Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports August and Fiscal Year Sales Results

September 5, 2001

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sept. 5, 2001--Costco Wholesale Corporation ("Costco" or the "Company") (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of $2.74 billion for the four weeks ended September 2, 2001, an increase of 10 percent from $2.49 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year. On a comparable warehouse basis, that is warehouses open at least a year, sales increased 4 percent.

For its 52-week fiscal year ended September 2, 2001, the Company reported net sales of $34.14 billion, an increase of 8 percent from $31.62 billion during last year's 53-week fiscal year. On a like 52-week year-over-year comparison, total net sales increased 10 percent. Comparable warehouse sales for the 52-week year-over-year period increased 4 percent.

The Company plans to report fourth quarter and fiscal year 2001 operating results, for the 16 weeks and 52 weeks ended September 2, 2001, on October 11th.

Costco currently operates 365 warehouses, including 264 in the United States, 60 in Canada, 11 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, three in Taiwan, two in Japan and 20 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com. The Company plans to open an additional 22 warehouses (including three relocations) prior to the end of calendar year 2001.

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