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& Bradstreet Corp. said business failures fell 17.8 % to 11.586 in the third quarter from 14.099 in the year-earlier period card:i-i-c n_temp:x v_to:e-i-h-i n:x n:x v_to:e-i-h-i n:x n:x v:e-i card:i-i-c n_of:x p:e-u-i card:i-i-c p:e-u-i q:i-h-h ord:i-i-c n_temp:x p:e-u-i card:i-i-c p:e-u-i q:i-h-h a:e-p n_of:x-i the first nine months of this year , business failures dropped 15.6 % to 37,820 from 44,796 q:i-h-h ord:i-i-c card:i-i-c n:x p:e-x-i q_dem:i-h-h n:x n:x v:e-i card:i-i-c n_of:x p:e-u-i card:i-i-c p:e-u-i card:i-i-c Except for a few spots , notably Georgia , Virginia and Michigan , failures declined almost across the board , according to the business information services company p:e-u-i p:e-u-i a:e-p a:e-p n_of:x-i _ named:x-c _ named:x-c _ named:x-c _ named:x-c _ nix v:e-i-p x:e-u p:e-u-i q:i-h-h n_of:x-i _ p:e-u-i q:i-h-h n:x n_on-about:x-i n:x n:x n_on-about:x The current decline in failures continues a trend begun in late 1987, D&B said q:i-h-h a:e-p n:x p:e-u-i n:x v:e-i-p q:i-h-h n:x v:e-i-p p:e-u-i a_for:e-p yofc:x-c _ named:x-c v_to:e-i-h-i _ poss The drop accelerated in this year 's third quarter quiri-h-h n.of:x-i v:e-i p:e-u-i q_dem:i-h-h n_of:x-i v.e-i-p q:i-h-h ace-i n:x p:e-u-i q:i-h-h named_n:x-c n:x q:i-h-h n_of:x-i v_to:e-i-h-i ... Failures in seven of nine regional areas fell more than 10 % in the nine months n:x p:e-u-i card:i-i-c _ card:i-i-c _ a:e-p _ n_of:x-i _ v:e-i _ p:e-u-i _ card:i-i-c _ n_of:x _ p:e-u-i _ q:-h-h _ card:i-i-c _ n:x The South Atlantic States were the only region to report an increase in bankruptcies , up 5.3 % to 5.791 from 5.502 q:i-h-h named:x-c na This occurred partly because of more competition as the number of new businesses surged x:x v_to:e-i x:e-u p:e-u-i much-many_a:e-i n:x x:e-h-h q:i-h-h n_of:x-i a:e-p n:x v:e-i ARGI)

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ARGI The troubled savings-and-loan industry and subsequent stress in real-estate businesses fueled bankruptcies in this sector , D&B said . q:i-h-h a:e-p n:x n:x _ a:e-p n:x p:e-u-i n:x n:x v:e-i-p n:x p:e-u-i q_dem:i-h-h n:x _ named:x-c v_to:e-i-h-i _

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