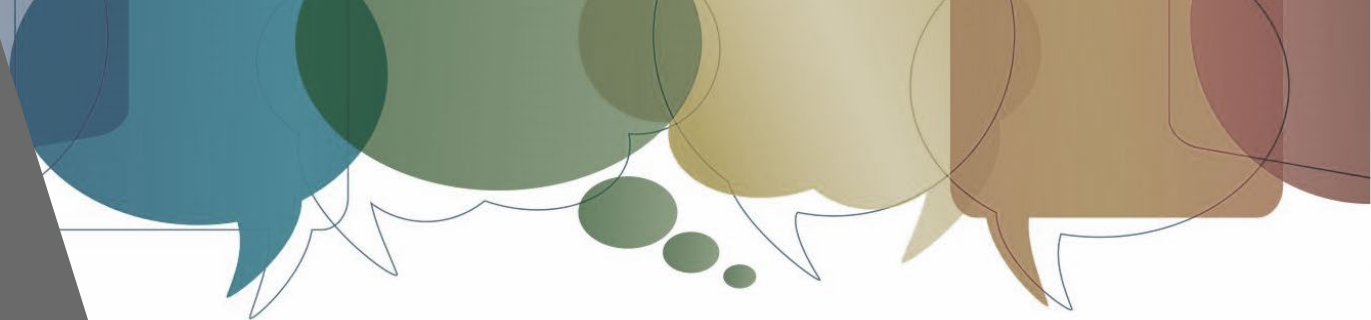




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #91

CABINET OFFICE
July 27th 2021

Ontario 

KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 The 'right track' scores have rebounded this week to 61%.

'Right track' scores continue to trend up among those aged 35-44 and 55-64, while stabilizing among Ontarians aged 45-54 and 65+. However, 'right track' scores have been declining among 18-34 year olds. After three weeks of lower scores, men again have higher 'right track' scores than women.

And, while Ontarians making <\$40k register the highest 'right track' scores, declines continue among this segment.

3 The top priority COVID-19 continues to be trending down, and is now half (36%) of results measured in May of this year. As COVID-19 infections ease and vaccine rollout continues to be brisk, the economy as the top priority has seen a gradual uptick in recent weeks.

A majority continues to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months, with 52% supporting economic issues compared to 39% for health-related issues.

However, Ontarians want to hear more about the government's plans for economic recovery, with eight-in-ten (81%) agreeing with this.

2 The government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' again declined and is now at parity with results for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' (which remained unchanged this week).

However, Ontarians indicate they are less confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, with a decline from 73% to 61% agreeing with this.

Additionally, there was a decline this week in the proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19. Increasing concern about the Delta variant south of the border may be fueling this concern.

4 Ontarians continue to be uncertain whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with just under half (46%) that think the government doesn't have a plan.

Importantly, the government's rating for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' has improved 20-points since early June.

And, while almost two-thirds (64%) of Ontarians think the Ontario economy is improving, most (60%) think it is 'slowly' improving. Of note, one-quarter (25%) would say it is worsening.

Key Findings

The majority (54%) of Ontarians report their family's financial situation stayed the same over the past year. However, the proportion who say it worsened (31%) is more than double that who say it improved (13%).

However, Ontarians appear optimistic about the future with almost six-in-ten (57%) anticipating the financial situation of their household over the next year will be 'excellent/good', while only 7% anticipate it will be 'poor'.

That said, most (96%) Ontarians believe that small business workers have been negatively affected financially as a result of the pandemic. And, nine-in-ten believe this is true for retail (93%) and hospitality (92%) workers.

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

Three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians agree that eligible elementary and high school students returning to in-class learning in September should be required to be fully vaccinated, with agreement increasing. And, half (52%) 'strongly' agree with this.

This increases to eight-in-ten (80%) that agree college and university students returning to campus life should be required to be fully vaccinated, and intensity is high with 58% 'strongly' agreeing.

As the economy continues to reopen and people are starting to return to their workplaces, there are questions about how to deal with those who are not vaccinated.

Half (51%) of Ontarians indicate they do not feel safe and comfortable working with unvaccinated people, while 46% report they do. With the numbers trending, this is a metric to watch in the coming weeks.

However, seven-in-ten (73%) Ontarians agree that to return to a workplace, everyone should have to prove they are fully vaccinated. Intensity is strong with 47% that 'strongly' agree.

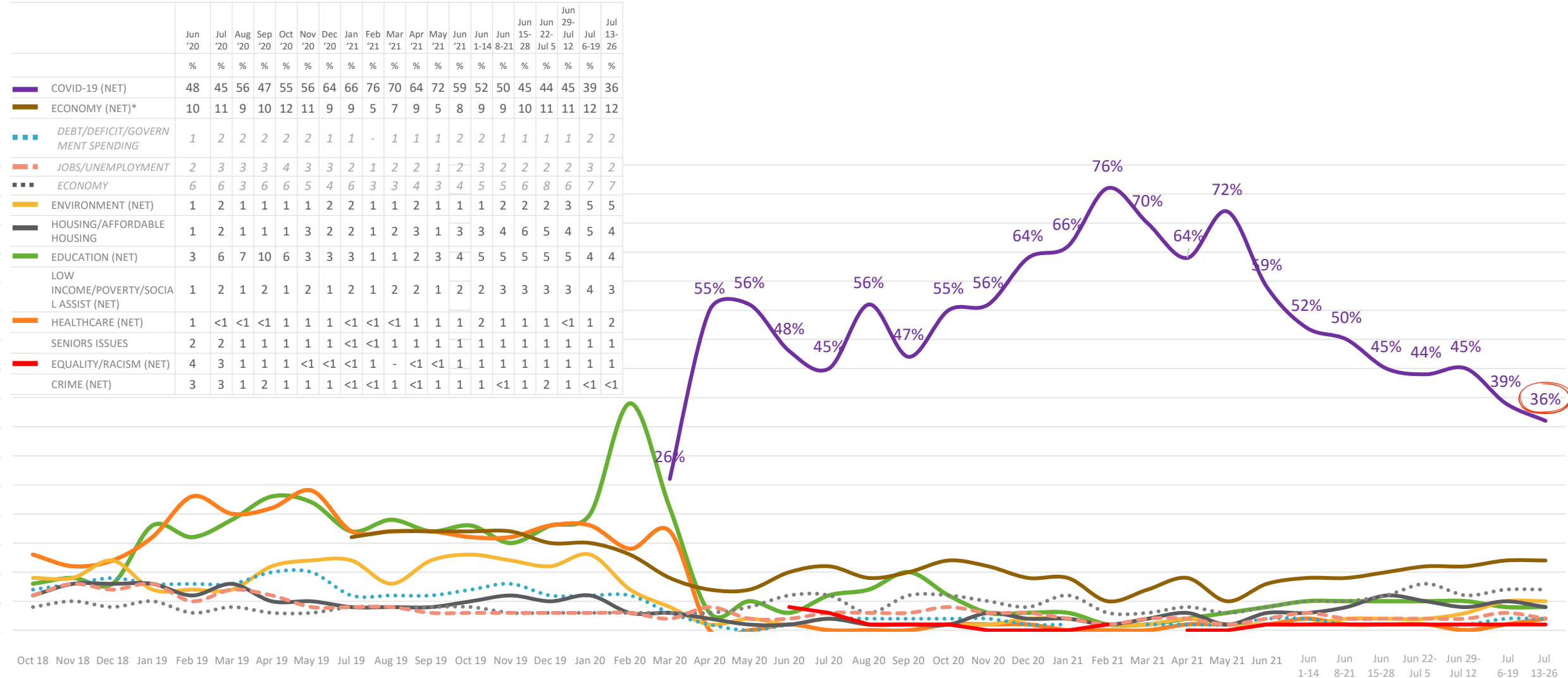
Interestingly, a majority (56%) disagree that people have no right to know if a person is vaccinated or not. However, this percentage has been trending down and bears watching.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

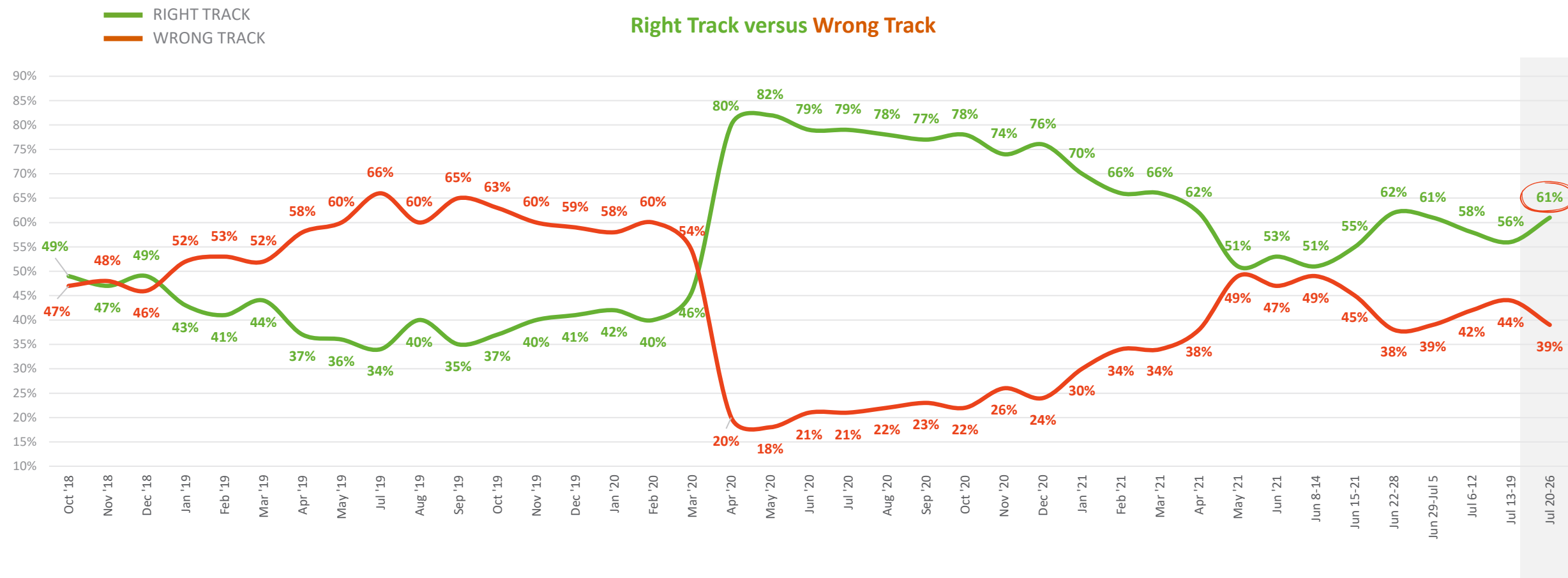
The top priority COVID-19 continues to be trending down and is now half (36%) of results measured in May of this year. As COVID-19 infections ease and vaccine rollout continues to be brisk, the economy as the top priority has seen a gradual uptick in recent weeks.



RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

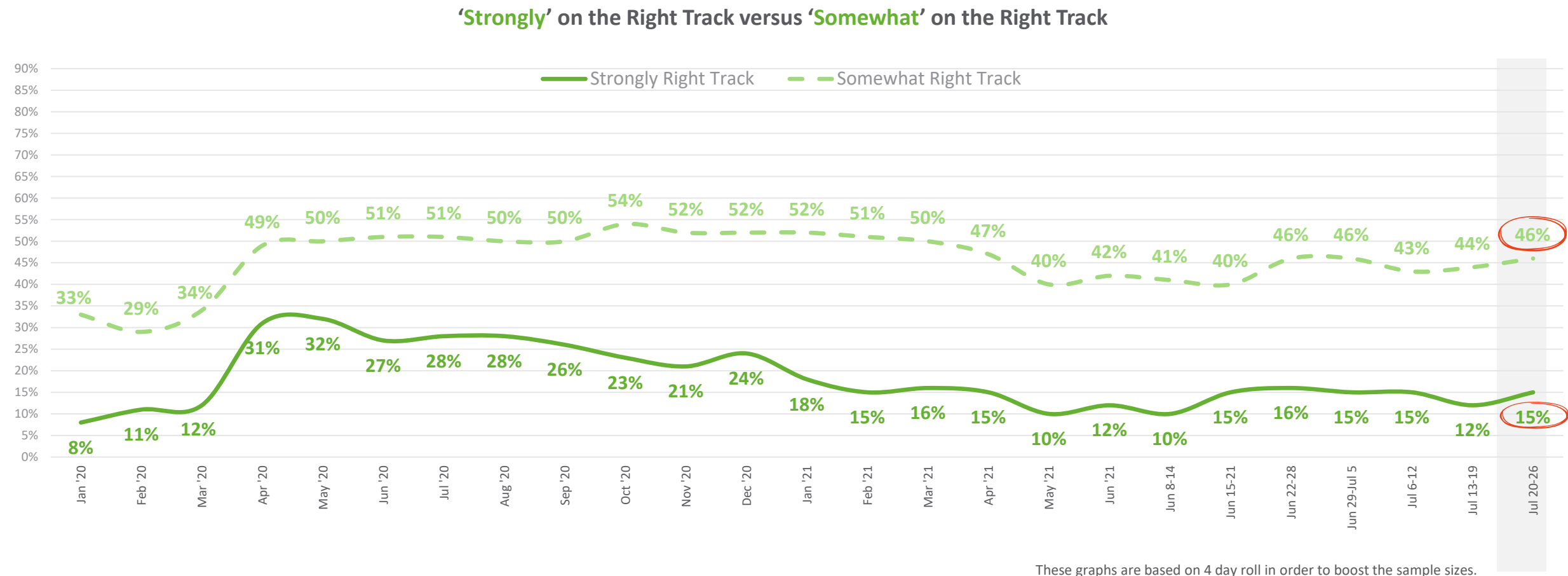


This week the 'right track' score is at 61%, up from 56% a week ago.



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

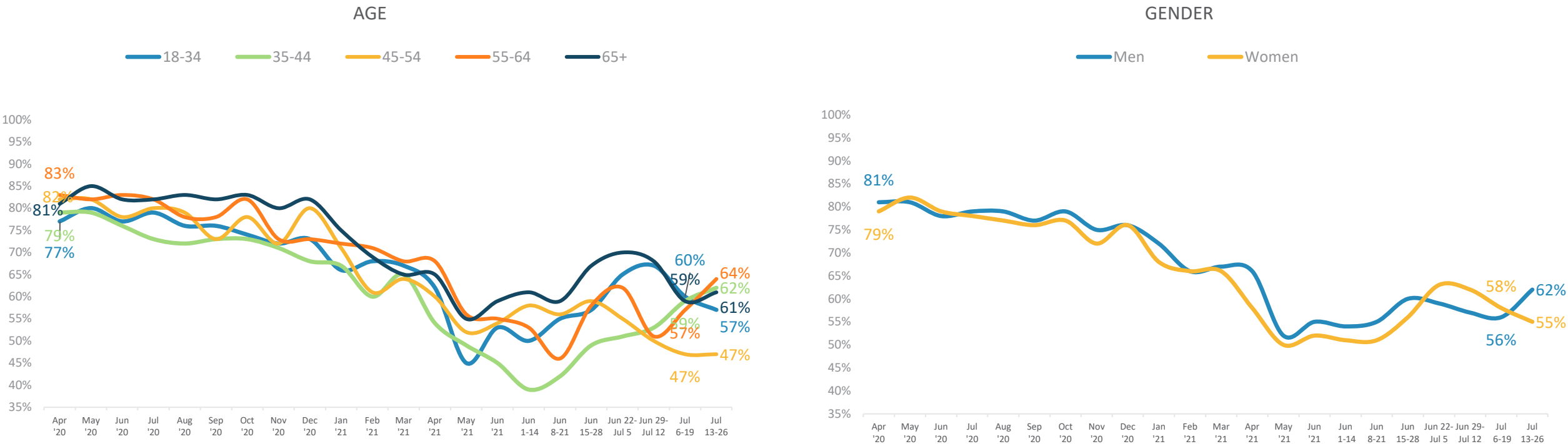
Again, the slight declines in ‘right track’ scores have been reversed this week among both those who see the government as ‘strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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 continue to trend up among those aged 35-44 and 55-64, while stabilizing among Ontarians aged 45-54 and 65+. After three weeks of lower scores, men again have higher ‘right track’ scores than women.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

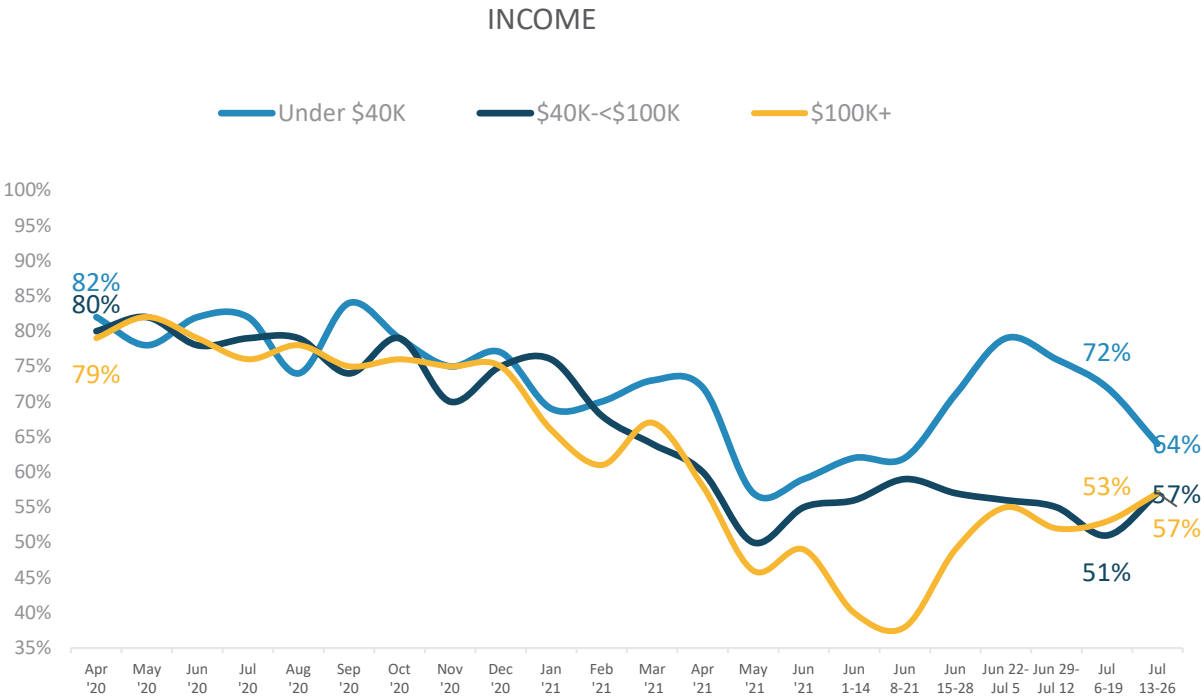
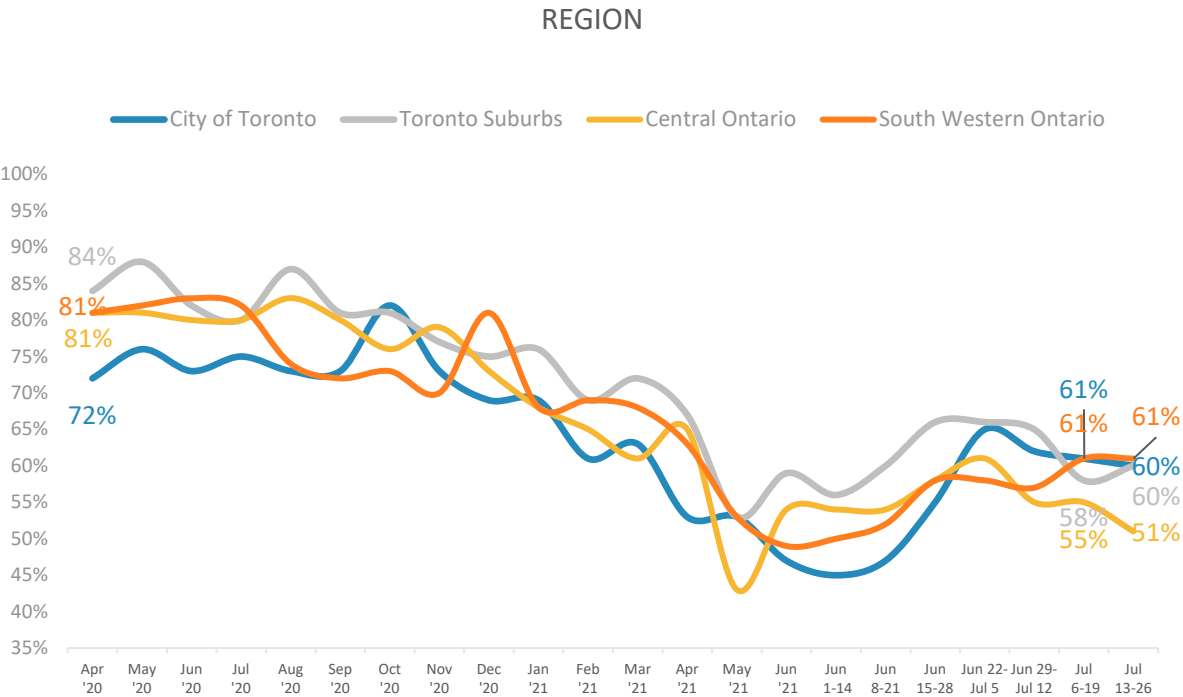


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 with the exception of Central Ontario where there was a decline measured. And, there continues to be a decline in ‘right track’ scores among Ontarians making <\$40k, while there is now parity among those making \$40k+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



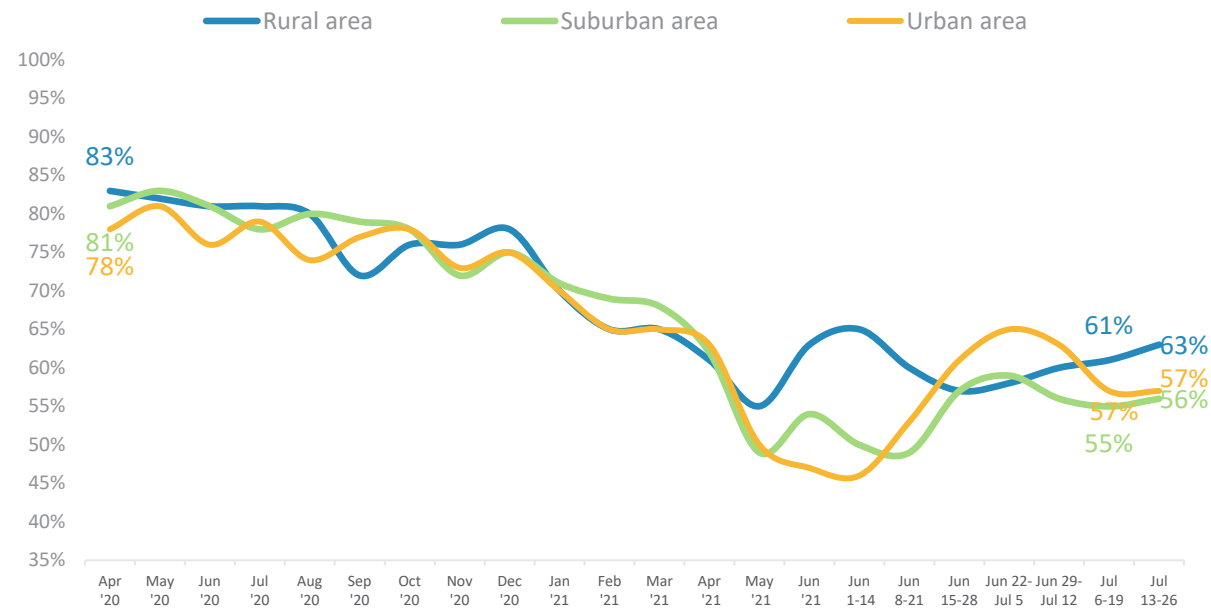
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

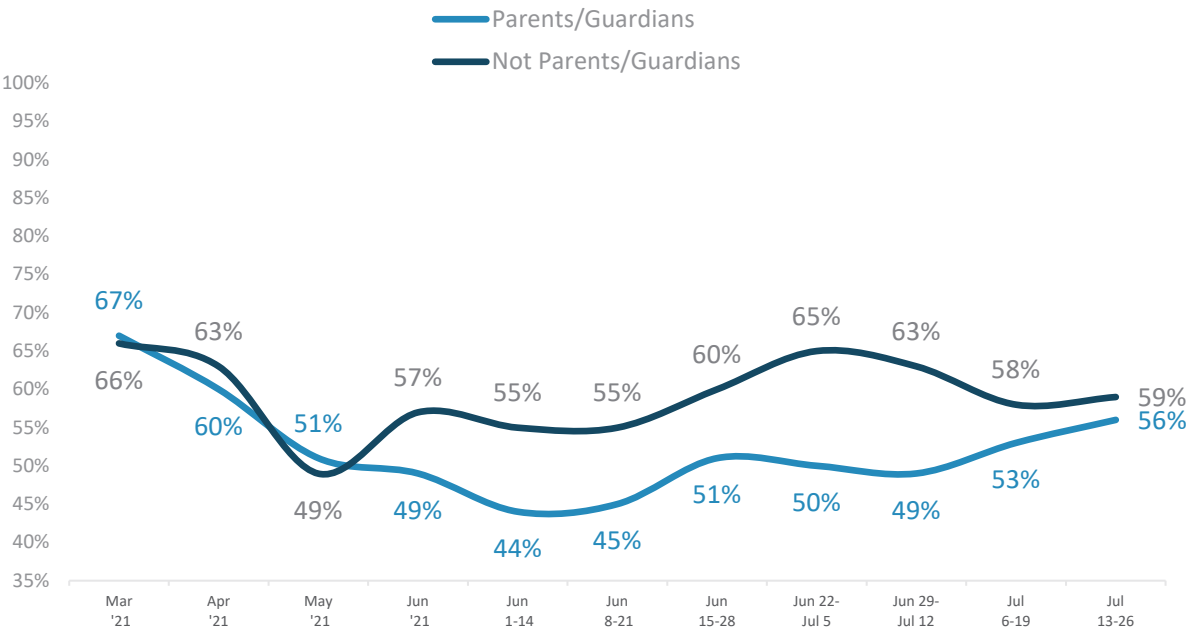
This week, ‘right track’ scores have remained steady in both the urban and suburban areas while continuing to slowly increase in the rural areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



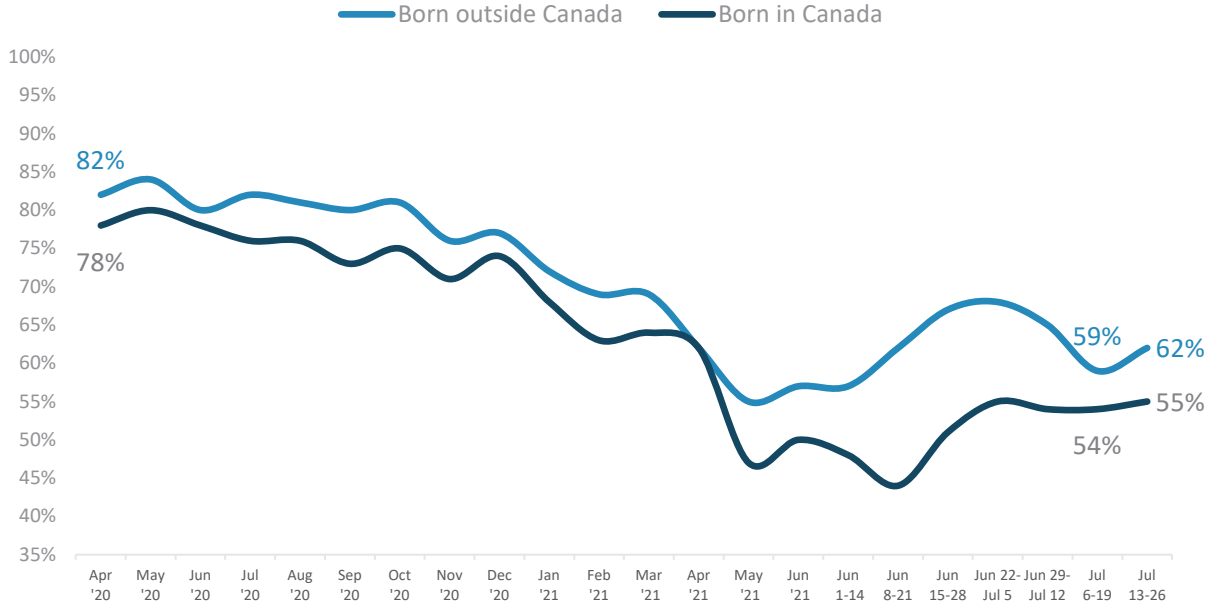
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

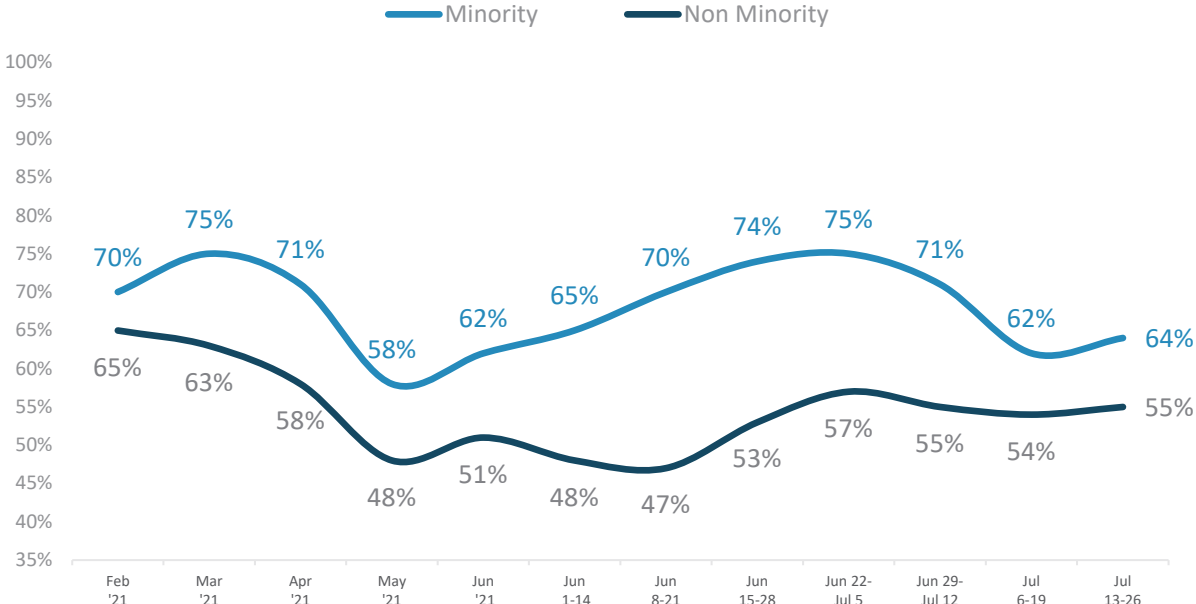
‘Right track’ scores remained unchanged among both those born in Canada and non-minorities, while there has been a slight uptick among those born outside of Canada and minorities (after experiencing declines).

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

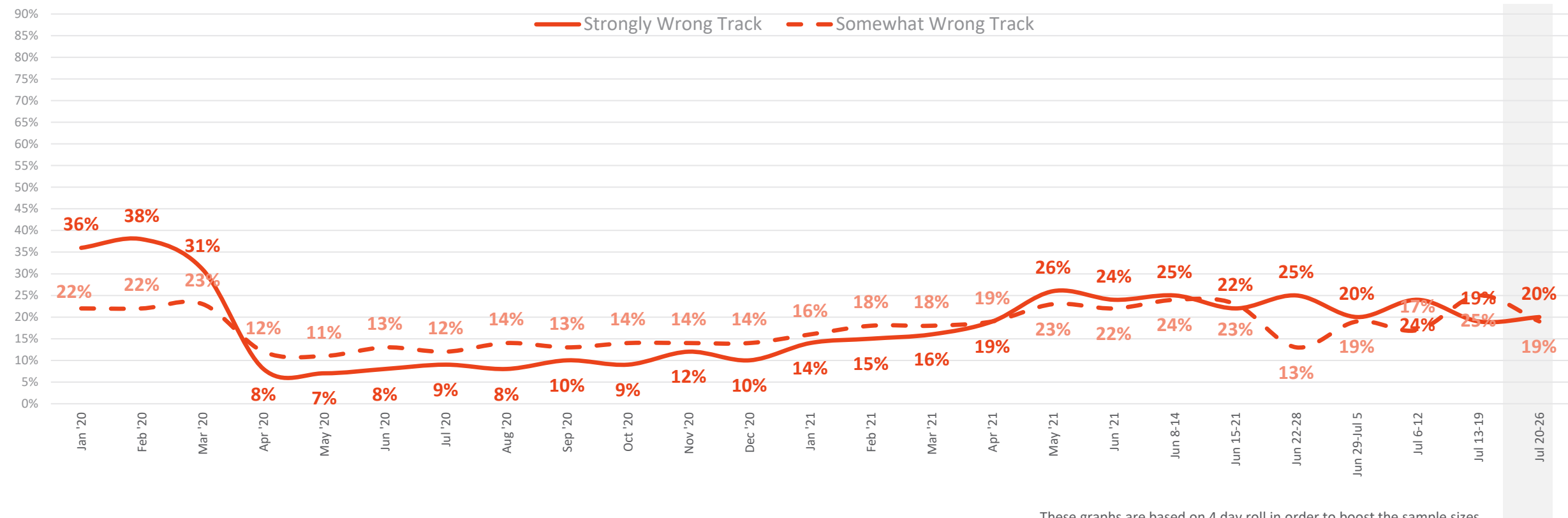


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

After several weeks of fluctuations, ‘strongly on the wrong track’ and ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ scores are at parity this week.

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

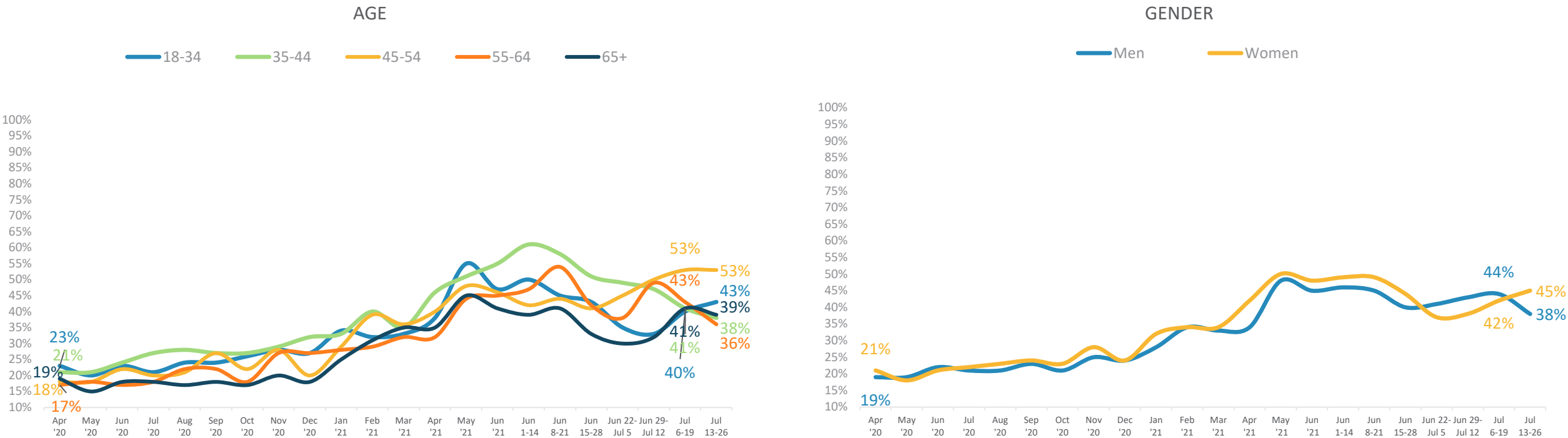


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 among Ontarians aged 35-44 and 55-64 declined again this week, while remaining stable among those aged 45-54 and 65+. ‘Wrong track’ scores have been increasing among younger Ontarians aged 18-34. This week, ‘wrong track’ scores are higher among women than men.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

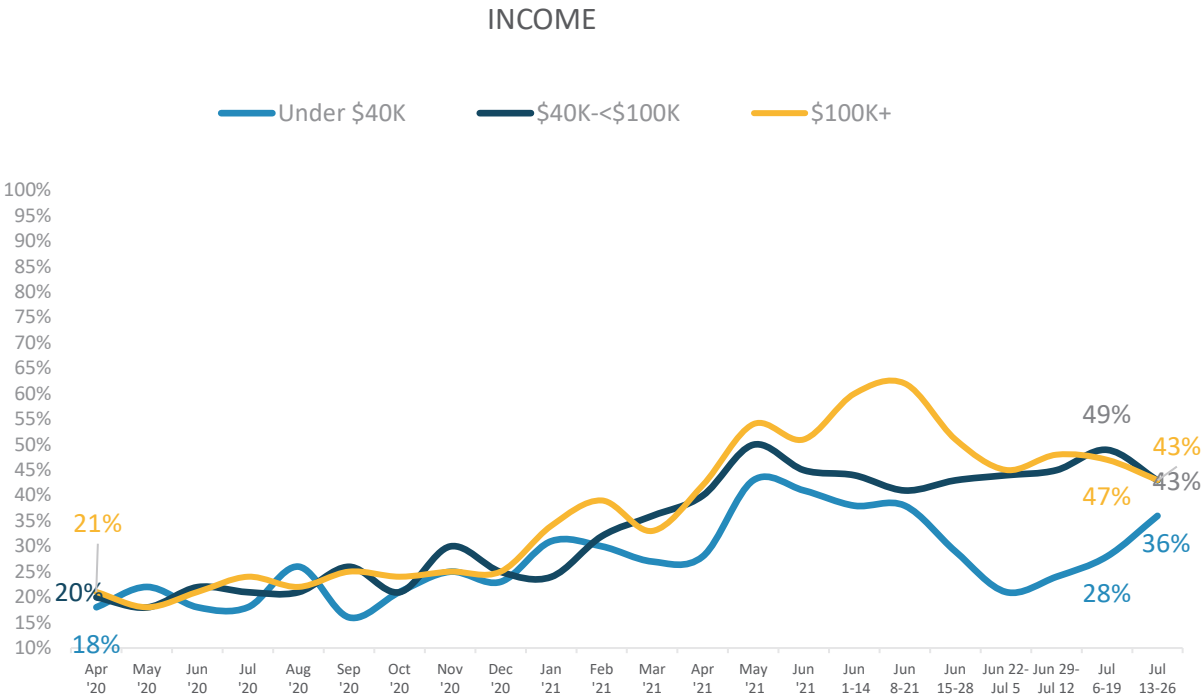
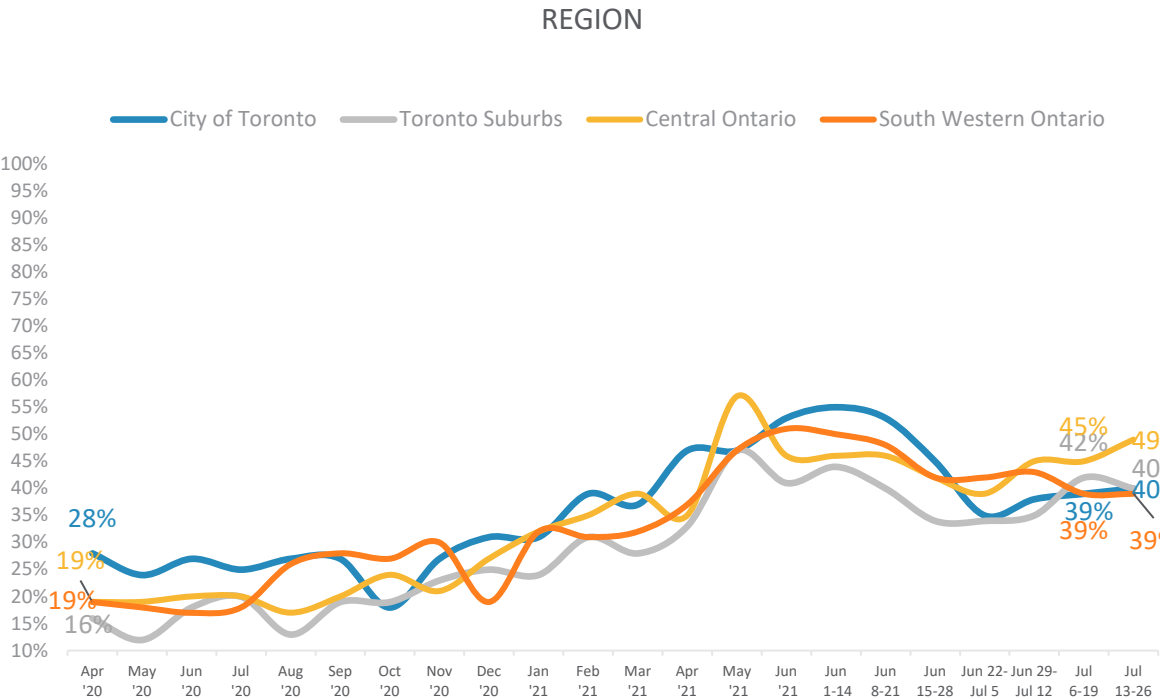


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 in Central Ontario while remaining stable in the other regions. ‘Wrong track’ scores have been increasing among those making <\$40k, but remain below those making \$40k+.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



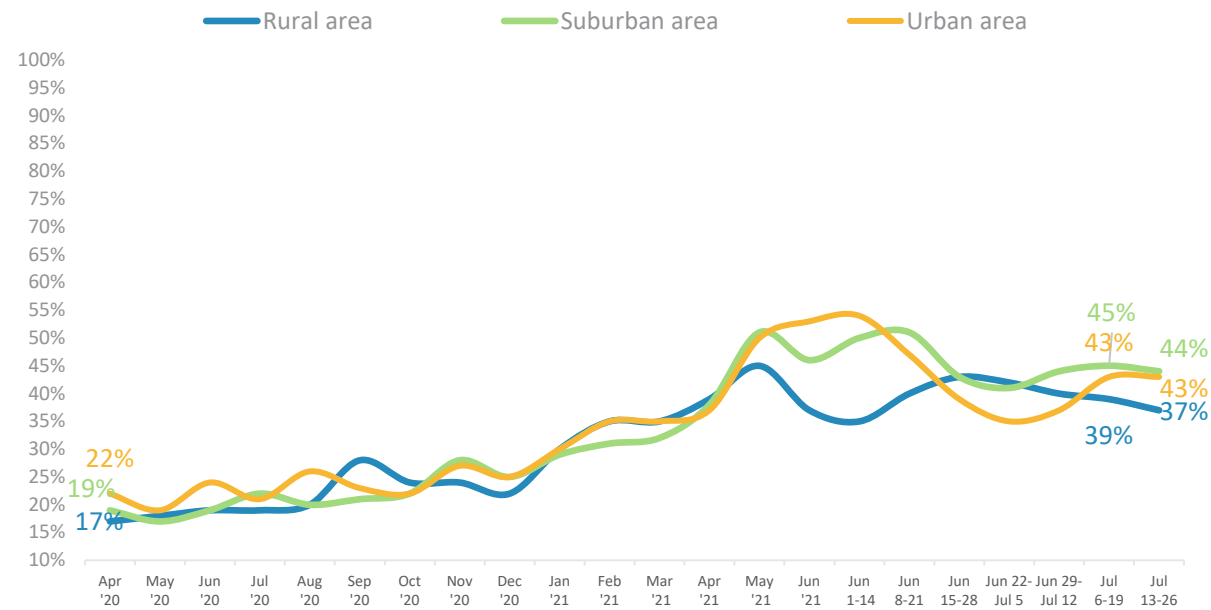
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

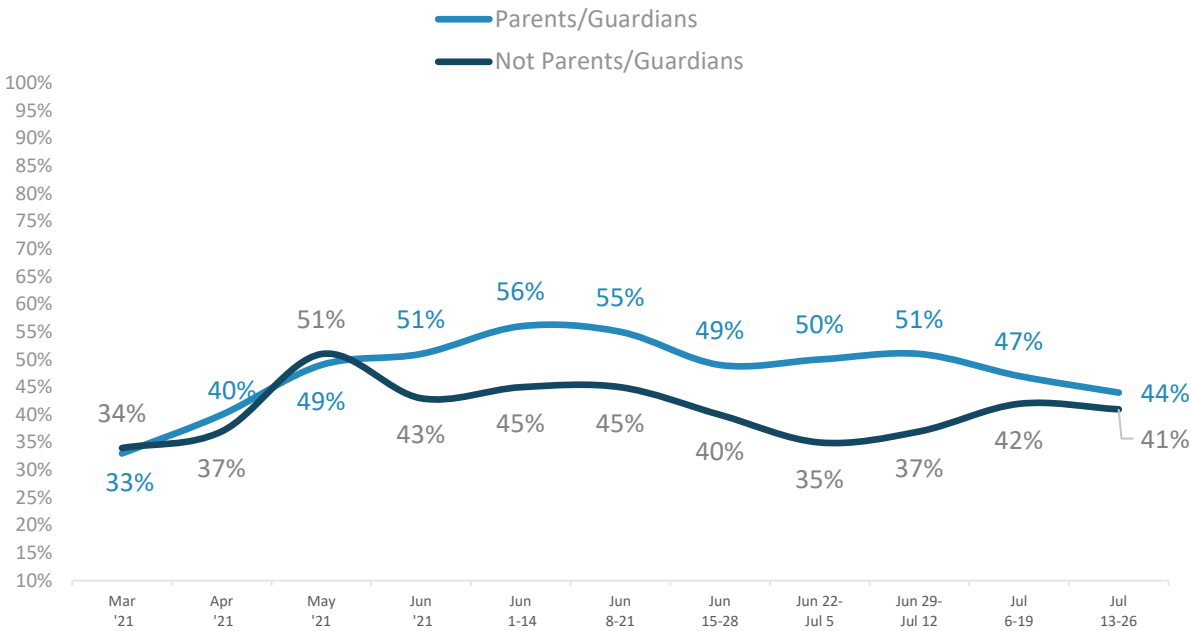
‘Wrong track’ scores remained stable in both urban and suburban areas this week while continuing to slowly decline in the rural areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

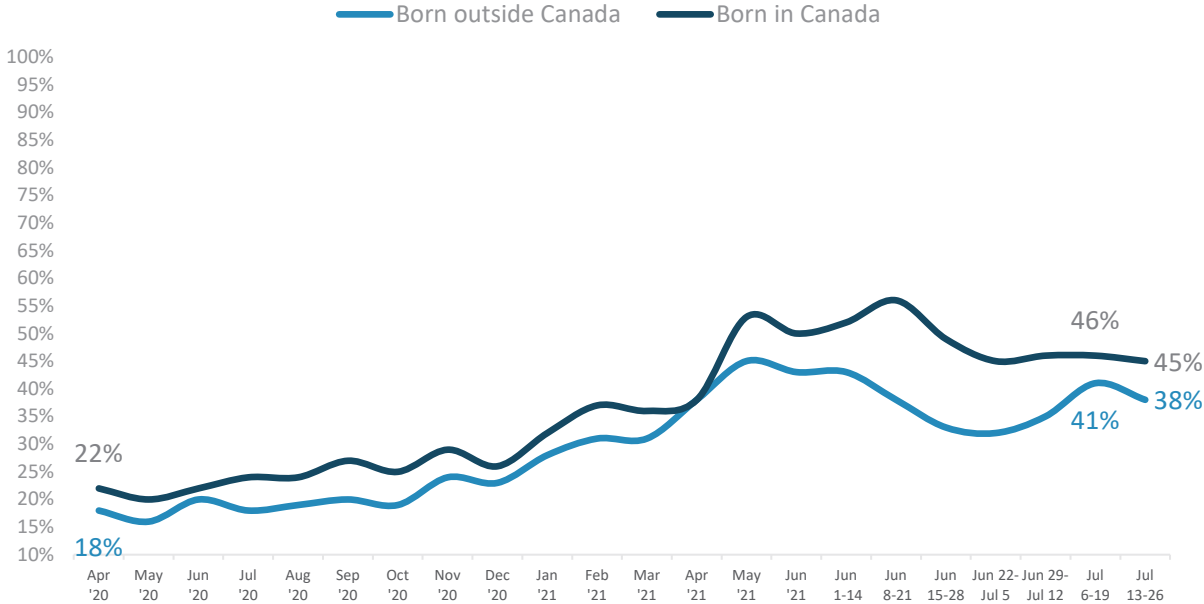


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

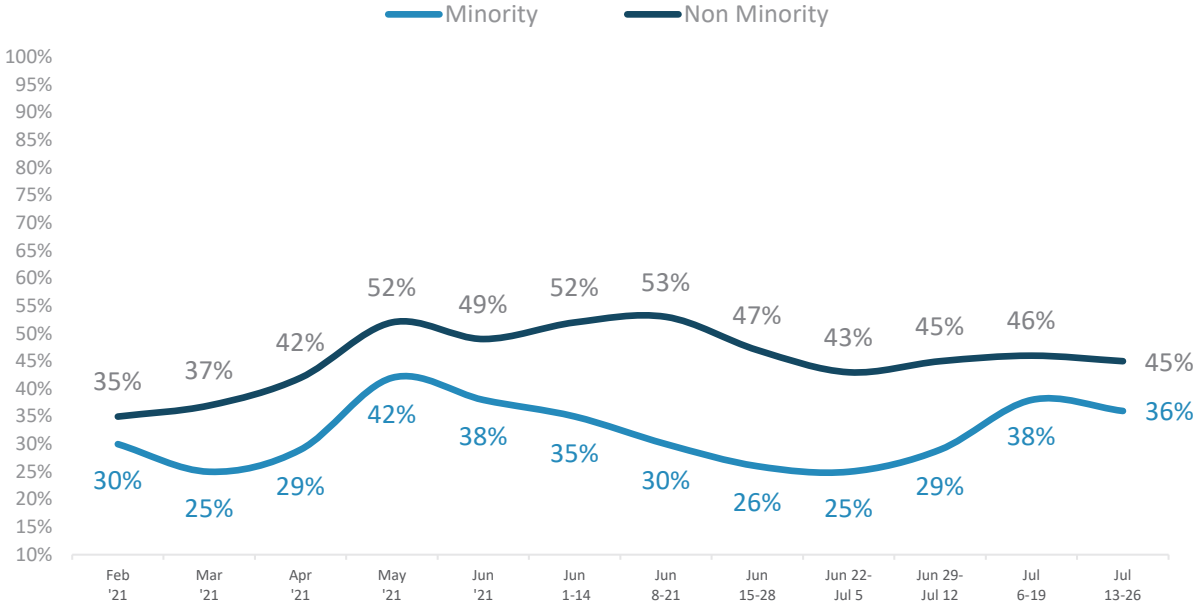
This week, ‘**wrong track**’ scores remained unchanged among those born in Canada and non-minorities, while slight declines were measured among Ontarians born outside Canada and minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



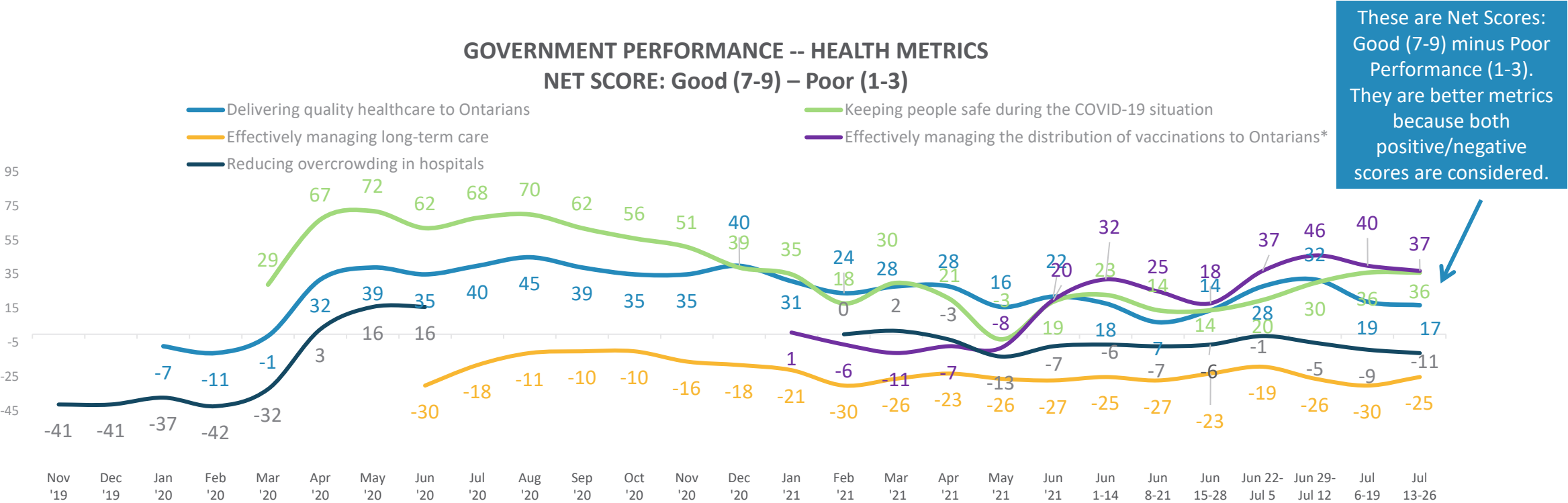
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



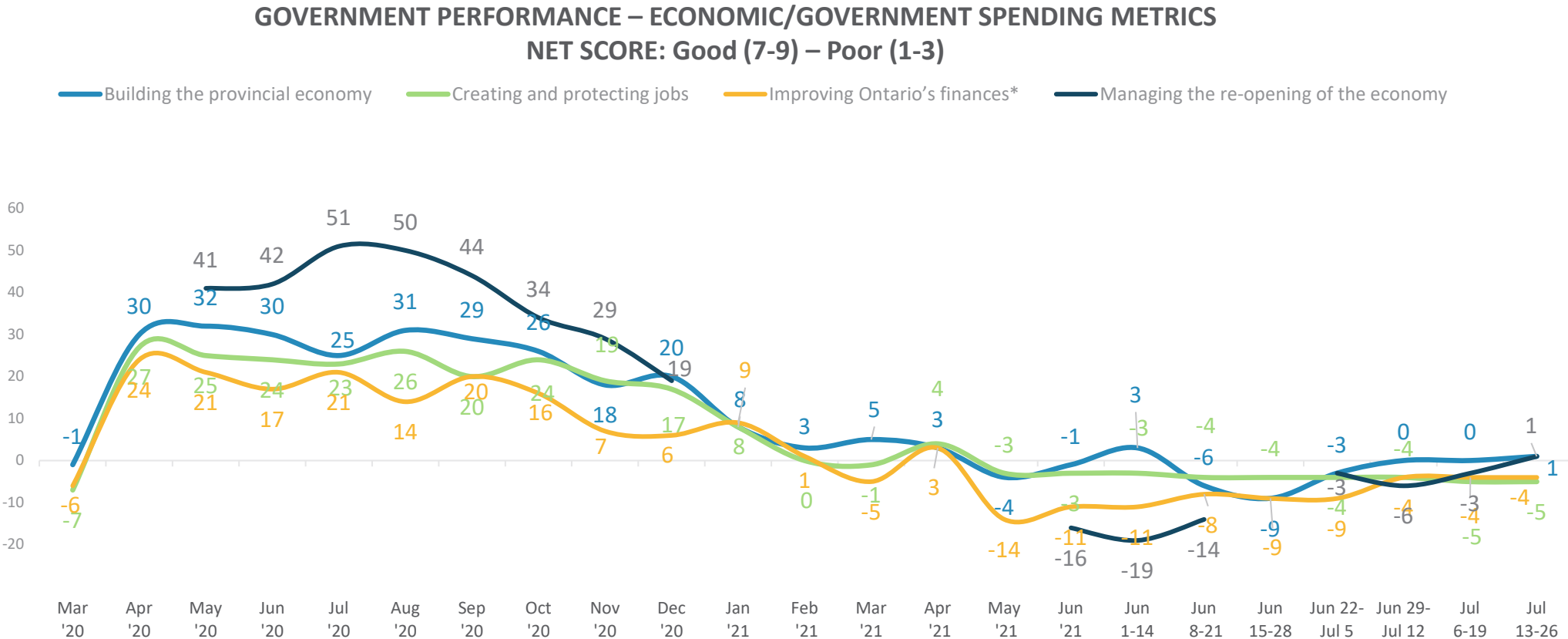
This week there is parity in the rating of the government’s performance on ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ and are the highest rated health metrics.

- There was an increase measured for ‘effectively managing long-term care’, while the other health metrics remained relatively unchanged.



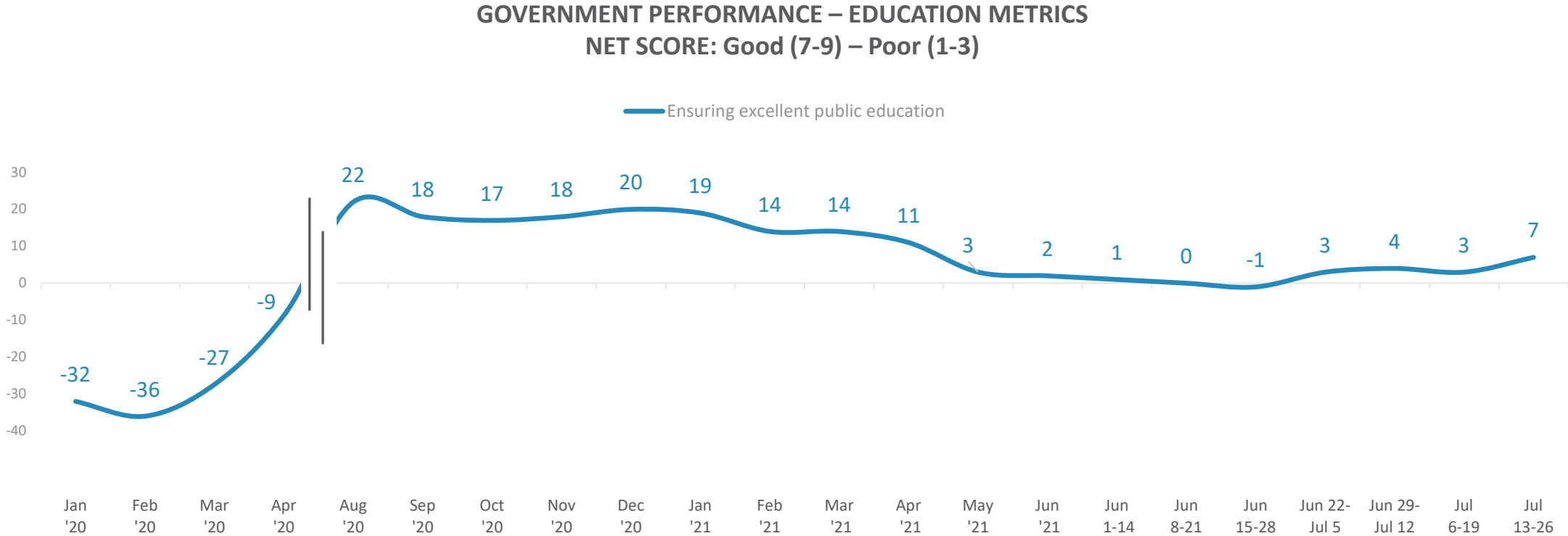
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The government’s rating for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ has improved again this week and is up 20-points since the beginning of June. The other economic and government spending metrics 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”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has been slowly improving and is now at NET 7.



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

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ONTARIANS



PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION OF FAMILY OVER THE LAST YEAR

Just over half (53%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’. One-in-ten (12%) describe it as ‘poor’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	770	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	56	53
Excellent	15	16	10
Good	42	40	43
Fair	31	31	34
Poor	9	10	9
Very poor	4	1	3
TOTAL POOR	12	12	12

CHANGE IN FINANCIAL SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR

The majority (54%) of Ontarians report their family’s financial situation stayed the same over the past year. However, the proportion who say it worsened (31%) is more than double that who say it improved (13%).

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	764	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	15	14	13
Improve a great deal	3	3	3
Improve somewhat	13	11	10
Stay the same	54	58	54
Worsen somewhat	24	21	25
Worsen a great deal	7	6	6
TOTAL WORSEN	31	27	31

QFP2 How, if at all, did your family's financial situation change over the past year? Did it...

Base: Total sample

ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLD OVER THE NEXT YEAR

Ontarians appear optimistic about the future with almost six-in-ten (57%) anticipating the financial situation of their household over the next year will be ‘excellent/good’, while only 7% anticipate it will be ‘poor’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	763	300	300
	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	63	57
Excellent	12	16	10
Good	44	47	47
Fair	32	28	35
Poor	7	6	6
Very poor	2	-	1
TOTAL POOR	10	6	7

QFP3 And over the next year do you anticipate that the financial situation of your household will be...

Base: Total sample

GROUPS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED FINANCIALLY BY THE PANDEMIC

Most (96%) Ontarians believe that small business workers have been negatively affected financially as a result of the pandemic. And, nine-in-ten believe this is true for retail (93%) and hospitality (92%) workers.

% VERY/SOMEWHAT NEGATIVELY AFFECTED	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	300	300
	%	%
Small businesses workers	95	96
Retail workers	89	93
Hospitality workers	90	92
College and university students	82	83
Grocery and front-line workers	61	65

QER8 For the following groups, please indicate how much you believe each has been negatively affected financially as a result of the pandemic?
Base: Total sample

Almost two-thirds (64%) of Ontarians think the Ontario economy is improving. However, most (60%) think it is ‘slowly’ improving. Of note, one-quarter (25%) would say it is worsening.

	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	300	300
	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVING	66	64
Quickly improving	4	3
Slowly improving	62	60
Unchanged	11	10
Slowly worsening	16	19
Quickly worsening	5	6
TOTAL WORSENING	20	25

MAIN REASON BELIEVE THE ECONOMY IS IMPROVING

Among those who think the Ontario economy is improving, their reason for believing this tends to be connected to the reopening of non-essential stores (33%) and restaurants (19%) as well as knowing people that are going back to work (22%).

IMPROVING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	197	160
	%	%
Non-essential stores are reopening	43	33
People I know are going back to work	22	22
Restaurants and bars are reopening	16	19
Seen, read, heard that the economy is improving	6	12
People adapting to change/less fear/starting to feel safe	-	3
All of the above	7	9

QER10 Which of the following is the main reason you believe the economy is IMPROVING?

Base: Those who say the Ontario economy is improving at QER9

MAIN REASON BELIEVE THE ECONOMY IS WORSENING

Among the Ontarians who believe the economy is worsening, they believe this because non-essential stores are not fully open (20%) and that there are people they know who are still unemployed (20%).

WORSENING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	61	63
	%	%
Non-essential stores are not fully open	36	20
People I know are still unemployed	30	20
Seen, read, heard that the economy is not improving	6	15
Restaurants and bars are not fully open	9	7
People not working (e.g., getting free money, companies not hiring)	-	6
Prices increasing (e.g., interest rates)	-	5
Mismanagement by the government	5	4
Businesses struggling or had to permanently close	-	3
Government spending/debt	-	3
Other	3	4
All of the above/combination of the above	9	8

QER11 Which of the following is the main reason you believe the economy is WORSENING ?

Base: Those who say the Ontario economy is worsening at QER9

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 remains relatively unchanged this week at 79%.

	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	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	78	69	80	88	81	82	77	77	79
Very supportive	25	26	27	32	36	42	42	29	31
Somewhat supportive	53	43	53	57	45	40	35	48	48
Somewhat opposed	11	11	11	6	5	9	7	12	11
Strongly opposed	10	18	7	6	13	7	11	9	9
TOTAL OPPOSE	21	29	18	12	19	17	18	21	21
Don't know/not sure								2	1

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

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.

	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	Jul 6-19	Jul 13-26
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	38	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	39	45	45	45	53	52	54	53	52
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7	6	8	10	8	7	6

Ontarians also continue to want to hear more about the government’s plans for economic recovery, with eight-in-ten (81%) 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	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
varies									
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
80	84	83	76	82	85	82	85	85	81
55	50	56	49	58	60	52	63	59	53
25	34	27	27	24	25	30	22	25	28
7	10	3	6	5	4	5	7	5	6
5	3	9	9	3	5	6	4	5	8
6	2	4	8	7	5	6	4	4	4
11	5	13	17	10	11	12	8	9	12

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 (83%) 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	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
varies									
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
70	72	84	76	82	82	85	85	83	83
39	32	56	36	52	50	55	54	52	52
31	41	28	39	30	33	30	31	30	31
4	6	8	7	6	4	6	5	5	4
15	15	5	11	10	8	8	6	9	9
10	5	3	5	2	4	1	4	3	4
25	20	8	16	12	12	9	10	12	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

Ontarians remain uncertain whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with just under half (46%) that think 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	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	59	49	56	44	53	49	52	54	43	46
Strongly agree	28	19	22	17	19	22	20	27	19	18
Somewhat agree	32	30	34	26	34	27	32	27	24	28
Neither agree nor disagree	10	12	12	12	7	15	12	7	9	10
Somewhat disagree	19	19	19	25	24	23	23	21	32	24
Strongly disagree	10	15	9	15	14	10	12	15	14	17
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	34	29	40	38	33	35	36	46	41

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

If there were a fourth wave of COVID-19, a plurality believes allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (30%) would be the most responsible, although the proportion has been decreasing. As borders open, more Ontarians believe this week that the virus will be bought across land borders.

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	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
Varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
37	37	39	36	33	30
27	35	20	26	26	23
10	11	16	15	12	19
13	8	10	9	11	6
3	1	4	4	5	2
4	3	6	4	6	9
6	5	5	7	6	11

QCV-200. (Q199) 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? (Previous phrasing) 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?

Base: Total sample

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39

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 4TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

Ontarians indicate they are increasingly concerned that the province may experience a fourth wave of the pandemic. This increase likely reflects the mounting media coverage of the spread of the Delta variant.

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30

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 (69%) 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	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
Varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69
19	17	17	18	14	17
48	58	54	54	53	52
20	16	16	18	19	17
11	9	12	9	10	10
32	25	27	27	28	27
		2	2	4	4

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

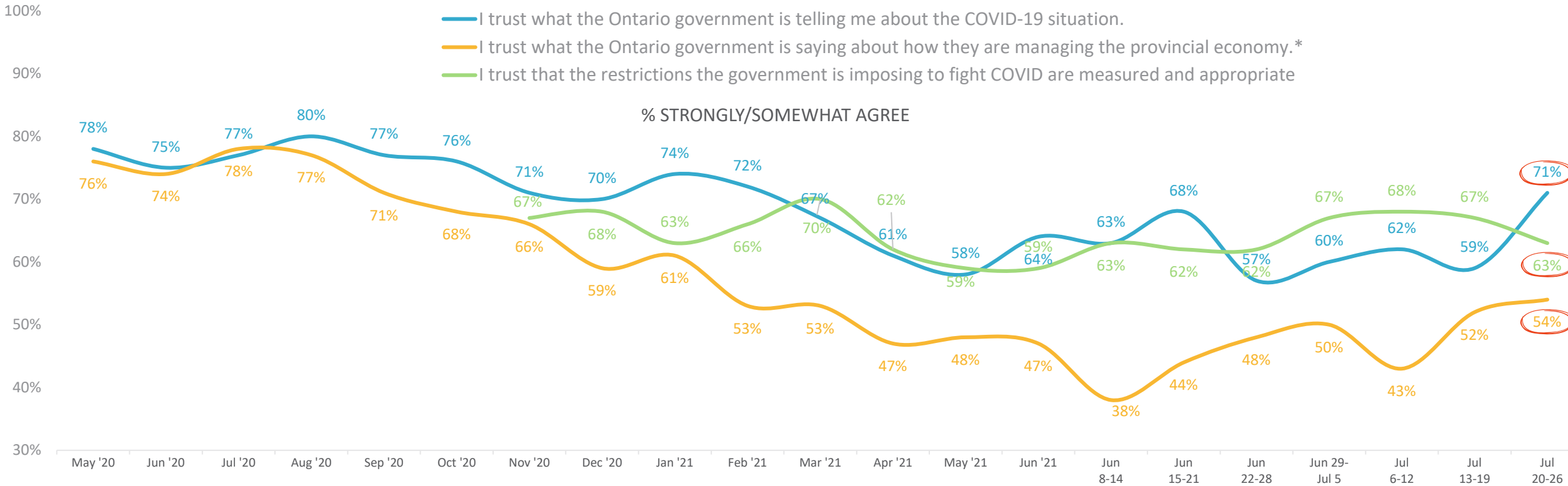
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

There were improvements measured in the trust of government communications about ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ and ‘what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’.

- However, there was a decline for trust regarding ‘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

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

There was a decline this week in the proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19. Increasing concern about the Delta variant south of the border may be fueling this concern.

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	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VACCINE



There has also been a decline in the number of Ontarians that are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, with agreement declining to 62% this week.

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**

Jan '21	Feb '21	Mar '21	Apr '21	May '21	Jun'21	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
varies												
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	66	77	77	61	67	73	62
16	18	18	22	20	33	25	33	33	32	35	32	26
35	31	31	36	36	39	41	44	44	29	32	42	36
6	7	6	6	7	6	10	6	3	11	5	3	8
19	20	18	16	16	13	17	11	11	13	12	11	16
22	23	24	17	19	7	6	5	8	14	16	12	13
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	16	20	28	27	23	29

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



Half (51%) of Ontarians indicate they do not feel safe and comfortable working with unvaccinated people, while 46% report they do. With the numbers trending, this is a metric to watch in the coming weeks.

I feel safe and comfortable working with unvaccinated people

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	49	35	42	46
Strongly agree	24	20	21	27
Somewhat agree	25	14	21	19
Somewhat disagree	18	13	22	18
Strongly disagree	32	47	32	32
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	60	54	51

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

However, seven-in-ten (73%) Ontarians agree that to return to a workplace, everyone should have to prove they are fully vaccinated. Intensity is strong with 47% ‘strongly’ agreeing.

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

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	65	71	64	73
Strongly agree	43	48	48	47
Somewhat agree	23	23	16	26
Somewhat disagree	15	8	13	10
Strongly disagree	18	20	22	17
TOTAL DISAGREE	33	28	34	26

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

Base: Total sample

RIGHT TO KNOW IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS VACCINATED

A majority (56%) disagree that people have no right to know if a person is vaccinated or not. However, this percentage has been trending down and bears watching.

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

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	41	37	39	39
Strongly agree	25	23	24	23
Somewhat agree	16	15	14	16
Somewhat disagree	19	21	19	19
Strongly disagree	39	40	41	37
TOTAL DISAGREE	58	61	59	56

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

Base: Total sample

Three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians agree that eligible elementary and high school students returning to in-class learning in September should be required to be fully vaccinated, with agreement increasing. And, half (52%) ‘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	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	71	67	72	75
Strongly agree	50	48	55	52
Somewhat agree	20	19	17	22
Somewhat disagree	13	10	11	5
Strongly disagree	16	19	14	19
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	28	26	24

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

Base: Total sample

Fully eight-in-ten (80%) agree that college and university students returning to campus life should be required to the fully vaccinated, and intensity is high with 58% ‘strongly’ agreeing.

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

	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	75	72	73	80
Strongly agree	62	55	55	58
Somewhat agree	13	16	18	21
Somewhat disagree	6	9	7	8
Strongly disagree	18	18	19	11
TOTAL DISAGREE	24	27	25	19

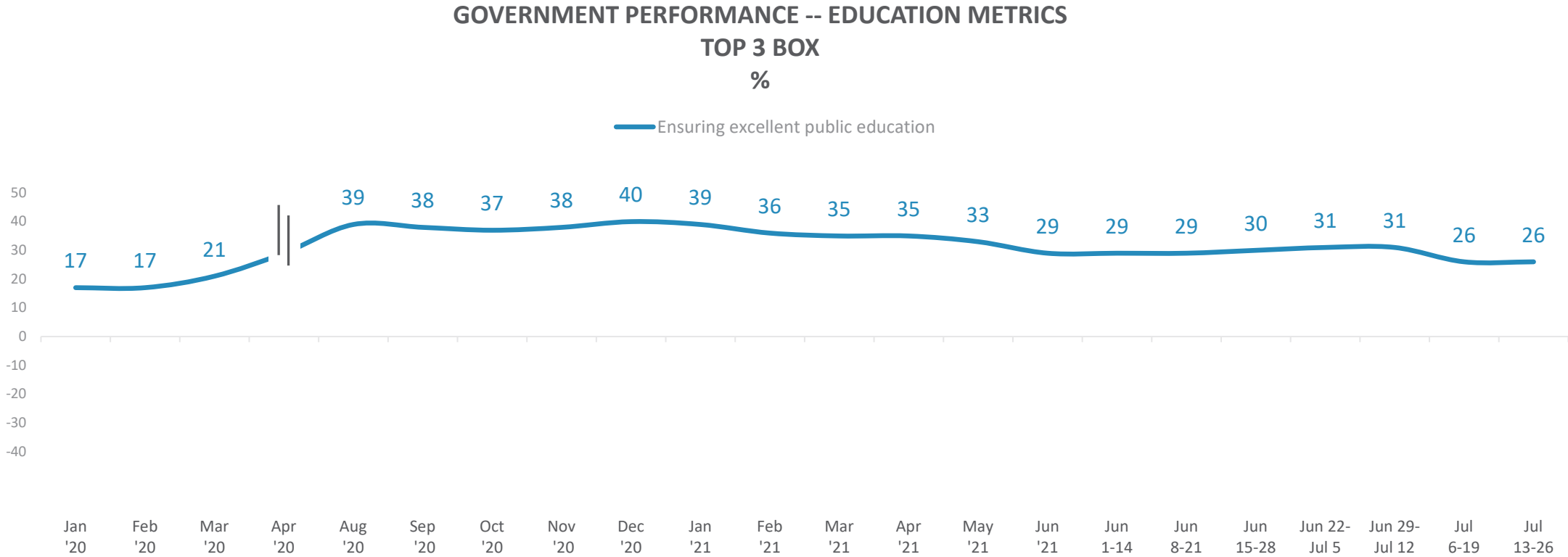
QCV-212. (14) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

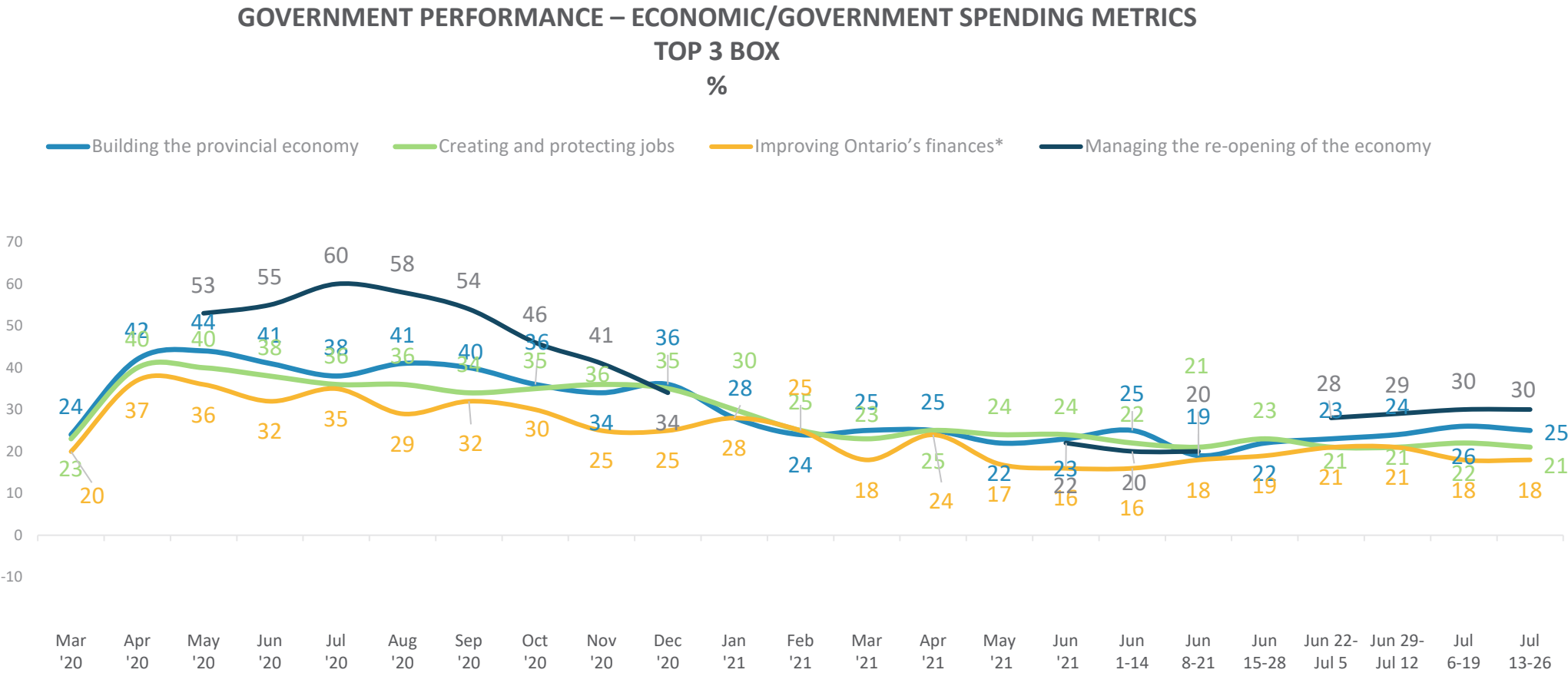


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained unchanged after declining 5-points to 26% last week.



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 the economic and government spending metrics remained stable this week.

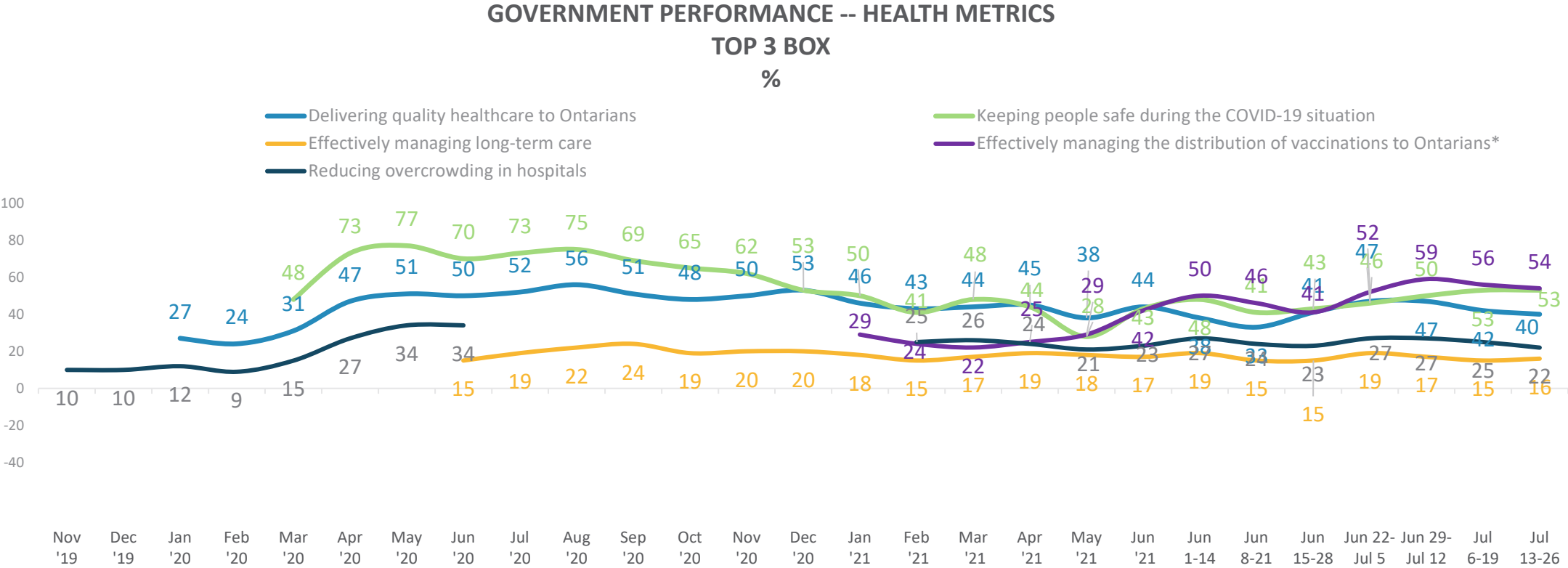


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

Bases vary

Again this week, there were slight declines in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’, ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’, 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