

# 11 Retailers to Watch for Possible Bankruptcy Filings in 2017

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2016 ended on a high note with higher than expected holiday sales and overall a better real estate market. However, there were a number of retailers that sought bankruptcy protection. Some of the retailers, like **Fairway** and **EMS**, emerged as new entities in *Chapter 11 bankruptcy* proceedings while their operations continued. Yet others, like **Sports Authority** and **PacSun**, closed their doors, leaving open spaces for landlords.

As we enter the New Year, following is a list of 10 potential impending tenant bankruptcies to keep an eye out for:

1. **Sears Holdings** – Recently, a number of Sears and Kmart stores began closing stores across the country. Further, Sears sold its valued Craftsman brand to Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.
2. **Claire's Stores, Inc.** – Clark's places this chain on the watch list due to high outstanding debt.
3. **The Limited** – This company is closing all its stores this month, while continuing to operate online after the closures complete.
4. **CVS** – The company plans to eliminate roughly 300 jobs and close 200 stores, equal to about 5 percent of its outlets, according to The Wall Street Journal.
5. **Rue21, Inc.** – This retailer is facing tough competition in the youth retail market and hold high debt according to Clark's.
6. **Chico's** – The company announced it will close 120 stores in the next three years.
7. **American Eagle Outfitters** – The company is slated to close 150 of its more than 1,000 stores by the end of 2017. Like a number of other "youth retailers," American Eagle has struggled recently according to the International Business Times.
8. **Office Depot** – In May 2016, antitrust concerns derailed a merger with the office supply retailer and Staples, a competitor. Since then, the company announced it would close about

300 more stores in the next three years, according to Fortune.

9. **The Children's Place** – Another 200 stores are slated to close in 2017, according to chainstorage.com.
10. **Payless** – FootWearNews.com recently reported several of Payless' major vendor partners noted that the retailer is behind on its bills.
11. **Finish Line** – The sports apparel closed 54 stores in 2016, and plans to close another 25 stores in 2017, according to indystar.com.

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