This report documents the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns among 10 IRIS member universities. Data were collected from June 2018 through May 2020.

These charts show the steep decline in federally and non-federally funded research vendor spending during the first three months of the pandemic (March - May 2020).

Vendor purchases are a leading indicator of how much university research capacity is active. This suggests that by May these universities were working at around 70% research capacity on average.

The charts on the second page show that students were the hardest hit in terms of job losses. Of the top five federal funding agencies, students lost the most jobs in NSF and NIH funded projects.
People Supported by Research Grants

Research Employment, Percentage Change
March-May 2019 to March-May 2020
Average of 9 IRIS Universities

This figure suggests that these universities protected more than 98% of their research workforce in the early months of the pandemic. Student employees were the most affected by research shutdowns.

Research Employment Job Gain/Loss
9 IRIS Universities (Average)
March-May 2019 to March-May 2020
Top 5 Federal Funding Agencies

Data in this report were provided by Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, Michigan State University, New York University, the University of Kansas, the University of Michigan, the University of Missouri, the University of Oregon, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Some institutions did not provide data on employees and non-federal spending, so the aggregate data on the corresponding charts represent nine universities, not 10.