



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports November Sales Results

December 1, 2005

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 1, 2005--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of \$4.45 billion for the four weeks ended November 27, 2005, an increase of 9 percent from \$4.08 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year.

For the first 13 weeks of its fiscal year ended November 27, 2005, the Company reported net sales of \$13.85 billion, an increase of 12 percent from \$12.40 billion during the similar 13-week period of the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 4-week and 13-week periods ended November 27, 2005, were as follows:

	4 Weeks	13 Weeks
US	6%	9%
International	5%	9%
Total Company	6%	9%

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# 9065500). This recorded message will be available today through 5:00 p.m. (PT) on Friday, December 2, 2005.

The Company plans to release its operating results for the first quarter (12 weeks) of its fiscal year 2006 ended November 20, 2005, on December 8, 2005. A conference call to discuss these first quarter results is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. (PT) on December 8th and will be available via a webcast on www.costco.com (click on Investor Relations and "Webcasts").

Costco currently operates 471 warehouses, including 346 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 66 in Canada, 17 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, four in Taiwan, five in Japan and 28 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com and at www.costco.ca in Canada.

Certain statements contained in this document 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, conditions affecting the acquisition, development, ownership or use of real estate, actions of vendors, rising costs associated with employees (including health care and workers' compensation costs), rising costs associated with the acquisition of merchandise (including the direct and indirect effects of the rising cost of petroleum-based products and fuel and energy costs), geopolitical conditions and other risks identified from time to time in the Company's public statements and reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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SOURCE: Costco Wholesale Corporation