

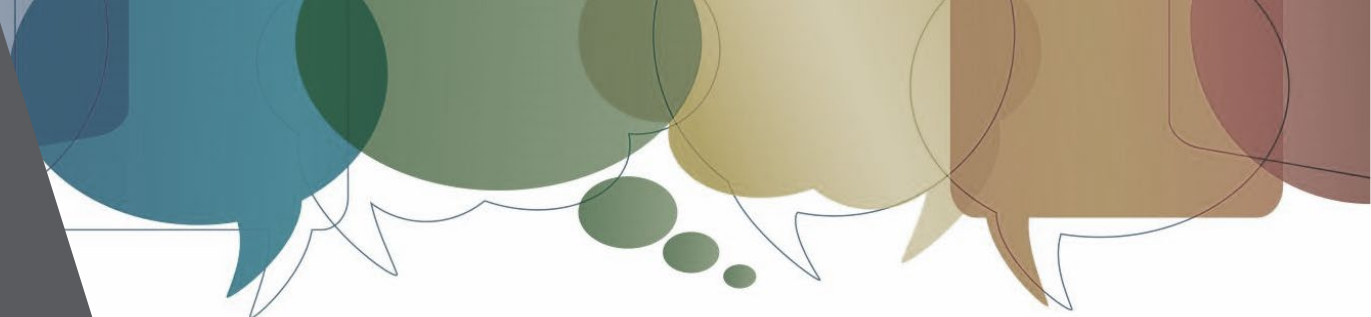


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #72

CABINET OFFICE

March 12th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

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

What does this say about the government in a rapidly changing environment?

It suggests that there is some solidity in the views toward the government's performance despite the tough COVID-19 environment. This does not mean there could be no changes in these scores.

4 Trust in the government's communications about the 'provincial economy' has reached its lowest level since last May.

In contrast, trust that the 'government's restrictions to fight COVID-19 are measured/appropriate' and the 'COVID - 19 situation' are much higher and relatively stable.

2 The government's performance for most health metrics remain stable, although 'delivering quality healthcare in Ontario' softened over the past week.

The government's performance scores on 'building the provincial economy' and 'creating/protecting jobs' ticked upwards.

5 After declining over several weeks, Ontarians have renewed confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that the vaccination program is being rolled out.

In fact, this week the measure reached its highest point of confidence at 63% – up from 43% in late January

3 Despite new modeling that the UK variant may cause a spike in infection cases, most Ontarians think the province should continue to slowly reopen the province.

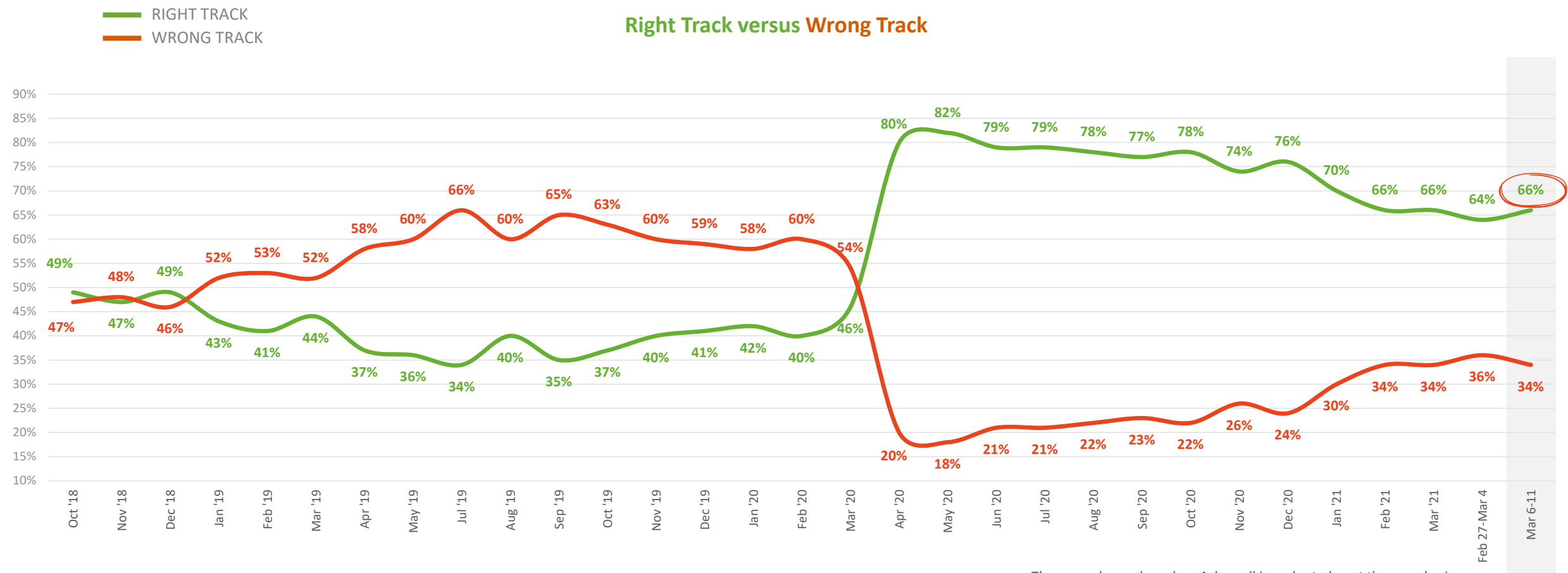
6 For the most part, Ontarians are divided on the best option to improve conditions for long-term care home residents: 1) heavy fines for non-compliance or 2) monthly/annual reports on the living conditions in these homes.

Ontarians' top priority for long-term care homes is to increase the number of hours per day staff spend with each patient, closely followed by ensuring these facilities have a cooling system.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



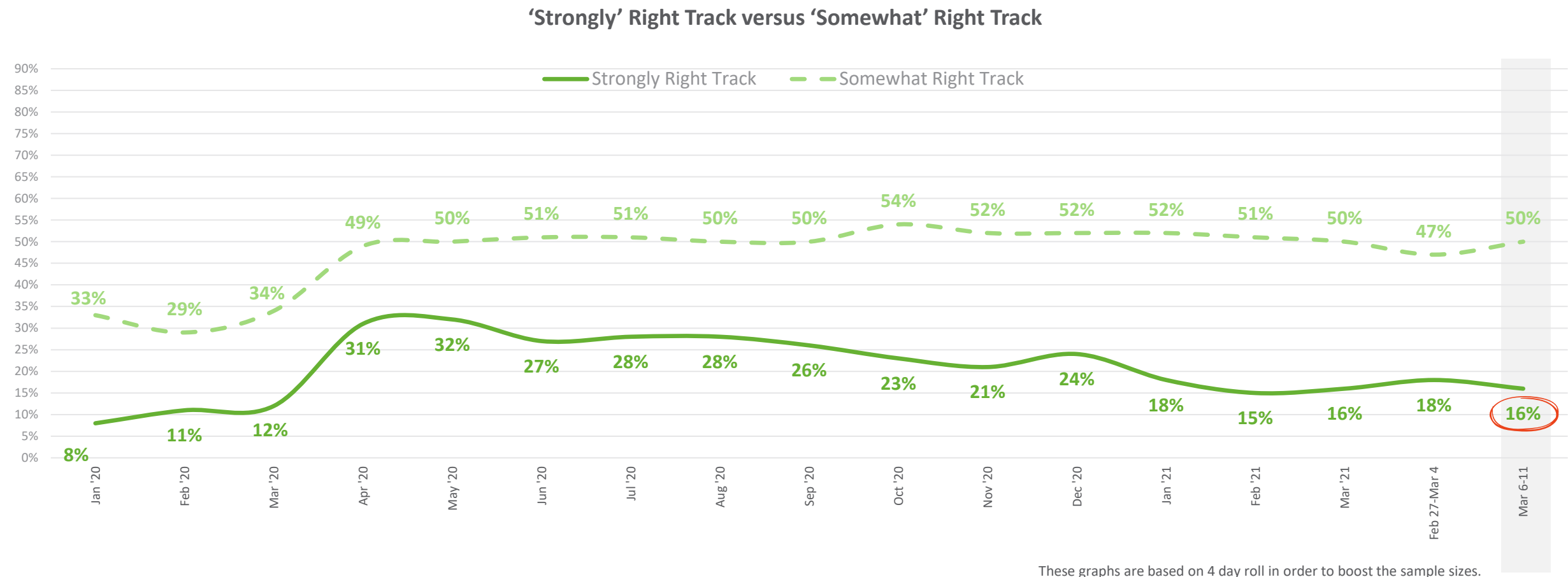
The government's 'right track' scores remain remarkably stable, at 66%, since early January.



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

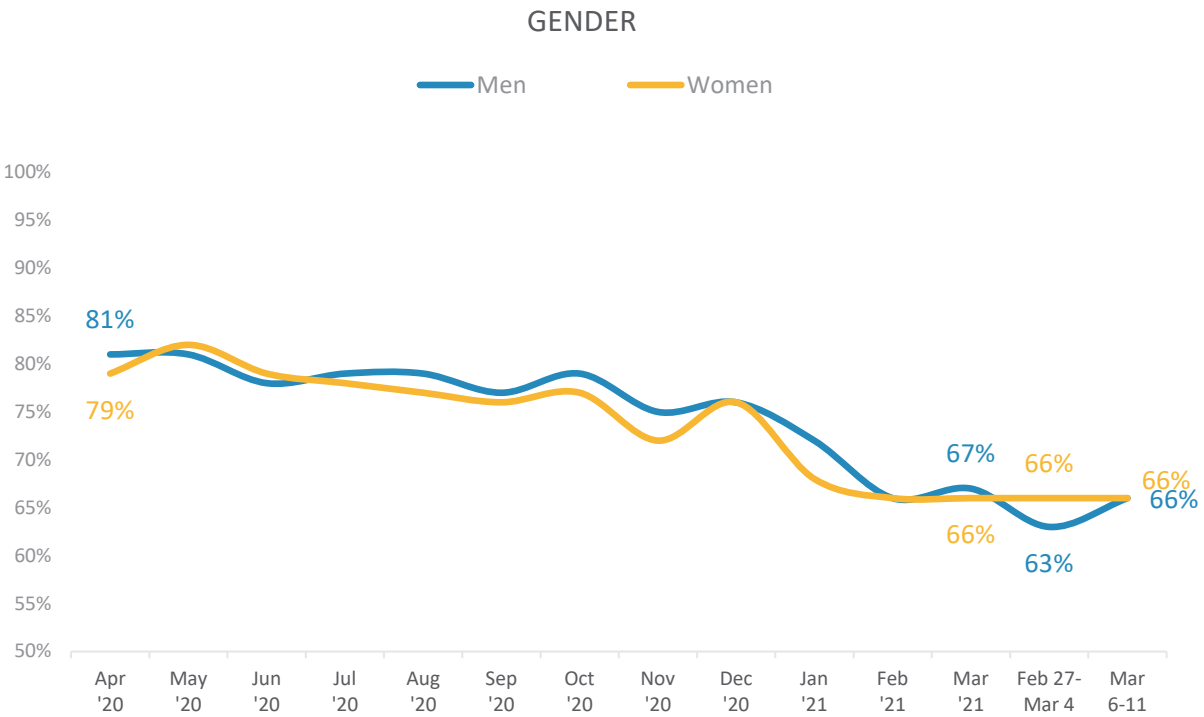
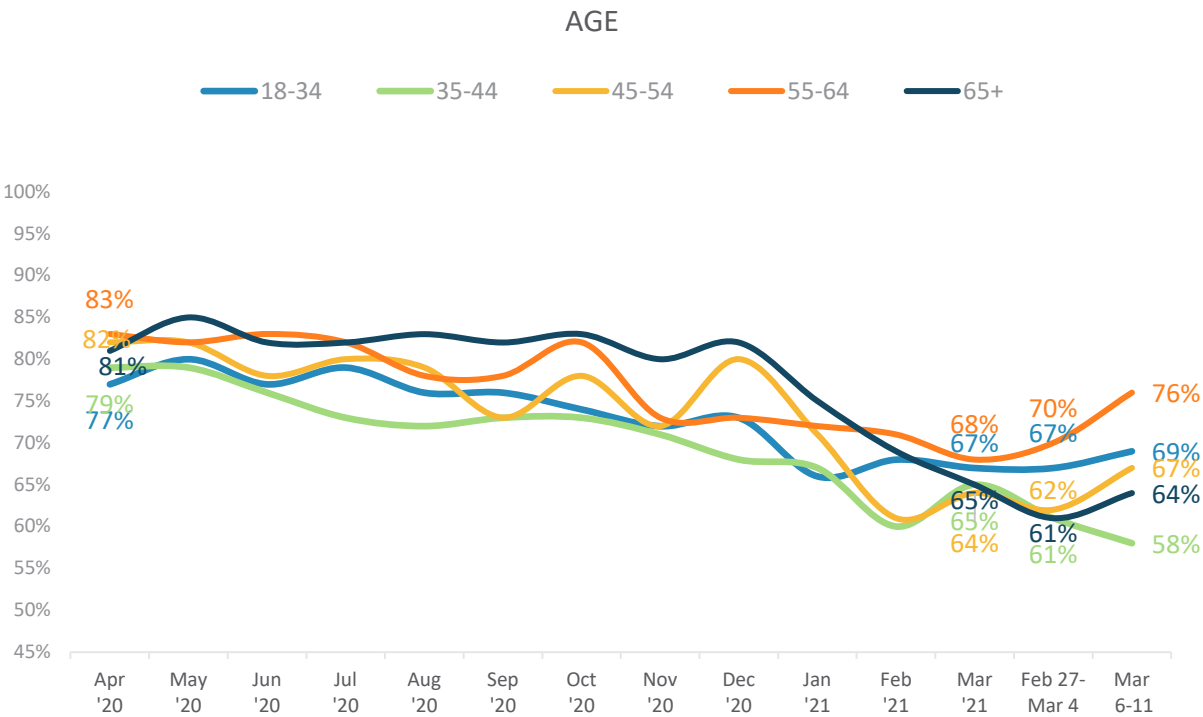
Since early January, the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores continue to be stable at 16%.



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 are no different between men and women this past week.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

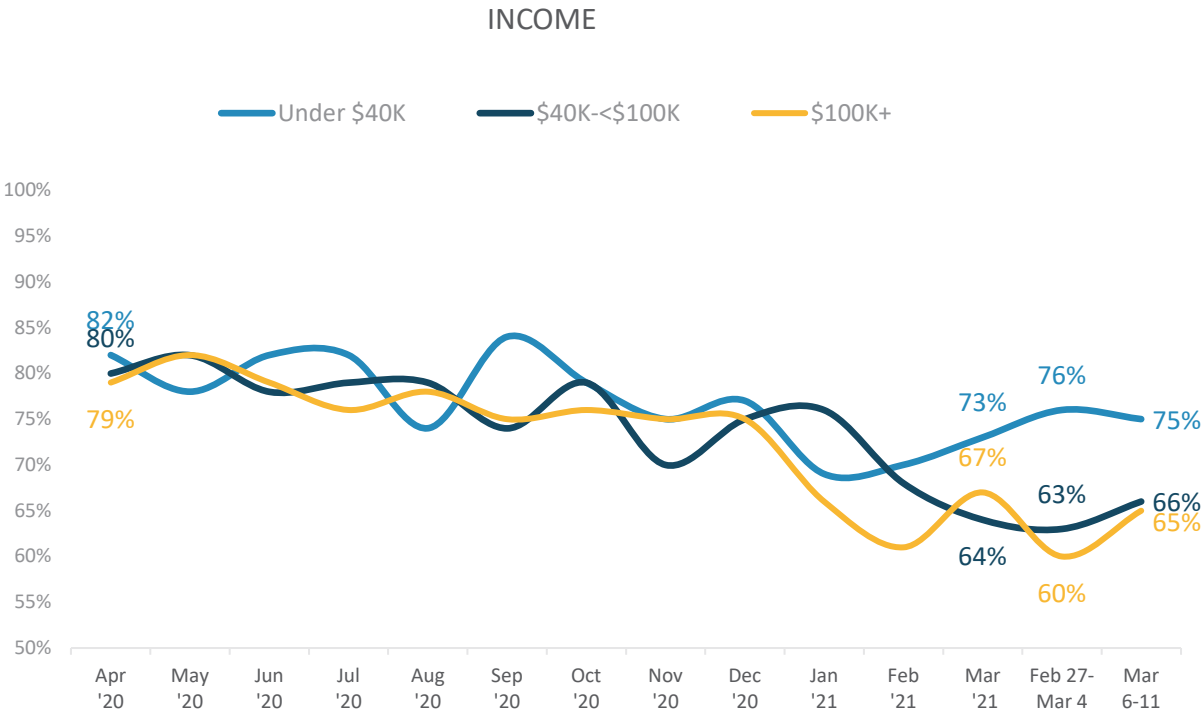
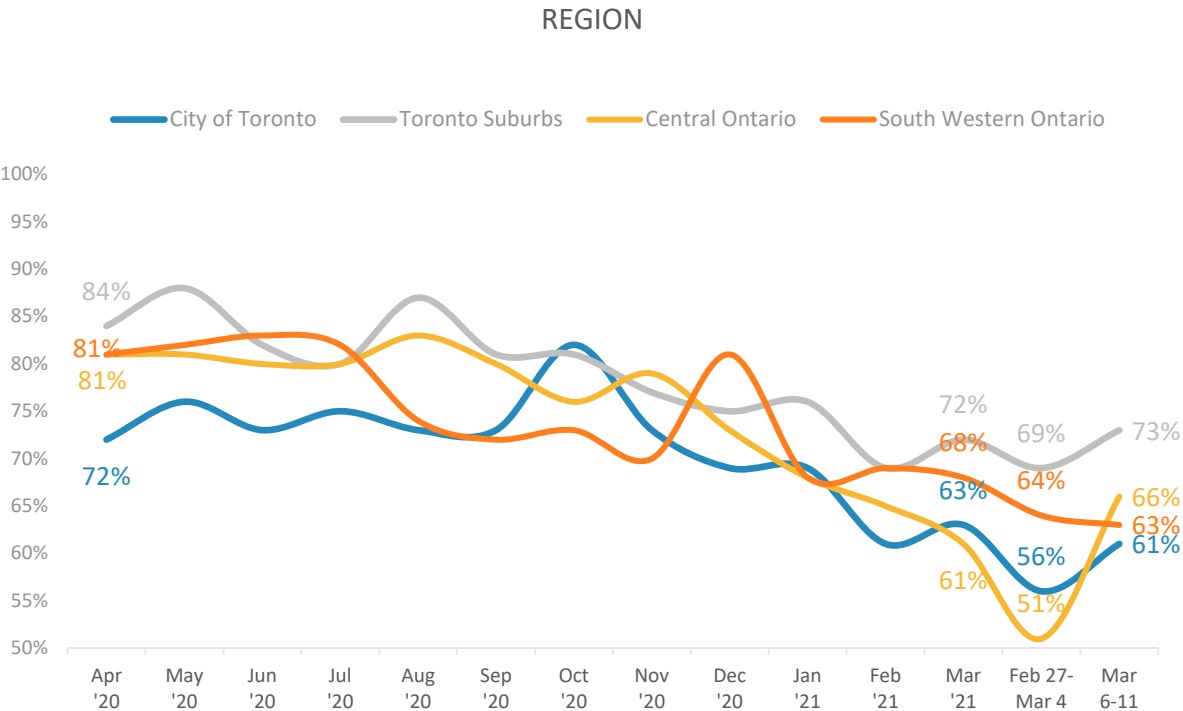


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The ‘right track’ scores remain strongest in suburban Toronto and those with household incomes under \$40k.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



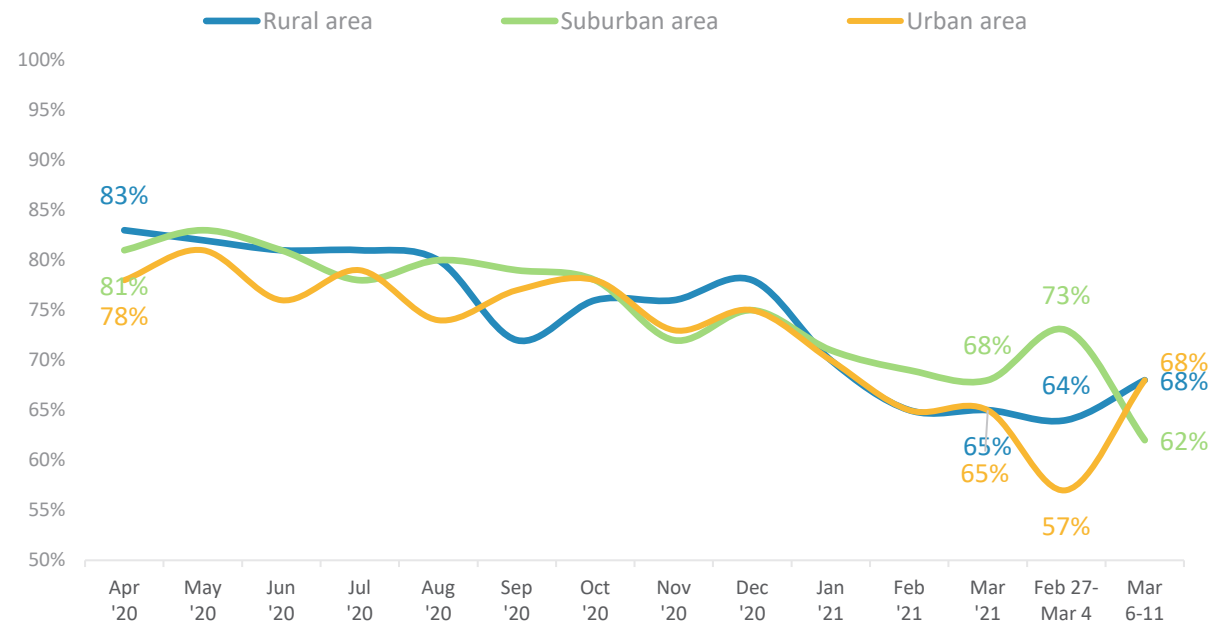
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Base: Total sample

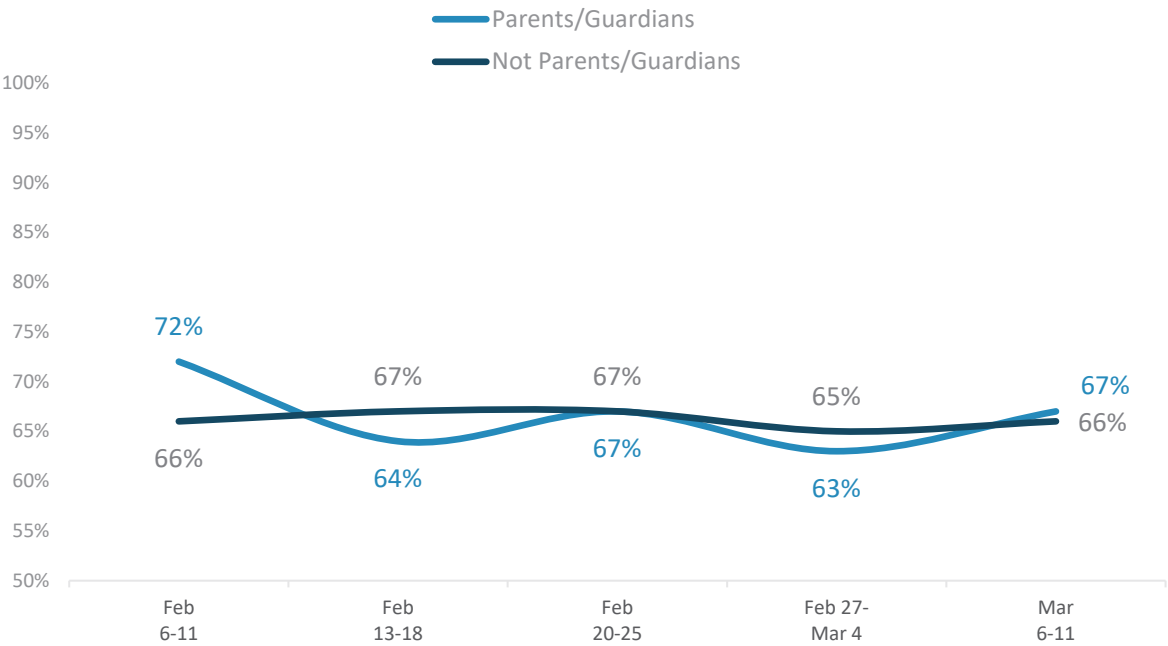
The ‘right track’ scores rebounded in urban areas this past week – this may reflect that Toronto was allowed to slowly start to be opened up.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



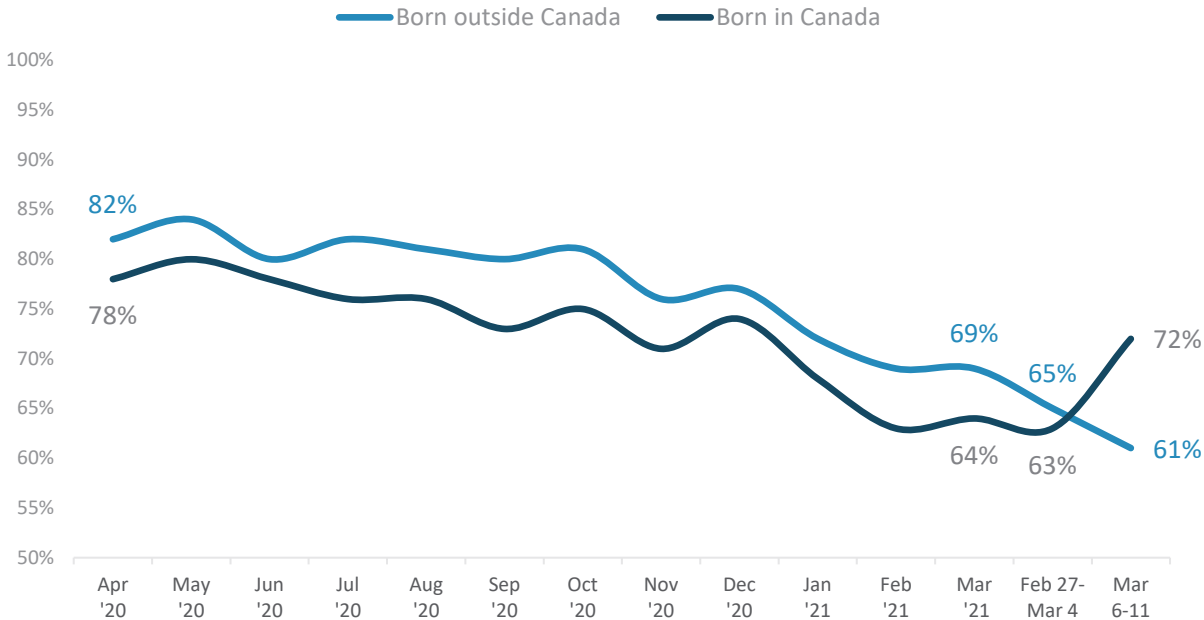
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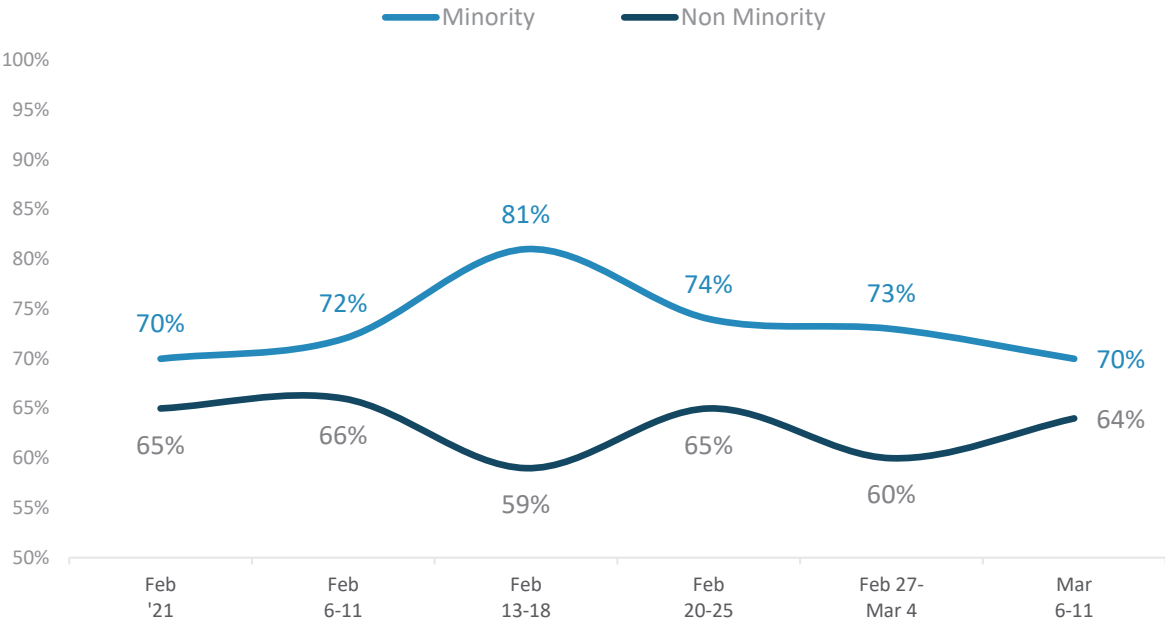
The ‘right track’ scores are significantly higher among those that identify as a minority, although it may be tightening.

Right Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



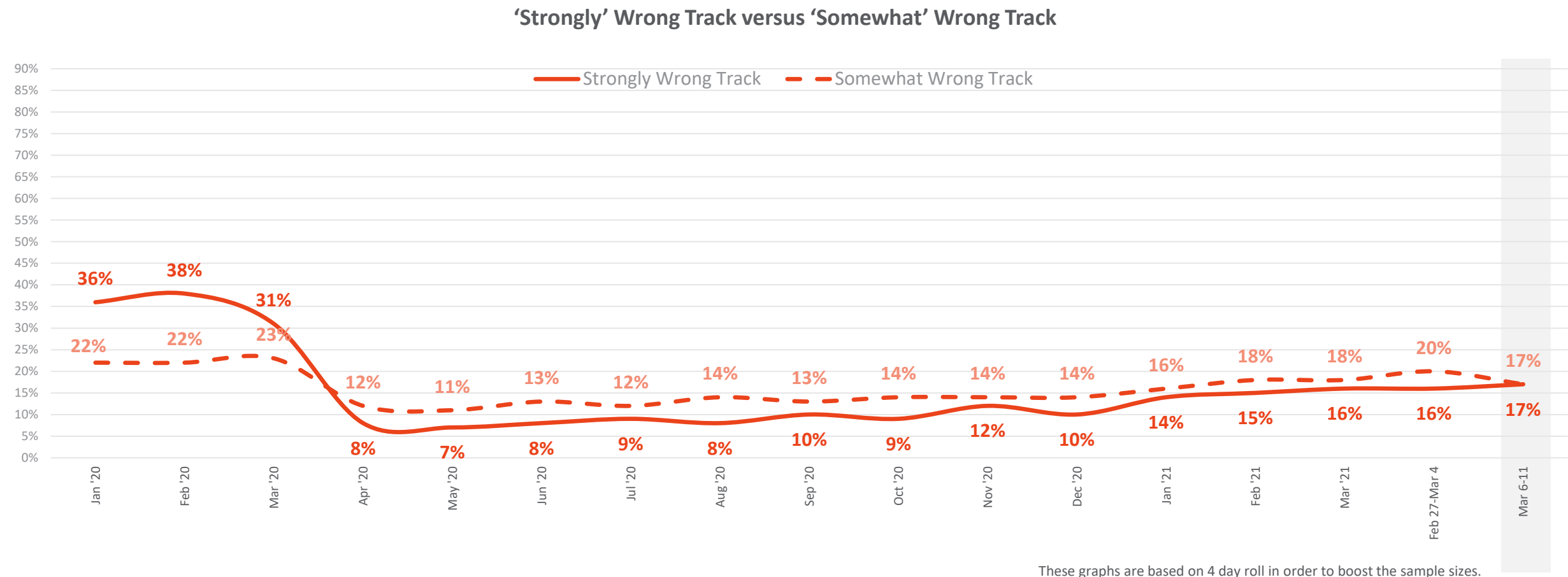
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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

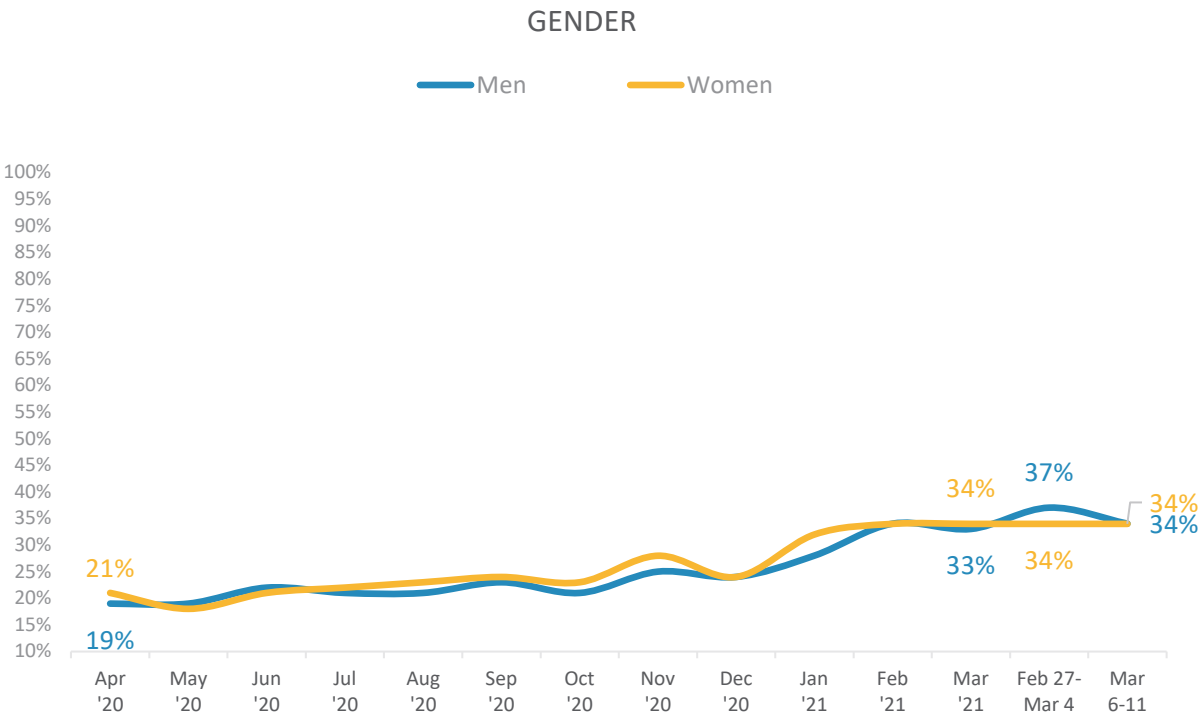
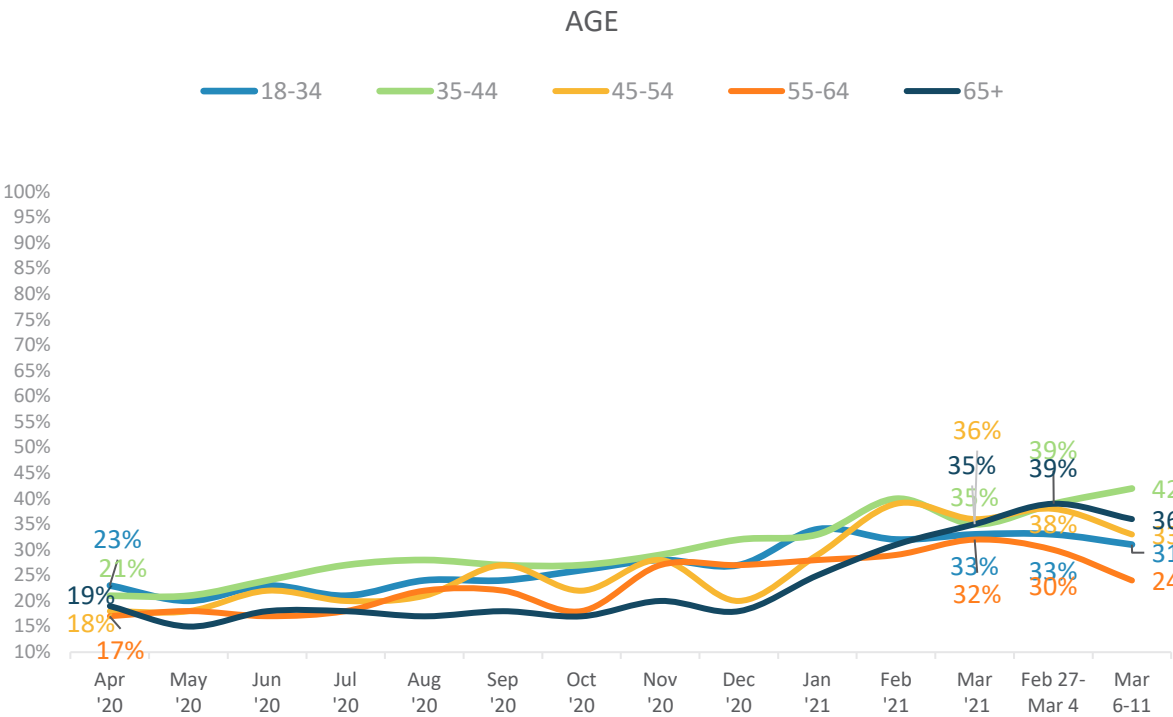
‘Strongly wrong track’ and ‘somewhat wrong track’ remained stable over the past week.



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

The ‘wrong track’ scores are no different between men and women.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll



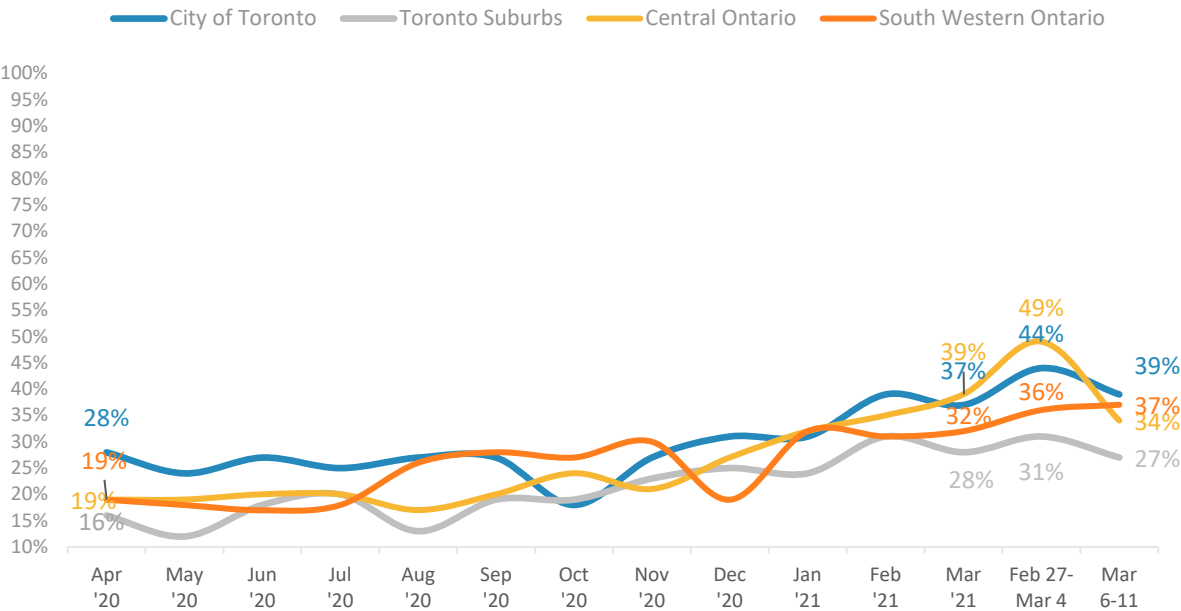
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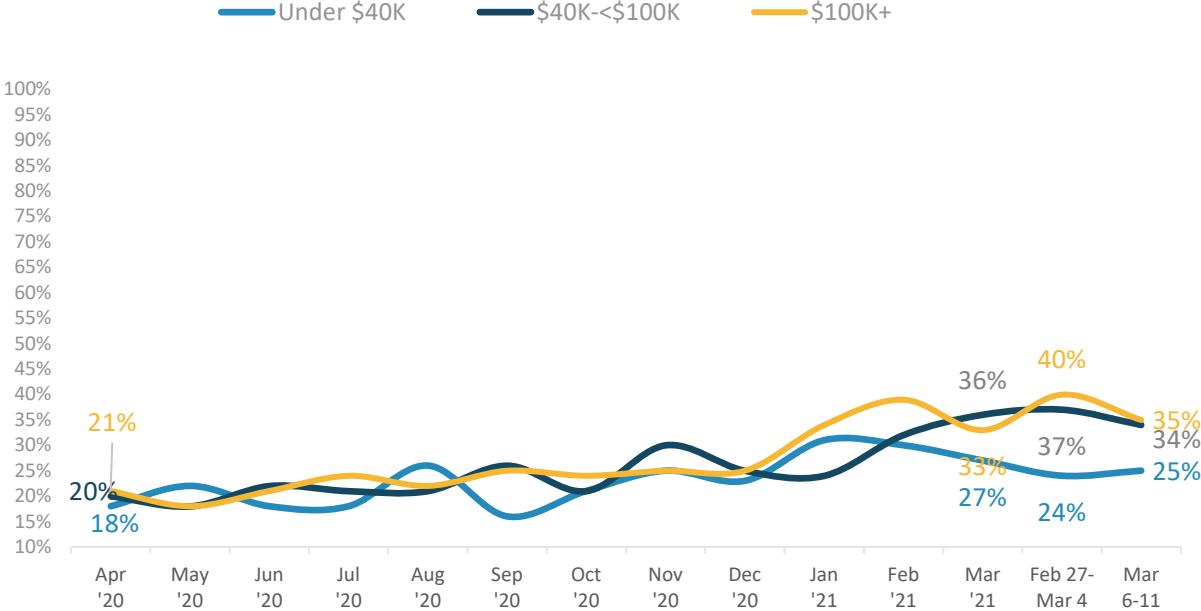
The lowest ‘wrong track’ scores are in Suburban Toronto.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

REGION



INCOME



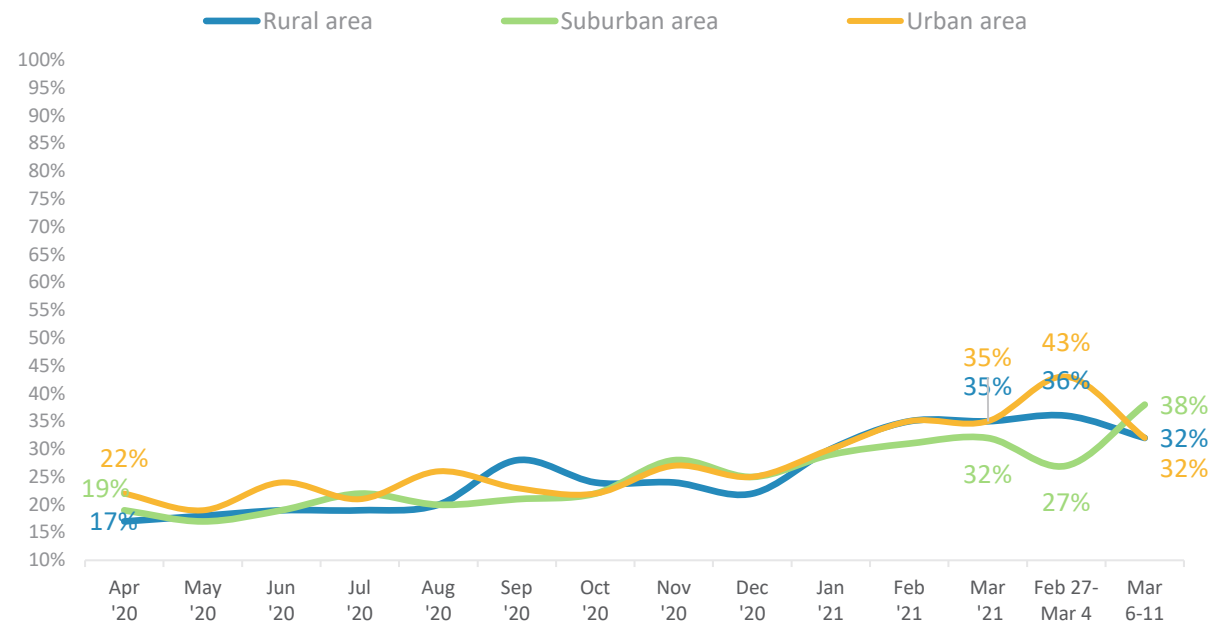
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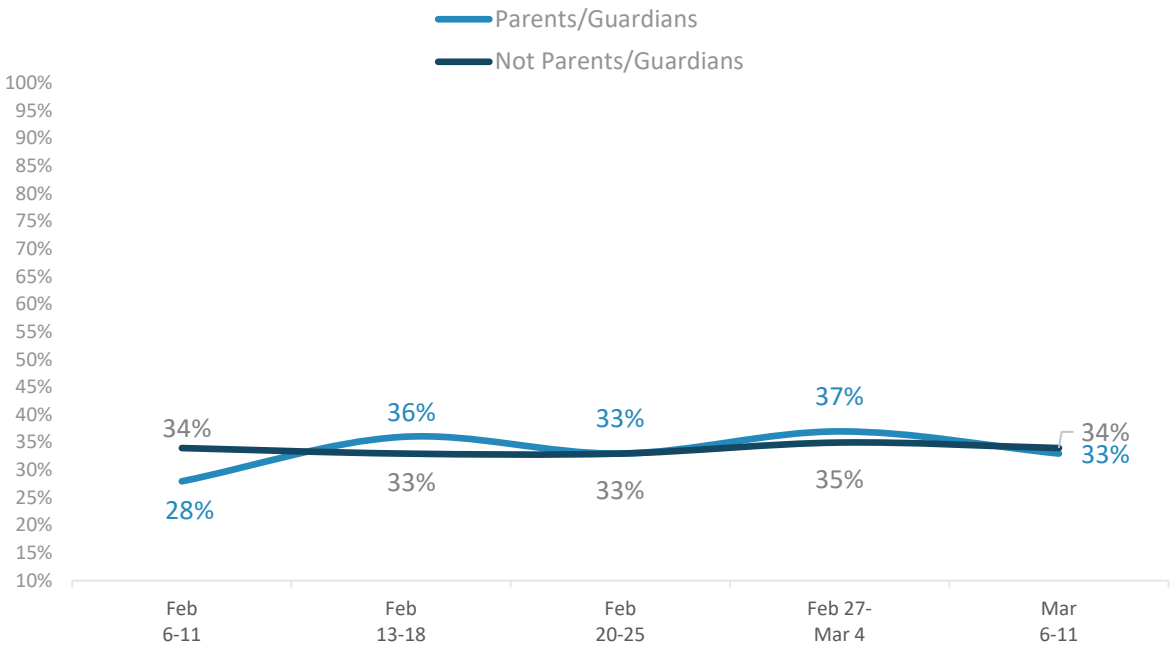
‘Wrong track’ scores are a bit higher among suburban residents.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

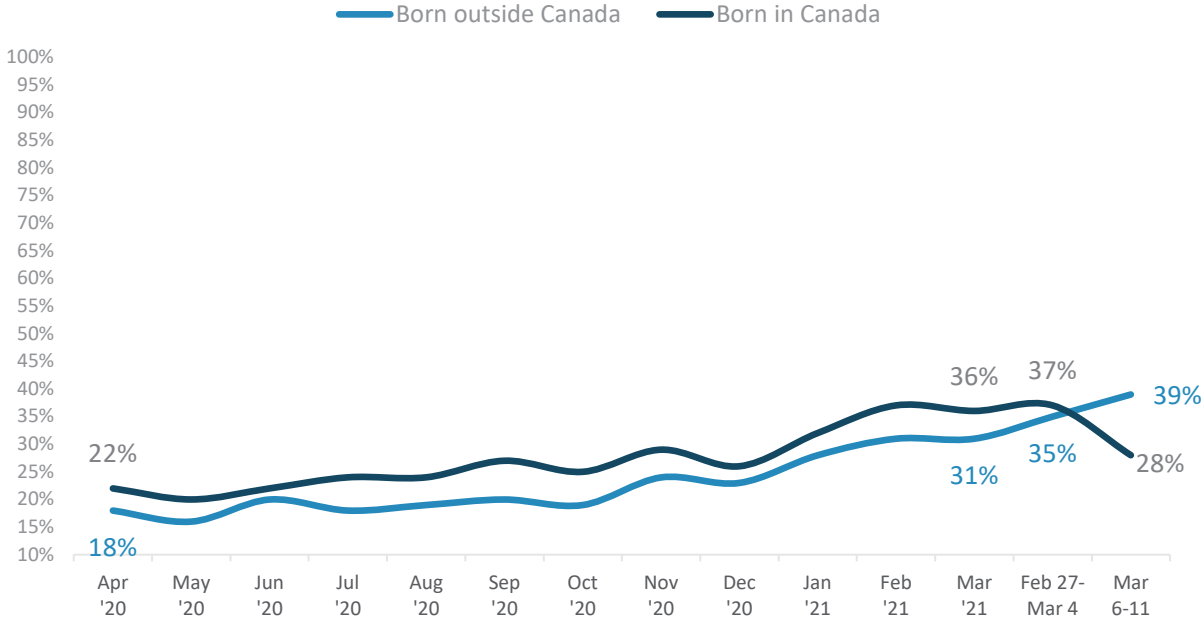


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

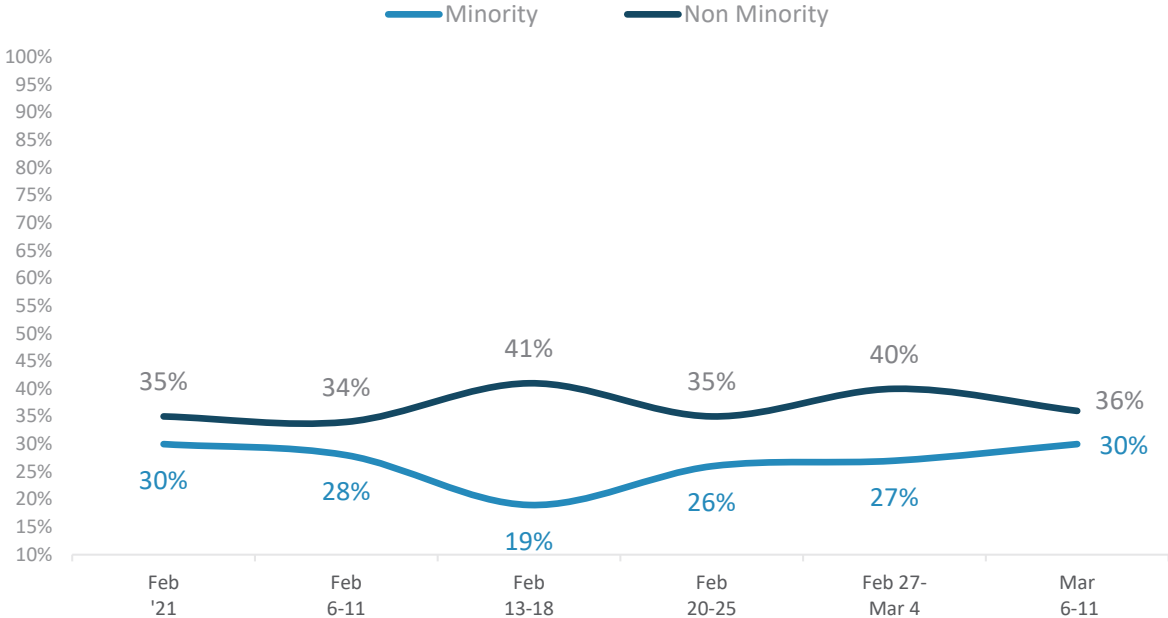
Those who identify as a non-minority and born outside Canada have higher ‘wrong track’ scores.

Wrong Track Scores – 6-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



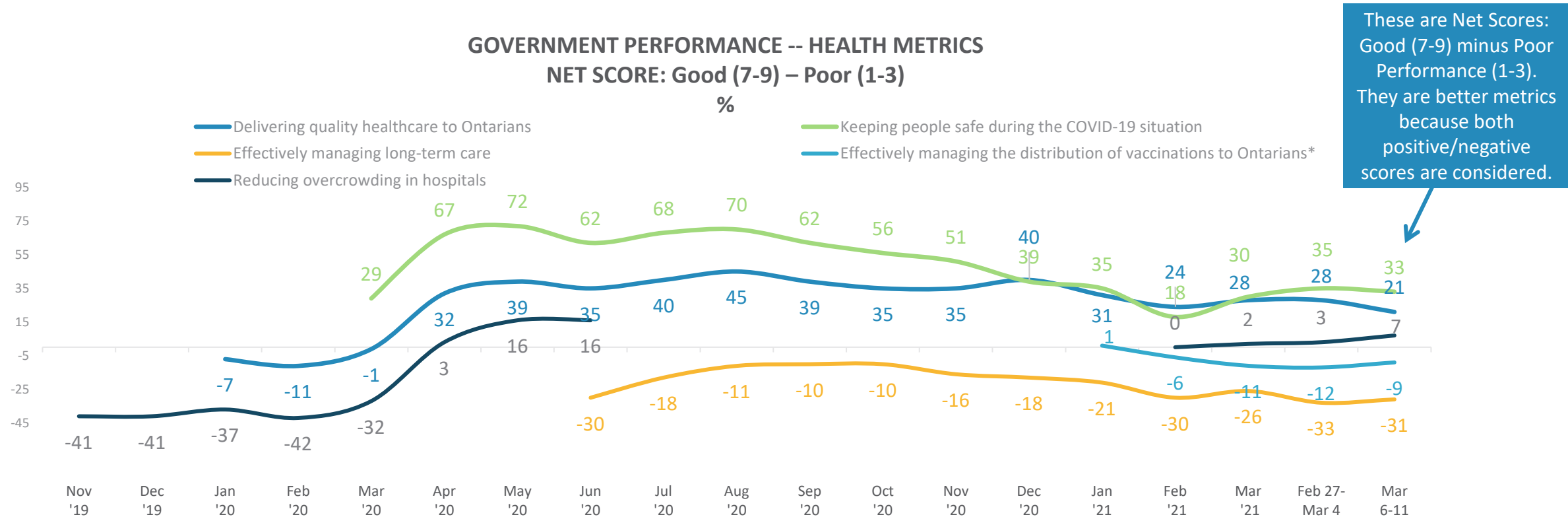
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



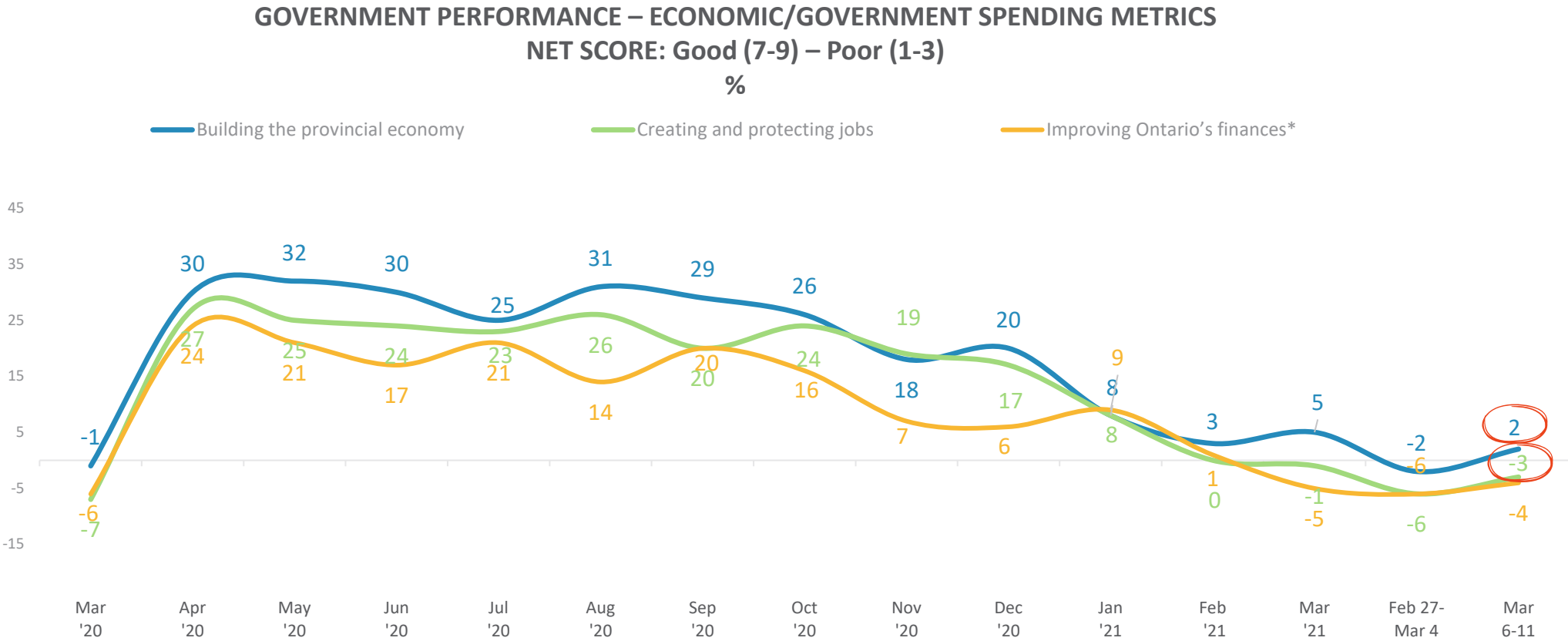
The government’s performance for most health metrics remain stable, although ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ softened over the past week.

- Other health



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

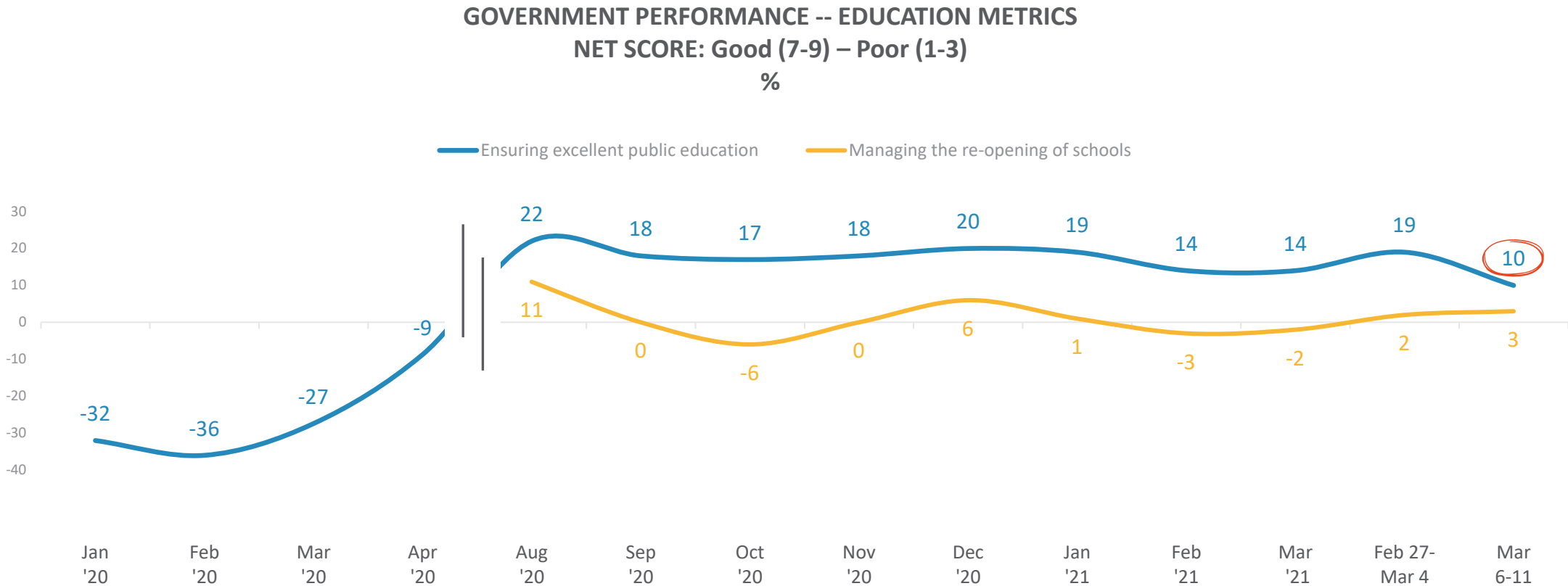
The government’s performance scores on ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘creating/protecting jobs’ ticked upwards.



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’ have dropped, while ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ continues to be 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



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’.

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?

	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4
n=	260	300	300
	%	%	%
Rethink its approach to provincial shutdown	37	33	32
Continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province	61	62	63
Don’t know/Not sure	2	5	5

Ontario’s Public Health officials have released new modelling that shows that the UK variant for COVID-19 could 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?

	Mar 6-11
n=	220
	%
Continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province	67
Put the reopening on hold but leaves things as they are	16
Go back to a full provincial lockdown	14
Don’t know/Not sure	3

CONTINUE WITH ITS APPROACH TO SLOWLY RE-OPEN THE PROVINCE			
	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
	%	%	%
Right Track	65	68	74
Wrong Track	56	55	53

QCV-193. Ontario’s Public Health officials have released new modelling that shows that the UK variant for COVID-19 could 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? (previous phrasing)
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?

CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF SCHOOLS DUE TO THE IMPACT OF NEW COVID-19 VARIANTS

About two-thirds of Ontarians say they are concerned about the impact of the new COVID-19 variants even with the safety protocols in schools - regardless of the wording of the question.

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
Not applicable	-	-
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	Feb 27-Mar 4
varies	
%	%
66	68
51	44
14	24
12	4
14	14
8	11
23	26
-	2
-	1

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

Mar 6-11
varies
%
66
47
20
3
11
19
30
-
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. The intensity of this view has declined over the past several weeks.

	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	72	69	78	74	79	73	71	67
Strongly agree	27	28	32	26	34	26	23	22
Somewhat agree	45	41	46	48	45	47	48	44
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11	5	12	4	6	7	8
Somewhat disagree	10	12	10	9	9	12	10	13
Strongly disagree	7	5	6	4	7	6	9	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	17	16	12	17	18	20	23
Don't know	2	4	1	2	1	3	2	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 plurality (43%) hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 33% think the government is putting the health of the population ahead of the economy.

- Moreover, an increasing proportion think that government is putting the interests of the economy above health.
- 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	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 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	14	16	19	20
The provincial government has tried to balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	50	48	43	51	43	46	48	43
The provincial government has put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	31	34	32	31	36	34	27	33
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5	5	4

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

A majority of Ontarians (54%) think the government should be trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 4-in-10 believe it should be putting health ahead of the economy.

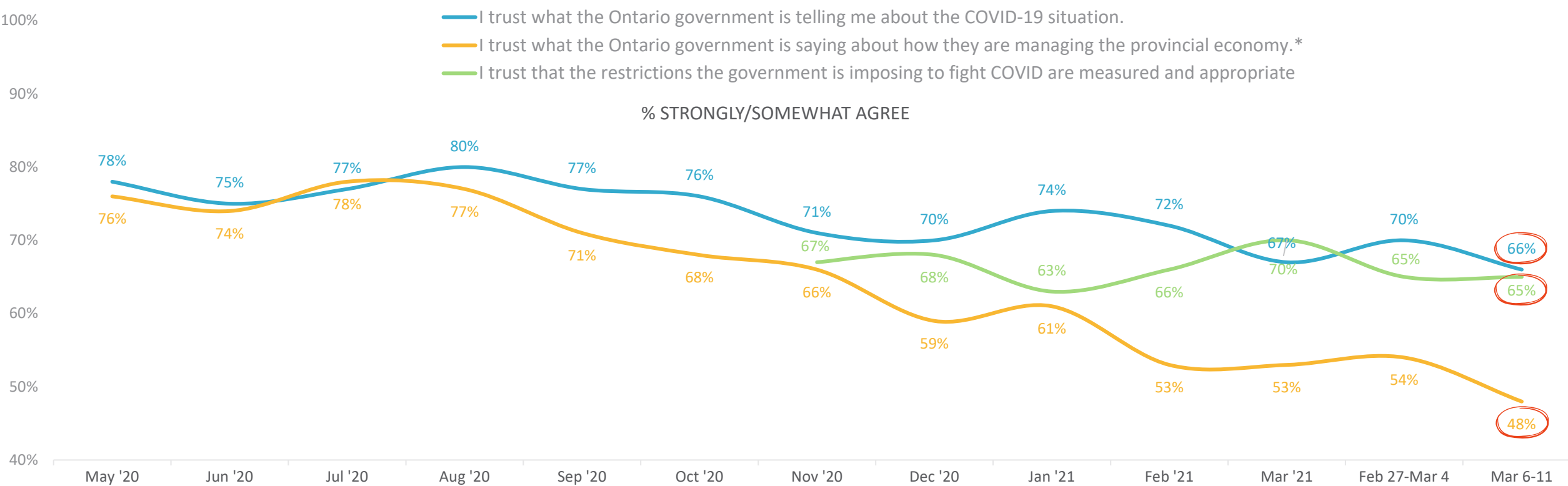
	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The provincial government should put the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population	3	3	6	2	4	4	10	4
The provincial government should balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	55	59	49	53	51	57	49	54
The provincial government should put the health of the population ahead of the interests of the economy	40	35	44	42	43	38	39	40
Don't know/Not sure	2	2	1	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

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



Trust in the government’s communications about the ‘provincial economy’ has reached its lowest level since last May. In contrast, trust that the ‘government’s restrictions to fight COVID-19 are measured/appropriate’ and ‘COVID-19 situation’ are much higher and relatively stable.



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



Ontarians are divided over whether they believe the public health projections on COVID-19 infections.

<i>I don't believe as many people will become ill with COVID-19 as the government projections say</i>		
% 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>I don't believe as many people will become ill with COVID-19 as the new public health projections say</i>							
Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
varies							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
32	27	35	40	34	34	41	38
14	12	15	18	14	14	16	18
18	15	21	22	20	20	25	21
8	5	9	8	7	7	11	11
20	20	13	15	18	20	17	22
37	44	37	31	36	32	24	21
57	64	50	46	54	52	41	43
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4	6	6	5	7	7	8

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

However, most Ontarians continue to 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	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
Varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
85	73	84	81	81	81
35	33	40	39	33	40
49	40	44	42	48	42
5	11	8	6	11	8
6	9	4	7	5	4
11	20	12	14	16	11
5	7	4	5	3	8

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	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 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	44	41	40	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

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	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24	26	28
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11	7	10
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57
Not applicable								1	2	2	1	-	1	4
Don't know								1	4	3	-	3	3	2

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

Base: Total sample

ONLY LEAVING HOME TO GO TO THE GROCERY STORE AND PHARMACY

Likely to the gradual reopening, fewer Ontarians (down from 67% to 59% this past week) are saying 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	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32
Not applicable	3	1	2	2	9	2	5	8	4	3	2	1
Don't know	1	1	1	-	3	-	2	1	-	-	1	2

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

Base: Total sample

ONLY LEAVING THE HOME FOR ESSENTIAL PURPOSES

The early findings suggest that about 7-in-10 ‘strongly’ agree that they only leave their home for essential purposes.

I am only leaving my home for essential purposes

	Mar 6-11
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	82
Strongly agree	72
Somewhat agree	11
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	13

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 56%) see these COVID-19 variants as more dangerous.

	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
More dangerous	70	56	61	57	55	56
As dangerous	22	27	24	27	26	25
Less dangerous	3	4	5	5	6	9
Don't know/not sure	6	13	10	12	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

Over the past week, there was a large drop in the proportion (from 63% to 47%) who think the government should be doing more to deal with COVID-19 variants.

	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37	34	31	47
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	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

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS – ARE THEY SUFFICIENT OR SHOULD THERE BE MORE RESTRICTIONS

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

	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Should do more	23	27	32	35	27
Current restrictions are sufficient	73	67	62	58	66
Don't know/not sure	4	6	7	7	7

QCV-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



After declining over several weeks, Ontarians have renewed confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that the vaccination program is being rolled out. In fact, this week the measure reached its highest point of confidence – up from 41% in late January

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 vaccines are 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	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
varies											
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27
2	-	1	1	-	1	1	3	2	3	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 now being administered*
*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	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	300	250	400	300	300	300	300	300	260	300	300	250
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME	58	53	59	58	52	49	56	52	53	49	49	55
A great deal	9	11	11	10	14	11	12	11	12	11	15	14
Some	49	42	47	48	38	39	44	41	41	38	34	41
Not too much	27	34	28	24	29	31	30	31	33	29	36	32
None at all	9	6	8	9	11	11	6	10	6	12	8	8
TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NONE AT ALL	35	39	36	33	40	42	36	41	39	41	44	39
Don't know/not sure	7	8	5	9	8	8	8	8	8	10	8	6

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

Almost 6-in-10 say that the provincial government support to small business has helped them to survive.

	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies
	%
GREATLY/SOMEWHAT	56
Greatly increased the ability of some businesses to survive	8
Somewhat increased the ability of some businesses to survive	49
Had very little impact on a business’s ability to survive	30
Had no impact on a business’s ability to survive	10
VERY LITTLE/NO IMPACT	40
Don’t know/not sure	4

CV-166A. Overall do you believe the supports the Ontario government have provided to small businesses has ...

Base: Total sample

REGULATION OF LONG-TERM CARE HOMES



For the most part, Ontarians are divided on the best option to improve conditions for long-term care home residents: 1) heavy fines for non-compliance or 2) monthly/annual reports on the living conditions in these homes.

- Those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are much more likely to want the ‘monthly/annual reporting’ option compared to those who see it on the ‘wrong track’. Those who see the government on ‘wrong track’ prefer the ‘heavy fines’ approach.

	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies	
	%	%
Heavy fines for long-term care homes that failed to meet any compliance rules	36	41
Monthly and annual reports on conditions in individual long-term care homes	46	43
Both	8	5
Neither	5	5
Don't know	6	5

LTC-1Q. As you may know, there has been some discussion lately on how best to improve conditions for residents of long-terms care homes. Which one of the following two options do you think would be more effective in improving conditions for residents in long-term care homes?

Base: Total sample

PERCEIVED TOP PRIORITY FOR LONG-TERM CARE HOMES

Ontarians’ top priority for long-term care homes is to increase the number of hours per day staff spend with each patient, closely followed by ensuring these facilities have a cooling system.

	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies	
	%	%
Increasing the number of hours per day staff spend with each patient	42	36
Increasing the number of beds in the long-term care system	21	24
Ensuring that all long-term care homes having cooling systems in place for the summer	25	31
Don’t know/not sure	11	9

The early findings suggest that there is overwhelming support for the government to create an oversight body to enforce the rules and regulations in privately operated long-term care homes.

	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	90
Strongly agree	68
Somewhat agree	22
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Somewhat disagree	1
Strongly disagree	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	4
Don't know	3

LTC-3Q. Do you agree or disagree that the government should create an oversight body to better enforce rules and regulations in privately operated long-term care homes.

Base: Total sample

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



SATISFACTION WITH INTERNET CONNECTION SPEED AT HOME

Ontarians are satisfied with the speed of their internet connection at home. And, even rural residents are satisfied (albeit at a lower level of satisfaction).

	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	300	300	250
	%	%	%
TOTAL SATISFIED	73	74	75
Very satisfied	40	39	42
Somewhat satisfied	33	34	33
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	5	4
Somewhat dissatisfied	10	8	9
Very dissatisfied	8	9	7
TOTAL DISSATISFIED	18	17	16
Don't know/not sure	6	5	5

	Satisfaction with Home Internet Speeds		
	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
	%	%	%
Rural residents	55	64	70
Suburban residents	79	75	70
Urban residents	80	79	82

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

Base: Total sample

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	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
Yes	35	37	36
No	63	62	63
Don't know/not sure	2	2	1

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

About three-quarters believe it is a good use of taxpayers’ dollars to expand Ontarians’ access to high speed internet.

	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL VERY/GOOD USE	77	78	74
Very good use	30	25	23
Good use	47	53	52
Poor use	13	12	13
Very poor use	7	7	6
TOTAL VERY/POOR USE	19	19	19
Don’t know/not sure	4	3	7

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 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.

- The second best reasons are helping small business and enhancing access to the internet in Northern Ontario.

	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
It will help small businesses in rural or Northern Ontario communities to offer their products and services to the global market.	20	20	19
It will improve or allow for online banking in communities where internet service is not available or is of poor quality./It will improve or allow for e-commerce in communities where internet service is not available or is of poor quality.	16	17	8
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	50	44
It will enhance access to the internet for the people in northern Ontario.	-	-	19
Don’t know/not sure	10	13	11

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

Base: Total sample

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	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	82	78
Strongly agree	60	51	54
Somewhat agree	19	31	24
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	8
Somewhat disagree	7	8	8
Strongly disagree	9	3	4
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	12	12
Don't know	2	1	2

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

Base: Total sample

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 build infrastructure to ensure that everyone has access to high-speed internet is a good use of taxpayer dollars.**

	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	75	85	64
Strongly agree	49	52	51
Somewhat agree	26	33	13
Neither agree nor disagree	4	4	9
Somewhat disagree	7	5	11
Strongly disagree	13	5	11
TOTAL DISAGREE	19	10	23
Not applicable	-	-	2
Don't know	2	1	3

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
*Previous phrasing: *The government should invest in infrastructure to ensure that everyone has access to high-speed internet is a good use of taxpayer dollars.*

Base: Total sample

This past week 30% say that increases in their current internet speed would have an impact on their overall quality of life.

Increases to my current internet speed will have no impact on my overall quality of life.

	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	54	55	57
Strongly agree	39	36	40
Somewhat agree	15	19	17
Neither agree nor disagree	4	7	8
Somewhat disagree	15	14	15
Strongly disagree	24	20	15
TOTAL DISAGREE	40	34	30
Not applicable	-	1	2
Don't know	-	3	2

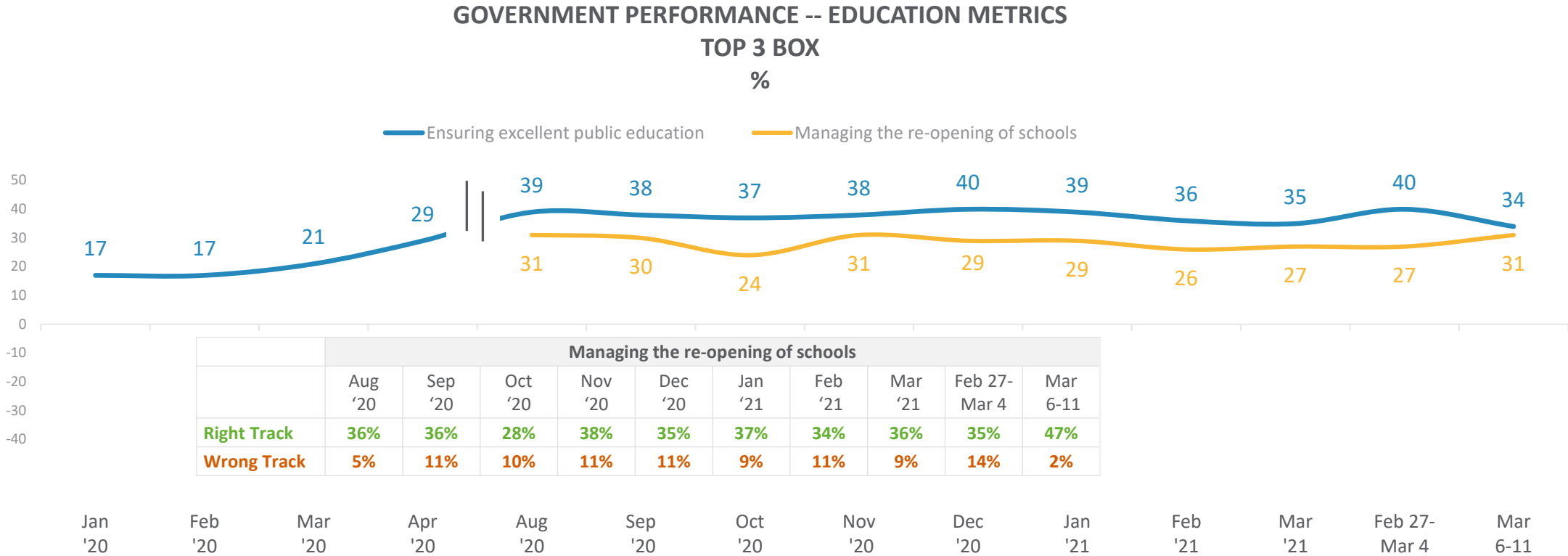
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX

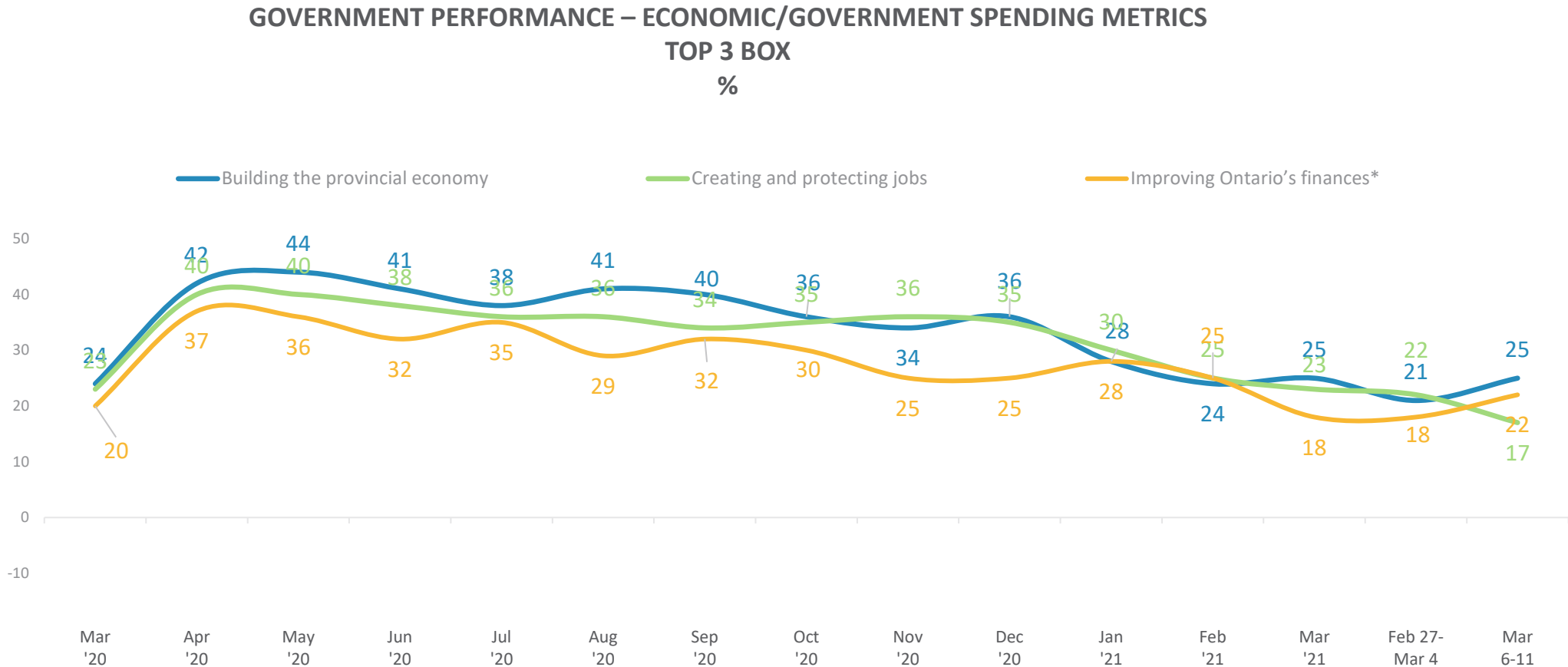


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ have declined over the past week.



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’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ metrics have improved slightly.



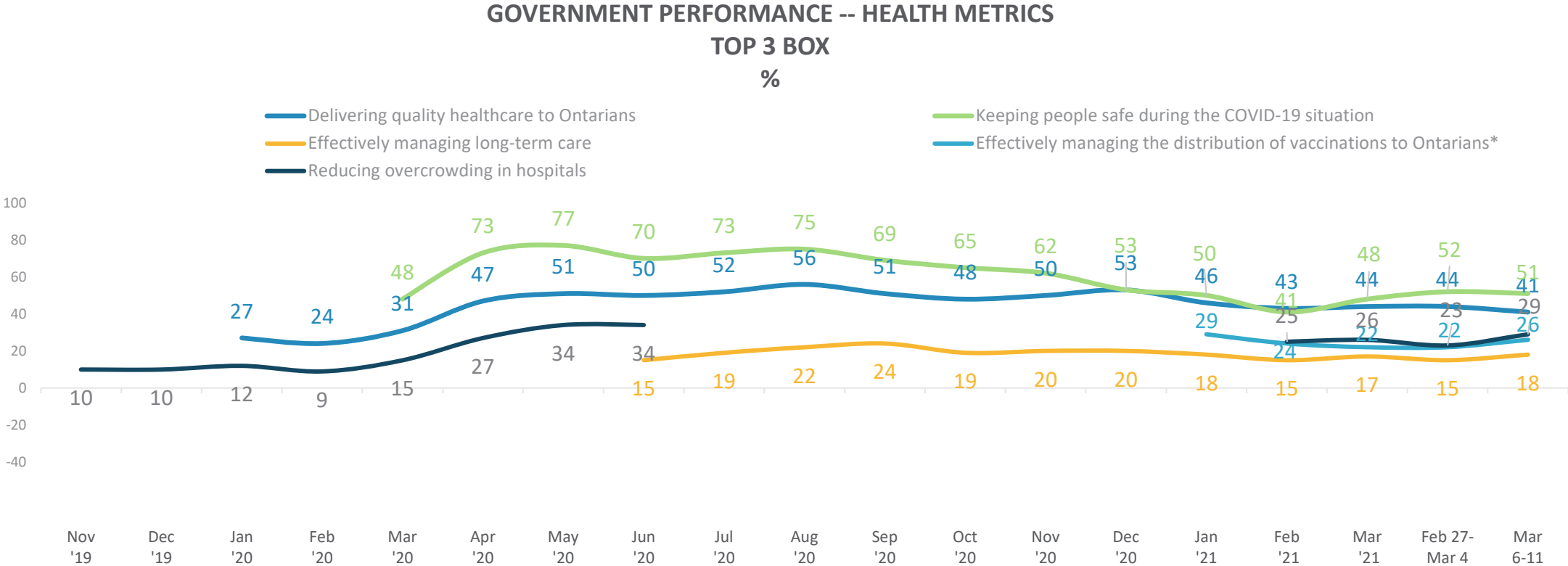
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*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 all five health 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: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary