

Section 1.—Industrial and Commercial Failures from Private Sources

A historical table giving failures for Canada and Newfoundland, by classes, for the years 1915 to 1935 is given at p. 969 of the 1936 Year Book. Early in 1936, Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated, from whose reports these figures were taken, adopted a new method of classification. The principal changes consisted of setting up a new group of construction enterprises previously included in manufacturing and a new class for commercial service. Real estate companies, holding, and other financial companies and agents of various kinds, were dropped. These changes have had the effect of confining the failure records more to industrial and commercial lines of activity, and liabilities are reduced more in proportion to the number of failures since the companies eliminated usually ran high in indebtedness. The figures in Table 1, which are available back to 1934, are therefore not comparable with the earlier series and are for Canada only.

1.—Industrial and Commercial Failures in Canada, by Classes, 1939-46, and by Provinces, 1947

(From Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated)

NOTE.—Figures for 1934-38 are given at p. 628 of the 1946 Year Book.

Year and Province	Manu- facturing		Wholesale Trade		Retail Trade		Con- struction		Commercial Service		Totals	
	No.	Lia- bilities	No.	Lia- bilities	No.	Lia- bilities	No.	Lia- bilities	No.	Lia- bilities	No.	Lia- bilities
		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000
Totals, 1939.....	234	3,829	77	1,293	874	4,946	53	793	61	774	1,299	11,635
Totals, 1940.....	197	3,482	72	1,128	774	3,949	56	569	59	450	1,158	9,578
Totals, 1941.....	130	2,419	42	539	614	3,118	55	519	41	364	882	6,959
Totals, 1942.....	87	3,630	33	516	393	2,499	61	526	35	173	609	7,344
Totals, 1943.....	36	2,357	7	137	96	500	32	519	15	121	186	3,634
Totals, 1944.....	33	1,042	12	242	33	514	15	265	3	56	96	2,119
Totals, 1945.....	37	1,511	7	246	26	250	20	240	5	58	95	2,305
Totals, 1946.....	41	2,684	19	421	41	451	21	231	8	216	130	4,003
1947												
P. E. Island.....	Nil	-	Nil	-	2	24	Nil	-	Nil	-	2	24
Nova Scotia.....	"	-	"	-	2	20	1	45	"	-	3	65
New Brunswick.....	2	23	"	-	9	34	Nil	-	1	7	12	64
Quebec.....	86	2,684	32	997	50	560	24	326	9	153	201	4,720
Ontario.....	28	927	8	206	11	77	6	177	4	195	57	1,582
Manitoba.....	2	35	Nil	-	4	88	Nil	-	Nil	-	6	123
Saskatchewan.....	Nil	-	"	-	1	7	1	15	1	8	3	30
Alberta.....	1	49	2	22	1	3	Nil	-	1	2	5	76
British Columbia.....	7	97	Nil	-	4	69	4	378	Nil	-	15	544
Totals, 1947.....	126	3,815	42	1,225	84	882	36	941	16	365	304	7,228

In 1947, Quebec and Ontario accounted for 66 p.c. and 19 p.c., respectively, of the total failures in the Dominion. As regards liabilities, Quebec accounted for 65 p.c. of the total as compared with 22 p.c. registered for Ontario.

According to Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated, the number of commercial failures during the war years 1939-45 showed a steady decrease year by year, and, whereas before the War the great majority of failures were in retail trading establishments, the proportion in that group also showed a steady decrease during those years. Since the end of the War, however, the numbers of failures have shown substantial increases amounting to 37 p.c. in 1946 over 1945 and to 134 p.c. in 1947 over 1946. Each industrial group contributed to the advance in 1947, though almost half of the increase was accounted for by manufacturing industries.