

About Cumberland

Statistical Summary 2026

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Key findings

Population and demography

- There are an estimated 280,495 people living in Cumberland.
- More than half of Cumberland's residents live in a 'rural' area, 50.3% compared to 16.9% nationally.
- Cumberland has proportionally fewer children (0-15 years); fewer working age people (16-64 years); but more older people (65+ years) when compared to England.
- Over the last 10 years, the number of children has stabilised but despite a recent increase, the number of working age people living in Cumberland is lower than a decade ago. The number of older people has 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 10,550 registered enterprises in Cumberland in 2025. The highest volume was in agriculture, forestry & fishing which accounted for 21.3% of the total followed by construction (13.4%) and accommodation & food services (9.6%).
- The majority of registered enterprises (89.4%) 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 0.1% 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 133,500 people in employment in 2024 which is 3,500 fewer than 5 years ago in contrast to growth nationally.

- The working age population was in decline until the pandemic and there were 3,000 fewer working age residents in 2024 than a decade earlier. However, there was a net inflow from other parts of the UK after the pandemic which has halted the decline, and the number has been increasingly slightly year on year since then.
- The manufacturing sector is the biggest employer with 21,000 jobs followed by wholesale & retail (18,000), health & social work (18,000) and accommodation & food services (13,000).
- Average earnings for residents in the area were £17.78 per hour worked in 2025 which is 99% of the national average.
- Estimates suggest that 81% of the working age population was economically active in the year to Sep 2025 (in work or actively seeking work), similar to the national average (79%). Approximately 30,600 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 2.4% (Dec 2025) compared to 3.8% 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 several years.
- A male born in Cumberland can expect to live to 77.8 years (England 79.5 years) while a female can expect to live to 81.7 years (England 83.3 years).
- Life expectancy for both males and females has slightly decreased over the last 10 years
- The number of years males and females are living in good health in Cumberland has recently increased, while in England they have decreased.
- A male born in Cumberland can expect to spend 59.0 years of their life in good health, for females this increases to 60.1 years; both are below the national averages (60.9 years and 61.3 years).
- A male living in Cumberland can expect to live 18.8 years of their lives in ill-health; for females this increases to 21.6 years.

- Drug-related deaths continue to increase in Cumberland and are more than twice the national average.
- Nationally, those most at risk of drug-related deaths are men aged 40-49 years; rates are significantly higher in males than females, both locally and nationally.
- In Cumberland, while rates of drug-related deaths have remained similar in males in recent years, there has been a notable increase in the rate in females.
- Suicide is a significant cause of death in Cumberland with rates continuing to rise and almost twice the national average (19.4 per 100,000 v 10.9 in England).
- Men are at a greater risk of suicide both nationally and locally, with rates in Cumberland significantly higher in males (28.2 per 100,000) compared to females (11.2 per 100,000).
- 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, reflecting the national trend.
- 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

- 10,608 adults have an active case open-with Adult Social Care services in Cumberland.
- There are 62 care homes delivering services on behalf of Cumberland Council, 8 of which are owned by the Council.
- In 2024-25 the gross current expenditure on adult social care in Cumberland was £147.9m which is £63.2 million per 100,000 adults compared to £51.9million nationally.
- During 2024/25 there were 11,245 new requests for adult social care support for adults aged 65 or over.

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 although there are signs of improvement more recently.

- The gap (difference in attainment levels) between all pupils and disadvantaged pupils is wider in Cumberland for almost all measures compared to England.
- There has been an increase in the number of Cared For (Looked After) children over the last year (March 2025 to February 2026, up to 490 which is a rate of 93 per 10,000, significantly higher than the national average of 67).
- The number of children (aged 0-17) with a Child Protection Plan has increased from 266 to 299 which is a rate of 57 per 10,000 and is also above the national average.
- 97% of care experienced young people (aged 19-21) are in suitable accommodation which is above the national and regional averages (89% and 91% respectively).
- A higher proportion of care experienced young people in Cumberland are in education, employment or training than the national average (69% v 54%).

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 28,800 people (10.3%) of Cumberland's residents live in some of the most deprived communities in England.
- Household income in Cumberland is significantly below the national average at £32,695 per annum compared to £41,630 per annum 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.
- 22.8% of working age residents in Cumberland are in receipt of one or more DWP benefit, very slightly below the national average (23.1%).

- More than half (59.4%) of working age residents in receipt of benefits are claiming a health-related benefit, this is higher than the national average (49.4%).
- 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, 40.9% v 32.6%. A further 28.3% are owned with a mortgage or loan while 14.1% are private rented and 16.6% social rented.
- Rates of homeless households in Cumberland (6.1 per 1,000 households) are below national and regional levels (7.5 and 8.3 respectively). However, the rate of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days is higher than the national and regional rate (7.2 per 1,000 households vs 6.1 (England) and 6.3 (North West)).
- Housing is generally more affordable in Cumberland with a ratio of 4.8 times median household income to median house price, compared to 6.8 in England. Across Cumberland, housing is typically less affordable in rural areas.
- Median house prices in Cumberland (£156,516) are significantly lower than in England (£284,441). In Cumberland, rural house prices tend to be higher than urban house prices.
- The stock of housing in Cumberland has increased by 7.2% over the past decade which is a slower rate of increase than nationally (9.5%). Net additional dwellings increased by an average of 903 per year over the past 5.

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, 843,476 MWh of renewable electricity was generated in 2024, mostly from onshore wind (44.1%) and biomass (42.2%).

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 subsequently joined the government's Devolution Priority Programme which saw the formation of Cumbria Combined Authority in March 2026 (with a Mayor to be elected in 2027). This will 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.

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 attract 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 McVitie's 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 280,500 lives in an area covering 3,012 square km making Cumberland much more sparsely populated than England with an average of just 93 people per square km compared to 450 people in England. Furthermore, more than half of Cumberland's population lives in a rural area, accounting for 50.3%, this compares to just 16.9% for England. (Source: [Rural Urban classification, DEFRA](#)).

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

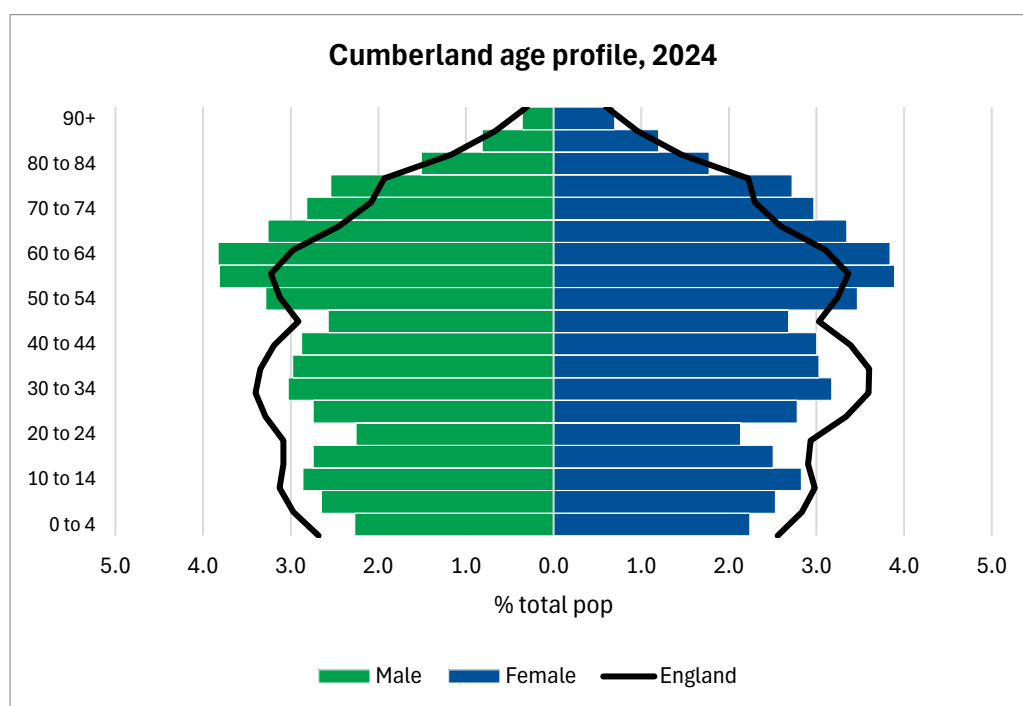
is 77.4 years compared to 79.1 years in England; furthermore, males born in some of the most deprived areas of Cumberland can expect to live 11 years less than those born in the least deprived areas. A female born in Cumberland can expect to live to 81.5 years compared to 83.1 years in England; furthermore, 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 280,495 people living in Cumberland. Compared to England, Cumberland has an older population; there are fewer children (0-15 years) 16.5% (46,292 children) this compares to 18.4% nationally. There are also fewer working age people (16-64 years), 59.5% (166,852 people) compared to 62.9% nationally. However, there are higher proportions of older people (65+yrs) living in Cumberland, 24.0% (67,351 people) compared to 18.7% nationally. (Source: [Mid-2024 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics](#)).

Figure 1: Population age profile



Source: Mid-2024 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics,

Over the last 10 years, Cumberland’s overall population has increased by just 2.3%, this compares to 7.2% nationally. During that time, the number of children aged 0-15 years has risen slightly by 0.5%; the number of working age people (aged 16-64) has fallen by -1.8% (although there was an increase in the second half of the decade) and the number of those aged 65+ has increased by 15.8%. The increase in older people reflects the national picture, however, at national level the population has increased across all age groups.

The ageing population trend is expected to continue with the number of children (0-15 years) projected to decrease by 12.7% (-5,800) between 2022 and 2032 while the number of 65+ year olds is projected to increase by 21.6% (+14,000) which is a slightly higher increase than nationally (+20.9%). The population aged 16-64 is projected to decrease by 1.5% (-2,400) which is in contrast to projected growth of 5.5% nationally. When the rising State Pension Age is taken into account, the “real” working age population is projected to increase by 1.5% by 2032 (+2,450). (Source: [ONS Subnational population projections: 2022-based](#)).

Further information:

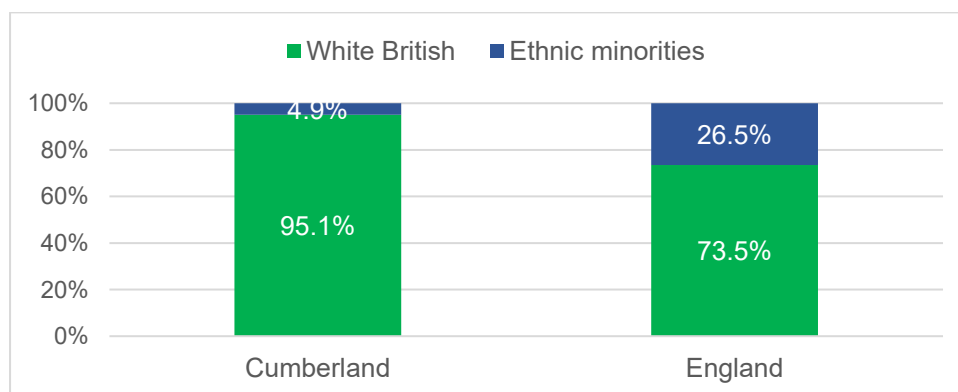
[Cumbria Intelligence Observatory – Population](#)

[Office for National Statistics – Population and Migration](#)

Ethnicity

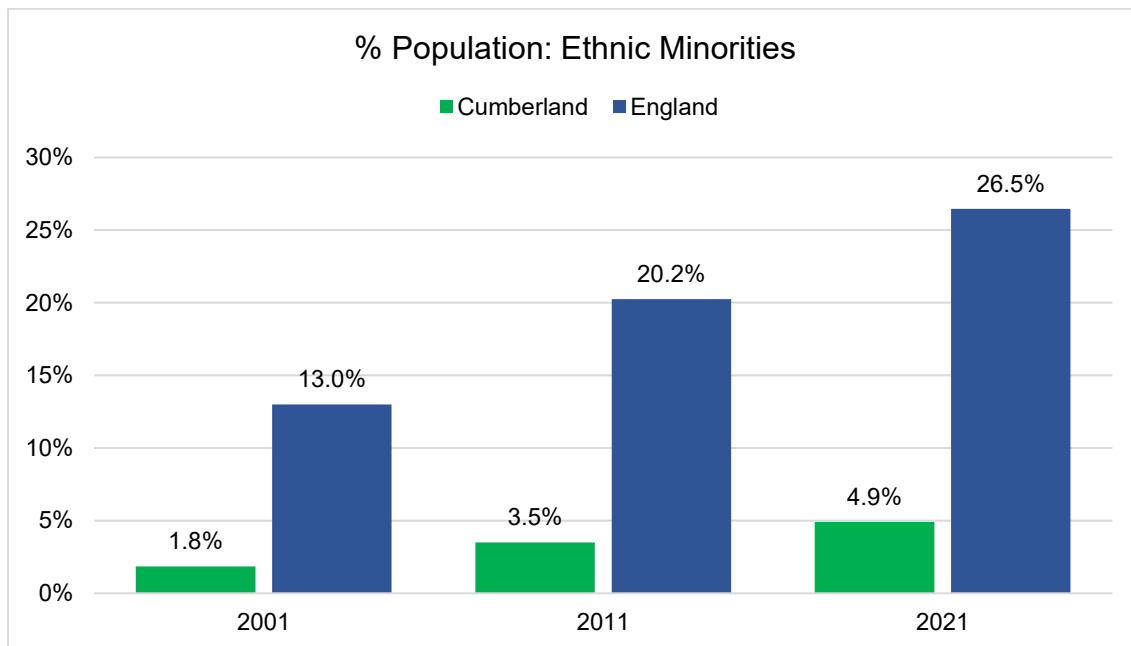
Cumberland’s population isn’t as ethnically diverse as the rest of England with a low proportion of residents from ethnic minority groups. At the time of the 2021 Census, 95.1% of Cumberland’s residents identified their ethnic group as ‘White British’ which compares to 74.4% nationally. Just 4.9% of residents in Cumberland identified as from ethnic minority backgrounds compared to 26.5% in England. Despite this, there is some variation across Cumberland’s wards from just 1.7% ethnic minority residents in Seaton ward in the West to 17.6% in Castle ward in the North. Although the proportion of ethnic minority residents has increased in Cumberland over the last two censuses, 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: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

Further information:

[Cumbria Intelligence Observatory – Population](#)

[Office for National Statistics – Census 2021](#)

Economy & Labour Market

Business & Enterprise

Businesses

In 2025 there were 10,550 registered enterprises in Cumberland (registered for VAT and/or PAYE), operating from 12,795 local units. The number of enterprises has fallen by 8.9% over the past 5 years in comparison to nationally where the number has remained broadly stable (-0.5%). The sector with the highest volume of enterprises is agriculture, forestry & fishing which accounts for 2,250 enterprises (21.3% of the total) followed by construction which accounts for 1,415 enterprises (13.4%) and accommodation & food services with 1,010 enterprises (9.6%). The majority of enterprises are micro businesses employing fewer than 10 employees which is in line with the national average (89.4% in Cumberland v 89.1% for the UK). (Source: [ONS UK Business: Size, Activity & Location, 2025](#)).

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 2024 there were 935 business births which is 56 per 10,000 working age residents compared to 73 nationally. In the same year there were 780 business deaths which is a rate of 47 and compares to a death rate of 64 nationally.

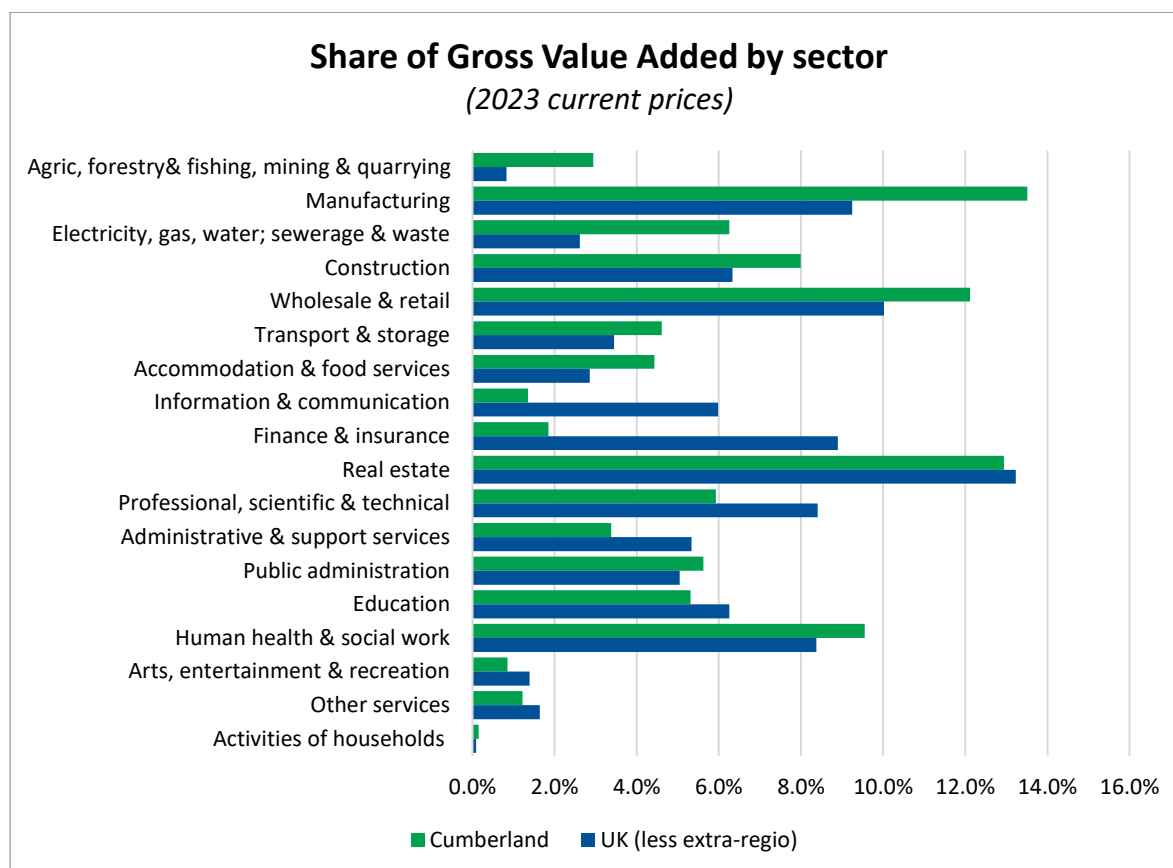
Business “survival” (continuing to be registered for VAT/PAYE) is similar to nationally – for businesses born in 2019, 37.9% were still registered for VAT/PAYE in 2024 in Cumberland compared to 38.4% nationally. A lower proportion of enterprises were rated as “high growth” in 2023 (average annualised employment growth of 20% over 3 years) in Cumberland than nationally – 40 were rated as such in 2023 which is 3.9% of enterprises compared to 4.9% nationally. (Source: [ONS Business Demography, 2024](#)).

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](#))

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 (current prices) 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 2023](#))

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).

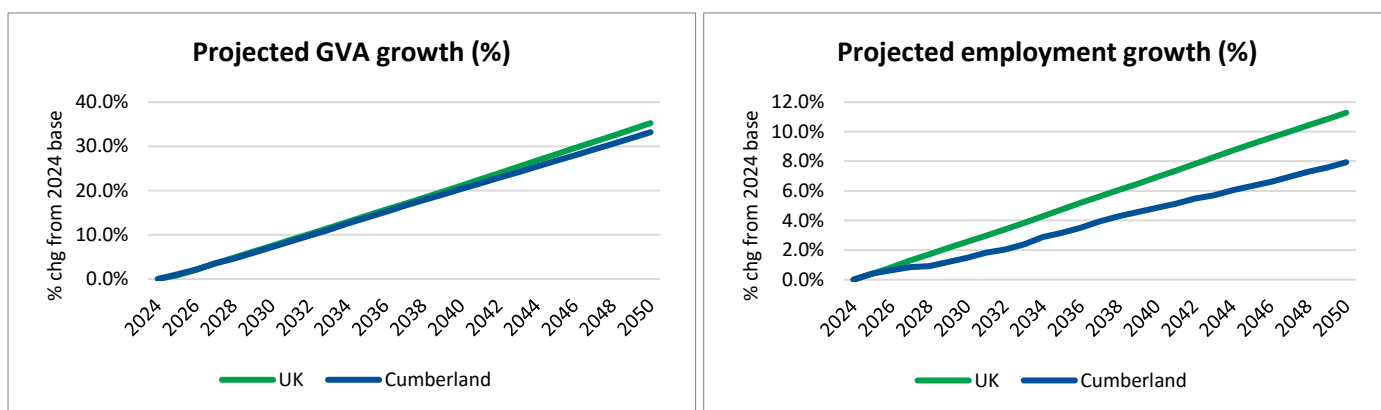
(Source: Cumbria Tourism STEAM model)

Economic projections

Economic projections from Cambridge Econometrics for Cumbria 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

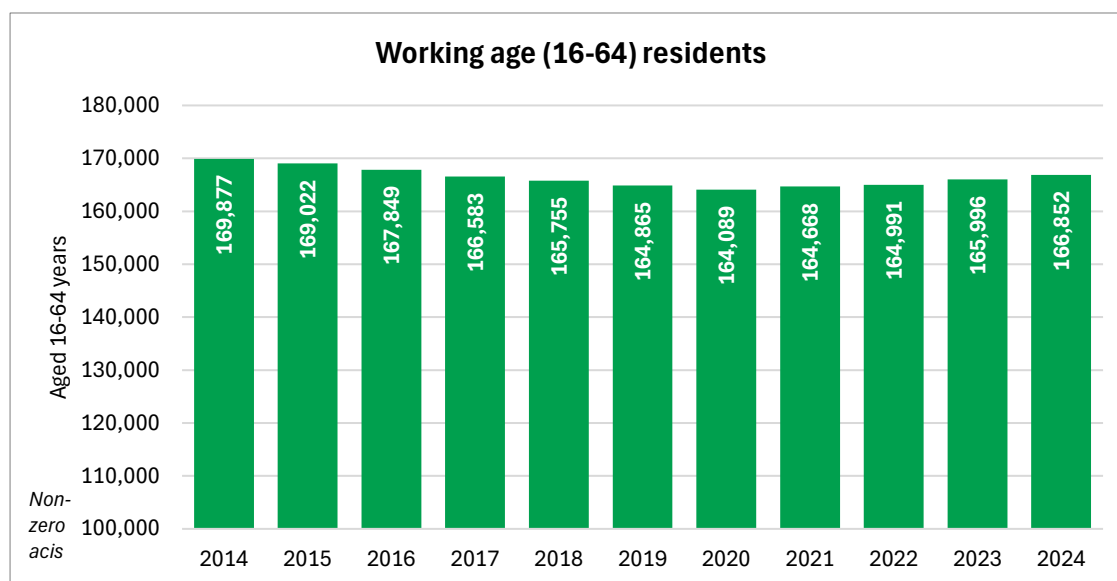
Labour Market

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 3,000 fewer working age residents in 2024 than in 2014 (-1.8%) which is in contrast to growth annually (+5.8%). However, there was a net inflow of migration from other parts of the UK after the pandemic, primarily into the Carlisle area and the working age population was estimated to be 2,000 higher in 2024 than in 2019. 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 2024](#))

Figure 7: Working age residents



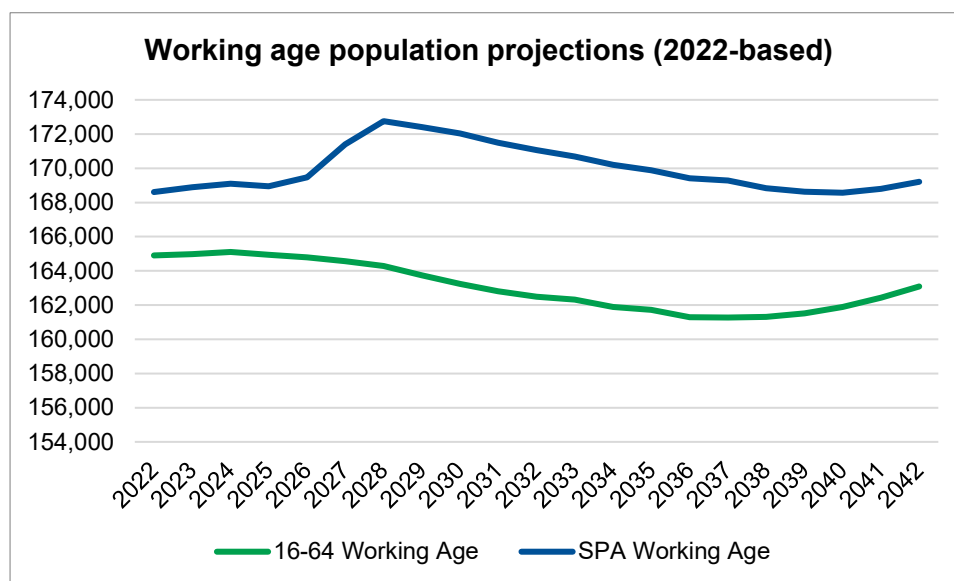
Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates

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 could be an increase of 2,400 working age people in Cumberland by 2032 (+1.5%) with most of the growth occurring in the Carlisle area

(Source: [ONS Population projections \(2022-based\)](#))

Figure 8: Projected working age residents



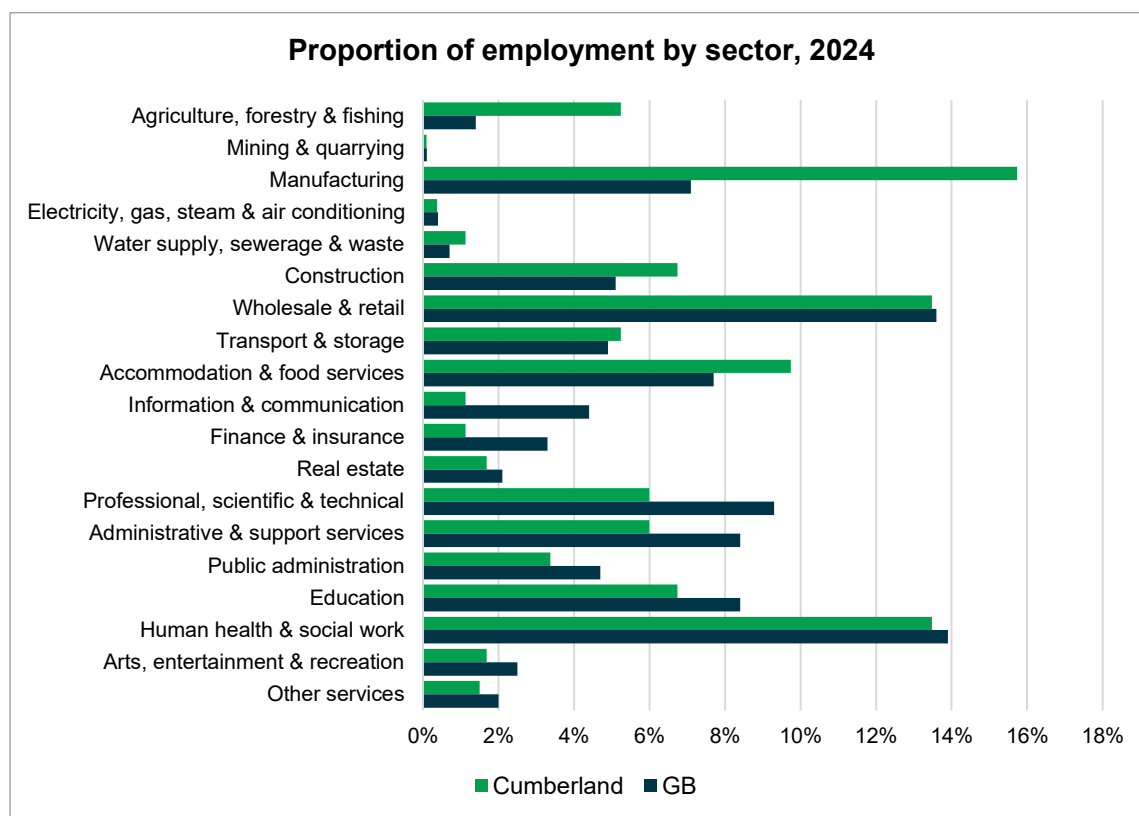
Source: ONS Population Projections (2022-based) (SPA = State Pension Age)

Employment by sector

In 2024 there were estimated to be 133,500 persons in employment in Cumberland, slightly up from 2023 but 3,500 fewer than in 2019 – a fall of 2.6% compared to growth of 4.3% 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 18,000 (14%), health & social work with 18,000 (14%) and accommodation & food services with 13,000 (10%). 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 2024 \(via Nomis\)](#))

Figure 9: Proportion of employment by sector, 2024



Source: ONS Business Register Employment Survey 2024 (Open Access via Nomis)

Economic Activity

In the year ending Sept 2025 it was estimated that approximately 80.9% of the working age population in Cumberland was economically active (working or actively seeking work). This is slightly above the UK rate of 78.9% although survey error means this difference isn't significant. The remainder were 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 30,600 in Cumberland. (Source: [ONS Annual Population survey \(via Nomis\)](#))

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 \(via Nomis\)](#))

Earnings

Gross median hourly earnings for residents in Cumberland were £17.78 per hour in 2025 which is 99% 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 2025](#))

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. 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 2025 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 TM).

Figure 10: Active online job postings, 2021-2025



Source: Lightcast TM

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. In Dec 2025, there were 4,010 claimants actively seeking work who were resident in Cumberland which is a claimant rate of 2.4% and compares to 3.8% 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 areas the rate is usually above the national average (6.0% v 5.6% in Dec 2025) and in Allerdale it fluctuates close to the national average.

(Source: [ONS Claimant Count \(via Nomis\)](#))

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.

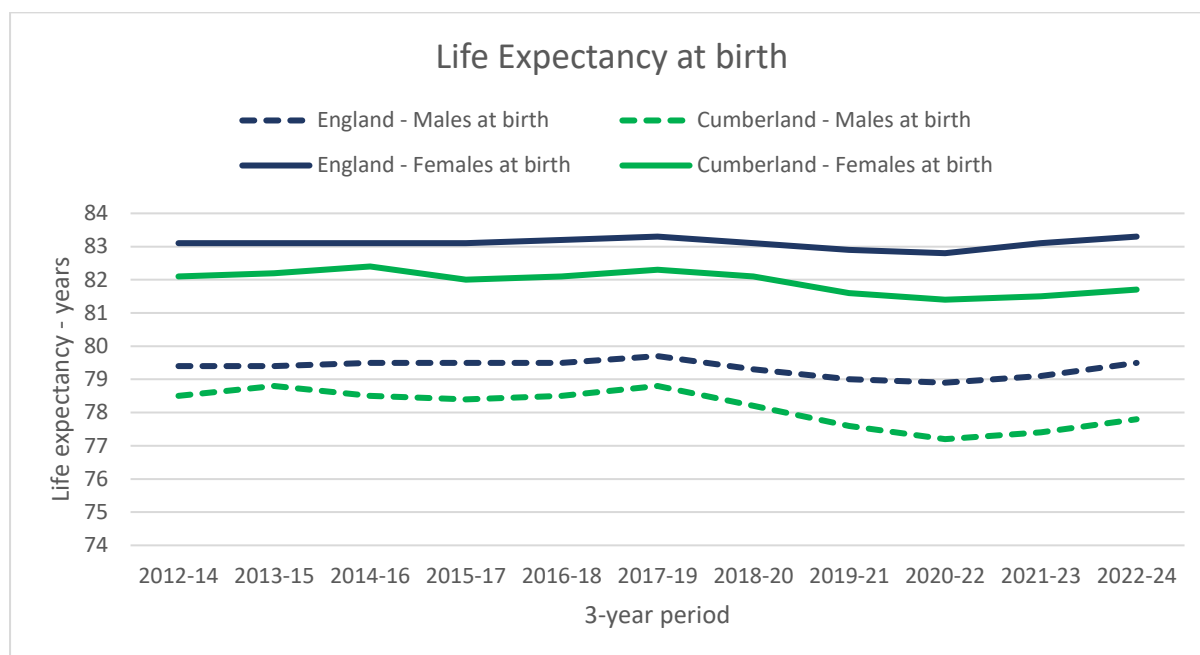
Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy

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 the period 2022-24, a male born in Cumberland could expect to live 77.8 years and a female could expect to live to 81.7 years, both are below the national averages of 79.5 years and 83.3 years respectively. (Source: [ONS, 2025](#))

Compared to the previous period (2021-23) life expectancy for both males and females in Cumberland slightly increased, however, over the last 10 years they have slightly decreased while in England they have slightly increased. Life expectancy for both males and females in Cumberland and have remained below the England average throughout that time. The COVID-19 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; 2012-14 to 2022-24

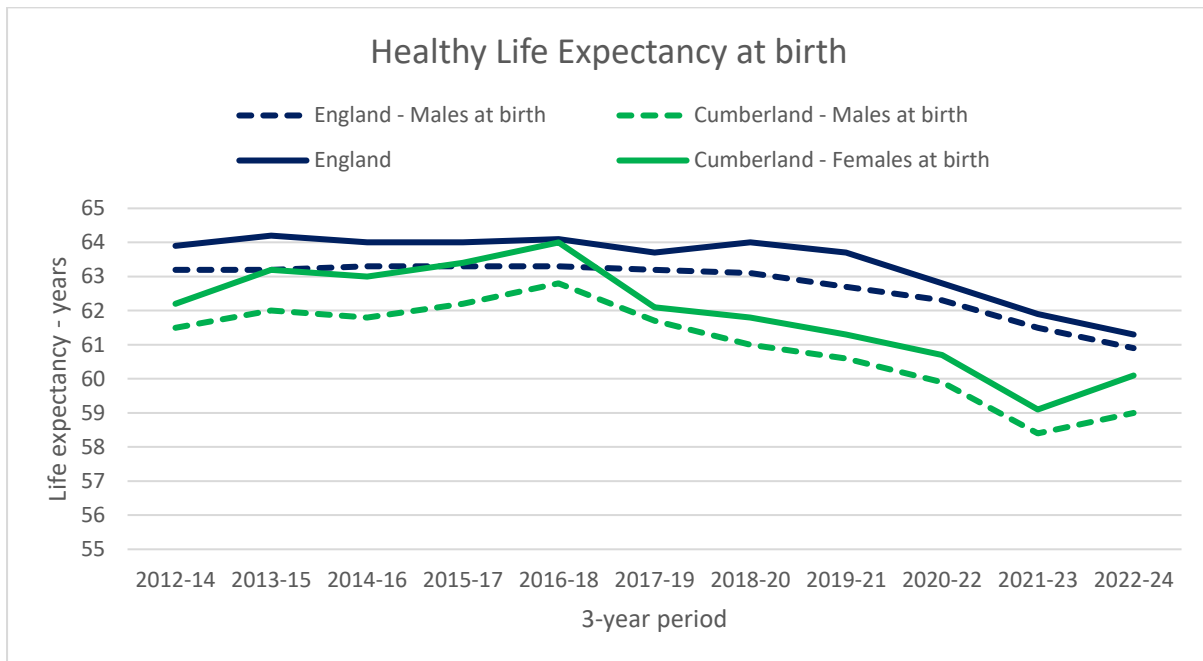


Source: Office for National Statistics, December 2025

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 2022-24, a male born in Cumberland can expect to spend 59.0 years of their life in good health, for females this increases to 60.1 years; both are below the national averages of 60.9 years and 61.3 years respectively. In Cumberland, a male can expect to live 18.8 years of their life in ill-health; while females can expect to live 21.6 years in ill health. Males in Cumberland can expect to live slightly longer in ill health compared to England, 18.8 years v 18.6 years; while females can expect to live slightly less in ill health compared to England, 21.6 years v 22.0 years. (Source: [ONS 2026](#))

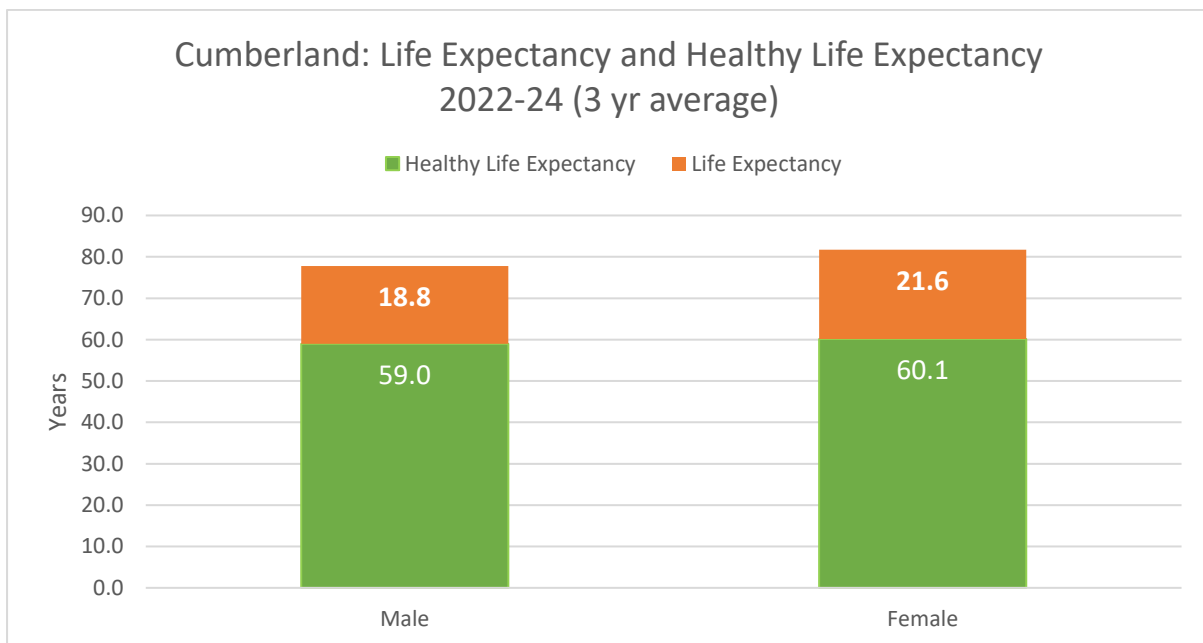
The number of years both males and females were living in good health in Cumberland were declining, however, compared to the previous period (2021-23) they have increased, while England has seen a continued decline. Despite this, healthy life expectancy for both males and females in Cumberland have been below national averages over the last 10 years.

Figure 12: Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth) Males and Females; Cumberland v England; 2012-14 to 2022-24



Source: Office for National Statistics, February 2026

Figure 13: Cumberland - Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy, 2022-24 (3-year average).



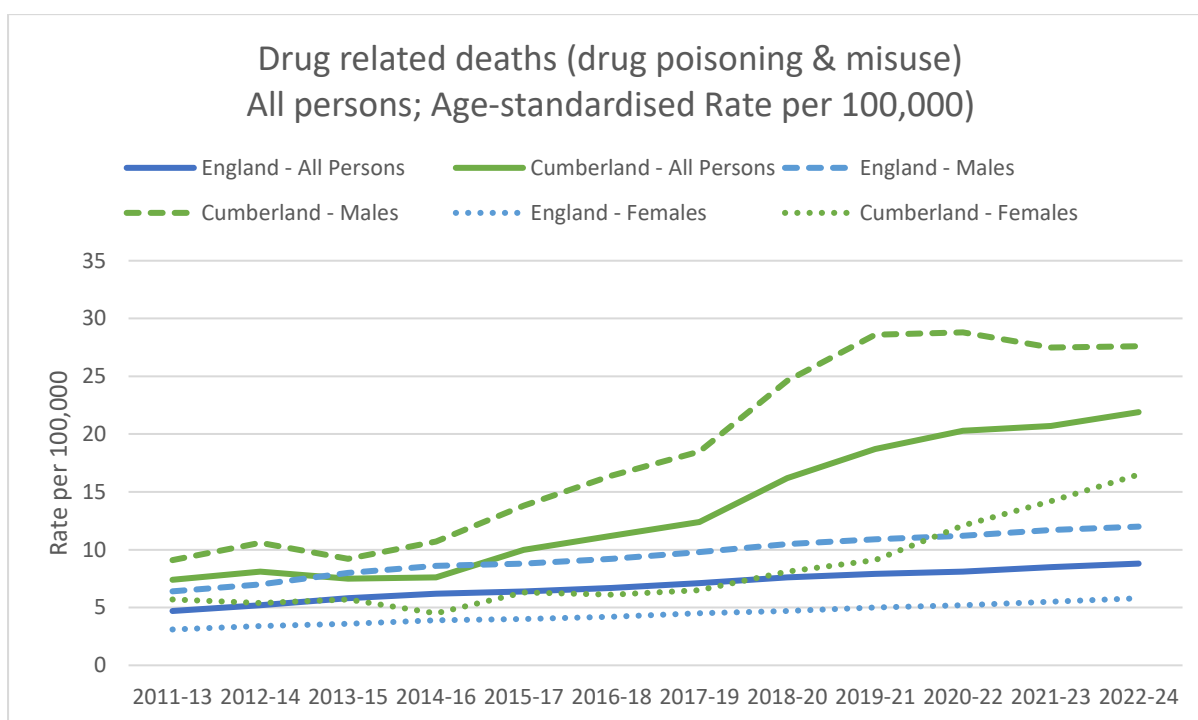
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2025-26

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 2022-24, there were 164 drug related deaths in Cumberland, equating to a rate of 21.9 per 100,000 compared to 8.8 in England. (Source: [ONS, 2025](#))

Nationally, those most at risk of drug-related deaths are men aged 40-49 years. In Cumberland, rates are significantly higher in males at 27.6 per 100,000 compared to 16.5 in females. Drug related deaths have been increasing at a much faster rate in Cumberland compared to England, however, while rates have remained similar in males in recent years, there has been a notable increase in the rate in females in Cumberland, with rates significantly above national levels.

Figure 14: Drug-related deaths, age-standardised rates per 100,000; 2011-13 to 2022-24



Source: Office for National Statistics, October 2025

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](http://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](#))

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](#))

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 2024/25, there were 45,435 patients (on GP practice registers) with depression in Cumberland, equating to 19.2%, this compares to 14.3% nationally. Furthermore, there were 3,217 patients registered with a severe mental illness, equating to 1.1%, this is similar to England at 1.0%. Numbers of patients with these mental health conditions have increased in recent years (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](#)).

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 compared to 80.2).

Self-harm

The prevalence of self-harm in children and young people in Cumberland is greater than the national average. In 2023/24, the rate of hospital admissions for children aged 10-24 years in Cumberland was 348.0 per 100,000, this is significantly higher than England at 266.6. Rates have decreased in recent years from 448.1 in 2022/23, however, they remain above the England average. 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](#)).

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.

Suicide rates are increasing in Cumberland, additionally, it has highest suicide rate in the North West region and the third highest rate nationally across England.

In the period 2022-24, there were 137 suicides in Cumberland (in people aged 10+ years) equating to a rate of 19.4 per 100,000, this is almost double the England average of 10.9 per 100,000. 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 28.2 (England 16.8) compared to 11.2 for females (England 5.5). (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](#))

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 Cumberland are above the England average, 71.5% in 2023/24 compared to 67.4%, however, they are not as high as other areas across England. (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](#))

Levels of childhood obesity in reception age children in Cumberland are higher than the national average. In 2024/25, 1 in 4 children Reception age (4-5 years) are overweight (including obese), accounting for 25.6% this compares to 23.5% in England; obesity levels in

reception age children have been above the England average for over 10 years. For children in Year 6 (10-11 years) obesity levels increase to 36.8%, similar to the England average at 36.2%; levels have fluctuated over the years but have generally remained above similar to or slightly above national levels. In 2024/25, 46.1% of children (5-16 years) in Cumberland are physically active (at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity per day), this is similar to the England average of 49.1% (Source: Fingertips, [OHID](#)).

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](#)

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 10,608 (as of 28th February 2026) adults with an open case in Cumberland. Of these, 4,307 adults have an active care and support plan. There are 1,108 adults in residential and nursing homes and 3,199 being supported in the community.

There are 62 care homes delivering services on behalf of the council, 8 of which are owned by Cumberland Council through our in-house provider Cumberland Care. In total there are 2,207 registered beds which have an average occupancy rate of 87%.

Gross current expenditure

In 2024/25 the gross current expenditure on adult social in Cumberland was £147.9 million, gross current expenditure per 100,000 adults was £63.2 million. This is compared with £51.9 million for England and £56.4 million for the North West region.

Measure	Value
ASC gross expenditure (Cumberland, 2024/25)	£147.9m
Spend per 100,000 adults	£63.2m
Difference vs North West avg	+12%
Difference vs England avg	+22%

Cumberland spends 12% more per adult on ASC than the North West average and spends 22% more per adult than the England average.

This aligns with Cumberland’s older age profile, our rurality and associated travel costs, and the higher use on residential care.

Short term support

Cumberland offers a range of short-term support services for adults and carers. These services include residential care, day services, supported living, equipment and extra care housing. The council provides personalised support to help adults with various needs, including those who have experienced a period of illness or bereavement. They also offer Reablement Support Workers to assist individuals in regaining skills and independence at home.

Of the gross current expenditure on adult social services in Cumberland in 2024-25, 3.3% (£4.9 million) was spent on short-term support.

Figure 15: Adult Social Care – Short term support Gross expenditure by age, 2024/25

Age Group	2024-25	
	(£)	£ Per 100,00 pop
18 - 64	1,274,000	793,004
65+	3,645,000	5,411,946

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 2024-25, 85% (£125.4 million) was spent on long-term support.

During 2024-2025, 4,910 adults accessed long-term support: 1,700 aged 18-64 years and 3,210 aged 65 years and over.

Figure 16: Adult Social Care – Long term support Gross expenditure by age, 2024/25

Age Group	2024-25	
	(£)	£ Per 100,00 pop
18 - 64	50,439,000	31,395,848
65+	74,994,000	111,348,013

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. In 2024-25 there were 465 adults supported via Direct Payments, which are part of a personal budget provided to individuals who have been assessed as needing social care support. They offer greater flexibility and control over how

care needs are met, enabling individuals to choose and arrange their own services according to their preferences and requirements.

The following table shows the number and proportion accessing long-term support at the end of the year by primary support reason. Most clients aged 65 years and over are accessing long-term support for physical support (personal care support) (61.8%) or physical support (access and mobility only) (14.3%), whereas clients aged 18-64 years old are most likely to be accessing long-term support for a learning disability (39.1%) or mental health support (26.8%).

Figure 17: Adult Social Care - long-term support by primary support reason, 2024/25

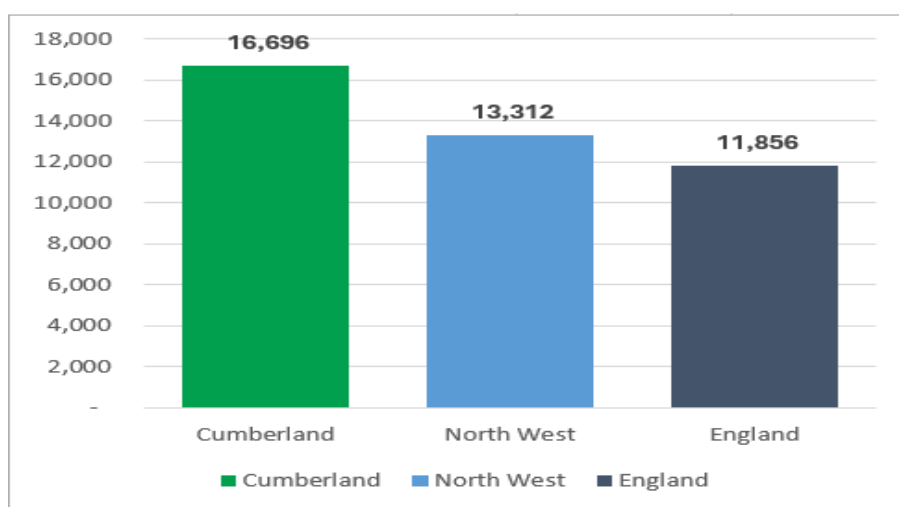
Primary Support Reason	2024-25			
	18 to 64		65 and over	
	Number	%	Number	%
Personal care support	305	17.9%	1970	61.8%
Access and mobility only	160	9.4%	455	14.3%
Support with memory and cognition	40	2.4%	415	13.0%
Mental health support	455	26.8%	225	7.1%
Learning disability support	665	39.1%	75	2.4%
Support for visual impairment	25	1.5%	30	0.9%
Support for social isolation or other reason	45	2.6%	20	0.6%
Substance misuse support	5	0.3%	0	0.0%
Total	1700	100.0%	3190	100.0%

Source: Cumberland Council

New requests for support

In Cumberland during 2024-25 there were 11,245 new requests for adult social care support in adults aged 65 or over, this is equivalent to 16,696 requests per 100,000 adults.

Figure 18: Adult Social Care – Number of new requests, Age 65+, 2024/25



Source: Cumberland Council

Of those requests for support in 2024-25, in those aged 65 years and over, 8% came via a discharge from hospital and 52.1% came from the community or other route.

Further information

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.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/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 2025, 63.9% 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 68.3%. There has been a fall in Cumberland over the last year, from 65.2% in 2024, whereas there was an increase in the country as a whole from 67.7% to 68.3% and in the NW region from 64.4% to 65.1%.

For disadvantaged pupils, those reaching a good level of development (GLD) fell to 44.7% in Cumberland (down from 47.1%), this is below the England average of 51.4%. The gap to national for disadvantaged pupils is wider than for all pupils. In Cumberland there was a fall of -2.4 percentage points, whereas in England, there was a much smaller fall of just -0.6% and just -0.3% in the NW.

Figure 19: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile; All Pupils; 2023 to 2025

Area	All Pupils % GLD 2023	All Pupils % GLD 2024	All Pupils % GLD 2025	All Pupils GLD % Change 2024-2025
Cumberland	65.0	65.2	63.9	-1.3
National	67.2	67.7	68.3	+0.6
North West Region	64.3	64.4	65.1	+0.7
Cumberland/National Diff	-2.2	-2.5	-4.4	-1.9

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

Figure 20: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2023 to 2025

Area	Disad % GLD 2023	Disad % GLD 2024	Disad % GLD 2025	Disad GLD Change 2024-2025
Cumberland	46.7	47.1	44.7	-2.4
National	52.0	52.0	51.4	-0.6
North West Region	50.5	49.6	49.3	-0.3
Cumberland/National Diff	-5.3	-4.9	-6.7	-1.8

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

Key Stage 1 Phonics (Year 1)

In 2025, 78.6% of all pupils at Key Stage 1 Phonics achieved the required 32+ marks in Cumberland, this is below the England average of 79.9%. Although results have been below the England average since 2023, the gap between Cumberland and the country as a whole widened between 2024 and 2025.

For disadvantaged pupils, those achieving the required 32+ marks fell to 62.1% in Cumberland (down from 65.2%), which is below the England average of 66.8%. Results have been below the England average in all years from 2023 to 2025. The gap between Cumberland and the national average has also widened in the last year.

Figure 21: Key Stage 1 Phonics; All Pupils; 2023 to 2025

Area	All Pupils % 32+ Marks 2023	All Pupils % 32+ Marks 2024	All Pupils % 32+ Marks 2025	All Pupils Change 2024-2025
Cumberland	77.4	79.6	78.6	-1.0
National	78.9	80.2	79.9	-0.3
North West	78.2	78.9	78.1	-0.8
Cumberland/National Diff	-1.5	-0.6	-1.3	-0.7

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

Figure 22: Key Stage 1 Phonics; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2023 to 2025

Area	Disad % 32+ Marks 2023	Disad % 32+ Marks 2024	Disad % 32+ Marks 2025	Disad Change 2024-2025
Cumberland	62.5	65.2	62.1	-3.1
National	66.7	68.3	66.8	-1.5
North West	66.7	67.8	65.2	-2.6
Cumberland/National Diff	-4.2	-3.1	-4.7	-1.6

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

Key stage 2 (end of primary school)

In 2024, 54.4% of primary school pupils at Key Stage 2, achieved Reading, Writing & Maths in Cumberland, this is considerably below the England average of 62.2%. Although the percentage in Cumberland increased by 0.6 points over the year, this rate of increase was below the national (+1.6 percentage points). Attainment levels for Reading, Writing and Maths have been below national levels in Cumberland since 2023. Attainment levels for all pupils in Cumberland for the individual subjects are all below national levels and have remained below since 2023.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, attainment levels for Reading, Writing & Maths fell to 35.0%, this is below the national average of 47.4%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels in Cumberland have fallen by 3.1 percentage points whilst nationally they have improved by +1.9 points.

Attainment levels for disadvantaged pupils for the individual subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths are all below national averages. Between 2024 and 2025, the change in results for the individual subjects in Cumberland was negative compared with that of disadvantaged children in the country as a whole, meaning the gap between the local authority and national has increased.

Figure 23: Key Stage 2; All Pupils; 2023 to 2025

	Cumberland				National			
	% Expected 2023	% Expected 2024	% Expected 2025	Change 2024-2025	% Expected 2023	% Expected 2024	% Expected 2025	Change 2024-2025
RWM	53.7	53.8	54.4	+0.6	59.3	60.6	62.2	+1.6
Reading	70.7	71.6	72.1	+0.5	72.5	74.3	75.1	+0.8
Writing	67.6	67.6	66.6	-1.0	71.4	71.8	72.2	+0.4
Maths	67.8	68.0	68.8	+0.8	72.8	73.1	74.1	+1.0

Source: Cumberland Council. Cells shaded red are below national

Figure 24: Key Stage 2; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2023 to 2025

	Cumberland				National			
	% Expected 2023	% Expected 2024	% Expected 2025	Change 2024-2025	% Expected 2023	% Expected 2024	% Expected 2025	Change 2024-2025
RWM	36.5	38.1	35.0	-3.1	44.0	45.5	47.4	+1.9
Reading	59.2	59.7	58.4	-1.3	60.1	62.4	63.1	+0.7
Writing	50.0	52.3	48.7	-3.6	58.1	58.6	59.4	+0.8
Maths	51.2	53.1	49.0	-4.1	58.8	59.1	60.5	+1.4

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

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 2025, 57.3% 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 65.0%. Compared to the previous year, attainment has fallen in Cumberland from 59.5% in 2024, while nationally it has stayed the same, at 65.0%.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, those achieving English & Maths at grades 4+ increased to 37.9% from 34.5% over the year, but remains below the national average of 43.9%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels in Cumberland have increased, and at a faster rate than nationally, but the gap between the local authority and the country as a whole remains significant.

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 2025, 36.4% of all pupils achieved English & Maths at grades 5+, this is below the England average of 45.6%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels have fallen in Cumberland (by -2.0 percentage points), whilst nationally there was only a minor fall of -0.3 points.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, those achieving English & Maths at grades 5+ increased to 19.2%, this is well below the national average of 25.9%. Compared to the previous year, attainment levels in Cumberland have increased whilst nationally they have remained the same.

Figure 25: Key Stage 4 – GCSE Headline Measures; All Pupils; 2023 to 2025

	Cumberland				National			
	2023	2024	2025	Change 2024-2025	2023	2024	2025	Change 2024-2025
Attainment 8	43.2	42.3	42.2	-0.1	46.3	46.1	46.2	+0.1
Progress 8	-0.28	-0.28	n/a	n/a	-0.03	-0.03	n/a	n/a
English & Maths Grade 4+	60.6	59.5	57.3	-2.2	65.1	65.0	65.0	0.0
English & Maths Grade 5+	37.4	38.4	36.4	-2.0	45.3	45.9	45.6	-0.3

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

Figure 26: Key Stage 4 – GCSE Headline Measures; Disadvantaged Pupils; 2023-2025

	Cumberland				National			
	2023	2024	2025	Change 2024-2025	2023	2024	2025	Change 2024-2025
Attainment 8	31.7	30.7	32.6	+1.9	35.1	34.6	35.1	+0.5
Progress 8	-0.94	-0.83	n/a	n/a	-0.57	-0.58	n/a	n/a
English & Maths Grade 4+	35.6	34.5	37.9	+3.4	43.2	43.4	43.9	+0.5
English & Maths Grade 5+	17.9	16.8	19.2	+2.4	25.2	25.8	25.9	+0.1

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

The Attainment 8 score is an average score based on each pupil's highest grades for GCSE and equivalent examinations. In 2025, the Attainment 8 score for all pupils in Cumberland was 42.2, this is below the national average of 46.2. Compared to the previous year, the Attainment 8 score in Cumberland was broadly the same (42.3 in 2024). This is reflected nationally, where the Attainment 8 score was also virtually unchanged.

For disadvantaged pupils in Cumberland, in 2025, the Attainment 8 score increased to 32.6, this is below the national score of 35.1. Compared to 2024, the score in Cumberland increased significantly by +1.9 points, whereas nationally the increase was just +0.5 points.

Progress 8 is an average measure of the progress of each pupil between Key stage 2 and GCSE. Due to the Covid pandemic, there are no Progress 8 data available for 2025.

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

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 (February 2025). Numbers of contacts, Section 47 enquiries, ICPCs, and numbers of children in need have all steadily increased over the last year. However, there have been some falls in the number of referrals and assessments between March 2025 and February 2026.

There has been an increase in the number of Cared For (Looked After) children over the last year (March 2025 to February 2026 – up from 455 to 490), and numbers of children with a Child Protection Plan have increased from 266 to 299.

Re-referral rates of children to social care are similar to national rates. 22% of children in Cumberland had been re-referred to social care in the last 6 months (end February 2026) evidencing that families are sustaining progress made (source: ChAT, 02 March 2026).

The timeliness of the majority of children's social care work is good in Cumberland. At the end of February 2026, 83% of assessments had been completed within 45 working days; 82% of visits to Children in Need had been made; 94% of Child Protection visits were within timescales and 97.7% of Child Protection reviews were in timescales; and 96.5% of statutory visits had been carried out to Cared For children.

Early Help

There were 2524 Early Help Assessments completed within the last 6 months in Cumberland (end February 2026). 83% of assessments were completed within 45 days (February 2026); this is broadly equivalent to both the national and North West regional averages (Source: ChAT, 02 March 2026).

22% (352 children) of our families that have stepped down to services had been re-referred to social care within the last 6 months (to end February 2026), evidencing that families are sustaining progress made. The rate of re-referrals in Cumberland has fallen recently from 24% in 2022-23; and is now equivalent to national and statistical neighbour rates. (Source: ChAT, end February 2026).

7,556 contacts had been made during the latest 6-month period (to end February 2026). Most contacts made come from the Police (30%), followed by schools (19%) and health services (16%). During that period, 1046 children had 2 contacts, 238 had 3 contacts, while 201 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 2,144 cases open to Children's social Care for children (aged 0-17 years) in Cumberland (February 2026),

equating to a rate of 419.2 per 10,000, this is above the national and statistical neighbour rates. Despite fluctuations in Cumberland, rates of open social care cases have increased over the last year (the rate was 403.9 per 10,000 in February 2025).

There are 583 children aged 0-17 years with a Child in Need (CIN) Plan in Cumberland (February 2026), equating to a rate of 114 per 10,000, this is above the national rate of 90.0 (2022/23) and the statistical neighbour rate of 101.0. The rate in Cumberland has been increasing over the last 12 months.

Child Protection Plans

There are 299 children aged 0-17 years in Cumberland with a Child Protection Plan (end February 2026), equating to a rate of 57.0 per 10,000. Rates are above both the national and Cumberland's statistical neighbour rates. Numbers of children in Cumberland subject to a Child Protection Plan is broadly the same as February 2025 (295), although there have been fluctuations through the year.

Almost all (94%) children on Child Protection plans were visited within 4 weeks in Cumberland (February 2026).

Cared for Children

There are 490 Cared for Children aged 0-17 years in Cumberland (end February 2026), equating to a rate of 93 per 10,000; the rate is significantly higher than England at 67 (2024-25); and Cumberland Council's statistical neighbours at 73. Numbers of Cared For children in Cumberland have increased over the last year, from 458 in February 2025 to 490 in February 2026.

The stability of placements in Cumberland is good when compared to the rest of England and the North West region; 8.4% of Cared For children in Cumberland had 3 or more placements throughout the year (February 2026), which is below England (10%) and statistical neighbours, at 11% (2024-25). 71% of Cared For children in Cumberland had lived in the same placement for 2 or more years, this is similar to England (69%) but above the statistical neighbour figure (64%).

There are fewer Cared For children placed outside the Cumberland local authority boundary compared to England. 34% (February 2026) of Cared For children are placed outside of Cumberland, this is below the national average of 44% (2024-25), but is just above the statistical neighbour figure of 31%. 68.5% of Cared For children are placed with their family or within 20 miles of their home address in Cumberland (February 2026).

The timeliness of health assessments for children who have been in care for 12 months or more in Cumberland (91%) is equivalent to national (90%) and statistical neighbour (92%) averages. Similarly, the proportion of children who have received dental checks in

Cumberland (83%) is broadly equivalent to national (81%) and statistical neighbour (83%) levels. Immunisation coverage for children in care in Cumberland is high - 92.9% of children in Cumberland had had up-to-date immunisations (February 2026).

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 February 2026, 97% of care experienced young people (aged 19-21 years) were in suitable accommodation, this is above both national and regional averages (in 2024-25) of 89% in England and 91% in the North West.

There are a greater proportion of care experienced young people (aged 19-21 years) in Education, Employment or Training in Cumberland compared to national and regional averages, 69% (February 2026) compared to 54% in England and 53% in the North West (2024-25).

There are more 11% of care experienced young people (aged 19-21) in higher education in Cumberland when compared to both national (6%) and statistical neighbour (6%) averages, (February 2026).

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 2024/25 (76.4 per 1,000 population) were lower than rates in the North West (90.3 per 1,000) and England & Wales (85.9 per 1,000). (Source: [Office for National Statistics, Police Force Area data tables](#) for national / regional data; <https://data.police.uk/> for Cumberland level data)

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 42 communities (Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)) identified as being within the 20% most deprived in England. The majority of these are located within five Community Panel areas: Workington Together (9 LSOAs); Petteril (9 LSOAs); South Cumberland (6 LSOAs); Whitehaven & Coastal (6 LSOAs); Carlisle West (5 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](#)

[Crime and Community Safety Strategic Assessment](#)

[Cumberland Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-27](#)

Deprivation and Inequalities

Index of Multiple Deprivation

Around 28,800 people (10.3%) of Cumberland's residents live 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 particular along the west coast. A total of 18 communities (Lower Super Output Areas) in Cumberland fall within the 10% most deprived in England. 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 7 communities across Cumberland classed as some of the least deprived nationally with approximately 10,900 people (3.9%) living in those areas. (Source: [Indices of Deprivation 2025](#)).

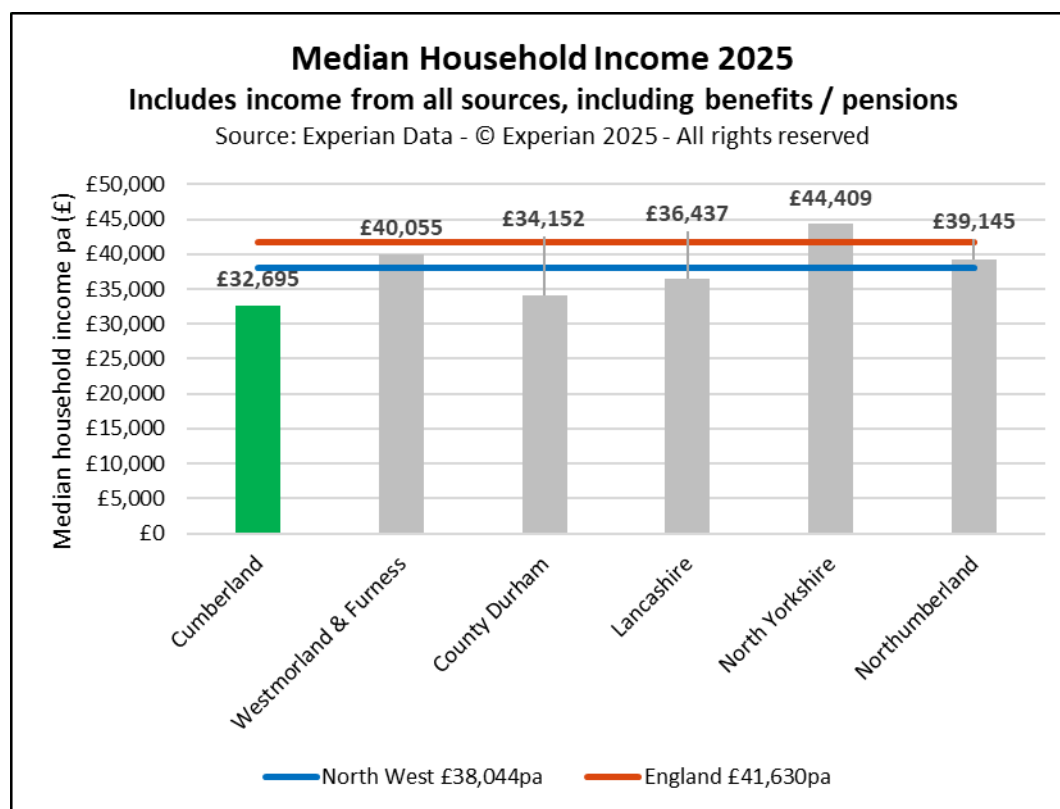
Household income

Household income in Cumberland is lower than in England and the North West. Figures for 2024/25 estimate median household income in Cumberland to be £32,695 compared to £41,630 in England and £38,044 in the North West region. Household income in Cumberland is also lower than all of Cumberland's nearest neighbours as illustrated in Figure 17 below. Household income figures include income from all sources, including benefits, pensions and investments.

Median household income varies considerably across Cumberland's wards with the lowest level in the Moss Bay & Moorclose ward in the former Allerdale area (£18,523) followed by the Maryport South ward (£20,663) and the Morton ward in Carlisle (£23,305). This is less than half the estimated household income of Cumberland's wealthiest wards, with annual household income in Bothel and Wharrels ward in the former Allerdale area estimated at £55,384, Dalston and Burgh in the former Carlisle area £54,309 and Wetheral in the former Carlisle area £53,725pa.

Furthermore, it is estimated that annual household income is at, or below, £10,000 for one in 15 households (6.7%) in Cumberland, compared to one in 20 households in England (5.0%) and one in 17 in the North West region (5.8%). In some Cumberland 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 (20.3%); Morton ward, one in five (19.4%); Maryport South ward, one in six (17.5%); and Harraby North ward in the Carlisle area, one in 7 (14.1%).

Figure 27: Median Household Income, 2025



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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](#)). 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 21.8%, this was similar to the England average of 21.9%. 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 38.6% of children living in poverty. In the north the highest rate is in Currock ward in Carlisle where more than 1 in 3 children (34.0%) are living in poverty and in the south the highest rate is in Millom where almost 1 in 3 children (30.8%) are living in poverty. (Source: Department for Work and Pensions, via Stat-Xplore).

Free School Meals

Around 1 in 5 pupils attending schools in Cumberland are eligible for free school meals, accounting for 8,293 pupils (22.7%), this is below the national average of 26.7%. (Source: Department for Education, Explore Education Statistics, 2024/25).

Benefit Claimants

In August 2024, 38,029 working age residents in Cumberland were in receipt of one or more DWP benefits which is 22.8% of the working age population, very slightly below 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 for working age people is well over a third of the resident population for that age group – Moss Bay & Moorclose (45.3%), Maryport South (38.8%), St Michael's (35.3%), Kells & Sandwith (34.0%). Amongst the working age DWP claimants in Cumberland, more than half (59.4%) are on a health related benefit which is a higher proportion than nationally (49.4%). (Source: [DWP Benefit Combinations \(via Stat-Xplore\)](#)).

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 \(2023 data\)](#)).

Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2024>

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[Office for National Statistics – Census 2021](#)

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

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

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

Housing

Tenure

According to ONS estimates, more households in Cumberland own outright their homes compared to the national average, 40.9% compared in 2024 to 32.6% in England, accounting for a total of 52,019 households. A further 35,050 households are owned with a mortgage or loan which is 28.3% of households in Cumberland compared to 29.8% in England.

According to the same estimates, 21,117 households in Cumberland are social rented accounting for 16.6% which is just below the national average of 17.0% and 17,976 households are private rented which is 14.1%, below the national rate of 20.6%. (Source: ONS Subnational Estimates of Dwellings & Households 2024).

Homelessness

In 2024-25, 760 households in Cumberland were assessed as homeless on initial assessment, a rate of 6.1 per 1,000 households which was below both the England and North West rate (7.5 and 8.3 per 1,000 households respectively).

A further 898 households in Cumberland were threatened with homelessness within 56 days, equating to 7.2 households per 1,000; this is above both the England rate (6.1 per 1,000 households) and the North West rate (6.3 per 1,000 households). ([Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#)).

House prices / affordability

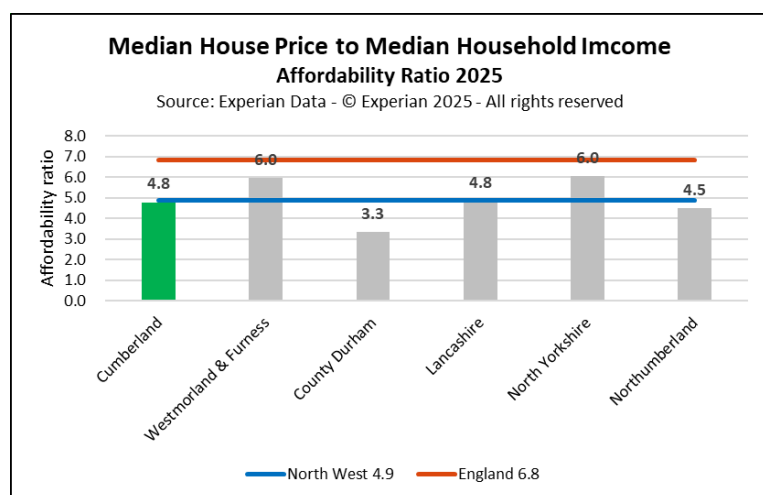
Median house prices across Cumberland in 2024/25 are in the region of £156,516 which is significantly lower than the median house price for England (£284,441). With the exception of County Durham, median house prices are lower in Cumberland than all of Cumberland's nearest neighbours. Median house prices vary considerably across Cumberland's wards, from the most expensive in the Bothel and Wharrels ward at £433,217 to the least expensive in the St Michael's ward at £95,511 – both wards are located in the former Allerdale area.

Housing affordability is better in Cumberland compared to England with the median house price to household income ratio at 4.8, compared to 6.8 in England. However, housing affordability varies across Cumberland, with house prices typically higher in rural compared to urban areas (median house price in rural areas £195,642 vs £130,250 in 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 median, for example within the Keswick and Cockermouth areas (median house price to median housing income ratio of 8.6 in the Keswick ward and 7.8 in the Bothel and Wharrels ward). 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 (5.5) 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 28: Housing Affordability Ratios, 2025



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Lack of affordable housing means that many people 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](#) 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.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

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Housing stock

The stock of housing in Cumberland increased by 7.2% in Cumberland between 2014 and 2024 compared to a national increase of 9.5%. The average net additional dwellings per year over the past 5 years has been 903 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](#))

In 2024/25 there were 810 completed new dwellings in Cumberland, similar to the previous year but lower than the two years prior to the pandemic. Over the past 5 years, the average number of completed new dwellings per year has been 806. 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. (Source: [MHCLG Live Tables on House Building](#))

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](#)).

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](#))

In Cumberland 843,476 MWh of renewable electricity was generated in 2024 with the biggest contributions coming from onshore wind (44.1% of the total) and biomass (42.2%). The data are no longer available for the former district areas but the earlier 2022 data showed that over three quarters of Cumberland's renewable energy was generated in the former district of Allerdale with much smaller contributions from Carlisle and Copeland. (Source: [DESNZ Regional Renewable Statistics](#))

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