creditrisk FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS monitor® BANKRUPTCY CASE STUDY

FILED ON 04/14/2020



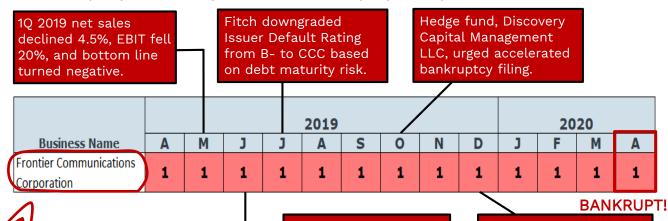
CreditRiskMonitor's warning of Frontier Communications Corporation's ("Frontier") bankruptcy risk was determined by a combination of factors:

Monthly Average FRISK® Score	Page 2
The FRISK® Score Components	3
Management Discussion and Analysis	4
Company Report Detail	5
FRISK® Deep Dive and Adjusted Market Cap Volatility	6
FRISK® Stress Index	7
Peer Analysis on Alternate Suppliers and Customers	8
Quarterly Performance Ratios	9
Quarterly Leverage Ratios	10
Quarterly Liquidity Ratios and Rates of Return	11
Annual Statement of Cash Flows	12
News Alerts: A Timeline of Concerning News Items	13
About This Report/Contact CreditRiskMonitor®	14

MONTHLY AVERAGE FRISK® SCORE

CreditRiskMonitor's FRISK® score had been warning of financial stress at Frontier Communications (NASDAQ: FTR) for more than a year. We issued a special High Risk Report on June 5, 2017 and published <u>in-depth analysis</u> on Sept. 4, 2019, as conditions continued to deteriorate.

The company ultimately filed for bankruptcy on April 14, 2019.



The FRISK® score is 96% accurate* 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.

Hired new CFO and elected three directors that were connected to restructuring events with other companies.

CEO, Daniel McCarthy, resigned and replaced by Bernie Han, who would "evaluate the Company's capital structure."

CDICV® Coore	BANKRUPTCY RISK RELATIVE TO THE HISTORICAL AVERAGE				
FRISK® Score	FROM	TO			
10	0.00x	0.12x			
9	0.12x	0.27x			
8	0.27x	0.34x			
7	0.34x	0.55x			
6	0.55x	0.87x			
5	0.87x	1.40x			
¥ 4	1.40x	2.10x			
3 3	2.10x	4.00x			
₹ 2	4.00x	9.99x			
1	9.99x	50.00x			

While the 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.

^{*} 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 enhanced 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:

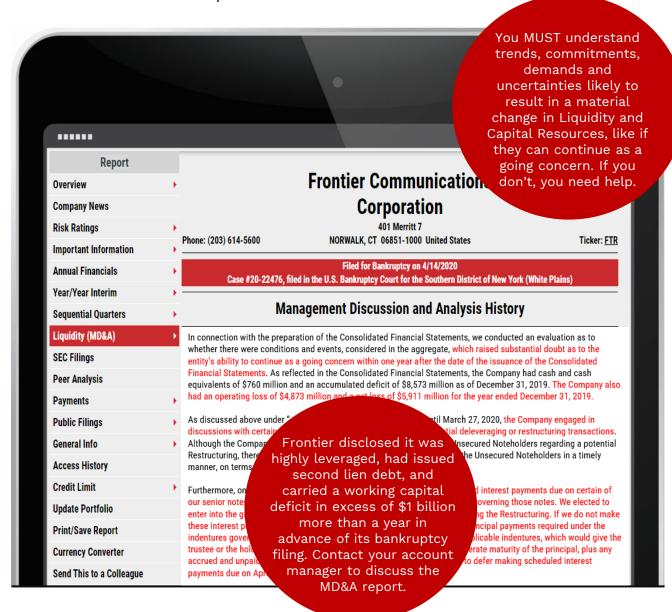
- Credit managers control one of the largest sources of working capital going into a company
- They are not held to the same "Fair Disclosure" restrictions that prevent non-disclosed information sharing on public companies
- Credit managers use a variety of non-public information sources such as their 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"

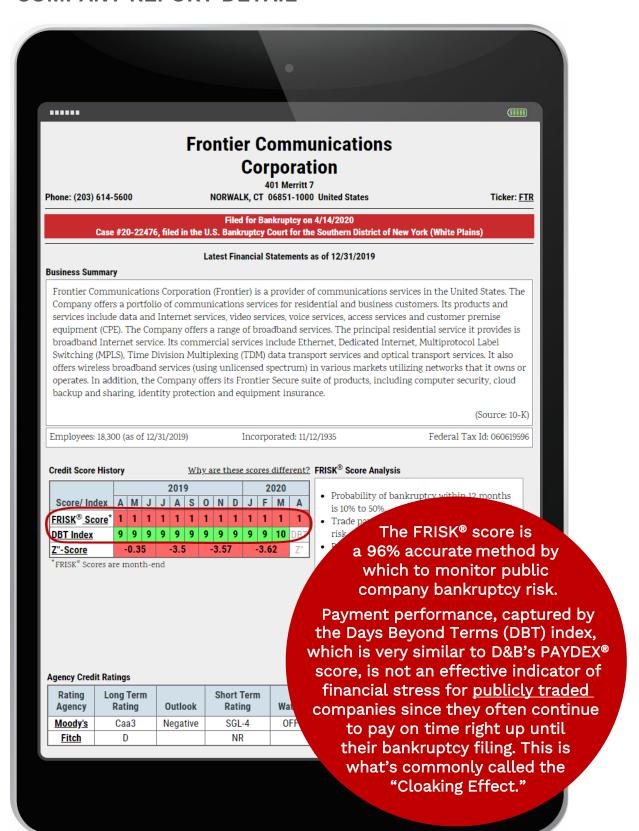
DO NOT MISS THIS - MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (MD&A)

Making misleading or fraudulent statements in an MD&A is <u>against the law</u> – and Sarbanes-Oxley subjects CEOs and CFOs to heavy fines or even <u>jail time</u> for doing so. A vital feature of the CreditRiskMonitor service is the ability to quickly access a Company's Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) history. Let it sink in: there are no two people in the world with better knowledge of a company's liquidity risk than the CEO and CFO. More than any credit manager. More than any trade group. And they're personally liable if they're lying.

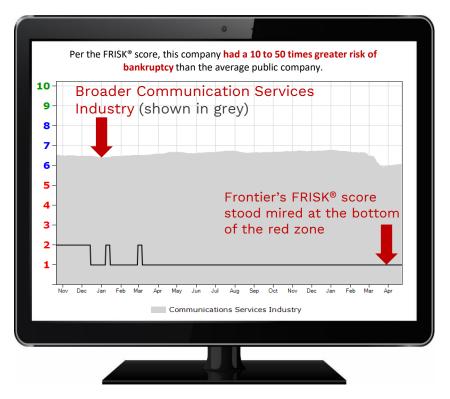
According to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), "MD&A should provide a balanced presentation that includes both positive and negative information about the topics discussed."



COMPANY REPORT DETAIL



FRISK® DEEP DIVE



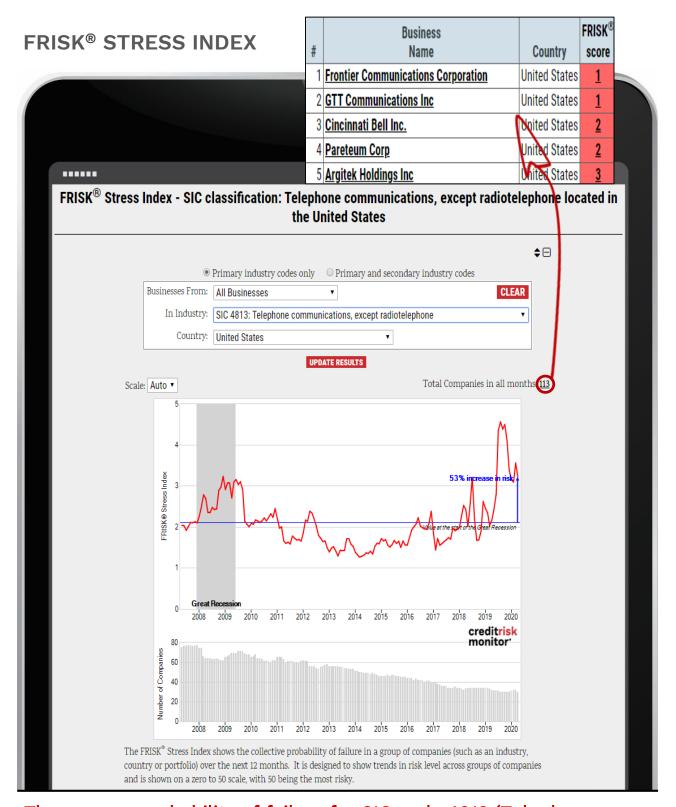
The FRISK® score relative to the broader Communications Services industry raised an additional red flag signaling heightened risk relative to peers, as well...

MAKING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED.

ADJUSTED MARKET CAP VOLATILITY

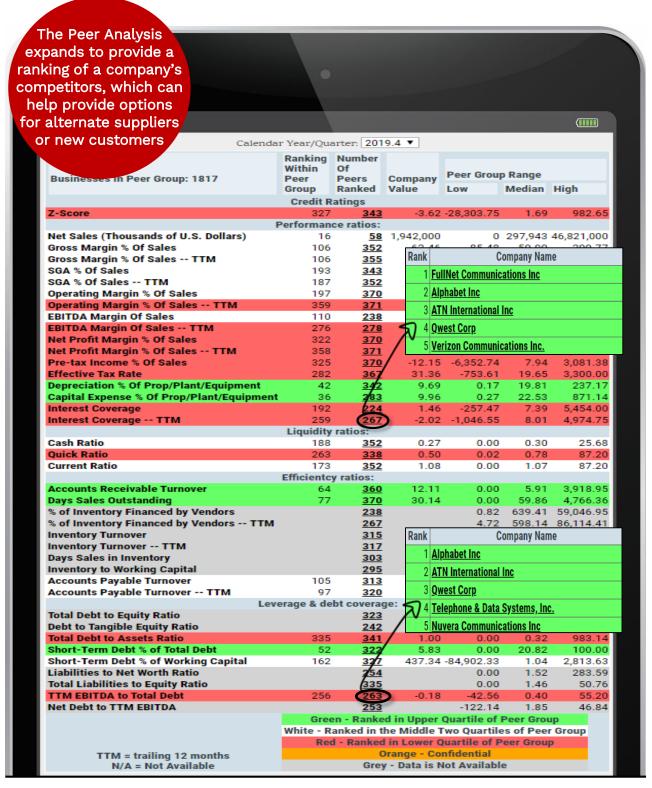


One of the inputs of the FRISK® score is a company's market cap volatility, adjusted for dividends, over the course of a year. Incorporating this information allows us to capture the "wisdom of markets" on a daily basis. This ensures our subscribers are getting the most up to date view of the risks they face since stocks tend to be more liquid and faster moving than bond prices and ratings.



The average probability of failure for SIC code 4813 (Telephone communications, except radiotelephone) has increased 53% since 2007. Frontier was among the weakest names in the industry as evidenced by its FRISK® score of 1.

PEER ANALYSIS ON ALTERNATE SUPPLIERS AND CUSTOMERS



Frontier demonstrated bottom quartile ranking in key financial ratios (shown in red) versus its industry peers.

OUARTERLY PERFORMANCE RATIOS

Continuous low single digit sales declines due to customer churn

Net losses, poor interest coverage ratio, and limited free cash flow

Performance Ratios - Sequential Quarters

(Thousands of U.S. Dollars) 3 mos 3 mos 3 mos 3 mos 3 mos Period Ended 12/31/2019 9/30/2019 6/30/2019 3/31/2019 12/31/2018 Net Sales \$ \$2,124,000 \$1,942,000 \$1,997,000 \$2,067,000 \$2,101,000 -2.75% -0.09% % change -3.39% -1.62% -1.08% Gross Margin \$ \$1,213,000 \$1,226,000 \$1,304,000 \$1,307,000 \$1,316,000 % change -1.06% -5.98% -0.23% -0.68% 1.46% % of sales 62.46% 61.39% 63.09% 62.21% 61.96% change as % of incremental sales n/m n/m n/m n/m n/m SG&A\$ \$458,000 \$445,000 \$445,000 \$456,000 \$441,000 % change 2.92% 0.00% -2.41% -0.90% 3.40% % of sales 22.28% 21.70% 20.76% 23.58% 21.53% change as % of incremental sales n/m n/m n/m n/m n/m Operating margin \$ \$164,000 \$26,000 (\$5,459,000)\$319,000 \$121,000 -1,811.29% % change 530.77% 100.48% 163.64% 375.00% % of sales 8.44% -264.10% 1.30% 15.18% 5.70% change as % of incremental sales n/m n/m n/m n/m n/m EBITDA \$ \$584,000 \$448,000 (\$5,005,000) \$803,000 \$613,000 % change 30.36% 108.95% -723.29% 31.00% 43.56% % of sales 30.07% 22.43% -242.14% 38.22% 28.86% change as % of incremental sales n/m n/m n/m n/m n/m EBIT \$ \$164,000 \$26,000 (\$5,459,000) \$319,000 \$121,000 % change 530.77% 100.48% -1,811.29% 163.64% 375.00% % of sales 8.44% 1.30% -264.10% 15.18% 5.70% change as % of incremental sales n/m n/m n/mn/m n/mPre-tax income \$ (\$236,000) (\$366,000) (\$5,851,000)(\$69,000)(\$270,000)% change 93.74% 35.52% -8.379.71% 74.44% 37.21% % of sales -12.15%-18.33% -283.07% -3.28%-12.71% change as % of incremental sales n/m Net income (loss) \$ (\$162,000)(\$345,000) (\$5,317,000)(\$87,000)(\$219,000) % change 53.04% 93.51% -6,011.49% 60.27% 48.59% % of sales -8.34% -17.28% -257.23% -4.14% -10.31% change as % of incremental sales n/m n/m n/m n/m n/mTax expense \$ (\$74,000) (\$21,000)(\$534,000) \$18,000 (\$51,000) Effective tax rate 31.36% 5.74% 9.13% -26.09% 18.89% Depreciation expense \$ \$319,000 \$321,000 \$342,000 \$353,000 \$360,000 % of sales 16.43% 16.07% 16.55% 16.80% 16.95% % of capital expenses 97.26% 100.94% 124.36% 115.74% 146.94% % of PP&E, net (annualized) 9.69% 9.74% 10.05% 10.01% 10.12% Capital expenditures \$ \$328,000 \$318,000 \$275,000 \$305,000 \$245,000 % change 3.14% 15.64% -9.84% 24.49% -25.53% % of PP&E, net (annualized) 9.96% 9.65% 8.08% 8.65% 6.89% % of working capital (annualized) 522.71% 436.36% -375.43% -114.50% -76.38% Interest coverage ratio 1.46 1.14 (12.77)1.57 2.07 % change 108.95% -716.93% 32.01% 42.83% Free cash flow \$ \$77,000 (\$72,000) \$300,000 (\$23,000) \$358,000 -106.42% 206 94% -124 00% 1,404.35% 932.56% % change 10-0 10-0 10-0 10-K Source: 10-K 3/31/2020 11/6/2019 8/7/2019 5/2/2019 3/1/2019

QUARTERLY LEVERAGE RATIOS

Shareholders'
equity turns
negative following
\$5.5 billion
goodwill
impairment charge

Total debt-toassets ratio climbs to 100%, leaving no protection for unsecured creditors

Leverage Ratios - Sequential Quarters

(Thousands of U.S. Dollars)

	(1 nousands	of U.S. Dollars)			
Criod Ended	12/31/2019	9/30/2019	6/30/2019	3/31/2019	12/31/2018
Total debt \$	\$17,469,000	\$17,460,000	\$16,956,000	\$16,919,000	\$17,172,000
% change	0.05%	2.97%	0.22%	-1.47%	-1.35%
Stockholders' equity \$	(\$4,394,000)	(\$4,103,000)	(\$3,771,000)	\$1,535,000	\$1,600,000
% change	-7.09%	-8.80%	-345.67%	-4.06%	-17.65%
Total debt to equity ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.02	10.73
% change	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.70%	19.80%
Tangible net worth \$	(\$5,414,000)	(\$5,223,000)	(\$5,268,000)	(\$6,212,000)	(\$6,277,000)
% change	-3.66%	0.85%	15.20%	1.04%	0.48%
Total assets \$	\$17,488,000	\$17,561,000	\$17,565,000	\$23,362,000	\$23,659,000
% change	-0.42%	-0.02%	-24.81%	-1.26%	-1.56%
Total debt to assets ratio	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.72	0.73
% change	0.47%	2.99%	33.29%	-0.22%	0.21%
Tangible assets \$	\$16,468,000	\$16,441,000	\$16,068,000	\$15,615,000	\$15,782,000
% change	0.16%	2.32%	2.90%	-1.06%	-0.01%
Short-term debt \$	\$1,019,000	\$1,022,000	\$468,000	\$393,000	\$814,000
% change	-0.29%	118.38%	19.08%	-51.72%	-19.01%
Short-term debt % of total debt	5.83%	5.85%	2.76%	2.32%	4.74%
% change	-0.35%	112.07%	18.83%	-51.00%	-17.90%
Short-term debt % of working capital	437.34%	379.93%	149.04%	-43.67%	-66.13%
% change	15.11%	154.91%	441.32%	33.96%	12.16%
Total liabilities \$	\$21,882,000	\$21,664,000	\$21,336,000	\$21,827,000	\$22,059,000
% change	1.01%	1.54%	-2.25%	-1.05%	-0.14%
Total liabilities to equity ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.22	13.79
% change	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.14%	21.27%
Total debt to EBITDA ratio (annualized)	7.48	9.74	n/a	5.27	7.00
% change	-23.25%	n/a	n/a	-24.79%	-31.28%
Source:	1.5		10-Q	10-Q	10-K
			8/7/2019	5/2/2019	3/1/2019

Debt-to-EBITDA reaches high single digits, leaving negligible room for execution error

QUARTERLY LIQUIDITY RATIOS AND RATES OF RETURN

Thin working capital base	Liquidity Ratio	os - Sequer		q	Meager cash and uick ratios
Period Ended	12/31/2019	9/30/2019	6/30/2019	3/31/2019	12/31/2018
Current assets \$	\$3,037,000	\$3,009,000	\$2,614,000	\$1,110,000	\$1,330,000
% change	0.93%	15.11%	135.50%	-16.54%	3.74%
% of short-term debt	298.04%	294.42%	558.55%	282.44%	163.39%
Current liabilities \$	\$2,804,000	\$2,740,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,010,000	\$2,561,000
% change	2.34%	19.13%	14.43%	-21.52%	-2.14%
Working capital \$	\$233,000	\$269,000	\$314,000	(\$900,000)	(\$1,231,000)
% change	-13.38%	-14.33%	134.89%	26.89%	7.79%
% of sales (annualized)	3.00%	3.37%	3.80%	-10.71%	-14.49%
Cash \$	\$760,000	\$683,000	\$267,000	\$119,000	\$354,000
% change	11.27%	155.81%	124.37%	-66.38%	48.74%
% of short-term debt	74.58%	66.83%	57.05%	30.28%	43.49%
Cash ratio	0.27	0.25	0.12	0.06	0.14
% change	8.70%	114.73%	96.11%	-57.16%	52.04%
Quick assets \$	\$1,389,000	\$1,337,000	\$941,000	\$834,000	\$1,077,000
% change	3.89%	42.08%	12.83%	-22.56%	9.67%
% of short-term debt	136.31%	130.82%	201.07%	212.21%	132.31%
Quick ratio	0.50	0.49	0.41	0.41	0.42
% change	1.52%	19.29%	-1.40%	-1.33%	12.07%
Current ratio	1.08	1.10	1.14	0.55	0.52
% change	-1.38%	-3.37%	105.81%	6.34%	6.00%
Source:	10-K 3/31/2020	10-Q 11/6/2019	10-Q 8/7/2019	10-Q 5/2/2019	10-K 3/1/2019

Unable to generate				111		
any positive returns	Rate of Return - Sequential Quarters (Thousands of U.S. Dollars)					
Period Ended	3 mos 12/31/2019	3 mos 9/30/2019	3 mos 6/30/2019	3 mos 3/31/2019	3 mos 12/31/2018	
Return on equity	n/a	n/a	-346.38%	-5.44%	-11.27%	
% change	n/a	n/a	-6,270.29%	51.76%	36.47%	
Return on total assets	-0.92%	-1.96%	-25.98%	-0.37%	-0.92%	
% change	52.94%	92.44%	-6,922.38%	59.71%	47.44%	
Return on tangible assets	-0.98%	-2.12%	-33.56%	-0.55%	-1.39%	
% change	53.62%	93.68%	-5,956.24%	60.06%	48.32%	
Source:	10-K 3/31/2020	10-Q 11/6/2019	10-Q 8/7/2019	10-Q 5/2/2019	10-K 3/1/2019	

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Declining cash from		•			
operating					(1111)
Statement of		s - Annual of U.S. Dollars)	- Standard	dized	
Period Ended	12 mos 12/31/2019	12 mos 12/31/2018	12 mos 12/31/2017	12 mos 12/31/2016	12 mos 12/31/2015
				Reclassified 12/31/2017	Reclassified 12/31/2017
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:					
Net income	(\$5,911,000)	(\$643,000)	(\$1,804,000)	(\$373,000)	(\$196,000)
Depreciation/depletion	1,780,000	1,954,000	2,184,000	2,031,000	1,320,000
Deferred taxes	(619,000)	(67,000)	(1,385,000)	(206,000)	(167,000)
Non-cash Items	6,337,000	670,000	2,974,000	170,000	228,000
Changes in working capital	(79,000)	(102,000)	(119,000)	54,000	130,000
Total cash from operating activities	1,508,000	1,812,000	1,850,000	1,676,000	1,315,000
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:					
Capital expenditures	(1,226,000)	(1,192,000)	(1,188,000)	(1,401,000)	(863,000)
Other investing cash flow items, total	92,000	16,000	134,000	(9,858,000)	(15,000)
Total cash from investing activities	(1,134,000)	(1,176,000)	(1,054,000)	(11,259,000)	(878,000)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:					
Financing cash flow items	(49,000)	(65,000)	(109,000)	(47,000)	(133,000)
Total cash dividends paid	0	(107,000)	(480,000)	(707,000)	(576,000)
Issuance/retirement of stock, net	n/a	n/a	0	0	2,665,000
Issuance/retirement of debt, net	81,000	(436,000)	(353,000)	1,479,000	6,305,000
Total cash from financing activities	32,000	(608,000)	(942,000)	725,000	8,261,000
Net change in cash	406,000	28,000	(146,000)	(8,858,000)	8,698,000
Net cash-beginning balance	404,000	376,000	522,000	9,380,000	682,000
Net cash-ending balance	\$810,000	\$404,000	\$376,000	\$522,000	\$9,380,000
Supplemental Disclosures:					
Cash interest paid	\$1,469,000	\$1,507,000	\$1,548,000	\$1,467,000	\$728,000
Cash taxes paid, supplemental	\$4,000	\$4,000	(\$51,000)	(\$120,000)	\$28,000
Auditor/Opinion:	KPMG LLP Unqualified	KPMG LLP Unqualified	KPMG LLP Unqualified	KPMG LLP Unqualified	KPMG LLP Unqualified
Source:	10-K 3/31/2020	10-K 3/1/2019	10-K 3/1/2018	10-K 3/1/2018	10-K 3/1/2018

NEWS ALERTS: A TIMELINE OF CONCERNING NEWS ITEMS

Q1 2019 filing - same period la		\$87) million compared to a net profit of \$20 million for the
05/02/2019	CRMZ News Service	Frontier Communications Corp.: updated financials available
		t often have involvement with turnarounds and restructuring off sharply following the announcement.
06/07/2019	CRMZ News Service	Frontier Communications Bonds Fall On Board Hires
quality synonyr	mous with substantial r	d Frontier's corporate family rating from B3 to Caa1, credit isk. The rationale covered secular and competitive pressures, ted liquidity, and sizeable near-term debt maturities.
06/29/2019	Moody's Investors Service	Moody's downgrades Frontier to Caa1, outlook negative
		utlook and reduced enterprise valuation multiple triggered a ge, producing a historical record operating and net loss.
08/10/2019	CRMZ News Service	Frontier Communications Corp.: updated financials available
largest U.S. tele	ecom operators. Frontie	throughout half the country, Frontier represents one of the er announced that it would be restructuring its debt, which prehensive Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.
09/20/2019	CRMZ News Service	Frontier Communications, Creditors Prepare For Debt Restructuring Talks
	rdened with \$17.5 billion	ged with lenders and advisors to negotiate a pre-packaged n in debt, Frontier would seek new capital investment to
01/21/2020	Questex	Frontier Communications spins towards a mid-March bankruptcy filing - report
		filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, exposing unsecured risk of substantial financial losses.
04/14/2020	Business Wire	Frontier Communications Announces Restructuring Support Agreement to Support Continued Investment in Long-Tern Growth

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,
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