

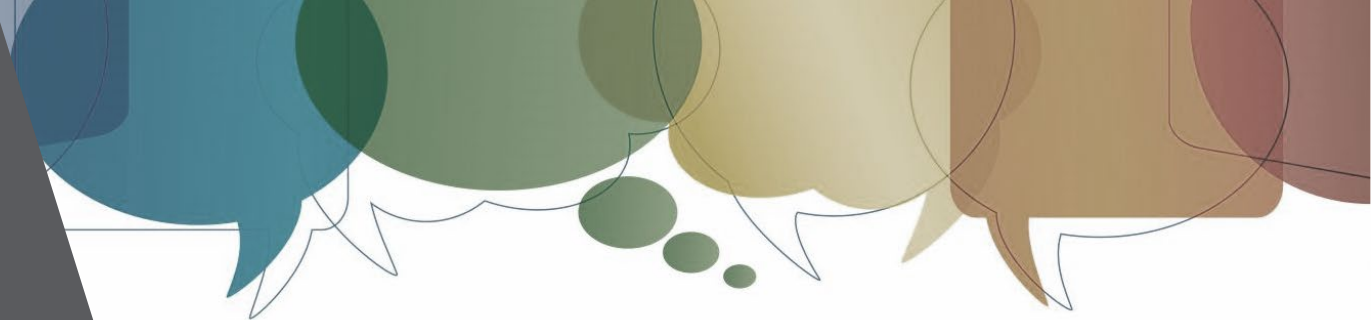


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #68

CABINET OFFICE

February 12th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores have remained remarkably stable at 67% since early January.

2 The government's performance 'effectively managing the vaccinations' remains flat (-13), while there has been a slight improvement on 'effectively managing long-term care' (now at -25). These two issues remain the government's weakest areas. With declining infections, perceptions toward the government's performance on 'delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians' and 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' have improved.

3 Interestingly, given the declining infections, the government's performance on 'building the provincial economy' and 'improving Ontario's finances' have edged upward after slipping significantly since December. Its performance on 'creating/protecting jobs' continues to weaken, however.

4 Ontarians' support for the state of emergency and province-wide shutdown remains strong. But, intensity for this action has declined as the government announced an end to the state of emergency and gradual regional re-opening of the province.

This past week, fewer Ontarians believe that province-wide shutdown has helped to cause a decline in reported COVID-19 cases.

5 As infections have declined, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of Ontarians who believe that the province is 'doing more than is necessary' and fewer believe it is 'not doing as much as they should'.

6 Trust levels appear to be shifting depending on government actions. On a positive front, there has been continued upward movement in trust that the government's restrictions to fight COVID-19 are measured/appropriate. After declining in recent months, trust in the government's communications regarding the management of the provincial economy remained flat over the past week. As well, trust in the communication about the COVID-19 situation has gradually declined since early January.

Key Findings

A slight majority Ontarians think the government should be trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while just over 4-in-10 believe it should be putting health ahead of the economy.

Over the past week, there has been a rebound in the view that the province 'has done enough' to respond the public health modelling, while there is one-third who think the government 'has not done enough' in response to the public health modelling.

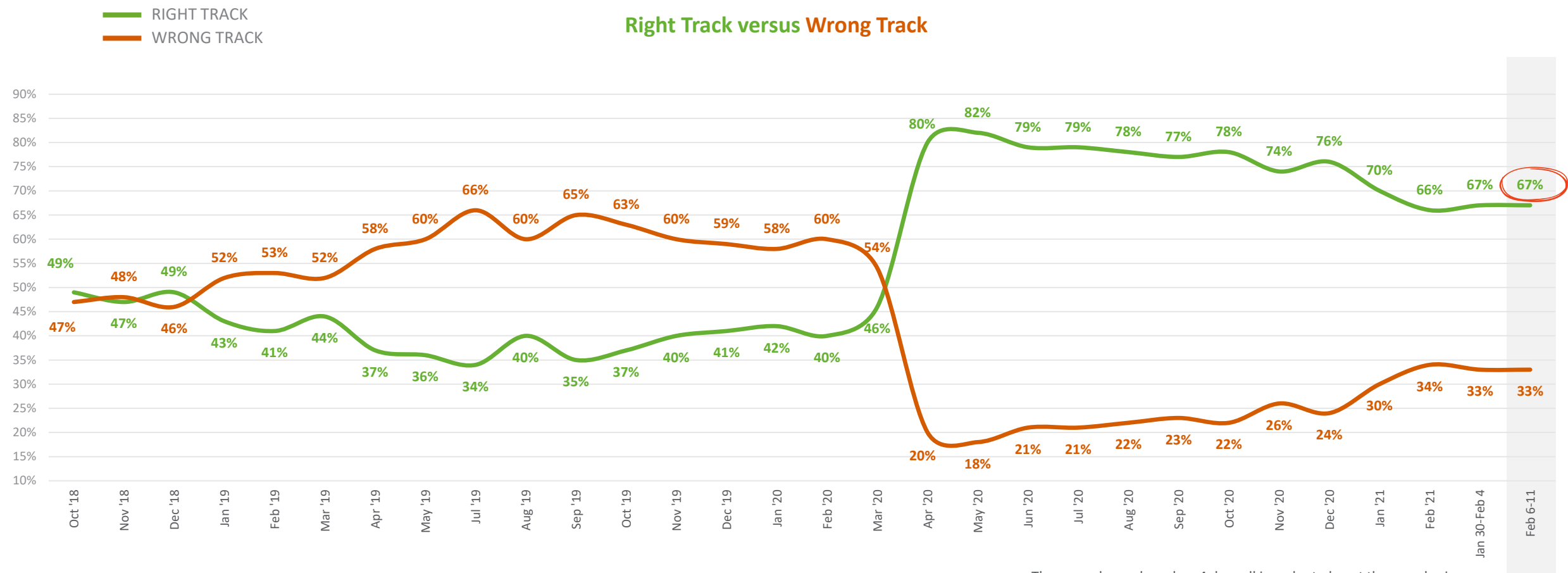
Ontarians have very high awareness of the UK, Brazilian and South African variants of the COVID-19 virus.

Most Ontarians (albeit declining from 70% to 56%) believe these COVID-19 variants are more dangerous. An increasing number see the variants as dangerous as the original coronavirus. Again, virtually no one thinks they are less dangerous.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



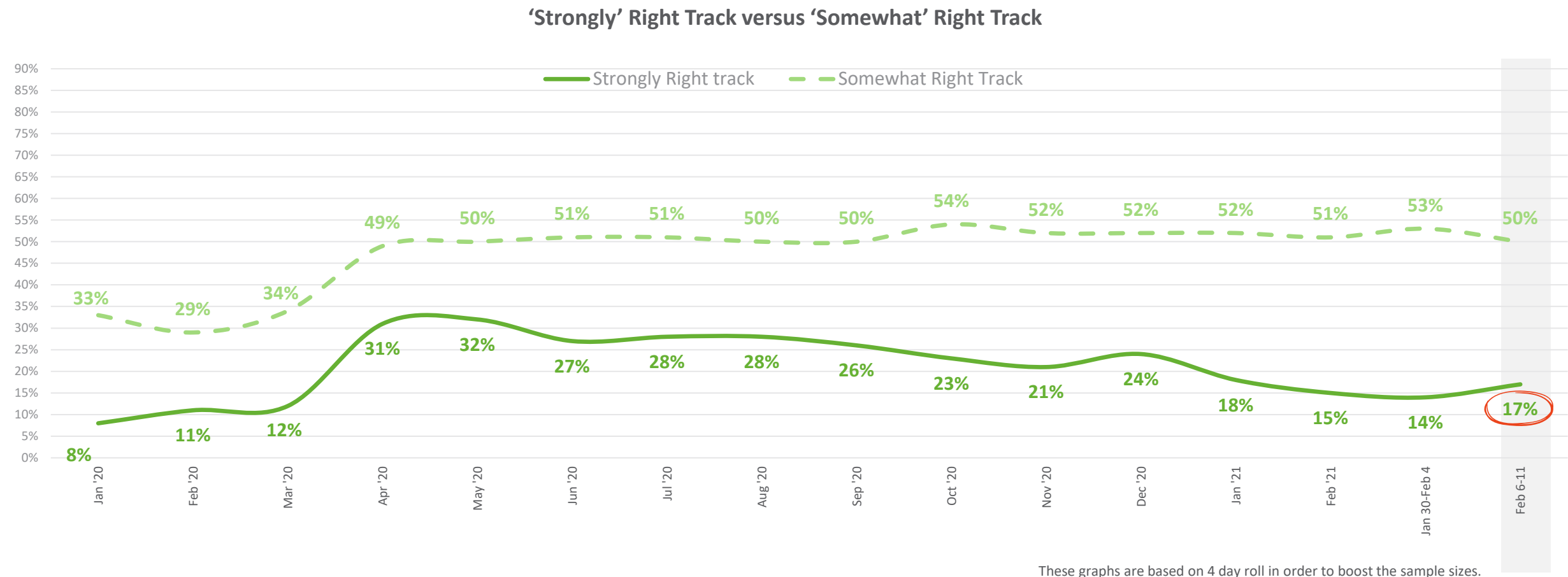
The government's 'right track' scores remains stable at 67% since early January.



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

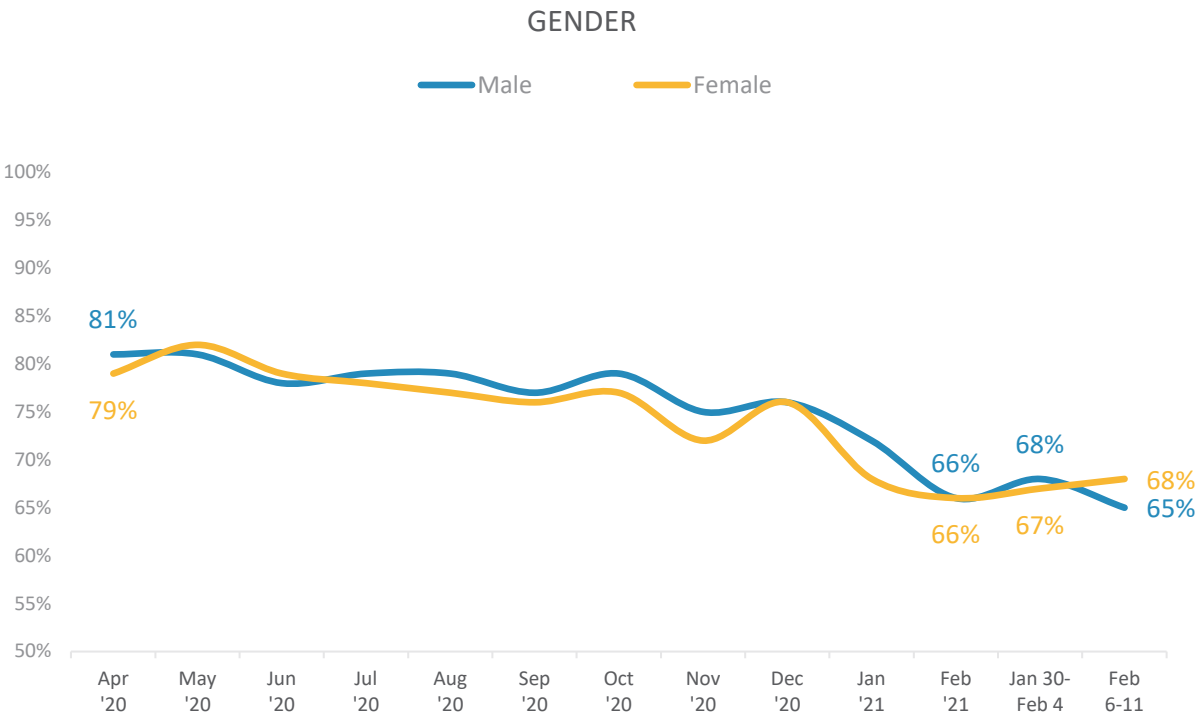
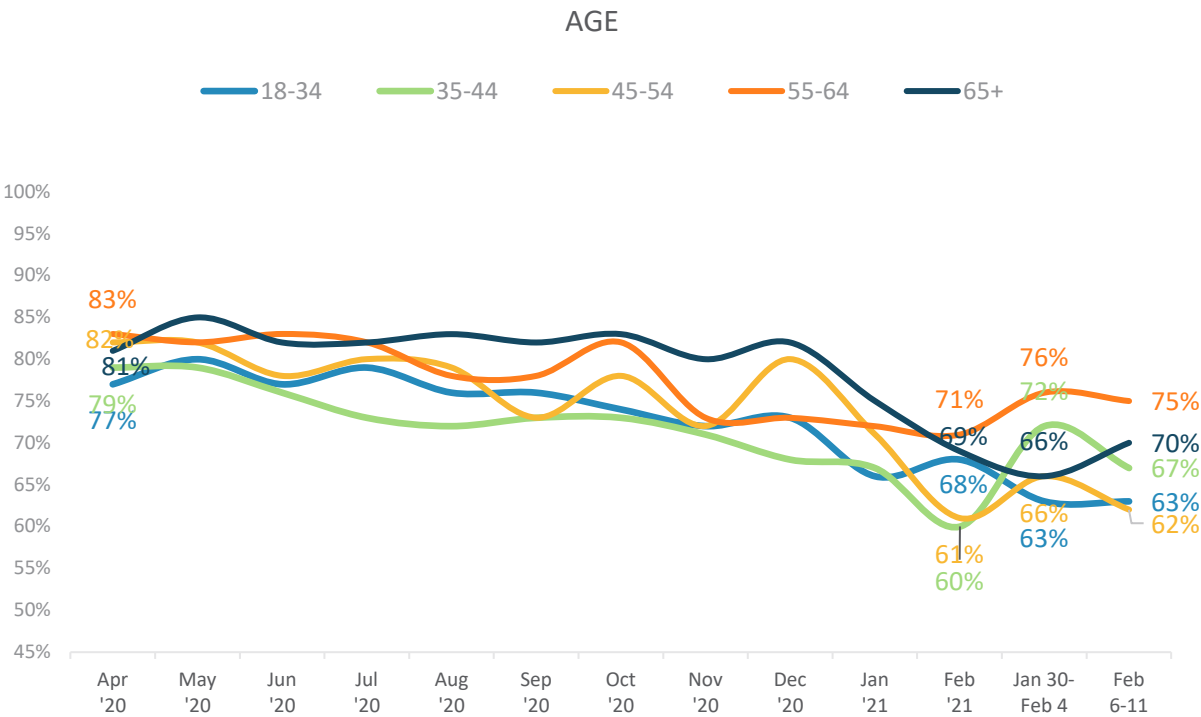
The government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores have also stabilized at 17% since early January.



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 is strongest among those aged 55-64.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

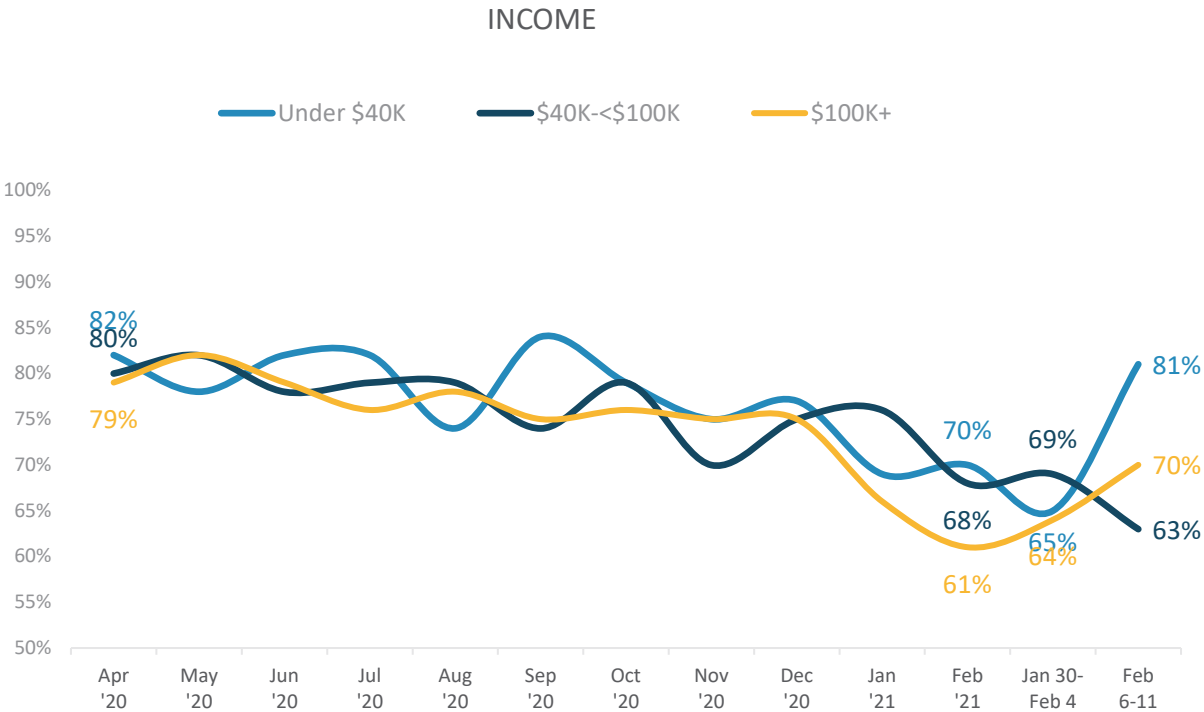
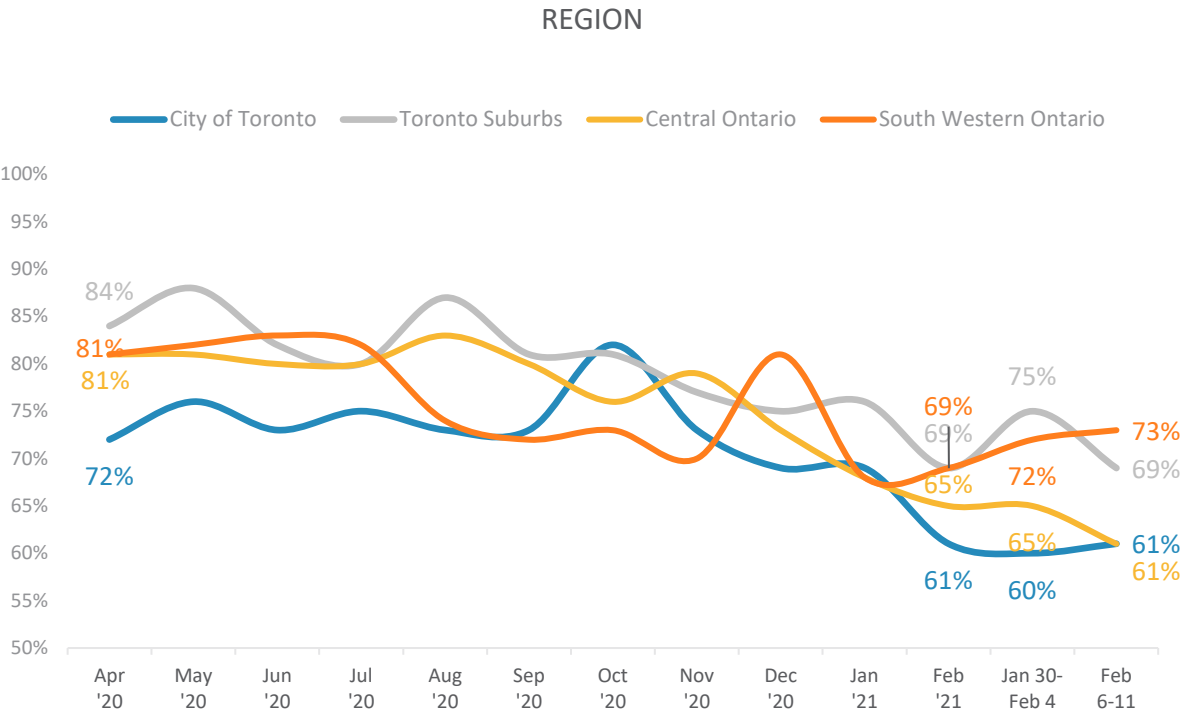


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 is strongest among those earning \$40k or less.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



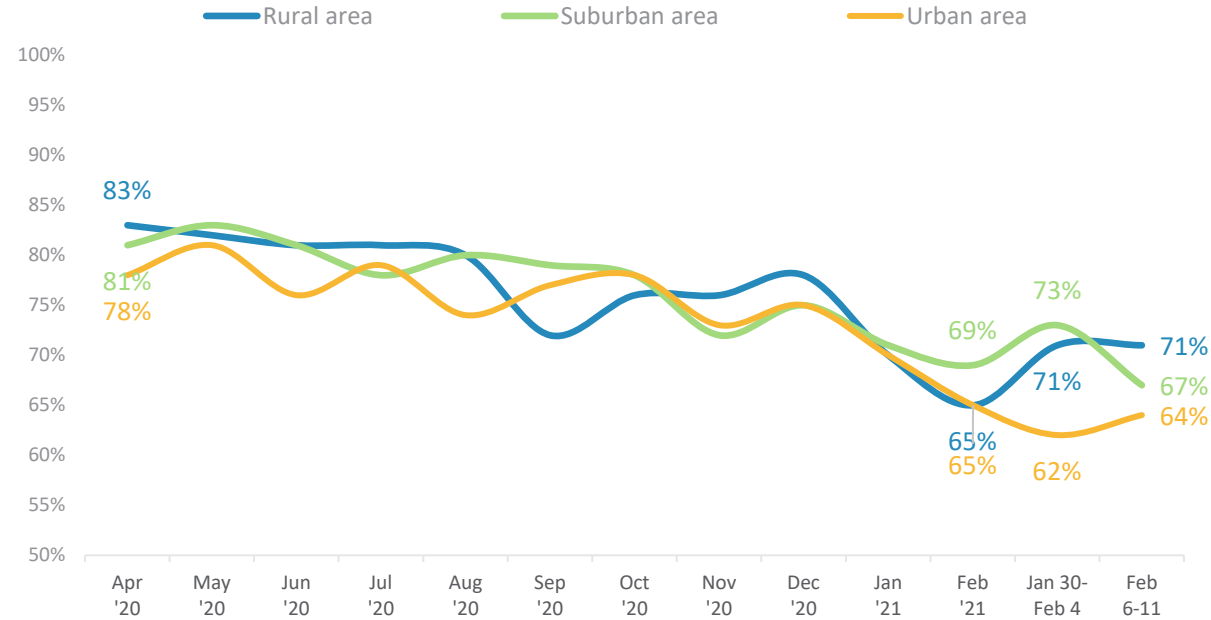
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

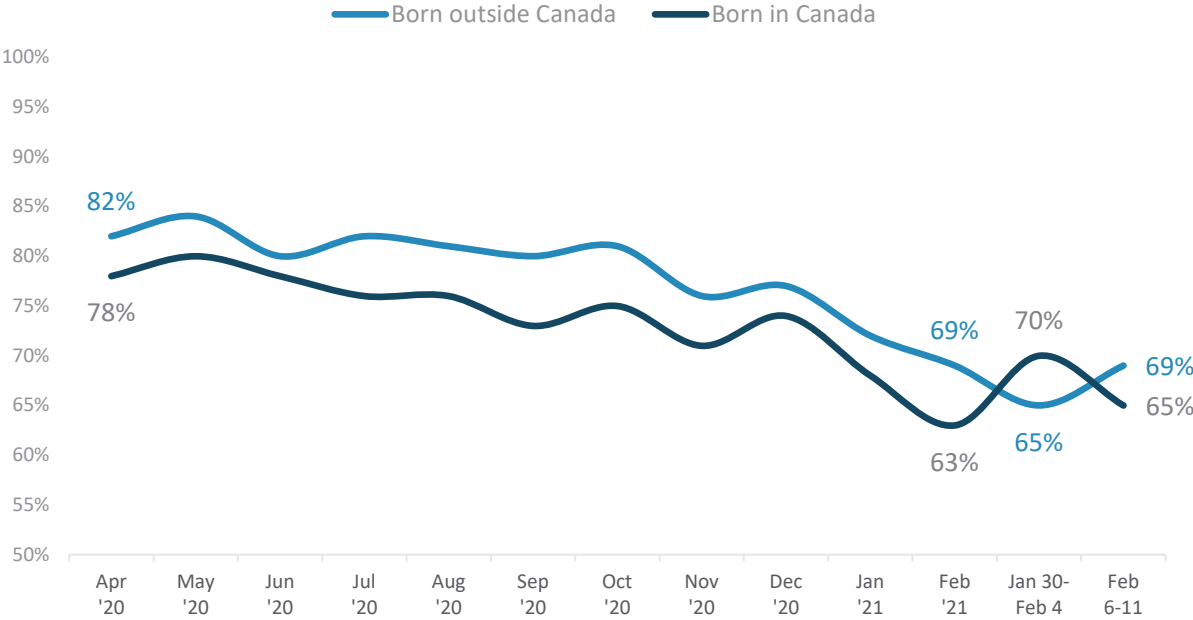
The ‘right track’ scores are higher in rural and suburban areas compared to urban areas.

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.

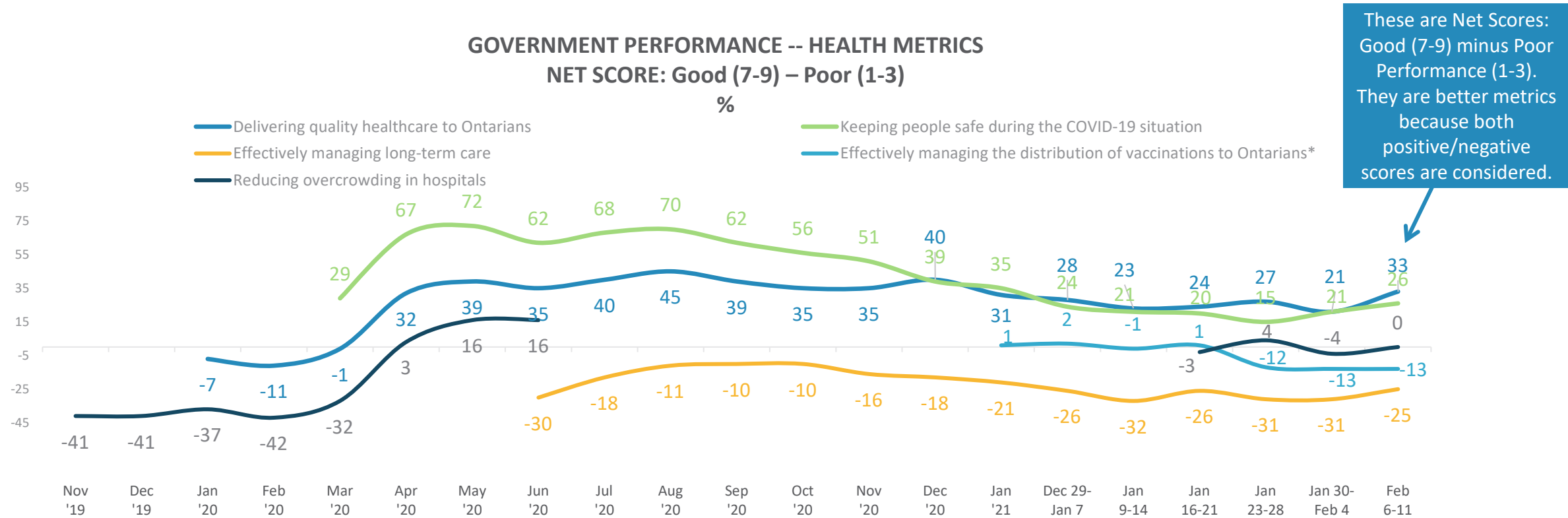
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The government’s performance ‘effectively managing the vaccinations’ remains flat (-13), while there has been a slight improvement on ‘effectively managing long-term care’ (now at -25). These two issues remain the government’s weakest areas.

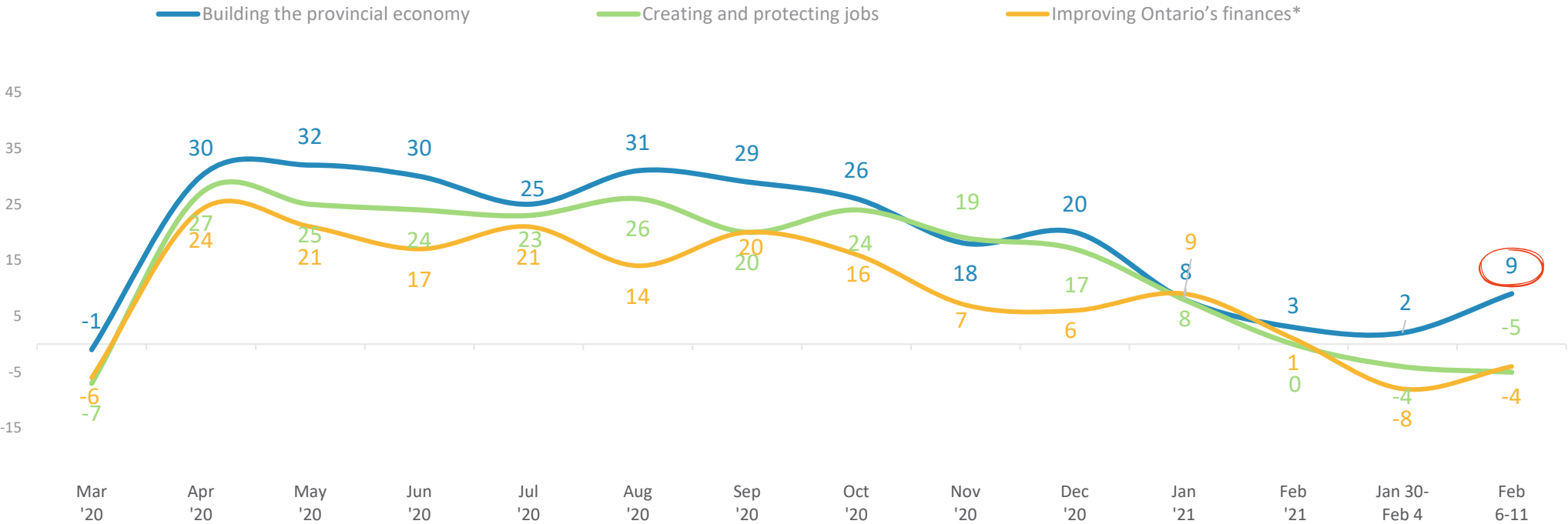
- With declining infections, perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ have improved.



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

Interestingly, given the declining infections, the government’s performance on ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ have edged upward after slipping significantly since December. Its performance on ‘creating/protecting jobs’ continues to weaken, however.

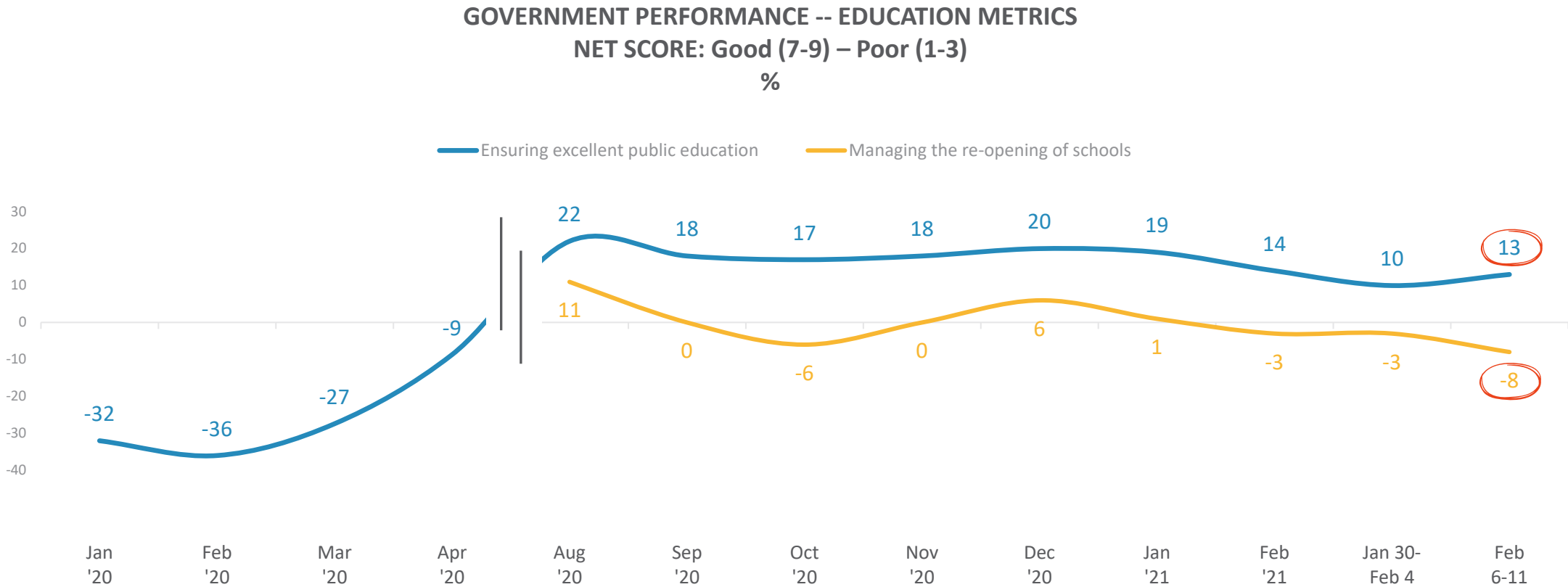
GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE – ECONOMIC/GOVERNMENT SPENDING METRICS
NET SCORE: Good (7-9) – Poor (1-3)
%



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

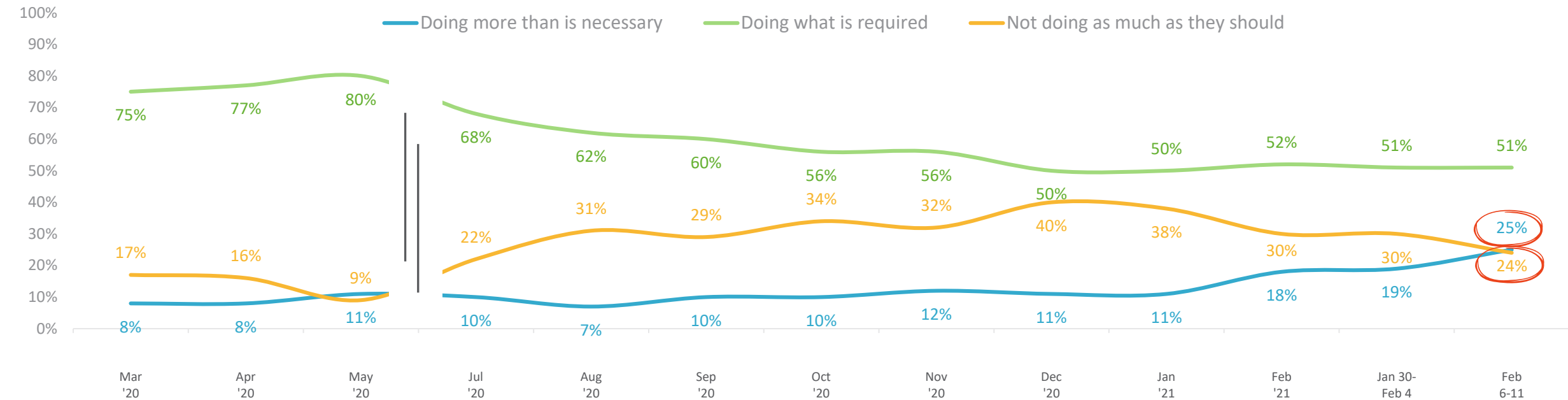
Perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remains stable, while ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ scores edged downwards.



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

As infections have declined, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of Ontarians who believe that the province is ‘doing more than is necessary’ and fewer believe it is ‘not doing as much as they should’.

	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	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%



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 imposing a 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 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 ...

SUPPORT FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN



Ontarians’ support for the state of emergency and province-wide shutdown remains strong. But, intensity for this action has declined as the government announced an end to the state of emergency and gradual regional re-opening of the province.

	Apr '20	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	1206	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	96	77	76	82	78
Very supportive	81	51	53	50	44
Somewhat supportive	15	25	23	32	34
Somewhat opposed	3	10	10	8	12
Very opposed	1	14	13	8	9
TOTAL OPPOSED	3	23	23	17	21
Don't know	-	-	1	1	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

This past week, fewer Ontarians believe that province-wide shutdown has helped to cause a decline in reported COVID-19 cases

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF IT	60	49
All of it	16	17
Most of it	45	32
Some of it	32	41
None of it	6	8
TOTAL SOME/NONE OF IT	38	49
Don't know/not sure	2	2

QCV-188. Given the recent decline in reported COVID 19 cases, how much of this decline do you attribute to the Ontario Government lockdown?

Base: Total sample

This past week, Ontarians are more likely to support the schools to be reopened for in-class learning even if the state of emergency and stay at home order continues.

- The early results suggest that parents (64%) are just slightly more supportive of this approach.

	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	52	52	58
Very supportive	24	25	29
Somewhat supportive	28	27	29
Not too supportive	15	21	16
Not at all supportive	32	24	23
TOTAL NOT SUPPORTIVE	47	46	39
Don't know/Not sure	1	2	4

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

The preliminary results suggest that Ontarians are divided whether the schools will be safe in light of the new COVID variants.

I do not believe schools are safe and am very concerned about the impact of the new COVID variants on children who attend class

	Feb 6-11
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	49
Strongly agree	33
Somewhat agree	17
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	19
Strongly disagree	24
TOTAL DISAGREE	44

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

Base: Total sample

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

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	72	69	78	74
Strongly agree	27	28	32	26
Somewhat agree	45	41	46	48
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11	5	12
Somewhat disagree	10	12	10	9
Strongly disagree	7	5	6	4
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	17	16	12
Don't know	2	4	1	2

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

A slight majority hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while one-third think the government is putting economic interests ahead of the health of the population.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
The provincial government has put the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population	14	14	22	12
The provincial government has tried to balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	50	48	43	51
The provincial government has put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	31	34	32	31
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7

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

A slight majority of Ontarians think the government should be trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while just over 4-in-10 believe it should be putting health ahead of the economy.

- Those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ tend to think that the government should balance the interests of the economy with the health of the general public. Those who consider the government is on the ‘wrong track’ tend to feel the government should put the health of the population ahead of the economy.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
The provincial government should put the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population	3	3	6	2
The provincial government should balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	55	59	49	53
The provincial government should put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	40	35	44	42
Don't know/Not sure	2	2	1	2

Over the past week, there has been a rebound in the view that the province ‘has done enough’ to respond the public health modelling, while there is one-third who think the government ‘has not done enough’ in response to the public health modelling.

- Those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ tend to consider that the government has done enough (64%) in response to the public health modelling. Not surprisingly, those who believe the government is on the ‘wrong track’ are the polar opposite: they tend to feel the government hasn’t done enough (62%).

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
It has done far more than enough	11	13	7	12
It has done enough	51	42	41	52
It has not done enough	36	42	48	34
Don’t know/not sure	2	3	4	2

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

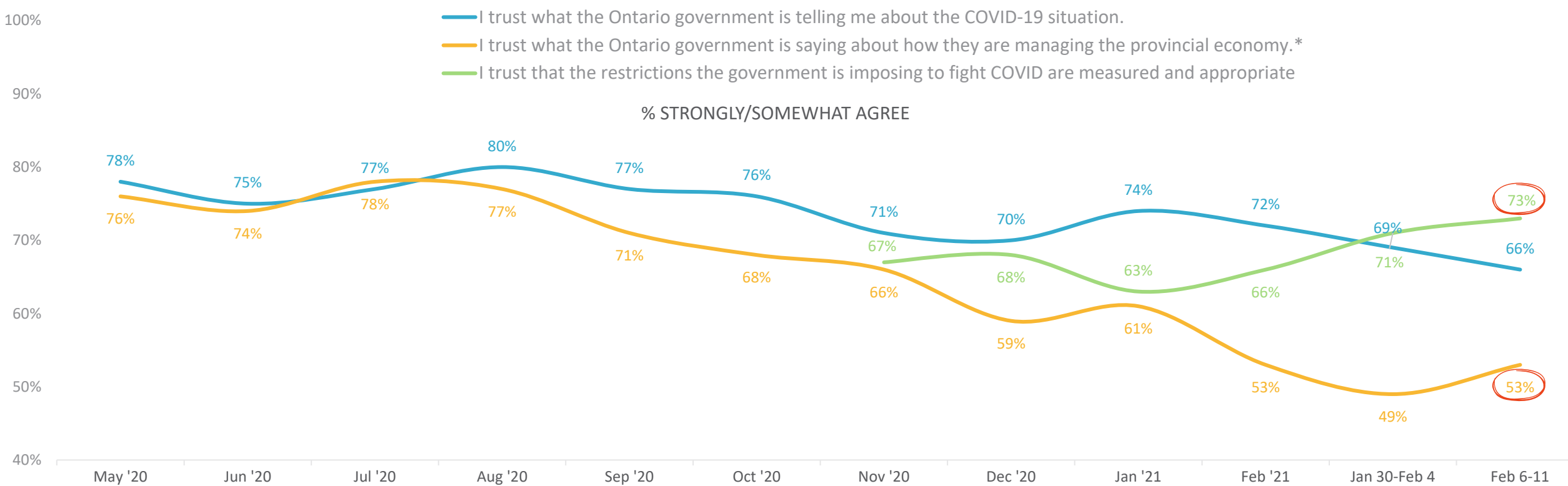
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Trust levels appear to be shifting depending on government actions. On as positive front, there has been continued upward movement in trust that the government’s restrictions to fight COVID-19 are measured/appropriate.

- After declining in recent months, trust in the government’s communications regarding the management of the provincial economy remained flat over the past week.
- As well, trust in the communication about the COVID-19 situation has gradually declined since early January.



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

FAITH IN PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP



During the past week, almost 4-in-10 indicate they have lost faith in the decisions about COVID-19 by public health leaders.

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	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	26	30	39	38	31	34	28	-	47	36	33	37	39
Strongly agree	12	17	15	20	17	17	13	16	-	23	17	14	18	19
Somewhat agree	15	9	15	19	21	13	21	12	-	23	19	19	20	20
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	2	10	11	12	3	7	-	8	3	8	9	11
Somewhat disagree	27	23	22	21	10	29	32	24	-	22	31	21	25	17
Strongly disagree	41	44	43	31	38	27	30	40	-	23	30	38	29	30
TOTAL DISAGREE	68	66	66	52	48	57	62	64	-	45	61	59	54	47
Not applicable	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Don't know	2	2	2	-	3	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	2

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

Base: Total sample

A plurality of Ontarians believe the public health projections on COVID-19 infections, but the believability in the modelling continues to decline.

I don't believe as many people will become ill with COVID-19 as the government projections say

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Apr '20	May '20
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	35
Strongly agree	11	13
Somewhat agree	17	22
Neither agree nor disagree	11	10
Somewhat disagree	26	25
Strongly disagree	32	28
TOTAL DISAGREE	58	53
Not applicable	<1	<1
Don't know	4	2

I don't believe as many people will become ill with COVID-19 as the new public health projections say

Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
varies			
%	%	%	%
32	27	35	40
14	12	15	18
18	15	21	22
8	5	9	8
20	20	13	15
37	44	37	31
57	64	50	46
-	-	-	-
3	4	6	6

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

While most Ontarians believe in the threat of COVID-19 variants, a declining number of Ontarians share this perspective.

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?

	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

As you may know, the Ontario government has recently released updated public health modelling, which shows that as a result of new COVID variants coming into Ontario, there is a risk that the rate of daily infections will increase faster. How believable is the modelling that shows an increase in cases due to these new variants?

Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
300	300
%	%
85	73
35	33
49	40
5	11
6	9
11	20
5	7

QCV-182. As you may know, the Ontario government has recently released updated public health modelling, which shows that as a result of new COVID variants coming into Ontario, there is a risk that the rate of daily infections will increase faster. How believable is the modelling that shows an increase in cases due to these new variants? (previous phrasing) 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?

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



Likely due to declining infection cases, there has been jump in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now.

% 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	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
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	35	35

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

Just over one-quarter of Ontarians don't think someone like themselves will get COVID-19.

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	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62
Not applicable								1	2	2
Don't know								1	4	3

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	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	90	87	83	88	75	81	83	84
Strongly agree	69	63	59	73	50	60	59	69
Somewhat agree	21	24	23	14	25	21	24	15
Neither agree nor disagree	2	4	2	3	2	4	2	2
Somewhat disagree	4	6	6	3	8	7	3	4
Strongly disagree	2	2	8	6	13	7	9	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	6	8	14	9	21	14	12	13
Not applicable	1	1	2	-	-	1	1	-
Don't know	<1	<1	<1	1	3	-	2	-

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

Base: Total sample

About 1-in-5 believe they would rather take a chance on getting COVID-19 than continue staying at home.

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	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	17	19	20	26	26	19	21
Strongly agree	8	12	10	14	18	12	12
Somewhat agree	9	7	9	12	8	7	9
Neither agree nor disagree	3	3	6	3	2	4	3
Somewhat disagree	16	14	7	8	13	13	15
Strongly disagree	63	62	67	61	57	63	58
TOTAL DISAGREE	79	76	74	69	70	76	73
Don't know	1	2	<1	3	2	1	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

Still, most Ontarians (75%) continue to say that they are only leaving their homes to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy.

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	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14
Not applicable	3	1	2	2	9	2	5	8
Don't know	1	1	1	-	3	-	2	1

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VARIANTS



Ontarians have very high awareness of the UK, Brazilian and South African variants of the COVID-19 virus.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300
	%	%
Yes	93	94
No	7	6
Don't know/not sure	<1	<1

QCV-190. Have you heard about COVID variants identified in the UK, Brazil and South Africa that public health leaders have identified as possible threats to Ontarians? (previous phrasing) Have you heard about COVID variants identified in the UK, Brazil and South Africa that public health leaders have identified as possible threats to Ontarians?

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians (albeit declining from 70% to 56%) see these COVID-19 variants as more dangerous . An increasing number see the variants as dangerous as the original coronavirus. Again, virtually no one thinks they are less dangerous.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300
	%	%
More dangerous	70	56
As dangerous	22	27
Less dangerous	3	4
Don't know/not sure	6	13

QCV-191. To the best of your knowledge, are these new variants more dangerous, as dangerous, or less dangerous than the original COVID 19 infection?

Base: Total sample

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT NEW COVID-19 VARIANTS

Given the perceived threats from COVID-19 variants, most Ontarians are highly concerned about these COVID-19 mutations.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	85	79
Very concerned	49	47
Somewhat concerned	37	32
Not very concerned	9	12
Not at all concerned	5	6
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	13	19
Don't know/Not sure	1	2

QCV-174. As you may have heard, new COVID variants identified in the UK and South Africa were apparently brought into Canada by international travellers. Ontario health officials have confirmed cases of these new strains of COVID in Ontario. How concerned are you about these new COVID variants? (previous phrasing) As you may have heard, a new COVID variant identified in the UK was apparently brought into Canada by international travellers. Ontario health officials have confirmed several cases of this new strain of COVID in Ontario. How concerned are you about this new COVID variant?

Base: Total sample

A slight majority of Ontarians believe the government should be doing more to stop the spread of the new variants.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	Varies	
	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37
Should be doing more	56	56
Don't know/not sure	5	7

QCV-130A. With the arrival of new COVID variants identified in the UK and South Africa, do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do to stop the spread of these new variants or should it be doing more? (previous phrasing) With the arrival of a new COVID variant identified in the UK, do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do to stop the spread of the new variant or should it be doing more?

Base: Total sample

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS – ARE THEY SUFFICIENT OR SHOULD MORE RESTRICTIONS

Most Ontarians believe that current restrictions are sufficient to deal with the COVID-19 variants.

	Feb 6-11
n=	300
	%
Should do more	23
Current restrictions are sufficient	73
Don't know/not sure	4

QCV-191. (192) In light of the new COVID-19 variants, should the Ontario government place more restrictions on businesses and the public or are the current restrictions sufficient?

Base: Total sample

VACCINE



Over the past two weeks, there appears to have been a rebound in the confidence levels that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that the 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	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
varies							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38
2	-	1	1	-	1	1	3

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



Just over 1-in-2 claim knowledge of government support for small business impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	250	400	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME	58	53	59	58	52	49	56	52
A great deal	9	11	11	10	14	11	12	11
Some	49	42	47	48	38	39	44	41
Not too much	27	34	28	24	29	31	30	31
None at all	9	6	8	9	11	11	6	10
TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NONE AT ALL	35	39	36	33	40	42	36	41
Don't know/not sure	7	8	5	9	8	8	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

Support for the government ordering even more businesses to close has dropped to its lowest level.

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	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	43	29	35	42	37	31	33	22
Strongly agree	23	15	19	23	18	17	19	12
Somewhat agree	21	14	17	19	20	14	15	10
Neither agree nor disagree	11	8	6	5	6	7	10	8
Somewhat disagree	25	29	24	18	18	23	21	20
Strongly disagree	20	34	33	33	38	38	34	47
TOTAL DISAGREE	45	63	57	51	56	61	55	68
Don't know	1	-	2	1	1	1	2	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

PROVINCIAL INSPECTIONS OF WORKPLACES



Over 7-in-10 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	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Yes	64	73	72
No	35	26	27
Don't know/Not sure	1	2	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

About two-thirds also believe that inspections will be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL EFFECTIVE	61	72	65
Very effective	15	16	18
Somewhat effective	47	55	47
Not too effective	22	18	18
Not at all effective	12	7	12
TOTAL NOT EFFECTIVE	34	26	30
Don't know/Not sure	4	3	5

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 public health regulations. Overall, how effective to do think these inspections are in reducing the spread of COVID 19? (previous phrasing) 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

Most Ontarians believe that inspections of essential workplaces for public health compliance is appropriate and necessary.

	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Some people say they believe inspections of essential workplaces for their compliance with the public health regulations is appropriate and necessary in order to reduce the spread of COVID 19. (previous phrasing) 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	76	78
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	21	19
Don't know	4	3	3

MANAGING ONTARIO'S INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSINGS



Most Ontarians believe the federal government is responsible for testing at Ontario’s international border crossings.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	Varies	
	%	%
The federal government	69	68
The Ontario government	25	23
Don’t know/not sure	6	9

QCV-190. (CV-189) Which level of government should be responsible for testing at Ontario’s international border crossings?

Base: Total sample

Ontarians overwhelmingly support different initiatives to prevent the COVID-19 variant spread from outside Canada.

% Strongly/Somewhat agree	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	400	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
All travellers, regardless of their point of origin, should be tested for COVID-19 on arrival in Canada and ordered to self-isolate for 14 days	95	96	94	91
The federal government should ban flights originating from the destinations where COVID variants have been identified/(previous phrasing)The federal government ban on flights from the UK, which will expire on January 6th, should be extended to the end of January	83	84	80	81

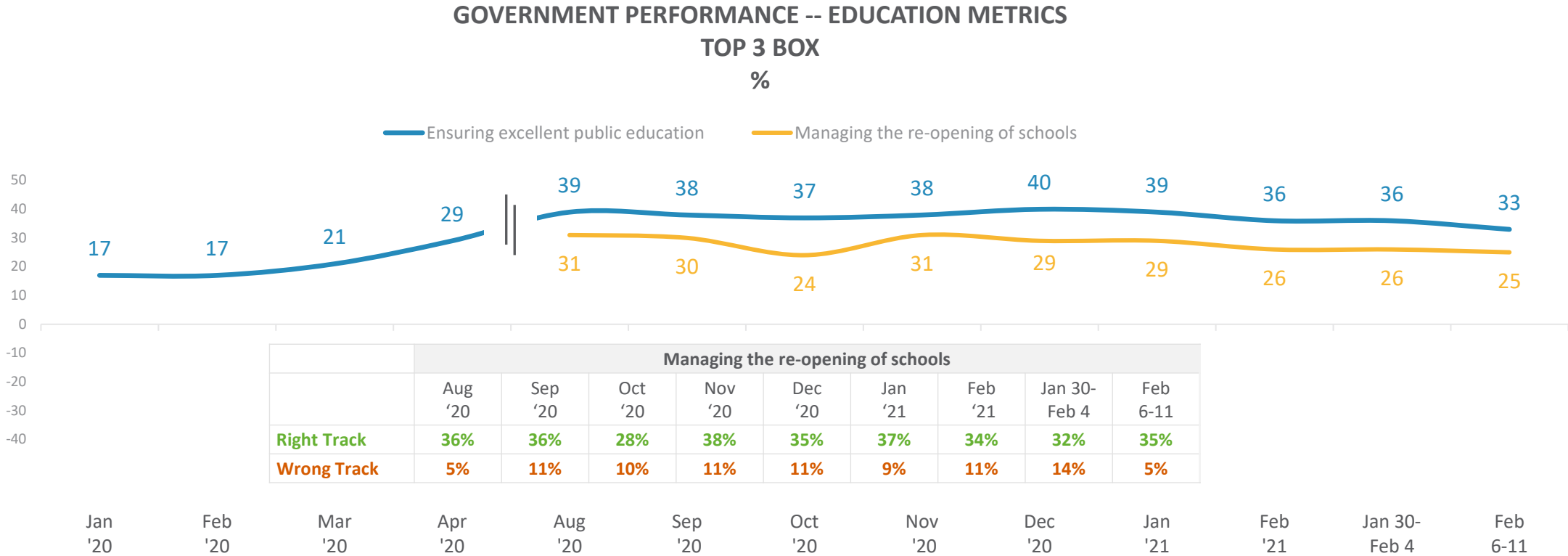
QCV-14. (previously CV-175) Do you agree or disagree with the following statements

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX

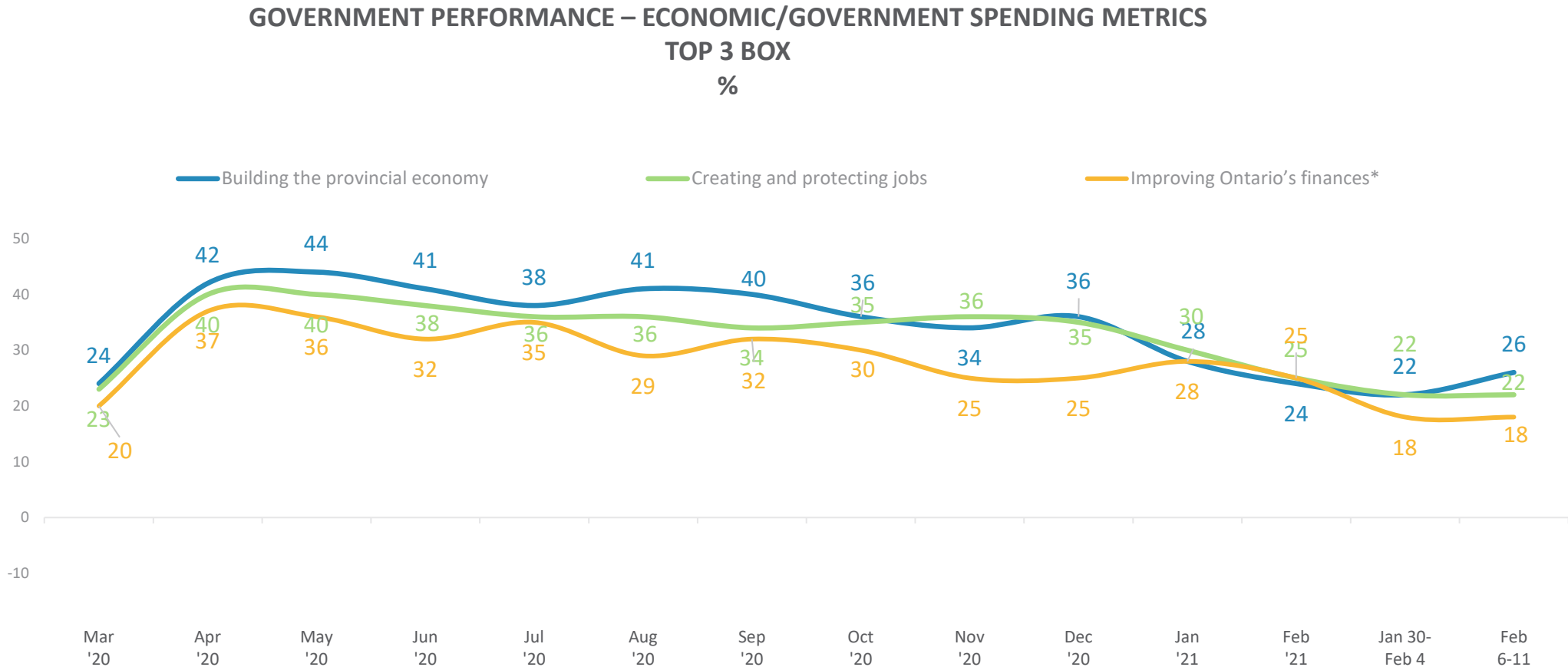


Positive perceptions on the education metrics remained stable over the past week.



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

Positive perceptions toward ‘building the provincial economy’ have edged upward, while ‘creating/protecting jobs’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ metrics remain stable.

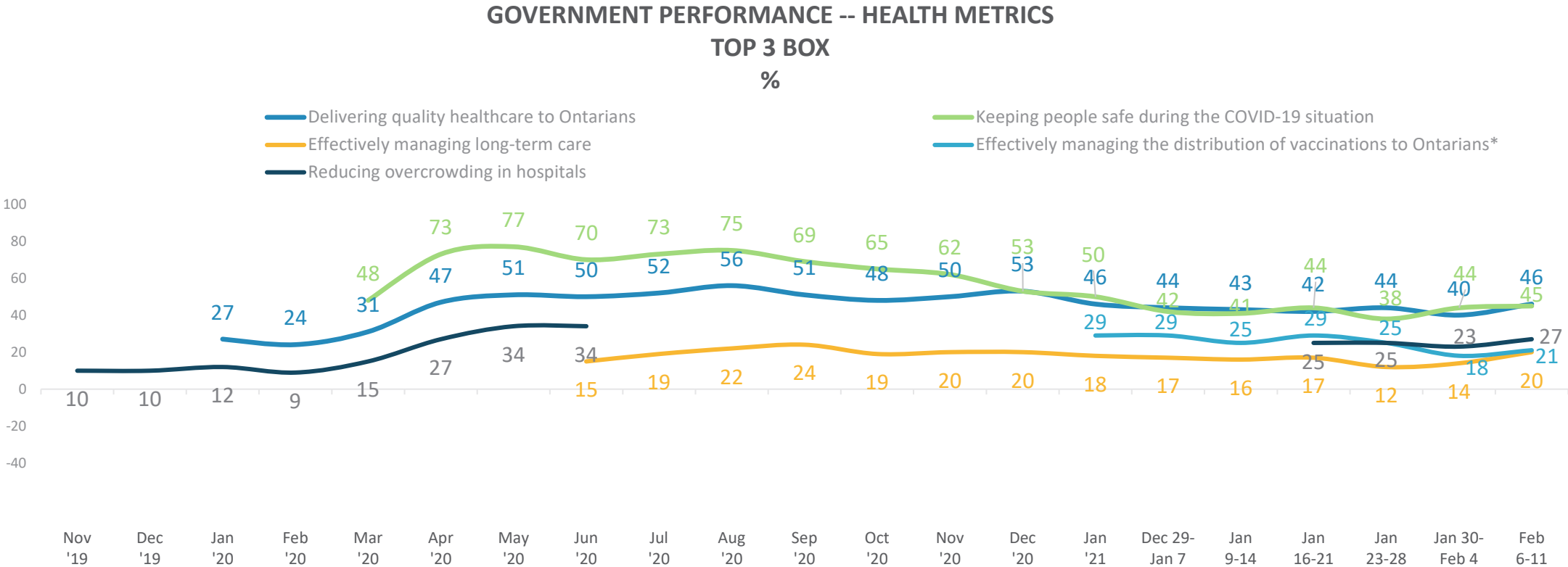


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*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 ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’, ‘effectively managing long-term care’, and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ have risen.



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: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary