

## American workers find it difficult to get away from job

Those vacationers you see in Las Vegas and Palm Springs lounging by the pool with a cellular phone in hand aren't calling out for pizza, according to a survey by Steelcase, Inc. They're talking to their employer, or their employees or—in some cases—their clients. In other words, they're trying to have

some fun while still maintaining a close tie to their workplace.

Business before pleasure? With our modern system of communications, workaholics are finding it easier and easier to work and play at the same time.

According to the Steelcase survey, most vacationers con-

duct work-related activities at some point in their vacation.

The activities conducted range from reading work-

related material to handling staff problems via phone.

Here are results of the survey:

### WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING VACATION, 1995

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Work-related reading        | 40% |
| Checking in with supervisor | 33% |
| Paperwork                   | 28% |
| Handling client relations   | 26% |
| Learning new job skills     | 18% |
| Handling staff problems     | 18% |

## Commercial turf care equipment shipments are down in 1995

Even though the green industry is apparently doing more mowing than ever before, shipments of commercial walk-behind mowers and other equipment have taken a bit of a dip in 1995.

Shipping estimates for model year 1995 (Sept. 1, 1994 through Aug. 31, 1995) for the walk-behinds decreased six percent from 104,800 in 1994 to 98,300 in 1995.

However, shipments of commercial riding units showed a very slight increase, from 44,700 in 1994 to 44,800 in 1995.

These estimates by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Old Town Alexandria, Va., represent shipments destined to U.S. markets only.

Overall, consumer products included, total shipments are estimated as somewhat more than 7.9 million, an increase of two percent over 1994.

In the near future, OPEI will provide a forecast of riding and intermediate walk-behind commercial unit shipments.

### ANNUAL OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT SHIPMENT ESTIMATES

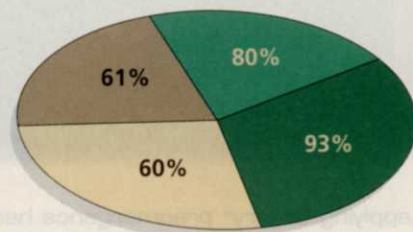
|                                 | 1995      | 1994      | Change |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Commercial walk-behind rotaries | 98,300    | 104,800   | -6%    |
| All walk-behind rotary mowers   | 5,950,000 | 6,030,000 | -1%    |
| All riding mowers               | 1,644,000 | 1,452,000 | +13%   |
| Commercial riding units         | 44,800    | 44,700    | 0%     |
| Riding garden tractors          | 226,000   | 189,000   | +20%   |
| Front-engine lawn tractors      | 1,250,000 | 1,086,000 | +15%   |
| Rear-engine riding mowers       | 168,000   | 177,000   | -5%    |
| Walk-behind rotary tillers      | 350,000   | 315,000   | +11%   |

SOURCE: OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT INSTITUTE, INC.

## Violence in the workplace still a concern of employers

Forty-three percent of businesses surveyed by the International Facility Management Association reported a "violent incident" in the workplace in 1994, making such violence a continuing concern.

Most businesses offer an employee assistance program to prevent further such outbreaks while many simply control building access. Here are some preventive measures that employers are taking to quell the violence, according to the survey:



- Employee assistance programs
- Controlled building access
- Outplacement for displaced persons
- Crisis management programs