

Most shorted ahead of earnings

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

- Bank of Internet USA, United States Steel and Harley Davidson: top shorts in America
- Elevators and ATM providers attract short sellers in Europe ahead of earnings
- Duty free store Hotel Shilla and anime game developer Marvelous are most shorted in Apac

North America

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Bofi Holding Inc	Thriffs & Mortgage Finance	BOFI	29/01/2016	34.8	2%
United States Steel Corp	Metals & Mining	X	27/01/2016	30.6	8%
Consol Energy Inc	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	CNX	30/01/2016	29.4	10%
Ak Steel Holding Corp	Metals & Mining	AKS	27/01/2016	27.1	9%
Carbo Ceramics Inc	Energy Equipment & Services	CRR	29/01/2016	26.0	-1%
World Acceptance Corp	Consumer Finance	WRLD	29/01/2016	23.3	1%
Wesco International Inc	Trading Companies & Distributors	WCC	29/01/2016	22.5	2%
Cliffs Natural Resources Inc	Metals & Mining	CLF	28/01/2016	23.6	-6%
Heimerich And Payne Inc	Energy Equipment & Services	HP	29/01/2016	22.9	8%
Core Laboratories Nv	Energy Equipment & Services	CLB	28/01/2016	21.2	7%
Flotek Industries Inc	Chemicals	FTK	28/01/2016	19.6	-13%
Swift Transportation Co	Road & Rail	SWFT	26/01/2016	13.2	8%
Cimpress Nv	Internet Software & Services	CMPR	28/01/2016	20.5	4%
W W Grainger Inc	Trading Companies & Distributors	GWW	27/01/2016	18.2	10%
Harley-Davidson Inc	Automobiles	HOG	29/01/2016	16.7	12%
Methanex Corp	Chemicals	MX	28/01/2016	16.0	8%
Under Armour Inc	Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods	UA	29/01/2016	13.7	-6%
Westamercia Bancorp	Banks	WABC	30/01/2016	16.4	23%
Super Micro Computer Inc	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	SMCI	29/01/2016	15.9	4%
Freeport-Mcmoran Inc	Metals & Mining	FCX	27/01/2016	15.2	71%

Most shorted ahead of earnings in North America this week is high net worth mortgage lender Bofi Holding. The holding company of Bank of Internet USA has 34.8% of shares outstanding on loan. Shares in the lender have **continued** to fall since news broke of a federal **lawsuit** filed against the firm last year.

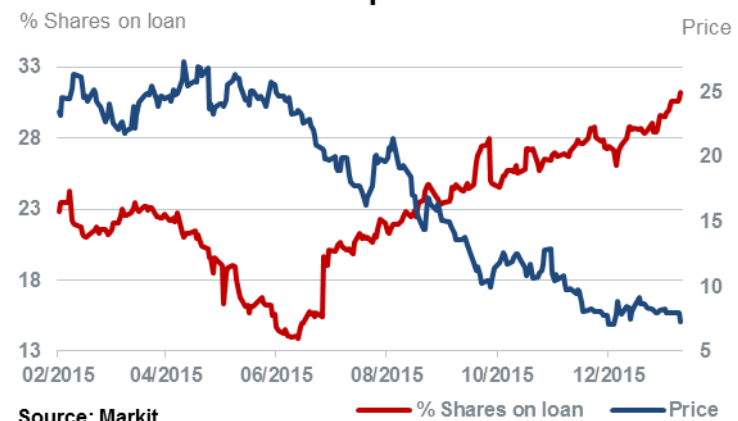
Bofi Holding Inc



Second most shorted is United States Steel, whose shares have fallen almost 70% in the last 12 months with short interest breaking

30% in the first weeks of 2016 reaching 31.2% of shares outstanding on loan. Earnings and revenues have dived in the last year as the firm battles falling steel prices as it attempts to implement aggressive cost cutting programs to offset revenue declines.

United States Steel Corp



Natural gas and coal producer Consol Energy has seen shares fall by 24% year to date as short sellers continue push to short interest higher with shares outstanding on loan reaching 28.8%.

Consol Energy Inc



Source: Markit

Hurt by dollar strength in 2015 and attracting significant levels of shorts already in **September 2015**, Harley Davidson shares have fallen a further 27% and shorts have increased positions further by two-thirds. Shares outstanding on loan currently stand at 16.6%.

Harley-Davidson Inc



Source: Markit

Western Europe

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Kone Oyj	Machinery	KNEBV	30/01/2016	11.7	11%
Wincor Nixdorf Ag	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	WIN	27/01/2016	5.8	-14%
Tele2 Ab	Wireless Telecommunication Services	TEL2 B	30/01/2016	5.9	8%
Banco Popular Espanol Sa	Banks	POP	31/01/2016	5.8	-8%
Banco De Sabadell Sa	Banks	SAB	31/01/2016	5.1	-11%
Atlas Copco Ab	Machinery	ATCO A	30/01/2016	4.3	2%
Getinge Ab	Health Care Equipment & Supplies	GETI B	30/01/2016	3.8	-18%
Wartsila Oyj Abp	Machinery	WRT1V	29/01/2016	3.8	-16%
Pz Cussons Plc	Household Products	PZC	28/01/2016	3.4	12%
Qlro Group Publ Ab	Internet & Catalog Retail	QLRO	29/01/2016	3.3	-5%

Most shorted in Europe ahead of earnings is elevator and escalator manufacturer Kone with 11.7% of shares outstanding on loan.

The shares have tracked movements in wider European indices, falling 6% year to date.

Kone Oyj



Source: Markit

Second most shorted in Europe with 5.8% of shares outstanding on loan is Wincor Nixdorf, a German based global provider of ATMS, software and IT solutions to the retail banking sector. Shares in the company rallied sharply towards the end of 2015 as rival Diebold made a \$1.9bn bid for the company.

Wincor Nixdorf Ag



Source: Markit

Apac

Name	Industry	Ticker	Earnings Date	% Shares Outstanding On Loan	1 Month % Change
Hotel Shilla Co Ltd	Specialty Retail	008770	30/01/2016	13.1	34%
Advantest Corp	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	6857	29/01/2016	14.2	3%
Marvelous Inc	Software	7844	31/01/2016	12.4	29%
Tokuyama Corp	Chemicals	4043	31/01/2016	9.9	-13%
Japan Communications Inc	Wireless Telecommunication Services	9424	30/01/2016	9.7	26%
Jvc Kenwood Corp	Household Durables	6632	31/01/2016	9.3	105%
Megachips Corp	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	6875	31/01/2016	10.7	8%
Mitsui Osk Lines Ltd	Marine	9104	31/01/2016	9.9	3%
Hitachi Construction Machinery C	Machinery	6305	30/01/2016	8.6	3%
Daihatsu Motor Co Ltd	Automobiles	7262	31/01/2016	7.3	-9%
Samsung Heavy Industries Co Ltd	Machinery	010140	31/01/2016	8.5	17%
Broadmedia Corp	Diversified Telecommunication Services	4347	31/01/2016	7.4	158%
Okuma Corp	Machinery	6103	31/01/2016	8.4	33%
Nippon Sheet Glass Co Ltd	Building Products	5202	31/01/2016	7.0	14%
Wacom Co Ltd	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	6727	31/01/2016	6.8	1%
Musashi Seimitsu Industry Co Ltd	Auto Components	7220	31/01/2016	6.1	-6%
Se Holdings And Incubations Co I	Media	9478	31/01/2016	6.5	7%
Osaka Titanium Technologies Co	Metals & Mining	5726	30/01/2016	6.2	0%
Konami Holdings Corp	Software	9766	31/01/2016	5.9	4%
Cyberagent Inc	Media	4751	30/01/2016	5.4	30%

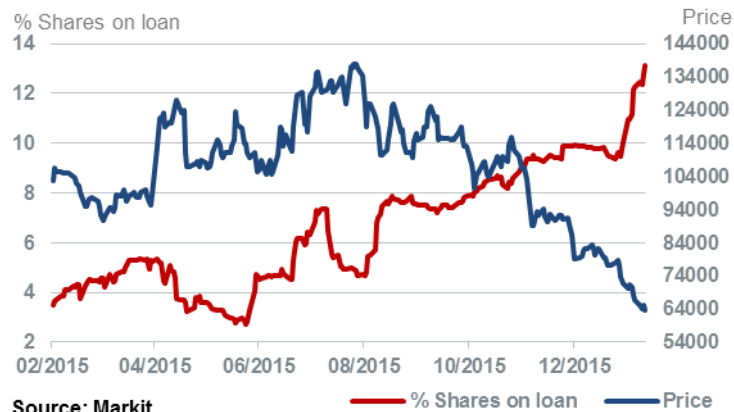
Most shorted ahead of earnings in Apac is Tokyo based Advantest Corp with 14.2% of shares outstanding on loan. The company provides semiconductor and components testing services.

Advantest Corp



Second most shorted ahead of earnings in Apac is Korean hotel and duty free shop operator Hotel Shilla, which is suffering from a **slowdown** in Chinese tourism. Hotel Shilla has seen a 40% increase in short interest year to date with 13.1% of shares outstanding on loan currently. Shares have plummeted over 50% in the last six months after the company **won the rights** to open a duty free store in Seoul.

Hotel Shilla Co Ltd



Japanese anime game developer Marvelous is the third most shorted in Apac with 9.7% of shares outstanding on loan. Shorts have increased positions by two-thirds in the last three months, while the company's stock has fallen by one-third.

Marvelous Inc



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