

Most shorted ahead of earnings

A review of how short sellers are positioning themselves ahead of earnings announcements in the coming week.

- Biotech stocks feature among the most shorted stocks in North America
- Shorts cover positions in UK retailer Sainsbury's as shares surge 15% higher
- Noble second most shorted in Apac despite covering of a third of positions as oil prices rally

North America

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Sarepta Therapeutics Inc	Biotechnology	SRPT	05/05/2016	32.2	10%
Atwood Oceanics Inc	Oil & Gas Drilling	ATW	05/05/2016	30.5	-8%
Heron Therapeutics Inc	Biotechnology	HRTX	05/06/2016	28.6	-2%
Relysa Inc	Pharmaceuticals	RLYP	05/05/2016	28.5	-4%
Lendingtree Inc	Thrfts & Mortgage Finance	TREE	05/04/2016	28.4	28%
Bonanza Creek Energy Inc	Oil & Gas Exploration & Production	BCEI	05/05/2016	27.2	23%
Home Capital Group Inc	Thrfts & Mortgage Finance	HCG	05/04/2016	27.0	23%
Labrador Iron Ore Royalty Corp	Steel	LIF	05/06/2016	25.7	4%
Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc	Biotechnology	LGND	05/04/2016	25.4	-9%
Air Methods Corp	Health Care Services	AIRM	05/05/2016	24.5	-3%
2U Inc	Education Services	TWOU	05/05/2016	24.1	1%
Novavax Inc	Biotechnology	NVAX	05/05/2016	22.9	0%
Amag Pharmaceuticals Inc	Biotechnology	AMAG	05/03/2016	22.9	10%
Lannett Company Inc	Pharmaceuticals	LCI	05/06/2016	22.3	-10%
Ebix Inc	Application Software	EBIX	05/06/2016	21.9	13%
Tesla Motors Inc	Automobile Manufacturers	TSLA	05/04/2016	21.8	-14%
Windstream Holdings Inc	Integrated Telecommunication Services	WIN	05/05/2016	21.6	-9%
Heinrich And Payne Inc	Oil & Gas Drilling	HP	05/02/2016	21.5	0%
Bioscrip Inc	Health Care Services	BIOS	05/05/2016	21.1	2%
Geospace Technologies Corp	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	GEOS	05/05/2016	20.7	-20%

Most shorted ahead of earnings in North America this week is Sarepta Therapeutics with just under a third of its shares outstanding on loan.

Sarepta Therapeutics Inc



Short interest in the medical research and drug therapies firm has surged recently with shares **spiking higher this week** in reaction to reports the firm may secure approval for a muscular dystrophy treatment. Short sellers' demand however remains high with the cost

to borrow increasing fourfold in the last few weeks.

Second most shorted ahead of earnings is Atwood Oceanics with 30% of its shares sold short. Shares in the offshore driller have plummeted 68% in the last 12 months but have in fact rallied 60% from lows reached earlier this year on the back of stronger oil prices. Short sellers, though, have only reduced their positions marginally.

Atwood Oceanics Inc



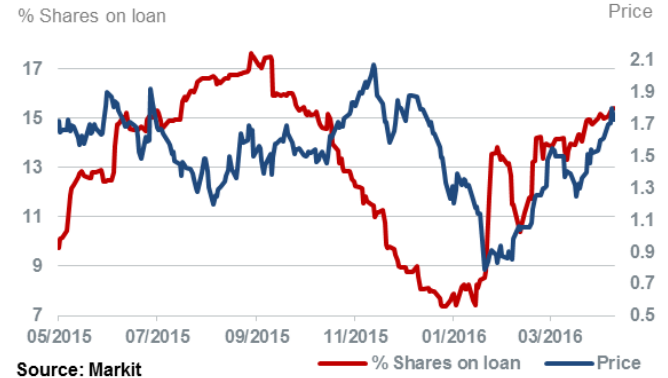
Lendingtree makes it into the top five most shorted stocks in North America this week after short interest has continued to aggressively climb higher in 2016.

Lendingtree Inc



Shares in the online lender have rallied 90% since February 2016 but have lost 15% in the past few weeks. Shares outstanding on loan have surged higher reaching 28.4% currently.

Rec Silicon Asa



Second most shorted ahead of earnings and no **stranger** to being a short target is UK retailer Sainsbury's. The firm has seen shorts drastically cut positions in the past few months with shares outstanding on loan declining by more than two thirds since February 22nd. The stock has rallied 25% reaching a 12 month high and 14.8% of shares outstanding on loan currently.

Europe

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Rec Silicon Asa	Semiconductor Equipment	REC	05/03/2016	14.9	11%
J Sainsbury Plc	Food Retail	SBRY	05/04/2016	14.8	-20%
Vallourec Sa	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	VK	05/03/2016	13.3	6%
Petroleum Geo Services Asa	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	PGS	05/03/2016	12.3	-3%
Aperam Sa	Steel	APAM	05/04/2016	11.3	59%
Telecom Italia Spa	Integrated Telecommunication Services	TIT	05/05/2016	10.2	-16%
Deutsche Lufthansa Ag	Airlines	LHA	05/03/2016	9.9	-10%
Kuka Ag	Industrial Machinery	KU2	05/04/2016	9.7	-12%
Ica Gruppen Ab	Food Retail	ICA	05/04/2016	9.5	-17%
Proximus Nv	Integrated Telecommunication Services	PROX	05/04/2016	9.2	1225%
Cgg Sa	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	CGG	05/03/2016	8.6	6%
Dufry Ag	Specialty Stores	DUFN	05/03/2016	8.5	37%
Morphosys Ag	Life Sciences Tools & Services	MOR	05/03/2016	8.5	-21%
Orkla Asa	Packaged Foods & Meats	ORK	05/03/2016	8.2	616%
Fraport Frankfurt Airport Services	Airport Services	FRA	05/04/2016	8.2	-9%
Piaggio & C Spa	Motorcycle Manufacturers	PIA	05/06/2016	8.0	-13%
Banca Monte Dei Paschi Di Siena	Diversified Banks	BMPS	05/05/2016	7.6	-16%
Veolia Environnement Sa	Multi-Utilities	VIE	05/04/2016	7.4	1050%
Aberdeen Asset Management Plc	Asset Management & Custody Banks	ADN	05/03/2016	7.2	-15%
Buzzi Unicem Spa	Construction Materials	BZU	05/06/2016	6.4	33%

Most shorted ahead of earnings in Europe this week is Rec Silicon, a producer of silicon materials destined for renewable industries. The stock currently has 14.9% of shares outstanding on loan and gauging by the cost to borrow stock, short sellers' demand has steadily increased - in line with the recent rise in share price.

J Sainsbury Plc



Short interest **continues** to remain high in German airline Deutsche Lufthansa. 9.9% of shares are outstanding on loan as the airline continues to face competition from low cost airlines, Middle East carriers and faces legacy labour issues and structural costs.

Deutsche Lufthansa Ag



the back of rising oil prices. Inclusive of the recent rise, the commodities trader has seen shares lose half their value in the last 12 months as well as being a focused target of short activist **Iceberg Research**.

Noble Group Ltd



While shares in computer and hardware manufacturer Acer have plummeted over 40% over the past 12 months, short sellers have only marginally covered positions with short interest still hovering above 8% currently.

Apac

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Oci Co Ltd	Diversified Chemicals	010060	05/03/2016	11.9	3%
Noble Group Ltd	Trading Companies & Distributors	N21	05/05/2016	10.9	-12%
Yamada Denki Co Ltd	Computer & Electronics Retail	9831	05/02/2016	8.8	1%
Acer Incorporated	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	2353	05/03/2016	8.1	-1%
Epistar Corp	Semiconductors	2448	05/03/2016	7.3	13%
Elite Advanced Laser Corp	Semiconductors	3450	05/03/2016	7.2	-11%
Taiwan Hon Chuan Enterprise Co	Metal & Glass Containers	9939	05/03/2016	6.0	-7%
Gintech Energy Corp	Semiconductors	3514	05/03/2016	5.9	49%
Hanmi Pharm Co Ltd	Pharmaceuticals	128940	05/02/2016	5.8	-3%
Medipost Co Ltd	Health Care Services	078160	05/02/2016	5.6	-5%
Wt Microelectronics Co Ltd	Technology Distributors	3036	05/03/2016	5.2	8%
Yumeshin Holdings Co Ltd	Human Resource & Employment Services	2362	05/06/2016	5.2	6%
Htc Corp	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	2498	05/04/2016	5.1	7%
Ritek Corp	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	2349	05/03/2016	4.9	-1%
Wafer Works Corp	Semiconductor Equipment	6182	05/03/2016	4.9	-1%
Sembcorp Industries Ltd	Industrial Conglomerates	U96	05/04/2016	4.9	3%
Taiwan Tea Corp	Food Distributors	2913	05/03/2016	4.9	0%
Istyle Inc	Internet Software & Services	3660	05/02/2016	4.8	-8%
Elite Semiconductor Memory Tec	Semiconductors	3006	05/03/2016	4.6	9%
China Petrochemical Developmen	Commodity Chemicals	1314	05/03/2016	4.6	12%

Most shorted ahead of earnings in Apac is Oci Co with 11.9% of shares outstanding on loan. Shares in the South Korean chemicals company have surged higher by two thirds in the past month with short interest levels increasing by a third to 1139% of shares outstanding on loan.

Oci Co Ltd



Acer Incorporated



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Short sellers have covered 27% positions in Noble Group as shares rally almost 50% on

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