

ADAMS EXPRESS CO
Form N-CSR
February 27, 2015

FORM N-CSR

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT
COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number: 811-00248

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

(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: December 31, 2014

Item 1. Reports to Stockholders.

The Fund

a closed-end equity investment company
 objectives: preservation of capital
 reasonable income

opportunity for capital gain

internally-managed
 annual distribution rate of at least 6%

Stock Data (12/31/14)

NYSE Symbol ADX
 Market Price \$13.68
 52-Week Range \$12.14 \$14.90
 Discount 13.8%
 Shares Outstanding 96,286,656

Summary Financial Information

| | Year Ended December 31, | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Net asset value per share | \$ 15.87 | \$ 15.09 |
| Total net assets | 1,527,772,661 | 1,421,550,920 |
| Unrealized appreciation on investments | 469,715,852 | 393,843,628 |
| Net investment income | 19,120,191 | 18,656,769 |
| Net realized gain | 93,558,308 | 57,371,366 |
| Total return (based on market price) | 13.7% | 31.8% |
| Total return (based on net asset value) | 14.3% | 29.7% |
| Ratio of expenses to average net assets | 0.58% | 0.69% |
| Annual distribution rate | 8.8% | 7.1% |

2014 Dividends and Distributions

| Paid | Amount (per share) | Type |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| March 3, 2014 | \$ 0.02 | Long-term capital gain |
| March 3, 2014 | 0.01 | Short-term capital gain |
| March 3, 2014 | 0.02 | Investment income |
| June 2, 2014 | 0.05 | Investment income |
| September 2, 2014 | 0.05 | Investment income |

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| | | |
|-------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| December 29, 2014 | 0.90 | Long-term capital gain |
| December 29, 2014 | 0.05 | Short-term capital gain |
| December 29, 2014 | 0.08 | Investment income |
| | \$ 1.18 | |

2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

Location: Belmond Charleston Place, Charleston, South Carolina

Date: April 30, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW

December 31, 2014

(unaudited)

Ten Largest Equity Portfolio Holdings

| | <i>Market Value</i> | <i>Percent of Net Assets</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Apple Inc. | \$ 72,089,178 | 4.7 |
| Petroleum & Resources Corp.* | 52,132,692 | 3.4 |
| Wells Fargo & Co. | 39,415,580 | 2.6 |
| Google Inc. (Class A & Class C) | 37,525,630 | 2.5 |
| Walt Disney Co. | 35,566,144 | 2.3 |
| Gilead Sciences, Inc. | 35,432,334 | 2.3 |
| Lowe's Companies, Inc. | 33,712,000 | 2.2 |
| Citigroup Inc. | 33,385,870 | 2.2 |
| Union Pacific Corp. | 33,118,140 | 2.2 |
| CVS Health Corp. | 30,241,340 | 2.0 |
| | \$ 402,618,908 | 26.4% |

* Non-controlled affiliated closed-end fund

Sector Weightings

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

Dear Fellow Shareholders:

After a slow start to 2014, the S&P 500 reached an all-time high in December, marking the sixth consecutive year of gains. The rocky start to the year reflected soft U.S. economic data and fears that economic growth might be slowing in China, Japan and Europe. The Federal Reserve's decision in December 2013 to taper its bond-buying campaign raised fears of slowing the U.S. economy's momentum. Weather also took a heavy toll with unusually cold temperatures and heavy snow storms cutting into consumer spending, construction and industrial activity. Internationally, sharp declines in the currencies of Argentina and Turkey and tensions in Russia and the Ukraine heightened fears. Markets overcame these fears and, after the sell-off in January, recovered to finish in positive territory by the end of the first quarter.

Spring ushered in confidence that the U.S. economic recovery would gather pace despite the decline of 2.1% in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter. Earnings season was strong and reported job gains were broad-based, recovering to pre-recession levels. Strong manufacturing data, coupled with positive momentum in the housing market and robust merger and acquisition (M&A) activity, confirmed that the economy had begun an upswing from both a difficult winter and the long, subpar expansion. Markets discounted the tepid international economic data and geopolitical risks in the Ukraine and Iraq, and though volume and volatility were low, markets rallied for the eighth consecutive quarter. In the months that followed, investors continued to observe positive economic data, but were less certain regarding market direction. Volatility returned after an extended period of calm as solid U.S. economic reports and potential rising interest rates contrasted sharply with weaker foreign markets and central bank initiatives. This dynamic also caused the U.S. dollar to move higher against most currencies.

Building toward year-end, risk aversion became apparent. Falling oil prices and disappointing European data along with ongoing geopolitical risks tested the market's conviction and led to a 7.0% correction in the S&P 500. However, markets bounced back quickly as solid corporate earnings and guidance, a 5% rise in GDP, and surging U.S. economic data combined with monetary easing in Japan and interest rate cuts in China, assuaging investor concerns. During the year, a key theme that influenced investor decisions was the unfettered growth in domestic energy production. U.S. shale oil production accounted for virtually all of the increase in world production growth outside of OPEC in 2014. Subsequently, oil shale opportunities and the capital spending to develop them played an important role in the U.S. recovery. Jobs growth was significant and related industries prospered. That theme began to unravel by mid-year on the strength of the U.S. dollar and slowing demand growth, but the sell-off gained pace after Thanksgiving Day when OPEC decided to keep its output target unchanged. The decision not to cut production quotas stunned markets and oil prices plunged, taking with them many ancillary businesses. Market participants quickly identified beneficiaries of the downward move in oil prices. This helped to sustain the upward march of the broader markets, leading to an annual return on the S&P 500 of 13.7%.

We are pleased to report the Fund's return on net asset value last year exceeded that of the S&P 500, a result very few active managers achieved. Adams Express distributed 8.8% to shareholders and generated a total return on net asset value of 14.3%, surpassing the S&P 500's return of 13.7%. Our peer group, as measured by the Lipper Large-Cap Core Mutual Fund Average, returned 11.3%. On market price, the Fund's return was 13.7%.

The two largest contributors to the Fund's success were the health care and consumer discretionary sectors. As we expressed last year, two themes we felt would be successful in 2014 were biotechnology and companies exposed to the home improvement market. Biotech stocks continued to provide market-beating returns in 2014 as their groundbreaking drugs began to move from the approval stage into actual use.

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Looking beyond biotech, our position in Allergan, the manufacturer of the cosmetic drug Botox, benefited the portfolio when it agreed to be acquired by Actavis. Turning to the home improvement theme, both Lowe's and Whirlpool generated significant excess returns in 2014, rising 41.2% and 24.1%, respectively. Both companies enjoyed the dual tailwind of a steadily improving housing market and company-specific measures taken to improve profitability. While energy was the worst performing sector within the S&P 500, our focus on larger, high quality companies led to outperformance versus the sector.

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

The Fund's technology holdings were up 18.3% for the year but trailed the sector peer group. The semiconductor industry group was the strongest performer in 2014. The Fund was underweight this volatile group, which detracted from performance. Strong performance from Apple and Cisco Systems helped mitigate the shortfall. Our holdings in the consumer staples sector also trailed the market. Many of our staples positions have extensive exposure to overseas markets and, as a result, saw their profits impacted by the strength of the U.S. dollar. This was somewhat offset by the strong performance of CVS Health within food & staples retailing.

The Fund repurchased 1,011,600 shares of its Common Stock in 2014. At the end of the year, the Board of Directors reapproved the repurchase of up to 5% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. There is no time limit set on the repurchase authorization.

Looking Forward to 2015

Moving into the new year, market volatility has increased, reflecting uncertainty around the globe and a sharp contrast between the U.S. economy and the rest of the world. The U.S. stands out with its relatively strong economy and normalizing monetary policy. Domestic GDP growth appears likely as the markets closely watch for potential interest rate increases by the Fed. By contrast, Europe and Japan are growth-challenged and China's growth rate is slowing. Central banks in these countries are looking to quantitative easing or other actions to stimulate their economies. The impact of falling oil prices and the shift in power from oil-producing to oil-consuming countries may have unintended consequences and will add to an already tense geopolitical landscape. Fears of global deflation are also a concern. The strength of the U.S. dollar against other currencies adds complexity and challenges to the forecast.

Today's equity landscape also brings opportunities. We remain convinced that the growth at the end of last year will continue and the foundation for the U.S. equity market remains solid. Building on a theme we focused on in 2014, we continue to favor the biotechnology group into 2015. Valuations remain modest relative to sector leading growth. Ongoing innovation should provide future upside catalysts and drive positive estimate revisions in the group. While we see biotech having another strong year, we also expect other areas within health care to contribute to performance. Research and development productivity appears to have improved across the sector, leading to new product introductions and above-average growth. Corporate restructuring and M&A were catalysts for outperformance last year and are expected to have a continued favorable impact in 2015. An important trend that bears watching is healthcare costs. We believe companies that are able to control or lower costs to the healthcare system should be favored by investors and offer interesting investment opportunities.

Technology also continues to offer above-average returns. Within the sector, we like companies that enable positive secular trends like cloud computing and mobile advertising. The continued growth of cloud-based storage solutions provides an attractive environment for storage drive manufacturers such as Seagate Technology and Western Digital. Our positions in both Google and Facebook should do well as internet advertising, and especially mobile advertising, continues to take wallet share from other media.

Select investments in telecom are attractive. We favor wireless tower companies like American Tower and SBA Communications. Towers are the best way to capitalize on the exponential growth of wireless data. In addition, strict zoning rules in the U.S. help limit new tower supply growth. Robust demand and limited supply set up a long-term positive outlook for wireless towers.

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We also believe the transportation industry group within industrials provides compelling opportunities as we head into 2015. With consistent end-market demand, solid pricing power and lower input costs, we feel that Union Pacific has one of the strongest business models in the sector. Both Delta and FedEx should benefit from the recent decline in the price of oil as well as strong demand profiles for their services.

Market volatility has increased significantly during the past year, which has proven challenging for active managers. A steadfast commitment to our philosophy and process has served us well. We strive to identify high quality companies that we can own for multiple years. We also look for near-term opportunities that can benefit our shareholders. Looking over the horizon, we are optimistic about the outlook for the Fund in 2015.

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

On January 21, 2015, we announced changes to the management of the Fund. I will take on the additional role of President, replacing Jim Haynie, who was elected President of Petroleum & Resources Corporation. Jim will continue to serve as Executive Vice President of the Fund and a member of its portfolio management team. In addition, Cotton Swindell has been elected Executive Vice President of the Fund. He will join Jim and me on the portfolio management team. Cotton has been a research analyst with the Fund since 2002, most recently covering the industrials sector. Nancy Prue, Executive Vice President, will be leaving the portfolio management team to assume the new role of Executive Vice President, Director of Shareholder Communications. We want to thank Nancy for her invaluable service to the portfolio management team. In her new role, she will be responsible for the content and delivery of information about the Funds to shareholders and the investment community.

During the past year, we completed a rebranding study for the Fund. Our objective was to remember our proud history but to more accurately reflect what we offer to investors today. Therefore, the decision was made to rebrand both Adams Express and our non-controlled affiliate, Petroleum & Resources Corporation, under the Adams Funds platform. By bringing these Funds together under the Adams Funds platform, we are acknowledging the shared value proposition these Funds bring to shareholders through their longstanding history, unwavering commitment to serving generations of investors, and strong track records.

Beginning March 31, 2015, Adams Express will change its name to Adams Diversified Equity Fund to increase investor awareness of what we do and what we offer. The Fund's ticker symbol will remain the same. Similarly, the name of Petroleum & Resources Corporation will change to Adams Natural Resources Fund. Our values and commitment to you will not change. The Funds will continue to share a Board of Directors and be managed by the experienced team of portfolio managers dedicated to employing a disciplined approach to identifying investment opportunities and carefully managing risk. Look for additional information in the coming weeks.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Mark E. Stoeckle
Chief Executive Officer

January 23, 2015

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

December 31, 2014

Assets

| | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Investments* at value: | | |
| Common stocks (cost \$1,009,795,542) | \$ 1,462,114,106 | |
| Non-controlled affiliate, Petroleum & Resources Corp. (cost \$34,735,404) | 52,132,692 | |
| Short-term investments (cost \$13,439,474) | 13,439,474 | \$ 1,527,686,272 |
| Cash | | 646,881 |
| Receivables: | | |
| Dividends and interest receivable | | 1,721,218 |
| Investment securities sold | | 35,650,929 |
| Prepaid pension cost | | 795,762 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | | 3,875,689 |
| Total Assets | | 1,570,376,751 |

Liabilities

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| Investment securities purchased | | 36,924,935 |
| Accrued pension liabilities | | 2,984,008 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | | 2,695,147 |
| Total Liabilities | | 42,604,090 |
| Net Assets | | \$ 1,527,772,661 |

Net Assets

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| Common Stock at par value \$0.001 per share, authorized 150,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 96,286,656 shares (includes 148,236 nonvested restricted shares, 21,000 nonvested or deferred restricted stock units, and 29,939 deferred stock units) (note 6) | | | \$ 96,287 |
| Additional capital surplus | | 1,058,228,177 | |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (note 5) | | (2,375,650) | |
| Undistributed net investment income | | 966,604 | |
| Undistributed net realized gain on investments | | 1,141,391 | |
| Unrealized appreciation on investments | | 469,715,852 | |
| Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock | | \$ 1,527,772,661 | |
| Net Asset Value Per Share of Common Stock | | \$15.87 | |

*See Schedule of Investments on page 14.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended December 31, 2014

Investment Income

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Income: | |
| Dividends: | |
| From unaffiliated issuers (net of \$28,728 in foreign taxes) | \$ 26,137,352 |
| From non-controlled affiliate | 1,377,668 |
| Other income | 196,691 |
| <i>Total income</i> | 27,711,711 |
| Expenses: | |
| Investment research | 4,327,418 |
| Administration and operations | 1,719,309 |
| Directors' compensation | 442,926 |
| Travel, training, and other office expenses | 442,445 |
| Transfer agent, registrar, and custodian | 320,561 |
| Investment data services | 272,272 |
| Reports and shareholder communications | 270,656 |
| Occupancy | 231,969 |
| Legal services | 228,309 |
| Audit and accounting services | 141,895 |
| Insurance | 116,430 |
| Other | 77,330 |
| <i>Total expenses</i> | 8,591,520 |
| Net Investment Income | 19,120,191 |

Realized Gain and Change in Unrealized Appreciation on Investments

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Net realized gain on security transactions | 90,753,306 |
| Net realized gain distributed by regulated investment company (non-controlled affiliate) | 2,755,335 |
| Net realized gain on written option contracts | 49,667 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation on securities | 75,850,204 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation on written option contracts | 22,020 |
| Net Gain on Investments | 169,430,532 |

Other Comprehensive Income (note 5)

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Defined benefit pension plans: | |
| Net actuarial loss arising during period | (991,762) |
| Amortization of net loss | 151,830 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | (839,932) |
| Change in Net Assets Resulting from Operations | \$ 187,710,791 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

| | For the Year Ended December 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| From Operations: | | |
| Net investment income | \$ 19,120,191 | \$ 18,656,769 |
| Net realized gain on investments | 93,558,308 | 57,371,366 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation on investments | 75,872,224 | 250,782,258 |
| Change in accumulated other comprehensive income (note 5) | (839,932) | 1,346,153 |
| <i>Increase in net assets resulting from operations</i> | 187,710,791 | 328,156,546 |
| Distributions to Shareholders from: | | |
| Net investment income | (18,731,249) | (20,354,079) |
| Net realized gain from investment transactions | (91,506,911) | (57,121,286) |
| <i>Decrease in net assets from distributions</i> | (110,238,160) | (77,475,365) |
| From Capital Share Transactions: | | |
| Value of shares issued in payment of distributions (note 4) | 42,002,202 | 26,419,945 |
| Cost of shares purchased (note 4) | (13,744,866) | (11,659,522) |
| Deferred compensation (notes 4, 6) | 491,774 | 112,279 |
| <i>Increase in net assets from capital share transactions</i> | 28,749,110 | 14,872,702 |
| Total Increase in Net Assets | 106,221,741 | 265,553,883 |
| Net Assets: | | |
| Beginning of year | 1,421,550,920 | 1,155,997,037 |
| End of year (including undistributed net investment income of \$966,604 and \$734,051, respectively) | \$ 1,527,772,661 | \$ 1,421,550,920 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Significant Accounting Policies

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

The accompanying financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which require the use of estimates made by Fund management. Management believes that estimates and security valuations are appropriate; however, actual results may differ from those estimates, and the security valuations reflected in the financial statements may differ from the value the Fund ultimately realizes upon sale of the securities.

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

Expenses The Fund shares certain costs for investment research and data services, administration and operations, travel, training, office expenses, occupancy, accounting and legal services, insurance, and other miscellaneous items with its non-controlled affiliate, Petroleum & Resources Corporation. Expenses that are not solely attributable to one fund are allocated to each fund based on relative net asset values or, in the case of investment research staff and related costs, relative market values of portfolio securities in the particular sector of coverage. Expense allocations are updated quarterly, as appropriate, except for those related to payroll, which are updated annually.

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 specific identification. Dividend income and distributions to shareholders are recognized on the ex-dividend date, and interest income is recognized on the accrual basis.

Security Valuation The Fund's investments are reported at fair value as defined under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Investments in securities traded on national security exchanges 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.

Various inputs are used to determine the fair value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are summarized in the following three levels:

Level 1 fair value is determined based on market data obtained from independent sources; for example, quoted prices in active markets for identical investments,

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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 Fund's own assumptions, developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The Fund's investments at December 31, 2014 were classified as follows:

| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Common stocks | \$ 1,514,246,798 | \$ | \$ | \$ 1,514,246,798 |
| Short-term investments | 13,439,474 | | | 13,439,474 |
| Total investments | \$ 1,527,686,272 | \$ | \$ | \$ 1,527,686,272 |

There were no transfers into or from Level 1 or Level 2 during the year ended December 31, 2014.

2. Federal Income Taxes

No federal income tax provision is required since the Fund's policy is to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code and to distribute substantially all of its taxable income to its shareholders. Additionally, management has analyzed and concluded that tax positions included in federal income tax returns from the previous three years that remain subject to examination do not require any provision. Any income tax-related interest or penalties would be recognized as income tax expense. As of December 31, 2014, the identified cost of securities for federal income tax purposes was \$1,057,970,420 and net unrealized appreciation aggregated \$469,715,852, consisting of gross unrealized appreciation of \$482,083,955 and gross unrealized depreciation of \$12,368,103.

Distributions are determined in accordance with our annual 6% minimum distribution rate commitment, based on the Fund's average market price, and income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. Such differences are primarily related to the Fund's retirement plans and equity-based compensation. Differences that are permanent, while not material for the year ended December 31, 2014, are reclassified in the capital accounts of the Fund's financial statements and have no impact on net assets. For tax purposes, distributions paid by the Fund during the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 were classified as ordinary income of \$24,330,351 and \$36,005,425, respectively, and as long-term capital gain of \$85,850,856 and \$41,470,068, respectively. The tax basis of distributable earnings at December 31, 2014 was \$2,441,797 of undistributed ordinary income and \$714,524 of undistributed long-term capital gain.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3. Investment Transactions

The Fund's investment decisions are made by the portfolio management team with recommendations from the research staff. Purchases and sales of portfolio securities, other than options and short-term investments, during the year ended December 31, 2014 were \$391,567,137 and \$456,525,586, respectively.

The Fund is subject to changes in the value of equity securities held (equity price risk) in the normal course of pursuing its investment objectives. The Fund 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, liquidity, and unfavorable equity price movements. The Fund has mitigated counterparty credit and liquidity 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 Fund to segregate certain securities or cash at its custodian when the option is written. There were no outstanding option contracts as of December 31, 2014.

When the Fund writes (purchases) an option, an amount equal to the premium received (paid) by the Fund 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 and are separately identified in the Statement of Operations. 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.

Transactions in written covered call and collateralized put options during the year ended December 31, 2014 were as follows:

| | Covered Calls | | Collateralized Puts | |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| | Contracts | Premiums | Contracts | Premiums |
| Options outstanding, December 31, 2013 | 40 | \$ 2,560 | 40 | \$ 4,740 |
| Options written | 210 | 38,909 | 34 | 6,018 |
| Options terminated in closing purchase transactions | | | | |
| Options expired | (210) | (38,909) | (74) | (10,758) |
| Options exercised | (40) | (2,560) | | |
| Options outstanding, December 31, 2014 | | \$ | | \$ |

4. Capital Stock

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The Fund has 10,000,000 authorized and unissued preferred shares, \$0.001 par value.

On December 29, 2014, the Fund issued 3,043,254 shares of its Common Stock at a price of \$13.79 per share (the average market price on December 8, 2014) to shareholders of record November 24, 2014 who elected to take stock in payment of the year-end distribution from 2014 capital gain and investment income. During 2014, 2,612 shares were issued at a weighted average price of \$13.67 per share as dividend equivalents to holders of deferred stock units and restricted stock units under the 2005 Equity Incentive Compensation Plan.

On December 27, 2013, the Fund issued 2,093,644 shares of its Common Stock at a price of \$12.61 per share (the average market price on December 9, 2013)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

to shareholders of record November 25, 2013 who elected to take stock in payment of the year-end distribution from 2013 capital gain and investment income. During 2013, 1,567 shares were issued at a weighted average price of \$12.15 per share as dividend equivalents to holders of deferred stock units and restricted stock units under the 2005 Equity Incentive Compensation Plan.

The Fund may purchase shares of its Common Stock from time to time, in accordance with parameters set by the Board of Directors, at such prices and amounts as the portfolio management team may deem appropriate.

Transactions in Common Stock for 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

| | Shares | | Amount | |
|---|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Shares issued in payment of distributions | 3,045,866 | 2,095,211 | \$42,002,202 | \$26,419,945 |
| Shares purchased (at a weighted average discount from net asset value of 14.0% and 13.6%, respectively) | (1,011,600) | (948,339) | (13,744,866) | (11,659,522) |
| Net activity under the 2005 Equity Incentive Compensation Plan | 28,773 | 47,021 | 491,774 | 112,279 |
| Net change | 2,063,039 | 1,193,893 | \$28,749,110 | \$14,872,702 |

5. Retirement Plans

Defined Contribution Plans The Fund sponsors a qualified defined contribution plan for all employees with at least six months of service and a nonqualified defined contribution plan for eligible employees to supplement the qualified plan. The Fund expensed contributions to the plans in the amount of \$311,364, a portion thereof based on Fund performance, for the year ended December 31, 2014. The Fund does not provide postretirement medical benefits.

Defined Benefit Plans On October 1, 2009, the Fund froze its non-contributory qualified and nonqualified defined benefit pension plans. Benefits are based on length of service and compensation during the last five years of employment through September 30, 2009, with no additional benefits being accrued beyond that date. In 2014, the Fund filed with the appropriate agencies to obtain approval to terminate the plans. Upon receiving the required regulatory approvals, all benefits under the plans will be paid out and all related pension liabilities will be relieved.

The funded status of the plans is recognized as an asset (overfunded plan) or a liability (underfunded plan) in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Changes in the prior service costs and accumulated actuarial gains and losses are recognized as accumulated other comprehensive income, a component of net assets, in the year in which the changes occur and are subsequently amortized into net periodic pension cost. Non-recurring settlement costs are recognized in net periodic pension cost when a plan participant receives a lump-sum benefit payment and includes the amount of which is in excess of the present value of the projected benefit and any unamortized actuarial losses attributable to the portion of the projected benefit obligation being satisfied.

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The Fund's policy is to contribute annually to the plans those amounts that can be deducted for federal income tax purposes, plus additional amounts as the Fund deems appropriate in order to provide assets sufficient to meet benefits to be paid to plan participants. The Fund contributed \$0 to the qualified plan and \$198,394 to the nonqualified plan in 2014. In 2015, the Fund anticipates making contributions to the plans to the extent that pension liabilities exceed assets available for plan benefits upon the termination of the plans.

The Fund uses a December 31 measurement date for its plans. Details in aggregate for the plans were as follows:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Change in benefit obligation | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ 8,278,135 | \$ 10,865,411 |
| Interest cost | 331,489 | 319,801 |
| Actuarial (gain) loss | 963,964 | (430,184) |
| Benefits paid | (341,043) | (200,120) |
| Effect of settlement (non-recurring) | | (2,276,773) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | \$ 9,232,545 | \$ 8,278,135 |
| Change in qualified plan assets | | |
| Fair value of qualified plan assets at beginning of year | \$ 7,159,527 | \$ 9,304,946 |
| Actual return on plan assets | 27,421 | 246,307 |
| Benefits paid | (142,649) | (114,953) |
| Settlement (non-recurring) | | (2,276,773) |
| Fair value of qualified plan assets at end of year | \$ 7,044,299 | \$ 7,159,527 |
| Funded status | \$ (2,188,246) | \$ (1,118,608) |

The accumulated benefit obligation for all defined benefit pension plans was \$9,232,545 and \$8,278,135 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The primary investment objective of the Fund's qualified pension plan assets is capital preservation, achieved through a portfolio of mutual funds and pooled separate accounts (PSAs). PSAs, like mutual funds, are made up of a wide variety of underlying investments in securities. The Fund's targeted asset allocation for 2015 is to maintain approximately 60% of plan assets invested in short-term fixed income securities and approximately 40% of plan assets invested in cash and money market securities.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The net asset value of mutual funds and PSAs are based on the fair value of its underlying investments. The fair value of the plan assets is determined using various inputs, summarized into the three levels described in footnote 1. The plan assets at December 31, 2014 were classified as follows:

| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Fixed income securities | \$ 4,183,961 | \$ | \$ | \$ 4,183,961 |
| Money market securities | 2,850,303 | 10,035 | | 2,860,338 |
| Total | \$ 7,034,264 | \$ 10,035 | \$ | \$ 7,044,299 |

Items impacting the Fund's net investment income and accumulated other comprehensive income were:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Components of net periodic pension cost | | |
| Interest cost | \$ 331,489 | \$ 319,801 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (57,754) | (323,274) |
| Net loss component | 151,830 | 260,068 |
| Effect of settlement (non-recurring) | | 740,825 |
| Net periodic pension cost | \$ 425,565 | \$ 997,420 |
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | | |
| Defined benefit pension plans: | | |
| Balance at beginning of year | \$ (1,535,718) | \$ (2,881,871) |
| Net actuarial gain/(loss) arising during period | (991,762) | 345,260 |
| Reclassifications to net periodic pension cost: | | |
| Amortization of net loss | 151,830 | 260,068 |
| Effect of settlement (non-recurring) | | 740,825 |
| Balance at end of year | \$ (2,375,650) | \$ (1,535,718) |

Accumulated other comprehensive income was comprised of net actuarial losses of \$(2,375,650) and \$(1,535,718) at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. In 2015, the Fund estimates that \$243,533 of net losses will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income into net periodic pension cost and the remaining balance of net losses will be recognized upon termination of the plans.

Assumptions used to determine benefit obligations were:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Discount rate | 3.33% | 4.25% |
| Rate of compensation increase | | |

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The assumptions used to determine net periodic pension cost were:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|-------|-------|
| Discount rate | 4.25% | 3.58% |
| Expected long-term return on plan assets | 1.20% | 4.00% |
| Rate of compensation increase | | |

The assumption used to determine expected long-term return on plan assets was based on historical and future expected returns of multiple asset classes in order to develop a risk-free real rate of return and risk premiums for each asset class. The overall rate for each asset class was developed by combining a long-term inflation component, the risk-free real rate of return, and the associated risk premium. A weighted average rate was developed based on those overall rates and the target asset allocation of the plan.

The following benefit payments are eligible to be paid in the years indicated:

| | Pension Benefits |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 2015 | \$ 2,020,000 |
| 2016 | 300,000 |
| 2017 | 1,500,000 |
| 2018 | 770,000 |
| 2019 | 275,000 |
| Years 2020-2024 | 1,400,000 |

6. Equity-Based Compensation

The 2005 Equity Incentive Compensation Plan (2005 Plan), adopted at the 2005 Annual Meeting and re-approved at the 2010 Annual Meeting, permits the grant of restricted stock awards (both performance and nonperformance-based), as well as stock options and other stock incentives, to all employees and non-employee directors. Performance-based restricted stock awards vest at the end of a specified three-year period, with the ultimate number of shares earned contingent on achieving certain performance targets. If performance targets are not achieved, all or a portion of the performance-based restricted shares are forfeited and become available for future grants. Nonperformance-based restricted stock awards typically vest ratably over a three-year period and nonperformance-based restricted stock units (granted to non-employee directors) vest over a one-year period. Payment of awards may be deferred, if elected. The 2005 Plan provides for accelerated vesting in the event of death or retirement. Non-employee directors also may elect to defer a portion of their cash compensation, with such deferred amount to be paid by delivery of deferred stock units. Outstanding awards are granted at fair market value on grant date (determined by the average of the high and low price on that date). The 2005 Plan provides for the issuance of up to 3,413,131 shares of the Fund's Common Stock, of which 3,033,885 remain available for future grants at December 31, 2014.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

A summary of the status of the Fund's awards granted under the 2005 Plan as of December 31, 2014, and changes during the year then ended, is presented below:

| Awards | Shares/Units | Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
|---|--------------|--|
| Balance at December 31, 2013 | 195,365 | \$ 11.27 |
| Granted: | | |
| Restricted stock | 40,408 | 13.10 |
| Restricted stock units | 5,250 | 12.88 |
| Deferred stock units | 11,975 | 13.44 |
| Vested & issued | (41,259) | 11.46 |
| Forfeited | (12,564) | 11.06 |
| Balance at December 31, 2014 (includes 49,656 performance-based awards and 149,519 nonperformance-based awards) | 199,175 | \$ 12.36 |

Compensation cost resulting from awards granted under the 2005 Plan is based on the fair market value of the award on grant date and recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period. For those awards with performance conditions, compensation cost is based on the most probable outcome and, if such goals are not met, compensation cost is not recognized and any previously recognized compensation cost is reversed. The total compensation cost for restricted stock granted to employees for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$484,208. The total compensation cost for restricted stock units granted to non-employee directors for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$60,926. As of December 31, 2014, there was total unrecognized compensation cost of \$973,539, a component of additional capital surplus, related to nonvested equity-based compensation arrangements granted under the 2005 Plan. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.50 years. The total fair value of shares and units vested during the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$538,711.

7. Officer and Director Compensation

The aggregate remuneration paid during the year ended December 31, 2014 to officers and directors amounted to \$3,917,886, of which \$282,268 was paid as fees and compensation to directors who were not officers. These amounts represent the taxable compensation to the Fund's officers and directors and therefore differ from the amounts reported in the accompanying Statement of Operations that are recorded and expensed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

8. Portfolio Securities Loaned

The Fund 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 Fund on the next business day. Cash deposits are placed in a registered money market fund. The Fund 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 Fund 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

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loan will be for the account of the Fund. At December 31, 2014, the Fund had no securities on loan. The Fund 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.

9. Operating Lease Commitments

The Fund leases office space and equipment under operating lease agreements expiring at various dates through the year 2026. The Fund recognized rental expense of \$207,111 in 2014, and its minimum rental commitments are as follows:

| | | |
|------------|----|-----------|
| 2015 | \$ | 319,733 |
| 2016 | | 152,050 |
| 2017 | | 291,434 |
| 2018 | | 298,843 |
| 2019 | | 239,171 |
| Thereafter | | 1,804,140 |
| Total | \$ | 3,105,371 |

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Results Per Share Outstanding For Each Period | | | | | |
| Net asset value, beginning of year | \$15.09 | \$12.43 | \$11.54 | \$12.65 | \$11.95 |
| Net investment income | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.15 |
| Net realized gains and increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation | 1.83 | 3.32 | 1.41 | (0.56) | 1.10 |
| Change in accumulated other comprehensive income (note 5) | (0.01) | 0.01 | | (0.01) | |
| Total from investment operations | 2.02 | 3.53 | 1.60 | (0.41) | 1.25 |
| Less distributions | | | | | |
| Dividends from net investment income | (0.20) | (0.22) | (0.18) | (0.15) | (0.14) |
| Distributions from net realized gains | (0.98) | (0.62) | (0.49) | (0.50) | (0.37) |
| Total distributions | (1.18) | (0.84) | (0.67) | (0.65) | (0.51) |
| Capital share repurchases | 0.02 | 0.02 | | | |
| Reinvestment of distributions | (0.08) | (0.05) | (0.04) | (0.05) | (0.04) |
| Total capital share transactions | (0.06) | (0.03) | (0.04) | (0.05) | (0.04) |
| Net asset value, end of year | \$15.87 | \$15.09 | \$12.43 | \$11.54 | \$12.65 |
| Market price, end of year | \$13.68 | \$13.07 | \$10.59 | \$ 9.64 | \$10.72 |
| Total Investment Return* | | | | | |
| Based on market price | 13.7% | 31.8% | 16.9% | (4.2)% | 11.5% |
| Based on net asset value | 14.3% | 29.7% | 14.7% | (2.8)% | 11.2% |
| Ratios/Supplemental Data | | | | | |
| Net assets, end of year (in 000 s) | \$1,527,773 | \$1,421,551 | \$1,155,997 | \$1,050,734 | \$1,124,672 |
| Ratio of expenses to average net assets** | 0.58% | 0.69% | 0.65% | 0.55% | 0.58% |
| Ratio of net investment income to average net assets*** | 1.29% | 1.44% | 1.54% | 1.25% | 1.29% |
| Portfolio turnover | 26.6% | 55.9% | 27.4% | 21.5% | 16.2% |
| Number of shares outstanding at end of year (in 000 s) | 96,287 | 94,224 | 93,030 | 91,074 | 88,885 |

* Total investment return assumes reinvestment of all distributions at the price received in the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan.

** The ratios of expenses to average net assets were 0.63% and 0.63% in 2013 and 2012, respectively, after adjusting for non-recurring pension expenses as described in footnote 5.

*** The ratios of net investment income to average net assets were 1.50% and 1.56% in 2013 and 2012, respectively, after adjusting for non-recurring pension expenses as described in footnote 5.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2014

| | Shares | Value (A) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Common Stocks 99.1% | | |
| Consumer Discretionary 12.4% | | |
| Amazon.com, Inc. (B) | 50,000 | \$ 15,517,500 |
| BorgWarner Inc. | 137,000 | 7,528,150 |
| Comcast Corp. (Class A) | 452,300 | 26,237,923 |
| Dollar General Corp. (B) | 271,400 | 19,187,980 |
| Hanesbrands Inc. | 152,000 | 16,966,240 |
| Las Vegas Sands Corp. | 150,000 | 8,724,000 |
| Lowe's Companies, Inc. | 490,000 | 33,712,000 |
| Magna International Inc. | 126,000 | 13,694,940 |
| Walt Disney Co. | 377,600 | 35,566,144 |
| Whirlpool Corp. | 66,000 | 12,786,840 |
| | | 189,921,717 |
| Consumer Staples 9.3% | | |
| Coca-Cola Co. | 300,000 | 12,666,000 |
| CVS Health Corp. | 314,000 | 30,241,340 |
| General Mills Inc. | 252,400 | 13,460,492 |
| Hershey Co. | 150,000 | 15,589,500 |
| PepsiCo, Inc. | 263,500 | 24,916,560 |
| Philip Morris International Inc. | 262,800 | 21,405,060 |
| Procter & Gamble Co. | 131,850 | 12,010,217 |
| Unilever plc ADR | 290,250 | 11,749,320 |
| | | 142,038,489 |
| Energy 8.5% | | |
| Chevron Corp. | 218,000 | 24,455,240 |
| EOG Resources, Inc. | 151,200 | 13,920,984 |
| Exxon Mobil Corp. | 101,000 | 9,337,450 |
| Marathon Petroleum Corp. | 83,000 | 7,491,580 |
| Noble Energy, Inc. | 175,000 | 8,300,250 |
| Petroleum & Resources Corp. (C) | 2,186,774 | 52,132,692 |
| Schlumberger Ltd. | 171,300 | 14,630,733 |
| | | 130,268,929 |
| Financials 17.2% | | |
| Allstate Corp. | 330,000 | 23,182,500 |
| American International Group, Inc. | 145,000 | 8,121,450 |
| American Tower Corp. | 105,000 | 10,379,250 |
| Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (Class B) (B) | 65,200 | 9,789,780 |
| Capital One Financial Corp. | 245,000 | 20,224,750 |
| Citigroup Inc. | 617,000 | 33,385,870 |
| iShares US Real Estate ETF | 147,722 | 11,350,958 |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co. | 450,000 | 28,161,000 |

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| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Lincoln National Corp. | 270,000 | 15,570,900 |
| NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. | 360,000 | 17,265,600 |
| Navient Corp. | 520,000 | 11,237,200 |
| Prudential Financial, Inc. | 195,000 | 17,639,700 |
| Simon Property Group, Inc. | 89,500 | 16,298,845 |
| Wells Fargo & Co. | 719,000 | 39,415,580 |
| | | 262,023,383 |

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2014

| | Shares | Value (A) |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Health Care 14.5% | | |
| AbbVie Inc. | 20,000 | \$ 1,308,800 |
| Aetna Inc. | 252,000 | 22,385,160 |
| Allergan, Inc. | 120,000 | 25,510,800 |
| Biogen IDEC Inc. (B) | 47,000 | 15,954,150 |
| Celgene Corp. (B) | 164,000 | 18,345,040 |
| Cerner Corp. (B) | 341,000 | 22,049,060 |
| Gilead Sciences, Inc. (B) | 375,900 | 35,432,334 |
| Johnson & Johnson | 165,000 | 17,254,050 |
| McKesson Corp. | 116,000 | 24,079,280 |
| Merck & Co., Inc. | 480,000 | 27,259,200 |
| Pfizer Inc. | 385,400 | 12,005,210 |
| | | 221,583,084 |
| Industrials 10.4% | | |
| Boeing Co. | 205,000 | 26,645,900 |
| Delta Air Lines, Inc. | 265,000 | 13,035,350 |
| Dover Corp. | 176,000 | 12,622,720 |
| FedEx Corp. | 80,000 | 13,892,800 |
| Fluor Corp. | 130,000 | 7,881,900 |
| General Electric Co. | 246,500 | 6,229,055 |
| Honeywell International Inc. | 287,500 | 28,727,000 |
| Union Pacific Corp. | 278,000 | 33,118,140 |
| United Technologies Corp. | 139,500 | 16,042,500 |
| | | 158,195,365 |
| Information Technology 19.8% | | |
| Apple Inc. | 653,100 | 72,089,178 |
| Automatic Data Processing, Inc. | 109,000 | 9,087,330 |
| Cisco Systems, Inc. | 446,000 | 12,405,490 |
| Facebook, Inc. (Class A) (B) | 187,000 | 14,589,740 |
| Gartner, Inc. (B) | 165,000 | 13,894,650 |
| Google Inc. (Class A) (B) | 35,500 | 18,838,430 |
| Google Inc. (Class C) (B) | 35,500 | 18,687,200 |
| Intel Corp. | 435,000 | 15,786,150 |
| International Business Machines Corp. | 42,800 | 6,866,832 |
| Lam Research Corp. | 65,000 | 5,157,100 |
| MasterCard, Inc. (Class A) | 230,000 | 19,816,800 |
| Microsoft Corp. | 618,800 | 28,743,260 |
| Oracle Corp. | 306,000 | 13,760,820 |
| QUALCOMM Inc. | 151,400 | 11,253,562 |
| Seagate Technology plc | 168,000 | 11,172,000 |
| Visa Inc. (Class A) | 80,500 | 21,107,100 |
| Western Digital Corp. | 83,000 | 9,188,100 |

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302,443,742

Materials 2.6%

| | | |
|--|---------|------------|
| CF Industries Holdings, Inc. | 50,031 | 13,635,449 |
| LyondellBasell Industries N.V. (Class A) | 211,000 | 16,751,290 |
| Praxair, Inc. | 67,500 | 8,745,300 |

39,132,039

Telecommunication Services 1.8%

| | | |
|--|---------|------------|
| SBA Communications Corp. (Class A) (B) | 90,000 | 9,968,400 |
| Verizon Communications Inc. | 389,000 | 18,197,420 |

28,165,820

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2014

| | Principal/ Shares | Value (A) |
|---|----------------------|------------------|
| Utilities 2.6% | | |
| AGL Resources Inc. | 145,000 | \$ 7,903,950 |
| Edison International | 148,000 | 9,691,040 |
| NextEra Energy, Inc. | 81,000 | 8,609,490 |
| NRG Energy, Inc. | 238,000 | 6,414,100 |
| Pinnacle West Capital Corp. | 115,000 | 7,855,650 |
| | | 40,474,230 |
| Total Common Stocks (Cost \$1,044,530,946) | | 1,514,246,798 |
| Short-Term Investments 0.9% | | |
| Money Market Account 0.9% | | |
| M&T Bank, 0.10% (D) | \$ 13,339,474 | 13,339,474 |
| Money Market Funds 0.0% | | |
| Fidelity Institutional Money Market Money Market Portfolio (Institutional Class), 0.11% (D) | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Total Short-Term Investments (Cost \$13,439,474) | | 13,439,474 |
| Total Investments 100.0% | | |
| (Cost \$1,057,970,420) | | 1,527,686,272 |
| Cash, receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets, less liabilities 0.0% | | 86,389 |
| Net Assets 100.0% | | \$ 1,527,772,661 |

Notes:

- (A) Common stocks are listed on the New York Stock Exchange or the NASDAQ and are valued at the last reported sale price on the day of valuation. See note 1 to financial statements.
- (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) Rate presented is as of period-end and represents the annualized yield earned over the previous seven days.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of The Adams Express Company:

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the schedule of investments in securities, and the related statements of operations and of changes in net assets and the financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Adams Express Company (the Fund) at December 31, 2014, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements and financial highlights (hereafter referred to as financial statements) are the responsibility of the Fund s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits, which included confirmation of securities at December 31, 2014 by correspondence with the custodians and brokers, provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Baltimore, MD

February 17, 2015

CHANGES IN PORTFOLIO SECURITIES

During the Three Months Ended December 31, 2014

(unaudited)

| | Shares | | Held |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| | Additions | Reductions | Dec. 31, 2014 |
| CF Industries Holdings, Inc. | 11,500 | | 50,031 |
| Delta Air Lines, Inc. | 60,000 | | 265,000 |
| FedEx Corp. | 80,000 | | 80,000 |
| Johnson & Johnson | 165,000 | | 165,000 |
| Lam Research Corp. | 65,000 | | 65,000 |
| Las Vegas Sands Corp. | 150,000 | | 150,000 |
| Marathon Petroleum Corp. | 83,000 | | 83,000 |
| Schlumberger Ltd. | 33,000 | | 171,300 |
| CDK Global, Inc. | 36,333 ⁽¹⁾ | 36,333 | |
| AbbVie Inc. | | 260,000 | 20,000 |
| Cisco Systems, Inc. | | 179,000 | 446,000 |
| Eastman Chemical Co. | | 85,000 | |
| Eaton Corp. plc | | 205,000 | |
| Halliburton Co. | | 170,801 | |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co. | | 20,000 | 450,000 |
| Lowe's Companies, Inc. | | 60,000 | 490,000 |
| McDonald's Corp. | | 180,000 | |
| Oracle Corp. | | 220,000 | 306,000 |
| Pfizer Inc. | | 634,300 | 385,400 |
| Procter & Gamble Co. | | 43,150 | 131,850 |
| SLM Corp. | | 520,000 | |
| Union Pacific Corp. | | 33,000 | 278,000 |
| United Technologies Corp. | | 35,000 | 139,500 |
| Verizon Communications Inc. | | 31,000 | 389,000 |

⁽¹⁾ By spinoff

HISTORICAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS

(unaudited)

| Year | Value of Net Assets | Shares Outstanding | Net Asset Value Per Share | Market Value Per Share | Income Dividends Per Share | Capital Gains Distributions Per Share | Total Dividends and Distributions Per Share | Annual Distribution Rate* |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 2000** | \$ 1,951,562,978 | 82,292,262 | \$ 23.72 | \$ 21.00 | \$.22 | \$ 1.63 | \$ 1.85 | 7.8% |
| 2001 | 1,368,366,316 | 85,233,262 | 16.05 | 14.22 | .26 | 1.39 | 1.65 | 9.6 |
| 2002 | 1,024,810,092 | 84,536,250 | 12.12 | 10.57 | .19 | .57 | .76 | 6.2 |
| 2003 | 1,218,862,456 | 84,886,412 | 14.36 | 12.41 | .17 | .61 | .78 | 6.8 |
| 2004 | 1,295,548,900 | 86,135,292 | 15.04 | 13.12 | .24 | .66 | .90 | 7.1 |
| 2005 | 1,266,728,652 | 86,099,607 | 14.71 | 12.55 | .22 | .64 | .86 | 6.7 |
| 2006 | 1,377,418,310 | 86,838,223 | 15.86 | 13.87 | .23 | .67 | .90 | 6.8 |
| 2007 | 1,378,479,527 | 87,668,847 | 15.72 | 14.12 | .32 | .71 | 1.03 | 7.1 |
| 2008 | 840,012,143 | 87,406,443 | 9.61 | 8.03 | .26 | .38 | .64 | 5.7 |
| 2009 | 1,045,027,339 | 87,415,193 | 11.95 | 10.10 | .15 | .30 | .45 | 5.2 |
| 2010 | 1,124,671,966 | 88,885,186 | 12.65 | 10.72 | .14 | .37 | .51 | 5.1 |
| 2011 | 1,050,733,678 | 91,073,899 | 11.54 | 9.64 | .15 | .50 | .65 | 6.1 |
| 2012 | 1,155,997,037 | 93,029,724 | 12.43 | 10.59 | .18 | .49 | .67 | 6.3 |
| 2013 | 1,421,550,920 | 94,223,617 | 15.09 | 13.07 | .22 | .62 | .84 | 7.1 |
| 2014 | 1,527,772,661 | 96,286,656 | 15.87 | 13.68 | .20 | .98 | 1.18 | 8.8 |

* The annual distribution rate is the total dividends and capital gain distributions during the year divided by the Fund's average month-end stock price. For years prior to 2011, the average month-end stock price is determined for the calendar year. For 2011 and later, the average month-end stock price is determined for the twelve months ended October 31, which is consistent with the calculation used for the annual 6% minimum distribution rate commitment adopted in September 2011.

** Adjusted to reflect the 3-for-2 stock split effected in October 2000.

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

(unaudited)

| Calendar year-end | Market value of original investment | Cumulative market value of shares from capital gains distributions | Cumulative market value of shares from income dividends | Total market value | Net asset value of total shares |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2000 | \$ 9,362 | \$ 698 | \$ 85 | \$ 10,145 | \$ 11,458 |
| 2001 | 6,340 | 1,141 | 161 | 7,642 | 8,624 |
| 2002 | 4,712 | 1,146 | 205 | 6,063 | 6,953 |
| 2003 | 5,533 | 1,712 | 343 | 7,588 | 8,780 |
| 2004 | 5,849 | 2,209 | 525 | 8,583 | 9,839 |
| 2005 | 5,595 | 2,531 | 640 | 8,766 | 10,275 |
| 2006 | 6,184 | 3,260 | 887 | 10,331 | 11,813 |
| 2007 | 6,295 | 3,860 | 1,140 | 11,295 | 12,574 |
| 2008 | 3,580 | 2,497 | 819 | 6,896 | 8,253 |
| 2009 | 4,503 | 3,431 | 1,169 | 9,103 | 10,771 |
| 2010 | 4,779 | 3,989 | 1,378 | 10,146 | 11,974 |
| 2011 | 4,298 | 4,058 | 1,366 | 9,722 | 11,638 |
| 2012 | 4,721 | 4,964 | 1,680 | 11,365 | 13,340 |
| 2013 | 5,827 | 6,827 | 2,325 | 14,979 | 17,293 |
| 2014 | 6,099 | 8,273 | 2,660 | 17,032 | 19,758 |

Illustration of an assumed**15 year investment of \$10,000**

Investment income dividends and capital gains distributions are taken in additional shares. This chart covers the years 2000–2014. Fees for the reinvestment of interim dividends are assumed as 2% of the amount reinvested (maximum of \$2.50) and commissions of \$0.05 per share. There is no charge for reinvestment of year-end distributions. No adjustment has been made for any income taxes payable by shareholders on income dividends, capital gains distributions, or the sale of any shares. These results should not be considered representative of the dividend income or capital gain or loss which may be realized in the future.

SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION AND SERVICES

DIVIDEND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Fund presently pays dividends four times a year, as follows: (a) three interim distributions on or about March 1, June 1, and September 1, and (b) a year-end distribution, payable in late December, consisting of the estimated balance of the net investment income for the year and the net realized capital gain earned through October 31 and, if applicable, a return of capital. Shareholders may elect to receive the year-end distribution in stock or cash. In connection with this distribution, all shareholders of record are sent a dividend announcement notice and an election card in mid-November. **Shareholders holding shares in street or brokerage accounts may make their election by notifying their brokerage house representative.**

INVESTORS CHOICE

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INVESTORS CHOICE is a direct stock purchase and sale plan, as well as a dividend reinvestment plan, sponsored and administered by our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Corporation (AST). The Plan provides registered shareholders and interested first time investors an affordable alternative for buying, selling, and reinvesting in Fund shares. A brochure which further details the benefits and features of INVESTORS CHOICE as well as an enrollment form may be obtained by contacting AST.

The costs to participants in administrative service fees and brokerage commissions for each type of transaction are listed below. ***Fees are subject to change at any time.***

Fees:

Initial Enrollment and Optional Cash Investments:

Service Fee \$2.50 per investment

Brokerage Commission \$0.05 per share

Reinvestment of Dividends*:

Service Fee 2% of amount invested

(maximum of \$2.50 per investment)

Brokerage Commission \$0.05 per share

Sale of Shares:

Service Fee \$10.00

Brokerage Commission \$0.05 per share

Deposit of Certificates for safekeeping \$7.50

(waived if sold)

Book to Book Transfers Included

To transfer shares to another participant or to a new participant

Minimum and Maximum Cash Investments:

Initial minimum investment (non-holders) \$500

Minimum optional investment (existing holders) \$50

Electronic Funds Transfer (monthly minimum) \$50

Maximum per transaction \$25,000

Maximum per year NONE

INVESTORS CHOICE Mailing Address:

Attention: Dividend Reinvestment

P.O. Box 922

Wall Street Station

New York, NY 10269-0560

Website: www.amstock.com

E-mail: info@amstock.com

* The year-end dividend and capital gain distribution will usually be made in newly issued shares of Common Stock. There are no fees or commissions in connection with this dividend and capital gain distribution when made in newly issued shares.

For shareholders whose stock is held by a broker in street name, the AST INVESTORS CHOICE Direct Stock Purchase and Sale Plan remains available through many registered investment security dealers. If your shares are currently held in a street name or brokerage account, please contact your broker for details about how you can participate in AST's Plan or contact AST.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF SHAREHOLDER REPORTS

The Fund offers shareholders the benefits and convenience of viewing Quarterly and Annual Reports and other shareholder materials on-line. With your consent, paper copies of these documents will cease with the next mailing and will be provided via e-mail. Reduce paper mailed to your home and help lower the Fund's printing and mailing costs. To enroll, please visit the following websites:

Registered shareholders with AST: www.amstock.com/main

Shareholders using brokerage accounts: <http://enroll.icsdelivery.com/ADX>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| Personal Information | Position | Term | Length | Principal Occupations | Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| | Held with the Fund | of Office | of Time Since Served | | by Director | Other Directorships |
| Independent Directors | | | | | | |
| Enrique R. Arzac, Ph.D. 7 St. Paul Street, Suite 1140 Baltimore, MD 21202 Age 73 | Director | One Year | Since 1983 | Professor of Finance and Economics at the Graduate School of Business, Columbia University, formerly Vice Dean of Academic Affairs. | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation (closed-end fund), Aberdeen Asset Management Funds (6 closed-end funds), Credit Suisse Asset Management Funds (2 closed-end funds and 9 open-end funds), and Mirae Asset Discovery Funds (6 open-end funds). In addition, within the past five years, Dr. Arzac served as a director of Epoch Holdings Corporation (an investment management and investment advisory services company) and Starcomms Plc (telecommunications company). |
| Phyllis O. Bonanno 7 St. Paul Street, Suite 1140 Baltimore, MD 21202 Age 71 | Director | One Year | Since 2003 | Retired President & CEO of International Trade Solutions, Inc. (consultants). Formerly, President of Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina, and Corporate Vice President of Warnaco, Inc. (apparel). | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation (closed-end fund) and Borg-Warner Inc. (industrial). In addition, within the past five years, Ms. Bonanno served as Director of Mohawk Industries, Inc. (carpets and flooring). |
| Kenneth J. Dale 7 St. Paul Street, | Director | One Year | Since 2008 | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Associated Press. Formerly, Vice | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation (closed-end fund). |

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Suite 1140
Baltimore, MD 21202

President, J.P.
Morgan Chase &
Co. Inc.

Age 58

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|---|-----|---|
| Frederic A. Escherich | Director | One Year | Since 2006 | Private Investor. Formerly, Managing Director and head of Mergers and Acquisitions Research and the Financial Advisory Department with JPMorgan & Co. Inc. | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation (closed-end fund). |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|---|-----|---|

Suite 1140
Baltimore, MD 21202

Age 62

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|--|-----|--|
| Roger W. Gale, Ph.D. | Director | One Year | Since 2005 | President & CEO of GF Energy, LLC (consultants to electric power companies). Formerly, member of management group of PA Consulting Group (energy consultants). | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation (closed-end fund) and during the past five years also served as a director of Ormat Technologies, Inc. (geothermal and renewable energy). |
|----------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|--|-----|--|

7 St. Paul Street,
Suite 1140
Baltimore, MD 21202

Age 68

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

| Personal Information | Position Held with the Fund | Term of Office | Length of Time Served | Principal Occupations | Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Director | Other Directorships |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Independent Directors (continued) | | | | | | |
| Kathleen T. McGahran, Ph.D., J.D., CPA 7 St. Paul Street, Suite 1140 Baltimore, MD 21202 Age 64 | Director, Chair of the Board | One Year | Since 2003 | President & CEO of Pelham Associates, Inc. (an executive education provider). Formerly, Associate Dean and Director of Executive Education and Associate Professor, Columbia University, and Adjunct Associate Professor, Stern School of Business, New York University and Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College. | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation (closed-end fund). |
| Craig R. Smith, M.D. 7 St. Paul Street, Suite 1140 Baltimore, MD 21202 Age 68 | Director | One Year | Since 2005 | Retired Chief Operating Officer of Algenol LLC (ethanol manufacturing). Formerly, President, Williston Consulting LLC (consultants to pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries) and Chairman, President & CEO of Guilford Pharmaceuticals (pharmaceuticals & biotechnology). | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation (closed-end fund) and a Manager of Algenol LLC. In addition, within the past five years, Dr. Smith served as a director of Algenol Biofuels, Inc. (ethanol manufacturing), Depomed, Inc. (specialty pharmaceuticals), and LaJolla Pharmaceutical Company. |
| Interested Director | | | | | | |
| Mark E. Stoeckle 7 St. Paul Street, | Director and CEO | One Year | Since 2013 | CEO of the Fund and CEO of Petroleum Resources | Two | Director of Petroleum Resources Corporation |

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Suite 1140 Corporation. (closed-end fund).
Baltimore, MD 21202
Age 58

This report, including the financial statements herein, is transmitted to the shareholders of The Adams Express Company for their information. It is not a prospectus, circular or representation intended for use in the purchase or sale of shares of the Fund s or of any securities mentioned in the report. The rates of return will vary and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Shares, if sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Past performance is no guarantee of future investment results.

OTHER INFORMATION

Statement on Quarterly Filing of Complete Portfolio Schedule

In addition to publishing its complete schedule of portfolio holdings in the First and Third Quarter Reports to shareholders, the Fund also files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Fund's Forms N-Q are available on the Commission's website: www.sec.gov. The Company's Forms N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room, and information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. The Fund also posts a link to its Forms N-Q on its website: www.adamsexpress.com under the headings "Investment Information", "Financial Reports" and then "SEC Filings".

Annual Certification

The Fund's CEO has submitted to the New York Stock Exchange the annual CEO certification as required by Section 303A.12(a) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual.

Proxy Voting Policies and Record

A description of the policies and procedures that the Fund uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities owned by the Fund and the Fund's proxy voting record for the 12-month period ended June 30, 2014 are available (i) without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund's toll free number at (800) 638-2479; (ii) on the Fund's website: www.adamsexpress.com under the headings "About Adams Express" and "Corporate Information"; and (iii) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website: www.sec.gov.

Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. By their nature, all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results could differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. Several factors that could materially affect the Fund's actual results are the performance of the portfolio of stocks held by the Fund, the conditions in the U.S. and international financial markets, the price at which shares of the Fund will trade in the public markets, and other factors discussed in the Fund's periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Privacy Policy

In order to conduct its business, the Fund, through its transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, collects and maintains certain nonpublic personal information about our shareholders of record with respect to their transactions in shares of our securities. This information includes the shareholder's address, tax identification or Social Security number, share balances, and dividend elections. We do not collect or maintain personal information about shareholders whose shares of our securities are held in street name by a financial institution such as a bank or broker.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you, our other shareholders or our former shareholders to third parties unless necessary to process a transaction, service an account or as otherwise permitted by law.

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To protect your personal information internally, we restrict access to nonpublic personal information about our shareholders to those employees who need to know that information to provide services to our shareholders. We also maintain certain other safeguards to protect your nonpublic personal information.

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

Board Of Directors

Enrique R. Arzac^{1,3,5}

Roger W. Gale^{1,3,4,5}

Phyllis O. Bonanno^{1,2,5}

Kathleen T. McGahran^{1,6}

Kenneth J. Dale^{2,3,4}

Craig R. Smith^{1,2,5}

Frederic A. Escherich^{2,3,4}

Mark E. Stoeckle¹

1. Member of Executive Committee
2. Member of Audit Committee
3. Member of Compensation Committee
4. Member of Retirement Benefits Committee
5. Member of Nominating and Governance Committee
6. Chair of the Board

Officers

Mark E. Stoeckle

Chief Executive Officer

James P. Haynie, CFA

President

Nancy J.F. Prue, CFA

Executive Vice President

Brian S. Hook, CFA, CPA

Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Lawrence L. Hooper, Jr.

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Steven R. Crain, CFA

Vice President Research

Michael E. Rega, CFA

Vice President Research

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David R. Schiminger, CFA
D. Cotton Swindell, CFA
Christine M. Sloan, CPA

Vice President Research
Vice President Research
Assistant Treasurer

The Adams Express Company

Seven St. Paul Street, Suite 1140, Baltimore, MD 21202

(410) 752-5900 (800) 638-2479

Website: www.adamsexpress.com

E-mail: contact@adamsexpress.com

Counsel: Chadbourne & Parke LLP

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Custodian of Securities: Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

Transfer Agent & Registrar: American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC

Stockholder Relations Department

6201 15th Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11219

(877) 260-8188

Website: www.amstock.com

E-mail: info@amstock.com

Item 2. Code of Ethics.

On June 12, 2003, the Board of Directors adopted a code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer. The code of ethics is available on the registrant's website at: www.adamsexpress.com. Since the code of ethics was adopted, there have been no amendments to it nor have any waivers from any of its provisions been granted.

Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert.

The Board of Directors has determined that at least one of the members of the registrant's audit committee meets the definition of audit committee financial expert as that term is defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The director on the registrant's audit committee whom the Board of Directors has determined meets such definition is Kenneth J. Dale, who is independent pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this Item.

Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.

(a) Audit Fees. The aggregate fees for professional services rendered by the registrant's independent registered public accounting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, for the audit of the registrant's annual financial statements and review of the registrant's semi-annual financial statements for 2014 and 2013 were \$75,403 and \$78,935, as adjusted for subsequent billing, respectively.

(b) Audit-Related Fees. There were no audit-related fees in 2014 and 2013.

(c) Tax Fees. The aggregate fees for professional services rendered to the registrant by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the review of the registrant's excise tax calculations and preparations of federal, state, and excise tax returns for 2014 and 2013 were \$9,646 and \$8,581, respectively.

(d) All Other Fees. The aggregate fees for services rendered to the registrant by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, other than for the services referenced above, for 2014 and 2013 were \$4,190 and \$5,477, respectively, which related to the review of the registrant's procedures for calculating the amounts granted and vested for the registrant's employees in accordance with the registrant's cash incentive plan for 2013 and the 2005 Equity Incentive Compensation Plan for 2014 and 2013, review of the registrant's calculations related to those plans, and preparation of a related report to the registrant's Compensation Committee.

(e) (1) The audit committee's policy is to pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the independent accountants. In assessing requests for services by the independent accountants, the audit committee considers whether such services are consistent with the auditor's independence; whether the independent accountants are likely to provide the most effective and efficient service based upon their familiarity with the registrant; and whether the service could enhance the registrant's ability to manage or control risk or improve financial statement audit and review quality. The audit committee may delegate pre-approval authority to its Chair. Any pre-approvals by the Chair under this delegation are to be reported to the audit committee at its next scheduled

meeting. All services performed in 2014 were pre-approved by the audit committee.

(2) Not applicable.

(f) Not applicable.

(g) The aggregate fees for non-audit professional services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to the registrant for 2014 and 2013 were \$13,836 and \$14,058, respectively.

(h) The registrant's audit committee has considered the provision by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP of the non-audit services described above and found that they are compatible with maintaining PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence.

Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed Registrants.

(a) The registrant has a standing audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The members of the Audit Committee are: Kenneth J. Dale, Chair, Phyllis O. Bonanno, Frederic A. Escherich, and Craig R. Smith.

(b) Not applicable.

Item 6. Investments.

(a) This schedule is included as part of the Report to Stockholders filed under Item 1 of this form.

(b) Not applicable.

Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES

The Adams Express Company ("Adams") follows long-standing general guidelines for the voting of portfolio company proxies and takes very seriously its responsibility to vote all such proxies. The portfolio company proxies are evaluated by our research staff and voted by our portfolio management team, and we annually provide the Board of Directors with a report on how proxies were voted during the previous year. We do not use an outside service to assist us in voting our proxies.

As an internally-managed investment company, Adams uses its own staff of research analysts and portfolio managers. In making the decision to invest in a company for the portfolio, among the factors the research team analyses is the integrity and competency of the company's management. We must be satisfied that the companies we invest in are run by managers with integrity. Therefore, having evaluated this aspect of our portfolio companies' managements, we give significant weight to the recommendations of the company's management in voting on proxy issues.

We vote proxies on a case-by-case basis according to what we deem to be the best long-term interests of our shareholders. The key over-riding principle in any proxy vote is that stockholders be treated fairly and equitably by

the portfolio company's management. In general, on the election of directors and on routine issues that we do not believe present the possibility of an adverse impact upon our investment, after reviewing whether applicable corporate governance requirements as to board and committee composition have been met, we will vote in accordance with the recommendations of the company's management. When we believe that the management's recommendation is not in the best interests of our stockholders, we will vote against that recommendation.

Our general guidelines for when we will vote contrary to the recommendation of the portfolio company management's recommendation are:

Stock Options

Our general guideline is to vote against stock option plans that we believe are unduly dilutive of our stock holdings in the company. We use a general guideline that we will vote against any stock option plan that results in dilution in shares outstanding exceeding 4%. Most stock option plans are established to motivate and retain key employees and to reward them for their achievement. An analysis of a stock option plan cannot be made in a vacuum but must be made in the context of the company's overall compensation scheme. In voting on stock option plans, we give consideration to whether the stock option plan is broad-based in the number of employees who are eligible to receive grants under the plan. We generally vote against plans that permit re-pricing of grants or the issuance of options with exercise prices below the grant date value of the company's stock.

Corporate Control/Governance Issues

Unless we conclude that the proposal is favorable to our interests as a long-term shareholder in the company, we have a long-standing policy of voting against proposals to create a staggered board of directors. In conformance with that policy, we will generally vote in favor of shareholder proposals to eliminate the staggered election of directors.

Unless we conclude that the proposal is favorable to our interests as a long-term shareholder in the company, our general policy is to vote against amendments to a company's charter that can be characterized as blatant anti-takeover provisions.

With respect to so-called golden parachutes and other severance packages, it is our general policy to vote against proposals relating to future employment contracts that provide that compensation will be paid to any director, officer or employee that is contingent upon a merger or acquisition of the company.

We generally vote for proposals to require that the majority of a board of directors consist of independent directors and vote against proposals to establish a retirement plan for non-employee directors.

We have found that most stockholder proposals relating to social issues focus on very narrow issues that either fall within the authority of the company's management, under the oversight of its board of directors, to manage the day-to-day operations of the company or concern matters that are more appropriate for global solutions rather than company-specific ones. We consider these proposals on a case-by-case basis but usually are persuaded management's position is reasonable and vote in accordance with management's recommendation on these types of proposals.

Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

- (a) (1) As of the date of this filing, Mark E. Stoeckle, Chief Executive Officer and President, James P. Haynie, Executive Vice President, and D. Cotton Swindell, Executive Vice

President, comprise the three-person portfolio management team for the registrant. Mr. Stoeckle has served as portfolio manager for the registrant since February 11, 2013; prior thereto, he served as Chief Investment Officer, U.S. Equities and Global Sector Funds, for BNP Paribas Investment Partners. Mr. Haynie has been a member of the portfolio management team since August 19, 2013, serving as President until January 16, 2015; prior thereto, Mr. Haynie served as Chief Investment Officer, U.S. Equities and Global Sector Funds, for BNP Paribas Investment Partners from February 2013 and was Senior Portfolio Manager at BNP Paribas Investment Partners from 2005 to 2013. D. Cotton Swindell was elected as Executive Vice President on January 16, 2015 and joined the portfolio management team; prior thereto, Mr. Swindell served as Vice President-Research for the registrant from 2004 and a research analyst for the registrant from 2002 to 2004. Mr. Stoeckle is the lead member of the portfolio management team. Messrs. Stoeckle, Haynie and Swindell receive investment recommendations from a team of research analysts and make decisions jointly about any investment transactions in the portfolio.

(2) As of the date of this filing, Messrs. Stoeckle and Haynie also serve on the portfolio management team for the registrant's non-controlled affiliate, Petroleum & Resources Corporation (Petroleum), a registered investment company with total net assets of \$754,505,739 as of December 31, 2014. Mr. Stoeckle is Chief Executive Officer of Petroleum and Mr. Haynie is President. Petroleum is a non-diversified fund specializing in the energy and natural resources sectors and the registrant is a diversified fund with a different focus. There are few material conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with the portfolio management of both funds. The funds do not buy or sell securities or other portfolio holdings to or from the other, and policies and procedures are in place covering the sharing of expenses and the allocation of investment opportunities, including bunched orders and investments in initial public offerings, between the funds.

(3) As of December 31, 2014, the registrant's portfolio managers are compensated through a three-component plan, consisting of salary, annual cash incentive compensation, and annual equity incentive compensation. The aggregate compensation and value of each component in any year is determined by the Compensation Committee, comprised solely of independent director members of the Board of Directors ("Committee"). The Committee has periodically employed a compensation consultant to review the plan and its components. The structure and methods used to determine the compensation of the Portfolio Managers were as follows: Salaries are determined by

using appropriate industry surveys and information about the local market. Incentive compensation is based on a combination of relative fund performance of the registrant and Petroleum, with 70% weighting, and individual performance, with a 30% weighting. Target incentives are set annually based on aggregate compensation less salary for each position. Fund performance used in determining incentive compensation is measured over a one-year period, accounting for one-fourth of the calculation, a three-year period, which accounts for one-half, and a five-year period, which accounts for one-fourth. The registrant's total return on net asset value ("NAV") over each of these periods is used to determine performance relative to a 50/50 blend of the S&P 500 Index and Lipper Large-Cap Core peer group. Using these calculations, the incentive compensation can be less than or exceed the established target and is divided between cash and equity.

Equity incentive compensation, based on a plan approved by shareholders in 2005 and reapproved in 2010, can take several forms. During 2014, grants of the registrant's restricted stock were made to Messrs. Stoeckle, Haynie and Swindell on January 9, 2014, which vest three years after grant date.

As of December 31, 2014, the structure of the compensation that the portfolio managers receive from Petroleum is the same as that for the registrant with the exception that the portfolio managers' incentive compensation is based on a comparison with the performance of an 80/20 blend of the Dow Jones U.S. Oil and Gas Index and the Dow Jones U.S. Basic Materials Index.

(4) Using a valuation date of December 31, 2014, Messrs. Stoeckle and Haynie each beneficially owned equity securities in the registrant valued between \$500,001 and \$1,000,000. Mr. Swindell beneficially owned equity securities in the registrant valued between \$100,001 and \$500,000.

(b) Not applicable.

Item 9. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.

| Total Number of Shares (or Units Purchased) | Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit) | Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number of Shares (or Units) That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42,000 | \$12.82 | 42,000 | 4,565,443 |

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| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| January 2014 | | | | |
| February 2014 | 54,600 | \$12.68 | 54,600 | 4,510,843 |
| March 2014 | 94,200 | \$13.00 | 94,200 | 4,416,643 |
| April 2014 | 59,400 | \$13.02 | 59,400 | 4,357,243 |
| May 2014 | 113,400 | \$13.28 | 113,400 | 4,243,843 |
| June 2014 | 102,600 | \$13.68 | 102,600 | 4,141,243 |
| July 2014 | 59,400 | \$13.90 | 59,400 | 4,081,843 |
| August 2014 | 113,400 | \$13.87 | 113,400 | 3,968,443 |
| September 2014 | 102,600 | \$14.13 | 102,600 | 3,865,843 |
| October 2014 | 90,000 | \$13.88 | 90,000 | 3,775,843 |
| November 2014 | 60,000 | \$14.41 | 60,000 | 3,715,843 |
| December 2014 | 120,000 | \$13.71 | 120,000 | 4,569,500(2c) |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | |
| Total | 1,011,600(1) | \$13.59 | 1,011,600(2a)(2b) | |

(1) There were no shares purchased other than through a publicly announced plan or program.

(2.a) The Plan was announced on November 15, 2013.

(2.b) The share amount approved in 2013 was 5% of outstanding shares, or 4,607,443 shares.

(2.c) The Plan was set to expire on December 31, 2014, but was extended by the Board on December 11, 2014, authorizing purchases of up to 5% of the outstanding shares, or approximately 4,667,000 shares.

(2.d) None.

(2.e) None.

Item 10. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

There were no material changes to the procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Directors made or implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 407(c)(2)(iv) of Regulation S-K (as required by Item 22(b)(15) of Schedule 14A), or this Item.

Item 11. 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 30a-3(d) under the Investment Company Act of 1940) that occurred during the registrant's second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 12. Exhibits.

- (a) (1) Not applicable. See registrant's response to Item 2 above.
- (2) Separate certifications by the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached.
- (3) Written solicitation to purchase securities: not applicable.

(b) A certification by the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and required by Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, is attached.

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/ Mark E. Stoeckle
Mark E. Stoeckle
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: February 27, 2015

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/ Mark E. Stoeckle
Mark E. Stoeckle
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: February 27, 2015

By: /s/ Brian S. Hook
Brian S. Hook
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: February 27, 2015