



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports November Sales Results

December 5, 2002

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 5, 2002--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of \$3.24 billion for the four weeks ended December 1, 2002, an increase of 7 percent from \$3.04 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year.

For the first 13 weeks of its 2003 fiscal year ended December 1, 2002, the Company reported net sales of \$9.84 billion, an increase of 8 percent from \$9.13 billion during the comparable period of the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 4-week and 13-week periods ended December 1, 2002 were as follows:

	4 Weeks	13 Weeks
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US	2%	2%
International	4%	5%
Total Company	2%	3%
	=====	=====

The Company plans to release its first quarter fiscal year 2003 operating results on December 12, 2002. A conference call to discuss these first quarter results is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. (PST) and will be available via a webcast on www.costco.com (click on Customer Service, Investor Relations, Financial Releases and finally the "Live Webcast" icon).

Costco currently operates 409 warehouses, including 302 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 61 in Canada, 15 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, three in Taiwan, three 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 3 new warehouses prior to the end of calendar year 2002.

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