

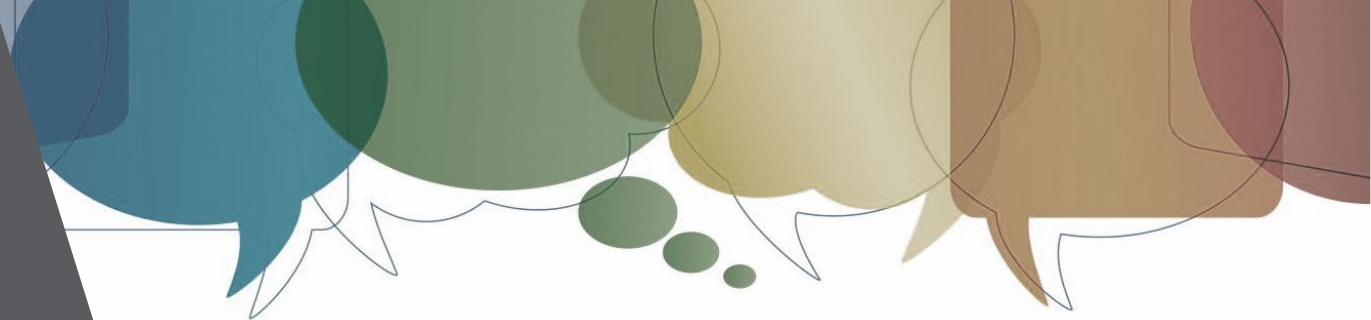


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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #85

CABINET OFFICE

June 15th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1

This week, the 'right track' score is at 51% having ranged from 48% to 60% over the past several weeks.

'Right track' scores are strongest among those aged 65+ while remaining weakest among those aged 35-44 (and trending down).

In both the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario 'right track' scores have declined, while remaining relatively unchanged in the other regions. And, 'right track' scores continued to trend down this week among those making \$100k+.

3

After a dip last week, support for the government's plan for a gradual 3-stage approach to reopening the Ontario economy increased to 80%. However, intensity of support remains below that measured a year ago.

There has also been an increase in agreement that the government's gradual and careful reopening has been the right approach compared to the process in the United States. However, results remain lower than those measured in the summer of 2020 especially in terms of intensity of agreement.

2

Confidence continues to grow that the end of the pandemic is nearer. Positive ratings on 'effectively managing vaccinations' continues to trend upward increasing 46-points over the past six weeks and is now the highest rated health metric.

Ontarians also feel that the threat of contracting the virus has declined. This week, fully eight-in-ten (80%) Ontarians believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago – up 54-points since the beginning of May.

4

Three-quarters (76%) of Ontarians agree that it's time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery: 40-points higher than a year ago.

Ontarians also continue to want to hear more about the government's plans for economic recovery, with three-quarters (76%) agreeing with this.

However, there is uncertainty whether the Ontario government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with almost equal numbers believing the government doesn't have a plan (44%) as believing they do (40%).

Key Findings

Importantly, ratings of the government's performance for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' continued to trend down this week (to NET -19) remaining well below 2020 results. 'Creating and protecting jobs' also declined, down 7-points and returning to negative results.

Trust in the government's communications about COVID-19 regarding 'how they are managing the provincial economy' also declined again this week and is now at the lowest level since tracking began.

These metrics highlight areas for the government to review.

And, early results suggest that Ontarians are more inclined to support the reopening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel at this point compared to last summer and fall. The intensity of this support is much stronger as well.

On a positive note, as the vaccine rollout picks up, Ontarians appear to be wanting to spend money. Presently, 33% say they will be spending more money this year. This is higher than a year ago when only 15% indicated that they anticipated spending more.

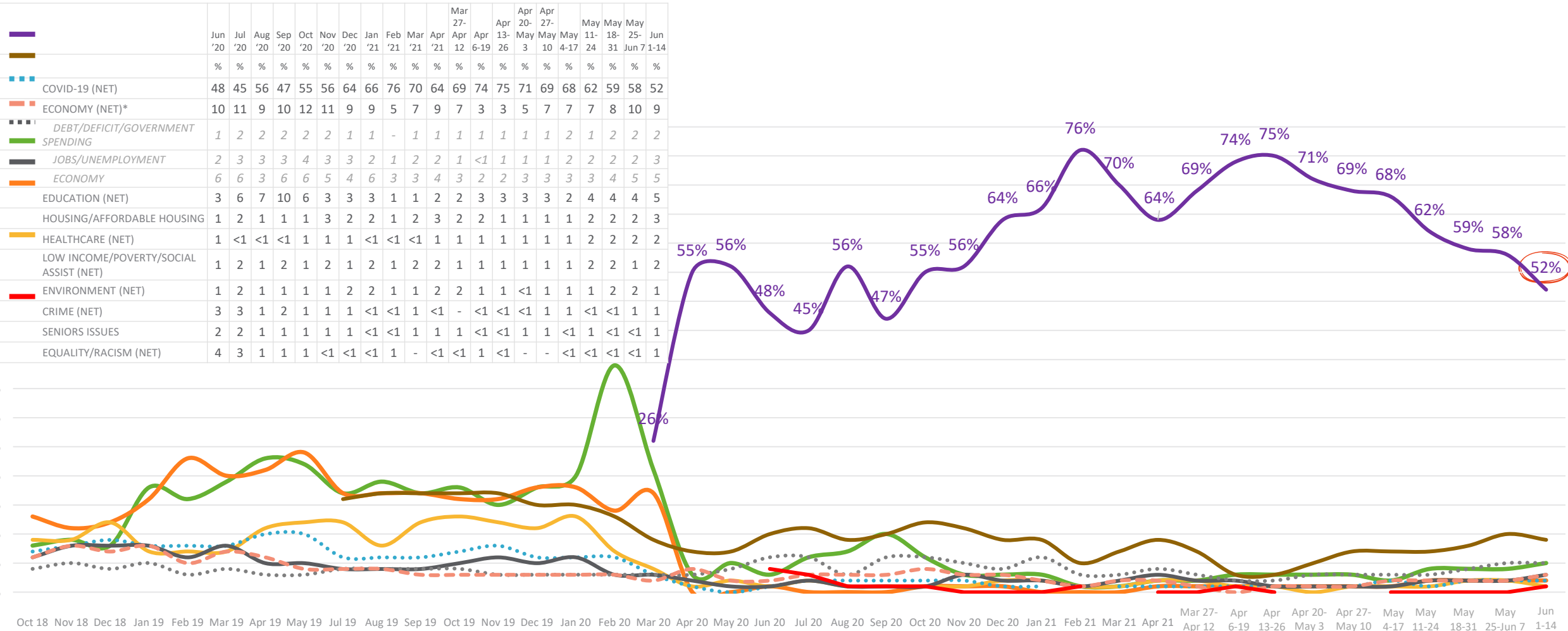
Compared to a previous results, fewer indicate they will be spending less than they normally would (19% now compared to 36%-48% in the summer of 2020).

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

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



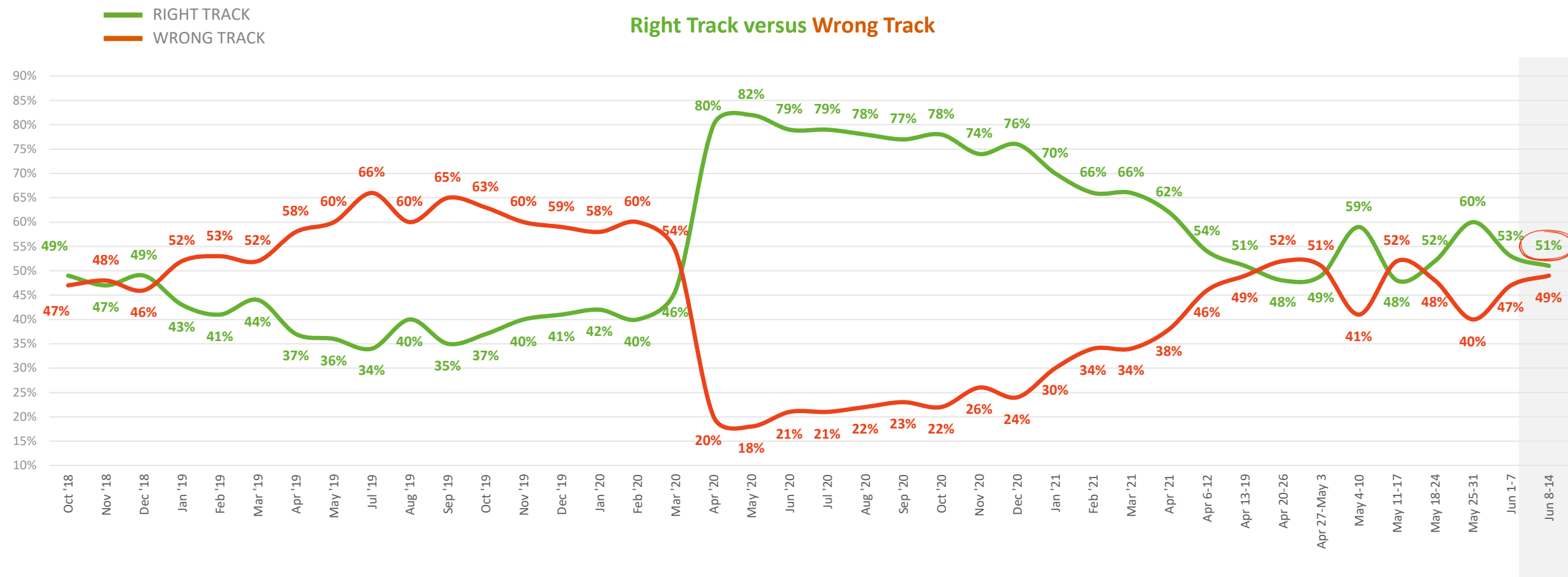
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

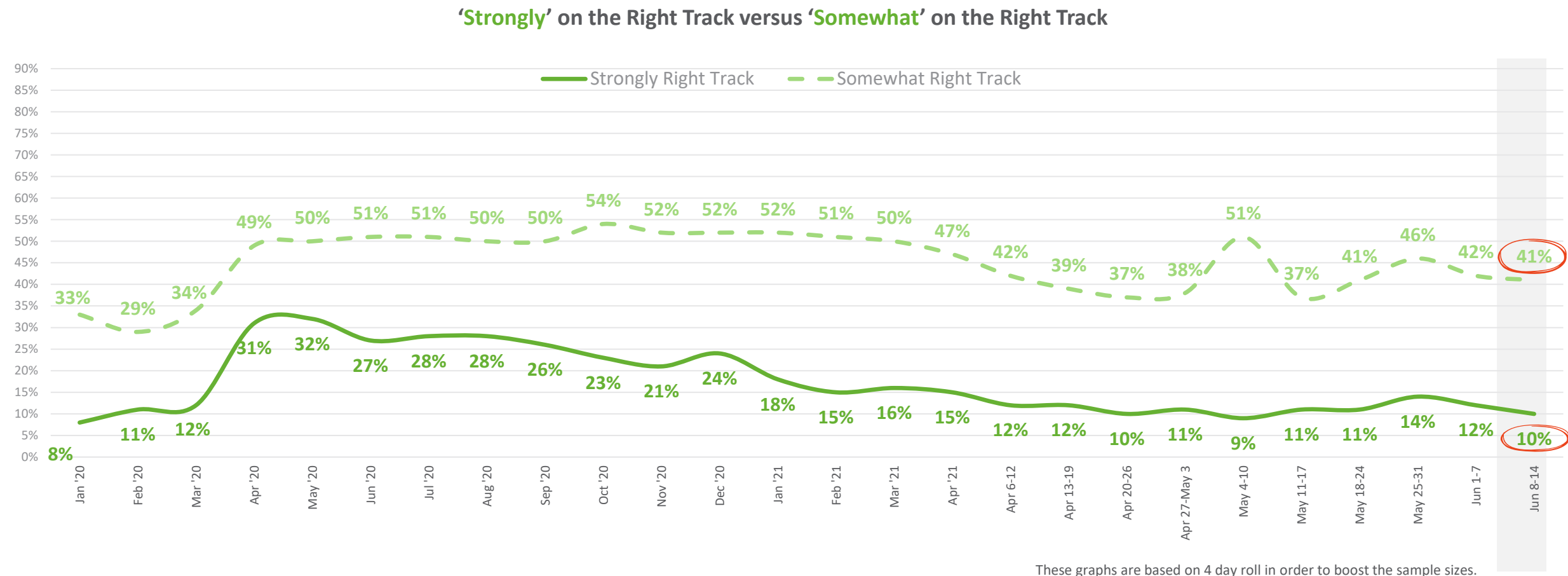


This week, the ‘right track’ score is at 51% having ranged from 48% to 60% over the past several weeks.



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

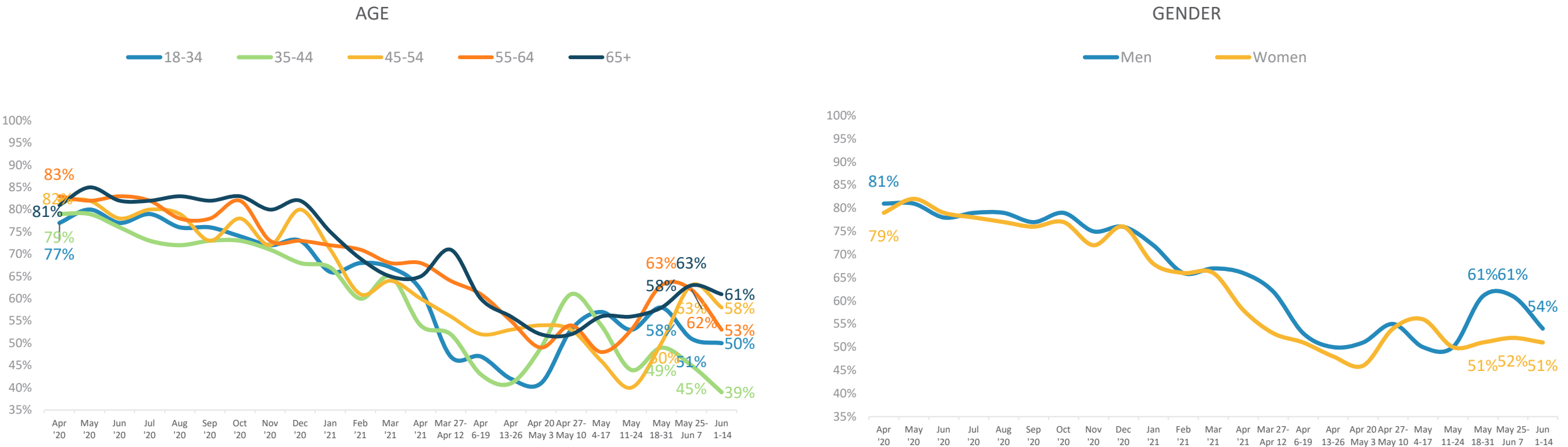
The proportion of Ontarians who see the government as ‘strongly on the right track’ or ‘somewhat on the right track’ remains relatively unchanged this week.



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

‘Right track’ scores are closer to parity among men and women after a decline measured among men this week. ‘Right track’ scores are strongest among those aged 65+ while remaining weakest among those aged 35-44 (and trending down).

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

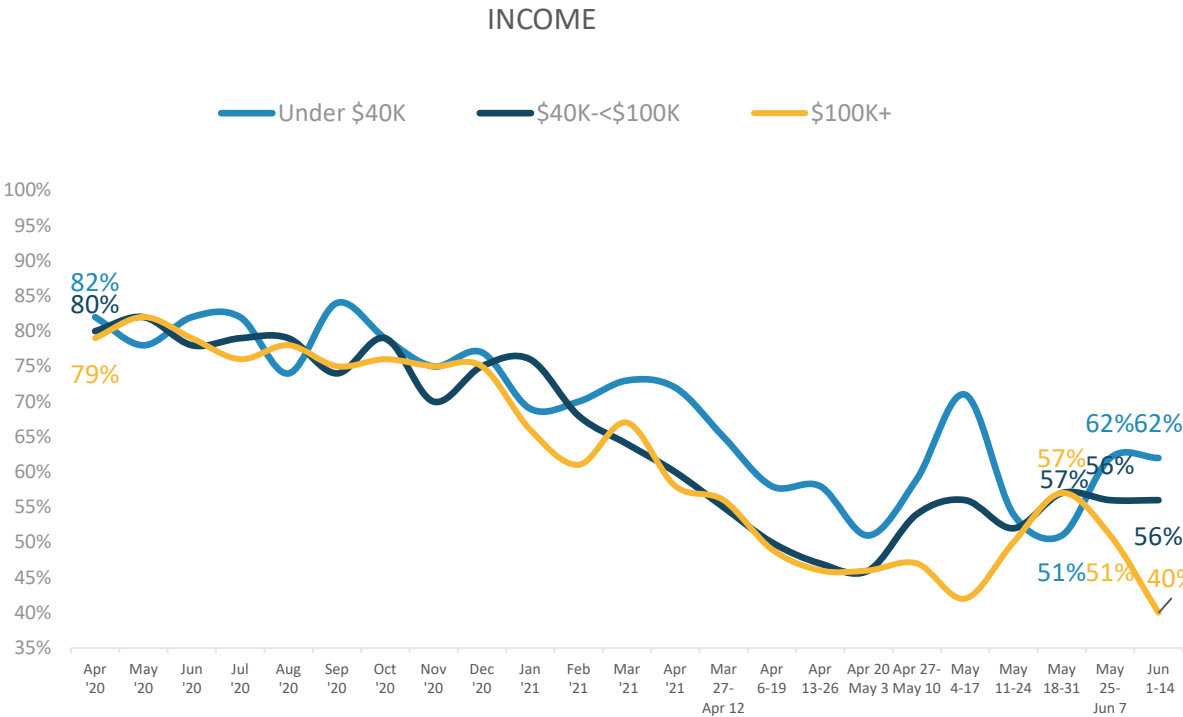
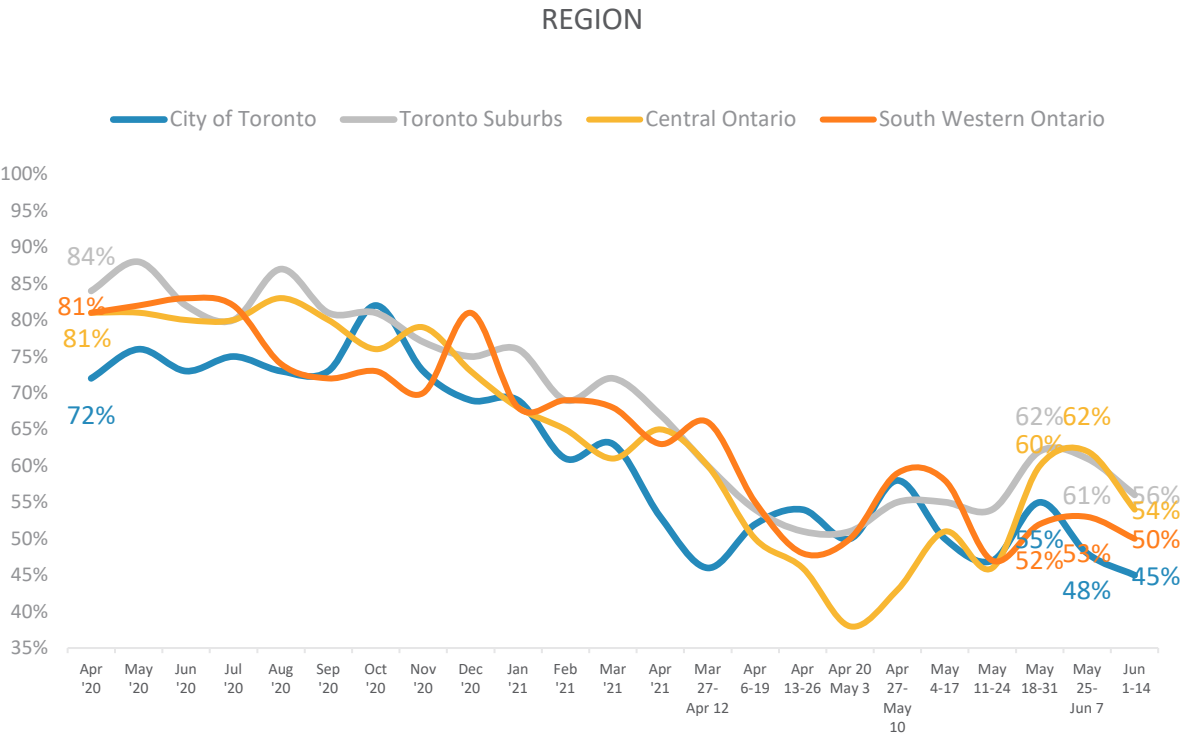


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 have declined in both the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario, while remaining relatively unchanged in the other regions. And, ‘right track’ scores continued to trend down this week among those making \$100k+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



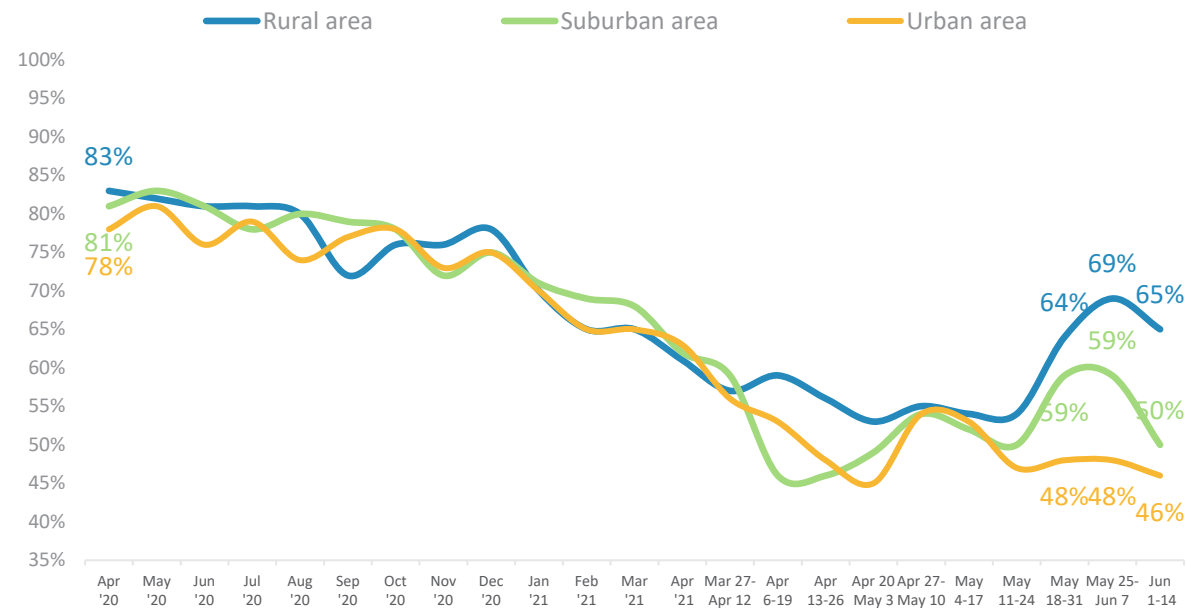
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

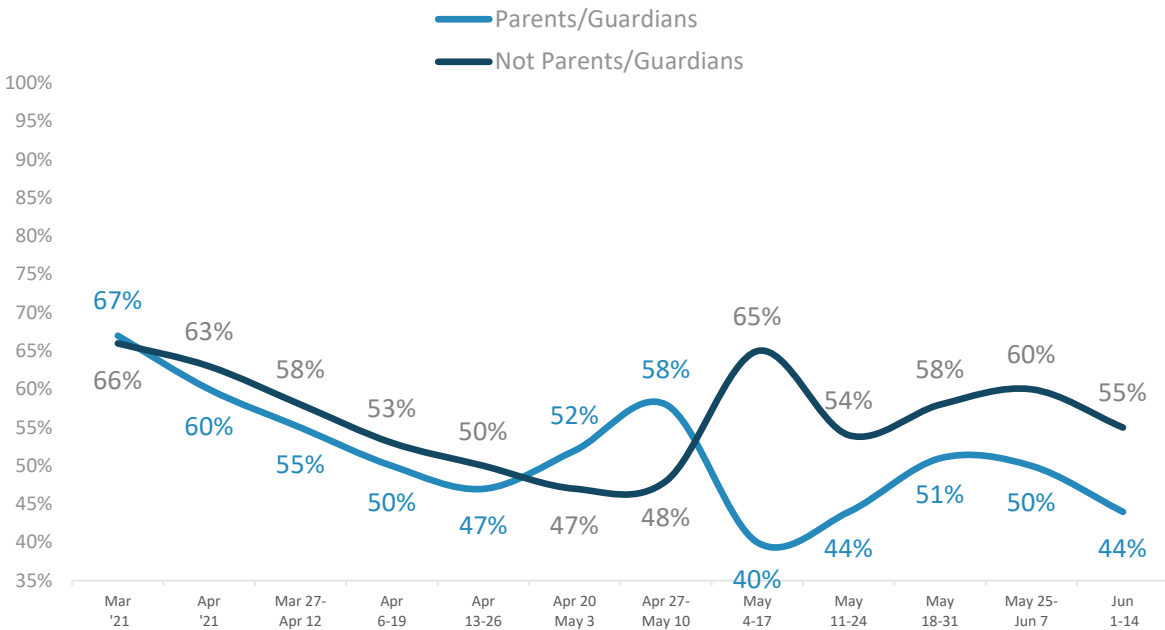
‘Right track’ scores remain highest in rural areas. However, after remaining unchanged for the past two weeks, ‘right track’ scores declined in suburban areas this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



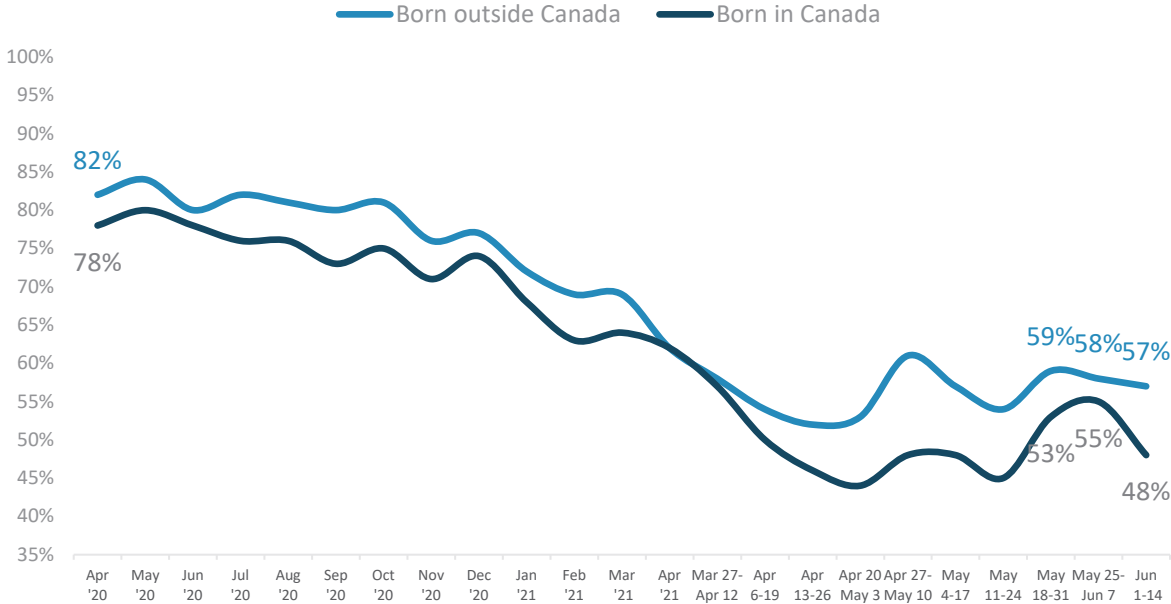
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

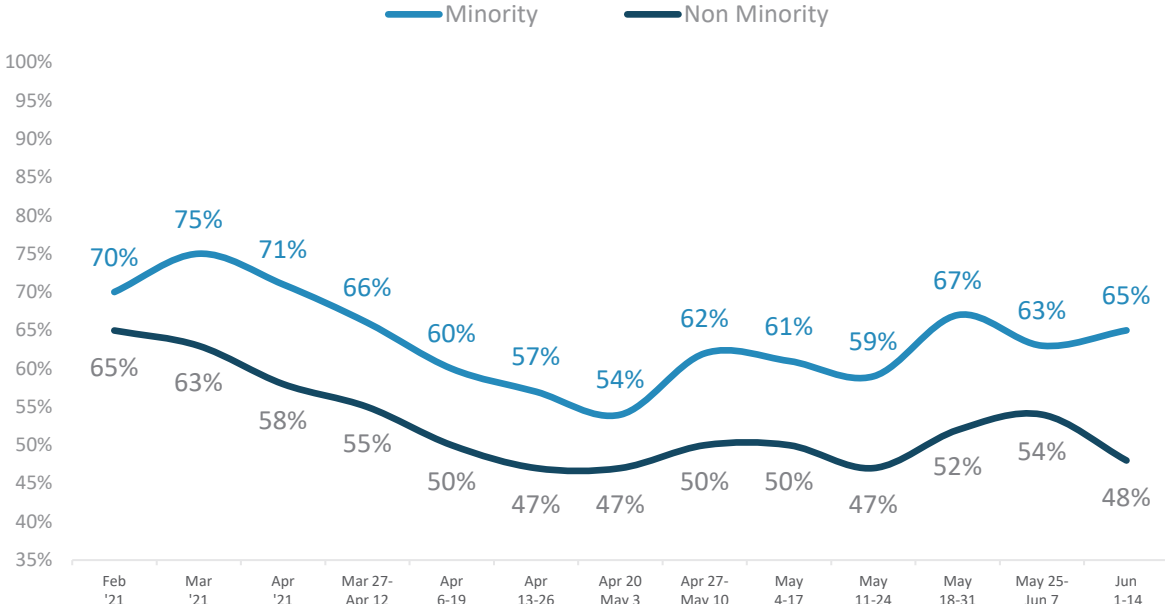
There were also declines in ‘right track’ scores among those born in Canada and non-minorities, after improvements were measured over previous weeks.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

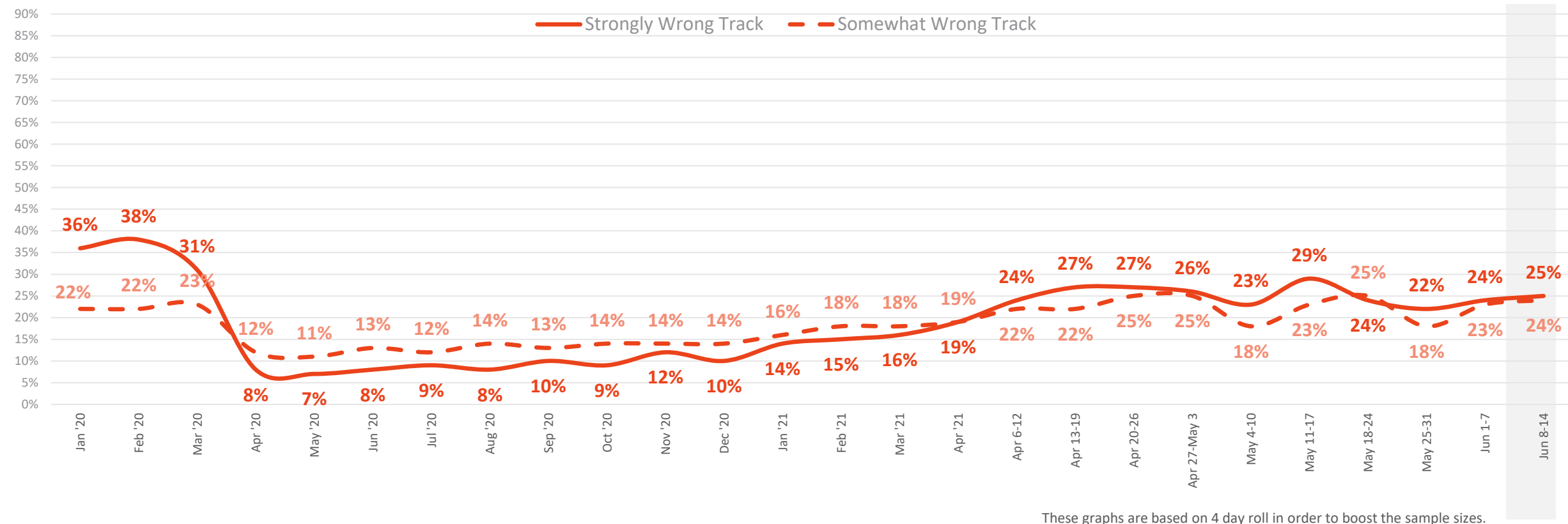


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The proportion who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’ or ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ remained stable this week at 25% and 24%, respectively.

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

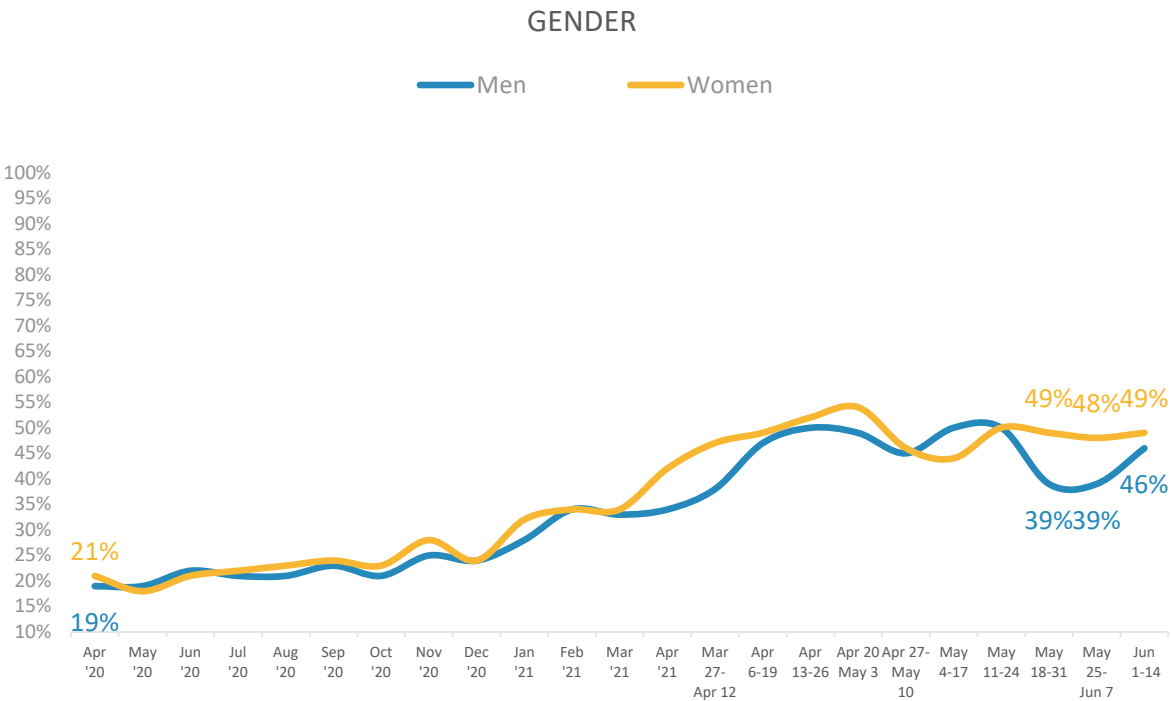
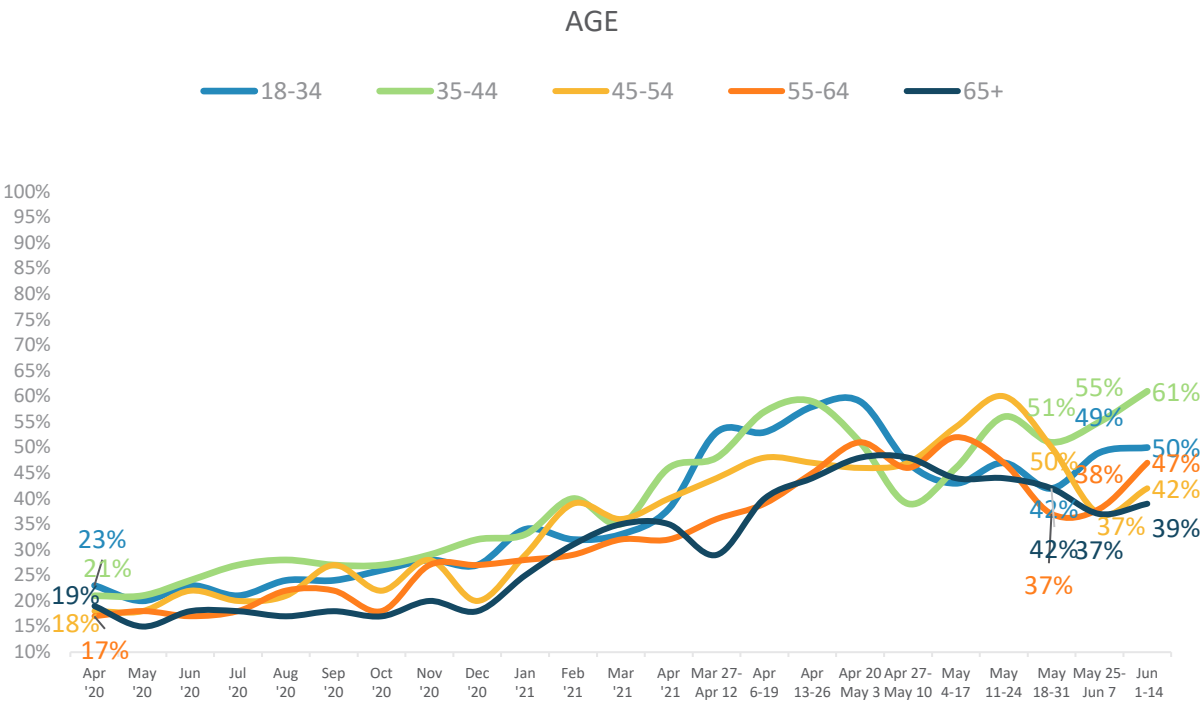


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 are highest among those aged 35-44 (and trending upward) and lowest among Ontarians aged 65+. While remaining unchanged among women, there was an increase in ‘wrong track’ scores measured among men this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

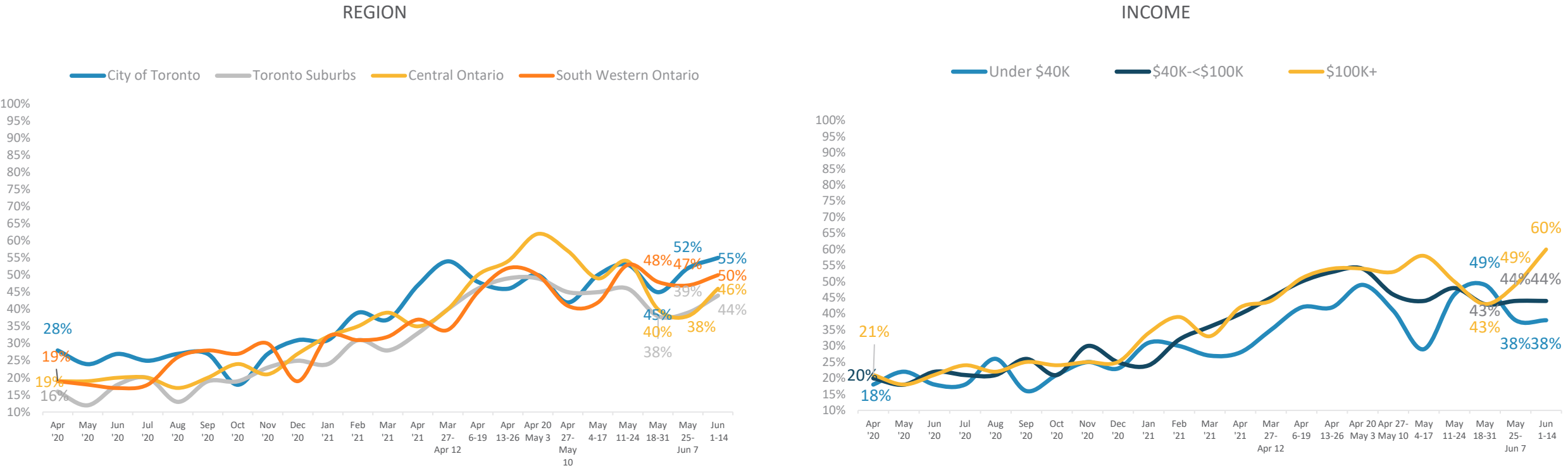


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Wrong track' scores increased in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario this week. And, while remaining unchanged among those making >\$100k, there was an increase again this week among Ontarians making \$100k+.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



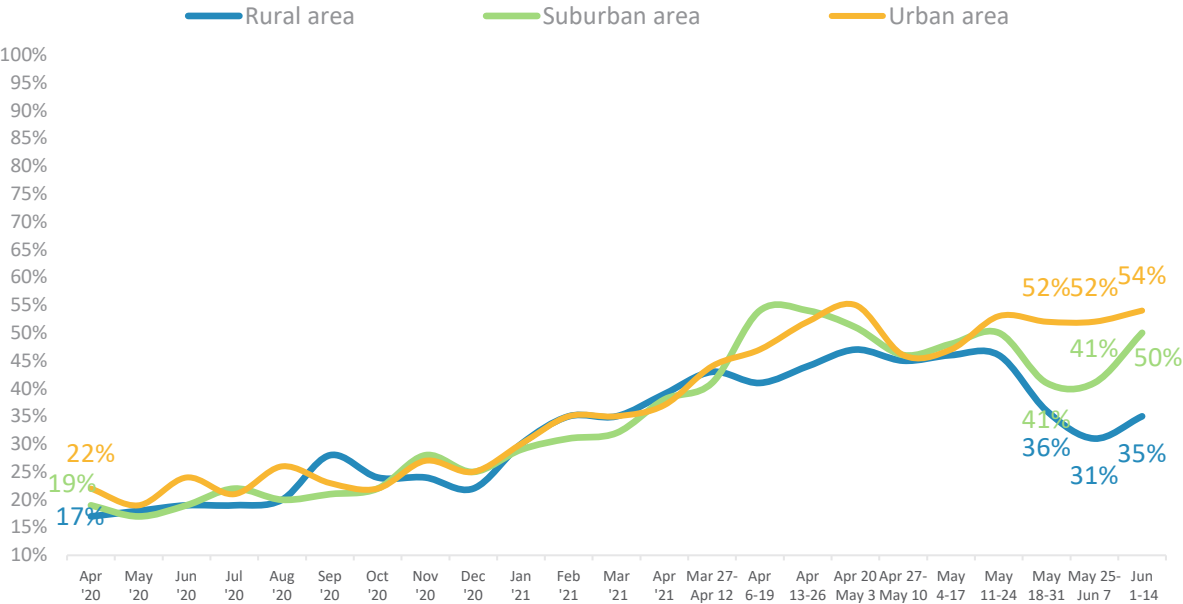
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

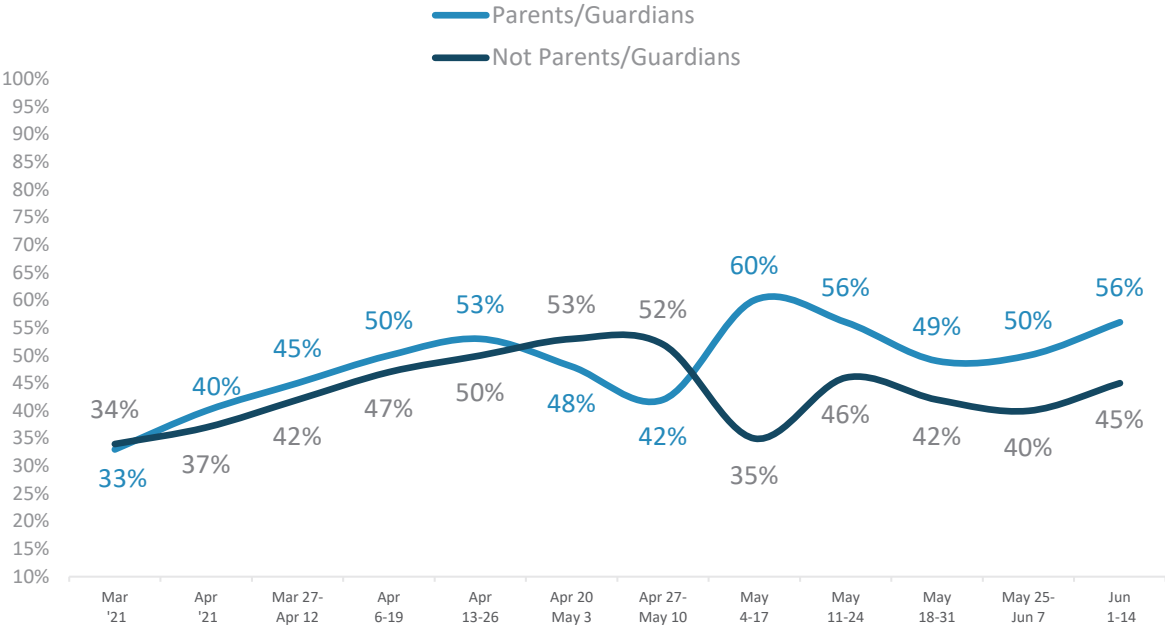
‘Wrong track’ scores remain highest in urban areas with an increase measured this week in suburban areas after remaining unchanged the previous two weeks.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

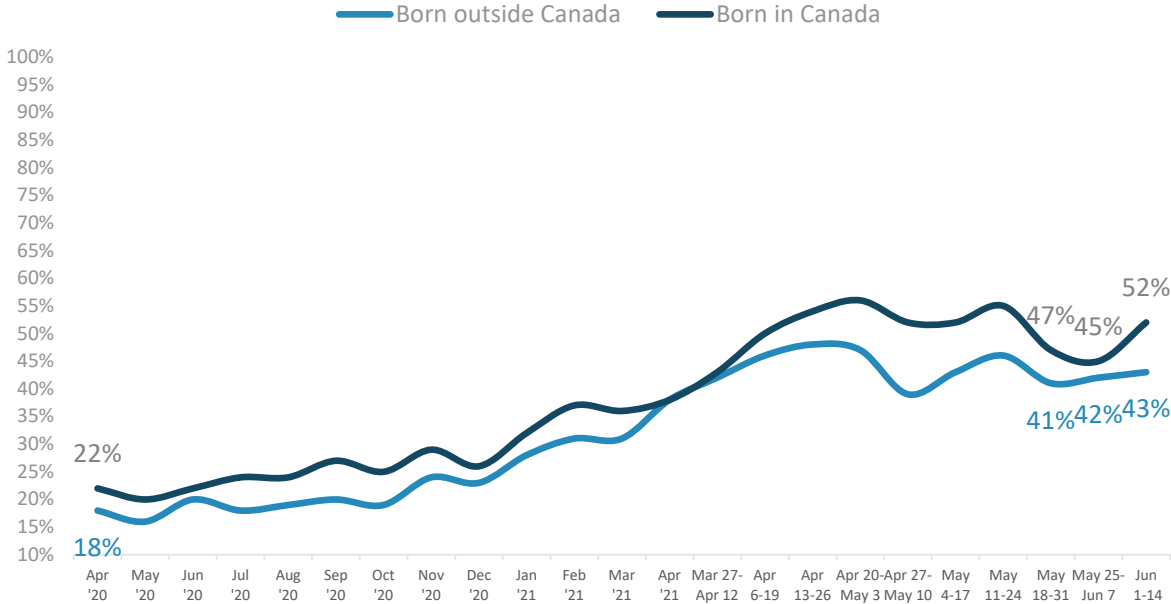


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

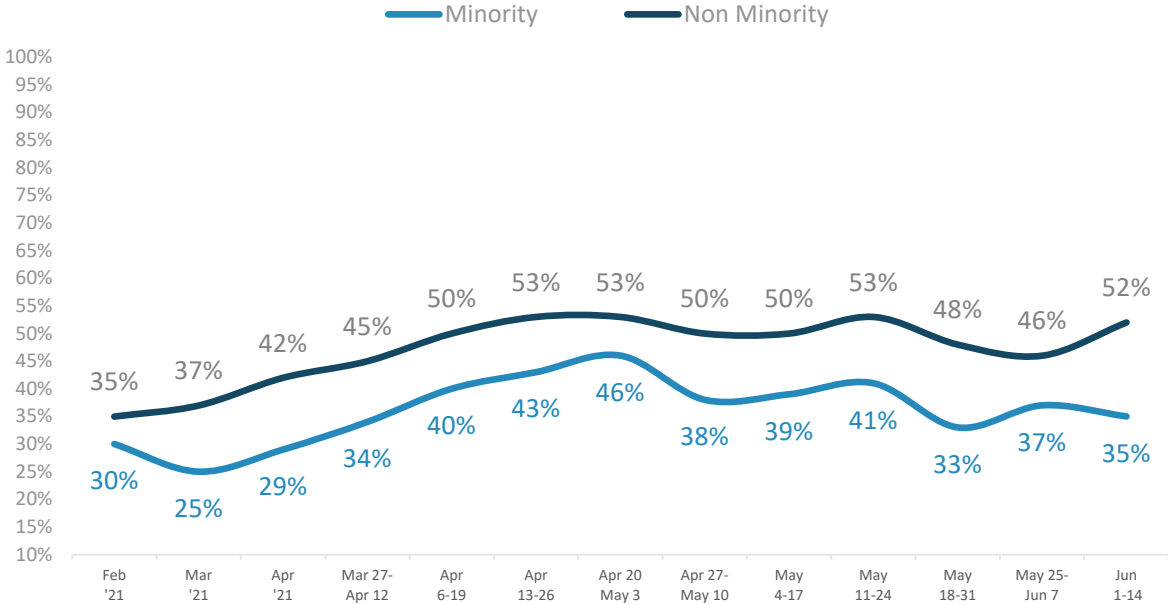
After declines, ‘wrong track’ scores increased among those born in Canada and among non-minorities this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



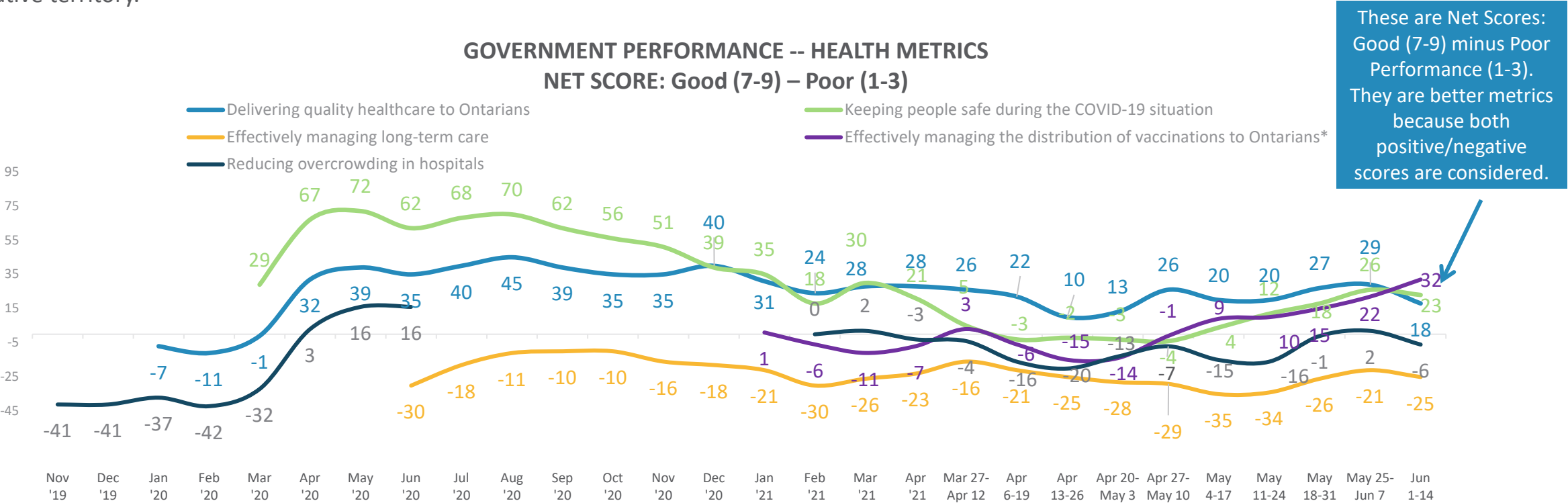
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



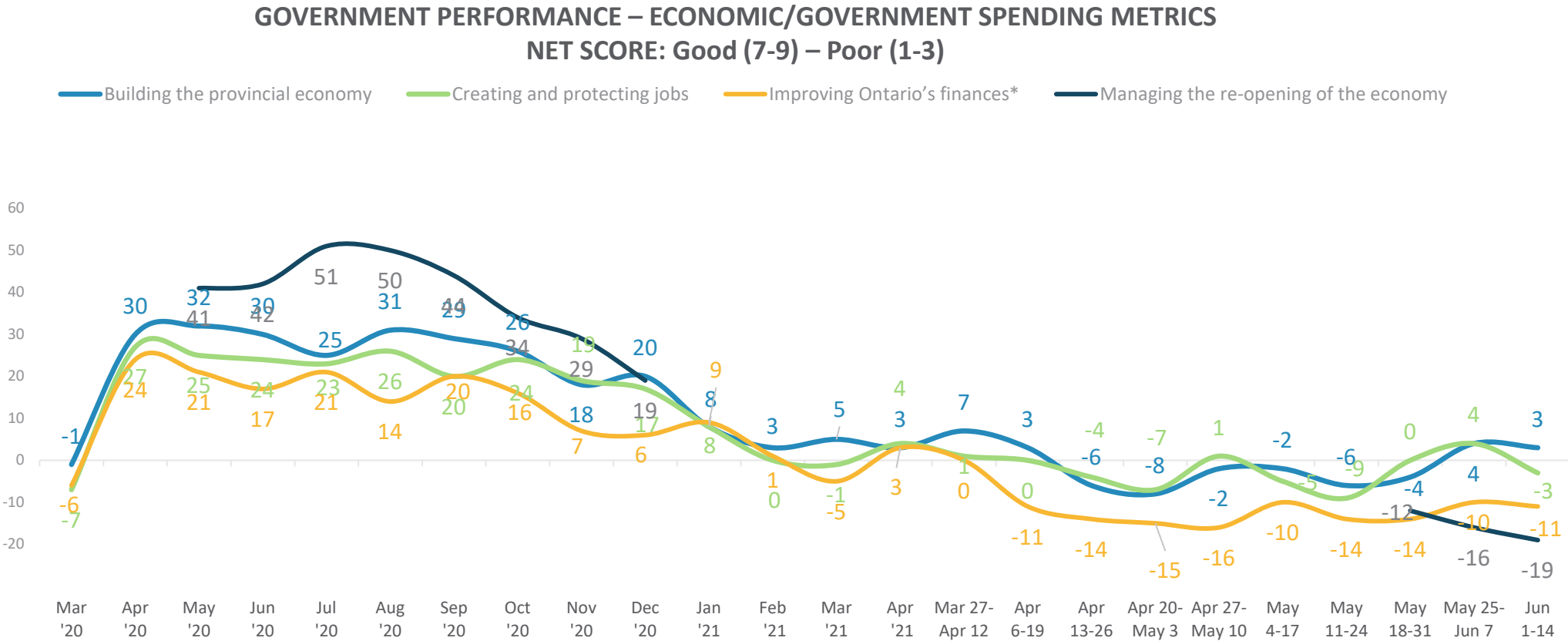
Positive ratings on ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ continues to trend upward increasing 46-points over the past six weeks and is now the highest rated health metric. Of note, after four weeks of increases ‘keeping people safe during COVID-19’ declined slightly this week.

- Results for ‘delivering quality healthcare’ suffered an 11-point decline, while ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ was down 8-points and is back in negative territory.



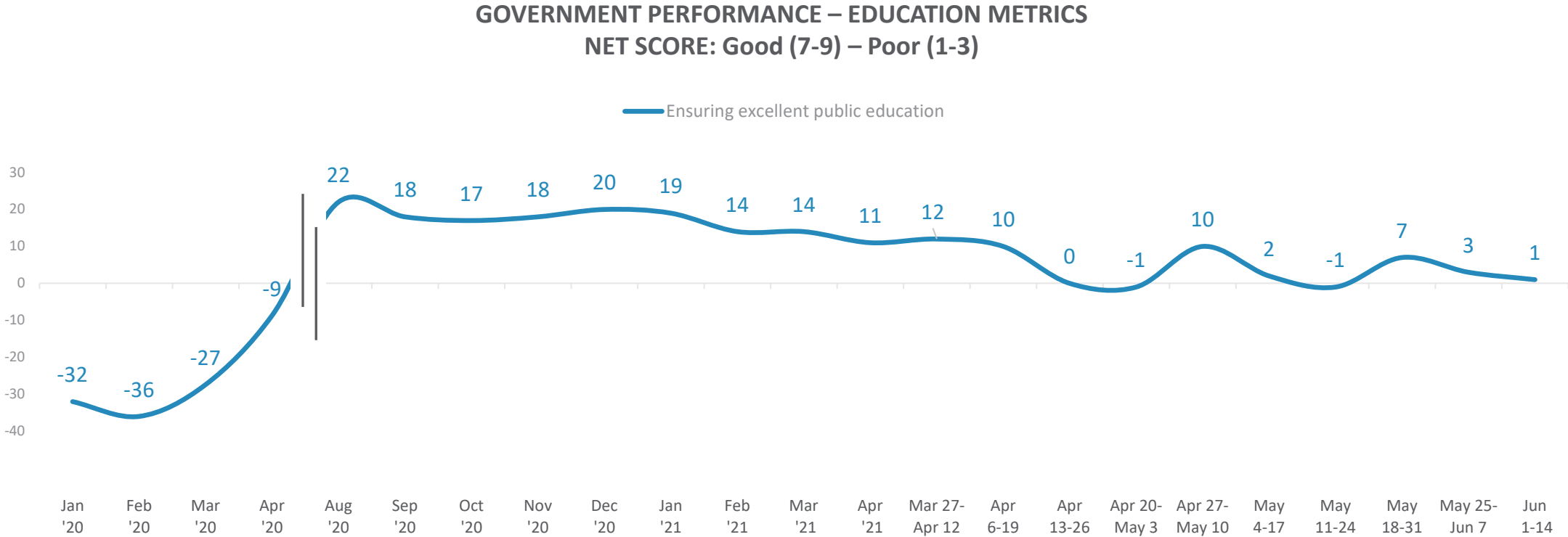
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Ratings of the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ continued to trend down this week remaining well below 2020 results. ‘Creating and protecting jobs’ also declined, down 7-points and returning to negative results.



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’ again declined slightly 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

SUPPORT FOR THE GRADUAL RE-OPENING OF THE ECONOMY



After a dip last week, support for the government's plan for a gradual 3-stage approach to reopening the Ontario economy increased to 80%. However, intensity of support remains below that measured a year ago.

	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	Jun 8-14
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	78	69	80
Very supportive	25	26	27
Somewhat supportive	53	43	53
Somewhat opposed	11	11	11
Strongly opposed	10	18	7
TOTAL OPPOSE	21	29	18

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 an increase in agreement that the government’s gradual and careful reopening has been the right approach compared to the process in the United States. However, results remain lower than those measured in the summer of 2020 especially in terms of intensity of agreement.

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	Jun 8-14
varies		
%	%	%
74	67	78
33	39	42
40	28	36
5	3	4
9	12	7
11	15	6
20	26	13

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

There was an uptick this week with seven-in-ten (71%) Ontarians again agreeing that the government should continue to be cautious and not open sports facilities to spectators.

	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
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	26
Other people say that the Ontario government should continue to be cautious and not open up sports facilities to spectators.	71	64	71
Don't know/not sure	4	4	3

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

Early results suggest that Ontarians are more inclined to support the reopening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel at this point compared to last summer and fall. The intensity of this support is much stronger as well.

To what extent do you support or oppose the opening up of the Canadian border to non-essential US visitors?

	Jul'20	Oct'20
n=	836	579
	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	15	13
Strongly support	7	8
Somewhat support	8	5
Neither support nor oppose	4	3
Somewhat oppose	12	11
Strongly oppose	68	71
TOTAL OPPOSE	80	82

Do you support or oppose the re-opening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel?

Jun 8-14
300
%
51
22
28
-
25
23
48

QER-2. Do you support or oppose the re-opening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel?
QCV-100B2. To what extent do you support or oppose the opening up of the Canadian border to non-essential US visitors?
Base: Total sample

As the vaccine rollout picks up, Ontarians appear to be wanting to spend money. Presently, 33% say they will be spending more money this year. This is much higher than a year ago when only 15% indicated that they wished to spend more.

- Compared to a previous results, a larger proportion of Ontarians anticipate spending more money and less indicate they will be spending less than they normally would.

Since the time of the closing of parts of the economy in response to

	Jun'20
n=	1735
	%
Spending more than you would normally	12
Spending about as much as you would normally	24
Spending less than you would normally	64
Don't know	<1

And as the economy starts to reopen again do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Jun'20
1735
%
15
49
36
1

And Ontario shifts into Phase 3 of the re-opening of the economy, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Aug '20	Sep '20
889	1181
%	%
16	16
34	39
48	43
2	1

With over 70% of Ontario adults vaccinated with their first dose and the number of COVID-19 infections trending downward, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

	Jun 8-14
n=	300
	%
Spending more money then you did at this time last year	33
Spending about the same amount of money as you did at this time last year	48
Spending less money then you did at this time last year	19
Don't know/not sure	1

QER-3. With over 70% of Ontario adults vaccinated with their first dose and the number of COVID-19 infections trending downward, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Base: Total sample

QCV-80. Since the time of the closing of parts of the economy in response to COVID – 19, have you been

QCV-81. And as the economy starts to reopen again do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Base: Total sample

QCV111. And Ontario shifts into Phase 3 of the re-opening of the economy, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Base: Total sample

HAVING AN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR RECOVERY



This week, Ontarians are split on whether the government’s focus in the coming months should be on health-related issues (47%) or economic issues (45%) surrounding COVID-19.

- 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’ are equally likely to feel the government should focus on economic issues or health issues.

	May 11-24	May 18-31	May 25-Jun 7	Jun 1-14
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	44	47
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	39	45	45
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7
Don’t know/not sure	1	1	1	1

	Right Track		Wrong Track	
	May 18 th - June 7 th	May 25 th -June 14 th	May 18 th - June 7 th	May 25 th -June 14 th
	n=784	n=784	n=784	n=784
Focus on health	51%	49%	41%	45%
Focus on economic	38%	41%	48%	45%

Ontarians continue to want to hear more about the government’s plans for economic recovery, with three-quarters (76%) agreeing with this, a slight decline compared to previous weeks.

*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	Jun 8-14
varies			
%	%	%	%
80	84	83	76
55	50	56	49
25	34	27	27
7	10	3	6
5	3	9	9
6	2	4	8
11	5	13	17

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

Three-quarters (76%) of Ontarians also agree that it’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery, a decline over the week but higher than results measured in May. And, results are 40-points higher than 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	Jun 8-14
varies			
%	%	%	%
70	72	84	76
39	32	56	36
31	41	28	39
4	6	8	7
15	15	5	11
10	5	3	5
25	20	8	16

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

Ontarians seem uncertain whether the Ontario government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with almost equal numbers believing the government doesn't have a plan (44%) as believing they do (40%).

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	Jun 8-14
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	59	49	56	44
Strongly agree	28	19	22	17
Somewhat agree	32	30	34	26
Neither agree nor disagree	10	12	12	12
Somewhat disagree	19	19	19	25
Strongly disagree	10	15	9	15
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	34	29	40

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	Jun 8-14
varies			
%	%	%	%
91	87	94	90
66	65	64	60
25	22	30	30
1	3	1	2
3	9	3	5
5	-	2	2
8	9	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 THE
GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE
IN HANDLING SECOND/THIRD
WAVE OF COVID-19



MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN INFECTION CASES

Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (35%) is the most cited reason for causing the increase in infection cases leading to a wave 3 of COVID-19 and has been slowly trending upward. As well, 1-in-5 believe it was the timing of restrictions limiting social contact.

	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29	36	28	28	32	35
The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23	21	19	20	18	19
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16	11	20	18	18	15
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13	15	14	14	15	11
Infections introduced into Ontario by interprovincial travelers	6	6	6	4	4	7
All of these	4	4	6	7	6	4
Don't know/not sure	9	8	7	10	7	9

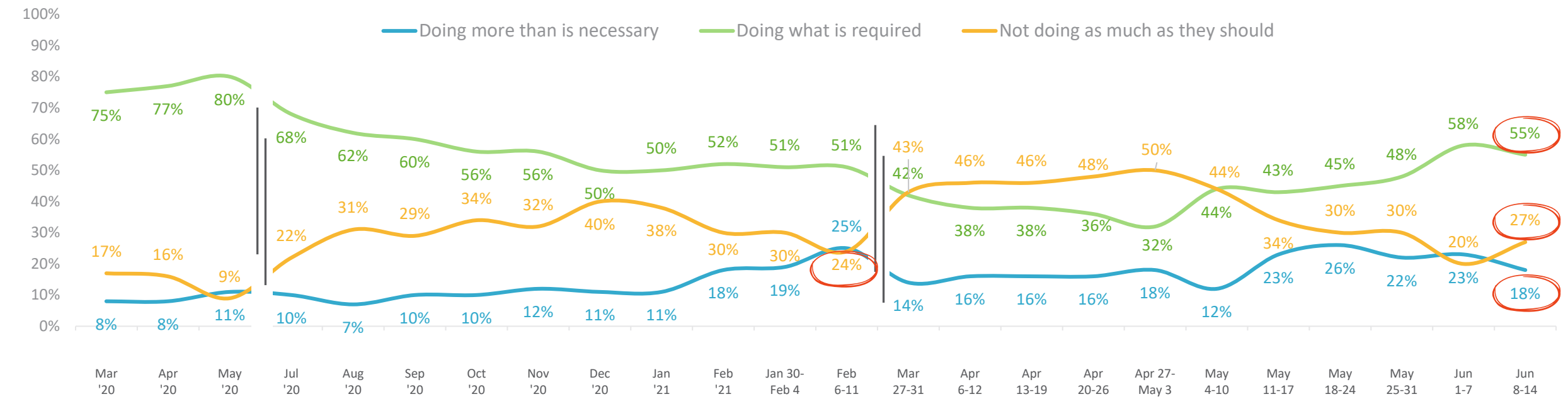
VIEWS ON THE
PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN
PRIOR TO THE
GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

The majority (55%) continue to believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus. Of note, after trending down for several weeks there was an uptick this week to 27% of Ontarians who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’.

	Doing what is required																								Not doing as much as they should																									
	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	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	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	59%	58%	55%	57%	57%	51%	67%	58%	60%	63%	79%	63%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	23%	15%	34%	35%	30%	29%	28%	21%	27%	24%	21%	11%	23%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	38%	20%	18%	18%	17%	14%	16%	27%	27%	18%	35%	46%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	43%	38%	58%	59%	63%	65%	70%	71%	42%	37%	49%	29%	31%



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 ...

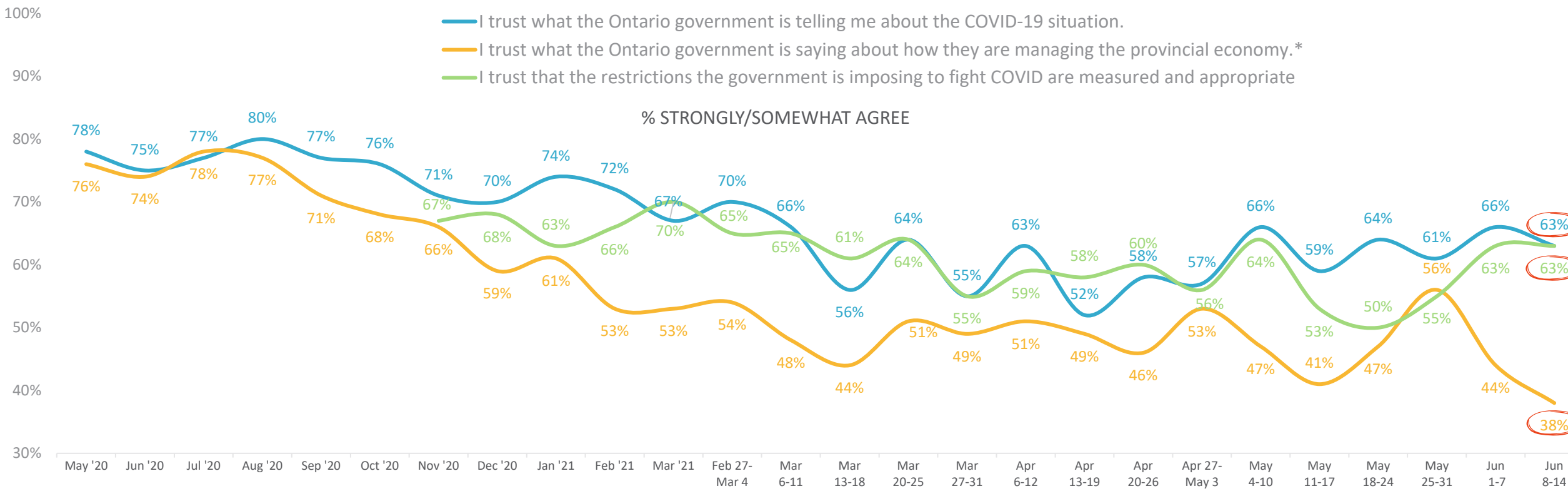
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Trust in the government’s communications about COVID-19 regarding ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ declined again this week and is now at the lowest level since tracking began.

- Trust regarding what the government is ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and that ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’ remained stable.



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

Perhaps in connection to the start of the staged re-opening of the economy, fewer Ontarians (39%) agree this week 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	Jun 8-14
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	39
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	21
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	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	6	6	7
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	22
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	32
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	54

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



Again this week, seven-in-ten (68%) 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	Jun 8-14
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22

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, fully eight-in-ten (80%) Ontarians believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago – up 54-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	Jun 8-14
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	80

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

That said, again this week six-in-ten (60%) 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	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
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	60
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	33
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	27
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	6
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	14
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	19
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	34

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

Base: Total sample

However, there has been a decline to half (50%) ‘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	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	82	87	86	82	86	85	92	87	92	85	61	86	83	83
Strongly agree	72	65	68	64	70	70	81	73	79	68	43	62	68	50
Somewhat agree	11	21	18	19	16	15	11	15	13	17	19	23	15	33
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2	3	-	2	4	1	3	-	2	13	2	2	3
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	2	4	6	2	4	5	6	9	6	5	7
Strongly disagree	10	7	4	13	7	4	3	6	3	6	9	5	10	8
TOTAL DISAGREE	13	11	11	15	11	10	6	9	7	12	17	11	15	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 66% 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	Jun 8-14
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	66
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19	20	25	32	35	36	39	25
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34	28	41	46	35	43	31	41
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10	6	10	5	4	3	7	10
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22	22	7	9	13	10	13	17
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16	22	16	8	10	8	10	6
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37	44	22	17	22	18	22	23

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 continued to slowly trend upward to 61% this week.

	Apr 27- May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support this action	64	64	60	49	50	56	61
Do not support this action	32	32	34	44	41	41	32
Not applicable	1	1	<1	2	<1	<1	1
Not sure/Don't know	3	4	5	5	9	3	6

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, support for 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 declined this week to 46%, while 50% now oppose the action.

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	56	59	59	46
Strongly support	29	31	37	21
Somewhat support	27	28	22	25
Somewhat oppose	17	14	13	18
Strongly oppose	24	24	24	32
TOTAL OPPOSE	41	38	37	50
Don't know/not sure	3	3	3	4

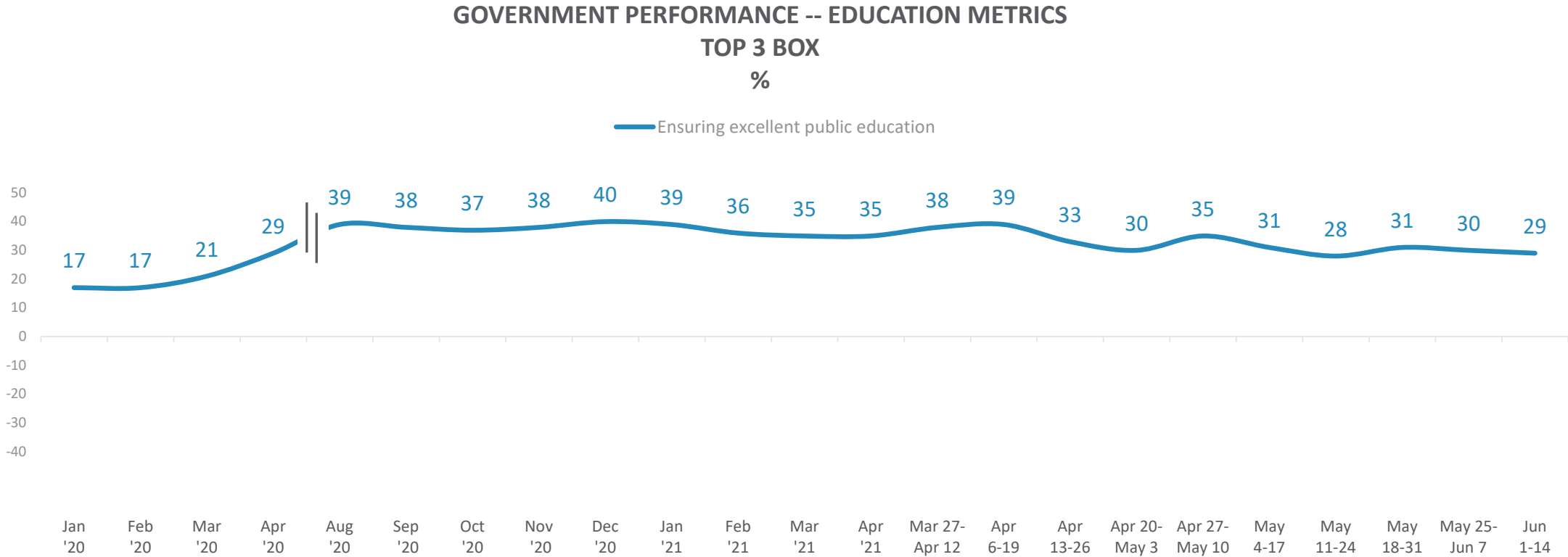
And, there has been a slow decline in the proportion of parents/guardians with children in junior kindergarten to grade 12 that are likely to send their child back to school if they re-open in June.

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
n=	81	92	95	73
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL LIKELY	64	64	58	56
Very likely	51	58	49	41
Somewhat likely	13	6	9	14
Not very likely	15	10	8	10
Not at all likely	20	26	33	34
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	35	36	41	43
Don't know/not sure	1	-	1	1

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

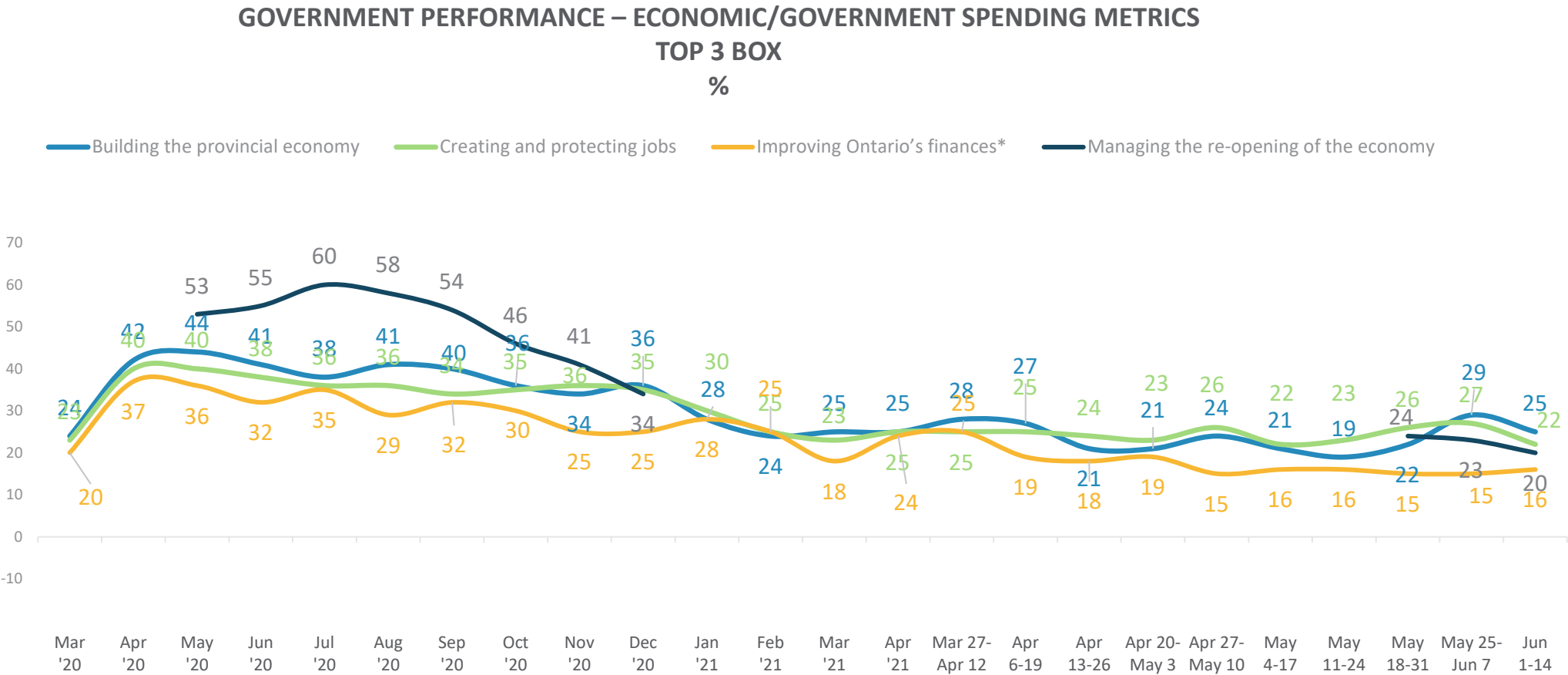


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ again remained relatively unchanged this week.



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

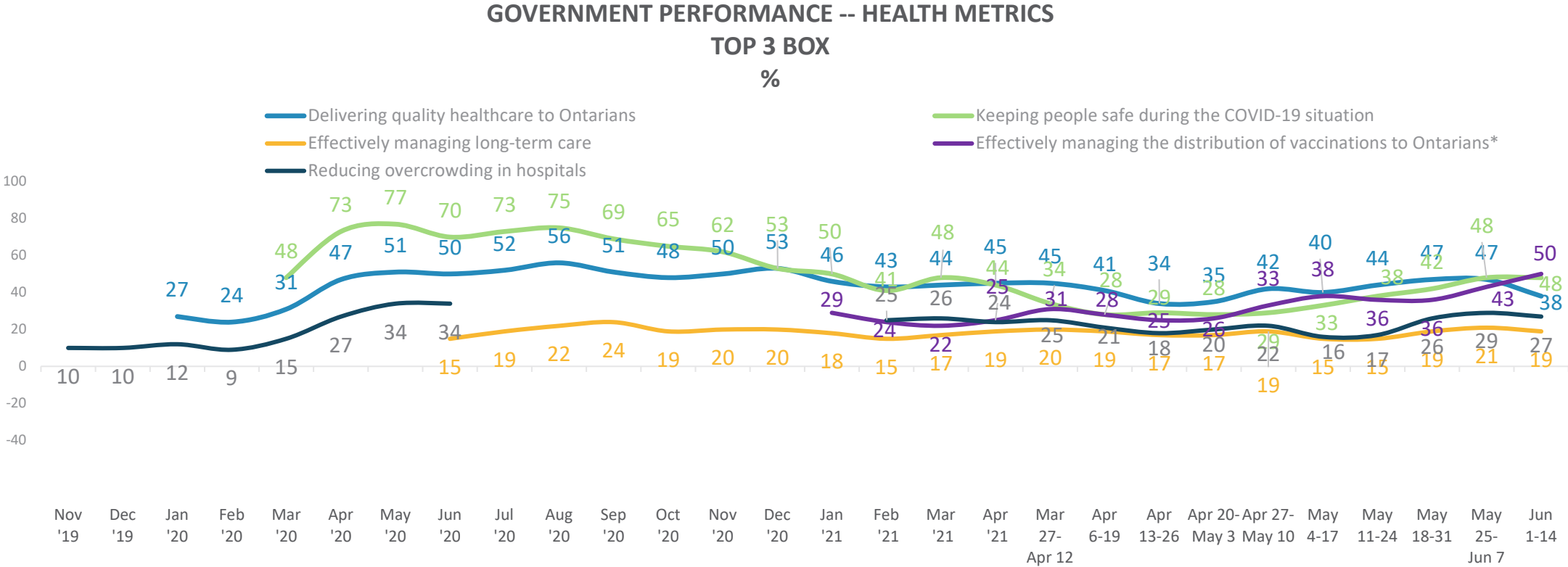
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on economic/government spending metrics declined slightly this week with the exception of ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ which remained stable.



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

Again this week, there was an improvement measured in positive perceptions of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccines’. However, there was a 9-point decline for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’.



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