

## Costco caps the number of China shoppers one day after crazy debut

Costco Wholesale Corp.'s first outlet in Shanghai has **capped** the number of customers at 2,000, a day after it opened and was **overrun** with customers willing to fight over discounted products and wait hours to pay for their purchases.

cap 限制

overrun 泛滥; 蹂躏

It had to suspend operations on Tuesday citing "heavy traffic and customer flows," according to a text message to consumers shared on Weibo, China's micro-blogging website.

The **frenzy** at Costco's store comes at a time when the U.S. and China are locked in a **tit-for-tat** tariff war that shows no signs of **abating** and is making American firms **wary** of investing in the largest Asian economy.

frenzy 狂怒; 狂暴

tit-for-tat 针锋相对的

abate 减轻; 减少

wary 谨慎的; 机警的

Costco is also entering a market where many of its global rivals have struggled and given up. **Carrefour** SA sold an 80% stake in its China unit at a discount in June while German wholesaler Metro AG is looking to sell its operations.

carrefour 家乐福

Local news reports said the retailer offered discounts as deep as 60% on some products and initial annual membership for just 199 yuan (\$28).

The sale includes the nation's famous **fiery liquor** drink from Kweichow Moutai Co. and Wuliangye Yibin Co. Moutai's coveted baijiu bottles, according to messages posted on a local investing website, are being lapped up as these are available in Costco at 1,500 yuan and can be resold at marked-up prices of as much as 2,500 yuan.

fiery 热烈的; 暴躁的

liquor 酒

"There's no other word to describe Shanghai's Costco but crazy," said a Weibo user, who gave up on the shopping plan Tuesday after seeing two-hour queues at the checkout counters.