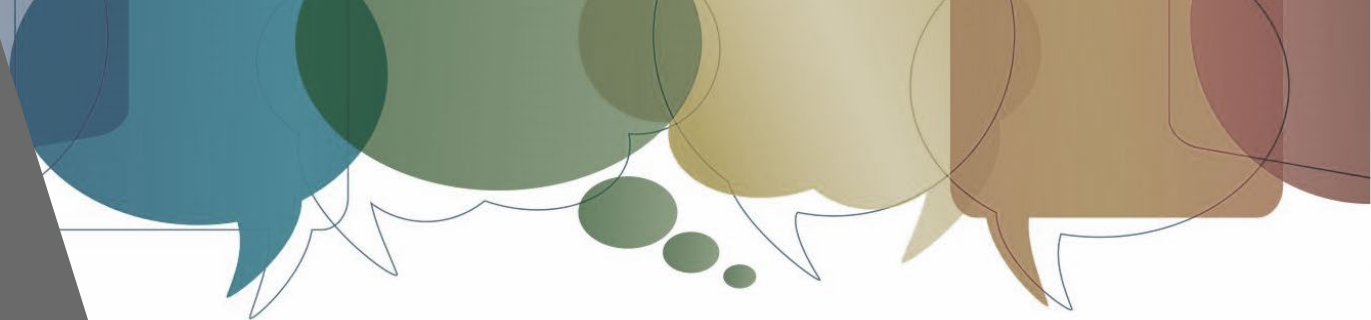




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #101

CABINET OFFICE
October 5th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores remained steady for the fourth straight week at 61% this week. The 'right track' scores are 9-points higher since the announcement of the vaccine certificates.

Paralleling this increase has been a decline in the proportion of Ontarians who say that the government is 'strongly on the wrong track'.

3 Just over half (54%) of Ontarians continue to believe the government is 'doing what is required' to reduce the spread of the virus. And, the proportion of Ontarians who think the government is 'not doing as much as they should' declined to 24% (a drop of 13-points since early September).

However, while remaining the highest rated health metric, 'effectively managing vaccinations' has been slowly declining and is down 11-points since mid-August. Positive ratings of the government's performance for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' continued to remain steady.

2 Concern remains high regarding the fourth wave of the pandemic with seven-in-ten (68%) Ontarians expressing concern. And, only half (52%) of Ontarians presently agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19, a decline of 25-points since the beginning of July.

And, only half (48%) of Ontarians presently agree they are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered. Connected to this, Ontarians continue to believe unvaccinated individuals are the most responsible for the increase in infections.

That said, this week there was an increase to almost eight-in-ten (77%) Ontarians that feel that the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

4 The government's performance rating for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' increased slightly this week and is up 13-points since the beginning of September. The other economic and government spending metrics were steady this week.

In terms of the government's focus, results remain consistent with 47% of Ontarians who think the government's focus in the coming months should be on economic issues while 41% think it should be on health-related issues.

Key Findings

5 The rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' declined and is down 6-points over the past two weeks. This is likely in connection to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases being reported in the schools.

With the new program announced for COVID-19 rapid-testing in hot spot schools, this is a metric to watch closely.

6 Preliminary results indicate Ontarians tend to be uncertain if there are any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in Ontario - with similar numbers answering yes (41%) and no (39%) while one-in-five (20%) are not sure.

However, a majority of Ontarians hold the point of view that it is unfair to treat students under 18 (75%) and servers of alcohol (76%) differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.

And, early results indicate that just over half (56%) of Ontarians are of the view that it is important to ensure minimum wage workers are paid more. However, 37% believe the minimum wage should not be increased to \$15 as it may harm businesses that are still recovering from the impact of COVID-19.

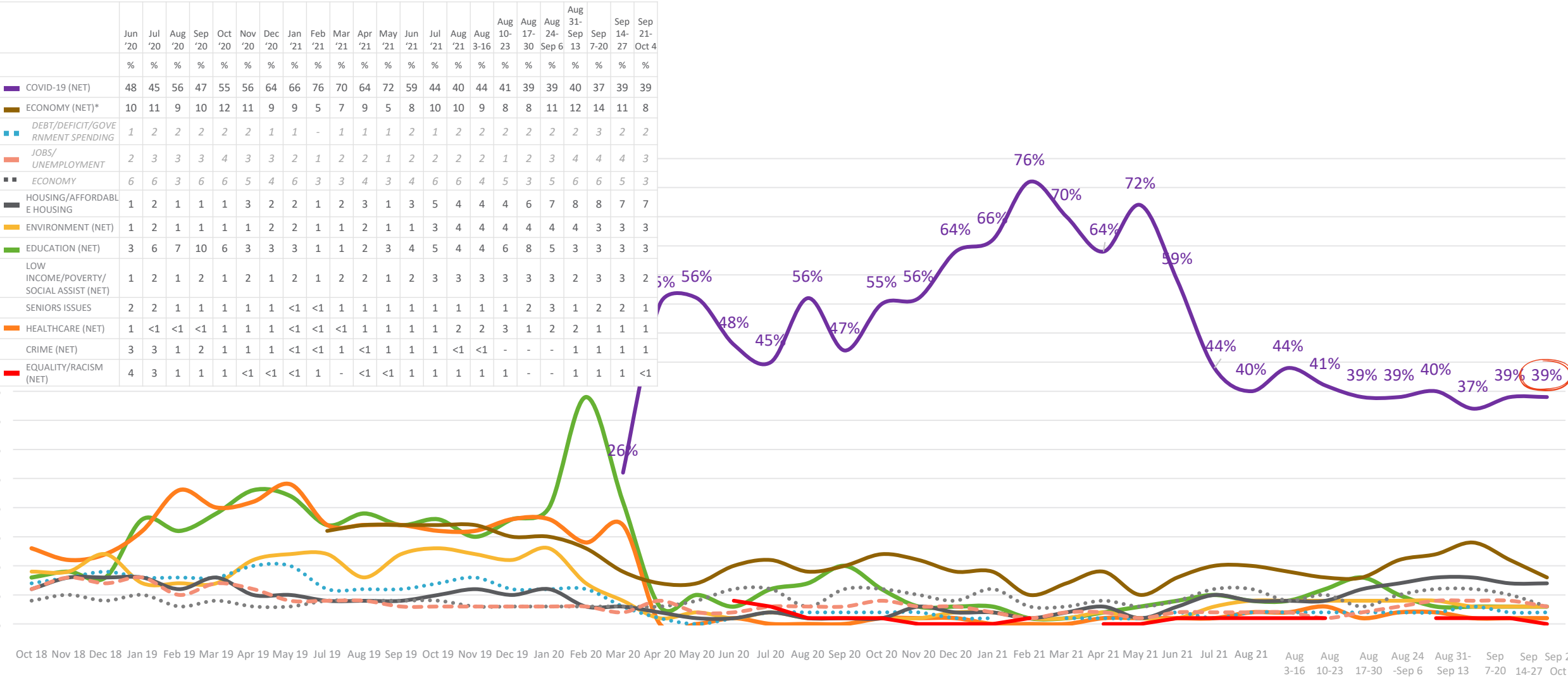
These results are not surprising given that most Ontarians are inclined to want minimum wages increased knowing that these hikes would not directly affect them.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

About four-in-ten (39%) Ontarians continue to believe that COVID-19 should remain the government’s top priority, while 8% cite the economy and 7% affordable housing.



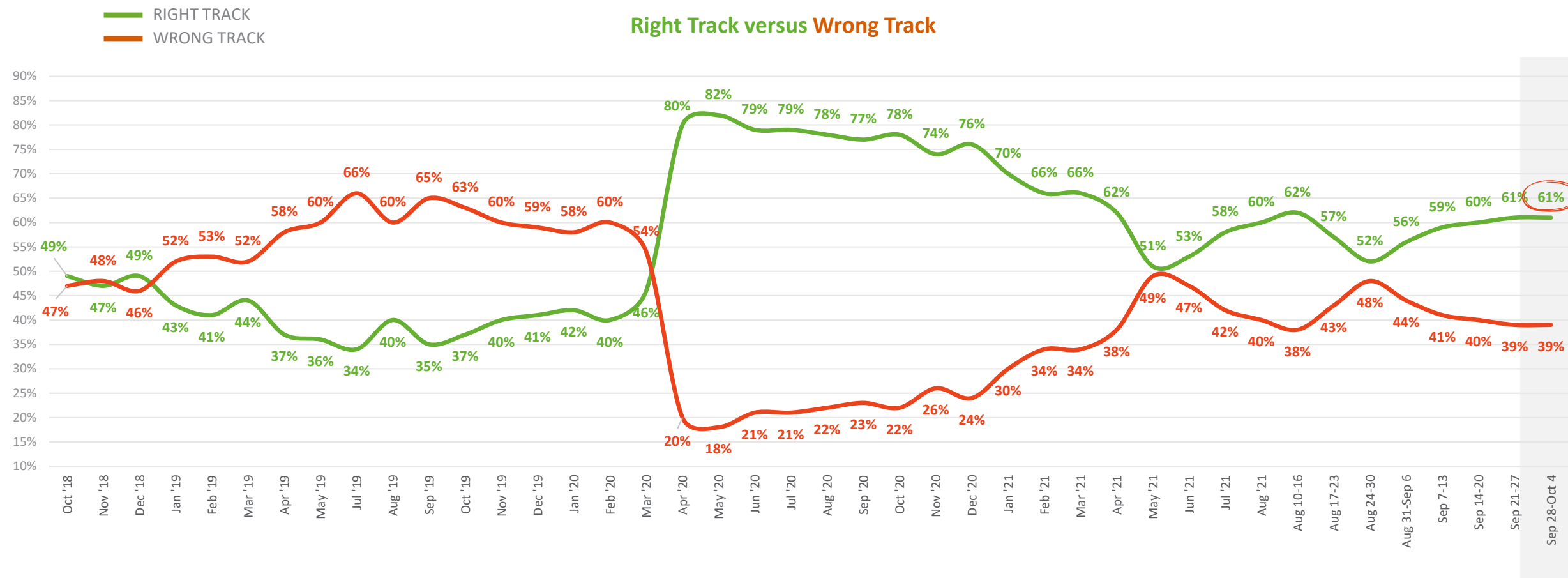
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

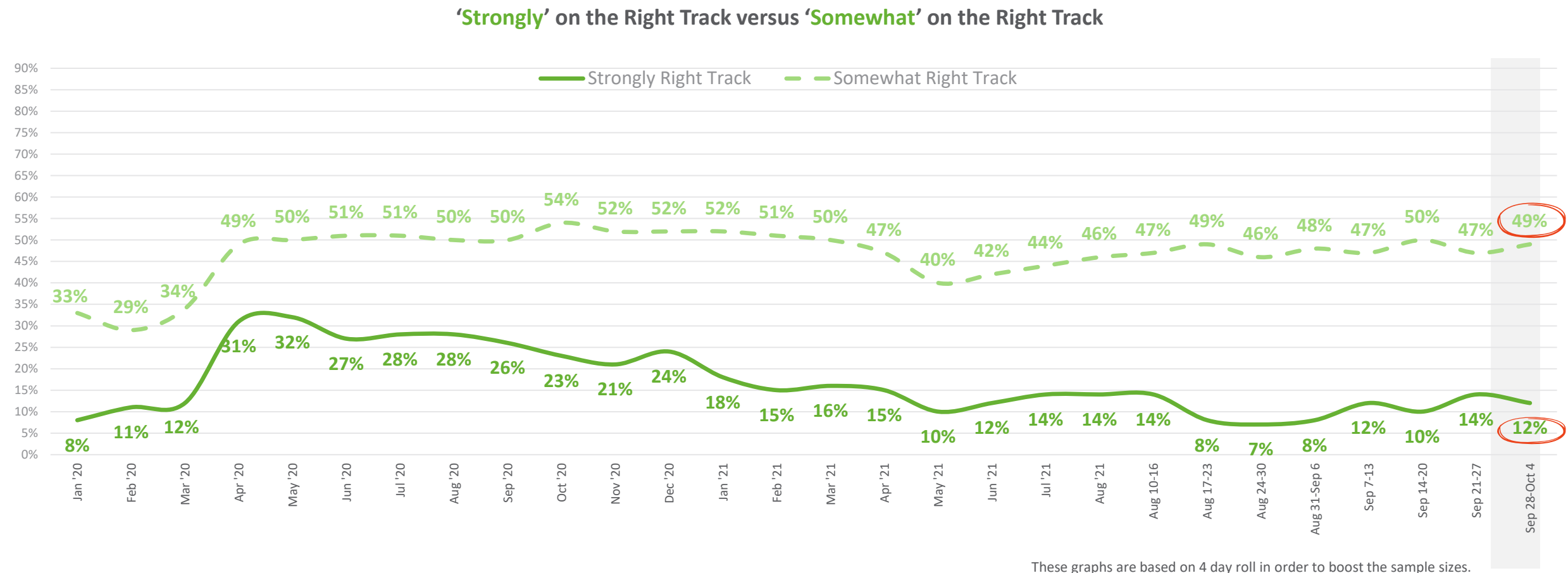


‘Right track’ scores are at 61% this week and have been relatively unchanged for four straight weeks.



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

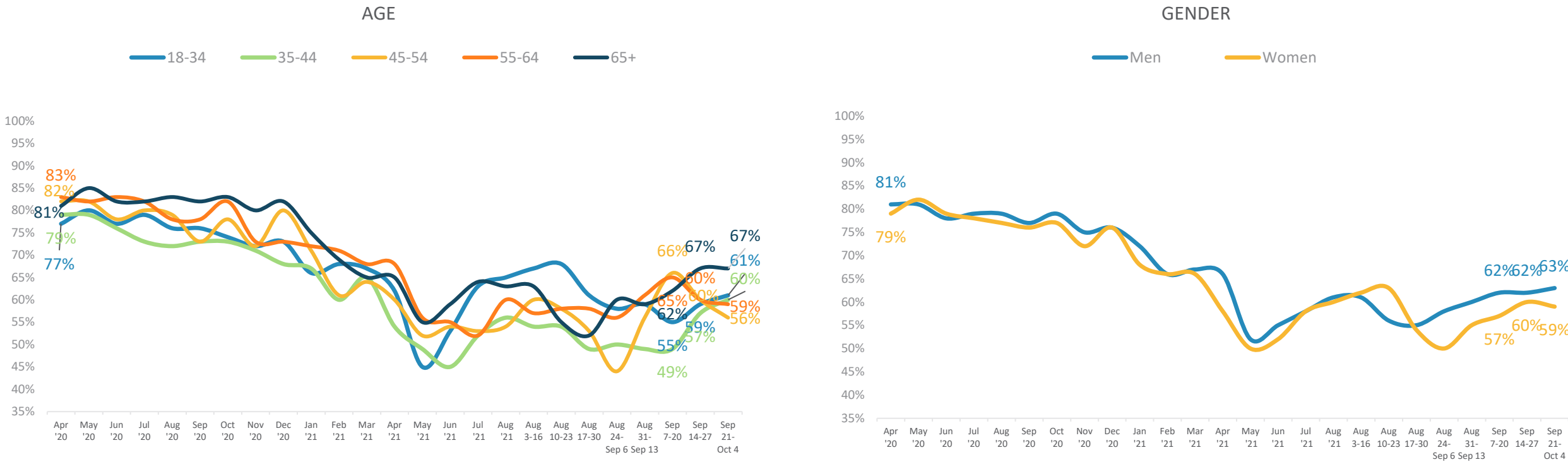
‘Strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’ scores have also remained steady.



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 remain unchanged, and highest, among Ontarians aged 65+, while decreasing among those aged 45-54 (and now the lowest ‘right track’ scores by age). The other age groups are at parity. ‘Right track’ scores remained steady among both men and women this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

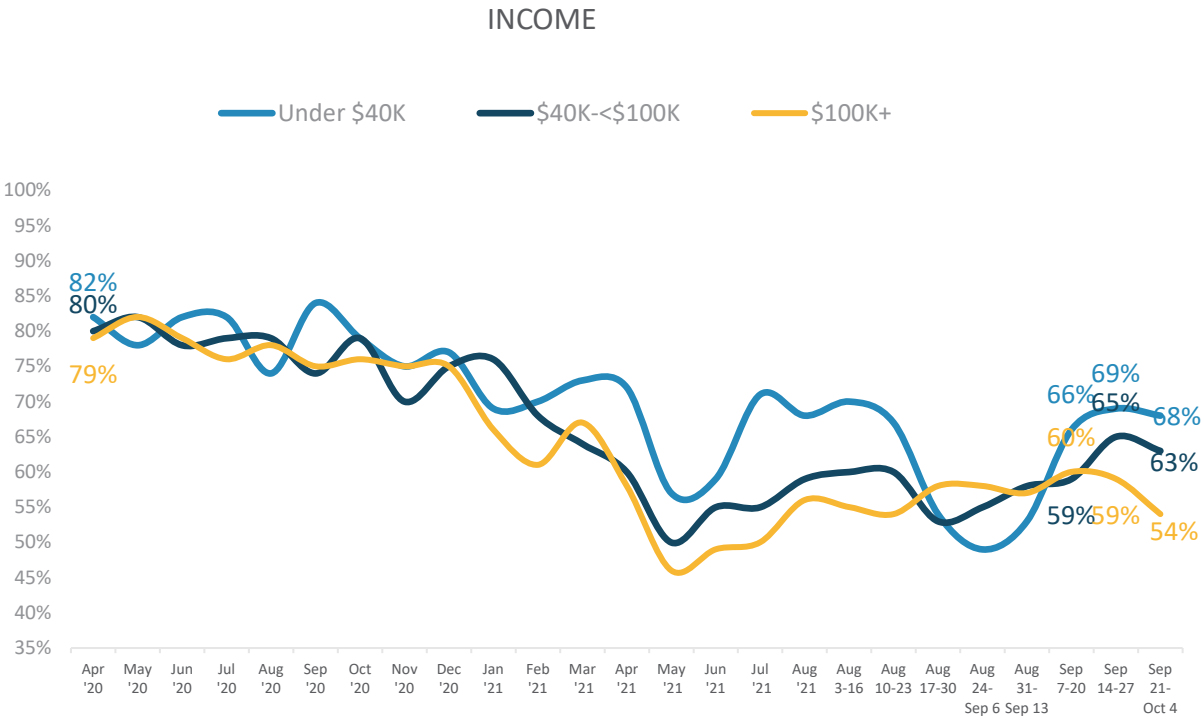
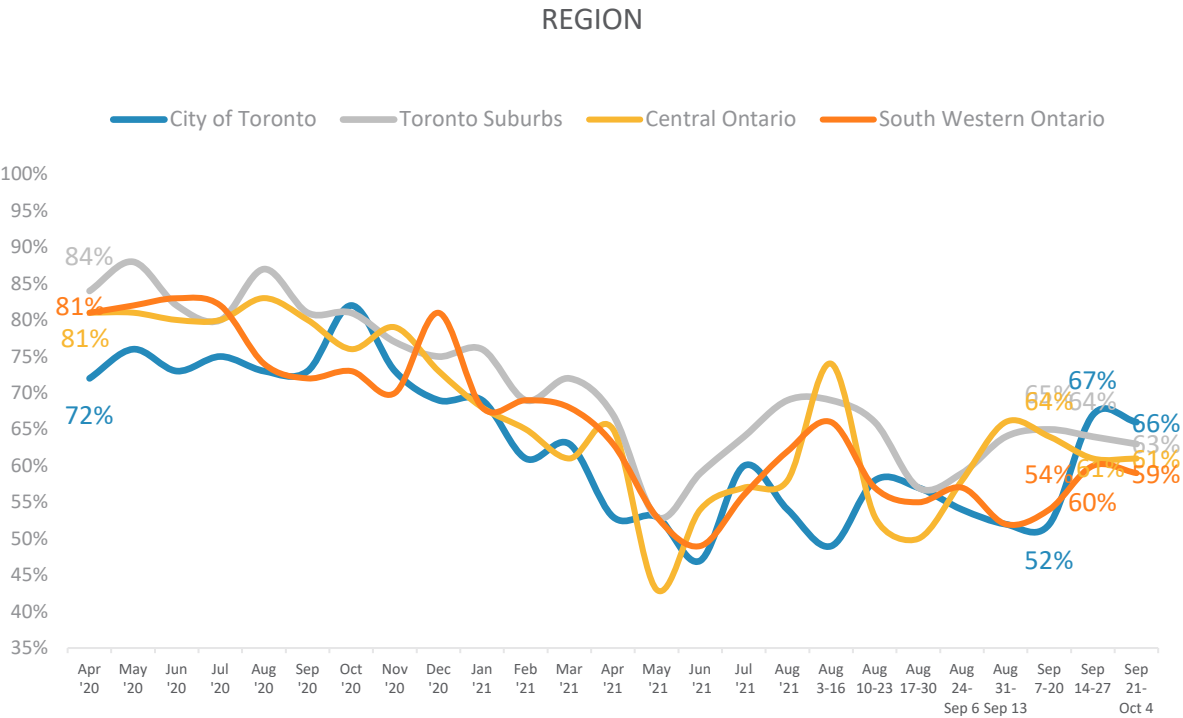


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Again this week, ‘right track’ scores are highest in the city of Toronto. The Toronto suburbs, Central Ontario and SW Ontario all remain close to parity this week. By income, Ontarians making under \$40k have the highest ‘right track’ scores, with the gap increasing to 14-points compared to those making \$100k+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



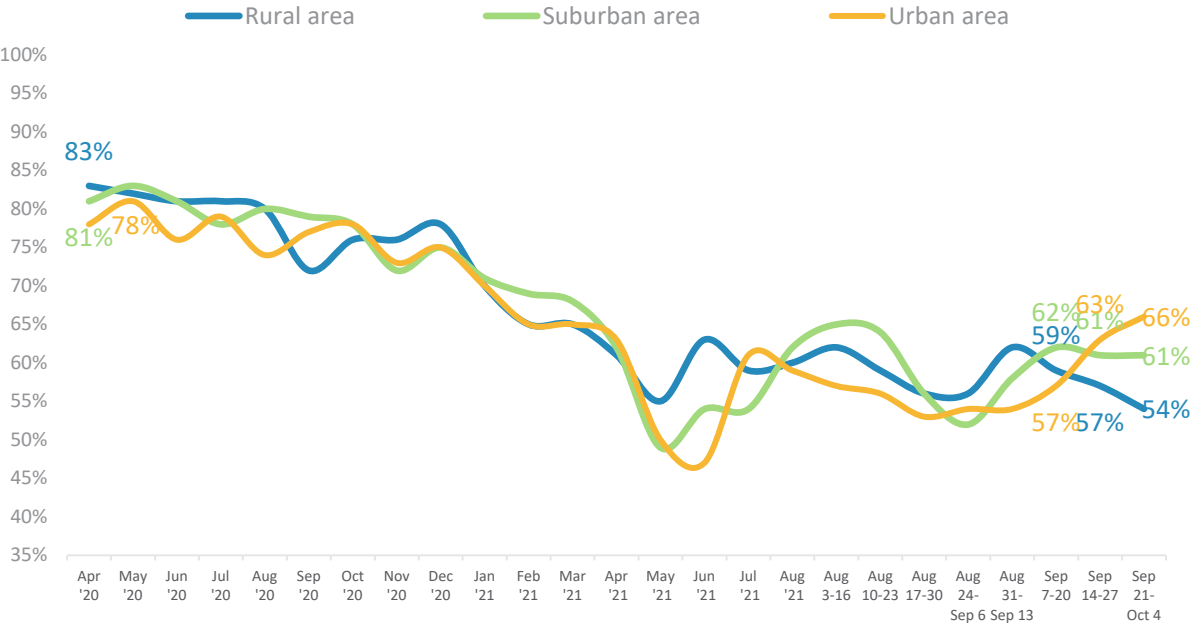
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Right track’ scores in urban areas increased again this week and continue to be the highest, while the reverse is the case for rural areas. Suburban ‘right track’ scores continue to be steady.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

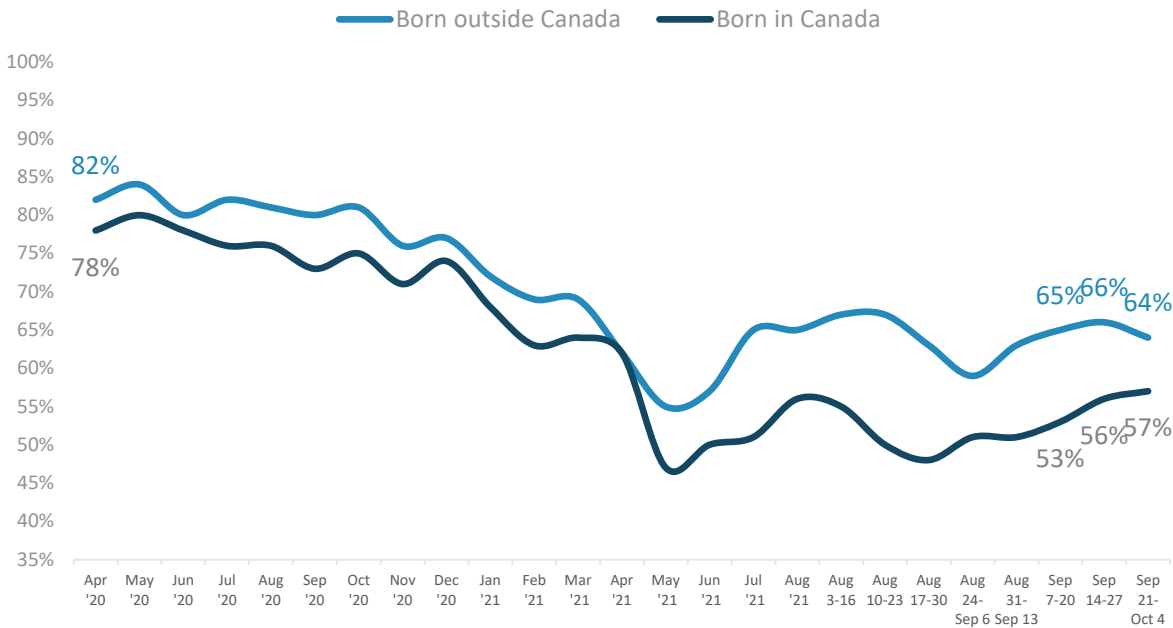
RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



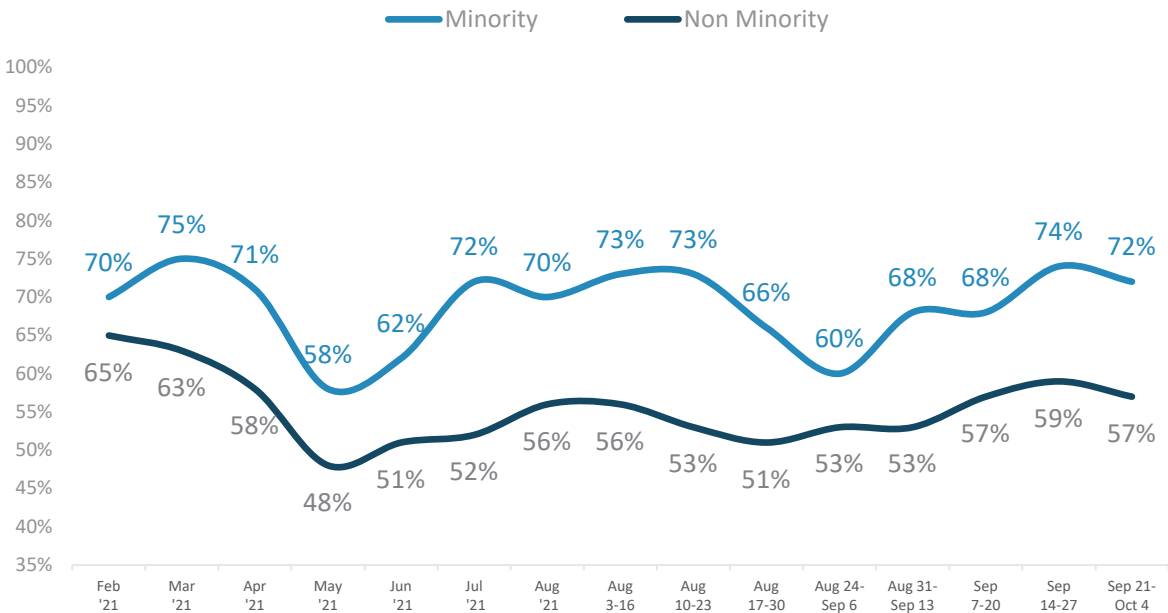
‘Right track’ scores among Ontarians born in/outside of Canada and among minorities/non-minorities remained steady this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

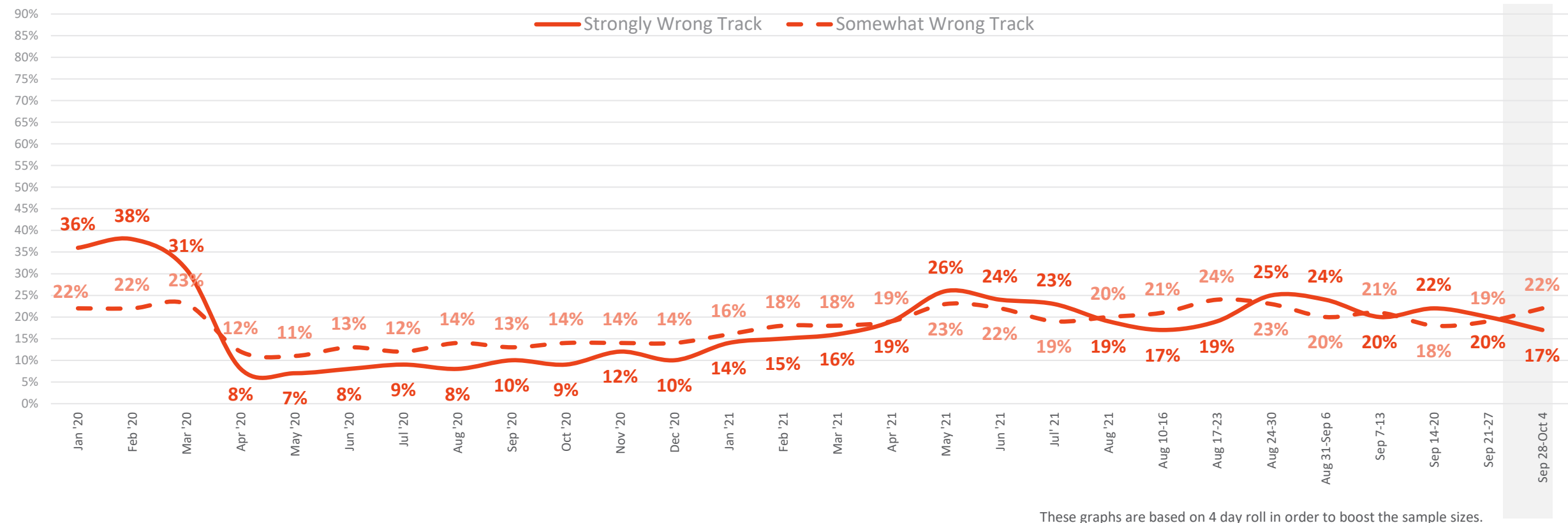


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 declined 9-points since the end of August to 17% this week which roughly coincides with the announcement of the vaccination certificate.

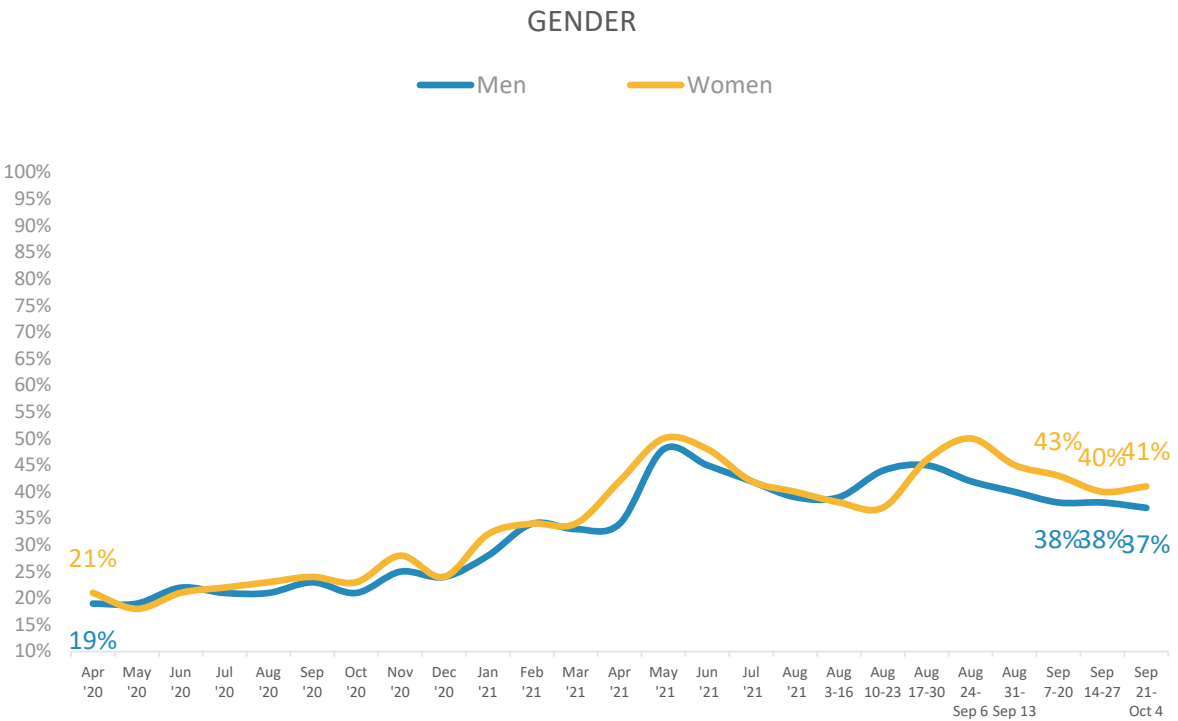
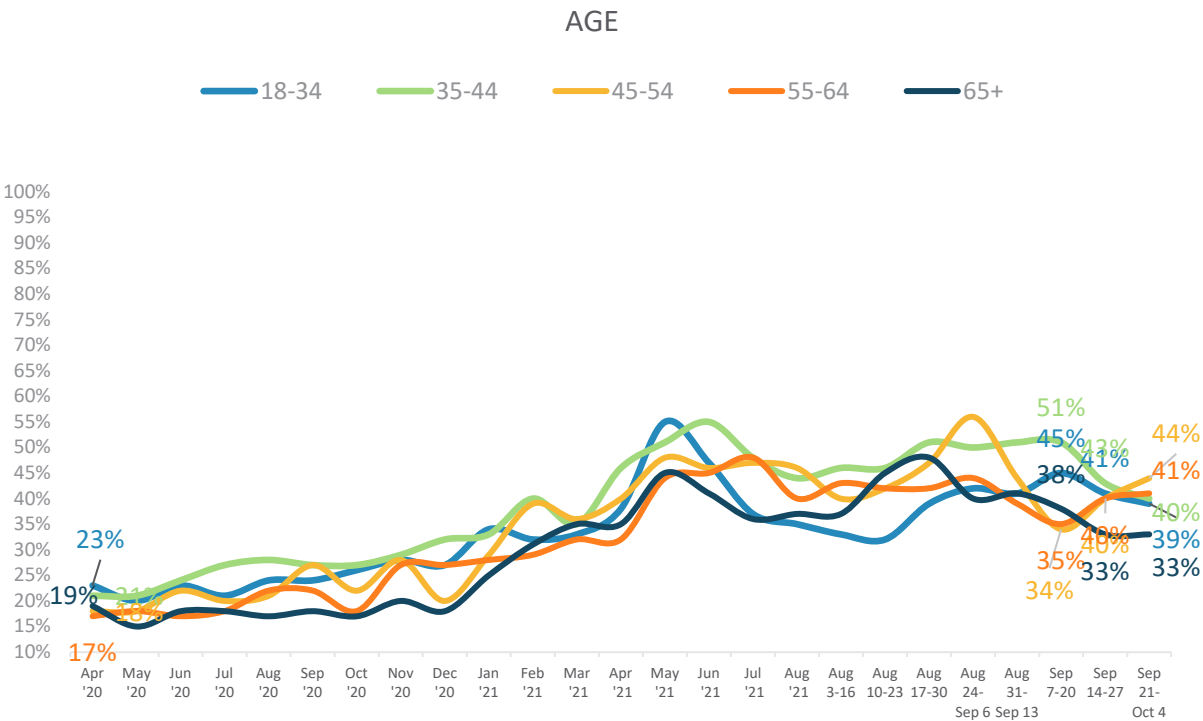
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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

‘Wrong track’ scores remain unchanged, and lowest, among Ontarians aged 65+ while increasing among those aged 45-54 (and now the highest ‘wrong track’ score by age). The other age segments are at parity. ‘Wrong track’ scores remained steady among men and women this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

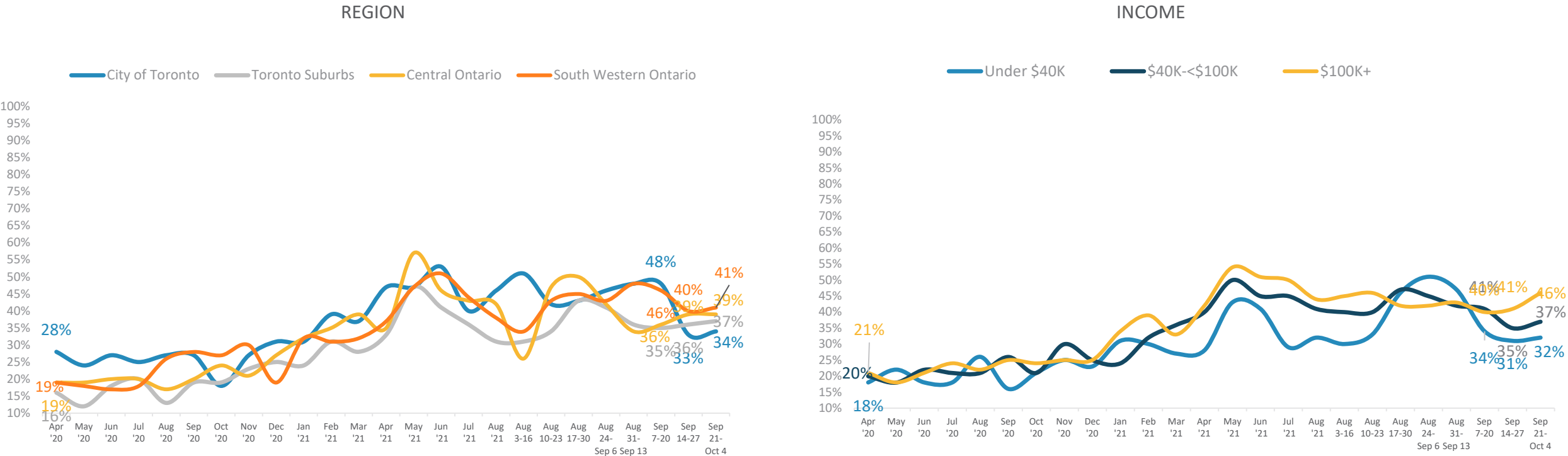


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Regionally, ‘wrong track’ scores continue to be lowest in the city of Toronto. And, ‘wrong track’ scores remain lowest among Ontarians making under \$40k, now 14-points lower than those making \$100k+.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



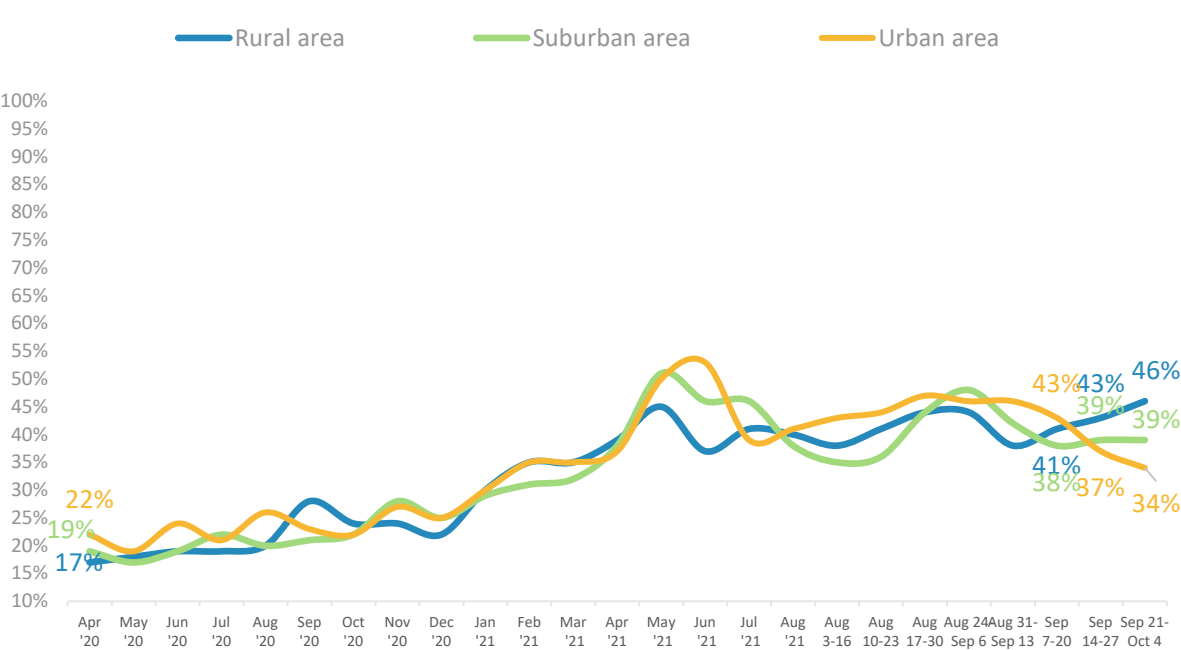
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

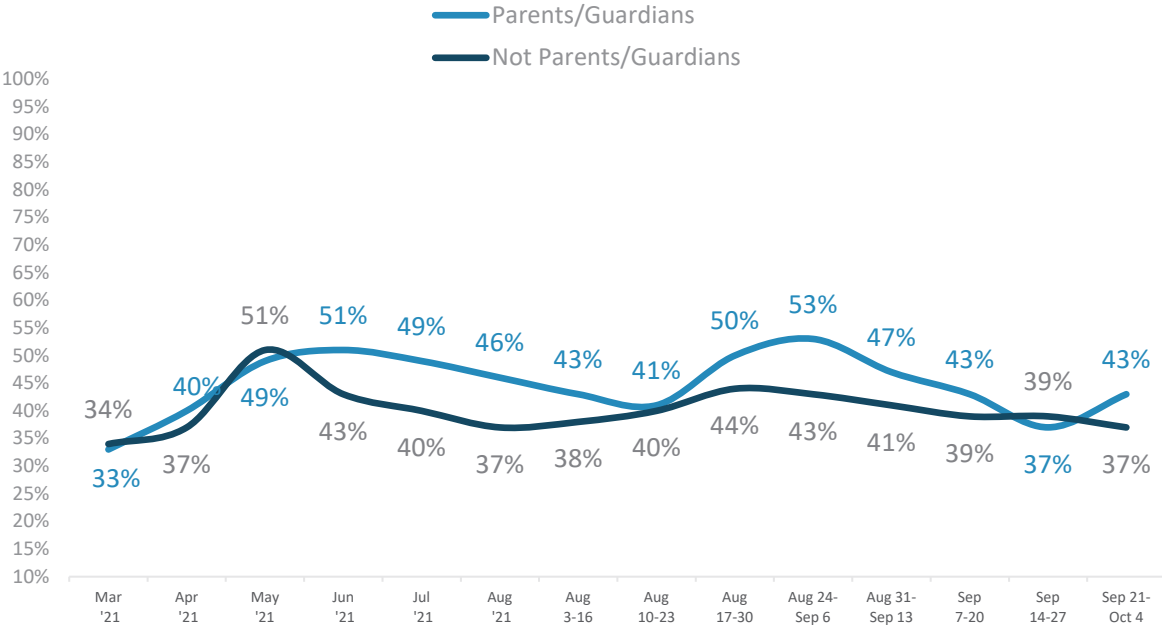
‘Wrong track’ scores declined again this week in urban areas and continue to be the lowest, while the reverse is the case for rural areas. ‘Wrong track’ scores remained steady in the suburban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

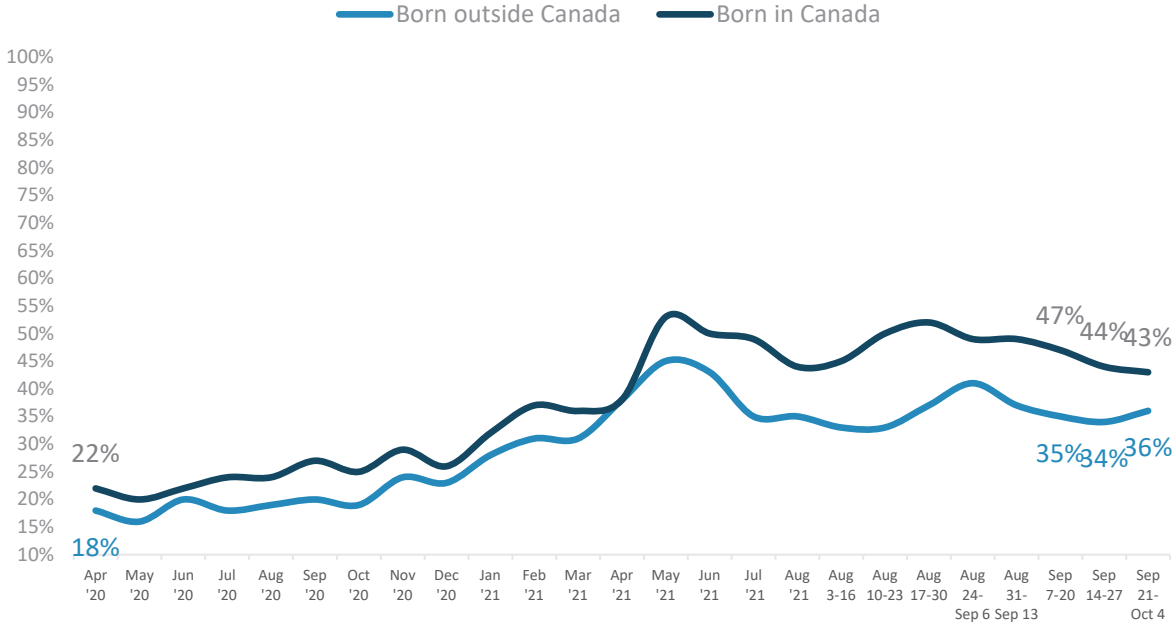


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

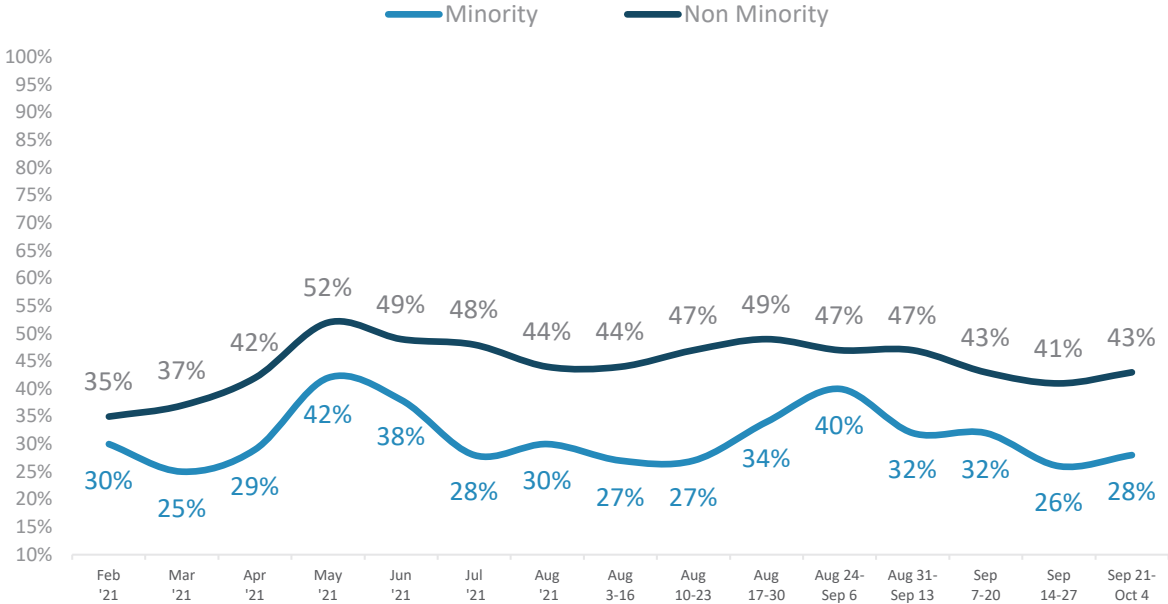
‘Wrong track’ scores among Ontarians born in/outside of Canada and among minorities and non-minorities remained steady this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



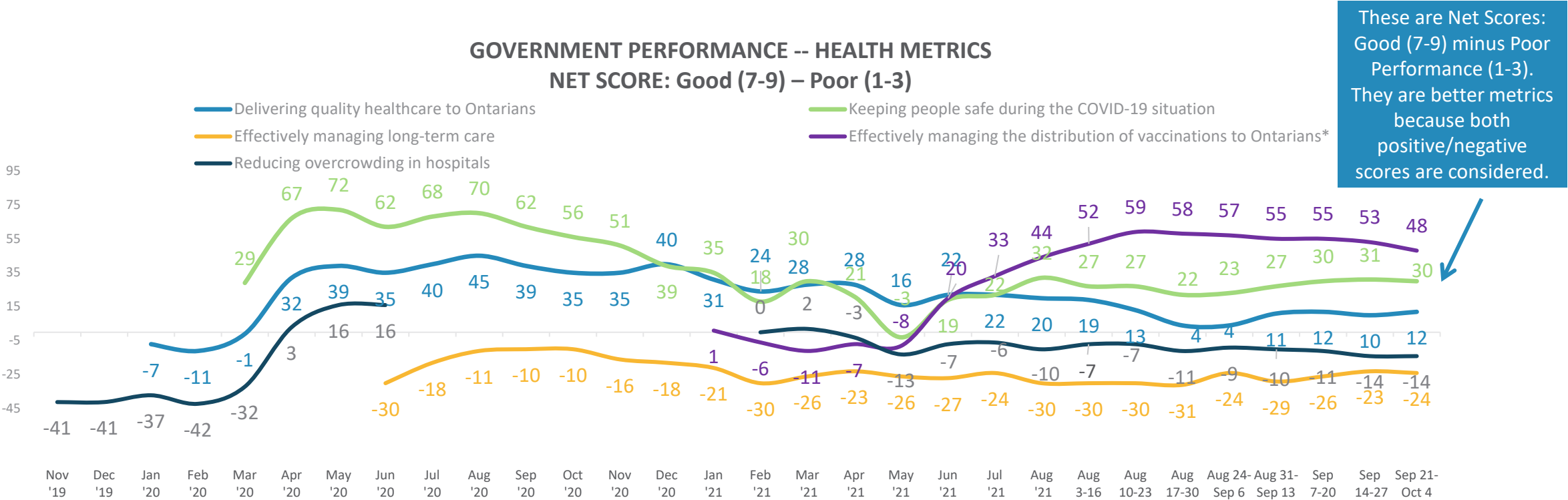
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



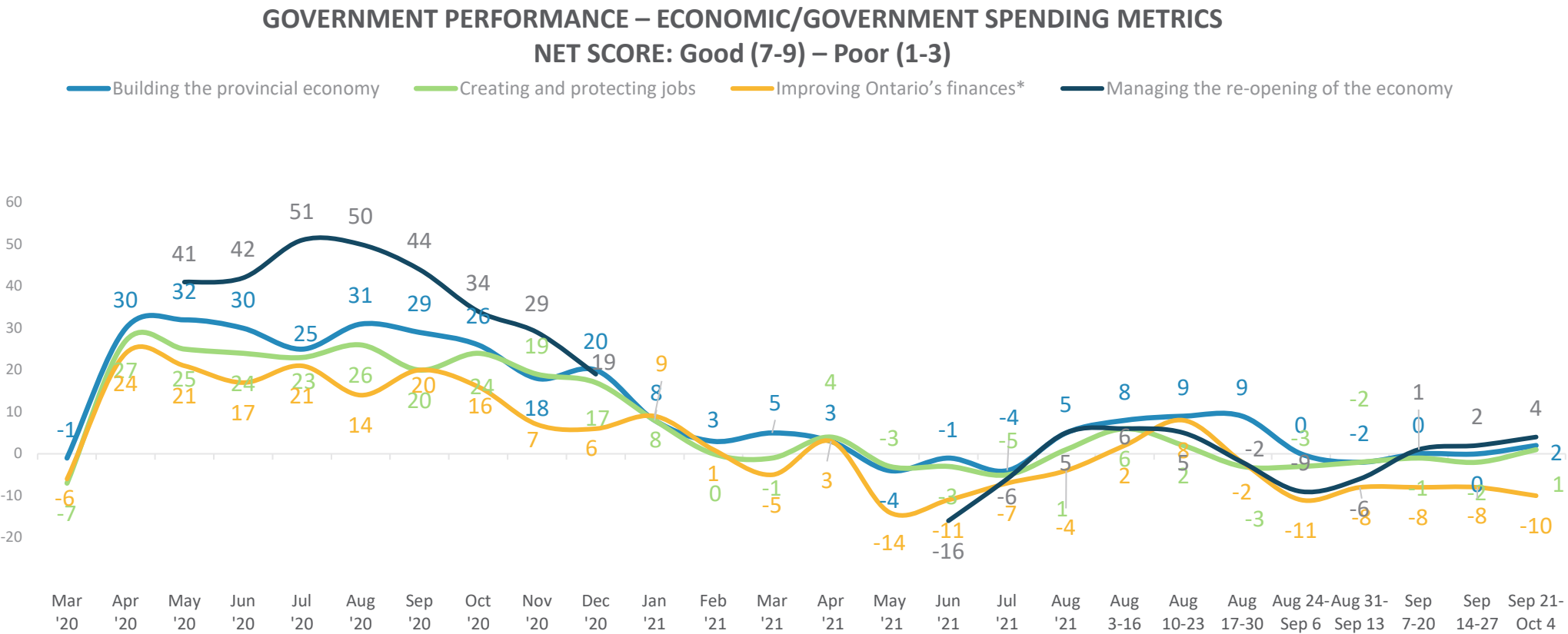
While remaining the highest rated health metric, ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ has been slowly declining and is down 11-points since mid-August – probably related to declining vaccination rates.

- The other health metrics also remained relatively unchanged this week.



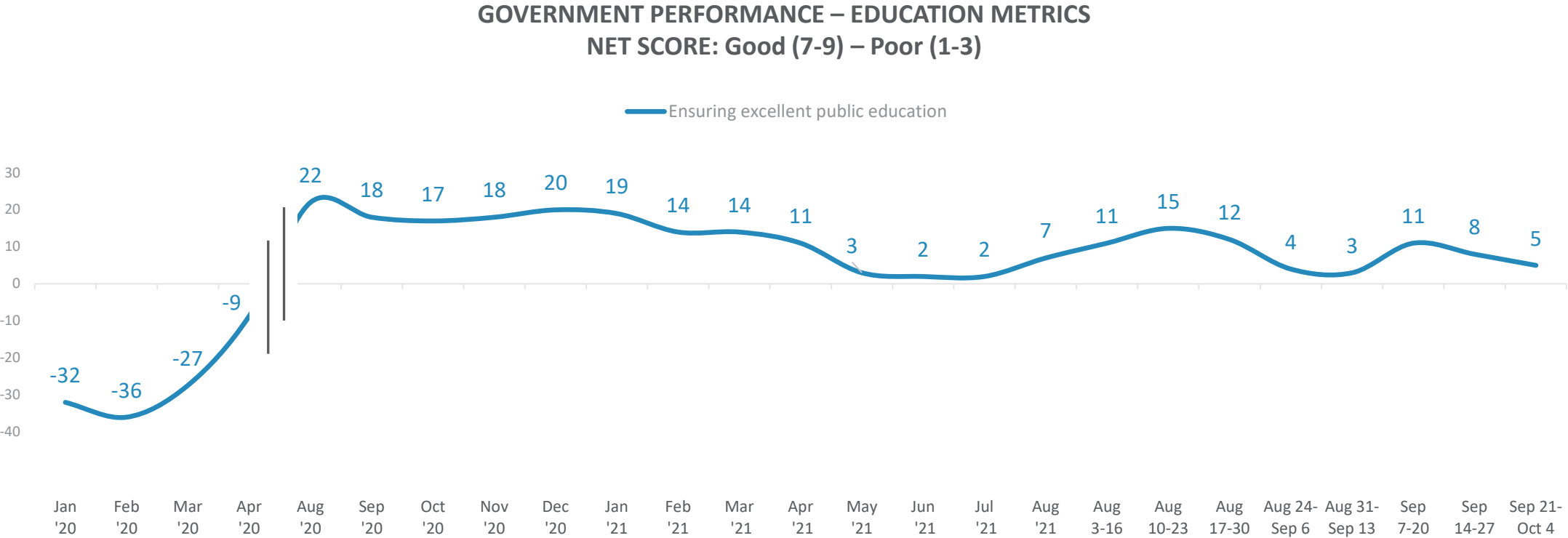
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The government’s performance rating for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ increased slightly this week and is up 13-points since the beginning of September. The other economic and government spending metrics were steady this week.



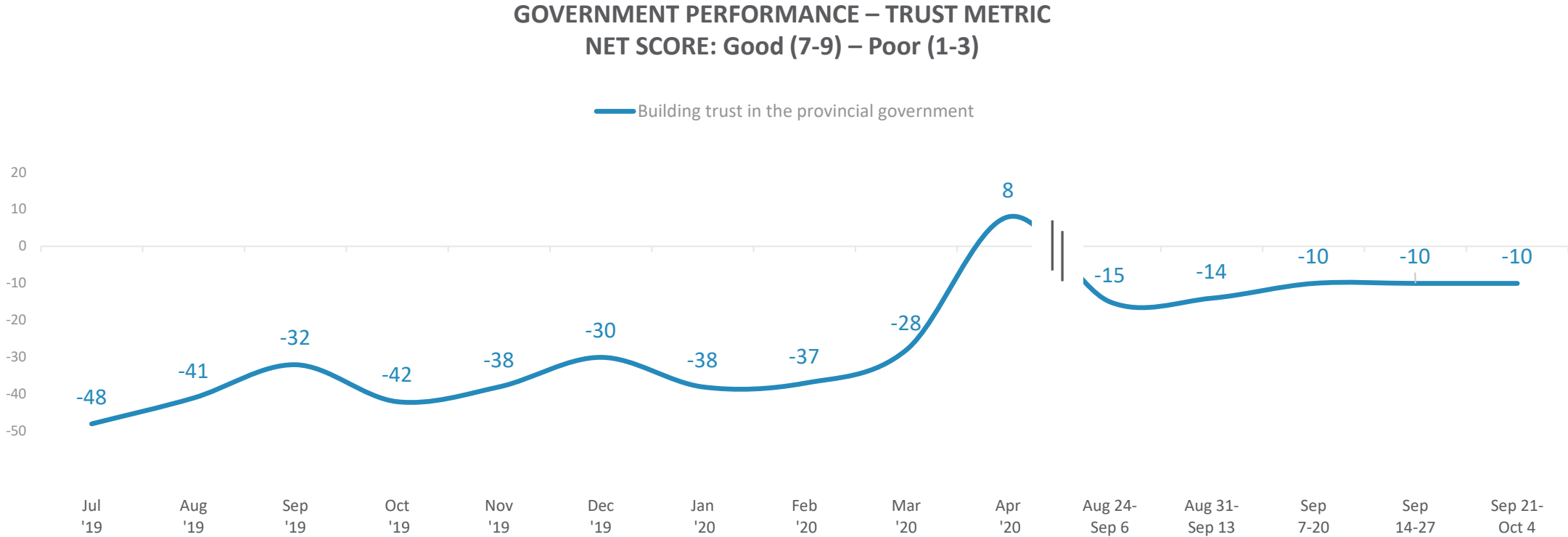
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined and is down 6-points over the past two weeks.



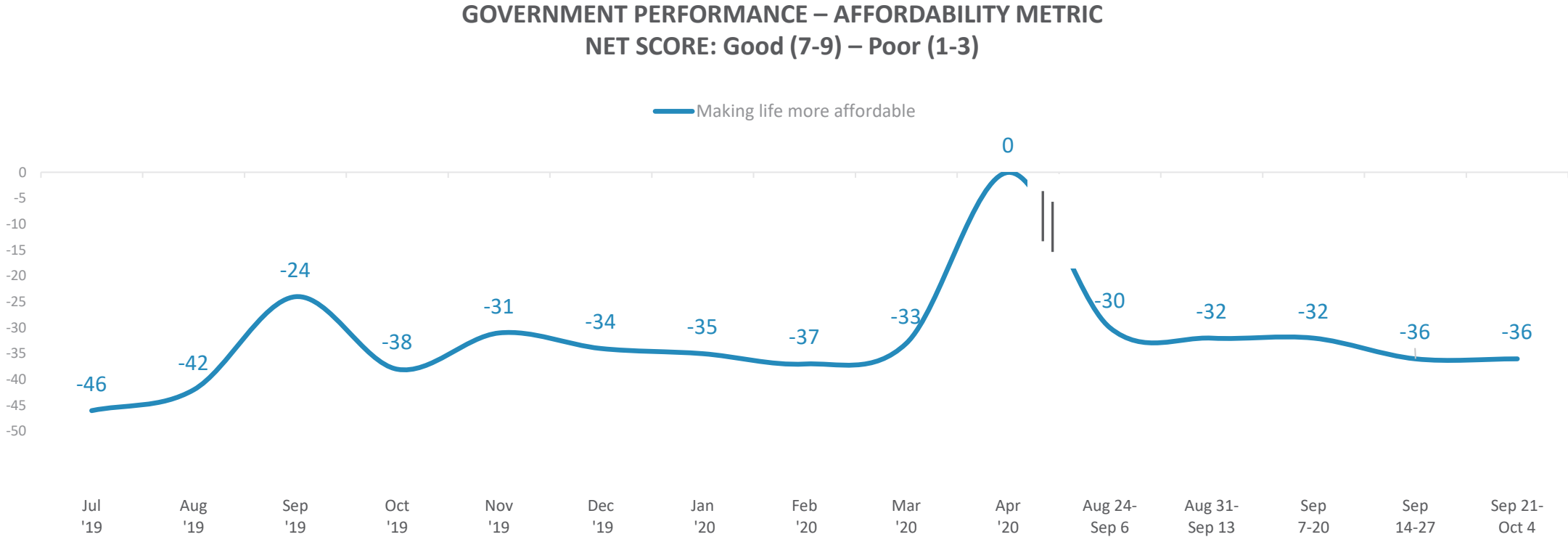
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ has been inching upward since late August. Again, this improving trust metric occurred after the vaccination certificate was announced.



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

Ratings of the government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ remained unchanged this week and is at 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

FOCUS ON HEALTH VERSUS ECONOMY



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT’S FOCUS IN THE COMING MONTHS

Results remained steady this week and there continues to be a 6-point gap between Ontarians who think the government’s focus in the coming months should be on economic issues (47%) and those that think it should be on health-related issues (41%).

	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	Aug 31-Sep 13	Sep 7-20	Sep 14-27	Sep 21-Oct 4
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	41	40	40	41
It should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19, including ensuring the economy recovers as quickly as possible and helping prevent more businesses from closing.	40	39	45	45	45	53	52	54	53	52	51	50	51	46	43	47	47	46	46	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	10	12	12	11

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, seven-in-ten (68%) Ontarians expressing concern about a fourth wave of the pandemic. This compares to 57% in 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	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	Varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78	84	73	76	72	66	72	68
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37	51	40	43	40	38	33	39
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41	33	33	33	32	28	39	29
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11	6	14	12	15	19	12	19
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8	9	11	12	13	13	16	13
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18	15	24	24	28	32	28	31

There has been an increase to almost eight-in-ten (77%) Ontarians that 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 . .

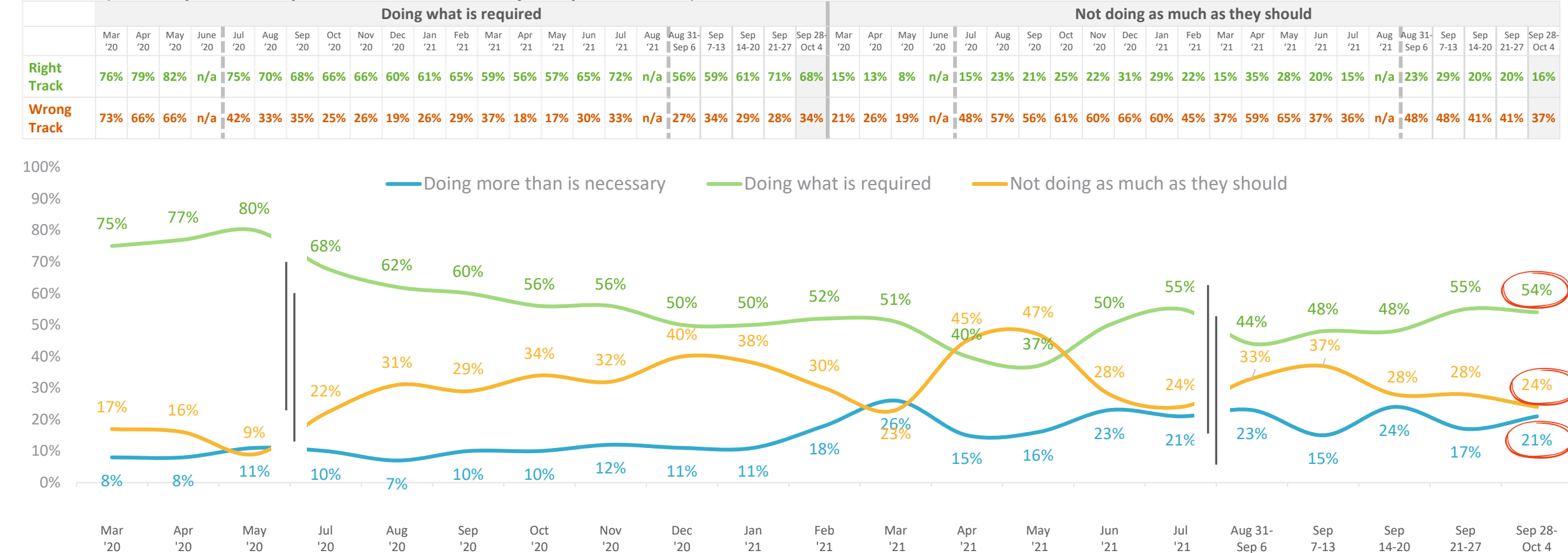
Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4
varies															
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69	74	67	60	67	71	69	70	69	72	77
19	17	17	18	14	17	15	16	14	16	21	12	18	12	19	19
48	58	54	54	53	52	59	51	46	51	50	57	52	56	53	58
20	16	16	18	19	17	14	25	22	17	13	20	15	17	14	15
11	9	12	9	10	10	12	6	12	11	13	7	11	9	11	5
32	25	27	27	28	27	26	31	33	28	25	27	26	26	25	20
		2	2	4	4	-	2	7	5	4	4	4	5	4	3

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 4TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

There continues to be just over half (54%) who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus. And, the proportion who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ declined to 24% (a drop of 13-points since early September).



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, 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 ...

ADDITIONAL ACTION NECESSARY TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

Making vaccines mandatory (33%) - followed by restricting international travel into Canada (19%) and restricting access to non-essential indoor settings like restaurants and movie theatres (15%) - receive the most support as additional actions necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

- Similar numbers say 'all of the above' (10%) and 'no additional action is needed' (11%).

	Aug 31-Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Making vaccines mandatory	29	34	33	39	33
Restricting international travel into Canada	23	21	19	13	19
Restricting access to non-essential indoor settings like restaurants and movie theatres only to people who are fully vaccinated.	18	21	15	13	15
Additional public health measures like reducing capacity at stores or limiting the size of social gatherings to limit contact with others	10	10	11	12	7
Lockdowns / closing businesses	2	1	2	3	1
All of the above	5	7	6	5	10
No additional action is needed	6	3	9	9	11
Don't know/unsure	7	4	6	5	4

QCV-214. What if any additional action is necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19:

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

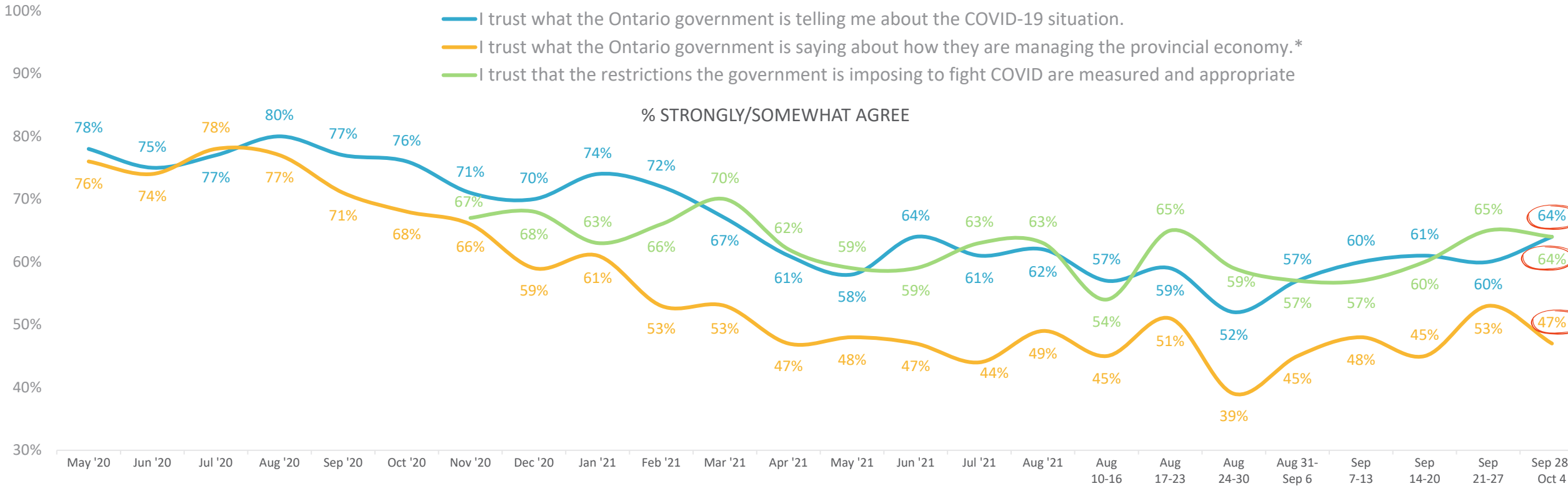
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

There was an increase this week regarding trust in the government’s communications about ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ while results were steady for ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured/appropriate’.

- ‘How they are managing the provincial economy’ lost some of the increases measured last week.



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, four-in-ten (40%) Ontarians continue to believe unvaccinated individuals are the 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?

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

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

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

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?

Aug 31-Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
-	38	40	44	40
29	19	16	16	14
-	9	9	8	10
16	9	5	8	9
16	8	6	9	6
7	2	3	2	1
13	-	-	-	-
8	7	9	4	10
11	7	12	9	10

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?

Base: Total sample

IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

This week, half (52%) of Ontarians agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19, a decline of 25-points since the beginning of July.

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	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	varies																			
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61	62	52	50	51	47	49	49	50	59	52
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19	21	17	18	23	16	21	22	25
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34	30	34	29	25	34	29	37	26
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7	7	6	8	8	7	7	10	7	7	11
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18	18	16	18	18	19	19	11	15
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20	19	23	25	21	18	20	21	21
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38	37	39	43	39	37	39	31	36

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VACCINE



Half (48%) of Ontarians presently agree they are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered.

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	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28- Oct 4
varies															
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	52	47	49	45	48	42	55	48
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	16	10	14	17	14	19	20	20
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	36	37	35	28	34	22	35	28
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	7	2	6	6	8	5	7
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	17	15	19	20	22	20	16	17
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	20	29	28	24	21	27	23	25
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	37	44	47	44	44	48	38	42

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

COVID-19
VACCINE
CERTIFICATE



About 86% of Ontarians over 18 years old have been fully vaccinated, with a further 2% having had the first dose only.

	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	300	300
	%	%
Yes, the first dose only	4	2
Yes, both doses	85	86
No	8	8
Prefer not to answer	3	4

ENCOURAGED TO GET VACCINATED BY INTRODUCTION OF VACCINE CERTIFICATE

Early results over the past two weeks suggest that one-in-five (21%) Ontarians who were not fully vaccinated were encouraged to get their first/second dose of vaccine as a result of the introduction of the vaccine certificate.

	Sep 21-Oct 4
n=	67
	%
NET - YES	21
Yes, I am now planning to get a first dose	8
Yes, I am now planning to get a second dose	14
NET - NO	74
No it has had no impact on my decision to get a second dose	12
No it has had no impact on my decision not to get vaccinated	62
Don't know/not sure	5

QCV-219 Has the introduction of the vaccine certificate in Ontario encouraged you to get a second dose, if you have already had a first or to get a first dose if you are unvaccinated for COVID-19? (Please check the response that best describes your situation)

Base: Among those who are not fully vaccinated.

COVID-19
VACCINE
THIRD DOSES



WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THIRD DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Preliminary results indicate that Ontarians are willing to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Eight-in-ten (79%) say they would take it if it was available to them, and intensity is high with 54% being ‘very’ willing.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	258
	%
TOTAL WILLING	79
Very willing	54
Somewhat willing	25
Not too willing	7
Not at all willing	9
TOTAL NOT WILLING	16
I have already had my booster dose	2
Don't know/not sure	4

QCV-120. As you may know, there has been some discussion of the need for all those fully vaccinated to receive third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. How willing are you to get a third dose of the vaccine if this were available to you?

Base: Total sample

REASONS WHY NOT WILLING TO RECEIVE THIRD DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

While a small base size, early results indicate that it is ‘not necessary’ (30%) is the top cited reason for not willing to get a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	40 ^C
	%
Not necessary	30
I am not high risk/my exposure is low	15
How many boosters are going to be needed (e.g., every six months)	13
They originally said two doses were enough (and were wrong)	12
Concerned about long term effects	10
Research/need more information	6
Do not trust the government	6
Concerned about too much vaccine in the body	5
Other	10
Don't know/not sure	3

QCV-121. Why are you Not too willing/Not at all willing to receive third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Base: Not too/not at all willing @ CV220

C: Caution, small base size

MINIMUM WAGE



ARE THERE GROUPS WHO ARE PAID LESS THAN MINIMUM WAGE?

Preliminary results indicate Ontarians tend to be uncertain if there are any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in Ontario with similar numbers answering yes (41%) and no (39%) while one-in-five (20%) are not sure.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	300
	%
Yes	41
No	39
Don't know/not sure	20

QMW1. As you may know the minimum wage in Ontario is \$14.25 per hour. To the best of your knowledge are there any groups who are paid less than the minimum wage?

Base: Total sample

GROUPS THAT ARE PAID LESS THAN MINIMUM WAGE

On an aided basis, Ontarians seem to be most likely to believe that students under 18 (37%), alcoholic beverage servers (34%) and agriculture sector workers (25%) are paid less than minimum wage.

- However, 36% report they are not sure.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	300
	%
Students under 18	37
Alcoholic beverage servers	34
Agriculture sector workers	25
Parking attendants	10
Restaurant workers (e.g., waitress)	3
Drivers (e.g., truck, tow truck)	1
All of them	1
Healthcare workers (e.g., nurses PSW)	1
Illegal immigrants	1
Babysitter/nanny	1
Other	1
None/nothing	1
Don't know/not sure	36

QMW2. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following groups, if any, are paid less than the minimum wage? (Please check all that apply)

Base: Total sample

POINT OF VIEW ON STUDENTS BEING PAID LESS THAN MINIMUM WAGE

The early results suggest that a majority (75%) of Ontarians hold the point of view that it is unfair to treat students under 18 differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	300
	%
In the case of students under 18, some people say they should continue to be paid less than the minimum wage, since most live at home, have less work experience and it encourages employers to hire students.	20
Other people say it is unfair to treat students under 18 differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.	75
Don't know/not sure	6

QMW3. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?
Base: Total sample

POINT OF VIEW OF THOSE SERVING ALCOHOL BEING PAID LESS THAN MINIMUM WAGE

Again, a majority (76%) of Ontarians hold the point of view that it is unfair to treat servers of alcohol differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	300
	%
In the case of those serving alcohol, some people say they should continue to be paid less than the minimum wage because they regularly receive tips and other gratuities.	18
Other people say it is unfair to treat servers of alcohol differently and that some may make little in tips.	76
Don't know/not sure	6

QMW4. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

POINT OF VIEW FOR INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

Preliminary results indicate that the majority of Ontarians (59%) feel that the change from \$14.25 to \$14.35 is not big enough and that minimum wage should be increased even higher. One-in-five (21%) believe that this 10 cent increase is the right thing to do to help workers.

- These results are not surprising given that most Ontarians are inclined to want minimum wages increased knowing that these hikes would not directly affect them.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	300
	%
Some people say that the current minimum wage of \$14.25 is already set at the right amount, and doesn't need to be increased any further.	16
Others say that the increase from \$14.25 an hour to \$14.35 an hour is the right thing to do to help workers.	21
Still others say that this change is not big enough, and that minimum wage should be increased even higher.	59
Don't know/not sure	5

QMW5. The minimum wage is due to go up to \$14.35 an hour on October 1, 2021. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

POINT OF VIEW IN SETTING THE RIGHT DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR THE MINIMUM WAGE

Early results indicate that just over half (56%) of Ontarians are of the view that it is important to ensure minimum wage workers are paid more. However, 37% believe the minimum wage should not be increased to \$15 as it may harm businesses that are still recovering from the impact of COVID-19.

	Sep 28-Oct 4
n=	300
	%
In terms of setting the right dollar amount for the minimum wage, some people say that for now, the amount should not be increased to \$15.00 as it may harm businesses that are still recovering from the impact of COVID-19	37
Other people say, it is more important to ensure minimum wage workers are paid more	56
Don't know/not sure	8

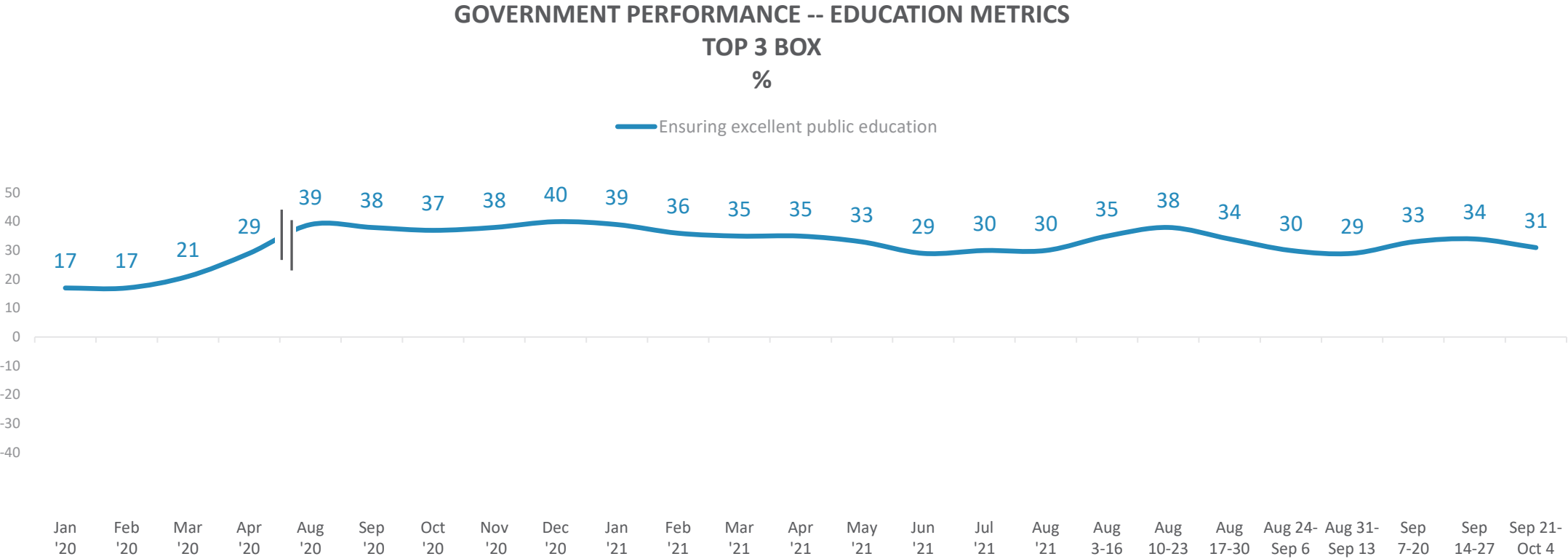
QMW6. Thinking of these two points of view, which one best reflects your own?

Base: Total sample

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

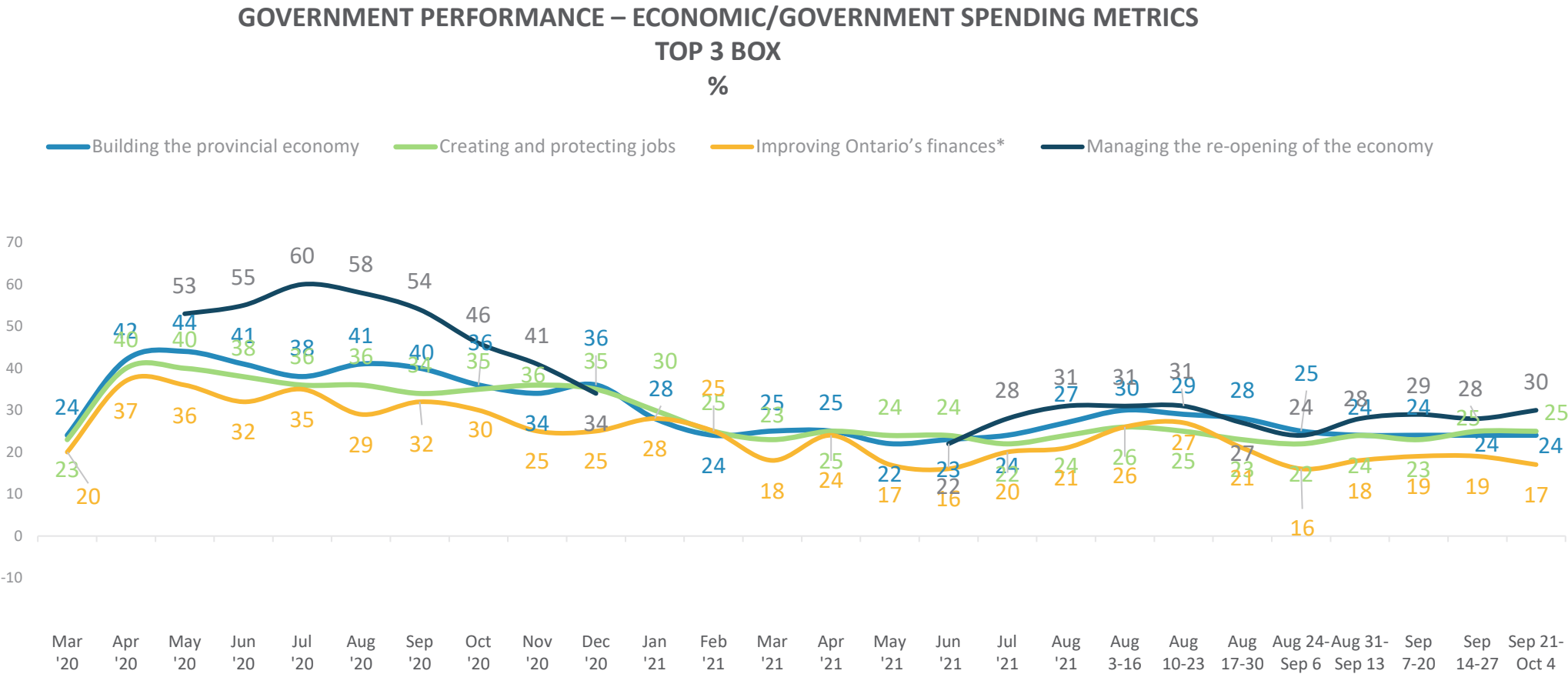


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined slightly this week.



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?
Bases vary

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for the economic and government spending metrics remained steady again this week.

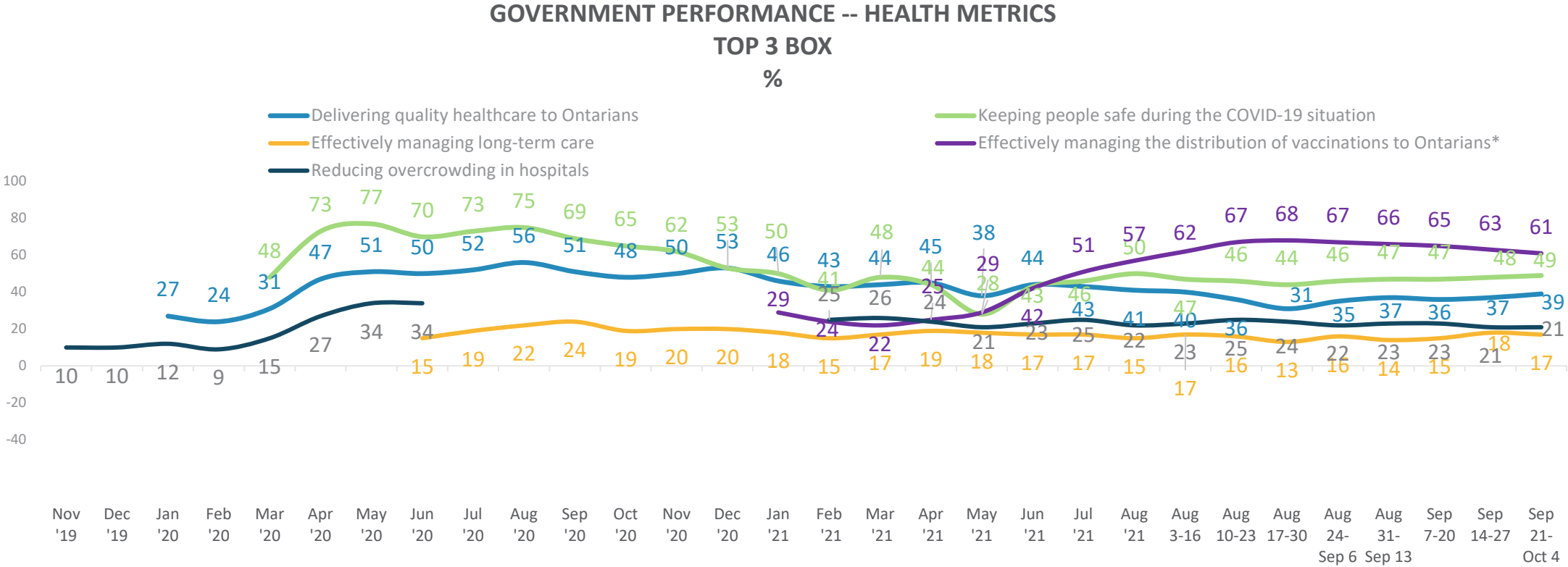


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

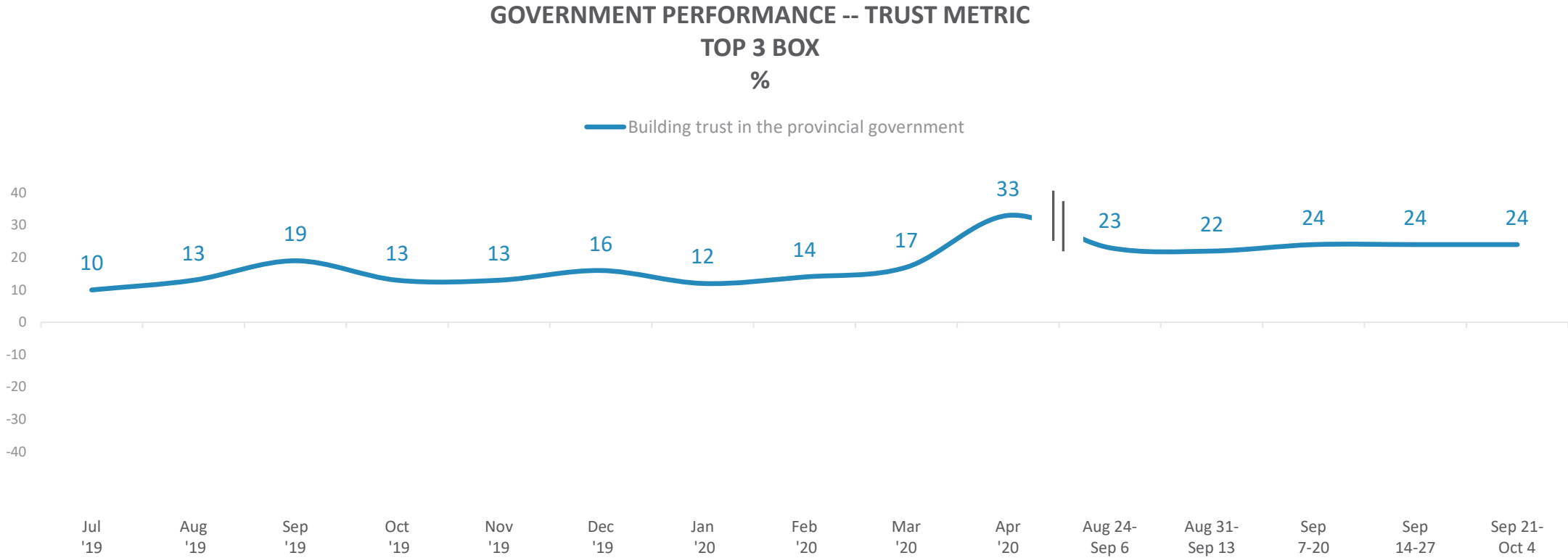
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ continued a slow decline this week while the other health metrics remained steady.



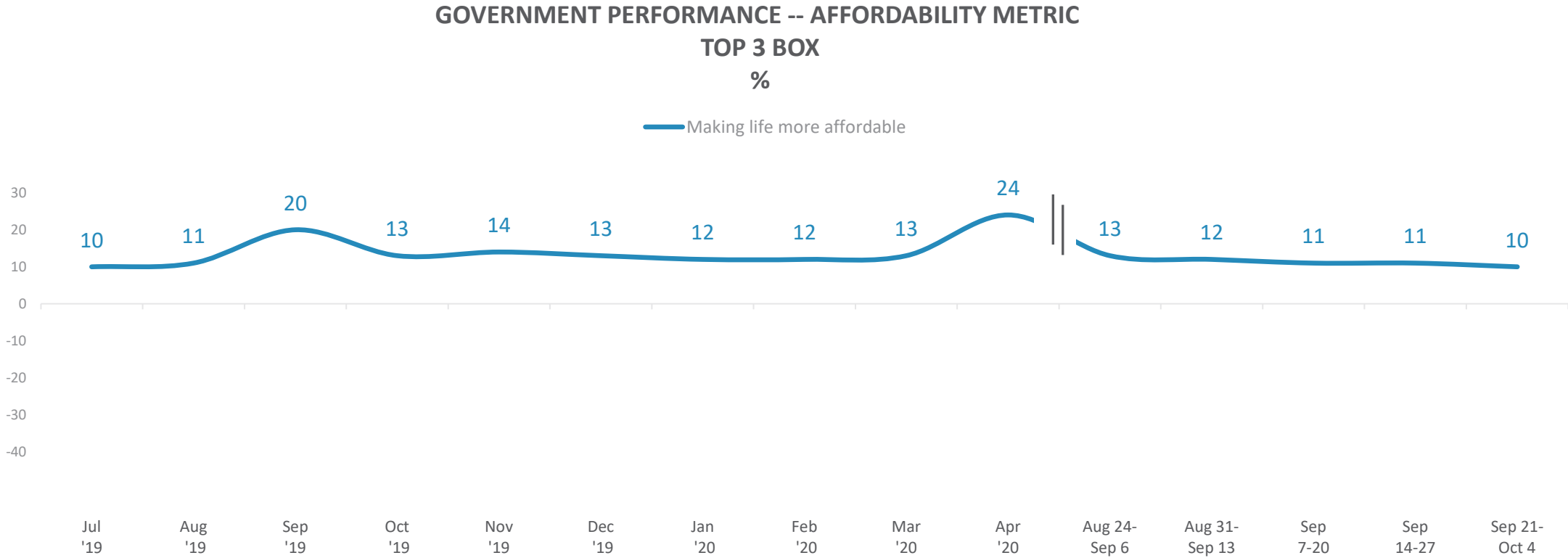
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

About one-quarter (24%) of Ontarians continue to 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 10% 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