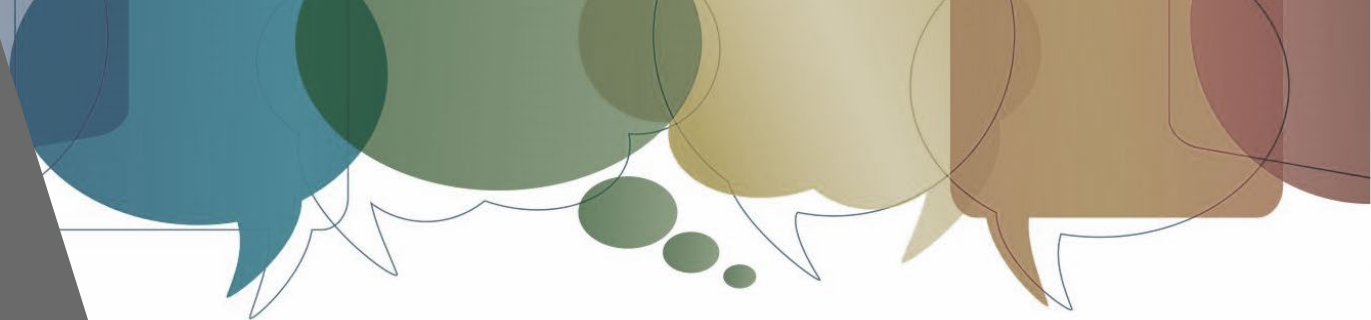




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #103

CABINET OFFICE
October 19th 2021

Ontario 

KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores have declined slightly over the past two weeks to 56% this week.

And, while remaining steady among men, 'right track' scores have continued to trend down among women, with an 8-point drop over the past three weeks.

3 Fully three-quarters of Ontarians believe that the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. This view has increased since early August.

In terms of COVID-19 measures, six-in-ten (59%) believe the government is 'doing what is required' to reduce the spread of the virus (up 15-points since the beginning of September), while the proportion who think the government is 'not doing as much as they should' is now at 23% (down 10-points in the same time period).

Rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing vaccinations' increased for the second straight week (and remains the highest rated health metric) while 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' remained steady.

2 Ontarians seem to be slowly feeling less concerned about the pandemic. While two-thirds (66%) of Ontarians express concern about a fourth wave of the pandemic, this compares to 84% in mid-August. And, this week six-in-ten (59%) Ontarians agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19, an increase of 12-points since the end of August (although remaining below results found in early July).

However, while 86% of Ontarians over 18 years of age report they have been fully vaccinated, only half (51%) 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, and half (53%) are concerned about the possibility of fully vaccinated people contracting COVID-19.

4 Of note, there is now a 12-point gap between the proportion of Ontarians who think the government's focus in the coming months should be on economic issues (48%) and those who think the focus should be on health-related issues (36%).

At the same time, the government's performance rating for 'managing the re-opening of the economy', 'building the provincial economy' and 'creating and protecting jobs' all declined this week.

There was also a decline in trust of the government's communications about 'how they are managing the provincial economy'.

Key Findings

5 Ontarians tend to be uncertain if there are any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in Ontario. About four-in-ten (43%) believe there are not any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in the province, while almost one-in-five (18%) 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 (75%) differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.

And, six-in-ten (60%) are of the view that it is important to ensure minimum wage workers are paid more. However, 35% 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.

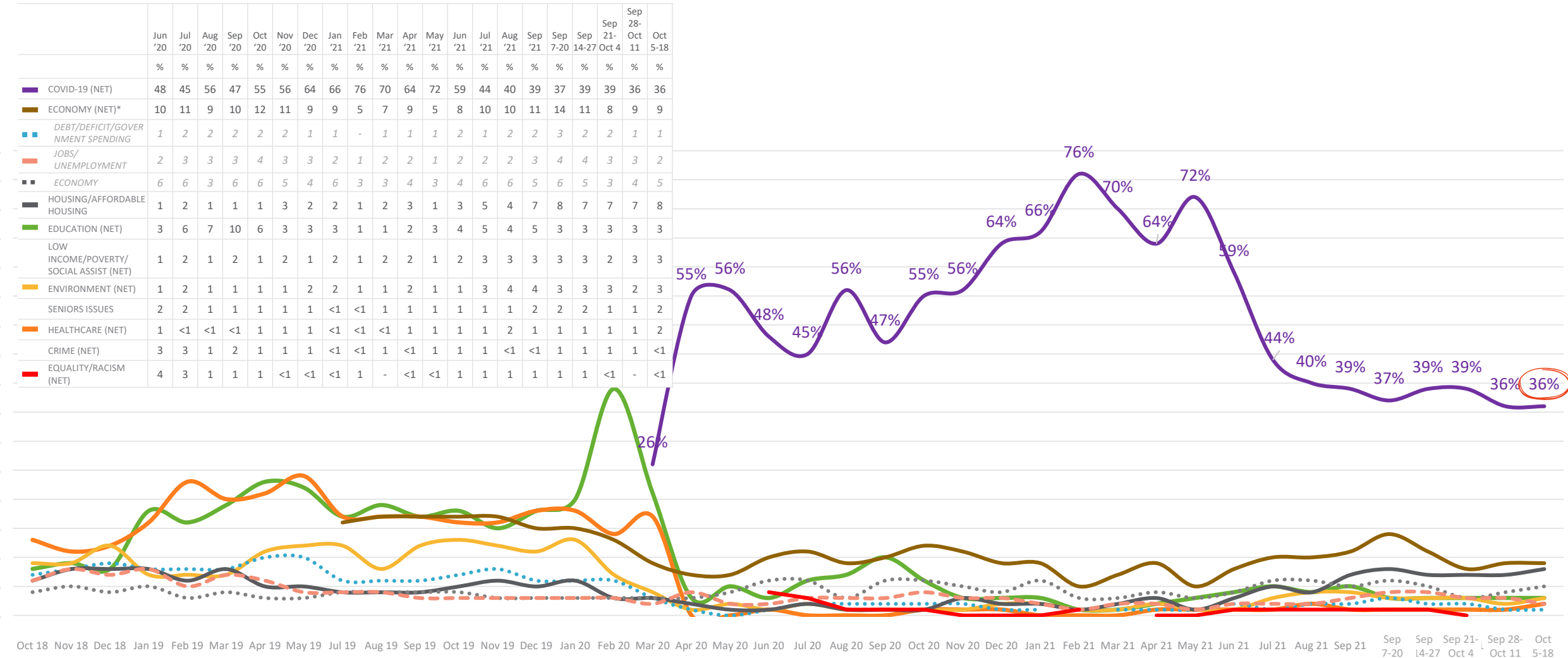
6 Since the beginning of the school year, the rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' has declined 8-points.

With increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections being reported in schools, this is a metric to watch closely.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



Results remained unchanged this week with 36% of Ontarians who believe that COVID-19 should remain the government’s top priority, while 9% cite the economy and 8% affordable housing.



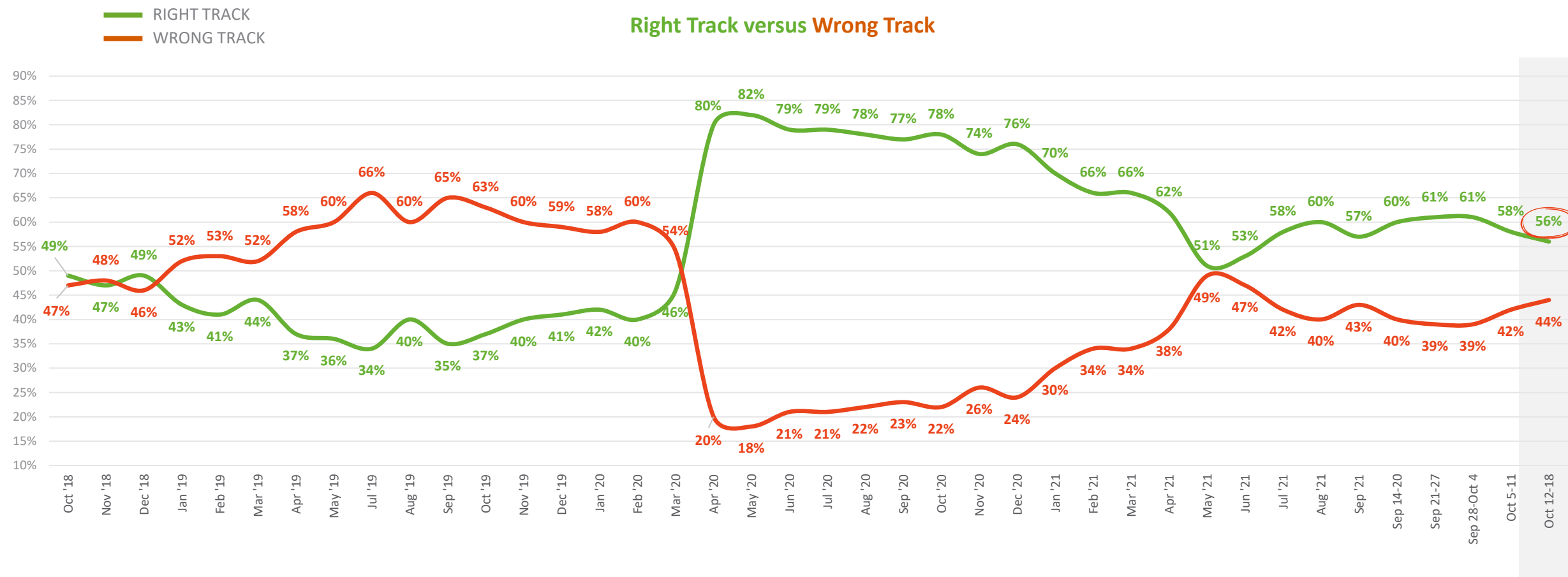
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

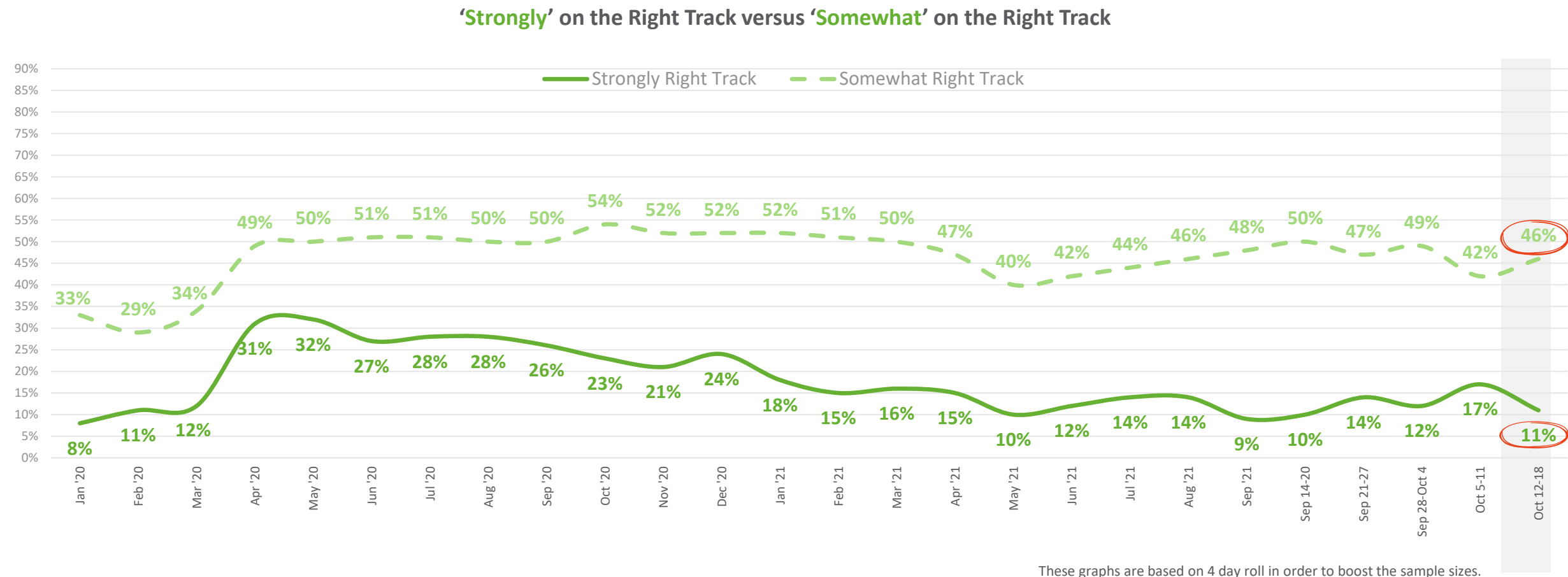


‘Right track’ have declined slightly over the past two weeks to 56%.



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

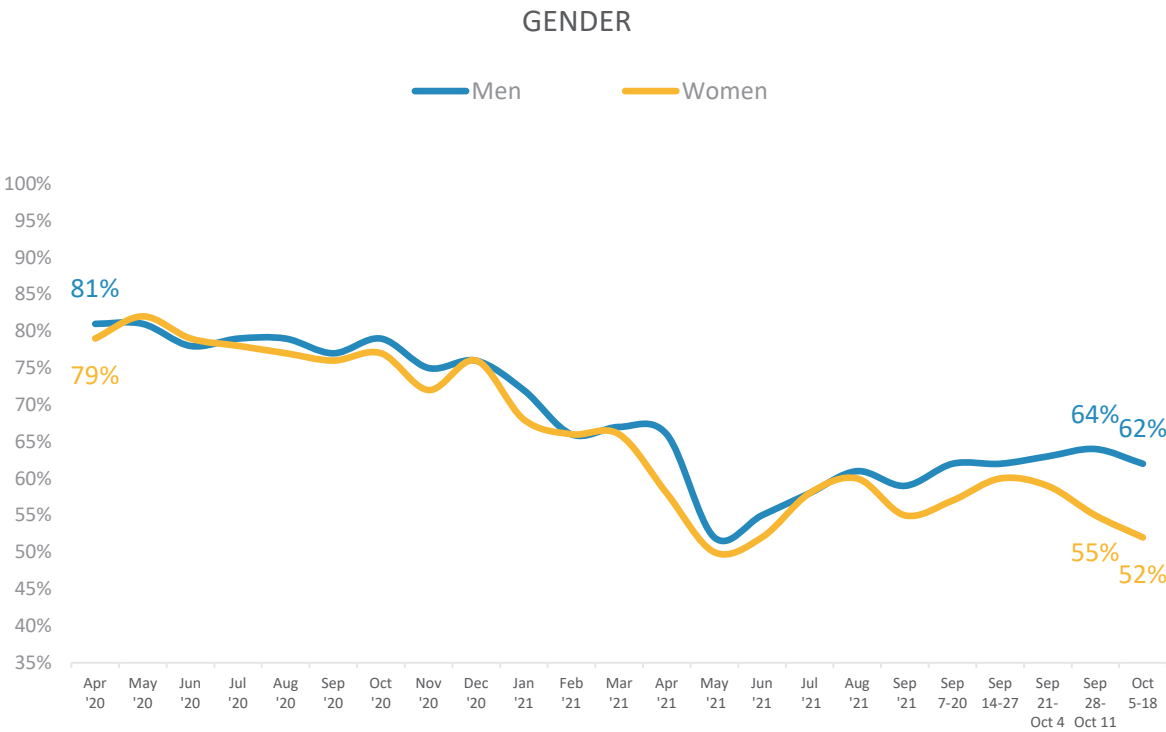
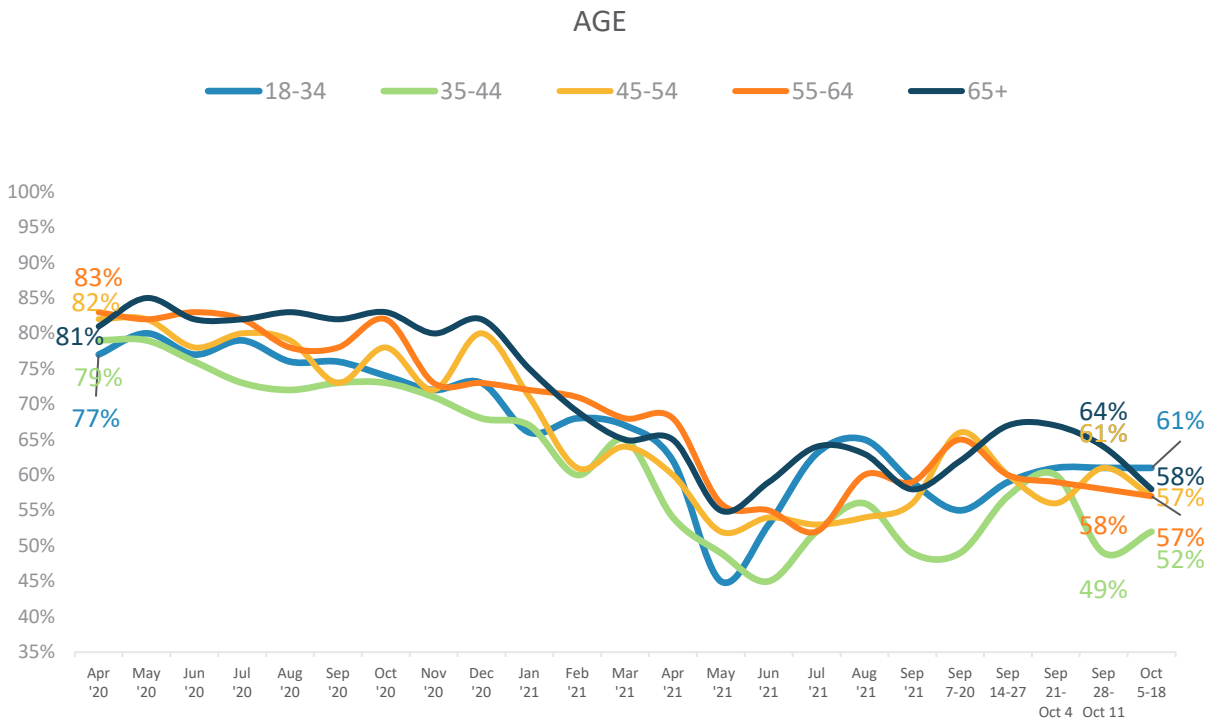
This week, ‘strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’ tended to reverse their gains/losses experienced last week.



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

‘Right track’ has continued to decline among Ontarians aged 65+ (down 9-points in the last two weeks), while there was a slight uptick among those aged 35-44 (although they lag the other age groups). ‘Right track’ continued to trend down among women, with an 8-point drop over the past three weeks.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

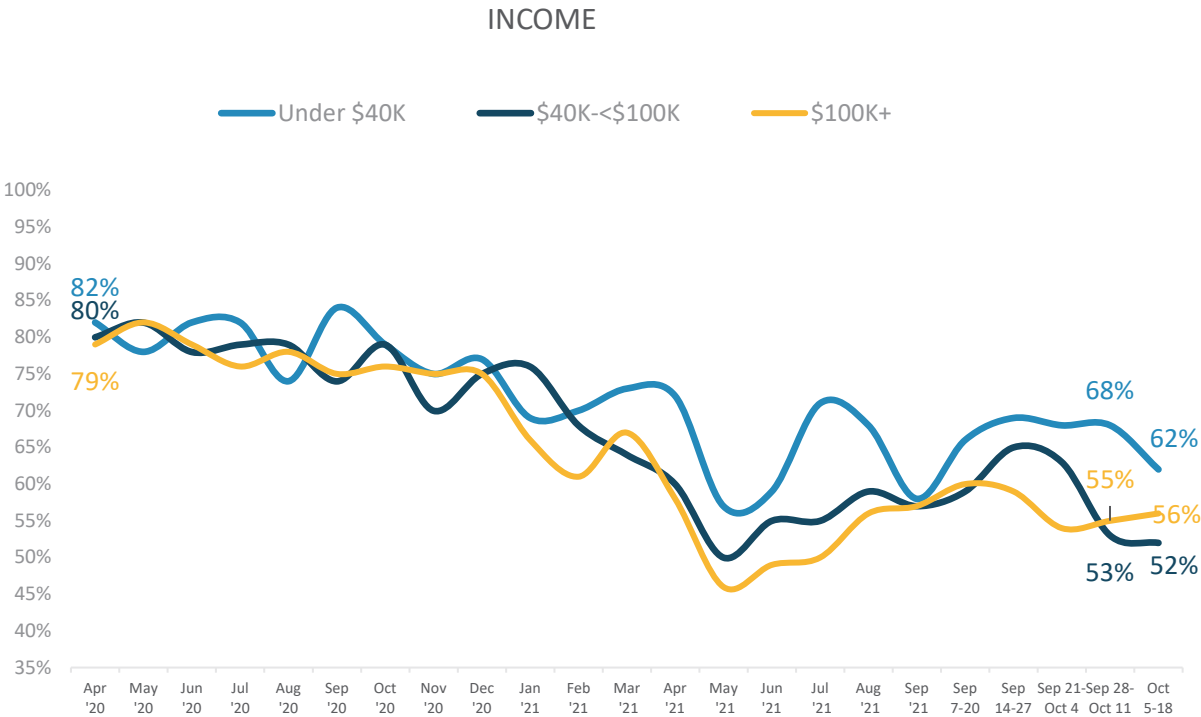
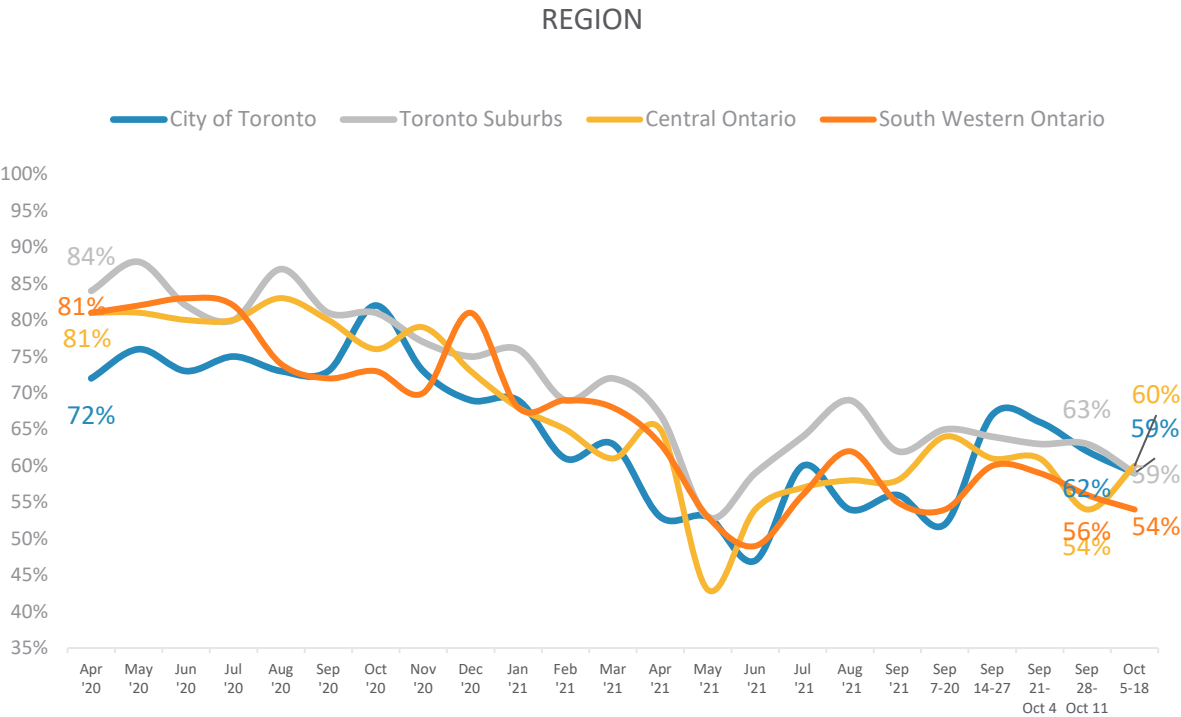


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

There were declines in ‘right track’ in all regions, except Central Ontario. The city of Toronto (down 8-points) and SW Ontario (down 6-points) have been trending down in recent weeks. By income, ‘right track’ declined among Ontarians earning <\$40k, while results remained steady for >\$40k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



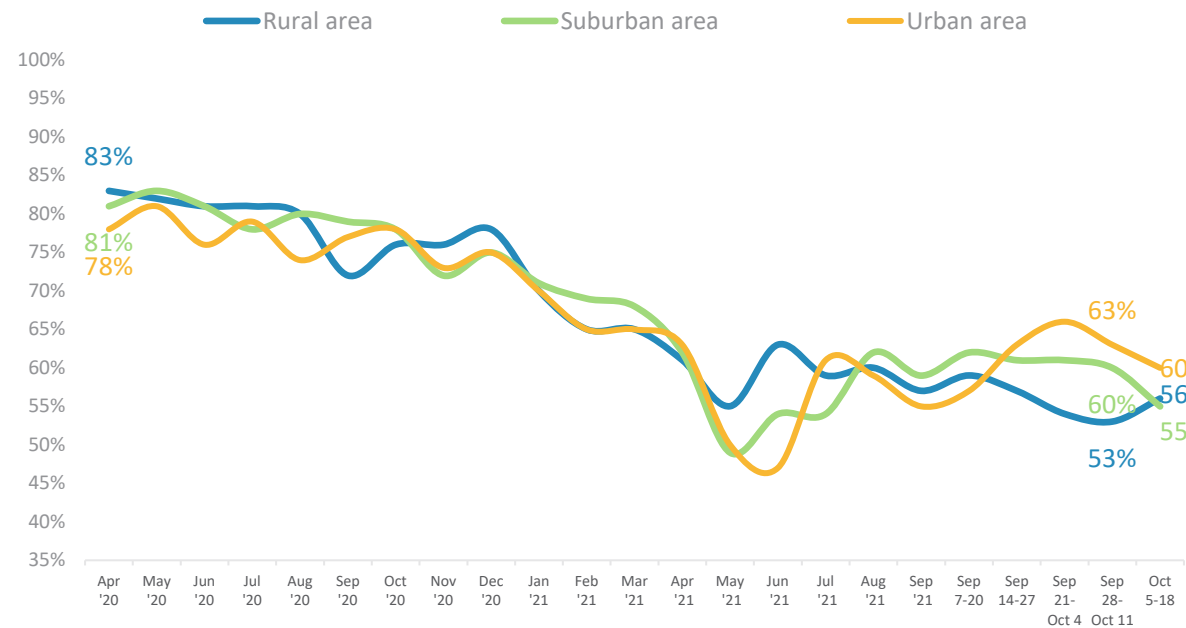
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

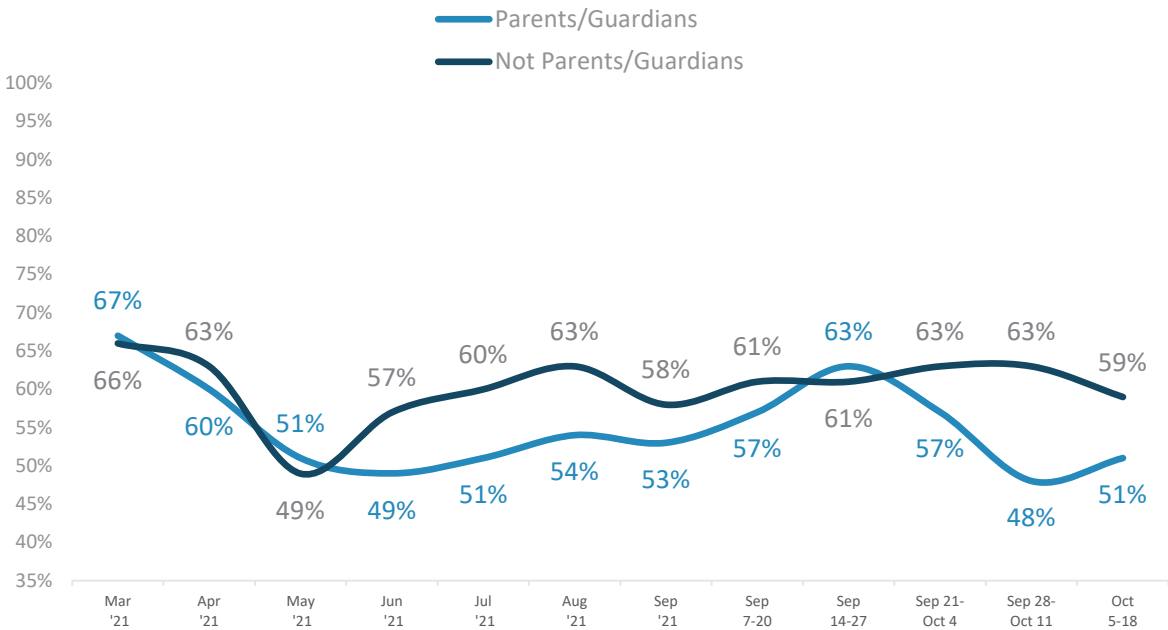
‘Right track’ scores declined in both urban and suburban areas while improving in rural areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



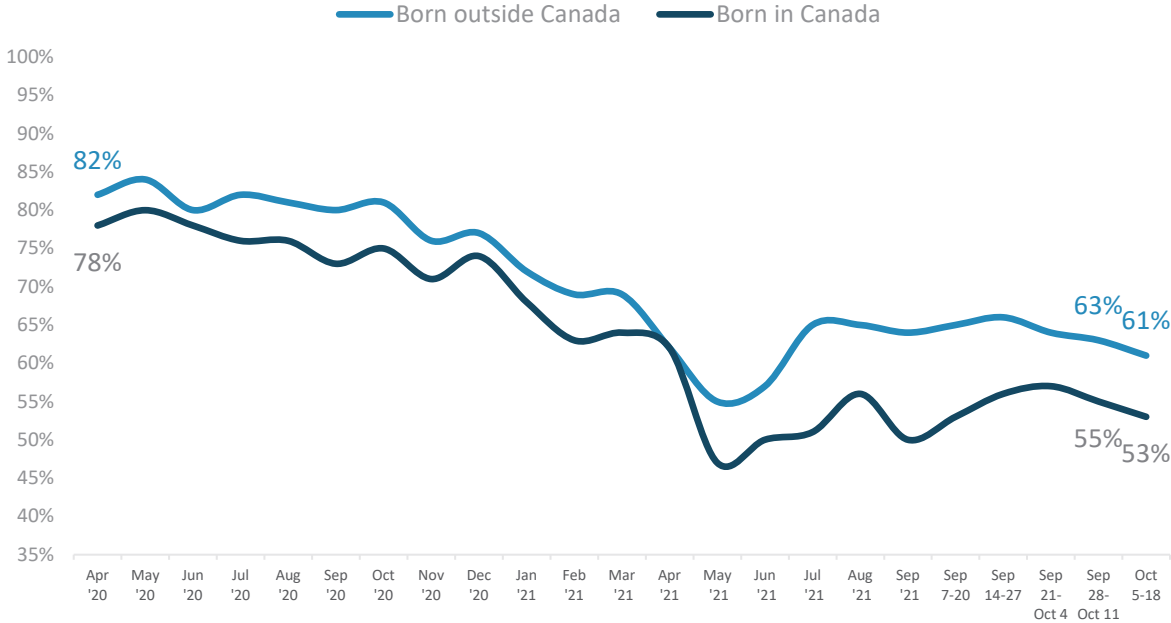
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

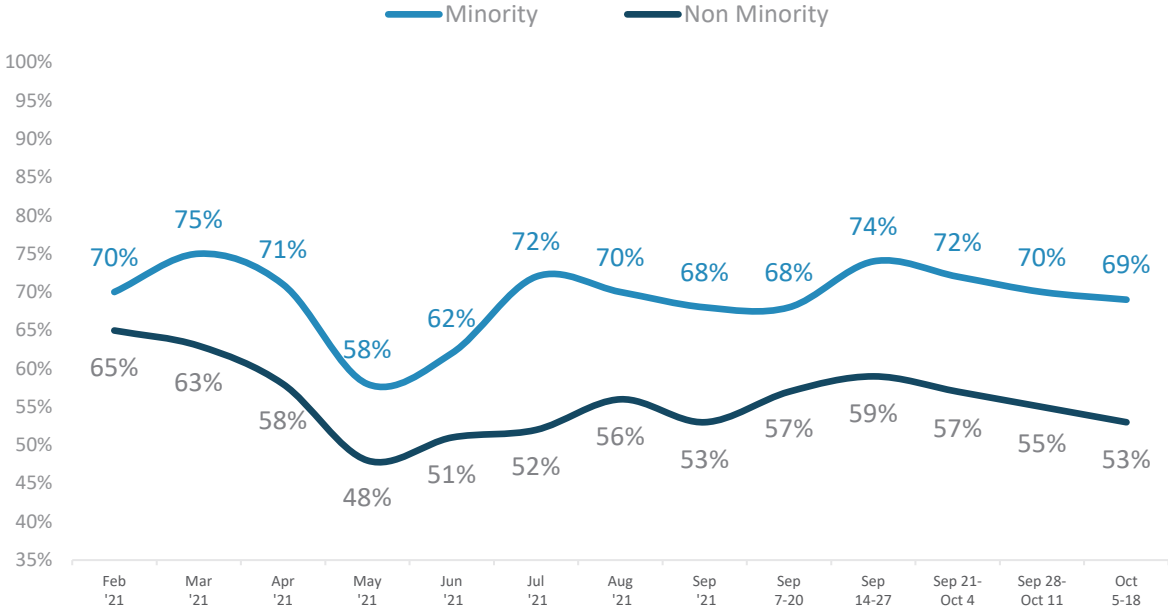
‘Right track’ scores among Ontarians born in/outside of Canada and among both minorities and non-minorities have been slowly trending down.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

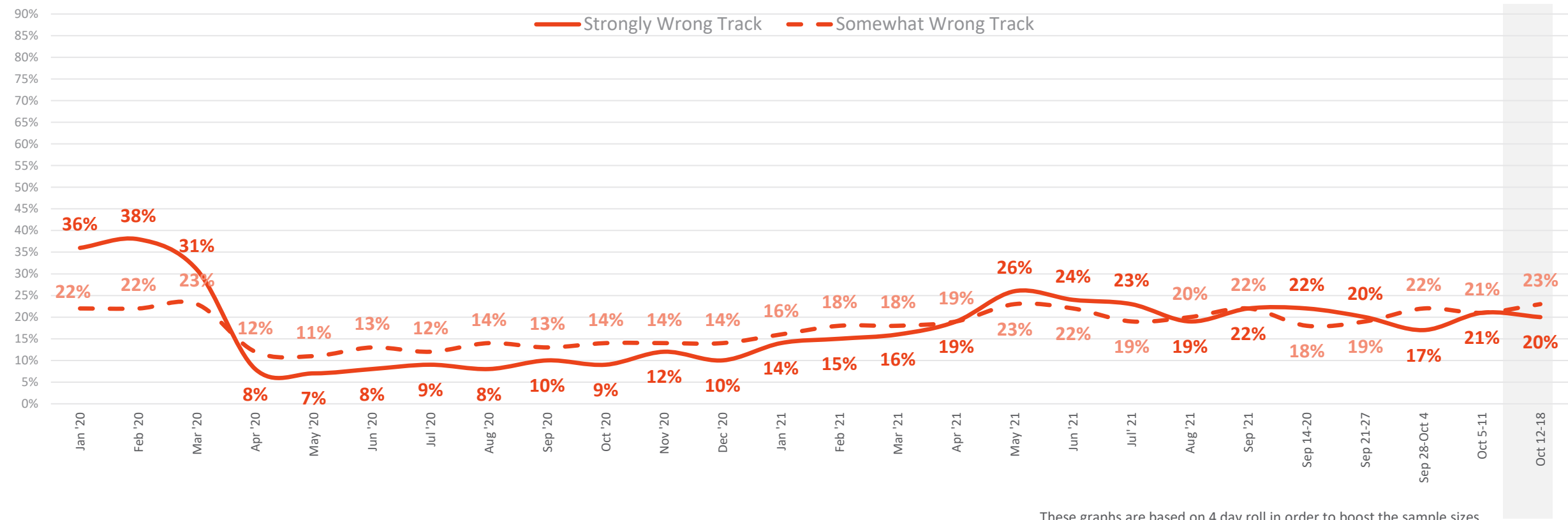


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

Both ‘strongly on the wrong track’ and ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ remained steady this week.

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

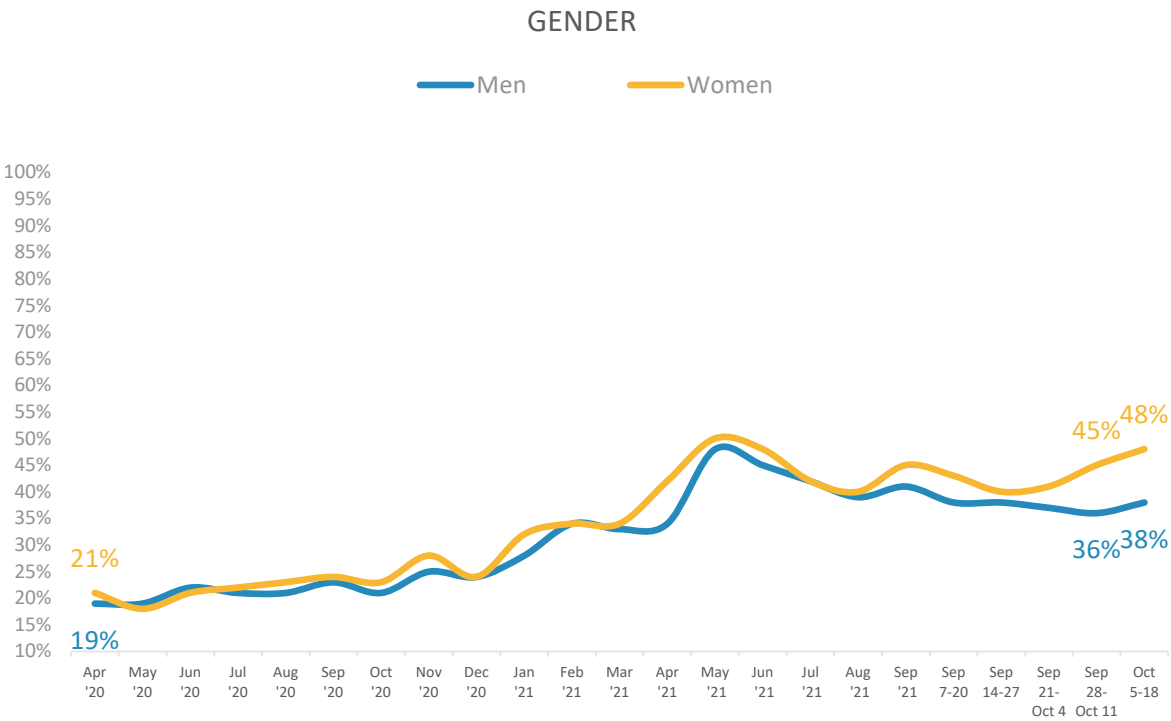
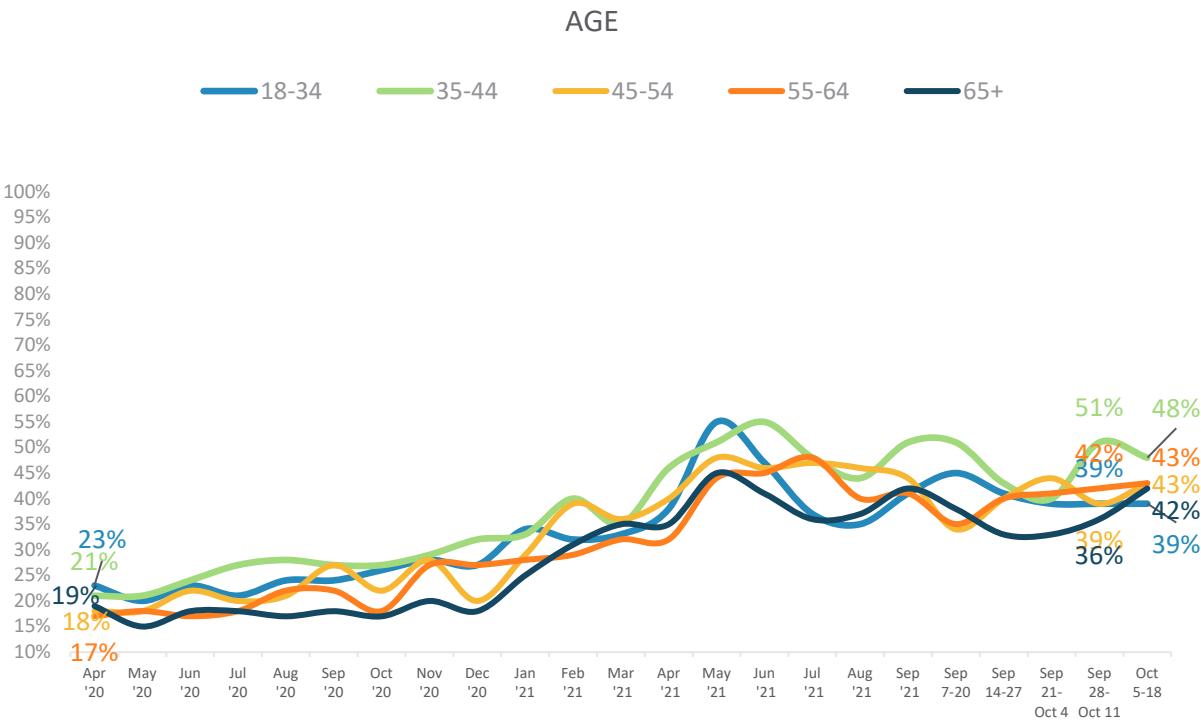


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Wrong track’ continued to increase this week among Ontarians aged 65+ (up 9-points in the past two weeks), while there was a slight decline among those aged 35-44 (still, they continue to have the highest ‘wrong track’). Among women, ‘wrong track’ has been trending upward, increasing 8-points over the past three weeks.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

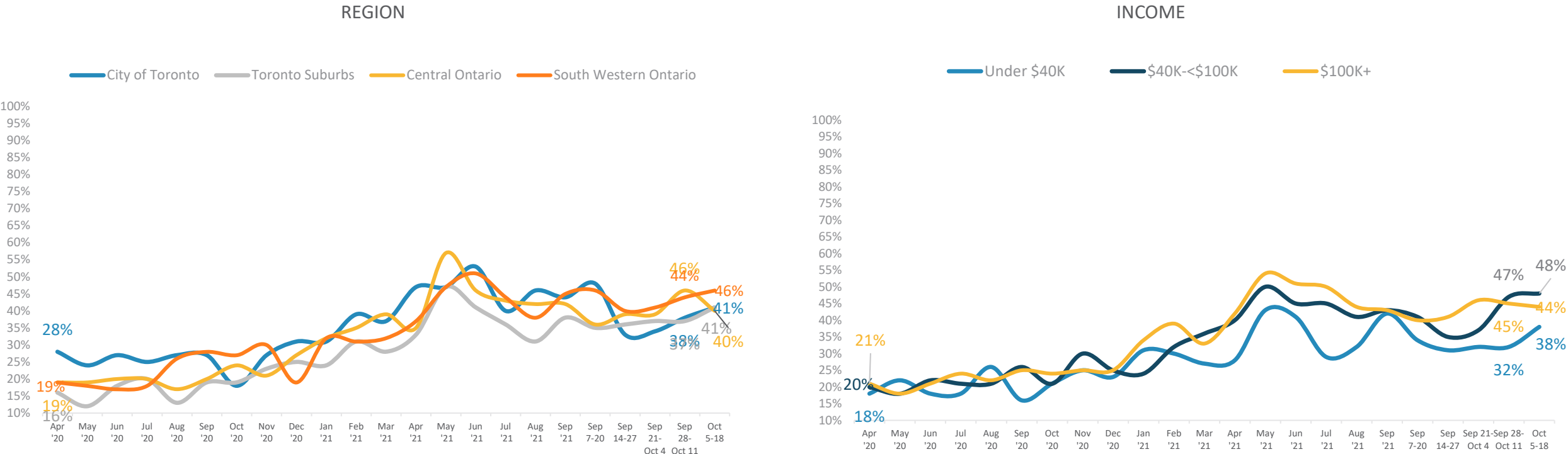


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

This week, there were increases in ‘wrong track’ in all regions with the exception of Central Ontario. The city of Toronto (up 8-points) and SW Ontario (up 6-points) have been trending up for the past three weeks. There was also an increase in ‘wrong track’ among Ontarians making <\$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



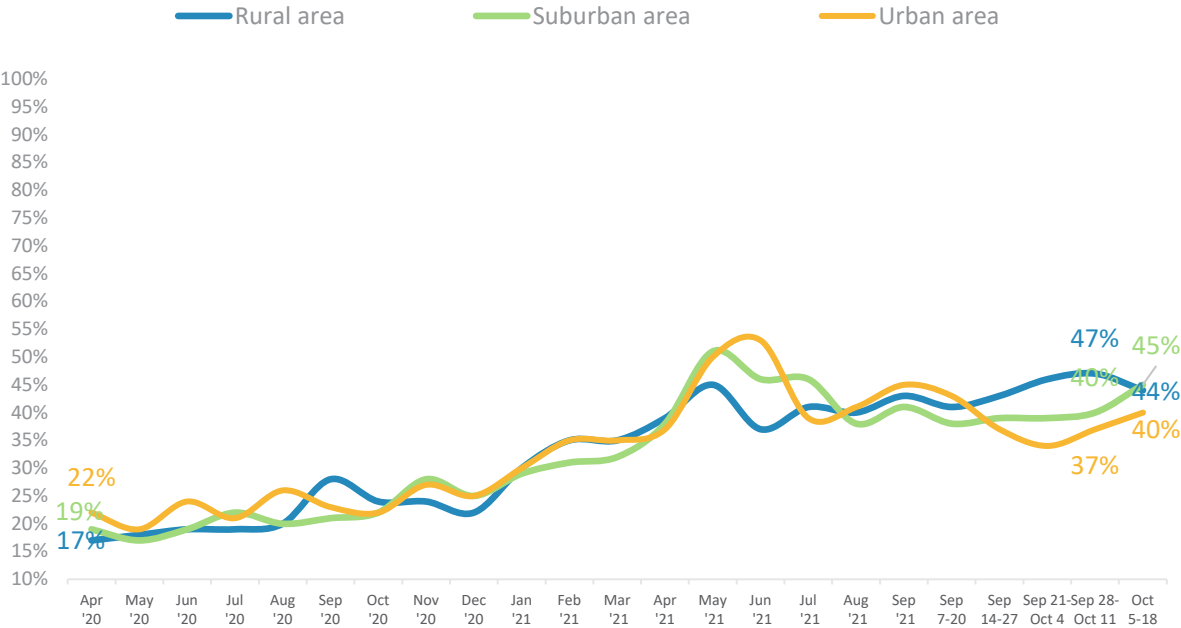
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

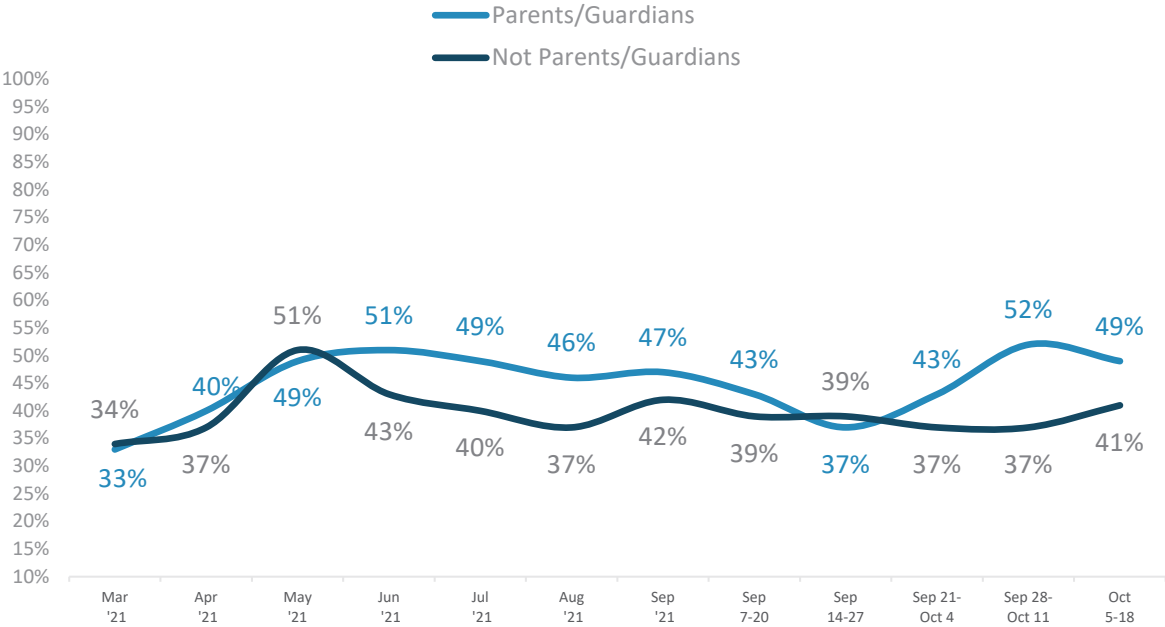
‘Wrong track’ increased this week in both urban and suburban areas while declining in rural areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

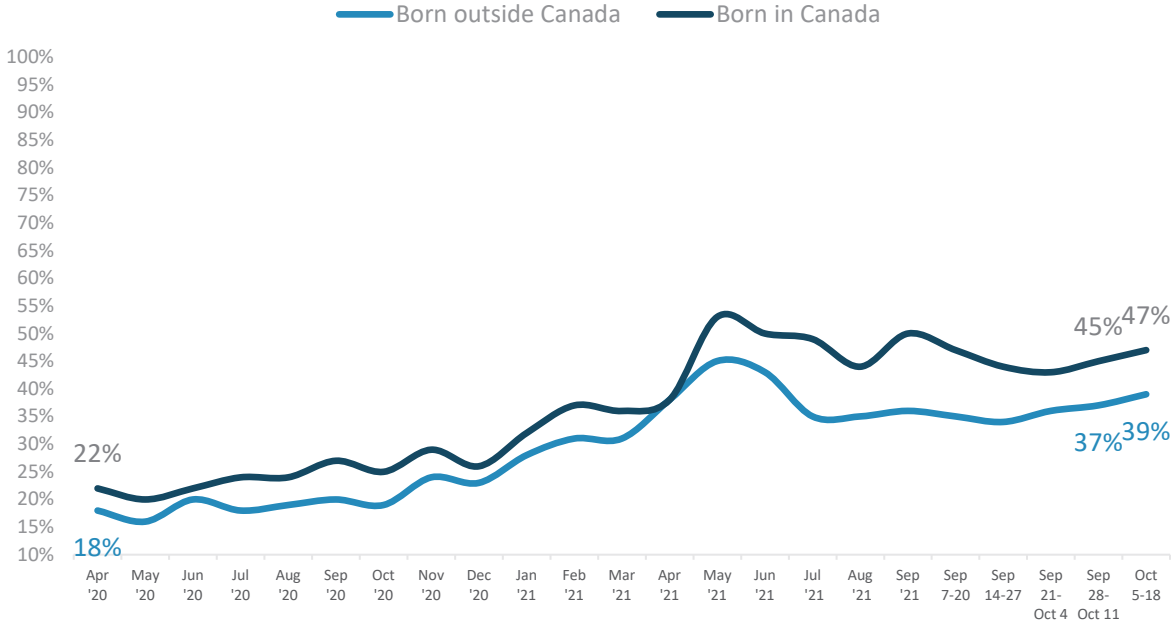


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

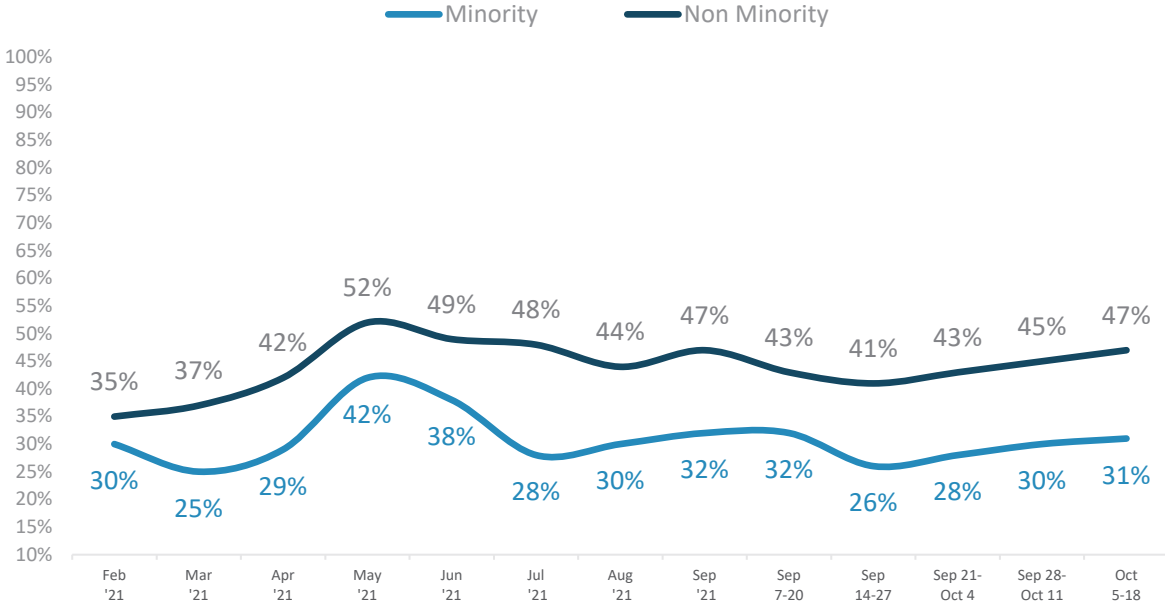
‘Wrong track’ scores among Ontarians born in/outside of Canada and among both minorities and non-minorities have been slowly trending up.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



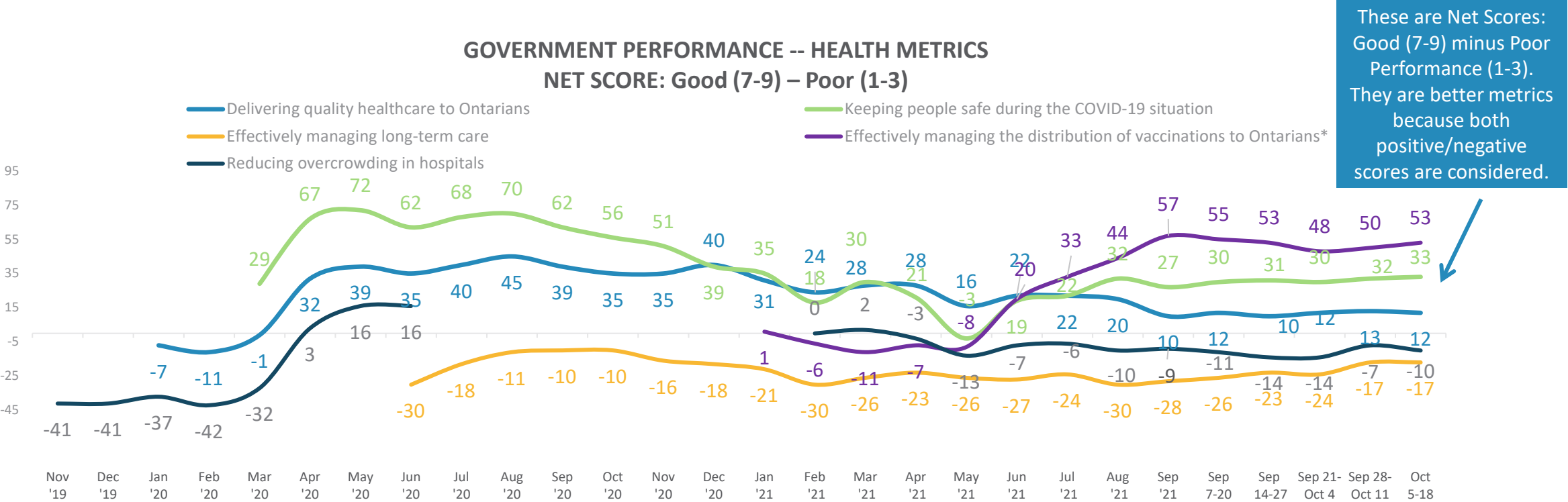
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ increased for the second straight week (and remains the highest rated health metric). ‘Keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘delivering quality healthcare’ remained steady.

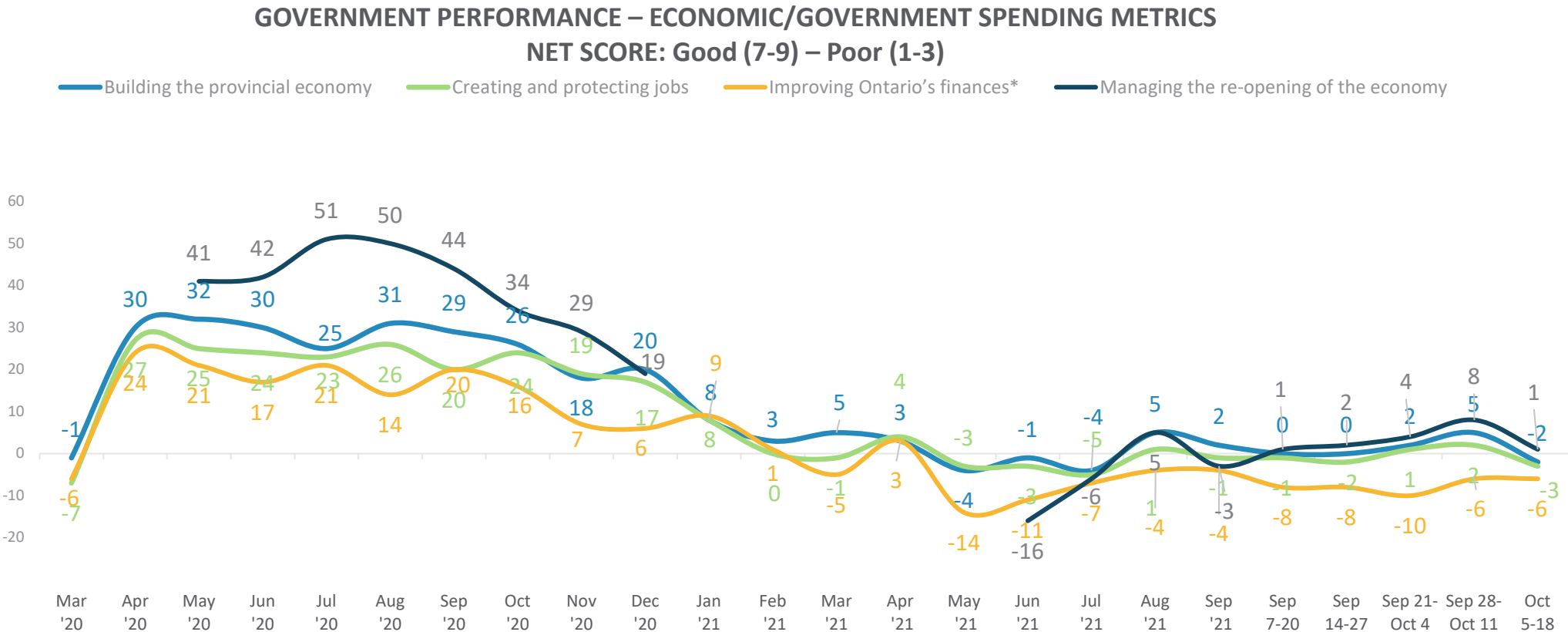
- Improvements measured for ‘effectively managing long-term care’ were retained this week.



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

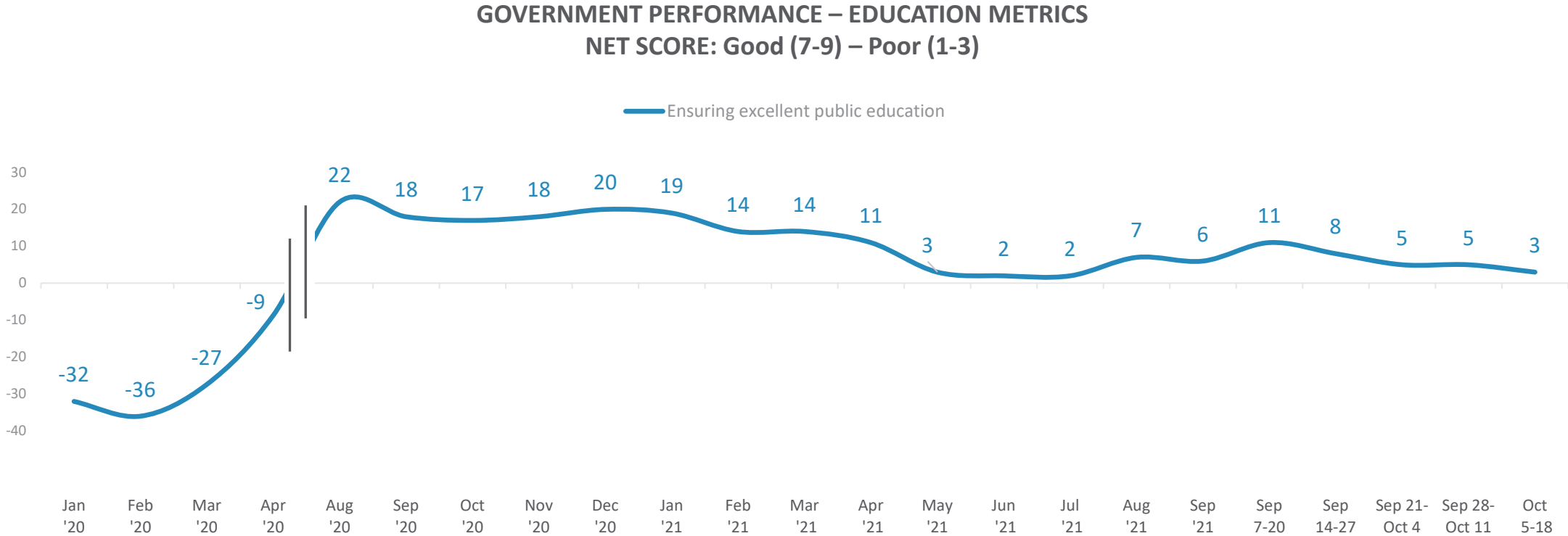
The government’s performance rating for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’, ‘building the provincial economy’ and ‘creating and protecting jobs’ all declined this week.

- ‘Improving Ontario’s finances’ remained steady.



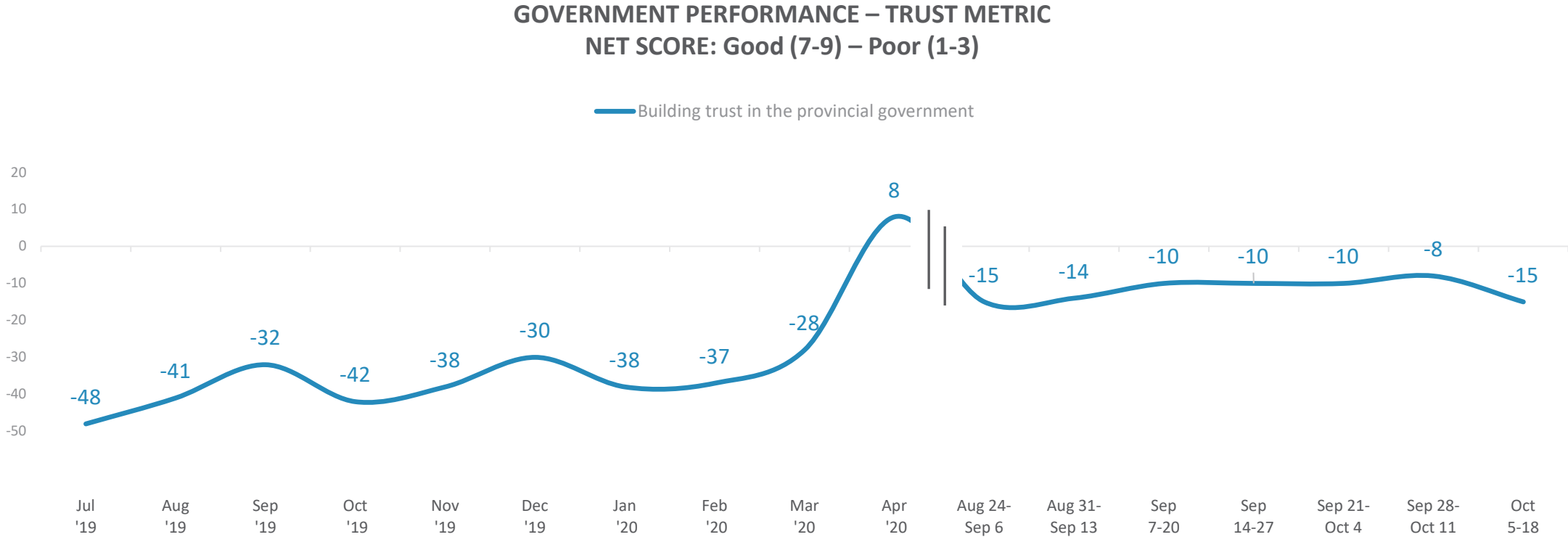
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has declined 8-points since the beginning of the school year.



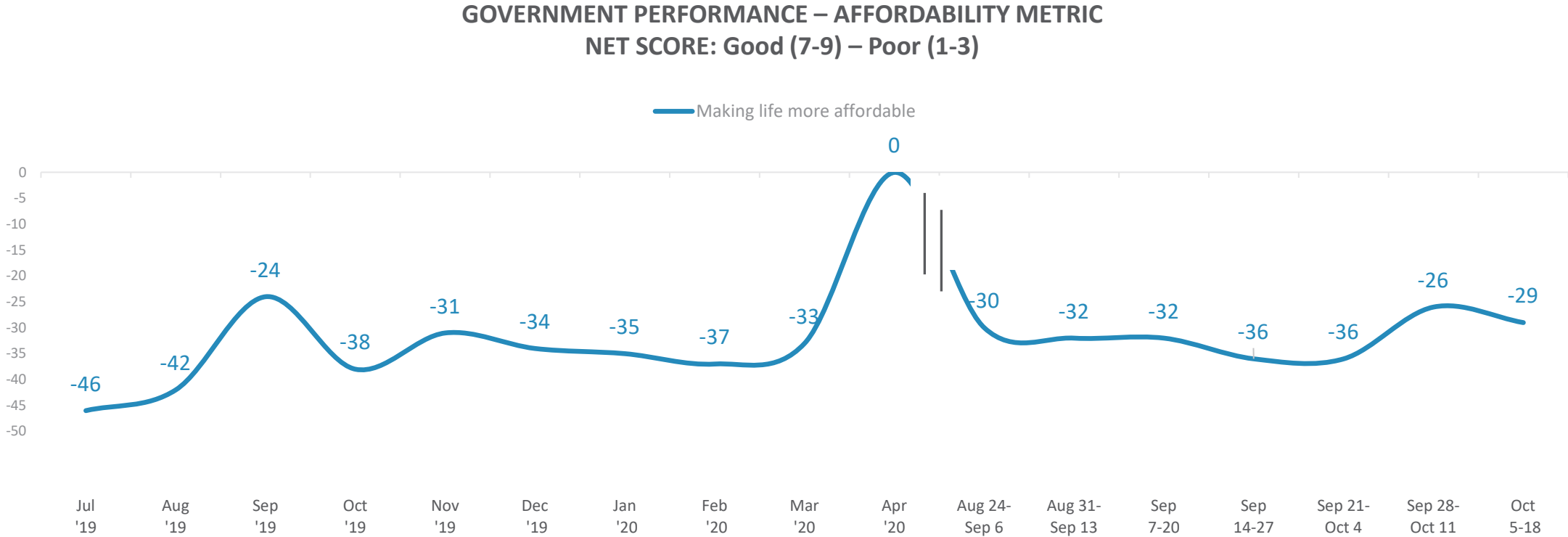
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ also 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?
Bases vary

Most of the increase measured last week was retained in ratings of the 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

FOCUS ON HEALTH VERSUS ECONOMY



As infection cases ebb downward, there may be a upward shift toward focusing on economic issues (48%) compared to health-related issues (36%).

	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	Sep 28- Oct 11	Oct 5-18
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	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	47	46	46	47	44	48
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	14	12

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 two-thirds (66%) of Ontarians express concern about a fourth wave of the pandemic, this compares to 84% in mid-August.

	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	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	Varies																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78	84	73	76	72	66	72	68	63	66
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37	51	40	43	40	38	33	39	25	27
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41	33	33	33	32	28	39	29	38	39
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11	6	14	12	15	19	12	19	26	17
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8	9	11	12	13	13	16	13	10	17
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18	15	24	24	28	32	28	31	36	34

Three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians feel that the government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. This view has increased since early August.

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

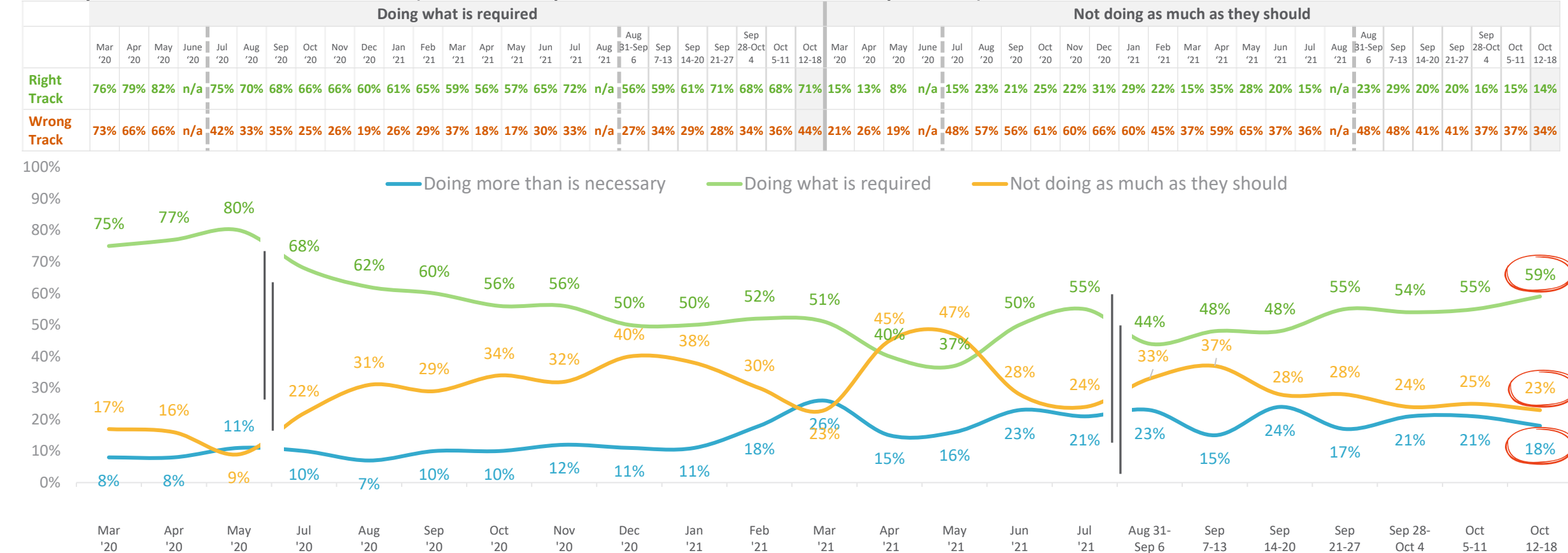
QCV-211. How prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a 'fourth' wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly? Would you say the Ontario government is . .
QCV-127. Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario 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

This week, six-in-ten (59%) believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus (up 15-points since the beginning of September), while the proportion who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ is now at 23% (down 10-points in the same time period).



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 ...

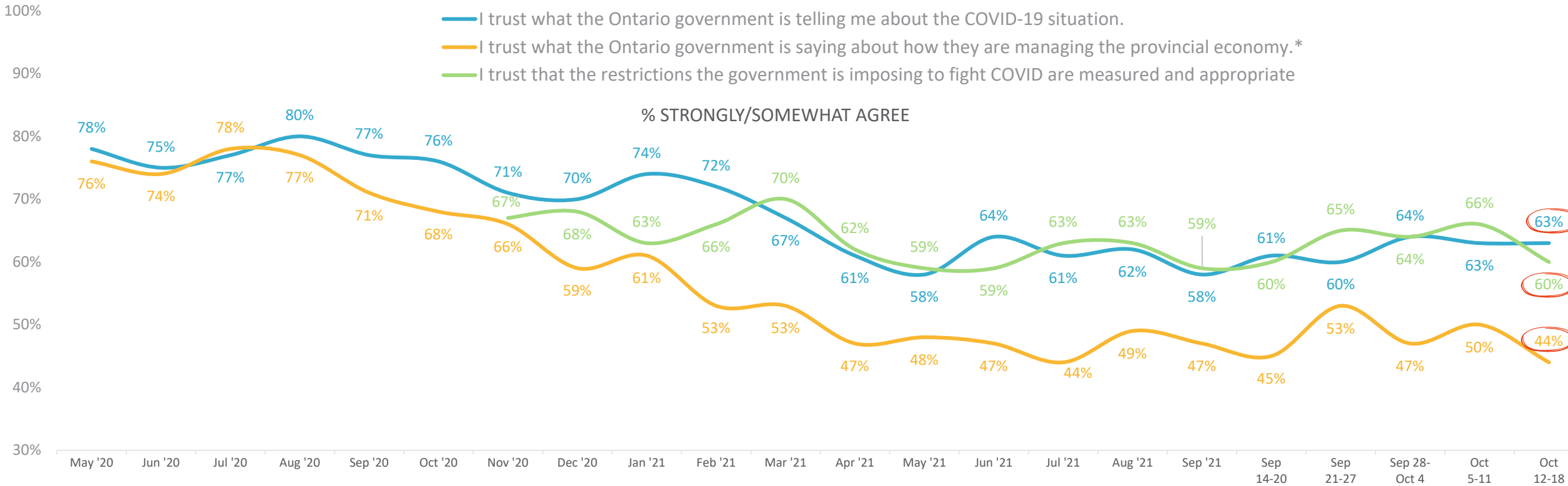
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Trust in the government’s communications about ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ remained steady again this week while there was a decline for ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured/appropriate’.

- There was also a decline for ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.



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, results remained steady this week at 36% of Ontarians who 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	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
varies						
%	%	%	%	%	%	%
-	38	40	44	40	35	36
29	19	16	16	14	18	18
-	9	9	8	10	12	11
16	9	5	8	9	8	11
16	8	6	9	6	7	8
7	2	3	2	1	3	1
13	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	7	9	4	10	10	5
11	7	12	9	10	8	8

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, six-in-ten (59%) Ontarians agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19, an increase of 12-points since the end of August (although remaining below results found in early 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	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	varies																					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75	77	77	74	61	62	52	50	51	47	49	49	50	59	52	64	59
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19	21	17	18	23	16	21	22	25	38	24
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34	30	34	29	25	34	29	37	26	26	35
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	5	7	7	6	8	8	7	7	10	7	7	11	6	6
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18	18	16	18	18	19	19	11	15	11	19
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20	19	23	25	21	18	20	21	21	16	12
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38	37	39	43	39	37	39	31	36	27	31

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VACCINE



Half (51%) 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	Sep '21	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28- Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
varies													
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	42	55	48	54	51
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	19	20	20	25	19
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	22	35	28	29	32
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	8	5	7	5	8
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	20	16	17	15	22
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	27	23	25	22	19
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	48	38	42	37	40

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

WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THIRD DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Ontarians indicate they 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 61% being ‘very’ willing.

	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL WILLING	79	82	79
Very willing	54	69	61
Somewhat willing	25	14	18
Not too willing	7	6	9
Not at all willing	9	7	10
TOTAL NOT WILLING	16	14	19
I have already had my booster dose	2	1	1
Don't know/not sure	4	3	2

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

The top cited reason for not being willing to get a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is that it is ‘not necessary’ (13%).

	Sep 28-Oct 11	Oct 5-18
n=	69	84
%	%	%
Not necessary	28	13
Research/need more information	11	11
I got sick when taking previous doses of the COVID-19 vaccine	-	10
I already got two doses (that is enough)	-	10
They originally said two doses were enough (and were wrong)	13	8
Too soon/need a longer gap in between doses	-	8
I am not high risk/my exposure is low	10	6
I never wanted to get the first two doses/was forced to get first two doses (e.g., work)	-	6
Concerned about long term effects	9	5
Do not trust the government	6	5
How many boosters are going to be needed (e.g., every six months)	10	4
They should focus on getting everyone vaccinated with the first two doses	-	4
Heard negative things about the vaccine (e.g., in the media)	-	2
Not confident in the effectiveness of the vaccine	-	2
Just a ploy to give money to big pharma	-	1
Concerned about too much vaccine in the body	3	-
Other	18	18
Don't know/not sure	1	5

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

PERCEPTIONS OF BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS



Preliminary results indicate that eight-in-ten (81%) Ontarians have seen, read, or heard anything about people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 contracting the virus.

	Oct 12-18
n=	300
	%
Yes	81
No	18

QCV-122. Have you seen, read or heard anything about people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 contracting COVID-19?

Base: Total sample

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT THE FULLY VACCINATED CONTRACTING COVID-19

Early results indicate that Ontarians tend to be split on their level of concern about the possibility of fully vaccinated people contracting COVID-19, with 53% concerned and 46% not concerned.

	Oct 12-18
n=	257
	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	53
Very concerned	12
Somewhat concerned	41
Not too concerned	29
Not at all concerned	16
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	46

QCV-123. How concerned or not are you about the possibility of fully vaccinated people contracting COVID-19? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?
Base: Have received both doses at QD12

MINIMUM WAGE



ARE THERE GROUPS WHO ARE PAID LESS THAN MINIMUM WAGE?

Over four-in-ten (43%) Ontarians believe there are not any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in Ontario, while almost one-in-five (18%) are not sure.

	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Yes	41	35	39
No	39	48	43
Don't know/not sure	20	17	18

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 (33%) and agriculture sector workers (28%) are paid less than minimum wage.

- However, 37% report they are not sure.

	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Students under 18	37	36	37
Alcoholic beverage servers	34	34	33
Agriculture sector workers	25	18	28
Parking attendants	10	12	11
<i>Restaurant workers (e.g., waitress)</i>	3	5	3
Illegal immigrants	1	-	1
All of them	1	<1	<1
Healthcare workers (e.g., nurses PSW)	1	-	<1
Babysitter/nanny	1	-	<1
Foreign workers	-	2	-
Long-term care homes	-	1	-
Drivers (e.g., truck, tow truck)	1	-	-
Other	1	3	3
None/nothing	1	-	<1
Don't know/not sure	36	39	37

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

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	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	300	300	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	18	20
Other people say it is unfair to treat students under 18 differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.	75	76	75
Don't know/not sure	6	6	4

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 (75%) 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	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	300	300	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	10	17
Other people say it is unfair to treat servers of alcohol differently and that some may make little in tips.	76	79	75
Don't know/not sure	6	11	8

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

Two-thirds (67%) of Ontarians feel that the change from \$14.25 to \$14.35 is not big enough and that minimum wage should be increased even higher. Almost one-in-five (17%) 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	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	300	300	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	10	12
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	18	17
Still others say that this change is not big enough, and that minimum wage should be increased even higher.	59	64	67
Don't know/not sure	5	8	4

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

Six-in-ten (60%) Ontarians are of the view that it is important to ensure minimum wage workers are paid more. However, 35% 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.

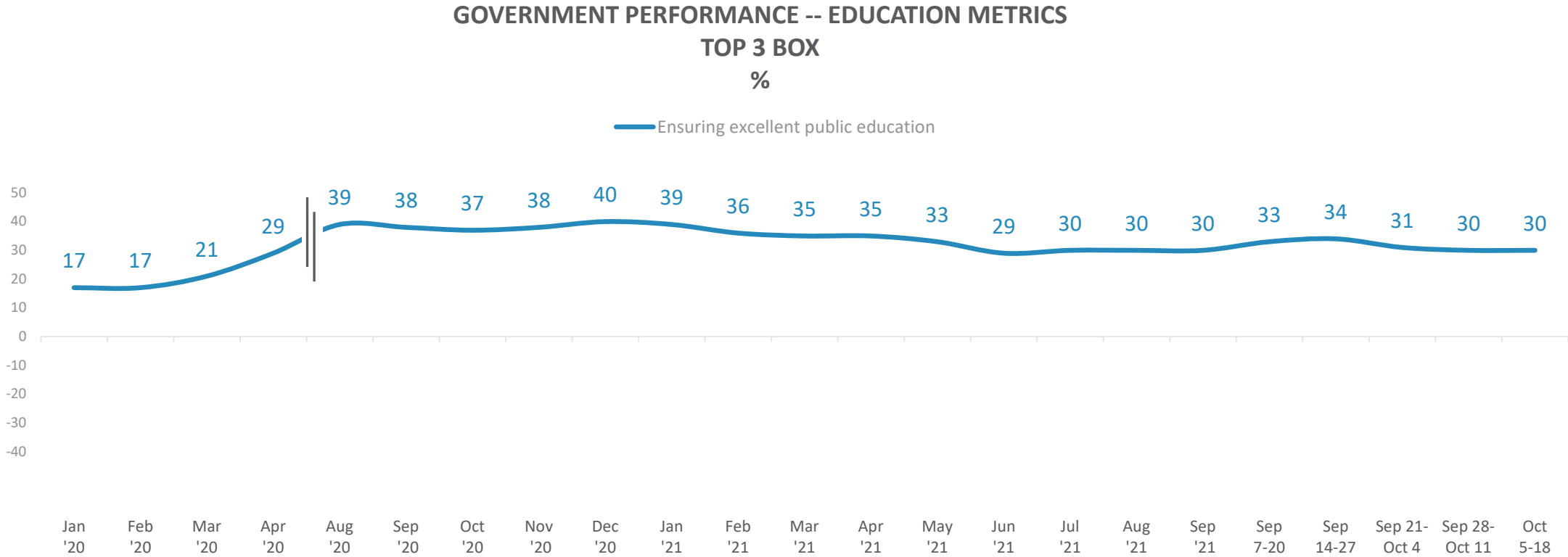
	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
In terms of setting the right dollar amount for the minimum wage, some people say that for now, the amount should not be increased to \$15.00 as it may harm businesses that are still recovering from the impact of COVID-19	37	29	35
Other people say, it is more important to ensure minimum wage workers are paid more	56	62	60
Don't know/not sure	8	9	5

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

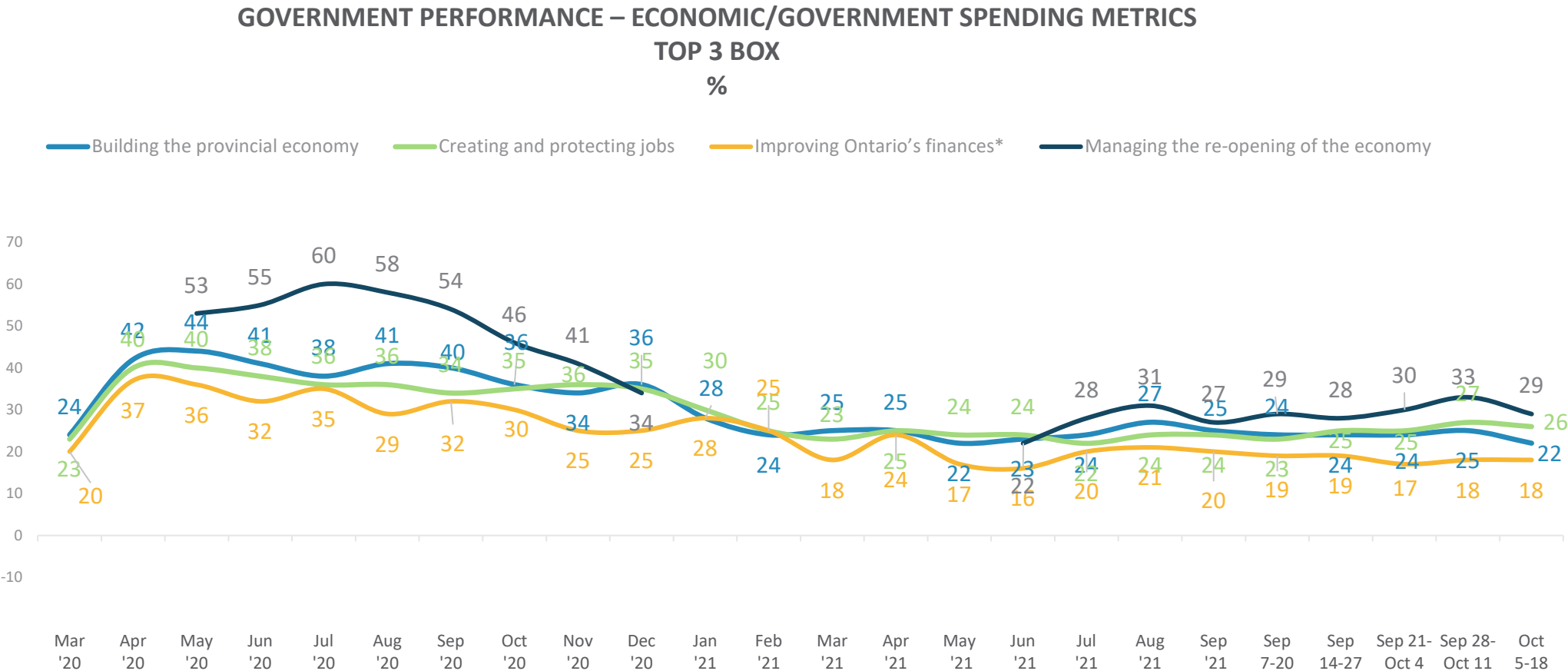


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained steady this week.



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?
Bases vary

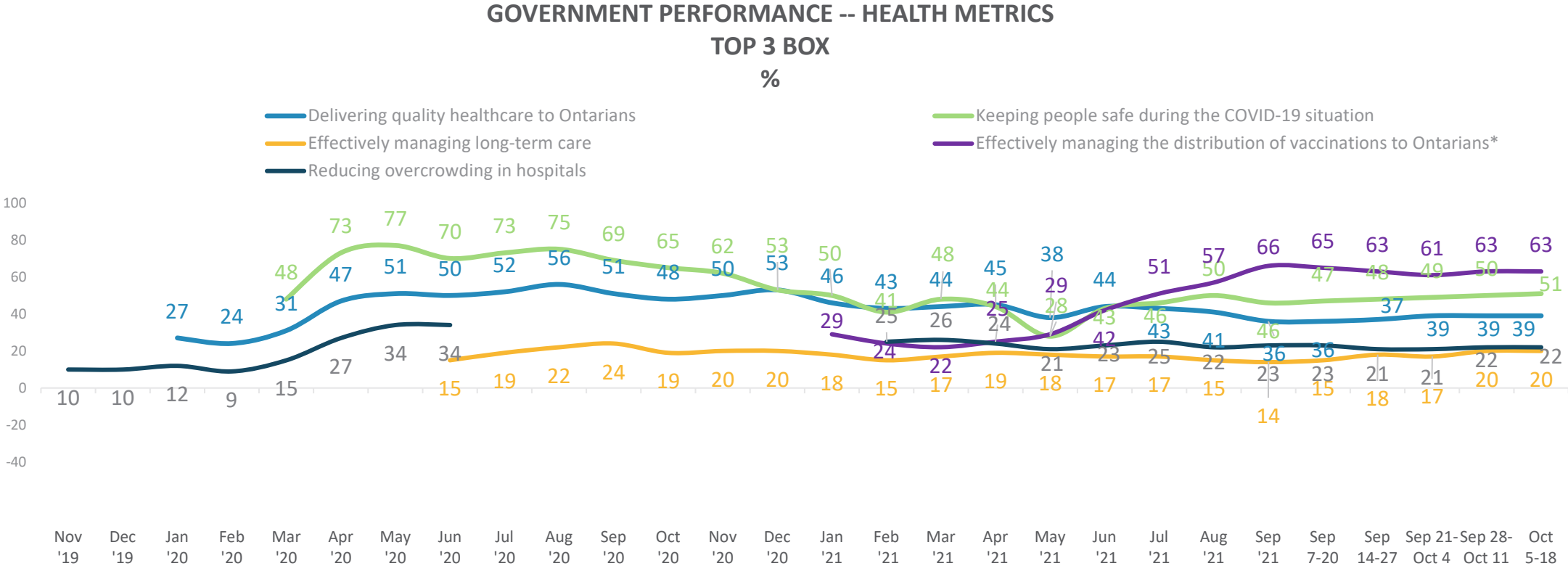
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for ‘managing the reopening of the economy’ lost gains made over the past two weeks, while there was also a slight decline for ‘building the provincial economy’ this week.



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?

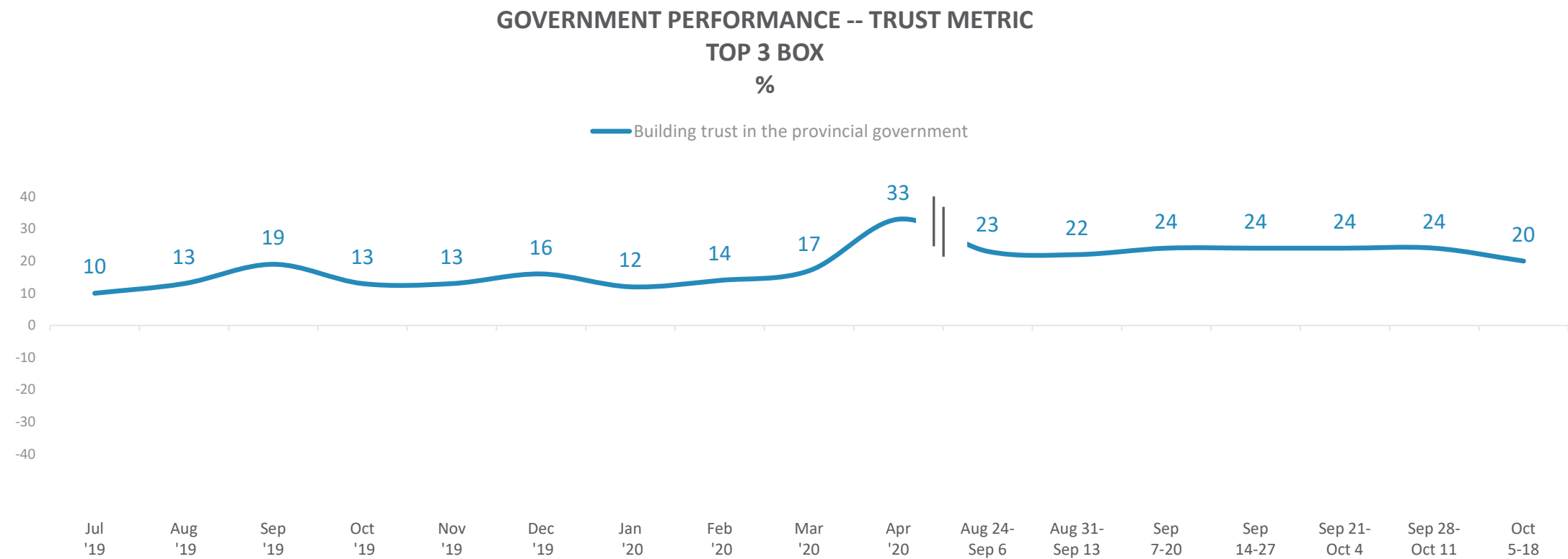
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for the health metrics remained unchanged this week.



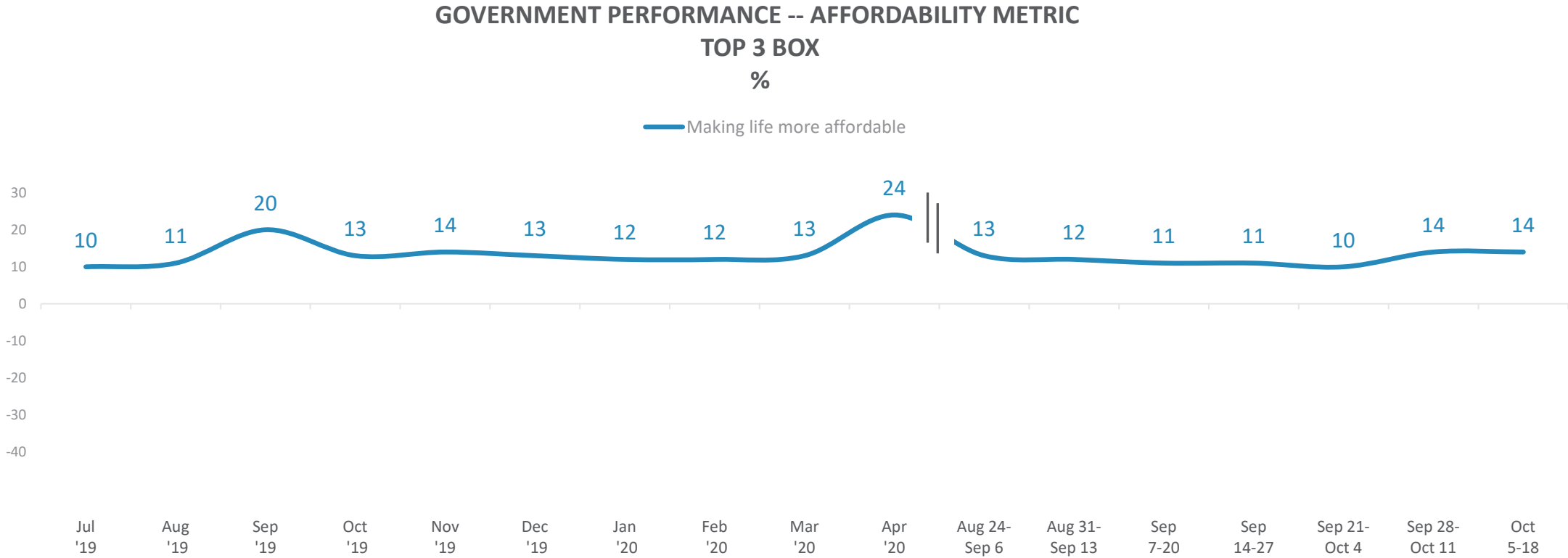
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

After remaining steady for several weeks, there was a decline in the proportion of Ontarians that provide a positive rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’.



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

Results remained unchanged for the 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