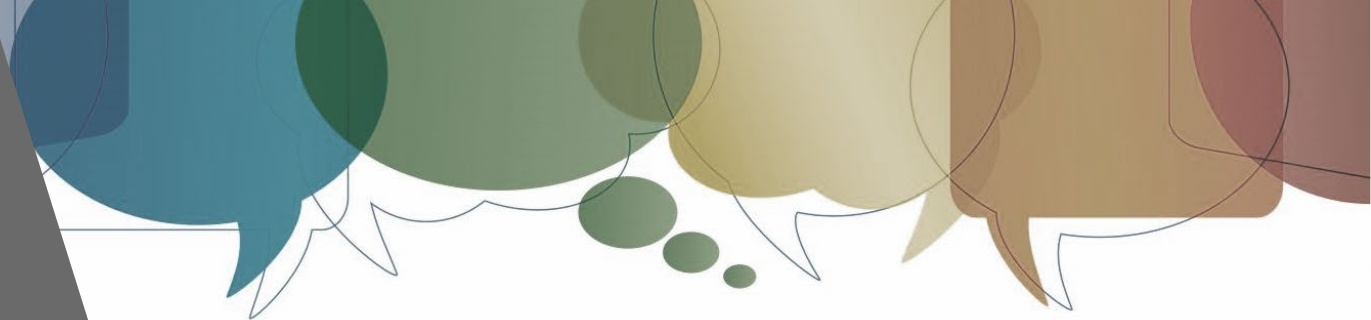




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #95

CABINET OFFICE
August 24th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores remained within the range of 56% - 62% found over the past seven weeks and is at 57% this week.

3 Overall, two-thirds (67%) of Ontarians feel the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. However, intensity is low with less than one-in-five that feel the Ontario government is 'very' prepared.

However, positive ratings of the government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' increased for the fourth straight week and is at the highest point since tracking began. And, ratings for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' remained unchanged after experiencing a decline last week.

There were also improvements this week in trust of the government's communications that 'the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate'.

2 Reflecting mounting media coverage on the Delta variant, Ontarians' concern about a fourth wave has continued to increase with over 8-in-10 (84%) now reporting they are concerned. This represents a 27-point increase since early July.

This concern is reflected in the proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19. While stabilized this week at 51% that currently believe this, there has been a 26-point decline since early July.

And, the decline has continued for the number of Ontarians that are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 47% are in agreement the end is nearer, also down 26-points compared to a month ago.

4 Importantly, this concern over the fourth wave may be impacting views on Ontario's economic recovery as there continues to be a decline in the number of Ontarians who believe the Ontario economy is improving. This week, 54% say it is improving, down 12-points since mid-July. While those believing the economy is worsening remains relatively unchanged at 23%, now 21% categorize the economy as 'unchanged'.

Regardless, Ontarians continue to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months, with 46% supporting a focus on economic issues while 37% support health-related issues. And, presently just over one-in-ten (14%) believe that both a health and economic focus by the Ontario government are equally important.

Key Findings

5 The government's performance rating for 'building the provincial economy' and 'improving Ontario's finances' continued to trend upwards this week. However, 'creating and protecting jobs' declined 6-points in the past two weeks.

There were also improvements in trust this week of the government's communications regarding 'how they are managing the provincial economy'.

And, Ontarians remain optimistic about the future with six-in-ten (62%) anticipating the financial situation of their household over the next year will be 'excellent/good'. This week, only 5% anticipate it will be 'poor'.

6 There is also positive news on the education front. Rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' increased to NET +15 this week, an improvement of 12-points in two weeks.

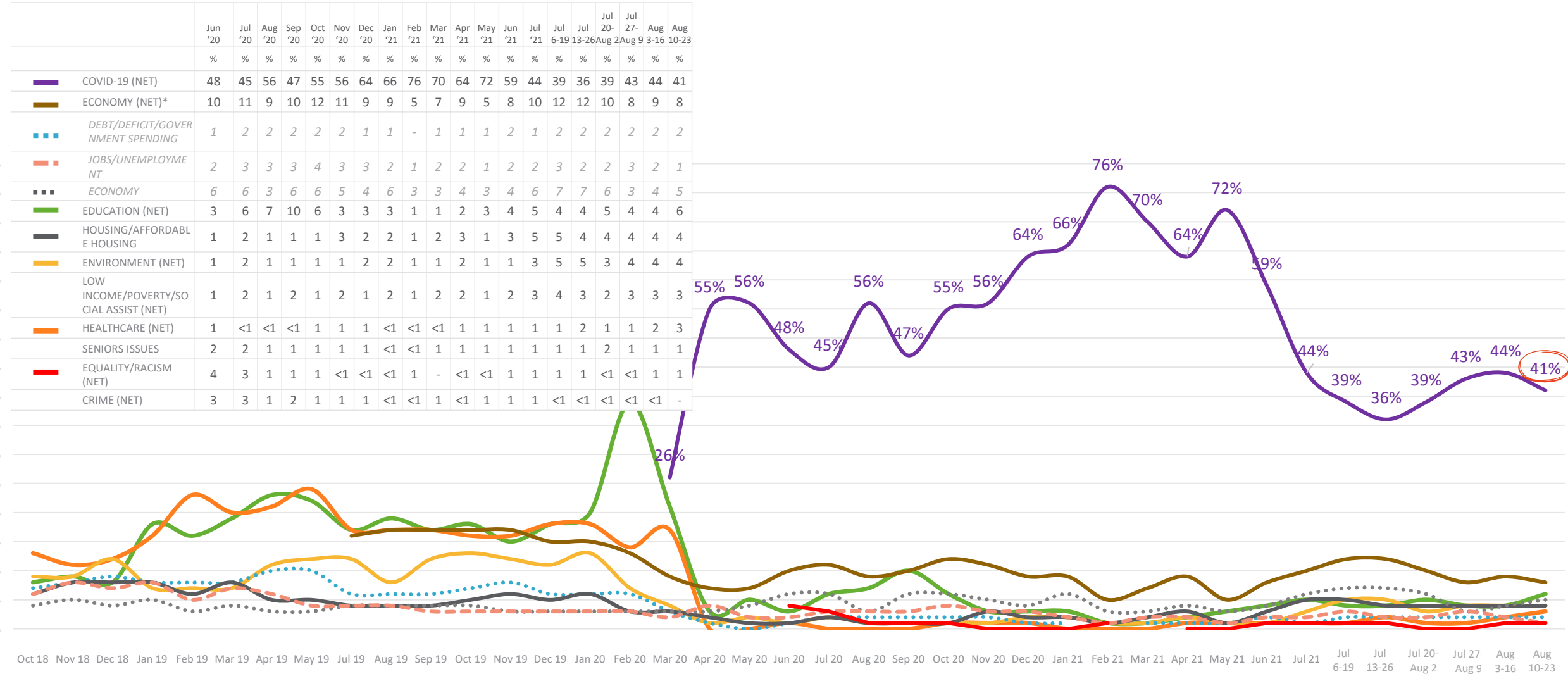
However, parents/guardians are just slightly less positive than non-parents/guardians.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 as a top priority declined slightly this week to 41% while remaining higher than results measured a month ago (but well below the 72% seen in May).



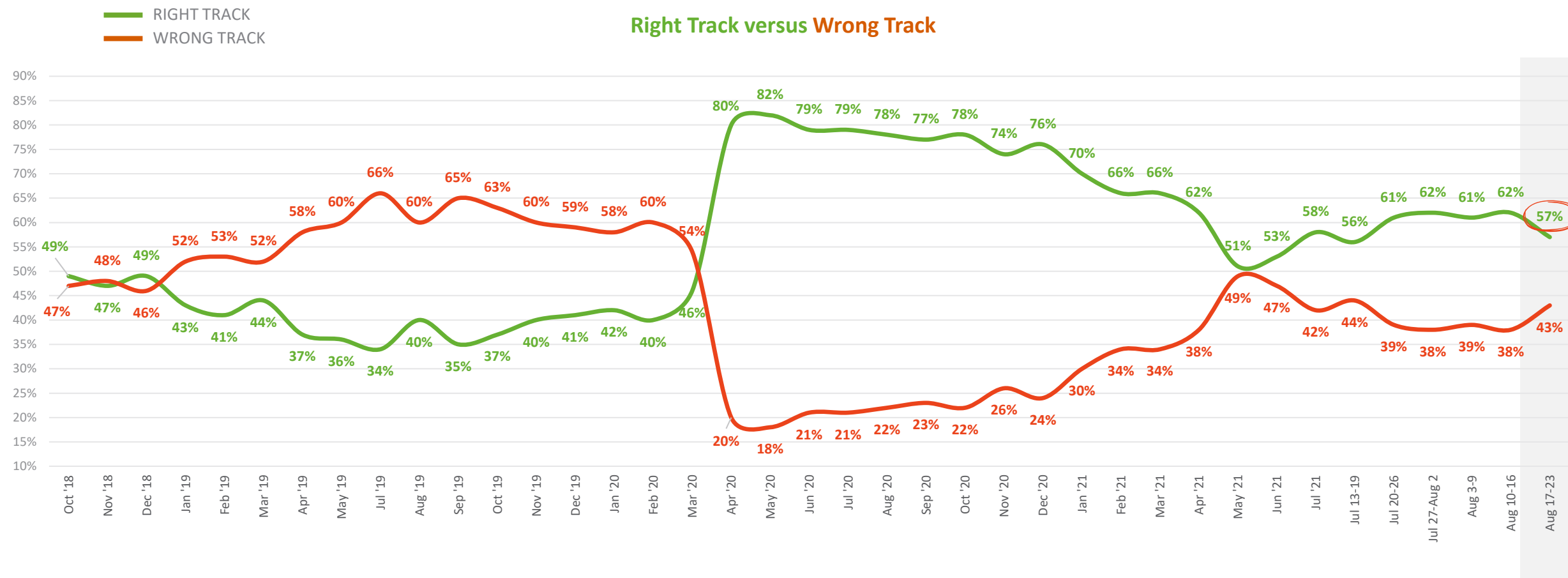
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

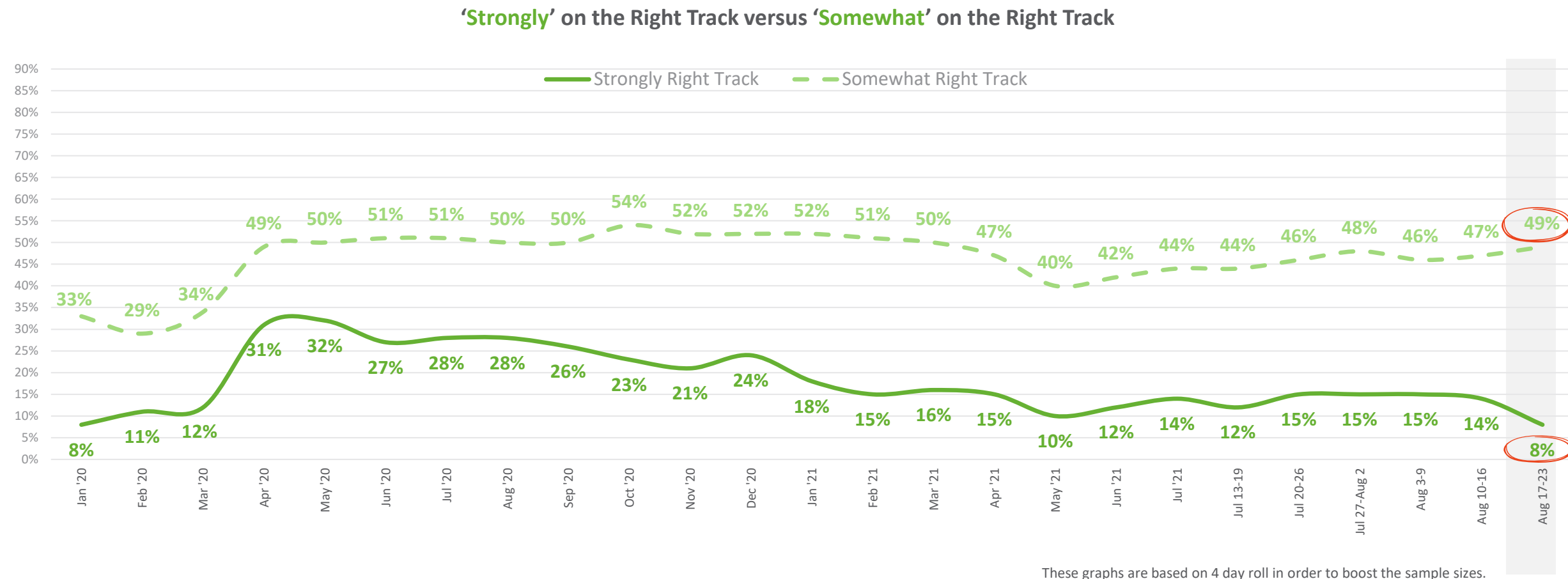


‘Right track’ scores remained within the range of 56% - 62% found over the past seven weeks and is at 57% this week.



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

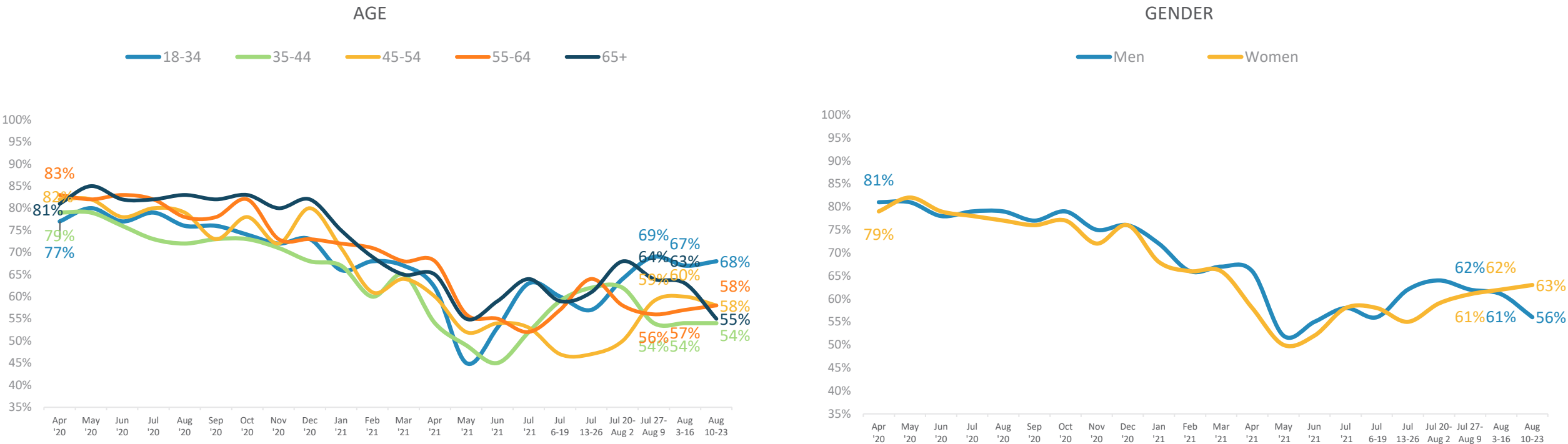
While ‘somewhat on the right track’ scores have slowly been trending up since May, there were declines measured this week for ‘strongly on the right track’ and it is presently at 8%.



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 remained steady this week with the exception of Ontarians aged 65+ where there was a decline (a total of 13-points since the end of July). Those aged 18-34 continue to report the highest ‘right track’ scores at 68%. With declines among men, women now have higher ‘right track’ scores.

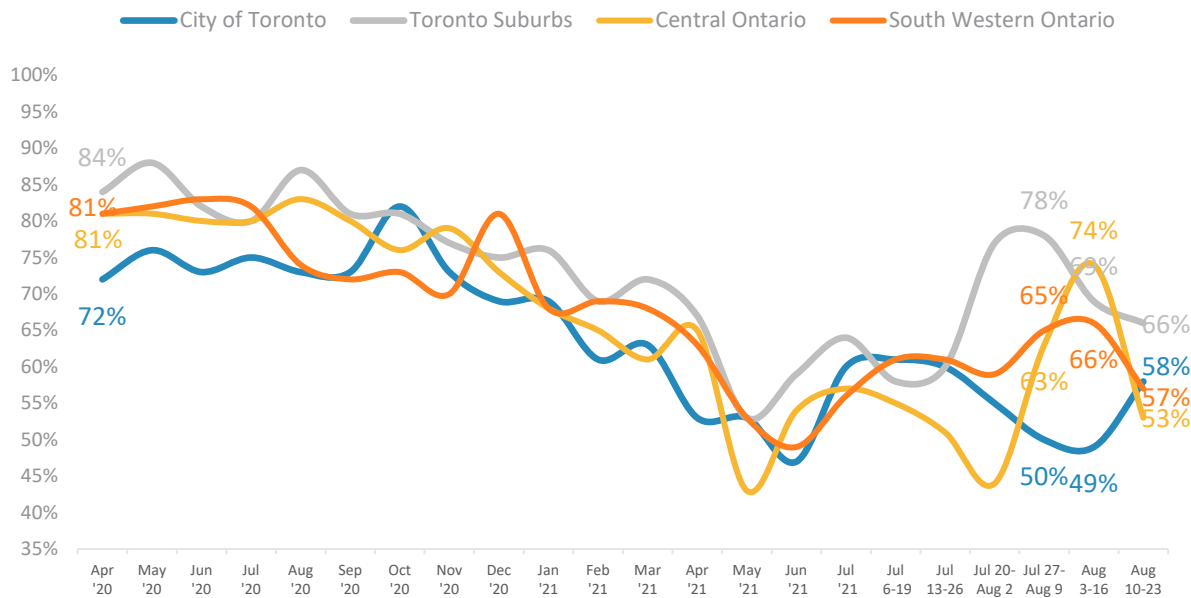
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



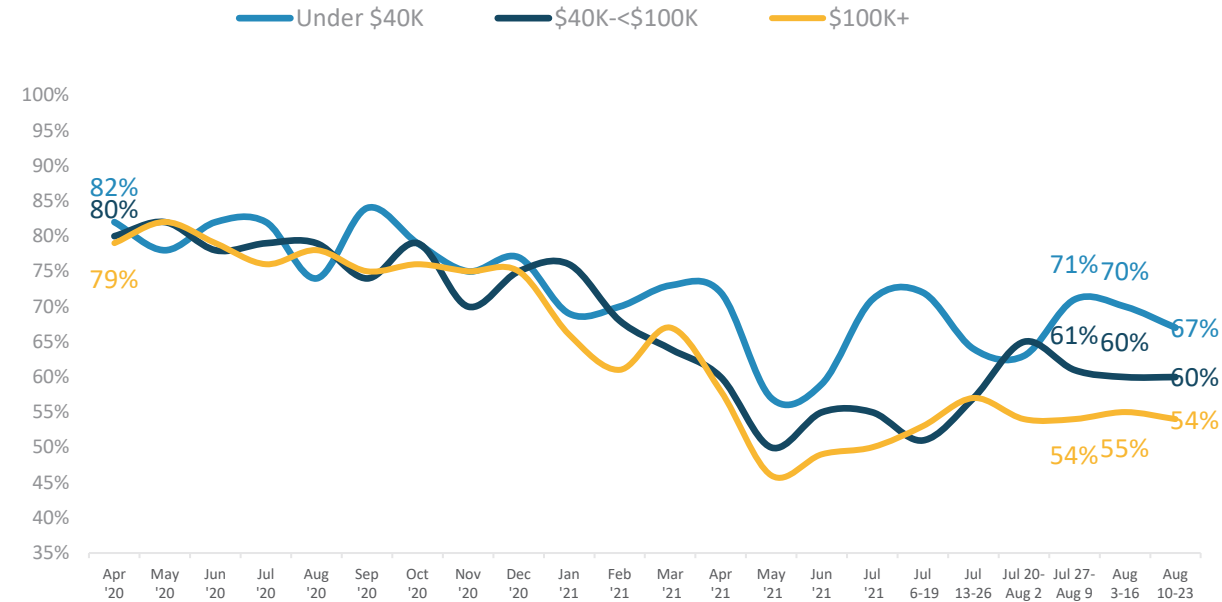
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

REGION



INCOME

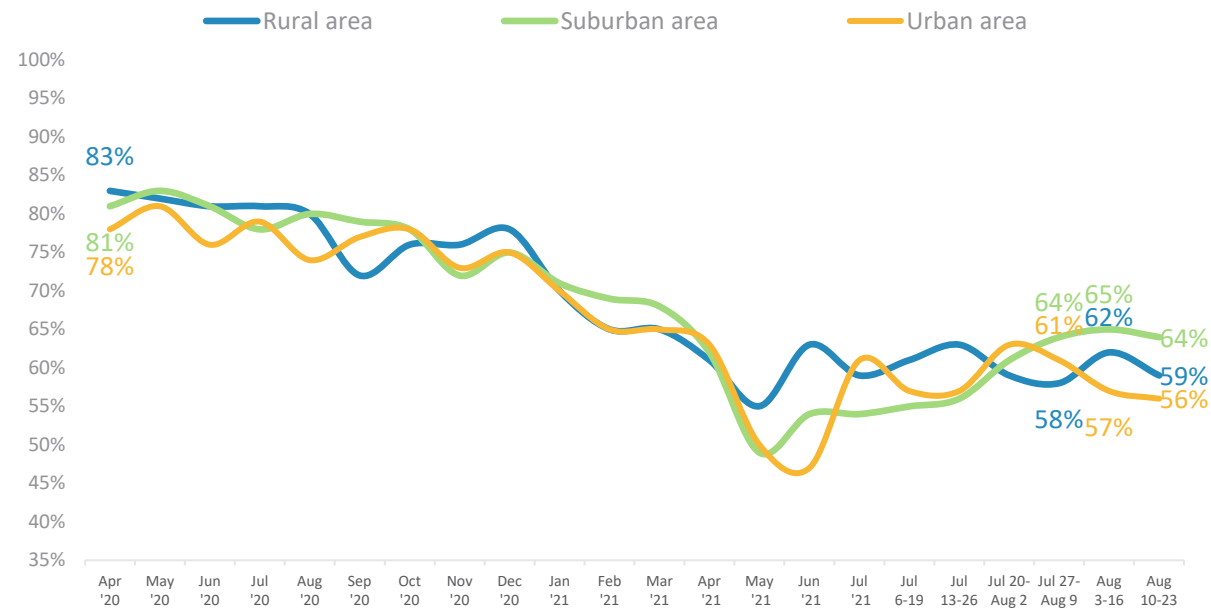


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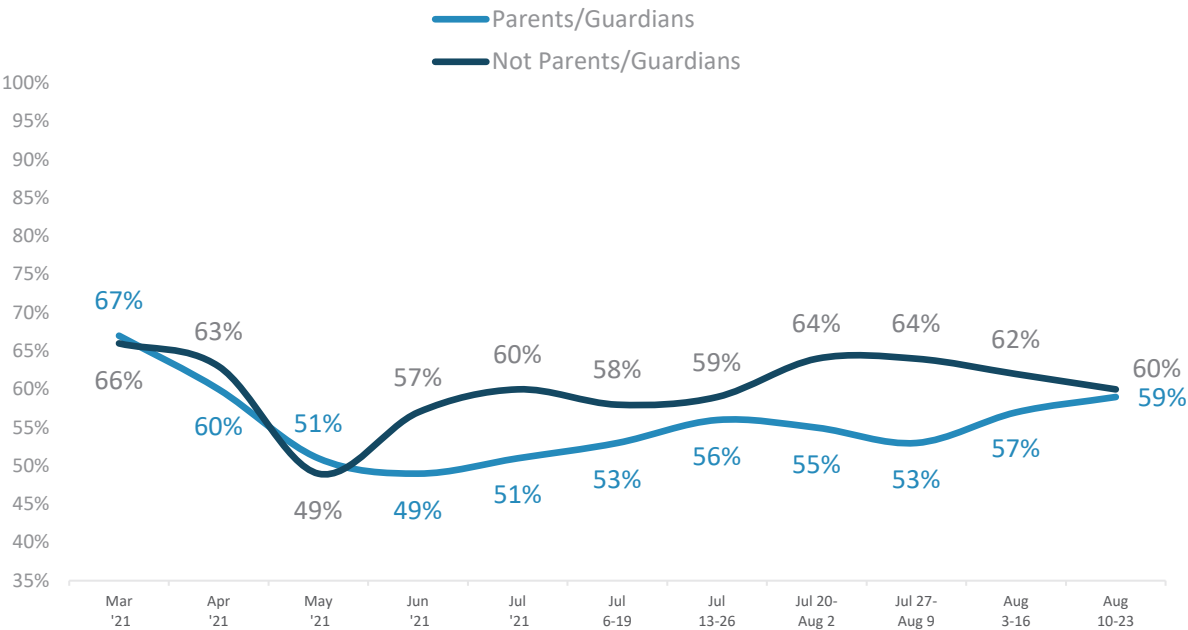
While ‘right track’ scores in suburban and urban areas were unchanged, there was a slight decline in the rural areas this week. ‘Right track’ scores remain highest in suburban residential areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



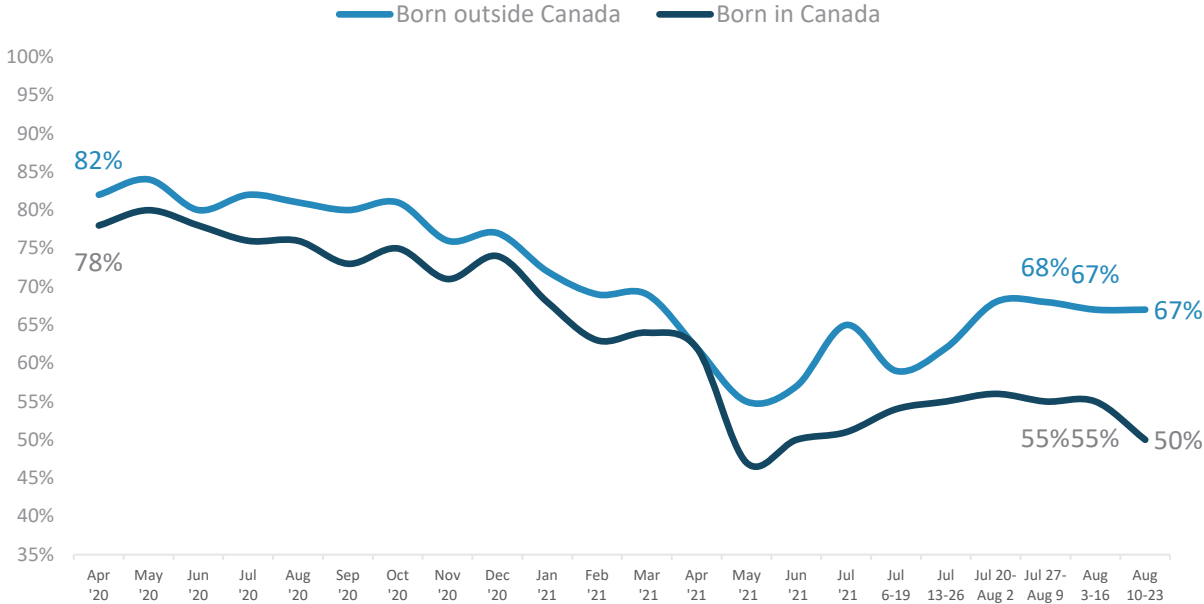
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

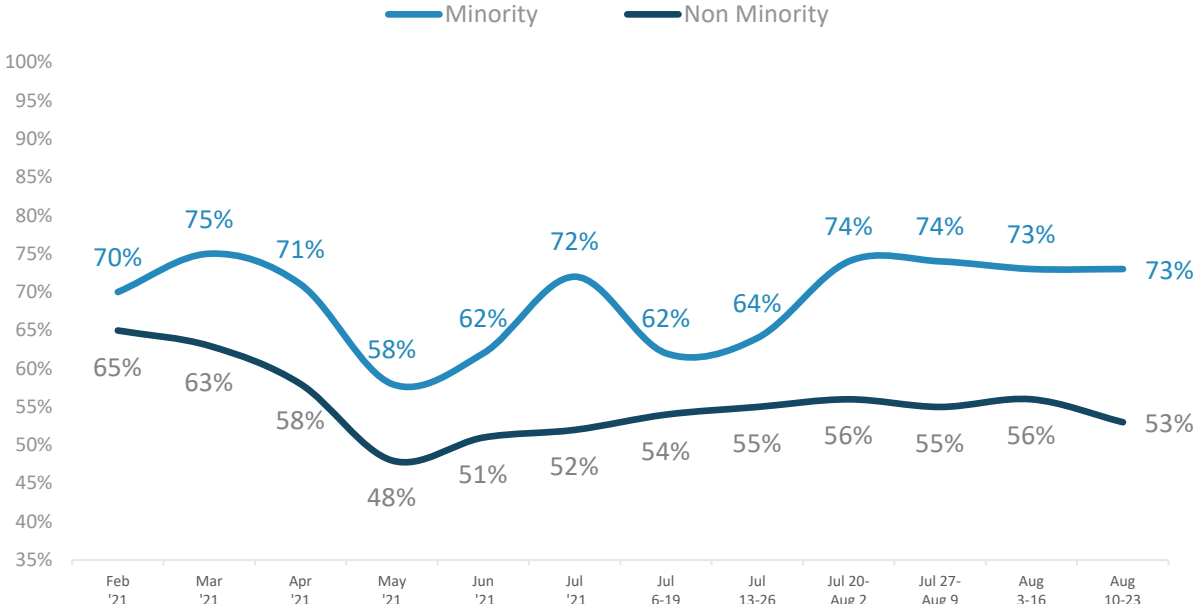
After remaining steady for several weeks, there was a decline in ‘right track’ scores this week among those born in Canada. Scores for those born outside of Canada, and minorities, remained unchanged.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

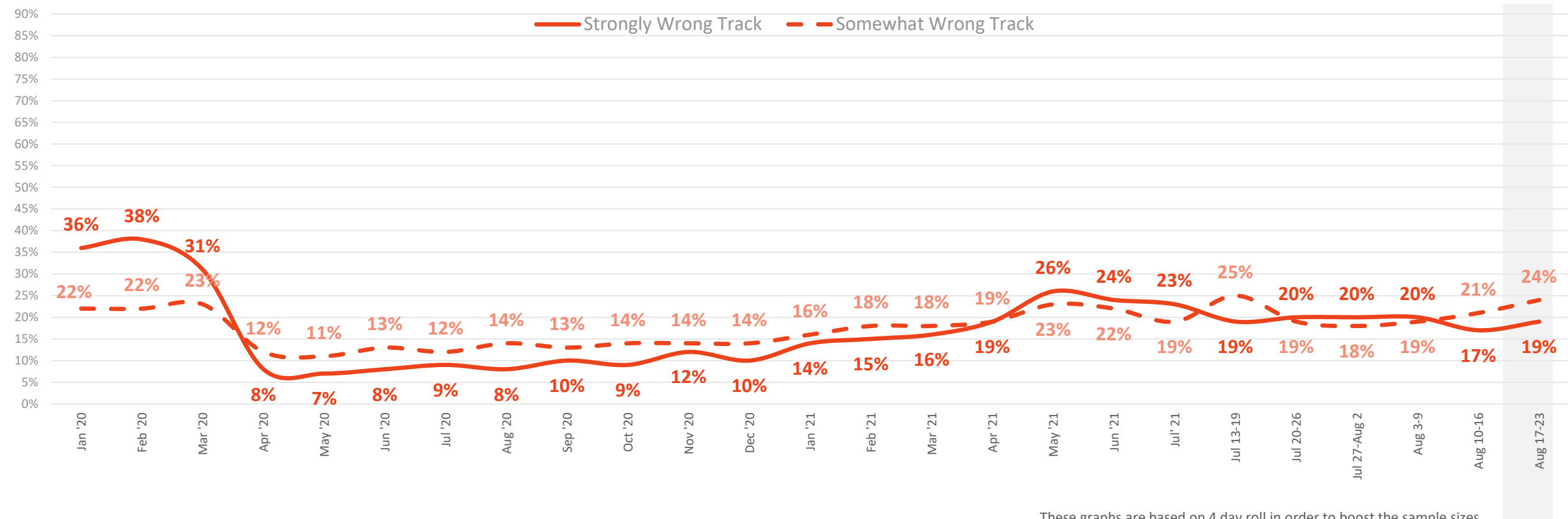


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 and are at 19% this week.

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

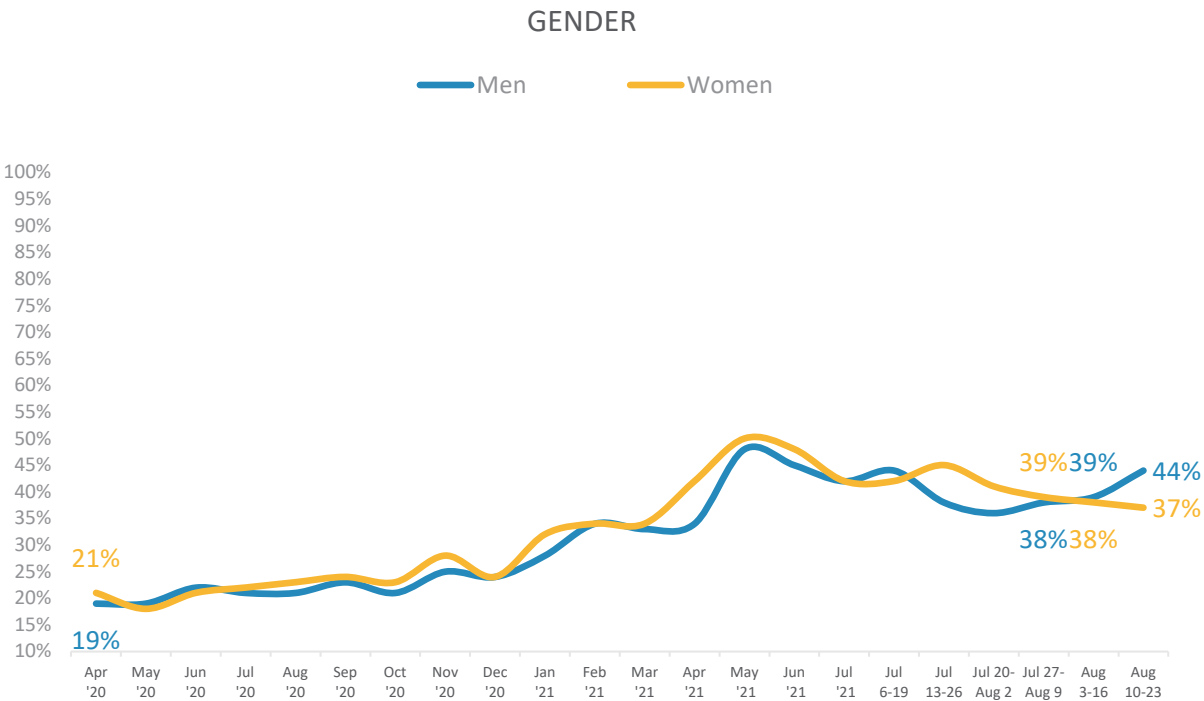
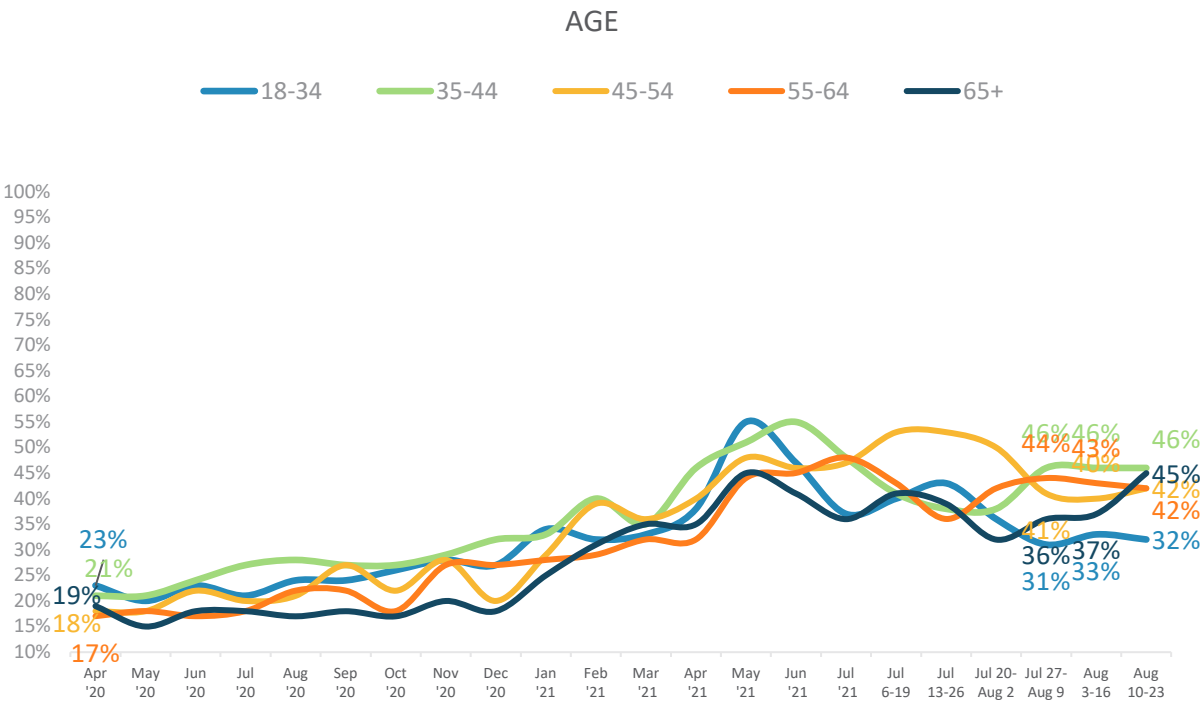


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 the exception of Ontarians aged 65+ where there was an increase. Those aged 18-34 continuing to report the lowest ‘wrong track’ scores at 32%. By gender, ‘wrong track’ scores are higher among men this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

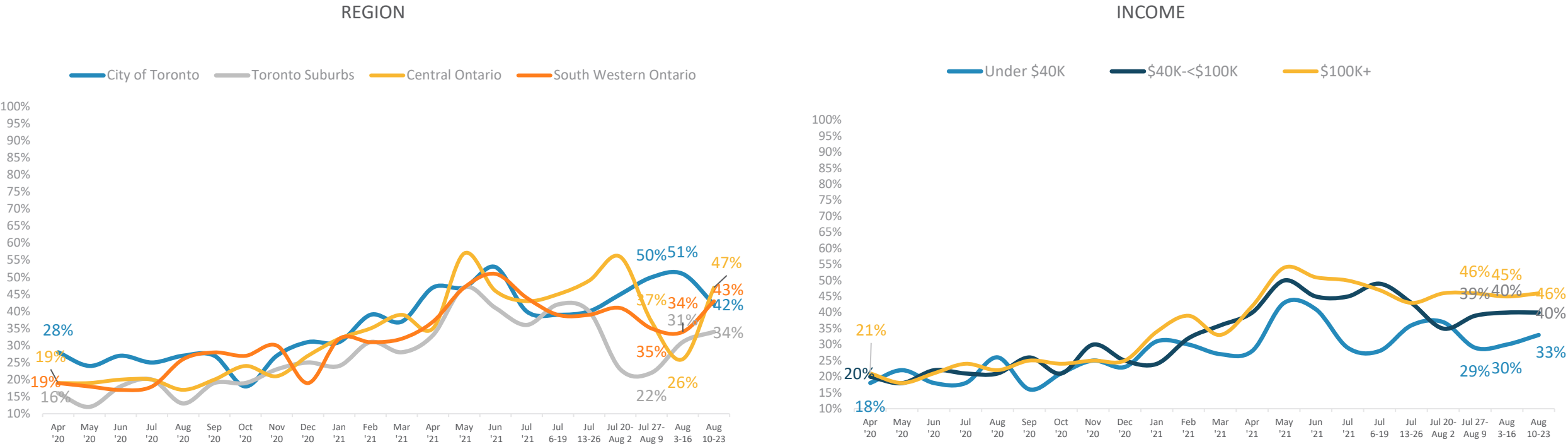


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

There was an uptick in ‘wrong track’ scores this week in SW and Central Ontario while a decline was measured in the City of Toronto. ‘Wrong track’ scores by income remained steady.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



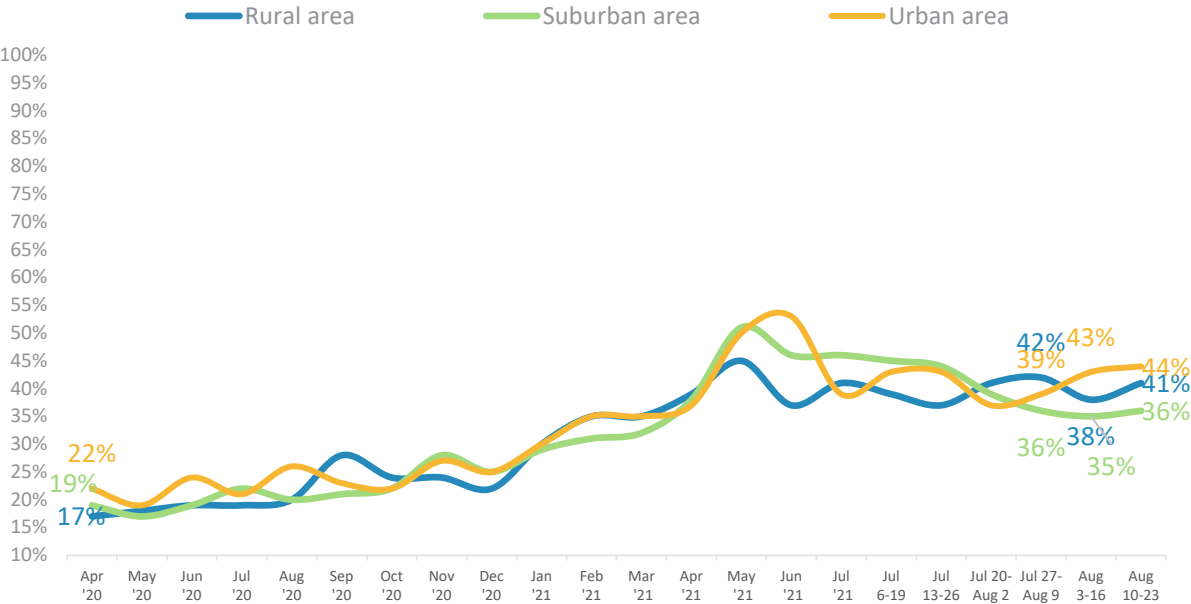
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

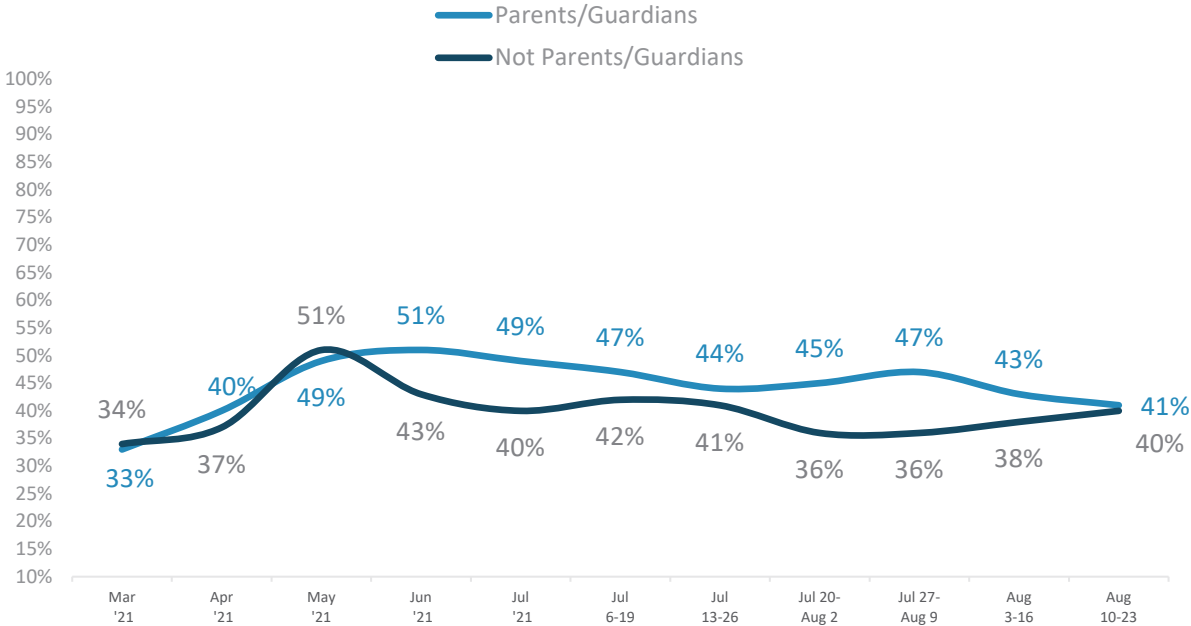
‘Wrong track’ scores were unchanged in suburban and urban areas, while there was a slight uptick in rural areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

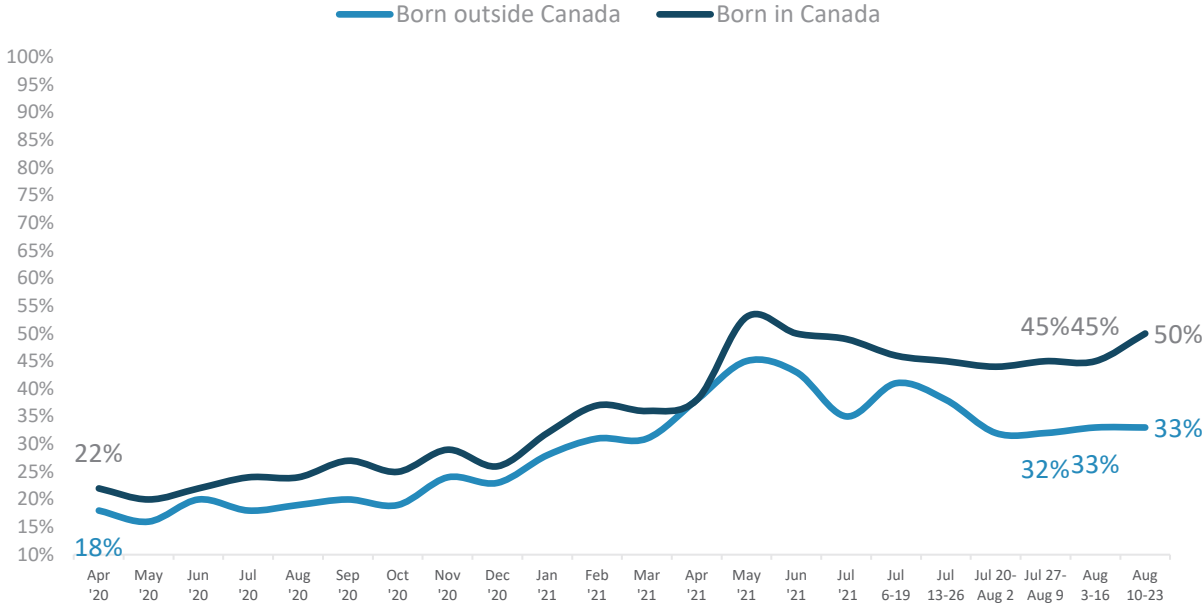


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

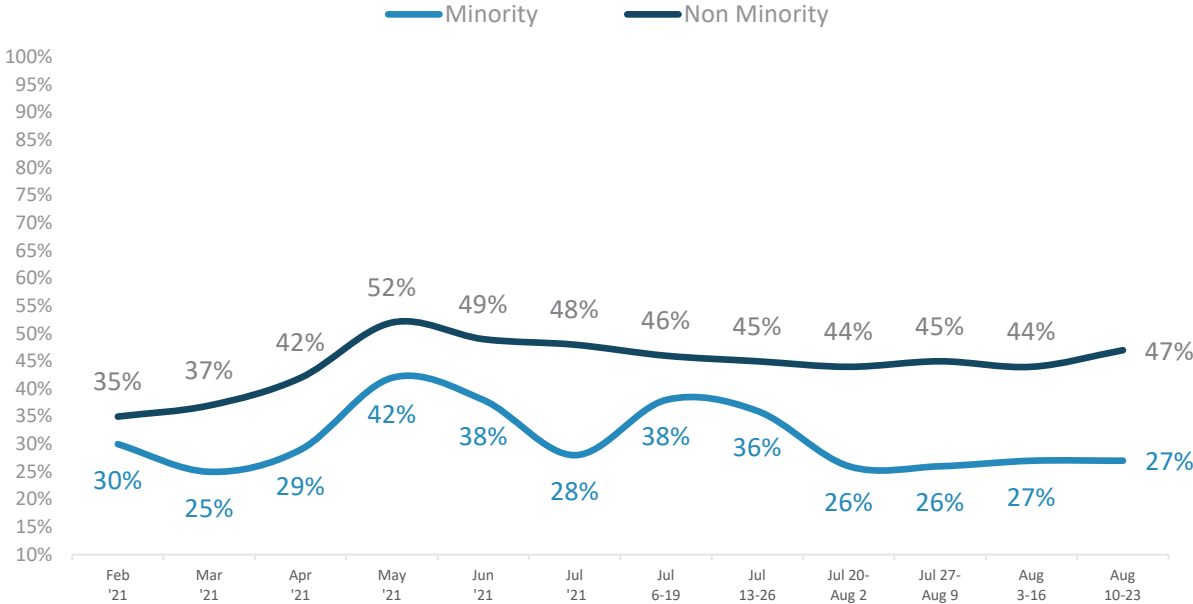
‘Wrong track’ scores have remained unchanged among Ontarians born outside of Canada and among minorities. There was upward movement in ‘wrong track’ scores among those born in Canada this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



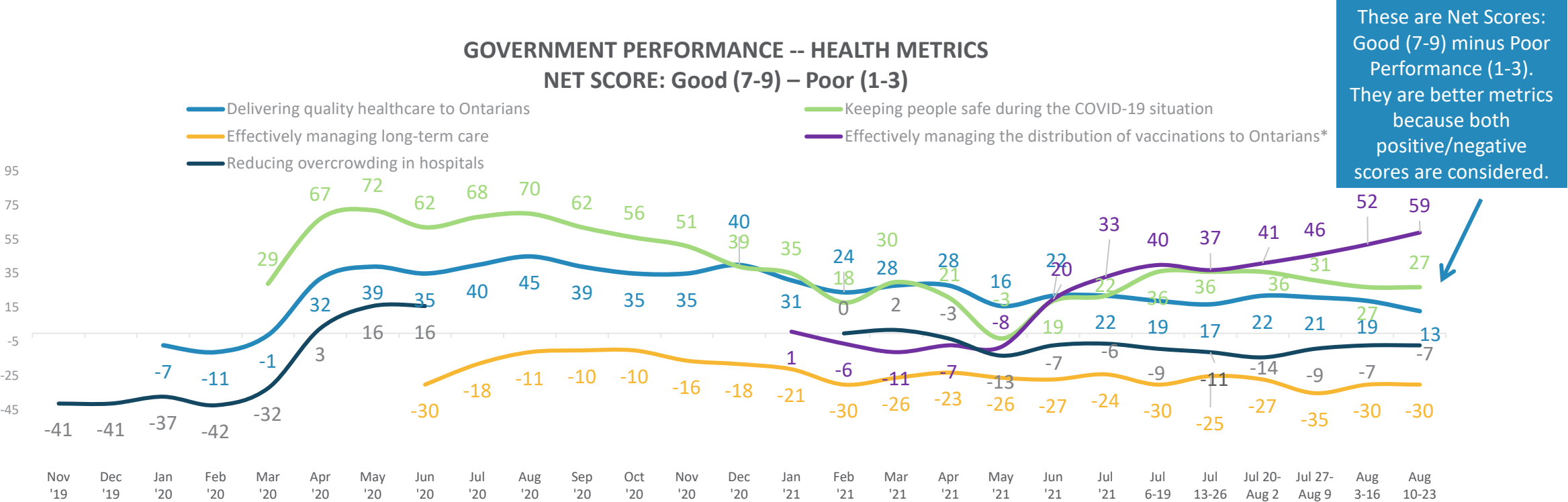
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



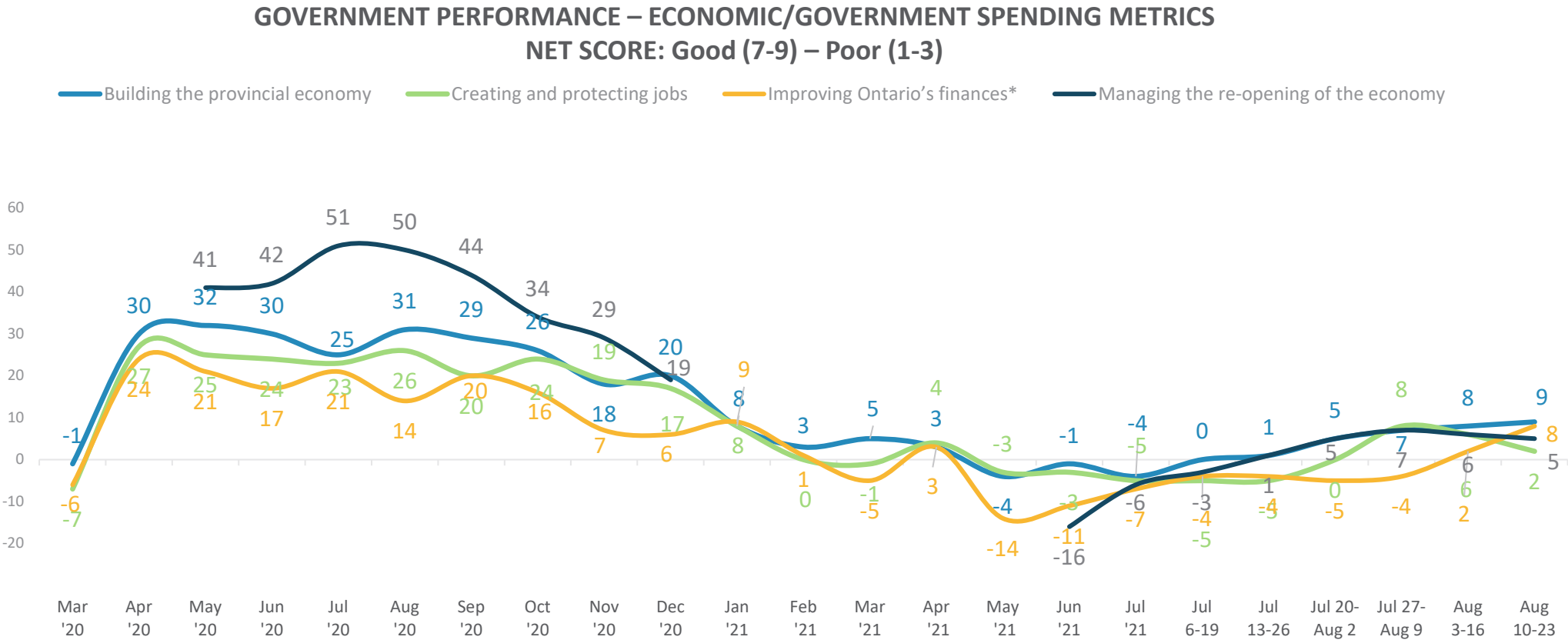
Positive ratings of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ increased for the fourth straight week and is at the highest point since tracking began.

- Of note, ratings for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ remained unchanged after experiencing a decline the previous week. Ratings for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ continued to trend down, 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

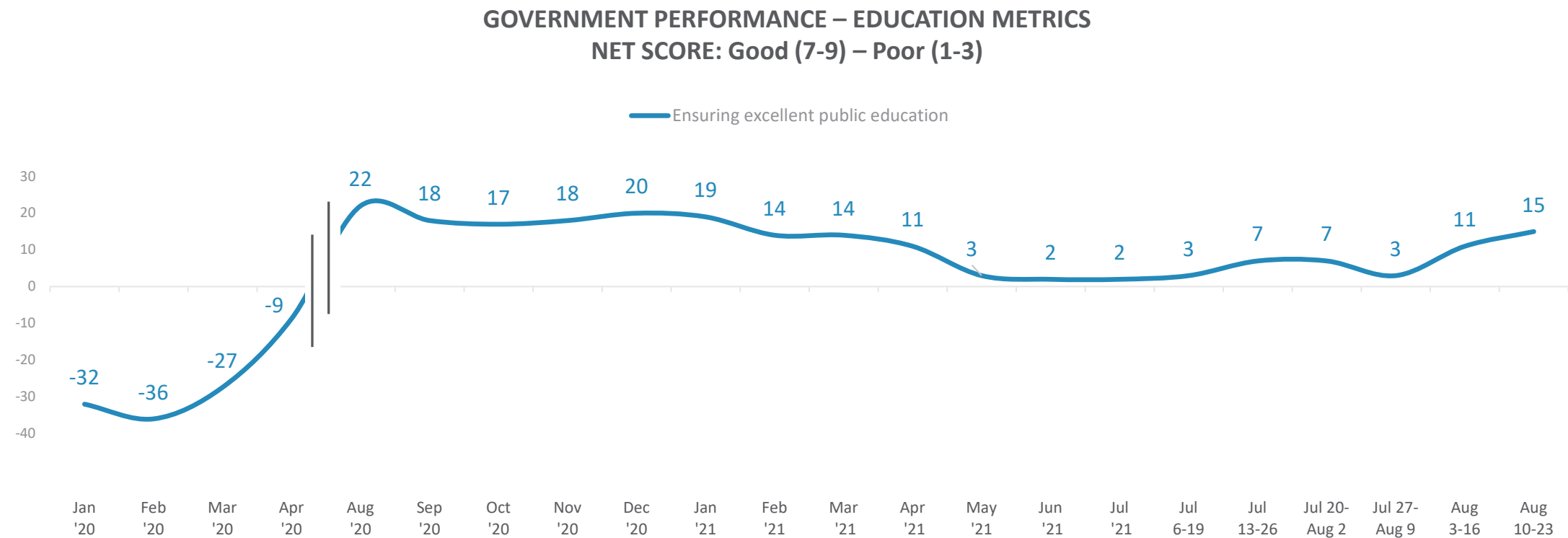
The government’s performance rating for ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ continued to trend upwards this week. However, ‘creating and protecting jobs’ declined 6-points in the past two weeks.



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 +15 this week, an improvement of 12-points in two weeks.

- Parents/guardians are just slightly less inclined to give the government positive marks on education compared to non-parents/guardians.



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



Six-in-ten (58%) Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’, while over one-in-ten (13%) describe it as ‘poor’.

- Paradoxically, those who see the government on the ‘right track’ are slightly less likely to think their personal financial situation has been ‘excellent/good’ compared to those who think it is on the ‘wrong track’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	770	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	56	53	50	56	50	58
Excellent	15	16	10	13	15	11	14
Good	42	40	43	37	42	40	44
Fair	31	31	34	34	33	32	27
Poor	9	10	9	11	7	11	13
Very poor	4	1	3	5	3	3	-
TOTAL POOR	12	12	12	15	11	14	13

	Personal Financial Situation over the Past Year August 3-23 rd
	Total Improve
Right Track	52%
Wrong Track	59%

QFP1 How would you describe the personal financial situation of your family over the last year?
Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN FINANCIAL SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR

While the majority (62%) report their family’s financial situation remained unchanged over the past year, one-quarter (24%) say it has worsened – almost double the number that say it has improved (13%).

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	764	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	15	14	13	15	15	23	13
Improve a great deal	3	3	3	2	3	4	3
Improve somewhat	13	11	10	13	11	19	9
Stay the same	54	58	54	54	57	47	62
Worsen somewhat	24	21	25	23	20	16	17
Worsen a great deal	7	6	6	8	8	11	7
TOTAL WORSEN	31	27	31	31	28	27	24

	Financial Situation over the Past Year August 3-23 rd
	Total Improve
Right Track	19%
Wrong Track	15%

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 remain optimistic about the future with six-in-ten (62%) anticipating the financial situation of their household over the next year will be ‘excellent/good’. This week, only 5% anticipate it will be ‘poor’.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	763	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	63	57	53	57	57	62
Excellent	12	16	10	10	11	8	11
Good	44	47	47	44	46	49	51
Fair	32	28	35	32	33	27	30
Poor	7	6	6	7	6	8	4
Very poor	2	-	1	4	1	3	1
TOTAL POOR	10	6	7	11	8	11	5

	Future Financial Outlook– August 3-23 rd
	Excellent/Good
Right Track	59%
Wrong Track	58%

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

Base: Total sample

There continues to be a decline in the number of Ontarians who believe the Ontario economy is improving. This week, 54% say it is improving, down 12-points since mid-July.

- While those believing the economy is worsening remains relatively unchanged at 23%, now 21% categorize the economy as ‘unchanged’.
- Those who see the government on the ‘right track’ tend to think the economy is improving compared to those who think it is on the ‘wrong track’.

	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVING	66	64	62	60	58	54
Quickly improving	4	3	4	6	6	5
Slowly improving	62	60	59	55	52	49
Unchanged	11	10	10	14	13	21
Slowly worsening	16	19	17	19	19	17
Quickly worsening	5	6	7	5	5	5
TOTAL WORSENING	20	25	24	24	24	23

	Status of the Ontario Economy – August 3-23 rd
	Total Improving
Right Track	67%
Wrong Track	44%

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 (54%) and restaurants/bars (34%) are reopening, as well as knowing people that are going back to work (36%).

IMPROVING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	197	160	156	151	175	135
	%	%	%	%	%	%
More stores are reopening	-	-	-	-	35	54
People I know are going back to work	22	22	32	17	35	36
Restaurants and bars are reopening	16	19	16	19	34	34
Declining unemployment rate	-	-	-	-	17	14
Value of my house/value of housing	-	-	-	-	16	14
Strong Canadian stock markets	-	-	-	-	14	14
Seen, read, heard that the economy is improving	6	12	5	13	7	4
I found a better job	-	-	-	-	6	4
I received or expect to receive a raise or bonus	-	-	-	-	3	4
Covid-19 situation is improving/under control	-	-	-	-	1	1
People are spending money	-	-	-	1	-	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	-	-
All of the above	7	9	9	8	2	1
Other	-	-	2	3	2	1
Don't know/not sure					3	2

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

FOCUS ON HEALTH VERSUS ECONOMY



Ontarians continue to support a focus on economic issues by the Ontario government in the coming months, with 46% supporting a focus on economic issues while 37% support health-related issues.

- However, just over one-in-ten (14%) believe that both a health and economic focus by the Ontario government are equally important.

	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	Aug 10-23
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	37
It should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19, including ensuring the economy recovers as quickly as possible and helping prevent more businesses from closing.	40	39	45	45	45	53	52	54	53	52	51	50	51	46
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7	6	8	10	8	7	6	6	7	13	14

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 over 8-in-10 (84%) now reporting they are concerned. This represents a 27-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	Aug 17-23
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	207	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78	84
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37	51
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41	33
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11	6
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8	9
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18	15

And, while concern has been increasing, there was an uptick this week to 67% of Ontarians that feel the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

- However, intensity is low with less than one-in-five that feel the Ontario government is ‘very’ prepared.

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	Aug 17-23
Varies									
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69	74	67	60	67
19	17	17	18	14	17	15	16	14	16
48	58	54	54	53	52	59	51	46	51
20	16	16	18	19	17	14	25	22	17
11	9	12	9	10	10	12	6	12	11
32	25	27	27	28	27	26	31	33	28
		2	2	4	4	-	2	7	5

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

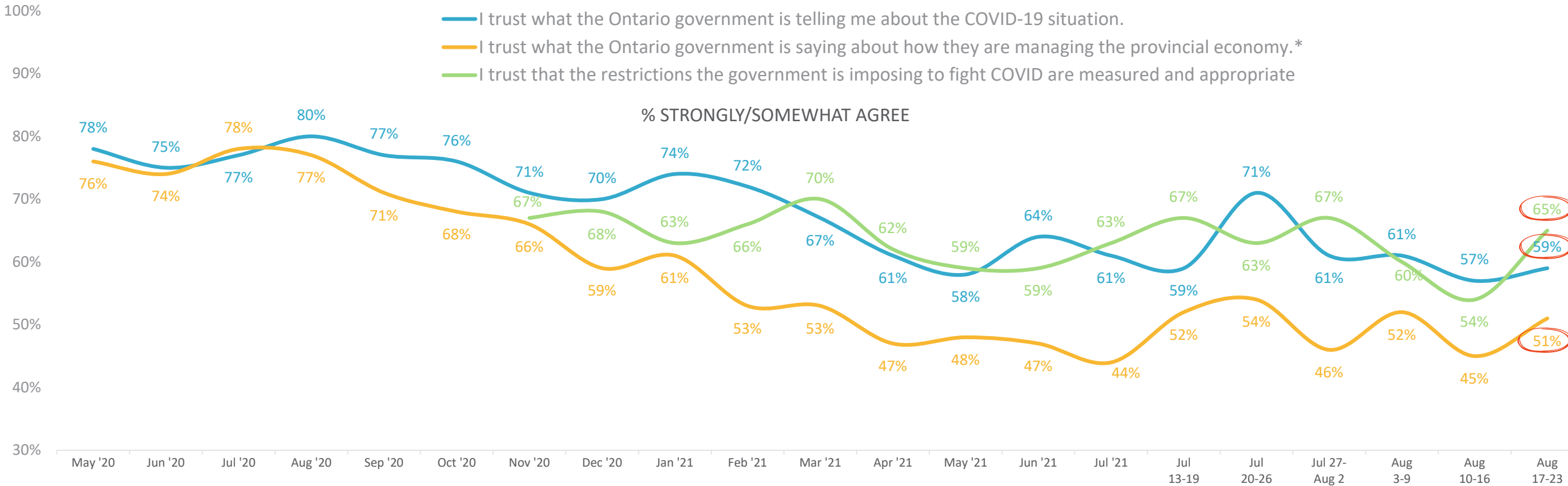
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

After declines were measured last week, there were improvements in trust of the government’s communications that ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’ and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.

- Results remained steady for ‘I trust what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’.



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 declining proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19 has stabilized this week with half (51%) that currently believe this – down from 77% in early July. Increasing concern about the Delta variant and an uptick in COVID-19 cases may have fueled 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	Aug 17-23
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61	62	52	50	51
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19	21	17
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34	30	34
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7	7	6	8	8
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18	18	16
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20	19	23
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38	37	39

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

COVID-19 VACCINE



However, the decline has continued for the number of Ontarians that are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This week, 47% are in agreement the end is nearer, down 26-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	Aug 17-23
varies												
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	73	62	66	58	52	47
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	32	26	24	21	16	10
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	42	36	43	37	36	37
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	3	8	9	3	6	7
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	11	16	11	21	17	15
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	12	13	13	18	20	29
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	23	29	24	38	37	44

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

The majority (65%) 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	Aug 17-23
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	31
Strongly agree	17	19
Somewhat agree	10	12
Neither agree nor disagree	6	4
Somewhat disagree	16	14
Strongly disagree	47	50
TOTAL DISAGREE	63	65
Not applicable/Don't know	4	1

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

Base: Total sample

One-in-ten (10%) Ontarians report they have received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of Ontario.

	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Yes	8	8	7	10
No	92	92	91	88
Don't know/not sure	-	-	2	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 (83%) Ontarians say they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with half (48%) 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	Aug 17-23
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	921	300	300	300	250
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	92	91	82	81	81	83
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	52	61	56	48
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	30	20	24	36
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	10	14	14	11
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	5	5	3	5
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	1	2	1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	7	5	5	6

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	Aug 17-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23								
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	95%	95%	85%	82%	82%	85%	89%	90%	94%	91%	85%	78%	88%	74%	86%	90%	93%	87%	83%	81%	69%	83%	83%	90%	90%	85%	67%	73%	80%	81%	86%	87%	90%	91%	86%	82%	67%	87%	89%	91%	87%	90%	81%	93%	70%	88%	92%	88%	89%	95%	92%	94%	92%	80%	87%	86%	88%	91%	75%	71%	83%	93%

	RIGHT TRACK								WRONG TRACK							
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	88%	83%	82%	85%	82%	83%	86%	85%	72%	78%	79%	81%

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

Results indicate that the province’s healthcare system (67%) is the most important issue to Ontarians personally, while 63% say that the education system is extremely important to them.

- This is followed by environmental protection (57%) and the economic recovery (54%).

	Protecting the environment		The province’s healthcare system		Economic recovery		The province’s education system	
	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPORTANT (5,6,7)	85	86	93	94	89	88	87	91
7	50	57	70	67	46	54	57	63
5,6	35	29	23	28	43	34	30	29
4	6	6	3	3	5	7	5	2
2,3	5	5	1	2	4	3	3	3
1	1	2	1	1	<1	2	1	2
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT (1,2,3)	6	7	2	3	4	5	5	5
Don’t know	2	-	1	-	2	-	3	1

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

Seven-in-ten (72%) Ontarians have seen, read or heard of the phrase ‘net zero emissions’ while one-quarter (25%) have not.

	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	300	300
	%	%
Yes	63	72
No	34	25
Don't know	4	2

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

Base: Total sample

POINT OF VIEW ON NET ZERO EMISSIONS

About one-in-five (18%) indicate that it is not personally important to them for the Ontario government to work toward achieving net zero emissions.

- Of the 72% that say it is personally important the government work towards net zero emissions, 38% have the point of view the government should work towards achieving net zero emissions regardless of its impact on the economy, while 34% report they are not supportive of any actions that could slow the province’s economic recovery from the pandemic.

	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	Varies	
	%	%
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	38
Other people say it is not personally important to them for the Ontario government to work toward achieving net zero emissions	13	18
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	34
Don’t know	11	10

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

Ontarians see all four initiatives as very important to them personally: there are similar levels of support for reducing carbon emissions (58%), creating more parks and greenspace (54%), reducing Ontario’s carbon footprint (53%) and expanding the availability of low-carbon fuels such as hydro-electric or others (47%).

	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 17-23	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE (5,6,7)	78	81	79	84	77	81	81	87
7	48	53	50	58	42	47	48	54
5,6	30	28	29	26	35	34	34	34
4	8	10	8	8	9	9	10	5
2,3	6	5	5	6	5	5	5	4
1	5	2	5	2	5	3	1	3
TOTAL NOT SUPPORTIVE (1,2,3)	11	7	10	8	11	9	6	7
Don't know	4	2	3	<1	3	2	2	1

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

POV WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

The majority (71%) of Ontarians believe that governments should lead the way in reducing carbon emissions, while 16% think businesses should take the lead.

- One-in-ten (11%) believe it should be both.

	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23
n=	Varies	
	%	%
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	71
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	16
Neither	3	2
Both	7	11

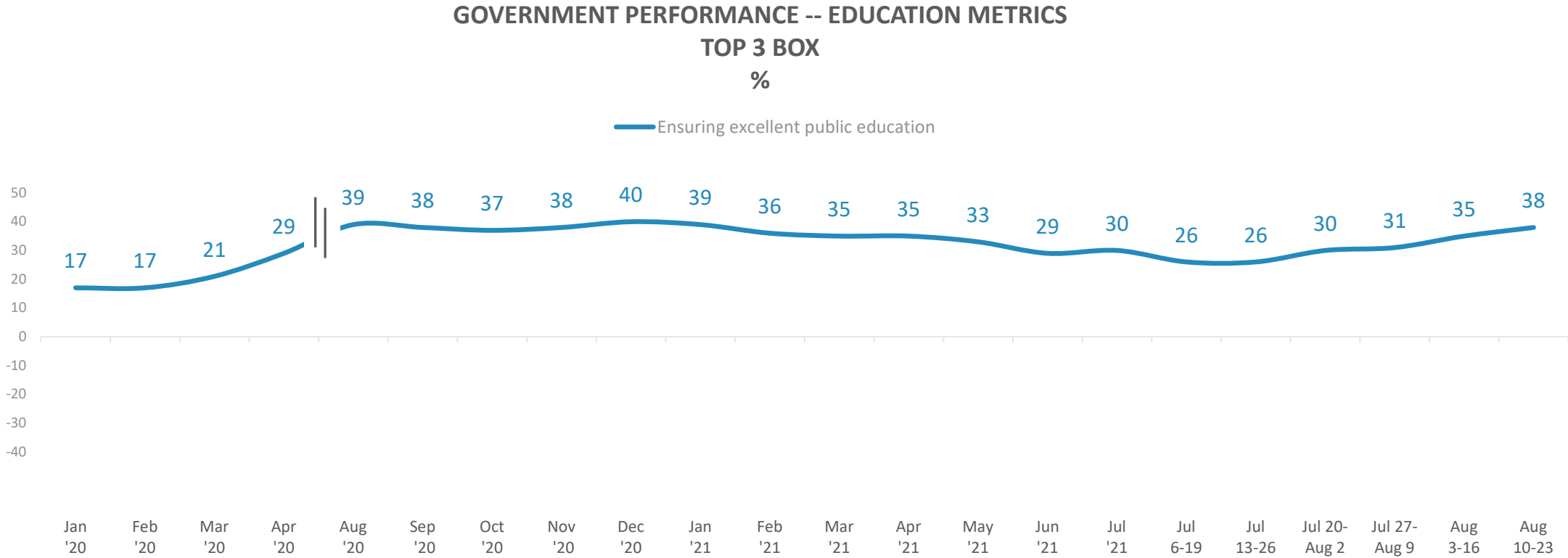
QCE-4. Which one of the following two points of view best reflects your own when it comes to who should take the lead in reducing carbon emissions?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

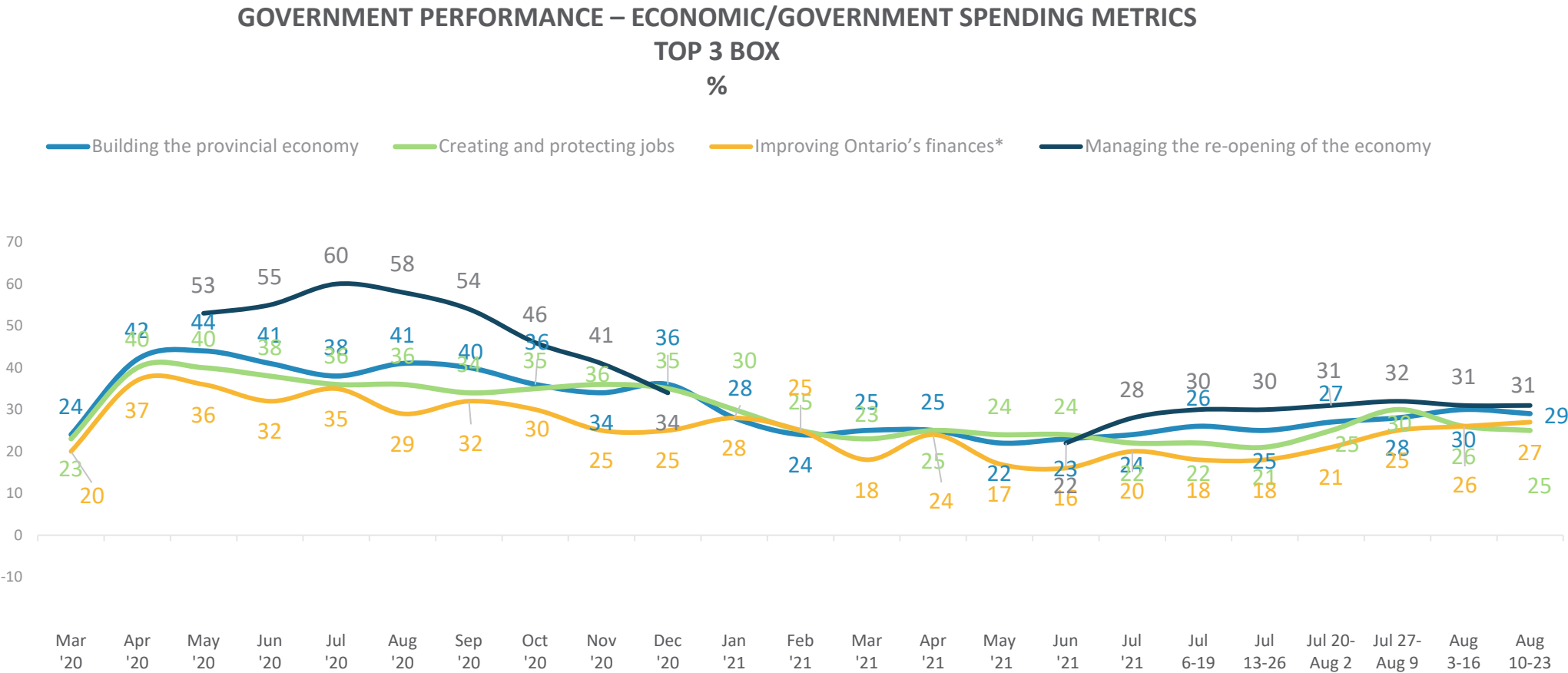


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has continued to trend upward this week to 38%.



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 the economic and spending metrics remained stable this week.



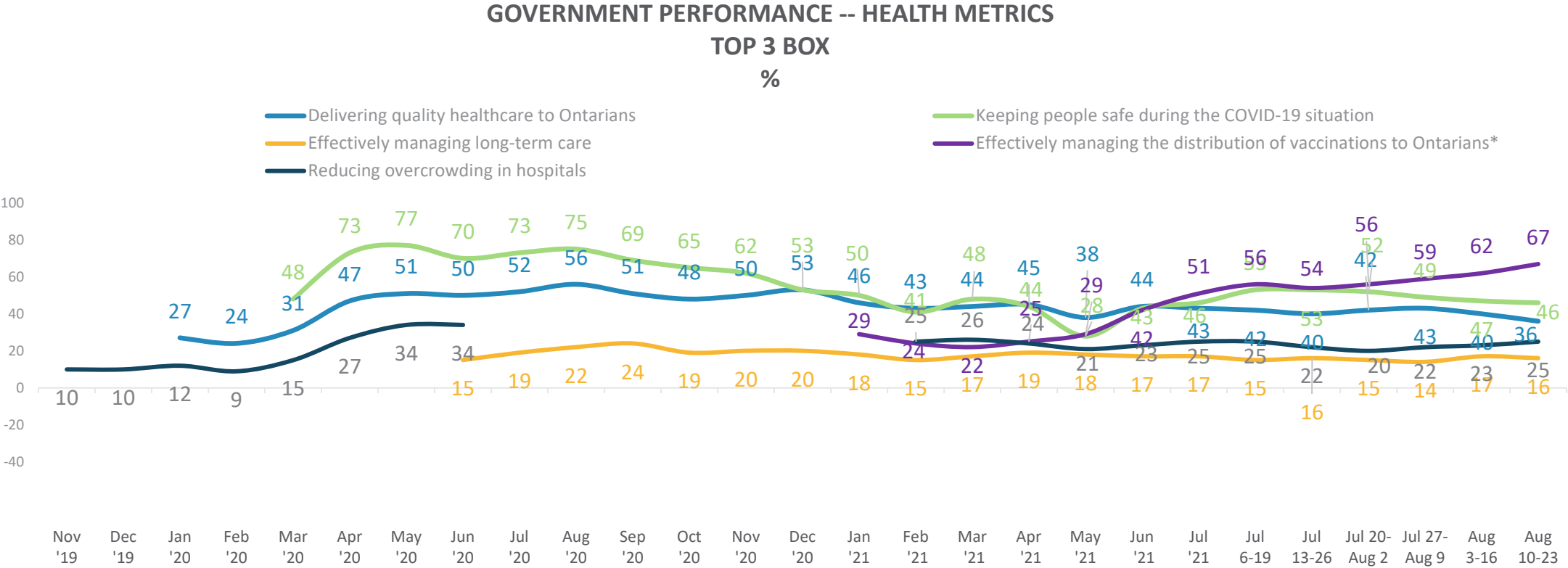
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

Bases vary

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.

- ‘Delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ declined again this week.



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