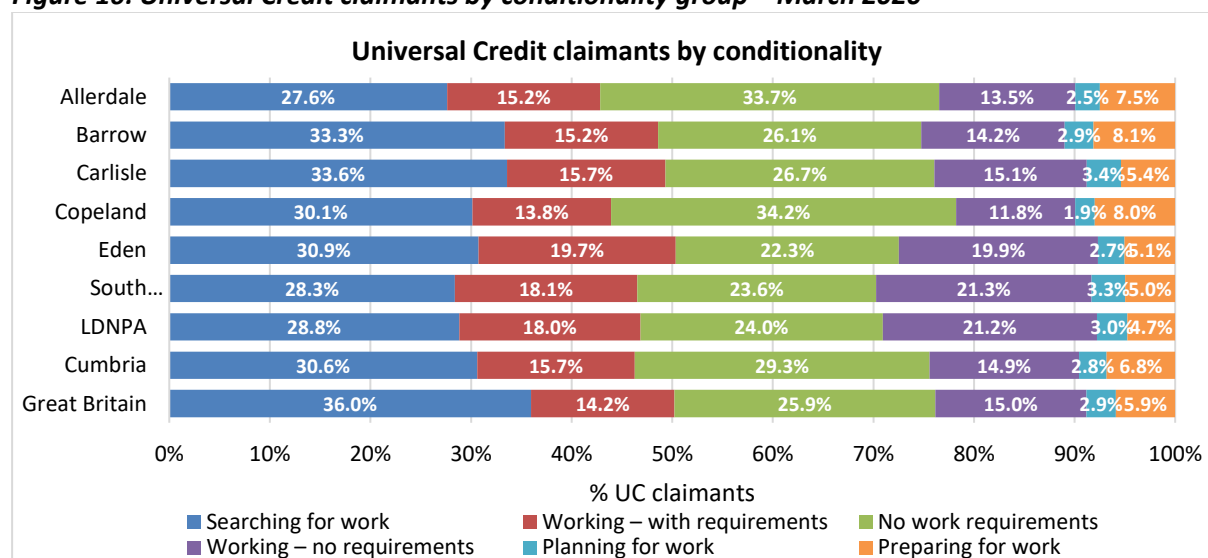
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Universal Credit claimants are placed in a conditionality group based on their circumstances and work capability and this determines what is expected of them during their claim. An outline of the conditions for each group is shown below.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Searching for work | Not working or with very low earnings. Claimant required to take action to seek work or more/better paid work. |
| Working – with requirements | In work but could earn more or not working but has partner with low earnings |
| No work requirements | Not expected to work at present. Health or caring responsibilities prevents claimant from working or preparing for work. |
| Working – no requirements | Individual or household earnings over the level at which conditionality applies. |
| Planning for work | Expected to work in the future. Lone parent / lead carer of child aged 1. |
| Preparing for work | Expected to start preparing for future even with limited work capability at present or child aged 2. |

Overall in Cumbria, 30.6% of UC claimants are in the searching for work group which compares to 36.0% nationally. This varies between districts from 33.6% in Carlisle down to 27.6% in Allerdale. Allerdale and Copeland have the highest proportions of claimants with no work requirements which is to be expected in those areas where UC has been rolled out the longest.

Figure 16: Universal Credit claimants by conditionality group – March 2020

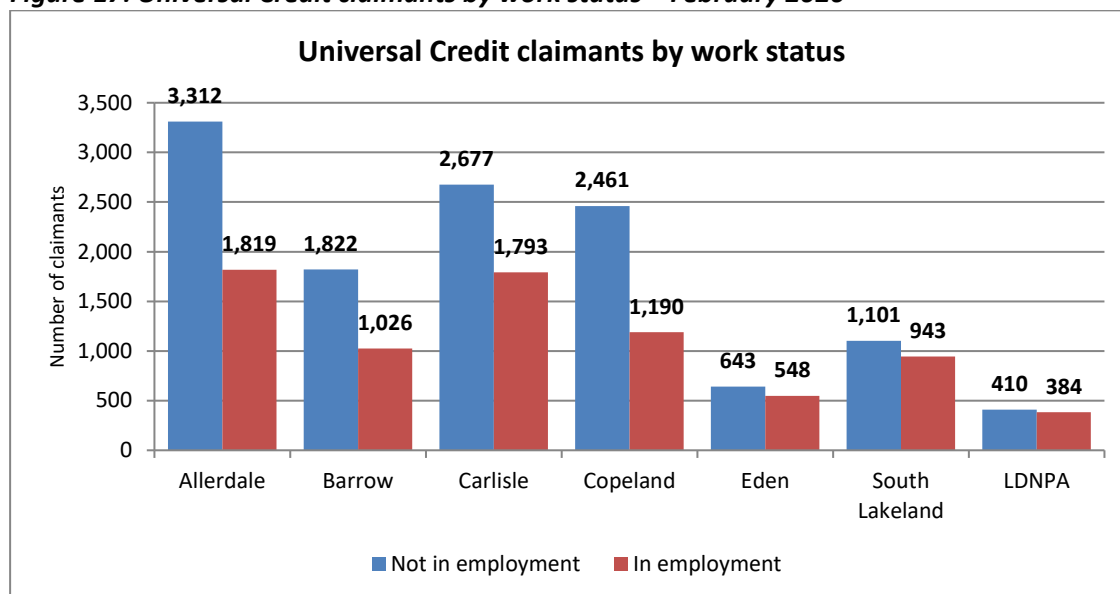


Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note: Conditionality is based on an individual's circumstances on the count date (2nd Thursday)

UC claimants are further categorised by employment status. This status is determined by whether the claimant received any employment earnings in the month prior to the count data. Data are a month in arrears of the overall count due to the earnings verification process and therefore these data are for February 2020.

62.1% (12,015) of UC Claimants in Cumbria in February were classified as not in employment and 37.96% (7,320) as in employment which is broadly similar to the national proportions, although Eden and South Lakeland, together with the LDNP area, have higher than average proportions of UC claimants in employment (45.9%, 46.2% and 48.2% respectively) which probably reflects the prevalence of part-time working in these areas.

Figure 17: Universal Credit claimants by work status – February 2020



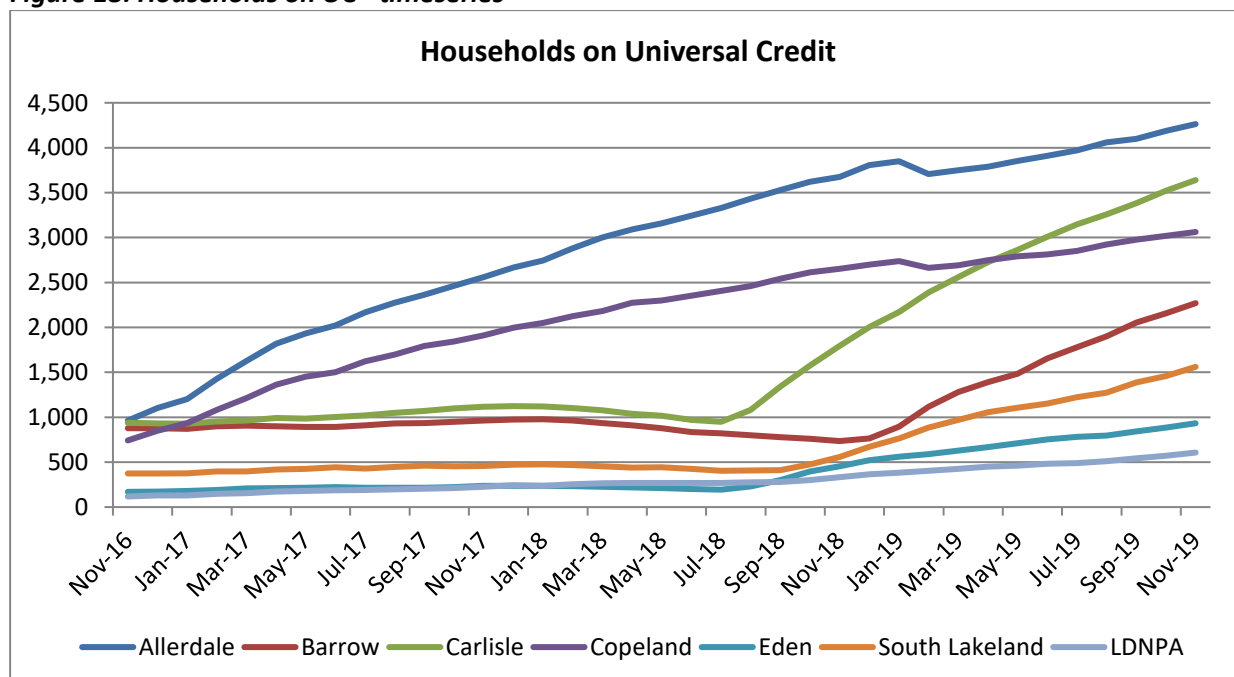
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Note 1: Employment status stats are a month in arrears of the main release.

Note 2: Employment status is determined by whether the claimant had employment earnings recorded within their completed UC assessment period closest to the count date (2nd Thursday). They may not be in employment on the count date itself.

Data for households on Universal Credit are now released for individual months but there is a delay in publication compared to the data on persons. In November 2019 there were 15,724 households on Universal Credit in Cumbria (18,650 persons), a rise of 489 from the previous month and 5,852 more than a year ago.

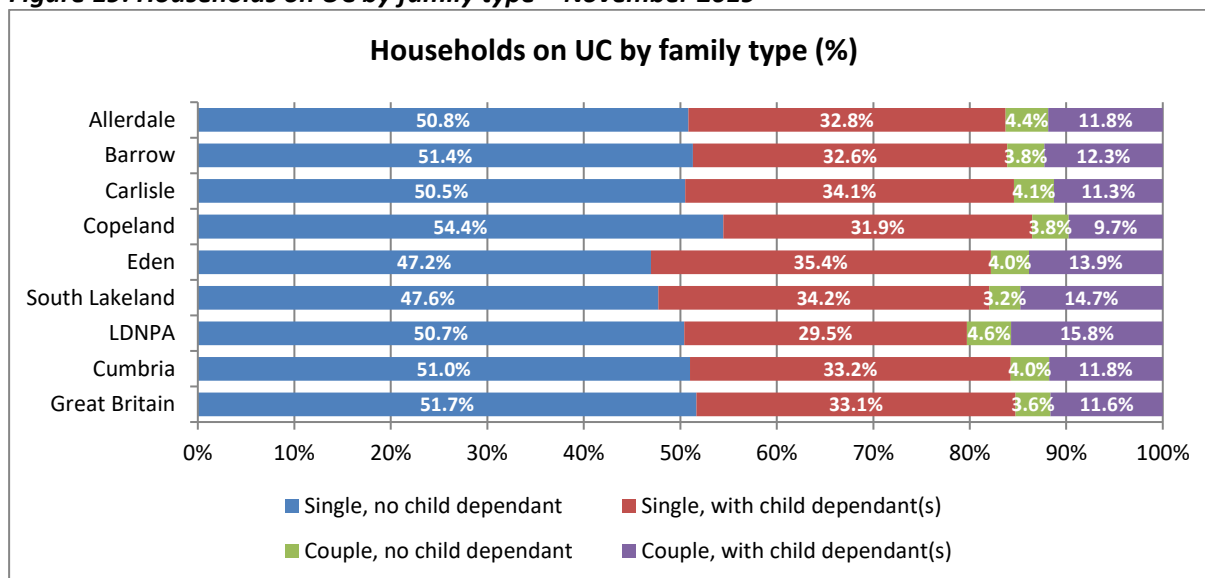
Figure 18: Households on UC - timeseries



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

The highest proportion of households (51.0%) were single households with no child dependants followed by 33.2% single households with child dependants. This is influenced by the rollout as different “gateway” conditions apply at different stages of the rollout.

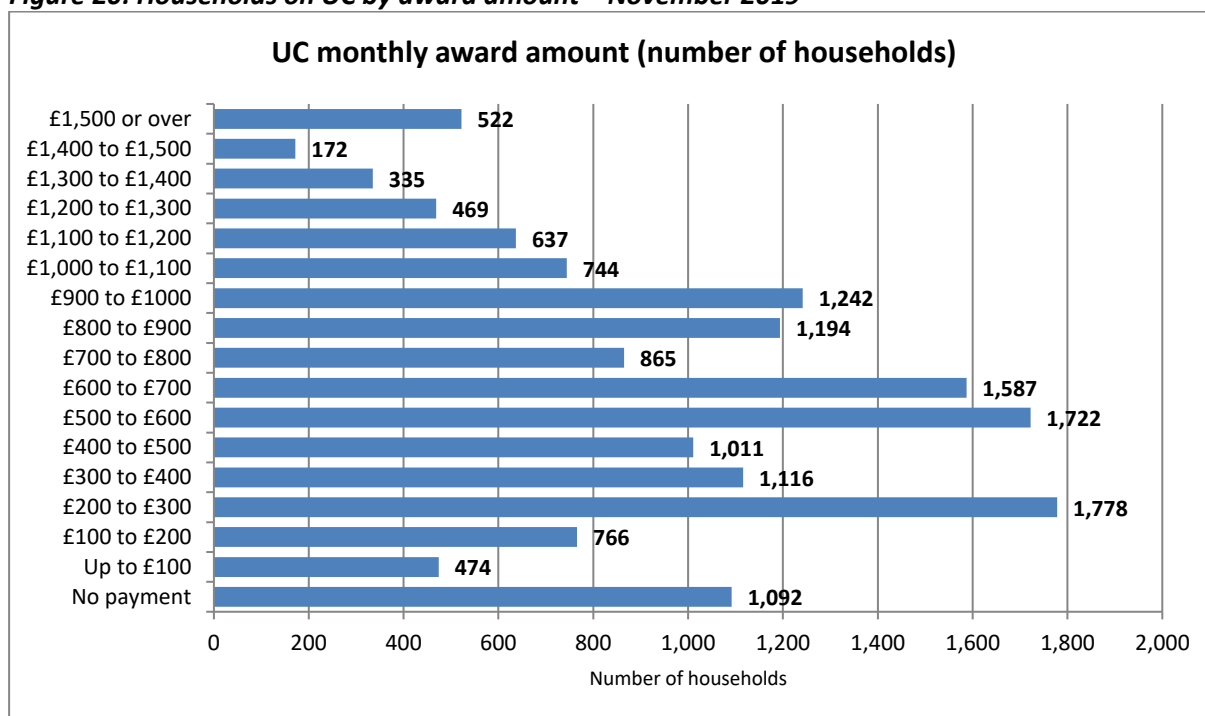
Figure 19: Households on UC by family type – November 2019



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Of the 15,724 households in Cumbria on UC in November 2019, 1,092 had not received a payment (6.9%). This may be because the award amount has not yet been calculated or because the household did not qualify to receive a payment in the month.

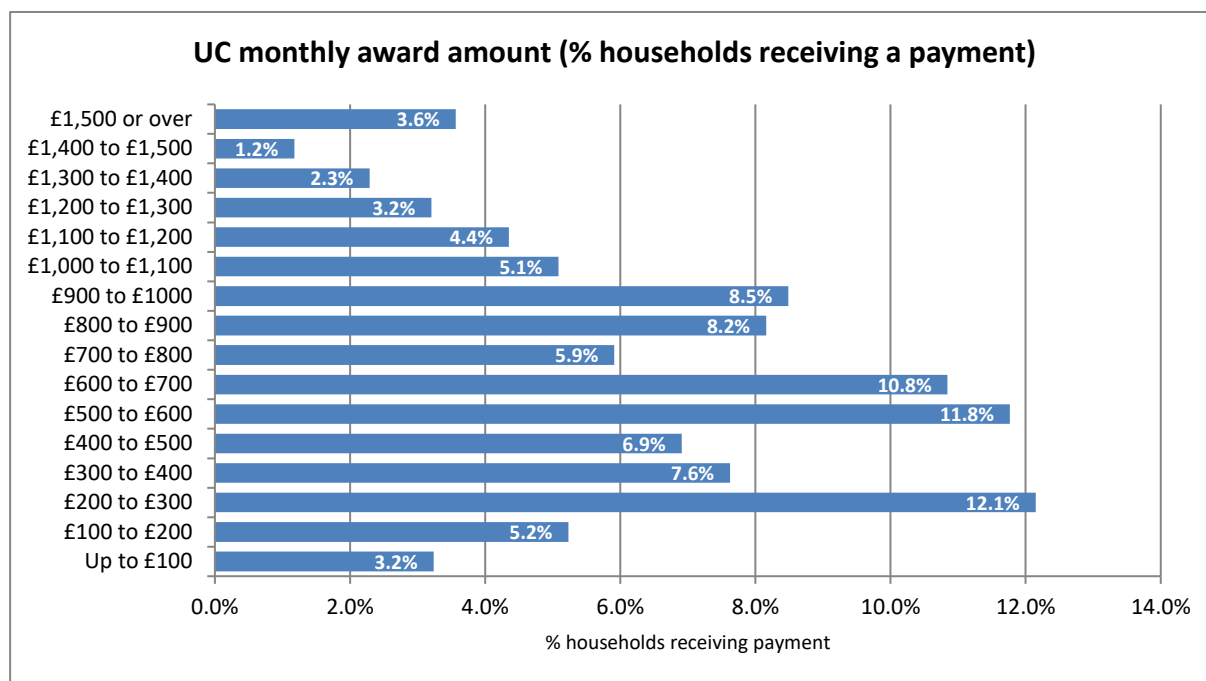
Figure 20: Households on UC by award amount – November 2019



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Of those households that did receive a payment, these ranged from under £100 (3.2% of households receiving a payment) up to £1,500 or more (3.6% of households).

Figure 21: Households on UC by award amount – November 2019



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

4b. All Working Age DWP Benefits

DWP has introduced a “Benefit Combinations” statistical series which provides Working Age and Pension Age statistics on the number of individuals claiming a DWP benefit in total (ie only counting each individual once even if they claim multiple benefits) and showing the key combinations of benefits claimed. Where claims are at a household level (UC, PC and HB) both the main claimant and partner (if applicable) are included as separate individuals – this differs from other publications where figures show the number of claims regardless of whether for a single person or a couple.

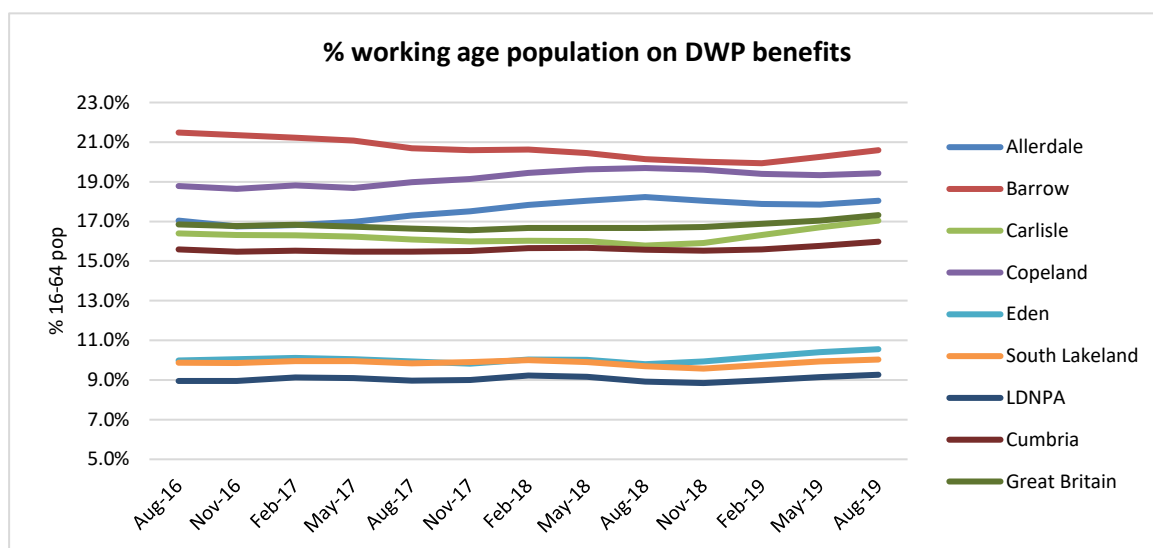
- AA=Attendance Allowance
- BB=Bereavement Benefit
- CA=Carer's Allowance
- DLA=Disability Living Allowance
- ESA=Employment and Support Allowance
- HB=Housing Benefit
- IB=Incapacity Benefit
- IS=Income Support
- JSA=Jobseeker's Allowance
- PC=Pension Credit
- PIP=Personal Independence Payment
- SDA=Severe Disablement Allowance
- SP=State Pension
- UC=Universal Credit
- WB=Widow's Benefit

HMRC administered benefits such as Tax Credits and Child Benefit are NOT currently included.

The analysis here is for those of working age (currently defined as 16-64 years).

In August 2019, 47,377 people of working age in Cumbria were receiving one or more of the above DWP benefits, representing 16.0% of the working age population. This compares to 17.3% nationally. The highest claimant rate in Cumbria was Barrow where 20.6% of the working age population were in receipt of DWP benefits. The Cumbria rate in Aug 2019 was 0.2 up from the previous quarter and 0.4 up from a year earlier.

Figure 22: % working age population on DWP benefits (%) – timeseries

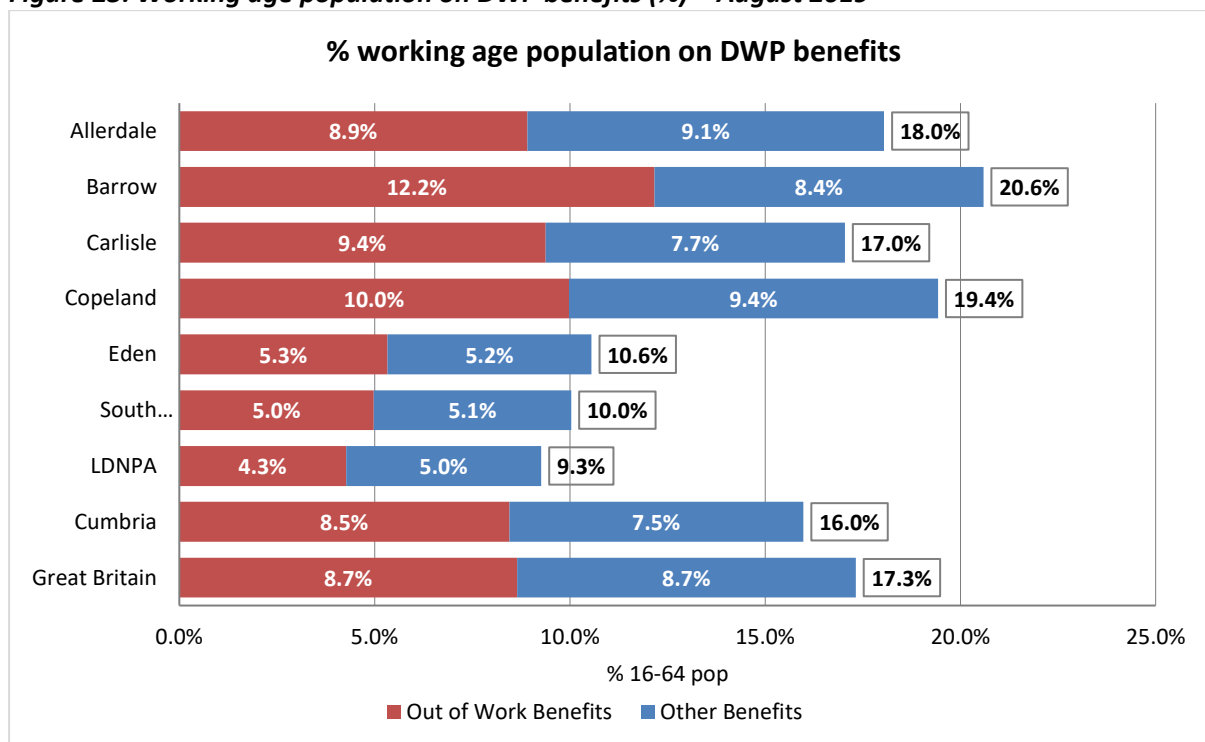


Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note:

Within the group of working age persons on DWP benefits, just over half were in the “out of work” category meaning they were claiming ESA, Universal Credit (in the searching, preparing or planning for work groups), JSA, Pension Credit (out of work) or Income Support (for something other than incapacity). This group represents 8.5% of the working age population in Cumbria compared to 8.7% nationally. The rate is highest in Barrow at 12.2%.

Those in the “other benefits” category were claiming some other combination of benefits (including those in work but in receipt of a benefit such as UC). This group represents 7.5% of the working age population in Cumbria compared to 7.5% nationally.

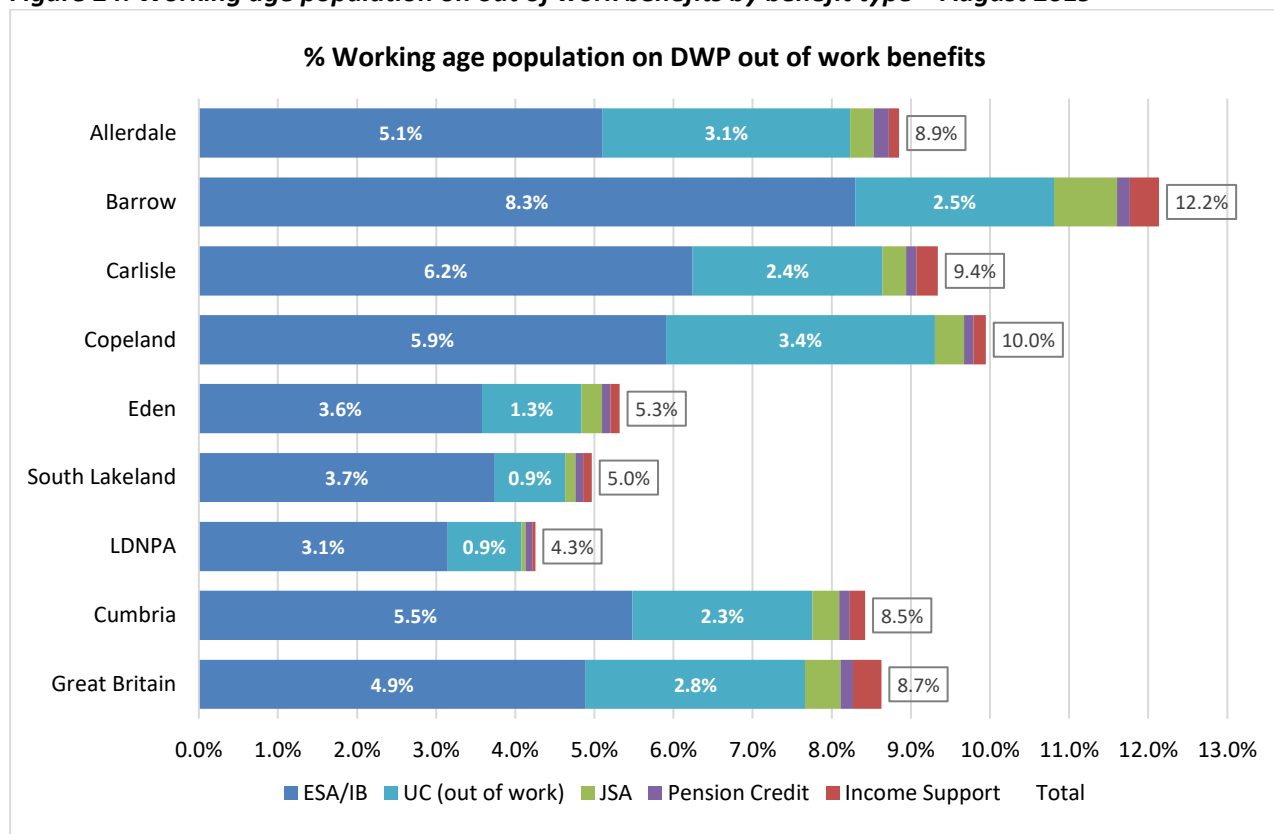
Figure 23: Working age population on DWP benefits (%) – August 2019



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note: Figures in the boxes are the total of the two categories.

Focussing just on those in the “out of work” category people, which represents those closest to being available to the labour market, the biggest group, 16,246, was those claiming a combination of Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit. This represents 5.5% of the working age population in Cumbria compared to 4.9% nationally. This group was particularly large in Barrow where 8.3% of the working age population is claiming ESA/IS.

Figure 24: Working age population on out of work benefits by benefit type – August 2019



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note: Figures in the boxes are the total of all the categories.

KEY: ESA with Incapacity Benefit, Universal Credit (in the searching, preparing or planning for work groups), JSA, Pension Credit (out of work) or Income Support (for something other than incapacity).

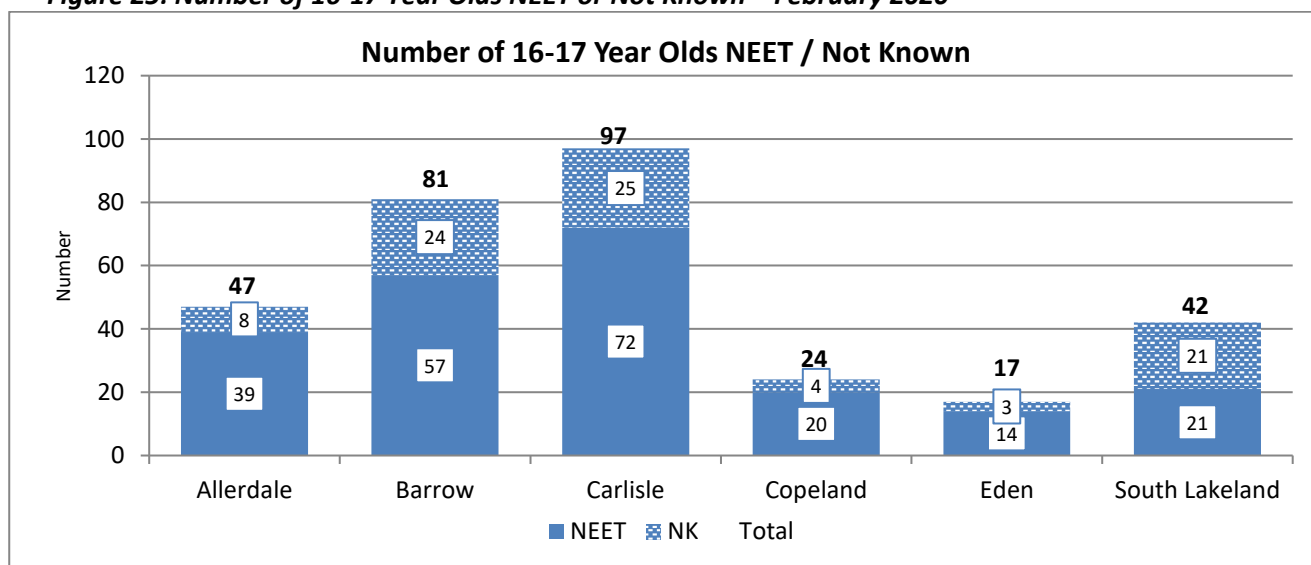
5. NEETs & PARTICIPATION

5a. Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Young people are described as NEET if they are not in any form of education, employment or training. Those whose status is Not Known at the time of follow up are now also classed as NEET.

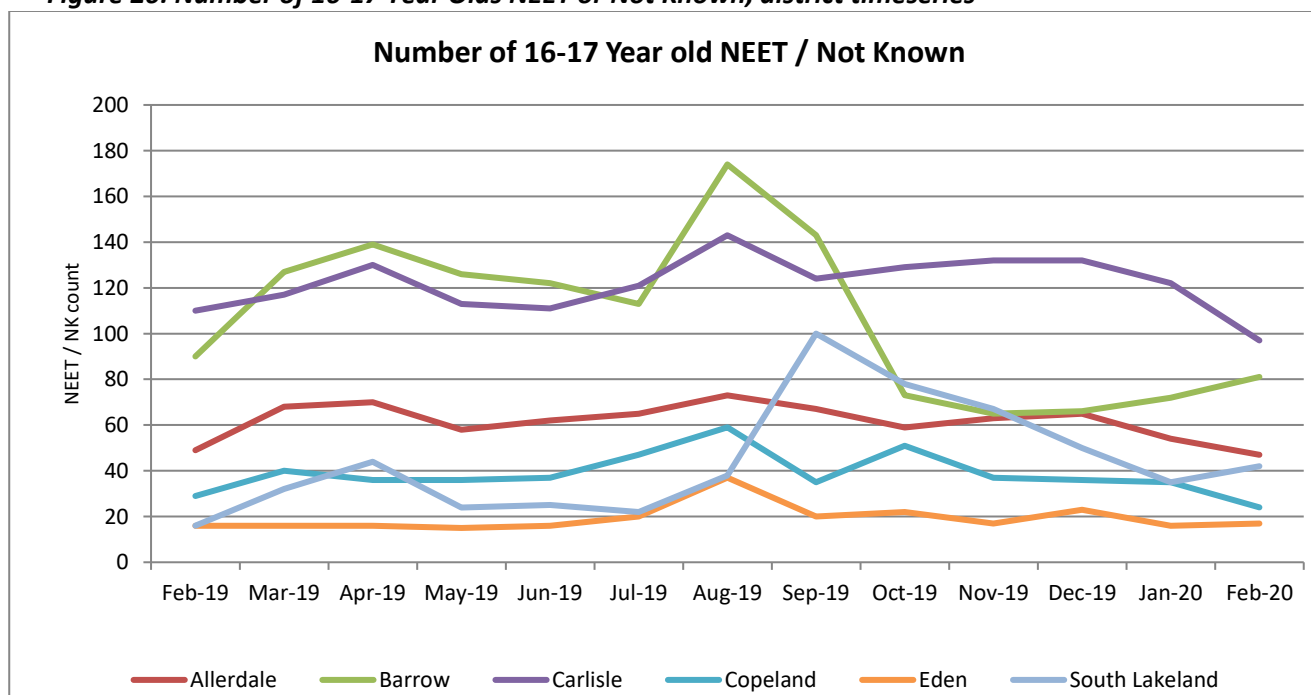
In February 2020 there were 363 16-17 year olds classed as NEET in Cumbria (226 NEET and 137 whose status was Not Known), a fall of 23 from the previous month and unchanged from a year ago. The highest number was in Carlisle (97) followed by Barrow (81) and Allerdale (47). There is a great deal of monthly variation relating to academic year activity and therefore care should be taken when viewing monthly data.

Figure 25: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known – February 2020



Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory Note: district totals may not sum to county total.

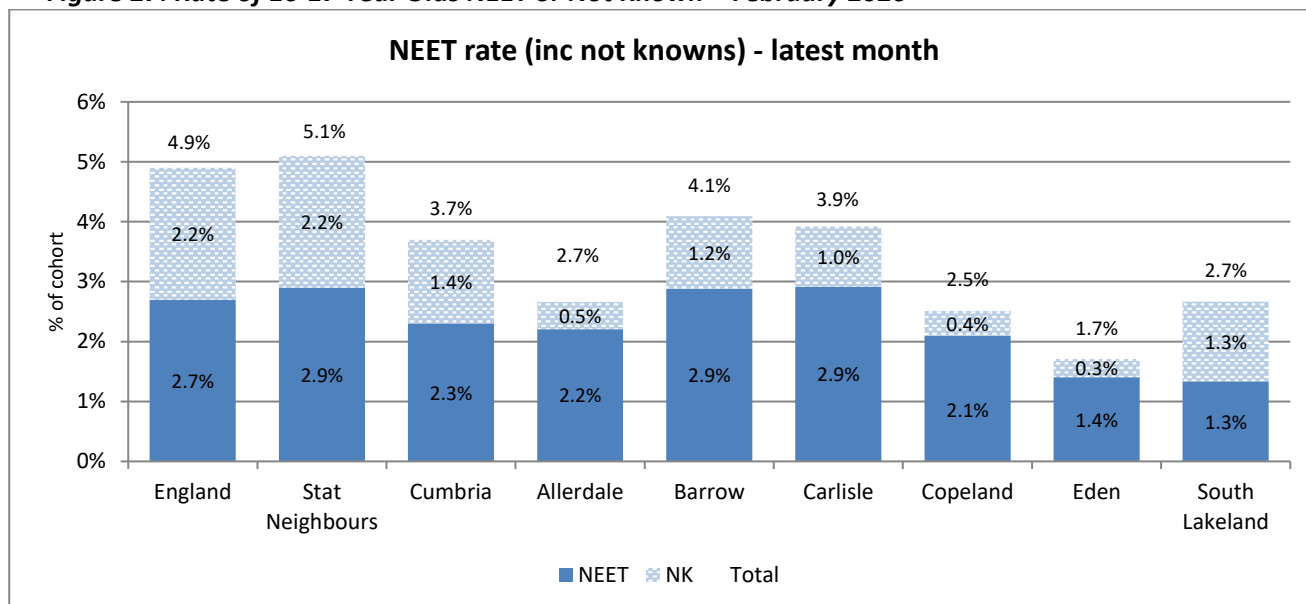
Figure 26: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, district timeseries



Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

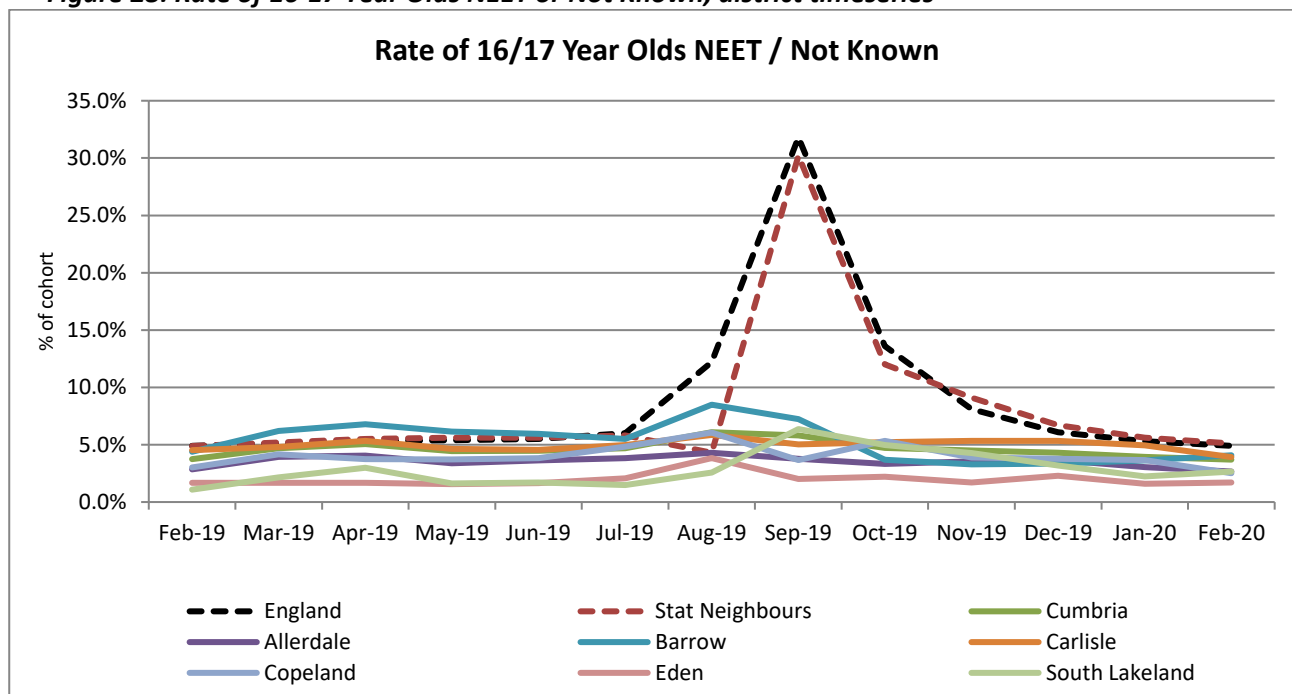
The county NEET/NK rate (% of cohort) was 3.7% in February 2020 compared to an England rate of 4.9% and an average rate of 5.1% for Cumbria's 10 statistical neighbours. The highest local rate was in Carlisle (4.1%). The NEET rate in Cumbria was down 0.2 from last month and unchanged from the same month last year. The average rate for the last 12 months in Cumbria was 4.7% compared to 9.1% nationally.

Figure 27: Rate of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known – February 2020



Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

Figure 28: Rate of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, district timeseries



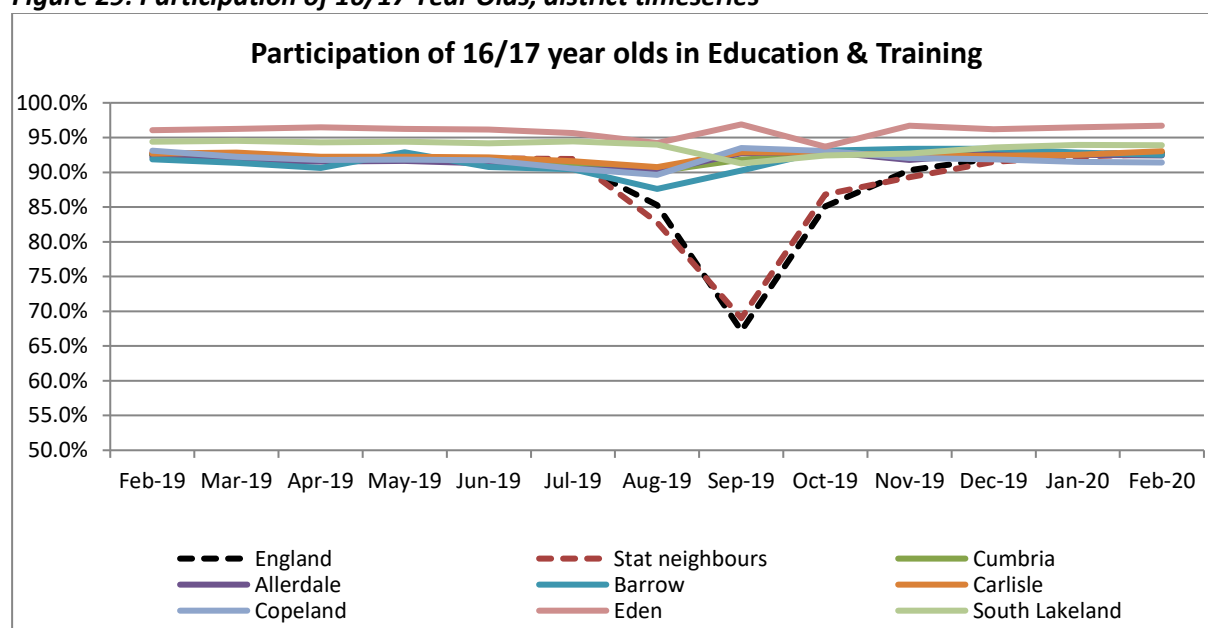
Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

5b. Participation

The Education & Skills Act 2008 introduced a requirement for young people to remain in education or training until at least their 18th birthday and a duty on local authorities to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate. As part of the tracking process that produces the NEET data, participation data is also produced at county level on a monthly basis.

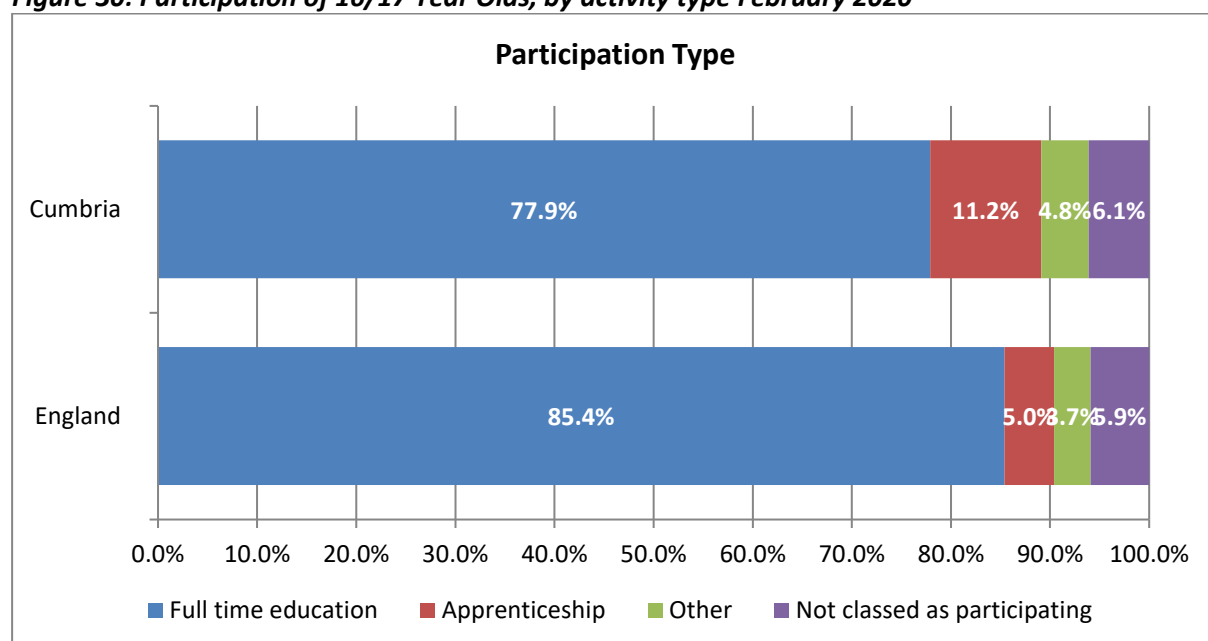
In February 2020, 93.7% of young people in Cumbria were classed as meeting the participation requirement, the majority through full time education or training (79%) or by undertaking an apprenticeship (11%). This compares to 92.8% nationally. Average data for the past 12 months shows Cumbria performing above the national average – 92.6% v 88.8%.

Figure 29: Participation of 16/17 Year Olds, district timeseries



Source: NCCIS

Figure 30: Participation of 16/17 Year Olds, by activity type February 2020



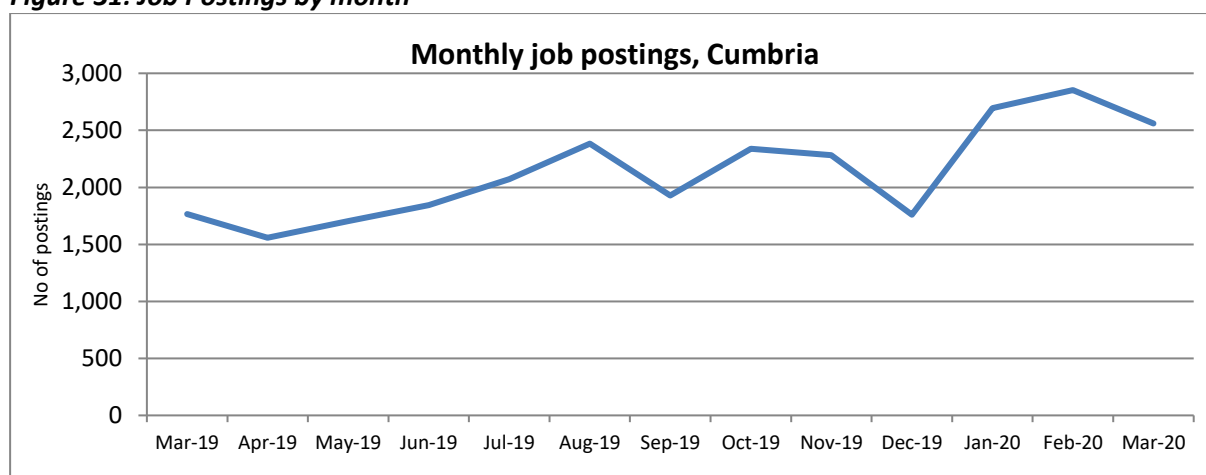
Source: NCCIS (district data not available)

6. JOB POSTINGS

The following data are drawn from Labour Insight, an interactive tool which delivers real time access to job postings from a range of sources including job boards, employer sites, newspapers, public agencies etc. Data extraction and analysis technologies mine and code data from each job listing to provide analysis on industries, occupations, skills and qualifications. The tool will inevitably not capture all vacancies and in particular is likely to under-represent vacancies in sectors which typically do not utilise online or formal recruitment methods. It may also over represent the situation in those sectors which make widespread use of recruitment agencies and “bank” workers.

In March 2020 there were 2,560 job postings in Cumbria which is 293 fewer than were placed in the previous month but 794 more than the same month last year. There were 26 postings in March which mentioned the words Coronavirus or Covid.

Figure 31: Job Postings by month

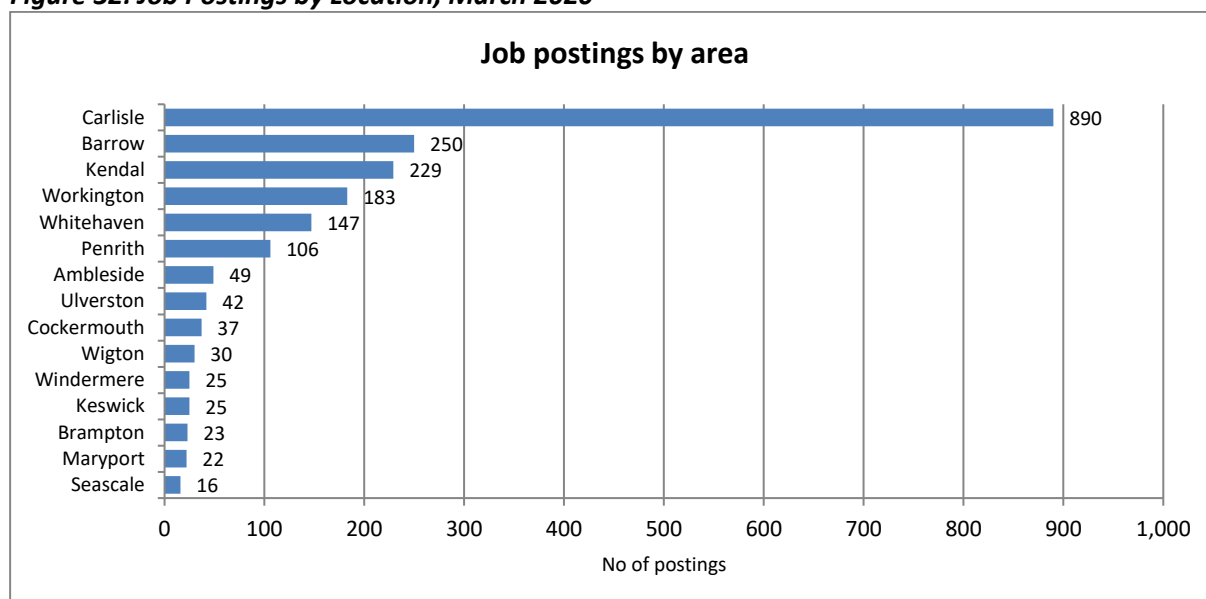


Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Location of job postings

Geographically the highest number of postings was for opportunities in Carlisle where there were 890 postings in the month, 40% of all the postings in Cumbria. The next highest areas were Barrow (250), Kendal (229) and Workington (183).

Figure 32: Job Postings by Location, March 2020

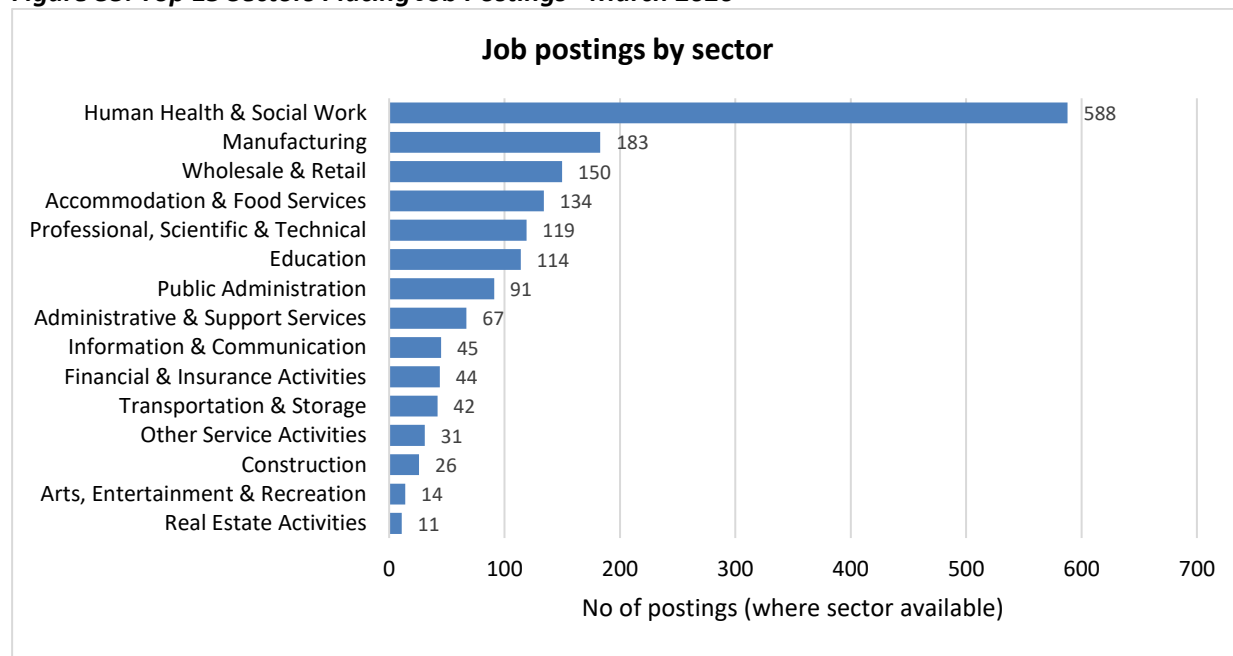


Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies) NB: may not sum to county total as location cannot be coded for all postings

Sector of job postings

The highest number of postings was in the human health & social work sector (588 postings) which accounted for 25% of postings where a sector could be identified. Postings in this sector rose by a third in March compared to February.

Figure 33: Top 15 Sectors Placing Job Postings - March 2020

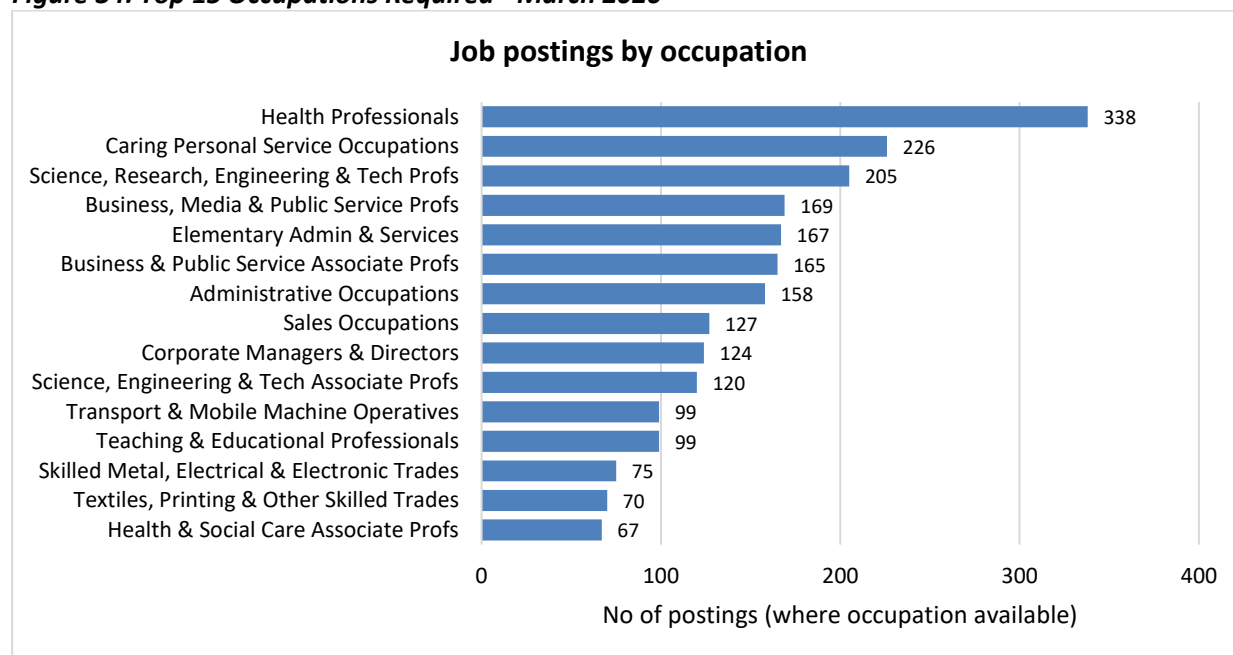


Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Occupation of job postings

The most common occupations were health professionals (338, 13%) and caring personal services (226, 9%). There were 26 postings which mentioned the terms Coronavirus or Covid and there was a 50% increase in postings for health professionals in the past month. In addition there was a 25% drop in hospitality & tourism postings.

Figure 34: Top 15 Occupations Required - March 2020

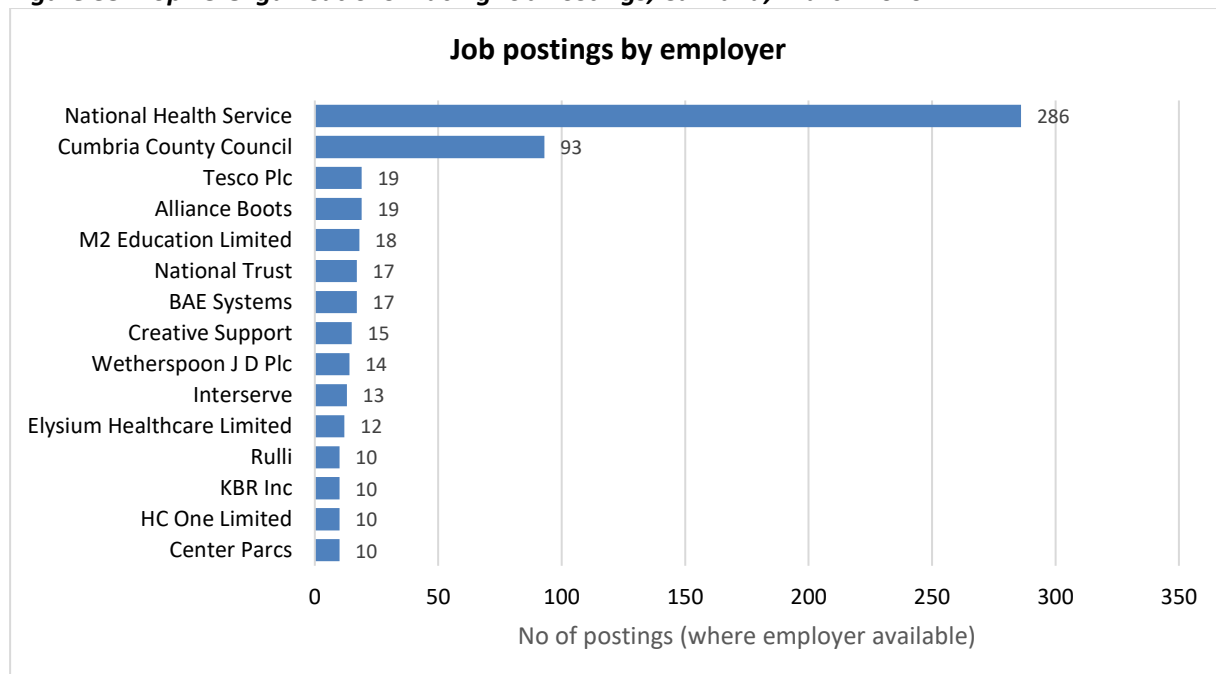


Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Organisations placing job postings

The organisation placing the most job postings was the NHS with 286 postings (19%) followed by Cumbria County Council with 93 (6%).

Figure 35: Top 15 Organisations Placing Job Postings, Cumbria, March 2020

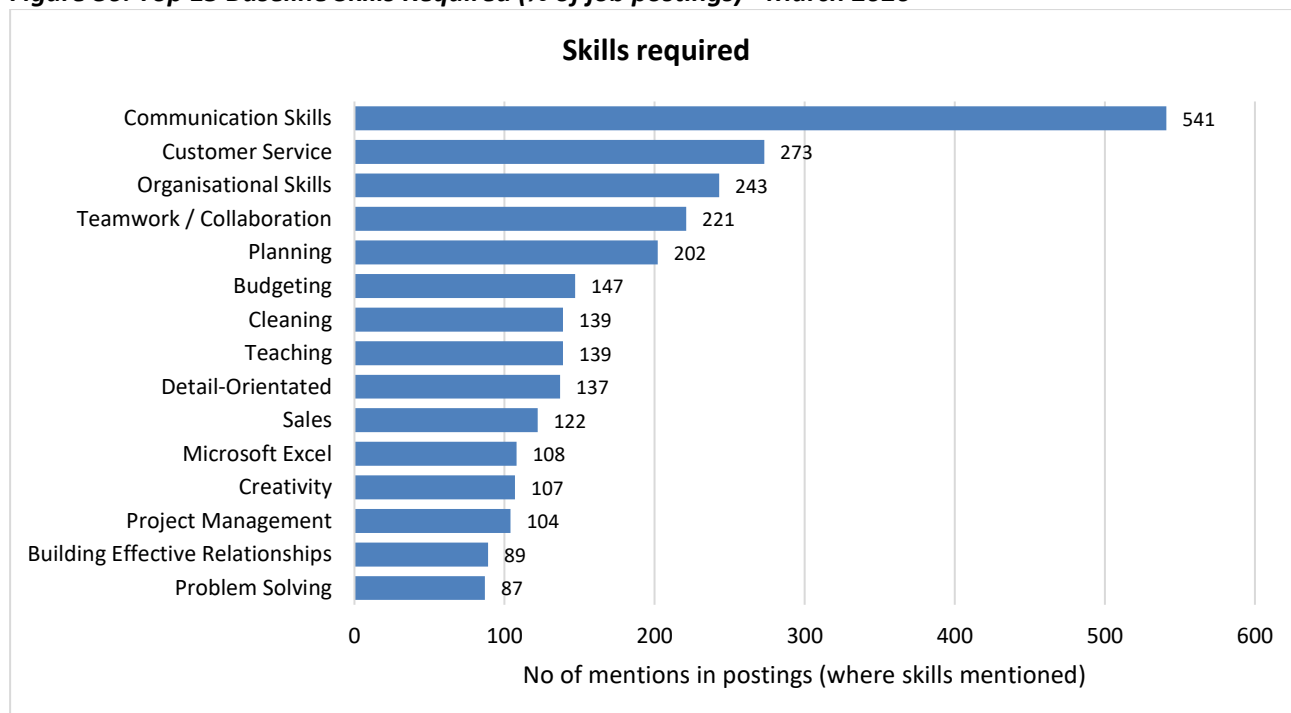


Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Skills mentioned in job postings

The most common skills mentioned in job postings were communication which was mentioned 541 times (37% of all postings), customer services skills (273, 19%) and organisational skills (243, 17%).

Figure 36: Top 15 Baseline Skills Required (% of job postings) - March 2020



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

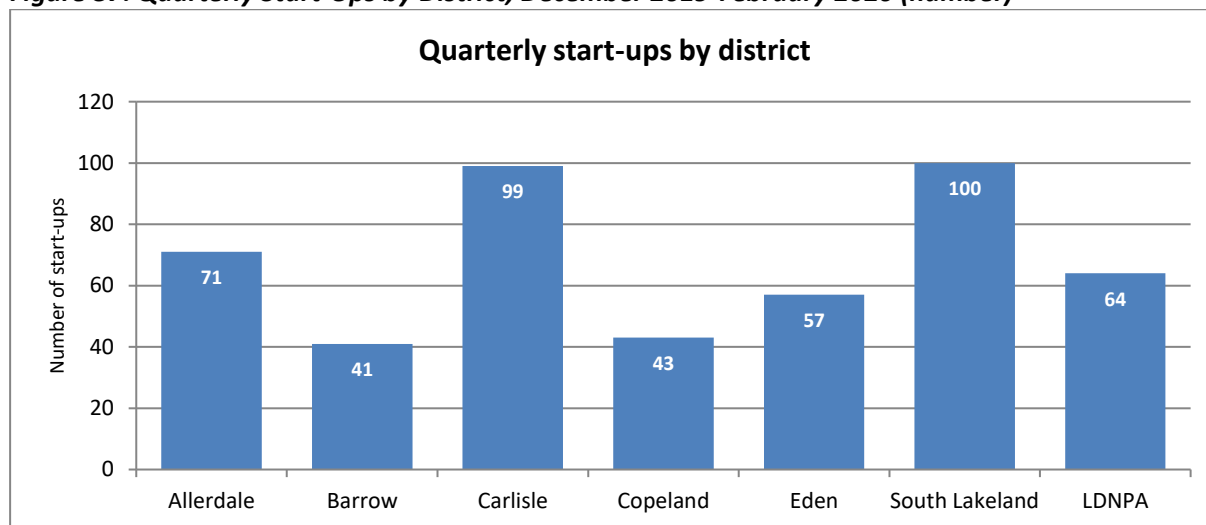
7. BUSINESS START-UPS AND STOCKS

7a. Business start-ups

The following data are from BankSearch, a service which collects data from Barclays, Co-operative Bank, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Santander and TSB Bank. A 'Start-up' reflects the opening of a first current account from a small business banking product range by a business new to banking or previously operated through a personal account. The data exclude businesses operating through personal accounts, those without banking relationships or those banking with other institutions.

There were 411 business start-ups in Cumbria in the quarter Dec 2019-Feb 2020. This is a fall of 57 from the previous quarter, -12% compared to a fall of 15% for England. Start-ups rose in Carlisle and Copeland but fell in the other districts and were unchanged in the LDNPA.

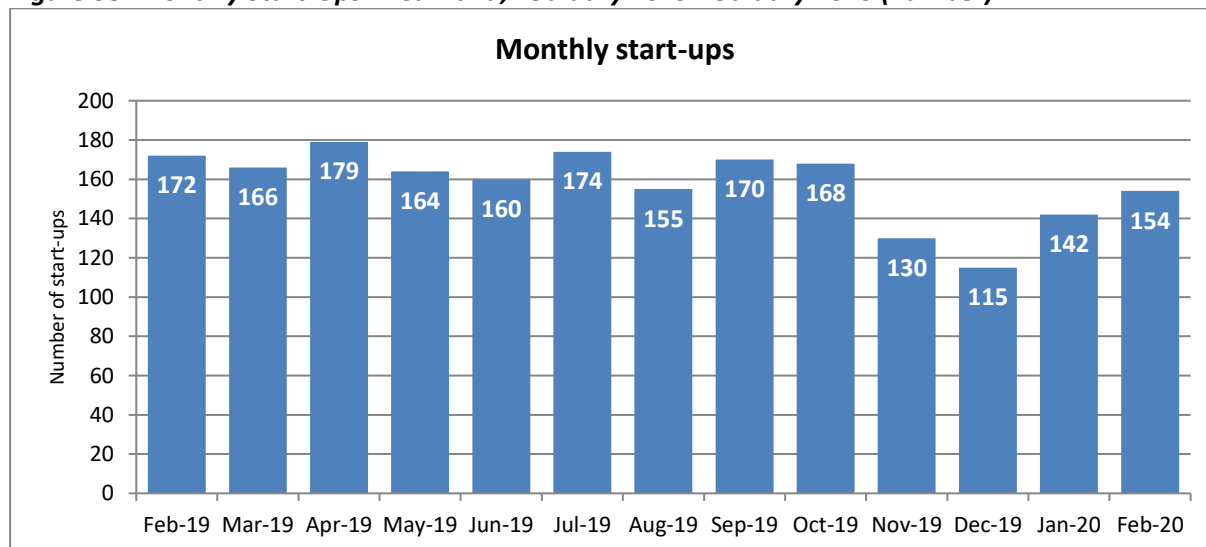
Figure 37: Quarterly Start-Ups by District, December 2019-February 2020 (number)



Source: BankSearch Note 1: LDNPA area is a "best-fit" comprising wards with 50%+ of area within NP. Note 2: LDNPA starts are also counted in the relevant district.

The number of starts varies throughout the year and levels in the winter, especially around Christmas are lower than the rest of the year. Although January's levels were higher than January last year, this did not continue into February when there were 17 fewer start up than February last year.

Figure 38: Monthly Start-Ups in Cumbria, February 2019-February 2020 (number)



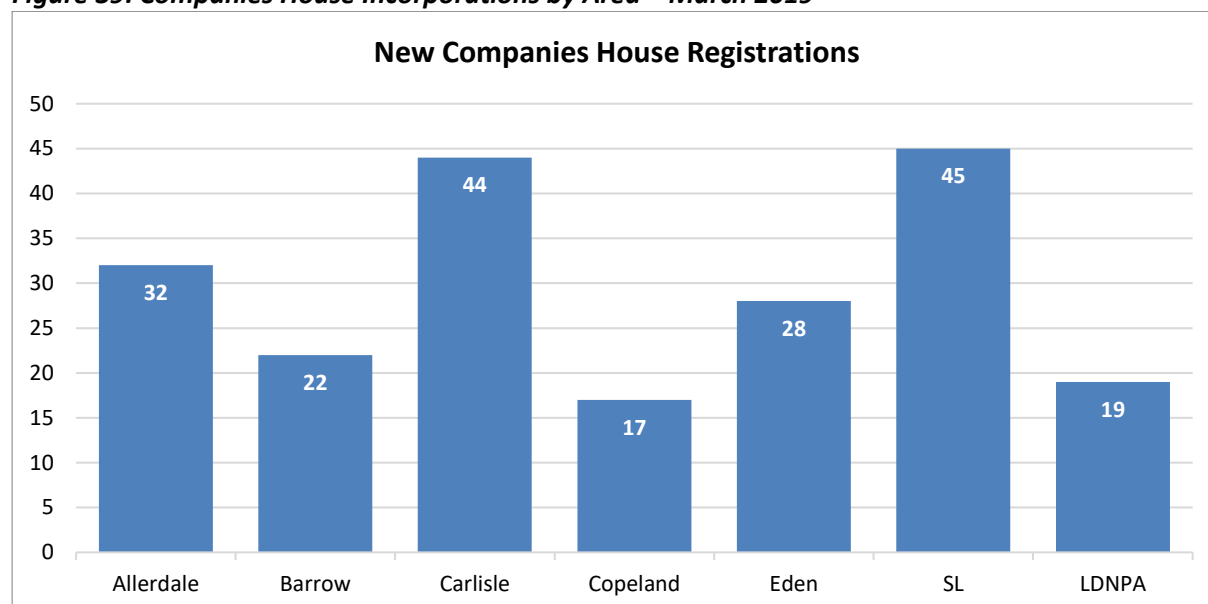
Source: BankSearch

7b: New Companies House Incorporations

These data represent new entries on the Companies House database where the registered office is Cumbria. NB: a change of name, address, merger or other changes can result in a new record and therefore these figures do not necessarily represent newly formed business.

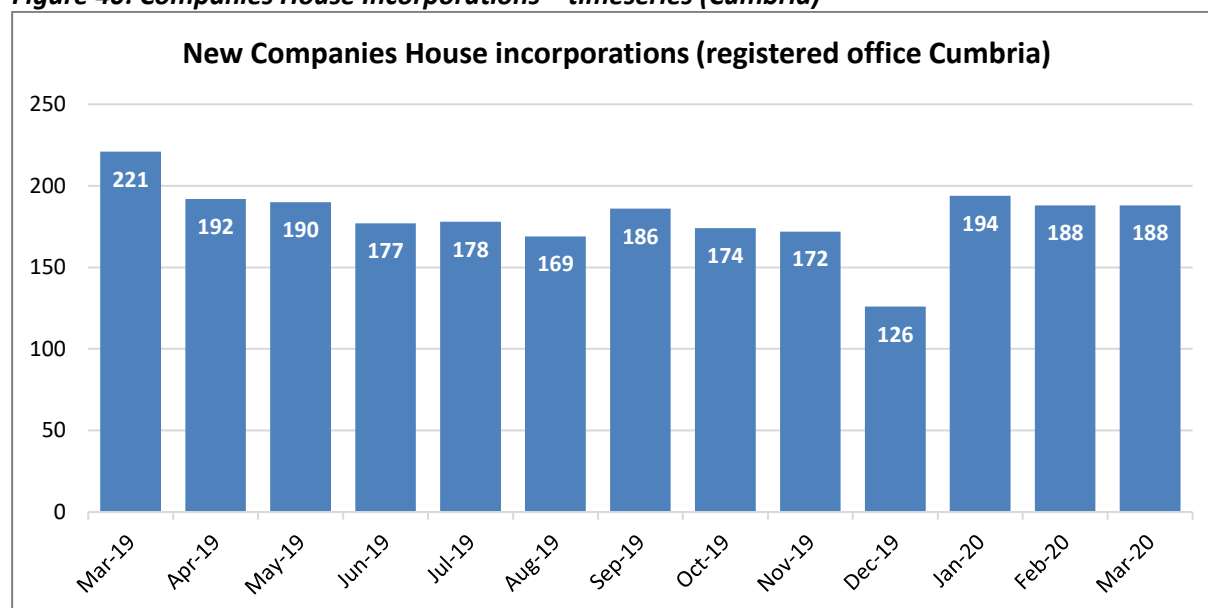
There were 188 new Companies House incorporations in March 2020, the same as in February but 33 fewer than the same month the previous year. The highest numbers were in South Lakeland (45) and Carlisle (44).

Figure 39: Companies House Incorporations by Area – March 2019



Source: BankSearch Note 1: LDNPA area is a "best-fit" comprising wards with 50%+ of area within NP. Note 2: LDNPA starts are also counted in the relevant district. Note 3: Data relate to registered office address.

Figure 40: Companies House Incorporations – timeseries (Cumbria)

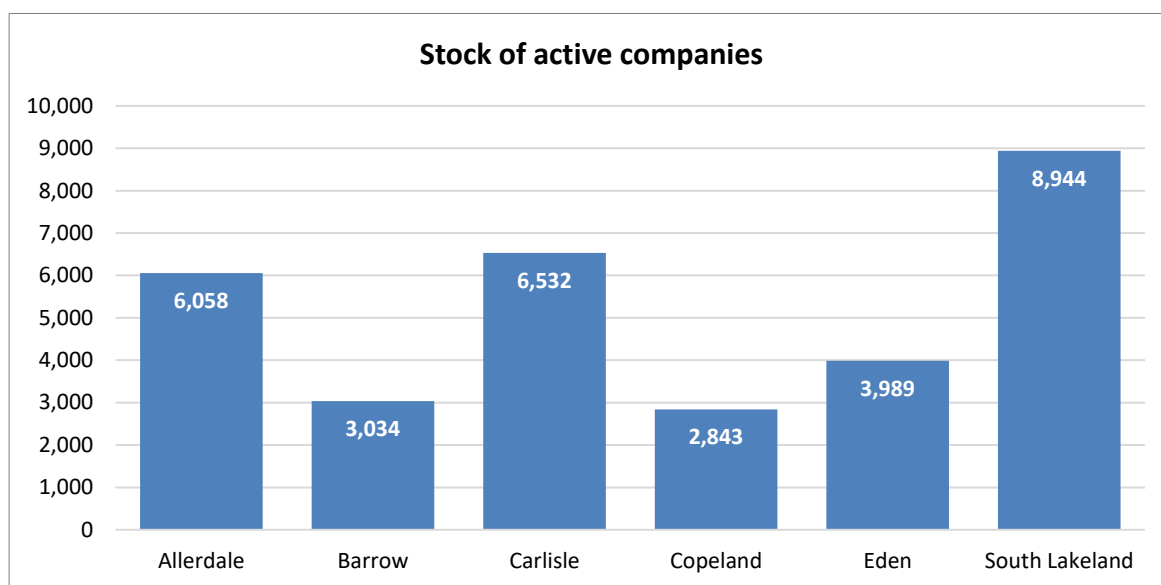


Source: BankSearch extracted from Companies House Note: Data relate to registered addresses

7c. Stock of Active Companies

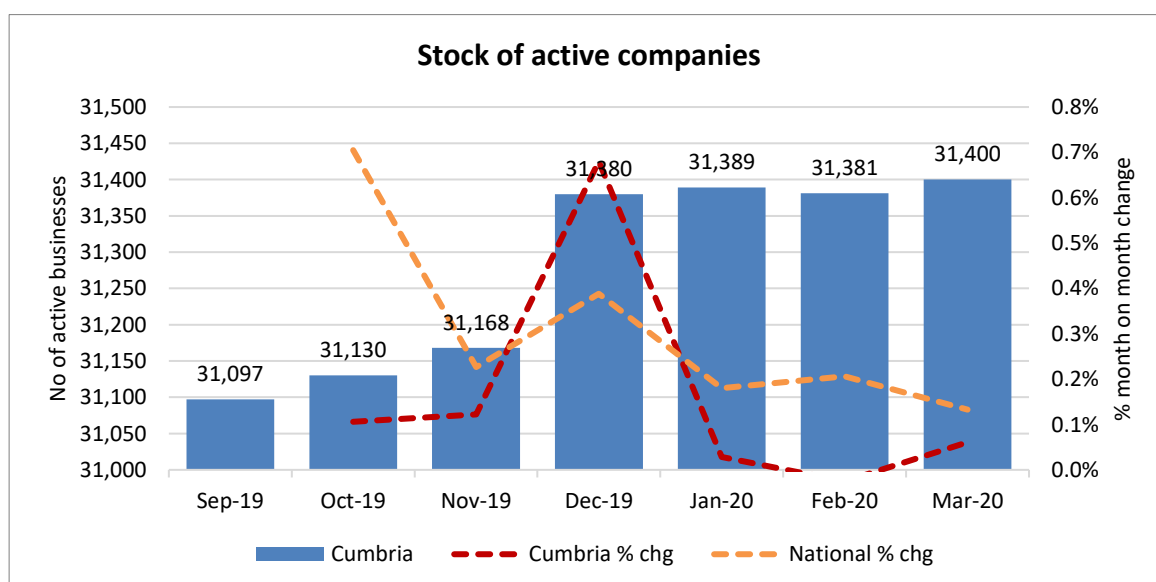
These data are extracted from the FAME database of over 5 million active companies (including unincorporated businesses) and measure those with a registered office or primary trading address in Cumbria. At the end of March 2020 there were 31,400 entries on the FAME database for Cumbria, an increase of 19 from the previous month. The highest number of active companies was in South Lakeland (8,944).

Figure 41: Stock of Active companies – March 2020



Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)

Figure 42: Stock of Active companies – timeseries



Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)