

Short & Caught: The ASX stocks investors are shorting amid the coronavirus and oil bloodbath

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Short & Caught is *Stockhead's* fortnightly recap of which ASX small cap stocks are heavily shorted. Stocks that are shorted have investors betting that they fall.

Shorting works by selling stocks you do not actually own in the hope of buying them back at a lower price.

Because shorting is restricted under Australian law, any substantial shorting of stocks is worth knowing about even if you own these stocks and only trade long.

Stockhead's two preferred metrics are raw short interest as well as percentage changes in them within the last month.

The most shorted

Code	Name	Price (\$)	Short Interest	Short Interest 1 Month % Change	Market Cap
ECX	ECLIPX GROUP LTD	1.42	9.74M	-5.63	455.48M
EHE	ESTIA HEALTH LTD	1.52	5.65M	-2.3	456.91M
EMR	EMERALD RESOURCES NL	0.038	5.01M	-49.76	148.27M
EWC	ENERGY WORLD CORP LTD	0.067	18.56M	1.12	134.67M
FAR	FAR LTD	0.019	30.99M	20.09	269.43M
FBR	FBR LTD	0.029	7.46M	0.34	61.73M
GRR	GRANGE RESOURCES LTD	0.20	19.81M	8.64	254.61M
GXY	GALAXY RESOURCES LTD	0.76	81.90M	6.96	370.58M
HT1	HT&E LTD	1.35	13.26M	0.49	389.52M

While lithium miner [Galaxy Resources \(ASX:GXY\)](#) remains anchored at the top of the most shorted ASX stocks, one commodity with a few new entrants on this list was petroleum.

Oil prices were falling even before Monday's bloodbath, and leading the charge was [Senex Energy \(ASX:SXY\)](#) with \$65m in short interest against it.

Short interest against [Karooon Energy \(ASX:KAR\)](#) rose 570 per cent and against [Otto Energy \(ASX:OEL\)](#) 66 per cent both reaching nearly \$15m.

Other beaten up sectors made the list as well, infant formula stock [Bubs Australia \(ASX:BUB\)](#) and uranium play [Paladin Energy \(ASX:PDN\)](#) both reached over \$30m in short interest.

The newly shorted

Code	Name	Price (I)	Short Interest	Short Interest 1 Month % Change	Market Cap
CDV	CARDINAL RESOURCES LTD	0.34	303.17k	15890.19	172.91M
CZI	CASSINI RESOURCES LTD	0.078	108.91k	494945.44	36.36M
DCC	DIGITALX LTD	0.02	203.40k	849.4	13.93M
DNK	DANAKALI LTD	0.46	270.95k	225.89	151.39M
ELX	ELLEX MEDICAL LASERS LTD	0.61	49.59k	4672.38	94.78M
FLN	FREELANCER LTD	0.36	18.28k	1042.56	165.49M
GGG	GREENLAND MINERALS LTD	0.086	970.00k	651.8	114.33M
HCT	HOLISTA COLLTECH LTD	0.13	201.26k	1912.57	44.39M
HZN	HORIZON OIL LTD	0.058	2.92M	891.09	92.44M

Among stocks below \$5m short interest, this trend continued. The most unlikely targets new to the list are two stocks in the hand sanitiser business, [Zoono \(ASX:ZNO\)](#) and [Holista Colltech \(ASX:HCT\)](#).

Both have risen a staggering amount in recent weeks, but shorters have begun to target them, albeit modestly for now with just over \$200,000 in short interest each.

One of the most decimated industries on a global basis is the travel and tourism sector. [Apollo Tourism and Leisure \(ASX:ATL\)](#) and [Regional Express \(ASX:REX\)](#) both became new targets as well.

Retailers were also added to the list, including [Temple & Webster \(ASX:TPW\)](#), [Mosaic Brands \(ASX:MOZ\)](#) and [Baby Bunting \(ASX:BBN\)](#).