



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports December Sales Results

January 10, 2008

ISSAQUAH, WA, Jan 10, 2008 (MARKET WIRE via COMTEX News Network) -- Costco Wholesale Corporation ("Costco") (NASDAQ: COST) today reported net sales of \$7.55 billion for the month of December, the five weeks ended January 6, 2008, an increase of 10 percent from \$6.84 billion in the same five-week period last year.

For the first eighteen weeks of its reporting period ended January 6, 2008, the Company reported net sales of \$24.53 billion, an increase of 11 percent from \$22.04 billion during the similar eighteen-week period last year.

Comparable sales for the five-week and eighteen-week periods ended January 6, 2008, were as follows:

	5 Weeks	18 Weeks
US	5%	5%
International	16%	17%
Total Company	7%	8%

The U.S. comparable sales figure includes, among other things, the effect of recent gasoline price inflation, with the average sales price per gallon of gasoline up 27% for the five-week month of December. Excluding gasoline price inflation, U.S. comparable sales would have been up 4%. In addition, foreign exchange rates, particularly in Canada and the U.K., positively impacted international comparable sales results. On a local currency basis, international comparable sales increased 5% in December.

Costco currently operates 529 warehouses, including 389 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 75 in Canada, 19 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, five in Taiwan, six in Japan and 30 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com and at www.costco.ca in Canada. The Company plans to open an additional 20 to 23 new warehouses (including the relocation of four to five warehouses to larger and better-located facilities) prior to the end of its 2008 fiscal year on August 31, 2008.

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 30435901). This recorded message will be available today through 5:00 p.m. (PT) on Friday, January 11, 2008.

Certain statements contained in this document and the pre-recorded telephone message 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