# Labour Market Briefing April 2023

Cumbria **Intelligence** Observatory

## Introduction

This briefing contains the most recent data from the standard Claimant Count and Universal Credit registers (both counts taken on **9th March**).  The briefing also the latest available data on payrolled employment, job postings, NEETs, business start-ups and active companies.

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, Cumberland Council.  Email: *ginny.murphy@cumberland.gov.uk* Tel: 07826 859026.  Copies of this and other briefings can be found on the Observatory website: *www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk*.

## Contents

## 1.  KEY FINDINGS FOR CUMBRIA

- There were estimated to be 222,051 payrolled employees resident in Cumbria in Mar 2023, an increase of 294 from the revised Feb figure (0.1%).  This means there are 2,596 more residents in payrolled employment than this time last year (+1.2%).  Note: these data measure those on PAYE payrolls which is not the same as total employment as it doesn't include self-employment or other non-PAYE employment.

- Median monthly payrolled earnings in Mar 2023 in Cumbria were £2,072 which is 94% of the UK average.  They were highest in West Cumbria (99% of UK) but lower in East Cumbria (90% of UK) which is partly to be expected due to the sector balance and the prevalence of part time jobs in the latter area (NB: these are the ITL area definitions which are not the same as those for the new unitary authorities (see page 4).

- Median payrolled earnings growth in Cumbria compared to a year ago was 5.9% which is below the UK (6.3%) and has been stronger in East Cumbria (6%) than West Cumbria (4.8%) which is a reversal of recent trends.

- Survey estimates for the year ending Dec 2022 suggest that the proportion of 16-64 year olds in employment in Cumbria was 76.8% which is above the national average of 75.5% although this is not statistically significant due margins of survey error.  The employment rate was higher than a year ago but still lower than before the pandemic.

- The economic inactivity rate (those aged 16-64 who are not working or actively looking for work) was estimated to be 19.7% in the year to Dec 2022, lower than the national average of 21.7% but within statistical variation.

- There were 7,325 claimants of JSA / UC (out of work and seeking work) on 9th Mar 2023 which is 155 more than the revised Feb figure.  The count rose in all the former district areas except Eden.

- Compared to the same time last year, the claimant count (actively seeking work) is 880 lower, a fall of 11% compared to a fall of 8% nationally.

- The claimant rate (actively seeking work) in Cumbria was 2.5% in Mar 2023 up 0.1ppt from Feb and it remains below the national rate of 3.7% in all the former district areas.

- The claimant rate in Cumbria is 0.3 ppt lower than a year ago which is the same as the fall in the national rate.

- Claimant rates (actively seeking work) are below the national average in all age groups at Cumbria level.  However, rates for 18-24 year olds remain above the national average in Barrow (6.8% v 4.9%) and are also higher in Allerdale (5.2%).
- There were 35,915 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria on 9th Mar 2022 (in work, out of work or not required to seek work), a rise of 405 (1.1%) from the revised Feb figure.  This is 2,523 more than a year ago (+7.6%).
- The number of claimants rose in the searching/planning/preparing conditionality group (+261) and in the no work requirements group (+276) but fell in the working conditionality group (-127).
- The claimant rate for all UC claimants was 12.0% in Mar 2023 compared to 14.4% nationally and the rate was below the national rate in all 6 districts except Allerdale where it was just above (14.5%).  However, UC claimant rates for 18-24 year olds were above the national average in Allerdale, Barrow and Copeland and were also above the national average for 25-34 year olds year olds in Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle and Copeland as well as for 35-44 year olds in Allerdale and Copeland.
- 17,002 of the UC claimants had been claiming for more than 12 months in Mar 2023, an increase of 298 from Feb and 1,562 more than a year ago.  This means 75% of UC claimants have been claiming for more than a year.
- Data for households on Universal Credit is published quarterly and the latest is for Nov 2022.  This shows that in Nov there were 30,172 households in receipt of Universal Credit, up by 935 (3.2%) from a year previously.
- There were an estimated 25,913 children/young people under the age of 20 living in Universal Credit households in Nov 2022 which is 2,894 (12.6%) more than a year ago.
- There were 334 young people (aged 16/17) classed as NEET (inc not knowns) in Jan 2023, down by 16 from Dec and 7 fewer than a year ago.
- The NEET rate was 3.1% in Cumbria in Feb 2023, down 0.1ppt from Dec.  The highest rates were in the former districts of Barrow (4.1%) and Allerdale (3.3%).  NB: these data are now residence-based (previously they were based on the location of the office responsible for tracking).
- The participation rate for 16/17 year olds was 91.1% in Jan compared to 92.4% nationally with 77.0% participating via full time education or training and 12.8% via an Apprenticeship.
- There were 8,846 active online job postings in Mar 2023, 24 fewer than the Feb total (-0.3%).  The volume is still significantly higher than three years ago in Mar 2020 (+3,579, +68%) which is immediately before the pandemic began to impact the labour market.
- The volume of newly posted vacancies increased in March continuing a trend of increased new recruitment activity since the turn of the year.  However the overall stock of active posting was stable suggesting that vacancies may be being filled more quickly than previously.
- The occupations most in demand were care workers, nurses, kitchen & catering assistants, cleaners & domestics and sales occupations.
- The sectors accounting for most postings were employment activities (often recruitment companies), health, retail, accommodation and food & beverage services.
- Job-related skills most in demand were nursing, auditing, housekeeping and finance whilst the personal attributes most in demand were communications, customer service and management.
- The recruiting organisations with the most active job postings were the NHS, BAE Systems and Adecco.
- There were 481 small business start-ups in the quarter ending Feb 2023 which is 28 fewer than last quarter but identical to the same quarter last year.
- Start-ups were highest in real estate & professional services (98), recreation, personal & community services (73), construction (73) and wholesale & retail (72).
- There were 258 new Companies House incorporations in Feb 2023, a rise of 19 from Jan and 38 more than in Jan last year.
- There were 30,582 active companies in Cumbria at the end of Mar 2023, 34 fewer than in Feb.  There were 151 businesses dissolved/in liquidation during Mar 2023.
- Of the active businesses in Feb 2023, 2,008 had posted financial results showing a 10% increase in employment and/or turnover in their most recent accounts (6.6% of businesses) whilst 1,359 had posted results showing a 10% decline in one or both measures (4.4% of all businesses) (note: not all businesses file detailed financial accounts).
- In Mar 2023, 49.1% of Cumbria's companies on the Red Flag Alert system were rated as Gold or Silver (UK 38.6%) and 43.2% were rated as Bronze or Amber (UK 50.1%).  There was a significant fall in gold rated companies in March (-20%) which may signify early signs of

increased stress but the dataset is quite volatile on a monthly basis so we need more data before drawing firm conclusions.

- 2,592 companies had 1 financial Red Flag, 11 had 2 Red Flags and 2 had 3 Red Flags (meaning they're most at risk of imminent failure). The number with red flags fell by 61 in Mar compared to Feb and is the lowest in the 11 months we have been monitoring this data.
- The former districts of Carlisle and South Lakeland had the highest volume of Red Flag companies (654 and 772 respectively) and Carlisle and Barrow had the highest proportion of companies that had Red Flags (8.9% and 8.7% respectively).
- The highest volumes of red flag companies were in construction (390), retail (357) and professional services (294).

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

*NB: Unless stated otherwise, the unemployment figures in the national overview use a survey-based method of calculation which includes non-claimants and is measured over a quarterly period using a different population denominator. This is very different from the monthly claimant-based method used for local areas and can produce different trends. Therefore these figures should not directly be compared to the local area data.*

- December 2022 to February 2023 estimates show increases in the employment rate and the unemployment rate compared with the previous three-month period (September to November 2022), while the economic inactivity rate decreased.
- Total hours worked increased, compared with the previous three-month period, but remain below pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels.
- The UK employment rate was estimated at 75.8%, 0.2 percentage points higher than the previous three-month period and 0.8 percentage points lower than before the pandemic (December 2019 to February 2020).
- The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 3.8%, 0.1 percentage points higher than the previous three-month period and 0.2 percentage points below pre-pandemic levels.
- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at 21.1%, 0.4 percentage points lower than the previous three-month period and 0.9 percentage points higher than before the pandemic.
- The number of vacancies in January to March 2023 was 1,105,000, which is a decrease of 47,000 from October to December 2022.
- Vacancy numbers fell on the quarter for the ninth consecutive period in January to March 2023, down by 4.0% since October to December 2022, with vacancies falling in 13 of the 18 industry sectors.
- In January to March 2023, total vacancies were down by 188,000 from the level of a year ago, although they remained 304,000 above their pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) January to March 2020 levels.
- In December 2022 to February 2023, the number of unemployed people per vacancy was at 1.2, which is up from the previous quarter (September to November 2022), as the number of vacancies continued to decrease.
- Growth in employees' average total pay (including bonuses) was 5.9% and growth in regular pay (excluding bonuses) was 6.6% in December 2022 to February 2023.
- Growth in total and regular pay fell in real terms (adjusted for inflation) on the year in December 2022 to February 2023, by 3.0% for total pay and 2.3% for regular pay; a larger fall on the year for real total pay was last seen in February to April 2009 when it fell by 4.5%, but it still remains among the largest falls in growth since comparable records began in 2001.
- Average regular pay growth for the private sector was 6.9% in December 2022 to February 2023, and 5.3% for the public sector; a larger growth for the public sector outside of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic period was last seen in May to July 2005 (5.4%) and the difference between private and public sector growth rates has narrowed in recent months.
- The finance and business services sector saw the largest regular growth rate at 8.3%, followed by the construction sector at 6.2%.

## *3. PAYROLLED EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS*

*These data are from HMRC's Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) system. They cover employees payrolled by employers and not self-employment income or income from other sources such as pensions. This data is <u>not a measure of total employment</u> and can be influenced by administrative changes such as the IR35 reforms introduced in April 2021. Payrolled employees are recorded at their place of residence not work and latest month figures are a "flash estimate" and revised in the subsequent publication. Furloughed employees <u>were</u> included in the counts. Unless otherwise stated, figures here are seasonally adjusted.*

*NB: District data are released quarterly, the ITL areas of West Cumbria (Allerdale, Copeland, Barrow) and East Cumbria (Carlisle, Eden, South Lakeland) are released monthly.*

### 3a. Payrolled employees (seasonally adjusted)

There were estimated to be 222,051 residents in Cumbria in payrolled employment in Mar 2023, a rise of 294 from the revised Feb total and 2,596 more than a year ago, an annual increase of 1.2% compared to 1.8% nationally.

*Figure 1: Payrolled employees - Cumbria*
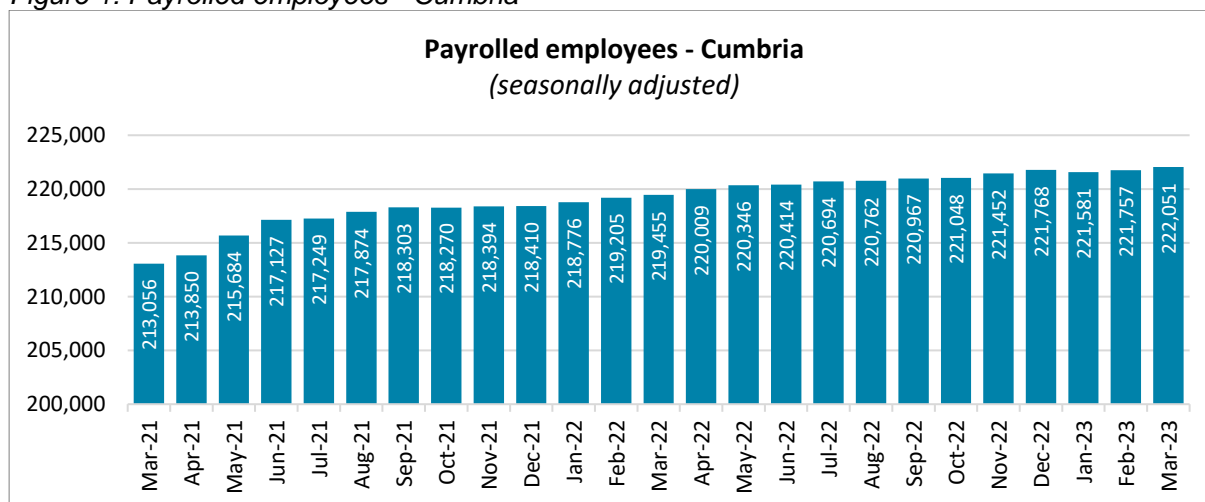


*Source: HMRC / ONS  Latest month data are always provisional.*

*Figure 2: Payrolled employees – Seasonally adjusted*

| Payrolled employees (seasonally adjusted) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Mar 2023** | **Month change** | | **One year change** | |
| | **No** | **No** | **%** | **No** | **%** |
| UK | 29,999,336 | 30,545 | 0.1% | 532,652 | 1.8% |
| England | 25,465,440 | 23,717 | 0.1% | 464,512 | 1.9% |
| Cumbria | 222,051 | 294 | 0.1% | 2,596 | 1.2% |
| West Cumbria ITL | 102,859 | 165 | 0.2% | 887 | 0.9% |
| East Cumbria ITL | 119,192 | 128 | 0.1% | 1,709 | 1.5% |

*Source: HMRC / ONS  Notes: District data are only released quarterly. Latest month data are provisional.*

These charts show the % annual change in payrolled employees each month (seasonally adjusted) each month compared to the same month the previous year. N*B: district / unitary data are only updated once a quarter.*

*Figure 3: % change in employees from same month previous year (seasonally adjusted)*

**3b. Median monthly pay (seasonally adjusted)**

Median monthly pay for employees in Cumbria was £2,072 in Mar 2023 which is 94% of the UK average. There was a variation between West and East Cumbria with earnings in West Cumbria (Allerdale, Copeland, Barrow) similar to the UK average (99%) but those in East Cumbria (Carlisle, Eden, South Lakeland) only 90%. Median earnings data are not available for the unitary areas.

*Figure 4: Median monthly pay for payrolled employees*
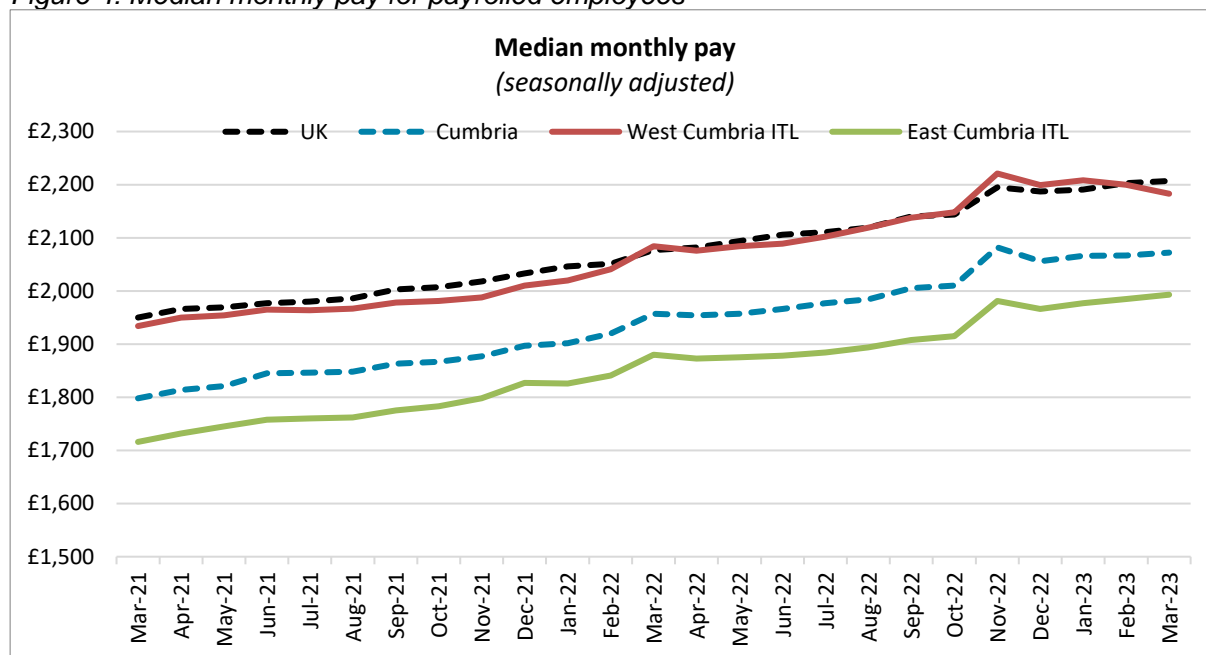


*Source: HMRC / ONS Notes: Latest month data are always provisional. Unitary data are not available.*

*Figure 5: Median pay for payrolled employees*

| Median pay (seasonally adjusted) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Mar 2023** | **UK Index** | **Month change** | | **One year change** | |
| | **No** | **Index** | **No** | **%** | **No** | **%** |
| UK | 2,207 | 100 | 4 | 0.2% | 130 | 6.3% |
| Cumbria | 2,072 | 94 | 5 | 0.2% | 115 | 5.9% |
| West Cumbria ITL | 2,183 | 99 | -17 | -0.8% | 99 | 4.8% |
| East Cumbria ITL | 1,993 | 90 | 8 | 0.4% | 113 | 6.0% |

*Source: HMRC / ONS Notes: District data are only released quarterly. Unitary data are not available. Latest month data are always provisional.*

## 4. CLAIMANT COUNT (released _monthly_) – count taken 9th Mar 2023

**Important notes:** _The phased rollout of UC means that claimant count trends over time can be misleading as a broader span of people are required to seek work than under JSA. In addition, the easing of UC claimant conditions in response to COVID-19 means that more people were able to claim than previously and in some (not all) cases, those who were furloughed or were self-employed were included in the "searching for work" category and therefore in the claimant count. It is not possible to identify the extent of this. Local area data are not seasonally adjusted and therefore the national data used in this part of the briefing is also not seasonally adjusted._

_Please see Appendix 1 at the end of the briefing for ward level data and data for Community Panel / Locality Board areas._

There was a rise of 155 in the number of claimants seeking work in Cumbria in Mar compared to the revised Feb figure, up to a total of 7,325. This is a monthly increase of 2.2% compared to a national rise of 3.3%. The count rose in all the former district areas except Eden. The claimant rate in Mar in Cumbria was 2.5% which is below the national rate of 3.7% and is up 0.1ppt from Feb. The claimant count at county level is 880 lower than a year ago and the rate is 0.3ppt lower but both are higher than the same month pre-pandemic.

_Figure 5: Standard Claimant Count – Mar 2023_

| | 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 | 902,895 | 4.3 | 673,500 | 3.1 | 1,576,390 | 3.7 | 49,865 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -141,270 | -8.2 | -0.3 |
| Cumbria | 4,225 | 2.8 | 3,095 | 2.1 | 7,325 | 2.5 | 155 | 2.2 | 0.1 | -880 | -10.7 | -0.3 |
| Cumberland | 2,600 | 3.2 | 1,865 | 2.2 | 4,465 | 2.7 | 100 | 2.3 | 0.1 | -570 | -11.3 | -0.3 |
| Allerdale | 895 | 3.2 | 710 | 2.5 | 1,610 | 2.8 | 50 | 3.1 | 0.1 | -35 | -2.1 | -0.1 |
| Carlisle | 1,055 | 3.2 | 730 | 2.1 | 1,785 | 2.6 | 30 | 1.7 | 0.0 | -410 | -18.7 | -0.6 |
| Copeland | 645 | 3.2 | 425 | 2.1 | 1,070 | 2.6 | 25 | 2.2 | 0.1 | -125 | -10.5 | -0.3 |
| Westmorland & Furness | 1,630 | 2.4 | 1,230 | 1.8 | 2,860 | 2.1 | 55 | 2.0 | 0.0 | -310 | -9.8 | -0.2 |
| Barrow | 825 | 4.0 | 550 | 2.7 | 1,370 | 3.3 | 55 | 4.2 | 0.1 | -100 | -6.9 | -0.2 |
| Eden | 295 | 1.8 | 265 | 1.6 | 560 | 1.7 | -10 | -1.6 | 0.0 | -65 | -10.1 | -0.2 |
| South Lakeland | 510 | 1.7 | 420 | 1.4 | 930 | 1.5 | 10 | 1.0 | 0.0 | -145 | -13.7 | -0.2 |
| _of which_ LDNPA | 190 | 1.6 | 155 | 1.3 | 345 | 1.5 | -5 | -2.0 | 0.0 | -65 | -16.0 | -0.3 |

_Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of population within NP. LDNPA data are also included in relevant district._
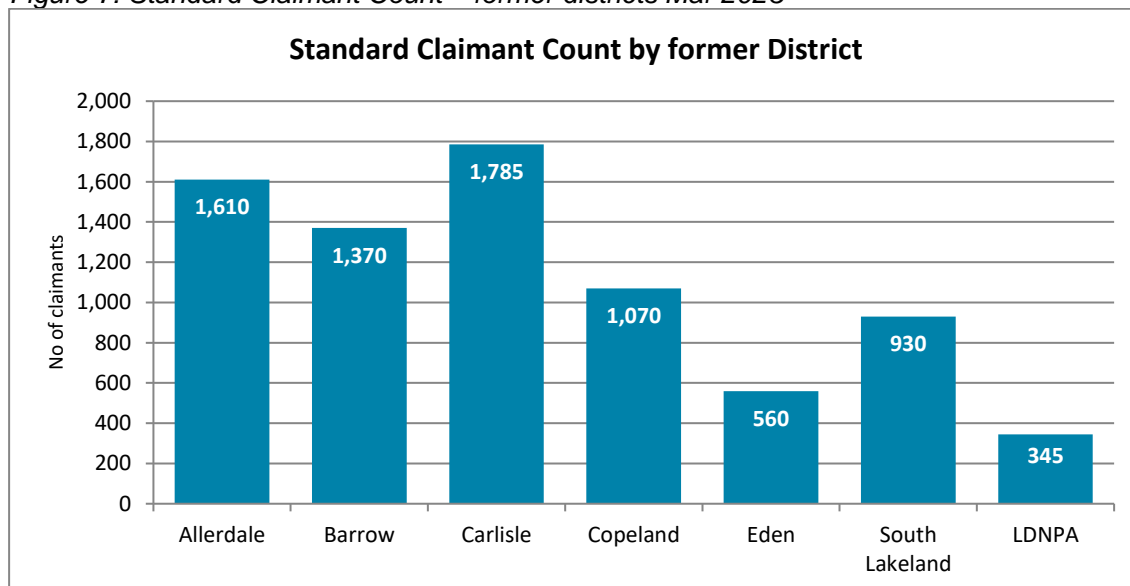
Figure 2 shows the claimant count and rate by broad age group in Mar. Claimant rates at Cumbria level are below the national average for all age groups and this is also the case for all districts with the exception of 18-24 year olds in Barrow where the rate remains well above the national average (6.8% v 4.9%) and is also higher in Allerdale (5.2%).

_Figure 6: Standard Claimant Count & Rate by Age Group in Cumbria – Mar 2023_

| | Aged 18-24 | | 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 | 271,535 | 4.9% | 418,895 | 4.6% | 378,805 | 4.4% | 263,640 | 3.0% | 239,545 | 2.8% | 1,576,390 | 3.7% |
| Cumbria | 1,335 | 4.1% | 2,020 | 3.6% | 1,625 | 3.0% | 1,080 | 1.6% | 1,260 | 1.6% | 7,325 | 2.5% |
| Cumberland | 775 | 4.2% | 1,260 | 4.0% | 995 | 3.3% | 650 | 1.8% | 775 | 1.9% | 4,465 | 2.7% |
| Allerdale | 315 | 5.2% | 425 | 4.1% | 355 | 3.5% | 220 | 1.7% | 285 | 1.9% | 1,610 | 2.8% |
| Carlisle | 270 | 3.4% | 550 | 4.0% | 410 | 3.1% | 275 | 1.9% | 285 | 1.8% | 1,785 | 2.6% |
| Copeland | 190 | 4.4% | 285 | 3.7% | 230 | 3.2% | 150 | 1.7% | 205 | 1.9% | 1,070 | 2.6% |
| Westmorland & Furness | 560 | 3.9% | 755 | 3.1% | 625 | 2.6% | 430 | 1.4% | 485 | 1.4% | 2,860 | 2.1% |
| Barrow | 340 | 6.8% | 385 | 4.4% | 280 | 3.7% | 170 | 1.9% | 190 | 2.0% | 1,370 | 3.3% |
| Eden | 70 | 2.2% | 135 | 2.5% | 120 | 2.1% | 100 | 1.3% | 130 | 1.4% | 560 | 1.7% |
| South Lakeland | 150 | 2.5% | 230 | 2.2% | 220 | 2.0% | 160 | 1.1% | 160 | 0.9% | 930 | 1.5% |
| _of which_ LDNPA | 40 | 1.7% | 90 | 2.7% | 95 | 2.4% | 60 | 1.0% | 65 | 0.9% | 345 | 1.6% |

_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 7: Standard Claimant Count – former districts Mar 2023*

**Standard Claimant Count by former District**

No of claimants

| District | Value |
|---|---|
| Allerdale | 1,610 |
| Barrow | 1,370 |
| Carlisle | 1,785 |
| Copeland | 1,070 |
| Eden | 560 |
| South Lakeland | 930 |
| LDNPA | 345 |

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

*Figure 8: Standard Claimant Count Rate – former districts, Mar 2023*

**Standard Claimant Count Rate**

% 16-64 population

| District | Value |
|---|---|
| Cumbria | 2.5 |
| Allerdale | 2.8 |
| Barrow | 3.3 |
| Carlisle | 2.6 |
| Copeland | 2.6 |
| Eden | 1.7 |
| South Lakeland | 1.5 |
| LDNPA | 1.5 |
| Cumberland | 2.7 |
| Westmorland & Furness | 2.1 |

Local rates ▬ ▬ ▬ UK
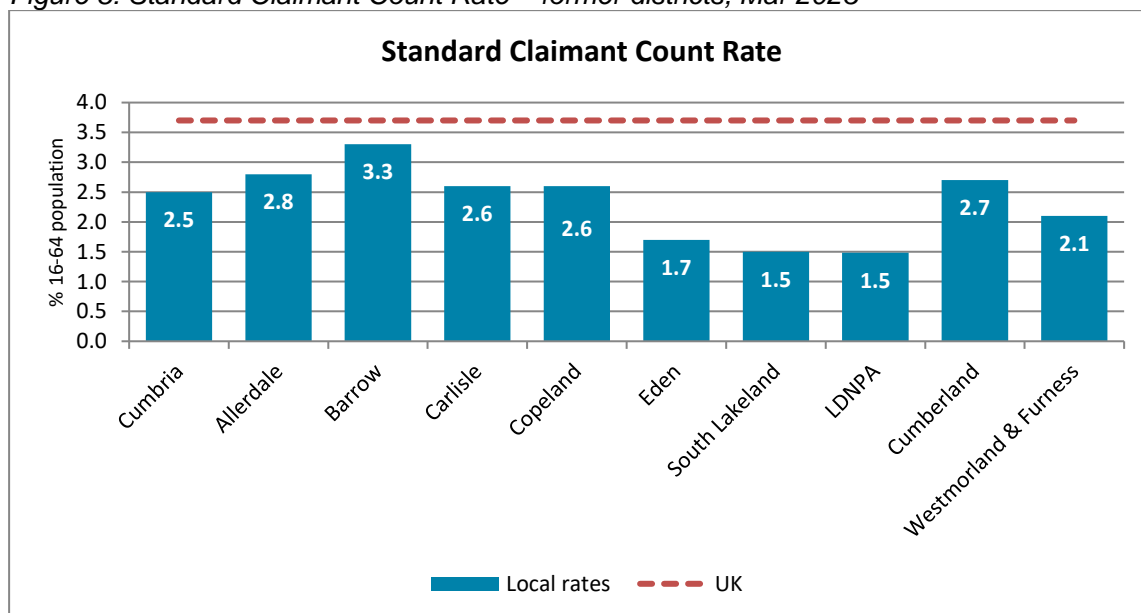
*Source: ONS/DWP*

*Figure 9: Standard Claimant Count - timeseries*

**Standard Claimant Count Timeseries**



Legend: Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle, Copeland, Eden, South Lakeland, LDNPA
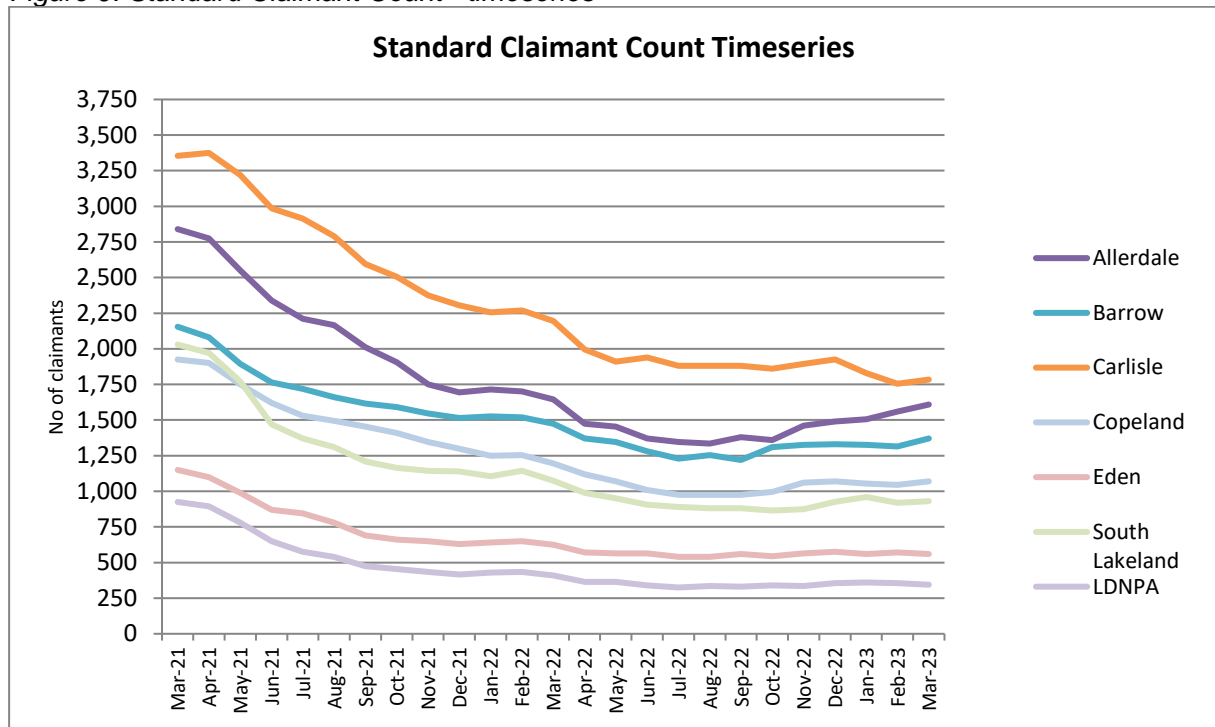
*Figure 10: Standard Claimant Rate - timeseries*

**Standard Claimant Rate Timeseries**



Legend: UK, Cumbria, Cumberland, Westmorland & Furness, Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle, Copeland, Eden, South Lakeland, LDNPA
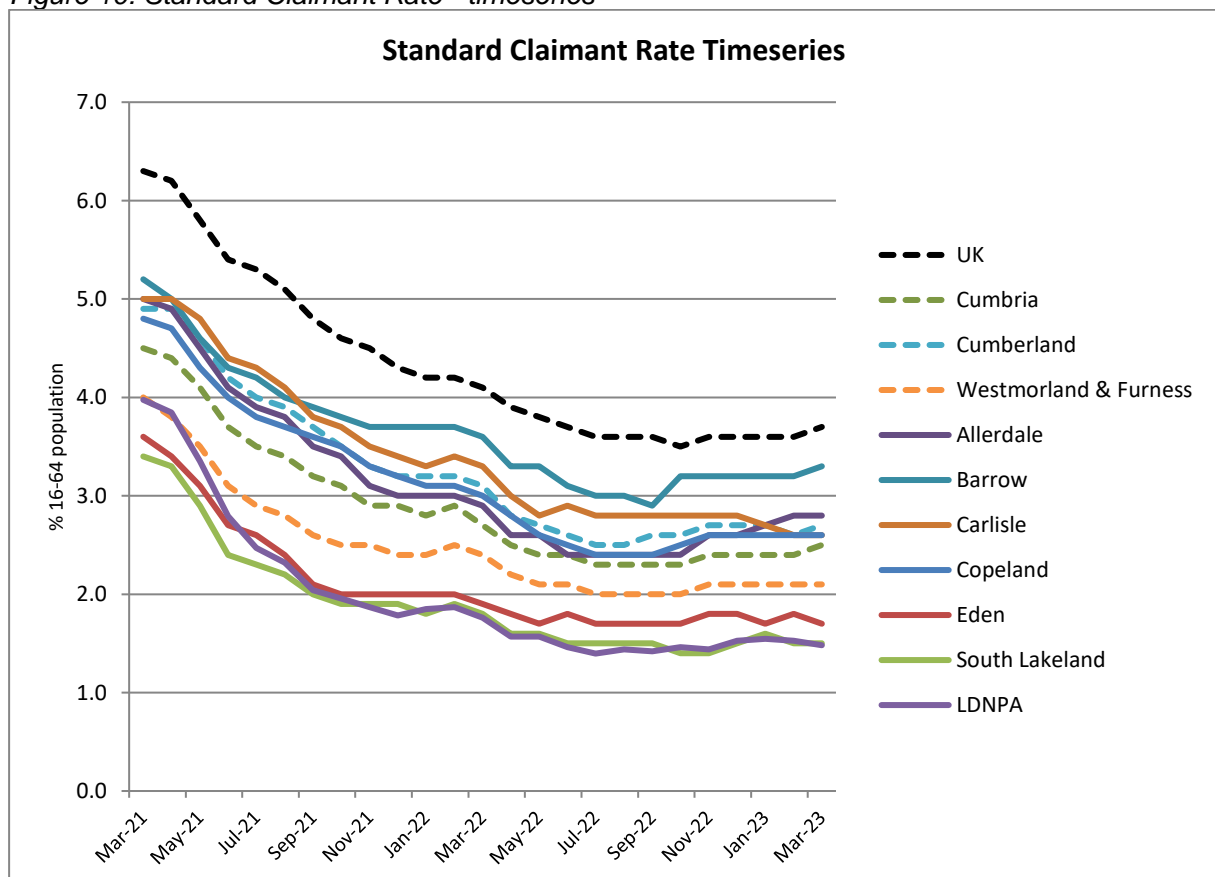
*Source: ONS/DWP*

## 5. UNIVERSAL CREDIT (released _monthly_) – count taken 9th Mar 2023

_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._

_Please see Appendix 1 at the end of the briefing for ward level data and data for Community Panel / Locality Board areas._

### 5a. Individuals on Universal Credit

On 9th Mar 2023 there were 35,91 people on Universal Credit in Cumbria (both in work and out of work). This is a rise of 405 from the revised Feb total (+1.1%) and 2,523 more than a year before (+7.6%). The count rose from last month in all the former district areas. The number of people searching/planning/preparing for work rose by 261 and the number with no work requirements rose by 275 but the number claiming while in work fell by 127. The latest total means that 12.0% of the working age population is claiming Universal Credit compared to a national rate of 14.5%. The overall rate is below the national average in all parts of Cumbria except Allerdale where it is just above, However, UC claimant rates for 18-24 year olds were above the national average in Allerdale, Barrow and Copeland and were also above the national average for 25-34 year olds year olds in Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle and Copeland as well as for 35-44 year olds in Allerdale and Copeland..

_Figure 11: Universal Credit Claimants – Mar 2023 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 | 2,536,897 | 12.6% | 3,375,063 | 16.2% | 5,912,017 | 14.4% | 79,205 | 1.4% | 0.2% | 383,831 | 6.9% | 0.9% |
| Cumbria | 15,226 | 10.2% | 20,689 | 13.8% | 35,915 | 12.0% | 405 | 1.1% | 0.1% | 2,523 | 7.6% | 0.8% |
| Cumberland | 9,644 | 11.8% | 13,093 | 15.8% | 22,738 | 13.8% | 204 | 0.9% | 0.1% | 1,427 | 6.7% | 0.9% |
| Allerdale | 3,446 | 12.3% | 4,782 | 16.6% | 8,228 | 14.5% | 24 | 0.3% | 0.0% | 481 | 6.2% | 0.8% |
| Carlisle | 3,749 | 11.2% | 5,129 | 15.0% | 8,876 | 13.1% | 128 | 1.5% | 0.2% | 642 | 7.8% | 1.0% |
| Copeland | 2,452 | 12.1% | 3,181 | 15.8% | 5,634 | 13.9% | 52 | 0.9% | 0.1% | 306 | 5.7% | 0.8% |
| Westmorland & Furness | 5,582 | 8.3% | 7,594 | 11.3% | 13,175 | 9.8% | 200 | 1.5% | 0.1% | 1,093 | 9.0% | 0.8% |
| Barrow | 2,500 | 12.0% | 3,194 | 15.5% | 5,694 | 13.8% | 88 | 1.6% | 0.2% | 451 | 8.6% | 1.1% |
| Eden | 1,052 | 6.5% | 1,572 | 9.7% | 2,631 | 8.1% | 49 | 1.9% | 0.2% | 268 | 11.3% | 0.8% |
| South Lakeland | 2,026 | 6.7% | 2,832 | 9.3% | 4,855 | 8.0% | 68 | 1.4% | 0.1% | 382 | 8.5% | 0.6% |
| _of which_ LDNPA | 796 | 6.8% | 1,118 | 9.7% | 1,908 | 8.2% | 19 | 1.0% | 0.1% | 50 | 2.7% | 0.2% |

_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 12: Universal Credit Claimants by Age – Mar 2023_

| Universal Credit Claimant Count and Rate by Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Aged 18-24 | | 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 | 697,502 | 12.9% | 1,667,484 | 19.0% | 1,608,796 | 19.0% | 1,047,801 | 12.2% | 881,982 | 10.6% | 5,912,017 | 14.4% |
| Cumbria | 4,307 | 13.2% | 10,615 | 18.8% | 9,242 | 17.0% | 6,041 | 8.9% | 5,643 | 7.3% | 35,915 | 12.0% |
| Cumberland | 2,628 | 14.3% | 6,805 | 21.4% | 5,817 | 19.0% | 3,767 | 10.2% | 3,664 | 8.8% | 22,738 | 13.8% |
| Allerdale | 1,001 | 16.5% | 2,332 | 22.5% | 2,031 | 19.9% | 1,449 | 10.9% | 1,406 | 9.5% | 8,228 | 14.5% |
| Carlisle | 972 | 12.3% | 2,851 | 20.8% | 2,352 | 18.0% | 1,433 | 9.9% | 1,267 | 7.9% | 8,876 | 13.1% |
| Copeland | 658 | 15.1% | 1,626 | 21.1% | 1,441 | 19.8% | 888 | 9.8% | 999 | 9.3% | 5,634 | 13.9% |
| Westmorland & Furness | 1,678 | 11.7% | 3,803 | 15.5% | 3,422 | 14.3% | 2,264 | 7.3% | 1,984 | 5.6% | 13,175 | 9.8% |
| Barrow | 910 | 18.2% | 1,789 | 20.2% | 1,376 | 18.3% | 851 | 9.5% | 760 | 8.0% | 5,694 | 13.8% |
| Eden | 259 | 8.0% | 735 | 13.6% | 692 | 12.4% | 483 | 6.3% | 458 | 5.0% | 2,631 | 8.1% |
| South Lakeland | 509 | 8.3% | 1,283 | 12.5% | 1,358 | 12.6% | 927 | 6.5% | 771 | 4.6% | 4,855 | 8.0% |
| _of which_ LDNPA | 140 | 5.9% | 472 | 14.3% | 586 | 14.7% | 370 | 6.4% | 343 | 4.8% | 1,908 | 8.2% |

_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 13: Universal Credit Claimants by former district*

**Persons on Universal Credit**
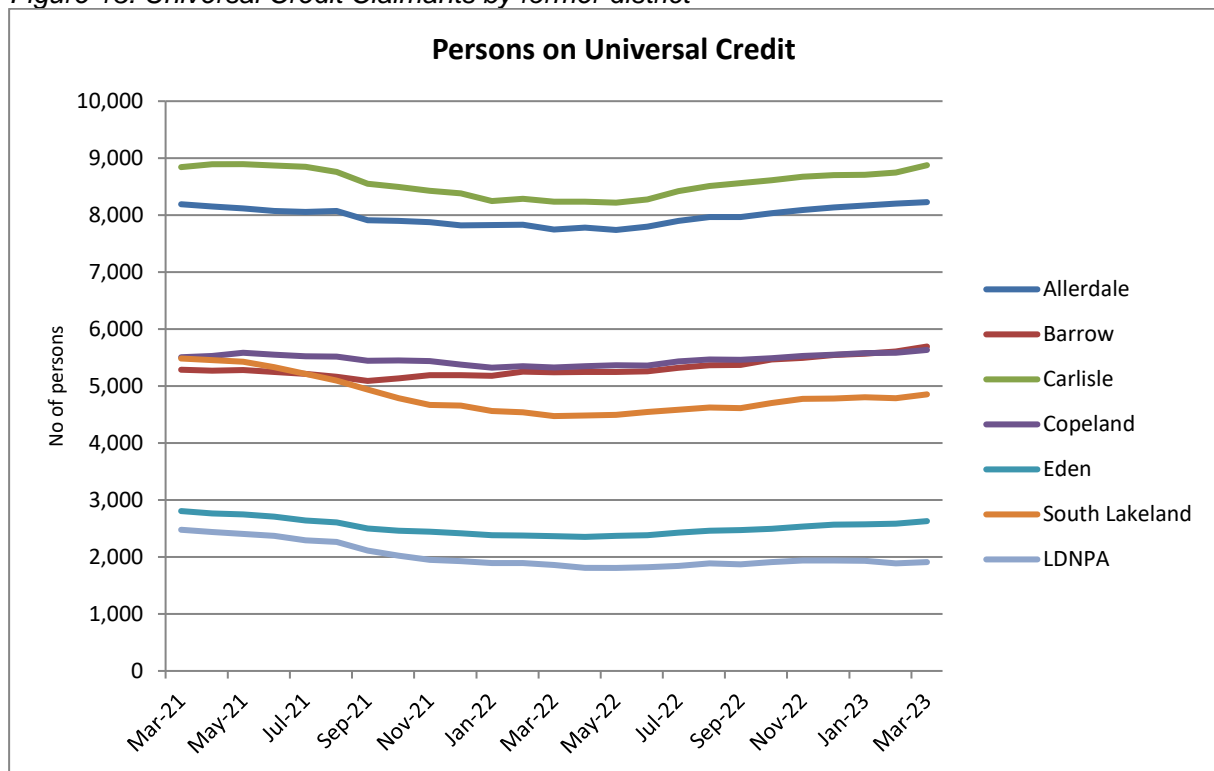


*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore (LDPNA claimants are also included in the relevant district)*

*Figure 14: Universal Credit Claimant Rate by former District*

**Universal Credit claimant rate**
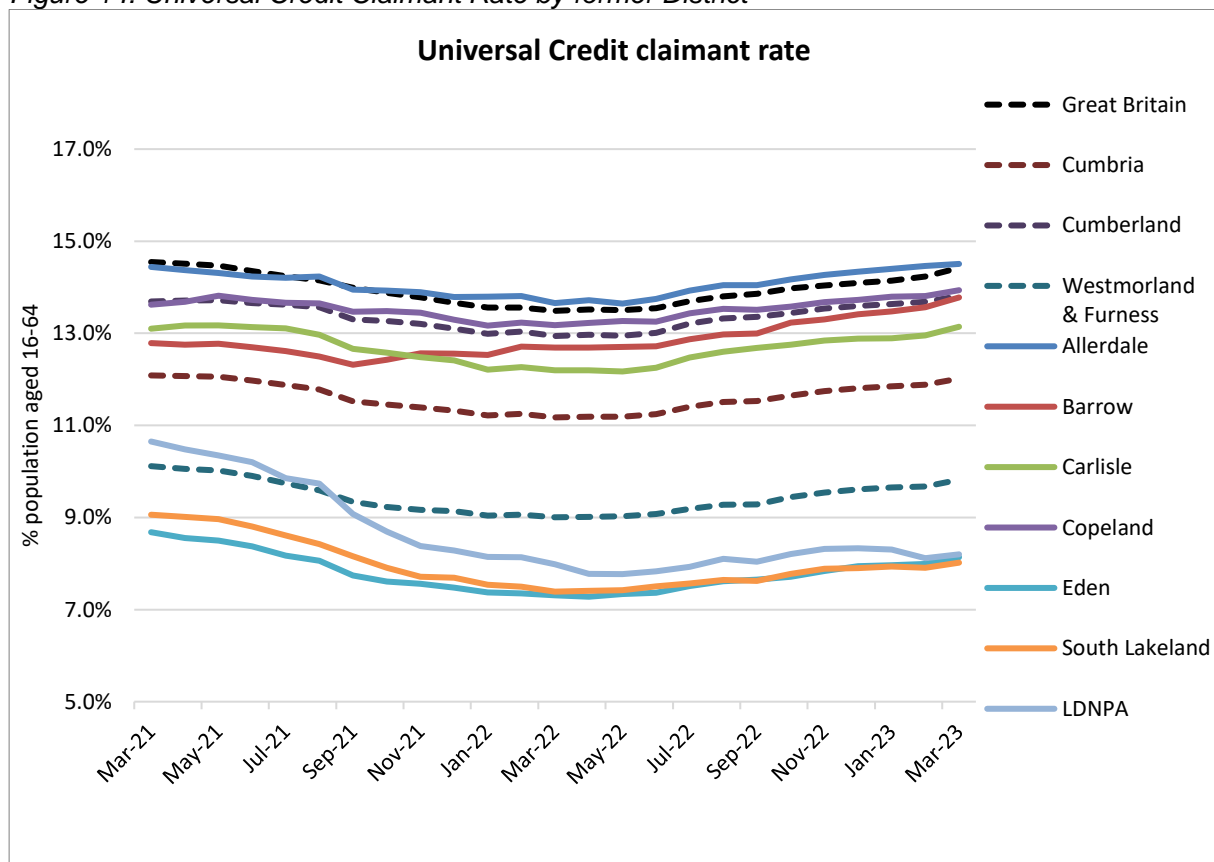


*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore*

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 group with no work requirements (due to poor health or caring responsibilities). In Mar 2023 the number of people searching/planning/preparing for work rose by 261, the number claiming while in work fell by 127 and the number with no work requirements rose by 276.
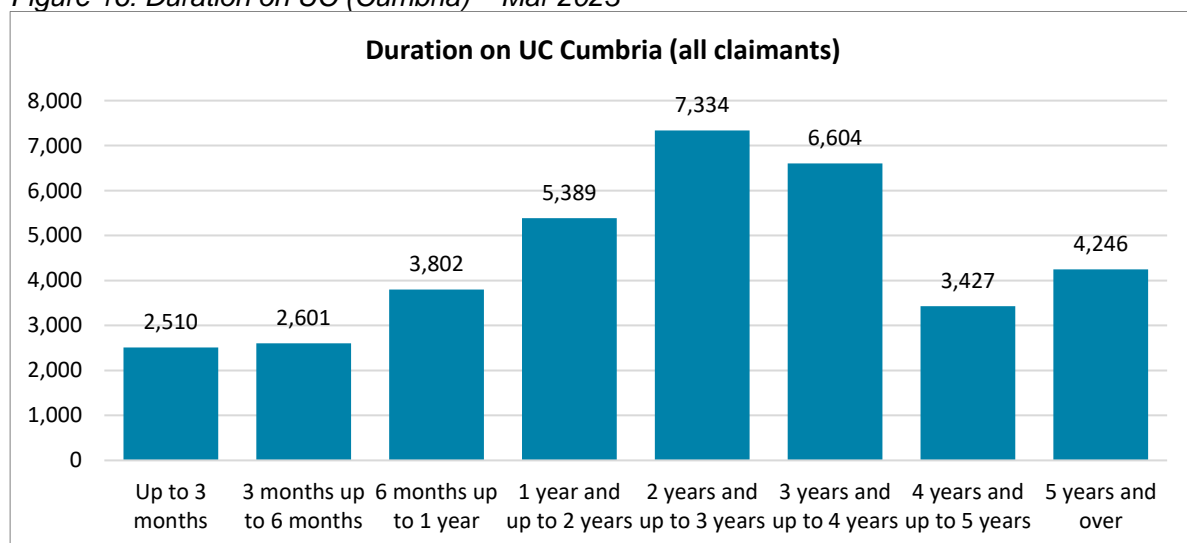
*Figure 15: Universal Credit Claimants by Conditionality Group – timeseries (Cumbria)*

**UC Claimants by Conditionality Group**



Legend: Searching / planning / preparing for work — Working — No work requirements
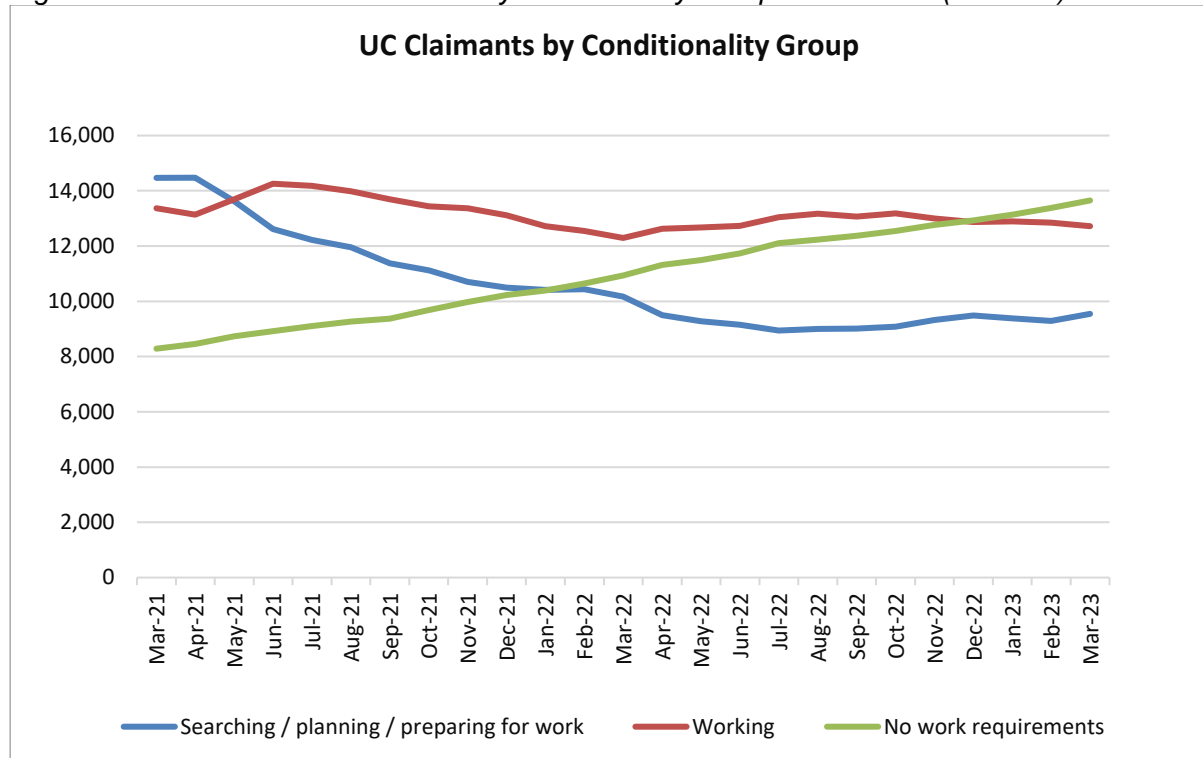
*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore  Note: Conditionality is based on an individual's circumstances on the count date)*

In Mar, three quarters of UC claimants (27,002) had been claiming for over 12 months an annual increase of 1,562 (6%). The highest proportions of these long term claimants were in the working and no work requirements conditionality groups (33% and 43% of the total respectively), although they may have been in different groups during their claim. Long term claimants now make up 75% of all UC claimants compared to 50% in Mar 2021.

*Figure 16: Duration on UC (Cumbria) – Mar 2023*

**Duration on UC Cumbria (all claimants)**



| Up to 3 months | 3 months up to 6 months | 6 months up to 1 year | 1 year and up to 2 years | 2 years and up to 3 years | 3 years and up to 4 years | 4 years and up to 5 years | 5 years and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,510 | 2,601 | 3,802 | 5,389 | 7,334 | 6,604 | 3,427 | 4,246 |

*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore*

*Figure 17: Claimants on UC for over 12 months by Conditionality Group*



**UC Claimants Over 1-year - Cumbria**
**(by conditionality group)**

| Month | Searching/planning/preparing for work | Working | No work requirements |
|-------|------|------|------|
| Mar-21 | 6,790 | 5,311 | 5,976 |
| Apr-21 | 8,658 | 7,029 | 6,434 |
| May-21 | 9,375 | 8,499 | 6,821 |
| Jun-21 | 8,918 | 9,212 | 7,013 |
| Jul-21 | 8,805 | 9,328 | 7,203 |
| Aug-21 | 8,566 | 9,416 | 7,380 |
| Sep-21 | 8,207 | 9,464 | 7,533 |
| Oct-21 | 8,157 | 9,429 | 7,868 |
| Nov-21 | 7,938 | 9,470 | 8,110 |
| Dec-21 | 7,809 | 9,474 | 8,356 |
| Jan-22 | 7,742 | 9,230 | 8,517 |
| Feb-22 | 7,722 | 9,090 | 8,764 |
| Mar-22 | 7,502 | 8,897 | 9,036 |
| Apr-22 | 7,019 | 9,088 | 9,353 |
| May-22 | 6,881 | 9,059 | 9,518 |
| Jun-22 | 6,676 | 9,130 | 9,739 |
| Jul-22 | 6,440 | 9,231 | 10,012 |
| Aug-22 | 6,443 | 9,248 | 10,180 |
| Sep-22 | 6,419 | 9,169 | 10,292 |
| Oct-22 | 6,415 | 9,203 | 10,540 |
| Nov-22 | 6,500 | 9,087 | 10,747 |
| Dec-22 | 6,507 | 9,027 | 10,939 |
| Jan-23 | 6,343 | 9,072 | 11,123 |
| Feb-23 | 6,280 | 9,120 | 11,303 |
| Mar-23 | 6,430 | 9,029 | 11,544 |

■ Searching/planning/preparing for work   ■ Working   ■ No work requirements
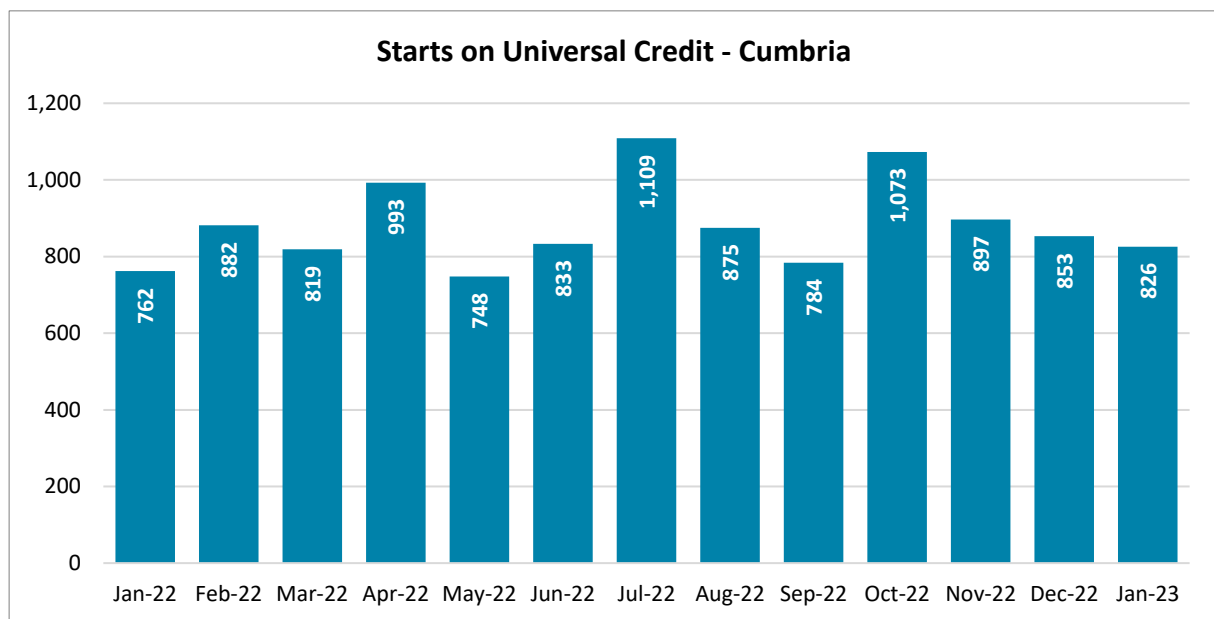
*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore*

## 5b.  _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 claimants 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 office to which the original claim was made.  These figures are only released once a quarter.

The number of starts on Universal Credit is primarily influenced by labour market conditions but there is also some element of administrative effect as claimants moving onto UC from other benefits also count as a new start (it is not possible to separate the two in the data).  The data show that the number of UC claim starts \varies from month to month and levels in July 2022 were at the highest level since February 2021 before dropping down in August and September.  There was a further spike in new starts in October 2022, probably as a result of the summer hospitality season winding down.

_Figure 18: Monthly Starts to Universal Credit – timeseries_



_Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore_

_Figure 19: Starts on Universal Credit by JCP Office – timeseries_
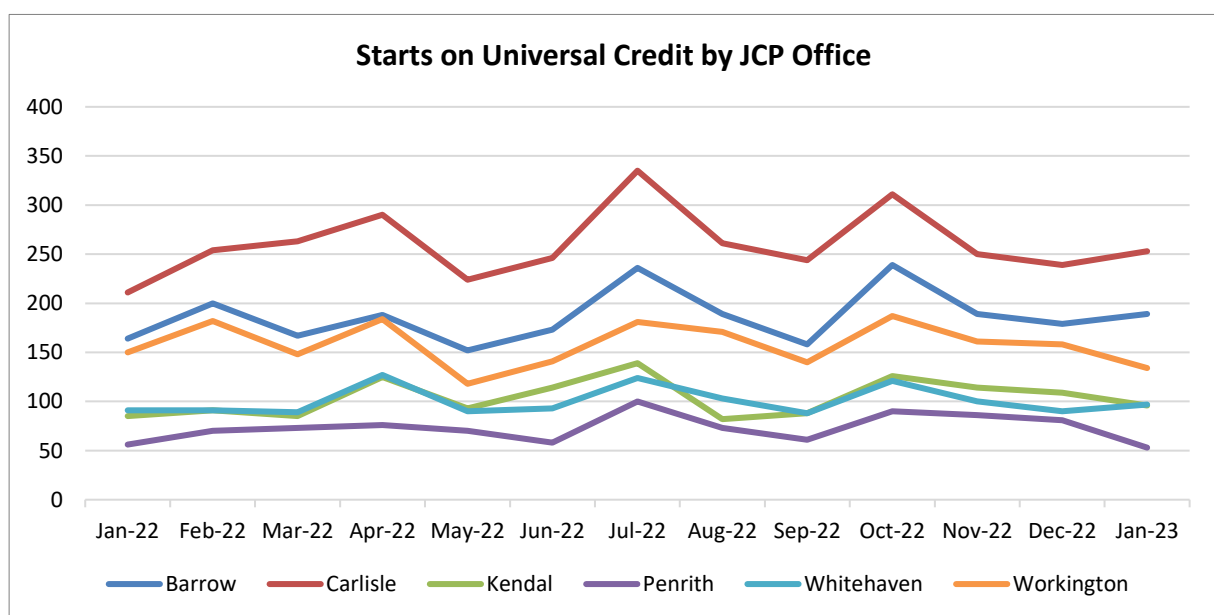


_Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore_

### 5c. 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 <u>Nov 2022</u> when there were 30,172 households on Universal Credit in Cumbria, a rise of 935 from the same month the previous year (3.2%). The number of households on UC rose year on year in all 6 districts in Cumbria.

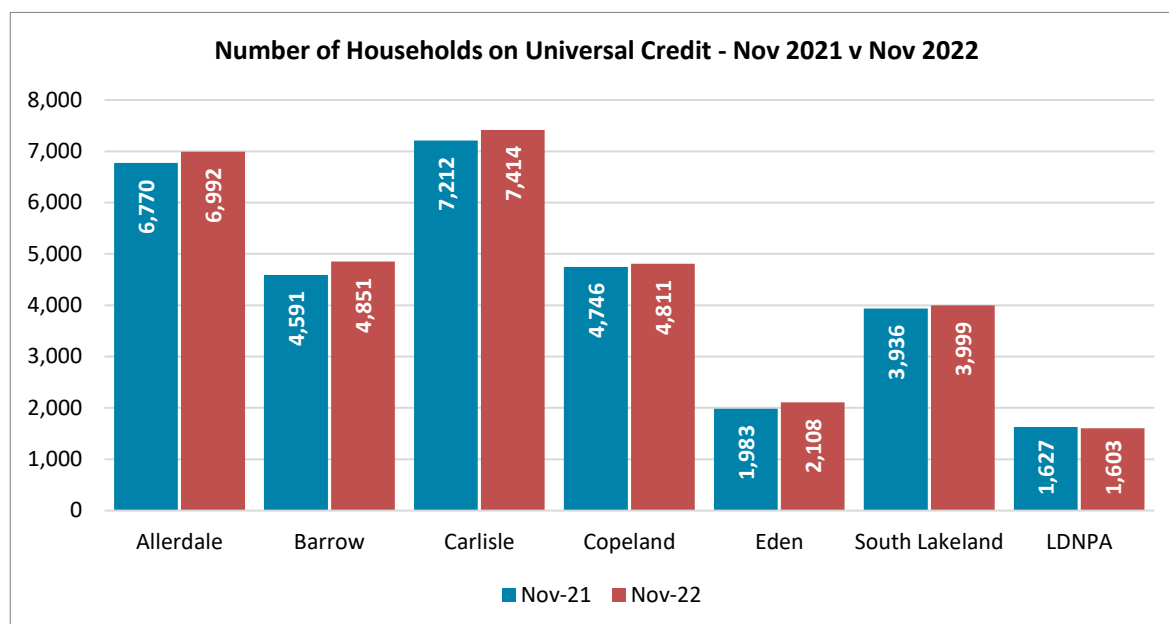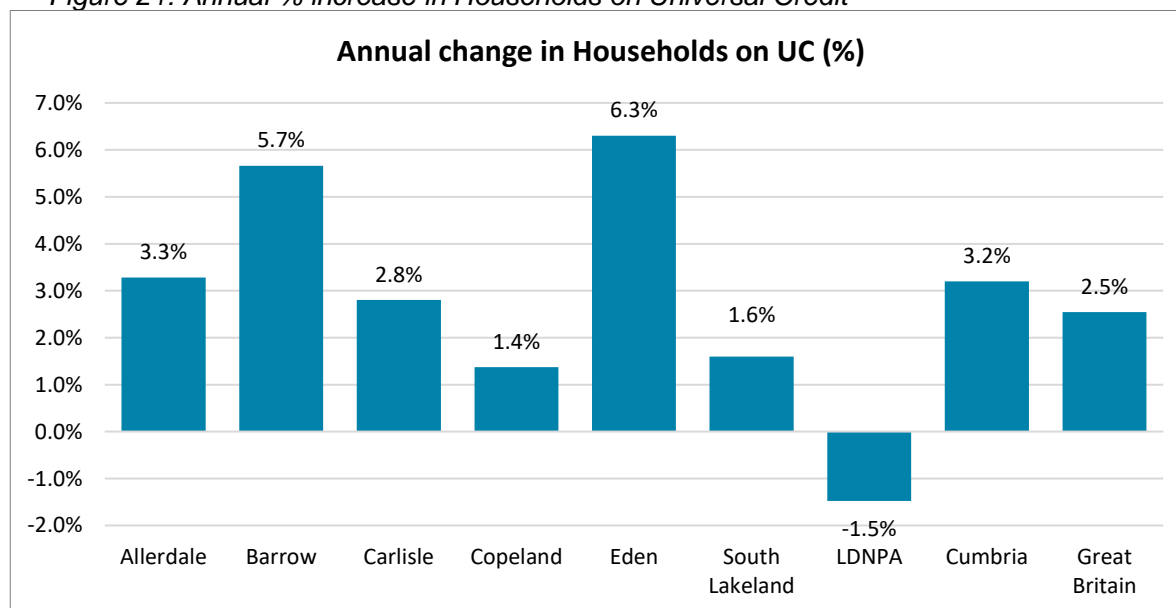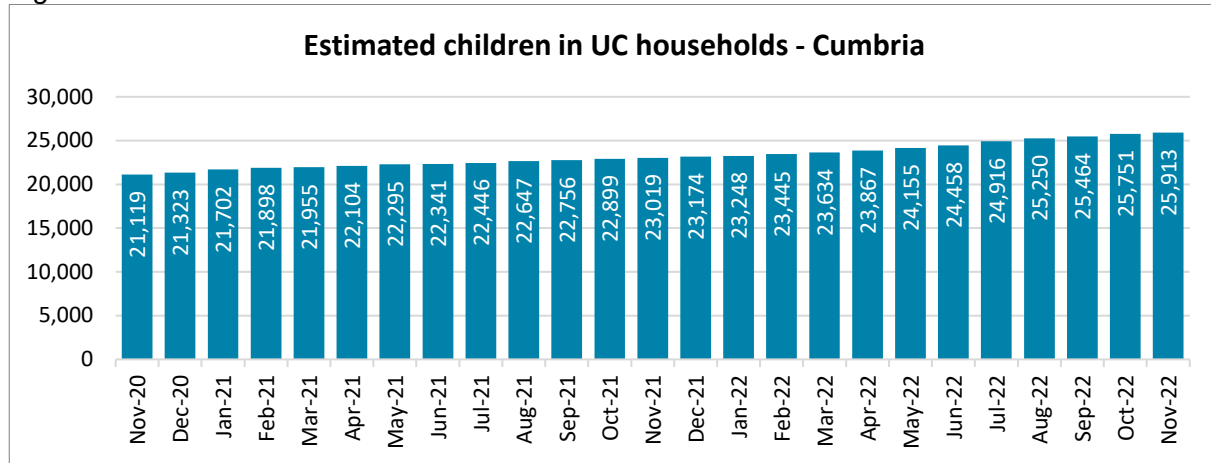*Figure 20: Number of Households on Universal Credit by former district*



**Number of Households on Universal Credit - Nov 2021 v Nov 2022**

| District | Nov-21 | Nov-22 |
|---|---|---|
| Allerdale | 6,770 | 6,992 |
| Barrow | 4,591 | 4,851 |
| Carlisle | 7,212 | 7,414 |
| Copeland | 4,746 | 4,811 |
| Eden | 1,983 | 2,108 |
| South Lakeland | 3,936 | 3,999 |
| LDNPA | 1,627 | 1,603 |

*Figure 21: Annual % increase in Households on Universal Credit*



**Annual change in Households on UC (%)**

| Area | % |
|---|---|
| Allerdale | 3.3% |
| Barrow | 5.7% |
| Carlisle | 2.8% |
| Copeland | 1.4% |
| Eden | 6.3% |
| South Lakeland | 1.6% |
| LDNPA | -1.5% |
| Cumbria | 3.2% |
| Great Britain | 2.5% |

*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*
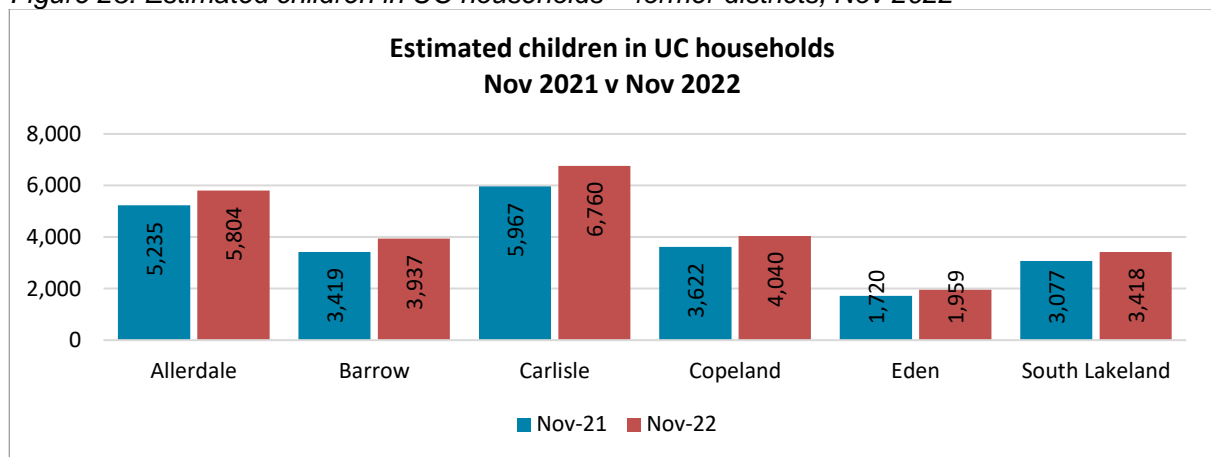
An estimated 25,913 children in Cumbria were living in UC households in Nov 2022. The number had risen by 2,894 (12.6%) from Nov the previous year. The number of households containing children has increased by 11% year on year compared to 3% fall in households without children. More specifically, single person households with children have increased by 14% year on year. Note: a child is anyone declared as living in a household on UC who is under 20 and whose details have been verified by DWP

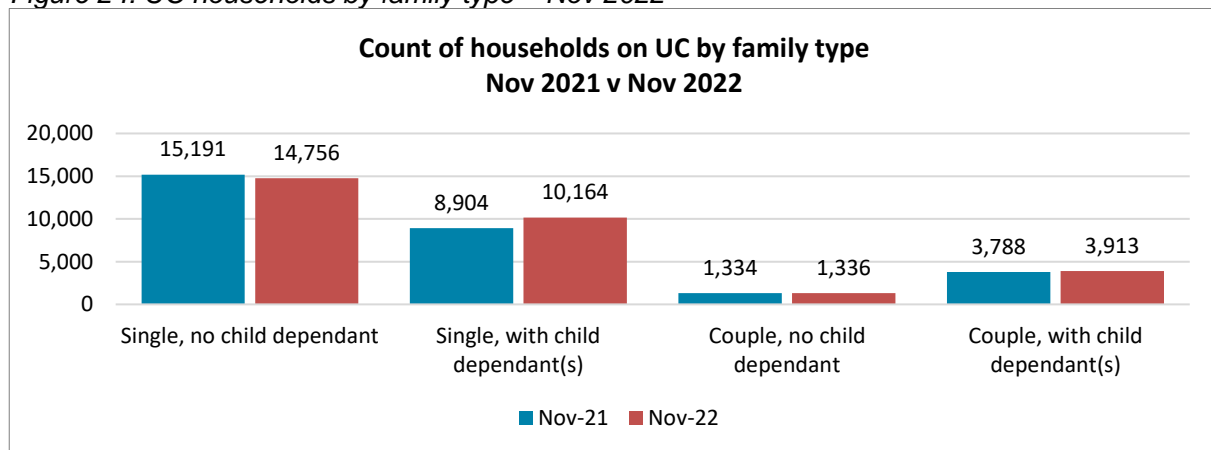*Figure 22: Estimated children in UC households - timeseries*



**Estimated children in UC households - Cumbria**

| Month | Value |
|-------|-------|
| Nov-20 | 21,119 |
| Dec-20 | 21,323 |
| Jan-21 | 21,702 |
| Feb-21 | 21,898 |
| Mar-21 | 21,955 |
| Apr-21 | 22,104 |
| May-21 | 22,295 |
| Jun-21 | 22,341 |
| Jul-21 | 22,446 |
| Aug-21 | 22,647 |
| Sep-21 | 22,756 |
| Oct-21 | 22,899 |
| Nov-21 | 23,019 |
| Dec-21 | 23,174 |
| Jan-22 | 23,248 |
| Feb-22 | 23,445 |
| Mar-22 | 23,634 |
| Apr-22 | 23,867 |
| May-22 | 24,155 |
| Jun-22 | 24,458 |
| Jul-22 | 24,916 |
| Aug-22 | 25,250 |
| Sep-22 | 25,464 |
| Oct-22 | 25,751 |
| Nov-22 | 25,913 |

*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore*

*Figure 23: Estimated children in UC households – former districts, Nov 2022*



**Estimated children in UC households
Nov 2021 v Nov 2022**

| District | Nov-21 | Nov-22 |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Allerdale | 5,235 | 5,804 |
| Barrow | 3,419 | 3,937 |
| Carlisle | 5,967 | 6,760 |
| Copeland | 3,622 | 4,040 |
| Eden | 1,720 | 1,959 |
| South Lakeland | 3,077 | 3,418 |

*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore*

*Figure 24: UC households by family type – Nov 2022*



**Count of households on UC by family type
Nov 2021 v Nov 2022**

| Family type | Nov-21 | Nov-22 |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Single, no child dependant | 15,191 | 14,756 |
| Single, with child dependant(s) | 8,904 | 10,164 |
| Couple, no child dependant | 1,334 | 1,336 |
| Couple, with child dependant(s) | 3,788 | 3,913 |

*Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore*

# 6. NEETs & Participation (*released <u>monthly</u>*)

## 6a. 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 also classed as NEET.

In Feb 2023, 315 16-17 year olds were classed as NEET in Cumbria (220 NEET and 95 whose status was Not Known).  The highest number of NEET/NKs was in the former district of Carlisle where there were 79 followed by Allerdale where there were 71.  *NB: data is now based on the <u>resident location</u> of the young person which is a change from the previous method of basing it on the location of the office responsible for monitoring.  As a result, data prior to November are not consistent with the data shown here and these data may not be the same as those used in other publications.*

*Figure 25: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Feb 2023*
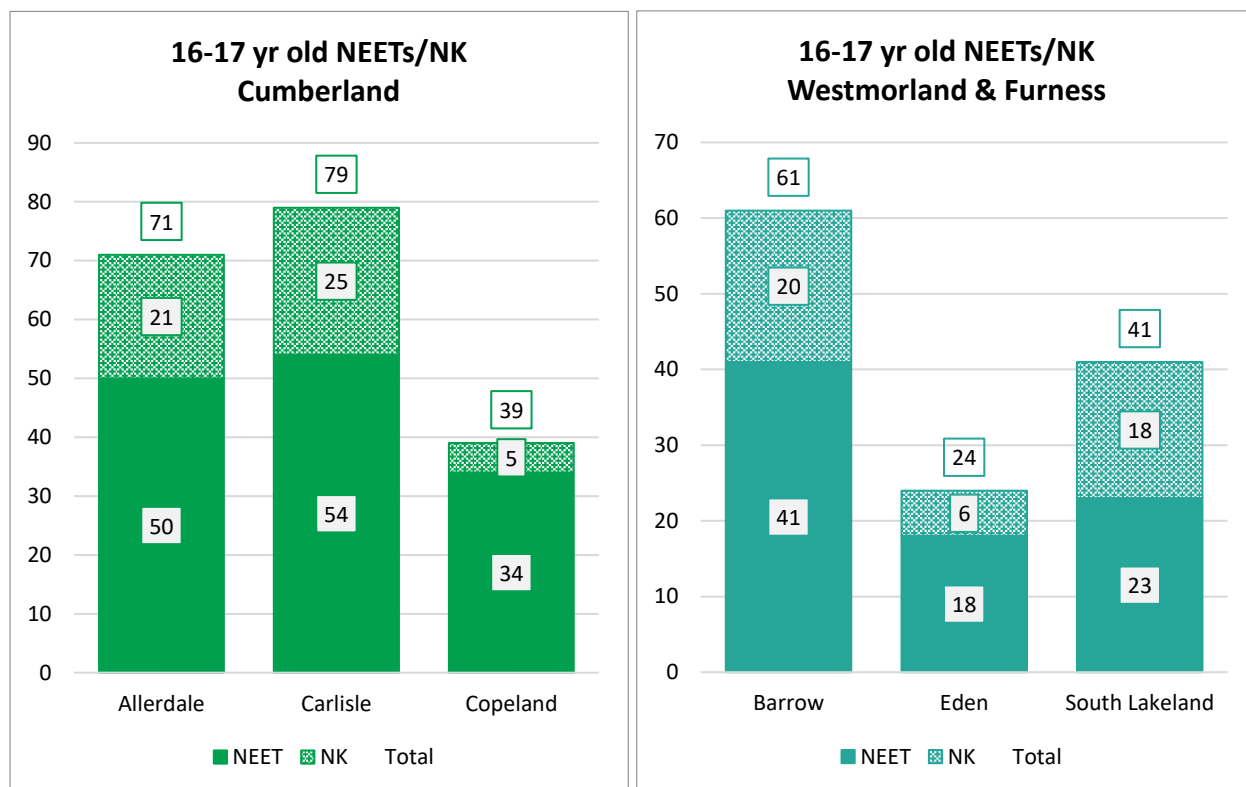


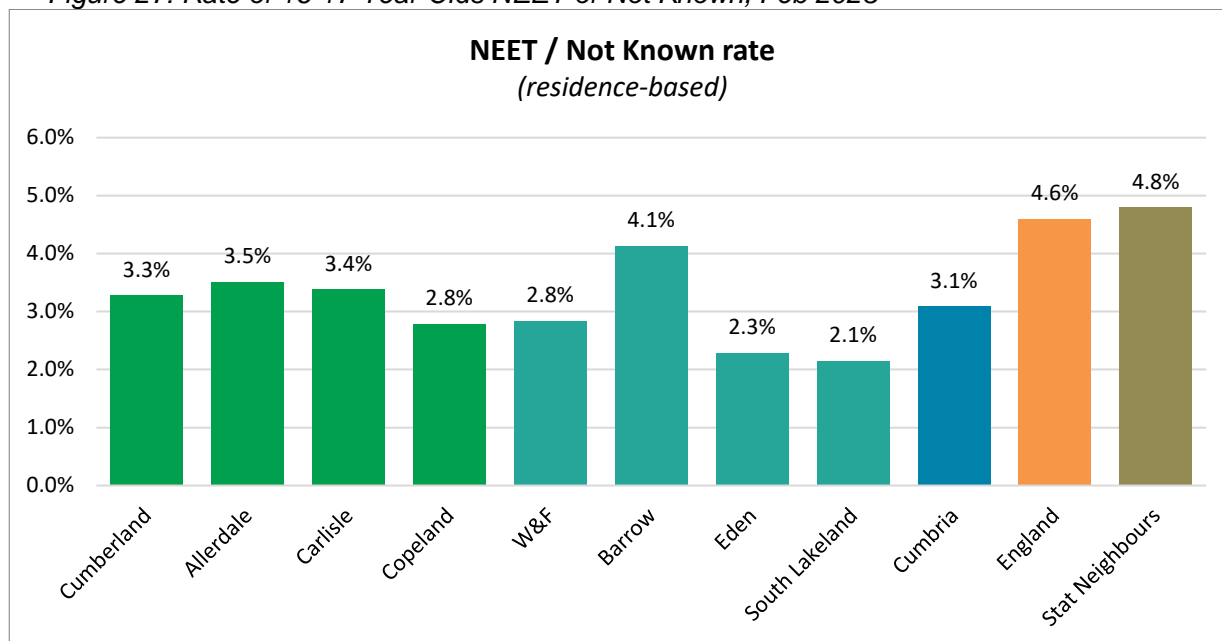*Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory*

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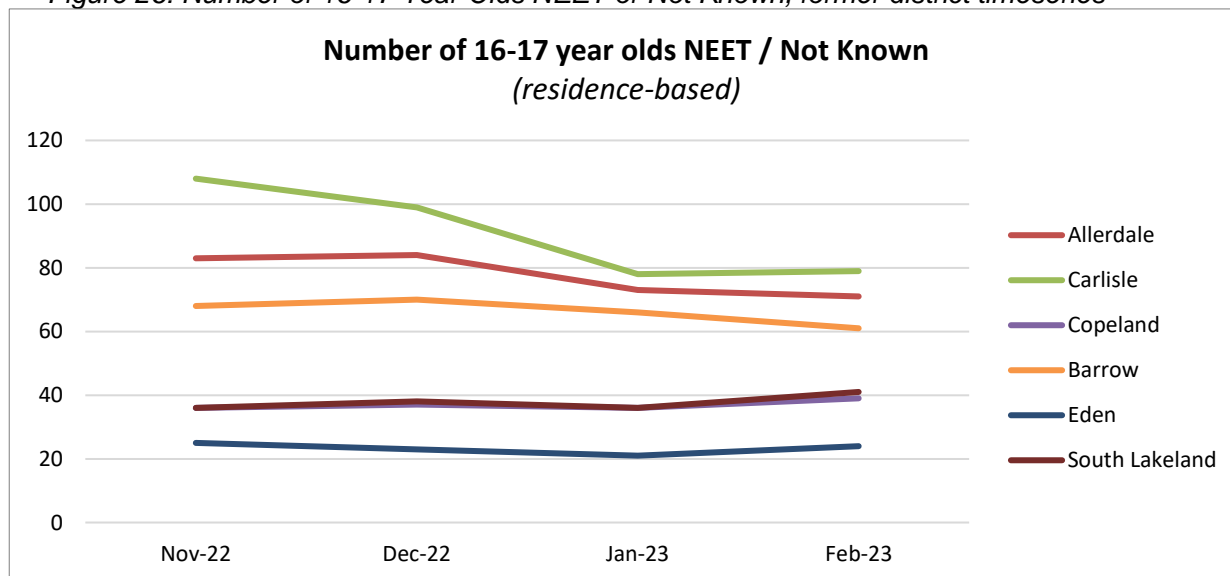


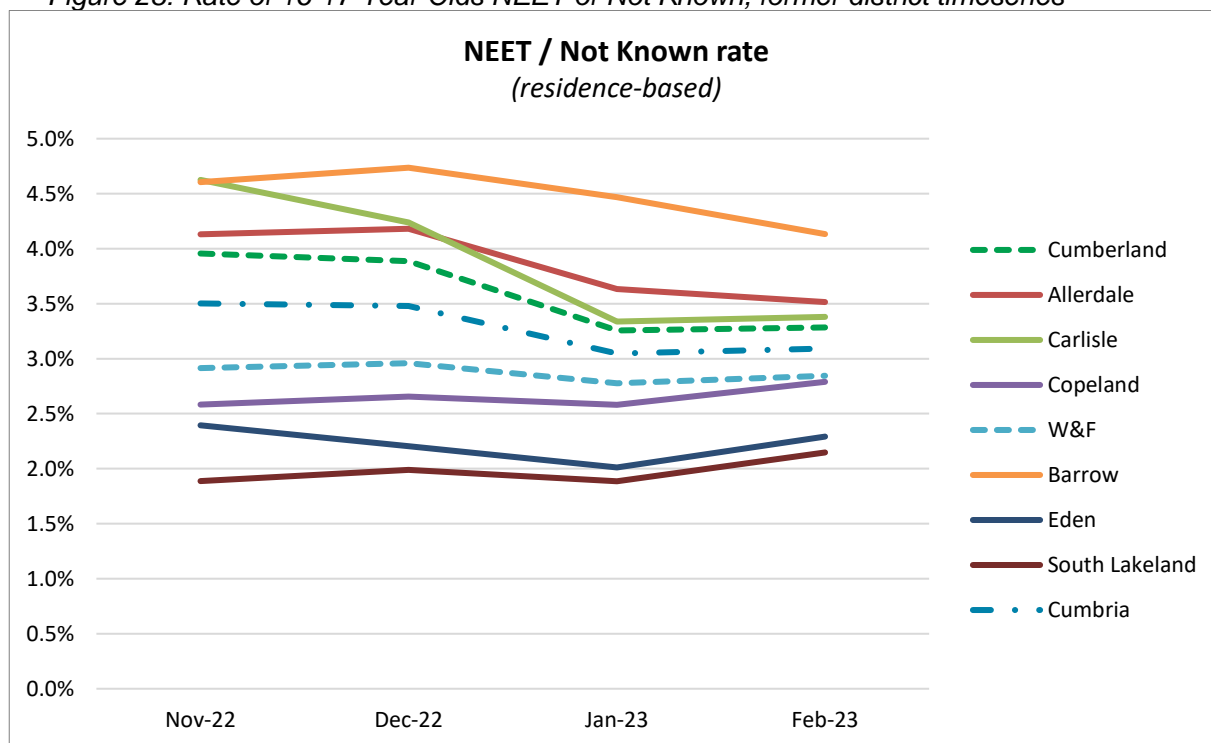*Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory*

The county NEET/NK rate (% of cohort) was 3.1% in Feb 2023 compared to an England rate of 4.6% and 4.8% for Cumbria's statistical neighbours. The highest local rates were in in the former districts of Barrow (4.1%) and Allerdale (3.5%). The NEET rate in Cumbria was down 0.1ppt from Jan.

*Figure 27: Rate of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Feb 2023*

**NEET / Not Known rate**
*(residence-based)*

| Area | Rate |
|------|------|
| Cumberland | 3.3% |
| Allerdale | 3.5% |
| Carlisle | 3.4% |
| Copeland | 2.8% |
| W&F | 2.8% |
| Barrow | 4.1% |
| Eden | 2.3% |
| South Lakeland | 2.1% |
| Cumbria | 3.1% |
| England | 4.6% |
| Stat Neighbours | 4.8% |

*Source: Inspira / NCCIS / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory*

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

**NEET / Not Known rate**
*(residence-based)*

*Source: Inspira / NCCIS / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory*

## 6b. 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 Feb 2023, 91.1% of young people in Cumbria were classed as meeting the participation requirement compared to 92.4% for England and 91.8% for Cumbria's statistical neighbours. The highest participation rate was in the former district of South Lakeland (95.3%) and the lowest in Allerdale (89.1%).

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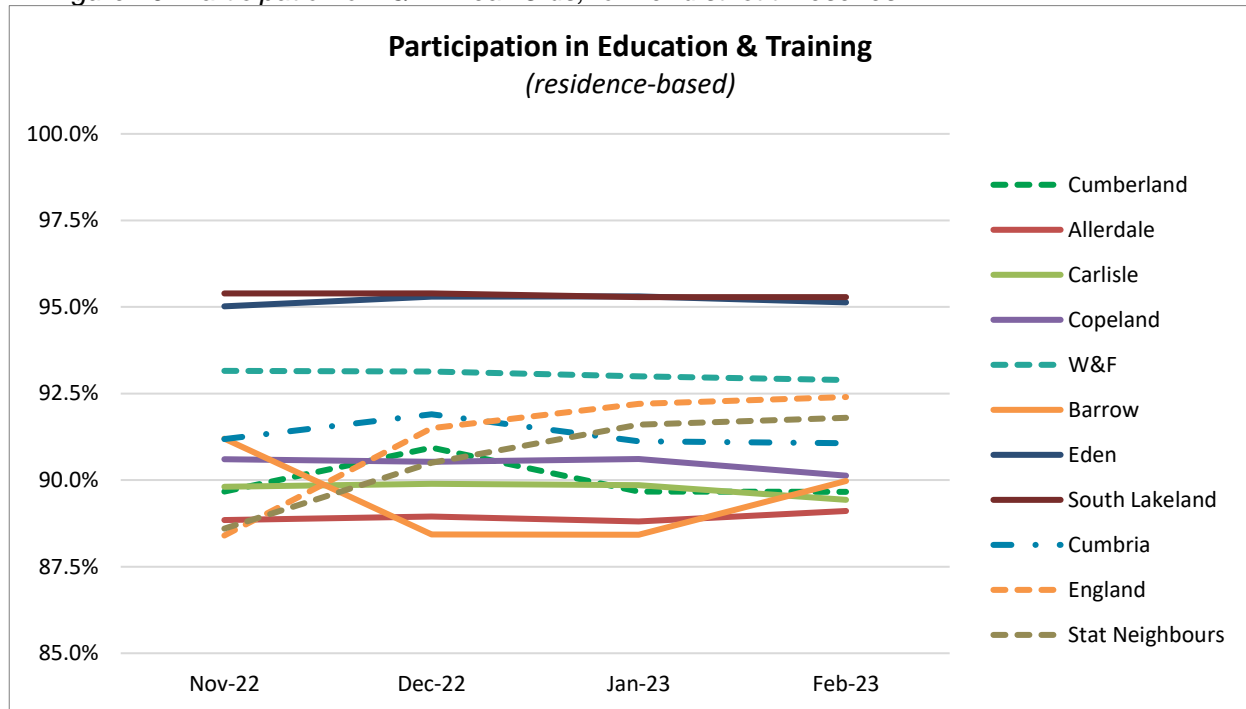


*Source: Inspira / NCCIS / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory*

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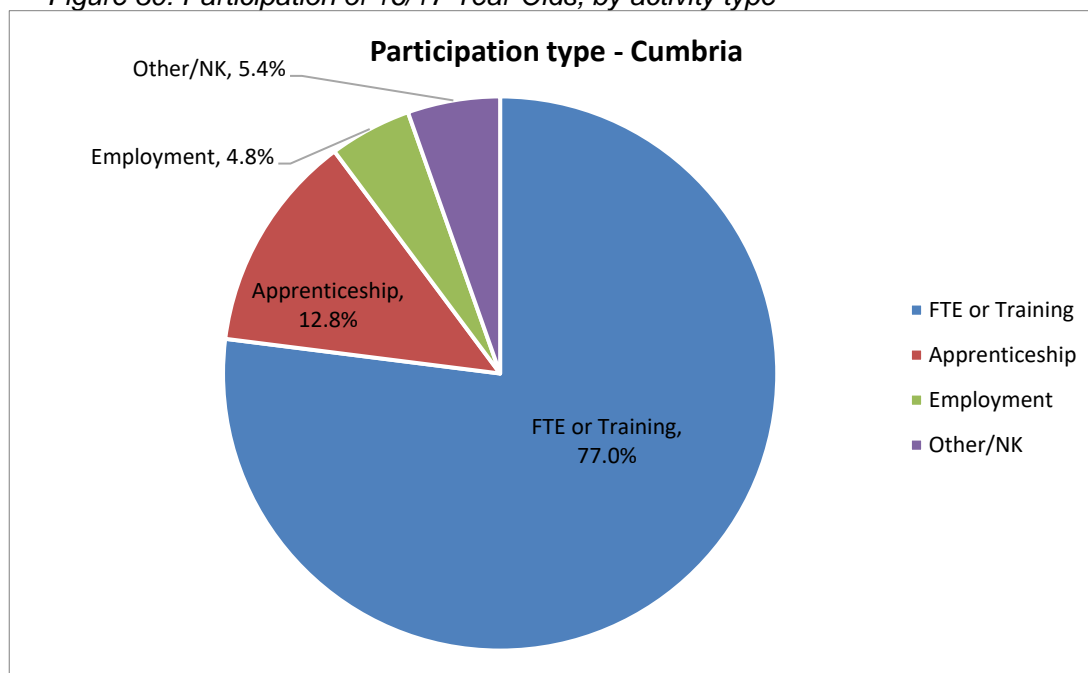


*Source: NCCIS (district data not available)*

## 7. JOB POSTINGS

*The following data are drawn from Lightcast™ Analyst, 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 posting to provide analysis on occupations and skills.*

During Mar 2023 there were 8,846 active job postings in Cumbria, 3,759 of which were new postings during the month. The number of active postings was 24 lower than in Feb (-0.3%) but the number of new postings was 207 higher (+5.8%) continuing the trend of increasing new recruitment activity since the turn of the year.
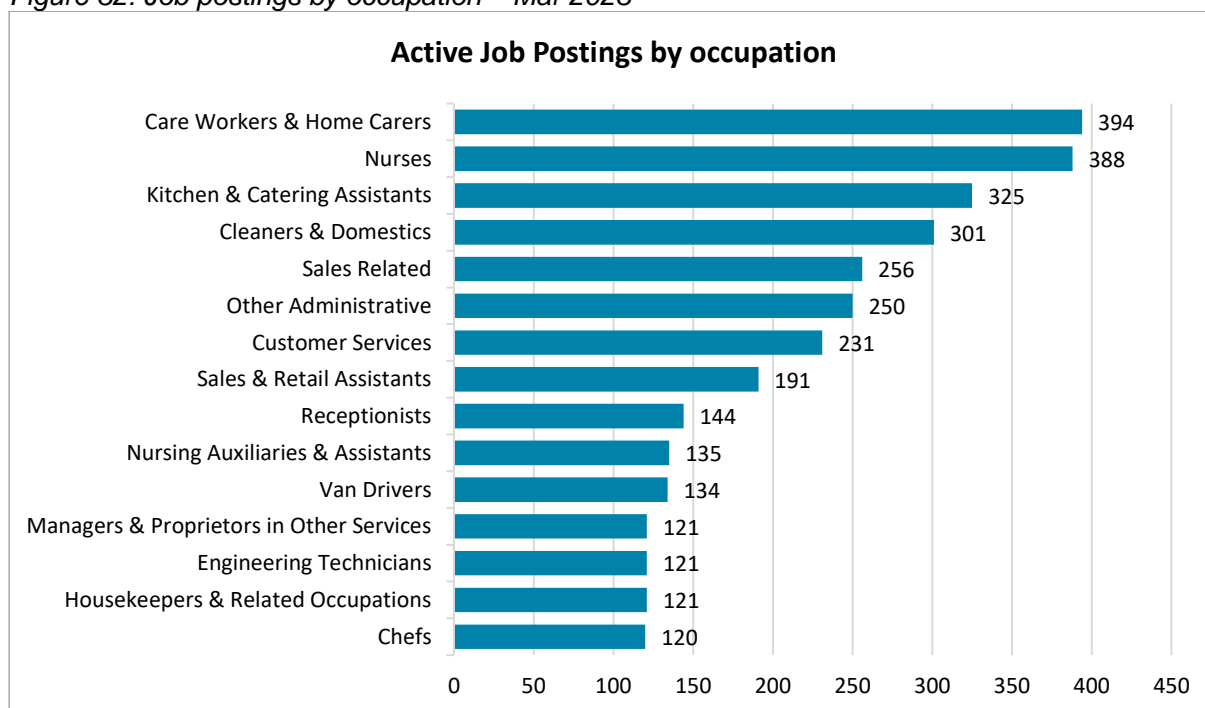
*Figure 31: Active job postings by month*
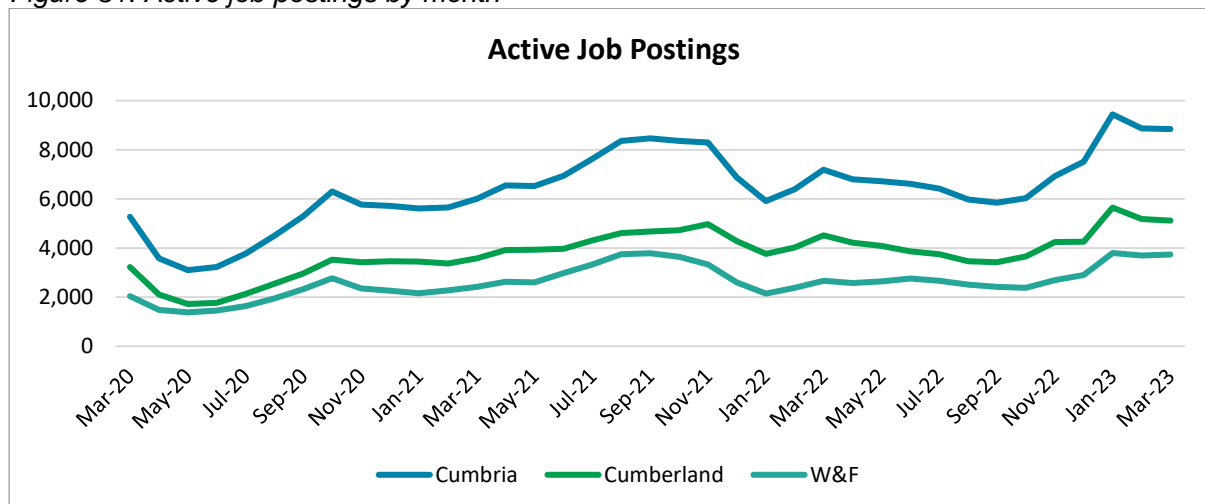


*Source: Lightcast™ Analyst*

The most commonly advertised jobs were for care workers, nurses, kitchen & catering assistants, cleaners & domestics and sales occupations.
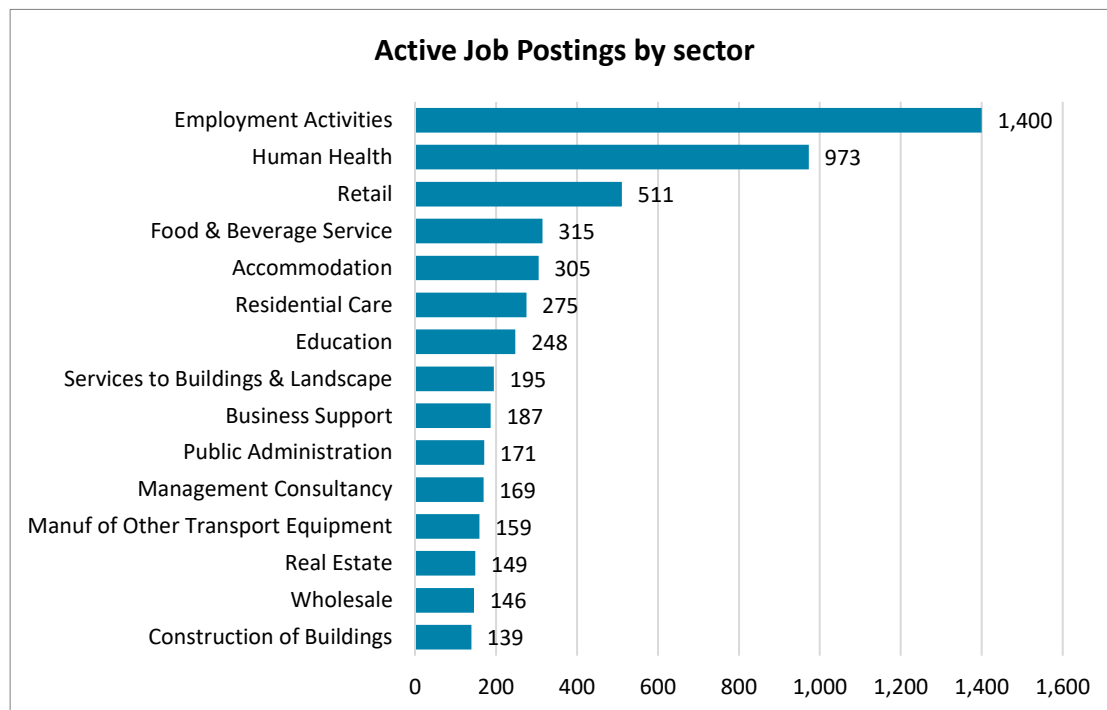
*Figure 32: Job postings by occupation – Mar 2023*



*Source: Lightcast™ Analyst*

The sector posting the most vacancies was employment activities (most of these will be recruitment agencies where the sector of the actual job cannot be determined). This was followed by health, retail, food & beverage services and accommodation.
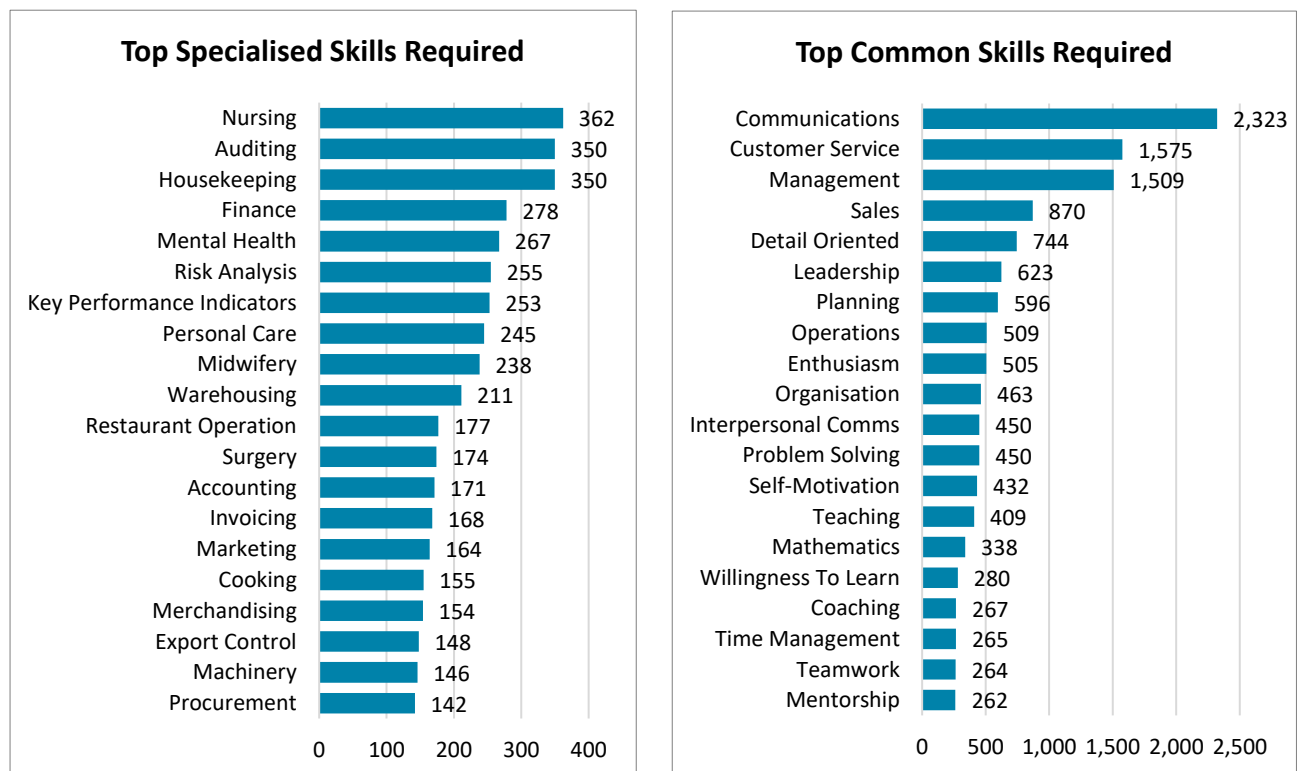
*Figure 33: Job postings by sector – Mar 2023*

**Active Job Postings by sector**

| Sector | Value |
|---|---|
| Employment Activities | 1,400 |
| Human Health | 973 |
| Retail | 511 |
| Food & Beverage Service | 315 |
| Accommodation | 305 |
| Residential Care | 275 |
| Education | 248 |
| Services to Buildings & Landscape | 195 |
| Business Support | 187 |
| Public Administration | 171 |
| Management Consultancy | 169 |
| Manuf of Other Transport Equipment | 159 |
| Real Estate | 149 |
| Wholesale | 146 |
| Construction of Buildings | 139 |

*Source: Lightcast™ Analyst*

The web scraping software analyses key words about job requirements and where possible classifies them as "specialised skills" which are those specific to a job role and as "common skills" which are typically self-developed / personal attributes that candidates need.
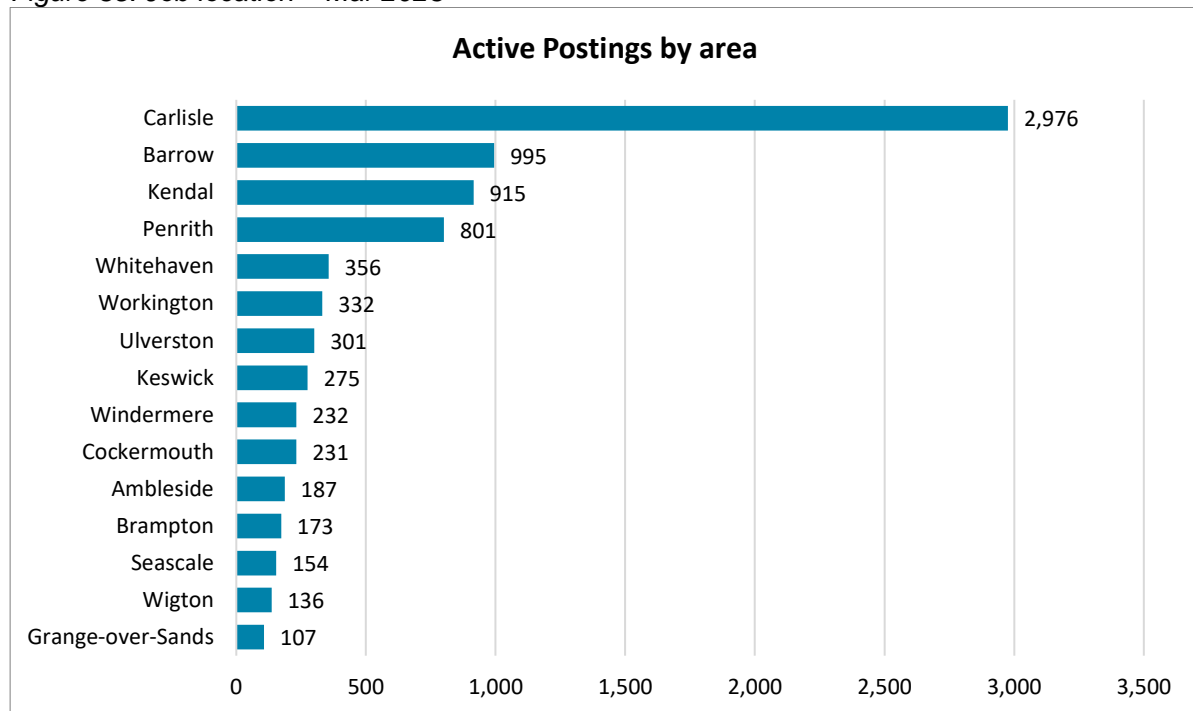
*Figure 34: Skills required – Mar 2023*

**Top Specialised Skills Required**

| Skill | Value |
|---|---|
| Nursing | 362 |
| Auditing | 350 |
| Housekeeping | 350 |
| Finance | 278 |
| Mental Health | 267 |
| Risk Analysis | 255 |
| Key Performance Indicators | 253 |
| Personal Care | 245 |
| Midwifery | 238 |
| Warehousing | 211 |
| Restaurant Operation | 177 |
| Surgery | 174 |
| Accounting | 171 |
| Invoicing | 168 |
| Marketing | 164 |
| Cooking | 155 |
| Merchandising | 154 |
| Export Control | 148 |
| Machinery | 146 |
| Procurement | 142 |

**Top Common Skills Required**

| Skill | Value |
|---|---|
| Communications | 2,323 |
| Customer Service | 1,575 |
| Management | 1,509 |
| Sales | 870 |
| Detail Oriented | 744 |
| Leadership | 623 |
| Planning | 596 |
| Operations | 509 |
| Enthusiasm | 505 |
| Organisation | 463 |
| Interpersonal Comms | 450 |
| Problem Solving | 450 |
| Self-Motivation | 432 |
| Teaching | 409 |
| Mathematics | 338 |
| Willingness To Learn | 280 |
| Coaching | 267 |
| Time Management | 265 |
| Teamwork | 264 |
| Mentorship | 262 |

*Source: Lightcast™ Analyst*

Active postings rose in the former districts of Allerdale and Barrow but fell in Carlisle and Eden and were stable in Copeland and South Lakeland. The specific locations mentioned most frequently in postings were Carlisle, Barrow, Kendal and Penrith.

*Figure 35: Job location – Mar 2023*

**Active Postings by area**

| Area | Postings |
|------|----------|
| Carlisle | 2,976 |
| Barrow | 995 |
| Kendal | 915 |
| Penrith | 801 |
| Whitehaven | 356 |
| Workington | 332 |
| Ulverston | 301 |
| Keswick | 275 |
| Windermere | 232 |
| Cockermouth | 231 |
| Ambleside | 187 |
| Brampton | 173 |
| Seascale | 154 |
| Wigton | 136 |
| Grange-over-Sands | 107 |

*Source: Lightcast™ Analyst*

As is usually the case, the NHS advertised the most vacancies during the month (857) followed by BAE Systems and Adecco. (NB: There is a flaw in the webscraping algorithms which results in Environment Agency vacancies in Brampton, East Anglia being recorded against Brampton in Cumbria so the total for EA is over-recorded.)

*Figure 36: Recruiting organisation – Mar 2023*

**Active Postings by recruiter (where available)**

| Recruiter | Postings |
|-----------|----------|
| NHS | 857 |
| BAE Systems | 151 |
| Adecco | 127 |
| Maid2Clean | 105 |
| Outcomes First Group | 80 |
| Environment Agency | 71 |
| Rullion Group | 65 |
| Cumbria County Council | 59 |
| Hays | 56 |
| Places For People Group Ltd | 46 |
| Inn Collection LTD | 41 |
| Phoenix Care Staff Limited | 40 |
| Best Connection Group | 39 |
| CRA | 38 |
| Whitbread | 38 |

*Source: Lightcast™ Analyst*

## 8.   BUSINESS START-UPS

### 8a.   Small 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 institutions other than those mentioned.*

There were 192 business start-ups in Cumbria in Feb 2023, an increase of 23 from Jan and 24 more than the same month last year.  Over the quarter (Dec-Feb) there were 481 start-ups which is 38 fewer than last quarter but identical to the same quarter last year.

*Figure 37: Monthly Start-Ups (number)*
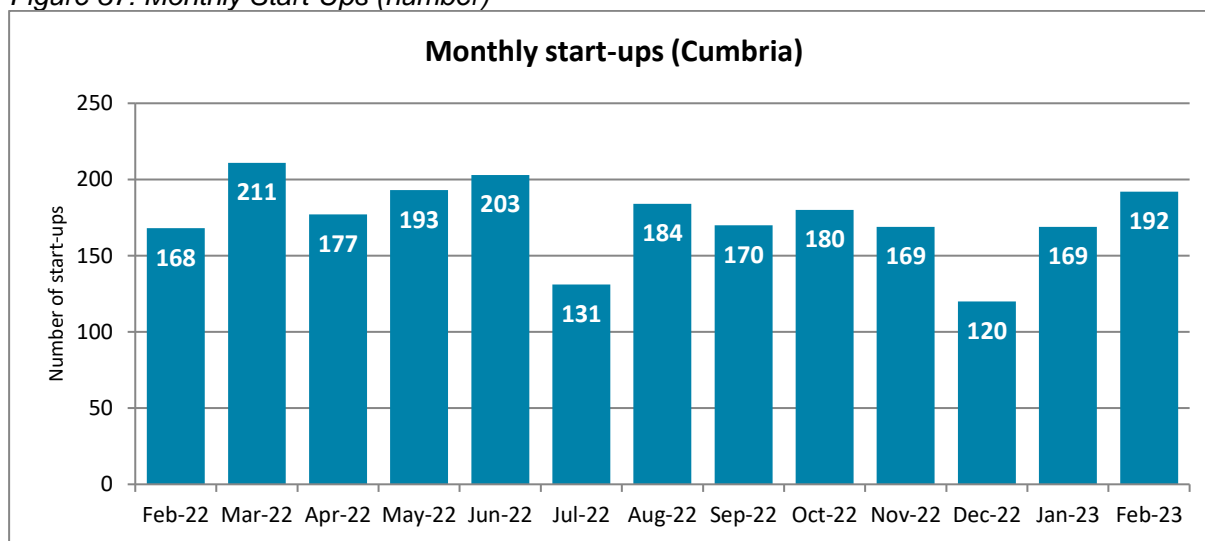


*Source: BankSearch*

The highest volume of start-ups in the quarter (Dec-Feb) was in real estate, prof services & support activities (98) followed by recreation, personal & community services (73), construction (73) and retail & wholesale (72).
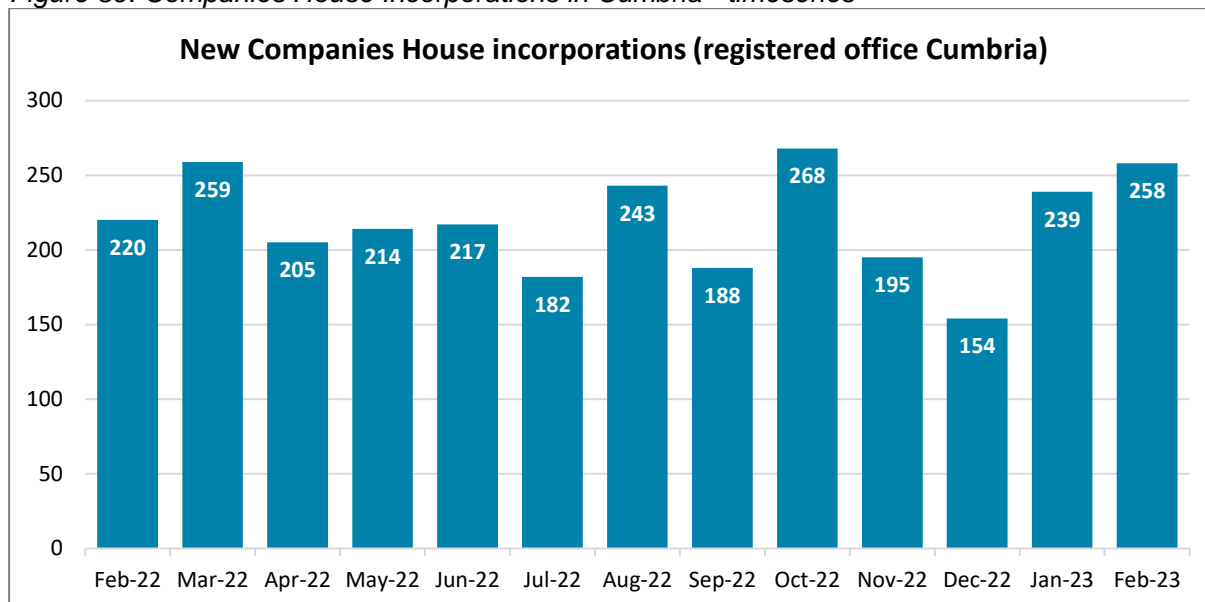
*Figure 38: Quarterly start-ups by sector*
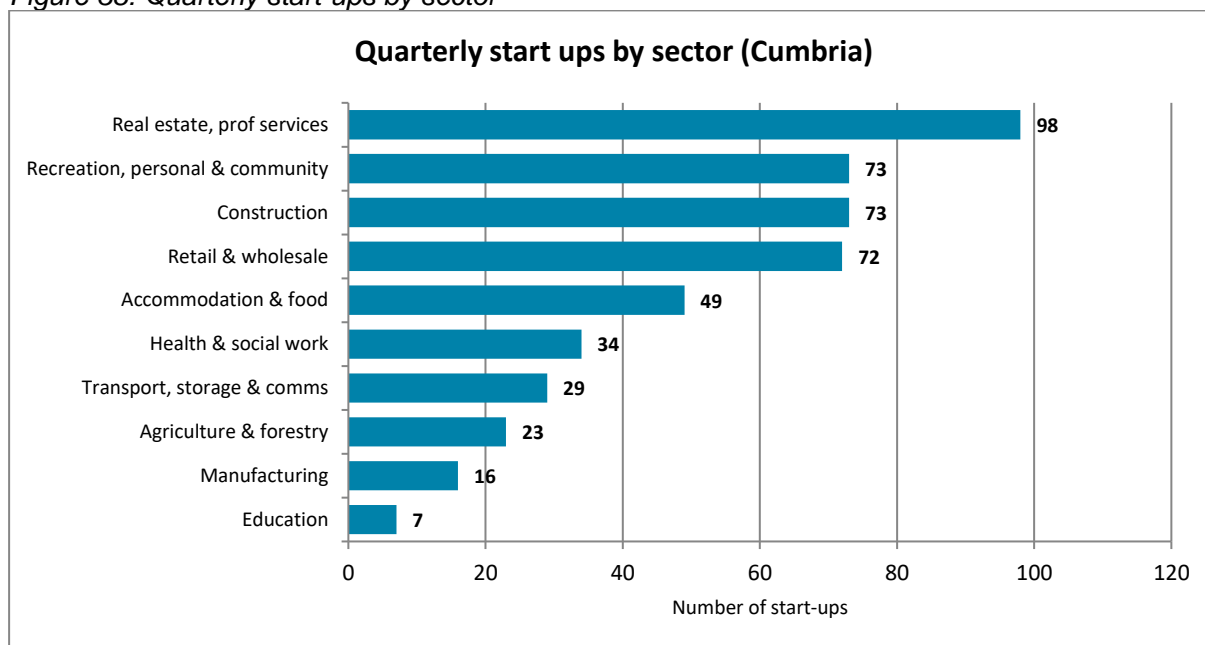


*Source: BankSearch*

### 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.
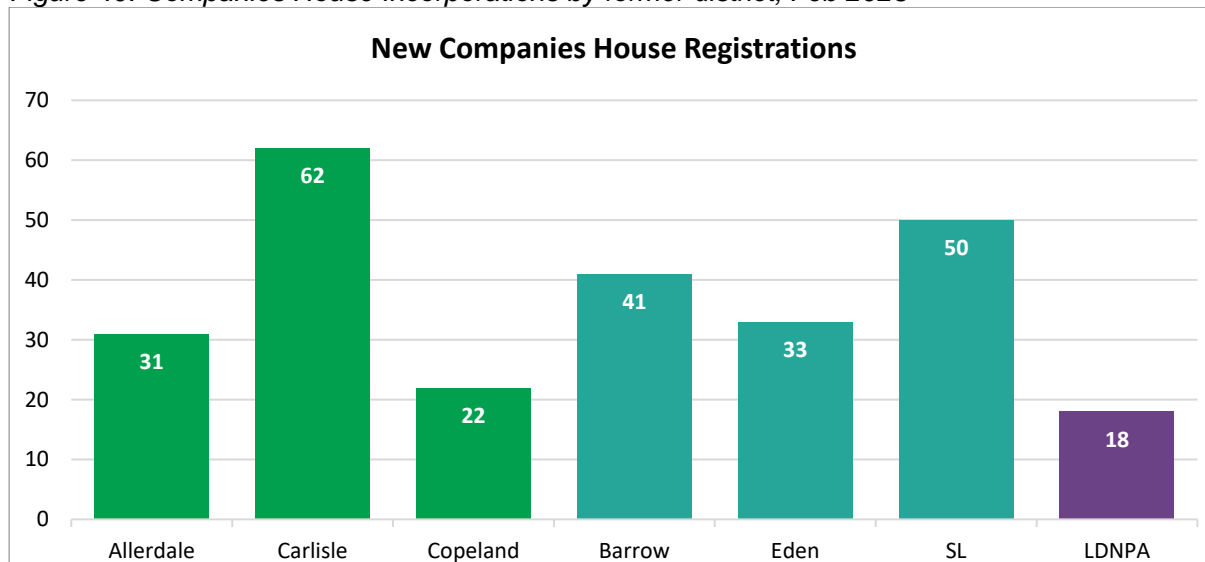
There were 258 new Companies House incorporations in Feb 2023, a rise of 19 from Jan and 38 more than the same month last year. New registrations rose from last month in the former districts of Allerdale and South Lakeland but fell elsewhere.

*Figure 39: Companies House Incorporations in Cumbria - timeseries*

**New Companies House incorporations (registered office Cumbria)**

| Month | Value |
|-------|-------|
| Feb-22 | 220 |
| Mar-22 | 259 |
| Apr-22 | 205 |
| May-22 | 214 |
| Jun-22 | 217 |
| Jul-22 | 182 |
| Aug-22 | 243 |
| Sep-22 | 188 |
| Oct-22 | 268 |
| Nov-22 | 195 |
| Dec-22 | 154 |
| Jan-23 | 239 |
| Feb-23 | 258 |

*Source: BankSearch, data relate to registered office address.*

*Figure 40: Companies House Incorporations by former district, Feb 2023*

**New Companies House Registrations**

| District | Value |
|----------|-------|
| Allerdale | 31 |
| Carlisle | 62 |
| Copeland | 22 |
| Barrow | 41 |
| Eden | 33 |
| SL | 50 |
| LDNPA | 18 |

*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.*

## 9. COMPANIES HOUSE STOCK – ACTIVE, DISSOLVED, FINANCIAL HEALTH

### 9a  Companies House stock, dissolved, growth

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. As noted previously, there was a large fall in active entries in June 2022 but this is likely to have been administrative (eg Companies House "cleaning" the database) rather than a one-off spate of business failures.

At the end of Mar 2023 there were 30,582 entries on the FAME database for Cumbria, fall of 34 from last month. There were 151 dissolutions/insolvencies, continuing the return to more usual levels after a spike in January.

*Figure 41: Stock of Active Companies - timeseries*



**Monthly stock of active companies**

| | Mar-22 | Apr-22 | May-22 | Jun-22 | Jul-22 | Aug-22 | Sep-22 | Oct-22 | Nov-22 | Dec-22 | Jan-23 | Feb-23 | Mar-23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Westmorland & Furness | 15,849 | 15,784 | 15,730 | 14,901 | 14,938 | 14,945 | 14,949 | 14,898 | 14,941 | 15,602 | 15,707 | 15,698 | 15,627 |
| Cumberland | 15,249 | 15,169 | 15,113 | 14,440 | 14,461 | 14,497 | 14,484 | 14,425 | 14,451 | 14,922 | 14,902 | 14,918 | 14,955 |

*Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)*

*Figure 42: Stock of Active Companies by former district, Feb 2023*



**Stock of active companies per district**

| Allerdale | Carlisle | Copeland | Barrow | Eden | South Lakeland | LDNP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5,554 | 6,904 | 2,497 | 2,811 | 4,035 | 8,781 | 5,111 |
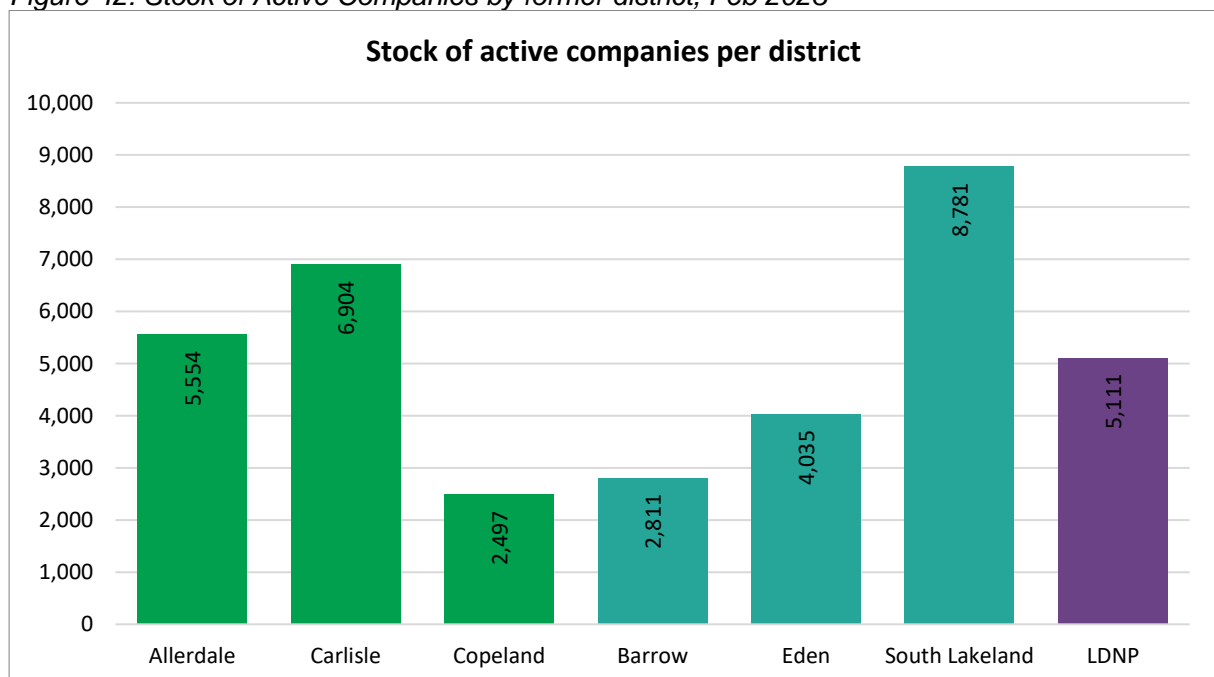
*Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)  Note: LDNPA also included in relevant district*

*Figure 43: Businesses dissolved/in liquidation during month, timeseries*



**Dissolved / In Liquidation**

Legend: Cumberland, Westmorland & Furness
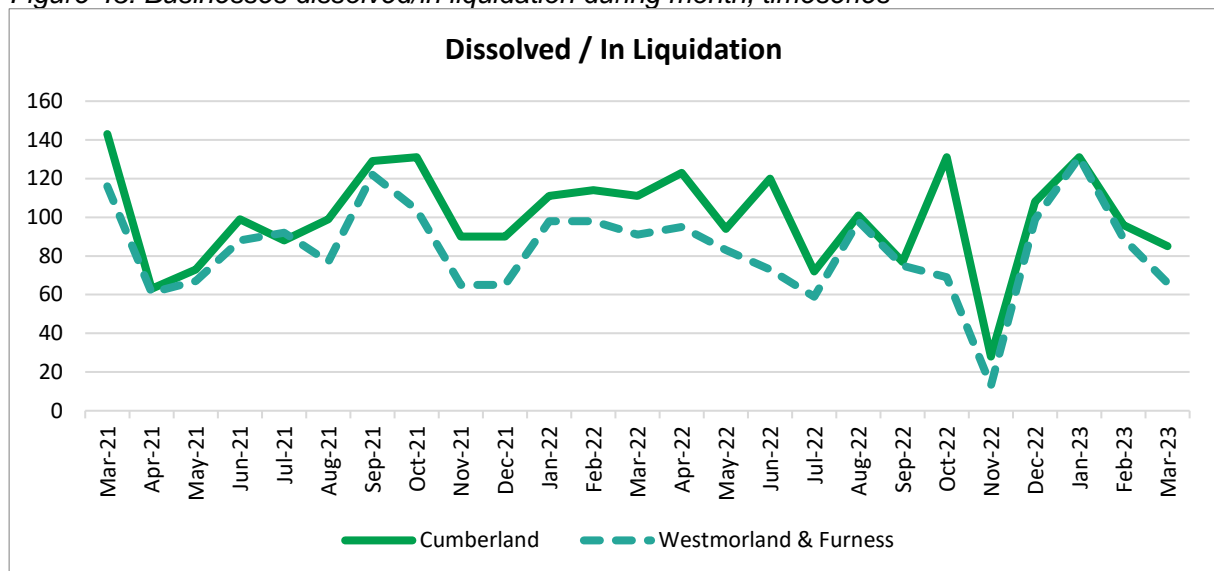
*Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)*

Of the businesses which were active in Cumbria in Mar, 2,008 had shown an increase of 10% in either employment or turnover in their most recent accounts whilst 1,359 had shown a decrease. This repesents 6.6% of businesses growing on one or both measures and 4.4% declining. In both cases these percentages are higher than for the UK as a whole. (NB: not all businesses file detailed accounts at Companies House. Business may appear in both measures if they reported differing trends in employment and turnover.)

*Figure 44: Businesses showing growth/decline*



**% businesses showing annual growth/decline**
*(of 10% or more in employmant and/or turnover in most recent accounts)*

Legend: % growing, % declining

| | UK | Cumbria | Cumberland | W&F | LDNPA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| % growing | 5.5% | 6.6% | 6.6% | 6.5% | 6.1% |
| % declining | 3.8% | 4.4% | 4.6% | 4.3% | 3.8% |
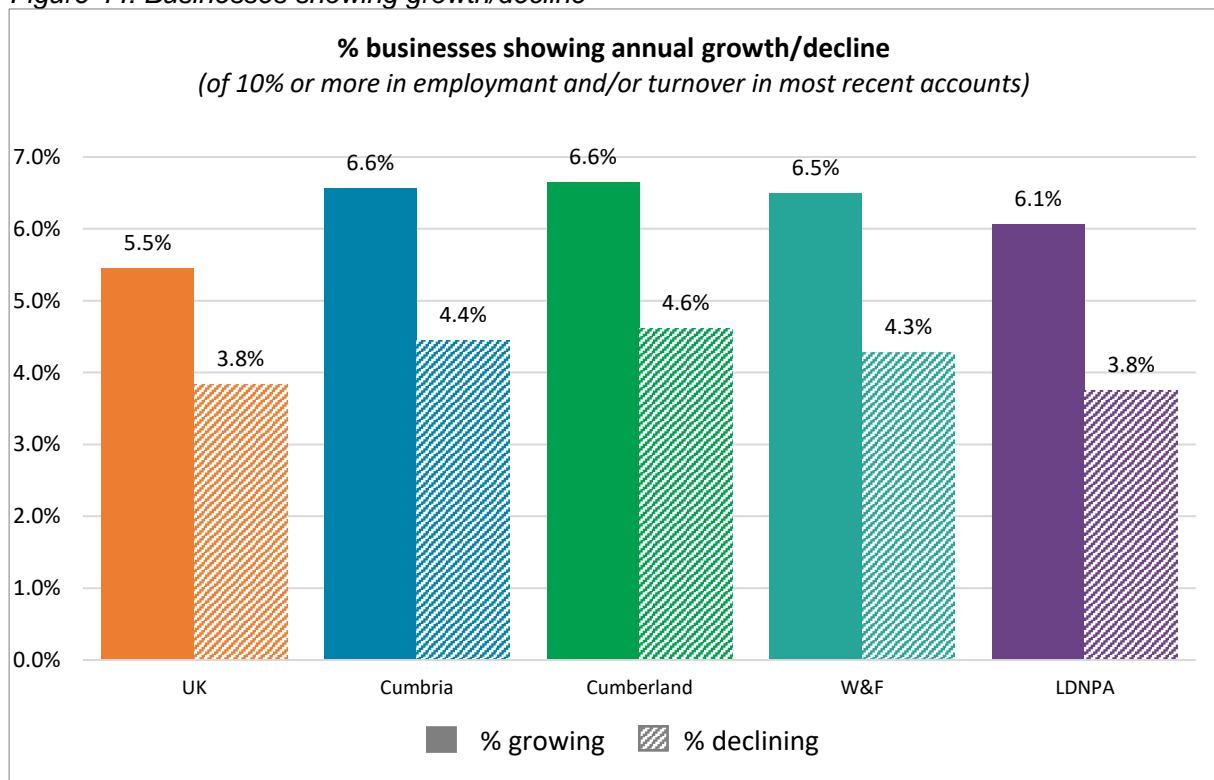
*Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)  NB: % is of all active businesses including those without financial results*

## 9b     Financial Health

These data are extracted from the Red Flag Alert database system which contains data on on over 3 million active companies nationally and 36,000 in Cumbria.  Business are financially rated from Gold (stable, little risk) down to 3 Red Flags (highest risk of failure).
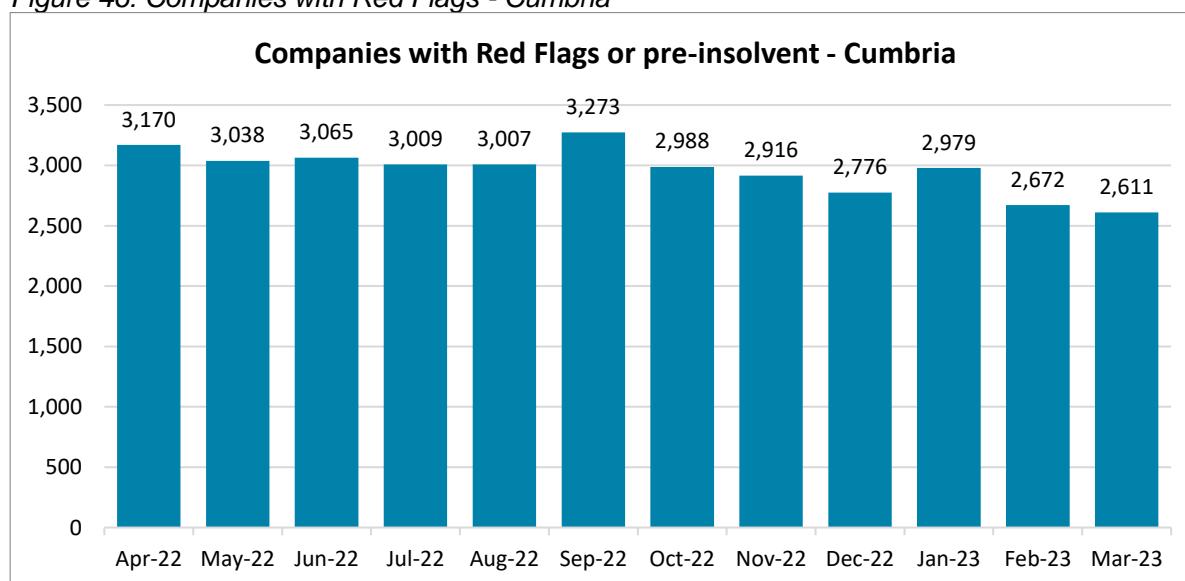
In March 2023, 49.1% of Cumbria's companies on the system were rated as Gold or Silver (UK 38.6%) and 43.2% were rated as Bronze or Amber (UK 50.1%).  Of the remainder, 2,592 companies had 1 Red Flag, 11 had 2 Red Flags and 2 had 3 Red Flags.  The highest volumes of red flag companies were in construction, wholesale & retail and professional services.  The number with red flags dropped by 61 in Mar compared to Feb and is the lowest in the 11 months we have been monitoring this data. However, the number of gold rated companies fell significantly in March (by 20%) which may indicate very early signs of stress on more businesses although this dataset is quite volatile and therefore it's premature to draw any conclusions.
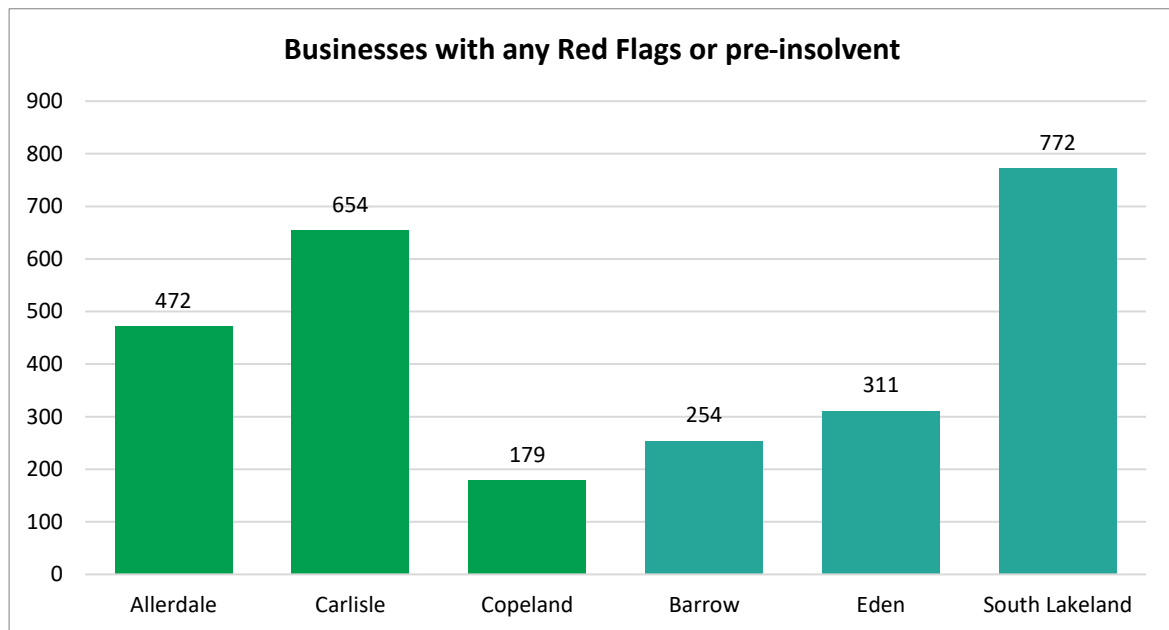
*Figure 45: Financial Health Rating, Mar 2023*
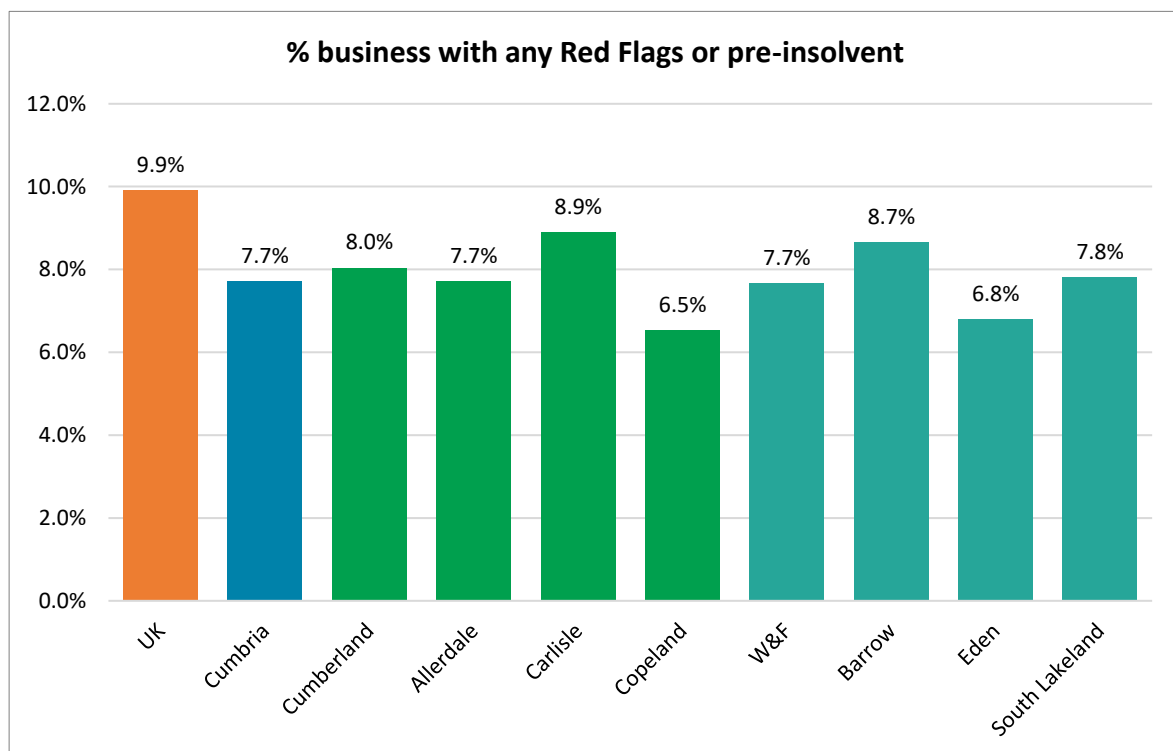


*Source: Red Flag Alert*
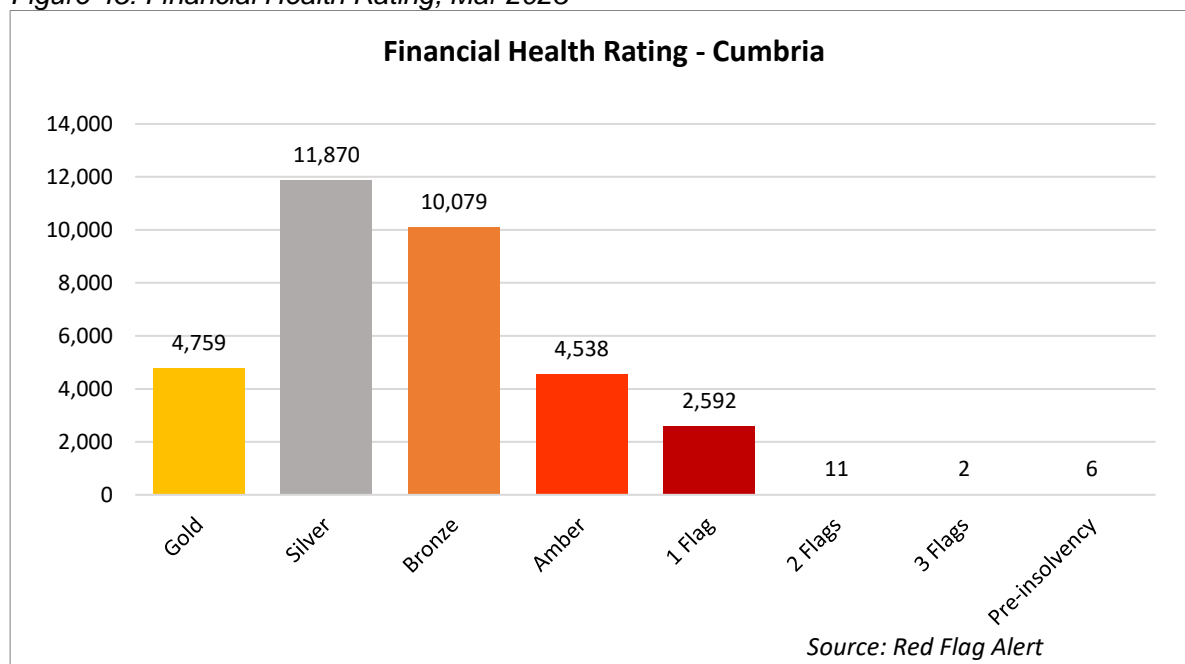
*Source: Red Flag Alert*

*Figure 46: Companies with Red Flags - Cumbria*



*Source: Red Flag Alert*

*Figure 47: Companies with Red Flags – former districts*

**Businesses with any Red Flags or pre-insolvent**

Allerdale: 472
Carlisle: 654
Copeland: 179
Barrow: 254
Eden: 311
South Lakeland: 772

*Source: Red Flag Alert*

*Figure 48: % companies with Red Flags*

**% business with any Red Flags or pre-insolvent**

UK: 9.9%
Cumbria: 7.7%
Cumberland: 8.0%
Allerdale: 7.7%
Carlisle: 8.9%
Copeland: 6.5%
W&F: 7.7%
Barrow: 8.7%
Eden: 6.8%
South Lakeland: 7.8%

*Source: Red Flag Alert*

| Rating | Description |
|---|---|
| Gold | Stable, healthy growing company, good payment history, few or no legal notices |
| Silver | Stable, healthy company, good payment history, few legal notices |
| Bronze | Average risk with a standard payment history and possible legal notices |
| Amber | Display some characteristics that make them an elevated risk |
| 1 Red Flag | 33% of these companies will cease to trade over a 3-year period |
| 2 Red Flags | 50% of these companies will cease to trade in the next 12 months |
| 3 Red Flags | 56% of these companies will cease to trade in the next 7 days |

*Figure 49: Ward claimant data*

| CUMBERLAND | Claimant Count (JSA / UC seeking work) | | | | | Universal Credit (all claimants) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar 2023 | | Change from Feb 2023 | | | Mar 2023 | | Change from Feb 2023 | | |
| | No | Rate | No | % | Rate | No | Rate | No | % | Rate |
| GB | 1,539,610 | 3.8 | 48,560 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 5,912,017 | 14.4 | 79,205 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Cumbria | 7,325 | 2.5 | 155 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 35,915 | 12.0 | 405 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Cumberland | 4,465 | 2.7 | 100 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 22,738 | 13.8 | 204 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Community Panel 1 | 650 | 3.5 | 15 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 3,089 | 16.4 | 38 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| Community Panel 2 | 720 | 3.9 | 25 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 3,713 | 19.9 | 55 | 1.5 | 0.3 |
| Community Panel 3 | 365 | 1.6 | -15 | -3.9 | -0.1 | 1,833 | 8.0 | 43 | 2.4 | 0.2 |
| Community Panel 4 | 440 | 2.3 | 20 | 4.8 | 0.1 | 2,225 | 11.9 | 25 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Community Panel 5 | 545 | 2.2 | 20 | 3.8 | 0.1 | 2,936 | 12.0 | 35 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| Community Panel 6 | 670 | 3.5 | 20 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 3,362 | 17.5 | -5 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Community Panel 7 | 565 | 2.8 | 25 | 4.6 | 0.1 | 3,005 | 14.8 | 35 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| Community Panel 8 | 515 | 2.5 | 5 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2,625 | 12.7 | 12 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aspatria | 100 | 2.5 | 5 | 5.3 | 0.1 | 587 | 14.8 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Belah | 65 | 2.0 | 5 | 8.3 | 0.2 | 343 | 10.5 | 8 | 2.4 | 0.2 |
| Belle Vue | 130 | 3.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 681 | 16.9 | 9 | 1.3 | 0.2 |
| Botcherby | 155 | 3.8 | 10 | 7.1 | 0.4 | 802 | 19.4 | 9 | 1.1 | 0.2 |
| Bothel & Wharrels | 40 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 208 | 5.5 | -2 | -1.0 | -0.1 |
| Brampton | 90 | 2.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 400 | 10.6 | -3 | -0.7 | -0.1 |
| Bransty | 135 | 3.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 511 | 12.6 | 16 | 3.2 | 0.4 |
| Castle | 205 | 5.4 | 5 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 809 | 21.2 | 5 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Cleator Moor East & Frizington | 90 | 2.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 511 | 13.6 | 9 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| Cleator Moor West | 100 | 2.8 | 5 | 5.3 | 0.1 | 558 | 15.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Cockermouth North | 100 | 3.2 | -5 | -4.8 | -0.2 | 414 | 13.3 | 5 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| Cockermouth South | 40 | 1.1 | -5 | -12.5 | 0.0 | 188 | 5.0 | 11 | 6.2 | 0.3 |
| Corby & Hayton | 25 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 119 | 5.1 | 3 | 2.6 | 0.1 |
| Currock | 190 | 4.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 880 | 21.1 | 23 | 2.7 | 0.6 |
| Dalston & Burgh | 45 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 259 | 5.2 | 3 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| Dearham & Broughton | 65 | 1.7 | -5 | -8.3 | 0.1 | 347 | 9.2 | 4 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| Denton Holme | 135 | 3.1 | 10 | 8.0 | 0.2 | 663 | 15.5 | 8 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| Egremont | 110 | 3.0 | 5 | 4.8 | 0.1 | 653 | 17.6 | 5 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Egremont North & St. Bees | 70 | 2.5 | 5 | 7.7 | 0.2 | 422 | 15.2 | -10 | -2.3 | -0.4 |
| Gosforth | 45 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 227 | 6.9 | -5 | -2.2 | -0.2 |
| Harraby North | 145 | 3.1 | 5 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 817 | 17.6 | 11 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Harraby South | 75 | 4.4 | 5 | 6.7 | 0.0 | 346 | 20.2 | -2 | -0.6 | -0.1 |
| Harrington | 150 | 3.6 | 0 | 0.0 | -0.2 | 743 | 17.8 | -9 | -1.2 | -0.2 |
| Hillcrest & Hensingham | 60 | 1.6 | -5 | -8.3 | 0.0 | 313 | 8.6 | -6 | -1.9 | -0.2 |
| Houghton & Irthington | 30 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 145 | 5.2 | 6 | 4.3 | 0.2 |
| Howgate | 85 | 2.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 487 | 15.7 | 27 | 5.9 | 0.9 |
| Kells & Sandwith | 110 | 3.2 | -5 | -4.2 | -0.3 | 683 | 19.8 | 6 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| Keswick | 50 | 1.7 | 10 | 20.0 | 0.0 | 275 | 9.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Longtown | 65 | 2.8 | -10 | -13.3 | -0.4 | 301 | 12.7 | 4 | 1.3 | 0.2 |
| Maryport North | 130 | 3.3 | 5 | 4.2 | 0.3 | 721 | 18.0 | 5 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Maryport South | 120 | 3.9 | 5 | 4.5 | 0.3 | 783 | 25.3 | 12 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| Millom | 120 | 3.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 486 | 14.1 | 2 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Millom Without | 50 | 1.8 | -5 | -9.1 | -0.2 | 190 | 6.7 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Mirehouse | 105 | 3.2 | 10 | 10.5 | 0.3 | 589 | 17.8 | 2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Morton | 135 | 3.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 696 | 20.0 | 5 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Moss Bay & Moorclose | 245 | 6.3 | 5 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 1,291 | 33.1 | 2 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Seaton | 130 | 3.4 | 5 | 4.2 | 0.3 | 546 | 14.2 | 2 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Solway Coast | 55 | 2.1 | -5 | -8.3 | -0.2 | 295 | 11.3 | -2 | -0.7 | -0.1 |
| St. John's & Great Clifton | 90 | 1.9 | 15 | 20.0 | 0.3 | 487 | 10.5 | 2 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| St. Michael's | 155 | 4.9 | -5 | -3.1 | -0.2 | 689 | 21.8 | 6 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| Stanwix Urban | 40 | 1.3 | 0 | 0.0 | -0.3 | 206 | 6.5 | 10 | 5.1 | 0.3 |
| Thursby | 15 | 0.7 | 5 | 50.0 | 0.2 | 96 | 4.6 | 9 | 10.3 | 0.4 |
| Upperby | 155 | 3.9 | 5 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 868 | 21.8 | 14 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| Wetheral | 50 | 1.0 | -5 | -9.1 | -0.1 | 319 | 6.2 | 15 | 4.9 | 0.3 |
| Wigton | 125 | 2.7 | 10 | 9.1 | 0.3 | 594 | 13.1 | 6 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| Yewdale | 45 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 240 | 7.6 | 11 | 4.8 | 0.3 |

| WESTMORLAND & FURNESS | Claimant Count (JSA / UC seeking work) | | | | | Universal Credit (all claimants) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar 2023 | | Change from Feb 2023 | | | Mar 2023 | | Change from Feb 2023 | | |
| | No | Rate | No | % | Rate | No | Rate | No | % | Rate |
| GB | 1,539,610 | 3.8 | 48,560 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 5,912,017 | 14.4 | 79,205 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Cumbria | 7,325 | 2.5 | 155 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 35,915 | 12.0 | 405 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Westmorland & Furness | 2,860 | 2.1 | 55 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 13,175 | 9.8 | 200 | 1.5 | 0.1 |
| Westmorland North | 560 | 1.7 | -10 | -1.6 | 0.0 | 2,631 | 8.1 | 49 | 1.9 | 0.2 |
| Westmorland South | 930 | 1.5 | 10 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 4,855 | 8.0 | 68 | 1.4 | 0.1 |
| Furness | 1,370 | 3.3 | 55 | 4.2 | 0.1 | 5,694 | 13.8 | 88 | 1.6 | 0.2 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alston & Fellside | 60 | 1.6 | -10 | -15.4 | -0.1 | 270 | 7.3 | -4 | -1.5 | -0.1 |
| Appleby & Brough | 80 | 2.1 | 5 | 6.7 | 0.1 | 328 | 8.8 | 8 | 2.5 | 0.2 |
| Bowness & Lyth | 25 | 1.1 | -5 | -20.0 | 0.0 | 171 | 7.3 | -4 | -2.3 | -0.2 |
| Burton & Holme | 15 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 93 | 5.5 | -4 | -4.1 | -0.2 |
| Coniston & Hawkshead | 20 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | -0.6 | 98 | 5.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Dalton North | 70 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 271 | 7.0 | 7 | 2.7 | 0.2 |
| Dalton South | 85 | 2.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 331 | 10.0 | -1 | -0.3 | 0.0 |
| Eamont & Shap | 35 | 1.4 | -5 | -16.7 | 0.2 | 163 | 6.6 | 8 | 5.2 | 0.3 |
| Eden & Lyvennet Vale | 60 | 2.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 174 | 5.8 | 11 | 6.7 | 0.4 |
| Grange & Cartmel | 80 | 1.6 | 5 | 7.7 | 0.3 | 300 | 5.9 | 2 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Greystoke & Ulswater | 40 | 1.7 | -10 | -25.0 | 0.0 | 103 | 4.3 | 2 | 2.0 | 0.1 |
| Hawcoat & Newbarns | 95 | 1.5 | 5 | 5.6 | 0.1 | 373 | 6.1 | 4 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Hesket & Lazonby | 30 | 0.8 | -10 | -28.6 | -0.1 | 144 | 3.9 | 3 | 2.1 | 0.1 |
| High Furness | 45 | 2.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 106 | 4.9 | -3 | -2.8 | -0.1 |
| Kendal Castle | 40 | 1.2 | 5 | 12.5 | 0.0 | 218 | 6.6 | 12 | 5.8 | 0.4 |
| Kendal Highgate | 90 | 2.5 | -5 | -5.6 | 0.0 | 484 | 13.4 | 3 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Kendal Nether | 65 | 1.7 | -5 | -7.1 | -0.1 | 447 | 11.5 | 20 | 4.7 | 0.5 |
| Kendal South | 45 | 1.2 | 5 | 12.5 | 0.1 | 287 | 7.7 | 17 | 6.3 | 0.5 |
| Kendal Strickland & Fell | 105 | 2.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 548 | 13.0 | 4 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Kent Estuary | 40 | 1.3 | -5 | -11.1 | -0.2 | 232 | 7.4 | -7 | -2.9 | -0.2 |
| Kirkby Stephen & Tebay | 50 | 2.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 255 | 11.2 | 2 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Levens & Crooklands | 20 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 87 | 4.1 | -1 | -1.1 | 0.0 |
| Low Furness | 20 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 118 | 5.1 | -3 | -2.5 | -0.1 |
| Old Barrow | 570 | 7.3 | 10 | 1.7 | -0.1 | 2,344 | 29.9 | 24 | 1.0 | 0.3 |
| Ormsgill & Parkside | 225 | 3.3 | 15 | 6.8 | 0.1 | 963 | 14.3 | 22 | 2.3 | 0.3 |
| Penrith North | 75 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 464 | 11.0 | 13 | 2.9 | 0.3 |
| Penrith South | 140 | 2.5 | 5 | 3.8 | 0.2 | 740 | 13.4 | 13 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| Risedale & Roosecote | 185 | 2.9 | 15 | 9.1 | 0.3 | 791 | 12.4 | 9 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale | 45 | 1.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 244 | 5.2 | 7 | 3.0 | 0.1 |
| Ulverston | 160 | 2.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 655 | 9.7 | -3 | -0.5 | 0.0 |
| Upper Kent | 35 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 197 | 8.7 | 8 | 4.2 | 0.4 |
| Walney Island | 135 | 2.2 | 10 | 8.0 | 0.2 | 619 | 10.1 | 30 | 5.1 | 0.5 |
| Windermere & Ambleside | 90 | 1.4 | -5 | -5.3 | -0.1 | 563 | 9.0 | 11 | 2.0 | 0.2 |

*Source: ONS/DWP – Cumbria Intelligence Observatory calculations*

## Areas contained in Cumberland Community Panels / Westmorland & Furness Board Areas

| Cumberland Community Panels | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Community Panel** | **Wards covered** | **Community Panel** | **Wards covered** |
| Community Panel 1 | Belle Vue | Community Panel 5 | Bothel & Wharrels |
| | Castle | | Cockermouth North |
| | Denton Holme | | Cockermouth South |
| | Morton | | Dearham & Broughton |
| | Yewdale | | Keswick |
| Community Panel 2 | Botcherby | | Maryport North |
| | Currock | | Maryport South |
| | Harraby North | Community Panel 6 | Harrington |
| | Harraby South | | Moss Bay & Moorclose |
| | Upperby | | Seaton |
| Community Panel 3 | Belah | | Solway Coast |
| | Brampton | | St. John's & Great Clifton |
| | Corby & Hayton | Community Panel 7 | Bransty |
| | Houghton & Irthington | | Egremont North & St. Bees |
| | Longtown | | Hillcrest & Hensingham |
| | Stanwix Urban | | Howgate |
| | Wetheral | | Kells & Sandwith |
| Community Panel 4 | Aspatria | | Mirehouse |
| | Dalston & Burgh | Community Panel 8 | Cleator Moor East & Frizington |
| | St. Michael's | | Cleator Moor West |
| | Thursby | | Egremont |
| | Wigton | | Gosforth |
| | | | Millom |
| | | | Millom Without |

| Westmorland & Furness Locality Boards | |
|---|---|
| **Locality Board** | **Areas covered** |
| North Westmorland | former Eden district |
| South Westmorland | former South Lakeland district |
| Furness | former Barrow-in-Furness district |

**Figure Number and Description**                                                          **Page**