

ADAMS EXPRESS CO  
Form N-Q  
October 21, 2011

**FORM N-Q**

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT  
INVESTMENT COMPANY**

**Investment Company Act file number: 811-00248**

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**THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY**

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

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

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(Address of principal executive offices)

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

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(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: September 30, 2011**

**Item 1. Schedule of Investments.**

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September 30, 2011

(unaudited)

|                                       | Shares    | Value (A)    |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>Stocks 96.2%</b>                   |           |              |
| <b>Consumer 21.5%</b>                 |           |              |
| <b>Consumer Discretionary 10.5%</b>   |           |              |
| BorgWarner, Inc. (C)                  | 150,000   | \$ 9,079,500 |
| Columbia Sportswear Co. (B)           | 200,000   | 9,280,000    |
| Lowe's Companies, Inc.                | 600,000   | 11,604,000   |
| Marriott International Inc. (Class A) | 300,000   | 8,172,000    |
| McDonald's Corp.                      | 240,000   | 21,076,800   |
| Newell Rubbermaid Inc.                | 400,000   | 4,748,000    |
| Ryland Group, Inc. (B)                | 613,500   | 6,533,775    |
| Target Corp.                          | 320,000   | 15,692,800   |
| Walt Disney Co.                       | 480,000   | 14,476,800   |
|                                       |           | 100,663,675  |
| <b>Consumer Staples 11.0%</b>         |           |              |
| Avon Products, Inc.                   | 359,600   | 7,048,160    |
| Bunge Ltd.                            | 155,000   | 9,034,950    |
| Coca-Cola Co.                         | 200,000   | 13,512,000   |
| CVS/Caremark Corp.                    | 295,000   | 9,906,100    |
| PepsiCo, Inc. (G)                     | 300,000   | 18,570,000   |
| Philip Morris International Inc.      | 140,000   | 8,733,200    |
| Procter & Gamble Co.                  | 280,000   | 17,690,400   |
| Safeway Inc.                          | 340,000   | 5,654,200    |
| Unilever plc ADR (B)                  | 480,000   | 14,971,200   |
|                                       |           | 105,120,210  |
| <b>Energy 11.4%</b>                   |           |              |
| Chevron Corp.                         | 200,000   | 18,504,000   |
| CONSOL Energy Inc.                    | 73,700    | 2,500,641    |
| Exxon Mobil Corp. (G)                 | 115,000   | 8,352,450    |
| Halliburton Co.                       | 150,000   | 4,578,000    |
| National Oilwell Varco, Inc. (F)      | 100,000   | 5,122,000    |
| Peabody Energy Corp.                  | 44,400    | 1,504,272    |
| Petroleum & Resources Corporation (D) | 2,186,774 | 49,464,828   |
| Schlumberger Ltd.                     | 80,000    | 4,778,400    |
| Spectra Energy Corp.                  | 405,780   | 9,953,783    |
| Transocean Ltd. (C)                   | 95,000    | 4,535,300    |
|                                       |           | 109,293,674  |
| <b>Financials 12.0%</b>               |           |              |
| <b>Banks 2.7%</b>                     |           |              |
| PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.    | 225,000   | 10,842,750   |
| Wells Fargo & Co.                     | 635,000   | 15,316,200   |
|                                       |           | 26,158,950   |
| <b>Diversified Financials 6.9%</b>    |           |              |

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|                               |           |            |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| American Express Co.          | 135,000   | 6,061,500  |
| Bank of America Corp.         | 1,385,000 | 8,476,200  |
| Bank of New York Mellon Corp. | 403,775   | 7,506,177  |
| Capital One Financial Corp.   | 240,000   | 9,511,200  |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co.          | 560,000   | 16,867,200 |
| Morgan Stanley                | 300,000   | 4,050,000  |
| T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.     | 275,000   | 13,136,750 |

65,609,027

**Insurance 2.4%**

|                            |         |            |
|----------------------------|---------|------------|
| ACE Ltd.                   | 140,000 | 8,484,000  |
| Prudential Financial, Inc. | 310,000 | 14,526,600 |

23,010,600

**Health Care 13.4%**

|   |           |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Abbott Laboratories                     | 200,000   | 10,228,000 |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.                | 159,061   | 4,991,334  |
| Celgene Corp. (C)                       | 200,000   | 12,384,000 |
| Gilead Sciences, Inc. (C)               | 250,000   | 9,700,000  |
| Hospira, Inc. (C)                       | 175,000   | 6,475,000  |
| Johnson & Johnson                       | 255,000   | 16,246,050 |
| Life Technologies Corp. (C)             | 200,000   | 7,686,000  |
| Medtronic, Inc.                         | 350,000   | 11,634,000 |
| Pfizer Inc.                             | 800,000   | 14,144,000 |
| Senomyx, Inc. (C)                       | 1,284,400 | 4,508,244  |
| Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. ADR | 330,000   | 12,282,600 |
| UnitedHealth Group Inc.                 | 227,500   | 10,492,300 |
| Zimmer Holdings, Inc. (C)               | 150,000   | 8,025,000  |

128,796,528

**Industrials 10.2%**

|  |         |            |
|--|---------|------------|
| Caterpillar Inc.                               | 200,000 | 14,768,000 |
| Curtiss-Wright Corp.                           | 94,941  | 2,737,149  |
| Emerson Electric Co.                           | 100,000 | 4,131,000  |
| FedEx Corp.                                    | 135,000 | 9,136,800  |
| General Electric Co.                           | 490,000 | 7,467,600  |
| Goodrich Corp.                                 | 100,000 | 12,068,000 |
| Honeywell International Inc.                   | 240,000 | 10,538,400 |
| Masco Corp.                                    | 825,000 | 5,874,000  |
| Norfolk Southern Corp.                         | 200,000 | 12,204,000 |
| Spirit AeroSystems Holdings Inc. (Class A) (C) | 500,000 | 7,975,000  |
| United Rentals, Inc. (B)(C)                    | 215,300 | 3,625,652  |
| United Technologies Corp.                      | 105,000 | 7,387,800  |

97,913,401

**Information Technology 21.2%**

**Semiconductors 2.5%**

|                    |         |            |
|--------------------|---------|------------|
| Broadcom Corp. (C) | 200,000 | 6,658,000  |
| Intel Corp.        | 790,000 | 16,850,700 |

23,508,700

**Software & Services 8.7%**

|  |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Automatic Data Processing, Inc.                    | 267,900   | 12,631,485 |
| Cognizant Technology Solutions Group (Class A) (C) | 150,000   | 9,405,000  |
| Google Inc. (Class A) (C)(F)                       | 30,000    | 15,431,400 |
| Microsoft Corp.                                    | 700,000   | 17,423,000 |
| Oracle Corp.                                       | 1,000,000 | 28,740,000 |

83,630,885

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**Technology Hardware & Equipment 10.0%**

|                          |         |            |
|--------------------------|---------|------------|
| ADTRAN, Inc.             | 318,400 | 8,424,864  |
| Apple Inc. (C)(F)        | 95,000  | 36,212,100 |
| Cisco Systems, Inc.      | 850,000 | 13,166,500 |
| F5 Networks, Inc. (C)(F) | 85,000  | 6,039,250  |
| Hewlett-Packard Co.      | 300,000 | 6,735,000  |
| NetApp, Inc. (C)         | 300,000 | 10,182,000 |
| QUALCOMM Inc.            | 300,000 | 14,589,000 |
|                          |         | 95,348,714 |

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

September 30, 2011

(unaudited)

|   | Principal/<br>Shares | Value (A)    |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Materials 4.4%</b>   |                      |              |
| Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.                                    | 35,000               | \$ 2,672,950 |
| CF Industries Holdings, Inc. (F)                                    | 31,531               | 3,890,610    |
| Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. (F)                                   | 81,000               | 4,144,770    |
| Dow Chemical Co.  | 360,000              | 8,085,600    |
| Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.                                 | 227,700              | 6,933,465    |
| Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. (F)                         | 156,100              | 6,746,642    |
| Praxair, Inc. (F)   | 67,500               | 6,309,900    |
| Teck Resources Ltd. (Class B)                                       | 100,000              | 2,919,000    |
|   |                      | 41,702,937   |
| <b>Utilities 2.1%</b>   |                      |              |
| MDU Resources Group, Inc.   | 442,600              | 8,493,494    |
| Northeast Utilities   | 350,000              | 11,777,500   |
|   |                      | 20,270,994   |
| <b>Total Common Stocks</b> (Cost \$960,889,318)                     |                      | 921,028,295  |
| <b>Short-Term Investments 2.7%</b>                                  |                      |              |
| <b>Time Deposits 2.7%</b>   |                      |              |
| Citibank, 0.03%, due 10/3/11  | \$ 6,157,702         | 6,157,702    |
| M&T Bank, 0.90%   | \$ 20,000,000        | 20,000,000   |
|   |                      | 26,157,702   |
| <b>Money Market Funds 0.0%</b>                                      |                      |              |
| Fidelity Institutional Money Market Government Portfolio, 0.01% (E) | 10,000               | 10,000       |
| RBC U.S. Government Money Market (Institutional Class I), 0.01% (E) | 10,000               | 10,000       |

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|  |            |                |
|--|------------|----------------|
| Vanguard Federal Money Market, 0.01% (E)   | 10,000     | 10,000         |
| Western Asset Institutional Government Reserves (Institutional Class), 0.02% (E)             | 10,000     | 10,000         |
|  |            | 40,000         |
| <b>Total Short-Term Investments</b><br>(Cost \$26,197,702)                                   |            | 26,197,702     |
| <b>Securities Lending Collateral 1.3%</b><br>(Cost \$12,210,186)                             |            |                |
| <b>Money Market Funds 1.3%</b>   |            |                |
| Invesco Short-Term Investment Trust Liquid Assets Portfolio (Institutional Class), 0.11% (E) | 12,210,186 | 12,210,186     |
| <b>Total Investments 100.2%</b><br>(Cost \$999,297,206)                                      |            | 959,436,183    |
| Cash, receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets, less liabilities (0.2%)                |            | (2,425,759)    |
| <b>Net Assets 100.0%</b>   |            | \$ 957,010,424 |

Notes:

- (A) Securities 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.
- (B) A portion of shares held are on loan.
- (C) Presently non-dividend paying.
- (D) Non-controlled affiliate, a closed-end sector fund, registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- (E) Rate presented is as of period-end and represents the annualized yield earned over the previous seven days.
- (F) All or a portion of this security is pledged to cover open written call option contracts. Aggregate market value of such pledged securities is \$13,154,593.
- (G) All or a portion of this security is pledged to collateralize open written put option contracts with an aggregate market value to deliver upon exercise of \$13,200,000.

See accompanying notes.

**SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING WRITTEN OPTION CONTRACTS**

September 30, 2011

(unaudited)

| Contracts<br>(100 shares<br>each) | Security   | Strike<br>Price | Contract<br>Expiration<br>Date | Value       |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>COVERED CALLS</b>              |            |                 |                                |             |
| 100                               | Apple Inc. | \$500           | Nov 11                         | \$ (11,900) |

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|       |   |       |        |          |
|-------|---|-------|--------|----------|
| 100   | CF Industries Holdings, Inc.            | 200   | Nov 11 | (1,500)  |
| 124   | CF Industries Holdings, Inc.            | 230   | Jan 12 | (2,232)  |
| 260   | Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.           | 110   | Oct 11 | (1,300)  |
| 212   | Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.           | 110   | Jan 12 | (1,696)  |
| 200   | F5 Networks, Inc.                       | 140   | Oct 11 | (1,800)  |
| 50    | Google Inc.                             | 690   | Dec 11 | (9,500)  |
| 100   | National Oilwell Varco, Inc.            | 100   | Nov 11 | (500)    |
| 173   | Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. | 73.33 | Jan 12 | (1,038)  |
| 67    | Praxair, Inc.                           | 115   | Oct 11 | (670)    |
| 1,386 |   |       |        | (32,136) |

**COLLATERALIZED PUTS**

|       |                                  |       |        |             |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|
| 50    | Apple Inc.                       | 350   | Oct 11 | \$ (35,500) |
| 50    | Apple Inc.                       | 340   | Nov 11 | (54,500)    |
| 200   | Celgene Corp.                    | 50    | Oct 11 | (6,000)     |
| 66    | CF Industries Holdings, Inc.     | 140   | Nov 11 | (153,120)   |
| 124   | CF Industries Holdings, Inc.     | 115   | Jan 12 | (172,360)   |
| 234   | Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.    | 60    | Jan 12 | (329,940)   |
| 375   | Dow Chemical Co.                 | 30    | Dec 11 | (298,125)   |
| 100   | National Oilwell Varco, Inc.     | 62.50 | Nov 11 | (126,000)   |
| 100   | Philip Morris International Inc. | 62.50 | Oct 11 | (21,000)    |
| 100   | Philip Morris International Inc. | 65    | Oct 11 | (35,500)    |
| 157   | Praxair, Inc.                    | 85    | Oct 11 | (23,550)    |
| 67    | Praxair, Inc.                    | 95    | Oct 11 | (30,820)    |
| 1,623 |                                  |       |        | (1,286,415) |

Total Market Value (Premiums received \$576,452)

\$ (1,318,551)

See accompanying notes.

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

### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Adams Express Company (the "Company") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a diversified investment company. The Company is an internally-managed closed-end fund.

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

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

**Security Valuation** - The Company'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 a national security exchange

are valued at the last reported sale price on the day of valuation. Over-the-counter and listed securities for which a sale price is not available are valued at the last quoted bid price. Short-term investments (excluding purchased options and money market funds) are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. Purchased and written options are valued at the last quoted bid and asked price, respectively. Money market funds are valued at net asset value on the day of valuation.

Various inputs are used to determine the fair value of the Company'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,
- **Level 2** -- fair value is determined using other assumptions obtained from independent sources; for example, quoted prices for similar investments,
- **Level 3** -- fair value is determined using the Company's own assumptions, developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The Company's investments at September 30, 2011 were classified as follows:

|                               | Level 1       | Level 2      | Level 3 | Total         |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| Common stocks                 | \$921,028,295 | \$--         | \$--    | \$921,028,295 |
| Short-term investments        | 40,000        | 26,157,702   | --      | 26,197,702    |
| Securities lending collateral | 12,210,186    | --           | --      | 12,210,186    |
| <br>                          |               |              |         |               |
| Total investments             | \$933,278,481 | \$26,157,702 | \$--    | \$959,436,183 |
| <br>                          |               |              |         |               |
| Written options               | \$(1,318,551) | \$--         | \$--    | \$(1,318,551) |

There were no transfers into or from Level 1 or Level 2 during the quarter ended September 30, 2011.

## 2. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

For federal income tax purposes, the identified cost of securities at September 30, 2011 was \$1,004,321,447 and net unrealized depreciation aggregated \$(44,885,264), of which the related gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation were \$154,526,809 and \$(199,412,073), respectively.

## 3. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

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

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

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

#### **4. PORTFOLIO SECURITIES LOANED**

The Company makes loans of securities to approved brokers to earn additional income. It receives as collateral cash deposits, U.S. Government securities, or bank letters of credit valued at 102% of the value of the securities on loan. The market value of the loaned securities is calculated based upon the most recent closing prices and any additional required collateral is delivered to the Company on the next business day. Cash deposits are placed in a registered money market fund. The Company accounts for securities lending transactions as secured financing and receives compensation in the form of fees or retains a portion of interest on the investment of any cash received as collateral. The Company also continues to receive interest or dividends on the securities loaned. Gain or loss in the fair value of the securities loaned that may occur during the term of the loan will be for the account of the Company. At September 30, 2011, the Company had outstanding securities on loan of \$11,552,625 and held cash collateral of \$12,210,186. The Company is indemnified by the Custodian, serving as lending agent, for loss of loaned securities and has the right under the lending agreement to recover the securities from the borrower on demand.

#### **Item 2. Controls and Procedures.**

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

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

#### **Item 3. Exhibits.**

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

### **SIGNATURES**

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

The Adams Express Company

By: /s/ Douglas G. Ober



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Douglas G. Ober  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: October 20, 2011

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

By: /s/ Douglas G. Ober  
Douglas G. Ober  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: October 20, 2011

By: /s/ Brian S. Hook  
Brian S. Hook  
Treasurer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: October 20, 2011