



BROKERAGES EXPECT **ECOPETROL S.A. (NYSE:EC)** WILL POST QUARTERLY SALES OF \$8.47 BILLION

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Wall Street brokerages forecast that **Ecopetrol** S.A. (NYSE:EC – [Get Rating](#)) will announce \$8.47 billion in sales for the current quarter, **Zacks Investment Research** reports. Two analysts have issued estimates for **Ecopetrol's** earnings. The lowest sales estimate is \$8.26 billion and the highest is \$8.69 billion. **Ecopetrol** reported sales of \$4.83 billion in the same quarter last year, which would indicate a positive year-over-year growth rate of 75.4%. The company is expected to issue its next quarterly earnings report after the market closes on Monday, January 1st.

According to Zacks, analysts expect that **Ecopetrol** will report full-year sales of \$34.93 billion for the current fiscal year, with estimates ranging from \$34.06 billion to \$35.80 billion. For the next fiscal year, analysts expect that the business will post sales of \$34.79 billion, with estimates ranging from \$32.88 billion to \$36.70 billion. Zacks Investment Research's sales averages are an average based on a survey of sell-side research firms that that provide coverage for **Ecopetrol**.

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Several equities research analysts have recently commented on the company. **StockNews.com** initiated coverage on **Ecopetrol** in a report on Thursday, March 31st. They set a "hold" rating for the company. TheStreet raised **Ecopetrol** from a "c" rating to a "b-" rating in a report on Monday, April 18th. **Zacks Investment Research** downgraded **Ecopetrol** from a "strong-buy" rating to a "hold" rating in a research report on Tuesday, May 10th. Finally, Morgan Stanley downgraded **Ecopetrol** from an "overweight" rating to an "equal weight" rating in a research report on Tuesday, March 1st. One equities research analyst has rated the stock with a sell rating and four have issued a hold rating to the stock. According to MarketBeat.com, **Ecopetrol** has a consensus rating of "Hold" and an average price target of \$17.73.

A number of hedge funds have recently bought and sold shares of EC. Schroder Investment Management Group increased its position in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 11.7% in the fourth quarter. Schroder Investment Management Group now owns 43,730 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$28,000 after acquiring an additional 4,574 shares during the last quarter. Penserra Capital Management LLC bought a new position in **Ecopetrol** in the 1st quarter valued at about \$47,000. Arrowstreet Capital Limited Partnership bought a new stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** during the 3rd quarter valued at approximately \$162,000. Advisor Group Holdings Inc. grew its holdings in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 8.7% during the 3rd quarter. Advisor Group Holdings Inc. now owns 11,308 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$162,000 after purchasing an additional 904 shares during the last quarter. Finally, Profund Advisors LLC bought a new stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** during the 4th quarter valued at approximately \$163,000. Hedge funds and other institutional investors own 1.23% of the company's stock.

NYSE:EC opened at \$15.31 on Friday. The company has a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.93, a quick ratio of 1.13 and a current ratio of 1.38. The stock has a market cap of \$31.47 billion, a price-to-earnings ratio of 10.41, a PEG ratio of 0.07 and a beta of 1.57. The business has a fifty day moving average of \$17.12 and a 200-day moving average of \$15.45. **Ecopetrol** has a 1 year low of \$11.76 and a 1 year high of \$19.81.

The business also recently declared an annual dividend, which was paid on Thursday, April 28th. Stockholders of record on Wednesday, April 20th were given a \$1.379 dividend. This is a positive change from **Ecopetrol's** previous annual dividend of \$0.09. This represents a dividend yield of 7.25%. The ex-dividend date was Tuesday, April 19th. **Ecopetrol's** dividend payout ratio (DPR) is currently 99.32%.

Ecopetrol Company Profile ([Get Rating](#))

Ecopetrol SA operates as an integrated energy company. The company operates through four segments: Exploration and Production; Transport and Logistics; Refining, Petrochemical and Biofuels; and Electric Power Transmission and Toll Roads Concessions. It engages in the exploration and production of oil and gas; transportation of crude oil, motor fuels, fuel oil, and other refined products, including diesel, jet, and biofuels; processing and refining crude oil; distribution of natural gas and LPG; sale of refined and petrochemical products; supplying of electric power transmission services; design, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of road and energy infrastructure projects; and supplying of information technology and telecommunications services.

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