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UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA

CRED ECONOMIC BULLETIN No. 5

Corporate change in the Cumbrian Economy: Second Quarter (Apr.- Jun.) 2020

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Research

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MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

During the second quarter of 2020, the scale of the economic crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic has started to become clear. Assumptions we may have made before about economic trends and policy levers to influence them have been completely overturned by events and the economy globally, nationally and locally is in completely uncharted waters. The scale of the crisis in the UK nationally can be seen in the most recent economic indicators. It has now been confirmed that in the first quarter of 2020 (January to March), GDP fell by -2.2% on the previous quarter. This drop, in itself, would normally be reason for anxiety. Yet during April 2020, the first full month of the lock-down, estimates indicate that GDP plummeted by -20.4% compared to March with particularly sharp falls in manufacturing (-24.3%). Production of vehicles virtually came to a standstill (-90.3%). Textiles and clothing output fell by 49.4% while food and drink, relatively protected by consumer need, dropped by a mere -10.9%. The only major sector experiencing growth was in basic pharmaceutical products and preparations (+4.7%).

Economists quickly adjusted their estimates for economic prospects for the UK economy in 2020. Forecasts for 2020 GDP made in April averaged around -5.8%. The most recent expectations, however, are considerably more gloomy ranging from -6.5% to -12.9% with an average of -9% over the 12 months as a whole. Official employment and unemployment figures have barely changed for now – in the 3 months to April the employment rate has dropped marginally to 76.4% and the Labour Force Survey estimates unemployment constant at 3.9% of the total workforce. These figures, however, completely mask the real situation as large number of workers are now either on reduced hours or on the government's Job Retention Scheme. The Labour Force Survey is now releasing weekly estimates with particular attention given to those who are classed as "temporarily away from work" which includes furloughed workers. The numbers in this category during most of the first quarter of 2020 was around 2 million. In the fourth week of April 2020, however, this had risen to 8.4m workers across the UK and on a continuing upward trajectory. These numbers can now be confirmed with reference to estimates

published by Government on the number of claims made to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS). Figures released on 11th June 2020 show that claims were made by 1.07m employers affecting 8.7m “employments”¹ with total claims costing £17.5 bn. Given the differential effects of the pandemic on sectors and types of firms, it is unsurprising perhaps that the largest beneficiaries of the CJRS are in wholesale and retail (1.6m employments), Accommodation and food services (1.4m) and manufacturing (0.8m).

Many workers in Cumbria are, of course, self-employed and the introduction of the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) would have been a relief to many (though not all are covered by this). Government data indicates that nationally there were 3.4m individuals identified as potentially eligible for the scheme. As at 31st May 2020, 2.3m claims had been made at a cost of £6,974m, an average of £2,900 per claim. By far the largest number of claims have been from the construction sector, around a third of all cases. Other sectors include the self-employed in transport and storage (8%) and administration and support services (8%).

Data released by HMRC in early June provides a geographical breakdown of the data on furloughed workers and Self-employed claimants to SEISS. Analysis of these data has been reported by Cumbria Intelligence Observatory (Labour market briefing, June 2020². This analysis shows that up to 31st May 2020, there were 64,000 “employments” in the furlough scheme involving residents in the County, the highest number in South Lakeland where tourism currently has the greatest impact on the economy (16,500). In addition, around 16,900 Cumbrian residents had made claims under the self-

¹ “Employments” refers to an employed position. The number of workers affected may be less due to the possibility of those with several part-time employments being furloughed more than once.

² <https://cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/536/671/4674/17217/17224/4400015446.PDF>

employment support scheme with the highest take-up again in South Lakeland. Further stages of withdrawal of support will follow in September and October.

From 1st August 2020, the CJRS will begin the process of unwinding and in the first instance, employers will have to pay employee's National Insurance and Pensions Contributions. Into this equation, employers must also factor in the Job Retention Bonus announced by the Chancellor on 8th July (£1,000 per re-employed worker paid after 31st January 2021). The response of individual employers to these various stages is, as yet, unknown and hard to predict. What is clear though is that a significant number of jobs affecting residents in Cumbria as well as the prospects for many in self-employment are threatened by the present circumstances. In this context, the responses of individual employers to the situations they face across the County has major significance for the future economic and social well-being of communities across Cumbria.

SELECTED NATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	April 2020	2020 Forecasts in April ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	2020 Forecasts in June
Gross Domestic Product ⁽ⁱ⁾	+0.4% on previous 3 months	0.0 on previous 3 months	Down -2.2% on previous 3 months	Down -20.4% on previous month	Average -5.8% ranging from -10.2% to +1.3%	Average -9% ranging from -12.9% to -6.5%
Manufacturing output ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	Down -0.8% on previous quarter	Down -1.1% on previous quarter	Down -1.7% on previous quarter	Down -24.3% on previous month		
Annual inflation (CPIH) ^(iv)	1.7% year to August 2019	1.4% year to Dec 2019	1.5% year to March 2020	0.7% year to May 2020		
Employment rate ^(v)	76.2%	76.7%	76.6%	3 months to April 2020, 76.4%		
LFS Unemployment ^(v)	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3 months to April 2020, 3.9%		
Workers temporarily away from work ^(vi)			Week 4 of quarter 1 = 2.2m workers	Week 4 of quarter 2 = 8.4m workers		
Base Interest rate	0.75%	0.75%	Reduced to 0.25% (11 th March) then to 0.1% (19 th March)	0.1%		

(i) ONS GDP Estimates various issues (Latest data released 30th June 2020)

(ii) HM Treasury, Forecasts for the UK Economy, various issues (Latest release in June 2020)

(iii) ONS Index of Production, UK various issues (Latest data release on 12th June 2020)

(iv) ONS Consumer Price Index (latest data release 17th June 2020)

(v) ONS Labour market review UK various issues 2019-20

(vi) ONS Single month and weekly LFS Estimates June 2020

CORPORATE CHANGE IN CUMBRIA: APRIL-JUNE 2020

The second quarter of 2020 has been marked by turmoil not only in the lives of individuals and workers in the County but in the running of firms, both large and small, as a consequence of the Covid-19 (C) pandemic. There has been a mixture of responses from firms reacting to the Government's lockdown measures which have affected the demand and supply of both products and workers. This variety has been cross-sectoral as can be seen from Table 3. There are, however, also some discernible sectoral trends in responses and outcomes.

For example, in the Manufacturing sector, many reported responses to C have involved innovation. In response to a call from Government and an innate desire to help the country fight the C pandemic, many firms have turned to producing oxygen and ventilator equipment (see James Walker, James Fisher & Sons, Bender UK, Forth Engineering, BAE); sanitisers (see Pure Lakes, The Bath House, K & S McKenzie, Playdale Playgrounds); and personal protective equipment or systems (see BAE Systems, Furness Plastics, Atom Packs, Oxley, Urofoam, Camtec Security). This has also, on occasion, been a joint effort, firms coming together to invent, produce and distribute products that are vital in the fight against C. For example, in April, it was reported that BAE Systems and Furness Plastics were working together to produce tens of thousands of free masks for the NHS. Colleagues from BAE's Technology Team and Air sector joined forces to design and manufacture their first 3D printed face shield. "BAE were producing the white head band and Furness Plastics were laser cutting the clear face shields and putting them together" (IC 9.4.20). The power of joining forces was truly demonstrated in the building of the Nightingale hospital at Kendal which brought together firms from different sectors. A 62-bay recovery ward was built at Kendal Leisure Centre. Russell Armer were in charge of the construction and provided the joiners, alongside Timber Frame North West Ltd. The painters were from Hodgson's Decorators, Kendal, the electronics from D.G. Bushell Ltd, Grange-over-Sands. "BAE Systems in Barrow, in partnership with Leck Construction, supplied the timber and pre-fabricated panels that required on-site assembly, fixing and finishing" (IC 9.5.20).

Innovation and invention has also been a means to capture new markets (see BAE Systems, James Fisher & Sons, The Bath House, Grasmere Gingerbread, Forth Engineering, K&S McKenzie, Urofoam, Camtec Security, Will & Al's Natural Plant Food Co.). For example, K & S McKenzie, Carlisle, supplier of parts to the commercial vehicle market, teamed up with WAI-Global to supply innovative vehicle sanitisation kits which will be useful for taxi drivers, bus drivers and garage owners to keep their cabs safe from viruses. With this firm adaptability and their use of the Government's furlough scheme for workers, it is notable that no firm engaged in manufacturing has been reported as having to close during this quarter. Indeed, jobs have been reported lost at only one firm, namely, Hawkshead Brewery, where 12 staff took an offer of voluntary redundancy.

In contrast to the trends seen in Manufacturing, sectors which have seen a direct hit to operations, namely Retail and the Hospitality sector have witnessed closures (see Oasis and Warehouse, Debenhams, The Derwent Water Hotel, The Windermere Hotel and The Shepherd's Inn) and disinvestment (see Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Caterite Food and Wine Service) resulting in at least 44 job losses (the actual numbers are often not reported). Given the slow pace of recovery at present, following the lifting of lockdown restrictions on these sectors, it is likely that we will see more of the same in the next quarter. However, some shops selling food and drink products and meals have innovated by starting local delivery services during lockdown (see Chestnut House, Mc Clures, Zest Bistro Kitchen, The New Union, Shap Chippy, A Day's Walk).

One sector which has clearly embraced the need to adapt its services to online provision has been that of Education (see Gen 2, PHX Training, Carlisle College and Skills Shop Ltd). However, a casualty of the C pandemic has been the Appleby Heritage Centre and possibly Newton Rigg College (its future from 2021 is being discussed by interested parties).

Finally, despite the inability of the tourism sector to operate during lockdown, there have been reports of both private and public investment in tourist facilities and venues (see Barrow Dock Museum, Port Haverigg Watersports, Nenthead Arts & Visitor Centre, Lakeland Wildlife Oasis).

The next six months will be critical for the Cumbrian economy as corporate responses to the crisis begin to unfold. In particular, the tourism and hospitality sector which accounts for approximately 14%* of employment in the County will now need to see a strong revival or additional government assistance to see it through the Winter months of 2020/21 given the loss of revenue this Spring/early Summer. Manufacturing companies (which account for 21%* of the County's GVA) and retail & wholesale traders (which account for 17%* of the County's employment) may also struggle to hold onto workers given both a world recession & the prospect of Brexit adversely affecting exports and the domestic demand for goods.

Notes:

IC – In-Cumbria online newsletter.

* The Tourism and hospitality sector is here defined as SIC Groups: Accommodation and hospitality (SIC I) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (SIC R).

Source: Employment data is from the Business Register and Employment Survey (2018) and GVA data is from the ONS (2018).

Secondary Source: Cumbria Observatory website.

Table 3: Reported Jobs Gained/Lost; Investment/Innovation; Disinvestment/Closure and Acquisitions by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Grouping

	SIC Code	Jobs		Firms engaged in				
		To be gained	To be lost	Investment	Innovation	Disinvestment	Closure	Acquisition / Merger
Manufacturing	C		12	The Cumbria Clock Co.; Forth Engineering; K&S McKenzie; BAE Systems;	BAE Systems; James Walker; James Fisher & Sons; Furness Plastics; H&H Reeds; Pure Lakes Skincare; Atom Packs; The Bath House; Oxley; Storth; REACT Engineering; Createc; Grasmere Gingerbread; Forth Engineering; K&S McKenzie; Urofoam; Fell; Playdale Playgrounds; Camtec Security; Will & Al's Natural Plant Food Co.	Hawkshead Brewery		H&H Reeds
Electricity & Gas	D					Spirit Energy		
Construction	F			Cumbria County Council			.	
Wholesale and Retail Trade	G	206	44	Sofa Wholesalers Barrow; Zest Bistro Kitchen; Beehive Business Park	Chestnut House; McClures; A Day's Walk; Tailored Goat Co.	Edinburgh Woollen Mill; Caterite Food & Wine Service	Oasis and Warehouse; Debenhams; DW Sports	
Transport & Storage	H			Stobart Group	William Armstrong	Logan Air; Stobart Group		
Accommodation and Food Services	I			Blaithwaite House	The Angler's Arms; The New Union; Summergrove Halls; Shap Chippy		The Derwent Water Hotel; The Windermere Hotel; The Shepherd's Inn	
Information and Communication	J							Keswick Reminder

Financial and Insurance Activities	K			The Cumberland Building Society.				
Real Estate	L	3			Ashdown Jones			
Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	M				The ECO Group; Harrison & Hetherington; Circular 1 Health; 1818 Auctioneers			
Public Administration, Defence & Social Security	O				Copeland Borough Council			
Education	P		131		Gen 2; PHX Training; Carlisle College; Skills Shop Ltd.		Appleby Heritage Centre; Newton Rigg College	
Human Health & Social Work Activities	Q	18		Westmorland Homecare				
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	R	3		Barrow Dock Museum; Port Haverigg Waterports; Nenthead Arts and Visitor Centre; Lakeland Wildlife Oasis	Bodyfit Cumbria	Theatre by the Lake		

The data in this table is based on the author's allocations of reported job gains and losses to SIC codes and has not been verified by separate enquiry. Details reported may also contain inaccuracies and be subject to change due to circumstances.

Press reports generally do not identify how many jobs are full or part-time, hence it is not possible to provide job numbers as Full-Time Equivalents. The main source of reports is the In-Cumbria AM newsletter.

Table 4: Jobs Gained or Lost, Investment, Innovation, Adaptation and Acquisition - Breakdown

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Reported Changes				Further Detail / Investments / New services	Other Innovation News
				To be gained	To be lost	Closure	Reduction in Production	Increase in production	Adaptation in type of products / services		
1-Apr-20	The Theatre by the Lake	Keswick	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation				√			The theatre has had to cancel its 2020 Summer Season due to Covid-19 restrictions.	
1-Apr-20	Poundland	Whitehaven	Wholesale and Retail Trade							The retail store had announced that it was going to close permanently from 20 th July but will not be doing so now, as it has reached a new rental agreement on its lease.	
2-Apr-20	Chestnut House	Pooley Bridge	Wholesale and Retail Trade						√	The grocers has opened a local delivery service. Originally set up to support the most vulnerable people who were self-isolating, the delivery service has grown to include towns & villages across Eden.	
6-Apr-20	Debenhams	Carlisle, Workington & Barrow	Wholesale and Retail Trade			√				The chain with 142 stores closed and the majority of its 22,000 staff on furlough, is expected to go into administration.	
6-Apr-20	Cumberland Building Society	Brampton	Financial & Insurance Activities							The building society has re-opened its Brampton branch after a full refurbishment. Counters have been replaced with "service units" and there is a new seating area with coffee facilities.	
6-Apr-20	Edinburgh Woollen Mill	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade		19		√			The store has made 19 people redundant believing that demand will not recover fully after the C pandemic as shopping habits have changed.	

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7-Apr-20	Blaithwaite House	Wigton	Accommodation & Food Services							The caravan and camping site is investing in 12 new serviced motorhome and touring-caravan pitches and 9 timber-built log cabins. It will also be opening a farm shop and tearoom.	
8-Apr-20	BAE Systems	Barrow	Manufacturing						√	The co. has teamed up with STEM Learning, the UK's largest provider of STEM education, to develop a range of primary & secondary level teaching resources to help children studying from home during lockdown.	
8-Apr-20	James Walker	Cockermouth	Manufacturing						√	The co. is designing and manufacturing components for ventilators and oxygen equipment. It is making critical O rings for use in oxygen regulators and diaphragms for use in ventilator systems.	
8-Apr-20	Mc. Clures	Windermere	Wholesale and Retail Trade						√	The catering supplier has launched a new "call and collect" service for its products; is also sending orders to collection hubs at Flookburgh, Kendal, Ulverston & Broughton; and offers a local delivery service.	
8-Apr-20	James Fisher & Sons, JFD	Barrow	Manufacturing						√	The engineering firm has produced an advanced ventilator, called InVicto of which it can produce 2,000 per week, subject to approval by UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory agency.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Reported Changes				Further Detail / Investments/ New services	Other Innovation News
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9-Apr-20	The ECO Group	Carlisle and Mealsgate	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities						√	The cleaning and workplace design specialist has set up a rapid response operation to help in the battle against C. It is also donating visors and hand sanitisers to a care home.	
9-Apr-20	The Lakes Distillery	Setworthy	Manufacturing								The distillery has been named in the top 20 fastest growing privately owned food & beverage businesses in the UK.
9-Apr-20	BAE Systems and Furness Plastics	Barrow	Manufacturing						√	The two firms are working together to produce tens of thousands of free masks for the NHS.	
10-Apr-20	H&H Reeds	Penrith	Manufacturing						√	The printers adapted their premises & called in workers from home to produce an urgent order for Covid-19 leaflets by Cumbria County Council.	
10-Apr-20	Bodyfit Cumbria	Cockermouth	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation						√	The fitness provider and her team of trainers is giving virtual fitness classes using Zoom, a change from delivering classes in local halls.	
14-Apr-20	Pure Lakes	Staveley	Manufacturing						√	The skincare products manufacturer has launched a new hand sanitiser. For every order placed on its web site, the firm is donating one hand balm to frontline NHS staff and care workers.	
14-Apr-20	More Handles	Carlisle and Mealsgate	Wholesale and Retail trade							The door and window and other hardware shop has donated all of its protective clothing to the Cumberland Infirmary's ICU.	

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16-Apr-20	Copeland Borough Council	Whitehaven	Public Administration						√	The Council's "Copeland Work & Skills Partnership" work academy has moved its teaching online so that learners can continue with courses during the C pandemic.	
16-Apr-20	Atom Packs	Keswick	Manufacturing						√	The manufacturer and vendor of high quality and customisable backups has switched production to "scrubs" workwear for NHS staff, to be provided at no cost to those receiving them.	
20-Apr-20	The Bath House	Sedbergh	Manufacturing						√	The luxury skincare and perfume firm has switched from manufacturing perfumes to making hand sanitiser. It has been supplying thousands of bottles of its new product, free to NHS staff & care homes.	
20-Apr-20	Hawkshead Brewery	Staveley and Flookburgh	Manufacturing		12		√			In response to the introduction of a voluntary redundancy scheme by the brewery's owners, Halewood Wines and Spirits, 12 workers have been lost. The firm has taken a financial hit due to C.	
21-Apr-20	Clark Door	Carlisle	Manufacturing								The specialist door designer & manufacturer has received the Queen's Award for International Trade.
21-Apr-20	Spirit Energy	Barrow	Electricity, Gas Supply				√			The owner of Barrow's gas terminals is seeking to cut jobs and costs as low oil & gas prices have caused its revenue to plummet. It is "deferring commitments and investment decisions where it can."	

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21-Apr-20	Logan Air	Carlisle	Transport & Communication				√			Carlisle Airport's only commercial airline is in talks over a government bailout. Its schedule has been slashed by more than half as a result of the C pandemic. Employees may see a 20% cut in hours.	
23-Apr-20	Kendal Nutricare	Kendal	Manufacturing								The dairy health drinks and infant milk & formula manufacturer has received the Queen's Award for Enterprise.
23-Apr-20	Cavendish Nuclear	Westlake's Science Park	Manufacturing								The nuclear firm has been given the President's Award of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.
23-Apr-20	Trade Copiers	Penrith	Wholesale and Retail Trade								The broker of used photocopiers, printers and other devices has received the Queen's Award for Enterprise.
24-Apr-20	The Cumbria Clock Company	Penrith	Manufacturing							The clock repair & restoration co. has received funding from the Made Smarter scheme & has introduced a bespoke digital management system giving the firm complete oversight of its operation.	
24-Apr-20	Gen 2	Lillyhall	Education						√	The training provider has moved all of its apprenticeship interviews online so that clients' apprenticeship programmes can remain on track despite the C pandemic."	

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				To be gained	To be lost	Closure	Reduction in Production	Increase in production	Adaptation in type of products / services		
27-Apr-20	Oxley	Ulverston	Manufacturing						√	The co. has switched from making LED lights to PPE to help tackle C. It is making 800 face visors a week for NHS hospices and care homes.	
27-Apr-20	The Anglers Arms	Haverthwaite	Accommodation and Food Services						√	The pub has become a manufacturing workshop for producing PPE products for doctors' surgeries, care homes and St. John's Ambulances to be donated throughout the County.	
29-Apr-20	Harrison and Hetherington	Carlisle	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities						√	The auctioneers are holding online auctions throughout May following the success of its first virtual pedigree livestock sale in April.	
29-Apr-20	John Farrer & Co.	Kendal	Wholesale and Retail Trade								The tea and coffee merchant has been given a Feefo 5-star gold trusted service award.
29-Apr-20	Stobart Group	Carlisle	Transport & Storage							The transport and logistics co. has bought back the aviation arm that it previously sold, Stobart Air, and the aircraft leasing firm, Propius, for £8.5M.	
30-Apr-20	Nuvia	Sellafield & Westlakes Science Park	Manufacturing								The nuclear specialist has won The Order of Distinction from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

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1-May-20	Oasis and Warehouse	Kendal and Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade			√				Oasis Warehouse Ltd which owns these firms has gone into administration with the loss of all workers, blaming the effect of C on the retail industry.	
4-May-20	Princes	Near Armathwaite	Manufacturing							The international food & drink Group, which bottles its Aqua Pura water at Low Plains, has been working with the NHS to provide 250,000 bottles of water to go to the 5 new Nightingale hospitals in GB.	
4-May-20	The New Union	Kendal	Accommodation and Food Services						√	The community pub has launched an online delivery service, ferrying freshly poured pints, cocktails & other beverages to people in the town. It is also planning to hold whiskey tasting evenings via Zoom.	
4-May-20	PHX Training	Barrow, Carlisle and Workington	Education						√	The training firm has been awarded a £25,000 grant by Ufi Voc Tech Trust which it has used to launch its Transform Project – a programme of training courses online to help people learn vocational skills.	
4-May-20	Circular 1 Health	Warwick Mill	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities						√	The health technologies business has installed an innovative anti-virus entry system which means that no one can enter Warwick Mill Business Village without first sanitising their hands.	
6-May-20	Storth	Storth	Manufacturing						√	The manufacturer of agricultural machinery for slurry management has worked with Made Smarter to introduce a robotic welding system into its production line.	

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				To be gained	To be lost	Closure	Reduction in Production	Increase in production	Adaptation in type of products / services		
6-May-20	REACT Engineering & Createc	Cleator Moor & Cockermouth	Manufacturing							Teams from these engineering firms have developed ALARP Angel software which allows a task to be defined, planned, rehearsed and executed in a highly hazardous environment.	
7-May-20	Appleby Heritage and Training Centre	Appleby	Education		14	√				The training and education centre has gone into administration, saying that it did not have enough funding to carry on operating and that its future income was too uncertain.	
8-May-20	Bender UK	Ulverston	Manufacturing					√		As the firm designs and supplies critical care power systems to hospitals, it has seen a huge increase in demand for its technical advice and design support. It has supplied & installed equipment for many Nightingale hospitals.	
8-May-20	Ashdown Jones	Windermere	Real Estate Activities						√	The high-end properties estate agency has been live streaming videos on their Facebook page. The videos provide tips & advice from local businesses on how to do certain tasks during lockdown.	
12-May-20	Carlisle College	Carlisle	Education						√	The College has launched a range of distance learning programmes & online short courses "offering individuals the opportunity to gain a qualification now from the safety of their own homes."	
13-May-20	Summer-grove Halls	Hensingham	Accommodation and Food Services						√	The hospitality provider has switched from providing accommodation for UCLan students to that for doctors & nurses, drafted in to help at West Cumberland Hospital during the C-crisis.	

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16-May-20	Forth Engineering	Flimby	Manufacturing							The engineering co. has invested £150,000 to help it re-open & grow following the easing of the Government lockdown. It is creating 3 new offices & doubling the size of its on-site retail space.	
20-May-20	Sofa Wholesalers Barrow	Barrow	Wholesale & Retail Trade							The outlet store for home and garden furniture is to occupy the building in Barrow in which their sister co., Sofa Group, previously had as their base site. The building will now be renovated.	
20-May-20	Grasmere Gingerbread	Grasmere	Manufacturing						√	The gingerbread manufacturer is helping over 20 other small supplier businesses in Cumbria to sell their products by setting up a "Working Together" online-store page on their website.	
20-May-20	Zest Bistro Kitchen	Barrow	Accommodation and Food Services	6						A new food take-away business will deliver full English breakfasts to the door, 6 days a week.	
20-May-20	BAE Systems	Barrow	Manufacturing						√	The co. is opening a Covid-19 drive-thru testing station on its land for use by the local community and shipyard workers. This is in support of the Government's national testing programme.	

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20-May-20	Shap Chippy	Shap	Accommodation and Food Services						√	The fish and chip shop has launched a new fish & chip van called <i>Shappy</i> to take its food to Eden Valley villages. Pre-orders are available for pick-up from the van as well as orders in person.	
20-May-20	Story Contracting and Story Homes	Carlisle	Construction						√	The firm has provided a site cabin for the NW Ambulance Service and provided & delivered PPE to NHS staff. Staff have volunteered to deliver food donations to foodbanks and frontline staff in Cumbria.	
21-May-20	TIS Cumbria Ltd	Workington	Manufacturing							The steel fabricator has completed work on a 46-tonne pipe and 28-tonne vortex system, a centrepiece of the Tideway project to relieve pressure on the existing 150-year old sewers in London.	
22-May-20	Newton Rigg College	Near Penrith	Education		117	√				The FE provider is to close in July 2021 unless a rescue plan is found before then. The owners, Askham Bryan College say that it is "no longer financially viable."	
22-May-20	1818 Auctioneers	M6 Junction 36	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities						√	The auctioneers are introducing online only auctions in response to the C-crisis. They look like they are attracting a new generation of buyers & so may be kept on permanently, if successful.	

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26-May-20	The Derwentwater Hotel & The Windermere Hotel	Portinscale and Windermere	Accommodation and Food Services			√			The hotels, operating under the Specialist Leisure Group, will not be re-opening after C as the firm has gone into administration due to the effects of the virus on the travel industry.	
28-May-20	Forth Engineering	Flimby	Manufacturing						The engineering co. has invented and is now producing a remotely-operated disinfecting robot. It has a vapour canon, camera and lights.	
28-May-20	Beehive Business Park	Ulverston	Wholesale and Retail trade	200					This new retail park will open today. Aldi is the first store to open on it and will be followed by M&S Food, Screwfix Warehouse and Lake District Farmers.	
28-May-20	H&H Reeds	Carlisle	Manufacturing						The print, design and graphic firm has acquired Dotcom Associates Ltd, Cockermouth which will increase their technical and web development and hosting.	
1-Jun-20	Debenhams	Barrow	Wholesale and Retail Trade			√			Administrators are closing the store café/restaurant, making people redundant.	
2-Jun-20	The REACT Foundation	Cleator Moor	Charity							Much of the work of the charity is done by volunteers and it has been given The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

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2-Jun-20	K & S McKenzie	Carlisle	Manufacturing						√	The supplier of parts to the commercial vehicle market has opened a tool centre & teamed up with WAI-Global to supply innovative vehicle sanitisation kits.	
3-Jun-20	Caterite Food and Wine Service	Embleton	Wholesale and Retail Trade		25		√			The food supplier has lost 75% of its trade due to the hospitality and schools sectors being closed.	
3-Jun-20	Wolftown Gin	Ulverston	Manufacturing								The co. has been chosen to be "gin of the week" by the international Gin Guide and was showcased on the front of their website.
3-Jun-20	Dock Museum	Barrow	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	3						With an £800,000 award, the museum is to create a new shipbuilding gallery, research room, family learning zone & upgrade the entrance. It will also create these new posts.	
4-Jun-20	Skills Shop Ltd.	Barrow	Education						√	During lockdown, the training co. has been running virtual courses for participants in The Building Better Opportunities Getting Cumbria to Work project inc. a course in positive thinking.	
4-Jun-20	Debenhams	Carlisle, Workington and Barrow	Wholesale and Retail Trade							The department stores will be re-opening this month as the firm has been able to renegotiate its leases on 120 stores following its going into liquidation.	

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4-Jun-20	Urofoam	Askham, Barrow	Manufacturing							The polyurethane engineers have developed a new facemask called <i>Dropstop</i> and will be able to make up to 20,000 per week. They are washable and reusable.	
4-Jun-20	Cumbria County Council	Carlisle	Construction							The council is undertaking a £4M road improvement investment in the County during June and July, surface dressing works to replace worn-out sections of routes.	
8-Jun-20	Fell	Flookburgh	Manufacturing						√	The artisan brewers, who also have their own bars in Kendal and Penrith, have started home deliveries which have been well supported by customers.	
8-Jun-20	Stobart Group	Carlisle	Transport & Communication			√				The logistics Group has disposed of the Stobart and Eddie Stobart brands. The firm will quit its rail & civil engineering operations from next year & "monetarise value" from its energy division.	
10-Jun-20	Theatre by the Lake	Keswick	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation				√			The theatre has cancelled its Christmas show, <i>The Borrowers</i> , due to loss of income because of C. Redundancy consultations are taking place over the next couple of months.	
10-Jun-20	Playdale Playgrounds	Haverthwaite	Manufacturing						√	The playground manufacturer has invented an outdoor touch-free hand sanitiser station. The dispenser will allow up to 30 people per minute into the playground.	

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15-Jun-20	Camtec Security	Carlisle	Manufacturing						√	The security co. has launched a new range of products in response to the C pandemic. It has introduced screening systems that monitor people's body temperature before they enter a property.	
16-Jun-20	Grasmere Gingerbread	Grasmere	Manufacturing							The gingerbread manufacturer sent out more than 200 parcels of complimentary gingerbread to frontline NHS staff and carers during the C-pandemic.	
17-Jun-20	Port Haverigg Watersports	Haverigg	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation							Cumbria's first outdoor aqua park is set to open this Summer. The site comprises inflatable slides & climbing frames, moored on 200 acres of freshwater on which other watersports can be enjoyed.	
19-Jun-20	Nenthead Arts and Visitor Centre	Nenthead	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation							The venue will reopen on 4 th July as "The Hive at Nenthead." There will be a new website, signage and an emphasis on promoting the area's rich mining & social heritage and natural beauty.	
22-Jun-20	A Day's Walk	Cartmel	Wholesale and Retail Trade							An online shopping and home delivery food & drink service has been launched by an entrepreneur & his family. Every item stocked will have been produced within a day's walk of the business.	
22-Jun-20	D W Sports	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade			√				The fitness clothing shop is to close down.	

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24-Jun-20	William Armstrong	Longtown	Transport and Storage						√	The road haulage firm has distributed bottles of water, donated by United Utilities, to police, fire and ambulance stations across North and West Cumbria and also to Eggcup, a food poverty support group.	
25-Jun-20	Westmorland Homecare	Kendal	Human Health	18						The homecare co. has opened a new satellite office in Grange-over-Sands manned by 4 FT staff and with 14 new healthcare assistants to look after people in Cartmel, Ulverston and the Furness peninsula area.	
26-Jun-20	Lakeland Wildlife Oasis	Milnthorpe	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation							The wildlife attraction has invested in new reptile enclosures and a refurbished "evolutionary journey" walkway leading to an aquarium corridor with 3 new enormous marine exhibit tanks.	
27-Jun-20	The Shepherd's Inn	Carlisle	Accommodation and Food Services			√				The venue owned by Pioneer Foods on the Rosehill Industrial Estate will not re-open after the C-pandemic. Pioneer says that their co. has been hit hard by the crisis due to the shutting of businesses which they supply.	
27-Jun-20	Keswick Reminder	Keswick	Information and Communication							The local newspaper has been bought by the owner of the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald. The weekly newspaper had become online-only since the C lockdown was imposed.	

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29-Jun-20	Will & Al's Natural Plant Food Company	Linstock	Manufacturing							The fertiliser manufacturer has launched a new product called Bloom! – an organic fertiliser that can be used on plants and lawns. There are no chemicals in it and it comes in recyclable bottles.	
30-Jun-20	Tailored Goat Co.	Near Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade						√	The farm's original market for the goat meat which it produces was the high-end wholesalers to top restaurants in London and Edinburgh but it is now selling direct to the public through its new website.	

Note:

C – Covid 19