

# **Credit Crunch Time!**



The credit markets are tightening big time.

The effect of less credit availability likely won't be felt immediately.

Tighter credit will filter through the economy over the coming months.

This is terrible news for businesses, small and large.

A historic and dramatic increase in interest rates (historic because

a move from zero percent to anything higher is historic and dramatic) has created a banking crisis.

Bank risk managers have been asleep at the wheel, and it bit them in the ass.

While depositors will likely be made whole, banks are now running scared.

Banks are afraid to lend.

How bad is it?

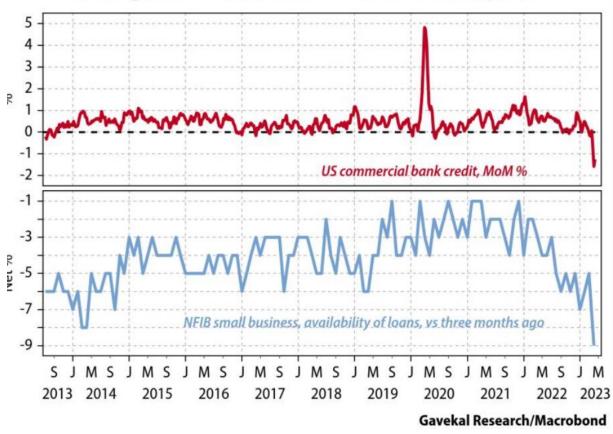
Bad!

Check out this chart on the next page, courtesy of GaveKal Research.

The chart highlights the recent dramatic contraction in bank credit and loan availability.

Their commentary also briefly summarizes the current situation...

The US credit crunch has probably begun. The debacles of SVB and Signature Bank have made commercial banks cautious, as evidenced by the loan availability component of the NFIB small business survey falling sharply. This means businesses are having a tougher time getting a loan. As firms lose access to credit, more unprofitable businesses will likely be forced into bankruptcy. Mass layoffs and higher unemployment rates would follow, raising the risk of recession. Investors should maintain a risk-off approach to asset allocation in the US. **#chartoftheweek #smallbusiness #banks #US #credit #SVB #Signaturebank** 



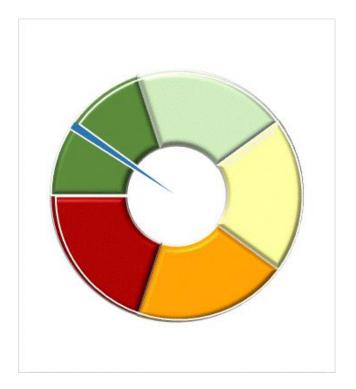
Banking crisis -> credit crunch -> business bankruptcies

The *Risk-O-Meter* is still in the "green zone." However, as I pointed out last week, market sentiment is too greedy.

The market is neither overbought nor oversold.

We are in no-man's-land.

As a result, I am watching and waiting to make new trades in my taxable account.



## **Micro-Cap Millions**

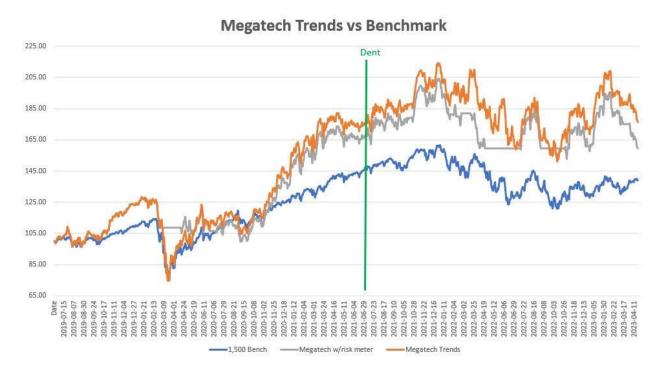


### There are no trades this week. Here is the current portfolio:

Ticker	Name	Return	Days Held	Sector
BELFB	Bel Fuse, Inc.	18.52%	242	Technology
EGAN	eGain Corp.	-5.27%	18	Technology
KMDA	Kamada Ltd.	16.97%	123	Healthcare
KNSA	Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	-16.08%	165	Healthcare
MGIC	Magic Software Enterprises Ltd.	-20.50%	63	Technology
OPRA	Opera Ltd.	31.59%	32	Technology
SCPL	SciPlay Corp.	0.77%	18	Technology
SPOK	Spok Holdings, Inc.	27.85%	53	Telecommunications
UTMD	Utah Medical Products, Inc.	6.72%	53	Healthcare
UUU	Universal Security Instruments, Inc.	-22.78%	53	Technology

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### **Mega-Tech Trends**



There are two sell trades and one buy trade this week. There are nine stocks in the portfolio.

### Buy Plexus Corp. (Nasdaq: PLXS)

#### Sell Fabrinet (NYSE: FN) and Extreme Networks, Inc. (Nasdaq: EXTR)

Here is the current portfolio:

Ticker	Name	Return	Days Held	Sector
COHU	Cohu, Inc.	-4.91%	28	Technology
CRUS	Cirrus Logic, Inc.	-14.05%	74	Technology
DGII	Digi International, Inc.	-4.67%	46	Technology
DIOD	Diodes, Inc.	-5.63%	39	Technology
IART	Integra LifeSciences Holdings Corp.	1.41%	18	Healthcare
PLXS	Plexus Corp.	0.00%	new	Technology
TDC	Teradata Corp.	-5.32%	63	Technology
TTMI	TTM Technologies, Inc.	-2.92%	11	Technology
ZBRA	Zebra Technologies Corp.	-9.47%	18	Technology

### Large Cap Leaders



There are no trades this week. Here is the current portfolio:

Ticker	Name	Return	Days Held	Sector
ADI	Analog Devices, Inc.	9.08%	81	Technology
ANSS	ANSYS, Inc.	4.01%	32	Technology
CRM	Salesforce, Inc.	14.93%	39	Technology
CSCO	Cisco Systems, Inc.	-5.37%	137	Technology
CSGP	CoStar Group, Inc.	6.30%	28	Technology
INTU	Intuit, Inc.	1.08%	4	Technology
MSI	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	14.16%	74	Technology
NOW	ServiceNow, Inc.	0.23%	74	Technology
ORCL	Oracle Corp.	9.05%	88	Technology
ZBRA	Zebra Technologies Corp.	-9.47%	18	Technology

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