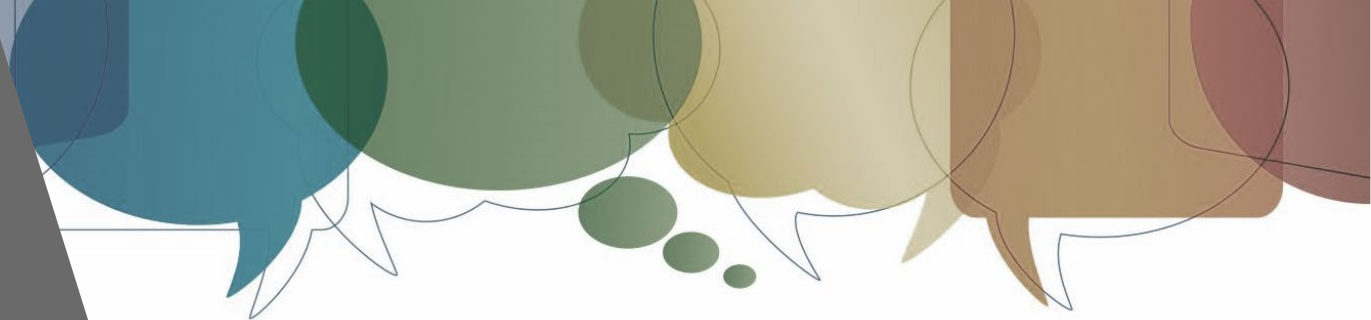




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #89

CABINET OFFICE
July 13th 2021

Ontario 

KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 While 'right track' scores remain stable this week to 58%, it remains higher than results measured for most of May and June.

Of note, 'right track' scores continued to trend upward this week among the younger age cohort of 18-44 while declining among Ontarians aged 45-64. And, women have higher 'right track' scores than men again this week.

Ontarians making <\$40k continue to register the highest 'right track' scores.

It is worth noting that 'strongly on the wrong track' is 10-points higher than 'strongly on the right track'.

2 With this increasing optimism, and as the province continues to re-open, Ontarians expect to be spending money. This week, 43% say they anticipate spending more money than they did at this time last year – an increase of 10-points compared to a month ago.

3 However, Ontarians want to hear more about the government's plans for economic recovery, with over eight-in-ten (85%) agreeing with this.

And, a majority continues to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months. There is now a 17-point gap between those supporting economic issues (54%) compared to health-related issues (37%).

4 Reflecting the aggressive vaccine roll out, positive rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' increased again this week to the highest level recorded to date (NET 46). Results for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' and 'delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians' also increased.

Connected to this, Ontarians feel that the threat of contracting the virus has declined. This week nine-in-ten Ontarians believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago. This compares to 26% at the beginning of May.

And, while there remains concern about a fourth wave of the pandemic, seven-in-ten (71%) Ontarians believe the government is prepared for this.

5 Importantly, Ontarians remain uncertain whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with just over half (54%) thinking that the government doesn't have a plan.

As part of Ontario's jobs and recovery approach, half of Ontarians believe that jobs training and skills development is the most important to focus on. This is followed by the reduction of personal taxes (32%), infrastructure investment (30%) and innovation and technology investment (27%).

Key Findings

Support among Ontarians for re-opening the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel continues to increase, up 11-points compared to a month ago to 62%. The proportion 'strongly' supporting this has also been increasing.

However, most Ontarians support requiring a proof of full vaccination (84%) or proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test (82%) should the border with the US re-open for non-essential travel.

Ontarians are slightly more likely to think that the impact of re-opening the border with the US to non-essential travel would cause a significant increase in COVID-19 infections (52%). However, 46% think there would be little or no impact in the number of cases.

Ontarians also tend to think that students should be vaccinated to return to schools and colleges/universities.

Two-thirds (67%) of Ontarians agree that eligible elementary and high school students returning to in-class learning in September should be required to be fully vaccinated. And, half (48%) 'strongly' agree with this.

There is even more agreement that college and university students returning to campus life should be required to be fully vaccinated, with 72% of Ontarians agreeing and 55% 'strongly' agreeing.

Fully six-in-ten (60%) Ontarians indicate they do not feel safe and comfortable working with unvaccinated people.

And, two-thirds (65%) of Ontarians agree that to return to a workplace, everyone should have to prove they are fully vaccinated. And, intensity is strong with 43% 'strongly' agreeing.

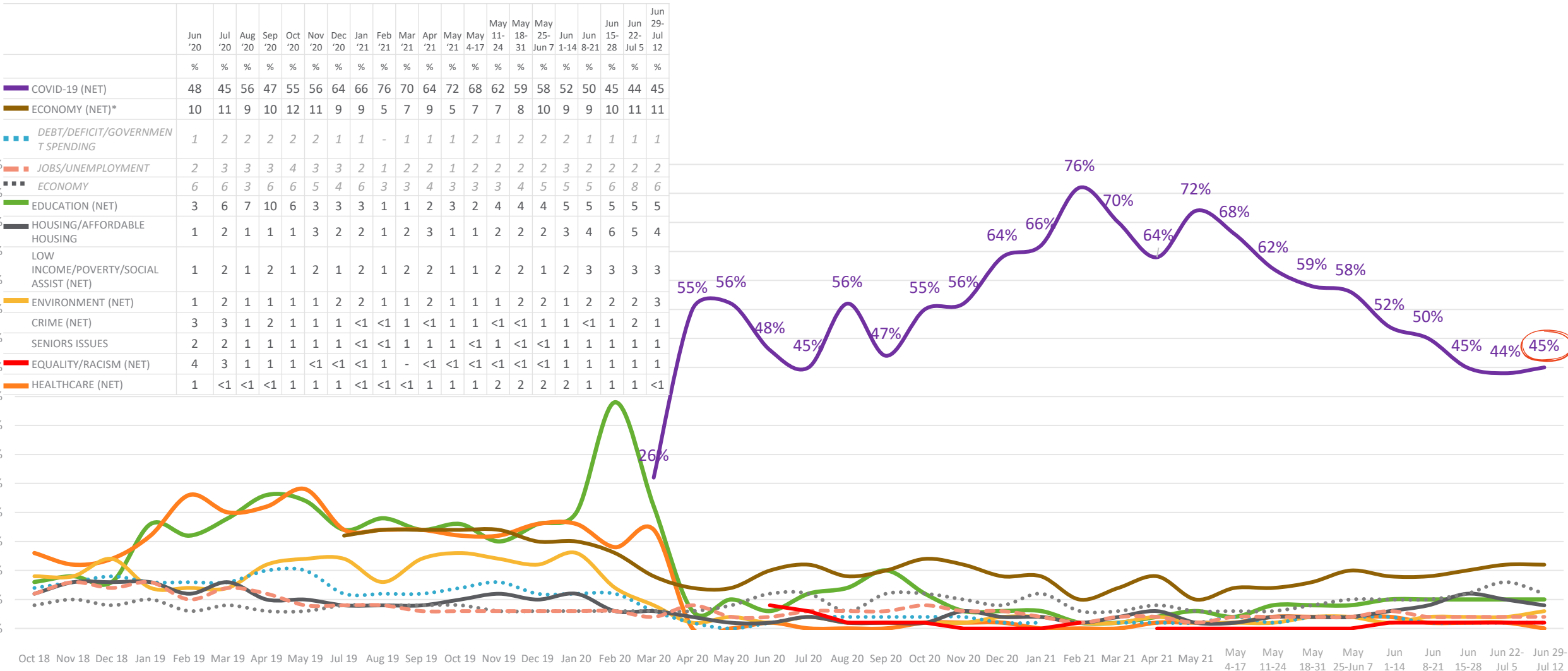
Interestingly, six-in-ten (61%) disagree that people have no right to know if a person is vaccinated or not.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

While the top priority COVID-19 has been trending down, it has remained steady for the past three weeks. The economy has seen an uptick in recent weeks.



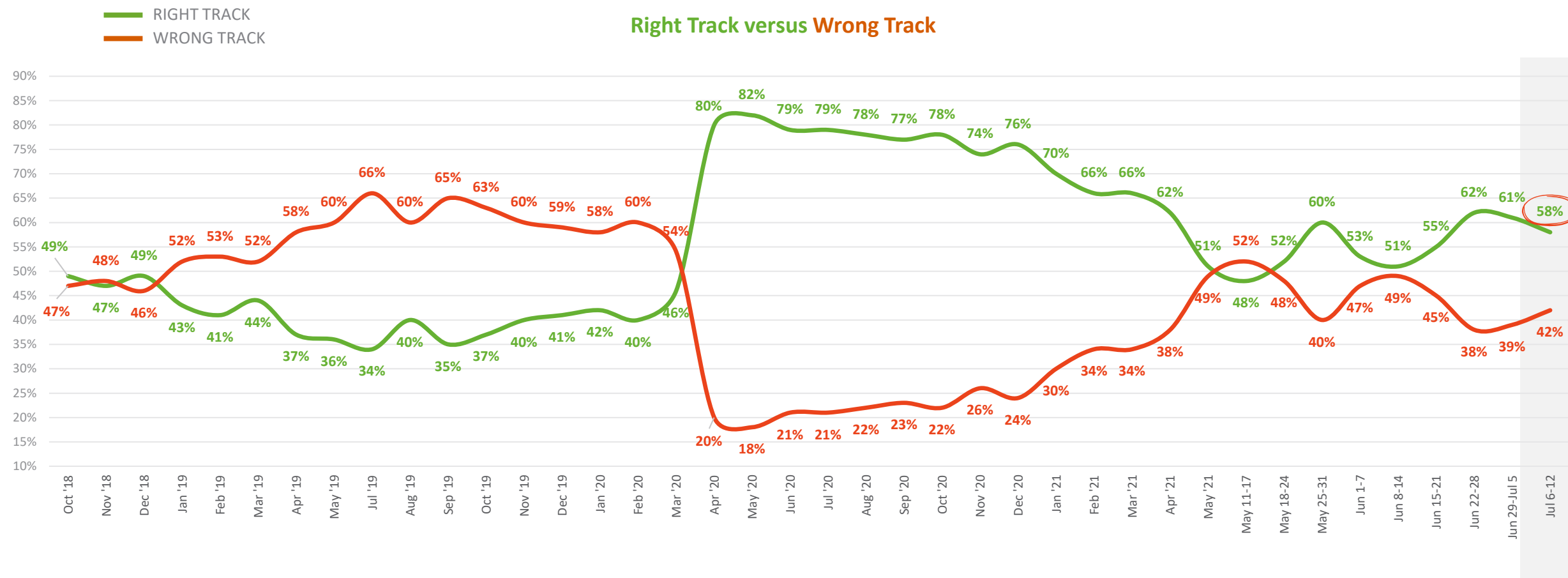
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

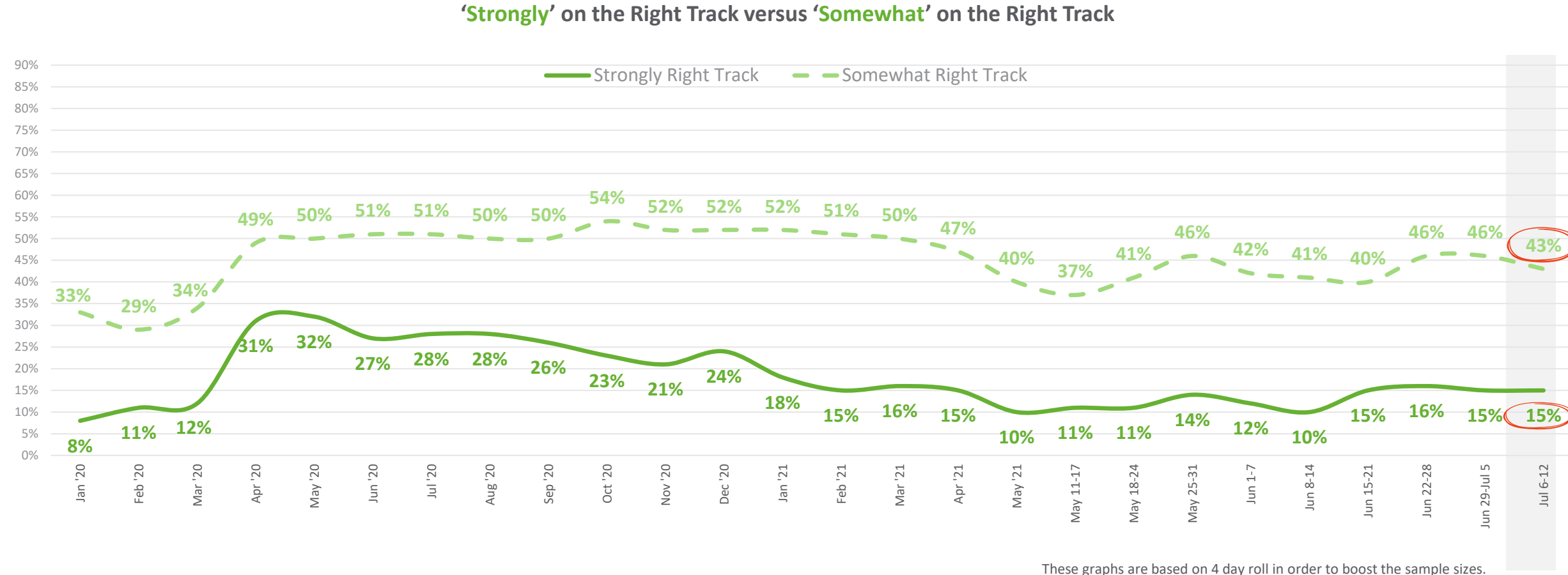


While ‘right track’ scores remains stable at 58%, it remains higher than results measured for most of May and June.



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

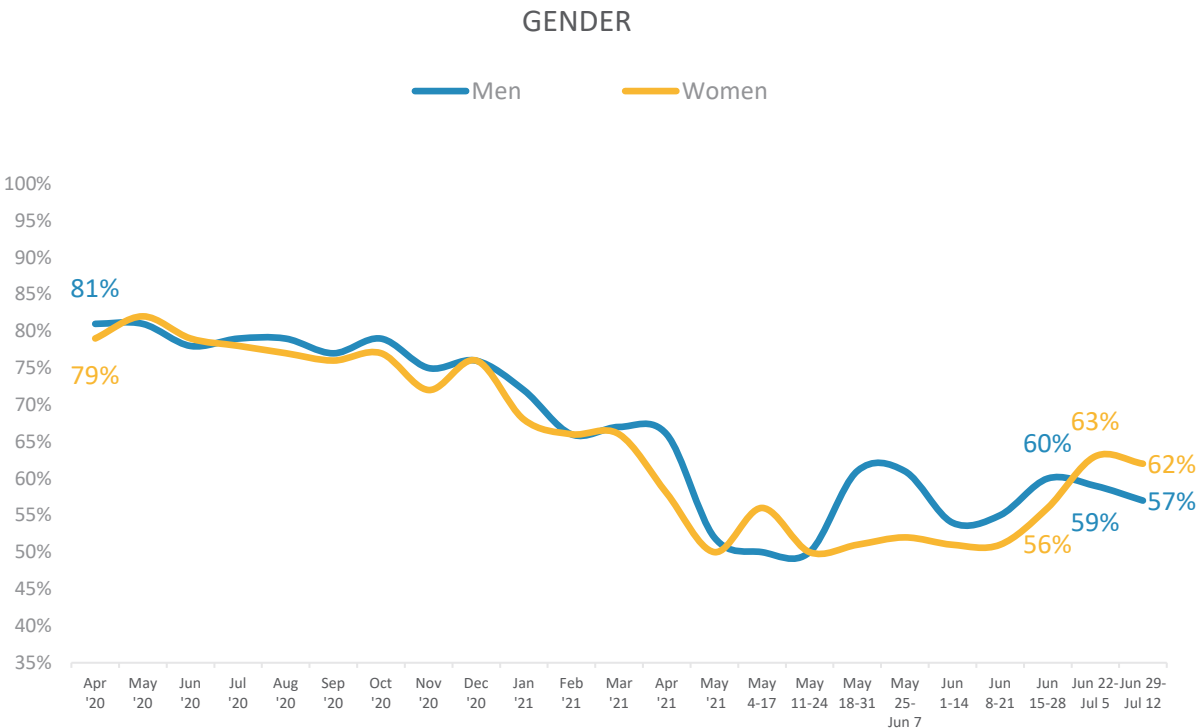
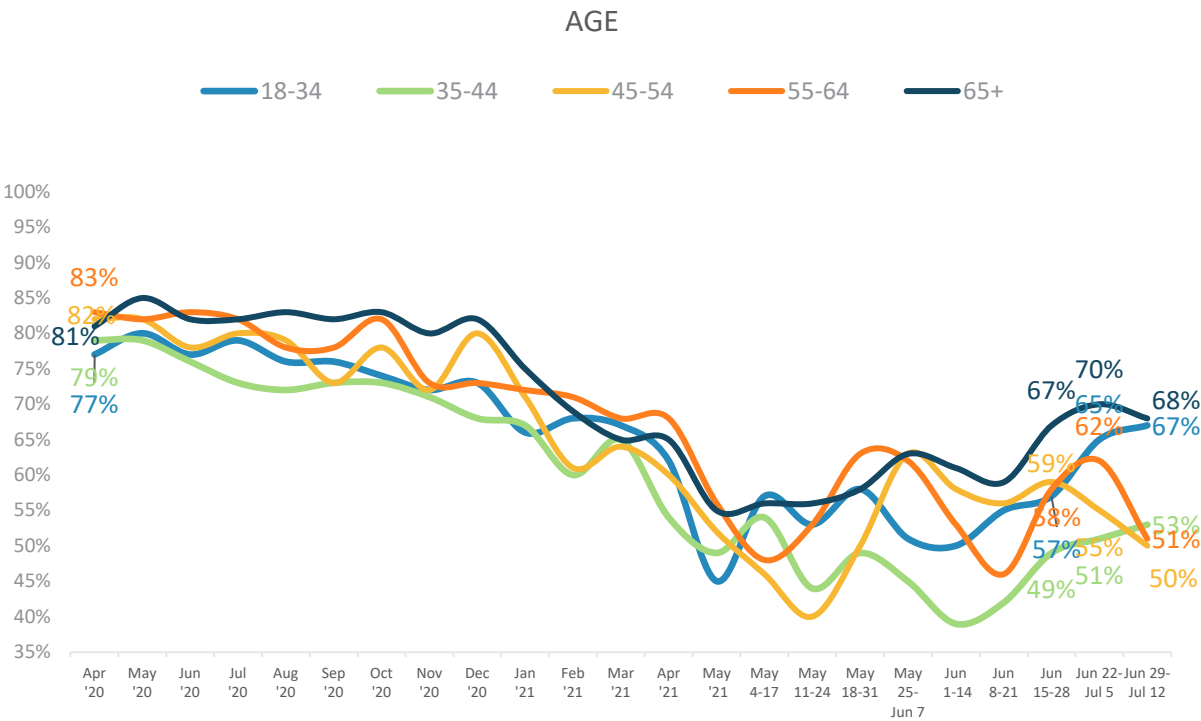
This dip in ‘right track’ scores occurred among those who see the government as ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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

‘Right track’ scores declined this week among Ontarians aged 45-64. However, ‘right track’ scores continued to trend upward among the younger age cohort of 18-44. This week, women continue to have higher ‘right track’ scores than men.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

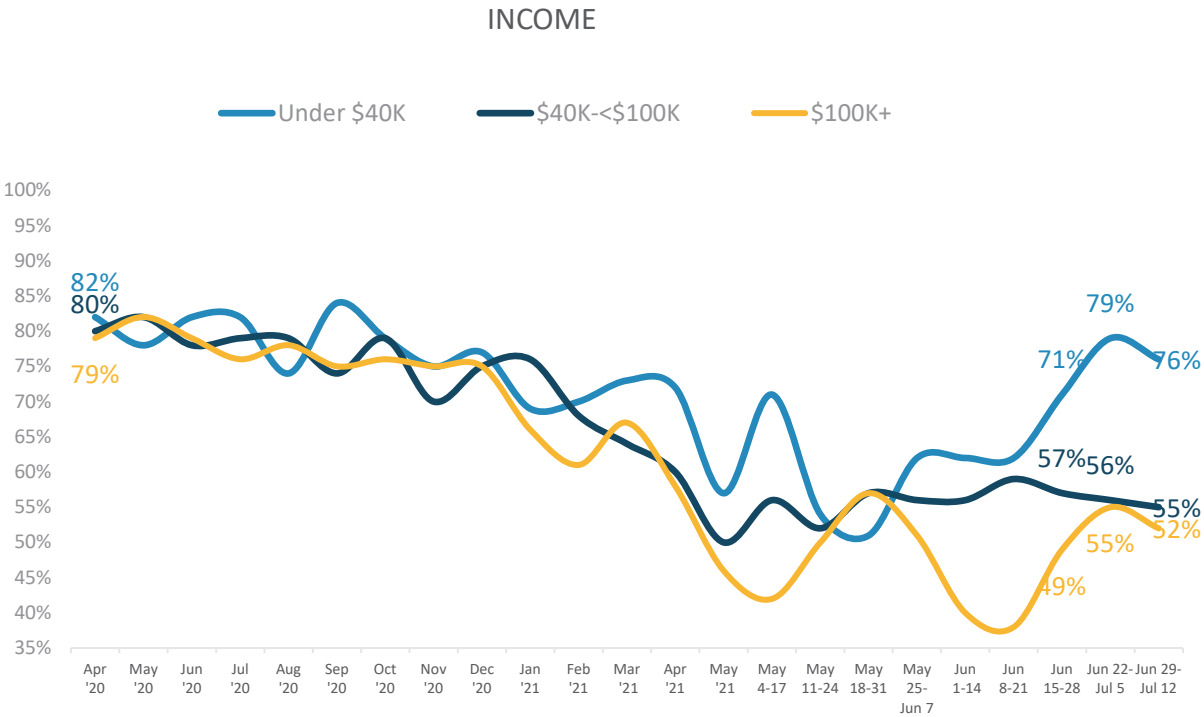
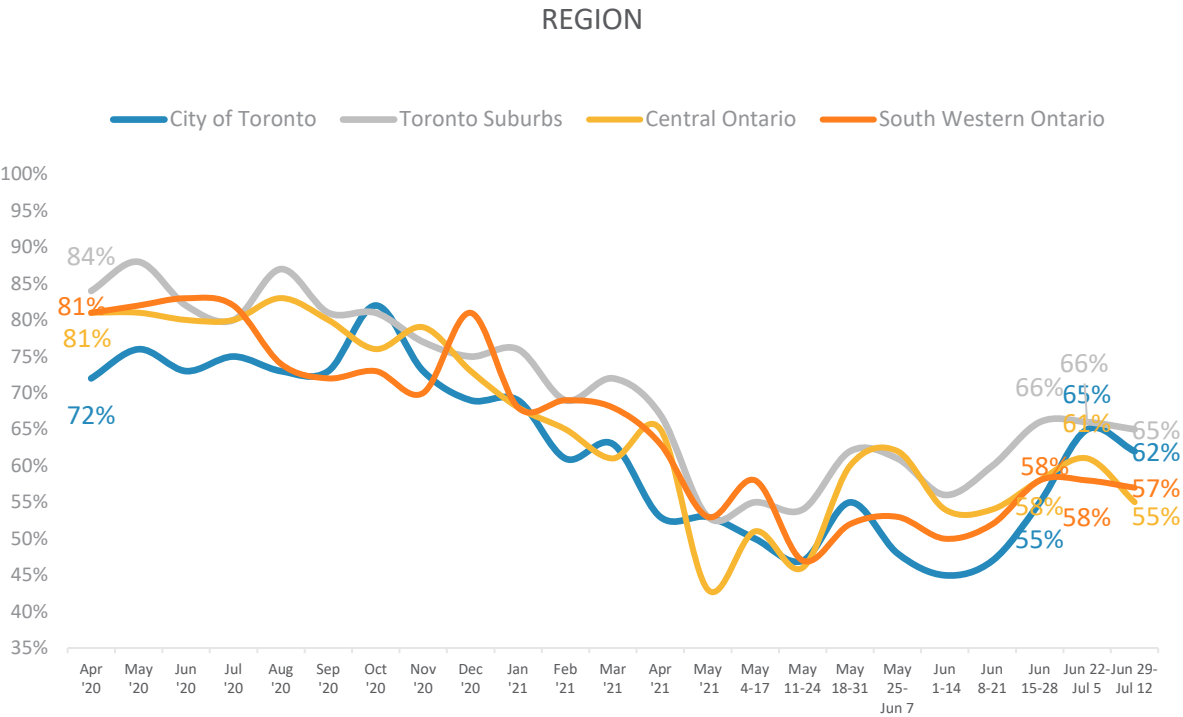


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 several weeks of increases, there was a slight decline in ‘right track’ scores in the City of Toronto this week, as well as in Central Ontario. Ontarians making <\$40k continue to register the highest ‘right track’ scores.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



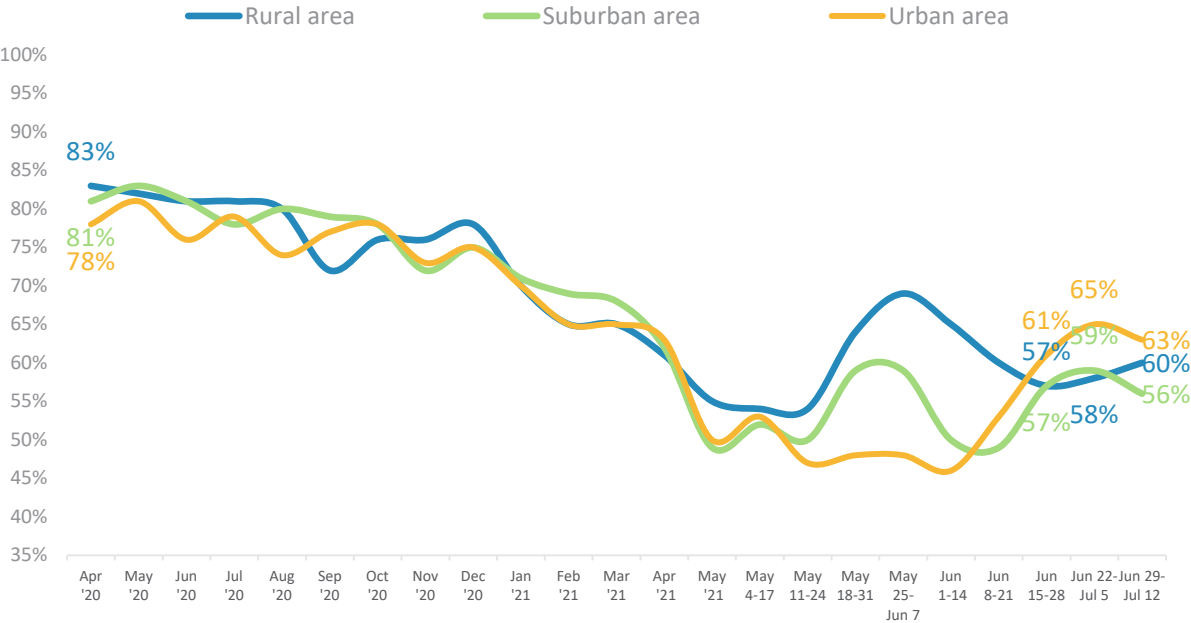
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

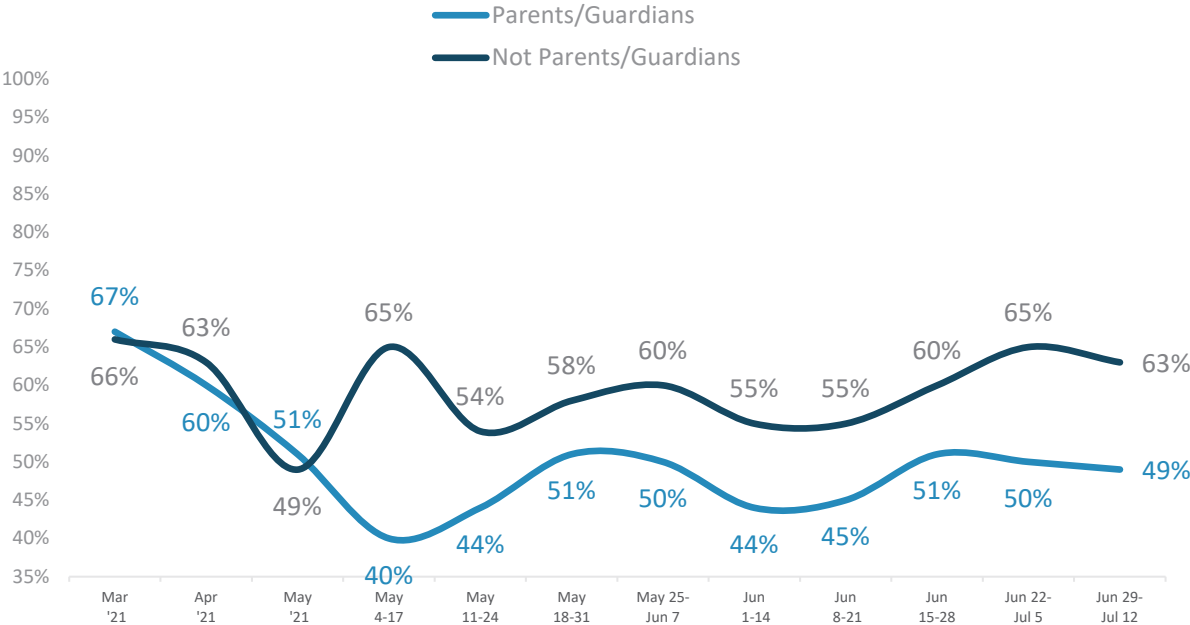
‘Right track’ scores remained highest in urban areas again this week. However, there was a slight decline measured in both the urban and suburban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



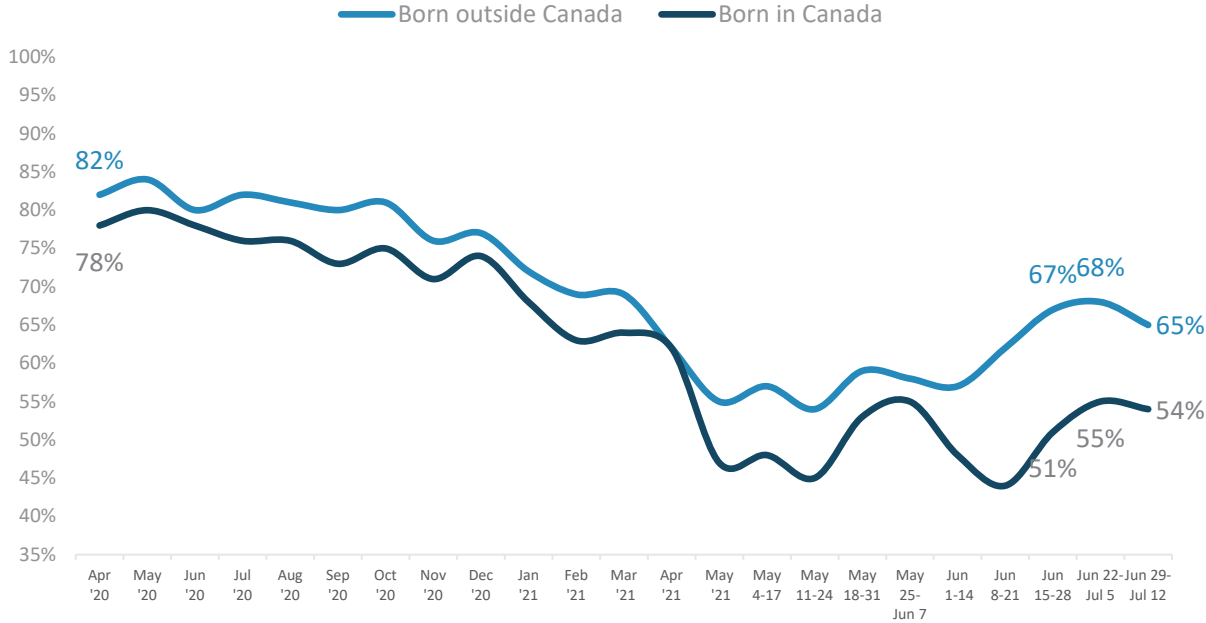
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Right track’ scores dipped slightly among both those born in and outside of Canada as well as among minorities and non-minorities. ‘Right track’ scores remain highest among those born outside Canada and among minorities.

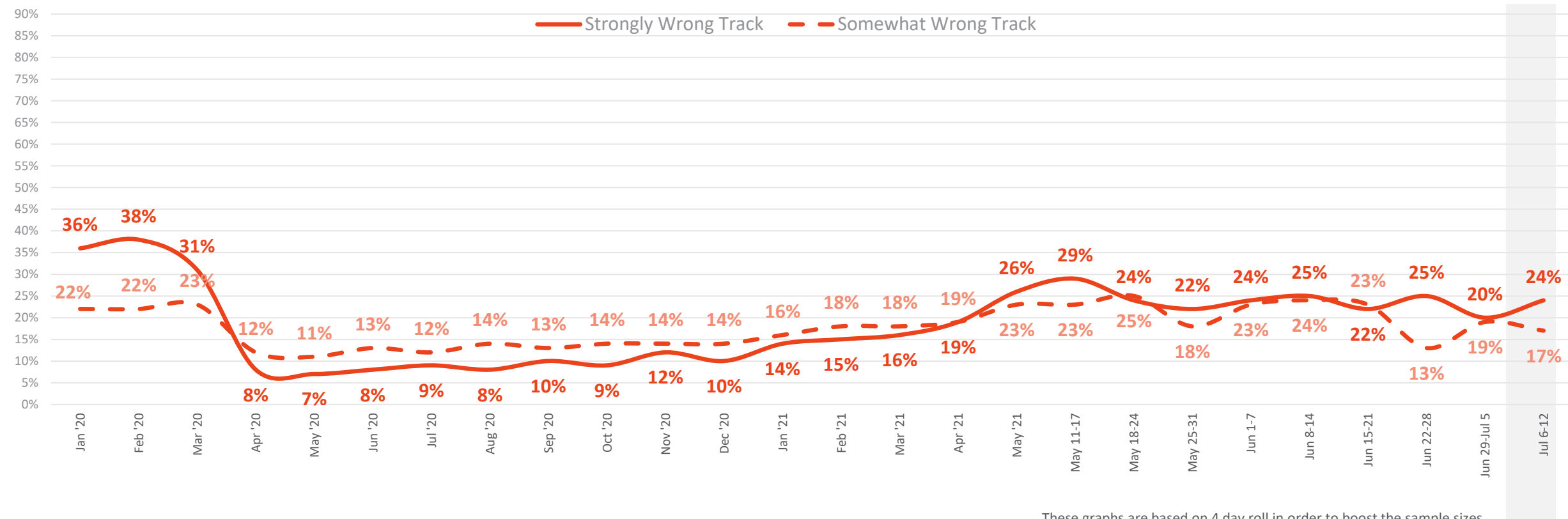
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



‘Strongly on the wrong track’ scores increased this week to 24% and remain within the range of 20%-25% measured since mid-May. It is worth noting that ‘strongly on the wrong track’ is 10-points higher than ‘strongly on the right track’.

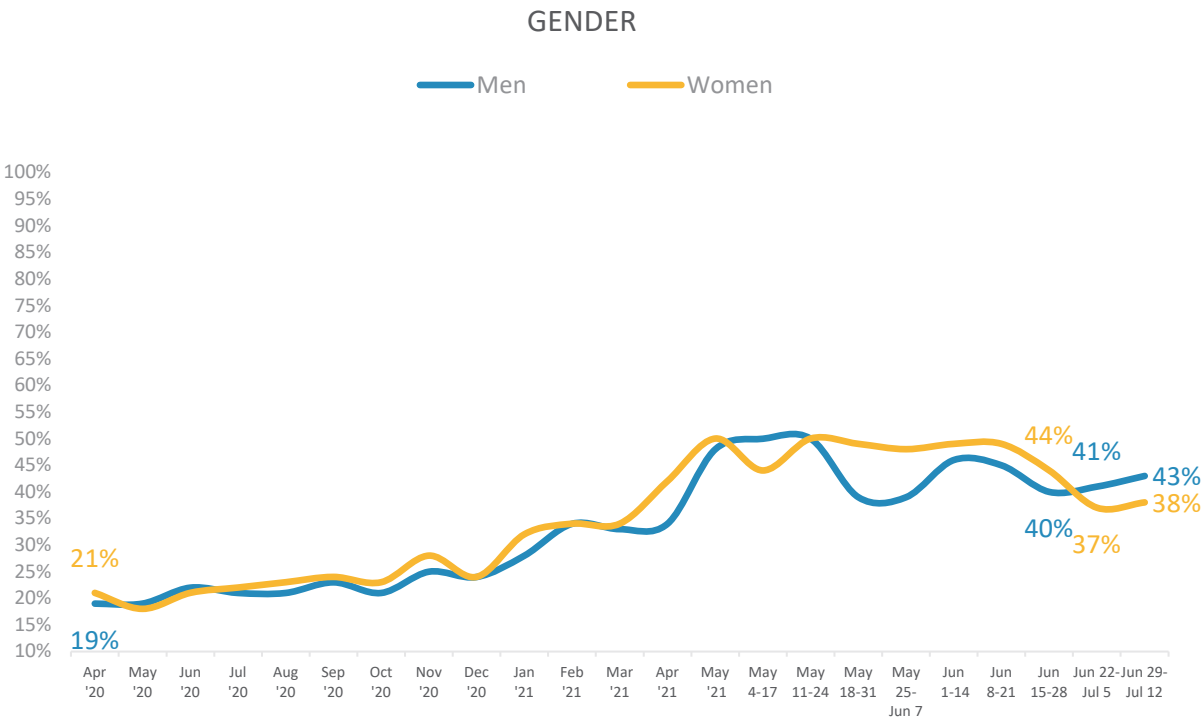
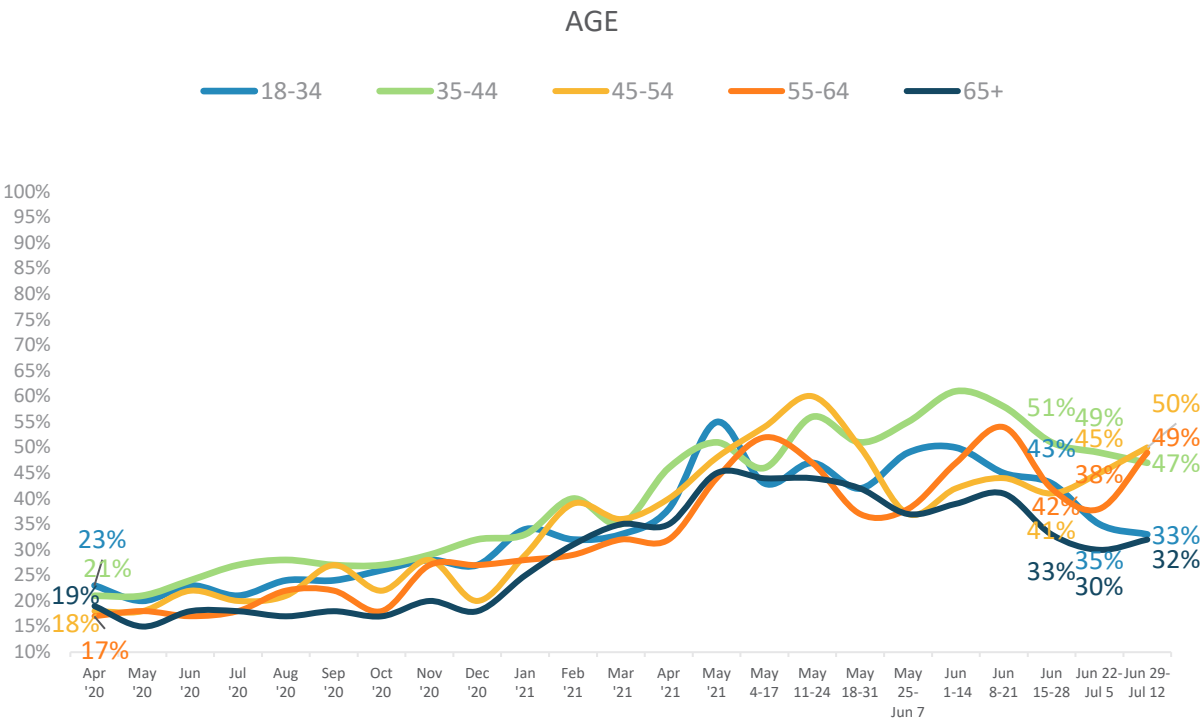
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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 among 45-64 year olds while continuing to decline among Ontarians aged 18-44. ‘Wrong track’ scores remain higher this week among men.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

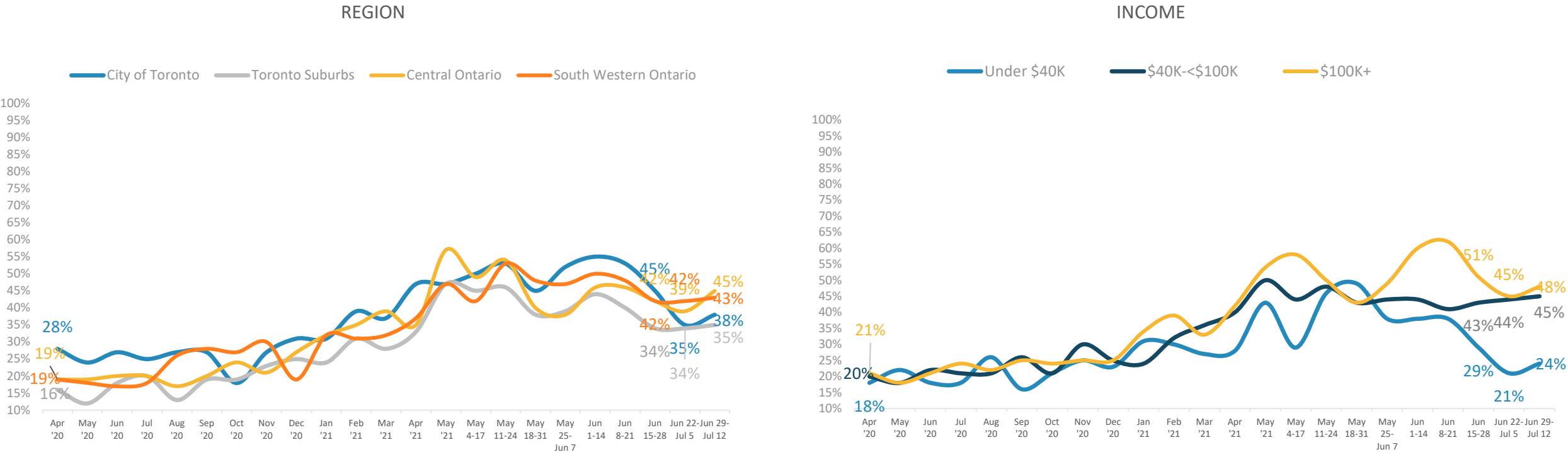


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 slightly in the City of Toronto and Central Ontario while remaining steady in the Toronto suburbs and SW Ontario. ‘Wrong track’ scores remain higher among Ontarians making >\$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



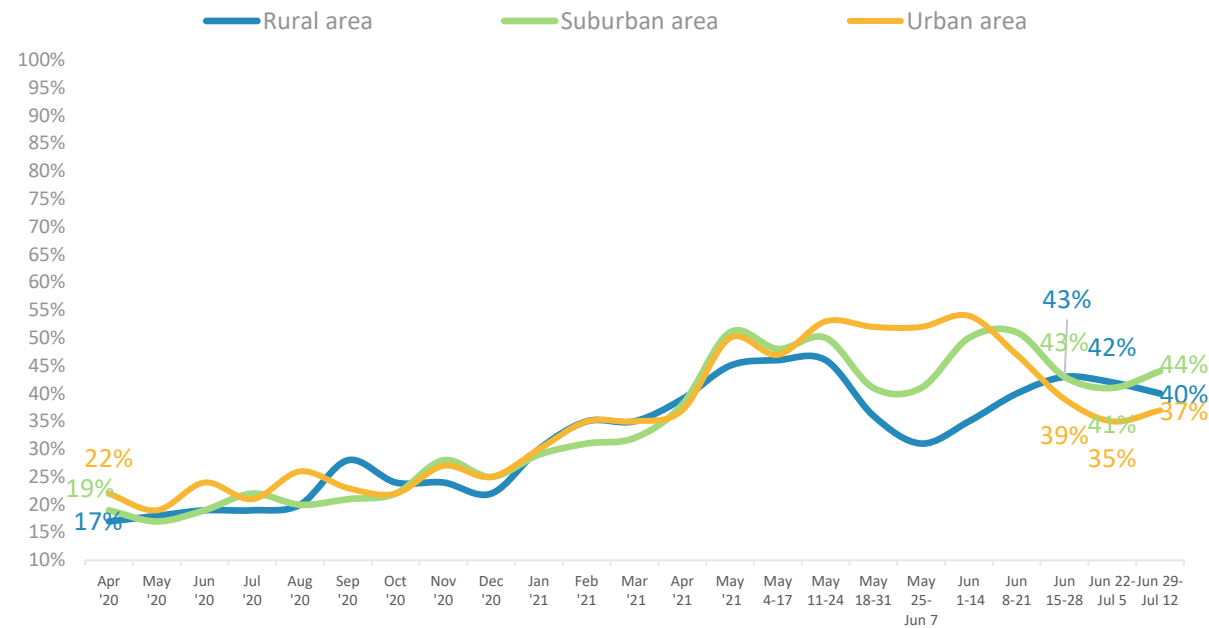
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

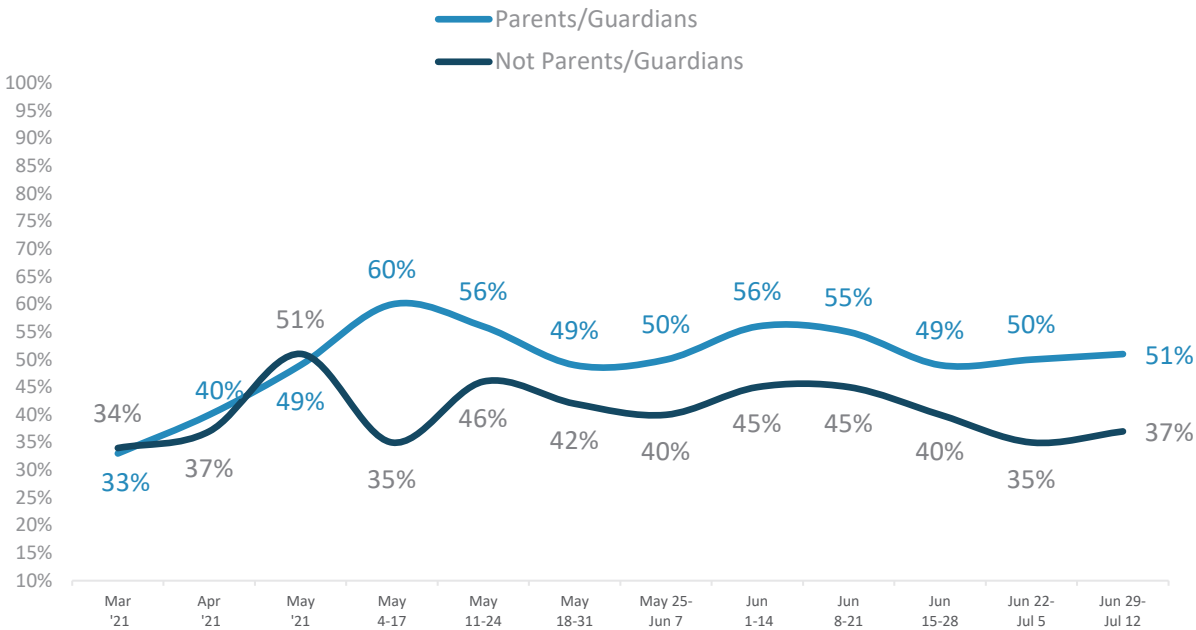
While ‘**wrong track**’ scores continue to be lowest in urban areas, there was a slight uptick this week in both urban and suburban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

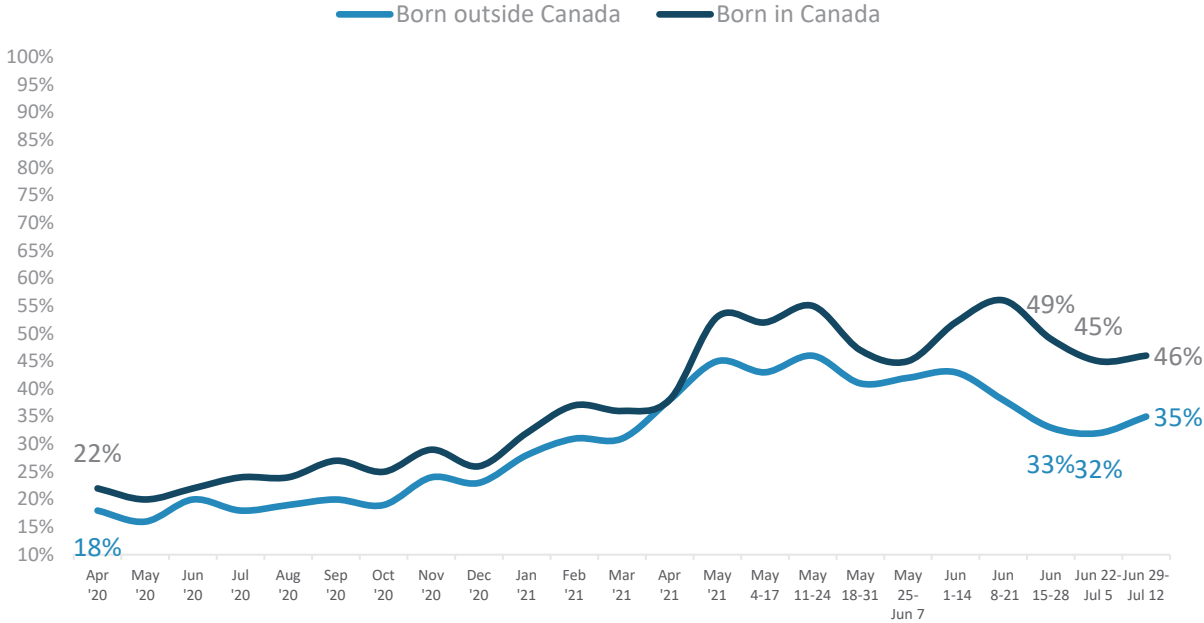


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

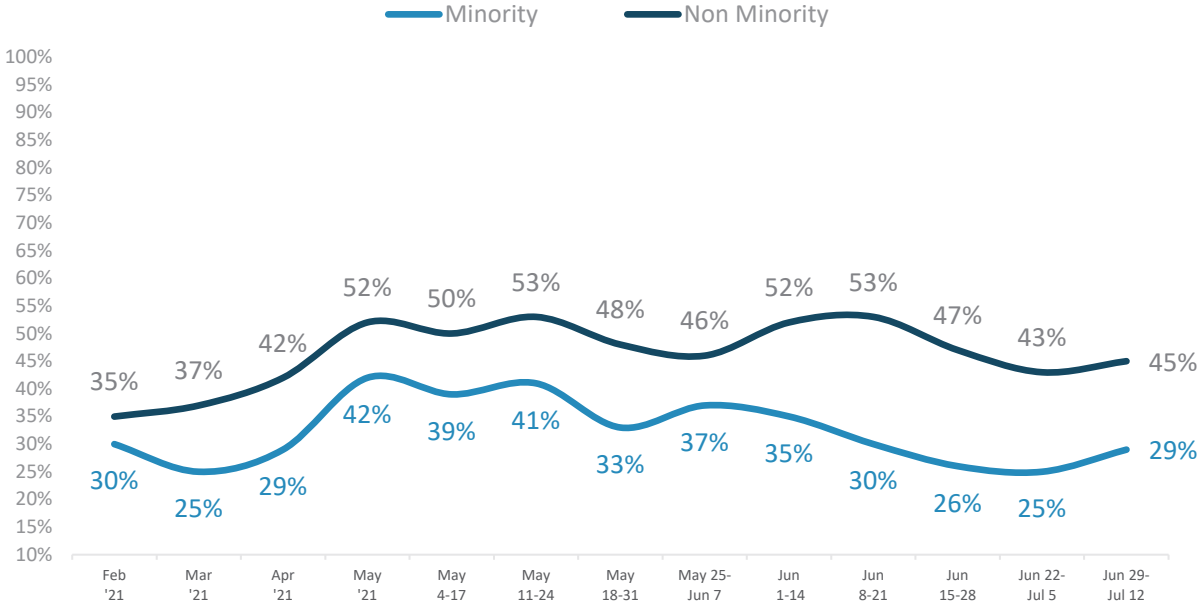
‘Wrong track’ scores increased slightly among both those born in and outside of Canada as well as among minorities and non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



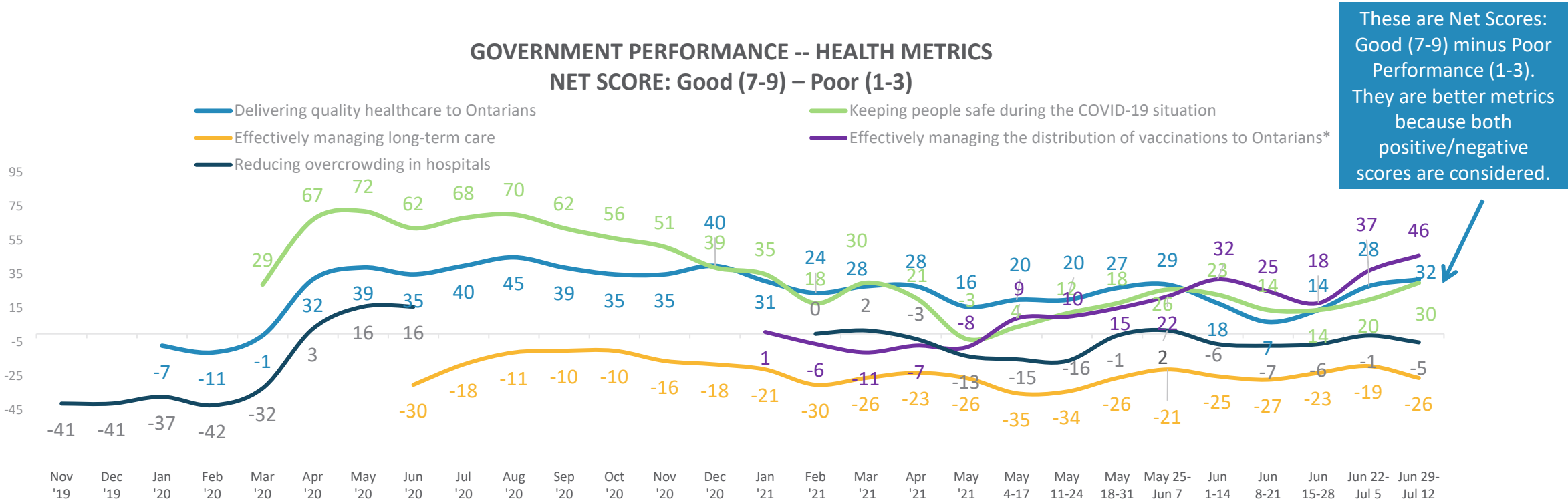
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Given the aggressive vaccine rollout, positive rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ increased again this week to the highest level recorded to date (NET 46). Results for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ also increased.

- Of note, there were declines measured for both ‘effectively managing long-term care’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’.

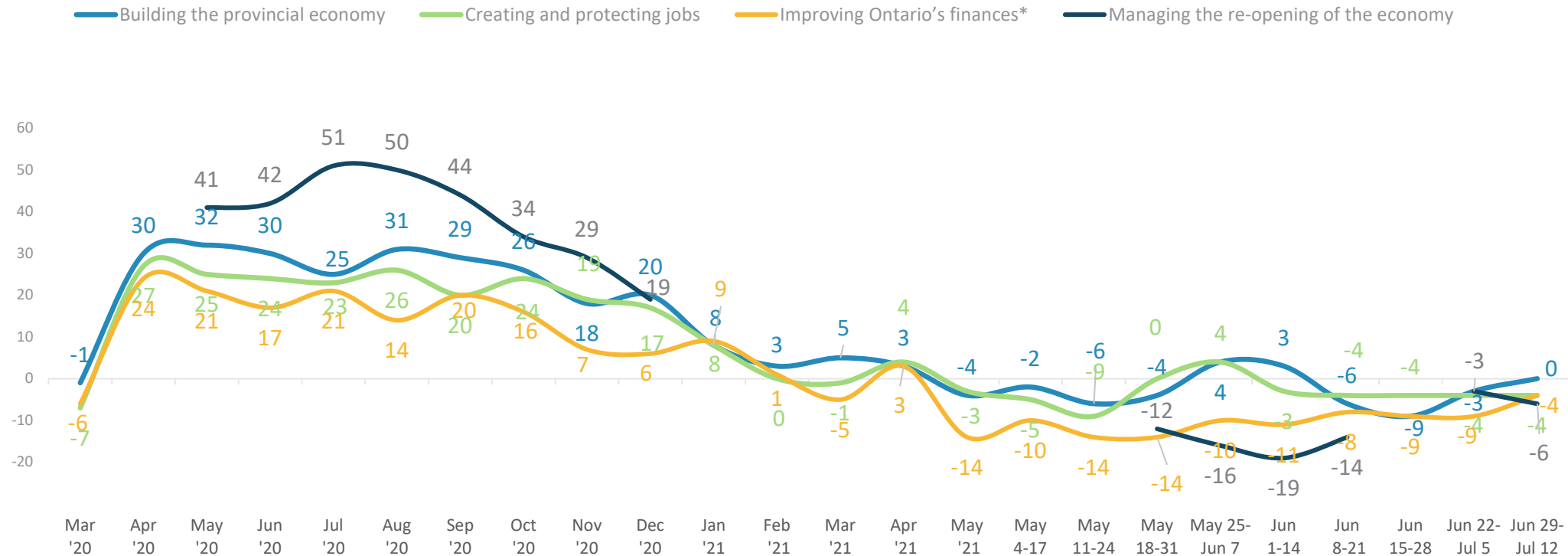


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

This week, there was an improvement in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ and ‘building the provincial economy’ (up 9-points in the past two weeks).

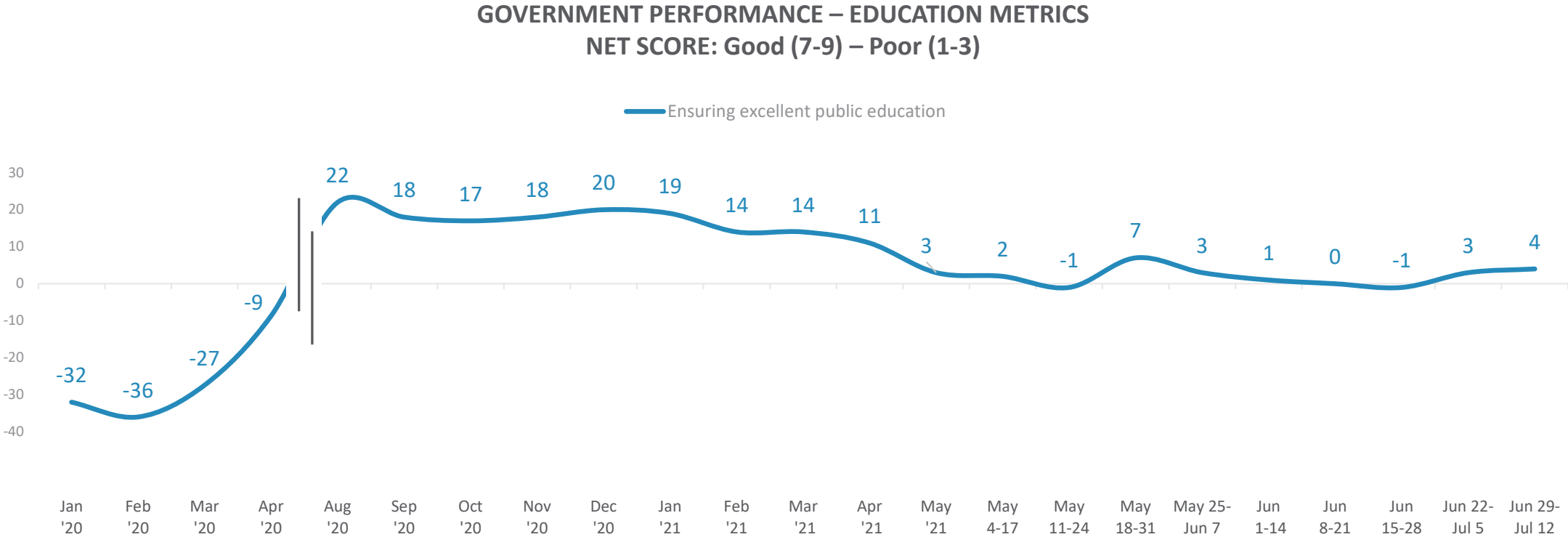
- While ‘creating and protecting jobs’ remained unchanged this week, there was a slight decline for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’.

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

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ improved slightly 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

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 slightly this week to 77%, while intensity of support remained unchanged with 42% being 'very' supportive.

	May '20		May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	1259	n=	varies						
	%		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	87	TOTAL SUPPORT	78	69	80	88	81	82	77
Strongly support	42	Very supportive	25	26	27	32	36	42	42
Somewhat support	45	Somewhat supportive	53	43	53	57	45	40	35
Somewhat oppose	5	Somewhat opposed	11	11	11	6	5	9	7
Strongly oppose	4	Strongly opposed	10	18	7	6	13	7	11
TOTAL OPPOSE	9	TOTAL OPPOSE	21	29	18	12	19	17	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

Over one-third of Ontarians (35%) would like to see Ontario move into the third stage of the re-opening plan immediately. A similar proportion (33%) believe this should happen by the end of July.

As Ontario just moved into the first stage of the re-opening plan, when should Ontario move into the second stage of the re-opening plan?

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
Immediately	22	26
By the end of June	28	27
Early July	19	19
End of July	15	15
In a few months	10	9
Don't know/not sure	6	4

As Ontario just moved into the second stage of the re-opening plan, when should Ontario move into the third stage of the re-opening plan?

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300
	%	%
Immediately	30	35
End of July	47	33
In a few months	21	26
Don't know/not sure	3	6

QCV-206. As Ontario just moved into the second stage of the re-opening plan, when should Ontario move into the third stage of the re-opening plan? (previous phrasing) As Ontario just moved into the first stage of the re-opening plan, when should Ontario move into the second stage of the re-opening plan?

Base: Total sample

Half of Ontarians believe that jobs training and skills development is the most important to focus on as part of Ontario’s jobs and recovery approach. This is followed by the reduction of personal taxes (32%), infrastructure investment (30%) and innovation and technology investment (27%).

	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%
Jobs training and skills development	56	49	52	51	50
Reduce personal taxes	28	31	32	28	32
Infrastructure investment	30	30	31	27	30
Innovation and technology investment	30	28	26	33	27
Help hard-hit industries	25	25	19	21	20
Reduce business taxes	14	14	17	15	19
Manufacturing incentives	11	15	17	18	16

Support among Ontarians for re-opening the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel continues to increase, up 11-points compared to a month ago to 62%. The proportion ‘strongly’ supporting this has also been increasing.

- There is no difference on this consideration between those see the government on the ‘right track’ versus the ‘wrong track’.

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	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
51	56	58	56	62
22	30	27	28	36
28	26	31	28	26
-	-	-	-	-
25	21	21	16	14
23	19	20	24	22
48	41	41	40	36

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

Most Ontarians support requiring a proof of full vaccination (84%) or proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test (82%) should the border with the US re-open for non-essential travel.

% VERY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORTIVE	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
Proof of full vaccination	83	84	86	84
Proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test	78	78	81	82
Opening the border with no COVID-19 restrictions on who can enter	24	22	17	18

QER-5. Thinking now about reopening the border with the USA and the possibility that infections could increase if the border is opened for non-essential travel, how supportive are you of each of the following actions, should the Ontario government require these before agreeing to allow the border to fully reopen.

Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN COVID-19 CASES IF BORDER WITH US RE-OPENED FOR NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

Ontarians are slightly more likely to think that the impact of re-opening the border with the US to non-essential travel would cause a significant increase in COVID-19 infections (52%). However, 46% think there would be little or no impact in the number of cases.

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
There would be a significant increase in COVID -19 cases in the province	42	48	48	52
There would be little or no impact in the number of COVID-19 cases in the province	54	48	48	46

QER-4. If the border with the US were to be reopened to non-essential travel, which of the following do you imagine is most likely to happen?
Base: Total sample

As the province continues to re-open, Ontarians’ confidence levels increase. This week, 43% say they anticipate spending more money than they did at this time last year – an increase of 10-points compared to a month ago.

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

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

	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

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

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

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	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Spending more money then you did at this time last year	33	33	37	37	43
Spending about the same amount of money as you did at this time last year	48	48	46	51	41
Spending less money then you did at this time last year	19	17	16	12	15

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



As infection cases have dropped, a majority continues to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months. There is now a 17-point gap between those supporting economic issues (54%) compared to health-related issues (37%).

	May 11-24	May 18-31	May 25-Jun 7	Jun 1-14	Jun 8-21	Jun 15-28	Jun 22-Jul 5	Jun 29-Jul 12
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	48	39	37	37
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	45	53	52	54
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7	6	8	10	8

Ontarians continue to want to hear more about the government’s plans for economic recovery, with over eight-in-ten (85%) 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	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
varies							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
80	84	83	76	82	85	82	85
55	50	56	49	58	60	52	63
25	34	27	27	24	25	30	22
7	10	3	6	5	4	5	7
5	3	9	9	3	5	6	4
6	2	4	8	7	5	6	4
11	5	13	17	10	11	12	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

TIME FOR THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO START FOCUSING ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Over eight-in-ten (85%) Ontarians also continue to agree that it’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery. This compares to 35% 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	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
varies							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
70	72	84	76	82	82	85	85
39	32	56	36	52	50	55	54
31	41	28	39	30	33	30	31
4	6	8	7	6	4	6	5
15	15	5	11	10	8	8	6
10	5	3	5	2	4	1	4
25	20	8	16	12	12	9	10

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, Ontarians continue to be uncertain whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with just over half (54%) thinking that the government doesn’t have a plan.

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	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	59	49	56	44	53	49	52	54
Strongly agree	28	19	22	17	19	22	20	27
Somewhat agree	32	30	34	26	34	27	32	27
Neither agree nor disagree	10	12	12	12	7	15	12	7
Somewhat disagree	19	19	19	25	24	23	23	21
Strongly disagree	10	15	9	15	14	10	12	15
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	34	29	40	38	33	35	36

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

Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE
IN HANDLING
SECOND/THIRD/FOURTH WAVE OF COVID-19



MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN INFECTION CASES

Ontarians tend to believe that if there were a fourth wave of the pandemic in Ontario, allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (36%) would be the most responsible for the increase in infections. The emergence of a variety of COVID variants (26%) is the next most cited reason.

Which one of the following do you believe is the most responsible for the recent increase of infection cases and leading to a Wave 3 of COVID -19?

	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 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
Not restricting social contact quickly enough/(previous phrasing) The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23	21	19	20	18	19
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

If there were a 4th wave of the pandemic in Ontario, which one of the following do you believe would be most responsible for the increase in infections?

Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
300	300	300	300
%	%	%	%
37	37	39	36
27	35	20	26
10	11	16	15
13	8	10	9
3	1	4	4
4	3	6	4
6	5	5	7

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 4TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

There is concern about the possibility of a fourth wave, with 57% of Ontarians saying they are concerned Ontario will experience a fourth wave of the pandemic.

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57
Very concerned	17	26	16	21
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43

However, Ontarians tend to feel the Ontario government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. Seven-in-ten (71%) believe the government is prepared for a fourth wave of infections.

Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a second wave of infections this fall? Would you say the Ontario government is...

	Oct '20	Nov '20
n=	621	1052
	%	%
TOTAL PREPARED	76	74
Very prepared	15	17
Somewhat prepared	62	57
Not very prepared/Not too prepared	15	16
Not at all prepared	7	8
TOTAL NOT PREPARED	21	24
Don't know/not sure		

How prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a 'fourth' wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly? Would you say the Ontario government is . .

Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
300	300	300	300
%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71
19	17	17	18
48	58	54	54
20	16	16	18
11	9	12	9
32	25	27	27
		2	2

QCV-211. How prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a 'fourth' wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly? Would you say the Ontario government is . .
QCV-127. Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a second wave of infections this fall? Would you say the Ontario government is...
Base: Total sample

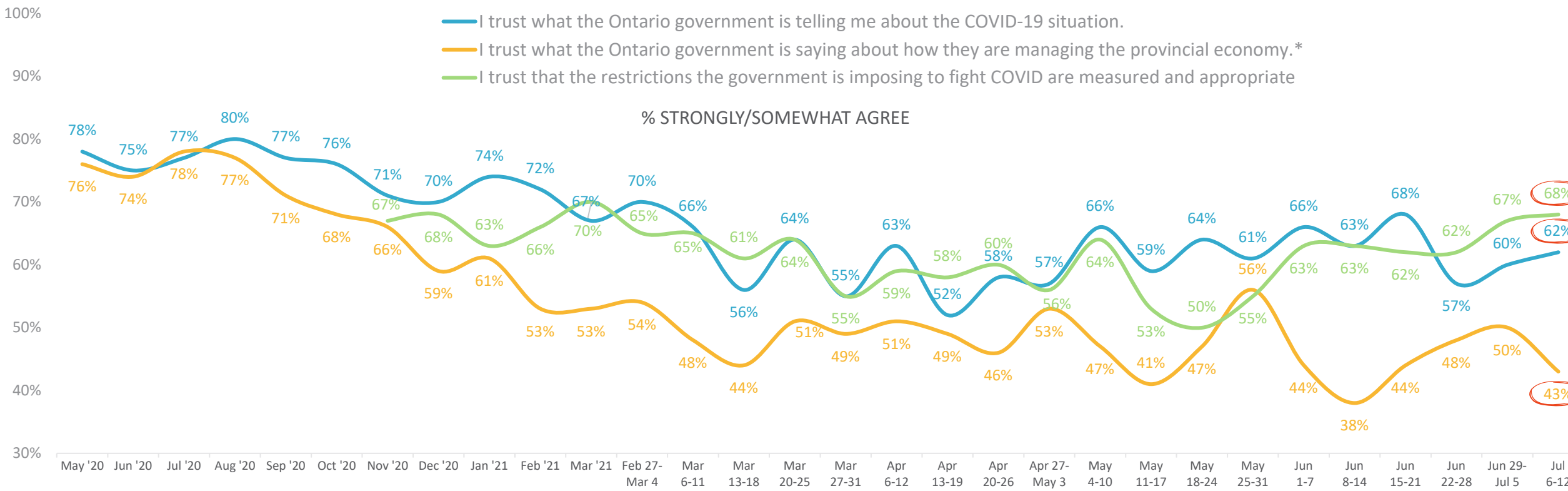
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Some of the gains in the past three weeks for trust in government communications about ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ was lost this week.

- Trust regarding what the government is ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ as well as ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’ increased slightly this week.



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

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



Agreement that we are over the worst of COVID-19 continues to increase with about eight-in-ten (77%) Ontarians now believing this.

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

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15

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 nine-in-ten Ontarians believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago. This compares to 26% at 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	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
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	77	79	79	90

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

COVID-19 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 67% agreeing with this.

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

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

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10	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	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12					
n=	varies			varies																																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%					
TOTAL AGREE	35	38	38	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	77	77	61	67					
Strongly agree	12	15	14	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	33	33	32	35					
Somewhat agree	23	24	24	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	44	44	29	32					
Neither agree nor disagree	10	10	12	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	6	3	11	5					
Somewhat disagree	18	20	22	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	11	11	13	12					
Strongly disagree	32	30	25	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	5	8	14	16					
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	50	47	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	16	20	28	27					

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

VACCINATION REQUIREMENT AT THE WORKPLACE, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES



Fully six-in-ten (60%) Ontarians indicate they do not feel safe and comfortable working with unvaccinated people.

I feel safe and comfortable working with unvaccinated people

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	49	35
Strongly agree	24	20
Somewhat agree	25	14
Somewhat disagree	18	13
Strongly disagree	32	47
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	60

QCV-212. (14) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

EVERYONE SHOULD BE FULLY VACCINATED TO RETURN TO A WORKPLACE

And, seven-in-ten (71%) Ontarians agree that to return to a workplace, everyone should have to prove they are fully vaccinated. And, intensity is strong with 48% ‘strongly’ agreeing.

To return to a workplace everyone should have to prove they are fully vaccinated

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	65	71
Strongly agree	43	48
Somewhat agree	23	23
Somewhat disagree	15	8
Strongly disagree	18	20
TOTAL DISAGREE	33	28

QCV-212. (14) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

Six-in-ten (61%) disagree that people have no right to know if a person is vaccinated or not.

People have no right to know if I’m vaccinated or not

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	41	37
Strongly agree	25	23
Somewhat agree	16	15
Somewhat disagree	19	21
Strongly disagree	39	40
TOTAL DISAGREE	58	61

QCV-212. (14) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

Two-thirds (67%) of Ontarians agree that eligible elementary and high school students returning to in-class learning in September should be required to be fully vaccinated. And, half (48%) ‘strongly’ agree with this.

Eligible elementary and high school students returning to in-class learning in September should be required to be fully vaccinated

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	71	67
Strongly agree	50	48
Somewhat agree	20	19
Somewhat disagree	13	10
Strongly disagree	16	19
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	28

QCV-212. (14) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

There is even more agreement that college and university students returning to campus life should be required to the fully vaccinated, with 72% of Ontarians agreeing and 55% ‘strongly’ agreeing.

College and university students returning to campus life should be required to be fully vaccinated

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	75	72
Strongly agree	62	55
Somewhat agree	13	16
Somewhat disagree	6	9
Strongly disagree	18	18
TOTAL DISAGREE	24	27
Not applicable	1	1
Don't know	1	1

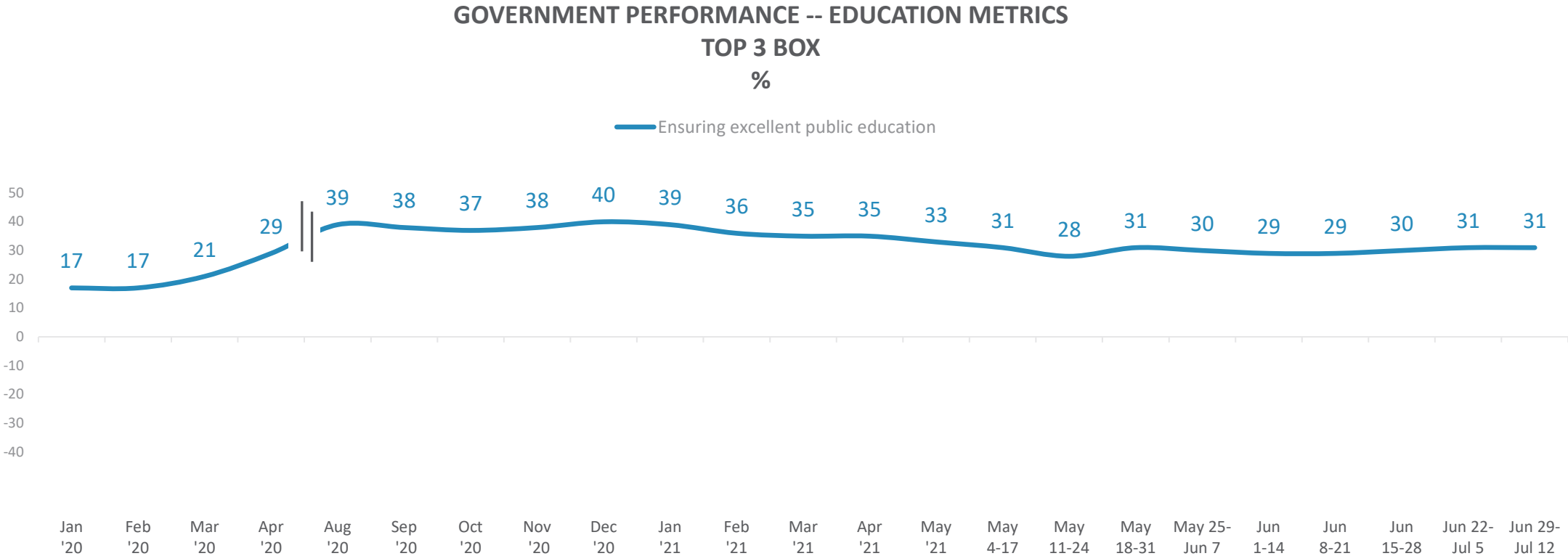
QCV-212. (14) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

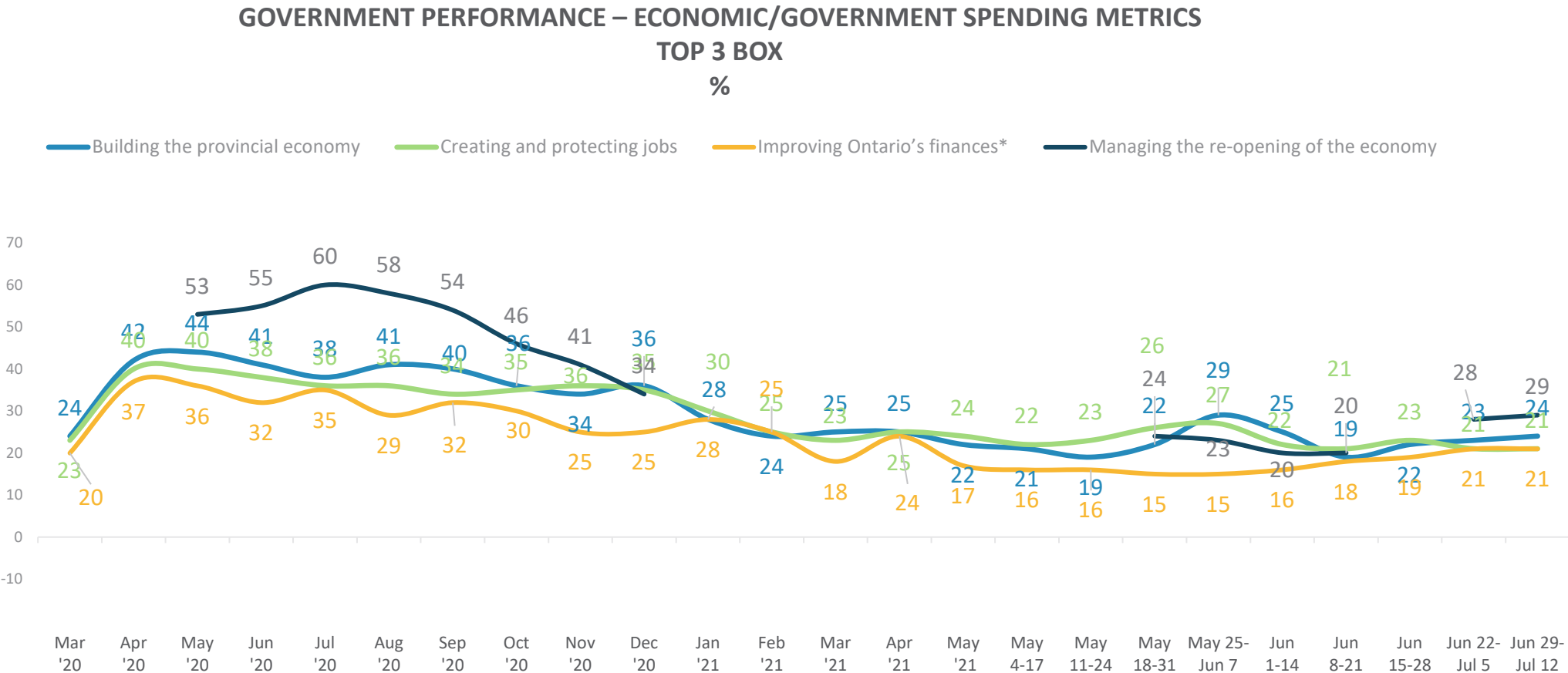


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained steady again this week.



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

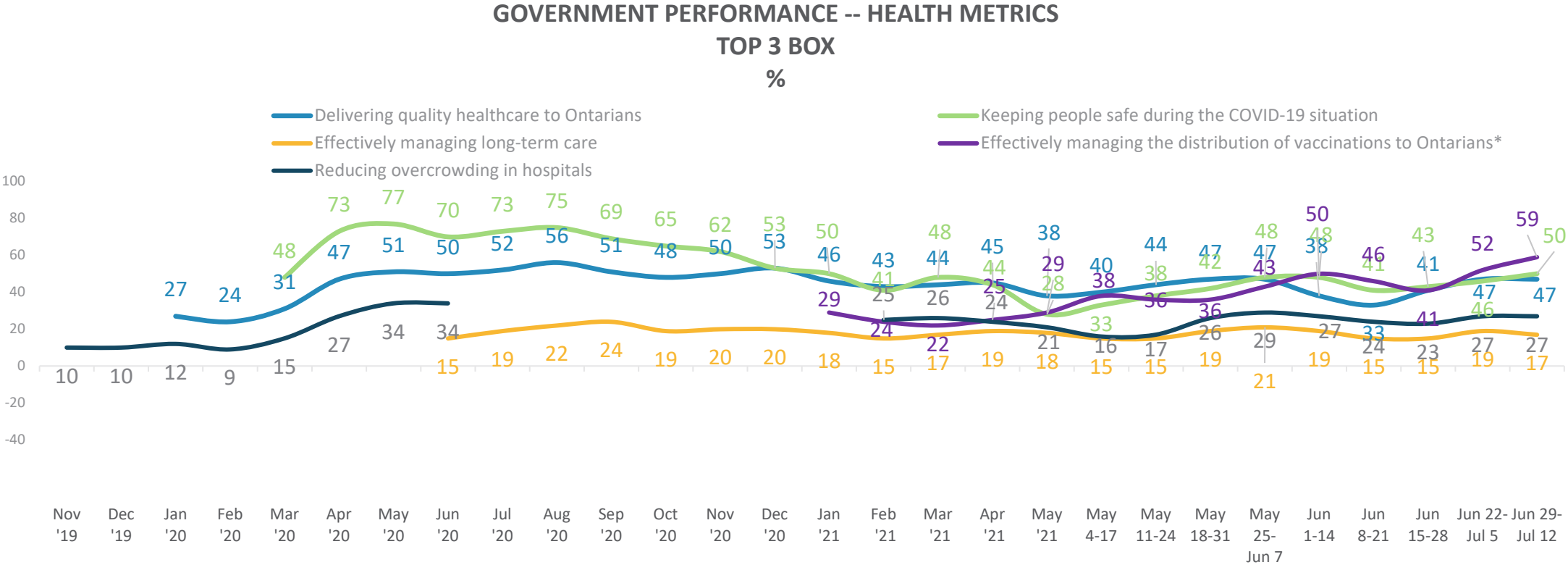
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for economic and government spending metrics remained steady this week.



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?

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

This week there was an increase in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations to Ontarians’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’. The other health metrics 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