Costco Wholesale

* American multinational corporation operating on a chain of membership-only big box warehouse club retail stores.
* Third largest retailer in the world as of 2021.
* World’s largest retailer of beef, poultry, organic produce, and wine and 1/3rd of American consumers regularly shop at Costco warehouses as of august 2024.
* Originally began with wholesale business model aimed at enrolling businesses as members, then they began to enrol individual consumers and sell products intended for them, including their own private label brand.
* Headquarters are in Issaquah, Washington, an eastern suburb of Seattle.
* As of November 2024, Costco operates 890 warehouses worldwide: 616 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 109 in Canada, 41 in Mexico, 36 in Japan, 29 in the United Kingdom, 19 in South Korea, 15 in Australia, 14 in Taiwan, 7 in China, 5 in Spain, 2 in France, 1 in Iceland, 1 in New Zealand, and 1 in Sweden.
* Jim Sinegal and Jeffrey H. Brotman opened the first Costco warehouse in Seattle on September 15, 1983.
* Costco is mainly owned by institutional investors, who own over 70% of shares. The largest shareholders as of September 2024 are:
  + The Vanguard Group (9.40%)
  + BlackRock (7.56%)
  + State Street Corporation (4.06%)
  + Geode Capital Management (2.14%)
  + Morgan Stanley (2.13%)
  + Fidelity Investments (FMR) (2.10%)
  + Bank of America (1.59%)
  + Norges Bank (1.20%)
  + Northern Trust (1.05%)
  + BNY Mellon (1.01%)