Costco Wholesale Corp / COST

Equity | Generated Sep 4, 2026 11:31 PM EDT

Current price	Daily move	Bid / Ask	Previous close
$916.00	-9.41 -1.02%	-/-	$925.41

Market	**NYSE**
Industry	**Retail**
Market data as of	**Sep 4, 2026 11:31 PM EDT**

JW Intelligence Report

Complete | 3 of 3 sections | Sep 4, 2026 6:50 PM EDT

JW Rank	Rank label	Confidence	IV percentile
60.7 / 100	Balanced	high	65 / 100

Model reference	Upside scenario	Risk reference	Wheel strategy fit
$910.00	$940.00	$890.00	86 / 100

Options stance	**mixed**
Tail-risk safety	**64 / 100**
JW Rank data coverage / as of	**100.0% | Sep 4, 2026 6:50 PM EDT**

Key insight

COST Option Market Implies Uncertainty Amidst Mixed Signals

Market read

The COST option market reflects a cautious outlook, with implied volatility suggesting uncertainty surrounding the upcoming earnings release. While strong August sales and potential for a special dividend support bullish sentiment, recent price weakness, PT cuts, and regulatory overhang contribute to bearish pressure. The term structure is in contango, indicating a belief that volatility will increase closer to the September 24th earnings date.

Strategy context

The option market shows a balanced skew, with both call and put options relatively priced. This suggests that traders are anticipating potential price movement in either direction.

JW AI conclusions

Short- and medium-term model interpretation

AI context bias	**Bullish**
AI analysis updated	**Sep 4, 2026 2:30 PM EDT**

Short-term scenario

Neutral/hold; avoid new longs amid technical breakdown, PT cuts, Next shutdown, DOJ probe, and earnings in ~3 weeks. High uncertainty from premium valuation, potential consumer slowdown, and event risk. If trading, consider dip-buy only on oversold bounce with tight risk; otherwise wait.

Three-month outlook

Moderately constructive but uncertain: consistent 8-10% comps, membership growth, digital +20%, and warehouse expansion support analyst PTs of $1,050-1,144. Potential 5-15% upside if support holds and Q4 (Sep 24) beats. Risks include valuation compression (high P/E/PEG), macro/consumer pressure, competition, and regulatory overhang. Could retest $850-900 on disappointment. Identify uncertainty: earnings, growth deceleration, and multiple risk dominate near-term path.

Market sentiment

Mixed/cautious. Posts note strong August sales and potential special dividend (~$20 possible in 2026 per history), but highlight high P/E (~46x), slight sequential comps deceleration (BofA), valuation stretch, and grocery-sector risks. Limited high-engagement $COST-specific investor chatter; more consumer anecdotes. Some see fundamentals as floor, others warn of multiple compression or pullback.

Supporting evidence

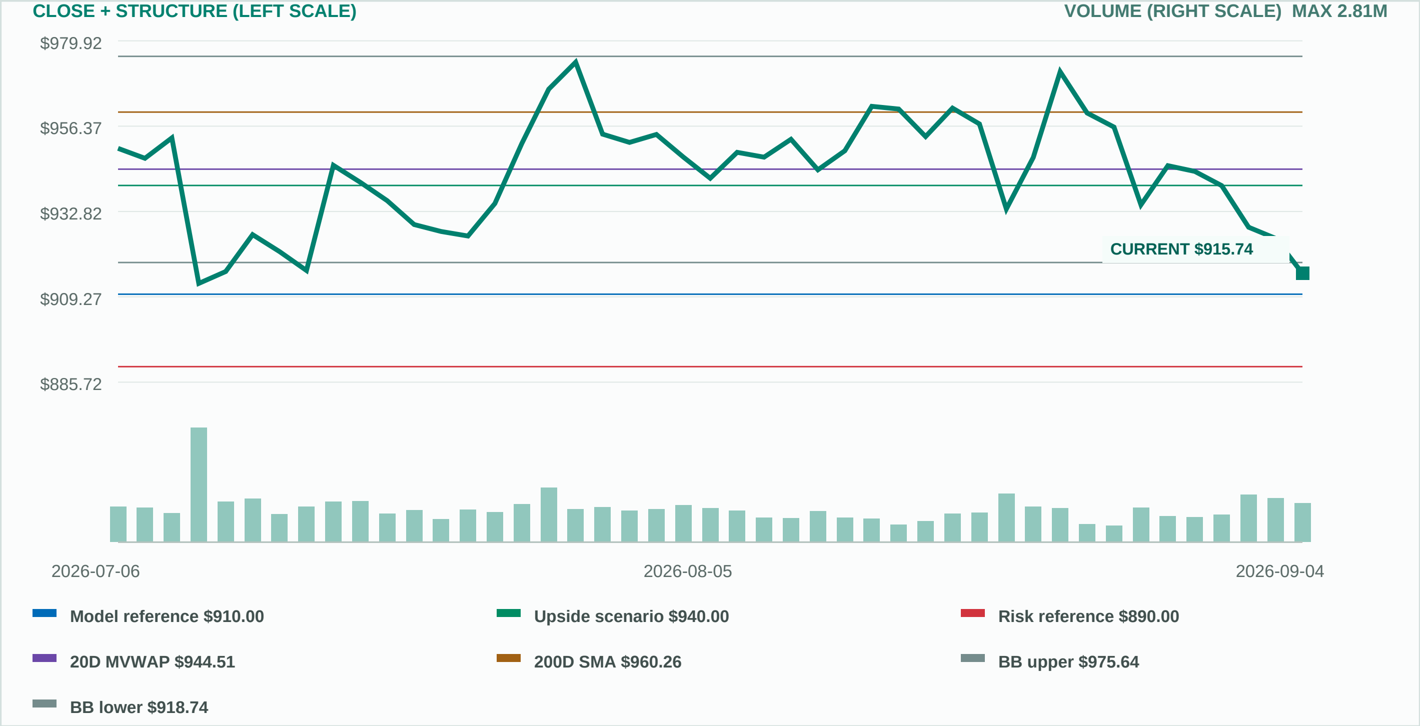
Implied volatility of 23.68% suggests market uncertainty ahead of earnings. | Recent price decline and death cross signal short-term bearish momentum. | Analyst PT cuts and negative news flow contribute to cautious sentiment. | Strong August sales and potential special dividend offer some bullish support.

Risk watch

Earnings event risk on September 24th could trigger significant volatility.

Enhanced price structure

45 trading days with volume, model levels and current technical reference bands



45 complete trading-session observations

JW Rank factors

Score, source coverage and interpretation for each decision factor

JW RANK FACTOR PROFILE	COVERAGE	0 – 50 – 100
Liquidity	100.0%	93.3
Strategy Fit	100.0%	85.7
Technical Trend	100.0%	24.4
Market Tail Risk	100.0%	63.8
Fundamental Quality	100.0%	51.5
Volatility Pressure	100.0%	80.4

Decision summary

Primary model reads before the detailed indicator appendix

Momentum	Institutional flow	Structure	Volatility
strong_bear	**Below MVWAP**	**Below 200D trend**	**low**

Decision indicators

Detailed momentum, institutional and structural observations

Momentum kinematics

Direction, velocity and oscillator state

Current read	**STRONG BEAR | neutral | MACD decelerating**
Trend signal	**STRONG BEAR**
RSI signal	**neutral**
RSI (7 / 14 / 21)	**28.46 / 38.07 / 41.41**
RSI velocity	**-2.68**
MACD line / signal / histogram	**-5.92 / - / -2.00**
MACD acceleration	**-1.55**
Stochastic K / D	**10.60 / 18.17**

Institutional footprints

Volume-weighted cost, price location and flow

Current read	**Below institutional MVWAP | Distribution bias**
Institutional flow	**-1.73**
20-day MVWAP	**$944.51**
Price vs 20-day MVWAP	**-3.02%**
Daily reference VWAP	**$919.44**
Price vs daily reference	**-0.37%**
Volume	**954.93K**

Structural context

Long-term trend and volatility boundaries

Current read	**Below 200-day trend | Negative macro velocity**
Macro velocity	**-1.16**
20-day / 200-day SMA	**$947.19 / $960.26**
Bollinger range	**$918.74 - $975.64**
Bollinger position	**-0.053**

Options and volatility intelligence

Structure, premium conditions and principal risks

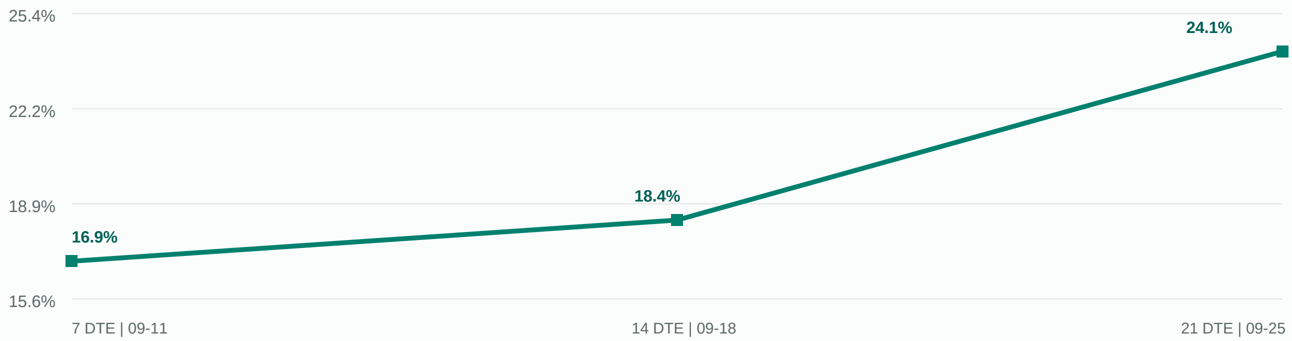
IV rank	IV percentile	VVIX	SKEW
54 / 100	**63 / 100**	**82.43**	**150.63**

Market regime	**Calm**
Tail-risk regime	**NORMAL TAIL RISK**
Term structure	**contango**
Term slope	**+7.19 pts**
Skew read	**balanced**
Liquidity / quote coverage	**100.0%**
Options observation	**Sep 4, 2026 4:40 PM EDT | Coverage 88.9%**

Option term structure

ATM implied-volatility curve by days to expiration

ATM IV CURVE



Upward-sloping ATM volatility term structure

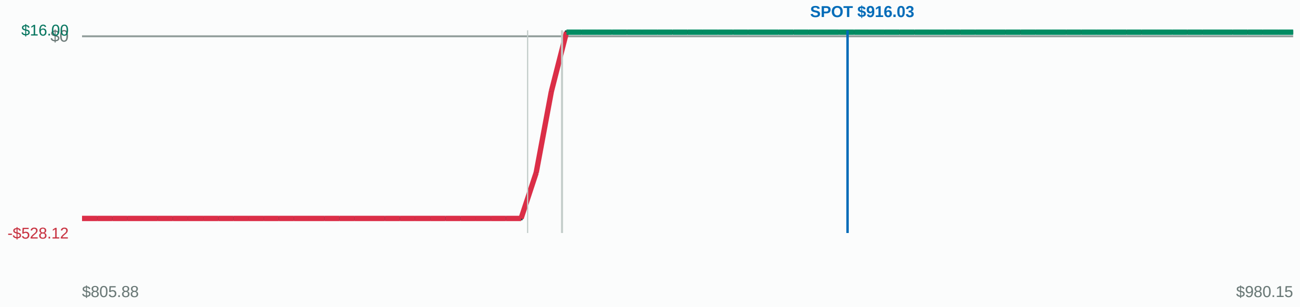
EXPIRATION	DTE	ATM IV	STATE
2026-09-11	7	16.9%	-
2026-09-18	14	18.4%	-
2026-09-25	21	24.1%	-

Reference spread payoff

Illustrative expiry profit/loss per one-lot structure, including quoted net credit

Bull Put Spread reference

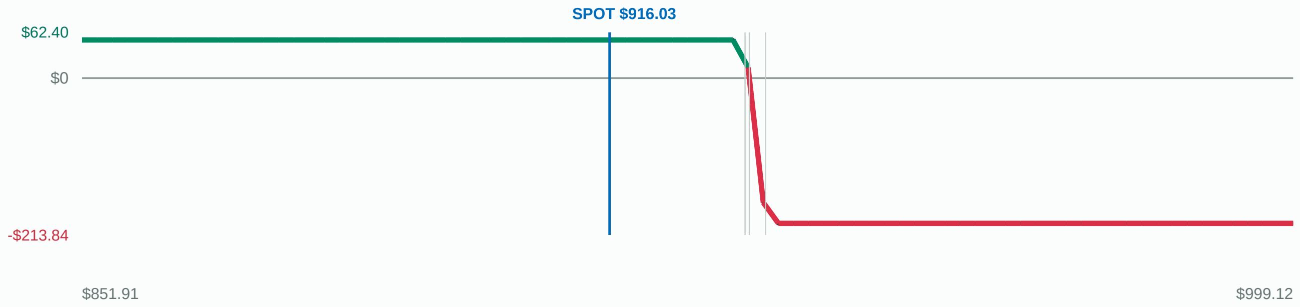
Short $875.00 | Long $870.00 | Width $5.00 | Net credit $0.11



Max profit $11.00 | Max loss -$489.00 | Break-even $874.89 | Per contract at expiry

Bear Call Spread reference

Short $932.50 | Long $935.00 | Width $2.50 | Net credit $0.52



Max profit $52.00 | Max loss -$198.00 | Break-even $933.02 | Per contract at expiry

Event and tail-risk context

Known event windows and broad volatility conditions

Next earnings date	**2026-09-24**
Earnings IV-crush risk	**unknown**
VIX	**14.02**
VVIX	**82.43**
SKEW index	**150.63**
Observation confidence	**high**
Option quote quality	**reliable**
Contracts observed	**121**

Event and tail-risk context (continued)

Known event windows and broad volatility conditions

FIELD	VALUE
Contracts with quotes	**121**

Strategy fit

Generalized structure fit; not a personalized recommendation

Market structure

The COST option market reflects a cautious outlook, with implied volatility suggesting uncertainty surrounding the upcoming earnings release. While strong August sales and potential for a special dividend support bullish sentiment, recent price weakness, PT cuts, and regulatory overhang contribute to bearish pressure. The term structure is in contango, indicating a belief that volatility will increase closer to the September 24th earnings date.

Options context

COST Option Market Implies Uncertainty Amidst Mixed Signals

Wheel context

The option market shows a balanced skew, with both call and put options relatively priced. This suggests that traders are anticipating potential price movement in either direction.

Observed evidence

Implied volatility of 23.68% suggests market uncertainty ahead of earnings. | Recent price decline and death cross signal short-term bearish momentum. | Analyst PT cuts and negative news flow contribute to cautious sentiment. | Strong August sales and potential special dividend offer some bullish support.

Principal risks to monitor

Earnings event risk on September 24th could trigger significant volatility.

Fundamentals and events

Business quality, valuation and upcoming event context

Market capitalization **$406.11B**	P/E (TTM) **46.59**
ROE **28.3%**	Revenue growth **6.6%**
EPS growth **11.5%**	Operating margin **3.8%**
Net profit margin **3.0%**	Gross margin **-**
Free cash flow CAGR **5.3%**	Debt / equity **0.25**
Dividend yield **0.7%**	Beta **0.86**
52-week range **$844.06 - $1,096.50**	

Company or fund profile

Issuer identity and classification

Name **Costco Wholesale Corp**	Market **NYSE**
Industry **Retail**	Country **US**
Currency **USD**	IPO date **1985-12-05**
Shares outstanding **443.48M**	52-week return **-3.2%**
Book value per share **$75.55**	Revenue per share **$660.59**

Website	costco.com

Latest strategy observation

Most recent shared general market signal available when this report was generated

COST Covered Call signal

Sep 4, 2026 3:29 PM EDT

Covered Call | 2026-09-11

At signal $917.72 | Current $916.00

SHORT **Option $922.50 B $6.35 / A $7.15**

High turnover | CR $6.75

Complete technical details

Full supporting indicator set used by the symbol detail experience

Volatility and options market

Price movement and premium conditions

ATR	**$17.22**
ATR as % of price	**1.9%**
Volatility environment	**low**
Current IV	**23.9%**
IV rank	**56 / 100**
IV percentile	**65 / 100**

Technical health and risk radar

Derived indicator health and event context

Overall health	**52 / 100**
Trend health	**25 / 100**
Momentum health	**70 / 100**
Volatility health	**82 / 100**
Structure health	**45 / 100**
Earnings risk / date	**medium | 2026-09-24**
Macro risk	**unknown**
Volatility risk	**low**
Structure risk	**high**

Structural indicator levels

Moving averages, volatility bands and observed trading ranges

SMA (20 / 50 / 200)	**$947.19 / $943.57 / $960.26**
EMA (9 / 21)	**$935.03 / $942.63**
Bollinger upper / middle / lower	**$975.64 / $947.19 / $918.74**
Bollinger %B	**-0.053**
True high / low	**$928.04 / $914.54**

Structural indicator levels (continued)

Moving averages, volatility bands and observed trading ranges

FIELD	VALUE
5-day true high / low	**$952.10 / $914.54**

Three-day indicator history

Short-horizon change and the underlying three-session observations

INDICATOR	3-DAY CHANGE	SESSION 1 / 2 / 3
SMA20	-1.156	**-**
SMA50	-0.609	**-**
MVWAP20	-1.725	**-**
MACD	-1.553	**-**
RSI	-2.675	**-**
Volume	91681.330	**-**
ATR	-0.097	**-**
T1	-	**-4.12 / 946.20 / 930.76 / 915.31**
T2	-	**-2.75 / 948.27 / 939.96 / 920.31**
T3	-	**-1.27 / 949.68 / 952.10 / 935.92**

Detailed options evidence

Supporting option-chain, execution and data-quality observations

Underlying price at observation	**$916.03**
Options intelligence as of	**Sep 4, 2026 4:40 PM EDT**
Options data coverage	**88.9%**
SKEW regime	**HIGH TAIL RISK SKEW**
VVIX regime	**VVIX FLAT**
Front expiration / DTE	**2026-09-11 | 7 DTE**
Front at-the-money IV	**16.9%**
25-delta skew	**1.32**
Put / Call 25-delta	**$875.00 / $932.50 Delta 0.241**
Median option bid/ask spread	**12.2%**
Bid/ask spread	**-**
Contracts observed / quoted	**121 / 121**

Price context

Last Price: 916.03 | Bid: 915.82 | Ask: 916.28 | Previous Close: 925.41 | Change: -9.38 | Daily change: -1.01% | Update Time: 2026-09-04T14:33:46.257303-04:00 | Latest History Date: 2026-09-04 | Latest History Price: 915.98

Historical context

Trading-day sample: 60 sessions | First Date: 2026-06-11 | Latest Date: 2026-09-04 | Latest Price: 915.98 | Max Drawdown 60d Percent: -7.47%

Fundamental context

Current Iv Percent: 23.68% | Iv Rank: 53.80 | Iv Percentile: 62.70 | Next Earnings Date: 2026-09-24 | Ex Dividend Date: 2026-07-23 | Dividend Yield: 63.00

Important disclosures

Scope, limitations, risk and permitted interpretation

General market information only

This report is general quantitative research and market commentary. It is not investment, legal, tax or accounting advice; it is not an offer, solicitation, order, recommendation or promise of performance. It does not consider any reader's holdings, objectives, financial circumstances, risk tolerance or suitability.

Model observations - not instructions

JW Rank, strategy fit, model reference, upside scenario and risk reference levels are model observations. They are not entries, price targets, stops, position sizes or instructions to buy, sell, open, close or hold a security or option. A higher score does not imply lower risk or a guaranteed favorable outcome.

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Prices, volumes, fundamentals, options data, news-derived context and model outputs reflect the timestamps shown and may be delayed, incomplete, revised or inaccurate. AI-generated explanations can omit context or produce errors. Models can fail when volatility, liquidity, correlations or market regimes change.

Performance and scenario limitations

Past, hypothetical, back-tested, simulated and model-derived results are not indicative of future results. Strategy statistics may exclude commissions, fees, taxes, slippage, early assignment, execution constraints and other costs unless expressly stated. Actual outcomes may differ materially.

Options risk

Options are complex and are not suitable for all investors. They may involve total or substantial loss, assignment, early exercise, margin calls, liquidity and spread risk, volatility and Greek exposure, event risk, regime shifts and expiration risk. Multi-leg positions may not execute or close at modeled prices.

Investor responsibility and ODD

Use current market information, assess suitability independently and consult qualified professionals when appropriate. Before trading listed options, read Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options (ODD) available from the Options Clearing Corporation at theocc.com.

Reference documents

Official product terms and standardized options disclosure

Jason Wheel	**jasonwheel.com**
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