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ADAMS EXPRESS CO  
Form N-Q  
April 27, 2006

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

FORM N-Q

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF  
REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY

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

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

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

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

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

Date of fiscal year end: December 31, 2006

Date of reporting period: March 31, 2006

Item 1: SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

-----  
March 31, 2006  
(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (A)
	-----	-----
Stocks and Convertible Securities -- 98.1%		
Consumer -- 17.0%		
Consumer Discretionary -- 6.8%		
BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. (B)	500,000	\$ 15,755,000
Clear Channel Communications, Inc.	350,000	10,153,500

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Comcast Corp. (B)	365,000	9,548,400
Gannett Co., Inc.	112,500	6,741,000
Newell Rubbermaid Inc.	515,000	12,972,850
Outback Steakhouse, Inc.	315,000	13,860,000
Target Corp.	410,000	21,324,100
		-----
		90,354,850
		-----
Consumer Staples -- 10.2%		
Avon Products, Inc.	420,000	13,091,400
Bunge Ltd.	235,000	13,091,850
Coca-Cola Co.	200,000	8,374,000
Dean Foods Co. (B)	450,000	17,473,500
Del Monte Foods Co.	1,115,000	13,223,900
PepsiCo, Inc.	440,000	25,427,600
Procter & Gamble Co.	340,000	19,590,800
Safeway Inc.	423,000	10,625,760
Unilever plc ADR	345,000	14,169,150
		-----
		135,067,960
		-----
Energy -- 11.5%		
BP plc ADR	270,000	18,613,800
ConocoPhillips	345,000	21,786,750
Exxon Mobil Corp.	130,000	7,911,800
Marathon Oil Co.	110,000	8,378,700
Murphy Oil Corp.	90,000	4,483,800
Petroleum & Resources Corporation (C)	1,985,996	65,935,067
Schlumberger Ltd.	190,000	24,048,300
		-----
		151,158,217
		-----
Financials -- 17.0%		
Banking -- 12.7%		
Bank of America Corp.	550,000	25,047,000
BankAtlantic Bancorp, Inc.	750,000	10,792,500
Compass Bancshares Inc.	300,000	15,183,000
Fifth Third Bancorp	280,000	11,020,800
Investors Financial Services Corp.	382,500	17,927,775
Morgan Stanley	175,000	10,993,500
North Fork Bancorp, Inc.	525,000	15,135,750
Wachovia Corp.	395,000	22,139,750
Wells Fargo & Co.	325,000	20,757,750
Wilmington Trust Corp.	420,000	18,207,000
		-----
		167,204,825
		-----
Insurance -- 4.3%		
AMBAC Financial Group, Inc.	295,000	23,482,000
American International Group, Inc.	500,000	33,045,000
		-----
		56,527,000
		-----
	Shares	Value (A)
	-----	-----

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Health Care -- 13.0%		
Abbott Laboratories	350,000	\$ 14,864,500
Advanced Medical Optics, Inc. (B)	300,000	13,992,000
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.	345,000	8,490,450
Genentech, Inc. (B)	220,000	18,592,200
HCA Inc.	250,000	11,447,500
Johnson & Johnson Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings (B)	255,000	15,101,100
	225,000	13,158,000
MedImmune, Inc. (B)	225,000	8,230,500
Medtronic, Inc.	310,000	15,732,500
Pfizer Inc.	1,120,000	27,910,400
Wyeth Co.	325,000	15,769,000
Zimmer Holdings, Inc. (B)	125,000	8,450,000
		-----
		171,738,150
		-----
Industrials -- 13.1%		
Cintas Corp.	300,000	12,786,000
Curtiss-Wright Corp.	230,000	15,226,000
Donnelley (R.R.) & Sons Co.	260,000	8,507,200
Emerson Electric Co.	200,000	16,726,000
General Electric Co.	1,487,700	51,742,206
Illinois Tool Works Inc. (D)	125,000	12,038,750
Masco Corp.	450,000	14,620,500
3M Co.	160,000	12,110,400
United Parcel Service, Inc.	155,000	12,303,900
United Technologies Corp.	300,000	17,391,000
		-----
		173,451,956
		-----
Information Technology -- 13.3%		
Communication Equipment -- 2.2%		
Avaya Inc. (B)	600,000	6,780,000
Corning Inc. (B)	500,000	13,455,000
Lucent Technologies Inc. (B)	2,900,000	8,845,000
		-----
		29,080,000
		-----
Computer Related -- 9.2%		
Automatic Data Processing Inc.	300,000	13,704,000
BEA Systems, Inc. (B)	800,000	10,504,000
Cisco Systems, Inc. (B)	1,200,000	26,004,000
Dell Inc. (B)	400,000	11,904,000
Microsoft Corp.	1,180,000	32,107,800
Oracle Corp. (B)	1,356,001	18,563,654
Sapient Corp. (B)	1,150,000	8,774,500
		-----
		121,561,954
		-----
Electronics -- 1.9%		
Cree, Inc. (B) (D)	375,000	12,303,750
Intel Corp.	310,000	5,998,500
Solelectron Corp. (B)	1,850,000	7,400,000
		-----
		25,702,250
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SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

March 31, 2006  
(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (A)
Materials -- 5.9%		
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.	250,000	\$ 16,797,500
du Pont (E.I.) de Nemours and Co.	360,000	15,195,600
Florida Rock Industries Inc.	150,000	8,433,000
Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.	83,000	8,883,490
Rohm & Haas Co.	400,000	19,548,000
Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. (B)	650,000	8,820,500
		77,678,090
Telecom Services -- 2.7%		
Alltel Corp.	300,000	19,425,000
AT&T Corp.	595,000	16,088,800
		35,513,800
Utilities -- 4.6%		
Aqua America, Inc.	800,000	22,256,000
Black Hills Corp.	245,000	8,330,000
Duke Energy Corp.	611,560	17,826,974
MDU Resources Group, Inc.	375,000	12,543,750
		60,956,724
Total Stocks and Convertible Securities (Cost \$922,750,861) (E)		\$1,295,995,776

	Prin. Amt.	Value (A)
Short-Term Investments -- 1.8%		
U.S. Government Obligations -- 1.4%		
U.S. Treasury Bills, 4.40%, due 5/18/06	\$18,500,000	\$ 18,393,613
Time Deposit -- 0.0%		
Citibank, N.A., 4.15%, due 4/3/06		493,011
Commercial Paper -- 0.4%		
AIG Funding Inc., 4.74%, due 4/6/06	1,000,000	999,342
Chevron Funding Corp., 4.71%, due 4/13/06	1,000,000	998,430
General Electric Capital		

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Corp., 4.72%, due 4/4/06	1,600,000	1,599,371
Toyota Motor Credit Corp., 4.74%, due 4/11/06	1,000,000	998,683
		-----
		4,595,826
		-----
Total Short-Term Investments (Cost \$23,482,450)		23,482,450
		-----
Securities Lending Collateral -- 1.5% Brown Brothers Investment Trust, 4.67%, due 4/3/06		19,229,896
		-----
Total Securities Lending Collateral (Cost \$19,229,896)		19,229,896
		-----
Total Investments -- 101.4% (Cost \$965,463,207)		1,338,708,122
Cash, receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets, less liabilities -- (1.4)%		(18,197,006)
		-----
Net Assets -- 100%		\$1,320,511,116
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Notes:

- (A) See note 1 to financial statements. Securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange or the NASDAQ.
- (B) Presently non-dividend paying.
- (C) Non-controlled affiliate, a closed-end sector fund, registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- (D) Some or all of these securities are on loan. See note 8 to financial statements.
- (E) The aggregate market value of stocks held in escrow at March 31, 2006 covering open call option contracts written was \$22,374,100. In addition, the aggregate market value of securities segregated by the Company's custodian required to collateralize open put option contracts written was \$15,682,000.

SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING OPTION CONTRACTS

March 31, 2006  
(unaudited)

Contracts (100 shares each)	Security	Strike Price	Contract Expiration Date	Appreciation/ Depreciation)
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COVERED CALLS				
100	Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.....	\$50	Jul 06	\$ (1,800)
100	Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.....	70	Sep 06	(11,801)
200	AMBAC Financial Group, Inc.....	85	Aug 06	2,398

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250	Aqua America, Inc.....	30	Jun	06	8,264
100	Avon Products, Inc.....	35	Oct	06	(1,300)
150	Bunge Ltd.....	65	Jul	06	18,299
100	Bunge Ltd.....	70	Jul	06	12,725
150	ConocoPhillips.....	75	May	06	13,799
200	Corning Inc.....	30	Aug	06	(9,600)
100	Cree, Inc.....	35	Apr	06	1,199
100	Cree, Inc.....	35	Jun	06	(1,300)
150	Cree, Inc.....	40	Sep	06	(450)
100	Emerson Electric Co.....	85	Jun	06	(12,800)
100	Emerson Electric Co.....	95	Sep	06	(38,300)
100	Genentech, Inc.....	100	Jun	06	3,699
150	HCA Inc.....	55	Aug	06	12,299
100	Illinois Tool Works Inc.....	100	Jun	06	(8,301)
100	Illinois Tool Works Inc.....	100	Sep	06	(28,050)
100	Illinois Tool Works Inc.....	105	Sep	06	(10,800)
150	Investors Financial Services Corp...	45	Jul	06	(56,240)
100	Investors Financial Services Corp...	50	Jul	06	(1,301)
100	Investors Financial Services Corp...	55	Oct	06	(8,175)
150	Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings	60	May	06	(9,125)
100	Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings	65	Aug	06	(3,300)
100	MedImmune, Inc.....	42.50	Jun	06	5,199
100	Murphy Oil Corp.....	50	Apr	06	2,200
100	Murphy Oil Corp.....	55	Jul	06	(800)
150	Outback Steakhouse, Inc.....	50	Aug	06	6,299
250	Rohm & Haas Co.....	55	Jul	06	17,024
250	Target Corp.....	65	Apr	06	24,248
150	United Technologies Corp.....	65	Aug	06	8,399

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4,150  
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COLLATERALIZED PUTS

20	Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.....	35	Apr	06	2,040
200	Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.....	40	Apr	06	30,398
170	Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.....	35	Jul	06	11,739
250	Automatic Data Processing Inc.....	42.50	Aug	06	10,499
250	Avon Products, Inc.....	25	Jul	06	16,749
250	Bunge Ltd.....	45	Jul	06	14,249
150	Exxon Mobil Corp.....	52.50	Oct	06	2,549
100	Fifth Third Bancorp.....	35	May	06	8,700
100	Florida Rock Industries Inc.....	50	Jun	06	1,200
100	Florida Rock Industries Inc.....	45	Sep	06	(2,300)
100	Marathon Oil Corp.....	65	Apr	06	10,700
65	Marathon Oil Corp.....	70	May	06	(845)
100	Marathon Oil Corp.....	60	Jul	06	7,700
100	Marathon Oil Corp.....	65	Jul	06	14,199
100	Marathon Oil Corp.....	55	Oct	06	5,700
100	Morgan Stanley.....	60	May	06	3,200
100	Morgan Stanley.....	55	Jul	06	6,700
100	North Fork Bancorp, Inc.....	25	May	06	7,700
100	Procter & Gamble Co.....	55	Oct	06	(5,800)
100	Target Corp.....	47.50	Apr	06	11,699
200	3M Co.....	65	Jul	06	12,399
250	Wachovia Corp.....	47.50	Jul	06	17,999
250	Zimmer Holdings, Inc.....	60	Jun	06	14,249

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3,255  
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\$134,031  
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(SELECTED) NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)  
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The Adams Express Company (the Company) is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a diversified investment company. The Company's investment objectives as well as the nature and risk of its investment transactions are set forth in the Company's registration statement.

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

For federal income tax purposes, the identified cost of securities at March 31, 2006 was \$964,975,956 and net unrealized appreciation aggregated \$373,732,166, of which the related gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation were \$455,814,243 and \$82,082,077 respectively.

#### 8. PORTFOLIO SECURITIES LOANED

The Company makes loans of securities to brokers, secured by cash deposits, U.S. Government securities, or bank letters of credit. The Company accounts for securities lending transactions as secured financing and receives compensation in the form of fees or retains a portion of interest on the investment of any cash received as collateral. The Company also continues to receive interest or dividends on the securities loaned. The loans are secured at all times by collateral of at least 102% of the fair value of the securities loaned plus accrued interest. Gain or loss in the fair value of the securities loaned that may occur during the term of the loan will be for the account of the Company. At March 31, 2006, the Company had securities on loan of \$18,768,540 and held collateral of \$19,229,896, consisting of an investment trust fund which may invest in money market instruments, commercial paper, repurchase agreements, U.S. Treasury Bills, and U.S. agency obligations.

#### Item 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Conclusions of principal officers concerning controls and procedures:

(a) As of April 21, 2006, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the officers of The Adams Express Company (the "Company"), including the principal executive officer ("PEO") and principal financial officer ("PFO"), of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, the Company's officers, including the PEO and PFO, concluded that, as of April 21, 2006, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were reasonably designed

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so as to ensure: (1) that information required to be disclosed by the Company on Form N-Q is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (2) that material information relating to the Company is made known to the PEO and PFO as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

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

Item 3. EXHIBITS.

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

SIGNATURES

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

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

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

Date: April 27, 2006

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

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

Date: April 27, 2006

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



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Date: April 27, 2006