

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 omitted. 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 exclusive of Newfoundland, which did not enter Confederation until 1949.

1.—Industrial and Commercial Failures in Canada, by Classes, 1940-47, and by Provinces, 1948

(From Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated)

NOTE.—Figures for 1934-39 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, 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	2,365
Totals, 1946	41	2,684	19	421	41	451	21	231	8	216	139	4,003
Totals, 1947	126	3,815	42	1,225	84	882	36	941	16	365	304	7,228
1948												
P. E. Island.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nova Scotia.....	1	57	1	22	3	26	—	—	—	—	5	105
New Brunswick.....	2	20	—	—	8	69	—	—	1	25	11	114
Quebec.....	102	4,183	42	1,048	126	1,480	31	664	23	392	324	7,767
Ontario.....	40	1,671	14	224	31	337	12	133	2	12	99	2,377
Manitoba.....	6	231	4	93	8	48	2	71	—	—	20	443
Saskatchewan.....	1	75	—	—	10	69	1	3	—	—	12	147
Alberta.....	1	158	—	—	4	49	—	—	1	20	6	227
British Columbia.....	5	339	1	8	8	200	2	28	—	—	16	575
Totals, 1948	158	6,734	62	1,395	198	2,278	48	899	27	449	493	11,755

In 1948, Quebec and Ontario accounted for 66 p.c. and 20 p.c., respectively, of the total failures. As regards liabilities, Quebec accounted for 66 p.c. of the total as compared with 20 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 number of failures has shown