

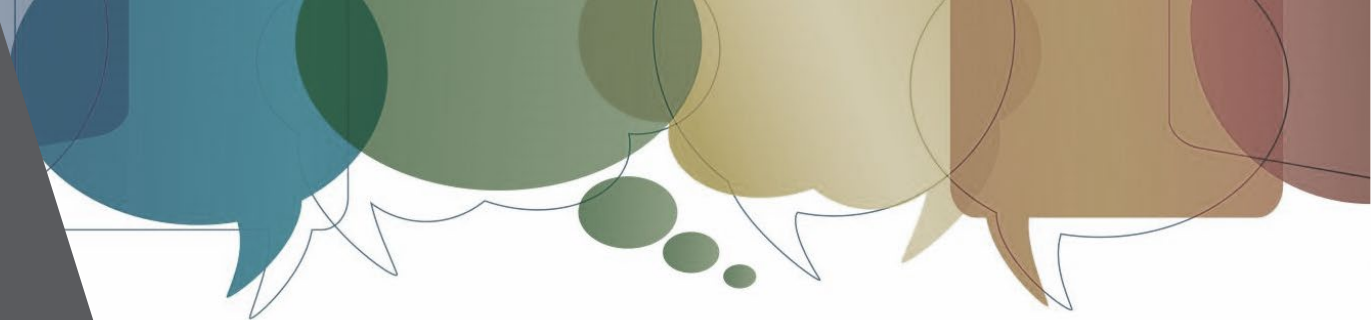


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #81

CABINET OFFICE

May 18th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

Despite the uptick last week, 'right track' scores are at 48% this week.

The change in 'right track' scores are a result in changes among those who see the government as 'somewhat on the right track'.

Results remained unchanged at 43% among those who believe the government is 'doing what is required' to reduce the spread of the virus. However, there was an 11-point increase to 23% saying the government is doing 'more than is necessary'.

And, support declined to 47% - the lowest level of support measured to date - for the extended province-wide stay-at-home order that includes restrictions forbidding outdoor activities such as tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf.

Probably in connection to the increasing pace of the vaccine rollout, there continues to be an improvement in Ontarians' confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 77% agree with this (an increase of 29-points over the past two weeks).

There was also a 20-point increase this week to 53% of Ontarians who believe Ontario is over the worst of the pandemic – the highest percentage since tracking began.

That said, after peaking two weeks ago, anger regarding the third provincial shutdown continues to trend down. While 26% indicate they are angry with this order, 69% say they are not angry.

Ratings of the government's performance improved for 'effectively managing the vaccinations' (a 23-point improvement over the past two weeks to NET 9) and 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' (an 8-point improvement this week to NET 4).

There were declines this week for the other health metrics with 'effectively managing long-term care' now at NET -35, the lowest point since tracking began.

Preliminary results indicate that half (52%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as 'excellent/good'.

While just over half report their family's financial situation stayed the same over the past year, more than double indicate it has worsened (30%) than improved (13%).

These findings suggest Ontarians are optimistic about the future: half (50%) anticipate their financial situation will be 'excellent/good'.

Key Findings

However, trust in the government's communications about COVID-19 declined this week regarding 'telling me about the COVID-19 situation', 'the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate', and 'how they are managing the provincial economy'.

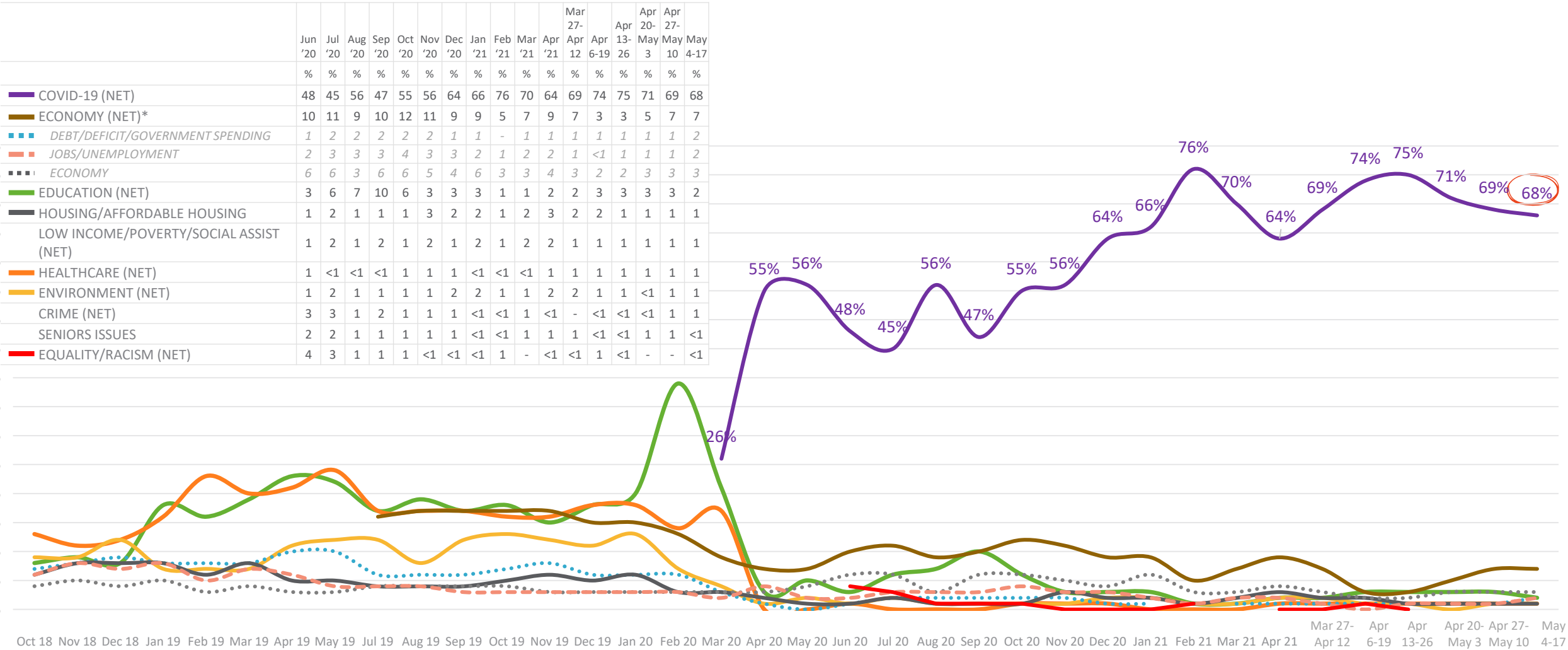
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (36%) is the most cited reason for causing the increase in infection cases leading to a wave 3 of COVID-19. One-in-five (21%) believe it was the timing of restrictions limiting social contact.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

While declining slightly over the past two weeks, the ‘COVID-19’ priority remained unchanged this week and continues to be the preference as a top priority for the province.

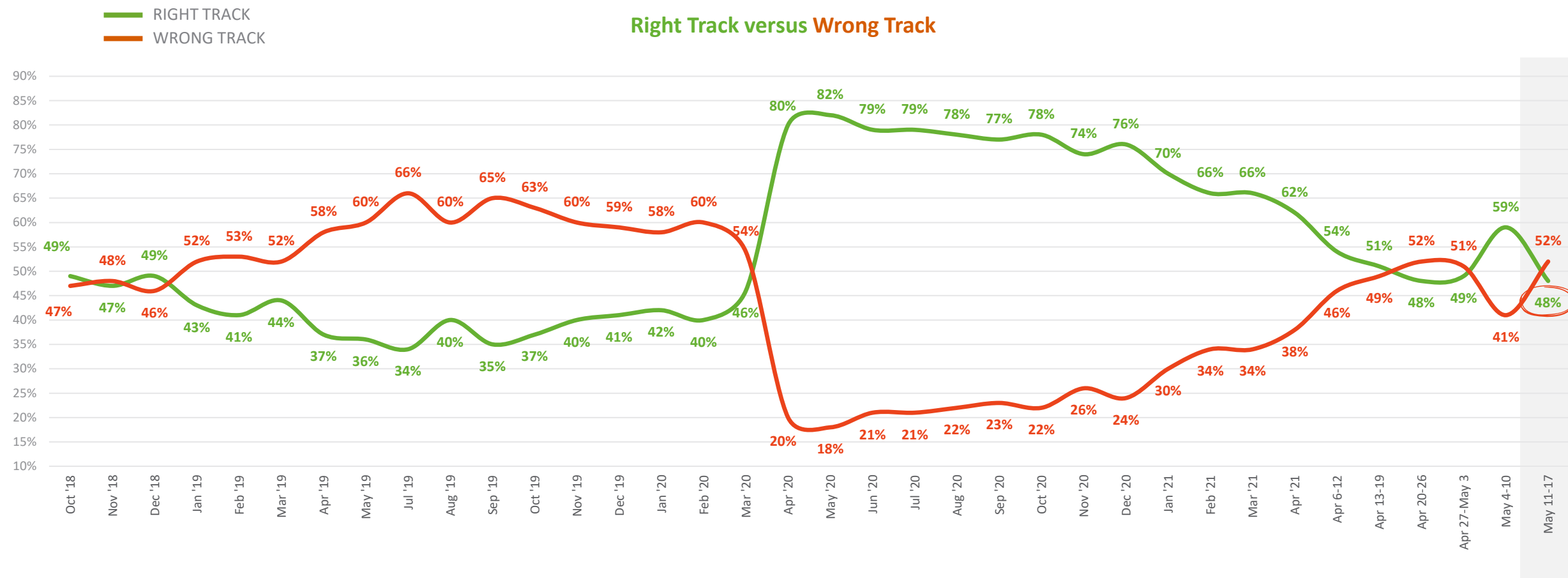


Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

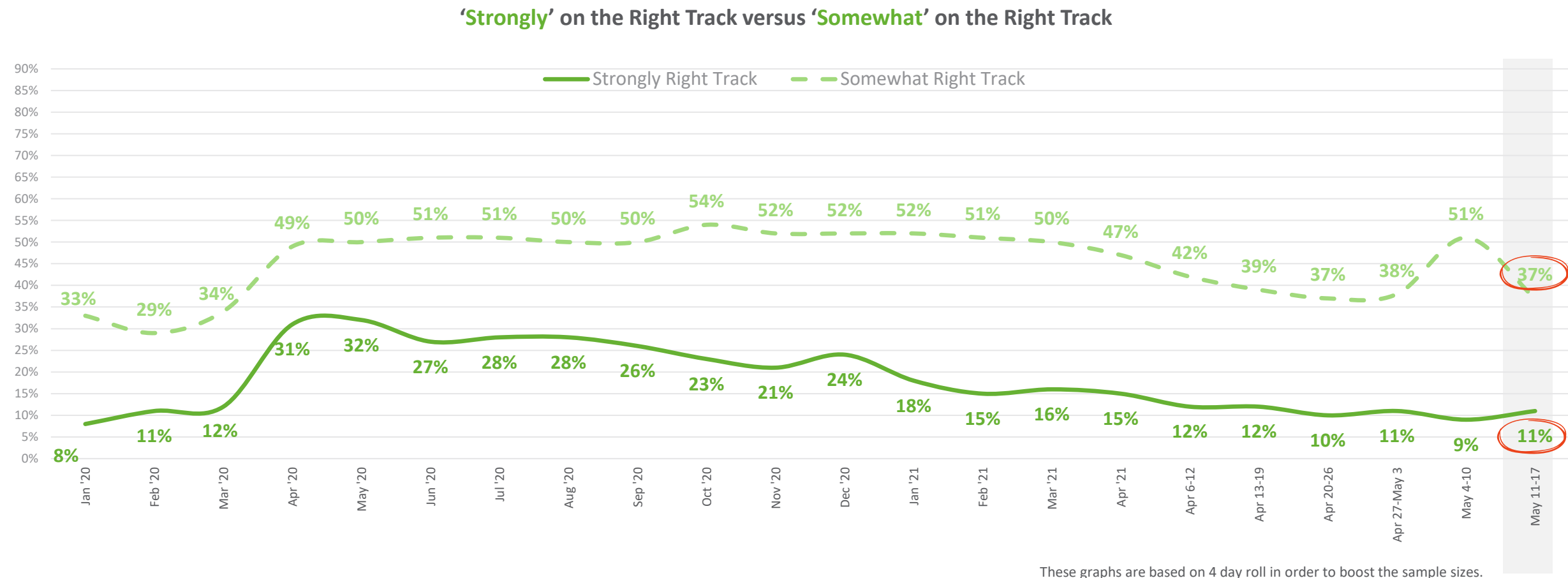


Despite the uptick last week, 'right track' scores is at 48% this week.



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

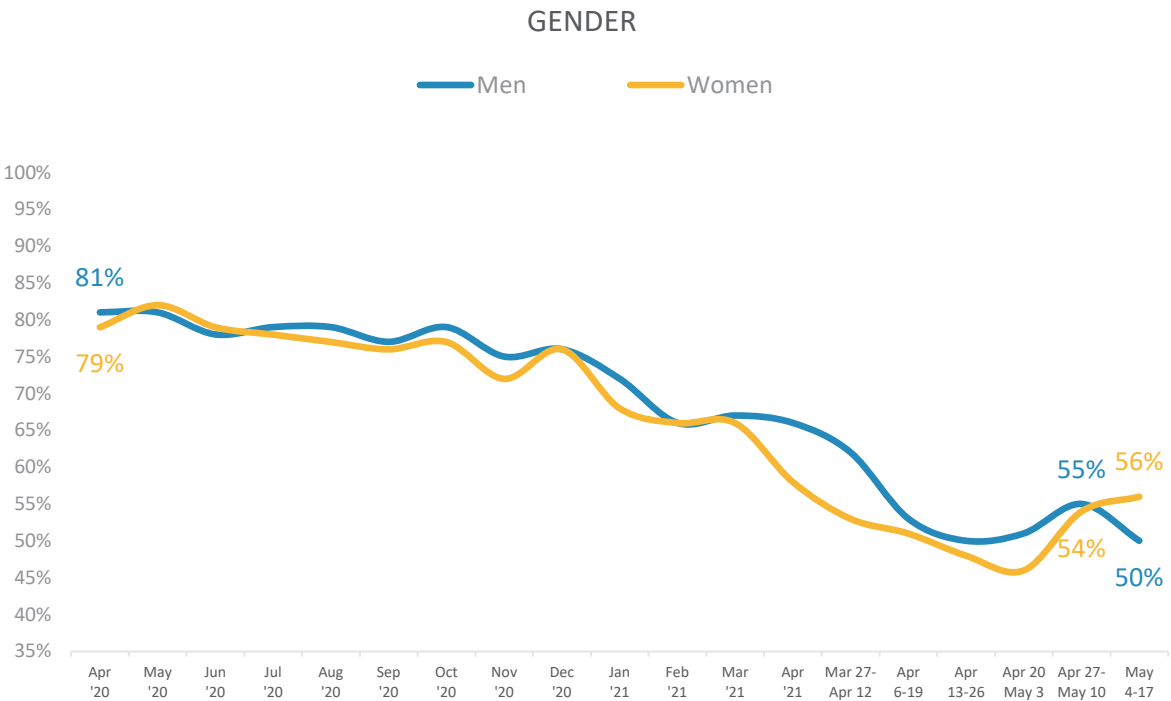
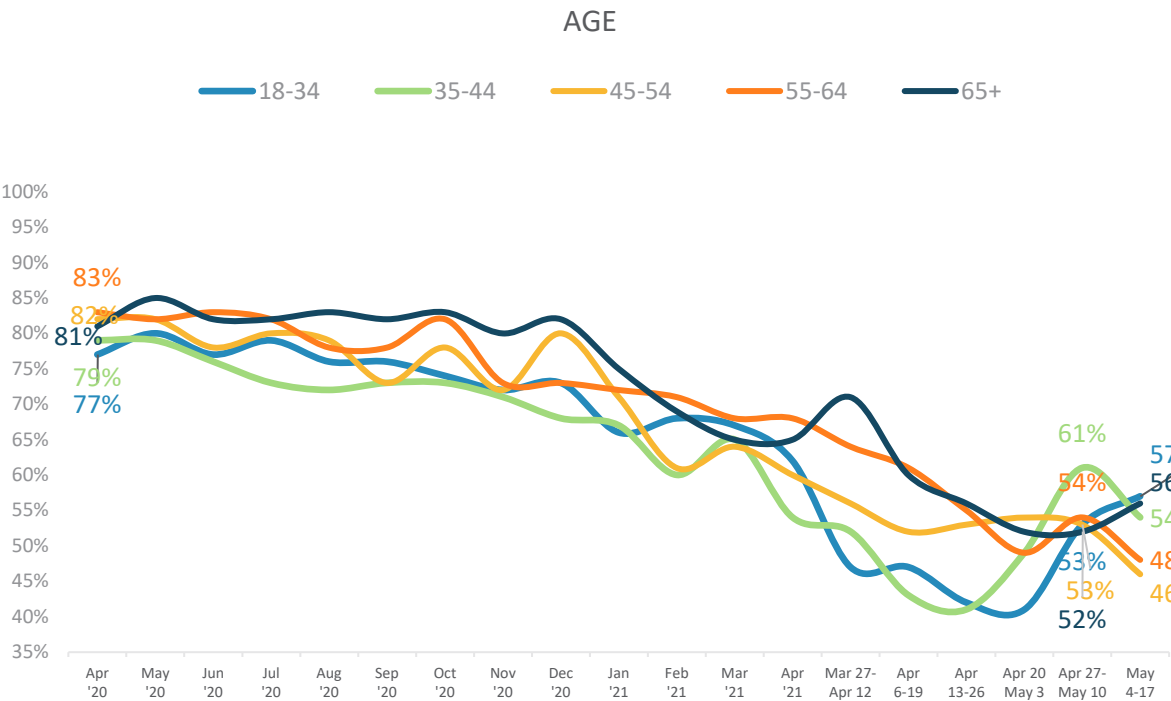
The change in ‘right track’ scores are a result of declines among those who see the government as ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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 declined among all age segments with the exception of those aged 18-34 and 65+ where increases were measured. A decline was also measured among men this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

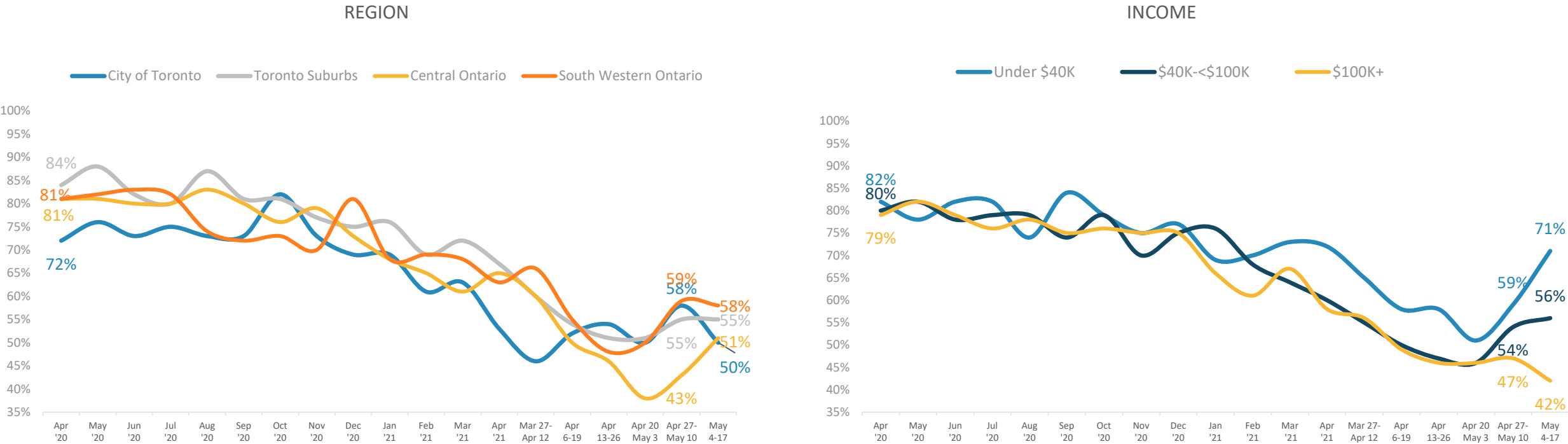


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Right track’ scores declined in the City of Toronto this week while increasing in Central Ontario. And, there were increases among Ontarians earning <\$100k again this week while results continued to trend down among those earning >\$100k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



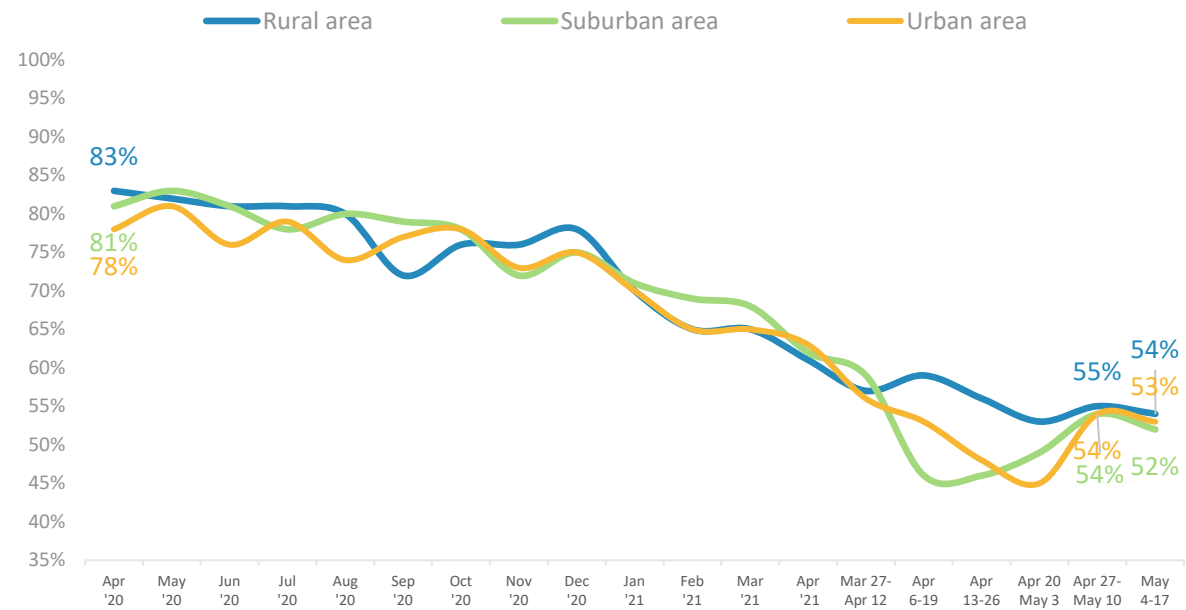
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Base: Total sample

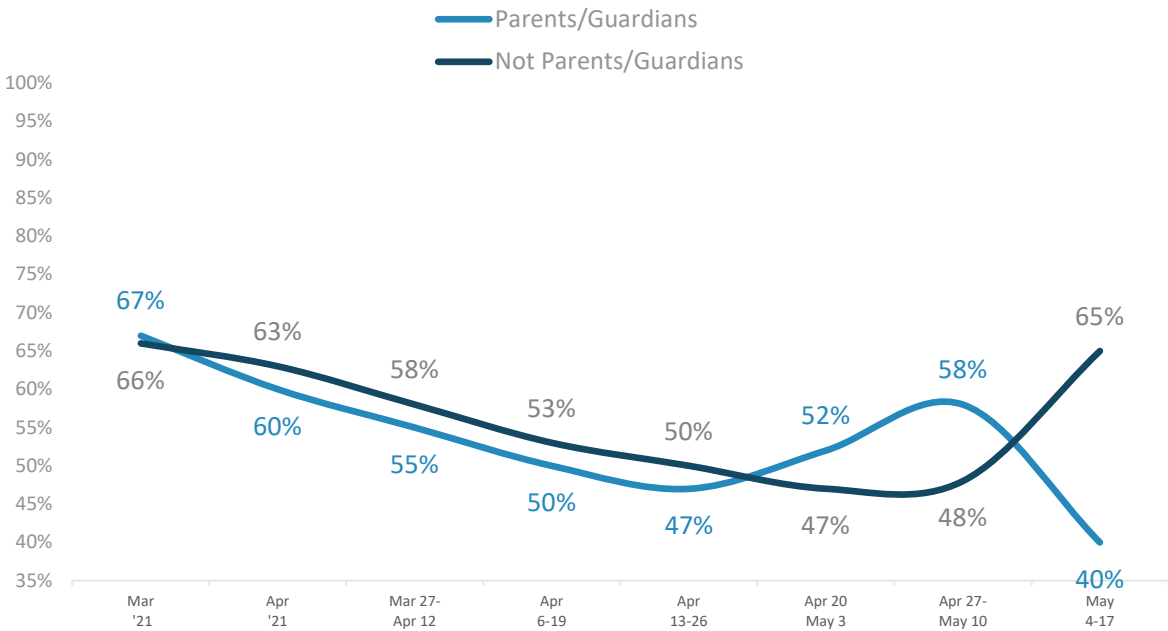
Again this week, ‘right track’ scores are at parity for rural, suburban, and urban areas

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



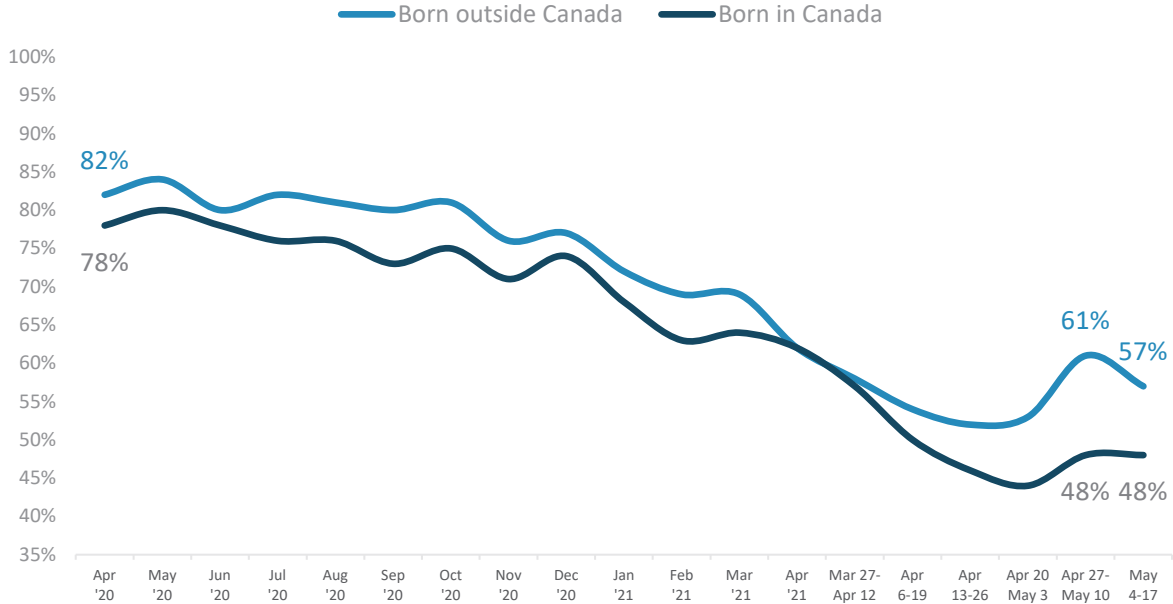
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Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

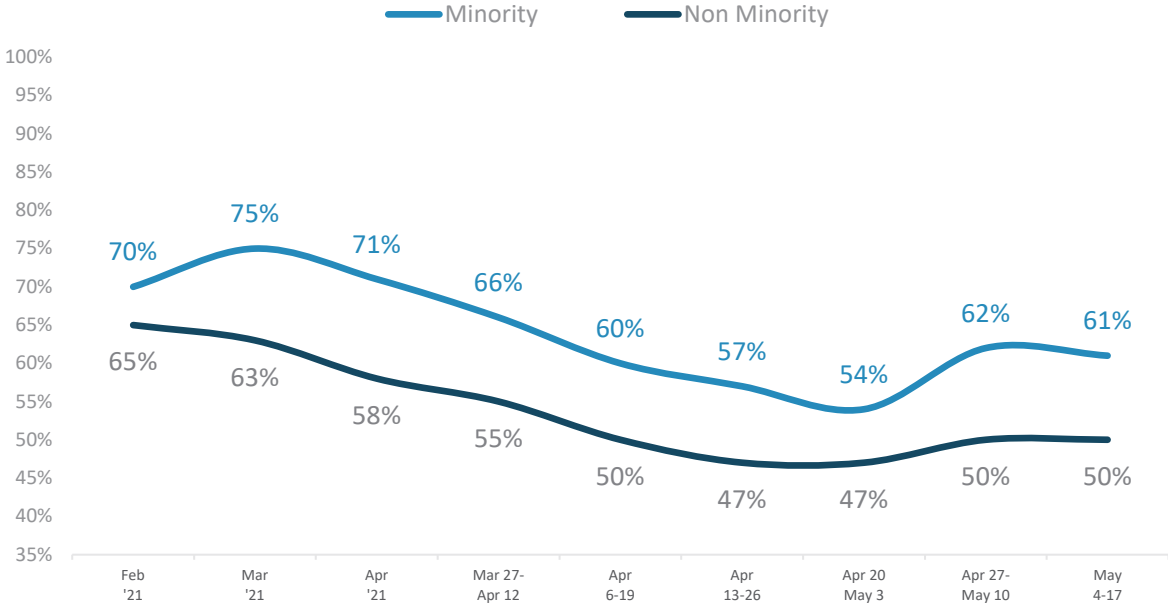
‘Right track’ scores declined slightly among those born outside Canada while remaining stable among those born in Canada and minorities/non-minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

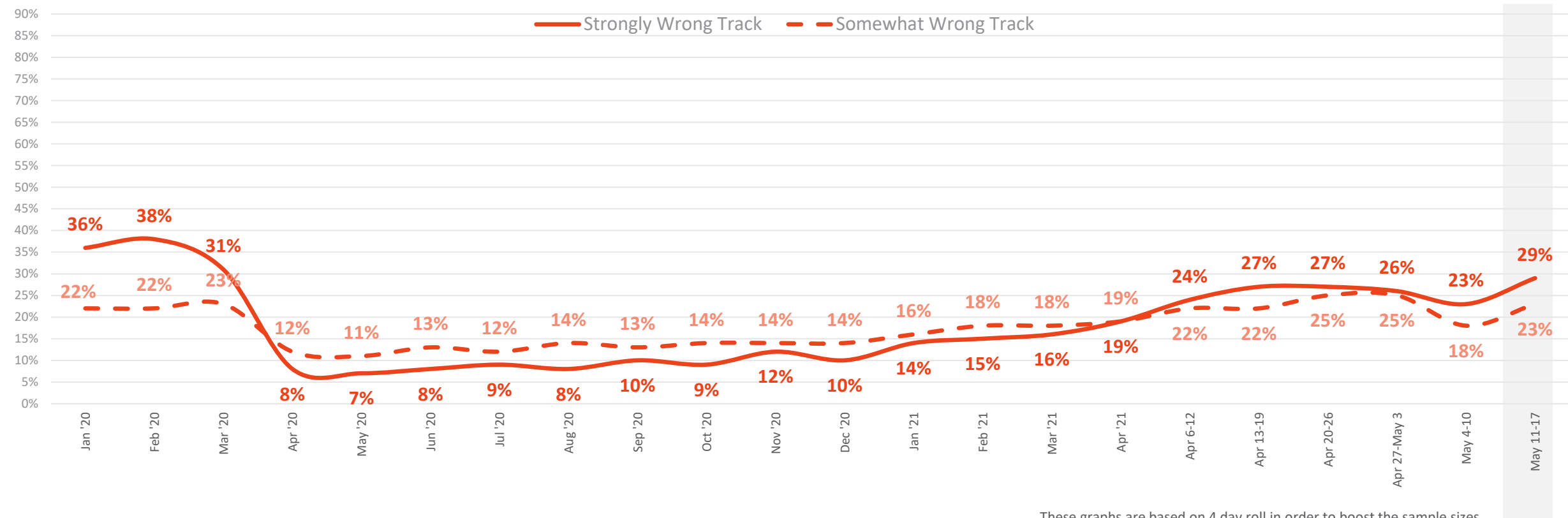


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Increases in ‘wrong track’ scores were measured among both those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ and ‘strongly on the wrong track’.

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

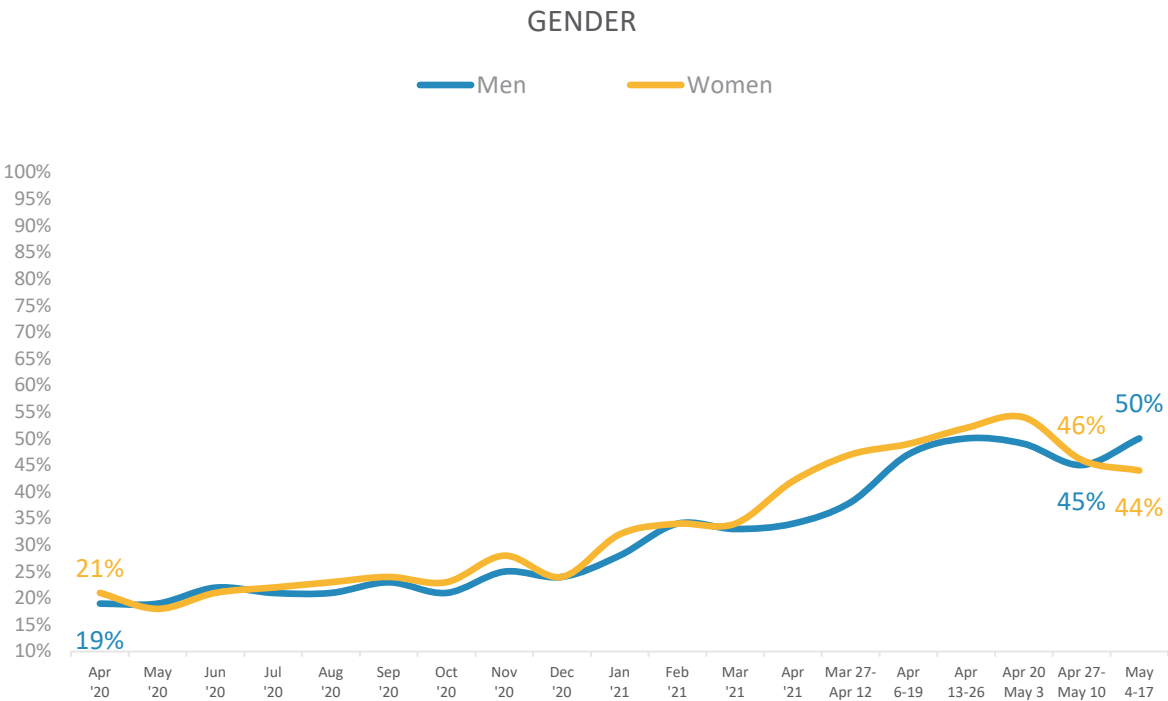
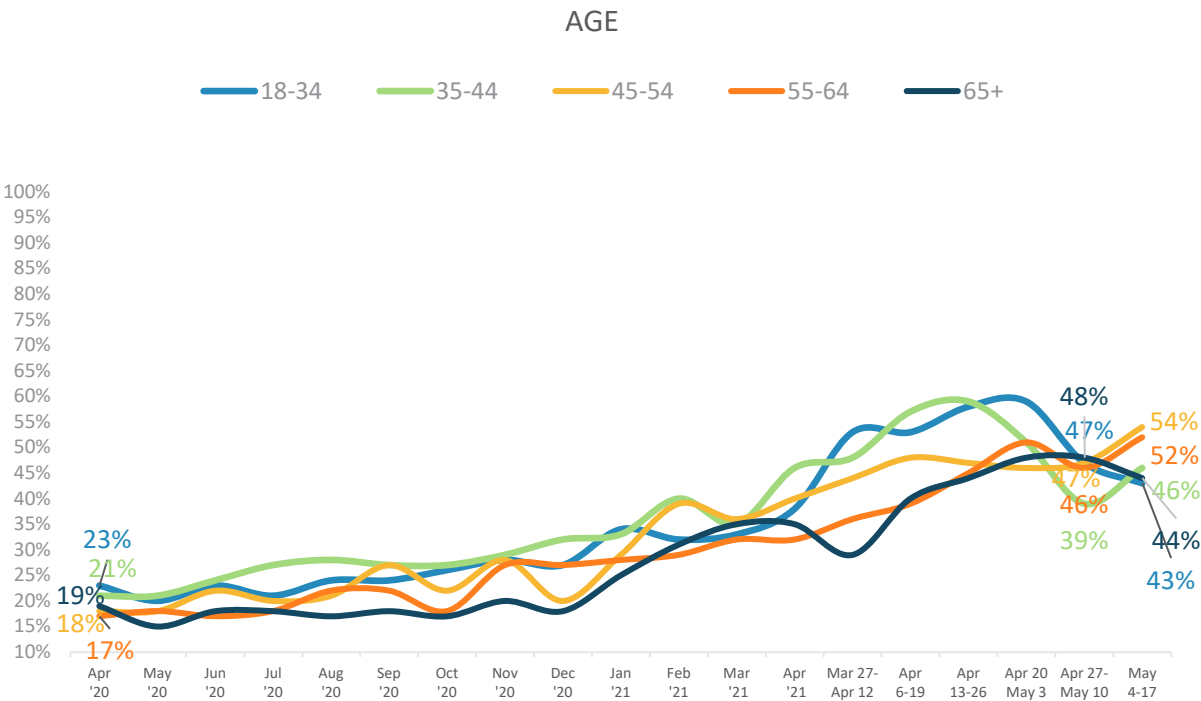


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 increased this week among all age segments with the exception of those aged 18-34 and 65+, which declined. Increases in ‘wrong track’ scores were measured among men this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

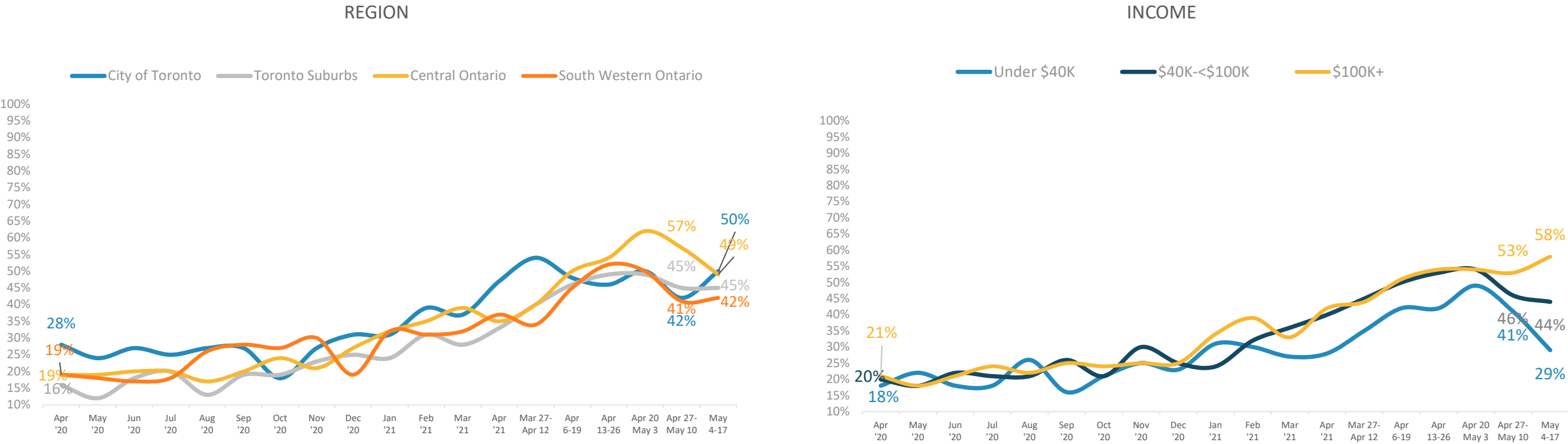


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While ‘wrong track’ scores remained unchanged in the Toronto suburbs and SW Ontario, there were increases in the City of Toronto and declines in Central Ontario. In the past two weeks, there has been a 20-point decline measured among those earning <\$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



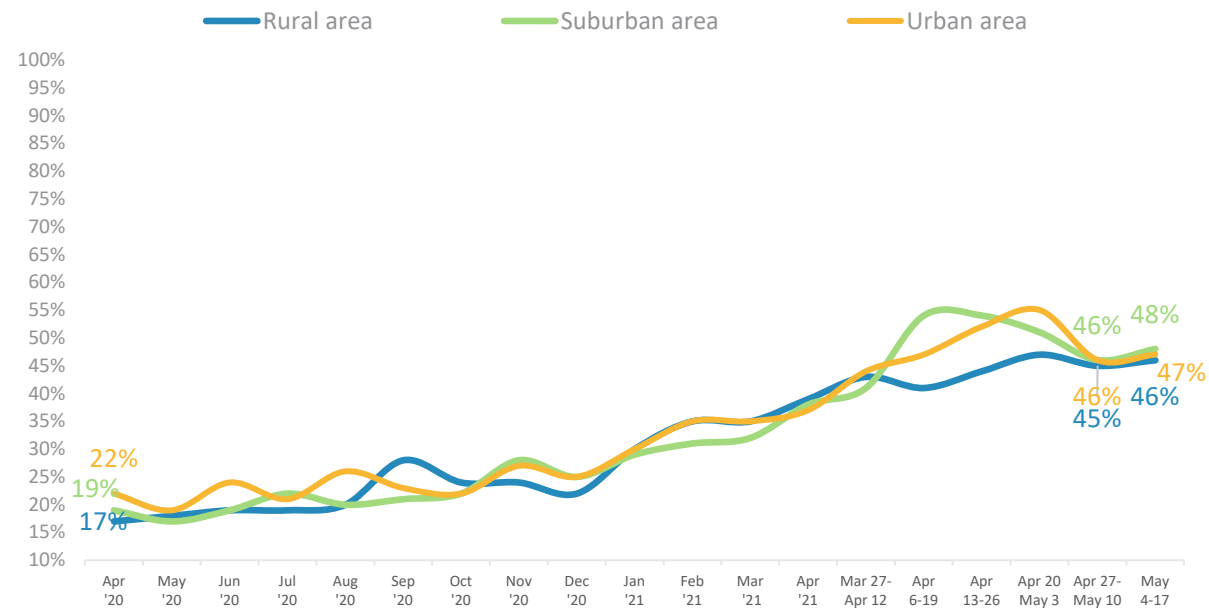
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

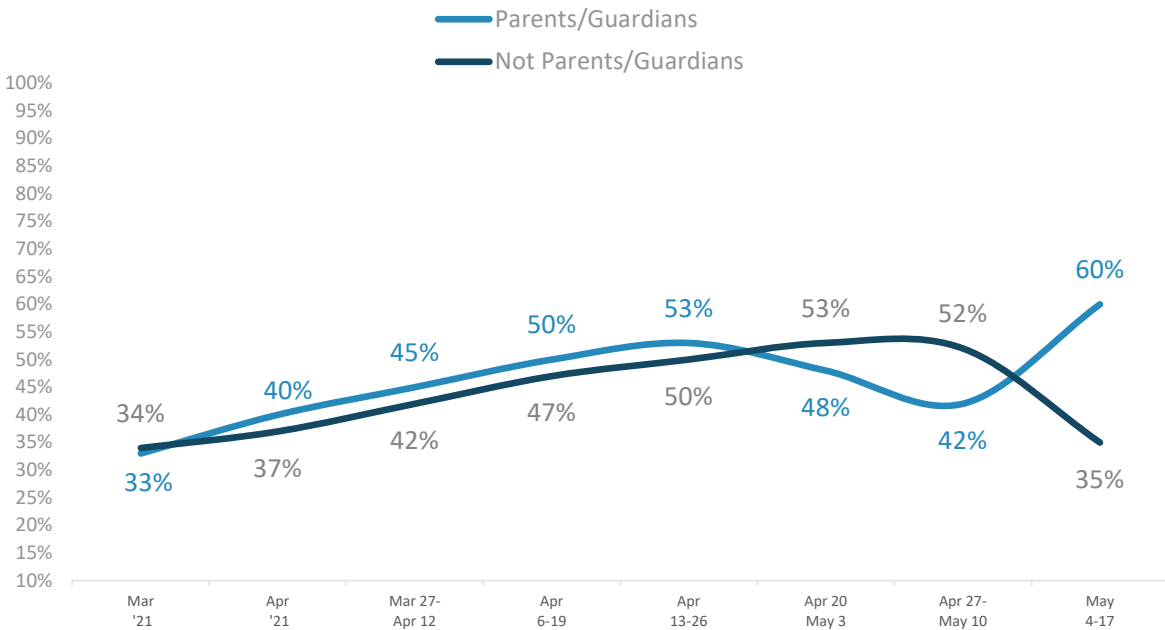
‘Wrong track’ scores remained at parity for the rural/suburban/urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

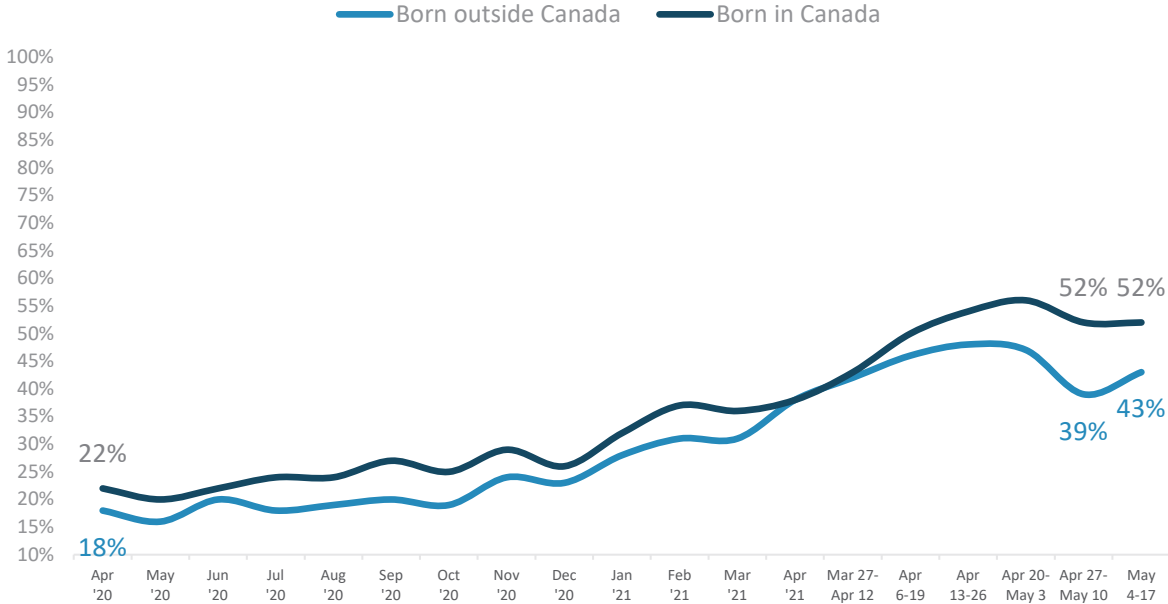


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

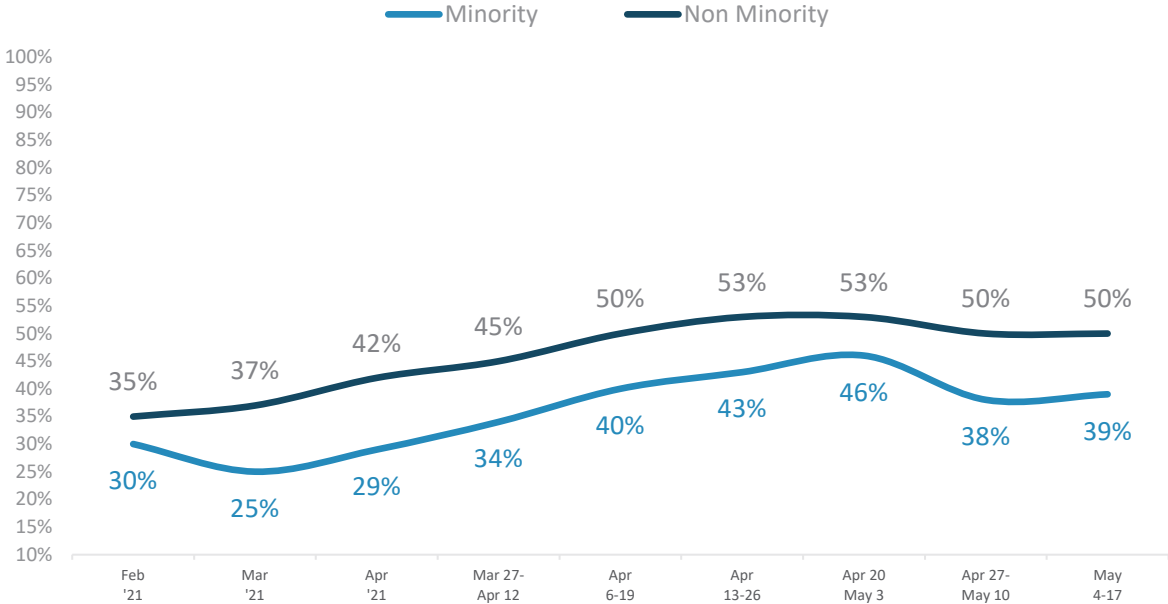
‘Wrong track’ scores remain higher among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



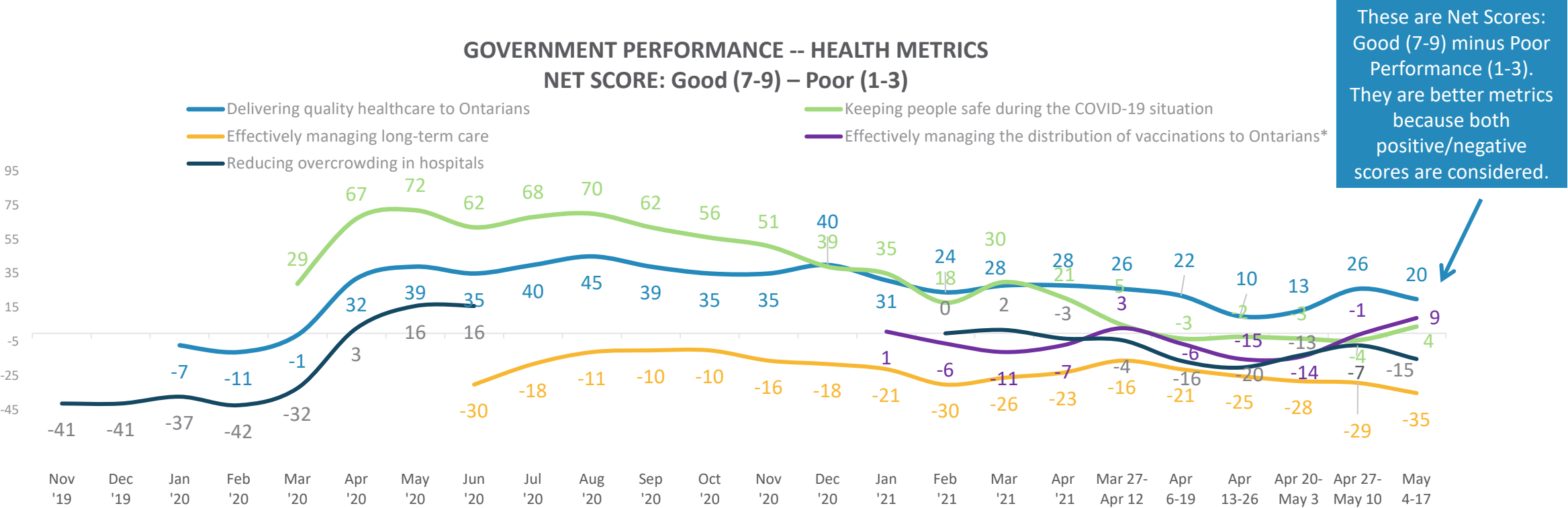
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Reflecting the aggressive vaccine roll out and declining infection cases, ratings of the government’s performance improved for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ (a 23-point improvement over the past two weeks) and ‘keeping people safe during COVID-19’ (an 8-point improvement this week).

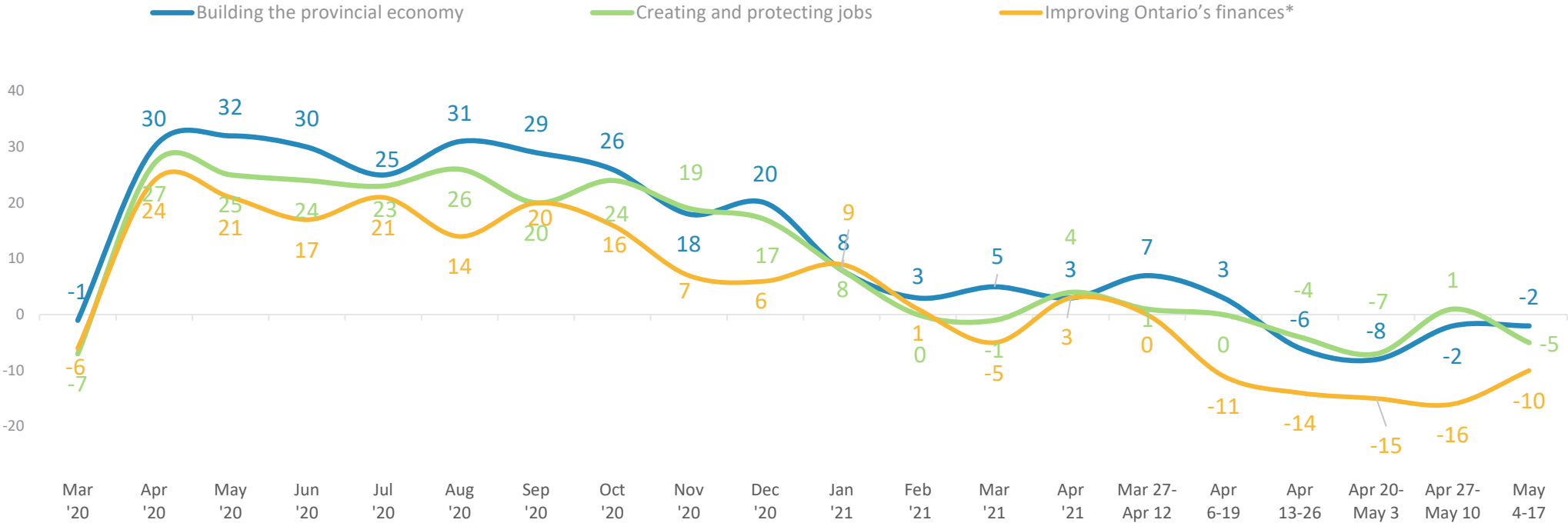
- There were declines this week for the other health metrics with ‘effectively managing long-term care’ now at -35, the lowest point since tracking began.



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?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

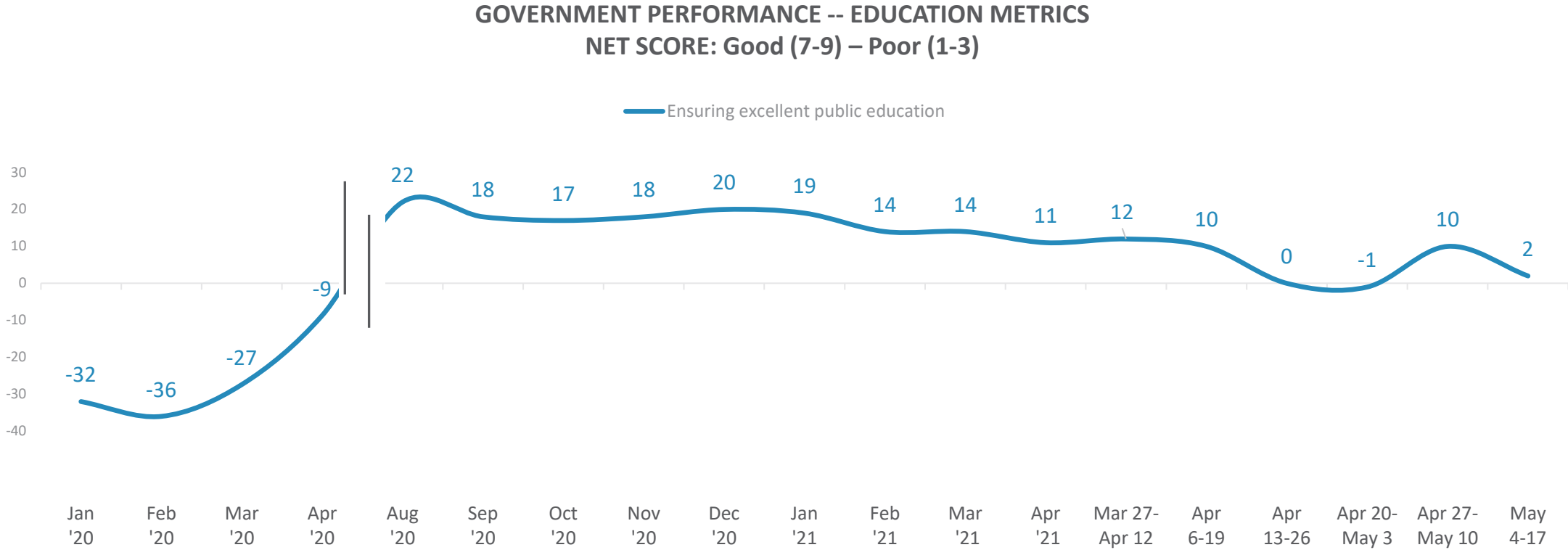
The economic/government spending metric of ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ improved this week to -10. However, while ‘building the provincial economy’ remained stable, ‘creating and protecting jobs’ edged downwards into negative territory.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE – ECONOMIC/GOVERNMENT SPENDING METRICS
NET SCORE: Good (7-9) – Poor (1-3)



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’ lost some of the gains made last week.



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

FINANCIAL
WELL-BEING OF
ONTARIANS



Preliminary results indicate that half (52%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’. However, only 13% say it is ‘poor/very poor’

	May 11-17
n=	300
	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	52
Excellent	11
Good	41
Fair	34
Poor	9
Very poor	4
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	13
Don’t know/not sure	-

QFP-1. How would you describe the personal financial situation of your family over the last year?
Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN FAMILY’S FINANCIAL SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR

The early findings reveal just over half (56%) report their family’s financial situation stayed the same over the past year. More than double indicate it has worsened (30%) than improved (13%).

	May 11-17
n=	300
	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	13
Improve a great deal	2
Improve somewhat	11
Stay the same	56
Worsen somewhat	22
Worsen a great deal	7
TOTAL WORSEN	30
Don’t know/not sure	<1

QFP-2. How, if at all, did your family’s financial situation change over the past year? Did it...
Base: Total sample

Preliminary results suggest Ontarians are optimistic about the future: half (50%) anticipate their financial situation will be ‘excellent/good’, while only 11% think it will be ‘poor/very poor’.

	May 11-17
n=	300
	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	50
Excellent	12
Good	38
Fair	36
Poor	9
Very poor	2
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	11
Don't know/not sure	2

QFP-3. And over the next year do you anticipate that the financial situation of your household will be ...

Base: Total sample

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 stable this week with 24% providing an ‘excellent/good’ rating. That said, 43% 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	May 11-17
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31	23	18	21	19	25	24
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	4	7	2
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28	20	16	18	15	18	21
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28	31	36	29	29	27	32
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21	24	22	26	27	30	18
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16	21	23	24	24	18	25
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38	45	45	50	51	48	43

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

Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (36%, up from 29%) is the most cited reason for causing the increase in infection cases leading to a wave 3 of COVID-19. One-in-five (21%) believe it was the timing of restrictions limiting social contact.

	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	300	300
	%	%
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29	36
The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23	21
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13	15
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16	11
Infections introduced into Ontario by interprovincial travelers	6	6
All of these	4	4
Don't know/not sure	9	8

DO ONTARIANS BELIEVE
THE PANDEMIC IS OVER?



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

Possibly connected to the vaccination rate and declining infection cases, there was a 20-point increase this week to 53% of Ontarians who believe Ontario is over the worst of the pandemic.

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	May 11-17
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	44	40	44	30	29	26	40	35	24	26	32	33	53
Strongly agree	14	21	27	14	8	10	12	14	12	14	9	9	22
Somewhat agree	30	19	17	15	21	16	28	21	12	12	23	24	30
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	3	9	5	8	7	9	6	7	10	11
Somewhat disagree	19	21	16	30	29	28	23	39	27	23	29	29	16
Strongly disagree	28	30	28	35	30	39	27	19	38	44	29	27	17
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	51	43	65	59	67	50	58	65	67	59	56	34

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

After peaking two weeks ago, anger regarding the third provincial shutdown continues to trend down. While 26% indicate they are angry with this order, 69% 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	May 11-17
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	36	30	33	39	30	26
Strongly agree	23	18	18	22	25	21	19
Somewhat agree	13	18	12	11	15	9	7
Neither agree nor disagree	4	10	9	10	10	4	4
Somewhat disagree	20	16	16	18	16	23	20
Strongly disagree	39	37	42	38	35	41	49
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	53	58	56	51	64	69

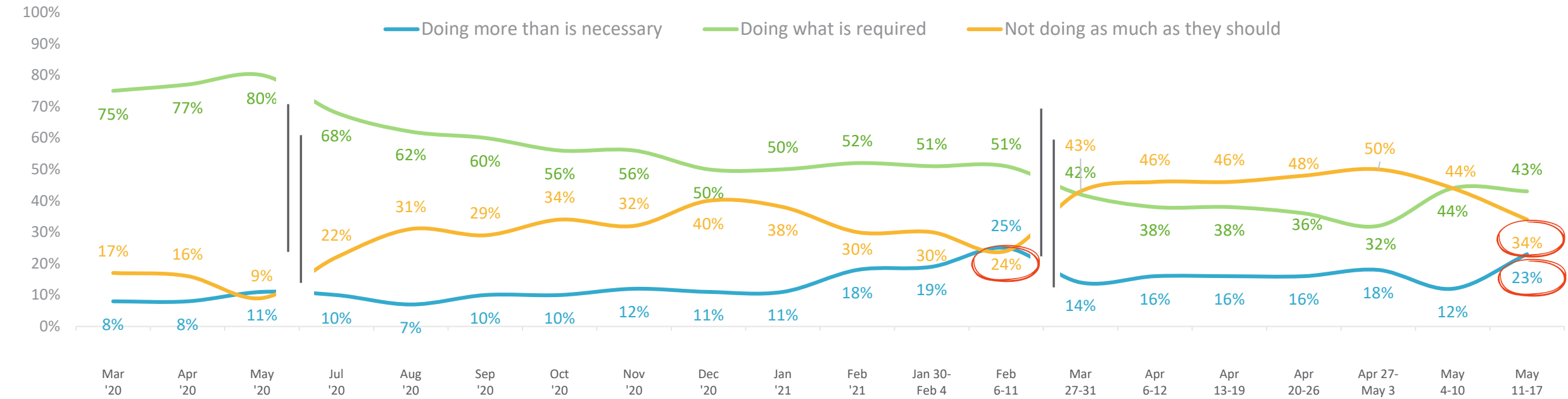
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Results remained unchanged at 43% among those who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus. However, there was an 11-point increase to 23% saying the government is doing ‘more than is necessary’.

	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	May 11-17	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	May 11-17
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	58%	55%	57%	57%	51%	67%	58%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%	34%	35%	30%	29%	28%	21%	27%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	20%	18%	18%	17%	14%	16%	27%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%	58%	59%	63%	65%	70%	71%	42%



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



Support declined to 47% - the lowest level of support measured to date - for the extended province-wide stay-at-home order that includes restrictions forbidding outdoor activities such as tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf.

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?

	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

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

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

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?

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

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 20-26	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

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 ...of the government taking this step?

May 4-10	May 11-17
300	300
%	%
56	47
29	21
28	26
18	21
25	31
43	52

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 again 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	May 11-17
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	28	26	22	20	22	22
Strongly agree	17	9	15	10	13	13
Somewhat agree	11	17	7	10	8	9
Neither agree nor disagree	5	3	2	4	1	1
Somewhat disagree	11	11	11	18	11	17
Strongly disagree	54	58	64	56	62	60
TOTAL DISAGREE	65	69	75	73	73	76

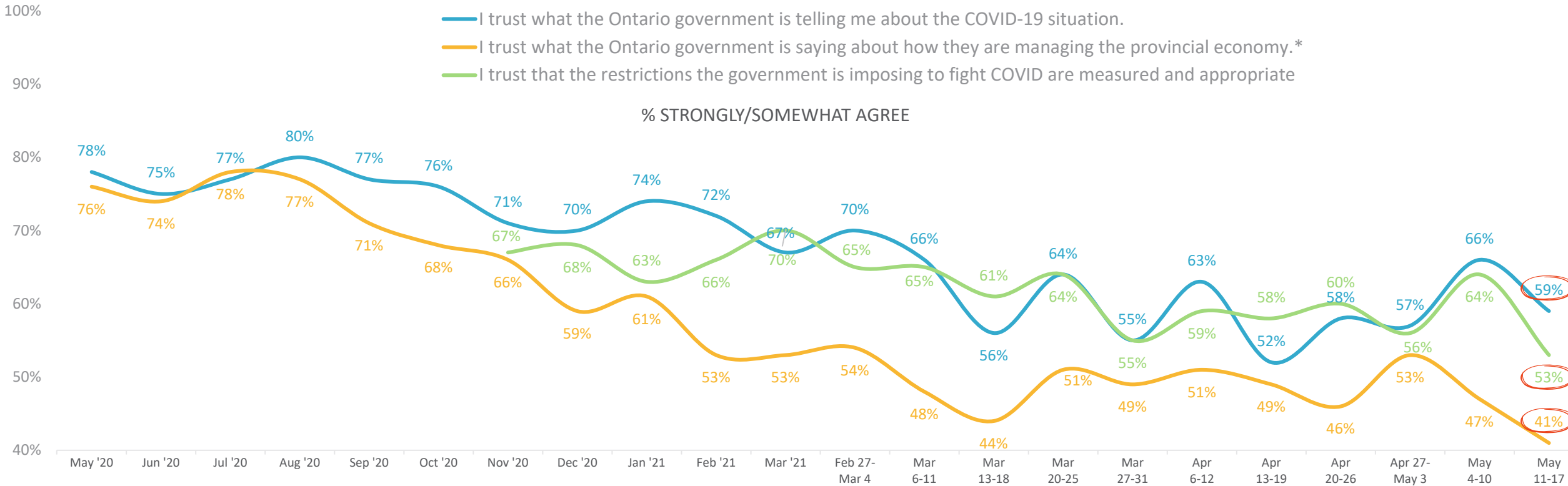
QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Trust in the government’s communications about COVID-19 declined this week regarding ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’, ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’, and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.



QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
* Previous phrasing: I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they are re-opening the provincial economy. /I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they plan to re-open the provincial economy
Base: Total sample, base varies

FATIGUE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES



LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

This week, similar numbers agree and disagree 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	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	varies																			
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57	53	39	46	42	44
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17	29	24	29
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22	17	18	16
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7	6	5	7	7	10
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17	16	19	16
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38	30	30	29
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55	46	50	45

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



There continues to be an upward trend to 49% in those who believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago – the highest result to date in 2021.

% 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	May 11-17
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	49

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

The decline measured last week was retained with 23% of Ontarians 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	May 4-10	May 11-17
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	23
Strongly agree	8	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	9	16	13	16	16	17	8	14	8	13	12	16	17	8	12
Somewhat agree	16	15	8	11	9	11	11	10	18	10	13	8	10	10	12	13	14	8	7	17	15	16	10
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	9
Somewhat disagree	22	25	21	23	17	24	23	16	18	10	17	19	21	18	18	20	27	17	15	15	16	16	19
Strongly disagree	38	40	56	48	54	47	46	61	37	52	47	43	41	39	54	37	38	41	59	41	40	45	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	65

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

Base: Total sample

Again this week, one-third (34%) of Ontarians agree 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	May 11-17
n=	varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36	32	30	37	39	36	34	34
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12	16	15	17	22	16	16	20
Somewhat agree	25	23	16	20	14	21	22	20	24	16	15	21	17	20	18	15
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9	8	11	9	7	9	9	7	12	9	6	7	9	7	11
Somewhat disagree	19	19	17	19	12	13	16	13	14	17	18	13	19	13	14	19
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36	35	38	39	31	37	42	29
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51	51	56	52	50	50	56	48

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

Base: Total sample

ONLY LEAVING HOME TO GO TO THE GROCERY STORE AND PHARMACY

About two-thirds (65%) of Ontarians report they are only leaving their house to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy.

I am only leaving my house to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy

	Apr '20	May '20	Dec 29-Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	varies																				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	79	77	76	72	64	65	67	75	76	70	67	59	63	76	54	66	65	68	61	71	65
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40	48	50	55	47	58	46
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14	18	15	13	13	13	19
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	10	5	6	3	5	2	4	3	3	4	4	4
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5	19	13	8	12	13	11	18
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10	23	13	20	15	20	11	11
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42	26	28	27	33	22	29

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

Base: Total sample

In addition, 68% ‘strongly’ agree 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	May 11-17
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86	85	92	87	92	85
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70	70	81	73	79	68
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16	15	11	15	13	17
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2	4	1	3	-	2
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4	6	2	4	5	6
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7	4	3	6	3	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11	10	6	9	7	12

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 continues to be an improvement in Ontarians’ confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 77% agree with this (an increase of 29-points over the past two weeks).

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

	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	May 11-17
varies																				
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68	55	52	48	66	77
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19	20	25	32
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34	28	41	46
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10	6	10	5
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22	22	7	9
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16	22	16	8
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37	44	22	17

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



About six-in-ten (60%) continue to support the requirement that all elementary and secondary schools offer only online learning, while one-third (34%) oppose it.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Support this action	64	64	60
Do not support this action	32	32	34
Not applicable	1	1	<1
Not sure/Don't know	3	4	5

QCV-199B. As you may know there has been an increasing number of COVID 19 cases in the province. One part of the reaction to the increase cases was that the provincial Government is requiring all elementary and secondary schools to only offer online learning. (previous phrasing) 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% three weeks ago, the proportion who believe the province should do more to contain the spread of the COVID-19 variants has been trending down. However, this remains the view of the majority (60%) 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	May 11-17
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	36
Should be doing more	56	56	57	60	63	47	56	60	57	58	64	70	65	63	60
Don't know/not sure	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	6	6	4

QCV-130A. With the arrival of new COVID variants do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do to stop the spread of these new variants or should it be doing more? (previous phrasing) With the arrival of new COVID variants identified in the UK, South Africa, and Brazil do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do to stop the spread of these new variants or should it be doing more? (previous phrasing) With the arrival of new COVID variants identified in the UK and South Africa, do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do to stop the spread of these new variants or should it be doing more? (previous phrasing) With the arrival of a new COVID variant identified in the UK, do you believe the Ontario Government has done all it can reasonably be expected to do to stop the spread of the new variant or should it be doing more?

PAID SICK LEAVE



While there is a high level of awareness about the issue of paid sick leave as a way of reducing the incidence of COVID-19, numbers have been trending down.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Yes	75	73	69
No	24	26	28
Don't know/not sure		1	2

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

CONCERNS ABOUT EMPLOYEES INFECTED WITH COVID-19 GOING TO LARGE WORKPLACES

There is also a 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	May 11-17
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Yes	85	86	87
No	15	14	13

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

Almost six-in-ten (55%) Ontarians believe that the provincial government is responsible for providing sick leave pay when it is not covered by an employer, while 31% believe it is the federal government’s responsibility.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Federal government	34	25	31
Provincial government	56	61	55
Both	4	8	3
Don’t know/not sure	7	5	11

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

LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT THAT SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING PAID SICK LEAVE

However, irrespective of which level of government does provide sick leave pay, half (52%) continue to 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 (31%) believe the provincial government should be responsible.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Federal government	48	51	52
Provincial government	39	28	31
Both combined	9	10	11
Don't know/not sure	3	10	6

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 70% ‘strongly’ supporting this idea.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	87	91	90
Strongly support	69	63	70
Somewhat support	18	28	19
Somewhat oppose	5	4	3
Strongly oppose	7	3	6
TOTAL OPPOSE	12	7	9
Don’t know		2	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 two weeks (29%) or ‘as long as the person is sick’ (28%). One-in-five (21%) believe up to one week is reasonable.

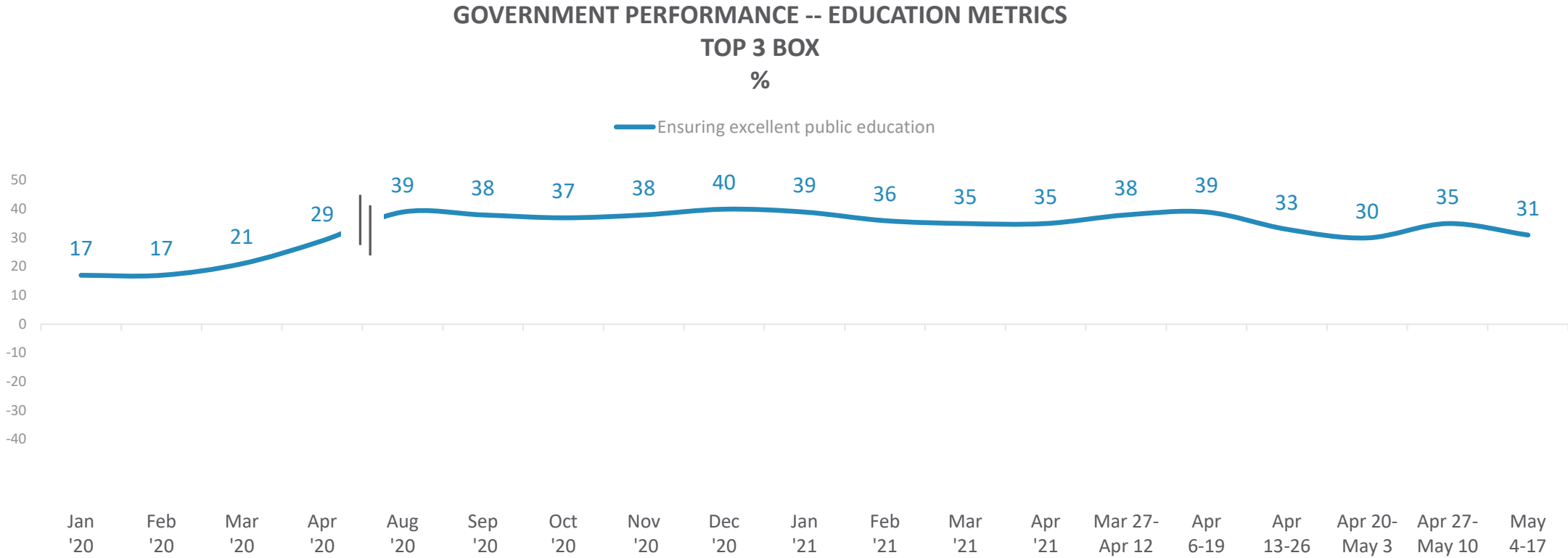
	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Zero days, governments should not pay for sick leave	2	6	3
1-2 days	4	2	2
3-5 days (up to one week)	15	27	21
6-10 days (up to two weeks)	29	27	29
11-15 days (up to three weeks)	8	8	11
16-25 days (up to one month)	3	5	5
As long as the person is sick	36	25	28
Don't know/not sure	4	1	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

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

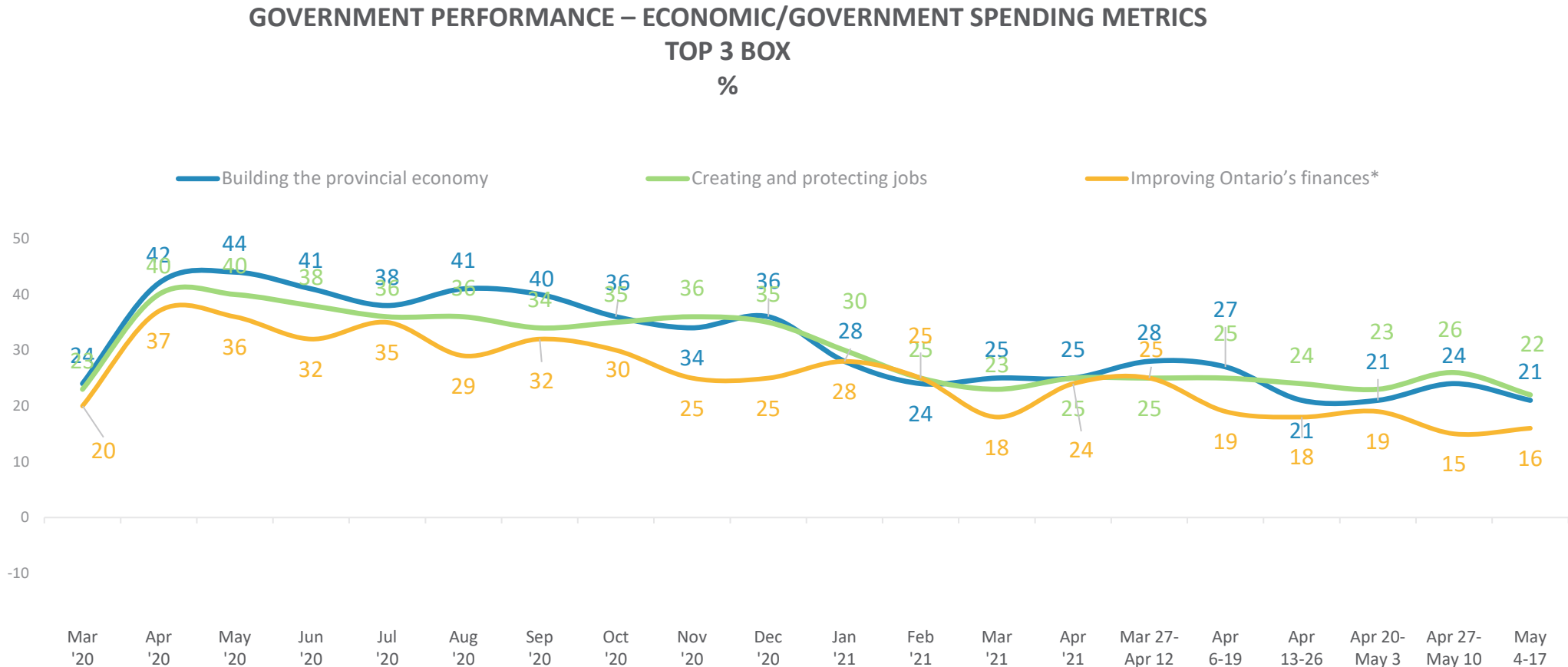


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined slightly this week.



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

Positive perceptions toward ‘creating and protecting jobs’ and ‘building the provincial economy’ also declined slightly this week, while remaining stable for ‘improving Ontario’s finances’.

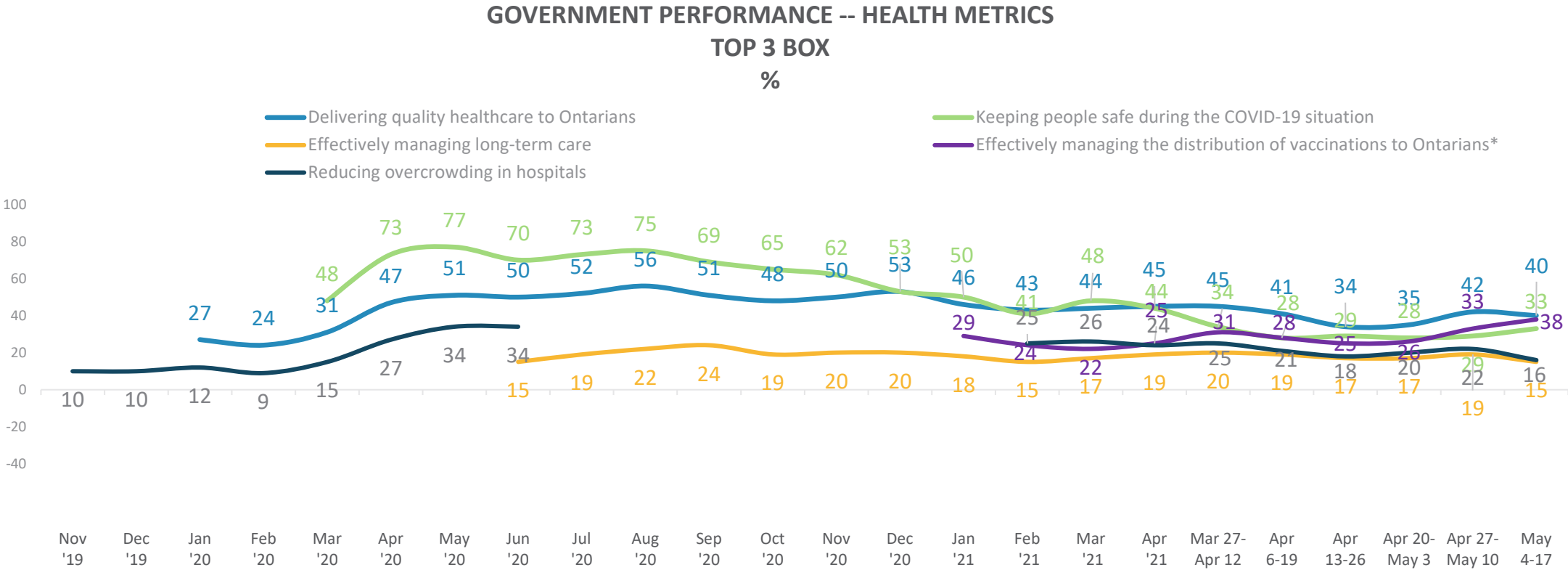


Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*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 declined slightly this week for the health metrics with the exception of ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’.



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