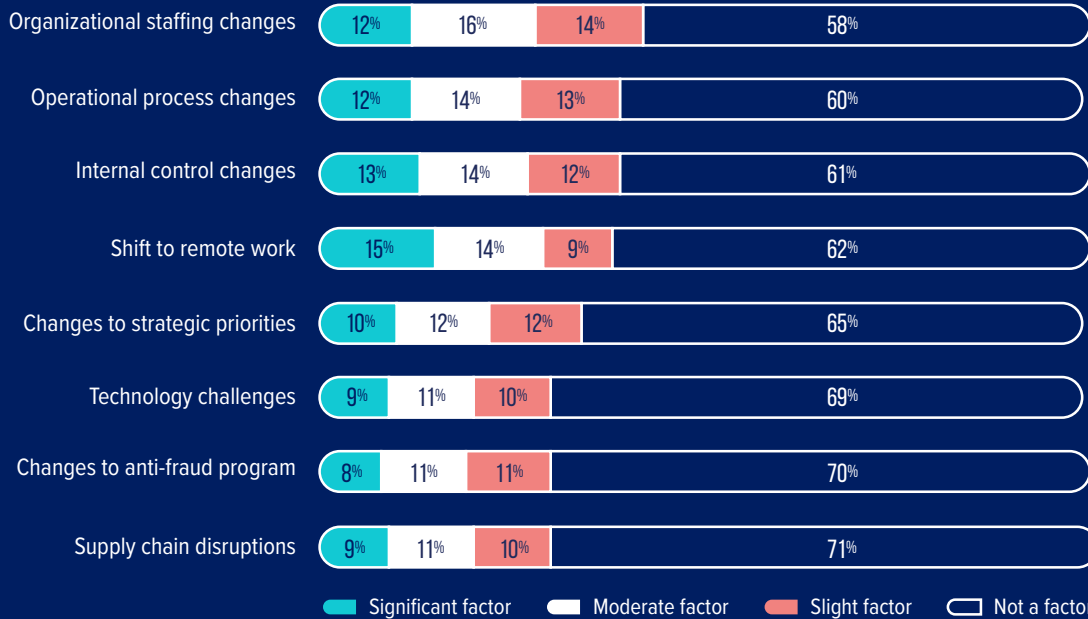


COVID'S EFFECT ON OCCUPATIONAL FRAUD

We asked survey participants whether several pandemic-related issues contributed to the frauds that they investigated; 52% of respondents noted that at least one of these factors was present in their case. Of the factors analyzed, pandemic-related organizational staffing changes were the most common (42% of cases), and a shift to remote work was the factor most commonly cited as significant (15% of cases).



TO WHAT EXTENT DID PANDEMIC-RELATED FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO OCCUPATIONAL FRAUDS?



It's important to note that this study analyzes cases that were *investigated* between January 2020 and September 2021, not necessarily frauds that were committed during that time. Since the median duration of the frauds in this study was 12 months, many of the frauds analyzed were perpetrated before the COVID-19 pandemic began. Consequently, we anticipate seeing additional pandemic-related factors underlying the cases in our 2024 study, when many more frauds that began during the pandemic will have been detected and investigated.