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# About Cumberland

# Statistical summary

# July 2025

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Report produced by Performance & Insight, Cumberland Council

# Key findings

### Population and demography

* There are an estimated 276,876 people living in Cumberland.
* More than half of Cumberland’s residents live in a ‘rural’ area, 51.7% compared to 17.1% nationally.
* Cumberland has proportionally fewer children (0-18 years); fewer working age people (16-64 years); but more older people (65+ years) when compared to England.
* Over the last 10 years, numbers of children and working age people living in Cumberland have fallen while numbers of older people have increased.
* Cumberland has an ageing population with the number of older people projected to increase while the number of children is projected to fall. The working age population will increase slightly as a result of the rising State Pension Age.

### Economy & Labour Market

* There were 11,220 registered enterprises in Cumberland in 2024. The highest volume was in agriculture, forestry & fishing which accounted for 20% of the total followed by construction (13%) and accommodation & food services.
* The majority of registered enterprises (90%) are micro businesses employing fewer than 10 employees which is similar to the national average.
* The rate of business “births” is lower than the national average but the rate of business “deaths” is also lower indicating less degree of churn in the local economy.
* Businesses in Cumberland generated £6.7bn in Gross Value Added in 2023, an increase of 0.2% from 2022 but 3% lower than 5 years ago which is at odds with the national picture where GVA has grown. This is partly attributed to rebalancing in the economy due to the nuclear sector shifting from reprocessing to decommissioning.
* Economic projections suggest that GVA growth in Cumberland will stabilise and will track the UK over the next 15 years before falling back slightly up to 2050. Employment growth however is projected to be slower than nationally.
* Productivity in Cumberland was measured at £32.10 per hour in Cumberland in 2023 which is just over three quarters (76.6%) of the national average.
* There were 17.8m visitors to the area in 2024 who generated £1.8bn in revenue and supported approximately 17,400 jobs.
* There were 133,000 people in employment in 2023 which is 3,000 fewer than 5 years ago in contrast to growth nationally.
* The working age population was in decline until the pandemic and there were 7,000 fewer working age residents in 2023 than a decade earlier. However, there was a net inflow from other parts of the UK immediately after the pandemic which has halted the decline, and the number has remained stable since then.
* The manufacturing sector is the biggest employer with 21,000 jobs followed by wholesale & retail (19,000), health & social work (18,000) and accommodation & food services (12,000).
* Average earnings were £15.73 per hour worked in 2024,92% of the national average.
* Estimates suggest that 79% of the working age population was economically active in the year to Dec 2024 (in work or actively seeking work), similar to the national average (also 79%). Approximately 30,000 working age residents are believed to be economically inactive.
* The proportion of the working age population with high level qualifications was substantially lower than nationally in 2024, 36% compared to 47%.
* The number of online job postings increased significantly after the pandemic and, despite easing somewhat during 2024, levels remain higher than in 2019.
* An average of 209 young people aged 16/17 were classified as NEET in 2024/25 (Dec-Feb) giving a rate of 3.5% which is lower than the national average of 5.6%.
* Claimant unemployment (active jobseekers) is low in Cumberland at 2.6% compared to 4.2% nationally resulting in a tight labour market.

### Health

* Life expectancy for both males and females in Cumberland are below national averages and have been for a number of years.
* Although life expectancy has increased over the years, the number of years people are living in good health has fallen.
* A male born in Cumberland can expect to spend 58.4 years of their life in good health, for females this increases to 59.1 years; both are below the national averages.
* A male living in Cumberland can expect to live 19 years of their lives in ill-health; for females this increases to 22.4 years.
* Deaths relating to drug misuse are increasing in Cumberland and are twice the national average.
* Suicide is a significant cause of death in Cumberland with rates almost twice the national average.
* Rates of hospital admissions relating to self-harm; and mental health conditions are high in Cumberland when compared to the rest of England.
* 2 in 3 adults in Cumberland are overweight or obese;
* Levels of adult obesity in Cumberland are above the England average and have been increasing year on year, reflecting the national trend.
* Almost 1 in 4 reception age children (4-5 years) are overweight or obese; by Year 6 (10-11 years), this increases to more than 1 in 3.

### Adult Social Care

* 9,171 adults have an active case openwith Adult Social Care services in Cumberland.
* There are 86 care homes in Cumberland. 9 are owned by Cumberland Council.
* In 2023-24, 84.2% (£49.6 million) of gross current expenditure on Adult Social Care services in Cumberland was spent on long-term support, accounting for 4,470 adults.

### Children and young people

* Pupils in Cumberland consistently perform below the level of their national peers (England) from the Early Years Foundation stage (3-5 years) through to Key Stage 4 (14-16 years).
* Disadvantaged pupils (those who are in receipt of or have received a Free School Meal; and/or Cared for Children) also do worse at each Key Stage than nationally.
* The gap (difference in attainment levels) between all pupils and disadvantaged pupils is wider in Cumberland for almost all measures compared to England.
* Numbers of contacts and referrals to Children’s Social Care have increased over the last year.
* Rates of Cared For (Looked After) Children in Cumberland are significantly higher than England but below the North West region.
* Numbers of Cared for Children in the Cumberland area have fallen over the last year
* Rates of Children in Need and children with Child Protection Plans are above national rates in Cumberland; despite this, they have been decreasing in recent years.

### Crime and community safety

* Cumberland is a relatively safe place in which to live, work or visit with levels of crime lower than those experienced nationally and regionally.
* However, crime and community safety issues are more likely to affect people in rural areas and areas that are the most deprived. People with protected characteristics are more at risk of becoming victims of crime, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities and younger females. Males are more likely to be offenders and be referred to drug and alcohol support services. Looked after children are most likely to go missing from home, increasing their vulnerability.
* Four priority areas have been identified by Cumberland’s Community Safety Partnership: domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, antisocial behaviour, and community cohesion.

### Deprivation and Inequalities

* Around 22,850 people (8.3%) living in Cumberland are living in some of the most deprived communities in England.
* Household income in Cumberland is significantly below the national average at £31,828 compared to £41,531 in England.
* 1 in 5 children aged 0-15 years living in Cumberland are living in poverty; in some areas of Cumberland, this increases to more than 1 in 3.
* Levels of child poverty in Cumberland have been increasing in recent years, reflecting the national picture
* 23.0% of working age residents in Cumberland are in receipt of one or more DWP benefit, just below the national average (23.1%).
* More than half (55.4%) of working age residents in receipt of benefits are claiming a health-related benefit, this is higher than the national average (46.0%).
* Levels of fuel poverty in Cumberland are higher than England, 13.0% v 11.4%.
* Crime and community safety issues are more likely to affect people in rural areas and areas that are the most deprived.
* People with protected characteristics are more at risk of becoming victims of crime, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities and younger females.
* Males are more likely to be offenders and be referred to drug and alcohol support services.
* Looked after children are most likely to go missing from home, increasing their vulnerability.

### Housing

* More homes in Cumberland are owned outright compared to England, 40.8% v 32.5%.
* In some areas of Cumberland, almost half of residents are living in socially rented homes; while in others, almost half of properties are privately rented.
* Rates of homeless households in Cumberland are below national levels, however, in some areas rates of ‘households threatened with homelessness’ are above.
* Housing is generally more affordable in Cumberland with a ratio of 4.8 times median household income to median house prices, compared to 7.0 in England. Across Cumberland, housing is typically less affordable in rural areas.
* Median house prices in Cumberland (£151,275) are significantly lower than in England (£290,056). In Cumberland, rural house prices tend to be higher than urban house prices.
* The stock of housing in Cumberland has increased by 6.8% over the past decade which is a slower rate of increase than nationally (9.2%). Average net additional dwellings over the past 5 years increased by 917 per year.
* In 2023/24 there were 660 completed new dwellings, the lowest in recent years.

### Environment

* Total carbon emissions in Cumberland in 2023 (2,240.9 ktCO2e [kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent]) were 29% lower than a decade ago, a slower rate of reduction than 34% nationally.
* Industry emissions have fallen by 39.4% which is a lower rate of reduction than the national average of 46.7%/ more than the national average of 39%. Emissions from transport have only fallen by 9% and from agriculture by 3%.
* Per capita emissions in Cumberland were 8.1 tCO2e in 2023 which is higher than the national average of 5.2 tCO2e. However, per km emissions were lower at 0.7 per km2 compared to 1.4 per km2 nationally.
* The median CO2 emissions per dwelling in Cumberland in 2024 was 3.5 tonnes per annum which is above the national average of 3.0.
* In Cumberland, 782,672 MWh of renewable energy was generated in 2023, mostly from onshore wind (43.5%) and biomass (31.3%).

# Cumberland – the place

Cumberland is located in the North West of England, bordering Westmorland & Furness and Northumberland to the east and Scotland to the North. Cumberland Council is a Unitary local authority established in April 2023 following a programme of local government reorganisation which resulted in the former Cumbria County Council and six district councils being restructured into two unitary authorities (Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness). The two unitary authorities have since agreed to join the government’s Devolution Priority Programme which would see the formation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority and give the area more power and decision-making over matters such as economic development, transport, employment support, planning and housing as well as increased investment funding. A final decision on whether to proceed will be made in autumn 2025.

There are two NHS Integrated Care Boards responsible for managing and commissioning some NHS and primary care services covering the Cumberland footprint; they are North Cumbria ICB (covering former Allerdale, Carlisle and most of Copeland); and Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB (covering some of former Copeland).

Cumberland is a place of contrast. It is a large, rural and sparsely populated area which is home to some of the world’s most stunning rural and coastal landscapes (including part of the Lake District National Park) which draw in millions of visitors a year. It also consists of a number of ex-industrial towns along the West Cumbrian coast as well as other towns and villages. The only city in the area is Carlisle which is sited alongside the M6 motorway and West Coast Mainline railway providing excellent connectivity to the north, east and south. The economy contains strong agricultural and tourism sectors but is also a major manufacturing economy which boasts some of the most famous brands in the world such as New Balance, Pirelli and McVities as well as hosting the largest nuclear site in Europe (Sellafield). The area is a globally recognised place of innovation and opportunity, a major clean energy hub for the UK and a sustainable place with a resilient economy that supports the health and wellbeing of its communities.

The population of 277,000 lives in an area covering 3,012 square km making Cumberland much more sparsely populated than England with an average of just 91 people per square km compared to 434 people in England. Furthermore, more than half of Cumberland’s population lives in a rural area, accounting for 50.8%, this compares to just 16.9% for England. (Source: [Rural Urban classification, DEFRA](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/rural-urban-classification)).

The diverse geography of Cumberland demonstrates health and socio-economic inequalities between the most and least deprived areas with life expectancy differing significantly depending on where people live. Life expectancy for both males and females living in Cumberland is below the national averages; a male born in Cumberland can expect to live to is 77.4 years compared to 79.1 years in in England; furthermore, males born in some of the most deprived areas of Cumberland can expect to live 11 years less than those born in the least deprived areas. A female born in Cumberland can expect to live to 81.5 years compared to 83.1 years in England; furthermore, females born in some of the most deprived areas of Cumberland can expect to live 10 years less than those born in the least deprived areas.

The rurality of Cumberland brings about many challenges when providing and delivering services in particular the most vulnerable people including children and young people and adults with health and social care needs. It can also present challenges for residents in accessing learning and employment opportunities. Furthermore, it is important to consider the emotional and mental wellbeing of Cumberland’s population caused by social isolation and loneliness of living in rural areas with limited access to services and opportunities.

## Population and demography

There are an estimated 276,876 people living in Cumberland. Compared to England, Cumberland has an older population; there are fewer children (0-18years) 19.7% (54,537 children) this compares to 22.0% nationally. There are fewer children and young people aged 0-25 years, 26.0% (72,123) compared to 30.4% nationally. There are also fewer working age people (16-64 years), 59.6% (164,974 people) compared to 62.9% nationally. However, there are higher proportions of older people (65+yrs) living in Cumberland, 23.8% (66,028 people) compared to 18.7% nationally. (Source: [Mid-2023 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration)).

Figure 1: Population age profile

Source: Mid-2023 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics,

Over the last 10 years, Cumberland’s overall population has increased by just 1%, this compares to 7% nationally. During that time, numbers of children aged 0-15 years have fallen slightly by -0.5%; numbers of working age people have fallen further by -3.6%; while numbers of those aged 65 and over have increased by 16.1%. The increase in older people reflects the national picture, however, nationally, population has increased across all age groups.

Cumberland’s population is an ageing population with the number of children and young people (0-15 years) and working-age people (16-64 years) projected to decrease by 2032 while the number of older people (65+yrs) is projected to increase. By 2032, the number of children aged 0-15 years is projected to decrease by -12.7% (-5,800). The population aged 16-64 is projected to decrease by -2.5% (-2,400) by 2032 which is in contrast to projected growth of 5.5% nationally but is an improved situation compared to the previous ONS projections which projected a fall of over 9,500. When the rising State Pension Age is taken into account, the broader working age population is projected to increase by 1.5% by 2032 (+2,450). The population aged 65+ is projected to increase by 21.6% by 2032 (+14,000) which is a slightly higher increase than nationally (+20.9%). (Source: [ONS Subnational population projections: 2022-based).](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/subnationalpopulationprojections2022based)

Further information:

[Cumbria Intelligence Observatory – Population](https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/population/#/view-report/0e80000fe3664109b42bc3010a02ab7c/___iaFirstFeature/G116)

[Office for National Statistics – Population and Migration](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration)

## Ethnicity

Cumberland’s population isn’t as ethnically diverse as the rest of England with low proportions of residents from ethnic minority groups. 95.1% of Cumberland’s residents identified their ethnic group as ‘White British’ this compares to 74.4% nationally. Just 4.9% of residents in Cumberland identified as ethnic minority backgrounds, this compares to 26.5% in England. Despite this, there is some variation across Cumberland’s wards from just 1.7% in Seaton ward in the West to 17.6% in Castle ward in the North. Although proportions of ethnic minority residents have increased in Cumberland over the last two census’s, it has been at a much slower rate than the rest of England(Source: 2021 Census).

Figure 2: Population by Ethnicity; Cumberland v England.

Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

Figure 3: Proportion of the population from ethnic minority backgrounds; 2001 to 2021

Source: Census, Office for National Statistics

Further information:

[Cumbria Intelligence Observatory – Population](https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/population/#/view-report/0e80000fe3664109b42bc3010a02ab7c/___iaFirstFeature/G116)

[Office for National Statistics – Census 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

# Economy & Labour Market

## Business & Enterprise

## Businesses

In 2024 there were 11,220 registered enterprises in Cumberland (registered for VAT and/or PAYE), operating from 13,470 local units. The number has fallen by 4% over the past 5 years in comparison to nationally where the number has remained broadly stable (+0.2%). The sector with the highest volume of enterprises is agriculture, forestry & fishing which accounts for 2,250 enterprises (20% of the total) followed by construction which accounts for 1,415 enterprises (13%) and accommodation & food services with 990 enterprises (9%). The majority of enterprises are micro businesses employing fewer than 10 employees which is in line with the national average (90% in Cumberland v 89% for the UK). (Source: [ONS UK Business: Size, Activity & Location, 2024](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation2024)).

Cumberland has a lower rate of business “births” per 10,000 working age residents than nationally but also a lower rate of business “deaths” (birth and death relate to being registered for VAT/PAYE for the first time or ceasing to be registered – a business may be trading outside these thresholds). In 2023 there were 945 business births which is 57 per 10,000 working age residents compared to 74 nationally. In the same year there were 940 business deaths which is also a rate of 57 and compares to a death rate of 72 nationally. Business “survival” (continuing to be registered for VAT/PAYE) is higher than nationally indicating that whilst there is less churn in the economy than in some other places, when businesses do become established, they are more likely to remain so. The 5-year survival of businesses born in 2018 was 42.2% in Cumberland compared to 39.4% nationally. A lower proportion of enterprises were rated as “high growth” in 2023 (average annualised employment growth of 20% over 3 years) in Cumberland than nationally – 70 were rated as such in 2023 which is 3.1% of enterprises compared to 4.7% nationally. (Source: [ONS Business Demography, 2024](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/businessdemography2023)).

## Economic output

Businesses in Cumbria generated £6.7bn in Gross Value Added in 2023, an increase of 0.2% from 2022 but 3% lower than 5 years ago and 3% lower than a decade ago (constant 2022 prices). This is at odds with national and regional trends where growth has been seen over 1, 5 and 10 years. However, the shift of activity in the nuclear sector from reprocessing to decommissioning is a major factor behind this disparity with GVA in the “manufacture of basic and fabricated metal products” (which includes Sellafield) having fallen by 76% over the past 5 years. If this sector is removed from the data, then there had been economic growth of 2% in the past 5 years. This rebalancing is evidence by the share of GVA accounted for by the metals sub-sector in Cumberland decreasing from 10.8% in 2013 to 2.1% in 2023 and manufacturing overall having dropped from 23.3% of GVA in 2013 down to 13.5% in 2023 (current price GVA). Despite this, manufacturing overall still accounted for a significantly higher proportion of GVA in Cumberland in 2023 than nationally (13.5% v 9.2%). The next largest sectors were real estate (12.9%), wholesale & retail (12.1%) and health (9.5%). (Source: [ONS Regional Accounts 2023](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/regionaleconomicactivitybygrossdomesticproductuk1998to2023))

Figure 4: Proportion of GVA generated by sector

Source: ONS Regional Accounts

## Productivity

GVA per hour worked is a measure of productivity in an economy. Latest data are for 2023 when output averaged £32.10 per hour in Cumberland which is just over three quarters (76.6%) of the national average (£41.90). The gap had been widening but has closed slightly in the last two years (2022 and 2023) although it remains wider than ten years ago when GVA per hour worked in Cumberland was 85% of the national average. This is partly the result of there having been a larger reduction in productivity hours (-5.7%) than in overall GVA overall GVA (-3.4%). (Source: [ONS Regional Accounts 2022](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/regionaleconomicactivitybygrossdomesticproductuk1998to2023))

## Tourism

Tourism is a cross-cutting activity which occurs in multiple sectors. Visitor numbers to Cumberland and their spend were both significantly impacted by the pandemic but had largely recovered by 2024 when there were 17.8 visitors who generated £1,822m in revenue and supported approximately 17,400 jobs (FTEs).

(Source: Cumbria Tourism STEAM model)

## Economic projections

Economic projections from Cambridge Econometrics for Cumbria (adjusted to incorporate anticipated BAE Systems expansion in Westmorland & Furness) suggest that GVA growth in Cumberland will stabilise and will track just below that of the UK over the next 15 years before a slight growth gap starts to open up. GVA growth is projected to be 12.5% by 2034 and 33.2% by 2050 (UK 12.9% and 35.2% respectively). GVA growth in the medium and long term is particularly anticipated in the health and social care sectors, construction, some manufacturing sub-sectors and in accommodation services. Employment growth however is projected to be slower than nationally with the gap widening sooner than for GVA. Employment growth is projected to be 2.9% by 2034 and 7.9% by 2050 (UK 4.3% and 11.3% respectively). The highest volumes of growth will occur in social care, construction and business support services. (Source: Cumberland Council projections developed with the aid of CE/IER LEFM software)

Figures 5 and 6: Projected GVA and employment growth

Source: Cumberland Council projections developed with the aid of CE/IER LEFM software

## Labour Market

## Working age Population

The working age population (aged 16-64) resident in Cumberland has been declining year on year for most of the past decade and there were 7,000 fewer working age residents in 2023 than in 2013 (-2.3%) which is in contrast to steady growth annually (+4.5%). However, there was a net inflow of migration from other parts of the UK immediately after the pandemic, primarily into the Carlisle area, and although this has levelled off in the past 2 years, the working age population is 1,600 higher than in 2020. Building on this to encourage more working age people to locate (and remain) in the area is a key labour market challenge if the projected future employment growth is to be supported. (Source: [ONS Mid Year Estimates 2023](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2023))

Figure 7: Working age residents

Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates

Future projections of the working age population have recently been updated to take account of Census 2021 and post-pandemic migration trends and these are now quite different for Cumberland than the previous pre-pandemic ones. To put this into context, the previous 2018-based projections anticipated a decline of over 9,000 (-5.9%) in the population aged 16-64 between 2022 and 2032 but the newer 2022-based projections now anticipate a much smaller decline of 2,400 (-1.5%). However, this is still in contrast to the national projection which anticipates growth in the 16-64 population of 6.2%.

Although 16-64 remains the standard definition of working age for statistical purposes, the gradual increase in the State Pension Age (SPA) to 67 and then to 68 will bring more people into the working age group and ONS also issue projections for this broader definition. These indicate there will be an increase of 2,400 working age people in Cumberland by 2032 (+1.5%) and

(Source: [ONS Population projections (2022-based)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/subnationalpopulationprojections2022based))

Figure 8: Projected working age residents

Source: ONS Population Projections (2022-based) (SPA = State Pension Age)

## Employment by sector

In 2023 there were estimated to be 133,000 persons in employment in Cumberland, unchanged from 2022 but 3,000 fewer than in 2018 – a fall of 2.4% compared to growth of 4.9% nationally. The biggest employing sector in 2023 was estimated to be manufacturing which provided 21,000 jobs (16% of the total) followed by wholesale & retail with 19,000 (14%), health & social work with 18,000 (14%) and accommodation & food services with 12,000 (9%). This structure is notably different to nationally with higher proportions of employment in agriculture, manufacturing and to a lesser extent in construction and in accommodation & food services. There are lower proportions of employment in sectors such as information & communication, finance & insurance and professional, scientific & technical which are generally high wage, high value jobs and which are expanding sectors nationally. (Source: [ONS Business Register Employment Survey 2023 (via Nomis)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/newbres6pub)

Figure 9: Proportion of employment by sector, 2023

Source: ONS Business Register Employment Survey 2023 (Open Access via Nomis)

## Economic Activity

In 2024 it was estimated that approximately 79.2% of the working age population in Cumberland was economically active (working or actively seeking work). This is slightly above the UK rate of 78.5% although survey error means this difference isn’t significant. The remainder are deemed economically inactive (not working and not actively seeking work), mostly commonly because of ill health, caring responsibilities or because they have retired early. This group was estimated to number approximately 30,000 in Cumberland. (Source: [ONS Annual Population survey (via Nomis)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/apsnew)

## Adult qualifications

The proportion of the working age population with high level qualifications (Regulated Qualifications Framework Level 4+) in Cumberland is substantially lower than nationally at 36% compared to 47% according to the 2024 estimates. The proportion qualified to Level 3 is higher than nationally (30% v 20%) which is reflective of the higher incidence of vocational qualifications in Cumbria which until relatively recently weren’t widely available at the higher levels. The proportion of working age residents with no qualifications is in line with the national average (5% v 7%). (Source: [ONS Annual Population survey (via Nomis)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/apsnew)

## Earnings

Gross median hourly earnings for residents in Cumberland were £15.73 per hour in 2024 which is 92% of the national average. Data are no longer available for the former district areas but previous releases suggested that earnings for residents in the former Copeland area were consistently above the national average while those in Allerdale and Carlisle were generally lower. (Source: [ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2024](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2024))

## Job Postings

The number of active job postings in Cumberland increased significantly after the pandemic and levels have remained above the pre-pandemic baseline ever since. This is mostly a consequence of a tighter labour market but is probably also influenced by more businesses having adopted online tools as a recruitment method. The summer season in 2023 saw the biggest demand for labour since the pandemic, with businesses in the visitor economy finding recruitment and retention particularly challenging, although issues were reported across most sectors to some degree. The situation has been less variable during 2024 but still challenging for many businesses and job posting levels are still high. The occupations most frequently in demand include care workers, cleaners & domestics, sales, catering and nursing. (Source: Lightcast ™).

Figure 10: Active online job postings, 2019-2024

Source: Lightcast ™

## Unemployment

One of the reasons for the tight labour market in Cumberland is that unemployment levels (claimants actively seeking work) have historically been low compared to other areas and whereas the claimant rate nationally is still higher than before the pandemic, in Cumberland it has returned to pre-pandemic levels. In March 2025, there were 4,315 claimants actively seeking work in Cumberland which is a claimant rate of 2.6% and compares to 4.2% nationally. The rate was lower than nationally across all age bands at Cumberland level but for young adults (aged 18-24) in the former Copeland area it was close to the national average (5.3% v 5.5%). (Source: [ONS Claimant Count (via Nomis)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/ucjsa)

## Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

In 2024/25 (measured across Dec-Feb) there was an average of 209 young people aged 16/17 in Cumberland who were deemed to be Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). This gives a NEET rate of 3.5% which is below the national rate of 5.6% and also below the rate for Cumberland’s statistical neighbours (4.7%). The NEET rate was highest in the former district area of Carlisle at 3.7% compared to 3.3% in the former Copeland area and 3.2% in the former Allerdale area.

Despite the lower than average NEET rate, the proportion of young people aged 16/17 participating in education & training activity (including Apprenticeships) was lower than the national average at 88.8% compared to 91.9% nationally and to Cumberland’s statistical neighbours (91.7%). The reason for this apparent contradiction is that not all EET activity meets the definition of participation under the Raising Participation Age Duty. Examples of this include work without accredited training and engagement activity to prepare a young person for employment, both of which would be classed as EET but not as participation. (Source: NCCIS 2024/25.)

# Health

The health of people in Cumberland is varied when compared to the rest of England. Life expectancy, one of the key measures of how healthy a population is, falls below England averages for both males and females living in Cumberland, and has been for a number of years. Although life expectancy overall has increased over the years, the number of years a person can expect to live in good health has fallen, with a significant decline in recent years. There are some areas where Cumberland is performing well, such as child immunisations and vaccinations; and cancer screening coverage; equally, there are other areas which present significant health concerns for Cumberland such as high suicide rates; high rates of drug related deaths; child and adult obesity; and diseases such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. The information below presents some of those key health issues for Cumberland.

## Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are key measures of health which allow us to monitor inequalities across different areas as well as changes over time in order to identify whether health and inequalities are improving or getting worse. Wider determinants including socio-economic factors such as income and employment, education, lifestyle including physical activity and smoking can all impact on health outcomes and life expectancy.

Life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years people will live beyond their current age (estimated length of life). In 2021-23, a male born in Cumberland could expect to live 77.4 years and a female could expect to live to 81.5 years, both are below the national averages of 79.1 years and 83.0 years respectively. (Source: [ONS, 2025](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2021to2023additionaldata))

Life expectancy for both males and females have increased in Cumberland over the last 20 years, however, they have remained below the England average throughout that time; furthermore, the rate of improvement has been slower than England. The COVID pandemic had a notable impact on life expectancy both nationally and locally, life expectancy for both males and females haven’t yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, however, this is more apparent in Cumberland.

Figure 11: Life Expectancy (at birth) for males and females; Cumberland v England; 2001-03 to 2021-23

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2025

Healthy life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health (based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health’). In 2021-23, a male born in Cumberland can expect to spend 58.4 years of their life in good health, for females this increases to 59.1 years; both are below the national averages of 61.5 years and 61.9 years respectively. In Cumberland, a male can expect to live 19 years of their life in ill-health; while females can expect to live 22.4 years in ill health; both males and females in Cumberland can expect to live more years in ill health compared to England. (Source: [ONS, 2024](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/bulletins/healthstatelifeexpectanciesuk/between2011to2013and2021to2023))

Although life expectancy has increased over the years, the number of years of people living in good health has fallen in both males and females in Cumberland; although this reflects the national picture the decline has been greater in Cumberland. Furthermore, healthy life expectancy for both males and females in Cumberland has been below national averages since 2011.

Figure 12: Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth) Males and Females; Cumberland v England; 2011-03 to 2021-23

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2024

Figure 13: Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy, Cumberland, 2021-23 (3-year average).

Source: Office for National Statistics

## Drug and alcohol misuse

Drug and alcohol misuse is a particular concern in Cumberland with rates of drug related deaths significantly higher (more than double) the national average. In the period 2021-23, there were 155 drug related deaths in Cumberland, a rate of 20.7 per 100,000 compared to 8.5 in England. (Source: [ONS, 2024](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsrelatedtodrugpoisoninginenglandandwales/2023registrations))

Nationally, those most at risk of drug-related deaths are men aged 40-49 years. In Cumberland, rates are significantly higher in males at 27.5 per 100,000 compared to 14.2 in females. Drug related deaths have been increasing at a much faster rate in Cumberland compared to England, in particular in men, however, deaths among women are also increasing in Cumberland and are higher than national levels.

Figure 14: Drug-related deaths, age-standardised rates per 100,000; 2011-13 to 2021-23

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2024

There are strong links between health inequalities and drug misuse and dependency. Furthermore, there are many risk factors relating to drug misuse including poor physical and mental health; unemployment, poor working conditions, and job insecurity; poor housing and homelessness; socio-economic deprivation; family breakdown; as well as criminal activity. Investing in health and care services and support, including drug and substance misuse treatment, can help to reduce both economic and social costs and ultimately numbers of drug related deaths. (source: gov.uk/health matters)

Rates of ‘hospital admissions due to substance misuse in young people aged 15 to 24 years’ were significantly higher in Cumberland compared to England, however, rates have recently declined at 44.6 per 100,000 compared to 58.3 (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/))

Alcohol misuse is an issue in Cumberland with rates of some alcohol-related hospital admissions and episodes significantly higher than the national average. It is a particular concern for children under 18 years where there has been an increasing trend in recent years.

In 2023/24, there were 1,645 admission episodes for alcohol related conditions in Cumberland equating to a rate of 554 per 100,000, this is significantly higher than England at 504. Rates have remained consistently higher than England over the years and have recently shown an increase. Alcohol admission episodes for children under 18 years are also significantly higher in Cumberland compared to England. During the period 2021/22 to 2023/24, the rate of admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions in children under 18 years in Cumberland was 44.7 per 100,000, significantly higher than England at 22.6. (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/))

## Mental health, suicide and self-harm

### Mental health

There is a rising trend in the prevalence of mental health conditions in Cumberland, reflecting the national picture. In 2022/23, there were over 40,000 patients (on GP practice registers) with depression in Cumberland; and over 3,000 patients with a severe mental health disorder; these numbers have increased in recent years and when compared to the national average rates are much higher in Cumberland compared to England. Demand on specialist mental health services has also increased in Cumberland in response to rising numbers of mental health referrals for both children and adults (source: Cumberland Public Health Annual Report 2023/24).

In 2023/24, rates of hospital admissions for children under the age of 18 years with a mental health condition were significantly higher in Cumberland compared to England (115.9 per 100,000 v 80.2) and are showing an increasing trend in recent years.

### Self-harm

The prevalence of self-harm in children and young people is in Cumberland is greater than the national average, despite this, levels have decreased recently. In 2023/24, the rate of hospital admissions for children aged 10-24 years in Cumberland was 348.0 per 100,000 significantly higher than England at 266.6; furthermore, for children aged 10-14 years, rates have shown a significant increase in recent years. In 2022/23, the rate of ‘hospital admissions as a result of self-harm in children aged 10-14 years was 481.0 per 100,000 in Cumberland, this is significantly higher than the England average of 251.2. Self-harm is often linked to other mental health conditions including depression; causes of self-harm are often complex and require assessment and treatment. (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/)).

### Suicide

Suicide is a significant cause of death, in particular in young adults, both nationally and in Cumberland, and is a key indicator linked to underlying mental ill-health.

Cumberland has the highest rate of death by suicide in the North West and has the second highest rate in England. Historically, suicide rates across all former district areas in Cumberland were greater than national levels and had been increasing.

During 2021-23, there were 133 suicides in Cumberland (in people aged 10+ years) equating to a rate of 19.0 per 100,000, this is almost double the England average of 10.7. Men are at a greater risk of suicide with rates significantly higher in men than women both nationally and in Cumberland; the suicide rate in males in Cumberland is 27.5 (England 16.4) compared to 11.2 for females (England 5.4). (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/))

We do not know why suicide rates in Cumberland are so high but we do know that there are a multitude of reasons why people take their own lives. There is no specific type of person, however, those who have lost someone close or a family member to suicide are at a greater risk themselves. (source: The Big Question: Understanding Suicide rates in Cumberland).

Risk factors associated with suicide include: divorce and relationship breakdown; social determinants such as housing, poverty, employment and education, physical illness, financial difficulty and economic adversity, harmful gambling, substance misuse, domestic abuse; and social isolation and loneliness. (Source: Suicide Prevention Strategy for England, 2023-28).

## Obesity

Levels of obesity have been increasing in Cumberland reflecting the trend nationally. Obesity is a global health concern associated with reduced life expectancy and is a key risk factor for a number of diseases and conditions including cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes; cancer, liver and respiratory diseases; and mental health conditions (source: OHID).

Levels of obesity in adults (18+ years) in Cumberland have been increasing year and year and are at their highest since 2015/16. In 2023/24, two in three adults (71.3%) living in Cumberland were overweight or obese, this is above the England average at 64.5%. Despite high levels of adult obesity, levels of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity) in adults in Cumberland is above the England average, 71.5% compared to 67.4%, however, they are not as high as other areas across England. (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/))

In 2023/24, almost 1 in 4 children Reception age (4-5 yrs.) are overweight/obese, accounting for 23.6% this compares to 22.1% in England; obesity levels in reception age children have been above the England average for over 10 years, despite this, levels have been falling in recent years. For Year 6 children (10-11 yrs.) obesity levels increase to 37.2%, this compares to 35.8% nationally; levels have fluctuated over the years but have generally remained above or similar to national levels. Levels of physically active children (aged 5 to 16 years) have improved recently in Cumberland, in 2023/24, 49.1% of children in Cumberland are physically active (at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity per day), this is similar to the England average of 47.8% (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/)).

## General health and long-term health

In the 2021 Census, almost 1 in 5 people living in Cumberland reported having a long-term health problem or disability with levels higher than the national average. There are 52,329 residents in Cumberland who’s day-to-day activities are limited (disabled under the Equality Act, 2010) accounting for 19.8%, this is above the average for England at 17.3%. Across Cumberland, proportions are highest in the former district of Copeland at 20.7% while former Carlisle has the lowest 18.4%. There is significant variation across ward areas with Moss Bay and Moorclose ward in Workington (Allerdale) with the highest levels at 25.6% compared to 14.7% in Dalston and Burgh ward (Carlisle). (Source: Census 2021, ONS).

The general health of residents in Cumberland is not as good as England. 79.1% of residents in Cumberland reported their general health as very good or good, this is below and compares to 82.2% nationally; while 6.1% reported their general health was bad or very bad, this is higher than the England average of 5.2%. (Source: Census 2021, ONS).

Further information:

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profiles>

[Office for National Statistics – Census 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

# Adult Social Care & Housing

Cumberland Council provides comprehensive support and services to vulnerable adults, ensuring their well-being and quality of life. Cumberland Council offers a range of services that include personal care, support for carers, and assistance with daily living activities. The council cater for a wide range of needs, focusing on promoting independence, safeguarding individuals, and enhancing community involvement.

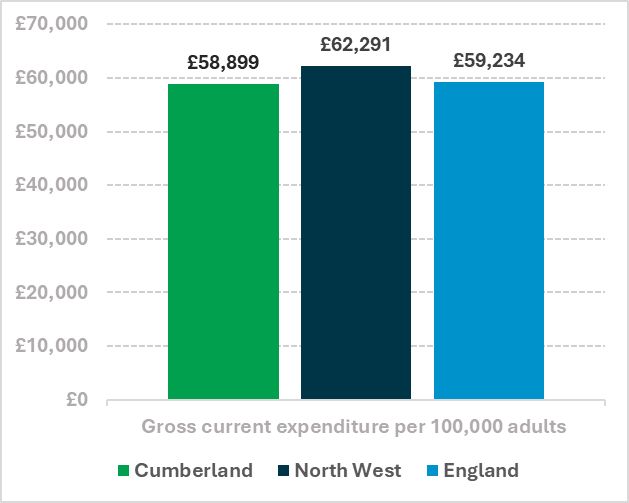
Some of the services provided include Residential Care – providing safe and supportive living environments for those who need full-time care; Day Services – offering day opportunities and activities for adults with learning disabilities within the local community; Support at Home – assisting individuals who need help with daily tasks around the home, especially after a period of illness or bereavement; Extra Care Housing – providing housing schemes for people over 55 who want to maintain their independence while having access to flexible care and support.

There are currently 9,171 (as of 7th November 2024) adults with an open case in Cumberland. There are 86 care homes, 9 of which are owned by Cumberland Council.

## Gross current expenditure

In 2023/24 the gross current expenditure on adult social in Cumberland was £312.6 million, gross current expenditure per 100,000 adults was £58.9 million. This compares with £59.2 million for England and the £62.3 million for the North East region.

Figure 15: Adult Social Care – Gross expenditure, 2023/24



Source: Cumberland Council

## Long term support

Long term care is provided to clients on a continuing basis and encompasses a variety of services including nursing care, provision of direct payments to arrange regular home care visits. Of the gross current expenditure on adult social services in Cumberland in 2023-24, 84.2% (£49.6 million) was spent on long-term support.

During 2023-2024, 4,470 adults accessed long-term support: 1,300 aged 18-64 years and 3,170 aged 65 years and over.

Table 1: Adult Social Care – Gross expenditure by age, 2023/24



Source: Cumberland Council

The type of support required differs between the age groups, with 18-64-year-olds more likely to be supported in the community, where clients aged as 65+ are more likely to be supported by nursing and residential care. For both age groups the most common support setting was in the community with a CASSR (Council with Adult Social Services Responsibility) managed personal budget.

Table 2: Adult Social Care – Support type, 2023/24



Source: Cumberland Council

The table below shows the number and proportion accessing long-term support at the end of the year by primary support reason. The majority (76.8%) of clients aged 65 years and over are accessing long-term support for physical support (personal care support) (61.8%) or support with memory and cognition (15.0%), whereas clients aged 18-64 years old are most likely (71.5%) to be accessing long-term support for a learning disability (52.8%) or physical support (personal care support) (18.7%).

Table 3: Adult Social Care - long-term support by primary support reason, 2023/24



Source: Cumberland Council

## New requests for support

In Cumberland during 2023-24 there were 6,270 new requests for adult social care support in adults aged 65 or over, this is equivalent to 9,214 requests per 100,000 adults.

Figure 16: Adult Social Care – Number of new requests, Age 65+, 2023/24

Source: Cumberland Council

Of those requests for support in 2023-24, in those aged 65 years and over, 14.8% came via a discharge from hospital and 84.8% came from the community or other route. Of the 6,270 new requests, 2,475 (39.0%) received universal services or were signposted to other services; 1,105 (18.0%) went on to long term care (nursing (10), residential (0), community (1,095)); and 1,315 (21.0%) went on to short term care, mainly to maximise independence (950). No services were provided to 1,165 individuals (18.0%).

## Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) measures the effectiveness of adult social care services in achieving outcomes that matter most to individuals. It helps local and national authorities set priorities, track progress, and enhance transparency and accountability in care services. ASCOF focuses on areas such as quality of life, satisfaction with care, and safeguarding adults, aiming to improve the overall well-being and independence of those receiving care.

Further information:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-andinformation/publications/statistical/adult-social-care-outcomes-framework-ascof>

# Children and young people

## Educational Attainment

Children attending school in Cumberland perform below their national peers (England) throughout each stage of school from the Early Years Foundation stage (ages 3-5 years) through to Key Stage 4 (ages 14-16 years). The picture is similar for ‘disadvantaged pupils’ attending school in Cumberland, with attainment levels also below national averages across all stages. A ‘disadvantaged pupil’ includes: children who are eligible for Free School Meals (at any point in the last 6 years); and children who are Cared For/Looked After (at any point in the last 12 months). Despite school performance levels being below national averages in Cumberland, there are indications of improvement for disadvantaged pupils between 2022 to 2024 which exceed the rate of improvement in England, so the ‘gap’ is being narrowed to some extent. This is evident at the Early Years Foundation Stage, Phonics, Key Stage 2 maths; and the GCSE Progress 8 measure.

## Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

In 2024, 65.2% of children in Cumberland at their first stages of school (Early Years Foundation Stage) had reached the benchmark of ‘a good level of development’, this is below the England average of 67.7%. There has been little change over the last year in Cumberland, from 65.0% in 2023, or the country as a whole.

For disadvantaged pupils, those reaching a good level of development falls to 47.1% in Cumberland, this is below the England average of 52.0%. The gap to national for disadvantaged pupils is wider than for all pupils. In Cumberland and in England, there were significant improvements in performance between 2022 to 2023, however, more recently, performance has remained similar between 2023 to 2024.

Table 4: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile; All Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **All Pupils**  **% GLD**  **2022** | **All Pupils**  **% GLD**  **2023** | **All Pupils**  **% GLD**  **2024** | **All Pupils**  **GLD % Change**  **2023-2024** |
| Cumberland | 59.7 | 65.0 | 65.2 | +0.2 |
| National | 65.2 | 67.2 | 67.7 | +0.5 |
| North West Region | 61.7 | 64.3 | 64.4 | +0.1 |
| Cumberland/National Difference | -5.5 | -2.2 | -2.5 | -0.3 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures.

Table 5: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Disad**  **% GLD**  **2022** | **Disad**  **% GLD**  **2023** | **Disad**  **% GLD**  **2024** | **Disad**  **GLD Change**  **2022-2023** |
| Cumberland | 36.8 | 46.7 | 47.1 | +0.4 |
| National | 49.4 | 52.0 | 52.0 | 0.0 |
| North West Region |  |  | 49.6 |  |
| Cumberland/National Difference | -12.6 | -5.3 | -4.9 | +0.4 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures; cells shaded green are better.

## Key Stage 1 Phonics (Year 1)

In 2024, 79.6% of all pupils at Key Stage 1 Phonics achieved the required 32+ marks in Cumberland, this is below the England average of 80.2%. Although results have been below the England average since 2022, continuous improvements have been achieved with results increasing year on year and at a higher rate compared to England.

For disadvantaged pupils, those achieving the required 32+ marks falls to 65.2% in Cumberland, this is below the England average of 68.3%. Although results have been below the England average since 2022, continuous improvements have been achieved with results increasing year on year and at a higher rate compared to England. Furthermore, the difference (gap) between Cumberland and national results has decreased.

Table 6: Key Stage 1 Phonics; All Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **All Pupils**  **% 32+ Marks**  **2022** | **All Pupils**  **% 32+ Marks**  **2023** | **All Pupils**  **% 32+ Marks**  **2024** | **All Pupils**  **Change**  **2023-2024** |
| Cumberland | 71.5 | 77.4 | 79.6 | +2.2 |
| National | 75.5 | 78.9 | 80.2 | +1.3 |
| Cumberland/National Difference | -4.0 | -1.5 | -0.6 | +0.9 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures; cells shaded green are better.

Table 7: Key Stage 1 Phonics; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Disad**  **% 32+ Marks**  **2022** | **Disad**  **% 32+ Marks**  **2023** | **Disad**  **% 32+ Marks**  **2024** | **Disad**  **Change**  **2023-2024** |
| Cumberland | 56.8 | 62.5 | 65.2 | +2.7 |
| National | 62.4 | 66.7 | 68.3 | +1.6 |
| Cumberland/National Diff | -5.6 | -4.2 | -3.1 | +1.1 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures; cells shaded green are better.

## Key stage 2 (end of primary school)

In 2024, 52.5% of primary school pupils at Key Stage 2, achieved Reading, Writing & Maths in Cumberland, this is below the England average of 60.5%. Since 2022, Key Stage 2 attainment has fallen in Cumberland while in England it has increased. Attainment levels for Reading, Writing and Maths have been below national levels in Cumberland since 2022. Attainment levels for all pupils in Cumberland for the individual subjects are all below national levels and have remained below since 2022.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, attainment levels for Reading, Writing & Maths falls to 36.4%, this is below the national average of 45.6%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels in Cumberland have remained relatively unchanged whilst nationally they have improved.

Attainment levels for disadvantaged pupils for the individual subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths are all below national averages. Between 2023 and 2024, there was little change in Cumberland in Reading results, whilst nationally there was an increase. Writing results had improved and was equivalent to the national change; while improvements in the results for Maths were significantly higher than the national increase.

Table 8: Key Stage 2; All Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Cumberland** | | | | **National** | | | |
| **% Expected**  **2022** | **% Expected**  **2023** | **% Expected**  **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** | **% Expected**  **2022** | **% Expected**  **2023** | **% Expected**  **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** |
| RWM | 50.6 | 53.7 | 52.5 | -1.2 | 58.7 | 59.3 | 60.5 | +1.2 |
| Reading | 72.9 | 70.7 | 71.5 | +0.8 | 74.5 | 72.5 | 74.2 | +1.7 |
| Writing | 62.7 | 67.6 | 66.0 | -1.6 | 69.5 | 71.4 | 71.7 | +0.3 |
| Maths | 66.2 | 67.8 | 67.9 | +0.1 | 71.4 | 72.8 | 73.0 | +0.2 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures; cells shaded green are better.

Table 9: Key Stage 2; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Cumberland** | | | | **National** | | | |
| **% Expected**  **2022** | **% Expected**  **2023** | **% Expected**  **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** | **% Expected**  **2022** | **% Expected**  **2023** | **% Expected**  **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** |
| RWM | 32.3 | 36.3 | 36.4 | +0.1 | 42.9 | 44.0 | 45.6 | +1.6 |
| Reading | 61.3 | 59.2 | 59.5 | +0.3 | 62.5 | 60.1 | 62.6 | +2.5 |
| Writing | 44.1 | 50.0 | 50.3 | +0.6 | 55.7 | 58.1 | 58.7 | +0.6 |
| Maths | 48.4 | 51.2 | 52.9 | +1.7 | 56.5 | 58.8 | 59.2 | +0.4 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures; cells shaded green are better.

## Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4, all GCSE headline measures, for all pupils aged 15-16 years in Cumberland were below national averages.

The picture is the same for disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland with all GCSE headline measures below national levels; furthermore, the gap (difference in attainment levels) between all pupils and disadvantaged pupils is wider in Cumberland for almost all headline measures compared to England.

In 2024, 59.4% of pupils in Cumberland achieved English & Maths at grades 4+ (equivalent to an ‘old’ grade C or better), this is below the England average of 65.4%. Compared to the previous year, attainment had fallen in Cumberland from 60.6% in 2023, while nationally it had increased slightly from 65.1%.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, those achieving English & Maths at grades 4+ falls to 34.5%, this is below the national average of 43.4%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels in Cumberland have fallen whilst nationally they have improved. Furthermore, attainment levels have continuously fallen from 2022 to 2024.

The picture is similar for all pupils in Cumberland achieving English & Maths at grades 5+ (a ‘strong’ pass) with levels below the national average. In 2024, 38.4% of all pupils achieved English & Maths at grades 5+, this is below the England average of 46.2%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels had increased both in Cumberland and nationally; from 37.4% in Cumberland in 2023, and from 45.4% in England; the rate of improvement in Cumberland was higher than the national average.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, those achieving English & Maths at grades + falls to 16.8%, this is below the national average of 25.8%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels in Cumberland have fallen whilst nationally they have improved. Furthermore, attainment levels have continuously fallen from 2022 to 2024.

Table 10: Key Stage 4 – GCSE Headline Measures; All Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Cumberland** | | | | **National** | | | |
| **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** |
| Attainment 8 | 46.2 | 43.2 | 42.3 | -0.9 | 48.8 | 46.3 | 46.1 | -0.2 |
| Progress 8 | -0.24 | -0.28 | -0.28 | 0.00 | -0.03 | -0.03 | -0.03 | 0.0 |
| English & Maths Grade 4+ | 65.0 | 60.6 | 59.4 | -1.2 | 68.8 | 65.1 | 65.4 | +0.3 |
| English & Maths Grade 5+ | 43.8 | 37.4 | 38.4 | +1.0 | 49.8 | 45.3 | 46.2 | +0.8 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures; cells shaded green are better.

Table 11: Key Stage 4 – GCSE Headline Measures; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2022 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Cumberland** | | | | **National** | | | |
| **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Change**  **2023-2024** |
| Attainment 8 | 34.4 | 31.7 | 30.7 | -1.0 | 37.9 | 35.1 | 34.6 | -0.5 |
| Progress 8 | -0.87 | -0.94 | -0.83 | +0.11 | -0.53 | -0.57 | -0.58 | -0.01 |
| English & Maths Grade 4+ | 40.4 | 35.6 | 34.5 | -1.1 | 48.4 | 43.2 | 43.4 | +0.2 |
| English & Maths Grade 5+ | 21.5 | 17.9 | 16.8 | -1.1 | 29.9 | 25.2 | 25.8 | +0.6 |

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national figures; cells shaded green are better.

The Attainment 8 score is an average score based on each pupil’s highest grades for GCSE and equivalent examinations. In 2024, the Attainment 8 score for all pupils in Cumberland was 42.3, this is below the national average of 46.1. Compared to the previous year, the Attainment 8 score in Cumberland fell from 43.2 in 2023, reflecting a fall nationally from 46.3.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, in 2024, the Attainment 8 score falls to 30.7, this is below the national score of 34.6. Compared to 2023, the score in Cumberland fell from 31.7, reflecting a fall nationally from 35.1.

Progress 8 is an average measure of the progress of each pupil between Key stage 2 and GCSE. In 2024, the Progress 8 figure in Cumberland was –0.28, this means that, on average, pupils performed –0.28 grades below all pupils nationally. Compared to the previous year, the Progress 8 figure for Cumberland remained the same, reflecting the national picture which also remained unchanged.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, in 2024, the Progress 8 figure increases to -0.83, meaning that, on average, disadvantaged pupils performed nearly a whole grade below all pupils; this is worse than the national figure of -0.58. Compared to the previous year, the Progress 8 figure in Cumberland improved from -0.94 in 2023 and 2024, while nationally it slightly worsened.

## Children’s Social Care

### Inspecting Local Authority Children’s Services

Cumberland’s Children’s social Care was inspected by Ofsted in October 2024. This was the first 'Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS) inspection of Cumberland Council resulting in an overall rating of ‘good.’

Ofsted noted the Council's leadership, staff commitment, and partnership work, highlighting a focus on improving children's experiences. The inspection report identified strengths in leadership, care for children in care, and support for care-experienced young people.

The report also acknowledged the Council’s efforts to prioritise children through a new social work model and increased investment.

In terms of areas of strength, Ofsted identified the following:

* **Strong support for children, young people and families at the “Front Door”:** Effective systems ensure timely and appropriate decisions, with robust screening and prioritisation of cases.
* **Positive outcomes for cared for children and young people:** Swift action is taken to find the most suitable homes, and children are supported to remain with kinship carers or return home when safe and in their best interests.
* **Care experienced young people supported to thrive:** Personal Advisors (PAs) work persistently to ensure young people have access to education, employment, training, and stable accommodation.
* **Children’s voices at the heart of services:** Cared for children and young people’s groups actively shape services and engage regularly with senior managers and elected officials.
* **Strong workforce morale and identity:** Staff report feeling “energised, valued, and listened to,” with Ofsted noting a “real buzz” about working in Cumberland.

There were some areas which were identified where improvements could be made:

* The effectiveness of the response to children who have experienced neglect.
* The response to children who are privately fostered.
* The support for 16- and 17-year-olds who present as homeless.
* The timeliness and quality of return home interviews.

### Children’s Social Care: Key Data Points

The ‘volume’ of work which is being dealt with by Children’s Social Care in Cumberland has been increasing across the last year (December 2024). Numbers of contacts, referrals, assessments, Section 47 enquiries, ICPCs, and numbers of children in need have all steadily increased over the last year.

Despite increases in some areas of children’s social care, there has been a decline in the number of Cared For (Looked After) children over the last year, while numbers of children with a Child Protection Plan have fluctuated.

Re-referral rates of children to social care are similar to national rates. 21% of children in Cumberland had been re-referred to social care in the last 6 months evidencing that families are sustaining progress made (source: ChAT, 10 January 2025).

The timeliness of the majority of children’s social care work is good in Cumberland. At December 2024, 85% of assessments had been completed within 45 working days; 84.8% of visits to Children in Need had been made; 98.8% of Child Protection visits were within timescales and 92.5% of Child Protection reviews were in timescales; and 95.1% of statutory visits had been carried out to Cared For children.

### Early Help

There were 2835 Early Help Assessments completed within the last 6 months in Cumberland (to 10th January 2025). 82.5% of assessments were completed within 45 days (December 2024); this is equivalent to both the national and North West regional averages of 82.5%. (Source: ChAT, 10 January 2025).

21% (346 children) of our families that have stepped down to services had been re-referred to social care within the last 6 months (to 10th January 2025), evidencing that families are sustaining progress made. The rate of re-referrals in Cumberland have fallen recently from 24% in 2022-23; and is now equivalent to national and statistical neighbour rates. (Source: ChAT, 10 January 2025).

6,569 contacts had been made during the latest 6-month period (to 10th January 2025). Most contacts made come from the Police (36%), followed by health services (17%), and schools (12%). During that period, 825 children had 2 contacts, 313 had 3 contacts, while 170 children had 4 or more contacts.

### Children in Need

Rates of open cases to Children’s social care are higher in Cumberland when compared to England and Cumberland Council’s statistical neighbours. There are 1,982 cases open to Children’s social Care for children (aged 0-17 years) in Cumberland (December 2024), equating to a rate of 387.5 per 10,000, this is significantly above the national rate at 343.0 (2022/23), and Cumberland’s statistical neighbours at 333.0, but is similar to the North West region at 387.0. Despite fluctuations in Cumberland, rates of open social care cases have slightly increased over the last year.

There are 534 children aged 0-17 years with a Child in Need (CIN) Plan in Cumberland (31-Dec 2024), equating to a rate of 104.4 per 10,000, this is above the national rate of 90.0 (2022/23) and the rate in the North West region of 95, but is similar to Cumberland’s statistical neighbours of 101.0. The rate in Cumberland has been declining over the last 12 months.

### Child Protection Plans

There are 256 children aged 0-17 years in Cumberland with a Child Protection Plan (31-Dec 2024), equating to a rate of 50.0 per 10,000. Rates are above both the national rate at 43.2 and Cumberland’s statistical neighbours at 44.0. Numbers of children in Cumberland subject to a Child Protection Plan has fallen over the last year, from 318 in December 2023 to 256 in December 2024.

Almost all (98.8%) children on Child Protection plans were visited within 4 weeks in Cumberland (December 2024), while no children had been on a plan for more than 2 years (please note national and comparator data is not collected). 92.5% of all Child Protection reviews in the last year were held in timescale, this is above the national average of 88%, but below the North West at 97%.

### Cared for Children

There are 470 Cared for Children aged 0-17 years in Cumberland (31st Dec 2024), equating to a rate of 91.9 per 10,000; the rate is significantly higher than England at 71.3 (2022-23); and Cumberland Council’s interim statistical neighbours at 65.0; but is below the North West region at 96.0. Numbers of Cared For children in Cumberland have fallen over the last year, from 503 in December 2023 to 470 in December 2024.

The stability of placements in Cumberland is good when compared to the rest of England and the North West region; 8.3% of Cared For children in Cumberland had 3 or more placements throughout the year (December 2024), this below England at 10% and the North West at 9% (2022-23). 68.8% of Cared For children in Cumberland had lived in the same placement for 2 or more years, this is similar to England and the North West figures, both at 69%.

There are fewer Cared For children placed outside the Cumberland local authority boundary compared to England. 41.3% (December 2024) of Cared For children are placed outside of Cumberland, this is below the national average of 44% (2022-23), but is just above the North West average of 39%. 64.9% of Cared For children are placed with their family or within 20 miles of their home address in Cumberland (December 2024).

The timeliness of health assessments for children who have been in care for 12 months or more in Cumberland are below national and regional averages, 86.2% compared to 89% in England and 92.0% in the North West. Similarly, the proportion of children who have received dental checks in Cumberland are below national and regional levels, 61.6% compared to 76% in England and 77% in the North West. Conversely, immunisation coverage for children in care in Cumberland is better than the national average. 84.8% of children in Cumberland had had up-to-date immunisations (December 2024), this is above the England rate of 82% (2022-23), but below the North West region of 91%.

### Care Experienced

Cumberland Council has a responsibility for young people (up to the age of 25 years) who are living in or have ever been in care at any point in their life; these young people are also known as ‘care experienced’. One of the key measures are those in suitable accommodation; in December 2024, 69.8% of care experienced young people (aged 19-21 years) were in suitable accommodation, this is below both national and regional averages (in 2022-23) of 88% in England and 90% in the North West. Proportions of care experienced in suitable accommodation in Cumberland has been on a declining trend over the last year.

There is fewer care experienced young people (aged 19-21 years) in Education, Employment or Training in Cumberland compared to national and regional averages, 44.3% (December 2024) compared to 56% in England and 54% in the North West (2022-23); this has been declining in Cumberland during the last year.

There are more 8.1% of care experienced young people (aged 19-21) in higher education in Cumberland when compared to both national and regional averages, 8.1% (December 2024) compared to 6.0% in England and in the North West. Of those, just 0.7% of care experienced young people were in apprenticeships in Cumberland, below both national and regional averages of 2% for England and the North West.

**Further information**

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/>

# Crime and community safety

## Crime and community safety overview

Cumberland is a relatively safe place in which to live, work or visit. In many areas within Cumberland levels of crime and community safety are lower than those experienced nationally and / or regionally. Rates for all recorded crime (excluding fraud) in Cumberland in 2023/24 (75.2 per 1,000 population) were lower than rates in the North West (96.3 per 1,000) and England & Wales (88.8 per 1,000).

However, the 2023 Crime and Community Safety Strategic Assessment identified some key areas of concern:

* Alcohol-related crime accounts for a large proportion of all crime in Cumberland (one in seven offences in 2022-23).
* Acquisitive crime is increasing. The category includes shoplifting and there is a long established relationship between shoplifting and inflation. Increasing shoplifting offences may be an indication of financial pressure within the community resulting from the “cost of living crisis”. Residential burglary rates have also increased, and while rates are relatively low, the fear of having their home broken into is one of the top five concerns for Cumbrian residents. Reported fraud crimes have also increased.
* Rates for drug related offences (trafficking and possession), although lower than the regional and national average, are increasing. The misuse of drugs has a negative impact on individuals, families and communities and is often a symptom of wider societal issues. The rate of deaths related to drug poisoning is significantly higher in Cumberland compared to the national average.
* There has been a steady increase in recorded domestic abuse related incidents and crimes. This is in line with the national picture and is likely to reflect growing awareness and understanding of different types of domestic abuse (including coercive control) and the willingness of victims to come forward and report offences. However, under reporting is still considered to be a problem.
* Violent crime accounts for a large volume of offences. The five year trend shows an increase in violence against the person offences in line with the national picture. Violent crime includes offences such as VAWG (violence against women and girls) and the increase in reported offences may reflect improved recording practices and the impact of high-profile cases and campaigns on victims’ willingness to report both recent and historical offences.
* Recorded sexual offences have increased compared to pre‑pandemic levels, with rates in Cumberland higher than the national rate. The increase may reflect several factors, including the impact of high-profile cases and campaigns on victims’ willingness to report both recent and historical offences. However, it is likely that sexual offences are under-reported.
* Antisocial behaviour incidents are decreasing locally, regionally and nationally. In Cumberland the reduction is largely due to the success by Cumbria Police in implementing an antisocial behaviour risk assessment (ASBRA) process and the investment in neighbourhood policing. The multi-agency, proactive and collaborative approach by Local Focus Hubs has also contributed to the reduction. However, antisocial behaviour has a negative impact on communities, and despite the overall decrease it remains one of the top five concerns for residents.
* Recorded hate crime offences have increased, with the majority racially motivated. The increase is thought to be a result of improvements in crime recording by the police and better identification of what constitutes a hate crime. While the overall hate crime rate in Cumbria is lower than the national average, there is concern nationally about the increase in Antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes in the wake of the current Middle East conflict. According to the 2021 Census, Jewish and Muslim populations make up 0.5% of Cumberland’s resident population.

Cumberland’s Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-27 identifies the following as strategic priority areas to address: domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, antisocial behaviour and community cohesion are priority areas for Cumberland’s Community Safety Partnership.

## Crime and community safety inequalities

While Cumberland is a relatively safe place in which to live, work or to visit, there are some population groups that are more adversely affected than others. Links between crime and deprivation are well documented and have long been understood and within Cumberland there are 36 communities (Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)) identified as being within the 20% most deprived in England. Three quarters of these are located within four Community Panel areas: Workington Together (9 LSOAs); Whitehaven & Coastal (6 LSOAs); Petteril (6 LSOAs); Carlisle West (6 LSOAs). Crime and community safety data highlight inequalities between communities, with those living in communities identified as being the 20% most deprived more likely to become victims of all crime and to fear becoming a victim of crime compared to those in the 20% least deprived areas. People living in the most deprived areas also have a higher risk of accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries, are more likely to have experienced or witnessed antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months and to have experienced criminal damage. Those living in deprived areas are also more likely to die from alcohol-related causes or attend hospital for alcohol-related reasons.

Rurality also has an impact, with farming communities at risk of theft by organised crime gangs. Rurality is also a significant barrier to victims of domestic abuse, with services harder to access and rural societal structure making escape more difficult; rural victims of domestic abuse are half as likely to report domestic abuse as urban victims. Just over half of Cumberland’s population live within areas defined as rural by the Office for National Statistics.

Those with protected characteristics are also more at risk. Those from ethnic minority backgrounds (including white minority), LGBTQ+ communities and people with disabilities are more likely to be victims of hate crime. Domestic abuse and sexual offences have a disproportionate impact on females, especially younger females in relation to sexual offences. Females are also more likely to be victims of all recorded crime, and more likely to be victims of fraud. Younger females (aged 20-29) are more likely to be victims of cybercrime. Males aged 21-40 years are more likely to be offenders of all recorded crime and alcohol‑related violence against the person offences, however, one in ten male offenders are likely to be aged 11-15 years. Males of all ages are most likely to be referred to drug and alcohol support services and are more likely to die from alcohol-related and / or drug poisoning causes. Looked after children are the group most likely to go missing from home.

In relation to domestic abuse the full extent of need amongst victims is not currently captured as under reporting may be a problem especially for male victims, those with disabilities, LGBTQ, young victims (16-18 years) and older victims (those aged 65+).

Further information:

[Cumbria Intelligence Observatory - Crime and Community Safety](https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/crime-community-safety/)

[Crime and Community Safety Strategic Assessment](https://cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/536/671/4674/17217/17222/4531313142.pdf)

[Cumberland Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-27](https://cumberlandcsp.org.uk/sites/default/files/16252774/2024-07/cumberland%20community%20safety%20partnership%20plan%202024-2027%20Accessible%20web%20version.pdf)

# Deprivation and Inequalities

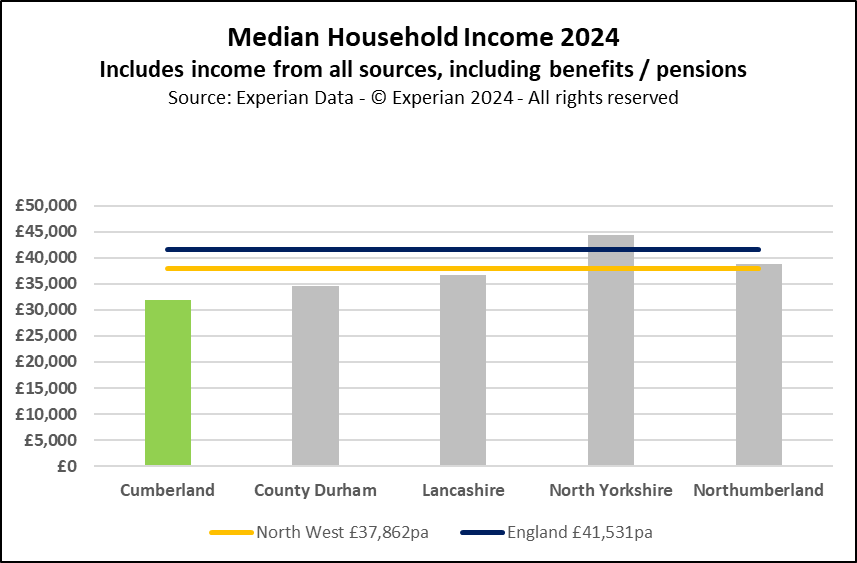
## Index of Multiple Deprivation

Around 22,850 people (8.3%) living in Cumberland are living in some of the most deprived communities in England, in terms of overall deprivation. These most challenged communities are located in Cumberland’s more urban areas and in partiular along the west coast. A total of 14 communities (Lower Super Output Areas) in Cumberland fall within the 10% most deprived in England; these communities are spread across the former district areas as follows: Allerdale (7), Carlisle (4) and Copeland (3). It is generally in these deprived areas where there are high levels of child poverty and low educational attainment; household income tends to be low; unemployment rates are often high; and overall health outcomes are poor. In contrast, there are communities across Cumberland classed as some of the least deprived nationally with approximately 16,500 people (6.0%) living in those areas. A total of 10 communities in Cumberland fall within the 10% least deprived in England: Allerdale (3); Carlisle (5); and Copeland (2). (Source: [Indices of Deprivation 2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019)).

## Household income

Household income in Cumberland is lower than in England. Figures for 2023/24 estimate median household income in Cumberland to be £31,828 compared to £41,531 in England.Median household income varies considerably across Cumberland’s wards with the lowest level in Moss Bay & Moorclose ward in the former Allerdale area (£18,795)followed by the Maryport South ward (£20,113)and the Morton ward in Carlisle (£23,397).Furthermore, it is estimated that annual household income is at, or below, £10,000 for one in 14 households (6.9%) in Cumberland,compared to one in 19 households in England (5.2%).In some wards the proportion of households with annual household income at or below £10,000 is more than double that of Cumberland: Moss Bay and Moorclose ward, one in five (21.0%); Morton ward, one in five (18.8%);Maryport South ward, one in six (17.8%); and Kells and Sandwith ward, one in seven (14.3%).

Figure 17: Median Household Income, 2024



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Poverty at any stage of life can lead to negative outcomes. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, adults of working age living in poverty are more likely to suffer from poor health more broadly. For children there is a gap in the educational attainment by parental income across all stages of education. Low income households are less likely to have savings and therefore have less of a buffer against rising costs or unexpected expenses. Many families have reduced spending on food and are going without essentials. There are also large variations in poverty rates by ethnicity, with people of Bangladeshi, Pakistani or Black ethnicity more likely to be in poverty than households headed by someone of white ethnicity[*(Joseph Rowntree Foundation, UK Poverty 2023)*](https://www.jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2023-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk)*.* The impacts of low income have the potential to increase pressure on statutory services delivered by local authorities, for example: housing; public health; social services; education; learning and skills.

## Children in poverty

### Children living in low-income families

There are significant health and socio-economic risks associated with poverty and in particular for children. It can negatively impact learning and education; self-esteem and confidence; there are increased risks of obesity, mental health problems, and a greater risk of chronic ill health in later life. (source: stateofchildhealth.rcpch.ac.uk).

In 2024, there were 10,077 children (aged 0-15 years) in Cumberland who were living in poverty (relative poverty) accounting for 22.0%, this was similar to the national average of 22.1%. Levels of child poverty have been increasing in Cumberland in recent years, reflecting the national picture.

Across Cumberland, there are areas with significantly high levels of child poverty. Levels are highest in the Moss Bay and Moorclose ward in the West of Cumberland with 40% of children living in poverty; in the North, in Currock ward in Carlisle, more than 1 in 3 children (38.2%) are living in poverty; and in Millom ward in the South, almost 1 in 3 children (31.3%) are living in poverty. (Source: Department for Work and Pensions, 2025).

### Free School Meals

Around 1 in 5 pupils attending schools in Cumberland are eligible for free school meals, accounting for 8,457 pupils (21.2%), this is below the national average of 24.6%. For pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, free school meal eligibility increases to 36.4% (2,631 pupils) this compares to 39.3% nationally. (Source: January 2024 School Census, Department for Education).

## Benefit Claimants

In November 2024, 38,013 working age residents in Cumberland were in receipt of one or more DWP benefits which is 23.0% of the working age population, similar to the national rate of 23.1%. This includes claimants who are in work but on a low income, out of work and seeking work, out of work but not available for work. In some wards the claimant rate is well over a third of the working age population – Moss Bay & Moorclose (46.0%), Maryport south (38.6%), St Michael’s (35.1%), Kells & Sandwith (34.7%). Amongst the working age DWP claimants in Cumberland, more than half (55.4%) are on a health related benefit which is a higher proportion than nationally (46.0%). (Source: [DWP Benefit Combinations (via Stat-Xplore)](https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml)).

## Fuel poverty

A household is considered fuel poor if the property has an energy efficiency rating of D, E, F or G and its disposable income would be below the poverty line. In 2023 some 16,783 households in Cumberland were estimated to be in fuel poverty which is 13.0% of all households, higher than the national average of 11.4%. The proportion has fallen since 2019 when it was 15.5%. Within the area, the former district of Allerdale had the highest rate of fuel poverty at 14.0% followed by Copeland at 13.2% and Carlisle at 12.1%. (Source: [DESNZ Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty 2025 (2023 data)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-report-2025-2023-data)).

Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-background-information-and-methodology/background-information-and-methodology-children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics#data-source>

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[Office for National Statistics – Census 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics>

# Housing

## Tenure

As reported in the 2021 Census, more households in Cumberland ‘own outright’ their homes compared to the national average, 40.8% compared to 32.5% in England, accounting for a total of 51,185 households. Across the former district areas, Carlisle has the lowest proportion of ‘owned outright’ households at 38.3%, despite this, it remains above the national average. Across Cumberland, the wards with the least ‘owned outright’ households are: Maryport South (28.6%) and Moss Bay & Moorclose (27.4%) in former Allerdale; Castle (20.6%) Denton Holme (26.7%) and Harraby North (27.2%) in Carlisle; and Kells & Sandwith (30.0%) in Copeland.

21,014 households in Cumberland are ‘social rented’ accounting for 16.8%, this is just below the national average of 17.1%. Across the former district areas, the highest proportion of social rented households are in Allerdale (18.9%) compared to Carlisle (14.4%). Across Cumberland, the wards with the greatest levels are: Moss Bay & Moorclose (46.8%) and Maryport South (40.1%); Upperby (28.2%) and Morton (26.6%) in Carlisle; Kells & Sandwith (26.0%) and Egremont (25.1%) in Copeland.

There are fewer privately rented households in Cumberland compared to nationally, 17,662 households, equating to 14.1% compared to 20.5% nationally. Despite this, there are areas across Cumberland with high proportions of private rentals. In St. Michael’s ward in Workington, 1 in 4 (25.4%) households are privately rented. In Carlisle wards, there are high levels in Castle where almost half of properties are privately rented (45.4%); Currock (33.8%) and Denton Holme (29.8%). In Copeland, levels are low and below local and national averages; the ward of Millom has the highest proportion at 15.4%. (Source: Census 2021).

## Homelessness

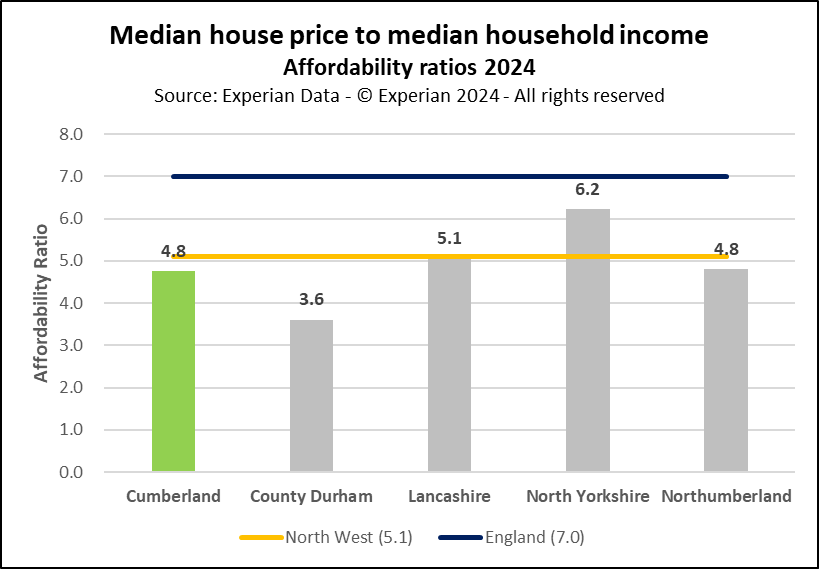
In 2022-23, 624 households in Cumberland were as assessed as homeless, equating to 5.1 per 1,000 households which was below the national average of 6.6 per 1,000 households. Rates were highest in the former Allerdale district at 5.6 per 1,000 however they were below the national average as were all former districts in Cumberland.

A further 603 households in Cumberland were threatened with homelessness within 56 days, equating to 4.9 households per 1,000 which was below the national average of 5.9 per 1,000. Across Cumberland, the former district of Copeland had the highest rate of households threatened with homelessness at 6.9 per 1,000, above the national average. (Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government).

## House prices / affordability

Median house prices across Cumberland in 2023/2024 are in the region of £151,275 which is significantly lower than the median house price for England (£290,056). Median house prices are generally higher in rural areas compared to urban areas and range from £371,637 in the Bothel and Wharrels ward to £91,218 in the St Michael’s ward. Housing affordability is better in Cumberland compared to England with the median house price to household income ratio at 4.8, compared to 7.0 in England. However, housing affordability varies across Cumberland, with house prices typically higher in rural compared to urban areas. Although household income is also typically higher in rural compared to urban areas, there are some areas within the local authority area where housing is much more expensive than the average, for example within the Keswick and Cockermouth areas. This can prove to be a substantial barrier to buying a home for many people and as a result puts pressure on the rental market, or results in people moving away to more affordable areas.Some areas with higher levels of deprivation have lower house prices and therefore good housing affordability overall. However, affordability ratios can still be higher for people on lower earnings. For example in the ward of Moss Bay and Moorclose in Workington, the median housing affordability ratio (4.9) is higher than that of Cumberland as a result of low household income in the ward, making it difficult to buy property even though house prices are lower.

Figure 18: Housing Affordability Ratios, 2024



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Lack of affordable housing combined with the more recent cost of living crisis means that many people either cannot afford to buy their own homes, but at the same time may not be a priority for social housing. For these people, the private rental sector may be their only option. Research by Citizens Advice has found that many private renters nationally are being pushed into poverty, with around two in five low income private renters in a negative budget (where essential outgoings are higher than income), compared to three in 10 low income renters in social housing, and one third of low income mortgage holders. Many people are cutting back on heating, food and other essentials to pay their rent, have gone without heating, hot water or electricity. Using credit cards or loans to pay rent is an option for some, a move which increases debt levels. In the worst cases, people can lose their homes. [Source: Citizens Advice, 2024](https://assets.ctfassets.net/mfz4nbgura3g/w4TvedOksyjDaXircb80p/2c8299deef1a44e617df1f9be4aca344/Citizens_Advice_Through_the_Roof_July_2024_.pdf) This has the potential to increase demand for homelessness and support services provided by the local authority.

Further information:

[Office for National Statistics – Census 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

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## Housing stock

The stock of housing in Cumberland increased by 6.8% in Cumberland between 2013 and 2023 compared to a national increase of 9.2%. Within the area, the former district of Carlisle saw the biggest increase at 8.0% and Copeland the lowest at 5.3% (Allerdale 6.7%). The average net additional dwellings per year over the past 5 years has been 917 in Cumberland. Housing stock has grown relative to the population which indicates a relatively soft housing market due to limited demand pressure from population growth. (Source: [MHCLG Live Tables on Dwelling Stock](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants))

In 2023/24 there were 660 completed new dwellings in Cumberland, the lowest level in recent years. Over the past 5 years, the average number of completed new dwellings per year has been 828. Nutrient neutrality regulations (designed to ensure that wastewater associated with new developments does not increase pollution in protected areas) have significantly impacted housing developments due to the River Eden catchment and until mitigation measures are agreed, many planning applications cannot be granted and some developments with prior permission have been halted. (Source: [MHCLG Live Tables on Affordable Housing](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply))

# Environment

Total carbon emissions in Cumberland in 2023 were 2,240.0 ktCO2e, 29% lower than a decade earlier which is a slightly slower rate of reduction to nationally (34%). This has mainly been driven by reductions from commercial (-300.5 ktCO2e) and domestic (-290.8 ktCO2e). However, emissions from transport have only fallen by 9% and those from agriculture by 4%. Per capita emissions were 8.1 tCO2e in 2023 compared to 5.2 nationally. (Source: [DESNZ UK Local Authority Greenhouse Gas Emissions](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022)).

The median CO2 per dwelling in Cumberland in 2024 was 3.5 which is higher than the national average of 3.0. This is influenced by the fact that only 31% of existing dwellings had an EPC Band C or above ranking in 2024 compared to 41% nationally. Almost all new dwellings had an EPC of Band C or above, 98% which is similar to the national average of 97%. (Source: [MHCLG Energy Efficiency of Housing](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/energyefficiencyofhousinginenglandandwales/2024))

In Cumberland 782,572 MWh of renewable energy was generated in 2023 with the biggest contributions coming from onshore wind (43.5% of the total) and biomass (41.3%). The 2023 data are no longer available for the former district areas but the 2022 data shows that over three quarters of Cumberland’s renewable energy was generated in the former district of Allerdale (77.1%) with much smaller contributions from Carlisle (15.7%) and Copeland (7.2%). (Source: [DESNZ Regional Renewable Statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics))

**Report authors:**

Ginny Murphy; Catherine White; Ali Bragg; William Scott; Richard Corton

Performance and Insight

Cumberland Council

**Contact:** [performanceandintelligence@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:performanceandintelligence@cumberland.gov.uk)