



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports May Sales Results

June 5, 2003

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 5, 2003--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of \$3.20 billion for the four weeks ended June 1, 2003, an increase of 9 percent from \$2.95 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year.

For the first 39 weeks of its 2003 fiscal year ended June 1, 2003, the Company reported net sales of \$30.67 billion, an increase of 9 percent from \$28.15 billion during the comparable period of the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 4-week and 39-week periods ended June 1, 2003, were as follows:

	4 Weeks	39 Weeks
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US	2%	4%
International	15%	8%
 Total Company	 4%	 5%
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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# 1101866). This recorded message will be available at 3:00 AM (PDT) today through 5:00 PM (PDT) on Friday, June 6, 2003.

Costco currently operates 416 warehouses, including 307 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 61 in Canada, 15 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, three in Taiwan, four 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 three additional new warehouses prior to the end of its fiscal year 2003 on August 31, 2003, and an additional 12 new warehouses (including the relocation of one warehouse to a larger and better-located facility) prior to the end of calendar year 2003.

Certain statements contained in this release 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, conditions affecting the acquisition, development, ownership or use of real estate, actions of vendors, and other risks identified from time to time in the Company's public statements and reports filed with the SEC.

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SOURCE: Costco Wholesale Corporation