



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports March Sales Results

April 10, 2003

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 10, 2003--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of \$3.88 billion for the five weeks ended April 6, 2003, an increase of 12 percent from \$3.46 billion in the same five-week period of the prior fiscal year.

For the first 31 weeks of its 2003 fiscal year ended April 6, 2003, the Company reported net sales of \$24.33 billion, an increase of 9 percent from \$22.36 billion during the comparable period of the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 5-week and 31-week periods ended April 6, 2003 were as follows:

	5 Weeks	31 Weeks
US	7%	4%
International	12%	6%
Total Company	8%	4%

Additional discussion of these sales results is available on a pre-recorded telephone message. You can access the recording by dialing 1-800-642-1687 (conference ID# 9720094). This recorded message will be available at 3:00 AM (PDT) today through 5:00 PM (PDT) on Friday, April 11, 2003.

Costco currently operates 414 warehouses, including 306 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 21 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com. The Company plans to open an additional 6 to 8 new warehouses prior to the end of its fiscal year 2003 on August 31, 2003.

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SOURCE: Costco Wholesale Corporation