**STREET LIFE**

Retail businesses that have recently hit the skids or scaled the heights

### 2014
- **ATHENA** The once-famous chain of 60 poster and art shops founded in 1964, closed the last of its remaining stores in September.

### 2013
- **TIE RACK** The necktie, scarf and accessories fashion retailer closed its 44 high-street stores and continued as an online retailer. In the 1980s there were 450 stores.

### 2012
- **JJB SPORTS** The struggling sportswear retailer with 4,000 staff and 180 stores went into administration in September. Its 20 best stores were bought by Sports Direct and a few others were picked up by other retailers, but the rest closed and the staff were made redundant.

### Recent Retail News

**COMET** Britain’s second-largest electrical retailer, established in 1933, went into liquidation in 2011 with the loss of 7,000 jobs.

**LA SENZA** The lingerie retailer with 55 stores went into administration for the second time in two years. There were more than 750 employees. The business is continuing to trade while looking for a new owner, although the website is closed.

**JANE NORMAN** The women’s fashion chain went into administration for the second time in three years at the end of June 2014. There were 54 full-time staff and around 100 part-time.

**BLOCKBUSTER** The games and DVD rental chain announced it would enter administration for the second time in the year. There were 246 stores and 2,000 employees.

**BARRATTS** The high-street shoe store went into administration for the third time in four years. It shrunk from more than 350 stores in 2009 to 45 in 2013. There were more than 1,000 staff.

**PAST TIMES** The 51 stores that continued to trade under administration were all closed. The website was purchased by WHSmith, which bought the Past Times brand but this has since shut down. It previously went bust in 2005 and was acquired by Epic Private Equity. Epic also owns Whittards, the tea company, which is not affected by Past Times’ problems.

**HMV** The last UK chain of music and entertainment stores went into administration after a weak Christmas and years of fighting a losing battle against downloads and online retailers. There were 238 stores and 4,350 employees.

**CLINTON CARDS** The business operated 628 Clinton and 139 Birthdays stores and went into administration early in May. There were 8,500 employees.

**AQUASCUTUM** The famous fashion name bought by Harold Tilman was placed into administration in April. The company dated from 1851, making waterproof coats for British soldiers in the Crimean War.

### HOPE STREET
It’s not all doom and gloom on the high street. Entrepreneurial hotspots are lighting up the UK to offer promise of growth. And if businesses adapt to public needs, a brighter future awaits...

- **526,446** businesses were registered with Companies House as of January 2014, compared to 484,224 recorded in 2012 and 440,600 in 2011.

- **136,939** no surprise that in Greater London 135,000+ businesses were registered, but Birmingham and Manchester are also areas to head for if you’re a would-be entrepreneur.

### TOWN & CITY CENTRE OCCUPANCY
The face of the high street has changed in recent years. Here are the ups and downs in fortunes of various occupants:

- **Music shops** DOWN 45%
  - **Greetings card shops** DOWN 32%
  - **Travel-agents** DOWN 21%
  - **Off licences** DOWN 19%
  - **Book shops** DOWN 8%

- **Convenience stores** UP 153%
  - **Cafés** UP 75%
  - **Betting shops** UP 43%
  - **Charity shops** UP 34%
  - **Fast food outlets** UP 30%
  - **Restaurants** UP 20%

### HOW TO RE-IGNITE THE HIGH STREET
Mary Portas, the retail guru employed by the government to conduct an independent review of the high street with The Portas Review, recently highlighted five key areas of dissatisfaction from shoppers and their requirements for greater levels of satisfaction from the high street:

1. Free parking (60%)
2. Choice of stores (59%)
3. Independent stores (57%)
4. Specialist shops eg, butcher (50%)
5. Parking spaces (48%)

### While hoping to see fewer:
1. Charity shops (31%)
2. Betting shops (52%)

Sources: [www.retailresearch.org](http://www.retailresearch.org) – Please visit [www.retailresearch.org](http://www.retailresearch.org) for legal notes and further explanation of a ‘failed business’, ‘gone into receivership’, ‘gone into administration’. Of businesses appearing on this list, there is no implication that the business no longer exists, its name is not used, or that such business, if still trading, is impaired in any way. ©START UP! Britain information accurate as of August 2014.