

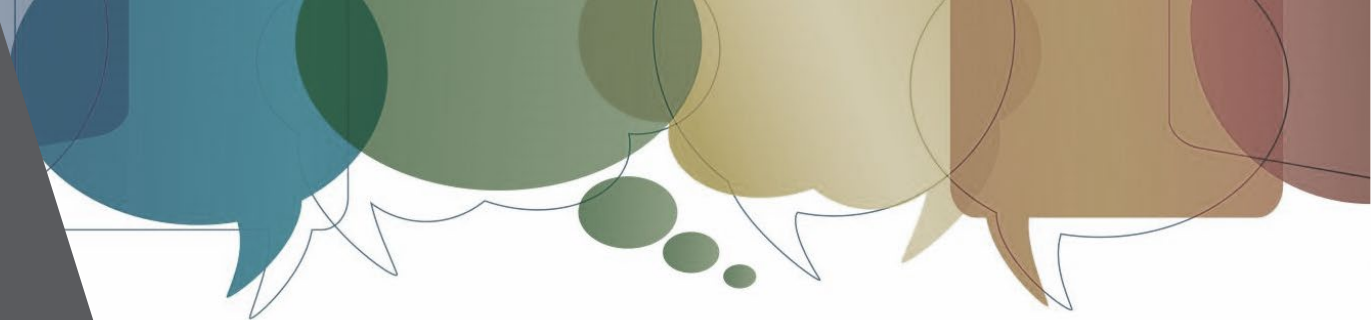


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #76

CABINET OFFICE

April 13th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores continue to trend down, to 54% this past week. Over the past two weeks, there has been a 12- point decline in 'right track'.

'Strongly on the right track' scores have also dropped and are now at 12%, from 17% the previous week.

This drop in 'right track' has occurred in most demographic sub-groups.

4 However, there has been a gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government's handling of the second/third wave, with an 8-point decline compared to a week ago. Now, twice as many people provide a 'negative' rating (45%) versus 'positive' rating (23%) on the government's performance.

This also may explain the recent drops in 'right track' scores.

2 In response to increasing infection cases and provincial shutdown, the 'COVID-19' priority has increased to 69% after dropping in previous weeks.

5 The second week in, a majority of Ontarians indicate they are not 'angry' with the provincial shutdown. However, just over one-third continue to be angry with this order.

The early results indicate that there remains a perception that this shutdown is unfair to small businesses and favours big retail stores like Costco and Walmart, with over three-quarters (77%) of Ontarians agreeing with this.

3 The government's performance score on 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' has declined 16-points. This may have caused a decline in 'right track' scores.

On a more positive front, its performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations to Ontarians' has continued to trend up for the fourth week and now has a positive net score. This likely results from the increase in the speed of the vaccine rollout.

6 Probably in response to the provincial shutdown measures, there have been increased levels of trust in government communications, particularly for 'telling me about the COVID-19 situation' and that 'the restrictions the government is imposing are measured and appropriate'.

Key Findings

The preliminary results also indicate that there is a level of fatigue with lockdowns among Ontarians, with 71% agreeing they are 'getting tired of lockdowns'.

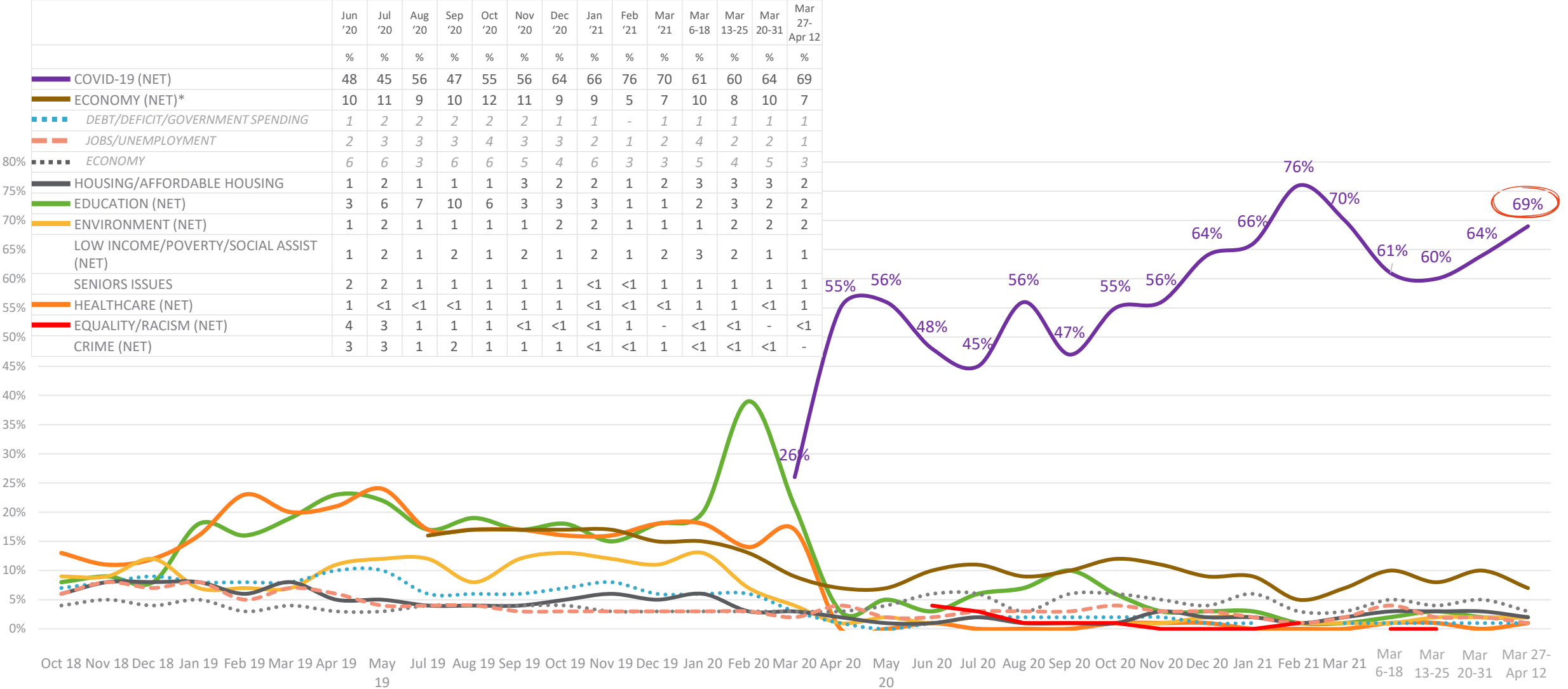
In addition, the latest provincial shutdown occurs when some Ontarians are also fatiguing with the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, with an increase of 14-points agreeing with this sentiment in a week.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

In response to increasing infection cases and the provincial shutdown, the 'COVID-19' priority has increased to 69% after dropping in previous weeks.

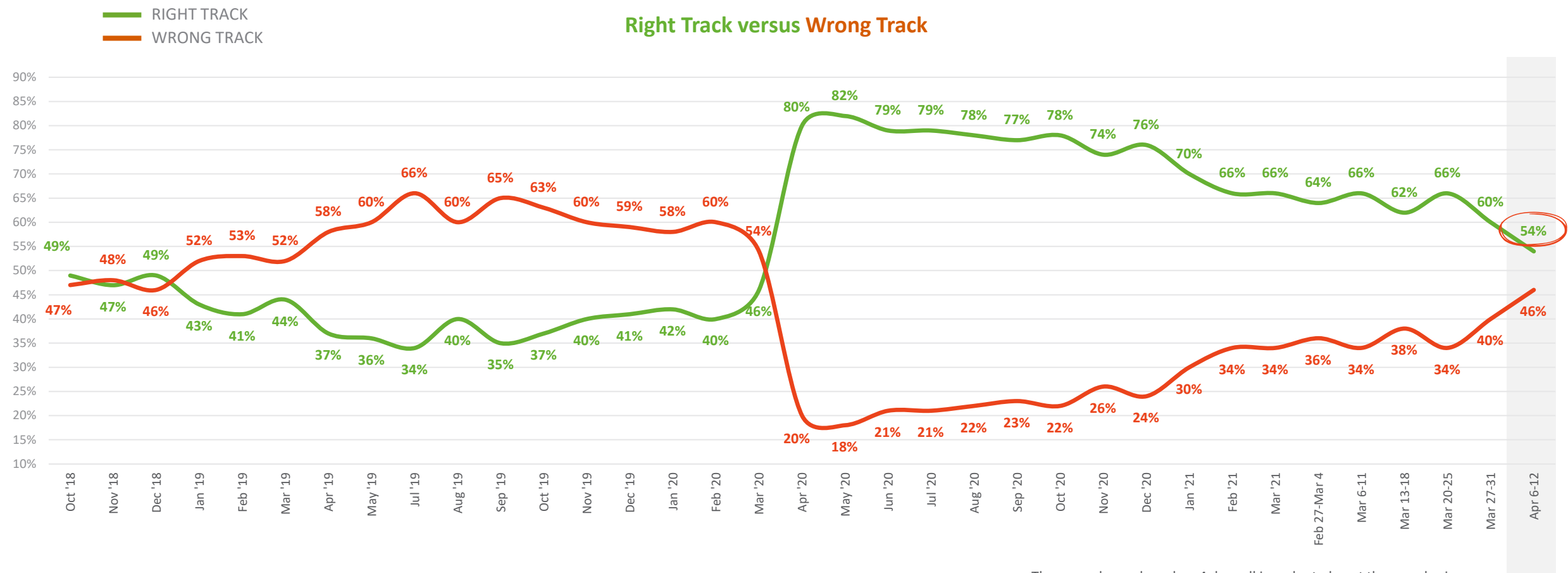


Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK



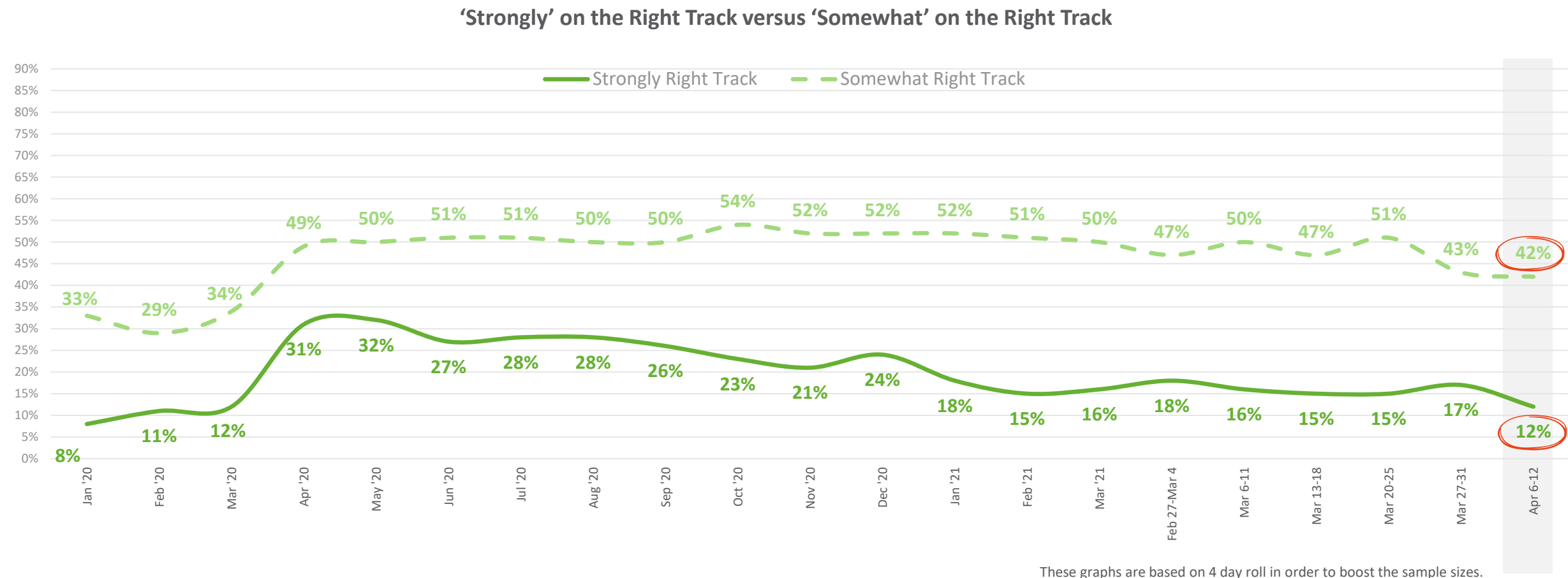
The government’s ‘right track’ scores continue to trend down, to 54% this past week. Over the past two weeks, there has been a 12-point decline in ‘right track’.



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

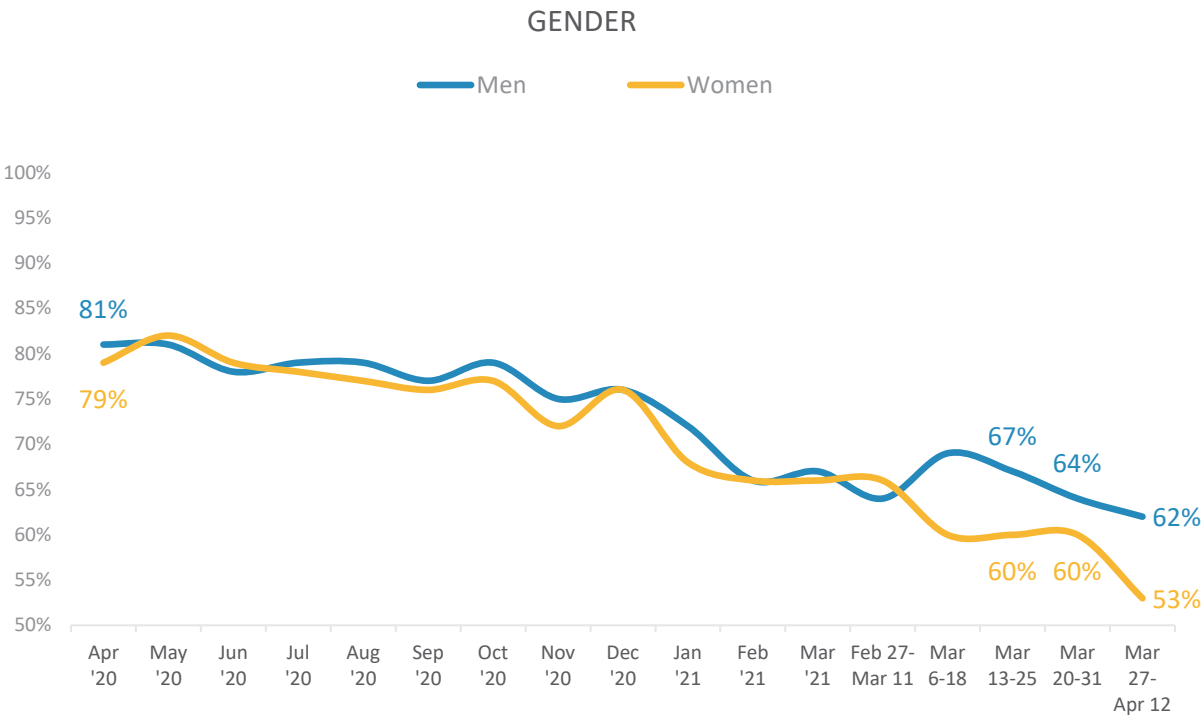
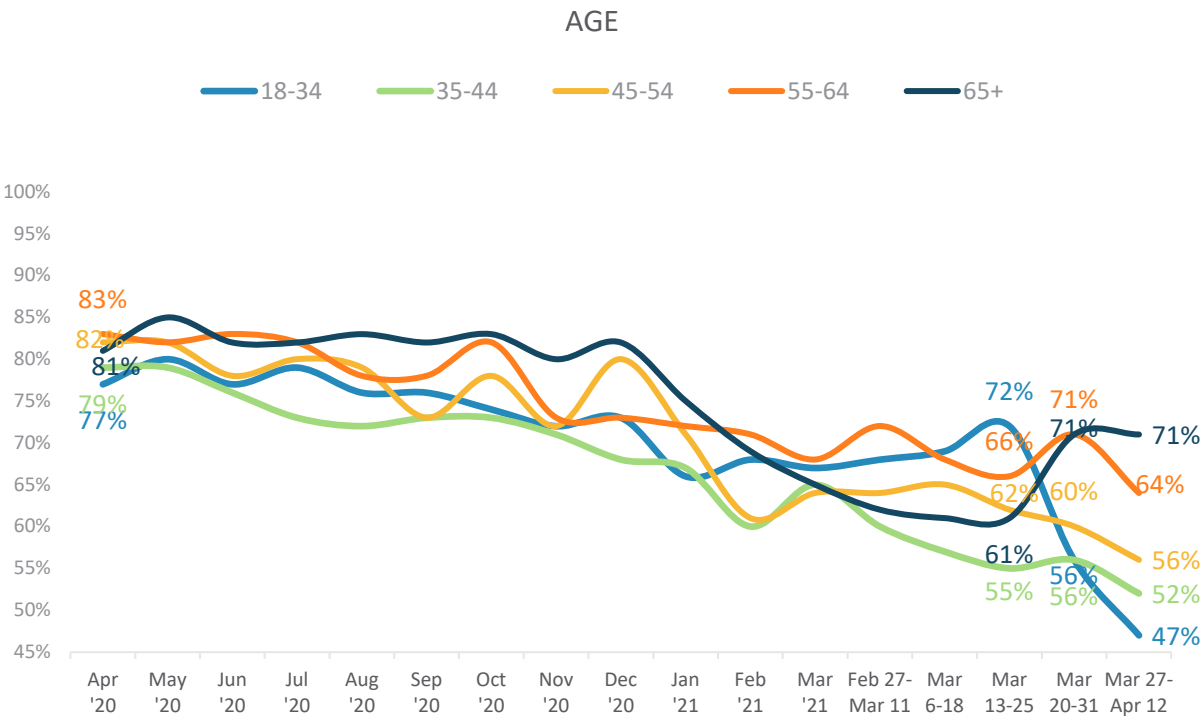
‘Strongly on the right track’ scores have dropped to 12%, from 17% the previous week.



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

Softer ‘right track’ scores appear to be more evident among women than men. And, there have been declines among all age groups except those aged 65+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

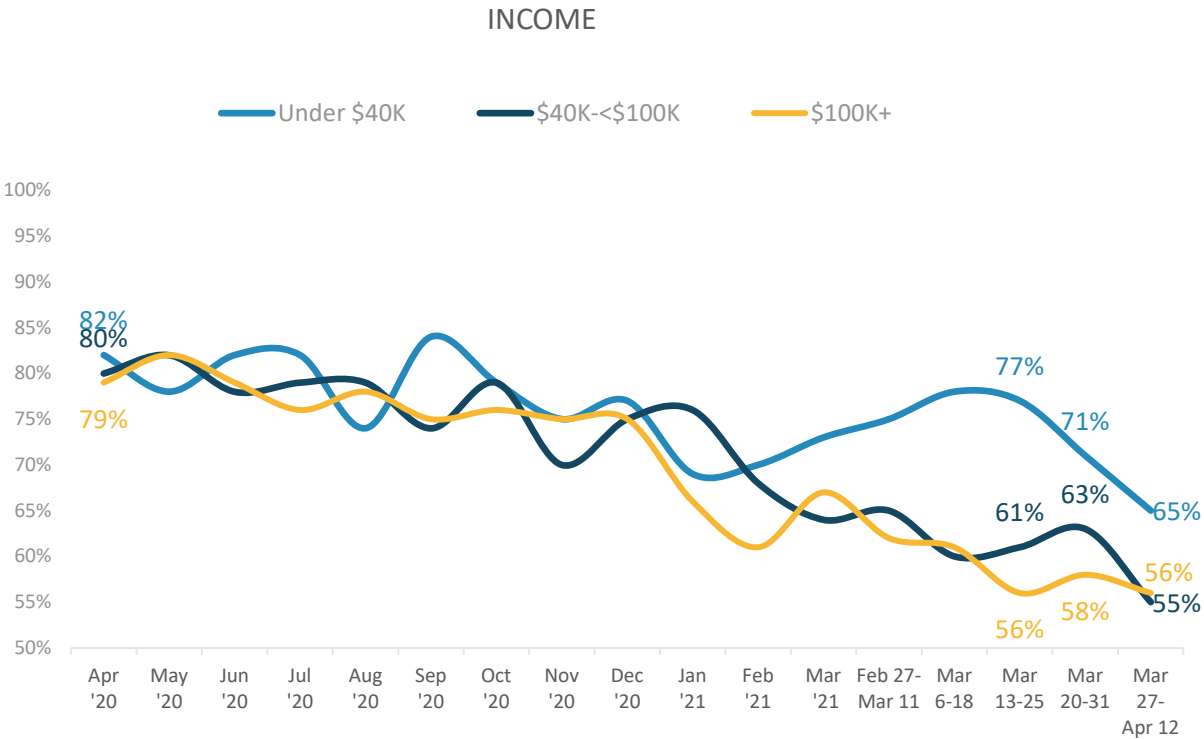
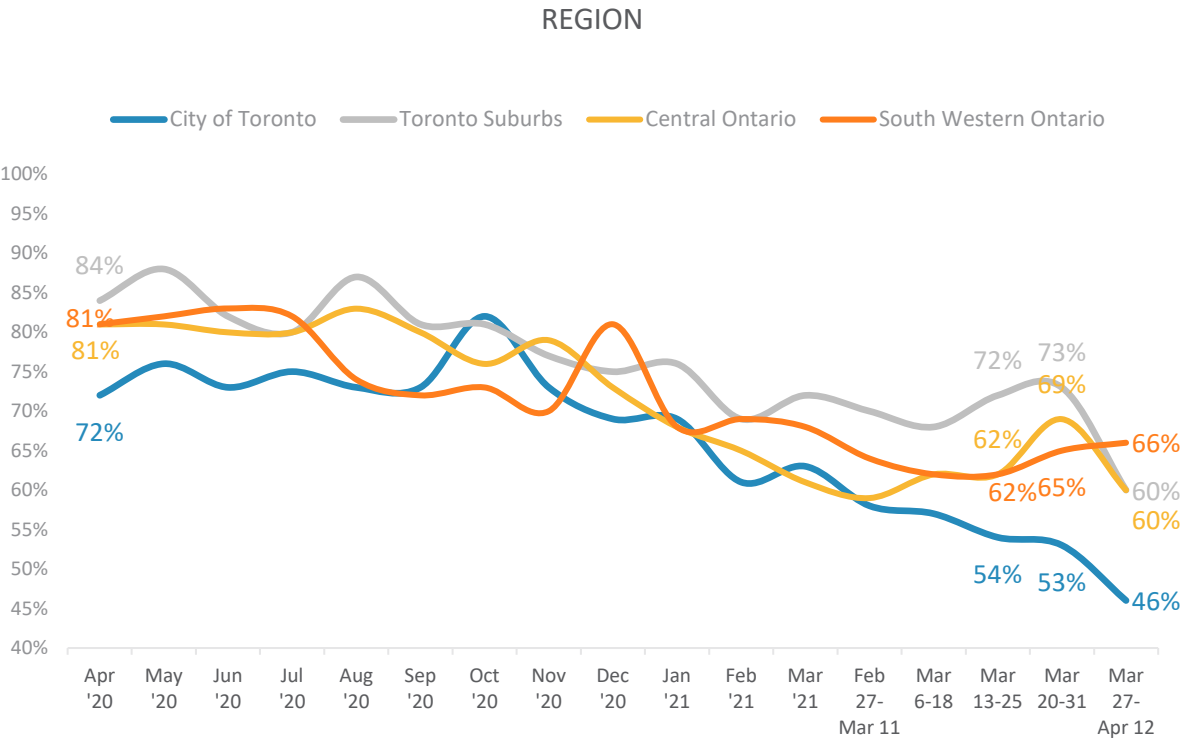


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 remained stable in Southwestern Ontario, while dropping in all other regions. As well, scores have declined among those with incomes <\$100k over the past week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



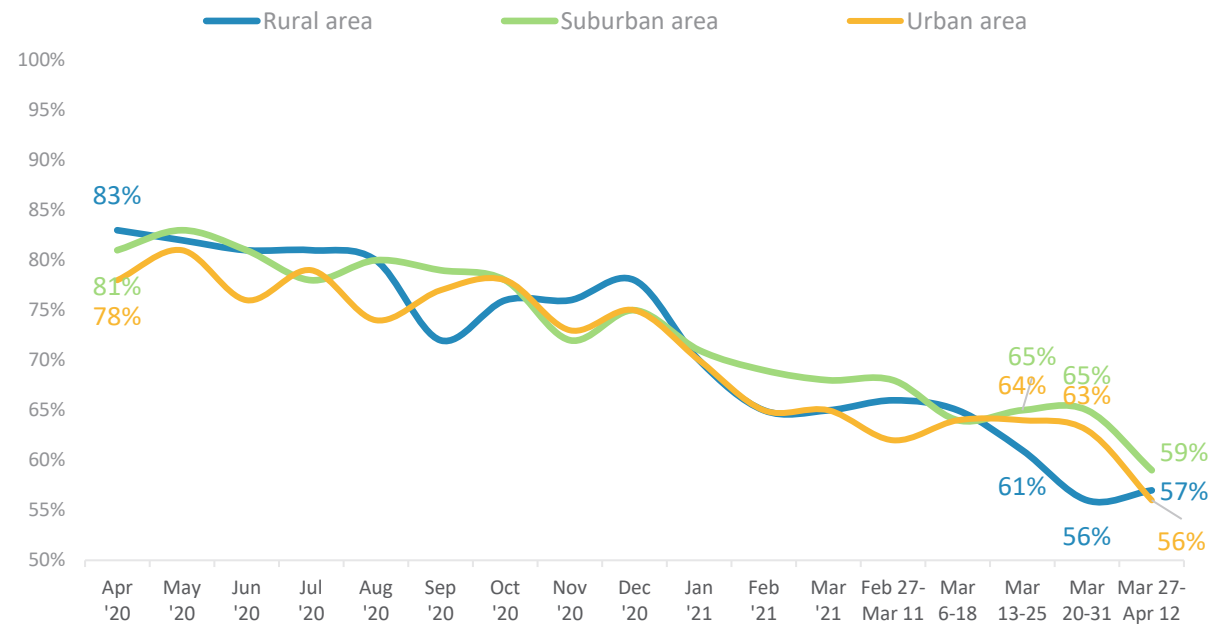
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

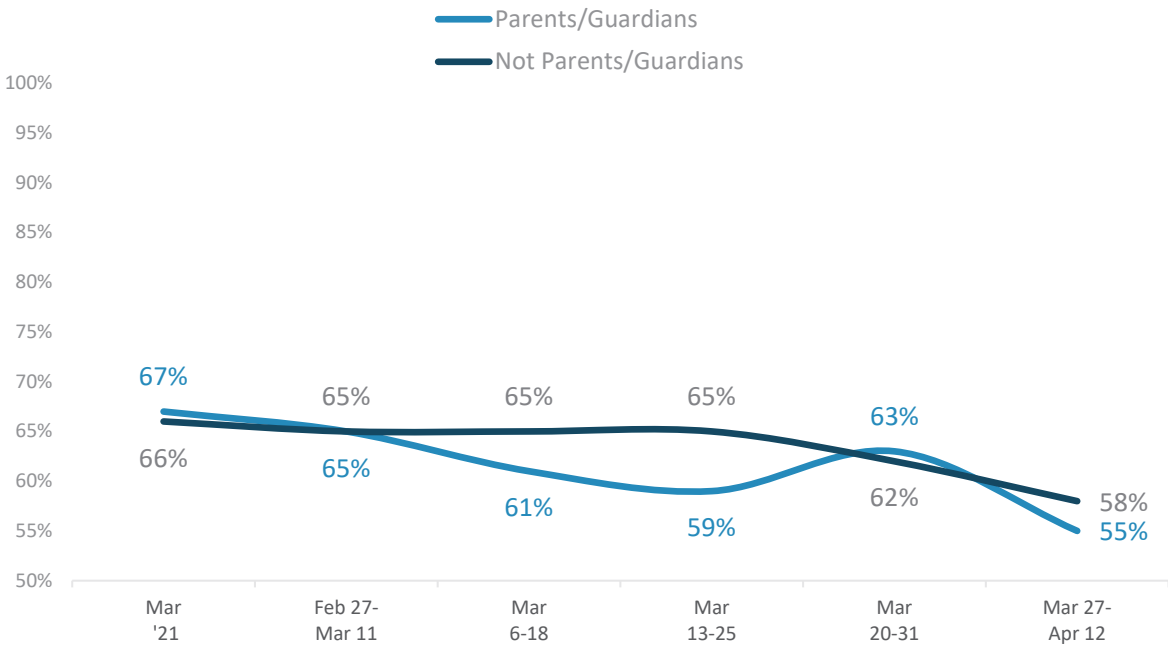
While ‘right track’ scores have remained stable this week among rural residents, declines were measured among those in suburban and urban areas with the three areas almost on par.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



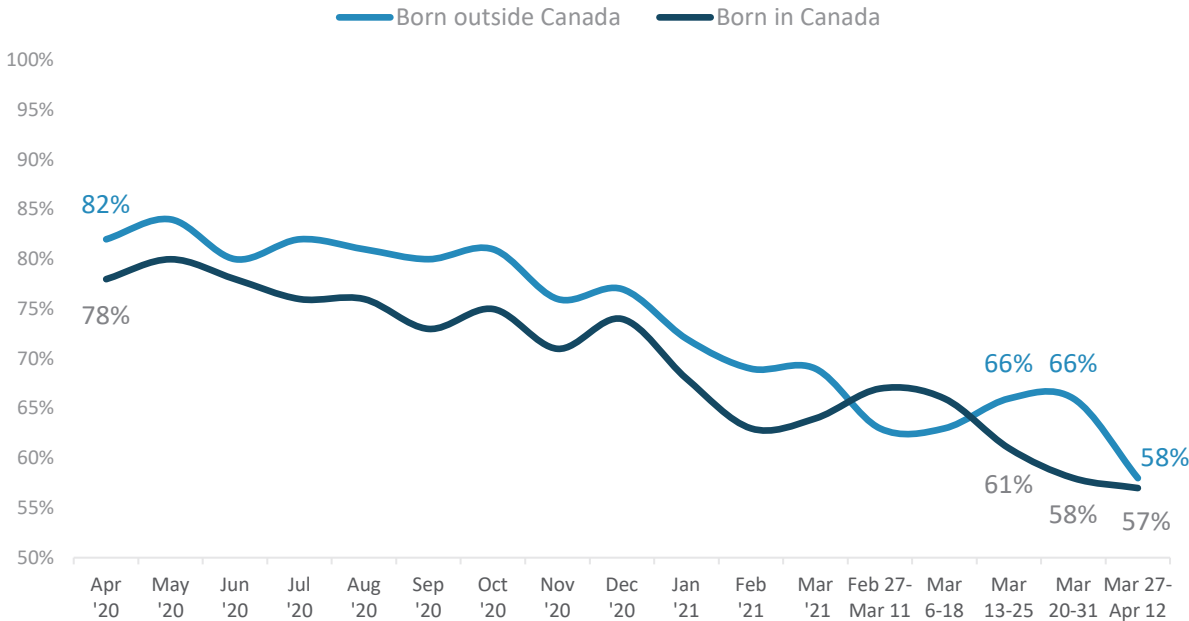
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

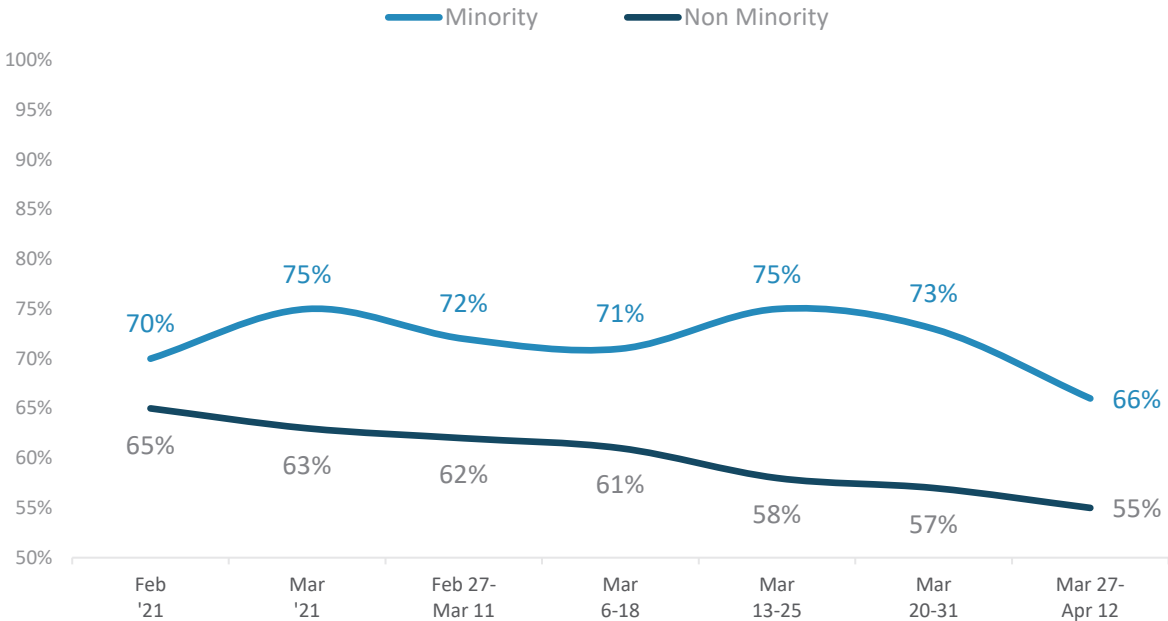
The ‘right track’ scores softened this week among those born outside Canada and those who identify as a minority.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

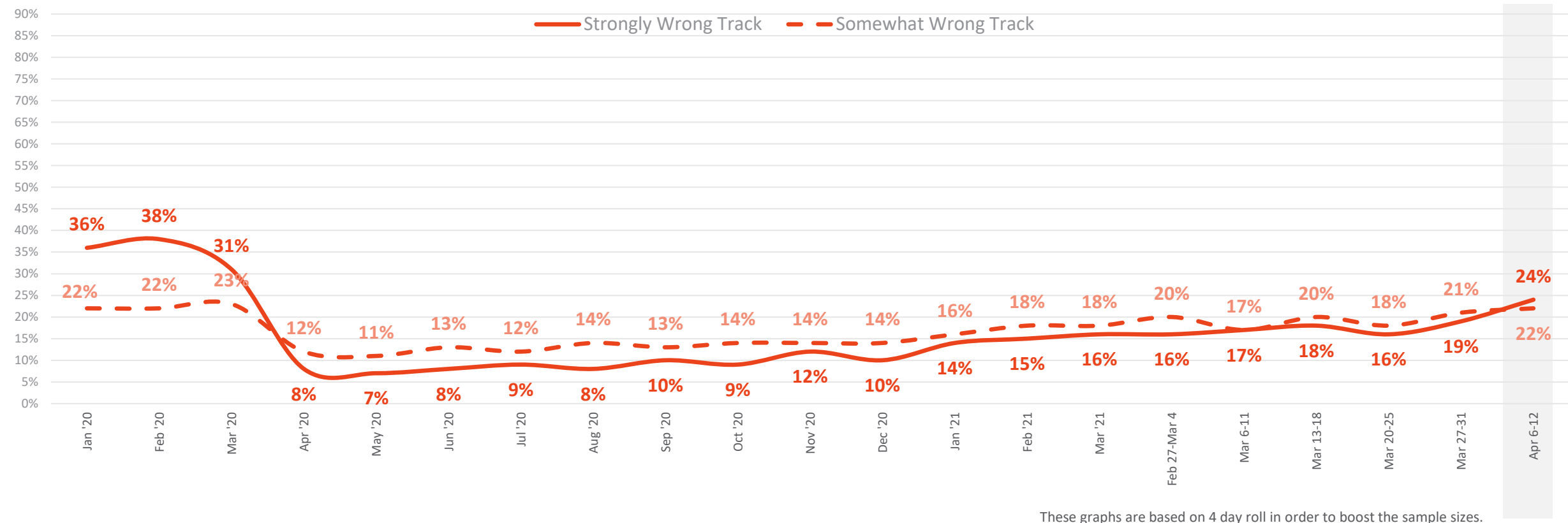


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 on the wrong track’ and ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ scores continue to inch upwards.

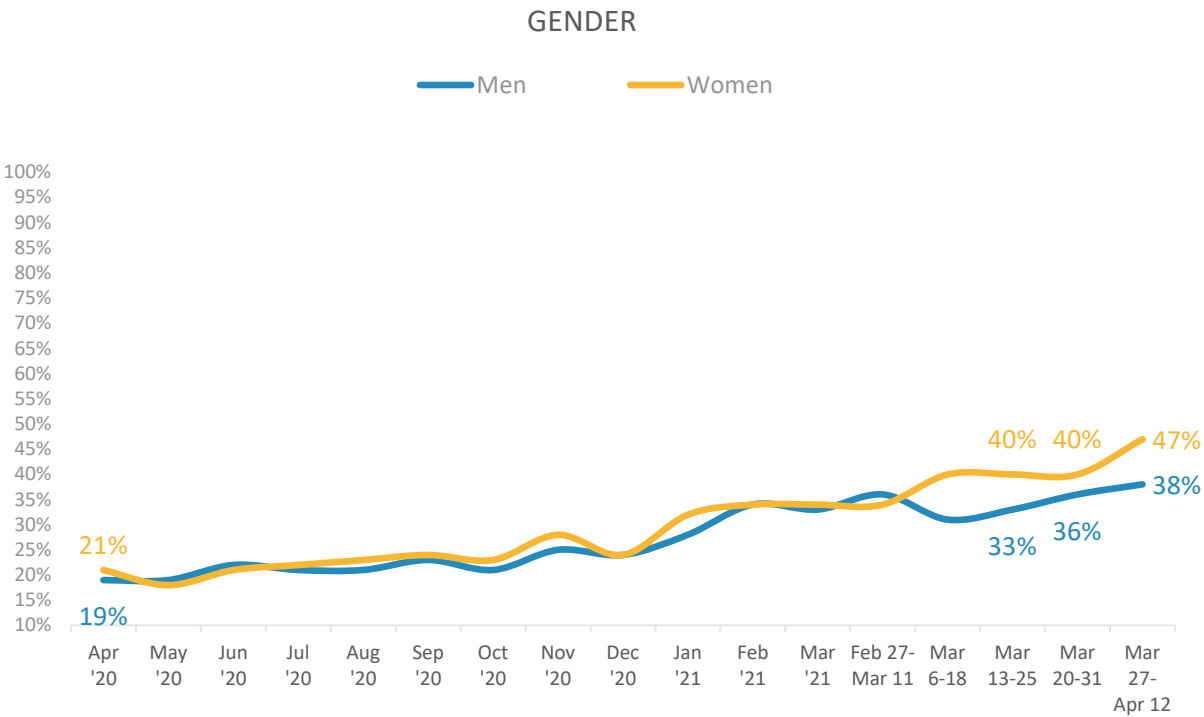
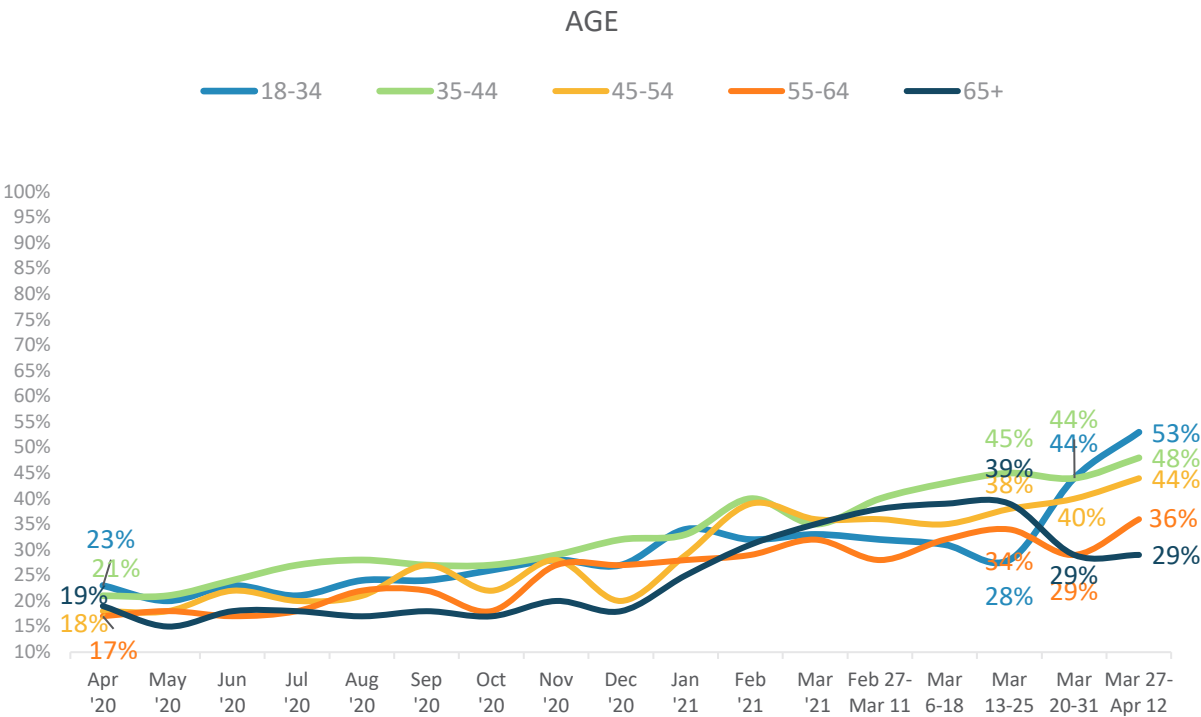
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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, with the gap increasing this week. There were also increases among all age groups except those aged 65+, the inverse of ‘**right track**’ changes.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

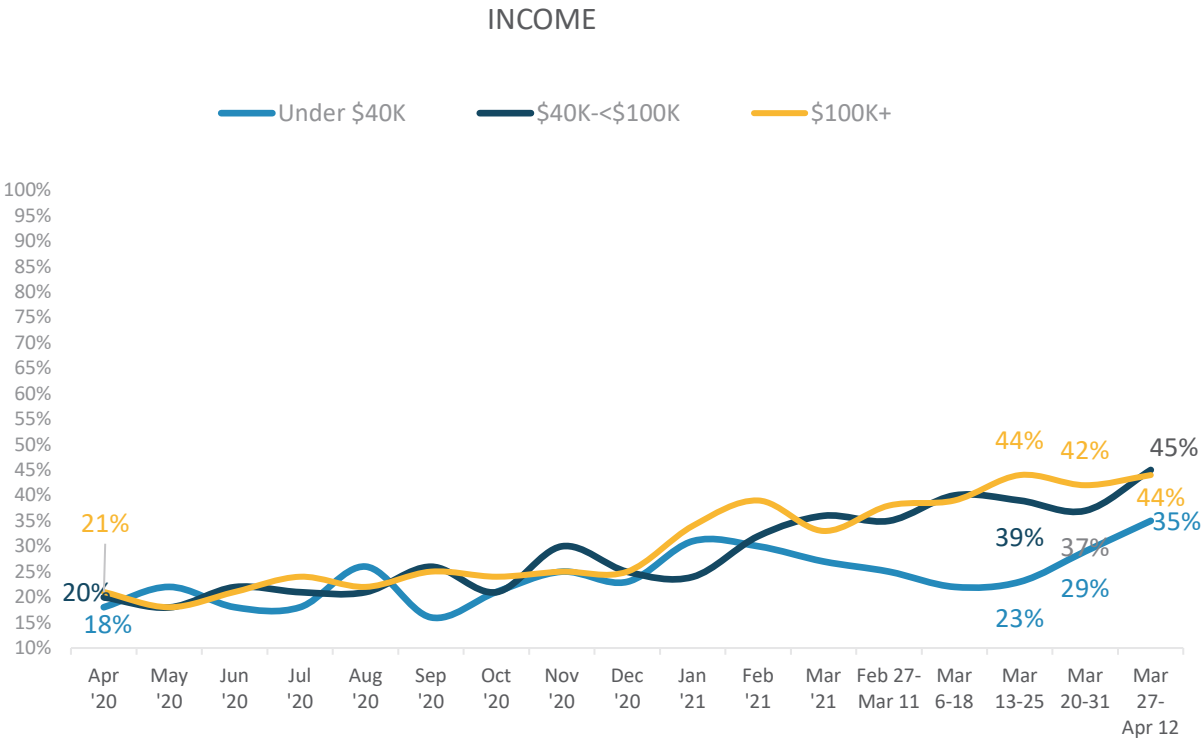
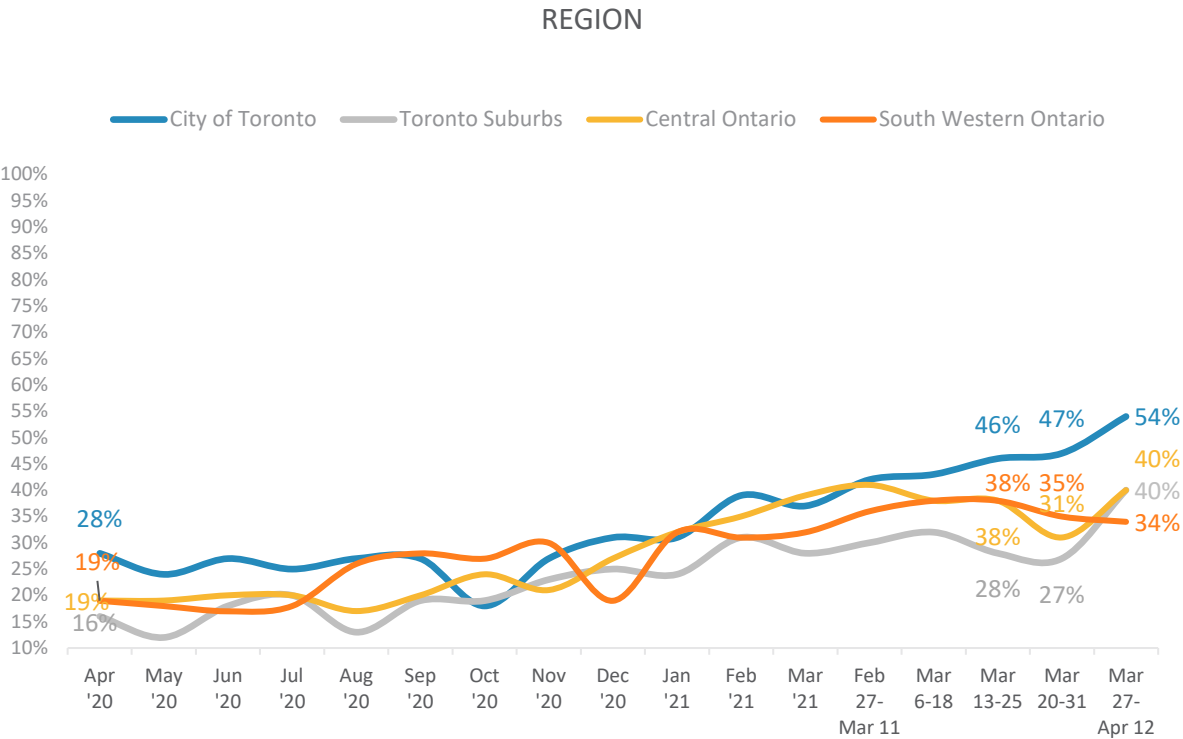


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 remain highest among City of Toronto residents and there was upward movement among those earning under \$100k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



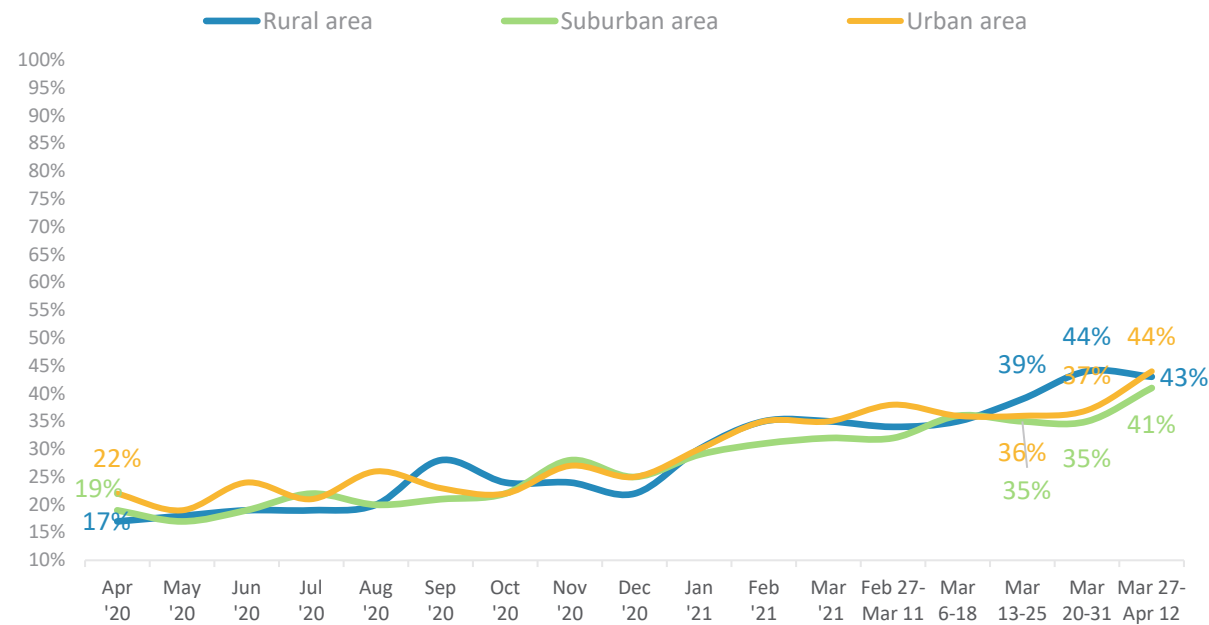
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

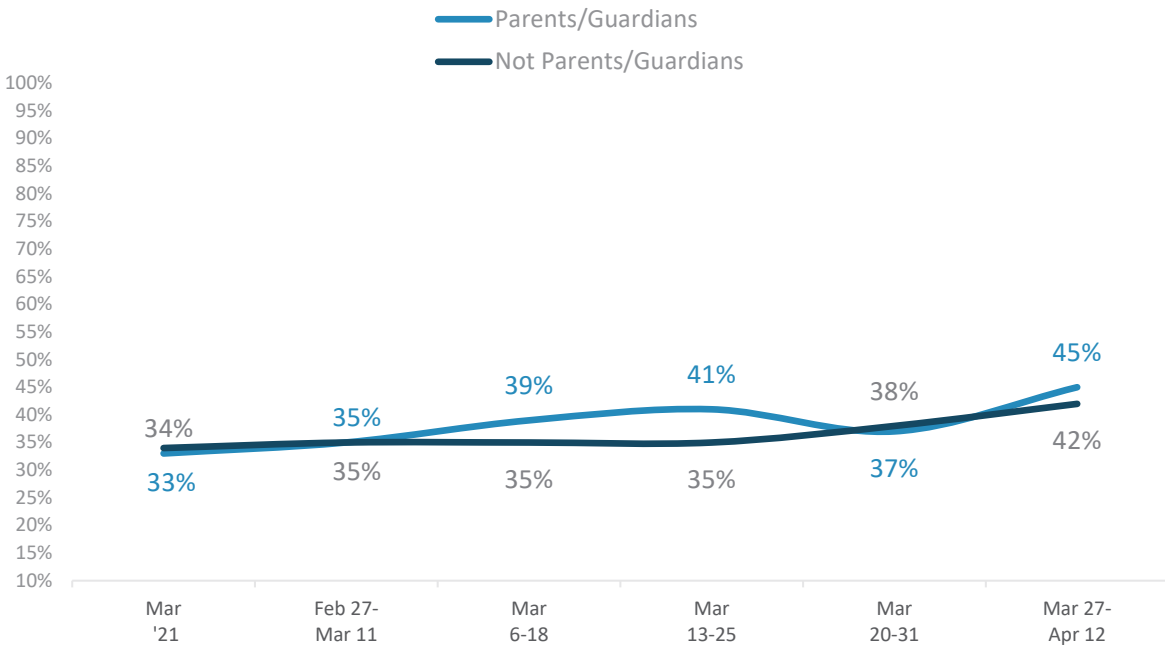
This week, ‘wrong track’ scores are aligned among rural, suburban and urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

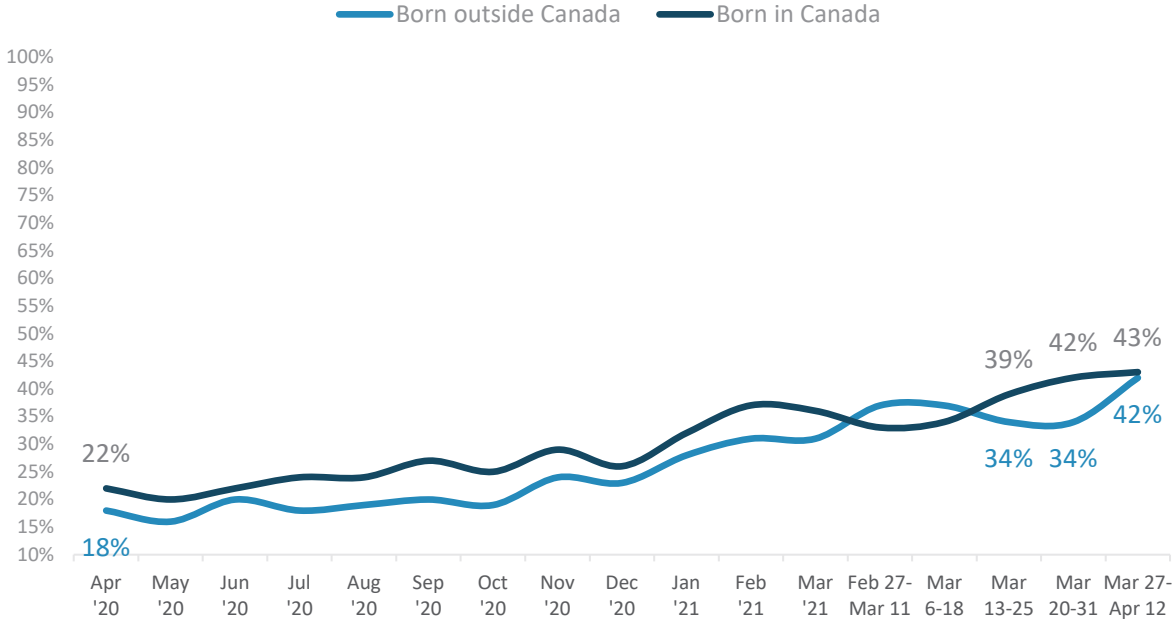


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

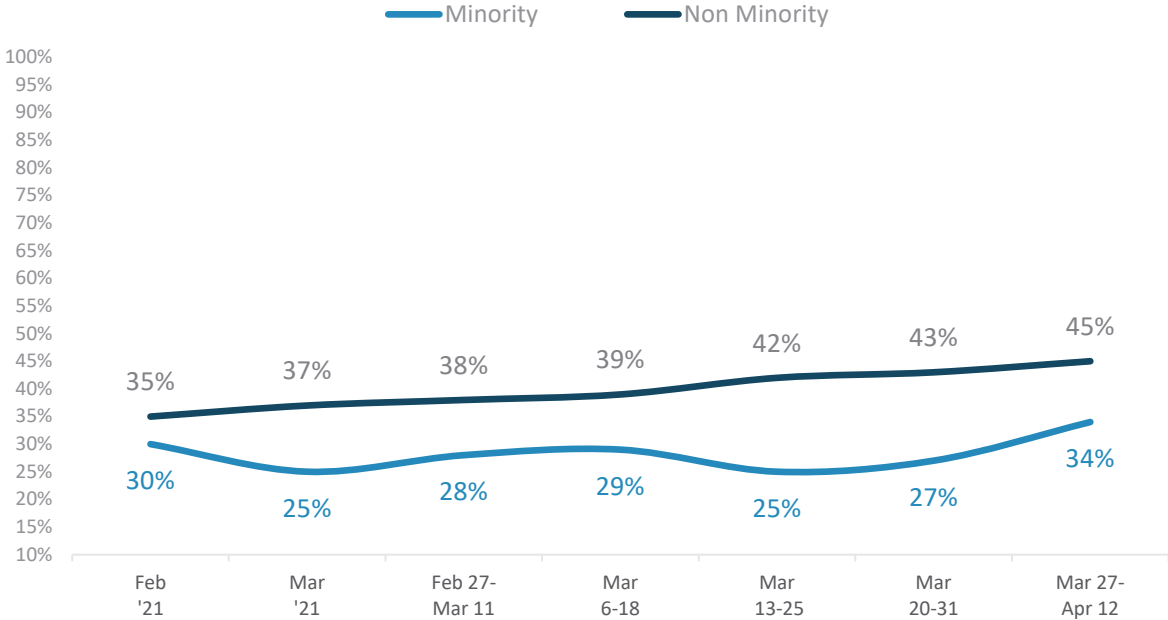
With increases this week among those who were born outside Canada, they now have similar ‘wrong track’ scores with those born in Canada.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

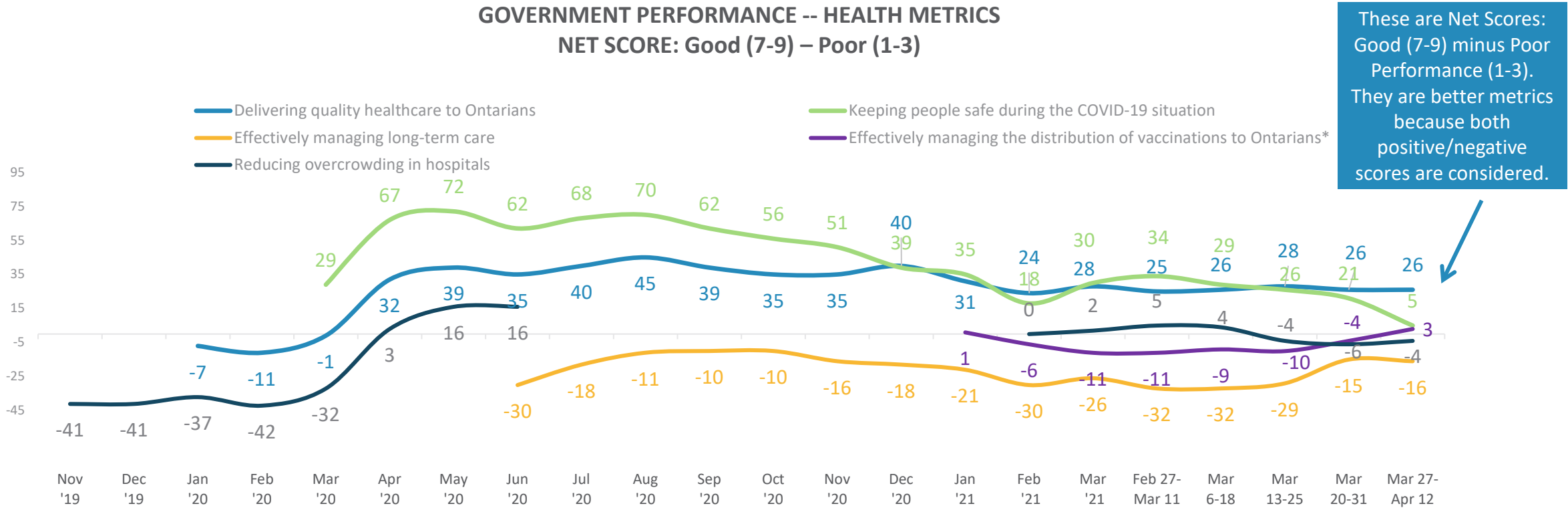


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

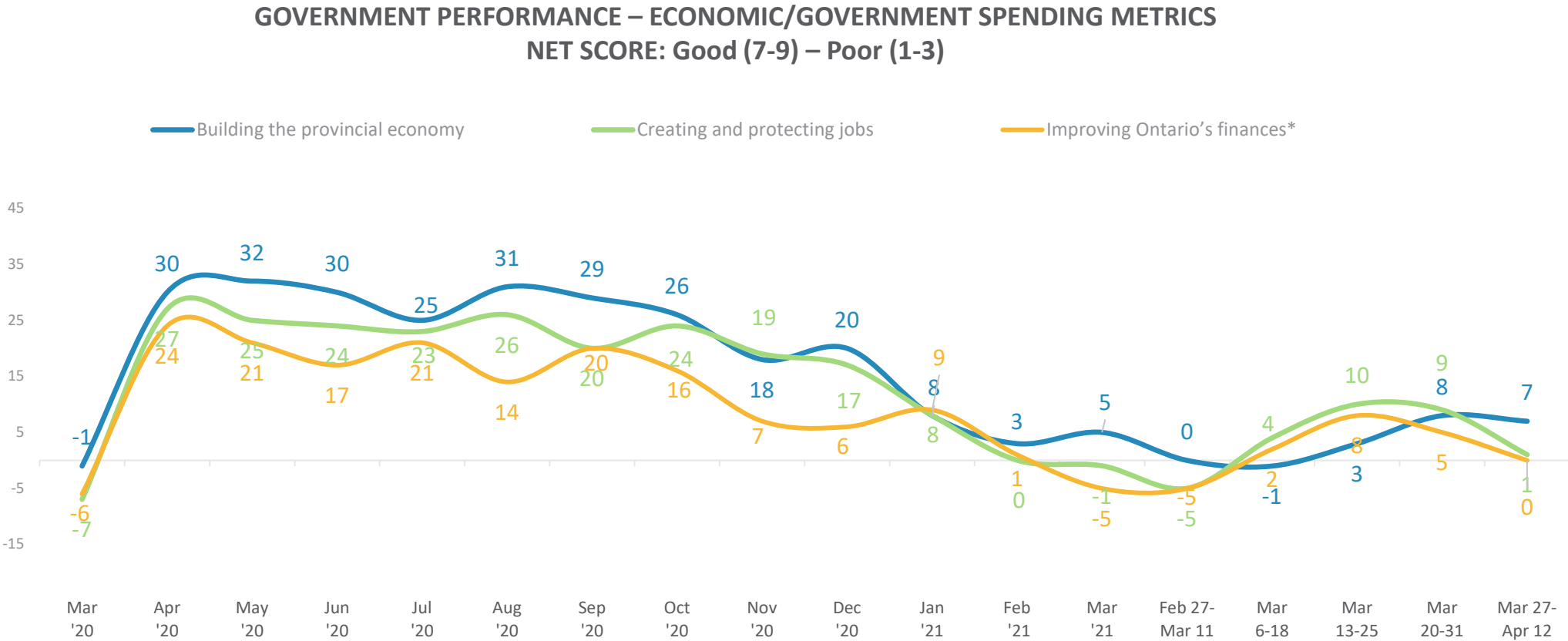


The government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations to Ontarians’ has continued to trend up for the fourth week and now has a positive net score. However, its score on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has declined 16-points. Other health metrics remain stable.



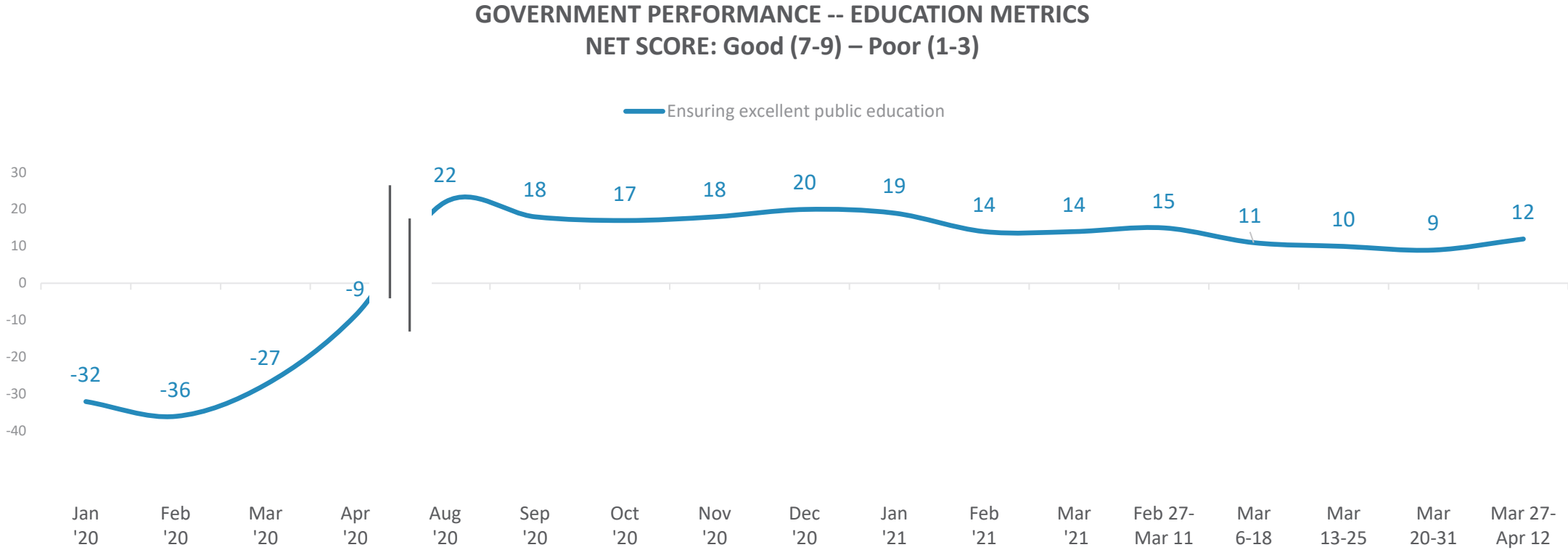
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

While the government’s performance scores for ‘building the provincial economy’ remain stable over the past week, the other two economic metrics have declined.



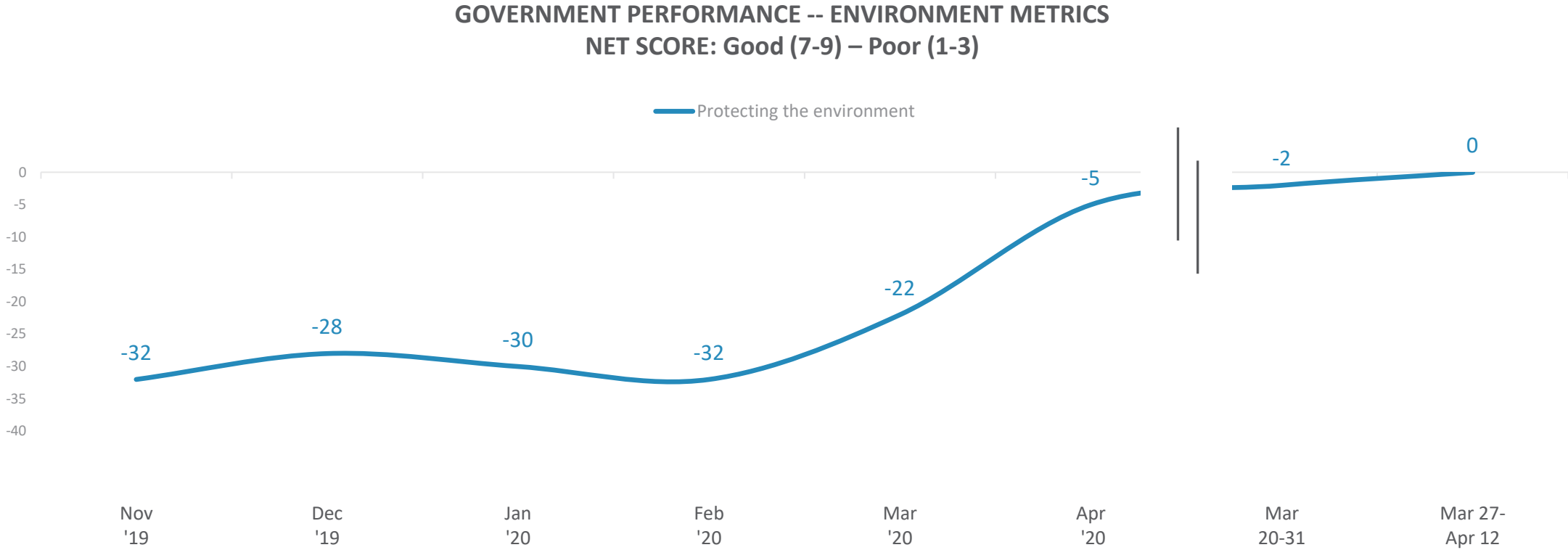
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

Perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ continues to 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

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, with an 8-point decline compared to a week ago. Now, twice as many people provide a ‘negative’ rating (45%) versus ‘positive’ rating (23%) 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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31	23
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	3
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28	20
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28	31
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21	24
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16	21
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38	45
Prefer not to answer/Don’t know										1

QCV-127B. Overall how has the Ontario Government done in 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 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?

While Ontarians remain more optimistic that the worst of the pandemic is over compared to last fall, there was a 5-point decline this week.

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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	44	40	44	30	29	26	40	35
Strongly agree	14	21	27	14	8	10	12	14
Somewhat agree	30	19	17	15	21	16	28	21
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	3	9	5	8	7
Somewhat disagree	19	21	16	30	29	28	23	39
Strongly disagree	28	30	28	35	30	39	27	19
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	51	43	65	59	67	50	58

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

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



The second week in, a majority of Ontarians indicate they are not ‘angry’ with the provincial shutdown. However, just over one-third continue to be angry with this order.

*I am angry that the province ordered a third provincial shutdown.
/I would be angry if the province ordered a third provincial shutdown.*

	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	36
Strongly agree	23	18
Somewhat agree	13	18
Neither agree nor disagree	4	10
Somewhat disagree	20	16
Strongly disagree	39	37
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	53
Don't know	-	1

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

Base: Total sample

Rarely seen, all respondents agree they need to continue following public health guidelines as the province heads into a third wave of COVID-19, with 93% ‘strongly’ agreeing.

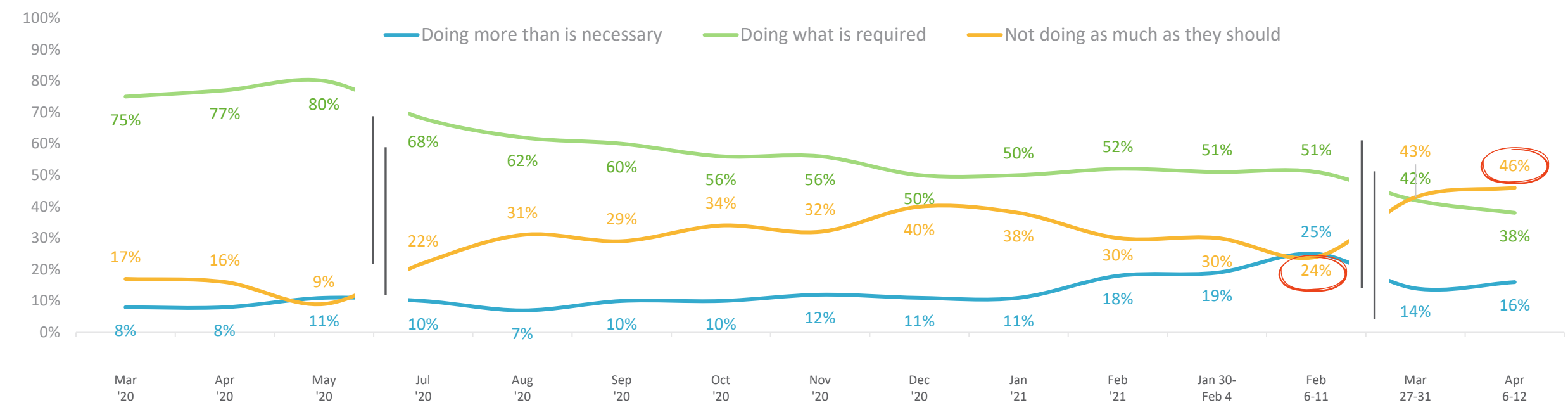
*Now that we are in a third wave of COVID,
I need to continue following public health guidelines*

	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	93	90	100
Strongly agree	78	71	93
Somewhat agree	15	19	7
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

Compared to early February, there continues to be an 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	Apr 6-12	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	Apr 6-12
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	58%	55%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%	34%	35%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	20%	18%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%	58%	59%



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 ...

Base: Total sample, base varies

SUPPORT FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN



Compared to levels of support for previous states of emergency, there are lower levels of support measured for the most recent provincial shutdown. That said, seven-in-ten (68%) Ontarians support the government taking this step.

The Government of Ontario has declared a state of emergency, closed all non-essential stores, and introduced a number of restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. Would you say you are ... of the government taking this step?

The Government of Ontario has declared a state of emergency, issued a stay at home order, placed further restrictions on all non-essential stores among other actions. Would you say you are ...of the government taking this step?

The Government of Ontario has issued a province-wide stay-at-home order which involves a shutdown of all non-essential stores, closing indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants, among other actions. Would you say you are ...

	Apr '20	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11
n=	1206	300	300	300	300
%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	96	77	76	82	78
Very supportive	81	51	53	50	44
Somewhat supportive	15	25	23	32	34
Somewhat opposed	3	10	10	8	12
Very opposed	1	14	13	8	9
TOTAL OPPOSED	3	23	23	17	21
Don't know	-	-	1	1	1

Apr 6-12
300
%
68
43
25
13
19
32
<1

QCV-8A. The Government of Ontario has issued a province-wide emergency break shutdown and placed further restrictions on all non-essential stores, closing indoor and outdoor dinning at restaurants, among other actions. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.] ...of the government taking this step? (previous phrasing) The Government of Ontario has declared a state of emergency, issued a stay at home order, placed further restrictions on all non-essential stores among other actions. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.] ...of the government taking this step? (previous phrasing) The Government of Ontario has declared a state of emergency, closed all non-essential stores, and introduced a number of restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.] ...of the government taking this step?

About half (48%) hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while 27% continue to 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. Those who see the government on the ‘wrong track’ are much more likely to feel that the government is putting the interests of the economy above that of the health of the population.

	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	Apr 6-12
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	20
The provincial government has tried to balance the interests of the economy with the health of the population	50	48	43	51	43	46	48	43	41	55	50	48
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	27
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5	5	4	6	3	4	5

LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH LOCKDOWNS

The preliminary results indicate that there is a level of fatigue with lockdowns among Ontarians, with 71% agreeing they are ‘getting tired of lockdowns’.

I am getting tired of lockdowns

	Apr 6-12
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	71
Strongly agree	45
Somewhat agree	27
Neither agree nor disagree	7
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	12
TOTAL DISAGREE	21
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

The early results also show that while Ontarians may be fatiguing with lockdowns, a majority (65%) indicate they are continuing to follow rules especially about social gatherings.

I have stopped following rules especially about social gatherings.

	Apr 6-12
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	28
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	11
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	54
TOTAL DISAGREE	65
Don't know	2

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

Again, the early findings indicate that a majority (61%) believe that the recent provincial government shutdown will slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow more time for people to get vaccinated.

I believe the recent provincial government shutdown will slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow more time for people to get vaccinated

	Apr 6-12
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	61
Strongly agree	35
Somewhat agree	26
Neither agree nor disagree	7
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	15
TOTAL DISAGREE	31
Don't know	2

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

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT THAT THE SHUTDOWN IS UNFAIR TO SMALL BUSINESSES

The early results indicate that over three-quarters (77%) of Ontarians agree that this shutdown is unfair to small businesses and favours big retail stores like Costco and Walmart.

This shutdown is unfair to small businesses like restaurants, hair salons and fitness centres and favours big retail stores like Costco or Walmart

	Apr 6-12
n=	300
	%
TOTAL AGREE	77
Strongly agree	48
Somewhat agree	29
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly disagree	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	21

QCV-196. As you may know the government of Ontario imposed a month-long emergency break shutdown, which includes closing indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants and reducing capacity in retail stores. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

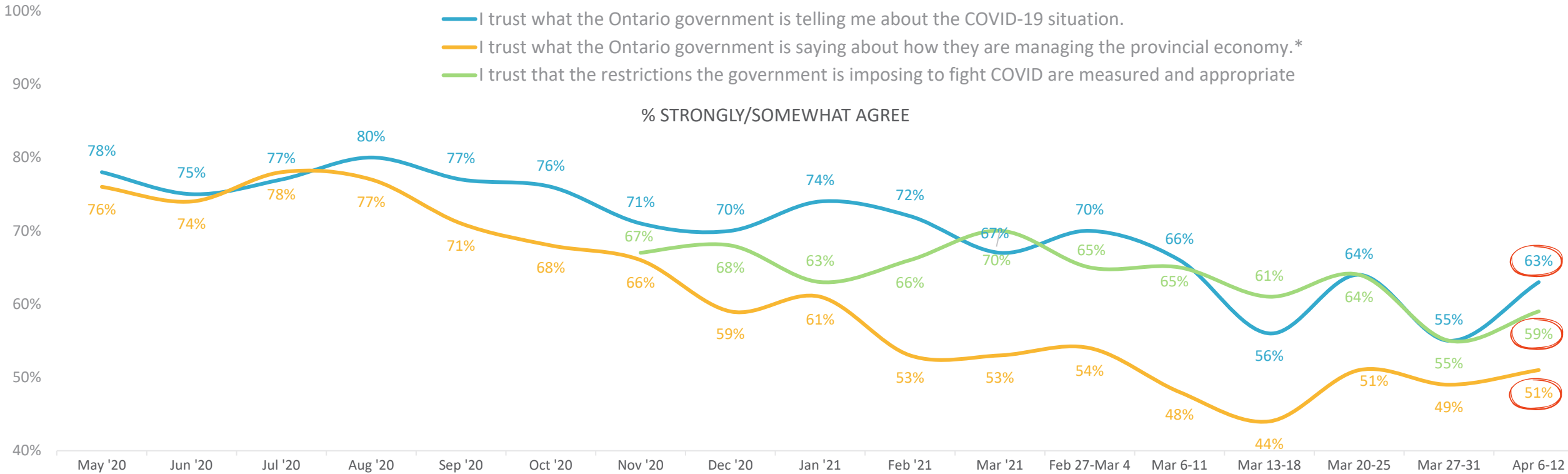
Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Over the past week, there have been increased levels of trust in government communications, particularly for ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and that ‘the restrictions the government is imposing are measured and appropriate’.



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 latest provincial shutdown occurs when some Ontarians are fatiguing with the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, with an increase of 14-points in agreement measured in a week.

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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36
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

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



However, while they are increasingly fatiguing with the COVID-19 control measures, only one-in-five (21%) now 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	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12
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	21

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, only one-in-five (22%) agree 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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24	26	28	20	27	21	22
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8	14	8	13
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12	13	14	8
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11	7	10	7	11	12	14
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18	20	27	17
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54	37	38	41
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57	72	58	65	58
Don't know																		6

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

Base: Total sample

Of note, there has been a slow decline in the proportion of Ontarians who 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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36	32	30
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12	16	15
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	20	14	21	22	20	24	16	15
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	8	11	9	7	9	9	7	12	9
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	12	13	16	13	14	17	18
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36	35	38
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51	51	56
Not applicable											2
Don't know											3

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

Base: Total sample

While in the week before the announcement of the third provincial shutdown far fewer Ontarians were saying that they are only leaving their homes to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy, there was a 12-point increase in the past week.

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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63	76	54	66
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40	48
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14	18
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6	3	5	2	4
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5	19	13
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10	23	13
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42	26

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

Base: Total sample

Now, seven-in-ten ‘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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11

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	Apr 6-12
varies															
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22

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



There has been a slow increase in the number of Ontarians who 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	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
Spread more easily	63	62	67	70
Spread less easily	4	7	5	2
No difference	18	18	21	18
Don't know/Not sure	14	13	8	10

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 continue to say 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	Apr 6-12
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37	34	31	47	39	36	39	37
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47	56	60	57	58
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	5

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

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

Probably in connection to the government announcement that all schools will be closed for in-person classes after the break, Ontarians indicate declining levels of concern 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	Apr 6-12
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
66	66	82	79	73
47	40	59	57	54
20	26	23	22	20
3	8	4	10	8
11	13	5	6	5
19	12	6	3	13
30	25	11	9	18

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

Base: Total sample

DIGITAL PRIVACY



There is a low level of awareness of the proposed federal government’s legislation, Bill C-11, designed to better protect citizen’s privacy.

	Apr 6-12
n=	300
	%
Yes	16
No	81
Don't know/not sure	3

Preliminary results indicate that three-quarters (74%) have the perspective that individuals’ privacy is being threatened by businesses collecting lots of data about individuals and their activities and that stronger laws are required.

	Apr 6-12
n=	300
	%
Some people say that individuals’ privacy is being is threatened by businesses collecting lots of data about individuals and their activities without their permission and that <u>stronger laws are required</u> to regulate how this information can be used .	74
Other people say that the laws protecting an individual’s privacy and how data collected about them can be used already exist and are strong enough and <u>stronger laws are not required</u>	21
Don’t know/not sure	5

QDP-2. There has been some discussion lately about with the advent of the internet and social media whether or not there is a need for stronger laws protecting the privacy of individuals. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

CONCERN ABOUT RETAILERS AND PERSONAL PRIVACY

Again, about three-quarters indicate they are concerned about the information that retailers, both online and offline, collect from consumers like themselves and the impact on their personal privacy.

	Apr 6-12
n=	300
	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	73
Very concerned	24
Somewhat concerned	49
Not too concerned	21
Not at all concerned	5
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	26
Don't know/not sure	<1

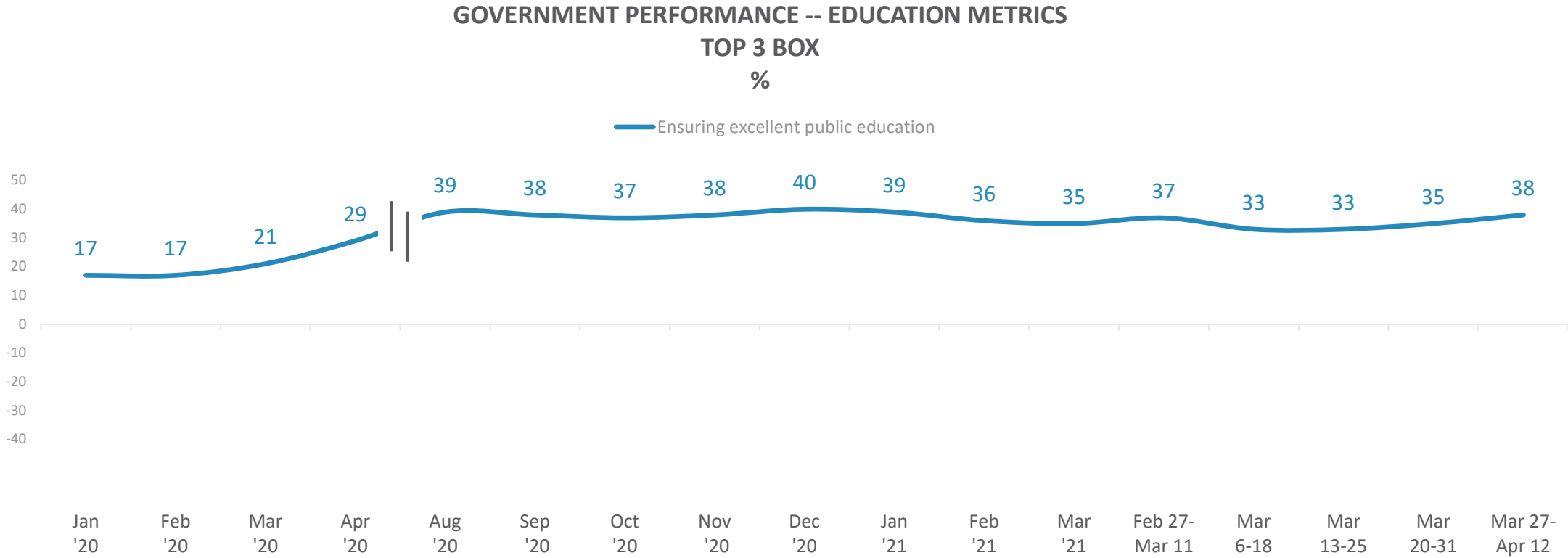
QDP-3. Thinking about the information that retailers, both online and offline, collect from consumers like you how concerned are you about retailers and your personal privacy?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

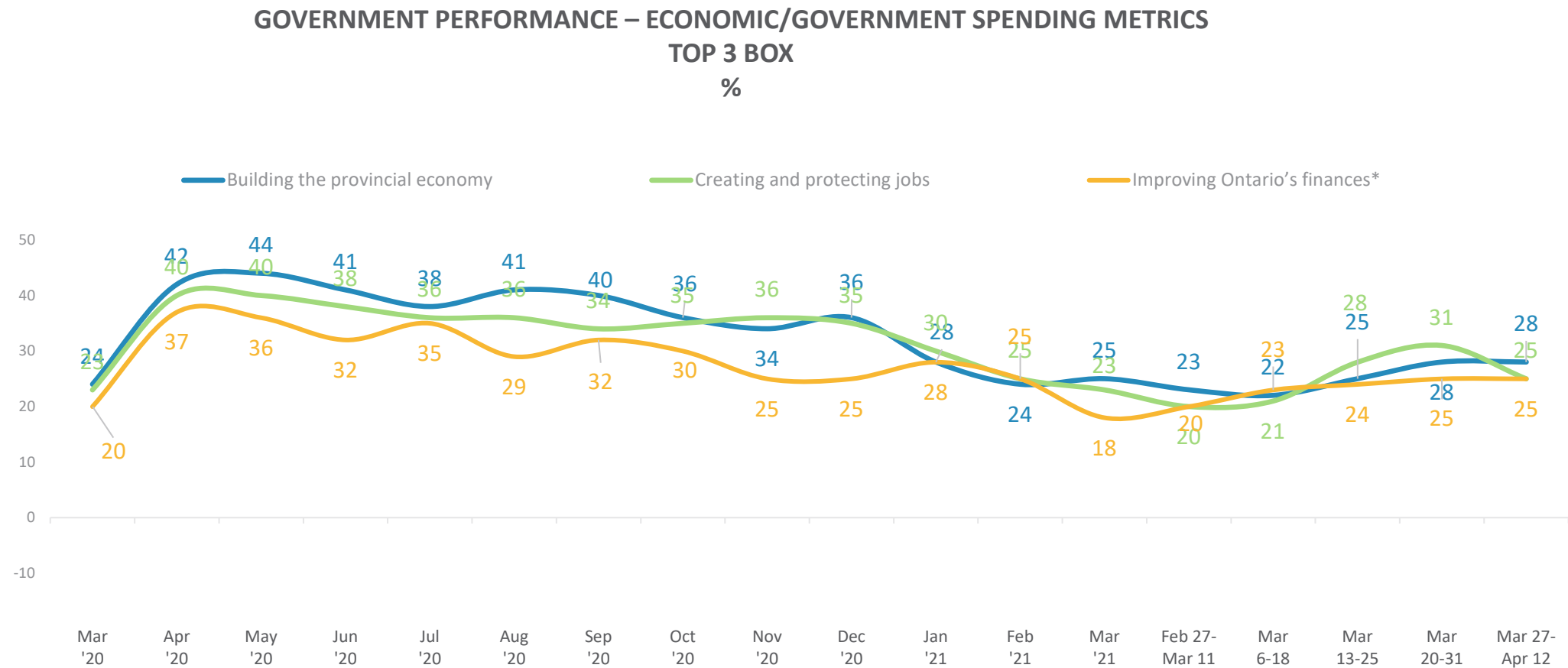


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ have been slowly increasing over the last few weeks.



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

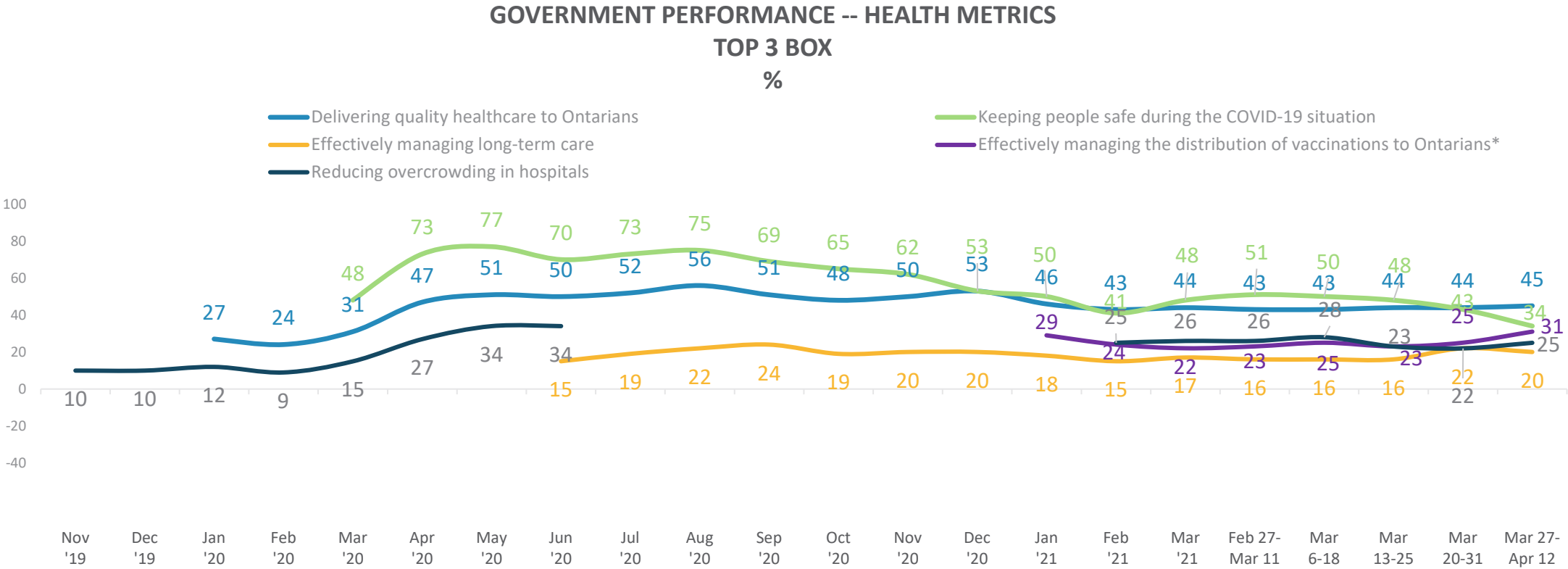
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘creating/protecting jobs’ has declined this week after trending upwards in recent weeks.



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?

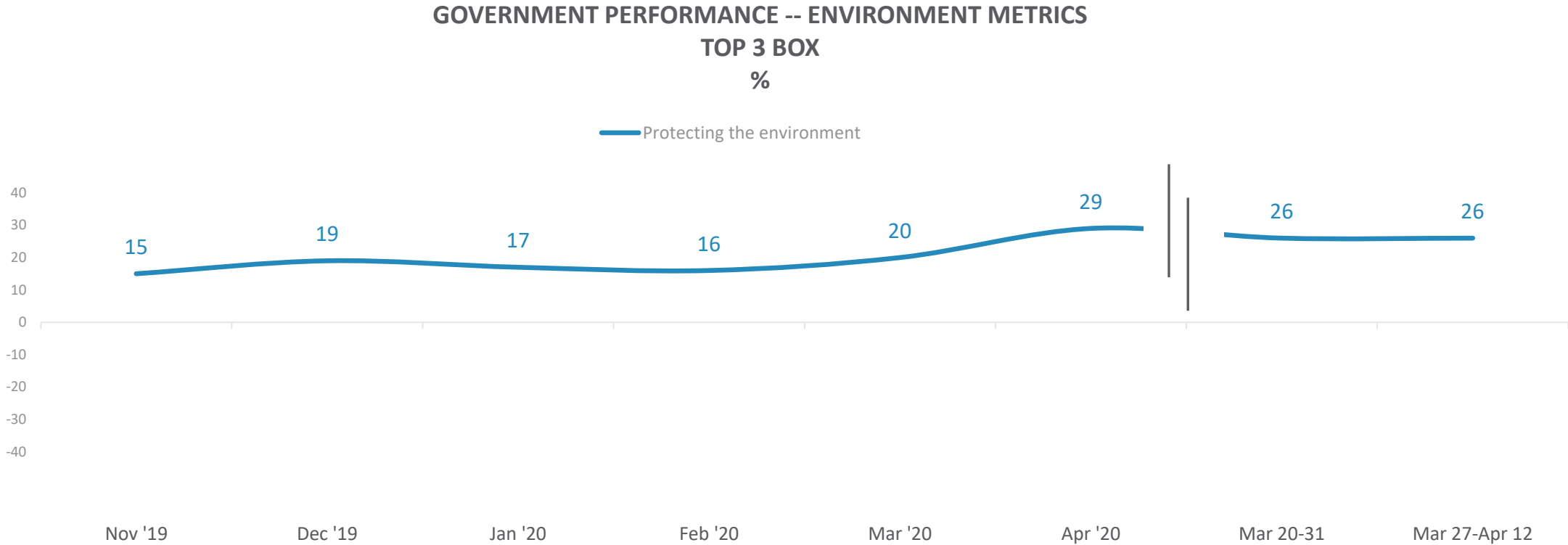
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has continued to trend downwards, with a decline of 9-points this 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: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Perception the provincial government is ‘protecting the government’ has remained unchanged compared to last 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