

ADAMS EXPRESS CO  
Form N-Q  
April 22, 2009

FORM N-Q

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT  
COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number: 811-00248

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THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

7 Saint Paul Street, Suite 1140, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

-----  
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

-----  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(410) 752-5900

**Date of fiscal year end:** December 31

**Date of reporting period:** March 31, 2009

Item 1. Schedule of Investments.

## SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

March 31, 2009

(unaudited)

|                                       | Shares    | Value (A)     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| <b>Stocks 90.8%</b>                   |           |               |
| <b>Consumer 23.2%</b>                 |           |               |
| <b>Consumer Discretionary 6.9%</b>    |           |               |
| Lowe's Companies, Inc.                | 600,000   | \$ 10,950,000 |
| McDonald's Corp.                      | 250,000   | 13,642,500    |
| Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (B)            | 400,000   | 2,552,000     |
| Ryland Group Inc.                     | 343,500   | 5,722,710     |
| Target Corp.                          | 320,000   | 11,004,800    |
| Walt Disney Co. (B)                   | 480,000   | 8,716,800     |
|                                       |           | 52,588,810    |
| <b>Consumer Staples 16.3%</b>         |           |               |
| Avon Products, Inc.                   | 435,000   | 8,365,050     |
| Bunge Ltd. (B)(C)                     | 160,000   | 9,064,000     |
| Coca-Cola Co.                         | 300,000   | 13,185,000    |
| CVS/Caremark Corp.                    | 285,000   | 7,834,650     |
| Dean Foods Co. (D)                    | 340,000   | 6,147,200     |
| Del Monte Foods Co.                   | 1,300,000 | 9,477,000     |
| Hansen Natural Corp. (C)(D)           | 375,000   | 13,500,000    |
| PepsiCo, Inc.                         | 360,000   | 18,532,800    |
| Procter & Gamble Co.                  | 315,000   | 14,833,350    |
| Safeway Inc. (B)                      | 390,000   | 7,874,100     |
| Unilever plc ADR                      | 800,000   | 15,144,000    |
|                                       |           | 123,957,150   |
| <b>Energy 12.4%</b>                   |           |               |
| Chevron Corp.                         | 150,000   | 10,086,000    |
| ConocoPhillips                        | 150,000   | 5,874,000     |
| CONSOL Energy Inc.                    | 200,000   | 5,048,000     |
| Exxon Mobil Corp. (E)                 | 215,000   | 14,641,500    |
| Halliburton Co.                       | 300,000   | 4,641,000     |
| Petroleum & Resources Corporation (F) | 2,186,774 | 40,017,964    |
| Schlumberger Ltd.                     | 105,000   | 4,265,100     |
| Transocean Ltd. (D)                   | 160,000   | 9,414,400     |
|                                       |           | 93,987,964    |
| <b>Financials 8.2%</b>                |           |               |
| <b>Banking 7.4%</b>                   |           |               |
| Bank of America Corp.                 | 885,000   | 6,035,700     |
| Bank of New York Mellon Corp.         | 403,775   | 11,406,644    |
| Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (C)         | 60,000    | 6,361,200     |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co.                  | 125,000   | 3,322,500     |
| PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.    | 200,000   | 5,858,000     |

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|                       |         |            |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|
| State Street Corp.    | 230,000 | 7,079,400  |
| Visa Inc. (B)         | 190,000 | 10,564,000 |
| Wells Fargo & Co. (B) | 425,000 | 6,052,000  |
|                       |         | 56,679,444 |

**Materials 1.3%**

|                                   |         |            |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------|
| du Pont (E.I.) de Nemours and Co. | 460,000 | 10,271,800 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------|

**Telecom Services 1.3%**

|            |         |            |
|------------|---------|------------|
| AT&T Corp. | 400,000 | 10,080,000 |
|------------|---------|------------|

**Utilities 4.8%**

|                           |         |           |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Atmos Energy Corp.        | 123,400 | 2,853,008 |
| MDU Resources Group, Inc. | 562,500 | 9,078,750 |
| Northeast Utilities       | 350,000 | 7,556,500 |
| Northwest Natural Gas Co. | 200,000 | 8,684,000 |
| Spectra Energy Corp. (B)  | 305,780 | 4,323,730 |
| WGL Holdings, Inc.        | 113,600 | 3,726,080 |

36,222,068

**Total Stocks**

(Cost \$896,134,917) 690,478,212

**Short-Term Investments 9.6%**

**Money Market Funds 9.6%**

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| Fidelity Institutional Money Market Government Portfolio, 0.51% (G)    | 20,034,766 | 20,034,766 |
| Fidelity Institutional Money Market Treasury Only Portfolio, 0.26% (G) | 11,748,292 | 11,748,292 |
| Fidelity Institutional Money Market Treasury Portfolio, 0.32% (G)      | 20,000,185 | 20,000,185 |
| Vanguard Federal Money Market, 0.58% (G)                               | 20,047,239 | 20,047,239 |
| Vanguard Admiral Treasury Money Market, 0.43% (G)                      | 810,366    | 810,366    |

72,640,848

**Total Short-Term Investments**

(Cost \$72,640,848) 72,640,848

**Total Securities Lending Collateral 8.9%**

(Cost \$67,838,908)

**Money Market Funds 8.9%**

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| Invesco Aim Short-Term Investment Trust Liquid Assets Portfolio (Institutional Class), 0.79% (G) | 67,838,908 | 67,838,908 |
|--|------------|------------|

**Total Investments 109.3%**

(Cost \$1,036,614,673) 830,957,968

Cash, receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets, less liabilities (9.3%) (70,955,792)

**Net Assets 100%**

\$ 760,002,176

Notes:

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- (A) See note 1 to schedule of investments. Securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange or the NASDAQ.
- (B) A portion of shares held are on loan. See note 4 to schedule of investments.
- (C) All or a portion of this security is pledged to cover open written call option contracts. Aggregate market value of such pledged securities is \$6,216,350.
- (D) Presently non-dividend paying.
- (E) All or a portion of this security is pledged to collateralize open written put option contracts with an aggregate value to deliver upon exercise of \$9,752,500.
- (F) Non-controlled affiliate, a closed-end sector fund, registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- (G) Rate presented is as of period-end and represents the annualized yield earned over the previous seven days.

*See accompanying notes.*

## SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING OPTION CONTRACTS

March 31, 2009

(unaudited)

| Contracts<br>(100 shares<br>each) | Security                   | Strike<br>Price | Contract<br>Expiration<br>Date |    | Value      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----|------------|
| <b>COVERED CALLS</b>              |                            |                 |                                |    |            |
| 100                               | Bunge Ltd.                 | \$70            | Apr                            | 09 | \$ 1,500   |
| 150                               | Bunge Ltd.                 | 85              | Jul                            | 09 | 10,500     |
| 100                               | Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.  | 120             | Apr                            | 09 | 21,800     |
| 200                               | Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.  | 150             | Jul                            | 09 | 58,200     |
| 150                               | Hansen Natural Corp.       | 40              | May                            | 09 | 21,000     |
| 150                               | Hansen Natural Corp.       | 45              | Jun                            | 09 | 13,500     |
| 150                               | Hansen Natural Corp.       | 50              | Jun                            | 09 | 6,000      |
| 1,000                             |                            |                 |                                |    | 132,500    |
| <b>COLLATERALIZED PUTS</b>        |                            |                 |                                |    |            |
| 100                               | Avon Products, Inc.        | 17.50           | May                            | 09 | 10,000     |
| 100                               | Bunge Ltd.                 | 22.50           | Apr                            | 09 | 500        |
| 100                               | Bunge Ltd.                 | 30              | Apr                            | 09 | 500        |
| 100                               | CVS/Caremark Corp.         | 20              | May                            | 09 | 2,000      |
| 250                               | Exxon Mobil Corp.          | 60              | Apr                            | 09 | 13,000     |
| 100                               | Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.  | 45              | Apr                            | 09 | 900        |
| 150                               | Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.  | 70              | Apr                            | 09 | 5,700      |
| 150                               | Harsco Corp.               | 20              | Apr                            | 09 | 10,500     |
| 150                               | Hospira Inc.               | 20              | May                            | 09 | 3,000      |
| 200                               | JPMorgan Chase & Co.       | 20              | Apr                            | 09 | 11,800     |
| 150                               | JPMorgan Chase & Co.       | 21              | Apr                            | 09 | 11,250     |
| 100                               | PepsiCo, Inc.              | 42.50           | Apr                            | 09 | 1,000      |
| 150                               | Procter & Gamble Co.       | 42.50           | Apr                            | 09 | 4,500      |
| 200                               | Procter & Gamble Co.       | 45              | Apr                            | 09 | 14,000     |
| 100                               | Procter & Gamble Co.       | 40              | Jul                            | 09 | 13,500     |
| 100                               | Prudential Financial, Inc. | 12.50           | Apr                            | 09 | 5,000      |
| 100                               | Prudential Financial, Inc. | 12.50           | May                            | 09 | 15,000     |
| 150                               | Transocean Ltd.            | 40              | Apr                            | 09 | 1,500      |
| 100                               | Walt Disney Co.            | 17.50           | Apr                            | 09 | 5,500      |
| 100                               | Visa Inc.                  | 45              | May                            | 09 | 11,000     |
| 100                               | Visa Inc.                  | 40              | Jun                            | 09 | 10,000     |
| 100                               | Zimmer Holdings, Inc.      | 30              | Jun                            | 09 | 11,500     |
| 2,850                             |                            |                 |                                |    | 161,650    |
|                                   |                            |                 |                                |    | \$ 294,150 |

See accompanying notes.

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## NOTES TO SCHEDULES OF INVESTMENTS AND OUTSTANDING OPTION CONTRACTS (Unaudited)

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### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Adams Express Company (the Company) is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a diversified investment company. The Company is an internally-managed fund whose investment objectives are preservation of capital, the attainment of reasonable income from investments, and an opportunity for capital appreciation.

#### Affiliated Companies

- Investments in companies 5% or more of whose outstanding voting securities are held by the Company are defined as "Affiliated Companies" in Section 2(a)(3) of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

#### Security Transactions and Investment Income

- Investment transactions are accounted for on the trade date. Gain or loss on sales of securities and options is determined on the basis of identified cost.

#### 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 and money market funds) are valued at amortized cost which approximates fair value. Purchased and written options are valued at the last quoted bid and asked price, respectively. Money market funds are valued at net asset value on the day of valuation.

In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* ("FAS 157"), fair value is defined as the price that the Company would receive upon selling an investment in an orderly transaction to an independent buyer. FAS 157 established a three-tier hierarchy to establish classification of fair value measurements, summarized as follows:

- **Level 1**

- fair value is determined based on market data obtained from independent sources; for example, quoted prices in active markets for identical investments

- **Level 2**

- fair value is determined using other assumptions obtained from independent sources; for example, quoted prices for similar investments

- **Level 3**

- fair value is determined using the Company's own assumptions, developed based on the best information available

in the circumstances

The Company's investments at March 31, 2009 were classified as follows:

|         | <b>Investment in securities</b> | <b>Written options</b> |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
|         | -----                           | -----                  |
| Level 1 | \$830,957,968                   | \$294,150              |
| Level 2 | --                              | --                     |
| Level 3 | --                              | --                     |
|         | -----                           | -----                  |
| Total   | \$830,957,968                   | \$294,150              |

## 2. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

For federal income tax purposes, the identified cost of securities at March 31, 2009 was \$1,036,127,422 and net unrealized depreciation aggregated \$(205,169,454), of which the related gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation were \$88,376,741 and \$293,546,195, respectively.

## 3. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

The Company's investment decisions are made by a committee of management, and recommendations to that committee are made by the research staff.

The Company is subject to changes in the value of equity securities held (equity price risk) in the normal course of pursuing its investment objectives. The Company may purchase and write option contracts to increase or decrease its equity price risk exposure or may write option contracts to generate additional income. Option contracts generally entail risks associated with counterparty credit, illiquidity, and unfavorable equity price movements. The Company has mitigated counterparty credit and illiquidity risks by trading its options through an exchange. The risk of unfavorable equity price movements is limited for purchased options to the premium paid and for written options by writing only covered call or collateralized put option contracts, which require the Company to segregate certain securities or cash at its custodian when the option is written.

When the Company writes (purchases) an option, an amount equal to the premium received (paid) by the Company is recorded as a liability (asset) and is subsequently marked to market daily in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, with any related change recorded as an unrealized gain or loss in the Statement of Operations. Premiums received (paid) from unexercised options are treated as realized gains (losses) on the expiration date. Upon the exercise of written put (purchased call) option contracts, premiums received (paid) are deducted from (added to) the cost basis of the underlying securities purchased. Upon the exercise of written call (purchased put) option contracts, premiums received (paid) are added to (deducted from) the proceeds from the sale of underlying securities in determining whether there is a realized gain or loss.

## 4. PORTFOLIO SECURITIES LOANED

The Company makes loans of securities to approved brokers to earn additional income. It receives as collateral cash deposits, U.S. Government securities, or bank letters of credit valued at 102% of the value of the securities on loan. The market value of the loaned securities is calculated based upon the most recent closing prices and any additional required collateral is delivered to the Company on the next business day. Cash deposits are placed in a registered money market fund. 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. 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 March 31, 2009, the Company had securities on loan of \$67,669,766 and held cash collateral of \$67,838,908; additional collateral was delivered the next business day in accordance with the procedure described above. The Company is indemnified by the Custodian, serving as lending agent, for loss of loaned securities and has the right under the lending agreement to recover the securities from the borrower on demand.

Item 2. Controls and Procedures.

(a) The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940) are effective based on their evaluation of the disclosure controls and procedures as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report.

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

By /s/ Douglas G. Ober  
Douglas G. Ober  
Principal Executive Officer

Date April 22, 2009

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

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Principal Executive Officer

Date April 22, 2009

By /s/ Maureen A. Jones  
Maureen A. Jones  
Principal Financial Officer

Date April 22, 2009