

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

Board of Directors

Enrique R. Arzac ^{2,3}	Roger W. Gale ^{2,4}
Phyllis O. Bonanno ^{3,4}	Thomas H. Lenagh ^{2,4}
Kenneth J. Dale ^{2,4}	Kathleen T. McGahran ^{1,3,5}
Daniel E. Emerson ^{1,3,5}	Douglas G. Ober ¹
Frederic A. Escherich ^{1,4,5}	Craig R. Smith ^{1,3,5}

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

Officers

Douglas G. Ober, CFA	<i>Chairman and Chief Executive Officer</i>
David D. Weaver, CFA	<i>President</i>
Nancy J. F. Prue, CFA	<i>Executive Vice President</i>
Lawrence L. Hooper, Jr.	<i>Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary</i>
Richard A. Church	<i>Vice President—Research</i>
David R. Schiminger, CFA	<i>Vice President—Research</i>
D. Cotton Swindell, CFA	<i>Vice President—Research</i>
Brian S. Hook, CFA, CPA	<i>Treasurer</i>
Christine M. Sloan, CPA	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Geraldine H. Paré	<i>Assistant Secretary</i>

Stock Data

Market Price (9/30/11)	\$ 9.21
Net Asset Value (9/30/11)	\$10.76
Discount:	14.4%

New York Stock Exchange ticker symbol: ADX
NASDAQ Quotation Symbol for NAV: XADEX

Distributions in 2011

From Investment Income	\$0.13
From Net Realized Gains	<u>0.02</u>
Total	<u>\$0.15</u>

2011 Dividend Payment Dates

March 1, 2011
June 1, 2011
September 1, 2011
December 27, 2011*

*Anticipated

GENERATION AFTER GENERATION –
WE GROW WITH YOU.™



THIRD QUARTER REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011



LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS

We submit herewith the summary financial information of The Adams Express Company (the Company) for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Net assets of the Company at September 30, 2011 were \$10.76 per share on 88,924,926 shares outstanding, compared with \$12.65 per share at December 31, 2010 on 88,885,186 shares outstanding. On March 1, 2011, a distribution of \$0.05 per share was paid, consisting of \$0.02 from 2010 investment income, \$0.01 from 2010 short-term capital gain, \$0.01 from 2010 long-term capital gain, and \$0.01 from 2011 investment income, all taxable in 2011. A 2011 investment income dividend of \$0.05 per share was paid June 1, 2011, and another \$0.05 per share investment income dividend was paid September 1, 2011.

Net investment income for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 amounted to \$9,486,010, compared with \$9,045,923 for the same nine month period in 2010. These earnings are equal to \$0.11 and \$0.10 per share, respectively.

Net capital gain realized on investments for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 amounted to \$35,610,153, or \$0.40 per share.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the total return on the net asset value (with dividends and capital gains reinvested) of the Company's shares was (13.8)%. The total return on the market price of the Company's shares for the period was (12.9)%. These compare to a (8.7)% total return for the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Index ("S&P 500") and a (10.6)% total return for the Lipper Large-Cap Core Mutual Funds Average over the same time period.

For the twelve months ended September 30, 2011, the Company's total return on net asset value was (4.2)% and on market price was (3.0)%. Comparable figures for the S&P 500 and the Lipper Large-Cap Core Mutual Fund Average were 1.1% and (1.5)%, respectively.

As announced on September 8, 2011, the Company has committed to distribute annually to its stockholders a per share amount equal to 6% of the average month-end market price of the Company's Common Stock on the NYSE for the twelve months ended October 31. This commitment recognizes our history of distributions to stockholders and makes clear our future intentions. More details on the distribution commitment may be found on the Company's website at www.adamsexpress.com.

Current and potential stockholders can find information about the Company, including the daily net asset value (NAV) per share, the market price, and the discount/premium to the NAV, on our website at www.adamsexpress.com. Also available on the website are a history of the Company, historical financial information, links for electronic delivery of stockholder reports, and other useful content.

By order of the Board of Directors,



Douglas G. Ober
*Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer*



David D. Weaver
President

October 13, 2011

SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(unaudited)

	2011	2010
<i>At September 30:</i>		
Net asset value per share	\$ 10.76	\$ 11.78
Market price	9.21	9.96
Shares outstanding	88,924,926	87,428,532
Total net assets	957,010,424	1,029,561,550
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(40,613,122)	62,748,859
<i>For the nine months ended September 30:</i>		
Net investment income	9,486,010	9,045,923
Net realized gain	35,610,153	20,412,767
Total return (based on market price)	(12.9)%	0.1%
Total return (based on net asset value)	(13.8)%	0.1%
<i>Key ratios:</i>		
Net investment income to average net assets (annualized)	1.12%	1.18%
Expenses to average net assets (annualized)	0.52%	0.58%
Portfolio turnover	17.10%	9.48%
Net cash & short-term investments to net assets	3.8%	1.7%

FIVE YEAR DISTRIBUTION HISTORY

(unaudited)

Year	Income Dividends Per Share	Short-Term Capital Gains Per Share	Long-Term Capital Gains Per Share	Total Distributions Per Share	Dividend Yield*	Annual Distribution Rate**
2006	\$0.23	\$0.04	\$0.63	\$0.90	1.7%	6.8%
2007	0.32	0.08	0.63	1.03	2.2	7.1
2008	0.26	0.01	0.37	0.64	2.3	5.7
2009	0.15	0.05	0.25	0.45	1.7	5.2
2010	0.14	0.09	0.28	0.51	1.4	5.1
Average:					1.9%	6.0%

* The dividend yield is the total income dividends during the year divided by the average month-end market price of the Company's Common Stock for the year.

** The annual distribution rate is the total dividends and capital gain distributions during the year divided by the average month-end market price of the Company's Common Stock for the year.

CHANGES IN PORTFOLIO SECURITIES

*During the Three Months Ended September 30, 2011
(unaudited)*

	Shares		Held Sept. 30, 2011
	Additions	Reductions	
ACE Ltd.	140,000		140,000
Avon Products, Inc.	30,000		359,600
BorgWarner, Inc.	150,000		150,000
Capital One Financial Corp.	240,000		240,000
Caterpillar Inc.	60,000		200,000
Celgene Corp.	38,300		200,000
F5 Networks, Inc.	35,000		85,000
FedEx Corp.	20,000		135,000
Honeywell International Inc.	240,000		240,000
Peabody Energy Corp.	16,000		44,400
Philip Morris International Inc.	140,000		140,000
PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	20,000	65,000	225,000
Schlumberger Ltd.	80,000		80,000
T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.	75,000		275,000
United Rentals, Inc.	215,300		215,300
United Technologies Corp.	40,000	65,000	105,000
American Express Corp.		215,000	135,000
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.		32,100	267,900
CF Industries Holdings, Inc.		3,500	31,531
Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.		39,000	81,000
Coca-Cola Co.		25,000	200,000
Curtiss-Wright Corp.		225,059	94,941
Dow Chemical Co.		40,000	360,000
Emerson Electric Co.		100,000	100,000
Exxon Mobil Corp.		100,000	115,000
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.		25,300	227,700
General Electric Co.		218,000	490,000
Goodrich Corp.		25,000	100,000
Intel Corp.		50,000	790,000
McDonald's Corp.		10,000	240,000
MDU Resources Group, Inc.		30,500	442,600
Morgan Stanley		100,000	300,000
Oracle Corp.		100,000	1,000,000
Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.		17,300	156,100
Praxair, Inc.		7,500	67,500
Procter & Gamble Co.		35,000	280,000
State Street Corp.		193,000	—
Unilever plc ADR		20,000	480,000
UnitedHealth Group Inc.		20,000	227,500

PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

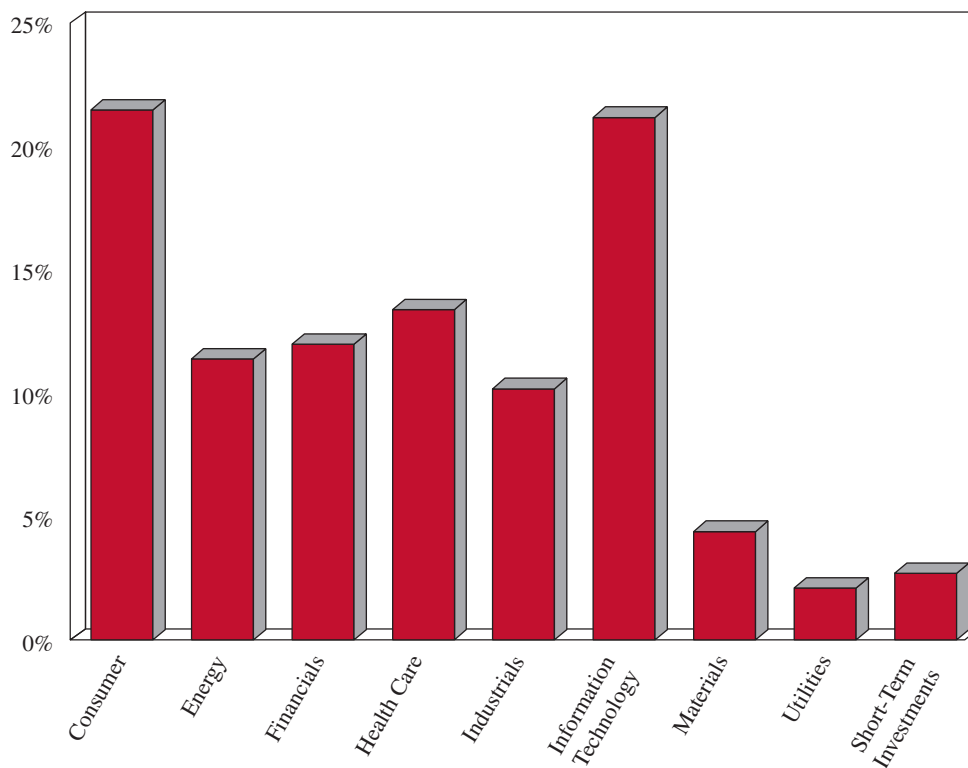
September 30, 2011
(unaudited)

Ten Largest Equity Portfolio Holdings

	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>% of Net Assets</u>
Petroleum & Resources Corporation*	\$ 49,464,828	5.2%
Apple Inc.	36,212,100	3.8
Oracle Corp.	28,740,000	3.0
McDonald's Corp.	21,076,800	2.2
PepsiCo, Inc.	18,570,000	1.9
Chevron Corp.	18,504,000	1.9
Procter & Gamble Co.	17,690,400	1.8
Microsoft Corp.	17,423,000	1.8
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	16,867,200	1.8
Intel Corp.	16,850,700	1.8
Total	\$241,399,028	25.2%

*Non-controlled affiliate

Sector Weightings



SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

September 30, 2011

(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (A)		Shares	Value (A)
Stocks — 96.2%					
Consumer — 21.5%					
Consumer Discretionary — 10.5%					
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			
Marriot 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			
Consumer Staples — 11.0%					
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			
Energy — 11.4%					
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			
Financials — 12.0%					
Banks — 2.7%					
PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	225,000	10,842,750			
Wells Fargo & Co.	635,000	15,316,200			
		26,158,950			
Diversified Financials — 6.9%					
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			
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/ Shares	Value (A)		Shares	Value (A)
Materials — 4.4%			Money Market Funds — 0.0%		
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.	35,000	\$ 2,672,950	Fidelity Institutional Money Market – Government Portfolio, 0.01% (E)	10,000	\$ 10,000
CF Industries Holdings, Inc. (F)	31,531	3,890,610	RBC U.S. Government Money Market (Institutional Class I), 0.01% (E)	10,000	10,000
Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. (F)	81,000	4,144,770	Vanguard Federal Money Market, 0.01% (E)	10,000	10,000
Dow Chemical Co.	360,000	8,085,600	Western Asset Institutional Government Reserves (Institutional Class), 0.02% (E)	10,000	10,000
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.	227,700	6,933,465			<u>40,000</u>
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			
		<u>41,702,937</u>			
Utilities — 2.1%			Total Short-Term Investments		<u>26,197,702</u>
MDU Resources Group, Inc.	442,600	8,493,494	(Cost \$26,197,702)		
Northeast Utilities	350,000	11,777,500	Securities Lending Collateral — 1.3%		
		<u>20,270,994</u>	(Cost \$12,210,186)		
Total Common Stocks (Cost \$960,889,318)		<u>921,028,295</u>	Money Market Funds — 1.3%		
Short-Term Investments — 2.7%			Invesco Short-Term Investment Trust — Liquid Assets Portfolio (Institutional Class), 0.11% (E)	12,210,186	12,210,186
Time Deposits — 2.7%					
Citibank, 0.03%, due 10/3/11	\$ 6,157,702	6,157,702			
M&T Bank, 0.90%	\$20,000,000	20,000,000			
		<u>26,157,702</u>	Total Investments — 100.2%		959,436,183
			(Cost \$999,297,206)		
			Cash, receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets, less liabilities — (0.2)%		<u>(2,425,759)</u>
			Net Assets — 100.0%		<u><u>\$957,010,424</u></u>

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.

This report is transmitted to the stockholders 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 Company 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.

Dividend Payment Schedule

The Company 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, the net realized capital gain earned through October 31 and, if applicable, a return of capital. Stockholders may elect to receive the year-end distribution in stock or cash. In connection with this distribution, all stockholders of record are sent a dividend announcement notice and an election card in mid-November. **Stockholders holding shares in “street” or brokerage accounts may make their election by notifying their brokerage house representative.**

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 stockholders, the Company 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 Company’s Forms N-Q are available on the Commission’s website at 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 Company also posts a link to its Forms N-Q on its website at www.adamsexpress.com under the headings “Investment Information”, “Financial Reports” and then “SEC Filings”.

Proxy Voting Policies and Record

A description of the policies and procedures that the Company uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities owned by the Company and the Company’s proxy voting record for the 12-month period ended June 30, 2011 are available (i) without charge, upon request, by calling the Company’s toll free number at (800) 638-2479; (ii) on the Company’s website at www.adamsexpress.com under the headings “About Adams Express” and “Corporate Information”; and (iii) on the Securities and Exchange Commission’s website at www.sec.gov.

Privacy Policy

In order to conduct its business, the Company, through its transfer agent, currently American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, collects and maintains certain nonpublic personal information about our stockholders of record with respect to their transactions in shares of our securities. This information includes the stockholder’s address, tax identification or Social Security number, share balances, and dividend elections. We do not collect or maintain personal information about stockholders 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 stockholders or our former stockholders to third parties unless necessary to process a transaction, service an account or as otherwise permitted by law.

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

The Adams Express Company

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Custodian of Securities: Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

Transfer Agent & Registrar: American Stock Transfer & Trust Company
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