

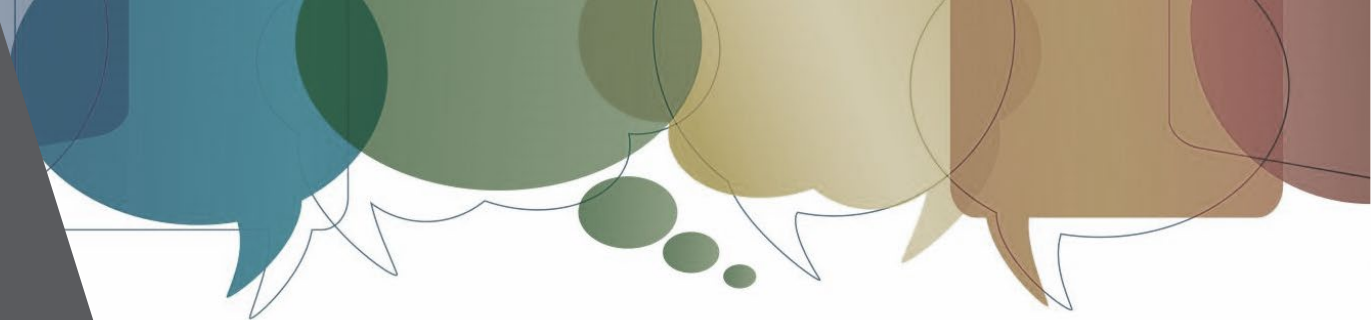


THE
**STRATEGIC
COUNSEL** 25

TORONTO | OTTAWA | CALGARY

www.thestrategiccounsel.com

EXPERIENCE • PASSION • CREATIVITY
CUSTOM SOLUTIONS FOR COMPLEX ISSUES



PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #66

CABINET OFFICE

January 29th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1

The government’s ‘right track’ scores remain stable at 65% for the past four weeks.

4

Findings over the past two weeks suggest that Ontarians’ support for the state of emergency and province-wide shutdown remains high, but lower compared to last April. Still, most believe it is an appropriate action.

The preliminary results suggests Ontarians are divided over whether the schools should be reopened for in-class learning even if the state of emergency and stay at home order continue.

2

Despite a decline in infection rates and stable ‘right track’ scores, the government’s performance on three key health metrics has slipped.

	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 23-28
Keeping people safe during COVID- 19	+24	+15
Effectively managing vaccinations	+2	-12
Effectively managing LTC	-26	-31

5

There has been a steady decline in ‘trust’ in the government’s communications regarding the management of the provincial economy. It is now at its lowest point (51%).

In contrast, the other trust measures are relatively stable.

3

The government’s scores on ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ slipped again this past week, continuing a previously noted trend.

‘Creating/protecting jobs’ scores are stable, but remain low compared to last summer.

6

There continues to be widespread belief that staying home means saving lives.

Despite this belief, Ontarians are fatiguing -- they agree that a lack of a social life is extremely difficult and are more likely to feel very frustrated being at home compared to last April/May.

Key Findings

1 Most Ontarians think that the province-wide shutdown is unfair to small business while favouring big box stores, and that smaller retailers should be allowed to reopen.

These findings suggest that most Ontarians are concerned about the impact of the province-wide shutdown on small business. The intensity of the concern is high.

Compared to last spring, fewer Ontarians believe that the government is doing all it can to ensure essential businesses remain free from COVID-19.

2 Almost two-thirds say they are aware of provincial inspectors visiting stores, restaurants and other essential businesses to ensure they are complying with the public health guidelines.

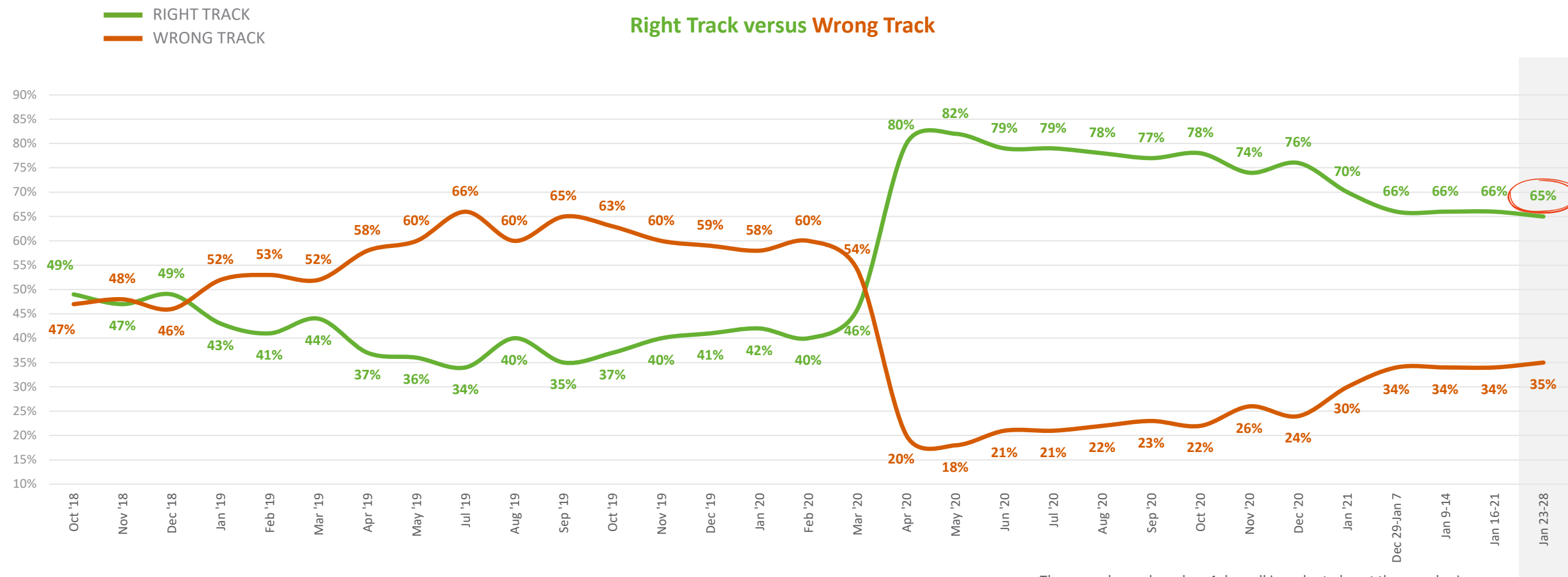
The preliminary results show that about 6-in-10 believe that inspections will be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

3 Over the past week, there appears to have been a drop in the confidence levels that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that the vaccination program is being rolled out.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



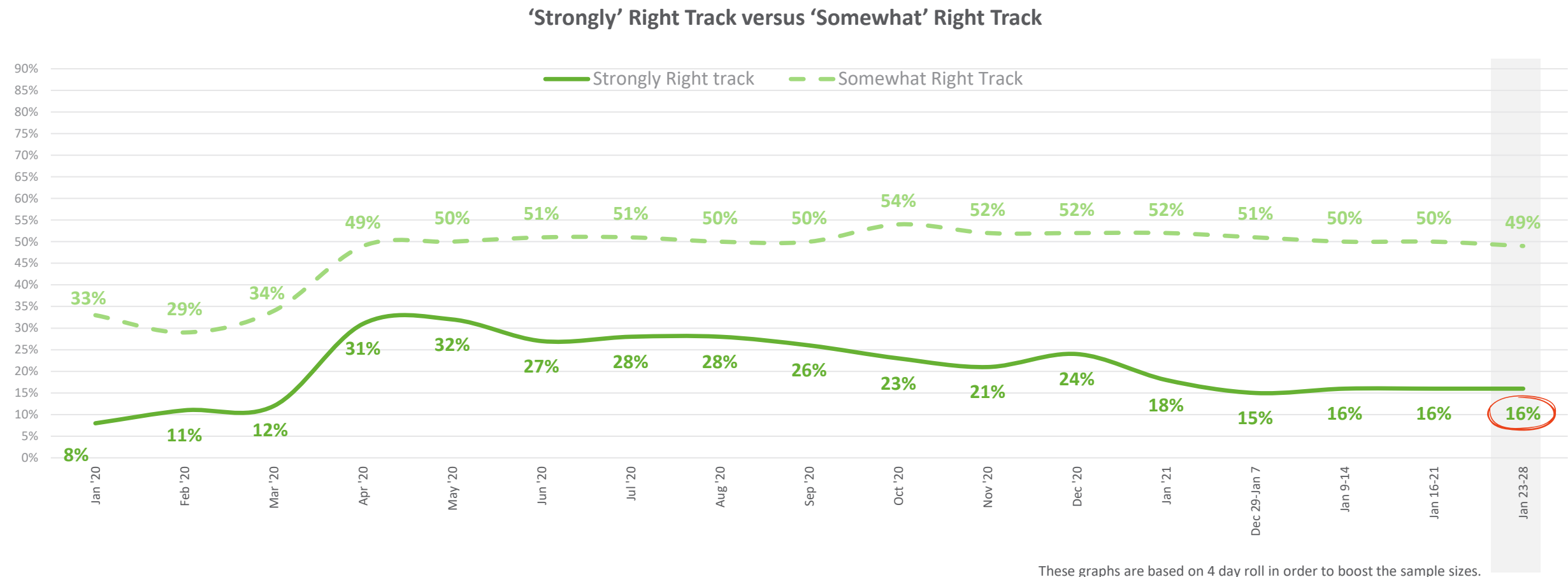
The government's 'right track' scores have remained stable at 65% over the past four weeks.



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

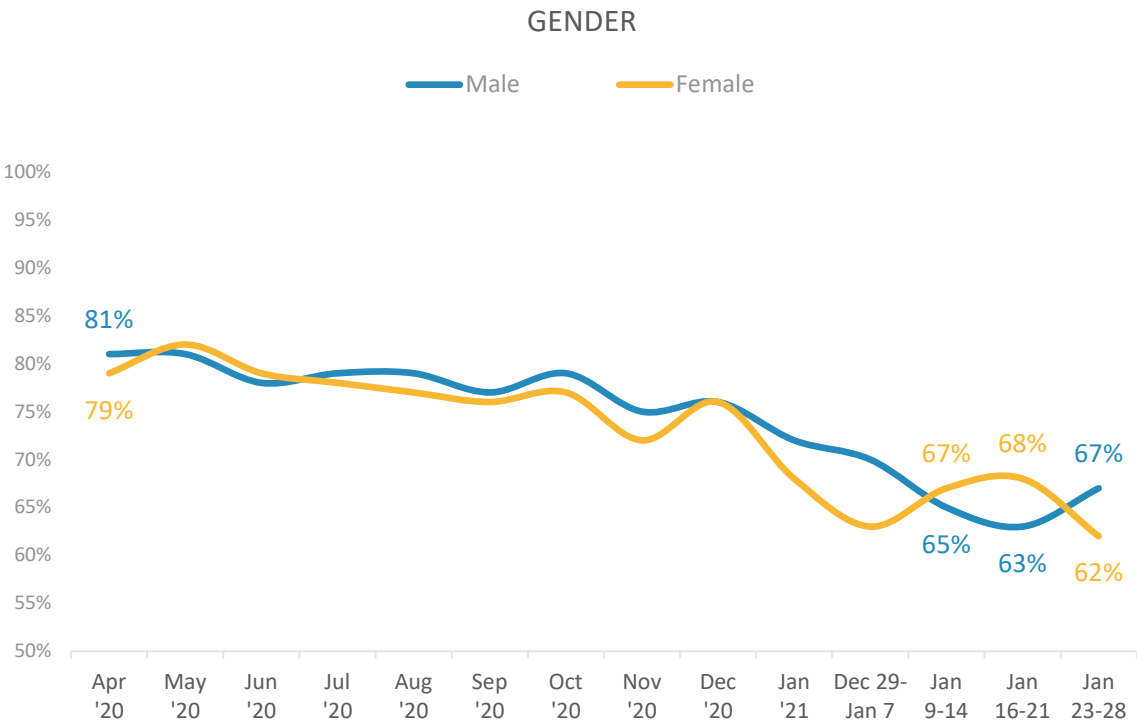
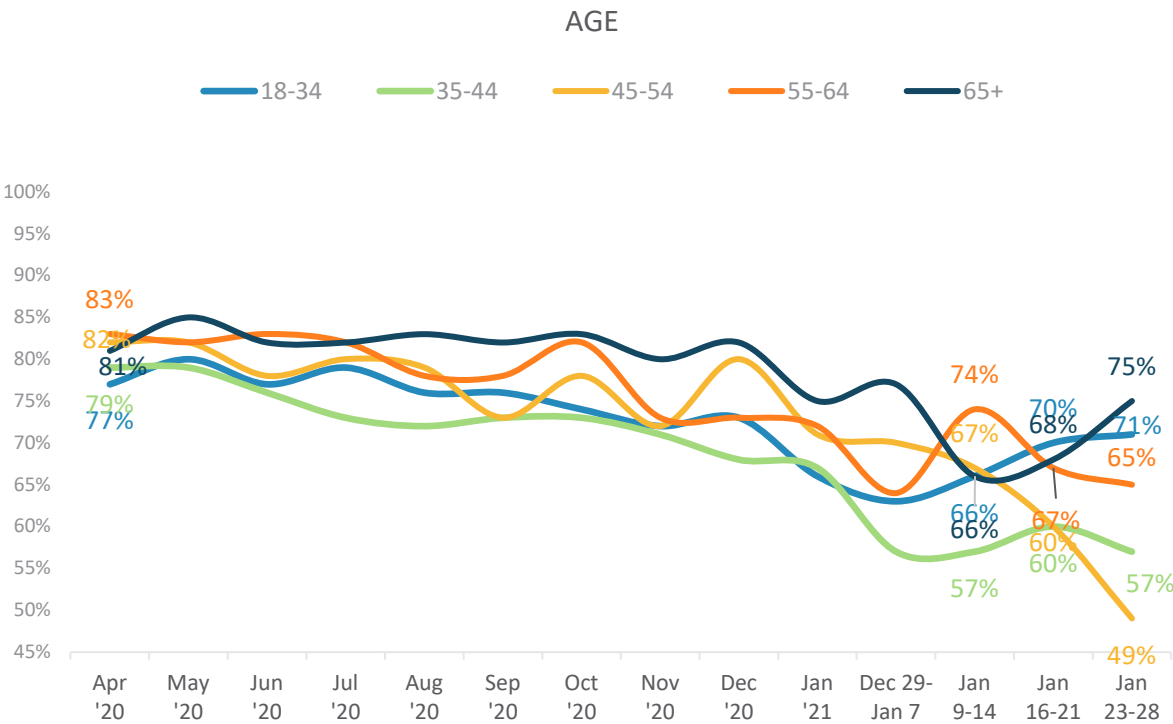
The government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores have also stabilized at 16% over the past four weeks.



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 among women nudged downward over the past week.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

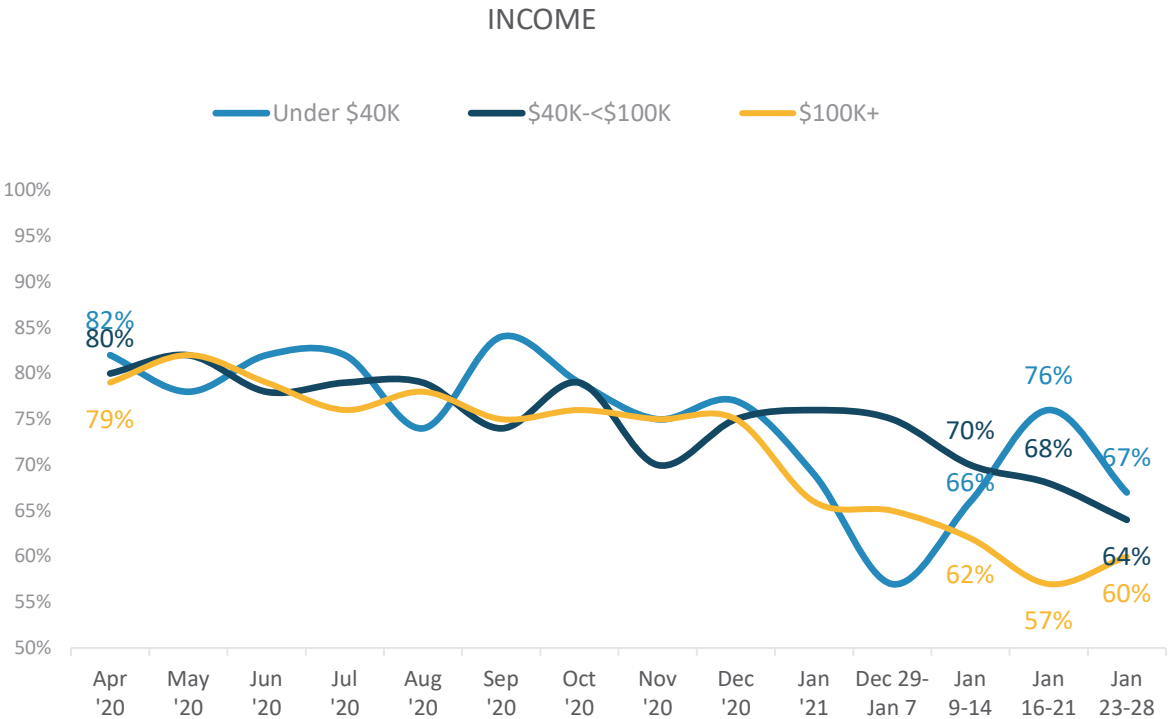
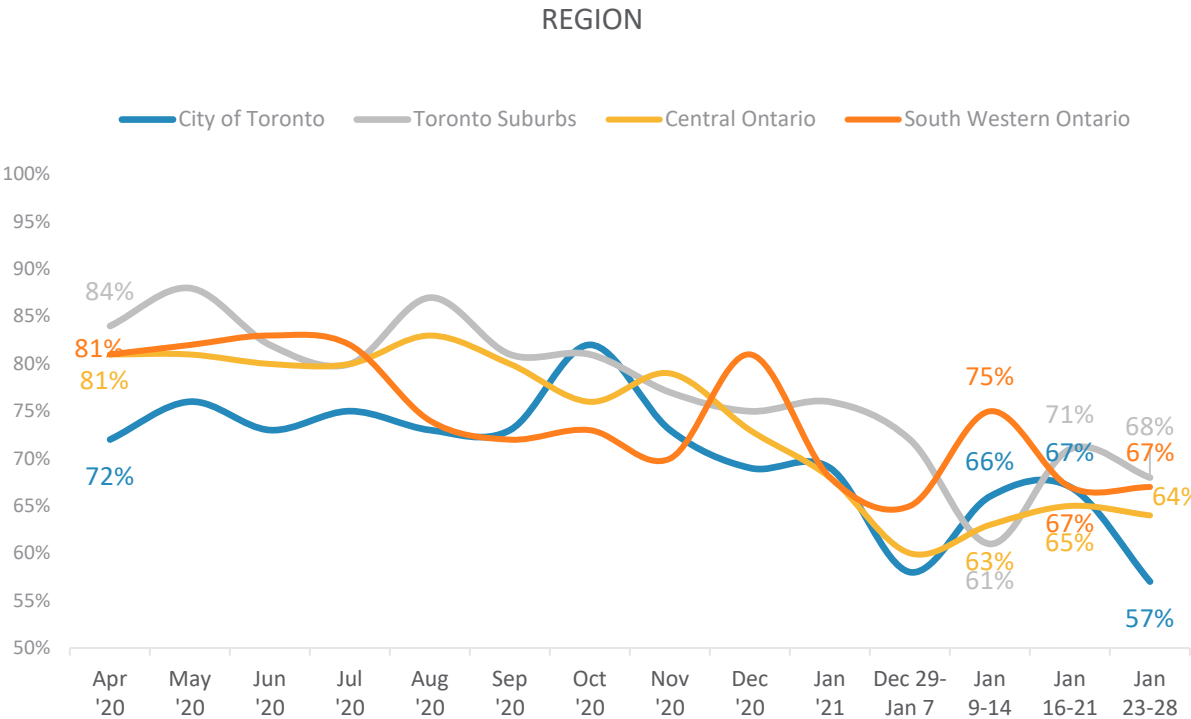


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 week, the ‘right track’ scores is strongest in the Toronto suburbs, while weaker in the City of Toronto.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



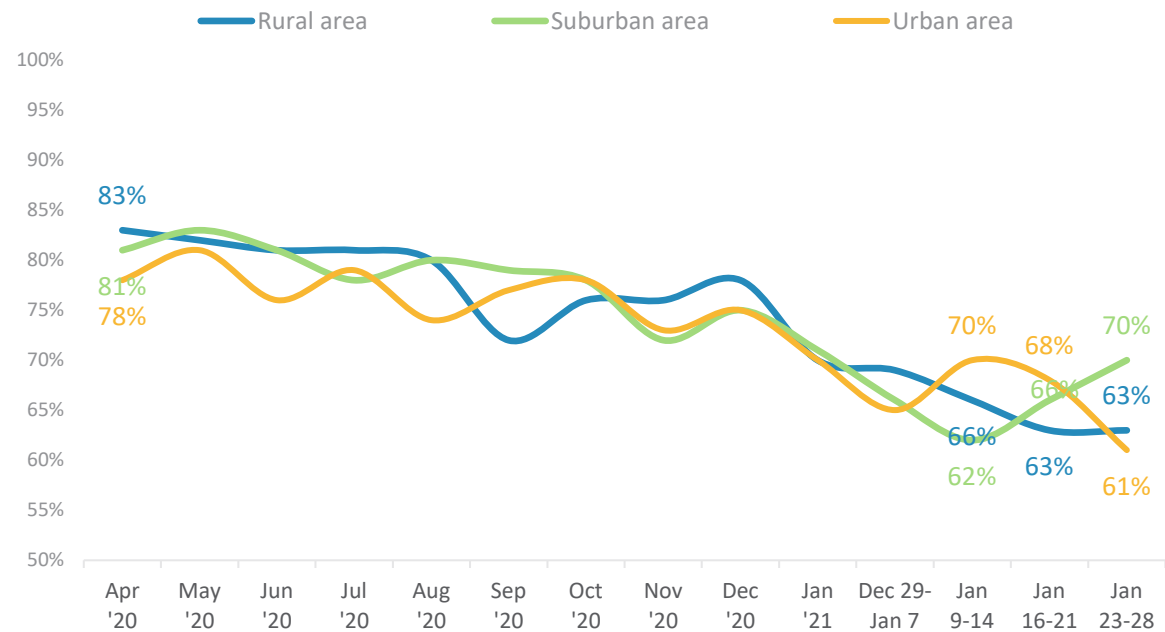
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

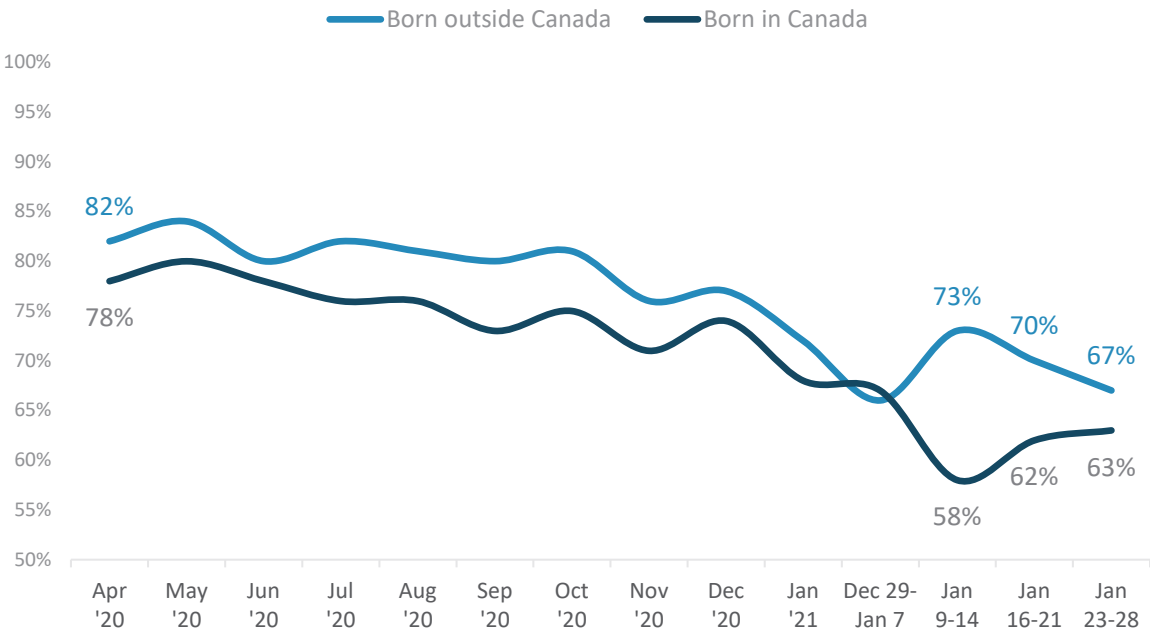
The ‘right track’ scores among those born outside of Canada remains slightly higher than among those born in Canada.

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.

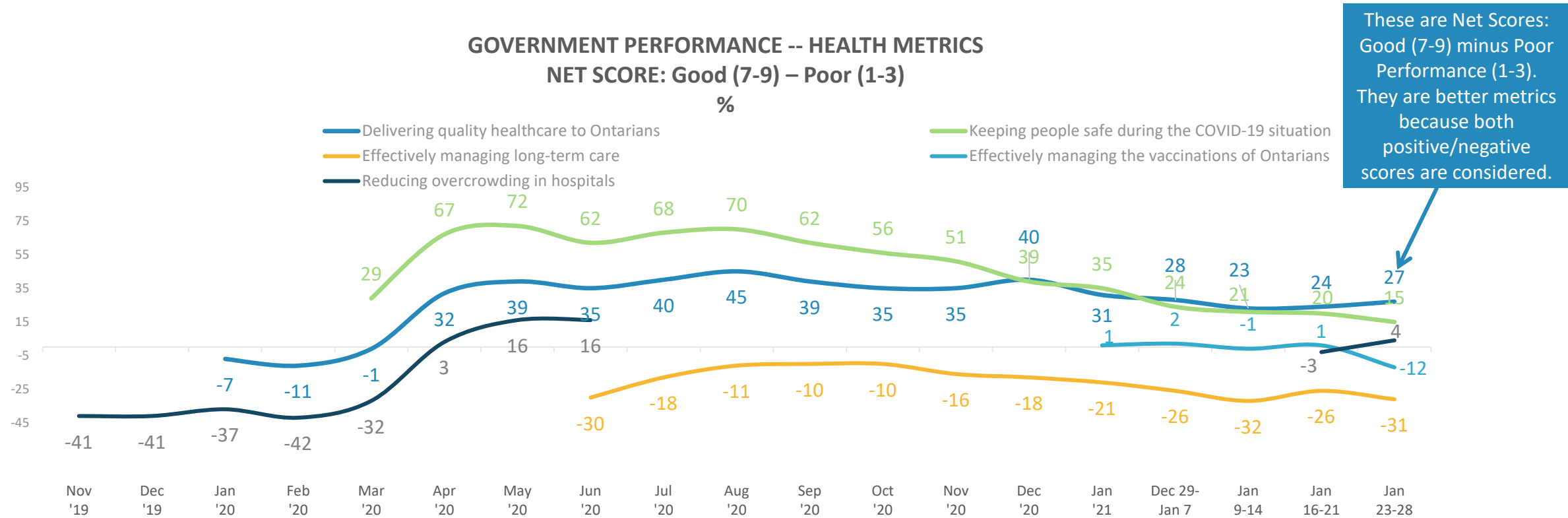
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The government’s performance on three key health metrics – ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’, ‘effectively managing the vaccinations’, and ‘effectively managing long-term care’ – have slipped.

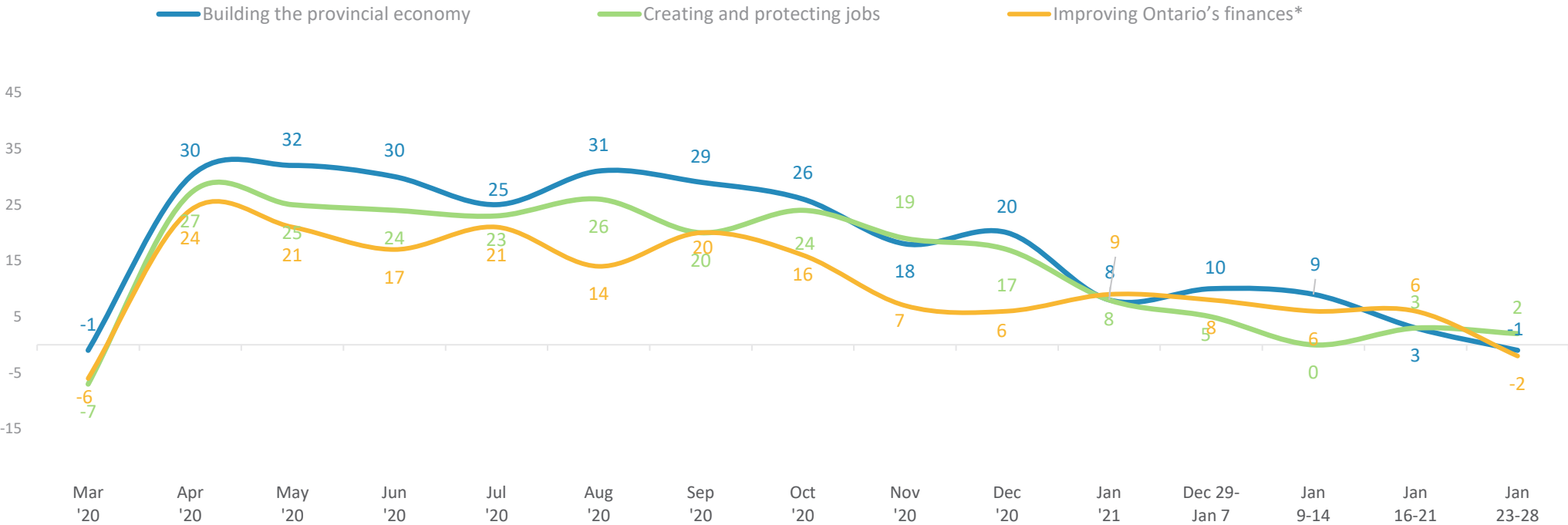
- In contrast, ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ over the past week have increased slightly.



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

The government’s scores on ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ slipped again this past week, continuing a previously noted trend. ‘Creating/protecting jobs’ scores are stable, but remain low.

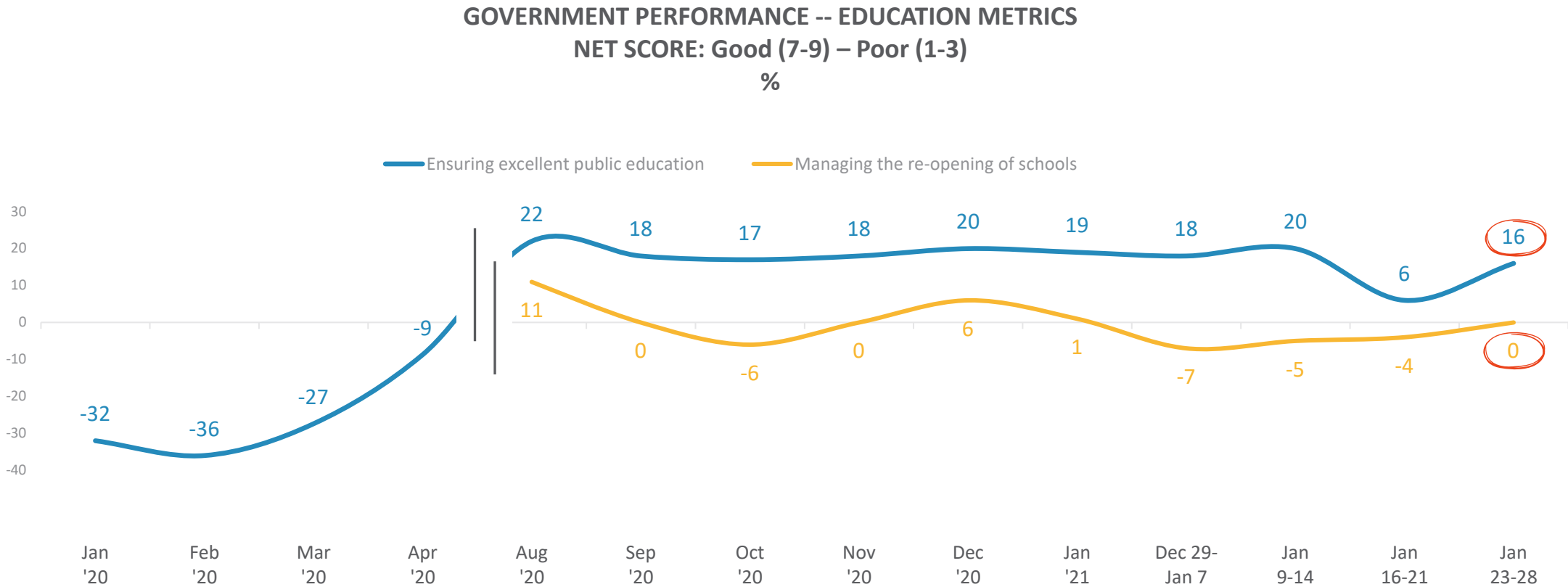
GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE – ECONOMIC/GOVERNMENT SPENDING METRICS
NET SCORE: Good (7-9) – Poor (1-3)
%



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

Perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ and ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ rebounded.

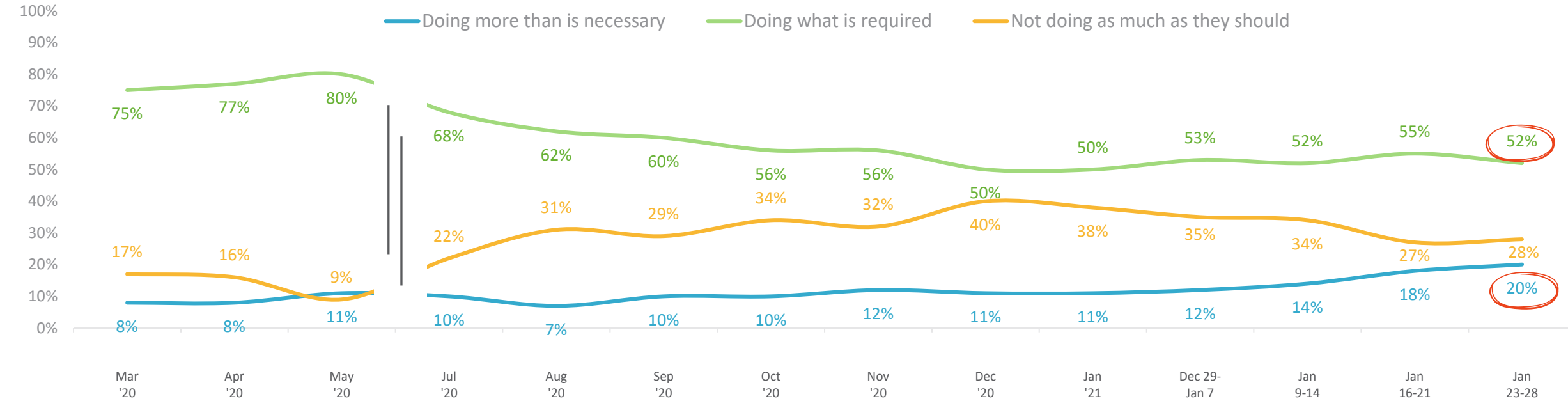


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Just over 1-in-2 believe the province has done enough, with increasing numbers of Ontarians (now up to 20% from 11% December) who feel that the government has done too much.

	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	Jan '21	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	62%	64%	71%	64%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	28%	29%	17%	20%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	34%	29%	25%	29%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	50%	43%	47%	43%



QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring a second state of emergency and a stronger stay at home order until the middle of February, 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 advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, shutting down the province for several weeks, and keeping kids out of school, 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 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

SUPPORT FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN



Findings over the past two weeks suggest that Ontarians’ support for the state of emergency and province-wide shutdown remains high, but is lower compared to last April.

	Apr '20	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	1206	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	96	77	76
Very supportive	81	51	53
Somewhat supportive	15	25	23
Somewhat opposed	3	10	10
Very opposed	1	14	13
TOTAL OPPOSED	3	23	23
Don't know	-	-	1

QCV-8A. The Government of Ontario has declared a state of emergency, issued a stay at home order, placed further restrictions on all non-essential stores among other actions. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.] ...of the government taking this step? (previous phrasing) The Government of Ontario has declared a state of emergency, closed all non-essential stores, and introduced a number of restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.] ...of the government taking this step?

Base: Total sample

The preliminary results suggest Ontarians are divided over whether the schools should be reopened for in-class learning even if the state of emergency and stay at home order continue.

	Jan 23-28
n=	300
	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	52
Very supportive	24
Somewhat supportive	28
Not too supportive	15
Not at all supportive	32
TOTAL NOT SUPPORTIVE	47
Don't know/Not sure	1

QCV-184. In response to the modelling that showed COVID-19 infections increasing significantly, the provincial government declared a second state of emergency and imposed a stay at home order. This included closing all schools in southern Ontario. Given that cases continue to be high, how supportive are you of reopening these schools for in-class learning?

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians believe the provincial government is acting on the recommendations from public health leaders.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	72	69
Strongly agree	27	28
Somewhat agree	45	41
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11
Somewhat disagree	10	12
Strongly disagree	7	5
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	17
Don't know	2	4

QCV-176. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Ontario government is acting on the recommendations from public health leaders?

Base: Total sample

About 1-in-2 believe the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations. One-third think it is putting health ahead of the economy.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
The provincial government has put the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population	14	14
The provincial government has tried to balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	50	48
The provincial government has put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	31	34
Don't know/Not sure	5	3

QCV-178. Which of the following statements best describes the provincial government’s actions regarding COVID-19. Would you say...

Base: Total sample

About 6-in-10 believe the government should be trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while just over one-third believe it should be putting health ahead of the economy.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
The provincial government should put the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population	3	3
The provincial government should balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	55	59
The provincial government should put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	40	35
Don't know/Not sure	2	2

QCV-179. And which statement best reflects your own point of view as to what the provincial government should do:

Base: Total sample

Ontarians appear to be divided over whether the provincial government has ‘done enough’ or ‘not done enough’ in response to the public health modelling.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
It has done far more than enough	11	13
It has done enough	51	42
It has not done enough	36	42
Don't know/not sure	2	3

QCV-183. In response to the modelling that shows that COVID-19 infections will increase significantly should things remain the same, the provincial government declared a second state of emergency and issued a stay at home order. In light of these recent actions, to what extent do you think the provincial government has done enough to stop the spread of COVID-19? Do you think it has done...

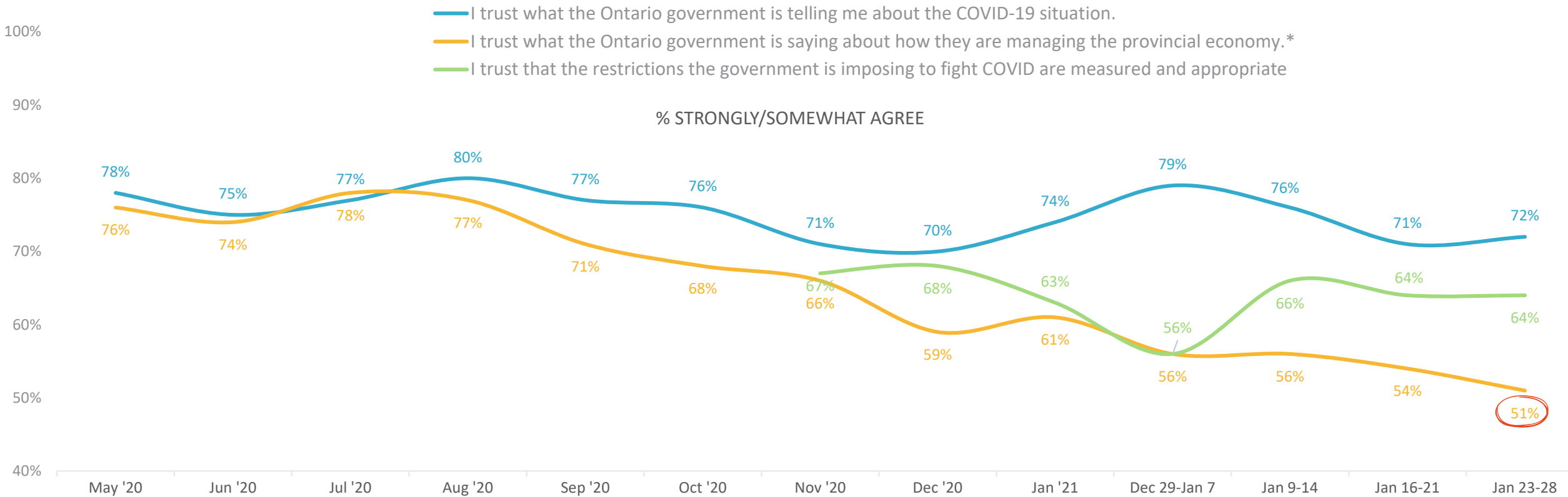
Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

There has been a steady decline in ‘trust’ in the government’s communications regarding the management of the provincial economy. It is now at its lowest point (51%). In contrast, the other trust measures are relatively 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

Most Ontarians continue to feel they have access to enough information about COVID-19. There has been a slight drop in intensity (‘strongly’ agree).

I feel that I have enough information about COVID-19

	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	69	71	71	80	85	74	74
Strongly agree	41	41	39	49	47	51	41
Somewhat agree	28	31	31	30	37	22	33
Neither agree nor disagree	2	3	4	3	-	2	2
Somewhat disagree	15	14	15	8	8	12	7
Strongly disagree	13	11	9	9	7	13	14
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	25	24	17	14	25	21
Not applicable	-	<1	1	-	-	-	1
Don't know	<1	<1	1	<1	1	-	2

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

Base: Total sample

Just over 4-in-10 agree that they are paying less attention to news or information about COVID-19. The level of intensity has also dropped.

I’m paying less attention to news or information about COVID-19

	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov'20	Dec '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	51	49	47	48	44	44	37	46	46	54	44
Strongly agree	22	19	23	26	22	20	19	29	23	28	16
Somewhat agree	28	30	25	22	23	23	18	17	23	26	27
Neither agree nor disagree	4	4	3	4	5	6	6	4	2	8	1
Somewhat disagree	18	18	18	14	15	16	15	16	23	17	14
Strongly disagree	26	28	30	33	35	34	41	33	28	19	42
TOTAL DISAGREE	44	46	48	47	50	50	56	49	51	36	56
Not applicable	<1	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	-	-	-	-
Don't know	<1	1	2	<1	<1	1	<1	1	1	2	-

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

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians reject the view they don't need to hear any more news about COVID-19.

I feel that I don't need to hear any more news about COVID-19

	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	23	21	23	27	20	21	25	30	22	35	33
Strongly agree	13	10	13	15	11	11	18	16	8	14	20
Somewhat agree	11	10	11	12	9	10	7	14	14	21	13
Neither agree nor disagree	4	4	4	3	3	5	5	5	6	3	5
Somewhat disagree	19	25	19	18	19	19	16	20	20	19	17
Strongly disagree	52	50	52	51	57	55	53	44	52	42	44
TOTAL DISAGREE	71	75	71	69	76	74	69	63	72	61	61
Not applicable											1

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

Base: Total sample

FAITH IN PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP



About one-third of Ontarians indicate they have lost faith in the decisions about COVID-19 by public health leaders. However, this number has been trending down.

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	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	26	30	39	38	31	34	28	-	47	36	33
Strongly agree	12	17	15	20	17	17	13	16	-	23	17	14
Somewhat agree	15	9	15	19	21	13	21	12	-	23	19	19
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	2	10	11	12	3	7	-	8	3	8
Somewhat disagree	27	23	22	21	10	29	32	24	-	22	31	21
Strongly disagree	41	44	43	31	38	27	30	40	-	23	30	38
TOTAL DISAGREE	68	66	66	52	48	57	62	64	-	45	61	59
Not applicable	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	2	2	2	-	3	1	1	1	-	1	-	-

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

Base: Total sample

A majority of Ontarians believe the public health projections on COVID-19 infections.

I don't believe as many people will become ill with COVID-19 as the government projections say			I don't believe as many people will become ill with COVID-19 as the new public health projections say	
% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Apr '20	May '20	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies		varies	
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	35	32	27
Strongly agree	11	13	14	12
Somewhat agree	17	22	18	15
Neither agree nor disagree	11	10	8	5
Somewhat disagree	26	25	20	20
Strongly disagree	32	28	37	44
TOTAL DISAGREE	58	53	57	64
Not applicable	<1	<1	-	-
Don't know	4	2	3	4

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about COVID-19:
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

Most Ontarians believe the COVID-19 infection projections outlined by public health leaders.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL BELIEVABLE	77	77
Very believable	41	43
Somewhat believable	36	34
Not too believable	14	12
Not at all believable	8	11
TOTAL NOT BELIEVABLE	22	22
Don't know/not sure	1	1

QCV-182. As you may know, the Ontario government released new modelling developed by public health officials on Jan 12, 2021 that suggests, based on current projections, that there will be a significant increase in COVID infections and no more intensive care beds available for COVID 19 patients by early February. How believable is this to you?

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



One-in five (22%) Ontarians believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now, down from a high of 64% in August.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
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	18	22	22

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 – this has increased significantly over the past week.

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

	Apr '20	May '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77
Not applicable								1
Don't know								1

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

Base: Total sample

There continues to be widespread belief that staying home mean saving lives.

I believe that I am saving lives by staying at home

	Apr '20	May '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	90	87	83	88	75	81
Strongly agree	69	63	59	73	50	60
Somewhat agree	21	24	23	14	25	21
Neither agree nor disagree	2	4	2	3	2	4
Somewhat disagree	4	6	6	3	8	7
Strongly disagree	2	2	8	6	13	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	6	8	14	9	21	14
Not applicable	1	1	2	-	-	1
Don't know	<1	<1	<1	1	3	-

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

Base: Total sample

THE LACK OF SOCIAL LIFE IS DIFFICULT

Even though Ontarians increasingly recognize that staying home saves lives, Ontarians agree that a lack of a social life is extremely difficult.

I find a lack of a social life extremely difficult

	Apr '20	May '20	Jun '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	52	55	54	65	68	63	57
Strongly agree	24	25	22	33	39	38	34
Somewhat agree	28	30	32	33	28	26	23
Neither agree nor disagree	8	7	6	6	4	3	7
Somewhat disagree	22	20	23	14	15	16	19
Strongly disagree	18	17	17	15	14	17	16
TOTAL DISAGREE	39	37	40	28	28	32	35
Not applicable	<1	<1	-	<1	-	-	1
Don't know	<1	<1	<1	-	-	1	

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

Ontarians are much more likely to feel very frustrated being at home compared to last April/May.

I am starting to feel very frustrated being at home

	Apr '20	May '20	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	51	44	60	55
Strongly agree	24	21	43	33
Somewhat agree	27	24	18	21
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	6	7
Somewhat disagree	19	22	16	19
Strongly disagree	21	25	13	19
TOTAL DISAGREE	40	47	29	38
Not applicable	1	1	3	-
Don't know	1	<1	1	-

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

Base: Total sample

In the past two weeks, about 1-in-4 feel they would rather take a chance on getting COVID-19 than continue staying at home, although this group remains a minority.

I am starting to feel that I would rather take a chance on getting COVID-19 than continue staying at home

	May '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	17	19	20	26	26
Strongly agree	8	12	10	14	18
Somewhat agree	9	7	9	12	8
Neither agree nor disagree	3	3	6	3	2
Somewhat disagree	16	14	7	8	13
Strongly disagree	63	62	67	61	57
TOTAL DISAGREE	79	76	74	69	70
Don't know	1	2	<1	3	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

Still, most Ontarians continue to say that they are only leaving their homes to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy, although this appears to be softening a bit in the past two weeks.

I am only leaving my house to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy

	Apr '20	May '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29
Not applicable	3	1	2	2	9	2
Don't know	1	1	1	-	3	-

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

Base: Total sample

DID ALL IT COULD OR COULD HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY

The perception that the government ‘could have acted differently’ in dealing with the 2nd wave of the pandemic has increased since early November, about two-thirds taking this view over the past week.

	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	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	400	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All it could reasonably be expected to do	44	52	47	44	43	45	47	39	33	34	37	37	34	31	30	37	32
Could have acted differently	55	47	53	55	56	52	49	56	63	59	60	62	62	67	68	61	66
Don't know/Not sure	1	1	<1	2	1	2	3	5	4	6	3	2	4	2	2	2	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	Dec 19-23	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	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	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
Right Track	52%	61%	55%	49%	56%	54%	58%	46%	39%	44%	43%	45%	46%	41%	41%	53%	44%	46%	37%	44%	49%	44%	43%	39%	47%	57%	50%	54%	53%	51%	57%	59%	46%	54%
Wrong Track	12%	14%	22%	27%	17%	19%	10%	15%	10%	9%	19%	12%	12%	13%	10%	8%	9%	88%	86%	78%	72%	81%	80%	86%	84%	87%	83%	78%	88%	82%	87%	87%	89%	90%

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

GOVERNMENT DID NOT MOVE AS QUICKLY AS IT COULD TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Compared to last spring, Ontarians are much more likely to believe that the government has not moved quickly enough to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The provincial government has not moved as quickly as it could to try to stop the spread of COVID-19

	Apr '20	May '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	43	40	60	65	61	58
Strongly agree	19	17	37	43	32	37
Somewhat agree	24	23	23	22	30	21
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	7	7	7	5
Somewhat disagree	28	29	17	19	19	19
Strongly disagree	21	22	14	9	13	16
TOTAL DISAGREE	49	51	31	27	32	36
Don't know						2

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



Most Ontarians continue to believe that the provincial shutdown was an ‘appropriate’ reaction.

- Those who believe that the government is on the ‘right track’ overwhelmingly believe (82%) that the provincial shutdown is an appropriate reaction, while those who feel it is on the ‘wrong track’ are much less likely (64%) to hold this view.

	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	400	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
Appropriate reaction	85	77	76	76
An overreaction	13	21	22	24
Don’t know	2	2	2	1

QCV-171. As you may have heard, in response to both the increasing number of COVID infections in the province and new modelling projections from public health officials, the provincial government declared a state of emergency and issued a stay at home order to reduce community transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Considering the COVID-19 situation in Ontario , do you believe that this decision is appropriate or an overreaction... (previous phrasing) As you may have heard, in response an increasing number of COVID infections in the province and concerns about the impact on the hospitals to handle the increasing numbers of people requiring hospitalization, the provincial government has announced that provincial wide shutdown in order to reduce community transmission of the COVID-19 virus. This shutdown will be for apply to Southern Ontario until January 25th and Northern Ontario until January 11th . Considering the COVID-19 situation in Ontario , do you believe that this decision is appropriate or an overreaction...

Base: Total sample

Similarly, Ontarians continue to believe that, if infections rise, the shutdown should be extended.

	Dec 29 -Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	400	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	77	76	71	71
Strongly agree	54	57	49	53
Somewhat agree	23	18	22	18
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5
Somewhat disagree	8	8	6	8
Strongly disagree	10	13	18	14
TOTAL DISAGREE	18	21	24	23
Don't know/not sure				1

QCV-173. If the number of COVID-19 infection cases continue to increase, do you agree or disagree that the provincial state of emergency and stay at home order should be extended? (previous phrasing) If the number of COVID-19 infection cases continue to increase, do you agree is agree that the provincial shutdown be extended?

Base: Total sample

MASK WEARING PERCEPTIONS



FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

Wearing of masks or face coverings ‘all/most of the time’ continues to be strong. Those wearing a mask ‘all of the time’ remains at its highest point.

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	400	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	92	93	92	92	91
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	73	70	74	74
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	20	21	18	16
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	5	7	7	6
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	3
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	1	-	-	<1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	1	1	3

REGIONS	City of Toronto							Toronto Suburbs							Hamilton							Central Ontario							South Western Ontario							Northern Ontario							Eastern Ontario							Ottawa						
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	95%	92%	96%	98%	94%	89%	90%	94%	95%	90%	92%	92%	86%	90%	93%	91%	90%	86%	86%	83%	90%	90%	94%	88%	90%	72%	86%	87%	90%	99%	89%	91%	92%	89%	91%	87%	85%	87%	87%	95%	92%	88%	89%	90%	96%	100%	88%	87%	86%	88%	89%	100%	87%	82%

	RIGHT TRACK							WRONG TRACK						
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	97%	95%	95%	93%	82%	83%	86%	85%	85%	85%	87%

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

VACCINE



Over the past week, there appears to have been a drop in the confidence levels that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccination program is being rolled out.

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 now being administered**

Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41
19	10	17	19	24	14
34	41	30	33	29	27
5	9	6	4	7	10
19	20	20	22	20	21
21	20	26	21	20	27
40	40	45	44	39	48
2	-	1	1	-	1

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

Base: Total sample, base varies

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS DURING COVID-19



A declining number of Ontarians claim knowledge of government support for small business impacted by COVID-19 health restrictions.

	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	250	400	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME	58	53	59	58	52	49
A great deal	9	11	11	10	14	11
Some	49	42	47	48	38	39
Not too much	27	34	28	24	29	31
None at all	9	6	8	9	11	11
TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NONE AT ALL	35	39	36	33	40	42
Don't know/not sure	7	8	5	9	8	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

Compared to last spring, fewer Ontarians believe that the government is doing all it can to ensure essential businesses remain free from COVID-19.

The provincial government is doing all it can to ensure those working in essential industries and services remain free from COVID-19

	Apr '20	May '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	66	69	56	67	57	53
Strongly agree	24	23	22	17	28	23
Somewhat agree	42	45	34	50	30	30
Neither agree nor disagree	6	7	6	5	7	7
Somewhat disagree	16	14	20	14	11	16
Strongly disagree	10	9	16	12	21	23
TOTAL DISAGREE	26	22	37	26	31	38
Don't know	-	-	-	-	4	2

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

Base: Total sample

Support for the government ordering even more businesses to close has dropped over the past week.

The provincial government should order even more businesses to close

	Apr '20	May '20	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	43	29	35	42	37	31
Strongly agree	23	15	19	23	18	17
Somewhat agree	21	14	17	19	20	14
Neither agree nor disagree	11	8	6	5	6	7
Somewhat disagree	25	29	24	18	18	23
Strongly disagree	20	34	33	33	38	38
TOTAL DISAGREE	45	63	57	51	56	61
Don't know	1	-	2	1	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

Most Ontarians think that the province-wide shutdown is unfair to small business while favouring big box stores and that smaller retailers should be allowed to reopen.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
Some people say that the current provincial shut down is unfair to small businesses, especially retailers, and is largely benefiting big box stores. Smaller retailers should be allowed to open.	69	70
Other people say that the current approach of keeping smaller retailers closed is necessary to combat COVID-19 and should not be changed.	26	23
Don't know/not sure	6	7

QCV-180. Thinking of these two points of view which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians are concerned about the impact of the province-wide shutdown on small business. The intensity of the concern is high.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	89	88
Very concerned	50	49
Somewhat concerned	39	39
Not too concerned	7	7
Not at all concerned	2	4
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	10	11
Don't know/not sure	2	1

QCV-181. Overall, how concerned or not are you about the impact of the state of emergency and strict stay at home requirement on smaller businesses in the province?

Base: Total sample

PROVINCIAL INSPECTIONS OF WORKPLACES



Almost two-thirds say they are aware of provincial inspectors visiting stores, restaurants and other essential businesses to ensure they are complying with the public health guidelines.

	Jan 23-28
n=	300
	%
Yes	64
No	35
Don't know/Not sure	1

QCV-185. Have you seen, read or heard about provincial government inspectors visiting stores, restaurants and other essential businesses to ensure they are complying with the public health guidelines during the state of emergency and stay home order?

Base: Total sample

The preliminary results show that about 6-in-10 believe that inspections will be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

	Jan 23-28
n=	300
	%
TOTAL EFFECTIVE	61
Very effective	15
Somewhat effective	47
Not too effective	22
Not at all effective	12
TOTAL NOT EFFECTIVE	34
Don't know/Not sure	4

QCV-186. In fact, inspectors have been visiting stores, restaurants and other essential business workplaces and fining those that are not in compliance with the regulations. Overall, how effective to do think these inspections are in reducing the spread of COVID 19?

Base: Total sample

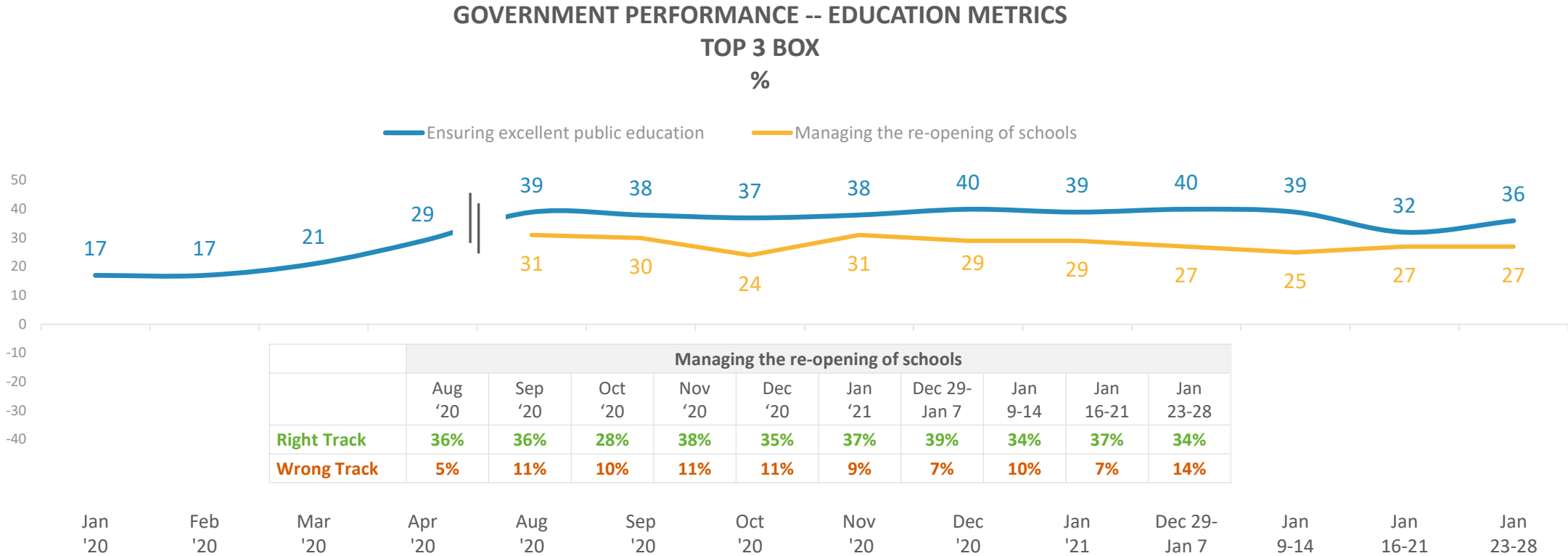
The early findings suggest that most Ontarians believe that inspections of essential workplaces for public health compliance is appropriate and necessary.

	Jan 23-28
n=	300
	%
Some people say they believe inspections of essential workplaces for their compliance with the regulations is appropriate and necessary in order to reduce the spread of COVID 19.	70
Other people say they believe inspections of essential workplaces is not appropriate as it is excessive meddling with business that are already facing enough challenges	26
Don't know	4

APPENDIX

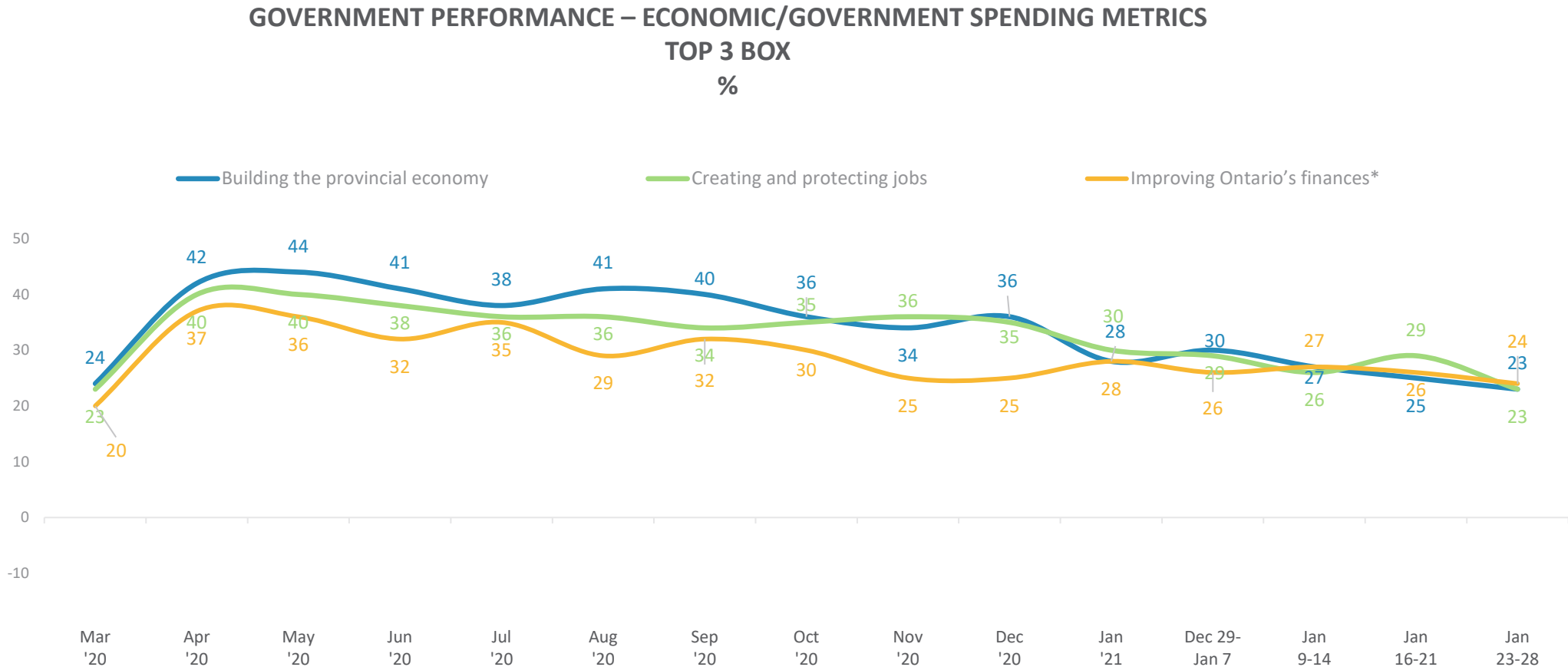


Positive perceptions of ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has rebounded slightly over the past week.



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

Positive perceptions toward economic consideration metrics continue to track downward, maintaining a trend that started last summer.

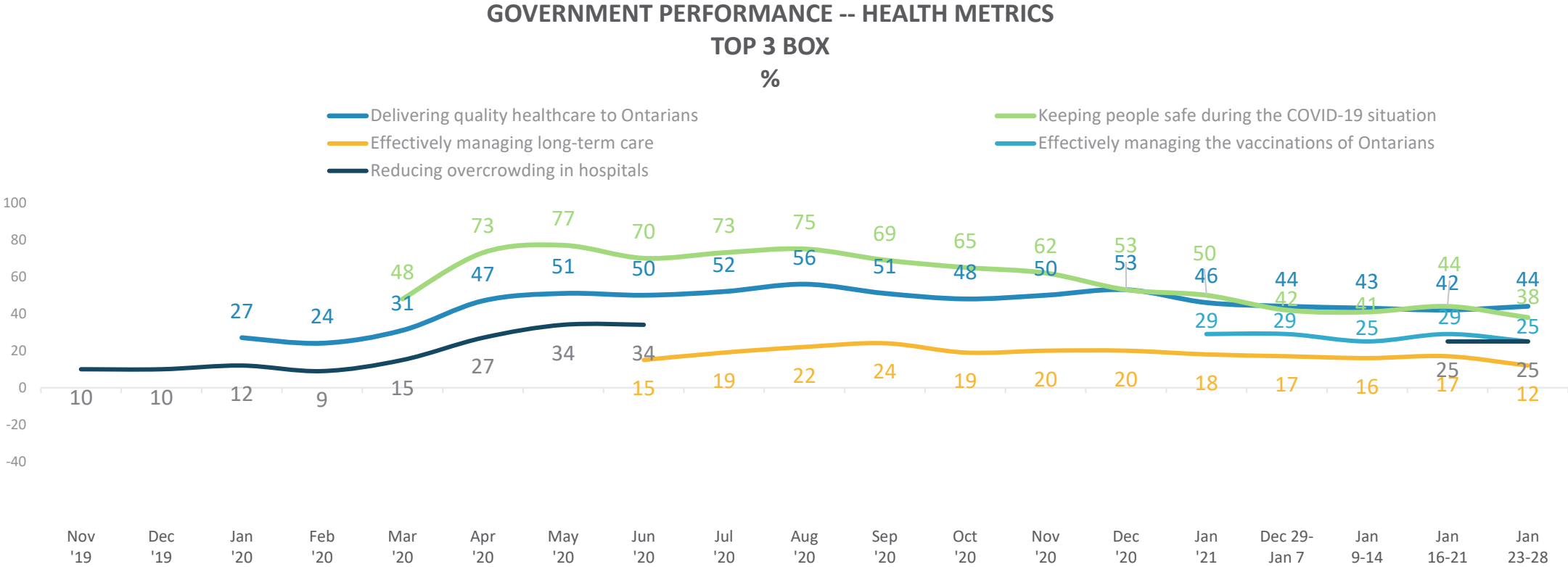


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*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 key health metrics – ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘managing long-term care’ – have slipped.



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