

GLOBAL ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES IMPRESSIONS STUDY V.4

A cost analysis of promotional products versus other advertising media

Released at the 2013 ASI Power Summit

A PDF of this report (plus end buyer-friendly, downloadable charts) can be found at asicentral.com/study



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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Section One	
Product Popularity	4
Product Spotlight: Writing Instruments	5
Product Spotlight: Shirts	6
Product Spotlight: Bags	7
Product Spotlight: Calendars	8
Product Spotlight: Desk Accessories	9
Product Spotlight: Caps/Headwear	10
Product Spotlight: Drinkware	11
Product Spotlight: USB Drives	12
Product Spotlight: Health & Safety Items	13
Product Spotlight: Outerwear	14
Staying Power	15
Promo Products are Passed Along — Usefulness is Key	16
How Many Items Do People Own?	

Section Two

Recipients' Views on Advertisers	.19
Swaying Opinions	20
Ad Specialties Generate New Business	. 21
Location of Promotional Products	. 22

Section Three

Promotional Products Make an Impression	. 23
The Cost-Effectiveness of Ad Specialties	. 25
Demographics	. 26

he ASI Ad Impressions Study was first launched in 2006 by ASI's research team to give its members powerful data that proves ad specialties are one of the most high-impact, cost-effective ad mediums available.

Through thousands of live and online interviews with businesspeople and college students in key cities in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia, the study gauges consumer perceptions of promotional products and how they influence buying decisions; highlights the popularity of key promo product categories by demographic group (such as age, race, sex and gender); reveals the cost-per-impression of top advertising specialty product categories; and shows the cost-per-impression of promotional products compared to other forms of advertising media, like radio, TV and Internet advertising. The study is conducted by ASI annually.

Methodology

This report contains results from the 2012 study and additional research which took place in 2013. For the 2013 phase of the study, conducted during May through July of 2013, ASI's research team and business partners interviewed businesspeople in nine metro areas: Atlanta, Boston, Houston, Phoenix, San Francisco, Madrid, Rome, Berlin/Düsseldorf and Sydney. In Germany, ASI partnered with PSI (Promotional Product Service Institute) to administer the surveys, while Pantheon Systems conducted the research in Sydney, Australia. Respondents in all regions were asked questions about the promotional products they had received, including how many they had, how they used them, why they kept them, and their impressions of the advertisers that gave them the items.

ASI's research team polled 7,000+ consumers in 21 metro areas to prove the power of promotional products.

Further, an online panel survey was conducted among recipients of advertising specialties in those same geographic areas to augment the sample from the man-on-the-street interviews. All respondents were at least 18 years old.

Results from the 2012 ASI Ad Impressions Study have been incorporated here so that additional metro areas can be included in the analysis as well as providing a more robust view of the U.S. Last year there were 12 metro areas: New York, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, Seattle, Dallas, Philadelphia, London, Paris, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. This brings the total number of metro areas covered by the report over the two-year period to 21, eight of which took place outside of the U.S. There are responses from eight different countries in the report.

The total combined number of interviews, both in person and online, for both waves of this study is 7,145.

How This Report is Organized

This report contains three sections:

- "**Product Popularity**" (Pages 4 to 18) highlights the most popular promotional products by category, and includes detailed demographic breakdowns by geography, gender, race, age, income and political affiliation. For example, on the "Product Spotlight: Writing Instruments" section on page 5, you'll note that women are significantly more likely than men to own a logoed pen or pencil, and over one-half of Caucasians own branded writing instruments. This section will be a helpful tool for distributors to use in guiding their clients toward products that will be the most impactful in their marketing efforts.
- "Recipients' Views on Advertisers" (Pages 19 to 22) reveals important information showcasing how long businesspeople hold onto logoed items; what they do with items they don't wish to keep; and how many total promotional items they own, broken out by a variety of demographic groups. This section provides hard data to combat objections from buyers who may think that promotional items are "throwaways" or "afterthoughts" in a marketing campaign, and may not understand their true value.
- **"Promo Products Make an Impression"** (Pages 23 to 25) highlights the industry products that deliver the best cost-per-impression and compares the cost-per-impression of ad specialties to other forms of media, like Internet and radio advertising. This is a great tool distributors can use to convince end-buyers to allocate more of their marketing dollars to promotional products.

While this report includes the study's highlights, ASI members can go online at *www.asicentral.com/study* for a research tool that will allow them to gain access to the full study data.

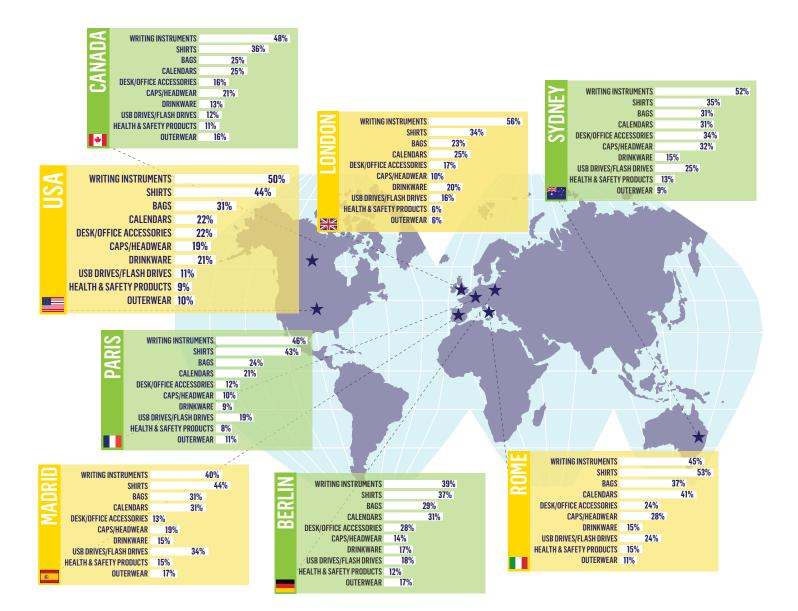
Note: All demographic breakdowns (age, race, gender, etc.) reflect U.S. consumers only. Respondents from other countries are represented in aggregate.

Section One Product Popularity

Key Takeaways

For this section, respondents were asked to provide up to three promotional items they had received in the last 12 months. Promotional items were defined as items that include pens, T-shirts, mugs, calendars or any items that have a logo or message from an advertiser on them; they are usually given away for free to consumers in hopes of positively influencing their purchasing preferences or their attitudes toward the advertiser.

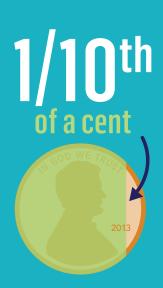
As the chart below reveals, writing instruments were most commonly cited, as one-half (50%) of promotional product recipients in the 12 cities in the U.S. reported getting at least one in the prior 12 months, similar to the 52% that reported getting them in Sydney. There are also significant differences in cities in other countries, such as 53% of study respondents in Rome who received a shirt, higher than any other metro area, or 66% that had writing instruments in Philadelphia.



Product Spotlight: Writing Instruments

50% of U.S. **CONSUMERS OWN LOGOED** WRITING INSTRUMENTS

Imprint Your Logo Here



Logoed pens and pencils tie bags for the lowest cost-per-impression in the United States.



Philadelphians continue to www. writing instruments the most. 66% say they own a branded pen or pencil, vs. 50% in the U.S. overall.



Rome generates the most product impressions of any European city.

DOWN UNDER

Writing instruments are more popular than in the U.S. 52% of Aussies own a branded writing instrument. **52%**

Product Spotlight: Shirts

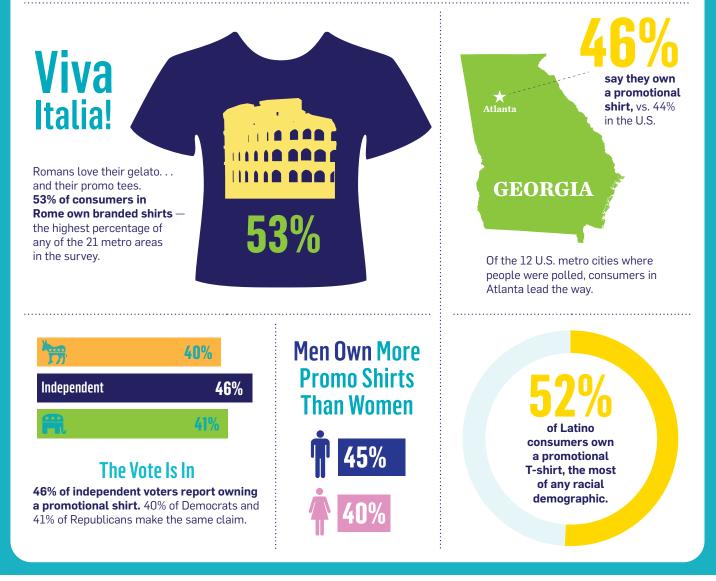
21-34

35-44

45-54

55+

Image: Construction of the systemImage: Construction of the system<



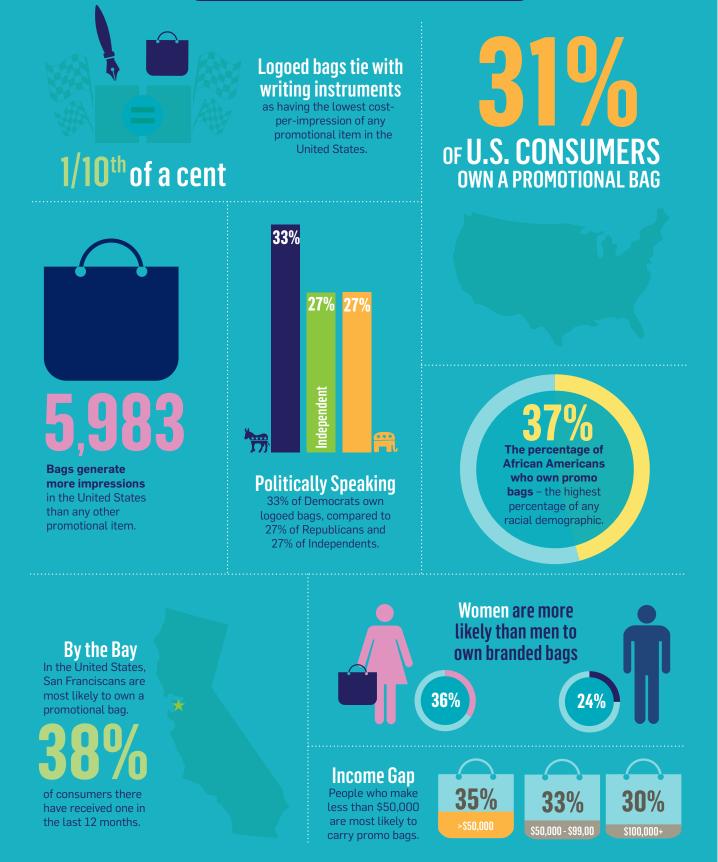
48%

45%

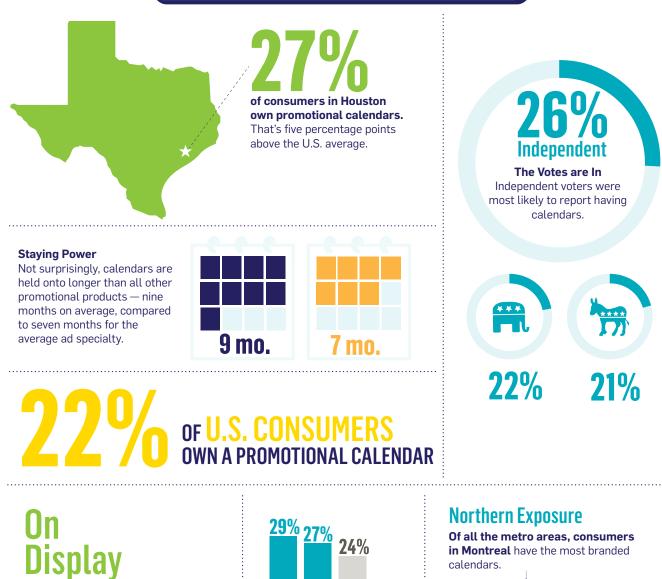
33%

35%

Product Spotlight: Bags



Product Spotlight: Calendars



15%

21-34

55+

45-54

Better With Age Branded calendars are especially popular

among older consumers.

35-44

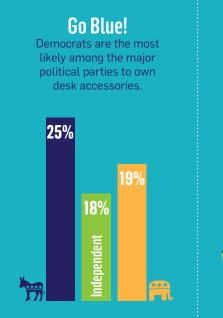


say they display them prominently in their homes or offices.

76% of consumers who own calendars

Promotional calendars are great branding tools.

Product Spotlight: Desk Accessories



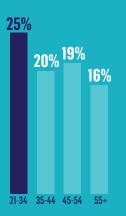
25%

The percentage of U.S. Asian consumers who own desk accessories, the most of any racial demographic group.

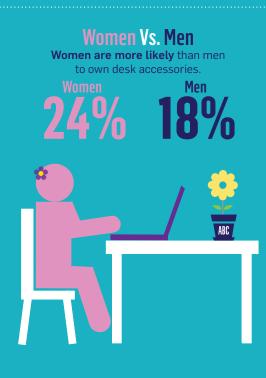


Trending Young Younger consumers

are more likely to have desk accessories than older ones.



ZZZ of U.S. CONSUMERS own a logoed desk accessory

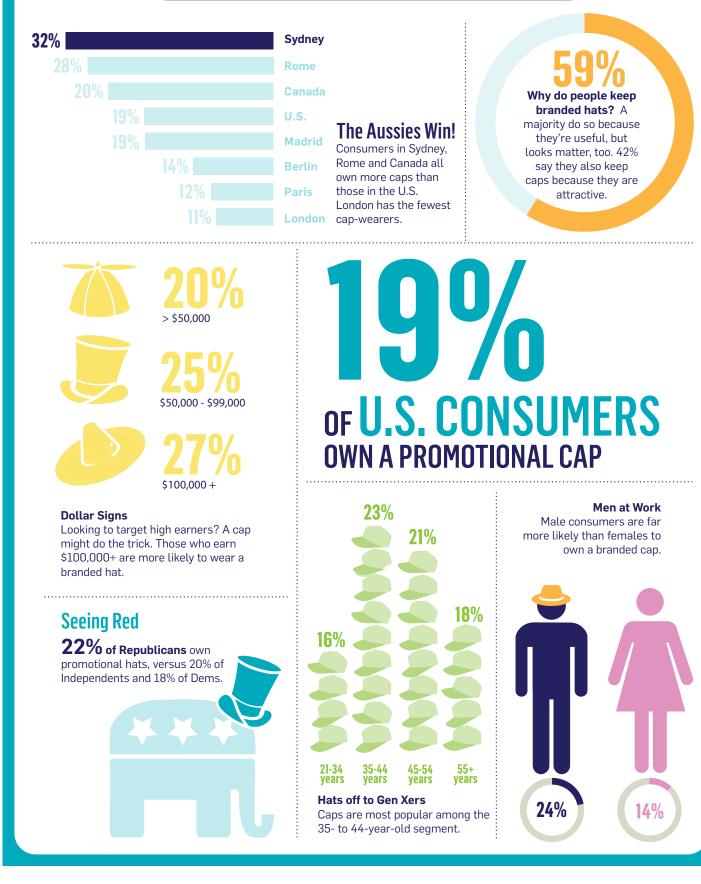




OF SYDNEY RESIDENTS ADORN THEIR DESKS WITH PEN SETS, LOGOED PHONE CHARGERS, BUSINESS CARD HOLDERS AND THE LIKE.

Australians are the most likely to have a branded desk accessory.

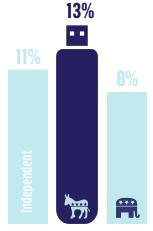
Product Spotlight: Caps/Headwear





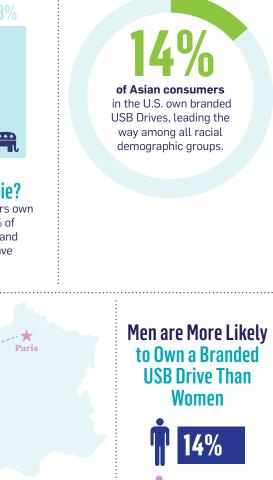
Product Spotlight: USB Drives

110/0 OF U.S. CONSUMERS OWN A LOGOED USB DRIVE



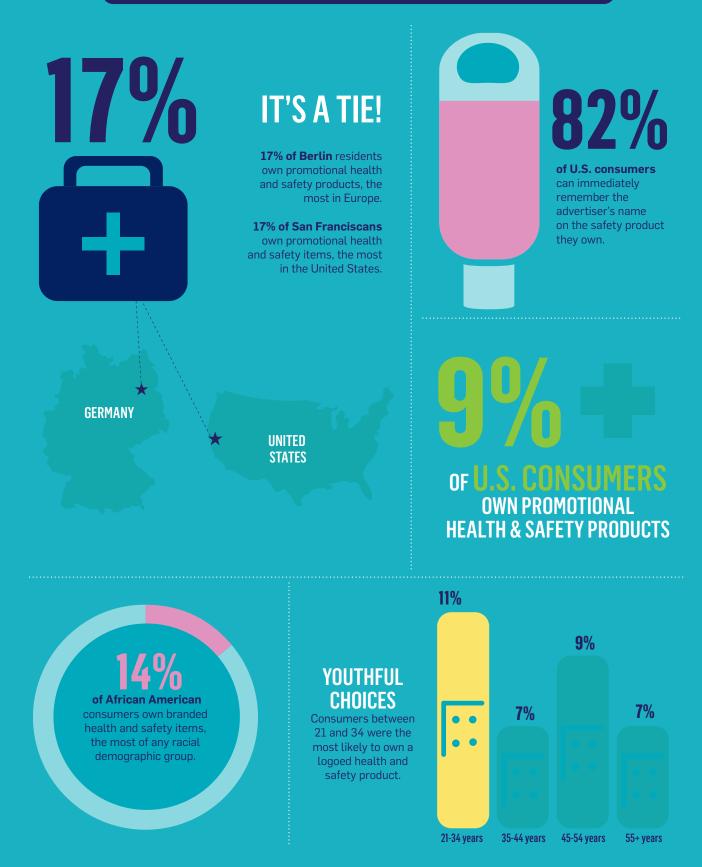
Democrat = Techie?

13% of democratic voters own branded USB drives; 8% of Republicans own them and 11% of Independents have them on hand.



Deep Pockets Six-figure earners are more likely to own a logoed USB drive than those in other 27% economic groups. Merci! Parisians are far more likely to 10% own promotional USB drives > \$50,000 than consumers in other cities: 27% own them vs. 11% of U.S. consumers. **Trending Young** 12% \$50,000 - \$99,000 Younger consumers 8% 13% 11% 7% are more likely to own a promo USB drive than their older counterparts. 18% \$100,000 +

Product Spotlight: Health & Safety Items



Product Spotlight: Outerwear

In the Money

Those with household incomes above \$100,000 are slightly more likely to have branded outerwear than those with lower incomes.



10% \$50,000-\$99,000

12% \$100,000+



Bundle Up! Outerwear recipients

think very favorably about the advertiser especially in Sydney, where 86% of consumers think more positively about an advertiser after receiving a promotional jacket.



95%

Total Recall

Jackets have the best advertiser recall of any promotional product. A whopping 95% of those who own logoed outerwear can recall the advertiser's name.

> 10% 7% 6%



Business-Builder

In the U.S., nearly half (48%) of all outerwear recipients say they were more likely to do business with an advertiser after they were given a logoed jacket.

Staying Power

In addition to identifying the logoed items they had kept, respondents were asked how long they kept the most recently-obtained item of each product type. On average, ad specialty items are kept for nearly seven months in the U.S. Overall, calendars are typically held the longest - about nine months on average. Writing instruments are held the shortest amount of time at just over five months.

Fun fact

The longest time an item was kept was in Madrid, where calendars were kept nearly 13 months. The shortest was in Rome, where writing instruments were kept only 4.1 months.



Key Takeaways

- One of the advantages promotional products have is that just one item can deliver a message for a far longer time period than other forms of advertising. Advertisers can reinforce their brand or a call to action for an average of seven months, and even longer on some products such as calendars and outerwear.
- Perhaps not surprisingly, calendars are kept for a long period. This offers advertisers obvious advantages, but because of their longevity, steps should be taken to keep the product noticed. For example, a changing image each month is key; so is positioning an advertiser's logo in a prominent spot on each page.

Promo Products are Passed Along

Since the study was first conducted in 2008, U.S. recipients of ad specialties are increasingly passing them along, extending the advertisers' reach. In fact, 63% of respondents in the U.S. said that when they receive a logoed item they no longer wish to keep, they give it to someone else. Canadian and Australian respondents were more likely to give an item to someone else (64%) than any other group examined.

Fun fact

Germans are the most likely to discard promotional products they no longer wish to keep; 28% disposed of them as compared to 17% in the U.S. Consumers in London are the least likely to throw away promotional products.

Areas Interviewed	United States	Canada	London	Paris	Berlin	Rome	Madrid	Sydney
Throw it away	17%	18%	15%	21%	28%	23%	22%	18%
File the item away	20%	18%	18%	21%	16%	29%	24%	18%
Give the item to someone else	63%	64%	67%	59%	56%	48%	54%	64%

In the United States, consumers in Dallas are the most likely to pass along the item to someone else: 75% pass along promotional items they don't wish to keep.



Key Takeaways

- Promotional products are not simply thrown away. Items are kept because they're useful, or given to someone who can use them. Advertisers' messages often go beyond the initial target.
- As awareness of recycling in the U.S. has become more prevalent, so has the desire to pass along unwanted promotional products.

Usefulness is Key

Consumers will be much more likely to keep a promotional product that is useful, according to the survey. About eight in 10 (77%) of product recipients indicated that an item's usefulness is the primary reason to keep it. In addition, 29% of recipients said they kept an item because it's attractive, and 29% say they keep a promotional product simply because it's "enjoyable to have." Interestingly, it's nearly as important for outerwear to be attractive (60%) and enjoyable to have (51%) as it is to be useful (70%). In addition to being useful, the need for caps to be both attractive (42%) and enjoyable to have (41%) is also high.

	Useful	Attractive	Enjoyable to have	Point of reference
Bags	83%	28%	23%	4%
Calendars	86%	33%	22%	12%
Caps	59%	42%	41%	5%
Desk/Office	83%	22%	25%	8%
Drinkware	80%	31%	29%	2%
Health/Safety	79%	17%	22%	7%
Outerwear	70%	60%	51%	7%
Shirts	64%	37%	36%	3%
USB Drives	90%	10%	18%	4%
Writing Instruments	91%	19%	21%	8%
Average	77%	29 %	29%	5%

Reasons for Keeping Products: U.S.

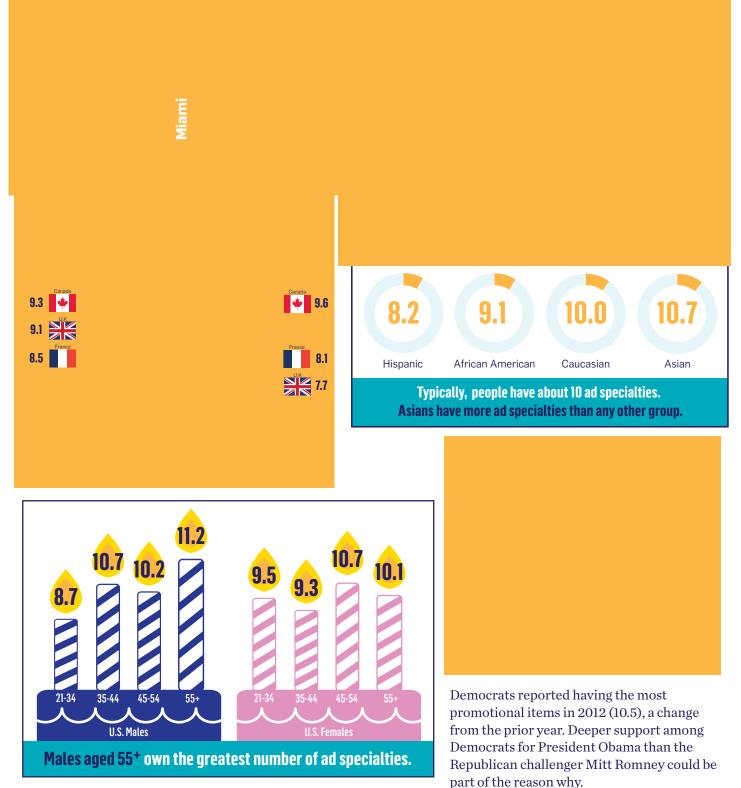
Fun fact

In Rome, ad specialties were kept because they were attractive 35% of the time, the highest of any metro area.

Areas Interviewed	United States	Canada	London	Paris	Berlin	Rome	Madrid	Sydney
Useful	77%	82%	79%	70%	75%	70%	81%	80%
Attractive	29%	25%	33%	27%	31%	35%	32%	26%
Enjoyable to have	29%	20%	23%	25%	21%	27%	20%	22%
Point of reference	5%	6%	4%	4%	3%	11%	7%	5%

How Many Items Do People Own?

In the study, respondents were asked how many logoed items they currently had in their homes and/or offices. As indicated in the accompanying charts, people in the U.S. own an average of 9.8 promotional products. The number varies according to U.S. city, country, gender, race, income, age and political affiliation.



Key Takeaway

Knowing the target audience can help any marketing initiative be more successful. While promotional products are widely valued, some groups have more than others, either by interest or opportunity.

Section Two: Recipients' Views on Advertisers

Recipients' Views on Advertisers

For this section, we asked respondents whether they could identify the advertisers on the promotional items they currently owned. The result: Nearly nine in 10 (86%) U.S. recipients of promotional merchandise can identify the advertiser on the item, the highest of any country in the study. As the graphic below reveals, of all major product categories, outerwear has the highest recognition of all promotional items: 95% of respondents who have logoed outerwear can name the advertiser on the items. Overall, wearables as a whole maintain a very high advertiser awareness rate, taking the top three spots.



Fun fact

Advertiser awareness is high in other countries as well. In Canada, 85% of respondents can identify the advertiser. In all other countries in the study, recipients were able to recall the advertiser on a promotional item about 80% of the time.

Key Takeaways

- Distributors who have clients looking to get their company or brand's name in the marketplace have a compelling reason to suggest advertising specialties as a marketing solution: Promotional product recipients clearly remember the advertisers on the items they receive.
- The more interaction recipients of promotional items have with the item, the higher the recognition of the advertiser. This explains in part why wearables lead the way with advertiser recall. Further, a higher perceived value of the product, such as that obtained with outerwear, increases advertiser recognition even more. Distributors looking to present clients with an item of high perceived value that has high advertiser recognition might consider higher-end wearables as an option.

Swaying Opinions

In this section, we also asked consumers their opinions of advertisers who gave them a logoed item. Over one-half (53%) of the time, ad specialties leave a more favorable impression of the advertiser. This trend was seen across all countries.

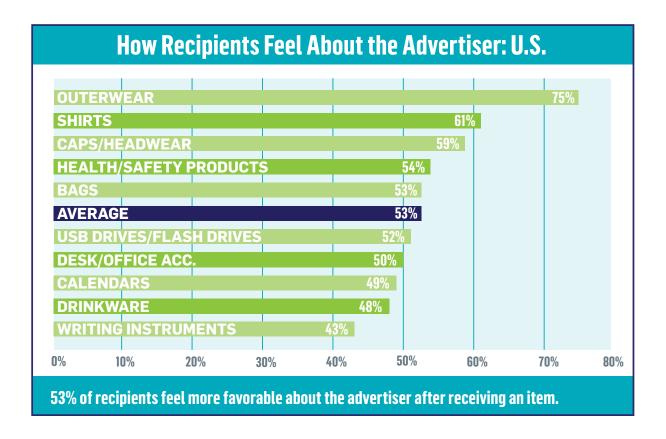
Outerwear leaves the most positive attitude about the advertiser, as three-quarters (75%) of branded outerwear recipients had a more favorable impression of the advertiser.

Positive attitudes about the advertiser are correlated with advertiser recall. Once again, the top three products generating positive feelings are also the most likely to have advertiser recall.

An exception to that rule is health and safety products, which have a lower advertiser recollection but generate favorable impressions about the advertiser.

► Fun fact

Italians were even more likely to feel favorable towards the advertiser, with nearly two-thirds (64%) of those in Rome citing a more positive view, by far the most of any group.



Key Takeaway

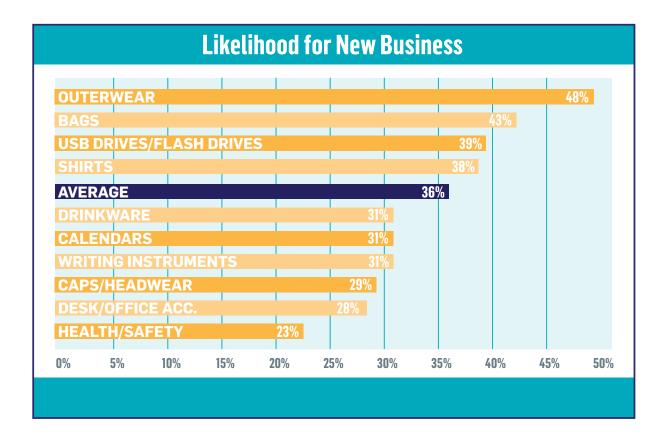
All categories of promotional products generate favorable impressions of the advertisers as a whole. Steps should be taken when presenting recipients with items that are seen as more of a commodity (like writing instruments) to reinforce the advertiser connection with the item.

Ad Specialties Generate New Business

When consumers were asked how likely they were to do business with an advertiser they hadn't previously done business with after receiving an item, over one-third (36%) said they were more likely to do business with them in the future.

Fun fact

Perhaps in part because of the good will generated by ad specialties in Rome, Italians were also the most likely to cite a positive likelihood for doing new business, as nearly one-half (48%) thought they would be more likely to do business with the advertiser. Further, 17% thought it very likely, twice that of any other area.



Some items generate even more goodwill from consumers: For example, about 48% of recipients of logoed outerwear said they'd be more likely to do business with an advertiser; recipients of bags were 43% more likely to do business with an advertiser; and USB recipients were 39% more likely.

Key Takeaway

A goal of advertising is to get the prospect more likely to buy from the advertiser. This is often done in incremental amounts. Even the lowest-scoring ad specialty (health and safety) still manages to get nearly one-quarter of recipients to feel more likely to do business with the advertiser in the future.

Location of Promotional Products

Consumers were asked about the location of the logoed items they'd received. Overall, the office was cited most often (41%), but only marginally more than at home (36%).

Wearables, bags and health and safety products were most likely to be at home, while desk accessories, calendars, writing instruments and USB drives were most likely in the office.

	Home	Office	On Person
Shirts	47%	28%	25%
Caps/headwear	40%	35%	25%
Bags	40%	32%	28%
Health and safety products	40%	30%	31%
Drinkware	39%	39%	23%
Outerwear	35%	34%	31%
Calendars	35%	51%	14%
USB drives/ flash drives	30%	50%	19%
Writing instruments	27%	50%	23%
Desk/office accessories	25%	59%	16%
Overall	36%	41%	23%

Location of Items in the U.S.

Some geographic areas have a higher propensity to have items at home. For example, nearly one-half (48%) of recipients in Madrid reported the items were kept in the home.



Key Takeaway

When choosing promotional products, the end-buyer needs to consider where the item will ultimately be used. The office isn't necessarily a given, especially for items like shirts, caps and bags.

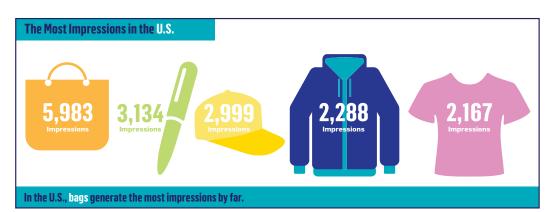
Section Three

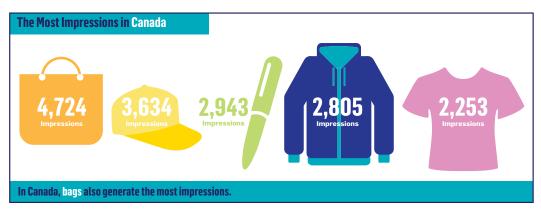
Promotional Products Make an Impression

For this section, the average number of impressions each promotional product receives was calculated. The number of impressions a product makes was derived from multiplying how long a recipient has the product to how many people he comes into contact with each month while using it.

In the U.S., we again saw that bags generated the most impressions (5,983) of any item in the study. That's because bags are frequently used, often in public places where they can be seen by many people. Other items that deliver extremely high numbers of impressions in the U.S. include writing instruments, caps, outerwear, calendars and shirts.

The accompanying charts illustrate the top five products, by country, that deliver the most impressions:







Though the incidence of owning promotional outerwear items is low, they generate the most impressions.

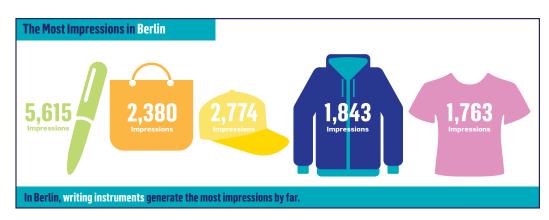


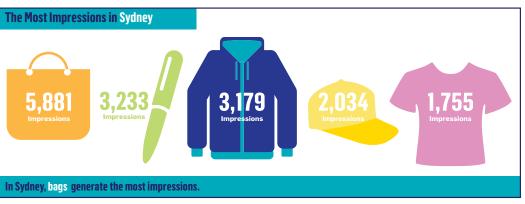
Key Takeaway

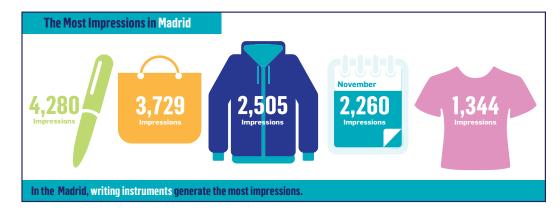
While the exact ranking of impressions changes somewhat from location to location, the overall list of products generating the most impressions is consistent. Wearables consistently deliver a high number of impressions, and in the U.S., bags deliver the most impressions every year.

Items that create the fewest impressions tend to be those intended mostly for one person, such as health and safety items and USB drives. The value of these items is more in the connection they make with the user than the total number of impressions generated.

Distributors should work with clients to determine the goals of their campaigns and the connection they want to establish with the intended recipient before selecting the right vehicle to deliver their message. Taking into account the number and quality of the impressions generated, in addition to some of the demographic considerations shown earlier in the report, gives the distributor the opportunity to serve as a consultant rather than an order taker.









The Cost-Effectiveness of Ad Specialties

Advertising specialties are less expensive per impression than most other forms of media. The investment in ad specialties is modest, more targeted and more achievable for smaller businesses than other forms of advertising.

As the chart on this page illustrates, promotional products have a lower cost-per-impression in the United States than prime-time television advertising, national magazine advertising and newspaper ads, and a similar CPI to spot radio and Internet advertising.

However, a report published in October, 2012 by Forrester Research, "U.S. Online Display Ad Spend \$12.7B in 2012," sheds some light on Internet advertising. It points out that CPMs are actually on the rise. The average CPM — cost per thousand impressions — for 2012 was \$3.17, but by 2017 that will rise to \$6.64, largely because of the shift to real-time bidding and away from portal buys where placement is not guaranteed. The rise, the analysts note, is also a supply and demand issue: marketers are competing for similar audience segments and bid density is continuing to increase.

The cost of advertising specialties are not expected to increase markedly in the next four years, making them an even better comparison to other forms of media advertising such as the Internet.

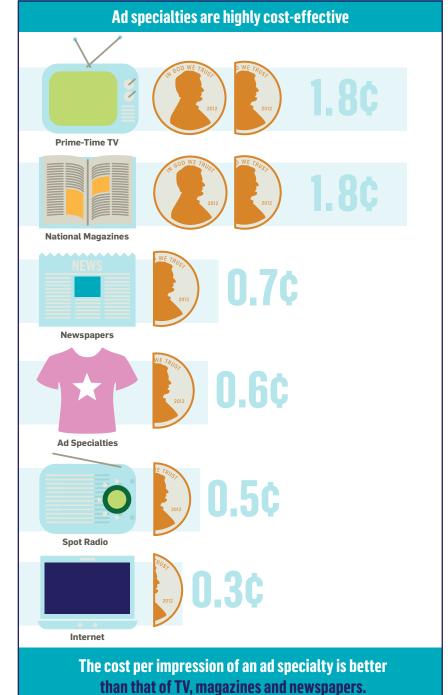
Key Takeaway

Promotional products deliver the same or better ROI than most other forms of media, without the interruption inherent with other forms of advertising. And when one considers the prohibitive cost of producing radio or television commercials or the cash outlay to buy sufficient Internet advertising, promotional products offer the best value. Promotional products can also be used to more closely target the intended message recipient than mass media.

Further, even smaller companies can achieve as high an ROI as major corporations by using advertising specialties because even a modest investment delivers superior results.

For More Information

To gain access to the full study data, plus downloadable PDFs of the charts in this study, visit *www.asicentral.com/study*.



Demographics

The following is a breakdown of the demographics of all survey respondents who indicated they currently owned promotional products.

Gender	%	Count
Male	47%	1,416
Female	53%	1,616
Total		3,032
Age		
21 to 34 years	46%	1,482
35 to 44 years	23%	744
45 to 54 years	18%	576
55 to 64 years	10%	320
65 years and over	2%	79
Total		3,201
Ethnicity (U.S.)		
Asian	11%	297
Black or African American	9%	245
Hispanic or Latino	8%	207
White	68%	1,779
Other	4%	101
Total		2,629
Political Affiliation (U.S.)		
Democrat	42%	741
Republican	25%	438
Independent	19%	331
Other	3%	57
Not Registered	12%	217
Total		1,784

Demographics continued		
Country	%	Count
United States	58%	1,874
Germany	5%	153
Australia	4%	144
Spain	5%	157
Italy	4%	131
Canada	14%	453
Great Britain	5%	152
France	4%	126
Other	1%	24
Total		3,214
U.S. Cities		
Atlanta	9%	165
Boston	9%	155
Chicago	7%	116
Dallas	8%	142
Houston	9%	153
Los Angeles	8%	141
Miami	9%	155
New York	9%	153
Philadelphia	7%	131
Phoenix	8%	151
San Francisco	8%	151
Seattle	10%	171
Total		1,784
Canadian Cities		
Montreal	33%	151
Toronto	32%	147
Vancouver	35%	160
Total		458
European Cities		
Düsseldorf/Berlin	21%	153
London	21%	150
Madrid	22%	157
Paris	19%	135
Rome	18%	131
Total		726
Sydney	100%	144