

Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC) Shares Purchased by First Trust Advisors LP

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First Trust Advisors LP increased its holdings in shares of [Ecopetrol S.A. \(NYSE:EC - Get Rating\)](#) by 26.4% during the third quarter, according to its most recent filing with the Securities & Exchange Commission. The firm owned 835,431 shares of the oil and gas company's stock after acquiring an additional 174,728 shares during the period. First Trust Advisors LP's holdings in [Ecopetrol](#) were worth \$7,460,000 as of its most recent SEC filing.

Other institutional investors have also recently modified their holdings of the company. Northern Trust Corp lifted its position in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) by 0.5% during the 1st quarter. Northern Trust Corp now owns 198,961 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$3,700,000 after purchasing an additional 1,044 shares during the last quarter. UBS Group AG grew its position in [Ecopetrol](#) by 11.1% during the first quarter. UBS Group AG now owns 10,610 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$197,000 after buying an additional 1,058 shares during the period. Credit Suisse AG grew its position in [Ecopetrol](#) by 10.8% during the second quarter. Credit Suisse AG now owns 11,308 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$123,000 after buying an additional 1,105 shares during the period. Quantamental Technologies LLC grew its position in [Ecopetrol](#) by 8.9% during the second quarter. Quantamental Technologies LLC now owns 13,975 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$152,000 after buying an additional 1,143 shares during the period. Finally, Amundi lifted its holdings in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) by 1.0% in the second quarter. Amundi now owns 115,698 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$1,102,000 after purchasing an additional 1,166 shares in the last quarter. 1.30% of the stock is currently owned by institutional investors and hedge funds.

Analyst Ratings Changes

A number of equities analysts have weighed in on the stock. [StockNews.com](#) downgraded shares of [Ecopetrol](#) from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating in a research note on Friday, December 9th. UBS Group lowered shares of [Ecopetrol](#) from a "buy" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$13.00 price objective for the company. in a report on Thursday, February 9th. HSBC downgraded shares of [Ecopetrol](#) from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating and reduced their price target for the stock from \$12.50 to \$12.00 in a research report on Friday, February 10th. Finally, The Goldman Sachs Group lifted their price objective on shares of [Ecopetrol](#) from \$10.30 to \$12.40 and gave the company a "neutral" rating in a research report on Friday, January 27th. Four research analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating, According to MarketBeat, the stock has a consensus rating of "Hold" and a consensus target price of \$12.47.

Ecopetrol Price Performance

Shares of [Ecopetrol stock](#) opened at \$10.38 on Tuesday. The firm has a fifty day simple moving average of \$11.07 and a 200-day simple moving average of \$10.30. The company has a current ratio of 1.36, a quick ratio of 1.15 and a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.78. [Ecopetrol S.A.](#) has a 1-year low of \$8.59 and a 1-year high of \$19.81. The stock has a market capitalization of \$21.34 billion, a price-to-earnings ratio of 2.72 and a beta of 1.41.

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Ecopetrol Cuts Dividend

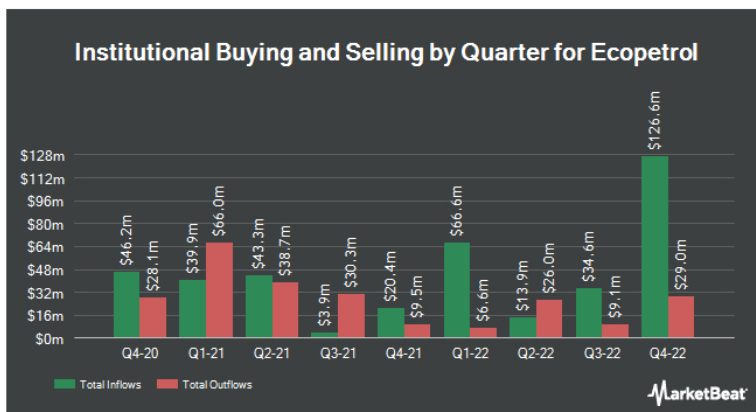
The business also recently announced an annual dividend, which will be paid on Thursday, October 5th. Investors of record on Wednesday, September 27th will be given a dividend of \$0.6797 per share. This represents a yield of 19.6%. The ex-dividend date is Tuesday, September 26th. Ecopetrol's dividend payout ratio (DPR) is currently 38.32%.

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

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.

Further Reading

- [Get a free copy of the StockNews.com research report on Ecopetrol \(EC\)](#)
- [First Republic: First Rate Risk or Time To Buy?](#)
- [These Hedge Funds Are Getting Crushed By SVB](#)
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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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