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WESTCORP /CA/
Form 11-K
July 01, 2002

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

FORM 11-K

(MARK ONE)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934 [FEE REQUIRED]

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934 [NO FEE REQUIRED]

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 1-9910

WESTCORP EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP AND SALARY SAVINGS PLAN
(FULL TITLE OF THE PLAN)

WESTCORP
23 PASTEUR
IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92718-3804

(NAME OF ISSUER OF THE SECURITIES HELD PURSUANT
TO THE PLAN AND THE ADDRESS OF ITS
PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE)

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REQUIRED INFORMATION

1. Not Applicable.
2. Not Applicable.
3. Not Applicable.
4. Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan (the "Plan") is

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subject to the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). Attached hereto is a copy of the most recent financial statements and schedules of the Plan prepared in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of ERISA.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan has duly caused this Annual Report to be signed by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

WESTCORP EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP
AND SALARY SAVINGS PLAN

By: /s/ LEE A. WHATCOTT

Lee A. Whatcott

July 1, 2002

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Year ended December 31, 2001
with Report of Independent Auditors

Westcorp
Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan
Audited Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule
Year ended December 31, 2001

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Supplemental Schedule

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[ERNST & YOUNG LLP LETTERHEAD]

Report of Independent Auditors

Plan Committee
Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2001. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2001 and 2000, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2001, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2001, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

June 20, 2002

Westcorp
Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2001	2000
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value:		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 4,489,867	\$ 2,316,166
Westcorp common stock	38,167,168	28,266,664
Mutual funds	16,515,896	15,658,208
Government National Mortgage Association securities		26,195
Loans to participants	744,273	726,586
Total investments	59,917,204	46,993,819
Employee deferrals receivable	185,413	285,323
Employer contribution receivable		1,816,010
Total receivables	185,413	2,101,333
Net assets available for benefits	\$60,102,617	\$49,095,152

See accompanying notes.

Westcorp
Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001
ADDITIONS	
Contributions:	
Employee	\$ 5,649,410
Employer	6,499,286

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Net transfers and exchanges	551,988
Net investment income:	
Interest income	67,460
Dividends	1,333,772
Net realized/unrealized appreciation	3,689,343

Total additions	17,791,259
DEDUCTIONS	
Benefit and withdrawal payments to participants	6,783,657
Administration fees	137

Total deductions	6,783,794

Net increase	11,007,465
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	49,095,152

End of year	\$60,102,617
	=====

See accompanying notes.

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Westcorp
Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2001

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation: The Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan ("the Plan") is for the benefit of all eligible employees of Westcorp ("the Company"), its wholly owned subsidiaries, Westran Services Corp., and Western Financial Bank ("the Bank"), and the Bank's subsidiaries.

Use of Estimates: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Contributions and Deductions: Contributions by Plan participants are recognized as additions to net assets when the deduction is made from the participants' wages at the end of each payroll period. In 1999, the Company amended the Plan requiring a Company match of employee contributions for the Salary Savings portion of the Plan ("SSP"). In 2001, the Company amended the Plan allowing earlier participation and vesting in the Plan. Company contributions for the Employee Stock Ownership portion of the Plan ("ESOP") are discretionary. Company

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contributions are accrued in the year in which they become obligations of the Company by authorization of its Board of Directors.

Benefits due to terminated participants and participant withdrawals are recorded on the date distributions are made.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition: The Plan's cash and investments are stated at fair value. The shares of registered investment companies are valued at quoted market prices which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end. The common stock shares of Westcorp are valued at their closing price on the New York Stock Exchange as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, respectively. Loans to participants are valued at cost which approximates fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

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Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

GENERAL

The Plan is a defined contribution profit sharing plan that covers substantially all employees and provides for retirement benefits. It is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

The Company and its subsidiaries make contributions to the ESOP and SSP as determined by the Plan document, the Company's Board of Directors, and within the guidelines of ERISA and the regulations of the Internal Revenue Service.

VESTING

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's matching and discretionary contribution portion of their accounts plus actual earnings thereon is based on years of service. The participants vest as follows:

Years of Service	Vested Interest	
	ESOP	SSP
Less than 1	0%	0%
1	20%	30%
2	40%	60%
3	60%	100%
4	80%	
5 or more	100%	

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A participant is 100% vested after five years of service for the ESOP and three years of service for the SSP, or upon attainment of age 65 or in the event of a participant's death or total disability while still an employee of the Company. Forfeitures are used to reduce the Company's matching contributions. For the year ended December 31, 2001, forfeitures of \$2,303,836 were used to offset the Company's matching contributions for the SSP portion of the Plan. The amount of forfeitures remaining at December 31, 2001 and 2000 were not material.

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Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (CONTINUED)

VESTING (CONTINUED)

It is the intent of the Company to continue the Plan; however, the Plan may be terminated by the Company at any time. In the event the Plan terminates, the net assets of the Plan will be fully allocated. All participants will vest 100% immediately and will receive their credited balance as of the date of liquidation.

Further information about the Plan agreement and the vesting and benefit provisions is contained in the pamphlet "Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan Summary Plan Document." Copies of this pamphlet are available from the Plan Committee.

EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

Employees may contribute up to 14% of annual earnings to the Plan through regular payroll deductions under the 401(k) provisions of the Plan.

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Employer contributions under the ESOP are at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors. Employer contributions for the SSP are matched 100% of the first \$500 contributed by the participant to the Plan, and then 50% of participant contributions, not to exceed 6% of participant annual compensation.

LOANS TO PARTICIPANTS

The Plan allows employees to borrow from their Plan accounts, excluding the ESOP portion. A minimum loan amount of \$500 can be borrowed once a year. The maximum loan amount is 50% of the employee's vested Plan account balance not to exceed \$50,000. Loans are required to be repaid within five years; however, if the purpose of the loan is to purchase a primary residence, the term may be up to 30 years. The loans bear interest at one percent plus the prime rate for the month previous to the loan date. Each loan is secured by the participant's vested interest remaining in the Plan.

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Westcorp Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (CONTINUED)

LOANS TO PARTICIPANTS (CONTINUED)

Repayments of loan amounts are used to reduce the outstanding principal balance of the loan. Such principal reductions are then allocated among the eleven investment options in the same proportion in which the individual employee's elective contributions are allocated at the time of loan repayment.

3. BENEFITS PAYABLE

At December 31, 2001 and 2000, there were no vested benefits payable to participants. Vested benefits payable are not reflected as a deduction from net assets available for benefits in the Plan's financial statements, which creates a difference from the Plan's Form 5500, "Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan," which has recorded the vested benefits as a liability.

4. INVESTMENTS

The following investments represented 5 percent or more of the Plan's net assets:

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2001	2000
Large Cap Value Fund	\$ 5,071,112	\$ 4,931,808
Large Cap Growth Fund	4,453,191	6,868,023
Westcorp common stock	38,167,168	28,266,664
Stable Value Trust Fund	4,489,867	1,581,846

The Plan's investments (including investments bought, sold and held during the year) appreciated (depreciated) in fair value during 2001 as follows:

Investments at fair value as determined by quoted market prices:	
Westcorp common stock	\$ 8,126,721
Mutual funds	(4,437,378)

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 3,689,343
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Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

5. INCOME TAX STATUS

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated February 1, 2002, stating that the Plan is qualified, in form, under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code ("the Code") and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The Company agreed to voluntarily pay the Plan's administrative expenses of approximately \$180,789 and \$135,000 in 2001 and 2000, respectively. The agreement to pay the administrative costs may be canceled at any time.

7. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Company's Board of Directors elected to provide a contribution for the ESOP of \$6,499,286 in 2001. In 2001, \$2,303,836 was provided in matching contributions for the SSP portion of the Plan and was funded through forfeitures.

8. ESOP PARTICIPANT ALLOCATION

The Plan allocates contributions, investment changes and forfeitures to participants' accounts as follows:

Contributions: Each participant is credited with one unit for each \$100 of eligible compensation plus an additional unit for each full year of service. All contributions credited to employees are invested in the Company's common stock.

Investment Changes: Each participant account is allocated the amount of investment changes on a daily basis in the same proportion that the cash or shares of each participant's account bears to the total accounts of all participants in the same investment option at the time of the valuation.

Forfeitures: Forfeitures are allocated to participants who did not have a break in service during the current year based on the proportion of each participant's compensation to the total compensation of all such participants during the year.

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Westcorp
Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

9. NONPARTICIPANT-DIRECTED INVESTMENTS

Information about the net assets and the significant components of the changes in net assets relating to nonparticipant-directed investments are as follows:

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	DECEMBER 31,	
	2001	2000
Net assets:		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 2,145,555	\$ 601,125
Westcorp common stock	30,571,600	21,721,369
Government National Mortgage Association securities	--	26,195
	-----	-----
	\$32,717,155	\$22,348,689
	=====	=====

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

Beginning balance	\$ 22,348,689
Changes in net assets:	
Employer contributions	6,499,286
Investment income	520,447
Net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value	6,407,428
Benefits paid to participants	(3,058,695)

Total	\$ 32,717,155
	=====

10. HOLDINGS OF PARTIES-IN-INTEREST

The Plan has holdings of securities of parties-in-interest as follows:

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2001	2000
	-----	-----
Westcorp common stock (2,043,872 and 1,884,444 shares in 2001 and 2000, respectively)	\$38,167,168	\$28,266,664
	=====	=====

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Westcorp
Employee Stock Ownership and Salary Savings Plan

Employer ID 510308535 Plan #001

Schedule H, Line 4i -- Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2001

SHARES OR PAR VALUE	IDENTITY OF ISSUE	COST**	CURRENT VALUE

	MUTUAL FUNDS		
215,234	Large Cap Growth Fund		\$ 4,453,191
31,024	Equity Fund		825,545
75,939	Balance Fund		1,969,848
120,193	International Fund		956,737
265,503	Large Cap Value Fund		5,071,112
152,855	Government Income Fund		1,401,678
58,940	Mid Cap Growth Fund		506,885
51,191	Small Cap Growth Fund		503,205
168,231	Technology Fund		827,695
	TOTAL MUTUAL FUNDS		----- 16,515,896
	COMMON STOCKS		
2,043,872	Westcorp*	\$34,261,964	38,167,168
	PARTICIPANT LOANS RECEIVABLE		
\$ 744,273	Participant loans 6.25% to 10.50% through 2031		744,273
	SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS		
\$4,489,867	Stable Value Trust Fund	4,489,867	4,489,867
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS		----- \$ 59,917,204 =====

* Investment with a party-in-interest.

** Cost of nonparticipant-directed investments.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibits
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23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP Independent Auditors