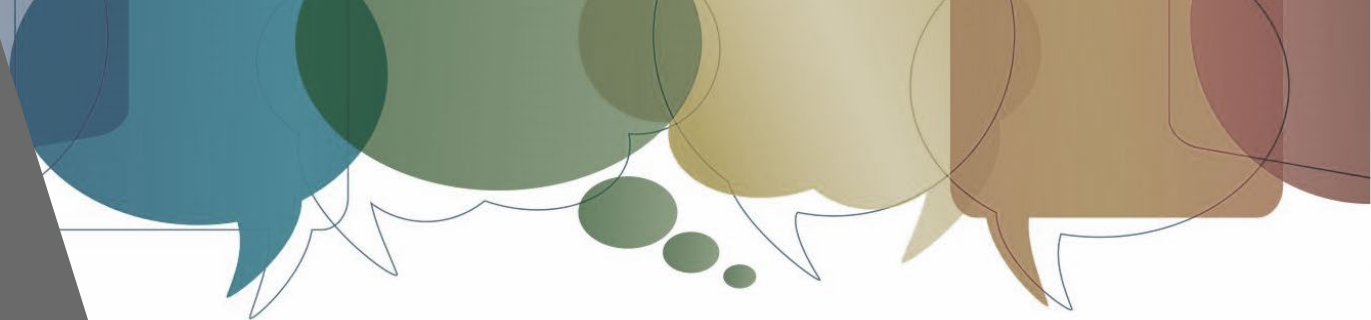




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #97

CABINET OFFICE
September 7th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1

There was an uptick in 'right track' scores to 56% this week after the announcement of a vaccine passport.

3

That said, seven-in-ten (69%) Ontarians continue to feel that the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

Positive ratings of the government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' remained steady for the third straight week and continues to be the highest rated health metric. Ratings for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' was also steady (but is 34-points lower than results for the vaccine metric).

This week, just over four-in-ten (44%) currently believe the government is 'doing what is required' to reduce the spread of the virus – down from results in June and July. And, one-third (33%) of Ontarians think the government is 'not doing as much as they should'.

2

However, Ontarians are increasingly concerned about the continuation of the pandemic. Three-quarters (76%) of Ontarians express concern about a fourth wave of the pandemic, an increase of 19-points since mid-July.

Only half (49%) of Ontarians agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19, with the proportion declining 28-points since the beginning of July.

And, confidence that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered has also been trending down. This week, 45% of Ontarians agree with this, down from an average of 70% in July.

4

These concerns may be impacting how Ontarians view the provincial economy. There continues to be a steady decline in the number who believe the Ontario economy is improving. This week, 40% say it is improving, down 26-points since mid-July.

And, there also continues to be an increase in the proportion who believe the economy is worsening, with about one-third (35%) of Ontarians now holding this view.

This week, 47% of Ontarians think the government's focus in the coming months should be on economic issues while 36% think it should be on health-related issues – an 11 point gap. And, 16% of Ontarians believe a health and an economic focus are equally important.

Key Findings

5 Connected to this, there were declines in the government's performance rating for 'building the provincial economy', 'improving Ontario's finances', and 'managing the re-opening of the economy'. 'Creating and protecting jobs' remained unchanged.

While there was an improvement in trust of the government's communications about 'how they are managing the provincial economy', this metric remains at the lower level of results since tracking began.

Overall, rating of the government's performance for 'building trust in the provincial government' is in negative territory at NET -15 (still, this score is much better compared to the pre-pandemic ratings). And, rating of the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' has returned to the lower levels found prior to/at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

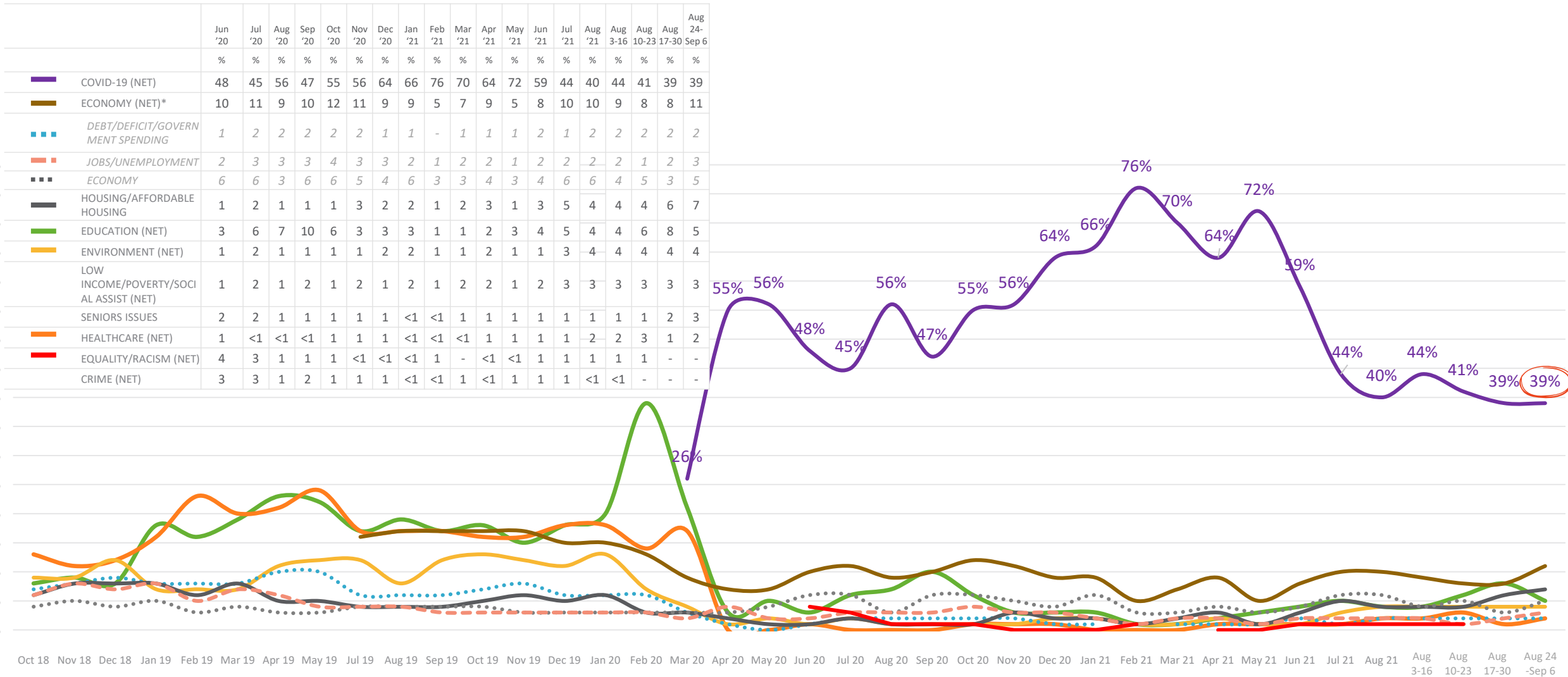
6 On the eve of students going back to school, the rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' has experienced a decline. This metric bears watching in the coming weeks as students enter the classroom again for in-person learning.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 as a top priority remained unchanged this week at 39%.



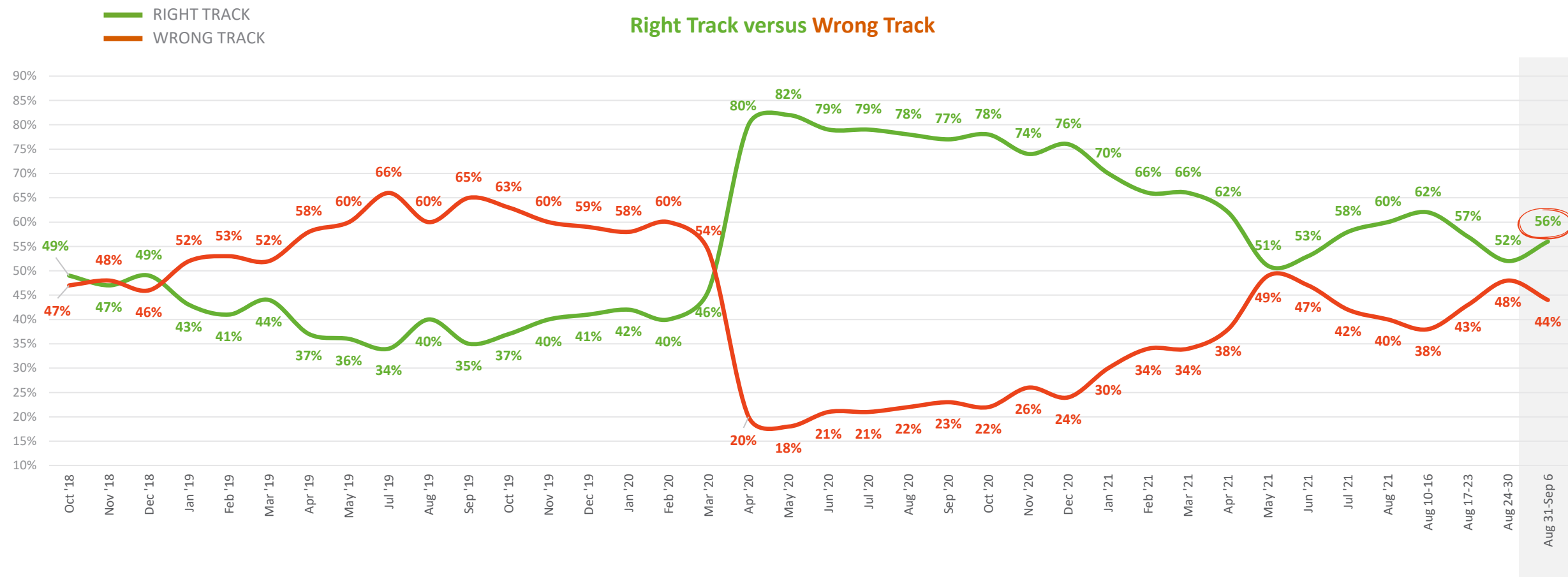
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

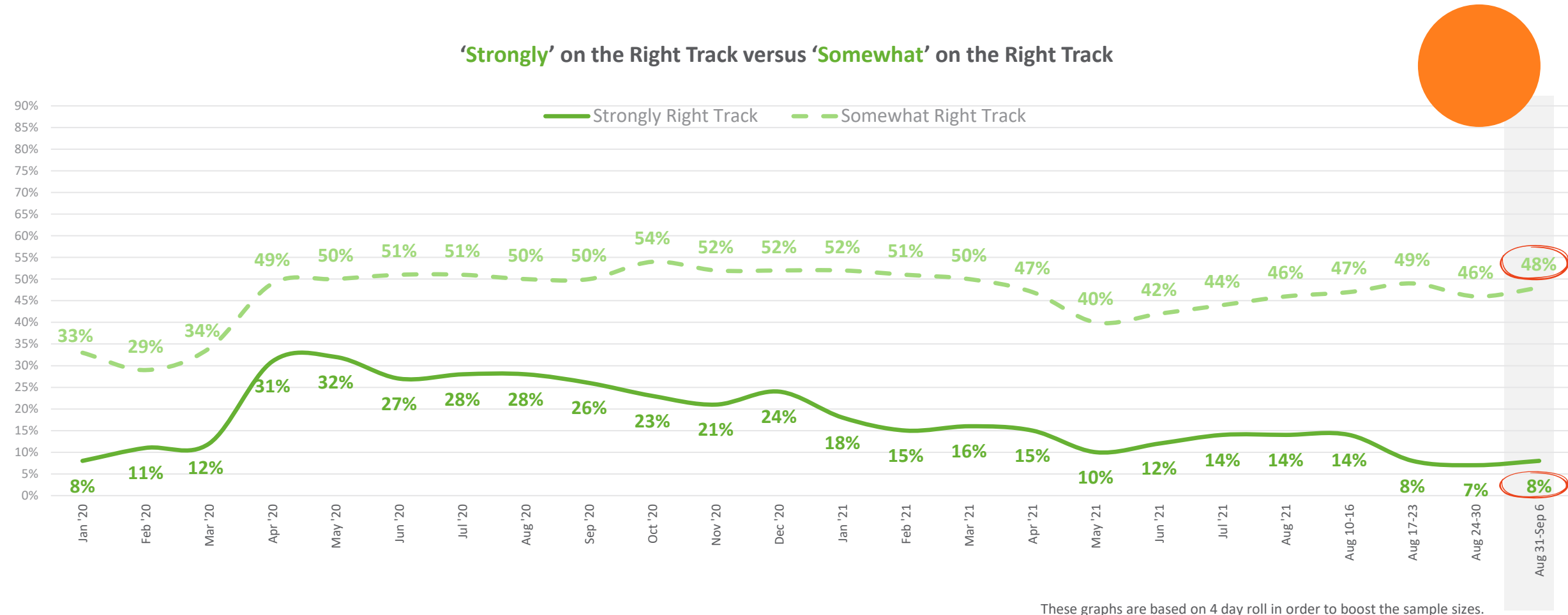


After the announcement of the vaccination passport, there was an uptick in ‘right track’ scores this week to 56%.



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

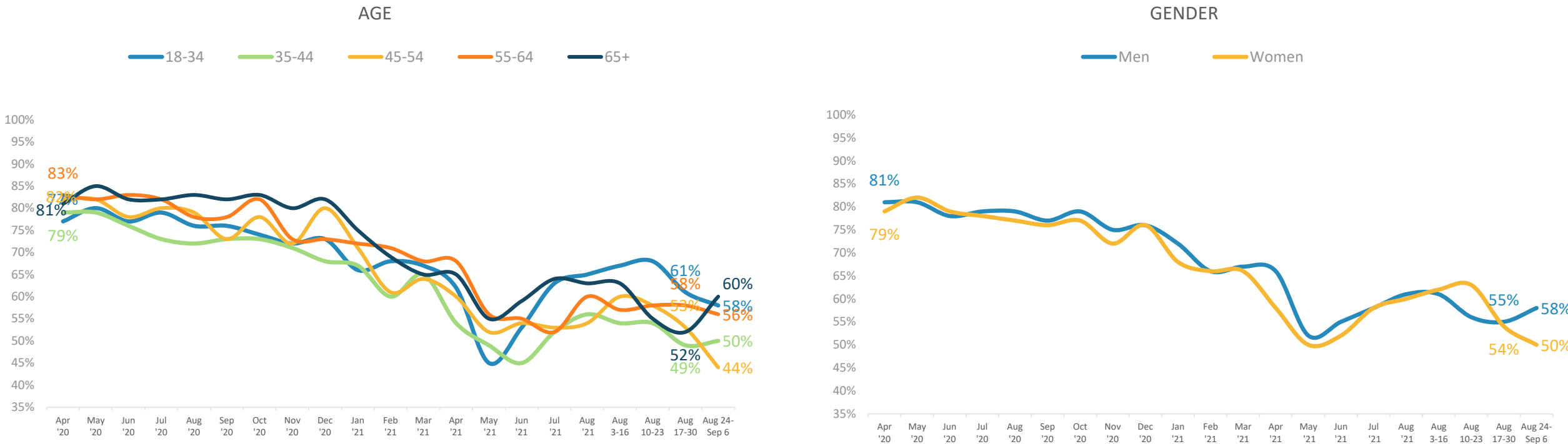
‘Strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’ scores remain relatively unchanged.



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 ‘right track’ scores continued to decline among Ontarians aged 18-34 and 45-54, there was an increase this week among those aged 65+. And, ‘right track’ scores continued to trend down among women, while there was a slight uptick among men.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

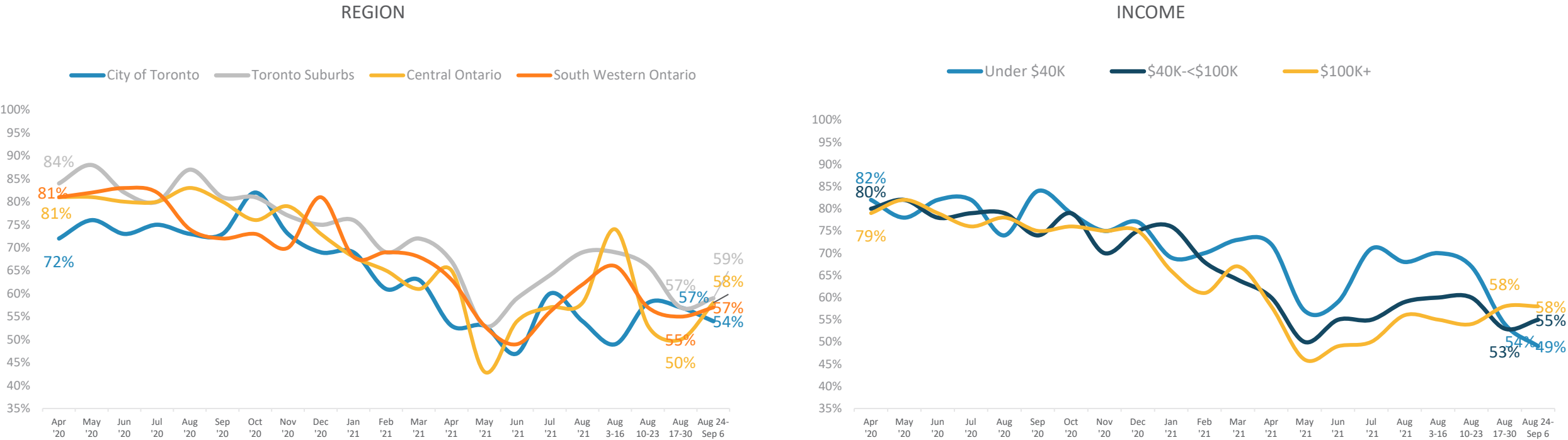


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

After experiencing declines, there was an increase measured in ‘right track’ scores in Central Ontario this week. ‘Right track’ scores declined slightly this week in the city of Toronto while the other regions remained stable. By income, ‘right track’ scores are now lowest among Ontarians making under \$40k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



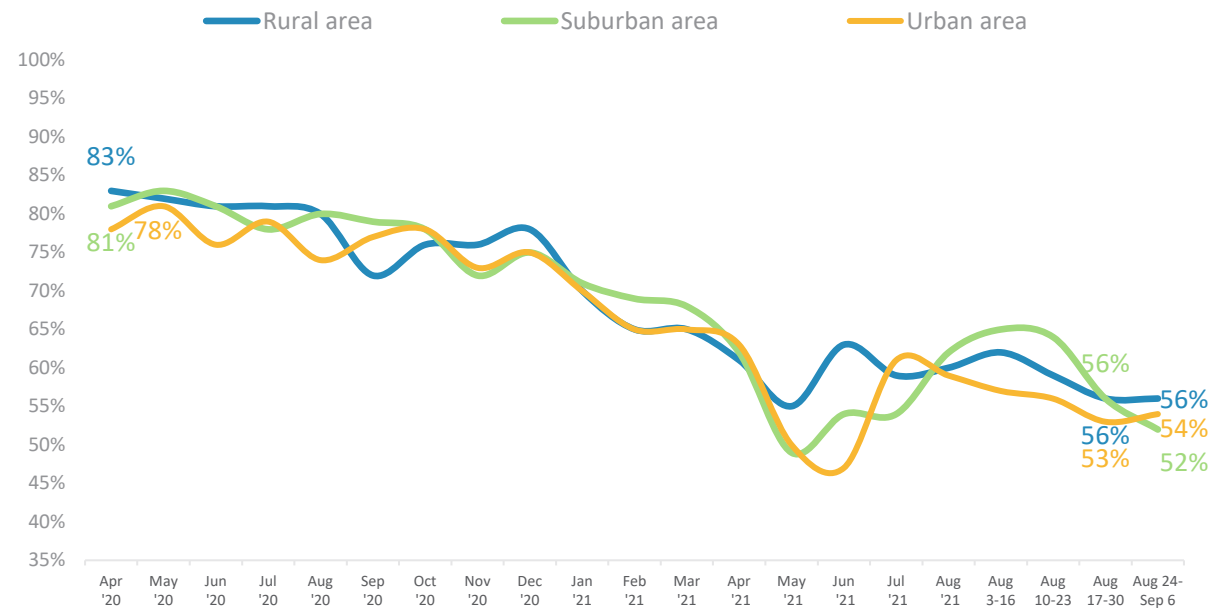
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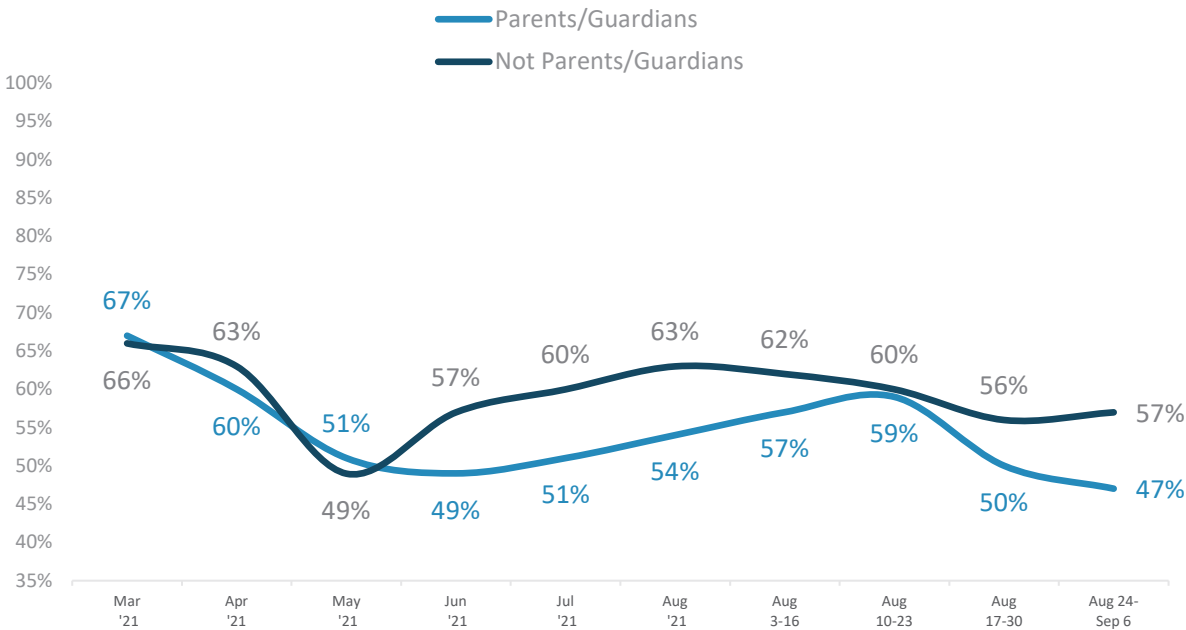
While remaining stable in the rural and urban areas, ‘right track’ scores declined again this week in suburban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



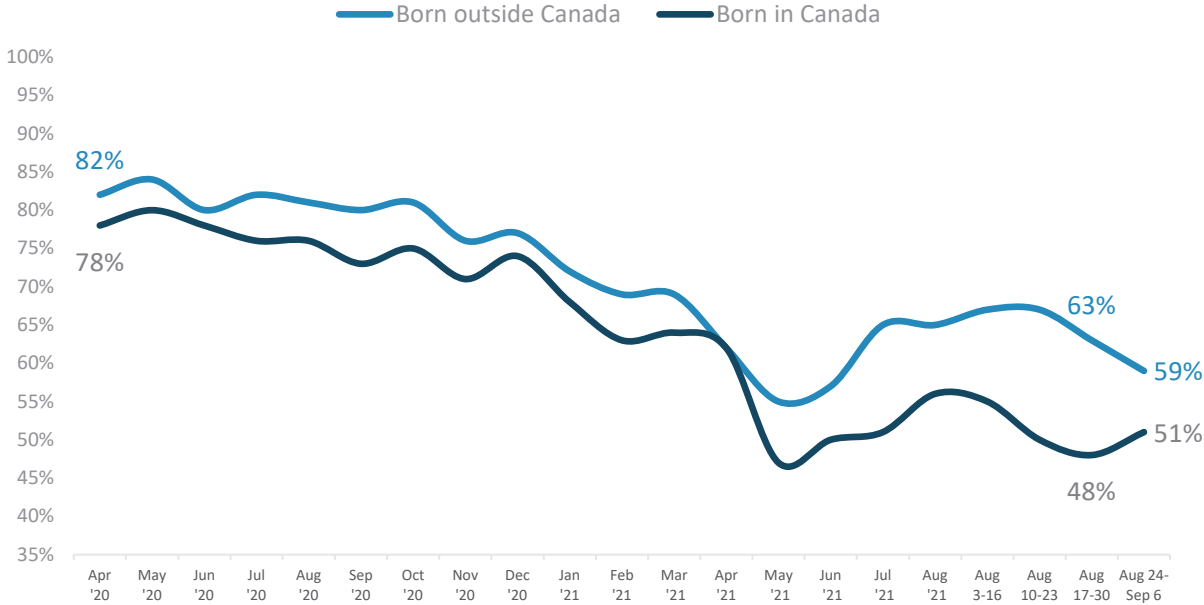
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

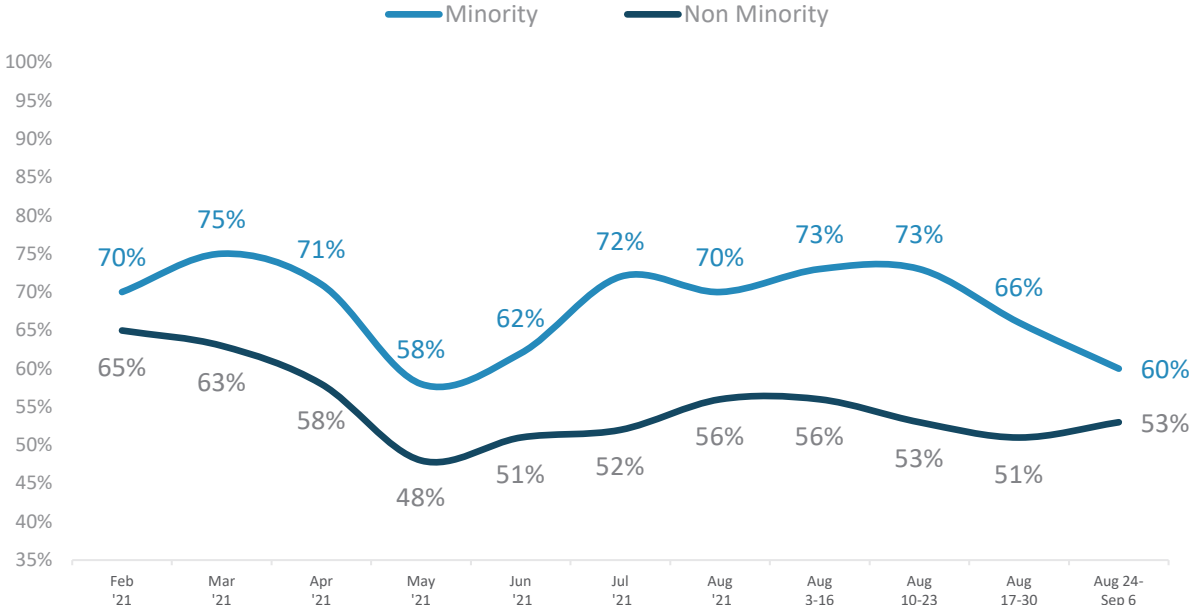
‘Right track’ scores among those born in Canada and among non-minorities experienced an uptick this week, while declines were measured again among Ontarians born outside of Canada and minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

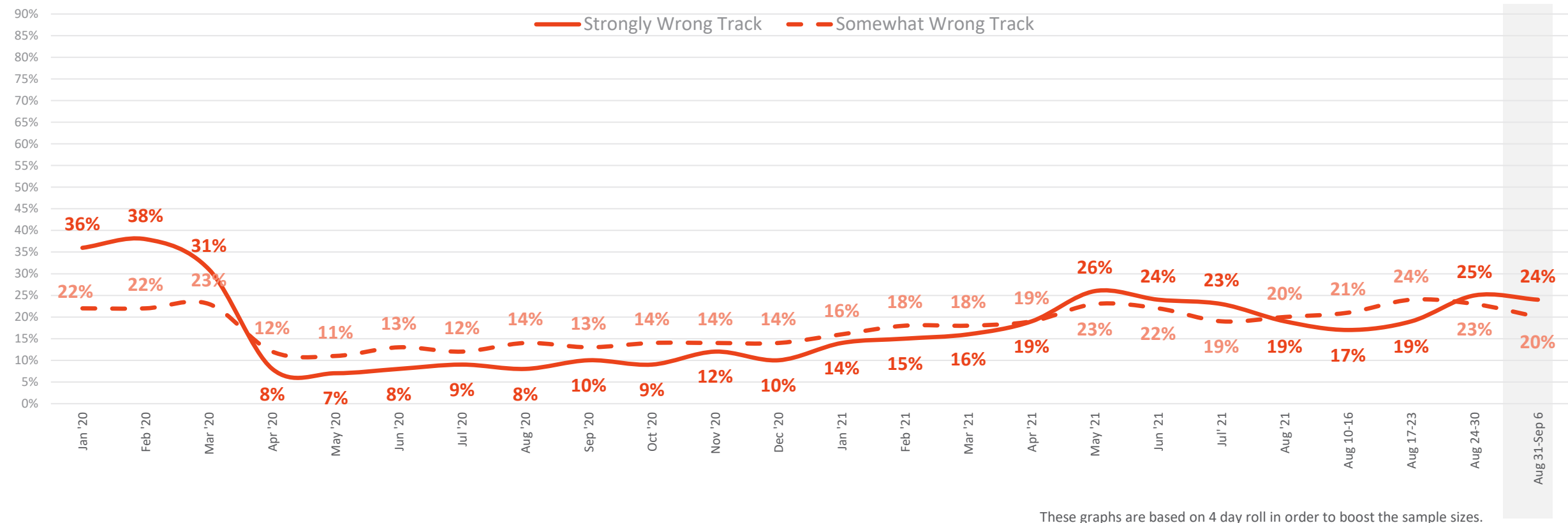


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 remained stable this week, while there was a slight decline in those believing the government is ‘somewhat on the wrong track’.

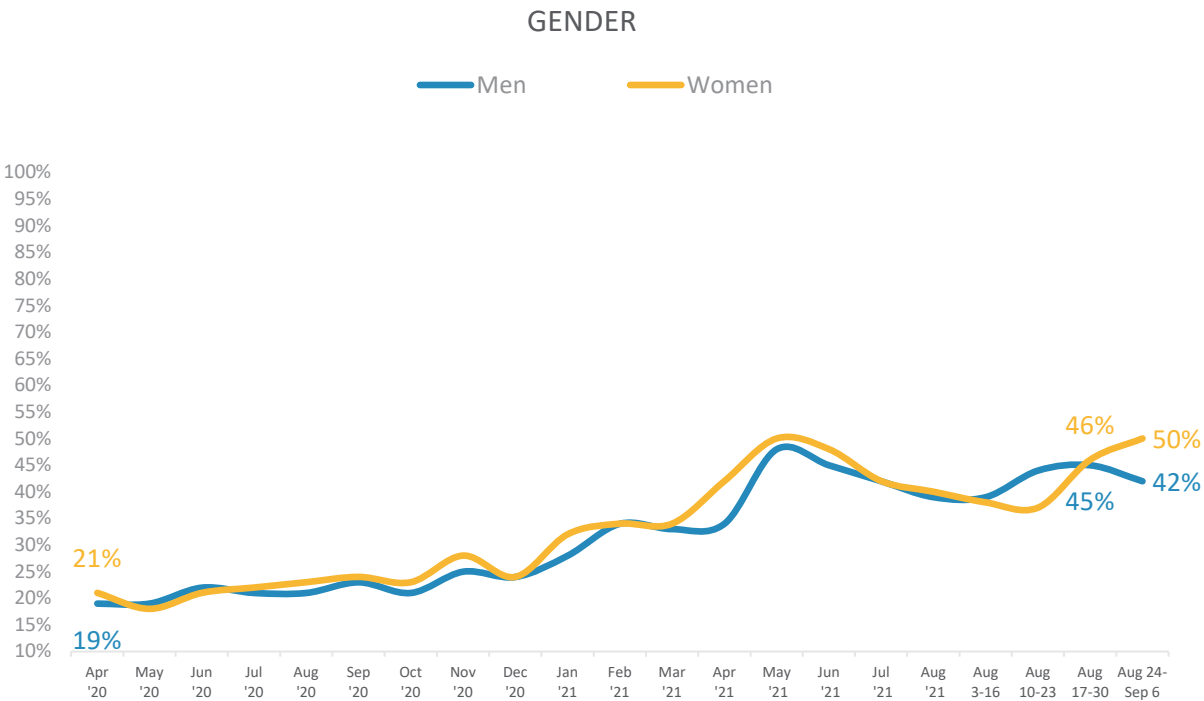
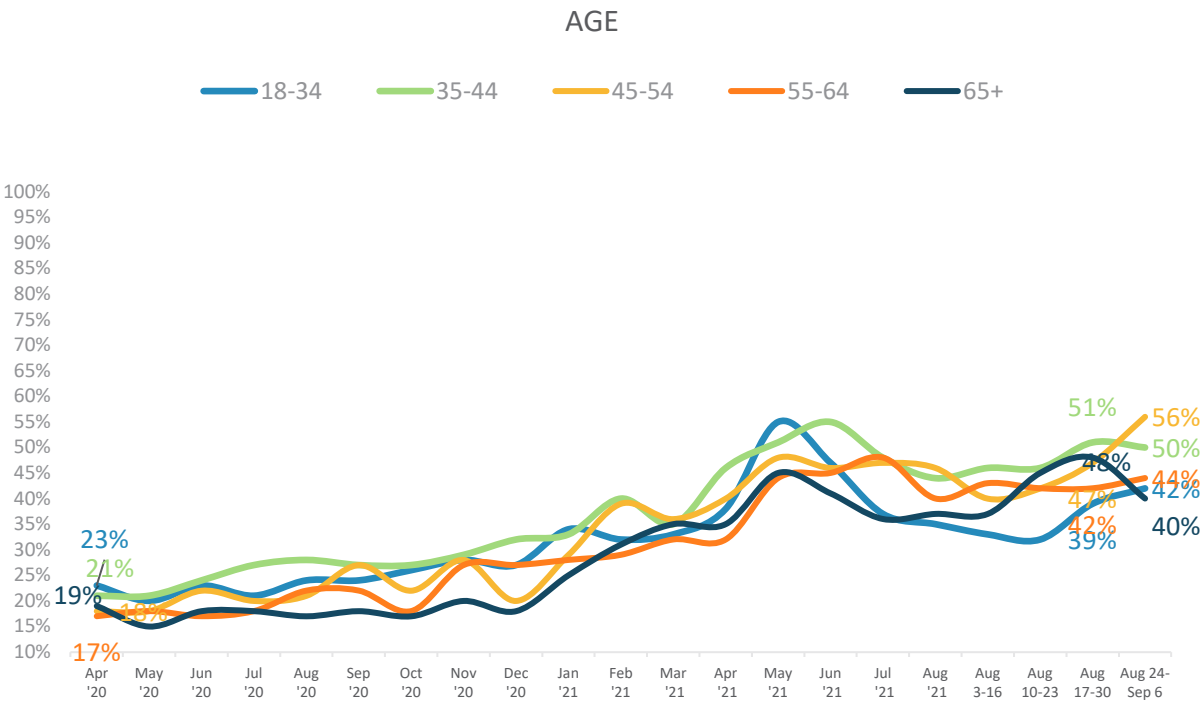
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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

While ‘wrong track’ scores continued to increase among those aged 18-34 and 45-54, there was a decline among Ontarians aged 65+. This week, ‘wrong track’ scores continued to increase among women, while a slight decline was measured among men.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

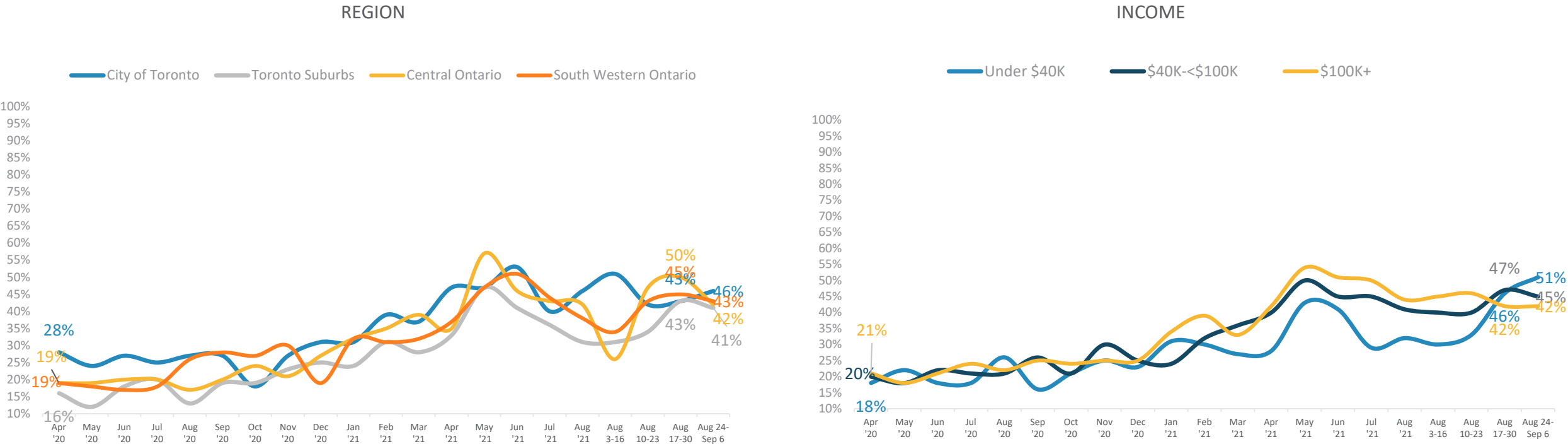


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

After experiencing increases, there was a decline in ‘wrong track’ scores in Central Ontario this week. And, while there was a slight increase in the city of Toronto, the other regions remained steady. By income, ‘wrong track’ scores are now highest among Ontarians making under \$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



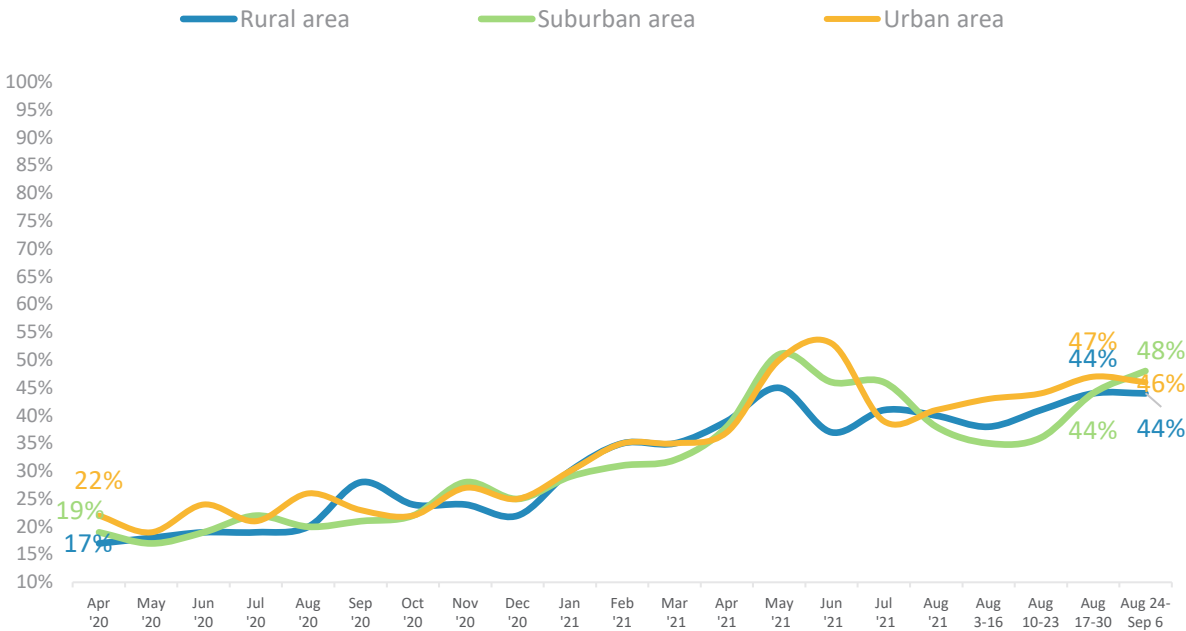
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

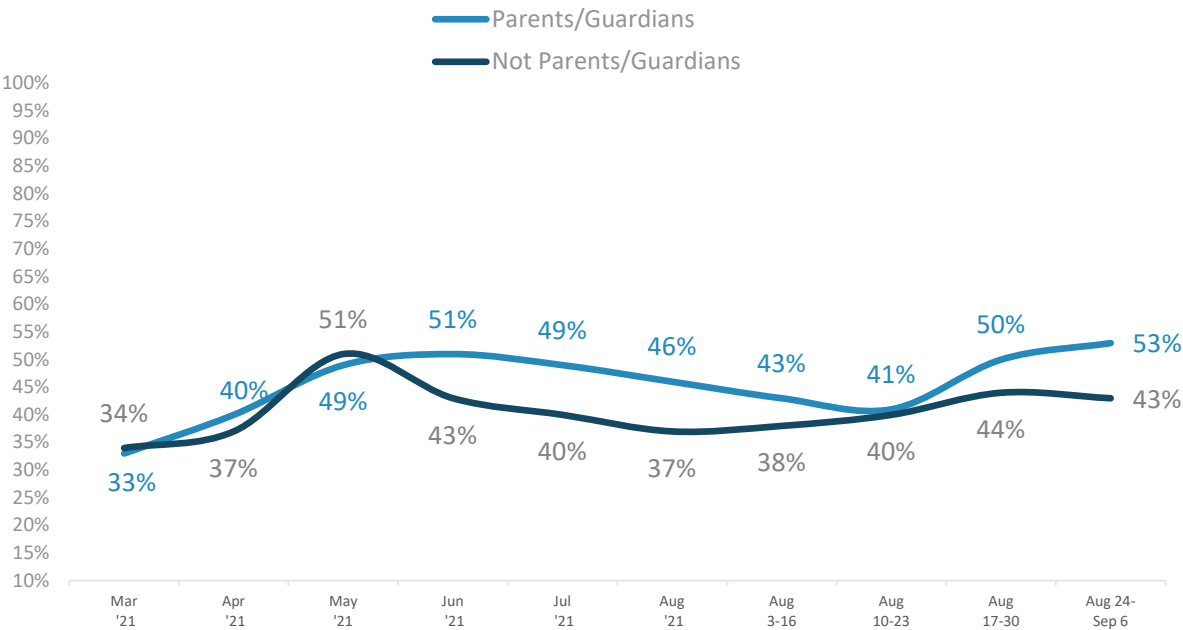
There was an increase in ‘wrong track’ scores this week in suburban areas, while remaining steady in the rural and urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

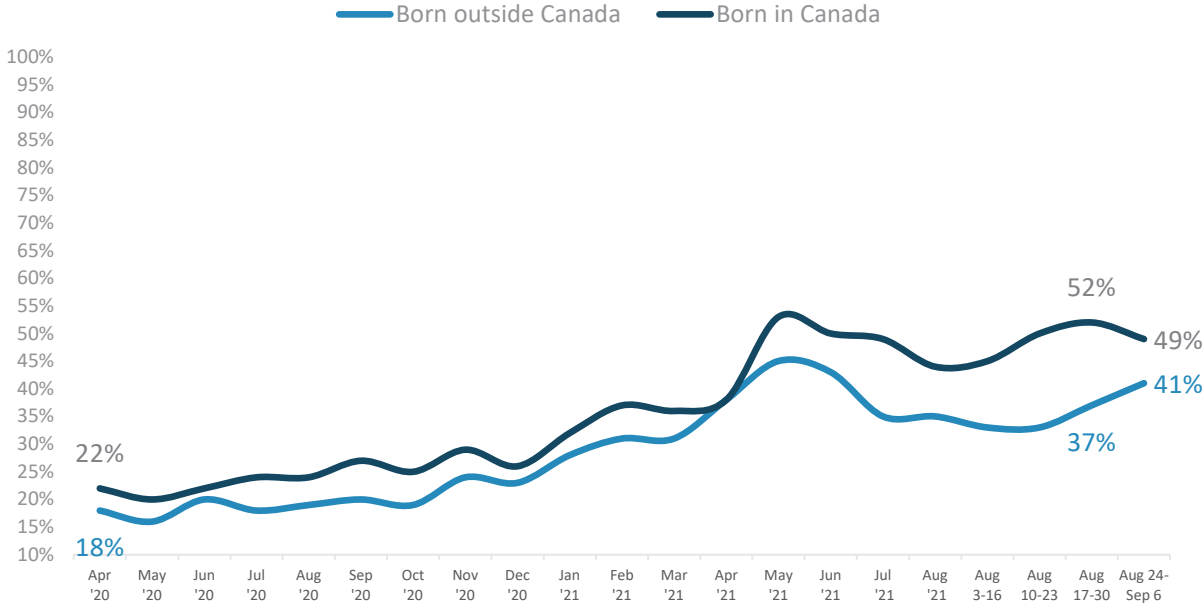


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

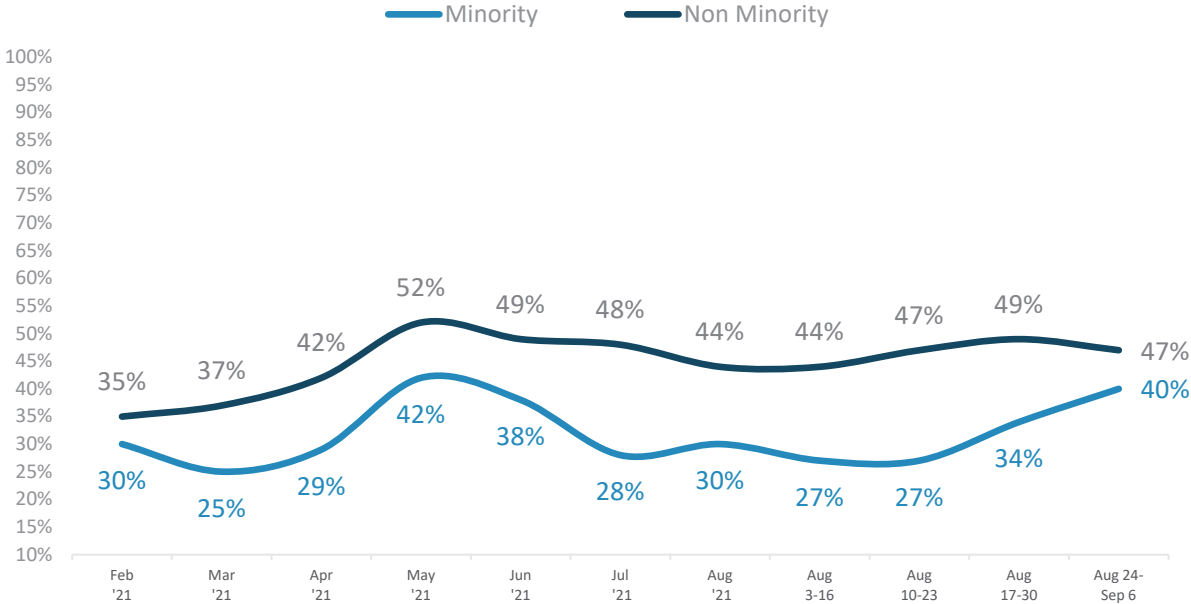
‘Wrong track’ scores declined slightly this week among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities. However, increases continued among those born outside of Canada and minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



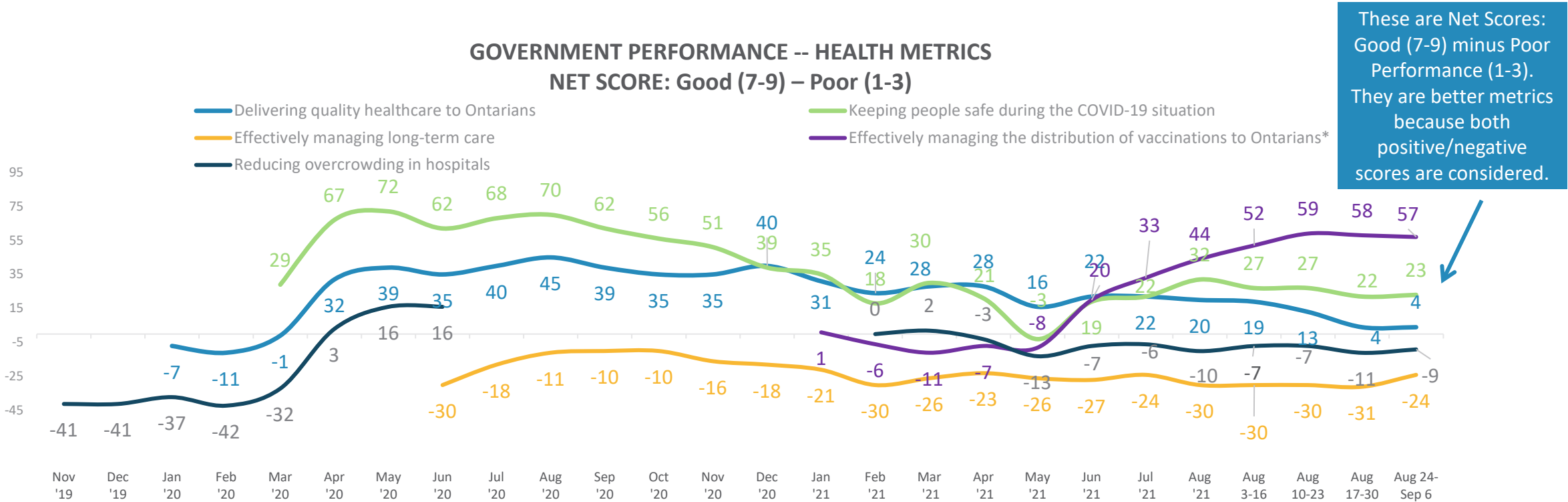
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



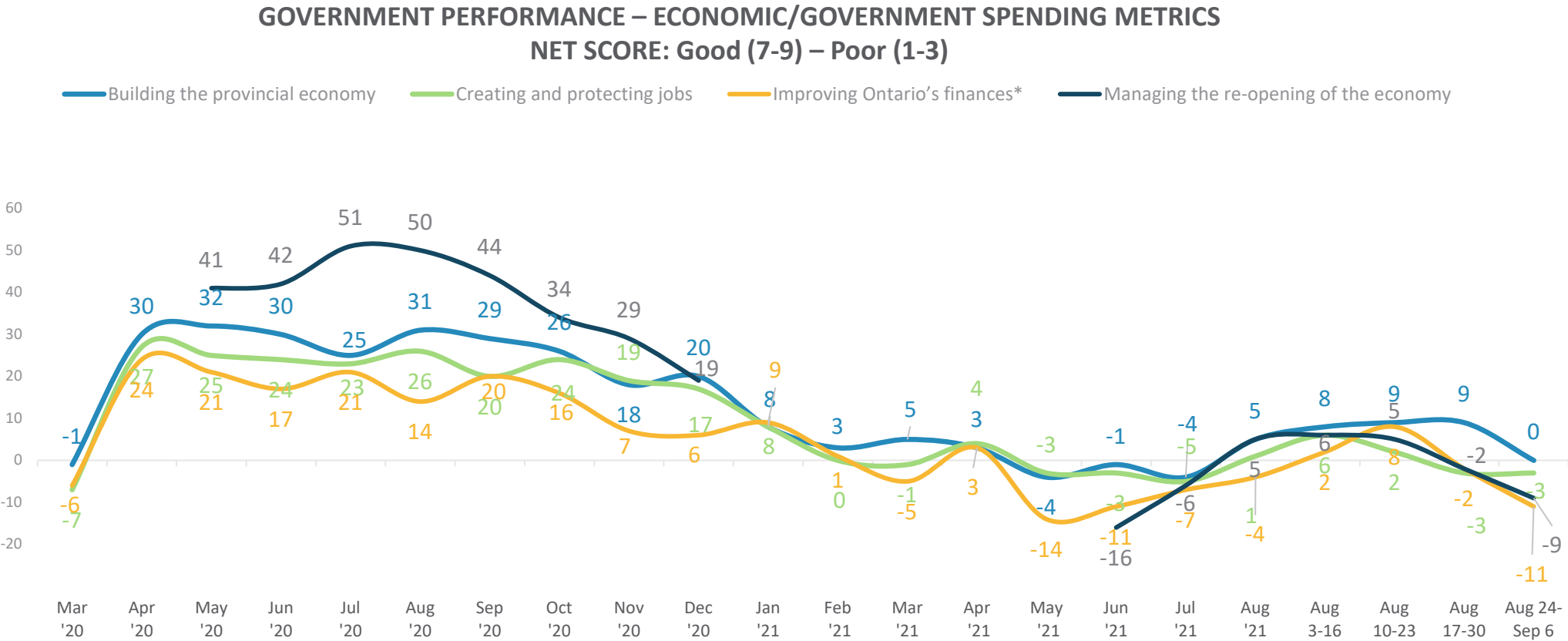
Positive ratings of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ remained steady for the third straight week and continues to be the highest rated health metric.

- Ratings for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’, ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ also remained steady this week. However, there was an improvement for ‘effectively managing long-term care’.



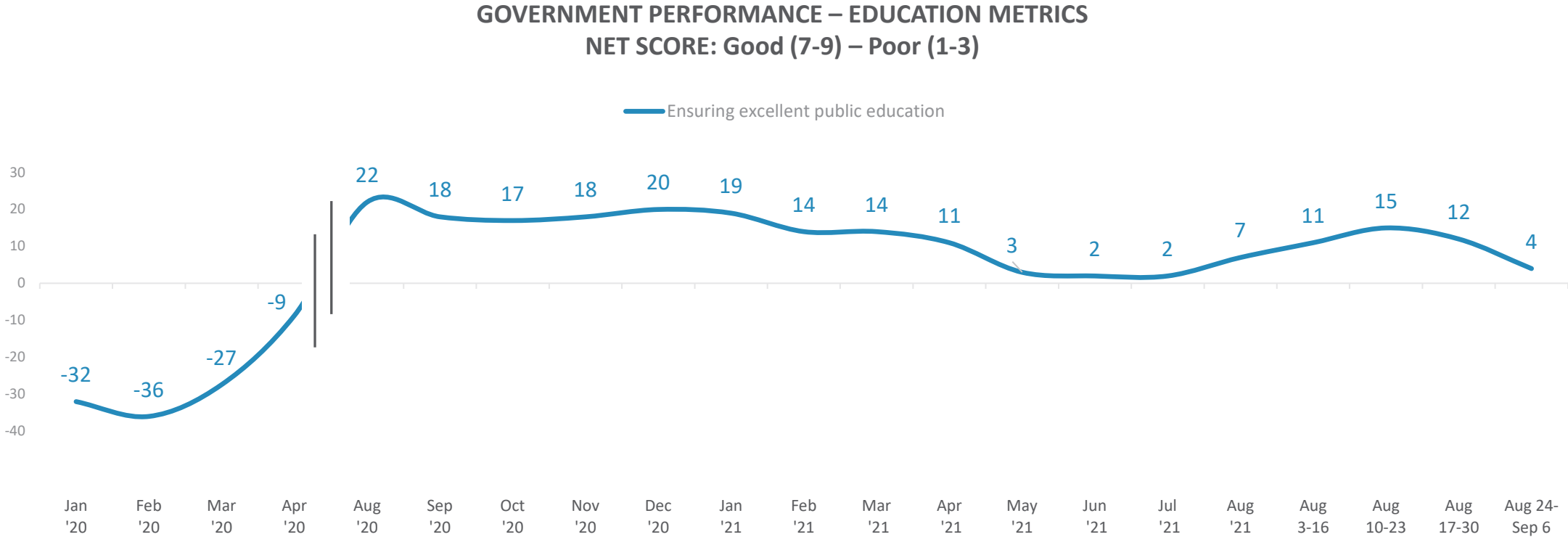
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

While the government’s performance rating for ‘creating and protecting jobs’ remained unchanged, there were declines this week for ‘building the provincial economy’, ‘improving Ontario’s finances’, and ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’.



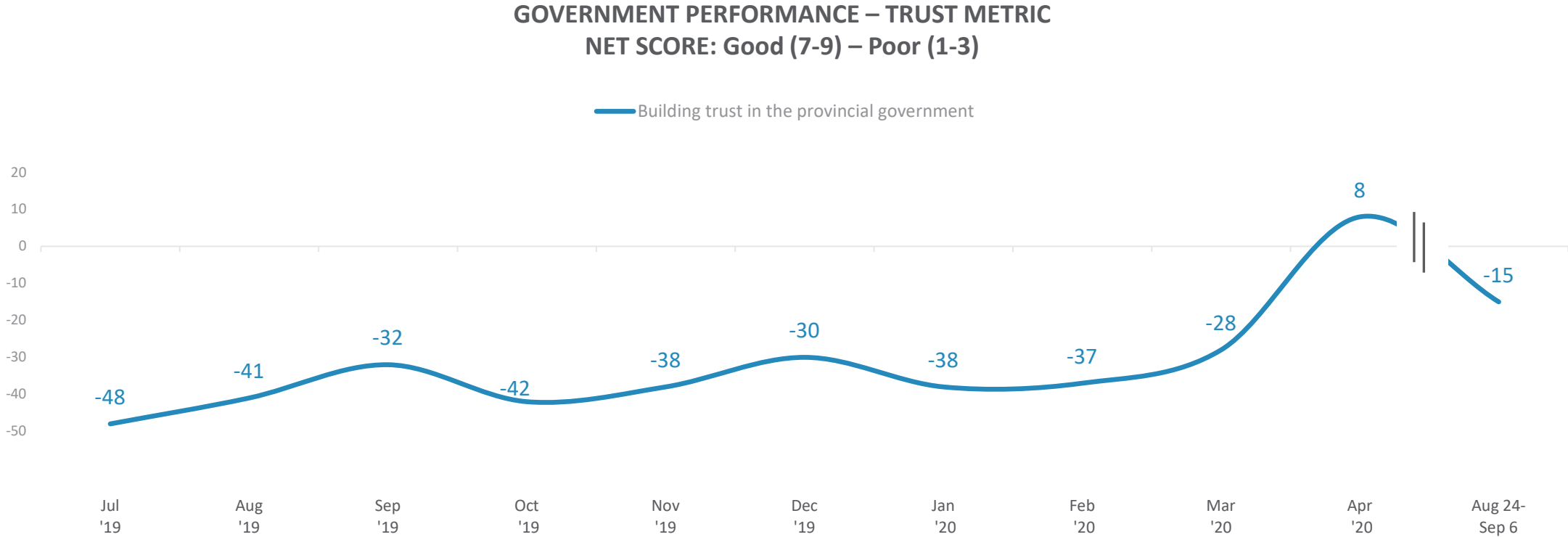
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

On the eve of students going back to school, the rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has experienced a decline, but remains a positive score.



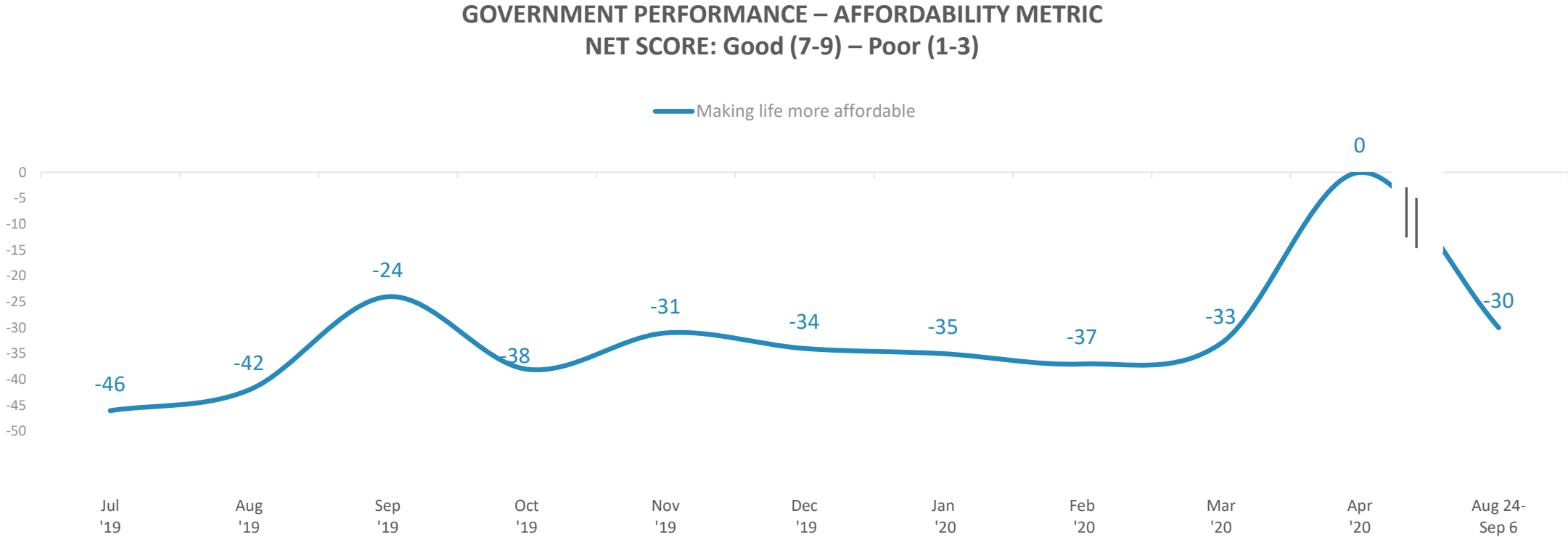
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Presently, rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ is in negative territory at NET -15. Still, this score is much better compared to the pre-pandemic scores.



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

This week, rating of the government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ has returned to the levels found prior to/at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ONTARIANS



Just over half (54%) of Ontarians describe the personal financial situation of their family over the last year as ‘excellent/good’, while 17% describe it as ‘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	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	770	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	56	53	50	56	50	58	49	54
Excellent	15	16	10	13	15	11	14	14	12
Good	42	40	43	37	42	40	44	34	42
Fair	31	31	34	34	33	32	27	36	29
Poor	9	10	9	11	7	11	13	9	10
Very poor	4	1	3	5	3	3	-	4	7
TOTAL POOR	12	12	12	15	11	14	13	13	17

	Personal Financial Situation over the Past Year		
	Total Excellent/Good		
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30	Aug 17-Sep 6
Right Track	52%	53%	57%
Wrong Track	59%	52%	49%

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 one-in-five (19%) Ontarians report their family’s financial situation improved over the past year, 34% say it has worsened.

	Jun'21	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	764	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVE	15	14	13	15	15	23	13	16	19
Improve a great deal	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	4	1
Improve somewhat	13	11	10	13	11	19	9	12	18
Stay the same	54	58	54	54	57	47	62	53	45
Worsen somewhat	24	21	25	23	20	16	17	17	24
Worsen a great deal	7	6	6	8	8	11	7	13	11
TOTAL WORSEN	31	27	31	31	28	27	24	30	34

	Financial Situation over the Past Year		
	Total Improve		
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30	Aug 17-Sep 6
Right Track	19%	22%	18%
Wrong Track	15%	13%	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

However, Ontarians remain optimistic about the future with over half (54%) 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	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	763	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	57	63	57	53	57	57	62	57	54
Excellent	12	16	10	10	11	8	11	11	12
Good	44	47	47	44	46	49	51	46	42
Fair	32	28	35	32	33	27	30	27	32
Poor	7	6	6	7	6	8	4	8	7
Very poor	2	-	1	4	1	3	1	4	4
TOTAL POOR	10	6	7	11	8	11	5	12	11

	Future Financial Outlook		
	Total Excellent/Good		
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30	Aug 17-Sep 6
Right Track	59%	62%	62%
Wrong Track	58%	54%	52%

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, 40% say it is improving, down 26-points since mid-July.

- And, there also continues to be an increase in the proportion who believe the economy is worsening, with about one-third (35%) of Ontarians now holding this view.
- Among those who see the government on the ‘right track’, there has also been a decline in the proportion that think the economy is improving.

	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL IMPROVING	66	64	62	60	58	54	46	40
Quickly improving	4	3	4	6	6	5	2	3
Slowly improving	62	60	59	55	52	49	44	37
Unchanged	11	10	10	14	13	21	19	21
Slowly worsening	16	19	17	19	19	17	22	28
Quickly worsening	5	6	7	5	5	5	10	7
TOTAL WORSENING	20	25	24	24	24	23	31	35

	Status of the Ontario Economy		
	Total Improving		
	Aug 3-23	Aug 10-30	Aug 17-Sep 6
Right Track	67%	64%	57%
Wrong Track	44%	38%	34%

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 (44%) and restaurants/bars (31%) are reopening, as well as knowing people that are going back to work (31%).

IMPROVING	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	197	160	156	151	175	135	115	101
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More stores are reopening	-	-	-	-	35	54	39	44
Restaurants and bars are reopening	16	19	16	19	34	34	42	31
People I know are going back to work	22	22	32	17	35	36	41	31
Declining unemployment rate	-	-	-	-	17	14	12	15
Value of my house/value of housing	-	-	-	-	16	14	7	15
Seen, read, heard that the economy is improving	6	12	5	13	7	4	10	9
Strong Canadian stock markets	-	-	-	-	14	14	17	8
I found a better job	-	-	-	-	6	4	4	6
I received or expect to receive a raise or bonus	-	-	-	-	3	4	5	3
Covid-19 situation is improving/under control	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3
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	1
All of the above	7	9	9	8	2	1	1	1
Other	-	-	2	3	2	1	2	2
Don't know/not sure					3	2	1	4

QER10 Which of the following are the top two reasons you believe the economy is (RESPONSE TO ER9)? (previous phrasing) 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



About 47% of Ontarians think the government’s focus in the coming months should be on economic issues while 36% think it should be on health-related issues – an 11 point gap.

- And, 16% of 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	Aug 24- Sep 6
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	36
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	47
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	16

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 4TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

This week, three-quarters (76%) of Ontarians express concern about a fourth wave of a pandemic, an increase of 19-points since mid-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	Aug 24-30	Aug 31- Sep 6
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	207	125	129	123
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78	84	73	76
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37	51	40	43
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41	33	33	33
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11	6	14	12
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8	9	11	12
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18	15	24	24

Again this week, seven-in-ten (69%) Ontarians feel that the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

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	Aug 31-Sep 6
Varies											
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69	74	67	60	67	71	69
19	17	17	18	14	17	15	16	14	16	21	12
48	58	54	54	53	52	59	51	46	51	50	57
20	16	16	18	19	17	14	25	22	17	13	20
11	9	12	9	10	10	12	6	12	11	13	7
32	25	27	27	28	27	26	31	33	28	25	27
		2	2	4	4	-	2	7	5	4	4

QCV-211. How prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a 'fourth' wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly? Would you say the Ontario government is . .

QCV-127. Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a second wave of infections this fall? Would you say the Ontario government is...

Base: Total sample

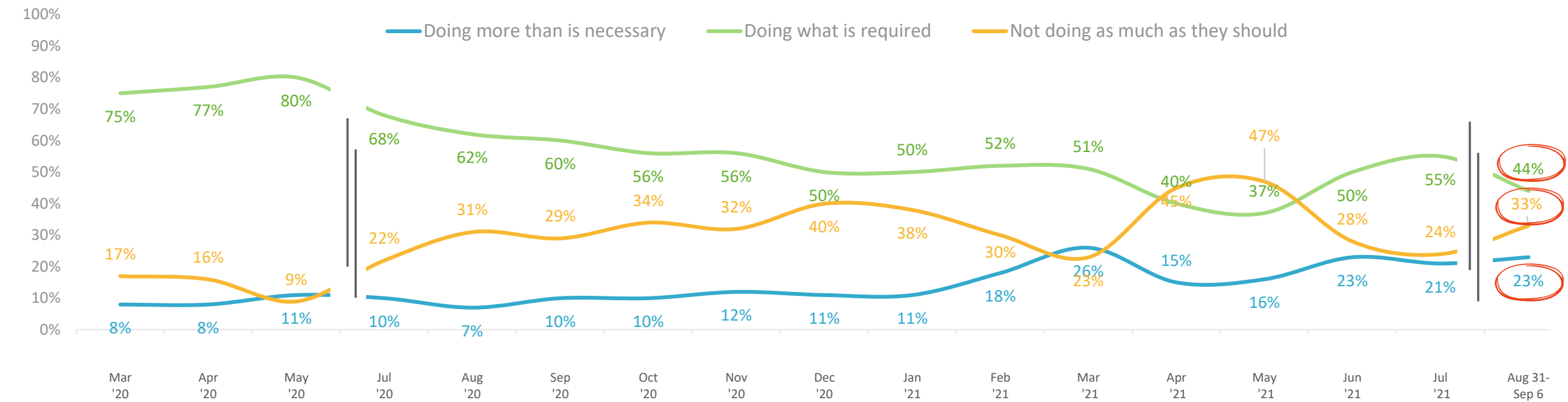
TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 4TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Just over four-in-ten (44%) currently believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus – down from results in June and July. One-third (33%) of Ontarians think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’.

	Doing what is required																			Not doing as much as they should																		
	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Mar '21	Apr '21	May '21	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Aug 31-Sep 6	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Mar '21	Apr '21	May '21	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Aug 31-Sep 6
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	56%	57%	65%	72%	n/a	56%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	15%	35%	28%	20%	15%	n/a	23%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	18%	17%	30%	33%	n/a	27%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	37%	59%	65%	37%	36%	n/a	48%



QCV-6. In light of the Delta variant and thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time, would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring a second state of emergency and imposing a stay at home order until the middle of February, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring a second state of emergency and a stronger stay at home order until the middle of February, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, shutting down the province for several weeks, and keeping kids out of school, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, gradually reopening the province, and planning for the return to school in the fall, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including issuing a Declaration of Emergency, ordering non-essential businesses to close, advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ... (READ LIST. RANDOMIZE ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.) (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ...

Preliminary results indicate that making vaccines mandatory (29%), restricting international travel into Canada (23%) and restricting access to non-essential indoor settings like restaurants and movie theatres (18%) receive the most support as additional actions necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

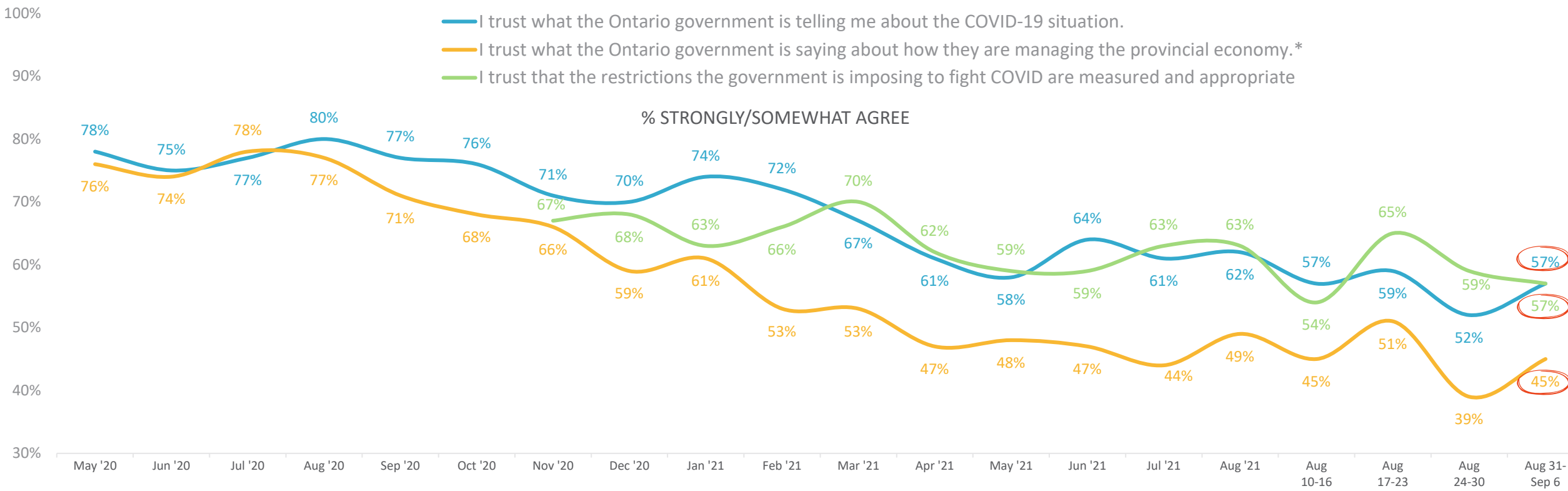
	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	300
Making vaccines mandatory	29
Restricting international travel into Canada	23
Restricting access to non-essential indoor settings like restaurants and movie theatres only to people who are fully vaccinated.	18
Additional public health measures like reducing capacity at stores or limiting the size of social gatherings to limit contact with others	10
Lockdowns / closing businesses	2
All of the above	5
No additional action is needed	6
Don't know/unsure	7

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Trust in the government’s communications about COVID-19 continue to be variable. While trust that ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured/appropriate’ remained stable, there were increases regarding ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.



QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
* Previous phrasing: I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they are re-opening the provincial economy. /I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they plan to re-open the provincial economy
Base: Total sample, base varies

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN INFECTION CASES

With some officials believing the fourth wave of COVID-19 is now in Ontario, allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (29%) is believed to be the most responsible among Ontarians. As borders continue to reopen, about one-in-five (16%) Ontarians believe that the virus will be bought across land borders.

As you may know several health officials now believe that Ontario has entered a 4th wave of the pandemic. Given this, which one of the following do you believe is most responsible for the increase in infections?

Which one of the following do you believe is the most responsible for the recent increase of infection cases and leading to a Wave 3 of COVID -19?

If there were a 4th wave of the pandemic in Ontario, which one of the following do you believe would be most responsible for the increase in infections?

	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29	36	28	28	32	35
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16	11	20	18	18	15
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13	15	14	14	15	11
Not restricting social contact quickly enough/(previous phrasing) The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23	21	19	20	18	19
Infections introduced into Ontario by interprovincial travelers	6	6	6	4	4	7
Government acted too slowly to restrict social interactions and gatherings	-	-	-	-	-	-
All of these	4	4	6	7	6	4
Don't know/not sure	9	8	7	10	7	9

Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 31-Sep 6
Varies								
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
37	37	39	36	33	30	32	29	29
27	35	20	26	26	23	20	30	16
10	11	16	15	12	19	17	10	16
13	8	10	9	11	6	14	12	13
3	1	4	4	5	2	4	5	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	3	6	4	6	9	6	6	8
6	5	5	7	6	11	7	8	11

QCV-200. As you may know several health officials now believe that Ontario has entered a 4th wave of the pandemic. Given this, which one of the following do you believe is most responsible for the increase in infections? (previous phrasing) (Q199) If there were a 4th wave of the pandemic in Ontario, which one of the following do you believe would be most responsible for the increase in infections? (Previous phrasing) Which one of the following do you believe is the most responsible for the recent increase of infection cases and leading to a Wave 3 of COVID -19?

IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

Half (49%) of Ontarians agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19. However, the proportion has declined 28-points since the beginning of 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	Aug 24-30	Aug 31- Sep 6
n=	varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61	62	52	50	51	47	49
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19	21	17	18	23
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34	30	34	29	25
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7	7	6	8	8	7	7
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18	18	16	18	18
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20	19	23	25	21
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38	37	39	43	39

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VACCINE



And, confidence that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered has been trending down. This week, 45% of Ontarians agree with this.

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	Aug 31-Sep 6
varies											
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	52	47	49	45
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	16	10	14	17
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	36	37	35	28
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	7	2	6
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	17	15	19	20
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	20	29	28	24
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	37	44	47	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

AGREEMENT BUSINESSES SHOULD REQUIRE ALL EMPLOYEES BE VACCINATED

A majority (58%) of Ontarians continue to agree 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	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	27	31	33	36
Strongly agree	17	19	21	22
Somewhat agree	10	12	12	14
Neither agree nor disagree	6	4	6	5
Somewhat disagree	16	14	11	11
Strongly disagree	47	50	48	46
TOTAL DISAGREE	63	65	59	58
Not applicable/Don't know	4	1	3	1

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

Base: Total sample

FACE COVERINGS ADHERENCE



FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

Eight-in-ten (81%) Ontarians continue to say they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with six-in-ten (58%) now 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	Aug 31-Sep 6
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	921	732	300	250	250	250
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	92	91	81	81	83	79	81
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	57	56	48	51	58
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	25	24	36	29	23
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	13	14	11	14	13
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	3	5	6	6
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	2	1	1	<1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	6	5	6	7	6

REGION S	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	Aug 31-Sep 6	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6																		
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	91%	94%	95%	95%	82%	82%	85%	84%	82%	89%	90%	94%	91%	84%	88%	74%	73%	83%	86%	90%	93%	87%	80%	69%	83%	93%	87%	83%	90%	90%	85%	71%	80%	81%	82%	88%	86%	87%	90%	91%	82%	67%	87%	75%	73%	89%	91%	87%	90%	81%	70%	88%	80%	67%	92%	88%	89%	95%	92%	92%	80%	82%	78%	87%	86%	88%	91%	75%	83%	93%	70%	85%

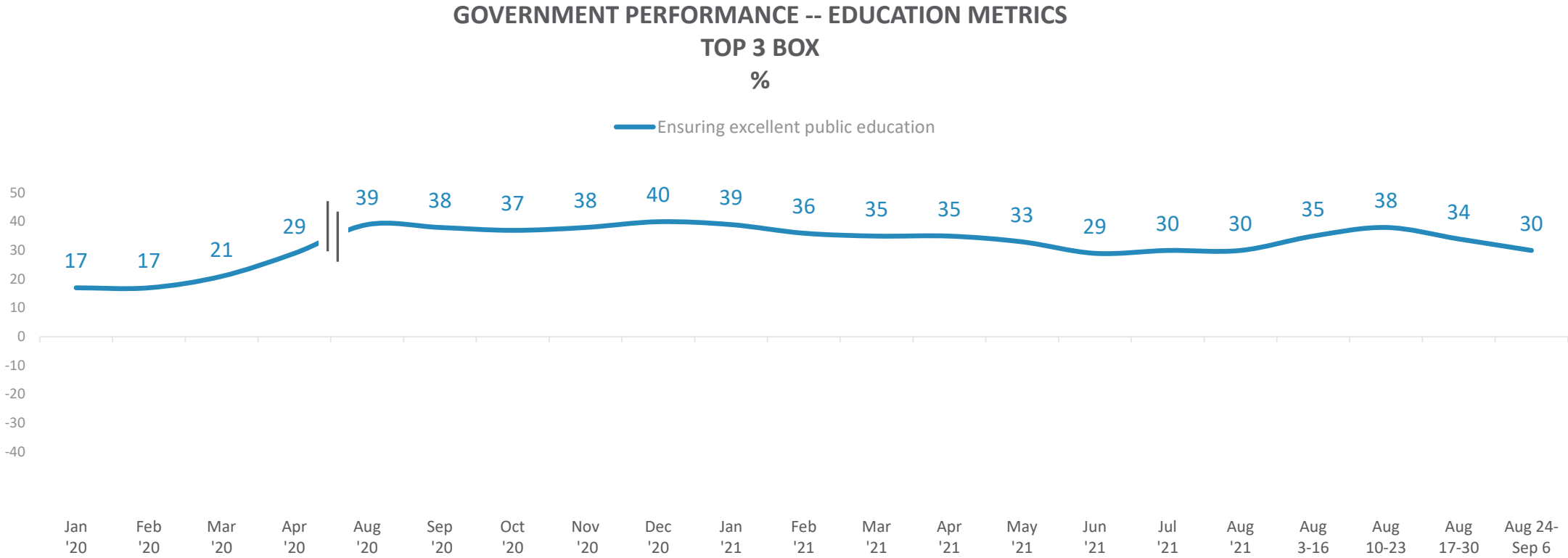
	RIGHT TRACK										WRONG TRACK							
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	84%	82%	85%	86%	85%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%	76%

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

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

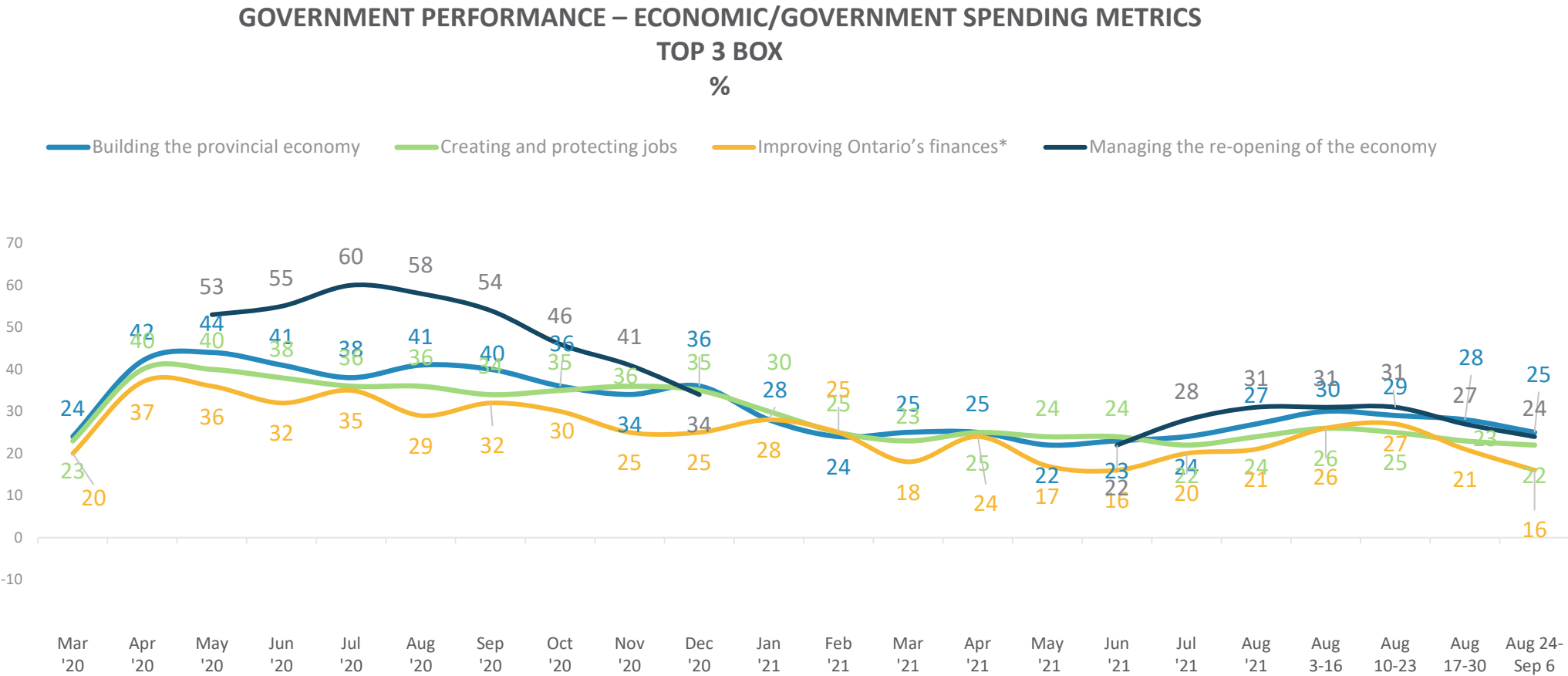


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined for the second week and is now at 30%.



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 four economic/government spending metrics have declined over the past two weeks.

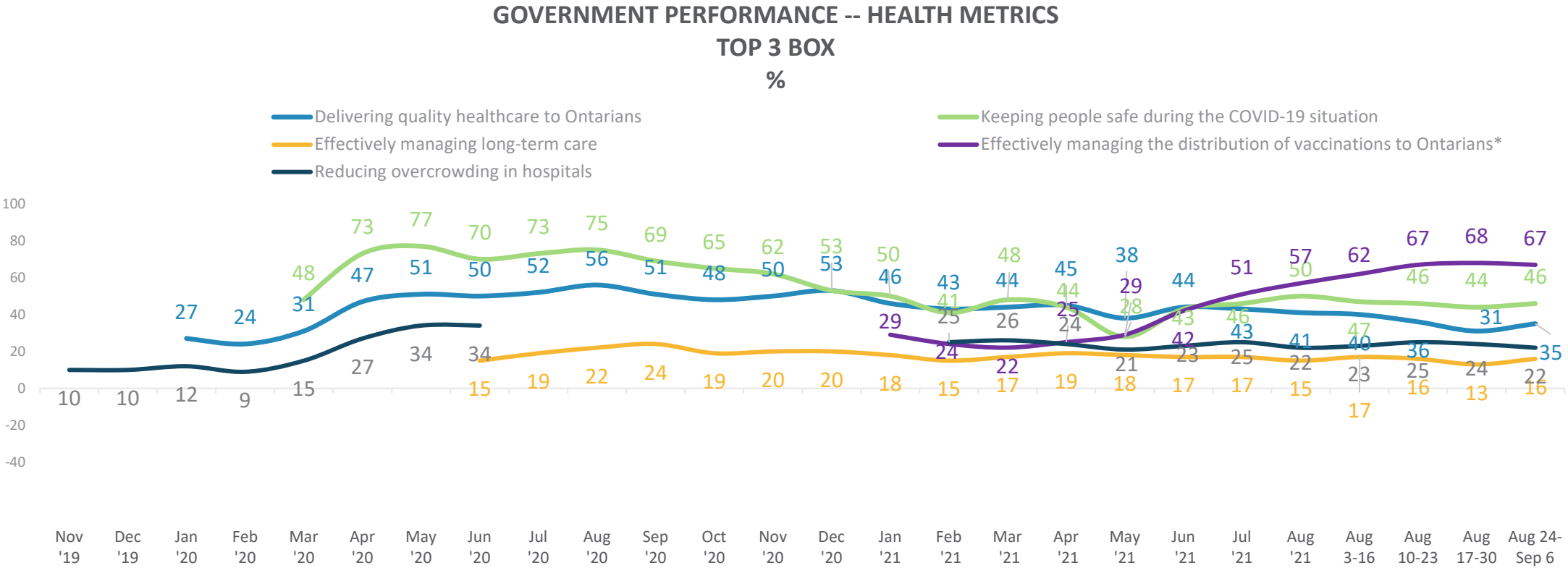


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

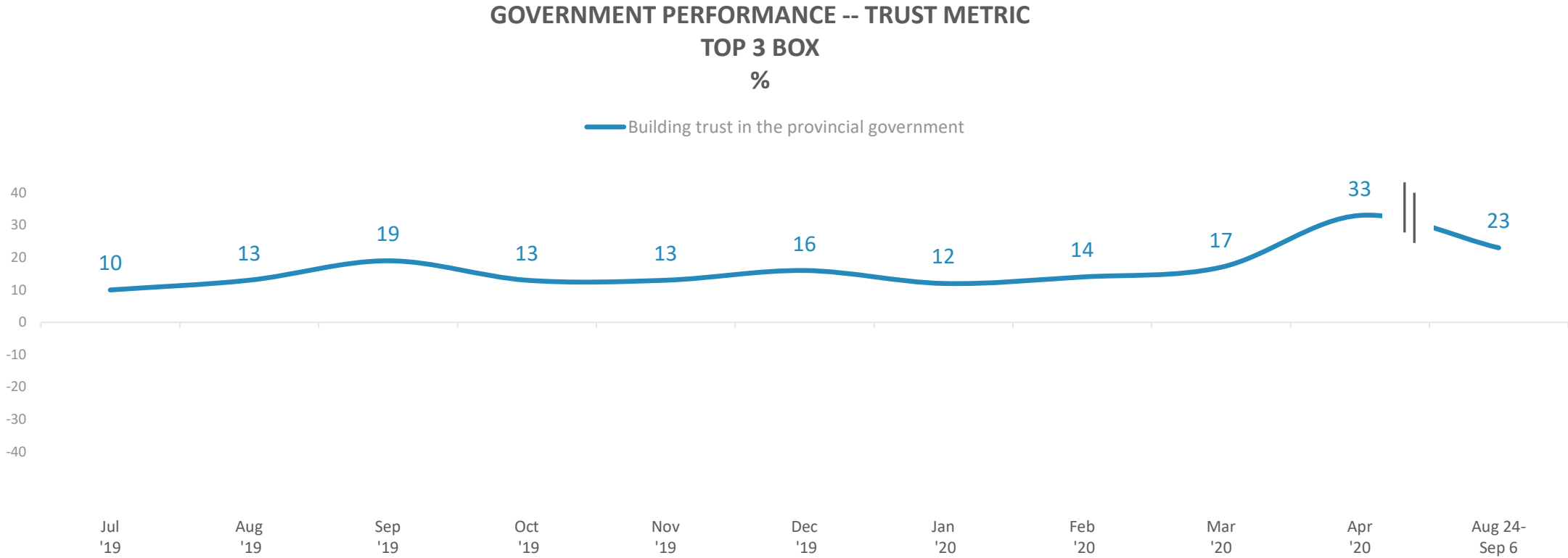
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ remained steady this week. And, after slowly trending downward, there was an improvement this week for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’.



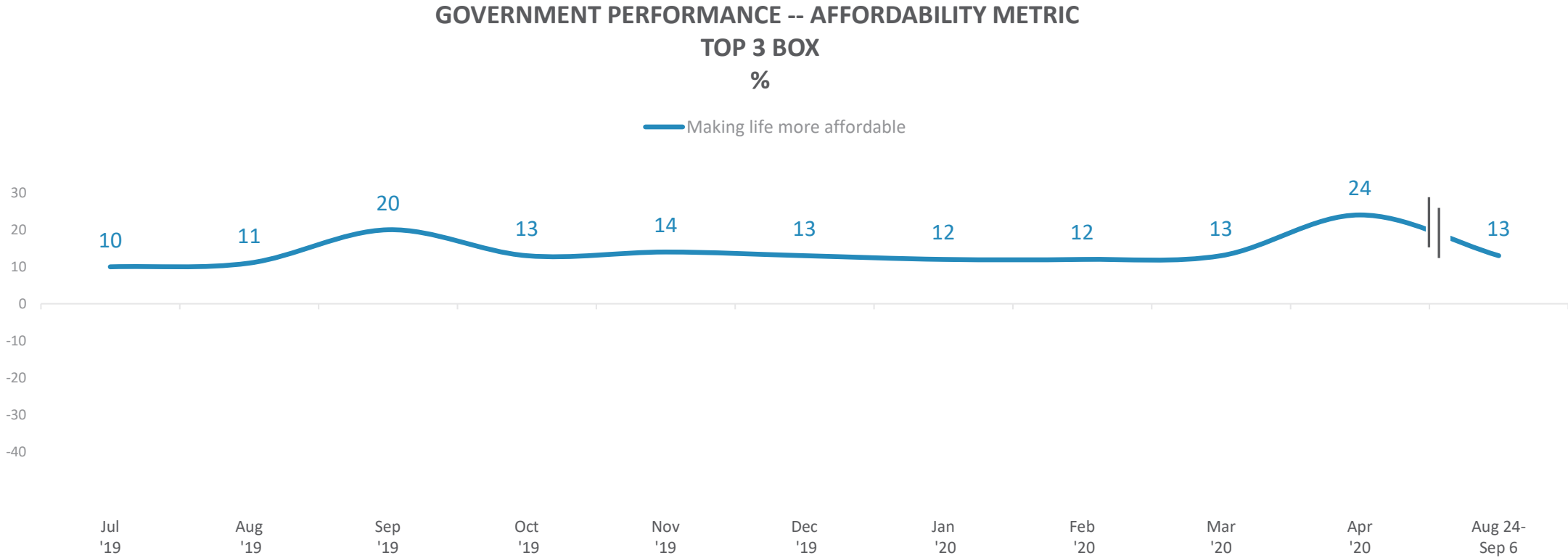
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Just under one-quarter (23%) of Ontarians provide a positive rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’. This is well above levels registered prior to the pandemic.



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

Only 13% provide a positive rating of the Ontario government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’.



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