

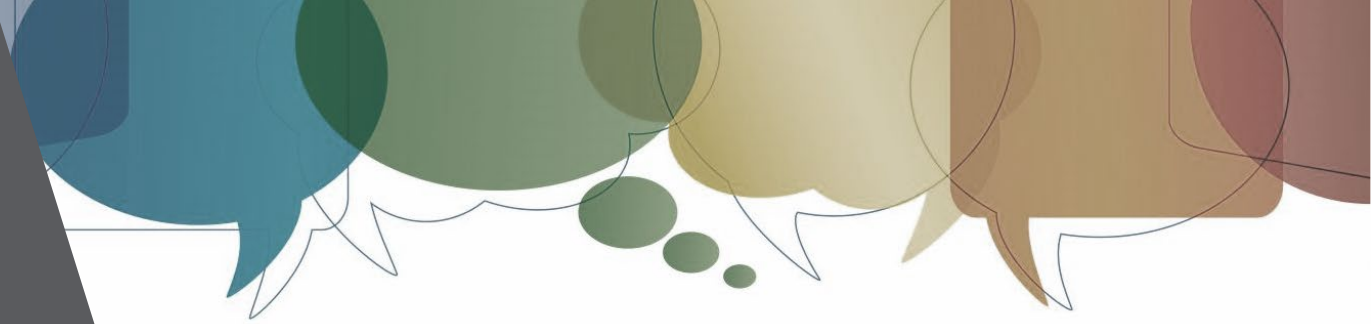


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #78

CABINET OFFICE

April 27th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The government's 'right track' scores continue to trend down - to 48% this past week - with 'wrong track' now 4-points higher than 'right track'.

These declines measured for 'right track' occurred among both 'strongly on the right track' and 'somewhat on the right track' scores.

This drop in 'right track' has occurred in most demographic sub-groups while increasing in the City of Toronto.

2 The gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government's handling of the second/third wave has continued, with half (50%) now providing a 'poor/very poor' rating compared to 21% 'excellent/good'.

These declines may explain the recent declines in 'right track' scores.

3 In response to increasing infection cases and the provincial shutdown, the 'COVID-19' priority remained high but stable at 75%, an increase of 15-points over the past five weeks.

And, two-thirds (67%) of Ontarians do not believe that the worst of the pandemic is over, with a 17-point increase measured since the end of March.

4 A majority of Ontarians (56%) continue to indicate they are not 'angry' with the provincial shutdown, with one-third (33%) indicating they are angry with this order.

As well, three-quarters (75%) believe that the recent provincial government stay-at-home order and additional restrictions will slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow more time for people to get vaccinated – a number that has been increasing.

5 While the government's performance on 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' has dropped 36-points since early March, results were stable this week at -2.

However, there were declines among the other health metrics, with a 12-point drop in 'delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians' and a 9-point drop for 'managing the distribution of vaccinations to Ontarians'.

6 However, there are lower levels of support measured for the most recent provincial shutdown/stay-at-home orders compared to levels of support for previous states of emergency.

And, support declined 10-points to 60% after the most recent restrictions were announced.

Key Findings

7 Over the past three weeks, there have also been increases in the proportion that believe the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants - now at 70% and the highest level since tracking on this issue began.

And, while Ontarians have higher confidence now than at the end of January that the end of COVID-19 is nearer with the vaccines being administered, this confidence declined for the second week.

10 Of note, over the past week, there have been increased levels of trust in government communications regarding 'telling me about the COVID-19 situation'. However, declines continued for 'how they are managing the provincial economy'.

8 There also continues to be a decline in the number of Ontarians that hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations (now at 40%), while there have been increases in those that think the government is putting the economy above the health of the population (now at 27%).

There are feelings that the shutdown has been unfair to small business to the advantage of big box stores.

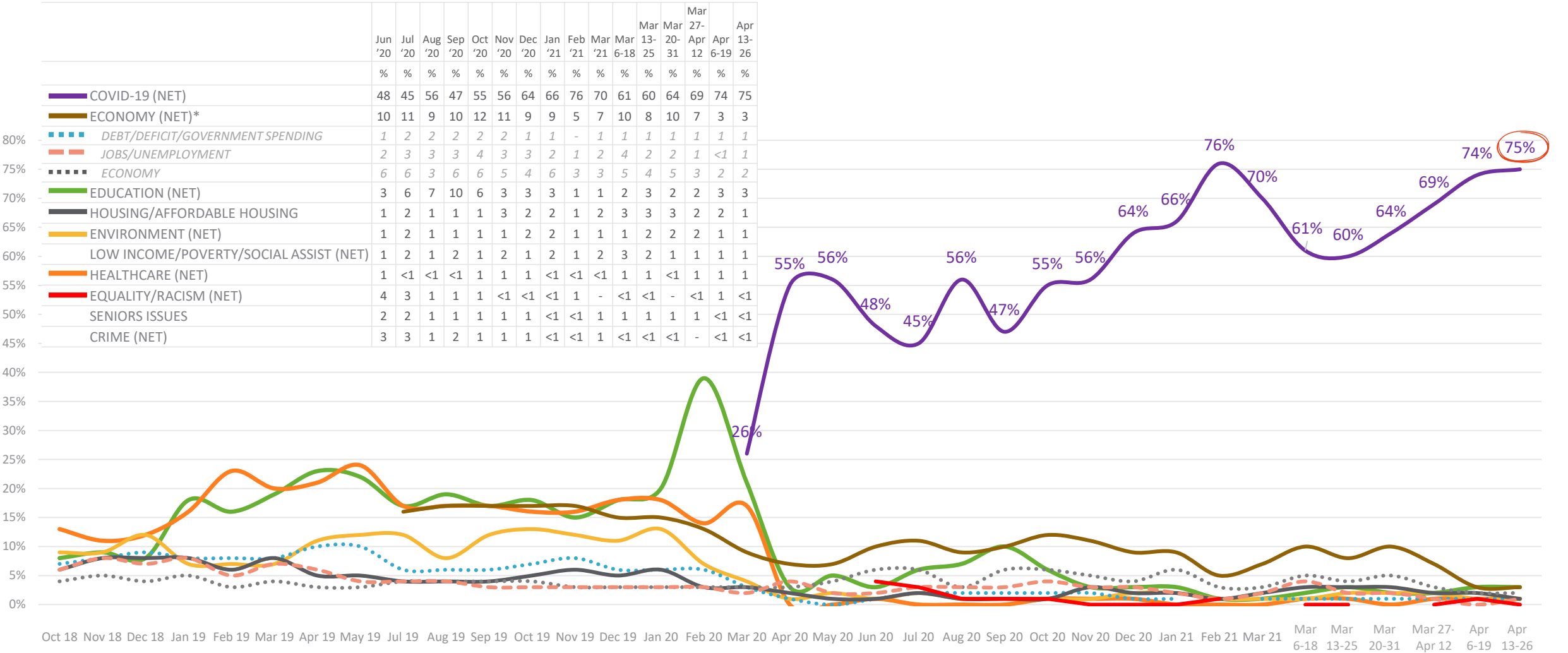
9 There appears that there is a growing level of fatigue with lockdowns among Ontarians. Again this week, there was an increase – to 77% - of Ontarians agreeing they are 'getting tired of lockdowns'. That said, three-quarters (75%) say they are continuing to follow rules especially about social gatherings, with this percentage trending upwards. Ontarians are also less likely to indicate they are getting tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing.

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 remains stable at 75% (almost on par with previous high), an increase of 15-points over the past five weeks.



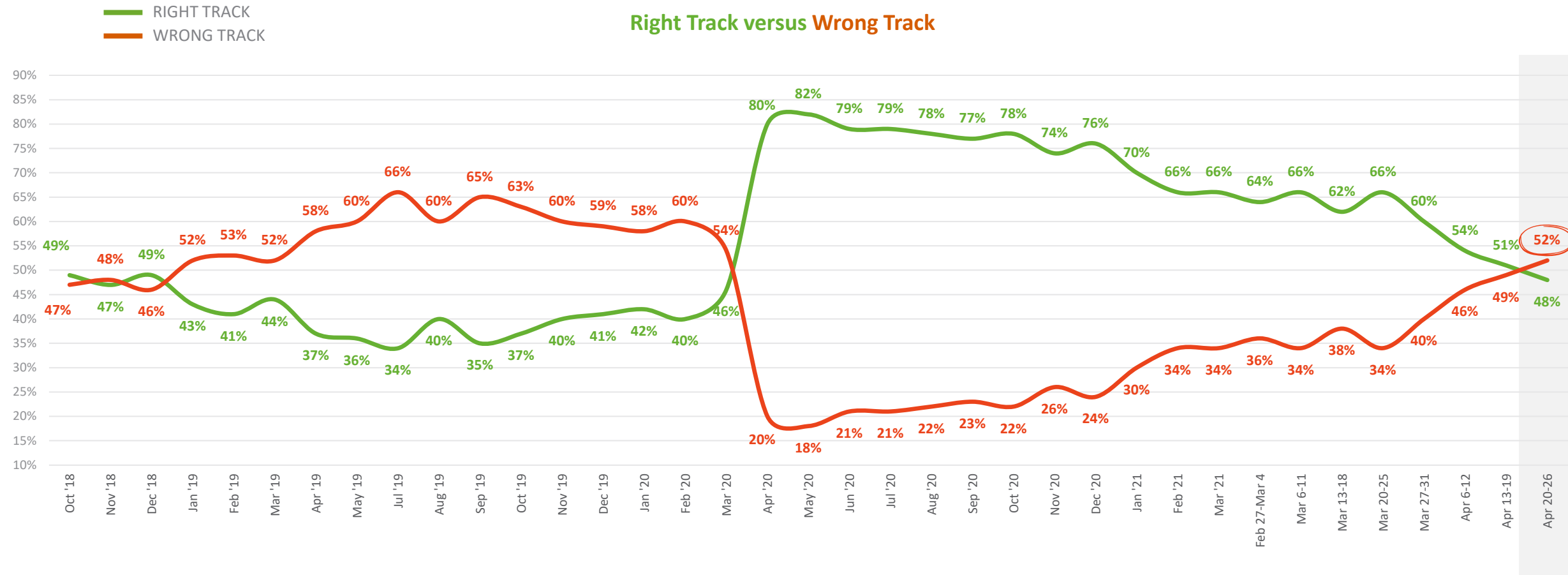
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

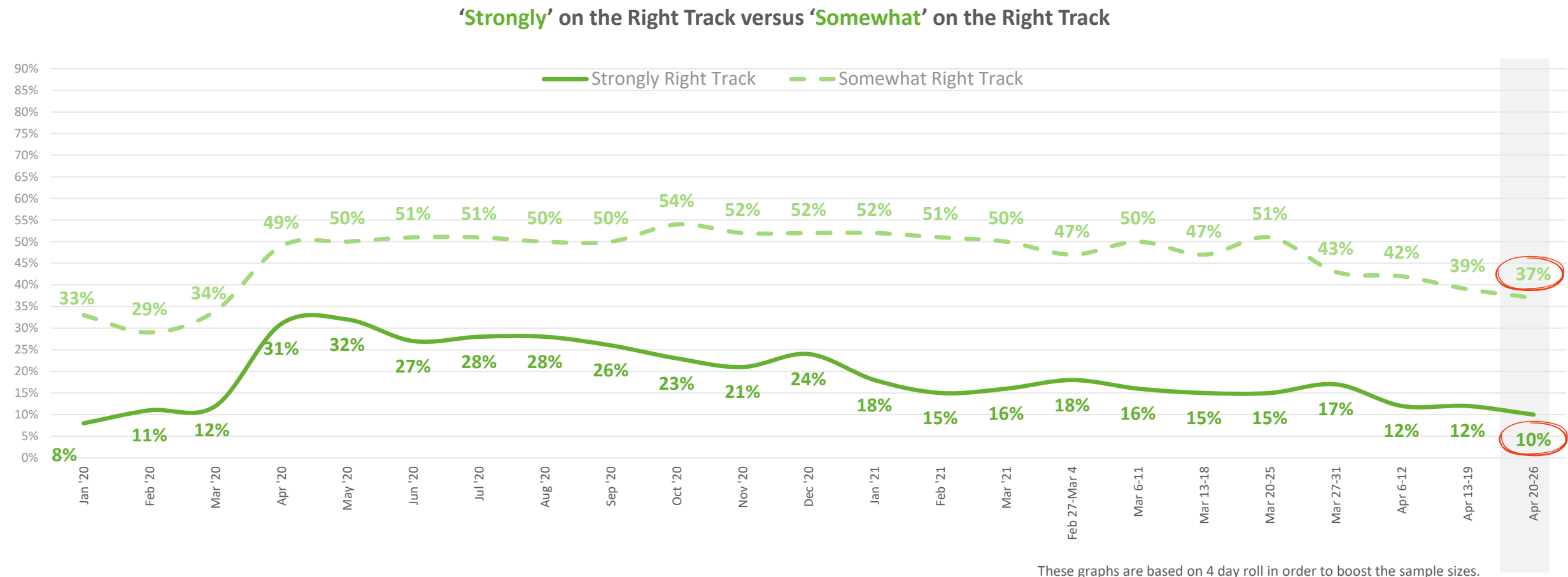


The government’s ‘right track’ scores continue to trend down - to 48% this past week - with ‘wrong track’ now 4-points higher than ‘right track’.



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

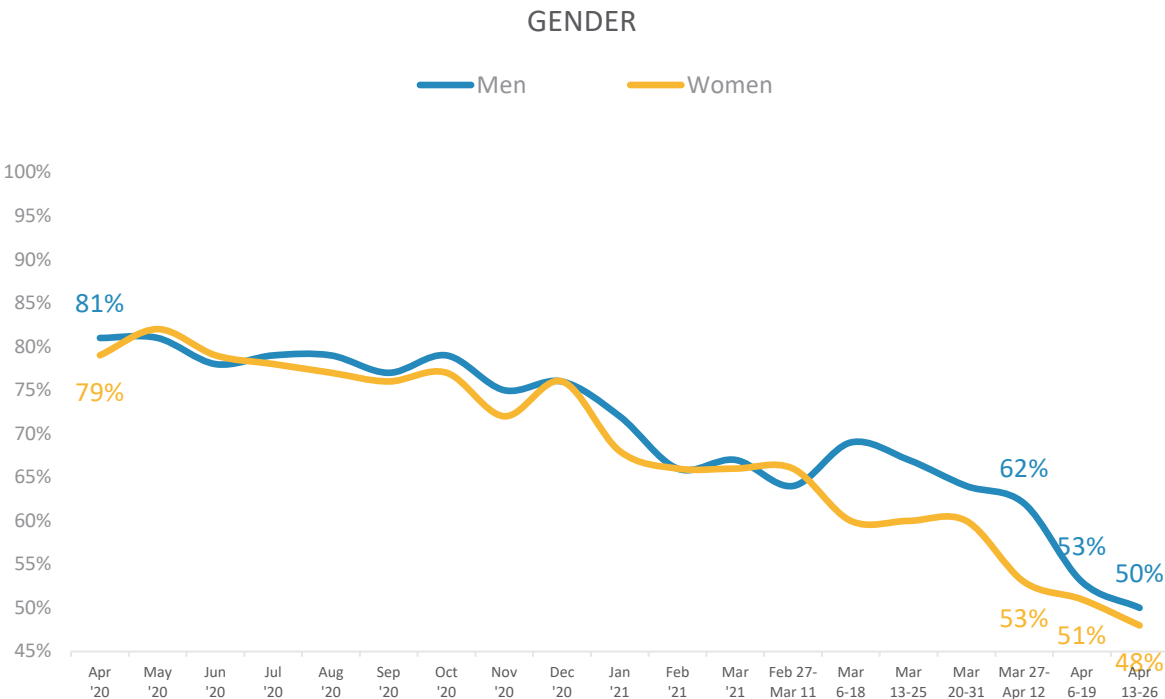
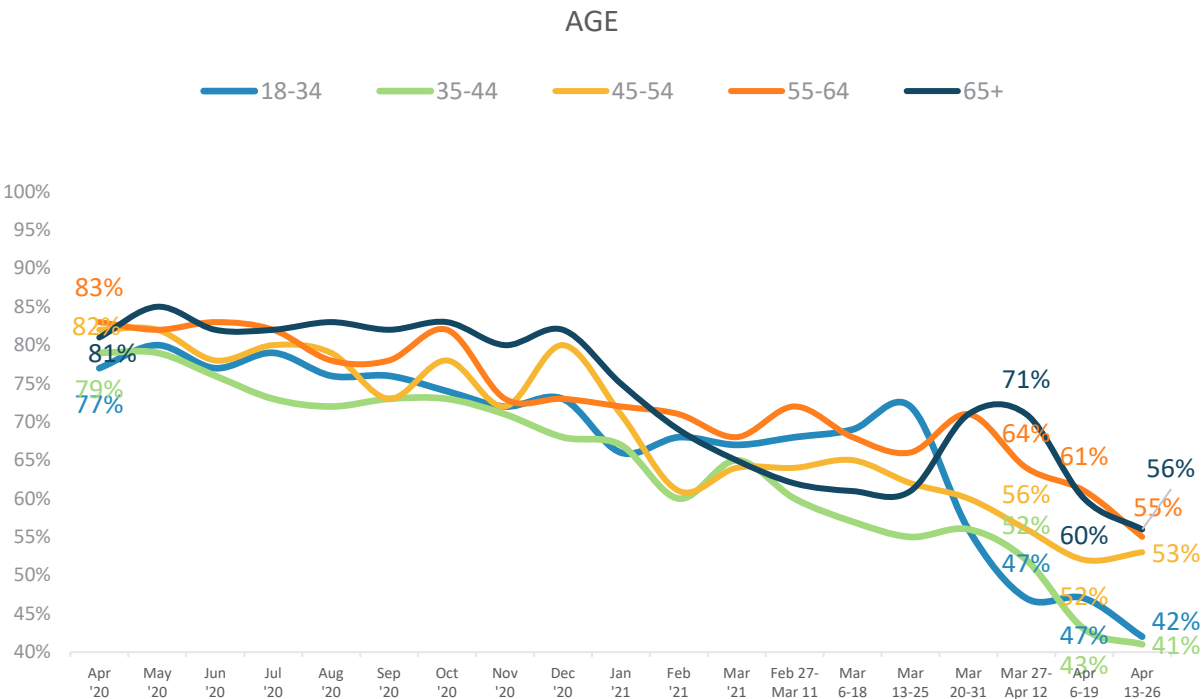
These declines measured for ‘right track’ occurred among both ‘strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’ scores.



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

Weaker ‘right track’ scores are occurring across all age groups and among both men and women.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

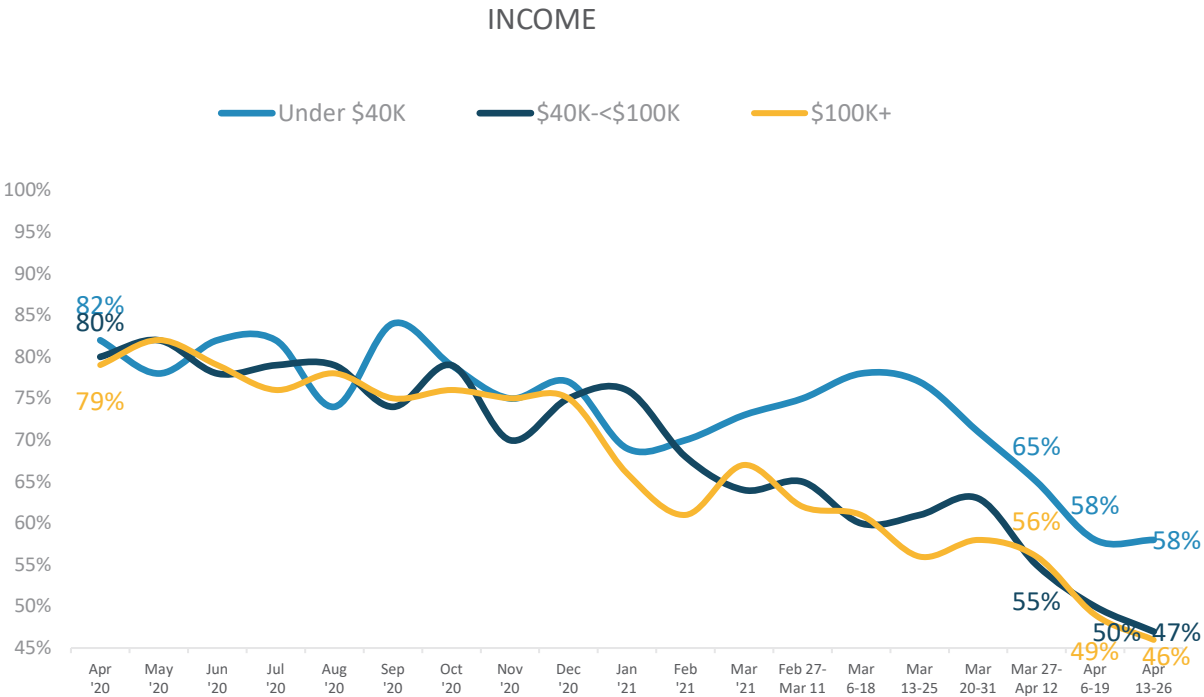
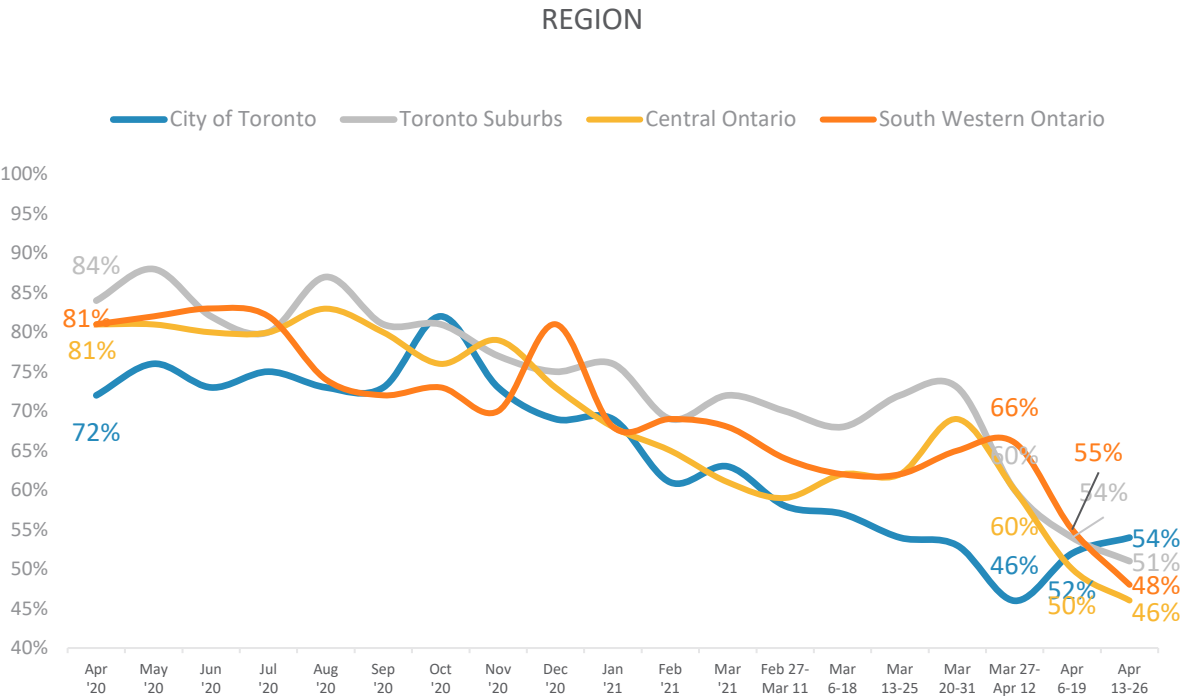


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While ‘right track’ scores increased in the City of Toronto, they have dropped in the other regions including the Toronto suburbs. These scores have also declined among those making over \$40,000 a year while remaining stable for those making under \$40,000.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



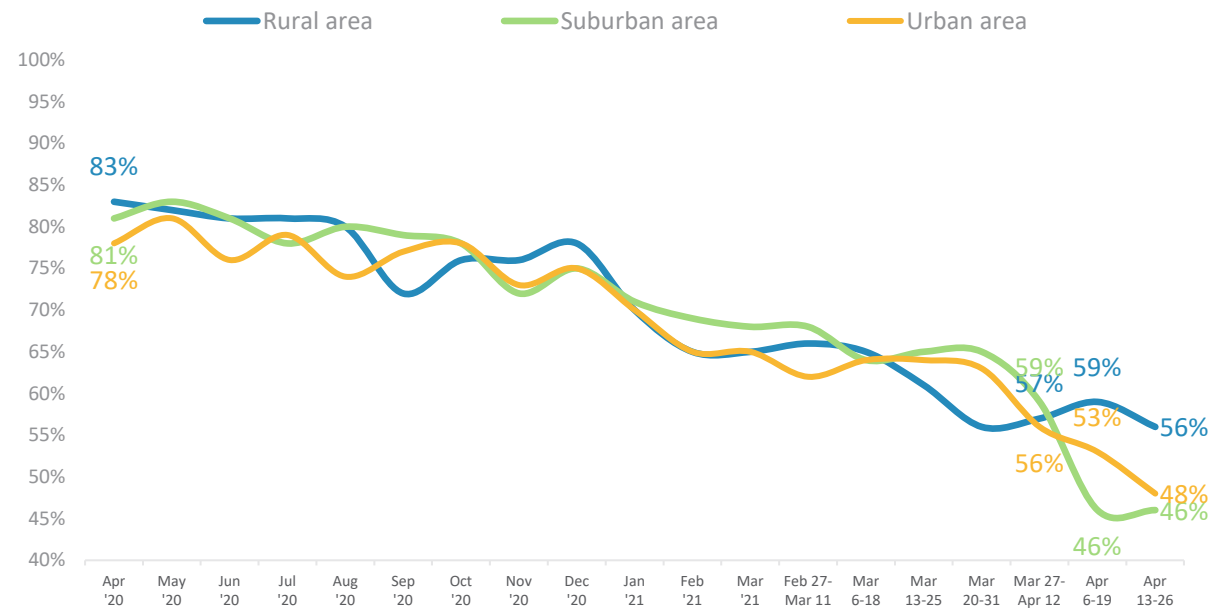
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Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

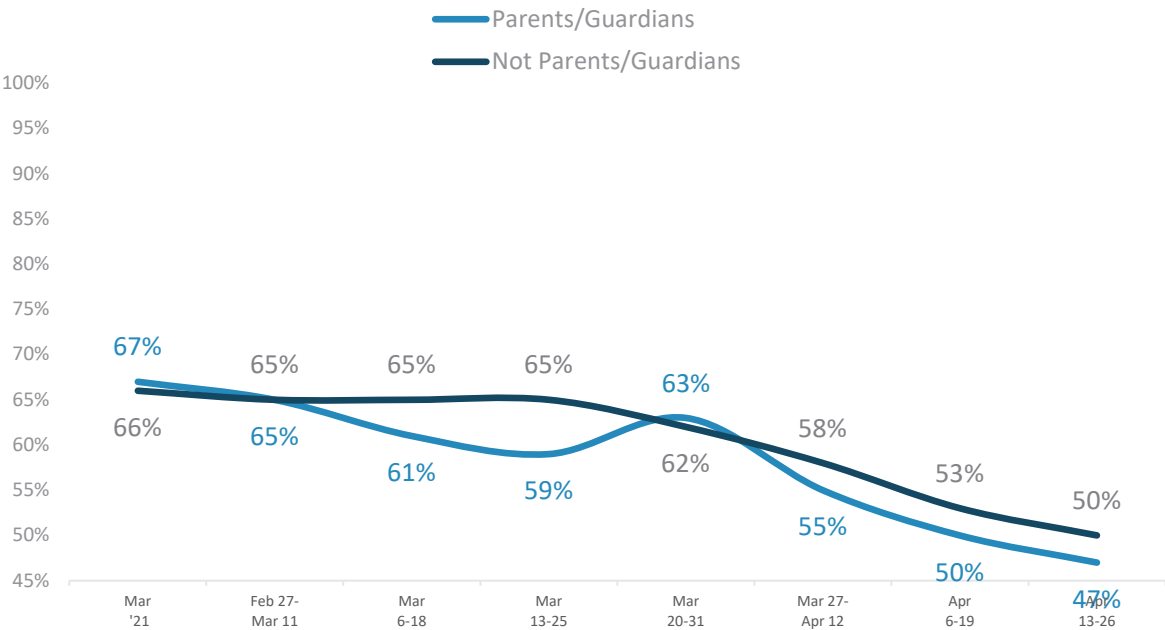
While ‘right track’ scores remained stable this week among residents of suburban areas, declines were measured among those in rural and urban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



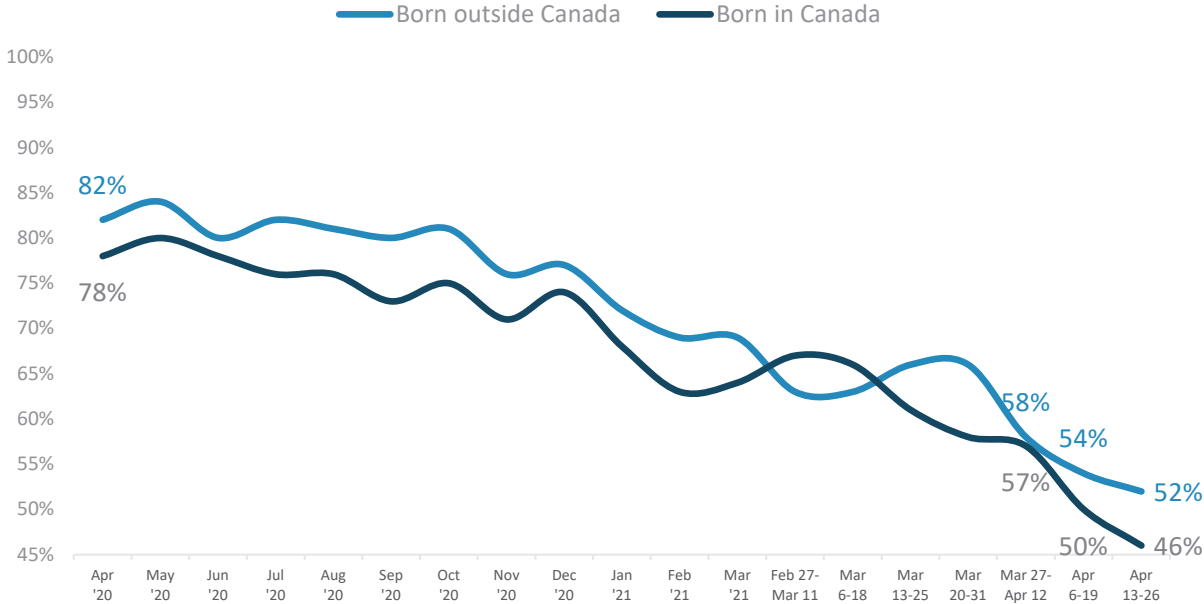
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

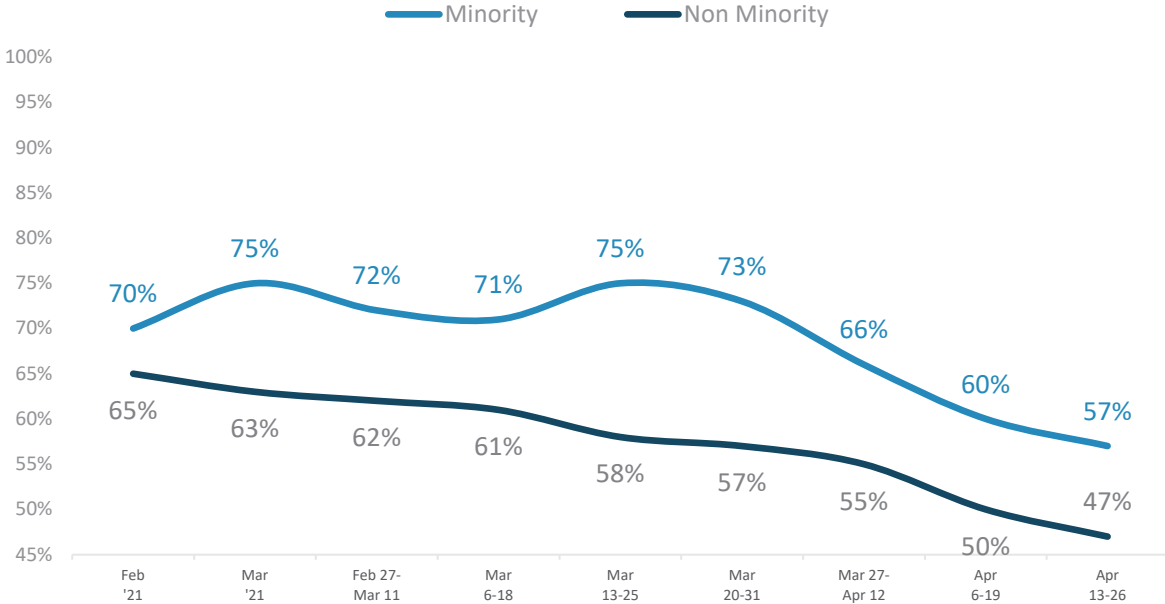
The ‘right track’ scores softened again this week among both those born in and outside of Canada and among those who identify as non-minority and minority.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

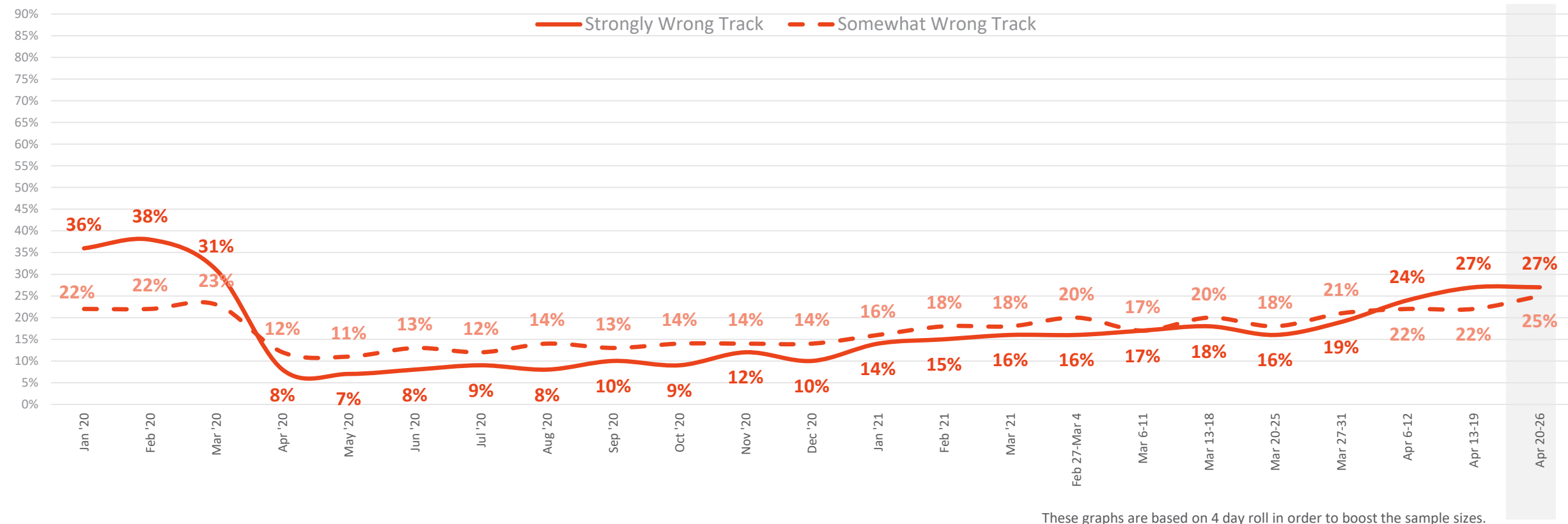


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While overall ‘strongly on the wrong track’ scores have been trending upwards, they remained stable this week. ‘Somewhat on the wrong track’ scores continued to move upwards, with both almost on par.

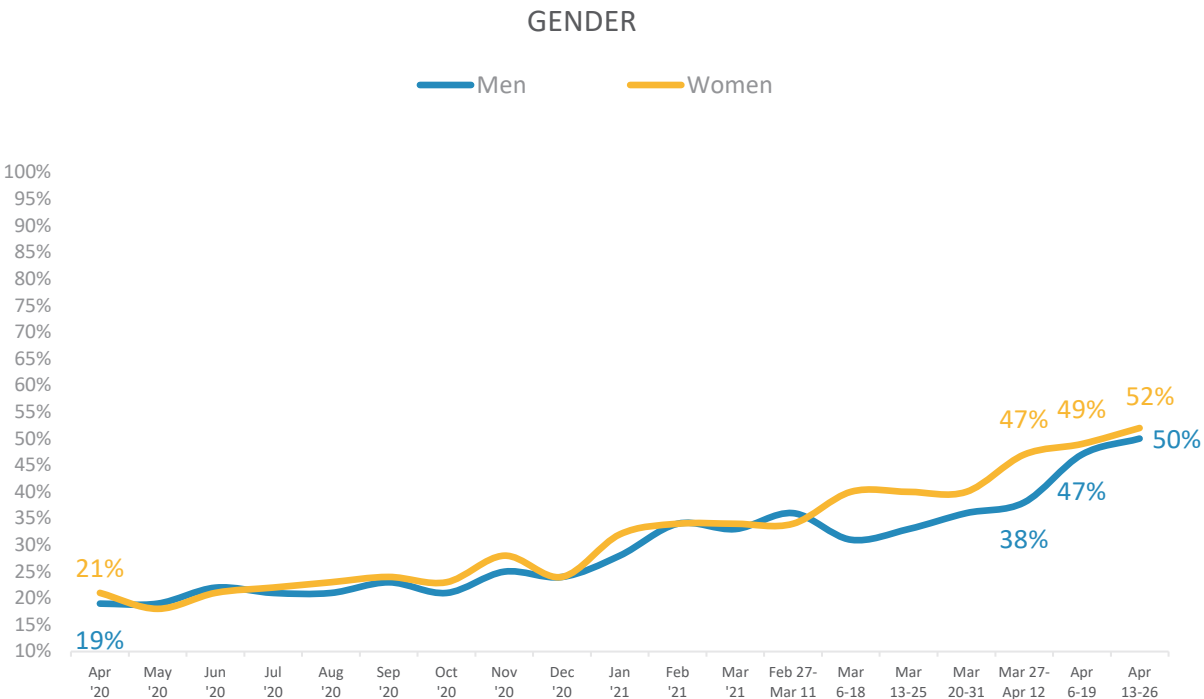
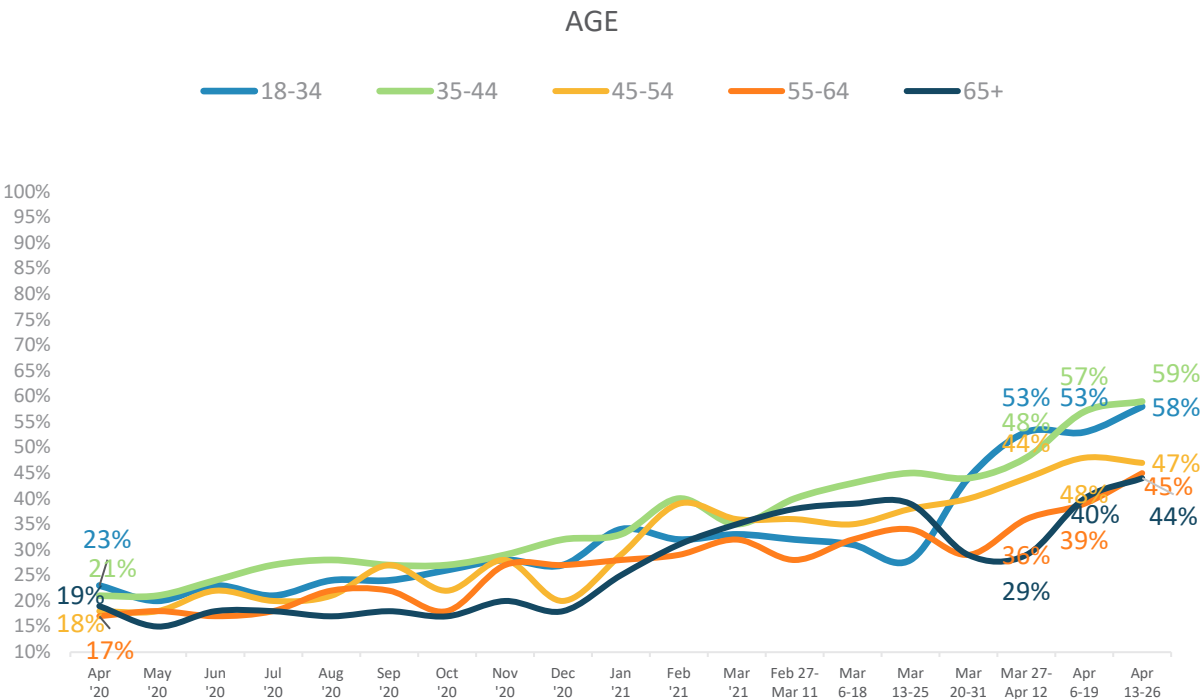
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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 increased among both men and women this week and remain on par. There were increases among all age groups except those aged 45-54, which remained stable.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

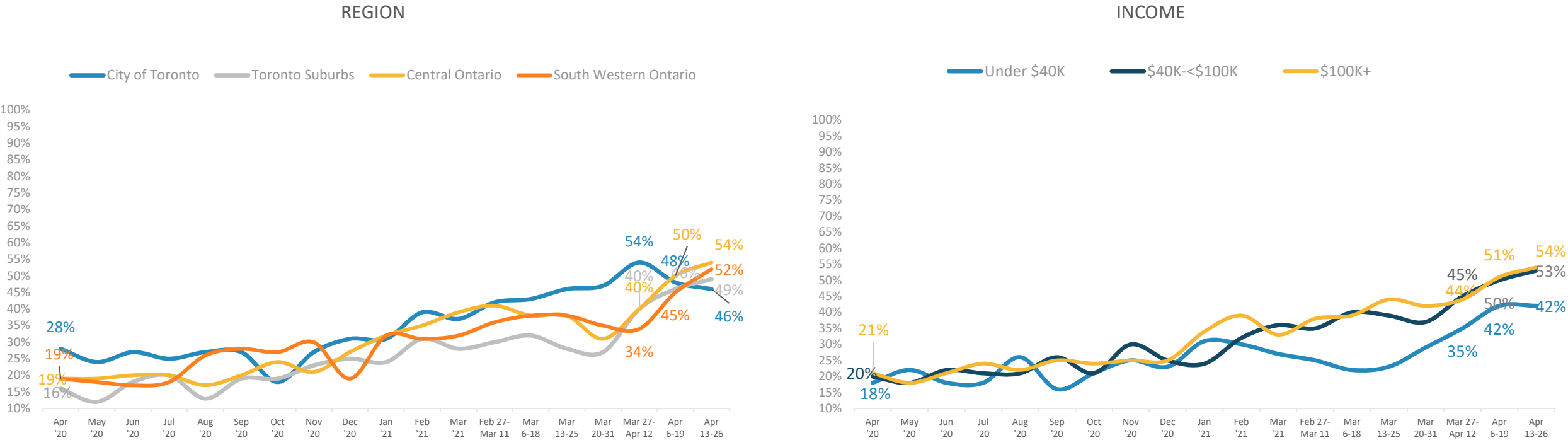


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 declined among City of Toronto residents again this week, while there were increases measured in all other regions. There was also upward movement among those with income over \$40,000 while those making under \$40,000 remained stable.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



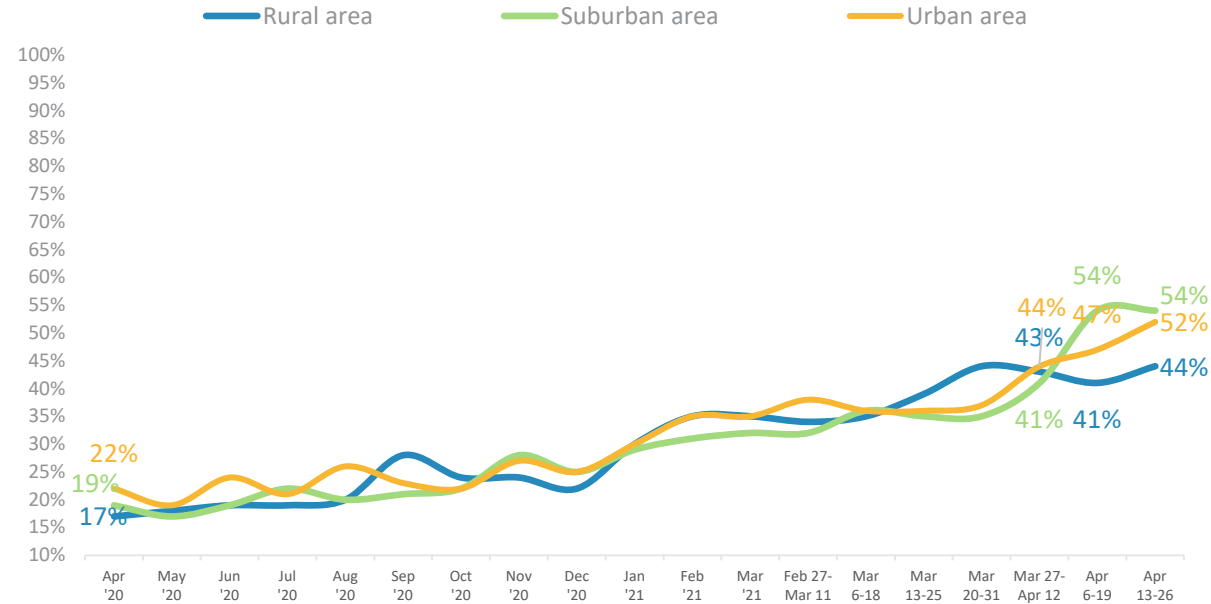
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

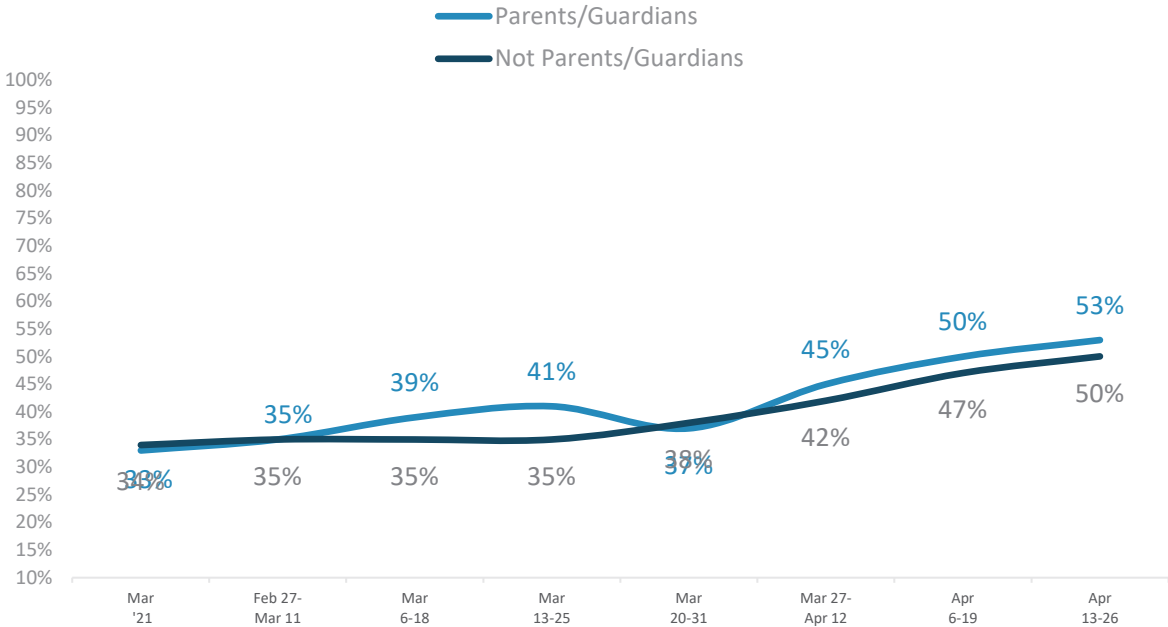
After a large increase in ‘wrong track’ scores in suburban areas last week, results remained stable this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

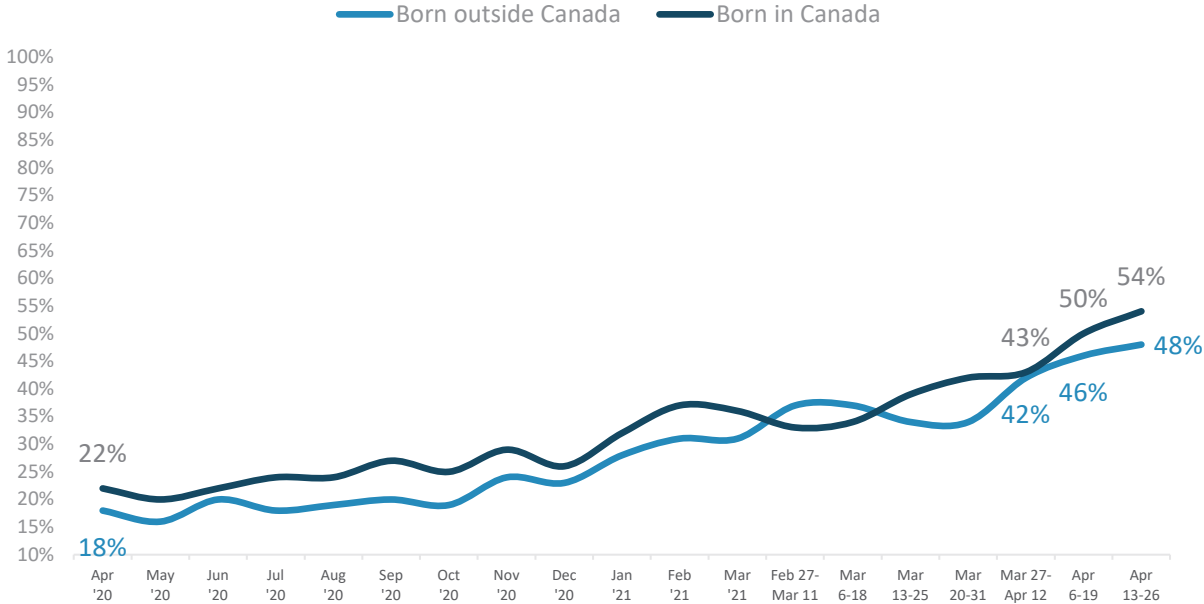


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

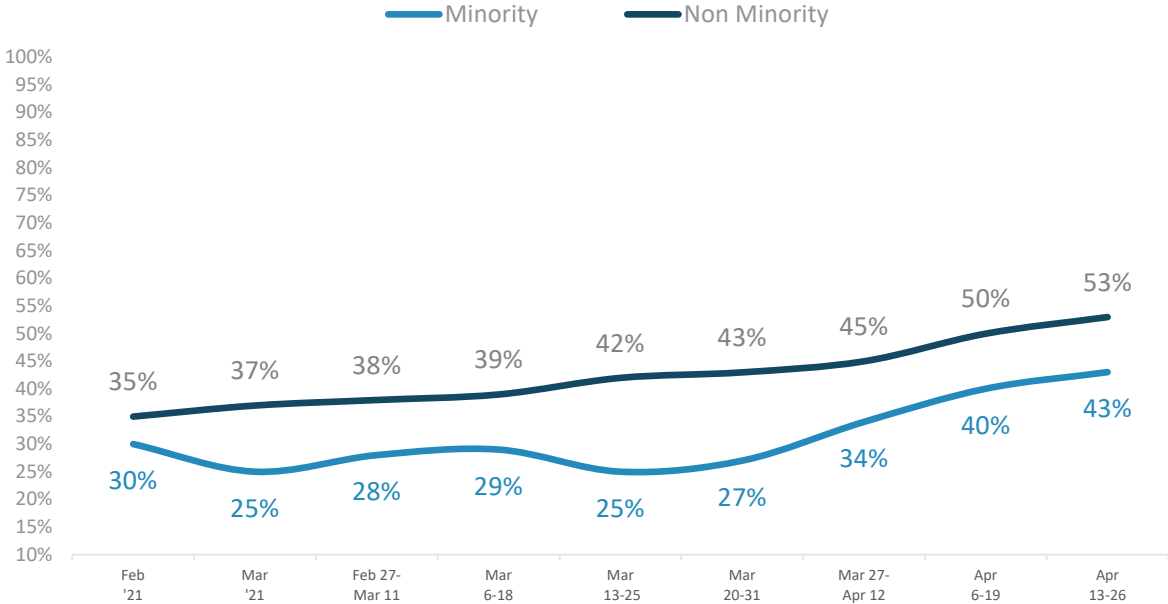
‘Wrong track’ scores among both those born in and outside of Canada increased this week, while scores also continued to trend upward among minorities and non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



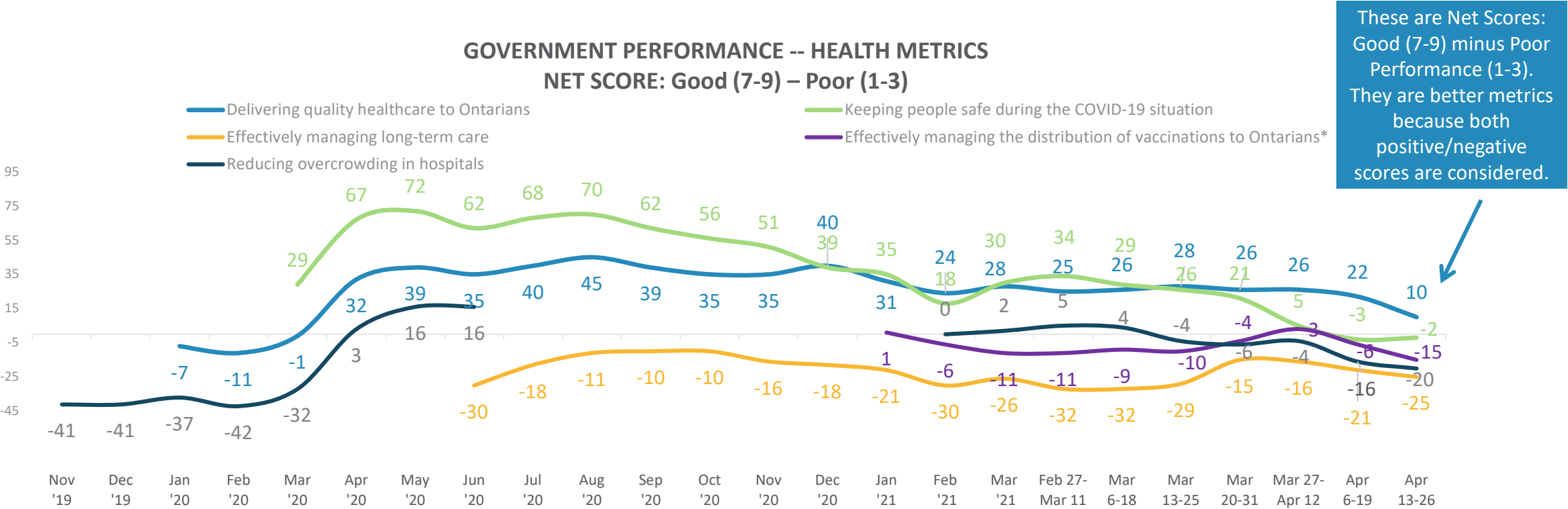
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



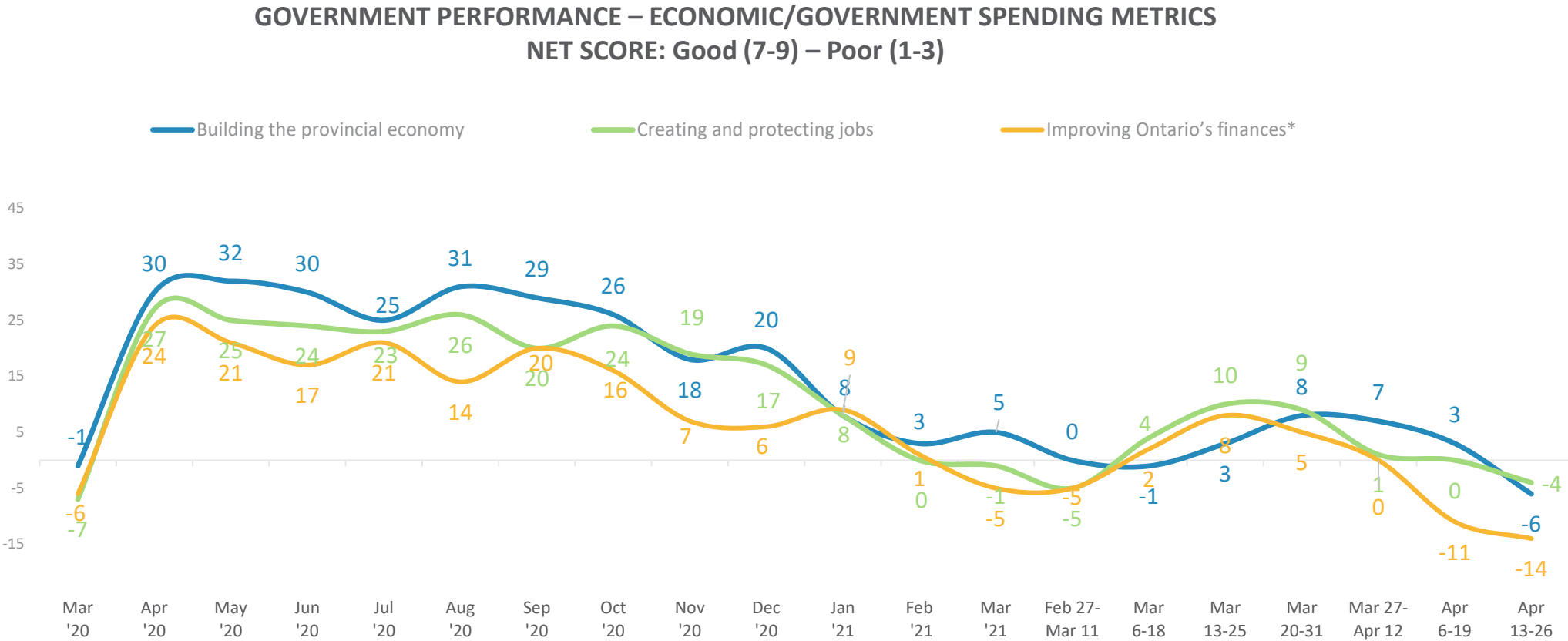
While the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has dropped 36-points since early March, results were stable this week at -2. However, there were declines among the other health metrics, with a 12-point drop in ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’.

- Paralleling these declines are drops in the performance scores on ‘effectively managing vaccination distribution’ and ‘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

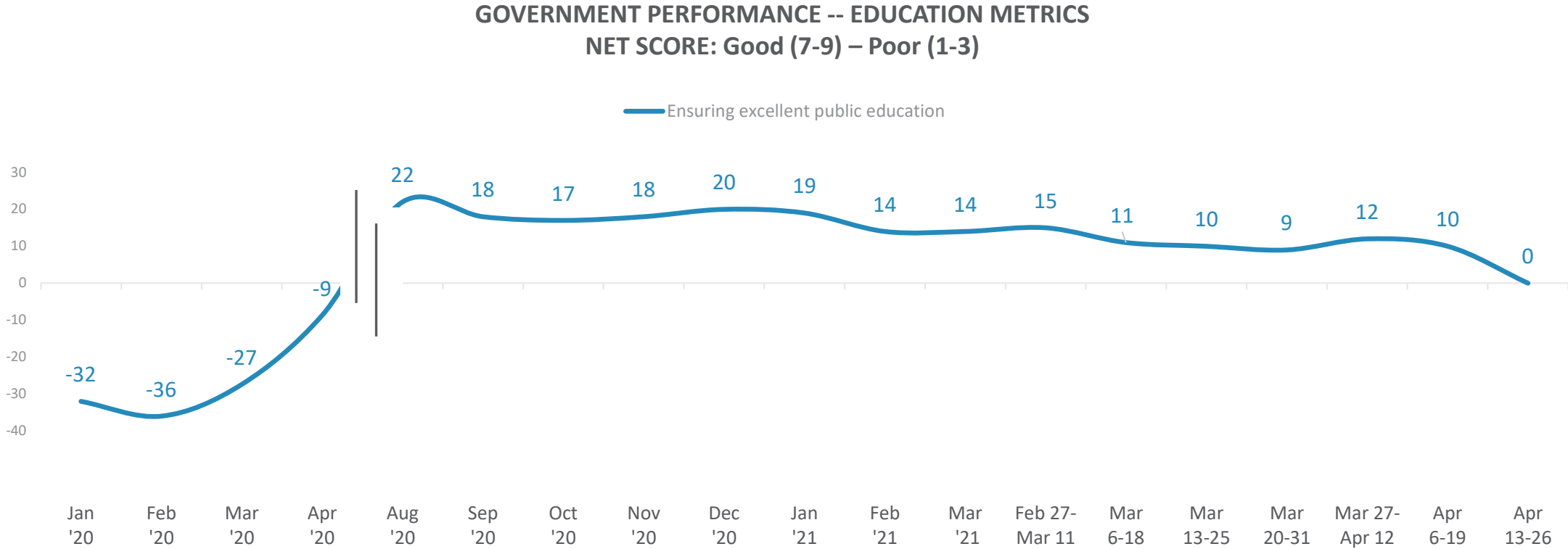
Paralleling the drops on health metrics, there were also declines in the economic metrics with all three now below zero.



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?

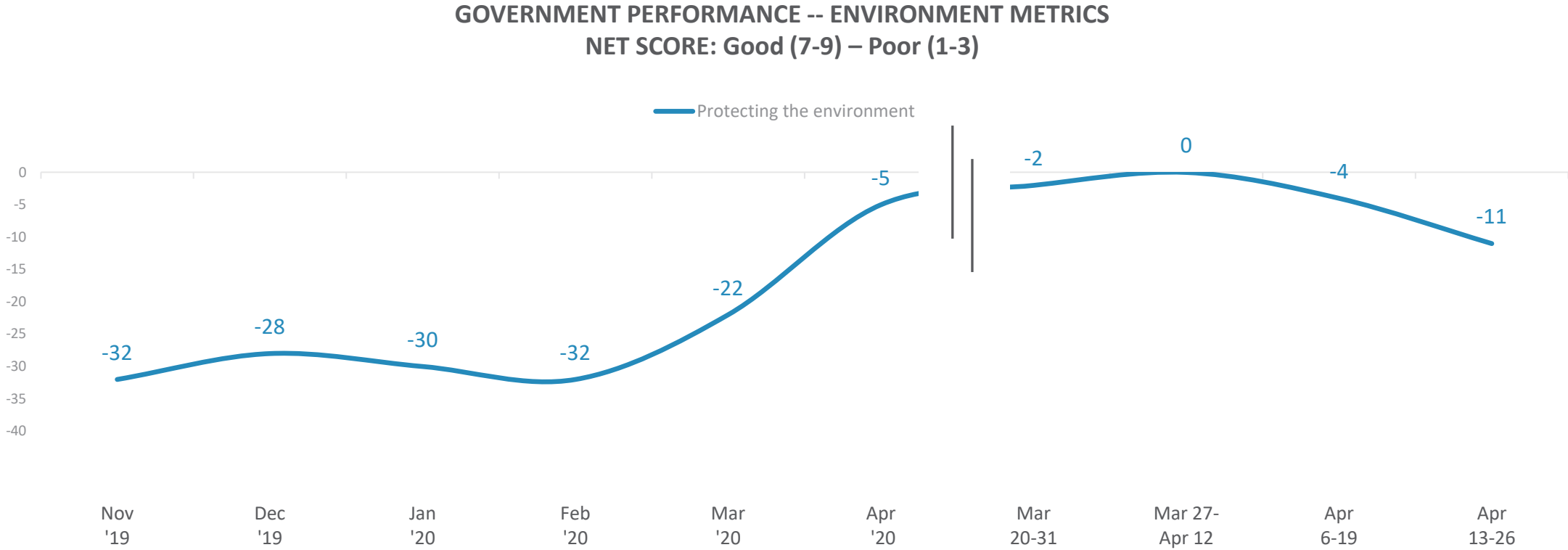
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

There was also a decline in perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘ensuring excellent public education’.



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

While the provincial government’s performance on ‘environmental protection’ continues to be much higher compared to the first quarter of 2020, there was also a decline on this metric.



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



The gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government’s handling of the second/third wave has continued, with half (50%) now providing a ‘poor/very poor’ rating.

	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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31	23	18	21
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	3
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28	20	16	18
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28	31	36	29
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21	24	22	26
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16	21	23	24
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38	45	45	50

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?

Two-thirds (67%) of Ontarians do not believe that the worst of the pandemic is over, with a 17-point increase measured since the end of March.

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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	44	40	44	30	29	26	40	35	24	26
Strongly agree	14	21	27	14	8	10	12	14	12	14
Somewhat agree	30	19	17	15	21	16	28	21	12	12
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	3	9	5	8	7	9	6
Somewhat disagree	19	21	16	30	29	28	23	39	27	23
Strongly disagree	28	30	28	35	30	39	27	19	38	44
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	51	43	65	59	67	50	58	65	67

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



A majority of Ontarians continue to indicate they are not ‘angry’ with the provincial shutdown, with one-third (33%) indicating they are 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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	36	30	33
Strongly agree	23	18	18	22
Somewhat agree	13	18	12	11
Neither agree nor disagree	4	10	9	10
Somewhat disagree	20	16	16	18
Strongly disagree	39	37	42	38
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	53	58	56

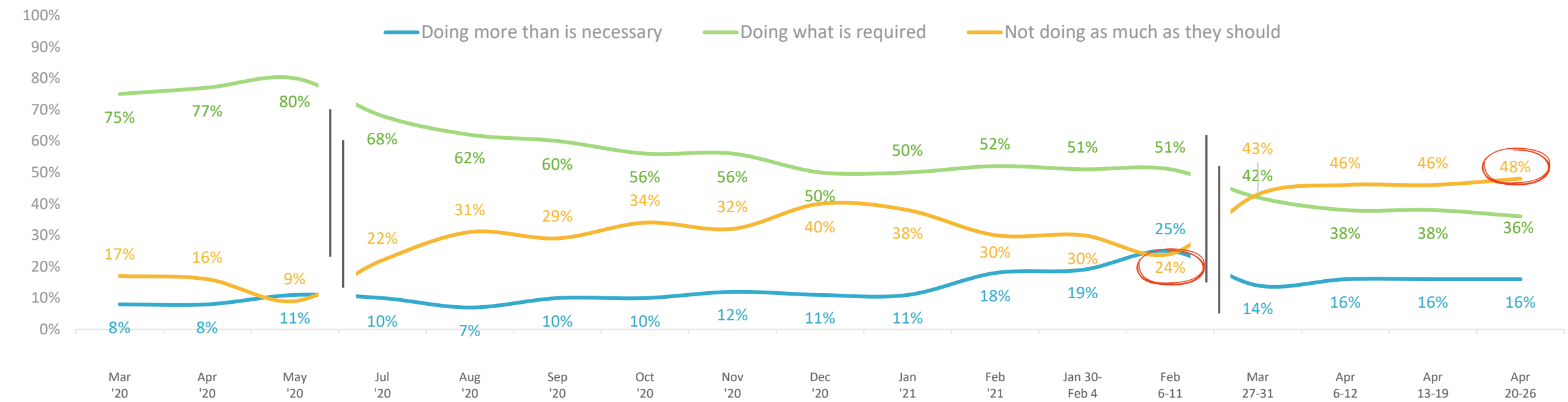
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Compared to early February there has been an increase in the proportion of Ontarians who think the government is not doing enough to reduce the spread of the virus. However, this metric has remained relatively stable over the past three weeks.

	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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	58%	55%	57%	57%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%	34%	35%	30%	29%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	20%	18%	18%	17%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%	58%	59%	63%	65%



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



Compared to levels of support for previous states of emergency, there are lower levels of support measured for the most recent provincial shutdown/stay-at-home orders. And, support declined 10-points to 60% for the most recent restrictions announced.

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 ...

The Government of Ontario has issued a province-wide stay-at-home order which includes further restrictions on retail, closing indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants, among other actions. Would you say you are ... of the government taking this step?

The Government of Ontario recently extended the province-wide stay-at-home order which includes further restrictions on retail, shutting down non-essential construction and forbidding golf and other outdoor activities. Would you say you are ...of the government taking this step?

	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

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

Apr 13-19
300
%
70
42
28
15
14
29

	Apr 20-26
n=	300
%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	60
Very supportive	26
Somewhat supportive	34
Somewhat opposed	19
Strongly opposed	21
TOTAL OPPOSED	40

QCV-8A. The Government of Ontario recently extended the a province-wide stay-at-home order which includes further restrictions on retail, shutting down non-essential construction and forbidding golf and other outdoor activities. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.) ...of the government taking this step? (previous phrasing) The Government of Ontario has issued a province-wide stay-at-home order which includes further restrictions on retail, closing indoor and outdoor dining 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 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?

There continues to be a decline in the number of Ontarians that hold the perception that the government is trying to balance the interests of economic and health considerations, while there have been increases in those that think the government is putting the economy above 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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
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	24	27
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	42	40
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	29	29
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5	5	4	6	3	4	5	5	3

Again this week there was an increase – to 77% - of Ontarians agreeing they are ‘getting tired of lockdowns’.

I am getting tired of lockdowns

	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	71	75	77
Strongly agree	45	50	49
Somewhat agree	27	25	28
Neither agree nor disagree	7	9	3
Somewhat disagree	9	7	9
Strongly disagree	12	9	11
TOTAL DISAGREE	21	15	21

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

However, while Ontarians may be fatiguing with lockdowns, three-quarters (75%) say they are continuing to follow rules especially about social gatherings. And, this percentage has been trending upwards.

I have stopped following rules especially about social gatherings.

	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	28	26	22
Strongly agree	17	9	15
Somewhat agree	11	17	7
Neither agree nor disagree	5	3	2
Somewhat disagree	11	11	11
Strongly disagree	54	58	64
TOTAL DISAGREE	65	69	75

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

Three-quarters (75%) also believe that the recent provincial government stay-at-home order and additional restrictions will slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow more time for people to get vaccinated.

I believe the extension of provincial government stay-at-home order and additional restrictions will slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow more time for people to get vaccinated / I believe the recent provincial government stay-at-home order 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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	61	69	75
Strongly agree	35	44	43
Somewhat agree	26	25	31
Neither agree nor disagree	7	3	1
Somewhat disagree	15	18	8
Strongly disagree	15	9	16
TOTAL DISAGREE	31	27	24

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

Eight-in-ten (80%) of Ontarians agree that this shutdown is unfair to small businesses and restaurants and favours big retail stores like Costco and Walmart.

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

	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	77	78	80
Strongly agree	48	50	53
Somewhat agree	29	28	27
Somewhat disagree	14	12	12
Strongly disagree	7	8	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	21	20	18

QCV-196. As you may know the government of Ontario imposed a month-long stay at home order, which includes closing indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants and permitting only curb-side pickup and delivery at retail stores. Big retail was allowed to stay open, but with limits on the number of people allowed in the store, and on what they are able to sell. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: (previous phrasing) As you may know the government of Ontario imposed a month-long stay at home order, which includes closing indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants and permitting only curb- side pick up and delivery at retail stores. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: (previous phrasing) 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

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN
ABOUT

NON-LIFE- THREATENING SURGERIES AND PROCEDURES
BEING POSTPONSED OR CANCELLED.



There is high awareness that, with the increase in COVID-19 infections caused by the new variants in Ontario, some non-life-threatening surgeries and procedures are being cancelled or postponed.

	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	300	300
	%	%
Yes	82	82
No	18	17
Don't know/not sure	-	1

QCV-198. With the increase of COVID infections caused by the new variants in Ontario, patient occupancy within Intensive Care Units is reaching capacity in some parts of the province. This has required that some non-life-threatening surgeries and procedures be cancelled or postponed. Before today, had you seen, read or heard anything about this situation?

Base: Total sample

CONCERN THAT SURGERIES/PROCEDURES ARE BEING CANCELLED OR POSTPONED

There is also a high level of concern that non-life-threatening surgeries and procedures are being cancelled or postponed.

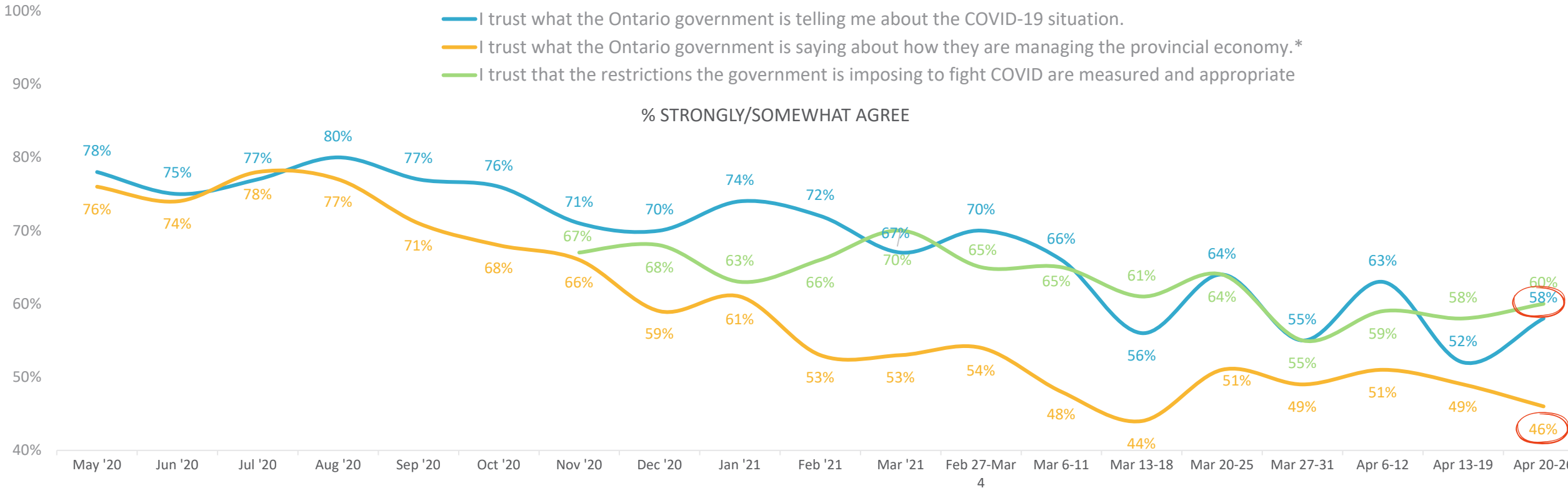
	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	89	88
Very concerned	54	56
Somewhat concerned	35	32
Not very concerned	8	6
Not at all concerned	3	6
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	11	12
Don't know/not sure	1	<1

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Of note, over the past week, there have been increased levels of trust in government communications regarding ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’. However, declines continued for ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.



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



LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

In conjunction with the latest provincial shutdown and further restrictions, as well as coverage of the impact of the variants, Ontarians are less likely to indicate they are getting tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, with just over half (55%) currently disagreeing with this.

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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies																
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57	53	39
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7	6	5
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55

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



Again this week, only one-in-five (down to 19% compared to 41% in late March) 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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
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	18	19

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

Perhaps connected to increases in vaccination rates, there was a 15-point increase this week to 34% agreeing 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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies																			
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24	26	28	20	27	21	22	19	34
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8	14	8	13	12	16
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12	13	14	8	7	17
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11	7	10	7	11	12	14	6	8
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18	20	27	17	15	15
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54	37	38	41	59	41
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57	72	58	65	58	74	56

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

Base: Total sample

Similarly, there has been an increase again this week in the proportion of Ontarians who don't think they will become seriously ill if they contract the virus. Again, this may be connected to the increasing levels of vaccination in the province.

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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36	32	30	37	39
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12	16	15	17	22
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	20	14	21	22	20	24	16	15	21	17
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	8	11	9	7	9	9	7	12	9	6	7
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	12	13	16	13	14	17	18	13	19
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36	35	38	39	31
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51	51	56	52	50

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

Base: Total sample

ONLY LEAVING HOME TO GO TO THE GROCERY STORE AND PHARMACY

After the announcement of the third provincial shutdown/stay-at-home order and additional restrictions, about seven-in-ten (68%) 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	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63	76	54	66	65	68
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40	48	50	55
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14	18	15	13
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6	3	5	2	4	3	3
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5	19	13	8	12
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10	23	13	20	15
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42	26	28	27

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

And, there was an 11-point increase to 81% ‘strongly’ agreeing 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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86	85	92
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70	70	81
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16	15	11
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2	4	1
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4	6	2
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7	4	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11	10	6

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 vaccines are being administered. However, this confidence declined for the second week.

I am confident the end of COVID-19 is near now that it appears a vaccine is nearly ready

*I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered**

	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			

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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
varies																	
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68	55	52
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37
																	1

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



Just over half (54%) of Ontarians believe that the new variants are more deadly than the original COVID-19 infection.

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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Spread more easily	63	62	67	70	76	75
Spread less easily	4	7	5	2	2	1
No difference	18	18	21	18	15	19
Don't know/Not sure	14	13	8	10	7	5

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

	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies	
	%	%
More deadly	54	54
About as deadly	33	32
Less deadly	5	8
Don't know/not sure	9	5

QCV-191. To the best of your knowledge, are these new variants more deadly, about as deadly or less deadly than the original COVID-19 infection? (previous phrasing) 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 three weeks, there have been increases in the proportion that believe the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants - now at 70% and the highest level since tracking on this issue began.

	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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37	34	31	47	39	36	39	37	30	26
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47	56	60	57	58	64	70
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	4

QCV-130A. With the arrival of new COVID variants 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, 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?

DIGITAL PRIVACY



Three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians are concerned about their privacy and the protection of their personal information when using the internet or mobile apps.

	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	68	75
Very concerned	31	36
Somewhat concerned	37	39
Not very concerned	20	16
Not at all concerned	10	8
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	24
Don't know		1

QDP-4. How concerned are you about your privacy and the protection of personal information when you use the internet or mobile apps?
Base: Total sample

Ontarians overwhelmingly believe that their privacy is threatened through the mass collection of information and that stronger laws are required to regulate how this information can be collected, used and shared.

	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	300	300
	%	%
Some people say that our privacy is threatened by businesses that rely on the mass collection of personal information without individual consent and that stronger laws are required to regulate how this information can be collected, used, and shared.	73	76
Other people say that current laws protecting an individual’s privacy and how their data is used are already strong enough and that new protections are not required as it will be an unnecessary burden on businesses.	21	19
Don’t know/not sure	6	5

QDP-5. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people have been carrying out most of their lives online, including working remotely, learning online, or socializing virtually. As a result, there have been some discussions about whether or not current laws are strong enough to protect the privacy of people when they are online. Which of the following best reflects your point of view?

Base: Total sample

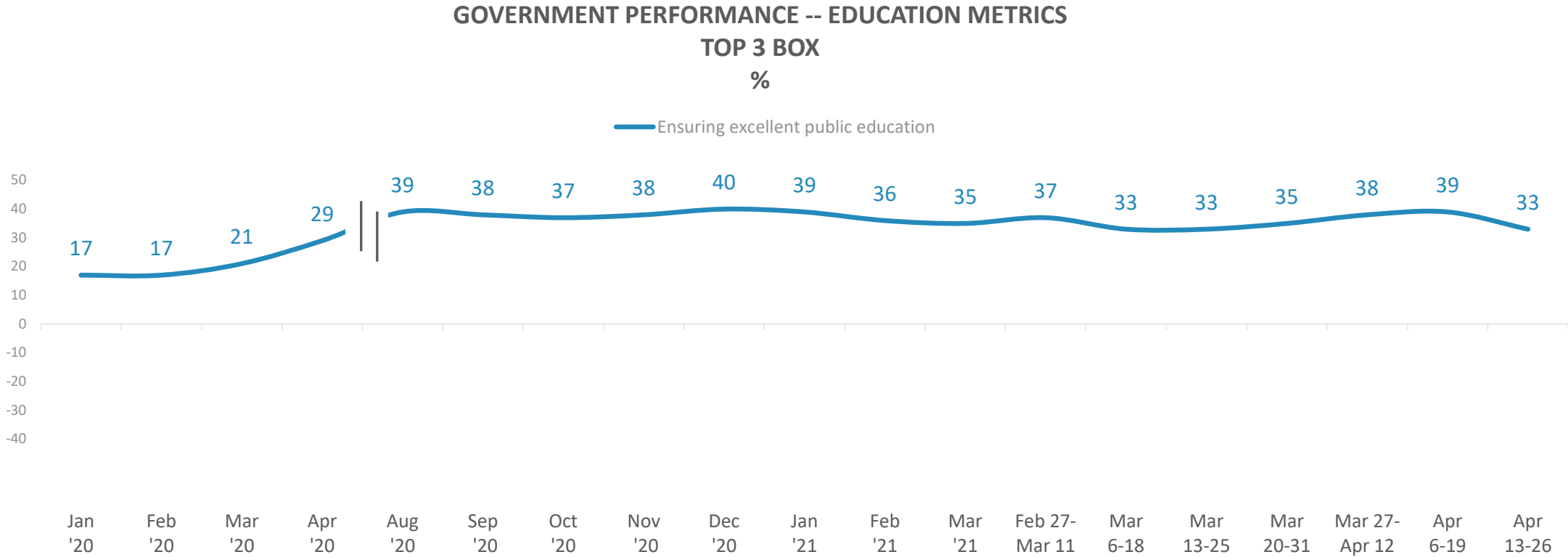
Ontarians agree that government should: investigate and penalize businesses that disregard the laws to protect personal information (96%); prohibit the collection and use of personal information from children’s online activity (88%); and limit the ability of businesses to monitor online behaviour and sell the data (79%).

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26
n=	300	300
	%	%
Government should investigate and penalize businesses that disregard the laws designed to protect personal information.	91	96
Government should prohibit the collection and use of personal information from children’s online activity that could be used for profiling, monitoring, or influencing children.	88	88
Government should limit the ability of businesses to monitor online behavior and sell that data without the user’s knowledge or consent.	75	79

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

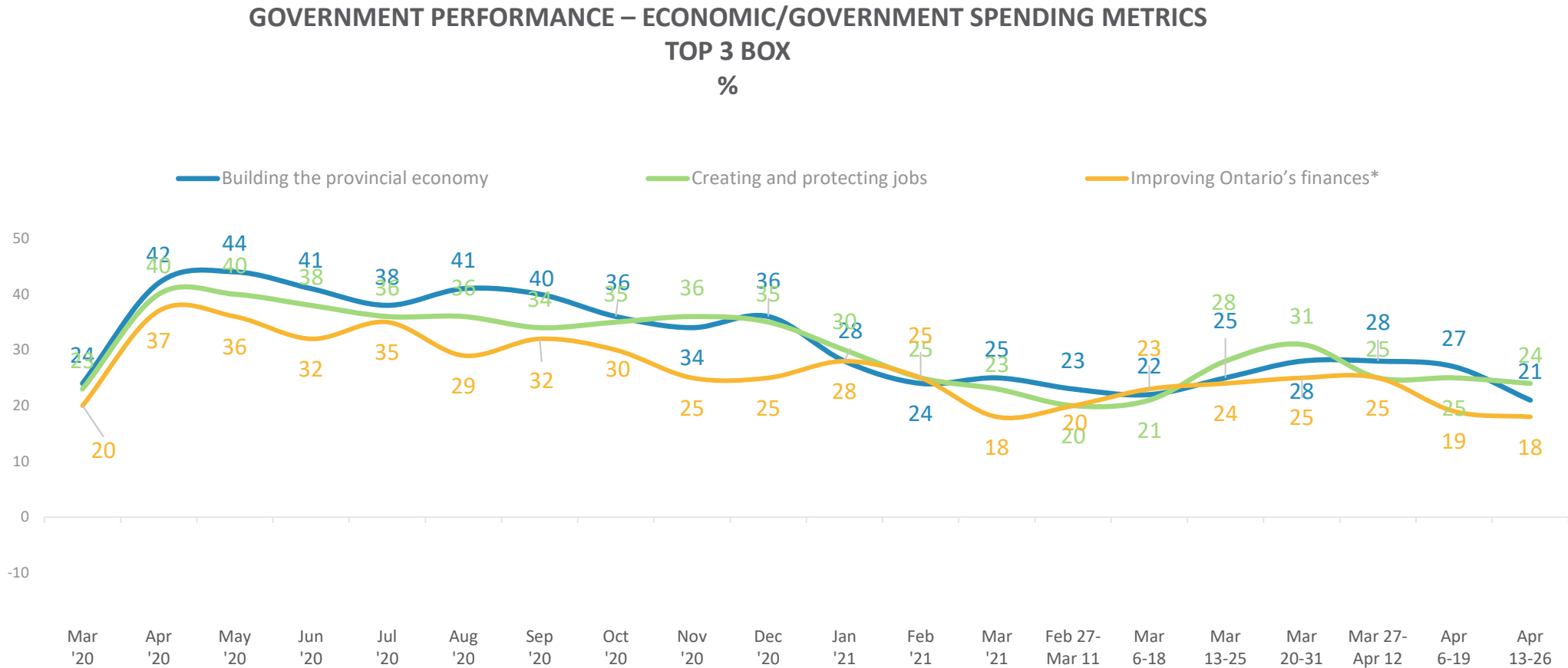


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined this past week.



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?
Bases vary

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘building the provincial economy’ has declined this week after increasing in recent weeks.

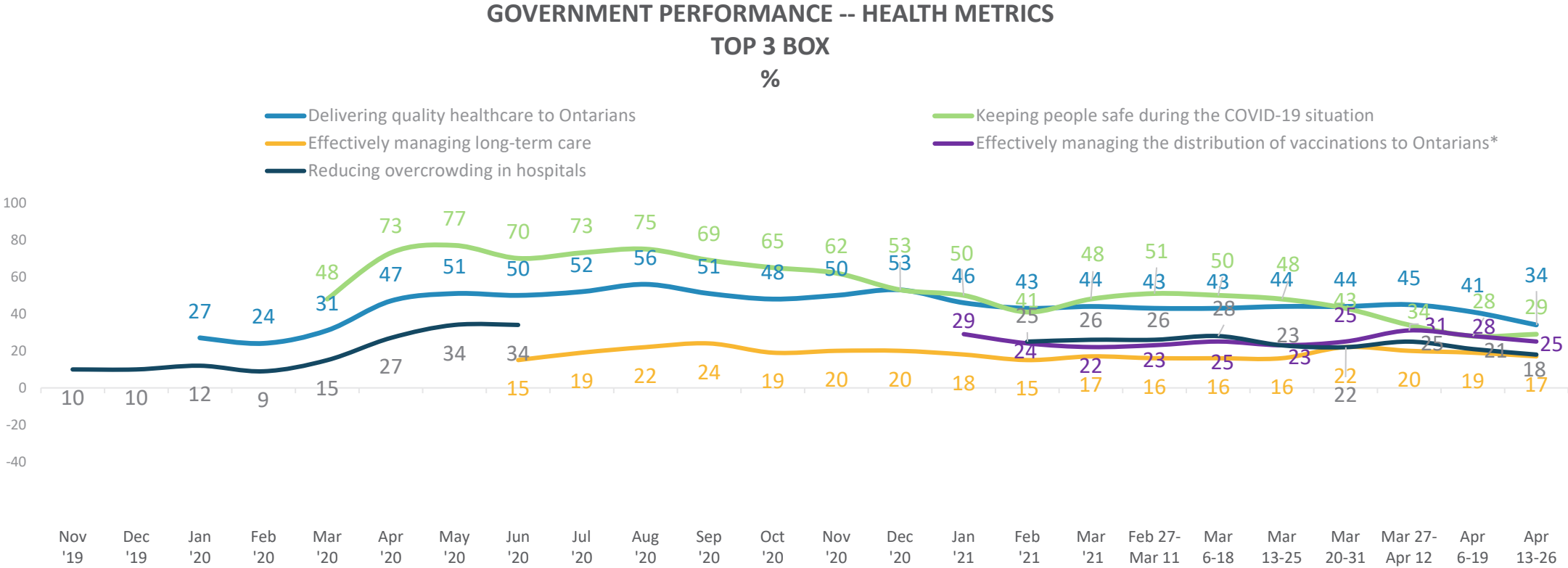


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

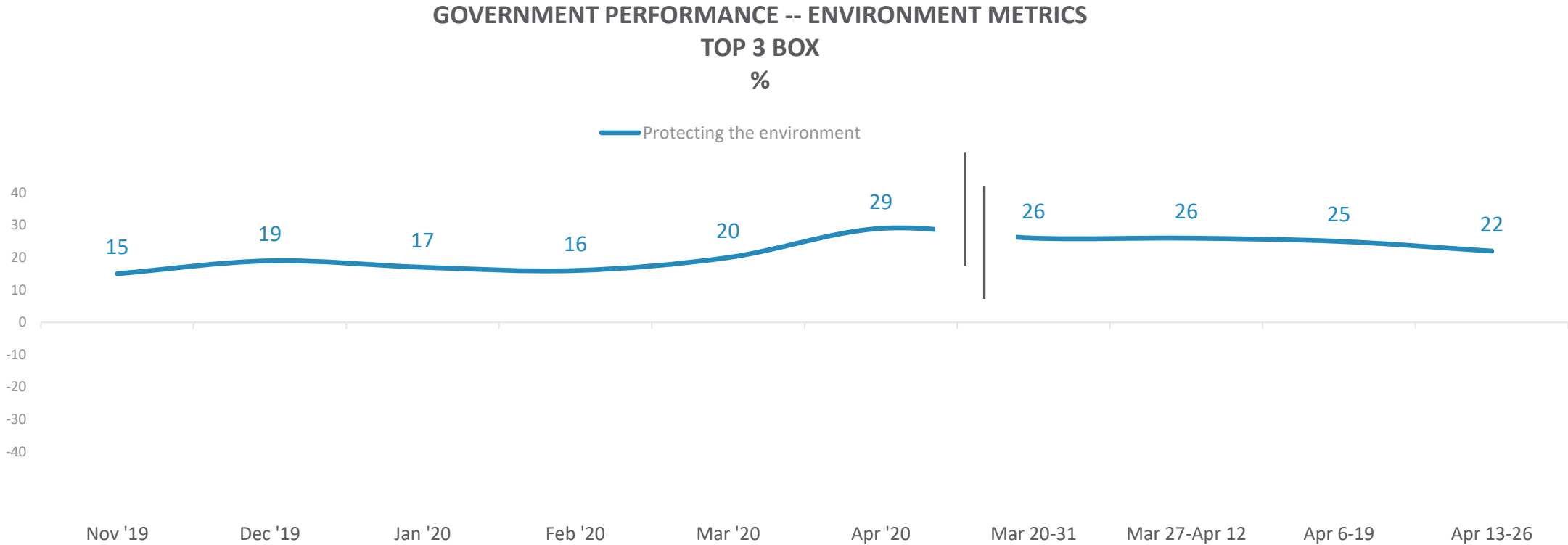
Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has remained steady this week while ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ 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: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Perception the provincial government is ‘protecting the government’ has declined slightly.



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