

Ecopetrol (EC) Suffers a Larger Drop Than the General Market: Key Insights



Zacks Equity Research

Tue 29 September 2026 at 3:50 pm GMT-5 • 3 min read



EC -1.08% ☆

^GSPC -0.17% ☆

^IXIC -0.09% ☆

NG=F +0.60% ☆

^DJI -0.26% ☆

Ecopetrol (EC) ended the recent trading session at \$16.52, demonstrating a -1.08% change from the preceding day's closing price. This change lagged the S&P 500's daily loss of 0.17%. Elsewhere, the Dow saw a downswing of 0.26%, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq depreciated by 0.09%.

Shares of the oil and natural gas exploration company have appreciated by 0.18% over the course of the past month, outperforming the Oils-Energy sector's gain of 0.04%, and the S&P 500's loss of 0.24%.

The investment community will be paying close attention to the earnings performance of Ecopetrol in its upcoming release. On that day, Ecopetrol is projected to report earnings of \$0.43 per share, which

would represent year-over-year growth of 38.71%. Meanwhile, our latest consensus estimate is calling for revenue of \$8.8 billion, up 18% from the prior-year quarter.

For the full year, the Zacks Consensus Estimates project earnings of \$1.85 per share and a revenue of \$38.57 billion, demonstrating changes of +46.83% and +30.33%, respectively, from the preceding year.

It's also important for investors to be aware of any recent modifications to analyst estimates for Ecopetrol. These recent revisions tend to reflect the evolving nature of short-term business trends. Hence, positive alterations in estimates signify analyst optimism regarding the business and profitability.

Empirical research indicates that these revisions in estimates have a direct correlation with impending stock price performance. To benefit from this, we have developed the Zacks Rank, a proprietary model which takes these estimate changes into account and provides an actionable rating system.

The Zacks Rank system, which ranges from #1 (Strong Buy) to #5 (Strong Sell), has an impressive outside-audited track record of outperformance, with #1 stocks generating an average annual return of +25% since 1988. Over the past month, the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate has remained steady. Ecopetrol is currently a Zacks Rank #3 (Hold).

From a valuation perspective, Ecopetrol is currently exchanging hands at a Forward P/E ratio of 9.05. This expresses a premium compared to the average Forward P/E of 8.86 of its industry.

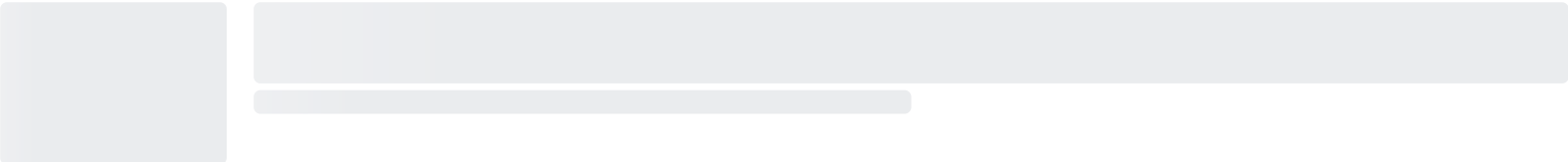
It is also worth noting that EC currently has a PEG ratio of 1.24. Comparable to the widely accepted P/E ratio, the PEG ratio also accounts for the company's projected earnings growth. EC's industry had an average PEG ratio of 0.62 as of yesterday's close.

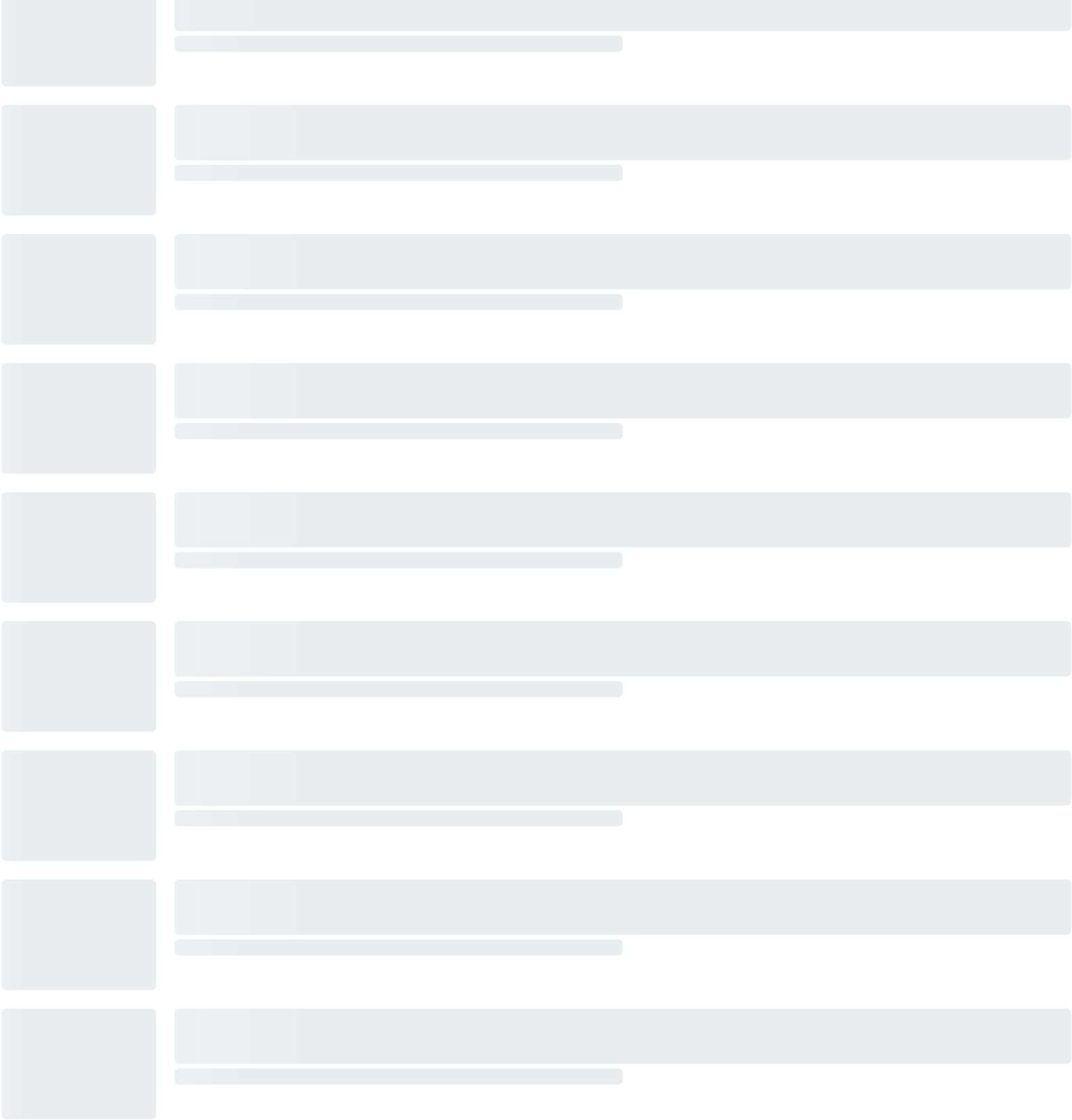
The Oil and Gas - Integrated - International industry is part of the Oils-Energy sector. Currently, this industry holds a Zacks Industry Rank of 81, positioning it in the top 33% of all 250+ industries.

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