

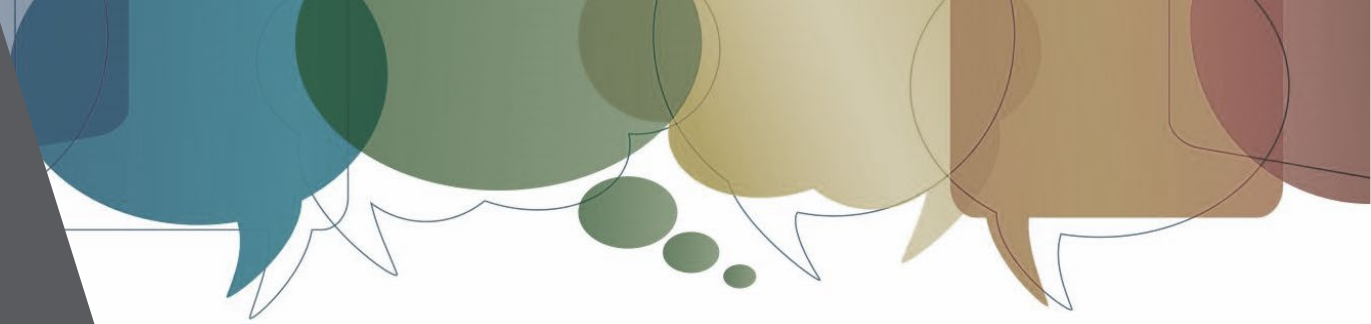


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #73

CABINET OFFICE

March 19th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores are a bit softer this week -- slipping to 62%

Women, those with incomes >\$40k, City of Toronto residents, and those who identify as non-minority are the primary groups causing these softer 'right track' scores.

4 This week, fewer Ontarians think the province should continue to slowly reopen the province. Still, a majority still wants the province to gradually re-open.

However, this past week there were indications that more Ontarians are shifting to wanting a full lockdown.

2 As infections rates increased, the government's performance for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' has edged downward, while other health metrics remain unchanged.

The government's performance scores on 'improving Ontario's finances' and 'creating/protecting jobs' have ticked upward this past week, but are still well below the scores compared to last summer.

5 The preliminary results suggest that Ontarians support the transfer of the funding of the Blue Box recycling program from municipalities to manufacturers.

These early results suggest that Ontarians want a province-wide system for Blue Boxes in order to reduce the amount of garbage going into landfills.

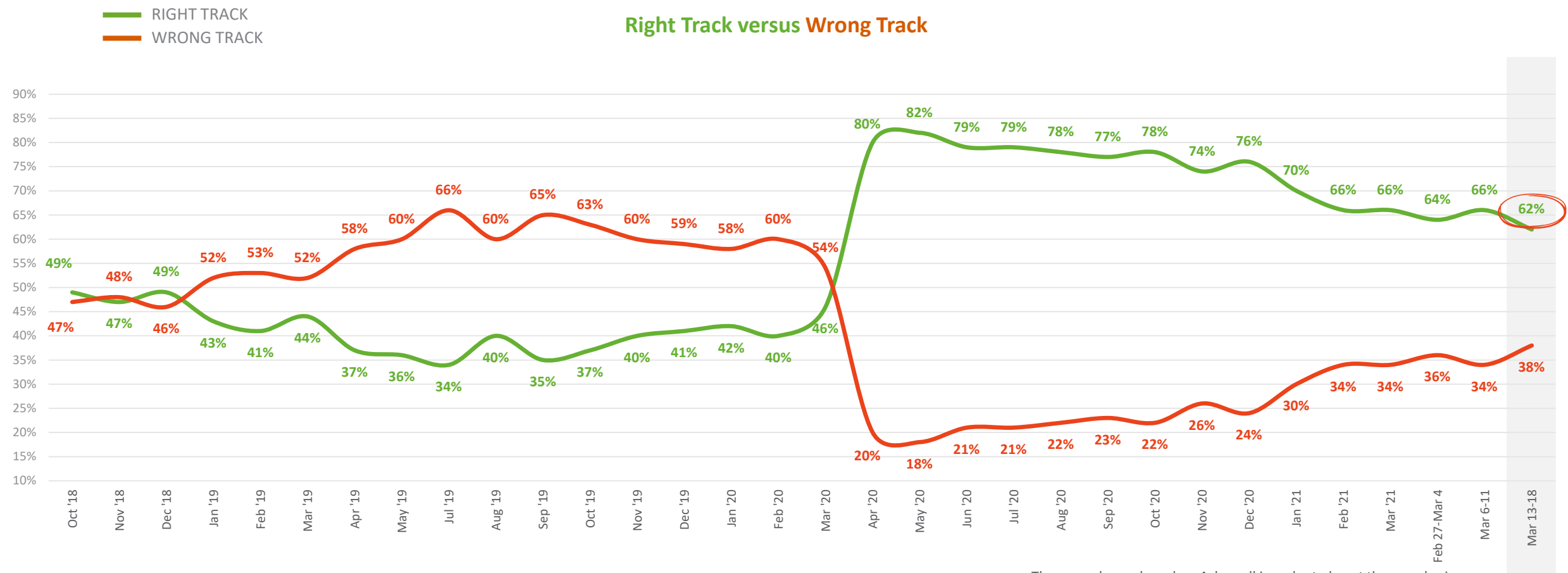
3 Over the past week, trust measures declined to their lowest points, particularly on 'managing the provincial economy', since these measure were tracked for the first time last May.

The biggest drop this week has been on 'telling me about the COVID-19 situation.'

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



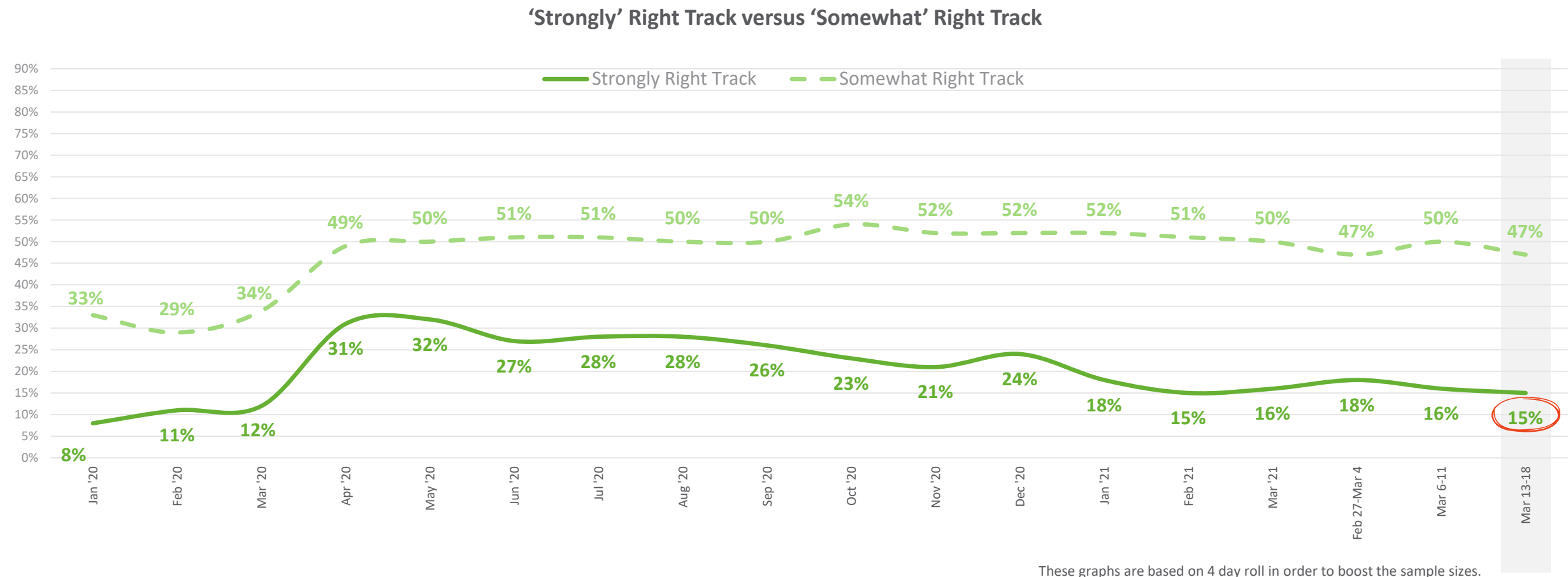
The government's 'right track' scores slipped to 62% this past week.



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

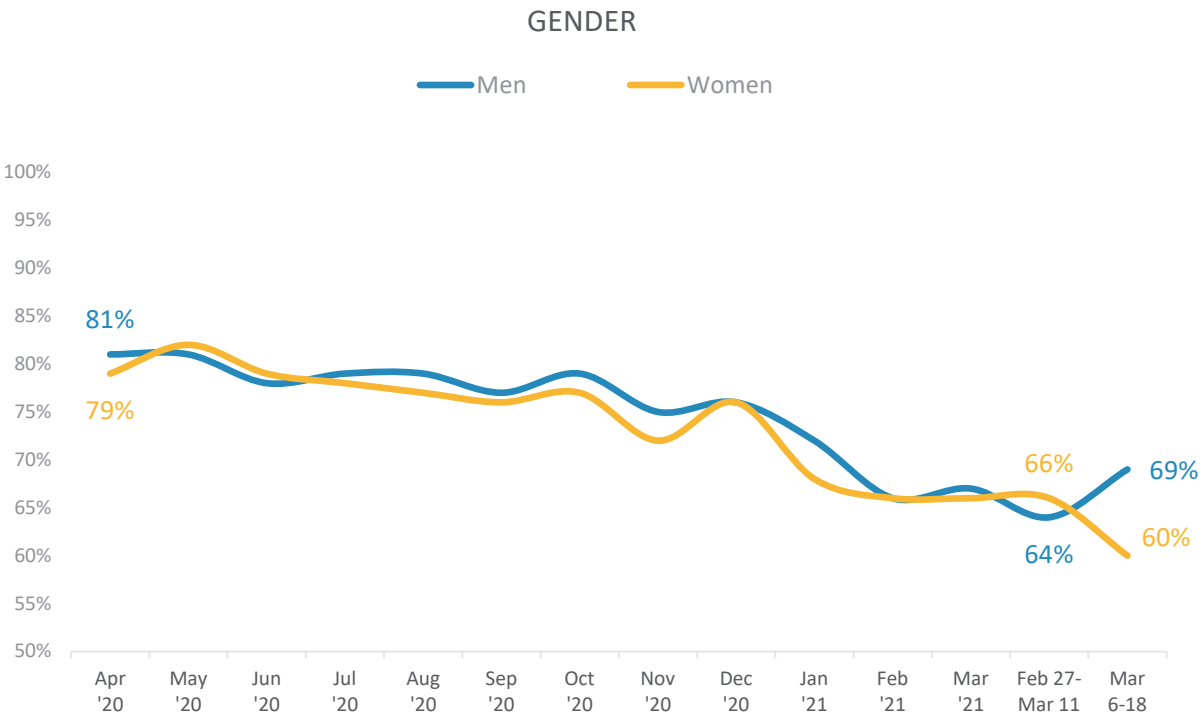
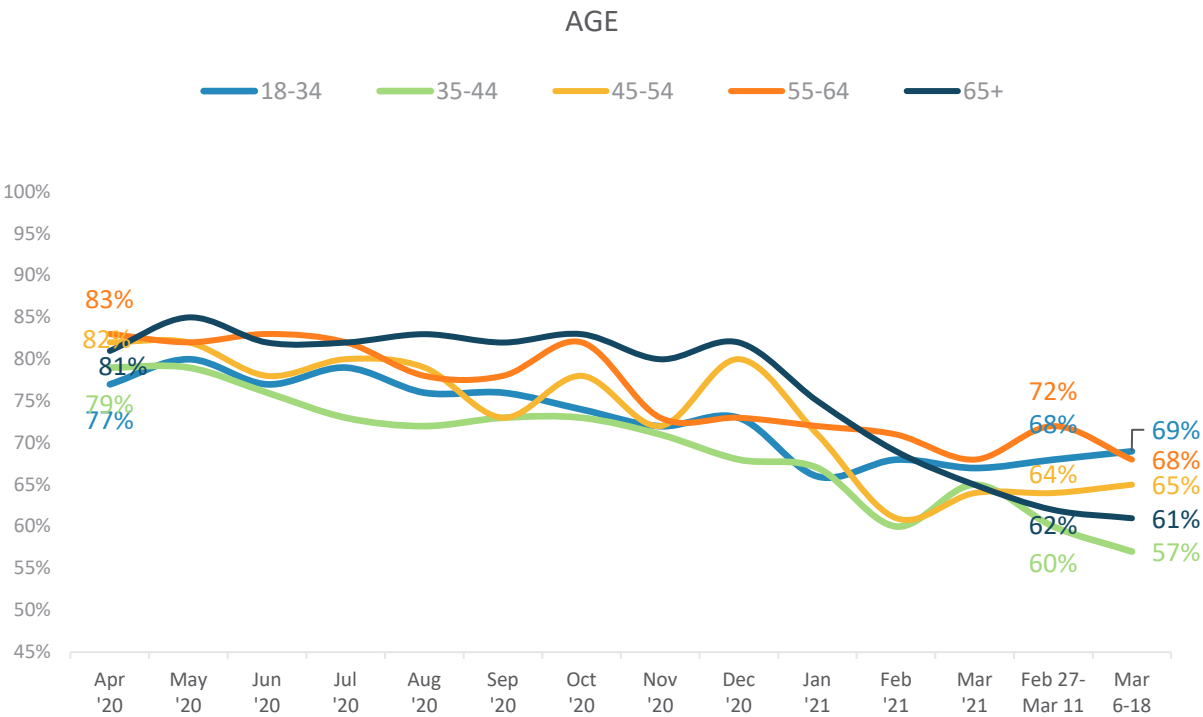
Since early January, the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores continue to be stable at 15%.



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 shifted downward for women.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

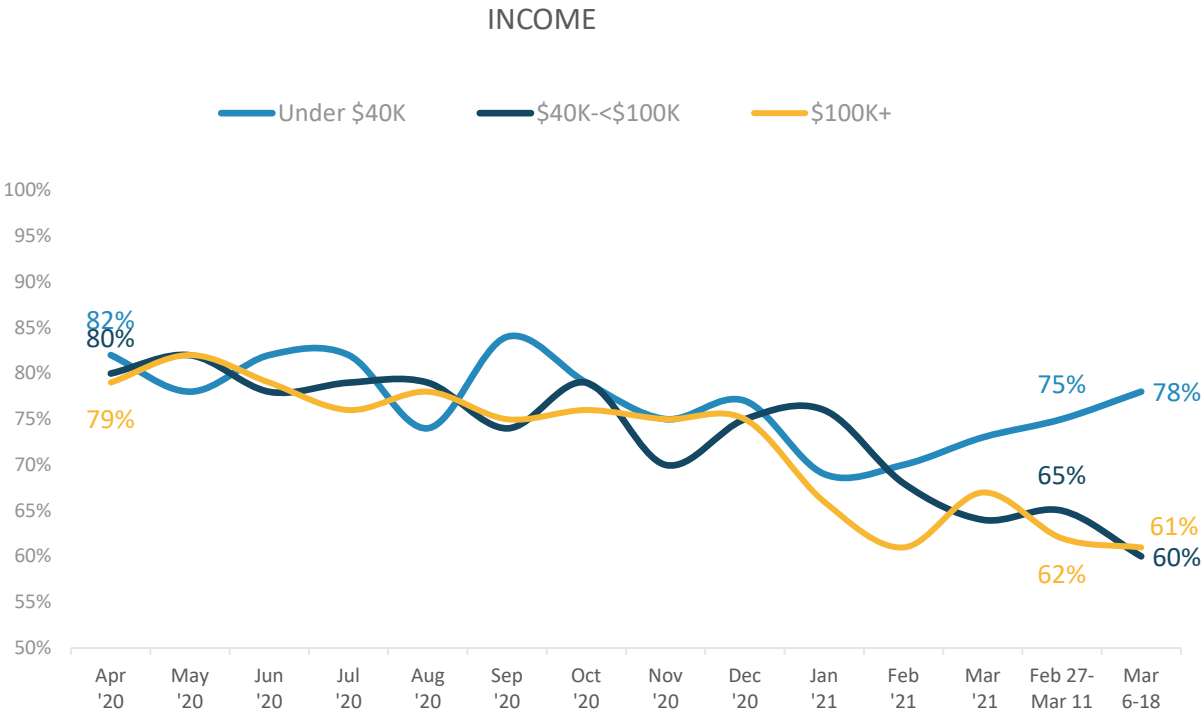
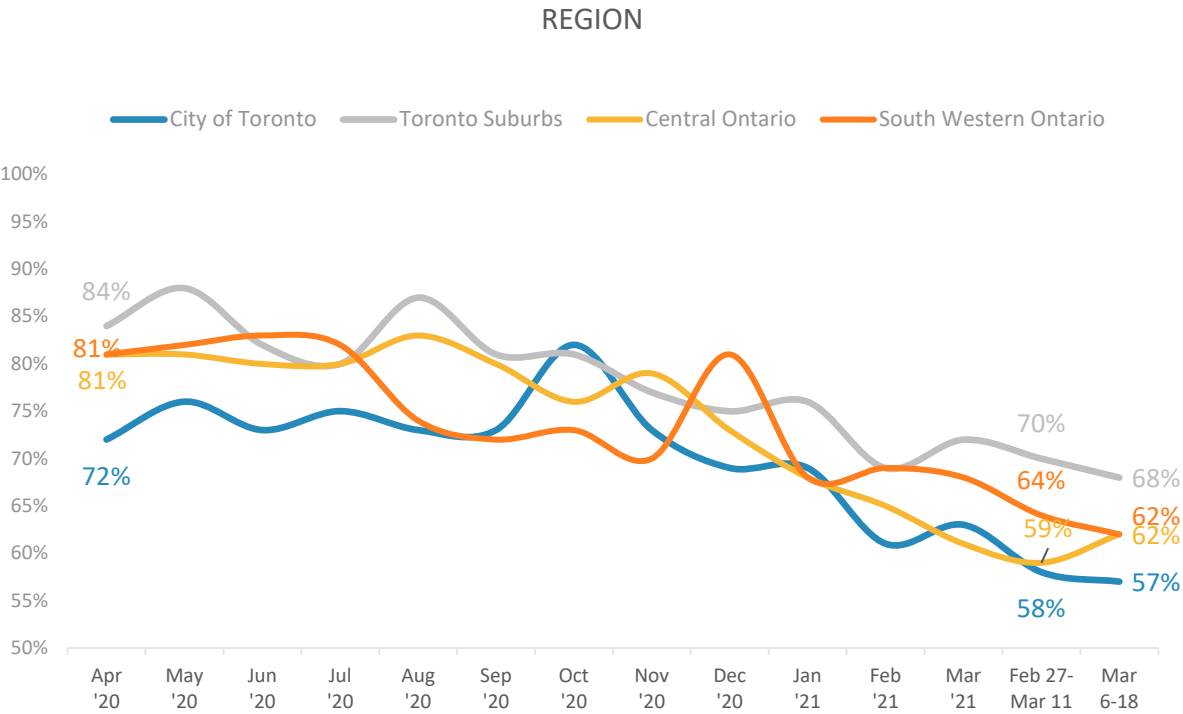


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 have slipped slightly in Toronto suburbs and SW Ontario and among those with incomes between \$40k and \$100k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



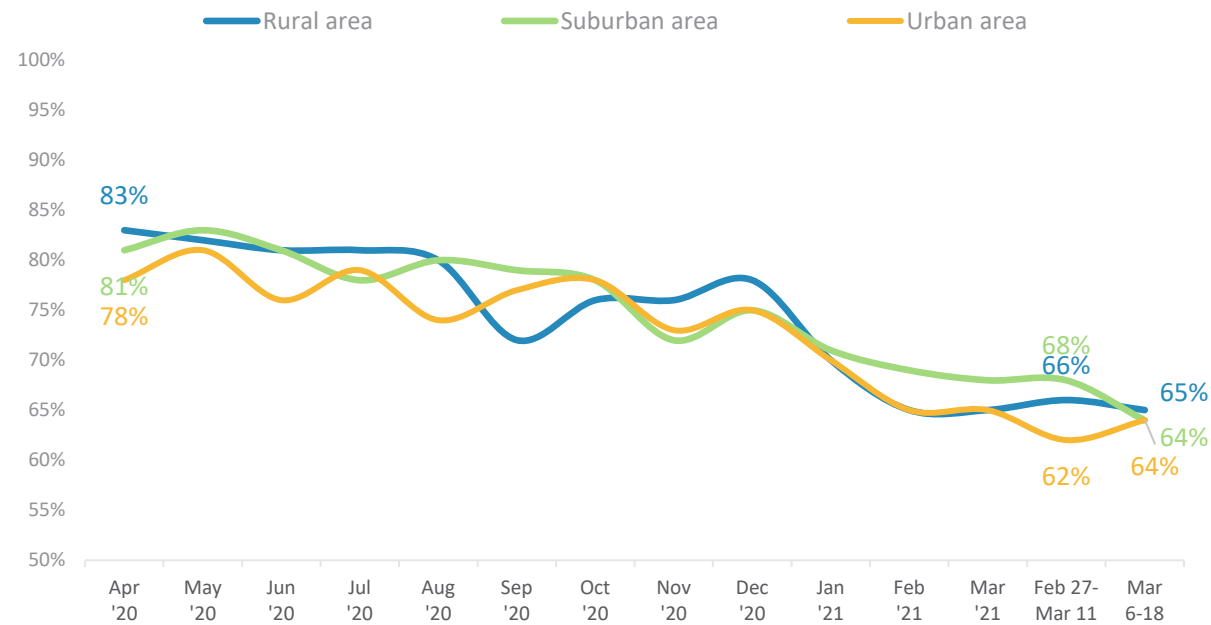
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

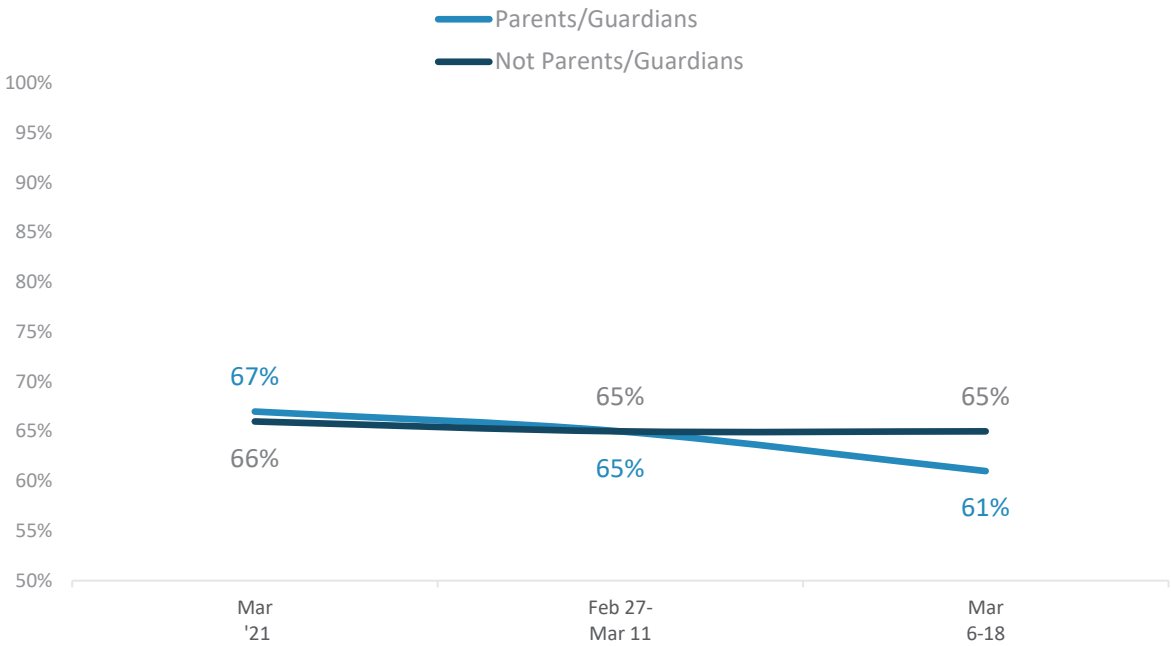
The ‘right track’ scores have edged downwards in Ontario suburbs and among parents.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



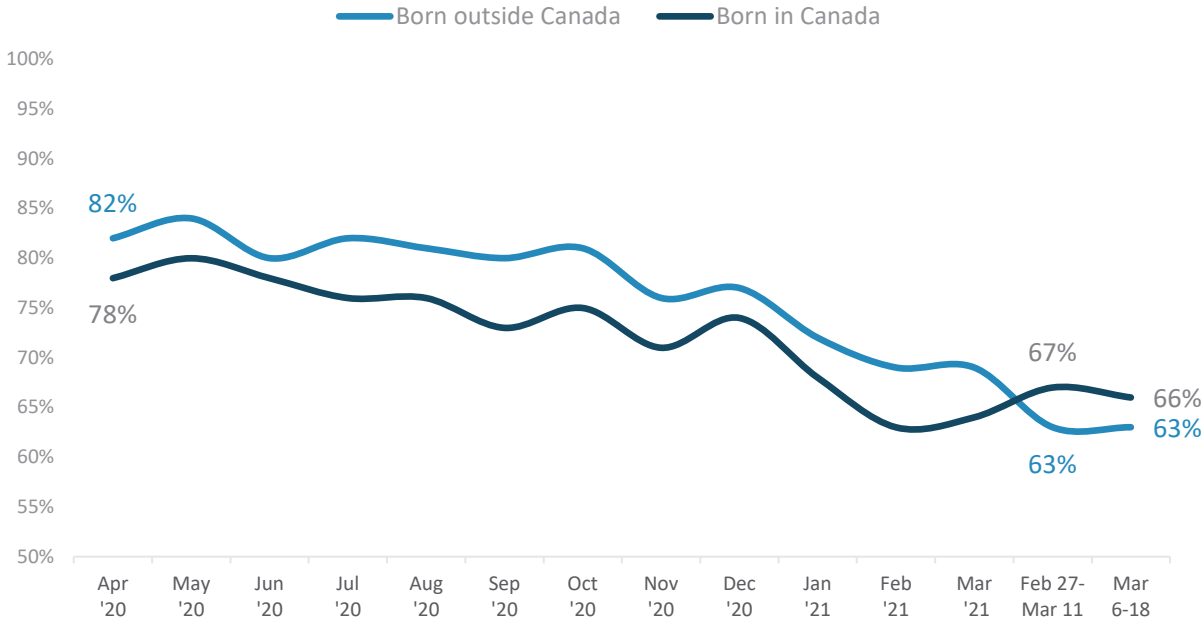
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

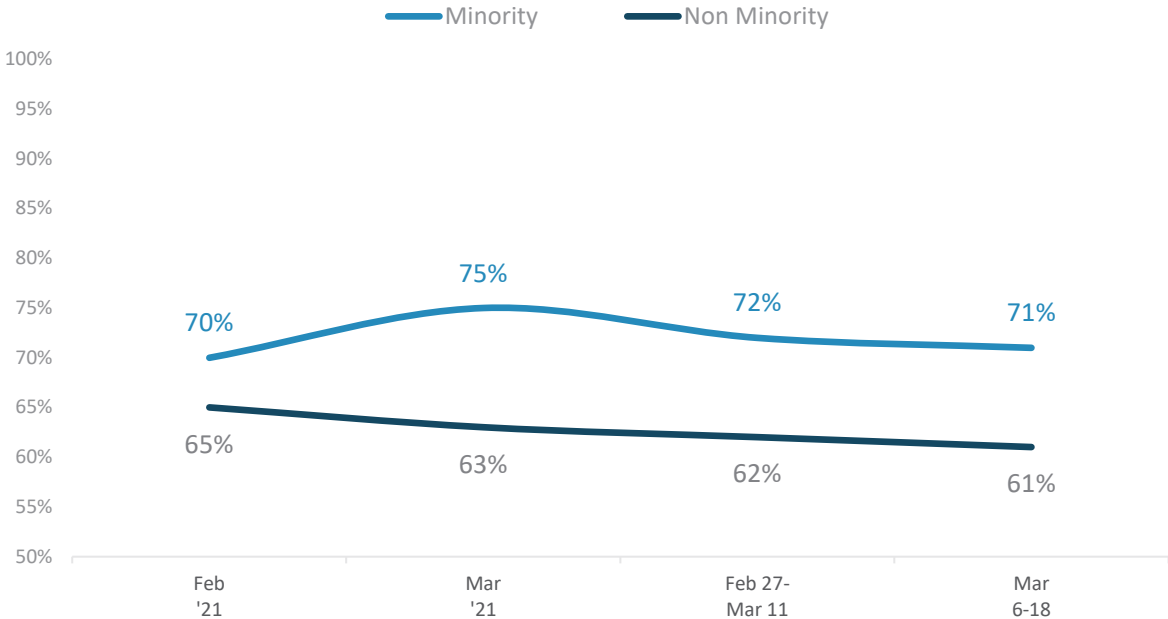
In contrast, the ‘right track’ scores are relatively stable among those born inside/outside Canada and those who identify as minority or non-minority.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



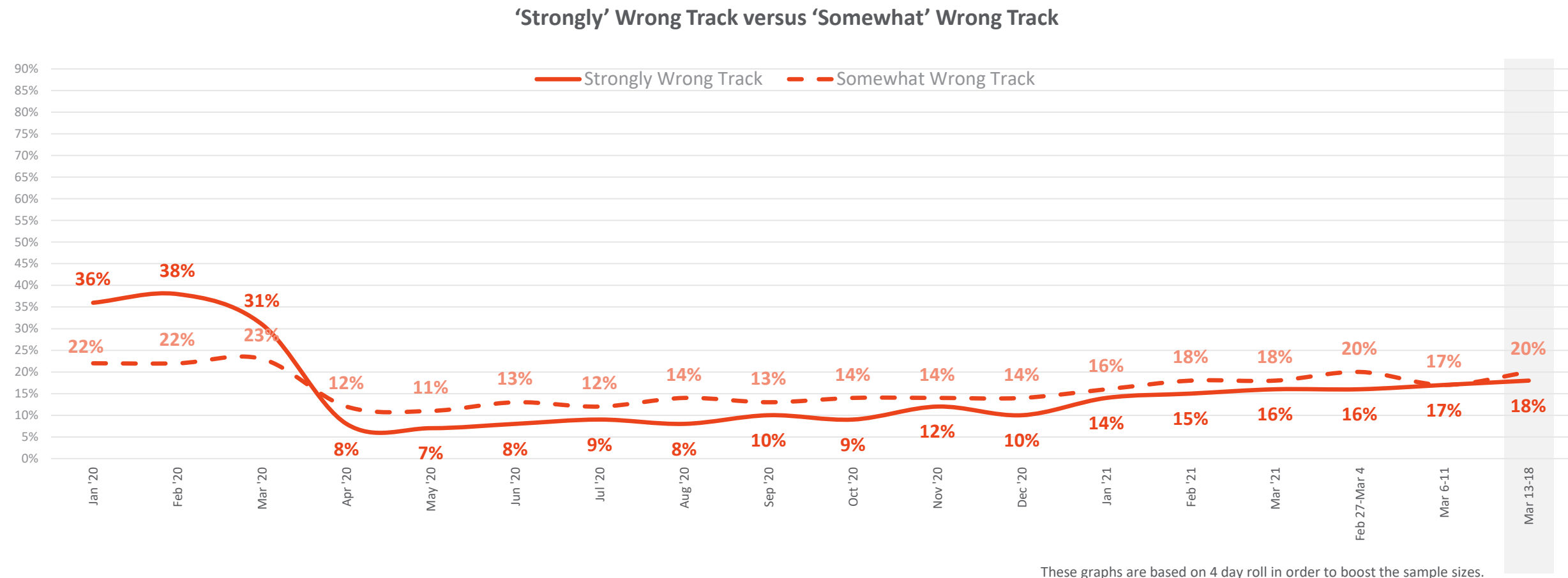
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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

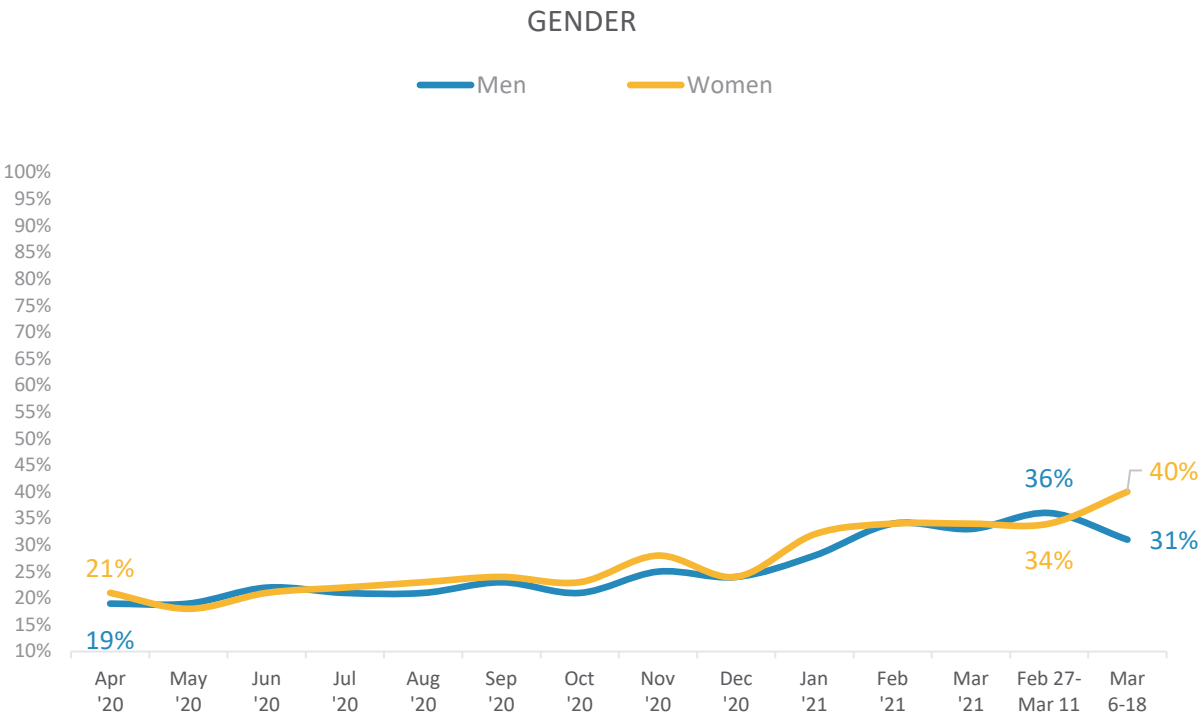
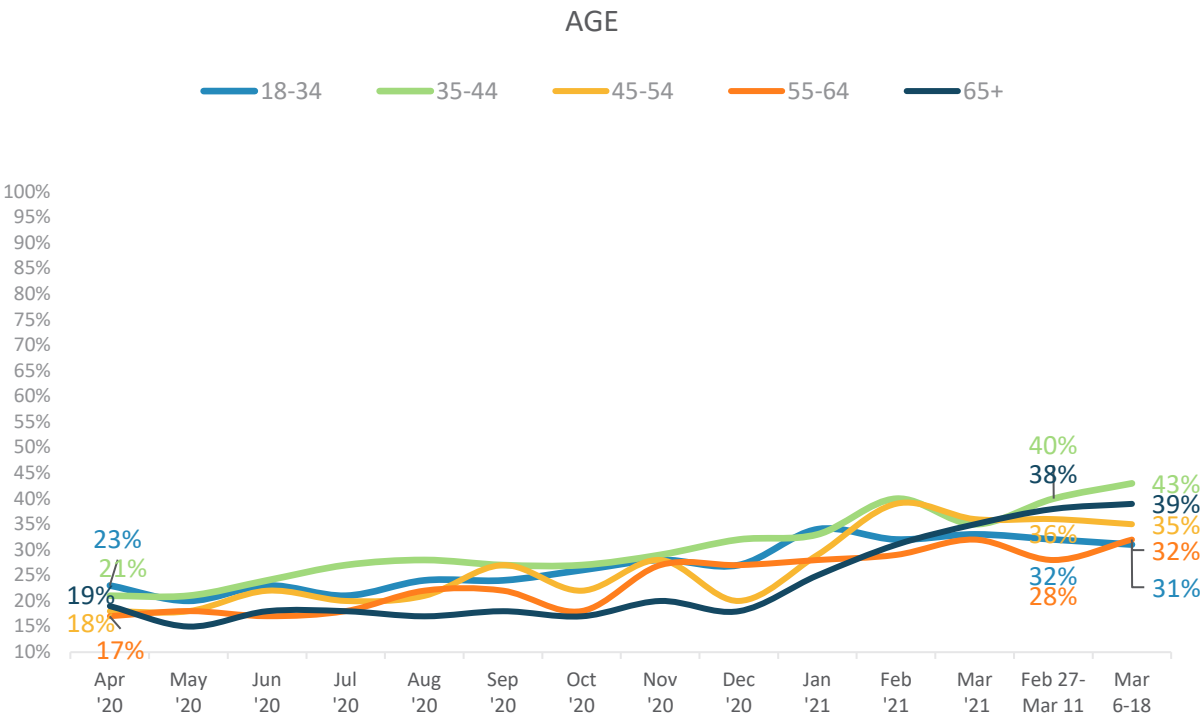
‘Strongly wrong track’ and ‘somewhat wrong track’ scores continue to gradually increase.



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 higher among women compared to men.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

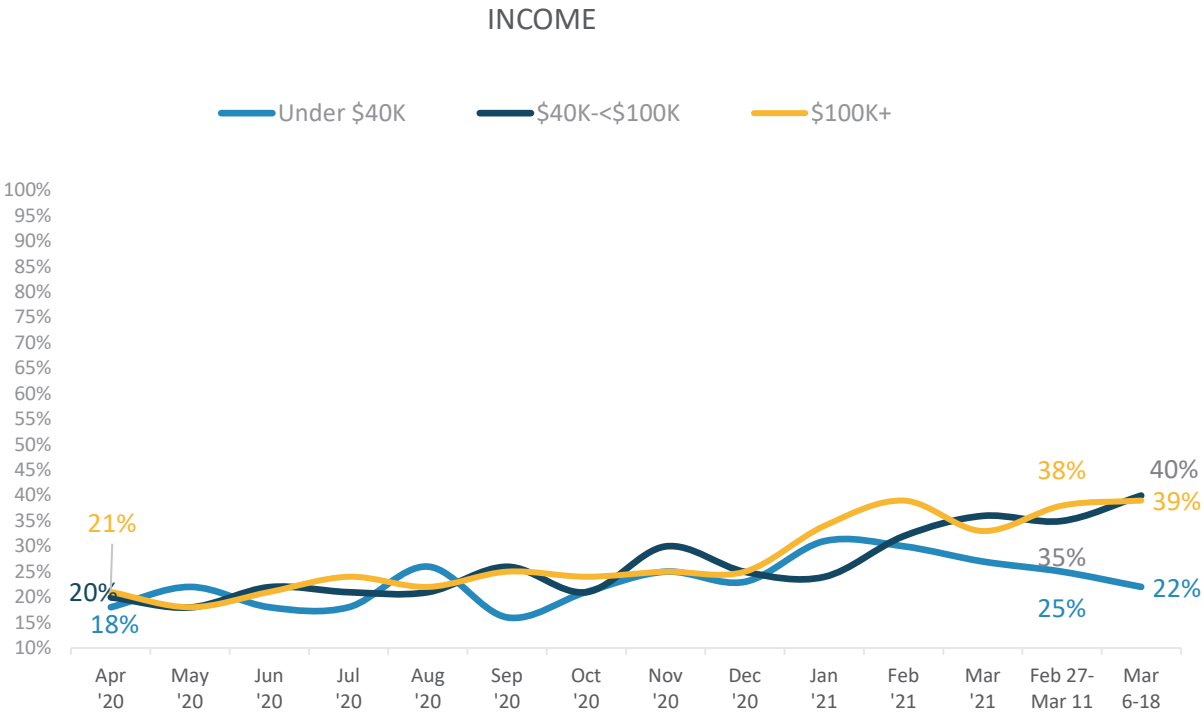
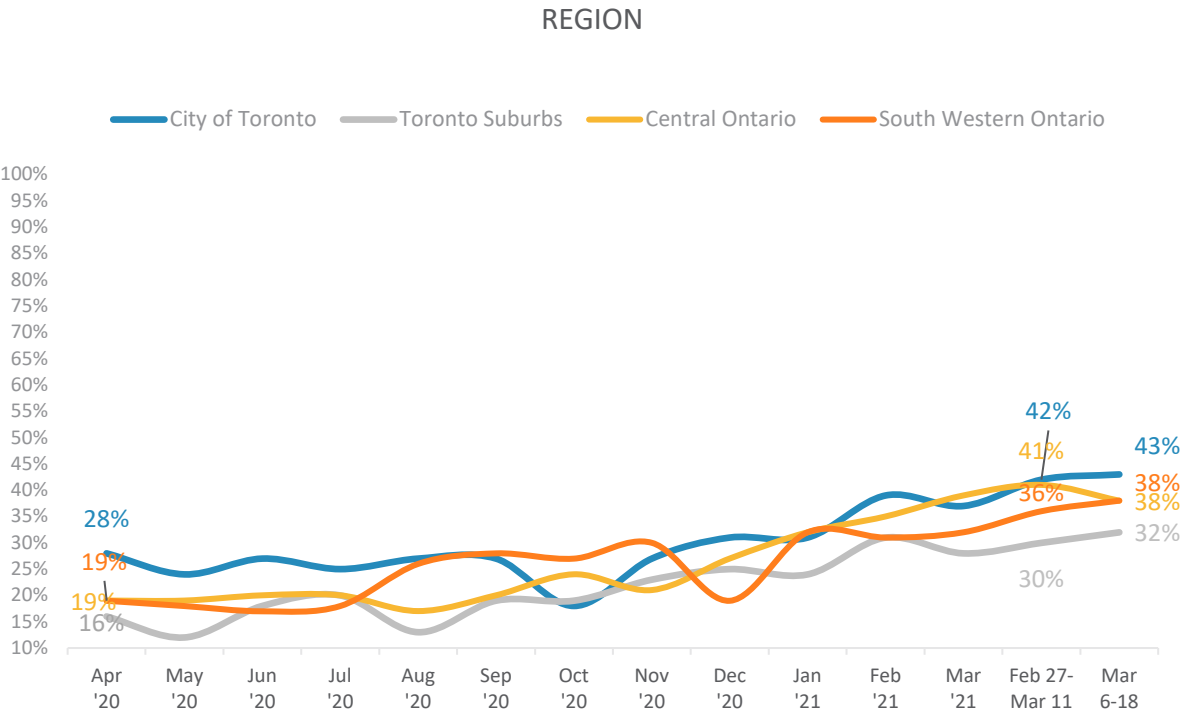


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 ‘**wrong track**’ scores have been gradually increasing in recent weeks all four regions and among those earning more than \$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



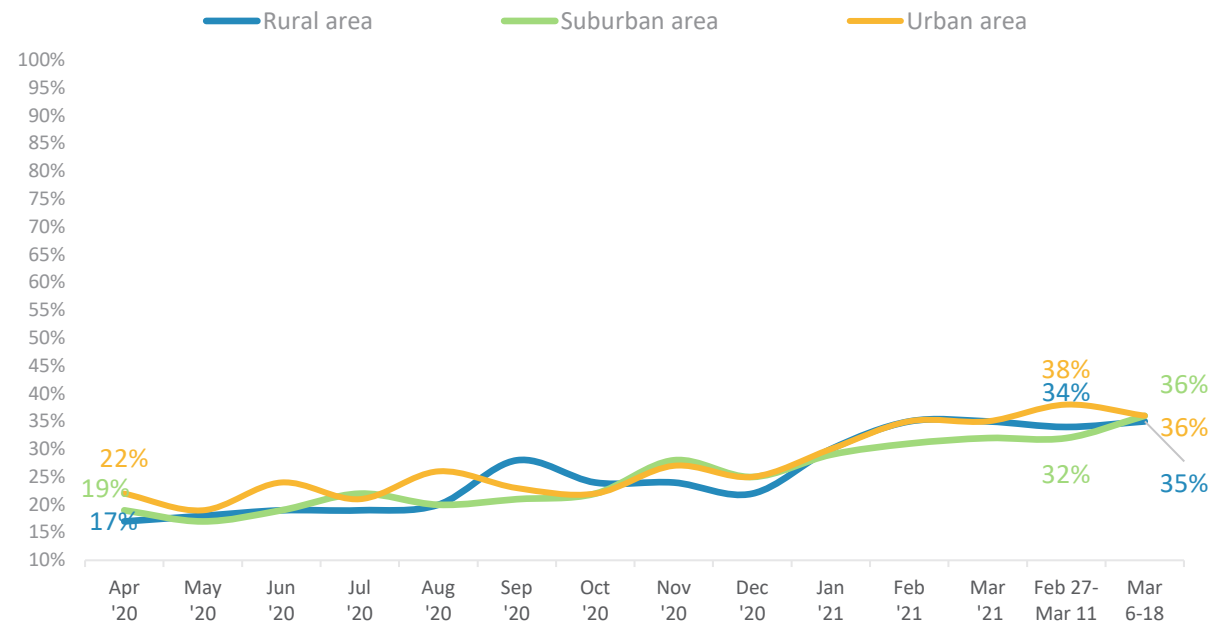
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

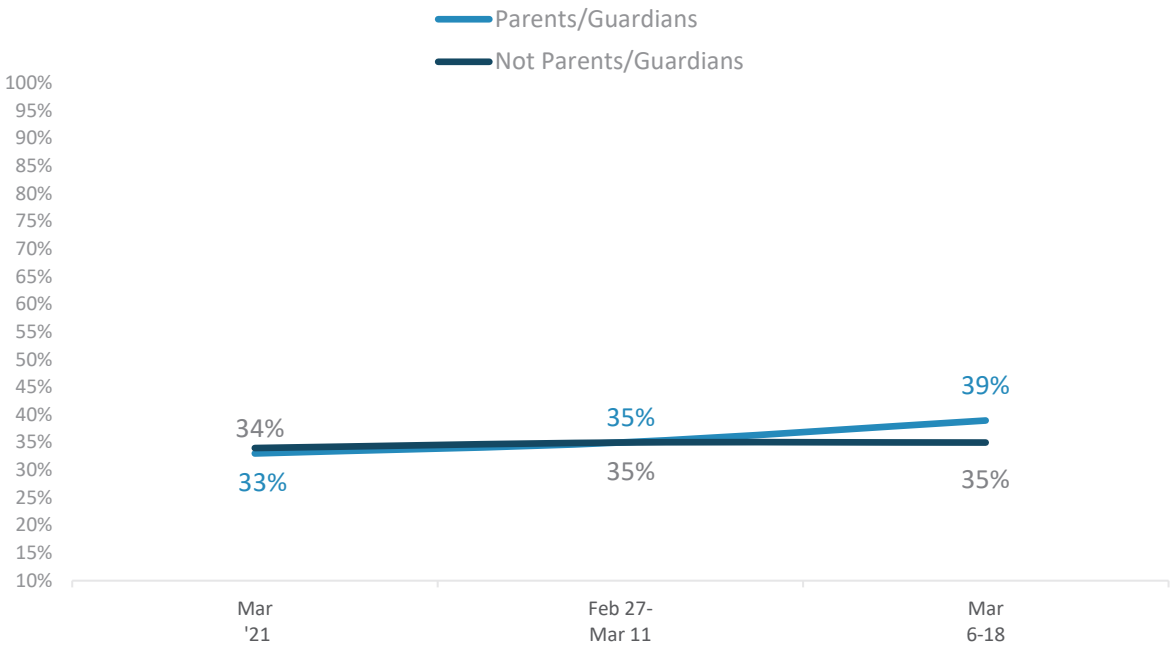
‘Wrong track’ scores have been edging upwards in the suburbs and among parents/guardians.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

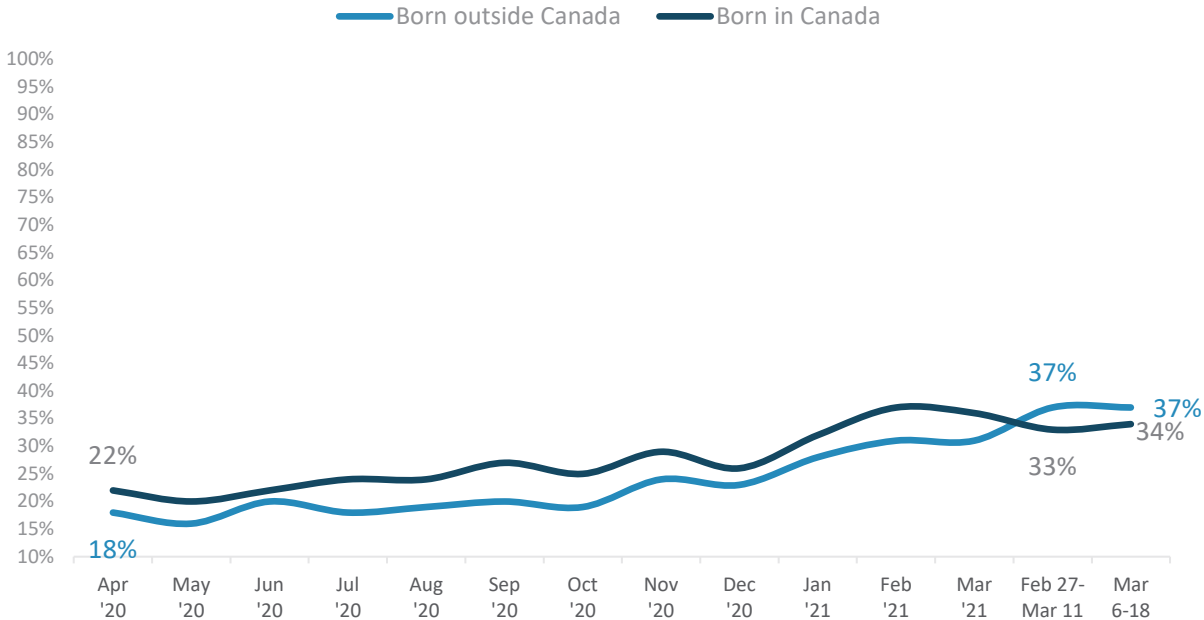


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

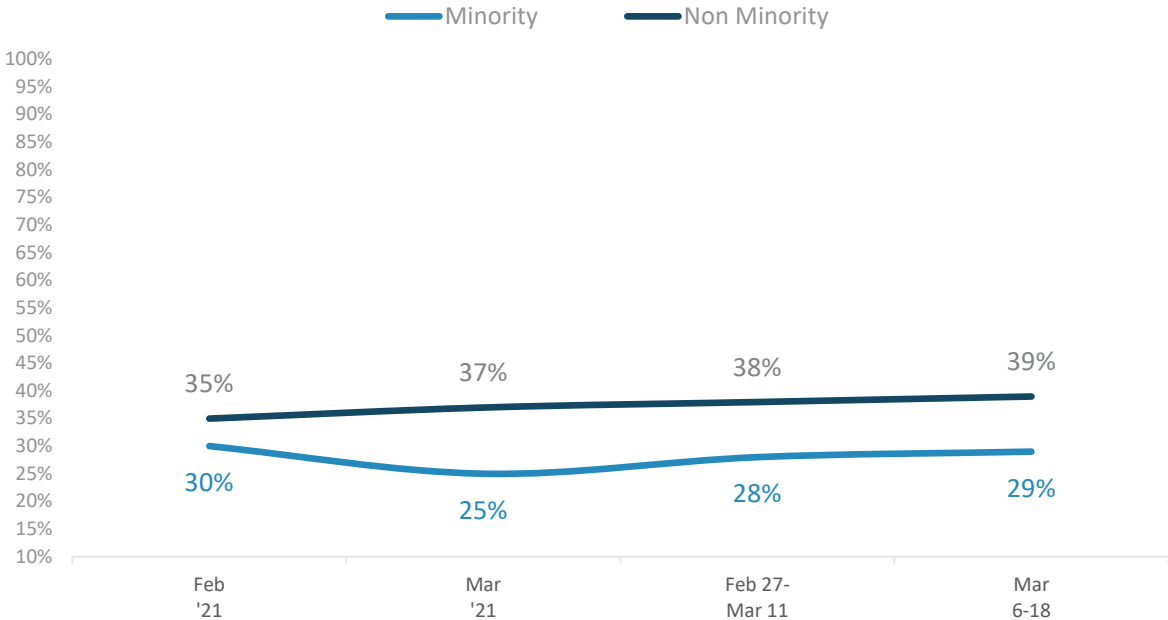
Those who identify as a non-minority continue to have higher ‘wrong track’ scores.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

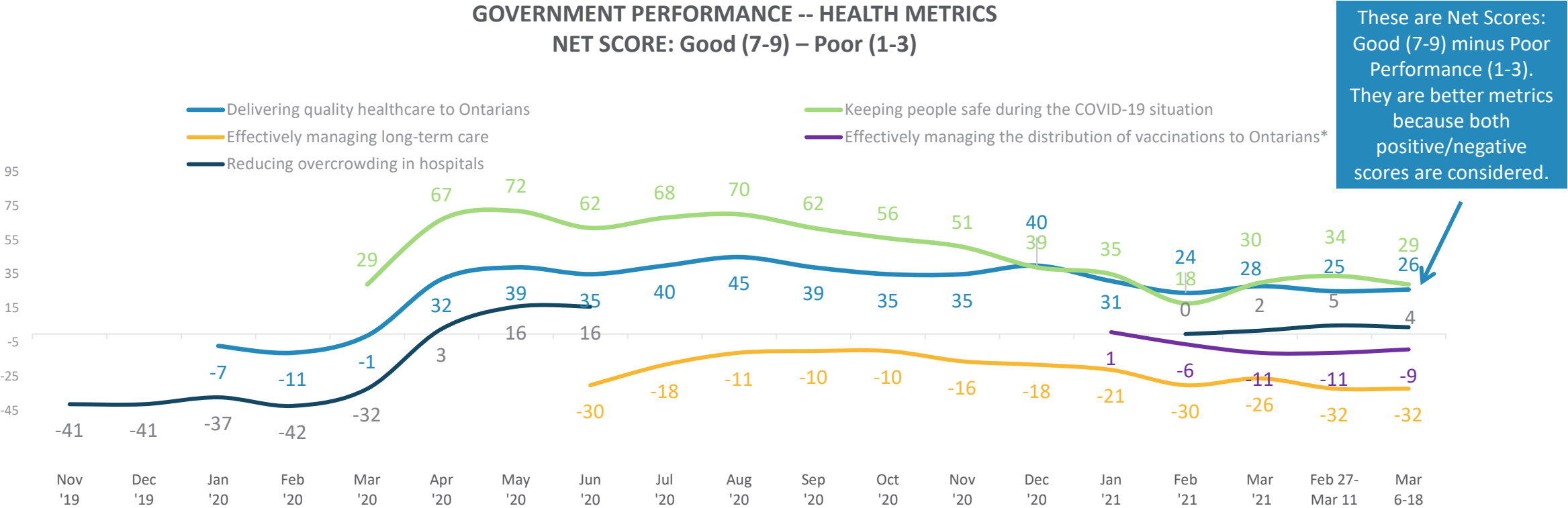


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

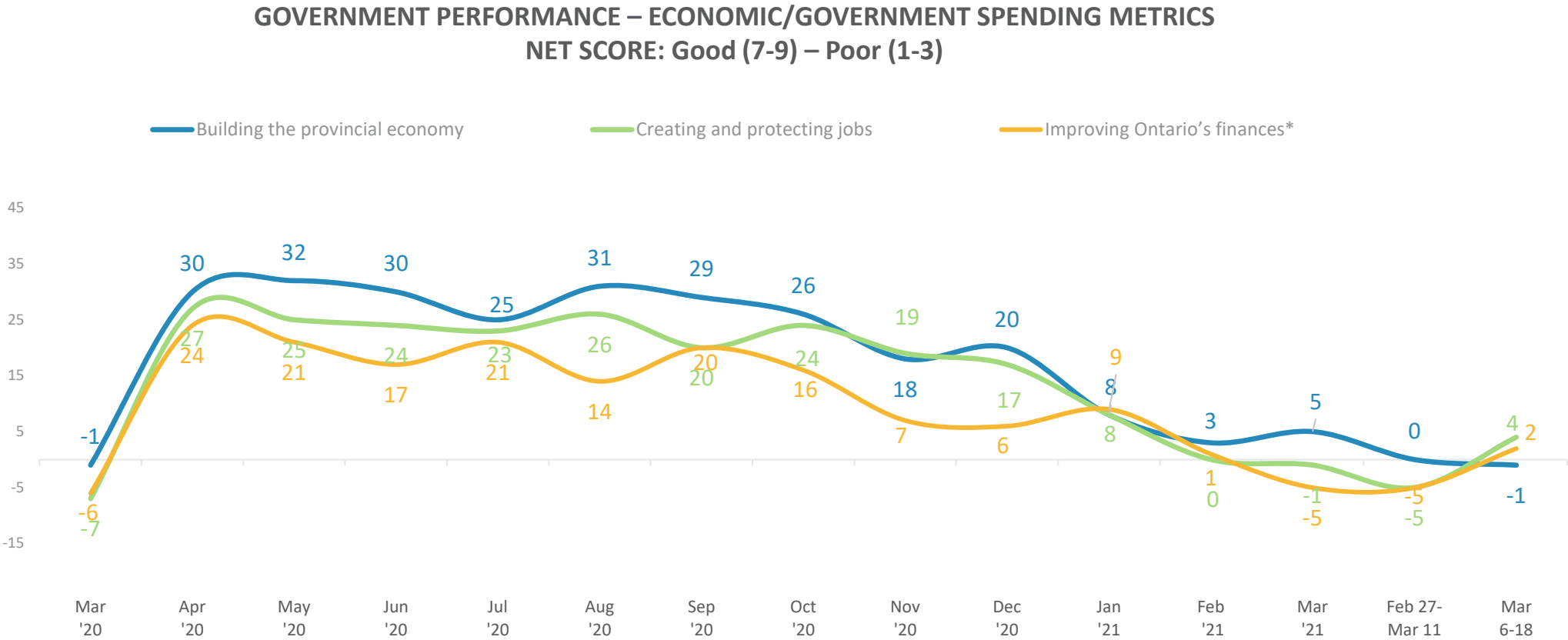


As infections rates increased, the government’s performance for ‘keeping people save during the COVID-19 situation’ has edged downward, while other health metrics remain unchanged.



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 ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ and ‘creating/protecting jobs’ have ticked upward this past week, but are still well below the scores compared to last summer.

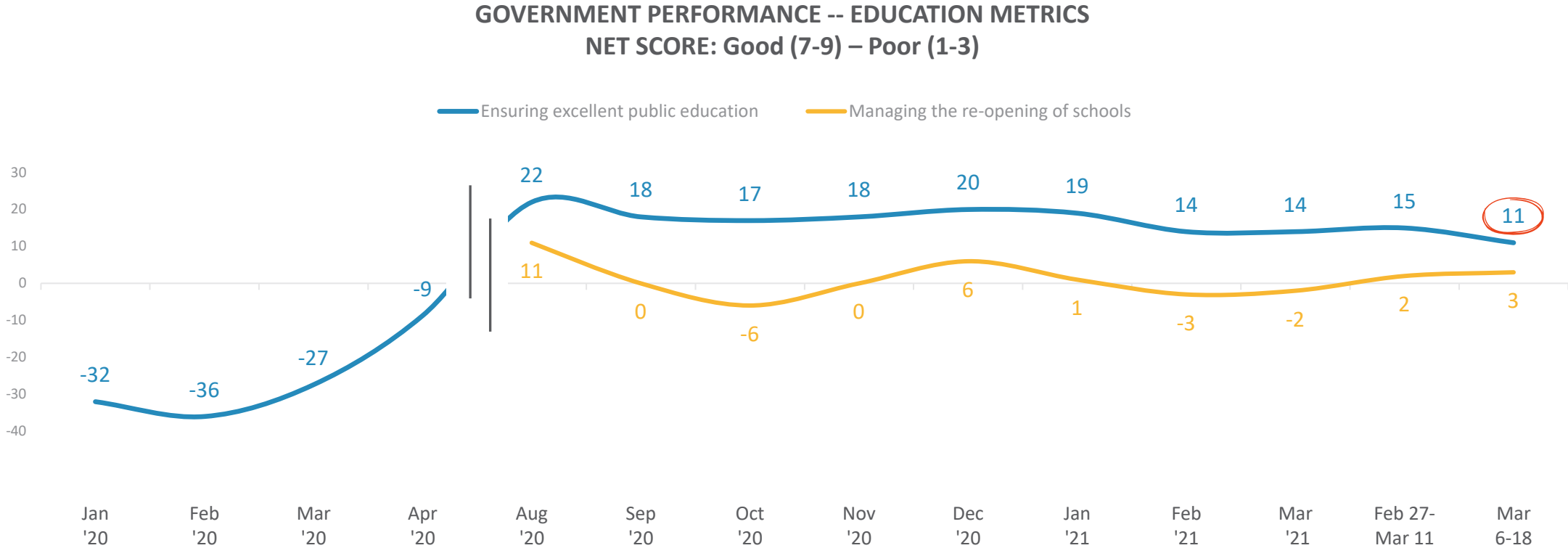


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

Perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ have dropped in recent weeks, while ‘managing the re-opening of schools’ has improved slightly.

- Parents/guardians are more positive about the governments’ performance on both of these education metrics compared to non-parents.



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



This week, fewer Ontarians think the province should continue to slowly reopen the province, while more Ontarians are shifting to a full lockdown.

- Those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are also less inclined this week to think the government should continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province. Those who see the government on the ‘wrong track’ are much more inclined to believe that there should be a full provincial lockdown.

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	Mar 13-18
n=	220	300
	%	%
Continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province	67	59
Put the reopening on hold but leaves things as they are	16	18
Go back to a full provincial lockdown	14	20
Don’t know/Not sure	3	3

CONTINUE WITH ITS APPROACH TO SLOWLY RE-OPEN THE PROVINCE				
	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18
	%	%	%	%
Right Track	65	68	74	64
Wrong Track	56	55	53	51

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>I do not believe schools are safe and am very concerned about the impact of the new COVID variants on children who attend class</i>			<i>Even with the safety protocols schools have in place, I am very concerned about the impact of COVID variants on children</i>		<i>Even with the safety protocols schools have in place, I am very concerned about the impact of COVID variants on children and families</i>	
	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18
n=	varies		varies		varies	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	49	56	66	68	66	66
Strongly agree	33	39	51	44	47	40
Somewhat agree	17	17	14	24	20	26
Neither agree nor disagree	4	6	12	4	3	8
Somewhat disagree	19	11	14	14	11	13
Strongly disagree	24	26	8	11	19	12
TOTAL DISAGREE	44	37	23	26	30	25
Not applicable	-	-	-	2	-	1
Don't know	-	1	-	1	1	-

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

Base: Total sample

This week, fewer Ontarians believe the provincial government is acting on the recommendations from public health leaders. Still, two-thirds believe the province is following their recommendations.

	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	Mar 13-18
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	72	69	78	74	79	73	71	67	65
Strongly agree	27	28	32	26	34	26	23	22	27
Somewhat agree	45	41	46	48	45	47	48	44	39
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11	5	12	4	6	7	8	9
Somewhat disagree	10	12	10	9	9	12	10	13	14
Strongly disagree	7	5	6	4	7	6	9	10	9
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	17	16	12	17	18	20	23	23
Don't know	2	4	1	2	1	3	2	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 declining plurality (41%) hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 30% 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	Mar 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	16	19	20	23
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	41
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	30
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5	5	4	6

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 (57%) 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	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 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	4	10	4	3
The provincial government should balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	55	59	49	53	51	57	49	54	57
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	38
Don't know/Not sure	2	2	1	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

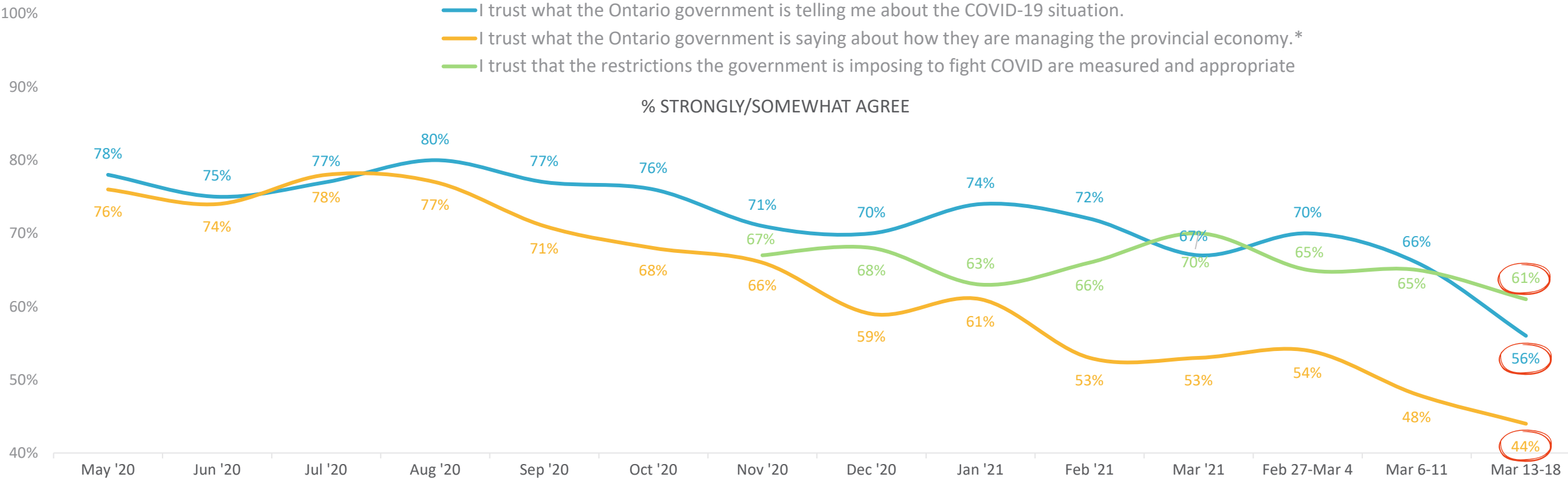
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Over the past week, trust measures declined to their lowest points, particularly on ‘managing the provincial economy’, since these measure were tracked for the first time last May.

- The biggest drop this week has been on ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation.’



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



This week, a majority Ontarians are more likely to 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	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18
varies								
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
32	27	35	40	34	34	41	38	35
14	12	15	18	14	14	16	18	13
18	15	21	22	20	20	25	21	22
8	5	9	8	7	7	11	11	6
20	20	13	15	18	20	17	22	22
37	44	37	31	36	32	24	21	34
57	64	50	46	54	52	41	43	56
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4	6	6	5	7	7	8	3

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

And, 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	Mar 13-18
varies						
%	%	%	%	%	%	%
85	73	84	81	81	81	77
35	33	40	39	33	40	41
49	40	44	42	48	42	35
5	11	8	6	11	8	11
6	9	4	7	5	4	6
11	20	12	14	16	11	17
5	7	4	5	3	8	6

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 recent increases in infection cases, there has been a decline (from 41% last week to 32% 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	Mar 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	41	40	41	32

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

Similarly, there has been a decline from 28% to 20% this week in agreement that someone like themselves won't 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	Mar 13-18
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24	26	28	20
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11	7	10	7
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57	72
Not applicable								1	2	2	1	-	1	4	-
Don't know								1	4	3	-	3	3	2	1

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

Base: Total sample

Fewer Ontarians (down from 76% in mid February to 63% 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	Mar 13-18
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6	3
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30
Not applicable	3	1	2	2	9	2	5	8	4	3	2	1	3
Don't know	1	1	1	-	3	-	2	1	-	-	1	2	1

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

Base: Total sample

Still, just under 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	Mar 13-18
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87
Strongly agree	72	65
Somewhat agree	11	21
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2
Somewhat disagree	4	4
Strongly disagree	10	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VARIANTS



The early findings suggest that many Ontarians believe that the COVID-19 variants spread more easily. Some 18% say the spread is no different from the original virus.

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

	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

To the best of your knowledge, do the new variants spread more easily, spread less easily or spread at the same rate as the original COVID 19 infection?

	Mar 13-18
n=	varies
	%
Spread more easily	63
Spread less easily	4
No difference	18
Don't know/Not sure	14

QCV-191. To the best of your knowledge, do the new variants spread more easily, spread less easily or spread at the same rate as the original COVID 19 infection? (Previous phrasing) 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, a majority is saying that the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants.

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

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

In recent weeks, a declining number 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	Mar 13-18
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should do more	23	27	32	35	27	31
Current restrictions are sufficient	73	67	62	58	66	60
Don't know/not sure	4	6	7	7	7	8

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



Compared to late January, Ontarians have higher confidence 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 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	Mar 13-18
varies												
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37
2	-	1	1	-	1	1	3	2	3	3	2	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

REGULATION OF LONG-TERM CARE HOMES



Ontarians are slightly skewed toward ‘monthly/annual reports on the living conditions in these homes’ compared to the ‘heavy fines’ option as the way to ensure accountability.

- 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	Mar 13-18
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
Heavy fines for long-term care homes that failed to meet any compliance rules	36	41	37
Monthly and annual reports on conditions in individual long-term care homes	46	43	45
Both	8	5	9
Neither	5	5	3
Don’t know	6	5	6

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

Ontarians’ top priority for long-term care homes is to increase the number of hours per day staff spend with each patient.

	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
Increasing the number of hours per day staff spend with each patient	42	36	47
Increasing the number of beds in the long-term care system	21	24	22
Ensuring that all long-term care homes having cooling systems in place for the summer	25	31	19
Don’t know/not sure	11	9	12

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	Mar 13-18
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	90	87
Strongly agree	68	78
Somewhat agree	22	9
Neither agree nor disagree	3	3
Somewhat disagree	1	4
Strongly disagree	3	5
TOTAL DISAGREE	4	9
Don't know	3	1

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

BLUE BOX RECYCLING



The preliminary results indicate that most Ontarians understand that municipal taxes pay for the blue box recycling program. Very few believe that manufacturers are paying for this program.

	Mar 13-18
n=	300
	%
Municipal taxes, like property tax	71
The manufacturers who make the products	6
The business that sell products	5
Don't know/Not sure	18

QBB1. As far as you know, is the Blue Box recycling program in Ontario funded by:

Base: Total sample

The preliminary results suggest that Ontarians support the transfer of the funding of the Blue Box recycling program from municipalities to manufacturers.

- These preliminary results indicate women prefer than men the option transferring the funding of the Blue Box program from municipalities to manufacturers.

	Mar 13-18
n=	300
	%
Continue to have the Blue Box recycling program operated and funded by municipal taxes	34
Transfer the Blue Box recycling program to the producers, which would increase the types of products being recycled, but would result in consumers paying an extra penny or two for many of the products that they buy	62
Don't know	4

QBB2. The Blue Box recycling program has been operating in Ontario for many years. The purpose of this program is to recycle plastic and paper products instead of going into a landfill. Municipalities across Ontario spend in total about \$135 million dollars a year on this program. There is a proposal to shift the operation and cost of the recycling program from municipalities to the companies producing plastic and paper products. These companies would increase the types of items that could be recycled. As a result, consumers would need to pay an extra penny or two on many of the products that they purchase. Which of the two approaches do you prefer:

Base: Total sample

The early results indicate that Ontarians overwhelmingly support that manufacturers using plastic products be required to make them more environmentally friendly even if it makes the products they buy more expensive.

Although it will make the products I buy more expensive, those who sell products in plastic containers should be required to make plastic products more environmentally friendly.

	Mar 13-18
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	90
Strongly agree	74
Somewhat agree	16
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4
TOTAL DISAGREE	7
Don't know	2

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

Base: Total sample

The preliminary findings suggest that there is strong support for the Blue Box program to be operated across the province.

I believe the Blue Box program should be operated province wide to ensure that more plastic and paper products are recycled instead going to landfills.

	Mar 13-18
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	92
Strongly agree	84
Somewhat agree	8
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Somewhat disagree	<1
Strongly disagree	2
TOTAL DISAGREE	3
Not applicable	<1
Don't know	2

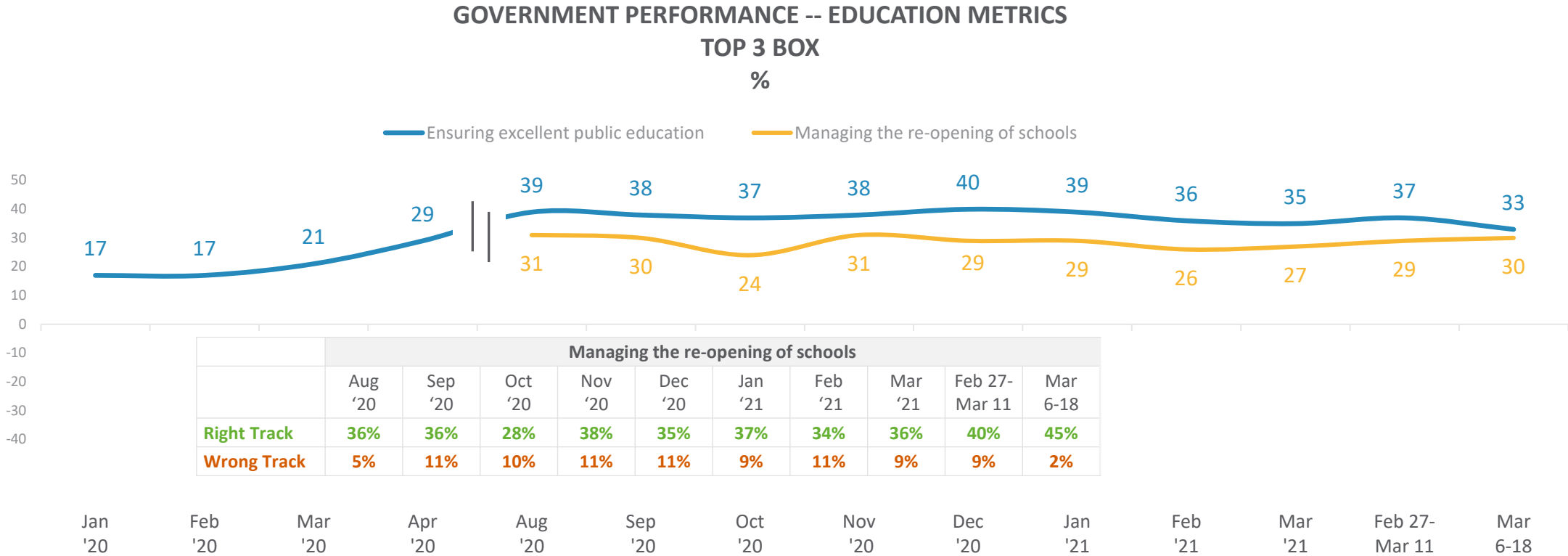
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

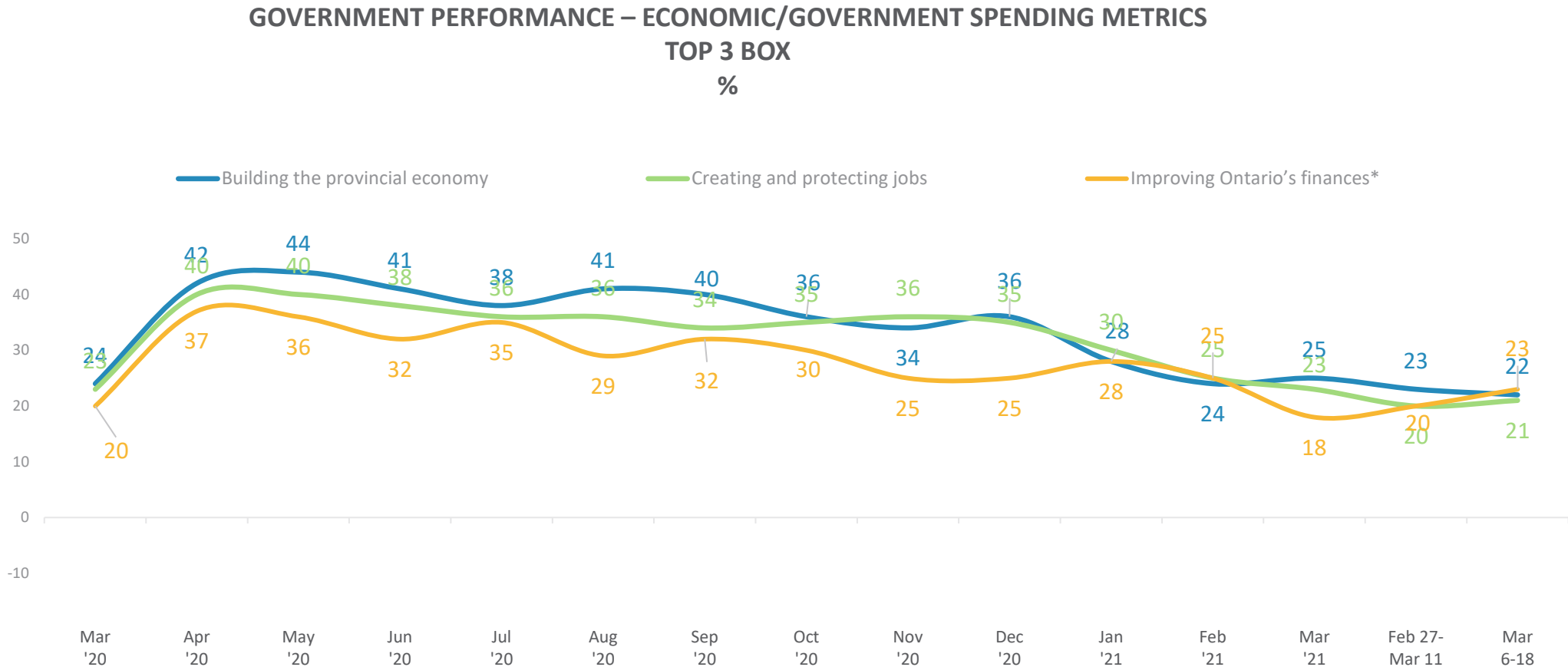


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ have declined over the past week.



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 the government’s performance on economic metrics remain relatively stable.

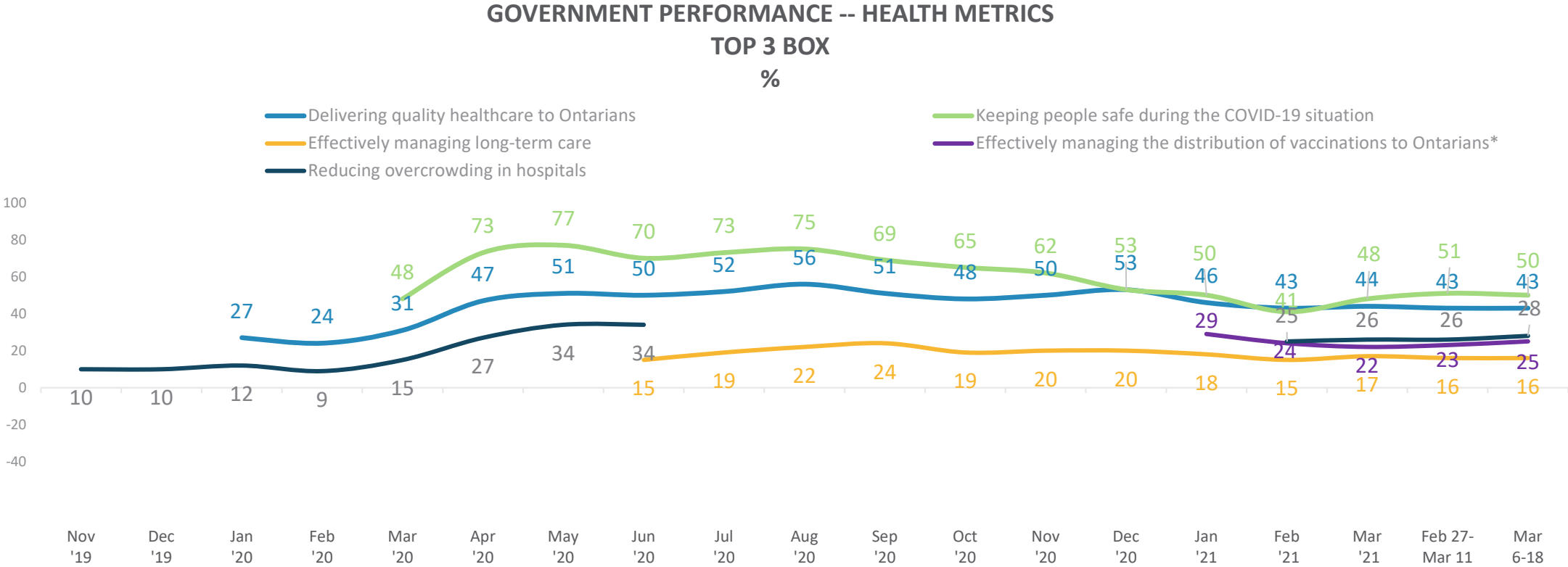


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*Former phrasing: “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