

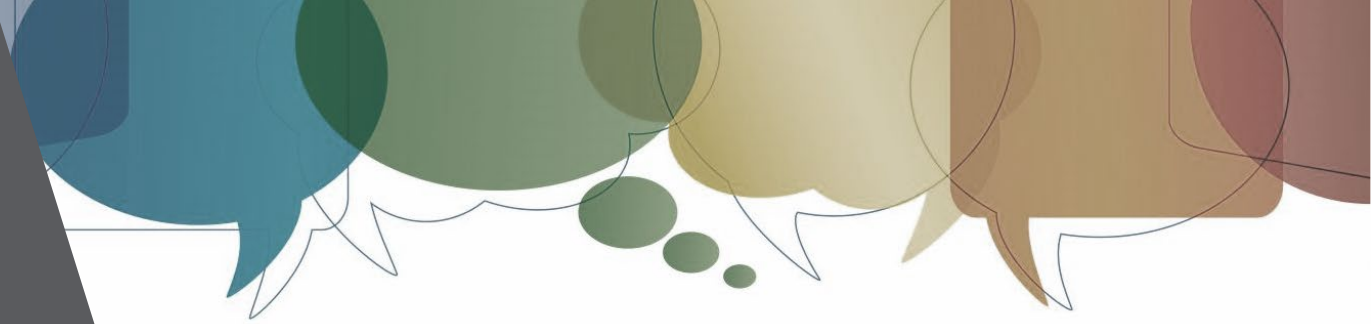


THE
**STRATEGIC
COUNSEL** 25

TORONTO | OTTAWA | CALGARY

www.thestrategiccounsel.com

EXPERIENCE • PASSION • CREATIVITY
CUSTOM SOLUTIONS FOR COMPLEX ISSUES



PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #61

CABINET OFFICE

December 18th 2020



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 Even as the infection rate breaks the glass ceiling of 2,000, the government's 'right track' scores remained stable at 75% over the past week.

However, 'strongly right track' scores have dropped to its lowest level since March.

2 When considering both positive/negative ratings, perceptions of the government's performance continues to drop on most economic metrics. These measures are beginning to get closer to pre-COVID-19 levels.

3 In contrast, there has been a modest improvement in the government's performance on 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' over the past two weeks.

However, it is clear that the performance ratings for this metric have dropped since the summer.

4 The preliminary results suggest that most Ontarians believe that Windsor's decision (in response to rising COVID-19 infections in the City) to close all schools and move all classes to online is appropriate and not an overreaction.

Over the past nine months, we have seen that Ontarians have responded positively to tough measures to protect people's health.

5 The early findings indicate that with the arrival of the vaccine, Ontarians are more optimistic that the end of COVID-19 is near, although there is a significant minority (40%) who say they are not confident the end of the pandemic is nearer.

6 As the vaccine starts to get into people's arms, there is strong interest in obtaining the vaccine.

Moreover, the preliminary results suggest that 75% say it wouldn't make a difference if they had to go to special centres to be vaccinated.

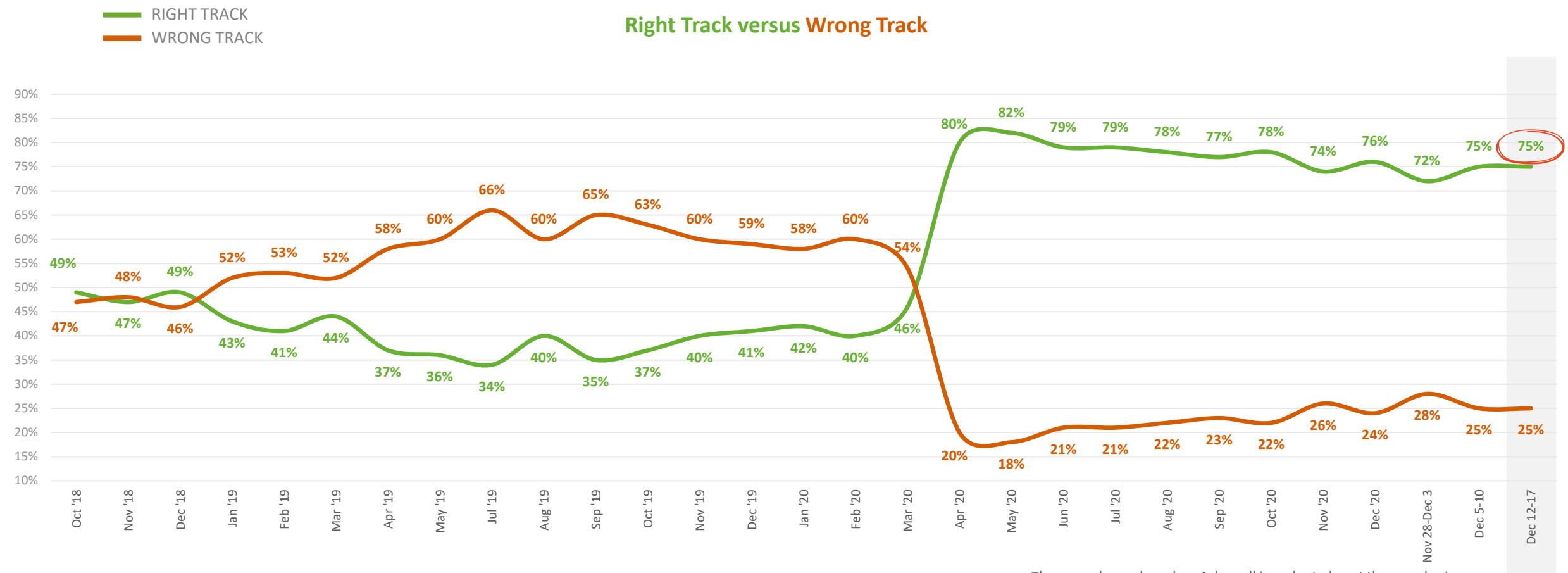
Key Findings

An increasing number of Ontarians will not celebrate the Holiday season with people outside their bubble, although a sizeable minority (17%) say they will celebrate in-person with people they do not live with.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



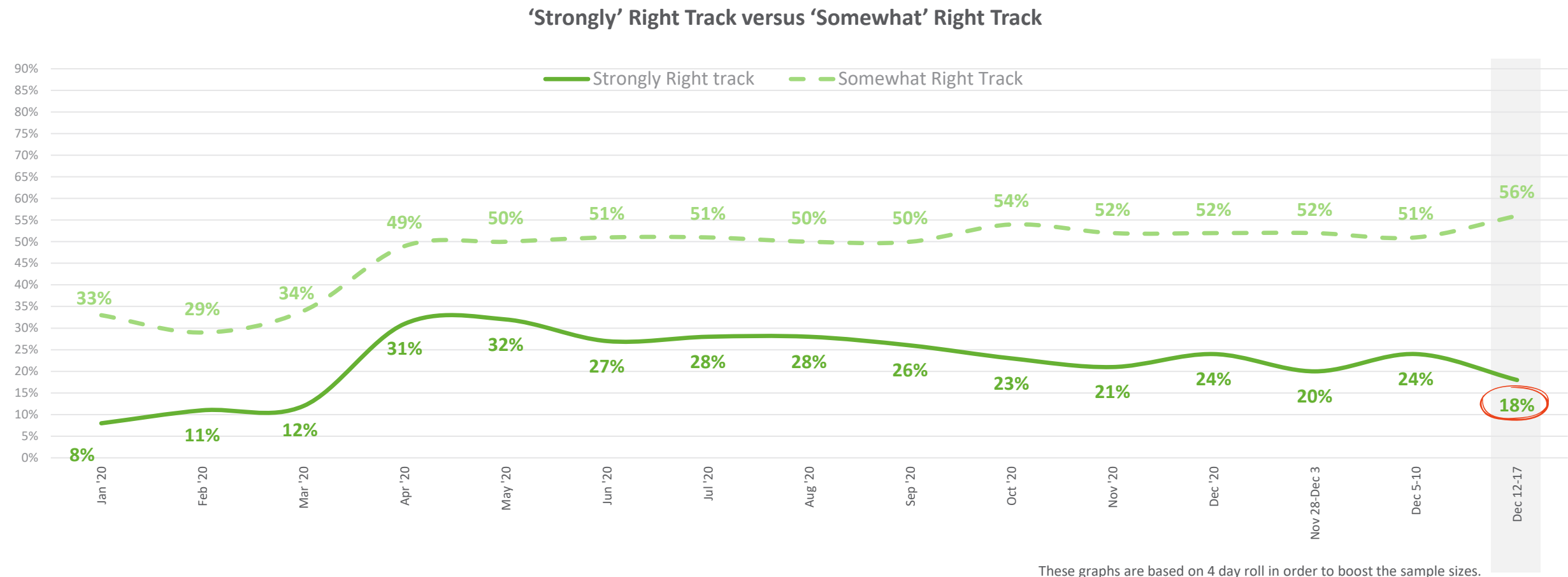
Even as the infection rate broke the glass ceiling of 2,000, the government’s ‘right track’ scores remained stable at 75% over the past week.



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

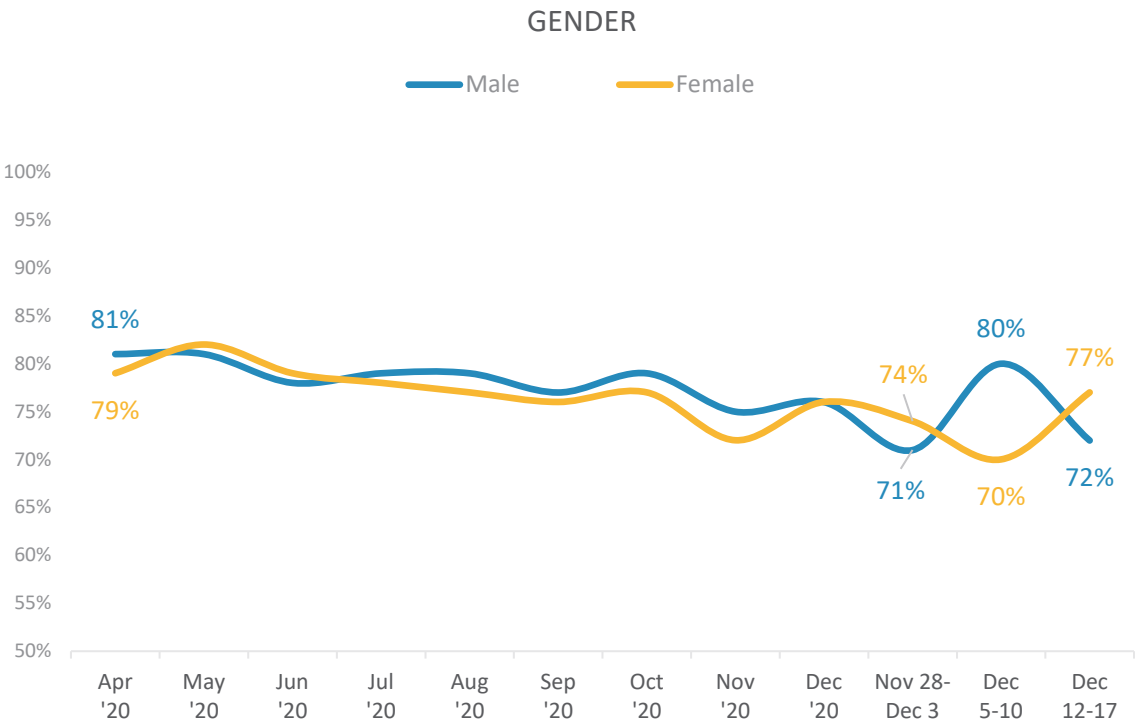
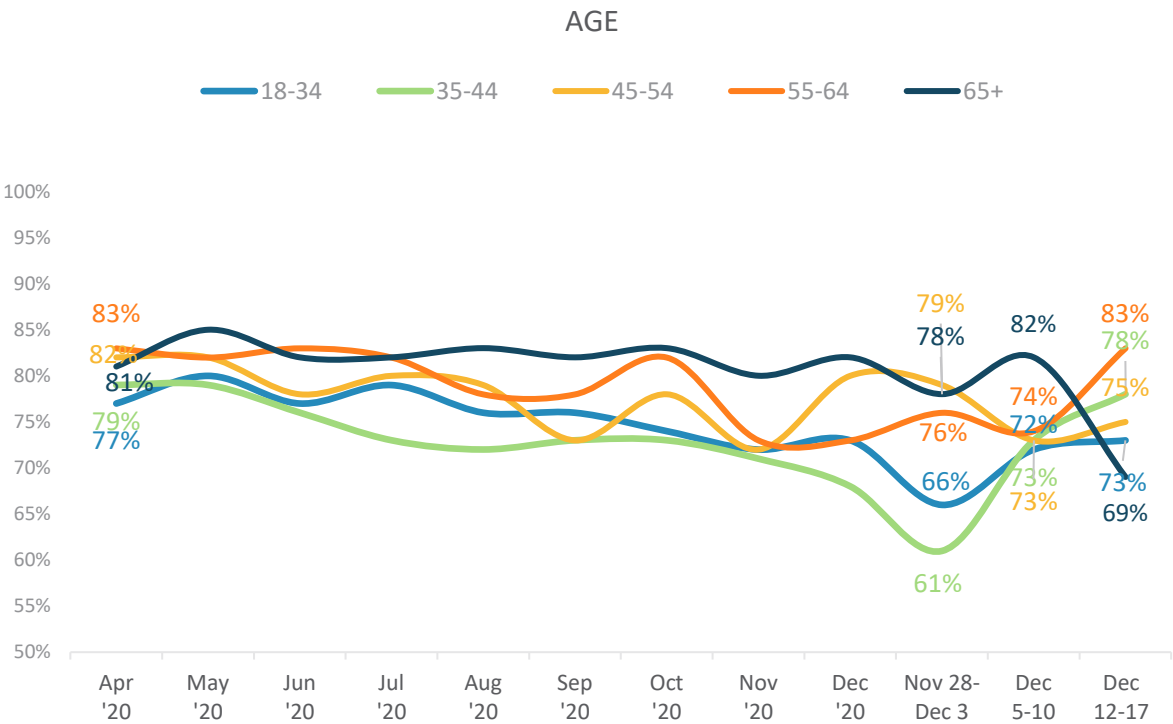
However, the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores weakened to its lowest level since March’20.



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 have increased among women this week, but declined among men.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

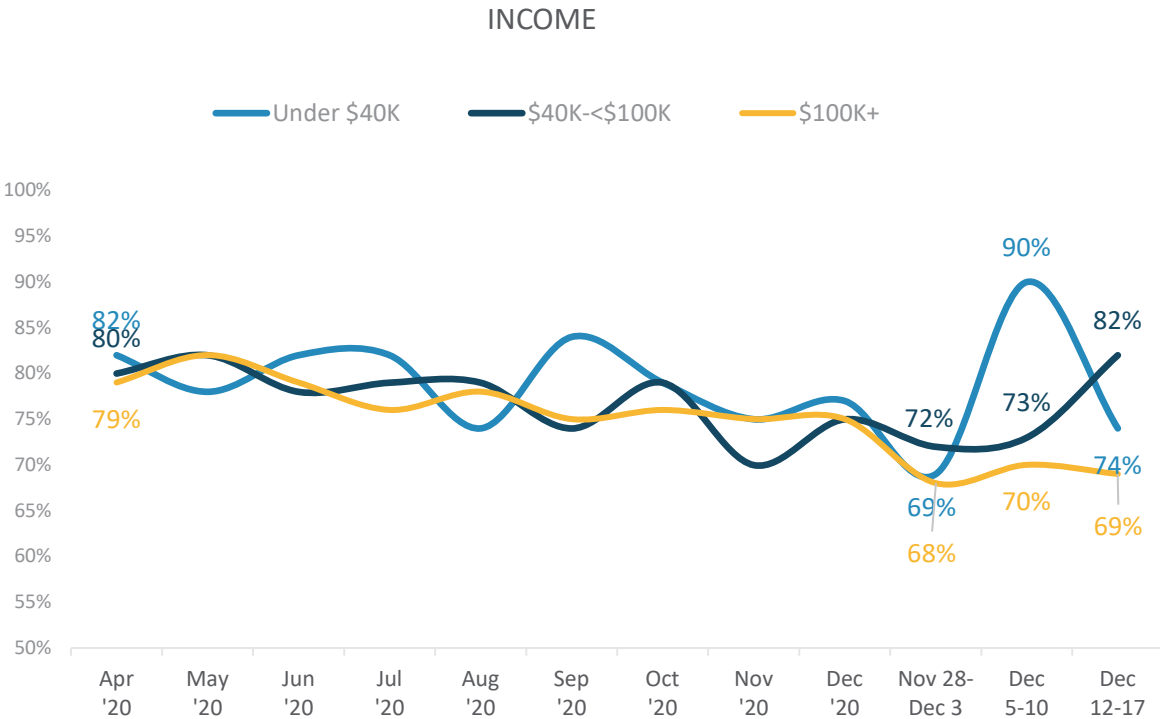
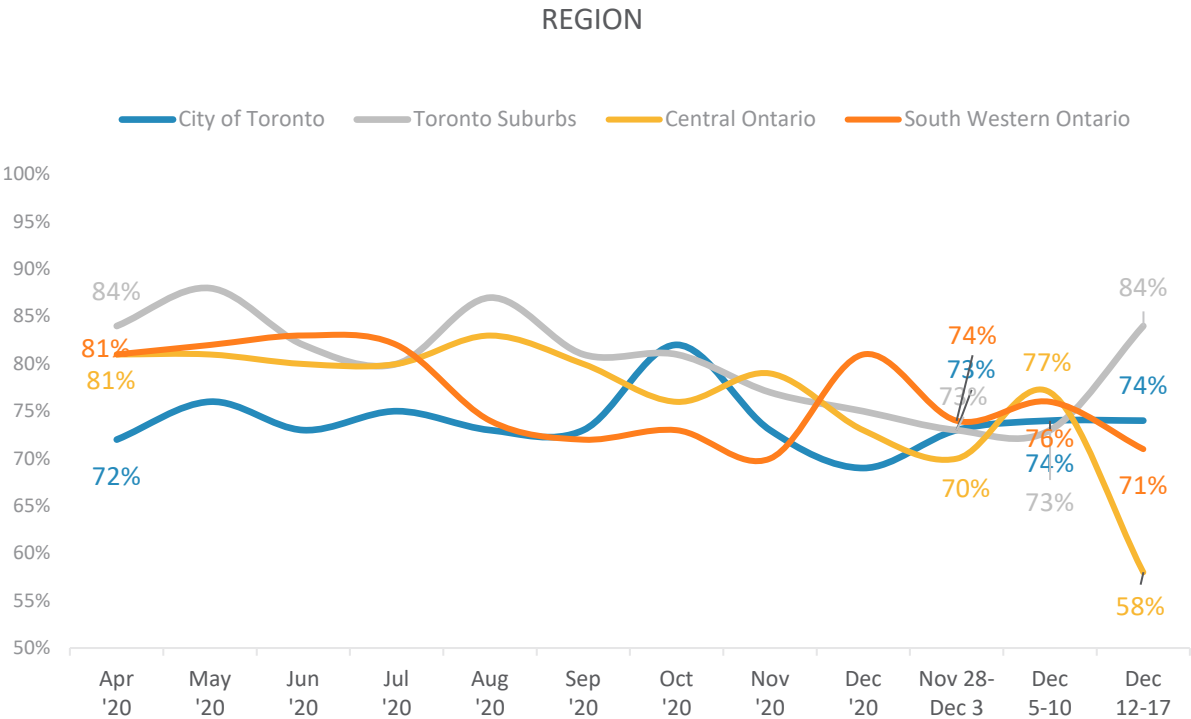


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Over the past three weeks, the ‘right track’ scores have been lowest among those earning >\$100k.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



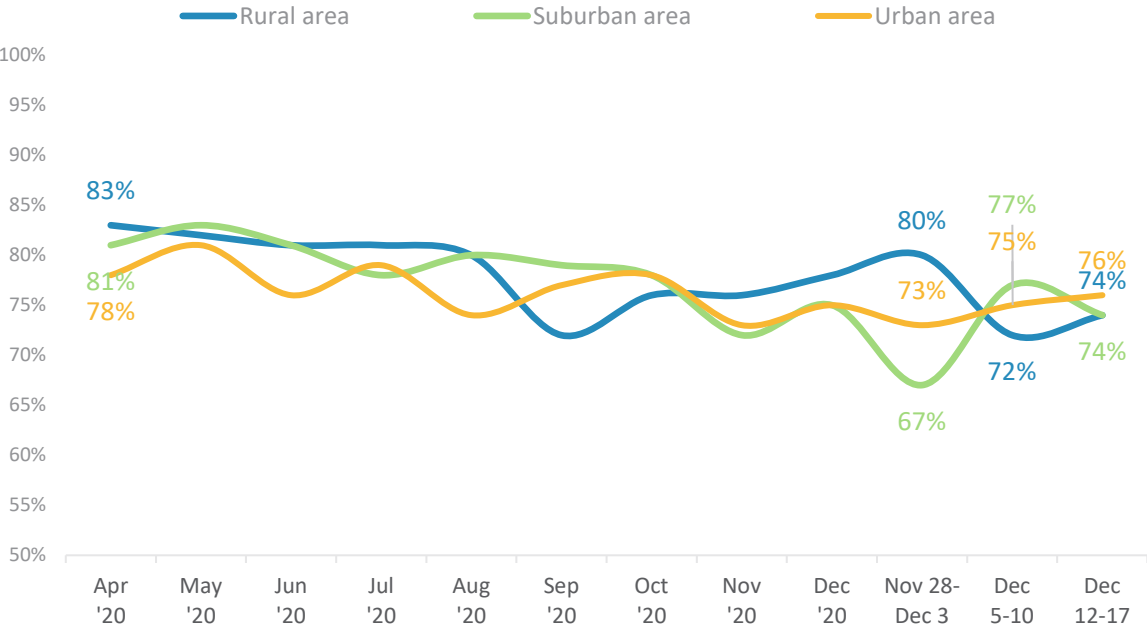
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

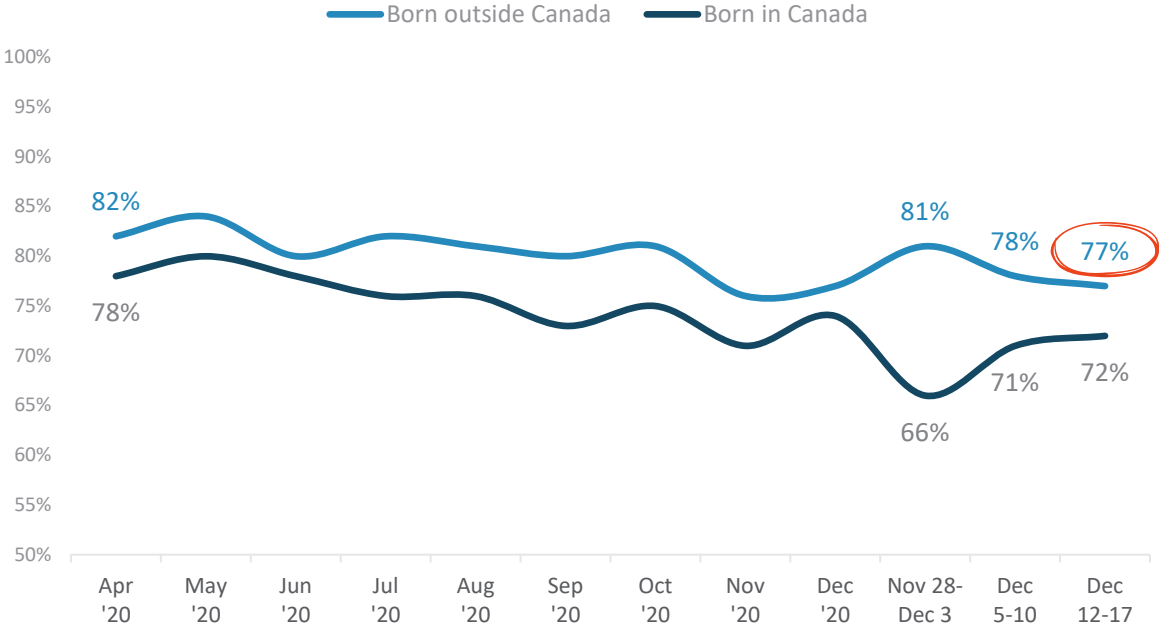
The ‘right track’ scores remained stable this past week among those born outside Canada and remain well above those born in Canada.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



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

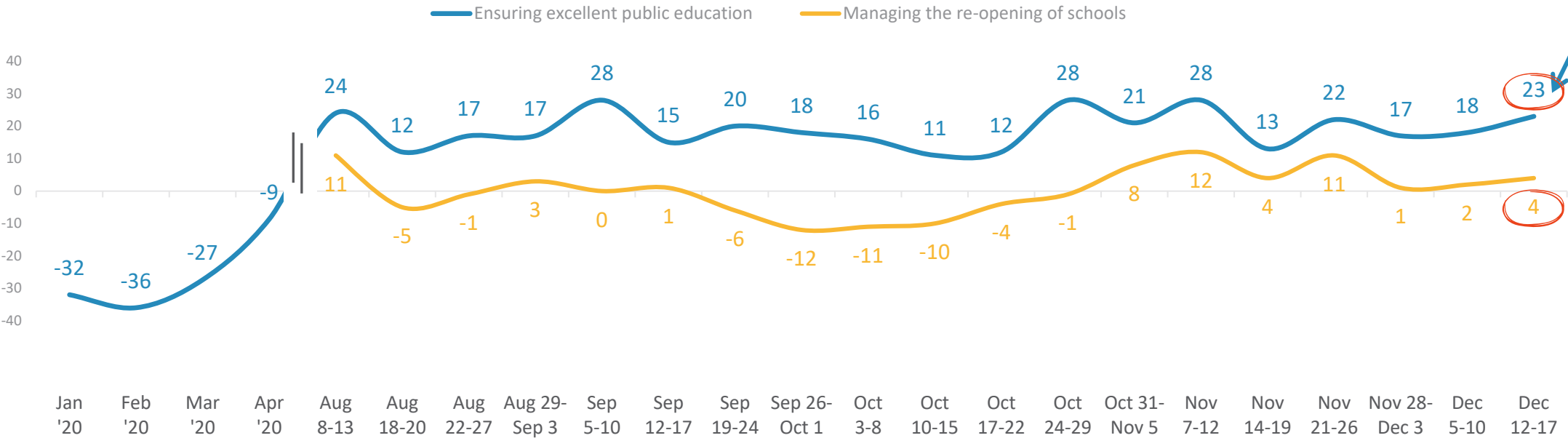
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Considering both positive/negative ratings, perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ and ‘ensuring excellent public education’ continue to remain largely stable.

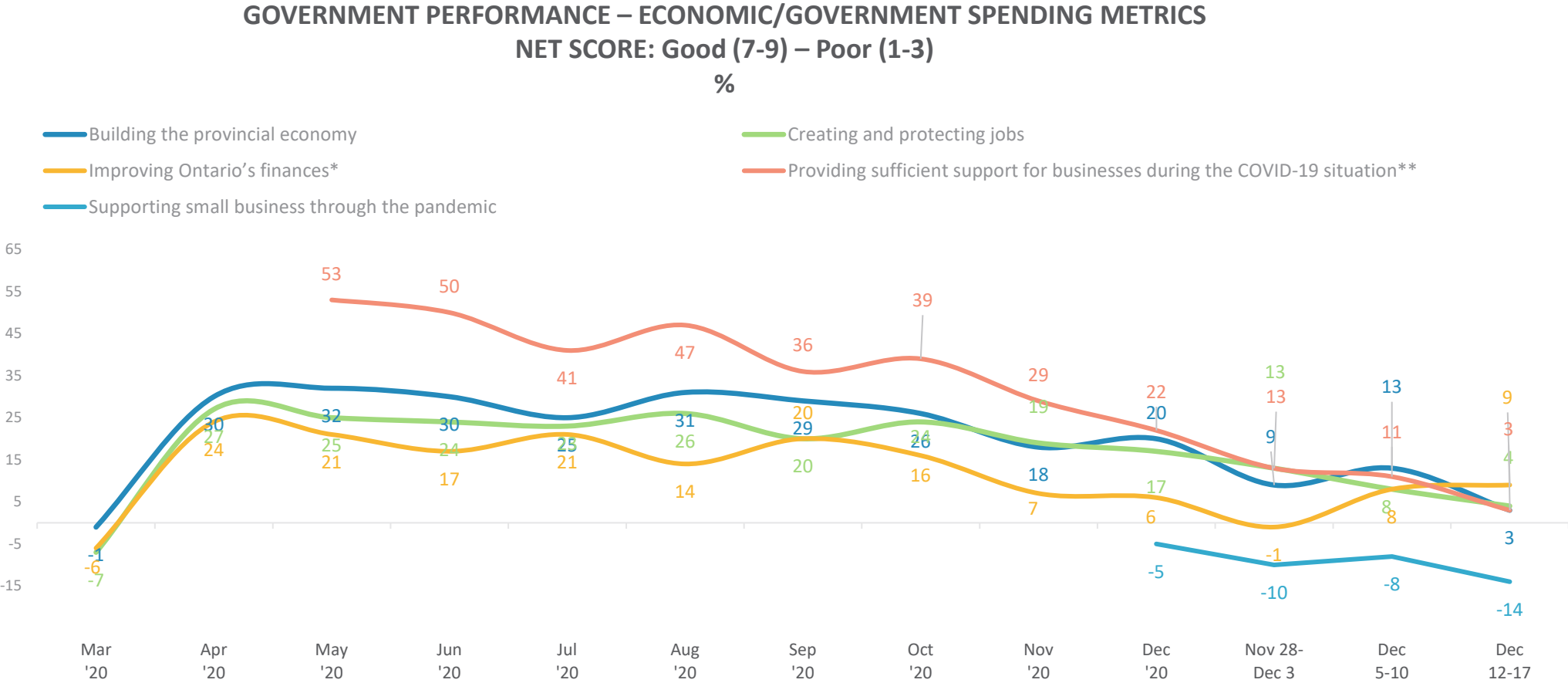
GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE -- EDUCATION METRICS
NET SCORE: Good (7-9) – Poor (1-3)
%



These are Net Scores: Good (7-9) minus Poor (1-3) performance. They are better metrics because both positive/negative scores are considered.

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 continues to drop on most economic metrics. These measures are beginning to get closer to pre-COVID-19 levels.



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?

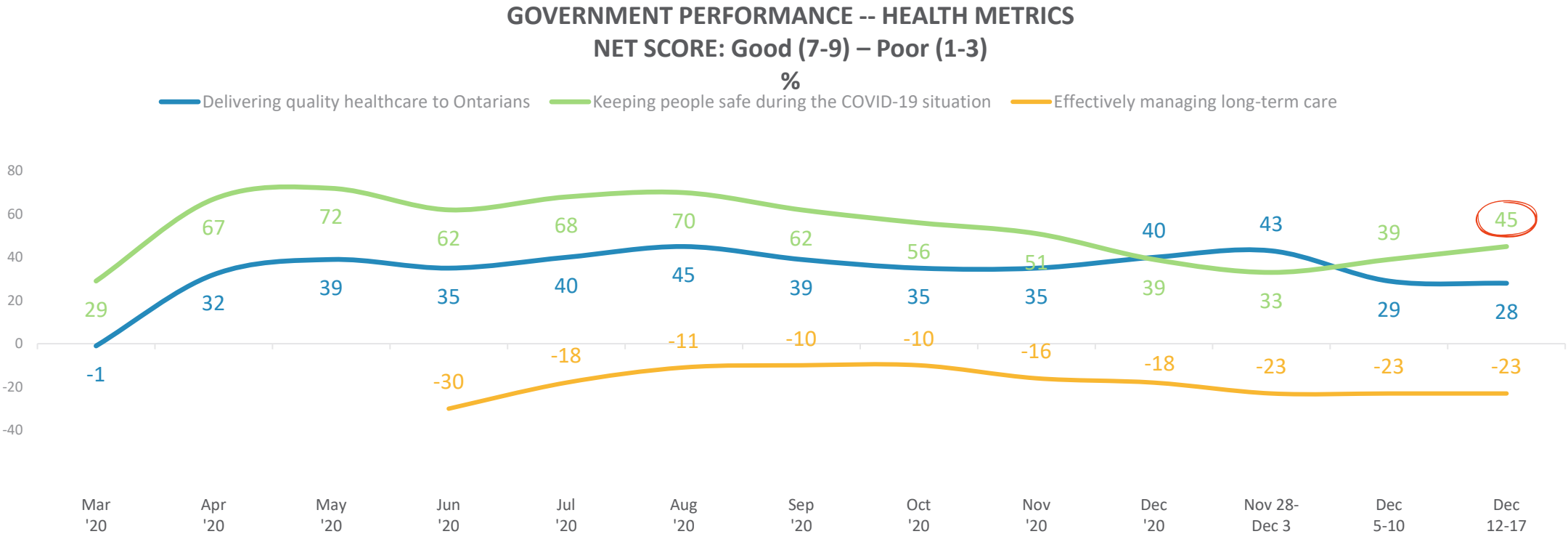
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”

**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”

Bases vary

Moreover, when considering both positive/negative scores, there has been a modest improvement in the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ over the past two weeks.

- However, it is clear that the performance ratings for this metric has dropped since the summer.
- Over the past two weeks, performance scores on ‘delivering quality healthcare’ have declined.

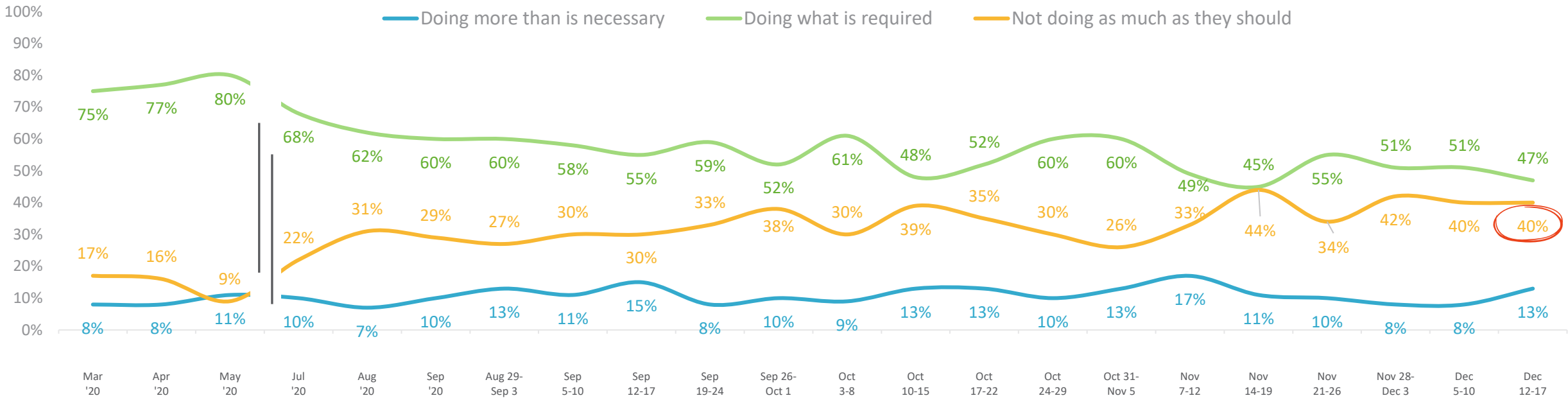


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

This past week, the proportion who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ on COVID-19 remained stable at about 40%.

	Doing what is required																								Not doing as much as they should																							
	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	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	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	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	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17		
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	67%	66%	67%	70%	59%	69%	60%	65%	73%	67%	60%	55%	65%	61%	61%	58%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	20%	21%	16%	23%	33%	25%	29%	26%	16%	18%	25%	34%	28%	32%	32%	29%		
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	35%	30%	23%	27%	29%	22%	16%	19%	26%	39%	10%	18%	20%	24%	21%	15%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	53%	63%	66%	62%	56%	55%	67%	58%	67%	52%	65%	68%	57%	68%	66%	74%		



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 ...

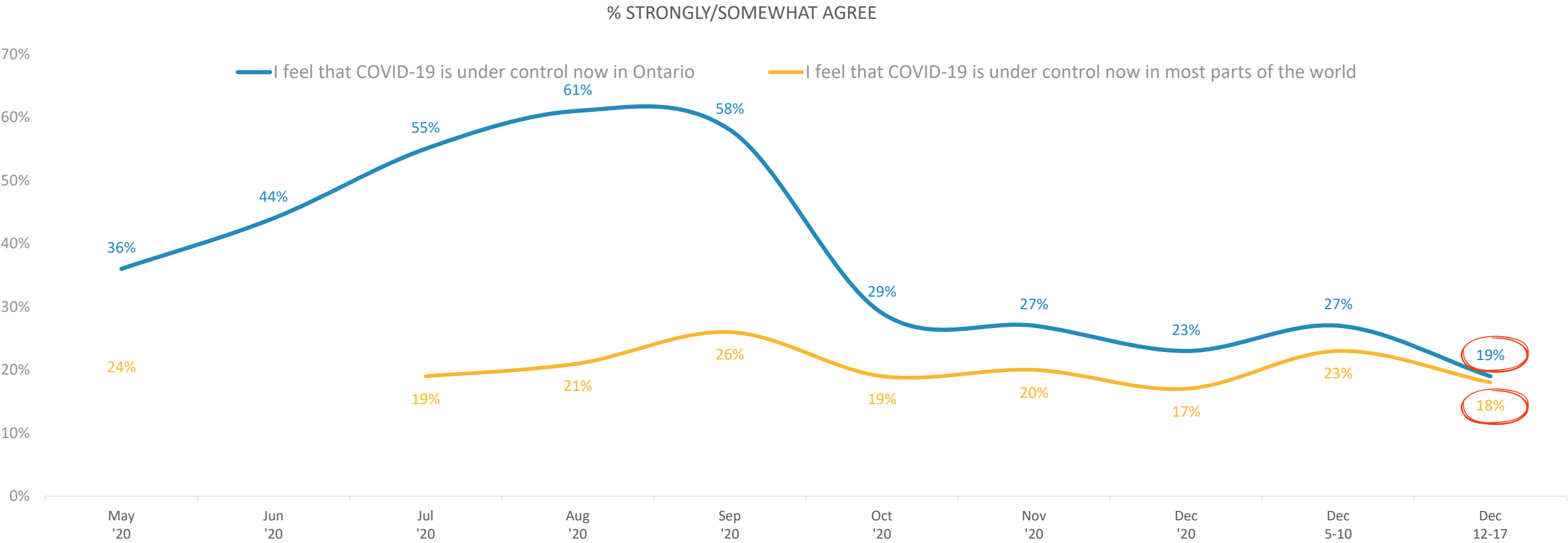
Base: Total sample, base varies

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



PERCEPTIONS ABOUT WHETHER COVID-19 IS UNDER CONTROL

With infection rates climbing quickly this week, and news of the vaccine wears off, there has been a big drop in the proportion who think COVID-19 is getting under control in Ontario, as well as in 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

ATTITUDES TOWARD RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID-19

There continues to be a decline (from 64% in August to 18% this past week) in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now. Ontarians are much more likely to feel a personal threat from the virus.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I think the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now than it was a month ago	58	61	64	54	25	21	17	20	18

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
*Original phrasing: I see people everyday not following the social distancing guidelines
Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians continue to believe they could catch the COVID-19 virus.

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	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	16	11	17	17	20	17	20	25	12	11	23	14
Strongly agree	8	8	6	5	7	6	6	8	12	16	-	4	12	6
Somewhat agree	16	15	9	6	10	12	15	9	9	8	12	7	11	8
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	9	8	11	8	8	5	9	19	7	6
Somewhat disagree	22	25	19	25	28	21	21	24	15	13	17	26	23	29
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	55	45	52	46	50	55	55	57	34	44	49
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	74	81	73	73	67	74	70	68	74	59	67	78
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	<1
Don't know	-	-	-	-	<1	2	2	1	2	2	5	11	4	1

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

Base: Total sample

However, just over 3-in-10 Ontarians don't think they will become seriously ill if they contract the virus.

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	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	30	30	29	37	34	29	26	33	28	32	31
Strongly agree	14	14	12	14	11	12	16	13	14	14	18	7	10	11
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	15	19	17	21	21	15	12	15	21	22	20
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	6	12	8	13	11	10	9	10	8	7	9	9
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	26	15	17	18	18	9	9	13	16	13
Strongly disagree	27	31	44	36	33	41	31	32	36	49	41	42	37	41
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	61	55	58	56	48	49	54	58	50	55	54	55
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Don't know	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	6	6	6	8	10	6	4

AGE:	18-34												35-44												45-54												55-64												65+											
	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31-Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17					
% AGREE	39%	40%	41%	47%	47%	32%	31%	40%	37%	40%	47%	41%	53%	33%	38%	28%	42%	29%	39%	-	50%	33%	27%	25%	29%	31%	36%	32%	29%	25%	20%	43%	56%	21%	21%	19%	42%	29%	28%	17%	40%	-	15%	18%	18%	11%	16%	21%	23%	15%	13%	20%	40%	22%	10%					
% DISAGREE	42%	51%	44%	43%	47%	51%	45%	40%	62%	40%	37%	36%	40%	42%	45%	48%	33%	53%	50%	-	25%	44%	55%	59%	54%	49%	36%	56%	62%	44%	60%	57%	31%	71%	64%	73%	42%	56%	59%	50%	60%	100%	63%	71%	75%	78%	76%	66%	60%	69%	79%	70%	50%	70%	82%					

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

Base: Total sample

Not surprisingly, Ontarians continue to disagree with the idea that COVID-19 is not a serious public health issue. The intensity of the rejection is also strong.

I don't believe COVID 19 is as serious a pandemic as it has been made out to be

	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	21	19	22	15	17	24	21
Strongly agree	12	11	12	8	9	11	12
Somewhat agree	9	8	10	8	8	14	9
Neither agree nor disagree	3	4	2	4	4	3	-
Somewhat disagree	12	12	7	9	12	13	12
Strongly disagree	63	63	69	69	64	59	67
TOTAL DISAGREE	75	74	76	78	77	72	79
Don't know	1	2	-	2	2	1	-

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

A majority of Ontarians say they have not lost faith in the decisions about COVID by public health leaders. However, this remains lower compared to a month ago.

I have lost faith in the decisions made about COVID by public health leaders

	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	26	30	39	38	31	34
Strongly agree	12	17	15	20	17	17	13
Somewhat agree	15	9	15	19	21	13	21
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	2	10	11	12	3
Somewhat disagree	27	23	22	21	10	29	32
Strongly disagree	41	44	43	31	38	27	30
TOTAL DISAGREE	68	66	66	52	48	57	62
Not applicable	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	2	2	2	-	3	1	1

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

Base: Total sample

IS ONTARIO READY
FOR THE SECOND
WAVE?



There has been a gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government’s handling of the second wave: early November 51% said ‘excellent/good’; now only 32% express this view.

	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29
Prefer not to answer/Don’t know	-	1	2	1	1	<1	<1

QCV-127B. Overall how has the Ontario Government done in handling the second wave of COVID 19? Has it done an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job? (Previous phrasing) Overall how good or poor a job has the Ontario Government done in handling the second wave of COVID 19? Has it done an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job?

Base: Total sample

DID ALL IT COULD OR COULD HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY

Similarly, about 6-in-10 think the government ‘could have acted differently’ in dealing with the pandemic.

	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All it could reasonably be expected to do	44	52	47	44	43	45	47	39	33	34	37	37
Could have acted differently	55	47	53	55	56	52	49	56	63	59	60	62
Don't know/Not sure	1	1	<1	2	1	2	3	5	4	6	3	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	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
Right Track	52%	61%	55%	49%	56%	54%	58%	46%	39%	44%	43%	45%	46%	37%	44%	49%	44%	43%	39%	47%	57%	50%	54%	53%
Wrong Track	12%	14%	22%	27%	17%	19%	10%	15%	10%	9%	19%	12%	88%	86%	78%	72%	81%	80%	86%	84%	87%	83%	78%	88%

QCV-130. 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	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	16	21	21	24	24	22	17	23	17	24	26	24
Strongly agree	5	8	7	12	12	11	5	13	10	10	13	10
Somewhat agree	11	14	13	12	12	12	12	10	8	14	12	14
Neither agree nor disagree	4	7	5	5	6	4	2	5	6	2	5	2
Somewhat disagree	21	24	24	20	21	21	16	13	17	19	18	19
Strongly disagree	58	47	50	49	47	52	64	57	54	52	49	55
TOTAL DISAGREE	79	71	73	70	68	72	80	70	71	72	68	74
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	3	1	1

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

IMPOSE SEVERE LOCKDOWN OR REGIONAL LOCKDOWNS

Ontarians continue to lean against another severe lockdown. However, there continues to be a large proportion of Ontarians who would like to see a severe lockdown even if that means damage to the economy.

	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Some people say that Ontario will have to go back to a severe lockdown in all regions, even if this significantly damages the economy/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	34	24	30	40	39	35	39	36
Other people say, we should deal with it by outbreak on a community by community basis, and not province wide so the economic recovery can continue, even if there is a risk of more infections. /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	63	71	68	54	56	58	60	62
Don't know/Not sure	2	1	<1	5	3	5	3	5	4	7	2	2

	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	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
Right Track	32%	28%	24%	31%	30%	21%	27%	39%	40%	34%	36%	36%	66%	70%	75%	66%	68%	74%	71%	55%	57%	62%	63%	63%
Wrong Track	36%	36%	42%	35%	41%	31%	40%	43%	39%	39%	48%	36%	57%	64%	58%	56%	54%	61%	56%	51%	54%	46%	50%	60%

QCV-132. If the increase in COVID 19 infections continues, thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



About 1-in-2 continue to believe that the overall public health approach may create more negative mental health/job impacts than COVID related illness and deaths.

The overall public health approach taken to COVID-19 has led to jobs lost, companies going out of business and a mental-health impact due to stress.

This is worse than the number of deaths and serious illness caused by COVID-19.

	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	40	46	51	52	55	50	49
Strongly agree	20	28	36	32	38	27	30
Somewhat agree	20	18	14	20	17	23	19
Neither agree nor disagree	10	6	5	13	15	8	10
Somewhat disagree	26	18	13	9	16	16	18
Strongly disagree	23	26	26	25	11	25	22
TOTAL DISAGREE	49	44	39	33	27	41	40
Not applicable	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Don't know	1	3	4	1	3	1	1

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

Base: Total sample

There has been a gradual, but significant, drop since July (from 79% in July to 59% this past week) in the proportion of Ontarians who say they see people not following the public health guidelines.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I see people everyday not following public health guidelines, like physical distancing and mask-wearing*	76	79	74	69	71	69	66	64	62	-	-	59

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
*Original phrasing: I see people everyday not following the social distancing guidelines
Base: Total sample

The preliminary results suggest that most Ontarians believe that Windsor’s decision (in response to rising COVID-19 infections in the City) to close all schools and move all classes to online is appropriate.

	Dec 12-17
n=	300
	%
Appropriate reaction	73
An overreaction	24
Don’t know/not sure	3

QCV-170. As you may have heard, in response an increasing number of COVID infections the city, Windsor has made the decision to close all schools, and move all classes from kindergarten to grade 12 to virtual, online learning.
Considering the COVID-19 situation in Windsor, and the decision to close all schools in the city, do you believe this response is...

Base: Total sample

MASK WEARING PERCEPTIONS



FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

Reflecting the increasing concerns about the number of rising infections, wearing masks or face coverings ‘all of the time’ remains a standard practice for most Ontarians.

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	90	92
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	72	72
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	18	20
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	7	6
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	3	2
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	<1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	3	2

REGIONS	City of Toronto				Toronto Suburbs				Hamilton				Central Ontario				South Western Ontario				Northern Ontario				Eastern Ontario				Ottawa			
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	97%	95%	89%	90%	94%	92%	86%	90%	95%	97%	83%	90%	87%	86%	86%	87%	83%	91%	89%	91%	83%	93%	92%	88%	94%	86%	87%	86%	75%	89%

	RIGHT TRACK				WRONG TRACK			
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	91%	92%	82%	83%	85%	89%

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

A majority of Ontarians continue to not support the protests over mask wearing.

Those protesting mask wearing and other pandemic restrictions have my support

	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	28	30	29	42	28
Strongly agree	21	25	23	33	20
Somewhat agree	7	6	5	9	8
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	2	1	3
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	8	8
Strongly disagree	66	64	60	49	61
TOTAL DISAGREE	70	67	67	57	69
Don't know	<1	-	2	-	-

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

VACCINE



The early results indicate that with the arrival of the vaccine, Ontarians are more optimistic that the end of COVID-19 is near, although there is a significant minority (40%) who say they are not confident the end of the pandemic is nearer.

- Those who think the government is on the ‘right track’ are more likely to be confident that the COVID-19 vaccine will bring an end to the pandemic compared to those who think the government is on the ‘wrong track’.

I am confident the end of COVID-19 is near now that it appears a vaccine is nearly ready

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	38	38
Strongly agree	12	15	14
Somewhat agree	23	24	24
Neither agree nor disagree	10	10	12
Somewhat disagree	18	20	22
Strongly disagree	32	30	25
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	50	47
Don't know	5	2	3

I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that a vaccine is ready and being used

Dec 12-17
varies
%
53
19
34
5
19
21
40
2

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

Not surprisingly, Ontarians continue to follow, with a high degree of intensity, the announcements on vaccines against COVID-19.

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	150	300	300	196
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CLOSELY	78	77	87	88
Very closely	46	42	48	52
Somewhat closely	33	35	39	36
Not very closely	13	15	8	8
Not at all	7	8	4	4
TOTAL NOT VERY CLOSELY/NOT AT ALL	20	23	12	12
Don't know/not sure	2	<1	1	<1

QCV-160. As you may know, there has been a series of announcements on vaccines against the COVID-19 virus. How closely are you following the news about these new vaccines?

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians believe that frontline health workers should be first in line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The next three groups should be people over 70 years old, people living in long-term care homes, and those with underlying health issues.

- Priority for people living in long-term care homes and teachers receiving the vaccine have risen over the past four weeks, while it has declined for essential retail workers and those over the age of 18.

All Mentions				
	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	150	300	300	199
	%	%	%	%
Frontline health workers	87	89	94	96
People over 70 years old	65	59	65	63
People living in long-term care homes	33	40	52	54
People with underlying health issues	49	53	43	40
Essential retail workers such as those working in grocery and drug stores	33	25	17	17
Teachers	10	12	11	17
All Ontarians over the age of 18	17	20	14	10
Restaurant and bar workers	3	1	2	2
Non-essential retail workers such as those working in clothing and electronic stores, among others	3	2	2	2

QCV-161. Once the vaccine for COVID-19 is available, the Ontario government will be responsible for distributing the vaccine. In your opinion, which group of people should be prioritized to get the vaccine first? Who should be given second priority? Third priority?

Base: Total sample

Many Ontarians are likely to take the COVID-19 vaccine if given the opportunity to take it. Just over 1-in-2 say they would ‘very’ likely take it.

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	150	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL LIKELY	70	71	78	73
Very likely	50	44	54	53
Somewhat likely	20	27	25	20
Somewhat unlikely	13	9	9	7
Very unlikely	12	15	11	19
TOTAL UNLIKELY	24	24	20	26
Don't know/not sure	6	5	1	1

QCV-162. If you are given an opportunity to take the COVID-19 vaccine, would you be very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or not very likely take it?

Base: Total sample

Given this, it is not surprising to see that many Ontarians believe the COVID-19 vaccine will be safe. Only 17% this past week say it won't be safe.

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	150	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SAFE	75	72	79	78
Very safe	34	26	36	35
Somewhat safe	41	46	42	43
Not very safe	5	9	5	10
Not at all safe	6	6	5	7
TOTAL NOT SAFE	11	14	11	17
Don't know/not sure	13	14	11	5

QCV-162. (163) Do you believe the COVID-19 vaccine would be very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, or not at all safe for people to take?

Base: Total sample

The preliminary results suggest that 75% say it wouldn't make a difference if they had to go to special centres to be vaccinated.

	Dec 12-17
n=	240
	%
A lot less likely to get the vaccine	5
A little less likely	19
Won't make any difference	75
Don't know/not sure	1

QCV-169. The first vaccines available in Ontario will not initially be available through places like doctor's offices or pharmacies. In order to get the vaccine people will have to travel to special vaccination centres such as in hospitals. Will the fact you will have to travel to a vaccination centre to get the COVID vaccine make you....?

Base: Very likely, somewhat likely or somewhat unlikely at QCV-162

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS DURING COVID-19



The preliminary findings suggest that 58% of Ontarians claim knowledge of government support for small business impacted by COVID-19 health restrictions.

	Dec 12-17
n=	300
	%
TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME	58
A great deal	9
Some	49
Not too much	27
None at all	9
TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NONE AT ALL	35
Don't know/not sure	7

QCV-164. Overall, and to the best of your knowledge, how much support has the Ontario government provided to small business and especially those impacted by the public health restrictions?

Base: Total sample

The preliminary results indicate that Ontarians believe that these programs are helpful to small business.

% VERY/SOMEWHAT HELPFUL	Dec 12-17
n=	300
	%
Working with the federal government, providing a commercial rent relief program to small businesses between April and September.	88
One-time grants for small businesses to offset the costs of associated with procuring personal protective equipment or PPE.	83
A program that offers rebates for fixed business costs like property tax and energy bills.	80
Allowing municipalities to provide targeted property tax relief for small businesses by 2022–2023.	78

QCV-168. Starting in April, the government of Ontario provided specific programs to assist small businesses who were faced with restrictions and slowdowns because of COVID-19. How helpful do you feel each of these programs has been to small businesses?

Base: A great deal, some or not too much at QCV-164

HOLIDAY SEASON CELEBRATIONS



PLANS TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Most Ontarians continue not to plan to gather with friends and family (those outside their bubble) to celebrate the Holiday season. However, there is a relatively smaller group who plan to celebrate the Holiday season with people outside their bubble.

I plan to celebrate the Holiday season this year by forgetting about COVID-19 for a few days and gathering with family and friends I do not live with

	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	15	13	19	13	11
Strongly agree	8	8	10	5	6
Somewhat agree	7	6	9	8	5
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	5	6	2
Somewhat disagree	12	11	12	11	15
Strongly disagree	65	66	64	68	68
TOTAL DISAGREE	77	78	76	78	83
Don't know	2	2	1	2	4

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

An increasing number of Ontarians will not celebrate the Holiday season with people outside their bubble, although a sizeable minority (17%) say they will celebrate in-person with people they do not live with.

	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Celebrate in-person with people you do not live with	22	21	20	17	17
Celebrate in-person only with the people who live in your immediate household	72	74	74	79	80
Don't know/Not sure	5	6	6	3	3

QCV-157. The Holiday season is approaching. Which of the following are you most likely to do over the Holiday season?

Base: Total sample

Many Ontarians increasingly indicate they will not celebrate the Holiday season in the usual manner. However, there is about 18% who think otherwise.

I plan to celebrate the Holiday season this year in the way I usually do

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	24	22	23	18
Strongly agree	17	11	10	12
Somewhat agree	7	11	14	6
Neither agree nor disagree	2	5	3	2
Somewhat disagree	13	15	13	15
Strongly disagree	57	55	57	65
TOTAL DISAGREE	69	71	70	80
Not applicable	-	-	-	1
Don't know	5	2	3	-

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

Base: Total sample

Virtually all Ontarians envision a quieter Holiday season. Ontarians recognize that this will be a different Holiday season.

I plan a much quieter Holiday season than normal

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	89	84	91	88
Strongly agree	75	63	76	80
Somewhat agree	14	21	15	8
Neither agree nor disagree	3	4	4	4
Somewhat disagree	2	3	2	2
Strongly disagree	4	8	3	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	6	11	5	8
Not applicable	-	-	-	-
Don't know	1	1	-	-

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

Base: Total sample

LIKELIHOOD TO FOLLOW THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

Ontarians overwhelmingly continue to say they will likely follow the advice of the provincial government to only celebrate the December holidays with the people they live with.

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL LIKELY	84	78	86	87
Very likely	70	64	68	72
Somewhat likely	14	14	18	15
Not too likely	7	11	6	5
Not at all likely	7	9	7	7
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	14	20	13	12
Don't know/not sure	2	2	1	1

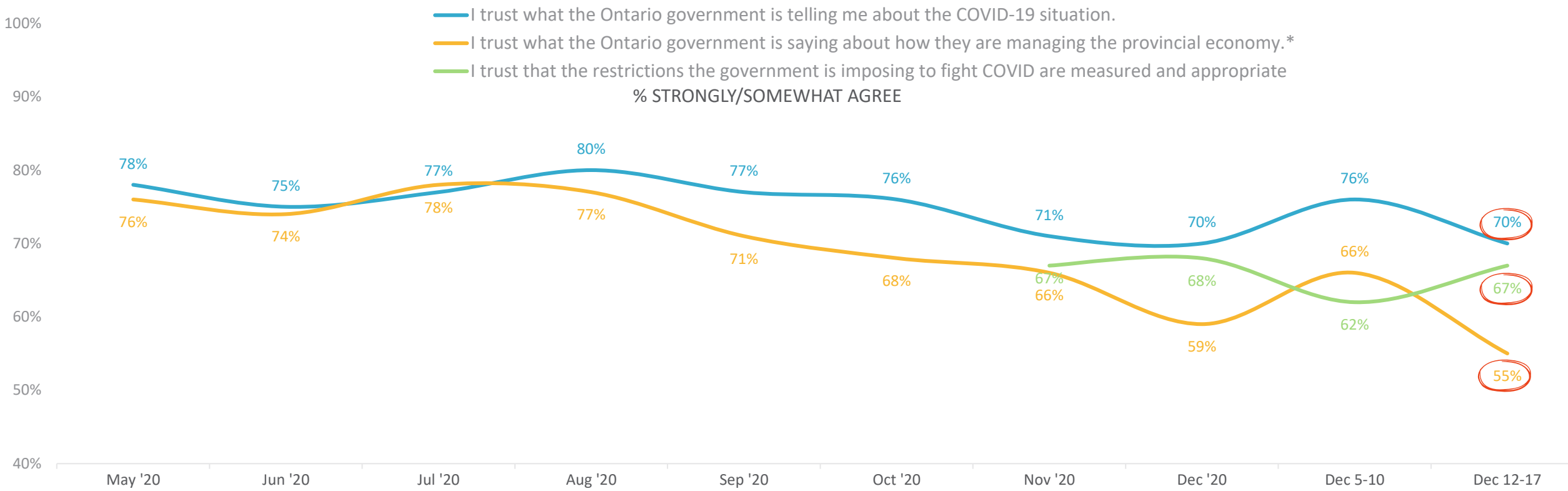
QCV-158. The Ontario Government is strongly recommending that people celebrate the December holidays only with the people they live with. How likely are you to follow this advice?

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



This week, Ontarians are less likely to trust communications about COVID-19 and the provincial economy, while having more trust the COVID-19 restrictions will be measured and appropriate.

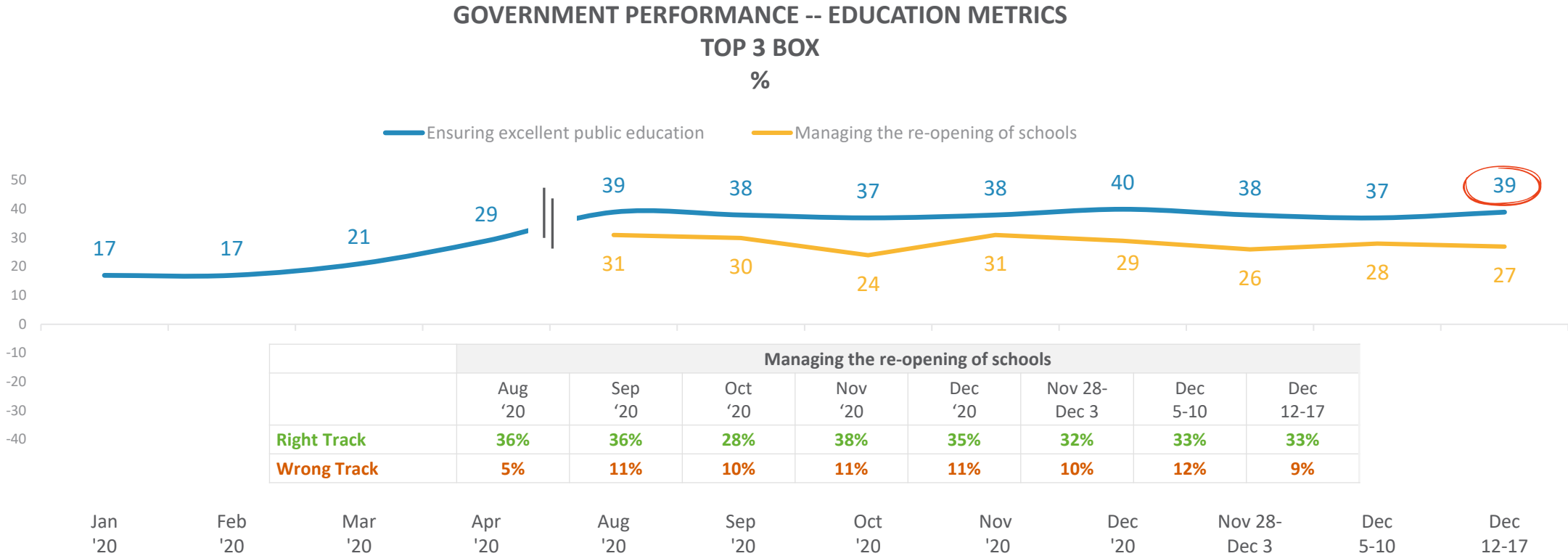


QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
* Previous phrasing: I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they are re-opening the provincial economy. /I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they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

APPENDIX

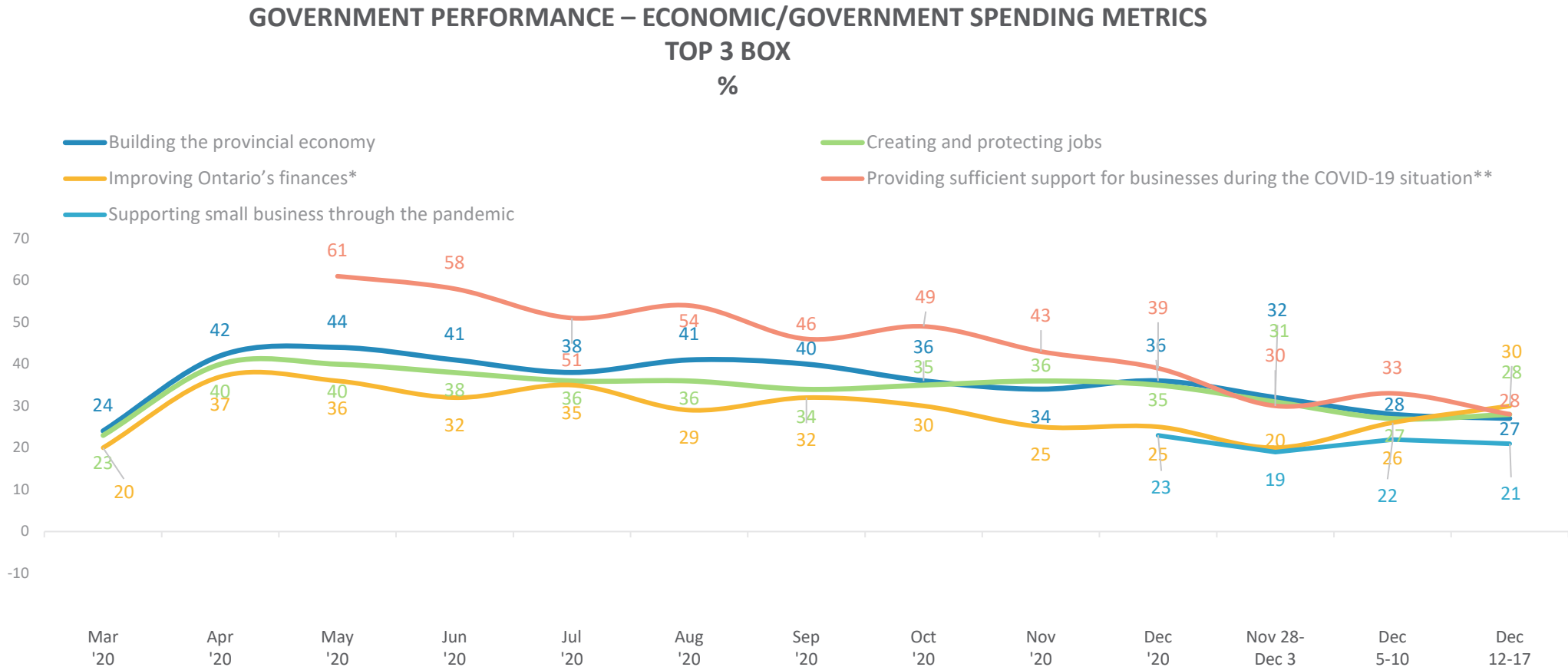


Positive perceptions toward ‘ensuring excellent public education’ and ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ continue to remain stable.



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?
Bases vary

Positive perceptions have been gradually dropping on most economic metrics since August. Over the past week, perceptions on ‘improving Ontario finances’ have improved slightly.



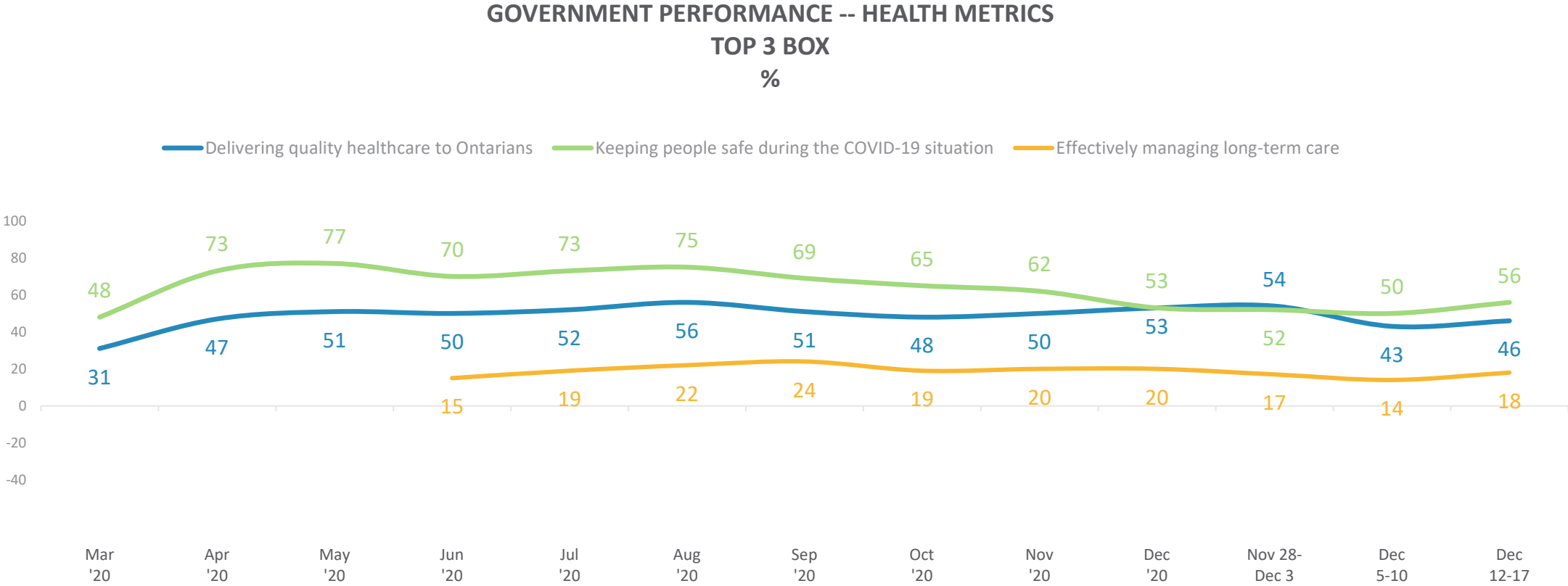
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”

**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”

Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance have increased on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’. Positive perceptions on ‘managing long-term care’ and ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ are stable over the past week.



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