

Section 3.—Statistics of Industrial and Commercial Failures from Private Sources

A table on commercial failures for Canada, by class, for the years 1915 to 1935 (and for Newfoundland for the years 1915-32), is given in the 1936 Year Book, p. 969. 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 had the effect of confining the failure records more to industrial and commercial lines of activity, and liabilities were reduced more in proportion to the number of failures, since the companies eliminated usually ran high in indebtedness. This series extends back to 1934.

7.—Industrial and Commercial Failures, by Class, 1948-52, and by Province, 1953

(Source: Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated)

NOTE.—Figures from 1934 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1946 edition.

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, 1948	158	6,724	62	1,395	198	2,278	48	899	27	449	493	11,755
Totals, 1949	177	8,406	69	3,516	247	3,252	63	1,329	40	776	596	17,279
Totals, 1950	159	6,479	70	1,746	349	4,347	89	1,415	50	1,405	717	15,392
Totals, 1951	174	6,409	72	2,892	387	5,693	116	2,560	48	1,494	797	19,048
Totals, 1952	205	7,787	73	2,285	418	6,885	106	2,196	41	670	843	19,823
1953												
Newfoundland.....	—	—	2	23	9	210	—	—	—	—	11	233
Prince Edward Island...	—	—	—	—	1	20	—	—	—	—	1	20
Nova Scotia.....	2	117	—	—	2	155	1	52	—	—	5	324
New Brunswick.....	—	—	—	—	13	251	—	—	—	—	13	251
Quebec.....	107	4,393	59	2,343	325	5,923	83	1,835	41	570	615	15,064
Ontario.....	47	2,438	15	916	123	2,919	41	1,396	13	795	239	8,464
Manitoba.....	11	598	4	106	22	575	5	115	3	92	45	1,486
Saskatchewan.....	1	33	1	12	9	241	—	—	—	—	11	286
Alberta.....	1	558	3	192	14	303	6	401	1	41	25	1,495
British Columbia.....	16	806	1	13	50	1,182	6	678	1	2	74	2,681
Totals, 1953	185	8,943	85	3,605	568	11,779	142	4,477	59	1,500	1,039	30,304

¹ Newfoundland included from Apr. 1, 1949.

In 1953, Quebec accounted for 59 p.c. of the total failures and 50 p.c. of the liabilities; Ontario had 23 p.c. of the failures and 28 p.c. of the liabilities.

According to Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated, commercial failures during World War II decreased steadily year by year and failures in the retail trade group, in which the majority of failures took place before the War, also decreased. After the end of the War, however, the total number of failures increased again. Failures in the retail trade group in 1953 accounted for over one-half of the total.