



## Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports October Sales Results

November 3, 2005

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 3, 2005--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today reported net sales of \$4.26 billion for the four weeks ended October 30, 2005, an increase of 12 percent from \$3.79 billion in the same four-week period of the prior fiscal year.

For the first 9-weeks of its fiscal year ended October 30, 2005, the Company reported net sales of \$9.40 billion, an increase of 13 percent from \$8.32 billion during the similar 9-week period of the prior fiscal year.

Comparable sales for the 4-week and 9-week periods ended October 30, 2005, were as follows:

	4 Weeks	9 Weeks
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US	10%	10%
International	9%	11%
Total Company	10%	10%
	=====	=====

The U.S. figure includes the benefit from significant recent gasoline price inflation, with the average sales price per gallon of gasoline up 30% year-over-year in the month of October. Excluding gasoline price inflation, U.S. comparable sales in October would have been 8%.

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# 2077702). This recorded message will be available today through 5:00 PM (PT) on Friday, November 4, 2005.

Costco currently operates 464 warehouses, including 342 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 65 in Canada, 16 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, four in Taiwan, five in Japan and 27 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at [www.costco.com](http://www.costco.com) and at [www.costco.ca](http://www.costco.ca) in Canada. The Company plans to open an additional seven new warehouses prior to the end of calendar year 2005.

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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