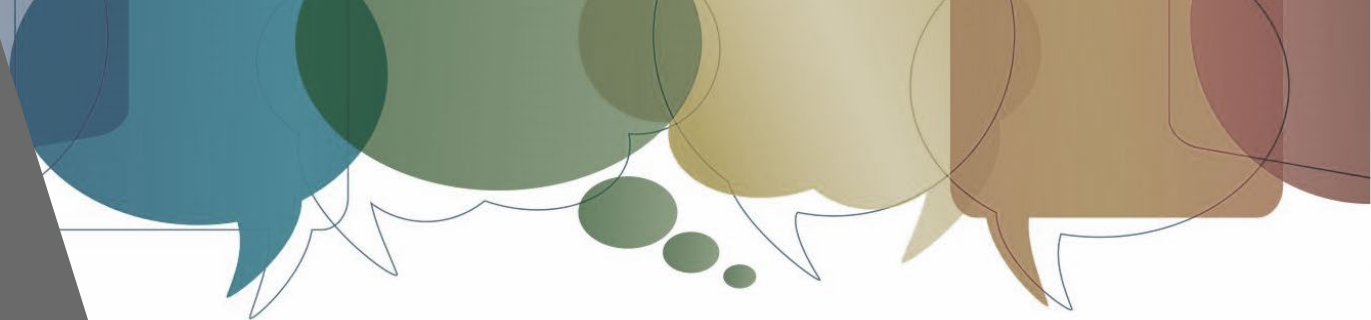




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #93

CABINET OFFICE
August 10th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores remained steady this week at 61%.

There continues to be movement in 'right track' scores by age. This week, Ontarians aged 18-34 report the highest 'right track' scores, with increases again measured among those aged 45-54. However, there were declines among those aged 35-44 and 65+.

There is parity this week in 'right track' scores by gender.

By region, the increase measured last week in 'right track' scores for the Toronto suburbs was retained this week. And, while there were increases in both Central and SW Ontario, 'right track' scores continued to trend down in the City of Toronto.

3 And, for the second straight week, there have been increases for COVID-19 as a top priority for the provincial government (after a drop of 36-points in one month).

However, Ontarians tend to feel the Ontario government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. This week, two-thirds (67%) believe the government is prepared for a fourth wave of infections.

And, positive ratings of the government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' increased again this week, while a slight decline was measured for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation'. Both remain the top rated health metrics.

2 Ontarians are increasingly concerned that the province may experience a fourth wave of the pandemic – increasing from 57% in early July to 75% this week. This increase likely reflects the mounting media coverage of the Delta variant and an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

The proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19 also continues to decline with just half (52%) now believing this – a decline of 10-points compared to last week. Plus, Ontarians are much less confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered: down from 73% in mid-July to 58% this week.

Connected to this, Ontarians reporting they are wearing a mask 'all of the time' increased this week.

4 While Ontarians appear apprehensive about a fourth wave of COVID-19, they continue to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months, with 50% supporting a focus on economic issues while 41% support health-related issues.

But, Ontarians also continue to want to hear more about the government's plans for economic recovery, with eight-in-ten (80%) agreeing with this. Tied to this, there is uncertainty whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with just over half (53%) that think the government doesn't have a plan.

Key Findings

Perceptions about the status Ontario's economy also bears close watching in the coming weeks. Six-in-ten (60%) Ontarians think the Ontario economy is improving. However, the proportion has been slowly declining since this question was first asked in mid-July. And, most (55%) think it is 'slowly' improving. Of note, one-quarter (24%) would say it is worsening.

Importantly, the government's performance rating for 'managing the re-opening of the economy', 'creating and protecting jobs', and 'building the provincial economy' all continue to trend upwards.

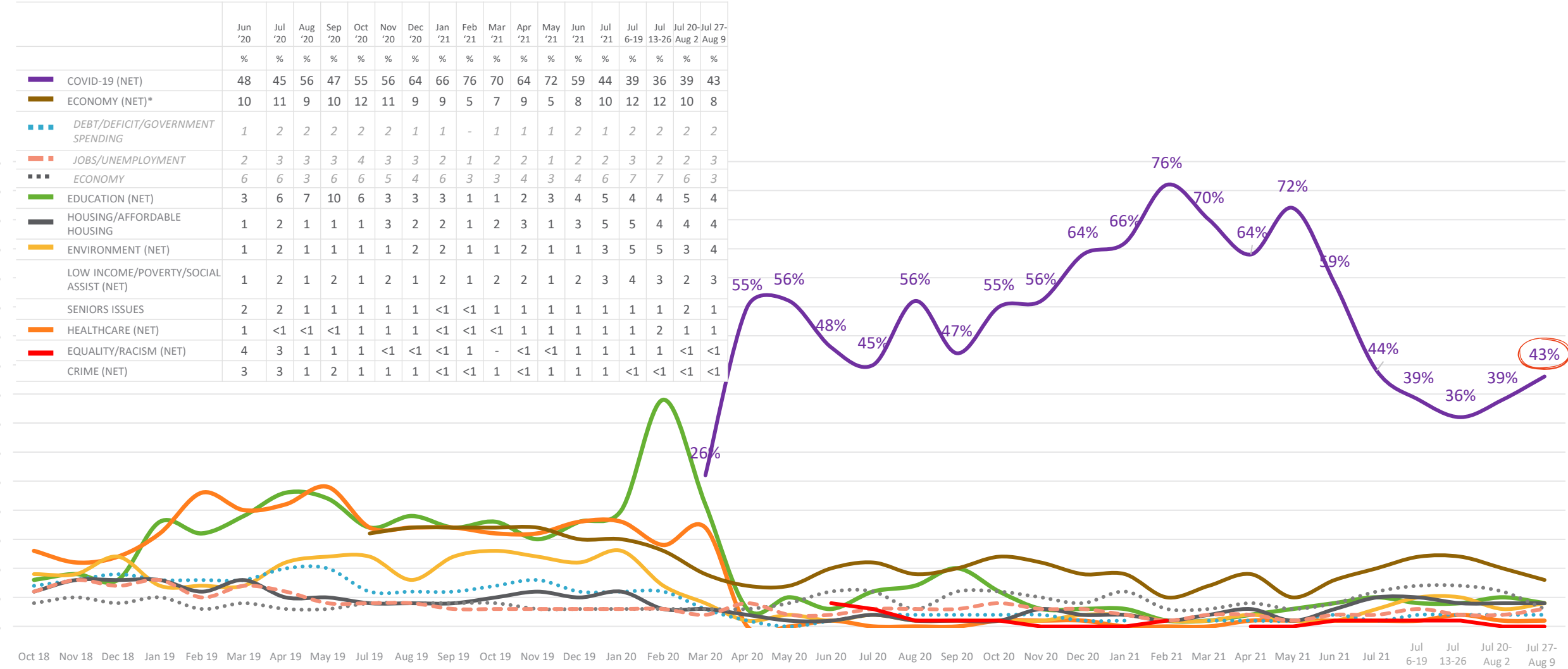
With students returning to schools and universities in a little more than three weeks, and growing concern about COVID-19, there will be increasing attention on the education file. Of note, rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' declined slightly this week after the announcement of the back-to-school plan.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

After a drop of 36-points in one month, there was an increase again this week for COVID-19 as a top priority, likely a result of media stories about the threats of the Delta variant and an uptick in COVID-19 cases.



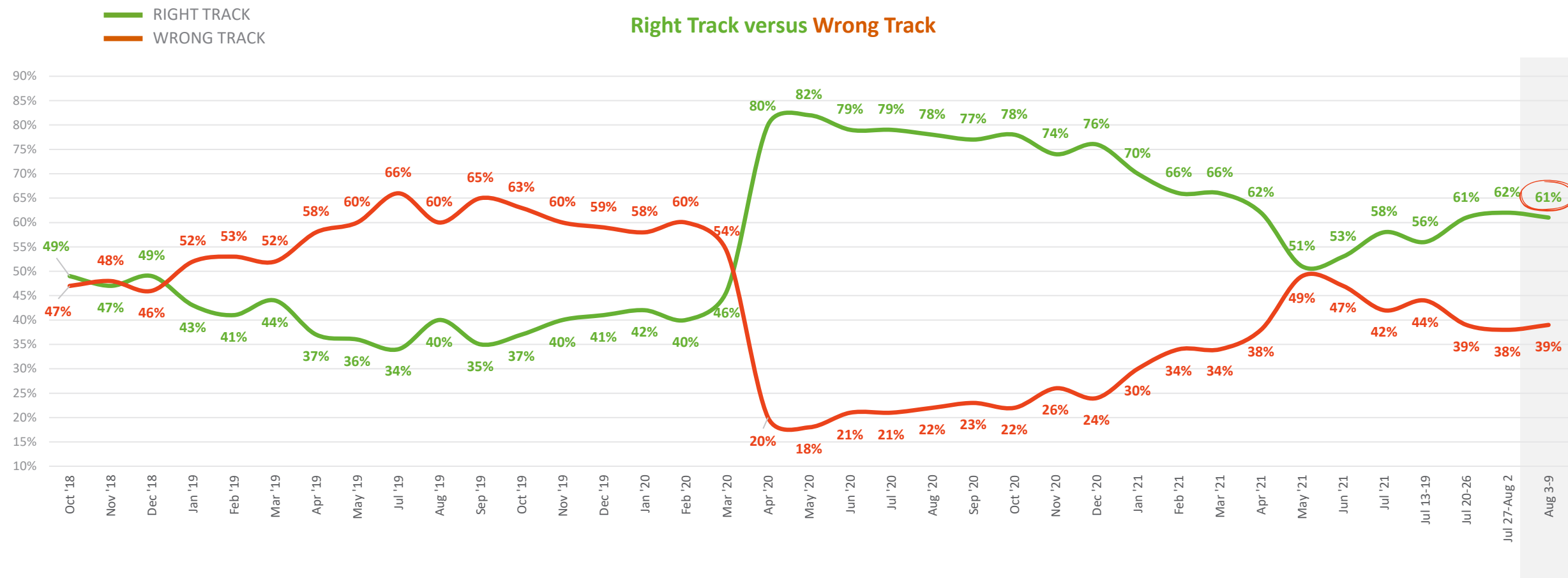
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

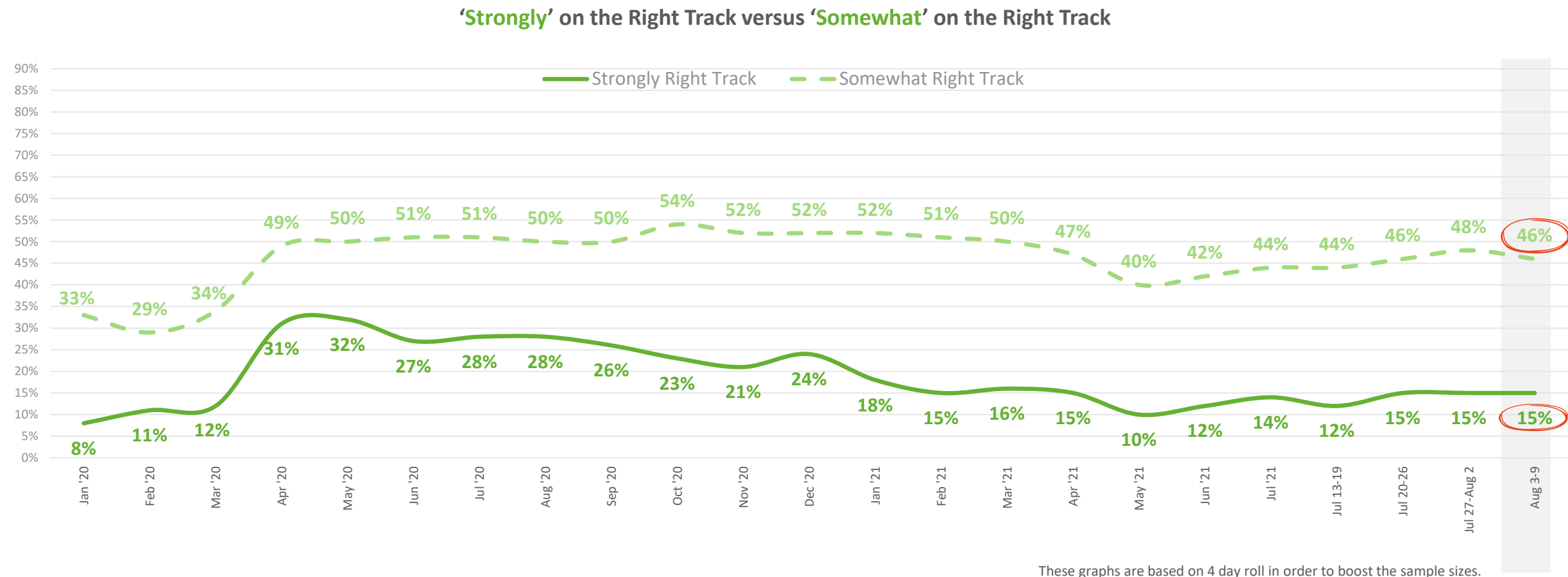


‘Right track’ scores remained steady this week at 61%.



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

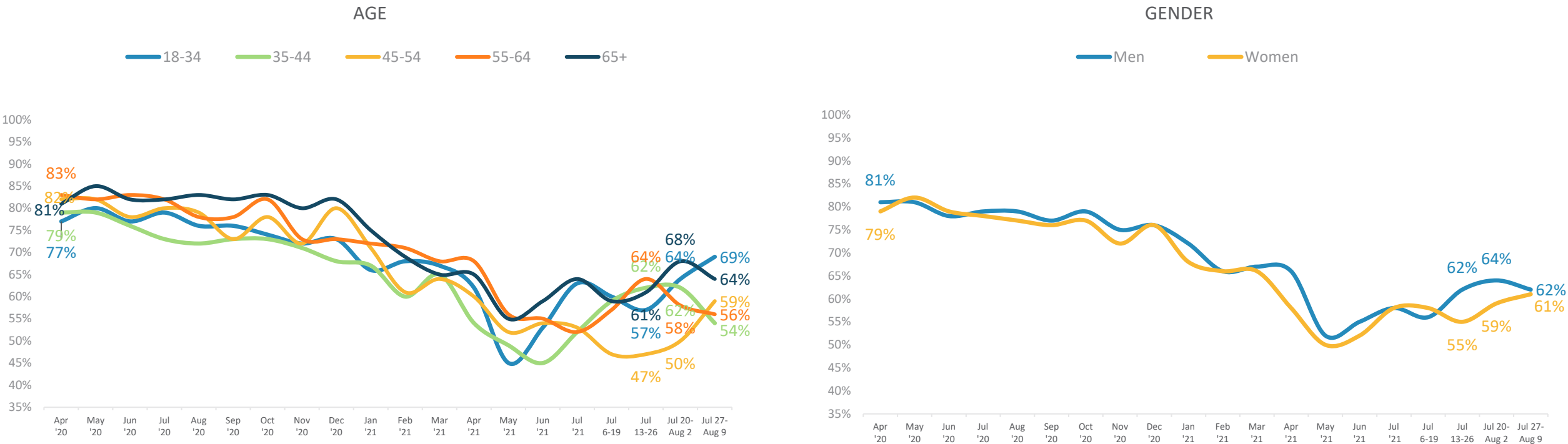
Both ‘strongly right track’ and ‘somewhat right track’ scores remained steady, with the proportion believing the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’ (46%) three times more than ‘strongly on the right track’ (15%).



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 continues to be movement in ‘right track’ scores by age. This week, Ontarians aged 18-34 report the highest ‘right track’ scores, with increases again measured among those aged 45-54. However, there were declines among those aged 35-44 and 65+. There is parity in ‘right track’ scores by gender.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

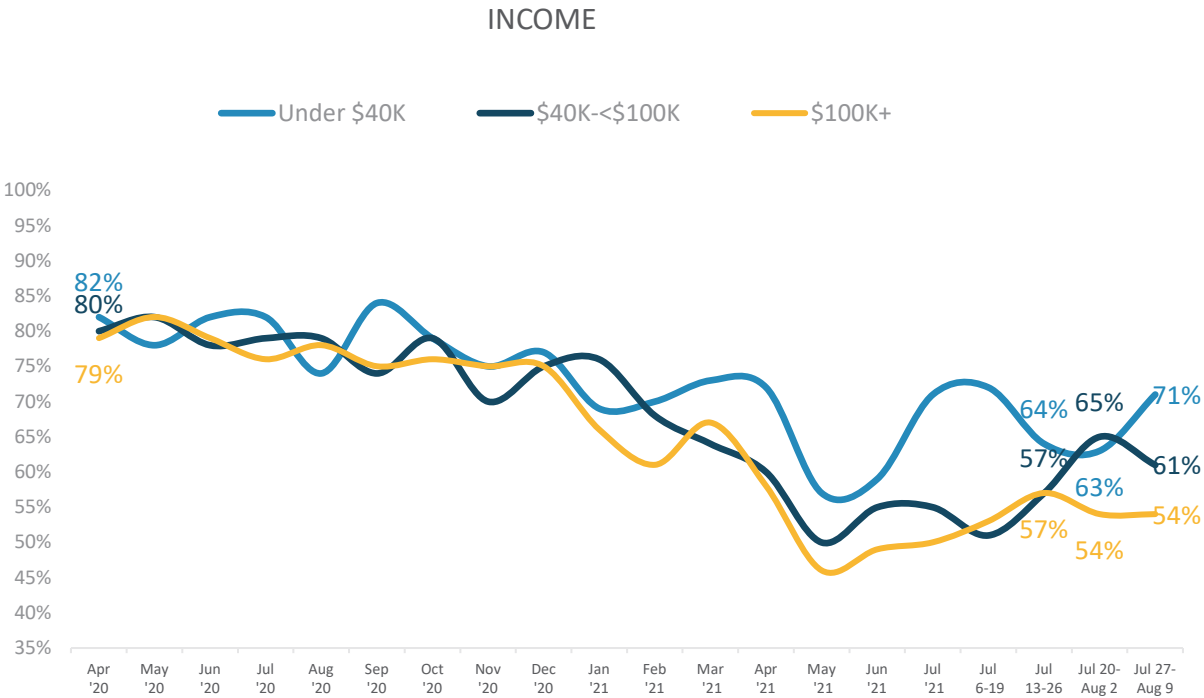
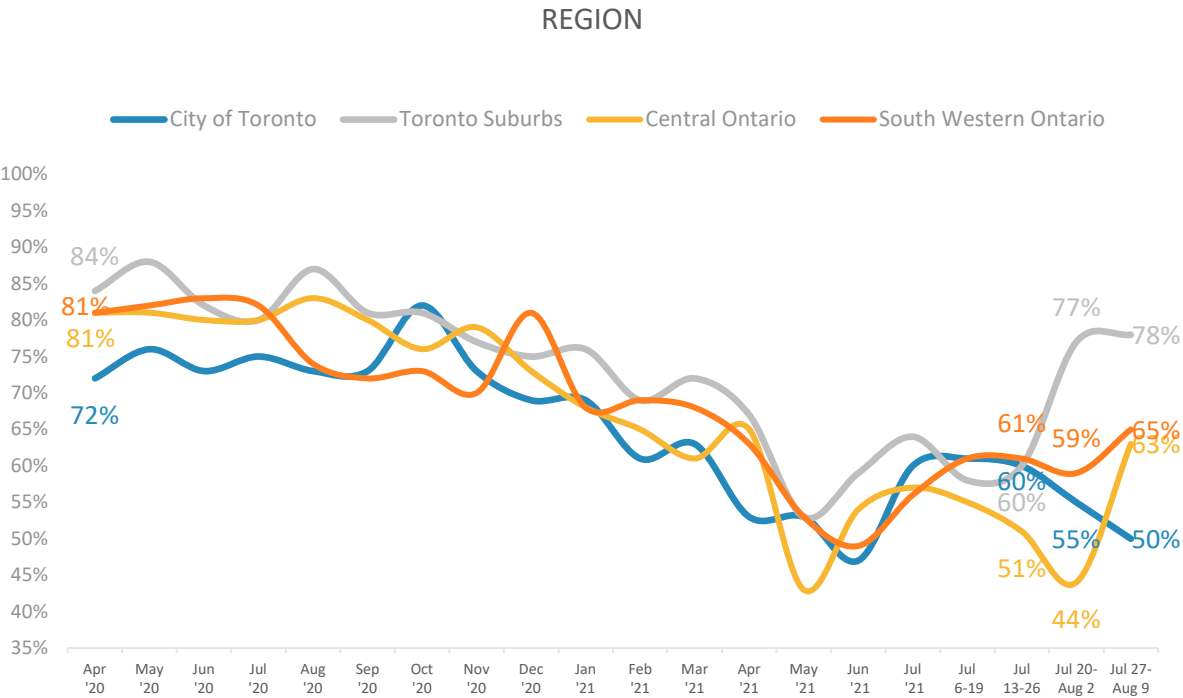


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The increase measured last week in ‘right track’ scores for the Toronto suburbs was retained this week. And, while there were increases in both Central and SW Ontario, ‘right track’ scores continued to trend down in the City of Toronto. There was an uptick this week in ‘right track’ scores among those making <\$40k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



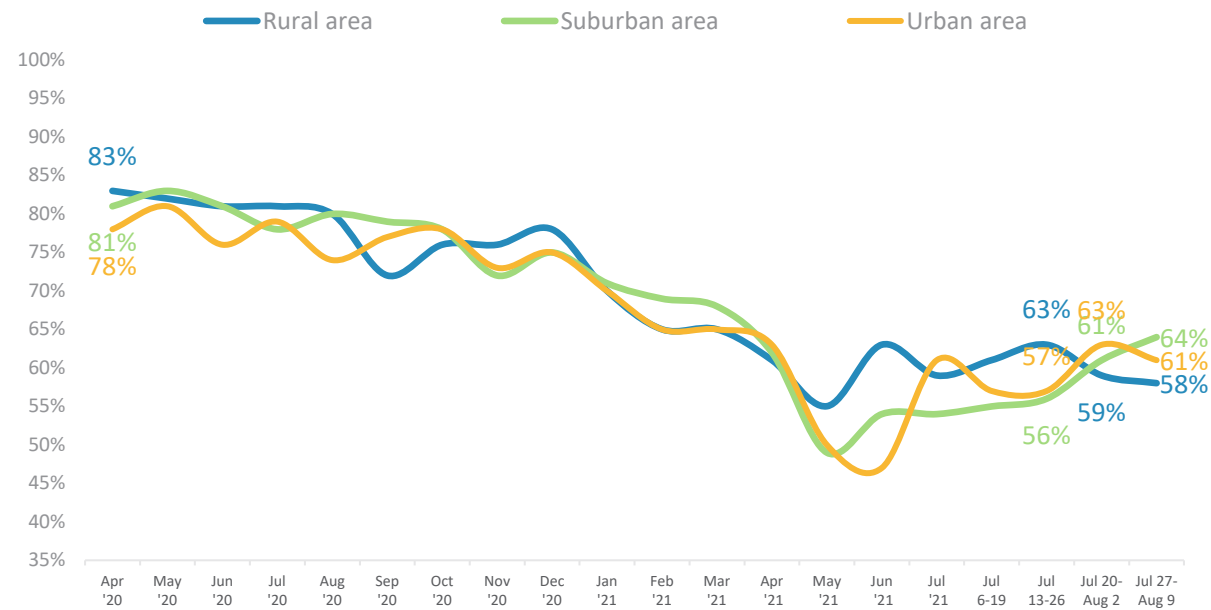
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

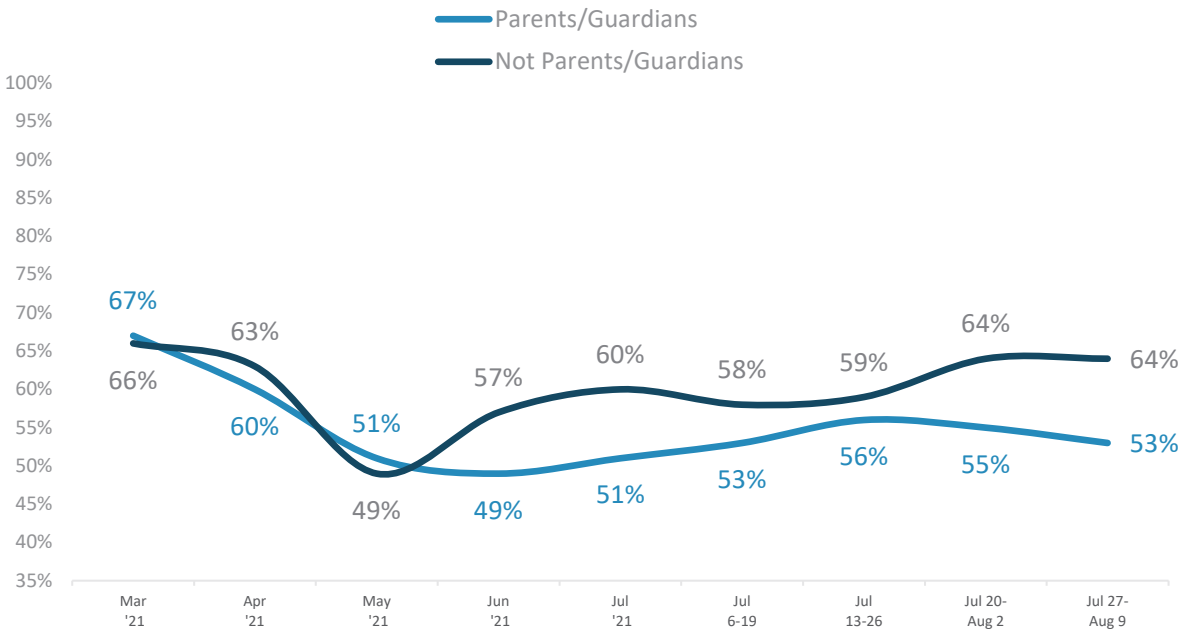
‘Right track’ scores in suburban areas have continued to trend upward in recent weeks and now have the highest ‘right track’ scores by residential area.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



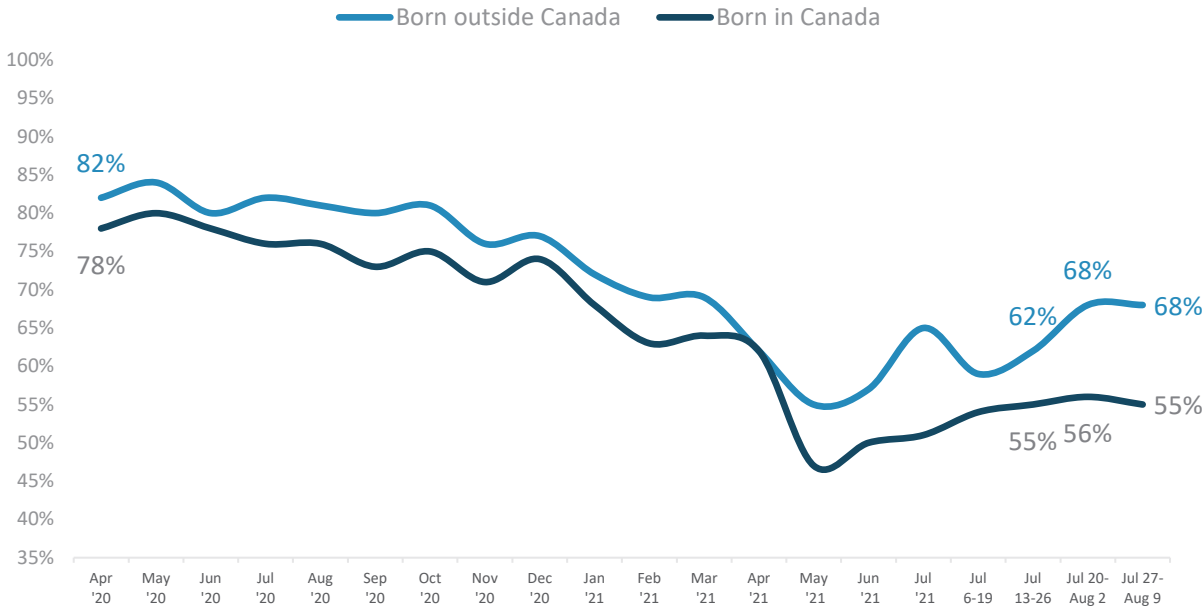
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

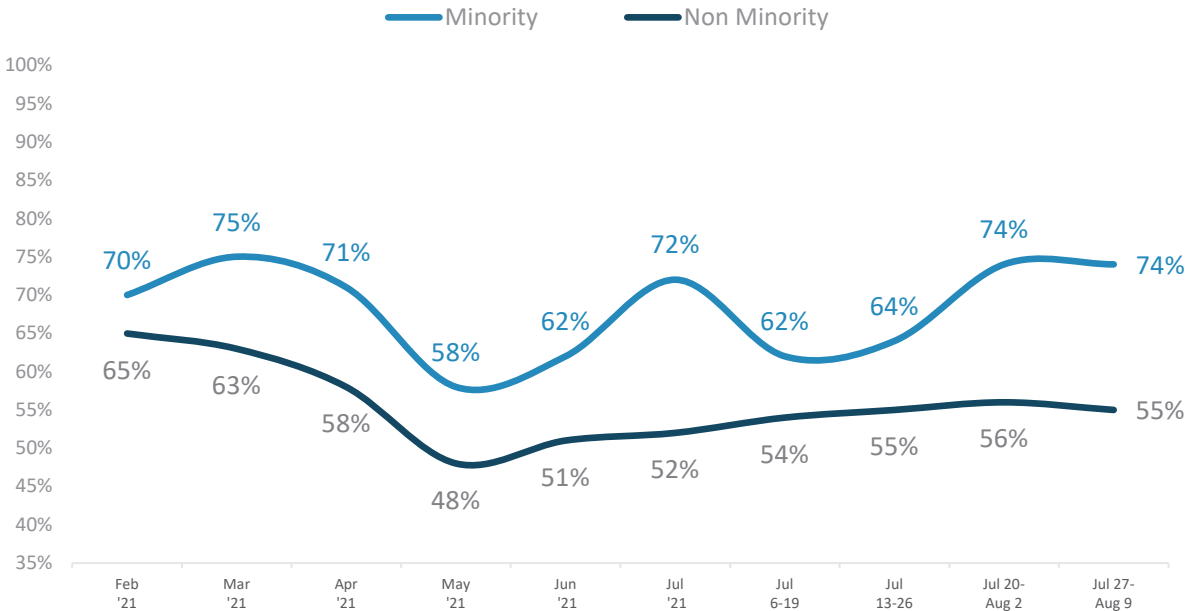
‘Right track’ scores remained steady this week among those born in or outside of Canada and among both minorities and non-minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

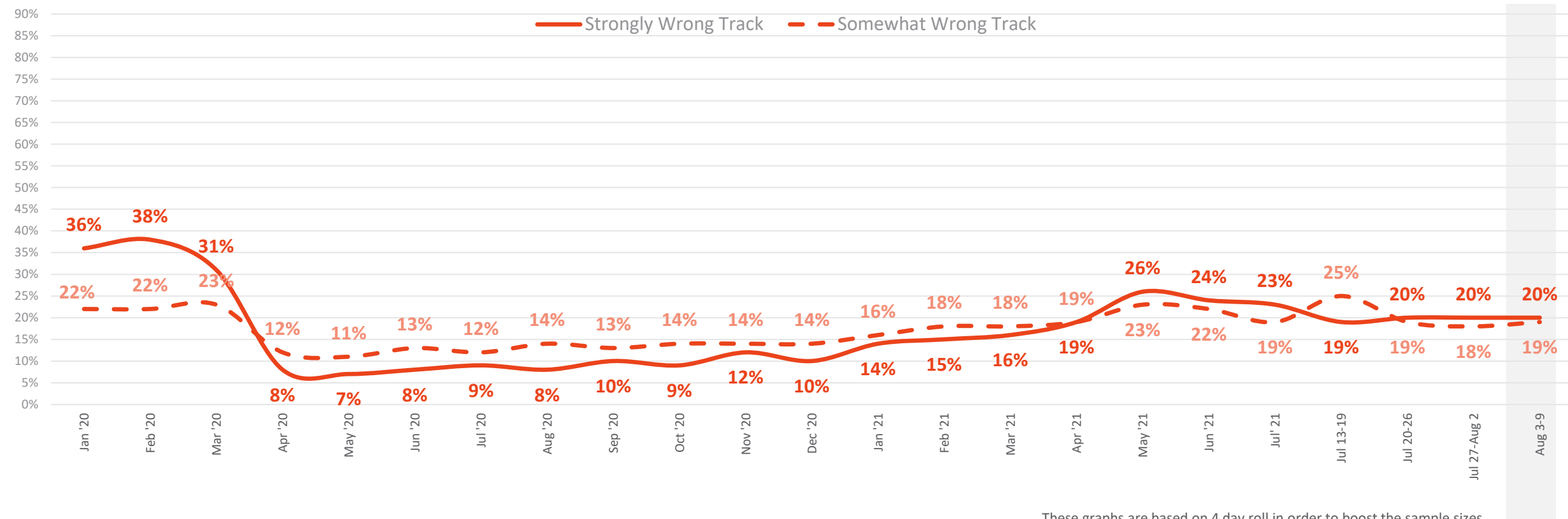


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

This week, the proportion who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’ and ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ remained unchanged and at parity.

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

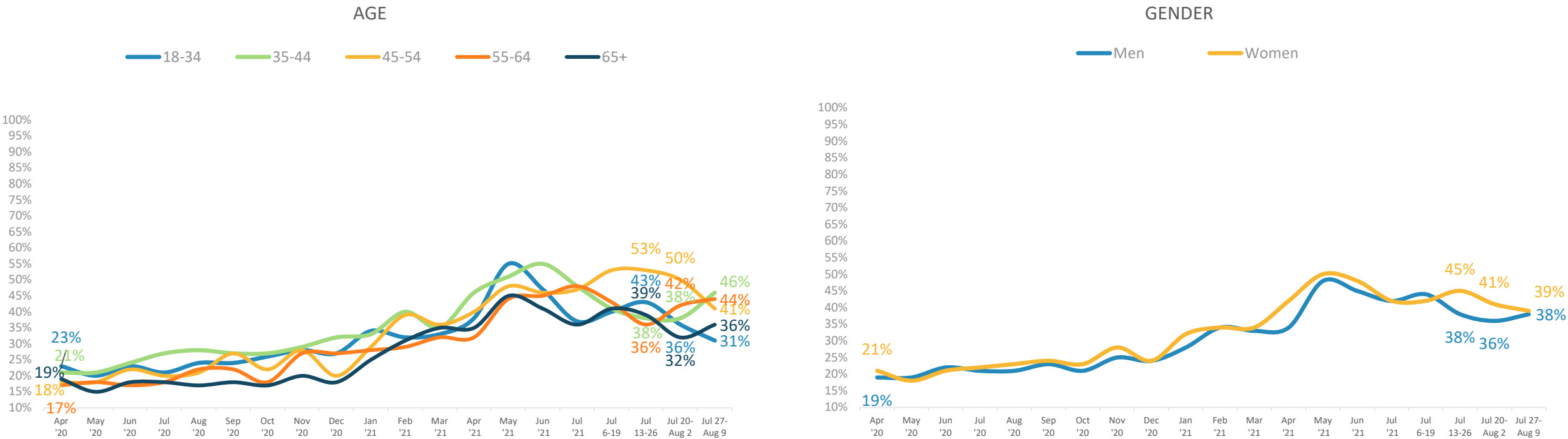


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Wrong track’ scores are lowest among Ontarians aged 18-34 after declining again this week. There were also declines measured among those aged 45-54, while there was an uptick in ‘wrong track’ scores among Ontarians aged 35-44 and 65+. ‘Wrong track’ scores are at parity among men and women.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

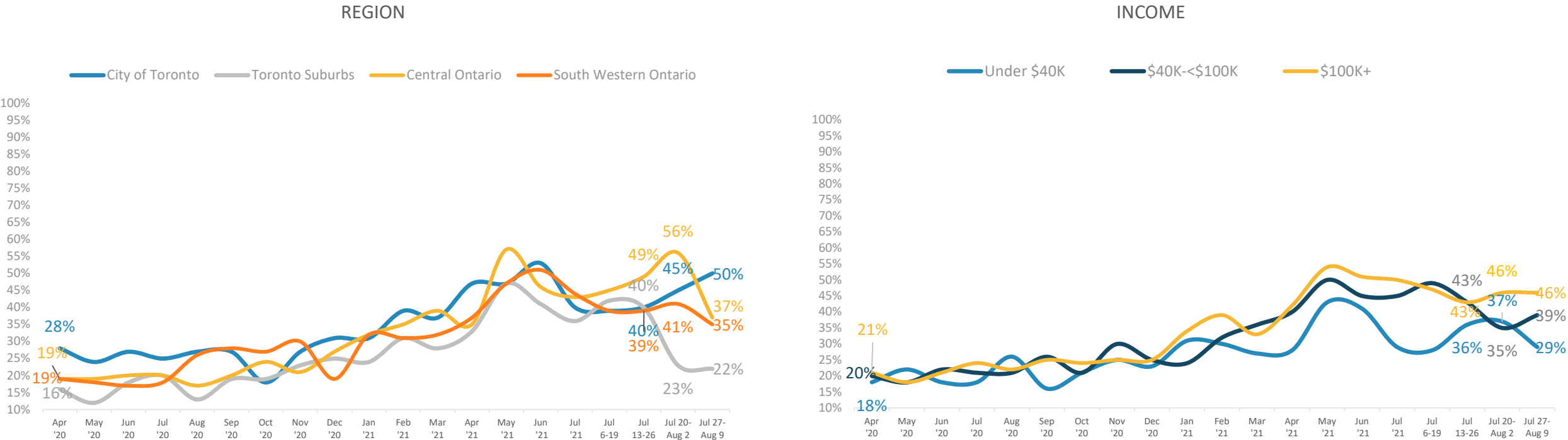


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

The decline in ‘wrong track’ scores measured last week in the Toronto suburbs was retained this week. ‘Wrong track’ scores declined in both Central and SW Ontario while increasing in the city of Toronto. There was also a decline this week in ‘wrong track’ scores among Ontarians making <\$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



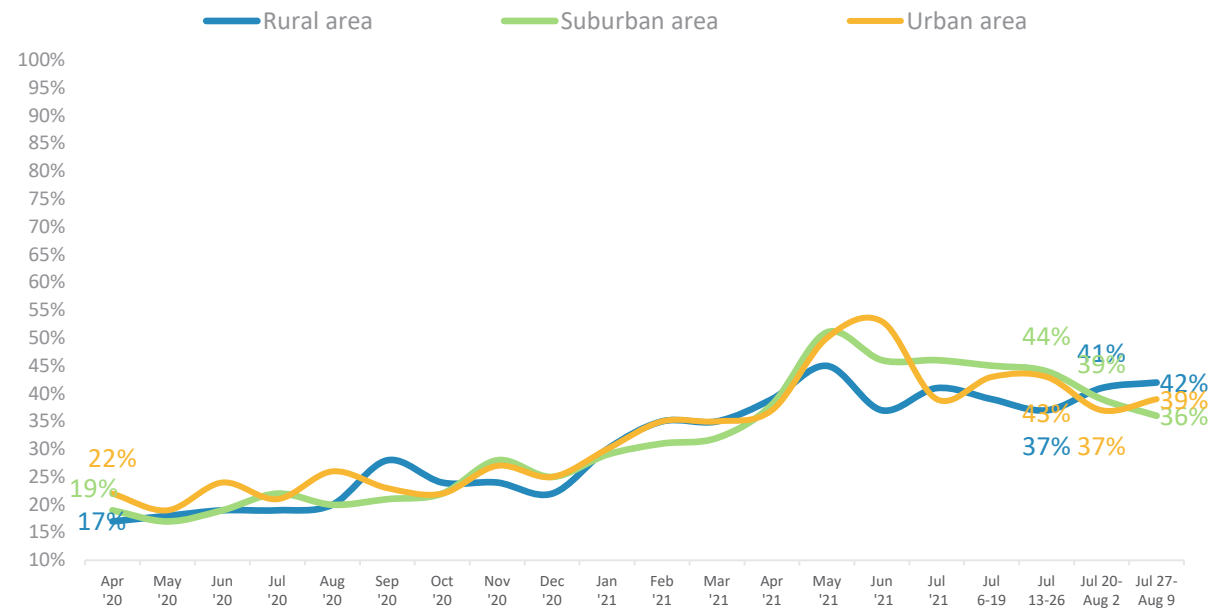
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

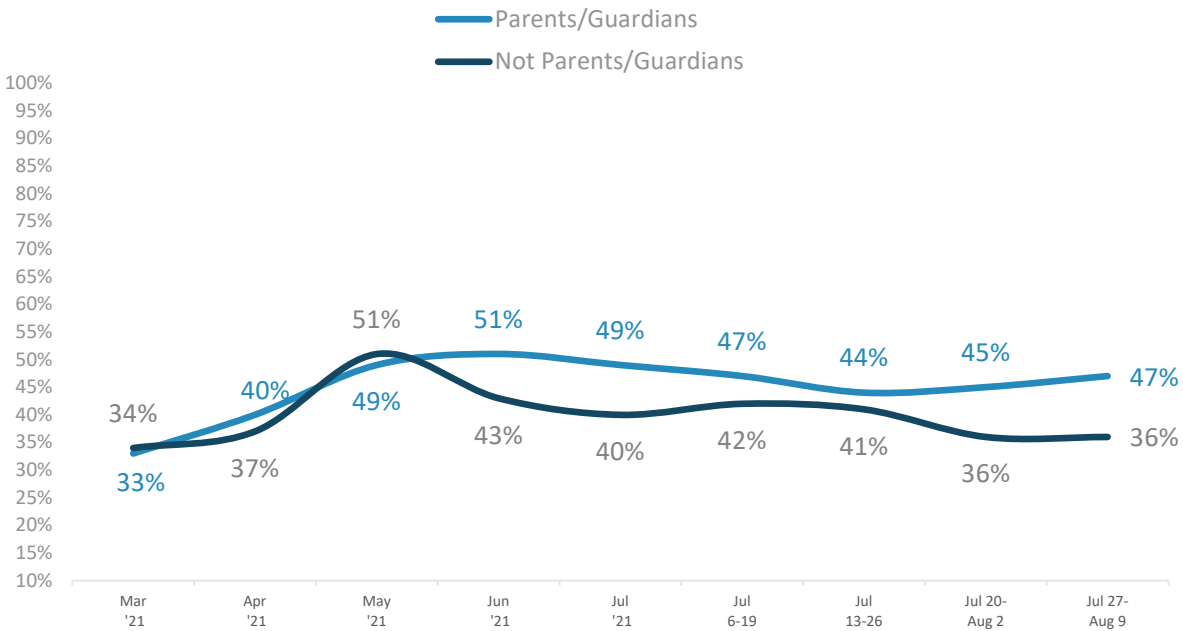
‘Wrong track’ scores have been trending down in suburban areas in recent weeks.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

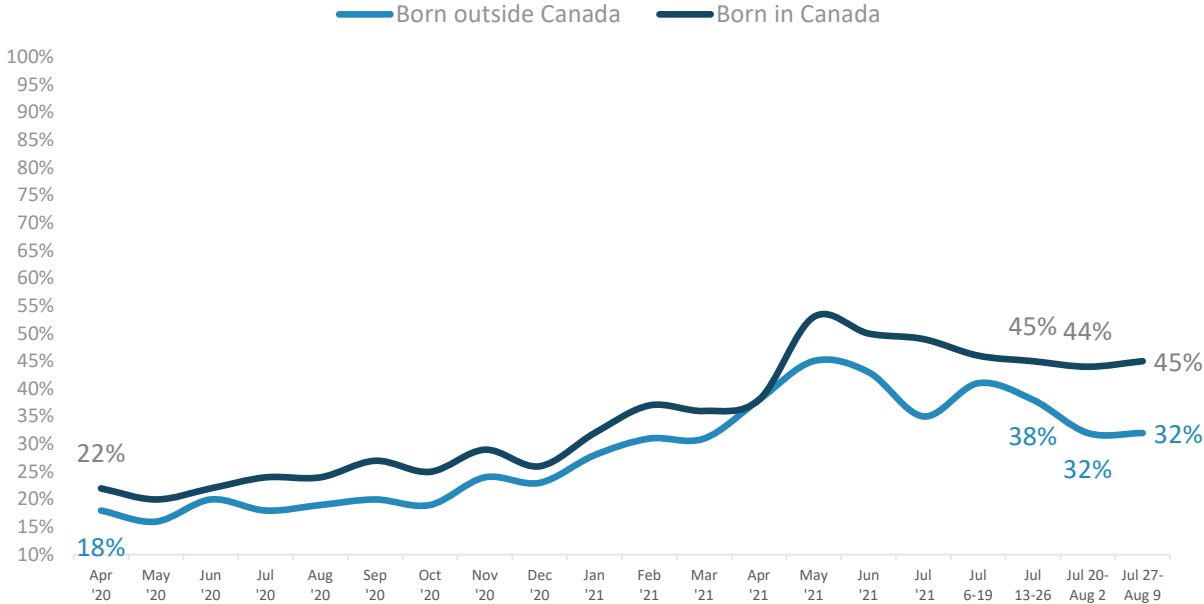


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

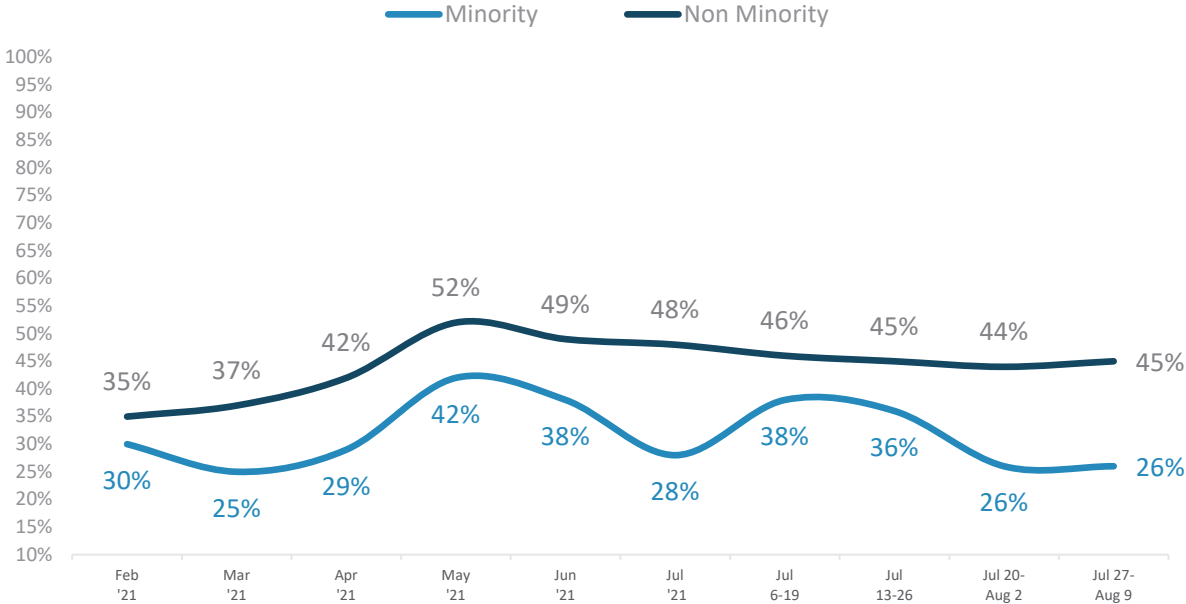
‘Wrong track’ scores have remained unchanged this week among Ontarians born in or outside of Canada and among both minorities and non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



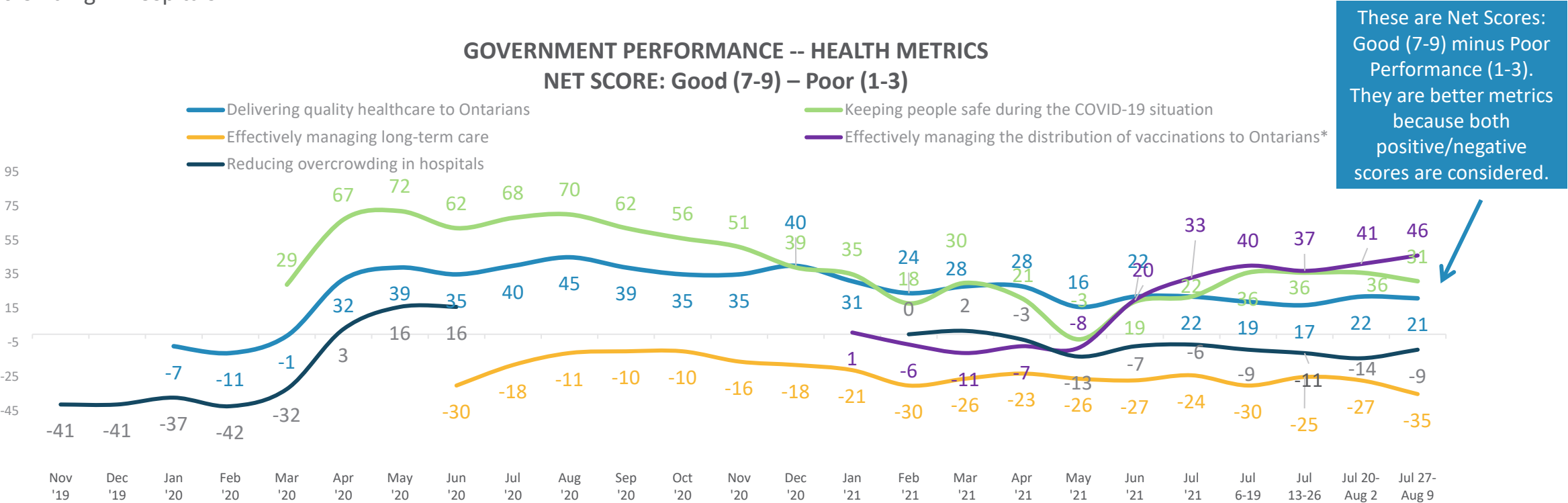
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



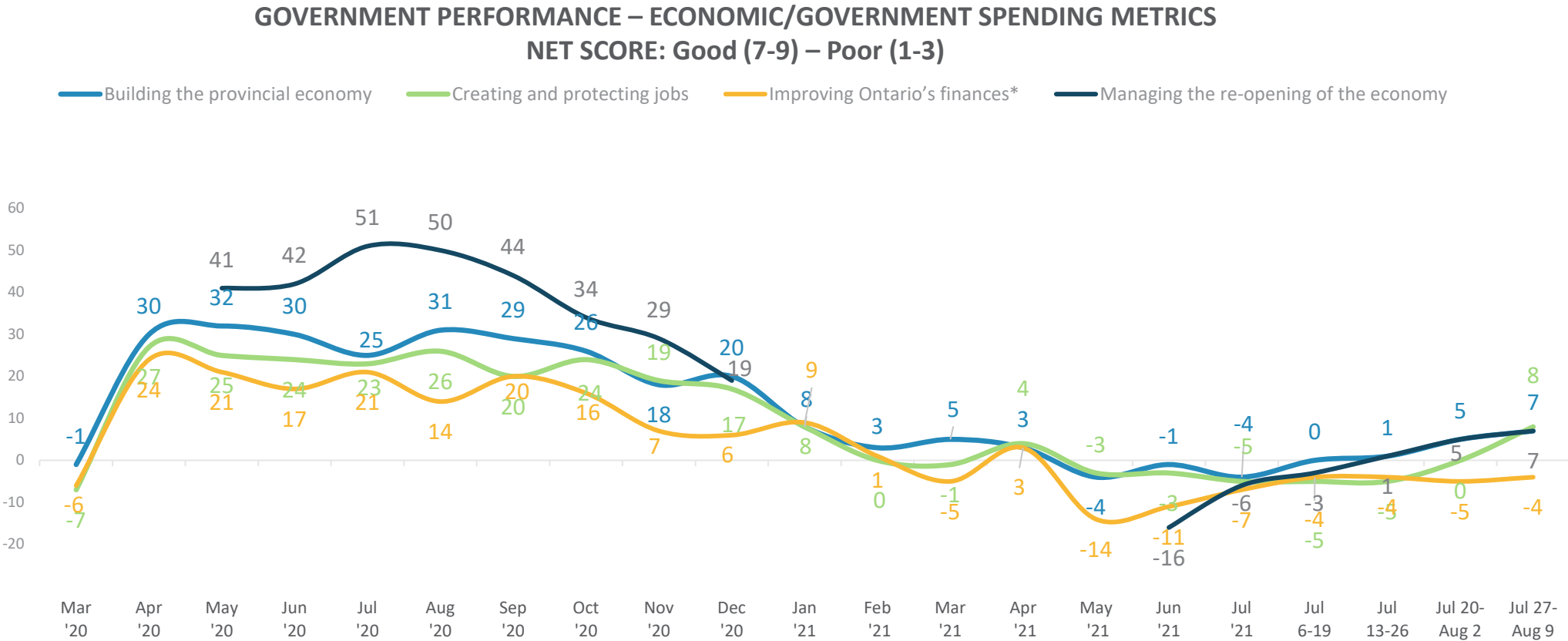
Positive ratings of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ increased again this week, while a slight decline was measured for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’. Both remain the top rated health metrics.

- While ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ remained unchanged, there were declines for both ‘effectively managing long-term care’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’.



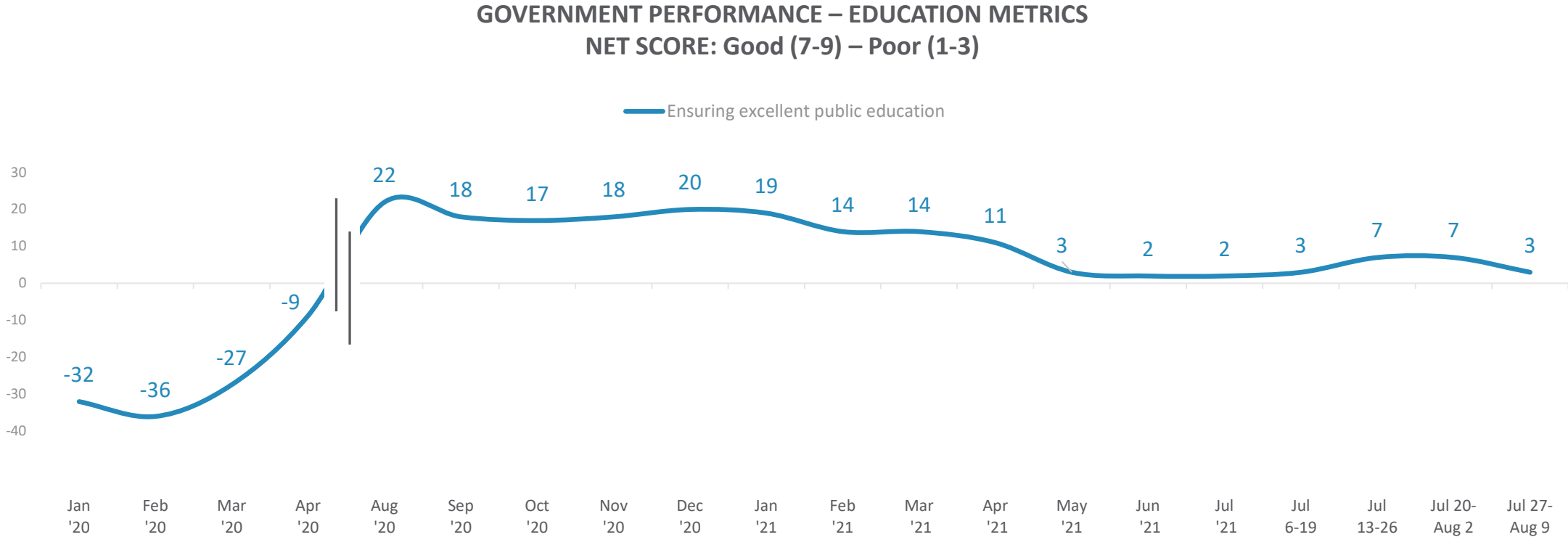
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The government’s performance rating for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’, ‘creating and protecting jobs’, and ‘building the provincial economy’ all continue to trend upwards. ‘Improving Ontario’s finances’ remains unchanged and 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: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined slightly this week after the announcement of the back-to-school plan.



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



Just over half (56%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’, while one-in-ten (11%) describe it as ‘poor’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	770	Varies			
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	56	53	50	56
Excellent	15	16	10	13	15
Good	42	40	43	37	42
Fair	31	31	34	34	33
Poor	9	10	9	11	7
Very poor	4	1	3	5	3
TOTAL POOR	12	12	12	15	11

CHANGE IN FINANCIAL SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR

The majority (57%) of Ontarians report their family’s financial situation stayed the same over the past year. However, the proportion who say it worsened (28%) is almost double that who say it improved (15%).

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	764	Varies			
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	15	14	13	15	15
Improve a great deal	3	3	3	2	3
Improve somewhat	13	11	10	13	11
Stay the same	54	58	54	54	57
Worsen somewhat	24	21	25	23	20
Worsen a great deal	7	6	6	8	8
TOTAL WORSEN	31	27	31	31	28

ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLD OVER THE NEXT YEAR

Ontarians appear optimistic about the future with just over half (57%) anticipating the financial situation of their household over the next year will be ‘excellent/good’. One-in-ten (8%) anticipate it will be ‘poor’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	763	Varies			
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	63	57	53	57
Excellent	12	16	10	10	11
Good	44	47	47	44	46
Fair	32	28	35	32	33
Poor	7	6	6	7	6
Very poor	2	-	1	4	1
TOTAL POOR	10	6	7	11	8

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 (92%) Ontarians continue to 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 (88%) and hospitality (88%) workers.

% VERY/SOMEWHAT NEGATIVELY AFFECTED	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Small businesses workers	95	96	95	92
Retail workers	89	93	90	88
Hospitality workers	90	92	90	88
College and university students	82	83	86	83
Grocery and front-line workers	61	65	68	67

Six-in-ten (60%) Ontarians think the Ontario economy is improving, but there are indications that this optimism might be starting to decline.

	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVING	66	64	62	60
Quickly improving	4	3	4	6
Slowly improving	62	60	59	55
Unchanged	11	10	10	14
Slowly worsening	16	19	17	19
Quickly worsening	5	6	7	5
TOTAL WORSENING	20	25	24	24

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 (30%) and restaurants (19%) as well as knowing people that are going back to work (17%).

IMPROVING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	197	160	156	151
	%	%	%	%
Non-essential stores are reopening	43	33	33	30
Restaurants and bars are reopening	16	19	16	19
People I know are going back to work	22	22	32	17
Seen, read, heard that the economy is improving	6	12	5	13
Good availability of vaccinations/more and more people getting vaccinated	-	-	-	5
Slowly changing back	-	-	1	2
People adapting to change/less fear/starting to feel safe	-	3	1	1
People are spending money	-	-	-	1
All of the above	7	9	9	8
Other	-	-	2	3

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 they know people who are still unemployed (29%); non-essential stores aren't fully open (17%); or what they have seen, read, or heard about the economy (12%).

WORSENING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	61	63	61	60
	%	%	%	%
People I know are still unemployed	30	20	24	29
Non-essential stores are not fully open	36	20	12	17
Seen, read, heard that the economy is not improving	6	15	20	12
People not working (e.g., getting free money, companies not hiring)	-	6	2	-
Businesses struggling or had to permanently close	-	3	2	-
Government spending/debt	-	3	-	8
Prices increasing (e.g., interest rates)	-	5	1	7
Mismanagement by the government	5	4	12	5
Poor management of Covid-19 by the government	-	-	-	5
Restaurants and bars are not fully open	9	7	7	4
Lack of information/media is lying to public	-	-	-	2
Other	3	4	4	2
All of the above/combination of the above	9	8	12	9
Don't know			4	-

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

HAVING AN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR RECOVERY



Ontarians continue to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months, with 50% supporting a focus on economic issues while 41% support health-related issues.

	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	Jul 20- Aug 2	Jul 27- Aug 9
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	41	41
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	51	50
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7	6	8	10	8	7	6	6	7

Ontarians also continue to want to hear more about the government’s plans for economic recovery, with eight-in-ten (80%) 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	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
varies											
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
80	84	83	76	82	85	82	85	85	81	78	80
55	50	56	49	58	60	52	63	59	53	52	46
25	34	27	27	24	25	30	22	25	28	26	34
7	10	3	6	5	4	5	7	5	6	7	5
5	3	9	9	3	5	6	4	5	8	8	8
6	2	4	8	7	5	6	4	4	4	6	6
11	5	13	17	10	11	12	8	9	12	13	14

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

About eight-in-ten (77%) 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% about 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	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
varies											
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
70	72	84	76	82	82	85	85	83	83	79	77
39	32	56	36	52	50	55	54	52	52	45	47
31	41	28	39	30	33	30	31	30	31	34	31
4	6	8	7	6	4	6	5	5	4	8	5
15	15	5	11	10	8	8	6	9	9	8	11
10	5	3	5	2	4	1	4	3	4	4	5
25	20	8	16	12	12	9	10	12	13	12	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 remain uncertain whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with just over half (53%) 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	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	59	49	56	44	53	49	52	54	43	46	47	53
Strongly agree	28	19	22	17	19	22	20	27	19	18	19	27
Somewhat agree	32	30	34	26	34	27	32	27	24	28	27	27
Neither agree nor disagree	10	12	12	12	7	15	12	7	9	10	16	7
Somewhat disagree	19	19	19	25	24	23	23	21	32	24	28	21
Strongly disagree	10	15	9	15	14	10	12	15	14	17	8	17
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	34	29	40	38	33	35	36	46	41	36	38

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, equal numbers now believe the emergence of a variety of COVID variants (30%) or allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (29%) would be the most responsible.

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
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16	11	20	18	18	15
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29	36	28	28	32	35
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 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

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	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
Varies							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
27	35	20	26	26	23	20	30
37	37	39	36	33	30	32	29
13	8	10	9	11	6	14	12
10	11	16	15	12	19	17	10
3	1	4	4	5	2	4	5
4	3	6	4	6	9	6	6
6	5	5	7	6	11	7	8

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

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 4TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

Reflecting mounting media coverage on the Delta variant, Ontarians are now much more concerned about a 4th wave. There has been an 18-point increase since early July. Now, 75% are concerned about a new wave.

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24

However, Ontarians tend to feel the Ontario government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. This week, two-thirds (67%) 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	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
Varies							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69	74	67
19	17	17	18	14	17	15	16
48	58	54	54	53	52	59	51
20	16	16	18	19	17	14	25
11	9	12	9	10	10	12	6
32	25	27	27	28	27	26	31
		2	2	4	4	-	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

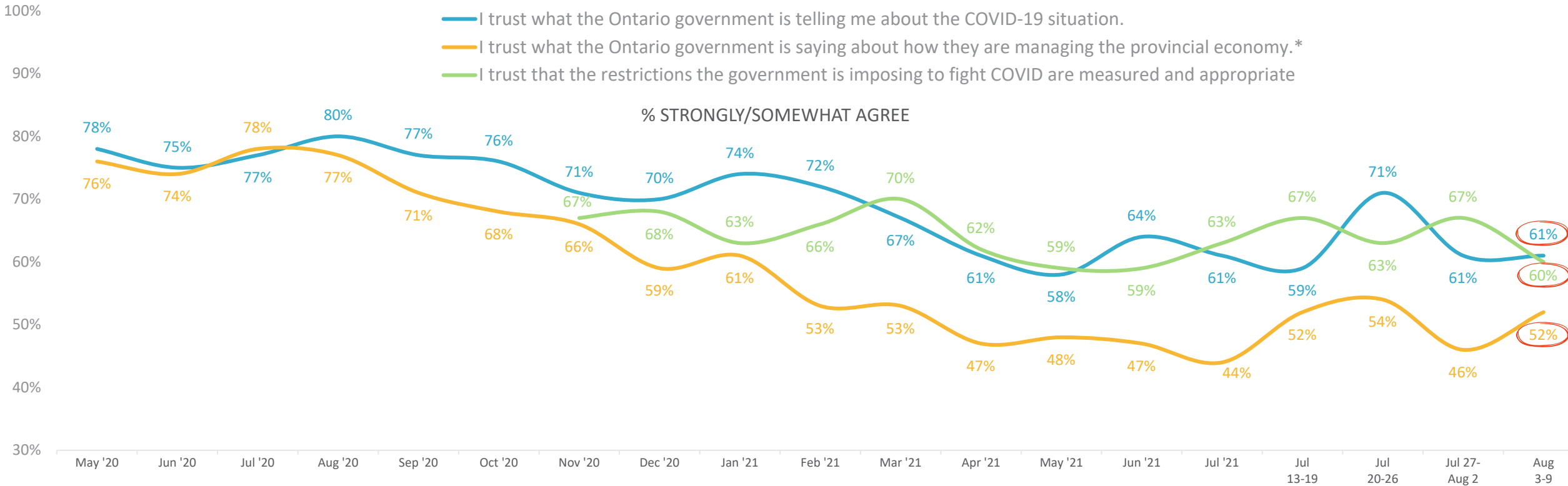
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

While there was no change in the trust of government communications about ‘what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’, there was a decline this week in trusting that ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’.

- Of note, there were increased levels of trust this week for ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.



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?

The proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19 continues to decline with just half (52%) now believing this – a decline of 10-points compared to last week. Increasing concern about the Delta variant and an uptick in COVID-19 cases may be fueling this decline.

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	Jul 27- Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61	62	52
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7	7	6
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

COVID-19 VACCINE



There was also a decrease this week in the number of Ontarians that are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, with 58% in agreement this week. It is now back to being on par with the early stages of Wave 3.

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	Jul '21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
varies										
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	73	62	66	58
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	32	26	24	21
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	42	36	43	37
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	3	8	9	3
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	11	16	11	21
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	12	13	13	18
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	23	29	24	38

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

Almost one-in-ten (8%) Ontarians report they have received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of Ontario.

	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	300	300
	%	%
Yes	8	8
No	92	92

QCV-213 (120) Has any member of your immediate household, including yourself, received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of Ontario – in another province or outside Canada?

Base: Total sample

FACE COVERINGS ADHERENCE



FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

While wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’ remains steady, Ontarians reporting they are wearing a mask ‘all of the time’ increased this week.

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	921	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	92	91	82	81
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	52	61
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	30	20
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	10	14
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	5	5
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	7	5

REGIONS	City of Toronto						Toronto Suburbs						Hamilton						Central Ontario						South Western Ontario						Northern Ontario						Eastern Ontario						Ottawa					
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	95%	95%	85%	82%	89%	90%	94%	91%	85%	78%	86%	90%	93%	87%	83%	81%	83%	90%	90%	85%	67%	73%	86%	87%	90%	91%	86%	82%	89%	91%	87%	90%	81%	93%	92%	88%	89%	95%	92%	94%	87%	86%	88%	91%	75%	71%

	RIGHT TRACK						WRONG TRACK					
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	88%	83%	82%	83%	86%	85%	72%	78%

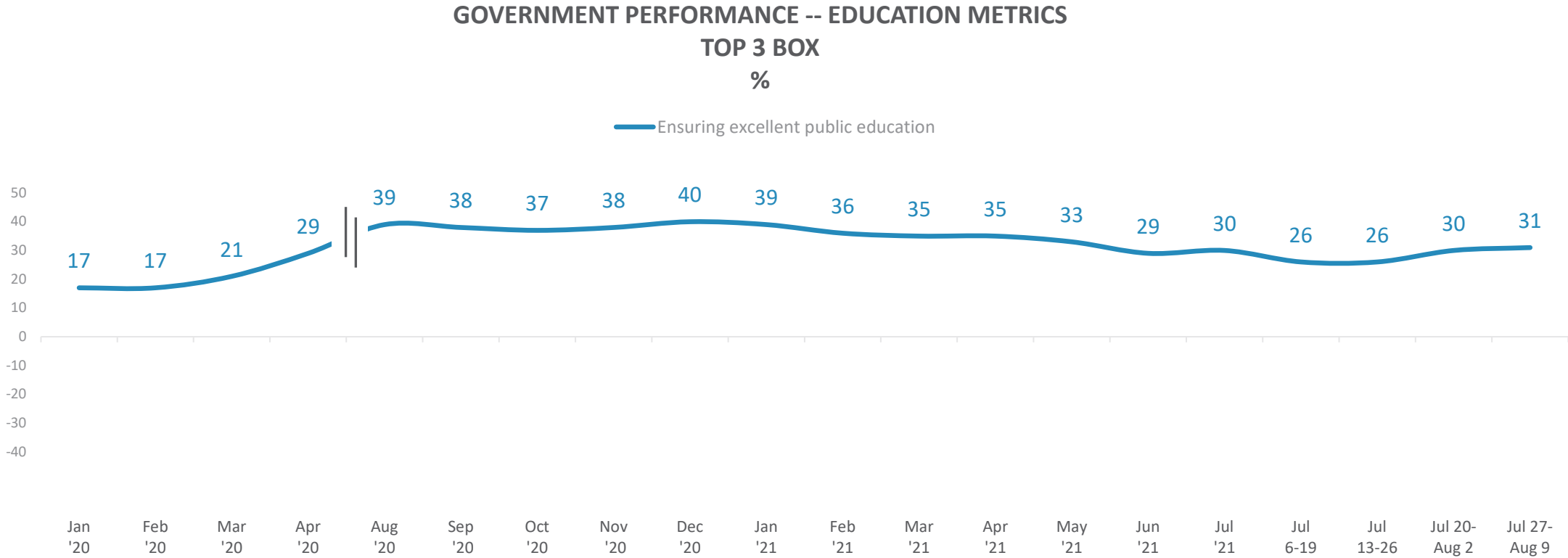
QD1B. As a result of COVID-19 and thinking about your daily activities when you are away from home, how often do you wear a face mask or covering?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

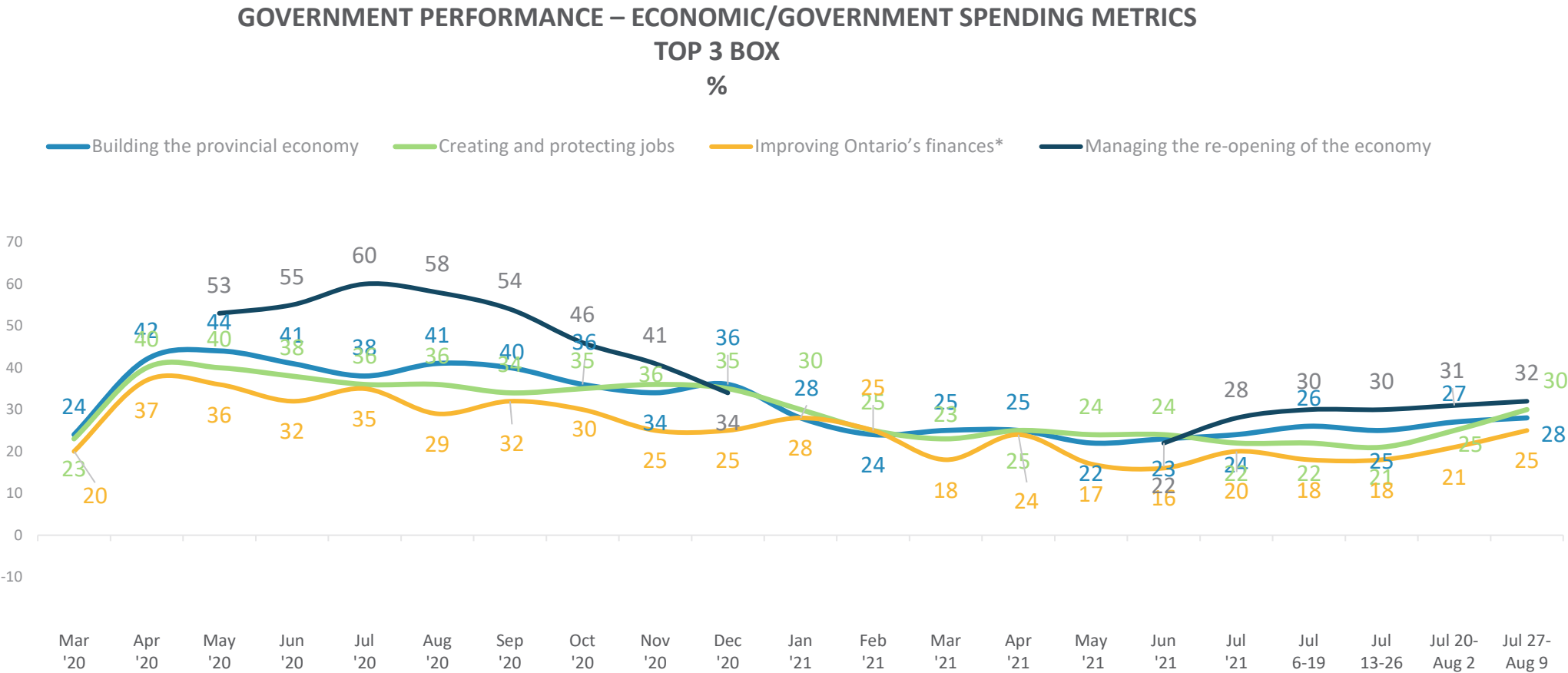


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained steady this week at 31%.



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 ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ and ‘creating and protecting jobs’ continued to trend upward this week. The other economic and government spending metrics remained stable.

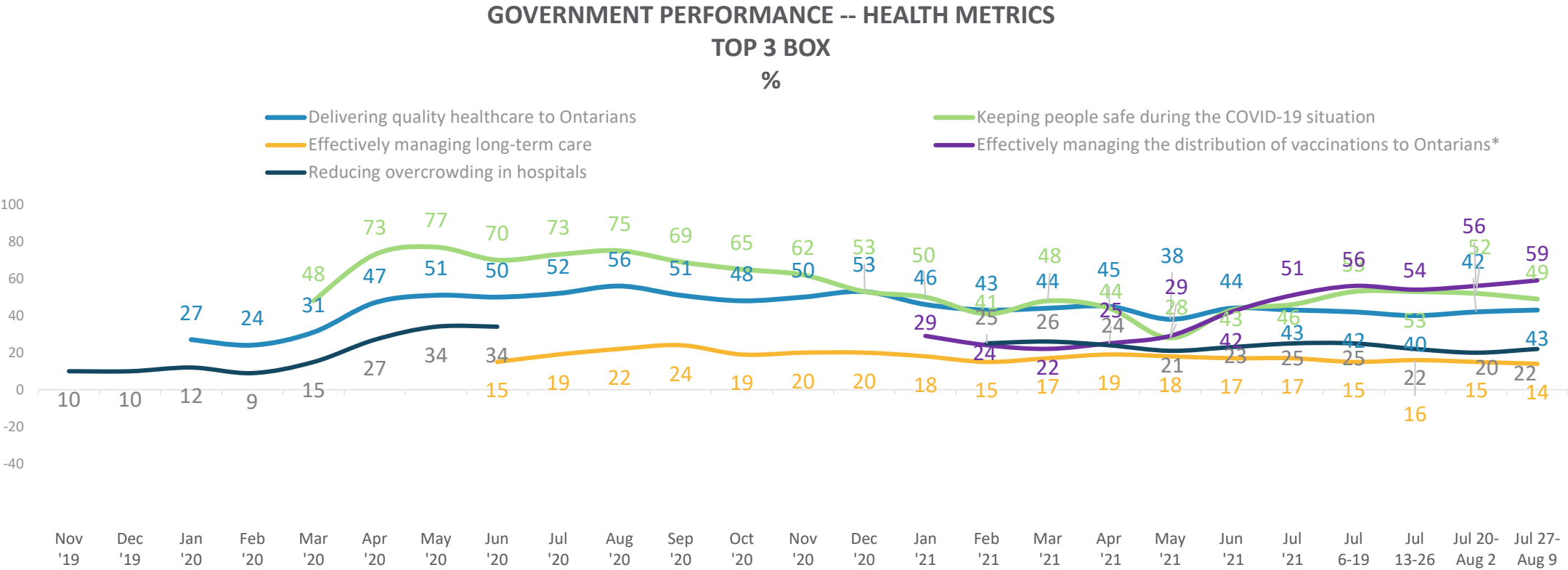


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

Bases vary

Again this week, rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ increased.



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