

Colombia's Ecopetrol says its refining margin improves; fewer rebel attacks help earnings

The Colombia-based Ecopetrol Group recently said that during the first quarter of 2015 the company officials saw refining margin continuing to improve leading to gains of about 12% from the first quarter of 2014.

The company earnings were helped by increased pipeline traffic. Rebels hit the Cano Limo pipeline system twice in the first quarter of 2015 compared with 35 times in the first quarter of 2014.

"Considering the current scenario of low oil prices, we are focused on making our operations more efficient. Our operations will continue focusing on safety, profitability and delivering positive results for our shareholders," the company said.