

This trade activity should not be overlooked: **Ecopetrol S.A. (EC)**

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Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE: EC) stock fell -1.40% on Wednesday to \$11.23 against a previous-day closing price of \$11.39. With 2.13 million shares changed hands, the volume of the stock remained lighter than its average volume of 2.14 million shares. During the session, the Oil & Gas Integrated company that operates in wider Energy sector, reached to the highest price of \$11.33 whereas the lowest price it dropped to was \$11.10. The 52-week range on EC shows that it touched its highest point at \$16.97 and its lowest point at \$8.59 during that stretch. It currently has a 1-year price target of \$14.09. With its current market cap of 22.80 billion, EC has annualized dividend of \$1.63 while the current yield stands at 14.48%. Beta for the stock currently stands at 1.44.

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Price Performance and Earnings:

Stock performance is one of the indicators that investors use to determine whether they will profit from a stock. The price performance of EC was down-trending over the past week, with a drop of -2.85%, but this was up by 14.13% over a month. Three-month performance dropped to -6.10% while six-month performance rose 19.47%. The stock lost -37.71% in the past year, while it has gained 7.26% so far this year. A look at the trailing 12-month EPS for EC yields 3.68 with Next year EPS estimates of 2.17. For the next quarter, that number is 0.54. This implies an EPS growth rate of 100.10% for this year and 1.90% for next year. EPS is expected to decline by -13.00% annually over the next five years; however, over the past five years, the company experienced an annual growth rate of 38.20%.

Float and Shares Shorts:

At present, 2.06 billion EC shares are outstanding with a float of 221.63 million shares on hand for trading. On Mar 30, 2023, short shares totaled 6.21 million, which was 0.30% higher than short shares on Feb 27, 2023. In addition to Mr. Alberto Consuegra Granger as the firm's Exec. VP of Operations, Interim CEO & COO, Mr. Jaime Caballero Uribe serves as its Chief Financial Officer.

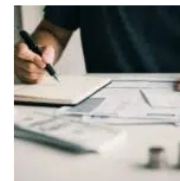
Institutional Ownership:

Through their ownership of 2.05% of EC's outstanding shares, institutional investors have minority control over the company. Other institutions hold 1.43% of EC, in contrast to 0.53% held by mutual funds. Shares owned by individuals account for -. As the largest shareholder in EC with 0.17% of the stake, Arrowstreet Capital LP holds 3,388,012 shares worth 3,388,012. A second-largest stockholder of EC, Marshall Wace LLP, holds 3,232,841 shares, controlling over 0.16% of the firm's shares. BlackRock Investment Management is the third largest shareholder in EC, holding 2,712,846 shares or 0.13% stake. With a 0.06% stake in EC, the First Trust Indxx Global Natural is the largest stakeholder. A total of 1,191,245 shares are owned by the mutual fund manager. The Vanguard Emerging Markets Stock I, which owns about 0.05% of EC stock, is the second-largest Mutual Fund holder. It holds 1,120,078 shares valued at 11.83 million. iShares Tr. – Latin America 40 ET holds 0.03% of the stake in EC, owning 597,170 shares worth 6.31 million.

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uses quantitative research to analyze metrics such as revenue, net income, and earnings. In its fiscal quarter reported on Dec 30, 2022, EC reported revenue of \$43.88T and operating income of \$18.61T. The EBITDA in the recently reported quarter was \$21.65T and diluted EPS was \$5.09k.

Analysts Ratings:

Reading analyst opinions is an effective way to decide where to invest, and there are several opinions available for EC since 13 analysts follow the stock currently. There are 2 analysts who recommend BUY ratings, while 0 suggest SELL ratings. Of the remaining analysts, 11 believe that the stock is worth HOLDING, 0 give it an OVERWEIGHT rating, and 0 thinks that it's UNDERWEIGHT. In the same way, a target price assigned to a stock can also reveal much about its potential. With EC analysts setting a high price target of \$74,323.94 and a low target of \$45,693.40, the average target price over the next 12 months is \$59,577.75. Based on these targets, EC could surge 661733.84% to reach the target high and rise by 406786.91% to reach the target low. Reaching the average price target will result in a growth of 530423.15% from current levels.

EPS: Estimates vs Actual

It is also common to use earnings estimates to evaluate a firm's growth potential and to determine trading strategy. EC will report FY 2023 earnings on 02/28/2023. Analysts have provided yearly estimates in a range of \$13470.60 being high and \$7148.68 being low. For EC, this leads to a yearly average estimate of \$10128.27. The earnings surprise of a firm occurs when the actual results change from the consensus earnings estimate. **Ecopetro** S.A. surprised analysts by -\$0.15 when it reported \$0.72 EPS against a consensus estimate of \$0.87. The surprise factor in the prior quarter was -\$0.08. Based on analyst estimates, the high estimate for the next quarter is \$3209.69 and the low estimate is \$1598.18. The average estimate for the next quarter is thus \$2626.19.

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