

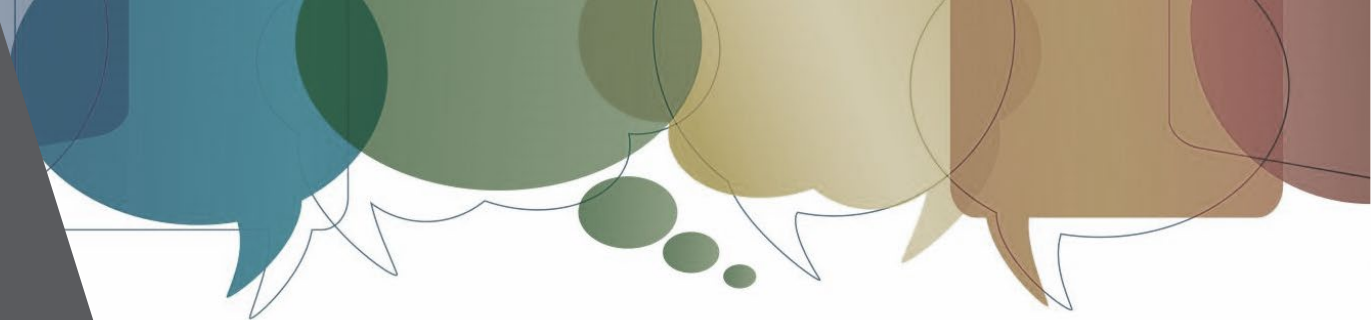


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #69

CABINET OFFICE

February 19th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores continues to be remarkably stable at 66% since early January.

These scores are higher among minorities compared to non-minorities.

2 Given the declining infections and the gradual regional reopening, the government's performance on all three economic metrics -- economy, jobs, and finances -- have improved over the past two weeks.

3 The government's performance for 'effectively managing the vaccinations' remains flat (-14). In contrast, there has been a slight improvement on 'effectively managing long-term care' (shifting from -31 to -23). Still, these two issues remain the government's weakest areas.

In contrast, perceptions toward the government's performance on 'delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians' and 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' are stable.

4 The preliminary results suggest that most Ontarians think the province should continue to slowly reopen the province despite the new modeling that the UK variant may cause a spike in infection cases.

5 On as positive front, trust in the government's communications regarding the management of the provincial economy has increased over the past two weeks. However, trust in the communication about the COVID-19 situation has gradually declined since early January.

6 Ontarians may be becoming less fearful of the COVID-19 virus, likely due to declining infection cases. There has been a significant increase (from 22% in mid-January to 44% this past week) in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now.

Despite the declining fear of catching the virus, there continues to be widespread belief that staying home means saving lives.

Key Findings

Ontarians remain highly aware of the UK, Brazilian and South African variants of the COVID-19 virus.

Most Ontarians (albeit declining from 70% to 61%) see these COVID-19 variants as more dangerous. Again, virtually no one thinks they are less dangerous.

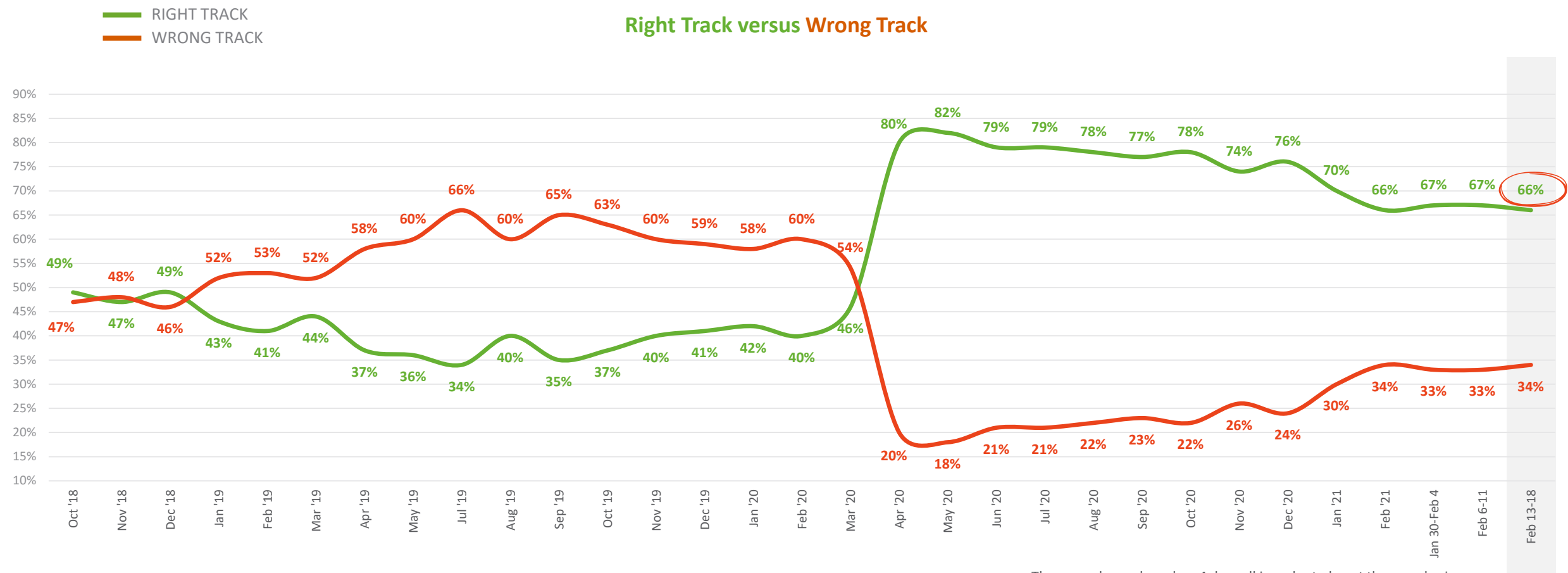
A slight majority of Ontarians believe the government should be doing more to stop the spread of the new variants.

However, there is less demand for new restrictions at this point.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



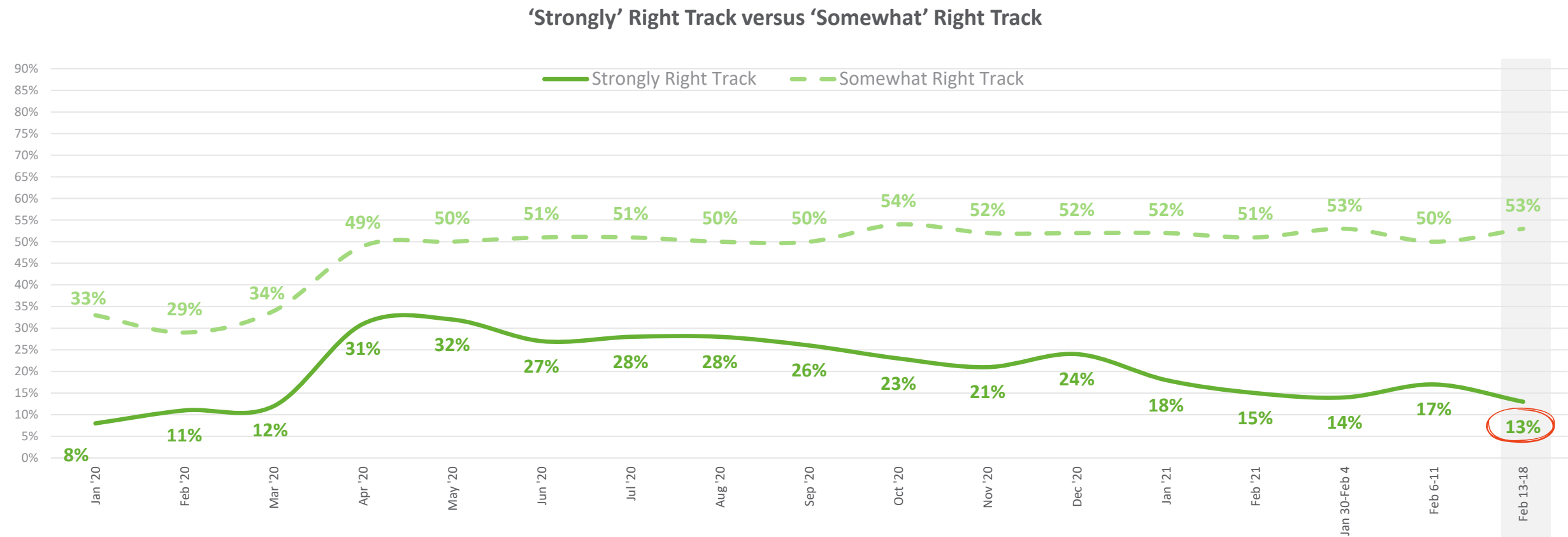
The government's 'right track' scores remain stable, at 66%, since early January.



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

Since early January, the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores have also stabilized and are at 13%.

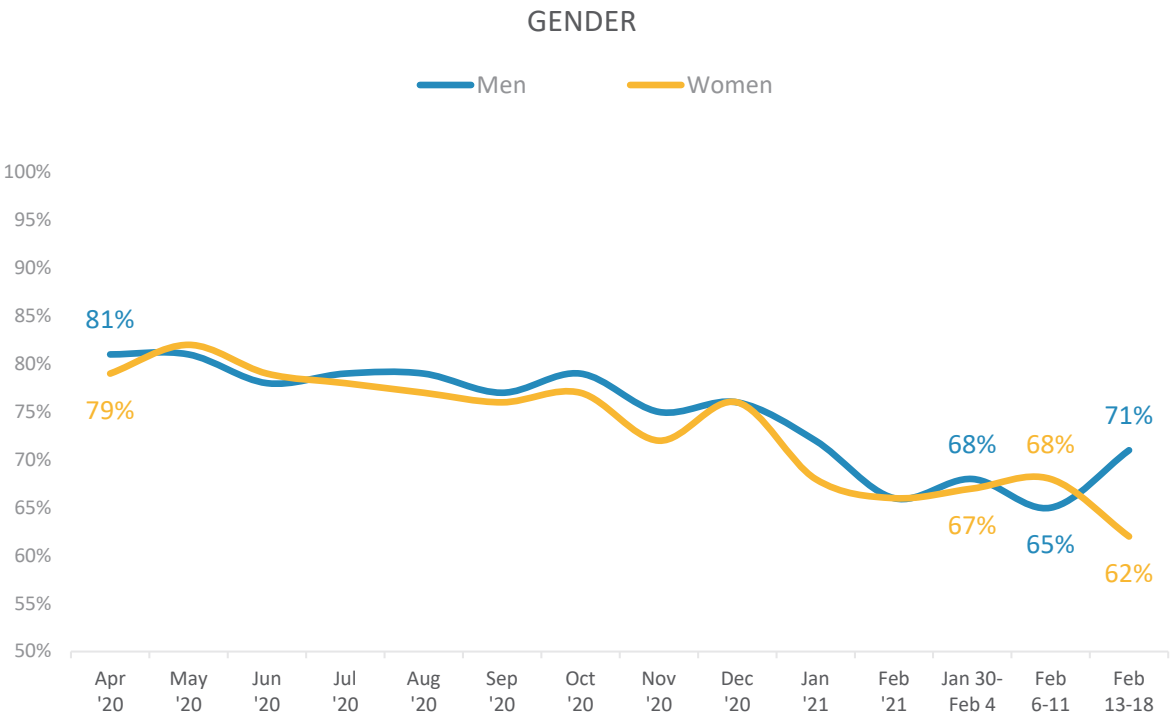
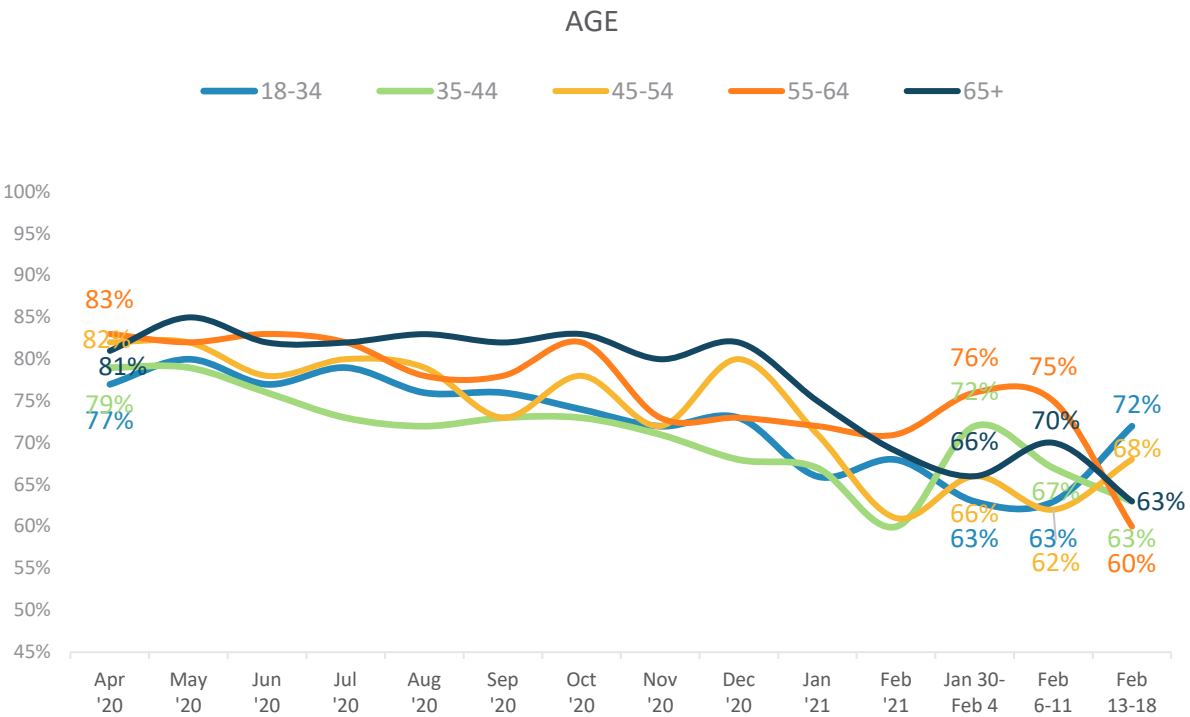


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 ‘right track’ scores are stronger among men compared to women.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

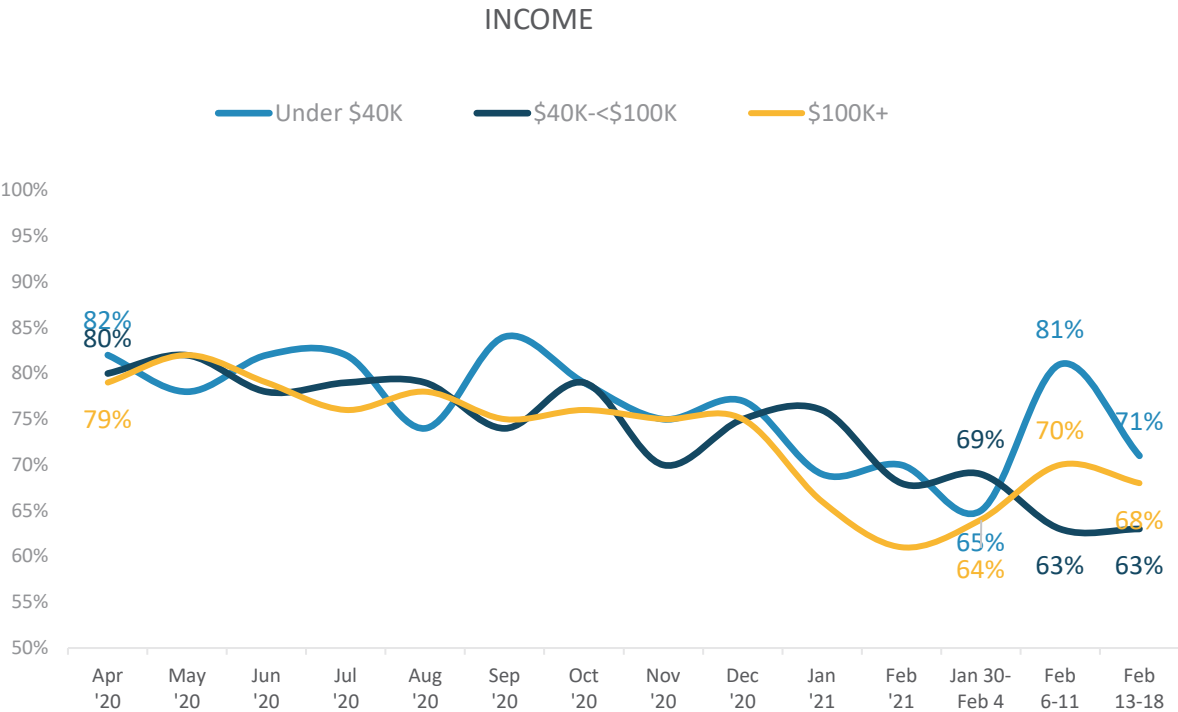
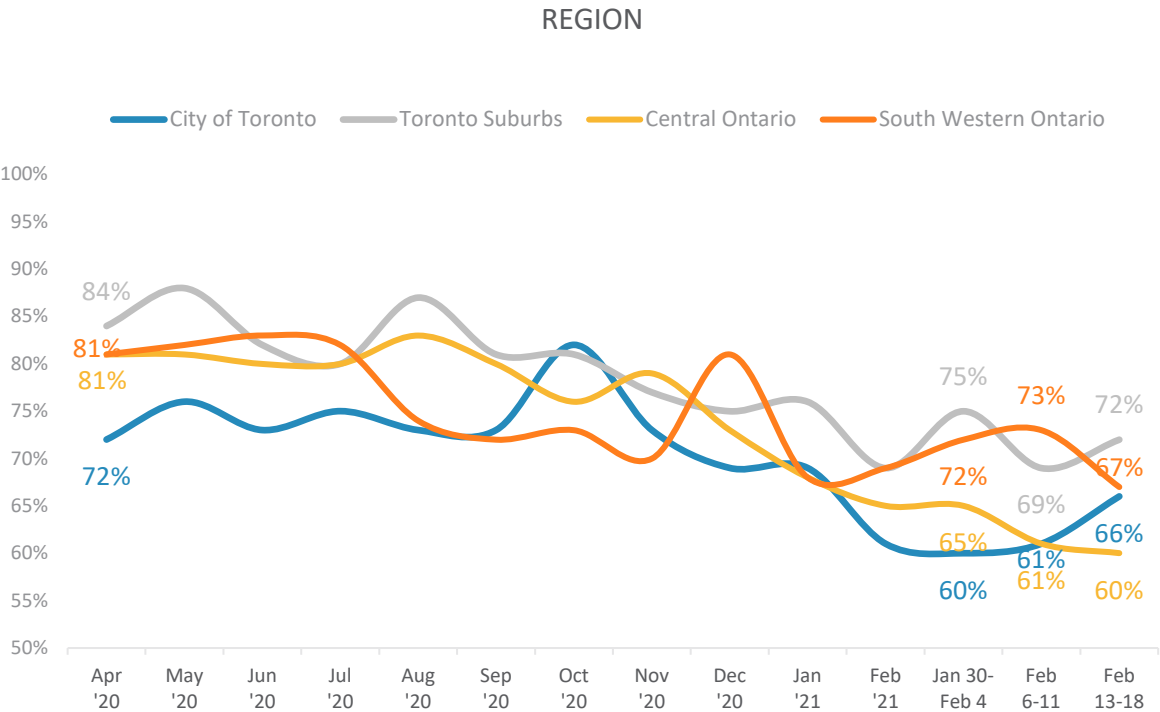


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The ‘right track’ scores are strongest among those earning \$40k or less.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



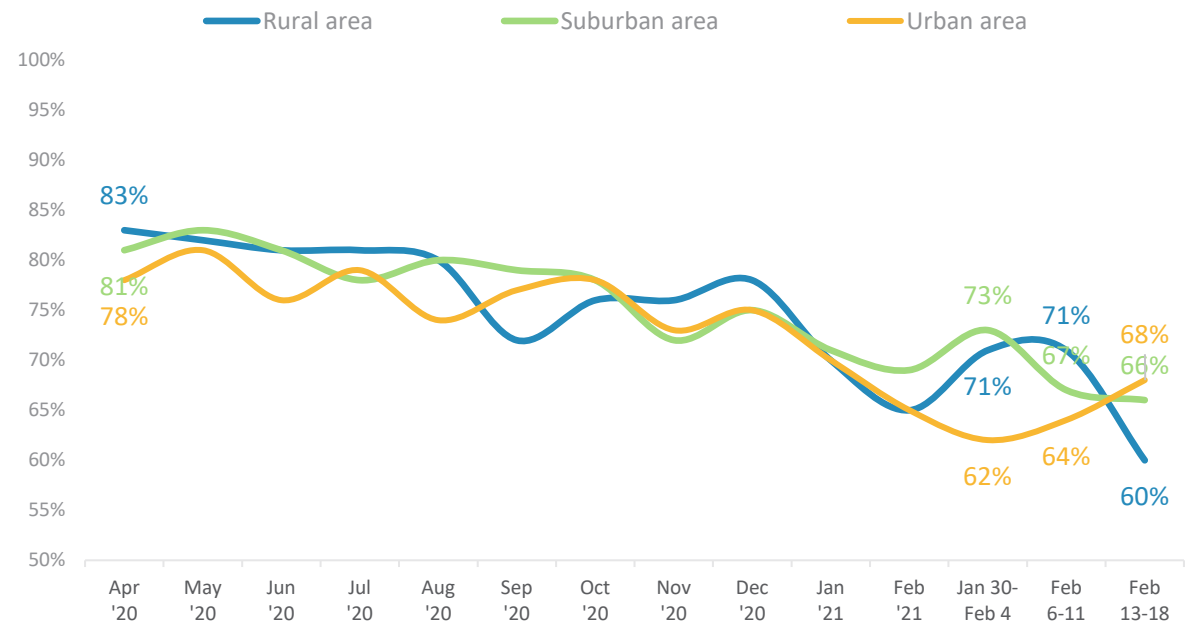
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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Base: Total sample

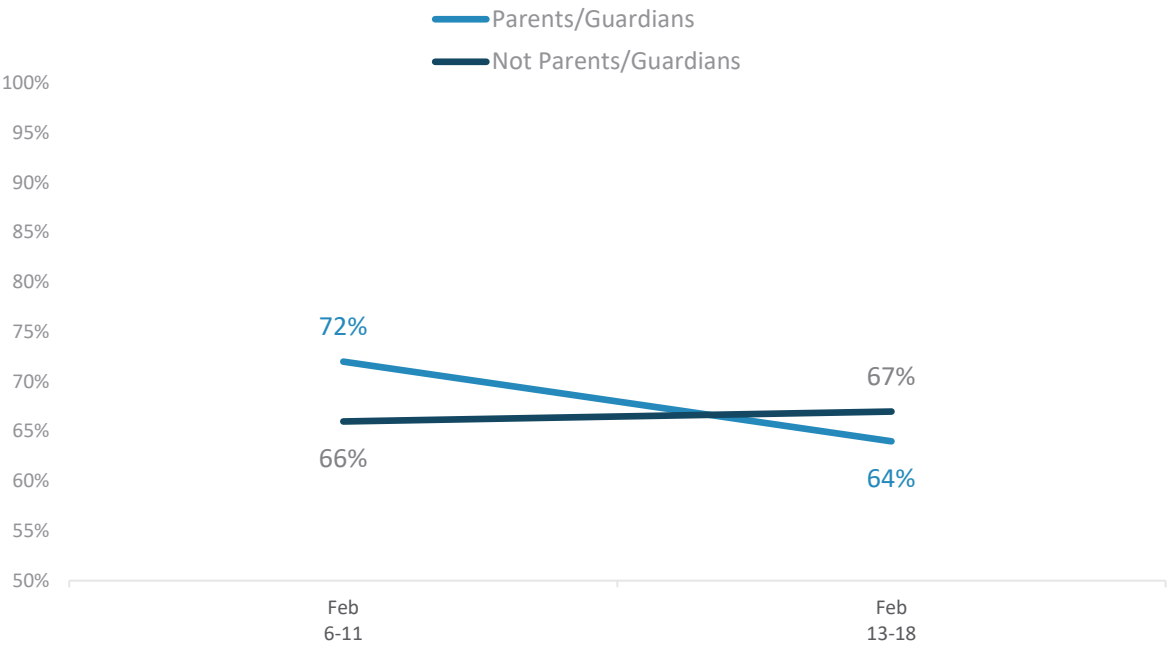
The ‘right track’ scores are a bit weaker among rural residents this past week.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



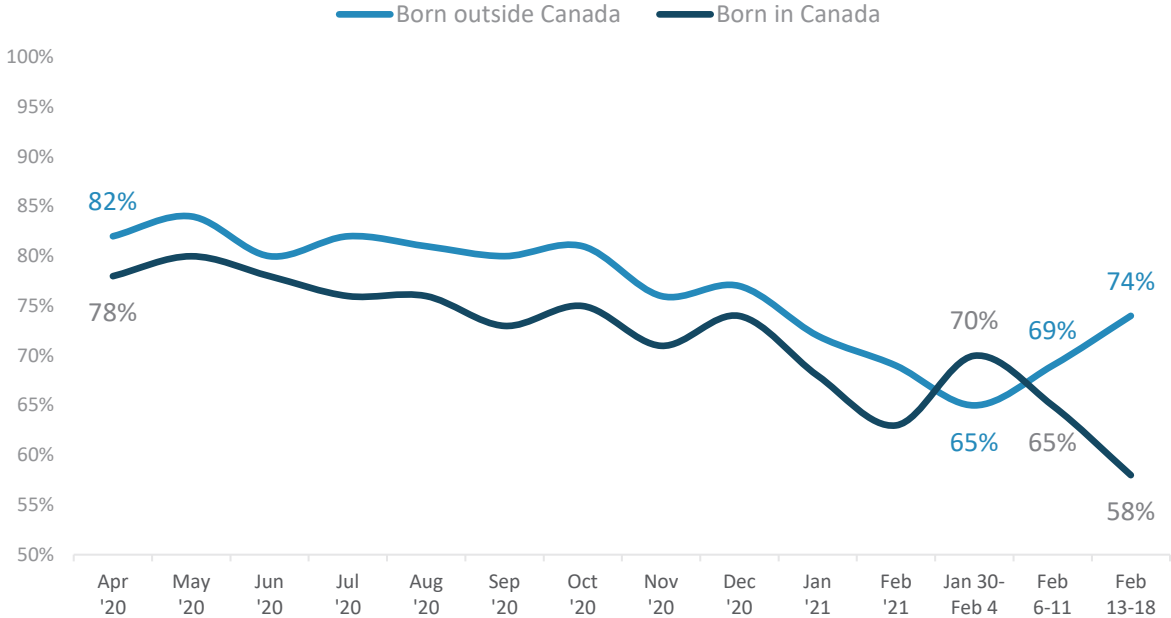
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

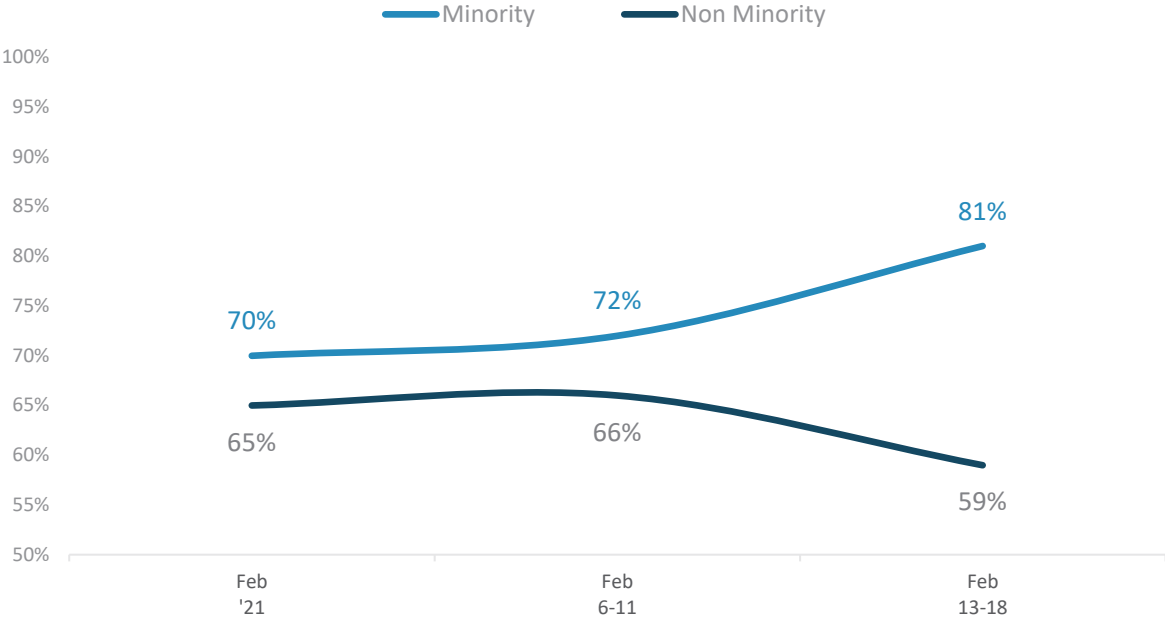
The ‘right track’ scores are higher among those born outside Canada and among those that identify as a minority.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



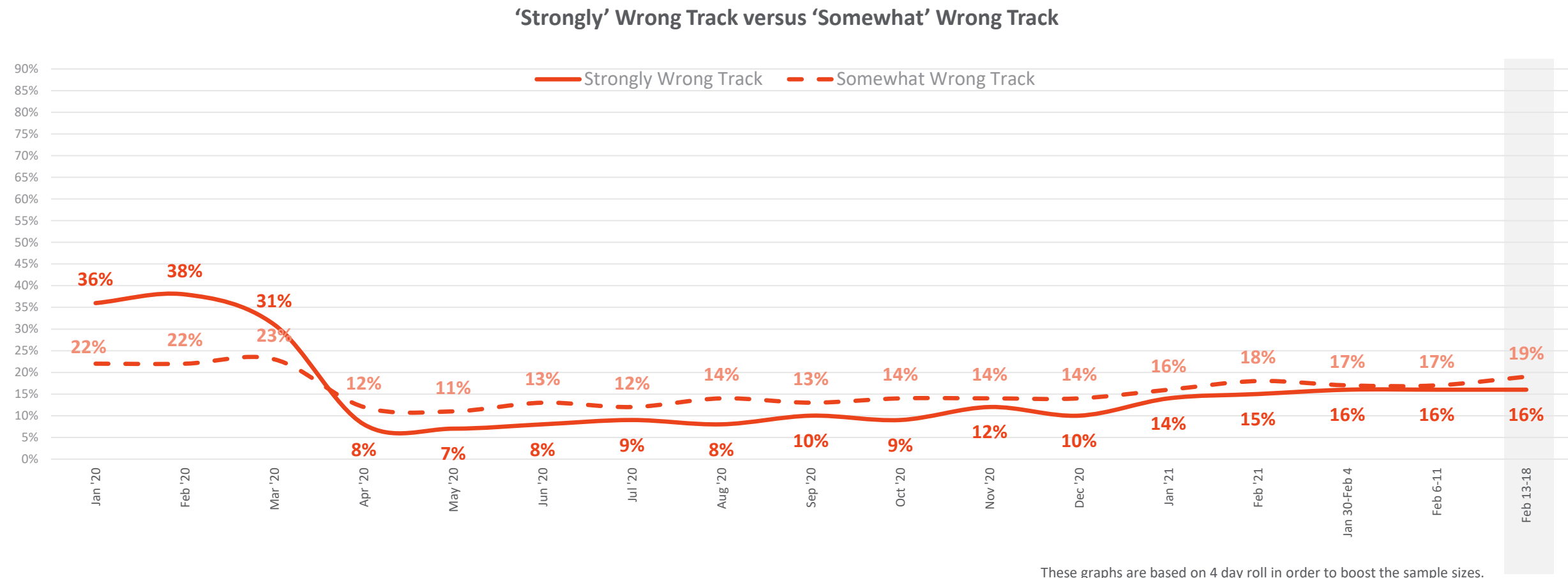
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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

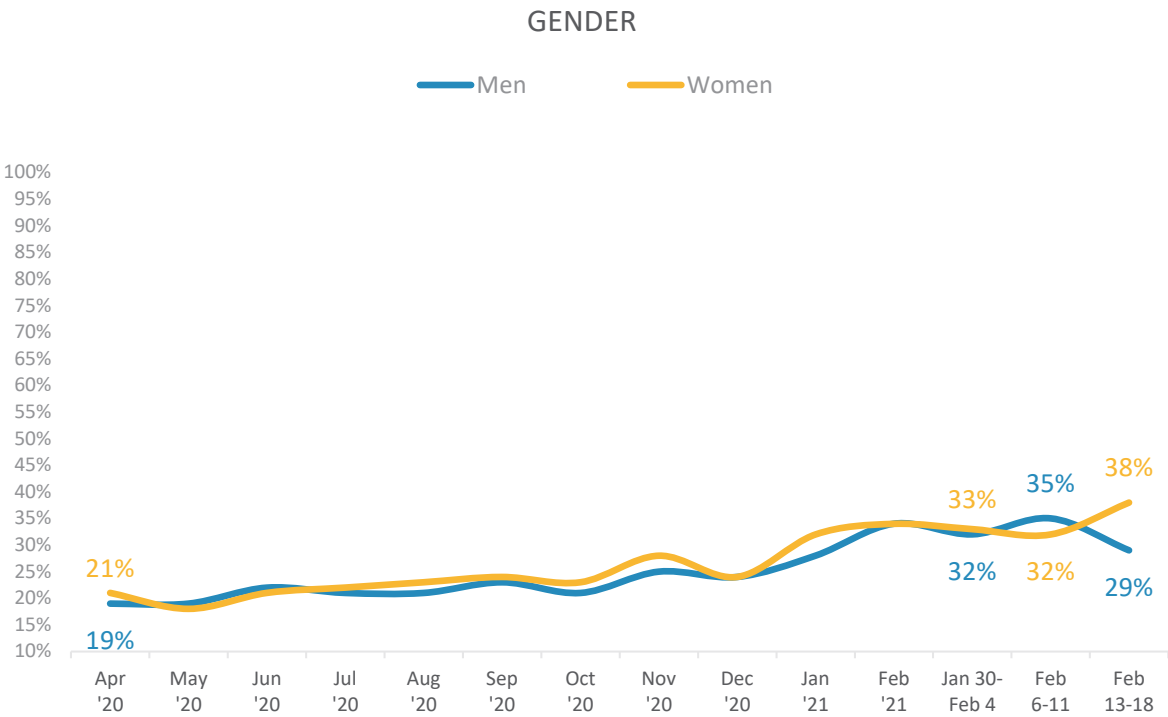
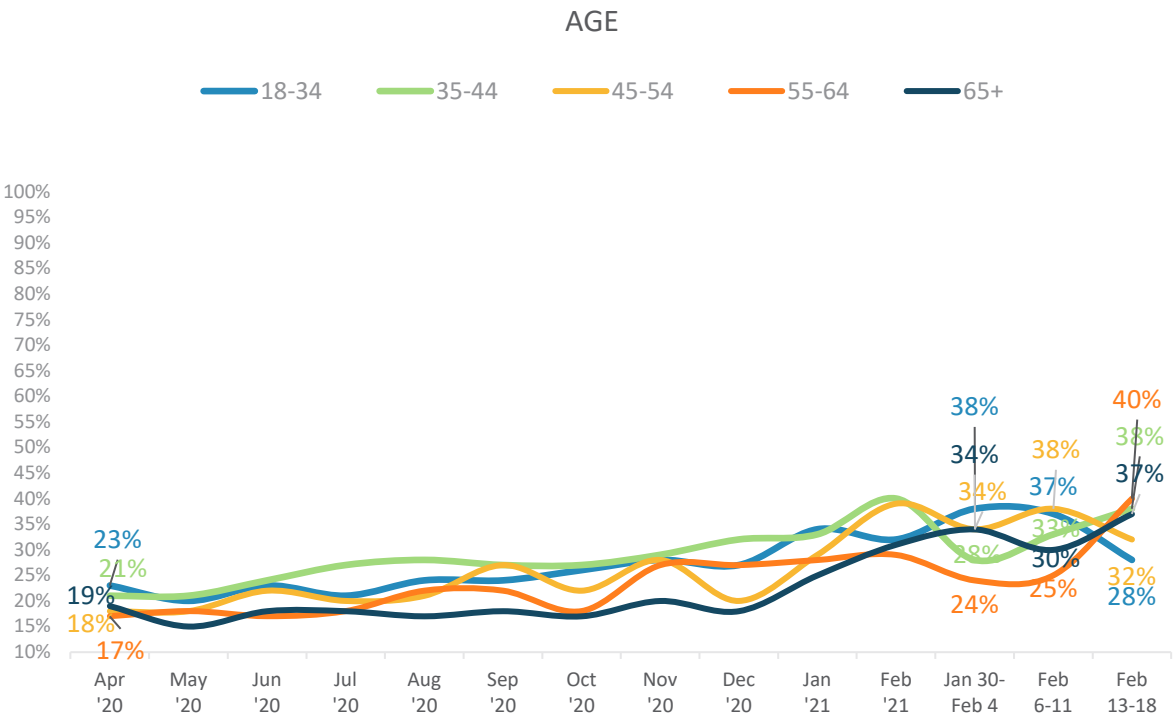
Starting in January, there has been a rise in the both ‘strongly wrong track’ and ‘somewhat wrong track’.



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 changes in ‘right track’, women are a bit higher than men on ‘wrong track’.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



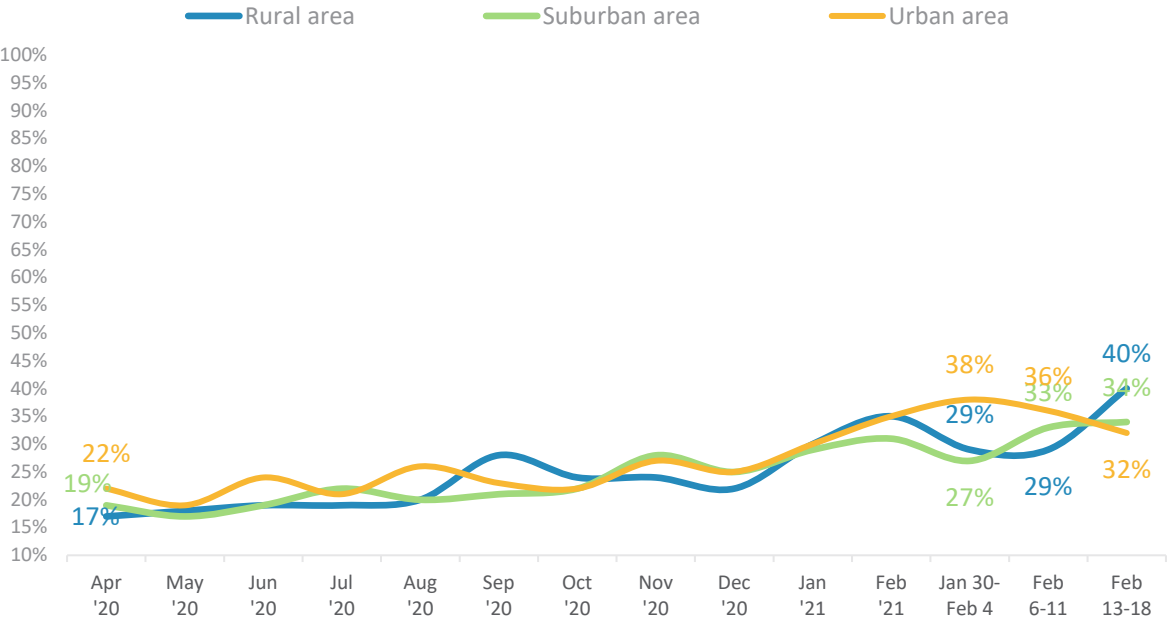
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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Base: Total sample

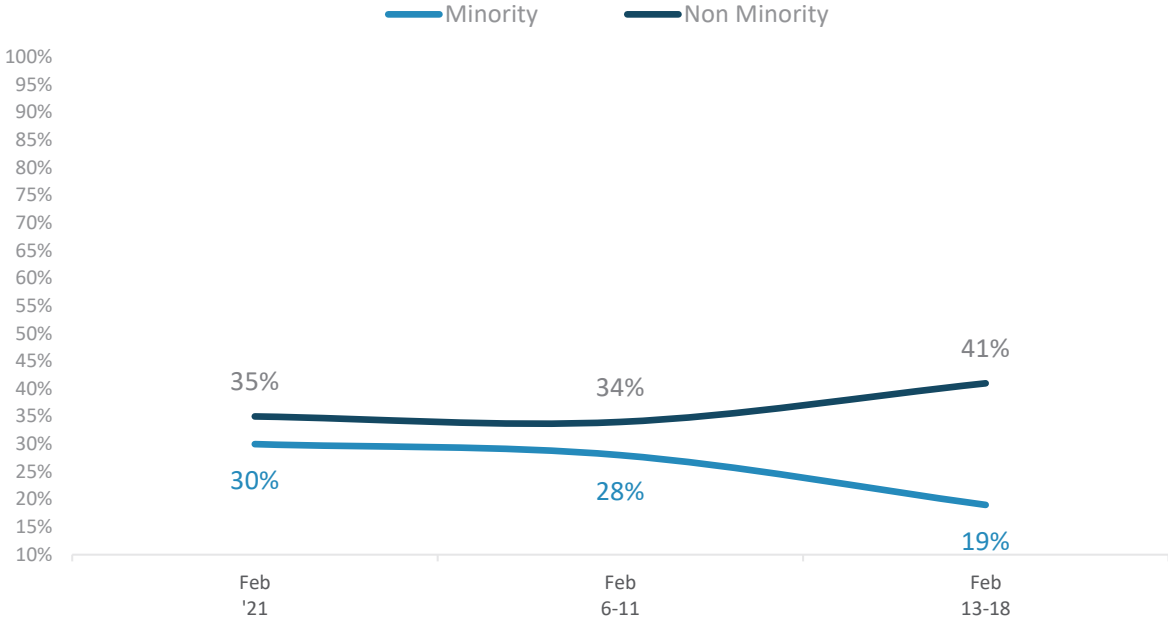
‘Wrong track’ scores are higher among rural residents and non-minority Ontarians.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



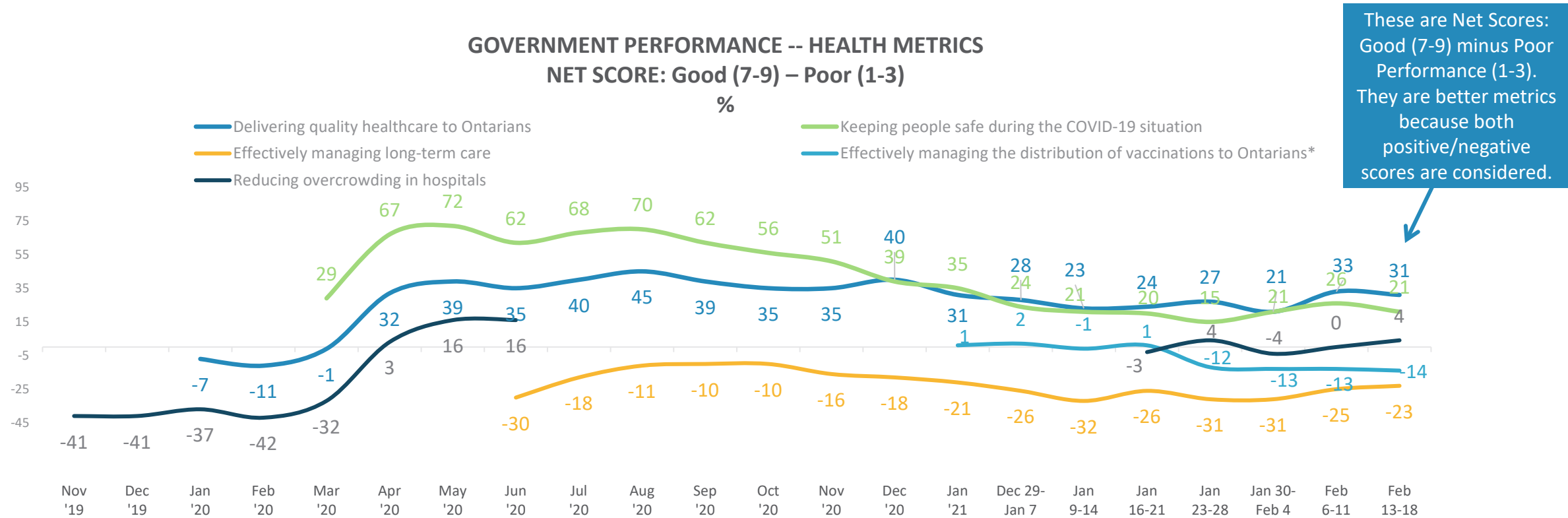
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the vaccinations’ remains flat (-14). In contrast, there has been a slight improvement on ‘effectively managing long-term care’ (shifting from -31 to -23). Still, these two issues remain the government’s weakest areas.

- Perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ are stable.

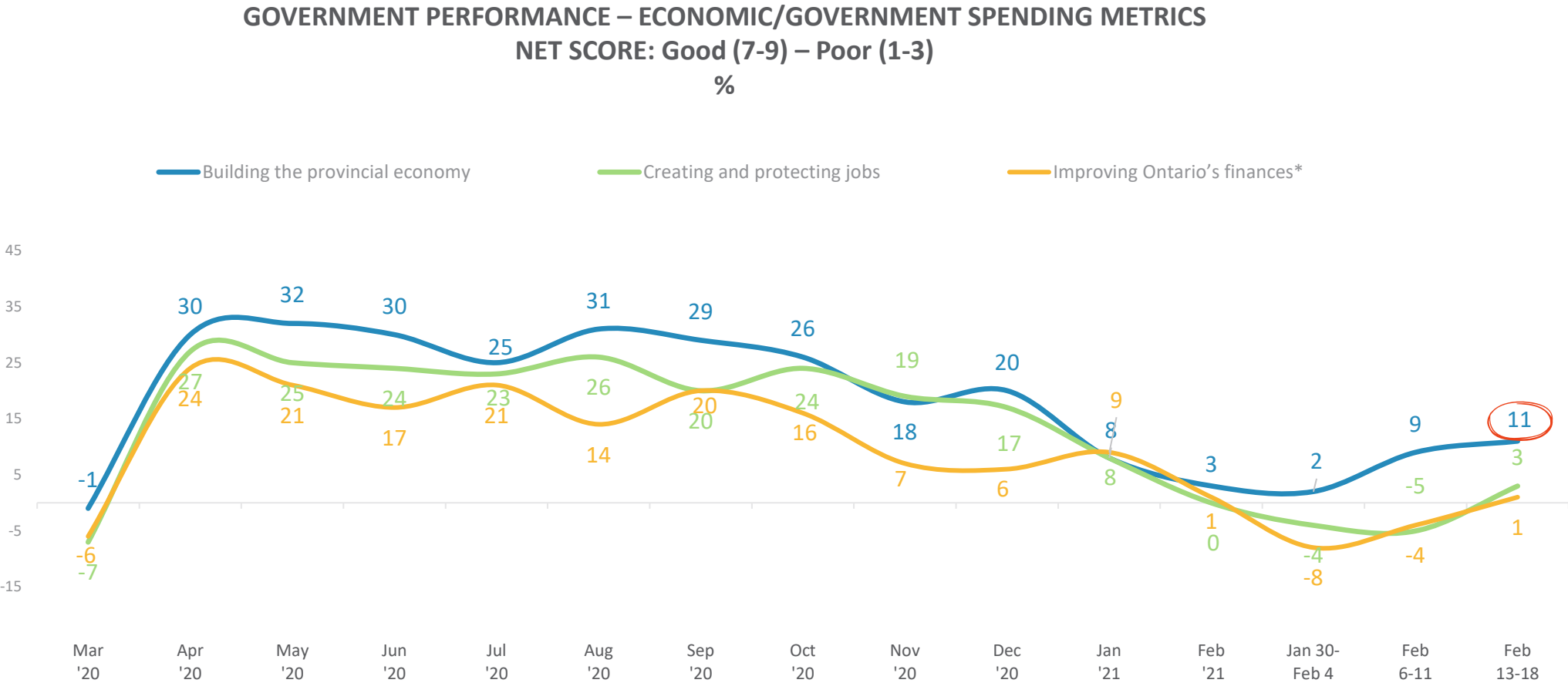


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”

Bases vary

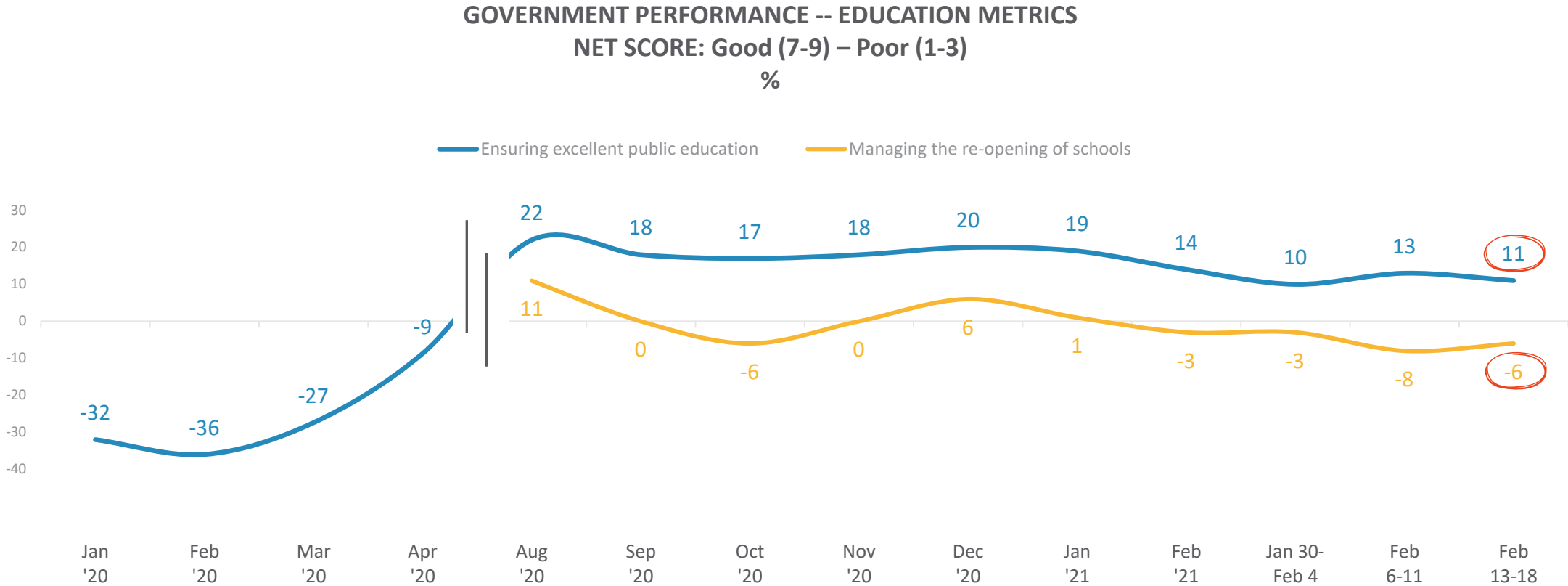
Given the declining infections and the gradual regional reopening, the government’s performance on all three economic metrics have improved over the past two weeks.



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

*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

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

SUPPORT FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN



About 1-in-2 believe that the province-wide shutdown has helped to cause a decline in reported COVID-19 cases.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
n=	300	300	260
	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF IT	60	49	51
All of it	16	17	12
Most of it	45	32	39
Some of it	32	41	43
None of it	6	8	4
TOTAL SOME/NONE OF IT	38	49	47
Don't know/not sure	2	2	3

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

The preliminary results suggest that most Ontarians think the province should continue to slowly reopen the province despite the new modeling that the UK variant may cause a spike in infection cases.

	Feb 13-18
n=	260
	%
Rethink its approach to provincial shutdown	37
Continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province	61
Don't know/Not sure	2

QCV-193. Ontario’s Public Health officials have released new modelling that shows that the UK variant for COVID-19 will significantly increase the number of cases in Ontario. Should the provincial government rethink its approach to ending the provincial shutdown or should it continue with its strategy of slowly opening parts of the province based on recent declines in the number of cases overall?

Base: Total sample

A slight majority of Ontarians do not believe schools remain safe notwithstanding the impact of the new COVID-19 variants.

- Ontario parents agree with this perspective: about 60% of Ontario parents reject this view.

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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	49	56
Strongly agree	33	39
Somewhat agree	17	17
Neither agree nor disagree	4	6
Somewhat disagree	19	11
Strongly disagree	24	26
TOTAL DISAGREE	44	37
Don't know	-	1

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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	72	69	78	74	79
Strongly agree	27	28	32	26	34
Somewhat agree	45	41	46	48	45
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11	5	12	4
Somewhat disagree	10	12	10	9	9
Strongly disagree	7	5	6	4	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	17	16	12	17
Don't know	2	4	1	2	1

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 plurality (43%) hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 36% think the government is putting the health of the population ahead of the economy.

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

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
The provincial government has put the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population	14	14	22	12	14
The provincial government has tried to balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	50	48	43	51	43
The provincial government has put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	31	34	32	31	36
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6

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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
The provincial government should put the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population	3	3	6	2	4
The provincial government should balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	55	59	49	53	51
The provincial government should put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	40	35	44	42	43
Don't know/Not sure	2	2	1	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

As the infection cases drop, fewer Ontarians think the government ‘could have acted differently’ in dealing with the 2nd wave of the pandemic.

	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
n=	621	1200	1200	1200	1130	227	150	132
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do/ All it could reasonably be expected to do	47	45	38	35	33	33	37	39
Should have done more/ Could have acted differently	52	53	58	63	65	64	60	56
Don't know/Not sure	1	1	5	2	2	4	3	5

	Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do/ All it could reasonably be expected to do								Should have done more/ Could have acted differently							
	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
Right Track	56%	54%	46%	44%	45%	40%	46%	48%	43%	44%	49%	54%	54%	57%	51%	50%
Wrong Track	12%	21%	11%	13%	10%	16%	21%	23%	88%	77%	85%	84%	87%	79%	76%	68%

QCV-130. Overall, do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do to stop the spread of COVID 19 or should it have done more? (previous phrasing) 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

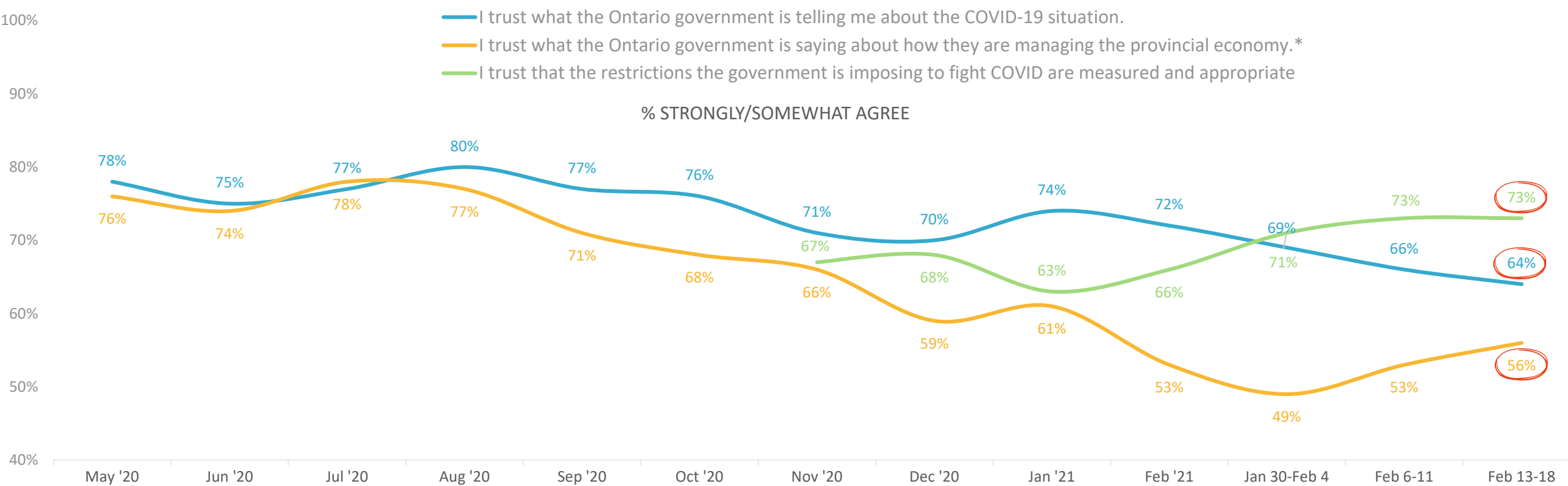
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

On as positive front, trust in the government’s communications regarding the management of the provincial economy has increased over the past two weeks. However, trust in the communication about the COVID-19 situation has gradually declined since early January.

- Trust that the government’s restrictions to fight COVID-19 are measured/appropriate remains stable after several weeks of improvement.



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



About 37% (down from 47% in mid January) 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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	26	30	39	38	31	34	28	-	47	36	33	37	39	37
Strongly agree	12	17	15	20	17	17	13	16	-	23	17	14	18	19	16
Somewhat agree	15	9	15	19	21	13	21	12	-	23	19	19	20	20	21
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	2	10	11	12	3	7	-	8	3	8	9	11	11
Somewhat disagree	27	23	22	21	10	29	32	24	-	22	31	21	25	17	20
Strongly disagree	41	44	43	31	38	27	30	40	-	23	30	38	29	30	31
TOTAL DISAGREE	68	66	66	52	48	57	62	64	-	45	61	59	54	47	51
Not applicable	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Don't know	2	2	2	-	3	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	2

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

Base: Total sample

A majority (up 8-points from last week) 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

% 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	Feb 13-18
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
32	27	35	40	34
14	12	15	18	14
18	15	21	22	20
8	5	9	8	7
20	20	13	15	18
37	44	37	31	36
57	64	50	46	54
-	-	-	-	-
3	4	6	6	5

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 in the threat of the COVID-19 variants.

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	Feb 13-18
300	300	260
%	%	%
85	73	84
35	33	40
49	40	44
5	11	8
6	9	4
11	20	12
5	7	4

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?

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



Likely due to declining infection cases, there has been a significant increase (from 22% in mid-January to 44% this past week) 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	Feb 13-18
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	44

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

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

Base: Total sample

Despite the declining fear of catching the virus, there continues to be widespread belief that staying home means 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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	90	87	83	88	75	81	83	84	84
Strongly agree	69	63	59	73	50	60	59	69	65
Somewhat agree	21	24	23	14	25	21	24	15	19
Neither agree nor disagree	2	4	2	3	2	4	2	2	3
Somewhat disagree	4	6	6	3	8	7	3	4	6
Strongly disagree	2	2	8	6	13	7	9	10	8
TOTAL DISAGREE	6	8	14	9	21	14	12	13	14
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

Over 1-in-4 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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	17	19	20	26	26	19	21	28
Strongly agree	8	12	10	14	18	12	12	19
Somewhat agree	9	7	9	12	8	7	9	10
Neither agree nor disagree	3	3	6	3	2	4	3	2
Somewhat disagree	16	14	7	8	13	13	15	10
Strongly disagree	63	62	67	61	57	63	58	60
TOTAL DISAGREE	79	76	74	69	70	76	73	70
Don't know	1	2	<1	3	2	1	4	<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

Still, most Ontarians (76%) 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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17
Not applicable	3	1	2	2	9	2	5	8	4
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 remain highly aware of the UK, Brazilian and South African variants of the COVID-19 virus.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
n=	300	300	260
	%	%	%
Yes	93	94	94
No	7	6	5
Don't know/not sure	<1	<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 61%) see these COVID-19 variants as more dangerous. Again, virtually no one thinks they are less dangerous.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
n=	300	300	260
	%	%	%
More dangerous	70	56	61
As dangerous	22	27	24
Less dangerous	3	4	5
Don't know/not sure	6	13	10

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	Feb 13-18
n=	300	300	260
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	85	79	82
Very concerned	49	47	50
Somewhat concerned	37	32	32
Not very concerned	9	12	13
Not at all concerned	5	6	5
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	13	19	18
Don't know/Not sure	1	2	<1

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	Feb 13-18
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37
Should be doing more	56	56	57
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5

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

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

	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
n=	300	260
	%	%
Should do more	23	27
Current restrictions are sufficient	73	67
Don't know/not sure	4	6

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



About 1-in-2 are confident 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	Feb 13-18
varies								
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41
2	-	1	1	-	1	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 ...
*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	Feb 13-18
n=	300	250	400	300	300	300	300	300	260
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME	58	53	59	58	52	49	56	52	53
A great deal	9	11	11	10	14	11	12	11	12
Some	49	42	47	48	38	39	44	41	41
Not too much	27	34	28	24	29	31	30	31	33
None at all	9	6	8	9	11	11	6	10	6
TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NONE AT ALL	35	39	36	33	40	42	36	41	39
Don't know/not sure	7	8	5	9	8	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

PROVINCIAL INSPECTIONS OF WORKPLACES



About 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	Feb 13-18
n=	300	300	300	260
	%	%	%	%
Yes	64	73	72	68
No	35	26	27	30
Don't know/Not sure	1	2	1	2

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 7-in-10 also believe that inspections will be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18
n=	300	300	300	260
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EFFECTIVE	61	72	65	69
Very effective	15	16	18	15
Somewhat effective	47	55	47	54
Not too effective	22	18	18	18
Not at all effective	12	7	12	10
TOTAL NOT EFFECTIVE	34	26	30	28
Don't know/Not sure	4	3	5	3

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	Feb 13-18
n=	300	300	300	260
	%	%	%	%
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	77
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	19
Don't know	4	3	3	4

MANAGING ONTARIO'S INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSINGS



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	Feb 13-18
n=	400	300	300	300	260
	%	%	%	%	%
All travelers, regardless of their point of origin, should be tested for COVID-19 on arrival in Canada at airports and land crossings and ordered to self-isolate for 14 days /(previous phrasing) 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	93
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	83

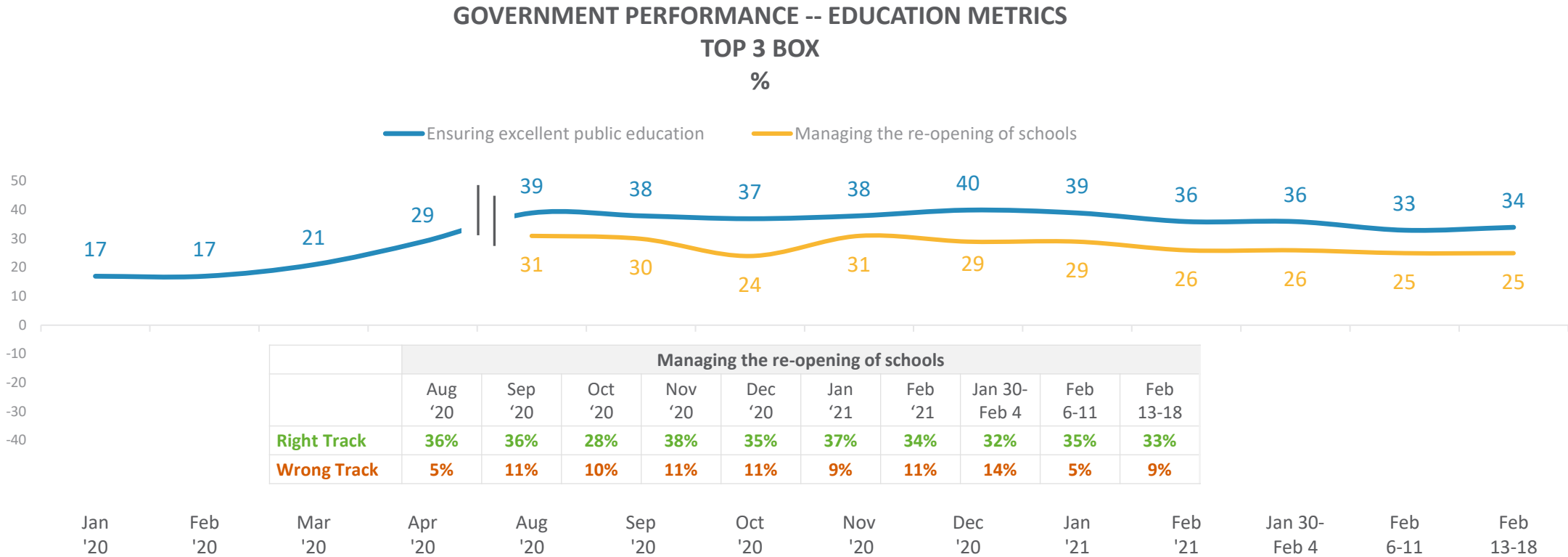
QCV-14. (previously CV-175) Do you agree or disagree with the following statements

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX

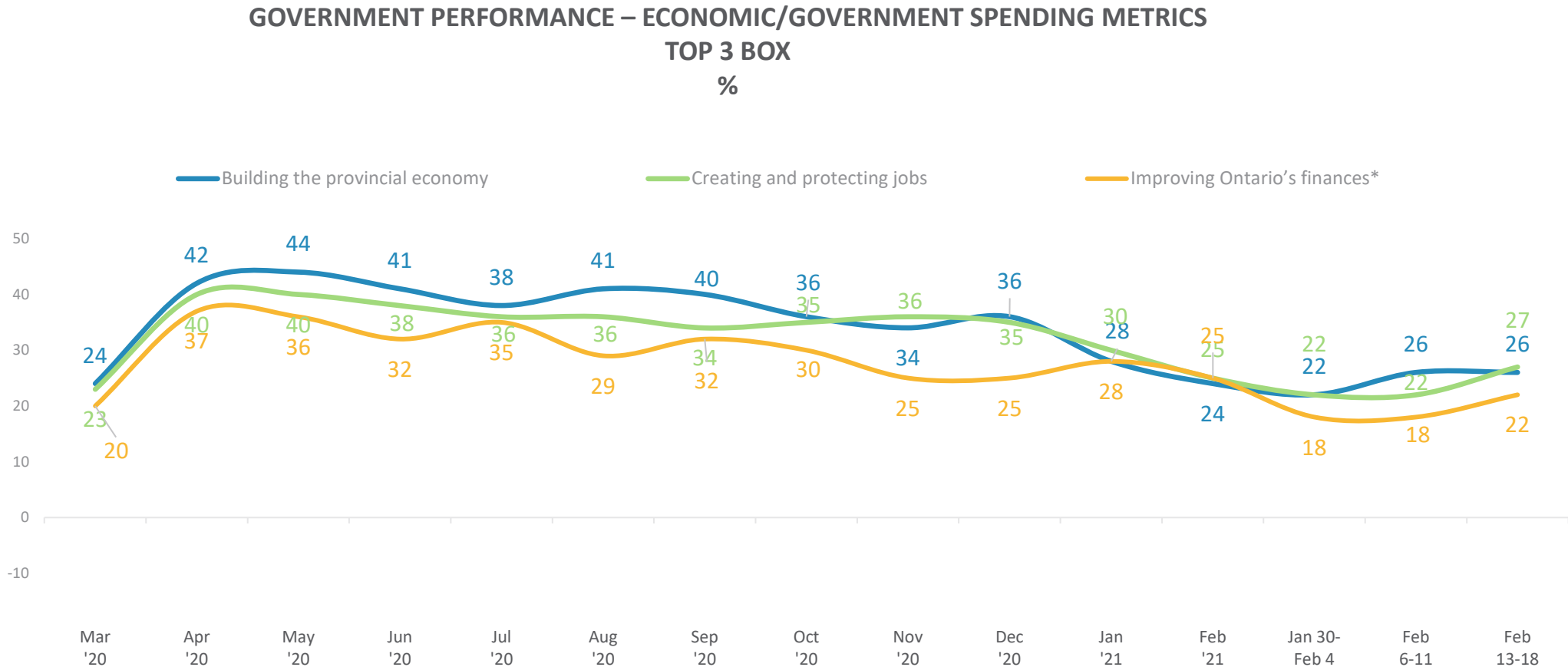


Positive perceptions on the education metrics remained stable over the past week.



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 ‘creating/protecting jobs’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ metrics have increased slightly over the past two weeks.



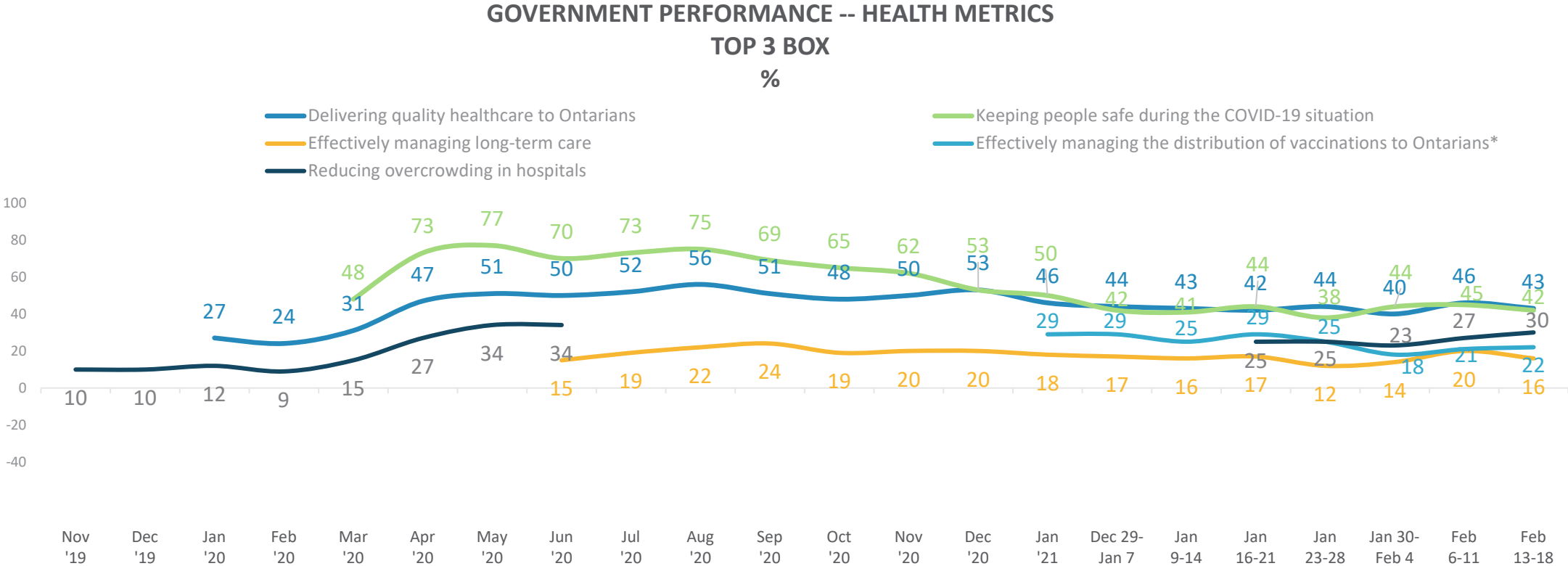
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”

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

Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance on the five health metrics remain relatively stable.



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