

Does **Ecopetrol** S.A. (EC) offer a good opportunity for investors?

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Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE: EC) stock fell -3.15% on Thursday to \$9.23 against a previous-day closing price of \$9.53. With 1.06 million shares changed hands, the volume of the stock remained lighter than its average volume of 2.4 million shares. During the session, the Oil & Gas Integrated company that operates in wider Energy sector, reached to the highest price of \$9.40 whereas the lowest price it dropped to was \$9.16. The 52-week range on EC shows that it touched its highest point at \$16.19 and its lowest point at \$8.48 during that stretch. It currently has a 1-year price target of \$12.86. With its current market cap of 18.84 billion, EC has annualized dividend of \$1.66 while the current yield stands at 18.03%. 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 -0.97%, but this was down by -2.64% over a month. Three-month performance dropped to -13.26% while six-month performance fell -8.78%. The stock lost -31.25% in the past year, while it has lost -10.69% so far this year. A look at the trailing 12-month EPS for EC yields 3.49 with Next year EPS estimates of 2.14. For the next quarter, that number is 0.49. This implies an EPS growth rate of 100.10% for this year and 4.90% 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 May 14, 2023, short shares totaled 6.73 million, which was 0.33% higher than short shares on Apr 13, 2023. In addition to Mr. Ricardo Roa Barragan as the firm's Chief Exec. Officer, 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 1.11% of EC, in contrast to 0.50% held by mutual funds. Shares owned by individuals account for –. As the largest shareholder in EC with 0.19% of the stake, Marshall Wace LLP holds 3,806,160 shares worth 3,806,160. A second-largest stockholder of EC, BlackRock Investment Management, holds 2,960,615 shares, controlling over 0.14% of the firm's shares. Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Co. is the third largest shareholder in EC, holding 1,513,564 shares or 0.07% stake. With a 0.06% stake in EC, the First Trust Indxx Global Natural is the largest stakeholder. A total of 1,187,001 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 1,086,590 shares valued at 10.56 million. iShares Tr. – Latin America 40 ET holds 0.03% of the stake in EC, owning 582,954 shares worth 5.67 million.

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Understanding a company as a customer does not mean you will understand it as an investor. The wise investor uses quantitative research to analyze metrics such as revenue, net income, and earnings. In its fiscal quarter reported on Mar 30, 2023, 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 0 analysts follow the stock currently. 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 \$71,185.48 and a low target of \$43,274.97, the average target price over the next 12 months is \$54,244.63. Based on these targets, EC could surge 771140.3% to reach the target high and rise by 468751.25% to reach the target low. Reaching the average price target will result in a growth of 587599.13% 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.

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