

# The Adams Express Company

Seven St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

January 16, 2001

## 2000 TAX INFORMATION

Please Read Carefully

To our Stockholders:

This letter, showing the investment income dividends and the capital gain distributions paid by the Company during the calendar year 2000, is sent to assist you in preparing your federal income tax return. The dates and amounts of the payments are as follows:

<u>Date Paid</u> 2000	(I) Investment Income Dividends (Per share)	(a) Percentage Entitled To Corporate Dividend Deduction	(II) Long-Term Capital Gain Distribution (Per share)
March 1 .....	\$ .03	100%	\$ .05
June 1 .....	.08	100%	n/a
September 1 .....	.08	100%	n/a
December 27 .....	.03*	100%	1.58*
Totals .....	<u>\$0.22</u>		<u>\$1.63</u>

\*These payments are taxable whether taken in shares of the Company's stock or in cash. The cost, for income tax purposes, of full shares received is \$22.00 per share.

In October 2000, the Company had a 3-for-2 stock split and the above per share numbers have been adjusted to reflect the stock split. On a pre-stock split basis, the March, June and September dividends and capital gains per share that the Company paid were March 1—\$.05 dividend income and \$.07 long-term capital gain, June 1—\$.12 dividend income, and September 1—\$.12 dividend income. The percentage entitled to Corporate Dividend Deduction is not affected by the stock split.

The Company has qualified as a "regulated investment company" as defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Stockholders who were entitled to receive the investment income dividends and capital gain distributions, described above, should report them for federal income tax purposes as follows:

I. The investment income dividends should be reported as ordinary dividend income. The enclosed Form 1099, "U.S. Information Return," shows the total amount of dividends distributed to you. Column (a) indicates the percentage of each investment income dividend that qualifies for the 70% dividends received deduction allowed certain corporations, with respect to dividends received from domestic corporations.

II. The long-term capital gain distribution, whether received in stock or in cash, should be reported as a "capital gain dividend" and treated by you as a long-term capital gain regardless of the length of time you have held the shares. Capital gain dividends do not qualify for the dividends received deduction described in paragraph (I) above.

The Company had 3.3% of income derived from U.S. Government Obligations in 2000. The taxability under state law of optional investment income dividends and capital gain distributions to stockholders paid by investment companies varies state by state. Stockholders should consult their state tax advisors as to the manner of reporting these distributions.

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

LAWRENCE L. HOOPER, JR.  
Vice President, Secretary & General Counsel