

# Most shorted ahead of earnings

A review of how short sellers are positioning themselves in companies due to announce results in the coming week.

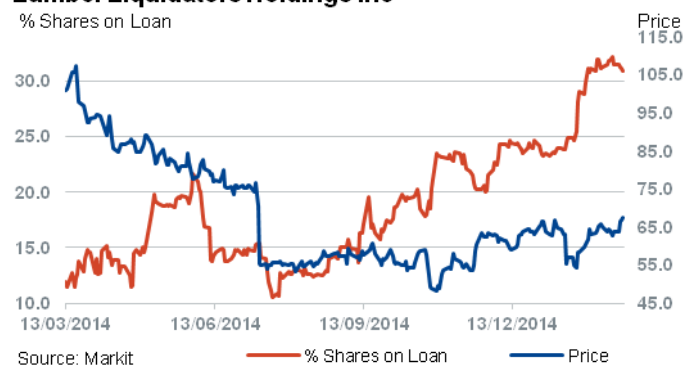
- North American residential floorer and obesity fighting drug maker attracting short sellers
- Aixtron is the most shorted stock in Europe as short sellers increase positions by 20%
- Australian iron ore miner Atlas most shorted in Apac as record low prices persist

## North America

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Swift Energy Co	Oil & Gas Exploration & Production	SFY	26/02/2015	39.2	-4%
Approach Resources Inc	Oil & Gas Exploration & Production	AREX	25/02/2015	32.2	-17%
Lumber Liquidators Holdings Inc	Home Improvement Retail	LL	25/02/2015	31.5	12%
Northern Oil And Gas Inc	Oil & Gas Exploration & Production	NOG	26/02/2015	31.0	1%
Blackhawk Network Holdings Inc	Data Processing & Outsourced Services	HAWK	26/02/2015	30.5	3%
Sanderson Farms Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	SAFM	24/02/2015	29.2	-1%
Encore Capital Group Inc	Consumer Finance	ECGP	26/02/2015	28.6	14%
Keryx Biopharmaceuticals Inc	Biotechnology	KERX	27/02/2015	26.4	9%
U.S. Silica Holdings Inc	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	SLCA	24/02/2015	25.9	33%
Exact Sciences Corp	Biotechnology	EXAS	24/02/2015	25.3	-1%
Penn Virginia Corp	Oil & Gas Exploration & Production	PVA	25/02/2015	24.9	5%
Herbalife Ltd	Personal Products	HLF	26/02/2015	24.7	-4%
Goodrich Petroleum Corp	Oil & Gas Exploration & Production	GDP	27/02/2015	24.7	-3%
J.C. Penney Company Inc	Department Stores	JCP	26/02/2015	24.4	-7%
Vivus Inc	Pharmaceuticals	VVUS	24/02/2015	23.8	22%
Allied Nevada Gold Corp	Gold	ANV	24/02/2015	23.7	18%
Sarepta Therapeutics Inc	Biotechnology	SRPT	27/02/2015	23.6	-9%
Taser International Inc	Aerospace & Defense	TASR	26/02/2015	23.5	-6%
Textura Corp	Internet Software & Services	TXTR	24/02/2015	23.0	-2%
PdI Biopharma Inc	Biotechnology	PDLI	23/02/2015	22.0	1%

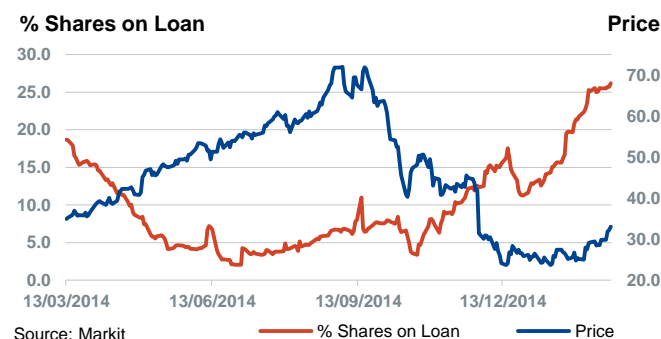
Oil and gas exploration firms dominate the top two spots this week in North America with the third place going to Lumber Liquidators. The residential hard wood floorer provider has 32% of shares outstanding on loan, a 12% increase on the previous month. The US housing market has shown initial **signs** of weakness, however this week saw interest rate expectations shifting once again as debate over a recent Federal Reserve meeting minutes has pushed out rate hike prospects.

## Lumber Liquidators Holdings Inc



The firms seeing the most movement in short interest are US Silica Holdings and Vivus with 26% and 24% of shares out on loan respectively. US Silica has attracted short sellers who have held on to their positions despite the share price rallying by 34% in the last month.

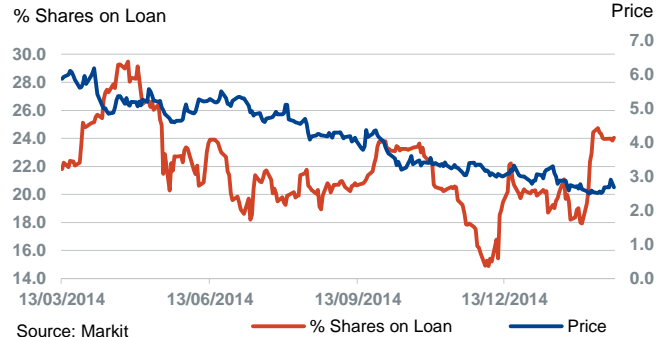
## U.S. Silica Holdings Inc



Silica Holdings supplies specialised mineral proppants into the fracking industry which has come under heavy pressure due to sustained low oil prices and mounting **rig closures**.

## Markit Equities Research

### Vivus Inc



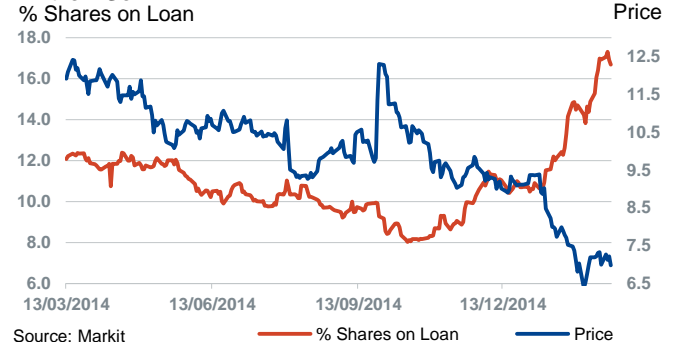
Vivus, a biopharmaceutical company commercialising **Qsymia**, has seen its shares out on loan increase by 32% in the last month. Vivus's share price has dived by 52% in the last 12 months as the company continues to produce losses and analysts downgrade the stock as sales growth disappoints.

### Western Europe

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Aixtron Se	Semiconductor Equipment	AIXA	25/02/2015	16.9	19%
Tag Immobilien Ag	Real Estate Development	TEG	27/02/2015	12.6	-4%
Yoox Spa	Internet Retail	YOOX	26/02/2015	12.3	0%
Seadrill Ltd	Oil & Gas Drilling	SDRL	27/02/2015	11.5	46%
Golden Ocean Group Ltd	Marine	GOGL	28/02/2015	10.3	-12%
Petrofac Ltd	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	PFC	26/02/2015	9.0	11%
Melia Hotels International Sa	Hotels, Resorts & Cruise Lines	MEL	28/02/2015	8.2	-29%
Ashmore Group Plc	Asset Management & Custody Banks	ASHM	25/02/2015	7.6	-10%
Cgg Sa	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	CGG	27/02/2015	7.6	19%
Piaggio & C Spa	Motorcycle Manufacturers	PIA	28/02/2015	7.2	-3%
Qsc Ag	Alternative Carriers	QSC	24/02/2015	7.2	5%
Ladbrokes Plc	Casinos & Gaming	LAD	27/02/2015	6.8	6%
Obrascon Huarte Lain Sa	Construction & Engineering	OHL	27/02/2015	6.4	4%
Fugro C Gdr	Oil & Gas Equipment & Services	FUR	28/02/2015	6.1	2%
Vallourec Sa	Industrial Machinery	VK	25/02/2015	6.3	28%
Alstria Office Reit Ag	Office REITs	AOX	28/02/2015	5.9	29%
Abengoa Sa	Construction & Engineering	ABG	24/02/2015	5.7	-23%
Morphosys Ag	Life Sciences Tools & Services	MOR	27/02/2015	5.1	45%
Nh Hotel Group Sa	Hotels, Resorts & Cruise Lines	NHH	27/02/2015	4.8	34%
Tsb Banking Group Plc	Diversified Banks	TSB	27/02/2015	4.2	-3%

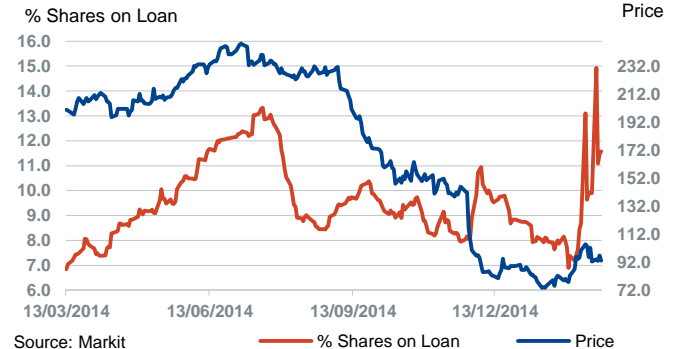
Most shorted ahead of earnings this week and **perennial** target for short sellers is Aixtron with shares out on loan increasing by 18% in the last month to reach 17%. The German based firm generates 78% of revenues from the development and installation of equipment involved in the deposition of semiconductor materials, organic LEDs and electronics using nanomaterial.

### Aixtron Se



Oil and gas firms in the region witnessing large moves in short interest in the last month include offshore driller Seadrill, oilfield service provider Petrofac and geoscience firm Cgg. These companies have seen increases in shares out on loan of 47%, 11% and 24% respectively. Seadrill currently has 12% of shares on loan compared to Petrofacs' 11% and Cgg's 8%.

### Seadrill Ltd



### Asia Pacific

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Atlas Iron Ltd	Steel	AGO	24/02/2015	12.2	0%
Ugl Ltd	Construction & Engineering	UGL	23/02/2015	11.4	-19%
Kingstgate Consolidated Ltd	Gold	KCN	25/02/2015	9.6	-8%
Acru Ltd	Pharmaceuticals	ACR	26/02/2015	8.4	-9%
Flight Centre Travel Group Ltd	Hotels, Resorts & Cruise Lines	FLT	24/02/2015	8.4	28%
Mma Offshore Ltd	Marine	MRM	25/02/2015	8.3	30%
Virtus Health Ltd	Health Care Facilities	VRT	24/02/2015	8.0	5%
Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd	Marine	2343	26/02/2015	7.7	25%
Calcharge Australia Ltd	Diversified Support Services	CAB	20/02/2015	7.4	-3%
Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engine	Construction Machinery & Heavy Trucks	042660	24/02/2015	6.5	21%
Senex Energy Ltd	Oil & Gas Exploration & Production	SKY	24/02/2015	6.4	-2%
loof Holdings Ltd	Asset Management & Custody Banks	IFL	26/02/2015	6.3	4%
Southern Cross Media Group Ltd	Broadcasting	SXL	25/02/2015	6.2	-7%
Nextdc Ltd	Internet Software & Services	NXT	27/02/2015	6.1	8%
Vocus Communications Ltd	Alternative Carriers	VOC	27/02/2015	6.1	3%
Taiflex Scientific Co Ltd	Electronic Components	8039	26/02/2015	5.9	-2%
Transpacific Industries Group Ltd	Environmental & Facilities Services	TPI	20/02/2015	5.8	-3%
Medusa Mining Ltd	Gold	MML	27/02/2015	5.7	-3%
Midas Holdings Ltd	Aluminum	5EN	27/02/2015	5.4	-1%
Pixart Imaging Inc	Semiconductors	3227	26/02/2015	5.1	-5%

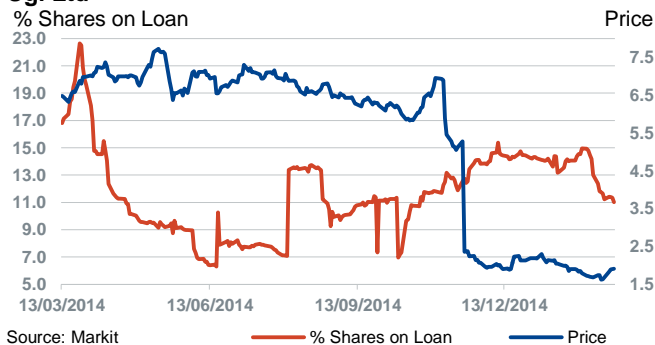
Australian firms take the top three short positions in Apac ahead of earnings this week, with independent iron ore miner Atlas taking pole position. The country's **currency depreciation** has not been enough to offset iron ore's price decline and Atlas has seen its shares decline by 80% in the last 12 months, with short interest currently standing at 12%.

#### Atlas Iron Ltd



Contract construction and engineering firm UGL is the second most short sold in the region with 11% of shares out on loan. The firm's shares plummeted by 15% on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 as the company announced substantial write downs related to the Ichthys power project in Darwin. Subsequent to this decrease, shares took a dramatic dive on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 as the shares went ex-capital post the firm selling off a property unit returning \$2.94 per share to shareholders.

#### Ugl Ltd



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