

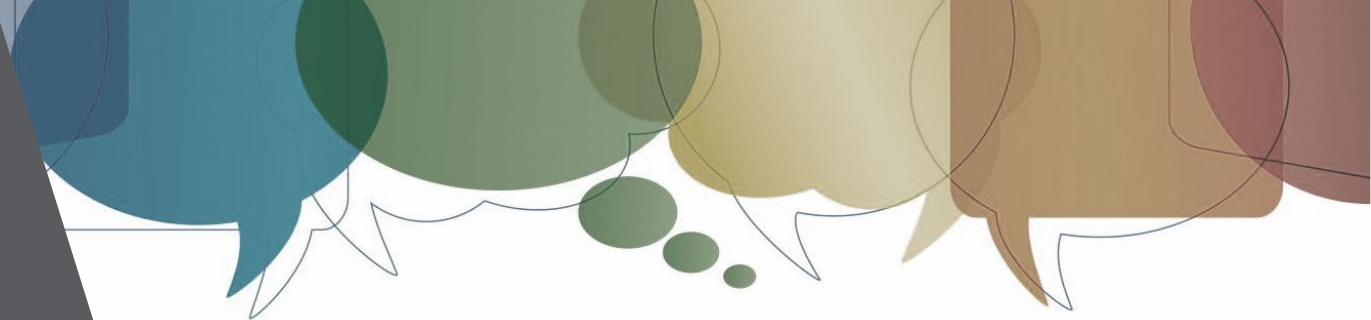


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #70

CABINET OFFICE

February 26th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

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

2 The government's performance for 'effectively managing the vaccinations' and 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' have improved this past week.

The timing of this week's announcement to increase resources for long-term care did not have any chance to impact the government's scores for 'effectively managing long-term care'.

3 As schools in the province gradually reopen, perceptions toward the government's performance on 'managing the re-opening of schools' has increased over the past week.

4 Despite the gradual reopening of the economy, the government's performance on 'building the provincial economy' and 'improving Ontario's finances' have declined this past week after increasing in previous weeks.

5 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.

6 On a positive front, trust in the government's 'communications about the COVID-19 situation' has stabilized after declining since January. However, trust that the 'government's restrictions to fight COVID-19 are measured/appropriate' has dropped after several weeks of improvement.

Trust in the government's messaging about 'managing the provincial economy' has also declined this week.

Key Findings

7 The early results suggest that most Ontarians are satisfied with the speed of their internet connection at home.

However, rural residents are much less satisfied.

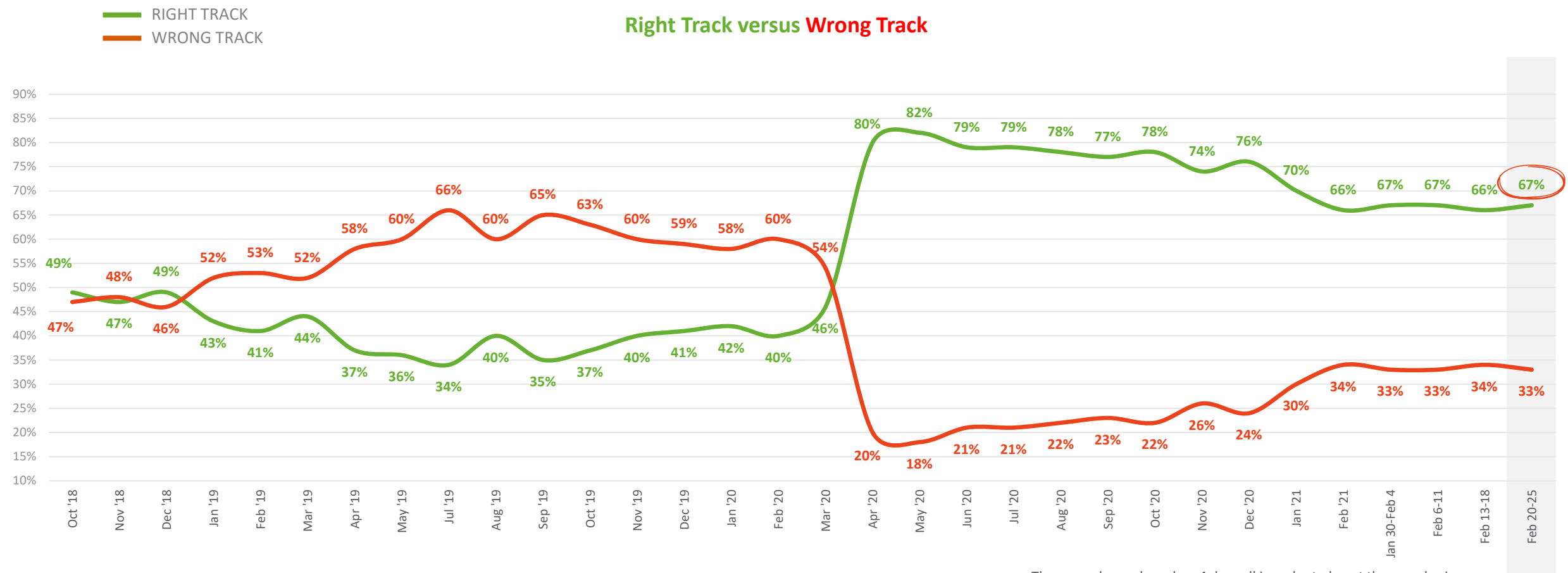
8 The preliminary results indicate that just over one-third are aware of the government/private sector investment of \$1b to expand internet access in unserved or underserved communities.

These findings also suggest that over three-quarters believe it is good use of taxpayers' dollars to expand Ontarians' access to high speed internet.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



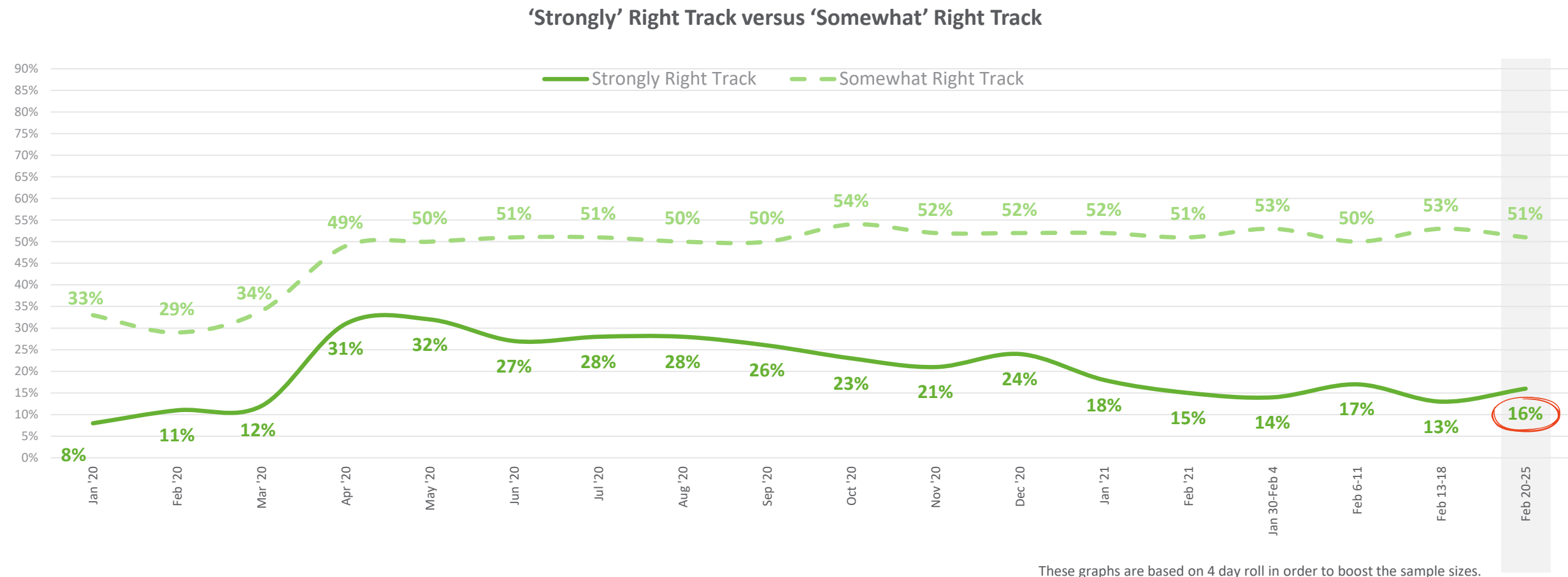
The government’s ‘right track’ scores have remained stable, at 67%, since early January.



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

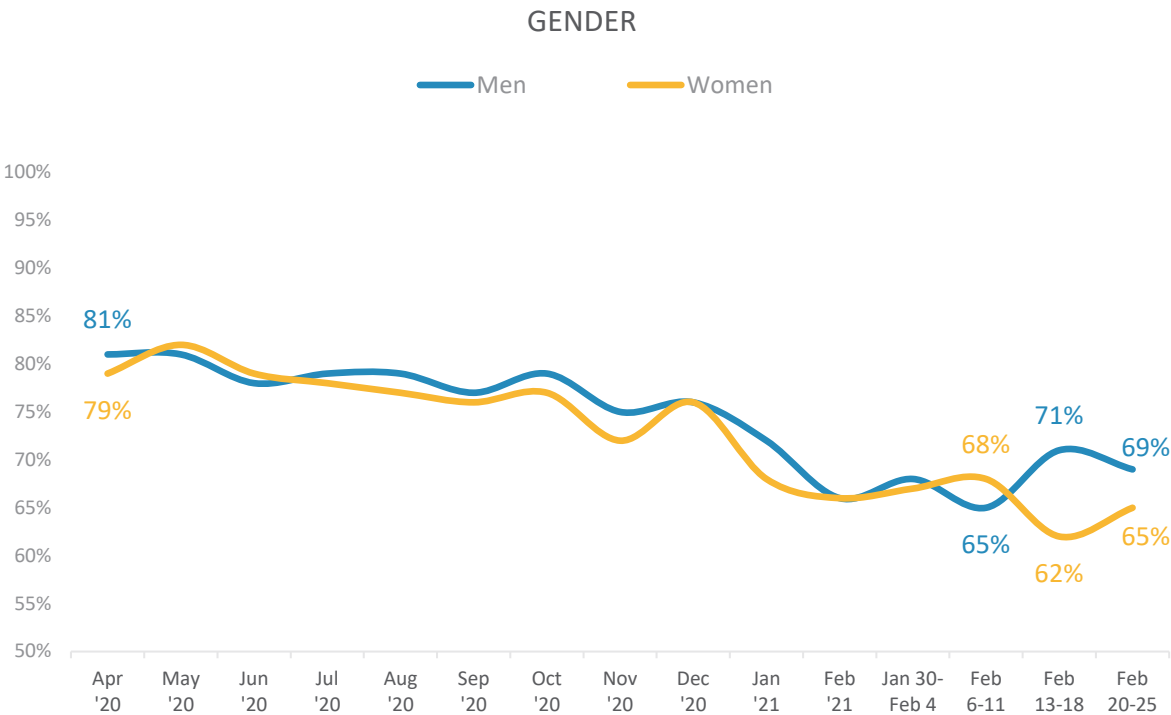
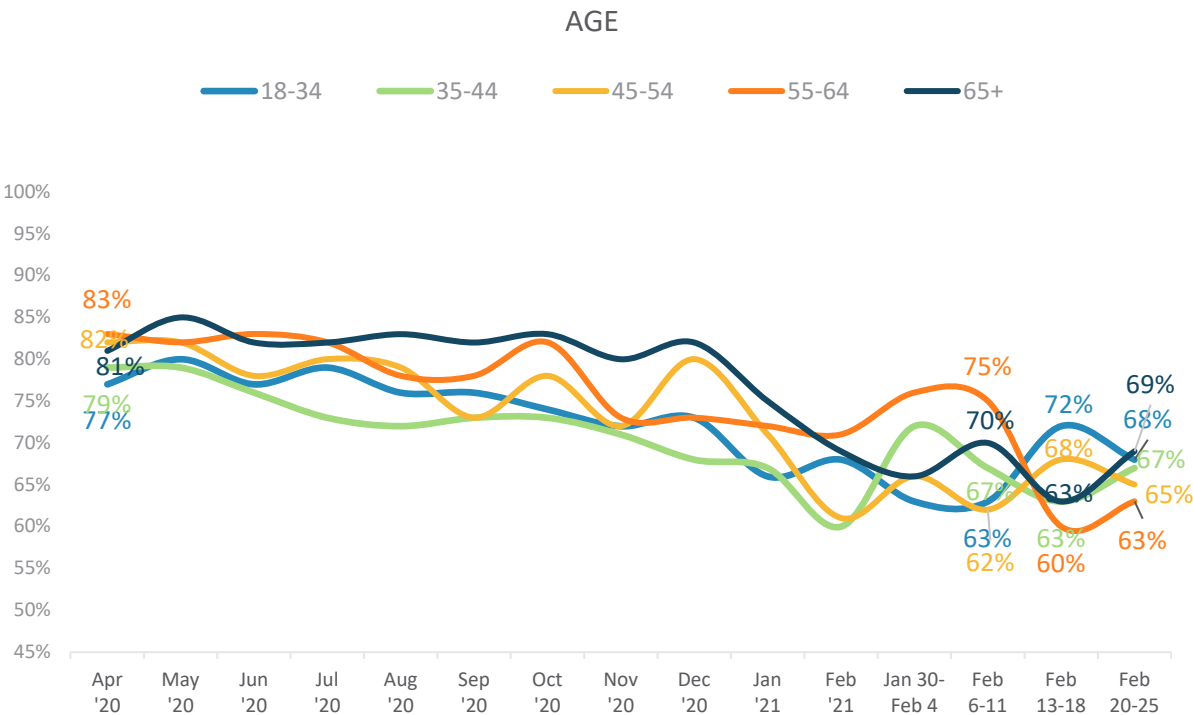
Since early January, the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores have also stabilized and are at 16%.



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 remain a bit stronger among men compared to women.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

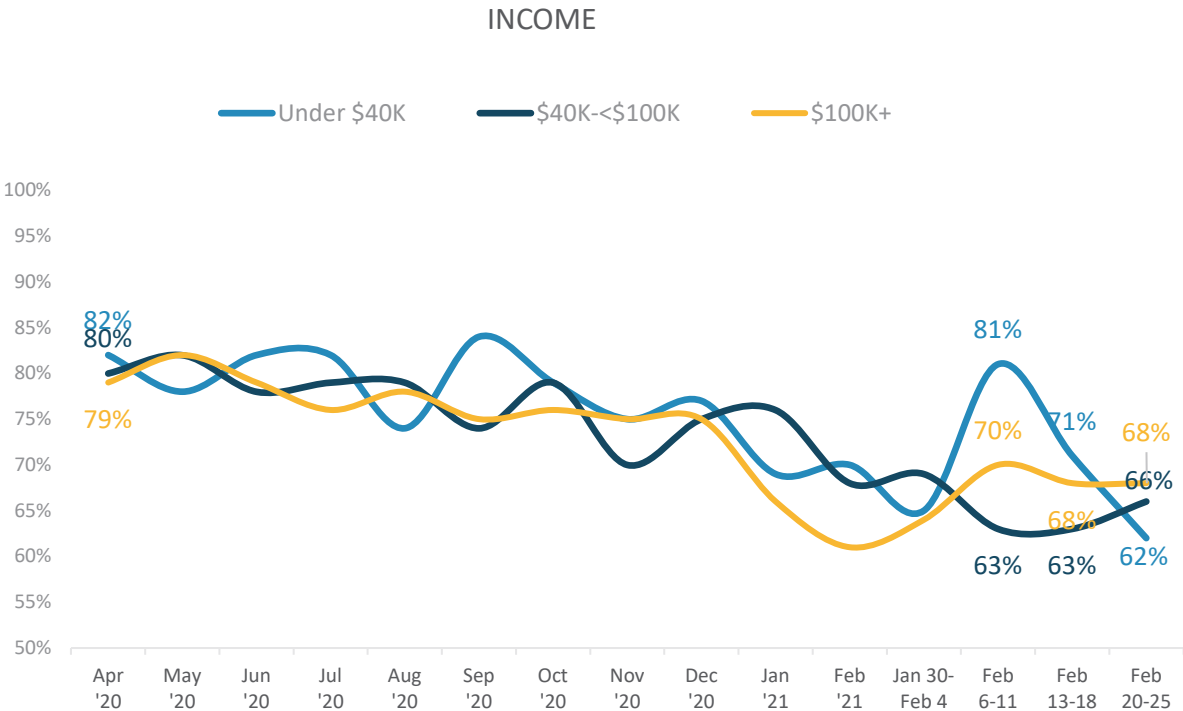
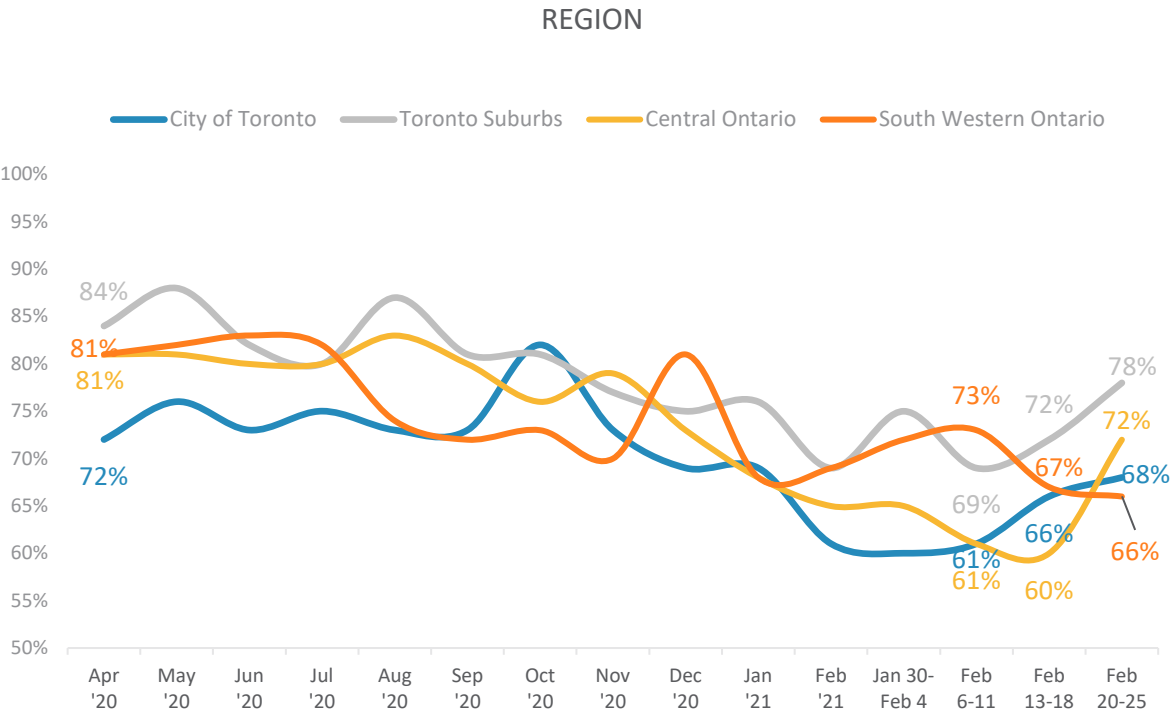


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 in suburban Toronto.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



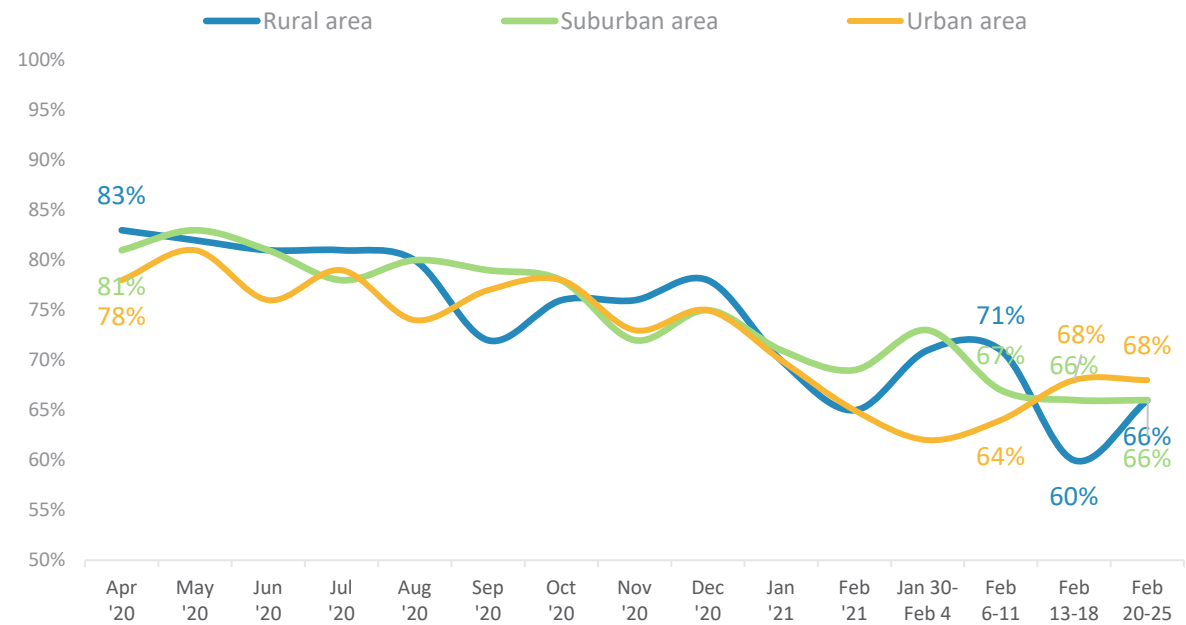
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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Base: Total sample

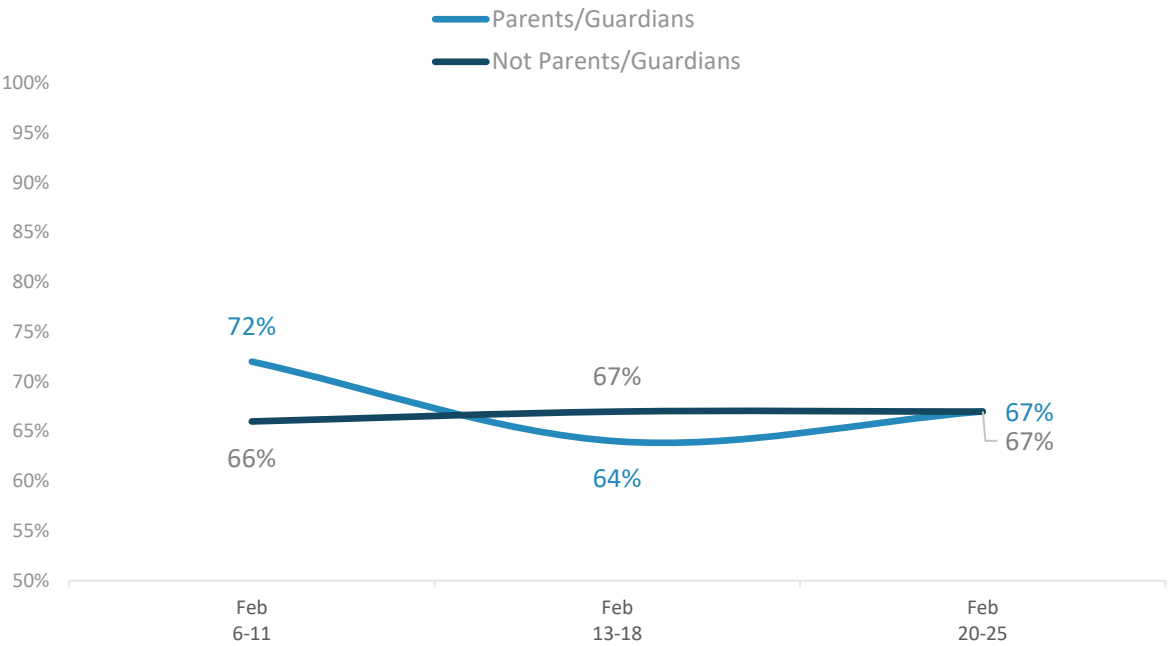
The ‘right track’ scores for type of community are on par with each other.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



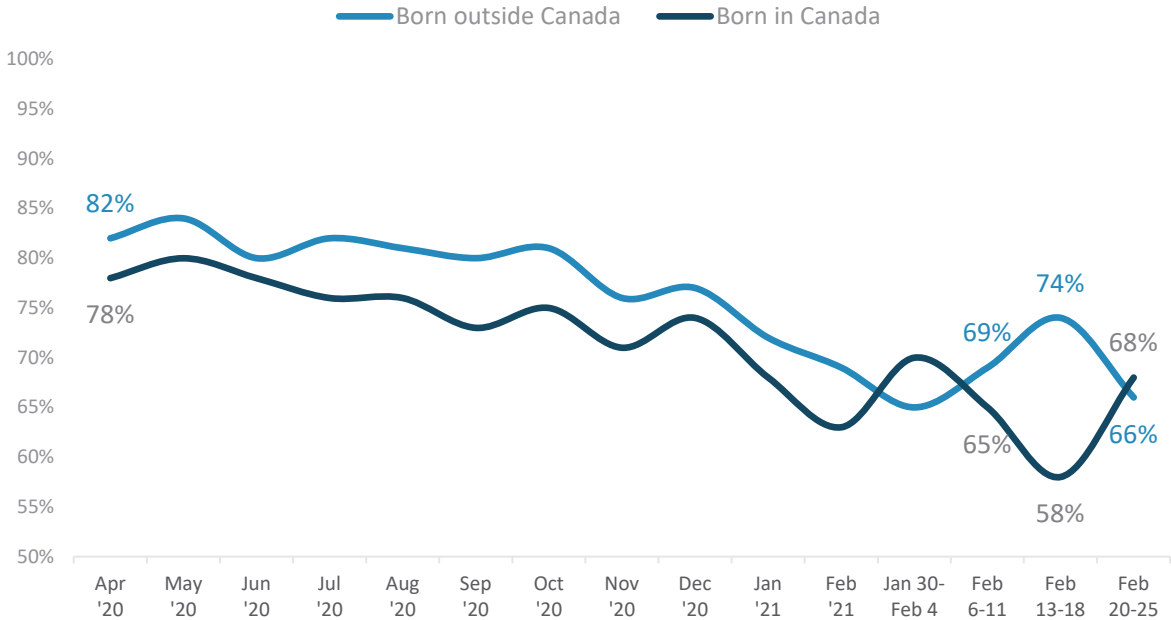
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

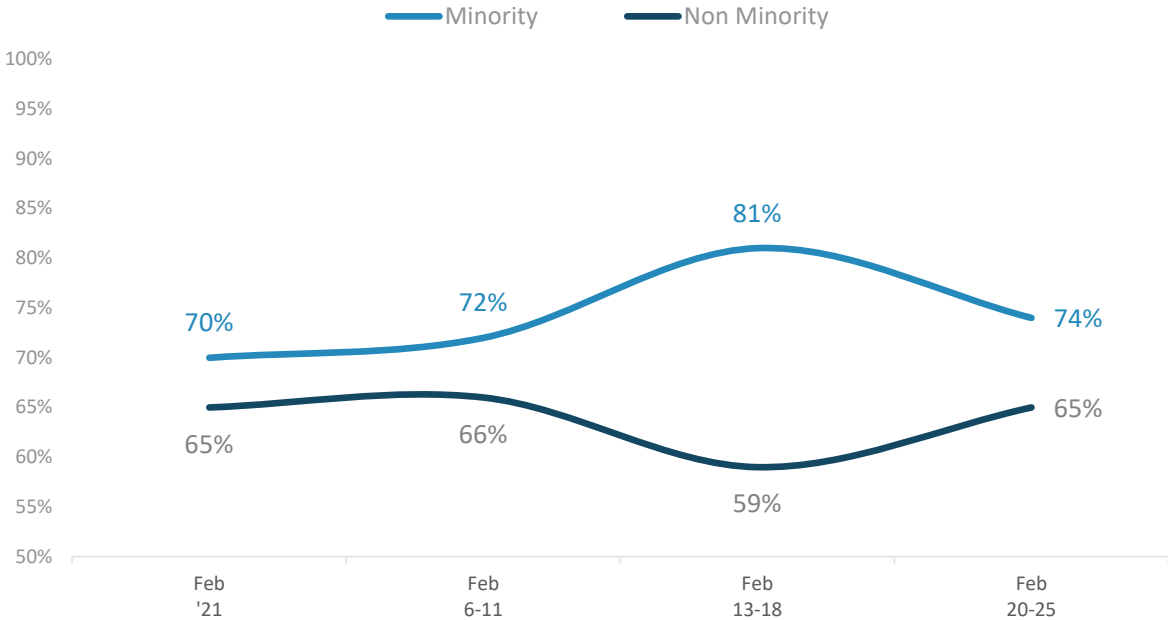
The ‘right track’ scores are higher among those that identify as a minority.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



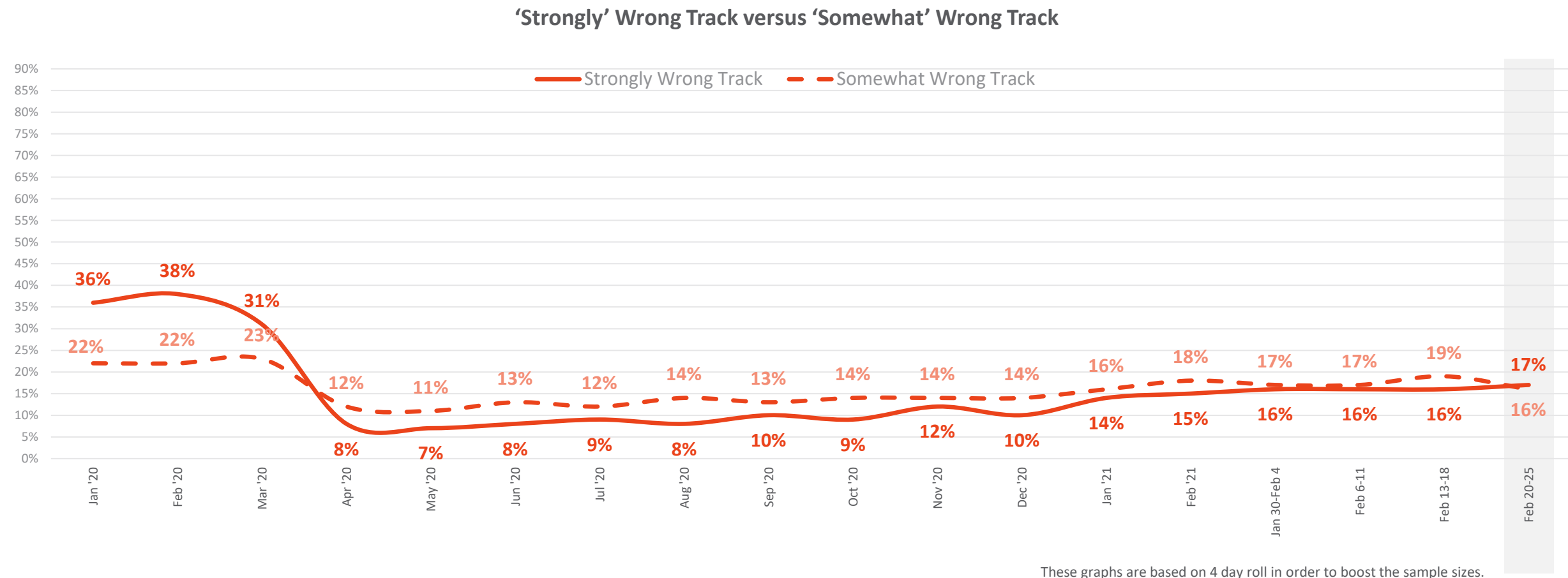
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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

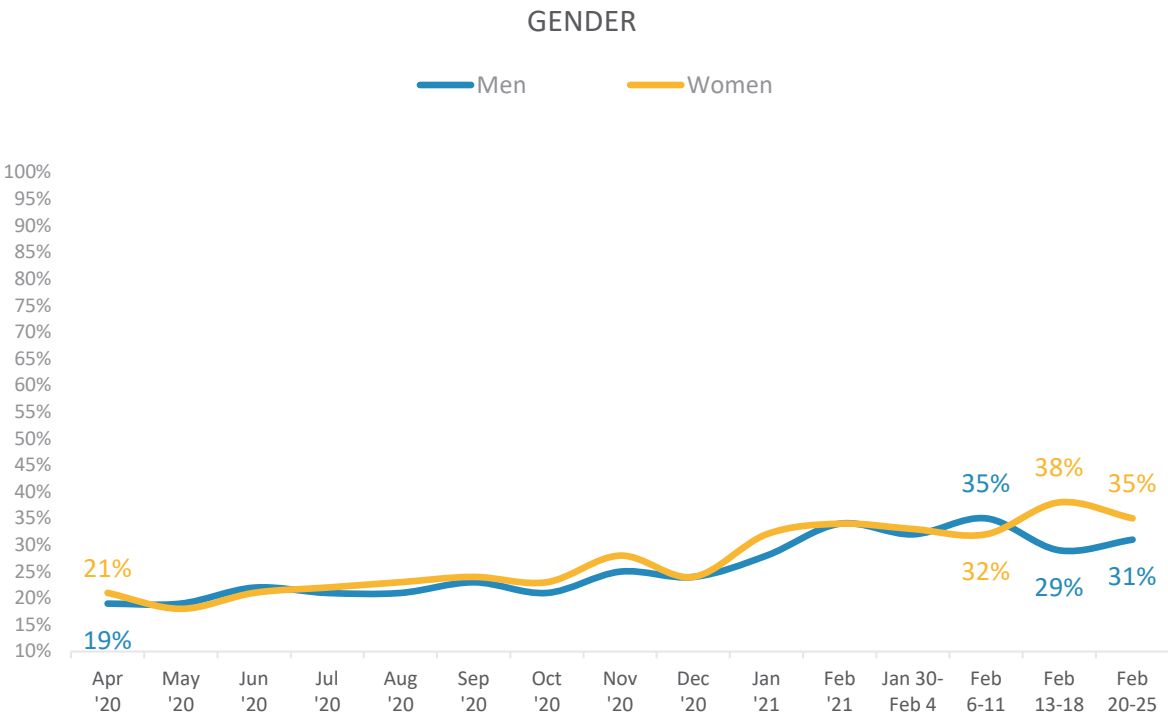
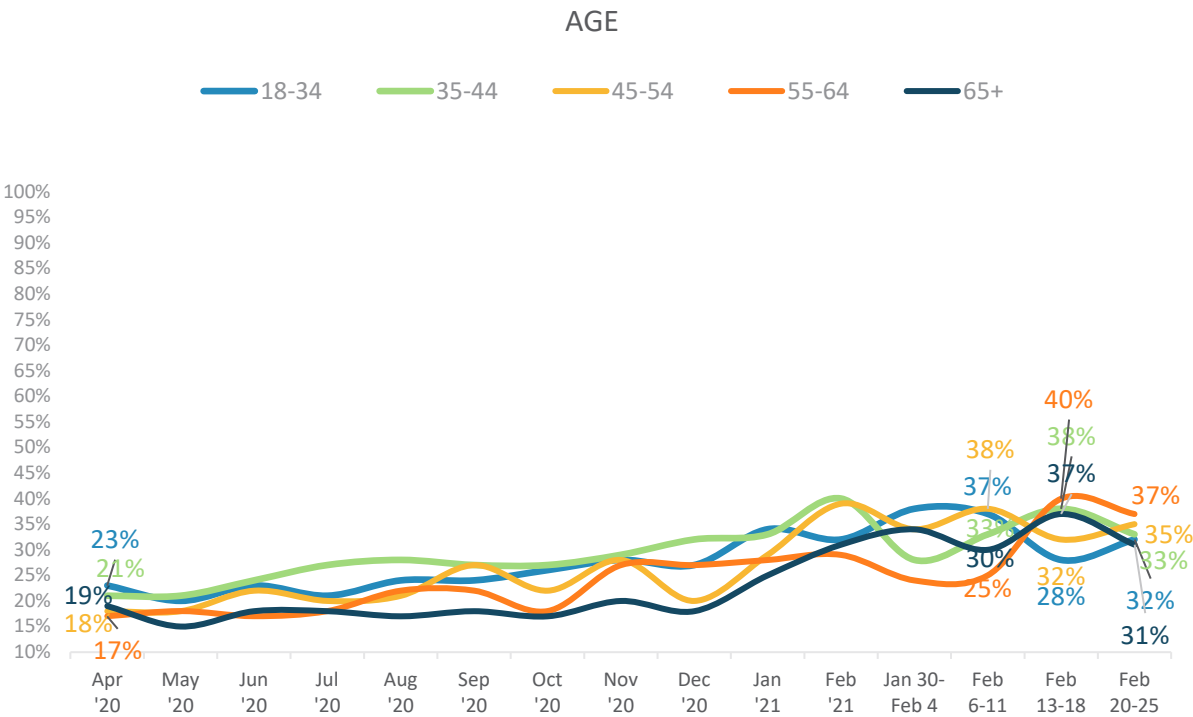
‘Strongly wrong track’ and ‘somewhat wrong track’ remain unchanged over the past week.



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



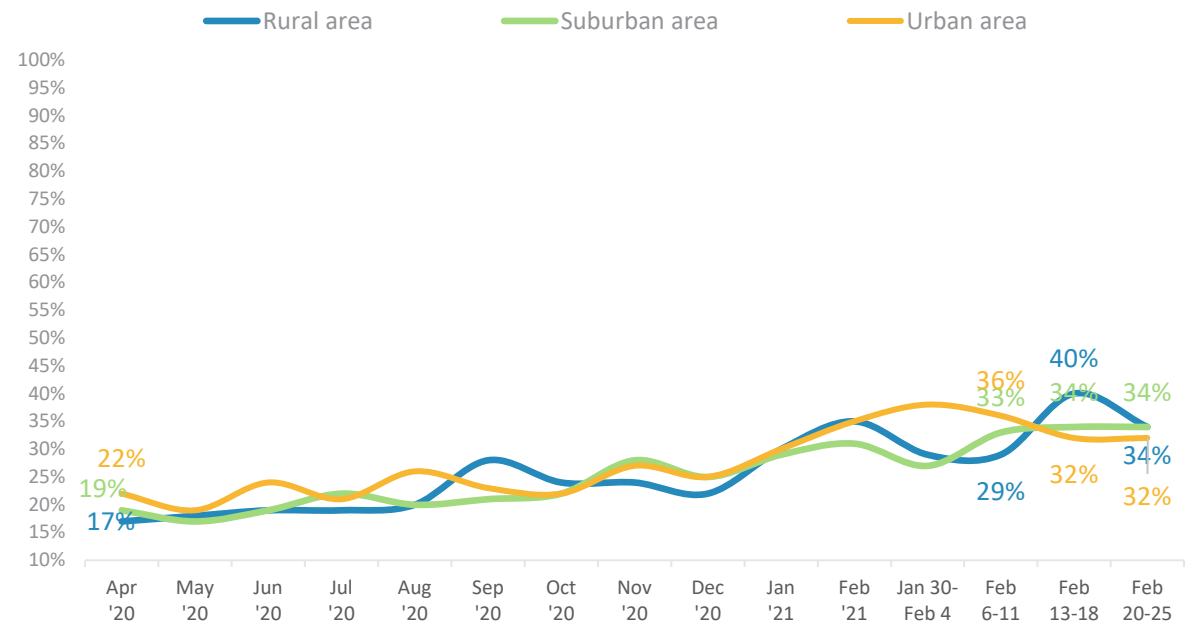
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

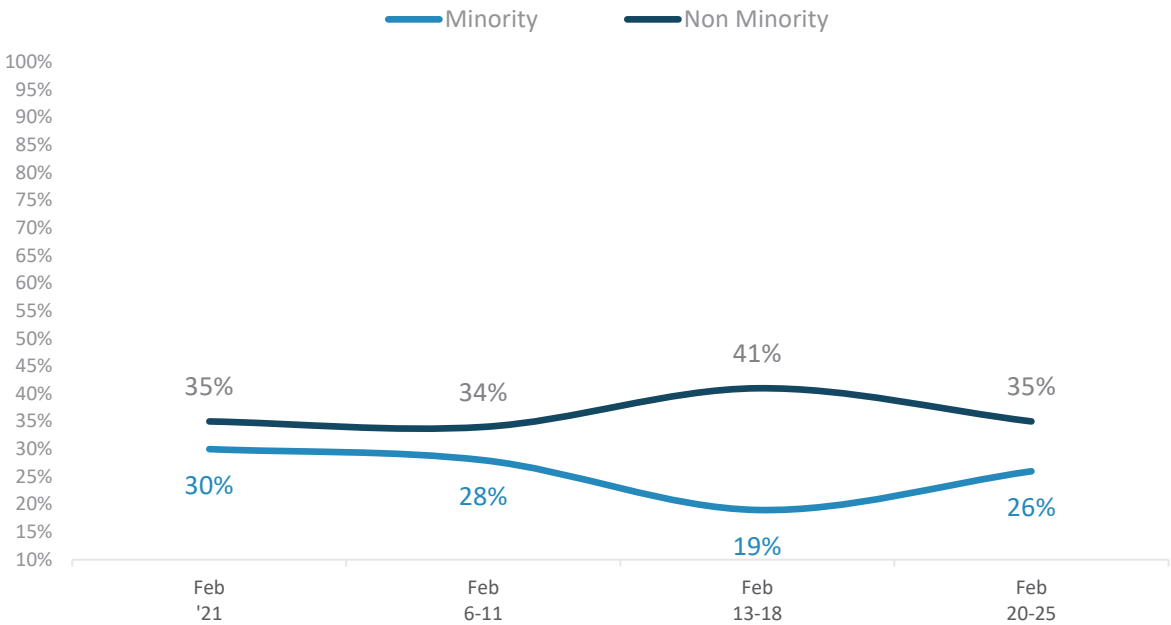
‘Wrong track’ scores are higher among those who identify as non-minority Ontarians.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



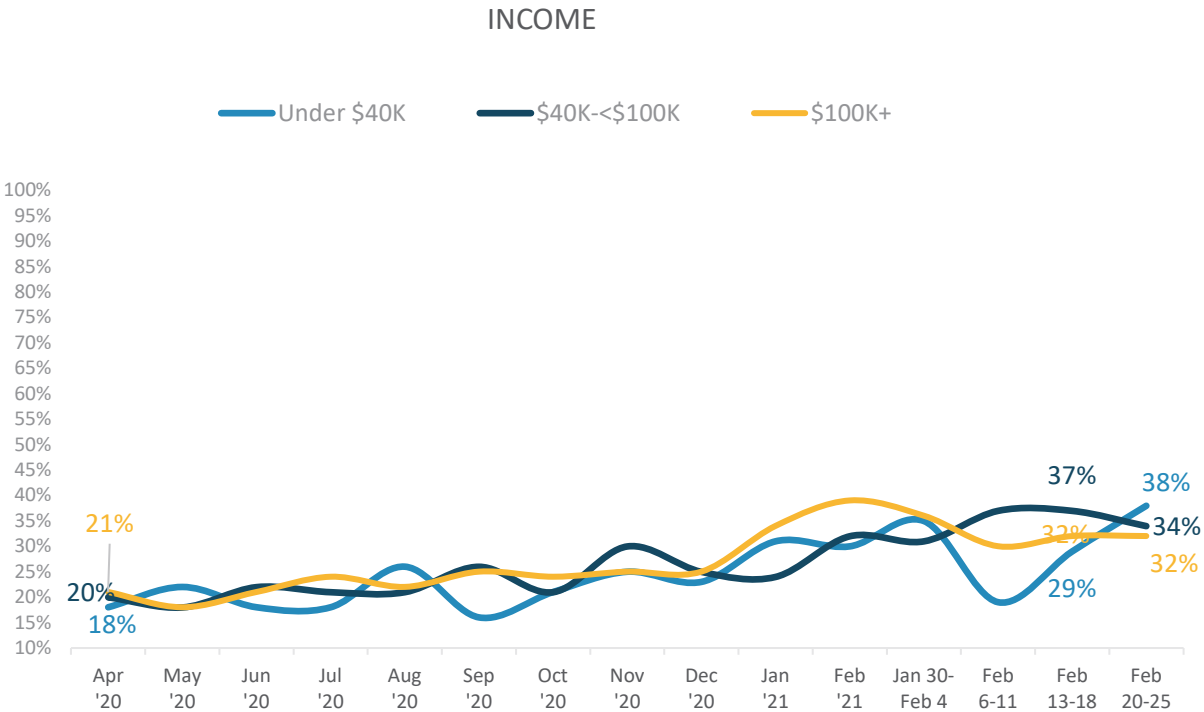
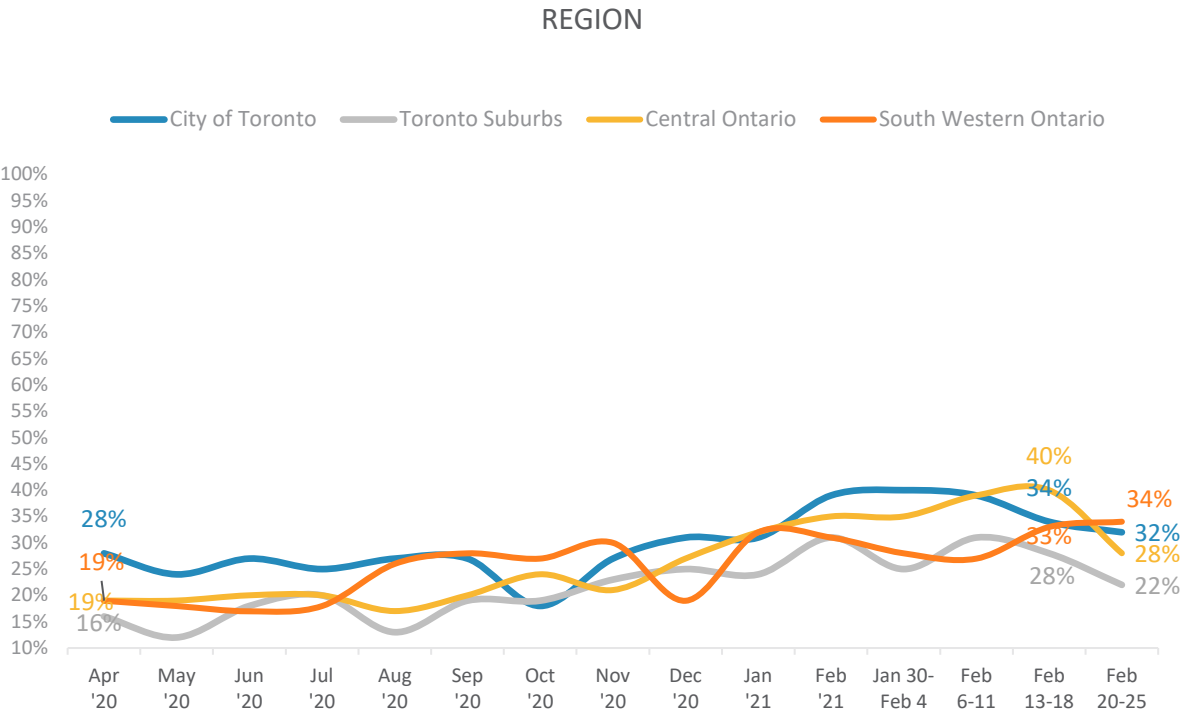
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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

The lowest ‘wrong track’ scores are in the Toronto suburbs.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



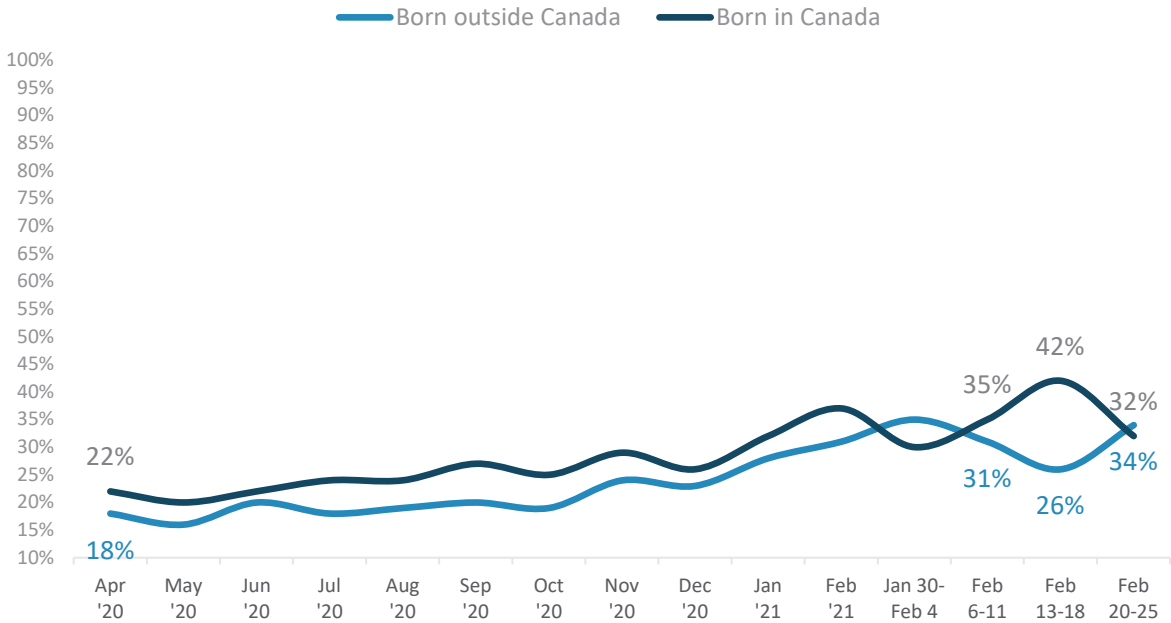
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

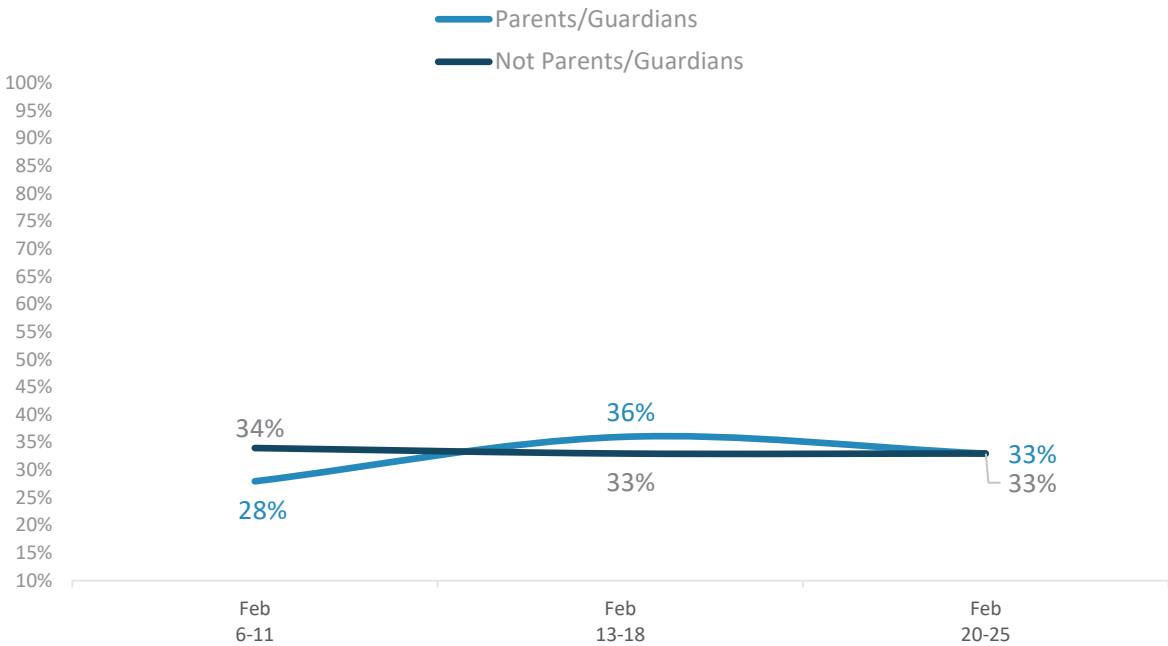
Over the past week, there is no demographic difference based on birthplace or parental status.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

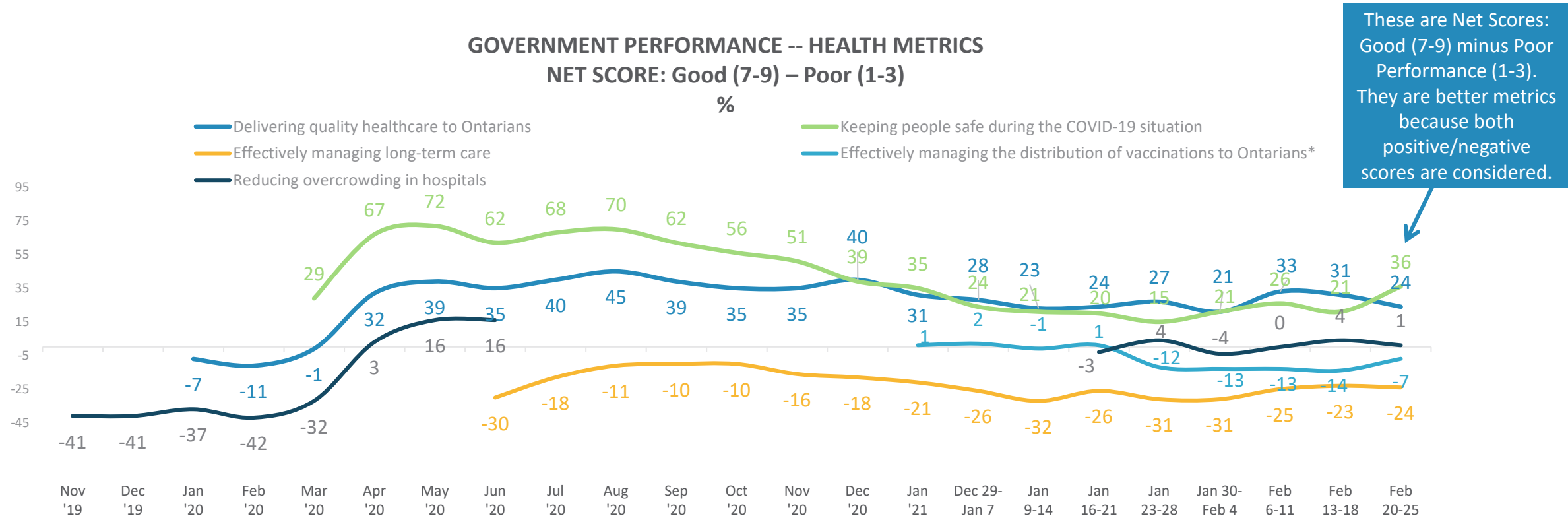


PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



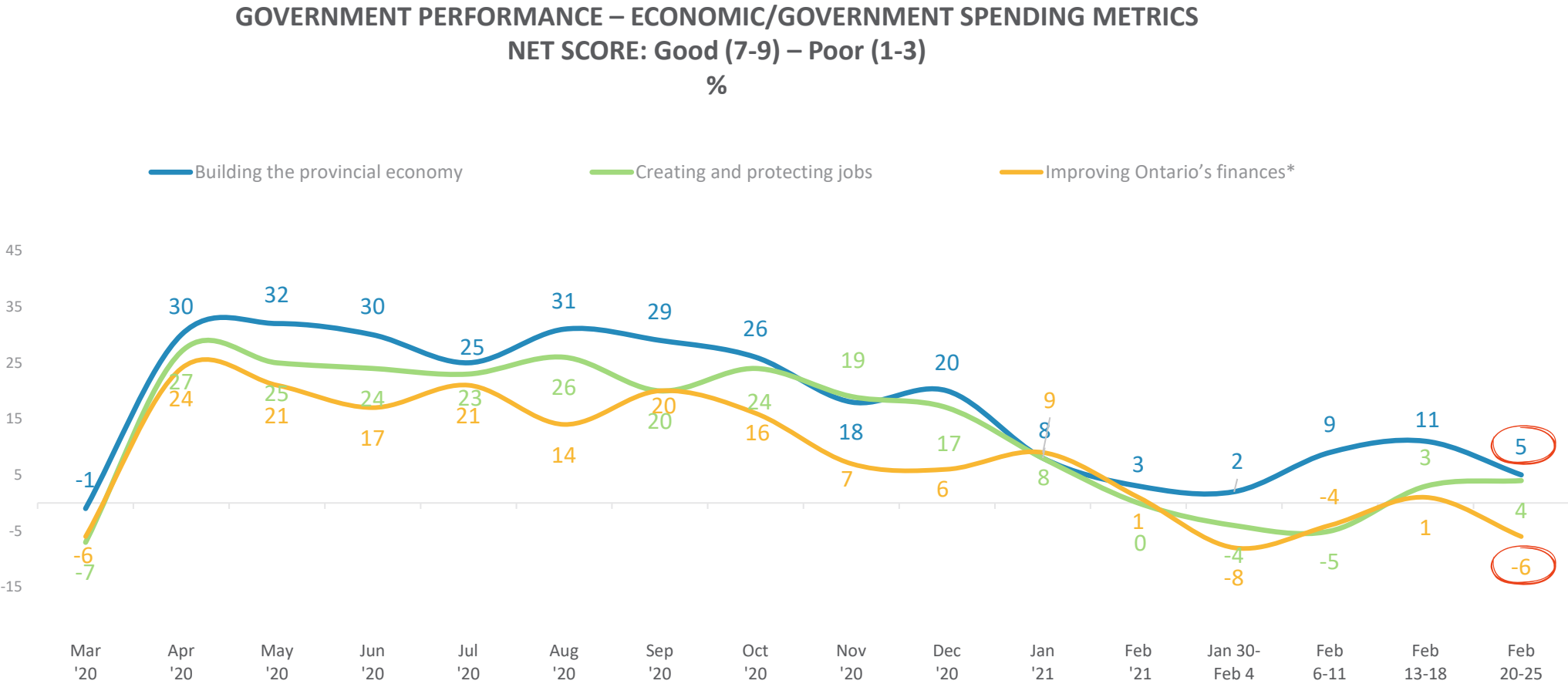
The government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the vaccinations’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ have improved this past week.

- The timing of this week’s announcement to increase resources for long-term care did not have any chance to impact the government’s scores for ‘effectively managing long-term care’.



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

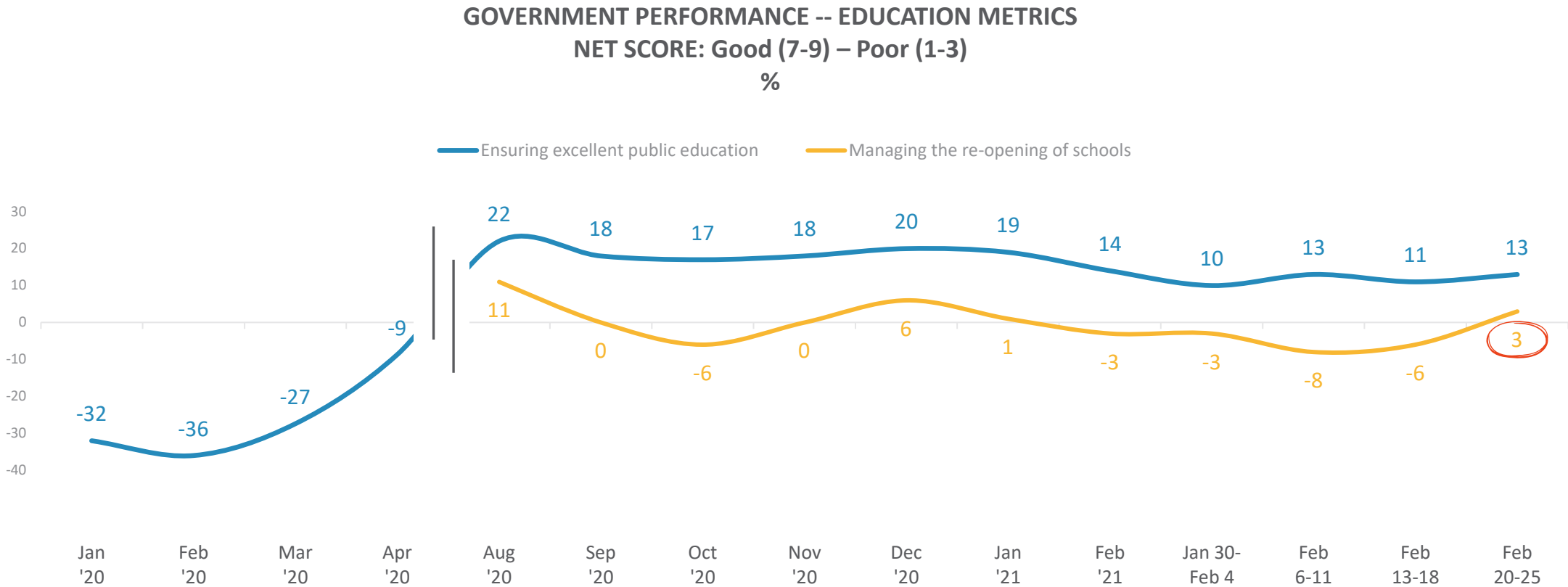
Despite the gradual reopening of the economy, the government’s performance on ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ have declined this past week after increasing in previous weeks.



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’ remains stable, while ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ has moved upward 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.

- Those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are much more inclined to believe that declining infection cases are due to the provincial shutdown compared those who see it on the ‘wrong track’.

	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25
n=	300	300	260	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF IT	60	49	51	52
All of it	16	17	12	11
Most of it	45	32	39	41
Some of it	32	41	43	42
None of it	6	8	4	5
TOTAL SOME/NONE OF IT	38	49	47	47
Don't know/not sure	2	2	3	1

	DECLINING COVID-19 CASES DUE TO THE PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN
	% Totally all/Most of it
Right Track	59
Wrong Track	36

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

Base: Total sample

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.

- Those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are only slightly more inclined to think the government should continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province compared with those who see it on the ‘wrong track’.

	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25
n=	260	300
	%	%
Rethink its approach to provincial shutdown	37	33
Continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province	61	62
Don't know/Not sure	2	5

	CONTINUE WITH ITS APPROACH TO SLOWLY RE-OPEN THE PROVINCE
	%
Right Track	65
Wrong Track	56

Preliminary results indicate that two-thirds of Ontarians say they are concerned about the impact of the new COVID-19 variants regardless of the safety protocols.

- Ontario parents are much less likely to agree with this view: about 52% of Ontario parents share with point of 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

*Even with the safety protocols
schools have in place, I am very
concerned about the impact of
COVID variants on children*

Feb 20-25
varies
%
66
51
14
12
14
8
23
-

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	Feb 20-25
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	72	69	78	74	79	73
Strongly agree	27	28	32	26	34	26
Somewhat agree	45	41	46	48	45	47
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11	5	12	4	6
Somewhat disagree	10	12	10	9	9	12
Strongly disagree	7	5	6	4	7	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	17	16	12	17	18
Don't know	2	4	1	2	1	3

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 (46%) hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 34% 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.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25
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	16
The provincial government has tried to balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	50	48	43	51	43	46
The provincial government has put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	31	34	32	31	36	34
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5

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

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25
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	4
The provincial government should balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	55	59	49	53	51	57
The provincial government should put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	40	35	44	42	43	38
Don't know/Not sure	2	2	1	2	2	1

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

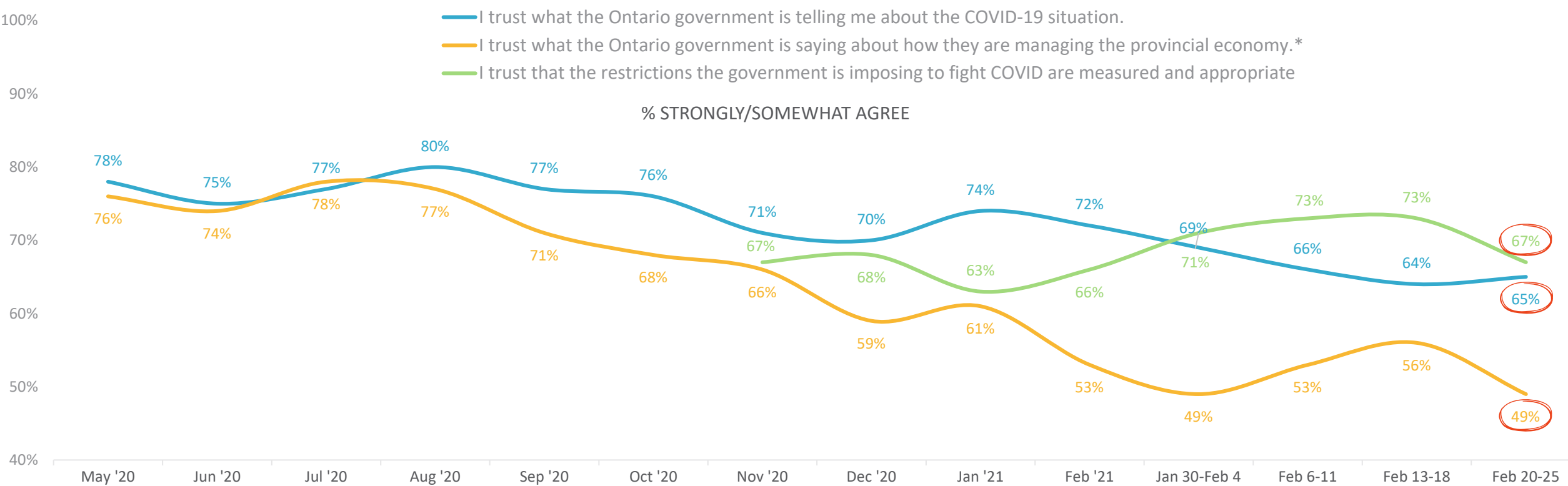
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

On a positive front, trust in the government’s communications about the COVID-19 situation has stabilized after declining since January. However, trust that the government’s restrictions to fight COVID-19 are measured/appropriate has dropped after several weeks of improvement.

- Trust in the government’s messaging about managing the provincial economy has also declined this week.



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



Just over 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	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25
n=	varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	26	30	39	38	31	34	28	-	47	36	33	37	39	37	43
Strongly agree	12	17	15	20	17	17	13	16	-	23	17	14	18	19	16	29
Somewhat agree	15	9	15	19	21	13	21	12	-	23	19	19	20	20	21	14
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	2	10	11	12	3	7	-	8	3	8	9	11	11	3
Somewhat disagree	27	23	22	21	10	29	32	24	-	22	31	21	25	17	20	18
Strongly disagree	41	44	43	31	38	27	30	40	-	23	30	38	29	30	31	35
TOTAL DISAGREE	68	66	66	52	48	57	62	64	-	45	61	59	54	47	51	53
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 slight 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

% 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	Feb 20-25
varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
32	27	35	40	34	34
14	12	15	18	14	14
18	15	21	22	20	20
8	5	9	8	7	7
20	20	13	15	18	20
37	44	37	31	36	32
57	64	50	46	54	52
-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4	6	6	5	7

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	Feb 20-25
300	300	260	300
%	%	%	%
85	73	84	81
35	33	40	39
49	40	44	42
5	11	8	6
6	9	4	7
11	20	12	14
5	7	4	5

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 41% 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	Feb 20-25
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	41

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

About 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	Feb 20-25
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62
Not applicable								1	2	2	1	-
Don't know								1	4	3	-	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	Feb 20-25
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	90	87	83	88	75	81	83	84	84	91
Strongly agree	69	63	59	73	50	60	59	69	65	78
Somewhat agree	21	24	23	14	25	21	24	15	19	12
Neither agree nor disagree	2	4	2	3	2	4	2	2	3	-
Somewhat disagree	4	6	6	3	8	7	3	4	6	3
Strongly disagree	2	2	8	6	13	7	9	10	8	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	6	8	14	9	21	14	12	13	14	9
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

Still, most Ontarians (70%) 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	Feb 20-25
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17
Not applicable	3	1	2	2	9	2	5	8	4	3
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



Most Ontarians (albeit declining from 70% to 57%) 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	Feb 20-25
n=	300	300	260	300
	%	%	%	%
More dangerous	70	56	61	57
As dangerous	22	27	24	27
Less dangerous	3	4	5	5
Don't know/not sure	6	13	10	12

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

Some 60% 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	Feb 20-25
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37	34
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	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	Feb 20-25
n=	300	260	300
	%	%	%
Should do more	23	27	32
Current restrictions are sufficient	73	67	62
Don't know/not sure	4	6	7

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, Ontarians seem to have declining confidence 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	Feb 20-25
varies									
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51
2	-	1	1	-	1	1	3	2	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



About 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	Feb 20-25
n=	300	250	400	300	300	300	300	300	260	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME	58	53	59	58	52	49	56	52	53	49
A great deal	9	11	11	10	14	11	12	11	12	11
Some	49	42	47	48	38	39	44	41	41	38
Not too much	27	34	28	24	29	31	30	31	33	29
None at all	9	6	8	9	11	11	6	10	6	12
TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NONE AT ALL	35	39	36	33	40	42	36	41	39	41
Don't know/not sure	7	8	5	9	8	8	8	8	8	10

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

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



SATISFACTION WITH INTERNET CONNECTION SPEED AT HOME

The early results suggest that most Ontarians are satisfied with the speed of their internet connection at home. However, rural residents are much less satisfied.

	Feb 20-25
n=	300
	%
TOTAL SATISFIED	73
Very satisfied	40
Somewhat satisfied	33
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3
Somewhat dissatisfied	10
Very dissatisfied	8
TOTAL DISSATISFIED	18
Don't know/not sure	6

	Satisfaction with Home Internet Speeds
	%
Rural residents	55
Suburban residents	79
Urban residents	80

BBQ1. How satisfied are you with the speed of your internet connection at home?

Base: Total sample

The preliminary results indicate that just over one-third are aware of the government/private sector investment of \$1b to expand internet access in unserved or underserved communities.

	Feb 20-25
n=	300
	%
Yes	35
No	63
Don't know/not sure	2

BBQ2. The Ontario government, working with all levels of governments and the private sector, should invest up to \$1 billion over five years to expand internet access in unserved or underserved communities. Are you aware of the provincial government’s plan to significantly expand Ontario residents’ access to high-speed internet?

Base: Total sample

The early findings suggest that over three-quarters believe it is a good use of taxpayers’ dollars to expand Ontarians’ access to high speed internet.

	Feb 20-25
n=	300
	%
TOTAL VERY/GOOD USE	77
Very good use	30
Good use	47
Poor use	13
Very poor use	7
TOTAL VERY/POOR USE	19
Don't know/not sure	4

BBQ3. Do you believe this investment in expanding Ontarian’ access to high-speed internet is a good or poor use of taxpayers’ money?

Base: Total sample

BEST REASON FOR INVESTING IN ONTARIO’S BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The preliminary results indicate that the best reason for expanding Ontario’s broadband infrastructure is to help schools to provide online instruction in rural or Northern Ontario communities where internet service is not available or is of poor quality.

	Feb 20-25
n=	300
	%
It will help small businesses in rural or Northern Ontario communities to offer their products and services to the global market	20
It will improve or allow for e-commerce in communities where internet service is not available or is of poor quality.	16
It will help schools to provide online instruction in rural or Northern Ontario communities where internet service is not available or is of poor quality.	54
Don’t know/not sure	10

BBQ4. In your opinion, which of the following reasons is the best reason for this government investment?

Base: Total sample

The early findings suggest that Ontarians think that the government should put a priority on investing in infrastructure to ensure everyone across Ontario has access to high-speed internet.

The government should put a priority on investing in infrastructure to ensure everyone across Ontario has access to high-speed internet

	Feb 20-25
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	79
Strongly agree	60
Somewhat agree	19
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	9
TOTAL DISAGREE	16
Don't know	2

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

Base: Total sample

The early findings suggest that Ontarians think investing in infrastructure to ensure that everyone has access to high-speed internet is a good use of taxpayer dollars.

The government should invest in infrastructure to ensure that everyone has access to high-speed internet is a good use of taxpayer dollars.

	Feb 20-25
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	75
Strongly agree	49
Somewhat agree	26
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	13
TOTAL DISAGREE	19
Don't know	2

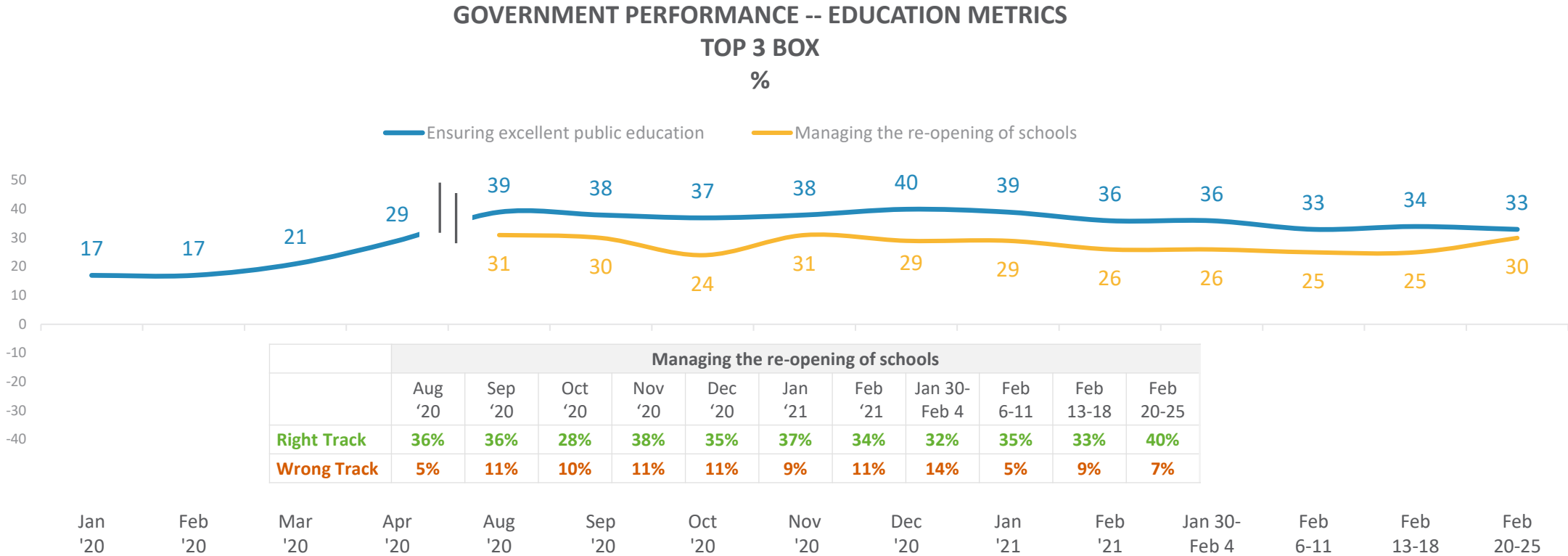
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX

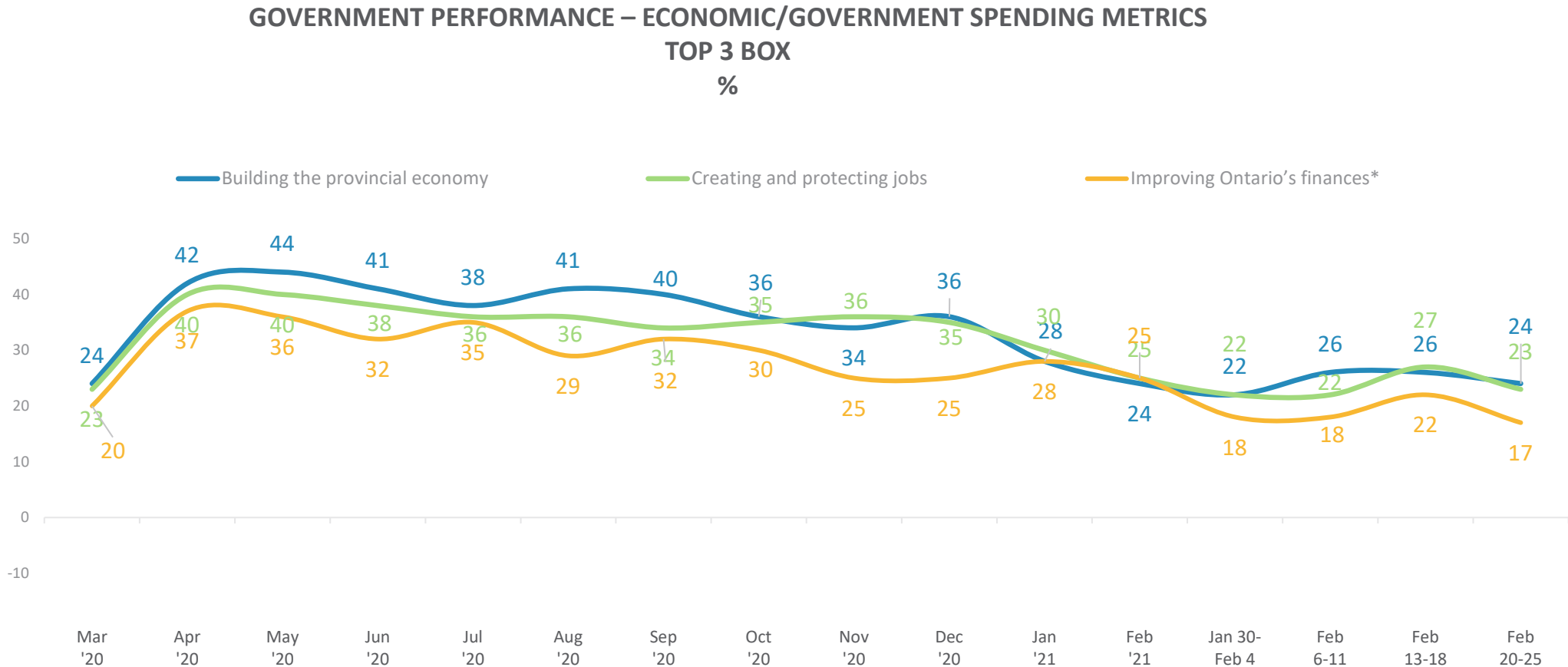


Positive perceptions on ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ has risen over the past week.



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 dipped slightly.



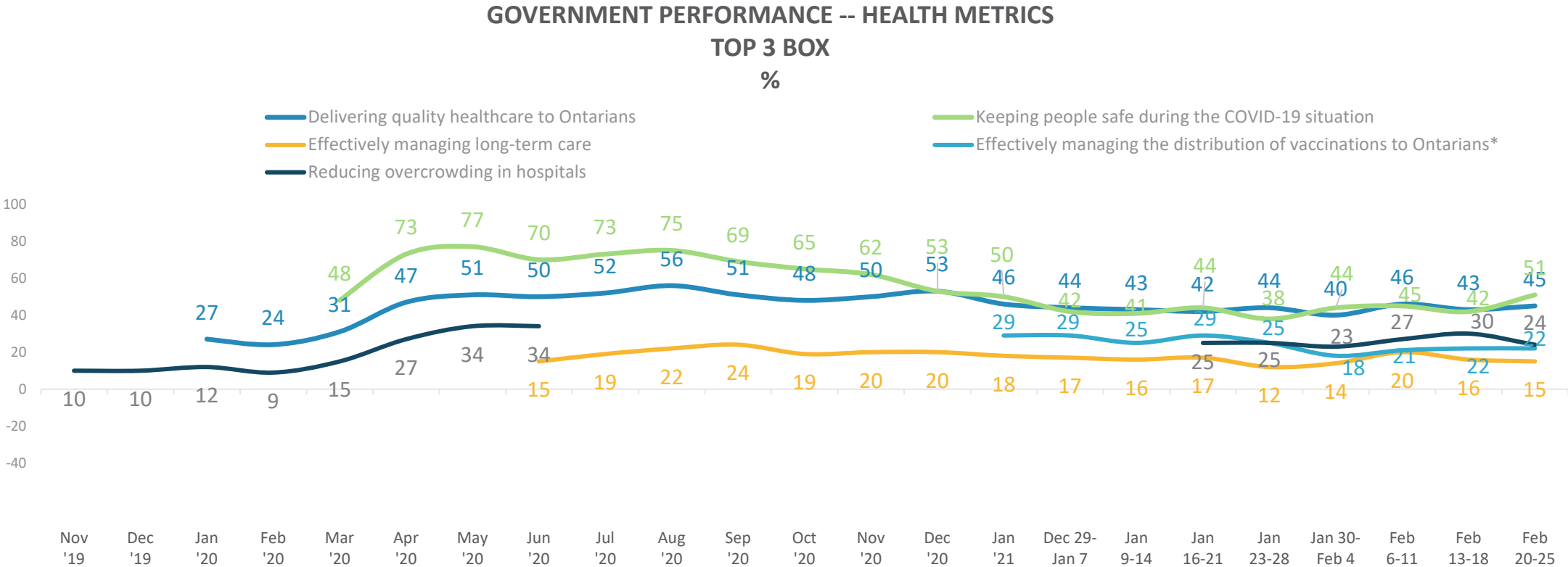
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”

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

Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ have increased, while these perceptions have declined for ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’.



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