

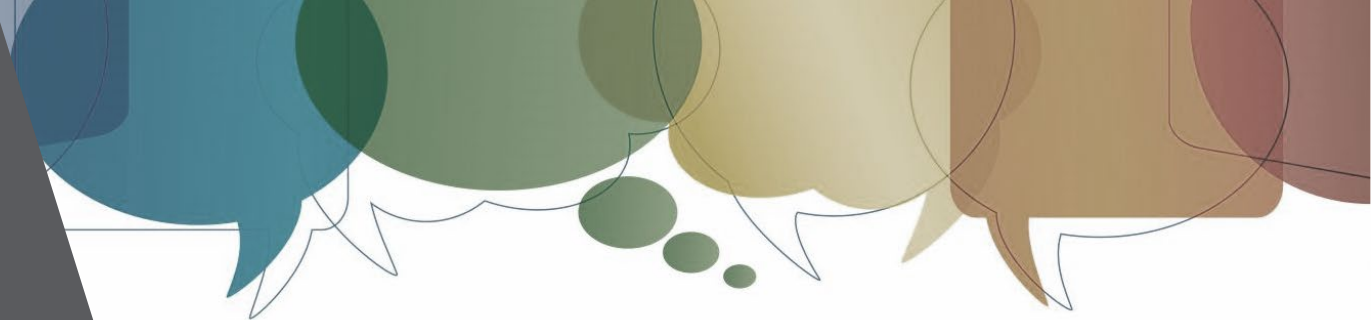


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #84

CABINET OFFICE

June 8th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores have ranged from 48% to 60% over the past several weeks. This week is 53%.

Men are much more likely than women to think the government is on the 'right track' over the past two weeks.

3 While COVID-19 remains the top issue that Ontarians feel should receive the greatest attention from the Ontario provincial government, the economy has crept up slightly in recent weeks. We should continue to monitor this issue over the next several weeks.

Notably, this week there has been a shift to half (52%) of Ontarians who think the government's focus in the coming months should be on economic-related issues surrounding COVID-19, a 16-point increase compared to a week ago and surpassing a focus on health-related issues.

2 Ontarians continue to be more confident the end of the pandemic is nearer. Positive ratings on 'effectively managing vaccinations' has been trending upward increasing 36-points over the past five weeks, while 'keeping people safe during COVID-19' has increased 30-points over four weeks.

Results also continue to trend upward to 58% who believe the government is 'doing what is required' to reduce the spread of the virus, a 10-point increase over the week.

Additionally, almost eight-in-ten (77%) Ontarians believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago – up 51-points since the beginning of May.

4 Connected to this, Ontarians want to hear more about the government's plans for economic recovery (with 83% agreeing with this). There has also been an increase to 84% of Ontarians who agree that it's time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery. This compares to 36% a year ago.

Importantly, just over half (56%) of Ontarians don't think the Ontario government has a plan for the economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns.

With the rating of the government's performance regarding 'managing the re-opening of the economy' in negative territory- and well below results measured in 2020 – this is an area to review.

Key Findings

5 Ontarians are fatiguing with COVID-19 measures, with a 15-point increase this week to 56% of Ontarians agreeing they are getting tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing.

Possibly connected to this, support for the government's plan for a gradual 3-stage approach to reopening the Ontario economy declined this week and remains below support measured a year ago. That said, seven-in-ten (69%) Ontarians support this phased approach.

Consistent with the announcement this week, most Ontarians believe the government should start loosening restrictions and reopening things that have been closed down – about 67% believe the opening process should be underway by mid-June.

A declining percentage of Ontarians think the re-opening should be delayed.

6 Overall, Ontarians remain optimistic about the future: 58% anticipate their financial situation will be 'excellent/good' over the next year, while only 10% think it will be 'poor/very poor'.

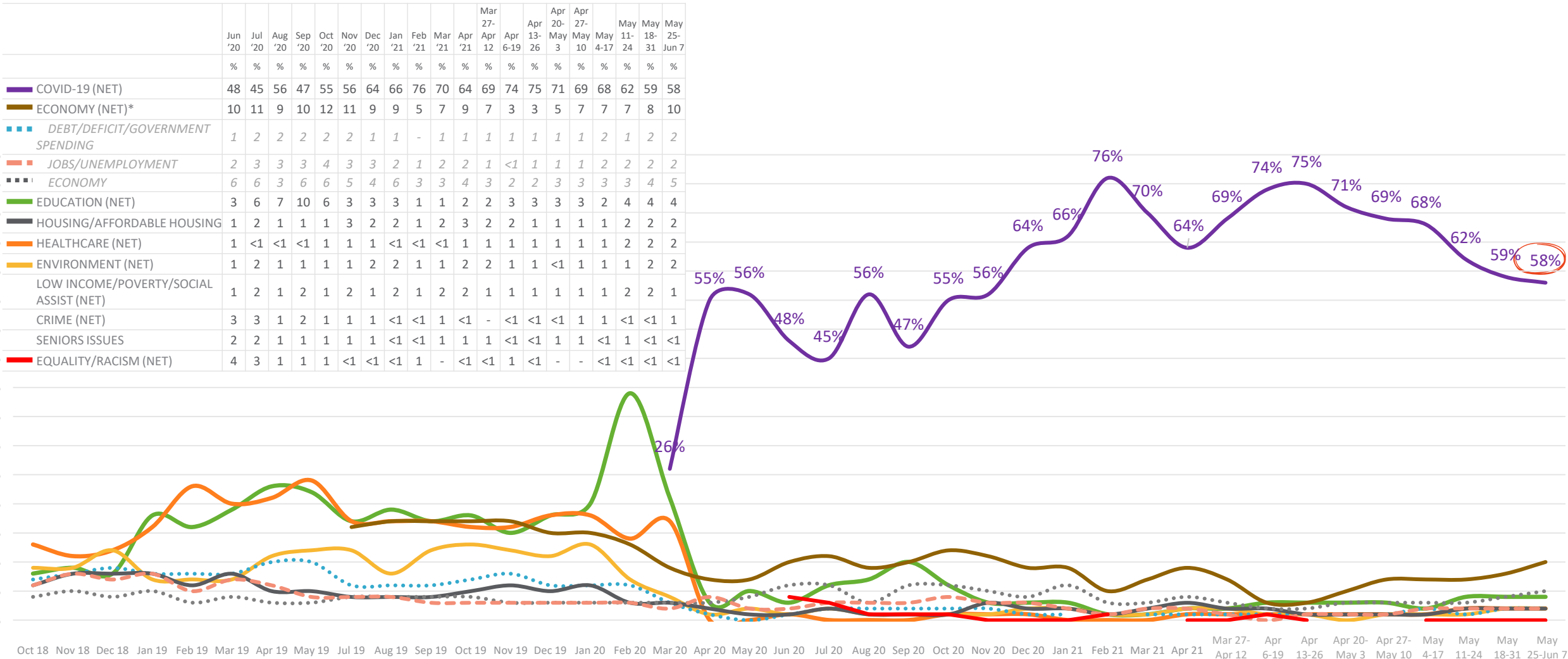
And, those who see the government on the 'right track' are the most optimistic about the future, while those who it on the 'wrong track' are less optimistic about the future.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

While COVID-19 continues to be the top priority, the economy has crept up slightly in recent weeks.



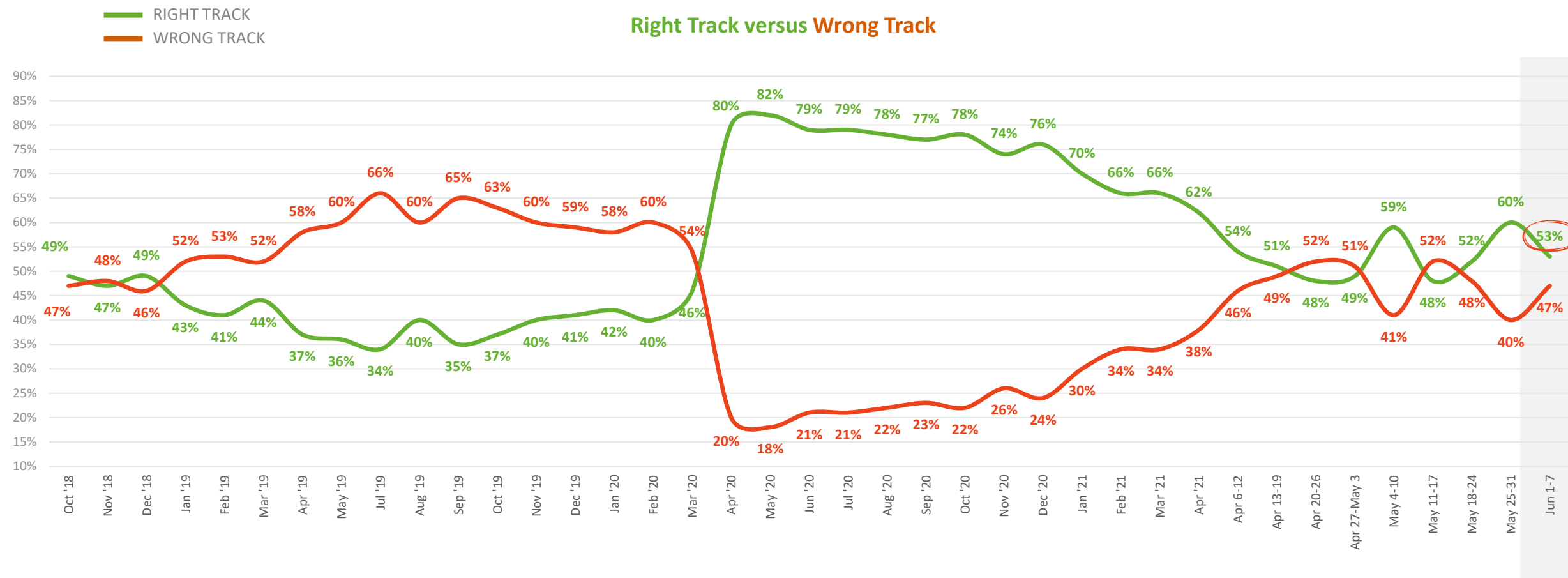
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

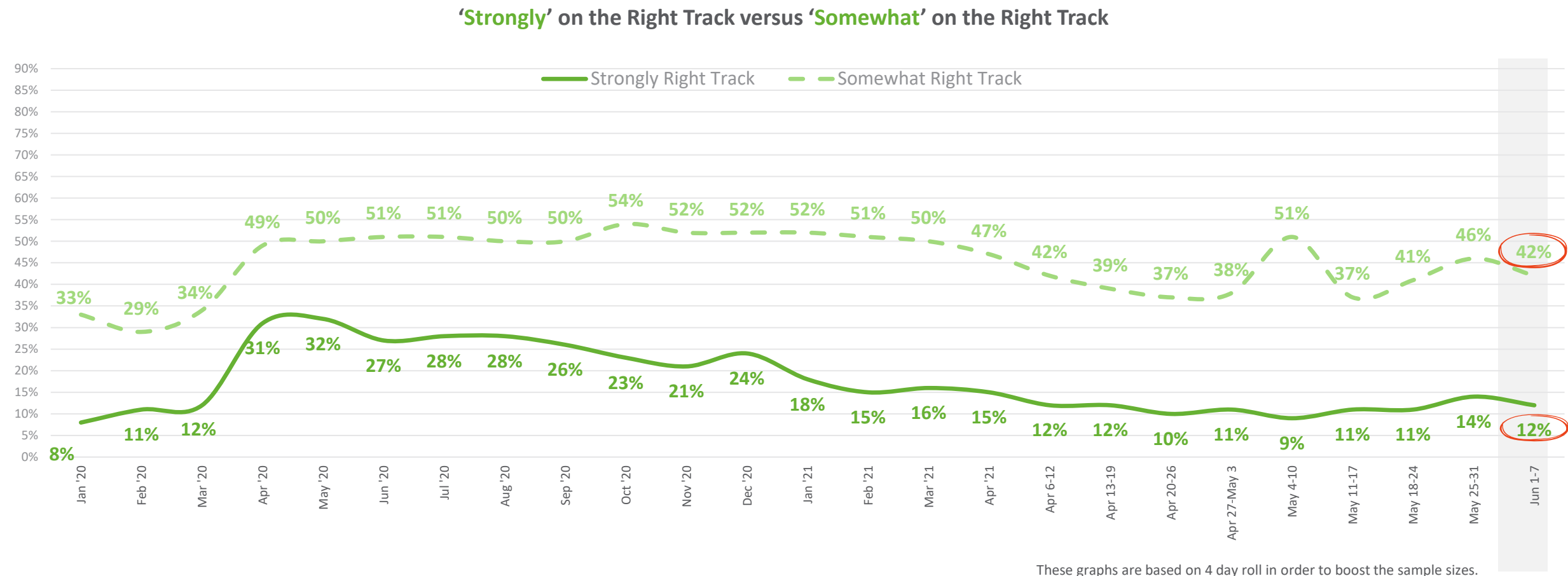


‘Right track’ scores have ranged from 48% to 60% over the past several weeks. This week, ‘right track’ is at 53%.



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

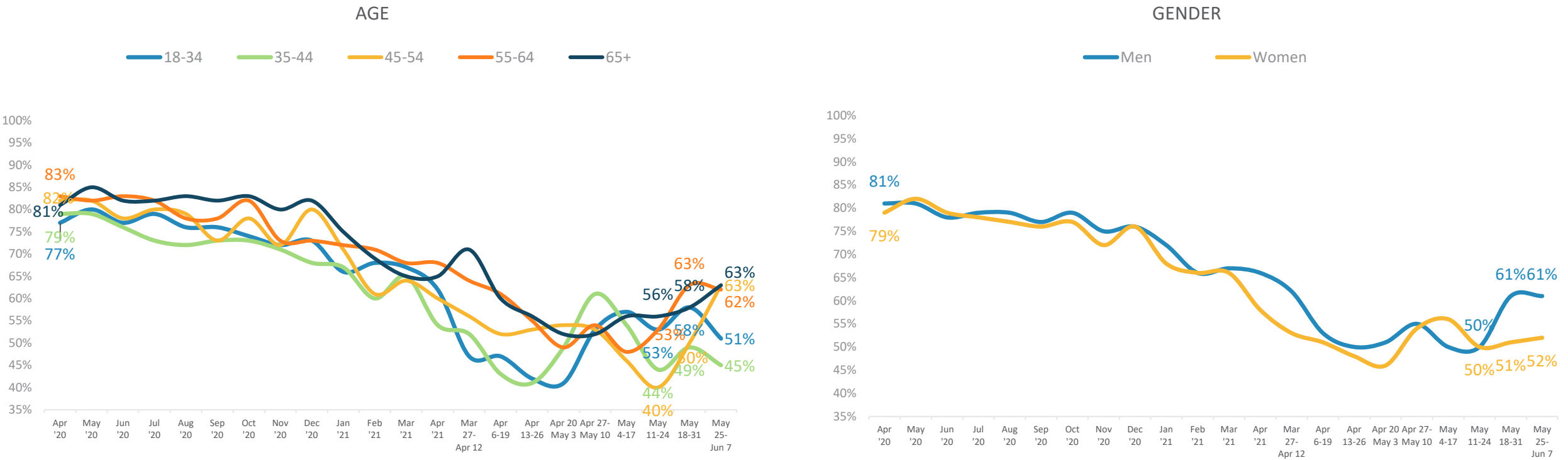
The decrease in ‘right track’ scores tended to occur among those who see the government as ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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

Men are much more likely than women to think the government is on the ‘right track’ over the past two weeks. Decreases in ‘right track’ scores occurred among Ontarians under 44 years of age, while there was an uptick among those aged 45-54 and 65+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

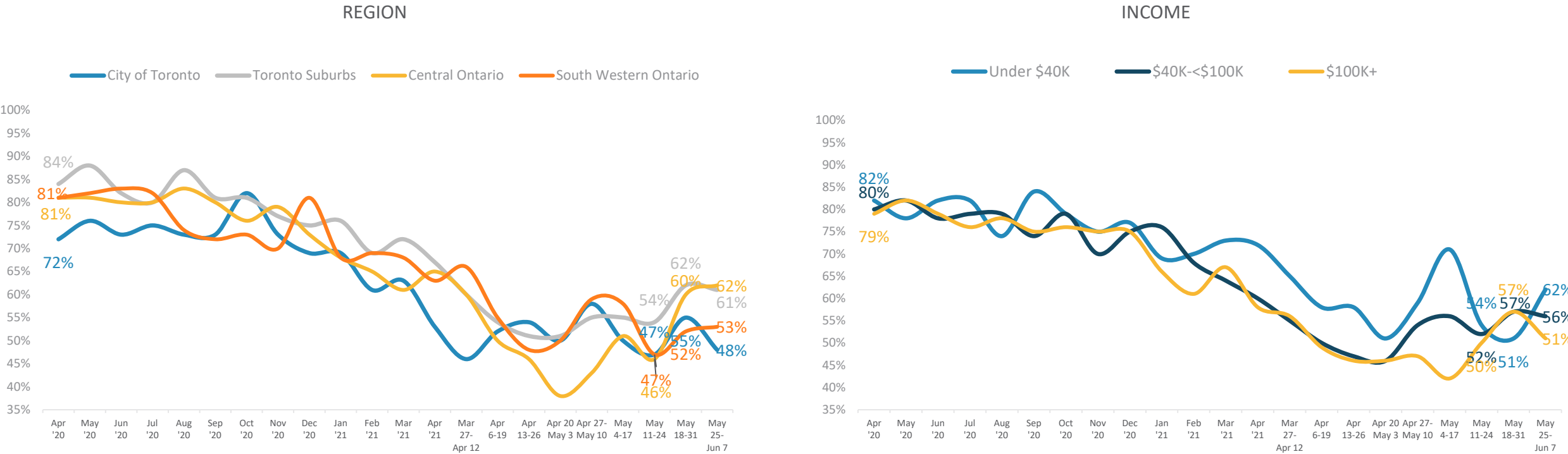


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 remained stable in all regions this week with the exception of the City of Toronto where there was a decrease. And, while there was a decline among those making >\$100, there were improvements among those making <\$40k after two weeks of declines.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



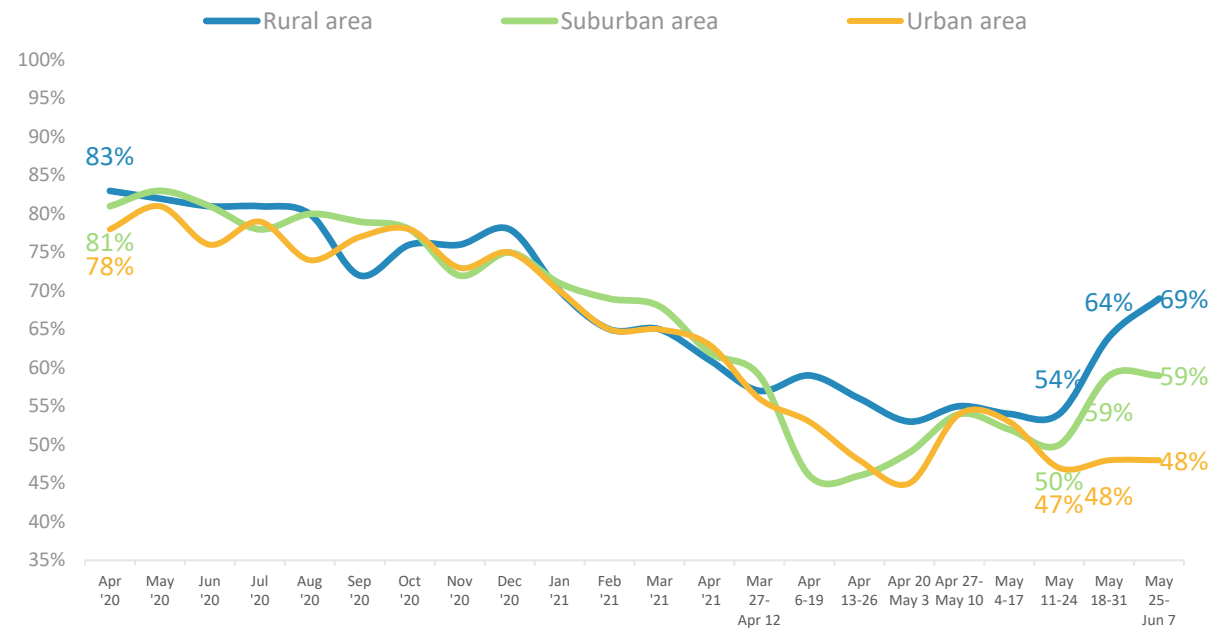
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

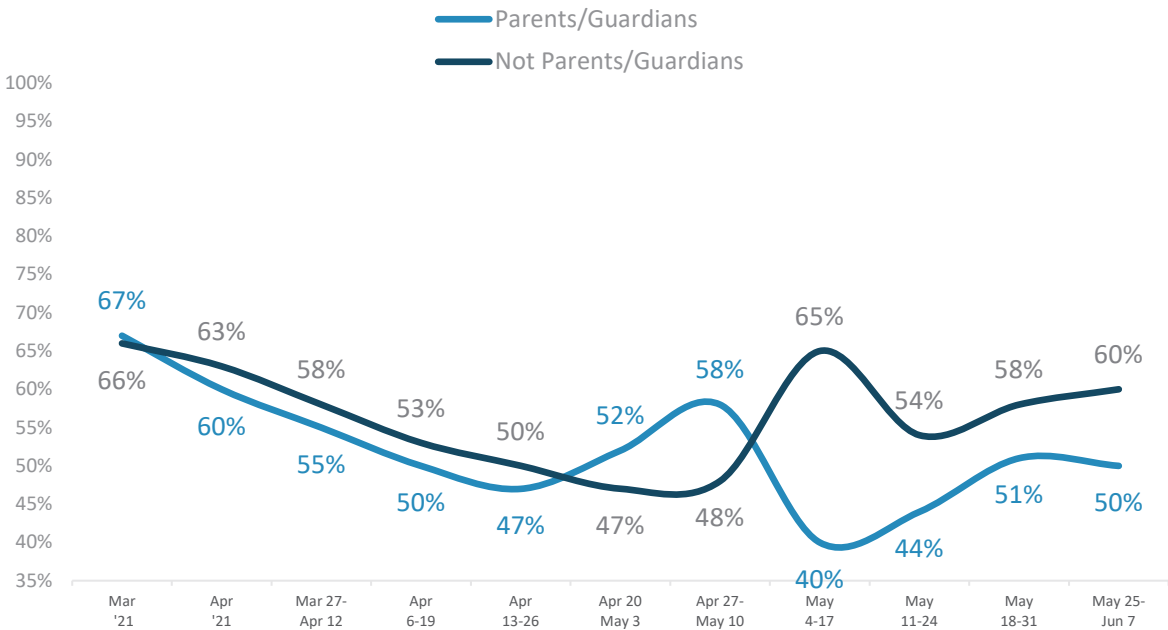
‘Right track’ scores continue to increase in rural areas while remaining stable in both suburban and urban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



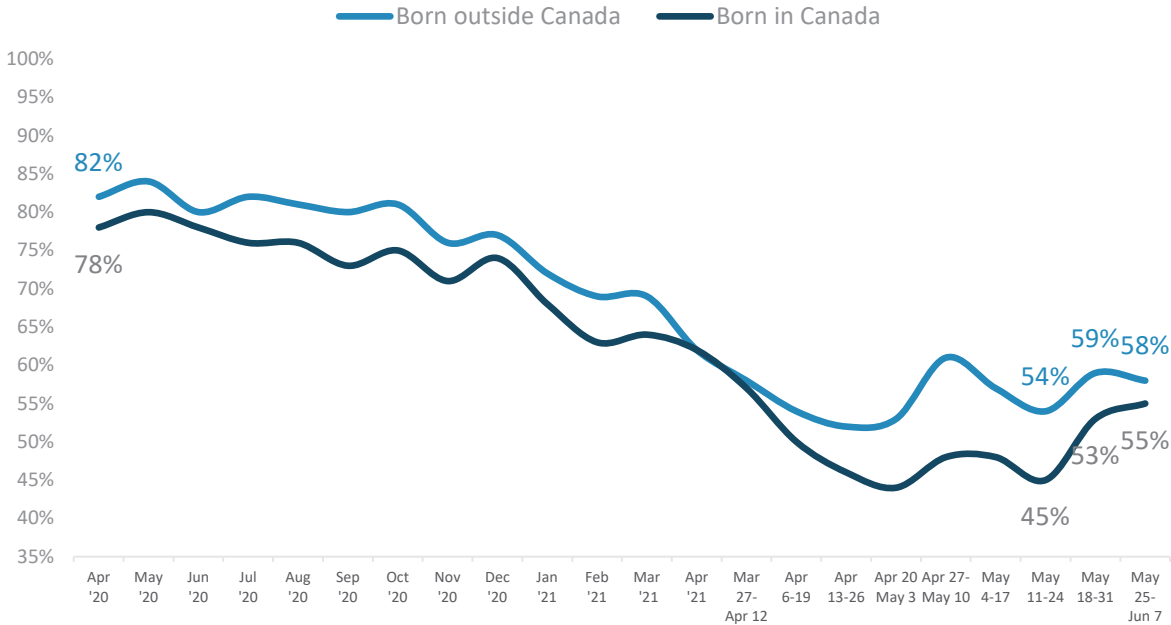
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

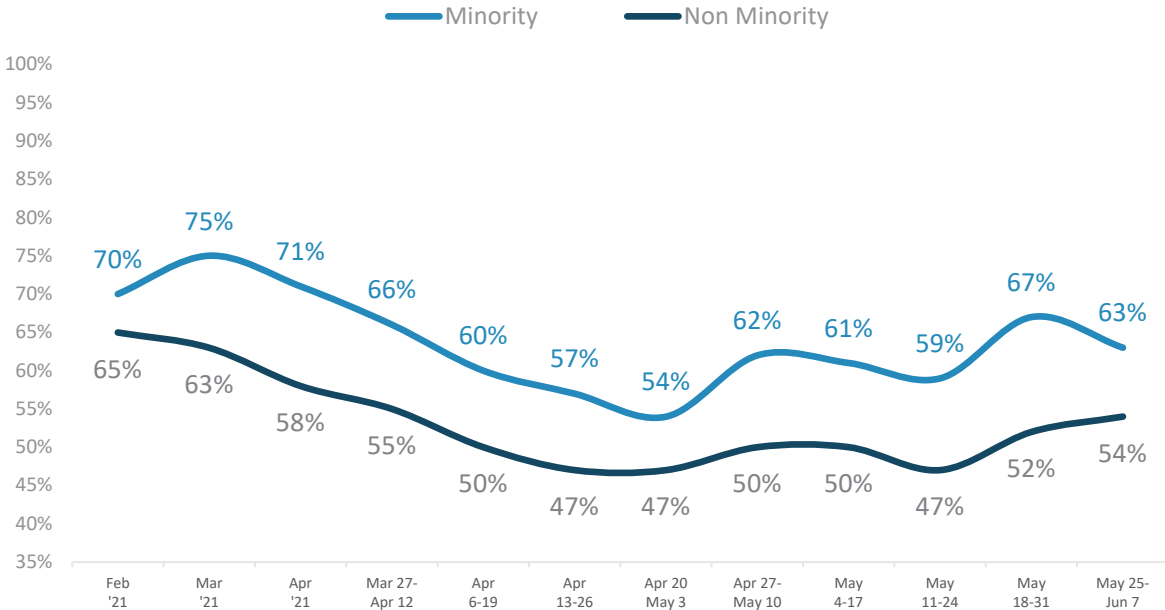
There was also a slight increase this week in ‘right track’ scores among those born in Canada with a 10-point improvement measured over the past two weeks.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

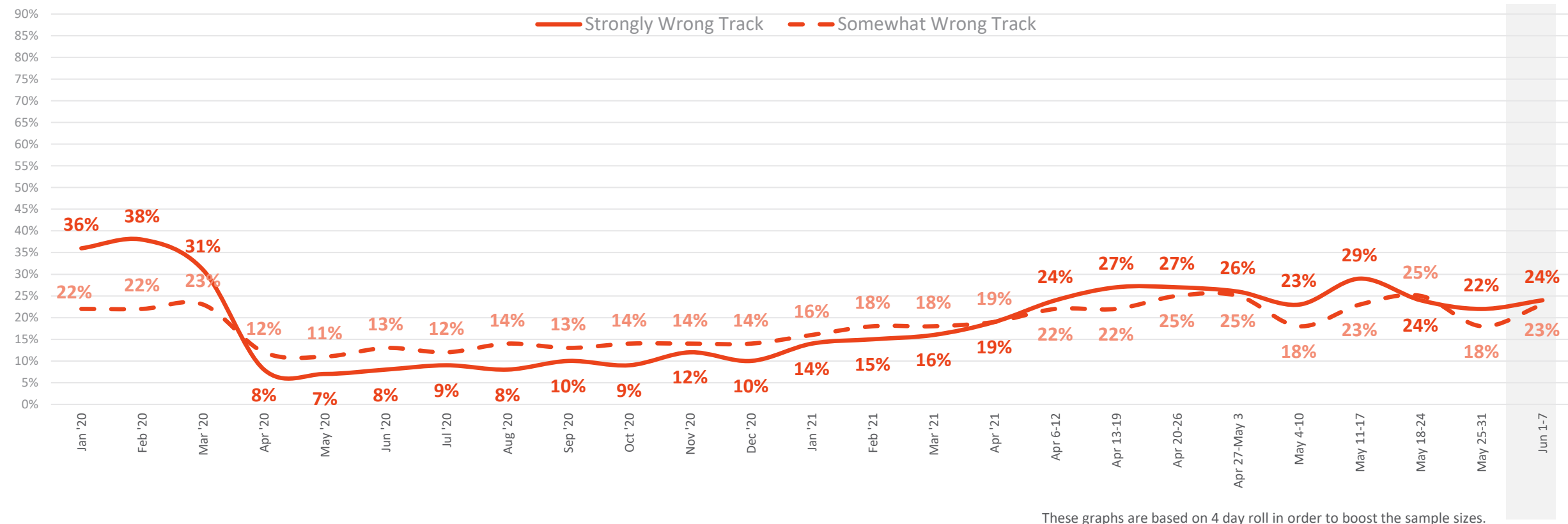


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

An uptick in ‘wrong track’ scores tended to occur among those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the wrong track’.

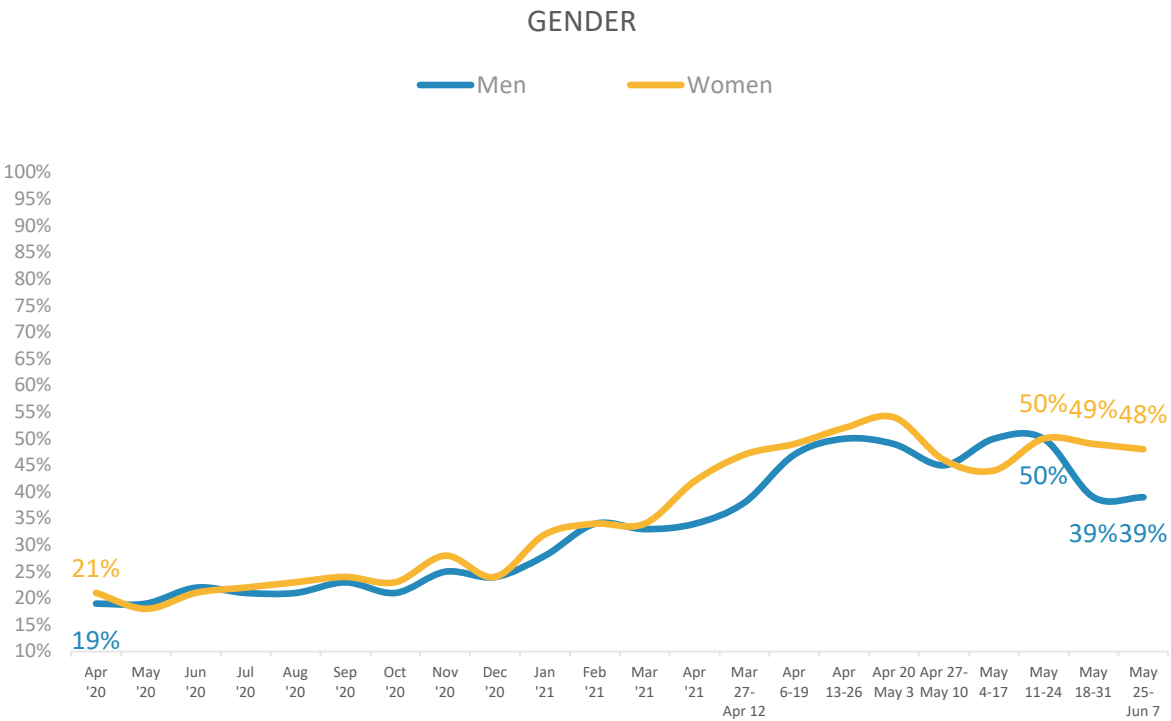
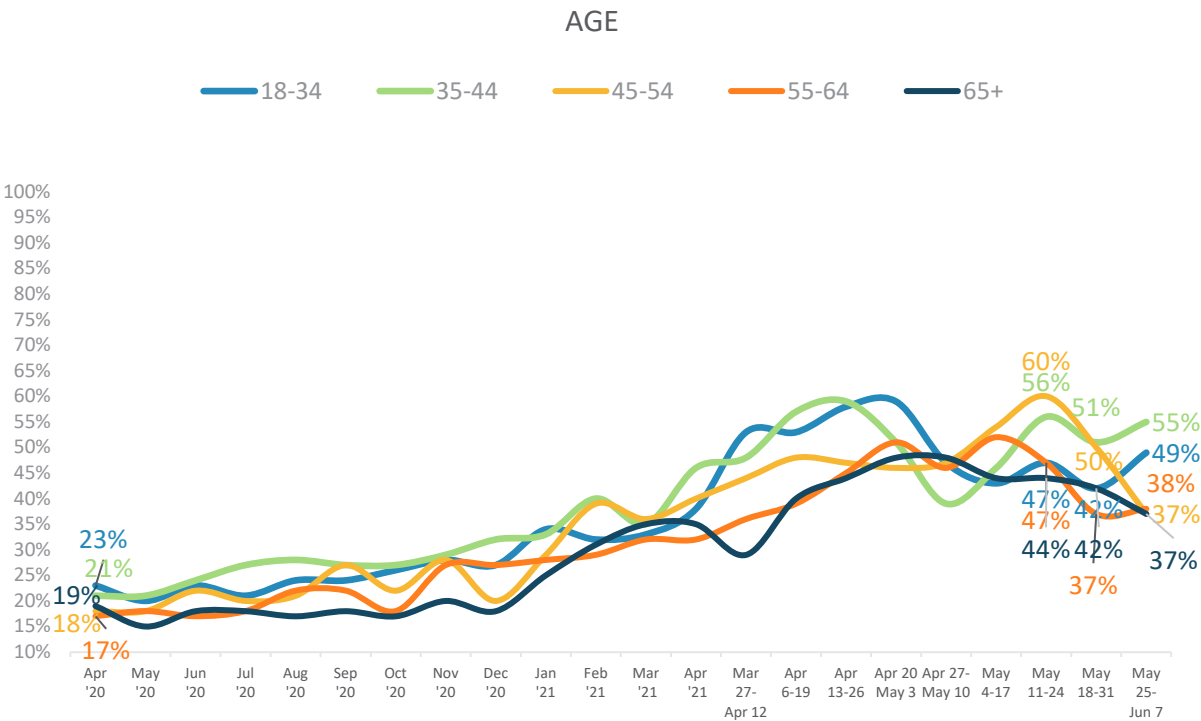
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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

Mirroring ‘right track’ trends, ‘wrong track’ scores increased this week among those under the age of 44 while declining among those aged 45-54 and 65+. Over the past two weeks, women are more likely to think the government is on the ‘wrong track’.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

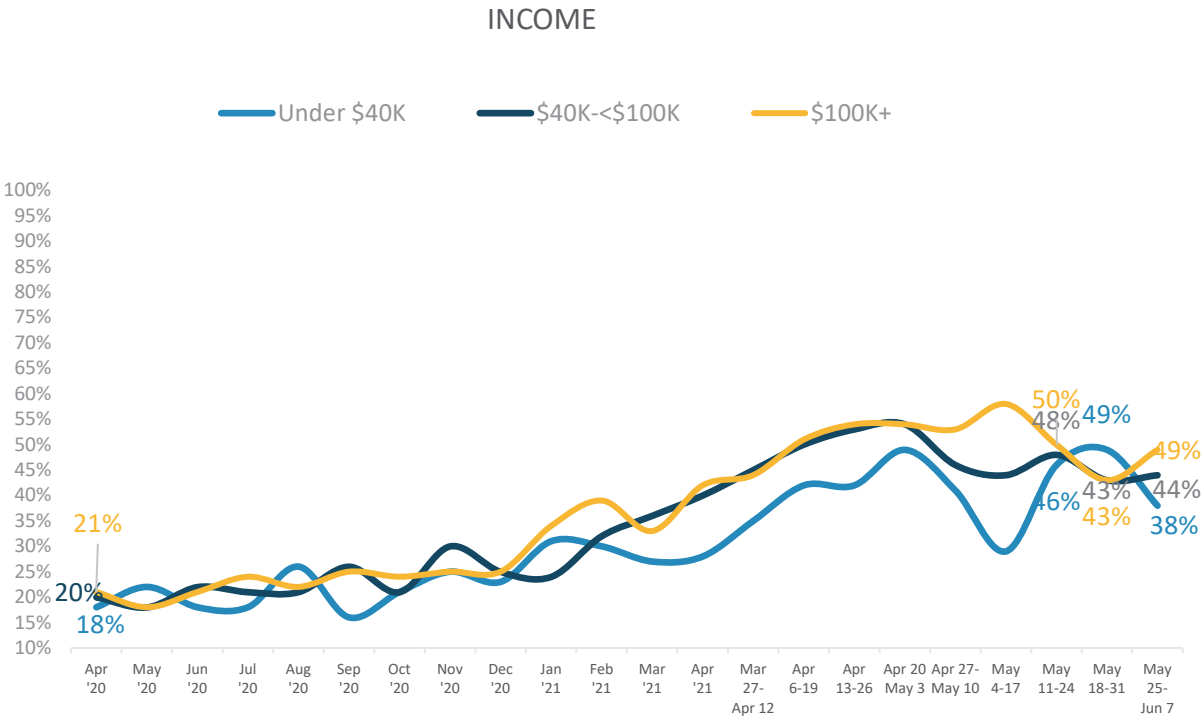
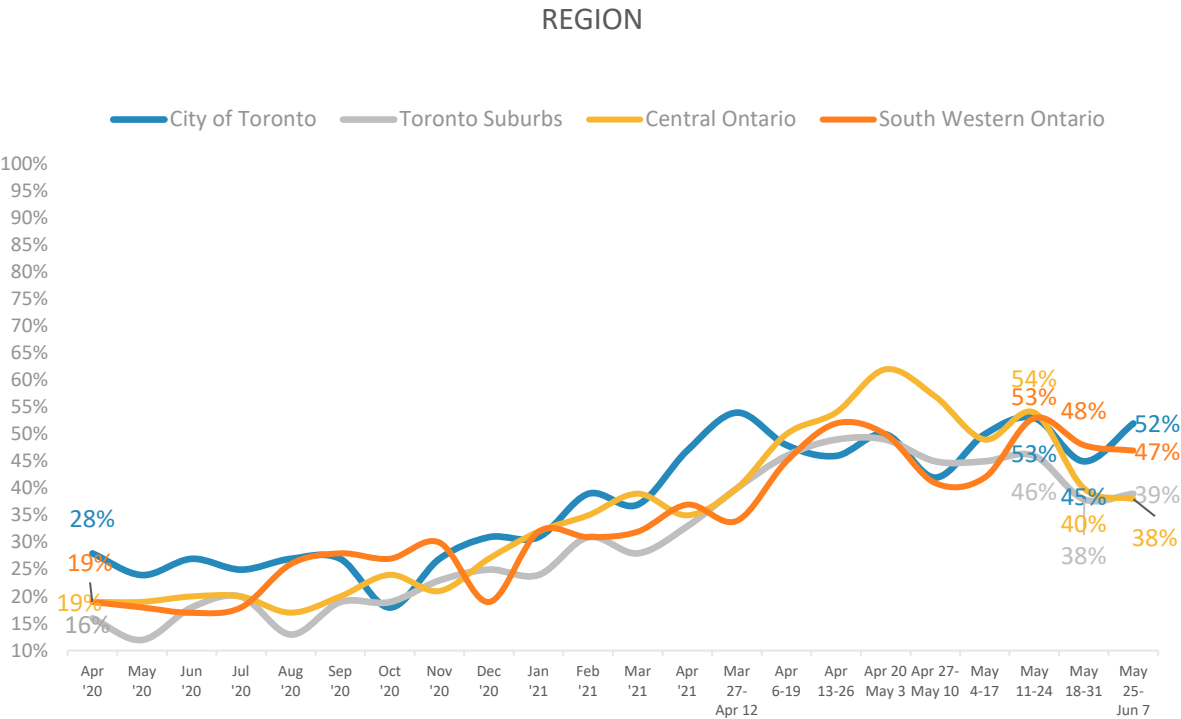


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 increased in the City of Toronto while remaining stable in the other regions. Scores increased this week among those making >\$100k while declining among those making <\$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



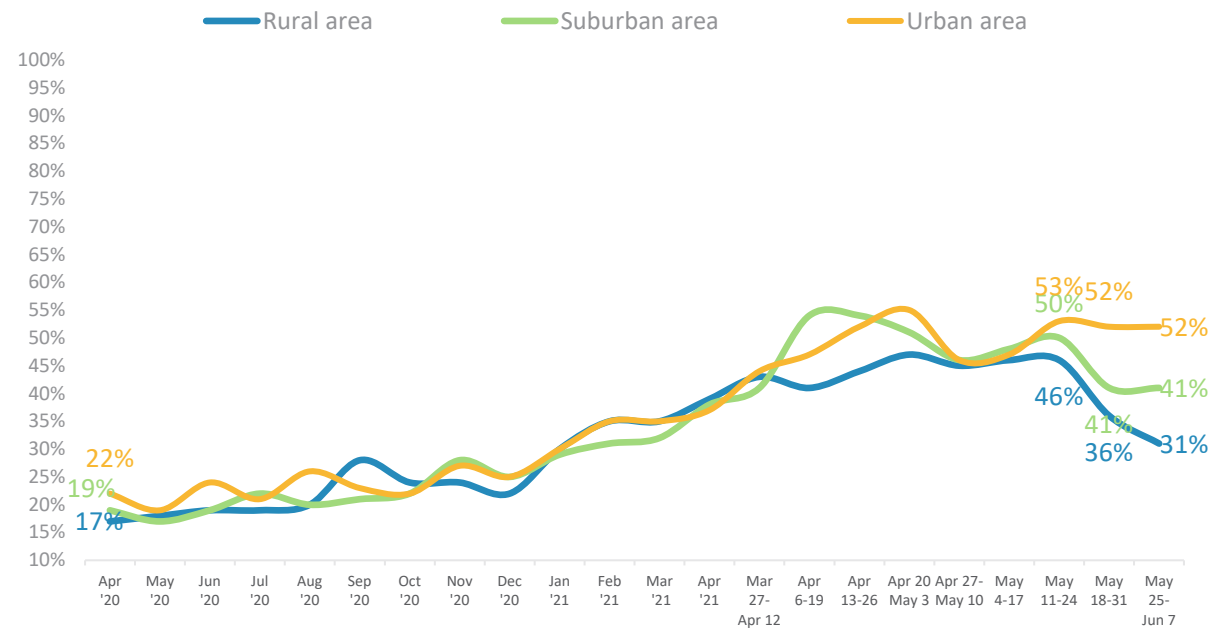
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

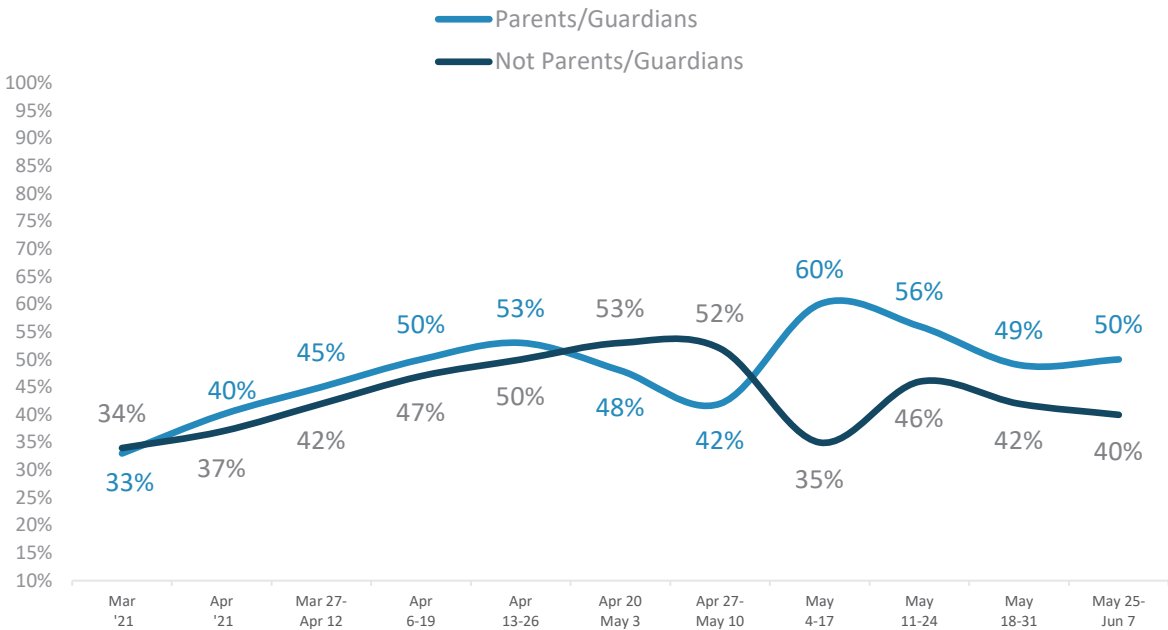
‘Wrong track’ scores declined again this week in rural areas while remaining unchanged in both suburban and urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

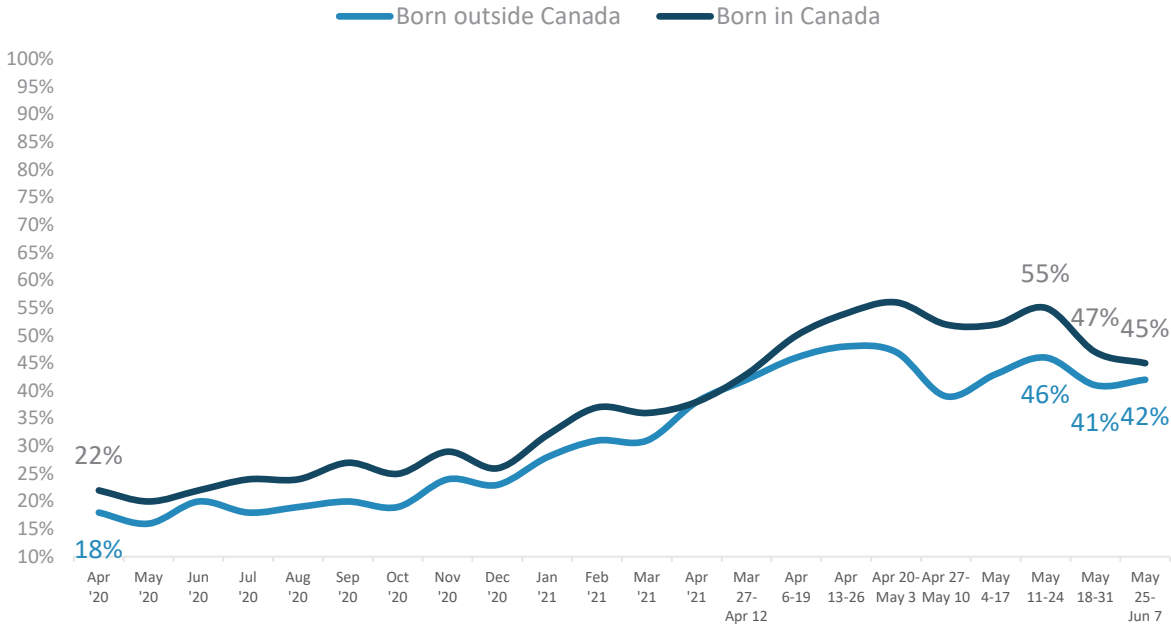


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

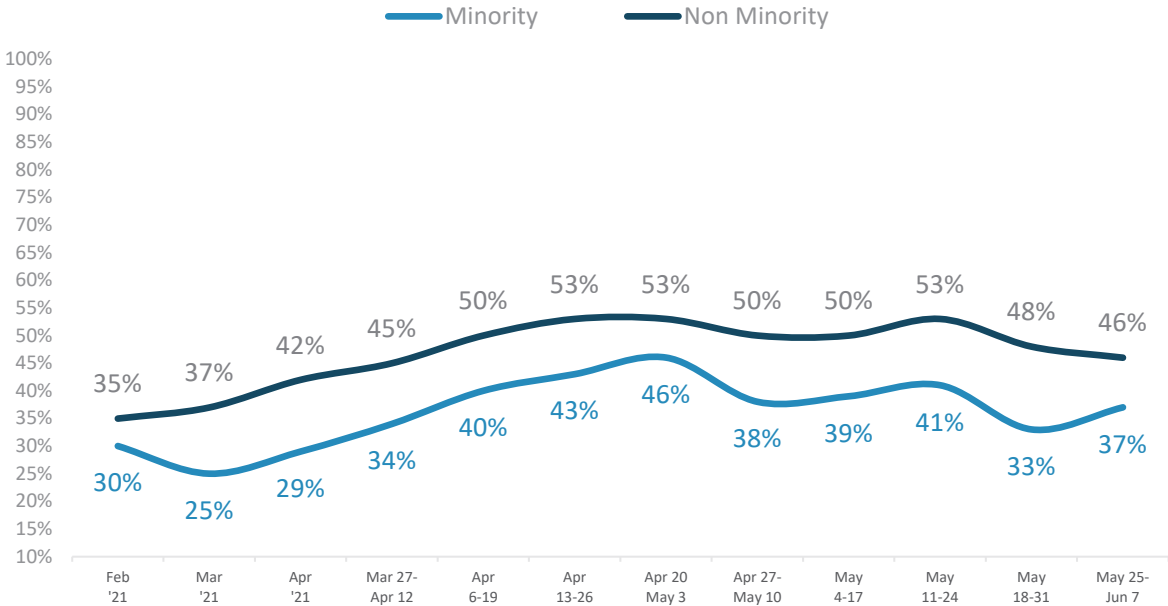
‘Wrong track’ scores continue to trend down among those born in Canada as well as among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



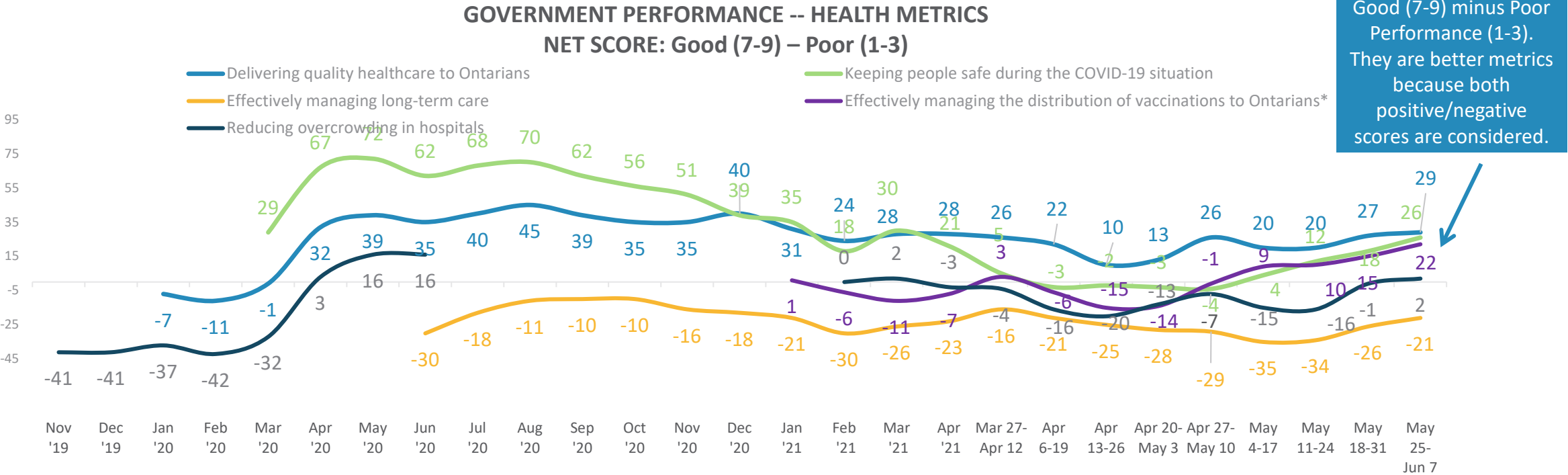
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Positive ratings on ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ continues to trend upward increasing 36-points over the past five weeks. Plus, ‘keeping people safe during COVID-19’ has increased 30-points over four weeks.

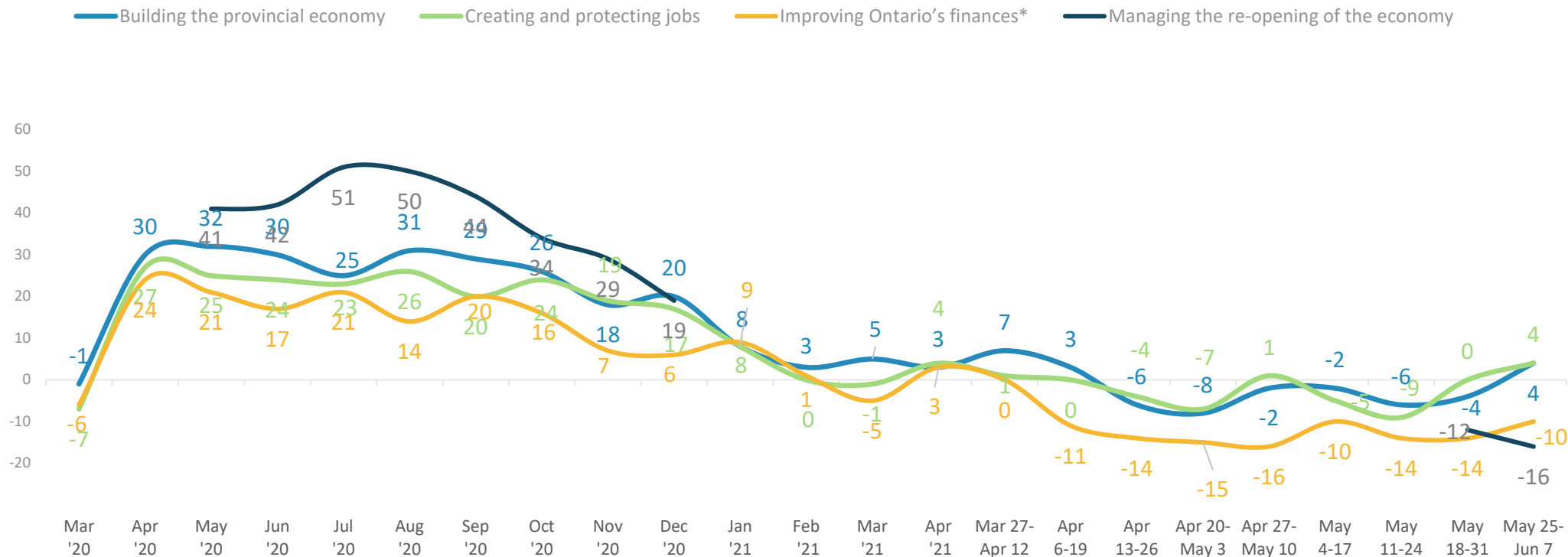
- While remaining the lowest rated health metric, improvements continued this week in the rating for ‘effectively managing long-term care’ with a 14-point increase measured over three weeks.
- Results for ‘delivering quality healthcare’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ remained steady.



Q5. Using a scale 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

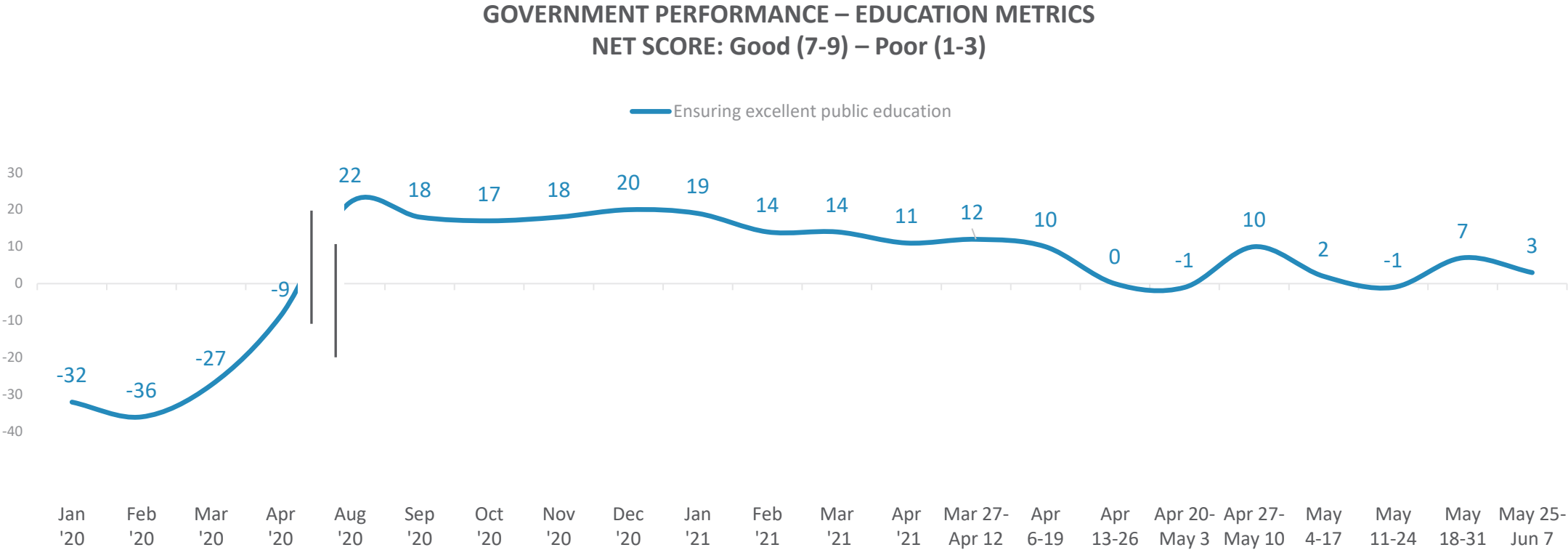
Ratings of the government’s performance improved on most economic/government spending metrics, except ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ which declined slightly. Rating of this metric is below 2020 results, suggesting that more work needs to occur on this front.

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



Q5. Using a scale 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 slightly this week but remains a positive score.



Q5. Using a scale 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

SUPPORT FOR THE GRADUAL RE-OPENING OF THE ECONOMY



Support for the government’s plan for a gradual 3-stage approach to reopening the Ontario economy declined this week and remains below support measured a year ago.

- That said, seven-in-ten (69%) Ontarians support this phased approach.

	May '20
n=	1259
	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	87
Strongly support	42
Somewhat support	45
Somewhat oppose	5
Strongly oppose	4
TOTAL OPPOSE	9

	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	78	69
Very supportive	25	26
Somewhat supportive	53	43
Somewhat opposed	11	11
Strongly opposed	10	18
TOTAL OPPOSE	21	29

QCV-47b. The provincial government announced a gradual re-opening plan which involves a 3-stage approach, each lasting 2 to 4 weeks long and the length of each stage being determined by health indicators such as vaccine rollout, hospitalization incidences and severity of COVID 19 in the province. Overall do you support or oppose this overall approach?

QCV-47. This plan involves a 3 stage approach, each lasting 2 to 4 weeks long and the length of each stage being determined by medical indicators of the incidence and severity of COVID 19 in the province. Overall do you support or oppose this overall approach?

Base: Total sample

There has also been a decline in agreement that the government’s gradual and careful reopening has been the right approach compared to the process in the United States. Results are lower than results from the summer of 2020.

Ontario’s gradual and careful re-opening has been the right approach compared to the more rapid opening process in the United States.

	Jul '20	Aug '20
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	92	90
Strongly agree	74	71
Somewhat agree	18	19
Neither agree nor disagree	2	3
Somewhat disagree	3	2
Strongly disagree	3	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	5	5

Ontario’s gradual and careful re-opening has been the right approach compared to the more rapid opening process in many US states

May 25-31	Jun 1-7
varies	
%	%
74	67
33	39
40	28
5	3
9	12
11	15
20	26

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, bases vary

While almost two-thirds (64%) of Ontarians agree that the government should continue to be cautious and not open sports facilities to spectators, agreement declined over the week.

	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	Varies	
	%	%
Some people say it is time for the Ontario government to stop being so cautious and allow spectators into sports facilities.	25	32
Other people say that the Ontario government should continue to be cautious and not open up sports facilities to spectators.	71	64
Don't know/not sure	4	4

QCV-205. (204) As you may know, in many US states, spectators are being allowed back into sports arenas and other sports facilities and this is not yet happening in Ontario. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own

Base: Total sample, base varies

Most Ontarians believe the government should start loosening restrictions and reopening things that have been closed down – about 67% believe the opening process should be underway by mid-June. A declining percentage of Ontarians think the re-opening should be delayed.

	Jun 1-7
n=	250
	%
Immediately	26
In the next two weeks	24
Mid June	17
End of June	17
July sometime	9
In a few months	5
Don't know/not sure	2

QCV-206. 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

HAVING AN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR RECOVERY



There are signs that the landscape may be changing. This week, there has been a shift to half (52%) of Ontarians who think the government’s focus in the coming months should be on economic-related issues surrounding COVID-19, a 16-point increase compared to a week ago.

- That said, it is important to note that over the past three weeks those who see the government on the ‘right track’ think the government should remain focused on health issues, while those who see the government on the ‘wrong track’ feel the government should focus on economic issues.
- This suggests that the public opinion landscape is shifting.

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
It should focus on health-related issues surrounding COVID-19, including minimizing increases in the number of cases and accelerating the vaccine rollout.	50	50	39
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	36	52
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	11	8

	Right Track	Wrong Track
May 18 th - June 7 th		
N=784		
Focus on health	51%	41%
Focus on economic	38%	48%

Ontarians continue to want to hear more about the government’s plans for economic recovery, with over 8-in-10 agreeing with this.

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

	Jun '20
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	95
Strongly agree	73
Somewhat agree	22
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Somewhat disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1
TOTAL DISAGREE	3

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

May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
varies		
%	%	%
80	84	83
55	50	56
25	34	27
7	10	3
5	3	9
6	2	4
11	5	13

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

There has also been an increase to 84% of Ontarians who agree that it’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery. This compares to 36% 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

	Jun '20	Jul '20
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	36	35
Strongly agree	14	15
Somewhat agree	21	20
Neither agree nor disagree	7	7
Somewhat disagree	24	25
Strongly disagree	32	31
TOTAL DISAGREE	56	56

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

May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
varies		
%	%	%
70	72	84
39	32	56
31	41	28
4	6	8
15	15	5
10	5	3
25	20	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

However, just over half (56%) of 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	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	59	49	56
Strongly agree	28	19	22
Somewhat agree	32	30	34
Neither agree nor disagree	10	12	12
Somewhat disagree	19	19	19
Strongly disagree	10	15	9
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	34	29

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

Base: Total sample

Despite wanting to see an economic plan, 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

	Jun '20
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	79
Strongly agree	46
Somewhat agree	33
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	5
TOTAL DISAGREE	16

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

May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
varies		
%	%	%
91	87	94
66	65	64
25	22	30
1	3	1
3	9	3
5	-	2
8	9	5

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

FINANCIAL
WELL-BEING OF
ONTARIANS



FAMILY’S PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION OVER THE LAST YEAR

Just over half (57%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’, with only 8% saying it is ‘poor/very poor’

- And, those who see the government on the ‘right track’ tend to see their personal financial situation in a much more positive light than those who see the government on the ‘wrong track’.

	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	52	59	56	57
Excellent	11	17	16	17
Good	41	43	40	40
Fair	34	29	29	34
Poor	9	8	12	6
Very poor	4	4	3	2
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	13	12	14	8

	Right Track	Wrong Track
	May 18- Jun 7	
Excellent/Good	65%	49%

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 under half (46%) report their family’s financial situation stayed the same over the past year, while about one-third (37%) indicate their financial situation worsened.

	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	13	19	10	16
Improve a great deal	2	4	1	2
Improve somewhat	11	14	9	14
Stay the same	56	53	54	46
Worsen somewhat	22	22	29	29
Worsen a great deal	7	6	6	7
TOTAL WORSEN	30	29	35	37

	Right Track	Wrong Track
	May 18-Jun 7	
NET Improve	17%	14%
NET Worsen	29%	36%

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

Ontarians are optimistic about the future: 58% anticipate their financial situation will be ‘excellent/good’ over the next year, while only 10% think it will be ‘poor/very poor’.

- Again, those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are much more positive about the future financial situation, while those who see it on the ‘wrong track’ are much less positive.

	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	50	60	56	58
Excellent	12	14	10	10
Good	38	47	46	49
Fair	36	28	33	32
Poor	9	5	8	9
Very poor	2	2	2	1
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	11	8	10	10

	Right Track	Wrong Track
	May 18-Jun 7	
Excellent/Good	65%	51%

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



Over the past six weeks, there has been shift away from the negative ratings being given to the government (from 51% saying net ‘poor’ to 35% having this view) . At the same time, there has been an increase in the positive ratings.

- Those giving the government a ‘fair’ score (35%) has also risen in recent weeks.

	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	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	varies																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	51	44	36	38	35	35	32	35	31	23	18	21	19	25	24	25	29	30
Excellent	4	7	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	4	7	2	3	5	8
Good	47	36	28	33	30	30	27	31	28	20	16	18	15	18	21	22	24	22
Fair	33	33	37	34	38	40	38	34	28	31	36	29	29	27	32	36	37	35
Poor	12	13	13	18	18	14	21	19	21	24	22	26	27	30	18	22	17	22
Very poor	5	9	12	9	8	11	9	11	16	21	23	24	24	18	25	18	16	13
TOTAL POOR/VERY POOR	16	22	25	27	26	25	29	30	38	45	45	50	51	48	43	39	33	35

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 (32%) is the most cited reason for causing the increase in infection cases leading to a wave 3 of COVID-19. As well, 1-in-5 believe it was the emergence of a variety of COVID variants or the timing of restrictions limiting social contact.

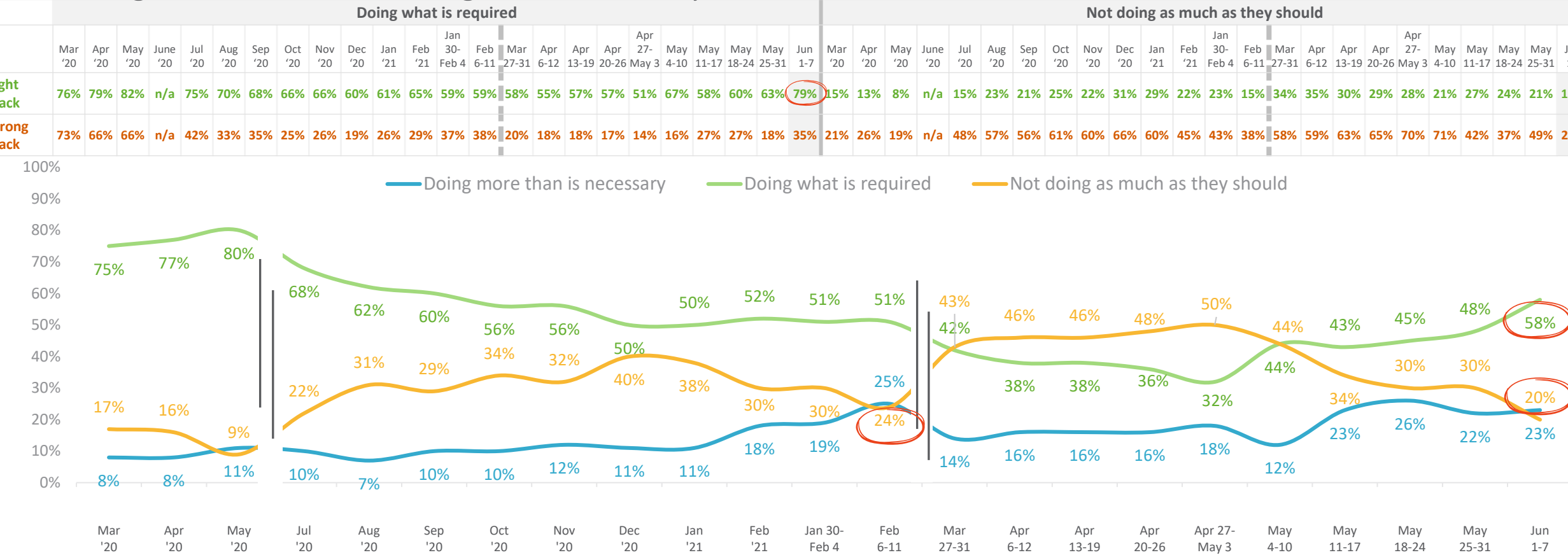
	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29	36	28	28	32
The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23	21	19	20	18
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16	11	20	18	18
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13	15	14	14	15
Infections introduced into Ontario by interprovincial travelers	6	6	6	4	4
All of these	4	4	6	7	6
Don't know/not sure	9	8	7	10	7

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



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Results continue to trend upward to 58% who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus, a 10-point increase over the week. There was also a 10-point decline to 20% of Ontarians who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’.



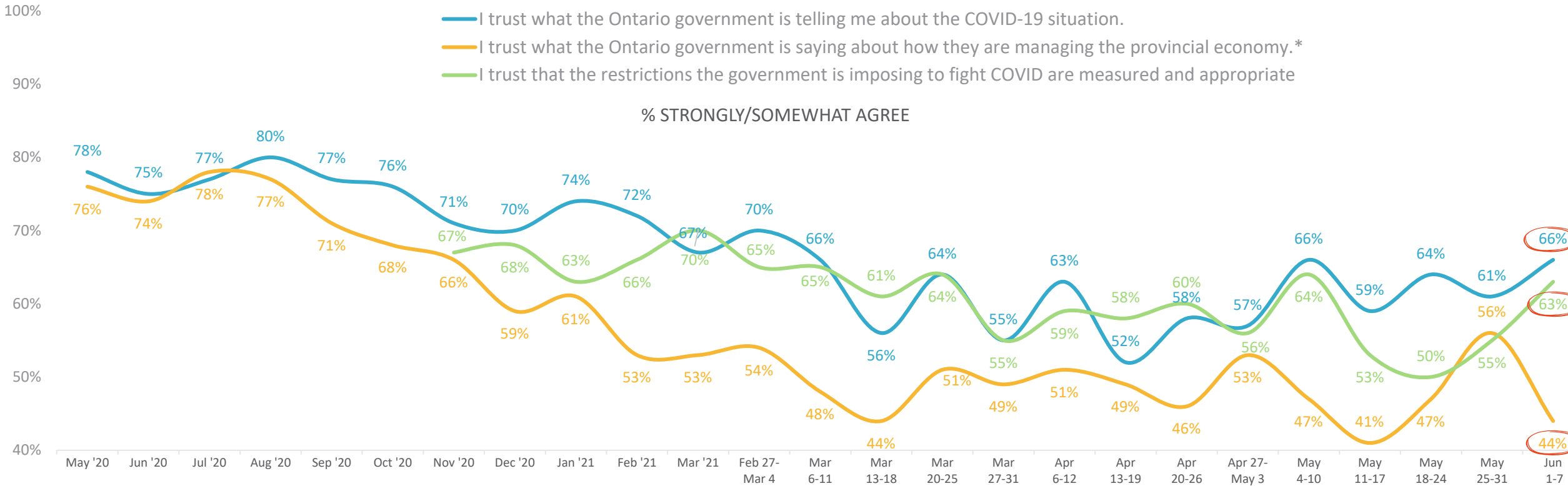
QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring 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 ...

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



Increases measured last week for trust in the government’s communications about COVID-19 regarding ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ were reversed this week.

- However, there was increases for trust in both ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and that ‘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

After remaining steady for several weeks, there was an increase to 56% of Ontarians agreeing 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	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
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	41	56
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17	29	24	29	23	24	31
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22	17	18	16	18	17	25
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	6	6
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17	16	19	16	22	19	18
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38	30	30	29	27	31	18
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55	46	50	45	49	50	37

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



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

Possibly connected to the expansion of appointments for second vaccine doses and that children aged 12-17 are now receiving the vaccine, fully seven-in-ten (70%) Ontarians believe we are over the worst of COVID-19.

I believe that we are over the worst of COVID-19

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70
Strongly agree	22	25	30
Somewhat agree	31	35	40
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12
Strongly disagree	14	12	8
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20

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

Base: Total sample

Ontarians also feel that the threat of contracting the virus has declined. This week, almost eight-in-ten (77%) Ontarians believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago – up 51-points since the beginning of May.

% 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	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
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	69	77

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

ONLY LEAVING HOME TO GO TO THE GROCERY STORE AND PHARMACY

Six-in-ten (63%) Ontarians again this week 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	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
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	59	63
Strongly agree	62	57	56	52	51	51	54	59	63	52	47	48	36	56	40	48	50	55	47	58	46	32	38	43
Somewhat agree	16	20	20	20	13	14	14	16	13	18	20	10	26	21	14	18	15	13	13	13	19	25	22	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	-	8	2
Somewhat disagree	8	10	11	6	6	7	11	4	7	10	9	20	12	5	19	13	8	12	13	11	18	11	17	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	13	23
TOTAL DISAGREE	16	19	18	24	23	29	23	14	17	17	25	32	30	15	42	26	28	27	33	22	29	43	30	34

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

Base: Total sample

Seven-in-ten (68%) also ‘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	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86	85	92	87	92	85	61	86	83
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70	70	81	73	79	68	43	62	68
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16	15	11	15	13	17	19	23	15
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2	4	1	3	-	2	13	2	2
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4	6	2	4	5	6	9	6	5
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7	4	3	6	3	6	9	5	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11	10	6	9	7	12	17	11	15

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

There continues to be confidence that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, with 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	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
varies																							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68	55	52	48	66	77	70	79	70
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19	20	25	32	35	36	39
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34	28	41	46	35	43	31
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10	6	10	5	4	3	7
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22	22	7	9	13	10	13
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16	22	16	8	10	8	10
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37	44	22	17	22	18	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 increased this week to 56%.

- It is worth noting that parents are the least likely (48%) to support this action.

	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support this action	64	64	60	49	50	56
Do not support this action	32	32	34	44	41	41
Not applicable	1	1	<1	2	<1	<1
Not sure/Don't know	3	4	5	5	9	3

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

However, six-in-ten (59%) Ontarians continue to 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, while 37% oppose the action.

- Just over 6-in-10 parents support this action to re-open schools after June 2nd.

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	56	59	59
Strongly support	29	31	37
Somewhat support	27	28	22
Somewhat oppose	17	14	13
Strongly oppose	24	24	24
TOTAL OPPOSE	41	38	37
Don't know/not sure	3	3	3

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

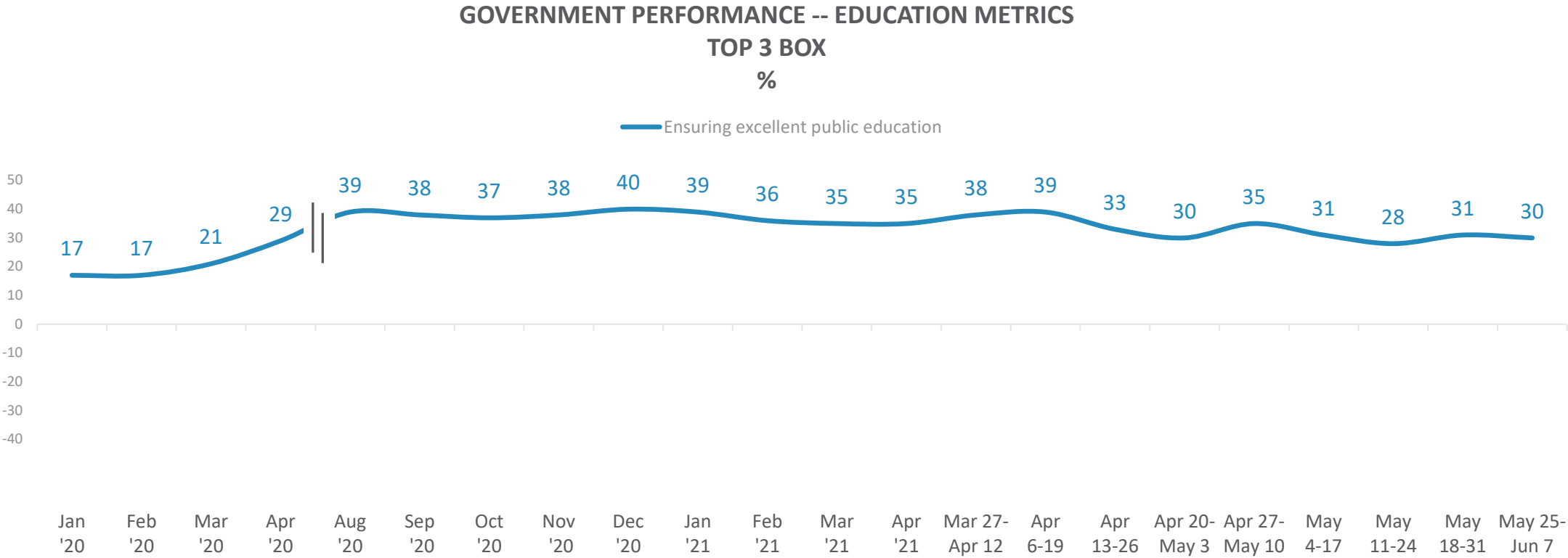
And, about six-in-ten (58%) parents/guardians with children in junior kindergarten to grade 12 are likely to send their child back to school if they re-open in June, down slightly compared to previous results.

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7
n=	81	92	95
	%	%	%
TOTAL LIKELY	64	64	58
Very likely	51	58	49
Somewhat likely	13	6	9
Not very likely	15	10	8
Not at all likely	20	26	33
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	35	36	41
Don't know/not sure	1	-	1

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

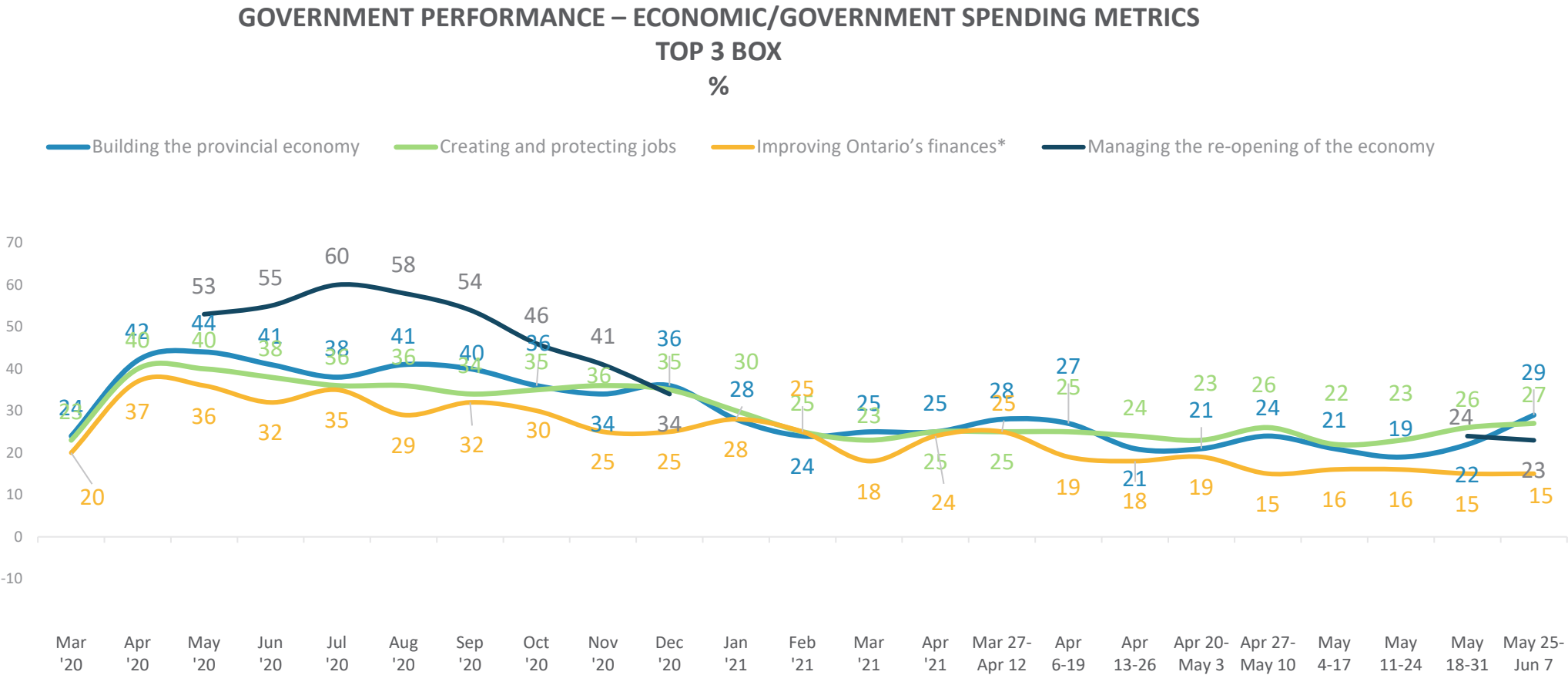


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained relatively unchanged again this week.



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

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on economic/government spending metrics remained unchanged this week with the exception of an increase for ‘building the provincial economy’.

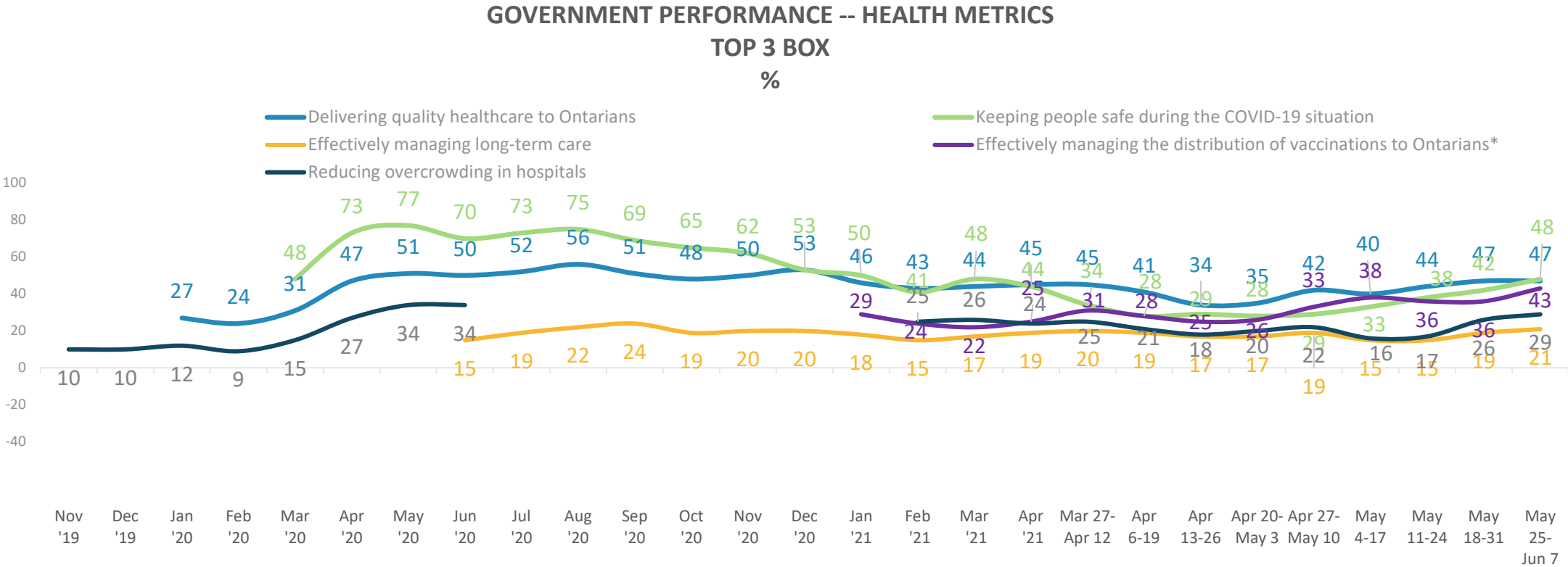


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

Bases vary

After remaining unchanged last week, there was an improvement measured in positive perceptions of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccines’. There was also an increase for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’.



Q5. Using a scale 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