

Introduction

This briefing contains February data from the standard Claimant Count and Universal Credit registers (both counts taken on **11th March**). The briefing also the latest available data on job postings, NEETs, business start-ups and the active company count. Data on the furlough scheme has not changed since the last briefing and no new release is due until the first week in May.

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 13,510 claimants of JSA / UC (out of work and seeking work) on 11th March, a rate of 4.6% of the working age population. This compares to 6.5% nationally. The claimant count rose overall in Cumbria by 230 from February and rose in all parts of the county. In particular, the count rose by 80 in Carlisle, by 55 in South Lakeland and by 40 in Allerdale. In areas covered by the Lake District National Park, the count rose by 45 (LDNPA areas are also included in the relevant district).
- Compared to the same time last year, the claimant count is 6,575 higher with the highest % increases in South Lakeland (208%), Eden (146%) and also in the Lake District National Park (324%), all well in excess of the county and national increases (95% and 112% respectively). (NB: LDNPA residents are also included in their relevant district figures).
- The claimant rate in Cumbria rose to 4.6% in February, an increase of 0.1 but remains below the national rate of 6.5% in all parts of Cumbria.
- Compared to a year ago, the claimant rate in Cumbria is 2.2 percentage points higher, up from 2.3% to 4.6%. This compares to a national increase of 3.4 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 (7.5% v 7.2%).
- There were 36,544 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria on 11th March (in work, out of work and those not required to seek work), a rise of 628 (1.7%) from February and 16,762 (85%) higher than a year ago. NB: there has been a substantial downward revision by DWP to the February figures originally published last month.
- The biggest percentage increases since the same month a year ago have been in South Lakeland (164%) and Eden (130%) and in areas within the Lake District National Park (205%) (NB: LDNPA residents are also included in their relative district figures). These compare to a national increase from a year ago of 100%.

- There were 481 young people (aged 16/17) classed as NEET in February, up by 6 from January and 118 higher than a year ago. This is an annual increase of 33% compared to an annual increase of 3% (the cohort in Cumbria has increased by 3%).
- The NEET rate was 4.7% in Cumbria, up by 0.1ppt from January and 1.0ppt higher than a year ago. Nationally the NEET rate is unchanged from a year ago.
- The participation rate for 16/17 year olds was 92.2% in February compared to a national rate of 93.4%. The proportion participating by undertaking an apprenticeship or employment with regulated qualifications is 2.8% lower than a year ago while the proportion in full time education or training has increased by 1.9%.
- In provisional Apprenticeship starts data for Aug 2020-Jan 2021 there were 2,207 new starts in Cumbria for people of all ages. This is 729 fewer than the same academic period a year previously (Aug 19-Jan 20), a fall of 25% resulting in a fall of 11% actively enrolled Apprentices of all ages in Cumbria (down from 8,712 to 7,796).
- Latest survey estimates suggest that the proportion of Cumbria's working age population holding a level 4+ qualification has improved and is now 38%, up from 33% (even allowing for survey margins of error of +/- 3% this suggests a genuine improvement). This compares to the national average of 43% but the gap has narrowed slightly (from 8% to 5%).
- There were 2,645 job postings in March, 230 more than in February which is an increase of almost 10%. Levels in March were broadly similar to the same time last year.
- The highest volume of job postings was in the health sector followed by manufacturing. There were particular increases in public administration (some of it apprenticeship recruitment) and also welcome increases in retail and in hospitality as those sectors prepared for the easing of restriction.
- The mostly commonly advertised occupations were for health professionals and caring personal service occupations whilst the most common skills "family" mentioned in postings were health care and business skills followed by information technology.
- In March there were 5 claimants per new job posting in Cumbria down by 1 from last month as a result of the increase in job postings;
- HMRC data shows that 40,500 employments held by Cumbrian residents were furloughed at the end of February(provisional data). This was a decrease of 2,100 from the revised January figure, a fall of 5%. The count fell in all districts except Copeland where it was unchanged and Carlisle saw the biggest fall of 1,100.
- The furlough rate in Cumbria at the end of February was 18%, above the UK rate of 15% and the highest among county areas in England. South Lakeland's rate of 26% and Eden's of 22% were the two highest among 312 district areas in England.
- Since the scheme began 92,000 jobs held by Cumbrian residents have been furloughed at least once which is approximately 41% of all jobs that were eligible for the scheme, the highest in the country. South Lakeland has seen approximately half of all eligible jobs furloughed at least once, the highest rate in the country. Eden's rate of 48% is the 4th highest nationally.
- New data on furloughing by sector shows that the highest volume of furloughed jobs at the end of February were in accommodation & food services where 14,130 jobs were furloughed. The second biggest furloughing sector was wholesale & retail with 7,790. Unofficial sector rates suggest that up to half of all accommodation & food sector jobs in Cumbria were furloughed at the end of February, as well as over a third of those in arts, entertainment & recreation and in other services.
- HMRC data shows that there had been 14,400 claims under Round 3 of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme by the end of January, totalling £38.7m. The Round 3 take-up rate in Cumbria so far is 58% compared to 65% nationally. No data for the expanded scheme will be available until early June.
- There were 434 business start-ups in the quarter ending February, a fall of 63 compared to the same quarter last year (-13% v a national increase of 3%).
- The highest volume of start-ups was in real estate & professional services (85), followed wholesale & retail (80) and construction (73).

- There were 227 new Companies House incorporations in February a rise of 39 from January and also 39 more than in February last year.
- There were 31,511 active companies in Cumbria at the end of March, 35 fewer than in February.
- There were 259 businesses dissolved/in liquidation during February, significantly up on last month (which appears to have been an anomalous month due to administrative activity at Companies House rather than reflective of business conditions).

2. NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW (Source: ONS release)

- The latest figures suggest that the jobs market has been broadly stable in recent months.
- After a few months of increases, there was a small monthly decrease in the number of payrolled employees in March 2021. The largest monthly falls were seen at the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Over the year, the largest falls in payrolled employment have been in the hospitality sector, among those aged under 25 years, and among those living in London.
- Data from our Labour Force Survey (LFS), for the three months to February 2021, are little changed on the quarter. Estimates show a small quarterly decrease in the unemployment rate while the economic inactivity rate increased, as it did during the first coronavirus restrictions; the employment rate continued to fall. With the reintroduction of many coronavirus restrictions, total hours worked decreased on the quarter.
- The number of job vacancies in January to March 2021 fell by nearly 23% on the year; arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food service activities continue to be the worst affected. Growth in the number of vacancies has slowed this quarter although experimental single-month statistics indicate a strong increase in March and experimental statistics of online job adverts provided by Adzuna suggest a potential acceleration into April. The slowing down in the rate of recovery for job vacancies to March 2021 is more evident among smaller companies.
- Annual growth in average employee pay continued to strengthen, the growth is driven in part by compositional effects of a fall in the number and proportion of lower-paid employee jobs.
 - 56,000 fewer people were in payrolled employment in March 2021 when compared with February 2021.
 - The UK employment rate was estimated at 75.1%, 1.4 percentage points lower than a year earlier and 0.1 percentage points lower than the previous quarter.
 - The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 4.9%, 0.9 percentage points higher than a year earlier but 0.1 percentage points lower than the previous quarter.
 - The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at 20.9%, 0.7 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.2 percentage points higher than the previous quarter.
 - The total number of weekly hours worked was 959.9 million, down 92.3 million hours on the same period the previous year and down 20.1 million hours compared with the previous quarter.
 - There were an estimated 607,000 job vacancies in January to March 2021, which is a 22.7% fall compared with a year ago.
 - Growth in average total pay (including bonuses) among employees for the three months December 2020 to February 2021 was 4.5%, and growth in regular pay (excluding bonuses) was 4.4%; it is estimated that by removing the compositional effect, the underlying wage growth is around 2.5% for total and regular pay.

3. STANDARD CLAIMANT COUNT (released monthly) – count taken 11th Mar 2021

Important notes: The phased rollout of UC means that standard claimant count trends over time 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. Local area data are not seasonally adjusted and therefore for comparison purposes the national data used in this briefing is also not seasonally adjusted

Figure 1 shows the change in claimants from last month and from a year ago. There was a rise of 230 claimants in Cumbria in March compared to February, to a total of 13,510. This is a monthly rise of 1.7% compared to a rise of 0.5% nationally. The count rose in all 6 districts with the biggest increase in Carlisle (+80), South Lakeland (+55) and Allerdale (+50). The claimant rate in March in Cumbria was 4.6% which is below the national rate of 6.5%. It is up 0.1ppt from February and 2.2ppt higher than a year ago.

Figure 1: Standard Claimant Count – Mar 2021

	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	1,595,510	7.7	1,097,430	5.2	2,692,940	6.5	14,665	0.5	0.0	1,424,320	112.3	3.4
Cumbria	8,045	5.5	5,460	3.7	13,510	4.6	230	1.7	0.1	6,575	94.9	2.2
Allerdale	1,645	5.7	1,200	4.2	2,845	4.9	40	1.5	0.1	1,250	78.6	2.2
Barrow	1,370	6.8	785	3.9	2,155	5.3	15	0.6	0.0	915	73.8	2.3
Carlisle	2,035	6.3	1,345	4.0	3,380	5.2	80	2.4	0.1	1,650	95.6	2.5
Copeland	1,175	5.7	760	3.7	1,930	4.7	15	0.8	0.0	695	56.1	1.7
Eden	635	4.1	515	3.3	1,155	3.7	25	2.4	0.1	685	145.8	2.2
South Lakeland	1,185	4.0	855	2.8	2,040	3.4	55	2.9	0.1	1,380	207.8	2.3
of which LDNPA	545	4.6	380	3.3	925	3.9	45	5.4	0.2	705	324.3	3.0

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

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

Figure 2 shows the claimant count and rate by broad age group in Cumbria in March. 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 2: Standard Claimant Count & Rate by Age Group in Cumbria – Mar 2021

Claimant Count and Rate by Age												
	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-34		Aged 35-44		Aged 45-54		Aged 55-64		Total	
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
UK	515,945	7.2%	726,470	8.1%	570,735	6.8%	468,070	5.1%	411,025	5.2%	2,692,940	6.5%
Cumbria	2,650	6.0%	3,670	7.0%	2,645	5.0%	2,350	3.2%	2,200	3.0%	13,510	4.6%
Allerdale	580	6.7%	750	7.4%	550	5.4%	500	3.4%	465	3.3%	2,845	4.9%
Barrow	495	7.5%	605	7.5%	410	5.7%	345	3.4%	305	3.4%	2,155	5.3%
Carlisle	655	6.4%	990	7.9%	670	5.4%	560	3.6%	510	3.4%	3,380	5.1%
Copeland	380	6.4%	525	6.8%	360	4.9%	320	3.1%	345	3.4%	1,930	4.6%
Eden	195	4.7%	305	6.2%	240	4.6%	215	2.6%	200	2.4%	1,155	3.8%
South Lakeland	350	4.0%	495	5.5%	410	3.9%	415	2.7%	380	2.4%	2,040	3.4%
of which LDNPA	135	4.1%	205	6.0%	200	5.0%	210	3.4%	175	2.6%	925	3.9%

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.

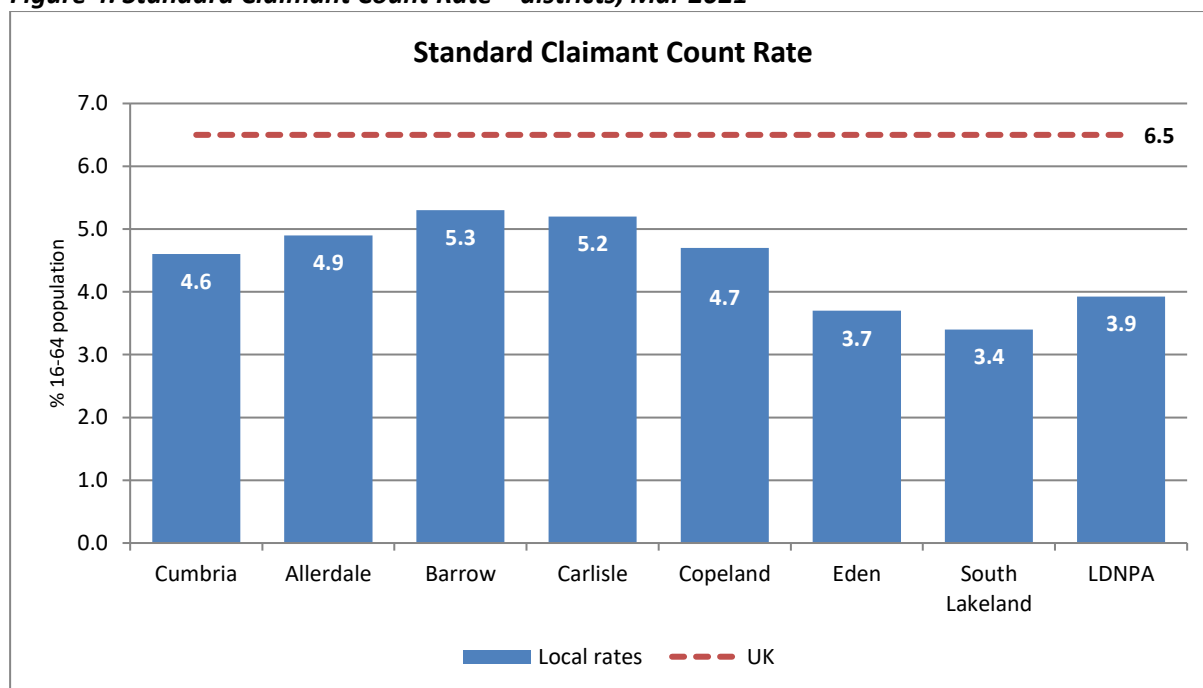
Figure 3 shows the change in the number and rate of claimants by age since the same time last year.

Figure 3: Standard Claimant Count Rate – Change from Mar 2020 to Mar 2021

Claimant Count and Rate <u>Change</u> from a Year Ago												
	Change in number of claimants						Change in claimant rate					
	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-34	Aged 35-44	Aged 45-54	Aged 55-64	Total	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-34	Aged 35-44	Aged 45-54	Aged 55-64	Total
UK	274,190	391,140	305,100	241,640	212,080	1,424,320	3.8%	4.4%	3.6%	2.6%	2.7%	3.4%
Cumbria	1,280	1,740	1,300	1,180	1,085	6,580	2.9%	3.3%	2.5%	1.6%	1.5%	2.2%
Allerdale	265	315	240	225	210	1,250	3.1%	3.1%	2.4%	1.5%	1.5%	2.2%
Barrow	185	275	180	145	130	915	2.8%	3.4%	2.5%	1.4%	1.4%	2.2%
Carlisle	330	450	330	295	250	1,650	3.2%	3.6%	2.6%	1.9%	1.7%	2.5%
Copeland	145	185	120	115	120	690	2.4%	2.4%	1.6%	1.1%	1.2%	1.7%
Eden	130	195	140	115	105	685	3.1%	3.9%	2.7%	1.4%	1.3%	2.2%
South Lakeland	240	310	285	285	265	1,375	2.7%	3.5%	2.7%	1.8%	1.6%	2.3%
of which LDNPA	110	155	140	175	135	705	3.4%	4.5%	3.5%	2.8%	2.0%	3.0%

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

Figure 4: Standard Claimant Count Rate – districts, Mar 2021



Source: ONS/DWP

Figure 5: Standard Claimant Count - timeseries

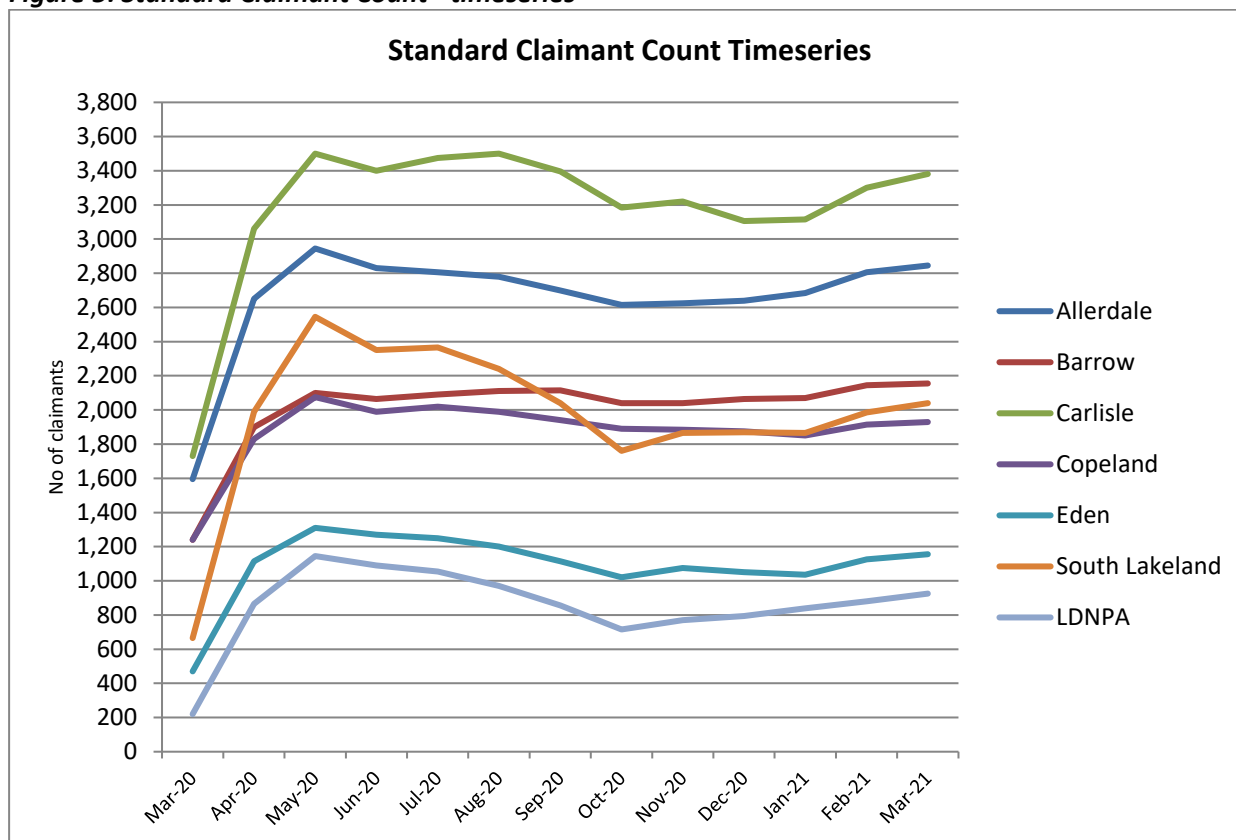
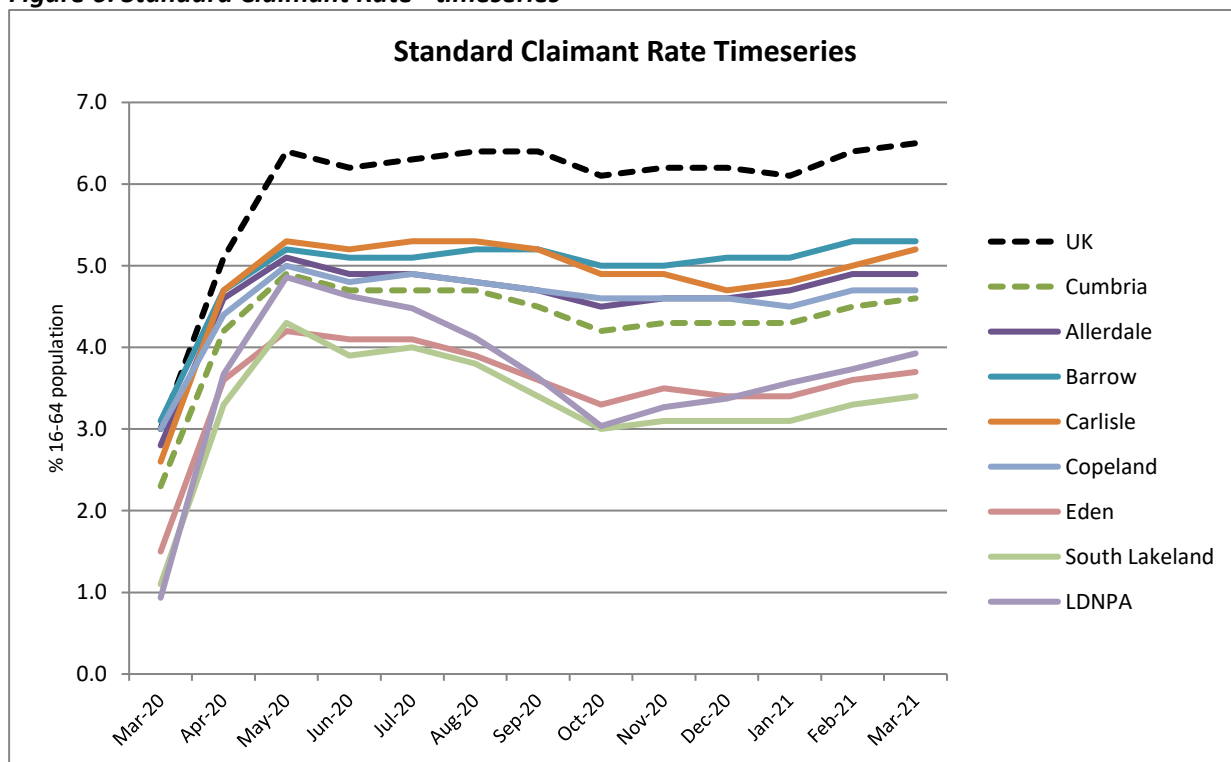


Figure 6: Standard Claimant Rate - timeseries



Source: ONS/DWP

4. UNIVERSAL CREDIT (released monthly) – count taken 11th March 2021

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 of UC, care should be taken when comparing change over time.**

4a. Individuals on Universal Credit

On 11th March 2021 there were 36,544 people on Universal Credit in Cumbria (both in work and out of work). This is a rise of 628 from February (+1.7%) and 16,762 more than a year ago (+85%). The highest percentage increases since a year ago have been in South Lakeland (164%), Eden (130%) and for those living within the Lake District National Park (+205%).

Figure 7: Universal Credit Claimants – Mar 2021 and monthly / annual change

	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	2,883,569	14.3%	3,145,990	15.5%	6,031,017	14.9%	92,985	1.6%	0.2%	3,019,498	100.3%	7.5%
Cumbria	17,090	11.6%	19,438	13.0%	36,544	12.3%	628	1.7%	0.2%	16,762	84.7%	5.7%
Allerdale	3768	13.1%	4512	15.6%	8,282	14.4%	100	1.2%	0.2%	3,093	59.6%	5.4%
Barrow	2558	12.5%	2778	13.6%	5,335	13.0%	123	2.4%	0.3%	2,392	81.3%	5.8%
Carlisle	4247	13.1%	4701	14.0%	8,943	13.6%	158	1.8%	0.2%	4,335	94.1%	6.6%
Copeland	2601	12.4%	2954	14.3%	5,558	13.4%	79	1.4%	0.2%	1,861	50.3%	4.5%
Eden	1290	8.4%	1560	10.1%	2,851	9.3%	43	1.5%	0.1%	1,611	129.9%	5.2%
South Lakeland	2628	8.9%	2938	9.7%	5,572	9.3%	122	2.2%	0.2%	3,464	164.3%	5.8%
of which LDNPA	1231	10.4%	1284	11.0%	2,518	10.7%	57	2.3%	0.2%	1,691	204.5%	7.2%

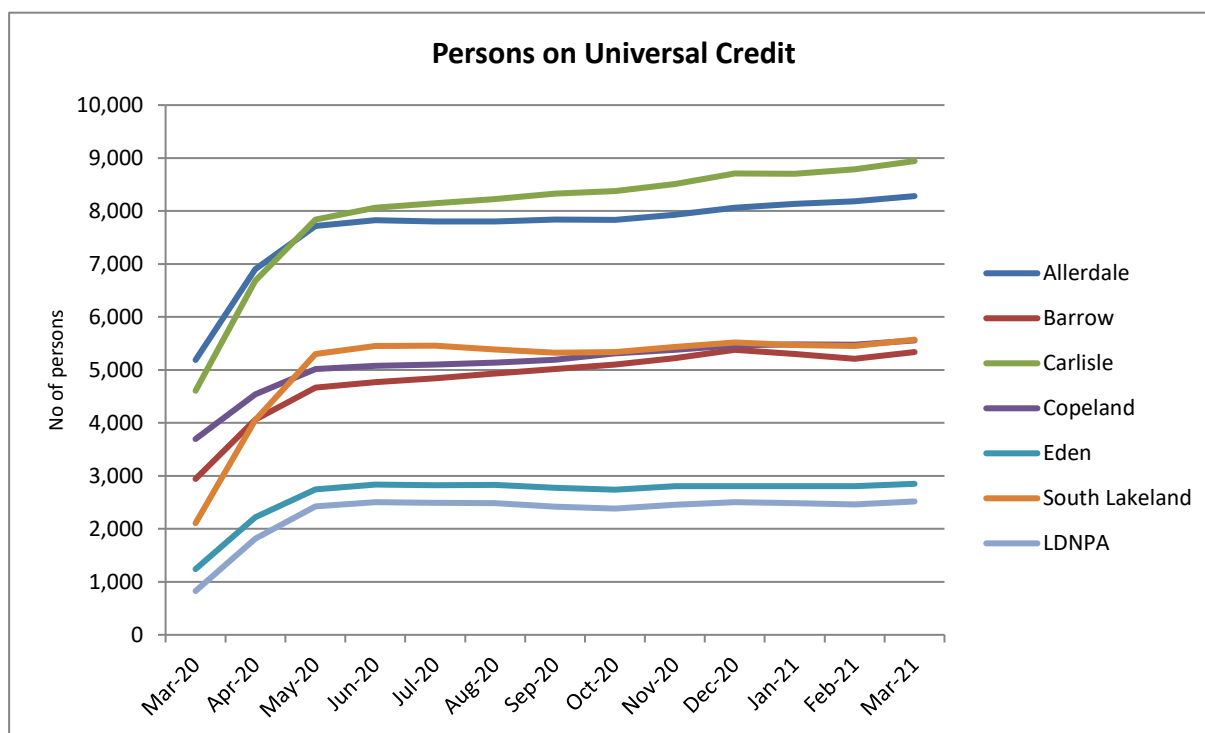
Source: DWP (due to disclosure control, gender totals may not sum to overall total): LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 8: Universal Credit Claimants by Age – Mar 2021

Universal Credit Claimant Count and Rate by Age												
	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
Great Britain	988,810	14.3%	1,823,712	20.9%	1,433,076	17.6%	1,020,552	11.4%	764,756	9.9%	6,031,017	14.9%
Cumbria	6,103	13.7%	11,210	21.4%	8,210	15.5%	6,172	8.3%	4,848	6.7%	36,544	12.3%
Allerdale	1,362	15.8%	2,387	23.5%	1,848	18.1%	1,497	10.1%	1,190	8.5%	8,282	14.4%
Barrow	1,151	17.4%	1,730	21.4%	1,098	15.3%	763	7.6%	584	6.5%	5,335	13.0%
Carlisle	1,476	14.5%	2,956	23.6%	2,053	16.4%	1,419	9.1%	1,036	6.9%	8,943	13.6%
Copeland	890	14.9%	1,718	22.1%	1,178	16.0%	919	9.0%	849	8.3%	5,558	13.4%
Eden	426	10.2%	820	16.6%	655	12.5%	536	6.6%	410	4.9%	2,851	9.3%
South Lakeland	798	9.1%	1,596	17.8%	1,379	13.1%	1,037	6.7%	764	4.8%	5,572	9.3%
of which LDNPA	319	9.9%	680	20.1%	654	16.2%	481	7.9%	380	5.6%	2,518	10.7%

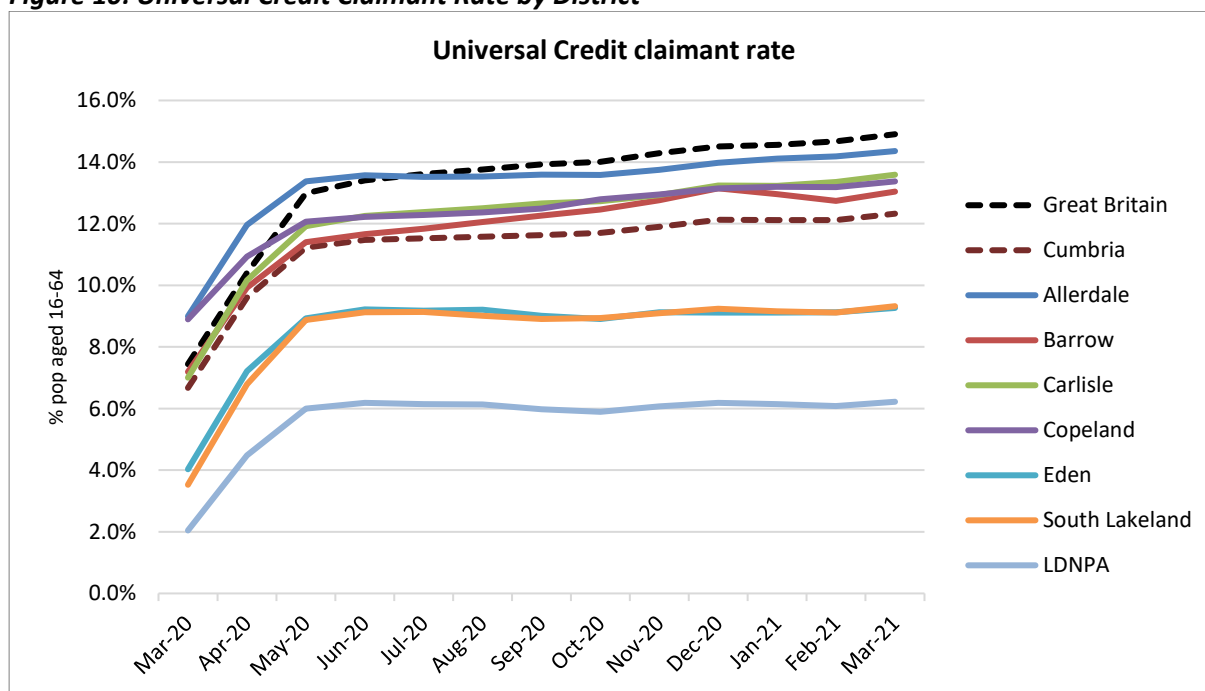
Source: DWP (due to disclosure control, age totals may not sum to overall total): LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 9: Universal Credit Claimants by District



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

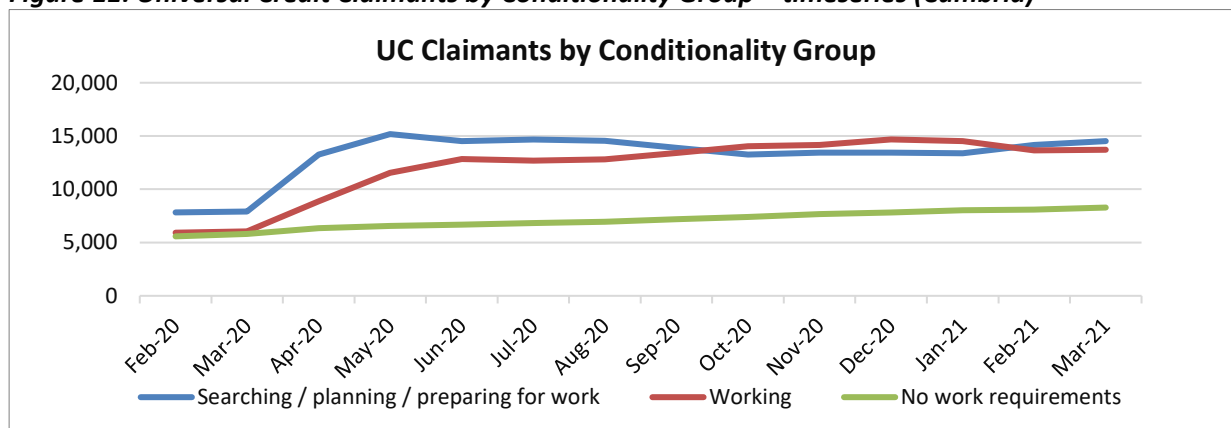
Figure 10: Universal Credit Claimant Rate by District



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 group. In March there were increases in all three groups with the biggest increase among those in the searching/planning/preparing for work group (+369) and this group now exceeds those in the working group for the first time since August 2020.

Figure 11: Universal Credit Claimants by Conditionality Group – timeseries (Cumbria)



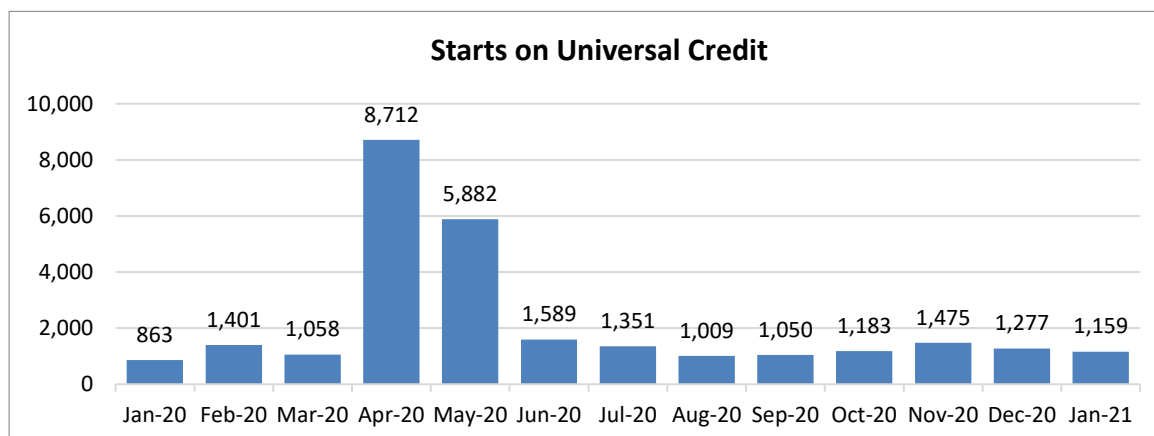
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note: Conditionality is based on an individual's circumstances on the count date (2nd Thursday)

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

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.

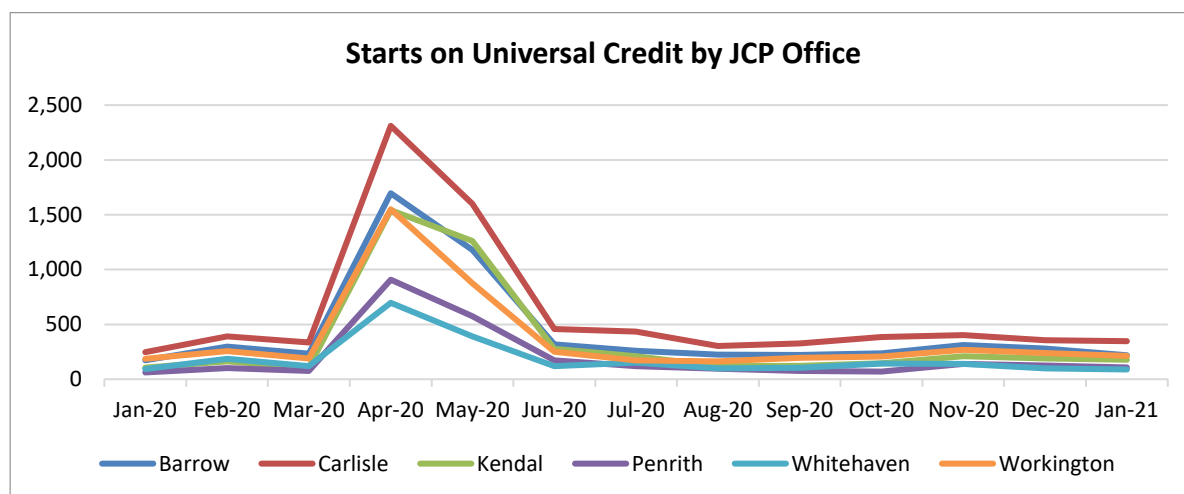
These data show that the number of UC claim starts rose significantly in April with 8,712 new claims started followed by 5,882 in May before dropping down significantly in June. However, in January 2021 the volume of new starts in UC was still 34% higher in Cumbria overall than in January the previous year (nationally starts were 51% higher). This was mixed around the county with starts 73% higher in claims made to the Penrith JCP office and 68% higher in Penrith but only 14% higher in Workington and actually slightly lower in Whitehaven (-5%).

Figure 12: Monthly Starts to Universal Credit – Jan 2020-Jan 2021



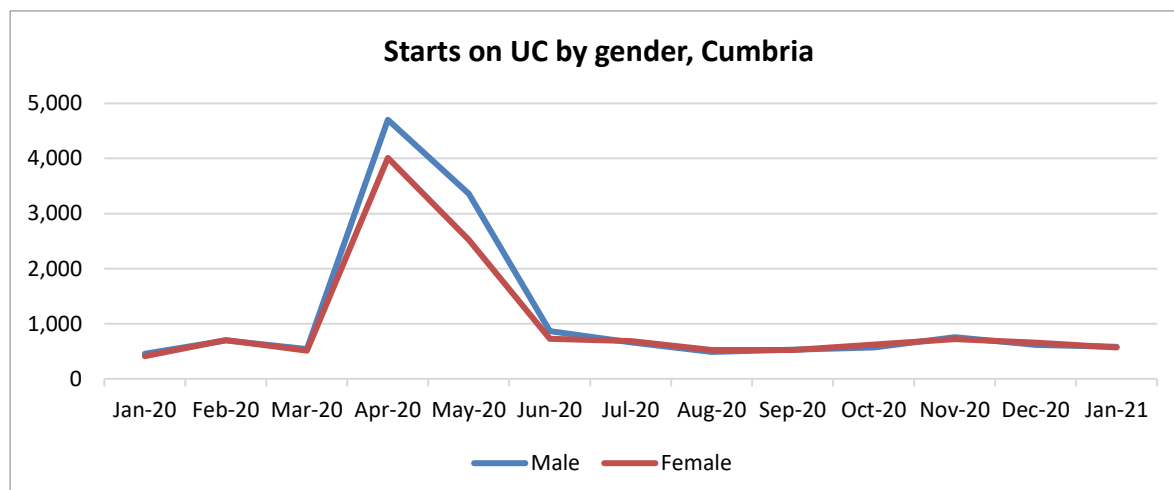
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Figure 13: Starts on Universal Credit by JCP Office – timeseries



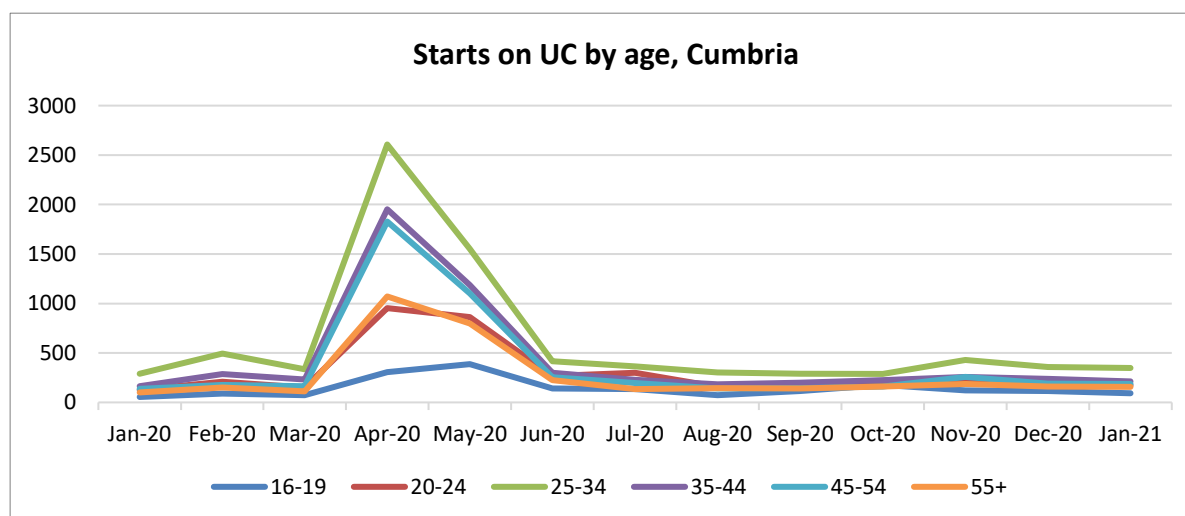
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Figure 14: Starts on Universal Credit by gender – timeseries



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Figure 15: Starts on Universal Credit by age – timeseries



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

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

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 November. In November 2020 there were 29,780 households on Universal Credit in Cumbria, a rise of 14,052 from the same month last year (+89% v +108% nationally). The number of households on Universal Credit has increased particularly sharply in the LDNPA (230%), South Lakeland (185%) and Eden (143%) compared to a year ago.

Figure 16: Number of Households on Universal Credit by District– Nov 2019 – Nov 2020

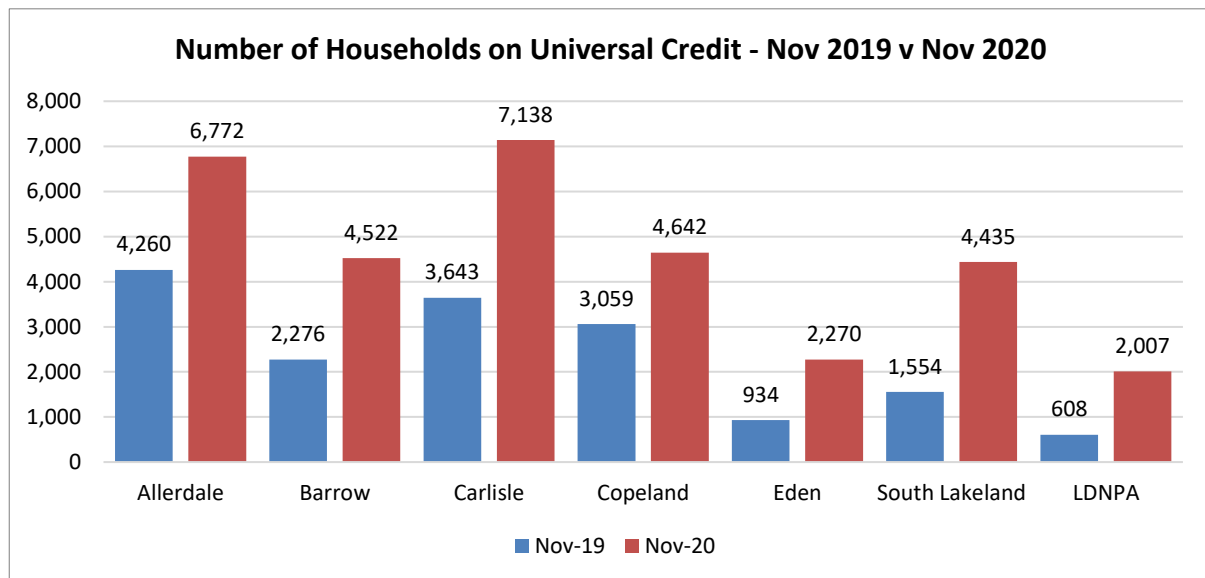
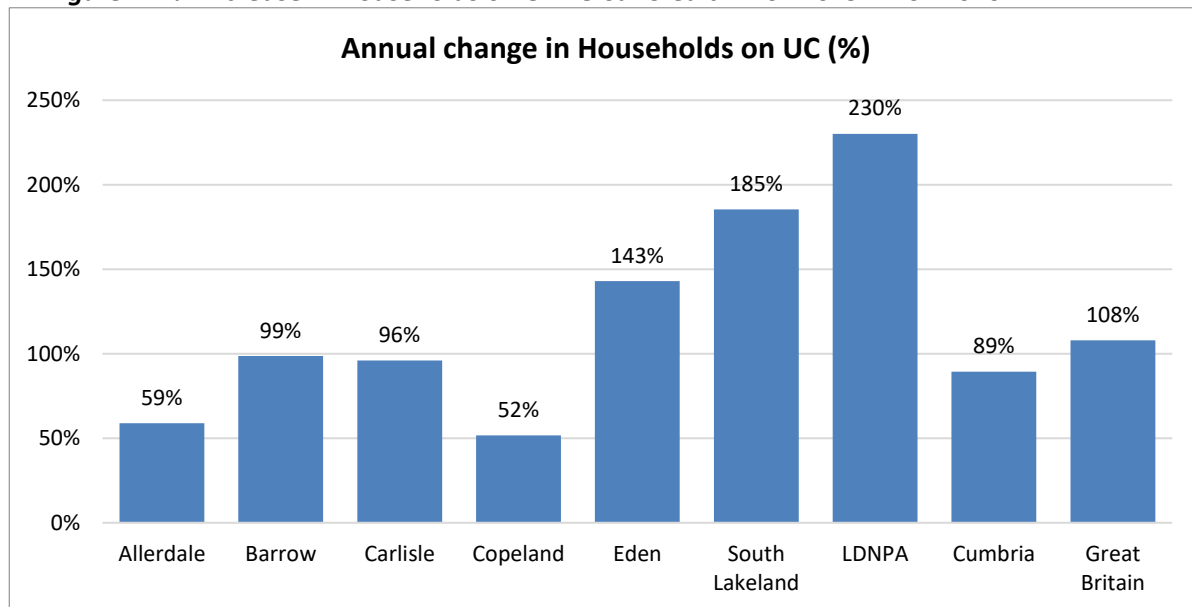


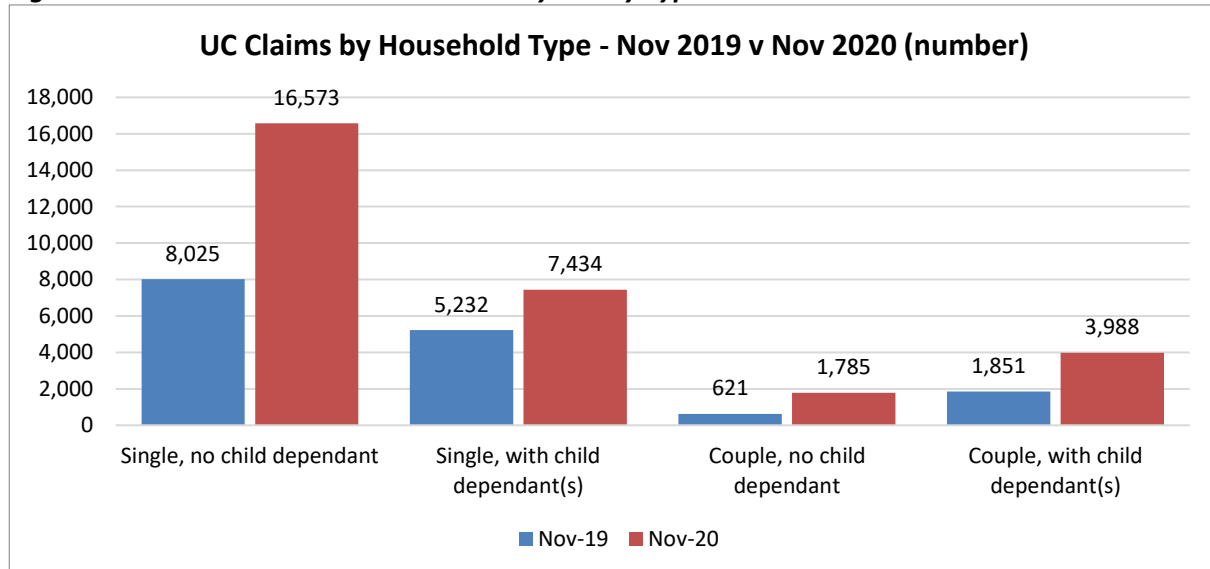
Figure 17: % increase in Households on Universal Credit – Nov 2019 v Nov 2020



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

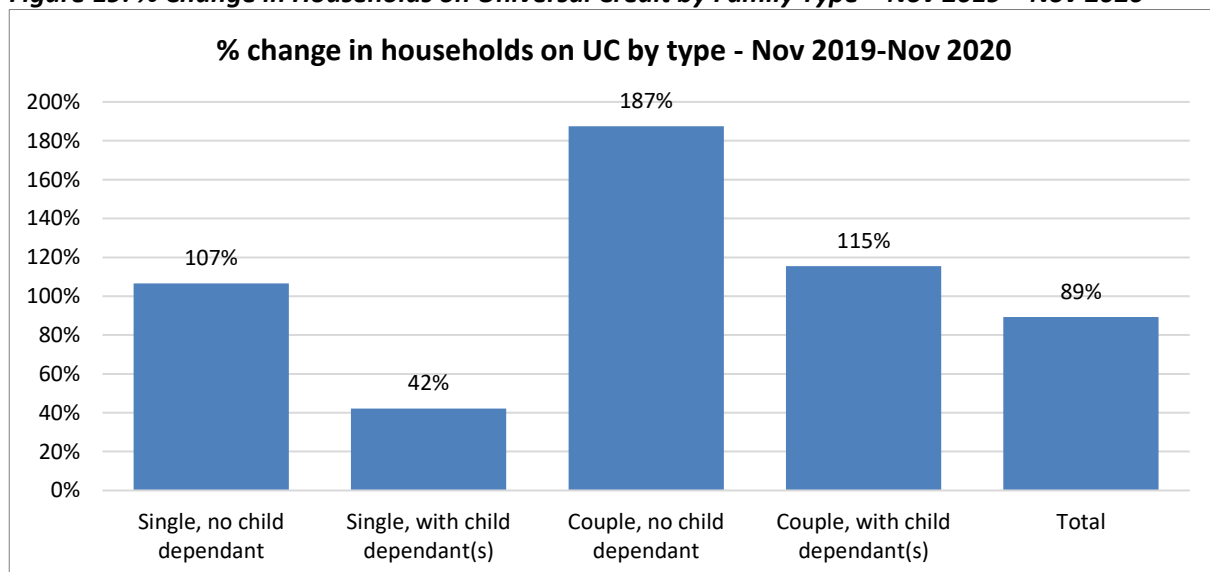
Whilst the overall number of households on UC increased by 89% in Cumbria in November 2020 compared to November 2019, this varied by household type. There were 4,339 more households with dependent children in November 2020 than a year previously (+61%) and there were 9,712 more households without children (+112%).

Figure 18: Households on Universal Credit by Family Type – Nov 2019 – Nov 2020



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

Figure 19: % Change in Households on Universal Credit by Family Type – Nov 2019 – Nov 2020



Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

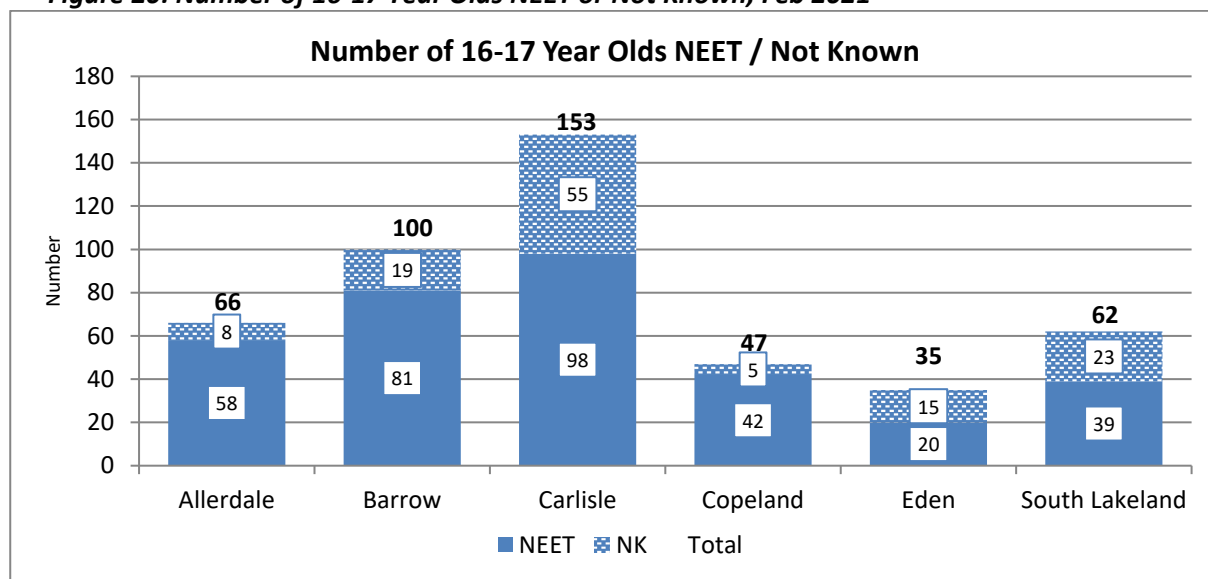
5. NEETs & Participation (released monthly)

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.

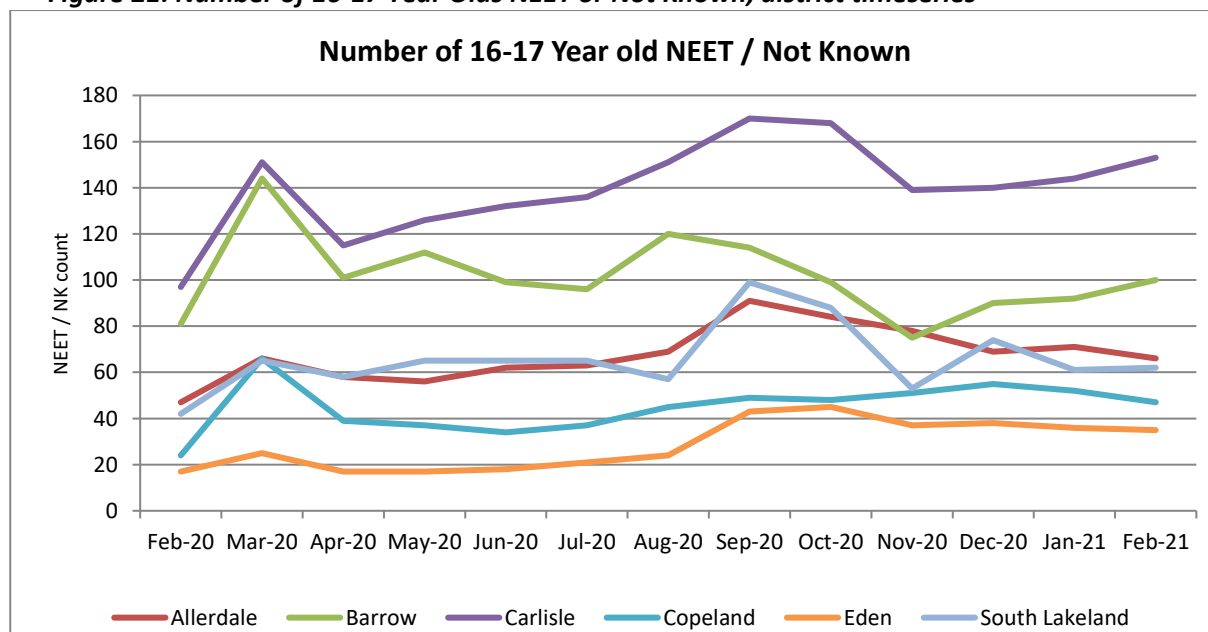
In February 2021, 481 16-17 year olds were classed as NEET in Cumbria (338 NEET and 143 whose status was Not Known), up by 6 from January and 118 higher than a year ago. This is an annual increase of 33% compared to a national increase of 3% and comes despite the cohort of 16/17 year olds in Cumbria being only 3% higher than a year ago. The highest number of NEET/NKs was in Carlisle (153) followed by Barrow (100) and Allerdale (66).

Figure 20: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Feb 2021



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

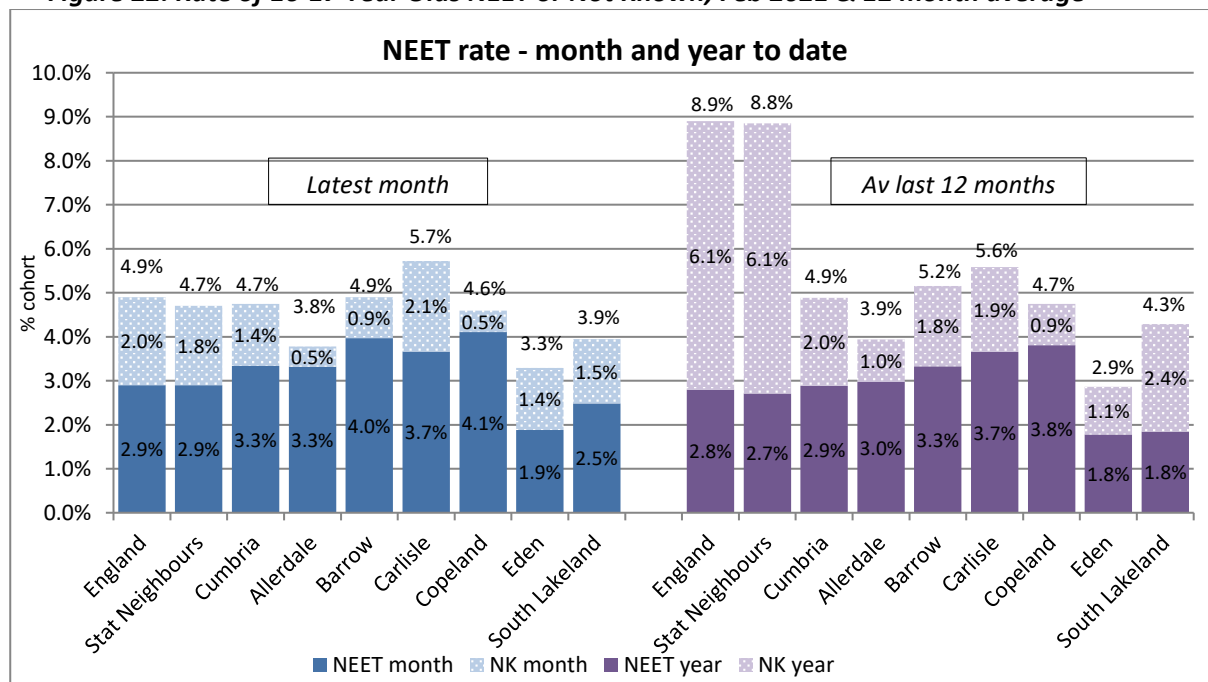
Figure 21: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, district timeseries



Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

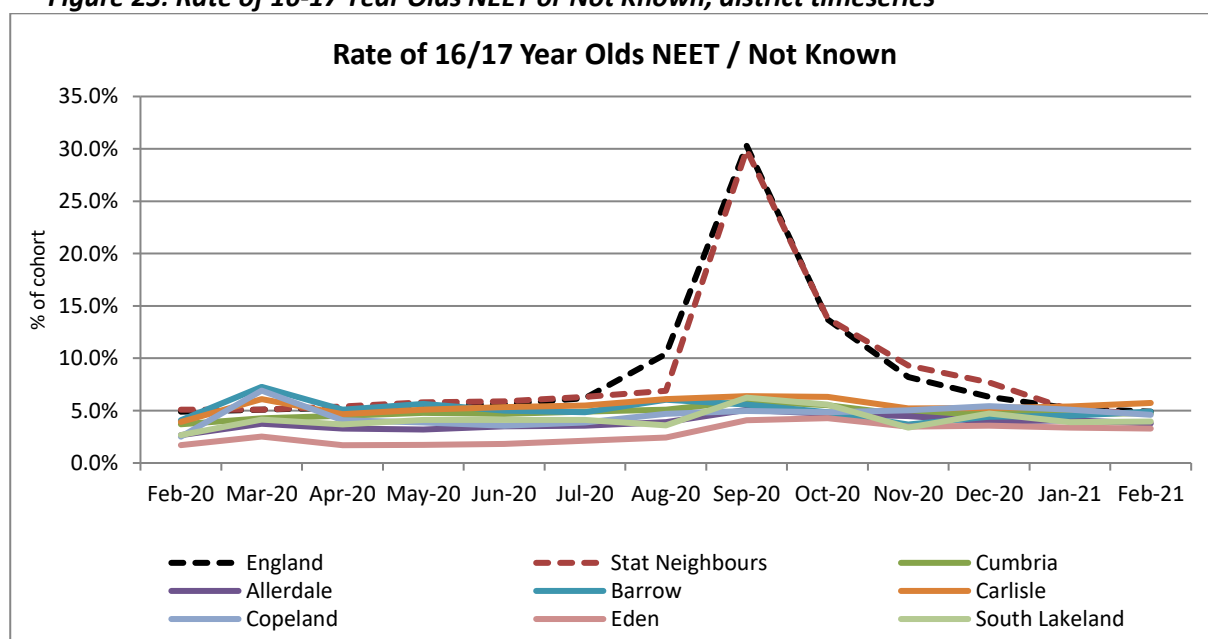
The county NEET/NK rate (% of cohort) was 4.7% in February 2021 compared to an England rate of 4.9% and an average rate of 4.7% for Cumbria's 10 statistical neighbours. The highest local rates were in Carlisle (5.7%) and Barrow (4.9%). The NEET rate in Cumbria was up 0.1ppt from January and up 1.0ppt from the same month last year. The proportion of cohort whose status was not known was unchanged from a year ago suggesting that the change has been a genuine increase in the proportion of young people not engaged in employment, education or training rather than any change in tracking. The average NEET rate for the last 12 months in Cumbria was 4.9% compared to 8.9% nationally and 8.8% for our statistical neighbours (this is influenced by different tracking arrangements around the country). Carlisle and Barrow had the highest average annual rates locally at 5.6% and 5.2% respectively.

Figure 22: Rate of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Feb 2021 & 12 month average



Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

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



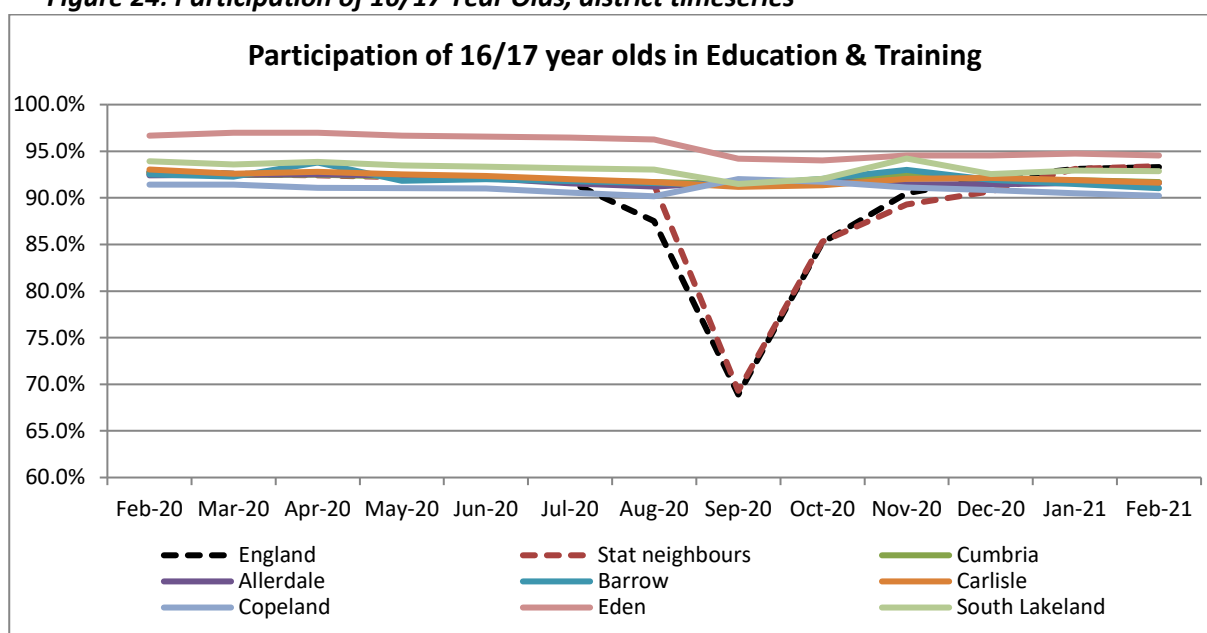
Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

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.

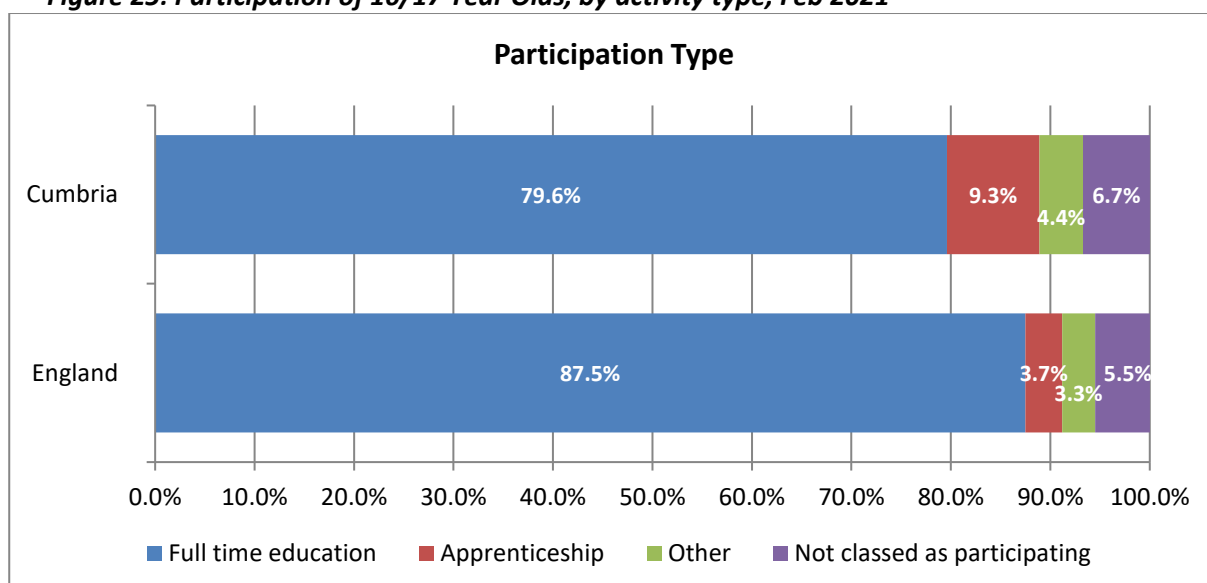
In February 2021, 92.2% of young people in Cumbria were classed as meeting the participation requirement, the majority through full time education or training (81.0%) or by undertaking an apprenticeship (9.3%). This compares to 93.4% nationally who were deemed to be participating. Average data for the past 12 months shows Cumbria performing above the national average – 91.7% v 89.4%. Of note is that the proportion undertaking an apprenticeship or in employment with regulated qualifications is 2.8% lower than a year ago while the proportion in full time education or training is up by 1.9%, although the apprenticeship rate remains significantly above the national average (9.3% v 3.7%).

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



Source: NCCIS

Figure 25: Participation of 16/17 Year Olds, by activity type, Feb 2021



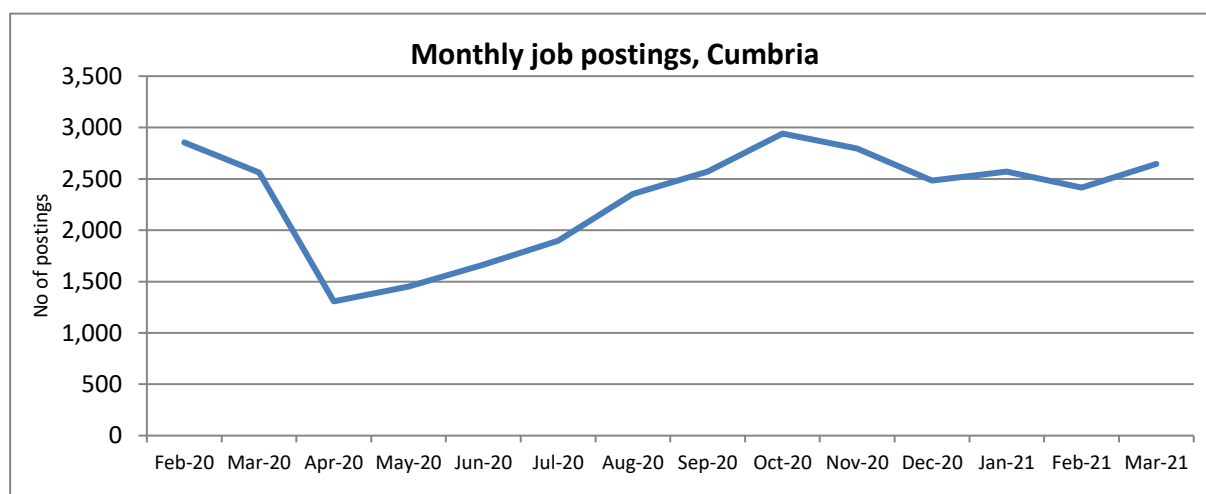
Source: NCCIS (district data not available)

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.

In March 2021 there were 2,645 new job postings in Cumbria which is 230 more than in February (an upturn of nearly 10%) and 85 more than March last year. The steep decline in postings at the start of the pandemic last March/April is evident in the chart below as is, to a lesser extent, the impact of the restrictions since October. The upturn in March this year is presumably in response to the planned easing of restrictions and will hopefully continue as that progresses.

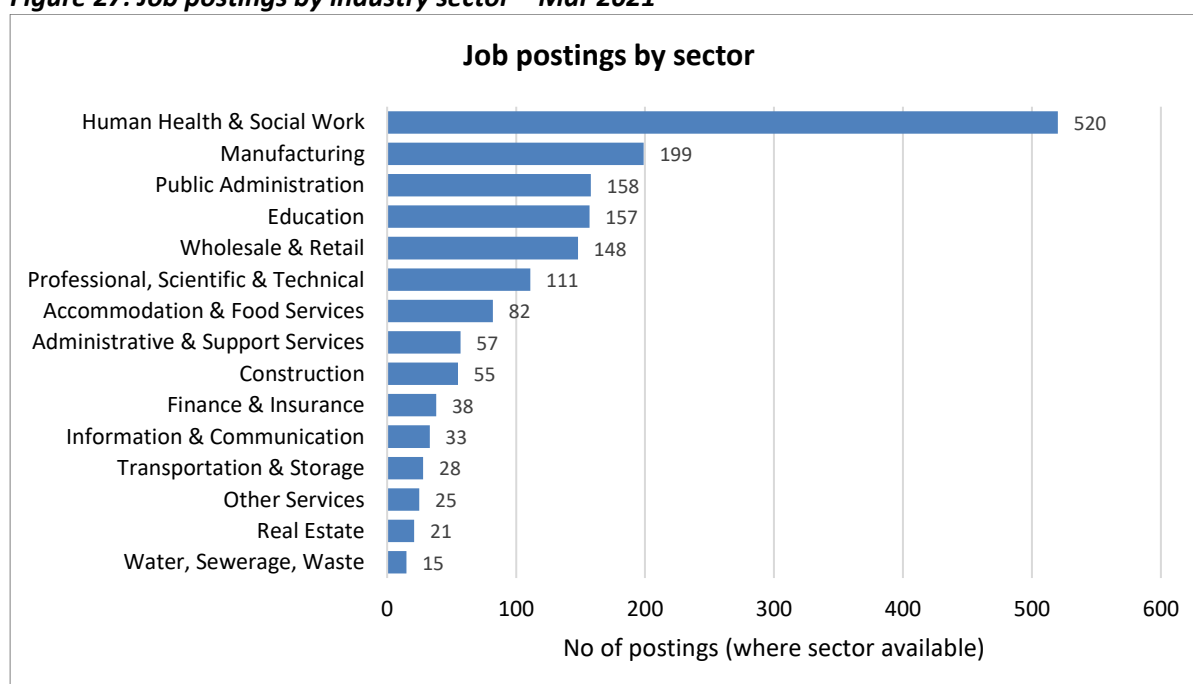
Figure 26: Job postings by month



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

The demand for staff can also be assessed by sector, although it should be noted that not all postings contain sufficient data for a sector to be identified. In March the sector with the most postings was health & social work (520) followed by manufacturing (199) and public administration (158).

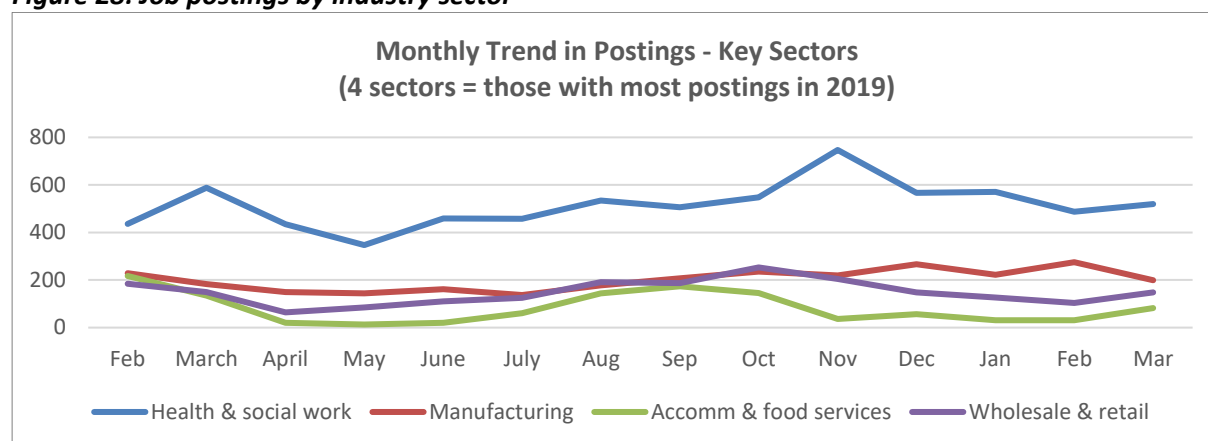
Figure 27: Job postings by industry sector – Mar 2021



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Despite overall levels returning to those prior to the pandemic, this has varied between sectors. The chart below shows the trend for the four sectors which recorded the highest levels of postings in 2019 (ie pre-pandemic). It can be seen that demand from health related organisations peaked in November before returning to a more normal level. Demand from the manufacturing sector has remained relatively stable throughout, although there was a downturn in March. The retail and hospitality sectors have both seen an upturn in March which is presumably a response to the imminent easing of restrictions. Despite this, levels in both sectors remain below those seen at the same time last year.

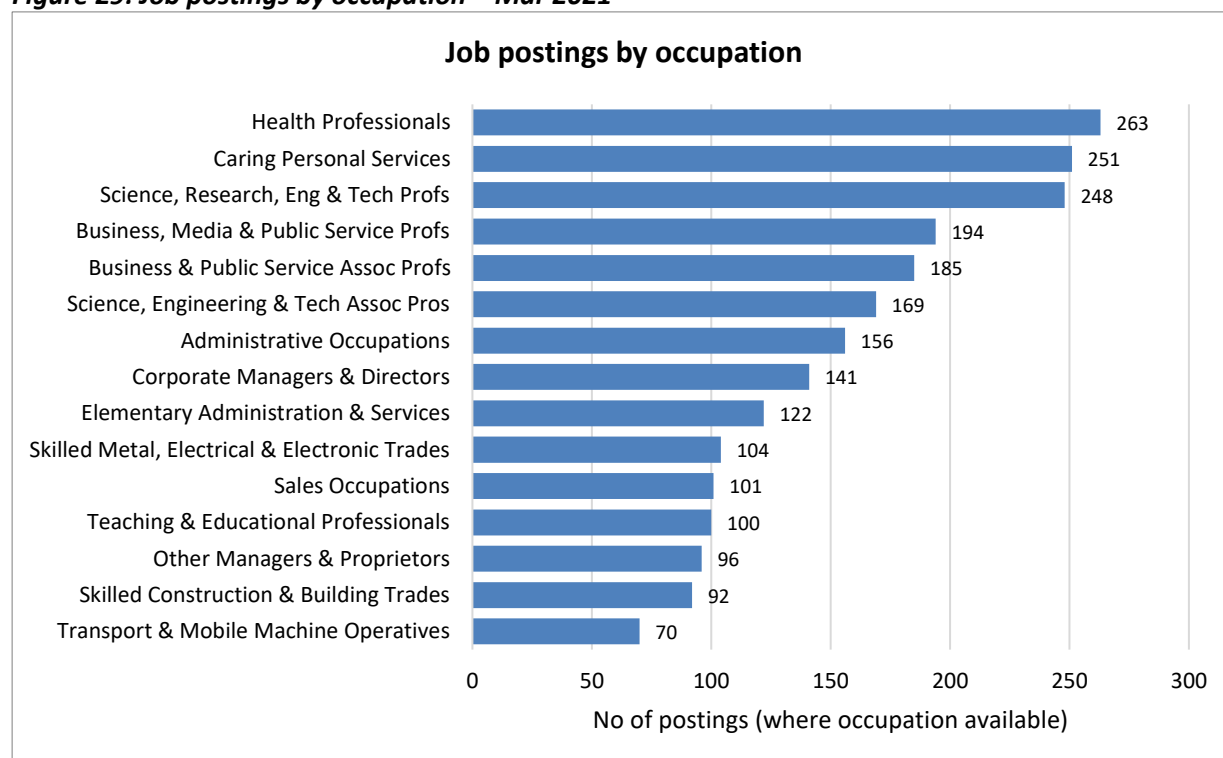
Figure 28: Job postings by industry sector



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Reflecting the demand by sector, the most commonly advertised vacancies last month were for health professionals (263), caring personal services (251) and science, research, engineering & technical professionals (248).

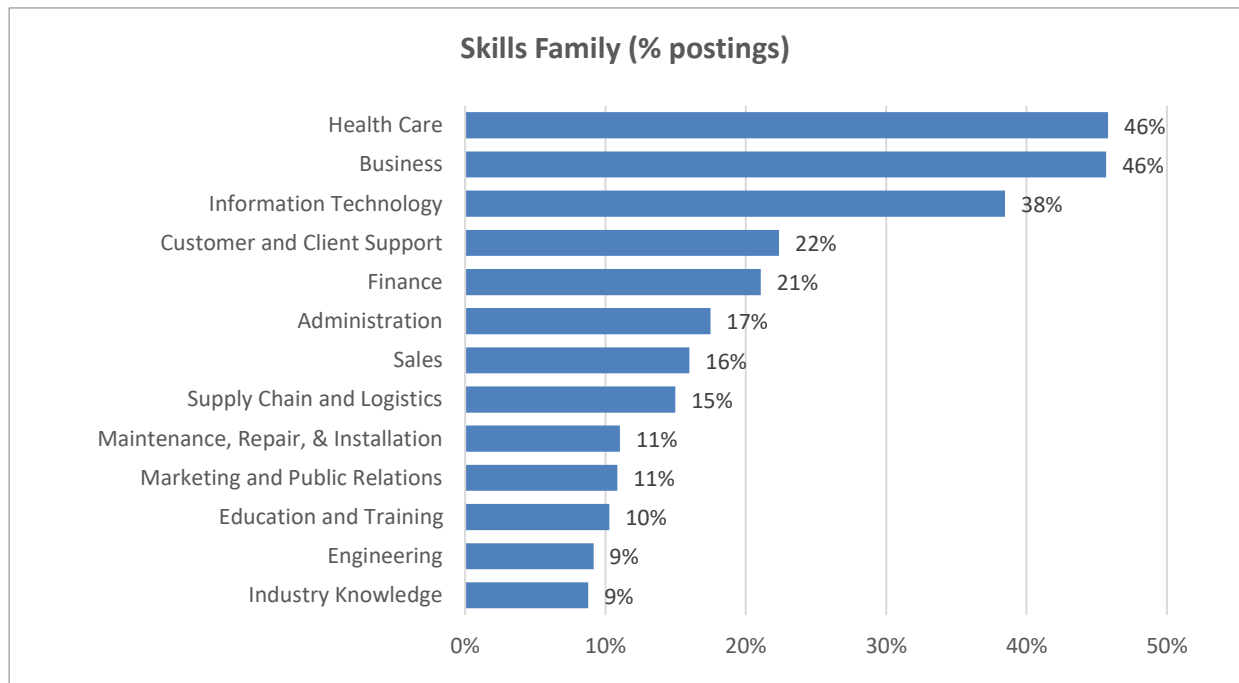
Figure 29: Job postings by occupation – Mar 2021



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies).

The web scraping software analyses key words about job requirements and where possible assigns them to skills “families”. Overall, the 2,645 postings in March contained over 5,000 skills mentions. Almost half of postings (which referred to specific skills) contained reference to business skills and a similar proportion to health care skills. Information Technology skills also featured strongly.

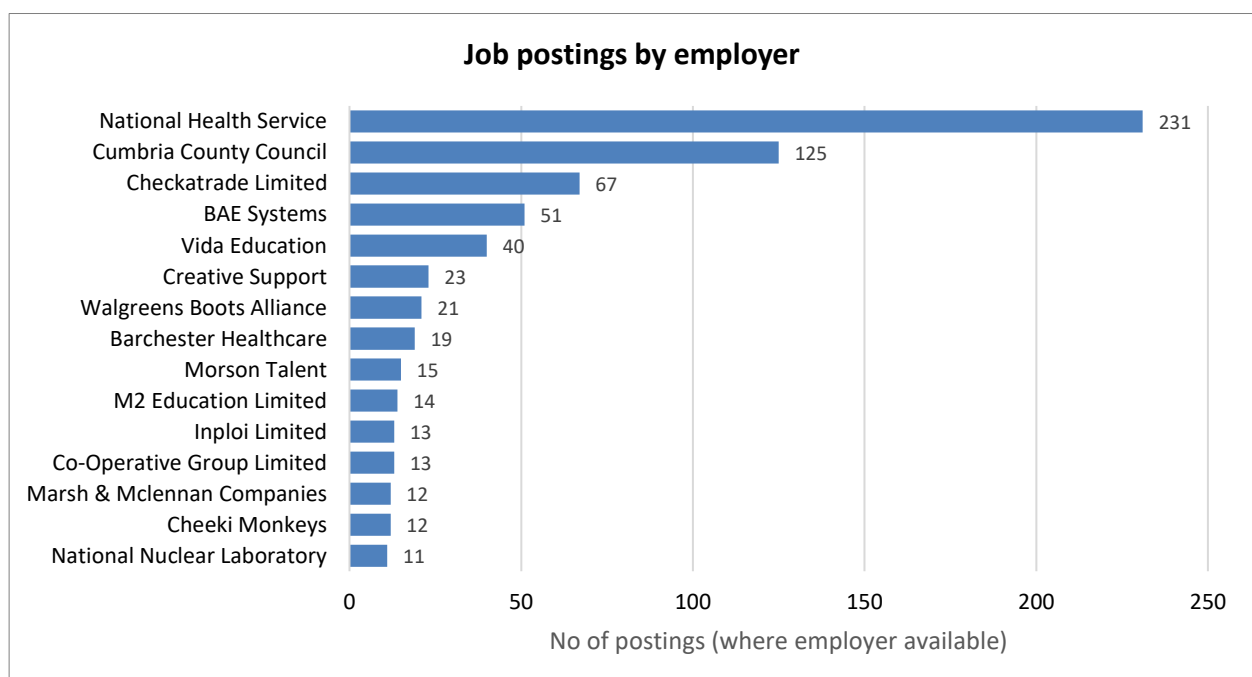
Figure 30: Skills family – Mar 2021



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Many postings are placed by recruitment agencies and do not name an employer but where an employer could be identified, the highest volume of postings was for jobs in the National Health Service, followed by Cumbria County Council and then Checkatrade (with these adverts referencing an upturn in the construction sector in recent months).

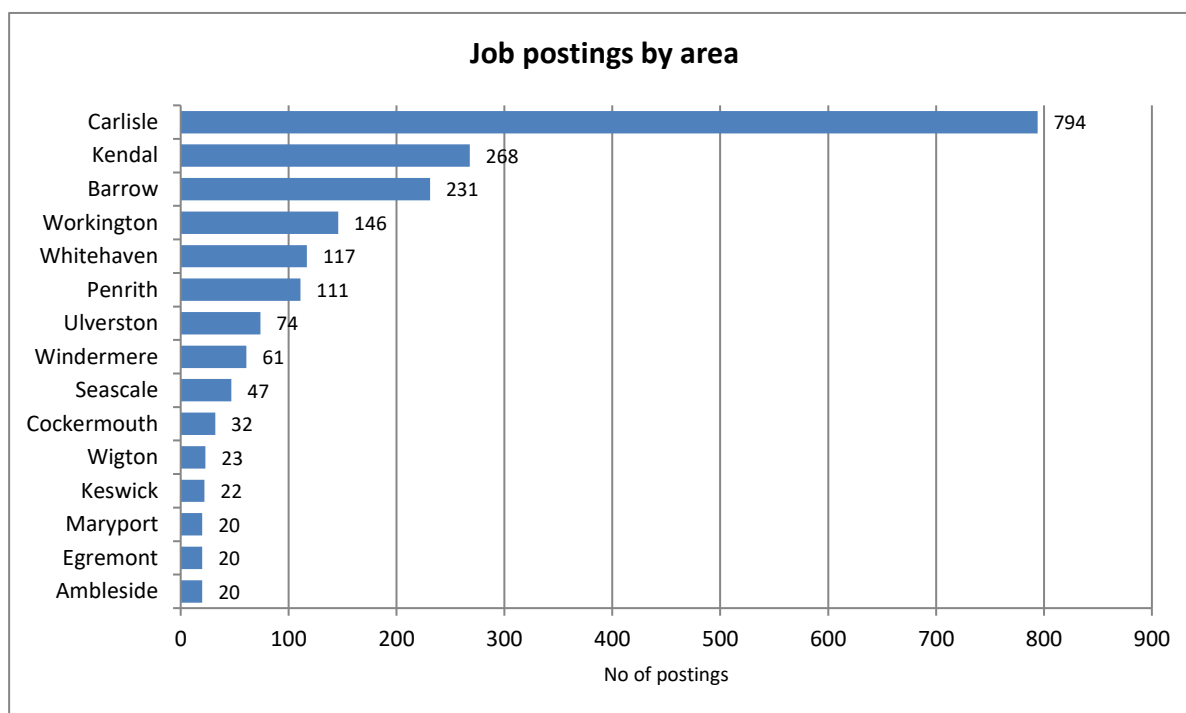
Figure 31: Employers – Mar 2021



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

In the most recent month there was a sharp decrease in postings for the Barrow area (down 137) following an increase in the area last month. However, there were increases in Carlisle (+143) and South Lakeland (+123) which probably reflects the impending easing of restrictions on the retail and hospitality sector.

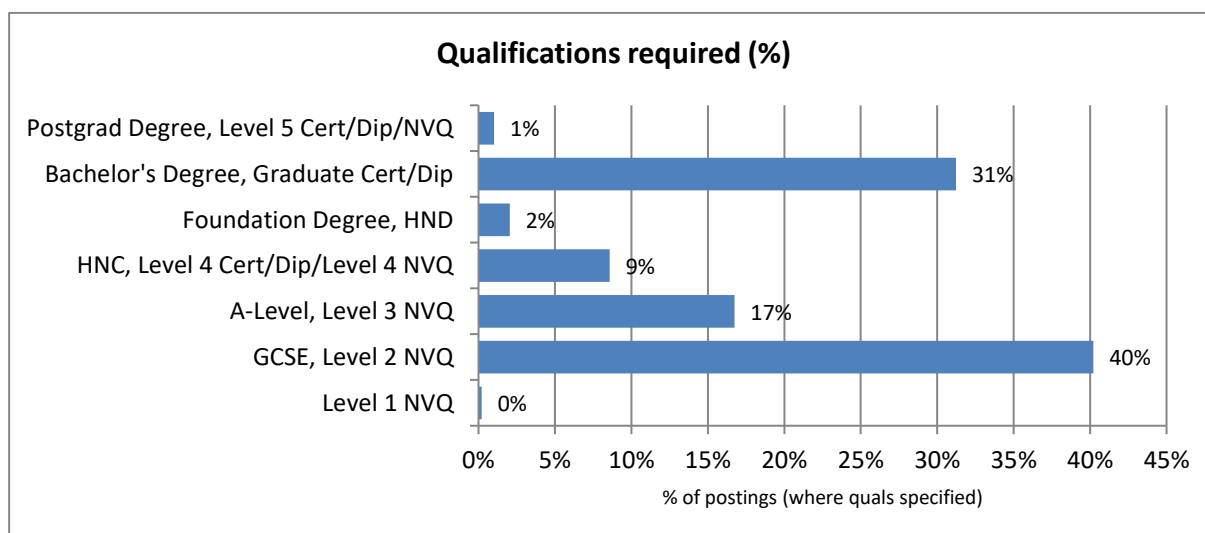
Figure 32: Job location – Mar 2021



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Specific qualifications are only mentioned in around a fifth of postings but where they were specified, 40% required GCSE/level 2 and 31% required a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

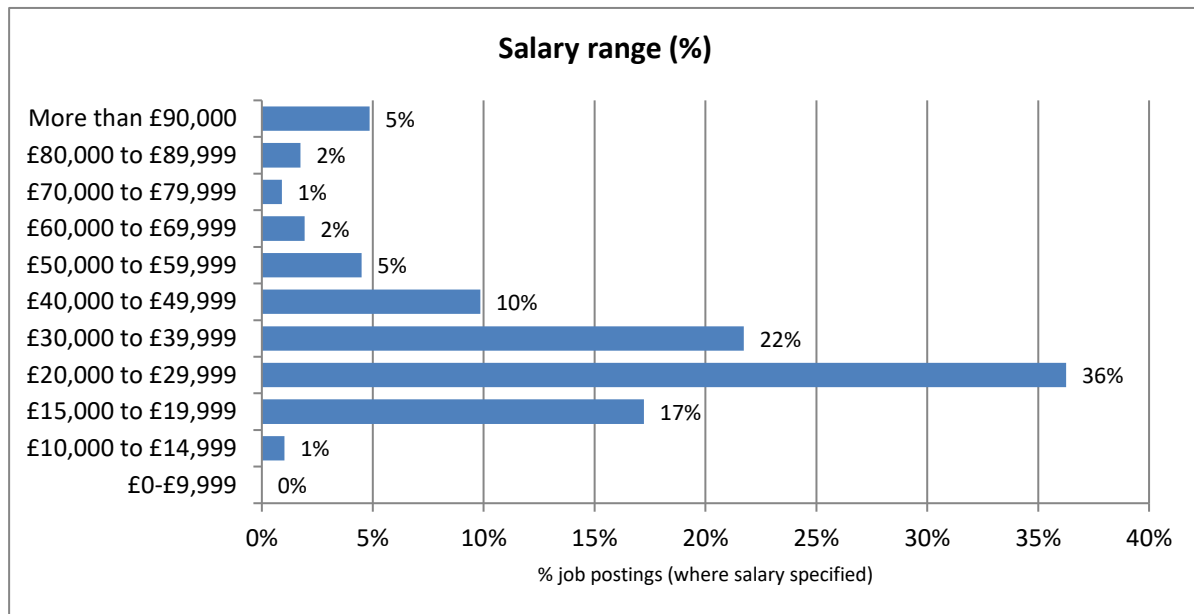
Figure 33: Qualification level – Mar 2021



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

Specific salaries are only mentioned in around two thirds of posting, but where they were, just over a third were offering salaries of £20,000-£29,999 and a fifth £30,000-£39,999). The mean advertised salary was £34,700.

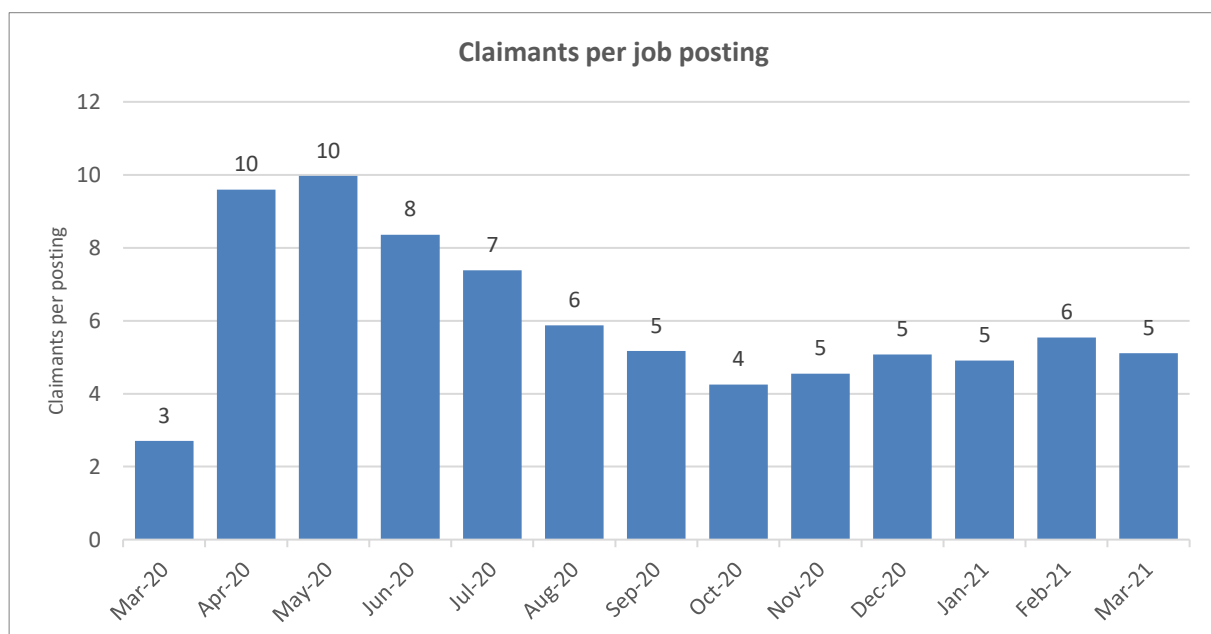
Figure 34: Salary range – Mar 2021



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)

As vacancy levels have increased there's been a small fall in the ratio of claimants to vacancies to 5 claimants per job posting in March. This is down from the high of 10 at the peak of the first lockdown in 2020 but still higher than the same month last year when it was 3 claimants per job posting.

Figure 35: Claimants per Job Posting – Mar 2021



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

7. JOB RETENTION SCHEME & SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME SCHEME

7a. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) – next update due 6th May 2021

On 25th March 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. Please note that this data supersedes all previous data released.

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 from each job, 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. In the monthly data, where an employee is furloughed for more than one claim period they will be counted in each month's data. In the cumulative data, each unique job is counted only once.

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

The key points from this release covering the period to 28 February 2021 are below. Figures for February 2021 are provisional and subject to revision as additional claims for the period are received. Broadly, the age, gender and regional patterns of furloughed employments in February, and the business size breakdown of employers, are similar to those seen in January.

- the number of employments furloughed grew sharply in November and stood at 4.0 million at 31 December. The employments furloughed increased further in January to 4.9 million employments furloughed on 31 January (revised figure following late claims and amendments)
- provisional figures for February are slightly lower at 4.7 million furloughed at 28 February, but final levels are expected to be broadly similar to January once all claims and amendments for February have been received
- the levels of furloughing seen in these figures reflects the changes to restrictions on individuals, households and businesses across the UK since the autumn
- provisional figures show that all sectors have seen a slight reduction in levels of furlough between 31 January and 28 February. Once all claims and amendments for February have been received it is expected that we will see broad consistency in the levels of furlough for all sectors across the two months. The other service activities sector is an exception to this, which saw a slight increase in furloughing between 31 January and provisional figures for 28 February
- at 31 January, 41% of employers had staff furloughed. Provisional estimates show that this remained the same at 28 February. 16% of employments eligible for furlough were furloughed at 31 January. Provisional estimates show this remained broadly consistent at 15% at 28 February, but final figures are expected to show a take-up rate of 16% when all claims and amendments for February have been received
- since the start of the scheme a cumulative total of 11.4 million jobs have been supported by the CJRS at various times. This is across all claims submitted to 15 March 2021
- the accommodation and food services sector had the highest take-up rate at 31 January at 68% of eligible employers furloughing and provisional estimates show this increased to 69% of employers at 28 February. 1.23 million employments were furloughed in this sector on 31 January. Provisional estimates show the number of employments furloughed decreased to 1.15 million on 28 February
- furloughing of staff in the wholesale and retail sector peaked on 24 April at 1.85 million employments furloughed. This dropped to 356,400 employments furloughed at 31 October. The number of employments furloughed increased throughout November, December and January to

985,100 at 31 January. Provisional figures show that at 28 February, furloughing in this sector had decreased to 918,500 employments furloughed

- this publication includes a more detailed breakdown of furlough rates by 3-digit SIC 2007
- the beverage serving activities sector had the highest proportion of eligible employments furloughed at 31 January, with a take-up rate of 86%. This was followed by the hotels and similar accommodation sector which had 79% of its eligible employments furloughed. Provisional figures for 28 February show these sectors had employment take-up rates of 78% and 69% respectively, the largest take-up rates of all sectors
- the restaurants and mobile food service activities had the highest number of employments furloughed at 31 January with 466,400 employments furloughed. Provisional figures show this sector had 444,100 employments furloughed at 28 February
- in the passenger air transport sector, there were 200 employers (61% of employers eligible) furloughing 35,100 employments (52% of eligible employments) at 31 January. At 28 February, provisional figures show this remained similar with 35,300 employments furloughed
- overall, medium and large sized employers had a lower proportion of their employees furloughed under the CJRS than small and micro-sized employers in January and February
- provisional figures for 28 February show that employers with 250 or more employees had 9% of eligible employees furloughed compared with 15% across all employers. Employers with 2 to 4 employees had the highest proportion of eligible employees furloughed at 35%
- across the UK, where it was possible to link the data, 2.40 million females were furloughed at 31 January compared with 2.24 million males. Provisional estimates show a broadly similar pattern with 2.34 million females furloughed at 28 February and 2.14 million males
- provisional figures for the end of February showed that London had the highest furlough take-up rate at 17% of jobs where the employee was resident in London furloughed against a UK average of 15%. London also had the highest take-up in January
- the under 18 age band had the highest take up rate for both females and males at 31 January, 40% and 30% respectively. Provisional estimates for 28 February show that the under 18 age band continued to have the highest take-up rates at 39% for females and 28% for males
- employees aged 18 to 24 and 65 and over were more likely than average to be furloughed while levels of furloughing were lowest among employees aged 50 to 54
- 1.37 million employments were on partial furlough at 31 January, 28% of the total employments furloughed. Provisional estimates show this figure decreased to 1.27 million employments furloughed at 28 February, 27% of the total employments furloughed.

Cumbria furlough count

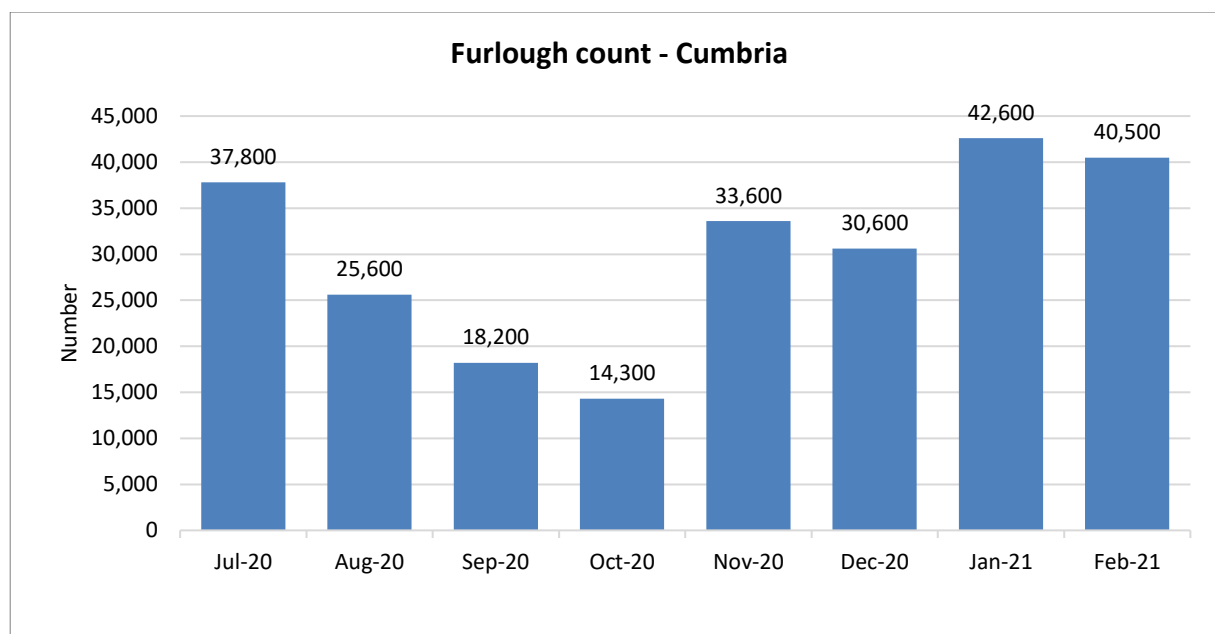
The number of furloughed employments fell slightly in Cumbria according to the provisional February data, from 42,600 to 40,500 which is a fall of 5% compared to a national fall of 7%. However, when late claims are included, there is likely to have been less change (late claims typically add 4% to the total). Carlisle saw the largest numerical and % fall, down by 1,100 (12%). South Lakeland continues to have the highest number of furloughs at 11,800 followed by Carlisle with 8,200.

Figure 36: Furlough count by month, national and local

Employments Furloughed at end of month								
	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21 (r)	Feb-21 (p)
UK	5,393,100	3,810,900	2,843,400	2,399,600	3,868,200	3,975,100	4,883,500	4,557,100
England	4,234,200	3,092,700	2,328,900	1,897,400	3,209,500	3,186,200	3,886,900	3,753,600
Cumbria	37,800	25,600	18,200	14,300	33,600	30,600	42,600	40,500
Allerdale	7,100	4,500	3,400	2,700	6,700	6,000	8,400	8,000
Barrow	3,500	2,300	1,700	1,500	2,900	2,800	3,600	3,400
Carlisle	8,800	6,700	4,300	3,300	6,600	6,000	9,300	8,200
Copeland	4,000	2,600	1,900	1,400	3,100	2,800	3,800	3,800
Eden	4,700	3,000	2,200	1,700	4,300	3,800	5,400	5,300
South Lakeland	9,700	6,500	4,800	3,800	10,000	9,200	12,000	11,800

Source: HMRC (r = revised, p = provisional)

Figure 37: Furlough count by month, Cumbria



Source: HMRC

For the first time, HMRC have provided a cumulative figure for total unique jobs furloughed at least once since the start of the scheme and this stood at 92,000 for Cumbria by the end of February which means that approximately 41% of jobs that are eligible for the scheme have been furloughed at some point since it began, the highest rate in the country. South Lakeland has seen 23,600 furloughs since the start of the scheme, approximately half of all eligible jobs held by residents in the area, the highest rate in the country.

NB: HMRC do not provide an “official” take-up rate as the number of eligible jobs has changed during the course of the scheme. Rates shown here are calculated using the eligible jobs as of January 2021.

Figure 38: Furlough count since start of scheme – Feb 21

Furloughs since start of scheme			
	Unique Jobs furloughed	Take-up rate	Rank
UK	11,379,800	38%	
England	9,419,400	38%	
Cumbria	92,000	41%	1
Allerdale	17,900	42%	21
Barrow	8,900	29%	310
Carlisle	21,000	41%	44
Copeland	9,100	30%	309
Eden	11,400	48%	4
South Lakeland	23,600	51%	1

Note: Cumbria rank out of 31, district ranks out of 312 (England)

Cumbria furlough rate

The furlough take-up rate in Cumbria was 18% in February, down from 19% in January (although the February figure is likely to be revised when late claims are included). The furlough rate in Cumbria continues to be the highest in England. Rates continue to vary between districts – in South Lakeland over a quarter of eligible employments (26%) were furloughed at the end of February and almost a quarter were in Eden (22%). These are the two highest furlough rates among English district areas. In contrast, 11% of employments in Barrow were furloughed and 13% in Copeland which are among the lowest furlough rates in England (309th and 279th out of 312 respectively).

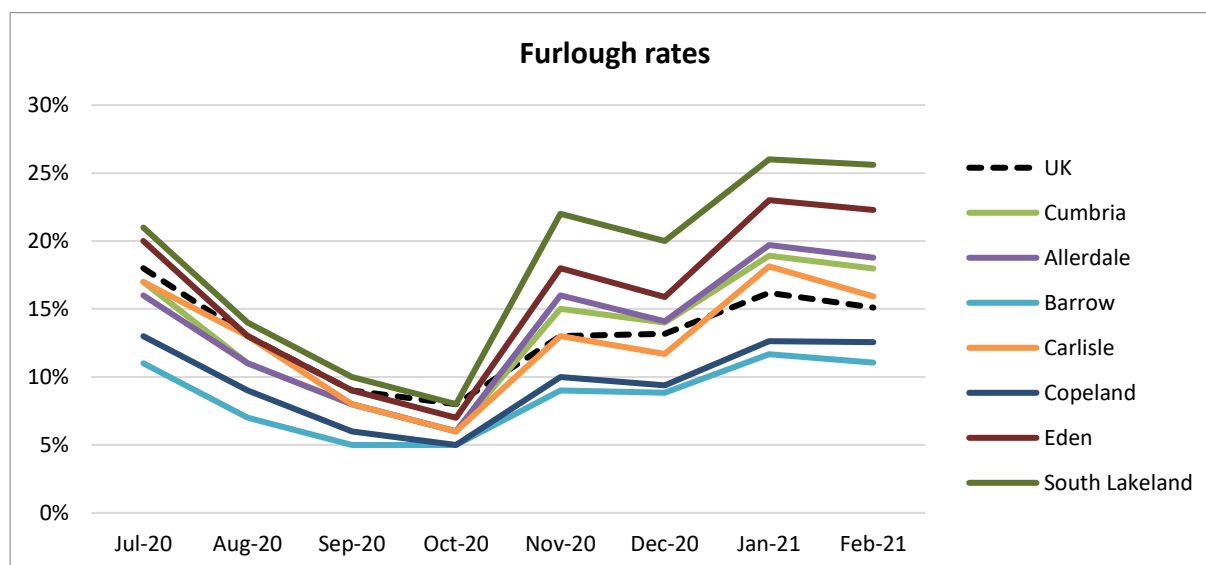
Figure 39: Furlough take-up rate by month, local and national

Take-up Rate									
	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21 (r)	Feb-21 (p)	Feb 21 rank
UK	18%	13%	9%	8%	13%	13%	16%	15%	
England	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	13%	15%	15%	
Cumbria	17%	11%	8%	6%	15%	14%	19%	18%	1
Allerdale	16%	11%	8%	6%	16%	14%	20%	19%	18
Barrow	11%	7%	5%	5%	9%	9%	12%	11%	309
Carlisle	17%	13%	8%	6%	13%	12%	18%	16%	84
Copeland	13%	9%	6%	5%	10%	9%	13%	13%	279
Eden	20%	13%	9%	7%	18%	16%	23%	22%	2
South Lakeland	21%	14%	10%	8%	22%	20%	26%	26%	1

Note: Cumbria rank out of 31, district ranks out of 312 (England only)

Source: HMRC (r = revised, p = provisional)

Figure 40: Furlough take-up rates, local and national (graph)



Source: HMRC

Furlough by sector

Also for the first time with this release, HMRC have provided local authority level furlough figures broken down by industry sector. These are only for January and February 2021 with no earlier data and no cumulative figures. These data show that of the 40,500 furloughed employments in Cumbria in February, the highest total was in accommodation & food services, 14,130 which is a third of all furloughed jobs in the county. The next biggest furloughing sector was wholesale & retail with 7,790 (a fifth of all furloughed jobs).

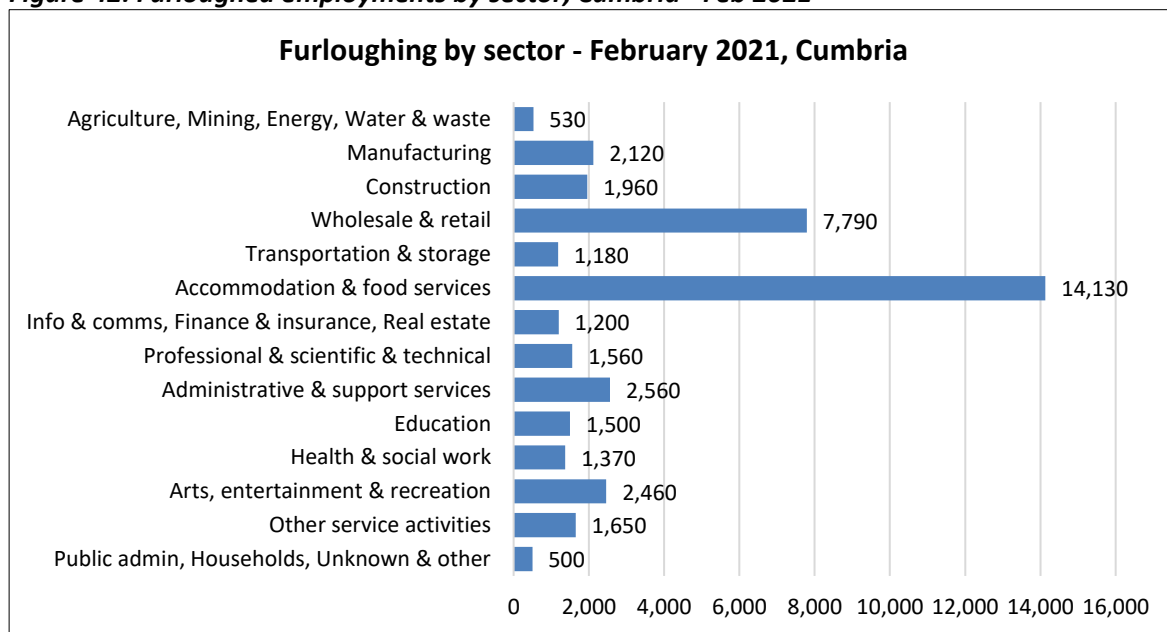
Figure 41: Number of furloughed employments by sector Feb 2021

	Employments Furloughed by Sector - February 2021							
	Allerdale	Barrow	Carlisle	Copeland	Eden	South Lakeland	Cumbria	England
Agric, Energy, Water, Waste	130	40	120	50	100	110	530	30,650
Manufacturing	470	140	470	130	270	630	2,120	240,510
Construction	470	150	480	220	230	410	1,960	183,430
Wholesale & retail	1,670	780	1,940	530	810	2,070	7,790	748,680
Transportation & storage	270	70	240	130	150	330	1,180	159,600
Accommodation & food services	2,540	1,000	2,170	1,430	2,420	4,570	14,130	875,010
Info & comms, Finance, Real est	180	130	260	60	100	460	1,200	172,480
Professional, scientific, technical	310	150	350	190	190	380	1,560	226,320
Admin & support services	550	280	620	240	260	620	2,560	323,660
Education	220	60	230	110	190	690	1,500	159,830
Health & social work	250	200	310	150	160	300	1,370	144,030
Arts, entertainment & recreation	510	270	590	300	190	590	2,460	255,720
Other service activities	320	120	360	220	140	500	1,650	184,740
Public admin, Households, other	90	40	90	60	60	160	500	48,900
Total	8,000	3,400	8,200	3,800	5,300	11,800	40,500	3,753,600

Note: Furlough location is measured by residence of employee not workplace location

Source: HMRC

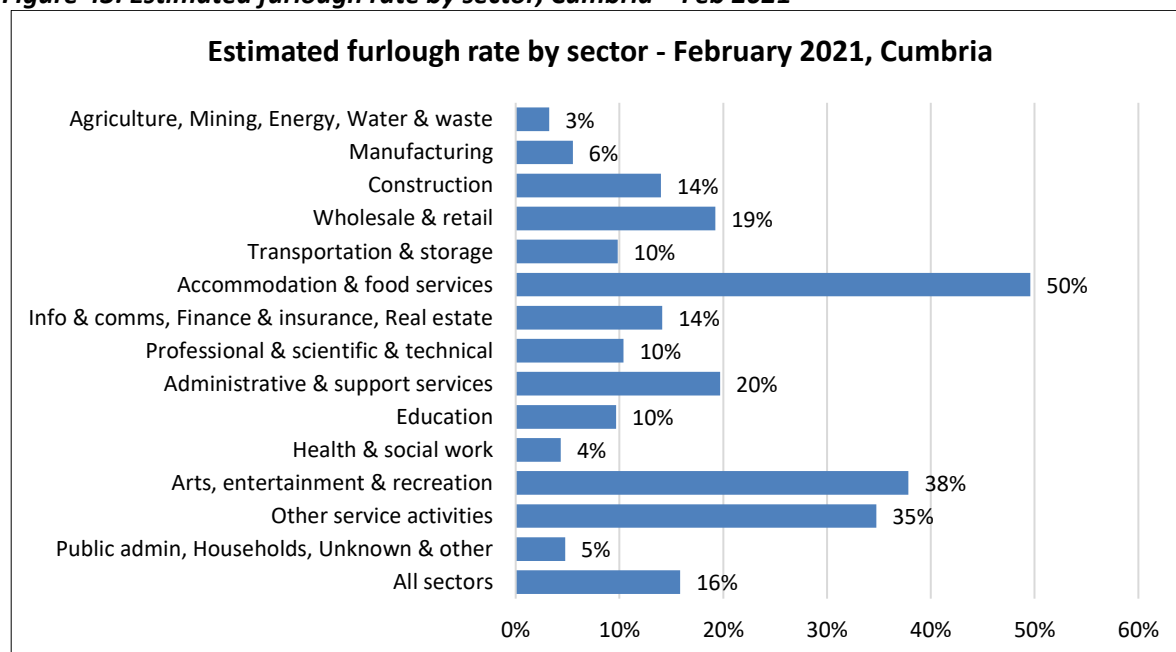
Figure 42: Furloughed employments by sector, Cumbria - Feb 2021



Source: HMRC

HMRC have not provided sector level take-up rates for local areas or provided eligible employment data by sector. There are challenges in constructing rates using other datasets because available employment data includes jobs not eligible for the furlough scheme. In addition it workplace based whereas furlough data is residence based and therefore commuting patterns have an impact when combining the two. However, taking those caveats into account, we have used ONS BRES data to construct some estimates of furlough rates by sector for Cumbria although they should be treated with caution (and for the reasons stated, the analysis is too unreliable to present at district level). This suggests that approximately half of all jobs in accommodation & food services were furloughed at the end of February, together with 38% of arts, entertainment & recreations jobs and 35% of those in other services (which includes activities such as hairdressing etc).

Figure 43: Estimated furlough rate by sector, Cumbria – Feb 2021



Source: HMRC / BRES / local calculations NB: these are not official rates and should be treated as a guide only

7b. Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) – next release due 3rd June.

On 28th January HMRC released updated 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 3 of the scheme up to the end of January.

Key national findings

- Around 5 million individuals reported self-employment income for the tax year 2018 to 2019, and had their data assessed for potential Self-Employment Income Support Scheme eligibility. In order to be assessed, a self-employed individual needed to have traded in the tax year 2018 to 2019 and submitted a Self Assessment tax return on or before 23 April 2020 for that year.
- Via this process, 3.4 million self-employed individuals were identified as potentially eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. This means that they met the criteria for the scheme based on Self Assessment returns from the tax year 2018 to 19 and earlier years. However, some of the potentially eligible businesses will not have been adversely affected by Coronavirus or have ceased trading since the tax year 2018 to 19 so will not have been eligible.
- By 31 January 2.2 million (65%) of the potentially eligible population had claimed a third Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant with the value of these claims totalling £6.2 billion.
- The average value per Self-Employment Income Support Scheme 3 claim was £2,800.
- Around two-thirds of the potentially eligible population are male (2.3 million).
 - the average claim for females is also lower at £2,200 compared to the average claim for males of £3,100.
- Around 91% of claimants are aged between 25 and 64 and take-up of the grant in those age groups is at or above 62%. No one single age group dominates take up of Self-Employment Income Support Scheme 3 grants.
- The sector with the highest number of potentially eligible individuals and the highest proportion of claims is the construction industry. By 31 January, construction workers had made 747,000 claims for Self-Employment Income Support Scheme 3, totalling £2.6 billion.
- The 2 regions with the highest number of claims are London (439,000) and the South East (316,000), reflecting their relative sizes.
- Of the 1.7 million that did not meet the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme criteria, 1.4 million (86%) had trading profits less than non-trading profits (e.g. 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 1.7 million).

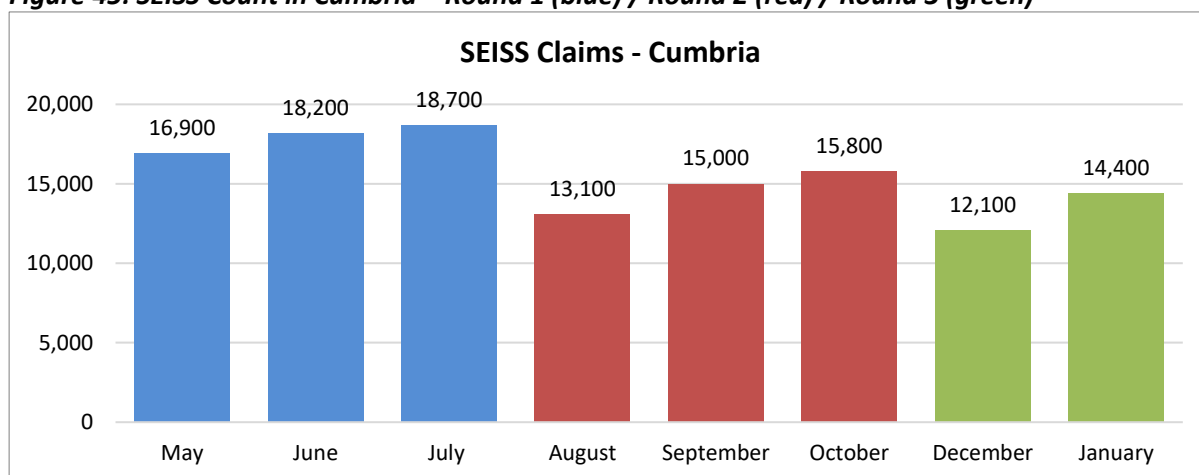
Key Cumbria findings

- The release shows that there were an estimated 24,800 potentially eligible self-employed people in Cumbria, of whom 14,400 had made claims totalling £38.7m by the end of January under round 3 of the scheme.
- The take up rate in Cumbria was 58%, below the national rate of 65%. The take up rate was lower than nationally in all 6 of Cumbria's districts. Barrow had the highest take up rate at 62% and Eden the lowest at 53%.

Figure 44: SEISS Counts & Take-Up Rates – January 2021

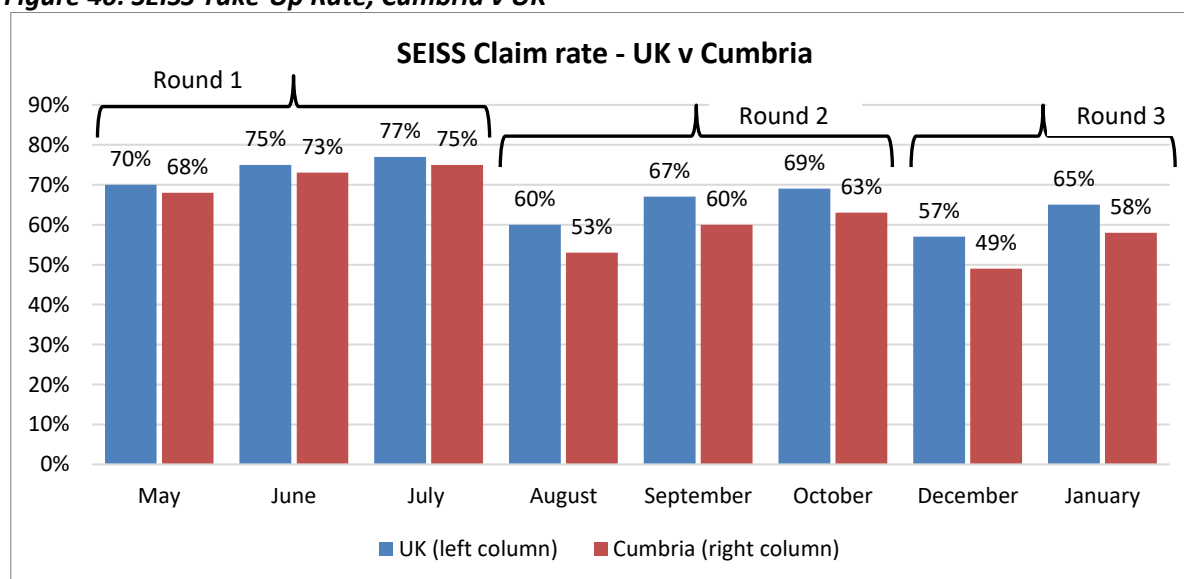
Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (Round 3) - as at 31.01.21					
	Total potentially eligible population	Total claims	Total value of claims (£)	Average value of claims (£)	Take-Up Rate
UK	3,370,000	2,191,000	6,210,000,000	2,800	65%
Cumbria	24,800	14,400	38,700,000	2,700	58%
Allerdale	4,700	2,700	7,100,000	2,600	57%
Barrow	1,900	1,200	2,600,000	2,300	62%
Carlisle	5,100	3,100	8,400,000	2,700	61%
Copeland	2,100	1,100	2,900,000	2,600	55%
Eden	4,400	2,400	6,600,000	2,800	53%
South Lakeland	6,700	3,900	11,100,000	2,800	59%

Figure 45: SEISS Count in Cumbria – Round 1 (blue) / Round 2 (red) / Round 3 (green)



Source: HMRC (NB: data are cumulative per round)

Figure 46: SEISS Take-Up Rate, Cumbria v UK



Source: HMRC (NB: data are cumulative per round)

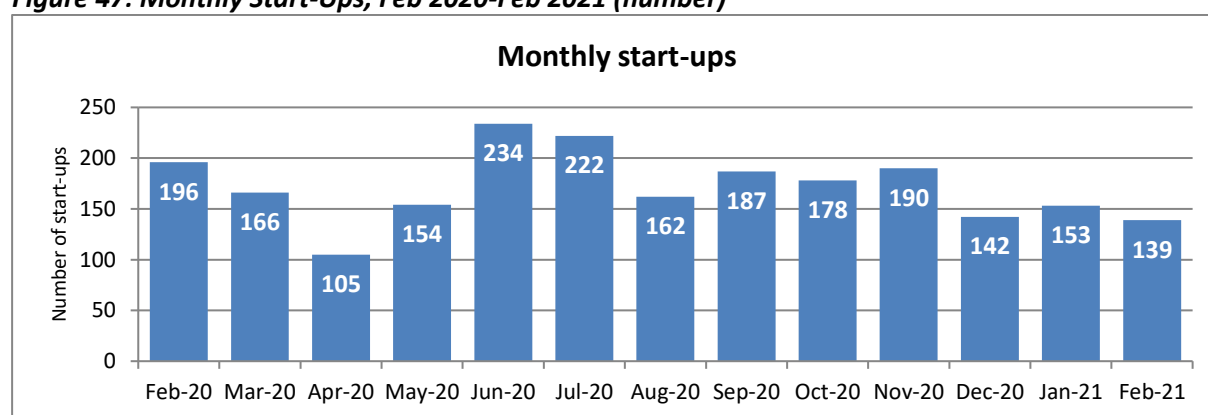
8. BUSINESS START-UPS AND STOCKS

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. In addition, the dataset now includes Neobank / Challenger bank starts. 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 139 business start-ups in Cumbria in February 2021, a fall of 14 from January (-9%) and 57 fewer than the same month last year. Nationally the number of start-ups fell by 881 (-3%) from January. Over the quarter (Dec-Feb), there were 434 start-ups which is 63 fewer than the same quarter last year, a fall of 13% compared to a national increase of 3%.

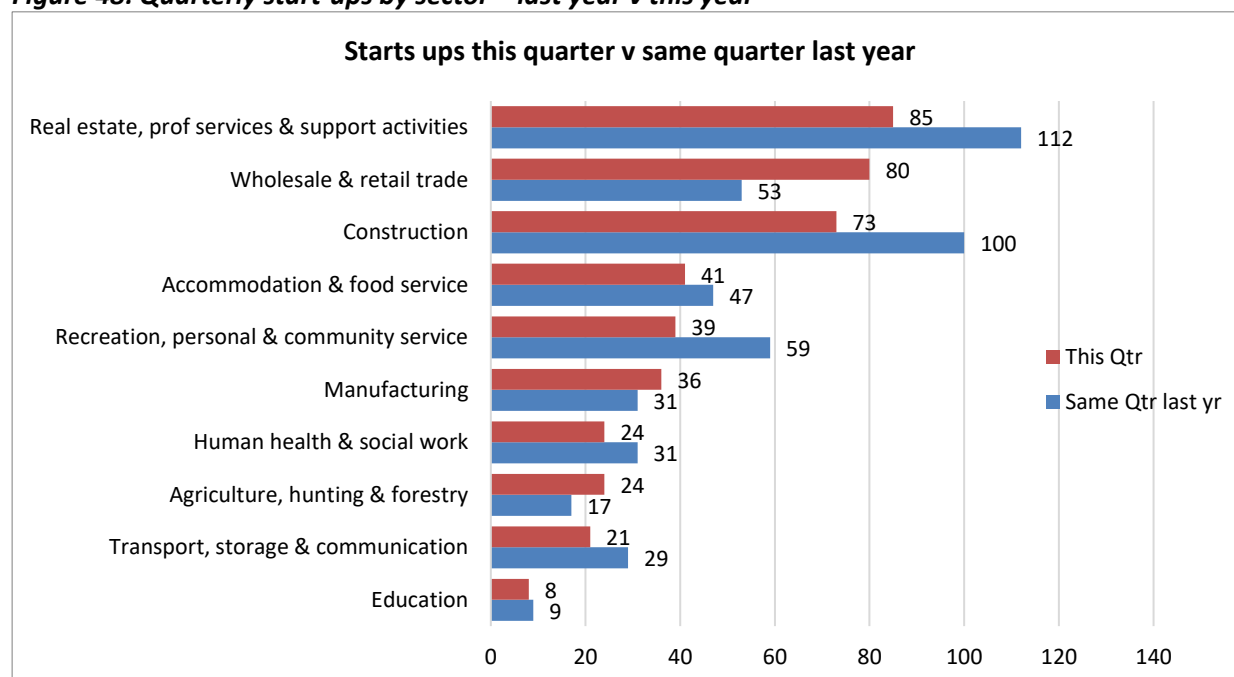
Figure 47: Monthly Start-Ups, Feb 2020-Feb 2021 (number)



Source: BankSearch

The highest volume of start-ups in the past quarter (Dec-Feb) were organisations in real estate & professional services (85), wholesale & retail (80) and construction (73).

Figure 48: Quarterly start-ups by sector – last year v this year



Source: BankSearch

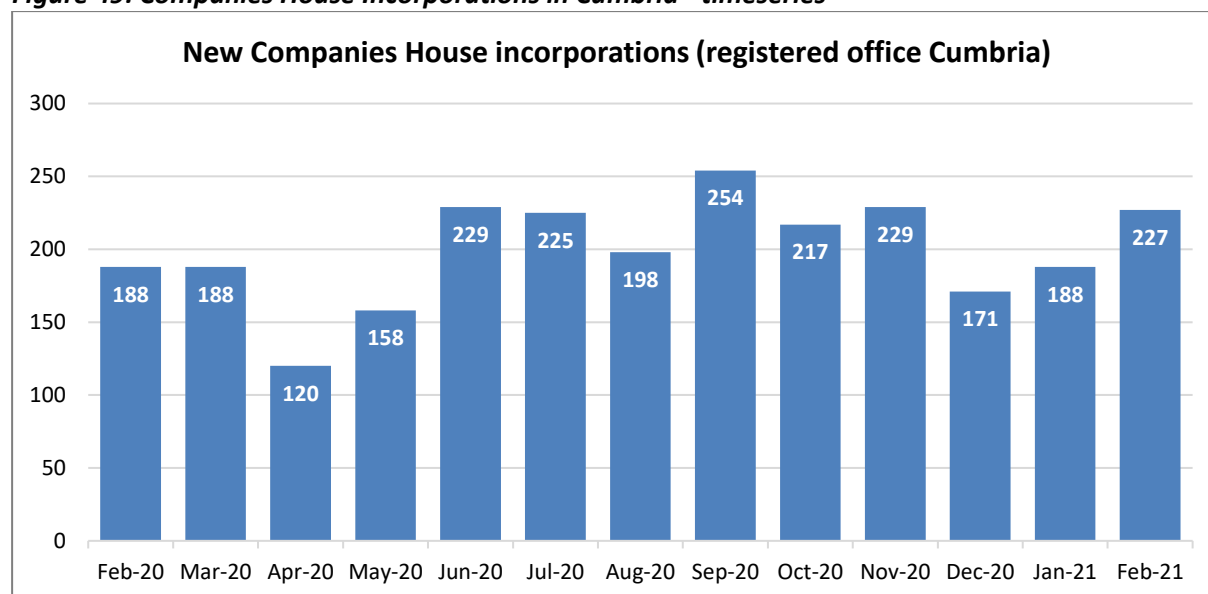
8b: New Companies House Incorporations

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 businesses.

There were 227 new Companies House incorporations in February 2021, a rise of 39 since January and also 39 higher than the same month last year. New registrations rose everywhere in Cumbria in February except Copeland where there were 4 fewer.

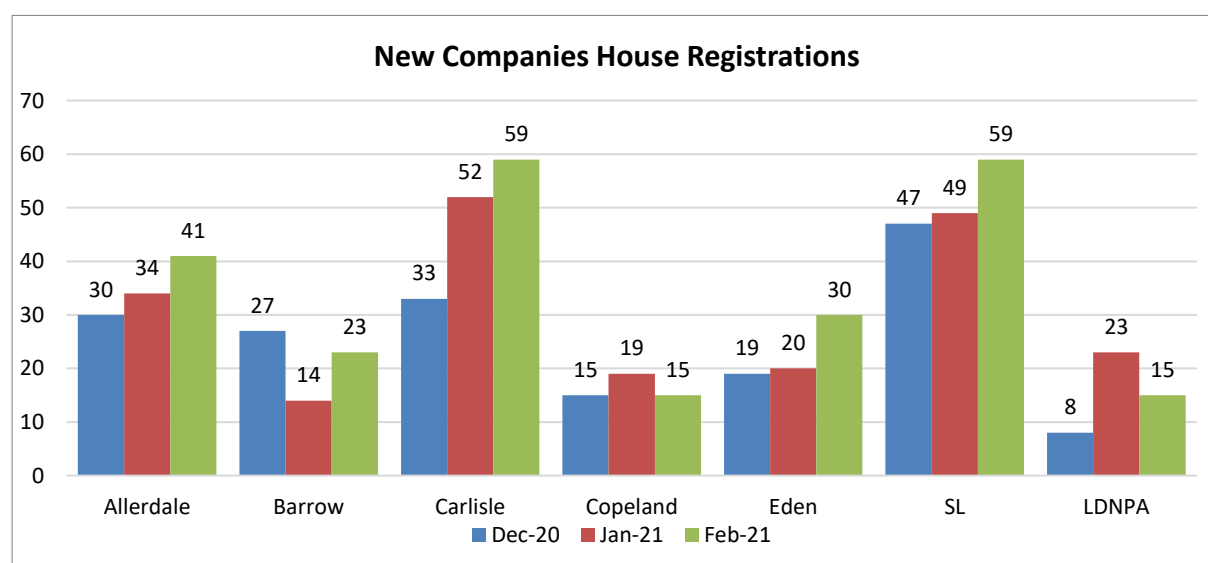
It should be noted that activity during the pandemic has been influenced by the pausing and subsequent resumption of activity at Companies House. Therefore, trends in this data should be viewed with a degree of caution.

Figure 49: Companies House Incorporations in Cumbria - timeseries



Source: BankSearch, data relate to registered office address.

Figure 50: Companies House Incorporations by District, last 3 months



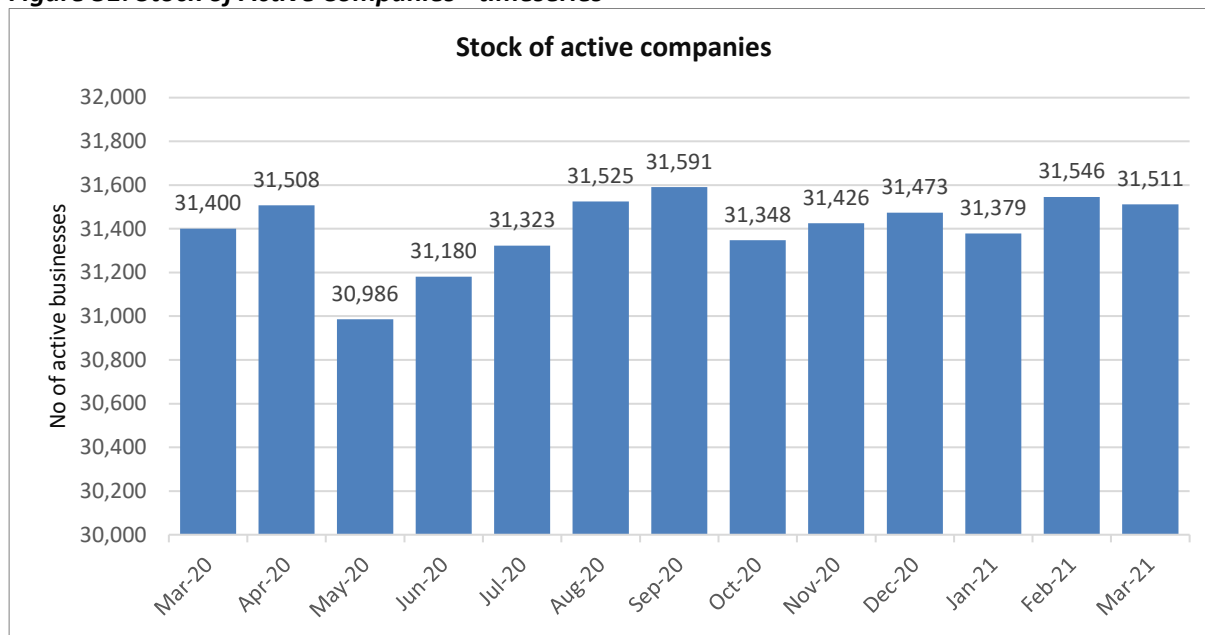
Source: BankSearch Note 1: LDNPA area is a "best-fit" comprising wards with 50%+ of area within NP. Note 2: LDNPA starts are also counted in the relevant district. Note 3: Data relate to registered office address.

8c. Stock of Active Companies and Businesses dissolved / in liquidation

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.

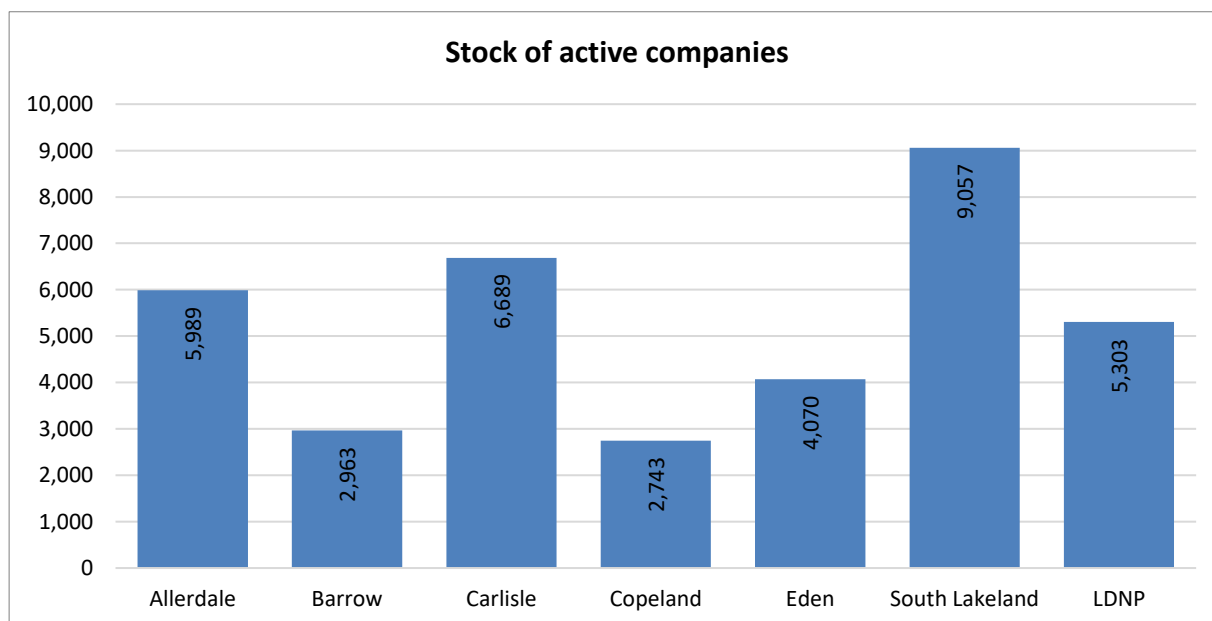
At the end of March 2021 there were 31,511 entries on the FAME database for Cumbria, a fall of 35 from last month. The number of businesses dissolved/entering liquidation in Cumbria was 259 in March, (indicating that the very low number in February was probably an anomaly caused by activity at Companies House).

Figure 51: Stock of Active Companies - timeseries



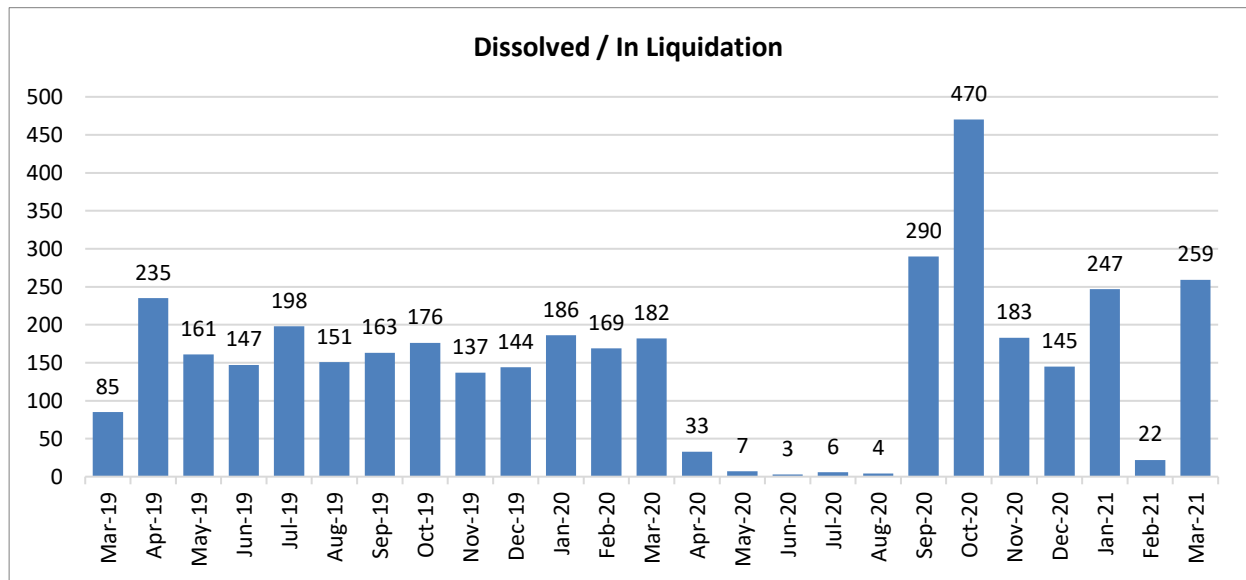
Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)

Figure 52: Stock of Active Companies by District, Mar 2021



Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk) Note: LDNPA also included in relevant district

Figure 53: Businesses dissolved/in liquidation during month, timeseries



Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)

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