

NUVEEN TAX ADVANTAGED TOTAL RETURN STRATEGY FUND
Form N-CSRS
December 08, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-21471

Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Jessica R. Droeger
Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 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, 2005

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR 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 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. ss. 3507.

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

QUARTERLY REPORT September 30, 2005

Nuveen Investments
Exchange-Traded
Closed-End Funds

NUVEEN
TAX-ADVANTAGED
TOTAL RETURN
STRATEGY FUND
JTA

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAPITAL APPRECIATION AND TAX-ADVANTAGED DISTRIBUTIONS FROM A
PORTFOLIO OF VALUE EQUITIES AND SENIOR LOANS

Chairman's Letter

Dear Shareholder

I am very pleased to report that for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2005, your Fund was able to provide you with the opportunity for attractive tax-advantaged income and capital appreciation potential.

Portfolio diversification is a recognized way to try to reduce some of the risk that comes with investing. Since one part of your portfolio may be going up when another is going down, portfolio diversification may help smooth your investment returns over time. In addition to providing attractive monthly distributions, an equity investment like your Fund may help you achieve and benefit from greater portfolio diversification. Your financial advisor can explain these potential advantages in more detail. I urge you to contact him or her soon for more information on this important investment strategy.

For more than 100 years, Nuveen has specialized in offering quality investments such as your Fund to those seeking to accumulate and preserve wealth. Our mission continues to be to assist you and your financial advisor by offering the investment solutions and services that can help you secure your long-term financial goals. We thank you for choosing us as a partner as you work toward that objective.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Schwertfeger
Chairman of the Board
November 15, 2005

Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund
(JTA)

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Portfolio Managers'
Comments

The Fund features management by two affiliates of Nuveen Investments. The Fund's investments in dividend-paying common and preferred stocks are managed by NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC, while the Fund's investments in senior corporate loans and other debt instruments are managed by Symphony Asset Management, LLC. Jon Bosse, Chief Investment Officer of NWQ, leads the Fund's management team at that firm. He has more than 23 years of investment management experience. The Symphony team is led by Gunther Stein and Lenny Mason, who have more than 25 years of combined investment management experience, much of it in evaluating and purchasing senior corporate loans and other high-yield debt. Here Jon, Gunther and Lenny talk about their management strategies and the performance of the Fund for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2005.

WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE NINE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005?

For the equity portion of the Fund's portfolio, we continued to employ an opportunistic, bottom-up strategy that focused on identifying attractively valued companies that we thought possessed favorable risk/reward characteristics and emerging catalysts that could unlock value or improve profitability. These catalysts included management changes, restructuring efforts, recognition of hidden assets, or a positive change in the underlying fundamentals. We also continued to focus on downside protection, and paid a great deal of attention to a company's balance sheet and cash flow statement, not just the income statement. We believed that cash flow analysis offered a more objective and truer picture of a company's financial position than an evaluation based on earnings alone.

During the course of this nine-month reporting period, we took new common stock positions in POSCO, Merck & Co Inc., and Energias de Portugal SA. Our analysis indicated that these companies possessed solid fundamentals, compelling valuations, and an attractive risk/reward relationship. We eliminated Tate & Lyle PLC, Weyerhaeuser Co., and DSM NV from the portfolio based on valuation concerns. We also sold Delphi Corp. in early-April (prior to its bankruptcy) because of deteriorating fundamentals and management credibility. We maintained a large position in energy stocks during the period based on our analysis of global supply conditions for crude oil and its impact on industry fundamentals, the outlook on company cash flow growth, and valuations. The Fund's energy holdings include Chevron Corp. Conocophillips, ENI Spa, Kerr-McGee Corp., and Total S.A.

For the senior loan portion of the portfolio, we continued to focus on executing a conservative portfolio management strategy that emphasized carefully selecting both industry sectors and individual companies. We analyzed opportunities to upgrade the portfolio by selling loans in sectors that we believed could have problems over the coming months and rotating into what we believed were safer, less cyclical sectors that would provide stronger asset protection. This strategy led us to sell almost all of our automotive exposure before the sector experienced significant volatility in May due to fears surrounding General Motors and Ford. The loan market showed signs of strength during the third quarter, although skyrocketing energy prices and rising short-term interest rates caused uneasiness in the financial markets. Energy prices continued their upward climb, causing speculation that corporate earnings growth could come under pressure in the coming quarters.

Given the robust volume of new offerings, we were able to rotate into senior loans that we felt provided more asset protection and less likelihood of earnings volatility. When evaluating loans, we continued to look at the fundamentals of the issuer. At the same time, we also closely monitored the relative value of the loans we held or were considering as compared with other closely related loans or securities in the high yield bond market.

HOW DID THE FUND PERFORM?

Fund performance results, as well as the performance of a relevant benchmark, are shown in the accompanying table.

Total returns on net asset value*
For the period September 30, 2005

	9-MONTH	1-YEAR
JTA	7.70%	17.95%
Comparative benchmark(1)	5.54%	14.97%

*Nine-month returns are cumulative and one-year returns are annualized.

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the data shown. Returns do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder may have to pay on Fund distributions or upon the sale of Fund shares.

For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2005, JTA produced a cumulative total return that exceeded an unleveraged, unmanaged benchmark comprised of the same asset classes in approximately the same weightings as are represented in the Fund's portfolio.

Overall, market conditions were difficult in the first six-months of 2005, but began to improve in the third quarter of the year. In particular, the portfolio generated solid third quarter gains based on the strength of its energy stocks, stepped-up corporate restructuring activities, and news that portfolio holding Albertson's Inc. has put itself up for sale. None of the Fund's equity investments suffered material losses as a consequence of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that devastated the Gulf Coast region in August and September.

Also contributing to performance were tobacco holdings Altria Group Inc. (parent of Philip Morris) and Carolina Group. The stocks rallied after the Illinois Supreme Court reversed a \$1.05 billion class-action judgment against State Farm Insurance related to consumer fraud. The decision had positive implications for the tobacco industry as a similar class-action judgment for \$10.1 billion against Altria Group is now expected to be reversed.

1 The comparative benchmark is designed to reflect the portfolio composition of JTA, and is calculated by combining 1) 56% of the return of the Russell 3000 Value Index, which measures the performance of those Russell 3000 Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values, 2) 16% of the return of the MSCI EAFE ex-Japan Value Index, a capitalization-weighted index that selects the lower 50% of the price-to-book ranked value stocks traded in the developed markets of Europe, Asia and the Far East, excluding Japan, 3) 8% of the return of the Merrill Lynch DRD Preferred Index, which consists of investment-grade, dividends received deduction-eligible, exchange-traded preferred stocks

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with one year or more to maturity, and 4) 20% of the return of the CSFB Leveraged Loan Index, which consists of approximately \$150 billion of tradable term loans with at least one year to maturity and rated BBB or lower. Index returns are not leveraged, and do not include the effects of any sales charges or management fees. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Fund holdings POSCO and Rio Tinto PLC also outperformed during the reporting period as global economic growth, especially in China, has led to an increase in the demand for most industrial commodities, including steel and iron ore. Both companies have a meaningful exposure to that country. Meanwhile, new management and structural changes continued to yield improvements in top-line growth and operating margins at insurance broker, Aon Corp. The company is also poised to benefit as one of its competitors struggles to repair its reputation following a recent settlement with the government related to bid rigging and overcharging its customers.

The Fund did see a fall off in the performance of several of its financial services holdings during the reporting period, particularly in the third quarter as a persistently flat yield curve put pressure on net interest margins and the outlook for company fundamentals. Shares of Fannie Mae were also pressured as the company has been actively reducing its retained portfolio in order to meet new surplus capital requirements mandated by its government regulator. Pharmaceutical manufacturer Merck & Co. declined as well following a wrongful death verdict against the company related to its anti-inflammatory drug, Vioxx.

In the senior loan portion of the Fund's portfolio, our holdings continued to perform in line with the relatively positive overall performance of the loan market in general over the nine-month period. In particular, Anthony Crane, a large renter of industrial cranes and equipment, had a positive impact on the Fund's performance, even though we sold this position before the end of the period.

Given some relative weakness in the high yield market over this period, several high yield positions had a negative impact on Fund performance during these nine months. In addition, Federal Mogul remained in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings as of September 30, 2005, and the term loan we held had a negative impact on performance over the course of the period.

DISTRIBUTION AND SHARE PRICE INFORMATION

In addition to owning preferred stocks, the Fund has issued its own preferred shares, called FundPreferred(TM), and entered into short-term borrowing arrangements. This FundPreferred and borrowing provides a degree of financial leverage that can enhance the Fund's returns and supplement the income available to pay common shareholder distributions, but also can increase share price volatility. This leveraging strategy provided incremental income and helped enhance shareholder distributions over this reporting period.

The Fund has a managed distribution policy designed to provide relatively stable monthly cash flow to investors. Under this policy, the Fund's monthly distributions will be paid from net investment income generated by its underlying securities as well as from net realized capital gains and/or returns of capital, generally representing net unrealized capital gains. In September 2005, the Fund announced an increase in its monthly distribution to \$0.105 per

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share from \$0.100 per share.

As of September 30, 2005, the Fund was trading at a -9.14% discount to its net asset value. This was greater than the average -8.56% discount the Fund exhibited over the course of the entire nine-month reporting period.

Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund
JTA

Performance

OVERVIEW As of September 30, 2005

PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION
(as a % of total investments)

Common Stocks	69.1%
Variable Rate Senior Loan Interests	15.0%
Preferred Securities	8.6%
Corporate Bonds	2.4%
Repurchase Agreements	4.9%

Bar Chart:

2004-2005 MONTHLY DISTRIBUTIONS PER SHARE

Oct	.0735
Nov	.0735
Dec	.1000
Jan	.1000
Feb	.1000
Mar	.1000
Apr	.1000
May	.1000
Jun	.1000
Jul	.1000
Aug	.1000
Sep	.1050

Line Chart:

SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE

Weekly Closing Price

Past performance is not predictive of future results.

10/1/2004	18.30
10/4/2004	18.40
10/5/2004	18.26
10/6/2004	18.23
10/7/2004	18.24
10/8/2004	18.22
10/11/2004	18.15
10/12/2004	18.13
10/13/2004	18.04

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10/14/2004	18.03
10/15/2004	18.00
10/18/2004	18.00
10/19/2004	17.93
10/20/2004	17.75
10/21/2004	17.61
10/22/2004	17.62
10/25/2004	17.52
10/26/2004	17.70
10/27/2004	17.81
10/28/2004	17.86
10/29/2004	17.83
11/1/2004	17.82
11/2/2004	18.00
11/3/2004	18.05
11/4/2004	18.08
11/5/2004	18.12
11/8/2004	18.34
11/9/2004	18.18
11/10/2004	18.13
11/11/2004	18.16
11/12/2004	18.26
11/15/2004	18.44
11/16/2004	18.50
11/17/2004	18.64
11/18/2004	18.73
11/19/2004	18.46
11/22/2004	18.37
11/23/2004	18.45
11/24/2004	18.45
11/26/2004	18.40
11/29/2004	18.57
11/30/2004	18.70
12/1/2004	18.78
12/2/2004	19.17
12/3/2004	19.20
12/6/2004	19.45
12/7/2004	19.61
12/8/2004	19.50
12/9/2004	19.45
12/10/2004	19.29
12/13/2004	19.24
12/14/2004	19.15
12/15/2004	19.08
12/16/2004	18.96
12/17/2004	18.81
12/20/2004	18.88
12/21/2004	18.95
12/22/2004	18.85
12/23/2004	19.08
12/27/2004	19.13
12/28/2004	19.25
12/29/2004	19.27
12/30/2004	19.28
12/31/2004	19.35
1/3/2005	19.54
1/4/2005	19.41
1/5/2005	19.53
1/6/2005	19.43
1/7/2005	19.52
1/10/2005	19.46
1/11/2005	19.43

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1/12/2005	19.37
1/13/2005	19.38
1/14/2005	19.49
1/18/2005	19.47
1/19/2005	19.35
1/20/2005	19.45
1/21/2005	19.49
1/24/2005	19.40
1/25/2005	19.29
1/26/2005	19.30
1/27/2005	19.26
1/28/2005	19.30
1/31/2005	19.42
2/1/2005	19.51
2/2/2005	19.63
2/3/2005	19.69
2/4/2005	19.83
2/7/2005	19.83
2/8/2005	19.85
2/9/2005	19.68
2/10/2005	19.64
2/11/2005	19.62
2/14/2005	19.60
2/15/2005	19.83
2/16/2005	19.72
2/17/2005	19.64
2/18/2005	19.58
2/22/2005	19.38
2/23/2005	19.33
2/24/2005	19.39
2/25/2005	19.62
2/28/2005	19.60
3/1/2005	19.70
3/2/2005	19.70
3/3/2005	19.73
3/4/2005	19.85
3/7/2005	19.82
3/8/2005	19.79
3/9/2005	19.67
3/10/2005	19.70
3/11/2005	19.41
3/14/2005	19.43
3/15/2005	19.25
3/16/2005	19.16
3/17/2005	19.42
3/18/2005	19.37
3/21/2005	19.36
3/22/2005	19.19
3/23/2005	19.05
3/24/2005	19.02
3/28/2005	18.84
3/29/2005	18.66
3/30/2005	19.04
3/31/2005	19.20
4/1/2005	19.20
4/4/2005	19.14
4/5/2005	19.28
4/6/2005	19.25
4/7/2005	19.36
4/8/2005	19.52
4/11/2005	19.50
4/12/2005	19.35

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4/13/2005	19.30
4/14/2005	19.01
4/15/2005	18.85
4/18/2005	18.72
4/19/2005	18.99
4/20/2005	18.80
4/21/2005	19.15
4/22/2005	19.19
4/25/2005	19.15
4/26/2005	19.15
4/27/2005	19.16
4/28/2005	19.17
4/29/2005	19.39
4/30/2005	19.39
5/2/2005	19.31
5/3/2005	19.40
5/4/2005	19.66
5/5/2005	19.57
5/6/2005	19.72
5/9/2005	19.55
5/10/2005	19.63
5/11/2005	19.57
5/12/2005	19.60
5/13/2005	19.53
5/16/2005	19.58
5/17/2005	19.69
5/18/2005	19.55
5/19/2005	19.70
5/20/2005	19.75
5/23/2005	19.88
5/24/2005	19.78
5/25/2005	19.63
5/26/2005	19.79
5/27/2005	19.89
5/31/2005	19.74
6/1/2005	19.68
6/2/2005	19.70
6/3/2005	19.75
6/6/2005	19.92
6/7/2005	19.97
6/8/2005	19.76
6/9/2005	19.85
6/10/2005	19.80
6/13/2005	19.88
6/14/2005	19.82
6/15/2005	19.89
6/16/2005	19.89
6/17/2005	19.92
6/20/2005	19.80
6/21/2005	19.70
6/22/2005	19.87
6/23/2005	19.70
6/24/2005	19.75
6/27/2005	19.68
6/28/2005	19.90
6/29/2005	19.95
6/30/2005	19.90
7/1/2005	19.93
7/5/2005	19.94
7/6/2005	19.93
7/7/2005	20.00
7/8/2005	19.97

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7/11/2005	19.99
7/12/2005	20.00
7/13/2005	20.00
7/14/2005	19.95
7/15/2005	19.98
7/18/2005	20.00
7/19/2005	20.00
7/20/2005	19.95
7/21/2005	19.95
7/22/2005	19.99
7/25/2005	19.89
7/26/2005	20.00
7/27/2005	19.99
7/28/2005	20.04
7/29/2005	20.00
7/31/2005	20.00
8/1/2005	20.00
8/2/2005	20.15
8/3/2005	20.24
8/4/2005	20.65
8/5/2005	20.39
8/8/2005	20.35
8/9/2005	20.25
8/10/2005	20.29
8/11/2005	20.00
8/12/2005	20.18
8/15/2005	20.10
8/16/2005	20.05
8/17/2005	19.97
8/18/2005	19.84
8/19/2005	20.03
8/22/2005	19.87
8/23/2005	19.87
8/24/2005	19.90
8/25/2005	19.90
8/26/2005	19.94
8/29/2005	19.94
8/30/2005	19.92
8/31/2005	19.85
9/1/2005	20.10
9/2/2005	20.18
9/6/2005	20.20
9/7/2005	20.21
9/8/2005	20.18
9/9/2005	20.40
9/12/2005	20.54
9/13/2005	20.40
9/14/2005	20.45
9/15/2005	20.30
9/16/2005	20.25
9/19/2005	20.35
9/20/2005	20.20
9/21/2005	20.06
9/22/2005	19.98
9/23/2005	20.00
9/26/2005	19.93
9/27/2005	19.89
9/28/2005	19.86
9/29/2005	19.99
9/30/2005	20.19

FUND SNAPSHOT

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Common Share Price	\$20.19
Common Share Net Asset Value	\$22.22
Premium / (Discount) to NAV	-9.14%
Market Yield(1)	6.24%
Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares (\$000)	\$307,886

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN
(Inception 1/27/04)

	ON SHARE PRICE	ON NAV
9-Month (Cumulative)	9.40%	7.70%
1-Year	17.85%	17.95%
Since Inception	6.07%	14.89%

INDUSTRIES
(as a % of total investments)

Diversified Telecommunication Services	9.1%
Oil, Gas, & Consumable Fuels	7.4%
Tobacco	7.0%
Metals & Mining	6.2%
Thrifts & Mortgage Finance	6.1%
Diversified Financial Services	5.6%
Insurance	5.4%
Aerospace & Defense	5.3%
Commercial Banks	4.7%
Electric Utilities	4.4%
Commercial Services & Supplies	3.3%
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	3.2%
Multi-Utilities & Unregulated Power	3.1%
Household Products	2.9%
Household Durables	2.8%
Media	2.3%

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Food & Staples Retailing	2.2%
Paper & Forest Products	2.0%
Other	12.1%
Repurchase Agreements	4.9%

COUNTRIES
(as a % of total investments)

United States	80.8%
United Kingdom	5.7%
South Korea	4.2%
Italy	3.3%
Other	6.0%

1 Market yield is based on the Fund's current annualized monthly distribution divided by the Fund's current market price. The Fund's monthly distributions to its shareholders may be comprised of ordinary income, net realized capital gains and, if at the end of the calendar year the Fund's cumulative net ordinary income and net realized gains are less than the amount of the Fund's distributions, a tax return of capital.

NUVEEN TAX-ADVANTAGED TOTAL RETURN STRATEGY FUND (JTA)

PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)
September 30, 2005

SHARES	DESCRIPTION(1)
	COMMON STOCKS - 98.0% (69.1% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS)
	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE - 5.7%
140,000	Lockheed Martin Corporation
235,000	Raytheon Company
	COMMERCIAL BANKS - 4.6%
150,000	Wachovia Corporation
120,000	Wells Fargo & Company
	COMMERCIAL SERVICES & SUPPLIES - 3.9%

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285,000	Pitney Bowes Inc.

	CONTAINERS & PACKAGING - 1.9%
300,000	Packaging Corp of America

	DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES - 6.3%
275,000	Citigroup Inc.
205,000	JPMorgan Chase & Co.

	DIVERSIFIED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES - 12.1%
343,000	KT Corporation, Sponsored ADR
385,000	SBC Communications Inc.
330,000	Sprint Corporation
235,000	Telecom Italia S.p.A., Sponsored ADR
190,000	Verizon Communications Inc.

	ELECTRIC UTILITIES - 4.2%
254,000	EDP - Energias de Portugal, S.A. Sponsored ADR
323,000	Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), Sponsored ADR

	FOOD & STAPLES RETAILING - 3.1%
181,500	Albertson's, Inc.
240,625	J. Sainsbury plc, Sponsored ADR

	HOUSEHOLD DURABLES - 2.3%
307,000	Newell Rubbermaid Inc.

	HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS - 3.1%
160,000	Kimberly-Clark Corporation

	INSURANCE - 5.4%
330,000	Aon Corporation
80,000	Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

	METALS & MINING - 7.9%
404,000	Alumina Limited, Sponsored ADR
90,000	POSCO, ADR
71,000	Rio Tinto plc, Sponsored ADR

	MULTI-UTILITIES & UNREGULATED POWER - 4.4%
110,000	Dominion Resources Inc.
180,000	United Utilities plc, Sponsored ADR

	OIL, GAS, & CONSUMABLE FUELS - 10.5%
80,000	ChevronTexaco Corporation
113,400	ConocoPhillips
53,000	Eni S.p.A., Sponsored ADR
39,669	Kerr-McGee Corporation

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55,000	Total SA, Sponsored ADR	

220,000	PAPER & FOREST PRODUCTS - 2.1% International Paper Company	

230,000	PHARMACEUTICALS - 2.0% Merck & Co. Inc.	

90,000	ROAD & RAIL - 2.1% Union Pacific Corporation	

212,000	THRIFTS & MORTGAGE FINANCE - 6.5% Fannie Mae	
265,000	IndyMac Bancorp, Inc.	

235,000	TOBACCO - 9.9% Altria Group, Inc.	
330,000	Loews Corp - Carolina Group	

	Total Common Stocks (cost \$263,728,132)	

SHARES	DESCRIPTION(1)	COUPON

	PREFERRED SECURITIES - 12.2% (8.6% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS)	

	CAPITAL MARKETS - 1.3%	
15,500	Bear Stearns Companies, Series E	6.150%
25,000	Goldman Sachs Group Inc.	4.510%
77,700	Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., Series F	6.500%
25,000	Merrill Lynch & Company	4.610%

	COMMERCIAL BANKS - 2.2%	
41,100	Abbey National plc, Series C	7.375%
23,500	Abbey National plc, Series B	7.375%
40,000	ABN AMRO Capital Trust Fund VII	6.080%
25,000	Banco Santander	6.410%
40,000	HSBC USA Inc.	4.804%
40,000	Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, Series M	6.400%
40,000	Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, Series N	6.350%

	CONSUMER FINANCE - 1.0%	
45,000	HSBC Finance Corporation	6.360%
36,100	SLM Corporation, Series A	6.970%

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	DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES - 1.5%	
10,000	CIT Group Inc., Series A	6.350%
19,500	Citigroup Inc., Series F	6.365%
28,900	Citigroup Inc., Series H	6.231%
5,000	ING Group NV	7.050%
48,400	ING Group NV	7.200%
23,800	ING Group NV	6.200%

	ELECTRIC UTILITIES - 2.2%	
39,500	Alabama Power Company, Series A	5.300%
12,400	Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.	5.000%
41,500	Interstate Power and Light Company	7.100%
40,000	Mississippi Power Company	5.250%
40,000	Savannah Electric & Power Company	6.000%
5,000	Southern California Edison Company	6.125%
9,000	Southern California Edison Company, Series A	5.349%

	INSURANCE - 1.9%	
50,300	Ace Ltd., Series C	7.800%
40,000	Aegon NV	6.375%
40,000	Genworth Financial Inc., Series A	5.250%
30,000	Prudential plc	6.750%
30,000	Prudential plc	6.500%

	THRIFTS & MORTGAGE FINANCE - 2.1%	
20,000	Fannie Mae	5.500%
24,300	Fannie Mae	5.125%
35,000	Fannie Mae	5.810%
20,000	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	5.700%
18,400	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	6.000%
21,900	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	5.000%

Total Preferred Securities (cost \$37,743,769)

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION (1)	COUPON	STATED MATURITY
	CORPORATE BONDS - 3.4% (2.4% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS)		
	HOTELS, RESTAURANTS & LEISURE - 1.4%		
\$ 2,000	MGM Mirage	6.750%	8/01/07
2,000	Park Place Entertainment	8.875%	9/15/08
	HOUSEHOLD DURABLES - 1.3%		
2,000	D.R. Horton, Inc.	7.500%	12/01/07

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2,000	Standard Pacific Corporation	6.500%	10/01/08

2,000	PAPER & FOREST PRODUCTS - 0.7% Georgia-Pacific Corp	7.375%	7/15/08

	Total Corporate Bonds (cost \$10,531,607)		

PRINCIPAL		WEIGHTED	
AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION(1)	AVERAGE	STATED
		COUPON	MATURITY*

	VARIABLE RATE SENIOR LOAN INTERESTS(2) - 21.2% (15.0% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS)		
	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE - 1.8%		
1,644	Hexcel, Term Loan B	5.313%	3/01/12
1,900	K & F Industries, Inc., Term Loan B	6.284%	11/18/12
1,625	Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc., Term Loan	6.350%	12/22/11
364	Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc., Tranche B, Letter of Credit	5.840%	12/22/10

2,000	AUTO COMPONENTS - 0.6% Federal-Mogul Corporation, Term Loan A (a)	6.090%	2/24/04

1,774	BUILDING PRODUCTS - 0.6% PP Holding Corporation, Term Loan	6.100%	11/12/11

1,990	CHEMICALS - 0.7% Rockwood Specialties Group, Inc., Tranche D	5.930%	7/30/12

703	COMMERCIAL SERVICES & SUPPLIES - 0.8% Allied Waste North America, Inc., Letter of Credit	3.100%	3/21/12
1,841	Allied Waste North America, Inc., Term Loan B	5.851%	3/12/21

788	CONTAINERS & PACKAGING - 0.9% Owens-Illinois Group, Inc., Term Loan B	5.570%	4/01/08
175	Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, Deposit-Funded Commitment	2.100%	11/01/11
1,389	Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, Term Loan B	5.697%	11/01/11
427	Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, Term Loan C	5.834%	11/01/11

2,000	DIVERSIFIED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES - 0.7% Madison River Term Loan	6.220%	9/29/08

1,630	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT - 0.6% Sensus Metering Systems Inc., Term Loan B-1	5.954%	7/29/12
254	Sensus Metering Systems Inc., Term Loan B-2	5.969%	12/17/10

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	HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS & SERVICES - 1.6%		
972	Alderwoods Group, Inc., Term Loan B-2	5.748%	12/17/10
2,000	Davita Inc., Term Loan B (b)	TBD	TBD
1,975	IASIS Healthcare LLC, Term Loan B	5.770%	6/22/11

	HOTELS, RESTAURANTS & LEISURE - 3.0%		
2,000	24 Hour Fitness Worldwide, Inc., Term Loan B	6.780%	6/06/05
1,970	Jack in the Box, Inc., Term Loan	5.446%	1/09/10
2,000	Penn National Gaming, Inc., Term Loan B (b)	TBD	TBD
1,400	Pinnacle Entertainment, Term Loan B (b)	TBD	TBD
342	Venetian Casino Resort, LLC, Delayed Draw, Term Loan (c)	5.770%	6/15/11
1,658	Venetian Casino Resort, LLC, Term Loan	5.770%	6/15/11

	HOUSEHOLD DURABLES - 0.5%		
1,470	Sealy Mattress Company, Term Loan D	5.572%	4/06/12

	HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS - 1.0%		
2,955	Solo Cup Company, Term Loan	5.938%	2/27/11

	INSURANCE - 0.4%		
1,100	Conseco, Inc., Term Loan	5.768%	6/22/10

	IT SERVICES - 1.2%		
1,765	Fidelity National Information Services, Term Loan B	5.478%	3/09/13
2,000	SunGard Data System, Term Loan B	6.280%	1/25/13

	MACHINERY - 0.4%		
1,099	Dresser-Rand Group Inc., Term Loan	6.047%	10/10/10

	MEDIA - 3.2%		
1,973	Charter Communications Operating, LLC, Term Loan B	6.930%	4/07/11
1,985	Emmis Operating Company, Term Loan	5.518%	11/10/11
2,000	Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Studios, Inc., Term Loan B	6.270%	4/12/12
1,910	Regal Cinemas Corporation, Term Loan	6.020%	11/10/10
2,213	WGM Acquisition Corp., Term Loan	5.700%	2/27/11

	METALS & MINING - 0.9%		
2,723	Amsted Industries Incorporated, Term Loan B	6.198%	10/15/10

	REAL ESTATE - 1.6%		
784	Crescent Real Estate Funding XII, L.P., Term Loan	5.943%	3/20/06
1,987	General Growth Properties, Inc., Term Loan B	5.850%	11/12/08
1,960	LNR Property Corporation, Term Loan	6.711%	2/03/08

	TRADING COMPANIES & DISTRIBUTORS - 0.7%		
2,000	United Rentals, Term Loan B (b)	TBD	TBD

	Total Variable Rate Senior Loan Interests (cost \$64,757,630)		

	REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS - 7.0% (4.9% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS)		

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\$ 21,537 State Street Bank, 3.150%, dated 9/30/05, due 10/03/05, repurchase price \$21,542,436, collateralized by \$21,970,000, U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.875%, due 5/15/10, value \$21,970,000

 Total Repurchase Agreements (cost \$21,536,783)

Total Investments (cost \$398,297,921) - 141.8%

FundNotes - (25.3)%

Other Assets Less Liabilities - (1.9)%

FundPreferred Shares, at Liquidation Value - (14.6)%

Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares - 100%
 =====

- (1) All percentages shown in the Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets applicable to Common shares unless otherwise noted.
- (2) Senior Loans in which the Fund invests 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.

* Senior Loans in the Fund's portfolio 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 in the Fund's portfolio may occur. As a result, the actual remaining maturity of Senior Loans held in the Fund's portfolio may be substantially less than the stated maturities shown.

** Ratings below Baa by Moody's Investor Service, Inc. or BBB by Standard & Poor's Group are considered to be below investment grade.

- (a) At or subsequent to September 30, 2005, this issue was under the protection of Federal Bankruptcy Court.
- (b) Purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis.

ADR American Depositary Receipt.

TBD Senior Loan purchased on a when-issued basis in the primary market. 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 weighted average coupon rate is not available prior to settlement. At settlement, if still unknown, the borrower or counterparty will provide the Fund with the final weighted average coupon rate and maturity date.

N/R Investment is not rated.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES September 30, 2005 (Unaudited)

ASSETS

Investments, at value (cost \$398,297,921)
Receivables:
 Dividends
 Interest
 Investments sold
 Reclaims
Deferred FundNotes offering costs
Other assets

Total assets

LIABILITIES

Payable for investments purchased
FundNotes
Accrued expenses:
 Management fees
 Other
FundNotes interest payable
FundPreferred share dividends payable

Total liabilities

FundPreferred shares, at liquidation value

Net assets applicable to Common shares

=====
Common shares outstanding

=====
Net asset value per Common share outstanding (net assets applicable to
Common shares, divided by Common shares outstanding)
=====

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES CONSIST OF:

Common shares, \$.01 par value per share
Paid-in surplus
Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income
Accumulated net realized gain from investments
Net unrealized appreciation of investments

Net assets applicable to Common shares

Authorized shares:

 Common
 FundPreferred shares
=====

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of
OPERATIONS Nine Months Ended September 30, 2005 (Unaudited)

INVESTMENT INCOME

Dividends (net of foreign taxes withheld of \$320,026)
Interest
Fees

Total investment income

EXPENSES

Management fees
FundNotes interest expense and amortization of offering costs
FundNotes and FundPreferred shares - auction fees
FundNotes and FundPreferred shares - dividend disbursing agent fees
Shareholders' servicing agent fees and expenses
Custodian's fees and expenses
Trustees' fees and expenses
Professional fees
Shareholders' reports - printing and mailing expenses
Stock exchange listing fees
Investor relations expense
Other expenses

Total expenses before custodian fee credit and expense reimbursement
Custodian fee credit
Expense reimbursement

Net expenses

Net investment income

REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN

Net realized gain from investments
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments

Net realized and unrealized gain

DISTRIBUTIONS TO FUNDPREFERRED SHAREHOLDERS

From net investment income
From accumulated net realized gains from investments

Decrease in net assets applicable to Common shareholders
from distributions to FundPreferred shareholders

Net increase in net assets applicable to Common shares from operations
=====

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (Unaudited)

OPERATIONS

Net investment income
Net realized gain from investments
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments
Distributions to FundPreferred shareholders:
 From net investment income
 From accumulated net realized gains from investments

Net increase in net assets applicable to Common shares
 from operations

DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS

From net investment income
From accumulated net realized gains from investments

Decrease in net assets applicable to Common shares from
 distributions to Common shareholders

CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS

Net proceeds from sale of Common shares
FundPreferred shares offering costs

Net increase (decrease) in net assets applicable to Common shares from
 capital share transactions

Net increase in net assets applicable to Common shares
Net assets applicable to Common shares at the beginning of period

Net assets applicable to Common shares at the end of period

=====

Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income at the end of period

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of
CASH FLOWS Nine Months Ended September 30, 2005 (Unaudited)

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES FROM OPERATIONS

Adjustments to reconcile the net increase in net assets applicable to Common shares from operations

to net cash provided by operating activities:
Purchases of investment securities
Proceeds from (Purchases of) short-term investment securities, net
Proceeds from sales of investment securities
Amortization/(Accretion) of premiums and discounts, net
Decrease in receivable for dividends
Decrease in receivable for interest
Decrease in receivable for investments sold
Decrease in receivable for reclaims
Increase in other assets
Increase in payable for investments purchased
Decrease in management fees payable
Increase in other liabilities
Increase in FundPreferred share dividends payable
Net realized (gain) from investments
Change in net unrealized (appreciation)/depreciation of investments
Net realized (gain)/loss from paydowns

Net cash provided by operating activities

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Cash distributions paid to Common shareholders

FundNotes:

Decrease in deferred offering costs
Increase in FundNotes interest payable*

FundPreferred shares offering costs

Net cash used in financing activities

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH

Cash at the beginning of period

CASH AT THE END OF PERIOD
=====

* Cash paid for interest on FundNotes (excluding amortization of FundNotes offering costs) during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 was \$1,601,309.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Notes to
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nuveen Tax-Advantaged Total Return Strategy Fund (the "Fund") is a diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The Fund's Common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trade under the ticker symbol "JTA." The Fund was organized as a Massachusetts business trust on October 1, 2003.

Prior to the commencement of operations, the Fund had no operations other than those related to organizational matters, the initial capital contribution of \$100,084 by the Adviser, and the recording of the organization expenses (\$11,500) and their reimbursement by Nuveen Investments, LLC, also a wholly owned subsidiary of Nuveen.

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The Fund seeks to provide a high level of after-tax total return consisting primarily of tax-advantaged dividend income and capital appreciation by investing primarily in a portfolio of dividend-paying common stocks that the Fund believes at the time of investment are eligible to pay dividends that qualify for favorable federal income taxation at rates applicable to long-term capital gains ("tax-advantaged dividends"). The Fund will also invest to a more limited extent in preferred securities that are eligible to pay tax-advantaged dividends, as well as senior loans (both secured and unsecured), domestic corporate bonds, notes and debentures, convertible debt securities, and other similar types of corporate instruments, including high yield debt securities, that are not eligible to pay tax-advantaged dividends.

Effective January 1, 2005, Nuveen Institutional Advisory Corp. ("NIAC"), the Fund's previous Adviser, and its affiliate, Nuveen Advisory Corp. ("NAC"), were merged into Nuveen Asset Management ("NAM"), each wholly owned subsidiaries of Nuveen Investments, Inc. ("Nuveen"). As a result of the merger, NAM is now the Adviser to all funds previously advised by either NIAC or NAC.

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Investment Valuation

Exchange-listed securities are generally valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange on which such securities are primarily traded. Securities traded on a securities exchange for which there are no transactions on a given day or securities not listed on a securities exchange are valued at the mean of the closing bid and asked prices. Securities traded on Nasdaq are valued at the Nasdaq Official Closing Price. The prices of fixed-income securities and senior loans are generally provided by an independent pricing service approved by the Fund's Board of Trustees and based on the mean between the bid and asked prices. When price quotes are not readily available, the pricing service or, in the absence of a pricing service for a particular security, the Board of Trustees of the Fund, or its designee, may establish fair market value using a wide variety of market data including yields or prices of investments of comparable quality, type of issue, coupon, maturity and rating, market quotes or indications of value from security dealers, evaluations of anticipated cash flows or collateral, general market conditions and other information and analysis, including the obligor's credit characteristics considered relevant by the pricing service or the Board of Trustees designee. Short-term securities are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value.

The senior loans in which the Fund invests are not listed on an organized exchange and the secondary market for such investments may be less liquid relative to markets for other fixed income securities. Consequently, the value of senior loans, determined as described above, may differ significantly from the value that would have been determined had there been an active market for that senior loan.

Investment Transactions

Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Trade date for senior loans purchased in the "primary market" is considered the date on which the loan allocations are determined. Trade date for senior loans purchased in the "secondary market" is the date on which the transaction is entered into. Realized gains and losses from investment transactions are determined on the specific identification method. Investments purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis may have extended settlement periods. Any investments so purchased are subject to market fluctuation during this period. The Fund maintains liquid assets with a current value at least equal to the amount of the when-issued and delayed delivery purchase commitments. At September 30, 2005, the Fund had outstanding when-issued and delayed delivery purchase commitments of \$7,431,250.

Notes to
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited) (continued)

Investment Income

Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date or, for foreign securities, when information is available. Interest income, which includes the amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts for financial reporting purposes, is recorded on an accrual basis. Interest income also includes paydown gains and losses on senior loans. Fee income consists primarily of amendment fees. Amendment fees are earned as compensation for evaluating and accepting changes to the original loan agreement and are recognized when received.

Income Taxes

The Fund intends to distribute substantially all net investment income and net capital gains to shareholders and to otherwise comply with the requirements of Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

Dividends and Distributions to Common Shareholders

Distributions to Common shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The amount and timing of distributions are determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Prior to December 1, 2004, the Fund declared monthly income distributions to Common shareholders. Commencing with the Fund's December 1, 2004 dividend declaration, payable December 30, 2004, the Fund began to make monthly cash distributions to Common Shareholders of a stated dollar amount based primarily on the Fund's net investment income but also secondarily on net realized capital gains and/or on net unrealized capital gains in the Fund's portfolio (stated in terms of a fixed cents per Common Share dividend rate) ("Managed Distribution Policy"). The Fund seeks to maintain a stable distribution level, subject to approval and oversight by the Fund's Board of Trustees. Distributions will be made only after paying any accrued dividends or making any redemption or liquidation payments to Fund Preferred shares, if any, and interest and required principal payments on borrowings, if any. Under the Managed Distribution Policy, if, for any monthly distribution, net investment income and net realized capital gain were less than the amount of the distribution, the difference would be distributed from the Fund's assets and would be treated by shareholders as a return of capital for tax purposes. Distributions during the first nine months of the fiscal year are classified as having been paid from net investment income; consequently, this will negatively impact the amount of undistributed net investment income shown in the financial statements in this interim report. The final determination of the source of all distributions for the year are made after the end of the year and reflected in the financial statements contained in the annual report.

FundNotes

Effective April 23, 2004, the Fund issued 3,120 Series F FundNotes, \$25,000 stated value per share, that mature on April 24, 2034. The interest rate paid by the Fund is determined every seven days, pursuant to a dutch auction process overseen by the auction agent, and is payable at the end of each rate period. For the nine months ended September 30, 2005, the average daily balance of FundNotes was \$78 million with an average annualized interest rate (including amortization of FundNotes offering costs) of 2.83%.

FundPreferred Shares

Effective May 6, 2004, the Fund issued 1,800 Series W FundPreferred shares, \$25,000 stated value per share, as a means of effecting financial leverage. The dividend rate paid by the Fund is determined every seven days, pursuant to a dutch auction process overseen by the auction agent, and is payable at the end of each rate period.

Derivative Financial Instruments

The Fund may use derivatives or other transactions for the purpose of hedging the portfolio's exposure to common stock risk, high yield credit risk, foreign currency exchange risk and the risk of increases in interest rates. Although the Fund is authorized to invest in such financial instruments, and may do so in the future, it did not make any such investment during the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

Repurchase Agreements

In connection with transactions in repurchase agreements, it is the Fund's policy that its custodian take possession of the underlying collateral securities, the fair value of which exceeds the principal amount of the repurchase transaction, including accrued interest, at all times. If the seller defaults, and the fair value of the collateral declines, realization of the collateral may be delayed or limited.

Custodian Fee Credit

The Fund has an arrangement with the custodian bank whereby certain custodian fees and expenses are reduced by credits earned on the Fund's cash on deposit with the bank. Such deposit arrangements are an alternative to overnight investments.

Organization and Offering Costs

Nuveen Investments, LLC has agreed to reimburse all organization expenses (approximately \$11,500) and pay all Common share offering costs (other than the sales load) that exceed \$.04 per Common share. The Fund's share of Common share offering costs of \$554,000 was recorded as a reduction of the proceeds from the sale of Common shares.

Costs incurred by the Fund in connection with its offering of FundNotes (\$1,751,669) were recorded as a deferred charge and are being amortized over the 30 year life of the FundNotes and included with FundNote Interest Expense on the Statement of Operations.

Costs incurred by the Fund in connection with its offering of FundPreferred shares (\$1,162,512) were recorded as a reduction to paid-in surplus.

Indemnifications

Under the Fund's organizational documents, its Officers and Trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Fund. In addition, in the normal course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that provide general indemnifications to other parties. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts and expects the risk of loss to be remote.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and

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assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets applicable to Common shares from operations during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

2. FUND SHARES

The Fund did not engage in transactions in its own shares during the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

During the period January 27, 2004 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2004, the Fund sold 13,850,000 Common shares, 3,120 FundNotes and 1,800 FundPreferred shares.

3. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

Purchases and sales of investments (excluding short-term investments) during the nine months ended September 30, 2005, aggregated \$98,483,475 and \$103,554,379, respectively.

Notes to
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited) (continued)

4. 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 treatment of paydown gains and losses, recognition of premium amortization on debt securities and timing differences in recognizing certain gains and losses on investment transactions.

At September 30, 2005, the cost of investments was \$398,605,414.

The net unrealized appreciation of investments at September 30, 2005, aggregated \$37,956,553 of which \$51,453,411 related to appreciated securities and \$13,496,858 related to depreciated securities.

The tax components of undistributed net ordinary income and net realized gains at December 31, 2004, the Fund's last fiscal year end, were as follows:

Undistributed net ordinary income *	\$446,929
Undistributed net long-term capital gains	--
=====	

* Net ordinary income consists of net taxable income derived from dividends, interest, and net short-term capital gains, if any.

The tax character of distributions paid during the period January 27, 2004 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2004, the Fund's last fiscal year end, was designated for purposes of the dividends paid deduction as follows:

Distributions from net ordinary income *	\$11,048,843
Distributions from net long-term capital gains	--
=====	

* Net ordinary income consists of net taxable income derived from dividends,

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interest, and net short-term capital gains, if any.

5. MANAGEMENT FEE AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

The Fund's management fee is separated into two components - a complex-level component, based on the aggregate amount of all fund assets managed by the Adviser, and a specific fund-level component, based only on the amount of assets within the Fund. This pricing structure enables Nuveen fund shareholders to benefit from growth in the assets within each individual fund as well as from growth in the amount of complex-wide assets managed by the Adviser.

The annual fund-level fee, payable monthly, for the Fund is based upon the average daily Managed Assets of the Fund as follows:

AVERAGE DAILY MANAGED ASSETS	FUND-LEVEL FEE RATE
For the first \$500 million	.7000%
For the next \$500 million	.6750
For the next \$500 million	.6500
For the next \$500 million	.6250
For Managed Assets over \$2 billion	.6000

The annual complex-level fee, payable monthly, which is additive to the fund-level fee, for all Nuveen sponsored funds in the U.S., is based on the aggregate amount of total fund assets managed as stated in the table below. As of September 30, 2005, the complex level fee rate was .1898%.

COMPLEX-LEVEL ASSETS (1)	COMPLEX-LEVEL FEE RATE
For the first \$55 billion	.2000%
For the next \$1 billion	.1800
For the next \$1 billion	.1600
For the next \$3 billion	.1425
For the next \$3 billion	.1325
For the next \$3 billion	.1250
For the next \$5 billion	.1200
For the next \$5 billion	.1175
For the next \$15 billion	.1150
For Managed Assets over \$91 billion (2)	.1400

- (1) The complex-level fee component of the management fee for the funds is calculated based upon the aggregate Managed Assets ("Managed Assets" means the average daily net assets of each fund including assets attributable to all types of leverage used by the Nuveen funds) of Nuveen-sponsored funds in the U.S.
- (2) With respect to the complex-wide Managed Assets over \$91 billion, the fee rate or rates that will apply to such assets will be determined at a later date. In the unlikely event that complex-wide Managed Assets reach \$91 billion prior to a determination of the complex-level fee rate or rates to be applied to Managed Assets in excess of \$91 billion, the complex-level fee rate for such complex-wide Managed Assets shall be .1400% until such time as a different rate or rates is determined.

The management fee compensates the Adviser for overall investment advisory and administrative services and general office facilities. The Adviser has entered into Sub-Advisory Agreements with NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC ("NWQ") and Symphony Asset Management, LLC ("Symphony"). Nuveen owns a controlling

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interest in NWQ while key management of NWQ owns a non-controlling minority interest. Symphony is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Nuveen. NWQ manages the portion of the Fund's investment portfolio allocated to dividend-paying common stocks including American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"). Symphony manages the portion of the Fund's investment portfolio allocated to senior loans and other debt instruments. NWQ and Symphony are compensated for their services to the Fund from the management fee paid to the Adviser.

The Fund pays no compensation directly to those of its Trustees who are affiliated with the Adviser or to its officers, all of whom receive remuneration for their services to the Fund from the Adviser or its affiliates. The Board of Trustees has adopted a deferred compensation plan for independent Trustees that enables Trustees to elect to defer receipt of all or a portion of the annual compensation they are entitled to receive from certain Nuveen advised Funds. Under the plan, deferred amounts are treated as though equal dollar amounts had been invested in shares of select Nuveen advised Funds.

Notes to
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited) (continued)

For the first eight years of the Fund's operations, the Adviser has agreed to reimburse the Fund, as a percentage of average daily Managed Assets, for fees and expenses in the amounts and for the time periods set forth below:

YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31,		YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31,	
2004*	.32%	2009	.32%
2005	.32	2010	.24
2006	.32	2011	.16
2007	.32	2012	.08
2008	.32		

* From the commencement of operations.

The Adviser has not agreed to reimburse the Fund for any portion of its fees and expenses beyond January 31, 2012.

6. COMMITMENTS

Pursuant to the terms of certain of the variable rate senior loan agreements, the Fund may have unfunded senior loan commitments. The Fund will maintain with its custodian, cash, liquid securities and/or liquid senior loans having an aggregate value at least equal to the amount of unfunded senior loan commitments. At September 30, 2005, there were no such unfunded senior loan commitments.

7. SENIOR LOAN PARTICIPATION COMMITMENTS

With respect to the senior loans held in the Fund's portfolio, the Fund may: 1) invest in assignments; 2) act as a participant in primary lending syndicates; or 3) invest in participations. If the Fund purchases a participation of a senior loan interest, the Fund would typically enter into a contractual agreement with the lender or other third party selling the participation, rather than directly with the Borrower. As such, the Fund not only assumes the credit risk of the Borrower, but also that of the Selling Participant or other persons interpositioned between the Fund and the Borrower. At September 30, 2005, there were no such outstanding participation commitments.

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8. ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PARENT COMPANY OF ADVISER

In early April, 2005, The St. Paul Travelers Companies, Inc. ("St. Paul Travelers"), which owned 79% of Nuveen, (A) completed a public offering of a substantial portion of its equity stake in Nuveen, (B) sold Nuveen \$200 million of its Nuveen shares, (C) entered into an agreement with Nuveen to sell an additional \$400 million of its Nuveen shares on a "forward" basis with payment for and settlement of these shares delayed for several months, and (D) entered into agreements with two unaffiliated investment banking firms to sell an amount equal to most or all of its remaining Nuveen shares for current payment but for future settlement. Transactions (C) and (D) above were settled in late July, which effectively reduced St. Paul Travelers' controlling stake in Nuveen and was deemed an "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the investment management agreement between the Fund and the Adviser, which resulted in the automatic termination of the agreement under the 1940 Act. In anticipation of such deemed assignment, the Board of Trustees had approved a new ongoing investment management agreement for the Fund and the submission of the agreement for approval by the Fund's shareholders, which shareholder approval was received prior to the settlement of transactions (C) and (D). The new ongoing management agreement took effect upon such settlement.

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENT -- DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS

The Fund declared a distribution of \$.1050 per Common share which was paid on November 1, 2005, to shareholders of record on October 15, 2005.

Financial
HIGHLIGHTS (Unaudited)

Financial
HIGHLIGHTS (Unaudited)

Selected data for a Common share outstanding throughout each period:

	Investment Operations					Tot
	Beginning Common Share Net Asset Value	Net Investment Income (a)	Net Realized/ Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Distributions from Net Investment Income to FundPreferred Share- holders+	Distributions from Capital Gains to FundPreferred Share- holders+	
Year Ended 12/31:						
2005 (c)	\$21.54	\$.61	\$ 1.09	\$ (.07)	\$ --	\$ 1.
2004 (b)	19.10	.67	2.69	(.03)	--	3.

		Total Returns	
Offering Costs and FundPreferred Share	Ending Common Share	Based on Common Share Net	Based on Share Net
	Ending		

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	Underwriting Discounts	Net Asset Value	Market Value	Market Value**	Asset Value**
Year Ended 12/31:					
2005 (c)	\$ (.01)	\$22.22	\$20.19	9.40%	7.70%
2004 (b)	(.12)	21.54	19.35	.91	17.18

Ratios/Supplemental Data

	Before Credit/Reimbursement		After Credit/Reimbursement*		
	Ratio of Ending Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares (000)	Ratio of Expenses to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares++	Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares++	Ratio of Expenses to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares++	Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares
Year Ended 12/31:					
2005 (c)	\$307,886	2.21%*	3.32%*	1.76%*	3.77%
2004 (b)	298,449	1.80*	3.30*	1.37*	3.73%

FundNotes at End of Period

	FundNotes at End of Period		FundPreferred Shares		
	Aggregate Amount Outstanding (000)	Average Market Value Per \$25,000 of Principal Amount	Asset Coverage Per \$1,000 of Principal Amount	Aggregate Amount Outstanding (000)	Liquidity and Pe
Year Ended 12/31:					
2005 (c)	\$78,000	\$25,000	\$5,524	\$45,000	
2004 (b)	78,000	25,000	5,403	45,000	

* Annualized.

** Total Investment Return on Market Value is the combination of changes in the market price per share and the effect of reinvested dividend income and reinvested capital gains distributions, if any, at the average price paid per share at the time of reinvestment. Total Return on Common Share Net Asset Value is the combination of changes in Common Share net asset value, reinvested dividend income at net asset value and reinvested capital gains distributions at net asset value, if any. Total returns are not annualized.

*** After custodian fee credit and expense reimbursement.

+ The amounts shown are based on Common share equivalents.

++ o Ratios do not reflect the effect of dividend payments to FundPreferred shareholders.
o Income ratios reflect income earned on assets attributable to FundPreferred shares and Fundnotes.

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- o Each Ratio of Expenses to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares and each Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares includes the effect of the interest expense paid on FundNotes as follows:

Ratio of FundNotes Interest
Expense and Amortization of
FundNotes Offering Costs to Average
Net Assets Applicable to
Common Shares

2005 (c) .74%*
2004 (b) .37*

- (a) Per share Net Investment Income is calculated using the average daily shares method.
- (b) For the period January 27, 2004 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2004.
- (c) For the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Other Useful INFORMATION

In April, 2005, The St. Paul Travelers Companies, Inc. ("St. Paul Travelers") sold the majority of its controlling equity interest in Nuveen Investments, Inc. ("Nuveen") to the general public. Nuveen is the parent of Nuveen Asset Management ("NAM"), which is each Fund's investment manager. This sale was deemed to be an "assignment" of the investment management agreement between each Fund and NAM and, if applicable, of the sub-advisory agreement between NAM and the Fund's sub-adviser. As required by law, the shareholders of each Fund were asked to approve a new investment management agreement and, if applicable, a new subadvisory agreement that reflected this change in ownership. The shareholders of each Fund voted this approval at a Shareholders' Meeting on July 26, 2005. There were no changes to the investment objectives or management of any Fund as a result of these actions.

QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS AND PROXY VOTING INFORMATION

The Fund's (i) quarterly portfolio of investments, (ii) information regarding how the Funds voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30, 2005, and (iii) a description of the policies and procedures that the Fund used to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities are available without charge, upon request, by calling Nuveen Investments toll-free at (800) 257-8787 or on Nuveen's website at www.nuveen.com.

You may also obtain this and other Fund information directly from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). The SEC may charge a copying fee for this information. Visit the SEC on-line at <http://www.sec.gov> or in person at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Call the SEC at 1-202-942-8090 for room hours and operation. You may also request Fund information by sending

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an e-mail request to publicinfo@sec.gov or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section at 450 Fifth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20549.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN: This is a commonly used method to express an investment's performance over a particular, usually multi-year time period. It expresses the return that would have been necessary each year to equal the investment's actual cumulative performance (including change in NAV or market price and reinvested dividends and capital gains distributions, if any) over the time period being considered.

MARKET YIELD: Market yield is based on the Fund's current annualized monthly distribution divided by the Fund's current market price. The Fund's monthly distributions to its shareholders may be comprised of ordinary income, net realized capital gains and, if at the end of the calendar year the Funds' cumulative net ordinary income and net realized gains are less than the amount of the Fund's distributions, a tax return of capital.

NET ASSET VALUE (NAV): A Fund's common share NAV per share is calculated by subtracting the liabilities of the Fund (including any MuniPreferred shares issued in order to leverage the Fund) from its total assets and then dividing the remainder by the number of shares outstanding. Fund NAVs are calculated at the end of each business day.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert P. Bremner
Lawrence H. Brown
Jack B. Evans
William C. Hunter
David J. Kundert
William J. Schneider
Timothy R. Schwertfeger
Judith M. Stockdale
Eugene S. Sunshine

FUND MANAGER

Nuveen Asset Management
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

CUSTODIAN

State Street Bank & Trust
Boston, MA

TRANSFER AGENT AND SHAREHOLDER SERVICES

State Street Bank & Trust
Nuveen Funds
P.O. Box 43071
Providence, RI 02940-3071
(800) 257-8787

LEGAL COUNSEL

Chapman and Cutler LLP
Chicago, IL

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM
Ernst & Young LLP

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Chicago, IL

The Fund intends to repurchase shares of its own common or preferred stock in the future at such times and in such amounts as is deemed advisable. No shares were repurchased during the period covered by this report. Any future repurchases will be reported to shareholders in the next annual or semiannual report.

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

See Portfolio of Investments in Item 1.

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to this Item.

ITEM 11. 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

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270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") (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 second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.

File the exhibits listed below as part of this Form.

(a)(1) Any code of ethics, or amendment thereto, that is the subject of the disclosure required by Item 2, to the extent that the registrant intends to satisfy the Item 2 requirements through filing of an exhibit: Not applicable to this filing.

(a)(2) 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)) in the exact form set forth below: Ex-99.CERT attached hereto.

(a)(3) Any written solicitation to purchase securities under Rule 23c-1 under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.23c-1) sent or given during the period covered by the report by or on behalf of the registrant to 10 or more persons: Not applicable.

(b) If the report is filed under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, provide the certifications required by Rule 30a-2(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-2(b)); Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13a-14(b) or 240.15d-14(b)), and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. 1350) as an exhibit. A certification furnished pursuant to this paragraph will not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78r), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. Such certification will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the registrant specifically incorporates it by reference. Ex-99.906 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/ Jessica R. Droeger

Jessica R. Droeger
Vice President and Secretary

Date: December 8, 2005

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the

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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: December 8, 2005

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

Stephen D. Foy
Vice President and Controller
(principal financial officer)

Date: December 8, 2005

* Print the name and title of each signing officer under his or her signature.