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## UK BUSINESSES TOP EUROPEAN PAPER-WASTE LEAGUE

– Lexmark research shows scale of paper wastage across Europe –

UK office workers are the worst offenders in Europe when it comes to unnecessary printing and paper wastage according to research commissioned by Lexmark, the printing solutions provider, which reveals that a third of all the pages printed by UK businesses each day head straight for the bin.

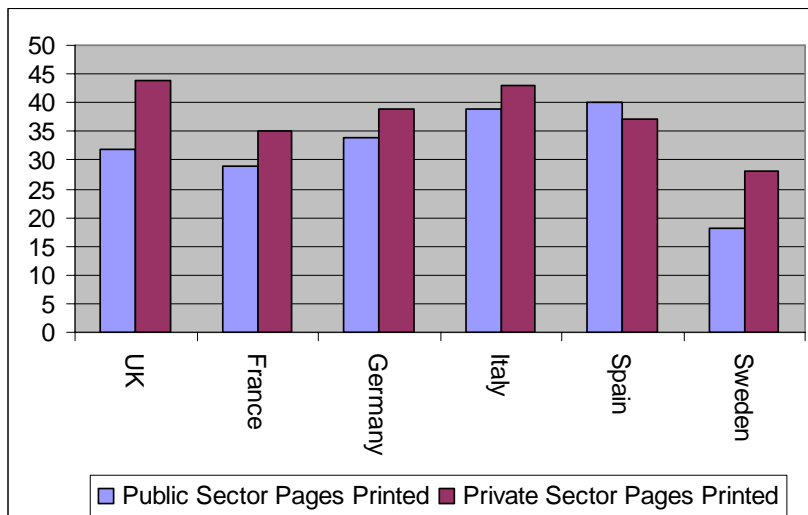
The research, conducted by Ipsos Europe, was commissioned by Lexmark to understand the full extent of paper wastage across Europe and to encourage companies to print less and manage their printing to help limit wastage, helping save both the environment and their bottom line costs.

### The European Picture

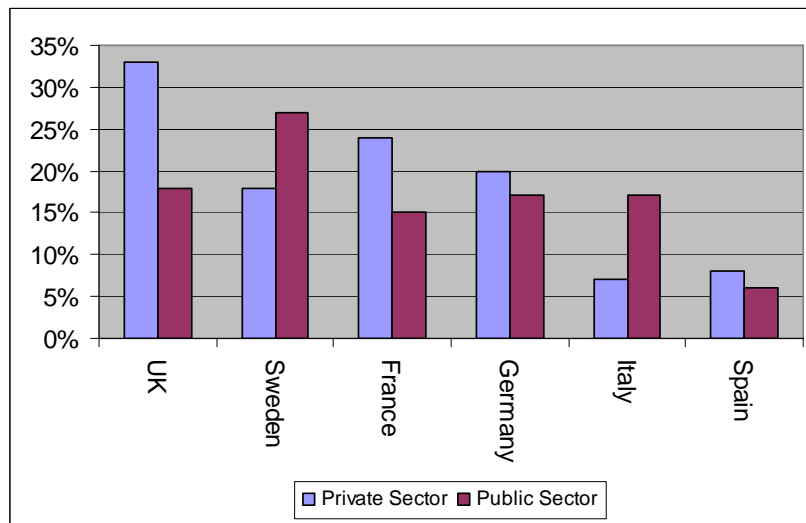
The survey of 2,837 office workers across Europe reveals a distinct division in wastage habits between Northern and Southern Europe. The UK private sector creates the most paper waste with a third (33%) of all printed pages being binned each day, followed by the private sectors in France and Germany, with 24% of all printed pages in France and 20% in Germany going to waste.

While businesses in Southern Europe print a much higher volume of pages per day – in Italy the average office worker prints 41 pages – they claim to have lower levels of wastage. Only a fifth (17%) of printed pages go to waste in the Italian public sector and less than 10% (7%) in private companies, while in Spain levels are 6% and 8% respectively.

**Graph comparing number of pages printed per day per employee in public and private sectors**



### Percentage daily printed pages wasted by public and private sector office workers



### League of Paper Wasters

The UK public sector is setting the example when it comes to efficient use of paper wasting only one in five pages printed (18%). While the average private sector worker prints 44 pages per day on average, civil servants are printing an average of only 32 pages a day.

Within the private sector, industry emerges as the most wasteful sector with over a third (36%) of all pages printed for nothing.

SECTOR	% printed pages wasted per day	Average total no. of pages printed per employee per day
1. Industry	36%	42
2. Financial Services	35%	48
3. Private Sector	33%	44
4. Retail	25%	65
5. Public Sector	18%	32

The financial services sector is unsurprisingly one of the most wasteful sectors due to the high numbers of legal and financial documents which need to be sent and stored as hard copies. Employees in this sector print the highest number of pages per day of which over a third (35%) go to waste.

## **The Biggest Wasters**

Interestingly in the UK, it's small companies (with 10 - 49 employees) who are the most wasteful – with the average employee wasting over half (51%) of printed pages. While medium sized businesses seem to have taken on board the 'think before you print' message, no doubt due to the fact that wastage for them has a much higher cost impact as they try and grow their business. In companies with between 50 and 99 employees, the average employee wastes 34% of the pages they print.

## **The Printing Blame Game**

The Lexmark research also shows how employees are unwilling to admit that they are part of the paper wastage problem and are unaware of the impact of paper wastage. Over half (58%) of UK office workers say that in their office a lot of paper is printed for nothing, however only a quarter (26%) admit they have any part to play in this wastage.

In the public sector, over half (56%) of employees agree there is extensive paper wastage in the organisation they work for, yet over three quarters (78%) also claim that they are not personally responsible for any wasted printing.

In the private sector, 60% of employees admit wastage is a serious issue, but only 31% admit that they personally contribute to this wastage.

Across Europe, the pattern is the same – with employees refusing to acknowledge their role in wasting paper. Again there is a distinction between Southern and Northern Europe with employees in Northern Europe more ready to take responsibility than in the South. In Italy only 13% of office workers admit that they waste paper, compared to a third (33%) in more environmentally conscious Sweden.

“The research we conducted for Lexmark highlights that office workers across Europe are unaware of the serious consequences of paper wastage, with very few admitting that they are contributing to the problem,” says Ipsos.

“Our research shows the extent of the wastage problem and that it goes right up to the boardroom, where senior executives are unaware of the bottom line impact of bad printing habits,” says Giovanni Giusti, General Manager, at Lexmark UK.

“We are urging people to think before they print, and to print less. Lexmark is committed to delivering products that help businesses reduce and manage print wastage.”

- ends -

Research conducted by Ipsos between February 20<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> 2006

Number of interviews: 2,837 people earning a wage taken from representative samples in France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and Sweden.

Interview method: phone.

**For further information please contact:**

Karen Jason

The Red Consultancy

Tel: 0207 025 6500

Email: [karen.jason@redconsultancy.com](mailto:karen.jason@redconsultancy.com)

**About Lexmark**

Lexmark International, Inc. makes it easier for businesses and consumers to move information between the digital and paper worlds. Since its inception in 1991, Lexmark has become a leading developer, manufacturer and supplier of printing and imaging solutions for customers in more than 150 countries. Lexmark reported approximately \$5.2 billion in revenue in 2005, and can be found on the Internet at [www.lexmark.com](http://www.lexmark.com)