

DEBENHAMS PLC BANKRUPTCY¹ CASE STUDY

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CreditRiskMonitor's warning of Debenhams plc's ("Debenhams") bankruptcy risk was determined by a combination of factors:

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MONTHLY AVERAGE FRISK® SCORE

CreditRiskMonitor's FRISK® score had been warning of financial stress at Debenhams plc for more than a year.

The company ultimately filed for bankruptcy on April 9, 2019.

Business Name	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019
Dusiliess Name	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Debenhams Plc	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

BANKRUPT!

The FRISK® score is 96% accurate² in predicting the risk of corporate failure/bankruptcy over a 12-month horizon.

All FRISK® scores are recalculated every night for each subsequent 12-month period.

	FRISK® FIG	boatility of ballkru	ptcy within 12 months
		From	То
Best	10	0.00%	0.12%
	9	0.12%	0.27%
	8	0.27%	0.34%
	7	0.34%	0.55%
	6	0.55%	0.87%
	5	0.87%	1.40%
	4	1.40%	2.10%
	3	2.10%	4.00%
	2	4.00%	9.99%
Worst	1	9.99%	50.00%

While the percentage risk of bankruptcy varies at each FRISK® score, 96% of public companies that eventually go bankrupt enter the FRISK® "red zone" prior to filing. A FRISK® score of 5 or less is an important warning sign.

^{2.} FRISK® score accuracy of 96% is based on backtesting of U.S. public companies; results may vary by country.

THE FRISK® SCORE COMPONENTS

At the core of the CreditRiskMonitor process is our 96% accurate FRISK® score, which indicates a company's level of financial stress on a scale of 1 to 10, based on the probability of bankruptcy over a 12-month horizon. When available, the FRISK® score incorporates a number of powerful risk indicators including:

A "Merton" type model using stock market capitalization and volatility Financial ratios, including those used in the Altman Z"-Score Model Bond agency ratings from Moody's, Fitch, DBRS, & Morningstar

Crowdsourced CreditRiskMonitor Usage Data

<u>Crowdsourcing</u> has enhanced³ the accuracy and timeliness of the FRISK® score . We collect and analyze data patterns from thousands of CreditRiskMonitor subscribers, including professionals from more than 35% of the Fortune 1000 and other large corporations worldwide.

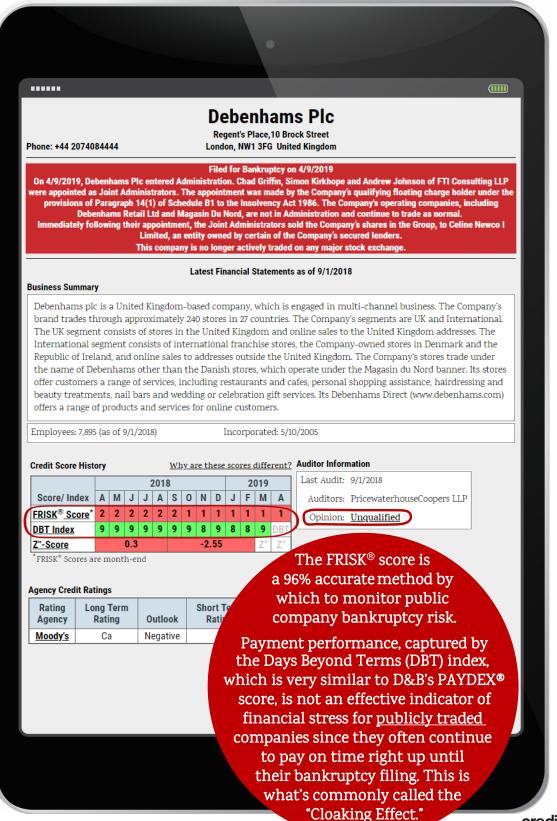
The crowdsourcing advantage is even more powerful in our FRISK® score since many of the professionals who use our service are credit managers:

- Credit managers control one of the largest sources of working capital going into a company
- They are not held to the same "Fair Disclosure" restrictions that prevent nondisclosed information sharing on public companies
- Credit managers use a variety of non-public information sources such as their own company's management and sales representatives to be alerted to concerns in a public company's performance
- It is commonly known credit managers confidentially share information with other credit managers, thus collectively, their behavior helps to provide advanced insight to financial problems in public companies

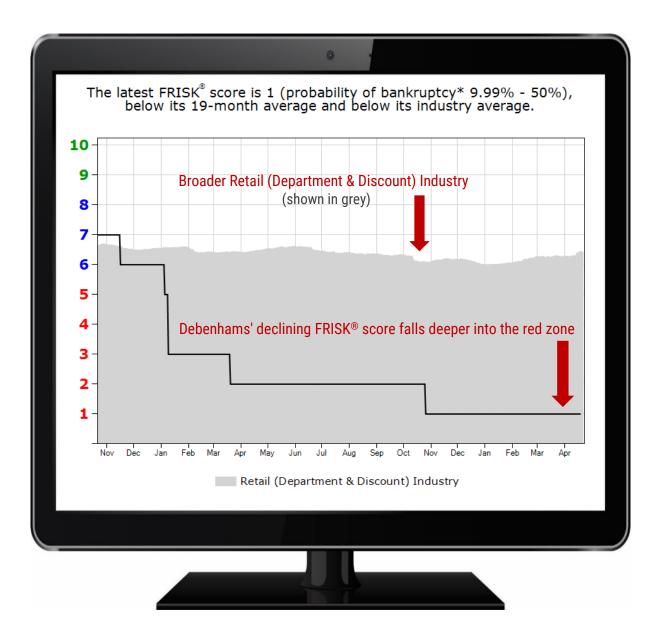
Read more in Credit Research Foundation's quarterly journal article, "Assessing Public Company Financial Risk by Crowdsourcing the Research of Credit Professionals"

3. The enhancement only impacts the scores of U.S. businesses that are of interest to a significant fraction of our subscribers.

COMPANY REPORT DETAIL

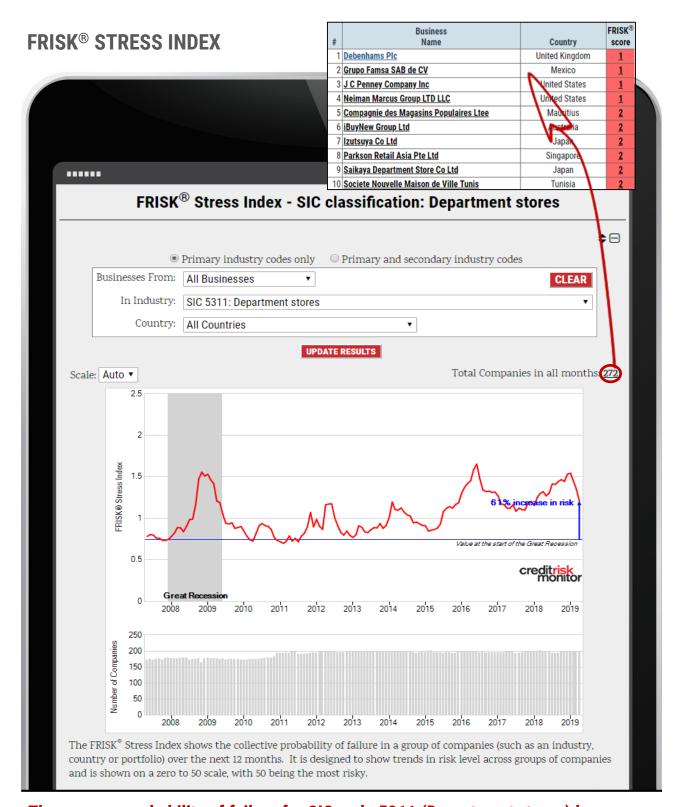


FRISK® DEEP DIVE



The FRISK® score relative to the broader Retail (Department & Discount) industry raised an additional red flag signaling heightened risk relative to peers, as well...

MAKING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED.



The average probability of failure for SIC code 5311 (Department stores) has increased 61% since 2007. Debenhams was among the weakest names in the industry as evidenced by its FRISK® score of 1.

PEER ANALYSIS ON ALTERNATE SUPPLIERS AND CUSTOMERS



QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE RATIOS

Pronounced declines in operating & net income in H2 2018 vs. H1 2018 due to noncash impairment Performance Ratios - Sequential Quarters charges (Thousands of British Pounds) 26 weeks 26 weeks 26 weeks 26 weeks 27 weeks **Period Ended** 9/1/2018 3/3/2018 9/2/2017 3/4/2017 9/3/2016 Net Sales £ £957,800 £1,319,200 £983,900 £1,351,100 £1,014,500 % change -27.40% 34.08% -27.18% 33.18% -23.56% Gross Margin £ (£115,500) £130,600 £72,200 £192,600 £101,000 % change -188.44% 80.89% -62.51% 90.69% -47.51% % of sales -12.06% 9.90% 7.34% 14.26% 9.96% change as % of incremental sales n/m 17.42% n/m 27.21% n/m SG&A £ £383,600 £112,800 £94,800 £98,700 £82,000 % change 18.99% 240.07% -3.95% 20.37% -11.64% % of sales 40.05% 8.55% 9.64% 7.31% 8.08% change as % of incremental sales 5.37% 4.96% n/mn/m n/m Operating margin £ (£499,100) £17,800 (£22,600)£93,900 £19,000 178.76% -124.07% 394.21% -80.92% % change -2.903.93% % of sales -52.11% 1.35% -2.30% 6.95% 1.87% change as % of incremental sales 12.05% n/m 22.25% n/m n/mEBITDA £ (£440,800) £76,900 £31,900 £148,900 £75,100 % change -673.21% 141.07% -78 58% 98.27% -50.98% 3.24% % of sales -46.02% 5.83% 11.02% 7.40% change as % of incremental sales n/m 13.42% n/m 21.93% n/m FRIT £ (£498,100) £18,800 (£22,600) £93,900 £19,800 % change -2,749.47% 183.19% -124.07% 374.24% -80.18% % of sales -2.30% 6.95% -52.00% 1.43% 1.95% change as % of incremental sales 12.35% 22.01% n/m n/m n/m Pre-tax income £ £87,800 (£505,000)£13,500 (£28,800)£12,000 % change -3,840.74% 146.88% -132.80% 631.67% -87.21% % of sales -52.73% -2.93% 6.50% 1.02% 1.18% change as % of incremental sales 12.62% n/m 22.52% n/m n/mNet income (loss) £ (£471,500) £11,300 (£22,800)£71,600 £9,500 % change -4.272.57% 149.56% -131.84% 653.68% -87.57% % of sales -49.23% 0.86% -2.32% 5.30% 0.94% change as % of incremental sales n/m10.17% n/m 18.45% n/m Tax expense £ (£33,500) £2,200 (£6.000)£16,200 £2,500 Effective tax rate 16.30% 20.83% 18.45% 20.83% 6.63% Depreciation expense £ £57,300 £58,100 £54,500 £55,000 £55,300 % of sales 5.98% 4.40% 5.54% % of capital expenses 75.69% 96.35% 70.50% Interest % of PP&E, net (annualized) 18.47% 17.98% 16.75% Capital expenditures £ £75,700 £60,300 £77,300 coverage ratio % change 25.54% -21.99% 62.74% & free cash flow % of PP&E, net (annualized) 18.66% 23.76% 24.40% 57.86% % of working capital (annualized) 51.25% -81.80% turned drastically Interest coverage ratio (62.08)14.24 5.15 negative in % change -535.97% 176.78% -78.92% (£45,100) H₂ 2018 Free cash flow £ (£73,500) £65,300 % change -212.56% 244.79% -148.34% Source: ARS Interim Report ARS Interim Rep 12/5/2018 4/19/2018 12/8/2017 4/20/2017

QUARTERLY LEVERAGE RATIOS

egative tangible worth suggested at the company had exhausted					
of the learned la		Sequential of British Pounds)			
Period Ended	9/1/2018	3/3/2018	9/2/2017	3/4/2017	9/3/2016
Total debt £	£364,000	£287,300	£315,900	£256,900	£335,300
% change	26.70%	-9.05%	22.97%	-23.38%	28.96%
Stockholders' equity £	£489,400	£890,400	£917,600	£957,100	£883,900
% change	-45.04%	-2.96%	-4.13%	8.28%	-6.04%
Total debt to equity ratio	0.74	0.32	0.34	0.27	0.38
% change	130.49%	-6.27%	28.28%	-29.24%	37.23%
Tangible net worth £	(£130,000)	(£104,900)	(£74,300)	(£21,200)	(£78,200)
% change	-23.93%	-41.18%	-250.47%	72.89%	-39,200.00%
Total assets £	£1,967,900	£2,212,200	£2,265,800	£2,194,100	£2 191,000
% change	-11.04%	-2.37%	3.27%		- R
Total debt to assets ratio	0.19	0.13	0.14	Short	t-term
% change	42.42%	-6.81%	19.04%	debt as a	percentag
Tangible assets £	£1,348,500	£1,216,900	£1,273,900	of worki	ng capital
% change	10.81%	-4.47%	4.78%		gative in
Short-term debt £	£165,600	£88,300	£116,400		5 semi-
% change	87.54%	-24.14%	103.50%	annual	periods
Short-term debt % of total debt	45.49%	30.73%	36.85%		-
% change	48.02%	-16.59%	65.49%	-44.>	00.90%
Short-term debt % of working capital	-59.38%	-36.13%	-51.46%	-37.68%	-73.14%
% change	-64.34%	29.79%	-36.56%	48.48%	-78.55%
Total liabilities £	£1,478,500	£1,321,800	£1,348,200	£1,237,000	£1,307,100
% change	11.86%	-1.96%	8.99%	-5.36%	5.76%
Total liabilities to equity ratio	3.02	1.48	1.47	1.29	1.48
% change	103.50%	1.03%	13.69%	-12.60%	12.56%
Total debt to F	n/a	1.87	4.95	0.86	2.23
% change Total liabilities	n/a	-62.27%	473.94%	-61.36%	163.07%
Source: to equity ratio	ARS	Interim Report	ARS	Interim Report	ARS
signaled heightened	12/5/2018	4/19/2018	12/5/2018	4/20/2017	11/21/2016
risk in the last					

5 semi-annual periods

QUARTERLY LIQUIDITY RATIOS AND RATES OF RETURN

Negative working capital n each of the last 5 semi-annual periods		ntios - Sequer		qu	Meager sh, quick, & current uick ratios
Period Ended	9/1/2018	3/3/2018	9/2/2017	3/4/2017	9/3/2016
Current assets £	£528,100	£444,400	£501,800	£477,200	£502,800
% change	18.83%	-11.44%	5.16%	-5.09%	6.05%
% of short-term debt	318.90%	503.28%	431.10%	834.27%	370.80%
Current liabilities £	£807,000	£688,800	£728,000	£629,000	£688,200
% change	17.16%	-5.38%	15.74%	-8.60%	9.60%
Working capital £	(£278,900)	(£244,400)	(£226,200)	(£151,800)	(£185,400)
% change	-14.12%	-8.05%	-49.01%	18.12%	-20.55%
% of sales (annualized)	-14.56%	-9.26%	-11.50%	-5.62%	-9.14%
Cash £	£42,700	£39,100	£40,000	£40,000	£56,300
% change	9.21%	-2.25%	0.00%	-28.95%	57.26%
% of short-t <u>erm</u> debt	25.79%	44.28%	34.36%	69.93%	41.52%
Cash ratio	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.08
% change	-6.87%	3.46%	-13.68%	-22.25%	43.51%
Quick assets £	£124,000	£123,800	£122,900	£118,400	£137,400
% change	0.16%	0.73%	3.80%	-13.83%	23.34%
% of short-t <u>erm</u> debt	74.88%	140.20%	105.58%	206.99%	101.33%
Quick ratio	0.15	0.18	0.17	0.19	0.20
% change	-14.47%	6.46%	-10.31%	-5.76%	12.57%
Current ratio	0.65	0.65	0.69	0.76	0.73
% change	1.43%	-6.40%	-9.15%	3.85%	-3.24%
Source:	ARS	Interim Report	ARS	Interim Report	ARS
	12/5/2018	4/19/2018	12/5/2018	4/20/2017	11/21/2016

turned				17 7 7	
egative in	Rate of Retur	n - Sequenti ands of British Pou	T	s	
H2 2018	26 weeks	26 weeks	26 weeks	26 weeks	27 weeks
Period Ended	9/1/2018	3/3/2018	9/2/2017	3/4/2017	9/3/2016
Return on equity	-52.95%	1.23%	-2.38%	8.10%	1.01%
% change	-4,399.94%	151.70%	-129.41%	702.11%	-88.72%
Return on net tangible equity	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,750.00%
Return on total assets	-22.56%	0.50%	-1.02%	3.27%	0.44%
% change	-4,569.84%	149.36%	-131.31%	650.71%	-87.70%
Return on tangible assets	-36.76%	0.91%	-1.83%	5.86%	0.77%
% change	-4,151.41%	149.54%	-131.27%	659.94%	-87.66%
Source:	ARS	Interim Report	ARS	Interim Report	ARS
4	12/5/2018	4/19/2018	12/8/2017	4/20/2017	11/21/2016

NEWS ALERTS: A TIMELINE OF CONCERNING NEWS ITEMS

Debenhams' CFO i	nformed the Company's bo	pard of his intention to resign.
4/19/2018	Reuters	Debenhams Says CFO Matt Smith To Quit Firm
	e 6 month period ending 3/ ne period last year.	/3/18 decreased 84% to £11.3 million compared with net income of £71.6
4/20/2018	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams Plc updated financials available
		B2; reflecting its weaker-than-expected profitability and resultant nsistent with the B1 rating.
8/1/2018	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams Plc updated Moody's rating available
		to 90 jobs in its fashion-and-home business unit as part of its continuing cut 320 store-management jobs to reduce costs.
8/16/2018	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams To Cut Up To 90 Jobs As Part Of Restructuring
	was mulling 'long term op ging in advisers to assess	otions' that could include asset sales; oftentimes a red flag action, amid restructure plans.
9/10/2018	Stock Market Wire	Debenhams mulls asset sales; sees 'more positive trends'
•		able to weaker financial performance, Debenhams said it would cut years, compared with the 10 previously identified.
10/25/2018	Stock Market Wire	Debenhams scraps dividend, plans store closures after £500m loss
the same period la	st year. Net income for th	8 increased 1,968% to £471.5 million versus net loss of £22.8 million for e year-to-date period decreased 1,043% to negative £460.2 million quivalent period last year.
10/26/2018	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams Plc updated financials available
•		Caa1; reflecting the challenges it faced to improve its credit quality cost effective refinancing of its current debt facilities.
11/2/2018	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams Plc updated Moody's rating available
The Company's sa	les fell by 3% during a typi	ically seasonally strong period for department store retailers.
1/10/2019	Stock Market Wire	Debenhams' sales fall over Christmas period as high street gloom continues
		gative from stable citing there was a risk that refinancing negotiations solution thereby culminating in losses for creditors.
1/16/2019	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams Plc updated Moody's rating available
		nings and lost 90 percent of its market value in the past year. They also er, Sports Direct, to take control of the business.
3/25/2019	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams Shareholders May Face Wipeout In Restructuring
	led Debenhams ratings to Il creditors looks inevitabl	Ca; negative outlook stating that a balance sheet restructuring involving e.
4/4/2019	CRMZ News Service	Debenhams Plc updated Moody's rating available
Debenhams entere	ed Administration.	

ABOUT THIS REPORT/CONTACT CREDITRISKMONITOR



CreditRiskMonitor is a financial risk analysis and news service that helps credit, supply chain and financial professionals stay ahead of and manage risk quickly, accurately and cost effectively. More than 35% of the Fortune 1000, plus over a thousand other large corporations worldwide, rely on our financial risk coverage of over 58,000 global public companies.

CreditRiskMonitor Bankruptcy Case Studies provide post-filing analyses of public company bankruptcies. Our case studies educate subscribers about methods they can apply to assess bankruptcy risk using CreditRiskMonitor's proprietary FRISK® score, robust financial database and timely news alerts.

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