

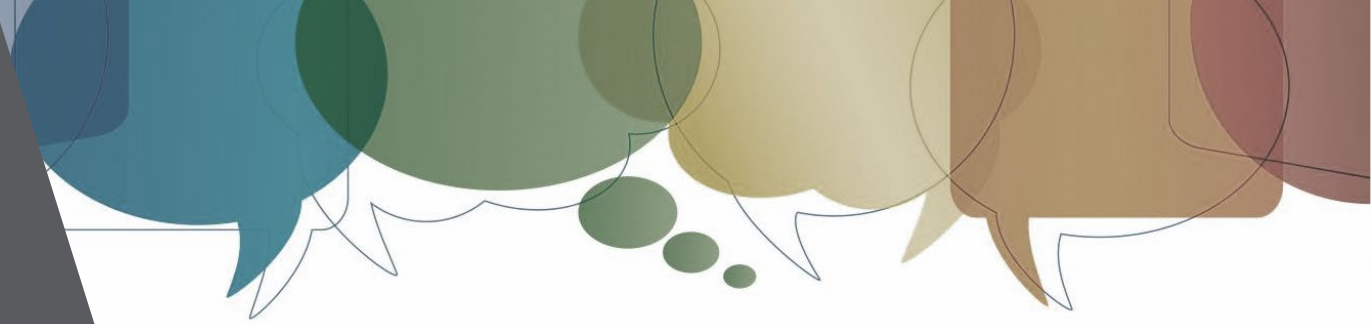


THE
**STRATEGIC
COUNSEL** 25

TORONTO | OTTAWA | CALGARY

www.thestrategiccounsel.com

EXPERIENCE • PASSION • CREATIVITY
CUSTOM SOLUTIONS FOR COMPLEX ISSUES



OCTOBER 2020 RESEARCH

PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #53

CABINET OFFICE

October 23rd 2020



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 Over the past week, the government's 'right track' scores remain stable at 75%.

However, the government's 'strongly right track' scores have moved downward slightly from 23% to 18%.

2 Over the past week, positive perceptions of the government's performance on 'keeping people safe during COVID-19 situation' and 'delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians' have declined. In contrast, positive perceptions toward 'effectively managing long-term care' have improved.

3 Ontarians expressed much lower levels of trust in the government's communications regarding messages about the COVID-19 situation and re-opening of the provincial economy. Important Caveat: We need to wait another week to see whether this is a sample wobble.

4 There continues to be a significant proportion of Ontarians who think the government is 'not doing as much as they should'.

On a positive note, perception that the government is 'not doing as much as they should' has declined for 'taking the necessary actions to prevent the spread of the virus' after the government imposed tougher restrictions on Ottawa, Toronto, and York/Peel regions.

5 Ontarians are paying close attention to the COVID-19 reporting.

Plus, the proportion of Ontarians who feel that COVID-19 is under control in the province has rebounded over the past week. This is also true for other parts of the world.

6 Ontarians are more likely to believe that the restrictions are being re-introduced at the right pace. There has been a slight increase in the view that the province moved too quickly. Plus, there has been a decline in the perception that the government acted too slowly.

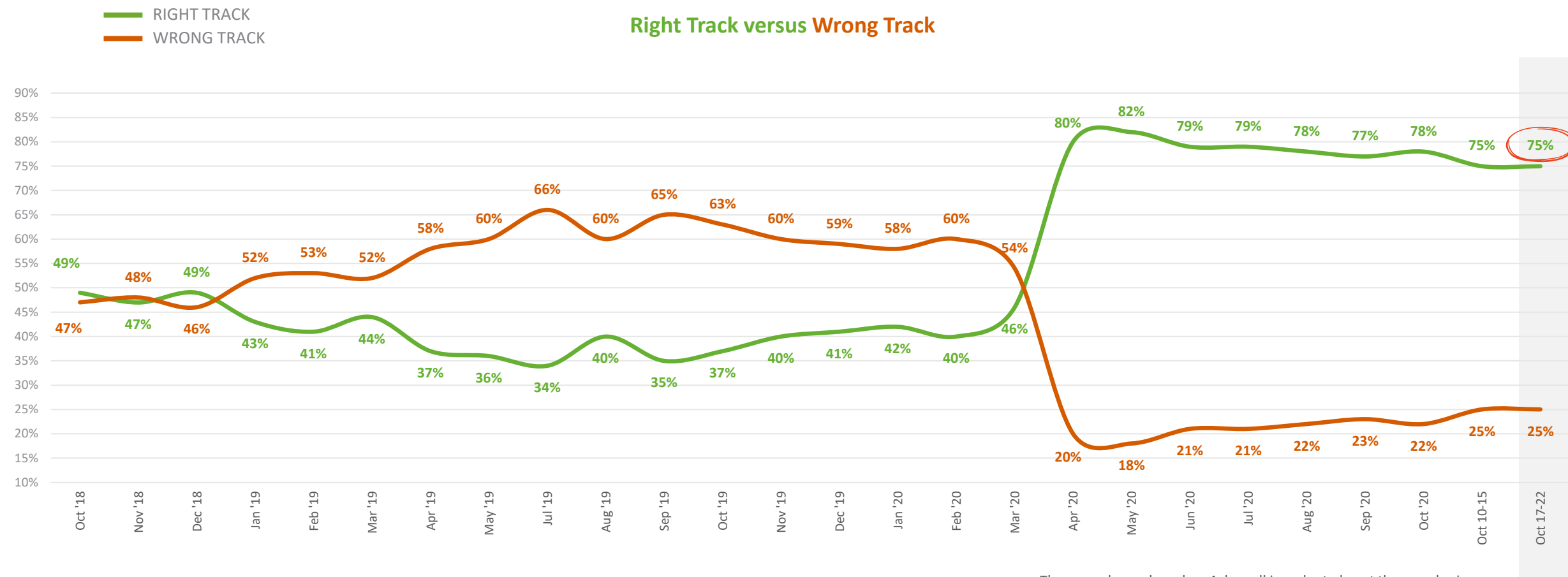
Key Findings

Given the recent rise of infections, the desire for information on the virus has increased: Ontarians are much more likely to indicate that they paying attention to news or information related to COVID-19 now compared to mid-July. Moreover, fewer Ontarians are saying they don't need to hear any more news about COVID-19.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



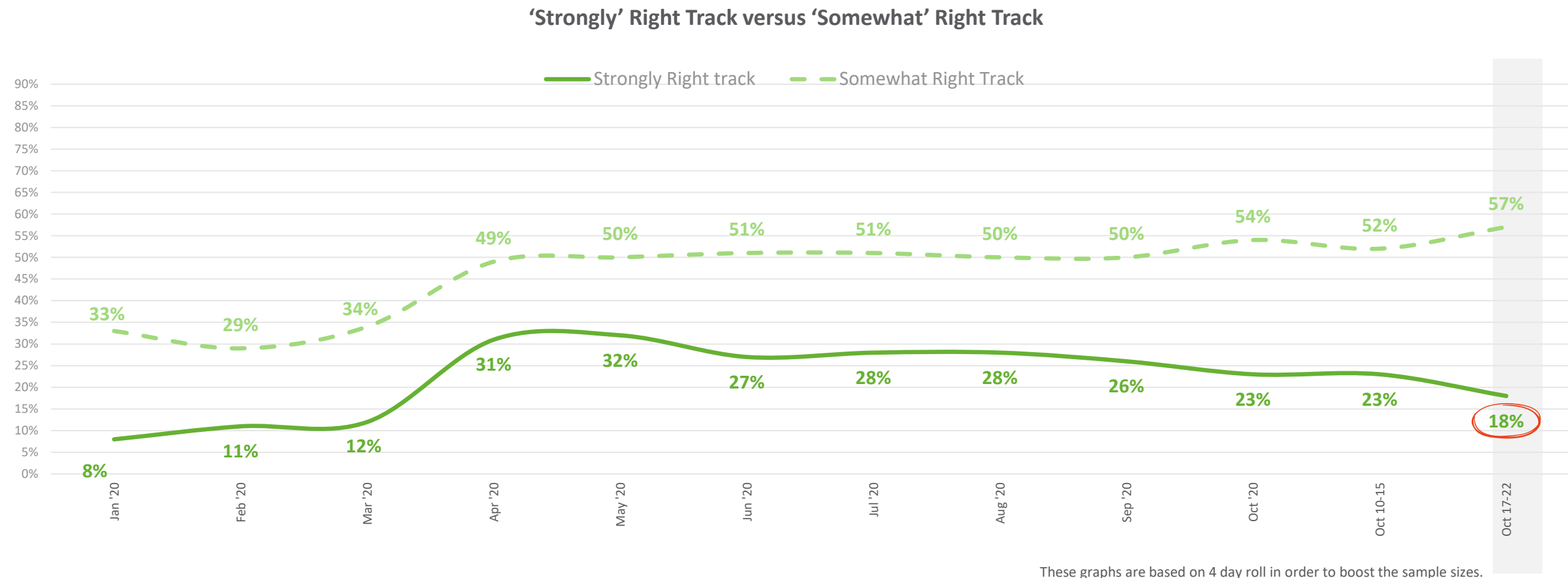
Over the past week, the government’s ‘right track’ scores remain stable at 75%.



These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province? Base: Total sample

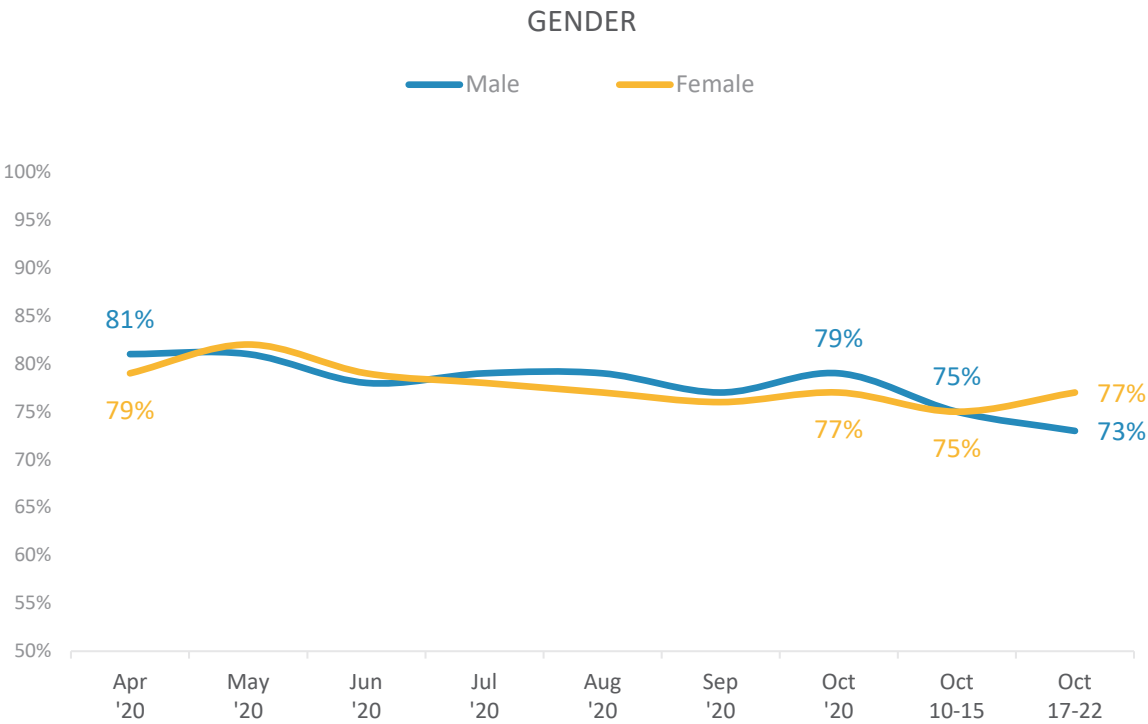
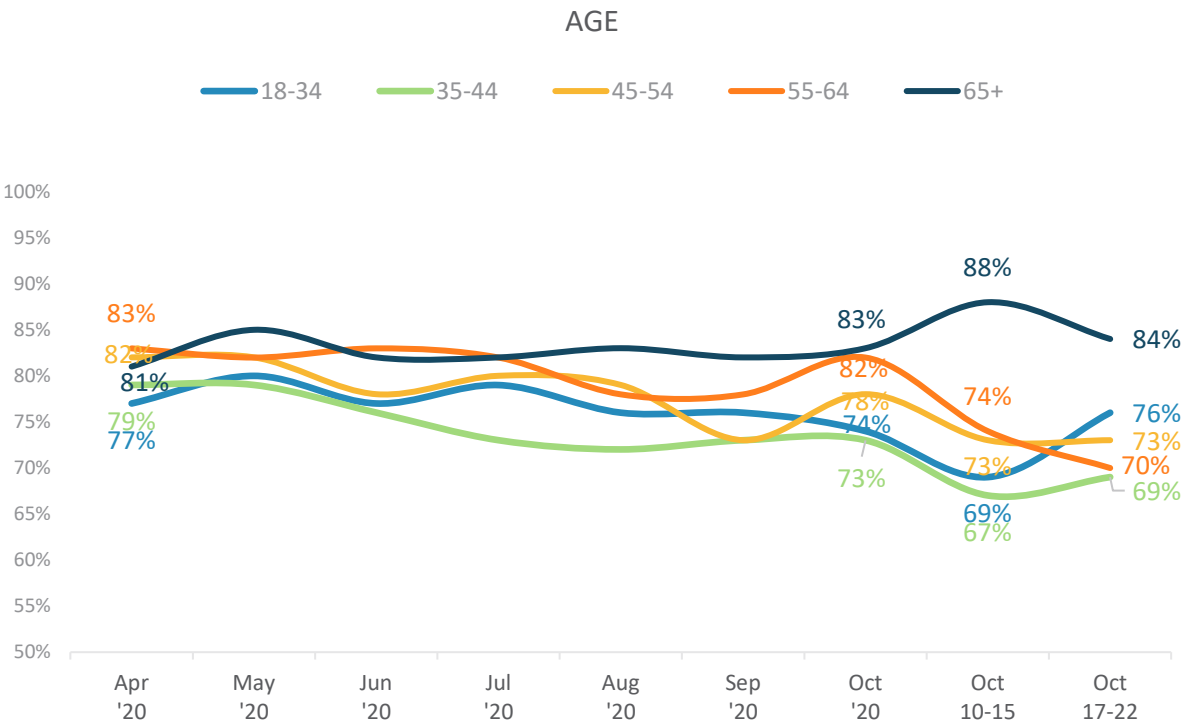
However, the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores have moved downward slightly from 23% to 18%.



Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province? Base: Total sample

The ‘right track’ scores remains strongest among those aged 65.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

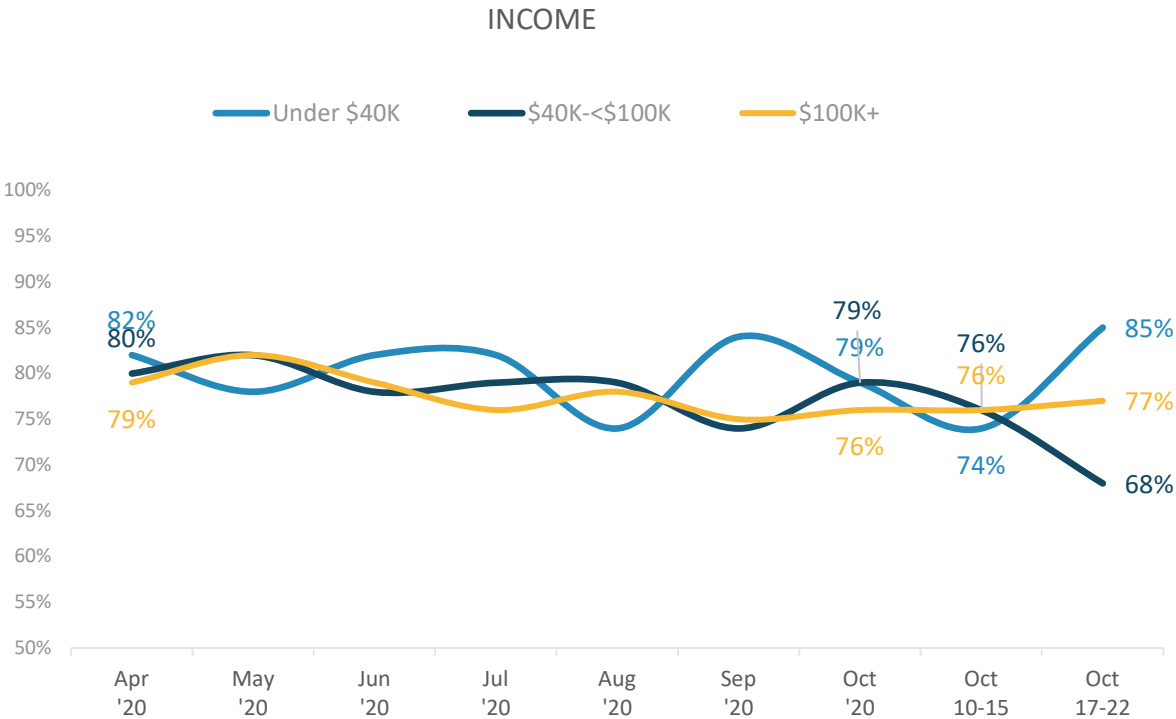
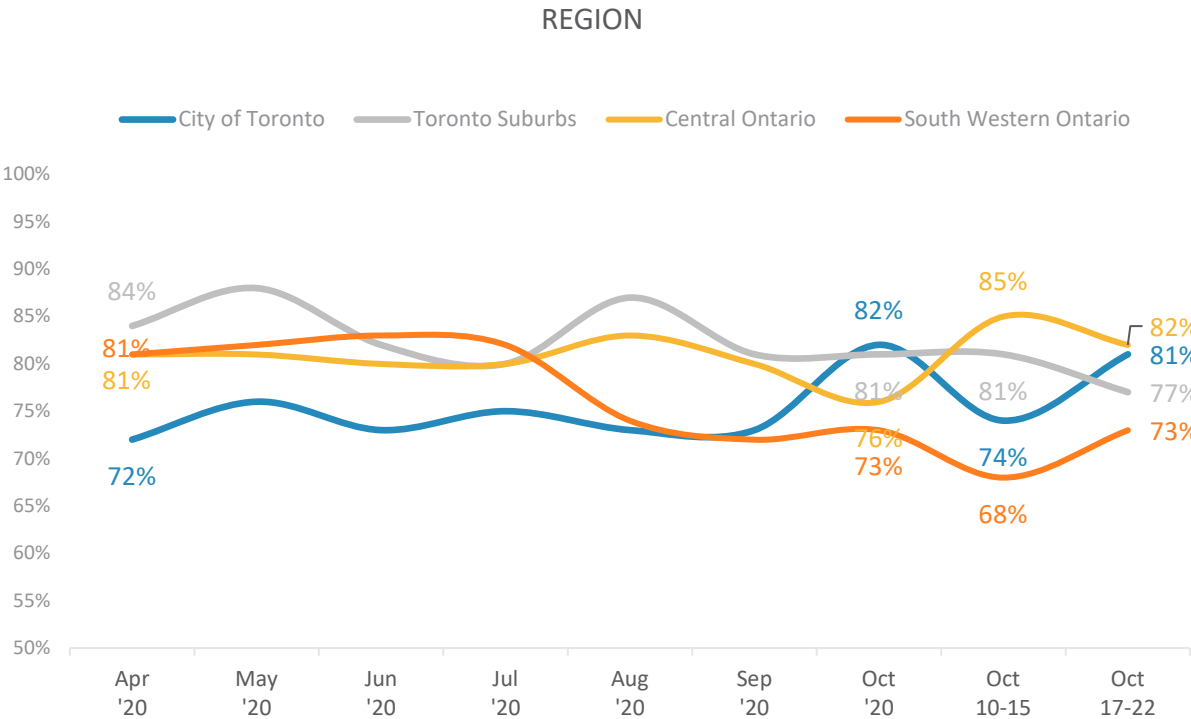


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province? Base: Total sample

The ‘right track’ scores are strongest in City of Toronto, Central Ontario and those earning <\$45k.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

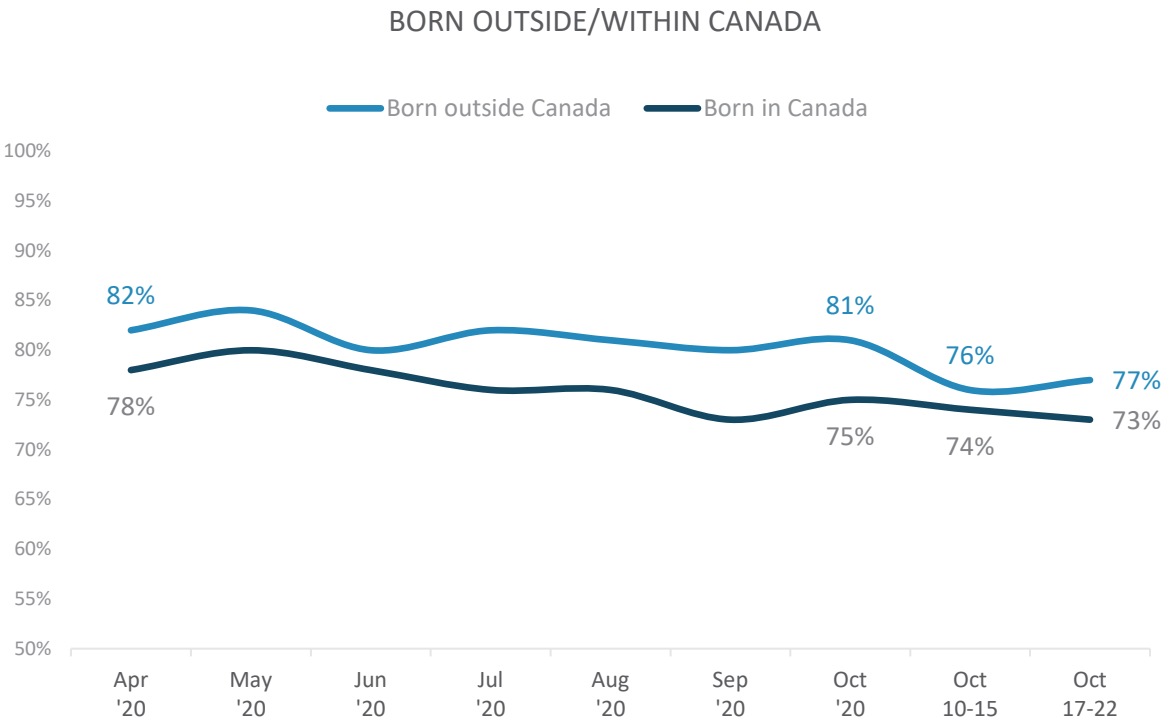
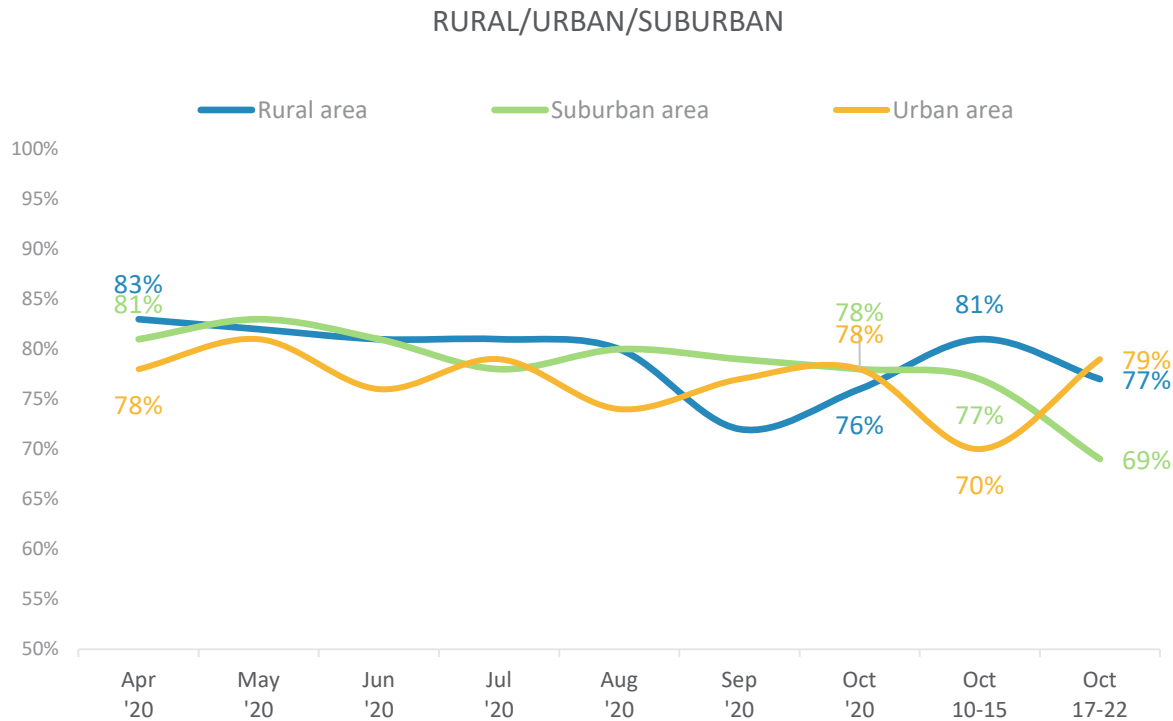


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province? Base: Total sample

The ‘right track’ scores continue to be stronger among those born outside Canada.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



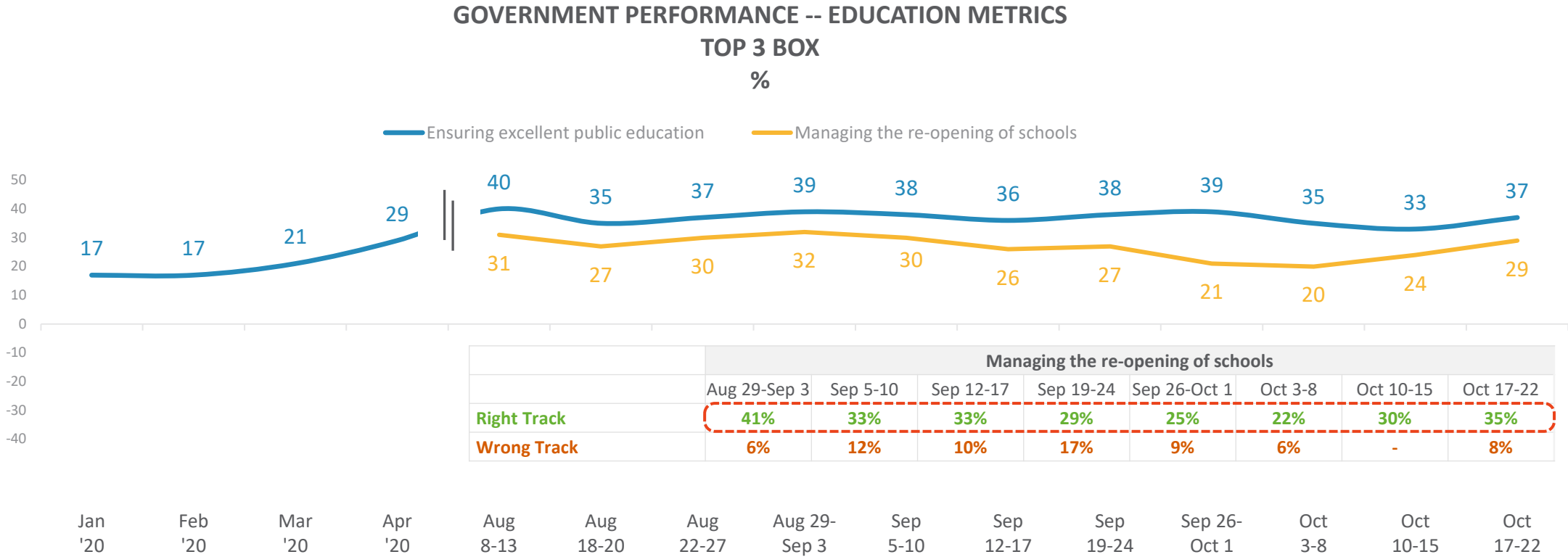
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province? Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

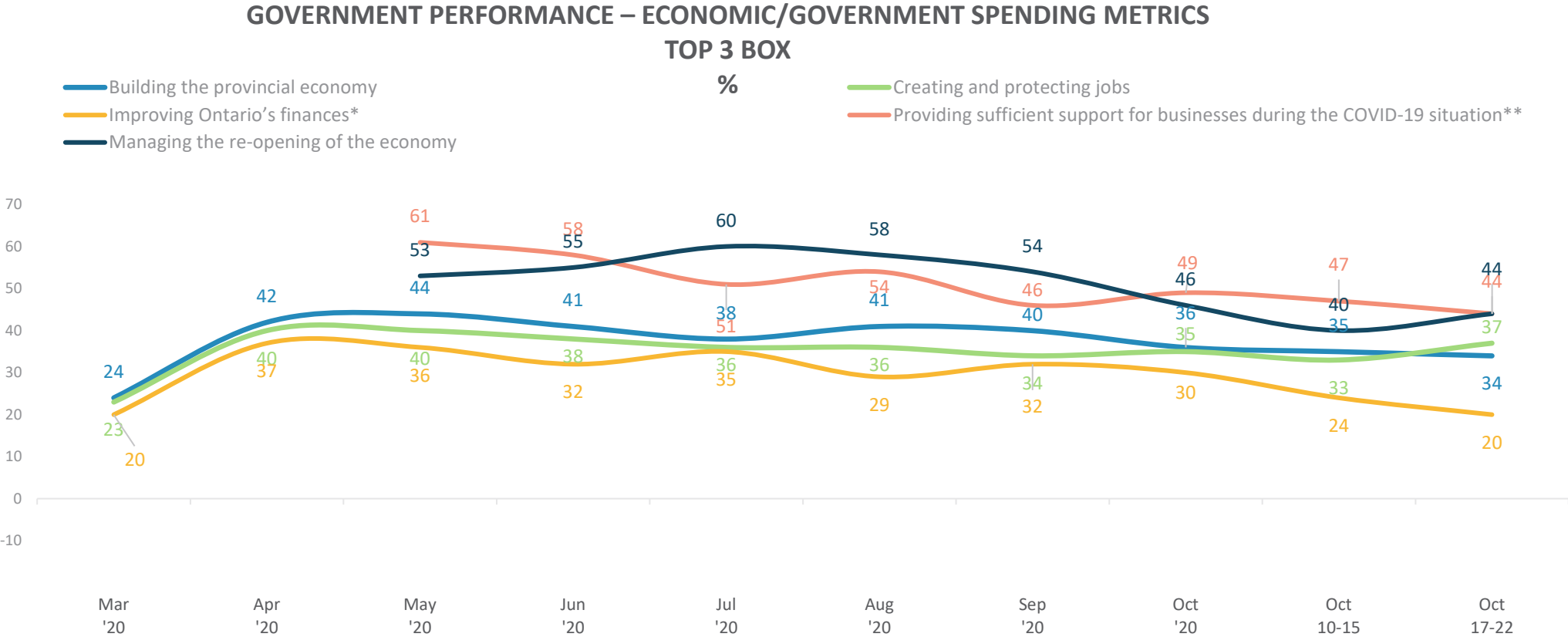


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ and ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ have inched upward.



Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following? Bases vary

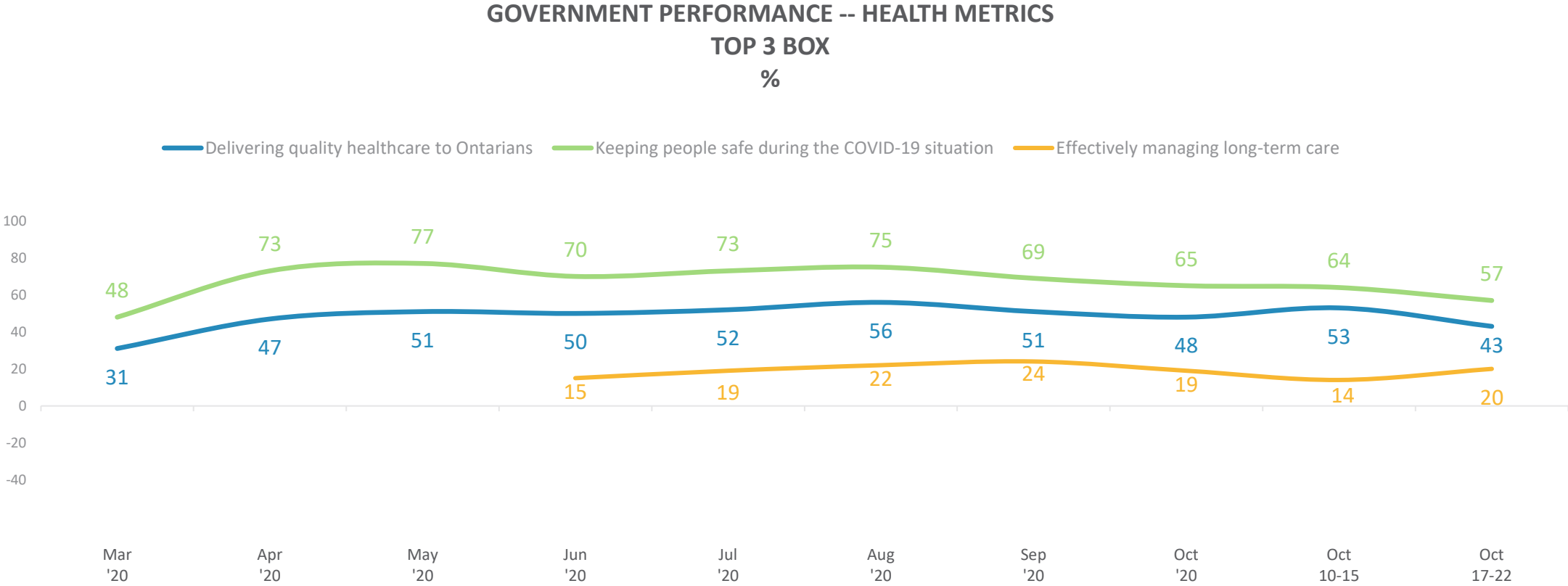
Positive perceptions of ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ have declined to its lowest point since March’20 Other economic metrics are relatively stable.



Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”

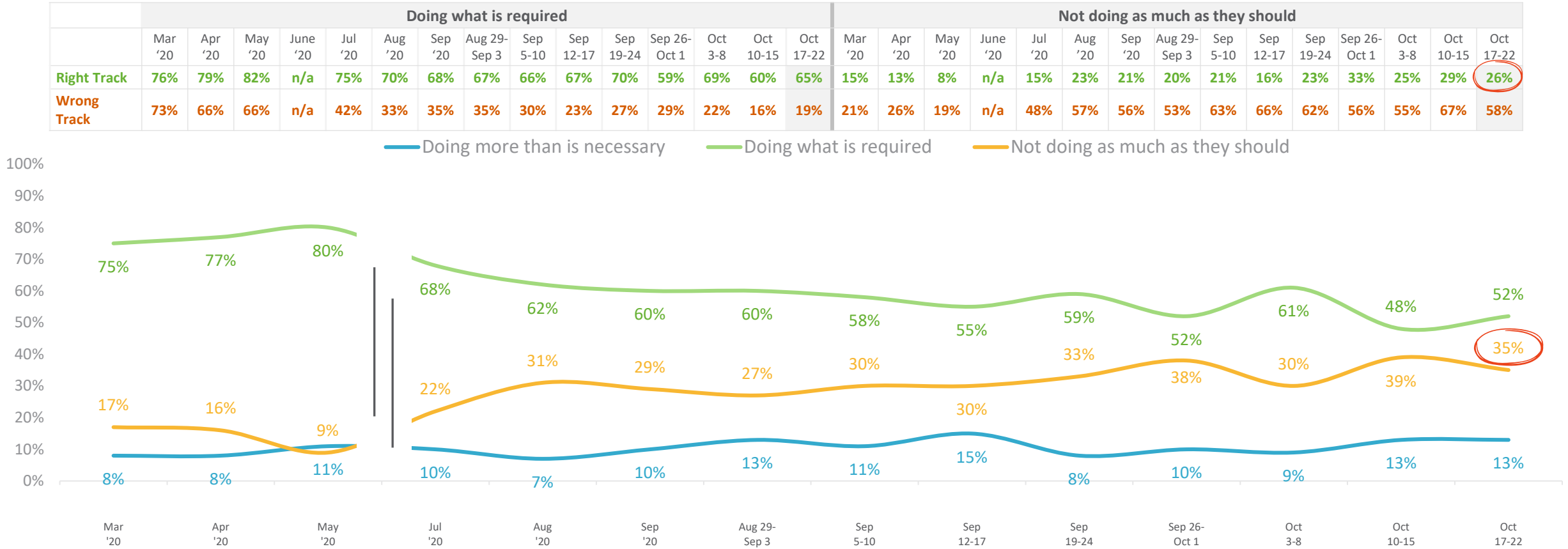
Bases vary

Since August, positive perceptions of the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ have been declining. In contrast, positive perceptions toward ‘effectively managing long-term care’ have improved.



Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following? Bases vary

There continues to be a significant proportion of Ontarians who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’.



QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, gradually reopening the province, and planning for the return to school in the fall, at this time would you say they are ...
(previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including issuing a Declaration of Emergency, ordering non-essential businesses to close, advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ... (READ LIST. RANDOMIZE ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.) (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ...

Perception that the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ has declined for ‘taking the necessary actions to prevent the spread of the virus’ after the government imposed tougher restrictions on Ottawa, Toronto, and York/Peel regions.

	% DOING MORE THAN IS NECESSARY								% DOING WHAT IS REQUIRED								% NOT DOING AS MUCH AS THEY SHOULD							
	Aug '20	Sep '20	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Aug '20	Sep '20	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Aug '20	Sep '20	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Advising the public and businesses about the measures they should take to prevent the spread of the virus	15	16	13	16	10	14	12	17	70	70	70	72	65	65	72	62	13	12	14	10	23	19	15	18
Managing the process of gradually re-opening the province	10	11	9	12	9	8	10	10	72	70	76	66	63	64	64	61	16	17	13	20	27	26	24	26
Taking the necessary actions to prevent the spread of the virus	11	13	11	15	7	11	13	15	71	68	63	59	54	46	54	56	17	17	22	26	37	40	32	29
Managing the re-opening of schools (Previously: Planning for the return to school in the fall)	9	9	12	6	6	8	5	-	39	37	35	36	37	37	34	-	45	46	43	55	53	52	50	-
Managing the safe operation of schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	47

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



Ontarians are paying close attention to the COVID-19 reporting.

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	265	300
	%	%
TOTAL CLOSELY	87	83
Very closely	45	45
Somewhat closely	42	38
Not too closely	9	12
Not at all closely	4	5
TOTAL NOT CLOSELY	13	17
Don't know	1	-

QCV141. How closely are you following the reporting of COVID 19 infections, very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, not at all closely?

Base: Total sample

A plurality (30%) of Ontarians are following province-wide reporting with one-in-five looking at international statistics.

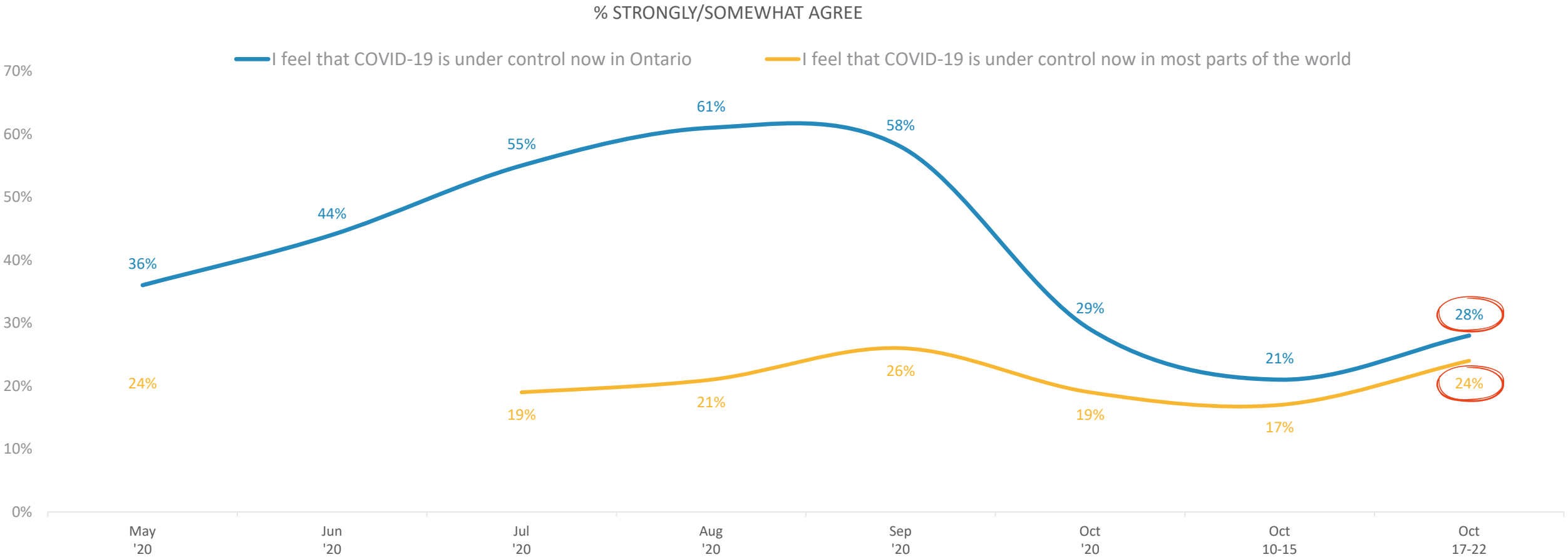
	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	254	285
	%	%
Your own municipality	12	14
Your own region	16	18
Ontario overall	38	30
Canada overall	9	14
The US	4	2
Internationally	21	21
Don't know/refused	1	1

QCV142. And what are you following most closely, the COVID 19 statistics for your own municipality, your own region, Ontario overall, Canada overall, the US, or internationally?

Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS ABOUT WHETHER COVID-19 IS UNDER CONTROL

The proportion of Ontarians who feel that COVID-19 is under control in the province has rebounded over the past week. This is also true for other parts of the world.



QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
Base: Total sample, bases vary

There has been a sharp drop over the past two months (from 71% to 22%) in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now.

- There has also been a drop in the proportion of Ontarians who are trying to get back to living a normal pre-COVID-19 life.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	June 10-14	June 11-15	June 13-16	June 14-17	June 15-18	June 16-20	June 17-21	June 18-22	June 20-23	June 21-24	June 22-25	June 23-27	June 24-28	June 25-29	June 27-30	June 28-July 2	Jul 4-9	Jul 11-16	Jul 18-23	Jul 28-30	Aug 1-6	Aug 8-13	Aug 18-20	Aug 22-27	Aug 29-Sep 3	Sep 5-10	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies																															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I think the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now than it was a month ago	54	54	57	60	61	65	63	62	59	60	60	61	63	59	60	58	64	64	67	56	60	71	58	57	52	43	25	28	25	21	16	22
I am doing my best to get <u>back</u> to living a normal pre-COVID-19 life	70	71	72	70	69	67	69	72	74	71	70	70	69	71	73	72	76	70	78	72	78	79	75	76	82	72	75	65	61	71	60	64
I see people everyday not following the social distancing guidelines	72	75	75	76	78	79	81	81	83	82	79	78	77	78	77	77	84	76	77	71	67	73	68	72	70	66	68	70	72	75	68	69

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

Compared to last April/May, Ontarians are now much more likely to think they will catch the COVID-19 virus. The intensity of this view has also increased since the spring.

I don't think someone like me will get COVID-19

	Apr '20	May '20	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	16	11	17	17
Strongly agree	8	8	6	5	7	6
Somewhat agree	16	15	9	6	10	12
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	9	8
Somewhat disagree	22	25	19	25	28	21
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	55	45	52
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	74	81	73	73
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	<1	-
Don't know	-	-	-	-	<1	2

I don't think someone like me will get COVID-19

AGE:	18-34			35-44			45-54			55-64			65+		
	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
% AGREE	8%	19%	11%	11%	13%	30%	14%	18%	14%	9%	16%	10%	15%	15%	24%
% DISAGREE	83%	72%	75%	83%	81%	65%	76%	67%	82%	83%	68%	73%	79%	81%	69%

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: Total sample

Indoor bars, casinos, and weddings continue to be viewed as highly risky activities.

% VERY RISKY	Aug '20	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	1200	265	196
	%	%	%
Indoor bars/Going inside to an inside bar	66	75	68
Casinos/Going to a casino	71	65	61
Weddings/Going to a wedding	47	56	58
Working out gyms/Working out in a gym	51	53	49
Public transit	-	44	44
Schools/Sending children to school	44	41	38
Daycare centres/Sending children to daycare	41	39	32
Indoor restaurants/Eating at an indoor restaurant	40	37	26
Shopping malls	-	18	21
Offices/Returning to work at an office	18	12	14
Restaurant patios/Eating on a restaurant patio	8	10	10

% VERY/SOMEWHAT RISKY	Aug '20	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	1200	265	196
	%	%	%
Indoor bars/Going inside to an inside bar	92	95	90
Casinos/Going to a casino	92	91	87
Weddings/Going to a wedding	88	91	88
Public transit	-	90	88
Working out gyms/Working out in a gym	88	86	82
Indoor restaurants/Eating at an indoor restaurant	86	85	79
Schools/Sending children to school	86	80	80
Daycare centres/Sending children to daycare	85	80	75
Shopping malls	-	73	72
Offices/Returning to work at an office	75	68	67
Restaurant patios/Eating on a restaurant patio	56	50	50

QCV135. (Previously QCV111) To what extent do you feel that the following activities present a risk for transmission of the COVID-19 virus?

Base: Total sample

IS ONTARIO READY
FOR THE SECOND
WAVE?



Ontarians continue to perceive the government is ready for COVID-19’s Second Wave. As reported previously, it is important to note the level of intensity is not particularly high.

	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL PREPARED	75	78	75	73
Very prepared	16	13	17	17
Somewhat prepared	59	64	58	56
Not too prepared	15	14	18	16
Not at all prepared	8	6	5	10
TOTAL NOT PREPARED	22	20	23	26
Don’t know/not sure	3	2	2	2

Q127. Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a second wave of infections this fall? Would you say the Ontario government is . . .
Base: Total sample

DID ALL IT COULD OR COULD HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY

Given the recent increases in reported cases, Ontarians continue to be a bit divided over whether the government did all it could reasonably be expected to do or if it could have acted differently.

- Importantly, those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are more likely to think that the government has done ‘all it could reasonably be expected to do.’ In contrast, those who see the government on the ‘wrong track’ are much more likely to think the government ‘could have acted differently’.

	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
All it could reasonably be expected to do	44	52	47	44
Could have acted differently	55	47	53	55
Don’t know/Not sure	1	1	<1	2

	All it could reasonably be expected to do				Could have acted differently			
	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
Right Track	52%	61%	55%	49%	46%	37%	44%	49%
Wrong Track	12%	14%	22%	27%	88%	86%	78%	72%

Q130 Overall, given the recent increases in reported cases, do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do or could it have acted differently?
Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians continue to strongly reject the idea that recent ‘increases in COVID-19 infections are not serious illnesses and the Ontario government is overreacting to the problem’.

*Most of the reported increases in COVID-19 infections are not serious illnesses
and the Ontario government is overreacting to the problem*

	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	16	21	21	24
Strongly agree	5	8	7	12
Somewhat agree	11	14	13	12
Neither agree nor disagree	4	7	5	5
Somewhat disagree	21	24	24	20
Strongly disagree	58	47	50	49
TOTAL DISAGREE	79	71	73	70
Don't know	1	1	1	1

Ontarians today (compared to April/May) are more likely to think this virus will make people seriously ill. Not surprisingly, those aged 65+ are much more concerned about becoming seriously ill from the disease.

Even if I did get COVID-19, I don't think I would be seriously ill

	Apr '20	May '20	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	30	30	29
Strongly agree	14	14	12	14	11	12
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	15	19	17
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	6	12	8	13
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	26	15
Strongly disagree	27	31	44	36	33	41
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	61	55	58	56
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	1	1
Don't know	-	-	-	-	2	1

AGE:	Even if I did get COVID-19, I don't think I would be seriously ill														
	18-34			35-44			45-54			55-64			65+		
	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
% AGREE	39%	40%	41%	41%	53%	33%	27%	25%	29%	21%	21%	19%	18%	11%	16%
% DISAGREE	42%	51%	44%	36%	40%	42%	55%	59%	54%	71%	64%	73%	75%	78%	76%

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: Total sample

IMPOSE SEVERE LOCKDOWN OR REGIONAL LOCKDOWNS

Ontarians continue to lean against another severe lockdown and prefer a more focussed approach in dealing with outbreaks in affected regions even if this means a higher level of infections.

- Those who think the government is on the ‘right track’ are more likely to prefer a regional approach.

	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
Some people say that Ontario will have to go back to a severe lockdown, even if this significantly damages the economy.	33	29	29	32
Other people say, we should deal with it by outbreak and by region, and not province wide so the economic recovery can continue, even if there is a risk of more infections.	64	69	71	63
Don't know/Not sure	2	1	<1	5

	Ontario will have to go back to a severe lockdown				Should deal with it by outbreak and by region			
	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
Right Track	32%	28%	24%	31%	66%	70%	75%	66%
Wrong Track	36%	36%	42%	35%	57%	64%	58%	56%

Q132 If the increase in COVID 19 infections continues, thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?
Base: Total sample

Given the recent rise of infections, Ontarians are much more likely to indicate that they paying attention to news or information related to COVID-19 now compared to mid-July. Moreover, fewer Ontarians are saying they don’t need to hear any more news about COVID-19.

% STRONGLY/ SOMEWHAT AGREE	June 10-14	June 11-15	June 13-16	June 14-17	June 15-18	June 16-20	June 17-21	June 18-22	June 20-23	June 21-24	June 22-25	June 23-27	June 24-28	June 25-29	June 27-30	June 28- July 2	Jul 4-9	Jul 11-16	Jul 18-23	Jul 28-30	Aug 1-6	Aug 8-13	Aug 18-20	Aug 22-27	Aug 29- Sep 3	Sep 5-10	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies																															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I'm paying less attention to news or information about COVID-19	50	53	51	51	50	47	47	52	53	51	53	51	50	52	48	49	52	39	60	38	44	47	47	50	50	49	45	49	34	40	43	36
I feel that I don't <u>need</u> to hear any more news about COVID-19	24	26	24	22	23	20	22	23	21	23	20	20	21	19	22	20	22	20	24	21	22	27	30	21	28	29	21	20	16	22	21	23

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



Ontarians are more likely to believe that the restrictions are being re-introduced at the right pace. There has been a slight increase in the view that the province moved too quickly. Plus, there has been a decline in the perception that the government acted too slowly.

- Those who see the government on the ‘right track’ continue to be much more likely to believe that the re-introduction of these restrictions is occurring at the right pace. And, they are less likely to think the government is moving too slowly.

	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
Moving too quickly	12	13	16	20
At the right pace	43	46	50	46
Moving too slowly	44	39	32	33
Prefer not to answer/Don't know	1	3	2	1

	At the right pace				Moving too slowly			
	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
Right Track	50%	53%	58%	55%	38%	35%	26%	29%
Wrong Track	17%	16%	26%	18%	63%	54%	51%	42%

QCV125B. As you may know, the number of reported cases of COVID infection has increased steadily over the past number of weeks, especially in Ottawa, Toronto and Peel Region. Because of this, the government of Ontario introduced new restrictions in those regions, including closing indoor dining, bars, gyms, casinos and movie theatres, among others. Do you believe the government is moving too quickly, at the right pace, or moving too slowly in reintroducing changes to control the spread of COVID in Ontario this fall? (Previous phrasing) As you may know, the number of reported cases of COVID infection has increased steadily over the past two weeks. Because of this, the government of Ontario introduced new regulations such as limiting the number of people at an indoor and outdoor gathering at a private residence. Do you believe the government is moving too quickly, at the right pace, or moving too slowly in reintroducing changes to control the spread of COVID in Ontario this fall?

There continues to be very strong support for the imposition of increased restrictions in Toronto, Peel region, and Ottawa. The intensity of support is very high.

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	265	201
	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	83	82
Very supportive	53	48
Somewhat supportive	31	33
Somewhat opposed	7	9
Very opposed	7	9
TOTAL OPPOSED	15	18
Don't know/not sure	2	<1

QCV143. As you may know, the Ontario government has imposed greater restrictions in Ottawa, Peel region and the City of Toronto as a result of rising COVID 19 infections in these areas, but has not placed further restrictions in the rest of the province, as there are fewer cases outside of these areas. Overall, how supportive or opposed are you of this approach in which restrictions would only be reimposed in a region if the number of cases justify such actions. Are you...to this approach?

Base: Total sample

Support for increasing restrictions is highest for casinos, indoor bars, weddings, and working out gyms, while lowest for restaurant patios.

% Yes	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	
n=	265	204	
	%	%	Tiers
Casinos	76	77	Highest
Indoor bars	76	76	
Working out gyms	66	61	Higher
Weddings	61	58	
Indoor restaurants	59	55	
Schools	39	43	Medium
Shopping malls	31	40	
Daycare centres	39	38	
Offices	34	32	Low
Restaurant patios	22	23	

RECENT COVID-19 INITIATIVES



Enhanced testing/tracing/isolating, a system to manage outbreaks, flu immunization, and increasing the number of frontline health care workers are the initiatives with the highest recall.

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	265	300
	%	%
Enhancing and expanding efforts to test, trace and isolate new cases of COVID-19.	70	70
Putting in place a system to quickly identify, manage and prevent COVID-19 outbreaks	62	56
Implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history	48	55
Increasing the number of frontline health care workers and caregivers to ensure the health care system can meet any surge in demand	61	52
Reducing surgery backlogs	47	50
Ensuring that the health system is prepared to respond to any waves or surges of COVID-19 without interrupting routine health services.	53	49
None of these	5	10

QCV138. Which of the following Ontario government initiatives, if any, have you seen, read or heard about related to how the province is responding to COVID-19?

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians overwhelmingly believe that these initiatives will be effective.

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	265	300
	%	%
Yes	94	90
No	5	8
Don't know	1	2

QCV139. Overall, are these the kinds of steps the Ontario government should be taking to minimize the health impacts of COVID 19 this fall?

Base: Total sample

HALLOWEEN



SHOULD HALLOWEEN BE CANCELLED BY GOVERNMENT DUE TO RISING COVID-19 INFECTIONS?

About 44% believe that Halloween should be cancelled due to rising infections, while 44% disagree with this view.

*Halloween should be cancelled by government this year
because of the rising COVID-19 infections.*

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	40	44
Strongly agree	22	28
Somewhat agree	17	17
Neither agree nor disagree	8	10
Somewhat disagree	25	23
Strongly disagree	25	22
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	44
Not applicable	-	1
Don't know	-	1

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

HALLOWEEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED THIS YEAR WITH THE PROPER CAUTIONS OF HOW TO MINIMIZE RISK

Ontarians are divided on whether Halloween should be allowed if proper cautions are undertaken: 48% say that Halloween should be allowed this year if people are informed about the proper cautions to minimize risk; 43% disagree with this view.

*With the proper cautions notifying people of how to minimize risk,
Halloween should be allowed this year.*

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	47	48
Strongly agree	26	24
Somewhat agree	21	24
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8
Somewhat disagree	21	19
Strongly disagree	24	24
TOTAL DISAGREE	44	43
Don't know	-	1

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

Ontarians are also divided over whether handing out candy is riskless even if the candy is appropriately packaged.

*As long as candy is appropriately packaged,
I don't see a risk in handing out candies at Halloween.*

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	41	45
Strongly agree	19	26
Somewhat agree	22	19
Neither agree nor disagree	4	6
Somewhat disagree	22	17
Strongly disagree	32	31
TOTAL DISAGREE	54	48
Don't know	-	1

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

IS HALLOWEEN A PROVINCIAL OR MUNICIPAL ISSUE?

About two-thirds of Ontarians believe Halloween should be decided by municipalities.

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	265	300
	%	%
Municipalities should make their own rules	66	62
Province should make the rules that cover the entire province	27	33
Don't know/not sure	7	5

QCV140. As you know, Halloween is at the end of this month, in light of COVID 19, who should make the decision about the rules for celebrating Halloween or whether or not to allow Halloween. Should it be municipalities who make the decisions regarding any rules for celebrating Halloween that are appropriate for their community or should the provincial government make a decision about the rules for Halloween that cover the entire province?

Base: Total sample

REMEMBRANCE DAY



About 7-in-10 believe that Remembrance Day ceremonies should be undertaken virtually.

	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	265	199
	%	%
Some people say that in-person Remembrance Day ceremonies are an important tradition and should continue to be held as in years past	25	24
Other people say that in-person Remembrance Day ceremonies are too risky, and that the provincial government should be restricted to virtual commemorations this year.	70	71
Don't know	4	5

MASK WEARING PERCEPTIONS



FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

Most Ontarians continue to say they are wearing masks or face coverings ‘all the time’ or ‘most of the time’. This week reached the highest percentage (71%) among those who say they wear face masks or coverings ‘all of the time’.

	June 18-22	June 20-23	June 21-24	June 22-25	June 23-27	June 24-28	June 25-29	June 27-30	June 28-July 2	Jul 4-9	Jul 11-16	Jul 18-23	Jul 28-30	Aug 1-6	Aug 8-13	Aug 18-20	Aug 22-27	Aug 29-Sep 3	Sep 5-10	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26-Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22
n=	313	400	400	410	410	410	410	410	410	300	300	300	300	260	310	300	310	310	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	52	52	52	52	54	55	58	58	60	60	72	76	77	73	81	80	84	81	87	87	86	88	88	86	88
All of the time	26	27	27	23	25	25	25	29	29	22	45	42	47	48	56	49	55	54	61	61	64	63	66	61	71
Most of the time	26	25	26	29	29	31	33	29	32	38	27	34	29	24	25	30	29	28	26	26	22	25	23	25	17
Some of the time	26	26	28	28	26	25	24	26	24	20	20	17	15	17	13	14	11	12	12	9	10	8	8	11	8
Rarely	19	18	15	17	17	16	15	12	13	18	5	7	7	9	5	4	4	5	1	3	4	3	3	2	3
Never	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	<1	1	1	1	<1	<1	1
RARELY/NEVER	23	21	20	20	20	20	18	15	16	21	7	8	8	10	6	6	5	6	1	4	5	4	3	2	4

QD1B. As a result of COVID-19 and thinking about your daily activities when you are away from home, how often do you wear a face mask or covering?

Base: Total sample

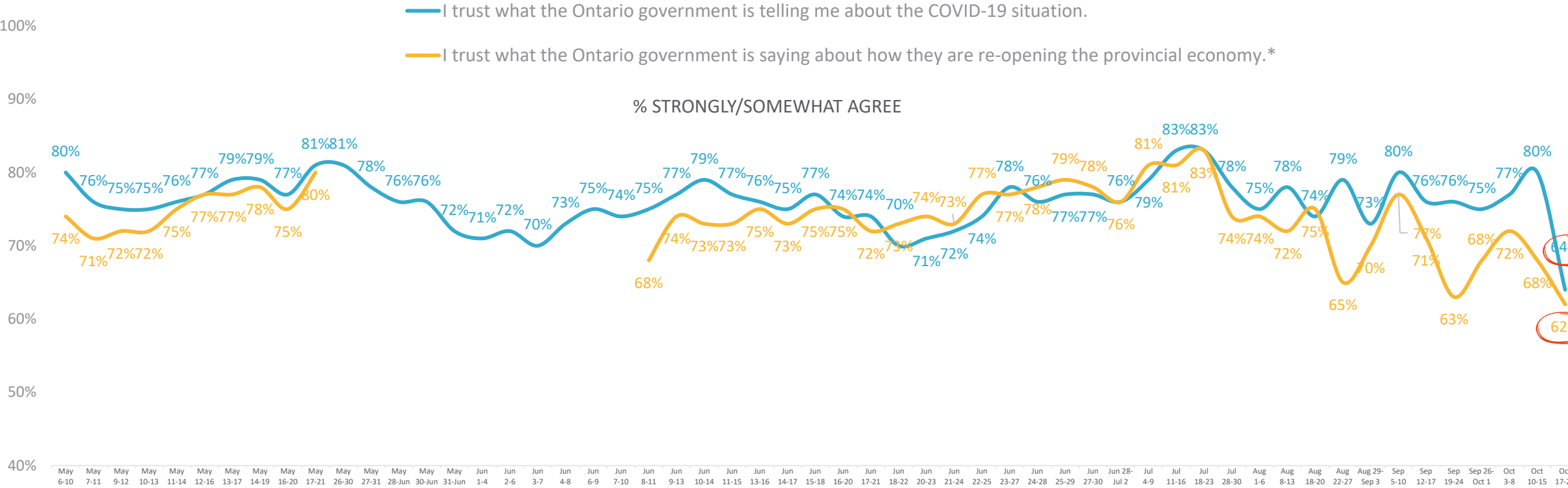
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Over the past week, Ontarians expressed much lower levels of trust in the government’s communications regarding messages about the COVID-19 situation and re-opening of the provincial economy. Important Caveat: we need to wait another week to see whether this is a sample wobble.

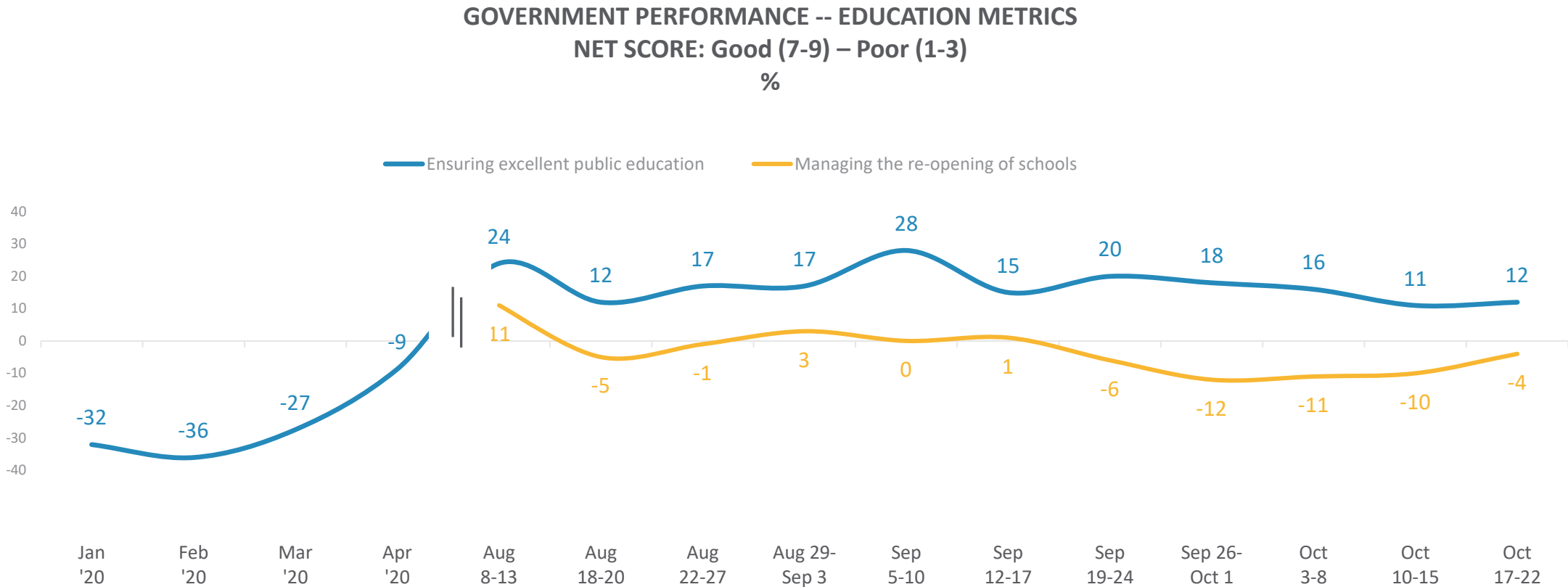


QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
Base: Total sample, base varies * Previous phrasing: I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they plan to re-open the provincial economy

APPENDIX

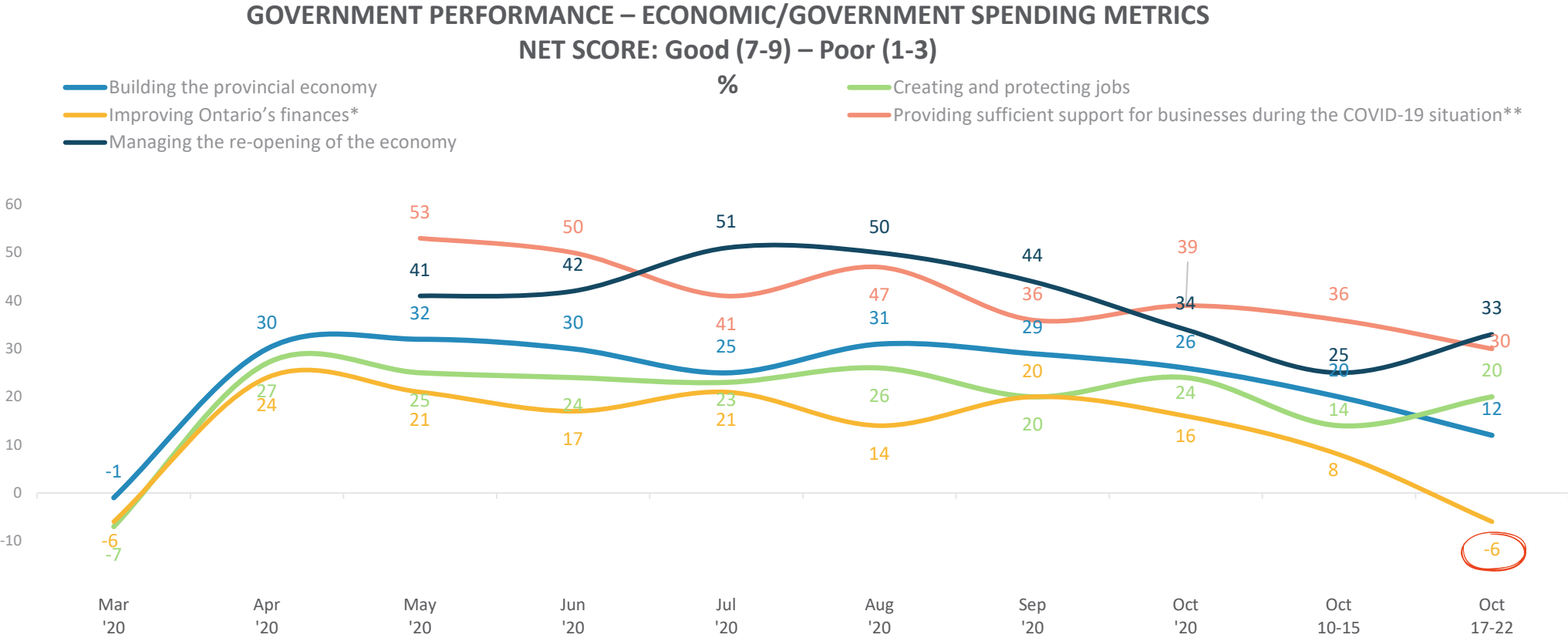


Considering both positive/negative ratings, perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ scores have been steadily improving.



Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following? Bases vary

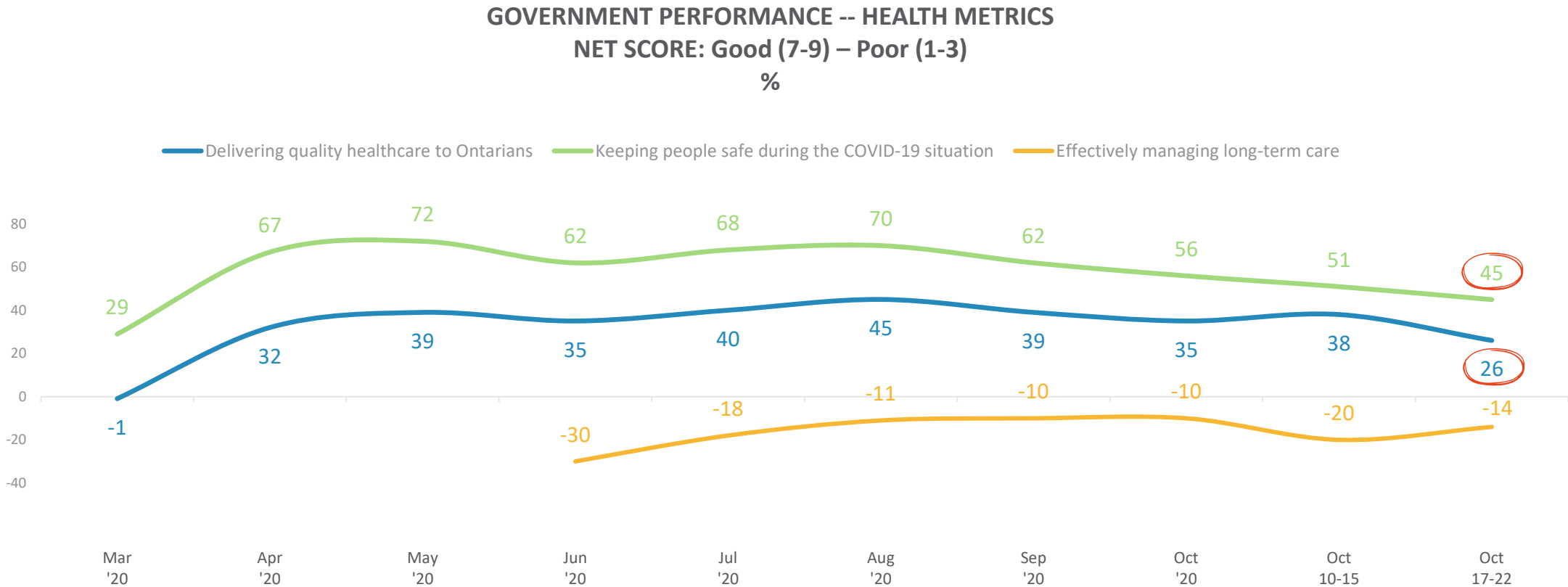
When considering both positive/negative ratings, perceptions of the government’s performance on ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ have really dropped over the past several weeks.



Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”

Bases vary

Again, when considering both positive/negative scores, there has steady erosion in the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ in recent weeks. Plus, there has been a drop in the ratings for ‘delivering quality healthcare.’



Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following? Bases vary