

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form N-Q  
November 27, 2015

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, DC 20549**

**FORM N-Q**

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

Investment Company Act file number 811-22003

**Nuveen Core Equity Alpha 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: December 31

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**

JCE

**Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**  
**Portfolio of Investments**

September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	<b>LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS 97.6%</b>	
	<b>COMMON STOCKS 97.6%</b>	
	<b>Aerospace &amp; Defense 3.6%</b>	
10,800	General Dynamics Corporation	\$ 1,489,860
18,100	Lockheed Martin Corporation	3,752,311
7,000	Northrop Grumman Corporation	1,161,650
6,700	Raytheon Company	732,042
10,600	Rockwell Collins, Inc.	867,504
9,000	Textron Inc.	338,760
	Total Aerospace & Defense	8,342,127
	<b>Air Freight &amp; Logistics 0.4%</b>	
6,800	FedEx Corporation	979,064
	<b>Auto Components 1.9%</b>	
11,500	BorgWarner Inc.	478,285
32,300	Delphi Automotive PLC	2,456,092
45,200	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company	1,325,716
2,000	Johnson Controls, Inc.	82,720
	Total Auto Components	4,342,813
	<b>Banks 2.9%</b>	
8,400	BB&T Corporation	299,040
29,100	Comerica Incorporated	1,196,010
22,700	Fifth Third Bancorp.	429,257
58,100	Huntington BancShares Inc.	615,860
51,400	KeyCorp.	668,714
50,500	People's United Financial, Inc.	794,365
45,500	Regions Financial Corporation	409,955
4,600	SunTrust Banks, Inc.	175,904
23,550	Wells Fargo & Company	1,209,293
34,400	Zions Bancorporation	947,376
	Total Banks	6,745,774
	<b>Beverages 1.3%</b>	
5,600	Brown-Forman Corporation, Class B	542,640
3,000	Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.	145,050
8,000	Constellation Brands, Inc., Class A	1,001,680
14,300	Dr. Pepper Snapple Group	1,130,415
1,600	Monster Beverage Corporation, (2)	216,224
	Total Beverages	3,036,009

**Biotechnology 2.1%**

8,500	AbbVie Inc.	462,485
14,900	Gilead Sciences, Inc.	1,463,031
6,100	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., (2)	2,837,354
1,300	Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., (2)	135,382
	<b>Total Biotechnology</b>	<b>4,898,252</b>

**Building Products 0.6%**

10,200	Allegion PLC	588,132
29,200	Masco Corporation	735,256
	<b>Total Building Products</b>	<b>1,323,388</b>

Nuveen Investments 1

**JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**  
**Portfolio of Investments (continued)**

September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1)	Value
<b>Capital Markets 4.7%</b>		
4,300	Affiliated Managers Group Inc., (2)	\$ 735,257
9,500	Bank New York Mellon	371,925
23,000	Charles Schwab Corporation	656,880
29,600	E*Trade Group Inc., (2)	779,368
17,800	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., (3)	3,092,928
78,000	Morgan Stanley	2,457,000
29,300	Northern Trust Corporation	1,997,088
11,500	State Street Corporation	772,915
	<b>Total Capital Markets</b>	<b>10,863,361</b>
<b>Chemicals 3.8%</b>		
17,600	CF Industries Holdings, Inc.	790,240
22,400	Dow Chemical Company	949,760
17,800	Eastman Chemical Company	1,152,016
10,300	Ecolab Inc.	1,130,116
39,500	LyondellBasell Industries NV, Class A	3,292,720
2,900	PPG Industries, Inc.	254,301
5,400	Sherwin-Williams Company	1,203,012
	<b>Total Chemicals</b>	<b>8,772,165</b>
<b>Commercial Services &amp; Supplies 1.2%</b>		
19,300	Cintas Corporation	1,654,975
17,000	Republic Services, Inc.	700,400
2,200	Stericycle Inc., (2)	306,482
	<b>Total Commercial Services &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>2,661,857</b>
<b>Communications Equipment 0.6%</b>		
7,200	F5 Networks, Inc., (2)	833,760
17,700	Juniper Networks Inc.	455,067
	<b>Total Communications Equipment</b>	<b>1,288,827</b>
<b>Construction &amp; Engineering 0.2%</b>		
21,900	Quanta Services Incorporated, (2)	530,199
<b>Construction Materials 0.8%</b>		
900	Martin Marietta Materials	136,755
18,400	Vulcan Materials Company	1,641,280
	<b>Total Construction Materials</b>	<b>1,778,035</b>
<b>Consumer Finance 1.1%</b>		
13,900	Capital One Financial Corporation	1,008,028
28,400	Discover Financial Services	1,476,516
	<b>Total Consumer Finance</b>	<b>2,484,544</b>
<b>Containers &amp; Packaging 1.1%</b>		
15,200	Avery Dennison Corporation	859,864

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3,500	Ball Corporation	217,700
29,600	Sealed Air Corporation	1,387,648
	Total Containers & Packaging	2,465,212
	<b>Distributors 0.1%</b>	
1,500	Genuine Parts Company	124,335
	<b>Diversified Financial Services 3.3%</b>	
32,300	CME Group, Inc., (3)	2,995,502
40,400	Leucadia National Corporation	818,504
16,400	McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	1,418,600
12,400	Moody's Corporation	1,217,680
23,100	NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.	1,231,923
	Total Diversified Financial Services	7,682,209

2 Nuveen Investments

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	<b>Diversified Telecommunication Services 0.7%</b>	
39,500	Level 3 Communications Inc., (2)	\$ 1,725,755
	<b>Electrical Equipment 0.3%</b>	
7,600	Ametek Inc.	397,632
2,100	Rockwell Automation, Inc.	213,087
	Total Electrical Equipment	610,719
	<b>Electronic Equipment, Instruments &amp; Comp 0.4%</b>	
19,900	Amphenol Corporation, Class A	1,014,104
	<b>Energy Equipment &amp; Services 1.6%</b>	
21,700	Baker Hughes Incorporated	1,129,268
15,700	Cooper Cameron Corporation, (2)	962,724
22,600	Halliburton Company	798,910
15,400	Helmerich & Payne Inc.	727,804
	Total Energy Equipment & Services	3,618,706
	<b>Food &amp; Staples Retailing 2.8%</b>	
45,400	CVS Health Corporation	4,380,192
55,400	Kroger Co.	1,998,278
1,000	Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc.	83,100
	Total Food & Staples Retailing	6,461,570
	<b>Food Products 1.3%</b>	
8,500	Archer-Daniels-Midland Company	352,325
34,800	ConAgra Foods, Inc.	1,409,748
1,300	McCormick & Company, Incorporated	106,834
26,300	Tyson Foods, Inc., Class A	1,133,530
	Total Food Products	3,002,437
	<b>Health Care Equipment &amp; Supplies 1.0%</b>	
7,900	Abbott Laboratories	317,738
51,900	Boston Scientific Corporation, (2)	851,679
3,300	Edwards Lifesciences Corporation, (2)	469,161
1,300	Intuitive Surgical, Inc., (2)	597,454
1,300	Saint Jude Medical Inc.	82,017
1,000	Stryker Corporation	94,100
	Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies	2,412,149
	<b>Health Care Providers &amp; Services 10.8%</b>	
27,759	Aetna Inc., (3)	3,037,112
40,600	AmerisourceBergen Corporation, (3)	3,856,594
45,800	Anthem Inc., (3)	6,412,000
34,800	Cardinal Health, Inc.	2,673,336
28,000	CIGNA Corporation	3,780,560
5,800	Davita Inc., (2)	419,514
7,100	HCA Holdings Inc., (2)	549,256
3,800	Humana Inc.	680,200
5,800	McKesson HBOC Inc.	1,073,174
3,100	Patterson Companies, Inc.	134,075



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6,100	Tenet Healthcare Corporation, (2)	225,212
8,600	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	997,686
9,100		