



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports April Sales Results

May 6, 2004

ISSAQUAH, Wash., May 6, 2004 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of \$3.56 billion for the four weeks ended May 2, 2004, an increase of 13 percent from \$3.14 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year.

For the first 35 weeks of its 2004 fiscal year ended May 2, 2004, the Company reported net sales of \$31.35 billion, an increase of 14 percent from \$27.47 billion during the similar 35-week period of the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 4-week and 35-week periods ended May 2, 2004, were as follows:

	4 Weeks	35 Weeks
US	10%	10%
International	8%	19%
Total Company	10%	11%

Had sales for the 4-week and 35-week periods last year been reported under EITF 03-10, Total Company comparable sales increases would have been 11 percent and 12 percent respectively. Current year sales increases and comparable sales increases in all of the above comparisons for International and Total Company were positively impacted by stronger foreign currencies.

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# 7041062). This recorded message will be available today through 5:00 PM (PDT) on Friday, May 7, 2004.

The Company plans to release its third quarter fiscal year 2004 operating results, for the twelve weeks ended May 9, 2004, on May 27, 2004. A conference call to discuss these third quarter results is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. (PDT) on May 27th, 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 433 warehouses, including 320 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 63 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 an additional seven to nine new warehouses prior to the end of its fiscal year 2004 on August 29, 2004.

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, consumer and small business spending patterns and debt levels, rising costs associated with employees (including health care and workers' compensation costs), 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.

SOURCE: Costco Wholesale Corporation

Costco Wholesale Corporation
Richard Galanti, 425-313-8203
Bob Nelson, 425-313-8255
Jeff Elliott, 425-313-8264

Customize your Business Wire news & multimedia to match your needs. Get breaking news from companies and organizations worldwide. Logon for FREE today at www.BusinessWire.com.