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Crossmark Global Holdings Inc. lifted its stake in shares of Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC - [Get Rating](#)) by 5,979.3% during the fourth quarter, according to its most recent filing with the Securities & Exchange Commission. The firm owned 936,760 shares of the oil and gas company's stock after acquiring an additional 921,351 shares during the period. Crossmark Global Holdings Inc.'s holdings in Ecopetrol were worth \$9,808,000 at the end of the most recent reporting period.

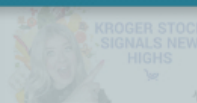
Several other institutional investors and hedge funds have also bought and sold shares of the stock. Penserra Capital Management LLC acquired a new position in shares of Ecopetrol during the first quarter valued at about \$47,000. Apollon Wealth Management LLC acquired a new position in Ecopetrol during the 3rd quarter worth approximately \$89,000. Jane Street Group LLC bought a new position in Ecopetrol in the second quarter worth approximately \$116,000. Mutual Advisors LLC bought a new position in Ecopetrol in the third quarter worth approximately \$118,000. Finally, Creative Planning acquired a new stake in Ecopetrol in the third quarter valued at approximately \$119,000. 1.30% of the stock is owned by institutional investors.

Analysts Set New Price Targets

EC has been the topic of a number of research reports. UBS Group lowered Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$13.00 target price on the stock. in a research report on Thursday, February 9th. HSBC downgraded shares of Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating and lowered their price objective for the stock from \$12.50 to \$12.00 in a report on Friday, February 10th. The Goldman Sachs Group reduced their price objective on shares of Ecopetrol from \$12.40 to \$11.00 and set a "neutral" rating for the company in a report on Wednesday, March 15th. Finally, [StockNews.com](#) assumed coverage on shares of Ecopetrol in a report on Thursday, March 16th. They issued a "hold" rating on the



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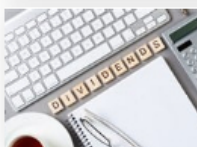


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[Ecopetrol](#) in a report on Thursday, March 16th. They issued a hold rating on the stock. Four analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating. Based on data from MarketBeat, the stock currently has an average rating of "Hold" and a consensus target price of \$12.00.

Ecopetrol Trading Up 4.0 %

Shares of [Ecopetrol stock](#) opened at \$9.99 on Tuesday. The company has a market capitalization of \$20.54 billion, a P/E ratio of 2.62 and a beta of 1.41. The stock has a fifty day simple moving average of \$10.88 and a 200 day simple moving average of \$10.26. [Ecopetrol](#) S.A. has a 12-month low of \$8.59 and a 12-month high of \$19.81. 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 Dividend Announcement

The company also recently announced a – dividend, which will be paid on Friday, December 29th. Stockholders of record on Wednesday, December 20th will be issued a \$0.1479 dividend. The ex-dividend date of this dividend is Tuesday, December 19th. This represents a dividend yield of 20.4%. [Ecopetrol](#)'s dividend payout ratio is currently 38.32%.

Ecopetrol Company 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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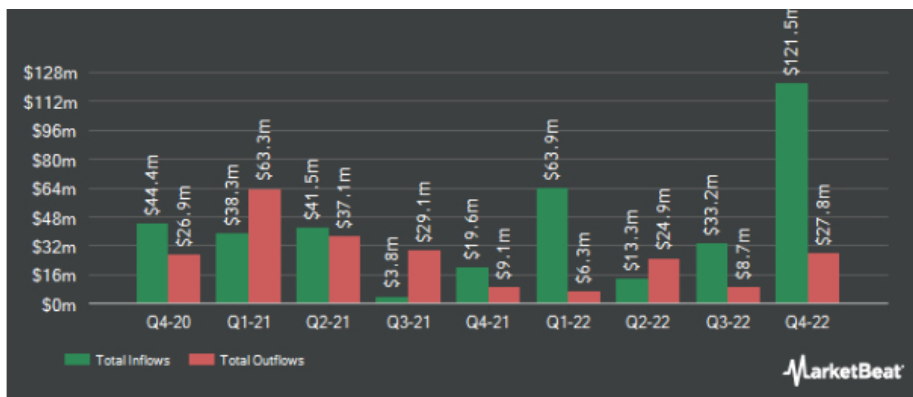
Want to see what other hedge funds are holding EC? [Visit HoldingsChannel.com](#) to get the latest 13F filings and insider trades for [Ecopetrol](#) S.A. ([NYSE:EC](#) - [Get Rating](#)).

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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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