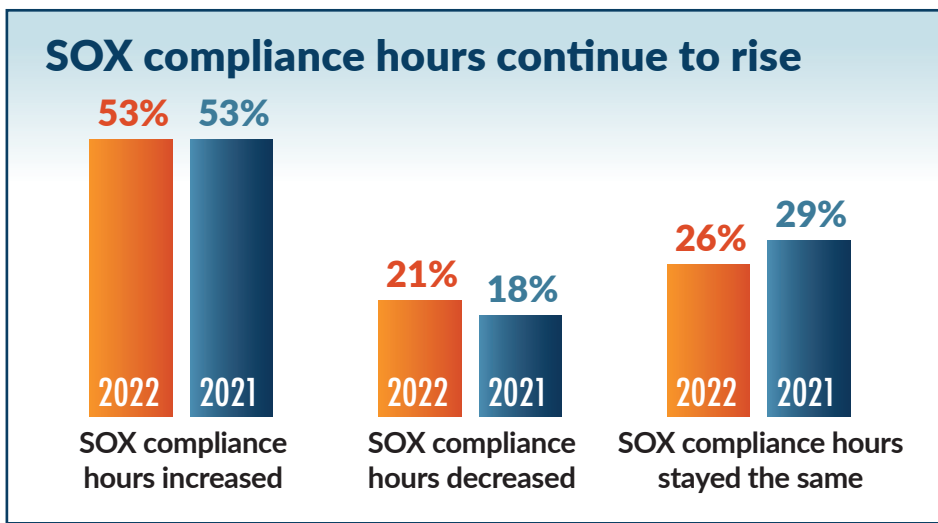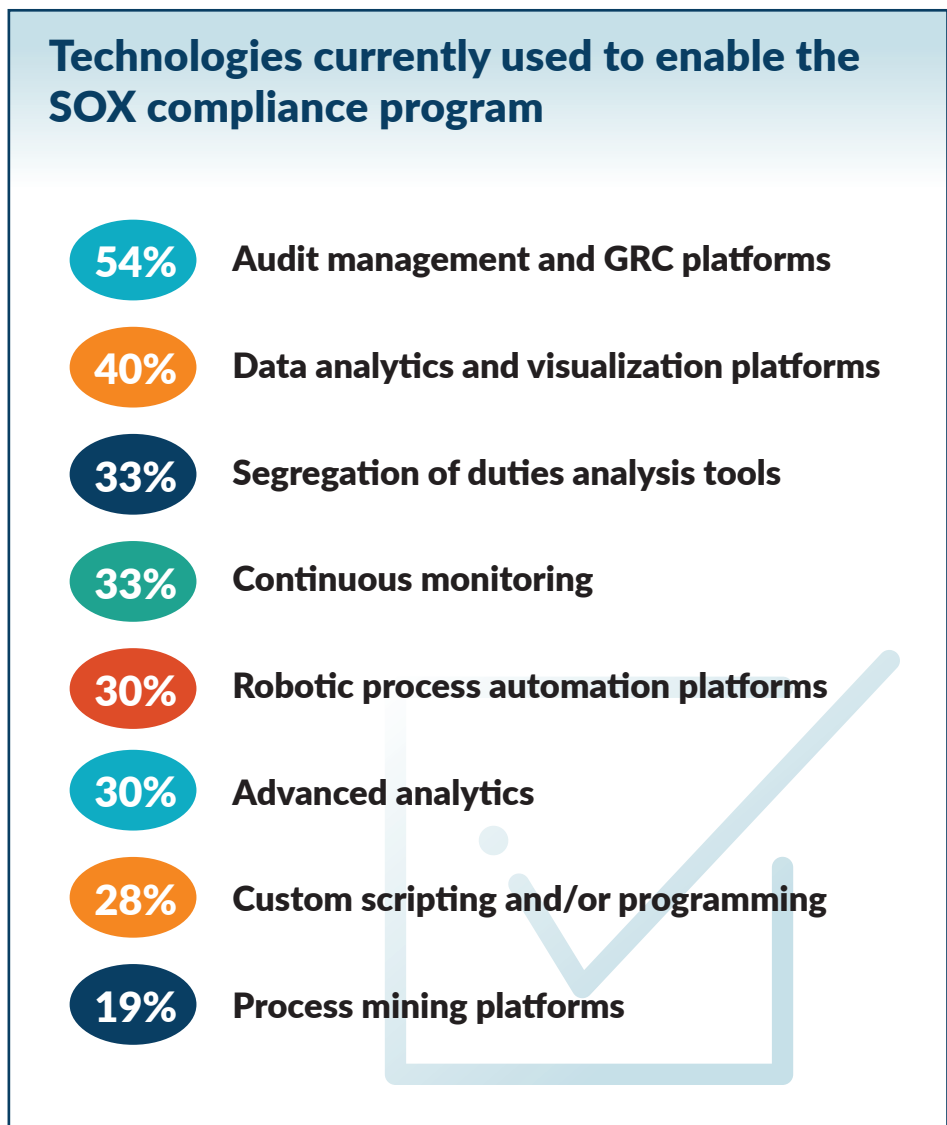# SOX Compliance – Technology, Automation and Outsourcing Are Driving Change

Amid rising hours, labor shortages and other post-pandemic challenges, organizations continue pursuing opportunities to transform their Sarbanes-Oxley compliance programs to embrace greater use of technology and automation, as well as opportunities to outsource different activities. There remains significant room for improvement but the results of Protiviti's latest SOX Compliance Survey show progress.

SOX compliance hours continue to rise

	2022	2021
SOX compliance hours increased	53%	53%
SOX compliance hours decreased	21%	18%
SOX compliance hours stayed the same	26%	29%

25% Average percentage of a SOX compliance program that utilizes technology tools

Technologies currently used to enable the SOX compliance program

- **54%** Audit management and GRC platforms
- **40%** Data analytics and visualization platforms
- **33%** Segregation of duties analysis tools
- **33%** Continuous monitoring
- **30%** Robotic process automation platforms
- **30%** Advanced analytics
- **28%** Custom scripting and/or programming
- **19%** Process mining platforms

Challenges keeping organizations from automating control testing

Many areas of the SOX control environment are not conducive to automation	51%
Lack of time to spend exploring automation due to other priorities	49%
Lack of knowledge on available tools and technology	42%
Level of effort to implement, train, govern and maintain	42%
Lack of funding and/or executive support for automation	40%

Average percentage of key controls that are automated key controls

2022	50%
2021	33%
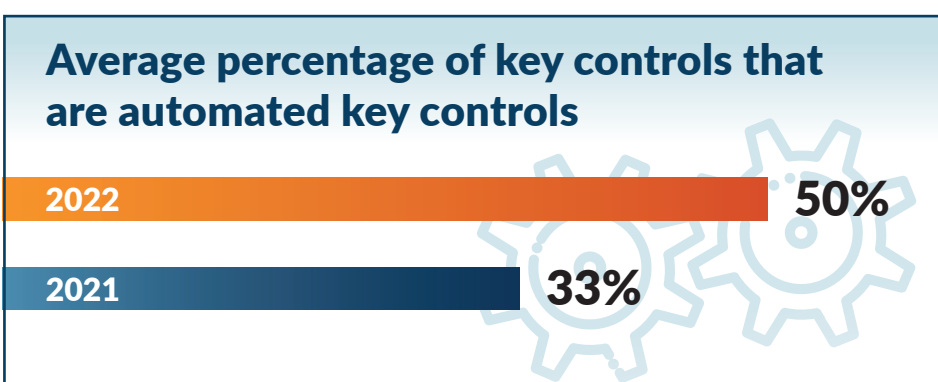
More organizations are outsourcing SOX work

	2022	2021
Portion of SOX internal costs for outsourced resources (both onshore and offshore)	41%	37%
Portion of SOX internal costs offshored for internal resources	35%	26%
Portion of SOX internal costs offshored for outsourced resources	34%	26%

For more information, read SOX Compliance Amid Rising Costs, Labor Shortages and Other Post-Pandemic Challenges, available at Protiviti.com/SOXSurvey.

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