

Introduction

This briefing contains the most recent data from the standard Claimant Count and Universal Credit registers (both counts taken on <u>14th December 2023</u>). 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: <u>ginny.murphy@cumberland.gov.uk</u> Tel: 07826 859026. Copies of this and other briefings can be found on the Observatory website: <u>www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk</u>.

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1. KEY FINDINGS FOR CUMBRIA

- There were estimated to be 224,411 <u>payrolled</u> employees resident in Cumbria in Dec 2023, an increase of 21 from the revised Nov figure. This means there are 2,571 more residents in payrolled employment than this time last year (1.2% v 1.0% for the UK). 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 Dec 2023 in Cumbria were £2,213 which is 95% of the UK average. They were highest in West Cumbria (102% 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 year on year was 7.6% which is above the UK (6.6%) and has been stronger in West Cumbria (8.3%) than East Cumbria (7.3%)
- Survey estimates for the year ending Sep 2023 suggest that the proportion of 16-64 year olds in employment in Cumbria was 80.2% compared to the national average of 75.7% (even allowing for survey error this does suggest the rate was higher locall). The rate was 79.6% in Cumberland and 80.9% in Westmorland & Furness.
- The economic inactivity rate (those aged 16-64 who are not working or actively looking for work) was estimated to be 17.5% in the year to Sep 2023, lower than the national average of 21.3%. It is broadly similar in both Cumberland (17.3% and Westmorland & Furness (17.6%). More than four fifths of the inactive say they do not currently want a job.
- There were 6,625 claimants of JSA / UC (out of work and seeking work) in Dec 2023 which is a fall of 25 from the revised Nov figure. It was a mixed picture though with increases in Eden and South Lakeland offset by falls in Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland (Barrow was unchanged). The count also rose nationally and regionally.
- Compared to the same time last year, the claimant count (actively seeking work) is 690 lower, a fall of 9.4% compared to a rise of 2.7% nationally.
- The claimant rate (actively seeking work) in Cumbria was 2.2% in Dec 2023 unchanged from Nov and it remains below the national rate of 3.7% in all the former district areas. The claimant rate in Cumbria is 0.2ppt down from a year ago.

- Claimant rates (of those 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 (5.6% v 5.0%).
- There were 38,028 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria in Dec 2023 (in work, out of work or not required to seek work), a rise of 904 (2.4%) from the revised Nov figure. This is 2,748 more UC claimants than a year ago (+7.8%).
- The number of claimants fell in the searching/planning/preparing conditionality group (-16) but rose in the working conditionality group (+571) and the no work requirements group (+350).
- The claimant rate for all UC claimants was 12.7% in Dec 2023 compared to 15.5% nationally and the rate was below the national rate in all 6 former districts. 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.
- 28,943 of the UC claimants had been claiming for more than 12 months in Dec 2023, an increase of 343 from Oct and 2,474 more than a year ago. This means 76% of UC claimants have been claiming for more than a year.
- In Sep 2023, 13,204 UC claimants were on "UC health" which is approximately 4.4% of all working age residents (aged 16-64) compared to 4.5% nationally. The rate of claimants on UC Health was above the national average in the former districts of Allerdale (5.7%), Barrow (5.3%), Carlisle (4.8%) and Copeland (5.6%) but lower in Eden (2.4%) and South Lakeland (2.5%).
- The number of UC claimants on "UC health" has risen by 21.1% (+2,300) in the year to Sept 2023 in Cumbria even though the overall number of UC claimants has only risen by 5.3% over the same period.
- Data for households on Universal Credit are published quarterly and the latest are for Aug 2023. This shows that there were 31,221 households in receipt of Universal Credit, up by 1,674 (5.7%) from a year previously.
- There were an estimated 26,947 children/young people under the age of 20 living in Universal Credit households in Aug 2023 which is 1,685 (6.7%) more than a year ago.
- There were 303 young people (aged 16/17) classed as NEET (inc not knowns) in Nov 2023, down 32 from Oct (NB: young people are still making destination choices at this time of year). There were 197 NEET/NKs resident in Cumberland and 106 in Westmorland & Furness.
- The NEET rate was 2.9% in Cumbria in Nov 2023, down by 0.6 percentage points from Nov last year (England not comparable at this time of year due to lack of tracking in many areas). The rate was 3.4% in Cumberland and 2.4% in Westmorland & Furness with the highest rates in the former districts of Copeland (3.6%) and Barrow (3.5%).
- The participation rate for 16/17 year olds was 91.1% in Cumbia in Nov (89.6% in Cumberland and 93.0% in Westmorland & Furness) compared to 89.4% nationally.
- There were 7,404 active online job postings in Dec 2023, 1,742 fewer than the Nov total -19%%) with decreases in all former district areas and also nationally. New postings also fell significantly, down by 995 (-26.3%).
- The occupations most in demand care workers, cleaners & domestics, sales, nursing, kitchen & catering assistants and customer services.
- The sectors accounting for most postings were employment activities (often recruitment companies), health, retail, food & beverage services and manufacture of transport equipment.
- Job-related skills most in demand were auditing, project management, personal care and finance whilst the personal attributes most in demand were communications, management and customer service.
- The recruiting organisations with the most active job postings were the NHS, BAE Systems and Hays (a recruitment agency).
- There were 592 small business start-ups in the quarter ending Nov 2023 which is 29 more than last quarter and 73 more than the same quarter last year.
- Start-ups were highest in real estate & professional services (116), recreation, personal & community services (93) and retail (84).
- There were 256 new Companies House incorporations in Nov 2023, an increase of 22 from Oct and 61 more than in Nov last year.
- There were 30,991 active companies in Cumbria at the end of Dec 2023, 31 more than in Nov.
- There were 162 businesses newly recorded as dissolved/in liquidation during Dec 2023 making a total of 2,143 for 2023 which is just 2 more than in 2022. In contrast, nationally there was a 15% rise in dissolutions/liquidations year on year.

- Of the active businesses in Dec 2023, 2,001 had posted financial results showing a 10% increase in employment and/or turnover in their most recent accounts (6.5% of businesses) whilst 1,409 had posted results showing a 10% decline in one or both measures (4.5% of all businesses) (note: the majority of businesses do not file detailed financial accounts).
- In Dec 2023, 7.2% of Cumbria's total companies on the Red Flag Alert system were rated as having Red Flags (not including provisional flags). This is lower than the national average of 9.7%. It was highest in the former district areas of Barrow (8.4%) and Carlisle (7.6%).
- A fifth of businesses on the Red Flag Alert system are assigned a growth score and of these, 22.9% in Cumbria were rated as very likely or likely to grow compared to 18.6% for the UK.

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

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

- Because of the increased uncertainty around the Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates, we are publishing an alternative series of estimates of UK employment, unemployment, and economic inactivity in our <u>Using administrative data to create headline labour market figures article</u>. These figures were derived using growth rates from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information (excluding the early flash estimate) and the Claimant Count for the periods from May to July 2023 onwards. These alternative estimates for September to November 2023 show that:
 - the UK employment rate (for those aged 16 to 64 years) increased by 0.1 percentage points on the quarter to 75.8%
 - the UK unemployment rate (for those aged 16 years and over) was largely unchanged on the quarter at 4.2%
 - the UK economic inactivity rate (for those aged 16 to 64 years) decreased by 0.1 percentage points on the quarter to 20.8%
- The estimate of payrolled employees in the UK for December 2023 decreased by 24,000 on the revised November 2023 figure to 30.2 million. The December 2023 estimate should be treated as a provisional estimate and is likely to be revised when more data are received next month.
- In November 2023, there were 69,000 working days lost because of labour disputes across the UK, the lowest number of working days lost since May 2022. Over half of the labour disputes in November 2023 were in the transport, storage, information and communication industries.
- The estimated number of vacancies in October to December 2023 was 934,000, a decrease of 49,000 from July to September 2023.
- Vacancy numbers fell on the quarter for a record 18th consecutive period in October to December 2023, down by 5.0% since July to September 2023 with vacancies falling in 12 of the 18 industry sectors.
- In October to December 2023, total estimated vacancies were down by 226,000 from the level of a year ago, although they remained 133,000 above their pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) January to March 2020 levels.
- The industry sectors showing the largest quarterly decreases in the number of vacancies were wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, and transport and storage, which fell by 13,000 and 9,000, respectively.
- Annual growth in regular earnings (excluding bonuses) was 6.6% in September to November 2023, and annual growth in employees' average total earnings (including bonuses) was 6.5% in September to November 2023.
- Annual growth in real terms (adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH)) for total pay rose on the year by 1.3% in September to November 2023, and for regular pay rose on the year by 1.4%.
- Annual average regular earnings growth for the public sector was 6.6% in September to November 2023, remaining strong but not as high as in recent periods; for the private sector this was 6.5%, with growth last lower than this in June to August 2022 (6.2%).
- The wholesaling, retailing hotels and restaurants sector saw the largest annual regular growth rate at 7.2%, followed by the finance and business services and sector and manufacturing sector both at 7.0%.

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 224,411 residents in Cumbria in payrolled employment in Dec 2023, an increase of 21 from the revised Nov total and 2,571 more than a year ago, an annual increase of 1.2% which is just above the national increase of 1.0%

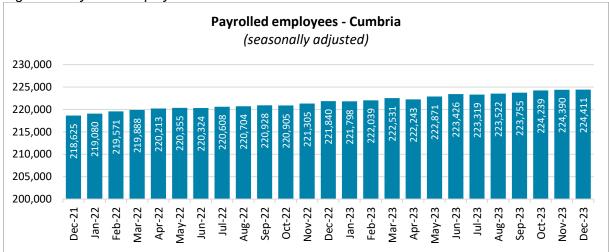


Figure 1: Payrolled employees - Cumbria

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

Figure 2: Payrolled employees – Seasonally adjusted

| Payrolled employees (seasonally adjusted) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Dec 2023 | Dec 2023 Month change One year change | | | | | | | | | |
| | No | No | % | No | % | | | | | | |
| UK | 30,216,799 | -24,020 | -0.1% | 305,562 | 1.0% | | | | | | |
| England | 25,649,543 | -24,470 | -0.1% | 261,346 | 1.0% | | | | | | |
| Cumbria | 224,411 | 21 | 0.0% | 2,571 | 1.2% | | | | | | |
| West Cumbria ITL | 103,993 | 41 | 0.0% | 1,038 | 1.0% | | | | | | |
| East Cumbria ITL | 120,417 | -21 | 0.0% | 1,531 | 1.3% | | | | | | |

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

These charts show the % annual change in payrolled employees each month (seasonally adjusted) compared to the same month the previous year. NB: district / unitary data only updated quarterly.

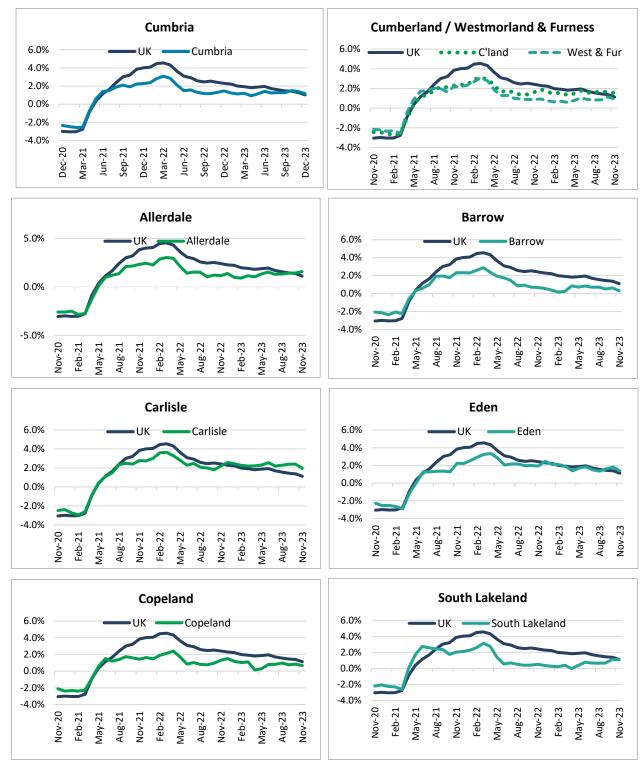


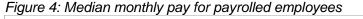
Figure 3: % change in employees from same month previous year (seasonally adjusted)

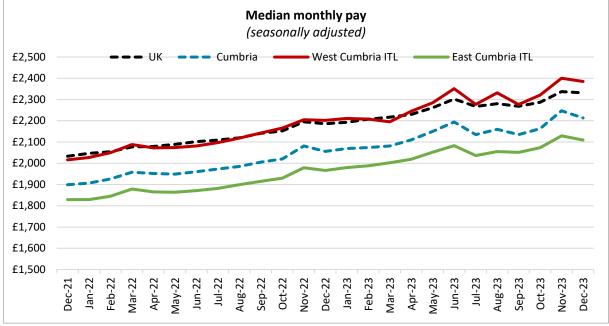
Source: HMRC / ONS. District data are released quarterly. Latest month data are provisional.

3b. Median monthly pay (seasonally adjusted)

Median monthly pay for employees in Cumbria was £2,213 in Dec 2023 which is 95% 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 (102%) but those in East Cumbria (Carlisle, Eden, South Lakeland) only 90%. Median earnings data are not available for the unitary areas.

Despite remaining lower than the national average, median earnings in Cumbria have been growing more quickly over 1, 2 and 3 years and this is the case both in West and East Cumbria.





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

| Median pay (seasonally adjusted) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|-----|-------|-----|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Dec 2023 | Dec 2023 UK Index Month change One year change | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | No | No | % | | | | | | | | | | |
| UK | 2,331 | 100 | -6 | -0.3% | 145 | 6.6% | | | | | | | |
| Cumbria | 2,213 | 95 | -34 | -1.5% | 157 | 7.6% | | | | | | | |
| West Cumbria ITL | 2,385 | 102 | -15 | -0.6% | 183 | 8.3% | | | | | | | |
| East Cumbria ITL | 2,109 | 90 | -20 | -0.9% | 143 | 7.3% | | | | | | | |
| UK | 2,331 | 100 | -6 | -0.3% | 145 | 6.6% | | | | | | | |

Figure 5: Median pay for payrolled employees

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

4. ANNUAL POPULATION SURVEY (released quarterly – next release Apr 24)

The Annual Population Survey is a residence-based labour market survey from ONS encompassing population, economic activity (employment + unemployment), economic inactivity and qualifications. It is released quarterly with each release providing data for a 12 month period.

NOTE: Sample sizes are small in Cumbria which means the margins of error in the data are relatively high, particularly below the level of the two unitary authorities. For example, the employment rate has an average error margin of \pm 4% in each of the two unitaries compared to just 0.2% nationally and this should be taken into account when making comparisons between areas and changes over time should be treated with caution.

In the year ending Sep 2023, an estimated 80.2% of Cumbria's working age population (aged 16-64) was in employment. Allowing for the margin of error in the survey, this is broadly similar to the national average of 75.7%. The rate is similar to before the pandemic. The rates in the two unitary authorities are similar at 79.6% in Cumberland and 80.9% in Westmorland & Furness.

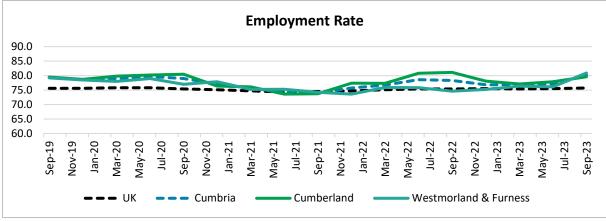
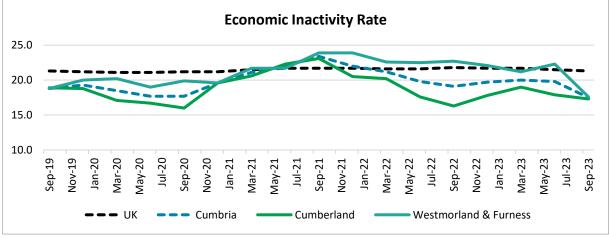


Figure 6: Employment rate (age 16-64)

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

A person is deemed economically inactive if they are neither in work nor available for work (someone out of work but actively looking and available for work is classified as unemployed). In the year ending Sep 2023, the inactivity rate in Cumbria was estimated to be 17.5% which is lower than the national average of 21.3%. This equates to approximately 50,100 inactive residents. The inactivity rate in Cumbria is broadly similar to before the pandemic. The rate was estimated to be 17.3% in Cumberland and 17.6% in Westmorland & Furness. The survey estimates that 88.2% of those who are inactive do not want a job which is above the national average and is probably influenced by the finding that a higher proportion of inactive residents in Cumbria are early retired than nationally.





Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey also provides annual estimates of qualification levels among the working age population using the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) levels. The data are only released once a year and in Dec 2022 Cumbria was estimated to have a lower proportion of working age residents qualified to Level 4 or above (eg degree, Level 4 NVQ, Higher Apprenticeship) or higher. Even allowing for the margin of error in the dataset, this appears to be a genuine difference. Cumbria has a higher proportion qualified up to level 3 than nationally (eg A level, level 3 NVQ, Advanced Apprenticeship) which reflects the higher than average progression into Apprenticeships locally. The data for the two unitaries should be treated with caution due to survey error but does suggest that a higher proportion of residents in Westmorland & Furness have RQF4+ qualifications than in Cumberland. NB: due to the change from NVQ equivalents to RQF equivalents, it is not possible to make comparisons over time.

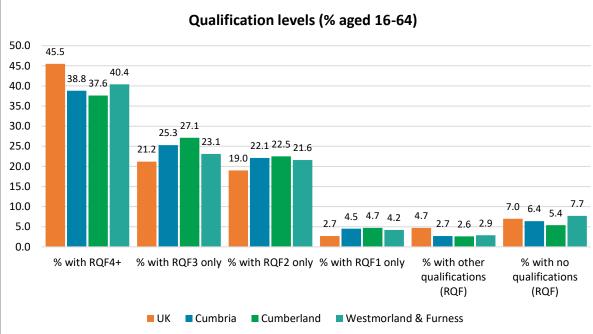


Figure 8: Qualification levels (age 16-64) – Dec 2022

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

5. UNEMPLOYMENT (CLAIMANTS) (released monthly) – count 14th Dec 2023

Important notes: The claimant count is a measure of those claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. It counts those on Job Seekers Allowance and those on Universal Credit who are required to seek work. It is not the same measure as the internationally agreed definition of unemployment which includes non-claimants and which is derived from a survey and published at national level on a monthly basis (see section 2). Similar figures are not available on a reliable or timely basis for local areas.

<u>Please see Appendix 1 at the end of the briefing for ward level data and data for Community Panel</u> (Cumberland) / Locality Board (Westmorland & Furness) areas.

There was decrease of 25 in the number of claimants seeking work in Cumbria in Dec 2023 compared to the revised Nov figure, down to a total of 6,625. This is a monthly decrease of 0.3% compared to a national rise of 1.4%. The count fell in the former district areas of Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland, was unchanged in Barrow and rose in Eden and South Lakeland. The claimant rate in Dec 2023 in Cumbria was 2.2% which is below the national rate of 3.7% and is unchanged from Nov. The claimant count at county level is 690 lower than a year ago and the rate is 0.2ppt lower.

| | 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 | 874,125 | 4.2 | 682,535 | 3.2 | 1,556,660 | 3.7 | 20,770 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 41,455 | 2.7 | 0.1 |
| Cumbria | 3,750 | 2.5 | 2,870 | 1.9 | 6,625 | 2.2 | -25 | -0.3 | 0.0 | -690 | -9.4 | -0.2 |
| Cumberland | 2,335 | 2.9 | 1,725 | 2.1 | 4,060 | 2.5 | -80 | -2.0 | 0.0 | -425 | -9.5 | -0.3 |
| Allerdale | 810 | 2.9 | 655 | 2.3 | 1,465 | 2.6 | -5 | -0.4 | 0.0 | -25 | -1.7 | 0.0 |
| Carlisle | 950 | 2.8 | 680 | 2.0 | 1,630 | 2.4 | -50 | -3.0 | -0.1 | -295 | -15.2 | -0.4 |
| Copeland | 575 | 2.8 | 390 | 1.9 | 965 | 2.4 | -25 | -2.6 | -0.1 | -105 | -10.0 | -0.3 |
| Westmorland & Furness | 1,415 | 2.1 | 1,145 | 1.7 | 2,565 | 1.9 | 60 | 2.4 | 0.0 | -265 | -9.4 | -0.2 |
| Barrow | 710 | 3.4 | 485 | 2.4 | 1,200 | 2.9 | 0 | -0.2 | 0.0 | -130 | -9.9 | -0.3 |
| Eden | 255 | 1.6 | 270 | 1.7 | 525 | 1.6 | 30 | 6.3 | 0.1 | -50 | -8.7 | -0.2 |
| South Lakeland | 450 | 1.5 | 390 | 1.3 | 840 | 1.4 | 30 | 3.7 | 0.0 | -85 | -9.0 | -0.1 |
| of which LDNPA | 175 | 1.5 | 155 | 1.3 | 330 | 1.4 | 15 | 4.1 | 0.1 | -30 | -7.9 | -0.1 |

Figure 9: Standard Claimant Count – Dec 2023

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.

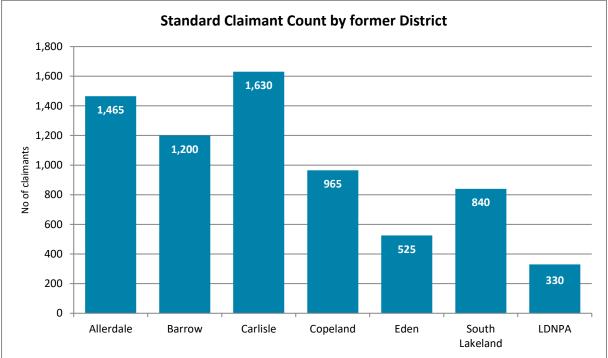
The following table shows the claimant count and rate by broad age group in Dec 2023. Claimant rates at Cumbria level are below the national average for all age groups and this is also the case for all districts with the exception of 18-24 year olds in Barrow where the rate remains well above the national average (5.6% v 5.0%).

Figure 10: Standard Claimant Count & Rate by Age Group in Cumbria – Dec 2023

| | Aged 1 | 8-24 | Aged 2 | 5-34 | Aged 3 | 5-44 | Aged 4 | 5-54 | Aged 5 | 5-64 | Tota | I |
|-----------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|-----------|------|
| | No | Rate | No | Rate |
| UK | 275,375 | 5.0% | 408,910 | 4.5% | 384,495 | 4.4% | 256,980 | 2.9% | 226,545 | 2.7% | 1,556,660 | 3.7% |
| Cumbria | 1,205 | 3.7% | 1,780 | 3.2% | 1,580 | 2.9% | 1,015 | 1.5% | 1,020 | 1.3% | 6,625 | 2.2% |
| Cumberland | 725 | 4.0% | 1,110 | 3.5% | 940 | 3.1% | 615 | 1.7% | 655 | 1.6% | 4,060 | 2.5% |
| Allerdale | 280 | 4.6% | 375 | 3.6% | 350 | 3.4% | 210 | 1.6% | 255 | 1.7% | 1,465 | 2.6% |
| Carlisle | 235 | 3.0% | 485 | 3.5% | 395 | 3.0% | 265 | 1.8% | 240 | 1.5% | 1,630 | 2.4% |
| Copeland | 210 | 4.8% | 250 | 3.3% | 195 | 2.7% | 135 | 1.5% | 160 | 1.5% | 965 | 2.4% |
| Westmorland & Furness | 485 | 3.4% | 670 | 2.7% | 640 | 2.7% | 405 | 1.3% | 360 | 1.0% | 2,565 | 1.9% |
| Barrow | 280 | 5.6% | 315 | 3.6% | 280 | 3.7% | 155 | 1.7% | 160 | 1.7% | 1,200 | 2.9% |
| Eden | 70 | 2.2% | 135 | 2.5% | 125 | 2.2% | 95 | 1.2% | 95 | 1.0% | 525 | 1.6% |
| South Lakeland | 130 | 2.1% | 220 | 2.1% | 230 | 2.1% | 145 | 1.0% | 110 | 0.7% | 840 | 1.4% |
| of which LDNPA | 35 | 1.5% | 85 | 2.6% | 105 | 2.6% | 50 | 0.9% | 50 | 0.7% | 330 | 1.4% |

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 11: Standard Claimant Count – former districts Dec 2023



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

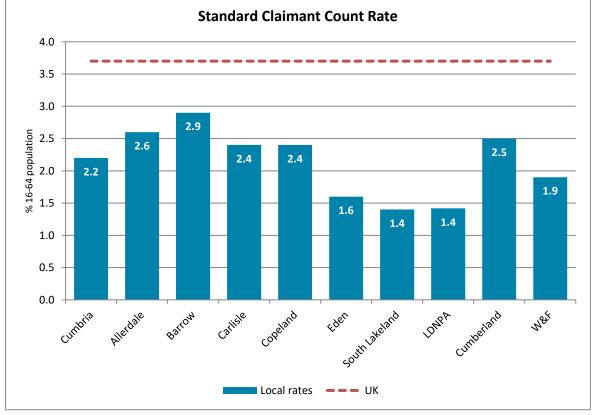


Figure 12: Standard Claimant Count Rate - former districts, Dec 2023

Source: ONS/DWP

Figure 13: Standard Claimant Count - timeseries

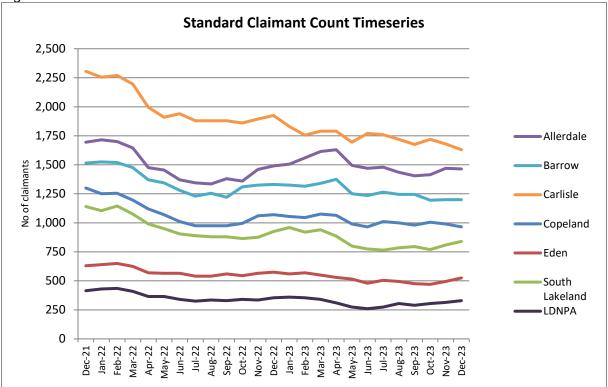
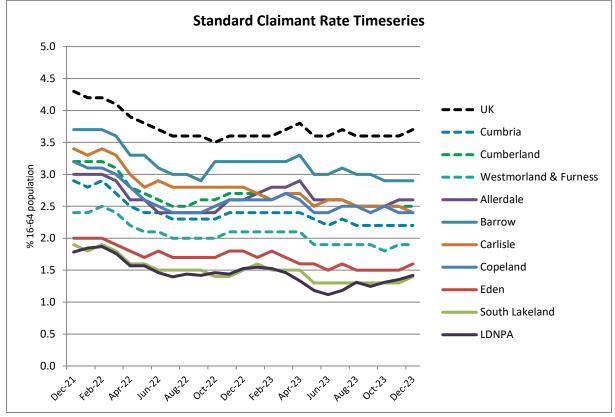


Figure 14: Standard Claimant Rate - timeseries



Source: ONS/DWP

6. UNIVERSAL CREDIT (released <u>monthly</u>) – count taken 14th Dec 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.

<u>Please see Appendix 1 at the end of the briefing for ward level data and data for Community Panel</u> / Locality Board areas.

6a. Individuals on Universal Credit

There were 38,028 people on Universal Credit in Cumbria in Dec 2023 (both in work and out of work). This is a rise of 904 from the revised Nov total (+2.4%) and 2,748 more than a year ago (+7.8%). The count rose from last month in all the former district areas. The number of people searching/planning/preparing for work fell by 16, the number claiming while in work rose by 571 and the number with no work requirements rose by 350. The latest total means that 12.7% of the working age population is claiming Universal Credit compared to a national rate of 15.5%. The overall rate is below the national average in all parts of Cumbria. 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 in Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle and Copeland as well as for 35-44 year olds in Allerdale and Copeland.

| Ŭ | Male | | Male Female | | All Per | 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 | 2,681,069 | 13.3% | 3,667,638 | 17.6% | 6,348,781 | 15.5% | 131,929 | 2.1% | 0.3% | 572,293 | 9.9% | 1.4% | |
| Cumbria | 15,649 | 10.5% | 22,381 | 14.9% | 38,028 | 12.7% | 904 | 2.4% | 0.3% | 2,748 | 7.8% | 0.9% | |
| Cumberland | 9,992 | 12.2% | 14,070 | 16.9% | 24,058 | 14.6% | 504 | 2.1% | 0.3% | 1,676 | 7.5% | 1.0% | |
| Allerdale | 3,581 | 12.8% | 5,094 | 17.7% | 8,676 | 15.3% | 157 | 1.8% | 0.3% | 543 | 6.7% | 1.0% | |
| Carlisle | 3,869 | 11.6% | 5,556 | 16.3% | 9,431 | 14.0% | 239 | 2.6% | 0.4% | 729 | 8.4% | 1.1% | |
| Copeland | 2,537 | 12.5% | 3,417 | 17.0% | 5,957 | 14.7% | 106 | 1.8% | 0.3% | 408 | 7.4% | 1.0% | |
| Westmorland & Furness | 5,662 | 8.5% | 8,311 | 12.4% | 13,970 | 10.4% | 403 | 3.0% | 0.3% | 1,074 | 8.3% | 0.8% | |
| Barrow | 2,536 | 12.2% | 3,479 | 16.9% | 6,015 | 14.6% | 140 | 2.4% | 0.3% | 472 | 8.5% | 1.1% | |
| Eden | 1,107 | 6.9% | 1,748 | 10.8% | 2,855 | 8.8% | 114 | 4.2% | 0.4% | 287 | 11.2% | 0.9% | |
| South Lakeland | 2,017 | 6.7% | 3,085 | 10.1% | 5,099 | 8.4% | 152 | 3.1% | 0.3% | 316 | 6.6% | 0.5% | |
| of which LDNPA | 779 | 6.7% | 1,168 | 10.1% | 1,946 | 8.4% | 29 | 1.5% | 0.1% | 8 | 0.4% | 0.0% | |

Figure 15: Universal Credit Claimants - Dec 2023 and monthly / annual change

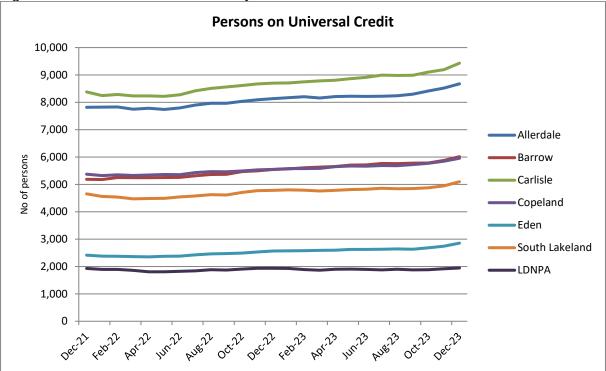
Source: DWP (due to disclosure control, gender totals may not sum to overall total): LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.

Figure 16: Universal Credit Claimants by Age – Dec 2023

| | | | Universal | Cradit | Claimant | Count | and Data | | | 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 | 719,104 | 13.4% | 1,708,335 | 19.5% | 1,773,752 | 21.0% | 1,161,206 | 13.5% | 977,170 | 11.8% | 6,348,781 | 15.5% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumbria | 4,225 | 12.9% | 10,617 | 18.8% | 10,325 | 19.0% | 6,651 | 9.8% | 6,146 | 8.0% | 38,028 | 12.7% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumberland | 2,586 | 14.1% | 6,809 | 21.4% | 6,503 | 21.3% | 4,146 | 11.3% | 3,976 | 9.6% | 24,058 | 14.6% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allerdale | 974 | 16.0% | 2,314 | 22.3% | 2,270 | 22.2% | 1,555 | 11.7% | 1,547 | 10.4% | 8,676 | 15.3% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carlisle | 911 | 11.6% | 2,890 | 21.0% | 2,656 | 20.3% | 1,589 | 10.9% | 1,371 | 8.6% | 9,431 | 14.0% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Copeland | 697 | 16.0% | 1,603 | 20.8% | 1,579 | 21.7% | 1,003 | 11.1% | 1,057 | 9.9% | 5,957 | 14.7% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Westmorland & Furness | 1,635 | 11.4% | 3,813 | 15.5% | 3,823 | 16.0% | 2,501 | 8.1% | 2,172 | 6.1% | 13,970 | 10.4% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barrow | 852 | 17.1% | 1,787 | 20.2% | 1,555 | 20.7% | 940 | 10.5% | 873 | 9.2% | 6,015 | 14.6% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eden | 260 | 8.0% | 754 | 13.9% | 791 | 14.1% | 540 | 7.0% | 507 | 5.5% | 2,855 | 8.8% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South Lakeland | 526 | 8.6% | 1,274 | 12.4% | 1,482 | 13.8% | 1,024 | 7.2% | 797 | 4.7% | 5,099 | 8.4% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| of which LDNPA | 146 | 6.1% | 466 | 14.1% | 611 | 15.3% | 377 | 6.5% | 349 | 4.9% | 1,946 | 8.4% | | | | | | | | | | | |

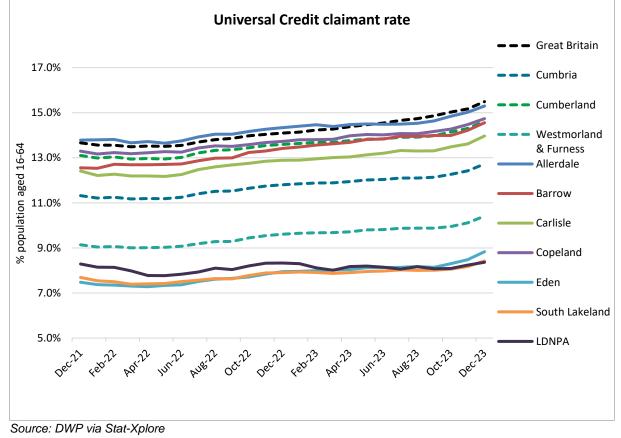
Source: DWP (due to disclosure control, age totals may not sum to overall total): LDNPA is a "best-fit" of LSOAs with 50%+ of pop in NP - data are also included in relevant district.





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





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. In Dec 2023 the number of people searching/planning/preparing for work fell by 16, the number claiming while in work rose by 571 and the number with no work requirements rose by 350.

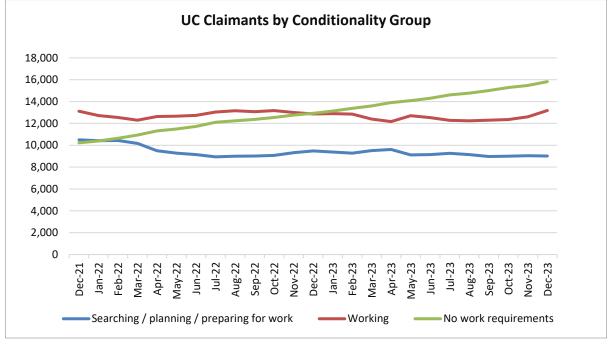


Figure 19: Universal Credit Claimants by Conditionality Group – timeseries (Cumbria)

In Dec 2023, over three quarters of UC claimants (28,943) had been claiming for over 12 months an annual increase of 2,474 (9.3%). The highest proportions of these long term claimants were in the working and no work requirements conditionality groups (31% and 47% of the total respectively), although they may have been in different groups during their claim. Long term claimants made up 76% of all UC claimants compared to 75% in Nov 2021.

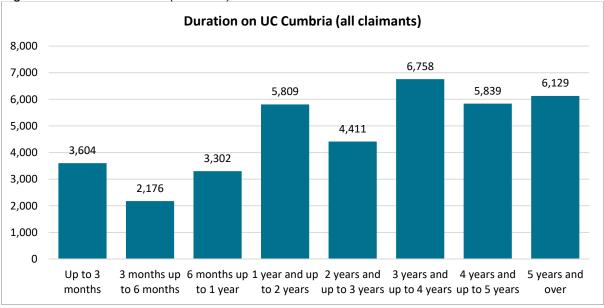


Figure 20: Duration on UC (Cumbria) – Dec 2023

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

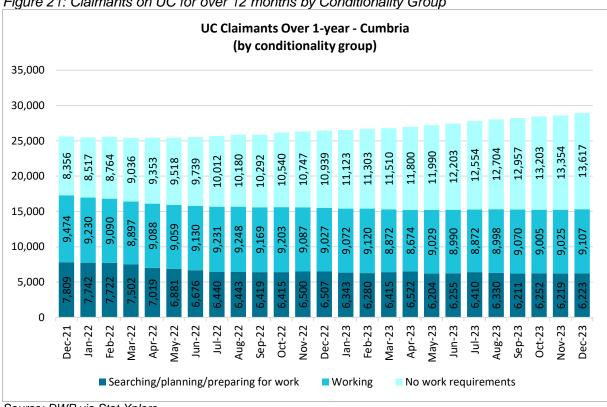
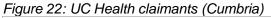


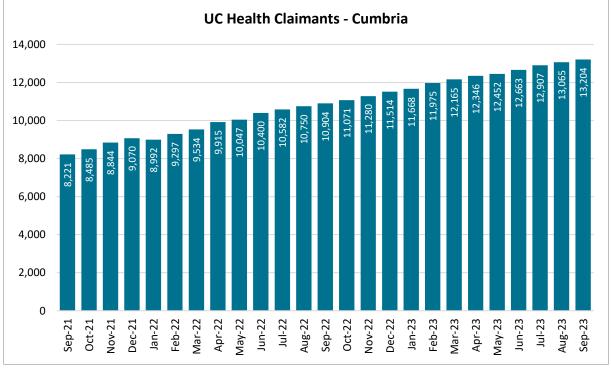
Figure 21: Claimants on UC for over 12 months by Conditionality Group

Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

UC Health (NB: the release schedule for this dataset is different to other UC data)

In Sept 2023, 13,204 UC claimants were on "UC Health" which comprises those with a restricted ability to work supported by acceptable medical evidence (pre-Work Capability Assessment) or with a Limited Capacity for Work/Limited Capacity for Work & Work Related Activity) outcome. The number of such claimants has risen by 60.6% (+4,983) in the past 2 years compared to an increase of just 5.3% in the overall number of UC claimants. UC Health claimants made up 36.4% of UC claimants in Cumbria in Sept 2023 compared to 30.3% in 2021.





6b. <u>Starts</u> to Universal Credit (next data release <u>Feb 2024</u>)

The data presented so far relate to the <u>stock</u> 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 <u>started</u> 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).

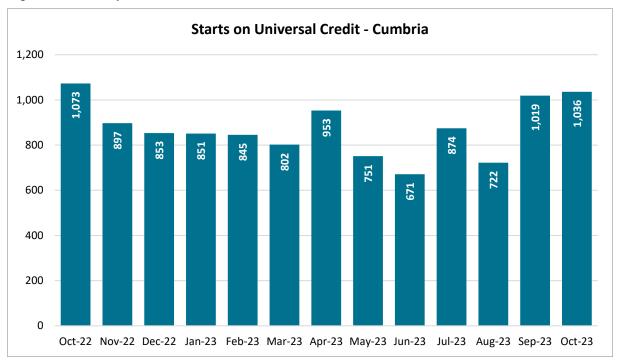
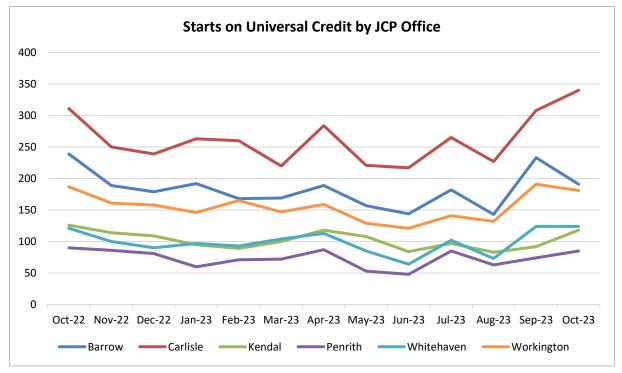


Figure 23: Monthly Starts to Universal Credit – timeseries

Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore





6c. Households on Universal Credit (next data release Feb 2024)

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 Aug 2023 when there were 31,221 households on Universal Credit in Cumbria, a rise of 1,674 from the same month last year (5.7%). The number of households on UC rose year on year in all 6 districts in Cumbria with the biggest percentage increases in Barrow (+8.7%) and Eden (+7.5%).

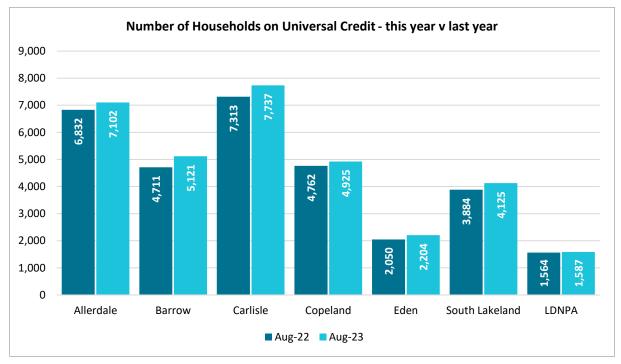


Figure 25: Number of Households on Universal Credit by former district

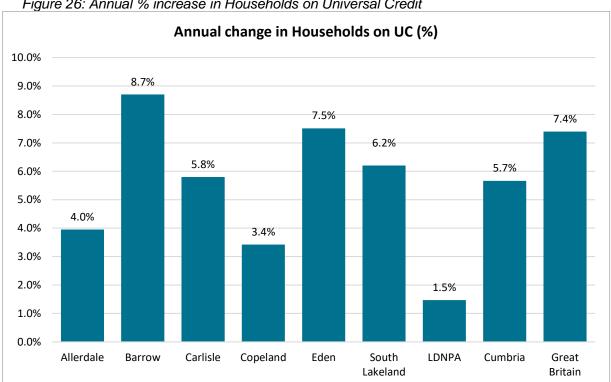
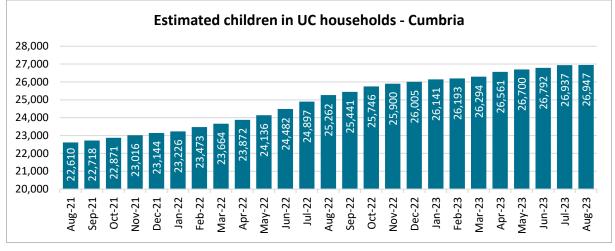
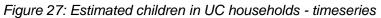


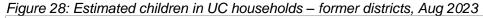
Figure 26: Annual % increase in Households on Universal Credit

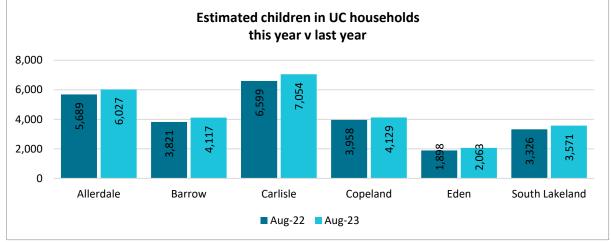
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP. LDNPA claimants are also included in the relevant district

An estimated 26,947 children in Cumbria were living in UC households in Aug 2023. The number has risen by 1,685 (6.7%) from Aug last year. The number of households containing children has increased by 6.2% year on year compared to a rise of 5.3% in households without children. More specifically, single person households with children have increased by 8.9% 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

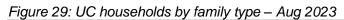


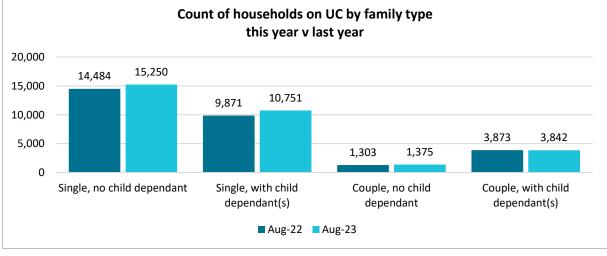






Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore





Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

7. NEETs & Participation (released monthly)

7a. 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 Nov 2023, there were 303 16-17 year olds classed as NEET in Cumbria (251 NEET and 52 whose status was Not Known), a decrease of 32 from Oct. The highest number of NEET/NKs was in the former district of Carlisle where there were 80 followed by Allerdale where there were 65. At this time of year, these figures are subject to significant variations as young people are still making choices about their destinations.

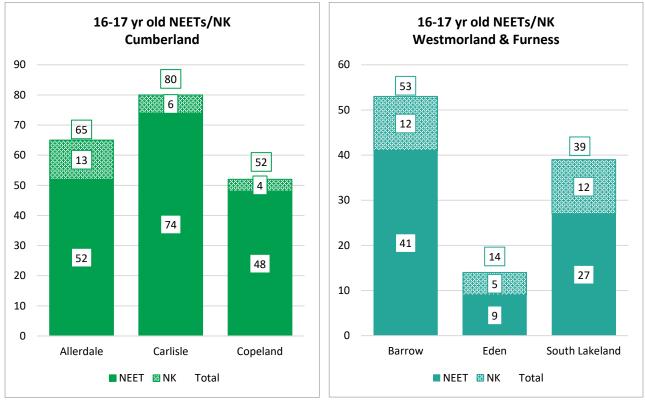
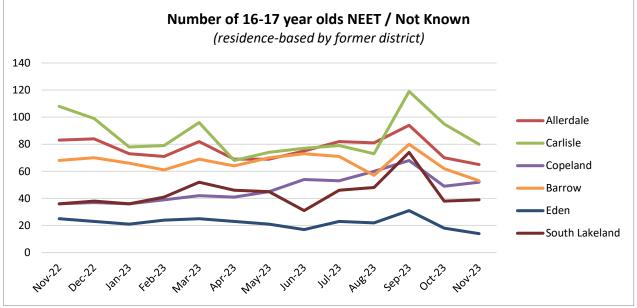


Figure 30: Number of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Nov 2023

Source: Inspira / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

Figure 31: 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 2.9% in Nov 2023 – the comparison with England isn't reliable as some areas of the country do not conduct comprehensive track at this time of year. The highest local rates were in in the former districts of Copeland (3.6%) and Barrow (3.5%). The NEET rate in Cumbria was down by 0.6 percentage points from the same month a year ago.

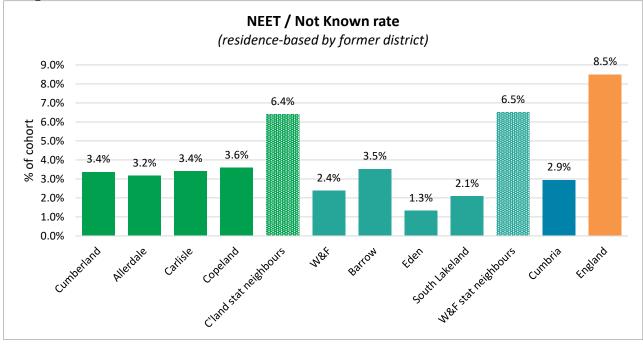
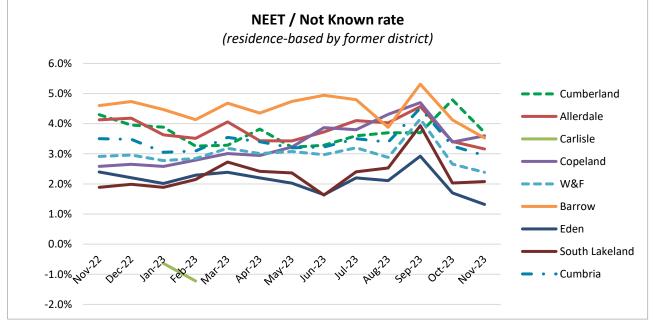


Figure 32: Rate of 16-17 Year Olds NEET or Not Known, Nov 2023

Source: Inspira / NCCIS / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory





Source: Inspira / NCCIS / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

7b. 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 Nov 2023, 91.1% of young people in Cumbria were classed as meeting the participation requirement – the comparison with England isn't reliable as some areas of the country do not undertake comprehensive tracking at this time of year. The highest participation rate was in the former district of South Lakeland (94.5%) and the lowest in Carlisle (88.3%).

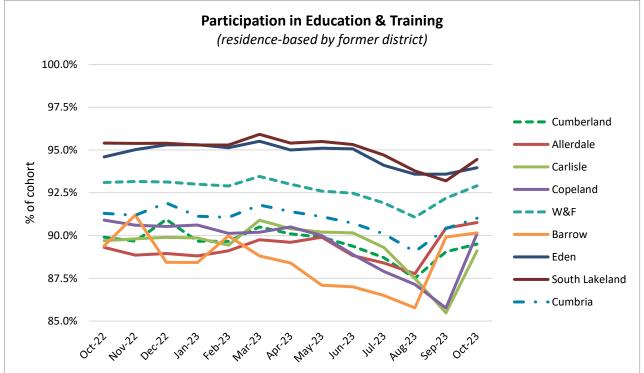
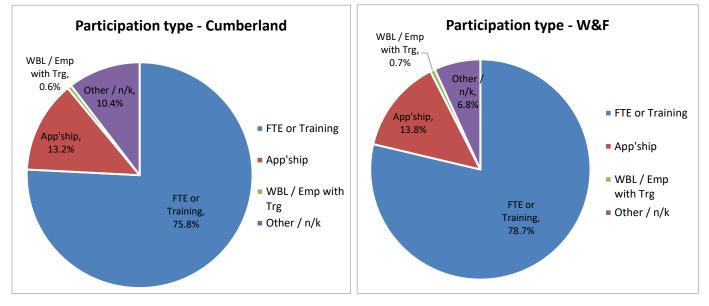


Figure 34: Participation of 16/17 Year Olds, former district timeseries

Figure 35: Participation of 16/17 Year Olds, by activity type – Nov 23



Source: NCCIS

Source: Inspira / NCCIS / Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

8. 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 Dec 2023 there were 7,404 active job postings in Cumbria, 2,788 of which were new postings during the month. The number of active postings was 1,742 lower than in Nov -19%) whilst the number of new postings fell by 995 (-26.3%).

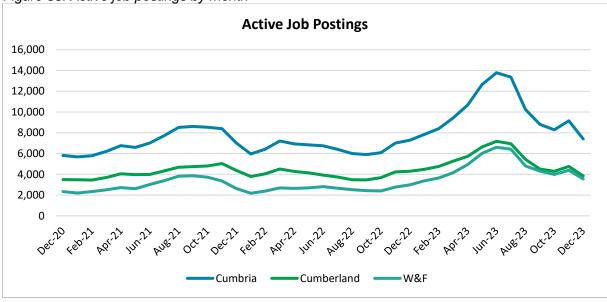
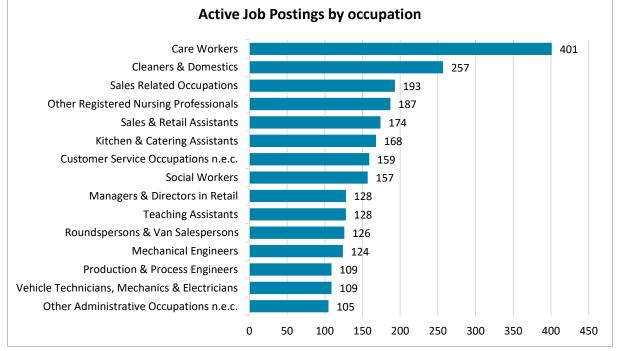


Figure 36: Active job postings by month

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst

The most commonly advertised jobs were for care workers, cleaners & domestics, sales occupations, nurses and kitchen & catering assistants.

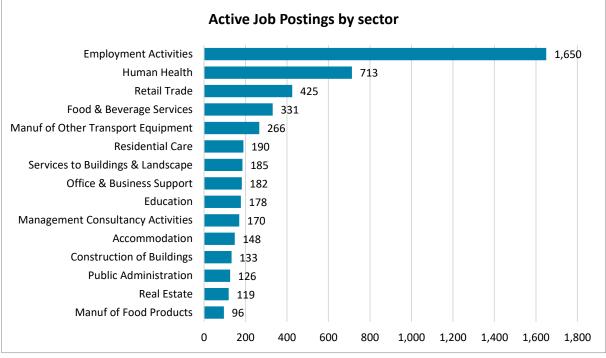
Figure 37: Job postings by occupation – Dec 2023



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 manufacture of transport equipment.

Figure 38: Job postings by sector – Dec 2023



Source: Lightcast™ Analyst

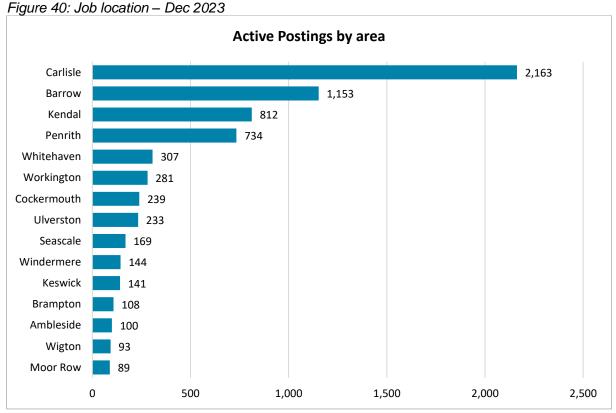
The web scraping software analyses key words about job requirements and where possible classifies them as "specialised skills" which are those specific to a job role and as "common skills" which are typically self-developed / personal attributes that candidates need.

Figure 39: Skills required – Dec 2023



Source: Lightcast™ Analyst

Active postings fell month on month in all of the former district areas. The specific locations mentioned most frequently in postings were Carlisle, Barrow, Kendal and Penrith.



Source: Lightcast™ Analyst

As is usually the case, the NHS advertised the most vacancies during the month (529) followed by BAE Systems (260) and Hays (a recruitment company).

Figure 41: Recruiting organisation – Dec 2023



Source: Lightcast™ Analyst

9. BUSINESS START-UPS

9a. 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 198 business start-ups in Cumbria in Nov 2023, an increase of 10 from Oct and 29 more than the same month last year. Over the quarter (Sep-Nov) there were 592 start-ups which is 29 more than last quarter and 73 more than the same quarter last year.

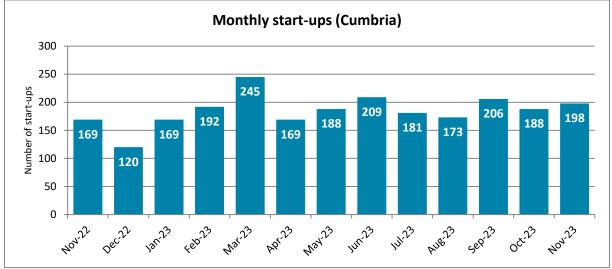


Figure 42: Monthly Start-Ups (number)

The highest volume of start-ups in the quarter (Sep-Nov) was in real estate, prof services & support activities (116) followed by recreation, personal & community services (93) and retail (84).

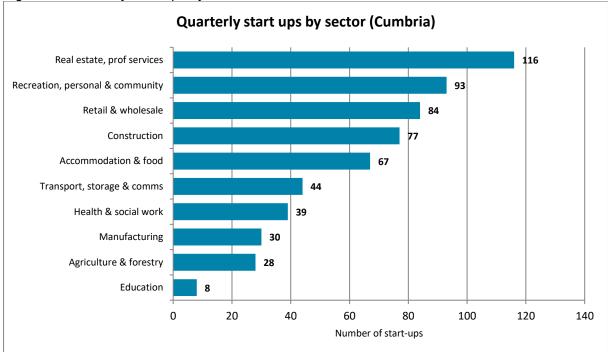


Figure 43: Quarterly start-ups by sector

Source: BankSearch

Source: BankSearch

9b: 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 256 new Companies House incorporations in Nov 2023, an increase of 22 from Oct and 61 more than the same month last year. New registrations fell from last month in Allerdale and Carlisle, were unchanged in Eden and increased in Barrow, Copeland and South Lakeland.

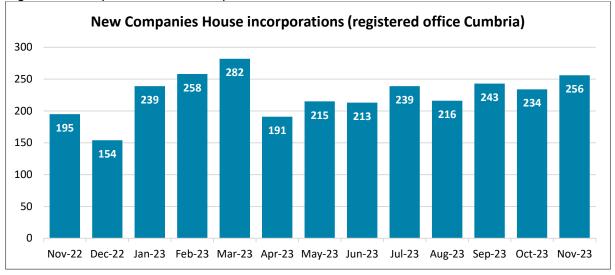


Figure 44: Companies House Incorporations in Cumbria - timeseries

Source: BankSearch, data relate to registered office address.

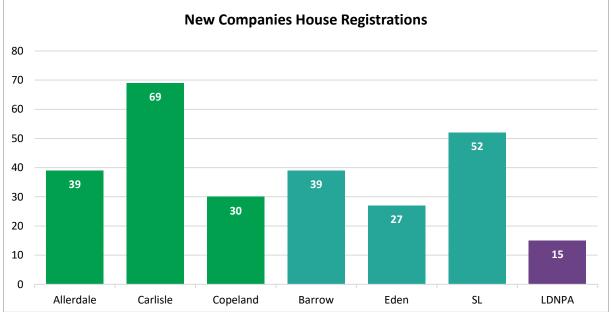


Figure 45: Companies House Incorporations by former district, Nov 2023

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.

10. COMPANIES HOUSE STOCK – ACTIVE, DISSOLVED, FINANCIAL HEALTH

10a 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.

At the end of Dec 2023 there were 30,991 entries on the FAME database for Cumbria, an increase of 31 from last month. There were 166 dissolutions/liquidations (162 dissolutions, 4 liquidations) which is 19 more than last month. This means there were 2,143 dissoluations/liquidations during 2023 which is just 2 more than in 2022. In contrast, the national total rose 15% year on year.

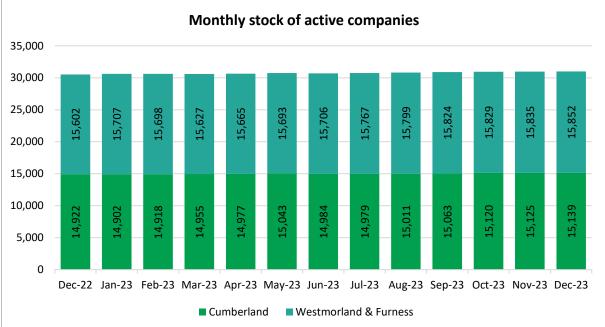
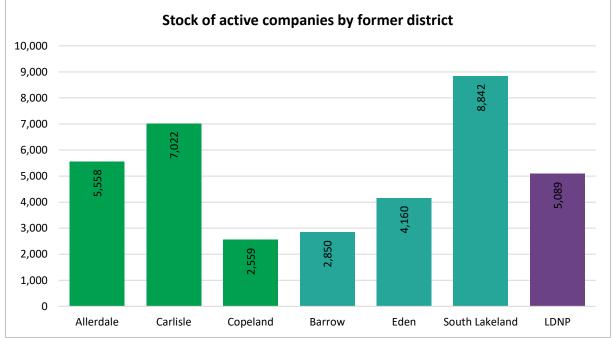




Figure 47: Stock of Active Companies by former district, Dec 2023



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

Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)

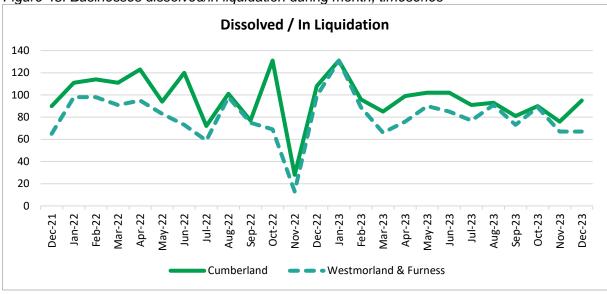


Figure 48: Businesses dissolved/in liquidation during month, timeseries

Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk)

Of the businesses which were active in Cumbria in Dec 2023, 2,001 had shown an increase of 10% in either employment or turnover in their most recent accounts whilst 1,409 had shown a decrease. This repesents 6.5% of businesses growing on one or both measures and 4.5% declining. In both cases these percentages are higher than for the UK as a whole. (NB: the majority of businesses do not file detailed accounts at Companies House. Business may appear in both measures if they reported differing trends in employment and turnover.)

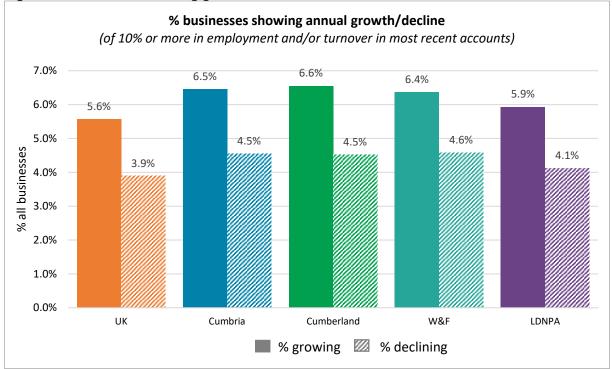


Figure 49: Businesses showing growth/decline

Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk) NB: % is of all active businesses including those without financial results

10b Financial Health

These data are extracted from the Red Flag Alert (RFA) database system which rates businesses from Gold (stable, little risk) down to 3 Red Flags (highest risk of failure). The system captures those active at Companies House with a registered or trading location in the relevant area.

At the end of Dec 2023, 2,741 companies in Cumbria were rated as having Red Flags (not including provisional flags) which equates to 7.2% of Cumbria's companies on the system compared to 9.7% nationally. This was highest in the former district areas of Barrow and Carlisle (8.4% and 7.6% respectively).

The RFA system also assigns a "likelihood of growth" score to businesses where sufficient data exists – typically this is around a fifth of businesses on the system. Among these, 77.1% of Cumbrian businesses were rated very unlikely or unlikely to grow compared to 81.4% for the UK and 22.9% were rated likely or very likely to grow compared to 18.6% for the UK.

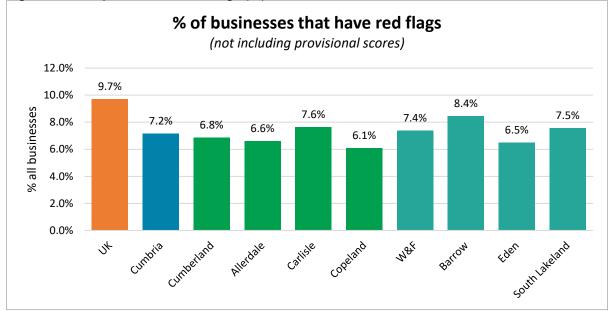


Figure 50: Companies with Red Flags (%) - Dec 2023

Source: Red Flag Alert

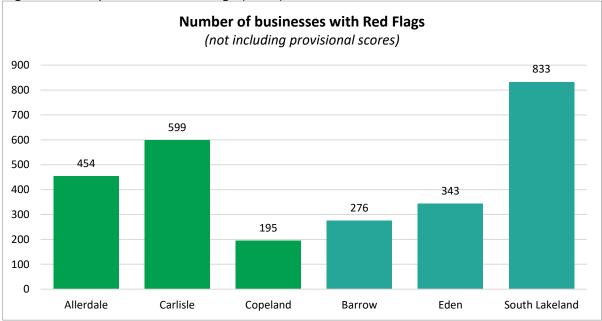
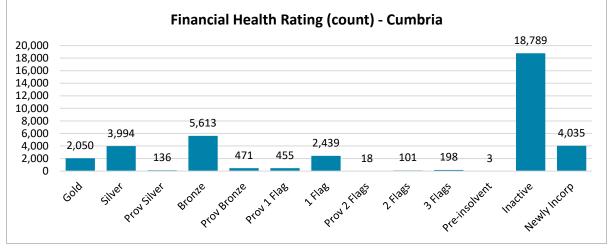


Figure 51: Companies with Red Flags (count) – Dec 2023

Source: Red Flag Alert





Source: Red Flag Alert

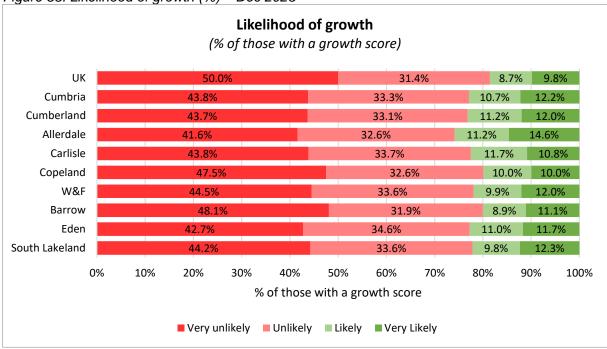


Figure 53: Likelihood of growth (%) – Dec 2023

Source: Red Flag Alert

| Rating | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| Gold | Strongest key financial ratios, excellent history of filing accounts on time, health all-round financials. Chance of failure less than 0.1%. |
| Silver | Strong financial ratios but may have slightly higher gearing or lower liquidity, efficiency or profitability ratios than idea. Unlikely to fail but less stable than gold companies. |
| Bronze | Some suboptimal financial ratios that prevent a higher rating. These companies are in acceptable health and nothing significantly detrimental is known so they are considered a fair trade risk and recommended for open credit. |
| 1 Red Flag | May be in the process of an ongoing downward slide into insolvency or may have held a 1 Red Flag status for an extended period. There may be evidence of recent or significant legal notices and the risk is elevated so suppliers should seek suitable assurances or guarantees. |
| 2 Red Flags | High chance of failure and represent a significant risk. May be able to trade back to financial but any credit offered is done so at extreme risk. |
| 3 Red Flags | Represent the most significant financial risk and are on the verge of insolvency. Likely to be recent and/or significant legal notices and/or court judgements as well as a deteriorating financial position. No credit should be extended. |
| Newly incorporated | Newly incorporated and have not filed accounts therefore no data to score on. |
| Pre insolvent | Usually in the early stages of formally declaring or being declared insolvent and in 98% of circumstances will fail within 28 days. |
| Provisional | Can be applied to Silver, Bronze, 1 Red Flag and 2 Red Flags when a company has only one set of filed accounts. Should be considered as slightly more of a credit risk than a company with the equivalent non-provisional rating. |

Figure 54: Ward claimant data

Appendix 1

| Figure 54: Ward cla | | at Count | (JSA / UC s | eeking w | (ork) | Univ | vorsal C | redit (all cl | aimante | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------------|------|--|
| CUMBERLAND | Dec 20 | | | from Nov | | Dec 20 | | | e from Nov 2023 | | |
| COMPERENTE | No | Rate | No | % | Rate | No | Rate | No | % | Rate | |
| GB | 1,520,720 | 3.7 | 20,605 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 6,348,781 | 15.5 | 131,929 | 2.1 | 0.3 | |
| Cumbria | 6,625 | 2.2 | -25 | -0.3 | 0.0 | 38,028 | 12.7 | 904 | 2.1 | 0.3 | |
| Cumberland | 4,060 | 2.5 | -20 | -2.0 | 0.0 | 24,058 | 14.6 | 504 | 2.4 | 0.3 | |
| 1.Carlisle West | 4,000 | 3.1 | -35 | -2.0 | -0.2 | 3,348 | 17.8 | 82 | 2.1 | 0.3 | |
| 2.Petteril | 660 | 3.5 | -35 | -6.4 | -0.2 | 3,884 | 20.9 | 85 | 2.2 | 0.4 | |
| 3.Border, Fellside & North Carlisle | 350 | 1.5 | 30 | 9.4 | 0.1 | 1,940 | 8.5 | 61 | 3.2 | 0.3 | |
| 4.Fells & Solway | 425 | 2.3 | -5 | -1.2 | 0.0 | 2,434 | 13.0 | 46 | 1.9 | 0.2 | |
| 5.Lakes to Sea | 515 | 2.3 | 20 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 3,150 | 12.9 | 73 | 2.4 | 0.2 | |
| 6.Workington Together | 570 | 3.0 | -20 | -3.4 | -0.1 | 3,353 | 17.5 | 60 | 1.8 | 0.3 | |
| 7.Whitehaven & Coastal | 495 | 2.4 | -5 | -1.0 | 0.0 | 3,206 | 15.7 | 72 | 2.3 | 0.4 | |
| 8.South Cumberland | 480 | 2.3 | -10 | -2.0 | 0.0 | 2,758 | 13.4 | 53 | 2.0 | 0.3 | |
| | 100 | 2.0 | 10 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 2,700 | 10.1 | 00 | 2.0 | 0.0 | |
| Aspatria | 95 | 2.4 | -15 | -13.0 | -0.5 | 478 | 12.1 | 9 | 1.9 | 0.2 | |
| Belah | 60 | 1.8 | 10 | 22.2 | 0.5 | 376 | 11.5 | 10 | 2.7 | 0.3 | |
| Belle Vue | 115 | 2.9 | 10 | 9.1 | 0.1 | 611 | 15.2 | 19 | 3.2 | 0.5 | |
| Botcherby | 140 | 3.4 | -10 | -6.7 | -0.2 | 781 | 18.9 | 21 | 2.8 | 0.5 | |
| Bothel & Wharrels | 35 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 138 | 3.6 | -3 | -2.1 | -0.1 | |
| Brampton | 80 | 2.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 397 | 10.5 | 9 | 2.3 | 0.2 | |
| Bransty | 115 | 2.8 | -15 | -11.5 | -0.4 | 386 | 9.5 | 6 | 1.6 | 0.1 | |
| Castle | 185 | 4.8 | -30 | -14.0 | -0.8 | 838 | 21.9 | 9 | 1.1 | 0.2 | |
| Cleator Moor East & Frizington | 80 | 2.1 | -5 | -5.6 | -0.3 | 500 | 13.3 | 6 | 1.2 | 0.2 | |
| Cleator Moor West | 90 | 2.5 | 0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 638 | 17.9 | 12 | 1.9 | 0.3 | |
| Cockermouth North | 100 | 3.2 | 15 | 17.6 | 0.5 | 529 | 17.0 | 16 | 3.1 | 0.5 | |
| Cockermouth South | 45 | 1.2 | 5 | 11.1 | 0.0 | 167 | 4.5 | 11 | 7.1 | 0.3 | |
| Corby & Hayton | 25 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 163 | 7.0 | 12 | 7.9 | 0.5 | |
| Currock | 195 | 4.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 934 | 22.4 | 17 | 1.9 | 0.4 | |
| Dalston & Burgh | 50 | 1.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 252 | 5.0 | 4 | 1.6 | 0.1 | |
| Dearham & Broughton | 45 | 1.2 | -5 | -10.0 | -0.1 | 339 | 9.0 | 16 | 5.0 | 0.4 | |
| Denton Holme | 115 | 2.7 | -10 | -8.3 | -0.1 | 750 | 17.5 | 30 | 4.2 | 0.7 | |
| Egremont | 100 | 2.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 686 | 18.5 | 8 | 1.2 | 0.2 | |
| Egremont North & St. Bees | 65 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 554 | 19.9 | 21 | 3.9 | 0.8 | |
| Gosforth | 55 | 1.7 | 5 | 11.1 | 0.3 | 276 | 8.4 | 6 | 2.2 | 0.2 | |
| Harraby North | 110 | 2.4 | -15 | -11.5 | -0.4 | 822 | 17.7 | 29 | 3.7 | 0.6 | |
| Harraby South | 75 | 4.4 | -5 | -5.9 | -0.6 | 544 | 31.8 | 10 | 1.9 | 0.6 | |
| Harrington | 120 | 2.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 691 | 16.5 | -5 | -0.7 | -0.1 | |
| Hillcrest & Hensingham | 65 | 1.8 | 5 | 9.1 | 0.3 | 215 | 5.9 | 9 | 4.4 | 0.2 | |
| Houghton & Irthington | 25 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 173 | 6.2 | 5 | 3.0 | 0.2 | |
| Howgate | 75 | 2.4 | -10 | -12.5 | -0.2 | 532 | 17.2 | -1 | -0.2 | 0.0 | |
| Kells & Sandwith | 95 | 2.8 | -5 | -5.0 | -0.1 | 925 | 26.9 | 15 | 1.6 | 0.4 | |
| Keswick | 50 | 1.7 | 5 | 12.5 | 0.3 | 294 | 9.9 | -1 | -0.3 | 0.0 | |
| Longtown | 55 | 2.3 | -10 | -16.7 | -0.2 | 357 | 15.1 | 8 | 2.3 | 0.3 | |
| Maryport North | 135 | 3.4 | 5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | 622 | 15.6 | 8 | 1.3 | 0.2 | |
| Maryport South | 105 | 3.4 | -5 | -4.5 | -0.2 | 1,061 | 34.3 | 26 | 2.5 | 0.8 | |
| Millom | 110 | 3.2 | -10 | -8.7 | -0.1 | 511 | 14.8 | 18 | 3.7 | 0.5 | |
| Millom Without | 45 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 147 | 5.2 | 3 | 2.1 | 0.1 | |
| Mirehouse | 80 | 2.4 | 5 | 6.7 | 0.2 | 594 | 18.0 | 22 | 3.8 | 0.7 | |
| Morton | 115 | 3.3 | -5 | -4.2 | -0.1 | 757 | 21.7 | 3 | 0.4 | 0.1 | |
| Moss Bay & Moorclose | 220 | 5.6 | -5 | -2.2 | -0.1 | 1,354 | 34.7 | 26 | 2.0 | 0.7 | |
| Seaton | 100 | 2.6 | -10 | -9.1 | -0.3 | 529 | 13.8 | 6 | 1.1 | 0.2 | |
| Solway Coast | 45 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 405 | 15.5 | 19 | 4.9 | 0.7 | |
| St. John's & Great Clifton | 85 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 374 | 8.1 | 14 | 3.9 | 0.3 | |
| St. Michael's | 150 | 4.7 | 10 | 7.1 | 0.3 | 934 | 29.6 | 12 | 1.3 | 0.4 | |
| Stanwix Urban | 50 | 1.6 | 10 | 28.6 | 0.5 | 217 | 6.8 | 15 | 7.4 | 0.5 | |
| Thursby | 20 | 1.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 193 | 9.3 | 17 | 9.7 | 0.8 | |
| Upperby | 140 | 3.5 | 5 | 3.4 | -0.1 | 803 | 20.2 | 8 | 1.0 | 0.2 | |
| Wetheral | 55 | 1.1 | -5 | -9.1 | 0.0 | 257 | 5.0 | 2 | 0.8 | 0.0 | |
| Wigton | 110 | 2.4 | -5 | -4.8 | 0.1 | 577 | 12.7 | 4 | 0.7 | 0.1 | |
| Yewdale | 45 | 1.4 | 5 | 11.1 | 0.0 | 392 | 12.4 | 21 | 5.7 | 0.7 | |

| | Claimar | nt Count | (JSA / UC s | eeking w | vork) | Univ | versal C | redit (all cl | aimants |) |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|---------------|---------|--------|
| WESTMORLAND & FURNESS | Dec 20 |)23 | Change | from Nov | 2023 | Dec 20 |)23 | Change | from No | v 2023 |
| | No | Rate | No | % | Rate | No | Rate | No | % | Rate |
| GB | 1,520,720 | 3.7 | 20,605 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 6,348,781 | 15.5 | 131,929 | 2.1 | 0.3 |
| Cumbria | 6,625 | 2.2 | -25 | -0.3 | 0.0 | 38,028 | 12.7 | 904 | 2.4 | 0.3 |
| Westmorland & Furness | 2,565 | 1.9 | 60 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 13,970 | 10.4 | 403 | 3.0 | 0.3 |
| Eden | 525 | 1.6 | 30 | 6.3 | 0.1 | 2,855 | 8.8 | 114 | 4.2 | 0.4 |
| South Lakeland | 840 | 1.4 | 30 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 5,099 | 8.4 | 152 | 3.1 | 0.3 |
| Furness | 1,200 | 2.9 | 0 | -0.2 | 0.0 | 6,015 | 14.6 | 140 | 2.4 | 0.3 |
| Alston & Fellside | 55 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 273 | 7.4 | 12 | 4.4 | 0.0 |
| Appleby & Brough | 55 | 1.5 | 5 | 10.0 | 0.1 | 309 | 8.3 | 12 | 4.0 | 0.2 |
| Bowness & Lyth | 35 | 1.5 | -5 | -16.7 | 0.2 | 177 | 7.5 | 4 | 2.2 | 0.0 |
| Burton & Holme | 15 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 136 | 8.1 | 12 | 9.3 | 0.4 |
| Coniston & Hawkshead | 20 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 104 | 6.1 | 3 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| Dalton North | 60 | 1.5 | 5 | 10.0 | 0.3 | 272 | 7.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Dalton South | 70 | 2.1 | 10 | 14.3 | 0.0 | 368 | 11.1 | 5 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Eamont & Shap | 40 | 1.6 | 10 | 33.3 | 0.4 | 172 | 7.0 | 16 | 9.6 | 0.2 |
| Eden & Lyvennet Vale | 50 | 1.7 | 5 | 11.1 | 0.2 | 190 | 6.3 | 13 | 7.3 | 0.4 |
| Grange & Cartmel | 70 | 1.4 | 5 | 8.3 | 0.2 | 364 | 7.2 | 4 | 1.1 | 0.3 |
| Greystoke & Ulswater | 30 | 1.3 | 5 | 20.0 | 0.2 | 103 | 4.3 | -3 | -2.9 | -0.1 |
| Hawcoat & Newbarns | 85 | 1.4 | 5 | 5.6 | -0.1 | 359 | 5.8 | 8 | 2.3 | 0.1 |
| Hesket & Lazonby | 25 | 0.7 | -5 | -14.3 | -0.3 | 154 | 4.1 | 5 | 3.3 | 0.0 |
| High Furness | 35 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 128 | 5.9 | 8 | 6.6 | 0.3 |
| Kendal Castle | 40 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 210 | 6.3 | 8 | 3.9 | 0.2 |
| Kendal Highgate | 75 | 2.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 554 | 15.3 | 13 | 2.4 | 0.2 |
| Kendal Nether | 65 | 1.7 | 5 | 9.1 | 0.3 | 458 | 11.8 | 25 | 5.7 | 0.5 |
| Kendal South | 45 | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 255 | 6.8 | -13 | -5.2 | 0.2 |
| Kendal Strickland & Fell | 90 | 2.1 | 10 | 13.3 | 0.4 | 563 | 13.4 | 10 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| Kent Estuary | 35 | 1.1 | -5 | -12.5 | -0.2 | 240 | 7.6 | 2 | 0.9 | 0.3 |
| Kirkby Stephen & Tebay | 45 | 2.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 296 | 13.1 | 18 | 6.4 | 0.6 |
| Levens & Crooklands | 15 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 96 | 4.5 | 4 | 4.0 | -0.2 |
| Low Furness | 15 | 0.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 122 | 5.3 | 12 | 11.1 | 0.6 |
| Old Barrow | 515 | 6.6 | 10 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 2,375 | 30.3 | 33 | 1.4 | 0.5 |
| Ormsgill & Parkside | 200 | 3.0 | -5 | -2.3 | -0.2 | 1,102 | 16.3 | 36 | 3.4 | 0.6 |
| Penrith North | 85 | 2.0 | -10 | -11.8 | 0.0 | 544 | 12.9 | 21 | 4.0 | 0.5 |
| Penrith South | 135 | 2.4 | 10 | 8.0 | 0.2 | 808 | 14.6 | 33 | 4.3 | 0.7 |
| Risedale & Roosecote | 160 | 2.5 | 0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 860 | 13.5 | -7 | -0.8 | 0.1 |
| Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale | 45 | 1.0 | 5 | 12.5 | 0.1 | 222 | 4.7 | 15 | 7.2 | 0.3 |
| Ulverston | 130 | 1.9 | -5 | -3.8 | 0.0 | 704 | 10.4 | 20 | 2.9 | 0.4 |
| Upper Kent | 35 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 201 | 8.9 | 2 | 1.0 | -0.1 |
| Walney Island | 120 | 2.0 | -5 | -4.2 | 0.0 | 677 | 11.1 | 29 | 4.5 | 0.5 |
| Windermere & Ambleside | 85 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 564 | 9.0 | -1 | -0.2 | 0.1 |

Source: ONS/DWP – Cumbria Intelligence Observatory calculations, totals may not sum due to rounding & disclosure controls

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

| | Cumberland Co | mmunity Panels | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Community Panel | Wards covered | Community Panel | Wards covered |
| | Belle Vue | | Bothel & Wharrels |
| | Castle | | Cockermouth North |
| 1.Carlisle West | Denton Holme | | Cockermouth South |
| | Morton | 5. Lakes to Sea | Dearham & Broughton |
| | Yewdale | | Keswick |
| | Botcherby | | Maryport North |
| | Currock | | Maryport South |
| 2. Petteril | Harraby North | | Harrington |
| | Harraby South | 6 Workington | Moss Bay & Moorclose |
| | Upperby | 6. Workington Together | Seaton |
| | Belah | rogether | St. John's & Great Clifton |
| | Brampton | | St Michael's |
| 3. Border, Fellside & North Carlisle | Corby & Hayton | | Bransty |
| | Houghton & Irthington | | Egremont North & St. Bees |
| North Callisie | Longtown | 7. Whitehaven & | Hillcrest & Hensingham |
| | Stanwix Urban | Coastal | Howgate |
| | Wetheral | | Kells & Sandwith |
| | Aspatria | | Mirehouse |
| | Dalston & Burgh | | Cleator Moor East & Frizington |
| Fells & Solway | Solway Coast | | Cleator Moor West |
| | Thursby | 8. South Cumberland | Egremont |
| | Wigton | 0. Oodin Odinbenand | Gosforth |
| | | | Millom |
| | | | Millom Without |
| | | _ | |
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| Locality Board | Areas covered | 4 | |
| Eden | former Eden district | 4 | |
| South Lakeland | former South Lakeland district | 4 | |
| Furness | former Barrow-in-Furness district | | |

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