Costco Wholesale Corporation Reports March Sales Results

April 6, 2017

ISSAQUAH, Wash., April 05, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Costco Wholesale Corporation ("Costco" or the "Company") (Nasdaq:COST) today reported net sales of $11.64 billion for the month of March, the five weeks ended April 2, 2017, an increase of nine percent from $10.71 billion during the similar period last year. This year's total reflects one additional sales day due to the timing of Easter, which positively impacted net and comparable sales by an estimated one to one and one-half percent.

For the thirty-one weeks ended April 2, 2017, the Company reported net sales of $72.82 billion, an increase of six percent from $68.96 billion during the similar period last year.

Comparable sales were as follows:

	5 Weeks		31 Weeks	
U.S.	7	%	3	%
Canada	3	%	6	%
Other International	4	%	0	%
Total Company	6	%	3	%

Comparable sales for these periods excluding the impacts from changes in gasoline prices and foreign exchange were as follows:

	5 Weeks		31 Weeks	
U.S.	6	%	3	%
Canada	3	%	3	%
Other International	6	%	3	%
Total Company	5	%	3	%

Additional discussion of these results is available in a pre-recorded telephone message. The recording can be accessed by dialing 1-855-859-2056 (conference ID 92701767). This message will be available today through 5:00 p.m. (PT) on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

Costco currently operates 729 warehouses, including 508 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 95 in Canada, 37 in Mexico, 28 in the United Kingdom, 25 in Japan, 13 in Korea, 13 in Taiwan, eight in Australia and two in Spain. Costco also operates electronic commerce web sites in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Korea and Taiwan.

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, breaches of security or privacy of member or business information, conditions affecting the acquisition, development, ownership or use of real estate, capital spending, actions of vendors, rising costs associated with employees (generally 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. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we do not undertake to update these statements, except as required by law.

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