

## List of Major Retail Failures 2008 to end-2019

### Largest retailers to have gone into administration since 2008

(see notes below)

| year | retailer             | stores        | employees      | sector                 | brands (at time of administration)             |
|------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| 2019 | Mamas and Pappa      | 32            | 748            | clothing               |  |
| 2019 | Jessops              | 46            | 436            | photography            |  |
| 2019 | Clintons             | 332           | 2,500          | cards, gifts           |  |
| 2019 | Mothercare           | 79            | 2,500          | maternity              |  |
| 2019 | Bonmarche            | 318           | 2,887          | clothing               |  |
| 2019 | Karen Millen/Coas    | 32            | 1,100          | clothing               |  |
| 2019 | Select               | 180           | 2,000          | clothing               |  |
| 2019 | Debenhams            | 165           | 25,000         | department             |  |
| 2018 | HMV                  | 133           | 2,200          | music, DVD, games      |  |
| 2018 | House of Fraser      | 59            | 17,500         | department             |  |
| 2018 | Poundworld           | 350           | 5,300          | discount               |  |
| 2018 | Conviviality Retaili | 760           | 4,000          | off licence!           | Wine Rack, Bargain Booze                       |
| 2018 | Maplin               | 200           | 2,500          | IT                     |  |
| 2018 | Toys 'R' Us          | 105           | 3,200          | toys & games           |  |
| 2017 | Palmer & Harvey      | -             | 4,000          | wholesaler             |  |
| 2017 | Store Twenty One     | 76            | 1,080          | clothing/variety chain |  |
| 2016 | BHS                  | 164           | 11,000         | clothing/variety chain |  |
| 2016 | Brantano             | 200           | 2,000          | footwear               |  |
| 2014 | Phones4U             | 550           | 5,600          | mobile phones          |  |
| 2013 | HMV                  | 238           | 4,350          | music                  |  |
| 2013 | Blockbuster          | 528           | 4,190          | DVD rental             |  |
| 2012 | Comet                | 236           | 7,000          | electricals            |  |
| 2012 | Clinton Cards        | 767           | 8,500          | cards, gifts           | Clintons, Birthdays                            |
| 2012 | Game                 | 600           | 6,000          | video games            |  |
| 2012 | Peacocks             | 550           | 9,600          | clothing               |  |
| 2012 | JJB Sports           | 250           | 6,300          | sportswear             |  |
| 2012 | Alexon               | 990           | 2,700          | clothing               | Ann Harvey, Kaliko, Dash and Eastex            |
| 2011 | Focus DIY            | 170           | 3,919          | DIY                    |  |
| 2009 | First Quench         | 1,300         | 6,500          | off licence!           | Wine Rack, Threshers, Bottoms Up, Victoria     |
| 2009 | Zavvi                | 150           | 3,500          | music                  | formerly Virgin Records                        |
| 2008 | Ethel Austin         | 300           | 3,100          | clothing               |  |
| 2008 | Adams                | 271           | 3,200          | children's clothing    |  |
| 2008 | Woolworths           | 820           | 30,000         | variety chain          |  |
| 2008 | Stead & Simpson      | 375           | 3,000          | footwear               | Shoe Express, Lilley & Skinner, and Peter Brig |
| 2008 | Faith Shoes          | 284           | 2,000          | footwear               |  |
| 2008 | Roseby's             | 280           | 2,000          | furnishings            |  |
| 2008 | Motor World          | 284           | 2,235          | car accessories        |  |
| 2008 | MFI                  | 173           | 1,100          | furniture              | Hygena, Schreiber                              |
| 2008 | Stylo Shoes          | 1,067         | 5,400          | footwear               | Stylo Shoes, Barratts Shoes and Priceless      |
| 2008 | Allied Carpets       | 273           | 2,300          | floor coverings        |  |
| 2008 | Blacks Leisure       | 400           | 2,640          | outdoorwear            |  |
|      | <b>40 totals</b>     | <b>14,087</b> | <b>215,085</b> |                        |  |

## 40 retailers

**Notes:** These figures relate to retail corporations that went into legal administration in the year shown. The test for inclusion is (a) administration and (b) national significance. The table does not indicate or purport to show whether the company has disappeared, such as Woolworths, or still survives in a robust manner, such as HMV or Peacocks. Appearance in the table does not imply that the brand is no longer used or does not trade. Where a retailer has suffered several failures the date used is normally the one where most assets or staff were involved. We do not track in detail what has happened to these companies so please do not ask. Retailers that have shrunk their businesses without going through administration are not included.

| Sectors responsible for largest failures | A<br>Affected<br>stores | B<br>Affected<br>employees | A<br>%        | B<br>%        |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| department stores                        | 224                     | 42,500                     | 1.6%          | 19.8%         |
| clothing outerwear & sportswear, baby    | 3,842                   | 50,855                     | 27.3%         | 23.6%         |
| electricals&mobiles, IT                  | 986                     | 15,100                     | 7.0%          | 7.0%          |
| footwear                                 | 1,726                   | 10,400                     | 12.3%         | 4.8%          |
| music, DVD rental & video games          | 1,695                   | 20,676                     | 12.0%         | 9.6%          |
| off licences                             | 2,060                   | 10,500                     | 14.6%         | 4.9%          |
| variety chain                            | 820                     | 30,000                     | 5.8%          | 13.9%         |
| wholesaler                               | -                       | 4,000                      | 0.0%          | 1.9%          |
| toys & games                             | 105                     | 3200                       | 0.7%          | 1.5%          |
| other*                                   | 2,279                   | 22,554                     | 16.2%         | 10.5%         |
| discount                                 | 350                     | 5300                       | 2.5%          | 2.5%          |
| <b>Totals</b>                            | <b>14,087</b>           | <b>215,085</b>             | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

\* car parts, cards, DIY, floors, furniture, furnishings

**Note: correct to 5 January 2020**

**Source: Centre for Retail Research data collected 2007-2019**

**Centre for Retail Research Limited  
Union Building  
51-9 Rose Lane  
Norwich, Norfolk  
NR1 1BY**

Wine **email** [research@retailresearch.org](mailto:research@retailresearch.org)  
**web** [www.retailresearch.org](http://www.retailresearch.org)