

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund
Form N-Q
May 30, 2018

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)

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: December 31

Date of reporting period: March 31, 2018

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

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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

Portfolio of Investments March 31, 2018

(Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS – 98.3%	
	COMMON STOCKS – 98.3%	
	Aerospace & Defense – 9.1%	
21,800	Boeing Company, (2)	\$7,147,784
5,700	General Dynamics Corporation	1,259,130
10,500	Harris Corporation	1,693,440
7,900	L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.	1,643,200
4,600	Lockheed Martin Corporation	1,554,478
12,800	Northrop Grumman Corporation	4,468,736
14,300	Raytheon Company	3,086,226
4,100	Rockwell Collins, Inc.	552,885
1,400	Textron Inc.	82,558
	Total Aerospace & Defense	21,488,437
	Air Freight & Logistics – 1.0%	
15,000	C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.	1,405,650
4,300	FedEx Corporation	1,032,473
	Total Air Freight & Logistics	2,438,123
	Auto Components – 1.2%	
20,300	Aptiv PLC	1,724,891
22,200	BorgWarner Inc.	1,115,106
	Total Auto Components	2,839,997
	Automobiles – 0.5%	
31,900	General Motors Company	1,159,246
	Banks – 3.0%	
34,100	Citigroup Inc.	2,301,750
17,300	Citizens Financial Group Inc.	726,254
4,900	Comerica Incorporated	470,057
22,100	Fifth Third Bancorp	701,675
17,600	Huntington BancShares Inc.	265,760
5,200	KeyCorp	101,660
7,200	People's United Financial, Inc.	134,352
3,100	PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	468,844
36,500	Regions Financial Corporation	678,170
1,200	SunTrust Banks, Inc.	81,648
23,200	Zions Bancorporation	1,223,336
	Total Banks	7,153,506

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JCENueven Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)

Portfolio of Investments March 31, 2018

(Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Beverages – 3.1%	
25,375	Brown-Forman Corporation, Class B	\$1,380,400
21,600	Constellation Brands, Inc., Class A	4,923,072
17,300	Monster Beverage Corporation	989,733
	Total Beverages	7,293,205
	Biotechnology – 0.9%	
22,000	AbbVie Inc.	2,082,300
	Building Products – 0.4%	
19,400	Masco Corporation	784,536
2,500	Smith AO Corporation	158,975
	Total Building Products	943,511
	Capital Markets – 8.1%	
5,900	Affiliated Managers Group Inc.	1,118,522
4,100	Ameriprise Financial, Inc.	606,554
1,100	BlackRock Inc.	595,892
15,600	CBOE Holdings Inc.	1,779,960
1,800	Charles Schwab Corporation	93,996
21,300	CME Group, Inc., (2)	3,445,062
24,500	E*Trade Group Inc.	1,357,545
15,300	Moody's Corporation	2,467,890
16,300	NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.	1,405,386
4,800	Northern Trust Corporation	495,024
15,200	S&P Global, Inc.	2,904,112
25,500	T. Rowe Price Group Inc.	2,753,235
	Total Capital Markets	19,023,178
	Chemicals – 3.7%	
4,500	Albemarle Corporation	417,330
31,400	CF Industries Holdings, Inc.	1,184,722
3,900	Eastman Chemical Company	411,762
18,000	FMC Corporation	1,378,260
7,200	International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.	985,752
21,600	LyondellBasell Industries NV, Class A	2,282,688
6,100	Monsanto Company	711,809
1,900	Praxair, Inc.	274,170
2,600	Sherwin-Williams Company	1,019,512
	Total Chemicals	8,666,005
	Commercial Services & Supplies – 1.1%	
25,900	Republic Services, Inc.	1,715,357
9,400	Waste Management, Inc.	790,728
	Total Commercial Services & Supplies	2,506,085

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Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Construction & Engineering – 0.1%	
4,400	Fluor Corporation	\$ 251,768
	Consumer Finance – 1.1%	
11,500	American Express Company	1,072,720
14,700	Discover Financial Services	1,057,371
14,800	Synchrony Financial	496,244
	Total Consumer Finance	2,626,335
	Containers & Packaging – 0.6%	
12,300	Avery Dennison Corporation	1,306,875
100	Packaging Corp. of America	11,270
	Total Containers & Packaging	1,318,145
	Distributors – 0.5%	
4,600	Genuine Parts Company	413,264
17,100	LKQ Corporation	648,945
	Total Distributors	1,062,209
	Electric Utilities – 3.0%	
15,700	Alliant Energy Corporation	641,502
9,100	American Electric Power Company, Inc.	624,169
5,600	Entergy Corporation	441,168
7,200	Eversource Energy	424,224
2,300	Exelon Corporation	89,723
18,300	NextEra Energy Inc.	2,988,939
40,700	Xcel Energy, Inc., (2)	1,851,036
	Total Electric Utilities	7,060,761
	Electrical Equipment – 0.4%	
11,800	Ametek Inc.	896,446
900	Emerson Electric Company	61,470
	Total Electrical Equipment	957,916
	Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components – 1.7%	
34,800	Amphenol Corporation, Class A	2,997,324
3,100	FLIR Systems Inc.	155,031
7,500	TE Connectivity Limited	749,250
	Total Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	3,901,605
	Energy Equipment & Services – 0.1%	
3,400	Helmerich & Payne Inc.	226,304
	Equity Real Estate Investment Trust – 3.4%	
3,000	Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc.	374,670
10,000	American Tower Corporation, REIT	1,453,400
7,100	Duke Realty Corporation	188,008
143	Equinix Inc.	59,794

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JCENuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)
 Portfolio of Investments March 31, 2018
 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Equity Real Estate Investment Trust (continued)	
400	Essex Property Trust Inc.	\$96,272
16,900	Extra Space Storage Inc.	1,476,384
17,100	Iron Mountain Inc.	561,906
700	Mid-America Apartment Communities	63,868
46,600	Prologis Inc.	2,935,334
2,400	Regency Centers Corporation	141,552
3,600	SBA Communications Corporation	615,312
	Total Equity Real Estate Investment Trust	7,966,500
	Food & Staples Retailing – 0.8%	
2,000	Costco Wholesale Corporation	376,860
9,700	Kroger Co.	232,218
13,000	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	1,156,610
	Total Food & Staples Retailing	1,765,688
	Food Products – 0.7%	
1,800	Hershey Foods Corporation	178,128
19,400	Tyson Foods, Inc., Class A	1,419,886
	Total Food Products	1,598,014
	Health Care Equipment & Supplies – 5.5%	
36,500	Abbott Laboratories	2,187,080
5,200	Align Technology, Inc., (3)	1,305,876
34,300	Baxter International, Inc., (2)	2,230,872
16,100	Intuitive Surgical, Inc.	6,646,563
4,600	ResMed Inc.	452,962
	Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies	12,823,353
	Health Care Providers & Services – 1.7%	
9,300	Aetna Inc.	1,571,700
16,600	Centene Corporation, (3)	1,774,042
3,700	CIGNA Corporation	620,638
	Total Health Care Providers & Services	3,966,380
	Health Care Technology – 0.5%	
21,400	Cerner Corporation	1,241,200
	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure – 2.9%	
21,400	Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.	1,685,464
17,900	Marriott International, Inc., Class A	2,434,042
4,700	McDonald's Corporation	734,986
6,100	Wyndham Worldwide Corporation	698,023
7,600	Wynn Resorts Ltd	1,385,936
	Total Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	6,938,451

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Household Durables – 1.2%	
39,400	D.R. Horton, Inc., (2)	\$1,727,296
4,200	Garmin Limited	247,506
1,500	Lennar Corporation, Class A	88,410
29,400	PulteGroup Inc.	867,006