

ADAMS DIVERSIFIED EQUITY FUND, INC.  
Form N-Q  
April 27, 2018

**FORM N-Q**

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

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

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**ADAMS DIVERSIFIED EQUITY FUND, INC.**

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

**500 East Pratt Street, Suite 1300, Baltimore, Maryland 21202**

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(Address of principal executive offices)

**Lawrence L. Hooper, Jr.  
Adams Diversified Equity Fund, Inc.  
500 East Pratt Street, Suite 1300  
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:** March 31, 2018

**Item 1. Schedule of Investments.**

## Schedule of Investments

March 31, 2018  
(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (a)
Common Stocks — 98.6%		
Consumer Discretionary — 12.7%		
Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	166,500	\$ 19,738,575
Amazon.com, Inc. (b)	42,800	61,946,152
Carnival Corporation	138,500	9,082,830
Comcast Corporation Class A	843,200	28,812,144
Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund	56,000	5,672,240
Dollar General Corporation	193,937	18,142,806
Home Depot, Inc.	202,700	36,129,248
Lowe's Companies, Inc.	201,100	17,646,525
Magna International Inc.	252,000	14,200,200
Netflix, Inc. (b)	16,100	4,755,135
Walt Disney Company	68,800	6,910,272
		223,036,127
Consumer Staples — 7.5%		
Coca-Cola Company	161,800	7,026,974
Constellation Brands, Inc. Class A	60,600	13,811,952
Costco Wholesale Corporation	77,900	14,678,697
CVS Health Corporation	174,800	10,874,308
Monster Beverage Corporation (b)	157,100	8,987,691
PepsiCo, Inc.	134,400	14,669,760
Philip Morris International Inc.	295,300	29,352,820
Procter & Gamble Company	131,850	10,453,068
Walmart Inc.	257,300	22,891,981
		132,747,251
Energy — 6.1%		
Adams Natural Resources Fund, Inc. (c)	2,186,774	39,886,758
Andeavor	68,000	6,838,080
Concho Resources Inc. (b)	72,900	10,959,057
Exxon Mobil Corporation	308,300	23,002,263
Halliburton Company	354,400	16,635,536
Pioneer Natural Resources Company	57,800	9,928,884
		107,250,578



## Schedule of Investments (continued)

March 31, 2018  
(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (a)
Financials — 15.1%		
American Express Company	102,000	\$ 9,514,560
Bank of America Corporation	1,371,600	41,134,284
Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class B (b)	192,500	38,399,900
BlackRock, Inc.	41,400	22,427,208
Chubb Limited	78,800	10,777,476
Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	82,400	20,753,264
Intercontinental Exchange, Inc.	379,900	27,550,348
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	292,400	32,155,228
Signature Bank (b)	128,900	18,297,355
SunTrust Banks, Inc.	378,100	25,725,924
Wells Fargo & Company	358,500	18,788,985
		265,524,532
Health Care — 13.3%		
AbbVie, Inc.	265,700	25,148,505
Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (b)	107,200	11,948,512
Becton, Dickinson and Company	97,800	21,193,260
Biogen Inc. (b)	67,000	18,345,940
Edwards Lifesciences Corporation (b)	151,100	21,081,472
Johnson & Johnson	132,900	17,031,135
Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings (b)	107,700	17,420,475
Pfizer Inc.	702,940	24,947,341
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.	145,400	30,019,284
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	162,400	34,753,600
Waters Corporation (b)	62,200	12,356,030
		234,245,554
Industrials — 10.3%		
Boeing Company	101,200	33,181,456
Cintas Corporation	86,500	14,755,170
Cummins Inc.	136,100	22,060,449
Delta Air Lines, Inc.	282,200	15,467,382
Emerson Electric Co.	257,800	17,607,740
General Electric Company	246,500	3,322,820
Honeywell International Inc.	193,000	27,890,430
Parker-Hannifin Corporation	103,400	17,684,502
Union Pacific Corporation	219,500	29,507,385

181,477,334

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## Schedule of Investments (continued)

March 31, 2018  
(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (a)
Information Technology — 24.8%		
Accenture plc Class A	133,500	\$ 20,492,250
Adobe Systems Incorporated (b)	117,200	25,324,576
Alphabet Inc. Class A (b)	30,900	32,047,626
Alphabet Inc. Class C (b)	28,097	28,990,204
Apple Inc.	396,400	66,507,992
Broadcom Limited	93,100	21,939,015
Cisco Systems, Inc.	271,900	11,661,791
Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation Class A	74,800	6,021,400
DXC Technology Co.	143,000	14,375,790
Facebook, Inc. Class A (b)	188,700	30,152,373
Lam Research Corporation	66,700	13,550,772
Mastercard Incorporated Class A	147,700	25,871,132
Microsoft Corporation	836,800	76,374,736
Oracle Corporation	122,200	5,590,650
salesforce.com, inc. (b)	181,200	21,073,560
Visa Inc. Class A	311,000	37,201,820
		437,175,687
Materials — 1.7%		
DowDuPont Inc.	206,600	13,162,486
Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.	414,700	7,286,279
LyondellBasell Industries N.V.	93,700	9,902,216
		30,350,981
Real Estate — 3.4%		
American Tower Corporation	85,900	12,484,706
Prologis, Inc.	351,600	22,147,284
Public Storage	86,100	17,253,579
SBA Communications Corporation Class A (b)	46,800	7,999,056
		59,884,625
Telecommunication Services — 1.0%		
AT&T Inc.	262,200	9,347,430
Verizon Communications Inc.	171,600	8,205,912
		17,553,342
Utilities — 2.7%		
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.	401,000	10,987,400
Exelon Corporation	299,300	11,675,693

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NextEra Energy, Inc.	99,000	16,169,670
Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated	173,900	8,736,736
		47,569,499

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## Schedule of Investments (continued)

March 31, 2018  
(unaudited)

	Shares	Value (a)
Total Common Stocks (Cost \$1,177,760,579)		\$ 1,736,815,510
Other Investments — 0.1%		
Financials — 0.1%		
Adams Funds Advisers, LLC (b)(d) (Cost \$150,000)		1,060,000
Short-Term Investments — 1.1%		
Money Market Funds — 1.1%		
Fidelity Investments Money Market Funds - Prime Money Market Portfolio (Institutional Class), 1.74% (e)	8,994,917	8,996,716
Northern Institutional Treasury Portfolio, 1.53% (e)	10,134,945	10,134,945
Total Short-Term Investments (Cost \$19,133,460)		19,131,661
Total — 99.8% (Cost \$1,197,044,039)		1,757,007,171
Other Assets Less Liabilities — 0.2%		3,292,357
Net Assets — 100.0%		\$ 1,760,299,528

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## Schedule of Investments (continued)

March 31, 2018

(unaudited)

Total Return Swap Agreements — 0.1%

Description	Contract Type	Underlying Security	Termination Date	Notional Amount	Value and Unrealized Appreciation (Assets)	Value and Unrealized Depreciation (Liabilities)
Receive total return on underlying security and pay financing amount based on notional amount and daily U.S. Federal Funds rate plus 0.55%.	Long	Illinois Tool Works Inc. (82,400 shares)	2/21/2019	\$ 14,059,755	\$ —	\$ (1,142,021)
Pay total return on underlying security and receive financing amount based on notional amount and daily U.S. Federal Funds rate less 0.45%.	Short	Industrial Select Sector SPDR Fund (177,300 shares)	2/21/2019	(14,116,892)	918,499	—
Receive total return on underlying security and pay financing amount based on notional amount and daily U.S. Federal Funds rate plus 0.55%.	Long	Intel Corporation (333,700 shares)	2/27/2019	15,308,988	2,112,495	—

Pay total return on underlying security and receive financing amount based on notional amount and daily U.S. Federal Funds rate less 0.45%.	Short	Technology Select Sector SPDR Fund (222,000 shares)	2/27/2019	(15,263,543)	720,684	—
Receive total return on underlying security and pay financing amount based on notional amount and daily U.S. Federal Funds rate plus 0.55%.	Long	CBS Corporation Class B (254,400 shares)	3/11/2019	13,675,730	—	(596,692)
Pay total return on underlying security and receive financing amount based on notional amount and daily U.S. Federal Funds rate less 0.55%.	Short	Morgan Stanley Consumer Discretionary Select Sector Equal-Weighted Custom Basket (136,600 units)	3/11/2019	(13,554,477)	545,630	—
Gross unrealized gain (loss) on open total return swap agreements					\$ 4,297,308	\$ (1,738,713)
Net unrealized gain on open total return swap agreements (f)					\$ 2,558,595	

(a)

Common stocks are listed on the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ and are valued at the last reported sale price on the day of valuation.

(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)  
Controlled affiliate valued using fair value procedures.

(e)  
Rate presented is as of period-end and represents the annualized yield earned over the previous seven days.

(f)  
Counterparty for all open swap agreements is Morgan Stanley. At period-end, \$2,260,000 in cash collateral was held by the Fund.

More information regarding transactions in equity securities during the quarter can be found on our website at: [www.adamsfunds.com](http://www.adamsfunds.com).

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## NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (Unaudited)

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Adams Diversified Equity Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act") as a diversified investment company. The Fund is an internally-managed closed-end fund whose investment objectives are preservation of capital, the attainment of reasonable income from investments, and an opportunity for capital appreciation.

### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Affiliates** - The 1940 Act defines "affiliated companies" as those companies in which the Fund owns 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities. Additionally, those companies in which the Fund owns more than 25% of the outstanding voting securities are considered to be "controlled" by the Fund. The Fund and its affiliates, Adams Natural Resources Fund, Inc. ("PEO") and Adams Funds Advisers, LLC ("AFA"), have a shared management team.

**PEO** - The Fund owns 2,186,774 shares of PEO, a non-diversified, closed-end investment company, representing 8% of its outstanding shares. The Fund accounts for PEO as a portfolio investment that meets the definition of a non-controlled affiliate. During 2018, the Fund received dividends and long-term capital distributions of \$174,942 and \$43,735, respectively, from its investment in PEO and recognized a change in unrealized appreciation on its investment in PEO of \$(3,498,838). Directors of the Fund are also directors of PEO.

**AFA** - In April 2015, Fund shareholders authorized the Fund to provide investment advisory services to external parties, and the Securities and Exchange Commission granted no action relief under section 12(d)(3) of the 1940 Act to allow the Fund to create a separate, wholly-owned entity for this purpose. The Fund provided the initial capital for the start-up costs of AFA, a Maryland limited liability company, and the Fund is the sole member and General Manager, as provided by the Operating Agreement between AFA and the Fund. This structure mitigates the risk of potential liabilities for the Fund associated with any claims that may arise against AFA during the ordinary course of conducting its business. Given that AFA is an operating company that provides no services to the Fund, the Fund accounts for AFA as a portfolio investment that meets the definition of a controlled affiliate.

AFA provides advisory services to an external party and earns advisory fee revenue based on assets under management. AFA's profit can fluctuate due to the level of assets under management, as driven by the number of client relationships, level of client investment activity, and client investment performance, and will impact the Fund's valuation of its investment in AFA. At March 31, 2018, AFA had assets under management of \$93 million attributed

to one client; failure to maintain this existing relationship or to develop new relationships could impact AFA's ability to generate revenue. To the extent that AFA's operating costs exceed its revenue earned, the Fund may be required to provide additional capital to AFA. For tax purposes, AFA's revenues and expenses are consolidated with those of the Fund and, as such, the advisory fee revenue generated by AFA is monitored closely to ensure that it does not exceed an amount that would jeopardize the Fund's status as a regulated investment company. During 2018, the Fund recognized a change in unrealized appreciation on its investment in AFA of \$792,000.

**Investment Transactions** - The Fund's investment decisions are made by the portfolio management team with recommendations from the research staff. Policies and procedures are in place covering the allocation of investment opportunities among the Fund and its affiliates to protect the Fund from potential conflicts of interest. Investment transactions are accounted for on trade date. Realized gains and losses on sales of investments are recorded on the basis of specific identification.

**Valuation** - The Fund's financial instruments are reported at fair value, which is defined as the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Fund has a Valuation Committee ("Committee") so that financial instruments are appropriately priced at fair value in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") and the 1940 Act. Subject to oversight and approval by the Board of Directors, the Committee establishes methodologies and procedures to value securities for which market quotations are not readily available.

GAAP establishes the following hierarchy that categorizes the inputs used to measure fair value:

**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 Fund's own assumptions, developed based on the best information available under the circumstances.

Investments in securities traded on national exchanges are valued at the last reported sale price as of the close of regular trading on the relevant exchange on the day of valuation. Over-the-counter and listed equity securities for which a sale price is not available are valued at the last quoted bid price. Money market funds are valued at net asset value. These securities are generally categorized as Level 1 in the hierarchy.

Short-term investments (excluding money market funds) are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. Debt securities are generally traded in the over-the-counter market with prices obtained from an independent pricing service, which considers the yield or price of comparable bonds as well as prices quoted by dealers who make markets in such securities. Total return swap agreements are valued using independent, observable inputs, including underlying security prices, dividends, and interest rates. These securities are generally categorized as Level 2 in the hierarchy.

The Fund's investment in its controlled affiliate, AFA, is valued by methods deemed reasonable in good faith by the Committee. The Committee uses market-based valuation multiples, including price-to-earnings and price-to-book value, and discounted free cash flow analysis, or a combination thereof, to estimate fair value. The Committee also considers discounts for illiquid investments, such as AFA. Fair value determinations are reviewed on a regular basis and updated as needed. Due to the inherent uncertainty of the value of Level 3 assets, estimated fair value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had an active market existed. Given the absence of market

quotations or observable inputs, the Fund's investment in AFA is categorized as Level 3 in the hierarchy.

At March 31, 2018, the Fund's financial instruments were classified as follows:

	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Assets:</b>				
Common stocks	\$1,736,815,510	\$-	\$-	\$1,736,815,510
Other investments	-	-	1,060,000	1,060,000
Short-term investments	19,131,661	-	-	19,131,661
Total investments	\$1,755,947,171	\$-	\$1,060,000	\$1,757,007,171
Total return swap agreements*	\$-	\$2,558,595	\$-	\$2,558,595

\*Unrealized appreciation (depreciation)

The following is a reconciliation of the change in the value of Level 3 investments:

Balance at December 31, 2017	\$268,000
Purchases	-
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	792,000
Balance at March 31, 2018	\$1,060,000

There were no transfers between levels during the three months ended March 31, 2018.

## 2. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

At March 31, 2018, the identified cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$1,197,221,208 and net unrealized appreciation aggregated \$562,344,558, consisting of gross unrealized appreciation of \$578,063,014 and gross unrealized depreciation of \$15,718,456.

## 3. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

Purchases and sales of portfolio investments, other than short-term investments, securities lending collateral, and derivative transactions, during the three months ended March 31, 2018 were \$342,515,854 and \$346,879,632,



respectively.

#### **4. DERIVATIVES**

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, the Fund invested in derivative instruments. The Fund may use derivatives for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to, the ability to gain or limit exposure to particular market sectors or securities, to provide additional income, to limit equity price risk in the normal course of pursuing its investment objectives, and/or to obtain leverage.

**Total Return Swap Agreements** - The Fund may use total return swap agreements to manage exposure to certain risks and/or enhance performance. Total return swap agreements are bilateral contracts between the Fund and a counterparty in which the Fund, in the case of a long contract, agrees to receive the positive total return (and pay the negative total return) of an underlying equity security and to pay a financing amount, based on a notional amount and a referenced interest rate, over the term of the contract. In the case of a short contract, the Fund agrees to pay the positive total return (and receive the negative total return) of the underlying equity security and to receive or pay a financing rate, based on a notional amount and a referenced interest rate, over the term of the contract. The fair value of each total return swap agreement is determined daily with the change in the fair value recorded as a change in unrealized appreciation on total return swap agreements. Upon termination of a swap agreement, the Fund recognizes a realized gain (loss) on total return swap agreements equal to the net receivable (payable) amount under the terms of the agreement.

Total return swap agreements entail risks associated with counterparty credit, liquidity, and equity price risk. Such risks include that the Fund or the counterparty may default on its obligation, that there is no liquid market for these agreements, and that there may be unfavorable changes in the price of the underlying equity security. To mitigate the Fund's counterparty credit risk, the Fund enters into master netting and collateral arrangements with the counterparty. A master netting agreement allows either party to terminate the agreement prior to termination date and to net amounts due across multiple agreements upon settlement, providing for a single net settlement with a counterparty. The Fund's policy is to net all derivative instruments subject to a netting agreement. The fair value of each outstanding total return swap agreement is presented on the Schedule of Investments. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, the average daily notional amounts of open long and (short) total return swap agreements, an indicator of the volume of activity during the period, were \$58,538,816 and \$(58,225,596), respectively.

A collateral arrangement requires each party to provide collateral with a value, adjusted daily and subject to a minimum transfer amount, equal to the net amount owed to the other party under the agreement. The counterparty provides cash collateral to the Fund and the Fund provides collateral by segregating portfolio securities, subject to a valuation allowance, into a tri-party account at its custodian. At March 31, 2018, there were no securities pledged as collateral and \$2,260,000 in cash collateral was held by the Fund.

## **5. PORTFOLIO SECURITIES LOANED**

The Fund makes loans of securities to approved brokers to earn additional income. The loans are collateralized by cash and/or U.S. Treasury and government agency obligations 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 Fund on the next business day. On loans collateralized by cash, the cash collateral is invested in a registered money market fund. The Fund accounts for securities lending transactions as secured financing and retains a portion of the income from lending fees and interest on the investment of cash collateral. The Fund also continues to receive dividends on the securities loaned. Gain or loss in the fair value of securities loaned that may occur during the term of the loan will be for the account of the Fund. At March 31, 2018, the Fund had no securities on loan. The Fund is indemnified by the custodian, serving as lending agent, for the 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 1940 Act) 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 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act) 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 1940 Act are attached hereto as Form N-Q Certifications.

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.

Adams Diversified Equity Fund, Inc.

By: /s/ Mark E. Stoeckle

Mark E. Stoeckle

Chief Executive Officer and President

(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: April 27, 2018

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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/ Mark E. Stoeckle

Mark E. Stoeckle

Chief Executive Officer and President

(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: April 27, 2018

By: /s/ Brian S. Hook

Brian S. Hook

Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: April 27, 2018