

Introduction

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, this briefing excludes datasets where the time delay in publication means that the available figures pre-date the virus outbreak. It therefore contains Sep data from the standard Claimant Count and Universal Credit registers (both counts taken on **10th Sep**). The briefing also contains Sep data for job postings, Aug data for business start-ups and Sep data for the active company count. Since the last briefing there has been no new data on the furlough and self-employment support schemes.

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. Copies of this and previous briefings can be found on the Observatory website: www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk.

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1. KEY FINDINGS FOR CUMBRIA

- There were 13,560 claimants of JSA / UC (out of work and seeking work) on 10th Sep, a rate of 4.6% of the working age population. This compares to 6.5% nationally. The claimant count fell overall in Cumbria by 260 from Aug with falls in all districts except Barrow where the count rose by 40;
- Compared to the pre-pandemic situation in March, the claimant count is 6,630 higher with the highest increases in South Lakeland (216%), Eden (144%) and also in the Lake District National Park (308%) well in excess of the county and national increases (96% and 114% respectively). (NB: LDNPA residents are also included in their relative district figures);
- The claimant rate in Cumbria was down 0.1 in September at 4.6% and remains below the national rate of 6.5% which rose by 0.1 percentage points;
- Compared to pre-lockdown in March, the claimant count rate in Cumbria is 2.2 percentage points higher, up from 2.3% to 4.6%. This compares to a national increase of 3.5 percentage points;
- Claimant rates are below the national average in all age groups at Cumbria level and also in most districts, the exception being Barrow where rates for 16-24 year olds remain above the national average (8.2% v 7.5%);
- There were 34,764 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria on 10th Sep (in work, out of work and those not required to seek work), a rise of 450 (1%) from Aug and 14,982 (76%) higher than in March;
- The biggest percentage increases since the pre-pandemic position in March have been in South Lakeland (155%) and Eden (128%) and in areas within the Lake District National Park (196%) (NB:

LDNPA residents are also included in their relative district figures). These compare to a national increase since March of 89%;

- There have been particular increases since March in UC claimants claiming whilst in work (up by 7,366, 122%) and among those searching/planning/preparing for work (up by 6,252, 79%). In contrast, the increase for those with no working requirements has been 1,360 (23%). In the most recent month, there were 599 more in-work claimants than in August but 373 fewer in the search/planning/preparing for work categories;
- There were 496 young people (aged 16/17) classed as NEET in August, up 23 from July but 94 lower than a year ago. The NEET rate was 5.1% in Cumbria compared to 10.4% nationally (NB: tracking activity varies out of term time around the country);
- There were 2,571 job postings in Sept, 282 fewer than in Feb (-10%) before the lockdown began but 218 more than in Aug (+9%) continuing the increases seen since April;
- In Sept there were 5 claimants per new job posting in Cumbria compared to an average of 3 for the 12 months to March 2020 and down from a high of 10 in April/May when claimant numbers were high and job posting levels were particularly low;
- HMRC data shows that furlough claims for 78,200 "employments" held by Cumbrian residents had been made up to the end of July 2020 (employments furloughed at least once since the start of the scheme). This is an increase of 4,800 claims since June. The highest cumulative number of furloughed employments was in South Lakeland at 19,600 and the lowest in Barrow and Copeland, both 7,700;
- The furlough rate was 34% in Cumbria compared to 32% nationally. South Lakeland (42%) and Eden (41%) had the two highest furlough rates in the UK whilst Copeland (25%) and Barrow (24%) had two of the lowest rates nationally;
- HMRC data shows that there had been 13,100 claims under Round 2 of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme by the end of Aug, totalling £31.5m. The Round 2 take-up rate was 53% compared to 60% nationally and the take-up rate in Cumbria has fallen more since Round 1 than nationally (down 22% v a fall of 17% nationally). Barrow (59%) and Carlisle (56%) had the highest take-up rates in Round 2;
- There were 121 business start-ups in Aug, a fall of 11 from July, 36 fewer than in Feb (before lockdown) and 38 fewer than the same month last year;
- There were 254 new Companies House incorporations in Aug, a rise of 29 from July, 66 more than in February and 85 more than the same month last year;
- There were 31,591 active companies in Cumbria at the end of Sept, 66 more than in Aug, a rise of 0.2% v a rise of 8.2% nationally.

2. NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

- June to August figures show the unemployment rate and the number of redundancies continue to increase, while the employment rate continues to fall.
- Although decreasing over the year, total hours worked had a record increase on the quarter, with the June to August period covering a time when a number of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown measures were eased.
- The UK employment rate was estimated at 75.6%, 0.3 percentage points lower than a year earlier, and 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous quarter.
- The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 4.5%, 0.6 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous quarter.
- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at 20.8%, 0.2 percentage points lower than the previous year, but largely unchanged compared with the previous quarter.
- The total number of weekly hours worked was 891.0 million, down 158.2 million hours on the previous year, but up a record 20.0 million hours compared with the previous quarter.

- After a record low of 343,000 vacancies in April to June 2020 there has been an estimated record quarterly increase of 144,000 to 488,000 vacancies in July to September 2020; vacancies remain below the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels and are 332,000 (40.5%) less than a year ago.
- The quarterly growth in vacancies is being driven by businesses with fewer than 50 employees, with an estimated increase of 55,000 vacancies for businesses with one to nine employees and 43,000 for businesses with 10 to 49 employees.
- Larger businesses with more than 2,500 employees had an estimated quarterly increase of 4,000 vacancies, however this is 137,000 (47.1%) fewer vacancies than a year ago; smaller businesses with one to nine employees have seen a stronger recovery with only 20,000 (16.6%) fewer vacancies than a year ago.
- The "arts, entertainment and recreation" sector has struggled the most during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic with estimated vacancies 78.2% lower in the latest quarter compared with January to March 2020; this was mainly driven by a large quarterly fall of 90.7% in vacancies from January to March 2020 to April to June 2020 and a small recovery in July to September 2020.
- Whilst "construction" was one of the sectors to see a large quarterly fall in vacancies at the start of the pandemic in April to June 2020 (71.7%), it has recovered well in the latest quarter, with estimated vacancies 18.2% lower than January to March 2020.
- In July to September 2020, the "public admin and defence; compulsory social security" sector is closest to its vacancy levels in January to March 2020, with an estimated 11.4% fewer vacancies; this is mainly as a result of the sector seeing one of the lowest falls (26.8%) in vacancies between January to March 2020 and April to June 2020.
- The estimated number of jobs had been generally increasing since 2013, but fell by 354,000 to 35.41 million jobs in the UK from March to June 2020; this was the largest fall since September 1992.
- Annual growth in employee pay strengthened in August 2020 as employees continued to return to work from furlough; this followed strong falls in months since April when growth was affected by lower pay for furloughed employees, and reduced bonuses.
- Growth in average total pay (including bonuses) among employees for the three months June to August 2020 was unchanged from a year ago, while regular pay (excluding bonuses) growth was positive at 0.8%.
- Single-month growth in average weekly earnings for August 2020 was 1.9% for total pay and 1.7% for regular pay.
- For the sectors of wholesaling, retailing, hotels and restaurants, and construction, where the highest percentages of employees returned to work from furlough, there was improvement in pay growth for August 2020, but growth remains negative.
- Pay growth is affected in part by the composition of the workforce; it is estimated that a net reduction in jobs in lower-paid industries accounted for 0.1% of the 1.9% total pay growth and 0.2% of the 1.7% regular pay growth in August 2020.
- In real terms, total pay growth for June to August 2020 was negative 0.8% (that is, nominal total pay grew more slowly than inflation); regular pay growth was positive at 0.1%.

3. STANDARD CLAIMANT COUNT (released monthly) – count taken 10th Sep 2020

Important note: The phased nature of the UC rollout means that standard claimant count trends over time and between areas can be misleading as a broader span of people are required to seek work than under JSA. In addition, an easing of UC claimant conditions in response to COVID-19 means that more people have been able to apply for UC than previously and in some (not all) cases, those who have been furloughed or are self-employed have been included in the “searching for work” category and are therefore also included in the claimant count. It is not possible to identify the extent of this.

Figure 1 shows the change in claimants from last month and from a year ago. This shows that there was a fall of 260 claimants in Cumbria in Sep from Aug, to a total of 13,560. This is a monthly fall of 1.9% compared to a rise of 0.8% nationally. The count fell everywhere in Cumbria except Barrow where it rose by 40, with the biggest falls in tourism areas such as South Lakeland and Eden, including those parts in the LDNP area. The claimant rate in Sep in Cumbria was 4.6% which is below the national rate of 6.5%. It is down 0.1 from Aug but 2.4ppt higher than a year ago.

Figure 1: Standard Claimant Count – Sep 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
UK	1,614,855	7.8	1,094,355	5.2	2,709,210	6.5	21,100	0.8	0.1	1,544,470	132.6	3.7
Cumbria	8,130	5.5	5,430	3.6	13,560	4.6	-260	-1.9	-0.1	7,100	109.9	2.4
Allerdale	1,610	5.6	1,130	3.9	2,740	4.8	-35	-1.3	-0.1	1,220	80.4	2.1
Barrow	1,365	6.7	790	3.9	2,150	5.3	40	1.9	0.1	945	78.0	2.3
Carlisle	2,095	6.5	1,355	4.1	3,450	5.3	-50	-1.4	-0.1	1,865	117.9	2.8
Copeland	1,205	5.9	770	3.7	1,975	4.8	-15	-0.7	0.0	765	63.5	1.9
Eden	650	4.2	495	3.2	1,145	3.7	-55	-4.7	-0.2	730	176.1	2.4
South Lakeland	1,205	4.1	890	3.0	2,095	3.5	-140	-6.3	-0.2	1,570	299.2	2.6
of which LDNPA	520	4.4	370	3.2	890	3.8	-80	-8.4	-0.3	740	488.7	3.1

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

Note: LDNPA is a “best-fit” comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP. LDNPA data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 2 shows the change in claimants from March which is treated as the baseline pre-COVID-19 position. This shows that there were 6,630 more claimants in Sep than in March, an increase of 96% compared to a national rise of 114%. However, the increase was significantly above the national average in South Lakeland at 216% and Eden at 144%, and also for residents in the Lake District National Park where the number of claimants is 308% higher than March (albeit from a low starting base).

Figure 2: Standard Claimant Count - Pre-lockdown in Mar to Sep 2020

	Male		Female		All Persons		March-Sep Change		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	All persons		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	% Chg	Rate Chg
UK	1,614,855	7.8	1,094,355	5.2	2,709,210	6.5	1,440,590	113.6	3.5
Cumbria	8,130	5.5	5,430	3.6	13,560	4.6	6,630	95.6	2.2
Allerdale	1,610	5.6	1,130	3.9	2,740	4.8	1,150	72.1	2.0
Barrow	1,365	6.7	790	3.9	2,150	5.3	910	73.4	2.2
Carlisle	2,095	6.5	1,355	4.1	3,450	5.3	1,720	99.6	2.6
Copeland	1,205	5.9	770	3.7	1,975	4.8	735	59.5	1.8
Eden	650	4.2	495	3.2	1,145	3.7	675	144.3	2.2
South Lakeland	1,205	4.1	890	3.0	2,095	3.5	1,435	216.1	2.4
of which LDNPA	520	4.4	370	3.2	890	3.8	670	307.8	2.8

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

Note: LDNPA is a “best-fit” comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP. LDNPA data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 3 shows the claimant count and rate by broad age group in Cumbria in Sep. Claimant rates at Cumbria level are below the national average for all age groups except for 16-24 year olds in Barrow where the rate continues to be above the national average.

Figure 3: Standard Claimant Count & Rate by Age Group in Cumbria – Sep 2020

Claimant Count and Rate by Age - Sep 2020												
	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-34		Aged 35-44		Aged 45-54		Aged 55+		Total	
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
UK	536,370	7.5%	738,440	8.2%	566,475	6.8%	476,265	5.2%	391,050	4.9%	2,709,210	6.5%
Cumbria	2,735	6.2%	3,675	7.0%	2,590	4.9%	2,415	3.3%	2,145	3.0%	13,560	4.6%
Allerdale	555	6.4%	730	7.2%	520	5.1%	470	3.2%	455	3.3%	2,740	4.7%
Barrow	545	8.2%	590	7.3%	400	5.6%	335	3.3%	285	3.2%	2,150	5.3%
Carlisle	695	6.8%	995	7.9%	690	5.5%	590	3.8%	475	3.2%	3,450	5.2%
Copeland	390	6.5%	550	7.1%	360	4.9%	345	3.4%	330	3.2%	1,975	4.8%
Eden	205	4.9%	285	5.8%	220	4.2%	230	2.8%	210	2.5%	1,145	3.7%
South Lakeland	345	3.9%	525	5.8%	400	3.8%	440	2.9%	385	2.4%	2,095	3.5%
of which LDNPA	115	3.5%	205	6.0%	195	4.9%	185	3.0%	185	2.8%	890	3.8%

Source: ONS (data are rounded). LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.

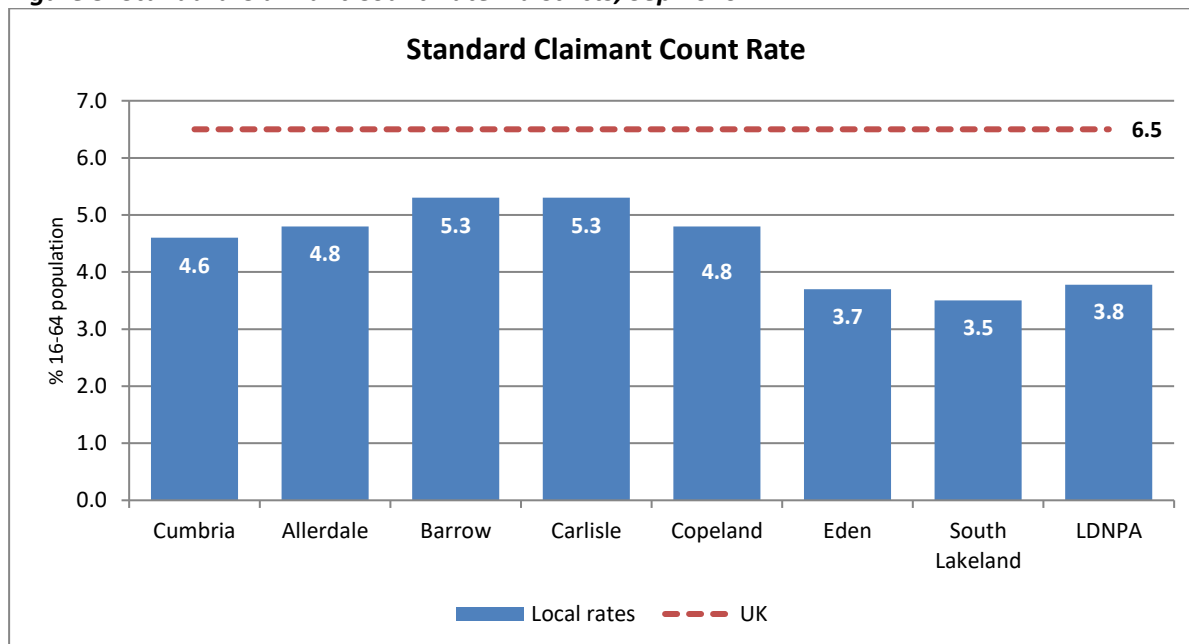
Figure 4 shows the claimant rates by age in March (before lockdown) and in Sep.

Figure 4: Standard Claimant Count Rate – March-Sep 2020

Claimant Rate by Age - March v Sep 2020												
	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-34		Aged 35-44		Aged 45-54		Aged 55+		Total	
	March	Sep	March	Sep	March	Sep	March	Sep	March	Sep	March	Sep
UK	3.4%	7.5%	3.7%	8.2%	3.2%	6.8%	2.5%	5.2%	2.5%	4.9%	3.0%	6.5%
Cumbria	3.1%	6.2%	3.7%	7.0%	2.5%	4.9%	1.6%	3.3%	1.5%	3.0%	2.3%	4.6%
Allerdale	3.7%	6.4%	4.3%	7.2%	3.0%	5.1%	1.9%	3.2%	1.8%	3.3%	2.8%	4.7%
Barrow	4.7%	8.2%	4.1%	7.3%	3.2%	5.6%	2.0%	3.3%	1.9%	3.2%	3.0%	5.3%
Carlisle	3.2%	6.8%	4.3%	7.9%	2.7%	5.5%	1.7%	3.8%	1.7%	3.2%	2.6%	5.2%
Copeland	3.9%	6.5%	4.4%	7.1%	3.3%	4.9%	2.0%	3.4%	2.2%	3.2%	3.0%	4.8%
Eden	1.6%	4.9%	2.2%	5.8%	1.9%	4.2%	1.2%	2.8%	1.1%	2.5%	1.5%	3.7%
South Lakeland	1.2%	3.9%	2.1%	5.8%	1.2%	3.8%	0.8%	2.9%	0.7%	2.4%	1.1%	3.5%
of which LDNPA	0.8%	3.5%	1.5%	6.0%	1.5%	4.9%	0.6%	3.0%	0.6%	2.8%	0.9%	3.8%

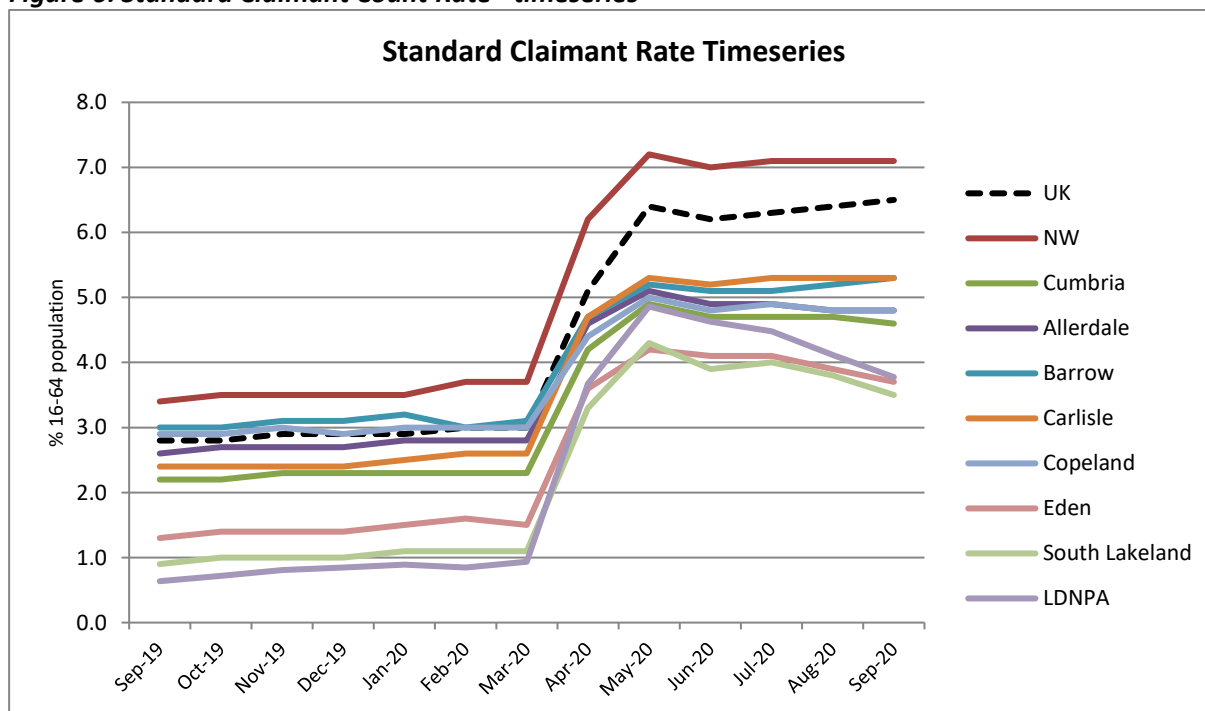
Source: ONS. LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 5: Standard Claimant Count Rate – districts, Sep 2020



Source: ONS/DWP

Figure 6: Standard Claimant Count Rate - timeseries



Source: ONS/DWP

4. UNIVERSAL CREDIT (released monthly) – count taken 10th Sep 2020

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. **Note: due to the phased rollout, care should be taken when comparing areas or change over time.**

4a. Individuals on Universal Credit

On 10th Sep 2020 there were 34,752 people on Universal Credit in Cumbria (both in work and out of work). This is a rise of 450 from Aug (+1%) and 14,982 more than pre-lockdown in March (+76%). The highest percentage increases since March have been in South Lakeland (155%), Eden (128%) and for those living within the Lake District National Park (+196%).

Figure 7: Universal Credit Claimants – Sep 2020 and change from March 2020

	Male		Female		All Persons		Monthly Change (all persons)			Change from March (all persons)		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	% chg	Rate chg	No	% chg	Rate chg
Great Britain	2,762,048	7.4	2,918,890	13.8	5,680,939	14.0	116,404	2.1%	0.3	2,670,704	88.7%	6.6
Cumbria	16,461	6.7	18,288	11.6	34,752	11.7	450	1.3%	0.2	14,982	75.7%	5.1
Allerdale	3598	9.0	4307	13.5	7,900	13.7	103	1.3%	0.2	2,717	52.4%	4.7
Barrow	2446	7.2	2592	12.0	5,033	12.3	106	2.1%	0.3	2,094	71.2%	5.1
Carlisle	4040	7.0	4336	12.5	8,376	12.7	150	1.8%	0.2	3,768	81.8%	5.7
Copeland	2477	8.9	2754	12.4	5,232	12.6	92	1.8%	0.2	1,535	41.5%	3.7
Eden	1316	4.0	1515	9.2	2,828	9.2	-5	-0.2%	0.0	1,588	128.1%	5.2
South Lakeland	2591	3.5	2790	9.0	5,378	9.0	-9	-0.2%	0.0	3,271	155.2%	5.5
of which LDNPA	1220	3.5	1227	10.5	2,450	10.4	-36	-1.4%	-0.1	1,621	196.0%	6.9

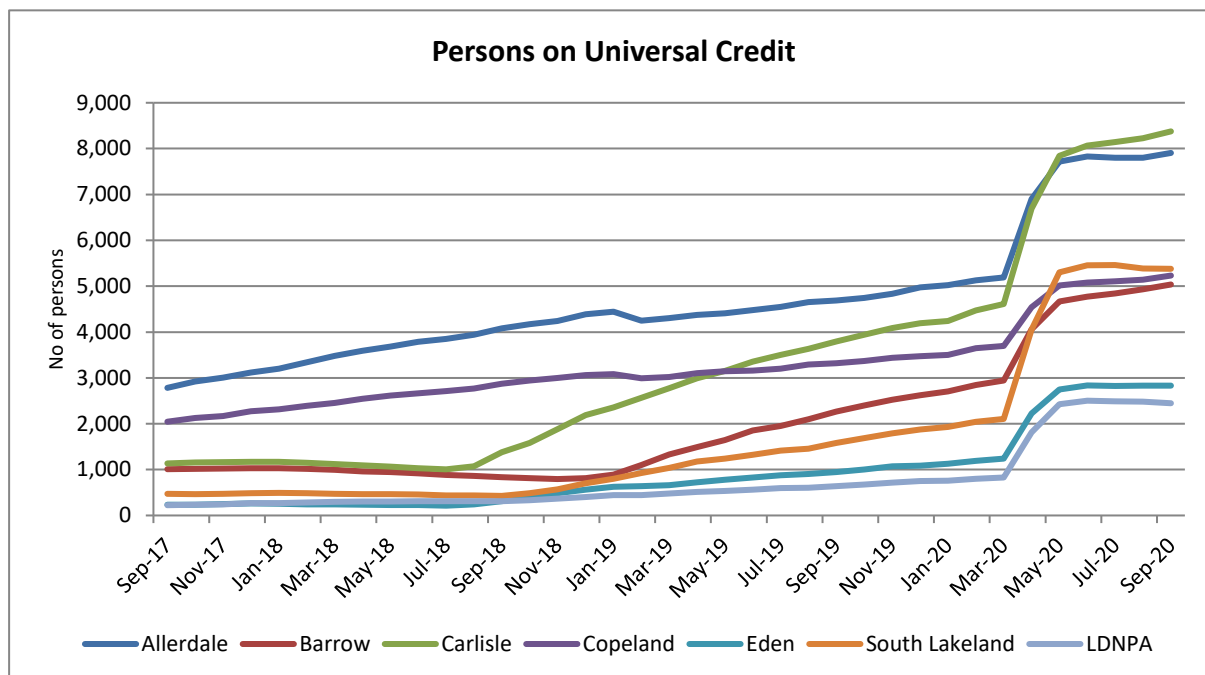
Source: DWP (due to disclosure control, totals may not sum): LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 8: Universal Credit Claimants by Age – Sep 2020

Universal Credit Claimant Count and Rate by Age - Sep 2020												
	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-34		Aged 35-44		Aged 45-54		Aged 55+		Total	
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
UK	961,186	13.9%	1,740,014	19.9%	1,323,306	16.3%	962,512	10.8%	695,105	9.0%	5,682,120	14.0%
Cumbria	5,996	13.5%	10,752	20.5%	7,669	14.5%	5,892	8.0%	4,443	6.1%	34,760	11.7%
Allerdale	1,293	15.0%	2,325	22.9%	1,751	17.2%	1,432	9.7%	1,096	7.8%	7,906	13.7%
Barrow	1,115	16.8%	1,654	20.5%	995	13.9%	737	7.3%	528	5.9%	5,037	12.3%
Carlisle	1,479	14.5%	2,785	22.2%	1,882	15.0%	1,315	8.5%	915	6.1%	8,379	12.7%
Copeland	884	14.8%	1,596	20.5%	1,107	15.0%	870	8.5%	778	7.6%	5,232	12.6%
Eden	448	10.8%	842	17.0%	627	12.0%	527	6.5%	383	4.6%	2,828	9.2%
South Lakeland	767	8.7%	1,553	17.3%	1,319	12.6%	1,014	6.6%	739	4.6%	5,379	9.0%
of which LDNPA	297	9.2%	687	20.3%	610	15.1%	466	7.7%	392	5.8%	2,448	10.4%

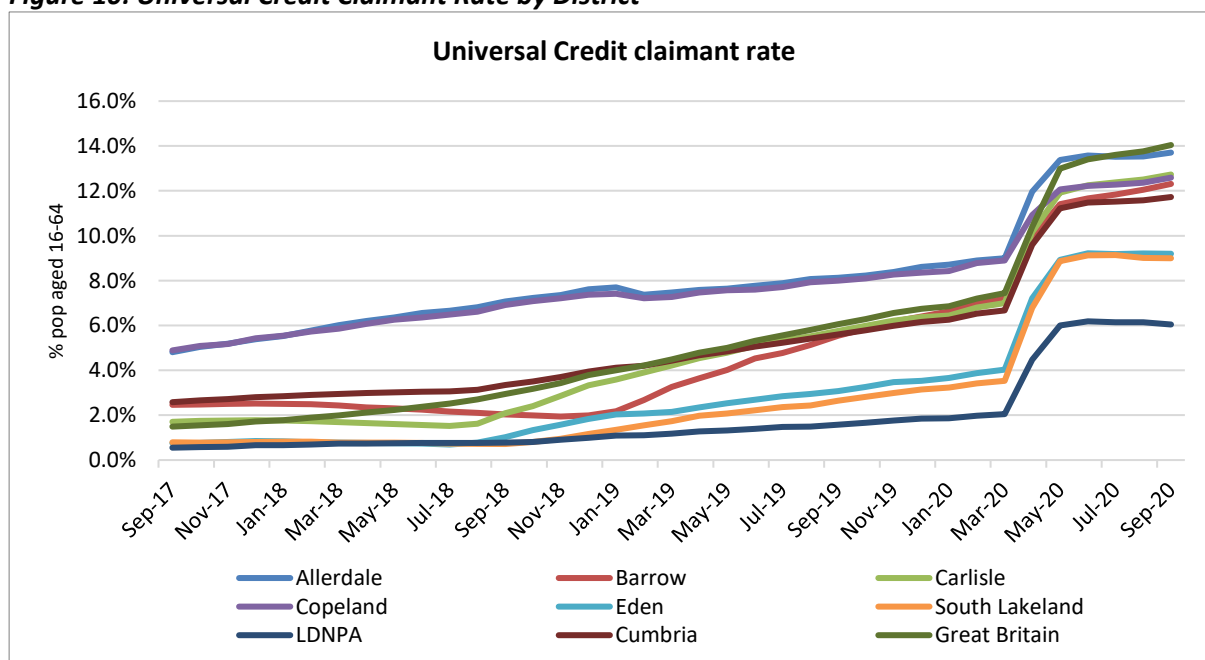
Source: DWP (due to disclosure control, totals may not sum): LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 9: Universal Credit Claimants by District



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

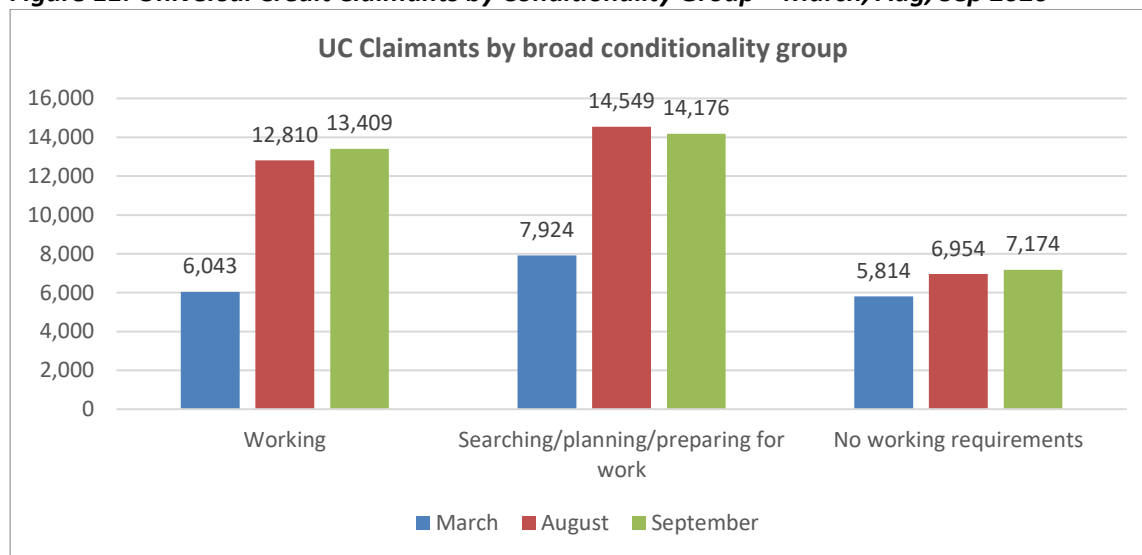
Figure 10: Universal Credit Claimant Rate by District



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. Overall in Cumbria, the majority of claimants are in either the working conditionality group or the searching/planning/preparing for work categories – these two groups have seen 122% and 79% increases respectively in the number of claimants compared to a rise of 23% in those with no work requirements.

Figure 11: Universal Credit Claimants by Conditionality Group – March, Aug, Sep 2020



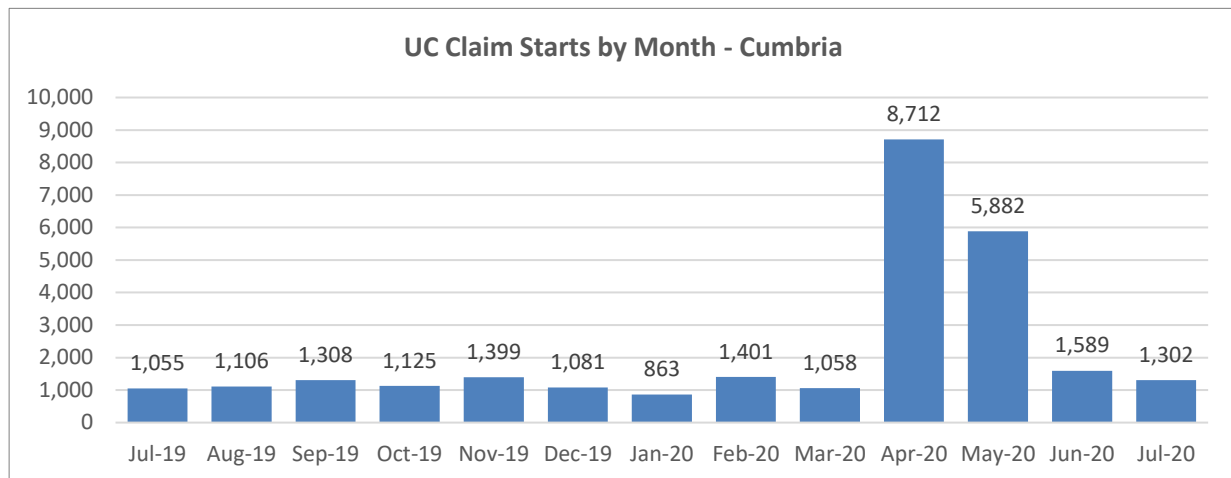
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note: Conditionality is based on an individual's circumstances on the count date (2nd Thursday)

4b. Starts to Universal Credit (next data release November)

The data presented so far relate to the stock of Universal Credit claimants at a point in time (ie the total number of people claiming at the time of the count, irrespective of how long they have been claiming). The following data relate just to those who started claims in the period. Geographic analysis is based on the JCP offices to which the original claim was made.

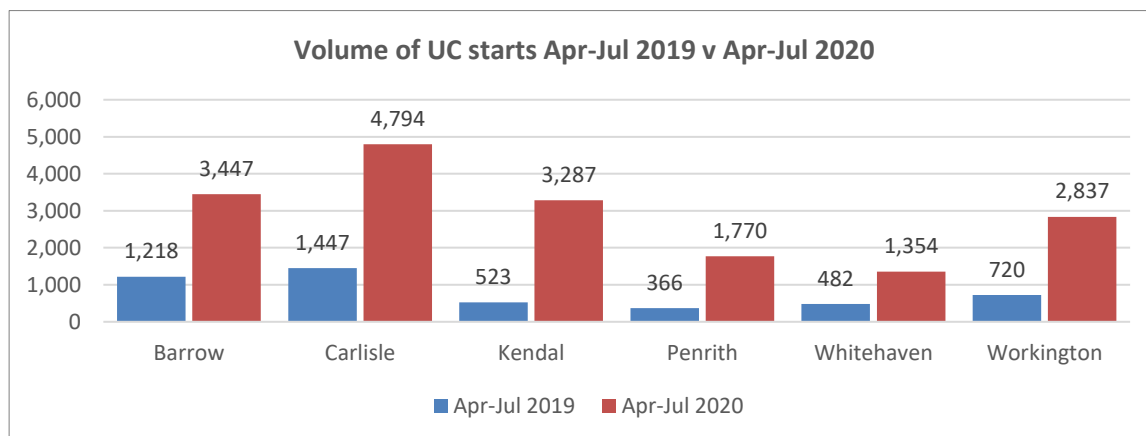
These data show that the number of UC claim starts rose significantly in April with 8,712 new claims started followed by 5,882 in May before dropping down again to more usual levels in June and further in July. The Carlisle JCP office saw the highest volume of additional starts but the highest proportionate increases were in starts arising from claims made to the Kendal and Penrith offices where starts for Apr-July were 5 times and 4 times higher than the same period in 2019 respectively. Note: some of the increase in starts will be due to the rollout of UC and not to labour market conditions.

Figure 12: Monthly Starts to Universal Credit – July 2019-July 2020



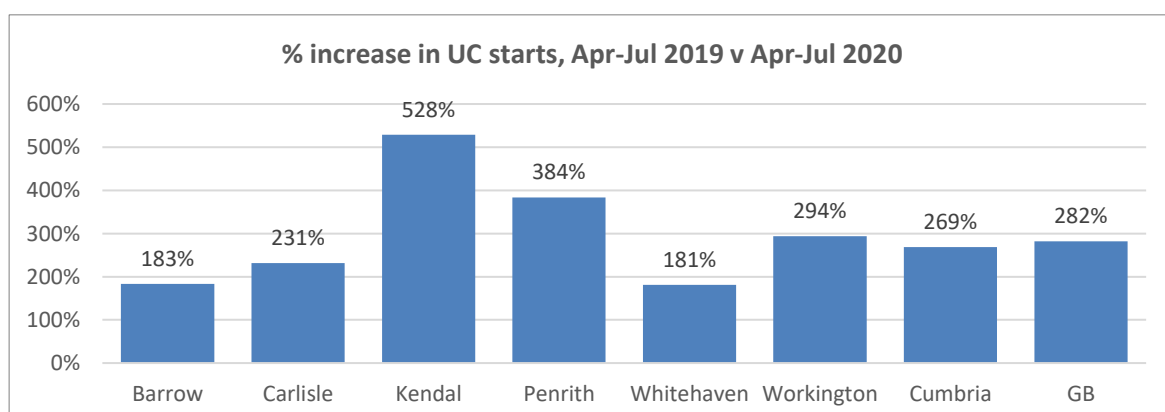
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Figure 13: Starts to Universal Credit by JCP Office – Apr-July 2019 v Apr-July 2020



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

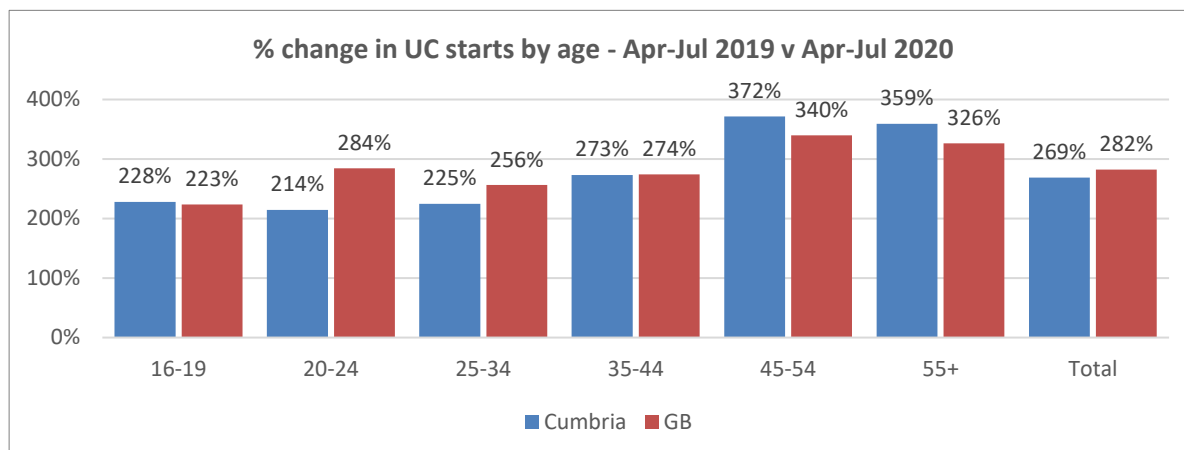
Figure 14: % Change in UC Starts by JCP Office – Apr-July 2019 v Apr-July 2020



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

There has been much interest in which age groups are being impacted the most by the pandemic and it's a mixed picture in Cumbria. The % increase in claim starts for Apr-Jul 2020 compared to the same 4 months in 2019 was lower in younger age groups in Cumbria than nationally, except those aged 16-19 where it was slightly higher. It was similar for those aged 35-44 but was higher for those aged 45+.

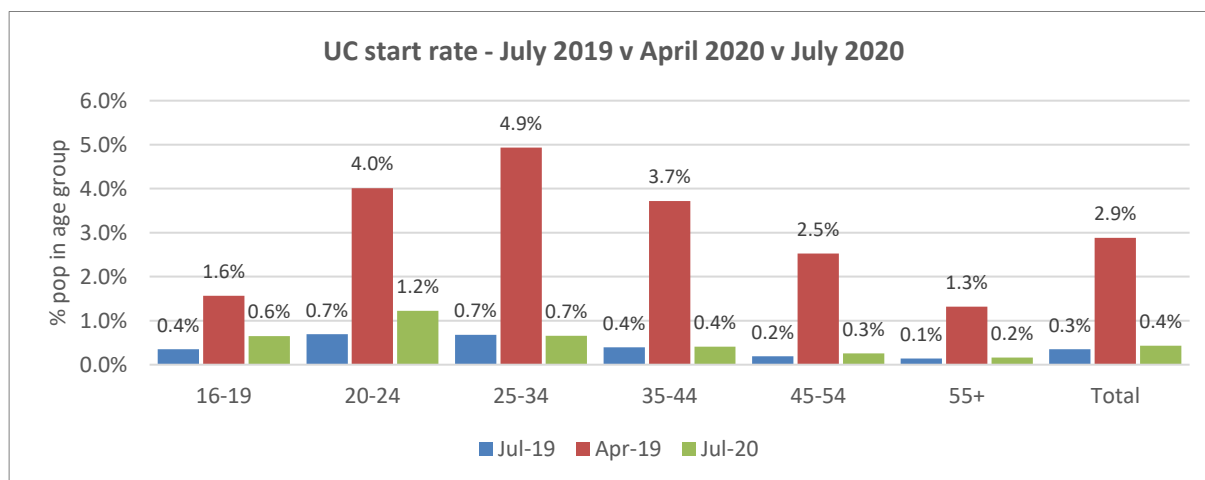
Figure 15: Change in UC Starts by Age Group



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore.

However, the % increases in volumes are from low bases for some age groups and so it is perhaps more meaningful to look at the rate of new claims by age group and how these rates have changed. This shows that in July 2019, 0.3% of the working age population in Cumbria started a UC claim, in April this rose to 2.9% before falling back to 0.4% in July 2020. The claim start rate increased the most in April for those aged over 25 but whilst it has returned to 2019 levels in these age groups, it has not yet done so for younger people, particularly those aged 20-24.

Figure 16: Change in UC Start Rate by Age Group – Apr-Jul 2019 v Apr-Jul 2020



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore. Rate is % resident population in age group

Figure 17: Starts on UC by Age Group

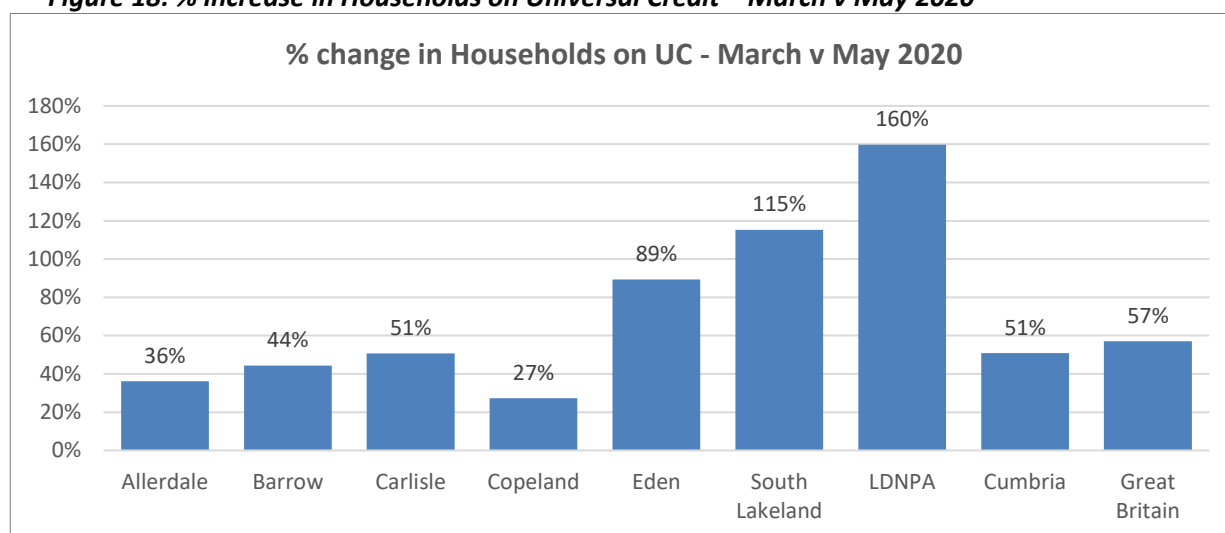
	July 2019		April 2020		July 2020	
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	%
16-19	69	0.4%	307	1.6%	127	0.6%
20-24	164	0.7%	953	4.0%	290	1.2%
25-34	357	0.7%	2607	4.9%	346	0.7%
35-44	207	0.4%	1952	3.7%	217	0.4%
45-54	140	0.2%	1828	2.5%	188	0.3%
55+	114	0.1%	1071	1.3%	131	0.2%
Total	1055	0.3%	8712	2.9%	1302	0.4%

Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore. Rate is % resident population in age group

4c. Households on Universal Credit (next data release November)

Data for **households** on Universal Credit are only released quarterly which puts them out of line with the data for individuals – the most recent household data are for May. In May 2020 there were 26,786 households on Universal Credit in Cumbria, a rise of 9,028 from pre-lockdown in March (+51% v 57% nationally). The number of households on Universal Credit has increased particularly sharply in the LDNPA (160%), South Lakeland (115%) and Eden (89%).

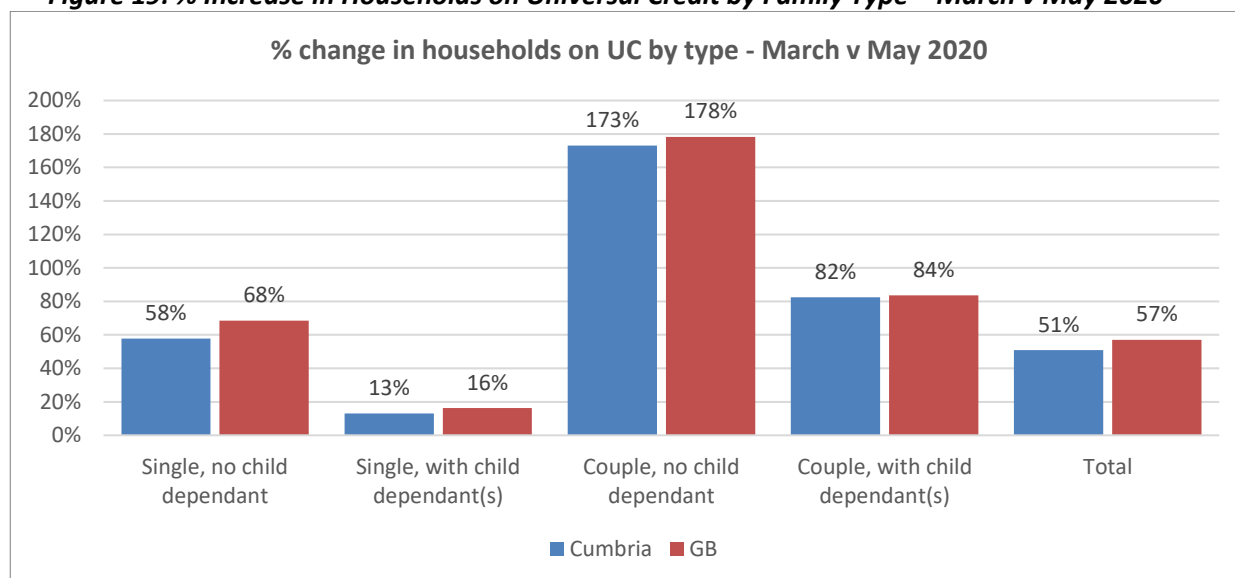
Figure 18: % increase in Households on Universal Credit – March v May 2020



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP. LDNPA claimants are also included in the relevant district

Whilst the overall number of households on UC increased by 51% in Cumbria between March and May, this varied by household type. The number of households comprising couples with no dependent children rose by 173% and households comprising couples with child dependents rose by 82%. In contrast the number of single households with child dependents increased by just 13%

Figure 19: % Increase in Households on Universal Credit by Family Type – March v May 2020



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

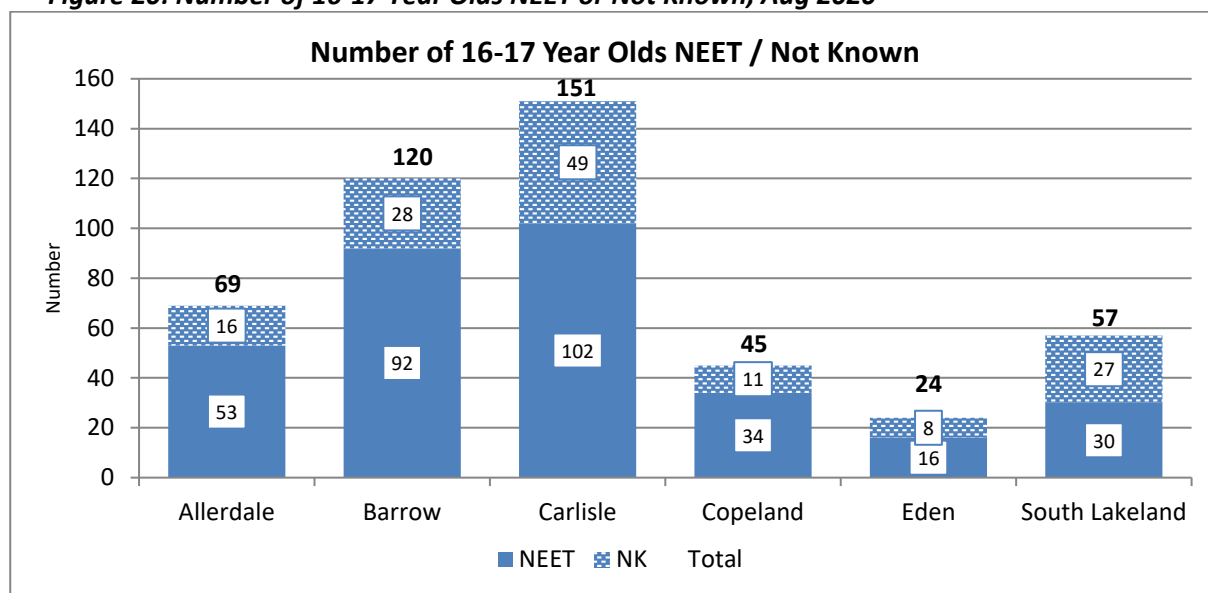
5. NEETs & Participation (released monthly)

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.

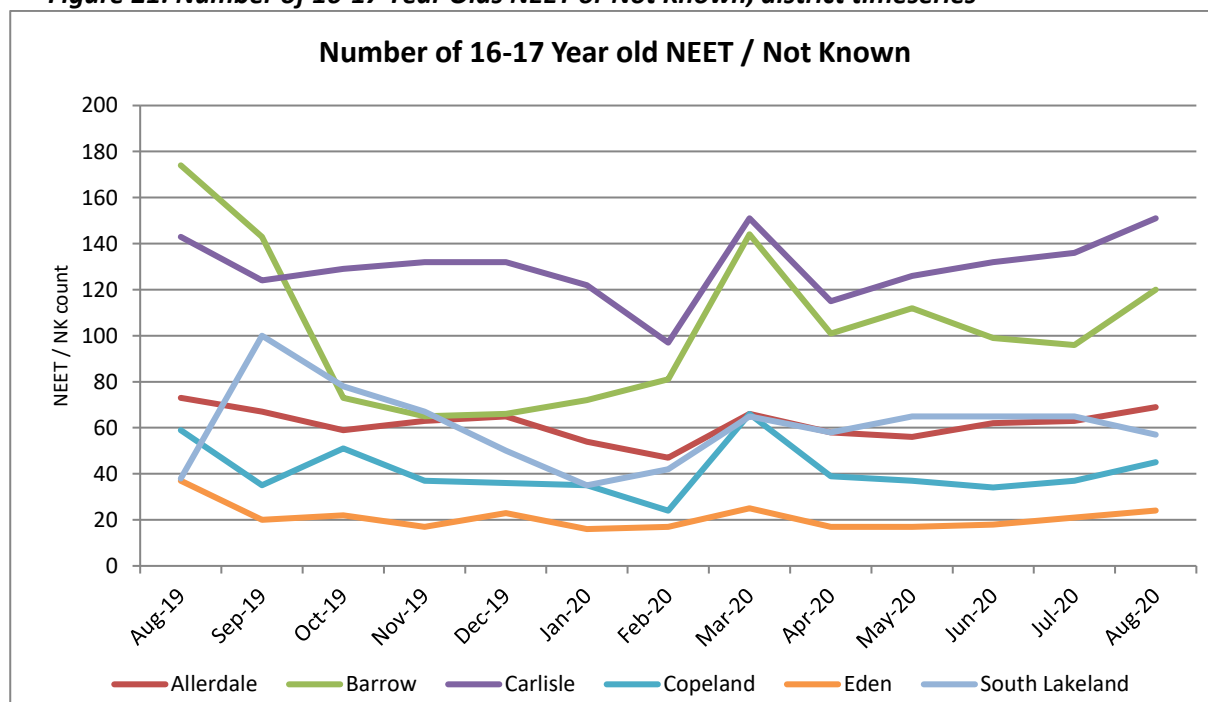
In August, 496 16-17 year olds were classed as NEET in Cumbria (304 NEET and 192 whose status was Not Known), up by 23 from July but 94 lower than a year ago. The highest number of NEET/NKs was in Carlisle (151) followed by Barrow (120). NB: There is a great deal of monthly variation relating to academic year activity and therefore care should be taken when viewing monthly data.

Figure 20: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Aug 2020



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

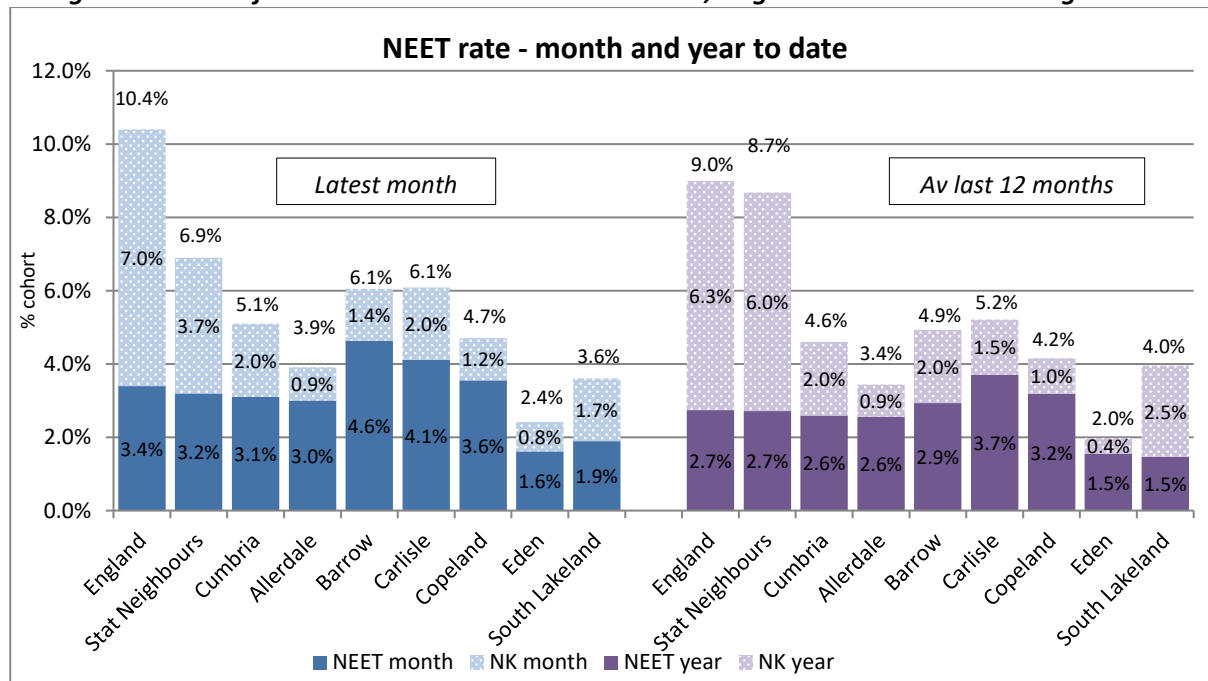
Figure 21: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, district timeseries



Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

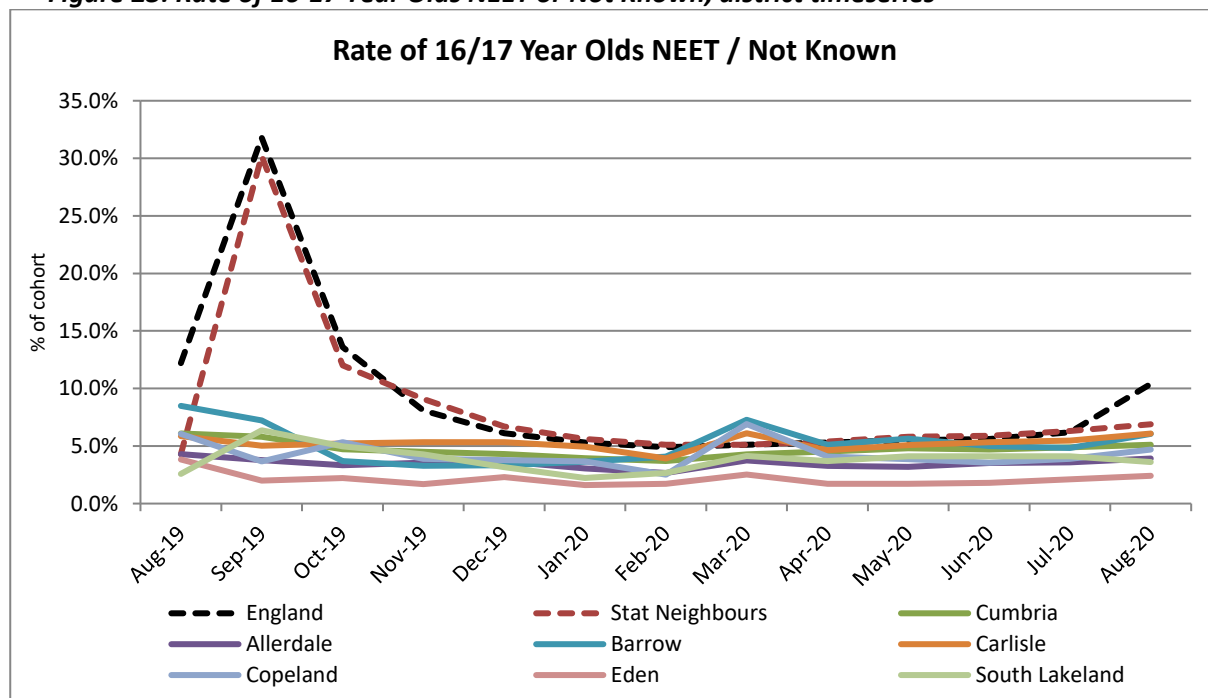
The county NEET/NK rate (% of cohort) was 5.1% in Aug 2020 compared to an England rate of 10.4% and an average rate of 6.9% for Cumbria's 10 statistical neighbours. The highest local rates were in Barrow and Carlisle (both 6.1%). The NEET rate in Cumbria was down up 0.2 from July but down 1.0 from the same month last year. The average rate for the last 12 months in Cumbria was 4.6% compared to 9.0% nationally and 8.7% for statistical neighbours. Barrow and Carlisle had the highest average annual rates locally at 5.2% and 4.9% respectively.

Figure 22: Rate of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Aug 2020 & 12 month average



Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

Figure 23: Rate of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, district timeseries



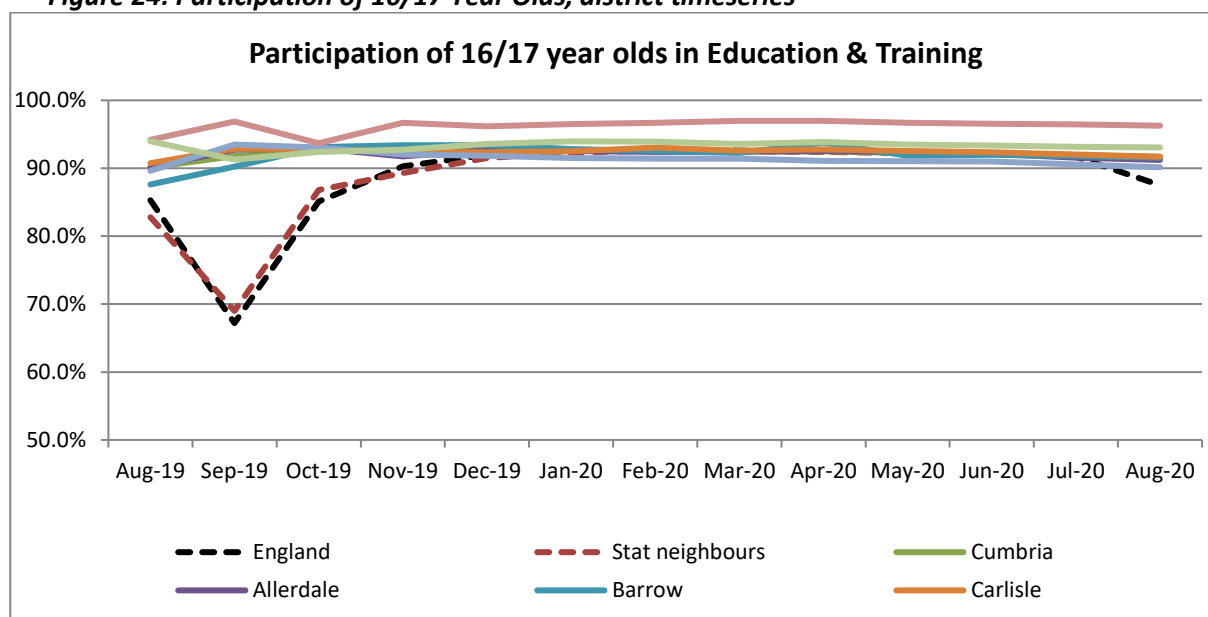
Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

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.

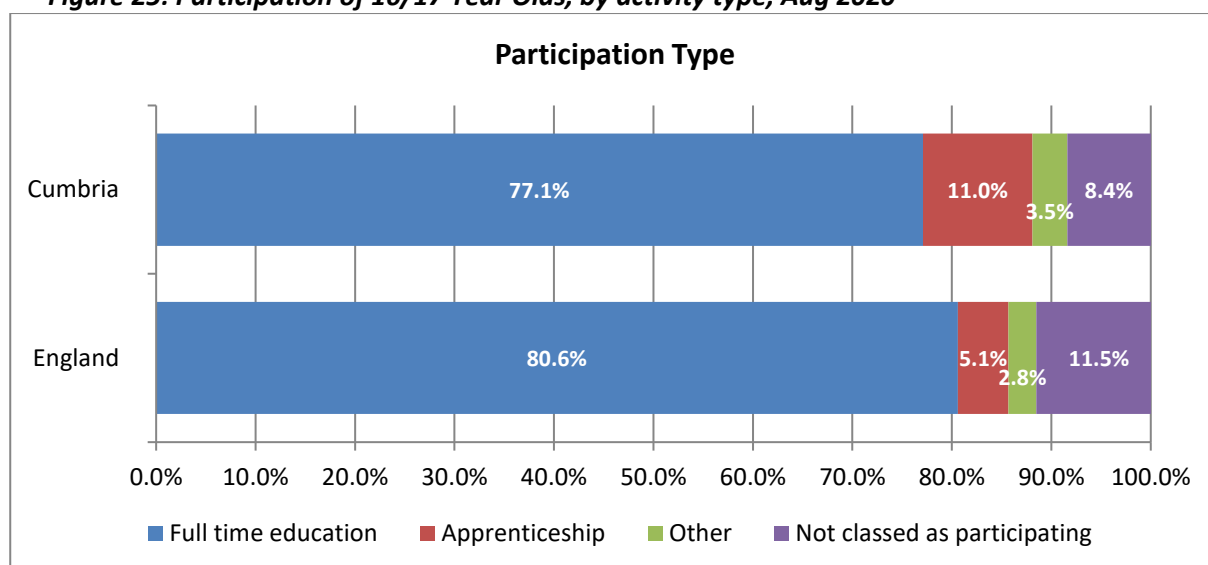
In Aug 2020, 91.7% of young people in Cumbria were classed as meeting the participation requirement, the majority through full time education or training (78.1%) or by undertaking an apprenticeship (11.0%). This compares to 87.5% nationally who were deemed to be participating. Average data for the past 12 months shows Cumbria performing above the national average – 92.4% v 89.1%.

Figure 24: Participation of 16/17 Year Olds, district timeseries



Source: NCCIS

Figure 25: Participation of 16/17 Year Olds, by activity type, Aug 2020



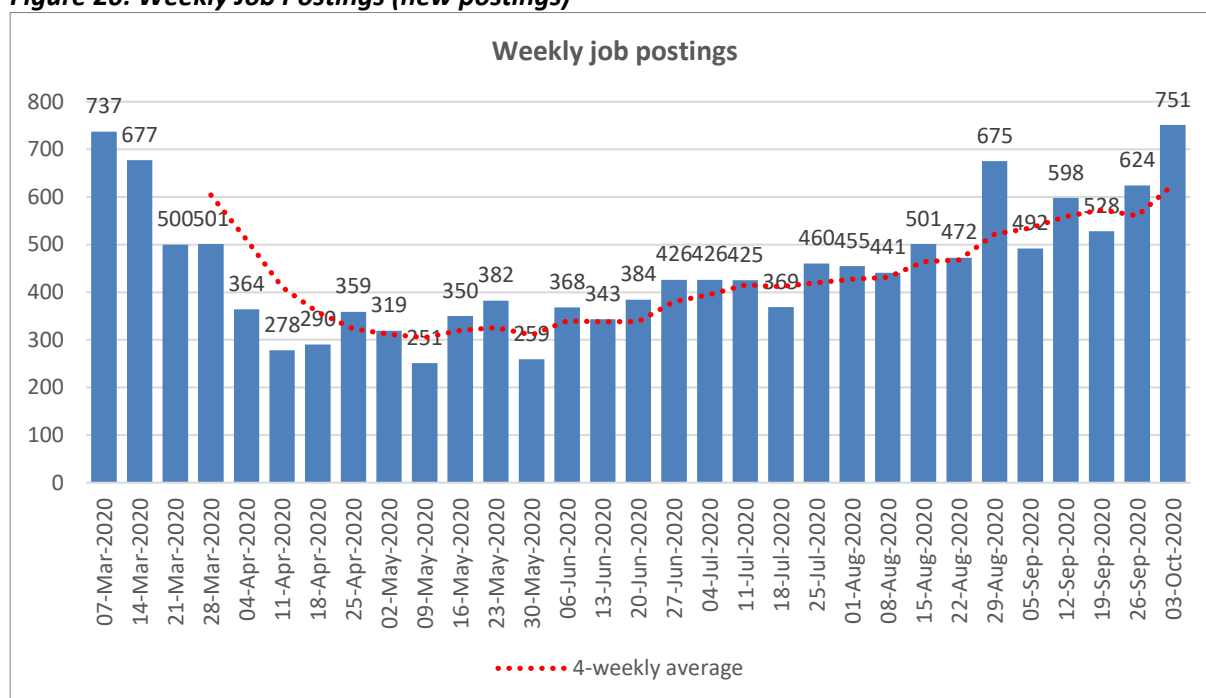
Source: NCCIS (district data not available)

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 Sep 2020 there were 2,571 new job postings in Cumbria which is 218 more than in Aug (+9%) continuing the trend of monthly increases since April. However, the level remains below that seen in Feb (-10%) which was the last complete month before the COVID-19 “lockdown” commenced. The weekly trend in job postings since lockdown began in March is shown in the following chart. At the beginning of March there 737 postings and there are signs that towards the end of September, weekly levels of new postings were back to pre-pandemic levels (note weekly data can be quite volatile).

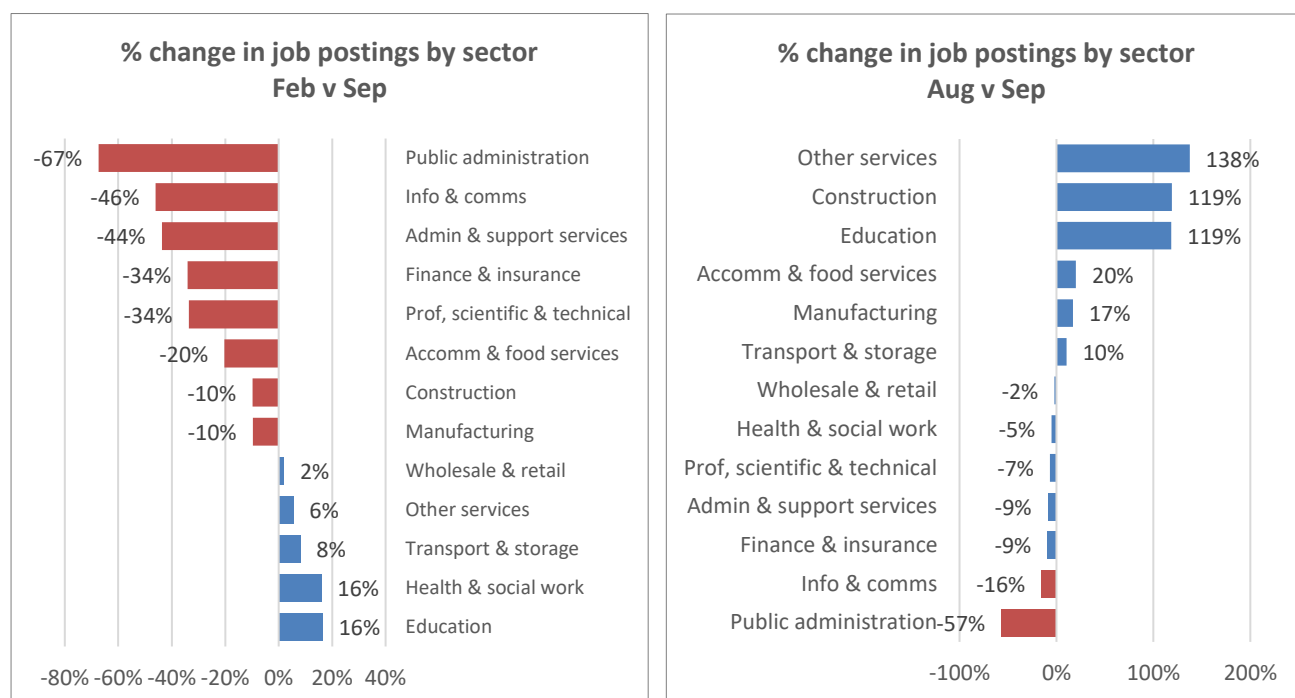
Figure 26: Weekly Job Postings (new postings)



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

The trends in postings can also be assessed by sector, although it should be noted that this data can be particularly volatile as many postings do not contain sufficient data for a sector to be identified. Compared to the pre-lockdown month of February, postings still remain lower in most sectors. However, new postings in wholesale & retail, other services and transport & storage are back to pre-pandemic levels, whilst those in health continue to be high and those in education are higher although this will partially be a seasonal effect.. In the most recent month, there was a particularly welcome increase in postings for the construction sector which had shown little activity since March. There was also a continued increase in new postings for the accommodation & food services sector, although remain below pre-pandemic levels.

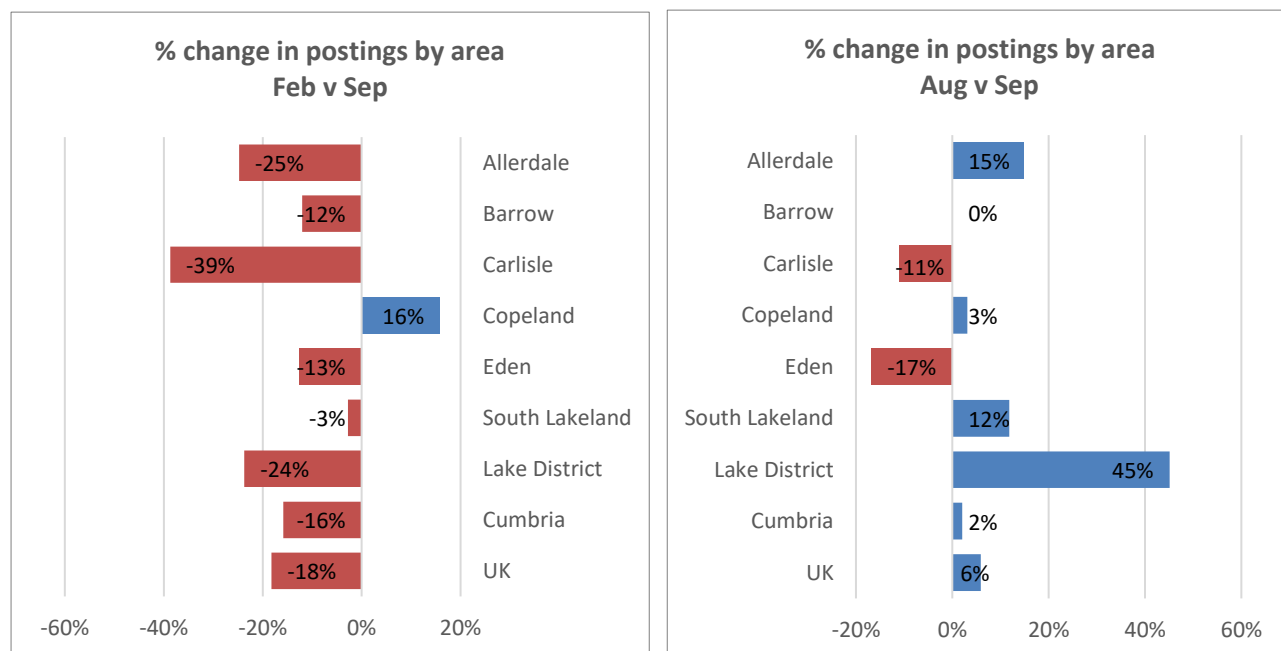
Figure 27: Change in Job Postings by Sector – Feb v Sep and Aug v Sep



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies) Note: Sectors with fewer than 25 postings in Feb not included.

There were some variations by location of job postings when Feb levels are compared to Sept levels. The number of postings is still significantly lower in most areas but has increased in Copeland. In the most recent month there increases in new postings in Allerdale, South Lakeland and particularly in Lake District towns (LDNP postings also included in relevant district).

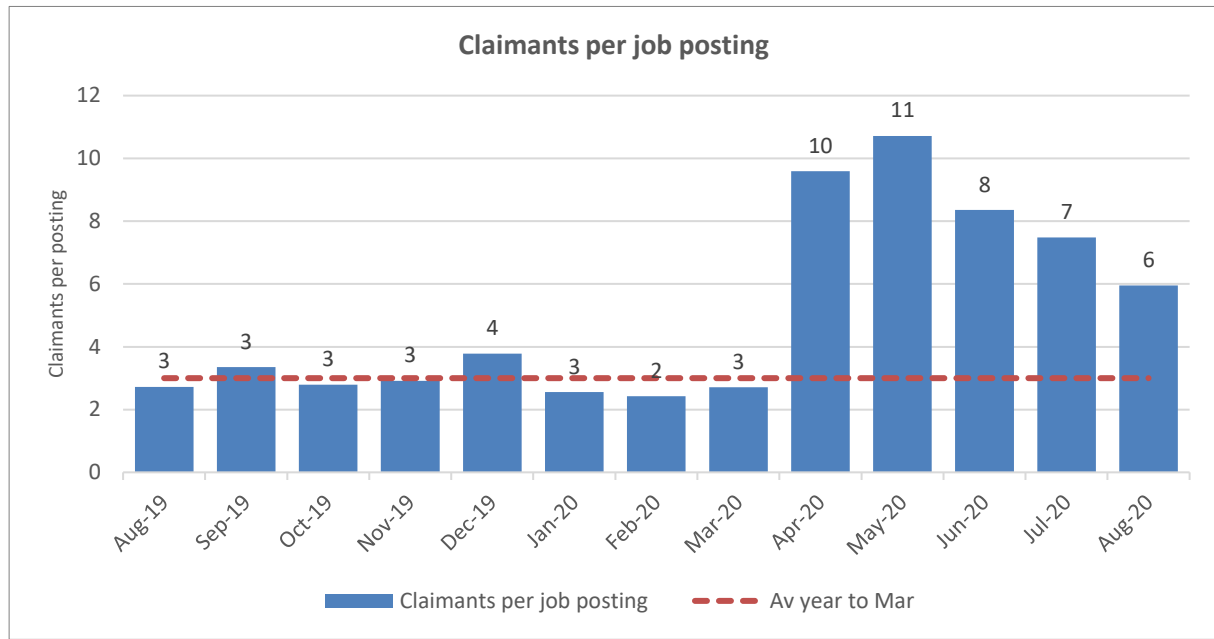
Figure 28: Change in Job Postings by Location – Feb v Sep and Aug v Sep



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies) Note: Lake District comprises postings mentioning the towns of Keswick, Windermere, Ambleside, Broughton in Furness or Coniston – these postings are also included in relevant district data..

As vacancy levels have fallen and claimant numbers have risen, there's been a corresponding shift in the ratio of claimants to vacancies – from an average of 3 claimants per posting in the 12 months to March, up to a level of 6 claimants per posting in Sep, demonstrating the challenges facing those seeking work in a stalled jobs market. However this has fallen from a peak of 11 claimants per posting in May.

Figure 29: Claimants per Job Posting



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies) / ONS Claimant Count

7. JOB RETENTION SCHEME & SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME SCHEME

7a. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

On 21st Aug HMRC released updated statistics on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) which provides support to employers who have been unable to undertake their normal activities through the COVID-19 period. There was no further local data in the last HMRC update. The next national update is due on 22nd Oct but we do not currently know when/if HMRC will release further local area data.

Important methodological notes:

An employer is defined as a Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Scheme. Some organisations operate multiple payrolls and in other situations, a group of companies may pool their payrolls together under one PAYE scheme. This means the employer count does not match other published data on the business base.

An employment is defined as anyone who meets the scheme criteria set out within the published guidance. If an employee has jobs with more than one employer and has also been furloughed by more than one employer, they will be counted in these statistics once for each employment that has been furloughed. The employment is assigned geographically to the residential address of the employee which may not be the location of the job. An employee furloughed from the same job for more than one claim period will only be counted as a single furloughed employment.

Data relate to the number of claims made by the end of July (the last date for claims for the period to 30th June and the last day before the introduction of flexible furloughing) and are for “employments” furloughed at least once since the start of the scheme. Data do not represent the number of furloughed people or jobs at any one point in time. In addition, HMRC do not currently publish data on the type of job or characteristics of the furloughed employee or employers below regional level.

Key national findings (these data are for claims to end Aug)

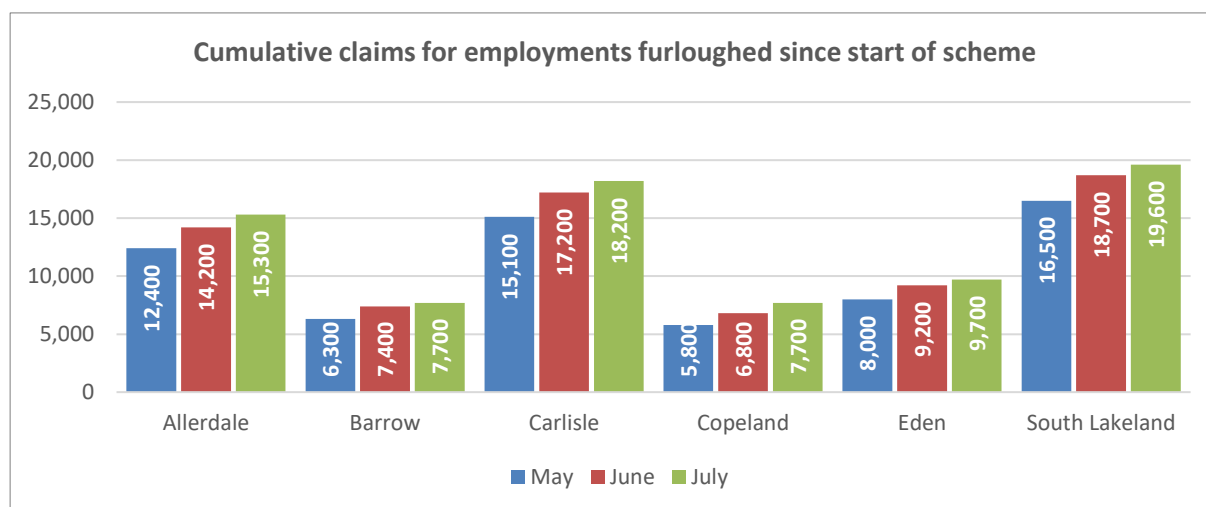
- following on from the last release which covered the period to 30 June, preliminary estimates show that furloughing of staff across all sectors continued to decrease up to 31 July
- since the peak of 8.9 million employments furloughed on 8 May, followed by reductions in June, preliminary figures show that the number of employments furloughed continued to fall throughout July to 4.8 million on 31 July - it is estimated that this figure could be in the region of 10% higher, or around 5.3 million once all returns are received and revisions made
- furloughing of staff in the wholesale and retail sector peaked on 24 April at 1.85 million employments - by 31 July, initial figures show 789,000 jobs furloughed in this sector – a decrease of more than a half since the peak for the sector
- across all employer sizes, the number of employments furloughed continued to decrease between 30 June and 31 July
- as at 31 July, the sector with the highest proportion of its workforce eligible for furloughed that were actually furloughed was arts, entertainment and recreation at 45% followed by accommodation and food services sector at 43% - in all, 58% of employers in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector were using the furlough scheme at the end of July and 57% of employers in accommodation and food services
- overall, where it was possible to link the CJRS data on individual furloughed employments to other data, for the UK as a whole, 2.26 million women were furloughed at the end of July compared with 2.15 million men
- preliminary estimates show there was broad consistency in furlough rates across the nations and regions of the UK at the end of July - London had the highest take-up rate of 17% against the UK average of 16%
- in most countries and regions more women than men were furloughed at 31 July, the greatest exception to this being the West Midlands where 187,000 women were furloughed and 197,000 men

- almost 200,000 employers were using flexible furlough at the end of July for at least one job - in total over 950,000 employments were on flexible furlough at the end of July – about 20% of all furloughed employments
- at 29%, the accommodation and food services sector had the highest proportion of employments furloughed flexibly
- based on the preliminary data for 31 July, the South West has the highest proportion of employments on flexible furlough at 25% and London has the highest proportion of employments furloughed on a full-time basis at 82%

Key Cumbria findings (these data are for claims made to end July)

- In claims made up to 31st July 2020, 78,200 eligible employments held by Cumbrian residents had been furloughed at least once since the start of the CJRS scheme. This is an increase of 4,800 claims since the end of June, a rise of 6.5% compared to 2.4% nationally.
- The highest number of claims was for employees resident in South Lakeland (19,600) and the lowest in Barrow and Copeland (both 7,700).
- Copeland saw the highest % increase in the number of furloughs claimed for since June - a rise of 13% which is also the highest increase of any district nationally. However, this was from a low base and despite the increase, the furlough rate in Copeland remains significantly below the national average.
- South Lakeland and Eden have the highest furlough rates of 377 local authorities in the UK at 42% and 41% respectively.

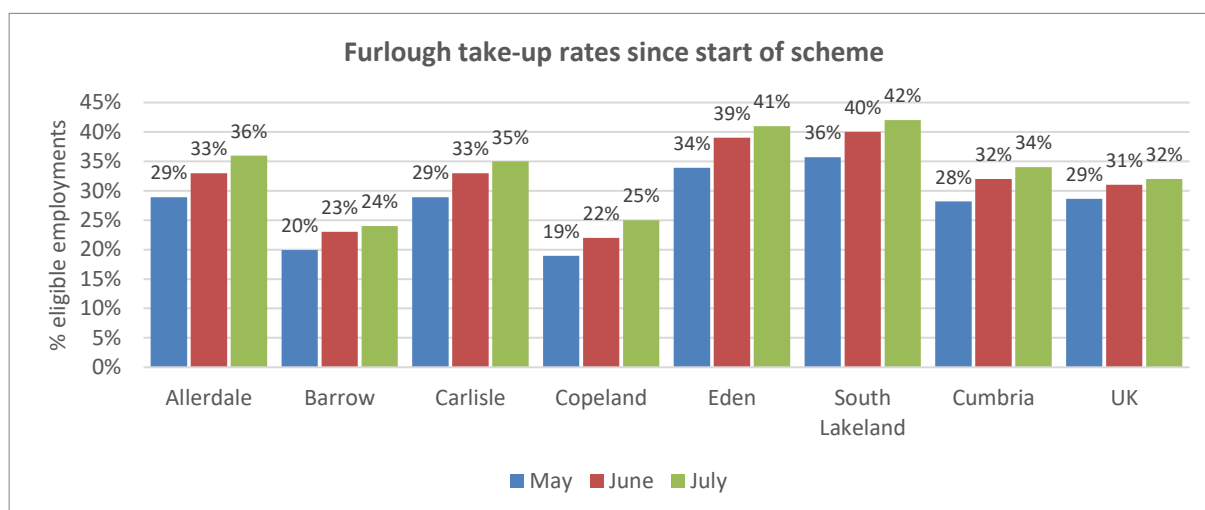
Figure 30: Claims made for Employments Furloughed at Least Once



Source: HMRC NB: data relate to claims made by the end of the month for employments furloughed at least once since the start of the scheme and are measured at place of employee residence

The “take-up rate” is based on an estimate of the number of eligible employments in each area. This shows that Cumbria’s overall take-up rate is slightly above the UK at 34% (UK 32%). However, there is wide variation within the county – South Lakeland has a take-up rate of 42% and Eden 41% which are the two highest rates in the UK. At the other end of the scale, Copeland has a rate of 25% and Barrow’s is 24% which put them amongst the lowest take-up rates in the UK.

Figure 31: Job Retention Scheme Take-Up Rates



Source: HMRC

Figure 32: Job Retention Scheme – Counts and Take-Up Rates

Employments Furloughed (cumulative claims to end of period)										
	Eligible	May-20		Jun-20		Jul-20		Change June-July		
	No	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	%	Rate
UK	30,353,200	8,696,000	29%	9,373,900	31%	9,601,700	32%	227,800	2.4%	1%
Cumbria	227,200	64,000	28%	73,400	32%	78,200	34%	4,800	6.5%	2%
Allerdale	42,900	12,400	29%	14,200	33%	15,300	36%	1,100	7.7%	3%
Barrow	31,600	6,300	20%	7,400	23%	7,700	24%	300	4.1%	1%
Carlisle	52,200	15,100	29%	17,200	33%	18,200	35%	1,000	5.8%	2%
Copeland	30,600	5,800	19%	6,800	22%	7,700	25%	900	13.2%	3%
Eden	23,600	8,000	34%	9,200	39%	9,700	41%	500	5.4%	2%
South Lakeland	46,200	16,500	36%	18,700	40%	19,600	42%	900	4.8%	2%

Source: HMRC

7b. Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

On 8th Oct HMRC released experimental statistics on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme which provides support for self-employed individuals whose business has been adversely affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19). This covers claims under round 2 of the scheme up to the end of August.

Key national findings

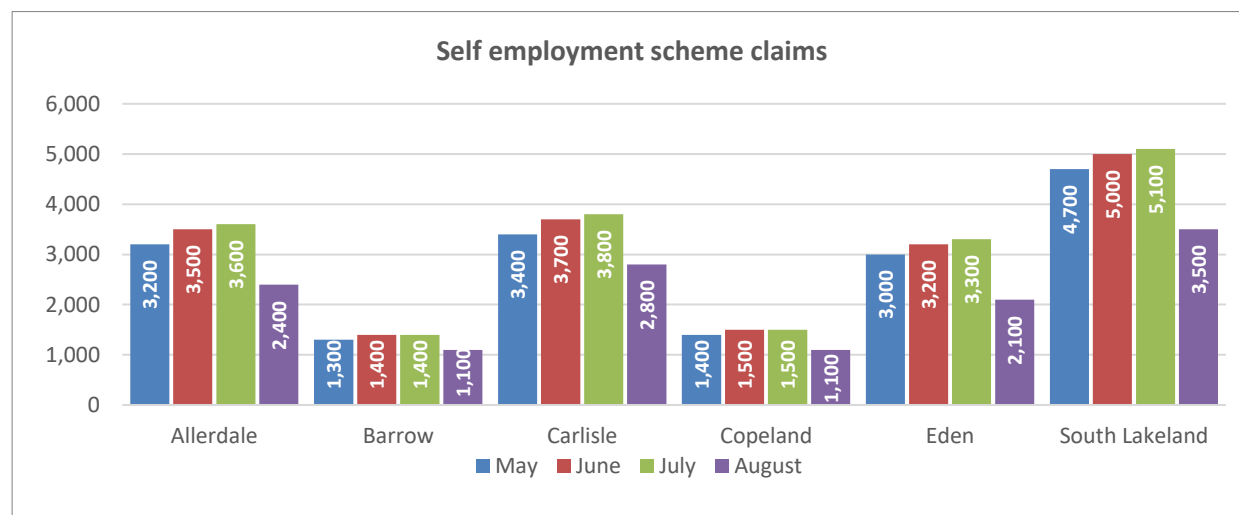
- by 31 August 2.0 million (60%) of the potentially eligible population had claimed a second SEISS grant with the value of these claims totalling £5.1 billion
- the average value per claim was £2,500
- around two-thirds of the potentially eligible population are male (2.3 million)
 - a lower proportion of potentially eligible females have claimed a SEISS grant (54%) compared to males (62%) and the average claim for females is also lower at £2,000 compared to the average claim for males of £2,700
- around 90% of claimants are aged between 25 and 64 and take-up of the grant in those age groups is at or above 56%. No one age group dominates and claims are evenly spread
- the sector with the highest number of potentially eligible individuals and the highest proportion of claims is the construction industry. By 31 August, construction workers had made 693,000 claims for SEISS totalling £2.1bn

- the 2 regions with the highest number of claims are London (390,000) and the South East (292,000), reflecting their relative sizes.
- of the 1.6 million that did not meet the SEISS criteria, 1.4 million (87%) had trading profits less than non-trading profits (eg. income from employment or investment income), 0.5 million (33%) had trading profits of £0 or made a loss and 0.2 million (11%) had trading profits over £50,000. (N.B. Individuals may be counted more than once if they have trading profits which meet more than one of these criteria which explains why the figures sum to more than 1.6 million)

Key Cumbria findings

The release shows that there were an estimated 24,800 potentially eligible self-employed people in Cumbria, of whom 13,100 had made claims totalling £31.5m in the first month of round 2. The highest volume of claims came from residents in South Lakeland (3,500). However, under round 2 (the Aug data), the take up rate had changed significantly since round 1, down from an average of 75% to 53%, a larger fall than seen nationally (-22% v -17%). The fall in take-up rates was particularly high in Eden (-26%), Allerdale (-24%) and South Lakeland (-23%). This resulted in Barrow having the highest take-up rate at 59% followed by Carlisle at 56% with Eden having the lowest at 48%.

Figure 33: Self Employment Income Scheme – claims by District



Source: HMRC

Figure 34: Self Employment Income Scheme Counts & Take-Up Rates

	May-20 (Round 1)		Jun-20 (Round 1)		Jul-20 (Round 1)		Aug-20 (Round 2)		Change Jul - Aug (Round 1 v Round 2)		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	%	Rate
UK	2,380,000	70%	2,553,000	75%	2,604,000	77%	2,019,000	60%	-585,000	-22.5%	-17%
Cumbria	16,900	68%	18,200	73%	18,700	75%	13,100	53%	-5,600	-29.9%	-22%
Allerdale	3,200	67%	3,500	73%	3,600	75%	2,400	51%	-1,200	-33.3%	-24%
Barrow	1,300	70%	1,400	74%	1,400	75%	1,100	59%	-300	-21.4%	-16%
Carlisle	3,400	68%	3,700	73%	3,800	75%	2,800	56%	-1,000	-26.3%	-19%
Copeland	1,400	67%	1,500	71%	1,500	73%	1,100	51%	-400	-26.7%	-22%
Eden	3,000	67%	3,200	72%	3,300	74%	2,100	48%	-1,200	-36.4%	-26%
South Lakeland	4,700	71%	5,000	75%	5,100	76%	3,500	53%	-1,600	-31.4%	-23%

Source: HMRC (NB: data are cumulative per round, ie Round 1 covers 3 full months, Round 2 only 1 month to date)

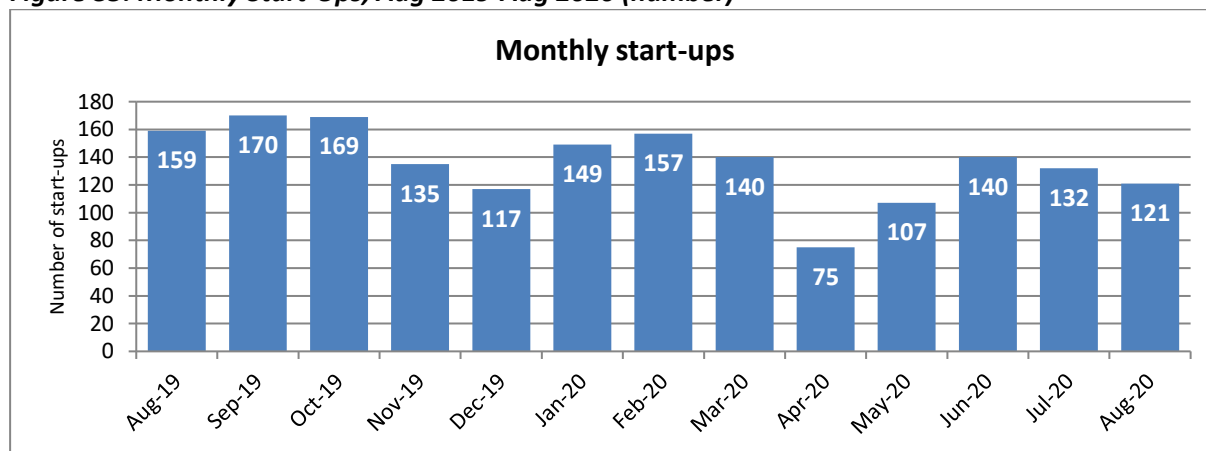
8. BUSINESS START-UPS AND STOCKS

8a. 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 121 business start-ups in Cumbria in August 2020, a fall of 11 since July (-8%), 36 fewer than in February (before lockdown) and 38 fewer than the same month last year (-26%). Nationally the number of start-ups fell by 4,204 (-14%) in August.

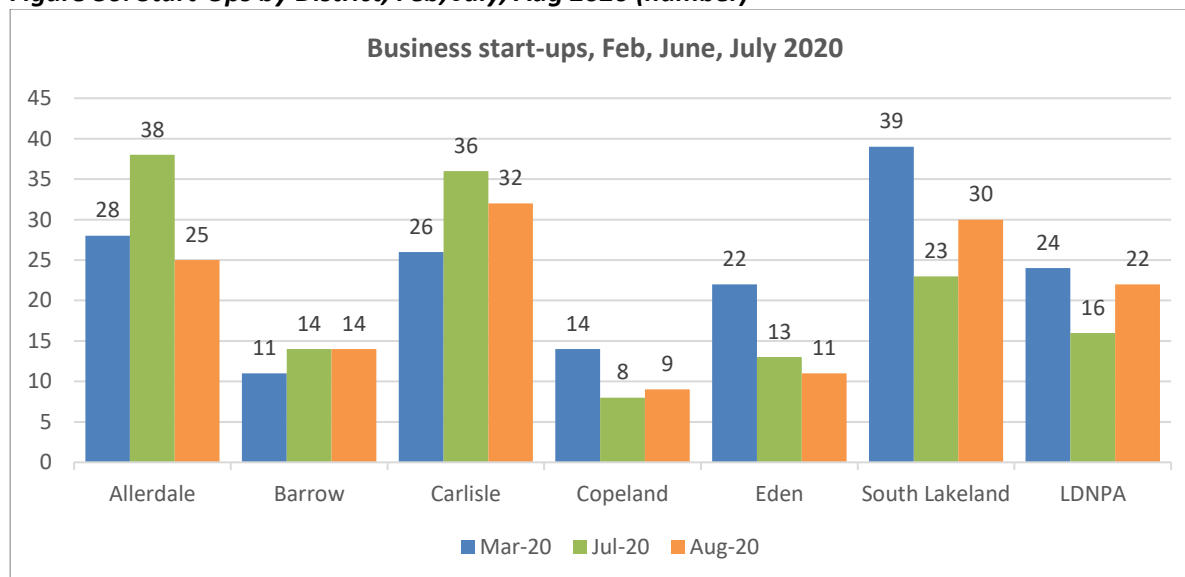
Figure 35: Monthly Start-Ups, Aug 2019-Aug 2020 (number)



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.

Examining start-ups in February (the last full month before lockdown), July and Aug by district shows that there has been a recovery in some areas but less so in others. Start-ups in Allerdale were particularly strong in July and indeed were higher than before lockdown and Carlisle has also recovery well but start-ups in Eden and South Lakeland remain below March levels.

Figure 36: Start-Ups by District, Feb, July, Aug 2020 (number)



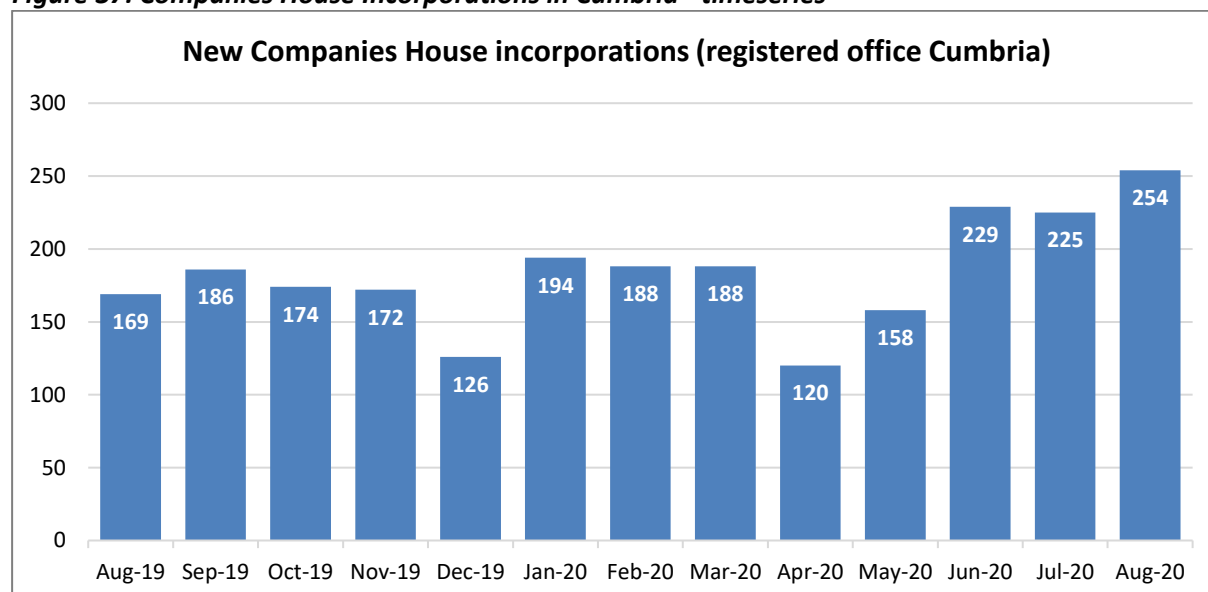
Source: BankSearch

8b: 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.

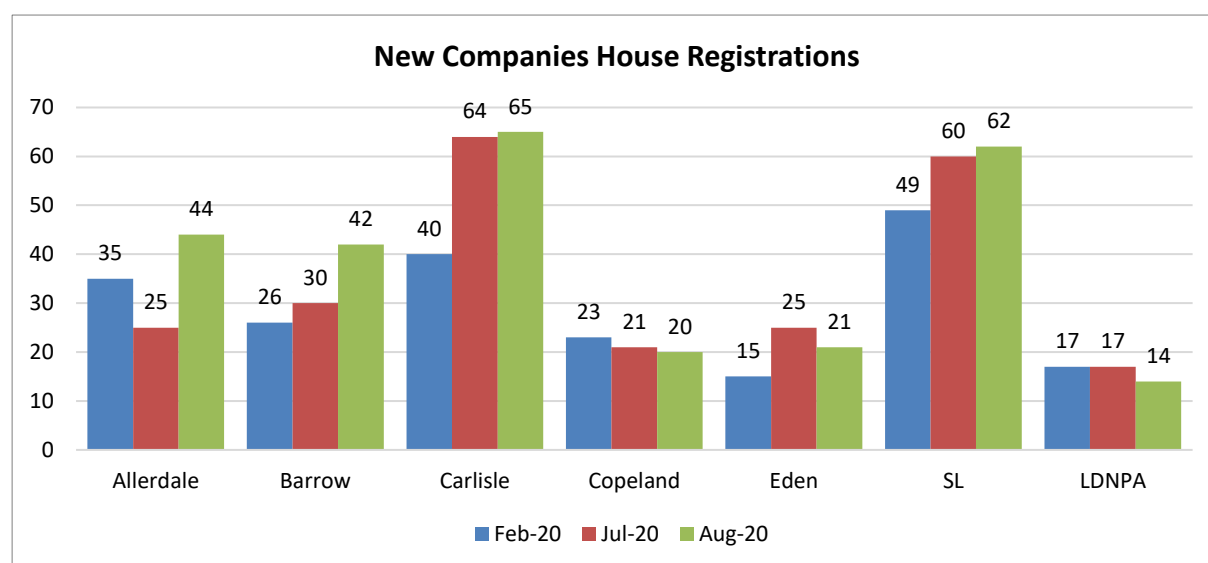
There were 254 new Companies House incorporations in Aug 2020, a rise of 29 since July and significantly above levels seen at the same time last year as well as being higher than in February (pre-lockdown). However, some of this apparent recovery (and indeed the previous decline) is likely to be due to Companies House not processing registrations at the height of lockdown and due to changes in registration details so the data should be treated with caution. It was a slightly mixed picture with most of the increase occurring in Allerdale and Barrow (up 19 and 12 respectively).

Figure 37: Companies House Incorporations in Cumbria - timeseries



Source: BankSearch, data relate to registered office address.

Figure 38: Companies House Incorporations by District, Feb, July and Aug 2020



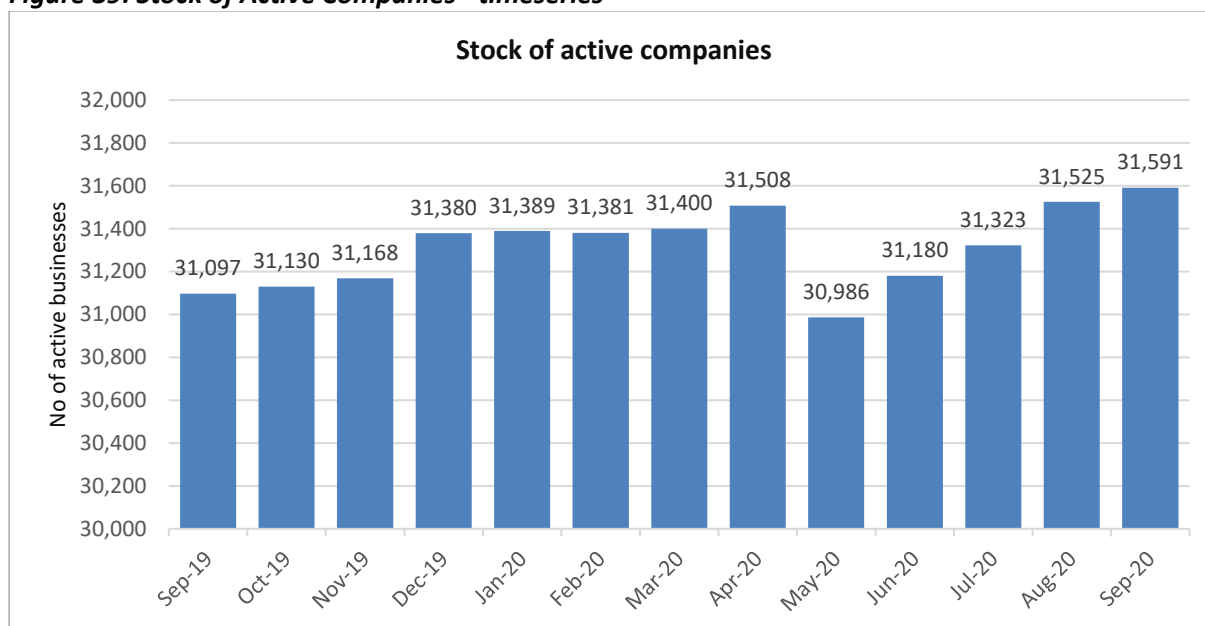
Source: BankSearch Note 1: LDNPA area is a "best-fit" comprising wards with 50%+ of area within NP. Note 2: LDNPA starts are also counted in the relevant district. Note 3: Data relate to registered office address.

8c. 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 Sept 2020 there were 31,591 entries on the FAME database for Cumbria, an increase of 66 (0.2%) from the previous month. The highest number of active companies was in South Lakeland (9,015).

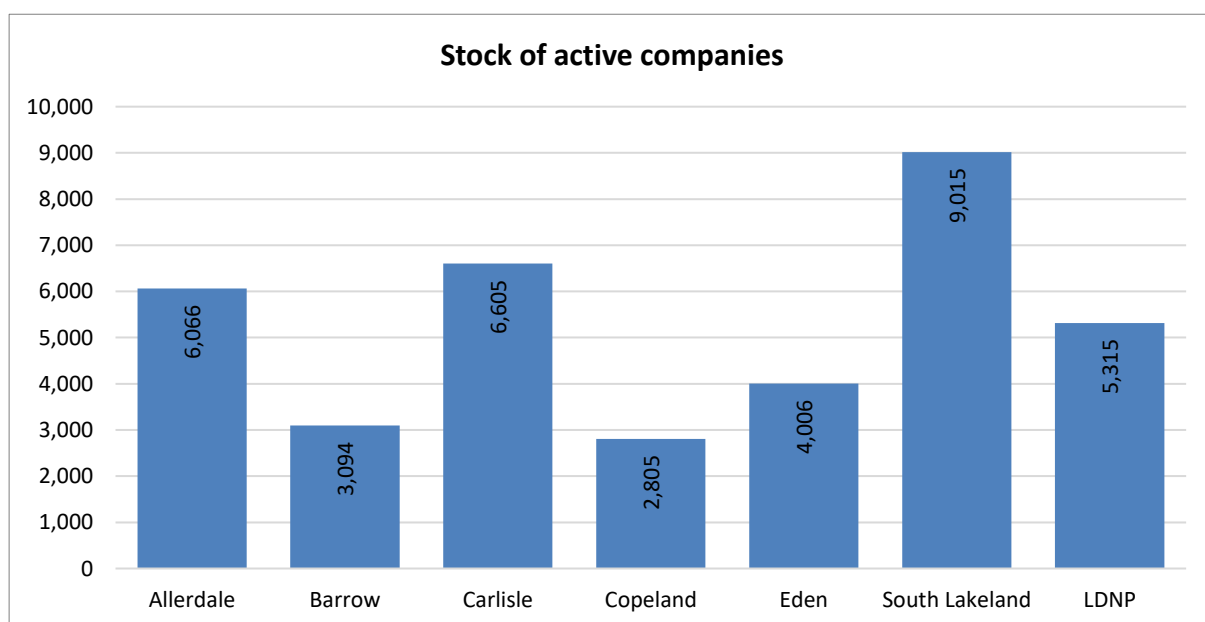
As with the previous Companies House registrations data, it is difficult to know to what extent changes in the active business count are being influenced by the pausing/resumption of activity at Companies House rather than by business activity but we will continue to monitor trends.

Figure 39: Stock of Active Companies - timeseries



Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)

Figure 40: Stock of Active Companies by District, Sept 2020



Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)

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