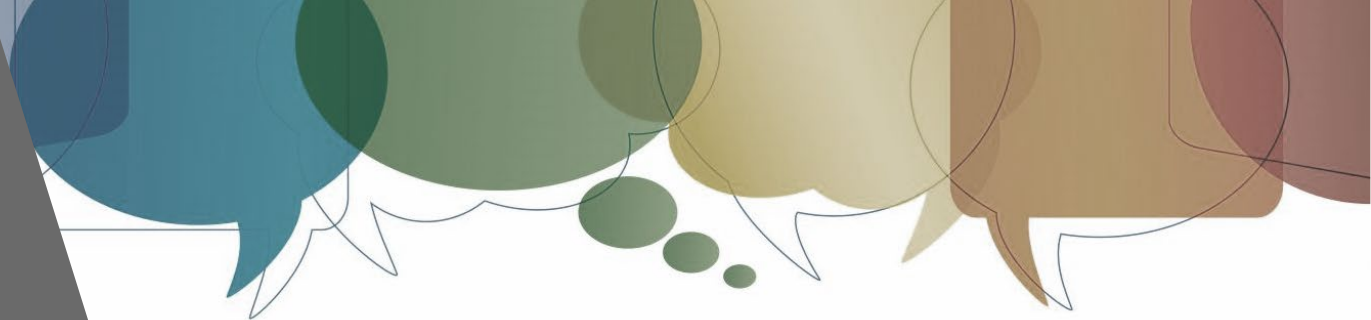




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #94

CABINET OFFICE
August 17th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 For the fourth straight week, 'right track' scores remained steady and are at 62% this week.

'Right track' scores remained relatively unchanged by age, gender, income, born in/outside of Canada, and minority/non-minority. However, the increase in 'right track' scores in Central Ontario continued this week and, with declines in the Toronto suburbs, now registers the highest 'right track' scores by region.

Of note, since May of this year, 'strongly on the wrong track' scores have declined 9-points and are at 17% this week.

3 And, while concern has been increasing, Ontarians tend to feel less sure the Ontario government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

This week, six-in-ten (60%) believe the government is prepared for a fourth wave of infections, down 14-points since the beginning of the month and the lowest results since tracking began.

There were also declines this week in trust of the government's communications about the COVID-19 situation and the restrictions imposed to fight COVID are measured and appropriate. And, while positive ratings of the government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' continued to increase, ratings for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' declined again this week.

2 Ontarians continue to be increasingly concerned that the province may experience a fourth wave of the pandemic with 8-in-10 (78%) now reporting they are concerned. This represents a 21-point increase since early July.

Also indicating increasing levels of apprehension among Ontarians, the proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19 continues to decline with fully half (50%) now believing this – down from 77% a month ago.

There was also a decrease in the number of Ontarians that are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 52% are in agreement the end is nearer, down 21-points compared this time in July.

4 Ontarians continue to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months, with 51% supporting a focus on economic issues while 33% support health-related issues (a decline of 8-points this week).

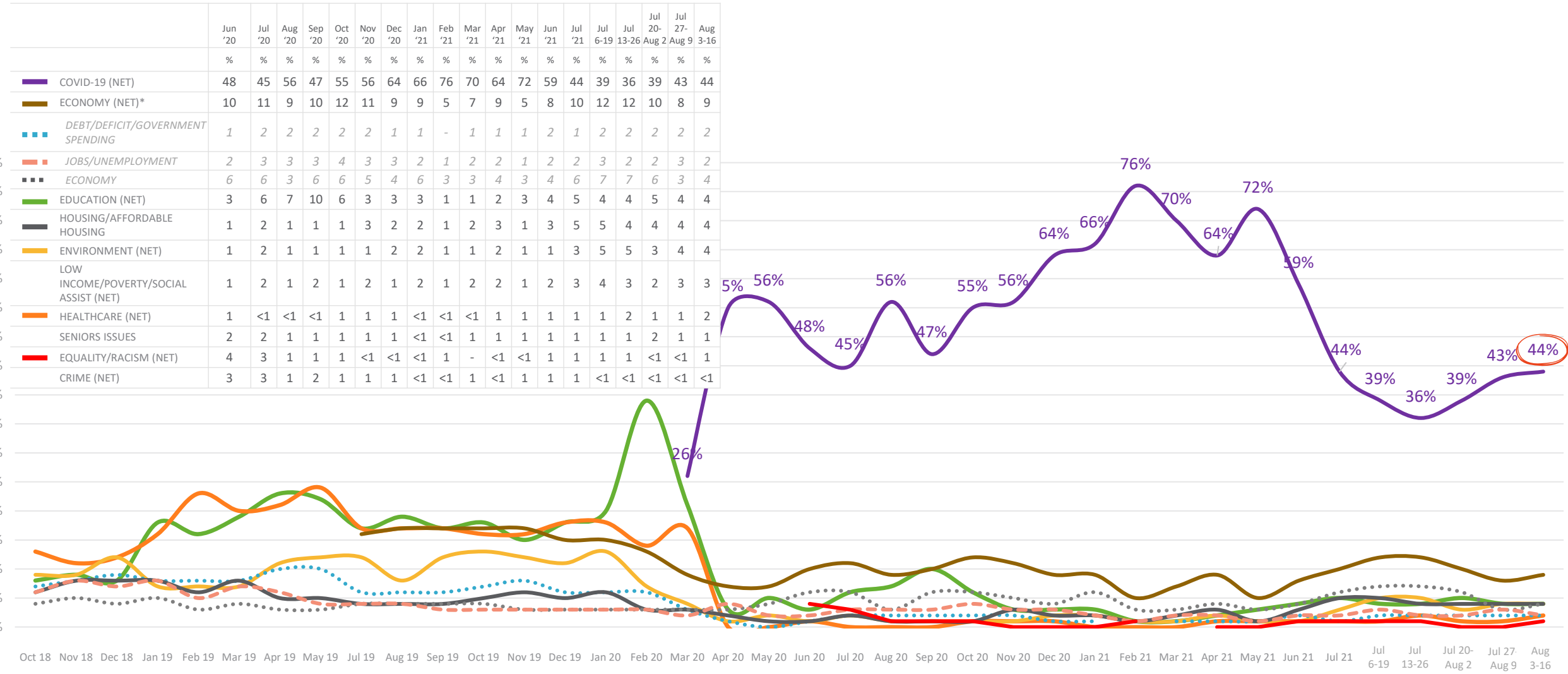
However, perceptions about the status Ontario's economy bears close watching in the coming weeks. Six-in-ten (58%) Ontarians continue to think the Ontario economy is improving. However, there are indications that they may be starting to be less optimistic as there has been a steady 8-point decline over the month.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 as a top priority remained stable this week at 44% after experiencing an increase (+8 points over the past three weeks) following a drop of 36-points in one month.



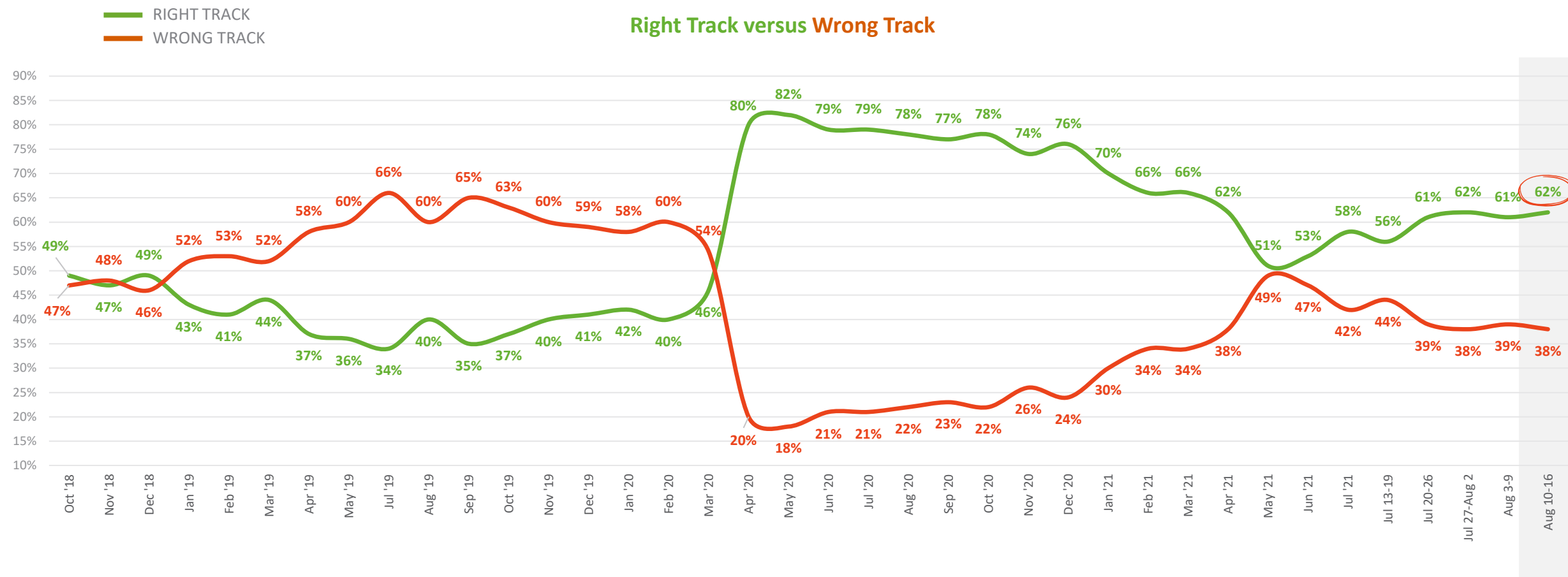
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

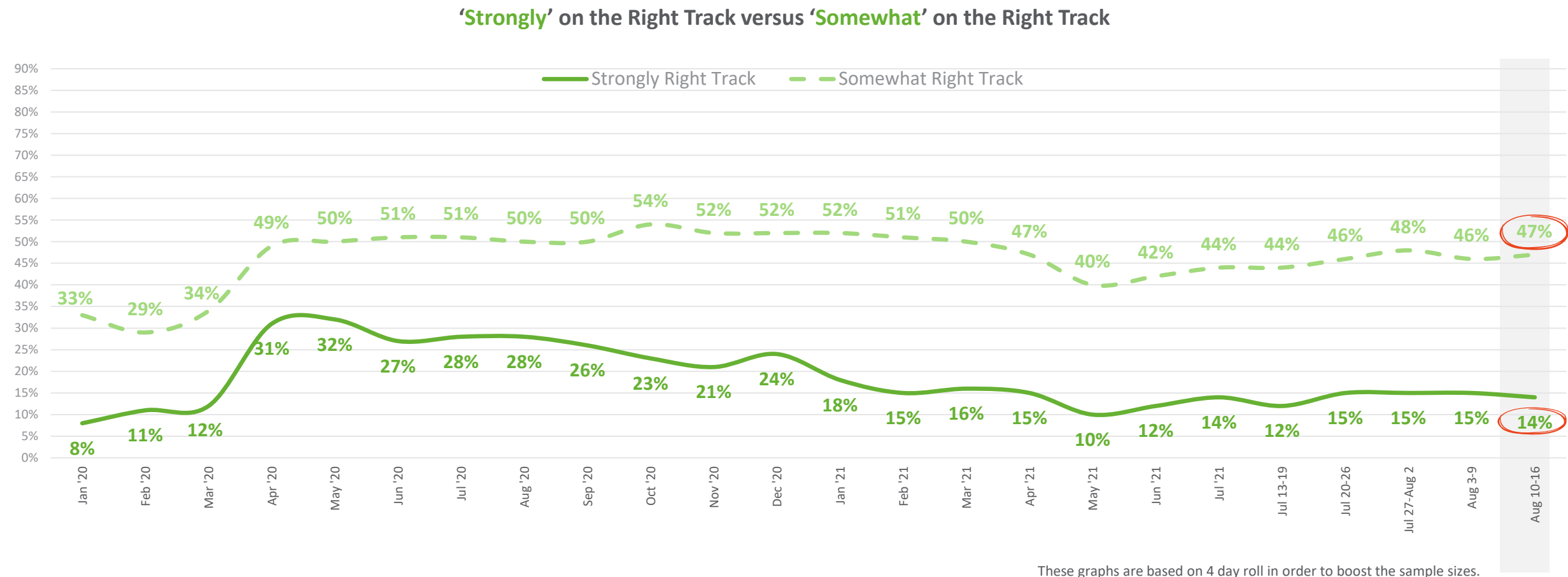


For the fourth straight week, 'right track' scores remained steady and are at 62% this week.



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

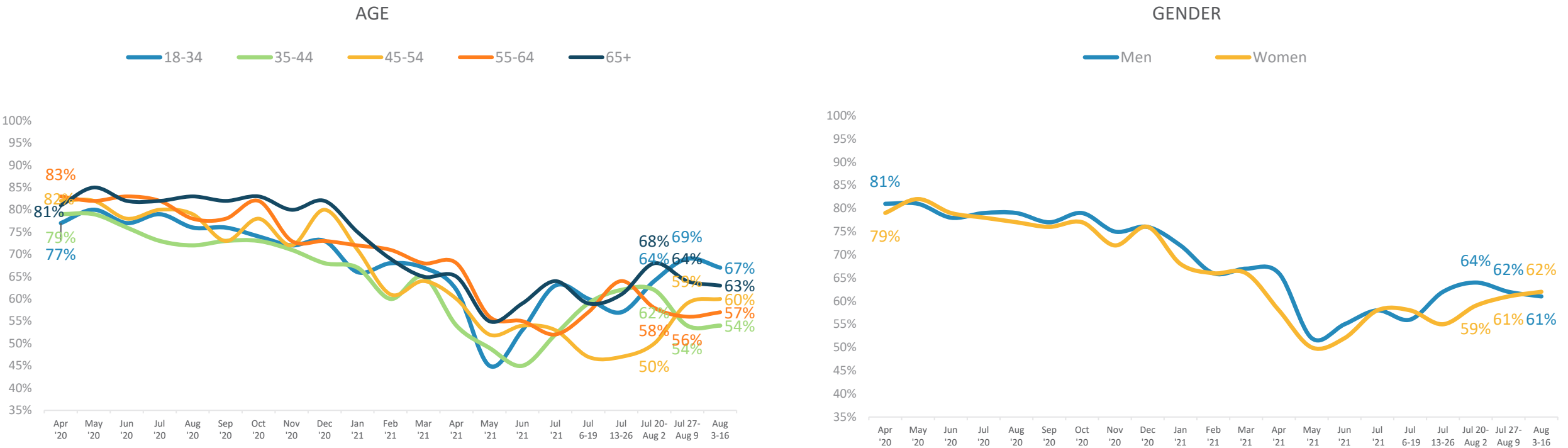
Both ‘strongly right track’ and ‘somewhat right track’ scores remained steady, with the proportion believing the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’ (47%) over three times more than ‘strongly on the right track’ (14%).



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 by age also remained steady this week. Ontarians aged 18-34 continue to report the highest ‘right track’ scores at 67%, while those aged 35-44 are 13-points lower. There also continues to be parity in ‘right track’ scores by gender.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

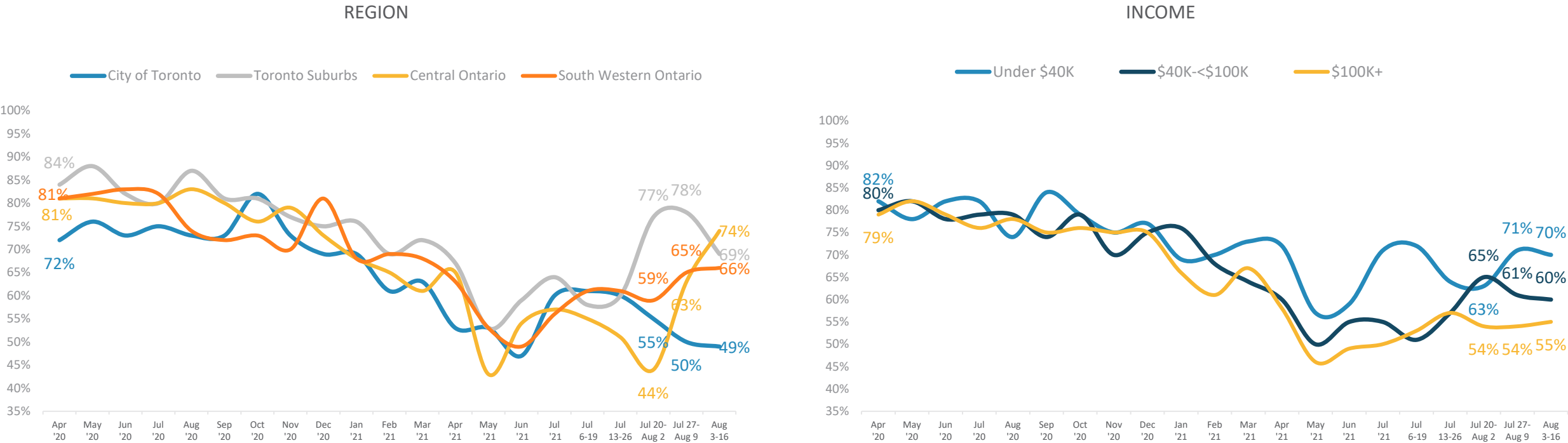


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 in ‘right track’ scores in Central Ontario continued this week and, with declines in the Toronto suburbs, now registers the highest ‘right track’ scores by region. By income, ‘right track’ scores were unchanged this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



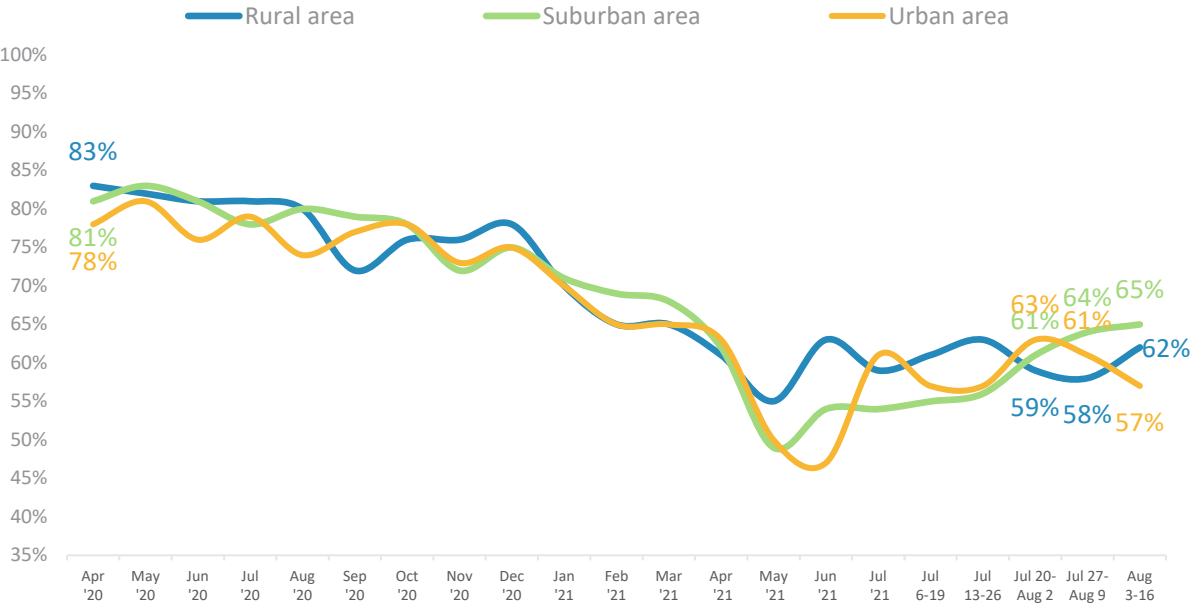
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

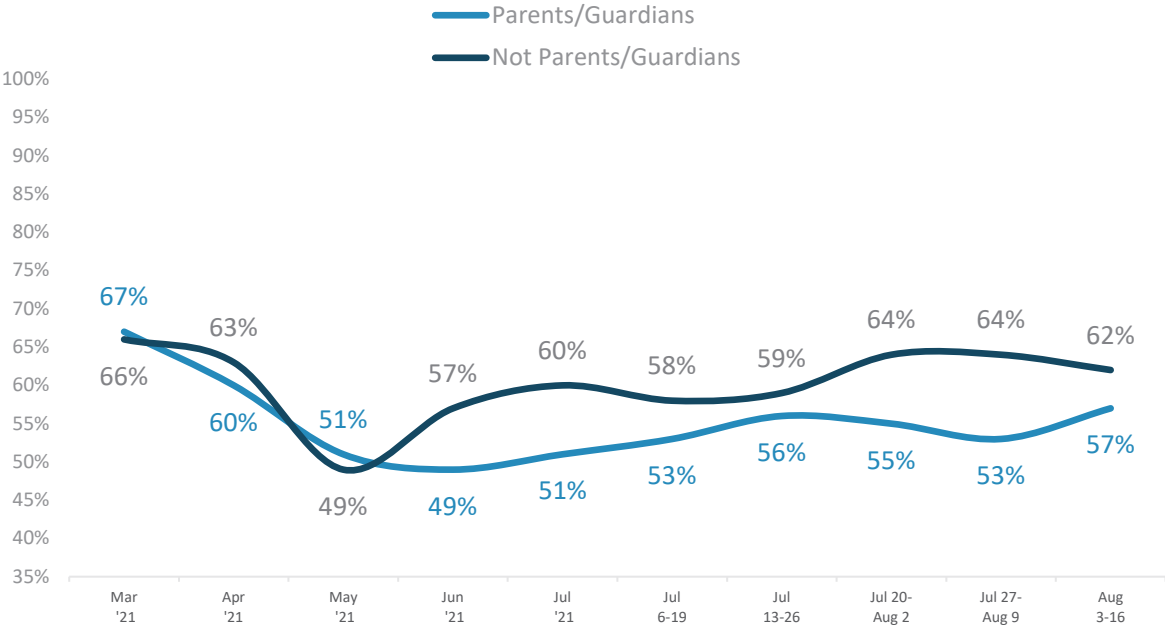
‘Right track’ scores in suburban areas have continued to trend upward in recent weeks and continue to have the highest ‘right track’ scores by residential area. However, scores have been declining in urban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



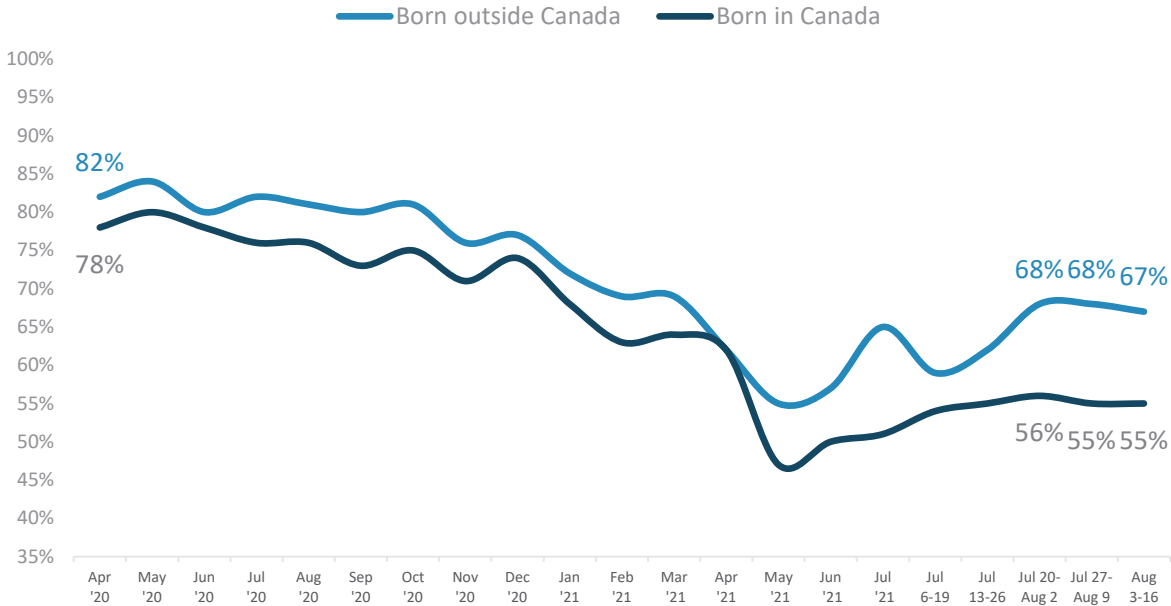
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

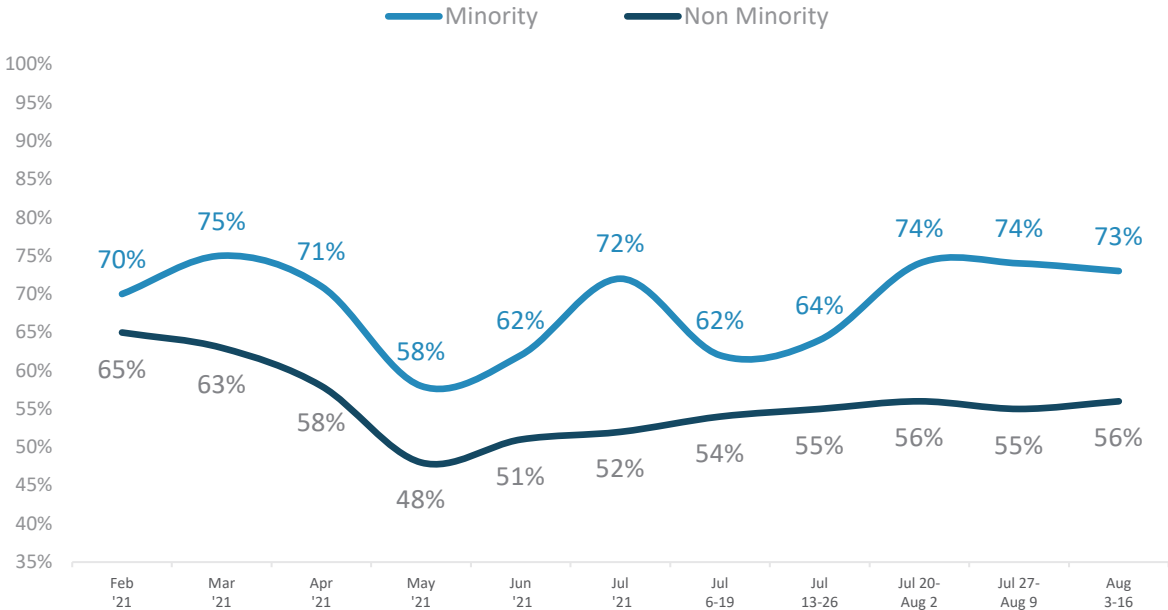
‘Right track’ scores remained steady for the third week among those born in or outside of Canada and among both minorities and non-minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

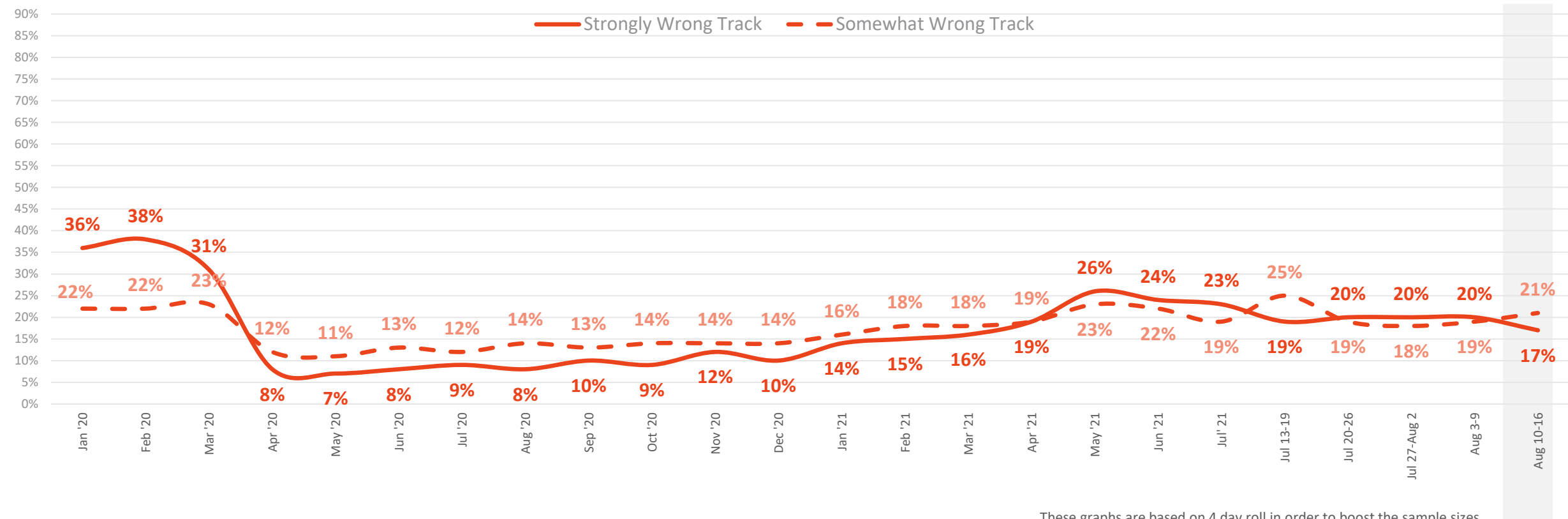


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Since May of this year, ‘strongly on the wrong track’ scores have declined 9-points and are at 17% this week.

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

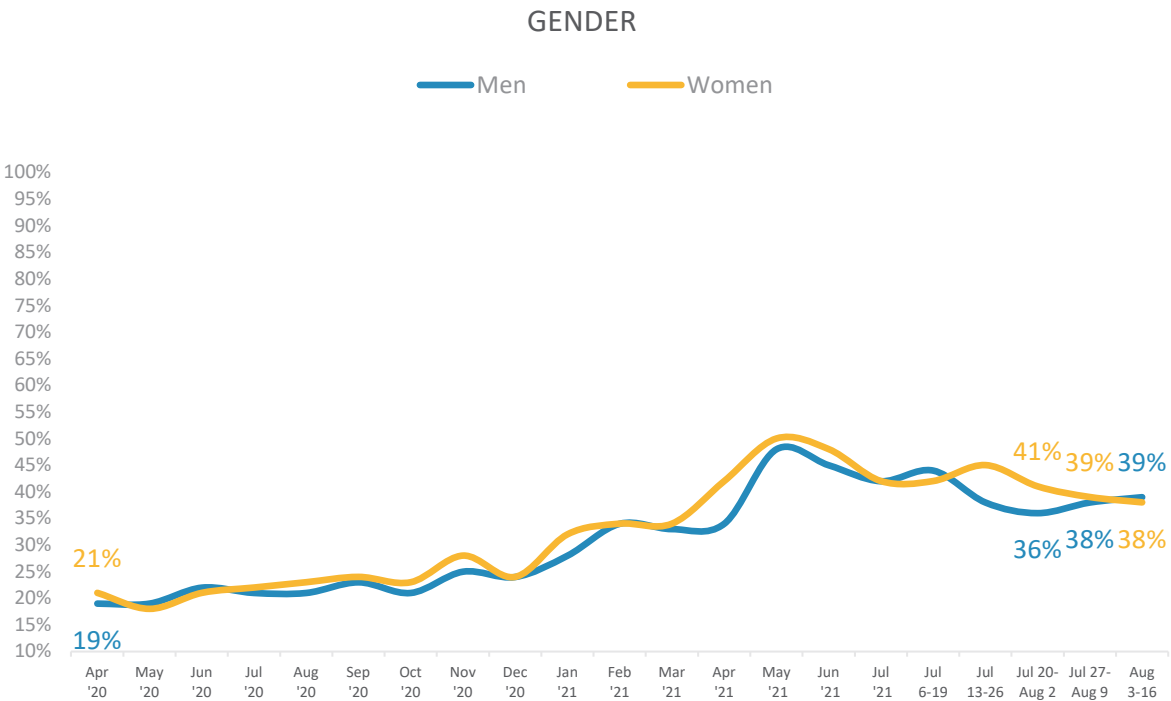
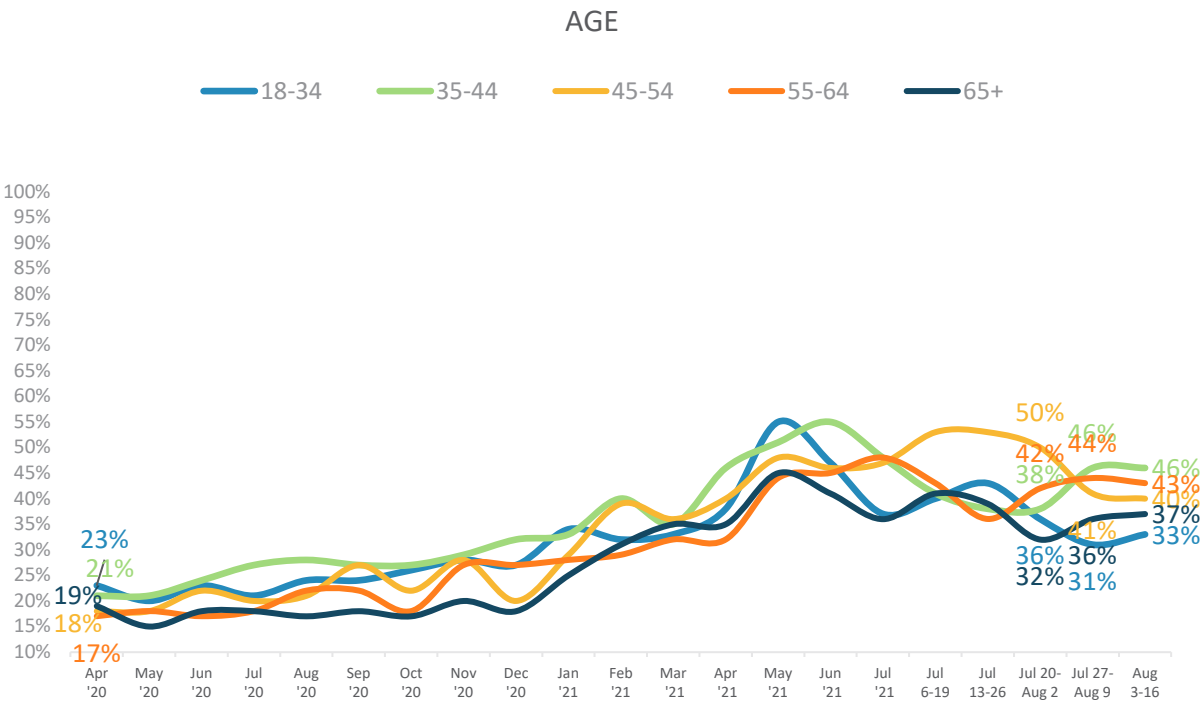


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Wrong track’ scores remained steady this week by age with Ontarians aged 18-34 continuing to report the lowest ‘wrong track’ scores at 33%. ‘Wrong track’ scores also remain at parity among men and women.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

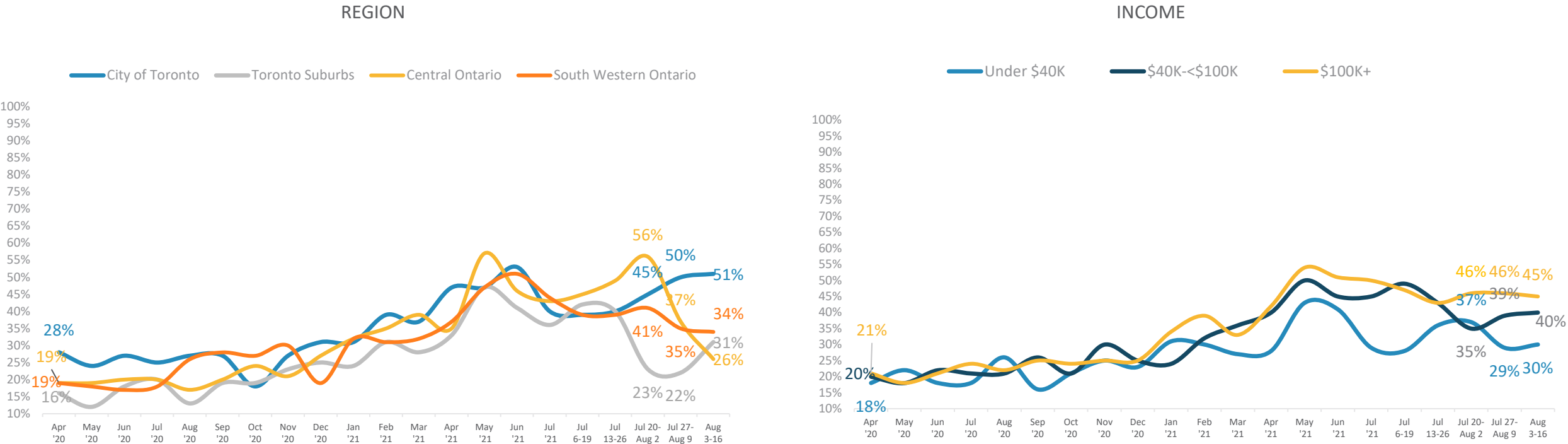


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

There was an uptick in ‘wrong track’ scores this week in the Toronto suburbs while declines continued in Central Ontario. ‘Wrong track’ scores by income remained unchanged.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



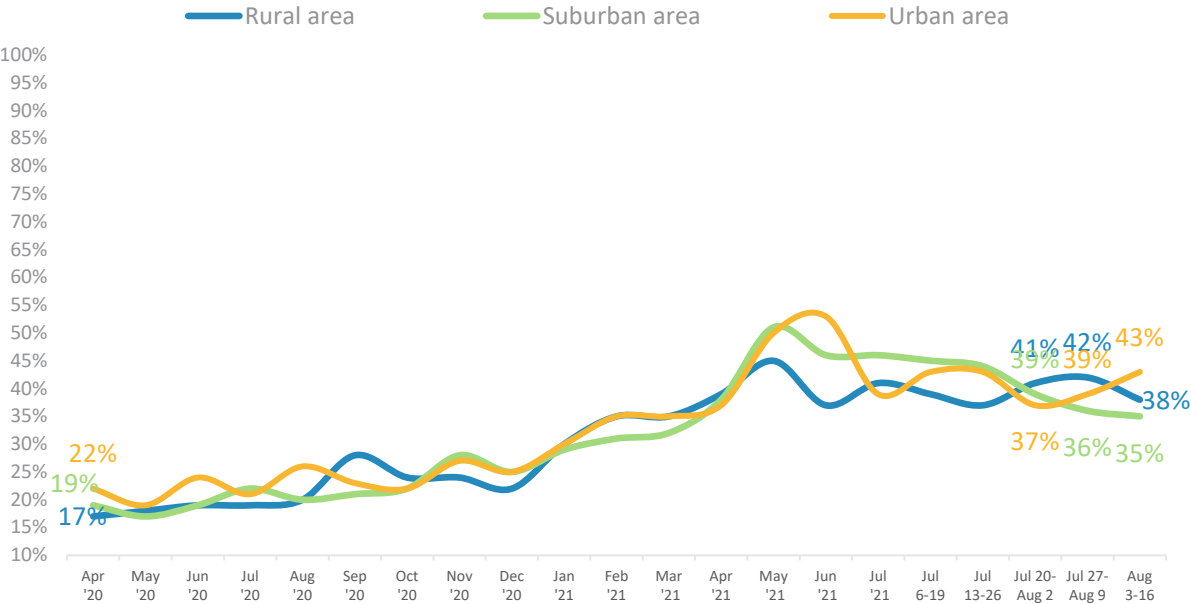
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

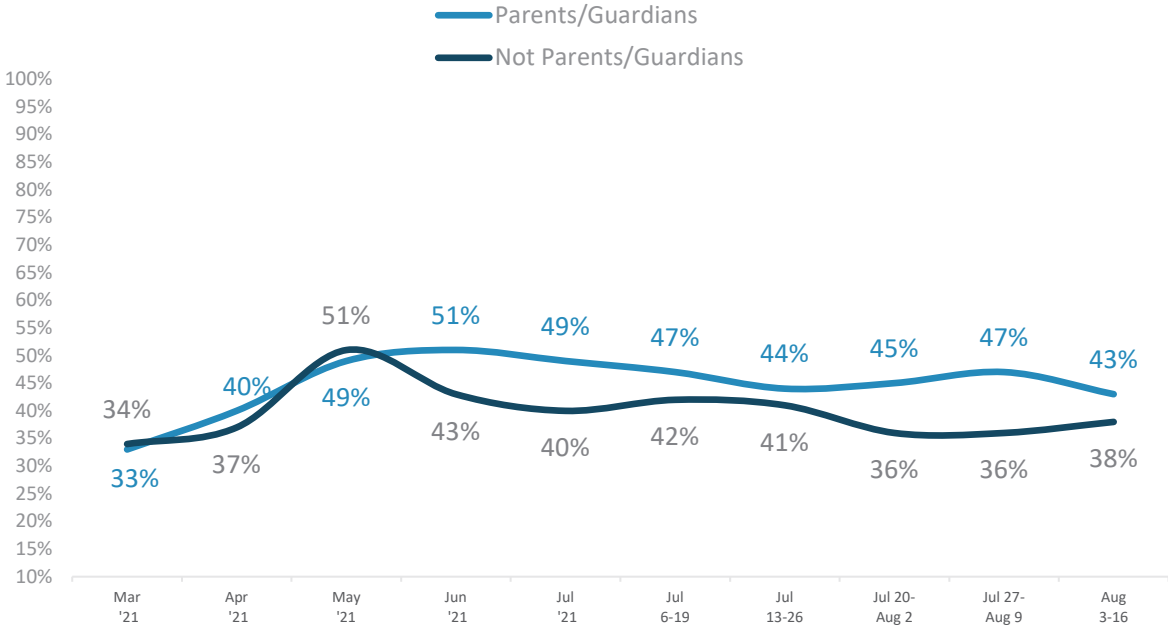
‘Wrong track’ scores continue to trend down in suburban areas, while there have been increases in urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

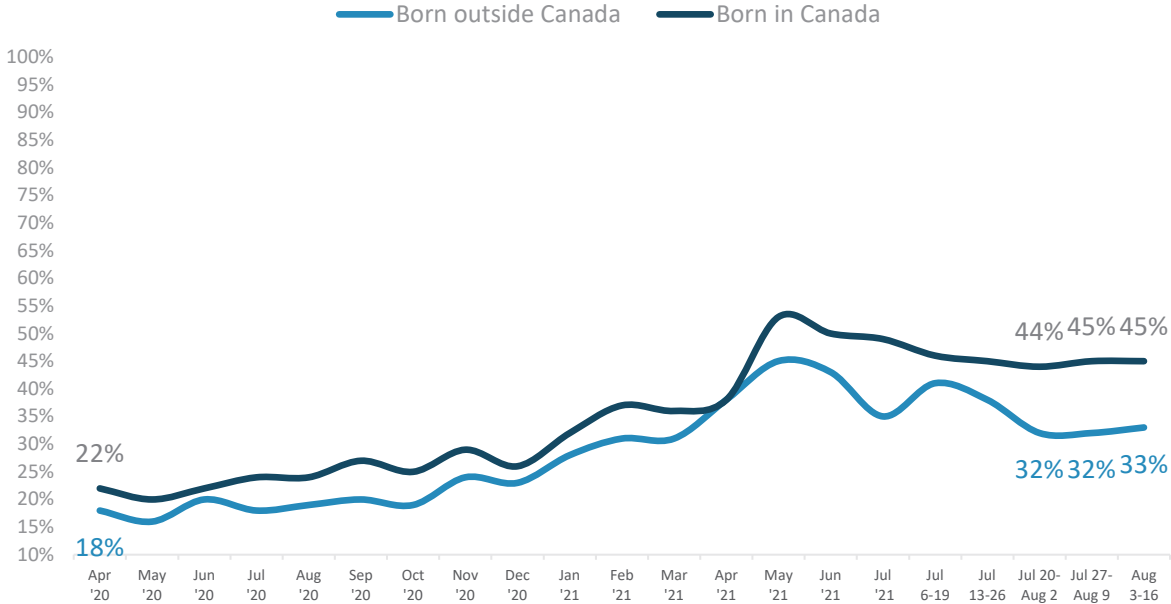


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

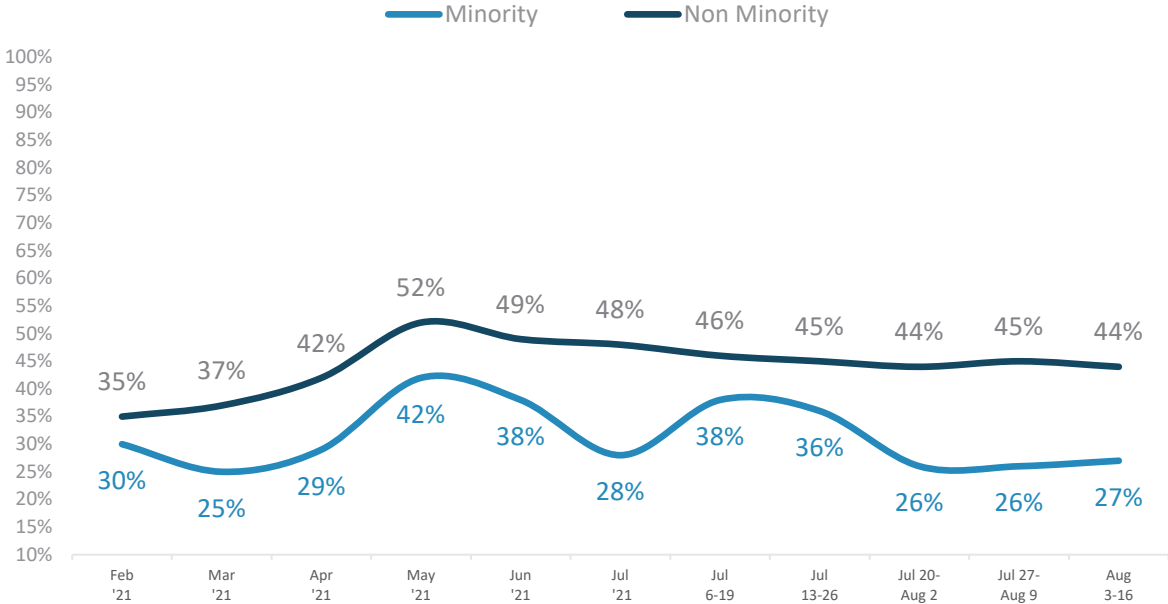
‘Wrong track’ scores have remained unchanged among Ontarians born in or outside of Canada and among both minorities and non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



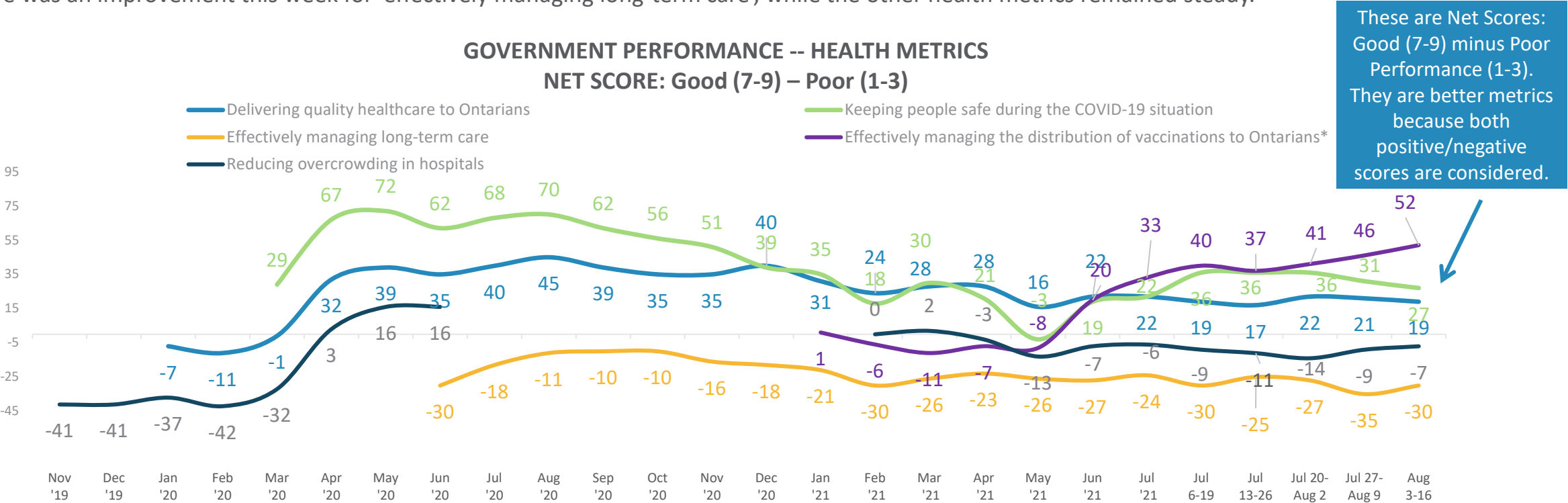
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



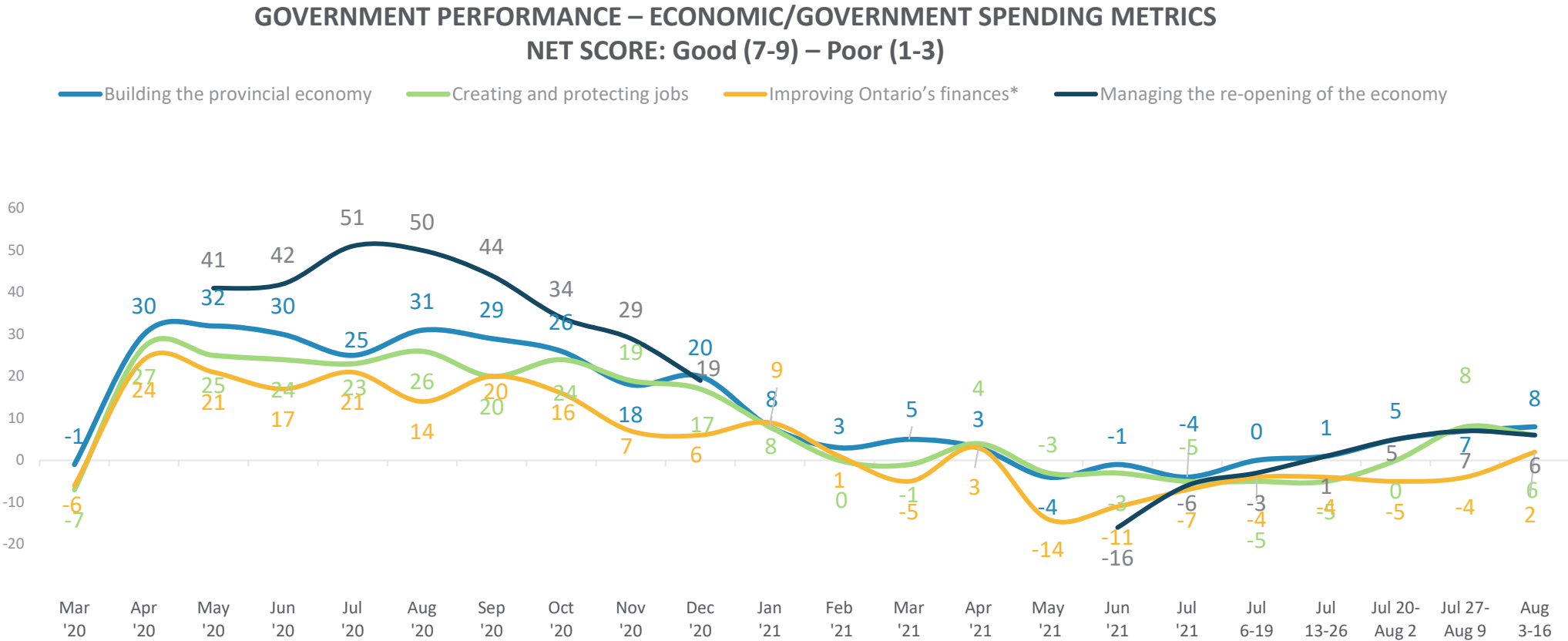
Positive ratings of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ continued to increase and is at the highest point since tracking began. However, declines were measured again this week for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ which likely reflects the increased media coverage on the Delta variant.

- There was an improvement this week for ‘effectively managing long-term care’, while the other health metrics remained steady.



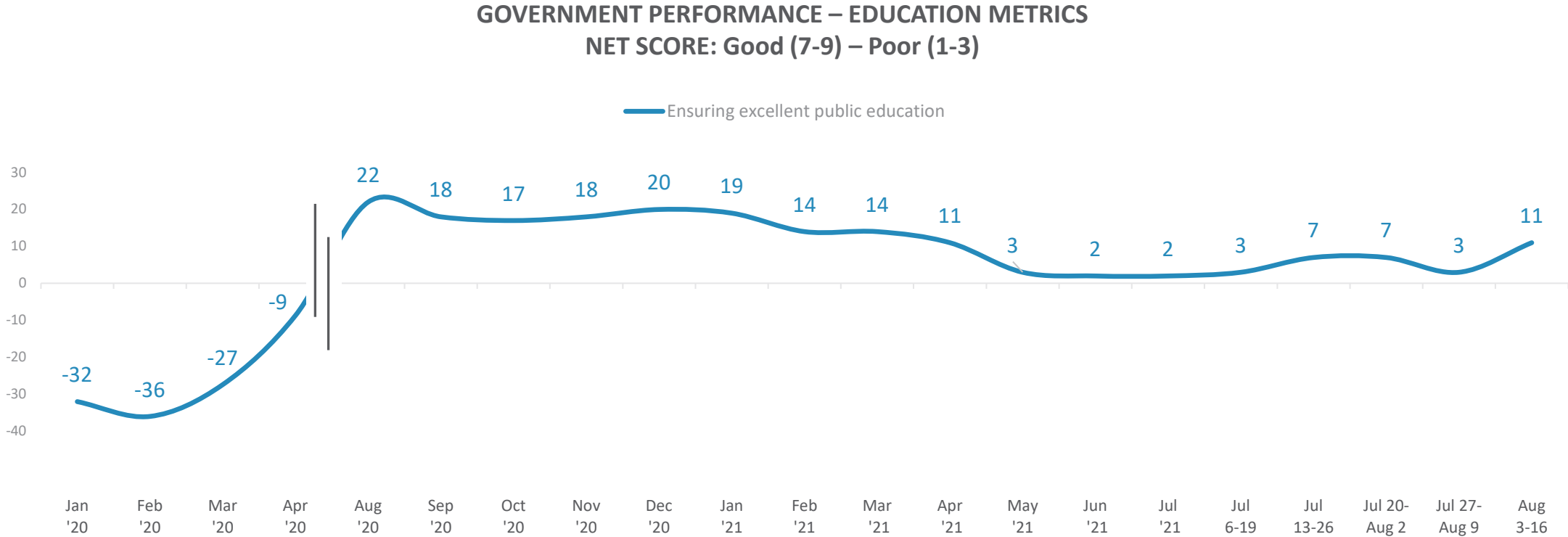
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Its performance rating for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’, ‘creating and protecting jobs’, and ‘building the provincial economy’ remained steady this week. Of note, ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ increased 6-points and is now in positive territory at NET +2.



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’ increased to NET +11 with 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



Half (50%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’, while over one-in-ten (14%) describe it as ‘poor’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
n=	770	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	56	53	50	56	50
Excellent	15	16	10	13	15	11
Good	42	40	43	37	42	40
Fair	31	31	34	34	33	32
Poor	9	10	9	11	7	11
Very poor	4	1	3	5	3	3
TOTAL POOR	12	12	12	15	11	14

CHANGE IN FINANCIAL SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR

There appears to have been a slight increase in the proportion of Ontarians who are reporting that their financial situation has improved.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
n=	764	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	15	14	13	15	15	23
Improve a great deal	3	3	3	2	3	4
Improve somewhat	13	11	10	13	11	19
Stay the same	54	58	54	54	57	47
Worsen somewhat	24	21	25	23	20	16
Worsen a great deal	7	6	6	8	8	11
TOTAL WORSEN	31	27	31	31	28	27

ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLD OVER THE NEXT YEAR

Ontarians remain 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 (11%) anticipate it will be ‘poor’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
n=	763	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	63	57	53	57	57
Excellent	12	16	10	10	11	8
Good	44	47	47	44	46	49
Fair	32	28	35	32	33	27
Poor	7	6	6	7	6	8
Very poor	2	-	1	4	1	3
TOTAL POOR	10	6	7	11	8	11

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

Base: Total sample

Six-in-ten (58%) Ontarians continue to think the Ontario economy is improving. However, there are indications that they may be starting to be less optimistic as there has been a steady 8-point decline over the month.

	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVING	66	64	62	60	58
Quickly improving	4	3	4	6	6
Slowly improving	62	60	59	55	52
Unchanged	11	10	10	14	13
Slowly worsening	16	19	17	19	19
Quickly worsening	5	6	7	5	5
TOTAL WORSENING	20	25	24	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 fact more stores (35%) and restaurants/bars (34%) are reopening, as well as knowing people that are going back to work (35%).

IMPROVING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
n=	197	160	156	151	175
	%	%	%	%	%
People I know are going back to work	22	22	32	17	35
More stores are reopening	-	-	-	-	35
Restaurants and bars are reopening	16	19	16	19	34
Declining unemployment rate	-	-	-	-	17
Value of my house/value of housing	-	-	-	-	16
Strong Canadian stock markets	-	-	-	-	14
Seen, read, heard that the economy is improving	6	12	5	13	7
I found a better job	-	-	-	-	6
I received or expect to receive a raise or bonus	-	-	-	-	3
Covid-19 situation is improving/under control	-	-	-	-	1
Non-essential stores are reopening	43	33	33	30	1
Good availability of vaccinations/more and more people getting vaccinated	-	-	-	5	<1
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	2
Other	-	-	2	3	2
Don't know/not sure					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

HAVING AN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR RECOVERY



Ontarians continue to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months, with 51% supporting a focus on economic issues while 33% support health-related issues (a decline of 8-points this week).

- Presently, just over one-in-ten (13%) believe that both a health and economic focus are equally important by the Ontario government.

	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	Aug 10-16
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	33
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	51
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7	6	8	10	8	7	6	6	7	13

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 4TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

Reflecting mounting media coverage on the Delta variant, Ontarians’ concern about a fourth wave has continued to increase with 8-in-10 (78%) now reporting they are concerned. This represents a 21-point increase since early July.

	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	Aug 10-16
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	207
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18

And, while concern has been increasing, Ontarians tend to feel less sure the Ontario government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

- This week, six-in-ten (60%) believe the government is prepared for a fourth wave of infections, down 14-points since the beginning of the month and the lowest results since tracking began.

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	Aug 10-16
Varies								
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69	74	67	60
19	17	17	18	14	17	15	16	14
48	58	54	54	53	52	59	51	46
20	16	16	18	19	17	14	25	22
11	9	12	9	10	10	12	6	12
32	25	27	27	28	27	26	31	33
		2	2	4	4	-	2	7

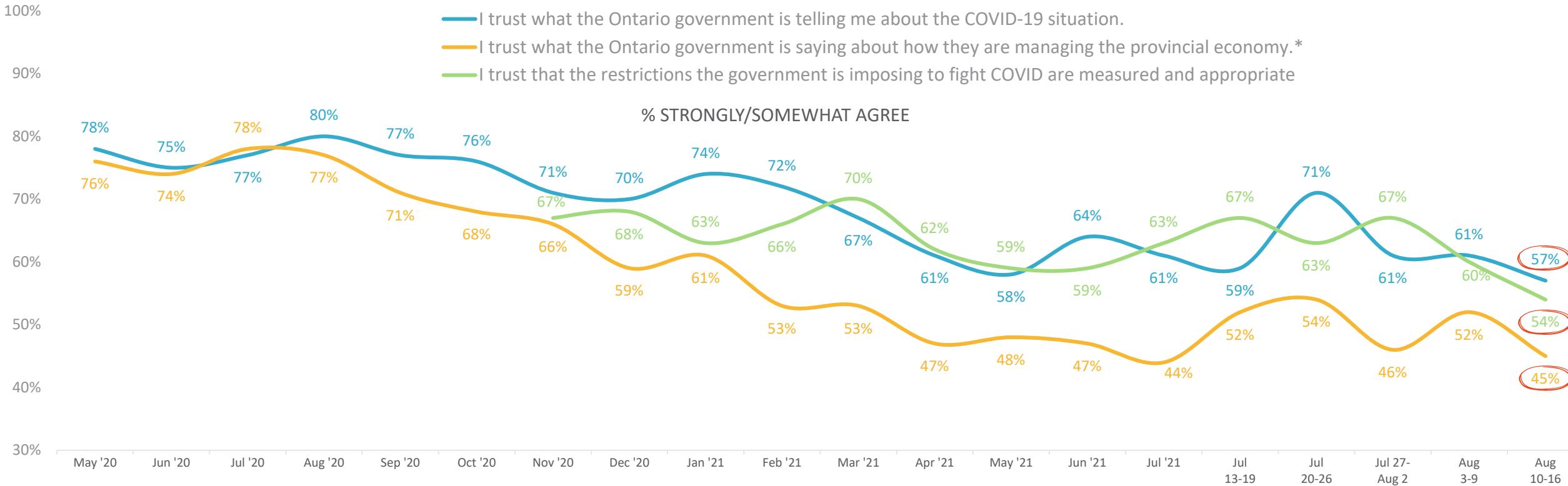
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Trust in the government’s communications about ‘what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’, ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’, and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ all declined this week.

- Results tend to be the lowest measured since tracking began.



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 fully half (50%) now believing this – down from 77% a month ago. 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	Aug 10-16
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61	62	52	50
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19	21
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34	30
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7	7	6	8
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18	18
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20	19
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38	37

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

COVID-19 VACCINE



CONFIDENCE THE END OF COVID-19 IS NEAR WITH THE VACCINE READY

There was also a decrease in the number of Ontarians that are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 52% are in agreement the end is nearer, down 21-points compared to a month ago.

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	Aug 10-16
varies											
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	73	62	66	58	52
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	32	26	24	21	16
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	42	36	43	37	36
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	3	8	9	3	6
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	11	16	11	21	17
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	12	13	13	18	20
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	23	29	24	38	37

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

Preliminary results indicate that the majority (63%) of Ontarians think that businesses should require all of their employees to be vaccinated.

Businesses should not require all of their employees to be vaccinated

	Aug 10-16
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	27
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	10
Neither agree nor disagree	6
Somewhat disagree	16
Strongly disagree	47
TOTAL DISAGREE	63
Not applicable/Don't know	4

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

Base: Total sample

Almost one-in-ten (7%) Ontarians report they have received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of Ontario.

	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
Yes	8	8	7
No	92	92	91
Don't know/not sure	-	-	2

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

Eight-in-ten (81%) Ontarians say they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with over half (56%) reporting they are wearing a mask ‘all of the time’.

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	921	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	92	91	82	81	81
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	52	61	56
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	30	20	24
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	10	14	14
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	5	5	3
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	1	2
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	7	5	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	Aug 10-16	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16							
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	95%	95%	85%	82%	82%	89%	90%	94%	91%	85%	78%	88%	86%	90%	93%	87%	83%	81%	69%	83%	90%	90%	85%	67%	73%	80%	86%	87%	90%	91%	86%	82%	67%	89%	91%	87%	90%	81%	93%	70%	92%	88%	89%	95%	92%	94%	92%	87%	86%	88%	91%	75%	71%	83%

	RIGHT TRACK							WRONG TRACK						
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	88%	83%	82%	82%	83%	86%	85%	72%	78%	79%

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

IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO ONTARIANS PERSONALLY

Early results indicate that the province’s healthcare system (70%) is the most important issue to Ontarians personally, while 57% say that the education system is extremely important to them.

- This is followed by environmental protection (50%) and the economic recovery (46%).

	Protecting the environment	The province’s healthcare system	Economic recovery	The province’s education system
	Aug 10-16	Aug 10-16	Aug 10-16	Aug 10-16
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPORTANT (5,6,7)	85	93	89	87
7	50	70	46	57
5,6	35	23	43	30
4	6	3	5	5
2,3	5	1	4	3
1	1	1	<1	1
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT (1,2,3)	6	2	4	5
Don’t know	2	1	2	3

QCE-1. For each of the following issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. Please use a 7-point scale in which 7 is extremely important to me personally and 1 is not at all important to me personally. The first is

Base: Total sample

Preliminary results suggest that 63% of Ontarians have seen, read or heard of the phrase ‘net zero emissions’ while one-third (34%) have not.

	Aug 10-16
n=	300
	%
Yes	63
No	34
Don't know	4

QCE-2. Have you ever seen, read or heard of the phrase ‘net zero emissions’?

Base: Total sample

Initial results indicate that only 13% say that it is not personally important to them for the Ontario government to work toward achieving net zero emissions.

- Of the three-quarters (76%) that say it is personally important the government work towards net zero emissions, 45% have the point of view the government should work towards achieving net zero emissions regardless of its impact on the economy, while 31% report they are not supportive of any actions that could slow the province’s economic recovery from the pandemic.

	Aug 10-16
n=	300
	%
Some people say it is very important to them personally for the Ontario government to work toward achieving net zero emissions, regardless of its impact on the economy	45
Other people say it is not personally important to them for the Ontario government to work toward achieving net zero emissions	13
Still other people say that while achieving net zero emissions is personally important to them, they are not supportive of any actions that the Ontario government might take that could slow the province’s economic recovery from the pandemic.	31
Don’t know	11

QCE-2B. As you may or may not know, net zero means an organization either does not produce any greenhouse gas emissions, or makes up for its emissions by doing things like planting trees or using clean technologies to prevent or reduce emissions. Thinking of these three points of view, which one best reflects your own point of view.

Base: Total sample

Preliminary results suggest Ontarians see all four initiative as very important to them personally: there are similar levels of support for creating more parks and greenspace (48%), reducing carbon emissions (50%), reducing Ontario’s carbon footprint (48%) and expanding the availability of low-carbon fuels such as hydro-electric or others (42%).

	Reducing Ontario's Carbon Footprint	Reducing Carbon Emissions	Expanding the availability of low-carbon fuels such as hydro-electric or others	Creating more parks and greenspace
	Aug 10-16	Aug 10-16	Aug 10-16	Aug 10-16
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE (5,6,7)	78	79	77	81
7	48	50	42	48
5,6	30	29	35	34
4	8	8	9	10
2,3	6	5	5	5
1	5	5	5	1
TOTAL NOT SUPPORTIVE (1,2,3)	11	10	11	6
Don't know	4	3	3	2

QCE-3. Thinking specifically about protecting the environment, using a 7-point scale in which 7 means you, personally, are extremely supportive and 1 means you, personally, are not at all supportive, how supportive or not are you of the Ontario government taking the following steps? The first is ...

Base: Total sample

Early results indicate the majority (69%) of Ontarians believe that governments should lead the way in reducing carbon emissions. One-in-five (21%) think businesses should take the lead.

	Aug 10-16
n=	300
	%
Governments should lead the way – businesses won’t do this on their own quickly enough. Government needs to enforce a set of rules with which businesses must comply within a specific timeframe.	69
Businesses should lead the way – we don’t need more government intervention. Businesses are motivated because it will ultimately lead to greater profitability and is in their long-term best interests.	21
Neither	3
Both	7

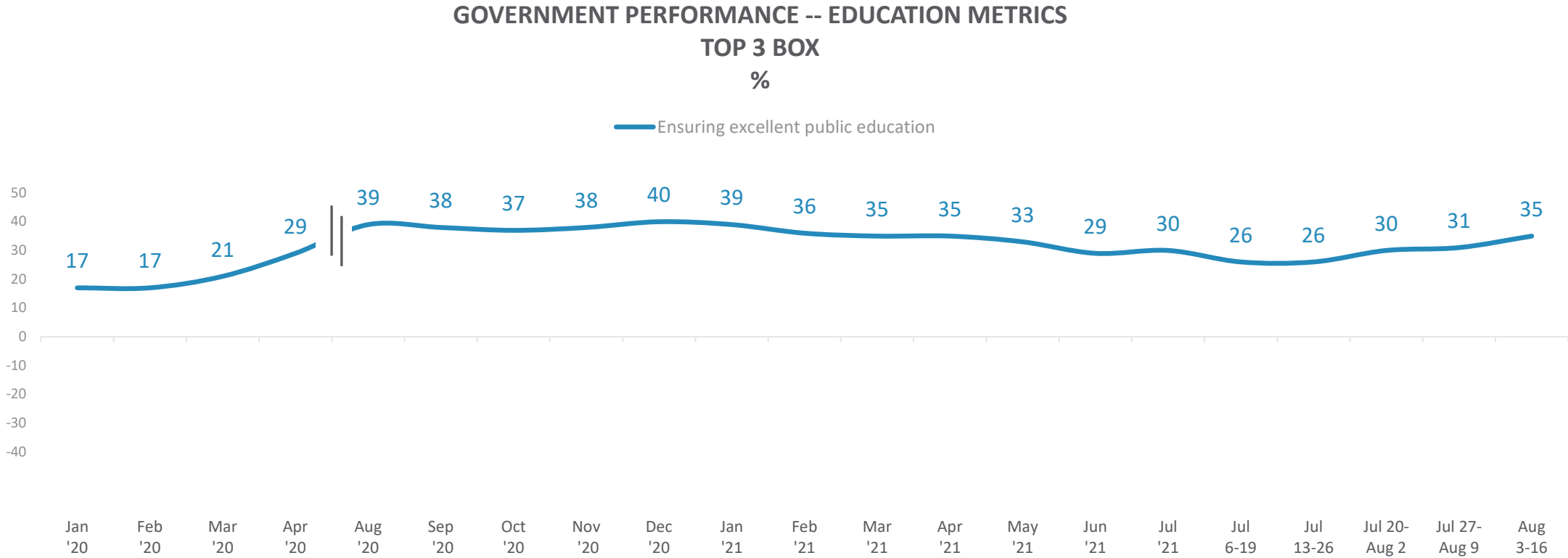
QCE-4. Which one of the following two points of view best reflects your own when it comes to who should take the lead in reducing carbon emissions?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

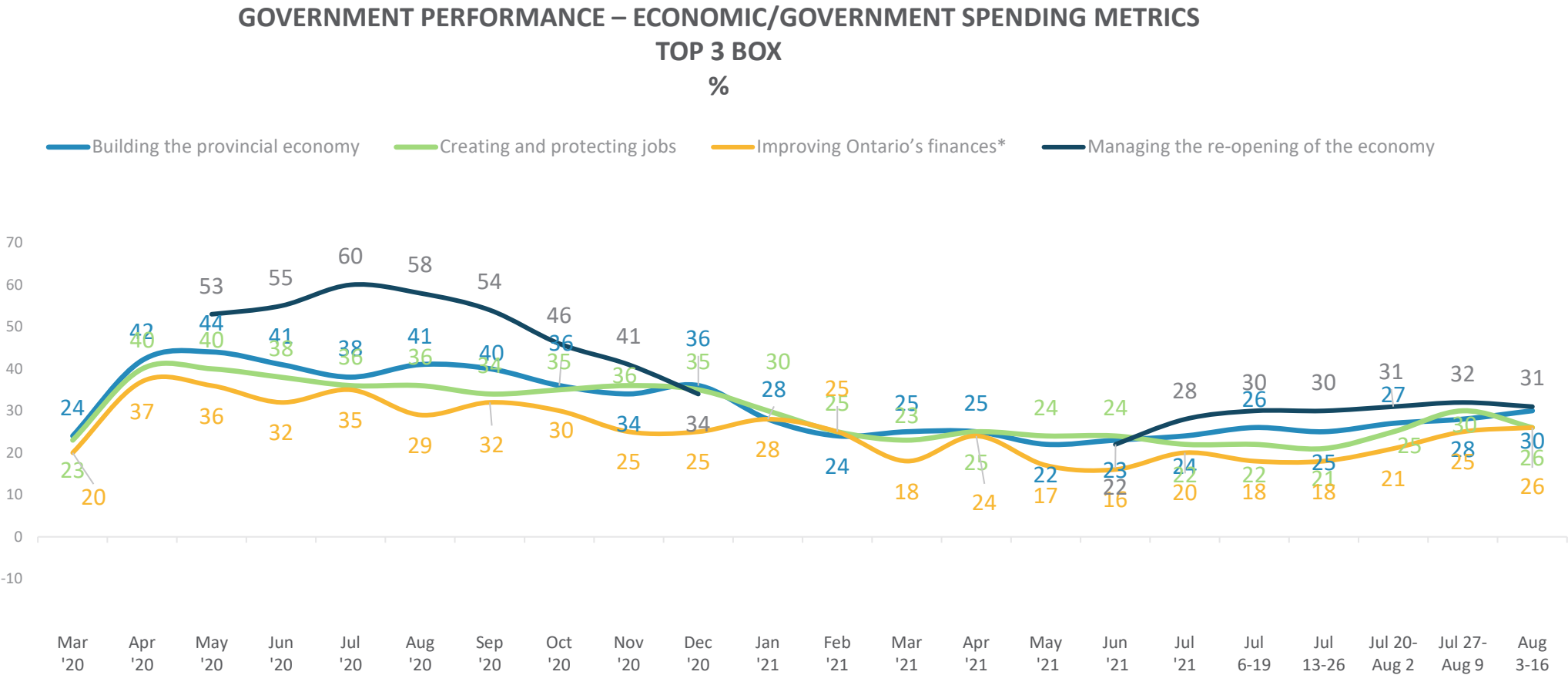


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has continued to trend upward this week to 35%.



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 ‘creating and protecting jobs’ declined this week while the other economic and government spending metrics remained stable.

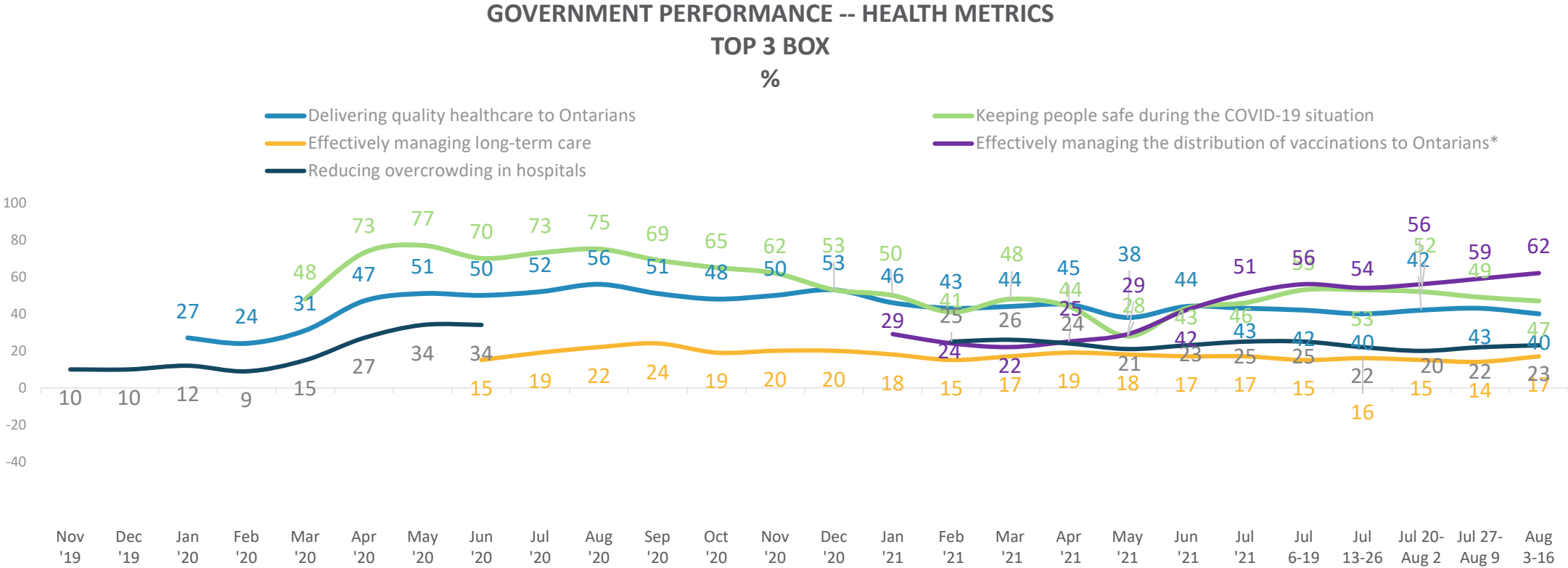


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ increased again this week, while ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ continued to slowly trend down.



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