



Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports December Sales Results

January 5, 2012

ISSAQUAH, WA, Jan 05, 2012 (MARKETWIRE via COMTEX) --Costco Wholesale Corporation (NASDAQ: COST) today reported net sales of \$10.05 billion for the month of December, the five weeks ended January 1, 2012, an increase of nine percent from \$9.19 billion during the similar five-week period last year.

For the first eighteen weeks of its reporting period ended January 1, 2012, the Company reported net sales of \$33.18 billion, an increase of eleven percent from \$29.78 billion during the similar period last year.

Comparable sales for the five-week and eighteen-week periods ended January 1, 2012:

	5 Weeks	18 Weeks
U.S.	7%	9%
International	9%	10%
Total Company	7%	9%

Inflation in gasoline prices had a positive impact on comparable sales, particularly for the eighteen-week period; foreign currencies had a slightly negative impact for the five-week period and a slightly positive impact for the eighteen-week period. Excluding these effects, comparable sales for the five-week and eighteen-week periods were as follows:

	5 Weeks	18 Weeks
U.S.	6%	6%
International	11%	10%
Total Company	7%	7%

Additional discussion of these sales results is available in a pre-recorded telephone message. You can access the recording by dialing 1-855-859-2056 (conference ID 28260812). This message will be available today through 5:00 p.m. (PT) on Friday, January 6, 2012.

Costco currently operates 598 warehouses, including 433 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 82 in Canada, 32 in Mexico, 22 in the United Kingdom, 11 in Japan, eight in Taiwan, seven in Korea and three in Australia. 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 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, uncertainties in the financial markets, 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 costs), energy, and certain commodities, 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.

CONTACTS:

Costco Wholesale Corporation
Richard Galanti
425/313-8203

Bob Nelson
425/313-8255

Jeff Elliott
425/313-8264

SOURCE: Costco