

South America

GlobalData lists the top South American oil and gas companies, determined by taxonomy-based searches across various sources through secondary research. Data is ranked based on total revenues for the latest reported full year.

Top South American oil and gas companies

Source: GlobalData

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COMPANY NAME	HEADQUARTERS	REVENUE YEAR	NO. OF EMPLOYEES	ANNUAL REVENUE (US\$ MILLIONS)
PETROLEO BRASILEIRO SA	BRAZIL	2008	74,240	119,855
ECOPETROL SA	COLOMBIA	2008	6,047	17,626
ULTRAPAR PARTICIPACOES SA	BRAZIL	2008	6,459	15,750
EMPRESAS COPEC SA	CHILE	2008	14,792	12,670
EMPRESA NACIONAL DEL PETROLEO	CHILE	2008	3,298	12,185
YPF SA	ARGENTINA	2008	11,534	11,082
PETROECUADOR	ECUADOR	2007	N/A	7,700
CPFL ENERGIA SA	BRAZIL	2008	7,119	5,408
PETROBRAS ENERGIA PARTICIPACIONES SA	ARGENTINA	2008	4,946	4,787
COMPANHIA DE SANEAMENTO BASICO DE SAO PAULO	BRAZIL	2008	16,349	3,568
COMPANHIA DE GAS DE SAO PAULO	BRAZIL	2008	952	2,241
GRANA Y MONTERO SAA	PERU	2008	6,216	622
STAATSOLIE MAATSCHAPPIJ SURINAME NV	SURINAME	2008	655	527
TRANSPORTADORA DE GAS DEL SUR SA	ARGENTINA	2008	644	448
EMPRESA PETROLERA ANDINA SA	BOLIVIA	2009	189	372
PETROMINERALES LTD	COLOMBIA	2008	91	311
METROGAS SA	ARGENTINA	2008	1,021	284
TRANSPORTADORA DE GAS DEL NORTE SA	ARGENTINA	2008	N/A	159
TRANSREDES SA	BOLIVIA	2007	N/A	146
PETROLERA DEL CONOSUR SA	ARGENTINA	2008	151	144

Petrobras promotes the research, development, production, transport, distribution, and marketing of all sectors of energy, as well as other related activities. The company has 112 production platforms – 78 of which are fixed and 34 floating – and 15 refineries with processing capacity of 2.2 million barrels per day. In addition, Petrobras operates 5,998 service stations across Brazil and another 990 across the globe.

Distribution segment

The Distribution segment of Petrobras is engaged in selling oil products from its Supply operations and participates in expanding the domestic market for oil products and other liquid and transportation fuels. The segment's business operations are carried out by Petrobras Distribuidora SA, a subsidiary of Petrobras, which represents 34.9% of the total Brazilian distribution market. It distributes oil products, ethanol and biodiesel and vehicular natural gas to retail, commercial and industrial customers.

The company also distributes oil products and biofuels under the BR brand to commercial and industrial customers. The company's biggest customers are aviation, transportation and industrial companies, as well as utilities and government entities. It also sells oil products to other retailers and wholesalers.

Exploration and Production segment

Through its Exploration and Production segment the company engages in the exploration, production and development activities of oil, natural gas and liquefied natural gas in Brazil. The company's domestic oil and gas exploration and production activities principally focus on three large basins offshore south-eastern Brazil: Campos, Espírito Santo and Santos.

Gas and Energy segment

The company's gas and energy segment is active in the purchase, sale, transportation and distribution of natural gas and biofuels in Brazil. The company also participates in electricity production. Further, it invests in several Brazilian natural gas transportation companies, state-owned natural gas distributors, wind power, solar power, and small hydroelectric companies.

In 2008, the company built two LNG terminals to supplement its domestic supply of natural gas, which increased gas supply capacity from about 11mm³/d (388.5 mmcf/d) in 1999 to 60.7mm³/d (2,143.6mmcf/d) in 2008.

The segment's natural gas business comprises three major activities, including transportation (building and operating natural gas pipeline networks in Brazil), equity participation in distribution companies, which sells natural gas to end-users, and commercialisation, including purchase and resale.