

COVID-19 IMPACT ON GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

How the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the global scientific community's research activity, based on survey data from 3,000 international researchers.

Measuring the impact of the pandemic on researchers

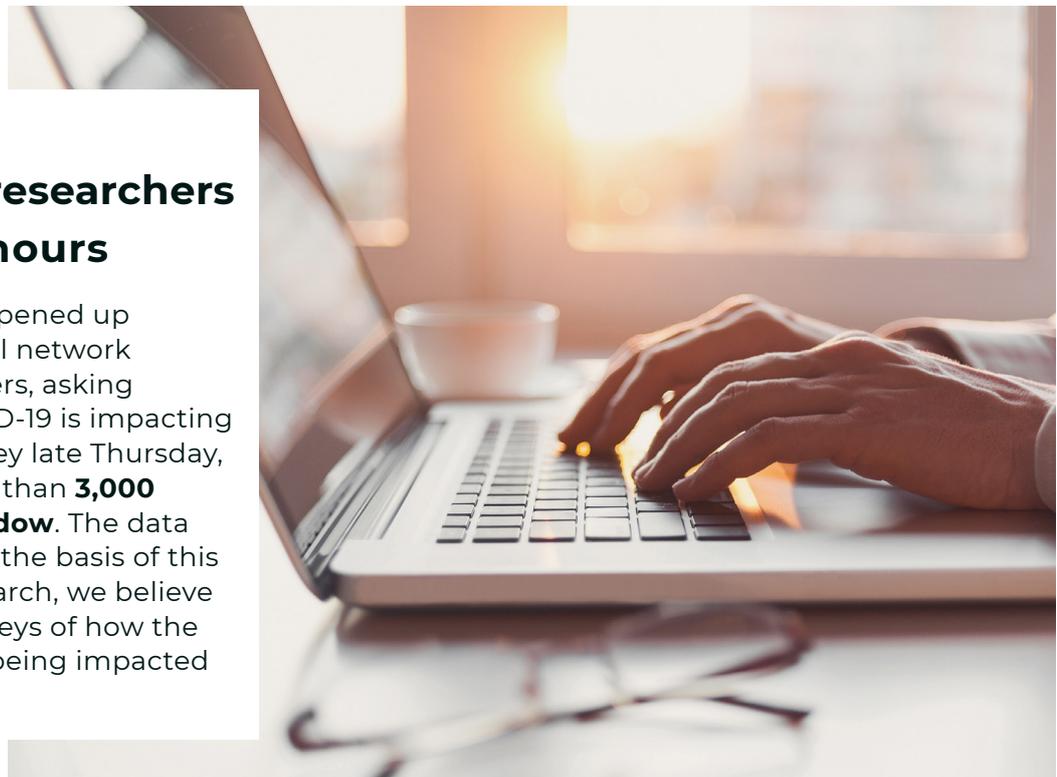
The impact of coronavirus on society cannot be overstated. There is no precedent to the pandemic in our hyper-connected age. Its effects are terribly disruptive on many levels.

As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase, governments around the world are imposing necessary measures to contain and mitigate the spread of the coronavirus disease. This includes travel bans, school and workplace closure, event cancellation, and compulsory remote office — impacting everything from the global economy to our very social fabric.

While many STEM professionals are on the frontlines of the pandemic, battling the global crisis in hospitals, medical-research laboratories, drug development research centers, and more, we also wanted to understand more generally how COVID-19 is impacting the scientific research population. Despite the current crisis, their answers have given us reason to hope.

Survey: 3,000 international researchers respond within 24 hours

On Wednesday, March 18, we opened up a survey within our professional network of 16-million registered members, asking researchers to share how COVID-19 is impacting their work. We closed this survey late Thursday, March 19, after collecting more than **3,000 responses** in this **24-hour window**. The data derived from this survey forms the basis of this report. Based on our desk research, we believe it to be among the largest surveys of how the global research community is being impacted by COVID-19 to date.



1. Scientific activity in a time of social distancing

We are currently in a transition phase, with many researchers still dealing with working from home and balancing professional responsibilities with childcare in new ways — as well as making contingency plans for their current research, much of which is now paused due to social distancing measures.

Our data indicates that scientific activity is not declining, it is merely shifting to new activities. **Nearly half of researchers surveyed are spending more time searching for and reading scientific research than they were before the pandemic**, as well as more time writing, submitting, and peer reviewing scientific papers.

Within the ResearchGate network, registered members are spending more time onsite, with average session duration having increased by 4.37% since early February through Friday, March 20, 2020, the date this paper was authored, according to ResearchGate proprietary data. (By way of comparison, in 2019, during this same period, average session duration increased by 1.3% only.)

2. Increased collaboration — remotely

While a third of researchers are spending less time searching for or purchasing lab equipment, as most labs are closed or inaccessible, **nearly half of researchers report that they are collaborating with other scientists as much or more than they were before the pandemic started.**

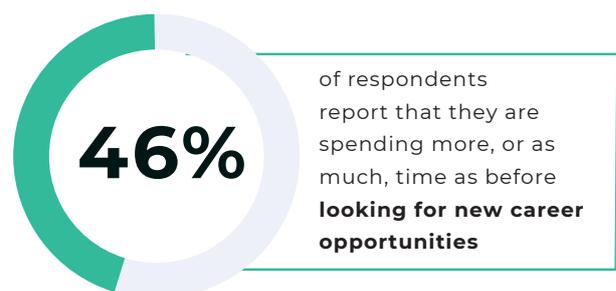
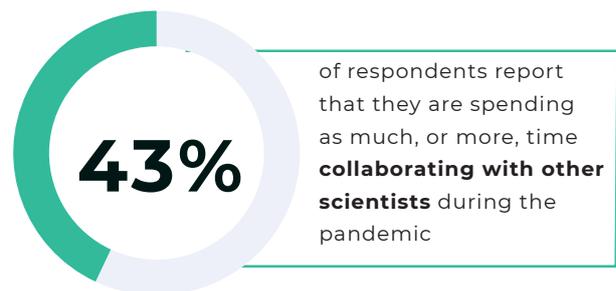
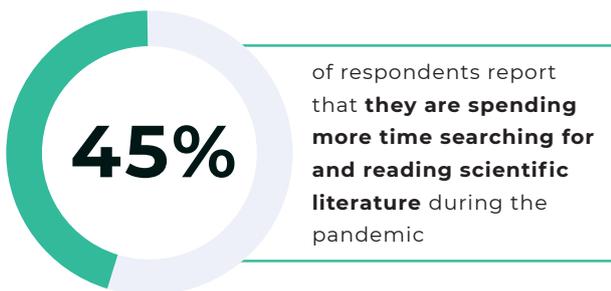
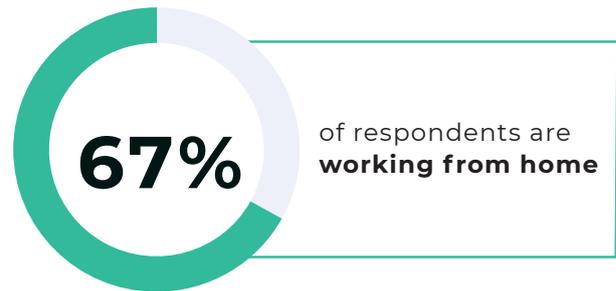
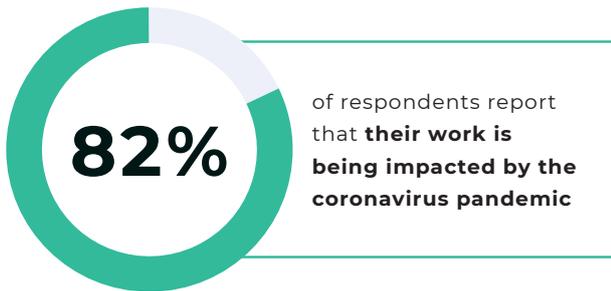
Over time, as the scientific community adapts to the temporary reality of working remotely, digital scientific collaboration has the potential to increase. Researchers are telling us that this crisis is opening up “more informal, faster, cross-university correspondence,” setting a standard for even more collaborative research moving forward.

3. Researchers driven from labs, into new ways of working

Researchers are certainly struggling with the lack of access to their facilities. However, the data suggests that this activity is being substituted with more focused writing, planning, publishing, and analysis. Scientists are looking for best practices to increase their research activity while working remotely. Other researchers have increased the time spent planning for future research, and are spending more time analyzing older data sets that were previously sitting in backlogs.

4. Scientists keep an eye on the horizon

While the pandemic certainly dominates the public conversation, researchers also maintain their focus on the future, in terms of professional development. **Nearly half of researchers indicate that they're actively looking for career opportunities, as well as keeping up to date with the work happening at other scientific research institutions.**



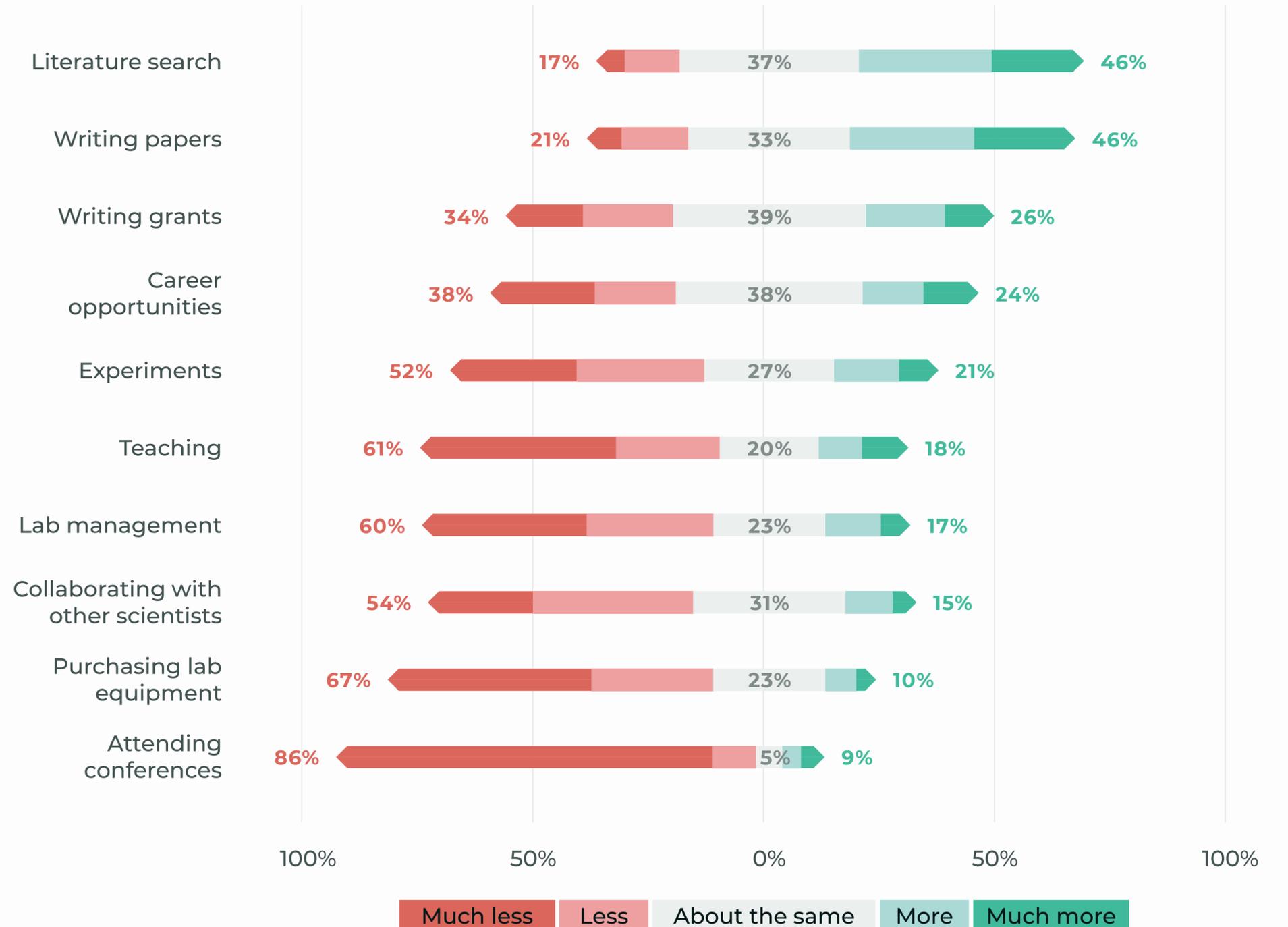
What is ResearchGate?

ResearchGate is the world's leading scientific network. More than 16 million registered scientists and researchers use ResearchGate to connect with one another, share their work, collaborate, and get the support they need to advance their research. With 3 billion page impressions in 2019, our scientific advertising and recruitment solutions help businesses and institutes amplify their message among a targeted audience.

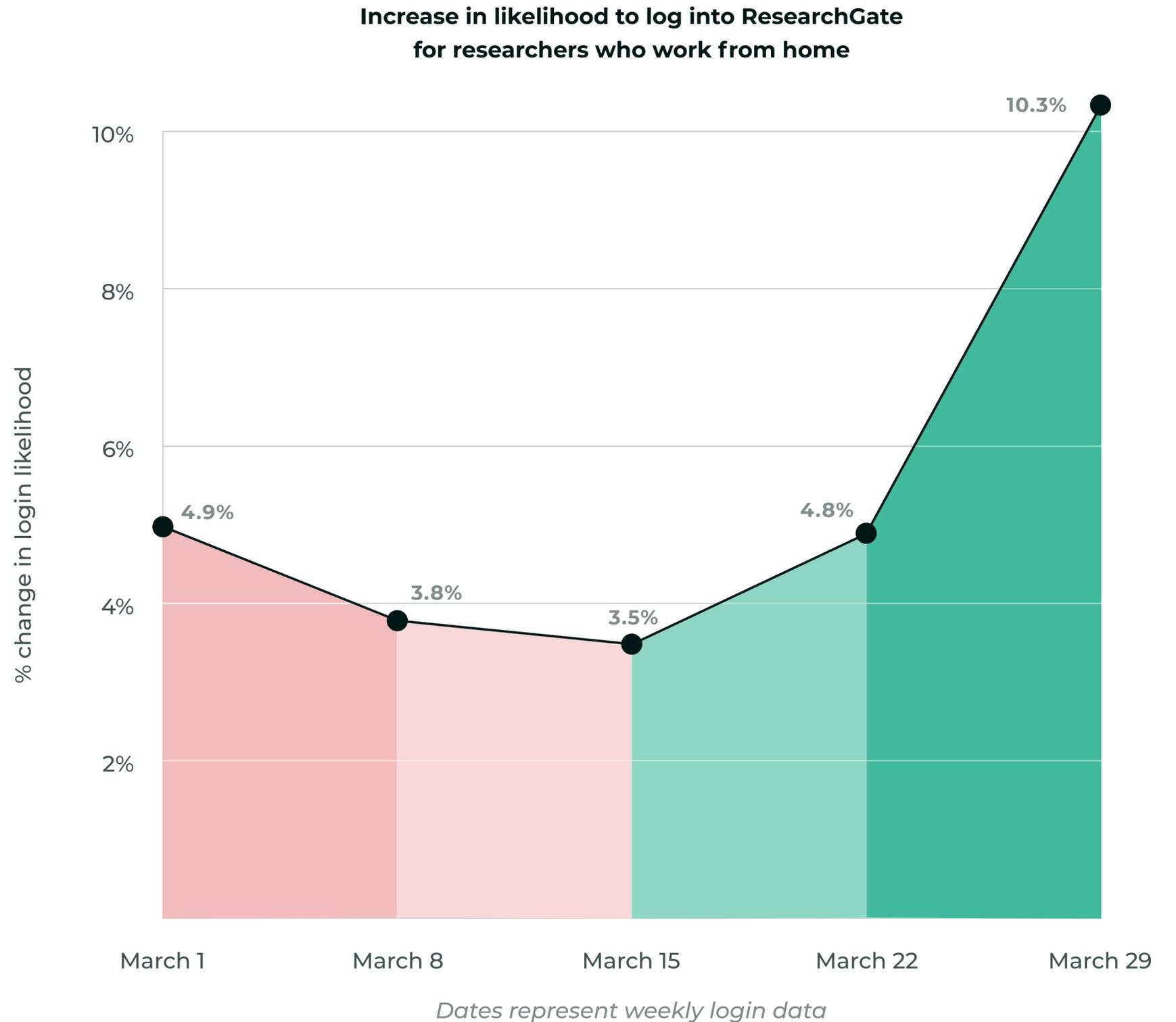
Appendix

Changes in how scientists spend their time as a result of the pandemic

Are you spending more, less, or about the same amount of time on the following activities compared to before the pandemic?



Researchers who exclusively work from home are more likely to use ResearchGate



How affected are scientists worldwide by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Percentage of researchers who say their work is "very" or "extremely" affected by COVID-19

