Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports August, Fourth Quarter and Fiscal Year Sales Results

September 4, 2002

ISSAQUAH, Wash., Sep 4, 2002 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of $3.01 billion for the four weeks ended September 1, 2002, an increase of 10 percent from $2.74 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year. For the 16-week fiscal fourth quarter, ended September 1, 2002, the Company reported net sales of $12.04 billion, an increase of 10 percent from $10.91 billion during last year's fiscal fourth quarter. For the 52-week fiscal year ended September 1, 2002, the Company reported net sales of $37.98 billion, an increase of 11 percent from $34.14 billion during the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 4-week, 16-week, and 52-week periods ended September 1, 2002 were as follows:

	4 Weeks	16 Weeks	52 Weeks
US	6%	6%	7%
International	4%	5%	2%
Total Company	6%	6%	6%

Costco currently operates 394 warehouses, including 290 in the United States, 60 in Canada, 14 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 20 new warehouses (including one relocation of an existing warehouse to a larger and better-located facility) prior to the end of calendar year 2002.

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