creditrisk monitor

THE BON-TON STORES, INC. BANKRUPTCY CASE STUDY FILED ON 02/04/2018



CreditRiskMonitor's warning of The Bon-Ton Store, Inc.'s ("Bon-Ton") bankruptcy risk was determined by a combination of factors:

Monthly Average FRISK [®] Score	Page 2
The FRISK [®] Score Components	3
Company Report Detail	4
FRISK [®] Deep Dive and Adjusted Market Cap Volatility	
FRISK [®] Stress Index	6
Peer Analysis on Alternate Suppliers and Customers	
Quarterly Performance Ratios	8
Quarterly Leverage Ratios	9
Quarterly Liquidity Ratios and Rates of Return	10
News Alerts: A Timeline of Concerning Headlines	
About This Report/Contact CreditRiskMonitor	12

MONTHLY AVERAGE FRISK[®] SCORE

CreditRiskMonitor's FRISK® score has been warning of financial stress at The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. (OTC: BONTQ) for more than a year.

We issued a special High Risk Report, dated March 6, 2017, as conditions continued to deteriorate and become more troubling.

The company ultimately filed for bankruptcy on February 4, 2018.

on-Ton Stores, Inc.		2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	201
on-Ton Stores, Inc.	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEE
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
96% a	accur	RISK® ate ir k of c	n pre	dictir	ıg							BA	NKR
failu a Al	ure/b 12-m ll FRIS	onth SK [®] s ated e	uptcy horiz cores	v over zon. are				ISK ^{®Prol}	bability o From 0.00		uptcy wit	thin 12 m To 0.12%	nonth
		h sut						9	0.129			0.27%	
			-					8	0.279	6		0.34%	
	12-m	onth	perio	d.				7	0.349	16		0.55%	
								6	0.559	6		0.87%	
								5	0.879	6		1.40%	
									1 400				
								4	1.409	6		2.10%	
								3	2.109	6		2.10% 4.00%	
										6		2.10%	

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.

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. The FRISK[®] score incorporates a number of powerful risk indicators including:



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, plus over a thousand other large corporations worldwide.

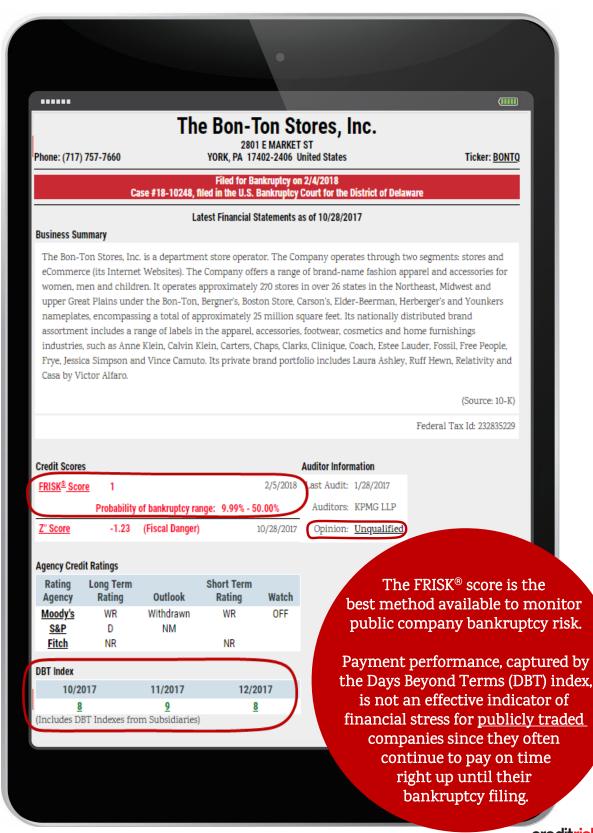
The crowdsourcing advantage is even more powerful in our FRISK® score since many of the professionals who use our service are credit managers:

- 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

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

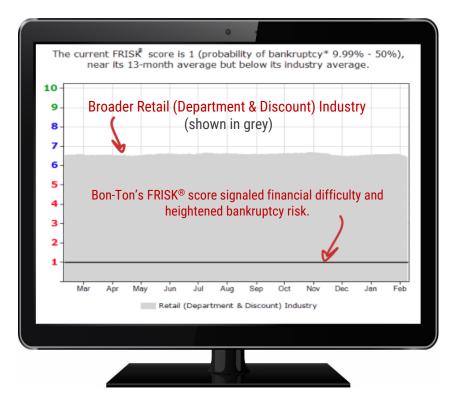


COMPANY REPORT DETAIL



creditrisk monitor | 4

FRISK[®] DEEP DIVE



ADJUSTED MARKET CAP VOLATILITY



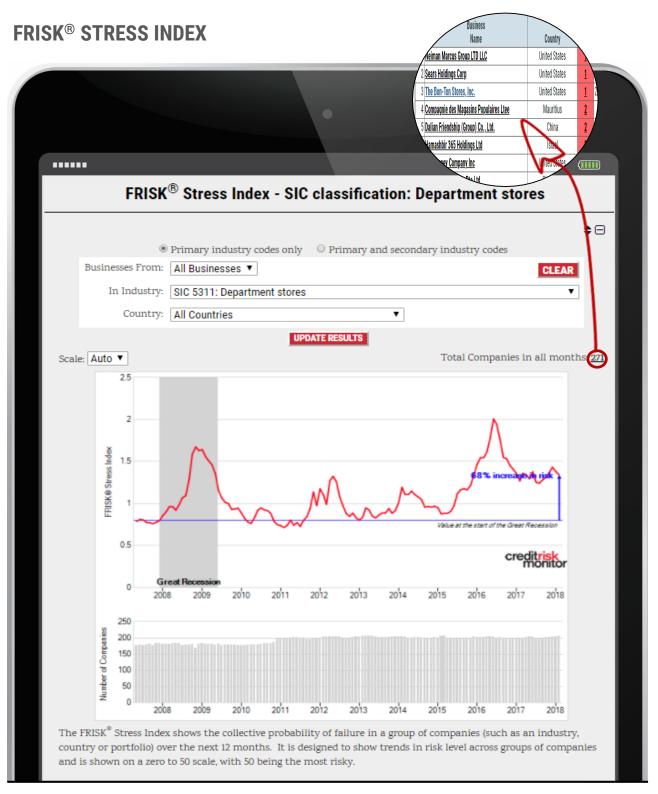
The FRISK[®] score relative to the broader Retail (Department & Discount) industry raises an additional red flag signaling heightened risk relative to peers, as well...

MAKING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED.

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.



Request a Personalized Demo



The average probability of failure for SIC code 5311 (Department Stores) has increased 68% since 2007. Bon-Ton is among the weakest names in the industry as evidenced by its FRISK[®] score of 1.



PEER ANALYSIS ON ALTERNATE SUPPLIERS AND CUSTOMERS

Bon-Ton						
monstrates bottom					The Peei	Analysis
				e	expands to	
uartile ranking in					inking of a	
ey financial ratios	V I				mpetitor	
vs. its Retail			_			
(Department	Peer Ar	alysis			help provi	
	3 🔻			10	or alterna	
& Discount) Year/Quarter: 2017. Peer Group: Sector	r: Services, In	dustry: Ret	ail (Departm	ent & Dist	or new c	ustomers
industry peers.						
Services] [Industry: Retail	-		nt)] [Calend	ar Year/Qu	larte.	
	Ranking Within	Number Of		De	or Crown Don	
Businesses in Peer Group: 509	Peer Group	Peers Ranked	Company Value	Low	er Group Ran Median	ige High
	Credit R		land	2011		Company
ZScore	157	<u>173</u>	-1.23	-5.64	1 The Fally On	· / 😽
Net Sales (Thousands of U.S. Dollars)	Performan 12		562,482	150,212	1 The Eslite Spe 2 Parco Co Ltd	<u>ectrum corp</u>
Gross Margin % Of Sales	68	172	35.10	-1,761.17	3 Suiwah Corpo	ration Borhad
Gross Margin % Of Sales TTM SG&A % Of Sales	59 135	<u>172</u> 173	36.50 35.92	5.12 1.06		<u>ration Dernau</u> segae Department Store C
SG&A % OF Sales	135		33.00	1.15	5 Sentral Pattar	
Operating Margin % Of Sales	163	<u>180</u>	-4.63	-2,479.59		Company, Limited
Operating Margin % Of Sales TTM EBITDA Margin Of Sales	160 70	<u>180</u> 79	-0.73	-106.85		ading & Service JSC
EBITDA Margin Of Sales TTM	72	85	2.69	-9.43	9.31-4	09.83
Net Profit Margin % Of Sales	165	<u>180</u>	-7.98	-1,113.12	2.34	135.92
Net Profit Margin % Of Sales - TTM Pre-tax Income % Of Sales	162 165	<u>180</u> 180	-307	-106.88 -1,022.33	3.29 3.53	96.81 136.01
Effective Tax Rate	36		0.24	-267.43	24.19	121.67
Depreciation % Of Prop/Plant/Equipment Capital Expense % Of Prop/Plant/Equipment	85 92		14.74	1.20 0.03	8.63 7.72	43.25 102.71
Interest Coverage	62		-0.33	-165.31	5.70	151.78
Interest Coverage TTM	70	80	0.93	-180.55	7.80	276.18
Cash Ratio	Liquidity 175		0.01	0.00	0.28	8.82
Quick Ratio	N/A	166	N/A	0.04	9.4	Company Nan 94
Current Ratio	119 Efficiency	<u>176</u>	0.88	0.10	1 Baida Group Co.	, Ltd.
Accounts Receivable Turnover	N/A	<u>168</u>	N/A	0.65	2 Five Below Inc	
Days Sales Outstanding	9	<u>180</u>	0.00	0.00	3 Maoye Commun	ication and Network Co Ltd
% of Inventory Financed by Vendors % of Inventory Financed by Vendors TTM	145 150	<u>165</u> 168	29.16 28.22	2.06 2.12	4 Ningbo Zhongba	ai Co Ltd
Inventory Turnover	151	176	1.93	0.00		RTMENT STORE CO., LTD.
Inventory Turnover TTM Days Sales in Inventory	153 151	<u>177</u>	2.07	0.00	Shanghai Lansh	
Inventory to Working Capital	151	<u>170</u> 174	188.70 -6.54	44.20	The Eslite Spec	
Accounts Payable Turnover	73	169	6.86	0.00	6.09 ¹¹¹¹	127.01
Accounts Payable Turnover TTM	70 everage & de.		7.31	0.00	6.41	173.28
Total Debt to Equity Ratio	N/A	_	N/A	0.00	0.61	5.52
Debt to Tangible Equity Ratio	N/A		N/A	0.00	0.67	19.91
Total Debt to Assets Ratio Short-Term Debt % of Total Debt	164 97		0.72	0.00	0.24 48.76	0.78
Short-Term Debt % of Working Capital	99			-2,617.75	2.07	37,200.54
Liabilities to Net Worth Ratio	N/A		N/A	0.06	1.68	61.97
Total Liabilities to Equity Ratio TTM EBITDA Over Total Debt	N/A 64		N/A 0.06	0.06	1.55	61.97 8.06
			in Upper Qu			0.00
					of Peer Group	
TTM = trailing 12 months	Red		n Lower Qua ange - Confi		r Group	
N/A = Not Available			Data is Not			



QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE RATIOS

perating and				1	Net losses
				in w	eak quarter
net losses in				OV	ershadow a
of the last 5					onally stron
				SCasi	
quarters	nce Ratios -	Sequenti	al Quarter	s .	Q4 2016
	(Thousands of	•	ui quuitei	~	
	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks
Period Ended	10/28/2017	7/29/2017	4/29/2017	1/28/2017	10/29/2016
Net Sales \$	\$562,482	\$525,461	\$553,021	\$900,041	\$607,275
% change	7.05%	-4.98%	-38.56%	48.21%	8.71%
Gross Margin \$ % change	\$197,405 -1.43%	\$200,266 5.70%	\$189,460 -44,34%	\$340,393 51,70%	\$224,383 4.69%
% of sales	35.10%	38.11%	34.26%	37.82%	36.95%
change as % of incremental sales	-7.73%	n/m	n/m	39.63%	20.64%
SG&A \$	\$202,055	\$190,736	\$204,714	\$241,044	\$211,943
% change	5.93%	-6.83%	-15.07%	13.73%	0.93%
% of sales	35.92%	36.30%	37.02%	26.78%	34.90%
change as % of incremental sales	30.57%	n/m	n/m	9.94%	3.99%
Operating margin \$	(\$26,068)	(\$15,162)	(\$39,345)	\$61,970	(\$13,557)
% change	-71.93%	61.46%	-163.49%	557.11%	42.84%
% of sales change as % of incremental sales	-4.63% -29.46%	-2.89%	-7.11%	6.89%	-2.23% 20.88%
EBITDA \$	(\$6,238)	n/m \$7,973	n/m (\$17,138)	25.80% \$83,667	20.88% \$8,747
% change	-178.24%	146.52%	-120.48%	856.52%	582.83%
% of sales	-1.11%	1.52%	-3.10%	9.30%	1.44%
change as % of incremental sales	-38.39%	n/m	n/m	25.59%	15.34%
EBIT \$	(\$26,068)	(\$15,162)	(\$39,345)	\$61,970	(\$13,557)
% change	-71.93%	61.46%	-163.49%	557.11%	42.84%
% of sales	-4.63%	-2.89%	-7.11%	6.89%	-2.23%
change as % of incremental sales	-29.46%	n/m	n/m	25.80%	20.88%
Pre-tax income \$	(\$44,983)	(\$33,191)	(\$57,363)	\$43,577	(\$31,740)
% change % of sales	-35.53% -8.00%	42.14% -6.32%	-231.64% -10.37%	237.29% 4.84%	18.36% -5.23%
change as % of incremental sales	-31.85%	-0.32% n/m	-10.37% n/m	4.84% 25.73%	-5.23% 14.67%
Net income (loss) \$	(\$44,877)	(\$33,209)	(\$57,315)	\$44,717	(\$31,582)
% change	-35.14%	42.06%	-228.17%	241.59%	18.47%
% of sales	-7.98%	-6.32%	-10.36%	4.97%	20%
change as % of incremental sales	-31.52%	n/m	n/m	26.06	
Tax expense \$	(\$106)	\$18	(\$48)	(\$1,7	Recurring
Effective tax rate	0.24%	-0.05%	0.08%	The second se	oor interest
Depreciation expense \$	\$19,830	\$23,135	\$22,207		
% of sales	3.53% 136.87%	4.40% 202.89%	4.02% 227.04%		overage ratic
> or canital evidence?		202.89%	227.04%	<u>&</u>	negative fre
% of capital expenses % of PP&F. net (annualized)	14 /4 %				
% of capital expenses % of PP&E, net (annualized) Capital expenditures \$	14.74% \$14.488			\$1	cash flow
% of PP&E, net (annualized)	\$14,488 27.05%	\$11,403 16.58%	\$9,781 -8.49%	\$1 -41.2	cash flow
% of PP&E, net (annualized) Capital expenditures \$ % change % of PP&E, net (annualized)	\$14,488	\$11,403	\$9,781		
% of PP&E, net (annualized) Capital expenditures \$ % change % of PP&E, net (annualized) % of working capital (annualized)	\$14,488 27.05% 10.77% 43.00%	\$11,403 16.58% 8.16% 10.64%	\$9,781 -8.49% 6.77% <u>8.52</u> %	-41.2	18.49%
% of PP&E, net (annualized) Capital expenditures \$ % change % of PP&E, net (annualized) % of working capital (annualized) Interest coverage ratio	\$14,488 27.05% 10.77% 43.00% (0.33)	\$11,403 16.58% 8.16% 10.64% 0.44	\$9,781 -8.49% 6.77% <u>8.52%</u> (0.95)	-41.2 7.18% 9.30% 4.55	18.49% 0.48
% of PP&E, net (annualized) Capital expenditures \$ % change % of PP&E, net (annualized) % of working capital (annualized) Interest coverage ratio % change	\$14,488 27.05% 10.77% 43.00% (0.33) -174.58%	\$11,403 16.58% 8.16% 10.64% 0.44 146.49%	\$9,781 -8.49% 6.77% 8.52% (0.95) -120.91%	-41.2 7.18% 9.30% 4.55 845.52%	18.49% 0.48 469.35%
% of PP&E, net (annualized) Capital expenditures \$ % change % of PP&E, net (annualized) % of working capital (annualized) Interest coverage ratio % change Free cash flow \$	\$14,488 27.05% 10.77% 43.00% (0.33) -174.58% (\$186,226)	\$11,403 16.58% 8.16% 10.64% 0.44 146.49% \$30,936	\$9,781 -8.49% 6.77% <u>8.52%</u> (0.95) -120.91% (\$40,776)	-41.2 7.18% 9.30% 4.55 845.52% \$129,248	18,49% 0.48 469,35% (\$162,725)
% of PP&E, net (annualized) Capital expenditures \$ % change % of PP&E, net (annualized) % of working capital (annualized) Interest coverage ratio	\$14,488 27.05% 10.77% 43.00% (0.33) -174.58%	\$11,403 16.58% 8.16% 10.64% 0.44 146.49%	\$9,781 -8.49% 6.77% 8.52% (0.95) -120.91%	-41.2 7.18% 9.30% 4.55 845.52%	18.49% 0.48 469.35%

QUARTERLY LEVERAGE RATIOS

Recurring negative tangible net worth suggests that <u>all</u> <u>loanable collateral</u>	•					
has been exhausted Leverage	Ratios - Se (Thousands of U	•)uarters			
Period Ended	10/28/2017	7/29/2017	4/29/2017	1/28/2017	10/29/2016	
Total debt \$	\$1,145,739	\$986,789	\$1,033,897	\$989,319	\$1,112,202	
% change	16.11%	-4.56%	4.51%	-11.05%	17.20%	
Stockholders' equity \$	(\$155,963)	(\$110,935)	(\$78,783)	(\$22,781)	(\$68,642)	
% change	-40.59%	-40.81%	-245.83%	66.81%	-78.25%	
Tangible net worth \$	(\$224,986)	(\$181,321)	(\$150,531)	(\$95,892)	(\$146,375)	
% change	-24.08%	-20.45%	-56.98%	34.49%	-24.38%	
Total assets \$	\$1,586,595	\$1,386,748	\$1,468,451	\$1,505,063	\$1,734,426	
% change	14.41%	-5.56%	-2.43%	-13.22%	16.82%	
Total debt to assets ratio	0.72	0.71	0.70	0.66	0.64	
% change	1.48%	1.07%	7.12%	2.49%	0.34%	
Tangible assets \$	\$1,517,572	\$1,316,362	\$1,396,703	\$1,431,952	\$1,656,693	
% change	15.29%	-5.75%	-2.46%	-13.57%	17.87%	
Short-term debt \$	\$671,718	\$6,986	\$6,823	A revol	ving credit	
% change	9,515.20%	2.39%	2.06%	facility a	mendment	
Short-term debt % of total debt	58.63%	0.71%	0.66°		eclassification ity from long-	
% change	8,180.72%	7.29%	-2.34		ort-term debt	
Short-term debt % of working capital	-515.84%	1.75%	1.49	Such a ju	mp in short-	
% change	-29,618.58%	17.17%	2.83%		often precedes uptcy filing.	
Total liabilities \$	\$1,742,558	\$1,497,683	\$1,547,234	a ballkr		
% change	16.35%	-3.20%	1.27%	-15.20-	10.37%	
Total debt to EBITDA ratio (annualized)	n/a	30.94	n/a	2.96	31.79	
% change	n/a	n/a	n/a	-90.70%	-82.84%	
Source:	10-Q 12/12/2017	10-Q 9/6/2017	10-Q 6/7/2017	10-K 4/12/2017	10-Q 12/7/2016	

QUARTERLY LIQUIDITY RATIOS AND RATES OF RETURN

Vorking capital drastically creases & turns negative in Q3 2017	Liquidity Ratio	os - Sequen sands of U.S. Doll		c	ecurring meager ash ratio
Period Ended	10/28/2017	7/29/2017	4/29/2017	1/28/2017	10/29/2016
Current assets \$	\$960,845	\$747,354	\$803,610	\$829,748	\$1,031,890
% change	28.57%	-7.00%	-3.15%	-19.59%	33.02%
% of short-term debt	143.04%	10,697.88%	11,777.96%	12,412.09%	1,637.56%
Current liabilities \$	\$1,091,064	\$347,573	\$346,130	\$368,847	\$573,304
% change	213.91%	0.42%	-6.16%	-35.66%	28,10%
Working capital \$	(\$130,219)	\$399,781	\$457,480	\$460,901	\$458,586
% change	-132.57%	-12.61%	-0.74%	0.50%	39.72%
% of sales (annualized)	-5.79%	19.02%	20.68%	12.80%	18.88%
Cash \$	\$7,268	\$6,335	\$7,012	\$6,736	\$6,975
% change	14.73%	-9.65%	4.10%	-3.43%	-1.02%
% of short-term debt	1.08%	90.68%	102.77%	100.76%	11.07%
Cash ratio	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
% change	-63.19%	-10.34%	10.93%	50.00%	-22.29%
Current ratio	0.88	2.15	2.32	2.25	1.80
% change	-59.05%	-7.39%	3.21%	24.98%	3.84%
Source:	10-Q	10-Q	10-Q	10-K	10-Q

N	legative returns	
	in the last 3	
q	uarters outpace	
a s	seasonally strong	
	Q4 2016	

Rate of	f Return -	 Sequential 	Quarters

(Thousands of U.S. Dollars)

Derived Ended	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks
Period Ended	10/28/2017	7/29/2017	4/29/2017	1/28/2017	10/29/2016
Return on total assets	-3.02%	-2.33%	-3.86%	2.76%	-1.96%
% change	-29.77%	39.66%	-239.64%	240.70%	24.09%
Return on tangible assets	-3.17%	-2.45%	-4.05%	2.90%	-2.06%
% change	-29.37%	39.59%	-239.95%	240.38%	24.45%
Source:	10-Q 12/12/2017	10-Q 9/6/2017	10-Q 6/7/2017	10-K 4/12/2017	10-Q 12/7/2016
	,, _, _,			.,	

NEWS ALERTS: A TIMELINE OF CONCERNING HEADLINES

5/8/2017	GlobalNewswire	The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. Announces Management Reorganization
Net loss for (Q1 2017 increased	1 52% to \$57.32M compared with a net loss of \$37.82M in the prior year period
5/23/2017	CRMZ News Service	Bon-Ton Stores Inc updated financials available
		y firm to consult on its turnaround efforts; it also interviewed banks to appoint a ions including debt restructuring.
9/1/2017	CRMZ News Service	Department Store Operator Bon-Ton Turns to Turnaround Advisers –Sources
ffective 11/	9/17, Bon-Ton's w	vas delisted from NASDAQ; started trading on the OTCQX market.
11/3/2017	CRMZ News Service	BON TON STORES INC FILES (8-K) Disclosing Notice of Delisting or Failure to Satisfy a Continued Listing Rule or Standard
let loss for (Q3 2017 increased	42% to \$44.88M compared with net loss of \$31.58M in the prior year period.
11/18/2017	CRMZ News Service	Bon-Ton Stores Inc updated financials available
		coupon payment on its second-lien notes and entered a 30-day grace period; the brate credit rating to SD (selective default) from CCC.
12/18/2017	CRMZ News Service	Bon-Ton Misses Interest Payment, Enters Grace Period
		ng debt for equity as part of a balance-sheet restructuring. It also contemplated a r survive the restructuring in, or out of, bankruptcy court.
12/22/2017	CRMZ News Service	Bon-Ton Proposes Restructuring Deal to Bondholders
The Company	y announced that i	ts CFO had resigned from the Company.
1/3/2018	CRMZ News Service	The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. Names Michael Culhane as Chief Financial Officer
The Company	y entered into a fo	rbearance agreement with its bondholders through the end of January.
1/16/2018		BON TON STORES INC FILES (8-K) Disclosing Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement, Financial Statements and Exhibits
The Company ale.	y secured a loan th	nat would help it continue to operate in bankruptcy and carry it through a potentia
2/2/2018	CRMZ News Service	Bon-Ton Stores Clinches Bankruptcy Financing-Sources
he Bon-Ton	Stores, Inc. filed	for bankruptcy
2/4/2018	PRNewswire	The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. Files Voluntary Chapter 11 Petitions to Implement financial Restructuring



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 57,000 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.

Request a Personalized Demo and Risk Assessment

Read more Bankruptcy Case Studies, High Risk Reports and other resources

Contact us at: 845.230.3000 creditriskmonitor.com/contact-us

