

## ***Introduction***

This briefing note contains the September data for Cumbria relating to the standard Claimant Count and the May data for the “alternative” claimant count (see note in section 3). There are a several different measures of joblessness and claimant unemployment. Each has merits and caveats but care should be taken not to make comparisons between the different measures as they use different methodologies, population denominators and cover different time periods. In particular, the figures used in the national media are survey based measures of joblessness for which there are no local reliable equivalent measures and therefore they should not be compared with the claimant data contained here.

## **1. KEY FINDINGS FOR CUMBRIA**

- According to the standard claimant count there were 6,515 claimants of JSA or UC (out of work and required to seek work) in August, giving a rate of 2.2% in Cumbria. This compares to 2.8% nationally, but rates in Barrow (3.0%) and Copeland (2.9%) are above the national average. The claimant count rose by 30 from August with rises in Barrow, Carlisle, Eden and South Lakeland but falls in Allerdale and Copeland as well as in the Lake District National Park. The standard claimant count in Cumbria is 1,065 higher than a year ago, a rise of 19.5% compared to a national rise of 28.3% but this is heavily influenced by the rollout of Universal Credit which draws more people into the count than was the case under JSA;
- According to the alternative claimant count there were 6,902 claimants in August 2019 (JSA, UC out of work and required to seek work, plus a modelled estimate of the additional claimants who would be brought into the count as a result of Universal Credit where the rollout is not complete). This gives a rate of 2.3% in Cumbria compared to 3.1% nationally. The count fell by 10 from July and by 93 from a year ago, a fall of -1.3% compared to a rise of 5.7% nationally. Barrow (3.3%) was the only district with a rate above the national average;
- There were 16,758 claimants of Universal Credit in Cumbria in August (both in and out of work and also including those not required to seek work), a rise of 724 from July and 6,842 more than a year ago;
- There were 590 young people classed as NEET in August (307 NEET and 283 whose status was Not Known and are counted as NEET), an increase of 122 from July. This gives a NEET rate of 6.1%, which compares to 12.2% nationally and 14.9% for Cumbria’s statistical neighbours (NB: this time of year is an unreliable indicator of NEET activity as young people are still making post Year 11/12 choices);
- There were 1,929 job postings in Sept, a fall of 454 from August and 199 fewer than the same month last year, although across the quarter, postings are still higher than last year. The trend locally is similar to that seen nationally;
- There were 489 business start-ups in the quarter to August, a fall of 20 from the previous quarter (-3.9% compared to 9.3% nationally). However, it is 81 more than the same period last year.

### **2. NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW**

- The UK labour market showed signs of slowing, with the level of employment falling by 56,000 to 32.69 million, the first quarterly decrease since October 2017, and the level of unemployment increasing by 22,000 to 1.31 million, in the three months to August 2019.
- Over the same period, the employment rate for men remained unchanged (80.2%) and that for women declined to 71.6%.
- The fall in employment was caused by changes in the numbers of men and women. The number of women entering employment has been a strong contributing factor to the current high employment levels, so a fall in their number in employment has had a larger impact on the current level of employment.
- There was a decrease in the employment of young people (aged 16 to 24 years) on the quarter. The number of people working full-time increased by 73,000 to 24.16 million, while the number of people working part-time fell by 129,000 to 8.53 million. The fall in the number of part-time workers is the largest decrease since the three months to August 2011 and is the main reason for the fall in employment in the three months to August 2019.
- The unemployment to vacancy ratio has increased slightly in the latest period, which may be an early indication that the labour market tightness is levelling out.
- The number of unemployed people in the UK aged 16 years and older increased by 22,000 to 1.31 million in the three months to August 2019. Although the most recent figures indicate a slight increase in unemployment, the rate is still low by historical standards.
- In the three months to August 2019, the level of economic inactivity in the UK increased by 57,000 to 8.68 million. The inactivity rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.9%. The increase in economic inactivity was entirely among women.
- In the three months to August 2019, both real regular pay and real total pay were below their pre-downturn peaks.
- Average weekly earnings (AWE) have continued to grow, with total average weekly pay, which includes bonuses, increasing by 3.8% in the year to August 2019 to £542. Regular average weekly pay, which excludes bonuses, increased by 3.8% to £509 over the same period.

## 3. STANDARD & ALTERNATIVE CLAIMANT COUNTS

**Important note:** The phased nature of the UC rollout means that standard claimant count comparisons over time and between areas can give a misleading impression of labour market conditions and so this data should only be used as an administrative measure of claimants under the arrangements currently in place in each area. The quarterly “alternative” claimant count (see section 4) which includes modelling of the impact of UC, should be used for labour market monitoring as it “smooths out” the discontinuities.

### 3a. STANDARD CLAIMANT COUNT (released monthly)

Figure 1: Standard Claimant Count, September 2019

	Male		Female		All Persons		Monthly Change (all persons)			Annual Change (all persons)		
	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	% chg	Rate chg	No	% chg	Rate chg
United Kingdom	684,860	3.3	492,090	2.4	1,176,950	2.8	13,005	1.1	0.0	259,390	28.3	0.6
North West	93,600	4.1	64,820	2.8	158,420	3.5	100	0.1	0.0	31,045	24.4	0.7
Cumbria	3,910	2.7	2,610	1.7	6,515	2.2	30	0.4	0.0	1,065	19.5	0.4
Allerdale	895	3.1	630	2.2	1,525	2.6	-45	-2.9	-0.1	-100	-6.0	-0.2
Barrow in Furness	785	3.8	435	2.1	1,220	3.0	15	1.1	0.0	260	27.2	0.6
Carlisle	940	2.9	655	2.0	1,595	2.4	40	2.7	0.1	515	47.7	0.8
Copeland	745	3.6	480	2.3	1,225	2.9	-15	-1.2	0.0	-15	-1.1	0.0
Eden	255	1.6	170	1.1	425	1.4	15	3.7	0.0	175	69.3	0.6
South Lakeland	290	1.0	240	0.8	530	0.9	20	3.7	0.0	225	74.3	0.4
LDNPA	80	0.7	65	0.6	150	0.6	-15	-9.7	-0.1	40	38.0	0.2

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

Figure 2: Standard Claimant Count / Rate by Age Group in Cumbria, September 2019

	Claimant Count by Age										
	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
UK	3,605	224,185	155,045	149,825	129,960	109,705	109,245	107,215	97,175	82,640	1,176,950
NW	445	30,440	22,075	21,575	18,035	14,790	14,550	13,490	12,200	9,860	158,420
Cumbria	25	1,360	900	810	695	560	550	590	545	430	6,515
Allerdale	0	315	195	185	170	125	145	140	130	100	1,525
Barrow	5	305	170	140	125	90	95	95	100	85	1,220
Carlisle	5	325	250	195	160	170	120	155	120	90	1,595
Copeland	5	255	150	165	135	95	100	110	110	90	1,225
Eden	0	75	65	50	50	35	30	45	35	35	425
South Lakeland	5	85	70	75	60	45	60	40	50	30	530
LDNPA	0	10	10	15	25	25	15	20	15	10	150
	Claimant Rate by Age										
	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
UK	0.3	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.8
NW	0.3	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.6	3.5
Cumbria	0.2	4.0	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.2
Allerdale	0.0	4.8	3.8	3.7	3.3	2.5	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.6
Barrow	0.3	5.9	4.2	3.5	3.4	2.5	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.2	3.0
Carlisle	0.2	4.0	3.9	3.2	2.5	2.8	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.4
Copeland	0.4	5.5	3.7	4.4	3.6	2.6	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.9
Eden	0.0	2.4	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.4
South Lakeland	0.2	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.9
LDNPA	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.6

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

## 3b. ALTERNATIVE CLAIMANT COUNT (released quarterly)

Figure 3: Alternative Claimant Count, August 2019

	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	671,999	3.3	590,556	2.9	1,262,555	3.1	19,782	1.6	0.0	68,504	5.7	0.2
Cumbria	3,884	2.6	3,022	2.0	6,902	2.3	-10	-0.1	0.0	-93	-1.3	0.0
Allerdale	890	3.1	710	2.4	1,603	2.8	-14	-0.9	0.0	-184	-10.3	-0.3
Barrow in Furness	803	3.9	544	2.7	1,341	3.3	27	2.1	0.1	24	1.8	0.1
Carlisle	882	2.7	715	2.1	1,591	2.4	1	0.1	0.0	90	6.0	0.1
Copeland	734	3.5	505	2.5	1,242	3.0	-32	-2.5	-0.1	-125	-9.1	-0.3
Eden	257	1.7	212	1.4	469	1.5	19	4.2	0.1	43	10.1	0.1
South Lakeland	316	1.1	340	1.1	652	1.1	-17	-2.5	0.0	54	9.0	0.1
LDNPA	128	1.1	143	1.2	270	1.1	-2	-0.7	0.0	40	17.4	0.2

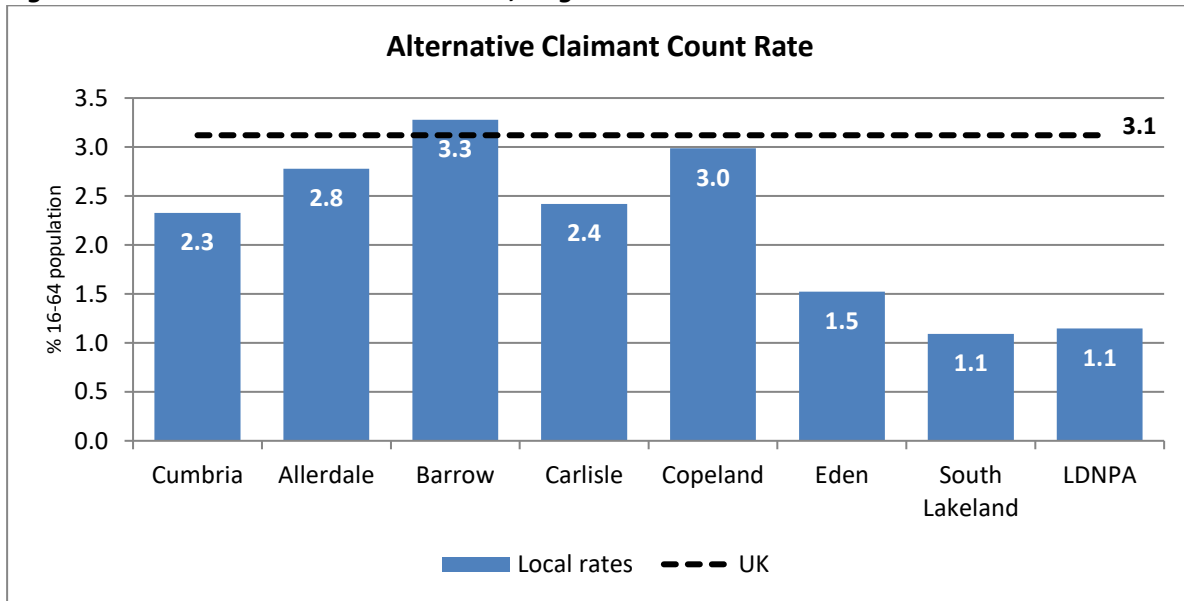
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

Figure 4: Alternative Claimant Count / Rate by Age Group in Cumbria, August 2019

	Alternative Claimant Count by Age										
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
GB	59,037	150,771	158,415	163,015	147,773	126,511	123,602	118,476	107,558	107,398	1,262,555
Cumbria	380	875	932	847	741	624	623	642	620	624	6,902
Allerdale	72	208	213	198	179	145	157	165	136	145	1,603
Barrow	74	210	185	151	125	128	115	106	125	119	1,341
Carlisle	88	208	249	201	170	155	119	142	130	134	1,591
Copeland	95	151	150	158	140	85	128	111	117	109	1,242
Eden	24	40	61	52	58	46	43	61	37	49	469
South Lakeland	25	55	81	85	69	68	65	62	75	65	652
LDNPA	0	20	26	27	30	40	30	31	47	29	270
	Alternative Claimant Rate by Age										
	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
GB	2.1	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.1
Cumbria	1.9	3.6	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.3
Allerdale	1.8	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.4	2.9	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.8
Barrow	2.6	5.6	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.6	2.4	2.0	2.6	2.9	3.3
Carlisle	2.0	3.5	3.9	3.3	2.6	2.6	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.9	2.4
Copeland	3.7	4.4	3.7	4.2	3.7	2.4	2.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	3.0
Eden	1.2	1.9	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.5
South Lakeland	0.6	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1
LDNPA	0.0	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.1	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.1

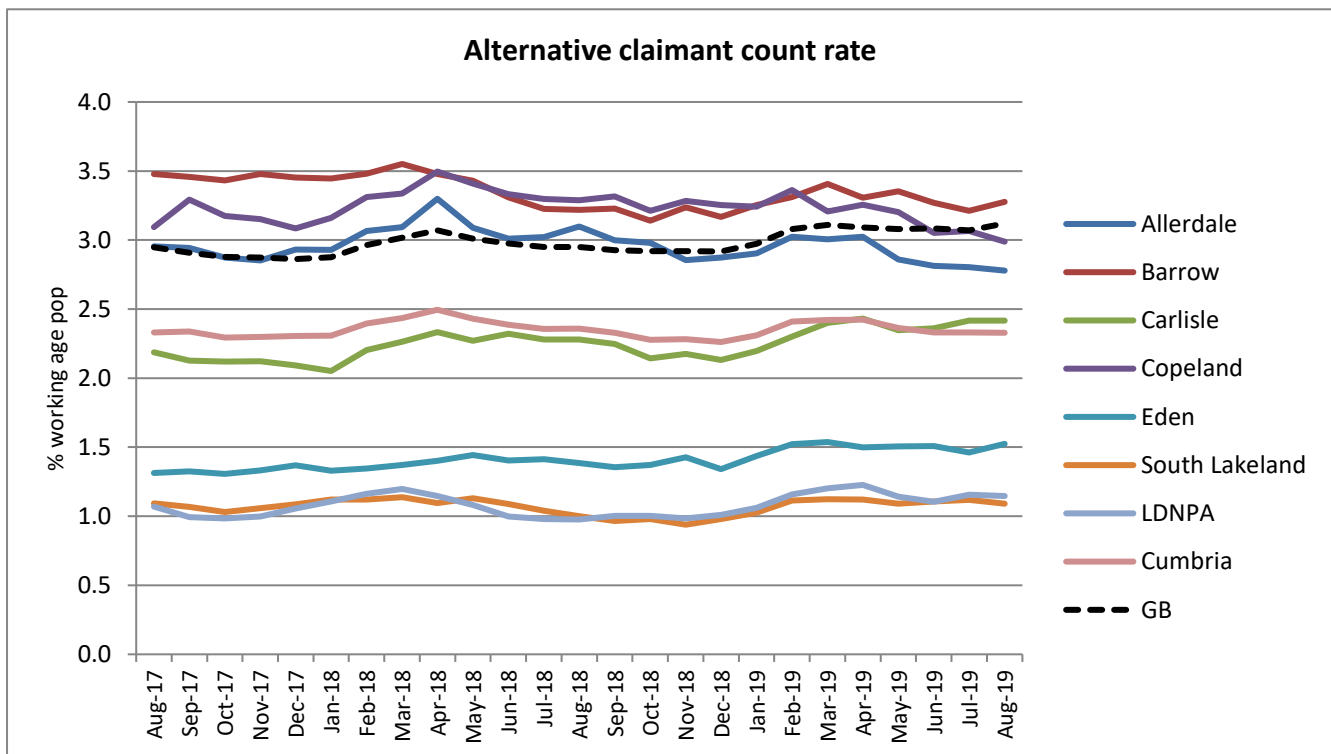
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

**Figure 5: Alternative Claimant in Cumbria, August 2019**



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

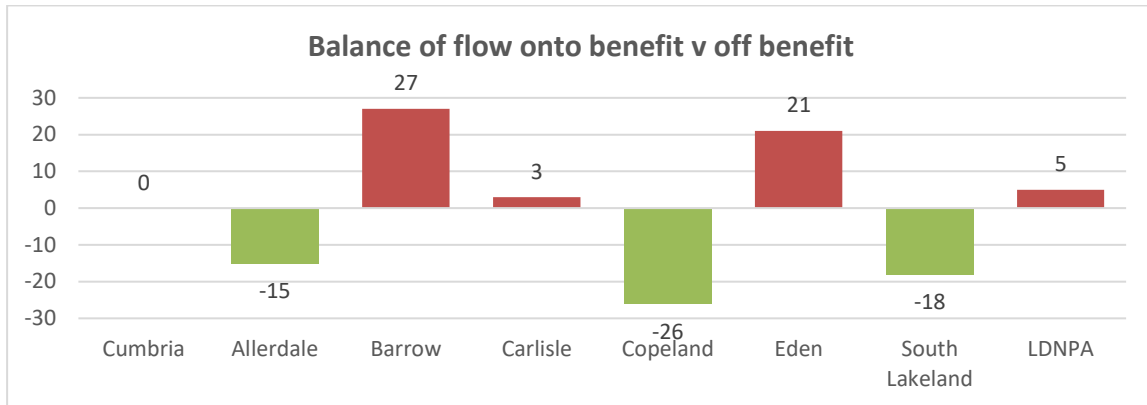
**Figure 6: Alternative Claimant Rate Timeseries**



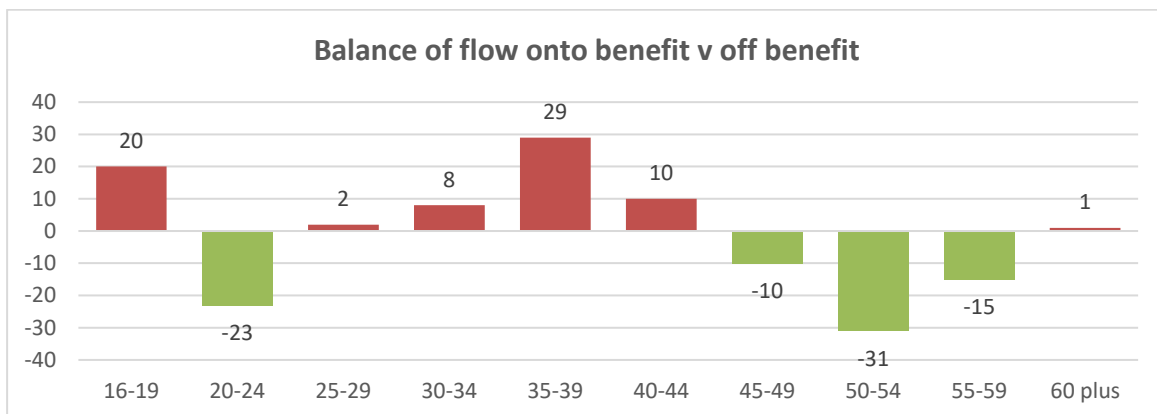
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum Note: LDNPA is a "best-fit" comprising LSOAs with 50%+ of area within NP

## Figures 7/8/9: Alternative Claimant Count – balance of flows on and off the register

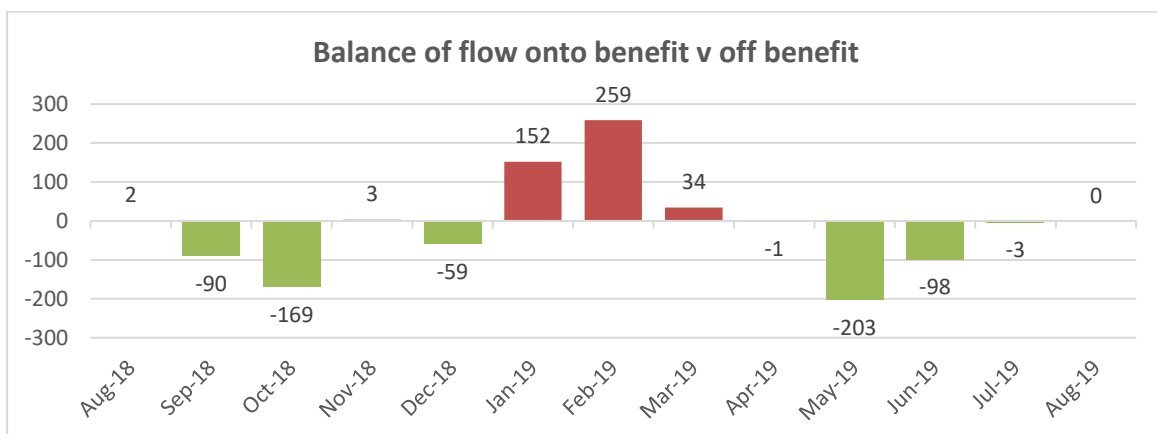
A useful indicator of the amount of churn within the labour market comes from the flow of people on and off the claimant register. The following 3 charts show the balance of on and off flows by district and age group in August 2019 and over time (red columns indicate more people joined the register than signed off whilst green columns indicate the opposite).



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



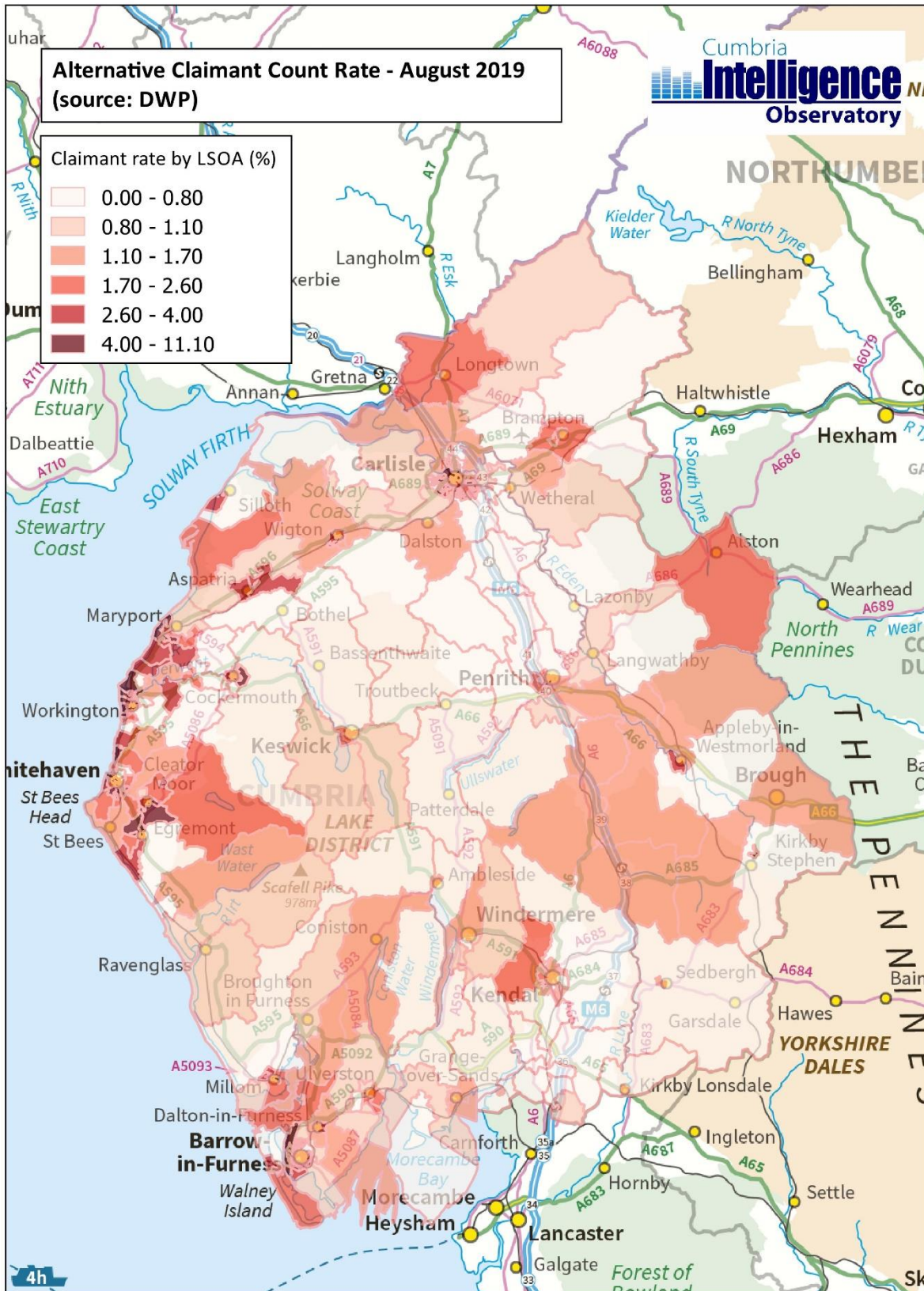
Source: ONS/DWP, due to rounding, totals may not sum



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



Figure 10: Alternative Claimant Rate (by LSOA)



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