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AE Wealth Management Reduces Stake in Ecopetrol as Company Faces Earnings Miss



by Elaine Mendonça — October 1, 2023 in News Reading Time: 3 mins read

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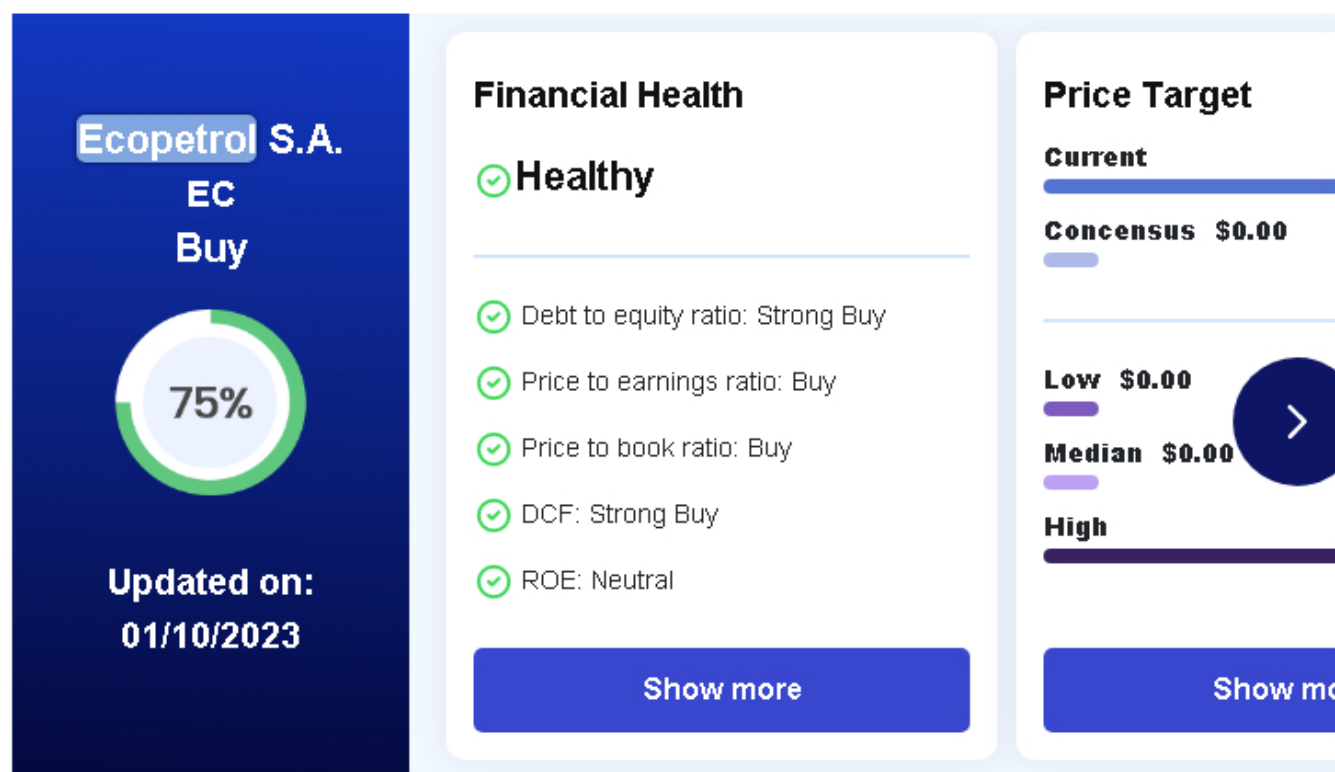


Ecopetrol S.A., a publicly-traded oil and gas company, recently saw a decrease in holdings by AE Wealth Management LLC. According to its most recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, AE Wealth Management LLC reduced its stake in **Ecopetrol** by 36.0% during the second quarter of this year. The investment firm sold 28,585 shares, leaving them with a remaining 50,907 shares of **Ecopetrol** stock. As of the filing date in September 2023, these shares were valued at \$522,000.

Ecopetrol recently released its quarterly earnings results on August 8th. For the quarter, the company reported earnings per share (EPS) of \$0.45, which missed analysts' consensus estimates by (\$0.08). Additionally, the company recorded revenue of \$7.75 billion during this period versus analysts' expectations of \$7.95 billion. Despite falling short of estimates, **Ecopetrol's** net margin stood at an impressive 16.74% and it achieved a return on equity of 10.34%. Industry experts predict that **Ecopetrol** will post EPS of 2.15 for the current fiscal year.

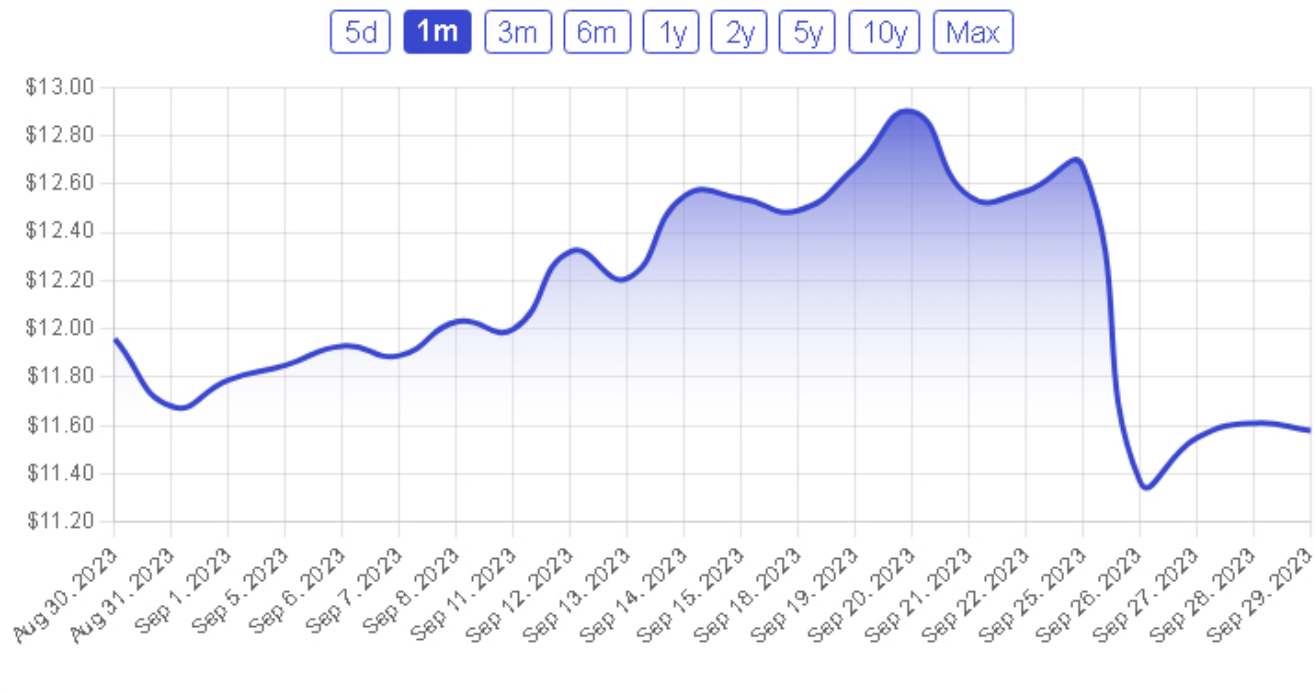
Operating as an integrated energy company, **Ecopetrol** SA operates through four distinct segments: Exploration and Production; Transport and Logistics; Refining, Petrochemical and Biofuels; and Electric Power Transmission and Toll Roads Concessions. Its operations encompass various activities such as oil and gas exploration and production, transportation of crude oil and refined products (including biofuels), crude oil processing and refining, natural gas distribution, sale of petrochemical products, electric power transmission services provision as well as road and energy infrastructure project development.

In summary, AE Wealth Management LLC has decreased its holdings in **Ecopetrol** during the second quarter while analysts evaluate **Ecopetrol's** recent financial performance against expectations. **Ecopetrol** SA continues to operate across multiple segments, catering to various aspects of the energy industry.



Ecopetrol's Ownership Structure Shifts as Institutional

Ecopetrol's Ownership Structure Shifts as Institutional Investors Show Confidence in Company's Future



Ecopetrol, a leading oil and gas company, has recently seen some changes in its ownership structure. Institutional investors like BlackRock Inc., Arrowstreet Capital Limited Partnership, Marshall Wace LLP, Vanguard Group Inc., and Millennium Management LLC have either increased or reduced their stakes in the business. These investors play a significant role in shaping the direction of **Ecopetrol**, with BlackRock Inc.'s stake increasing by 6.2% during the third quarter alone.

BlackRock Inc., for instance, now owns 5,145,205 shares of **Ecopetrol**'s stock valued at \$45,948,000 after acquiring an additional 298,224 shares in the last quarter. This illustrates BlackRock Inc.'s confidence in the company's prospects and potential.

Arrowstreet Capital Limited Partnership also saw substantial growth in its stake, increasing it by 395.4% during the fourth quarter. As a result, they now own 3,388,012 shares of **Ecopetrol**'s stock valued at \$35,472,000 after adding an impressive 2,704,109 shares.

Marshall Wace LLP followed suit by boosting its stake by 158.7% during the fourth quarter as well. The company now holds 3,232,841 shares worth \$33,848,000 after acquiring an additional 1,983,223 shares.

Vanguard Group Inc., on the other hand, added to its stake by 5.5% during the third quarter, reaching a total of ownership of 2,984,353 shares valued at \$26,650,000. They

acquired an additional 156,689 shares, respectively, for a current total of 1,598,350,000 shares.

Lastly, to end this series of acquisitions, Millennium Management LLC and Cook partaking in this investment trend by logging a staggering increase of 2158%. Their stake surged up upon acquiring 162,741 shares, contributing to the increase. They have invested an additional \$24,936,000.

Institutional investors and hedge funds currently own around 1.29% of **Ecopetrol**'s stock. This indicates that these entities consider the company to be a valuable investment opportunity given its potential for growth and profitability.

Ecopetrol's stock opened at \$11.58 on Friday, with a market capitalization of \$23.81 billion. It currently boasts a P/E ratio of 4.17 and a beta of 1.46, representing moderate volatility compared to the overall market. Over the past year, the company's stock has traded between a low of \$8.59 and a high of \$13.08.

The company also maintains a healthy financial position with a debt-to-equity ratio of 1:00 and commendable liquidity ratios, including a quick ratio of 1:00 and current ratio of 1:14. Furthermore, **Ecopetrol** has displayed consistency based on its demonstrated 50-day moving average price sitting at \$11.69. Looking toward the future, a positive sign is reflected in observations about the long-term trajectory, alluding to analyst coverage on **Ecopetrol** besides institutional interest is also apparent. Several brokerages following vary outlooks, with positive views and increasingly mixed assessments ranging from a "neutral" rating, ultimately they all converge towards a consensus rating. Our latest report from Bloomberg.com indicates that many experts are overwhelmingly confident in the company's future prospects. Based on this consensus, the average target price among these analysts is \$12.50.

These developments indicate an interesting combination of conditions for **Ecopetrol**. The wave appears to be rising strong, with institutional investors and hedge funds showing their confidence in the company's future prospects. The certainty in investor sentiment displays industry confidence, which implies that the company's future is bright.

In conclusion, **Ecopetrol** remains a stable investment opportunity.

Tags: EC



Elaine Mendonça

Over the last nine years, Elaine has managed investment portfolio using fundamental analysis and value investing, emphasizing long-term time horizons.



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Global Net Lease, Inc. (GNL) Sees Increase in Short Interest, Gains Investor Attention



by Elaine Mendonça — October 1, 2023 in News Reading Time: 3 mins read


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Global Net Lease, Inc. (GNL) experienced a significant increase in short interest during the month of September, according to recent reports. As of September 15th, there were 8,420,000 shares in short interest, representing a growth of 30.1% from the previous month's total of 6,470,000 shares. With an average daily trading volume of 1,930,000 shares, the days-to-cover ratio currently stands at 4.4 days.

During this period, Global Net Lease has attracted attention from various research reports. StockNews.com initiated coverage on the company with a "hold" rating on August 17th. In addition, BTIG Research lowered their price target for Global Net Lease from \$19.00 to \$15.00 and issued a "buy" rating on September 18th.

In terms of investor activity surrounding GNL, several large investors have made recent adjustments to their positions in the business. Macquarie Group Ltd., for example, increased its stake by 1.4% during the first quarter and now owns 159,504 shares of Global Net Lease's stock worth approximately \$2,051,000 after purchasing an additional 2,127 shares.

Sound Income Strategies LLC also raised its position by 15.5% in the second quarter and now holds approximately 673,925 shares worth \$6,928,000 after acquiring an additional 90,213 shares.

Infrastructure Capital Advisors LLC witnessed a substantial increase in holdings as well—a boost of 53%—during the first quarter. The firm now owns around 79,125 shares valued at \$1,018,000 after obtaining an additional 27,410 shares.

Furthermore Arete Wealth Advisors LLC joined these investors by purchasing new positions in Global Net Lease during Q1 that are estimated to be around \$2 billion

positions in Global Net Lease during Q1 that are estimated to be around \$2 million.

Finally GraniteShares Advisors LLC saw a significant surge in stake ownership—a 127.1% increase—during the first quarter, and now holds 108,632 shares worth \$1,397,000 after purchasing an additional 60,805 shares.

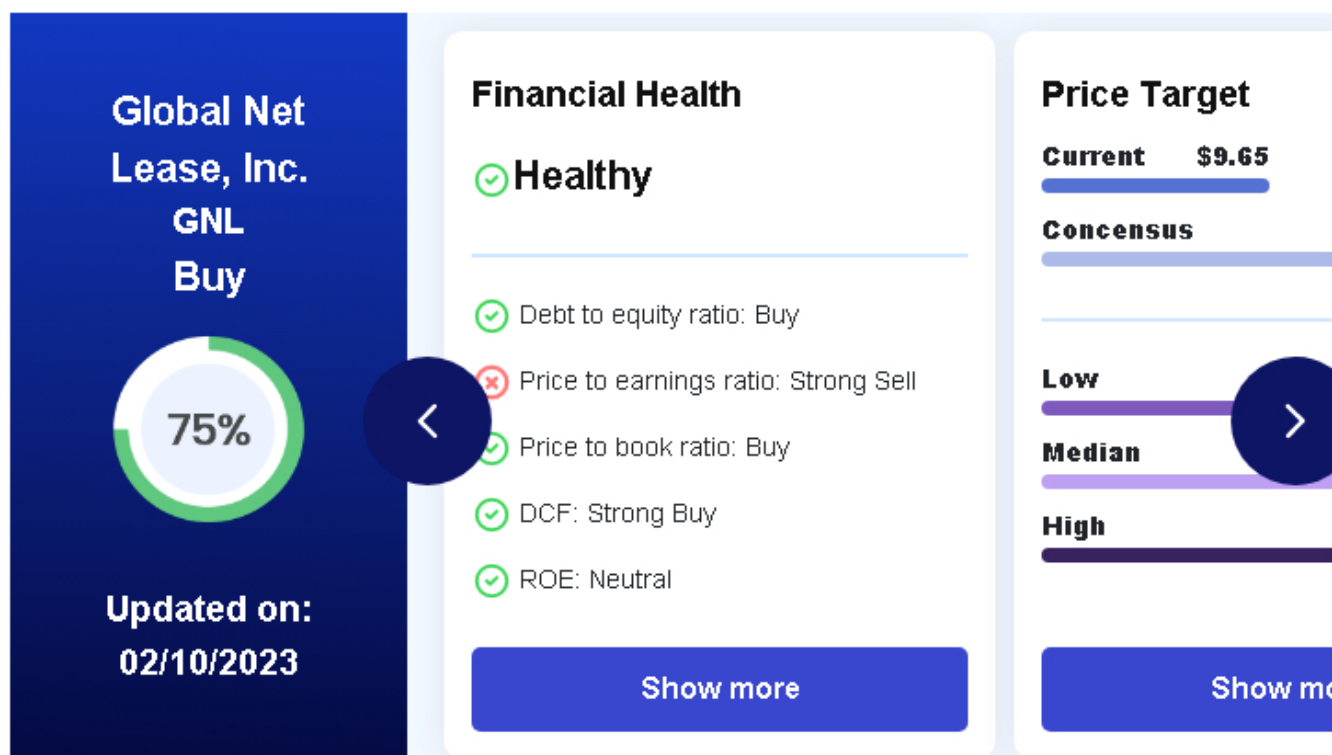
These changes in investor positions have resulted in hedge funds and other institutional investors owning approximately 75.56% of Global Net Lease's stock.

On Friday, GNL stock opened at \$9.61. The company currently possesses a quick ratio and a current ratio of 0.07 each, indicating its ability to meet short-term obligations. It also has a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.77. With a market capitalization of \$1 billion and a P/E ratio of -21.84, Global Net Lease demonstrates its presence as a financial services provider.

Moreover, GNL has a P/E/G ratio of 1.09 and a beta value of 1.27. In terms of price trends, the business possesses a 50-day moving average of \$10.76 and a 200-day moving average of \$10.94.

Over the past year, Global Net Lease has experienced fluctuations between its lowest point at \$8.84 and highest point at \$15.28.

While this data provides an overview of recent events surrounding Global Net Lease, investors should exercise caution and conduct thorough research before making any investment decisions based on this information.



As of October 1, 2023, Global Net Lease (GNL) has released its latest stock report. The firm announced a quarterly dividend which was disbursed on July 17th, providing shareholders with a payout of \$0.40 per share. Only shareholders registered as of July 13th were eligible for this dividend, while the ex-dividend date fell on July 12th. This dividend translates to an annualized rate of \$1.60 per share and equates to a yield of approximately 16.65%.

However, it is worth noting that Global Net Lease's dividend payout ratio (DPR) currently stands at -363.63%. While this may initially seem perplexing to investors, considering a negative DPR suggests the company is paying out more in dividends than it earns in profits, it is essential to delve deeper into the underlying factors.

One possible explanation for such a negative DPR could be fluctuations in the firm's earnings over recent quarters or fiscal years. For instance, if Global Net Lease experienced significant losses during these periods but chose to maintain their dividend payments at previous levels, the DPR would showcase as negative.

Additionally, companies often utilize other financial sources to fund their dividends if they are unable to generate sufficient profits from their operations alone. These alternative sources can include borrowing money or selling assets, contributing further to negative DPRs.

While the current high degree of negativity in Global Net Lease's DPR raises questions about its financial health and sustainability over the long term, it does not automatically imply impending doom for the company's stock performance or potential for future dividends.

It is crucial for investors and market analysts to consider various other aspects when evaluating stock prospects beyond just the firm's DPR. Factors such as revenue growth rates, debt levels, cash flows from operations, profitability margins, and industry trends must all be analyzed meticulously before making informed investment decisions.

Investors should also remain vigilant regarding updates provided by Global Net Lease concerning their dividend policy and any changes in their DPR. Such information can provide valuable insights into the company's strategy for sustaining or improving its dividend payouts in the future.

In conclusion, while Global Net Lease's latest stock report highlights a negative DPR, caution should be exercised in interpreting this metric as the sole determining factor of its investment potential. Conducting comprehensive research, considering several financial indicators, and staying abreast of company announcements are crucial steps for investors seeking to make informed decisions.

Tags: [GNL](#)



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Increasing Holdings in International Paper: Diversified Trust Co's Move and Analyst Ratings



by Yasmim Mendonça — October 1, 2023 in [News](#) Reading Time: 4 mins read

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As of the second quarter of 2023, Diversified Trust Co has increased its holdings in shares of International Paper (NYSE: IP) by 31.8%, according to recent disclosure with the Securities & Exchange Commission. The firm now owns 19,872 shares of the basic materials company's stock, an increase of 4,792 shares during the quarter. At the end of the most recent quarter, Diversified Trust Co's holdings in International Paper were valued at \$632,000.

Numerous brokerages have also weighed in on International Paper. Jefferies Financial Group upgraded their rating on the stock from "underperform" to "hold" and raised their