# Cambridge Investment Research Advisors Inc. Purchases Shares of 12,273 Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC)

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Cambridge Investment Research Advisors Inc. purchased a new stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** S.A. (NYSE:EC - Get Rating) in the 4th quarter, according to the company in its most recent disclosure with the SEC. The firm purchased 12,273 shares of the oil and gas company's stock, valued at approximately \$129,000.

#### Ecolab: Slow And Steady Wins The Race

Other hedge funds have also added to or reduced their stakes in the company. BlackRock Inc. increased its position in shares of Ecopetrol by 6.2% in the third quarter. BlackRock Inc. now owns 5,145,205 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$45,948,000 after purchasing an additional 298,224 shares during the period. Vanguard Group Inc. increased its position in shares of Ecopetrol by 5.5% in the third quarter. Vanguard Group Inc. now owns 2,984,353 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$26,650,000 after purchasing an additional 156,689 shares during the period. Marshall Wace LLP grew its position in Ecopetrol by 120.8% in the third quarter. Marshall Wace LLP now owns 1,249,618 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$11,160,000 after acquiring an additional 683,746 shares during the last quarter. Crossmark Global Holdings Inc. raised its stake in Ecopetrol by 5,979.3% during the fourth quarter. Crossmark Global Holdings Inc. now owns 936,760 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$9,808,000 after acquiring an additional 921,351 shares in the last quarter. Finally, Allspring Global Investments Holdings LLC raised its stake in Ecopetrol by 1.6% during the fourth quarter. Allspring Global Investments Holdings LLC now owns 935,589 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$9,796,000 after acquiring an additional 15,035 shares in the last quarter. Institutional investors and hedge funds own 1.30% of the company's stock.





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## Analyst Upgrades and Downgrades

Several research analysts have commented on the company. HSBC downgraded Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating and lowered their target price for the stock from \$12.50 to \$12.00 in a research note on Friday, February 10th. UBS Group cut Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$13.00 price target on the stock in a report on Thursday, February 9th. The Goldman Sachs Group cut their price target on Ecopetrol from \$12.40 to \$11.00 and set a "neutral" rating on the stock in a report on Wednesday, March 15th. Finally, StockNews.com initiated coverage on Ecopetrol in a report on Thursday, May 18th. They issued a "hold" rating on the stock. Four equities research analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating, According to data from MarketBeat, the stock currently has an average rating of "Hold" and a consensus price target of \$12.00.

# Ecopetrol Price Performance

Shares of **EC** opened at \$9.43 on Friday. **Ecopetrol** S.A. has a 12-month low of \$8.59 and a 12-month high of \$17.60. The business's fifty day moving average is \$10.03 and its 200 day moving average is \$10.33. The company has a quick ratio of 1.00, a current ratio of 1.14 and a debt-to-equity ratio of 1.00. The stock has a market cap of \$19.39 billion, a P/E ratio of 2.44 and a beta of 1.43.

Ecopetrol (NYSE:EC - Get Rating) last released its quarterly earnings results on Wednesday, March 29th. The oil and gas company reported \$0.69 EPS for the quarter, beating analysts' consensus estimates of \$0.65 by \$0.04. The business had revenue of \$8.26 billion during the quarter, compared to analyst estimates of \$8.31 billion. Ecopetrol had a return on equity of 15.81% and a net margin of 19.92%. Sell-side analysts anticipate that Ecopetrol S.A. will post 2.08 earnings per share for the current fiscal year.

### Ecopetrol Dividend Announcement

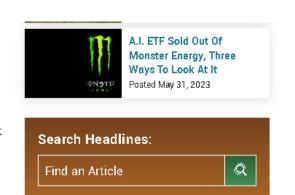
The business also recently declared a – dividend, which will be paid on Friday, December 29th. Investors of record on Wednesday, December 20th will be given a \$0.1479 dividend. This represents a yield of 20.4%. The ex-dividend date is Tuesday, December 19th. **Ecopetrol**'s payout ratio is currently 52.45%.

# Ecopetrol 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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# 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 <u>five stocks</u> that top analysts are quietly whispering to their clients to buy now before the broader market catches on... and <u>Ecopetrol</u> 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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