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By: 101 finance

### Understanding Momentum Investing

Momentum investing is based on the principle of capitalizing on a stock's current trajectory, whether upward or downward. In a bullish scenario, investors aim to "buy high" with the expectation of selling at an even higher price. The core strategy involves leveraging established trends, as stocks that have set a direction are often expected to maintain that course. The objective is to identify these trends early to secure timely and profitable trades.

### Challenges in Identifying Momentum

Although many investors seek out momentum opportunities, pinpointing them can be challenging. There is ongoing debate about which indicators best predict future performance and which may be unreliable. The Zacks Momentum Style Score, a component of the Zacks Style Scores, is designed to help clarify this process.

### [Ecopetrol](#) (EC): A Closer Look

Let's focus on [Ecopetrol](#) (EC), which currently boasts an A rating for Momentum Style Score. We'll also discuss key factors such as price movement and changes in earnings estimates, both of which are central to the Momentum Style Score.

### How Style Scores Complement Zacks Rank

It's worth mentioning that Style Scores are intended to work alongside the Zacks Rank, a stock rating system known for its strong performance history. [Ecopetrol](#) currently holds a Zacks Rank of #2 (Buy). Research indicates that stocks rated Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy) or #2 (Buy) with Style Scores of A or B tend to outperform the market over the following month.

For a current list of top-rated stocks, visit the [Zacks #1 Rank Stocks](#) page.

### Is EC Positioned to Outperform?

To determine if EC is a strong momentum candidate, let's examine several momentum-related metrics for this oil and natural gas exploration company.

natural gas exploration company.

1. Short-term price performance is a useful gauge of momentum, as it reflects current market sentiment and trading activity. Comparing a stock's movement to its industry peers can highlight standout performers.
2. Over the past week, EC shares have risen 1.21%, while the Zacks Oil and Gas - Integrated - International sector advanced 3.76%. On a monthly basis, EC's 25.02% gain significantly outpaces the industry's 11.28% increase.
3. Looking at longer-term trends, [Ecopetrol](#)'s stock has climbed 38.53% over the last quarter and 36.31% over the past year. In contrast, the S&P 500 posted returns of -3.66% and 18.15% for the same periods, respectively.
4. Trading volume is another important indicator. EC's average 20-day trading volume stands at 4,198,443 shares. Generally, rising prices on higher-than-average volume are seen as bullish, while declines on strong volume can signal weakness.

## Trends in Earnings Estimates

The Zacks Momentum Style Score also incorporates changes in earnings estimates, which are a core component of the Zacks Rank. Positive trends in estimate revisions can signal future strength, and EC has recently shown encouraging signs in this area.

1. In the past two months, three analysts have raised their full-year earnings estimates for EC, with none lowering them. This has pushed the consensus estimate up from \$1.14 to \$1.68 over the last 60 days.
2. For the next fiscal year, there has been one upward and one downward revision in earnings estimates.

## Conclusion

Considering these factors, it's clear why EC holds a #2 (Buy) Zacks Rank and an A Momentum Score. If you're searching for a stock with strong near-term potential, [Ecopetrol](#) deserves a spot on your watchlist.

## The Next Phase of AI Investing

The artificial intelligence sector has already created significant wealth, but the most well-known companies may not offer the largest gains going forward. Lesser-known AI firms addressing major global challenges could present more attractive opportunities in the coming months and years.

Learn more

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Access the free [Ecopetrol](#) S.A. (EC) Stock Analysis Report

This article was first published by Zacks Investment Research.

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