

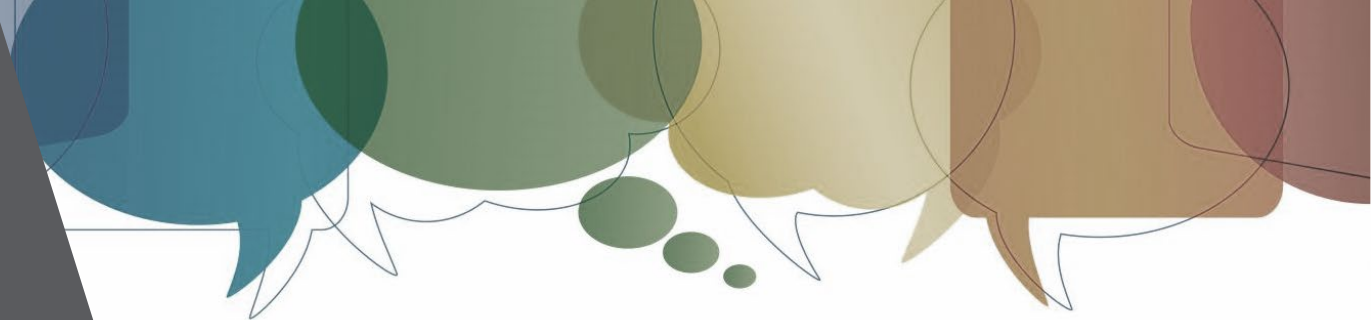


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #80

CABINET OFFICE

May 11th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores increased 10-points this week to 59%. After several weeks of being at parity with 'wrong track' scores, there is now a gap of 18-points.

The improvement in 'right track' scores are a result of improvements among those that see the government as 'somewhat on the right track'.

By demographics, there were improvements measured for all but those making over \$100,000 and Ontarians aged 45-54 with both remaining stable.

4 And, while there has been a gradual erosion in the rating of the provincial government's handling of the second/third wave, results improved this week with 25% providing an 'excellent/good' rating. That said, about half (48%) continue to rate the government as 'poor/very poor'.

There has been a decline again this week in the proportion who believe the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants. However, this remains the view of the majority (63%) of Ontarians.

2 In response to increasing infection cases and the provincial shutdown, the 'COVID-19' priority remains as the preference to be top priority for the province. That said, over the past two weeks it has declined from a high of 75% to 69% this week.

5 After a decline last week, there was a 10-point increase in Ontarians reporting they are only leaving their house to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy. Presently, 71% agree with this statement.

However, four-in-ten (42%) Ontarians agree they are fatigued with all of the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing. That said, fully half disagree they are getting very tired of all these measures.

3 Probably in connection to the increasing pace of the vaccine rollout, there has been an improvement in Ontarians' confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 66% agree with this (an increase of 18-points).

There has also been a 12-point increase this week in those who believe the government is 'doing what is required' to reduce the spread of the virus.

6 Anger regarding the third provincial shutdown appears to be receding with a 9-point decrease to 30% over the past week indicating they are angry with this order. Of note, a growing majority (64%) continue to say they are not angry.

However, there is also the lowest level of support measured to date (56%) for the extended province-wide stay-at-home order that includes restrictions forbidding outdoor activities such as tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf.

Key Findings

7 Over the past week, there has been increased trust in government communications regarding 'telling me about the COVID-19 situation' and that 'the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate'.

However, last week's gains for 'how they are managing the provincial economy' were reversed this week.

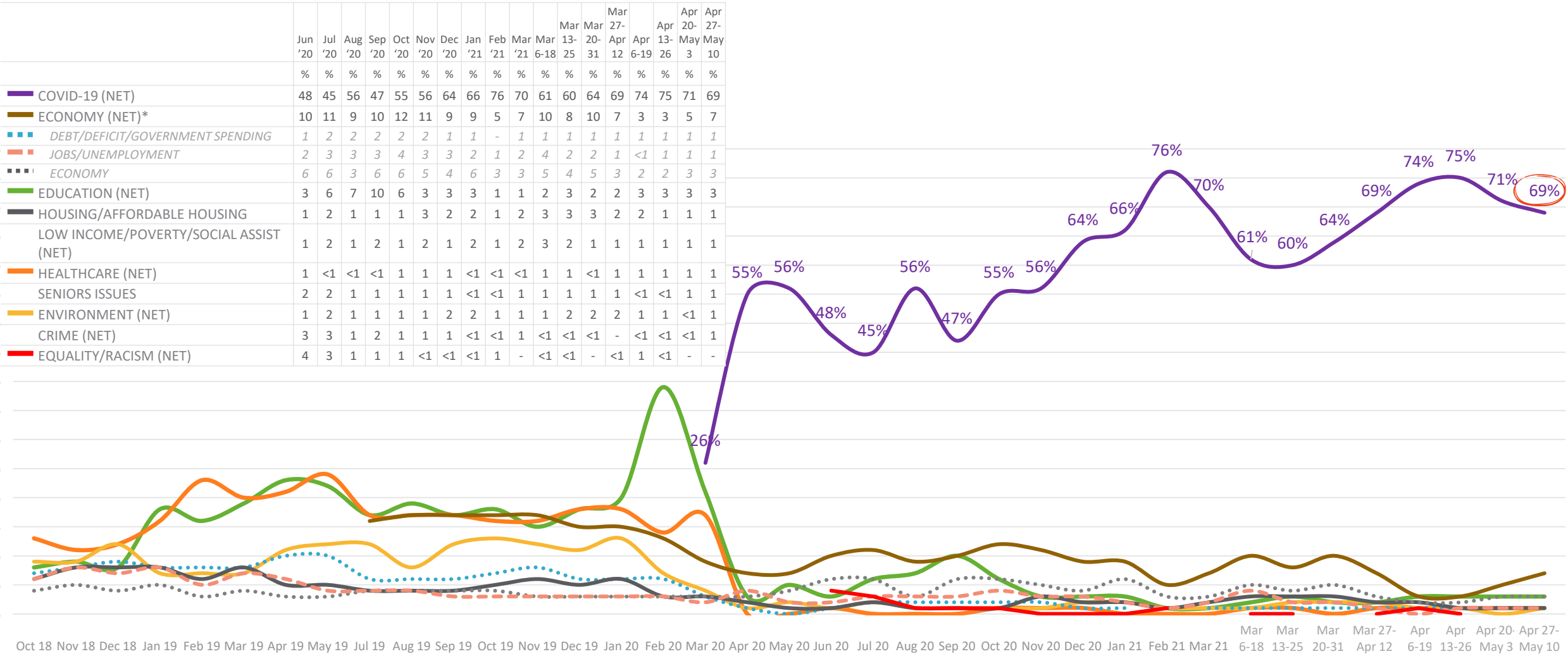
8 The preliminary results indicate allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (29%) and the timing of restriction limiting social contact (23%) were the most cited reasons for causing the increase in infection cases.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

While declining slightly, the 'COVID-19' priority continues to remain as the preference to be top priority for the province.



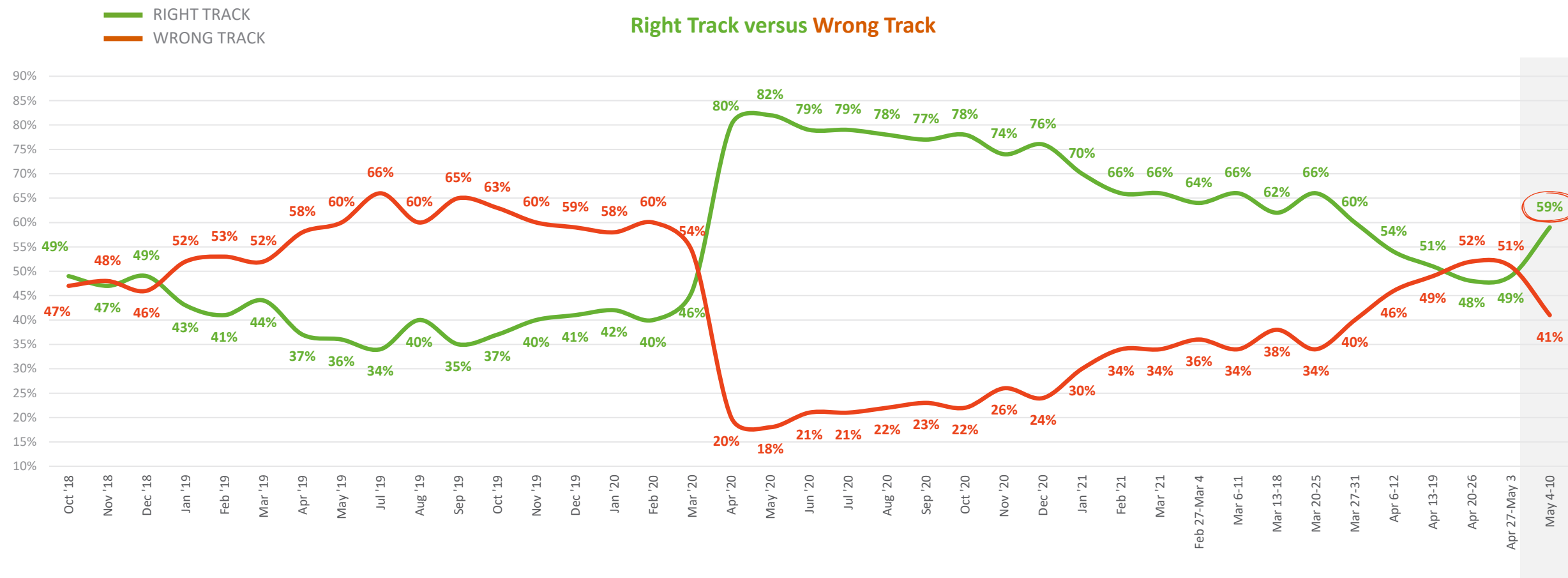
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

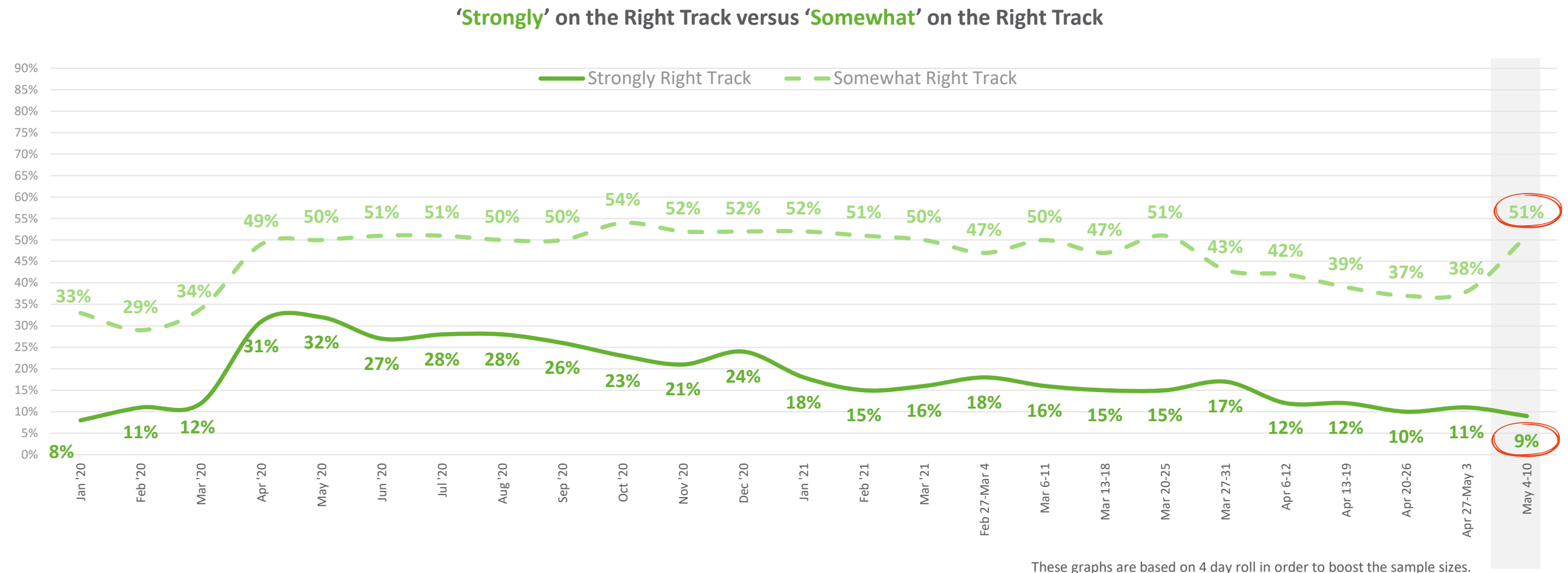


‘Right track’ scores increased 10-points this week to 59%. After several weeks of being at parity with ‘wrong track’ scores, there is now a gap of 18-points.



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

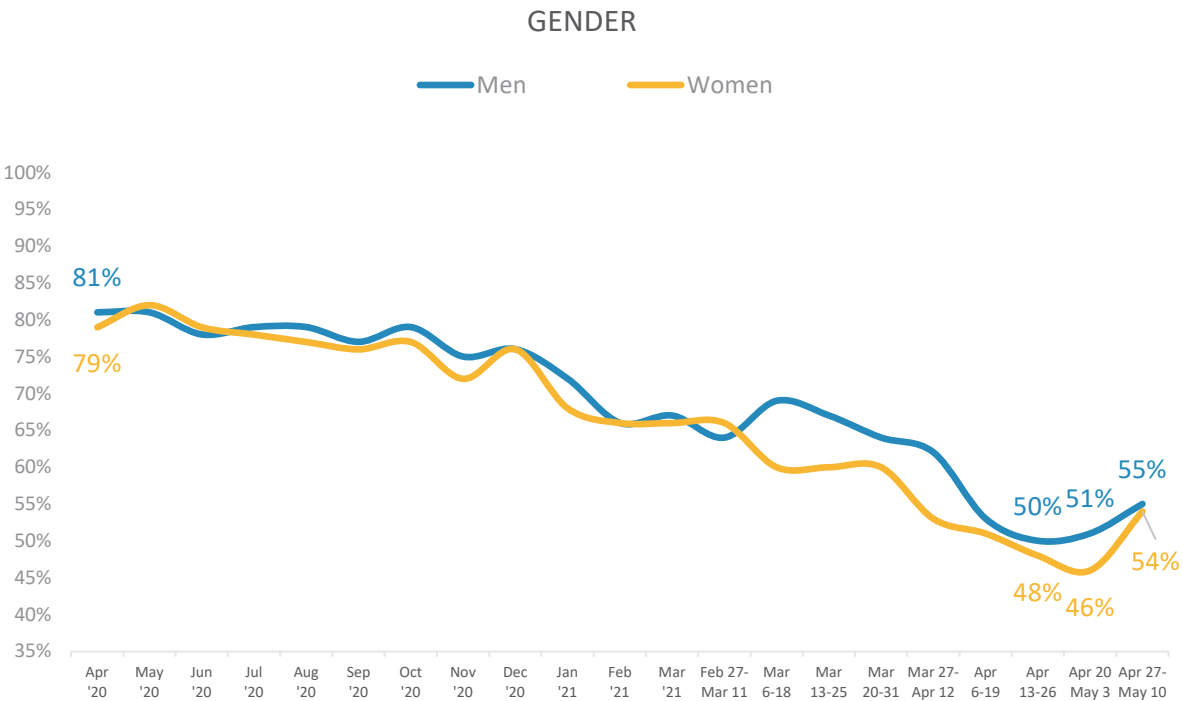
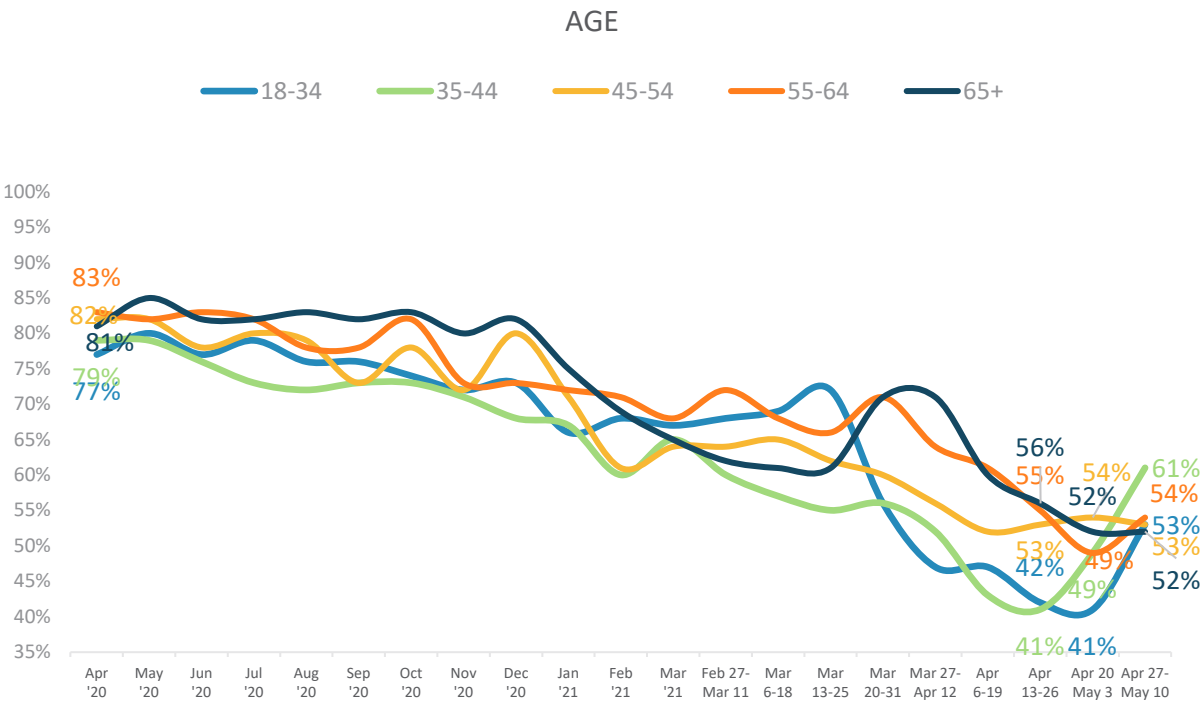
The improvement in ‘right track’ scores are a result of improvements among those that see the government as ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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

‘Right track’ scores improved among all age segments with the exception of those aged 45-54 where results remained unchanged. Increases were also measured among both men and women with scores again at parity.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

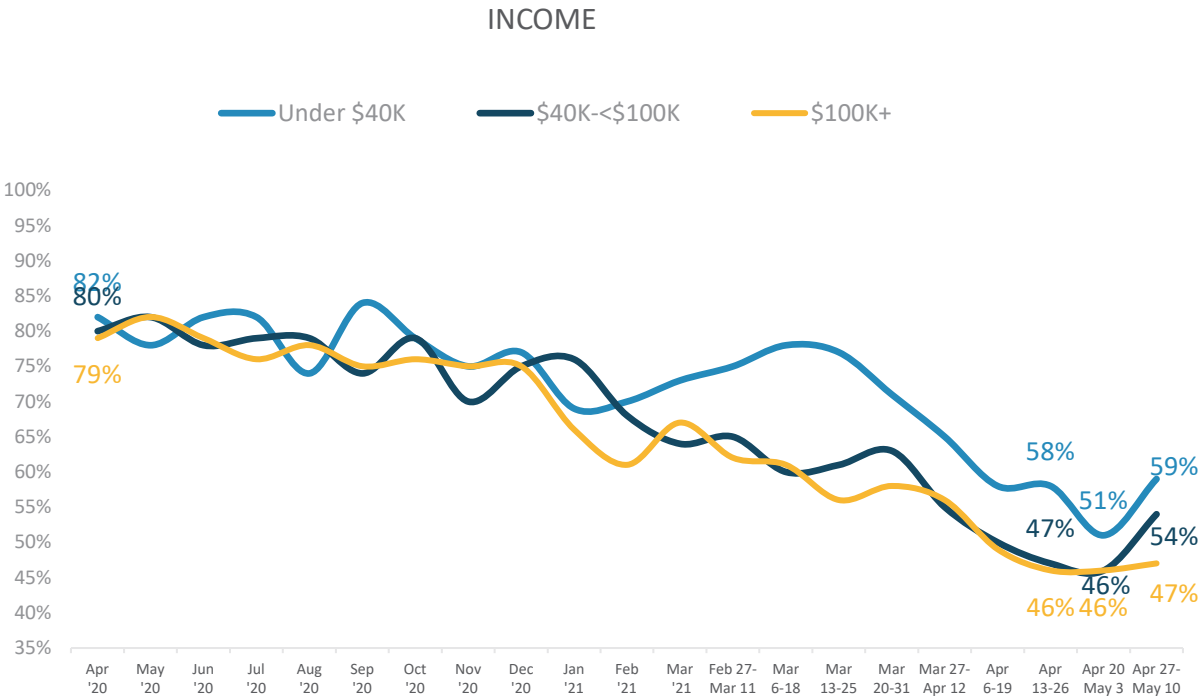
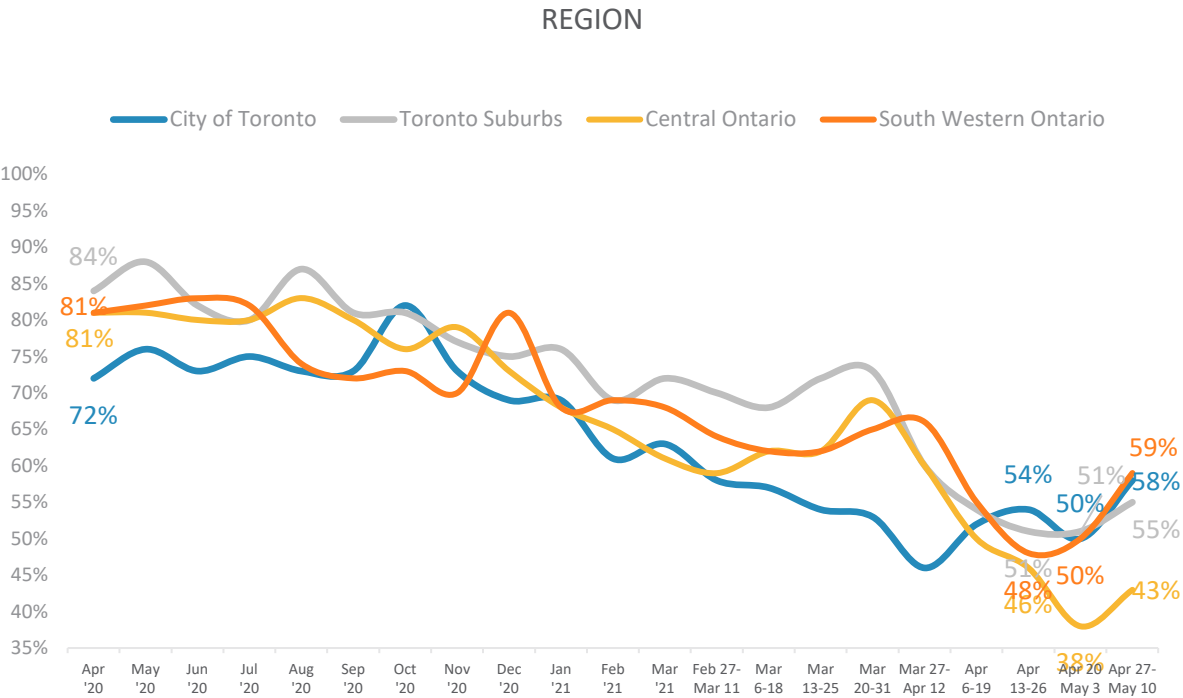


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Right track’ scores increased in all four regions this week. And, there were increases among Ontarians making under \$100,000, while results remained stable among those making over \$100,000.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



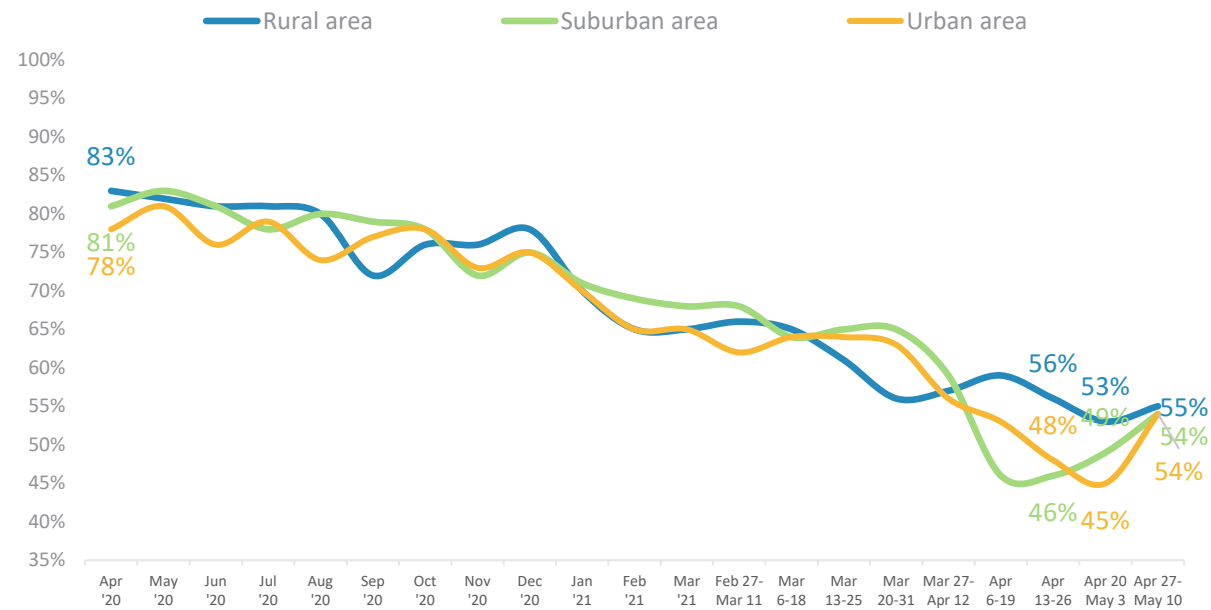
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

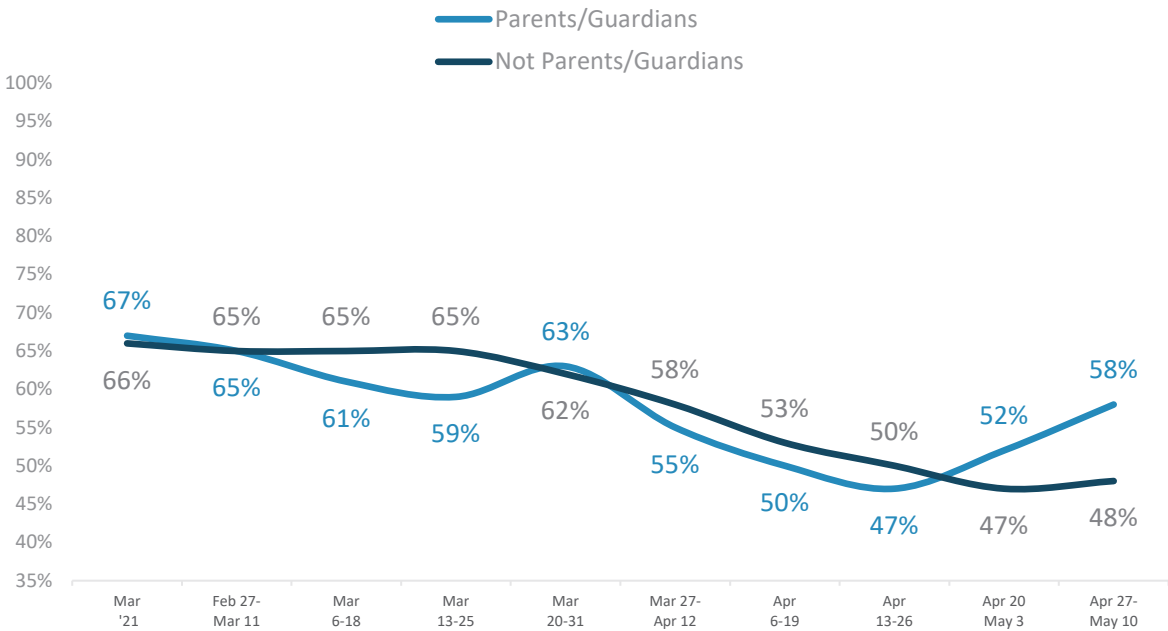
With increases this week, ‘right track’ scores are now at parity for rural, suburban, and urban areas. However, there is now a 10-point gap between parents (58%) and non-parents (48%).

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



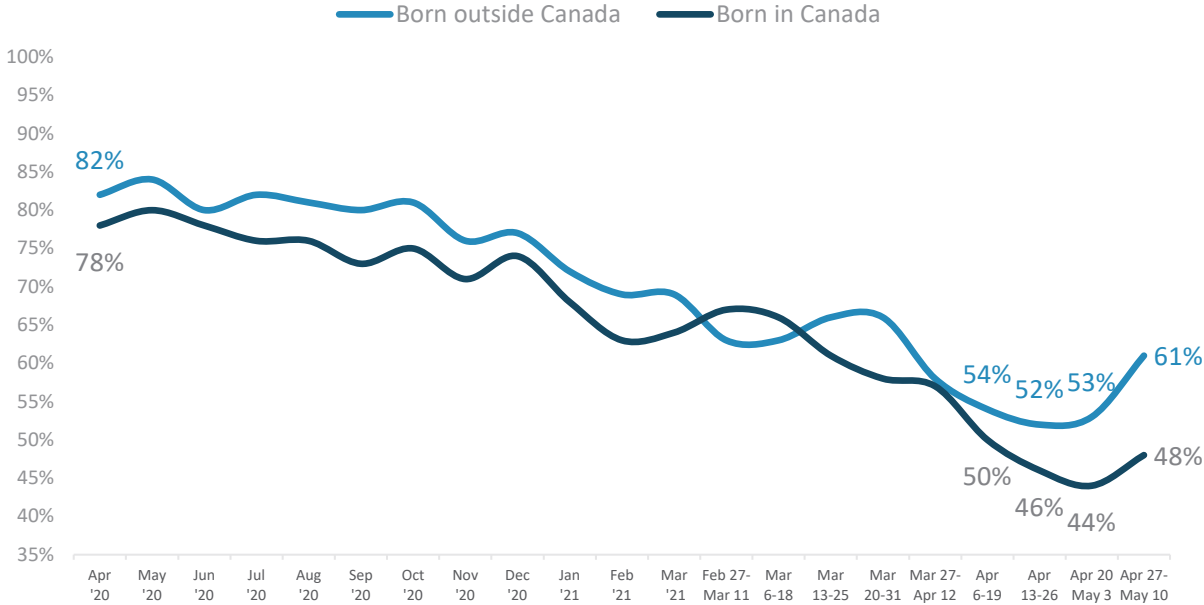
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Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

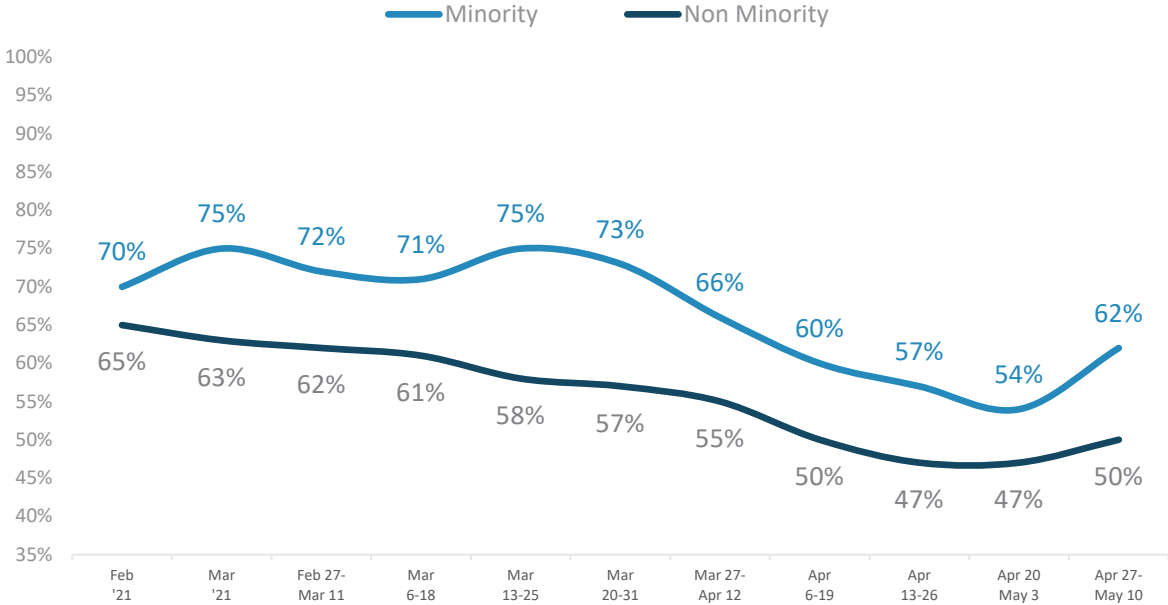
The majority of improvements in ‘right track’ scores were a result of increases among those born outside Canada and minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

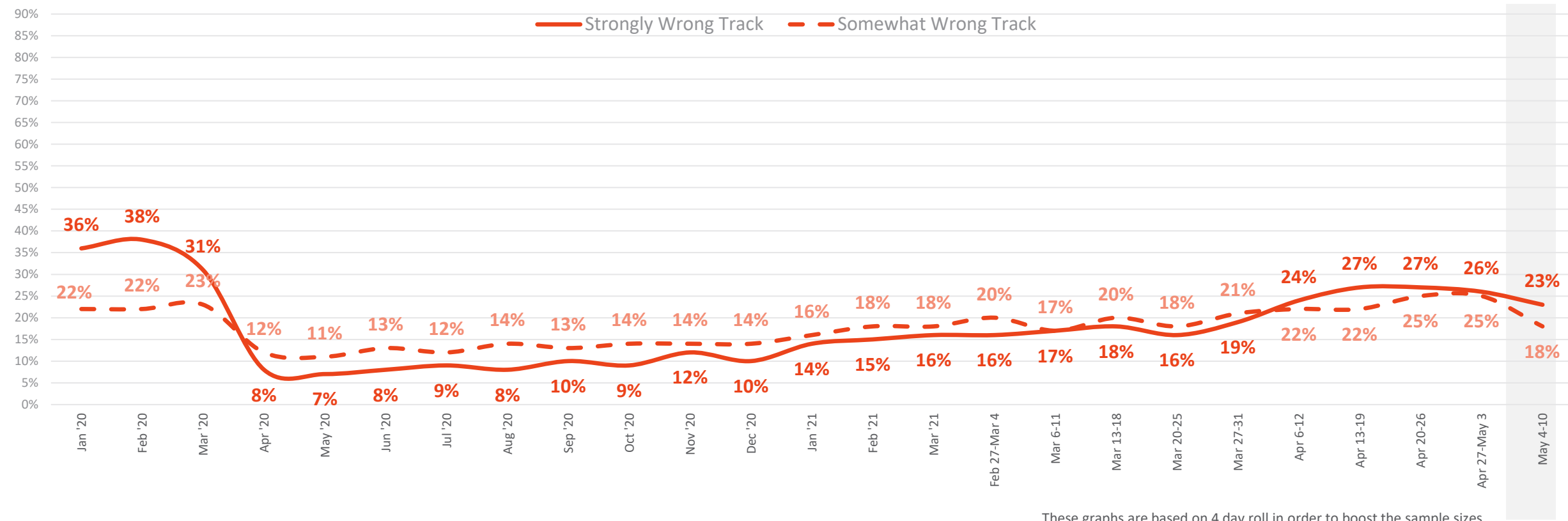


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The largest declines for ‘wrong track’ scores were among those that believe the government is ‘somewhat on the wrong track’.

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

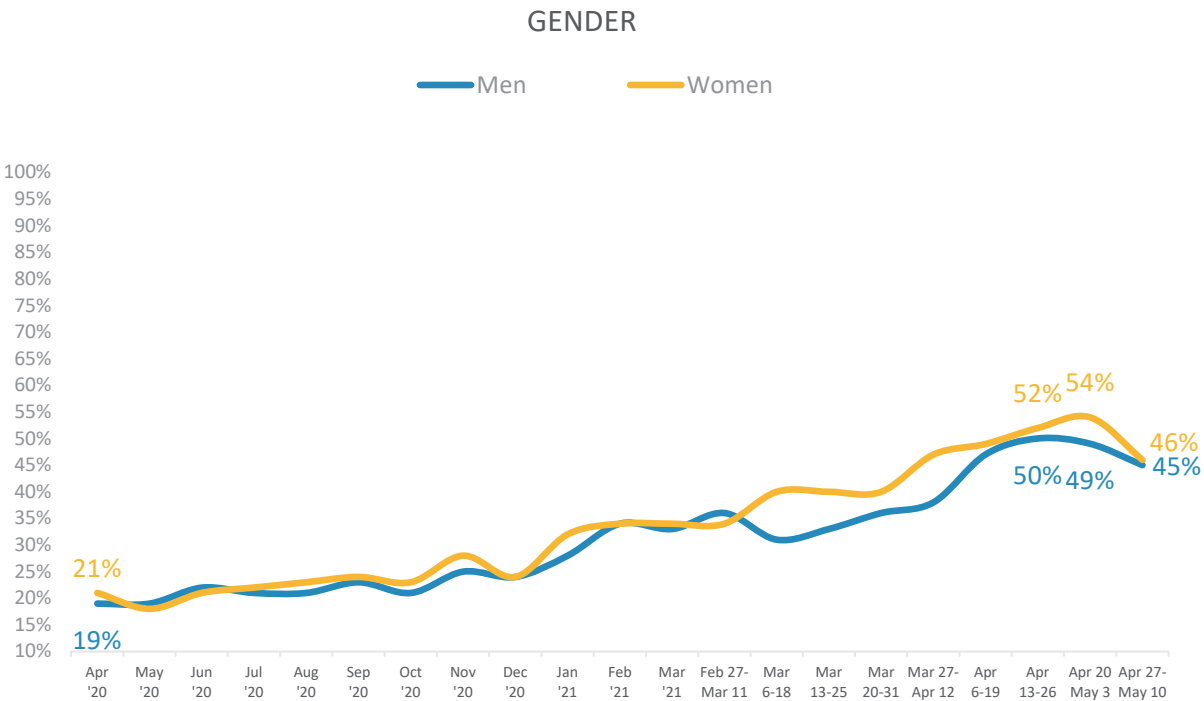
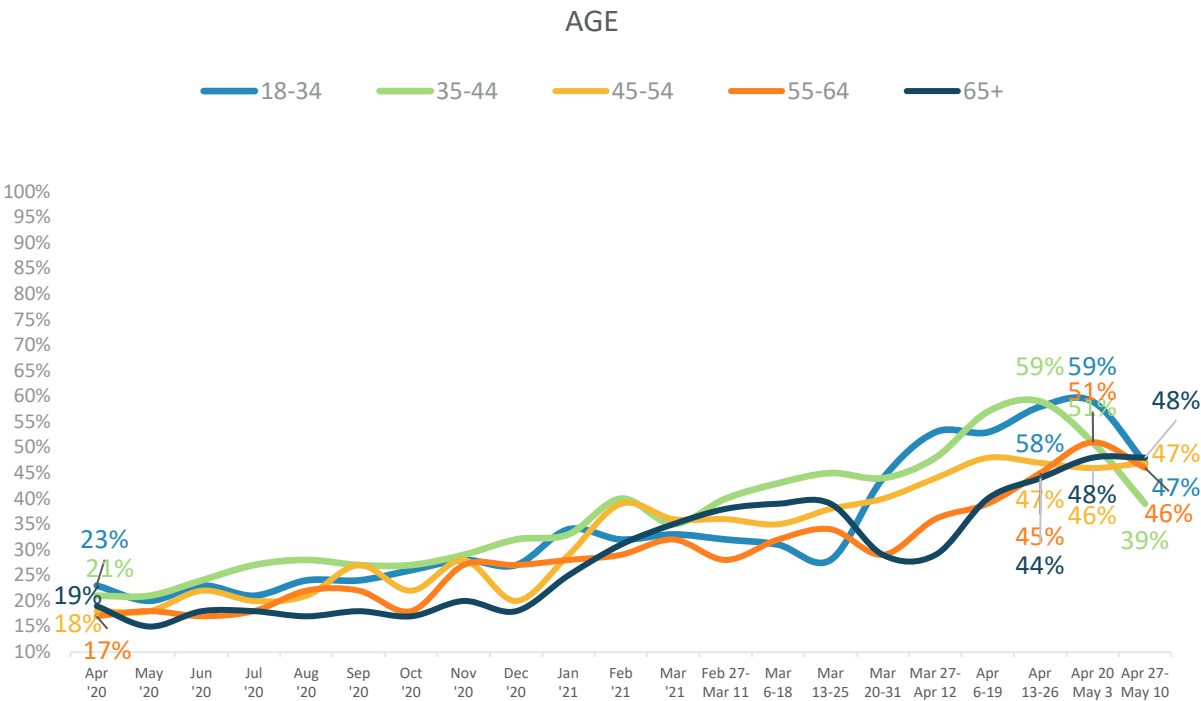


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Mirroring ‘right track’ trends, ‘wrong track’ scores declined this week among all age segments with the exception of those aged 45-54, which remained unchanged. Decreases were measured among both men and women and scores are now at parity.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

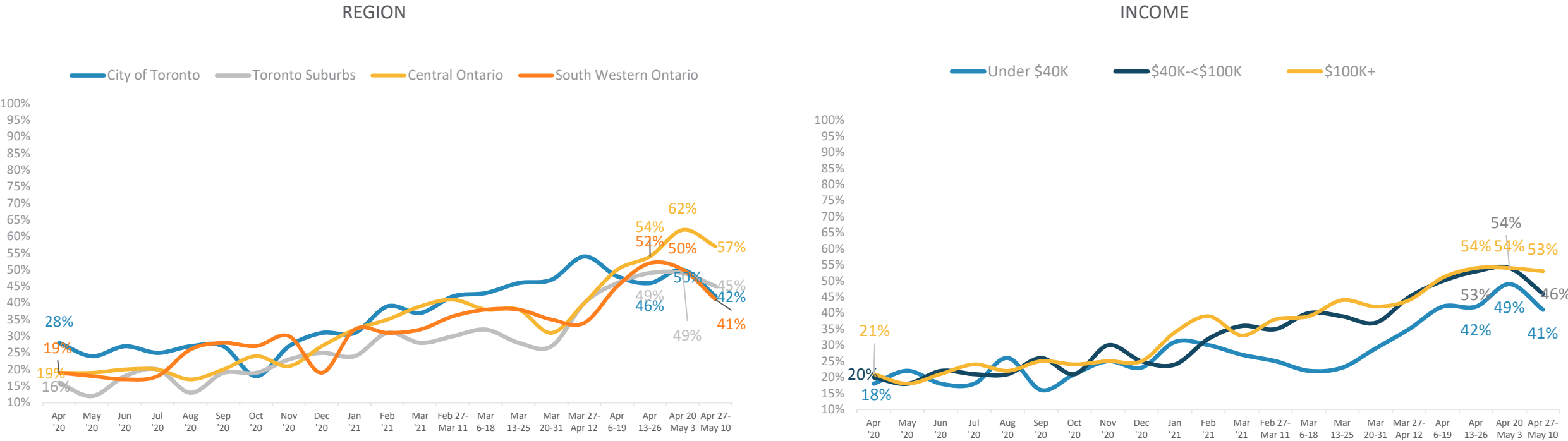


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 in all regions this week. Again, while results remained stable for those making over \$100,000, there were decreases measured among those making under \$100,000.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



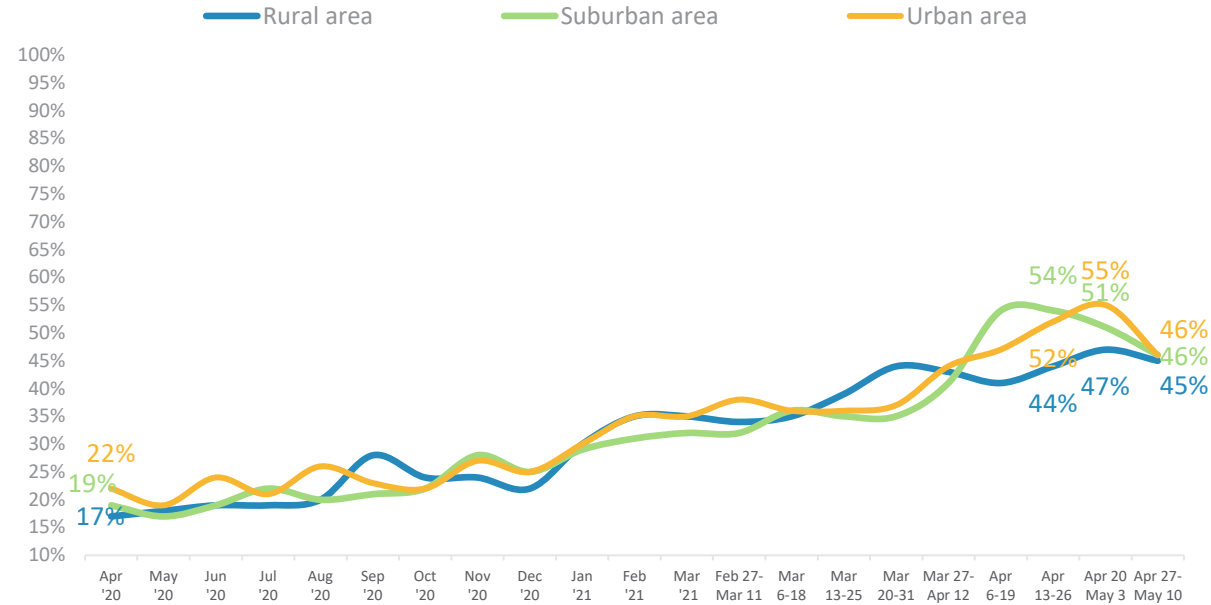
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

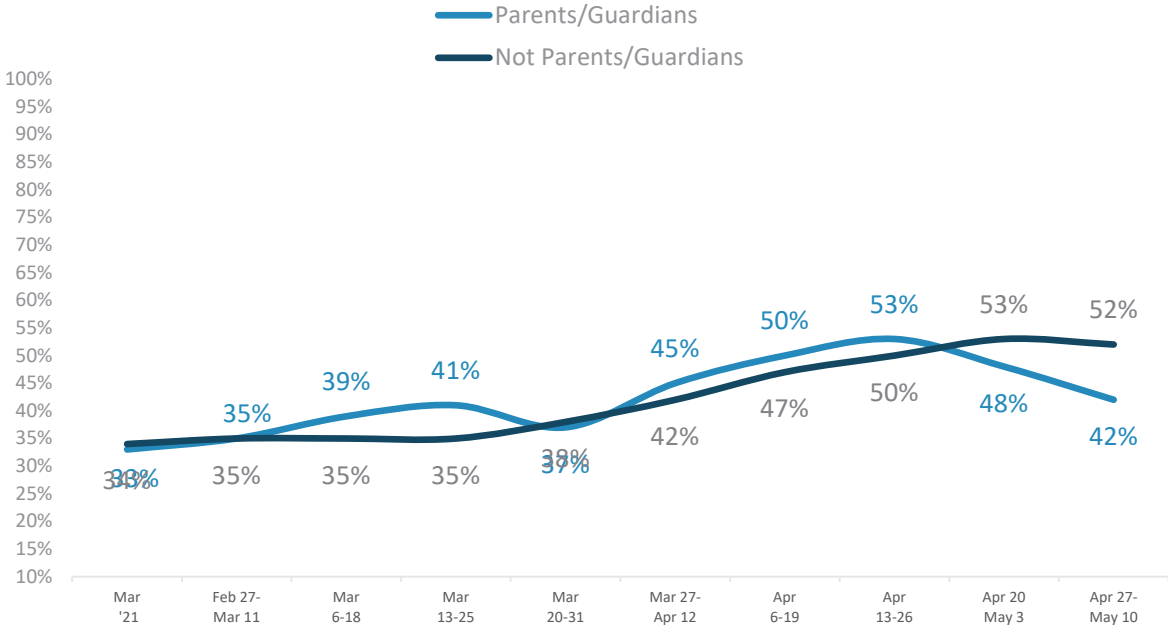
‘Wrong track’ scores are now at parity for the rural/suburban/urban areas as a result of the decreases this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

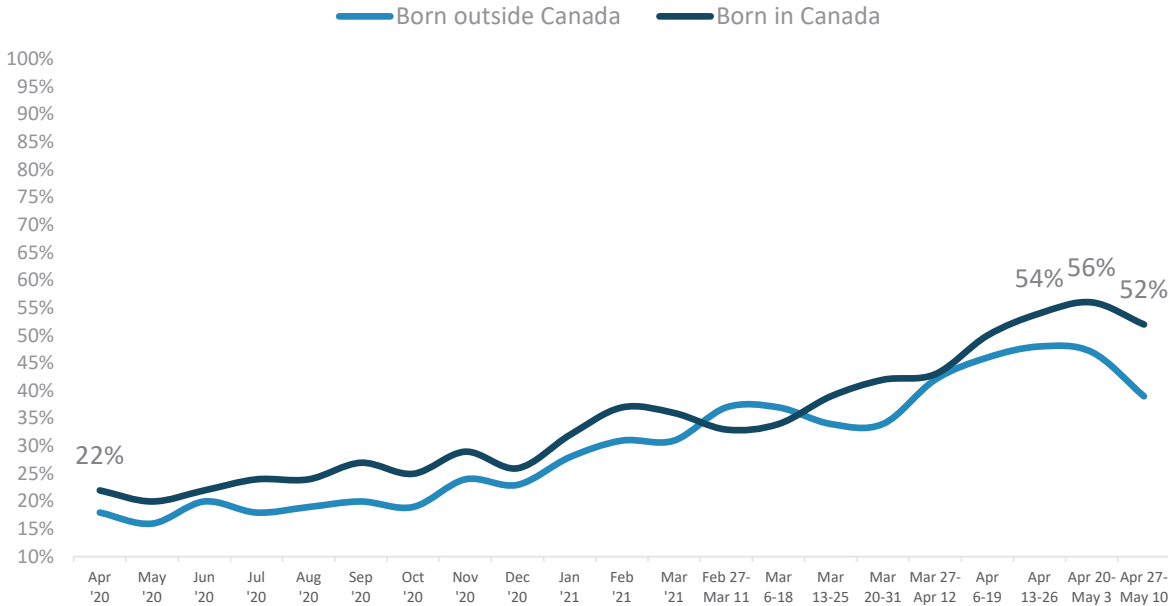


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

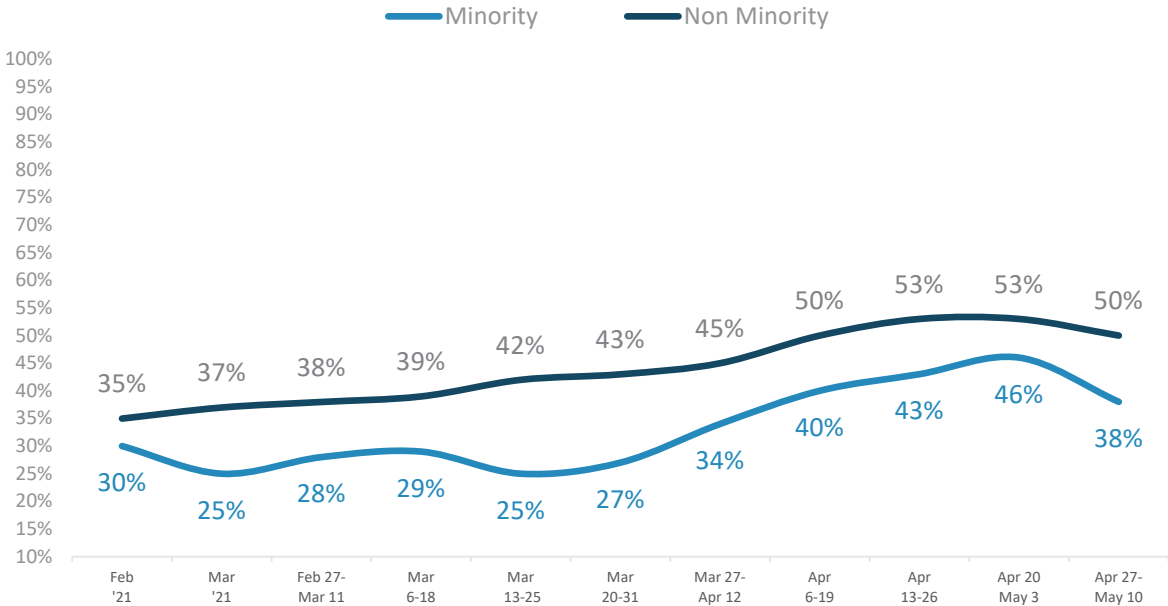
‘Wrong track’ scores remain higher among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



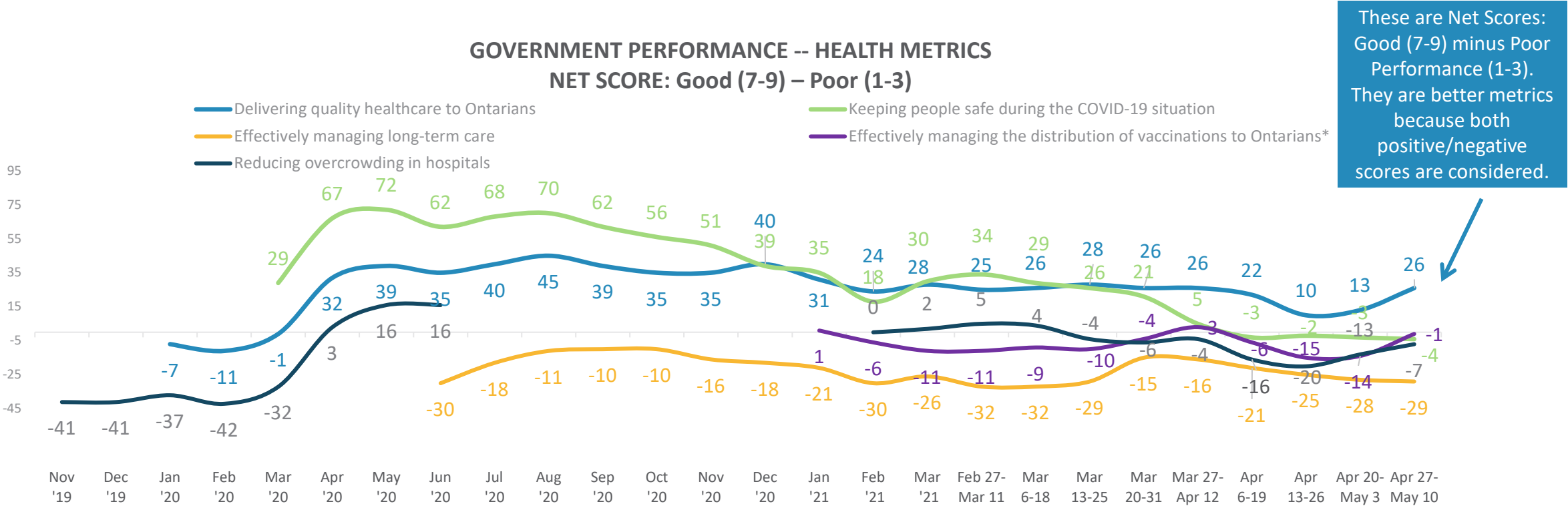
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



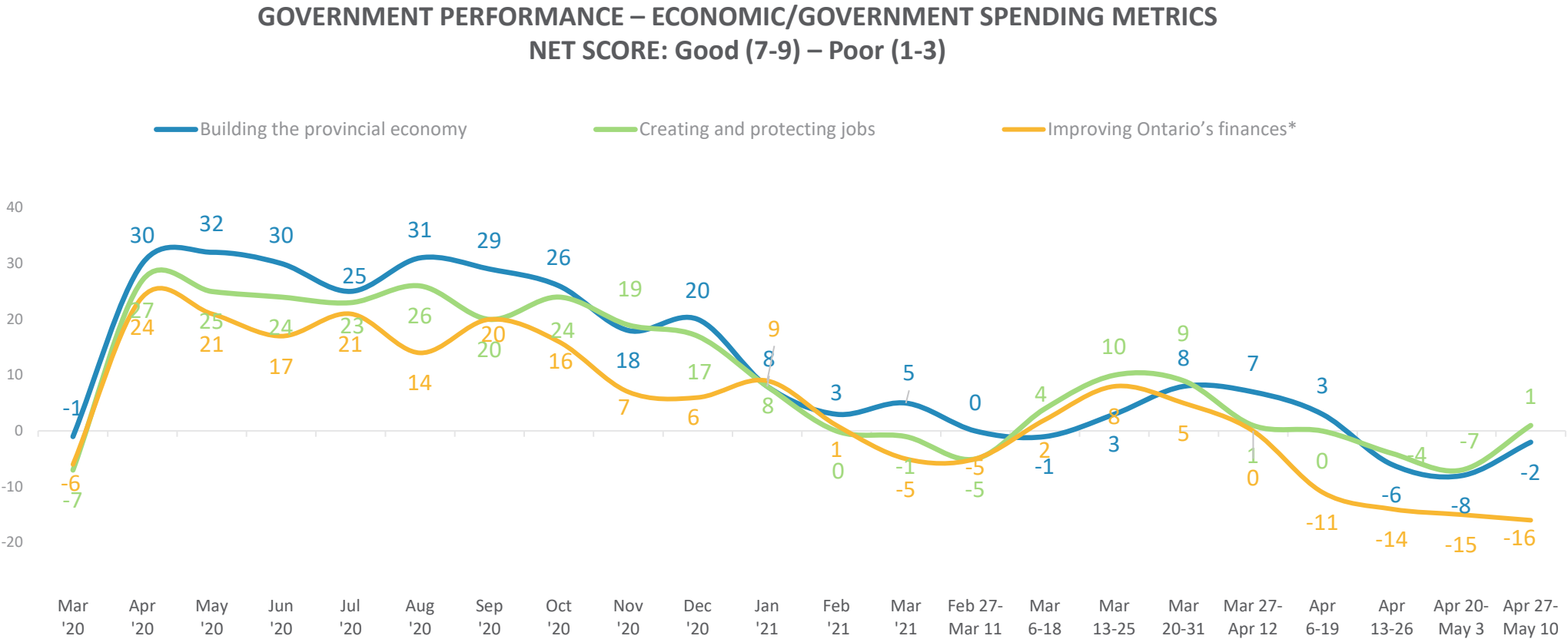
Rating of the government’s performance on ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ doubled this week to +26. In addition, there were also improvements for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations to Ontarians’ (13-point improvement to -1) and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ (6-point improvement to -7).

- ‘Keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘effectively managing long-term care’ both remained unchanged.



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

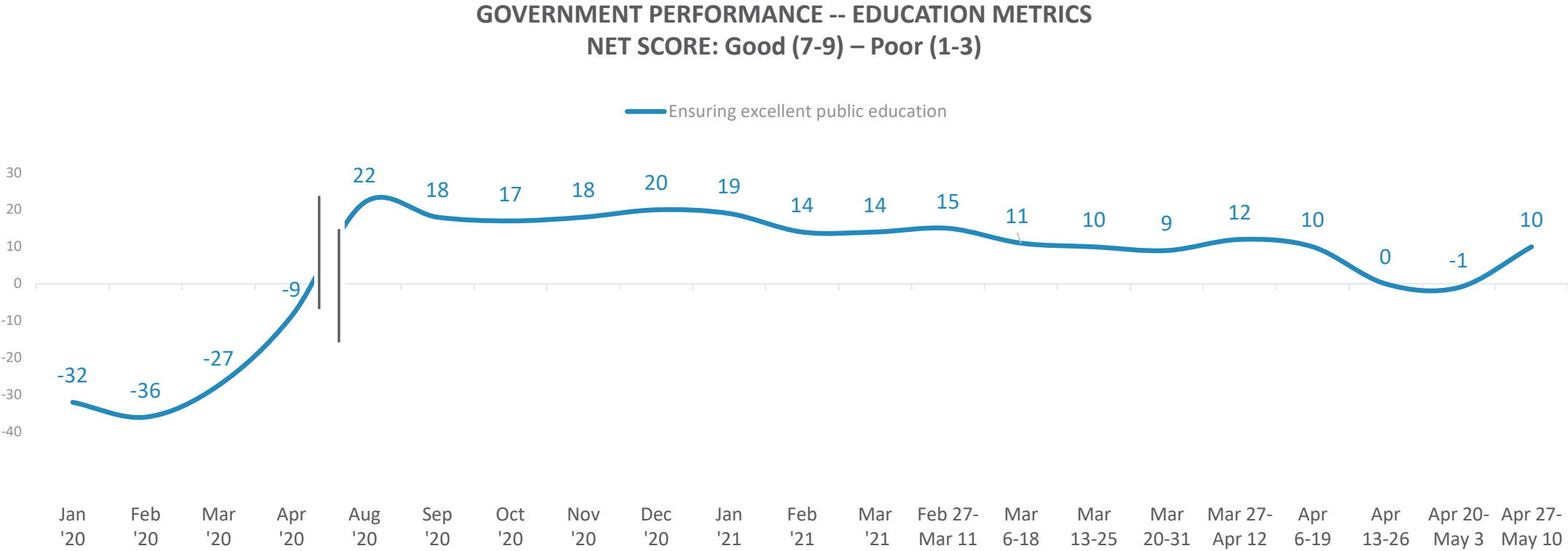
The economic/government spending metrics of ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘creating and protecting jobs’ edged upwards this week ending several weeks of declines. ‘Improving Ontario’s finances’ remained stable this week.



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?

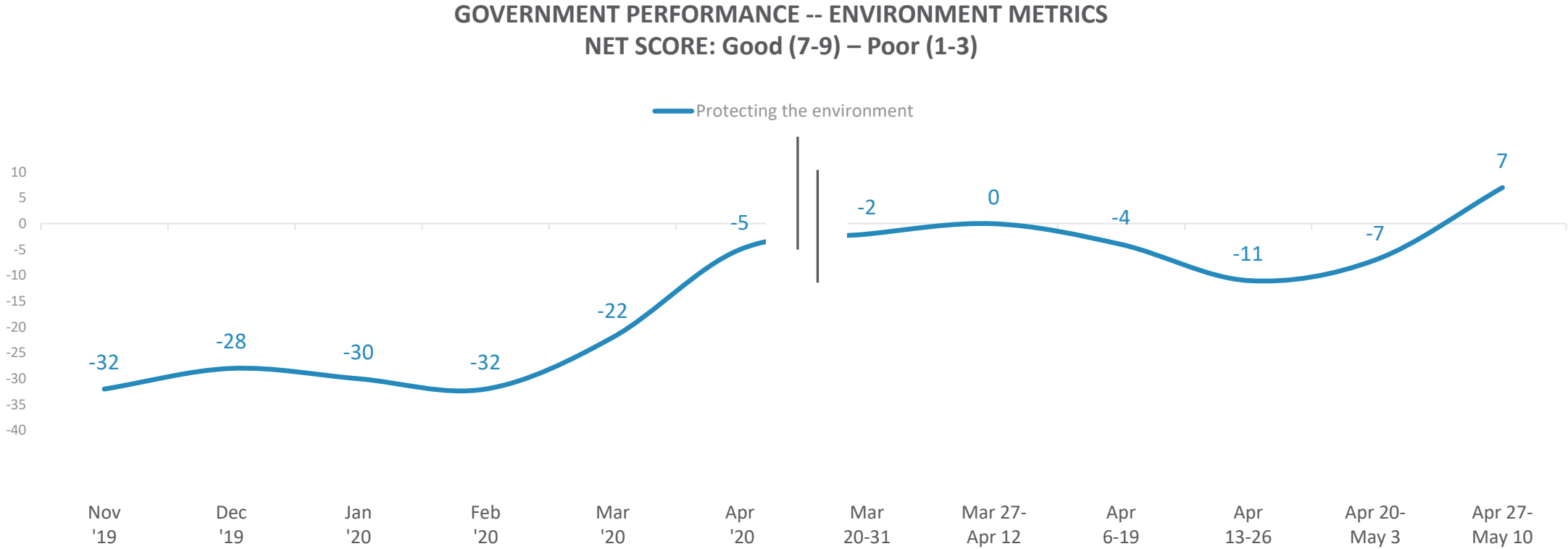
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

‘Ensuring excellent public education’ also improved this week and is now back in positive territory with a net score of 10.



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’ also improved this week and has moved to a +7 – the highest since tracking began.



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 improved this week with 25% providing an ‘excellent/good’ rating. That said, about half (48%) continue to rate the government as ‘poor/very poor’.

	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	May 4-10
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31	23	18	21	19	25
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	4	7
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28	20	16	18	15	18
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28	31	36	29	29	27
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21	24	22	26	27	30
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16	21	23	24	24	18
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38	45	45	50	51	48

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

MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN INFECTION CASES

The preliminary results indicate allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (29%) and the timing of restriction limiting social contact (23%) were the most cited reasons for causing the increase in infection cases.

	May 4-10
n=	300
	%
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29
The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13
Infections introduced into Ontario by interprovincial travelers	6
All of these	4
Don't know/not sure	9

DO ONTARIANS BELIEVE
THE PANDEMIC IS OVER?



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

Again this week, one-third (33%) of Ontarians believe Ontario is over the worst of the pandemic. And, over the past two weeks, there has been an 11-point decline in those that disagree with this point of view.

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	May 4-10
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	44	40	44	30	29	26	40	35	24	26	32	33
Strongly agree	14	21	27	14	8	10	12	14	12	14	9	9
Somewhat agree	30	19	17	15	21	16	28	21	12	12	23	24
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	3	9	5	8	7	9	6	7	10
Somewhat disagree	19	21	16	30	29	28	23	39	27	23	29	29
Strongly disagree	28	30	28	35	30	39	27	19	38	44	29	27
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	51	43	65	59	67	50	58	65	67	59	56

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



ANGER IF THE PROVINCE ORDERS A THIRD PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN

Anger regarding the third provincial shutdown appears to be receding with a 9-point decrease to 30% over the past week indicating they are angry with this order. Of note, a growing majority (64%) 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	May 4-10
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	36	30	33	39	30
Strongly agree	23	18	18	22	25	21
Somewhat agree	13	18	12	11	15	9
Neither agree nor disagree	4	10	9	10	10	4
Somewhat disagree	20	16	16	18	16	23
Strongly disagree	39	37	42	38	35	41
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	53	58	56	51	64

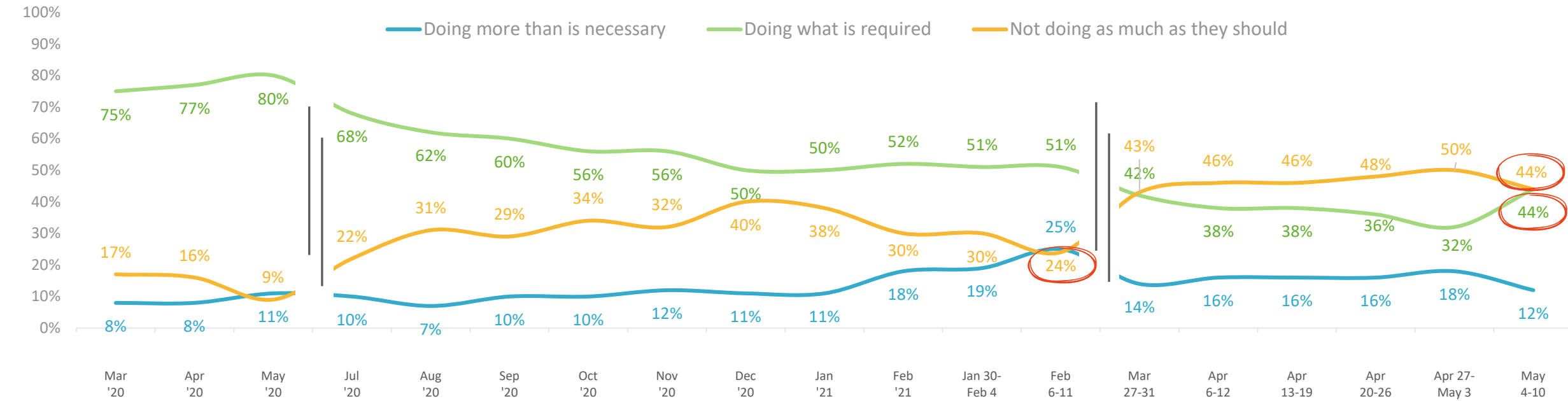
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

There has also been a 12-point increase this week in those who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus. Results are now on par that the government is ‘doing what is required’ and ‘not doing as much as they should’.

	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	May 4-10	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	May 4-10
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	58%	55%	57%	57%	51%	67%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%	34%	35%	30%	29%	28%	21%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	20%	18%	18%	17%	14%	16%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%	58%	59%	63%	65%	70%	71%



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



There is the lowest level of support measured to date (56%) for the extended province-wide stay-at-home order that includes restrictions forbidding outdoor activities such as tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf.

<i>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?</i>						<i>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?</i>						<i>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 ...</i>						<i>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?</i>						<i>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?</i>						<i>of Ontario has extended the province-wide stay-at-home order which includes, among other restrictions forbidding outdoor activities like tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf. Would you say you are ...of the government taking this step?</i>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
	Apr '20	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11		Apr 6-12		Apr 13-19				Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3		May 4-10																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			</

QCV-8A. As you may know, the Government of Ontario has extended the province-wide stay-at-home order which includes, among other restrictions forbidding outdoor activities like tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.) ...of the government taking this step? (previous phrasing) 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?

Results remained steady this week, with one-in-five (22%) Ontarians 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	May 4-10
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	28	26	22	20	22
Strongly agree	17	9	15	10	13
Somewhat agree	11	17	7	10	8
Neither agree nor disagree	5	3	2	4	1
Somewhat disagree	11	11	11	18	11
Strongly disagree	54	58	64	56	62
TOTAL DISAGREE	65	69	75	73	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

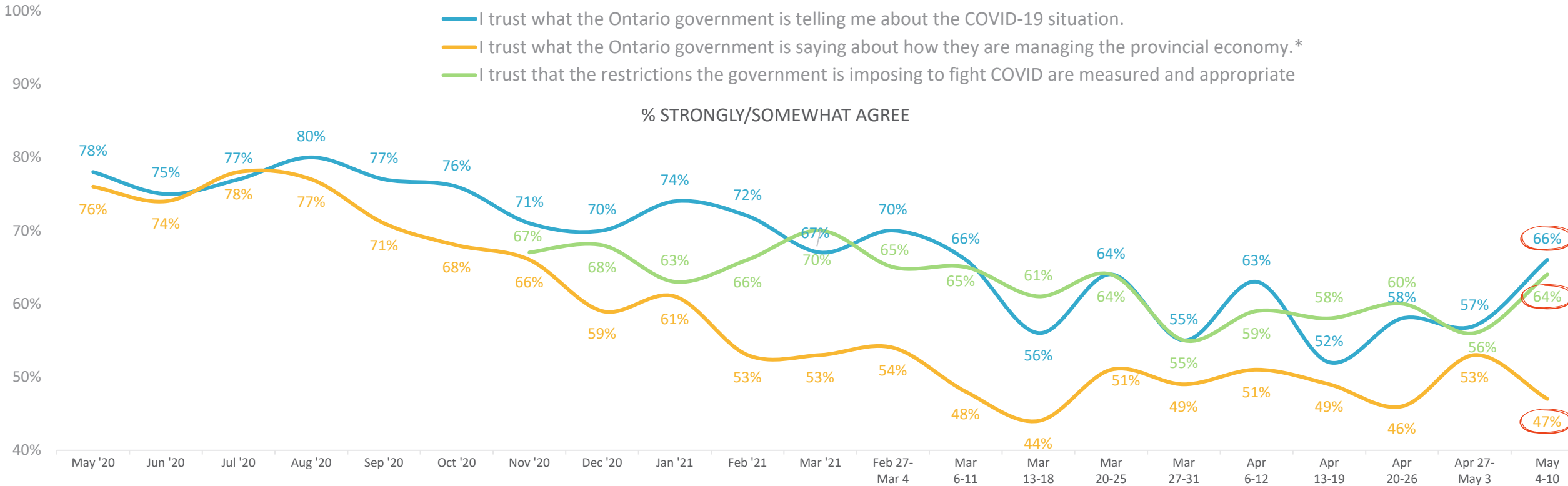
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

‘Over the past week, there has been increased trust in government communications regarding ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and that ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’.

- However, last week’s gains for ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ were reversed this week.



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

Fully half (50%) of Ontarians disagree they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing. That said, 42% agree they are fatigued with the measures.

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	May 4-10
n=	varies																		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57	53	39	46	42
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17	29	24
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22	17	18
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7	6	5	7	7
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17	16	19
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38	30	30
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55	46	50

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



ATTITUDES TOWARD RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID-19

While lower than in late March (41%), there continues to be an upward trend to 29% 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	May 4-10
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	29

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

LIKELIHOOD OF CATCHING COVID-19 VIRUS

Over the past two weeks, there has been a 10-point decline to 24% in the number of Ontarians that agree that someone like themselves won’t get COVID-19.

I don’t think someone like me will get COVID-19

	Apr '20	May '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10
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	24
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8	14	8	13	12	16	17	8
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12	13	14	8	7	17	15	16
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	7
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18	20	27	17	15	15	16	16
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54	37	38	41	59	41	40	45
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	64	76	71	70	71	70	77	55	62	64	62	62	57	72	58	65	58	74	56	55	61

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

Base: Total sample

In addition, there have also been declines in those agreeing that if they did get COVID-19, they don't think they would be seriously ill.

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	May 4-10
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36	32	30	37	39	36	34
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12	16	15	17	22	16	16
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	20	14	21	22	20	24	16	15	21	17	20	18
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	8	11	9	7	9	9	7	12	9	6	7	9	7
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	12	13	16	13	14	17	18	13	19	13	14
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36	35	38	39	31	37	42
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51	51	56	52	50	50	56

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

Base: Total sample

After a decline last week, there was a 10-point increase in Ontarians reporting they are only leaving their house to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy. Presently, 71% agree with this statement.

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	May 4-10
n=	varies																			
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63	76	54	66	65	68	61	71
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40	48	50	55	47	58
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14	18	15	13	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	4
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5	19	13	8	12	13	11
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10	23	13	20	15	20	11
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42	26	28	27	33	22

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

Base: Total sample

Similarly, there was an increase to 79% 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	May 4-10
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86	85	92	87	92
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70	70	81	73	79
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16	15	11	15	13
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2	4	1	3	-
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4	6	2	4	5
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7	4	3	6	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11	10	6	9	7

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

Probably in connection to the increasing pace of the vaccine rollout, there has been an improvement in Ontarians’ confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 66% agree with this (an increase of 18-points).

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

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	38	38
Strongly agree	12	15	14
Somewhat agree	23	24	24
Neither agree nor disagree	10	10	12
Somewhat disagree	18	20	22
Strongly disagree	32	30	25
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	50	47

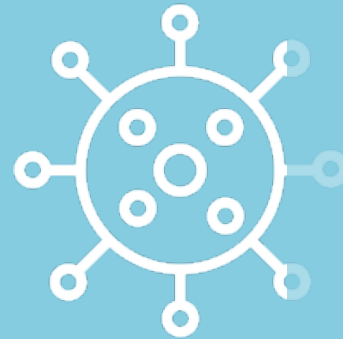
*I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered**

Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27- May 3	May 4-10
varies																			
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68	55	52	48	66
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19	20	25
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34	28	41
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10	6	10
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22	22	7
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16	22	16
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37	44	22

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
*Previous phrasing: *I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are now being administered*
*Previous phrasing: *I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that a vaccine is ready and now being administered*
*Previous phrasing: *I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that a vaccine is ready and being used*

Base: Total sample, base varies

SUPPORT FOR MOVING BACK TO ONLINE EDUCATION



Two-thirds (64%) support the requirement that all elementary and secondary schools offer only online learning, with the number supporting this change double the number that oppose it.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10
n=	300	300
	%	%
Support this action	64	64
Do not support this action	32	32
Not applicable	1	1
Not sure/Don't know	3	4

QCV-199B. As you may know, there has been an increasing number of COVID 19 cases in the province. After the Spring Break, the provincial government is requiring all elementary and secondary schools to only offer online learning. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VARIANTS



After hitting a high of 70% two weeks ago, there has been a decline again this week in the proportion who believe the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants. However, this remains the view of the majority (63%) of Ontarians.

	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	May 4-10
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	31
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47	56	60	57	58	64	70	65	63
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	6	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?

PAID SICK LEAVE



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	May 4-10
n=	300	300
	%	%
Yes	75	73
No	24	26
Don't know/not sure		1

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

There is also 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	May 4-10
n=	300	300
	%	%
Yes	85	86
No	15	14

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

Six-in-ten (61%) Ontarians believe that the provincial government is responsible for providing sick leave pay when it is not covered by an employer. About one-quarter (25%) believe it is the federal government’s responsibility.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10
n=	300	300
	%	%
Federal government	34	25
Provincial government	56	61
Both	4	8
Don’t know/not sure	7	5

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, results indicate that half (51%) believe the federal government should be responsible for paying sick leave during a pandemic like COVID when not covered by an employer.

- Three-in-ten (28%) believe the provincial government should be responsible.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10
n=	300	300
	%	%
Federal government	48	51
Provincial government	39	28
Both combined	9	10
Don't know/not sure	3	10

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

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 63% ‘strongly’ supporting this idea.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	87	91
Strongly support	69	63
Somewhat support	18	28
Somewhat oppose	5	4
Strongly oppose	7	3
TOTAL OPPOSE	12	7
Don't know		2

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

Equal numbers of Ontarians believe it is reasonable for the government to pay sick leave for up to one week (27%) or two weeks (27%). A further 25% believe it is reasonable ‘as long as the person is sick’.

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

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

DIGITAL PRIVACY



Seven-in-ten (71%) 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	May 4-10
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	68	75	69	71
Very concerned	31	36	33	29
Somewhat concerned	37	39	36	42
Not very concerned	20	16	21	16
Not at all concerned	10	8	9	12
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	24	30	28

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	May 4-10
n=	300	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	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	24
Don’t know/not sure	6	5	7	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

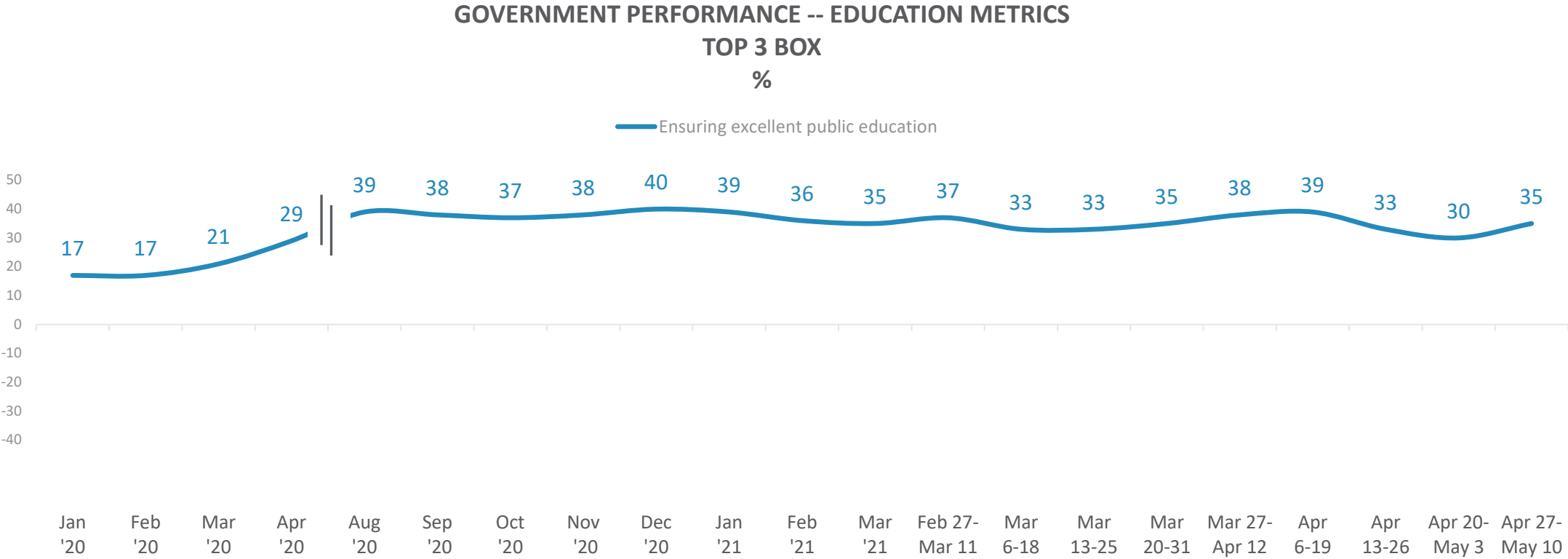
Ontarians agree that government should: investigate and penalize businesses that disregard the laws to protect personal information (89%); prohibit the collection and use of personal information from children’s online activity (86%); and limit the ability of businesses to monitor online behaviour and sell the data (78%).

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
Government should investigate and penalize businesses that disregard the laws designed to protect personal information.	91	96	93	89
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	86
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	78

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

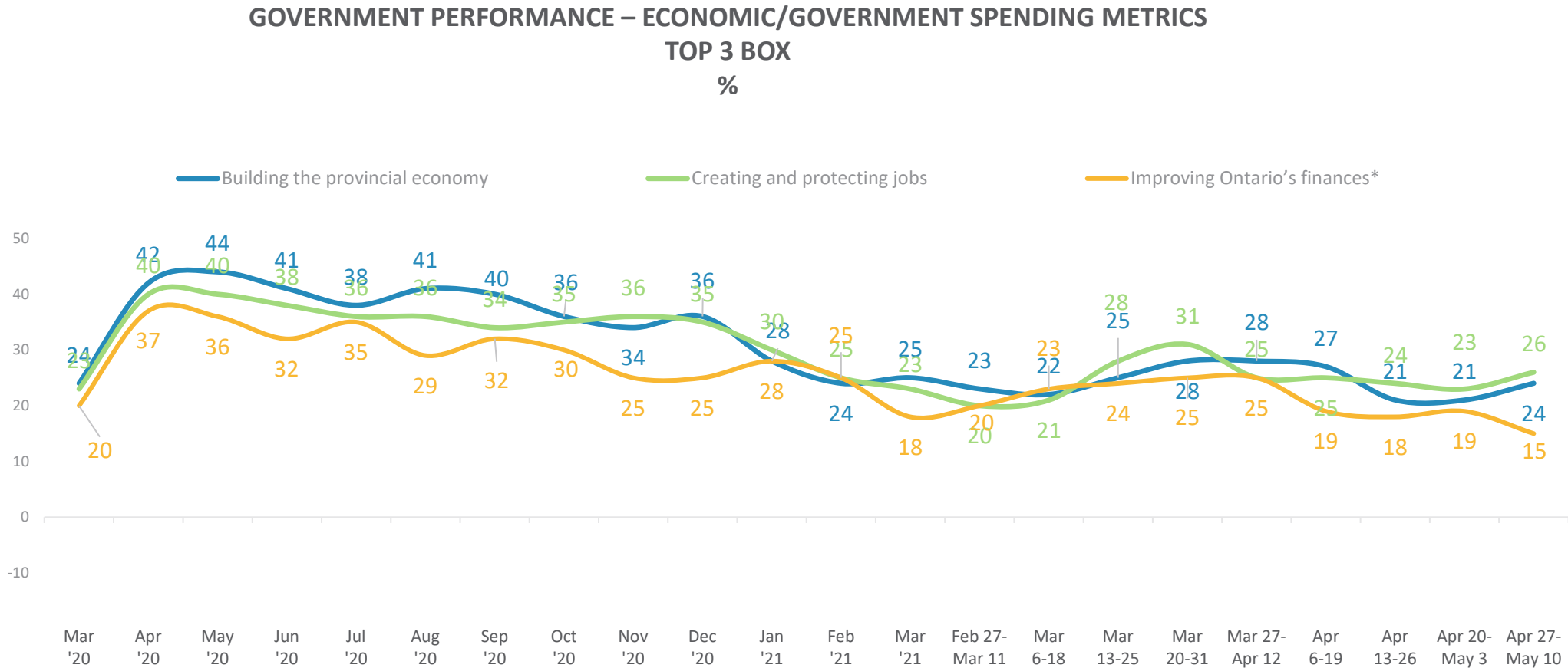


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ increased this week after two weeks of declines.



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 ‘creating and protecting jobs’ and ‘building the provincial economy’ improved slightly this week, while the reverse was true for ‘improving Ontario’s finances’.



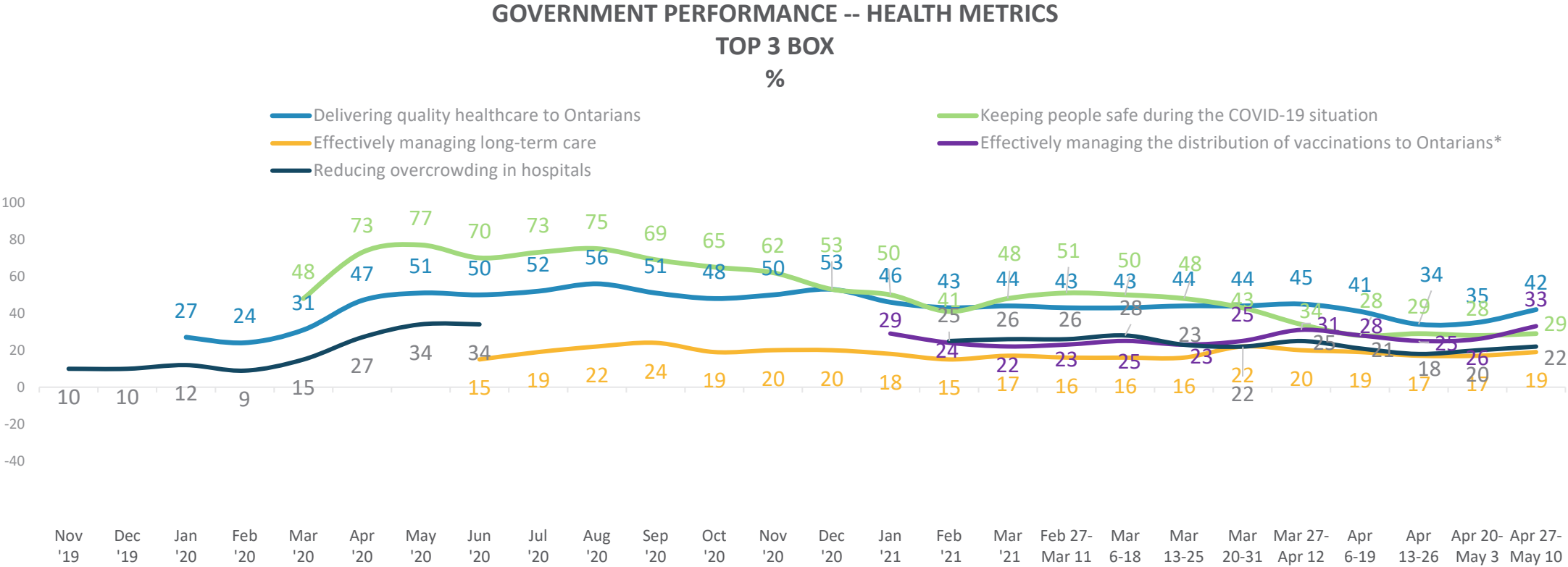
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”

**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”

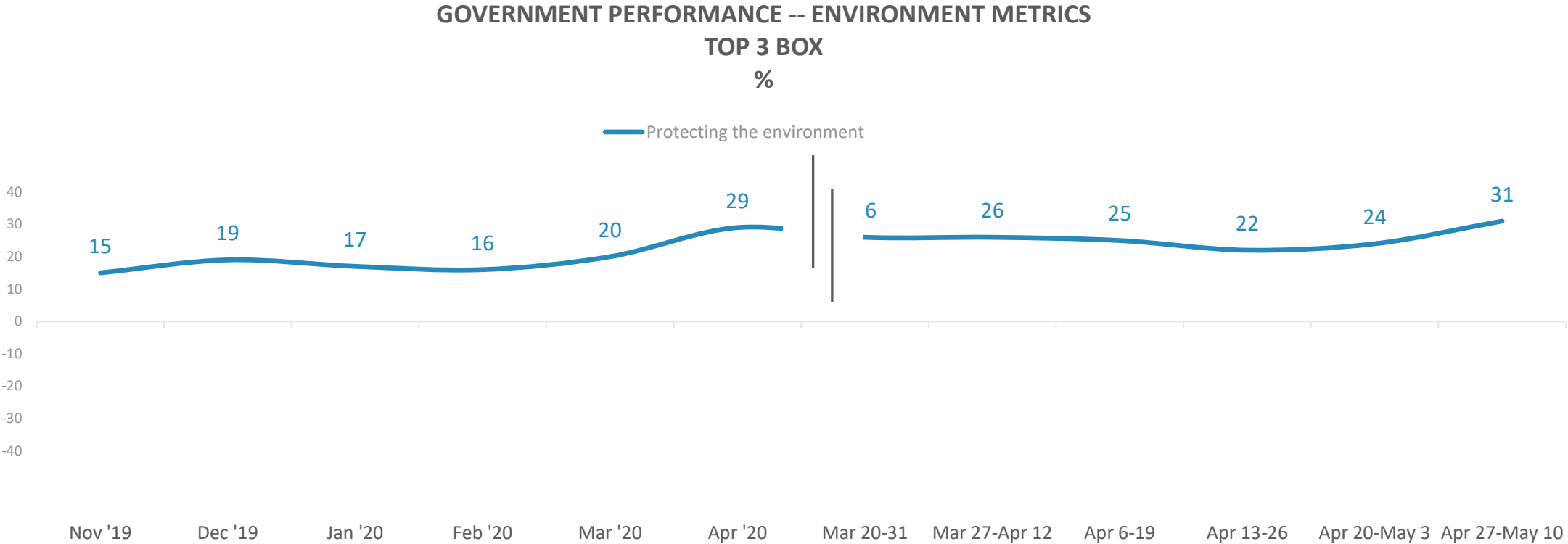
Bases vary

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance improved this week for ‘delivering quality healthcare’ and ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ while remaining steady for the other health metrics.



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 also increased 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

Two-thirds (64%) support the requirement that all elementary and secondary schools offer only online learning, with the number supporting this change double the number that oppose it.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10
n=	300	300
	%	%
Support this action	64	64
Do not support this action	32	32
Not applicable	1	1
Not sure/Don't know	3	4

QCV-199B. As you may know, there has been an increasing number of COVID 19 cases in the province. After the Spring Break, the provincial government is requiring all elementary and secondary schools to only offer online learning. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample