

Parallax Volatility Advisers L.P. Purchases Shares of 17,826 **Ecopetrol** S.A. (NYSE:EC)

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Parallax Volatility Advisers L.P. purchased a new stake in **Ecopetrol** S.A. (NYSE:EC - [Get Rating](#)) during the 4th quarter, according to the company in its most recent disclosure with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The firm purchased 17,826 shares of the oil and gas company's stock, valued at approximately \$187,000.

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Several other institutional investors and hedge funds have also recently modified their holdings of EC. Advisor Group Holdings Inc. raised its holdings in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 27.5% in the 1st quarter. Advisor Group Holdings Inc. now owns 14,371 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$268,000 after acquiring an additional 3,099 shares in the last quarter. American Century Companies Inc. increased its position in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 7.6% during the 1st quarter. American Century Companies Inc. now owns 43,798 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$815,000 after purchasing an additional 3,081 shares during the last quarter. BlackRock Inc. increased its position in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 98.0% during the 1st quarter. BlackRock Inc. now owns 2,776,889 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$51,650,000 after purchasing an additional 1,374,075 shares during the last quarter. Sei Investments Co. bought a new position in shares of **Ecopetrol** during the 1st quarter valued at about \$2,311,000. Finally, Vanguard Group Inc. increased its position in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 5.1% during the 1st quarter. Vanguard Group Inc. now owns 2,777,900 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$51,669,000 after purchasing an additional 134,703 shares during the last quarter. Hedge funds and other institutional investors own 1.54% of the company's stock.

Ecopetrol Price Performance

EC opened at \$10.58 on Thursday. The stock's 50 day simple moving average is \$9.89 and its 200 day simple moving average is \$10.35. The company has a debt-to-equity ratio of 1.00, a current ratio of 1.14 and a quick ratio of 1.00. **Ecopetrol** S.A. has a 1 year low of \$8.59 and a 1 year high of \$12.35. The firm has a market cap of \$21.74 billion, a price-to-earnings ratio of 2.73 and a beta of 1.44.

Ecopetrol (NYSE:EC - [Get Rating](#)) last posted its quarterly earnings results on Wednesday, March 29th. The oil and gas company reported \$0.69 earnings per share (EPS) for the quarter, topping the consensus

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estimate of \$0.65 by \$0.04. **Ecopetrol** had a return on equity of 15.81% and a net margin of 19.92%. The business had revenue of \$8.26 billion for the quarter, compared to analyst estimates of \$8.31 billion. As a group, analysts predict that **Ecopetrol** S.A. will post 2.24 earnings per share for the current year.

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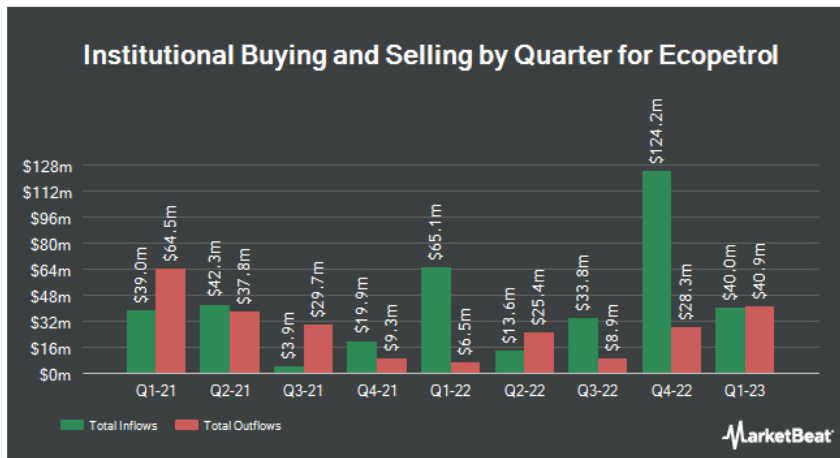
Several brokerages have recently commented on EC. **StockNews.com** began coverage on **Ecopetrol** in a research report on Thursday, May 18th. They set a "hold" rating on the stock. The Goldman Sachs Group reduced their price objective on **Ecopetrol** from \$12.40 to \$11.00 and set a "neutral" rating on the stock in a research report on Wednesday, March 15th. Four equities research analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating. Based on data from MarketBeat.com, **Ecopetrol** has an average rating of "Hold" and an average price target of \$12.00.

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

Ecopetrol SA engages in the exploration, development, and production of crude oil and natural gas. It operates through the following segments: Exploration and Production, Transportation and Logistics, and Refining and Petrochemicals. The Exploration and Production segment deals with oil and gas exploration and production activities.

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Should you invest \$1,000 in **Ecopetrol** right now?

Before you consider **Ecopetrol**, you'll want to hear this.

MarketBeat keeps track of Wall Street's top-rated and best performing research analysts and the stocks they recommend to their clients on a daily basis. MarketBeat has identified the [five stocks](#) that top analysts are quietly whispering to their clients to buy now before the broader market catches on... and

Ecopetrol wasn't on the list.

While Ecopetrol currently has a "Hold" rating among analysts, top-rated analysts believe these five stocks are better buys.

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