

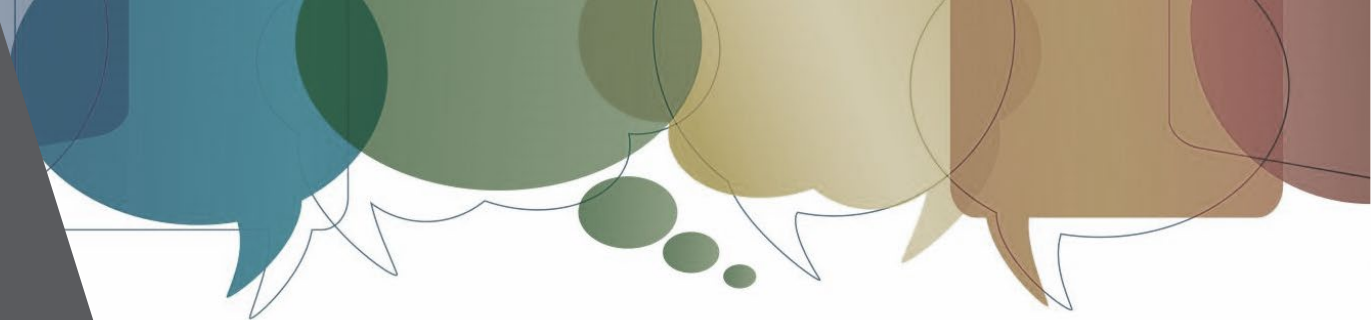


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #82

CABINET OFFICE

May 25th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores remained stable at 52% this week.

3 Connected to this growing confidence, Ontarians tend to be going out more with fewer reporting they are only leaving their home for essential purposes. There were declines again this week in the number of Ontarians (57%) reporting they are only leaving their house to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy.

2 Ontarians are becoming more confident the end of the pandemic is nearer. Possibly connected to the vaccination rate and declining infection cases, there has been a 26-point increase over the past two weeks to 59% of Ontarians who believe Ontario is over the worst of the pandemic.

And, they are becoming less fearful of the virus with 64% now believing the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago – the highest result to date in 2021 and on par with summer '20.

4 Again, reflecting the aggressive vaccine roll out and declining infection cases, ratings of the government's performance improved for the health metrics 'effectively managing vaccinations' (a 24-point improvement over the past three weeks) and 'keeping people safe during COVID-19' (a 16-point improvement over the past two weeks).

However, results for 'effectively managing long-term care' remains the lowest rated health metric.

Key Findings

After peaking three weeks ago, anger regarding the third provincial shutdown continues to trend down. While 17% indicate they are angry with this order, 71% say they are not angry.

However, support also declined again this week (to 42%) for the extended province-wide stay-at-home order that includes restrictions forbidding outdoor activities such as tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf.

Ontarians are optimistic about the future: 60% anticipate their financial situation will be 'excellent/good' over the next year, while only 8% think it will be 'poor/very poor'.

Importantly, only those earning under \$40k think their financial situation will be poor.

And, those who see the government on the 'right track' are the most optimistic about the future.

There is growing support for children to return to school in person. Support for the requirement that all elementary and secondary schools offer only online learning has declined 15-points over the past two weeks to 49%.

And, preliminary results (small sample size) seem to indicate that a majority (56%) support the re-opening of schools after June 2nd to the end of the school year if the province-wide stay at home order is revoked.

Early results indicate that seven-in-ten Ontarians agree that it's time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery. This is a 40-point increase compared to views a year ago.

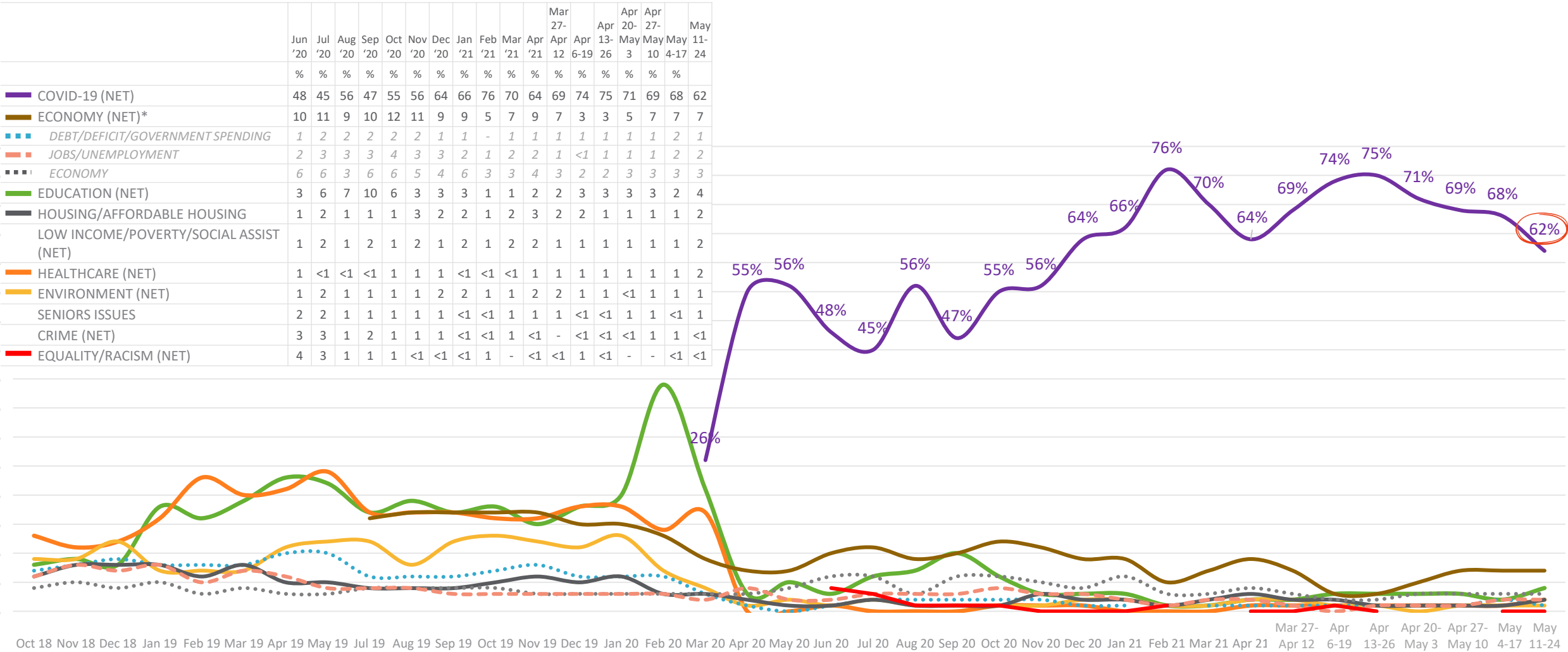
That said, preliminary results also indicate that six-in-ten Ontarians don't think the Ontario government has a plan for the economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

While remaining the issue that Ontarians feel should receive the greatest attention from the Ontario provincial government, COVID-19 as a top priority for the province has been trending down over the past four weeks.



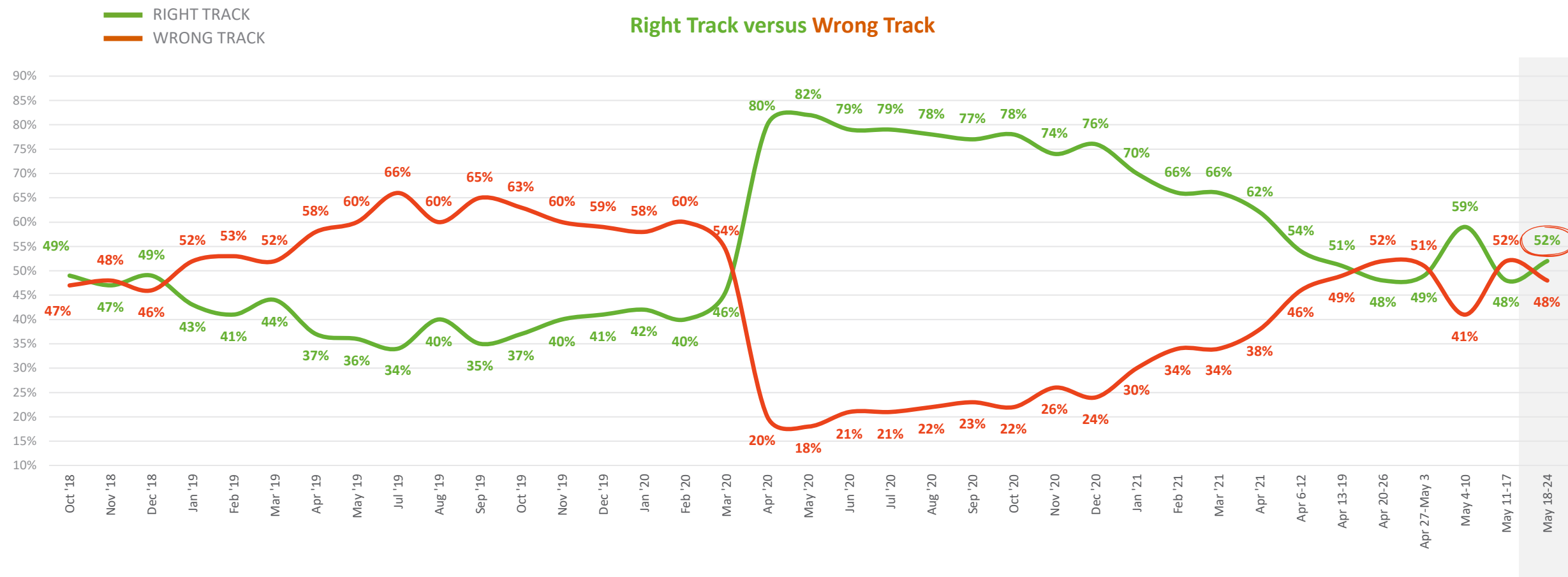
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

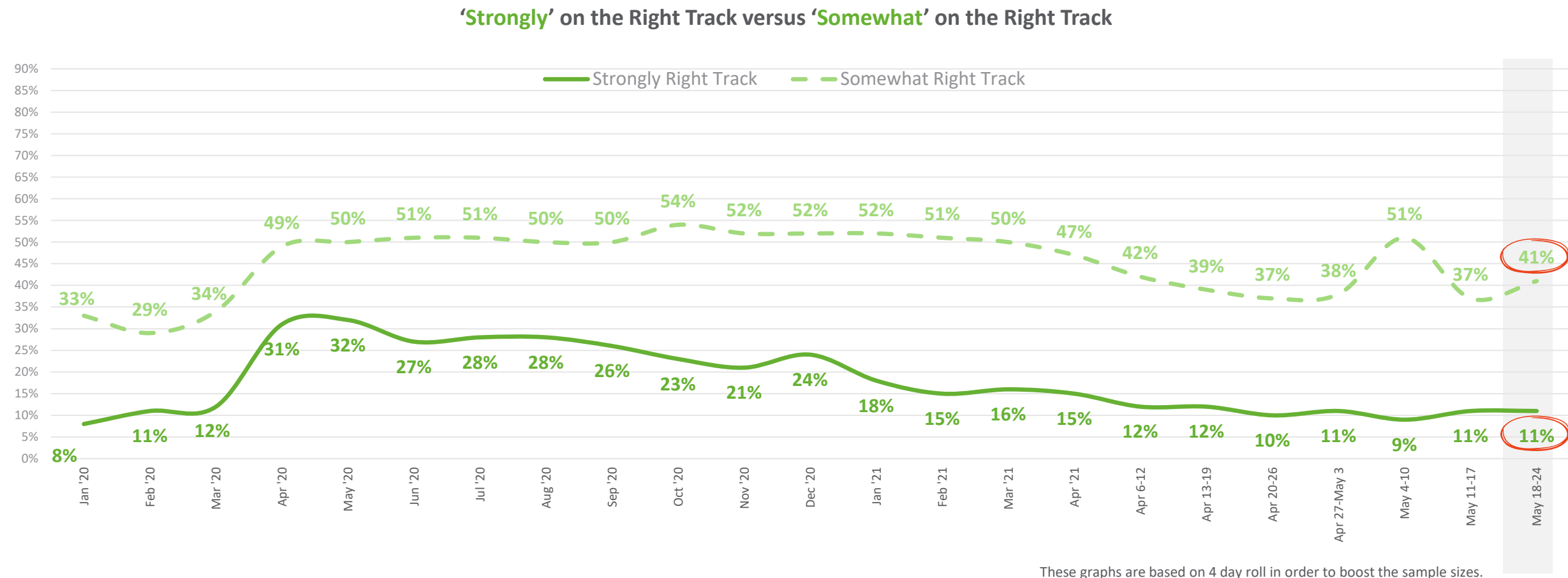


‘Right track’ scores remained stable at 52%.



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

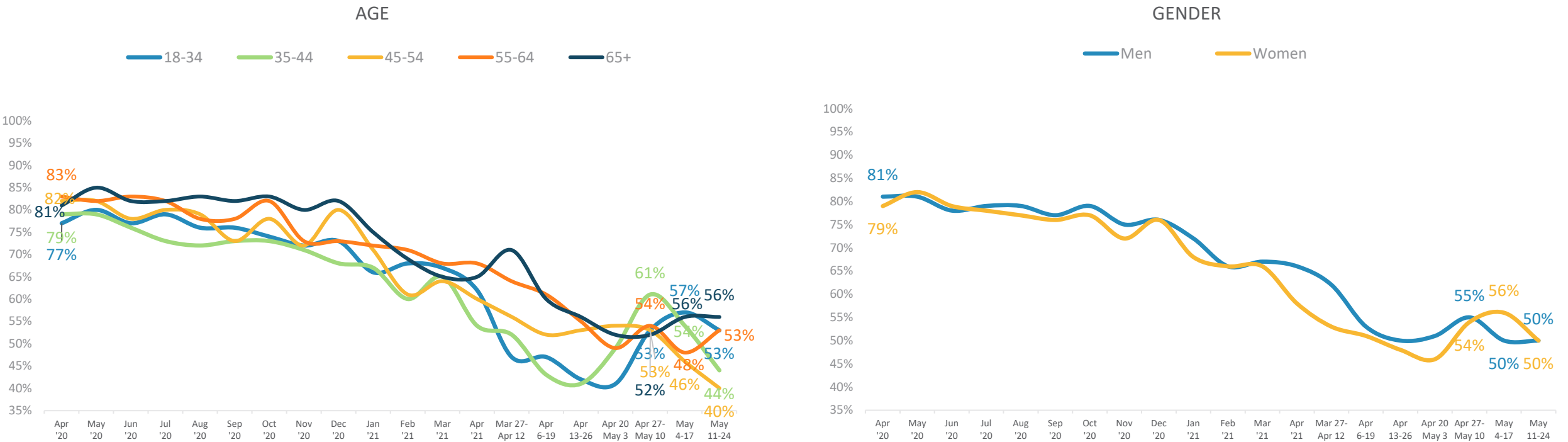
There was an uptick among those who see the government as ‘somewhat on the right track’, while ‘strongly right track’ remained unchanged this week.



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

Declines in ‘right track’ scores were measured among those under 54 years of age, while increasing among those aged 55-64. Results remained unchanged among those 65+. Men and women are at parity this week at 50%.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

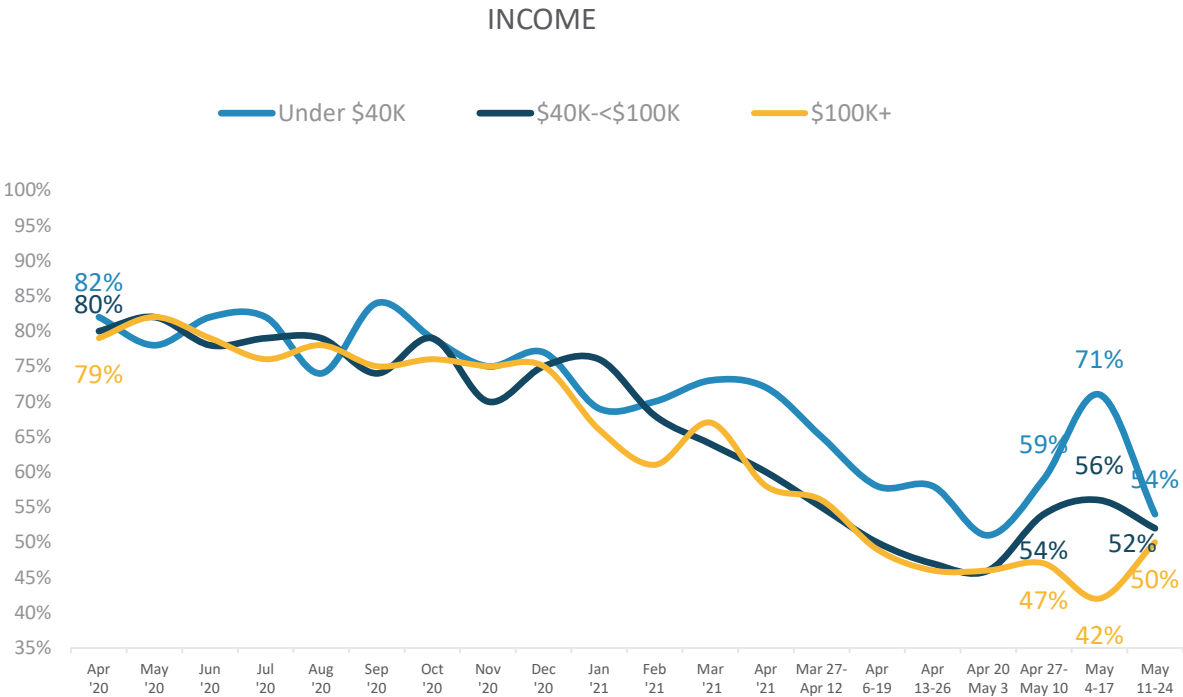
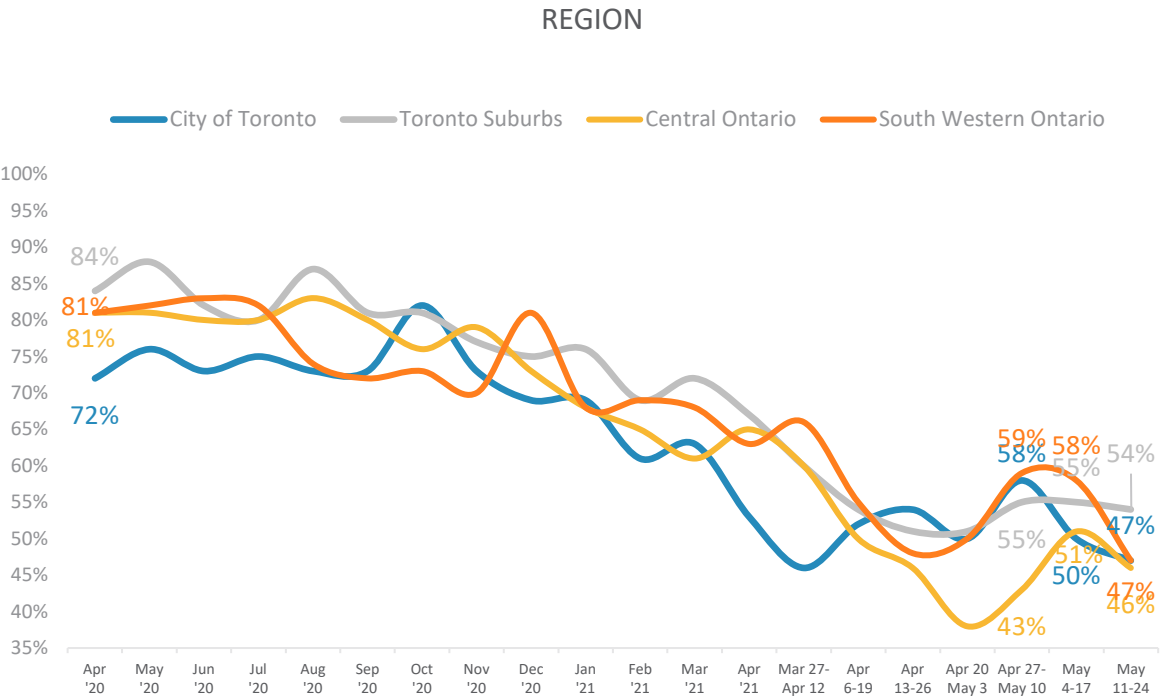


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While ‘right track’ scores continue to remain steady in the Toronto suburbs, there were declines this week in the other regions. ‘Right track’ scores are similar among all income segments this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



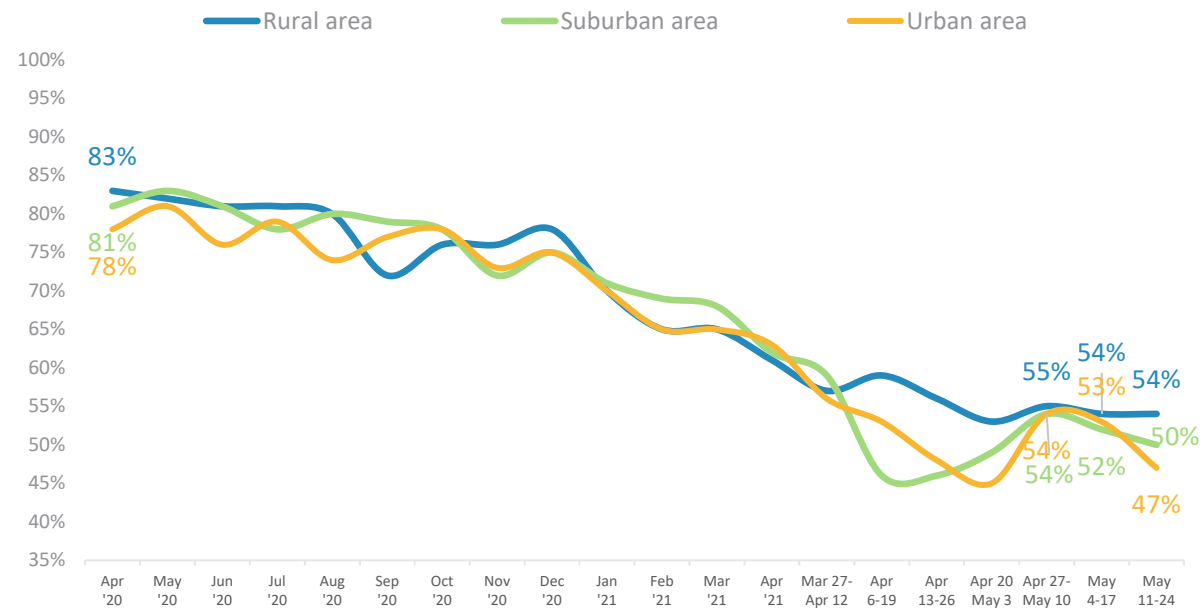
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

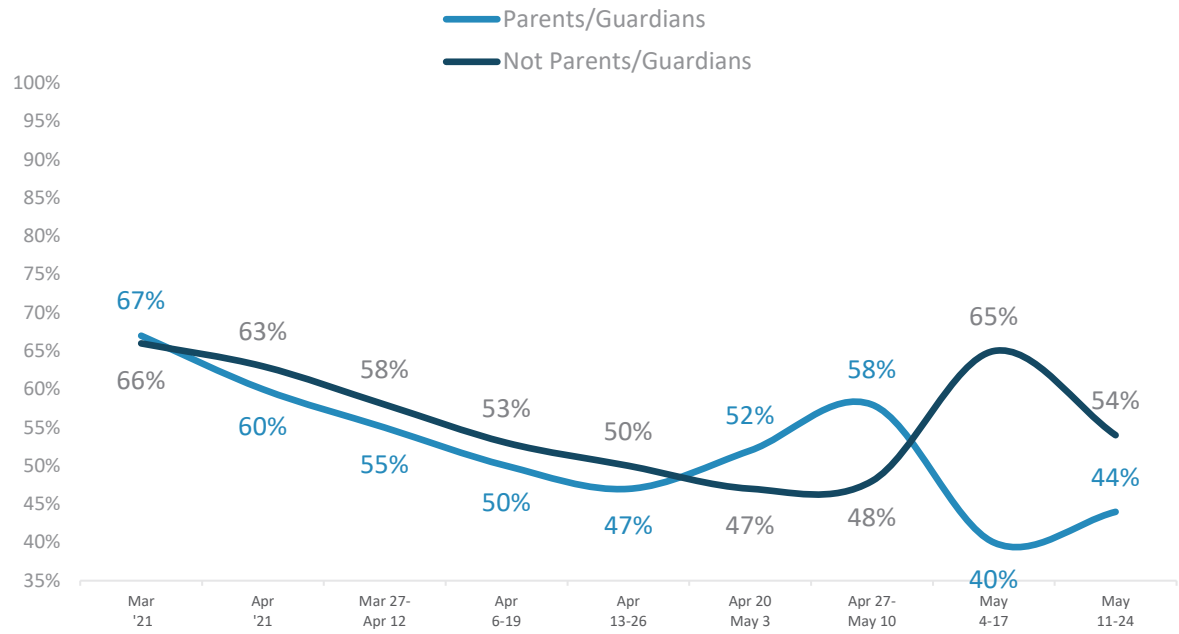
After being at parity for the past two weeks, there was downward movement in ‘right track’ scores in all but the rural areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



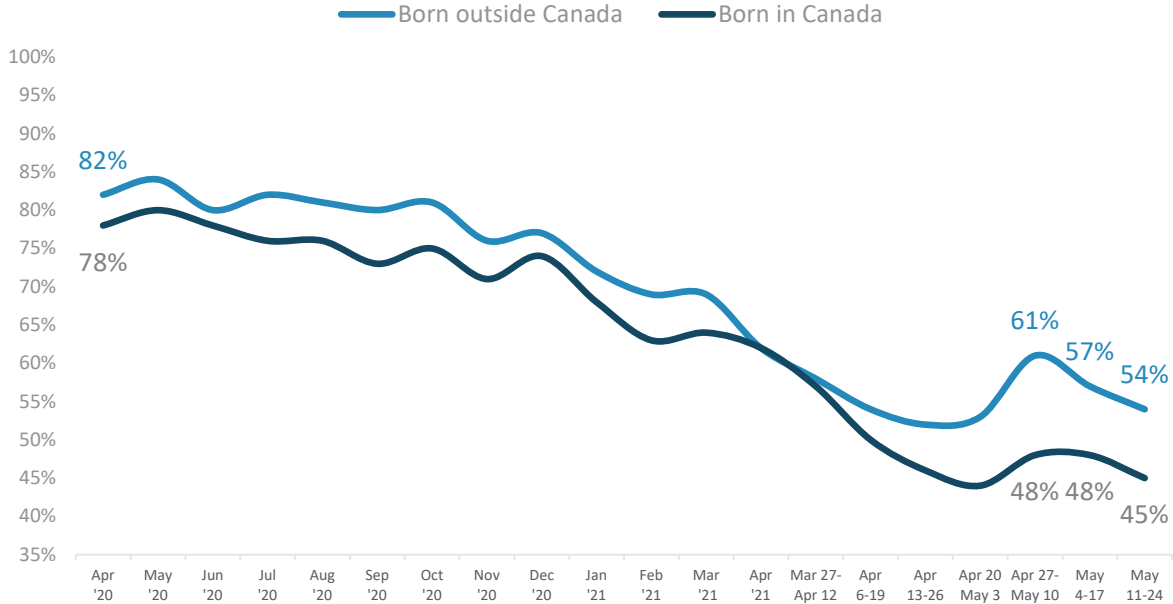
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

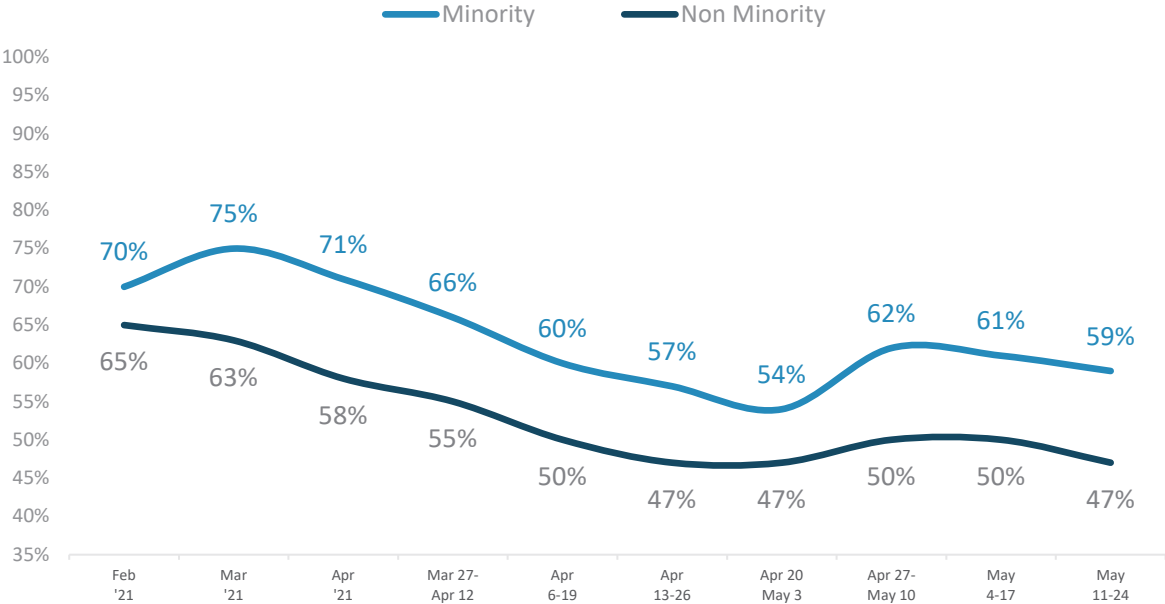
While ‘right track’ scores continue to trend down among those born both in and outside Canada, scores remain higher than among those born in Canada. ‘Right track’ scores also remain higher among minorities than non-minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

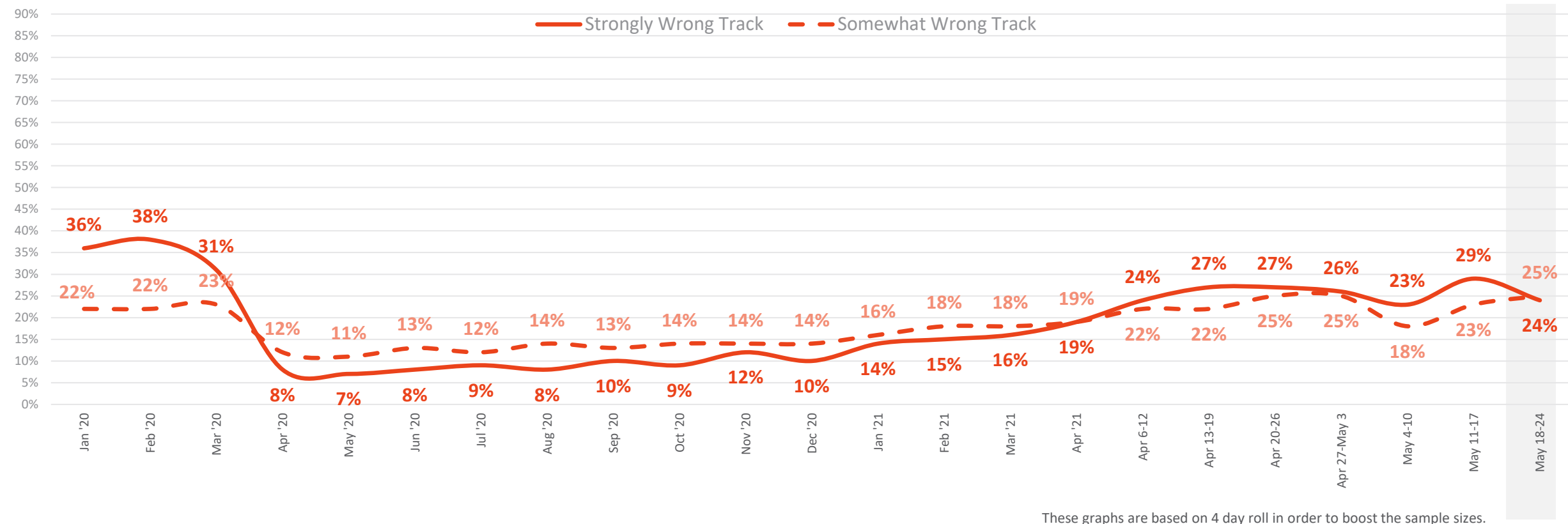


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

With a slight decline this week among those who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’, results are now at parity for ‘strongly wrong track’ and ‘somewhat wrong track’.

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

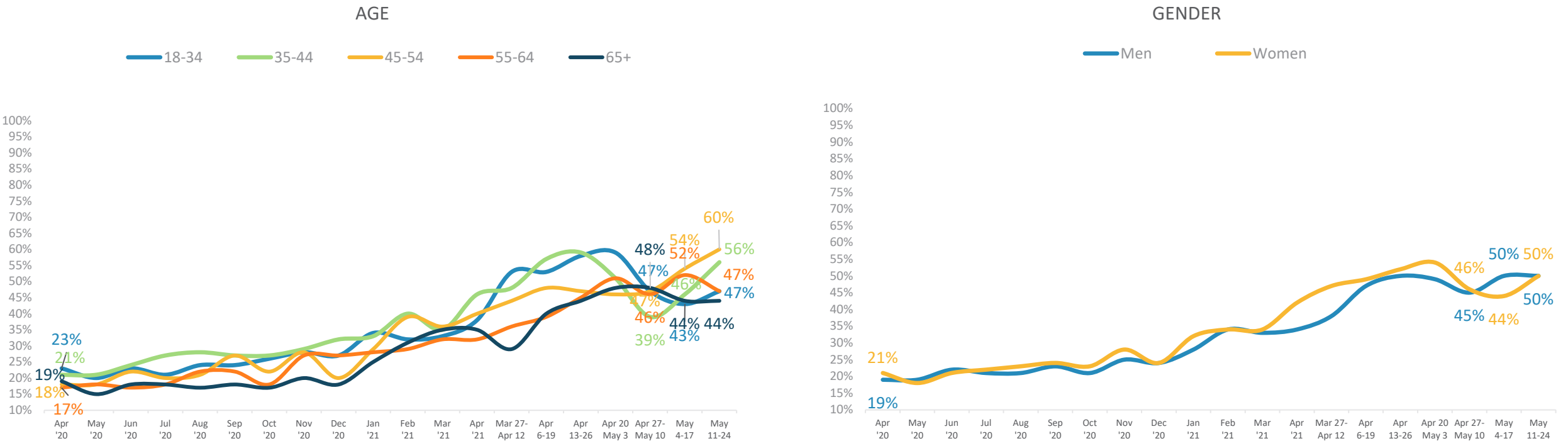


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 55-64 (which declined slightly) and those aged 65+ (which remained unchanged). There is also parity in ‘wrong track’ scores among men and women this week at 50%.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

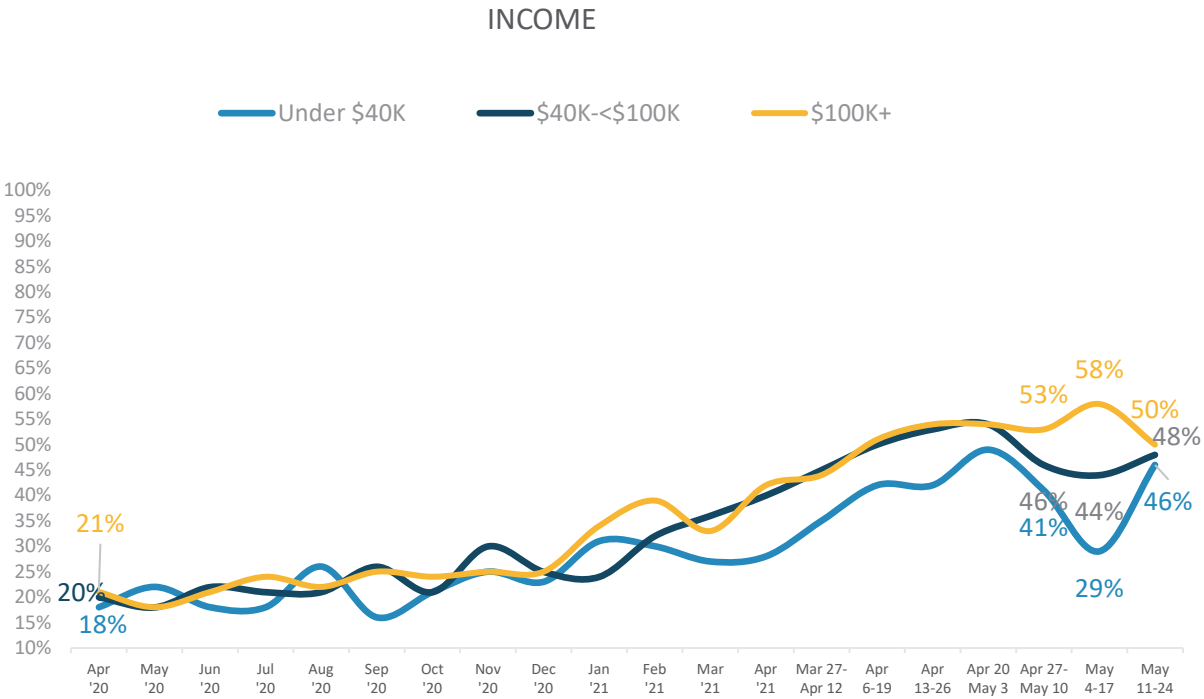
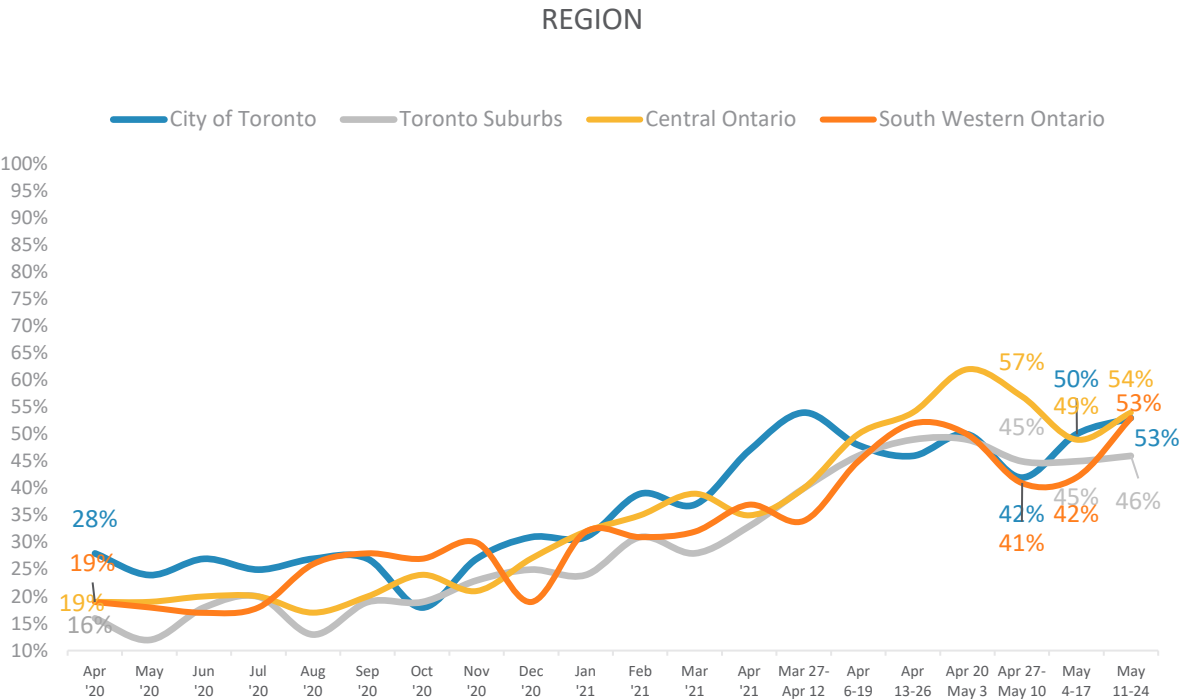


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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, there were increases in the other regions. Results are similar this week among all income segments.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



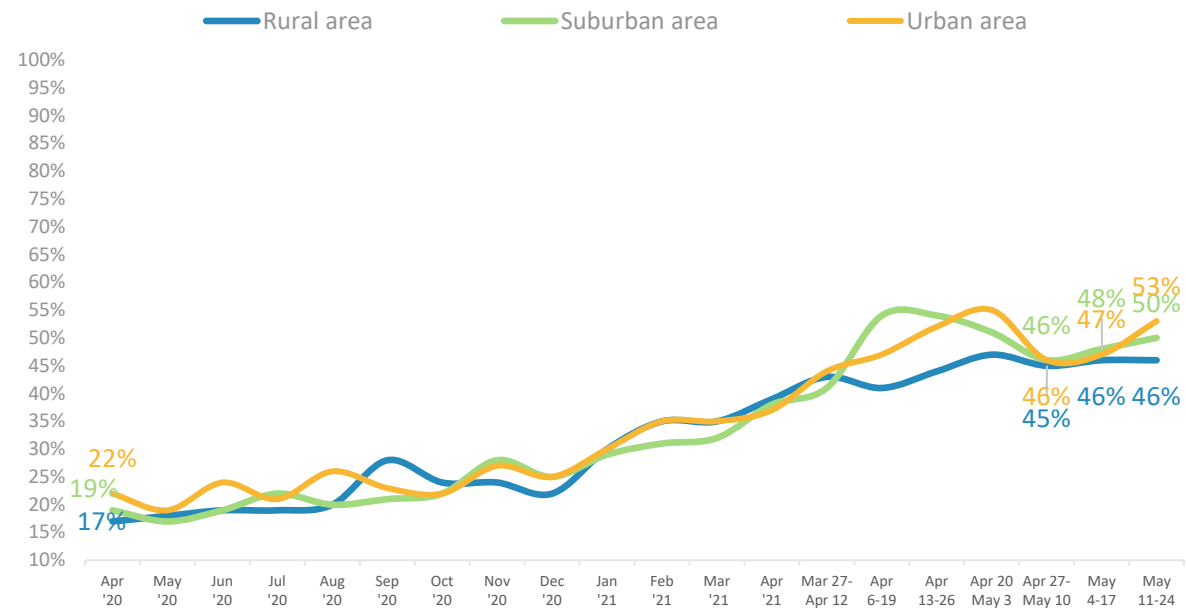
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

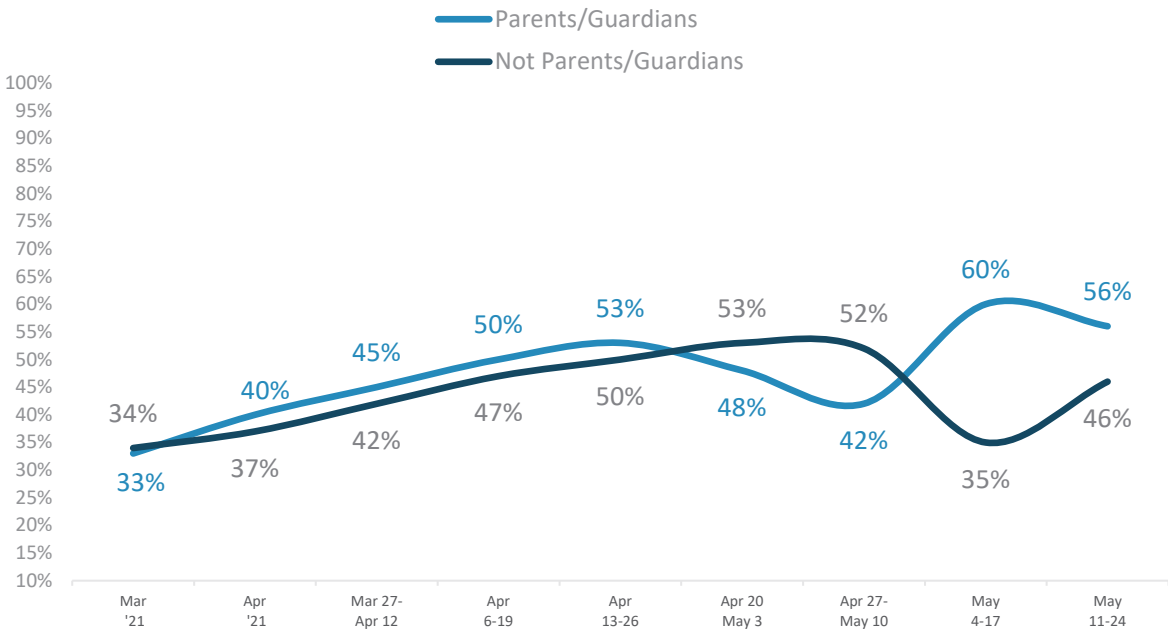
‘Wrong track’ scores remained unchanged in rural areas, while there was an uptick in both suburban and urban areas this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

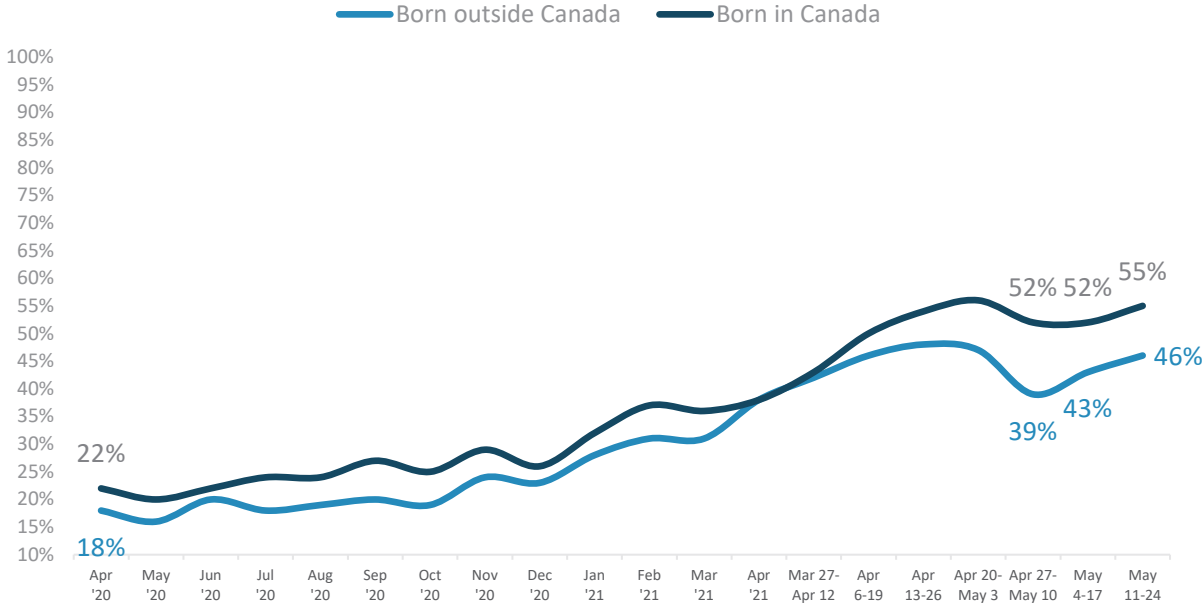


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

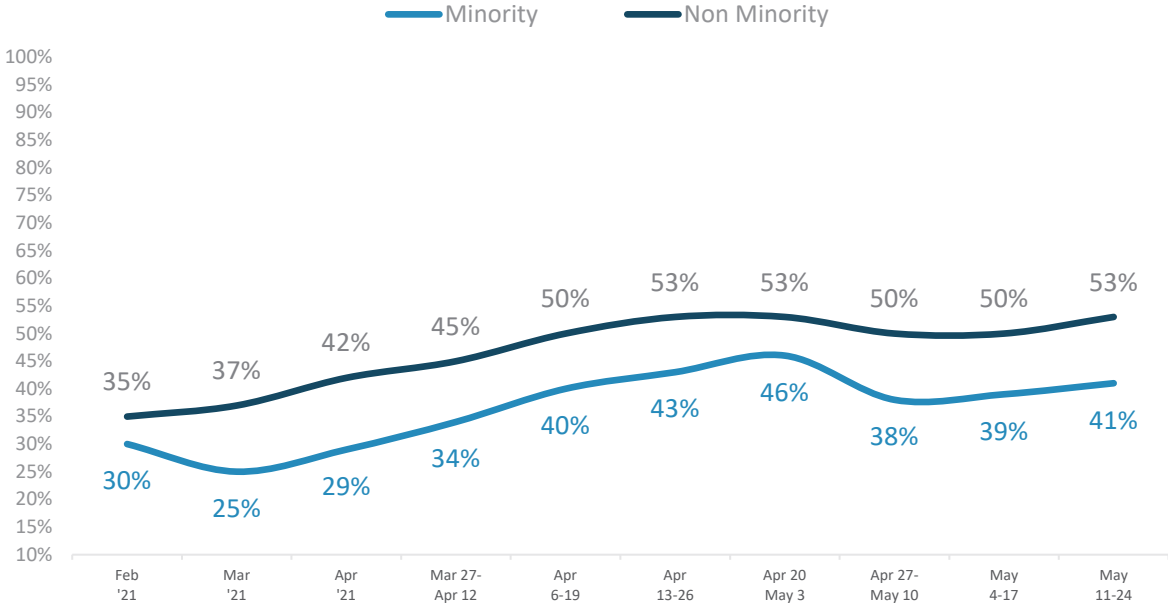
While trending upward among both those born in Canada and outside, ‘wrong track’ scores remain higher among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

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

TIMING OF THE RE-OPENING/
HAVING AN ECONOMIC
PLAN FOR RECOVERY



Preliminary results indicate that while half (50%) think the government’s focus in the coming months should be on health-related issues surrounding COVID-19, 40% think the focus should be on economic issues – and 9% think both.

	May 18-24
n=	300
	%
It should focus on health-related issues surrounding COVID-19, including minimizing increases in the number of cases and accelerating the vaccine rollout.	50
It should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19, including ensuring the economy recovers as quickly as possible and helping prevent more businesses from closing.	40
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9
Don’t know	1

Early results indicate Ontarians have differing views on how soon the government should start loosening restrictions and reopening things that have been closed down if the worst of the wave 3 outbreak is over. However, most indicate before the end of June.

	May 18-24
n=	300
	%
Immediately	17
Within the next week	7
Within the next 2 weeks	11
By the end of the month	9
Early to mid-June	22
The end of June	13
July sometime	7
In a few months time	10
Don't know/not sure	5

QCV-204. The Ontario government’s latest modelling regarding the incidence of COVID-19 cases suggests that the worst of the Wave 3 outbreak is over. If this is the case, how soon should the government start loosening restrictions and reopening things that have been closed down?

Base: Total sample

Preliminary results suggest that Ontarians want to hear more about the Ontario government’s plans for economic recovery, with 80% agreeing with this.

It is essential that Ontario have a jobs and recovery plan in response to COVID-19

	May 21-25
	2020
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	97
Strongly agree	72
Somewhat agree	25
Neither agree nor disagree	1
Somewhat disagree	1
Strongly disagree	-
TOTAL DISAGREE	1

I want to hear more about the Ontario government’s plans for economic recovery

May 18-24
2021
varies
%
80
55
25
7
5
6
11

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

TIME FOR THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO START FOCUSING ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Early results also indicate that seven-in-ten Ontarians agree that it’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery. This is a 40-point increase compared to views a year ago.

It is time for the government to put more focus on getting the economy moving and less on stopping the spread of COVID-19

	May 21-25
	2020
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	30
Strongly agree	9
Somewhat agree	20
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	22
Strongly disagree	40
TOTAL DISAGREE	62

It’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery

May 18-24
2021
varies
%
70
39
31
4
15
10
25

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

Preliminary results also suggest that a majority of Ontarians agree that it’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery.

It’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery

	May 18-24
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	70
Strongly agree	39
Somewhat agree	31
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	25

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

Base: Total sample

However, early results reveal that six-in-ten Ontarians don’t think the Ontario government has a plan for the economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns.

I don’t think the Ontario government has a plan for the economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns

	May 18-24
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	59
Strongly agree	28
Somewhat agree	32
Neither agree nor disagree	10
Somewhat disagree	19
Strongly disagree	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	29

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

Base: Total sample

The early findings indicate most Ontarians think it will take quite a while for the economy to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

I worry that the longer it takes to open up the economy the more severely will be the damage to the economy

	May 21-25
	2020
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	78
Strongly agree	44
Somewhat agree	34
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	10
Strongly disagree	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	17

I think it will take quite a while for the economy to recover from the impact of COVID-19

May 18-24
2021
varies
%
91
66
25
1
3
5
8

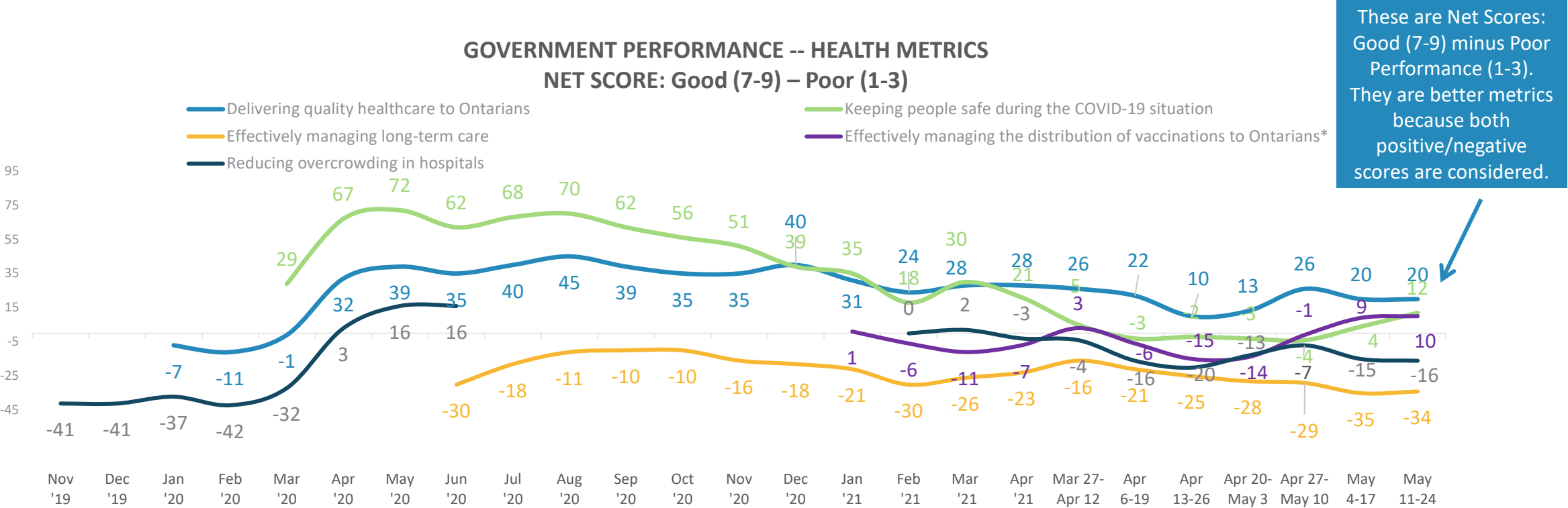
QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



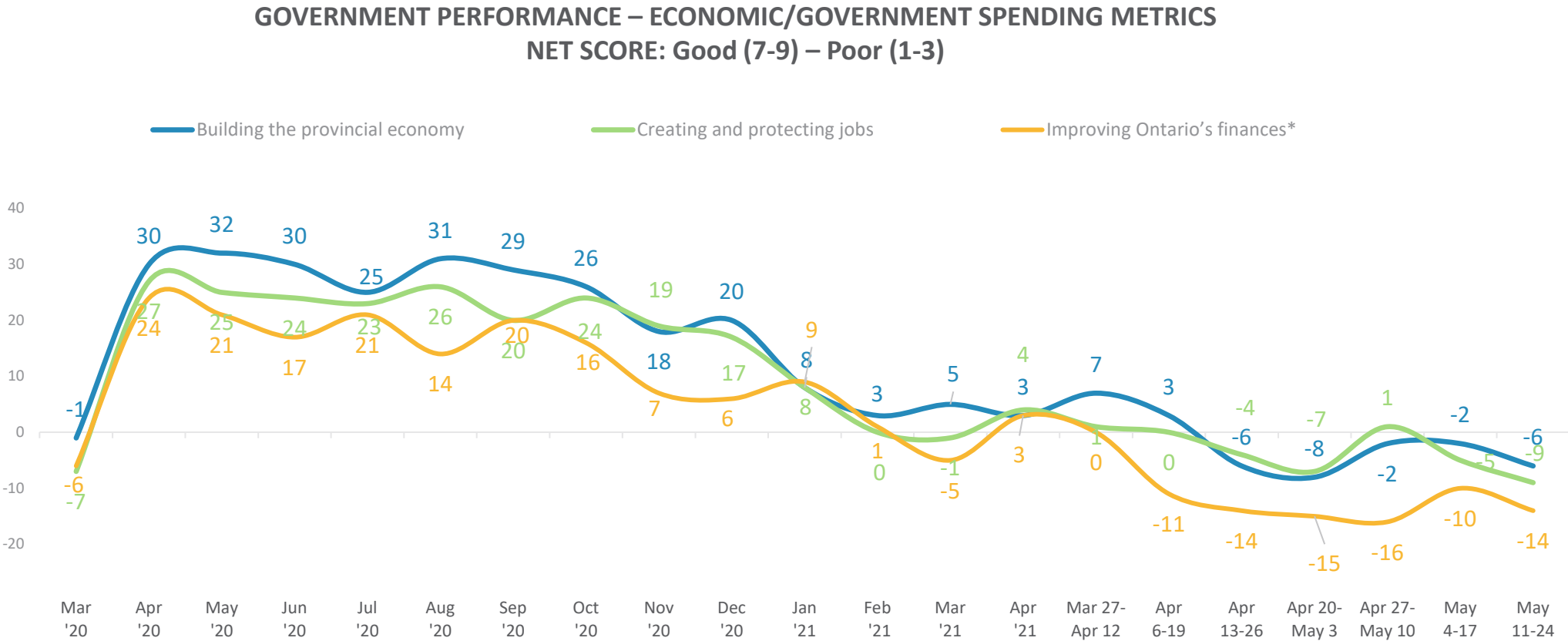
Reflecting the aggressive vaccine roll out and declining infection cases, ratings of the government’s performance improved for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ (a 24-point improvement over the past three weeks) and ‘keeping people safe during COVID-19’ (a 16-point improvement over the past two weeks).

- The other health metrics remained unchanged.



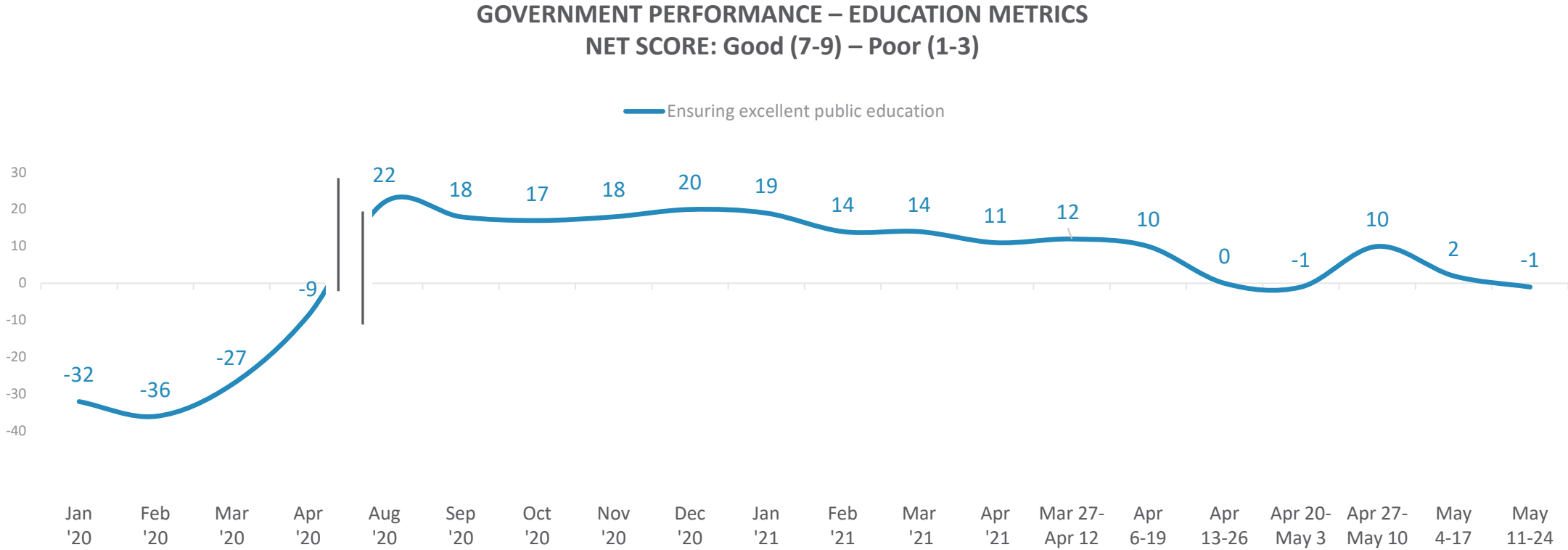
Q5. Using a scale where, where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

There was downward movement in the rating of the government’s performance for the three economic/government spending metrics 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”
Bases vary

‘Ensuring excellent public education’ declined into a negative NET score 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

FINANCIAL
WELL-BEING OF
ONTARIANS



Six-in-ten (59%) Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’, with only 12% saying it is ‘poor/very poor’

- However, those earning less than \$40k (32%) are much less likely to say ‘excellent/good’ compared to earning over \$100k (78%).
- Rural residents, men, and non-parents are more likely to say ‘excellent/good’.

	May 11-17	May 18-24
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	52	59
Excellent	11	17
Good	41	43
Fair	34	29
Poor	9	8
Very poor	4	4
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	13	12
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

Just over half (53%) report their family’s financial situation stayed the same over the past year, while three-in-ten (29%) indicate their financial situation worsened.

- Women, those earning under \$40k, parents, and those aged 18-34 are more likely to say that their financial situation has gotten worse.

	May 11-17	May 18-24
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	13	19
Improve a great deal	2	4
Improve somewhat	11	14
Stay the same	56	53
Worsen somewhat	22	22
Worsen a great deal	7	6
TOTAL WORSEN	30	29

	May 11-24	
	Right Track	Wrong Track
NET Improve	20%	12%
NET Worsen	23%	36%

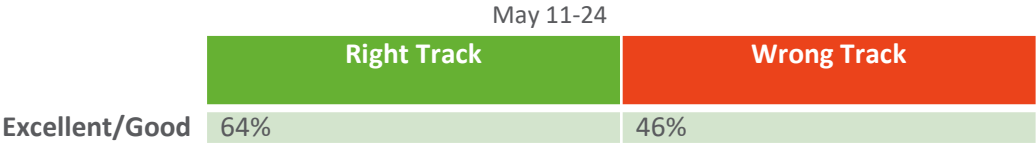
QFP-2. How, if at all, did your family’s financial situation change over the past year? Did it...
Base: Total sample

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLD OVER THE NEXT YEAR

Ontarians are optimistic about the future: 60% anticipate their financial situation will be ‘excellent/good’ over the next year, while only 8% think it will be ‘poor/very poor’.

- Only those earning under \$40k think their financial situation will be poor.

	May 11-17	May 18-24
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	50	60
Excellent	12	14
Good	38	47
Fair	36	28
Poor	9	5
Very poor	2	2
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	11	8



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 again this week with 25% providing an ‘excellent/good’ rating. Those rating the government as ‘poor/very poor’ has been trending down to 39% this week.

	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	May 18-24
n=	varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31	23	18	21	19	25	24	25
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	4	7	2	3
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28	20	16	18	15	18	21	22
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28	31	36	29	29	27	32	36
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21	24	22	26	27	30	18	22
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16	21	23	24	24	18	25	18
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38	45	45	50	51	48	43	39

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

While allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (28%) is the most cited reason for causing the increase in infection cases leading to a wave 3 of COVID-19, one-in-five believe it was the emergence of a variety of COVID variants or the timing of restrictions limiting social contact.

	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29	36	28
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16	11	20
The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23	21	19
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13	15	14
Infections introduced into Ontario by interprovincial travelers	6	6	6
All of these	4	4	6
Don't know/not sure	9	8	7

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 has been a 26-point increase over the past two weeks to 59% 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	May 18-24
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	44	40	44	30	29	26	40	35	24	26	32	33	53	59
Strongly agree	14	21	27	14	8	10	12	14	12	14	9	9	22	24
Somewhat agree	30	19	17	15	21	16	28	21	12	12	23	24	30	35
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	3	9	5	8	7	9	6	7	10	11	6
Somewhat disagree	19	21	16	30	29	28	23	39	27	23	29	29	16	21
Strongly disagree	28	30	28	35	30	39	27	19	38	44	29	27	17	11
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	51	43	65	59	67	50	58	65	67	59	56	34	33

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
CONFIDENTIAL

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



ANGER IF THE PROVINCE ORDERS A THIRD PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN

After peaking three weeks ago, anger regarding the third provincial shutdown continues to trend down. While 17% indicate they are angry with this order, 71% 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.*

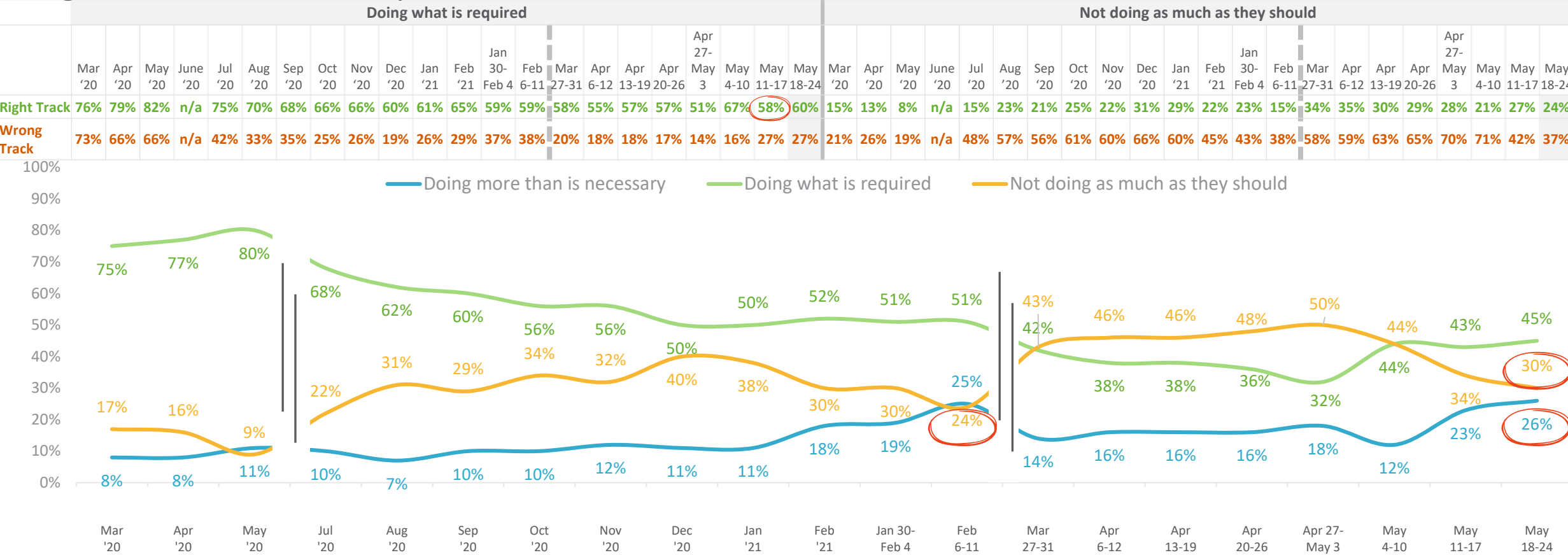
	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	36	30	33	39	30	26	17
Strongly agree	23	18	18	22	25	21	19	17
Somewhat agree	13	18	12	11	15	9	7	-
Neither agree nor disagree	4	10	9	10	10	4	4	12
Somewhat disagree	20	16	16	18	16	23	20	28
Strongly disagree	39	37	42	38	35	41	49	43
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	53	58	56	51	64	69	71

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

Base: Total sample

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Results remained relatively unchanged at 45% among those who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus. However, this week, one-quarter (26%) of Ontarians think the government is doing ‘more than is necessary’.

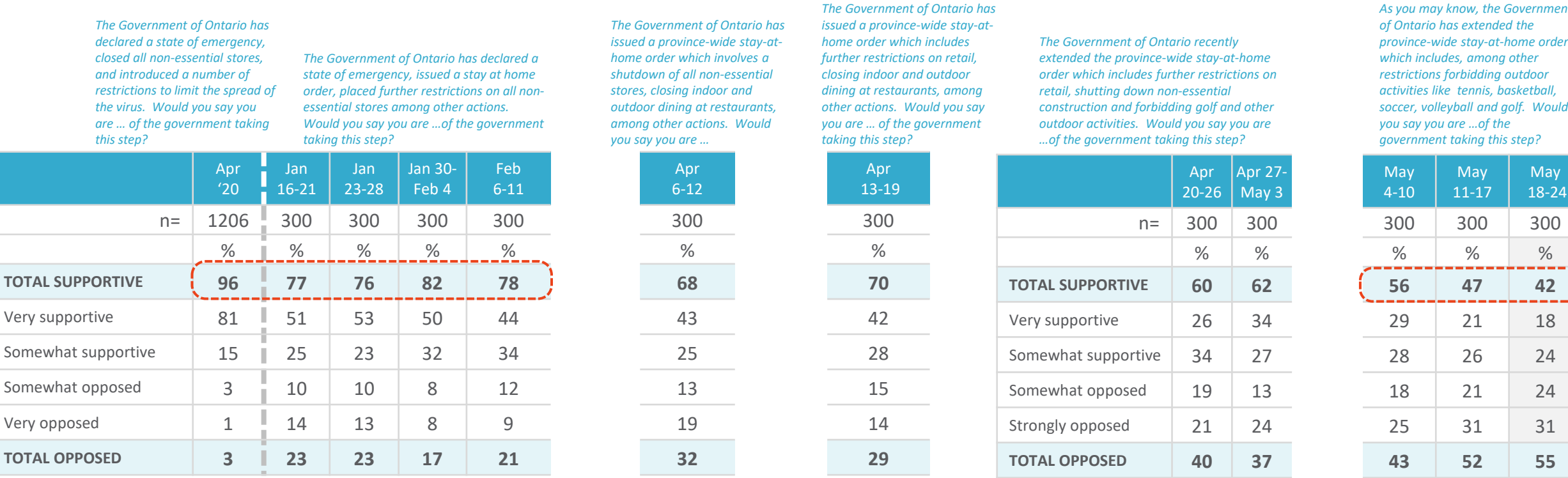


QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring 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 again this week - to 42% - for the extended province-wide stay-at-home order that includes restrictions forbidding outdoor activities such as tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf.



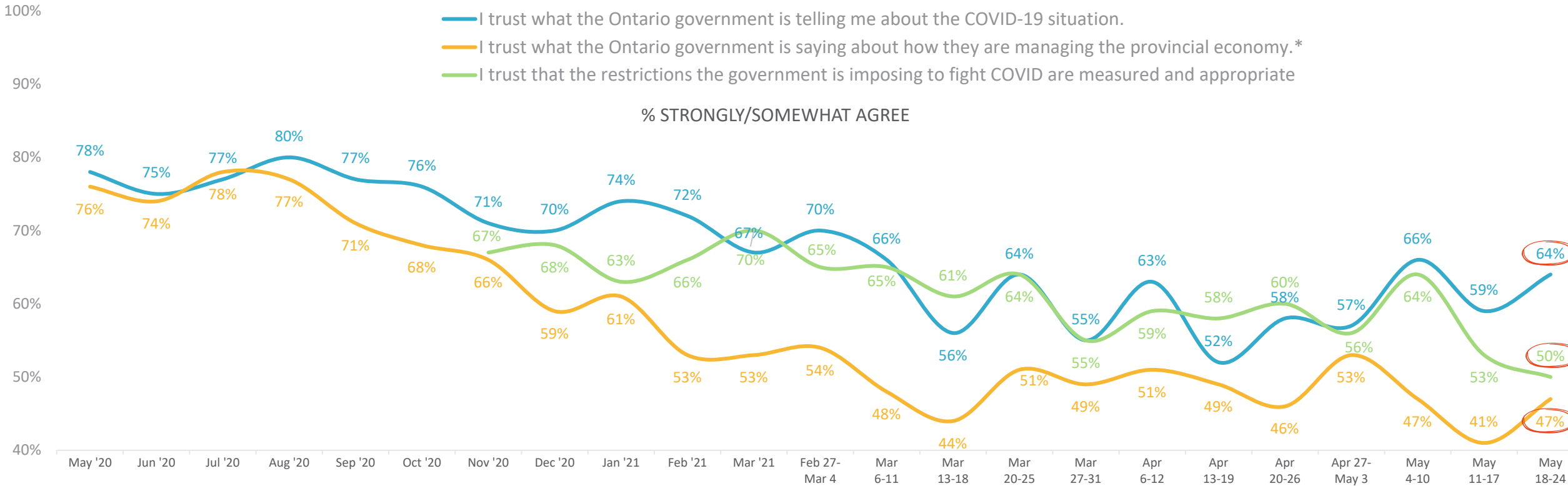
QCV-8A. As you may know, the Government of Ontario has extended the province-wide stay-at-home order which includes, among other restrictions forbidding outdoor activities like tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf. Would you say you are ... (READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.) ...of the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

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

‘After declines last week, trust in the government’s communications about COVID-19 improved regarding ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’. However, there was a slight decline measured for ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’.



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

FATIGUE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES



LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

Four-in-ten (41%) Ontarians agree 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	May 18-24
n=	varies																				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57	53	39	46	42	44	41
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17	29	24	29	23
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22	17	18	16	18
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7	6	5	7	7	10	10
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17	16	19	16	22
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38	30	30	29	27
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55	46	50	45	49

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 64% 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	May 18-24
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	64

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

There was a slight uptick to 28% 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	May 18-24
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	28
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	28
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	10
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	62
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	72

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

Base: Total sample

Again this week, about one-third (35%) 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	May 18-24
n=	varies																
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	39	36	28	33	28	28	32	31	36	32	30	37	39	36	34	34	35
Strongly agree	14	14	13	13	14	7	10	11	12	16	15	17	22	16	16	20	35
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	16
Strongly disagree	27	31	42	33	42	42	37	41	36	35	38	39	31	37	42	29	39
TOTAL DISAGREE	46	50	60	52	55	55	54	55	51	51	56	52	50	50	56	48	55

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

There were declines again this week in the number of Ontarians (57%) reporting 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	May 18-24
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	57
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40	48	50	55	47	58	46	32
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14	18	15	13	13	13	19	25
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	11
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	17	17	22	12	10	10	6	16	13	18	10	23	13	20	15	20	11	11	32
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42	26	28	27	33	22	29	43

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

Base: Total sample

ONLY LEAVING THE HOME FOR ESSENTIAL PURPOSES

In addition, there was a 25-point decline this week to 43% ‘strongly’ 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	May 11-17	May 18-24
n=	varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86	85	92	87	92	85	61
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70	70	81	73	79	68	43
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16	15	11	15	13	17	19
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2	4	1	3	-	2	13
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4	6	2	4	5	6	9
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7	4	3	6	3	6	9
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11	10	6	9	7	12	17

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

After three weeks of increasing confidence that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, there was a slight decline measured this week to 70% agreeing with this.

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	May 11-17	May 18-24
varies																					
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68	55	52	48	66	77	70
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19	20	25	32	35
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34	28	41	46	35
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10	6	10	5	4
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22	22	7	9	13
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16	22	16	8	10
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37	44	22	17	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



Support for the requirement that all elementary and secondary schools offer only online learning has declined 15-points over the past two weeks to 49%.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
Support this action	64	64	60	49
Do not support this action	32	32	34	44
Not applicable	1	1	<1	2
Not sure/Don't know	3	4	5	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. Some people say they support this action as it will help limit the spread of COVID 19. Other people say they do not support this action as it will stress parents who have to care for children at home and make it more difficult for students to learn. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?
(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

While preliminary results indicate that a majority (56%) support the re-opening of schools after June 2nd to the end of the school year if the province-wide stay at home order is revoked, 41% oppose the action.

	May 18-24
n=	300
	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	56
Strongly support	29
Somewhat support	27
Somewhat oppose	17
Strongly oppose	24
TOTAL OPPOSE	41
Don't know/not sure	3

LIKELIHOOD OF SENDING CHILD BACK TO SCHOOL IF THEY RE-OPEN IN JUNE

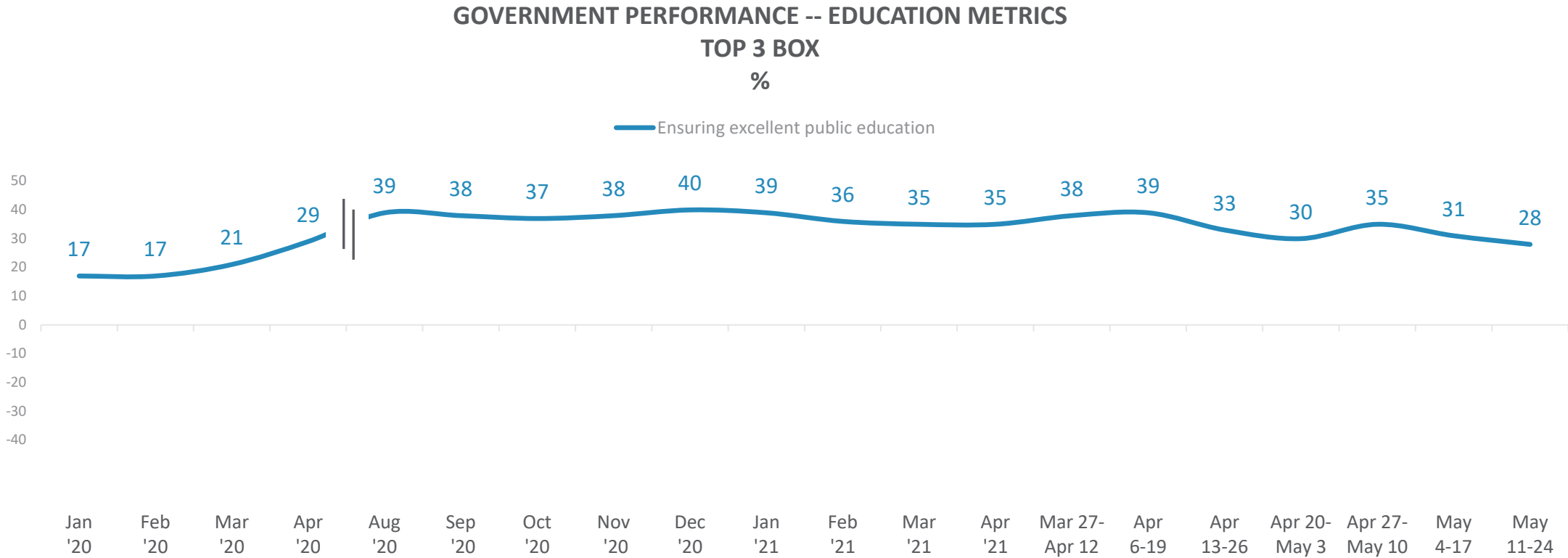
Preliminary results indicate about two-thirds (64%) of parents/guardians with children in junior kindergarten to grade 12 are likely to send their child back to school if they re-open in June. PLEASE READ WITH CAUTION DUE TO SMALL SAMPLE SIZE.

	May 18-24
n=	81
	%
TOTAL LIKELY	64
Very likely	51
Somewhat likely	13
Not very likely	15
Not at all likely	20
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	35
Don't know/not sure	1

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

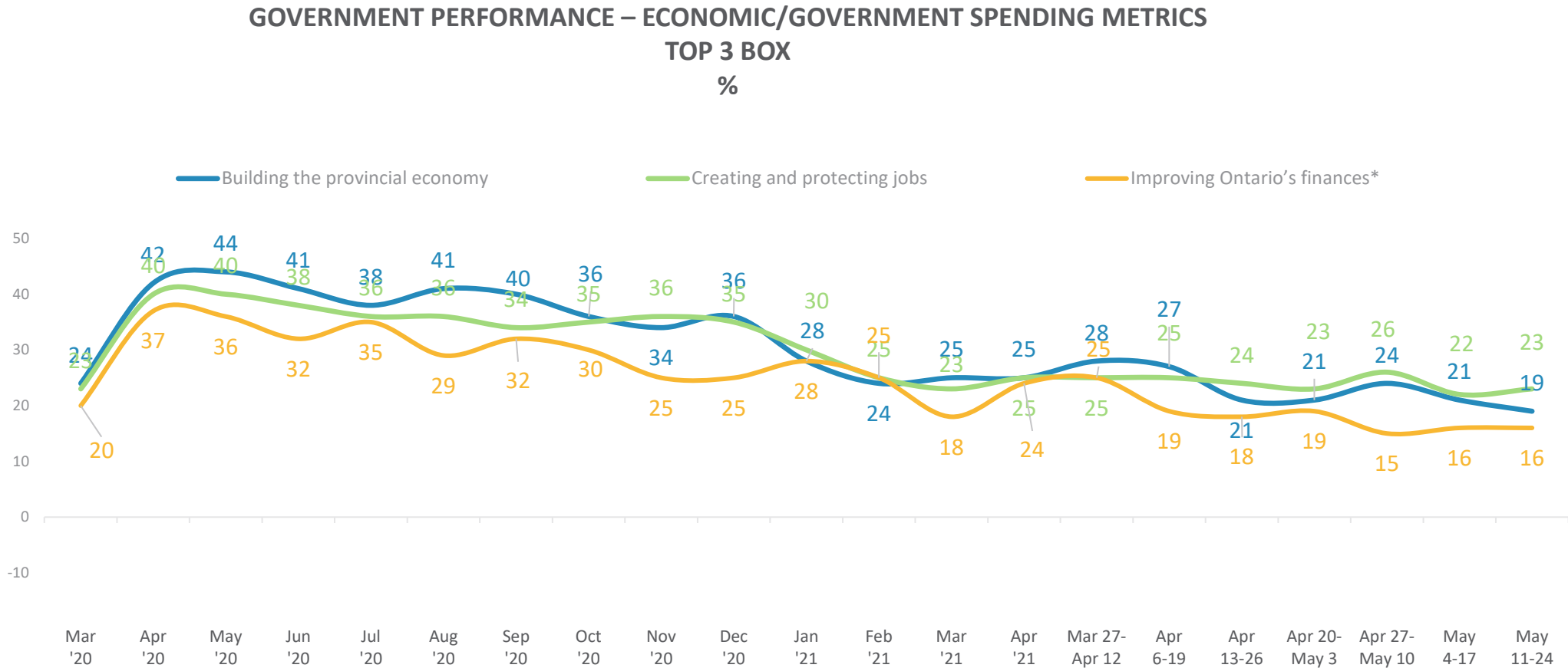


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined again this week.



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

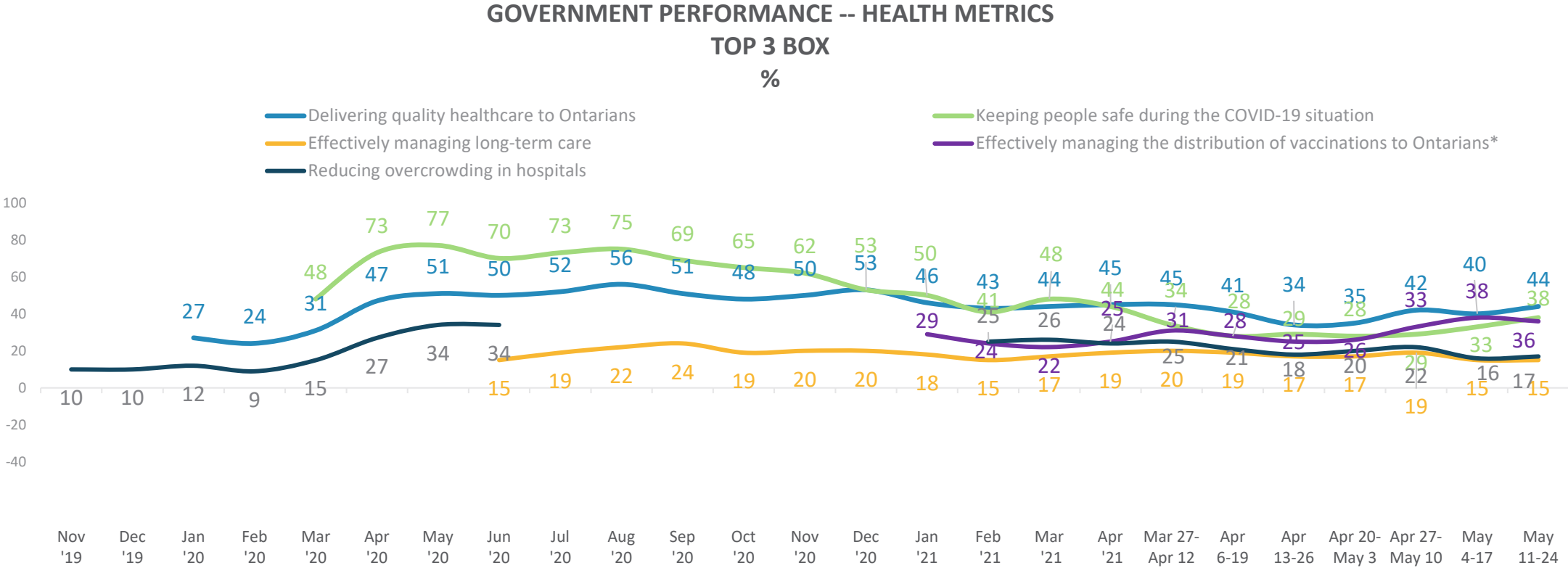
Positive perceptions toward ‘creating and protecting jobs’, ‘building the provincial economy’, and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ remained stable this week.



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

Positive perceptions of the government’s performance for the health metrics remained stable with the exception of a slight decline for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’.



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