NUVEEN TAX ADVANTAGED TOTAL RETURN STRATEGY FUND Form N-Q November 29, 2016

#### 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)

Gifford R. Zimmerman 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, 2016

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, 2016 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS 142.3% (97.6% of Total Investments)	
	COMMON STOCKS 92.7% (63.6% of Total Investments)	
	Air Freight & Logistics 4.3%	
152,800	Deutsche Post AG, (2)	\$ 4,783,932
26,700	United Parcel Service, Inc., Class B, (3), (4)	2,919,912
	Total Air Freight & Logistics	7,703,844
	Airlines 0.9%	
18,200	Copa Holdings SA, (3)	1,600,326
	Automobiles 1.5%	
37,200	Daimler AG, (2)	2,627,436
	Banks 9.0%	
73,700	CIT Group Inc., (4)	2,675,310
96,800	Citigroup Inc.	4,571,864
325,530	ING Groep N.V., (4)	4,017,040
43,000	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2,863,370
40,000	Wells Fargo & Company, (3)	1,771,200
	Total Banks	15,898,784
	Biotechnology 1.2%	
35,000	AbbVie Inc.	2,207,450
	Capital Markets 5.0%	
178,000	Ares Capital Corporation, (4)	2,759,000
522,000	Deutsche Boerse AG, (2)	4,045,500
152,300	UBS Group AG, (2)	2,080,487
	Total Capital Markets	8,884,987
	Chemicals 0.7%	
243,300	CVR Partners LP	1,289,490
	Communications Equipment 2.5%	
84,600	Cisco Systems, Inc.	2,683,512
242,000	Ericsson, (4)	1,744,820
	Total Communications Equipment	4,428,332
	Diversified Financial Services 1.3%	
305,000	Challenger Limited, (2)	2,388,368
	Diversified Telecommunication Services 5.0%	

146,500	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation,	6,711,165
	ADR	
144,000	Telefonica Brasil SA	2,078,871
	Total Diversified Telecommunication Services	8,790,036
	Electric Utilities 1.6%	
819,200	EDP Energias de Portugal, S.A., (2)	2,749,239
	Electrical Equipment 1.1%	
29,800	Eaton PLC, (4)	1,958,158
	Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts 1.7%	
33,100	Apartment Investment & Management Company,	1,519,621
	Class A	
95,600	Paramount Group Inc.	1,566,884
	Total Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts	3,086,505

	veen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund rtfolio of Investments (continued)	September 30, 2016 (Unaudited)	
Shares	Description (1)	Value	
	Food & Staples Retailing 1.5%		
30,100	CVS Health Corporation, (4)	\$ 2,678,599	
	Food Products 2.7%		
457,600	Orkla ASA, (2), (4)	4,745,312	
	Health Care Providers & Services 0.0%		
10,108	Millennium Health LLC, (5)	4,296	
10,100	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 0.8%	1,250	
24,100	Cedar Fair LP, (3)	1,380,689	
24,100	Household Durables 1.3%	1,500,007	
137,200		2,337,431	
137,200	Sekisui House, Ltd., (2)  Industrial Conglomerates 3.9%	2,337,431	
60,000	General Electric Company, (3)	1,777,200	
107,800	Philips Electronics, (4)	3,189,802	
17,400	Siemens AG, Sponsored ADR, (2)	2,040,327	
,	Total Industrial Conglomerates	7,007,329	
	Insurance 10.2%		
81,500	Ageas, (2)	2,979,915	
232,200	Allinaz S.E, (2), (4)	3,443,526	
43,000	CNA Financial Corporation	1,479,630	
201,900	Swiss Re AG, (2)	4,571,016	
158,500	Unum Group, (4)	5,596,635	
	Total Insurance	18,070,722	
	Media 7.1%		
104,000	Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc., (4)	2,324,400	
2,099 98,600	Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, (2), (5) National CineMedia, Inc., (4)	168,445	
225,200	ProSiebenSat.1 Media AG, (2)	1,451,392 2,401,758	
42,000	Time Warner Inc., (4)	3,343,620	
3,958	Tribune Media Company	144,546	
3,185	Tribune Media Company, (6)	,	
989	tronc, Inc., (5)	16,694	
74,100	Viacom Inc., Class B	2,823,210	
	Total Media	12,674,065	
	Mortgage Real Estate Investment Trusts 0.7%		
78,000	PennyMac Mortgage Investment Trust	1,215,240	
	Multiline Retail 2.4%		
22,900	Nordstrom, Inc.	1,188,052	
43,500	Target Corporation, (4)	2,987,580	
	Total Multiline Retail	4,175,632	

## Multi-Utilities 2.8%

214,200	Veolia Environment S.A., ADR, (2)	4,935,507
	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 2.7%	
36,400	Phillips 66, (4)	2,932,020
9	Southcross Holdings Borrower LP, (5)	3,173
39,300	Total SA, Sponsored ADR	1,874,610
	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	4,809,803
	Pharmaceuticals 8.2%	
141,500	AstraZeneca PLC, (4)	4,649,690
156,200	GlaxoSmithKline PLC	6,736,906

Shares	Description (1)			Value
	Pharmaceuticals (continued)			
101,700	Roche Holdings AG, Sponsored ADR, (2), (4)			\$ 3,149,649
	Total Pharmaceuticals			14,536,245
	Road & Rail 1.1%			
20,000	Union Pacific Corporation			1,950,600
	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment 1.5%			
148,000	Infineon Technologies AG, (2)			2,639,064
	Software 5.9%			
65,000	Microsoft Corporation, (3), (4)			3,744,000
173,300	Oracle Corporation			6,807,224
	Total Software			10,551,224
	Specialty Retail 1.1%			
69,500	GameStop Corporation			1,917,505
	Tobacco 3.0%			
105,000	Imperial Brands PLC, (2)			5,404,350
	Total Common Stocks (cost \$146,313,953)			164,646,568
			Ratings	
Shares	Description (1)	Coupon	(7)	Value
	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SECURITI	ES 6.2% (4.2% c	of Total	
	Investments)			
	Banks 0.7%			
525				
343	Bank of America Corporation	7.250%	BB+	\$ 640,941
400	Wells Fargo & Company	7.250% 7.500%	BB+ BBB	\$ 523,440
	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks			\$
	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services			\$ 523,440
400	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%	7.500%	BBB	\$ 523,440 1,164,381
	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation			\$ 523,440
29,655	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%	7.500% 11.125%	BBB N/R	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351
400	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2)	7.500%	BBB	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351 7,321,213
29,655	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2) Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost	7.500% 11.125%	BBB N/R	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351
29,655	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2)	7.500% 11.125%	BBB N/R	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351 7,321,213
29,655 9,043	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2) Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$12,428,581)	7.500% 11.125% 7.000%	N/R N/R Ratings	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351 7,321,213 10,973,945
29,655	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2) Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$12,428,581)  Description (1)	7.500% 11.125% 7.000% Coupon	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351 7,321,213
29,655 9,043	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2) Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$12,428,581)	7.500%  11.125%  7.000%  Coupon	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351 7,321,213 10,973,945
29,655 9,043	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2) Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$12,428,581)  Description (1)  \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFER	7.500% 11.125% 7.000% Coupon	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351 7,321,213 10,973,945
29,655 9,043	Wells Fargo & Company Total Banks  Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.4%  Frontier Communications Corporation  Pharmaceuticals 4.1%  Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, (2) Total Convertible Preferred Securities (cost \$12,428,581)  Description (1)  \$25 PAR (OR SIMILAR) RETAIL PREFEIT Investments)	7.500% 11.125% 7.000% Coupon	N/R N/R Ratings (7)	\$ 523,440 1,164,381 2,488,351 7,321,213 10,973,945

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3,250	Cobank Agricultural Credit Bank, (2)	6.125%	BBB+	330,891
14,122	Fifth Third Bancorp.	6.625%	Baa3	431,286
7,700	First Republic Bank of San Francisco	7.000%	BBB	210,210
4,450	HSBC Holdings PLC	8.000%	Baa1	116,189
15,000	Huntington BancShares Inc.	6.250%	Baa3	413,100
14,544	Regions Financial Corporation	6.375%	BB	421,049
3,821	TCF Financial Corporation	7.500%	BB	99,957
18,400	U.S. Bancorp.	6.500%	A3	554,208
1,300	Zions Bancorporation	7.900%	BB	34,268
	Total Banks			3,412,983
	Capital Markets 1.2%			
11,400	Charles Schwab Corporation	6.000%	BBB	313,842
3,775	Charles Schwab Corporation	5.950%	BBB	102,756
20,850	Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc.	8.000%	N/R	521,459
24,175	Morgan Stanley	7.125%	Ba1	713,404
16,200	Stifel Financial Corporation	6.250%	BB	451,170
	Total Capital Markets			2,102,631

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

September 30, 2016 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1) Consumer Finance 1.2%	Coupon	Ratings (7)	Value
0.000		6 <b>=</b> 000 er	<b>D</b>	<b>A. A.</b> E. A. E. C.
9,200	Capital One Financial Corporation	6.700%	Baa3	\$ 258,796
3,800	Discover Financial Services	6.500%	BB	99,104
56,500 7,130	GMAC Capital Trust I SLM Corporation, Series A	8.125% 6.970%	B+ Ba3	1,435,665 366,553
7,130	Total Consumer Finance	0.970%	Баз	2,160,118
	Diversified Financial Services 0.1%			2,100,110
8,100	KKR Financial Holdings LLC	7.375%	BBB	216,432
	Electric Utilities 1.0%			
3,035	Alabama Power Company, (2)	6.500%	A3	90,291
1,300	Alabama Power Company, (2)	6.450%	A3	34,125
23,225	Great Plains Energy Inc.	7.000%	N/R	1,195,855
5,000	Gulf Power Company, (2)	6.450%	Baa1	518,822
	Total Electric Utilities			1,839,093
	Food Products 0.4%			
14,600	CHS Inc.	7.100%	N/R	437,416
11,205	CHS Inc.	6.750%	N/R	320,799
	Total Food Products			758,215
	Insurance 1.8%			
14,089	Allstate Corporation	6.750%	BBB	382,939
13,300	Arch Capital Group Limited	6.750%	BBB+	340,746
4,000	Aspen Insurance Holdings Limited	7.401%	BBB	101,280
19,210	Aspen Insurance Holdings Limited	7.250%	BBB	496,963
13,193	Axis Capital Holdings Limited	6.875%	BBB	338,005
19,050	Endurance Specialty Holdings Limited	6.350%	BBB	533,400
19,101	Maiden Holdings Limited	8.250%	BB	496,053
9,600	National General Holding Company	7.500%	N/R	247,680
6,035	National General Holding Company	7.500%	N/R	157,332
	Total Insurance			3,094,398
	Thrifts & Mortgage Finance 0.5%			
4,631	Astoria Financial Corporation	6.500%	Ba2	121,981
25,037	Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation	6.875%	N/R	675,498
	Total Thrifts & Mortgage Finance			797,479
	Wireless Telecommunication Services 0.2%			
11,000	United States Cellular Corporation	7.250%	Ba1	293,260
	<del>-</del>			

Total \$25 Par (or similar) Retail Preferred (cost \$13,605,621)

14,674,609

Am	Princij ount (00	•	Description (1)	Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Ratings (7)	Va	llue
			VARIABLE RATE SENIOR LOAN I Investments) (8)	NTERESTS	27.1% (18.6% of	Total		
			Aerospace & Defense 1.2%					
	\$ 6	510	B/E Aerospace, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	3.790%	12/16/21	BB+	\$ 616,0	615
	1,0	000	Leidos Holdings, Inc., Term Loan B	3.274%	8/16/23	BBB	1,007,0	083
	2	236	Transdigm, Inc., Delayed Draw, Tranche F, Term Loan	3.750%	6/09/23	Ba2	236,	472
	2	262	Transdigm, Inc., Term Loan F	3.750%	6/09/23	Ba2	262,	746
	2,1	108	Total Aerospace & Defense				2,122,	916
			Airlines 0.3%					
	4	181	Delta Air Lines, Inc., Term Loan B1	3.250%	10/18/18	BBB	483,	322
			Automobiles 0.9%					
	5	574	Chrysler Group LLC, Term Loan B	3.500%	5/24/17	BBB	575,	611
	1,1	114	Formula One Group, Term Loan, First Lien	4.750%	7/30/21	В	1,116,0	073
	1,6	588	Total Automobiles				1,691,	684

Principal Amount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Ratings (7)	Value
` ,	Building Products 0.2%	. ,	. ,	` '	
\$ 293	Gates Global LLC, Term Loan	4.250%	7/06/21	B+	\$ 288,844
	Capital Markets 0.3%				, ,
485	Guggenheim Partners LLC, Initial Term Loan	4.250%	7/22/20	N/R	487,729
	Chemicals 1.0%				
199	Mineral Technologies, Inc., Term Loan B2	4.750%	5/07/21	BB+	201,484
779	Univar, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	4.250%	7/01/22	BB-	780,289
837	US Coatings Acquisition, Term Loan B	3.750%	2/01/20	BB+	843,409
1,815	Total Chemicals				1,825,182
	Commercial Services & Supplies 0.6%				
997	West Corporation, Term Loan B12	3.750%	6/17/23	BB	1,004,732
	Communications Equipment 0.1%				
268	Commscope, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	3.750%	12/29/22	Ba1	270,386
	Consumer Finance 0.5%				
926	First Data Corporation, Term Loan B, First Lien	4.525%	3/24/21	BB	932,498
	Containers & Packaging 1.0%				
429	Berry Plastics Holding Corporation, Term Loan H	3.750%	10/01/22	ВВ	430,229
1,277	Reynolds Group Holdings, Inc., Term Loan, First Lien	4.250%	2/06/23	N/R	1,282,054
1,706	Total Containers & Packaging				1,712,283
	<b>Diversified Consumer Services</b> 0.6%				
49	Hilton Hotels Corporation, Term Loan B2	3.500%	10/26/20	BBB	49,700
505	Hilton Hotels Corporation, Series B2, Term Loan	3.100%	10/25/23	BBB	509,563
450	ServiceMaster Company, Term Loan	4.250%	7/01/21	BB	455,149
1,004	Total Diversified Consumer Services				1,014,412
	Diversified Financial Services 0.6%				
746	MGM Growth Properties, Term Loan B	4.000%	4/25/23	BB+	753,712
266	WideOpenWest Finance LLC, New Term Loan B	4.500%	8/18/23	B1	264,792
1,012	Total Diversified Financial Services				1,018,504
	Diversified Telecommunication Services 0.8%				

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522	Intelsat Jackson Holdings, S.A., Tranche B2, Term Loan	3.750%	6/30/19	B1	498,270
1,000	Verizon Communications, Inc., Term Loan	1.796%	7/31/19	N/R	1,001,042
1,522	Total Diversified Telecommunication Services				1,499,312
	Energy Equipment & Services 0.0%				
149	Drill Rigs Holdings, Inc., Tranche B1, Term Loan	6.000%	3/31/21	Caa2	75,673
	Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts 0.3%				
541	Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	5.000%	10/24/22	BB+	543,013
	Food & Staples Retailing 0.5%				
869	Albertson s LLC, Repriced Term Loan B4	4.500%	8/25/21	BB	875,283
	Food Products 0.8%				
821	Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Term Loan B	4.250%	7/02/22	BB	831,838
586	US Foods, Inc., Term Loan B	4.000%	6/27/23	B+	591,015
1,407	Total Food Products				1,422,853
	Health Care Equipment & Supplies 1.0%				
1,430	Acelity, Term Loan F	5.000%	8/03/18	Ba3	1,444,058
428	Sterigenics International, Inc., Term Loan B	4.250%	5/16/22	B1	428,608
1,858	Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies				1,872,666

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

September 30, 2016 (Unaudited)

incipal mount		Coupon	Maturity	Ratings	
(000)	Description (1)	(8)	(9)	(7)	Value
	Health Care Providers & Services 1.6%				
\$ 258	Community Health Systems, Inc., Term Loan G	3.750%	12/31/19	ВВ	\$ 253,768
517	Community Health Systems, Inc., Term Loan H	4.000%	1/27/21	BB	508,518
813	DaVita HealthCare Partners, Inc., Tranche B, Term Loan	3.500%	6/24/21	Ba1	818,446
477	Drumm Investors LLC, Term Loan	9.500%	5/04/18	В	470,325
57	HCA, Inc., Term Loan B6, First Lien	3.774%	3/17/23	BBB	57,376
506	HCA, Inc., Term Loan B7, First Lien	3.588%	2/15/24	BBB	510,417
343	Millennium Laboratories, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	7.550%	12/21/20	В	163,545
2,971	Total Health Care Providers & Services				2,782,395
	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 1.5%				
1,039	Burger King Corporation, Term Loan B	3.750%	12/10/21	Ba3	1,047,163
1,143	Seaworld Parks and Entertainment, Inc., Term Loan B2	3.088%	5/14/20	BB	1,122,730
499	YUM Brands, Term Loan B	3.281%	6/16/23	BBB	503,470
2,681	Total Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure  Household Products 0.2%				2,673,363
347	Spectrum Brands, Inc., Term Loan	3.500%	6/23/22	BBB	348,529
5-17	Independent Power & Renewable Electricity Producers 0.3%	3.50070	0123122	DDD	310,327
500	Dynegy, Inc., Term Loan B	5.000%	6/27/23	BB	503,854
	Internet and Direct Marketing Retail 0.3%				
481	Travelport LLC, Term Loan B	5.000%	9/02/21	B+	483,258
	Internet Software & Services 0.5%				
821	Tibco Software, Inc., Term Loan B  IT Services 0.7%	6.500%	12/04/20	B1	811,684
728	Vantiv, Inc., Term Loan B	3.500%	6/13/21	BBB	731,007
499	WEX, Inc., Term Loan B	4.250%	6/30/23	BB	504,984
1,227	Total IT Services		3.3 <b>3.2</b>		1,235,991
	Leisure Products 0.4%				

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680	24 Hour Fitness Worldwide, Inc., Term Loan B	4.750%	5/28/21	Ba3	656,334
	Life Sciences Tools & Services 0.3%				
500	Inventiv Health, Inc., Term Loan B, (WI/DD)	TBD	TBD	В	501,015
	Machinery 0.3%				
462	Rexnord LLC, Term Loan B	4.000%	8/21/20	BB	462,661
	Media 2.6%				
495	Cequel Communications LLC, Extended Term Loan	4.250%	12/14/22	ВВ	498,587
484	Charter Communications Operating Holdings LLC, Term Loan E	3.000%	7/01/20	BBB	485,531
92	Clear Channel Communications, Inc., Term Loan E	8.024%	7/30/19	Caa1	70,867
747	Clear Channel Communications, Inc., Tranche D, Term Loan	7.274%	1/30/19	Caa1	575,549
690	Cumulus Media, Inc., Term Loan B	4.250%	12/23/20	В3	484,855
41	Nexstar Broadcasting Group (Mission Broadcasting Inc.) Term Loan B, (WI/DD)	TBD	TBD	BB+	40,807
500	Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Term Loan B, First Lien, (WI/DD)	TBD	TBD	BB+	503,047
544	Springer Science & Business Media, Inc., Term Loan B9, First Lien	4.750%	8/14/20	В	529,433
1,508	Univision Communications, Inc., Replacement Term Loan, First Lien	4.000%	3/01/20	BB	1,511,901
5,101	Total Media				4,700,577
	Multiline Retail 0.5%				
492	Bass Pro Group LLC, Term Loan B, First Lien	4.000%	6/05/20	ВВ	492,802
173	Dollar Tree, Inc., Term Loan B, First Lien	3.063%	7/06/22	BBB	173,807
240	Dollar Tree, Inc., Term Loan B2	4.250%	7/06/22	BBB	242,175
905	Total Multiline Retail				908,784
	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 0.3%				
205	Fieldwood Energy LLC, Term Loan, First Lien	8.000%	8/31/20	B2	169,609
139	Fieldwood Energy LLC, Term Loan, Second Lien, (DD1)	8.375%	9/30/20	CCC	58,413

Principal Amount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon (8)	Maturity (9)	Ratings (7)	Value
(000)	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels (continued)	(0)	(3)	(1)	value
\$ 353	Fieldwood Energy LLC, Term Loan, Second Lien	8.375%	9/30/20	N/R	\$ 256,177
190	Harvey Gulf International Marine, Inc., Term Loan B	5.500%	6/18/20	CCC+	120,377
8	Southcross Holdings Borrower L.P., Term Loan B, First Lien	3.500%	4/13/23	CCC+	7,013
895	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels <b>Pharmaceuticals</b> 0.7%				611,589
231	Quintiles Transnational Corp., Term	3.250%	5/06/22	BBB	231,675
231	Loan B	3.23070	3700722	DDD	231,073
964	Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc., Series E1, Tranche B Term Loan	5.250%	8/05/20	N/R	965,696
1,195	Total Pharmaceuticals				1,197,371
	<b>Professional Services</b> 0.2%				
400	Nielsen Finance LLC, Term Loan B3, First Lien, (WI/DD)	TBD	TBD	BBB	401,958
	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment 1.3%				
1,012	Avago Technologies, Term Loan B3	3.524%	2/01/23	BBB	1,025,362
717	NXP Semiconductor LLC, Term Loan D	3.250%	1/11/20	Baa2	721,064
533	NXP Semiconductor LLC, Term Loan F	3.405%	12/07/20	BBB	536,408
2,262	Total Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment				2,282,834
470	Software 2.1%	<b>5</b> 0000	0/10/20	D1	454.065
470	BMC Software, Inc., Initial Term Loan	5.000%	9/10/20	B1	454,265
782	Ellucian, Term Loan B, First Lien	4.750%	9/30/22	B2	783,055
946	Emdeon Business Services LLC, Term Loan B2	3.750%	11/02/18	Ba3	948,535
736	Infor Global Solutions Intermediate Holdings, Ltd., Term Loan B5	3.750%	6/03/20	ВВ	732,157
684	SS&C Technologies, Inc./ Sunshine Acquisition II, Inc., Term Loan B1	4.000%	7/08/22	ВВ	689,736
85	SS&C Technologies, Inc./ Sunshine Acquisition II, Inc., Term Loan B2	4.000%	7/08/22	ВВ	85,714
3,703	Total Software				3,693,462
	Specialty Retail 1.2%				
559		3.500%	8/13/21	BB	561,729

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Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corporation, Term Loan B4		
Corporation, Term Loan B4		
	D.1	246.250
250 Jo-Ann Stores, Inc., Term Loan B, TBD TBD (WI/DD)	B1	246,250
946 Petco Animal Supplies, Inc., Term 5.000% 1/26/23 Loan B1	В	955,849
444 Petsmart, Inc., Term Loan B 4.250% 3/11/22	ВВ	445,764
2,199 Total Specialty Retail		2,209,592
Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals 1.2%		
818 Dell International LLC, Term Loan 4.000% 9/07/23 B	BBB	823,736
407 Texas Competitive Electric Holdings 5.000% 10/31/17 LLC, DIP Term Loan B, First Lien	ВВ	410,196
93 Texas Competitive Electric Holdings 5.000% 10/31/17 LLC, DIP Term Loan C, First Lien	ВВ	93,554
798 Western Digital, Inc., Term Loan B1 4.500% 4/29/23	BBB	807,726
2,116 Total Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals		2,135,212
Wireless Telecommunication Services 0.2%		
447 T-Mobile USA, Term Loan B 3.500% 11/09/22	BBB	450,413
49,022 Total Variable Rate Senior Loan Interests (cost \$48,759,102)		48,192,168
Principal	Ratings	
ount (000) Description (1) Coupon Maturity	(7)	Value
CORPORATE BONDS 0.6%		
(0.4% of Total Investments)		
(0.4% of Total Investments)  Banks 0.6%		
Banks 0.6%	BB+	\$ 27,156
Banks         0.6%           \$ 25         Bank of America Corporation         6.300%         3/10/66		, ,
Banks 0.6%	BB+ BB+ BBB	\$ 27,156 255,025 167,250
Banks 0.6%         \$ 25 Bank of America Corporation       6.300%       3/10/66         250 Citigroup Inc.       5.950%       12/29/49	BB+	255,025
Banks 0.6%         \$ 25 Bank of America Corporation       6.300%       3/10/66         250 Citigroup Inc.       5.950%       12/29/49         150 JPMorgan Chase & Company       6.750%       1/29/49	BB+ BBB	255,025 167,250
Banks 0.6%         \$ 25 Bank of America Corporation       6.300%       3/10/66         250 Citigroup Inc.       5.950%       12/29/49         150 JPMorgan Chase & Company       6.750%       1/29/49         525 M&T Bank Corporation       6.450%       12/29/49	BB+ BBB	255,025 167,250 590,730
Banks 0.6%           \$ 25 Bank of America Corporation         6.300%         3/10/66           250 Citigroup Inc.         5.950%         12/29/49           150 JPMorgan Chase & Company         6.750%         1/29/49           525 M&T Bank Corporation         6.450%         12/29/49           950 Total Banks         12/29/49	BB+ BBB	255,025 167,250 590,730

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

September 30, 2016 (Unaudited)

Principal Amount (000)		Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity	Ratings (7)	Value				
		\$1,000 PAR (OR SIMILAR) INSTITUTIONAL PREFERRED								
		7.4% (5.1% of Total Investments)								
		<b>Banks</b> 5.2%								
\$	1,929	Bank of America Corporation	6.500%	N/A (10)	BB+	\$ 2,089,348				
	450	Citigroup Inc.	5.800%	N/A (10)	BB+	452,812				
	1,938	Citigroup Inc.	5.950%	N/A (10)	BB+	1,973,213				
	100	Citigroup Inc.	6.250%	N/A (10)	BB+	107,719				
	200	Citizens Financial Group Inc.	5.500%	N/A (10)	BB+	196,000				
	50	Cobank Agricultural Credit Bank	6.250%	N/A (10)	BBB+	54,755				
	200	JPMorgan Chase & Company	7.900%	N/A (10)	BBB	205,500				
	250	JPMorgan Chase & Company	6.100%	N/A (10)	BBB	264,062				
	550	PNC Financial Services Inc.	6.750%	N/A (10)	Baa2	616,000				
	450	SunTrust Bank Inc.	5.625%	N/A (10)	Baa3	465,188				
	2,367	Wells Fargo & Company, (3)	5.875%	N/A (10)	BBB	2,568,195				
	225	Zions Bancorporation	7.200%	N/A (10)	BB	240,469				
	8,709	Total Banks				9,233,261				
		Capital Markets 0.2%								
	200	Goldman Sachs Group Inc.	5.300%	N/A (10)	Ba1	205,000				
	100	Morgan Stanley	5.550%	N/A (10)	Ba1	102,125				
	300	Total Capital Markets		,		307,125				
		Consumer Finance 0.4%								
	275	American Express Company	5.200%	N/A (10)	Baa2	277,406				
	400	Capital One Financial Corporation	5.550%	N/A (10)	Baa3	407,000				
	675	Total Consumer Finance	3.33070	10/1 (10)	Duus	684,406				
	075	Industrial Conglomerates 0.4%				001,100				
	740	General Electric Company	5.000%	N/A (10)	A	786,916				
	740	* •	3.000%	IVA (10)	Α	780,910				
	750	Land O Lakes Incorporated, 144A	8.000%	N/A (10)	BB	776,250				
	1,371	Land O Lakes Incorporated, 144A	8.000%	N/A (10)	BB	1,418,985				
	2,121	Total Food Products				2,195,235				
\$ 1	2,545	Total \$1,000 Par (or similar)				13,206,943				
		Institutional Preferred (cost								
		\$12,613,603)				<b></b> 020 (20				
		Total Long-Term Investments (cost \$234,800,386)				252,839,630				
D	oinal									
Amount	cipal (000)	Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity		Value				
Amount	(000)	<u>•</u>	Coupon	Maturity		v aiue				
		SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS								
		3.5% (2.4% of Total Investments)								

## **REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS** 3.5% (2.4% of Total Investments)

\$ 1,883	Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 9/30/16, repurchase price \$1,883,558, collateralized by \$1,745,000 U.S. Treasury Notes, 3.500%, due 5/15/20, value \$1,923,863	0.030%	10/03/16	\$ 1,883,553
4,326	Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 9/30/16, repurchase price \$4,325,922, collateralized by \$3,780,000 U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.000%, due 11/15/45, value \$4,413,150	0.030%	10/03/16	4,325,911
\$ 6,209	Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$6,209,464)			6,209,464
	Total Investments (cost \$241,009,850) 145.8%			259,049,094
	<b>Borrowings</b> (43.1)% (11), (12)			(76,650,000)
	Other Assets Less Liabilities (2.7)% (13)			(4,755,962)
	Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares 100%			\$ 177,643,132

Investments in Derivatives as of September 30, 2016

#### **Options Written**

Number of		Notional	Expiration	Strike	
<b>Contracts</b>	Description	Amount (14)	Date	Price	Value
(142)	Interpublic Group of				
	Companies, Inc.	\$ (355,000)	10/21/16	\$ 25.0	\$ (1,420)
(599)	National CineMedia, Inc.	(1,048,250)	12/16/16	17.5	(5,990)
(229)	Nordstrom, Inc.	(1,202,250)	10/21/16	52.5	(27,366)
	Total Options Written				
(970)	(premiums received \$58,566)	\$ (2,605,500)			\$ (34,776)
Interest Ra	te Swaps				

Counterparty	Notional Amount	Fund Pay/ Receive Floating Rate	Floating (A Rate Index		Fixed Rate Payment Frequency	Effective Date (15)	Optional Termina tion Date	Termina tion Date	
JPMorgan									
Chase Bank,			1-Month						
N.A.	\$18,475,000	Receive	USD-LIBOR-ICE	1.462%	Monthly	1/03/17	12/01/18	12/01/20	\$ (
JPMorgan									
Chase Bank,			1-Month						
N.A.	18,475,000	Receive	<b>USD-LIBOR-ICE</b>	1.842	Monthly	1/03/17	12/01/20	12/01/22	(
	\$ 36,950,000								\$ (1,

#### **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 risk associated with investing in those securities. The following is a summary of the Fund s fair value measurements as of the reporting period:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Long-Term Investments:				
Common Stocks	\$ 107,155,306	\$ 57,491,262	\$ *	\$ 164,646,568
Convertible Preferred Securities	3,652,732	7,321,213		10,973,945
\$25 Par (or similar) Retail Preferred	13,213,699	1,460,910		14,674,609
Variable Rate Senior Loan Interests		48,192,168		48,192,168
Corporate Bonds		1,145,397		1,145,397
\$1,000 Par (or similar) Institutional Preferred		13,206,943		13,206,943
Short-Term Investments:				
Repurchase Agreements		6,209,464		6,209,464
Investment in Derivatives:				
Options Written	(34,776)			(34,776)
Interest Rate Swaps**		(1,751,942)		(1,751,942)
Total	\$ 123,986,961	\$ 133,275,415	\$	\$ 257,262,376

<sup>\*</sup> Value equals zero as of the end of the reporting period.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Represents net unrealized appreciation (depreciation).

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

September 30, 2016 (Unaudited)

The table below presents the transfers in and out of the three valuation levels for the Fund as of the end of the reporting period when compared to the valuation levels at the end of the previous fiscal year. Changes in valuation inputs or methodologies may result in transfers into or out of an assigned level within the fair value hierarchy. Transfers in or out of levels are generally due to the availability of publicly available information and to the significance or extent the Adviser determines that the valuation inputs or methodologies may impact the valuation of those securities.

	I	Level 1	I	Level 3	
	Transfers In	(Transfers Out)	Transfers In	(Transfers Tout)sf	ers (Transfers Out)
Common Stocks	\$ 2,078,871	\$ (4,745,312)	\$4,745,312	\$ (2,078,871)	\$ \$

#### **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.

As of September 30, 2016, the cost of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) was \$242,660,796.

Gross unrealized appreciation and gross unrealized depreciation of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) as of September 30, 2016, were as follows:

Gross unrealized:	
Appreciation	\$ 26,878,235
Depreciation	(10,489,937)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	\$ 16,388,298

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) For fair value measurement disclosure purposes, investment classified as Level 2.
- (3) Investment, or portion of investment, has been pledged to collateralize the net payment obligations for investments in derivatives.
- (4) Investment, or portion of investment, is hypothecated. The total value of investments hypothecated as of the end of the reporting period was \$51,711,828.
- (5) Non-income producing; issuer has not declared a dividend within the past twelve months.
- (6) 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.
- (7) For financial reporting purposes, the ratings disclosed are the highest of Standard & Poor s Group (Standard & Poor s), Moody s Investors Service, Inc. (Moody s) or Fitch, Inc. (Fitch) rating. This treatment of split-rated securities may differ from that used for other purposes, such as for Fund investment policies. Ratings below BBB by Standard & Poor s, Baa by Moody s or BBB by Fitch are considered to be below investment grade. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by any of these national rating agencies.
- (8) 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.

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 29.6%.
- 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 \$163,976,167 have been pledged as collateral for borrowings.
- Other assets less liabilities includes the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of certain over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives as well as the OTC 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.
- (DD1) Portion of investment purchased on a delayed delivery basis.
- (WI/DD) Purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis.
- 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
- 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.

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

#### 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/ Gifford R. Zimmerman

Gifford R. Zimmerman Vice President and Secretary

Date: November 29, 2016

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/ Cedric H. Antosiewicz

Cedric H. Antosiewicz

Chief Administrative Officer (principal executive

officer)

Date: November 29, 2016

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

Stephen D. Foy

Vice President and Controller (principal financial

officer)

Date: November 29, 2016