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AMERICAN EXPRESS CO
Form 8-K
May 15, 2009

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 15, 2009

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| New York | 1-7657 | 13-4922250 |
| ----- (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | ----- (Commission File Number) | ----- (IRS Employer Identification No.) |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 200 Vesey Street, World Financial Center New York, New York | 10285 |
| ----- (Address of principal executive offices) | ----- (Zip Code) |

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 640-2000

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

ITEM 7.01 REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE

American Express Company (the "Company") is hereby furnishing below owned and managed basis delinquency and write-off statistics for the lending portfolio of its U.S. Card Services ("USCS") operating segment, for the months ended February 28, March 31 and April 30, 2009. As previously stated in its reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"),

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the Company believes that its managed basis presentation provides the Company's investors with a more comprehensive portrayal of the key dynamics of the Company's U.S. cardmember lending business over time. The results reported below for April 2009 are consistent with the Company's estimate that the U.S. lending write-off rate on a managed basis for the second quarter of 2009 is expected to increase between 200 and 250 basis points over the first quarter rate of 8.5%, which estimate the Company previously reported in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY U.S. CARD SERVICES DELINQUENCY AND WRITE-OFF STATISTICS

As of and for the months ended February 28, March 31 and April 30, 2009

(Billions, except percentages)

| | Feb. 28, 2009 ----- | Mar. 31, 2009 ----- | Apr. 30, 2009 ----- |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cardmember lending - owned basis (A): | | | |
| Total loans | \$29.5 | \$28.2 | \$27.1 |
| 30 days past due loans as a % of total | 5.3% | 5.1% | 4.9% |
| Average loans | \$29.9 | \$28.9 | \$27.7 |
| Net write-off rate | 8.7% | 8.6%(C) | 10.4% |
| Cardmember lending - managed basis (B): | | | |
| Total loans | \$57.8 | \$56.5 | \$55.4 |
| 30 days past due loans as a % of total | 5.3% | 5.1% | 4.9% |
| Average loans | \$58.6 | \$57.1 | \$55.9 |
| Net write-off rate | 8.6% | 8.8%(C) | 10.1% |

(A) "Owned," a GAAP basis measurement, reflects only cardmember loans included in the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

(B) The managed basis presentation assumes that there have been no off-balance sheet securitization transactions, i.e., all securitized cardmember loans and related income effects are reflected as if they were in the Company's balance sheets and income statements, respectively. The difference between the "owned basis" (GAAP) information and "managed basis" information is attributable to the effects of securitization activities. The Company presents U.S. Card Services information on a managed basis because that is the way the Company's management views and manages the business. Management believes that a full picture of trends in the Company's cardmember lending business can only be derived by evaluating the performance of both securitized and non-securitized cardmember loans and that use of a managed basis presentation presents a more comprehensive portrayal of the key dynamics of the cardmember lending business over time.

(C) During March 2009 the Company sold to third parties certain cardmember loans that had been previously written-off. The net write-off rates reported above for March 2009 reflect the benefit of the sale proceeds being treated as a partial recovery of such previously written-off balances.

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The statistics presented above provide information that is additional to the data reported by the American Express Credit Account Master Trust (the "Lending Trust") in its monthly Form 10-D report filed with the Commission. The loans that have been securitized through the off-balance sheet Lending Trust do not possess identical characteristics with those of the total (I.E., managed) portfolio of USCS loans, which reflects the aggregate of securitized and owned loans. Thus, the reported credit performance of the Lending Trust may, on a month-to-month basis, be better or worse than the credit performance of the managed portfolio. Reported differences may arise as a result of, among other things, differences in the mix and vintage of loans between the Lending Trust and the managed portfolio, the number of days in the reporting period covered by the Form 10-D being filed by the Lending Trust and the use of end-of-period principal loan balances to calculate write-off statistics in the Lending Trust compared to the use of average loan balances over the reporting period used in the managed statistics. In addition, the reporting period for the managed portfolio is based on a calendar month, as compared to the reporting period covered by the Form 10-D reports for the Lending Trust, which is generally based on a monthly period typically beginning on the 25th day of each calendar month.

Set forth below is certain information regarding the credit performance of the Lending Trust for its three most recent monthly reporting periods, as reported in its Form 10-D report filed with respect to each such period.

AMERICAN EXPRESS CREDIT ACCOUNT MASTER TRUST

(Billions, except percentages)

| | Jan. 26, 2009 through Feb. 24, 2009 ----- | Feb. 25, 2009 through Mar. 26, 2009 ----- | Mar. 27, 2009 through Apr. 26, 2009 ----- |
|---|--|--|--|
| Ending total principal balance | \$37.2 | \$36.0 | \$35.5 |
| Defaulted amount, net of recoveries | \$ 0.3 | \$ 0.3 | \$ 0.3 |
| Annualized default rate, net of recoveries | 9.3% | 9.7% | 9.9% |
| Total 30+ Days delinquent | \$ 2.0 | \$ 1.9 | \$ 1.8 |

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Forward-Looking Statements

This report includes forward-looking statements, which are subject to risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements contain words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "optimistic," "intend," "plan," "aim," "will," "may," "should," "could," "would," "likely" and similar expressions. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. The Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the following: fluctuations in card lending balances, which depend in part on the economic environment; the Company's ability to manage credit risk related to

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consumer and small business loans and other credit trends, which will depend in part on the economic environment, including, among other things, the housing market, the rates of bankruptcies and unemployment, which can affect spending on card products and debt payments by individuals and small business customers, and on the effectiveness of the Company's credit models; the Company's write-off rates for May and June 2009, which will depend in part on changes in the level of the Company's loan balances, delinquency rates of cardmembers and unemployment and bankruptcy rates; and the impact of the Company's efforts to deal with delinquent cardmembers in the current challenging economic environment, which may affect payment patterns of cardmembers. A further description of these and other risks and uncertainties can be found in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009, and the Company's other reports filed with the SEC.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
(REGISTRANT)

By: /s/ Carol V. Schwartz

Name: Carol V. Schwartz
Title: Secretary

Date: May 15, 2009

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