

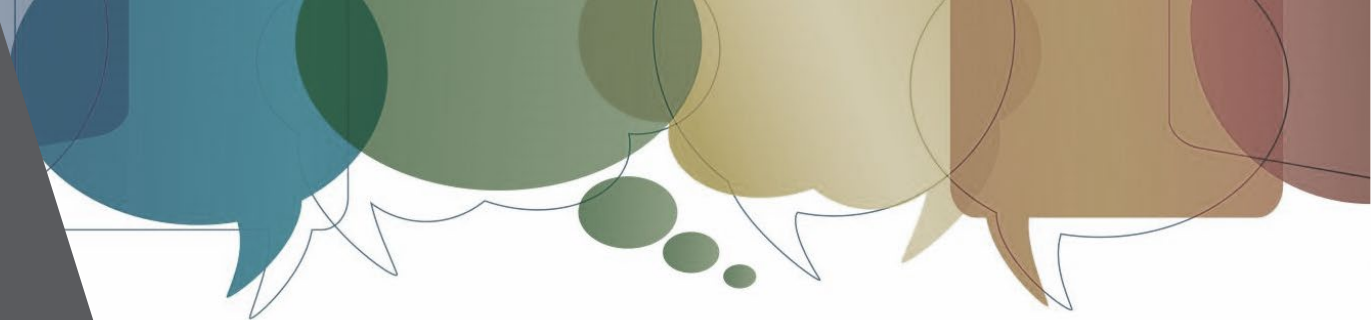


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #74

CABINET OFFICE

March 26th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores rebounded this week to 66%.

Men, Toronto suburban residents, those who identify as minority, with incomes <\$40k, and those aged 18-34 are the primary groups causing these rebounding 'right track' scores.

2 As infections rates increase, the government's performance for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' and 'delivering quality healthcare in Ontario' remains stable.

There may be a slight slippage in the ratings on 'reducing overcrowding in hospitals'.

3 In the two weeks preceding the delivery of the Ontario 2021 budget, the government's performance scores on three economic metrics enjoyed a positive bounce.

4 After dropping in the previous weeks, trust measures on 'telling me about the COVID-19 situation' and 'managing the provincial economy' have rebounded.

Still, these trust levels are below previous highs.

5 This week, fewer Ontarians (down 14-points over the past two weeks) think the province should continue to slowly reopen the province.

A higher percentage of Ontarians (up 8-points over the past two weeks) are shifting back to a full lockdown.

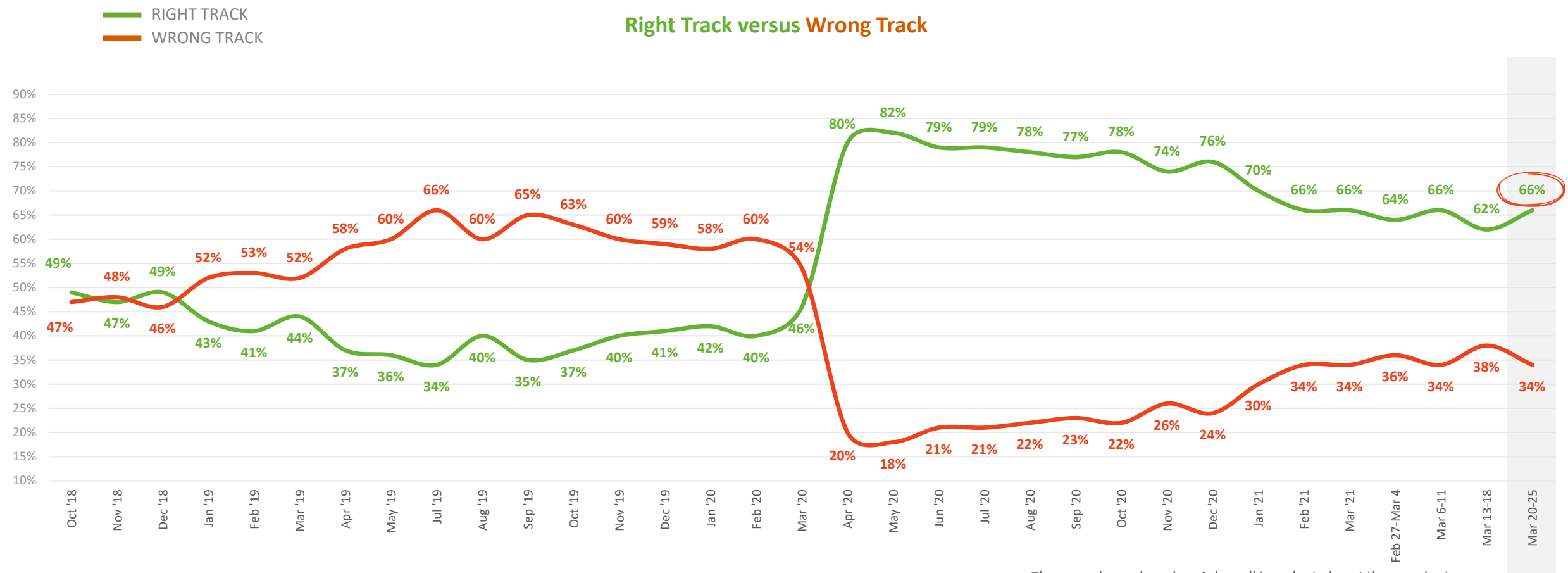
6 Ontarians support the transfer of the funding of the Blue Box recycling program from municipalities to manufacturers even if it means costing consumers a bit more.

Ontarians overwhelmingly support that manufacturers using plastic products be required to recycle them, and to control the Blue Box program, even if it makes the products they buy more expensive.

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



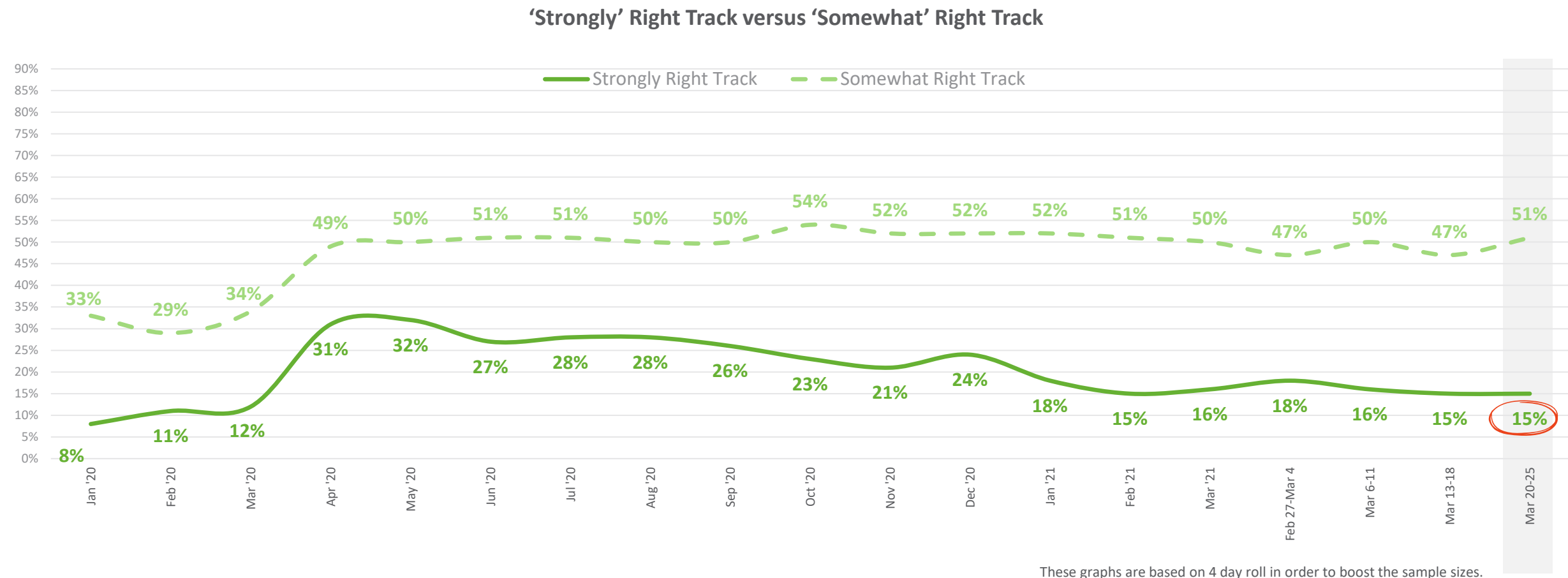
The government's 'right track' scores rebounded to 66% this past week.



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

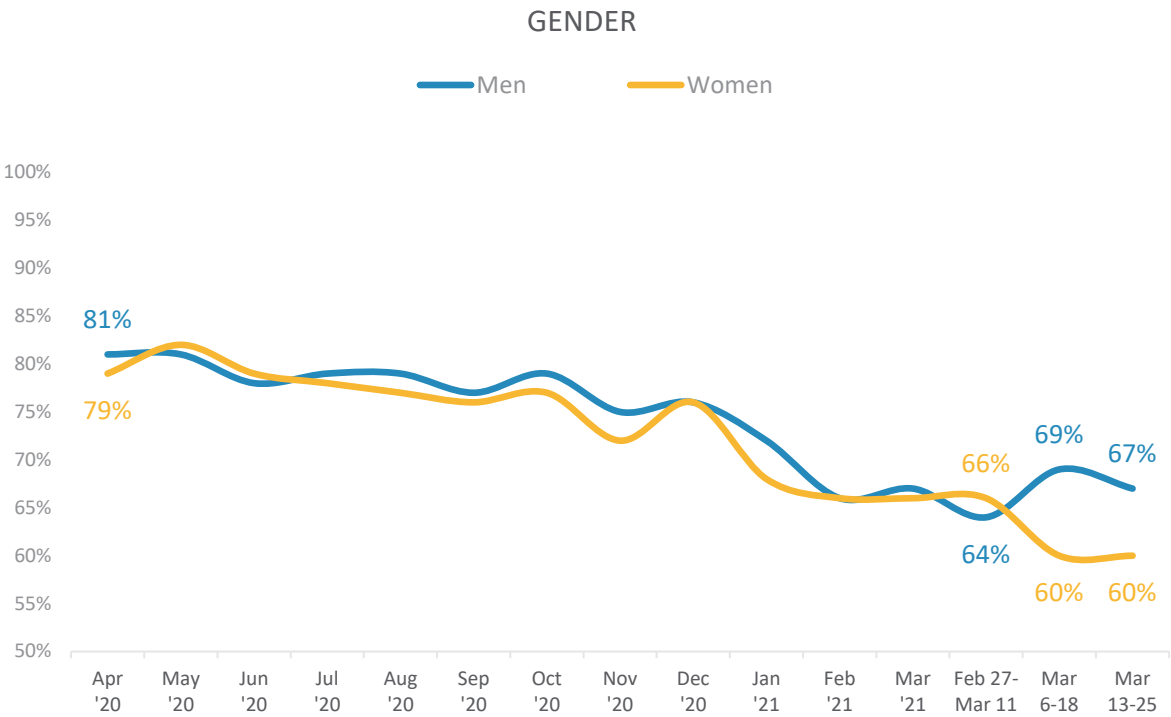
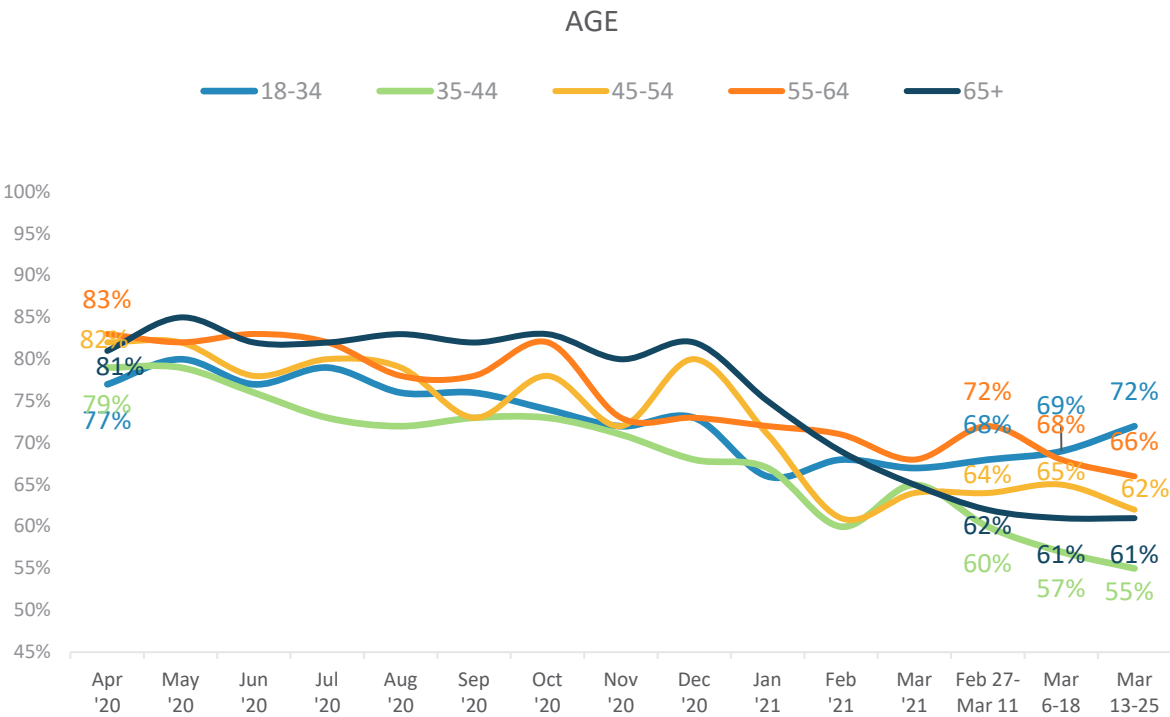
Since early January, the government’s ‘strongly right track’ scores continue to be stable at 15%.



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 remain lower for women and those aged 35-44.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

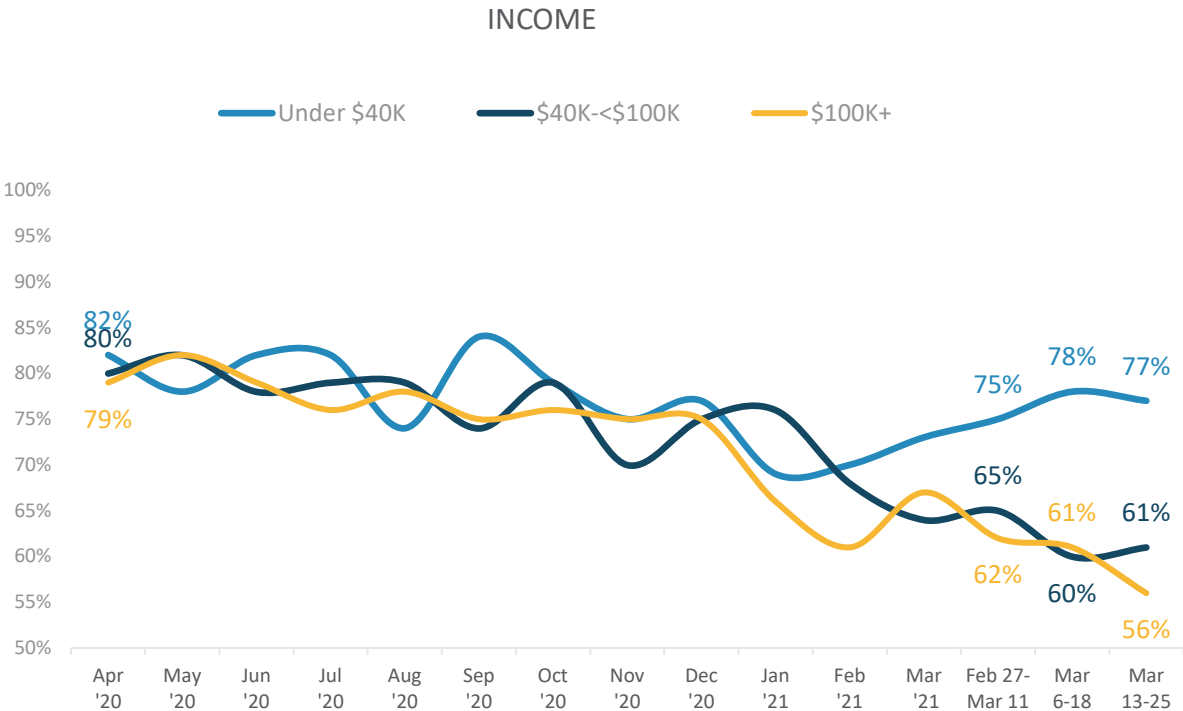
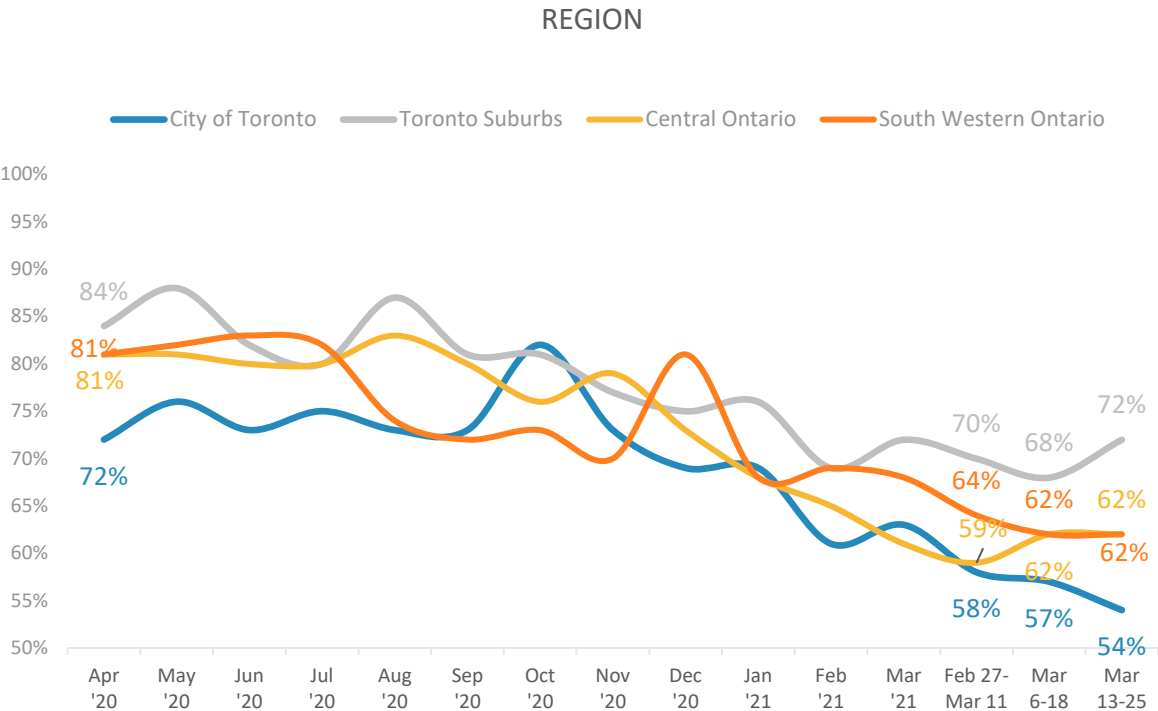


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 rebounded slightly in the Toronto suburbs, while trending downward in the City of Toronto. These scores have been highest among those with incomes <\$40k for several weeks.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



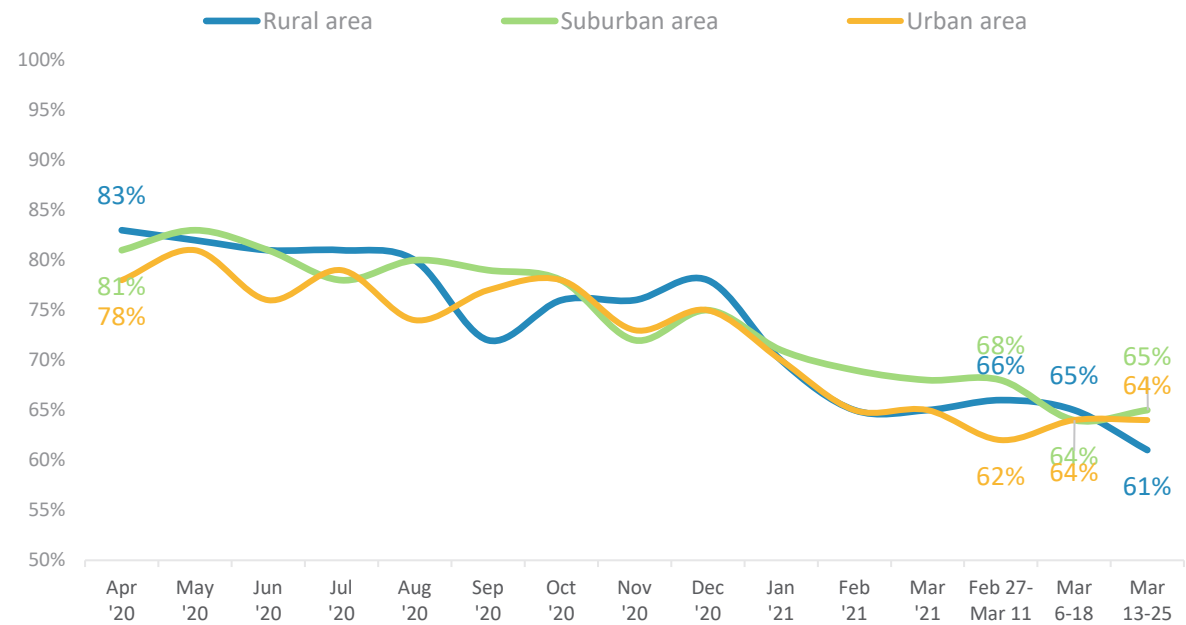
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

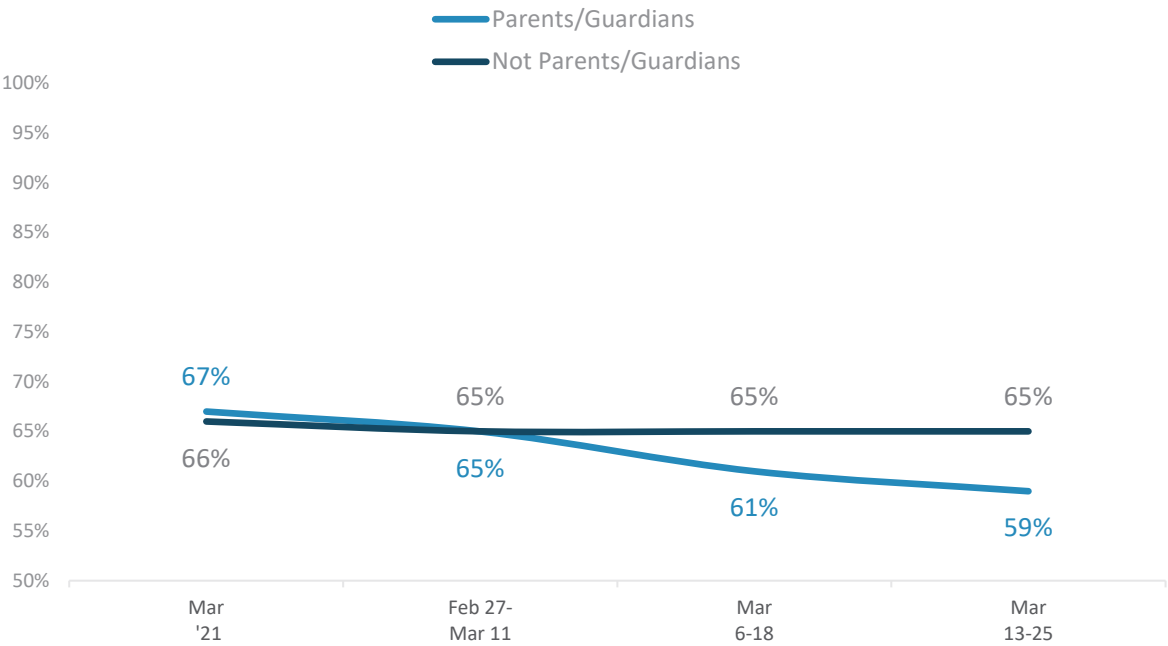
The ‘right track’ scores have been edging downward in recent weeks among rural residents and among parents/guardians.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



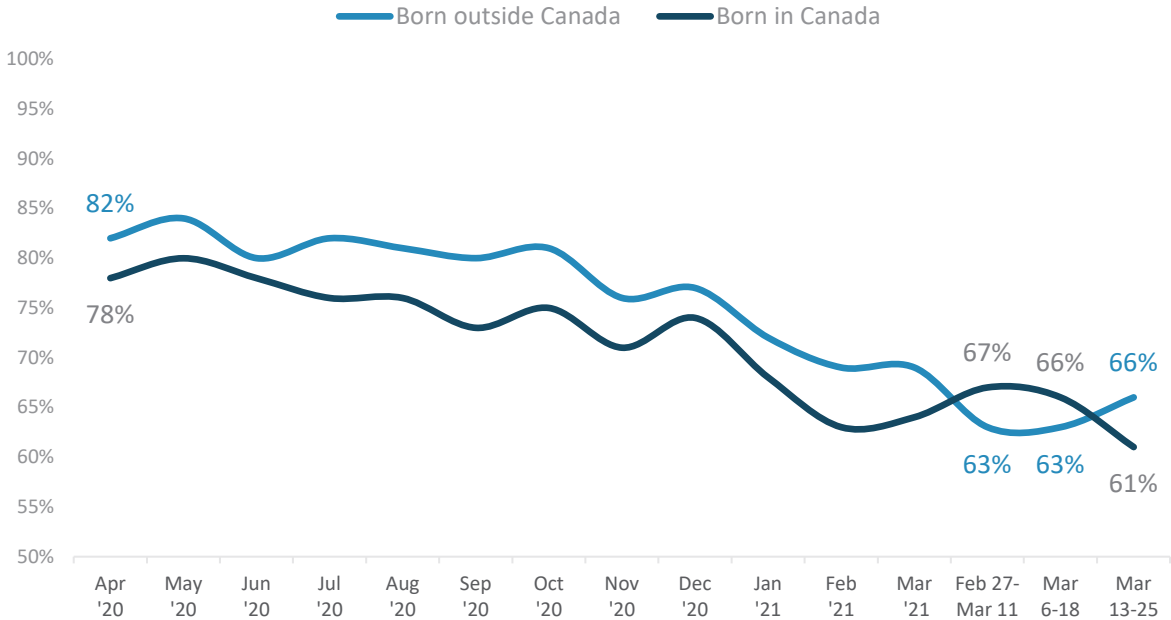
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

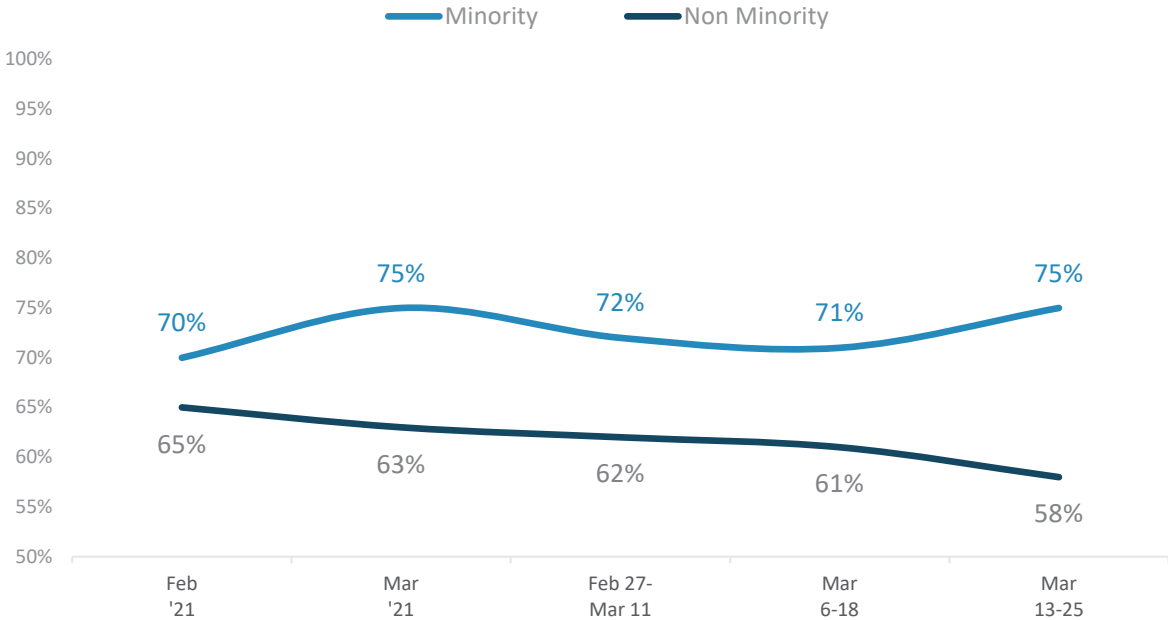
In contrast, the ‘right track’ scores remain much higher among those who identify as a minority.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



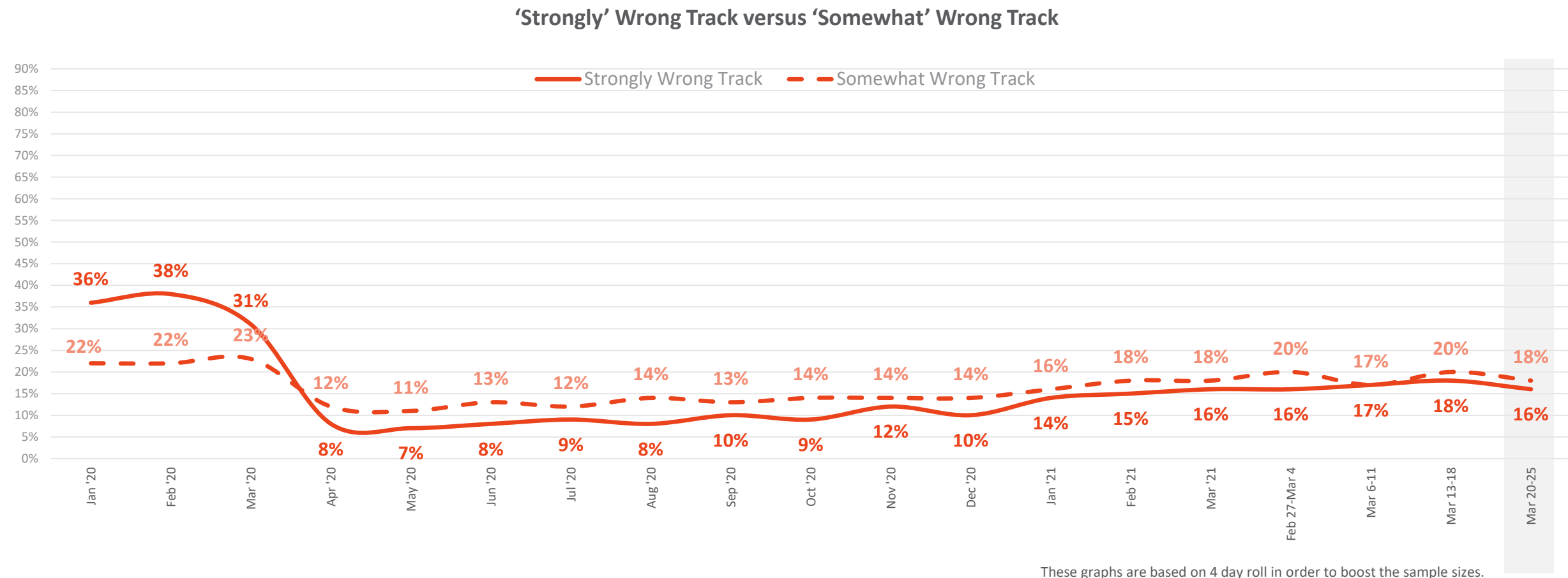
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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

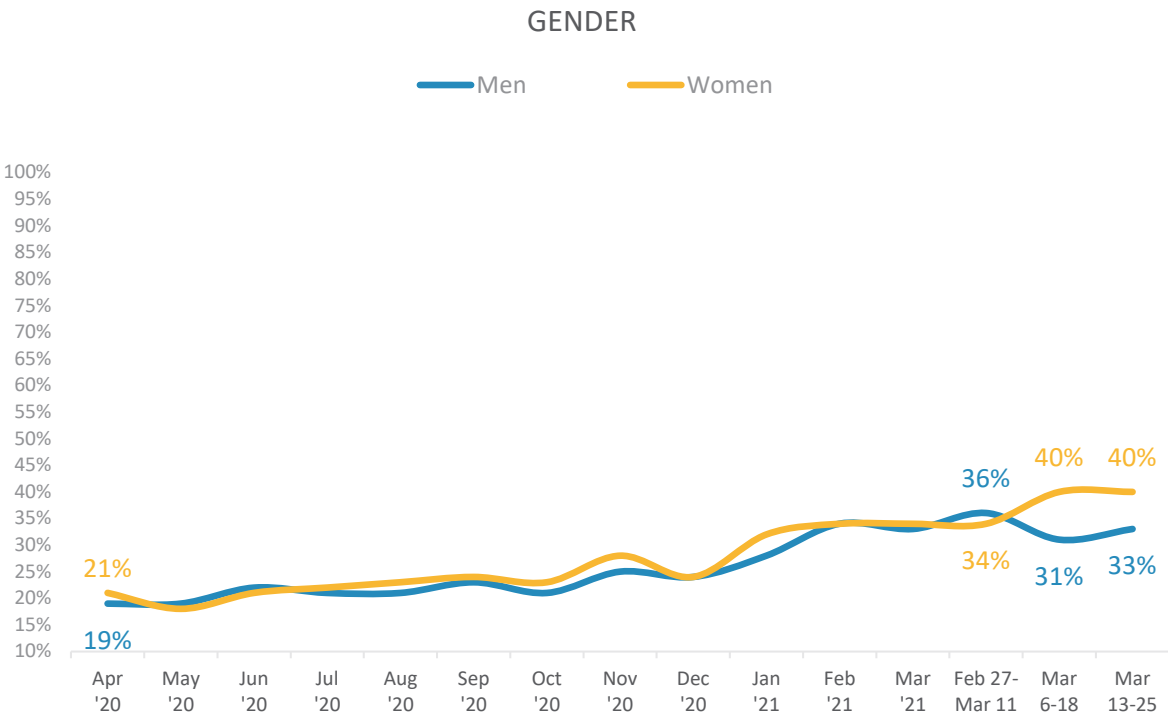
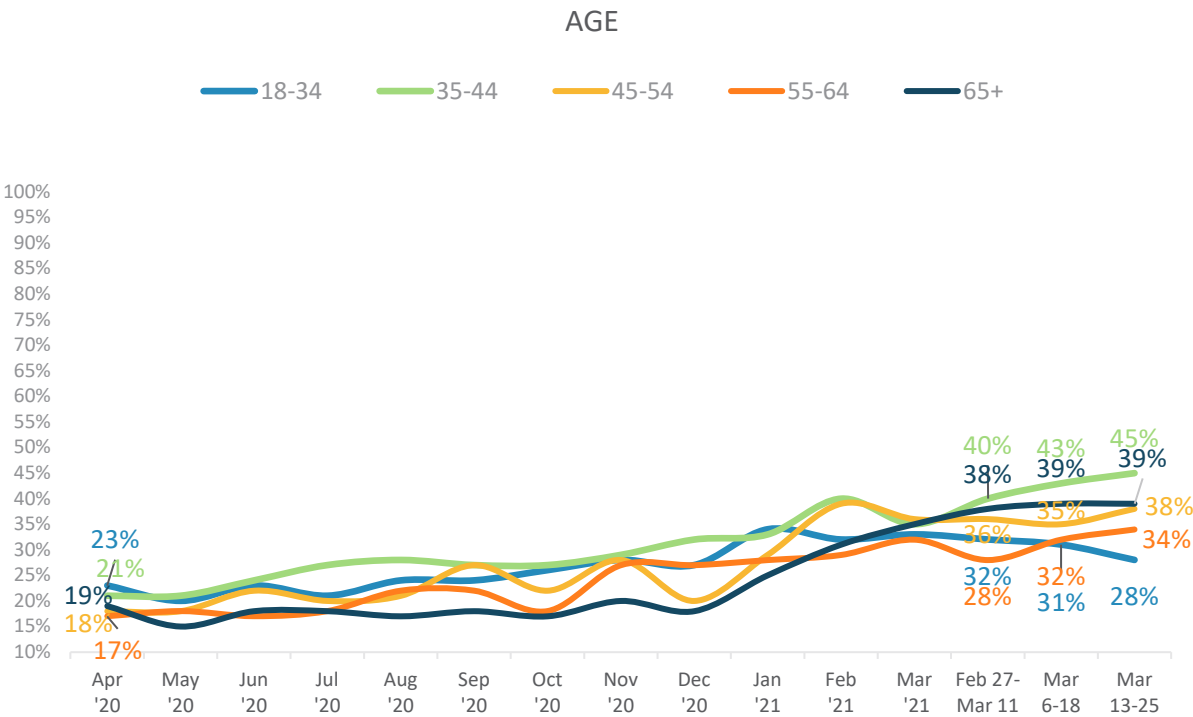
‘Strongly wrong track’ and ‘somewhat wrong track’ scores have remained relatively stable.



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

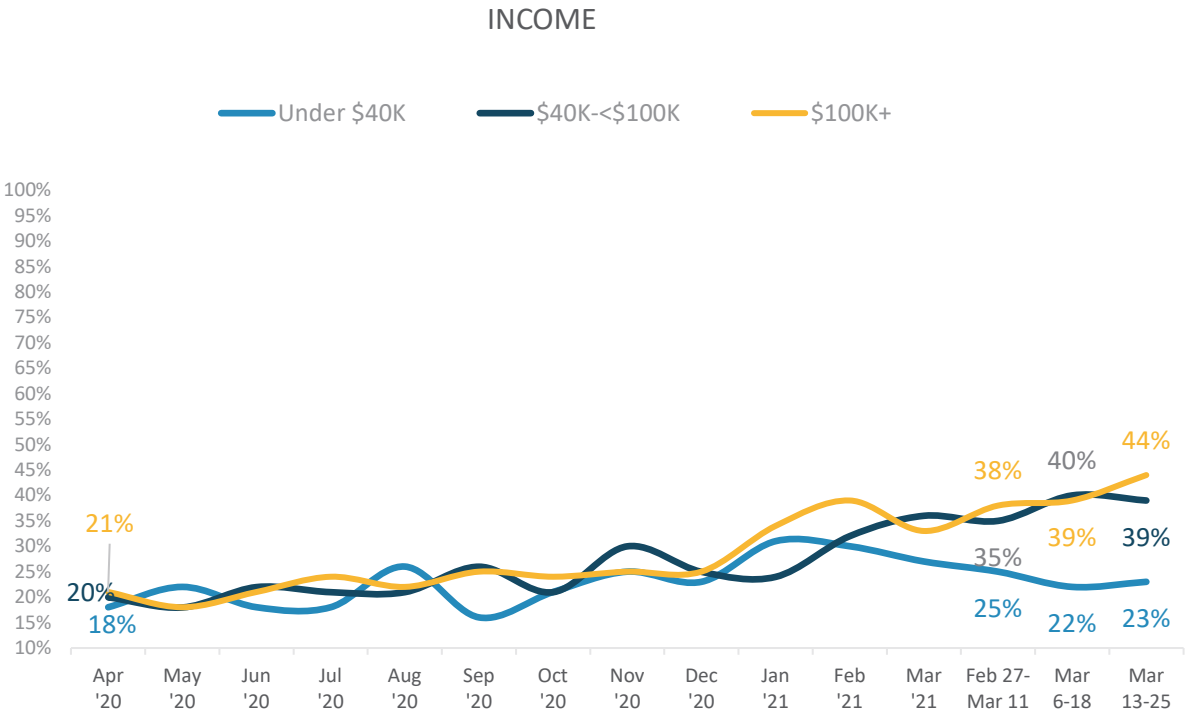
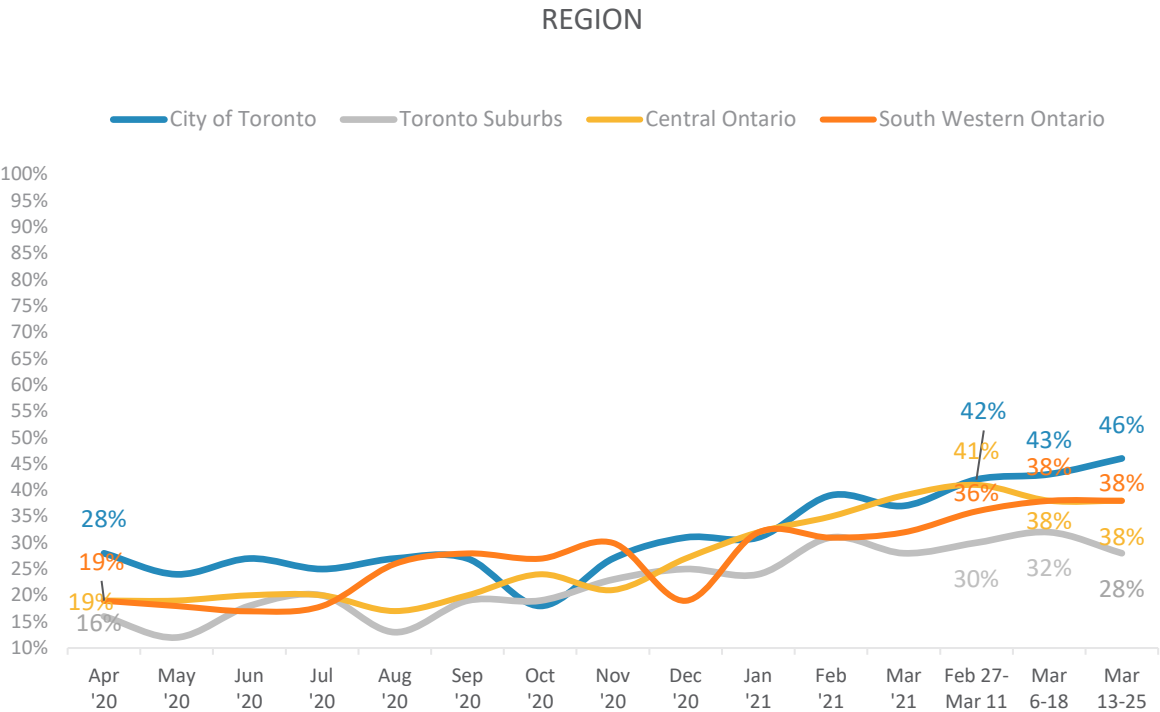


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 in all four regions and among those earning more than \$100k

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



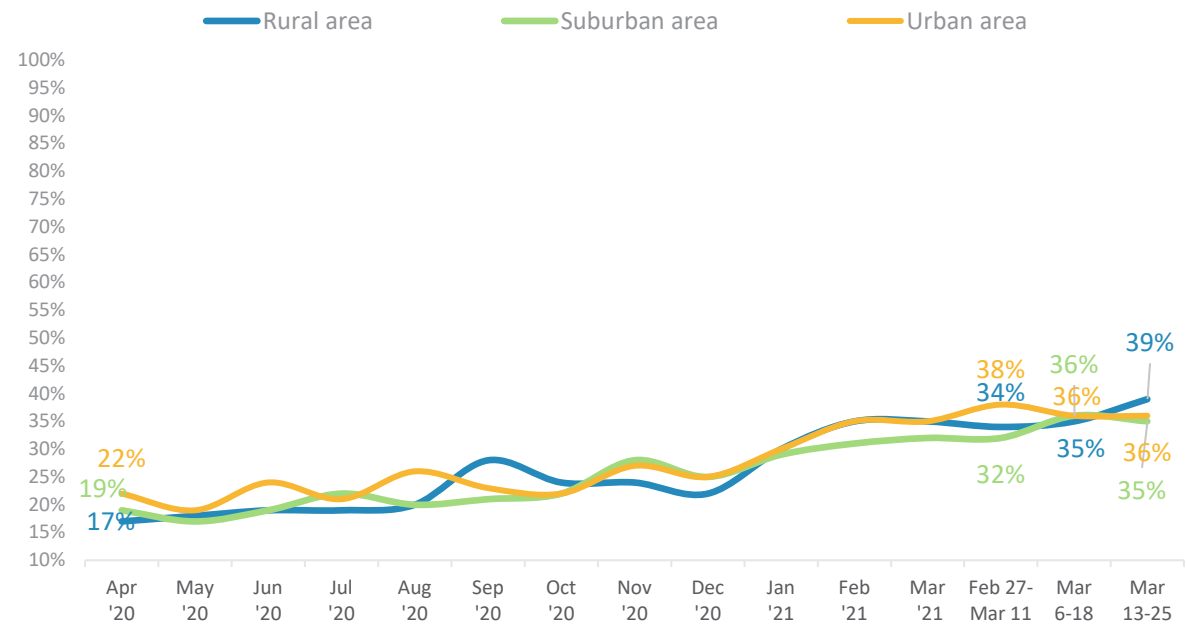
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

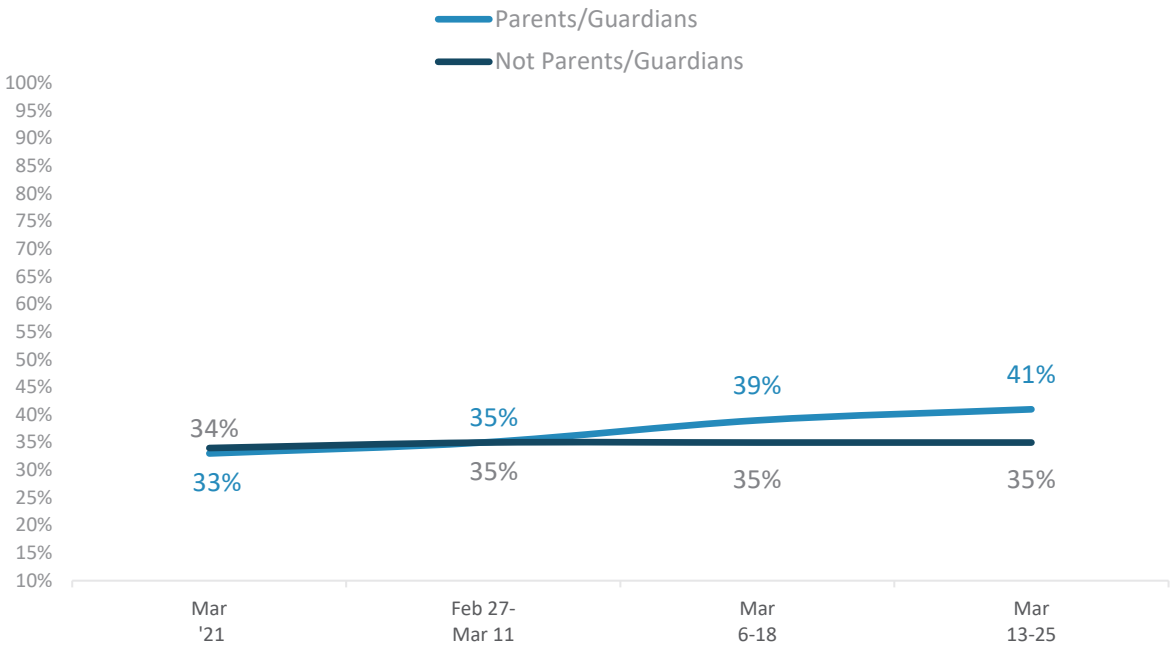
‘Wrong track’ scores have been edging upwards among rural residents and among parents/guardians.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

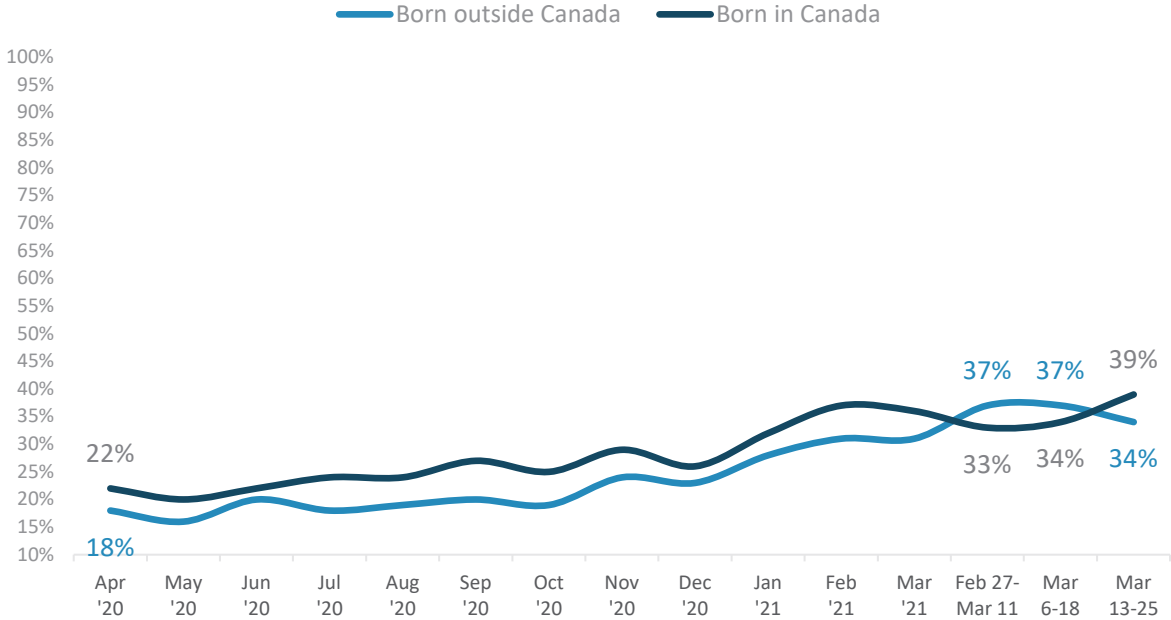


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

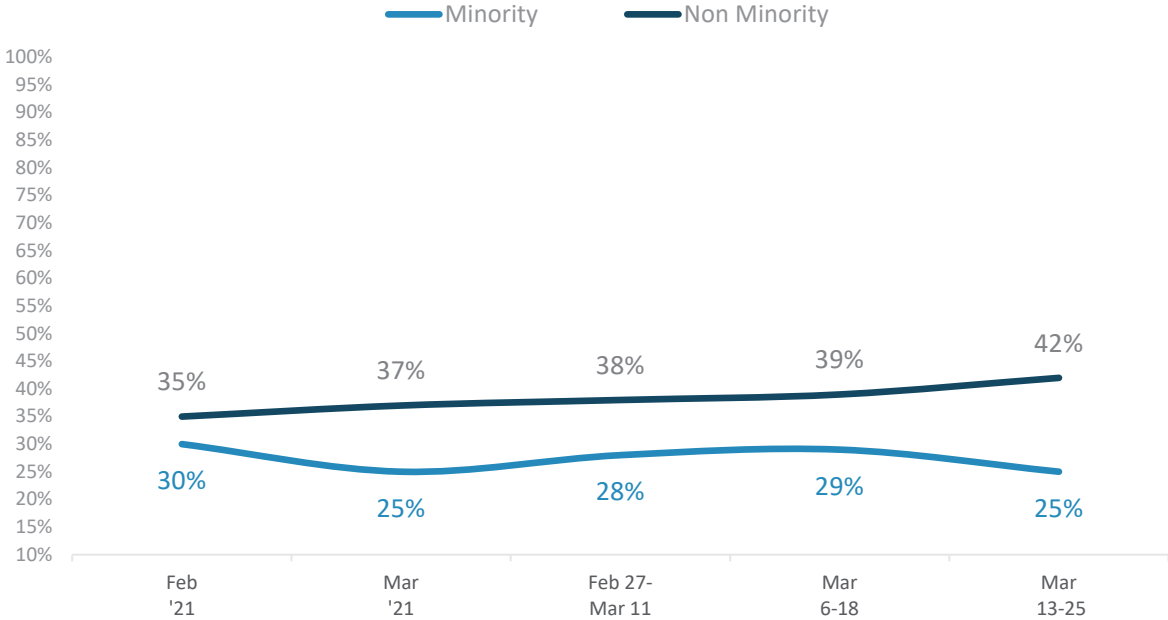
Those who identify as a non-minority continue to have higher ‘wrong track’ scores.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

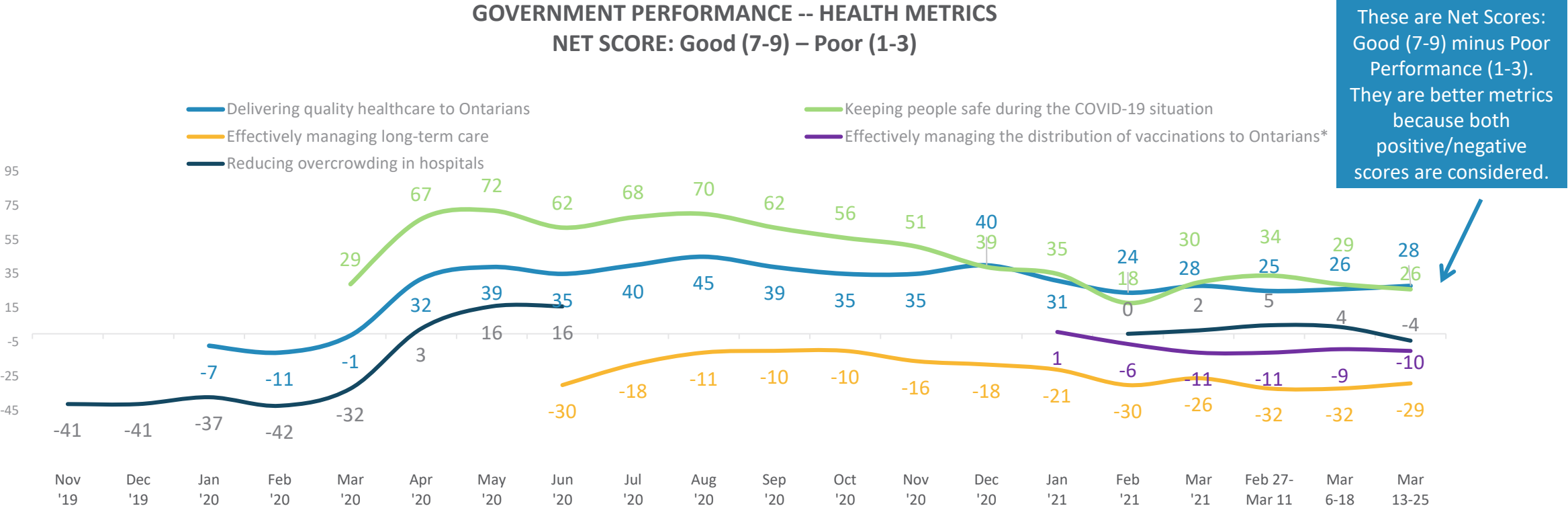


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

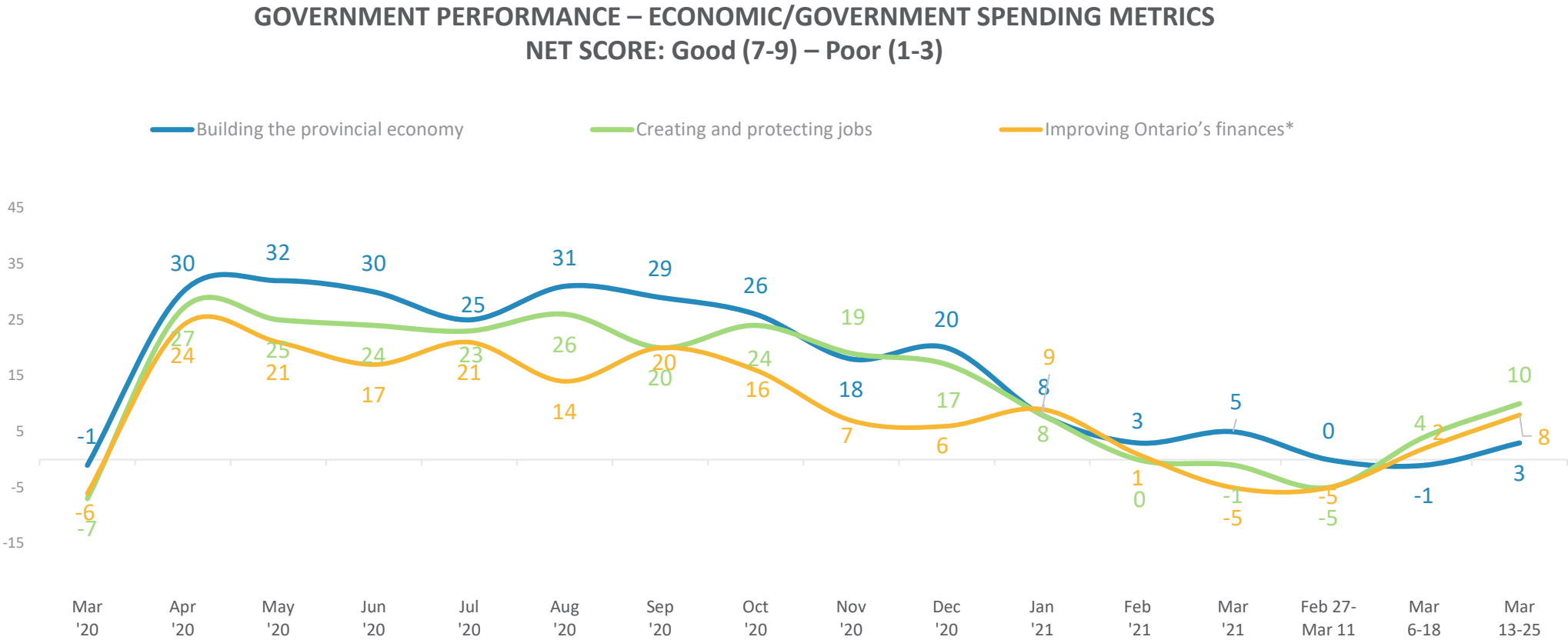


As infections rates increase, the government’s performance for ‘keeping people save during the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘delivering quality healthcare in Ontario’ remains stable. There may be a slight slippage in the ratings on ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’.



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

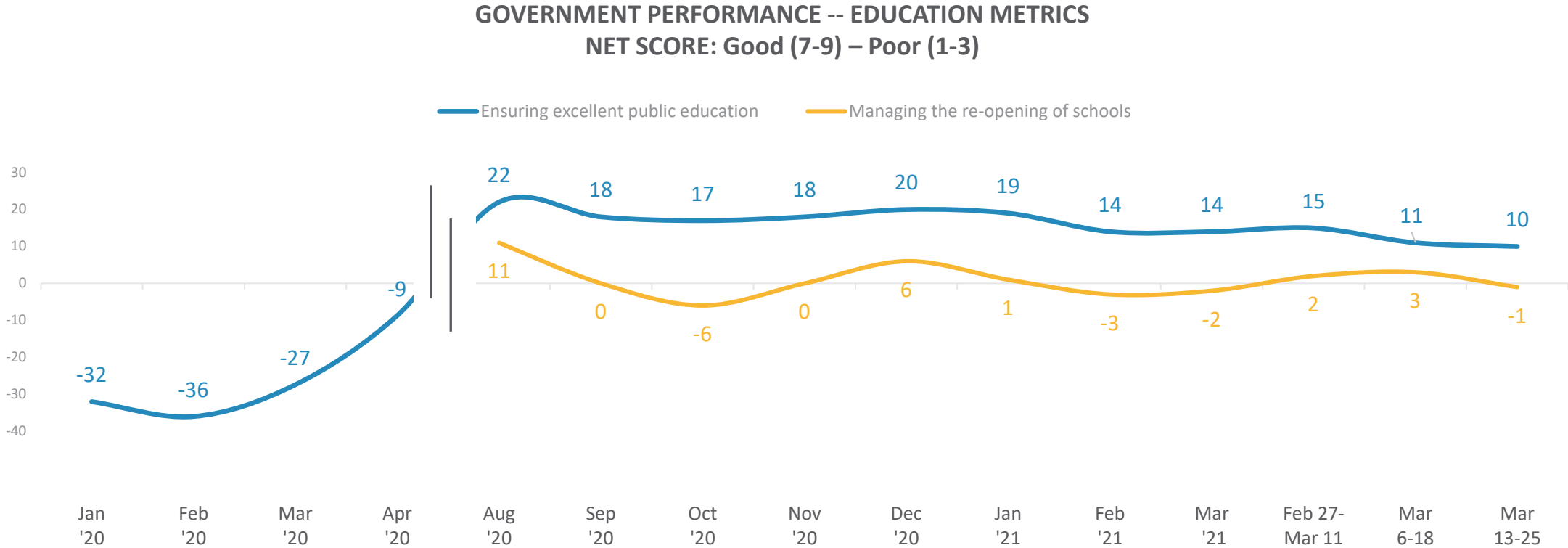
The government’s performance scores on the three economic metrics enjoyed a positive bounce over the past two weeks, prior to the release of the 2021 budget.



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

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

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

SUPPORT FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN



This week, fewer Ontarians (down 14-points over the past two weeks) think the province should continue to slowly reopen the province, while more Ontarians (up 8-points) are shifting to a full lockdown.

- In addition, more Ontarians think the reopening should be put on hold.
- 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	Mar 20-25
n=	220	300	300
	%	%	%
Continue with its approach to slowly reopen the province	67	59	53
Put the reopening on hold but leaves things as they are	16	18	22
Go back to a full provincial lockdown	14	20	22
Don’t know/Not sure	3	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	Mar 20-25
	%	%	%	%	%
Right Track	65	68	74	64	61
Wrong Track	56	55	53	51	37

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?

The preliminary results indicate Ontarians support the idea of reducing restrictions for outdoor activities such as golf and exercise classes, closely followed by outdoor dining and patios at bars and pubs.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE		Mar 20-25
	n=	300
		%
Outdoor sports like golf		66
Outdoor exercise classes		64
Outdoor restaurant dining		62
Outdoor patios at bars and pubs		58
Outdoor Team sports		52

QCV-195. Cases of COVID-19 are currently increasing across the province, with many people contracting variants of the virus that are more contagious. Given this, would you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with a plan to reduce restrictions for...

Base: Total sample

A majority (55%) hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 24% 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	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 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	19	20	23	17
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	55
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	24
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5	5	4	6	3

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 (53%) think the government should be trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while about 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	Mar 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	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	53
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	43
Don't know/Not sure	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	4

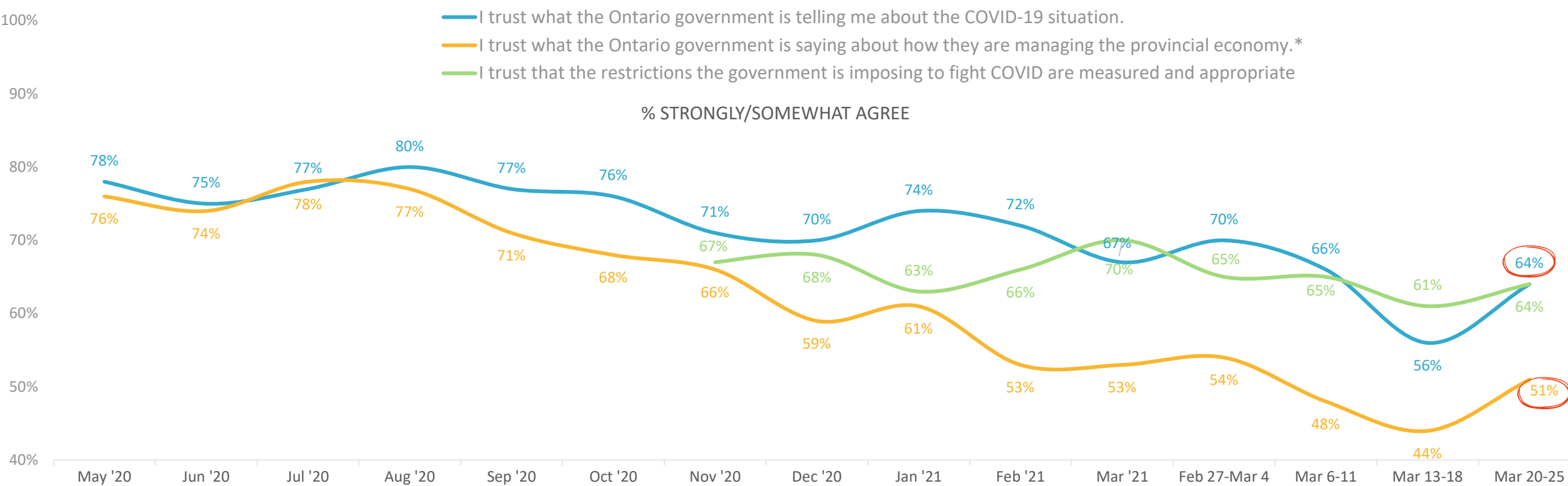
QCV-179. And which statement best reflects your own point of view as to what the provincial government should do:
Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Over the past week, trust measures on ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘managing the provincial economy’ have rebounded. They are still below previous highs.



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

About two-thirds 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	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	72	69	78	74	79	73	71	67	65	67
Strongly agree	27	28	32	26	34	26	23	22	27	22
Somewhat agree	45	41	46	48	45	47	48	44	39	45
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11	5	12	4	6	7	8	9	9
Somewhat disagree	10	12	10	9	9	12	10	13	14	13
Strongly disagree	7	5	6	4	7	6	9	10	9	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	17	16	12	17	18	20	23	23	23
Don't know	2	4	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	1

QCV-176. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Ontario government is acting on the recommendations from public health leaders?

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



Most Ontarians say they need to follow public health guidelines as the province heads into a third wave of COVID-19.

*Now that we are in a third wave of COVID,
I need to continue following public health guidelines*

	Mar 20-25
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	93
Strongly agree	78
Somewhat agree	15
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Somewhat disagree	2
Strongly disagree	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	5
Not applicable	-
Don't know	<1

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...

Base: Total sample

As well, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago.

% 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	Mar 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	40	41	32	39

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, this week about 27% are 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	Mar 20-25
n=	varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24	26	28	20	27
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8	14
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12	13
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11	7	10	7	11
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18	20
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54	37
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57	72	58
Not applicable								1	2	2	1	-	1	4	-	1
Don't know								1	4	3	-	3	3	2	1	4

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

Base: Total sample

More Ontarians this 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	Mar 20-25
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63	76
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6	3	5
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15
Not applicable	3	1	2	2	9	2	5	8	4	3	2	1	3	1
Don't know	1	1	1	-	3	-	2	1	-	-	1	2	1	2

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	Mar 20-25
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86
Strongly agree	72	65	68
Somewhat agree	11	21	18
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7
Strongly disagree	10	7	4
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VARIANTS



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	Mar 20-25
n=	varies	
	%	%
Spread more easily	63	62
Spread less easily	4	7
No difference	18	18
Don't know/Not sure	14	13

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, more Ontarians are 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	Mar 20-25
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37	34	31	47	39	36
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47	56	60
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	4

QCV-130A. With the arrival of new COVID variants identified in the UK, South Africa, and Brazil 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 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, just above 6-in-10 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	Mar 20-25
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should do more	23	27	32	35	27	31	33
Current restrictions are sufficient	73	67	62	58	66	60	62
Don't know/not sure	4	6	7	7	7	8	5

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

Ontarians are increasingly concerned about the impact of the new COVID-19 variants even with the safety protocols in schools.

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	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25
varies		
%	%	%
66	66	82
47	40	59
20	26	23
3	8	4
11	13	5
19	12	6
30	25	11
-	1	-
1	-	3

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

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 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	Mar 20-25
varies													
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36
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 vaccines are now being administered*

*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

BLUE BOX RECYCLING



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	Mar 20-25
n=	300	300
	%	%
Municipal taxes, like property tax	71	70
The manufacturers who make the products	6	9
The business that sell products	5	4
Don't know/Not sure	18	17

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

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians support the transfer of the funding of the Blue Box recycling program from municipalities to manufacturers.

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

	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25
n=	300	300
	%	%
Continue to have the Blue Box recycling program operated and funded by municipal taxes	34	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	60
Don't know	4	5

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

Ontarians overwhelmingly support that manufacturers using plastic products be required to recycle them, and to control the Blue Box program, 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

Although it will make the products I buy more expensive, those who sell products in plastic containers should be required to recycle them and control the province's blue box program.

Mar 20-25
varies
%
80
62
18
4
8
5
13
3

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

Base: Total sample

There is strong support for the Blue Box program to be consistent 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

I believe the Blue Box program should be consistent across the province to ensure that the same types of plastic and paper products are recycled instead of going to landfills.

Mar 20-25
varies
%
95
81
15
-
3
1
4
-
1

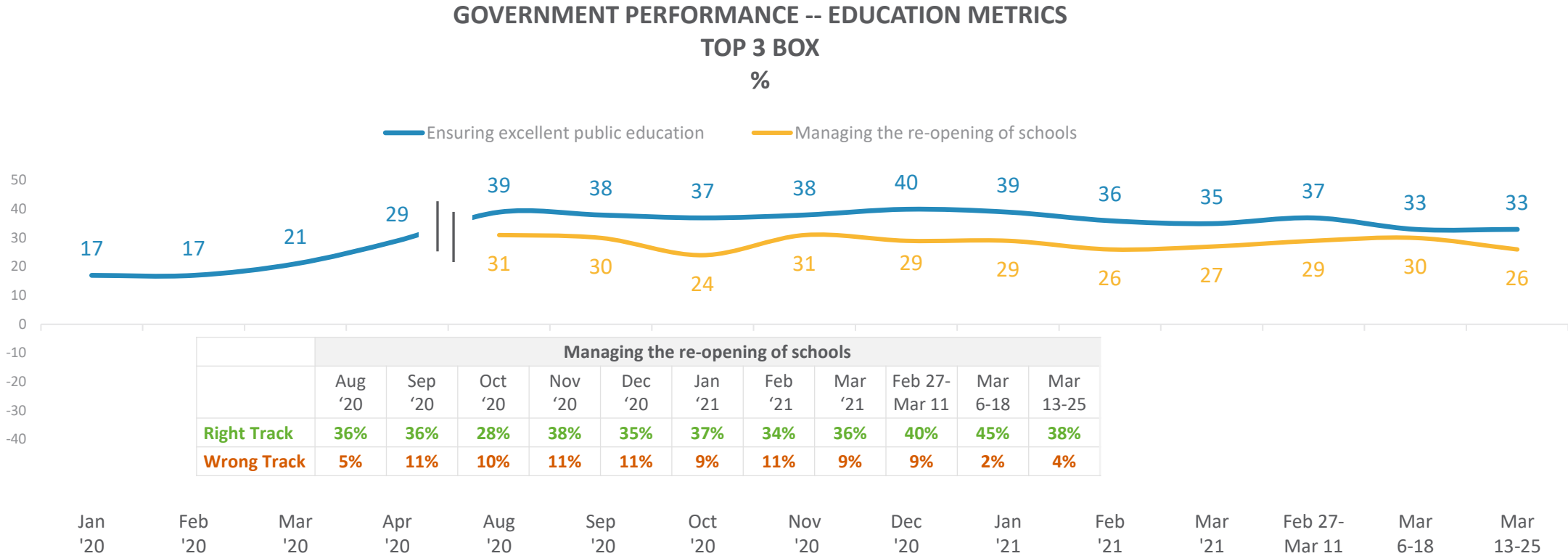
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

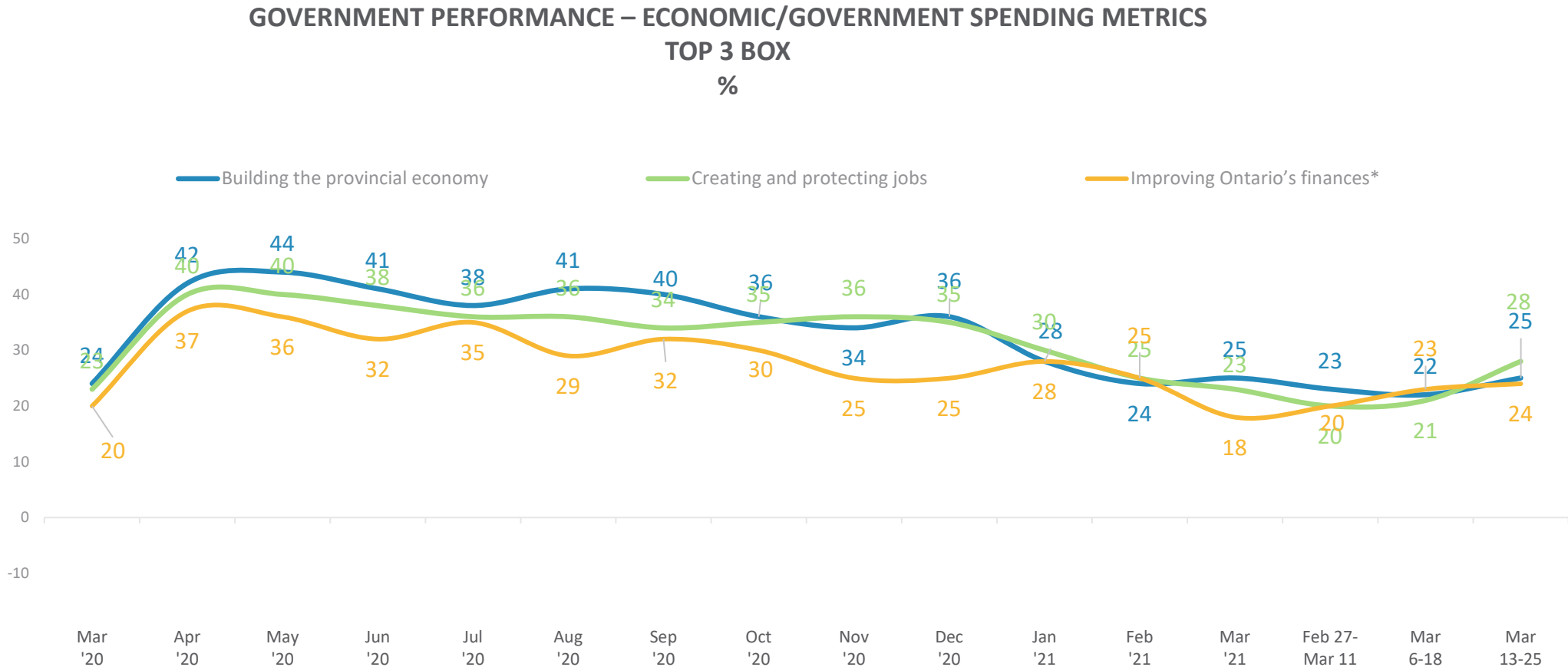


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ and ‘managing the re-opening to the schools’ remain stable.



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?
Bases vary

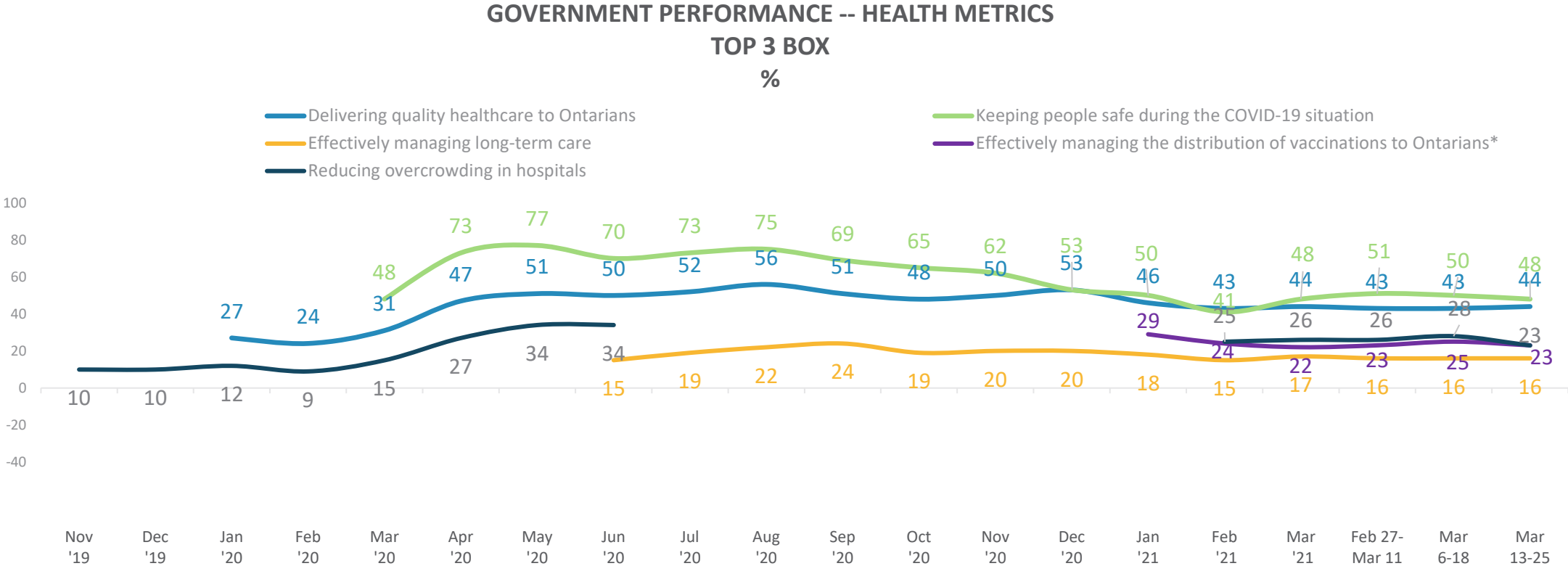
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘creating/protecting jobs’ increased this past week.



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?

*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