

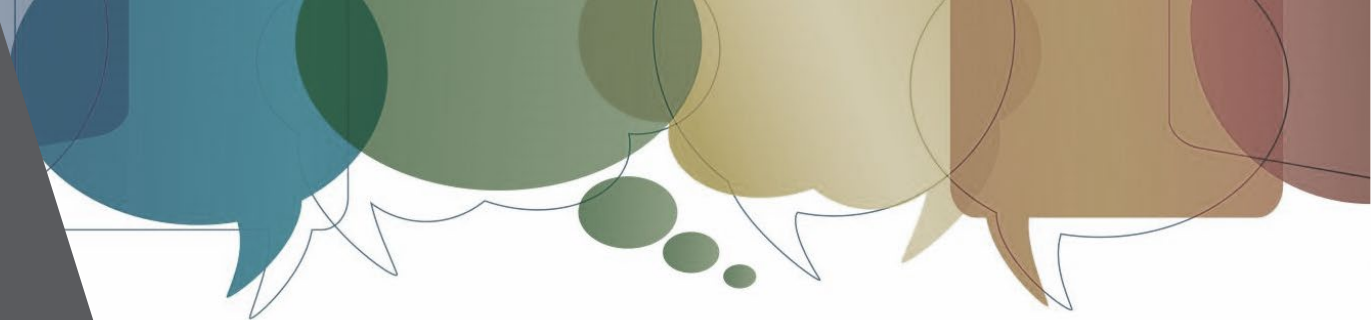


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #79

CABINET OFFICE

May 4th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 After declining for several weeks, the government's 'right track' scores remained stable this week at 49%.

However, by demographics, scores continued to decline among those who live in the Central Ontario region and among women - and this week dropped among those making under \$40,000.

'Right track' and 'wrong track' scores are now at pre-COVID-19 levels. These scores have now returned to historical ranges.

2 Although there has been a gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government's handling of the second/third wave, results remained unchanged this week with half (51%) providing a 'poor/very poor' rating.

Of note, after hitting a high of 70% last week, there has been a decline in the proportion who believe the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants. That said, the number remains higher than previous waves (65%).

3 In response to increasing infection cases and the provincial shutdown, the 'COVID-19' priority remains at almost record highs at 71% - although a decline was measured this week.

Connected to this, there seems to be increasing optimism that Ontario is over the worst of the pandemic, with one-third (32%) of Ontarians believing this – an increase of 6-points this week.

4 There appears to be growing anger regarding the third provincial shutdown. There has been a 9-point increase in the past two weeks to 39% now indicating they are angry with this order. However, a majority (51%) continue to say they are not angry.

Eight-in-ten (81%) of Ontarians also continue to agree that this shutdown is unfair to small businesses and restaurants and favours big retail stores like Costco and Walmart.

5 While the government's performance on 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' has dropped 37-points since early March, results were stable again this week at -3. And, while remaining negative, there was an increase for 'reducing overcrowding in hospitals'.

However, again this week, there was a decline measured for 'effectively managing long-term care' (which may be connected to the release of the report on long-term care homes).

6 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 39%), while there have been increases in those that think the government is putting the economy above the health of the population (now at 30%).

Key Findings

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.

This week, support remains relatively unchanged at 62% for the most recent restrictions announced.

However, despite the stay at home order, Ontarians seem to be leaving home more often. There has been a 7-point decline this week to 61% of Ontarians saying that they are only leaving their homes to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy, the lowest number since tracking began.

This week there are also equal proportions of Ontarians agreeing (46%) and disagreeing (46%) that they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing.

Over the past week, there has been increased trust in government communications regarding 'how they are managing the provincial economy', while there was a slight decline regarding 'the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate'.

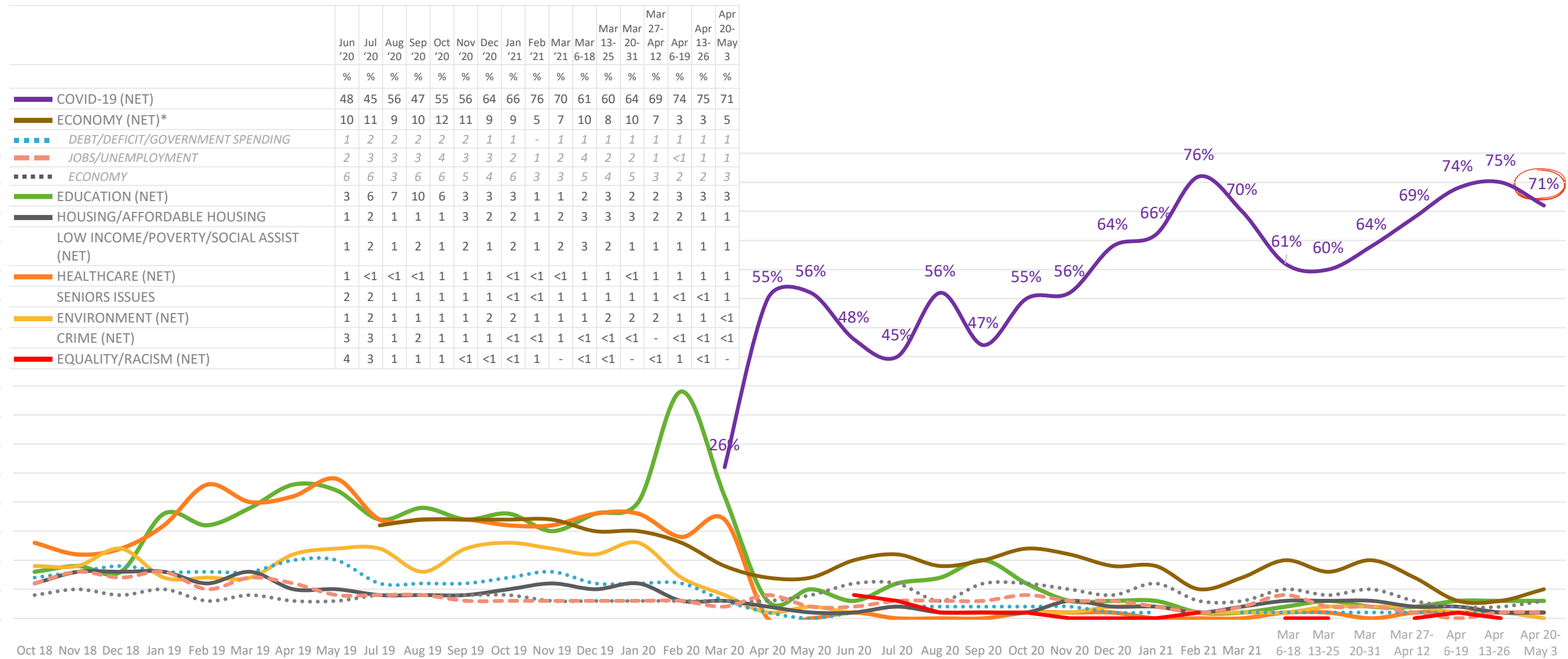
Trust in 'what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation' remained unchanged.

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 at almost record highs at 71%.



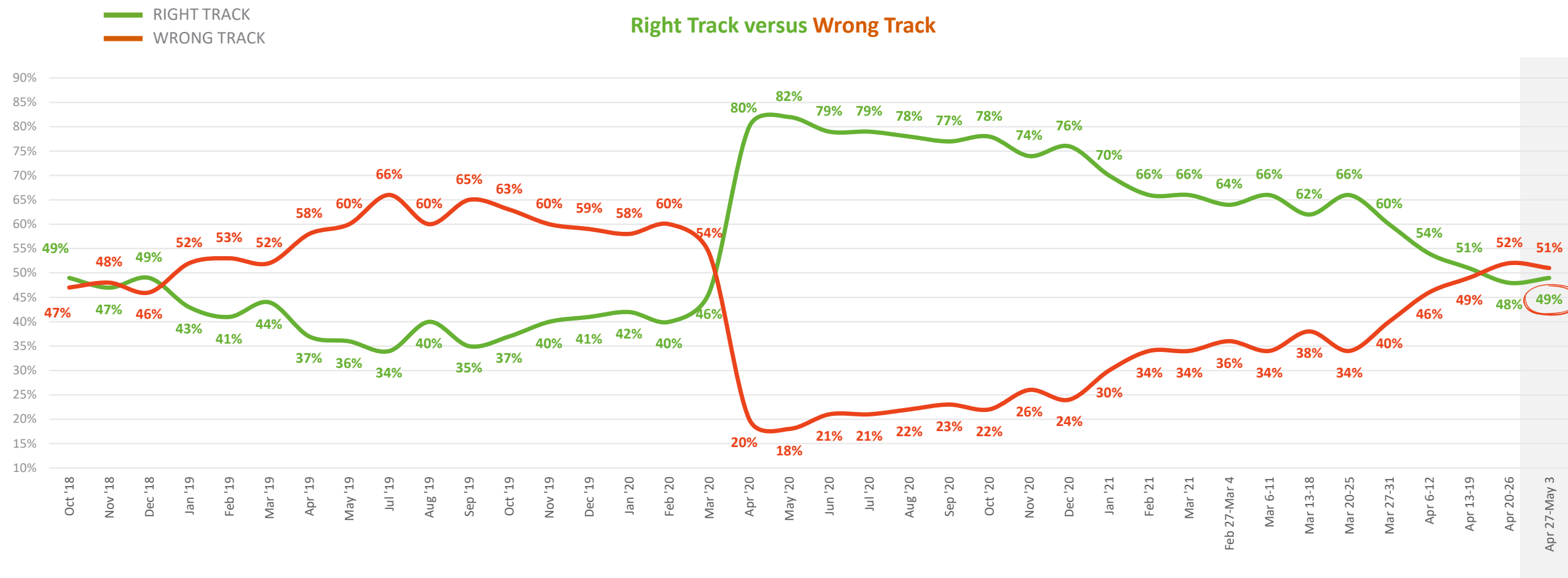
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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



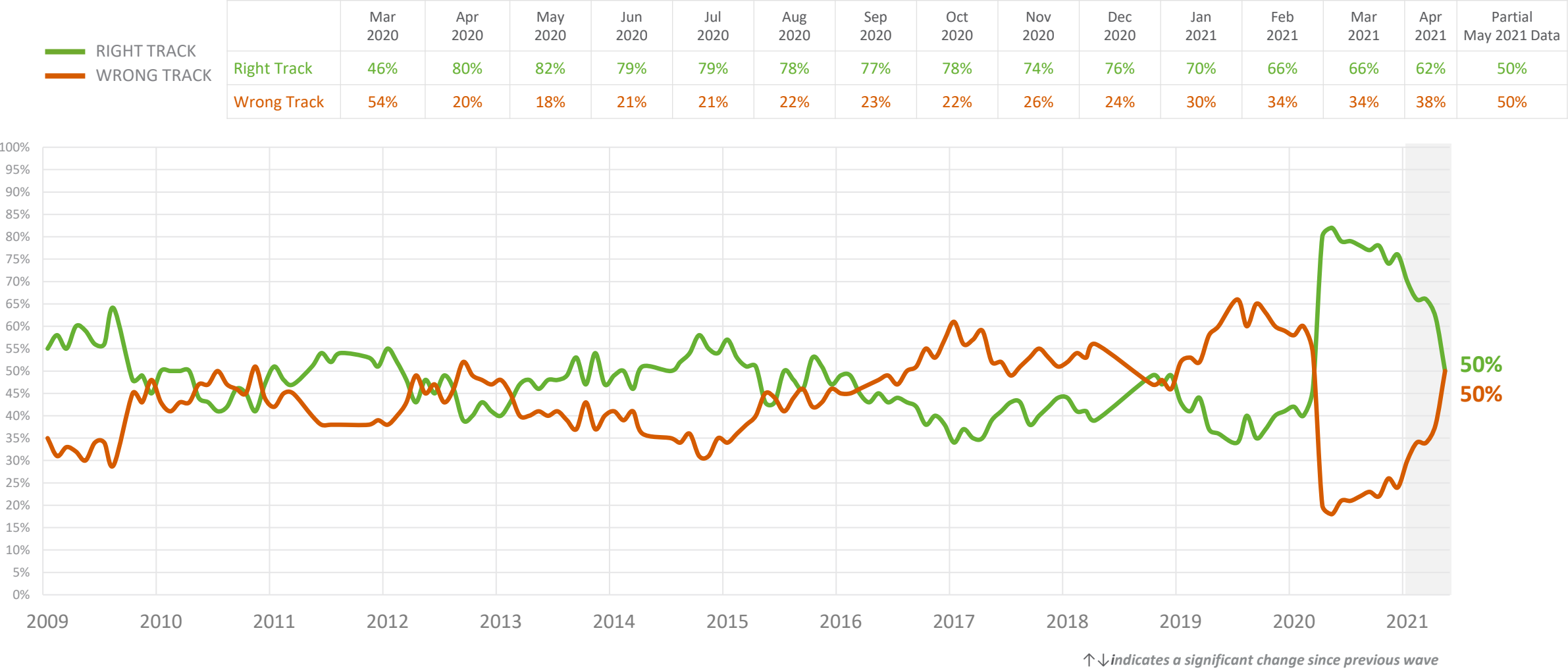
After declining for several weeks, the government’s ‘right track’ scores remained stable this week at 49%. However, it remains below the ‘wrong track’ scores for a second week.



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

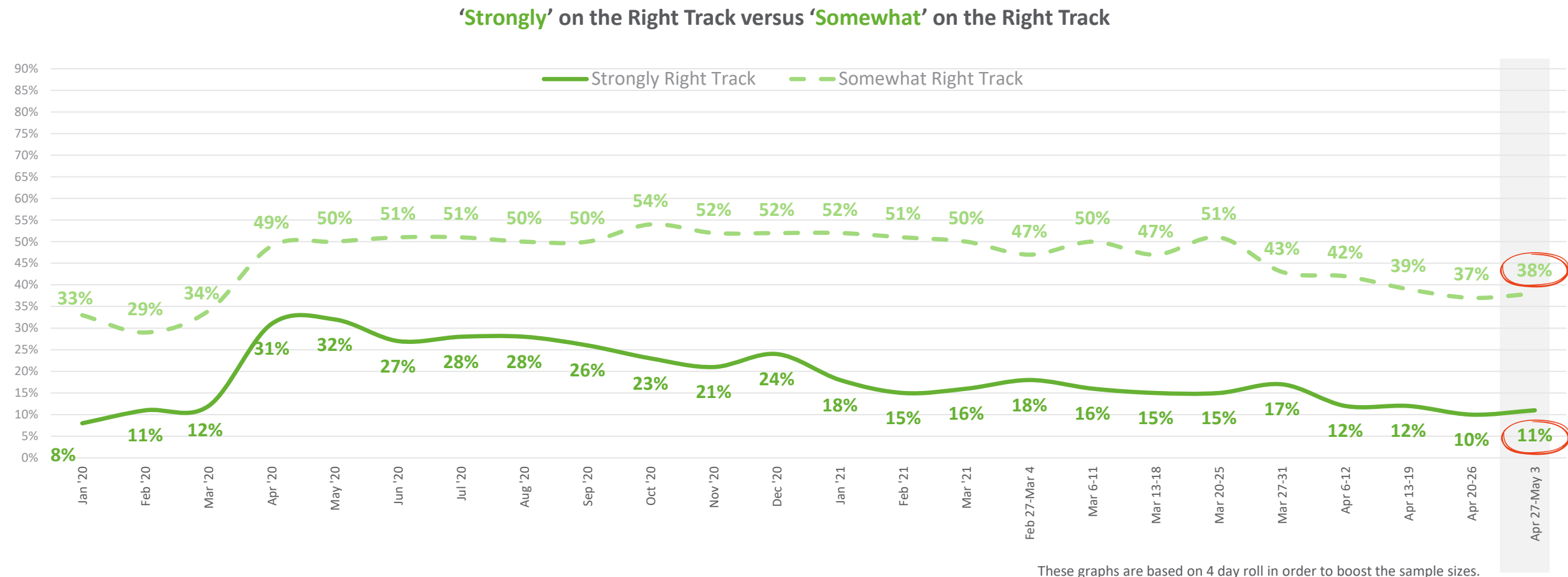
‘Right track’ and ‘wrong track’ scores are now at pre-COVID-19 levels. These performance scores have now returned to historical ranges.

Ontario Government Performance: 12-Year Historical Trend

50%50%

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?

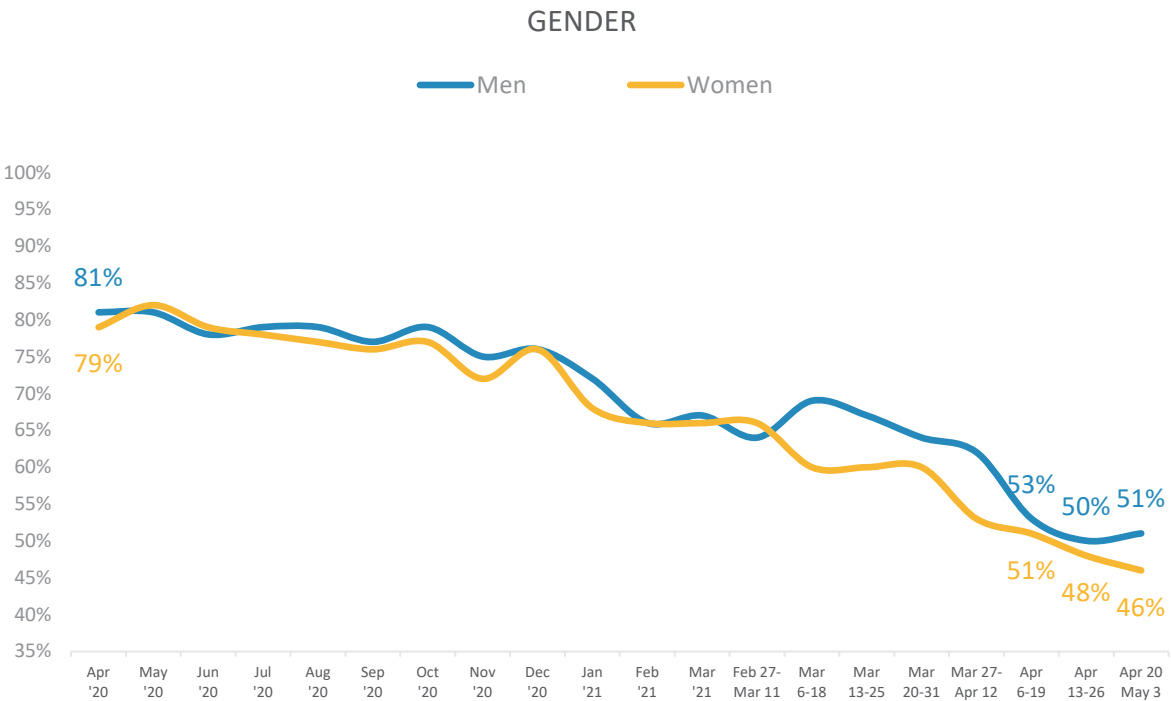
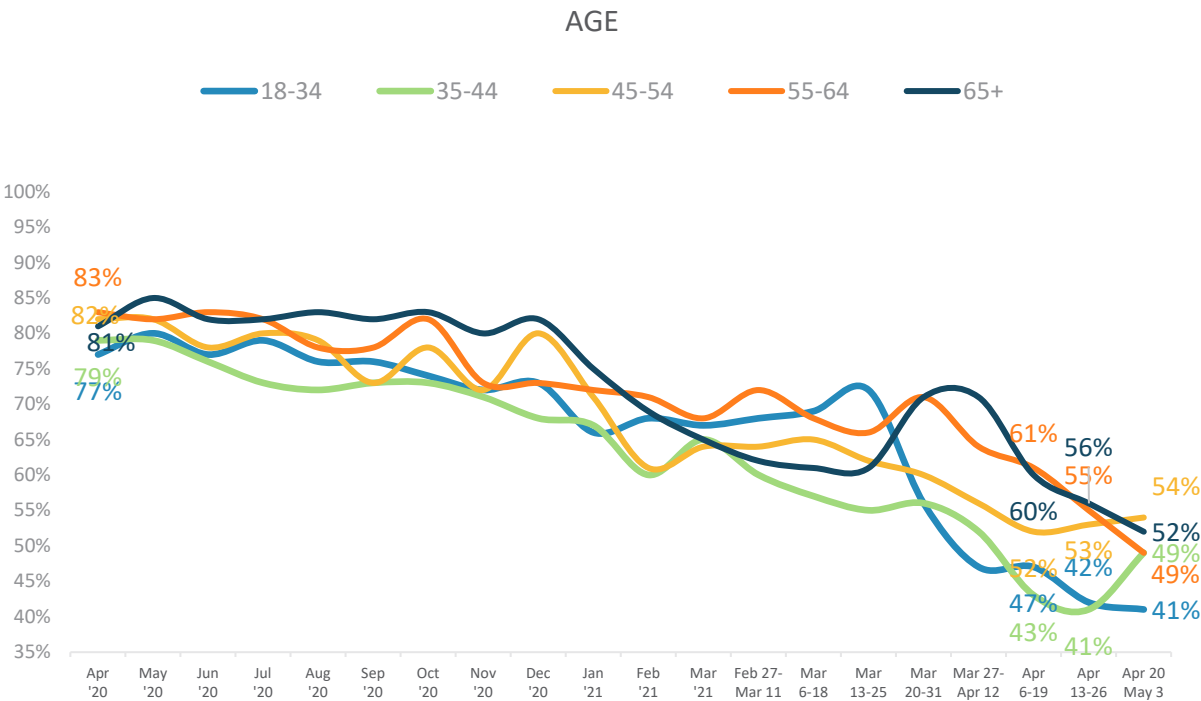
Both ‘strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’ scores were unchanged this week.



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

‘Right track’ scores continued to decline among women this week while stabilizing among men. However, there was an uptick among those aged 35-44.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

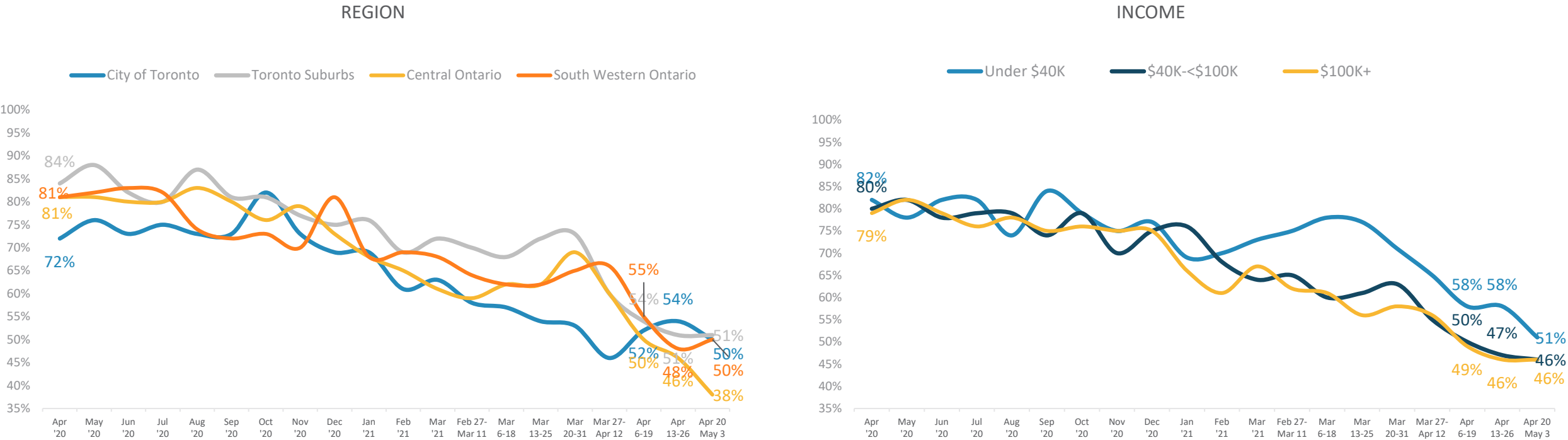


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Regionally, ‘right track’ scores continued to decline in Central Ontario this week. And, while the other income segments remained unchanged, there was a 7-point decline measured among those making under \$40,000.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



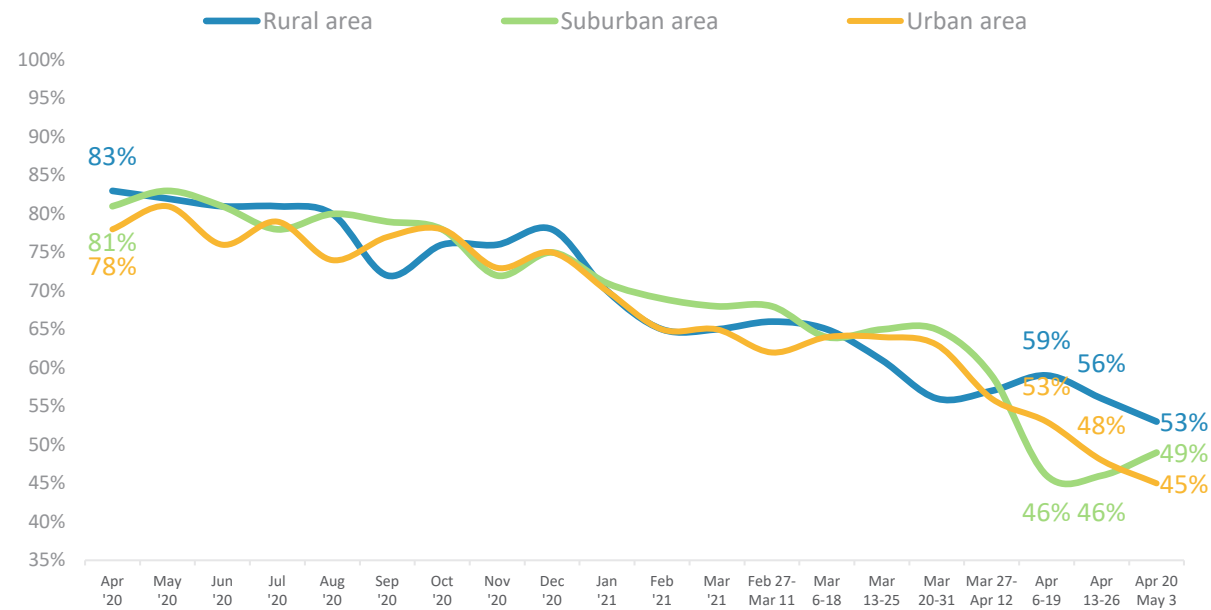
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

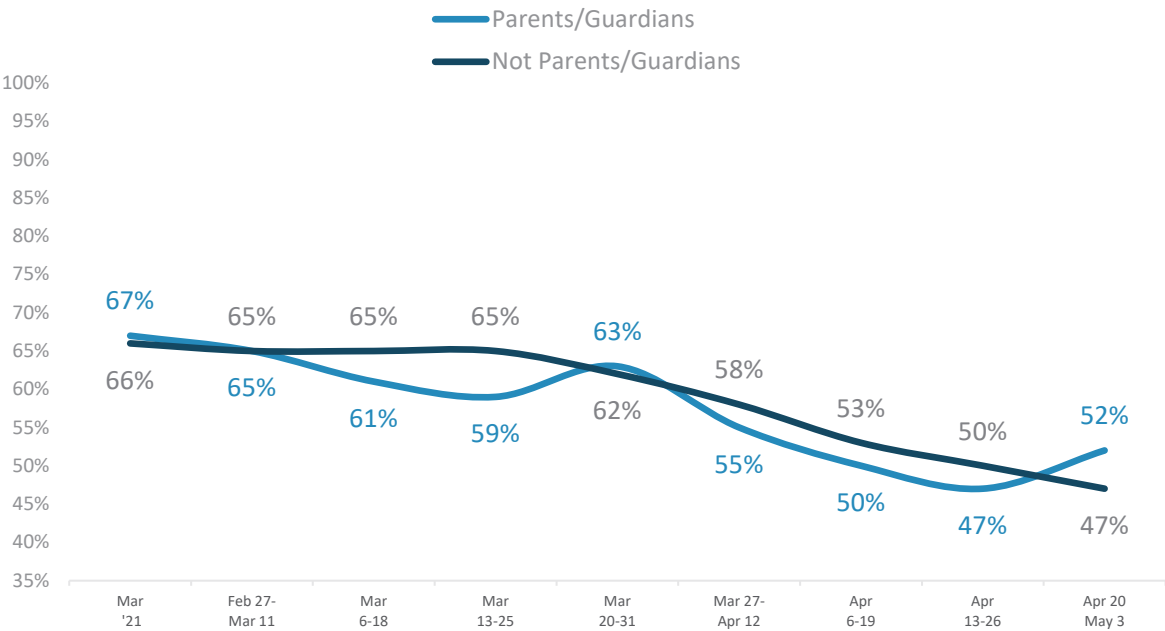
While ‘right track’ scores continued to decline among those in rural and urban areas, there was an uptick among those in suburban areas. There was also an increase measured among parents/guardians after several week of declines.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



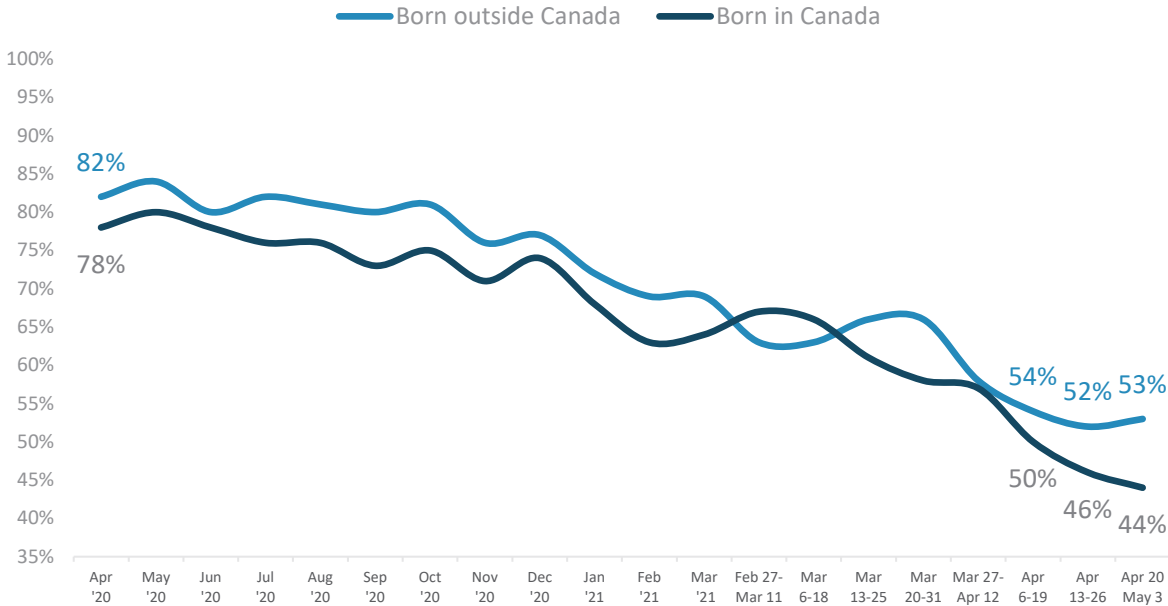
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

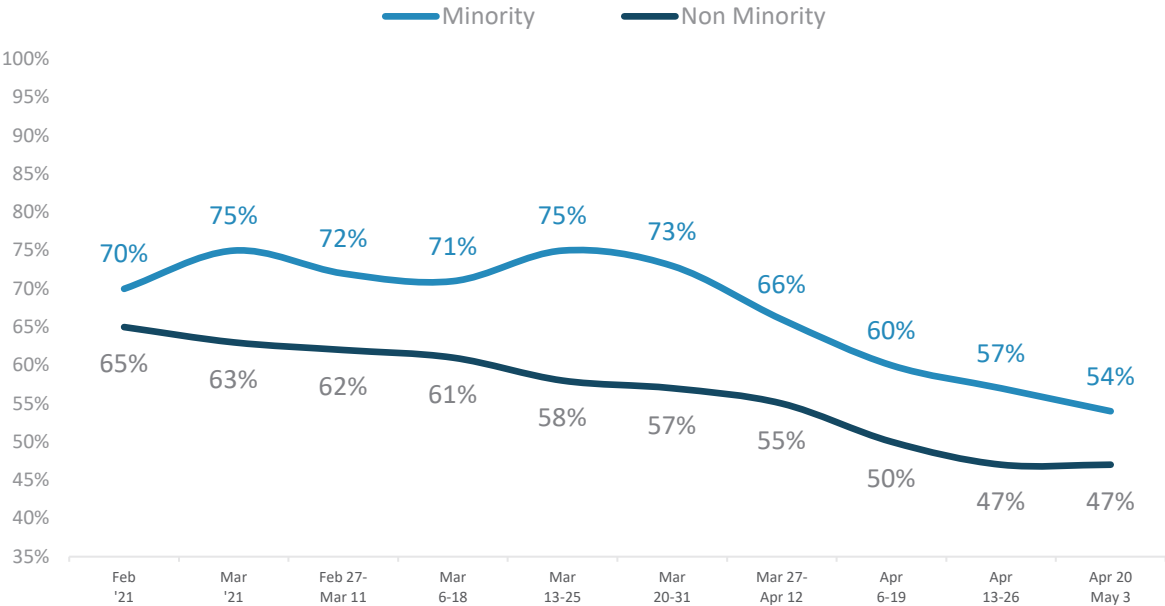
The ‘right track’ scores remained stable among those born outside of Canada while continuing to decline among those born in Canada.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

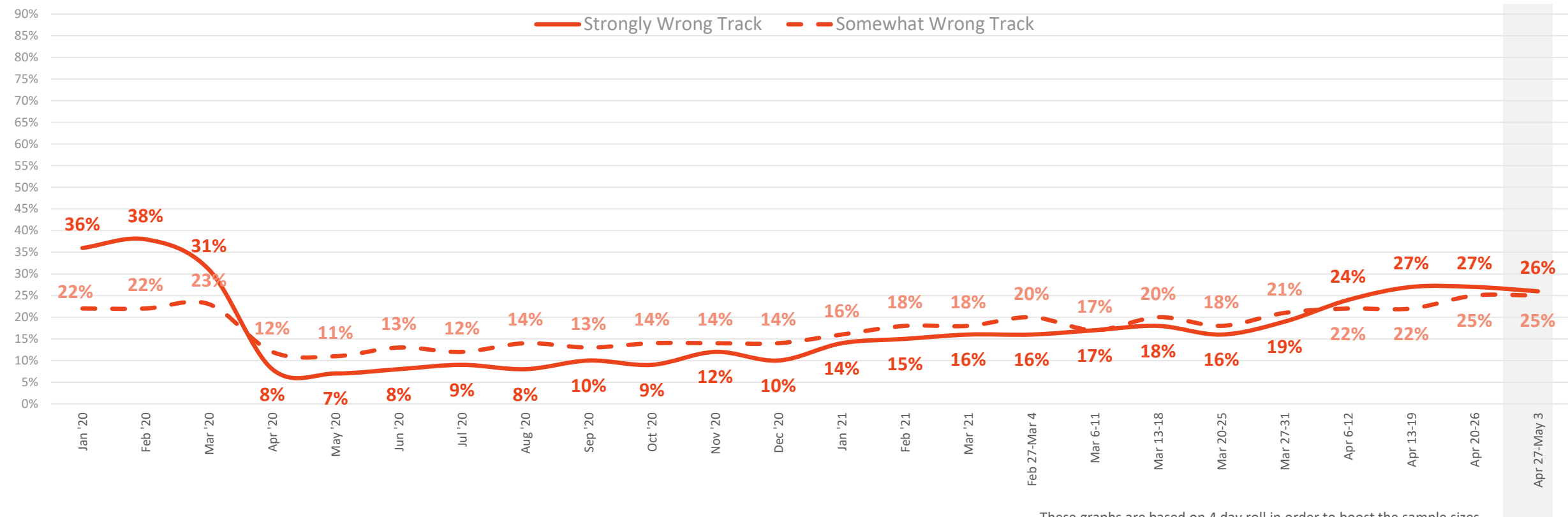


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 remained stable this week and are now on par.

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

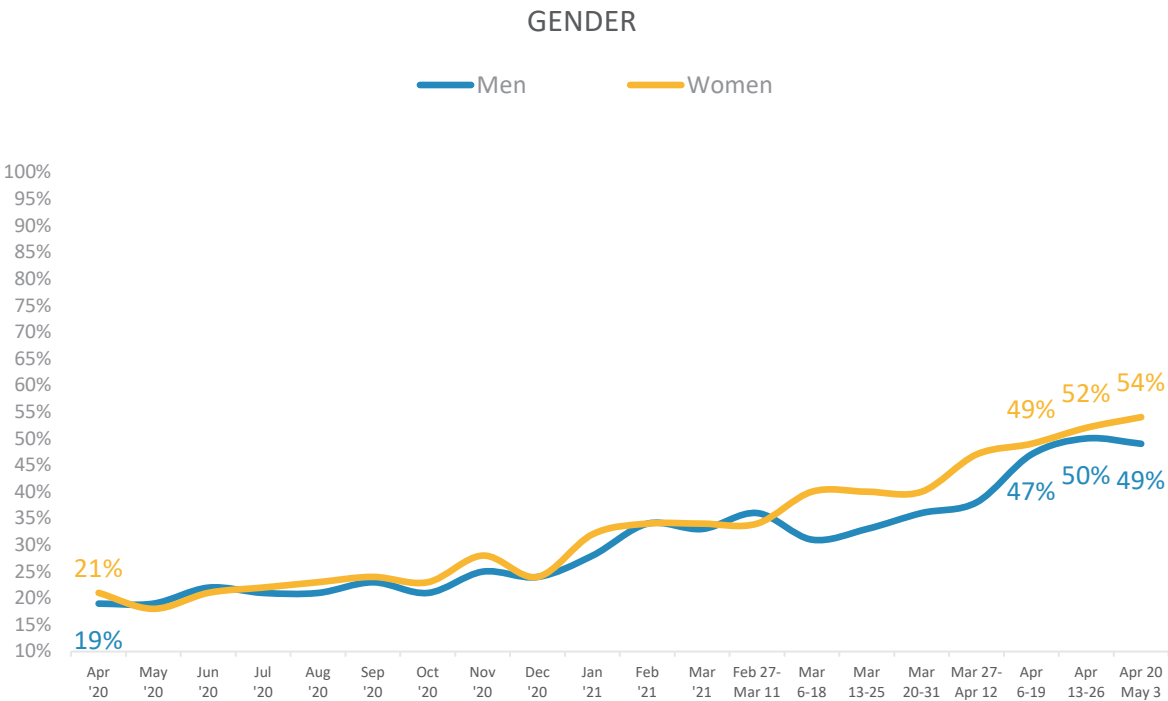
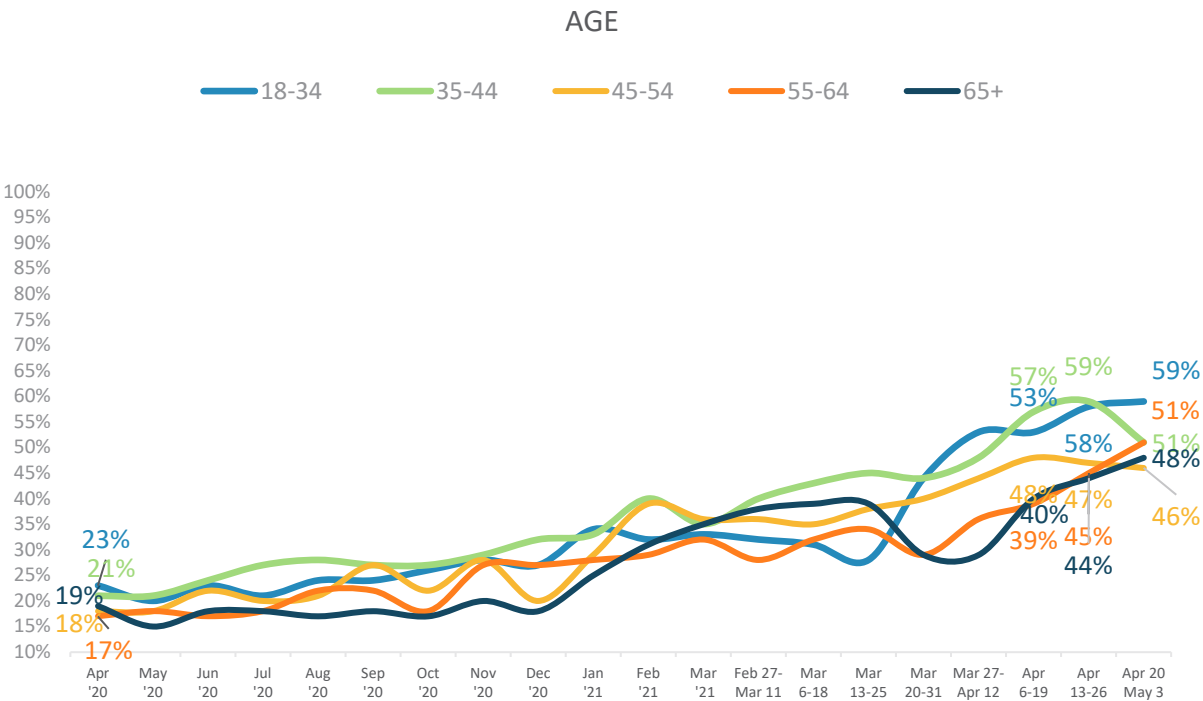


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Wrong track’ scores declined this week among those aged 35-44, the inverse of changes for ‘right track’ scores. There were also slight increases among those aged 55+ and among women.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

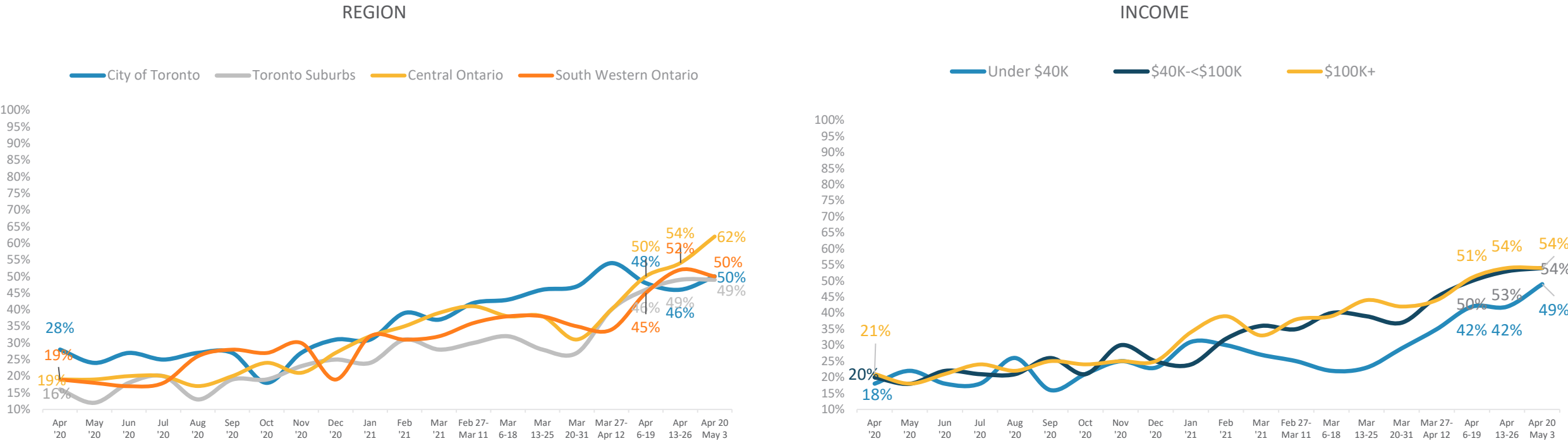


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 continued to trend upwards among those living in Central Ontario. There was also an increase measured among those making under \$40,000 while other income segments remained unchanged.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



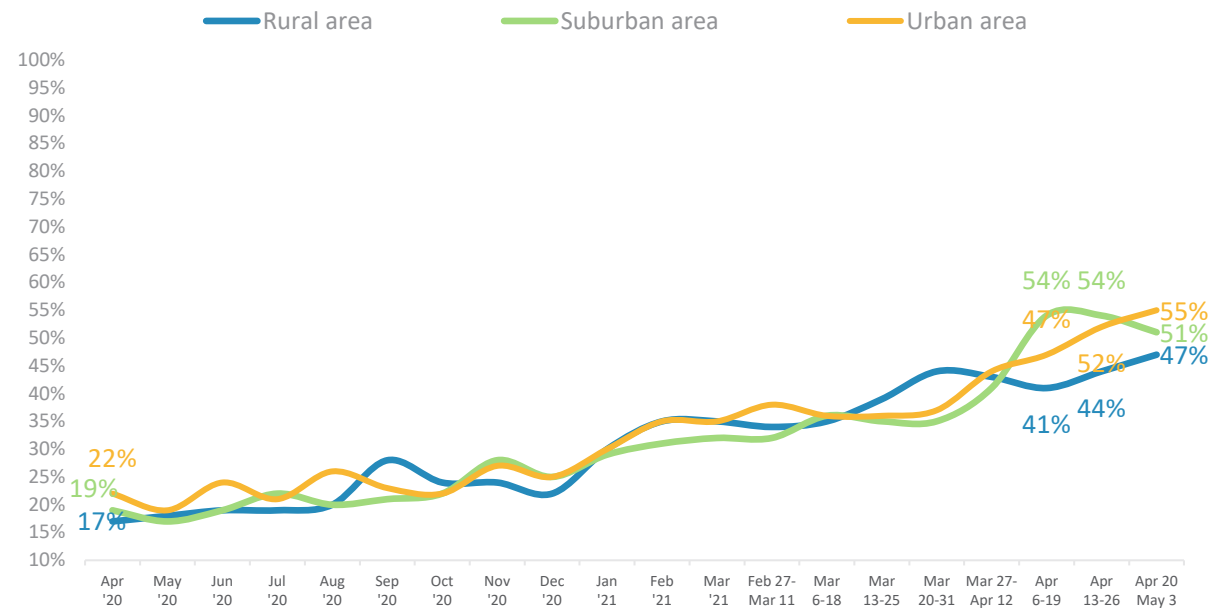
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

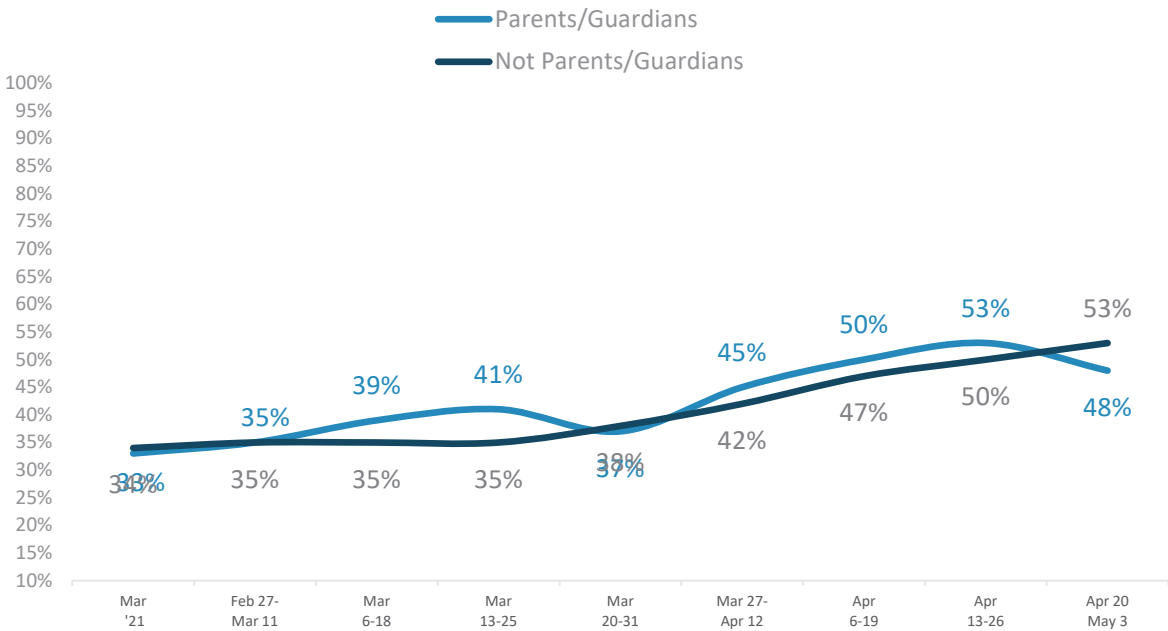
‘Wrong track’ scores continued to trend upwards in rural and urban areas while declining slightly among those living in suburban areas. There was also a decline among parents/guardians this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

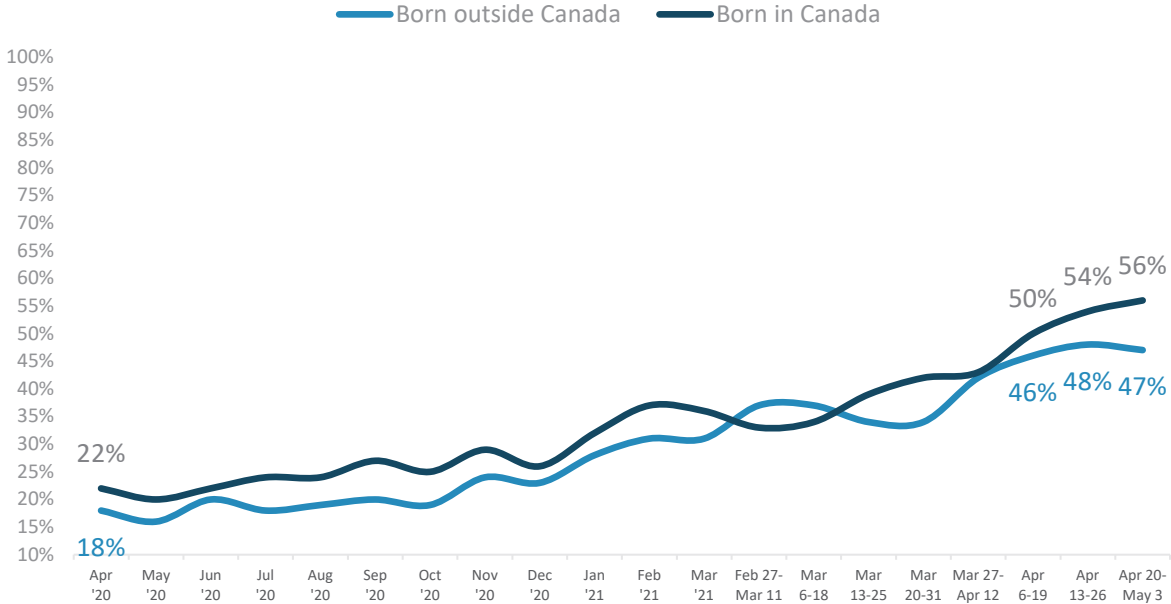


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

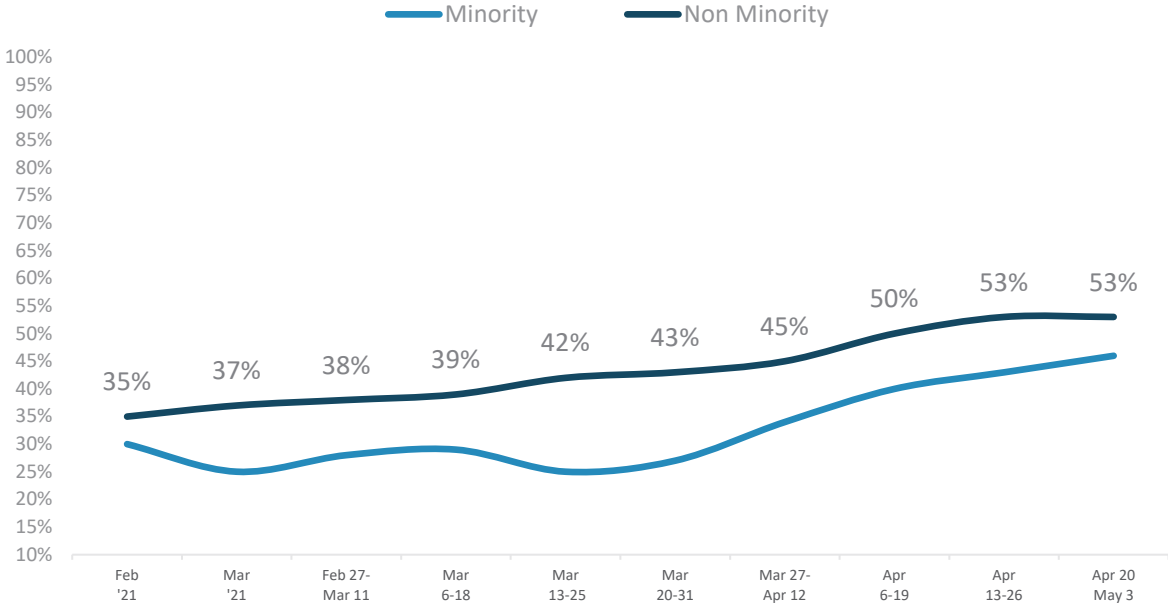
‘Wrong track’ scores among those born in Canada continued to trend upwards this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



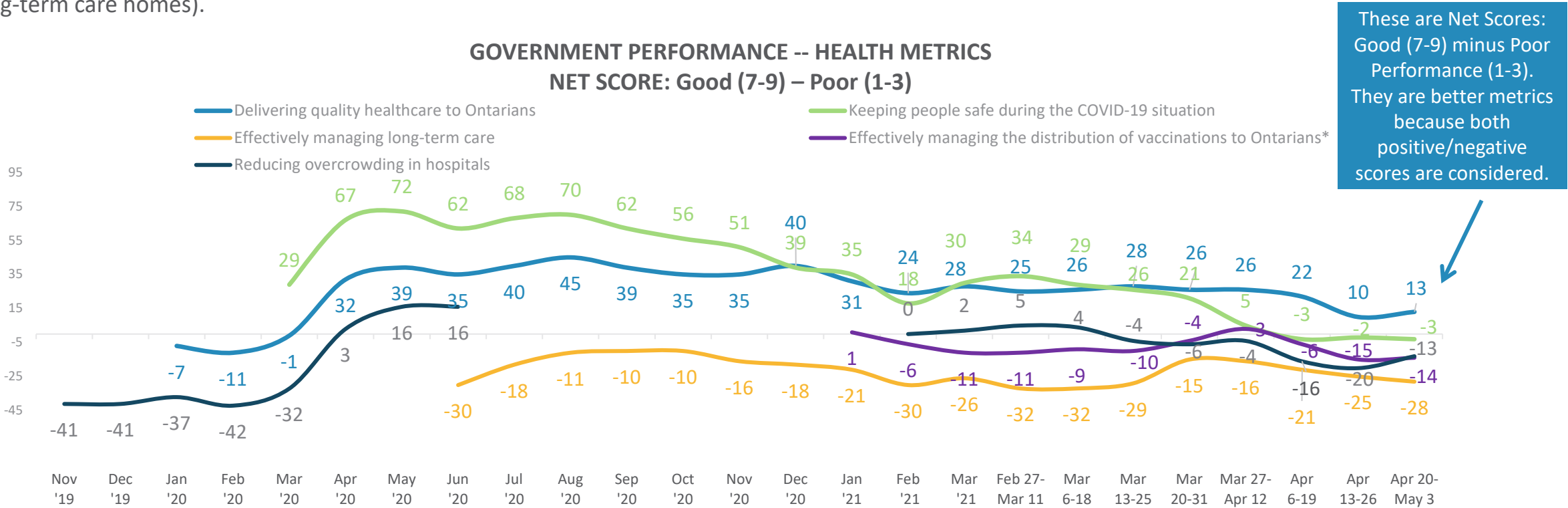
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



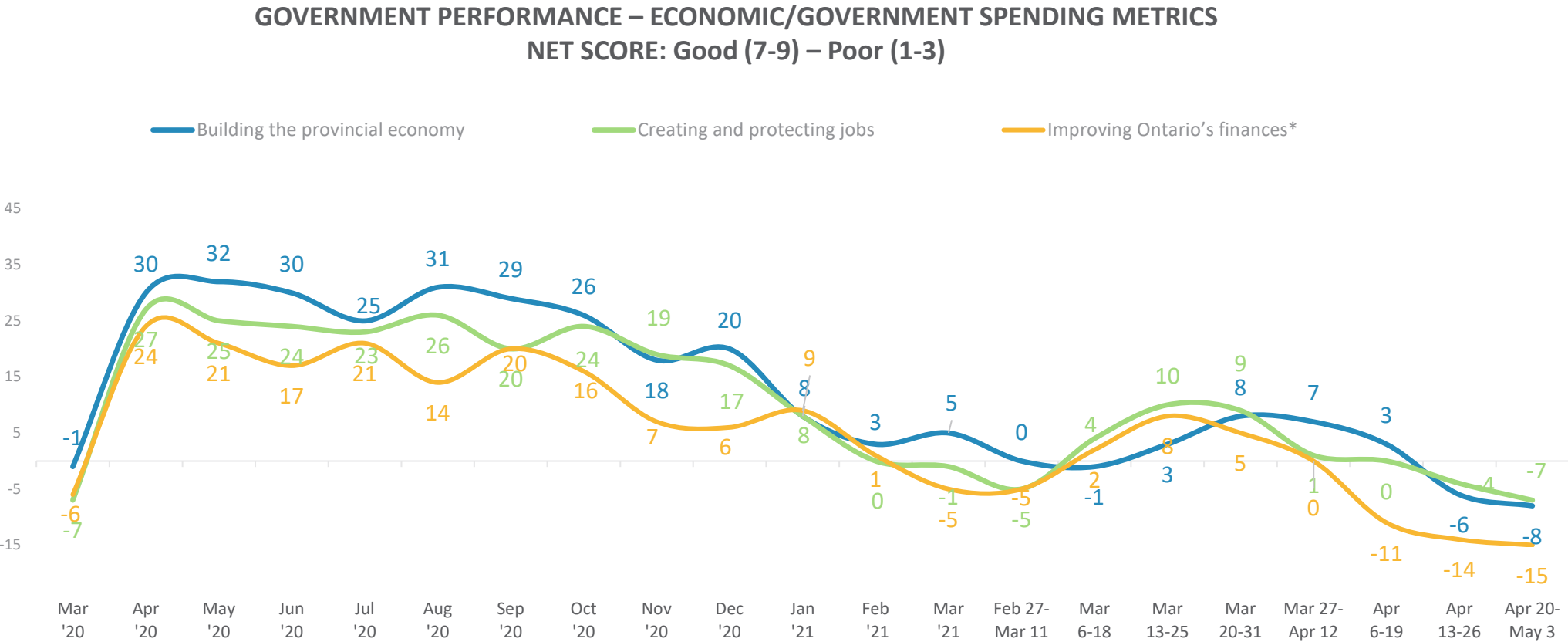
While the government’s performance on ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has dropped 37-points since early March, results were stable again this week at -3. And, while remaining negative, there was an increase for ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’.

- Again this week, there was a decline measured for ‘effectively managing long-term care’ (which may be connected to the recent release of the report on long-term care homes).



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

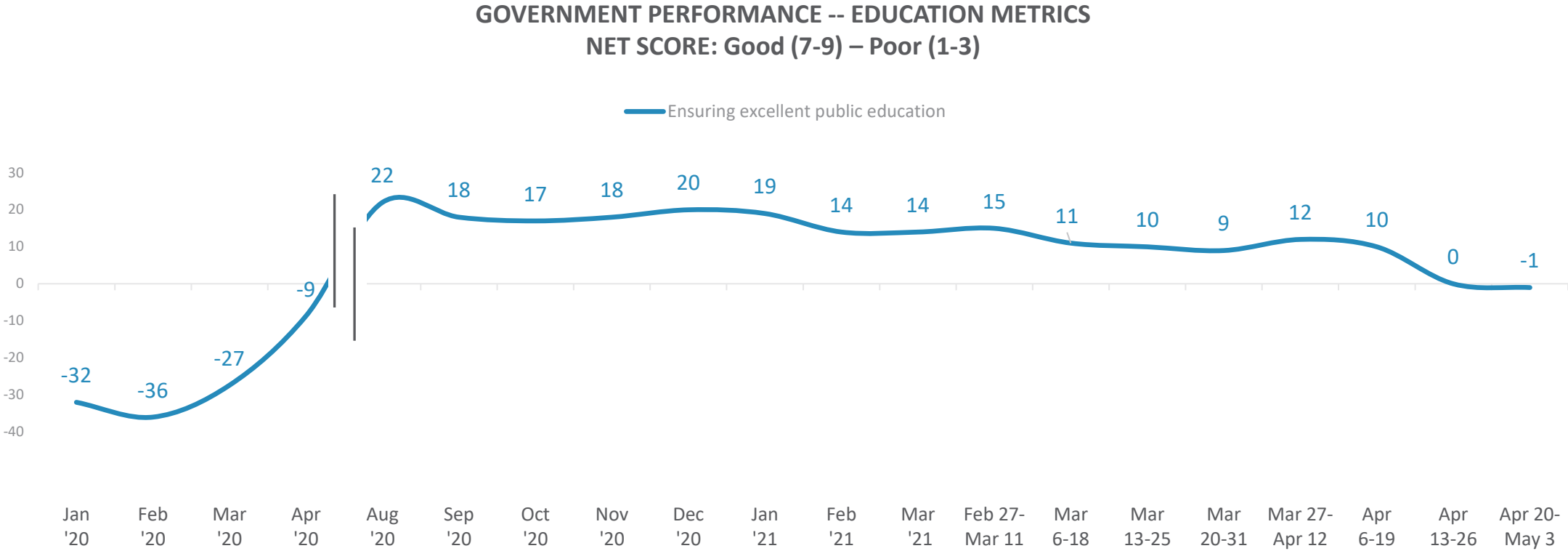
The economic/government spending metrics continued to trend downwards this week, with all three remaining below zero.



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?

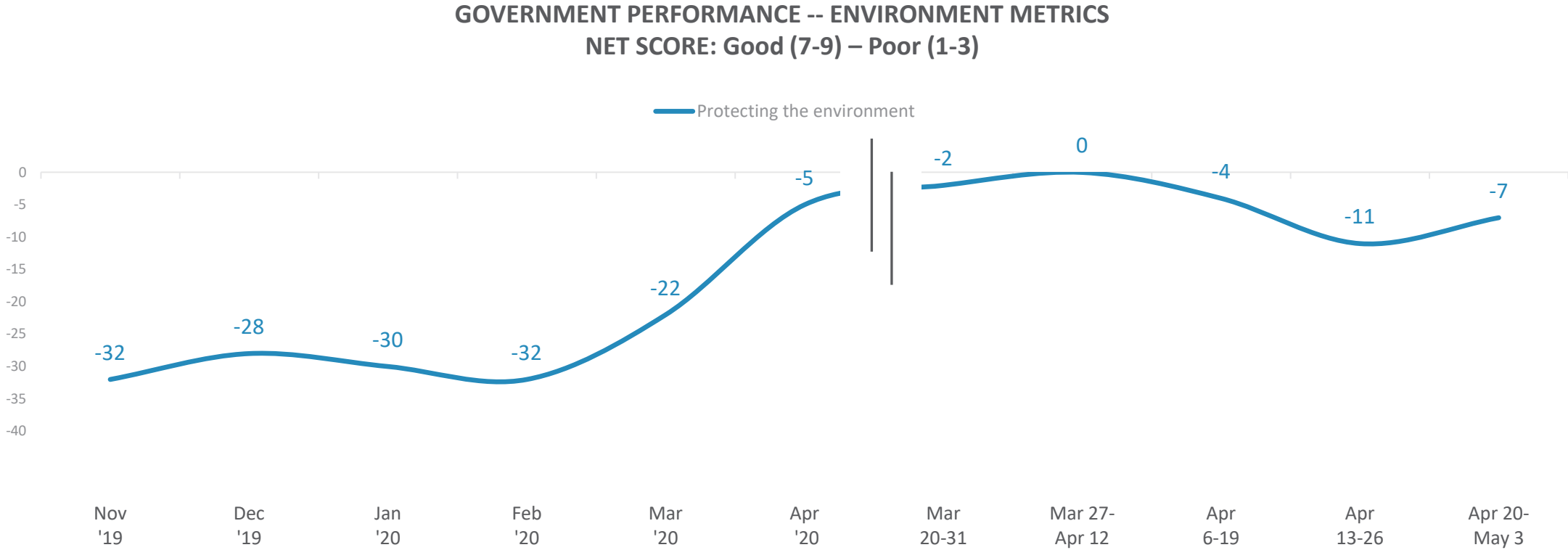
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

After a decline last week in perceptions toward the government’s performance on ‘ensuring excellent public education’, results remained stable 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?
Bases vary

The provincial government’s performance on ‘environmental protection’ continues to be much higher compared to the first quarter of 2020, with a slight uptick measured 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?
Bases vary

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



While there has been a gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government’s handling of the second/third wave, results remained unchanged this week with half (51%) 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	Apr 27- May 3
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31	23	18	21	19
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	4
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28	20	16	18	15
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28	31	36	29	29
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21	24	22	26	27
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16	21	23	24	24
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38	45	45	50	51

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?

As the vaccine rollout picks up steam and infections cases dropped, there seems to be increasing optimism that Ontario is over the worst of the pandemic, with one-third (32%) of Ontarians believing this – an increase of 6-points 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	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27- May 3
n=	varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	44	40	44	30	29	26	40	35	24	26	32
Strongly agree	14	21	27	14	8	10	12	14	12	14	9
Somewhat agree	30	19	17	15	21	16	28	21	12	12	23
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	3	9	5	8	7	9	6	7
Somewhat disagree	19	21	16	30	29	28	23	39	27	23	29
Strongly disagree	28	30	28	35	30	39	27	19	38	44	29
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	51	43	65	59	67	50	58	65	67	59

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



However, there appears to be growing anger regarding the third provincial shutdown. There has been a 9-point increase in the past two weeks to 39% now indicating they are angry with this order. Of note, a majority (51%) continue to say they are not angry.

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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	36	30	33	39
Strongly agree	23	18	18	22	25
Somewhat agree	13	18	12	11	15
Neither agree nor disagree	4	10	9	10	10
Somewhat disagree	20	16	16	18	16
Strongly disagree	39	37	42	38	35
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	53	58	56	51

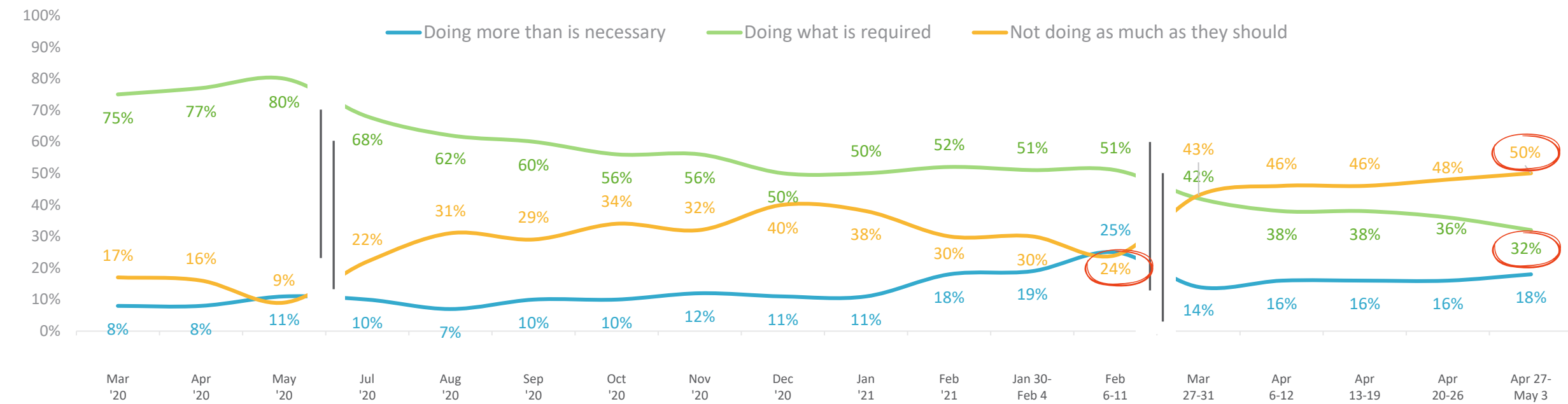
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Compared to early February there has been a doubling of the proportion of Ontarians who think the government is not doing enough to reduce the spread of the virus, to 50% this week. There has also been a decline in those who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’.

	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	Apr 27-May 3	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	Apr 27-May 3
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	58%	55%	57%	57%	51%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%	34%	35%	30%	29%	28%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	20%	18%	18%	17%	14%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%	58%	59%	63%	65%	70%



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. This week, support remains relatively unchanged at 62% 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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300	300
%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	60	62
Very supportive	26	34
Somewhat supportive	34	27
Somewhat opposed	19	13
Strongly opposed	21	24
TOTAL OPPOSED	40	37

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	Apr 27- May 3
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	30
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	39
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	30
Don't know/Not sure	5	3	3	7	6	5	5	4	6	3	4	5	5	3	1

QCV-178. Which of the following statements best describes the provincial government’s actions regarding COVID-19. Would you say...
Base: Total sample

Two-thirds (67%) of Ontarians agree they are ‘getting tired of lockdowns’.

I am getting tired of lockdowns

	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	71	75	77	67
Strongly agree	45	50	49	43
Somewhat agree	27	25	28	24
Neither agree nor disagree	7	9	3	8
Somewhat disagree	9	7	9	10
Strongly disagree	12	9	11	14
TOTAL DISAGREE	21	15	21	25

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 fatigued with lockdowns, there has been a steady decline in those reporting they have stopped following rules especially about social gatherings.

I have stopped following rules especially about social gatherings.

	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	28	26	22	20
Strongly agree	17	9	15	10
Somewhat agree	11	17	7	10
Neither agree nor disagree	5	3	2	4
Somewhat disagree	11	11	11	18
Strongly disagree	54	58	64	56
TOTAL DISAGREE	65	69	75	73

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 (81%) of Ontarians continue to 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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	77	78	80	81
Strongly agree	48	50	53	56
Somewhat agree	29	28	27	25
Somewhat disagree	14	12	12	8
Strongly disagree	7	8	6	9
TOTAL DISAGREE	21	20	18	17

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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Yes	82	82	84
No	18	17	16

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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	89	88	87
Very concerned	54	56	52
Somewhat concerned	35	32	35
Not very concerned	8	6	8
Not at all concerned	3	6	4
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	11	12	13

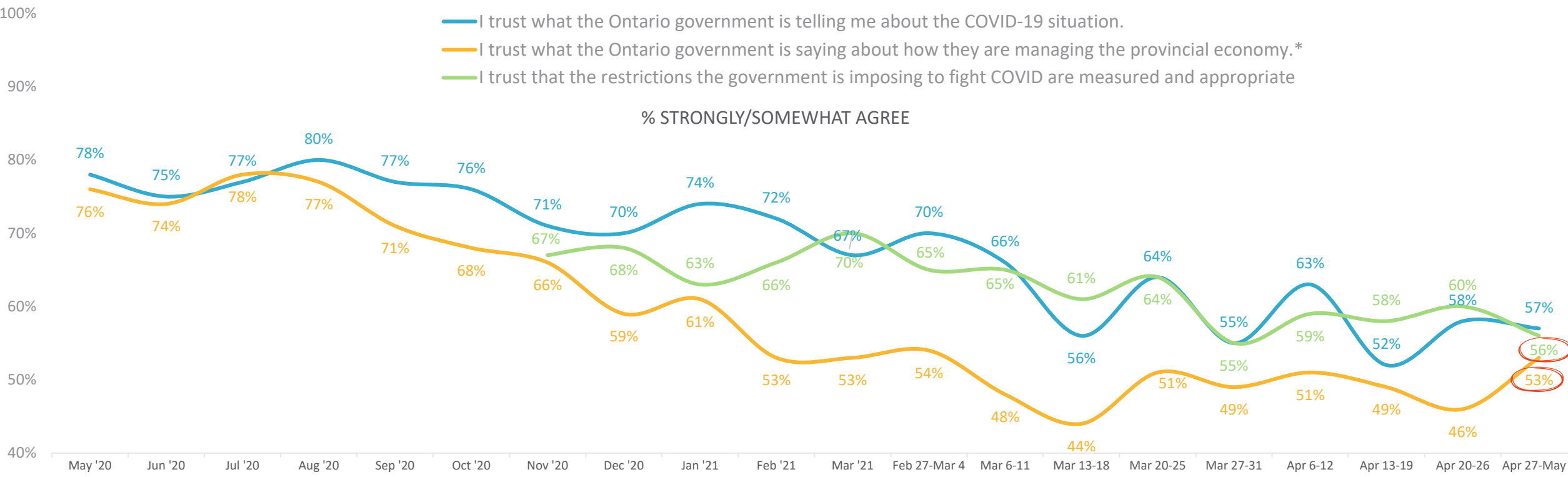
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

‘Over the past week, there has been increased trust in government communications regarding ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’, while there was a slight decline regarding ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’.

- Trust in ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ remained unchanged.



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

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42

FATIGUE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES



LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

This week, there are equal proportions of Ontarians agreeing (46%) and disagreeing (46%) that they are getting very tired of all 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	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27- May 3
n=	varies																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57	53	39	46
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17	29
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22	17
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7	6	5	7
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17	16
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38	30
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55	46

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



While lower than in late March (41%), there has been an increase this week to 26% in those who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3
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	26

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 increasing vaccination levels, the increases measured last week were maintained with 32% 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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies																				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	25	22	14	18	18	19	20	15	27	26	26	24	26	28	20	27	21	22	19	34	32
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8	14	8	13	12	16	17
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12	13	14	8	7	17	15
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10	8	9	8	8	8	5	13	7	8	11	7	10	7	11	12	14	6	8	12
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18	20	27	17	15	15	16
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54	37	38	41	59	41	40
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57	72	58	65	58	74	56	55

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

Base: Total sample

Just over one-third (36%) 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	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36	32	30	37	39	36
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12	16	15	17	22	16
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	20	14	21	22	20	24	16	15	21	17	20
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	8	11	9	7	9	9	7	12	9	6	7	9
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	12	13	16	13	14	17	18	13	19	13
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36	35	38	39	31	37
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51	51	56	52	50	50

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

Base: Total sample

Despite the stay at home order, Ontarians seem to be leaving home more often. There has been a 7-point decline this week to 61% of Ontarians saying that they are only leaving their homes to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy, the lowest number since tracking began.

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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies																		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63	76	54	66	65	68	61
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40	48	50	55	47
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14	18	15	13	13
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6	3	5	2	4	3	3	4
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5	19	13	8	12	13
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10	23	13	20	15	20
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42	26	28	27	33

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

Base: Total sample

Similarly, while still high, there was a decline in those agreeing they are only leaving 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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86	85	92	87
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70	70	81	73
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16	15	11	15
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2	4	1	3
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4	6	2	4
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7	4	3	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11	10	6	9

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

Base: Total sample

VACCINE



CONFIDENCE THE END OF COVID-19 IS NEAR WITH THE VACCINE READY

Since mid-April, Ontarians’ confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered has been declining (despite the increasing pace of the vaccine rollout). Presently, just under half (48%) agree with this.

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

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	Apr 27- May 3
varies																		
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68	55	52	48
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19	20
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34	28
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10	6
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22	22
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16	22
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37	44

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



After hitting a high of 70% last week, there has been a decline in the proportion who believe the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants. That said, the number remains higher than previous waves.

	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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Has done all it can reasonably be expected to do	39	37	37	34	31	47	39	36	39	37	30	26	30
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47	56	60	57	58	64	70	65
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	6

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



Seven-in-ten (69%) 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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	68	75	69
Very concerned	31	36	33
Somewhat concerned	37	39	36
Not very concerned	20	16	21
Not at all concerned	10	8	9
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	24	30

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 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	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300	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	70
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	24
Don’t know/not sure	6	5	7

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 (93%); prohibit the collection and use of personal information from children’s online activity (87%); and limit the ability of businesses to monitor online behaviour and sell the data (70%).

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Government should investigate and penalize businesses that disregard the laws designed to protect personal information.	91	96	93
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	87
Government should limit the ability of businesses to monitor online behavior and sell that data without the user’s knowledge or consent.	75	79	70

QDP-6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Base: Total sample

PAID SICK LEAVE



The early findings reveal there is a high level of awareness about the issue of paid sick leave, for employees not receiving it, as a way of reducing the incidence of COVID-19.

	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300
	%
Yes	75
No	24

QSP-1. Have you seen, read or heard anything about the issue of paid sick leave for employees not receiving it, as a way of reducing the incidence of COVID-19?
 Base: Total sample

Preliminary results suggest there is a very high level of awareness about the concern that workers infected with COVID-19 are going into large workplaces – like warehouses, food processing plants and distribution centres - because they can not afford to miss work.

	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300
	%
Yes	85
No	15

QSP-2. As you may be aware some public health officials have identified large workplaces, like warehouses, food processing plants and distribution centres as locations that can be the source of COVID outbreaks. The concern raised by some is that workers infected with COVID are going into these environments because they can not afford to miss work. Have you heard or read about these concerns?

Base: Total sample

LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING PAID SICK LEAVE

The preliminary findings indicate that over half (56%) of Ontarians believe that the provincial government is responsible for providing sick leave pay when it is not covered by an employer. About one-third (34%) believe it is the federal government’s responsibility.

	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300
	%
Federal government	34
Provincial government	56
Both	4
Don’t know/not sure	7

QSP-3. To the best of your knowledge, which level of government is responsible for providing sick leave pay, when it is not covered by an employer, the federal or provincial government?

Base: Total sample

However, irrespective of which level of government does provide sick leave pay, preliminary results indicate that half (48%) believe the federal government should be responsible for paying sick leave during a pandemic like COVID when not covered by an employer.

- That said, 39% believe the provincial government should be responsible.

	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300
	%
Federal government	48
Provincial government	39
Both combined	9
Don't know/not sure	3

QSP-4. Irrespective of which level of government provides sick leave pay, which level of government do you think should be responsible for paying sick leave during a pandemic like COVID, when it is not covered by an employer?
Base: Total sample

The early results suggest Ontarians support the provincial government providing paid sick leave to those not receiving it from their employers as a way of reducing the incidence of COVID-19. And, the intensity of support is high, with 69% ‘strongly’ supporting this idea.

	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300
	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	87
Strongly support	69
Somewhat support	18
Somewhat oppose	5
Strongly oppose	7
TOTAL OPPOSE	12

QSP-6. Overall, do you support or oppose the idea of the Ontario government providing paid sick leave to those not receiving it as a way of reducing the incidence of COVID-19? That is, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose making paid sick leave available to those not covered by their employers?

Base: Total sample

REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME FOR PAID SICK LEAVE

Preliminary results indicate that just over one-third (36%) believe it is reasonable for the government to pay sick leave ‘as long as the person is sick’. A further 44% believe up to one week (15%) or two weeks (29%) is reasonable.

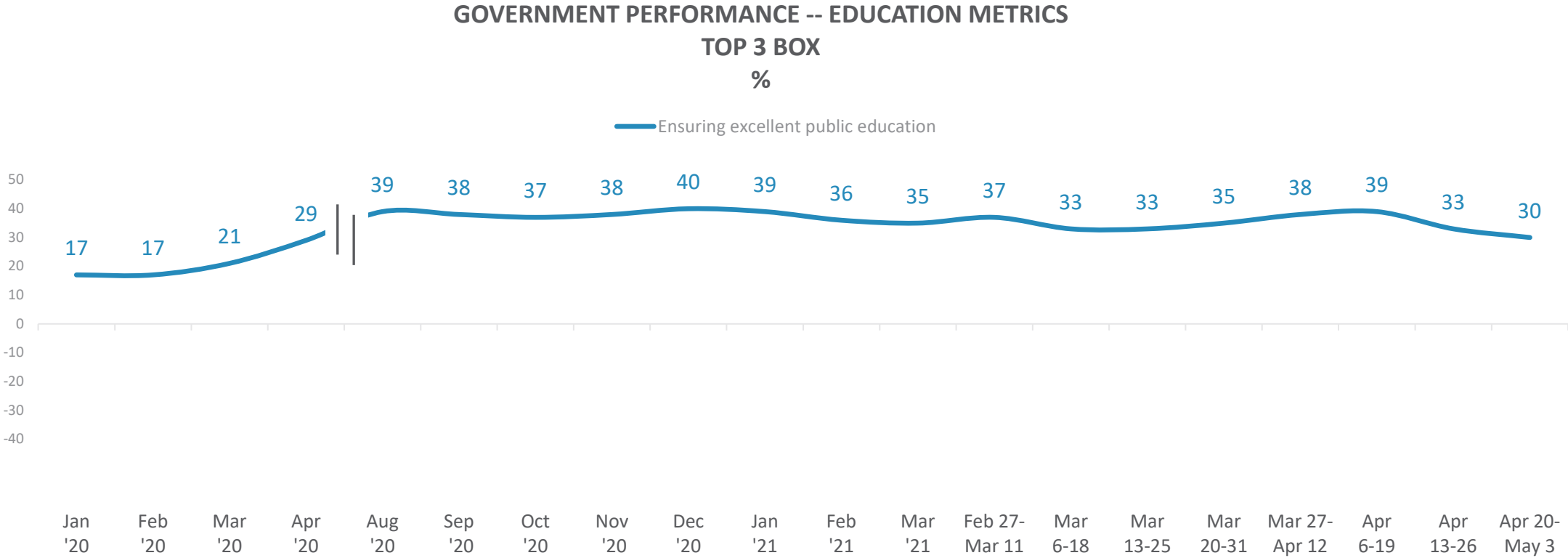
	Apr 27-May 3
n=	300
	%
Zero days, governments should not pay for sick leave	2
1-2 days	4
3-5 days (up to one week)	15
6-10 days (up to two weeks)	29
11-15 days (up to three weeks)	8
16-25 days (up to one month)	3
As long as the person is sick	36
Don't know/not sure	4

QSP-7. What is a reasonable amount of time for government to pay for sick leave when it is not covered by an employer?
Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

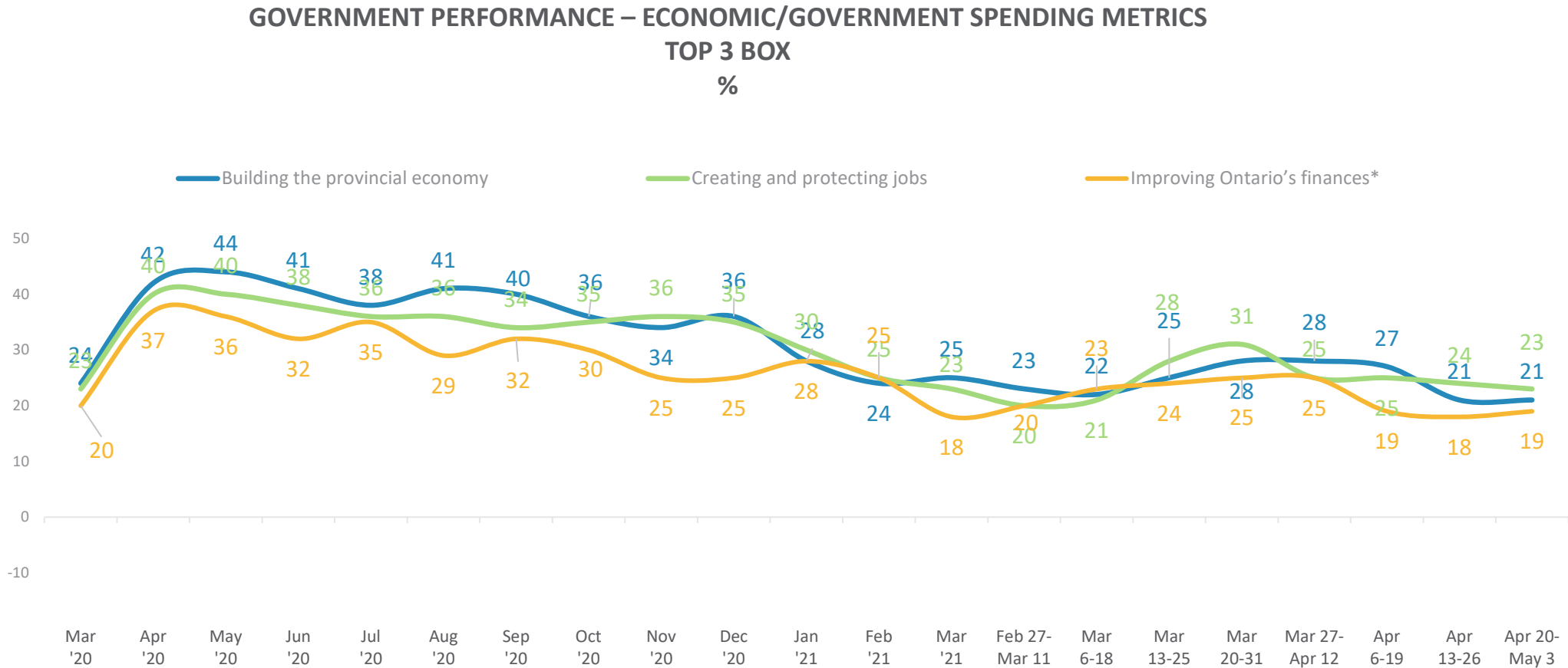


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined for the second week.



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

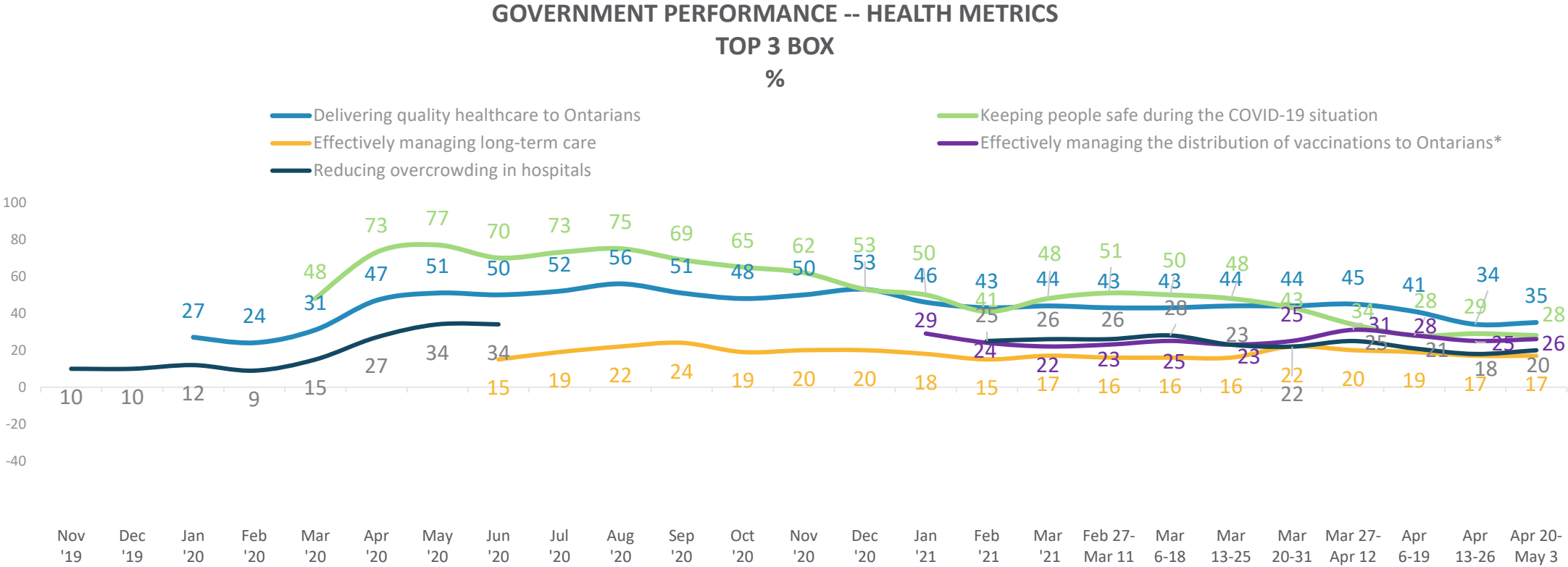
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on economic/government spending metrics remained steady this week.



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?

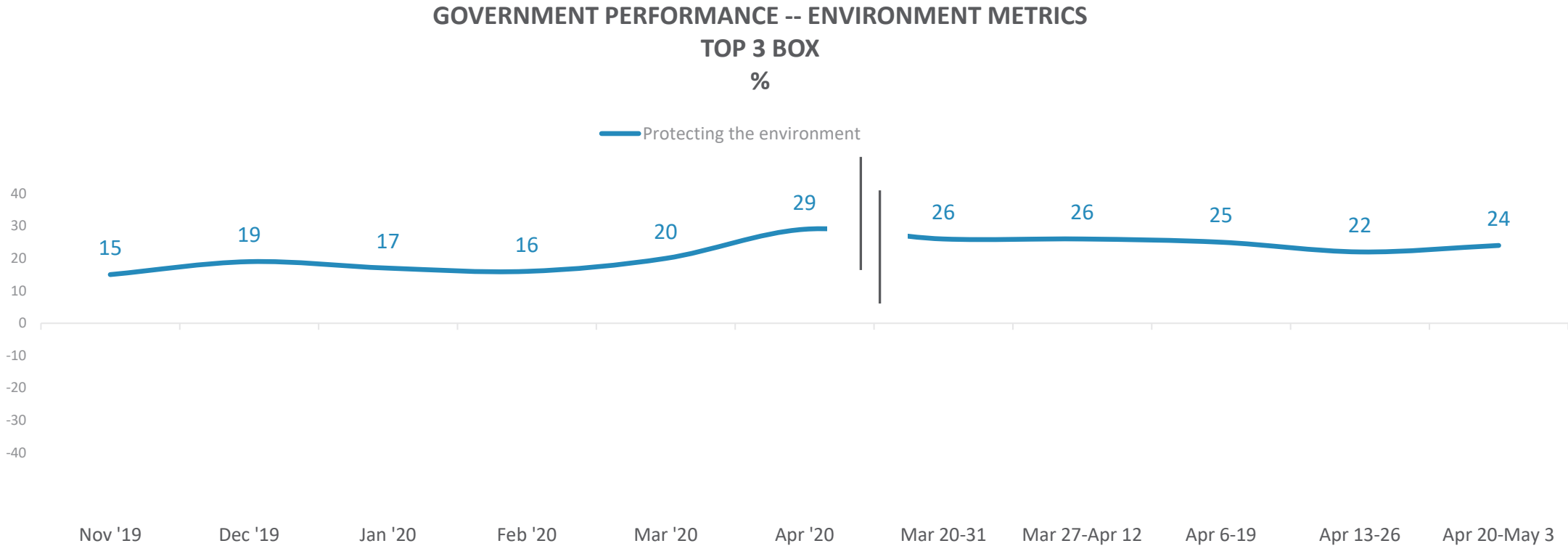
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance on health metrics also remained steady 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 increased 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