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ADAMS EXPRESS CO  
Form N-Q  
November 15, 2005

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-Q

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF  
REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY

Investment Company Act file number: 811-00248  
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THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

-----  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

7 Saint Paul Street, Suite 1140, Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
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(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Lawrence L. Hooper, Jr.  
The Adams Express Company  
7 Saint Paul Street  
Suite 1140  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 410-752-5900

Date of fiscal year end: December 31, 2005

Date of reporting period: September 30, 2005

Item 1: SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

-----  
September 30, 2005  
(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (A)
	-----	-----
Stocks and Convertible Securities --	95.7%	
Consumer --	16.1%	
Consumer Discretionary --	6.7%	
BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. (B) .....	500,000	\$ 13,900,000
Clear Channel Communications Inc. ....	350,000	11,511,500

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Comcast Corp. (B) .....	350,000	10,283,000
Gannett Co., Inc. ....	97,500	6,710,925
Newell Rubbermaid Inc. ....	515,000	11,664,750
Outback Steakhouse, Inc. ....	300,000	10,980,000
Target Corp. ....	410,000	21,291,300
		-----
		86,341,475
		-----
Consumer Staples -- 9.4%		
Bunge Ltd. ....	205,000	10,787,100
Coca-Cola Co. ....	200,000	8,638,000
Dean Foods Co. (B).....	500,000	19,430,000
Del Monte Foods Co. (B) .....	1,115,000	11,963,950
PepsiCo, Inc. ....	440,000	24,952,400
Procter & Gamble Co. ....	340,000	20,216,400
Safeway, Inc. ....	423,000	10,828,800
Unilever plc ADR .....	345,000	14,565,900
		-----
		121,382,550
		-----
Energy -- 11.6%		
BP plc ADR .....	270,000	19,129,500
ConocoPhillips .....	380,000	26,565,800
Exxon Mobil Corp. ....	130,000	8,260,200
Murphy Oil Corp. ....	209,600	10,452,752
Petroleum & Resources Corporation (C) .....	1,985,996	69,410,560
Schlumberger Ltd. ....	190,000	16,032,200
		-----
		149,851,012
		-----
Financials -- 14.7%		
Banking -- 10.6%		
Bank of America Corp. ....	550,000	23,155,000
BankAtlantic Bancorp Inc. ....	300,000	5,097,000
Compass Bancshares Inc. ....	300,000	13,749,000
Fifth Third Bancorp .....	270,000	9,917,100
Investors Financial Services Corp. (D) .....	380,000	12,502,000
North Fork Bancorporation, Inc. ....	450,000	11,475,000
Provident Bankshares Corp. ....	110,000	3,825,800
Wachovia Corp. ....	370,000	17,608,300
Wells Fargo & Co. ....	400,000	23,428,000
Wilmington Trust Corp. ....	420,000	15,309,000
		-----
		136,066,200
		-----
Insurance -- 4.1%		
AMBAC Financial Group, Inc. ....	295,000	21,257,700
American International Group, Inc. ....	500,000	30,980,000
		-----
		52,237,700
		-----
Health Care -- 12.5%		
Abbott Laboratories	350,000	\$ 14,840,000
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.	345,000	8,300,700
Genentech, Inc. (B)	240,000	20,210,400
HCA Inc.	310,000	14,855,200
Johnson & Johnson	255,000	16,136,400

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Laboratory Corp. of America		
Holdings (B)	235,000	11,446,850
MedImmune, Inc. (B)	225,000	7,571,250
Medtronic Inc.	310,000	16,622,200
Pfizer Inc.	1,120,000	27,966,400
Wyeth Co.	325,000	15,037,750
Zimmer Holdings Inc. (B)	125,000	8,611,250
		-----
		161,598,400
		-----
Industrials -- 11.4%		
Cintas Corp.	300,000	12,315,000
Curtiss-Wright Corp.	195,500	12,064,305
Donnelley (R.R.) & Sons Co.	260,000	9,638,200
Emerson Electric Co.	200,000	14,360,000
General Electric Co.	1,487,700	50,090,859
Illinois Tool Works Inc.	125,000	10,291,250
3M Co.	160,000	11,737,600
United Parcel Service, Inc.	155,000	10,715,150
United Technologies Corp.	300,000	15,552,000
		-----
		146,764,364
		-----
Information Technology -- 13.8%		
Communication Equipment -- 2.1%		
Avaya Inc. (B)	600,000	6,180,000
Corning Inc. (B)	615,000	11,887,950
Lucent Technologies Inc. (B)	2,900,000	9,425,000
		-----
		27,492,950
		-----
Computer Related -- 9.6%		
Automatic Data Processing		
Inc.	300,000	12,912,000
BEA Systems Inc. (B)	800,000	7,184,000
Cisco Systems, Inc. (B)	1,200,000	21,516,000
Dell Inc. (B)	400,000	13,680,000
DiamondCluster		
International Inc. (B)	497,500	3,771,050
Microsoft Corp.	1,140,000	29,332,200
Oracle Corp. (B)	880,000	10,903,200
Sapient Corp. (B)	1,150,000	7,187,500
Siebel Systems Inc.	800,000	8,264,000
Symantec Corp. (B)	400,000	9,064,000
		-----
		123,813,950
		-----
Electronics -- 2.1%		
Cree, Inc. (B) (D)	500,000	12,510,000
Intel Corp.	310,000	7,641,500
Solelectron Corp. (B)	1,850,000	7,233,500
		-----
		27,385,000
		-----

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SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

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September 30, 2005

(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (A)
	-----	-----
Materials -- 4.7%		
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. ....	250,000	\$ 13,785,000
du Pont (E.I.) de Nemours and Co. ....	360,000	14,101,200
Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. ....	120,000	9,415,200
Rohm & Haas Co. ....	400,000	16,452,000
Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. (B) .....	650,000	6,734,000
		-----
		60,487,400
		-----
Telecom Services -- 4.0%		
Alltel Corp. ....	300,000	19,533,000
BellSouth Corp. ....	200,000	5,260,000
SBC Communications Inc. ....	595,000	14,262,150
Vodafone Group plc ADS .....	492,613	12,793,160
		-----
		51,848,310
		-----
Utilities -- 6.9%		
Aqua America, Inc. ....	900,000	34,218,000
Black Hills Corp. ....	245,000	10,625,650
Duke Energy Corp. (D) .....	611,560	17,839,205
Keyspan Corp. ....	140,000	5,149,200
MDU Resources Group, Inc. ....	575,000	20,498,750
		-----
		88,330,805
		-----
Total Stocks and Convertible Securities		
(Cost \$908,078,682) (E) .....		\$ 1,233,600,116
		-----
Short-Term Investments -- 3.7%		
U.S. Government Obligations -- 1.4%		
U.S. Treasury Bills, 3.39%, due 11/17/05	\$ 17,500,000	\$ 17,422,548
		-----
Time Deposit -- 0.0%		
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., 3.31%, due 10/3/05		18,616
		-----
Commercial Paper -- 2.3%		
American General Finance Corp., 3.69-3.77%, due 10/4/05-10/25/05	6,000,000	5,993,743
ChevronTexaco Funding Corp., 3.60-3.67%, due 10/13/05-10/18/05	8,800,000	8,787,841
General Electric Capital Corp., 3.63-3.78%, due 10/11/05-11/3/05	6,840,000	6,824,345
Toyota Motor Credit Corp., 3.52-3.69%, due 10/4/05-10/20/05	8,150,000	8,141,231
		-----
		29,747,160

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Total Short-Term Investments (Cost \$47,188,324)	47,188,324
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Securities Lending Collateral -- 2.2% Brown Brothers Investment Trust, 3.75%, due 10/3/05....	28,263,605
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Total Securities Lending Collateral (Cost \$28,263,605)	28,263,605
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Total Investments -- 101.6% (Cost \$983,530,611)	1,309,052,045
Cash, receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets, less liabilities -- (1.6)%	(20,809,203)
-----	
Net Assets -- 100%	\$ 1,288,242,842
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Notes:

- (A) See note 1 to financial statements. Securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange or the NASDAQ.
- (B) Presently non-dividend paying.
- (C) Non-controlled affiliate, a closed-end sector fund, registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- (D) Some or all of these securities are on loan. See note 8 to financial statements.
- (E) The aggregate market value of stocks held in escrow at September 30, 2005 covering open call option contracts written was \$12,876,420. In addition, the aggregate market value of securities segregated by the Company's custodian required to collateralize open put option contracts written was \$14,475,000.

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INVESTMENTS IN AND ADVANCES TO AFFILIATES

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D	COLUMN E
Name of issuer and title of issue or nature of indebtedness	Number of shares	Amount of equity in net profit and loss for the period	Amount of dividends or interest	Value of each item at close of period
Petroleum & Resources Corporation - common stock	1,985,996	- 0 -	(1) Credited to Income \$655,379	\$69,410,560
			(2) Other (long term capital gain) \$119,160	

SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING OPTION CONTRACTS

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September 30, 2005  
(unaudited)

Contracts (100 shares each)	Security	Strike Price	Contract Expiration Date	Appreciation/ (Depreciation)
COVERED CALLS				
100	AMBAC Financial Group, Inc. ....	\$ 85	Nov 05	\$ 20,574
100	AMBAC Financial Group, Inc. ....	80	Jan 06	3,199
50	Genentech, Inc. ....	100	Oct 05	5,350
100	Genentech, Inc. ....	110	Dec 05	7,700
100	Illinois Tool Works, Inc. ....	90	Dec 05	8,699
100	Illinois Tool Works, Inc. ....	90	Jan 06	1,700
200	Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. ....	70	Oct 05	(143,601)
75	Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. ....	75	Oct 05	(17,476)
170	Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. ....	75	Jan 06	(102,511)
200	Murphy Oil Corp. ....	60	Oct 05	7,700
100	Schlumberger Ltd. ....	100	Jan 06	5,199
150	Target Corp. ....	60	Oct 05	15,149
100	Target Corp. ....	60	Jan 06	5,200
100	United Technologies Corp. ....	55	Jan 06	200
100	Zimmer Holdings Inc. ....	90	Dec 05	8,450
100	Zimmer Holdings Inc. ....	95	Jan 06	9,700
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1,845				(164,768)
-----				-----
COLLATERALIZED PUTS				
250	Bank of America Corp. ....	42.50	Jan 06	(12,626)
100	Bunge Ltd. ....	50	Oct 05	(300)
100	Bunge Ltd. ....	55	Oct 05	(16,301)
100	Bunge Ltd. ....	50	Jan 06	(8,801)
150	Cintas Corp. ....	35	Nov 05	15,299
150	Comcast Corp. ....	30	Jan 06	(7,951)
100	Exxon Mobil Corp. ....	50	Oct 05	12,199
100	Exxon Mobil Corp. ....	55	Oct 05	11,199
100	Exxon Mobil Corp. ....	55	Jan 06	10,199
100	Fifth Third Bancorp ....	40	Nov 05	(23,301)
150	Gannett Co., Inc. ....	70	Oct 05	(13,951)
150	Investors Financial Services Corp. ..	37.50	Oct 05	(43,951)
100	Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. ....	65	Jan 05	7,949
150	Outback Steakhouse, Inc. ....	40	Oct 05	(39,451)
250	Outback Steakhouse, Inc. ....	40	Feb 06	(78,251)
100	3M Co. ....	65	Oct 05	9,700
100	3M Co. ....	65	Jan 06	4,200
100	United Parcel Service, Inc. ....	60	Oct 05	7,700
100	United Parcel Service, Inc. ....	65	Oct 05	6,200
150	Zimmer Holdings Inc. ....	65	Dec 05	(1,951)
250	Zimmer Holdings Inc. ....	60	Jan 06	499
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2,850				(161,691)
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				\$ (326,459)
				=====

(SELECTED) NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

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The Adams Express Company (the Company) is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a diversified investment company. The Companys investment objectives as well as the nature and risk of its investment transactions are set forth in the Companys registration statement.

Security Valuation-Investments in securities traded on a national security exchange are valued at the last reported sale price on the day of valuation. Over-the-counter and listed securities for which a sale price is not available are valued at the last quoted bid price. Short-term investments (excluding purchased options) are valued at amortized cost. Purchased and written options are valued at the last quoted asked price.

For federal income tax purposes, the identified cost of securities at September 30, 2005 was \$954,779,755 and net unrealized appreciation aggregated \$326,008,685, of which the related gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation were \$439,609,769 and \$113,601,084 respectively.

8. PORTFOLIO SECURITIES LOANED

The Company makes loans of securities to brokers, secured by cash deposits, U.S. Government securities, or bank letters of credit. The Company accounts for securities lending transactions as secured financing and receives compensation in the form of fees or retains a portion of interest on the investment of any cash received as collateral. The Company also continues to receive interest or dividends on the securities loaned. The loans are secured at all times by collateral of at least 102% of the fair value of the securities loaned plus accrued interest. Gain or loss in the fair value of the securities loaned that may occur during the term of the loan will be for the account of the Company. At September 30, 2005, the Company had securities on loan of \$27,480,230 and held collateral of \$28,263,605, consisting of an investment trust fund which may invest in money market instruments, commercial paper, repurchase agreements, U.S. treasury bills, and U.S. agency obligations.

Item 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Conclusions of principal officers concerning controls and procedures:

(a) As of November 15, 2005, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the officers of The Adams Express Company (the "Company"), including the principal executive officer ("PEO") and principal financial officer ("PFO"), of the effectiveness of the Companys disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, the Company's officers, including the PEO and PFO, concluded that, as of November 15, 2005, the Companys disclosure controls and procedures were reasonably designed so as to ensure: (1) that information required to

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be disclosed by the Company on Form N-Q is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (2) that material information relating to the Company is made known to the PEO and PFO as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) There have been no significant changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d)) that occurred during the Company's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 3. EXHIBITS.

The certifications of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are attached hereto as Form N-Q Certifications.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

BY: /s/ Douglas G. Ober  
-----  
Douglas G. Ober  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: November 15, 2005

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

BY: /s/ Douglas G. Ober  
-----  
Douglas G. Ober  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 15, 2005

BY: /s/ Maureen A. Jones  
-----  
Maureen A. Jones  
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
(Principal Financial Officer)



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Date: November 15, 2005