



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports October Sales Results

November 6, 2003

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 6, 2003--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of \$3.42 billion for the four weeks ended November 2, 2003, an increase of 14 percent from \$3.01 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year.

For the first 9 weeks of its 2004 fiscal year ended November 2, 2003, the Company reported net sales of \$7.49 billion, an increase of 13 percent from \$6.60 billion during the similar 9-week period of the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 4-week and 9-week periods ended November 2, 2003, were as follows:

	4 Weeks	9 Weeks
US	8%	9%
International	23%	20%
Total Company	11%	10%

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# 3874589). This recorded message will be available at 3:00 AM (PST) today through 5:00 PM (PST) on Friday, November 7, 2003.

The Company plans to release its first quarter fiscal year 2004 operating results on December 9, 2003. A conference call to discuss these first quarter results is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. (PST) on December 9th, and will be available via a webcast on www.costco.com (click on Customer Service, Investor Relations, Financial Releases and lastly the "Live Webcast" icon).

Costco currently operates 423 warehouses, including 312 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 23 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com. The Company plans to open seven additional new warehouses 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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