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<http://seekingalpha.com/article/258071-5-trading-themes-with-rising-put-call-ratios>

5 Trading Themes With Rising Put/Call Ratios

The following is a list of 5 ETFs that have recently seen an increase in the Put/Call ratio, which is based on open interest of option contracts.

Some technical traders view the Put/Call ratio as a contrary indicator when it reaches extreme highs or lows. In other words, because the ETFs mentioned below have a high number of open put option positions relative to call option positions, contrarians would think most of the ETFs mentioned below are set for a rally. Do you agree?

Options data sourced from Schaeffer's, short float and performance data sourced from Finviz. (Please note: All changes in the Put/Call ratio occur between 2/28 - 3/11)

The list has been sorted by the change in the Put/Call ratio.

1. Energy Select Sector SPDR (XLE): Market cap of \$10.33B. Current Put/Call ratio at 1.79 vs. previous Put/Call ratio at 1.04 (72.12% change). The market seems to be buying downside protection in the current oil rally, as the geopolitical developments in the sector have increased market uncertainty. It's been a rough couple of days for the ETF, losing 6.35% over the last week.

2. SPDR S&P MidCap 400 (MDY): Market cap of \$11.74B. Current Put/Call ratio at 4.46 vs. previous Put/Call ratio at 3.02 (47.68% change).

3. SPDR S&P Retail (XRT): Market cap of \$510.41M. Current Put/Call ratio at 5.3 vs. previous Put/Call ratio at 4.32 (22.69% change). With oil prices rising rapidly, will retail sales take a knock?

4. Semiconductor HOLDRs (SMH): Market cap of \$1.35B. Current Put/Call ratio at 3.02 vs. previous Put/Call ratio at 2.63 (14.83% change). It's been a rough couple of days for the ETF, losing 8.04% over the last week.

5. PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy (PBW): Market cap of \$514.98M. Current Put/Call ratio at 1.03 vs. previous Put/Call ratio at 0.9 (14.44% change). Despite the increase in oil prices, options traders don't expect the clean energy ETF to make strong gains. It's been a rough couple of days for the ETF, losing 6.11% over the last week.