



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports December Sales Results

January 6, 2011

ISSAQUAH, WA, Jan 06, 2011 (MARKETWIRE via COMTEX) -- Costco Wholesale Corporation ("Costco" or the "Company") (NASDAQ: COST) today reported net sales of \$9.19 billion for the month of December, the five weeks ended January 2, 2011, an increase of eleven percent from \$8.26 billion during the similar period last year. This year's five-week period included sales from the Company's Mexico joint venture, as the Company began consolidating its Mexico operations on a prospective basis beginning with its 2011 fiscal year (on August 30, 2010); without those sales the increase would have been eight percent.

For the eighteen weeks of its reporting period ended January 2, 2011, the Company reported net sales of \$29.78 billion, an increase of eleven percent from \$26.83 billion during the similar period last year; excluding Mexico sales, the increase would have been eight percent.

Comparable sales for the five-week and eighteen-week periods ended January 2, 2011, including Mexico operations for last year and this year, were as follows:

	5 Weeks	18 Weeks
U.S.	4%	4%
International	12%	13%
Total Company	6%	7%

Inflation in gasoline prices and strengthening foreign currencies had a positive impact on comparable sales. Excluding these effects, comparable sales for the five-week and eighteen-week periods were as follows:

	5 Weeks	18 Weeks
U.S.	3%	3%
International	8%	9%
Total Company	4%	5%

Additional discussion of these sales results is available in a pre-recorded telephone message. You can access the recording by dialing 1-800-642-1687 (conference ID 25101626). This message will be available today through 5:00 p.m. (PT) on Friday, January 7, 2011.

Costco currently operates 582 warehouses, including 425 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 80 in Canada, 22 in the United Kingdom, seven in Korea, six in Taiwan, nine in Japan, one in Australia and 32 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com and at www.costco.ca in Canada.

Certain statements contained in this document and the pre-recorded telephone message constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. For these purposes, forward-looking statements are statements that address activities, events, conditions or developments that the Company expects or anticipates may occur in the future. Such forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual events, results or performance to differ materially from those indicated by such statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, domestic and international economic conditions, including exchange rates, the effects of competition and regulation, uncertainties in the financial markets, consumer and small business spending patterns and debt levels, conditions affecting the acquisition, development, ownership or use of real estate, actions of vendors, rising costs associated with employees (including health care costs), geopolitical conditions and other risks identified from time to time in the Company's public statements and reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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SOURCE: Costco