



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports March Sales Results

April 12, 2001

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 12, 2001--Costco Wholesale Corporation ("Costco" or the "Company") (Nasdaq:COST) today reported net sales of \$3.08 billion for the five weeks ended April 8, 2001, an increase of 9 percent from \$2.83 billion in the same five-week period of the prior fiscal year. On a comparable warehouse basis, that is warehouses open at least a year, sales increased 3 percent.

For the first thirty-one weeks of its 2001 fiscal year ended April 8, 2001, the Company reported net sales of \$19.98 billion, an increase of 9 percent from \$18.34 billion during the comparable period of the prior fiscal year. Comparable warehouse sales for the year-to-date period increased 4 percent over the prior year's level.

Costco currently operates 352 warehouses, including 253 in the United States, 60 in Canada, 11 in the United Kingdom, four in Korea, three in Taiwan, two in Japan and 19 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com. The Company plans to open an additional 12 to 14 new warehouses prior to the end of its 2001 fiscal year on September 2, 2001.

CONTACT: Costco Wholesale Corporation

Richard Galanti, 425/313-8203

Bob Nelson, 425/313-8255