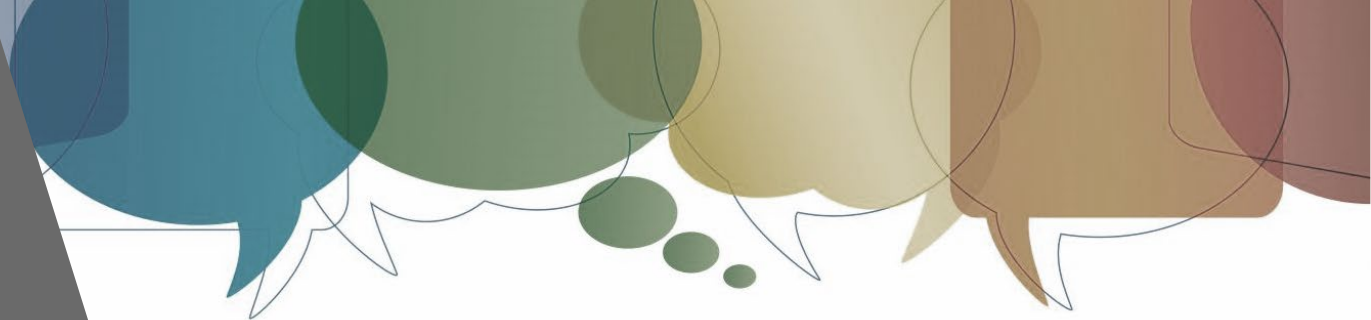




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #96

CABINET OFFICE
August 31st 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores appear to be softening and are at 52% this week, a decline of 10-points since mid-August.

This decline in right track scores over the past two weeks has mainly occurred among Ontarians that see the government as 'strongly on the right track'.

While other regions remained steady, there was a 9-point decline in 'right track' scores in the Toronto suburbs this week. 'Right track' scores for the City of Toronto and Toronto suburbs are now at parity.

2 While concern has declined, there was an increase again this week to 71% of Ontarians that feel the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

3 Positive ratings of the government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' remained steady after several weeks of increases (and remains the highest rated health metric). However, the ratings for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' declined.

There were also declines in trust of the government's communications that 'the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate', and 'what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation' (with the level of trust measured for this metric now the lowest since tracking began).

4 After steadily increasing since mid-July, there was a decline this week to 73% of Ontarians expressing concern about a fourth wave of a pandemic.

That said, the proportion of Ontarians who agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19 has declined 30-points since the beginning of July and is at 47% this week.

And, half (49%) of Ontarians are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This matches the lower confidence levels seen in February and March of this year.

Increasing concern about the Delta variant and an uptick in COVID-19 cases may have fueled these declines.

5 Importantly, this may be impacting Ontarians views about the provincial economy. There continues to be a steady decline in the number of Ontarians who believe the Ontario economy is improving. This week, 46% say it is improving, down 20-points since mid-July.

And, there was also an increase this week in the proportion who believe the economy is worsening, with three-in-ten (31%) Ontarians now holding this view.

There also appears to be movement in what Ontarians think the government's focus should be in the coming months. A focus on economic issues has declined 8-points since mid-August to 43% this week, while there has been a 6-point increase to 39% for health-related issues.

Key Findings

5 The government's performance rating for 'building the provincial economy' remained steady this week. However, there were declines measured for 'improving Ontario's finances', 'creating and protecting jobs' and 'managing the re-opening of the economy' – with all three now in negative territory.

There was also a decline in trust of the government's communications about 'how they are managing the provincial economy' (with this metric now at the lowest point since tracking began).

However, Ontarians continue to remain optimistic about the future with about six-in-ten (57%) anticipating the financial situation of their household over the next year will be 'excellent/good'. One-in-ten (12%) anticipate it will be 'poor'.

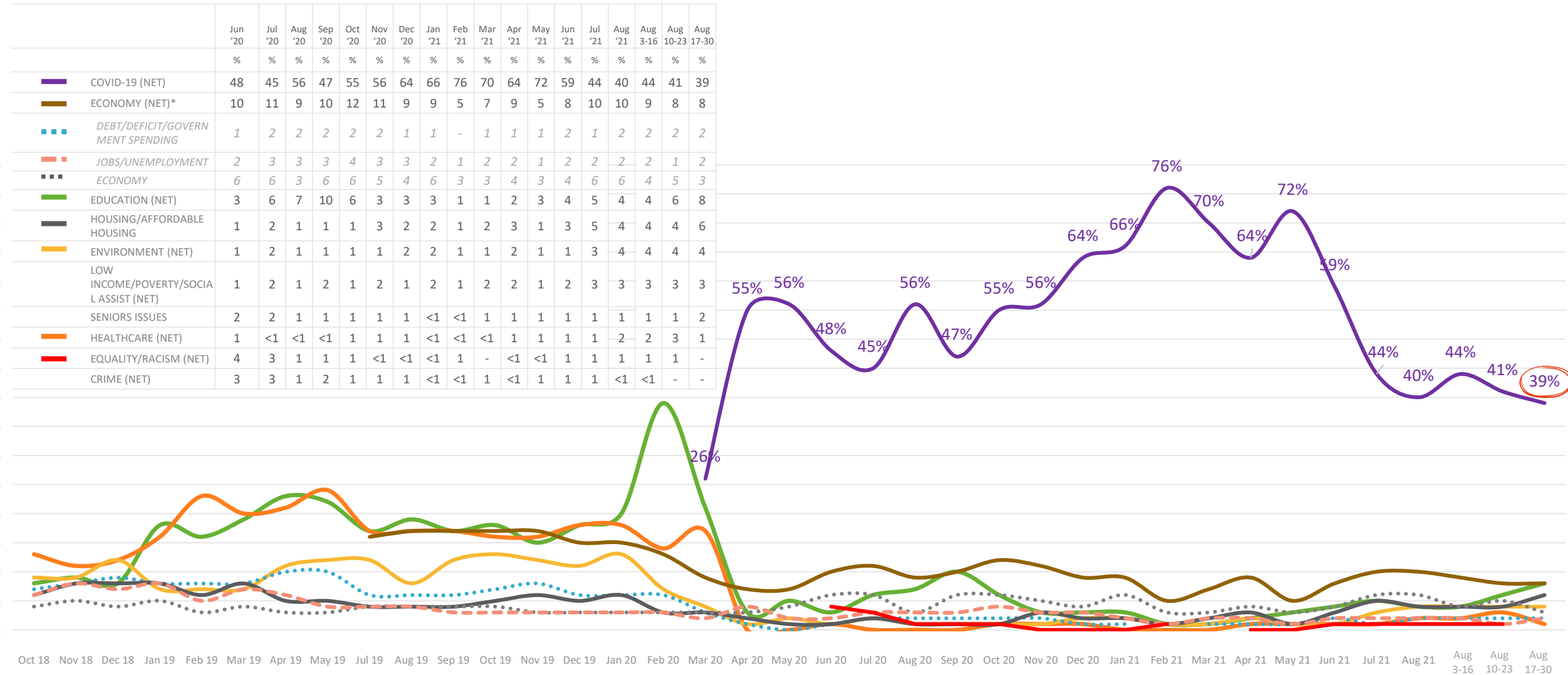
6 After improving 12-points in two weeks, the government's performance rating for 'ensuring excellent public education' remains relatively stable this week on eve of students going back to school. This metric bears watching in the coming weeks.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 as a top priority declined again this week to 39%.



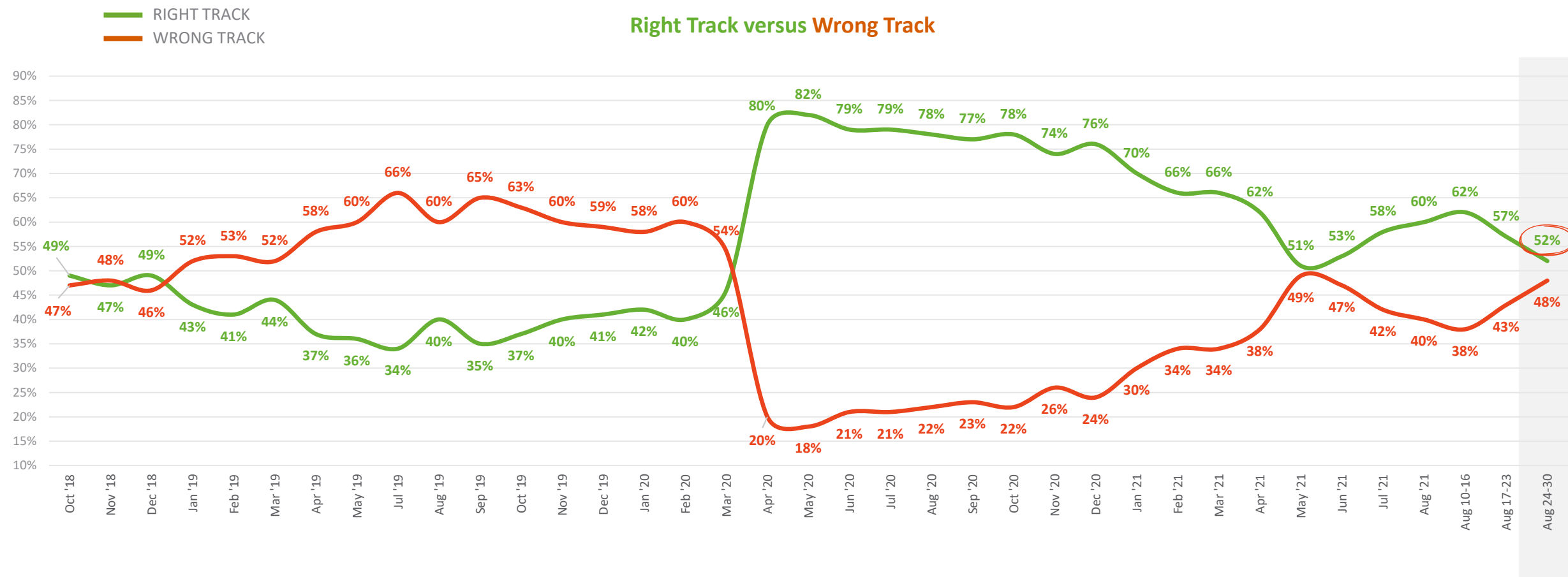
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

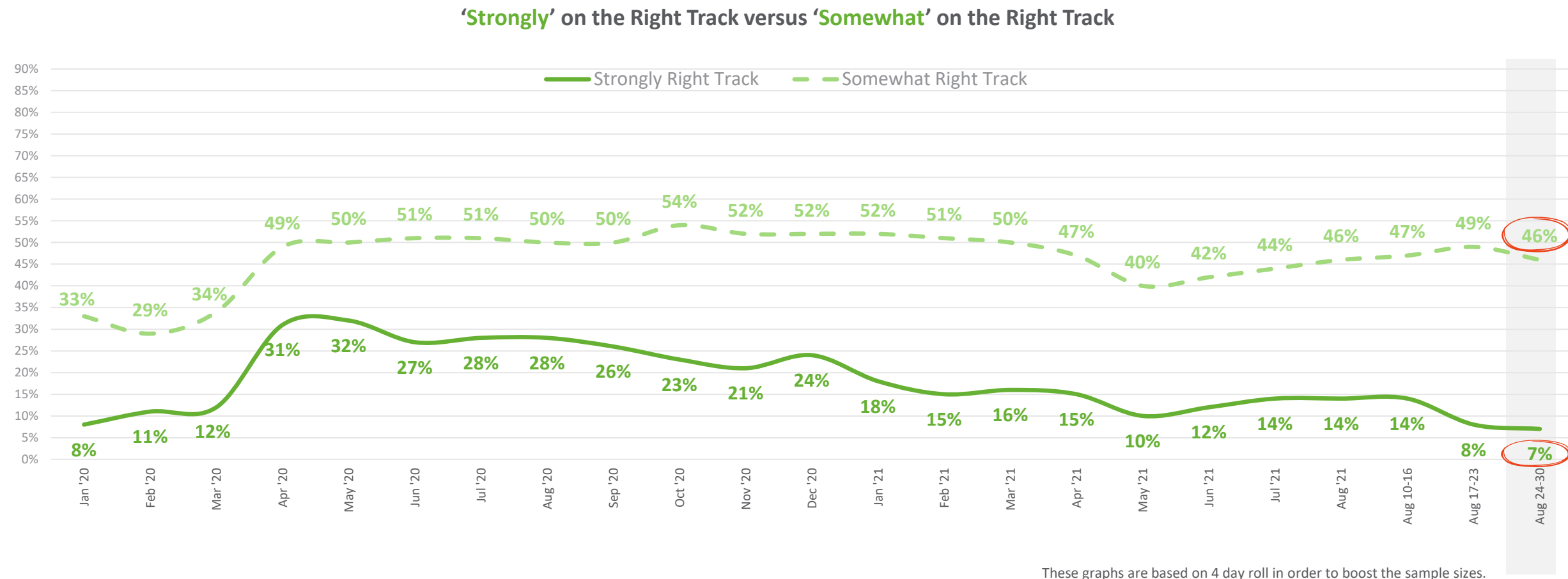


‘Right track’ scores appear to be softening and are at 52% this week, a decline of 10-points since mid-August.



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

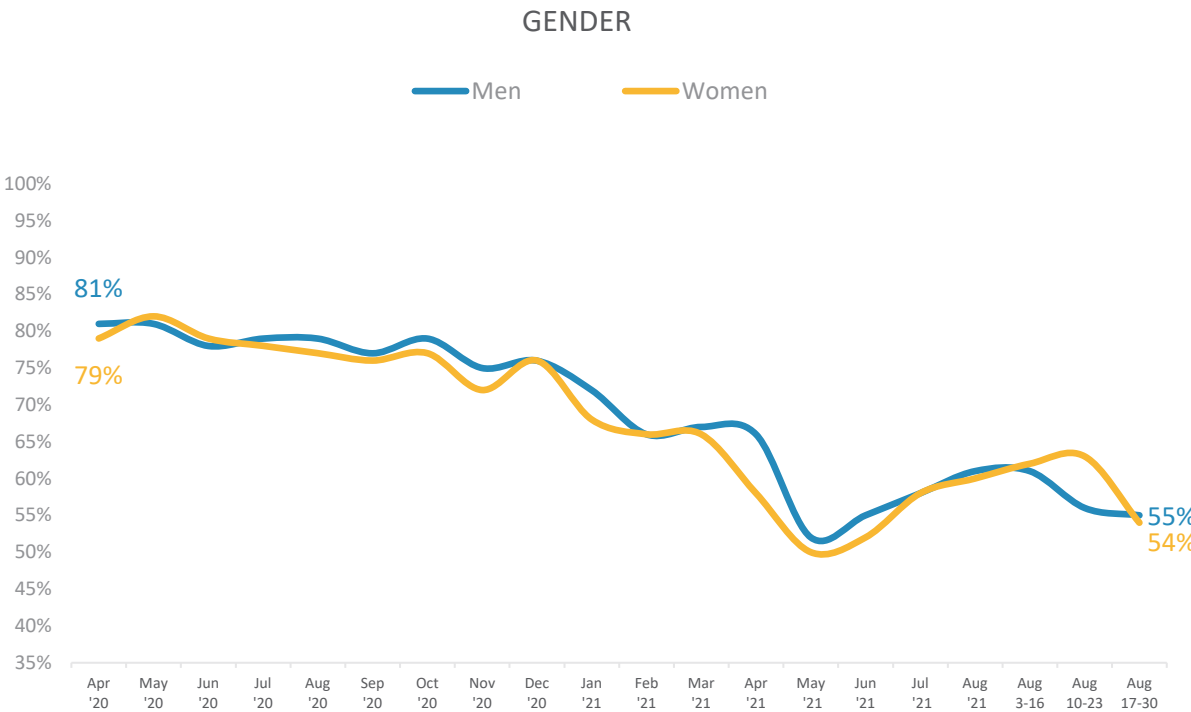
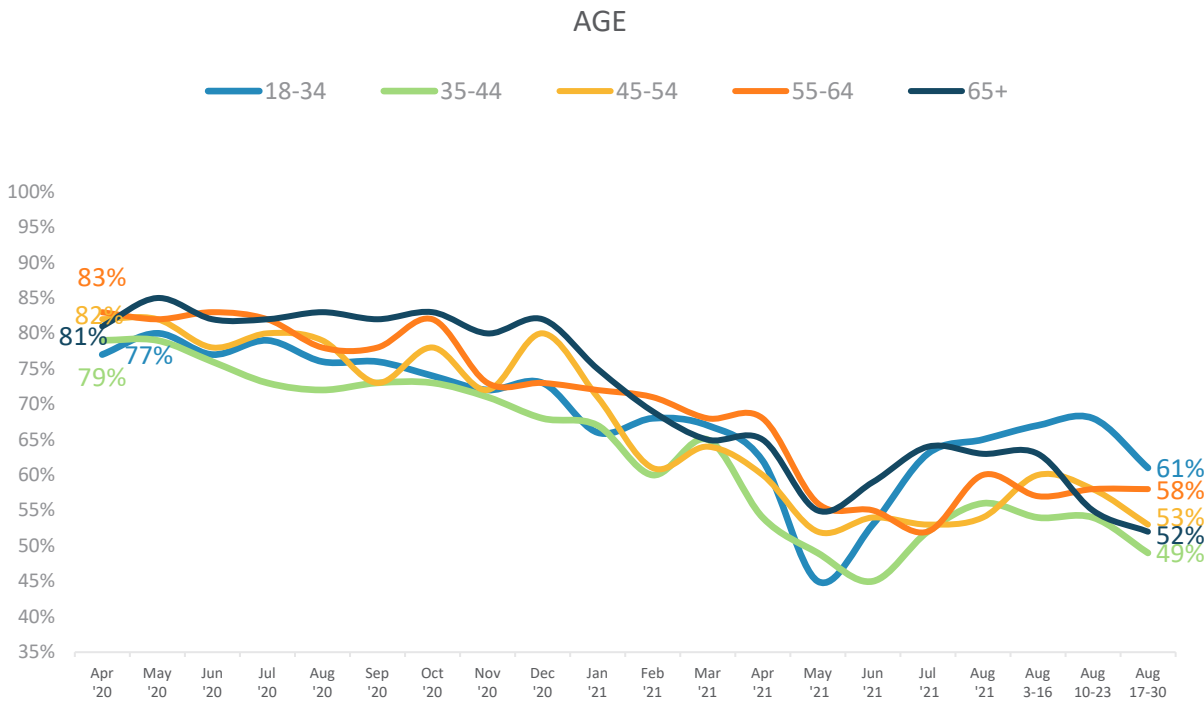
This decline in right track scores over the past two weeks has mainly occurred among Ontarians that see the government as ‘strongly on the right track’.



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

‘Right track’ scores among all age segments declined this week with the exception of Ontarians aged 55-64 which remained steady. And, while ‘right track’ scores remained unchanged among men, there was a 9-point drop measured among women.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

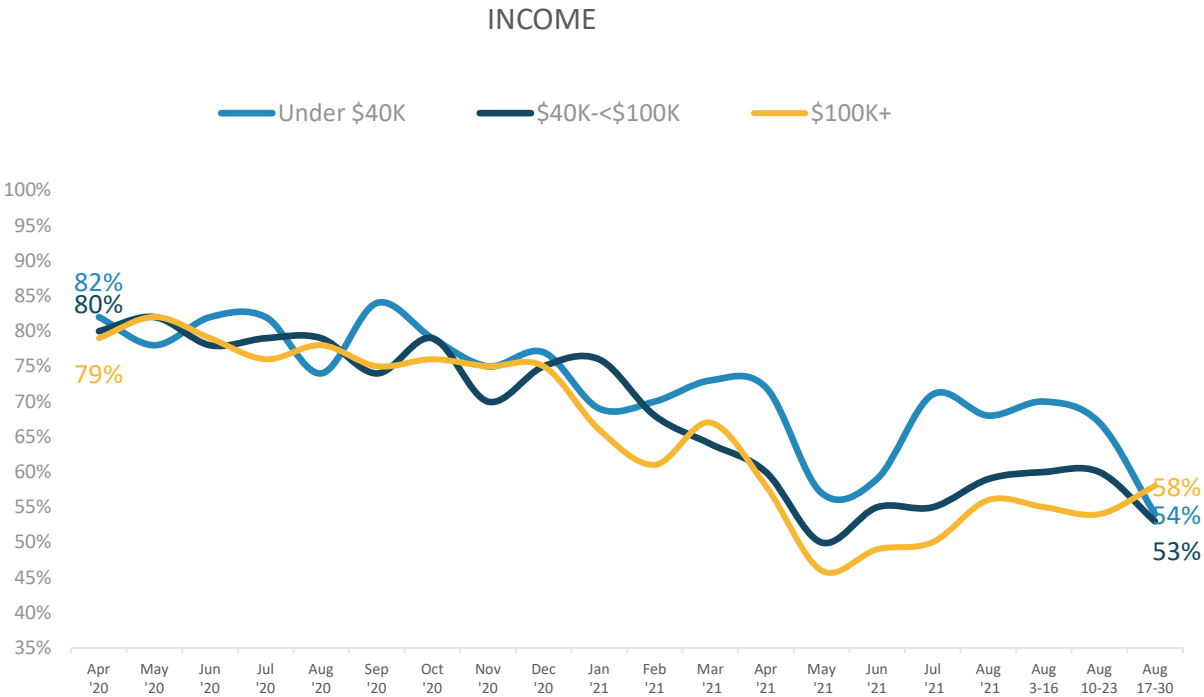
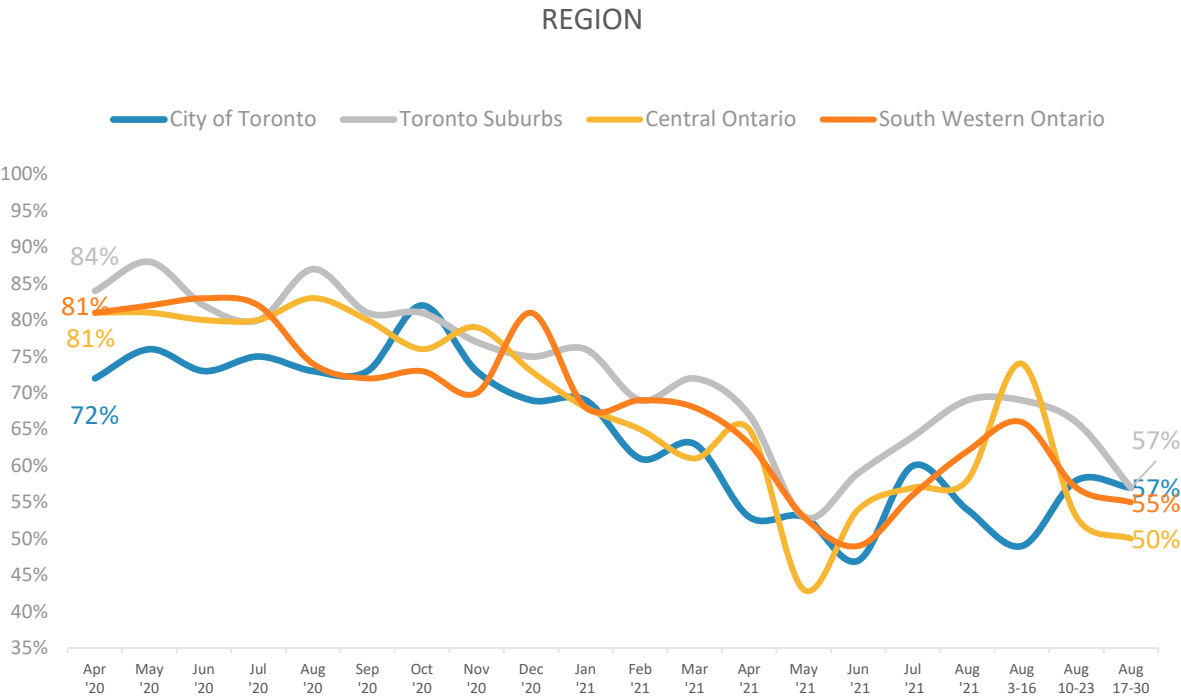


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While other regions remained steady, there was a 9-point decline in ‘right track’ scores in the Toronto suburbs this week. ‘Right track’ scores for the City of Toronto and Toronto suburbs are now at parity.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



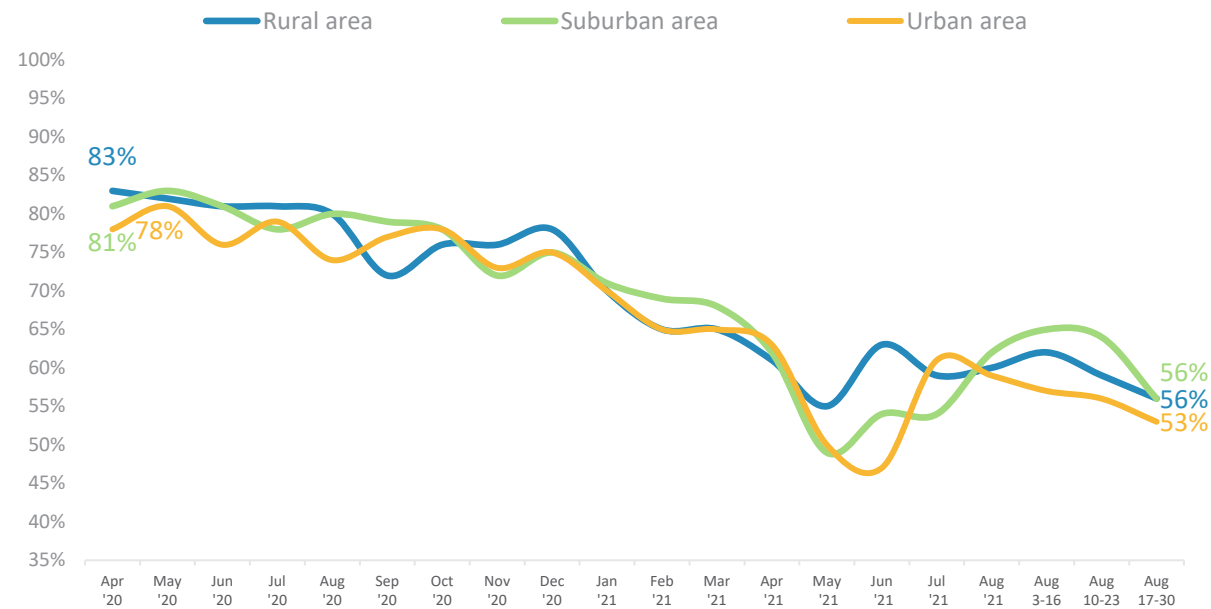
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

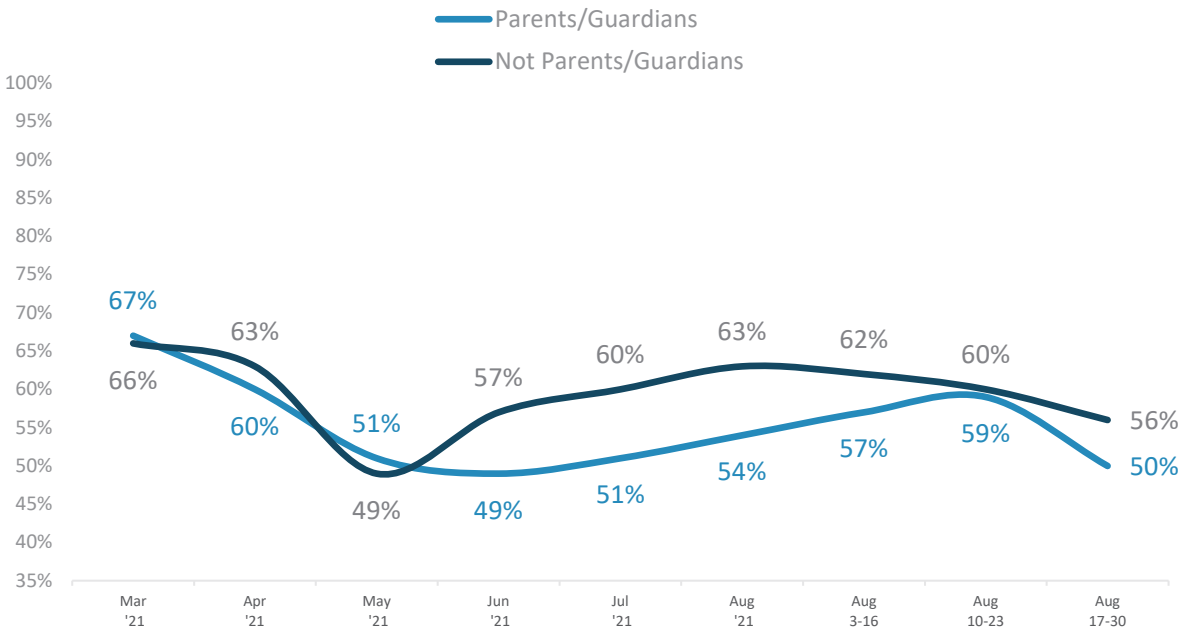
‘Right track’ scores declined in rural, suburban and urban areas this week. Rural and suburban areas are now at parity for ‘right track’ scores, just slightly above scores for urban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



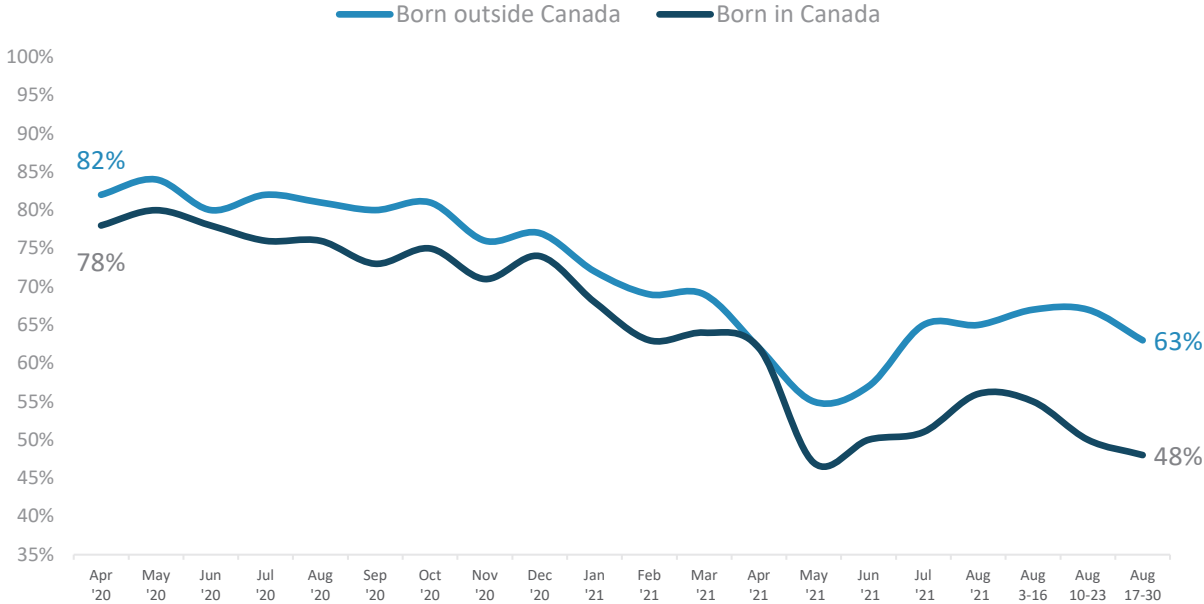
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

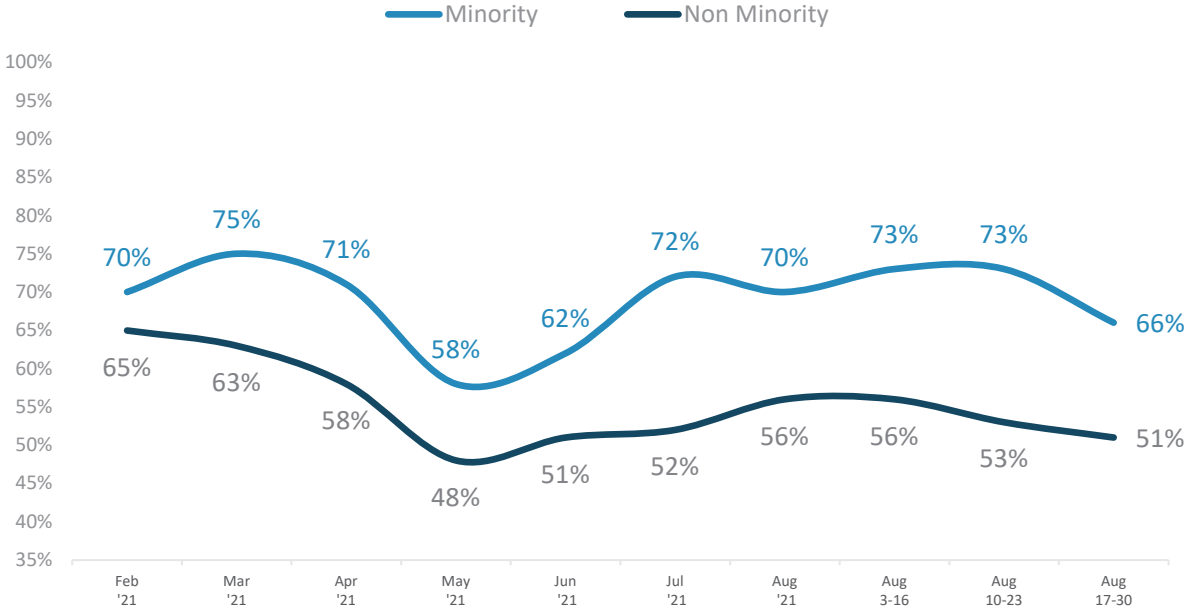
‘Right track’ scores among those born in Canada and among non-minorities continued to slowly decline this week. There were also declines measured this week among Ontarians born outside of Canada and minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

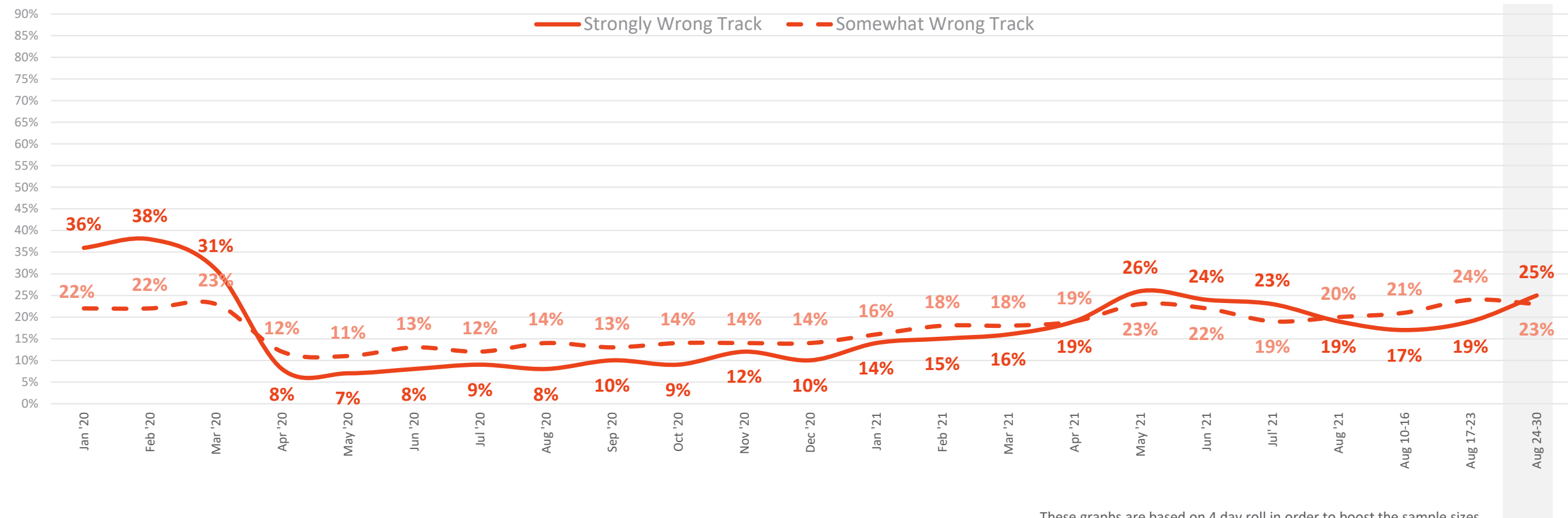


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Strongly on the wrong track’ scores have increased again this week and are up 8-points since mid-August.

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

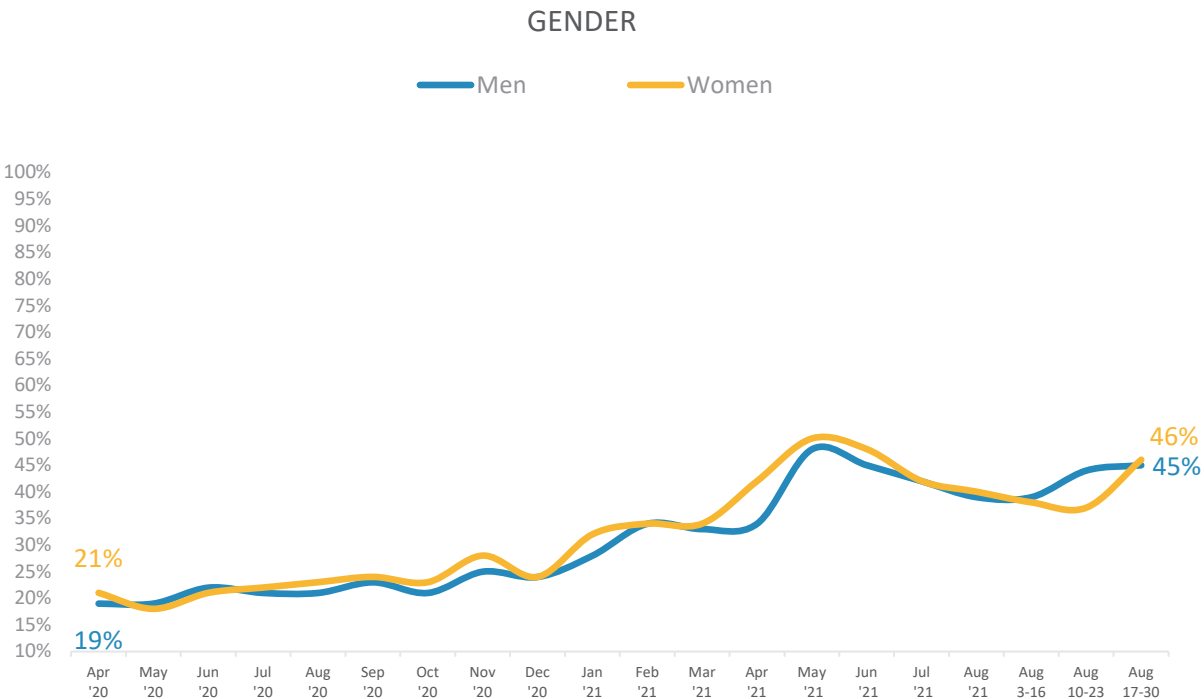
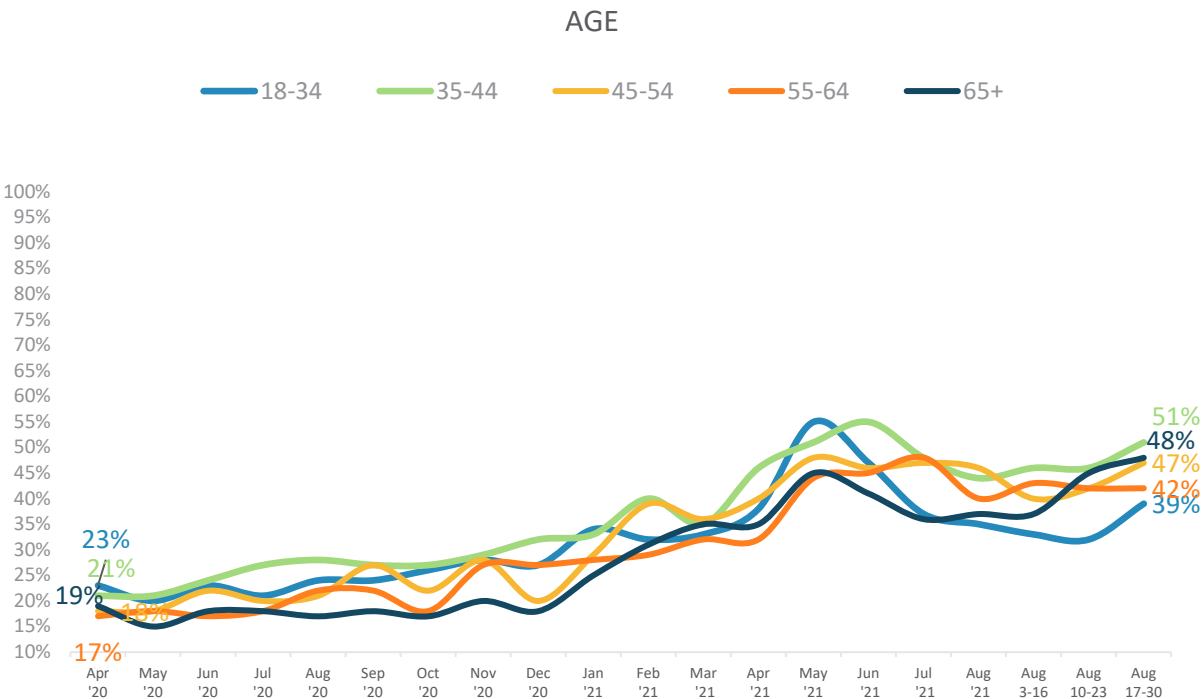


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 increased among all age segments this week with the exception of those aged 55-64 which remained steady. There was also an increase in ‘wrong track’ scores among women, while men remained unchanged.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

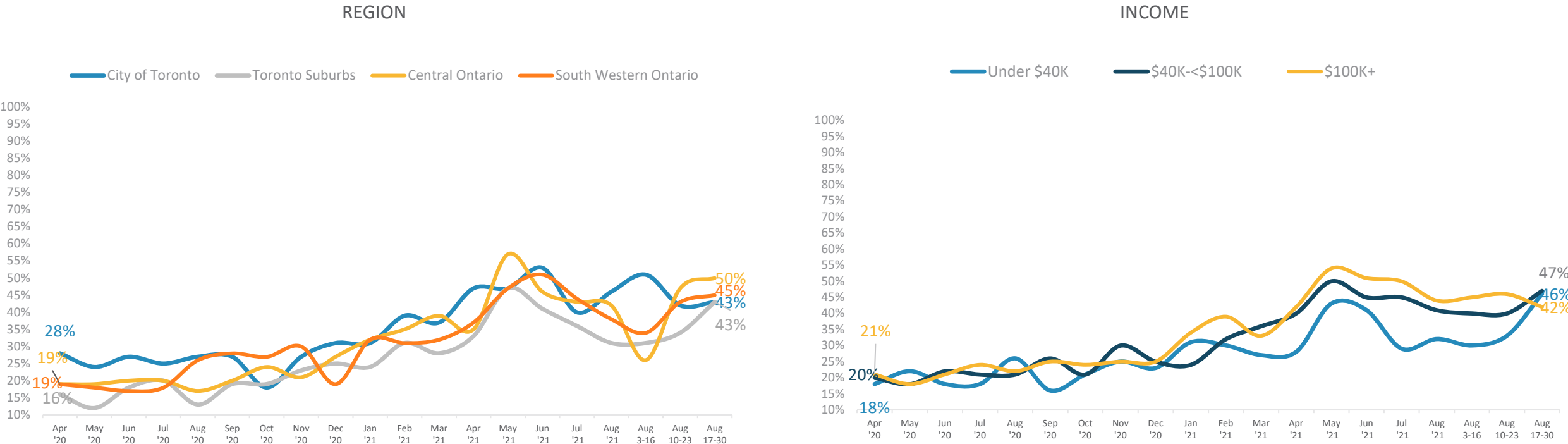


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While the other regions remained steady, there was an increase in ‘wrong track’ scores in the Toronto suburbs this week. There were also increases in ‘wrong track’ scores among Ontarians making less than \$100k, while there was a slight decline among those making \$100k+.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



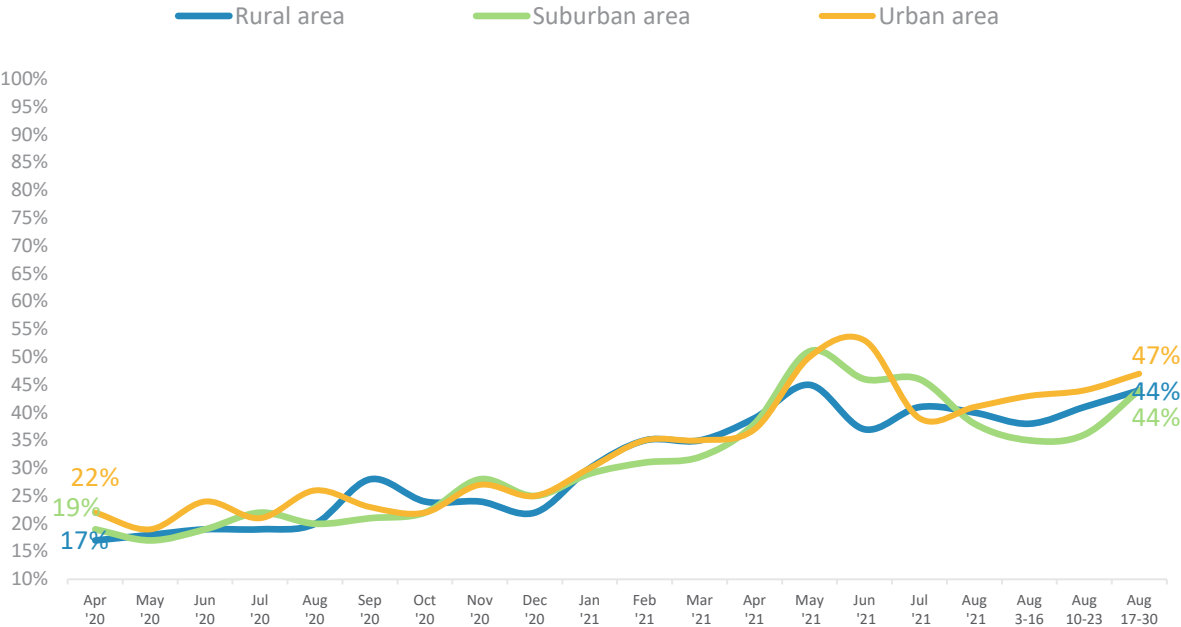
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

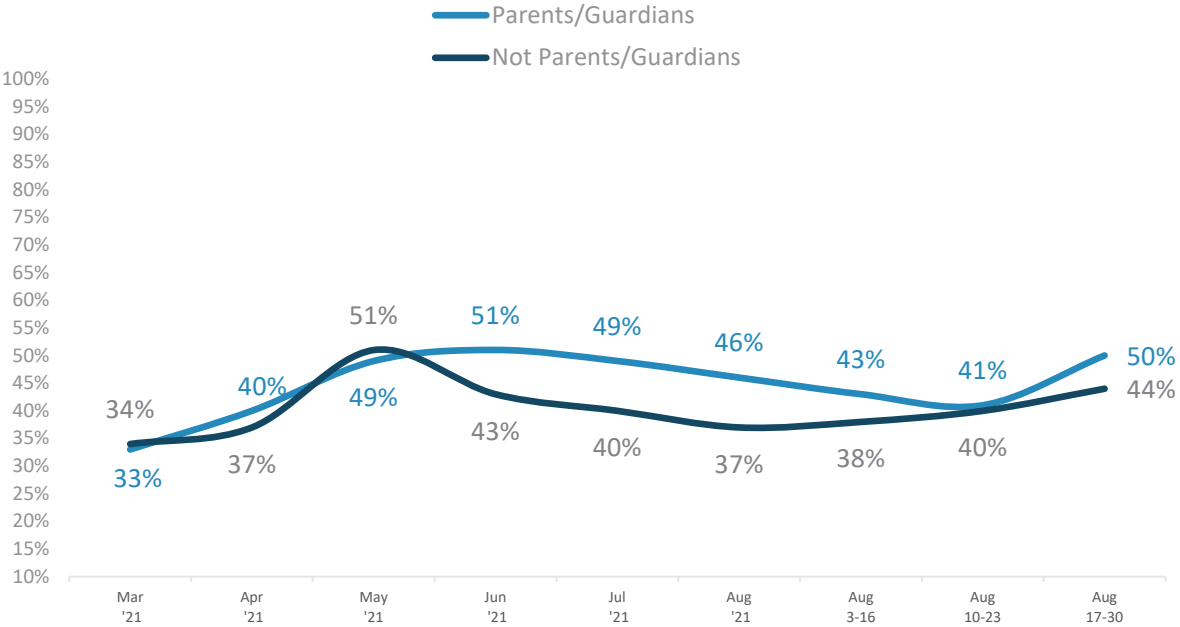
There was an uptick in ‘wrong track’ scores in rural, suburban and urban areas. ‘Wrong track’ scores continue to be slightly higher in urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

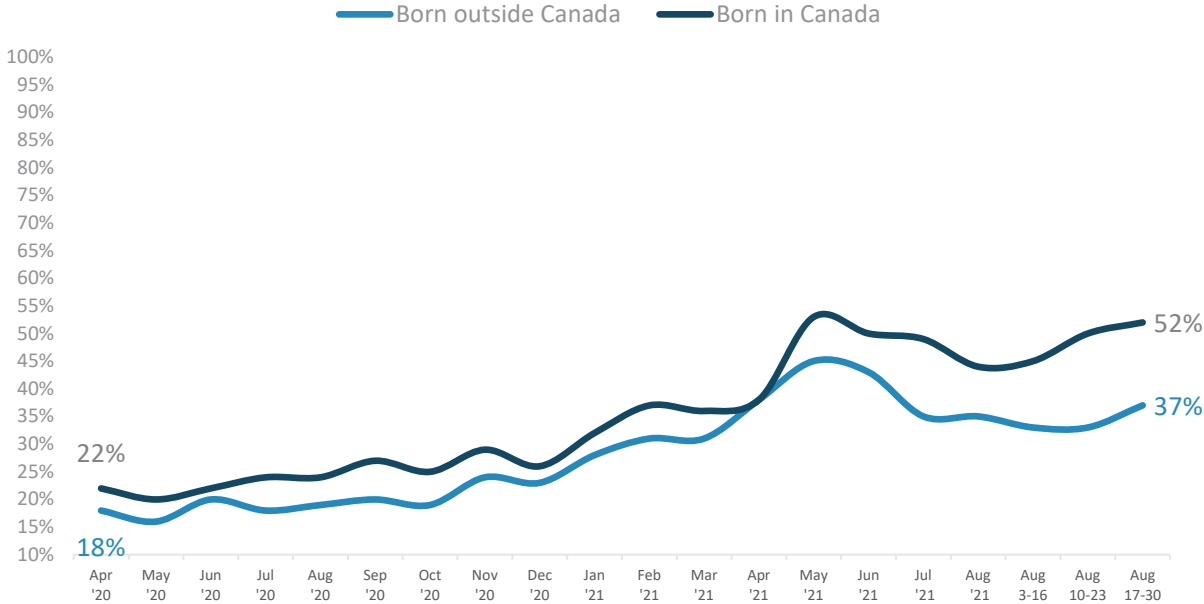


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

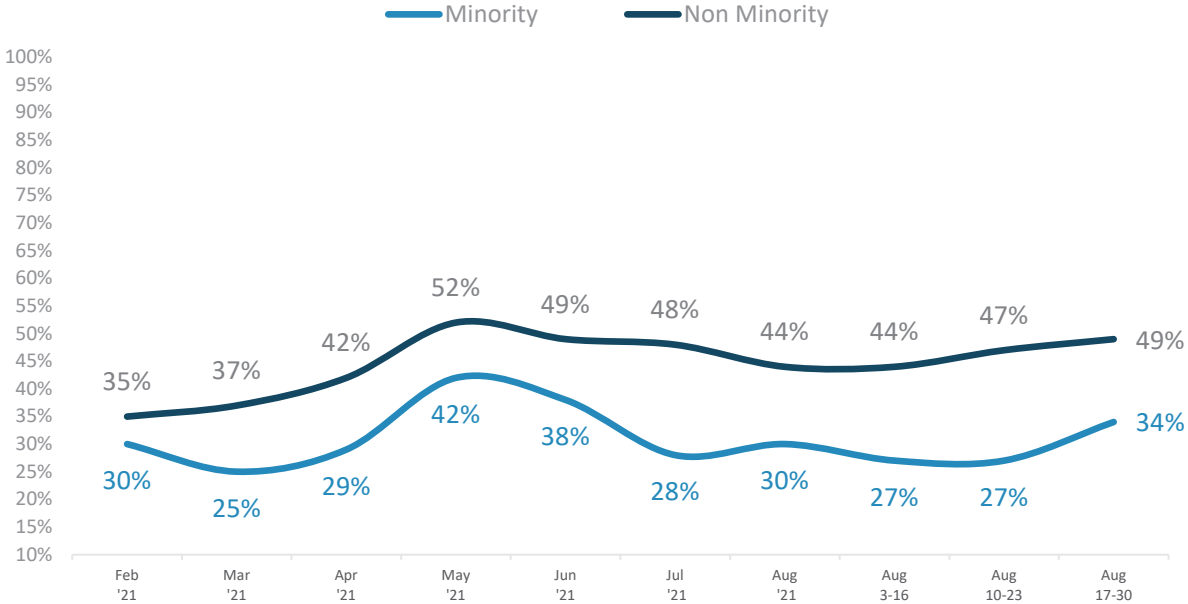
‘Wrong track’ scores continue to slowly trend upward among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities. This week, there was also an uptick in ‘wrong track’ scores among those born outside of Canada and minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



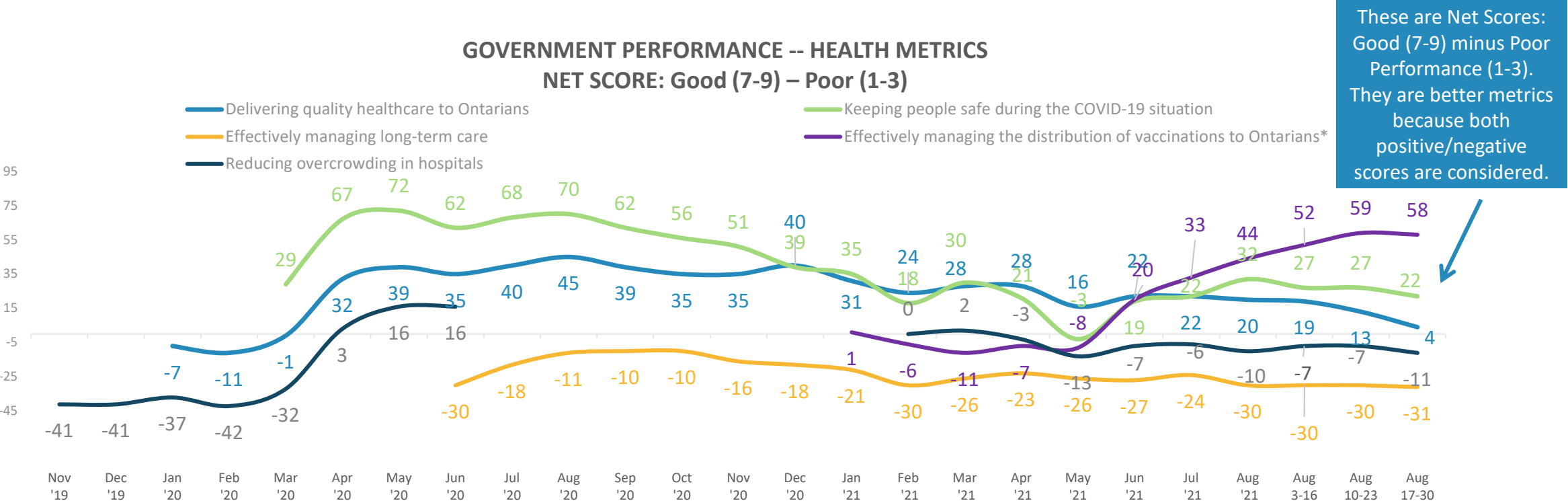
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



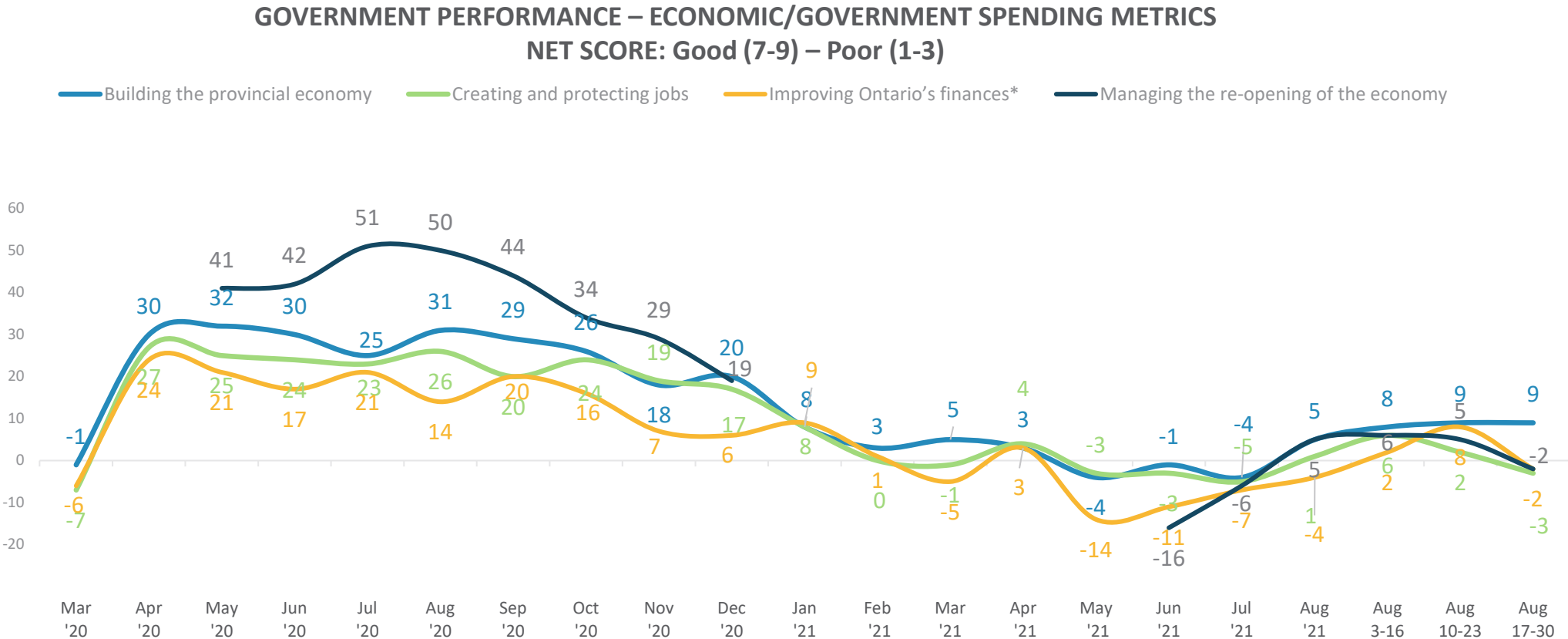
This week, positive ratings of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ remained steady after several weeks of increases and remains the highest rated health metric.

- However, the ratings for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ declined along with ratings for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’. ‘Effectively managing long-term care’ remained unchanged.



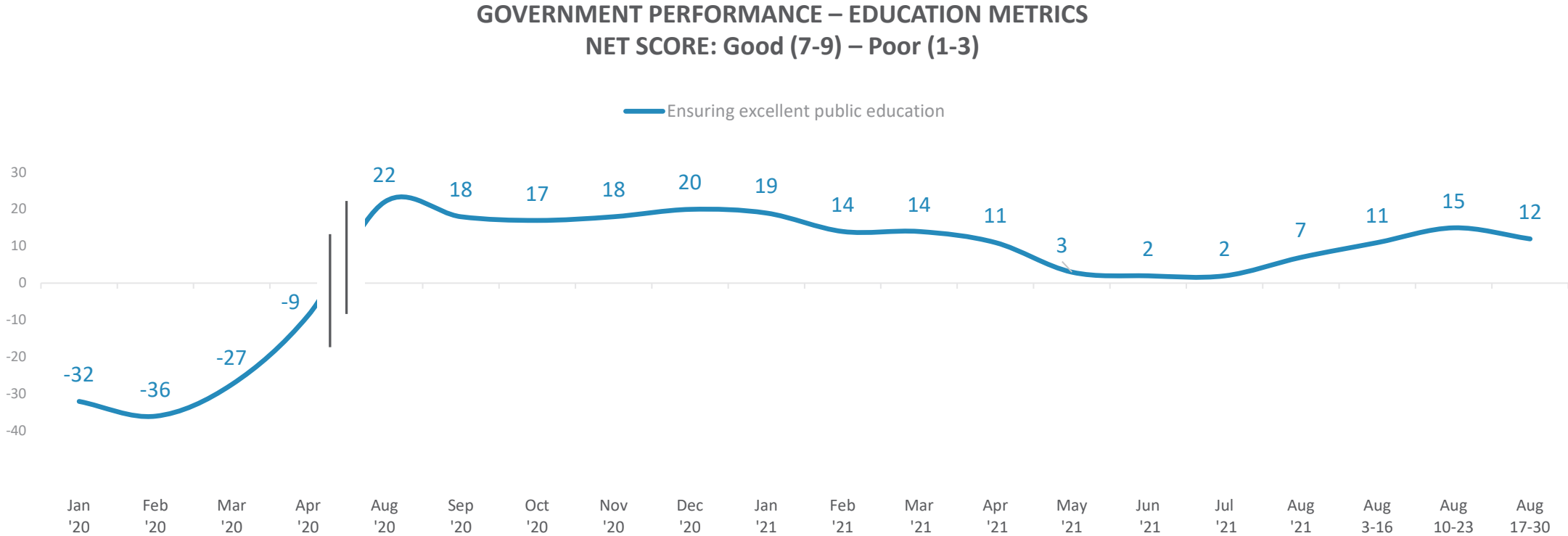
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The government’s performance rating for ‘building the provincial economy’ remained steady this week. However, there were declines measured for ‘improving Ontario’s finances’, ‘creating and protecting jobs’ and ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ – with all three now 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

On the eve of students going back to school, the rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remains largely 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?
Bases vary

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ONTARIANS



Half (49%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’, while just over one-in-ten (13%) describe it as ‘poor’.

- This week, those who see the government on the ‘right track’ or on the ‘wrong track’ are equally likely to think their personal financial situation has been ‘excellent/good’ (at 53% and 52%, respectively).

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	770	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	56	53	50	56	50	58	49
Excellent	15	16	10	13	15	11	14	14
Good	42	40	43	37	42	40	44	34
Fair	31	31	34	34	33	32	27	36
Poor	9	10	9	11	7	11	13	9
Very poor	4	1	3	5	3	3	-	4
TOTAL POOR	12	12	12	15	11	14	13	13

	Personal Financial Situation over the Past Year	
	Total Excellent/Good	
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30
Right Track	52%	53%
Wrong Track	59%	52%

CHANGE IN FINANCIAL SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR

While half (53%) report their family’s financial situation remained unchanged over the past year, three-in-ten (30%) say it has worsened – almost double the number that say it has improved (16%).

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	764	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	15	14	13	15	15	23	13	16
Improve a great deal	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	4
Improve somewhat	13	11	10	13	11	19	9	12
Stay the same	54	58	54	54	57	47	62	53
Worsen somewhat	24	21	25	23	20	16	17	17
Worsen a great deal	7	6	6	8	8	11	7	13
TOTAL WORSEN	31	27	31	31	28	27	24	30

	Financial Situation over the Past Year	
	Total Improve	
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30
Right Track	19%	22%
Wrong Track	15%	13%

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 about six-in-ten (57%) anticipating the financial situation of their household over the next year will be ‘excellent/good’. One-in-ten (12%) 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	Aug 24-30
n=	763	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	63	57	53	57	57	62	57
Excellent	12	16	10	10	11	8	11	11
Good	44	47	47	44	46	49	51	46
Fair	32	28	35	32	33	27	30	27
Poor	7	6	6	7	6	8	4	8
Very poor	2	-	1	4	1	3	1	4
TOTAL POOR	10	6	7	11	8	11	5	12

	Future Financial Outlook	
	Total Excellent/Good	
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30
Right Track	59%	62%
Wrong Track	58%	54%

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 steady decline in the number of Ontarians who believe the Ontario economy is improving. This week, 46% say it is improving, down 20-points since mid-July.

- And, this week there was also an increase in the proportion who believe the economy is worsening, with three-in-ten (31%) Ontarians now holding this view.
- 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	Aug 24-30
n=	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVING	66	64	62	60	58	54	46
Quickly improving	4	3	4	6	6	5	2
Slowly improving	62	60	59	55	52	49	44
Unchanged	11	10	10	14	13	21	19
Slowly worsening	16	19	17	19	19	17	22
Quickly worsening	5	6	7	5	5	5	10
TOTAL WORSENING	20	25	24	24	24	23	31

	Status of the Ontario Economy	
	Total Improving	
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30
Right Track	67%	64%
Wrong Track	44%	38%

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 (39%) and restaurants/bars (42%) are reopening, as well as knowing people that are going back to work (41%).

IMPROVING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	197	160	156	151	175	135	115
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Restaurants and bars are reopening	16	19	16	19	34	34	42
People I know are going back to work	22	22	32	17	35	36	41
More stores are reopening	-	-	-	-	35	54	39
Strong Canadian stock markets	-	-	-	-	14	14	17
Declining unemployment rate	-	-	-	-	17	14	12
Seen, read, heard that the economy is improving	6	12	5	13	7	4	10
Value of my house/value of housing	-	-	-	-	16	14	7
I received or expect to receive a raise or bonus	-	-	-	-	3	4	5
I found a better job	-	-	-	-	6	4	4
Covid-19 situation is improving/under control	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
People are spending money	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
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	-	-	1
All of the above	7	9	9	8	2	1	1
Other	-	-	2	3	2	1	2
Don't know/not sure					3	2	1

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



There appears to be movement in what Ontarians think the government’s focus should be in the coming months. A focus on economic issues has declined 8-points since mid-August to 43% this week, while there has been a 6-point increase to 39% for health-related issues.

- And, almost on-in-five (17%) Ontarians believe a health and an economic focus 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	Aug 17-30
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	39
It should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19, including ensuring the economy recovers as quickly as possible and helping prevent more businesses from closing.	40	39	45	45	45	53	52	54	53	52	51	50	51	46	43
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7	6	8	10	8	7	6	6	7	13	14	17

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 4TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

While steadily increasing since mid-July, there was a decline this week to 73% of Ontarians expressing concern about a fourth wave of a pandemic. This metric bears watching in the coming weeks.

	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	Aug 24-30
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	207	125	129
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78	84	73
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37	51	40
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41	33	33
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11	6	14
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8	9	11
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18	15	24

And, while concern has declined, there was an increase again this week to 71% of Ontarians that feel the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

- And, one-on-five (21%) now 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	Aug 24-30
Varies										
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69	74	67	60	67	71
19	17	17	18	14	17	15	16	14	16	21
48	58	54	54	53	52	59	51	46	51	50
20	16	16	18	19	17	14	25	22	17	13
11	9	12	9	10	10	12	6	12	11	13
32	25	27	27	28	27	26	31	33	28	25
		2	2	4	4	-	2	7	5	4

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

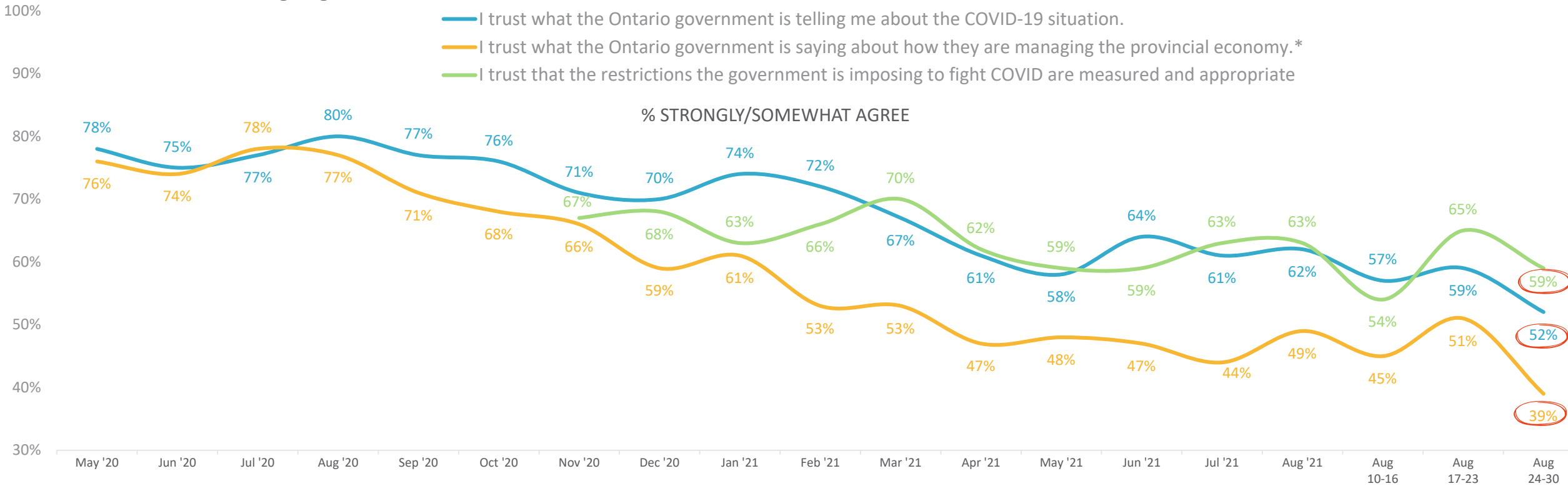
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

There were declines in trust of the government’s communications that ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’, ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.

- Results for both ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ and ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ are 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 has declined 30-points since the beginning of July and is at 47% this week. 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	Aug 24-30
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61	62	52	50	51	47
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19	21	17	18
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34	30	34	29
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7	7	6	8	8	7
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18	18	16	18
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20	19	23	25
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38	37	39	43

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

COVID-19 VACCINE



And, half (49%) of Ontarians are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. This matches the lower confidence levels seen in February and March of this year.

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	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
varies						%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	52	47	49
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	16	10	14
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	36	37	35
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	7	2
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	17	15	19
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	20	29	28
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	37	44	47

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

A majority (59%) 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	Aug 24-30
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	31	33
Strongly agree	17	19	21
Somewhat agree	10	12	12
Neither agree nor disagree	6	4	6
Somewhat disagree	16	14	11
Strongly disagree	47	50	48
TOTAL DISAGREE	63	65	59
Not applicable/Don't know	4	1	3

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

Base: Total sample

Just under 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	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	8	8	7	10	7
No	92	92	91	88	91
Don't know/not sure	-	-	2	2	1

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 (79%) Ontarians say they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with half (51%) 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	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	921	732	300	250	250
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	92	91	81	81	83	79
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	57	56	48	51
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	25	24	36	29
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	13	14	11	14
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	3	5	6
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	2	1	1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	6	5	6	7

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	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	95%	95%	82%	82%	85%	84%	89%	90%	94%	91%	84%	88%	74%	73%	86%	90%	93%	87%	80%	69%	83%	93%	83%	90%	90%	85%	71%	80%	81%	82%	86%	87%	90%	91%	82%	67%	87%	75%	89%	91%	87%	90%	81%	70%	88%	80%	92%	88%	89%	95%	92%	92%	80%	82%	87%	86%	88%	91%	75%	83%	93%	70%

	RIGHT TRACK								WRONG TRACK							
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	84%	82%	85%	86%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%

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 (66%) is the most important issue to Ontarians personally, while 52% say that the education system is extremely important to them.

- This is followed by environmental protection (48%) and economic recovery (45%).

	Protecting the environment			The province’s healthcare system			Economic recovery			The province’s education system		
	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPORTANT (5,6,7)	85	86	79	93	94	90	89	88	87	87	91	84
7	50	57	48	70	67	66	46	54	45	57	63	52
5,6	35	29	31	23	28	24	43	34	42	30	29	32
4	6	6	7	3	3	3	5	7	7	5	2	7
2,3	5	5	7	1	2	5	4	3	4	3	3	4
1	1	2	5	1	1	2	<1	2	1	1	2	2
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT (1,2,3)	6	7	13	2	3	7	4	5	5	5	5	7
Don’t know	2	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	3	1	2

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 just over one-quarter (27%) have not.

	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	300	300	250
	%	%	%
Yes	63	72	72
No	34	25	27
Don’t know	4	2	1

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

Base: Total sample

Overall, 15% of Ontarians report that it is not personally important to them for the Ontario government to work toward achieving net zero emissions.

- Of the 79% that say it is personally important the government work towards net zero emissions, 41% have the point of view the government should work towards achieving net zero emissions regardless of its impact on the economy, while 38% 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	Aug 24-30
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	41
Other people say it is not personally important to them for the Ontario government to work toward achieving net zero emissions	13	18	15
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	38
Don’t know	11	10	6

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 creating more parks and greenspace (43%), reducing carbon emissions (42%), reducing Ontario’s carbon footprint (42%) and expanding the availability of low-carbon fuels such as hydro-electric or others (39%).

	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 24-30	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE (5,6,7)	78	81	71	79	84	74	77	81	76	81	87	84
7	48	53	42	50	58	42	42	47	39	48	54	43
5,6	30	28	29	29	26	32	35	34	37	34	34	41
4	8	10	10	8	8	8	9	9	8	10	5	4
2,3	6	5	7	5	6	9	5	5	6	5	4	7
1	5	2	8	5	2	6	5	3	6	1	3	3
TOTAL NOT SUPPORTIVE (1,2,3)	11	7	15	10	8	15	11	9	12	6	7	10
Don’t know	4	2	4	3	<1	3	3	2	3	2	1	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

Half (53%) of Ontarians believe that governments should lead the way in reducing carbon emissions, while 31% think businesses should take the lead.

- One-in-ten (10%) believe it should be both.

	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
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	53
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	31
Neither	3	2	6
Both	7	11	10

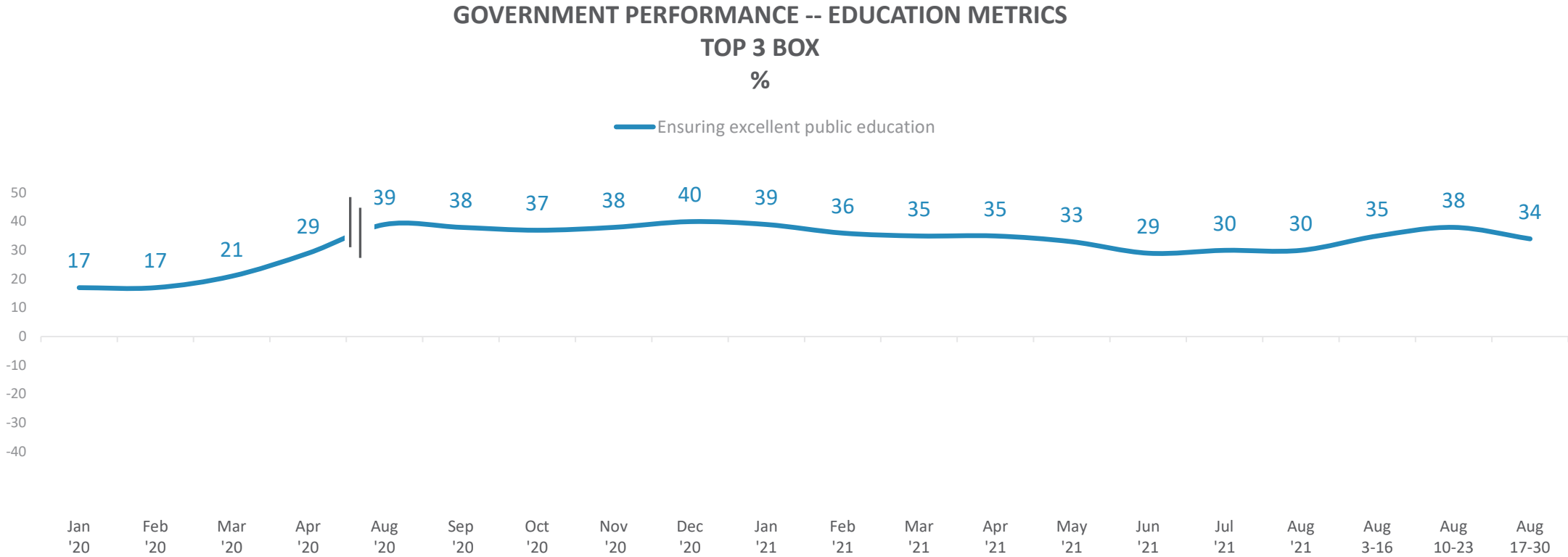
QCE-4. Which one of the following two points of view best reflects your own when it comes to who should take the lead in reducing carbon emissions?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

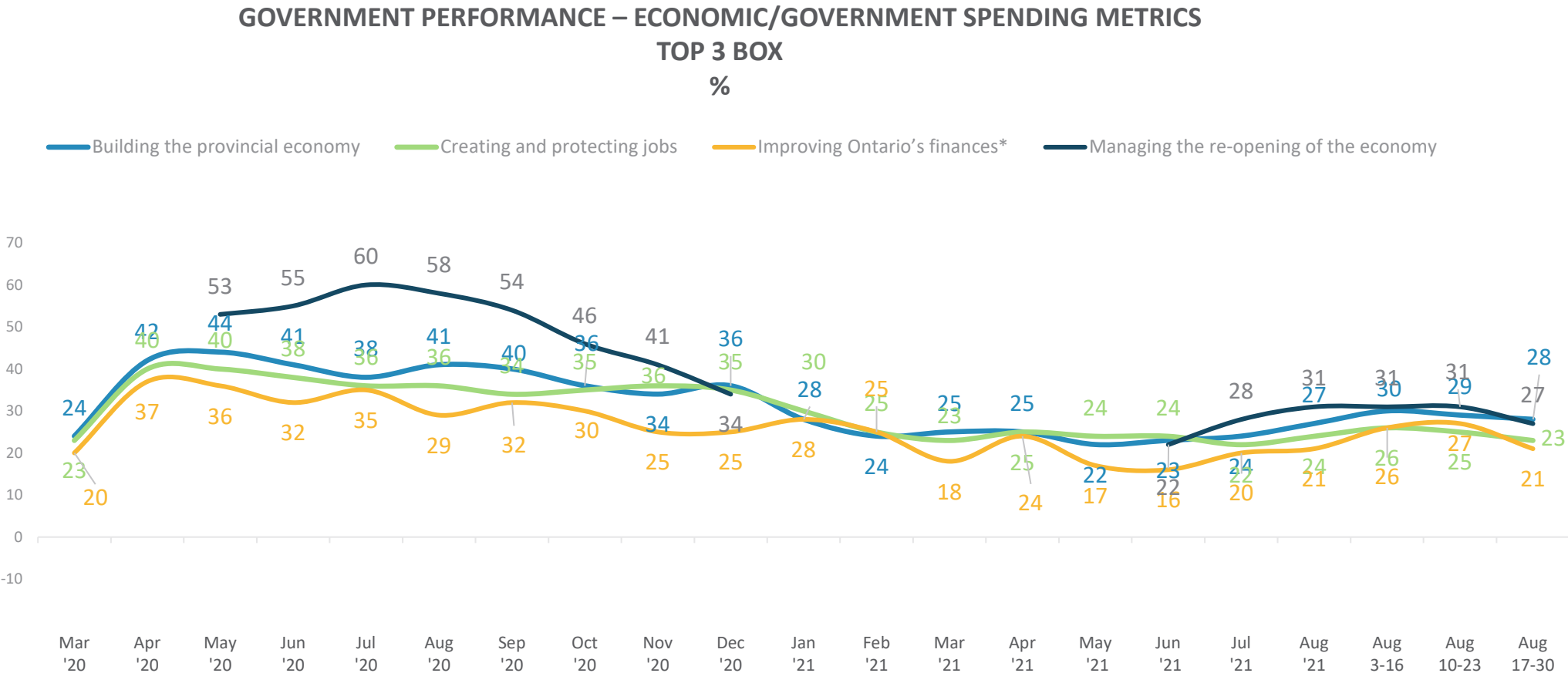


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined this week to 34% after recent increases.



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 ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ declined this week.

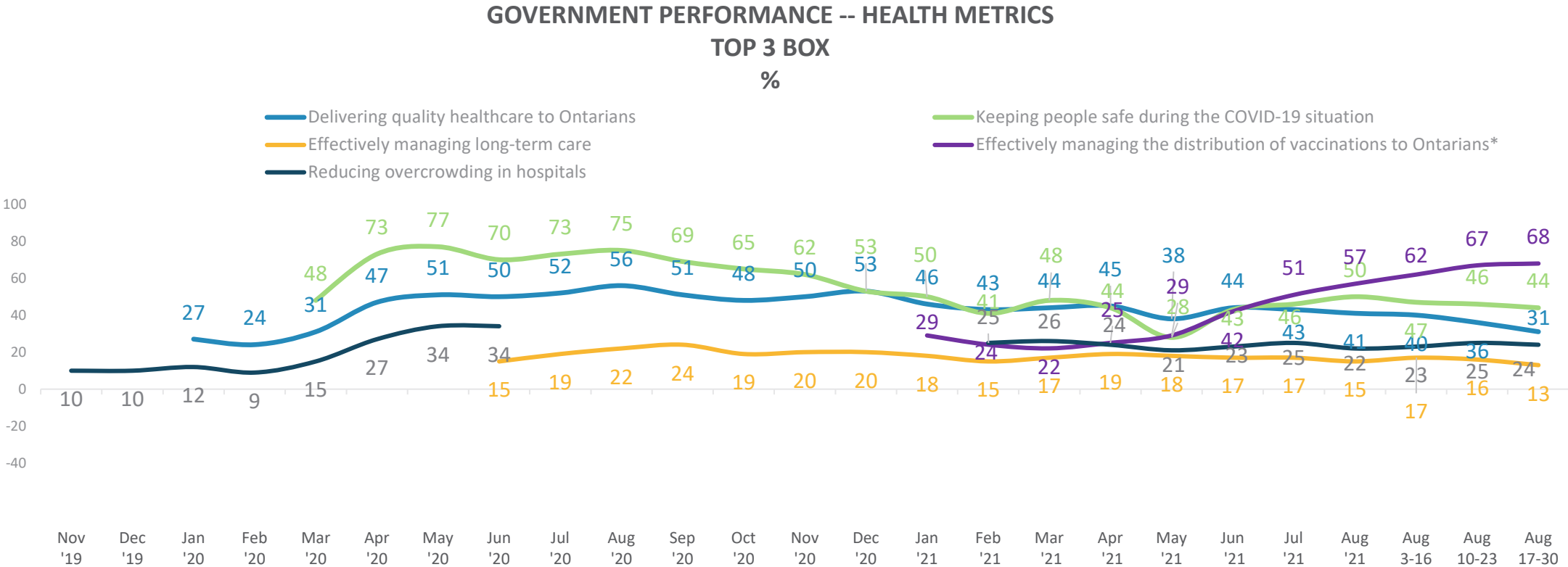


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*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’ remained steady this week after several weeks of increases. However, ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ has continued to trend downward.



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