

BUSINESS

How to save the UK's crisis-hit High Streets¹

“Our High Streets are in crisis. According to the Centre for Retail Research there are around 50,000 fewer shops on our High Streets than just over a decade ago, and some analysts predict it will only get worse.

It's part of a trend that has seen big names struggling and going bust - including Thomas Cook, Mothercare, Bonmarche and Jamie's Italian amongst many others

It's not just shops and shoppers who are affected. High Streets have traditionally been at the heart of communities, but as shops close, it can make whole areas unwelcoming.

As fewer people come to the High Street, it can make the cycle of decline even worse. For some it can lose its appeal - especially after dark. So problems for the High Street are problems for us all.

Many of us have got fed up with all the hassle of going into town, so we let our fingers do the walking. Online is doing better and better and you can see why; one-click shopping makes buying stuff so painless. But internet shopping still only accounts for around 20% of the total. That can't be the whole reason for the High Street's decline.”

Read the BBC article in full (13 Jan 2020) - see weblink below.

- **Thomas Cook** - the company collapsed in 2019 leaving 9,000 staff out of work and 150000 holidaymakers stranded
- **Mothercare** - all 79 Mothercare stores to close in the UK this year, threatening 2,500 jobs.
- **Bonmarche** - the company went into administration in October 2019, putting 200 stores and 2,900 jobs at risk.
- **Jamie's Italian** All but three of Jamie Oliver's 25 UK restaurants closed in May 2019, with the loss of 1,000 jobs, after the business called in administrators.

Your task

Please pick **one** of the above businesses, or another of your choice.

Chart the 'rise and fall' of the business, including major achievements and difficulties faced.

Why are they facing difficulties now? Who or what is to blame?

Contact with a high street business that is doing well – e.g. J D Sport, Primark, Zara, Disney, Lush or Dominos. What do you think is the secret to their success?

Your work can be in any format; a poster, a PowerPoint presentation, a timeline, a report, a flow chart or diagram, a brochure, a newspaper article or a comic strip about the topic - whatever you like.

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51094109>



Create, Aspire and Excel
to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)