

Document 1046

[21046001]

Dun & Bradstreet Corp. said business failures fell 17.8 % to 11,586 in the third quarter from 14,099 in the year-earlier period .

[21046002]

In the first nine months of this year , business failures dropped 15.6 % to 37,820 from 44,796 .

[21046003]

Except for a few spots , notably Georgia , Virginia and Michigan , failures declined almost across the board , according to the business information services company .

[21046004]

D&B defines a business failure as a company that closes with losses to creditors .

[21046005]

The current decline in failures continues a trend begun in late 1987 , D&B said .

[21046006]

The drop accelerated in this year 's third quarter , underscoring an overall lack of stress in the U.S. economy , the company said .

[21046007]

Failures in seven of nine regional areas fell more than 10 % in the nine months .

[21046008]

The South Atlantic States were the only region to report an increase in bankruptcies , up 5.3 % to 5,791 from 5,502 .

[21046009]

This occurred partly because of more competition as the number of new businesses surged .

[21046010]

The only industry sector to report more business failures for the nine months was the finance , insurance and real-estate sector , where bankruptcies grew 8.1 % to 2,046 from 1,892 .

[21046011]

The troubled savings-and-loan industry and subsequent stress in real-estate businesses fueled bankruptcies in this sector , D&B said .