

ADAMS EXPRESS CO  
Form N-30B-2  
October 18, 2013



LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

We are pleased to present the summary financial information of The Adams Express Company (the Fund) for the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

Net assets of the Fund at September 30, 2013 were \$14.40 per share on 92,216,170 shares outstanding, compared with \$12.43 per share at December 31, 2012 on 93,029,724 shares outstanding. On March 1, 2013, a distribution of \$0.05 per share was paid, consisting of \$0.03 of net investment income, \$0.01 short-term capital gain, and \$0.01 long-term capital gain, all realized in 2012 and taxable in 2013. A 2013 net investment income dividend of \$0.05 per share was paid June 3, 2013, and another \$0.05 per share net investment income dividend was paid September 3, 2013. These constitute the first three payments toward our annual 6% minimum distribution rate commitment.

Net investment income for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 amounted to \$13,091,372, compared with \$11,882,313 for the same nine-month period in 2012. These earnings are equal to \$0.14 and \$0.13 per share, respectively.

Net capital gain realized on investments for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 amounted to \$53,761,077, or \$0.58 per share.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the total return on the net asset value (with dividends and capital gains reinvested) of the Fund's shares was 17.3%. The total return on the market price of the Fund's shares for the period was 18.5%. These compare to a 19.8% total return for the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Index ( S&P 500 ) and a 19.5% total return for the Lipper Large-Cap Core Mutual Funds Average over the same time period.

For the twelve months ended September 30, 2013, the Fund's total return on net asset value was 17.0% and on market price was 16.1%. Comparable figures for the S&P 500 and the Lipper Large-Cap Core Mutual Fund Average were 19.3% and 19.7%, respectively.

The Fund repurchased 860,045 shares of its common stock during the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The shares were repurchased at an average price of \$12.26 and a weighted average discount to net asset value (NAV) of 13.6%, resulting in a \$0.02 increase to NAV per share.

In July 2013, the Board of Directors named James P. Haynie as President of the Fund, succeeding David D. Weaver who resigned from the Fund. Mr. Haynie was most recently the Chief Investment Officer, Equities and Senior Portfolio Manager for BNP Paribas Investment Partners.

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He has over 27 years of experience in financial services and asset management.

Investors can find the daily NAV per share, the market price, the discount/premium to the NAV per share of the Fund, and quarterly changes in portfolio securities on our website at [www.adamsexpress.com](http://www.adamsexpress.com). Also available there are a history of the Fund, historical financial information, links for electronic delivery of shareholder reports, and other useful content.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Mark E. Stoeckle

*Chief Executive Officer*

James P. Haynie

*President*

October 9, 2013

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(unaudited)

	2013	2012
<i>At September 30:</i>		
Net asset value per share	\$ 14.40	\$ 13.08
Market price per share	\$ 12.39	\$ 11.34
Shares outstanding	92,216,170	91,106,376
Total net assets	\$ 1,327,695,459	\$ 1,191,713,637
Unrealized appreciation on investments	\$ 271,307,404	\$ 172,325,689
<i>For the nine months ended September 30:</i>		
Net investment income	\$ 13,091,372	\$ 11,882,313
Net realized gain	\$ 53,761,077	\$ 34,438,399
Shares repurchased	860,045	
Total return (based on market price)	18.5%	19.3%
Total return (based on net asset value)	17.3%	14.9%
<i>Key ratios:</i>		
Net investment income to average net assets (annualized)*	1.38%	1.40%
Expenses to average net assets (annualized)**	0.71%	0.64%
Portfolio turnover (annualized)	68.2%	27.1%
Net cash & short-term investments to net assets	1.2%	2.0%

\* The annualized ratios of net investment income to average net assets for the nine months ended in 2013 and 2012 were 1.45% and 1.43%, respectively, after adjusting for non-recurring pension expenses.

\*\* The annualized ratios of expenses to average net assets for the nine months ended in 2013 and 2012 were 0.64% and 0.61%, respectively, after adjusting for non-recurring pension expenses.

## FIVE YEAR DISTRIBUTION HISTORY

(unaudited)

Year	Income Dividends Per Share	Short-Term Capital Gains Distributions Per Share	Long-Term Capital Gains Distributions Per Share	Total Dividends and Distributions Per Share	Annual Distribution Rate*
2008	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.64	5.7%

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2009	0.15	0.05	0.25	0.45	5.2
2010	0.14	0.09	0.28	0.51	5.1
2011	0.15	0.07	0.43	0.65	6.1
2012	0.18	0.10	0.39	0.67	6.3

**Average:** 5.7%

\* 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 Fund's Common Stock for the calendar year in years prior to 2011 and for the twelve months ended October 31 beginning in 2011, which is consistent with the calculation to determine the annual 6% minimum distribution rate commitment announced in September 2011.

## PORTFOLIO REVIEW

September 30, 2013

(unaudited)

## Ten Largest Equity Portfolio Holdings

	<i>Market Value</i>	<i>% of Net Assets</i>
Petroleum & Resources Corp.*	\$ 59,174,104	4.4%
Apple Inc.	46,864,525	3.5
Pfizer Inc.	31,293,900	2.4
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	31,014,000	2.3
Citigroup Inc.	28,620,900	2.2
Chevron Corp.	28,552,500	2.1
Wells Fargo & Co.	27,684,400	2.1
General Electric Co.	27,330,160	2.1
Lowe's Companies, Inc.	26,185,500	2.0
iShares US Real Estate ETF	26,111,123	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 332,831,112</b>	<b>25.1%</b>

\*Non-controlled affiliated closed-end fund

## Sector Weightings





## SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

September 30, 2013

(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (A)
<b>Common Stocks 98.8%</b>		
<b>Consumer Discretionary 11.0%</b>		
Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. (B)	120,200	\$ 9,298,672
Comcast Corp.	452,300	20,421,345
Consumer Discretionary SPDR Fund	202,900	12,301,827
Dollar General Corp. (B)	271,400	15,323,244
Lowe's Companies, Inc.	550,000	26,185,500
Marriott International Inc. (Class A)	300,000	12,618,000
McDonald's Corp.	180,000	17,317,800
Target Corp.	135,800	8,688,484
Walt Disney Co.	377,600	24,351,424
		146,506,296
<b>Consumer Staples 9.5%</b>		
Bunge Ltd.	100,000	7,591,000
Coca-Cola Co.	300,000	11,364,000
CVS/Caremark Corp.	314,000	17,819,500
Diageo plc ADR	59,400	7,548,552
General Mills Inc.	252,400	12,095,008
PepsiCo, Inc. (F)	263,500	20,948,250
Philip Morris International Inc.	262,800	22,755,852
Procter & Gamble Co.	175,000	13,228,250
Unilever plc ADR	325,000	12,538,500
		125,888,912
<b>Energy 10.4%</b>		
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	105,400	9,801,146
Chevron Corp. (E)	235,000	28,552,500
EOG Resources, Inc.	68,600	11,612,608
Exxon Mobil Corp. (F)	105,000	9,034,200
Halliburton Co.	147,801	7,116,618
Petroleum & Resources Corp. (C)	2,186,774	59,174,104
Schlumberger Ltd. (E)	138,300	12,220,188
		137,511,364
<b>Financials 16.0%</b>		
ACE Ltd. (B)	233,000	21,799,480
Allstate Corp.	355,000	17,945,250
Bank of New York Mellon Corp.	323,775	9,774,767
Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (Class B) (B)	65,200	7,400,852
Capital One Financial Corp.	245,000	16,841,300
Citigroup Inc.	590,000	28,620,900
Fifth Third Bancorp.	665,000	11,996,600
iShares US Real Estate ETF	409,522	26,111,123

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JPMorgan Chase & Co.	600,000	31,014,000
MetLife Inc.	273,000	12,817,350
Wells Fargo & Co.	670,000	27,684,400
		212,006,022

**Health Care 13.5%**

Aetna Inc.	205,000	13,124,100
Allergan, Inc.	128,000	11,577,600
Biogen IDEC Inc. (B)	30,000	7,222,800
Celgene Corp. (B)	120,000	18,471,600
Covidien plc	120,000	7,312,800
Express Scripts Holding Co. (B)	255,000	15,753,900
Gilead Sciences, Inc. (B)	414,000	26,015,760
McKesson Corp.	116,000	14,882,800
Merck & Co., Inc.	500,000	23,805,000
Pfizer Inc.	1,090,000	31,293,900
Zimmer Holdings, Inc.	115,000	9,446,100
		178,906,360

**Industrials 11.2%**

Boeing Co.	210,000	24,675,000
Caterpillar Inc.	120,000	10,004,400
Eaton Corporation plc	205,000	14,112,200
Emerson Electric Co.	160,000	10,352,000
FedEx Corp.	86,000	9,813,460
General Electric Co.	1,144,000	27,330,160
Honeywell International Inc.	295,000	24,496,800
Masco Corp.	365,000	7,767,200
United Technologies Corp.	184,500	19,892,790
		148,444,010

**Information Technology 17.6%**

Analog Devices, Inc.	136,100	6,403,505
Apple Inc. (F)	98,300	46,864,525
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.	200,000	14,476,000
Cisco Systems, Inc.	700,000	16,394,000
eBay Inc. (B)	226,000	12,608,540
Google Inc. (Class A) (B)	25,500	22,335,705
Intel Corp.	665,000	15,241,800
International Business Machines Corp.	110,800	20,517,944
MasterCard, Inc.	23,000	15,473,940
Microsoft Corp.	618,800	20,612,228
NetApp, Inc.	161,700	6,891,654
Oracle Corp.	526,000	17,447,420
QUALCOMM Inc.	151,400	10,198,304
Seagate Technology plc		