

Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC) Short Interest Up 10.8% in March

Written by MarketBeat
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Ecopetrol S.A. ([NYSE:EC](#) - [Get Free Report](#)) was the recipient of a significant growth in short interest in March. As of March 31st, there was short interest totalling 9,030,000 shares, a growth of 10.8% from the March 15th total of 8,150,000 shares. Based on an average daily volume of 1,990,000 shares, the days-to-cover ratio is currently 4.5 days. Approximately 0.4% of the company's shares are sold short.

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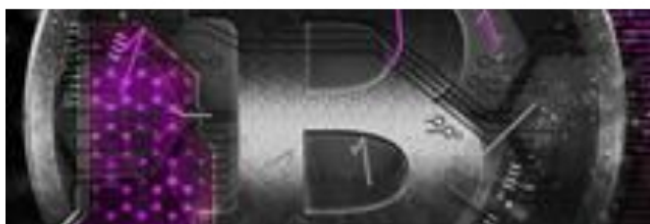
Institutional Investors Weigh In On [Ecopetrol](#)

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Hedge funds and other institutional investors have recently modified their holdings of the company. Penserra Capital Management LLC purchased a new position in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) during the first quarter valued at approximately \$47,000. Sunbelt Securities Inc. purchased a new position in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) during the first quarter valued at approximately \$57,000.

Sunbelt Securities Inc. purchased a new position in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) during the first quarter valued at approximately \$31,000. Tower Research Capital LLC TRC boosted its position in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) by 2,285.7% during the second quarter. Tower Research Capital LLC TRC now owns 7,491 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$77,000 after buying an additional 7,177 shares during the last quarter. GAMMA Investing LLC purchased a new position in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) during the fourth quarter valued at approximately \$85,000. Finally, US Bancorp DE boosted its position in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) by 250.3% during the fourth quarter. US Bancorp DE now owns 8,011 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$95,000 after buying an additional 5,724 shares during the last quarter.

[Ecopetrol](#) Trading Down 3.1 %



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Shares of [EC stock](#) opened at \$11.70 on Monday. The company has a market cap of \$24.05 billion, a P/E ratio of 5.02 and a beta of 1.28. [Ecopetrol](#) has a fifty-two week low of \$8.59 and a fifty-two week high of \$13.14. The stock has a 50 day simple moving average of \$11.52 and a two-hundred day simple moving average of \$11.88. The company has a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.90, a quick ratio of 1.24 and a current ratio of 1.47.

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The company also recently disclosed a – dividend, which will be paid on Wednesday, July 3rd. Stockholders of record on Tuesday, June 25th will be issued a dividend of \$0.7999 per share. The ex-dividend date is Tuesday, June 25th. This represents a dividend yield of 19.5%. [Ecopetrol](#)'s dividend payout ratio is 91.42%.

Analysts Set New Price Targets

EC has been the subject of a number of analyst reports. Morgan Stanley downgraded [Ecopetrol](#) from an "equal weight" rating to an "underweight" rating and lowered their price objective for the stock from \$11.00 to \$8.50 in a research report on Monday, March 4th. The Goldman Sachs Group lowered their price objective on [Ecopetrol](#) from \$12.00 to \$10.30 and set a "neutral" rating for the company in a research report on Thursday, March 21st. Finally, JPMorgan Chase & Co. lowered their price objective on [Ecopetrol](#) from \$12.50 to \$12.00 and set a "neutral" rating for the company in a research report on Tuesday, February 20th. Two analysts have rated the stock with a sell rating and five have given a hold rating to the company. According to MarketBeat, the stock presently has a consensus rating of "Hold" and a consensus price target of \$11.00.

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[Ecopetrol](#) Company Profile [\(Get Free Report\)](#)

[Ecopetrol](#) SA operates as an integrated energy company. The company operates through four segments: Exploration and Production; Transport and Logistics; Refining, Petrochemical and Biofuels; and Electric Power Transmission and Toll Roads Concessions. It engages in the exploration and production of oil and gas; transportation of crude oil, motor fuels, fuel oil, and

other refined products, including diesel, jet, and biofuels; processing and refining crude oil; distribution of natural gas and LPG; sale of refined and petrochemical products; supplying of electric power transmission services; design, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of road and energy infrastructure projects; and supplying of information technology and telecommunications services.

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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 "Reduce" rating among analysts, top-rated analysts believe these five stocks are better buys.

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