The following highlights are based on Costco's fiscal year.

1976 - Sol & Robert Price raise $2.5 million from friends and family to open Price Club on July 12, the first warehouse club for business shoppers only. The warehouse was located in a remodeled airplane hangar on Morena Boulevard in San Diego, California.

1979 - After a $750,000 loss the first year of operation, Price Club now has two locations, 900 employees, 200,000 members, and a profit of $1 million dollars.

1980 - The Price Company offers public stock on July 12th.

1982 - Jeff Brotman and Jim Sinegal meet and draw up plans to start a new wholesale club business.

1983 - The first Costco warehouse opens in September in Seattle, Washington.
By the end of the year two, additional locations had opened in Portland, Oregon and Spokane, Washington.

1984 - The fourth Costco warehouse opens in Salt Lake City, Utah.
By calendar year-end, there were nine Costco's in five states, serving over 200,000 members.
Price Club sales exceed $1 billion.
The Price Company stock splits 2-for-1 on June 13th.

1985 - Costco offers public stock on December 5th.
Costco's first hot dog cart opens. The price for a hot dog and a soda is $1.50.
Costco opens it's first Canadian warehouse in Burnaby, British Columbia.

1986 - Price Club is 10 years old and is named the Forbes Magazine's "Best Managed Company".
The company has 22 locations, 3.2 million members, and 7,294 employees.
Costco is three years old and has 17 locations, 1.3 million members, and 3,740 employees.
Costco's first Pharmacy opens in Portland, Oregon and the Tukwila, WA warehouse becomes the home of the company's first fresh meat department.
The Price Company Stock splits 2-for-1 on February 4th.

1987 - Costco opens it's first produce and bakery departments.
Both Price Club and Costco open their first Optical Labs.

1988 - Costco closed Mid West Division and focused on East & West Coast markets.

1989 - Costco begins the year with 46 warehouses in operation.
The Price Company is the third most profitable company in the United States.
The first 1-Hour Photo opens in the Chula Vista warehouse in December.

1991 - Costco Stock splits 2-for-1 on May 16th.

1992 - The first Price Club in Mexico City opens.
Costco's stock splits 3-for-2 on March 9th.
In December Costco opens it's 100th warehouse in Miami Lakes, Florida.

1993 - Costco celebrates its 10th anniversary in September.
Shareholders approve the merger of Price Company and Costco.
PriceCostco is formed and opens its first warehouse in the United Kingdom in West Thurrock, Essex, England.

1994 - The first Asia Costco opens in Seoul, Korea.
First Hearing Aid Center opens.
Price Enterprises spin-off in December.

1995 - The 200th location opens in Wenatchee, Washington.
The first gas station opens in Tucson, Arizona.
Kirkland Signature, Costco's exclusive private label, is introduced.

1997 - The company officially changes it's name from PriceCostco to Costco Companies, Inc.
The first Taiwan Costco opens in Kaohsiung.
Executive Membership is introduced.

1998 - Costco opens five locations in Detroit, Michigan on the same day.
E-Commerce at Costco.com brings Costco prices and services to the internet.

1999 - The first Japan warehouse opens in Hisayama.
Special order kiosk introduced.
The Costco American Express co-branded membership credit card is introduced.
The average annual sales per warehouse reaches $100 million.
The Company changes it's name to Costco Wholesale Corporation on August 30th.

2000 - The 2% reward program is initiated, increasing Executive Member value even more.
Costco opens it's Travel Business.
Costco's stock splits 2-for-1 on January 14th.
Costco opens two locations in Texas.

2001 - In July, the Company celebrates its 25th anniversary.
Costco consolidates it's Canadian operations to a new regional office in Ottawa, Ontario.

2002 - Costco enters Kansas and Indiana bringing the total number of states with operations to 36.
Costco enters Puerto Rico with two units opened in November 2001.
Costco finishes the fiscal year with 40.5 million cardholders and 98,000 employees worldwide.
The Costco hot dog and soda is still priced at $1.50.

2003 - Costco Home opened in Kirkland, WA in December 2002.
Costco.com generated sales of $226 million.
Average annual sales per warehouse was $105 million.
24 new Costco locations were opened.

2004 - True Earnings credit card from Costco and American Express is introduced.
Costco is the 5th largest retailer in the U.S. and 11th largest in the world.
Fortune Magazine lists Costco 29th on the Fortune 500.
Costco Enters Iowa bringing the total number of states with operations to 37.

2005 - Costco opened second Home store in Tempe, AZ in October 2004.
Costco.ca (equivalent of Costco.com in the U.S.) is launched for Canadian members in February 2005.
25 warehouses exceed annual sales of $200 million, with one warehouse that exceeded $300 million.
63 million hot dog & soda combinations were sold.
Over 57,000 vacation packages were booked through Costco Travel.

2006 - Costco opened it's first car wash facility at Seattle, WA on April 26, 2006.
Costco was named one of the "most admired" companies by Fortune magazine.
Costco Optical Center received the National Vision Retailers award for highest customer satisfaction from J.D. Power and Associates.
Introduced over 200 generic prescription medications in a 100 ct. for $10 or less.
Opened 27 new locations (US - 20, CN - 3, UK - 2, MX - 2) for a year-end total of 487.
Over 30 million rotisserie chicken's were sold company wide.

2007- The typical Costco location generated sales of $130 million.
Costco was named one of the "most admired" companies by Fortune Magazine for a second consecutive year.
550 Costco employees graduated college.
The current annual dividend is $.58 per share.
Costco.com exceeds $1 billion in sales for the year.

2008- Costco is the 5th largest retailer in the U.S., 8th largest in the world.
Costco is listed 29th on the Fortune 500.
Currently operating with 53.5 Million cardholders worldwide
2.1 billion gallons of gasoline were sold during fiscal 2008.
Expansion in Asia continued adding a 5th location in Taiwan, 6th location in Korea and 8th location in Japan

2009- 91 million hot dog & soda combinations were sold.
Costco processed over 1.5 million transactions per day on average
Costco employs over 145,000 people worldwide.

Costco's first Australian location opened August 17, 2009 in Melbourne, Docklands.

2010- **Costco is listed 25th on the Fortune 500.**
Costco is the 3rd largest retailer in the U.S. and 8th largest in the world.
84,000 carats of diamonds were sold in fiscal year 2010.
Currently processing >1.7M transactions per day

2011- **Costco ended Fiscal Year 2011 with 592 warehouse locations.**
The Kirkland Signature brand (Costco's private label brand) represents 20% of total sales dollars.
Costco currently has 60 locations with rooftop solar systems.

2012- **Costco employs over 170,000 worldwide.**
The company purchased the remaining 50% ownership interest in Costco Mexico
Eight warehouses exceed $300 million in annual sales.
Costco opened 17 new locations in fiscal year 2012.