

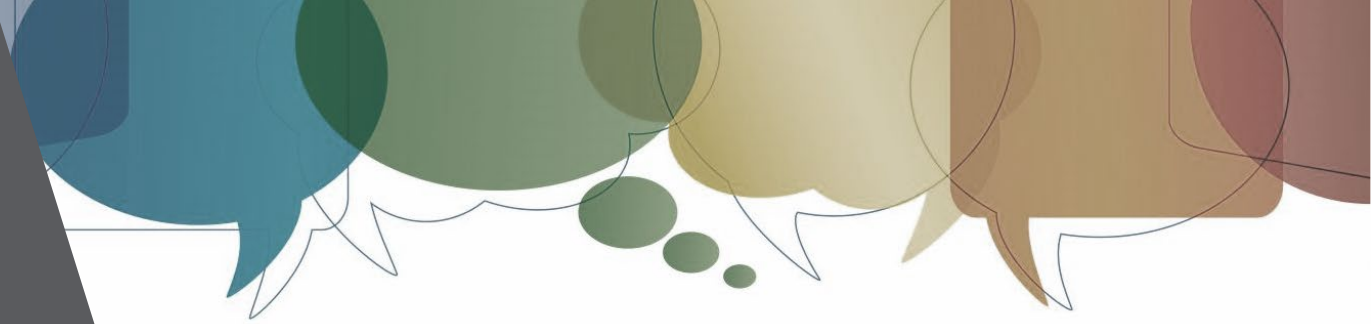


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #62

CABINET OFFICE

December 24th 2020



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores have dropped over the past 6 days to 65% (to 64% over the past three days since the province-wide shutdown announcement). This is the lowest 'right track' since the Pre-COVID-19 period.

Paralleling this decline is the weakening of the government's 'strongly right track' scores over the past two weeks.

These declines in 'right track' are evident in virtually all demographic sub-groups.

4 In addition, perceptions toward economic considerations have either plateaued or improved over the past week after several months of gradual decline.

2 Despite the softening 'right track' scores, Ontarians' trust in the government's communications about COVID-19 and the provincial economy has increased. The level of trust the COVID-19 restrictions will be measured and appropriate remains stable.

5 With the announcement of a province-wide shutdown, Ontarians are more likely this past week to want a province-wide lockdown. There was a drop in the proportion of Ontarians who prefer the regional approach.

Moreover, there has been an increase in the number of Ontarians who think the pandemic is under control since the announcement on Monday.

3 Even though there has been drop in 'right track' scores, government's performance scores on 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' remains relatively stable, while views on 'delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians' and 'managing long-term care' have improved.

6 Taken all together, there are mixed signals emerging from this week's report as the province heads into the Holiday Season. On the one hand, 'right track' scores have dropped 10 points.

But, on the other hand, there are positive signals on several fronts: economic metrics have stabilized or improved, health measures remain relatively strong, trust in government messaging has rebounded, and support for a province-wide shutdown has increased.

Key Findings

7 With the arrival of multiple vaccines, 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.

8 Not surprisingly, Ontarians continue to follow, with a high degree of intensity, the announcements on vaccines against COVID-19. Interest in the vaccine is clearly intensifying over the past several weeks.

9 Importantly, Ontarians are increasingly inclined to believe the COVID-19 vaccine will be safe. Only 15% this past week say it won't be safe.

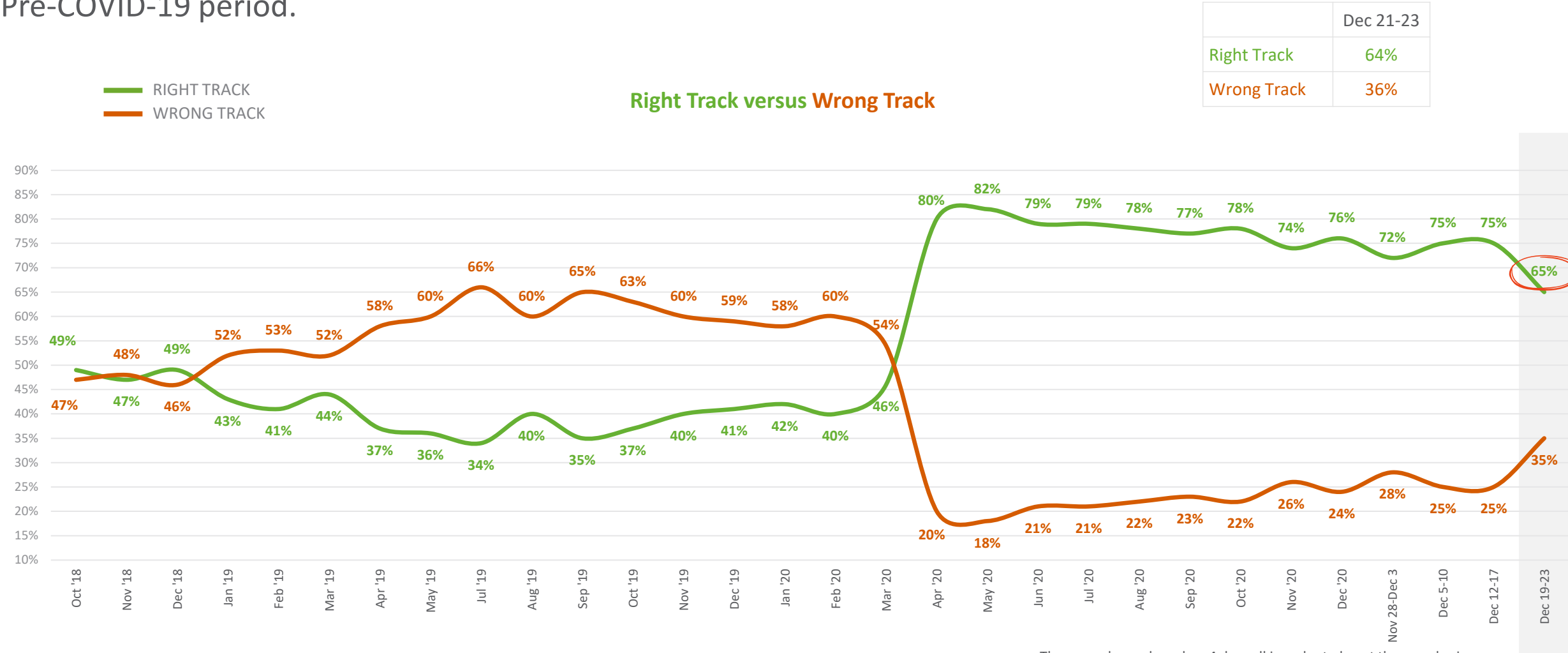
10 Most Ontarians are likely to take the COVID-19 vaccine if given the opportunity to take it. Just over 1-in-2 say they would 'very' likely take it.

And about 75% say it wouldn't make a difference if they had to go to special centres to be vaccinated.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

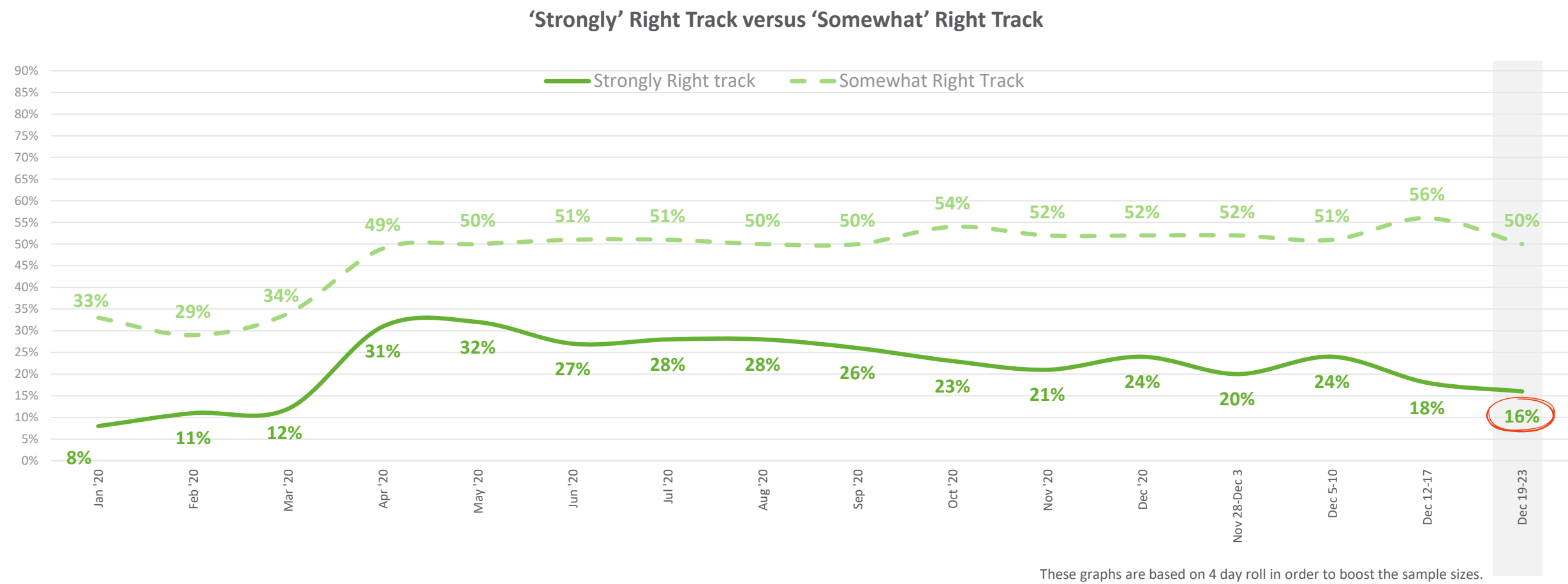


The government’s ‘right track’ scores have dropped over the past 6 days to 65% (to 64% over the past three days since the province-wide shutdown announcement). This is the lowest ‘right track’ since the Pre-COVID-19 period.



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

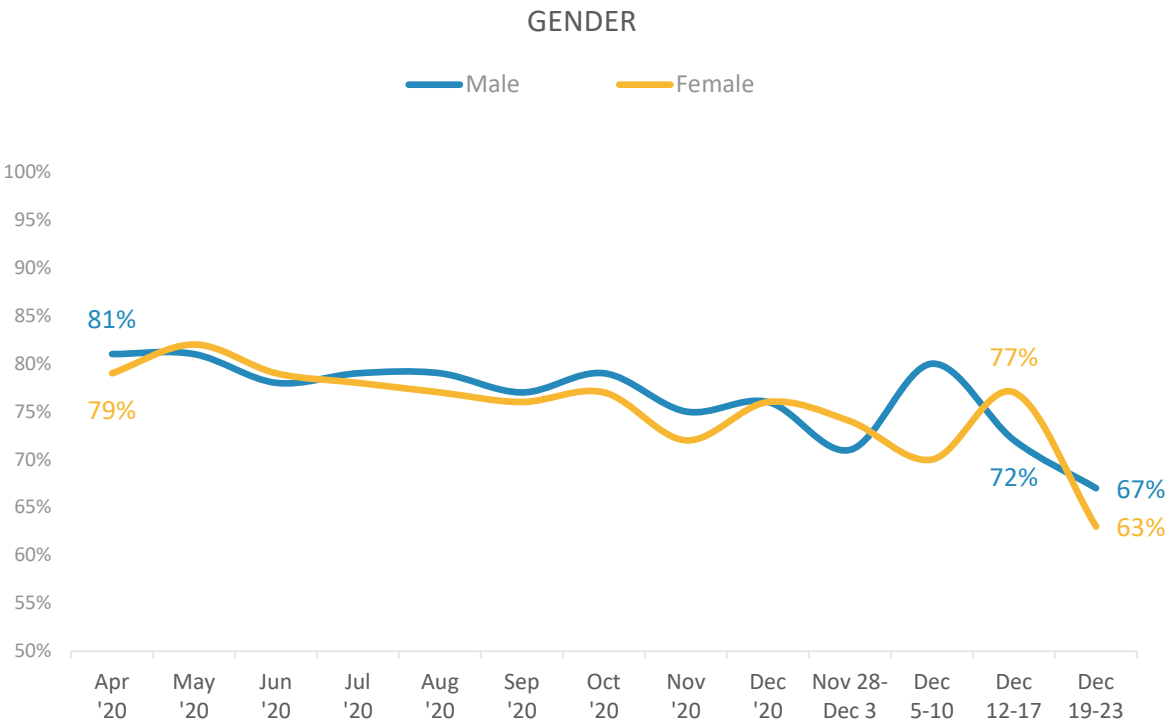
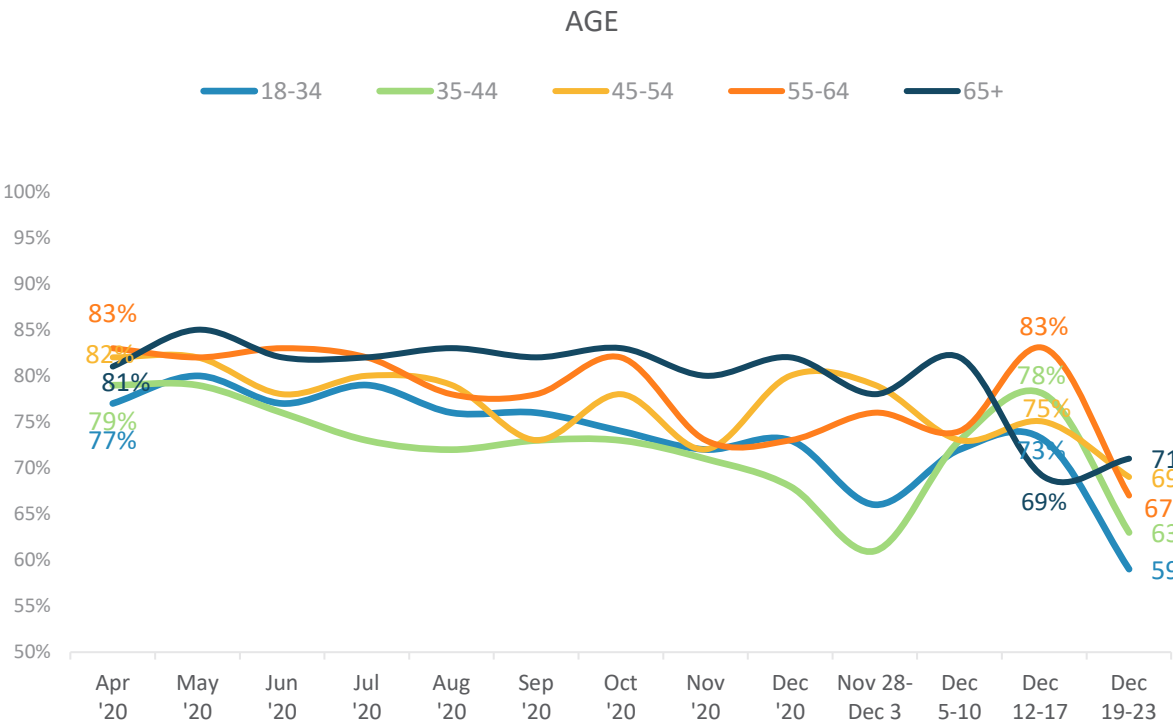
Paralleling this decline is the weakening of the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores over the past two weeks.



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 dropped across all age groups compared to two weeks ago. Moreover, these scores have declined more among women than men.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

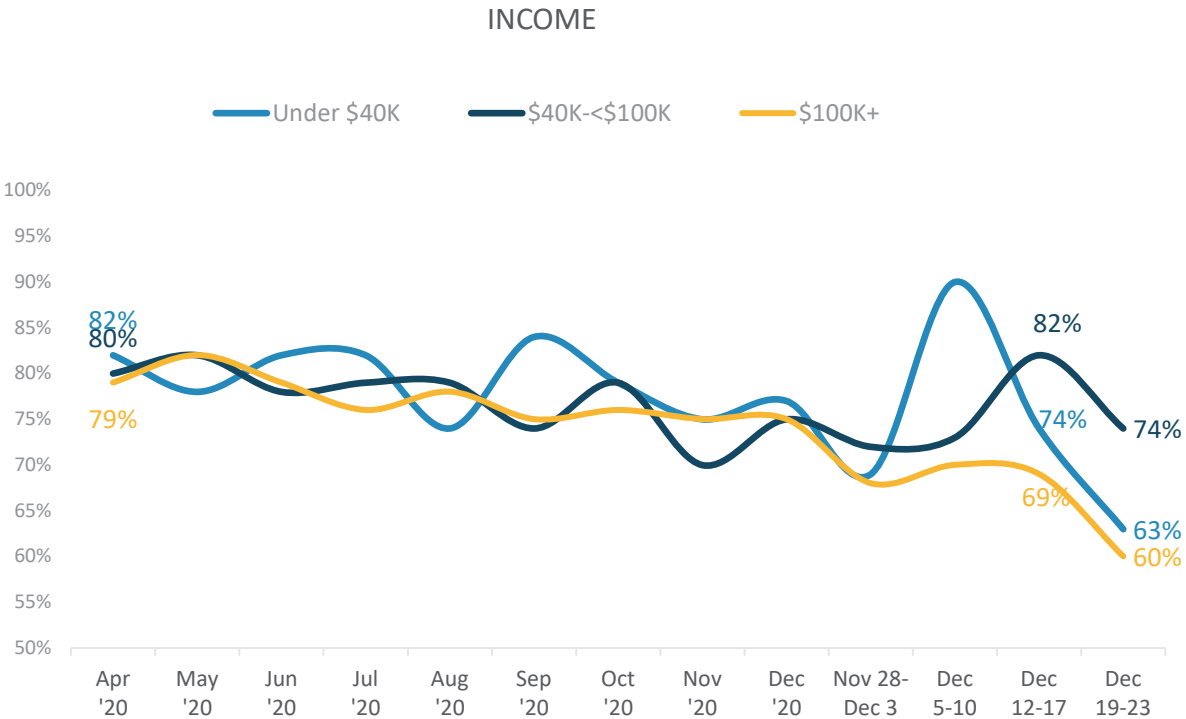
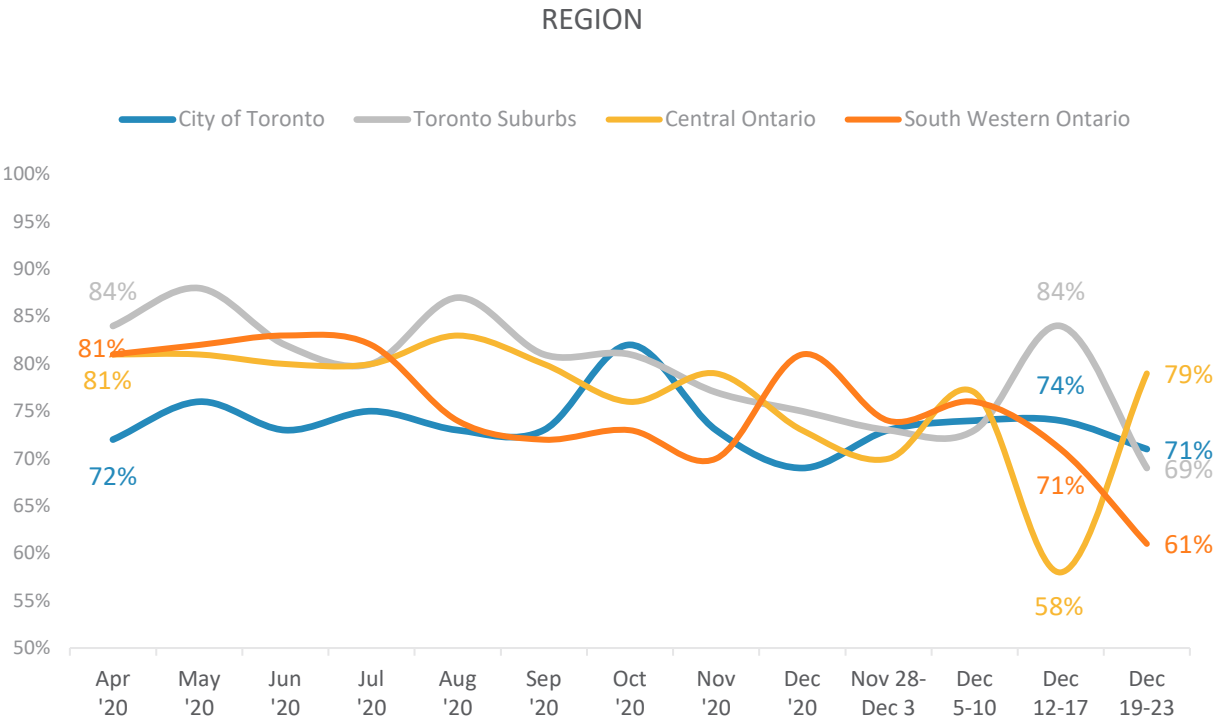


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The ‘right track’ scores have dropped across all income levels.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



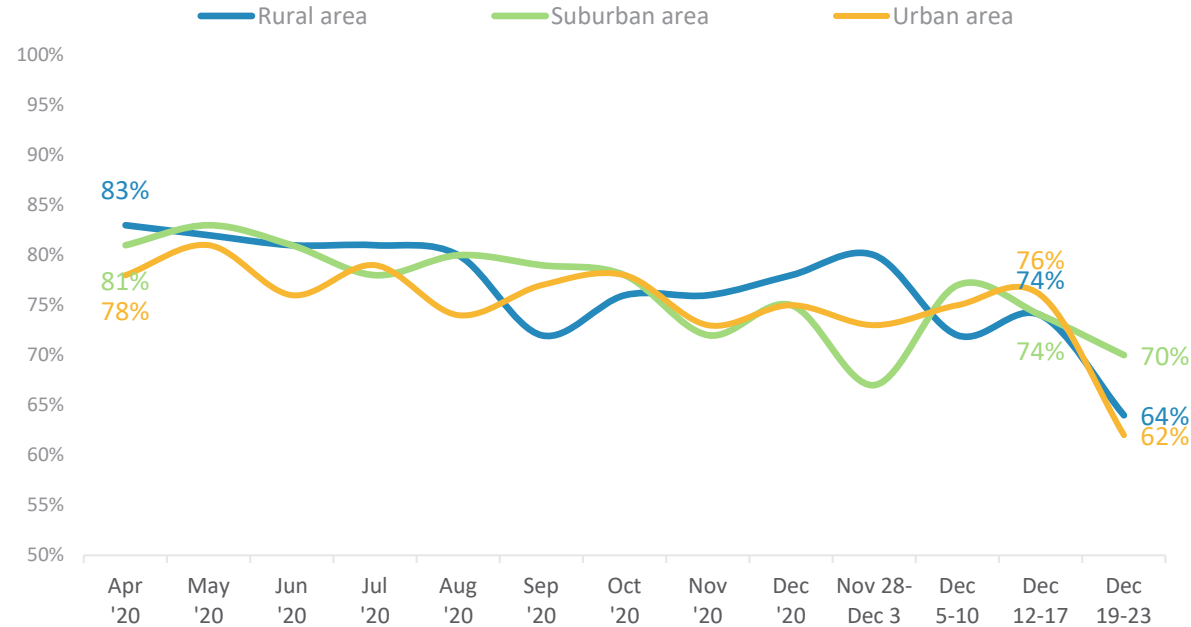
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

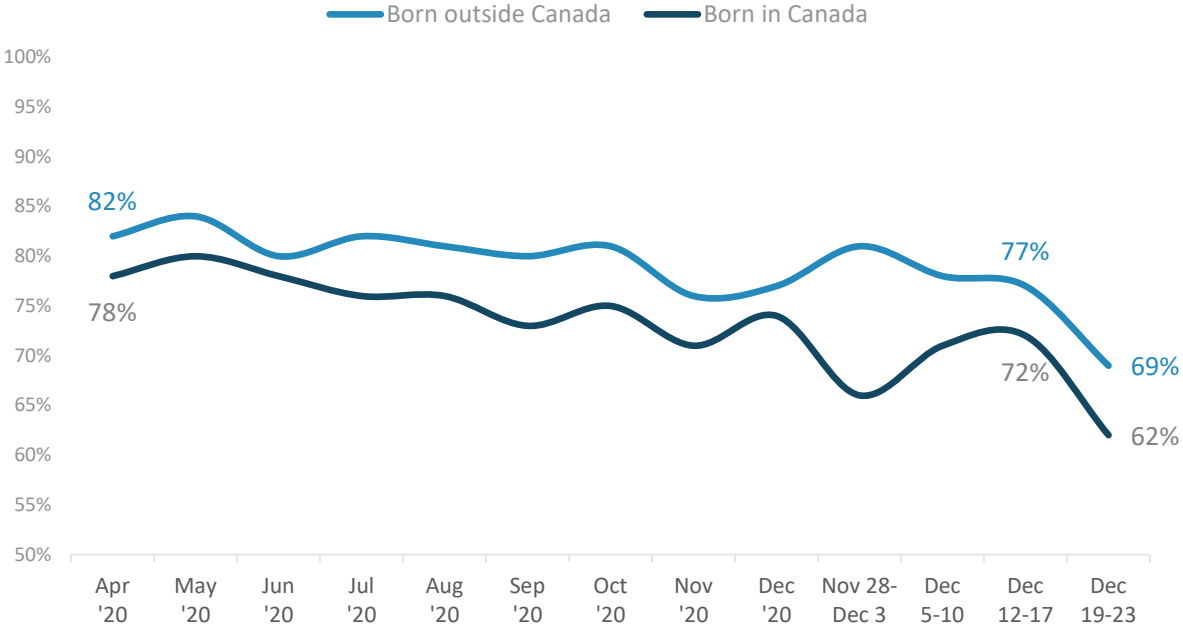
The ‘right track’ scores have declined across all types of communities and birth locations.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



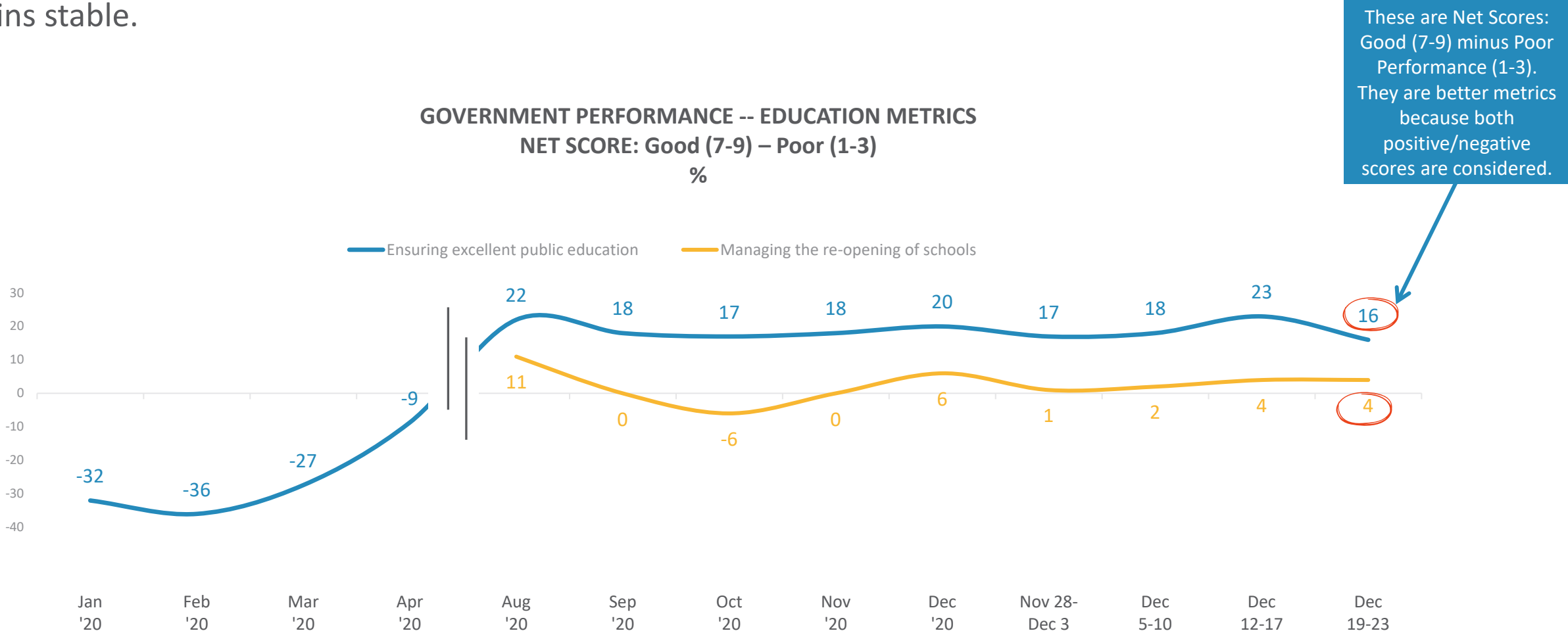
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

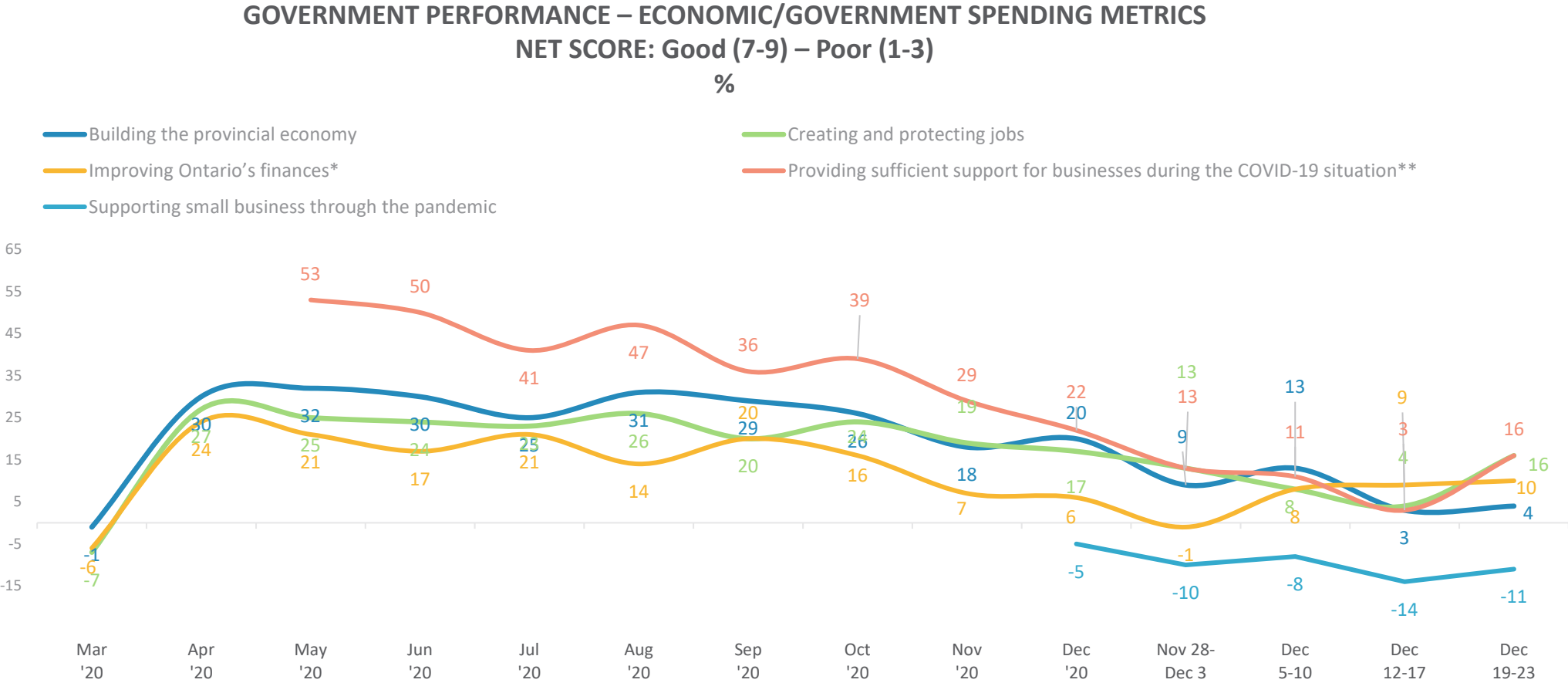


Considering both positive/negative ratings, perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has declined slightly, while ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ remains stable.



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

When considering both positive/negative ratings, perceptions of the government’s performance on economic metrics have either plateaued or improved this past week after several months of a gradual decline.



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?

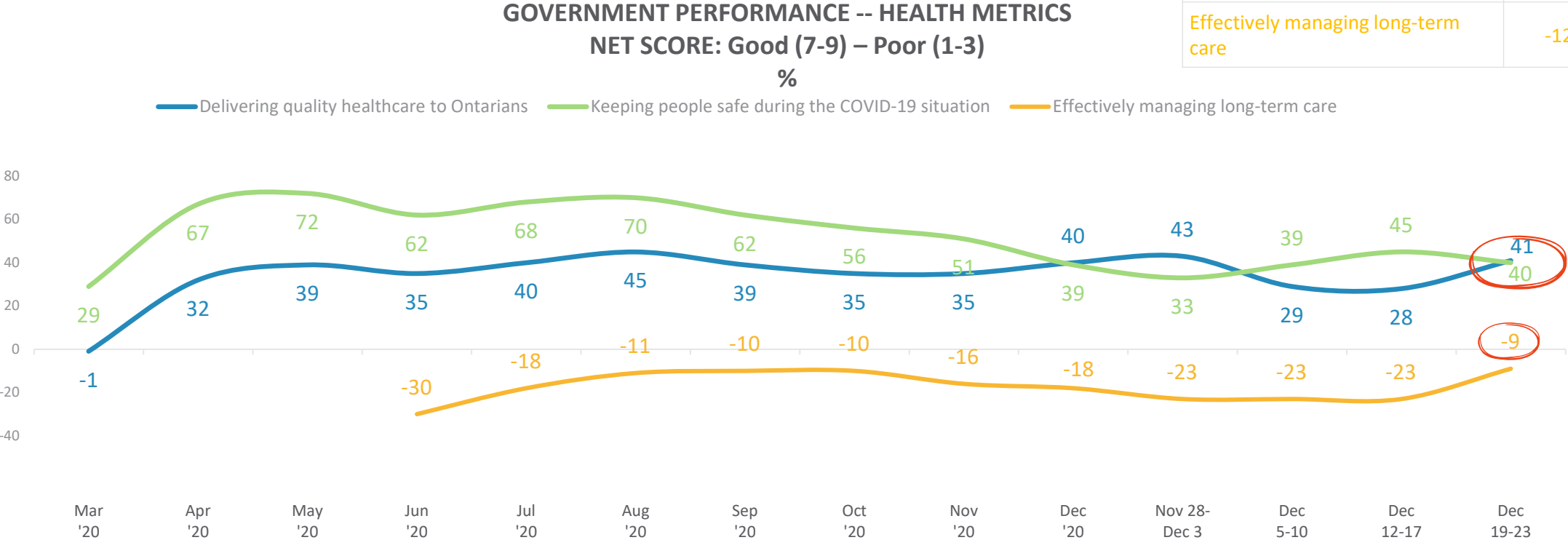
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”

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

Bases vary

Moreover, when considering both positive/negative scores, the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ remains relatively stable, while views on ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘managing long-term care’ have improved.

	Dec 21-23
Keep people safe during COVID-19 situation	44%
Delivering quality health care	36%
Effectively managing long-term care	-12%

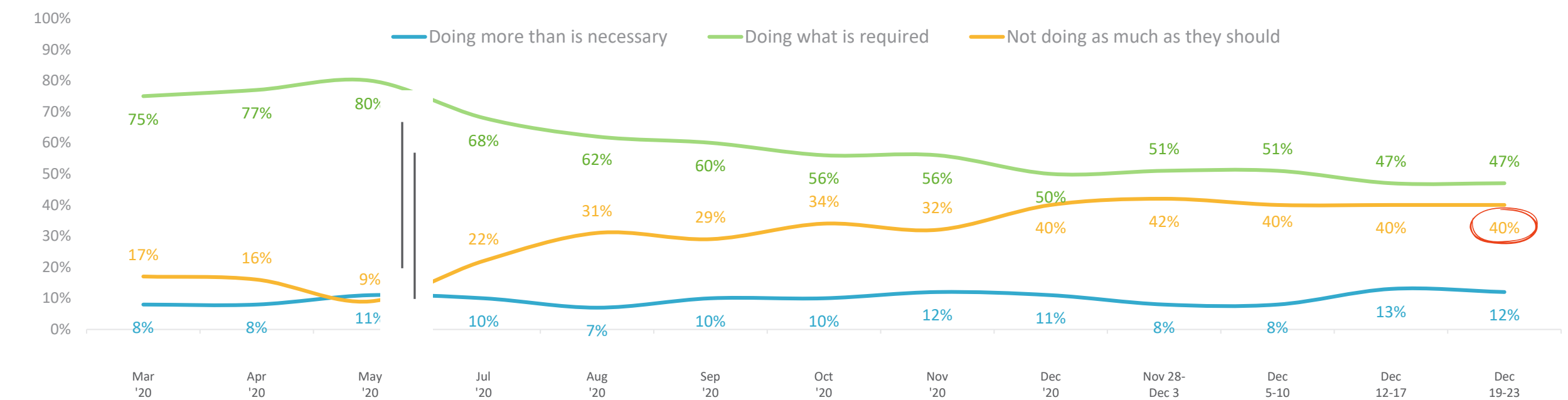


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

For six weeks now,, the proportion who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ on COVID-19 has 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	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	61%	58%	60%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	32%	32%	29%	31%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	24%	21%	15%	24%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	68%	66%	74%	59%



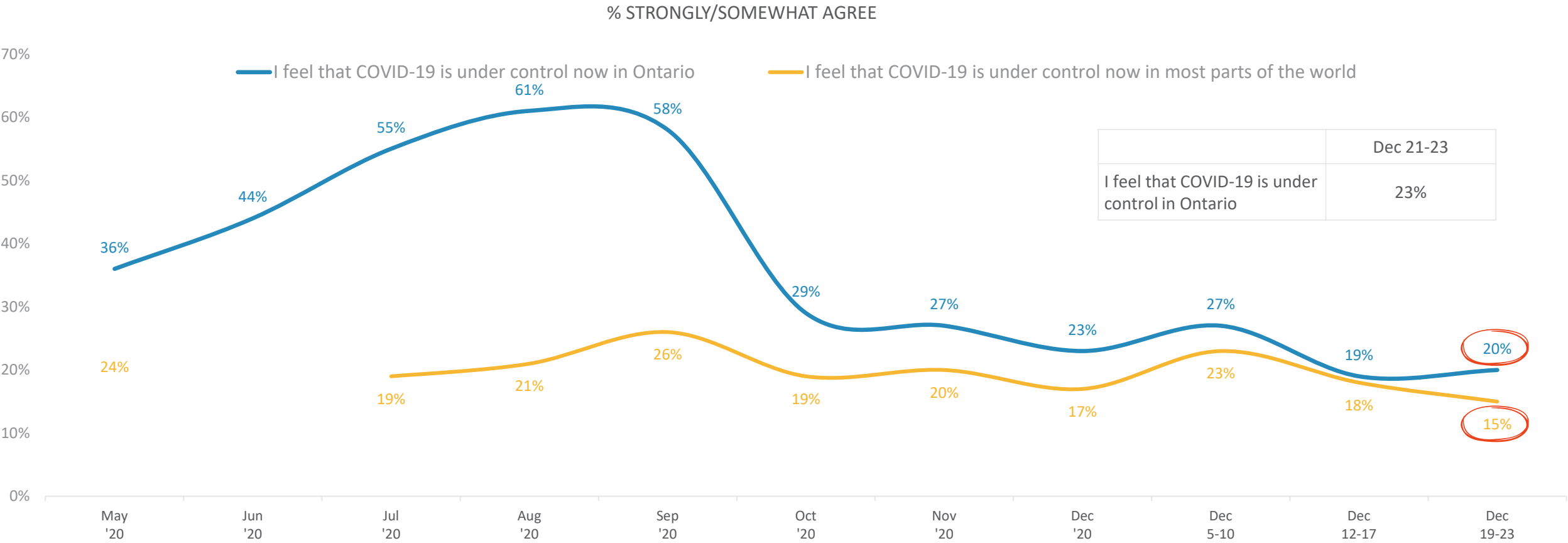
QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, gradually reopening the province, and planning for the return to school in the fall, at this time would you say 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 ...

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



PERCEPTIONS ABOUT WHETHER COVID-19 IS UNDER CONTROL

The proportion who think COVID-19 is getting under control in Ontario remains stable. Since the announcement of the province-wide shutdown, there appears to be a slight increase in the proportion who think it is under control in Ontario.



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 15% 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	Dec 19-23
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	15

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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	16	11	17	17	20	17	20	25	12	11	23	14	19
Strongly agree	8	8	6	5	7	6	6	8	12	16	-	4	12	6	6
Somewhat agree	16	15	9	6	10	12	15	9	9	8	12	7	11	8	13
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	9	8	11	8	8	5	9	19	7	6	10
Somewhat disagree	22	25	19	25	28	21	21	24	15	13	17	26	23	29	20
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	55	45	52	46	50	55	55	57	34	44	49	50
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	74	81	73	73	67	74	70	68	74	59	67	78	70
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	<1	-
Don't know	-	-	-	-	<1	2	2	1	2	2	5	11	4	1	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	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	20	14	21	22	20	24
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	8	11	9	7	9	9	7
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	12	13	16	13	14
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51
Not applicable	-	-	<1	<1	1	-	-	1	-
Don't know	-	-	4	3	7	10	6	4	6

AGE:	18-34							35-44							45-54							55-64							65+						
	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
% AGREE	40%	44%	34%	37%	40%	47%	60%	36%	37%	35%	-	50%	33%	39%	28%	31%	30%	20%	43%	56%	32%	18%	30%	20%	-	15%	18%	26%	16%	18%	17%	40%	22%	10%	8%
% DISAGREE	46%	46%	48%	62%	40%	37%	23%	49%	43%	42%	-	25%	44%	56%	62%	50%	54%	60%	57%	31%	58%	69%	57%	62%	100%	63%	71%	59%	75%	69%	70%	50%	70%	82%	80%

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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	21	19	22	15	17	24	21	23
Strongly agree	12	11	12	8	9	11	12	16
Somewhat agree	9	8	10	8	8	14	9	7
Neither agree nor disagree	3	4	2	4	4	3	-	1
Somewhat disagree	12	12	7	9	12	13	12	9
Strongly disagree	63	63	69	69	64	59	67	67
TOTAL DISAGREE	75	74	76	78	77	72	79	76
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

Ontarians are increasingly rejecting the view they have lost faith in the decisions about COVID by public health leaders. This view is much stronger compared to four weeks 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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	26	30	39	38	31	34	28
Strongly agree	12	17	15	20	17	17	13	16
Somewhat agree	15	9	15	19	21	13	21	12
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	2	10	11	12	3	7
Somewhat disagree	27	23	22	21	10	29	32	24
Strongly disagree	41	44	43	31	38	27	30	40
TOTAL DISAGREE	68	66	66	52	48	57	62	64
Not applicable	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	2	2	2	-	3	1	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 35% 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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30
Prefer not to answer/Don’t know	-	1	2	1	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	Dec 19-23
n=	300	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	34
Could have acted differently	55	47	53	55	56	52	49	56	63	59	60	62	62
Don't know/Not sure	1	1	<1	2	1	2	3	5	4	6	3	2	4

	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	Dec 19-23	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	Dec 19-23
Right Track	52%	61%	55%	49%	56%	54%	58%	46%	39%	44%	43%	45%	46%	46%	37%	44%	49%	44%	43%	39%	47%	57%	50%	54%	53%	51%
Wrong Track	12%	14%	22%	27%	17%	19%	10%	15%	10%	9%	19%	12%	12%	88%	86%	78%	72%	81%	80%	86%	84%	87%	83%	78%	88%	82%

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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	16	21	21	24	24	22	17	23	17	24	26	24	24
Strongly agree	5	8	7	12	12	11	5	13	10	10	13	10	8
Somewhat agree	11	14	13	12	12	12	12	10	8	14	12	14	16
Neither agree nor disagree	4	7	5	5	6	4	2	5	6	2	5	2	4
Somewhat disagree	21	24	24	20	21	21	16	13	17	19	18	19	17
Strongly disagree	58	47	50	49	47	52	64	57	54	52	49	55	54
TOTAL DISAGREE	79	71	73	70	68	72	80	70	71	72	68	74	72
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

With the announcement of a province-wide shutdown, Ontarians are more likely this past week to want a province-wide lockdown. There was a drop in the proportion of Ontarians who prefer the regional approach.

	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	Dec 19-23
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	250
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
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	47
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	50
Don't know/Not sure	2	1	<1	5	3	5	3	5	4	7	2	2	4

	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	Dec 19-23	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	Dec 19-23
Right Track	32%	28%	24%	31%	30%	21%	27%	39%	40%	34%	36%	36%	46%	66%	70%	75%	66%	68%	74%	71%	55%	57%	62%	63%	63%	51%
Wrong Track	36%	36%	42%	35%	41%	31%	40%	43%	39%	39%	48%	36%	49%	57%	64%	58%	56%	54%	61%	56%	51%	54%	46%	50%	60%	48%

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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	40	46	51	52	55	50	49	49
Strongly agree	20	28	36	32	38	27	30	28
Somewhat agree	20	18	14	20	17	23	19	21
Neither agree nor disagree	10	6	5	13	15	8	10	8
Somewhat disagree	26	18	13	9	16	16	18	22
Strongly disagree	23	26	26	25	11	25	22	20
TOTAL DISAGREE	49	44	39	33	27	41	40	42
Not applicable	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	1	3	4	1	3	1	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 60% 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	Dec 19-23
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	60

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 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	Dec 19-23
n=	300	250
	%	%
Appropriate reaction	73	75
An overreaction	24	21
Don’t know/not sure	3	5

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.

- There appears to be some slippage in wearing face coverings in Southwest Ontario.

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	90	92	90
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	72	72	74
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	18	20	16
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	7	6	7
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	3	2	2
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	3	2	3

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	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	97%	95%	96%	89%	90%	94%	92%	96%	86%	90%	95%	97%	92%	83%	90%	87%	86%	90%	86%	87%	83%	91%	81%	89%	91%	83%	93%	84%	92%	88%	94%	86%	86%	87%	86%	75%	89%	95%

	RIGHT TRACK					WRONG TRACK				
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	91%	92%	93%	82%	83%	85%	89%	85%

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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	28	30	29	42	28	31
Strongly agree	21	25	23	33	20	23
Somewhat agree	7	6	5	9	8	8
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	2	1	3	2
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	8	8	7
Strongly disagree	66	64	60	49	61	59
TOTAL DISAGREE	70	67	67	57	69	67
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



With the arrival of multiple vaccines, 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	Dec 19-23
varies	
%	%
53	51
19	10
34	41
5	9
19	20
21	20
40	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

THE EXTENT TO WHICH ONTARIANS ARE FOLLOWING NEWS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINE

Not surprisingly, Ontarians continue to follow, with a high degree of intensity, the announcements on vaccines against COVID-19. Interest in the vaccine is clearly intensifying.

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	150	300	300	196	150
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CLOSELY	78	77	87	88	89
Very closely	46	42	48	52	65
Somewhat closely	33	35	39	36	24
Not very closely	13	15	8	8	8
Not at all	7	8	4	4	3
TOTAL NOT VERY CLOSELY/NOT AT ALL	20	23	12	12	11
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.

All Mentions

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	150	300	300	199	150
	%	%	%	%	%
Frontline health workers	87	89	94	96	98
People over 70 years old	65	59	65	63	61
People living in long-term care homes	33	40	52	54	52
People with underlying health issues	49	53	43	40	39
Essential retail workers such as those working in grocery and drug stores	33	25	17	17	22
Teachers	10	12	11	17	16
All Ontarians over the age of 18	17	20	14	10	10
Restaurant and bar workers	3	1	2	2	1
Non-essential retail workers such as those working in clothing and electronic stores, among others	3	2	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

Most 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	Dec 19-23
n=	150	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL LIKELY	70	71	78	73	74
Very likely	50	44	54	53	54
Somewhat likely	20	27	25	20	20
Somewhat unlikely	13	9	9	7	8
Very unlikely	12	15	11	19	18
TOTAL UNLIKELY	24	24	20	26	26
Don't know/not sure	6	5	1	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

Importantly, Ontarians are increasingly inclined to believe the COVID-19 vaccine will be safe. Only 15% this past week say it won't be safe.

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	150	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SAFE	75	72	79	78	80
Very safe	34	26	36	35	39
Somewhat safe	41	46	42	43	41
Not very safe	5	9	5	10	10
Not at all safe	6	6	5	7	5
TOTAL NOT SAFE	11	14	11	17	15
Don't know/not sure	13	14	11	5	6

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

About 79% say it wouldn't make a difference if they had to go to special centres to be vaccinated.

	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	240	246
	%	%
A lot less likely to get the vaccine	5	7
A little less likely	19	14
Won't make any difference	75	79
Don't know/not sure	1	<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



A slight majority of Ontarians claims knowledge of government support for small business impacted by COVID-19 health restrictions.

	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	300	250
	%	%
TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME	58	53
A great deal	9	11
Some	49	42
Not too much	27	34
None at all	9	6
TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NONE AT ALL	35	39
Don't know/not sure	7	8

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

Ontarians believe that these programs are helpful to small business.

% VERY/SOMEWHAT HELPFUL	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	300	250
	%	%
Working with the federal government, providing a commercial rent relief program to small businesses between April and September.	88	82
One-time grants for small businesses to offset the costs of associated with procuring personal protective equipment or PPE.	83	84
A program that offers rebates for fixed business costs like property tax and energy bills.	80	85
Allowing municipalities to provide targeted property tax relief for small businesses by 2022–2023.	78	71

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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	15	13	19	13	11	11
Strongly agree	8	8	10	5	6	8
Somewhat agree	7	6	9	8	5	4
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	5	6	2	4
Somewhat disagree	12	11	12	11	15	8
Strongly disagree	65	66	64	68	68	75
TOTAL DISAGREE	77	78	76	78	83	83
Don't know	2	2	1	2	4	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

An increasing number of Ontarians (up from 72% in mid-November to 83% in the week before the Holidays) indicate they will not celebrate the Holiday season with people outside their bubble.

	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Celebrate in-person with people you do not live with	22	21	20	17	17	15
Celebrate in-person only with the people who live in your immediate household	72	74	74	79	80	83
Don't know/Not sure	5	6	6	3	3	2

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 agree they will not celebrate the Holiday season in the usual manner. There is now only 13% (down from 24% five weeks ago) 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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	24	22	23	18	13
Strongly agree	17	11	10	12	8
Somewhat agree	7	11	14	6	5
Neither agree nor disagree	2	5	3	2	1
Somewhat disagree	13	15	13	15	8
Strongly disagree	57	55	57	65	75
TOTAL DISAGREE	69	71	70	80	83
Not applicable	-	-	-	1	1
Don't know	5	2	3	-	2

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	Dec 19-23
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	89	84	91	88	92
Strongly agree	75	63	76	80	81
Somewhat agree	14	21	15	8	11
Neither agree nor disagree	3	4	4	4	2
Somewhat disagree	2	3	2	2	2
Strongly disagree	4	8	3	6	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	6	11	5	8	5
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	1
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

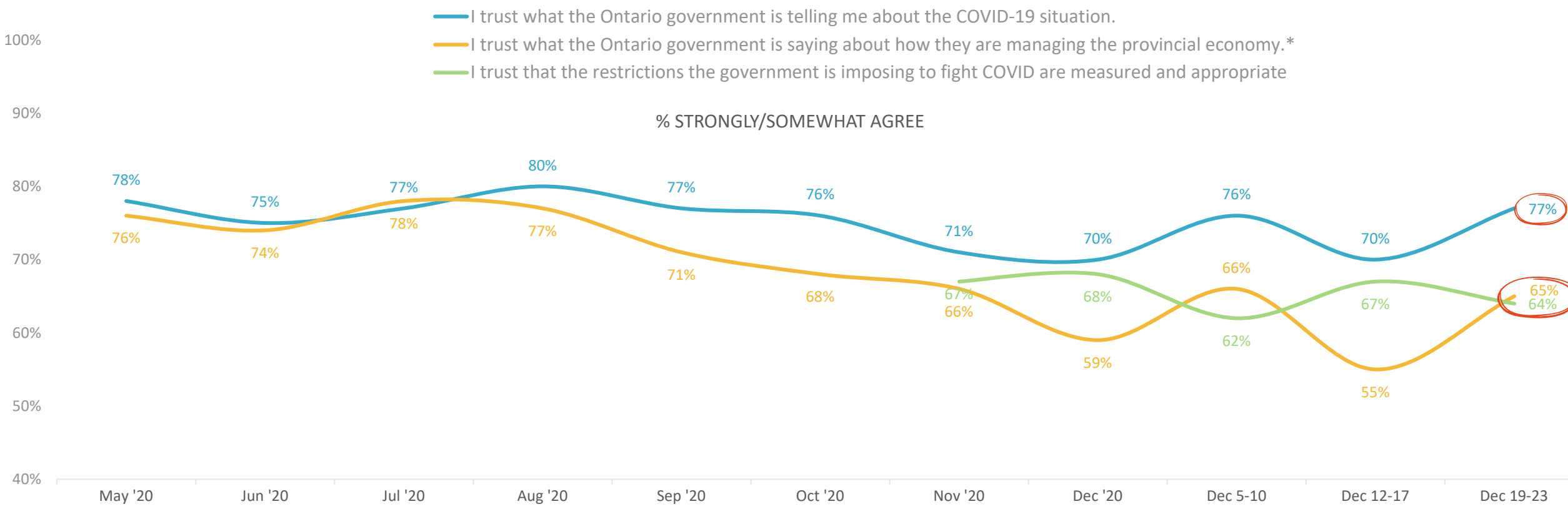
Ontarians overwhelmingly continue to say they will likely follow the advice of the provincial government to only celebrate the December holidays with the people they live with.

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL LIKELY	84	78	86	87	91
Very likely	70	64	68	72	79
Somewhat likely	14	14	18	15	12
Not too likely	7	11	6	5	3
Not at all likely	7	9	7	7	5
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	14	20	13	12	8
Don't know/not sure	2	2	1	1	1

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



Despite the softening ‘right track’ scores, Ontarians’ trust in the government’s communications about COVID-19 and the provincial economy has increased. The level of trust the COVID-19 restrictions will be measured and appropriate remains stable.

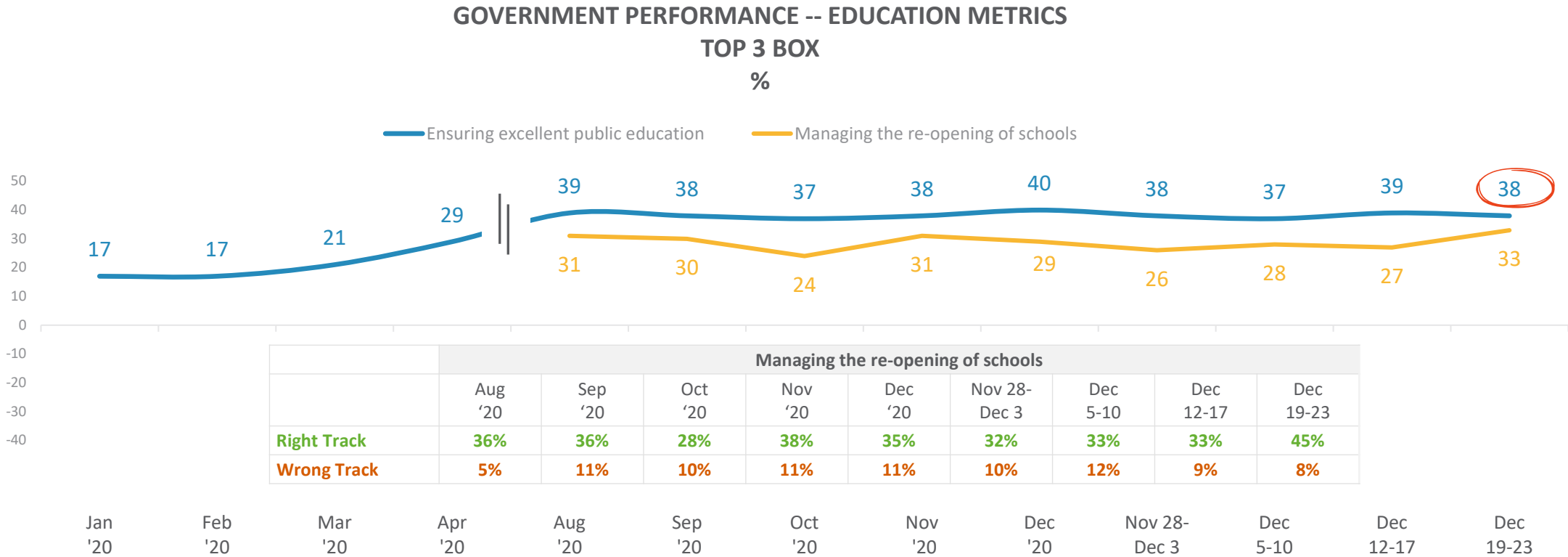


QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
* Previous phrasing: I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they are re-opening the provincial economy. /I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they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

APPENDIX

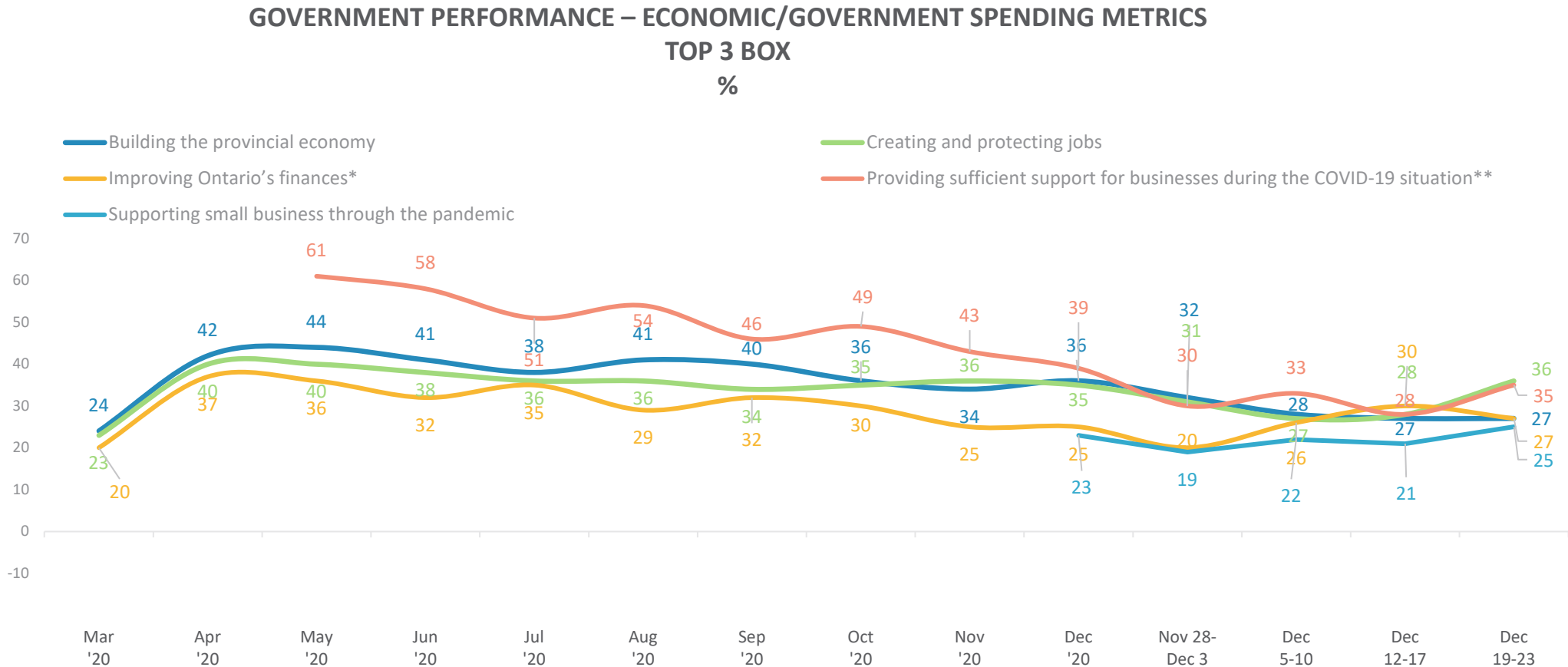


Positive perceptions toward ‘ensuring excellent public education’ and ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ continue to remain generally stable.



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 toward economic consideration metrics are either stable or improved over the past week.



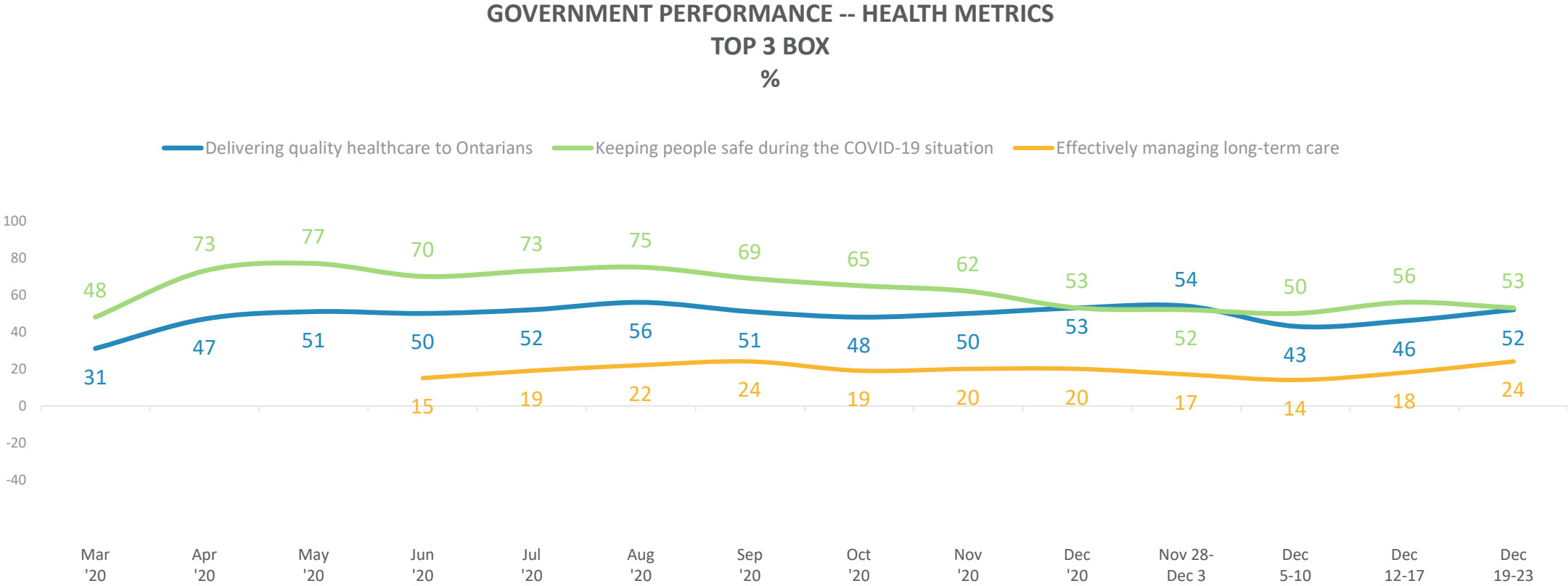
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*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 on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ remain stable, while perceptions on ‘managing long-term care’ and ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ 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?
Bases vary