

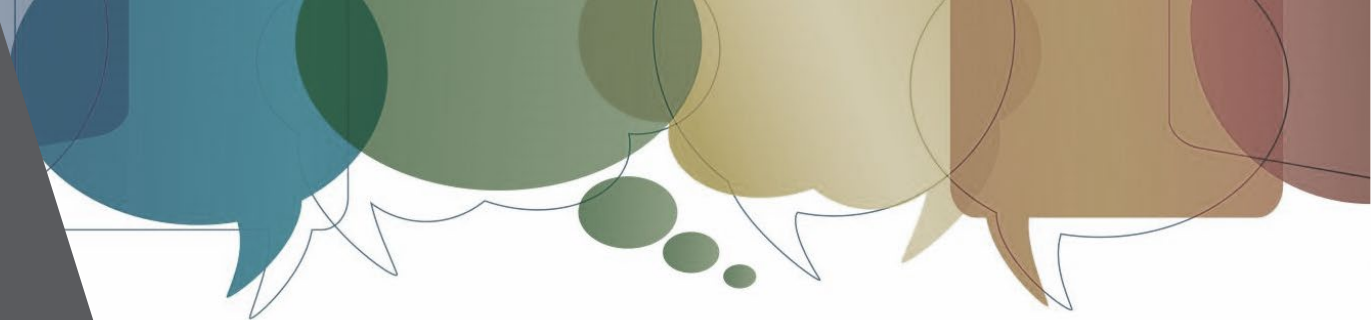


THE
**STRATEGIC
COUNSEL** 25

TORONTO | OTTAWA | CALGARY

www.thestrategiccounsel.com

EXPERIENCE • PASSION • CREATIVITY
CUSTOM SOLUTIONS FOR COMPLEX ISSUES



PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #75

CABINET OFFICE

April 1st 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores dropped this week to 60%. Most of this softening is due to a drop in 'somewhat on the right track'.

Softer 'right track' scores are due to men, those earning <\$40k, City of Toronto residents, rural residents, those born in Canada and those who identify as non-minority.

2 There has been a gradual erosion in the ratings of the government's handling of the second/third waves: in early Nov'20, 51% said 'excellent/good'; now only 31% express this view.

Now there are more people who give 'negative' ratings versus 'positive' ratings on the government's performance in managing the second/third waves.

This may explain the drop in 'right track' scores.

3 As a priority, COVID-19 has increased from 60% to 64% in the latest wave (after declining for several weeks) probably reflecting the increasing infection cases.

4 Even prior to the announcement of the provincial shutdown, Ontarians were divided over whether the province should be shutdown.

However, in the week prior to the announcement, there appears to be shift in the mindset of Ontarians to support a province-wide shutdown. The preliminary results indicate that most Ontarians will not be 'angry' with the provincial shutdown. However, just over one-third say they would be angry with this order.

5 The government's performance for 'effectively managing long-term care' and 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccines' has improved over the past week.

The ratings on 'reducing overcrowding in hospitals' and 'keeping people safe during COVID-19 situation' have been slipping over the past several weeks.

6 Over the past week, trust measures on 'telling me about the COVID-19 situation' and 'government restrictions are measured and appropriate' dropped just prior to provincial shutdown announcement.

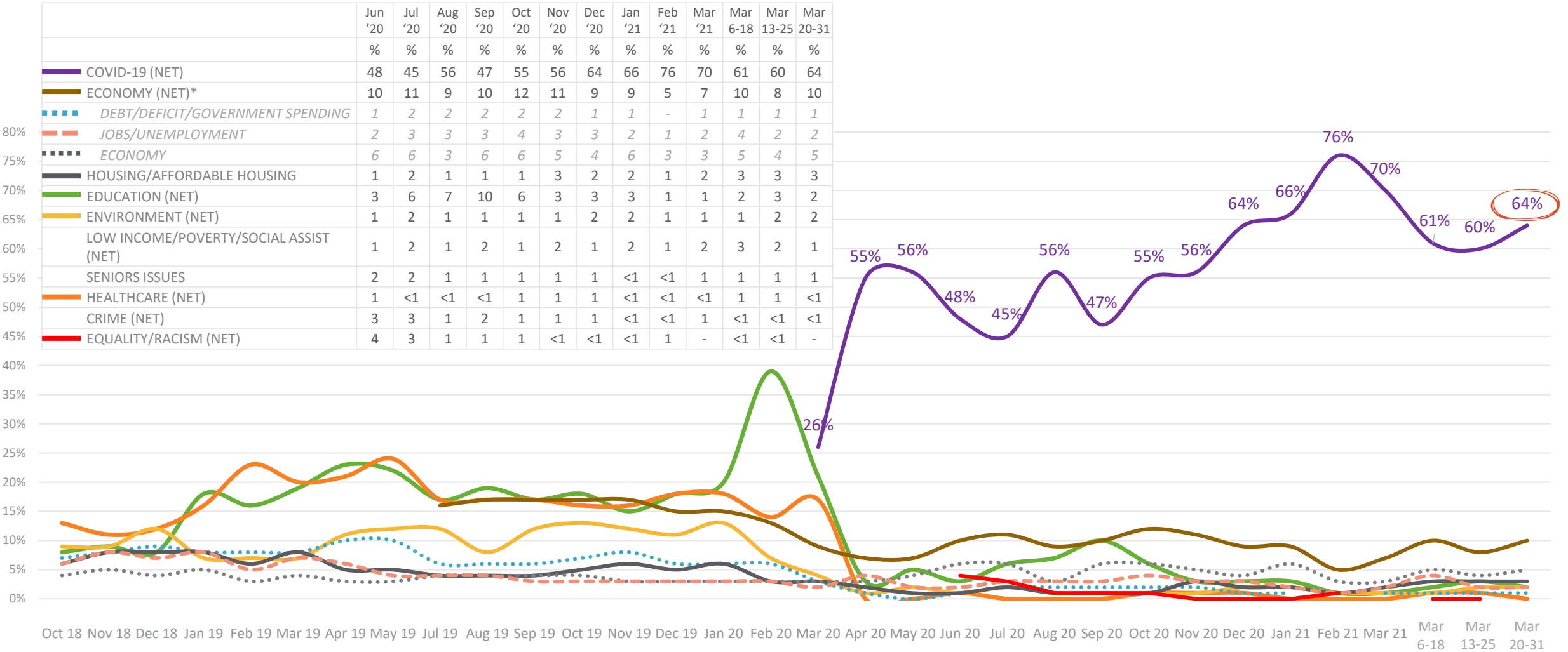
On both measures, they are at their lowest levels.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

In response to increasing infection cases, the ‘COVID-19’ priority has increased to 64% after dropping in previous weeks.



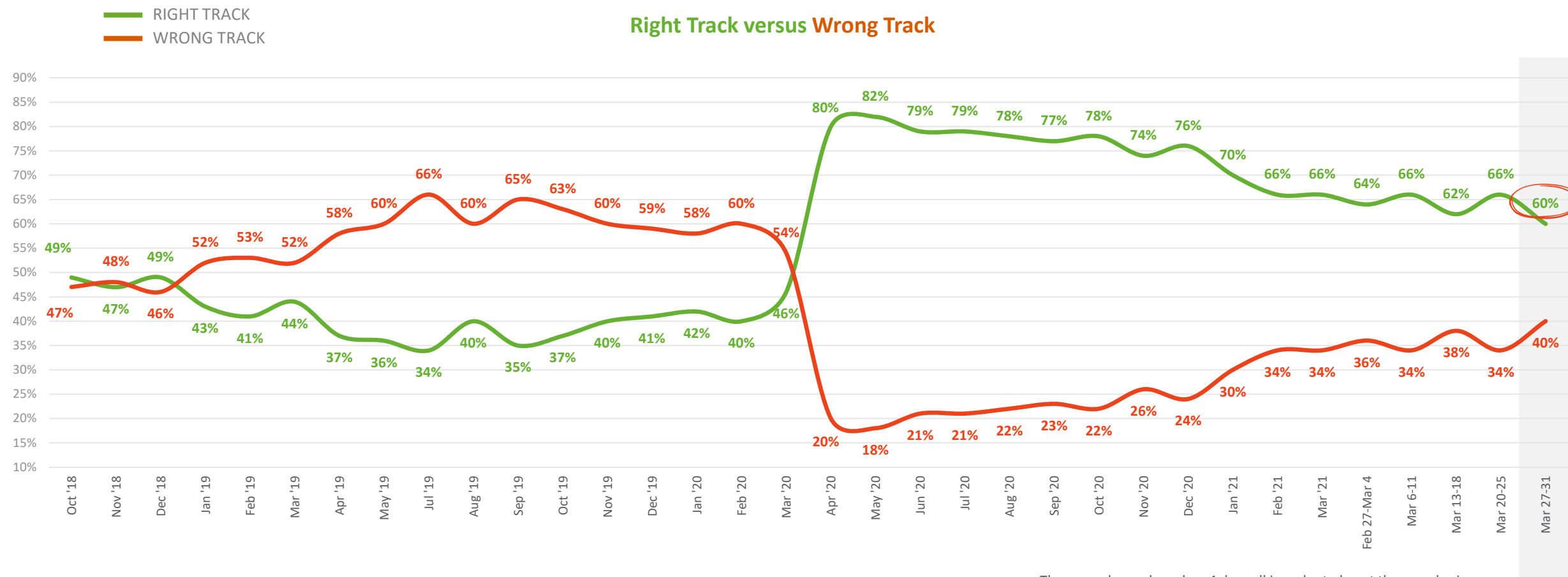
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



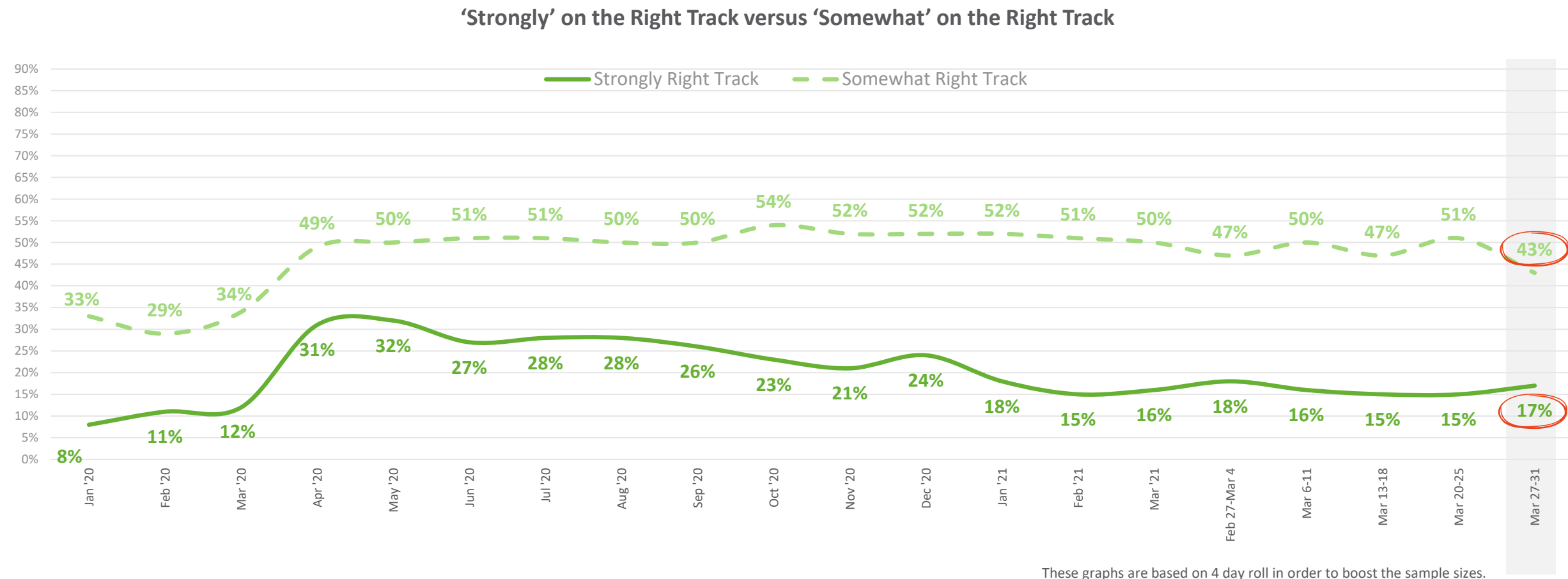
The government's 'right track' scores declined to 60% this past week.



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

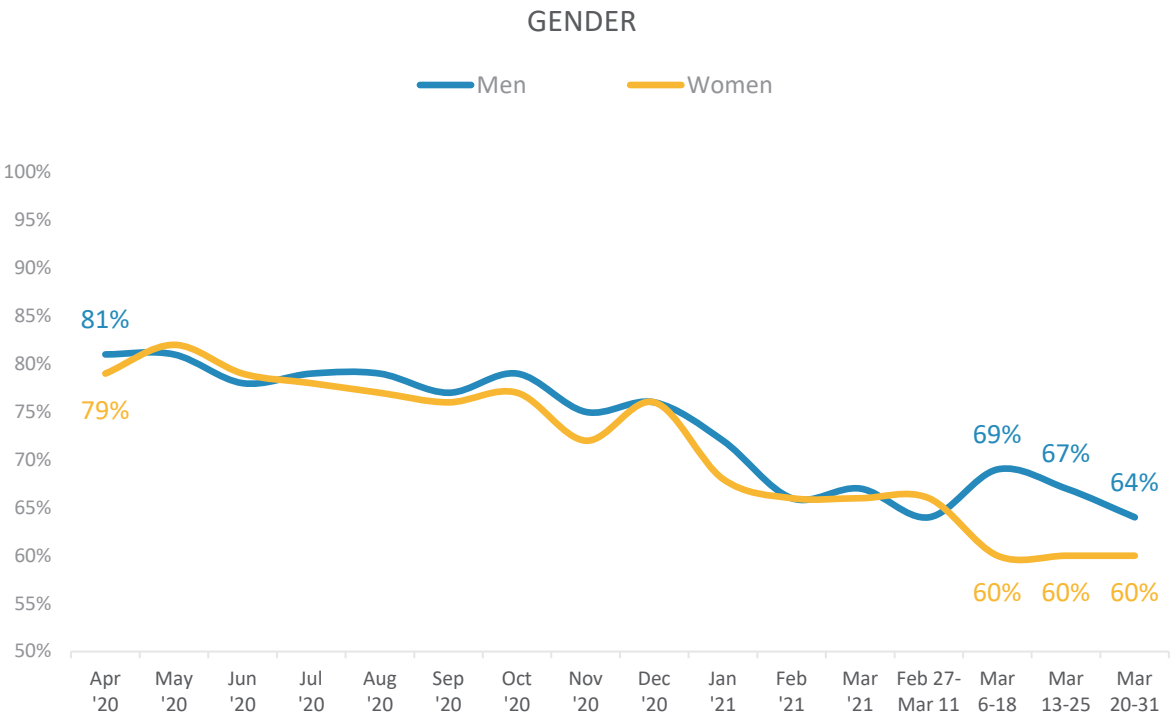
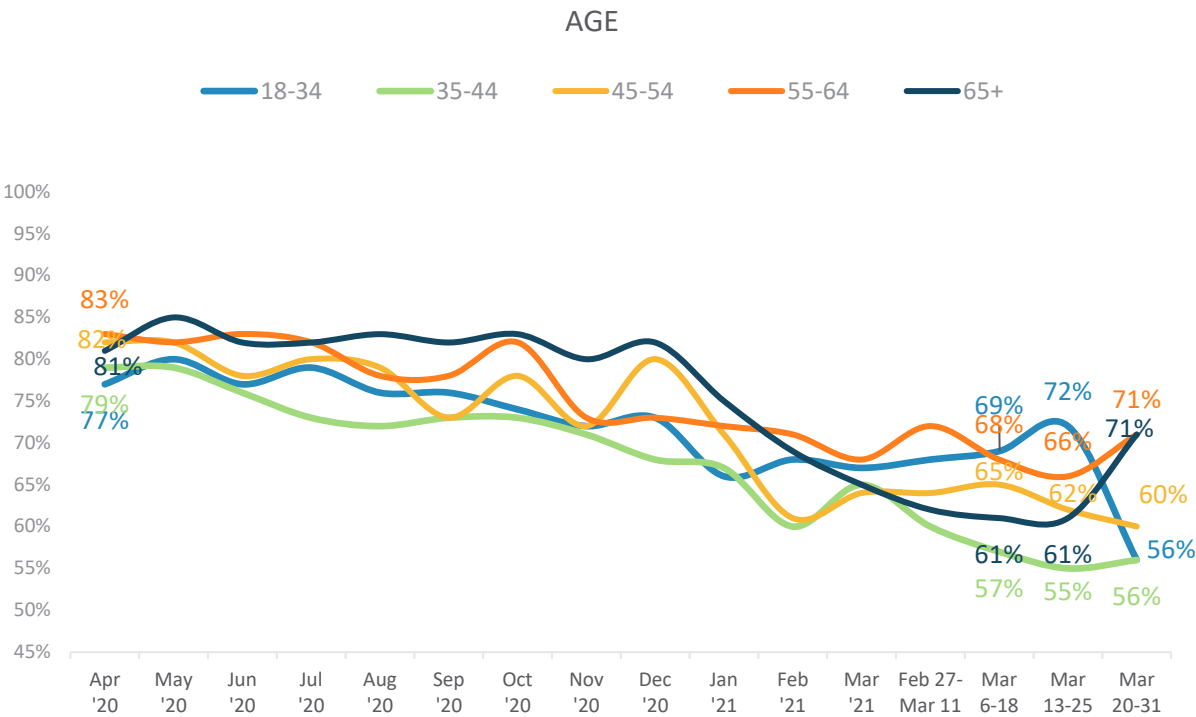
Most of the ‘right track’ softness is occurring among those who see government as ‘somewhat on the right track’. In contrast, ‘strongly on the right track’ scores continue to be stable at 17%.



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

Softer ‘right track’ scores has been occurring among men in recent weeks, while these scores among women were already lower.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

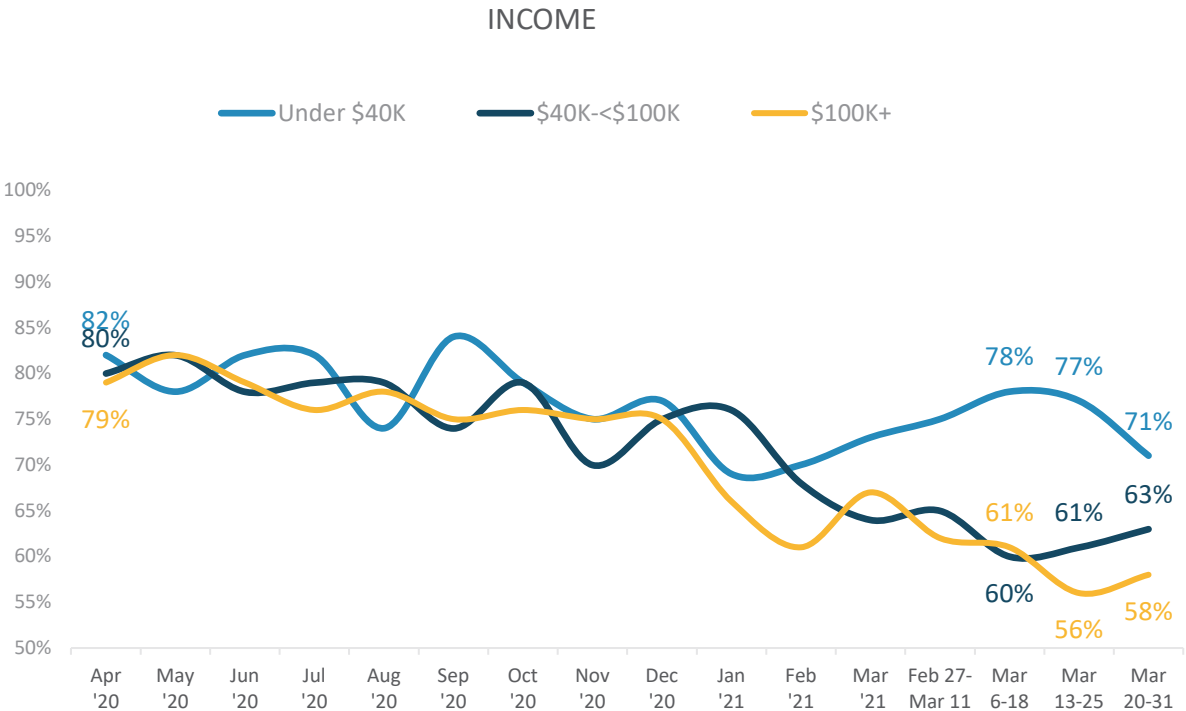
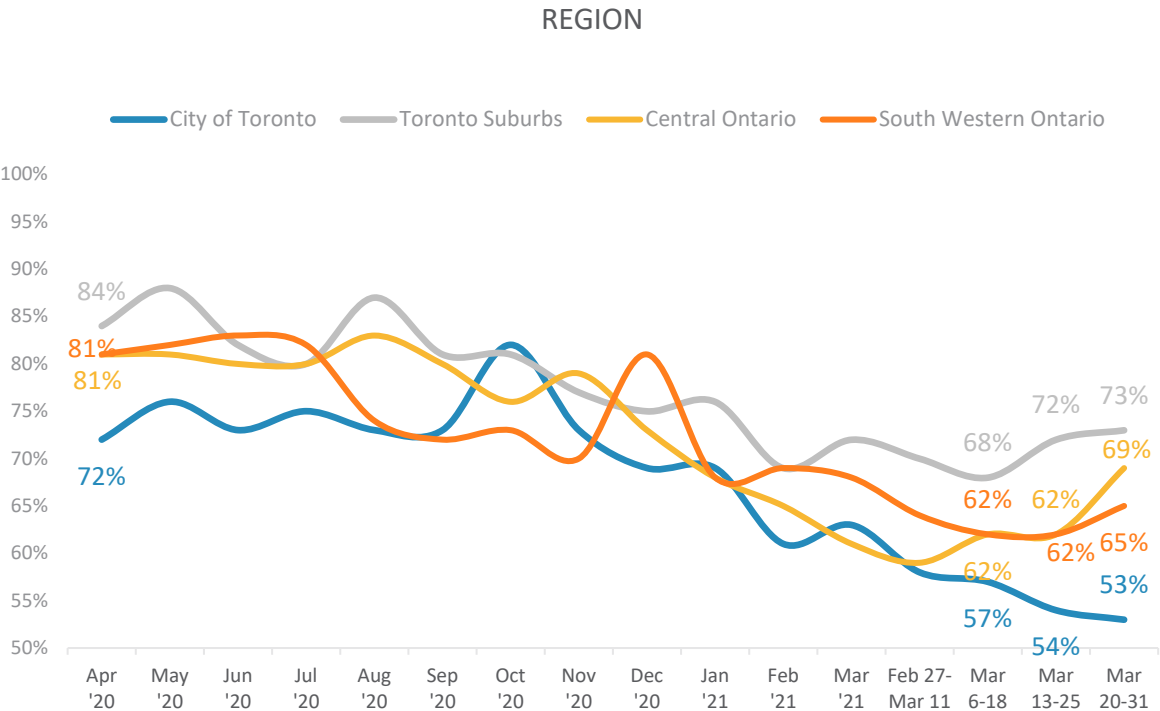


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 increasing in the Toronto suburbs, while dropping in the City of Toronto. These scores have declined among those with incomes <\$40k over the past week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



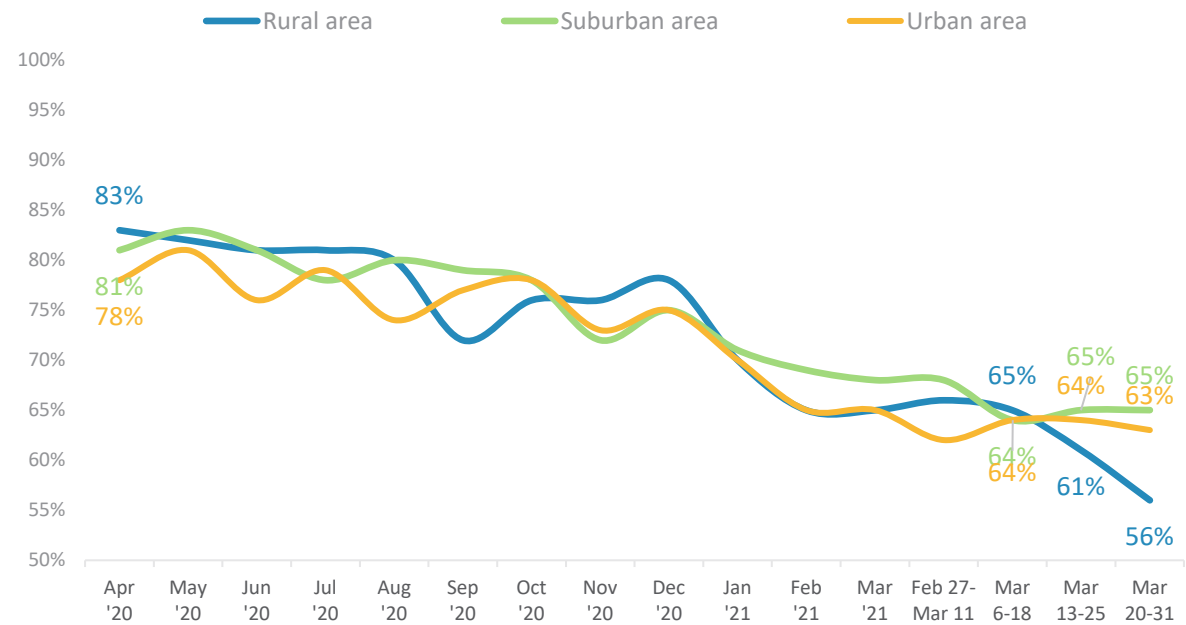
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

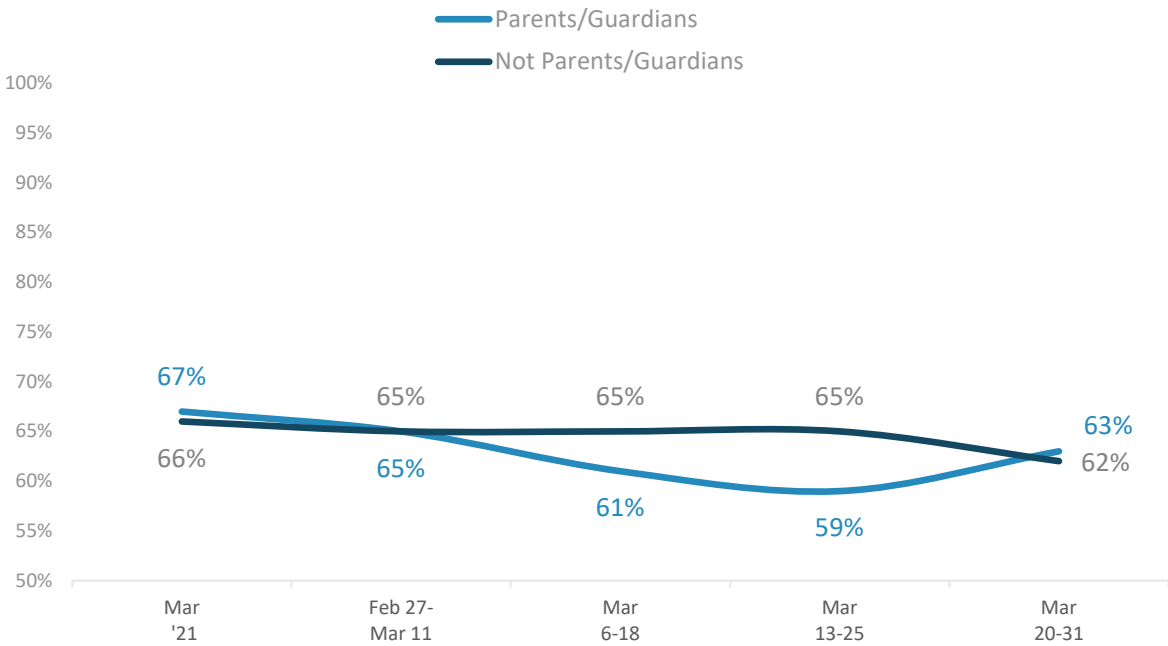
The ‘right track’ scores have been edging downward in recent weeks among rural residents, while remaining stable in suburban and urban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



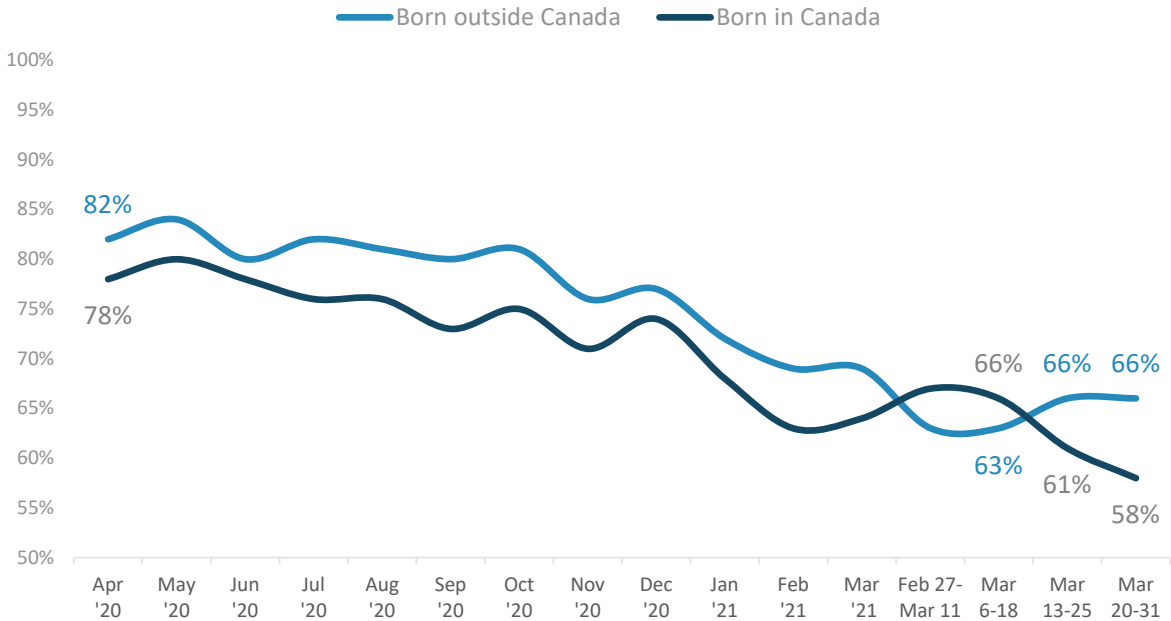
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

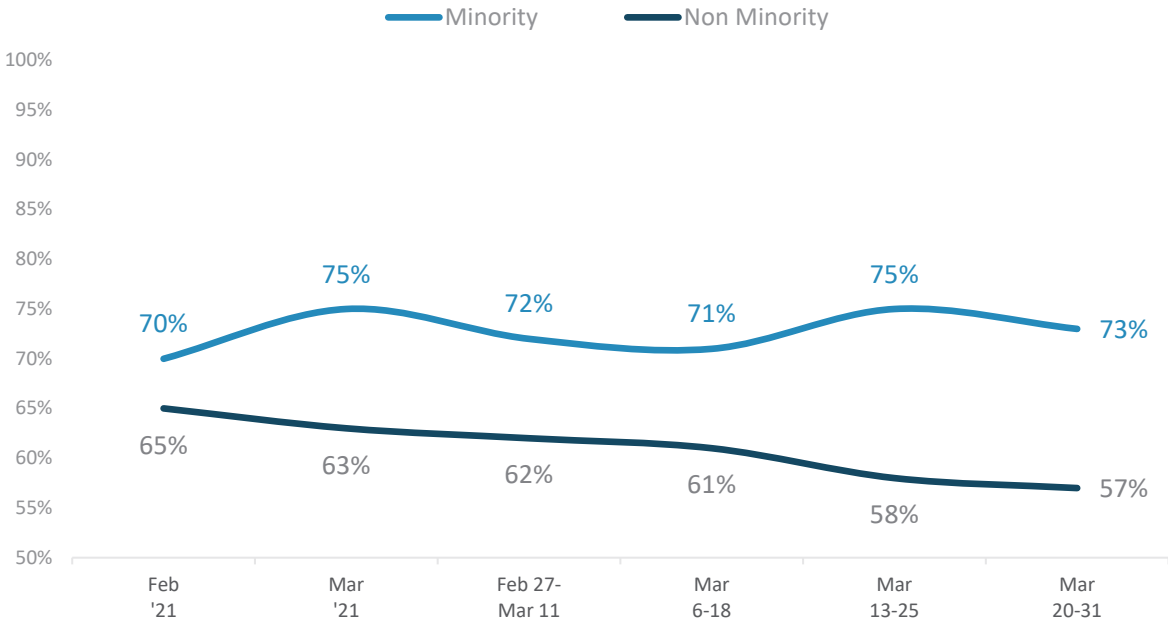
The ‘right track’ scores softened particularly among those born in Canada and those who identify as non-minority.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

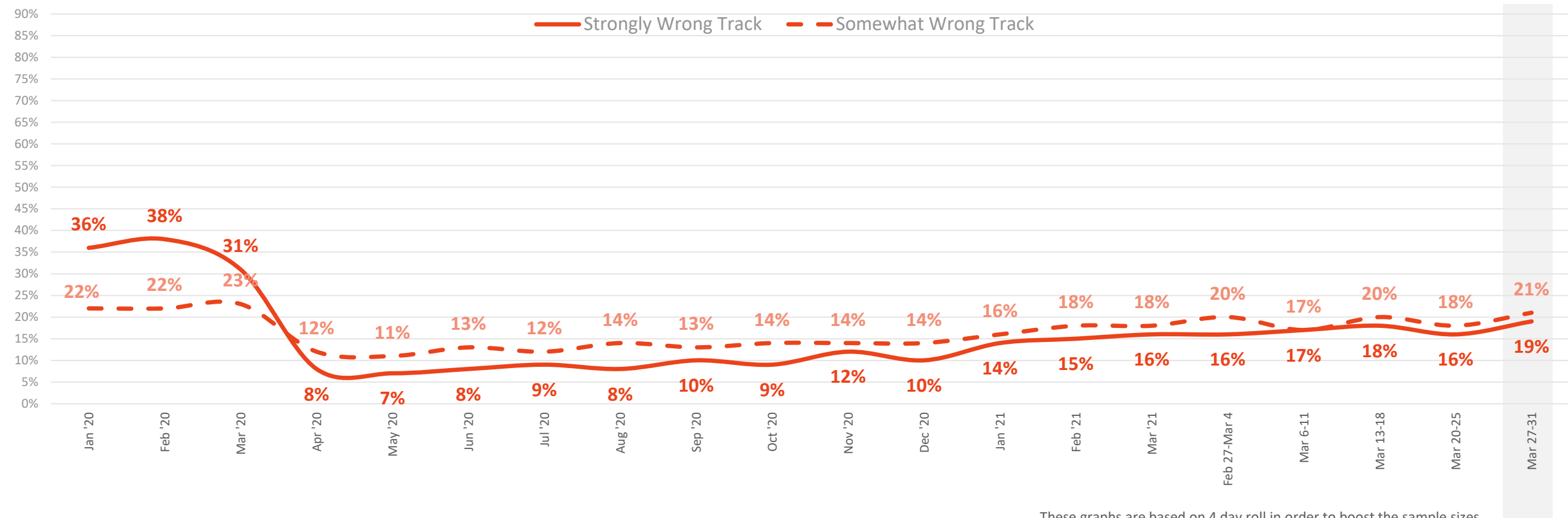


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 on the wrong track’ and ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ scores have been inching upwards.

‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track

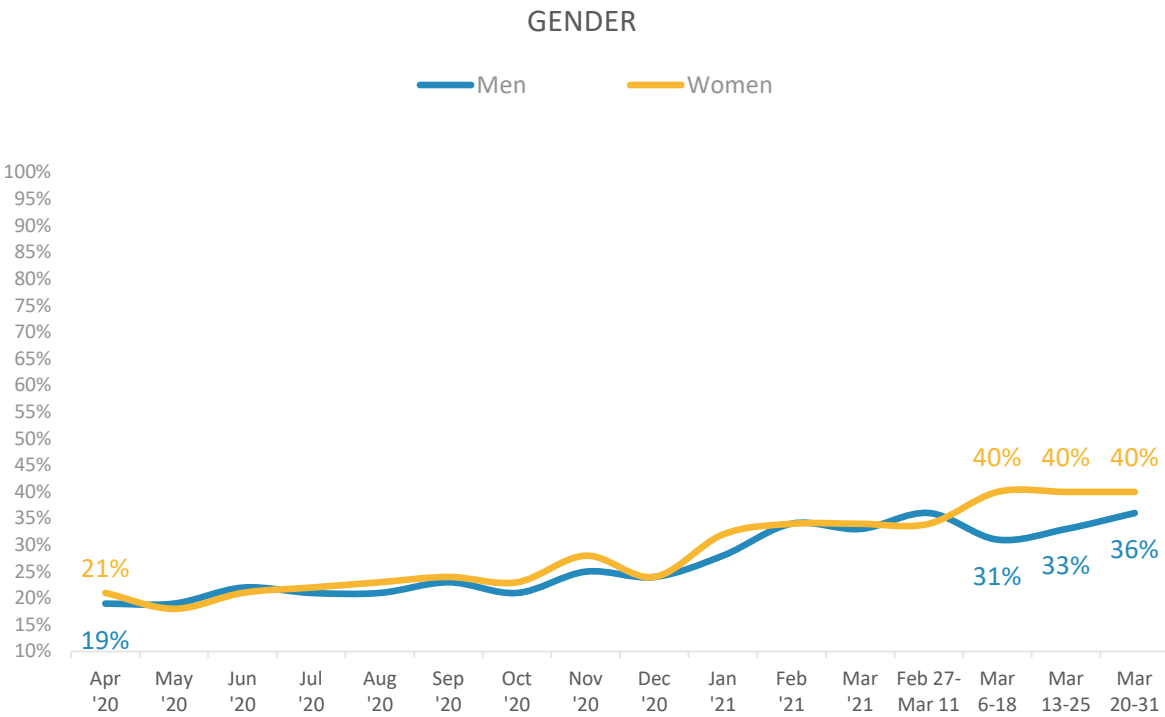
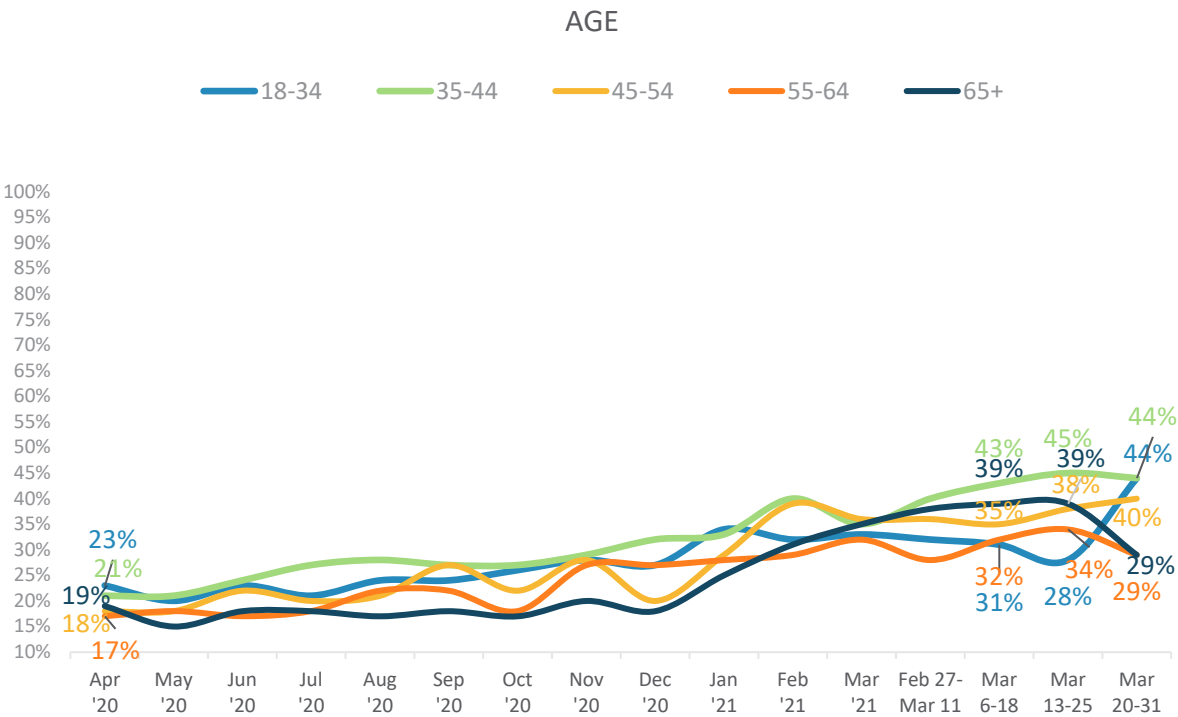


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The ‘wrong track’ scores continue to be higher among women compared to men, but the gap is closing.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

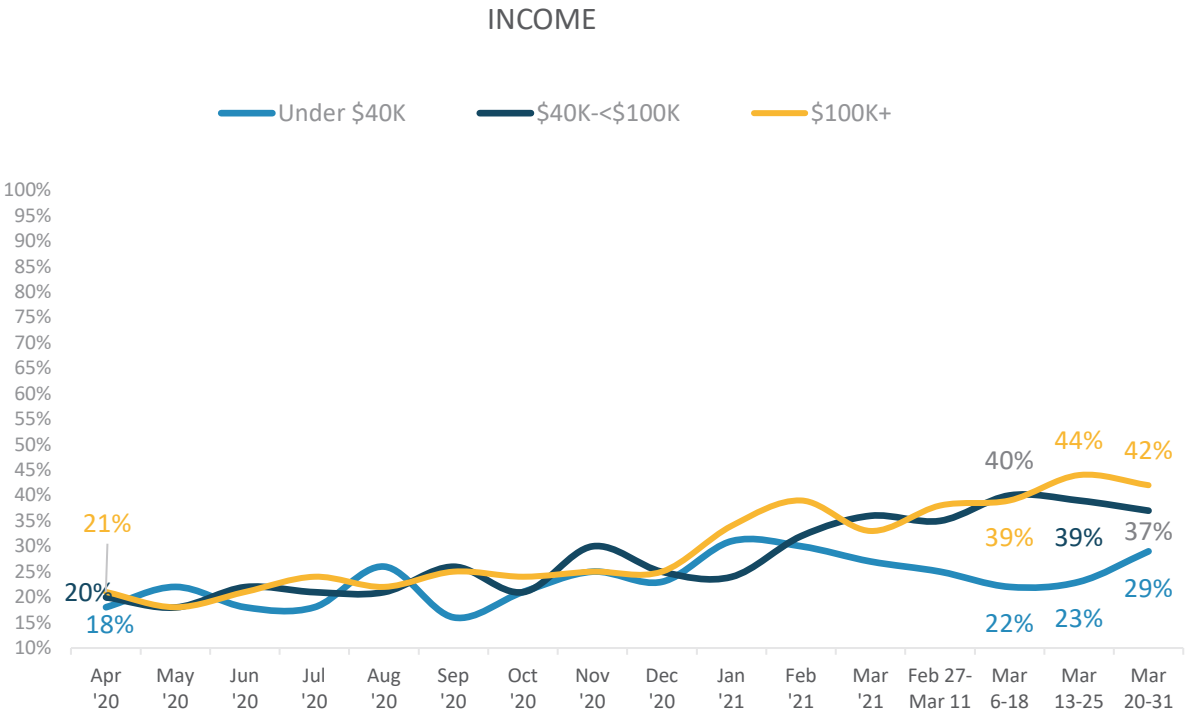
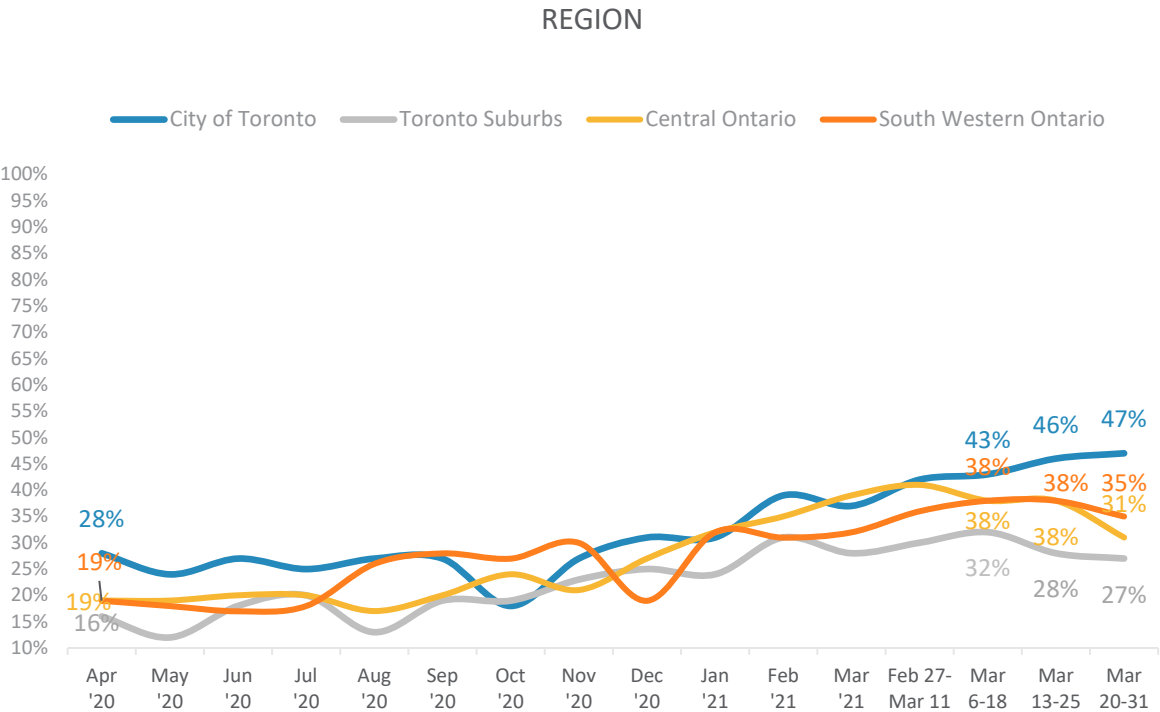


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 are highest among City of Toronto residents and those earning over \$100k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



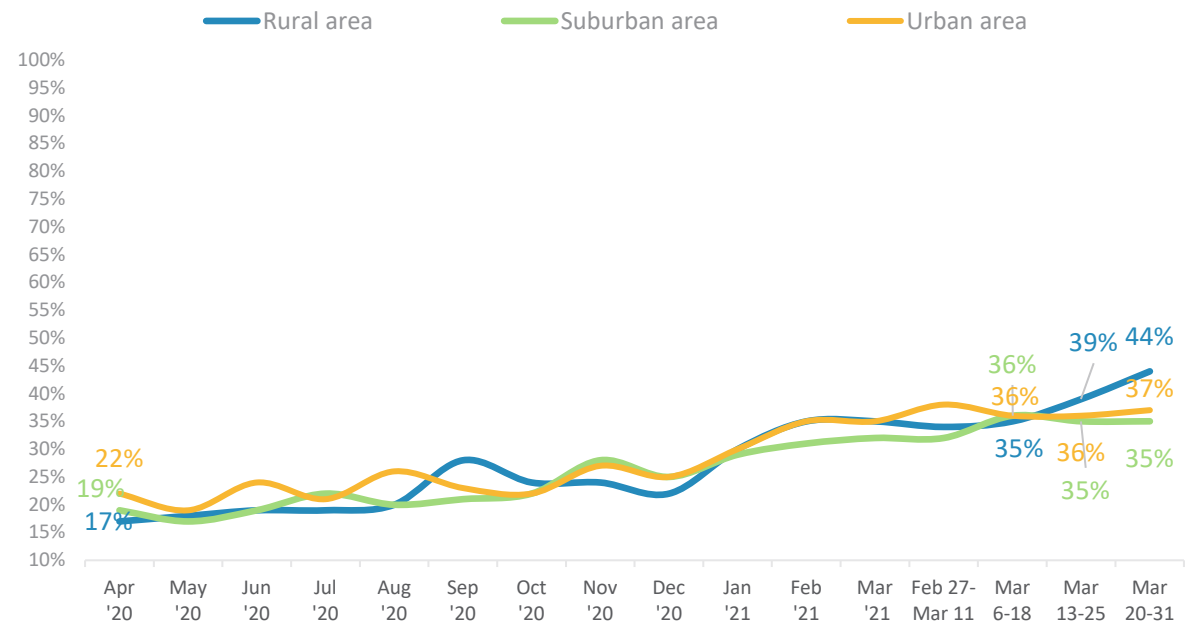
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

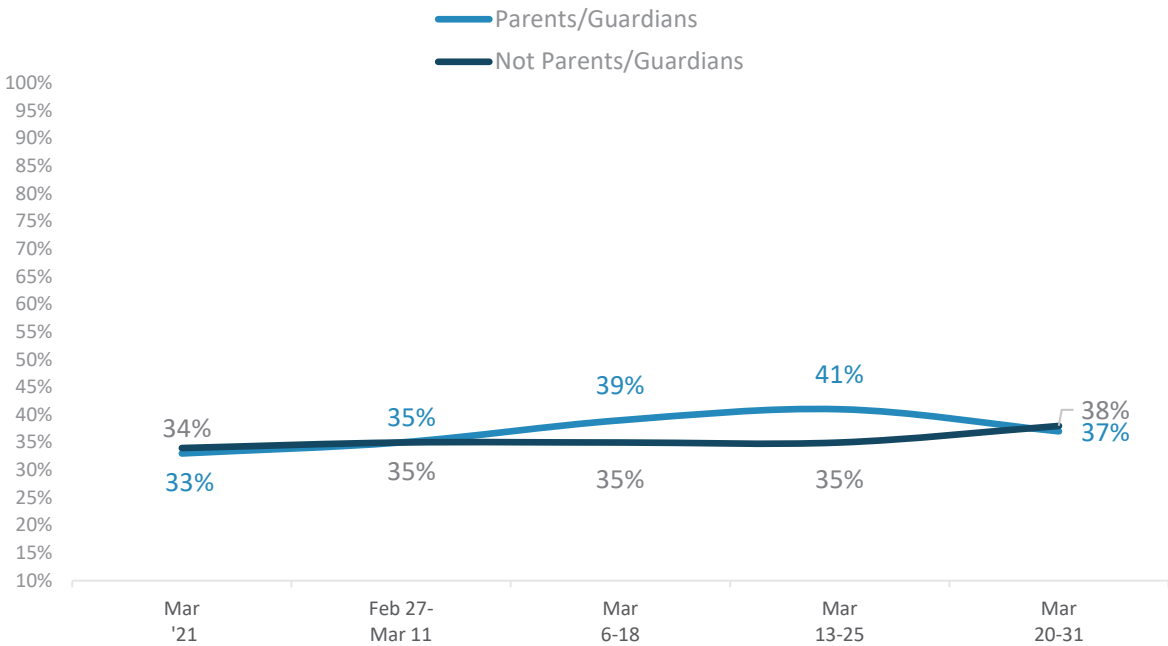
‘Wrong track’ scores have been edging upwards among rural residents in recent weeks.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

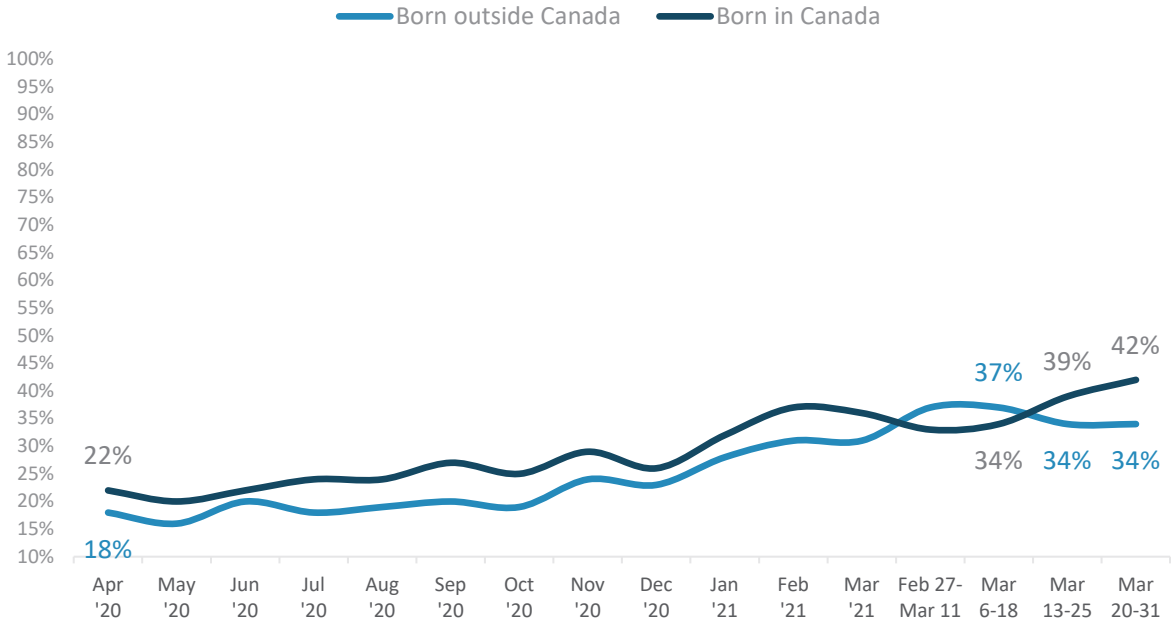


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

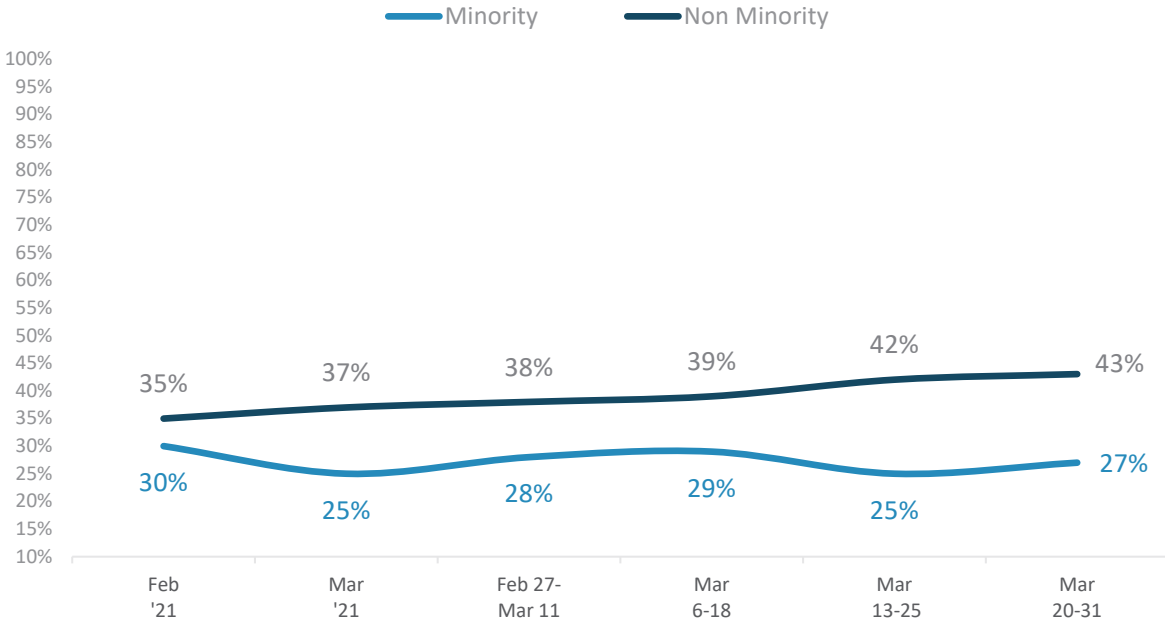
Those who identify as a non-minority continue to have higher ‘wrong track’ scores and is trending upwards.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

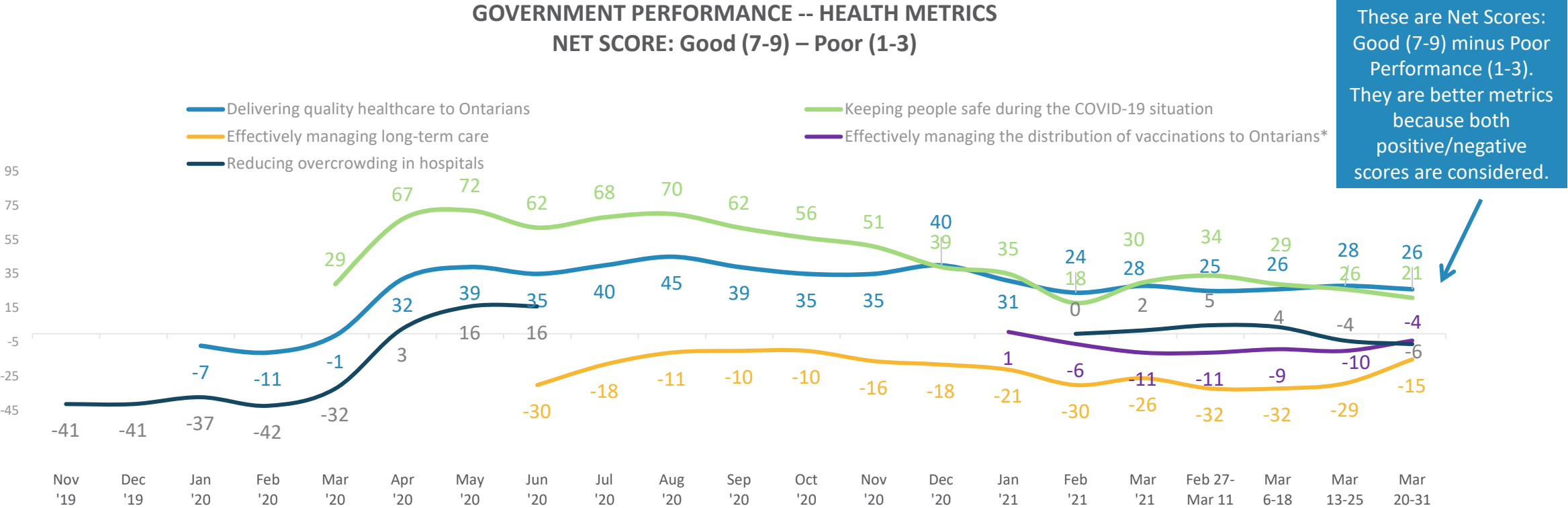


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

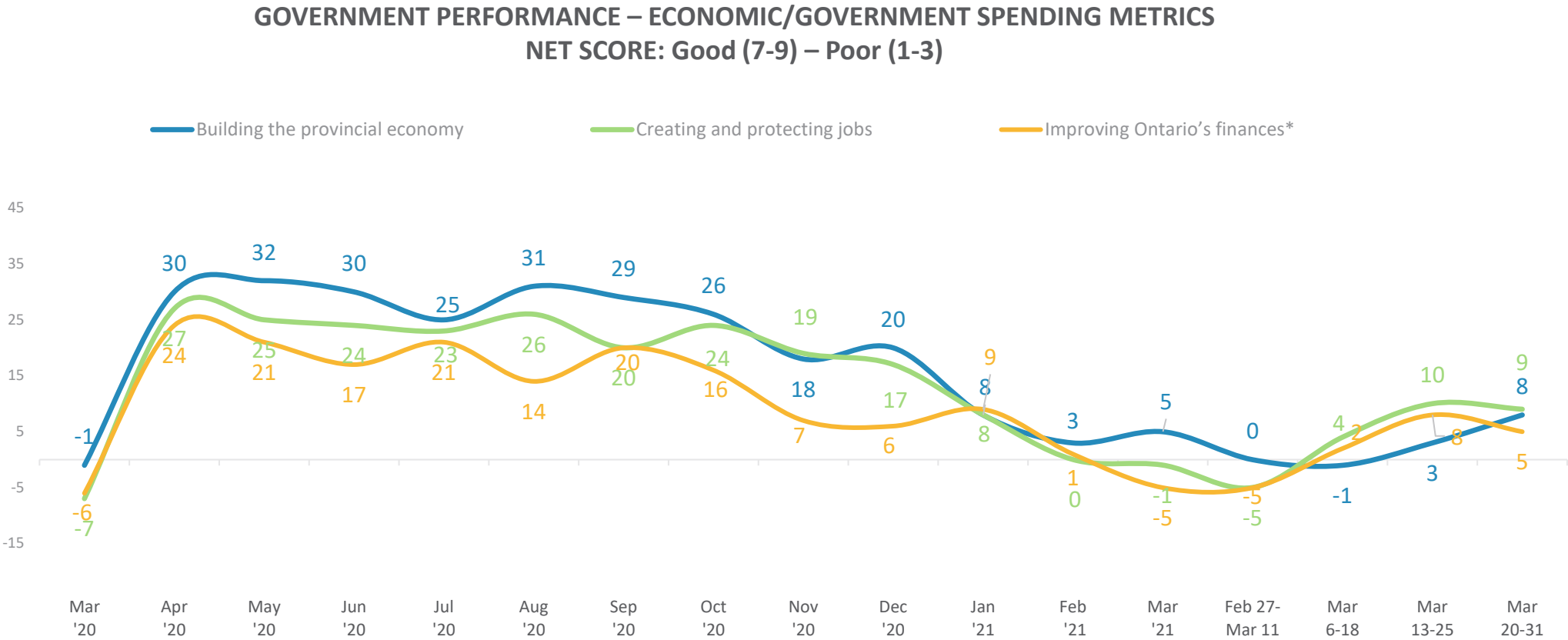


The government’s performance for ‘effectively managing long-term care’, and ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccines’ has improved over the past week. The ratings on ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ have been slipping over the past several weeks.



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

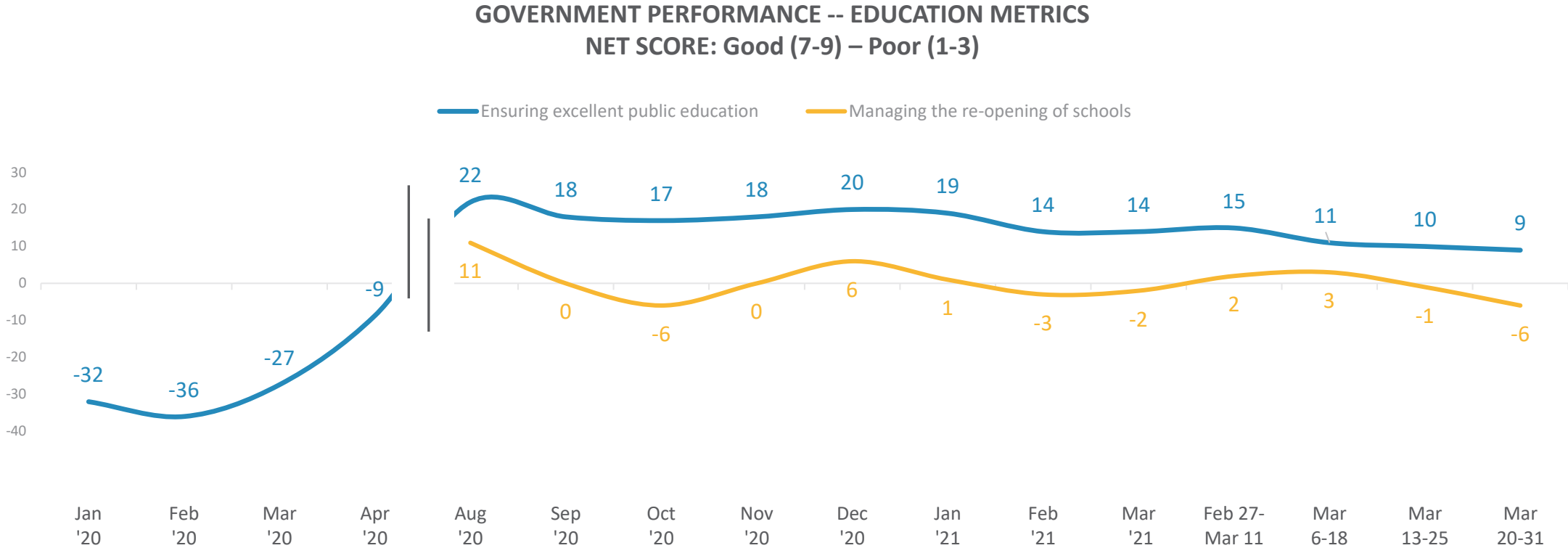
The government’s performance scores for ‘building the provincial economy’ has improved over the past two weeks. The other two economic metrics remain stable.



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?

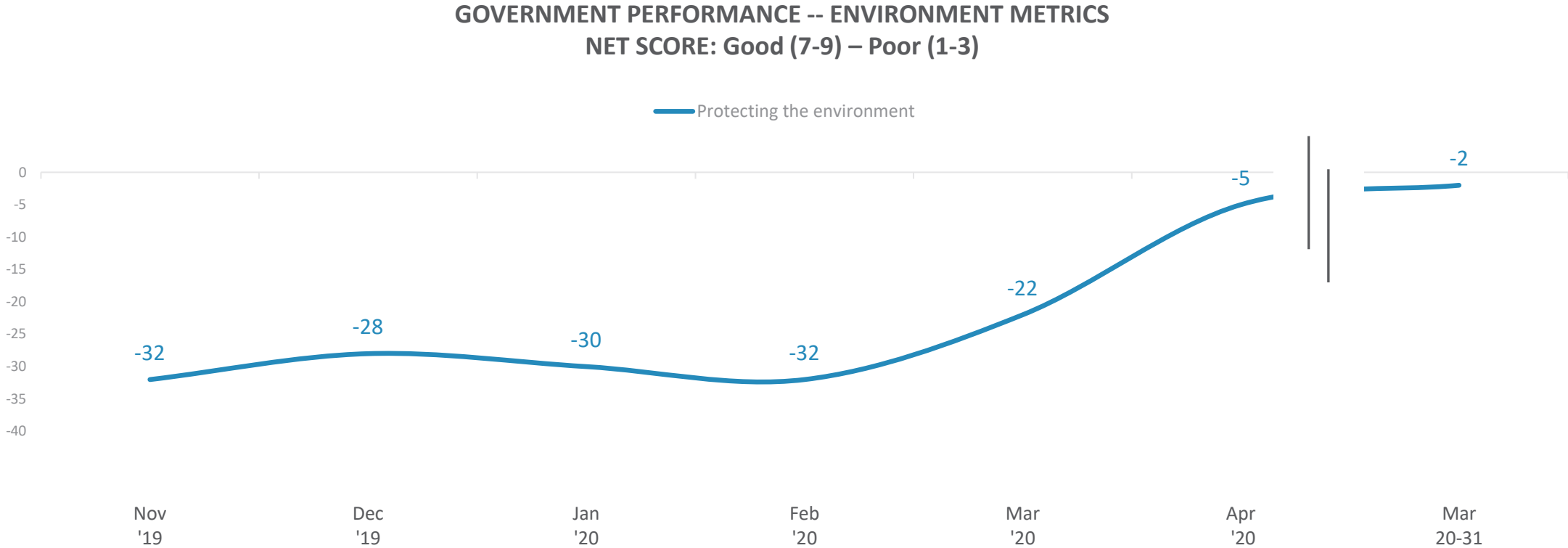
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

Perceptions toward the government’s performance on education metrics have been slipping in recent weeks.



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

The provincial government’s performance on ‘environmental protection’ is much higher compared to a year ago.



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

PERCEPTIONS OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE
IN HANDLING SECOND/THIRD
WAVE OF COVID-19



There has been a gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government’s handling of the second/third wave: in early November 51% said ‘excellent/good’; now only 31% express this view. For the first time, there are more people who give ‘negative’ ratings versus ‘positive’ ratings on the government’s performance.

	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Mar 27-31
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38

QCV-127B. Overall how has the Ontario Government done in the early handling of the third wave of COVID 19? Has it done an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job? (previous phrasing) Overall how has the Ontario Government done in handling the second wave of COVID 19? Has it done an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job? (Previous phrasing) Overall how good or poor a job has the Ontario Government done in handling the second wave of COVID 19? Has it done an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job?

Base: Total sample

DO ONTARIANS BELIEVE
THE PANDEMIC IS OVER?



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

The preliminary results indicate that Ontarians are now more optimistic that the worst of the pandemic is over compared to last fall. Results are comparable to the summer with the low number of infections.

I believe Ontario is over the worst of the pandemic

	Aug 18-20	Aug 22-27	Aug 29-Sep 3	Sep 5-10	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Mar 27-31
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	44	40	44	30	29	26	40
Strongly agree	14	21	27	14	8	10	12
Somewhat agree	30	19	17	15	21	16	28
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	3	9	5	8
Somewhat disagree	19	21	16	30	29	28	23
Strongly disagree	28	30	28	35	30	39	27
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	51	43	65	59	67	50

VIEWS ON THE
PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN
PRIOR TO THE
GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT



Over the past week, there appears to have been a shift in Ontarians’ mindset to favour a province-wide shutdown, although a plurality prefers the strategy of increasing restrictions in hotspot regions.

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 leave 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

Ontario’s Public Health officials have said that we are now in a third COVID 19 wave with increased numbers of cases in the province. Should the provincial government....

	Mar 27-31
n=	300
	%
Continue with its strategy of increasing restrictions in hotspot regions	40
Put the reopening on hold but leave things as they are	25
Go back to a full provincial lockdown	31
Don’t know/Not sure	3

QCV-193. Ontario’s Public Health officials have said that we are now in a third COVID 19 wave with increased numbers of cases in the province. Should the provincial government consider another provincial shutdown or should it continue with its strategy of increasing restrictions in hotspot regions? (previous phrasing) 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?

Base: Total sample

The early results indicate that Ontarians were divided on the imposition of a provincial shutdown just prior to the announcement of the province wide shutdown.

	Mar 27-31
n=	300
	%
Some people say the province should act quickly and re-impose a lockdown rather than relying on people and businesses to follow the public health measures more closely.	52
Other people say that even though a third COVID-19 wave has arrived and there are increased variants the province should not impose further lockdowns given the COVID vaccination effort, mental health and COVID “lockdown fatigue”.	46
Don’t know	2

QCV201. There has been some discussion about how the province should respond to the third wave of COVID 19 and the increasing incidence of variants. Thinking of these two-point of view, which one best reflects your own view?

Base: Total sample

The initial findings suggest that Ontarians were divided on the idea that a third provincial shutdown should occur.

The province should order a third wave provincial shutdown

	Mar 27-31
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	47
Strongly agree	25
Somewhat agree	23
Neither agree nor disagree	7
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	28
TOTAL DISAGREE	43

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

Base: Total sample

The preliminary results indicate that most Ontarians will not be ‘angry’ with the provincial shutdown. However, just over one-third say they would be angry with this order.

I would be angry if the province ordered a third provincial shutdown.

	Mar 27-31
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	35
Strongly agree	23
Somewhat agree	13
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	20
Strongly disagree	39
TOTAL DISAGREE	59

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

Base: Total sample

The early finding indicate that Ontarians think that province should be focused on public health guidance, not a third shutdown.

The province should focus on getting people and businesses to follow the health measures more vigilantly rather than order a new province wide lockdown

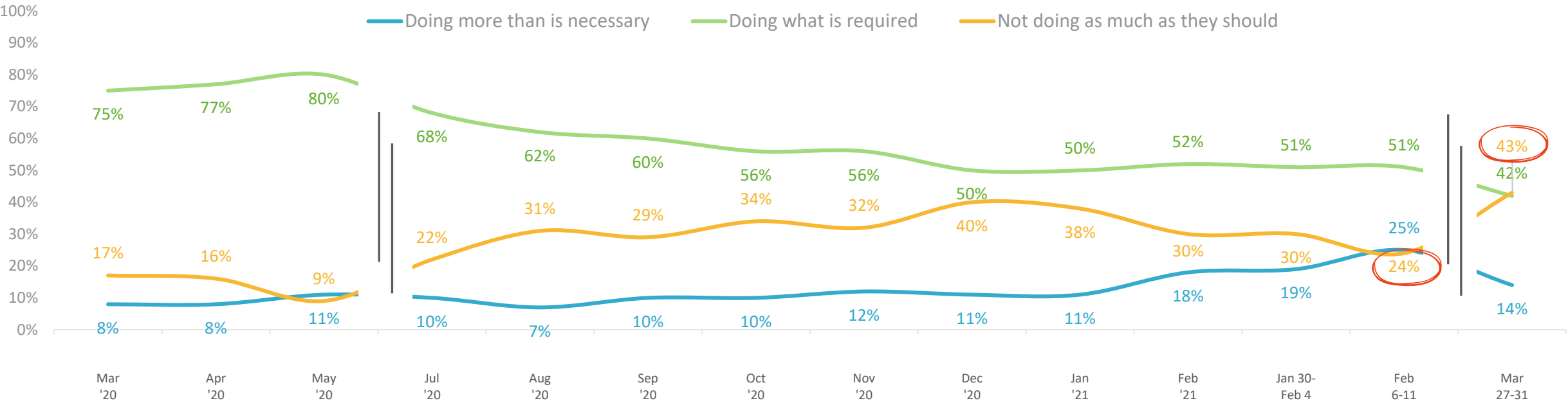
	Mar 27-31
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	66
Strongly agree	42
Somewhat agree	24
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	25

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

Base: Total sample

Compared to early February, there was a large increase in the proportion of Ontarians who think the government is not doing enough to reduce the spread of the virus.

	Doing what is required															Not doing as much as they should														
	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Mar 27-31	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Mar 27-31
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	58%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%	34%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	20%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%	58%



QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring a second state of emergency and imposing a stay at home order until the middle of February, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring a second state of emergency and a stronger stay at home order until the middle of February, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, shutting down the province for several weeks, and keeping kids out of school, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, gradually reopening the province, and planning for the return to school in the fall, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including issuing a Declaration of Emergency, ordering non-essential businesses to close, advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ... (READ LIST. RANDOMIZE ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.) (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ...

SUPPORT FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN



A slim majority of 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	Mar 27-31
n=	300	300
	%	%
Outdoor sports like golf	66	56
Outdoor exercise classes	64	56
Hair salons and barbers	-	55
Outdoor restaurant dining	62	52
Outdoor patios at bars and pubs	58	51
Outdoor Team sports	52	51

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 (50%) hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 27% 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	Mar 27-31
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	19
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	50
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	27
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5	5	4	6	3	4

A majority of Ontarians (50%) 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	Mar 27-31
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	-	5
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	50
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	44
Don't know/Not sure	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	1

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

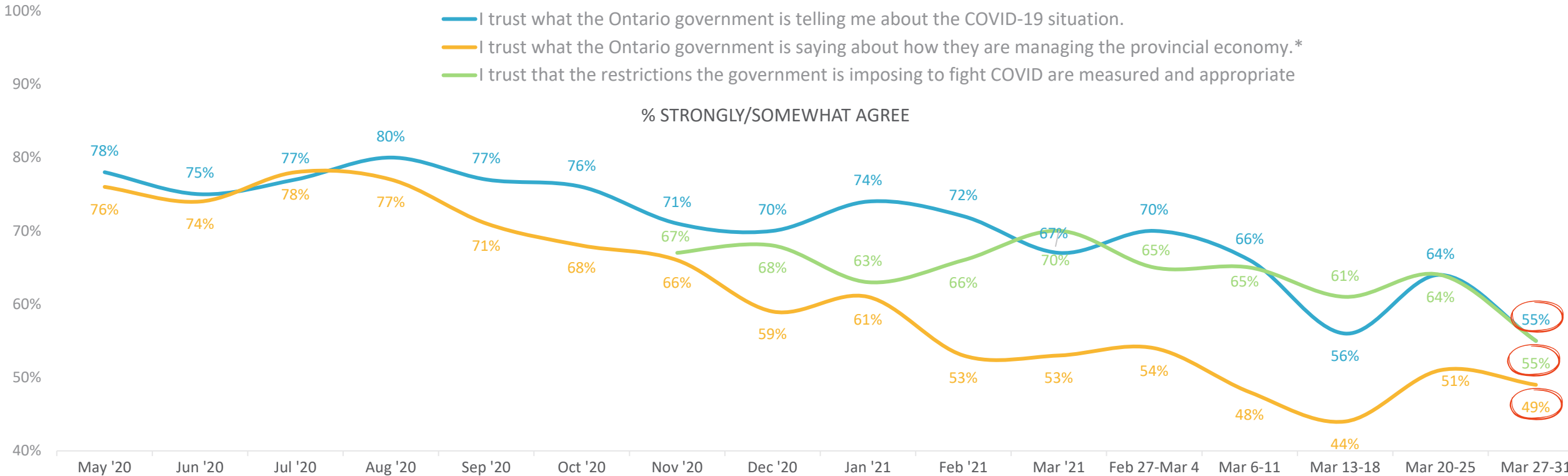
Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Over the past week, trust measures on ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘government restrictions are measured and appropriate’ dropped again just prior to provincial shutdown announcement. On both measures, they are at their lowest levels.



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

FATIGUE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES



The announcement of a provincial shutdown occurs when some Ontarians are fatiguing with the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing.

I am getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures, such as mask wearing and social distancing

	Aug 18-20	Aug 22-27	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Mar 27-31
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50
Don't know	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1

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

Base: Total sample, base varies

Despite this fatiguing, most Ontarians continue to say they need to continue following 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	Mar 27-31
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	93	90
Strongly agree	78	71
Somewhat agree	15	19
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2
Somewhat disagree	2	4
Strongly disagree	3	4
TOTAL DISAGREE	5	8

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

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



However, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago has almost doubled compared to January results.

% 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	Mar 27-31
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	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

There has been drop 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	Mar 27-31
n=	varies																
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24	26	28	20	27	21
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8	14	8
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12	13	14
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11	7	10	7	11	12
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18	20	27
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54	37	38
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57	72	58	65

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

Base: Total sample

One-third of Ontarians don't think they will become seriously ill if they contract the virus.

Even if I did get COVID-19, I don't think I would be seriously ill

	Apr '20	May '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Mar 27-31
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36	32
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12	16
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	20	14	21	22	20	24	16
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	8	11	9	7	9	9	7	12
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	12	13	16	13	14	17
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36	35
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51	51

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

Base: Total sample

In the week before the announcement of the third provincial shutdown, far fewer Ontarians 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	Mar 27-31
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63	76	54
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6	3	5	2
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5	19
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10	23
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42

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

Base: Total sample

Still, just under two-thirds ‘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	Mar 27-31
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15

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

Base: Total sample

VACCINE



Compared to late January, Ontarians continue to 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

*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	Mar 27-31
varies														
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34

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

COVID-19 VARIANTS



Many Ontarians continue to believe that the COVID-19 variants spread more easily. Some 21% 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	Mar 27-31
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
Spread more easily	63	62	67
Spread less easily	4	7	5
No difference	18	18	21
Don't know/Not sure	14	13	8

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

About 6-in-10 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	Mar 27-31
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37	34	31	47	39	36	39
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47	56	60	57
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	4	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, there has been a gradual decline in the belief that current restrictions are sufficient. There has been a corresponding increase that the government should do more.

	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should do more	23	27	32	35	27	31	33	40
Current restrictions are sufficient	73	67	62	58	66	60	62	55
Don't know/not sure	4	6	7	7	7	8	5	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 concerned about the impact of the new COVID-19 variants on children and families 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

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

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	Mar 27-31
varies			
%	%	%	%
66	66	82	79
47	40	59	57
20	26	23	22
3	8	4	10
11	13	5	6
19	12	6	3
30	25	11	9

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

Base: Total sample

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	Mar 27-31
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Municipal taxes, like property tax	71	70	68
The manufacturers who make the products	6	9	7
The business that sell products	5	4	4
Don't know/Not sure	18	17	21

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.

	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Continue to have the Blue Box recycling program operated and funded by municipal taxes	34	34	36
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	59
Don't know	4	5	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 are overwhelmingly support the idea that manufacturers should bear the cost of recycling of plastic products even if it means that products might cost them a bit more.

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

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	Mar 27-31
varies	
%	%
80	89
62	61
18	27
4	7
8	2
5	-
13	2

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

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	Mar 27-31
varies	
%	%
95	87
81	78
15	9
-	13
3	-
1	-
4	-

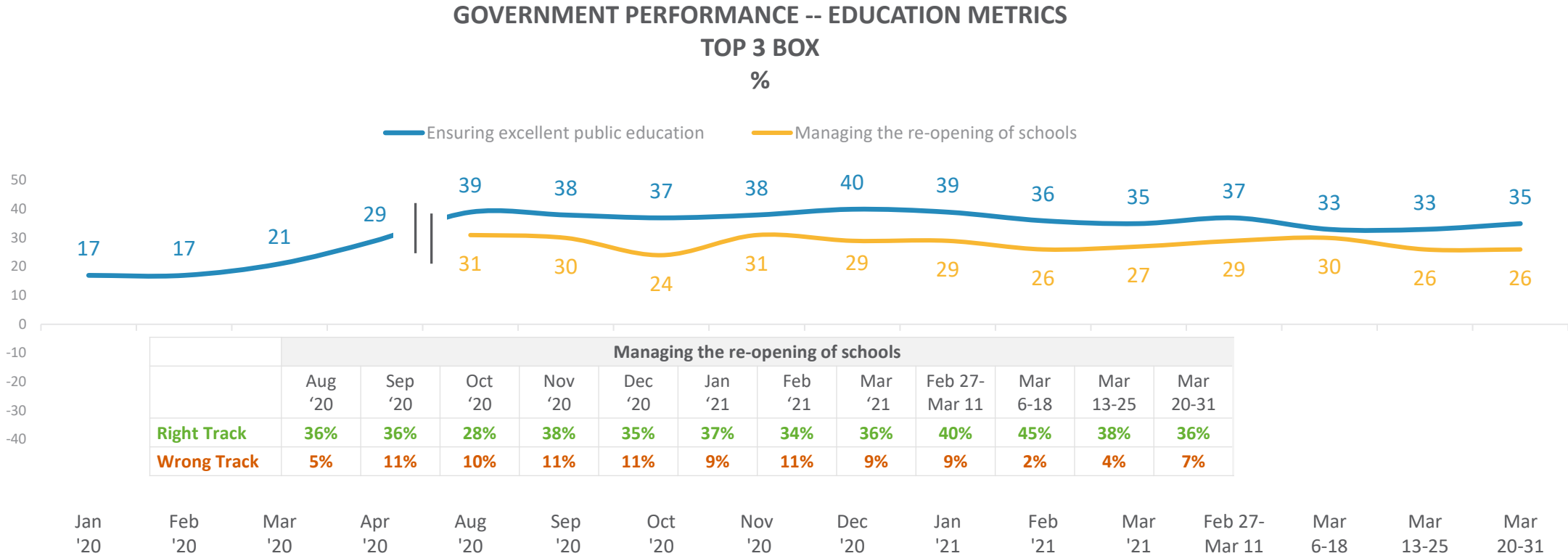
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

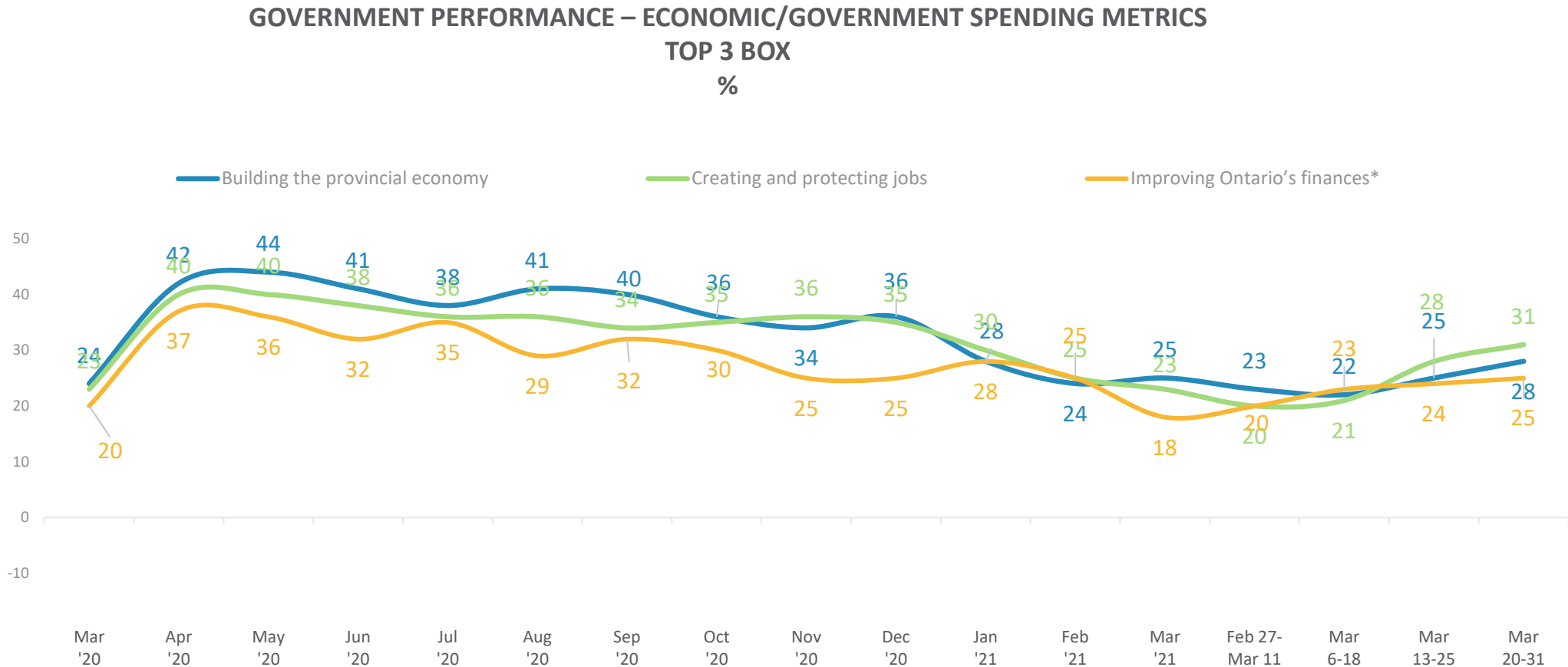


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ and ‘managing the re-opening to the schools’ remain stable.



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

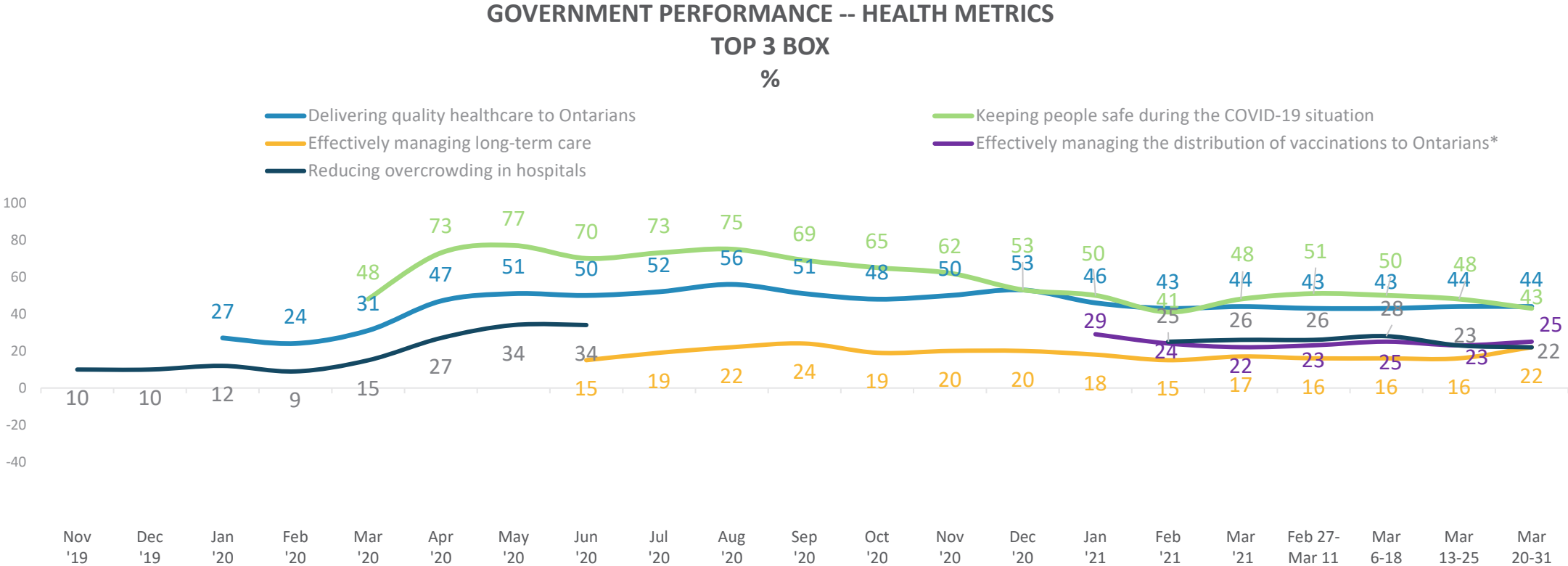
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘creating/protecting jobs’ has been trending upwards in recent weeks



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

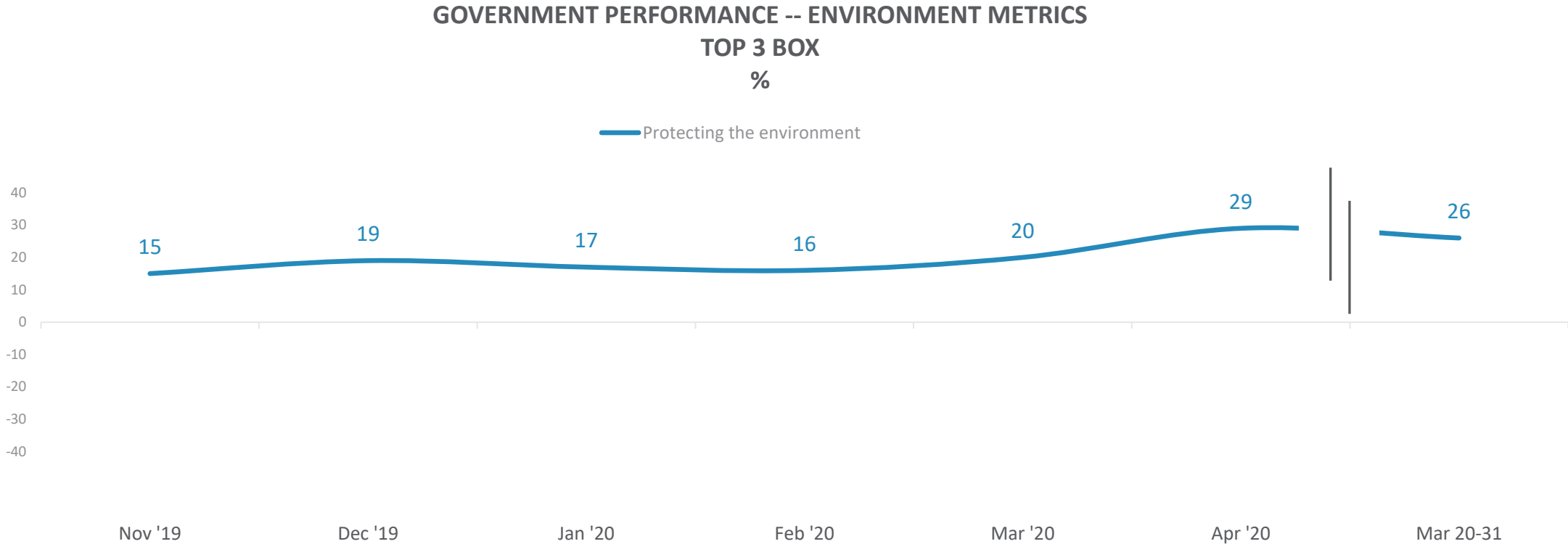
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has been trending downwards, while increasing for ‘effectively managing long-term care’.



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

Positive perceptions on the government’s performance on ‘protecting the environment’ is on par with April-19 scores, but higher compared to the ratings up to March’20.



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