

# Survey Shows Budget Effects of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021

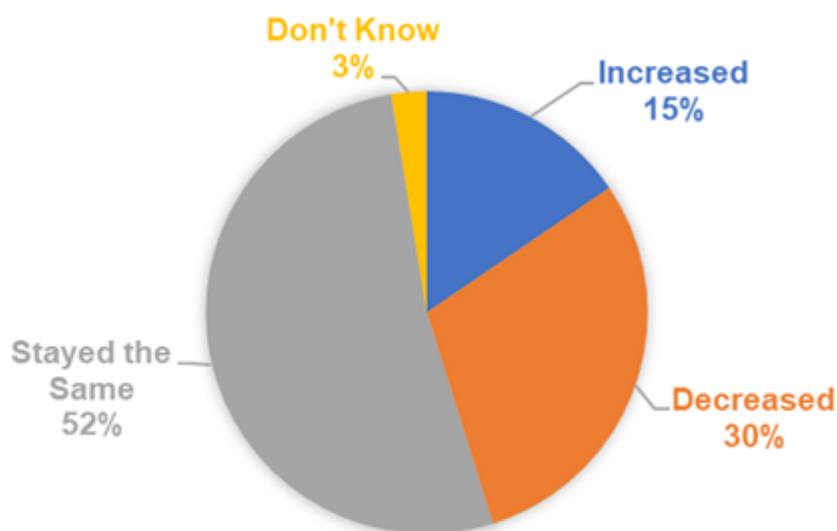
In a survey of 155 US academic and nonprofit labs, **IBO** set out to determine the current state of lab budgets for instruments, equipment and consumables (budgets), and whether COVID-19 has affected labs' 2020 and 2021 budgets. The survey also examined if labs doing COVID-19 research/testing (COVID-19) received increases in their budgets either year.

The survey was conducted using the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), an expert network of independent scientists engaged in biological research, drug discovery and biopharmaceutical production, run by Bioinformatics, Inc., a sister brand of **IBO's** publisher Strategic Directions International (SDi). Demographics of the respondents are provided at the end of this article.

## Budget Overview

2021 budgets changed for 45% of labs surveyed. This is down from 2020, when they changed for 55%, which may indicate greater funding stability. In fact, in 2020, 45% of surveyed labs' budgets stayed the same, while in 2021 budgets for 52% of labs did.

## Surveyed Labs' 2021 Instruments, Equipment and Consumables Budgets Compared to 2020



Source: IBO

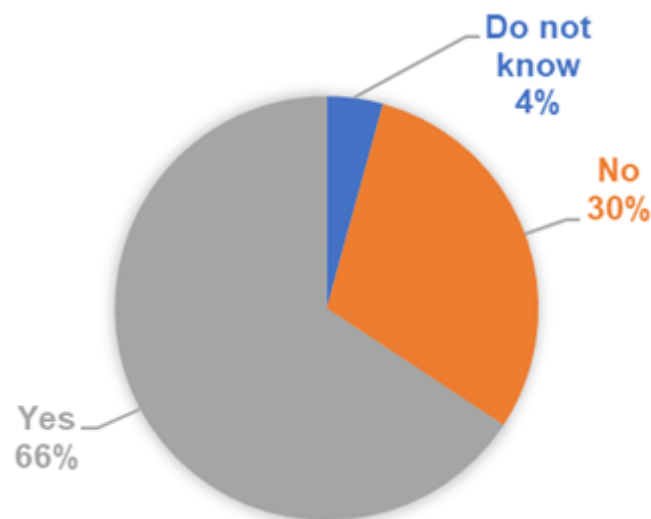
On the positive side, budgets increased in 2021 for 24 labs, or 15% of labs in the survey. But only 4 of the 24 labs reported budget increases in both 2020 and 2021. However, 10 of the 24 labs that experienced budget decreases in 2020 received budget increases in 2021. In 2020, overall trend was largely the same, as budgets increased for 19, or 12%, of all labs surveyed.

On the downside in 2021, budgets decreased for 46 labs, or 30% of those in the survey. For 21 of these 46 labs, budgets shrank in both 2020 and 2021. For 4 of the 46 labs, budgets fell in 2021 despite a rise in 2020. However, in 2021, the overall picture improved compared to 2020, when budgets decreased for 67, or 43%, of all labs surveyed.

COVID-19's impact on lab budgets was clear as 46, or 66%, of labs surveyed reported an effect from the pandemic on their 2021 budgets. Furthermore, the impact is almost at the same level as in 2020, when 69% of labs were affected.

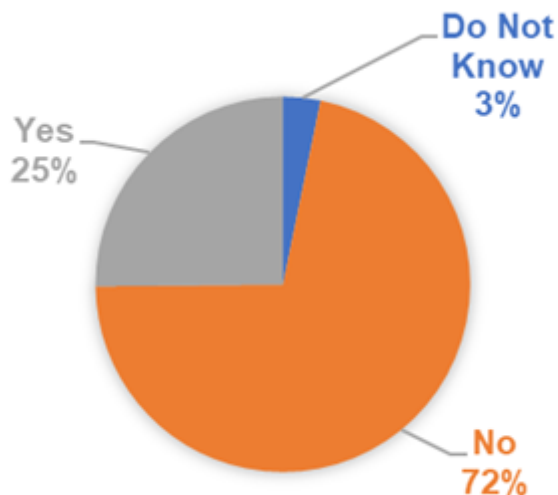
But COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 labs appear to be affected much differently, according to survey results. While 43% of non-COVID labs indicated their budgets were impacted in 2021, only 28% of COVID-19 labs stated their budgets were.

#### Did COVID-19 Impact Surveyed Labs' 2021 Instruments, Equipment and Consumables Budget?



Source: IBO

## Surveyed Labs Conducting COVID-19-related Research or Testing in 2021



Source: IBO

## 2021 Budget Increases: COVID vs. Non-COVID Labs?

Were 2021 budgets more likely to increase for labs doing COVID-19 research/testing? Seemingly so, as 30% of COVID-19 labs received a budget increase, but only 9% of non-COVID-19 labs did. Asked if the budget change was related to COVID-19, 45% of COVID-19 labs said it was, while only 14% of non-COVID-19 labs indicated a connection. Thus, survey results suggest that the pandemic's high profile and the urgency surrounding a response may have translated into higher budgets for labs working on COVID-19.

## 2021 Budget Decreases: COVID vs. Non-COVID Labs?

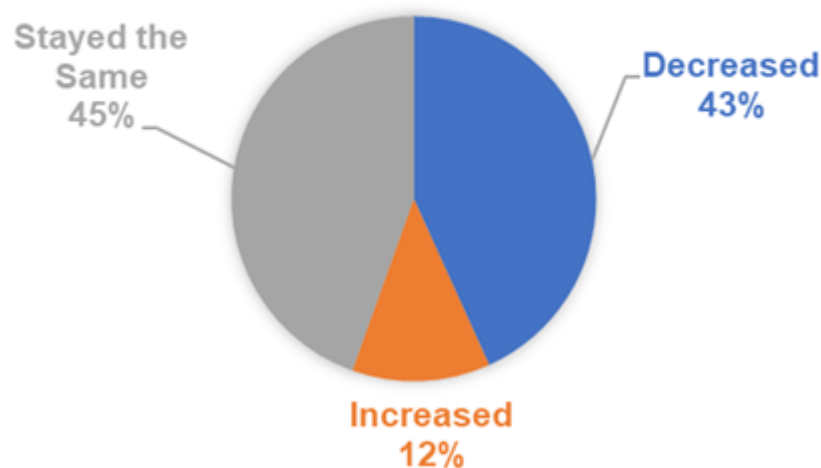
Conversely, were 2021 budgets more likely to decrease for non-COVID-19 labs? The survey indicates they were, as 46% of non-COVID-19 labs experienced budget decreases in 2021, and 88% of these respondents linked these decreases to COVID-19. In contrast, only 33% of COVID-19 labs experienced budget cuts this year, and only 8% cited COVID-19 as a reason.

## 2020 Budget Increases: COVID vs. Non-COVID Labs?

Was this budget bump for COVID-19 labs also evident in 2020, at the start of the pandemic? This is unlikely, according to survey results. In total, there were 36 COVID-19 labs in 2020 among survey respondents. Of these labs, 22% experienced increases in

their budgets, but only 1 lab reported that the increase was related to COVID-19. This could be due to the fact that budgets were likely set before the pandemic's extent or even a particular lab's work on COVID-19 was determined. This also indicates that COVID-19 labs, even prior to the pandemic, may have been more likely to have stable budgets whether due to the labs' size, work focus or personnel involved.

### Surveyed Labs' 2020 Instruments, Equipment and Consumables Budget Compared to 2019



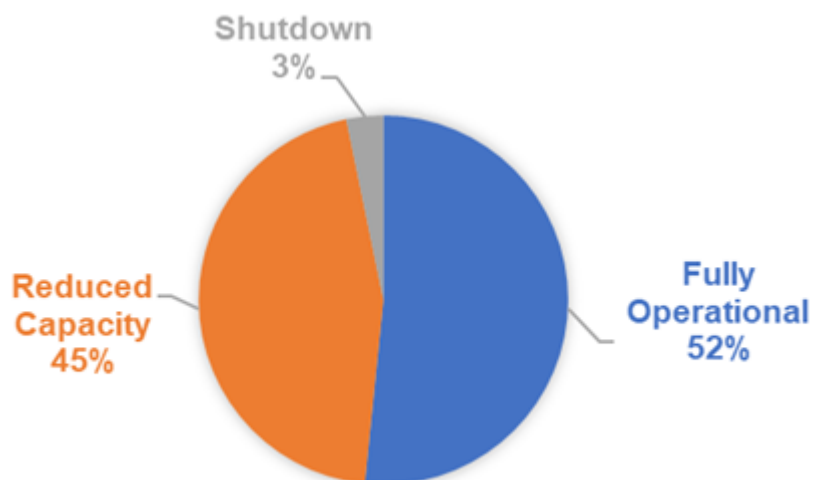
Source: IBO

### 2020 Budget Decreases: COVID vs. Non-COVID Labs?

As for 2021, we examined if the budgets for non-COVID-19 labs were more likely to decrease in 2020 than COVID-19 labs' budgets? As in 2021, in 2020, non-COVID labs were on the steeper side of budget cuts compared to COVID-19 labs. In fact, 46% of non-COVID-19 labs reported budget decreases in 2020, and 88% of these labs stated that the budget cut was related to COVID-19. For COVID-19 labs, 33% experienced a budget cut but only 8% attributed the decrease in some way to COVID-19.

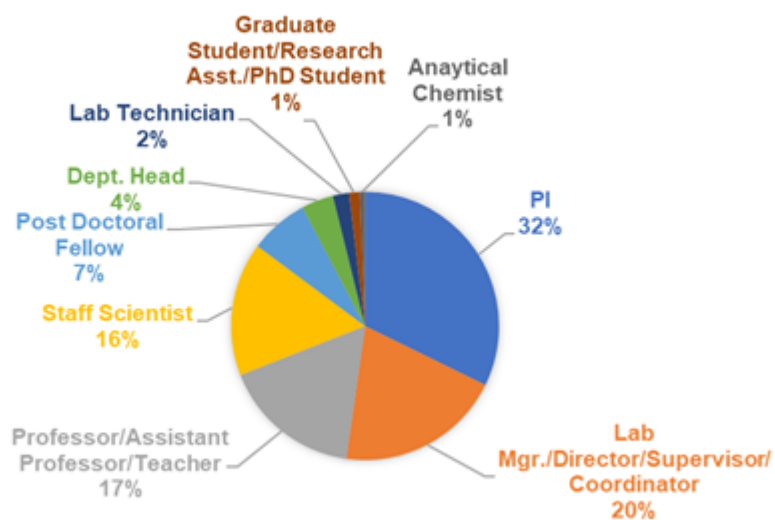
## Demographics

### Surveyed Labs' Operational Status as of May 3, 2021



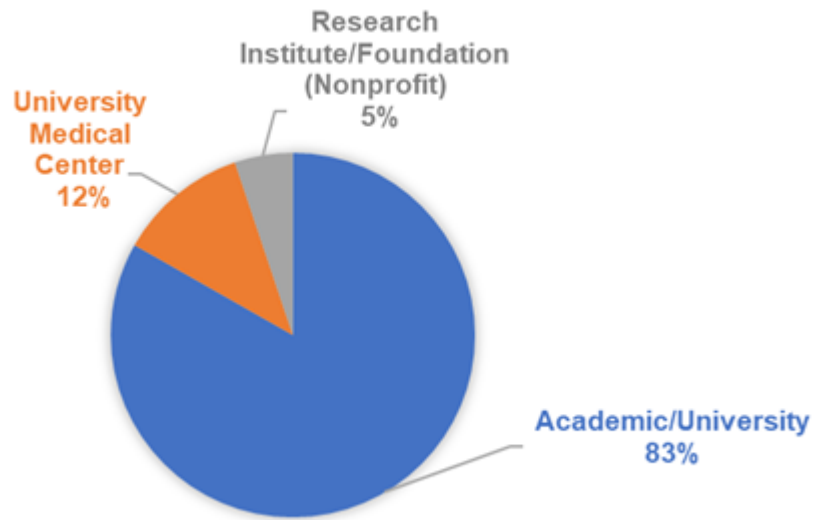
Source: IBO

### Respondents' Job Descriptions



Source: IBO

### Respondents' Work Sector



Source: IBO