NUVEEN TAX ADVANTAGED TOTAL RETURN STRATEGY FUND Form N-Q November 27, 2015

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM N-O

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY

Investment Company Act file number 811-21471

Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Kevin J. McCarthy Vice President and Secretary

333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: 312-917-7700

Date of fiscal year end: <u>December 31</u>

Date of reporting period: September 30, 2015

Form N-Q is to be used by management investment companies, other than small business investment companies registered on Form N-5 (§§ 239.24 and 274.5 of this chapter), to file reports with the Commission, not later than 60 days after the close of the first and third fiscal quarters, pursuant to rule 30b1-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30b1-5). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-Q in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-Q, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-Q unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Item 1. Schedule of Investments

JTA

Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund Portfolio of Investments

September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS 145.3% (97.0% of Total Investments)	
	COMMON STOCKS 98.8% (65.9% of Total Investments)	
	Air Freight & Logistics 3.6%	
151,900	Deutsche Post AG, (3)	\$ 4,208,083
21,200	United Parcel Service, Inc., Class B	2,092,228
	Total Air Freight & Logistics	6,300,311
	Airlines 0.4%	
18,500	Copa Holdings SA	775,705
	Automobiles 2.4%	
25,500	Daimler AG, Sponsored ADR, (3)	1,857,420
175,550	Ford Motor Company	2,382,214
	Total Automobiles	4,239,634
	Banks 9.0%	
175,000	Barclays PLC, Sponsored ADR	2,586,500
76,000	Citigroup Inc.	3,770,360
215,300	ING Groep N.V., Sponsored ADR	3,042,189
59,900	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	3,652,103
56,200	Wells Fargo & Company	2,885,870
	Total Banks	15,937,022
	Capital Markets 5.0%	
189,200	Ares Capital Corporation	2,739,616
98,100	Bank New York Mellon	3,840,615
123,400	UBS Group AG, (3)	2,281,434
	Total Capital Markets	8,861,665
	Chemicals 3.4%	
57,900	Agrium Inc.	5,182,050
90,300	CVR Partners LP	844,305
	Total Chemicals	6,026,355
	Communications Equipment 3.3%	
112,500	Cisco Systems, Inc.	2,953,125
302,800	Ericsson, Sponsored ADR, (5)	2,961,384
	Total Communications Equipment	5,914,509
	Containers & Packaging 1.1%	
33,600	Avery Dennison Corporation	1,900,752
	Diversified Financial Services 2.7%	

549,850	Deutsche Boerse AG, ADR, (3)	4,712,215
	Diversified Telecommunication Services 4.1%	
116,370	Bezeq Israeli Telecommunication Corporation Limited, ADR, (3)	1,118,316
131,800	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, ADR	4,653,858
153,400	Telefonica Brasil SA	1,418,887
	Total Diversified Telecommunication Services	7,191,061
	Electric Utilities 1.1%	
546,300	EDP Energias de Portugal, S.A., (3)	2,001,384

	Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund Portfolio of Investments (continued)	September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)
Shar	es Description (1)	Value
	Food & Staples Retailing 2.6%	
47,30	00 CVS Health Corporation, (5)	\$ 4,563,504
	Food Products 1.6%	
386,80	OO Orkla ASA, Sponsored ADR, (5)	2,823,640
,	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 0.6%	, ,
20,20	*	1,062,722
20,20	Industrial Conglomerates 2.1%	1,002,722
75,80		1,911,676
78,50	1 2	1,841,610
70,50	Total Industrial Conglomerates	3,753,286
	Insurance 10.6%	
150,20	OO Allianz S.E, Sponsored ADR, (3), (5)	2,347,626
33,25		1,889,265
270,00	OO Aviva PLC, Sponsored ADR	3,704,400
232,70	OO Swiss Re AG, Sponsored ADR, (3), (5)	5,003,050
180,50	* * * /	5,790,440
	Total Insurance	18,734,781
	Media 7.7%	
121,40	On Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc., (6)	2,322,382
2,09	99 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, (2), (3)	160,574
107,38		1,441,040
153,80		1,874,822
310,80	1 / / /	2,676,547
46,20		3,176,250
3,95	1 2	140,905
3,18 98	1 2/ 1/	7,754
43,60	Ç 1 ,	1,881,340
73,00	Total Media	13,681,614
	Multiline Retail 1.1%	, ,
25,20	OO Target Corporation	1,982,232
	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 3.5%	
18,30	00 Phillips 66	1,406,172
39,10	1	1,852,949
54,90	•	1,466,928
32,20	OO Total SA, Sponsored ADR	1,439,662
	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	6,165,711
	Pharmaceuticals 18.3%	
58,60	00 AbbVie Inc.	3,188,426

117,400	AstraZeneca PLC, Sponsored ADR, (5)	3,735,668
134,400	GlaxoSmithKline PLC, Sponsored ADR, (5)	5,167,680
46,800	Merck & Company Inc.	2,311,452
131,600	Pfzier Inc., (5)	4,133,556
118,800	Roche Holdings AG, Sponsored ADR, (3)	3,914,460
98,850	Sanofi-Aventis, ADR, (5)	4,692,410
91,350	Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, Sponsored ADR, (5)	5,157,621
	Total Pharmaceuticals	32,301,273
	Professional Services 1.1%	
26,400	Adecco SA, (3)	1,933,419
	Real Estate Investment Trust 2.9%	
99,100	National Storage Affiliates Trust	1,342,805
111,600	Paramount Group Inc.	1,874,880

Shares	Description (1)				Value
	Real Estate Investment Trust (continued)				
70,400	PennyMac Mortgage Investment Trust			\$	1,089,088
64,300	Redwood Trust Inc.			-	889,912
,	Total Real Estate Investment Trust				5,196,685
	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment 1.2%				
40.500					2 000 065
48,500	Microchip Technology Incorporated				2,089,865
	Software 4.8%				
75,400	Microsoft Corporation, (6)				3,337,204
145,100	Oracle Corporation				5,241,012
	Total Software				8,578,216
	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals 1.8%				
58,500	NetApp, Inc.				1,731,599
32,600	Seagate Technology				1,460,479
	Total Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals				3,192,078
	Tobacco 2.8%				
47,200	Imperial Tobacco Group, Sponsored ADR, (3)				4,885,200
	Total Common Stocks (cost \$158,982,696)]	174,804,839
Shares	Description (1)	Coupon	Ratings (7)		Value
Shares	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES	Coupon	Ratings (7)		Value
Shares	• ' '		Ratings (7)		Value
Shares	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES		Ratings (7)		Value
Shares 26,160	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments)		Ratings (7)	\$	Value 2,436,804
	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7%	1.7%		\$	
26,160	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation	1.7% 11.125%	N/R	\$	2,436,804
26,160	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA	1.7% 11.125%	N/R	\$	2,436,804 544,170
26,160	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services	1.7% 11.125%	N/R	\$	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974
26,160	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost	1.7% 11.125%	N/R	\$	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974
26,160 29,100	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1)	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon	N/R N/R	\$	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974
26,160 29,100	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447)	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon	N/R N/R	\$	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974
26,160 29,100	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon	N/R N/R	\$	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974
26,160 29,100 Shares	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6%	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 8.8%	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	·	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value
26,160 29,100 Shares	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6% Boston Private Financial Holdings Inc.	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 8.8%	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	\$	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value
26,160 29,100 Shares	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6%	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 8.8%	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	·	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value
26,160 29,100 Shares	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6% Boston Private Financial Holdings Inc. Citigroup Inc., (6)	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 8.8% 6.950% 6.875%	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	·	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value 350,796 2,181,606
26,160 29,100 Shares 13,800 81,800 25,098	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6% Boston Private Financial Holdings Inc. Citigroup Inc., (6) City National Corporation	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 8.8% 6.950% 6.875% 6.750%	N/R N/R Ratings (7) N/R BB+ Baa2	·	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value 350,796 2,181,606 719,058
26,160 29,100 Shares 13,800 81,800 25,098 6,525	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6% Boston Private Financial Holdings Inc. Citigroup Inc., (6) City National Corporation Cobank Agricultural Credit Bank, 144A, (3)	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 9.8.8% 6.950% 6.875% 6.750% 6.250%	N/R N/R Ratings (7) N/R BB+ Baa2 BBB+	·	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value 350,796 2,181,606 719,058 674,522
26,160 29,100 Shares 13,800 81,800 25,098 6,525 3,250	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6% Boston Private Financial Holdings Inc. Citigroup Inc., (6) City National Corporation Cobank Agricultural Credit Bank, 144A, (3) Cobank Agricultural Credit Bank, (3)	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 8.8% 6.950% 6.875% 6.750% 6.250% 6.125%	N/R N/R Ratings (7) N/R BB+ Baa2 BBB+ BBB+	·	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value 350,796 2,181,606 719,058 674,522 315,352
26,160 29,100 Shares 13,800 81,800 25,098 6,525 3,250 17,300	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITIES (1.1% of Total Investments) Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.7% Frontier Communications Corporation IntelSat SA Total Diversified Telecommunication Services Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$4,202,447) Description (1) \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFERRED (5.9% of Total Investments) Banks 3.6% Boston Private Financial Holdings Inc. Citigroup Inc., (6) City National Corporation Cobank Agricultural Credit Bank, 144A, (3) Cobank Agricultural Credit Bank, (3) Fifth Third Bancorp.	1.7% 11.125% 5.750% Coupon 8.8% 6.950% 6.875% 6.750% 6.250% 6.125% 6.625%	N/R N/R Ratings (7) N/R BB+ Baa2 BBB+ BBB+ Baa3	·	2,436,804 544,170 2,980,974 2,980,974 Value 350,796 2,181,606 719,058 674,522 315,352 471,425

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11,644	Regions Financial Corporation	6.375%	BB	303,093
21	TCF Financial Corporation	7.500%	BB	553
18,400	U.S. Bancorp.	6.500%	A3	528,448
	Total Banks			6,305,154
	Capital Markets 0.8%			
9,500	Charles Schwab Corporation	6.000%	BBB	239,115
19,750	Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc.	8.000%	N/R	459,188
25,675	Morgan Stanley	7.125%	Ba1	704,779
	Total Capital Markets			1,403,082
	Consumer Finance 0.7%			
9,200	Capital One Financial Corporation	6.700%	Baa3	243,800
24,160	HSBC Finance Corporation	6.360%	BBB	605,450
8,430	SLM Corporation, Series A	6.970%	B1	372,606
	Total Consumer Finance			1,221,856

JTA Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund Portfolio of Investments (continued)			September 30, 2015 (Unaudited			
Shares	Description (1)	Coupon		Ratings (7)		Value
	Diversified Financial Services 0.1%					
8,100	KKR Financial Holdings LLC	7.375%		BBB	\$	211,977
•	Electric Utilities 0.4%					·
8,260	Alabama Power Company, (3)	6.500%		A3		218,374
1,300	Alabama Power Company, (3)	6.450%		A3		34,003
240	Georgia Power Company, (3)	6.500%		A		24,698
5,000	Gulf Power Company, (3)	6.450%		Baa1		500,179
3,000	Total Electric Utilities	0.430 /0		Daar		777,254
	Food Products 0.5%					111,254
17 700	CHS Inc.	7.100%		N/R		470,112
17,700						
13,805	CHS Inc. Total Food Products	0.000%		N/R		357,688 827,800
						027,000
	Insurance 2.2%					
20,089	Allstate Corporation	6.750%		BBB		530,952
16,250	Arch Capital Group Limited	6.750%		BBB+		419,088
10,400	Aspen Insurance Holdings Limited	7.401%		BBB		269,360
16,310	Aspen Insurance Holdings Limited	7.250%		BBB		426,017
24,398	Axis Capital Holdings Limited	6.875%		BBB		636,056
13,580	Endurance Specialty Holdings Limited	7.750%		BBB		345,204
15,000	Endurance Specialty Holdings Limited	7.500%		BBB		386,700
17,801	Maiden Holdings Limited	8.250%		BB		475,821
9,600	National General Holding Company	7.500%		N/R		239,520
6,035	National General Holding Company	7.500%		N/R		150,029
	Total Insurance					3,878,747
	Thrifts & Mortgage Finance 0.5%					
4,631	Astoria Financial Corporation	6.500%		Ba2		116,700
29,436	Federal Agricultural Mortgage	6.875%		N/R		765,335
	Corporation					
	Total Thrifts & Mortgage Finance					882,035
	Total \$25 Par (or similar) Retail				1	5,507,905
	Preferred (cost \$14,806,616)					
Principal						
ount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Ratings (7)		Value
()	VARIABLE RATE SENIOR LOANS	• ` ` ′	27.8%	g - ()		
	(18.6% of Total Investments) (8)	INTERESTS	27.0 %			
	Aerospace & Defense 0.3%					
610	B/E Aerospace, Inc., Term Loan B,	4.000%	12/16/21	BB+	\$	612,712
	First Lien					
	Airlines 0.3%					

486	Delta Air Lines, Inc., Term Loan B1	3.250%	10/18/18	BBB	486,060
	Automobiles 1.2%				
982	Chrysler Group LLC, Term Loan B	3.500%	5/24/17	BB+	980,463
1,114	Formula One Group, Term Loan, First Lien	4.750%	7/30/21	В	1,101,108
2,096	Total Automobiles				2,081,571
	Building Products 0.2%				
396	Gates Global LLC, Term Loan	4.250%	7/06/21	B+	376,819
	Capital Markets 0.3%				
490	Guggenheim Partners LLC, Initial Term Loan	4.250%	7/22/20	N/R	490,817
	Chemicals 1.1%				
199	Mineral Technologies, Inc., Term Loan B2	4.750%	5/07/21	BB	200,615
787	Univar, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	4.250%	7/01/22	BB	775,917
024	LIC Coatings Association Town I can D	3.750%	2/01/20	BB	929,222
934	US Coatings Acquisition, Term Loan B	5.750%	2/01/20	DD	929,222

Principa ount (000		Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Ratings (7)	Value
	Commercial Services & Supplies 0.2%				
\$ 1,01	Millennium Laboratories, Inc., Tranche B, Term Loan	5.250%	4/16/21	CCC+	\$ 324,712
	Communications Equipment 0.1%				
27	Commscope, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	3.750%	5/28/22	ВВ	270,79
	Consumer Finance 0.6%				
1,000	First Data Corporation, Term Loan, (WI/DD)	TBD	TBD	ВВ	992,89
	Containers & Packaging 1.1%				
500	Berry Plastics Holding Corporation, Term Loan F, (WI/DD)	TBD	TBD	ВВ	499,86
1,52	Incremental US Term Loan, First Lien	4.500%	12/01/18	B+	1,529,88
2,02	Total Containers & Packaging				2,029,75
	Diversified Consumer Services 0.6%				
569	1 ,	3.500%	10/25/20	BBB	569,31
454 1,02	1 5.	4.250%	7/01/21	BB	455,22 1,024,53
1,02.	Diversified Telecommunication Services 0.4%				1,024,33
179	Intelsat Jackson Holdings, S.A., Tranche B2, Term Loan	3.750%	6/30/19	ВВ	175,09
243	· · · · · ·	3.500%	5/31/22	Ba1	242,13
34:	В	4.500%	4/01/19	Ba3	340,68
76:	Total Diversified Telecommunication Services				757,91
	Energy Equipment & Services 0.0%				
15	Drill Rigs Holdings, Inc., Tranche B1, Term Loan	6.000%	3/31/21	В	89,47
	Food & Staples Retailing 0.6%				
99	Albertson s LLC, Term Loan B4	5.500%	8/25/21	BB	994,82
	Food Products 1.1%				
1,00	Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Term Loan B	4.250%	7/02/22	BB	1,002,18
95	• • •	4.500%	3/31/19	B2	952,08
1,95	Total Food Products				1,954,27
	Health Care Equipment & Supplies 1.1%				
1,44	Loan E1	4.500%	5/04/18	ВВ	1,444,89
50)	4.250%	5/16/22	B1	499,37

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Sterigenics International, Inc., Term Loan B

	В				
1,944	Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies				1,944,271
	Health Care Providers & Services 2.0%				
261	Community Health Systems, Inc., Term Loan G	3.750%	12/31/19	BB	261,177
522	Community Health Systems, Inc., Term Loan H	4.000%	1/27/21	BB	523,307
821	DaVita HealthCare Partners, Inc., Tranche B, Term Loan	3.500%	6/24/21	Ba1	822,088
798	Drumm Investors LLC, Term Loan	6.750%	5/04/18	В	804,666
980	HCA, Inc., Tranche B4, Term Loan	3.077%	5/01/18	BBB	980,678
74	HCA, Inc., Tranche B5, Term Loan	2.944%	3/31/17	BBB	74,420
3,456	Total Health Care Providers & Services				3,466,336
	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 1.8%				
1,050	Burger King Corporation, Term Loan B	3.750%	12/10/21	Ba3	1,049,393
974	MGM Resorts International, Term Loan B	3.500%	12/20/19	BB	967,481
1,155	Seaworld Parks and Entertainment, Inc., Term Loan B2	3.000%	5/14/20	BB	1,105,739
3,179	Total Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure				3,122,613
	Household Durables 0.0%				
95	Tempur-Pedic International, Inc., New Term Loan B	3.500%	3/18/20	BB+	95,068

JTA Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund Portfolio of Investments (continued)

September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)

Principal ount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Ratings (7)	Value
	Household Products 0.2%				
\$ 423	Spectrum Brands, Inc., Term Loan	3.814%	6/23/22	Ba2	\$ 425,094
	Independent Power & Renewable Elect Producers 0.5%	ricity			
983	Calpine Corporation, Delayed Term Loan	4.000%	10/31/20	BB	981,973
	Internet & Catalog Retail 0.3%				
496	Travelport LLC, Term Loan B, First Lien	5.750%	9/02/21	В	495,589
	Internet Software & Services 0.5%				
829	Tibco Software, Inc., Term Loan B	6.500%	12/04/20	B1	827,612
	IT Services 0.4%				,
739	Vantiv, Inc., Term Loan B	3.750%	6/13/21	BB+	741,631
137	Leisure Products 0.7%	3.73070	0/13/21	DD I	711,031
751	24 Hour Fitness Worldwide, Inc., Term	4.750%	5/28/21	Ba3	709,750
731	Loan B	4.73076	3/20/21	Das	705,730
471	Academy, Ltd., Term Loan B	5.000%	6/16/22	В	469,749
1,222	Total Leisure Products				1,179,499
	Machinery 0.4%				
225	Doosan Infracore International, Inc., Term Loan	4.500%	5/27/21	ВВ	225,800
490	Rexnord LLC, Term Loan B	4.000%	8/21/20	BB	486,850
715	Total Machinery				712,650
	Media 3.6%				
499	Cequel Communications LLC, Extended Term Loan	3.500%	12/14/22	Ba2	495,144
489	Charter Communications Operating Holdings LLC, Term Loan E	3.000%	7/01/20	Baa3	483,748
747	Clear Channel Communications, Inc.,	6.944%	1/30/19	CCC+	622,098
92	Tranche D, Term Loan Clear Channel Communications,	7.694%	7/30/19	CCC+	77,257
940	Inc.,Term Loan E Cumulus Media, Inc., Term Loan B	4.250%	12/23/20	B+	820,312
494	Interactive Data Corporation, Term Loan B	4.750%	5/02/21	B+	493,380
292	Media General, Inc., Term Loan B	4.000%	7/31/20	BB+	289,935
532	Numericable Group S.A., Term Loan B1	4.500%	5/21/20	Ba3	529,389
460	Numericable Group S.A., Term Loan B2	4.500%	5/21/20	Ba3	457,994
550	Springer Science & Business Media, Inc., Term Loan B9, First Lien	4.750%	8/14/20	B1	551,994
1,524		4.000%	3/01/20	B+	1,513,012

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	Univision Communications, Inc.,				
	Replacement Term Loan, First Lien				
6,619	Total Media				6,334,263
	Multiline Retail 0.8%				
498	Bass Pro Group LLC, Term Loan B, First	4.000%	6/05/20	BB	496,049
	Lien				ŕ
760	Dollar Tree, Inc., Term Loan B1	3.500%	7/06/22	BB+	761,659
240	Dollar Tree, Inc., Term Loan B2	4.250%	7/06/22	BB+	240,508
1,498	Total Multiline Retail				1,498,216
	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 0.4%				
500	Energy Transfer Equity L.P., Term Loan,	3.250%	12/02/19	BB	484,375
	First Lien				
214	Fieldwood Energy LLC, Term Loan,	8.375%	9/30/20	В	61,953
	Second Lien				
153	Harvey Gulf International Marine, Inc.,	5.500%	6/18/20	В	100,548
	Term Loan B				
61	Southcross Holdings Borrower L.P.,	6.000%	8/04/21	В	46,700
	Holdco Term Loan				
928	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels				693,576
	Pharmaceuticals 1.5%				
750	Endo Health Solutions, Inc., Term Loan	3.750%	6/24/22	Ba1	749,004
	В				
645	Grifols, Inc., Term Loan	3.194%	2/27/21	Ba1	646,226
234	Quintiles Transnational Corp., Term	3.250%	5/06/22	BB+	234,508
	Loan B				
994	Valeant Pharmaceuticals International,	3.750%	8/05/20	BB+	981,196
	Inc., Term Loan E				
2,623	Total Pharmaceuticals				2,610,934
	Professional Services 0.1%				
181	Nielsen Finance LLC, Dollar Term Loan	3.199%	4/15/21	BBB	181,232
	B2				

	Principal	Description (1)	Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Ratings (7)		Value	
Amount (000)		Real Estate Investment Trust 0.5%	Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Katings (7)		Value	
\$	898 Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc.,		5.000%	10/24/22	ВВ	\$	842,763	
		Term Loan B, First Lien Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment 1.2%						
	859	Avago Technologies, Term Loan B	3.750%	5/06/21	BBB		858,974	
496 Freescale Loan, Tra 725 NXP Sen 2,080 Total Ser		Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., Term Loan, Tranche B4	4.250%	2/28/20	B1		496,172	
		NXP Semiconductor LLC, Term Loan D	3.250%	1/11/20	BBB		724,195	
		Total Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment					2,079,341	
		Software 2.4%						
	374	Activision Blizzard, Inc., Term Loan B	3.250%	10/13/20	BBB		374,243	
	475	BMC Software, Inc., Initial Term Loan	5.000%	9/10/20	B1		432,765	
795 Ellucian, Term Loan B, First Lien, (WI/DD) 956 Emdeon Business Services LLC, Term Loan B2		TBD	TBD	В		794,568		
		3.750%	11/02/18	Ba3		954,262		
	757	Infor Global Solutions Intermediate Holdings, Ltd., Term Loan B5	3.750%	6/03/20	B+		735,858	
	794	SS&C Technologies, Inc./ Sunshine Acquisition II, Inc., Term Loan B1	4.000%	7/08/22	ВВ		796,554	
	126 SS&C Technologies, Inc./ Sunshine Acquisition II, Inc., Term Loan B2		4.000%	7/08/22	BB		126,009	
4,277		Total Software Specialty Retail 0.8%					4,214,259	
	558	Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corporation, Term Loan B3	4.250%	8/13/21	ВВ		559,891	
	449	Petsmart, Inc., Term Loan B	4.250%	3/11/22	BB		448,827	
	400	Staples, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien, (WI/DD)	TBD	TBD	BBB		399,023	
1,407		Total Specialty Retail Technology Hardware, Storage &					1,407,741	
		Peripherals 0.5%						
	985	Dell, Inc., Term Loan B2	4.000%	4/29/20	BBB		983,429	
\$	50,767	Total Variable Rate Senior Loan Interests (cost \$50,415,749)				4	9,230,988	
1	Principal							
	unt (000)	Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity	Ratings (7)		Value	
		CORPORATE BONDS 0.8% (0.6% of	of Total Inves	tments)	_			
		Banks 0.7%						
\$	475	Bank of America Corporation	6.250%	3/05/65	BB+	\$	464,313	
Ψ.	250	Citigroup Inc.	5.950%	12/31/49	BB+	Ψ.	235,625	

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	150 JPMorgan Chase & Company		6.750%	12/31/49	BBB	156,188			
	525	M&T Bank Corporation	6.450%	12/31/49	Baa2	556,499			
	1,400	Total Banks				1,412,625			
	,	Media 0.1%							
	133	Clear Channel Communications, Inc.	9.000%	12/15/19	CCC+	114,380			
	\$ 1,533	Total Corporate Bonds (cost \$1,526,387)				1,527,005			
Amo	Principal ount (000)/	Description (1)	C	D/F=4====4==	D-4: (7)	X 7-1			
Shares		Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity	Ratings (7)	Value			
		\$1,000 PAR (OR SIMILAR) INSTITUTIONAL PREFERRED 7.4% (4.9% of Total Investments)							
		Banks 6.2%							
	\$ 2,367	Bank of America Corporation	6.100%	N/A (10)	BB+	\$ 2,307,825			
	1,174	Citigroup Inc.	5.950%	N/A (10)	BB+	1,157,858			
	575	Citigroup Inc.	5.800%	N/A (10)	BB+	565,944			
	200	Citizens Financial Group Inc., 144A	5.500%	N/A (10)	BB+	195,000			
	600	General Electric Capital Corporation	7.125%	N/A (10)	A+	693,000			
	600 2,000	General Electric Capital Corporation JPMorgan Chase & Company	7.125% 6.125%	N/A (10) N/A (10)	A+ BBB				
		• •		` ′		693,000			
	2,000	JPMorgan Chase & Company	6.125%	N/A (10)	BBB	693,000 1,997,500			
	2,000 250	JPMorgan Chase & Company JPMorgan Chase & Company	6.125% 6.100%	N/A (10) N/A (10)	BBB BBB	693,000 1,997,500 248,375			
	2,000 250 300	JPMorgan Chase & Company JPMorgan Chase & Company JPMorgan Chase & Company	6.125% 6.100% 7.900%	N/A (10) N/A (10) N/A (10)	BBB BBB BBB	693,000 1,997,500 248,375 311,625			

Nuveen Investments

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JTA Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund Portfolio of Investments (continued)

September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)

Principal Amount (000)/ Shares		Description (1) Banks (continued)	Coupon	Maturity	Ratings (7)		Value
\$ 25		,	7.200%	N/A (10)	BB	\$	26,719
225		Zions Bancorporation Total Banks	7.200%	N/A (10)	ББ	Ф	11,021,937
		Captial Markets 0.1%					11,021,707
		Morgan Stanley	5.550%	N/A (10)	Ba1		221,625
		Consumer Finance 0.7%					·
		Ally Financial Inc., 144A	7.000%	N/A (10)	В		225,710
	450	American Express Company	5.200%	N/A (10)	Baa2		445,634
	475	Capital One Financial Corporation	5.550%	N/A (10)	Baa3		469,062
		Total Consumer Finance					1,140,406
		Food Products 0.4%					
	715	Land O Lakes Incorporated, 144A	8.000%	N/A (10)	BB		731,088
		Total \$1,000 Par (or similar) Institutional					13,115,056
		Preferred (cost \$13,123,557)				_	
		Total Long-Term Investments (cost \$243,057,452)				2	257,166,767
	Principal		C	N			X 7 1
Amo	unt (000)	Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity			Value
			(3.0% of T	otai			
		Investments)	·		ents)		
\$	5 556	Investments) REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS 4.6%	(3.0% of To	otal Investm	ents)	\$	5 555 284
\$	5,556	Investments)	(3.0% of To	otal Investme 10/01/15	ents)	\$	5,555,284
\$	5,556 2,518	Investments) REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS 4.6% Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 9/30/15, repurchase price \$5,555,284, collateralized by \$5,420,000 U.S. Treasury Notes,	(3.0% of To	otal Investm	ents)	\$	2,518,235
\$	2,518	REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS 4.6% Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 9/30/15, repurchase price \$5,555,284, collateralized by \$5,420,000 U.S. Treasury Notes, 2.500%, due 8/15/23, value \$5,670,675 Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 9/30/15, repurchase price \$2,518,235, collateralized by \$2,485,000 U.S. Treasury Notes,	(3.0% of To	otal Investme 10/01/15	ents)	\$	

Borrowings (46.6)% (11), (12)	(82,400,000)
Other Assets Less Liabilities (3.3)%	(5,909,051)
(13)	
Net Assets Applicable to Common	\$ 176,931,235
Shares 100%	

Investments in Derivatives as of September 30, 2015

Options Written outstanding:

Number of		Notional	Expiration	Strike	
Contracts	Description	Amount (14)	Date	Price	Value
(515)	Interpublic Group of				
	Companies, Inc.	\$ (1,133,000)	10/16/15	\$ 22.0	\$ (6,437)
(485)	Microchip Technology				
	Incorporated	(2,134,000)	10/16/15	44.0	(31,525)
(5)	National CineMedia, Inc.	(8,750)	12/18/15	17.5	(50)
(585)	NetApp, Inc.	(1,930,500)	12/18/15	33.0	(35,978)
	Total Options Written				
(1,590)	(premiums received \$108,657)	\$ (5,206,250)			\$ (73,990)

Interest Rate Swaps outstanding:

	NotionaPa	Fund		Fixed Rate	Fixed Rate Payment	EffectiveT	l ermination Ap
Counterparty		ating Rate	Floating Rate Indexnu	ıalized)	Frequency	Date (15)	Date(De
JPMorgan	\$ 18,475,000	Receive	1-Month USD-LIBOR-ICE	1.462%	Monthly	12/01/15	12/01/20 \$
JPMorgan	18,475,000	Receive	1-Month USD-LIBOR-ICE	1.842	Monthly	12/01/15	12/01/22
	\$ 36,950,000				_		\$

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received upon selling an investment or transferring a liability in an orderly transaction to an independent buyer in the principal or most advantageous market for the investment. A three-tier hierarchy is used to maximize the use of observable market data and minimize the use of unobservable inputs and to establish classification of fair value measurements for disclosure purposes. Observable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Observable inputs are based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity s own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs are based on the best information available in the circumstances. The following is a summary of the three-tiered hierarchy of valuation input levels.

- Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted and prices are determined using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.
- Level 2 Prices are determined using other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).
- Level 3 Prices are determined using significant unobservable inputs (including management s assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodologies used for valuing securities are not an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities. The following is a summary of the Fund s fair value measurements as of the end of the reporting period:

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
\$ 135,830,289	\$ 38,974,550	\$	* \$174,804,839
2,980,974			2,980,974
13,740,777	1,767,128		15,507,905
	49,230,988		49,230,988
	1,527,005		1,527,005
	13,115,056		13,115,056
	8,073,519		8,073,519
(73,990)			(73,990)
	(1,075,329)		(1,075,329)
\$ 152,478,050	\$111,612,917	\$	\$ 264,090,967
	\$135,830,289 2,980,974 13,740,777 (73,990)	\$ 135,830,289 \$ 38,974,550 2,980,974 13,740,777 1,767,128 49,230,988 1,527,005 13,115,056 8,073,519 (73,990) (1,075,329)	\$ 135,830,289 \$ 38,974,550 \$ 2,980,974 13,740,777 1,767,128 49,230,988 1,527,005 13,115,056 8,073,519 (73,990) (1,075,329)

^{*} Value equals zero as of the end of the reporting period.

Income Tax Information

The following information is presented on an income tax basis. Differences between amounts for financial statement and federal income tax purposes are primarily due to the recognition of premium amortization and timing differences in recognizing certain gains and losses on investment transactions. To the extent that differences arise that are permanent in nature, such amounts are reclassified within the capital accounts on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities presented in the annual report, based on their federal tax basis treatment, temporary differences do not require reclassification. Temporary and permanent differences do not impact the net asset value of the Fund.

^{**}Represents net unrealized appreciation (depreciation).

As of September 30, 2015, the cost of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) was \$253,025,928.

Gross unrealized appreciation and gross unrealized depreciation of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) as of September 30, 2015, were as follows:

Gross unrealized:	
Appreciation	\$ 28,088,402
Depreciation	(15,874,044)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	\$ 12,214,358

JTA Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund Portfolio of Investments (continued)

September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)

For Fund portfolio compliance purposes, the Fund s industry classifications refer to any one or more of the industry sub-classifications used by one or more widely recognized market indexes or ratings group indexes, and/or as defined by Fund management. This definition may not apply for purposes of this report, which may combine industry sub-classifications into sectors for reporting ease.

- (1) All percentages shown in the Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets applicable to common shares unless otherwise noted.
- (2) Non-income producing; issuer has not declared a dividend within the past twelve months.
- (3) For fair value measurement disclosure purposes, investment classified as Level 2.
- (4) Investment valued at fair value using methods determined in good faith by, or at the discretion of, the Board. For fair value measurement disclosure purposes, investment classified as Level 3.
- (5) Investment, or portion of investment, is out on loan. The total value of investments out on loan as of the end of the reporting period was \$43,979,416.
- (6) Investment, or portion of investment, has been pledged to collateralize the net payment obligations for investments in derivatives.
- (7) Ratings: Using the highest of Standard & Poor s Group (Standard & Poor s), Moody s Investors Service, Inc. (Moody s) or Fitch, Inc. (Fitch) rating. Ratings below BBB by Standard & Poor s, Baa by Moody s o BBB by Fitch are considered to be below investment grade. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by any of these national rating agencies.
- Senior loans generally pay interest at rates which are periodically adjusted by reference to a base short-term, floating lending rate plus an assigned fixed rate. These floating lending rates are generally (i) the lending rate referenced by the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), or (ii) the prime rate offered by one or more major United States banks. Senior loans may be considered restricted in that the Fund ordinarily is contractually obligated to receive approval from the agent bank and/or borrower prior to the disposition of a senior loan. The rate shown is the coupon as of the end of the reporting period.

- (9) Senior loans generally are subject to mandatory and/or optional prepayment. Because of these mandatory prepayment conditions and because there may be significant economic incentives for a borrower to prepay, prepayments of senior loans may occur. As a result, the actual remaining maturity of senior loans held may be substantially less than the stated maturities shown.
- (10) Perpetual security. Maturity date is not applicable.
- (11) Borrowings as a percentage of Total Investments is 31.1%.
- (12) The Fund may pledge up to 100% of its eligible investments (excluding any investments separately pledged as collateral for specific investments in derivatives) in the Portfolio of Investments as collateral for borrowings. As of the end of the reporting period, investments with a value of \$178,831,421 have been pledged as collateral for borrowings.
- Other assets less liabilities includes the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of certain over-the-counter derivatives as well as the exchange-cleared and exchange-traded derivatives, when applicable. Other assets less liabilities also includes the value of options.
- For disclosure purposes, Notional Amount is calculated by multiplying the Number of Contracts by the Strike Price by 100.
- (15) Effective date represents the date on which both the Fund and Counterparty commence interest payment accruals on each contract.
- Investment is exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These investments may only be resold in transactions exempt from registration, which are normally those transactions with qualified institutional buyers.
- ADR American Depositary Receipt

USD-LIBOR-ICE United States Dollar London Inter-Bank Offered Rate Intercontinental Exchange

- (WI/DD) Investment purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis.
- TBD Senior loan purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis. Certain details associated with this purchase are not known prior to the settlement date of the transaction. In addition, senior loans typically trade without accrued interest and therefore a coupon rate is not available prior to settlement. At settlement, if still unknown, the borrower or counterparty will provide the Fund with the final coupon rate and maturity date.

Item 2. Controls and Procedures.

- a. The registrant s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant s disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act) (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of the controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rule 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).
- b. There were no changes in the registrant s internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d)) 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.

File as exhibits as part of this Form a separate certification for each principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the registrant as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-2(a)), exactly as set forth below: EX-99 CERT Attached hereto.

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.

(Registrant) Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Kevin J. McCarthy

Kevin J. McCarthy

Vice President and Secretary

Date: November 27, 2015

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 (Signature and Title) /s/ Gifford R. Zimmerman

Gifford R. Zimmerman

Chief Administrative Officer (principal executive

officer)

Date: November 27, 2015

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Stephen D. Foy

Stephen D. Foy

Vice President and Controller (principal financial

officer)

Date: November 27, 2015