# Predicted wave of shop closures across the UK in 2025



A significant wave of shop closures is anticipated across the United Kingdom in 2025, with industry experts predicting as many as 17,350 retailers will shut their doors permanently this year. The ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the escalating cost-of-living crisis, has placed immense pressure on the High Street.

Prominent retail brands are amongst those announcing closures. WHSmith has confirmed plans to shut 17 branches, following a chain of closures in recent years. The historic retailer, which has been part of the UK retail landscape since 1792, is currently exploring the sale of its 500-store high street operation. The company has indicated that it is focusing on its more profitable travel business, with private equity groups reportedly showing interest in a potential acquisition of its high street operations.

Moreover, the Post Office is set to close 115 branches, a move that is intended to transition to a fully franchised model. The overhaul may also affect hundreds of jobs within the company's head office, with the closures raising concerns regarding access to essential services for vulnerable populations, including pensioners.

Meanwhile, Homebase is in the process of shutting 53 of its stores following a difficult three years for the DIY sector. The chain fell into administration in November 2022 but has since been sold to retail group CDS, helping to secure around 70 stores and approximately 1,600 jobs.

In the fashion sector, Select Fashion announced plans to close 35 shops, predominantly outside London, substantially reducing its trading portfolio. Similarly, Quiz Clothing is set to shut 23 branches as it employs a pre-pack administration strategy in an effort to rescue the business.

The hospitality and entertainment sectors are also feeling the crunch, with Cineworld closing eleven cinemas across the country in 2025, part of a restructuring to manage unsustainable operating costs following a major downturn since the pandemic.

In finance, Lloyds Banking Group has announced the closure of 136 high street branches to adapt to changing consumer behaviour, with significant preferences shifting towards online banking. This follows similar announcements from NatWest, which plans to close 53 branches, and Sainsbury's, which is set to axe 61 cafes and over 3,000 jobs as part of a major operational overhaul, despite recent successes in Christmas trading.

As these closures unfold across various sectors, they highlight a notable shift in consumer habits and the financial challenges faced by retailers, further intensifying the transformation of the UK's retail landscape.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.credit-connect.co.uk/news/insolvency/business/record-retail-shop-closures-forecast-for-2025/> - This article supports the claim of a significant wave of shop closures in the UK, with a forecast of 17,349 closures in 2025. It highlights the challenges faced by retailers due to rising costs and changing consumer habits.
* <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2025/01/09/qhdl-j09.html> - This piece corroborates the prediction of extensive retail closures and job losses in the UK, noting the impact of economic pressures and policy changes on the retail sector.
* <https://www.tmhcc.com/en/news-and-articles/thought-leadership/uk-retail-sector-report-2025> - This report provides insights into the UK retail sector's performance, including the challenges posed by economic conditions and policy changes affecting retailers.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-65034121> - This article discusses the broader economic context and challenges faced by UK retailers, including the impact of closures and restructuring efforts.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/dec/31/uk-retailers-face-tough-year-ahead-as-costs-rise-and-consumer-confidence-falls> - This article highlights the financial pressures and consumer confidence issues affecting UK retailers, contributing to the wave of closures.