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**INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND LEADERSHIP (IBIL)
UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA**

CRED ECONOMIC BULLETIN No. 12

Corporate change in the Cumbrian Economy: First Quarter (Jan.-Mar.) 2022

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Research

University of
Cumbria 

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MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Recent data suggest that the UK economy grew in the final quarter of 2021 by 1.3%, slightly faster than initially estimated – the service sector performed better than first thought where output grew by 1.5%. At the start of 2022, further growth occurred during January across all sectors. The recovery, though not particularly impressive, was most noticeable in manufacturing which grew by 0.8% in January 2022 after three months of zero growth between October and December 2021. Output grew in January most noticeably in rubber and plastics (+9.1%) and basic metals & metal products (+5%).

Latest data for February (released on 11th April) indicated that monthly growth has faltered, falling back to only 0.1% compared to January. Some growth was sustained in services but manufacturing experienced a drop of -0.4% accounted for largely by low performance in vehicles, computer products, electronics and chemical products. In the midst of growing uncertainties in the national economy, however, there were encouraging signs for sectors that are prominent in Cumbria. In services, for instance, activity grew in February 2022 by 8.6% in accommodation & food services. Strong growth was also recorded in travel agencies and tour operators (+33%) due to recovery from the effects of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Investment designed to nurture growth in the visitor economy is a key feature of local corporate change in Cumbria (see below).

A key point of debate on economic policy has focused on the rate of inflation and its implications for economic growth. The most recent data on Consumer Price Inflation including housing costs (CPIH) show rising levels of inflation up from 3.8% in October 2021 to 6.2% in February 2022. This upward trend has been driven, in particular, by rising energy costs, costs of motor fuel and second-hand cars. Most analysts expect the rate to rise further during 2022 with an average forecast of around 7.2% for the year. Interest rates, though fairly low in historic terms, have been raised steadily in response to this (currently 0.75%).

Table 1: SELECTED NATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	2021	Forecast 2022 (vii)
Gross Domestic Product ⁽ⁱ⁾	Up 1.0% on previous 3 months	+1.3%	+0.8%	+0.1	+7.5%	+4.1% (range 3.1% to 5.7%)
Manufacturing output ⁽ⁱ⁾	Down -0.7% on previous quarter	0.0%	+0.8%	-0.4	+6.8% ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	
Services output ⁽ⁱ⁾	Up 1.3% on previous quarter	+1.5%	+0.8%	+0.2	+7.4% ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	
Annual inflation (CPIH) ^(iv)	Up 3.8% in the year to Oct 2021	Up 4.8% in the year to Dec 2021	Up 4.9% in the year to Jan 2022	Up 6.2% in the year to Feb 2022		+7.2% (range 4.4% to 8.9%)
Employment rate ^(iv)	July-Sept 2021 75.4%	Oct-Dec 2021 75.5%	Nov 2021-Jan 2022 – 75.6%	Dec 2021-Feb 2022 - 75.5%		
LFS Unemployment ^(iv)	July-Sept 2021 4.3%	Oct-Dec 2021 4.1%	Nov 2021-Jan 2022 – 3.9%	Dec 2021-Feb 2022 – 3.8%		4.1%
Base Interest rate ^(vi)	0.1%	0.25%	0.25%	0.5% [increased to 0.75% in March]		

(i) ONS GDP Quarterly National Accounts, UK Oct to Dec 2021 – data released 31 March 2022; For Jan/Feb 2022 - Monthly Series data released 11th April 2022

(ii) ONS-Index of Production UK – January 2022 - data released 11th March 2022

(iii) ONS Index of Services, UK, January 2022 data released 11th March 2022

(iv) ONS Consumer Price Inflation UK: February 2022 (latest data release April 2022)

(v) ONS Labour market Overview UK – April 2022

(vi) Bank of England – Monetary Policy Summary, December 2021

(vii) UK Treasury Forecasts for the UK Economy – average of new forecasts made in April 2022 (No 417)

Looking further ahead, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently published its economic outlook growth projections for the major global economies through to 2023 (see table 2). Global growth is expected to slow affecting growth rates in all of the Advanced Economies – falling year on year to only 2.4% in 2023. The IMF expects the USA and Euro area to sustain growth of around 2.3% in 2023 though this is highly contingent on the outcomes of the current conflict in Ukraine. War, they argue, has generated global costs in terms of humanitarian actions and will hit all economies further via impacts on fuel and food supplies. UK prospects for 2023 are considered relatively poor in relation to other advanced economies partly due to an expectation that above average inflation is likely to erode purchasing power and depress domestic demand. The IMF forecasts tend to align with other commentators on economic prospects for the UK. The British Chambers of Commerce for instance, expect GDP growth to slow sharply in 2023 due to the cost-of-living crisis and low levels of investment and business confidence.

Table 2: Latest World Economic Outlook Growth Projections (Real GDP, annual percent change)

Countries	2021	2022	2023
All Advanced Economies	5.2	3.3	2.4
USA	5.7	3.7	2.3
Euro Area	5.3	2.8	2.3
Germany	2.8	2.1	2.7
France	7.0	2.9	1.4
Italy	6.6	2.3	1.7
Spain	5.1	4.8	3.3
Japan	1.6	2.4	2.3
United Kingdom	7.4	3.7	1.2
Canada	4.6	3.9	2.8

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2022

CORPORATE CHANGE IN CUMBRIA: JANUARY- MARCH 2022

The first quarter of 2022 has seen an array of reports of corporate investment in the County. This has taken many forms – investment in new equipment, new processes, new stores, skilled labour, new premises, new products & services and partnerships (see Tables 3 and 4). We have for the last two years been reporting on corporate changes which were notified as being specifically due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Such reports have diminished over recent months as the local economy has emerged from the pandemic and firms embrace their future. In redesigning Table 4, we have therefore, dropped the columns associated with changes due to the pandemic. At the same time, it has been noted that there are increasing numbers of reports in the media of Cumbrian firms achieving awards for their goods or services. Hence, those firms achieving commendation at national or international level will now be recorded in a separate column in the table, highlighting the recognised quality of so many of the County’s firms’ output.

In the Manufacturing sector, adoption of new technologies has been a theme of the type of investment being undertaken (see Tata Steel and Bells of Lazonby). This has allowed such firms to speed up production, saving on energy use and reducing cost. If not directly for themselves, other firms in the Manufacturing sector and Professional, Scientific and Technical sector (see Forth Engineering, Delkia and Createc) have been designing innovative products for their clients’ use. For example, Forth Engineering, Flimby and Cleator Moor, has designed and created a robotic arm. It was designed in response to Magnox’ request to find a cheaper and safer solution to removing fragments of spent fuel rods from waste ponds at its power station (IC, 27.1.22). The firm has also designed and is manufacturing a Pig Retrieval Tool which reduces manual handling and operating time in potentially explosive atmospheres. The flexible tool which can be adjusted up to 15 metres can remove cleaning devices from oil and gas pipelines and can pull weights up to one tonne (IC, 3.2.22). Delkia, engineering technology and development firm, Egremont has won a £2.3M contract from Morgan Sindall to support on the Sellafeld Product and Residue Store Retreatment Plant project. They were chosen due to “their demonstration of technology

advances and design and build scope to very high standards” (IC, 16.2.22). Meanwhile, Createc, consultancy and R&D business with expertise in applied computer vision, robotics, nuclear measurement and optics, has formed an international consortium with two other firms, Ingecid and Catenda, to create IC Circle which has been awarded a multi-million pound contract to design, build and manage an integrated software system to support the Norwegian Nuclear Decommissioning process (IC, 6.3.22).

Many firms in the Retail sector (see Wilko, Castle Chocolates, Armstrong Ward and Pets at Home) and the Accommodation sector (see Sykes Holiday Cottages and Storrs Hall) are also reported as being engaged in innovation. For example, Castle Chocolates, chocolatier in Carlisle, has launched a limited-edition box of chocolates celebrating the City’s historic Turkish Baths. The tangy lime and lemon smoothie flavoured chocolates are finished in coloured glazes that match the tiles of the Turkish Baths and the firm is donating £1 from every box sold to The Friends of Carlisle Victorian and Turkish Baths campaign (IC, 3.3.22).

The Food Services sector has seen a significant number of firms expanding their premises and services (see Boom Burger, Kendal; The Royal Oak Hotel, Beckermeth; Déjà Brew, Whitehaven; Lake View Caravan Park at Bowness, Nacho Nacho in Carlisle and The Waffle Cone in Kendal) as well as a number of new arrivals and new branches (see Greggs; The Prep Stop; and Bengal Rose South Asian Restaurant, all in Ulverston). For example, Lake View Garden Bar at Bowness is going to undertake a £1.5M expansion which will see the creation of two new terraces at the front of the venue and a refurbishment of the current ground floor site which will double its capacity. 480 extra covers will be created. It will create more jobs and give existing staff the opportunity to develop (IC, 22.2.22).

Investment in skills training, going hand-in-hand with capital investment is another theme this Quarter (see Kendal College; Copeland Borough Council; and REACT engineering). Kendal College is spending £4M on building a new construction and engineering building to host its new T-level training programmes designed to prepare people for work in the sector. This is

in addition to the recently installed hybrid and electrical automotive workshops, T-level health care hub and state-of-the-art industry standard kitchens. The College has also bought the first and second floors of the Westmorland Shopping Centre to create a third site for itself in the town (IC, 6.3.22). Meanwhile, Copeland Borough Council has launched the Industrial Solutions Hub (iSH) at the Leconfield Industrial Estate in Cleator Moor. Part of the initial funding for it has come from the £22.5M acquired for investment in the town from the Government's Town Deal Fund. iSH has received support from Sellafield and the NDA and will bring employment, skills and training opportunities for people in the area, estimated to generate more than 100 new jobs over a period of 18 months and creating more than 700 in the next 10-15 years (IC, 25.3.22). Also, REACT Engineering has relaunched its previously successful initiative *React Futures* which gives 6th form school leavers a job with REACT for a year before they go to university and a full-time job with the company after graduation – an initiative to help them get a flying start in light of the Covid pandemic having restricted work experience opportunities (IC, 10.2.22).

With only three reported firm closures (Lindale Stores, Lindale; The Eclipse Leisure Centre, Workington and the DWP Office, Barrow), the County's economy from a corporate perspective is apparently rosy. However, in the coming months, firms will face a barrage of spiralling costs of energy, fuel, raw materials & supplies and labour as well as reduced consumer demand and the implications may be quite severe.

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
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	A							
Manufacturing	C			Tata Steel; McMenon Engineering Services; TIS Cumbria; REACT Engineering; Bells of Lazonby	Forth Engineering			
Construction	F			Genesis Homes				
Wholesale and Retail Trade	G			Saltrock; Roast Mutton; The Rebuild Site; Wilkinson Cameras; Eco Tree; Crown Decorating Centre; Rafis Spice Box; Webuyanycar; Pets at Home	Wilko; Castle Chocolates; Armstrong Ward; Pets at Home		Lindale Stores	
Transportation and Storage	H			Cumbria Storage Solutions				
Accommodation and Food Services	I			The Prep Stop; Boom Burger; The Royal Oak Hotel; The Boaters Bar; Deja Brew; Greggs; Lake View Garden Bar; Bengal Rose South Asian Restaurant; Nacho Nacho; Ullswater Holiday Park; The Waffle Cone	Sykes Holiday Cottages; Storrs Hall			
Information and Communication	J							Online Systems
Financial and Insurance Activities	K							
Real Estate Activities	L			H&H Land and Estates				
Professional, Scientific &	M	5		32 West; Major Family Law; Delkia; Createc; The Vet				Armstrong Watson

Technical Activities								
Administrative and Support Service Activities	N				HY5 Commercial Cleaning			
Public Administration, Defence & Social Security	O			Copeland Borough Council			The DWP	
Education	P			Kendal College				
Human Health & Social Work Activities	Q			Heydays Care and Support Services	The Great North Air Ambulance Service			
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	R			Free Radicals Arts			The Eclipse Leisure Centre	
Other Personal Service Activities	S			Northern Sun; The Muddy Paw; The Cumbria Clock Co.				

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, Acquisition and National Commendations-Breakdown

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
5-Jan-22	William Armstrong Group Ltd.	Longtown	Transportation and Storage				The logistics co. has been named "Brand Ambassador" at the <i>Palletforce Gala Awards</i> , recognising its high level performance in the face of challenges of the pandemic.
6-Jan-22	The Prep Stop	Ulverston	Accommodation and Food Services			A subsidiary of pub group Lakeland Inns has launched as a fresh meal provider and delivery service. Meals are cooked, ready for delivery or collection from a £200,000 production kitchen facility called The Lakeland Kitchen.	
8-Jan-22	Saltrock	Kendal	Wholesale and Retail Trade	10		The surf wear and clothing retailer is opening its first shop in Cumbria at the end of January, in the former Virgin Money branch premises on Stricklandgate.	
9-Jan-22	Boom Burger	Kendal	Accommodation and Food Services			The fast food restaurant is expanding its operations in its unit on the Mintsfeet Industrial Estate, with a second kitchen. It also plans to add more electric bikes to its delivery fleet & will broaden its business menu.	
15-Jan-22	Home Instead South Lakes	Kendal	Human Health & Social Work Activities				The home care provider named "Great British Franchisee" at the <i>Great British Franchisee Awards</i> , celebrating the quality of care and difference that the business makes within their community.

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
15-Jan-22	Tata Steel	Shap	Manufacturing			The iron & steel manufacturer which also manufactures lime at its Shapfell site has spent £4M on the refurbishment of one of its kilns. It will be using new technology, allowing the co. to save on energy use and costs.	
17-Jan-22	Lamont Pridmore	Carlisle	Financial and Insurance Activities				The co. has been named "England's Chartered Accountants of the Year" in the <i>Global 100 Awards</i> .
18-Jan-22	Hackney and Leigh	Throughout Cumbria	Real Estate Activities				The estate agency has been awarded by <i>The Best Estate Agency Guide</i> for the 4 th consecutive year for the "outstanding care and level of service" that they have shown towards clients.
18-Jan-22	Roast Mutton	Kendal	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The butchers has opened an online shop to meet demand from visitors to the town who have become loyal customers from across the UK.	
18-Jan-22	The Royal Oak Hotel	Beckermet	Accommodation and Food Services			The hotel has opened a village store in its premises as there are no other shops in the village.	
18-Jan-22	Sykes Holiday Cottages	Throughout Cumbria	Accommodation and Food Services			The co. has teamed up with the chef, Simon Rogan, to make his "Home by" meals available to their holidaying visitors.	
20-Jan-22	Storrs Hall	Lake Windermere	Accommodation and Food Services			The hotel is to offer guests skippered cruises on the lake in a 2-hour cruise, complemented with chilled Prosecco. Lavish picnic lunches are possible too.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
20-Jan-22	The Rebuild Site	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The new co. on Kingmoor Park will collect unused building materials from construction sites in Cumbria. The materials will be sold at a reduced price to other operators and individuals & be donated to community projects.	
22-Jan-22	32 West	Carlisle and Ulverston	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities			The Cumbrian PR and Communications Agency is branching out with offices in Liverpool and Newcastle to meet growing demand and appointing new staff to its social media & digital marketing team.	
24-Jan-22	Wilkinson Cameras.	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The camera shop is moving to new premises on English Street, formerly the home of Sharps bedroom store. This will offer them space to have instant printing technology, a studio and training facility.	
25-Jan-22	McMenon Engineering Services and TIS Cumbria	Workington	Manufacturing			Both engineering firms, part of the North West Energy Coast Alliance, have been appointed to help deliver fabricated equipment packages for Sellafield projects as part of the Programme and Project Partners (PPP) 18-year framework.	
25-Jan-22	The Eclipse Leisure Centre	Workington	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation			The leisure centre, housing primarily a bowling alley, is to close at the end of January, blaming a "few tough years' trading."	
25-Jan-22	Free Radicals Arts	Carlisle	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation			This organisation has been launched by Free Radicals United, dedicated to LGBTQ creatives and artists, focusing on events that they can stage.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
25-Jan-22	Northern Sun	Carlisle	Other Personal Service Activities			A new tanning salon has opened on London Road in the former Subway premises.	
27-Jan-22	H&H Land and Estates	Penrith	Real Estate Activities			The co. has moved from its office in Devonshire St. to a 3-storey building on St. Andrew's View. This will bring together their newly acquired Eden Lettings Management business as well as H&H Insurance Brokers and H&H Auction Rooms.	
27-Jan-22	Forth Engineering	Flimby and Cleator Moor	Manufacturing			The engineering firm has designed and created a robotic arm. It was designed in response to Magnox' request to find a cheaper and safer solution to removing fragments of spent fuel rods from waste ponds at its power station.	
28-Jan-22	Eco Tree	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The shop, retailing eco-friendly toiletries, is expanding its product range with scented eco-friendly soaps, vegan sweets and oatmilk.	
1-Feb-22	The Boaters Bar	Bowness	Accommodation and Food Services			The bar has re-opened after renovation which included a new cocktail bar and colour changing statement lights.	
2-Feb-22	Crown Decorating Centre	Barrow	Wholesale and Retail Trade	4		A new paint store is opening at Phoenix Court on Phoenix Road. The store will also offer a Can Back recycling scheme where people can return any old paint cans to be recycled responsibly.	
2-Feb-22	Déjà Brew	Whitehaven	Accommodation and Food Services			The take-away and delivery business has opened its third premises, this one on the Sneckyeat Industrial estate.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
3-Feb-22	Forth	Flimby and Cleator Moor	Manufacturing			The engineering co. has designed and is manufacturing a Pig Retrieval tool which reduces manual handling and operating time in potentially explosive atmospheres.	
9-Feb-22	Rafis Spicebox	Windermere	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The spice business is opening a concession in the Booths store. The partnership means that customers can get cooking advice on spicy dishes and choose from over 50 spice recipes. The stand will also be providing in-store tasters.	
9-Feb-22	Major Family Law	Warwick Bridge	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	1		The Ponteland-based law firm is opening an office in Warwick Mill Business Village as it expands its numbers of clients across the North of England. It is adding a Cumbrian based solicitor to its team which will be augmented over time.	
9-Feb-22	The Muddy Paw	Carlisle	Other Personal Service Activities			A new dog grooming salon is opening in the garden centre at Houghton Hall. The firm has recruited a team of certified grooming experts to provide an extensive range of services including canine wellness treatments.	
9-Feb-22	Wilko	Various locations	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The chain is opening over 2/3 of its home and garden retail shops to pets following a successful pilot of the scheme at two locations.	
10-Feb-22	REACT Engineering	Barrow	Manufacturing			The engineering co. has relaunched its previously successful initiative, React Futures, which gives 6 th form school-leavers a job with REACT for a year before they go to university and a FT job with the co. after graduation.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
11-Feb-22	Greggs	Ulverston	Accommodation and Food Services			The fast food chain will be building a new store at the Beehive Business Park which will include a drive-thru' lane and parking for 16 cars.	
11-Feb-22	Genesis Homes	Calthwaite	Construction			The co. is building 16 houses which will be fully powered by renewable sources as part of the firm's Eco Gen project. "More than 850 tonnes of carbon emissions will be saved over a 10-year period compared to a traditional development."	
16-Feb-22	Delkia	Egremont	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities			The engineering and technology development firm has won a £2.3M contract from Morgan Sindall to support on the Sellafeld Product and Residue Store Retreatment Plant project.	
16-Feb-22	L'Enclume	Cartmel	Accommodation and Food Services				The fine dining restaurant has won its third Michelin star, the first ever restaurant in the North of England to do so. It was also awarded the Michelin green star in 2021.
16-Feb-22	Heydays Care and Support Services	Grange-over-Sands	Human Health & Social Work Activities			The co. has opened its second office in newly refurbished premises on Main St. There has been an extensive renovation including the remodelling of the interior, a new kitchen and accessible bathroom.	
22-Feb-22	Lake View Garden Bar	Bowness	Accommodation and Food Services			The co., owned by Hargreaves Enterprises Ltd., is going to undertake a £1.5M expansion which will see the creation of two new terraces at the front of the venue & a refurbishment of the current ground floor which will double its capacity.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
24-Feb-22	Bengal Rose South Asian Restaurant	Ulverston	Accommodation and Food Services			The new restaurant will open at the end of the month.	
25-Feb-22	Armstrong Watson	Carlisle	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities			The chartered accountants has acquired the successful, long-standing Leeds practice, Grants Chartered Accountants, which sees 7 Grants staff join the firm's Leeds city centre office.	
1-Mar-22	BAE Systems Submarines	Barrow	Manufacturing				The co. had 3 of their apprentices win top awards at <i>The Make UK National Awards</i> , held in London.
1-Mar-22	Lindale Stores	Lindale	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The Post Office and village store is closing after the owners have been unable to find a buyer for the business. The post office has been operating there for 150 years but an outreach service will now operate for two hours per week in the village hall.	
3-Mar-22	Webuyany-car	Barrow	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The car purchasing firm is opening a "pod branch" in the car park of the Hollywood Retail and Leisure Park, relocating from Trinity Enterprise Centre, hoping to provide better access for customers and meet increasing demand.	
3-Mar-22	Castle Chocolates	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The chocolate makers have launched a limited-edition box of chocolates celebrating the City's historic Turkish Baths. The firm is donating £1 from every box sold to The Friends of Carlisle Victorian and Turkish Baths Campaign.	
3-Mar-22	The Cumbria Clock Company	Dacre	Other Personal Service Activities			The clock repair co. has been working with the <i>Made Smarter</i> programme to introduce a bespoke digital management system to give the business a complete oversight of its operation.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
4-Mar-22	ALLIUM	Askham	Accommodation and Food Services				The restaurant at Askham Hall has been awarded a 4AA rosette rating for providing a "truly exceptional customer experience", an accolade held by only 43 restaurants in the UK.
6-Mar-22	Armstrong Ward	Kendal	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The furniture retailer is the first business to sell and stock the world's "most sustainable" sofa. The sofas are made by furniture maker, Habbio, who use only materials that are recyclable.	
6-Mar-22	Nacho Nacho	Carlisle	Accommodation and Food Services			The owners of a Mexican street-food van business operating in Botcherby have been increasing their menu and will be expanding to other locations across Carlisle later this year.	
6-Mar-22	Ullswater Holiday Park	Water-millock	Accommodation and Food Services			The holiday park has opened for the season after months of construction and includes "camping cabins," "honey bee pods," a licensed bar, shop and fish & chip shop.	
6-Mar-22	Kendal College	Kendal	Education			The College is spending £4M on building a new construction and engineering building to host its new T-level training programmes designed to prepare people for work in the sector. It has also recently installed hybrid and electrical automotive workshops.	
6-Mar-22	Createc	Cockermouth	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities			The R&D co. has formed an international consortium with firms, Ingecid and Catenda, to create IC Circle which has been awarded a contract to design, build & manage an integrated software system to support the Norwegian Nuclear Decommissioning process.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To	To		
14-Mar-22	Cumbria County Council	Carlisle	Public Administration				The County Council has won a special Award for Community Impact and Engagement for the Pooley Bridge Replacement Project at the <i>National Civic Trust Awards</i> .
16-Mar-22	McMenon Engineering Services and TIS Cumbricreate	Workington	Manufacturing			The engineering firms have collaborated to form the North West Energy Coast (NVEC) Alliance and as such have been included in Sellafield's PPP Goods/Services Agreement (GSA) Framework Suppliers for the next 3 years.	
18-Mar-22	The DWP	Barrow	Public Administration			The Department for Work and Pensions plans to close its office in Phoenix House – one of 42 nationally, by the end of June. Meetings are being held with affected staff whose jobs are at risk.	
19-Mar-22	The Waffle Cone	Kendal	Accommodation and Food Services	5 or 6		The waffle and ice cream takeaway is to open a new shop in Blackhall Yard in April. It already has shops in Sedbergh, Settle and Windermere.	
22-Mar-22	Online Systems	Carlisle	Information and Communication			The business communications provider has acquired another Cumbrian IT business, Westcom IT Solutions. Its 6 employees will join Online Systems' 45 employees in their head office.	
22-Mar-22	The Great North Air Ambulance Service	Cumbria wide	Human Health and Social Work Activities			The emergency rescue service has partnered with renewable energy co., Ørsted and Gravity Industries to trial the viability of jet suit paramedics. A paramedic dressed in a jet suit could access a patient in a fraction of the time.	
22-Mar-22	The Lakes Brew Co.	Kendal	Manufacturing				The brewery has been named "overall National Champion of the Bottle/Can Competition" at the <i>SIBA National Independent Beer Awards</i> for its NE Session IPA beer

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Further Detail / Investments/ Innovation/ New services	National Commendations
				To be gained	To be lost		
24-Mar-22	Cumbria Storage Solutions	Workington	Transportation and Storage			The co. has taken new premises at Clay Flatts Industrial Estate to provide self-storage units inside the main building and a new storage facility for people's caravans in a secured compound with 24-hour access.	
24-Mar-22	The Local	Ulverston	Wholesale and Retail Trade				The off-licence & convenience store was named "Best Convenience Retailer" in the national <i>Drinks Retailing Awards</i> . It carries >300 beers from > 40 different breweries.
25-Mar-22	Copeland Borough Council	Cleator Moor	Public Administration	>100		The Council has launched the Industrial Solutions Hub (iSH) at the Leconfield Industrial Estate. This will bring employment, skills and training opportunities for people in the area & generate >100 new jobs over a period of 18 months.	
26-Mar-22	Booths	Various	Wholesale and Retail Trade				The supermarket chain has won the "Multiple Beer Retailer of the Year" award at the national <i>Drinks Retailing Awards</i> . It was particularly praised for the depth of its range.
26-Mar-22	HY5 Commercial Cleaning	Ulverston	Administrative and Support Service Activities			The co. has invested in a specialist app which allows its cleaning technicians to take photos and upload them whilst on the job so that reports for certification can be sent out to customers without delay.	
29-Mar-22	The Vet	Whitehaven	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	5		A new veterinary practice is opening. It occupies the former public house, "Distressed Sailor" which the veterinary practice founders bought last year and converted to a modern veterinary surgery.	

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				To be gained	To be lost		
29-Mar-22	Bells of Lazonby	Lazonby	Manufacturing			The bakery has spent almost £2M in new manufacturing technologies. This includes a programmable ultrasonic cutting robot & data integration with an enterprise resource planning system. This has speeded up production, reduced wastage and increased profitability.	
30-Mar-22	Pets at Home	Barrow	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The pet chain has opened "the Groom Room", offering grooming services for dogs and the rest of the store has been refurbished to include a pet village and an aquatic centre. New puppy and kitten owners can join their free VIP Puppy and Kitten Club.	

Note:

C - Covid19