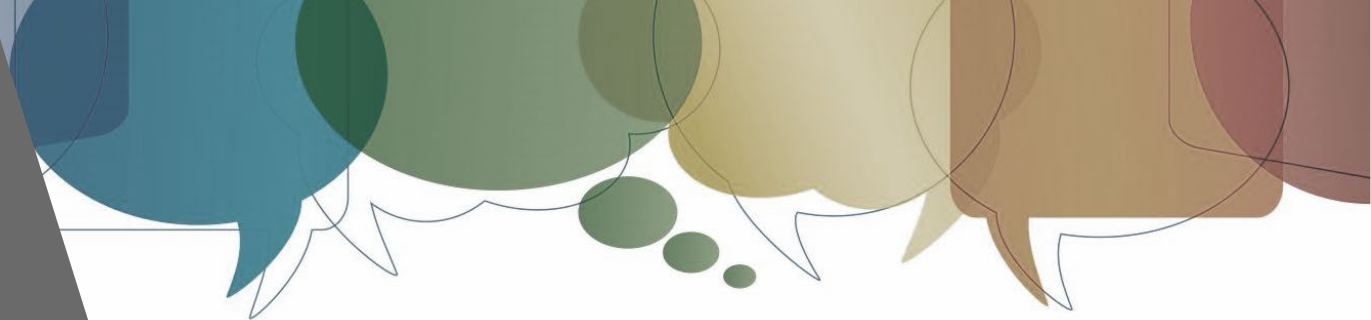




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #104

CABINET OFFICE
October 26th 2021

Ontario 

KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' scores have continued to decline to 53% this week.

And, 'right track' scores have declined among men, although remaining higher than among women.

3 As infection cases ebb downward, and confidence increases, there appears to be an upward shift toward focusing on economic issues (61%) compared to health-related issues (31%). This is the highest point for focussing on economic issues since this tracking started in the spring.

Connected to this, one-third (34%) of Ontarians now believe that COVID-19 should remain the government's top priority, down from a high of 76% in February of this year. Priorities of the economy (10%) affordable housing (9%) have been increasing.

2 While Ontarians remain concerned about a fourth wave of the pandemic (68%), results are lower than measured in mid-August (84%).

Of note, there was an increase this week to four-in-ten (39%) Ontarians who believe unvaccinated individuals are the most responsible for the increase in infections. And, just over half (55%) of Ontarians report they are concerned about the possibility of fully vaccinated people contracting COVID-19.

However, seven-in-ten (68%) Ontarians agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19, an increase of 21-points since the end of August.

4 This week, rating of the government's performance for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' and 'creating and protecting jobs' remained steady. However, declines were measured for 'building the provincial economy' (down 10-points in the past two weeks) and 'improving Ontario's finances' (down 6-points).

Of note, with the exception of 'managing the reopening of the economy' at NET +1, these economic/government spending metrics remain in negative territory.

There was also a decline in the rating of the government's performance for 'making life more affordable', which also remains in negative territory.

Key Findings

5 Ontarians tend to be uncertain if there are any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in Ontario. Fully four-in-ten (40%) believe there are not any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in the province.

However, a majority of Ontarians hold the point of view that it is unfair to treat students under 18 (73%) and servers of alcohol (77%) differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.

And, six-in-ten (61%) 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.

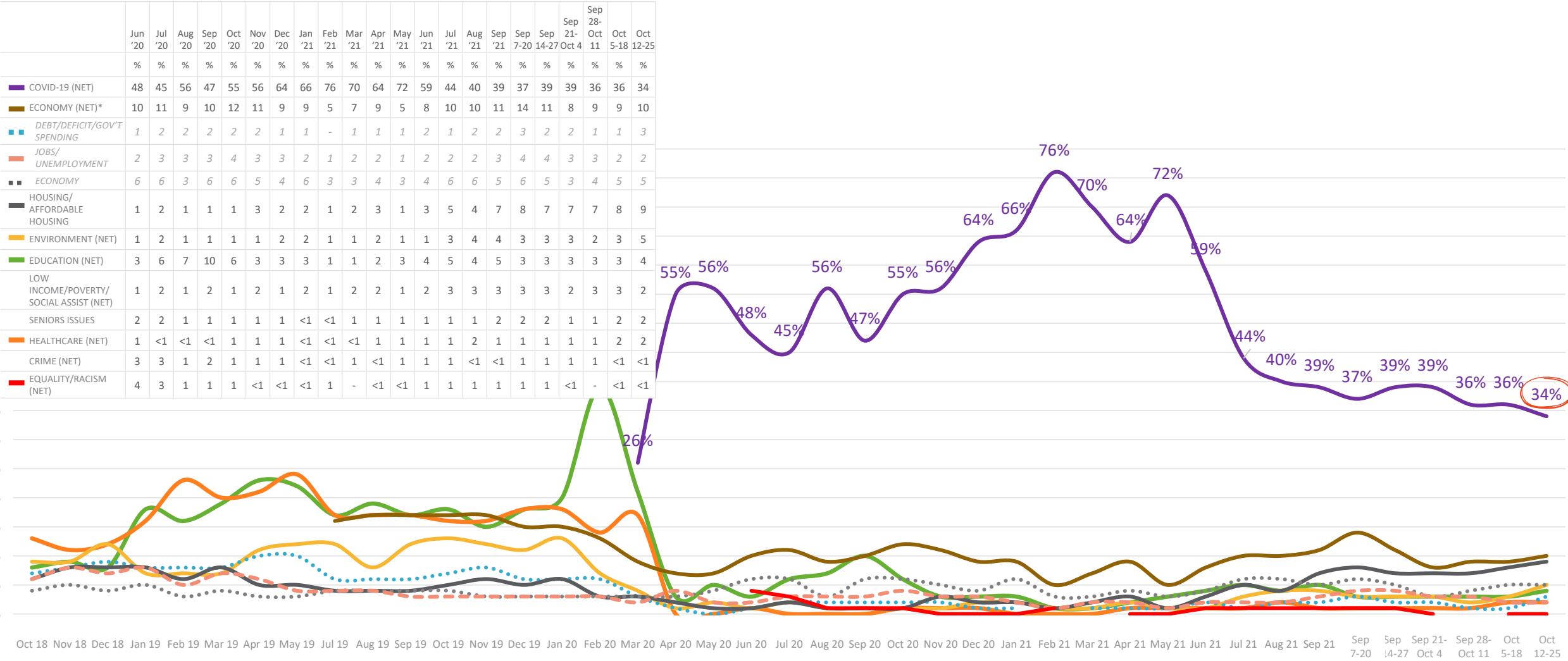
6 After a decline of 8-points in the rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' since the beginning of the school year, there was an uptick this week.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Results remained steady this week with one-third (34%) of Ontarians who believe that COVID-19 should remain the government’s top priority, while 10% cite the economy and 9% affordable housing.



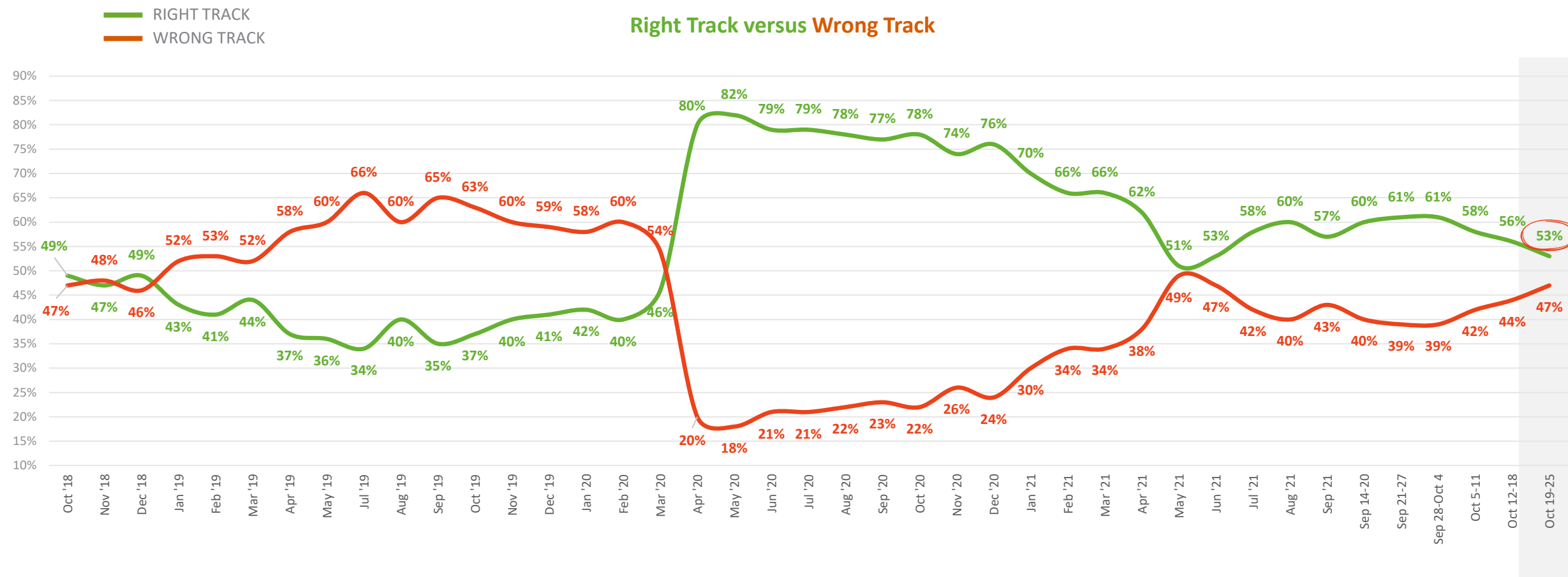
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

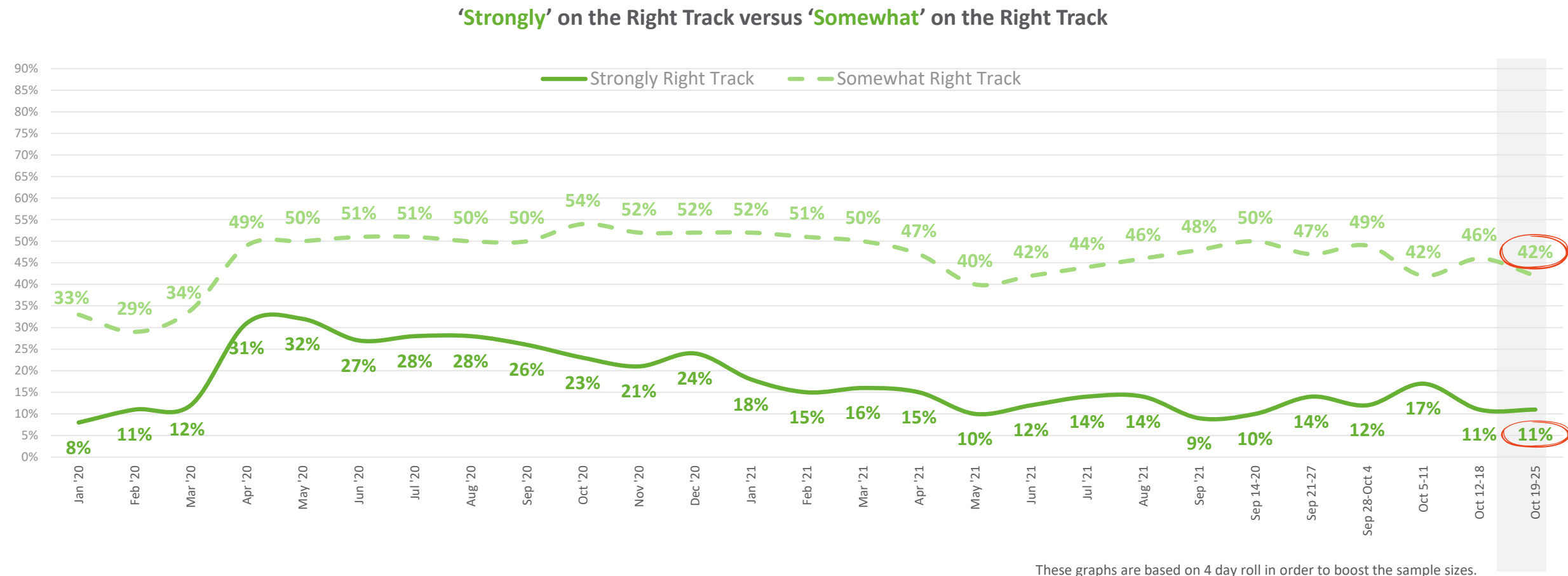


‘Right track’ has continued to trend down this week to 53%.



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

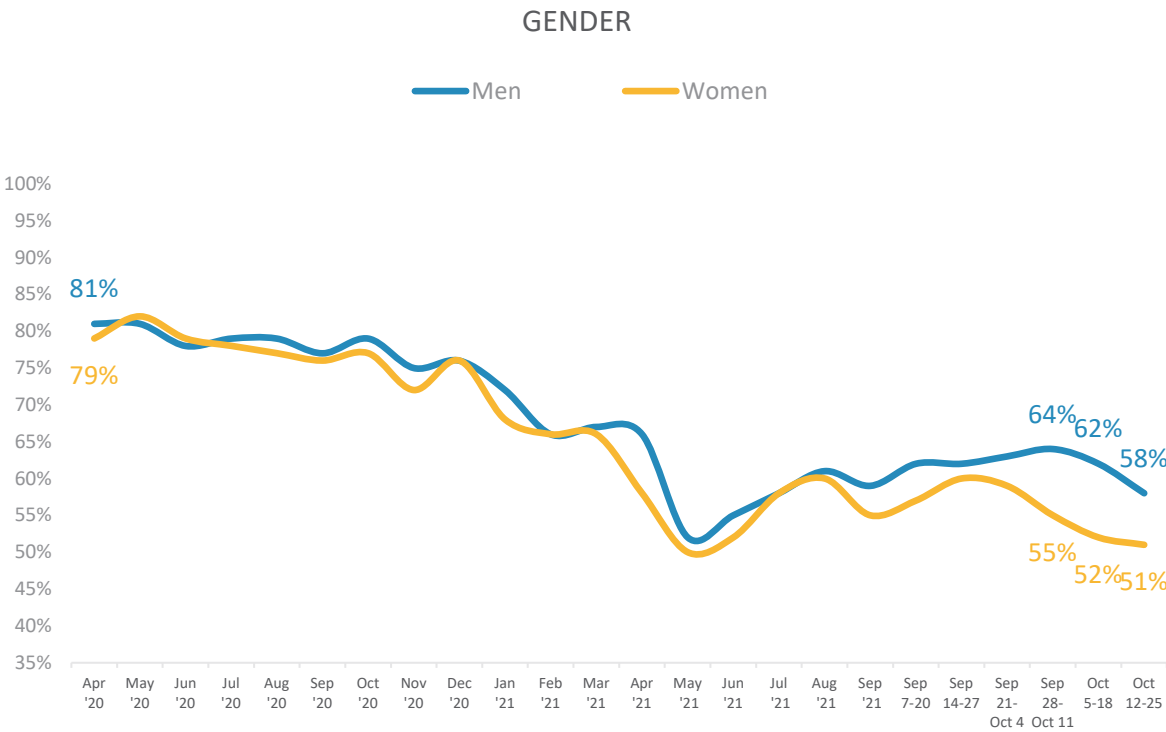
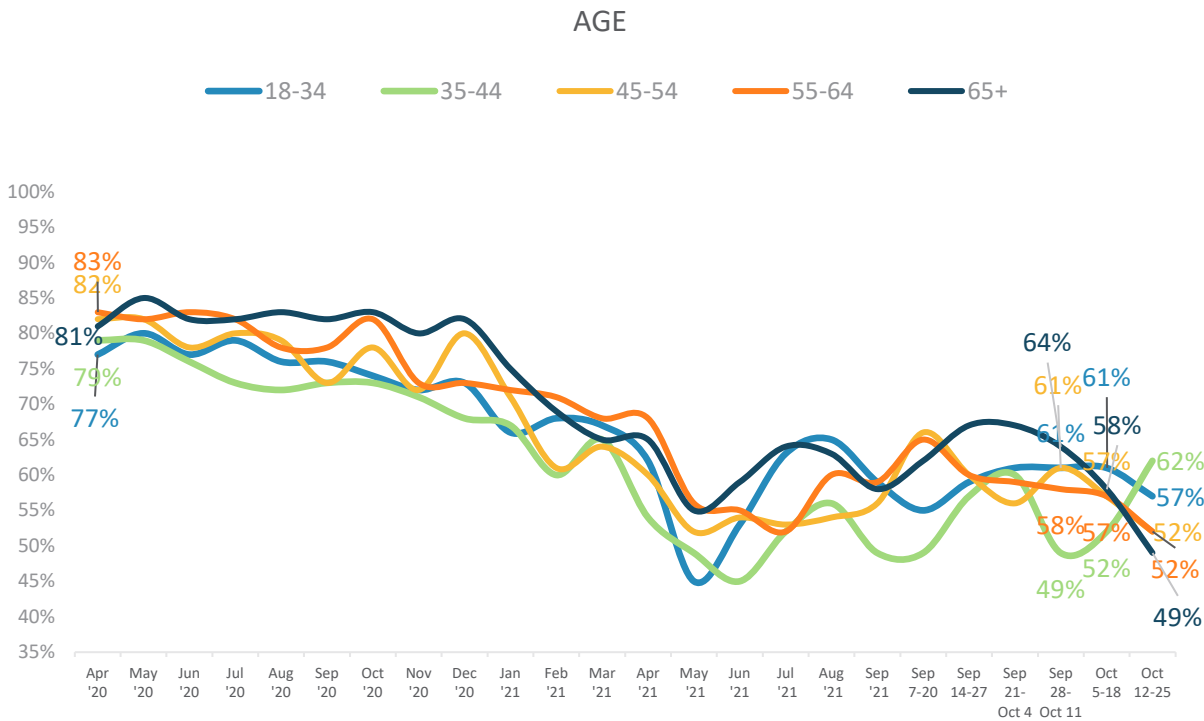
While ‘strongly on the right track’ has remained unchanged, there was a dip in the proportion who see the government as ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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

‘Right track’ has declined among men, although remaining higher than among women. ‘Right track’ has also declined among all age segments with the exception of 35-44 year olds which has experienced a 13-point increase over the past two weeks. Of note, ‘right track’ among Ontarians aged 65+ is down 18-points in the last three weeks.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

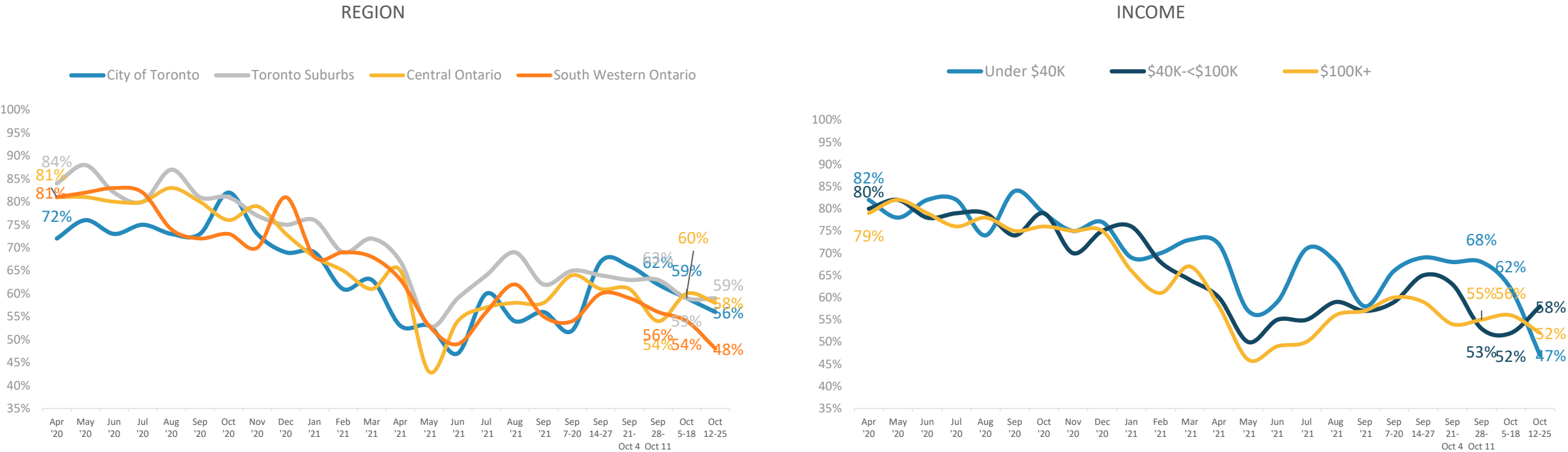


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While remaining steady in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario, there were declines in ‘right track’ again this week in the city of Toronto and SW Ontario. By income, ‘right track’ continued to decline among Ontarians earning <\$40k, while there was an uptick among those making \$40k-<\$100k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

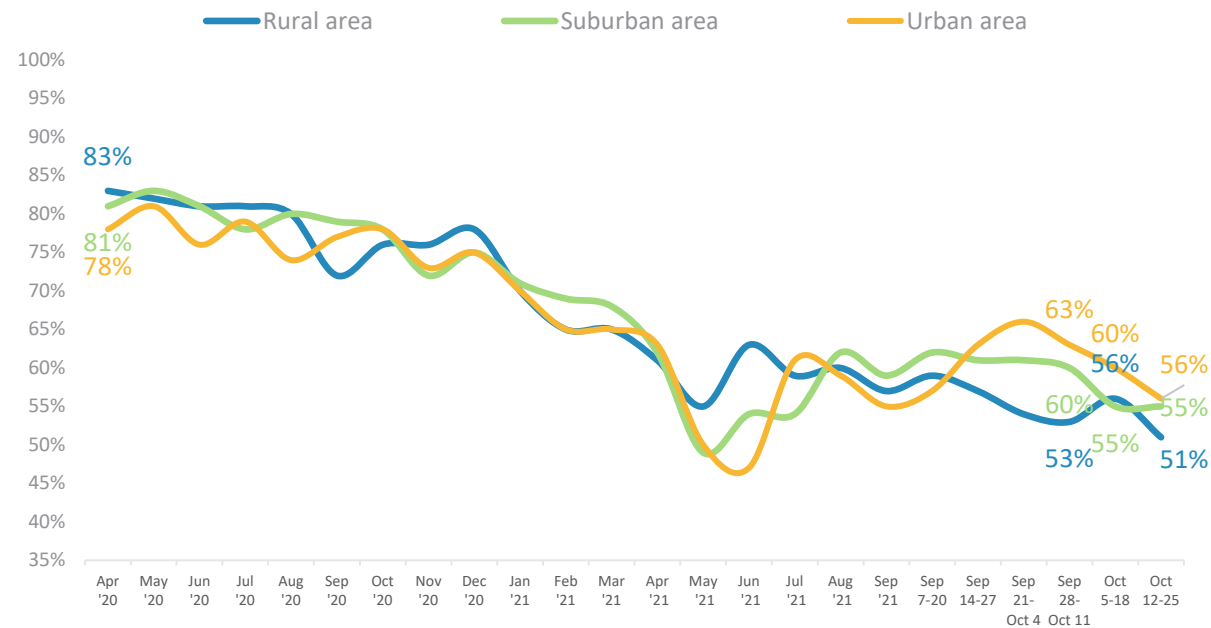
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

Base: Total sample

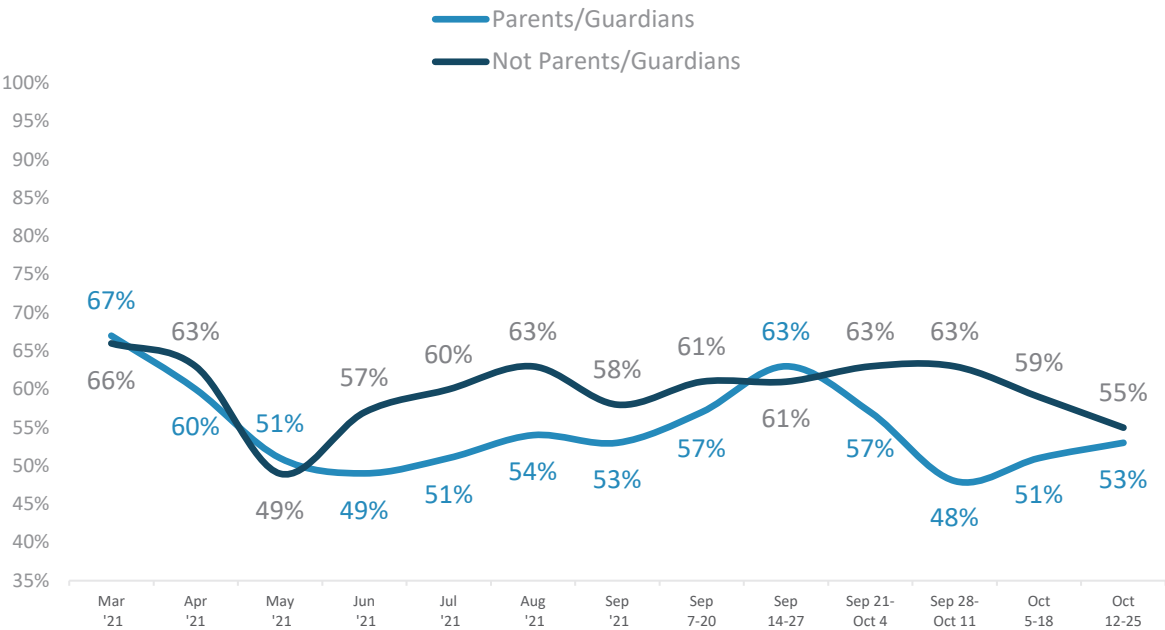
‘Right track’ scores declined in both urban and rural areas while remaining unchanged in suburban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



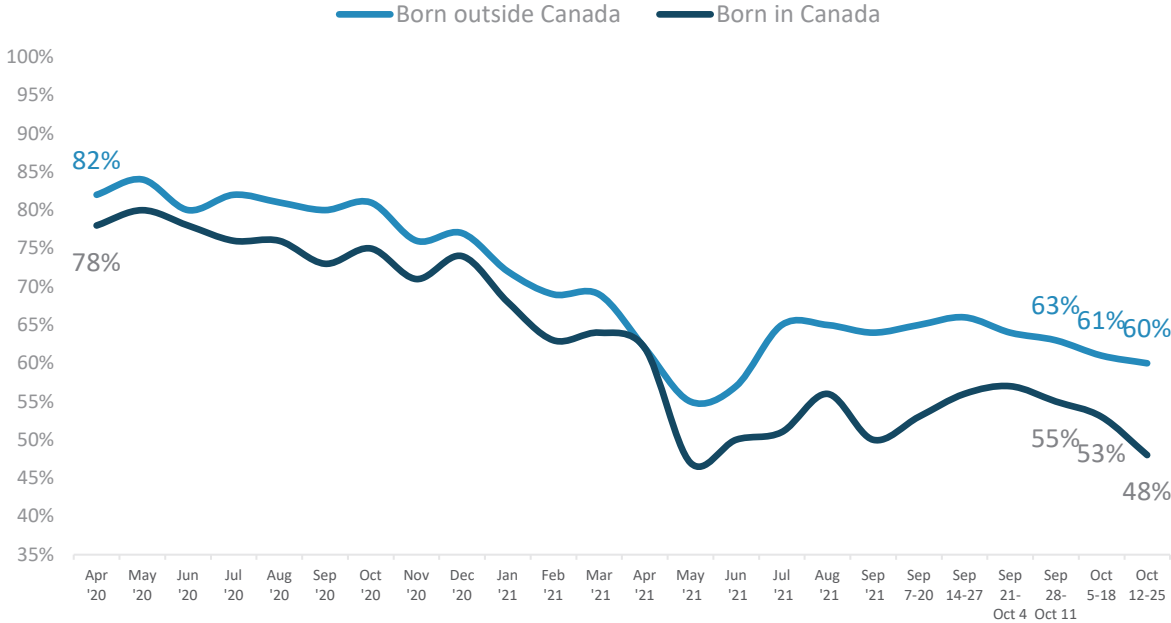
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

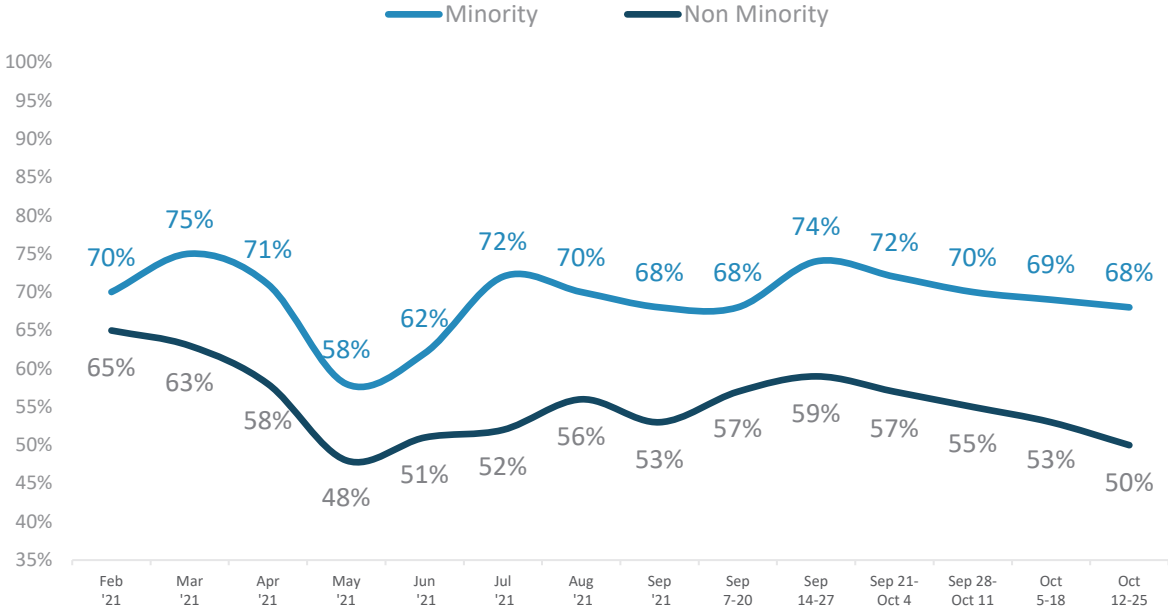
While ‘right track’ scores among Ontarians born outside of Canada and among minorities are slowly trending down, there has been a larger decline measured among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

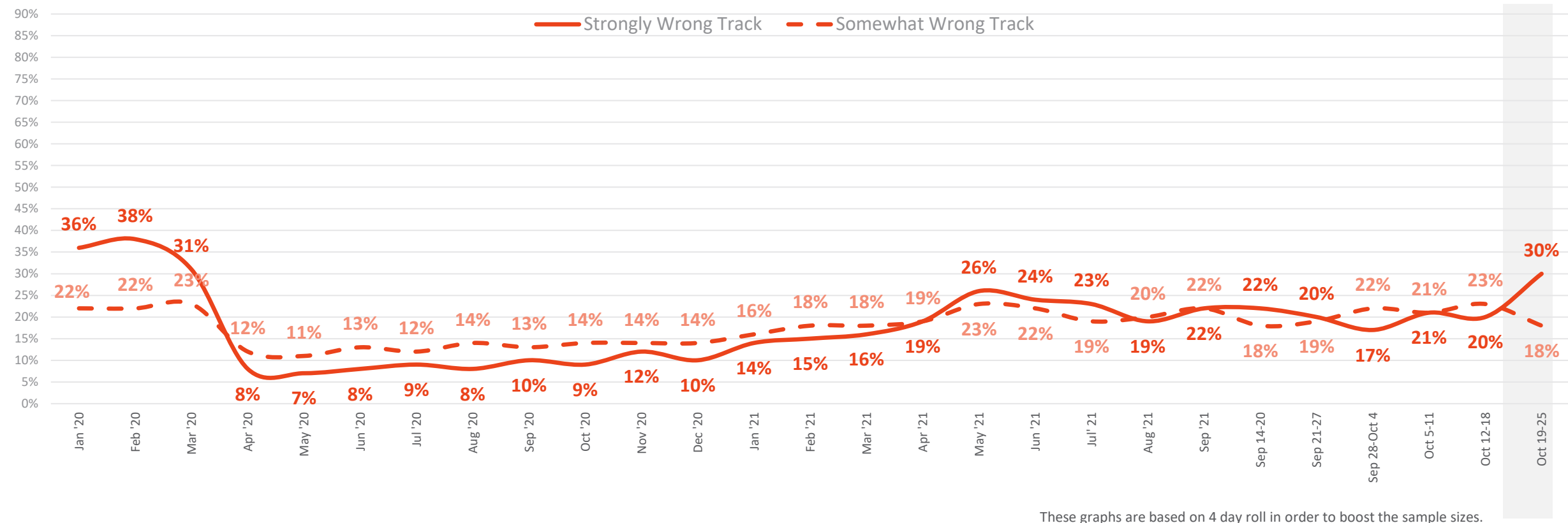


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

After remaining relatively steady for the past few months, ‘strongly on the wrong track’ increased this week to numbers not seen since March’20 at the beginning of the pandemic.

‘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

AGE

Legend: 18-34 (Blue), 35-44 (Green), 45-54 (Orange), 55-64 (Red), 65+ (Dark Blue)

Date	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Apr '20	23%	21%	19%	18%	17%
May '20	19%	18%	17%	16%	15%
Jun '20	20%	21%	19%	18%	17%
Jul '20	21%	22%	20%	19%	18%
Aug '20	22%	23%	21%	20%	19%
Sep '20	23%	24%	22%	21%	20%
Oct '20	24%	25%	23%	22%	21%
Nov '20	25%	26%	24%	23%	22%
Dec '20	26%	27%	25%	24%	23%
Jan '21	27%	28%	26%	25%	24%
Feb '21	28%	29%	27%	26%	25%
Mar '21	29%	30%	28%	27%	26%
Apr '21	30%	31%	29%	28%	27%
May '21	31%	32%	30%	29%	28%
Jun '21	32%	33%	31%	30%	29%
Jul '21	33%	34%	32%	31%	30%
Aug '21	34%	35%	33%	32%	31%
Sep '21	35%	36%	34%	33%	32%
Sep 7-20	36%	37%	35%	34%	33%
Sep 14-27	37%	38%	36%	35%	34%
Sep 21-	38%	39%	37%	36%	35%
Sep 28-	39%	40%	38%	37%	36%
Oct 5-11	40%	41%	39%	38%	37%
Oct 12-25	41%	42%	40%	39%	38%

Line chart showing the percentage of people who have been vaccinated by gender (Men and Women) from April 2020 to October 2021. The Y-axis represents the percentage of vaccinated individuals (10% to 100%). The X-axis shows the timeline by month and year.

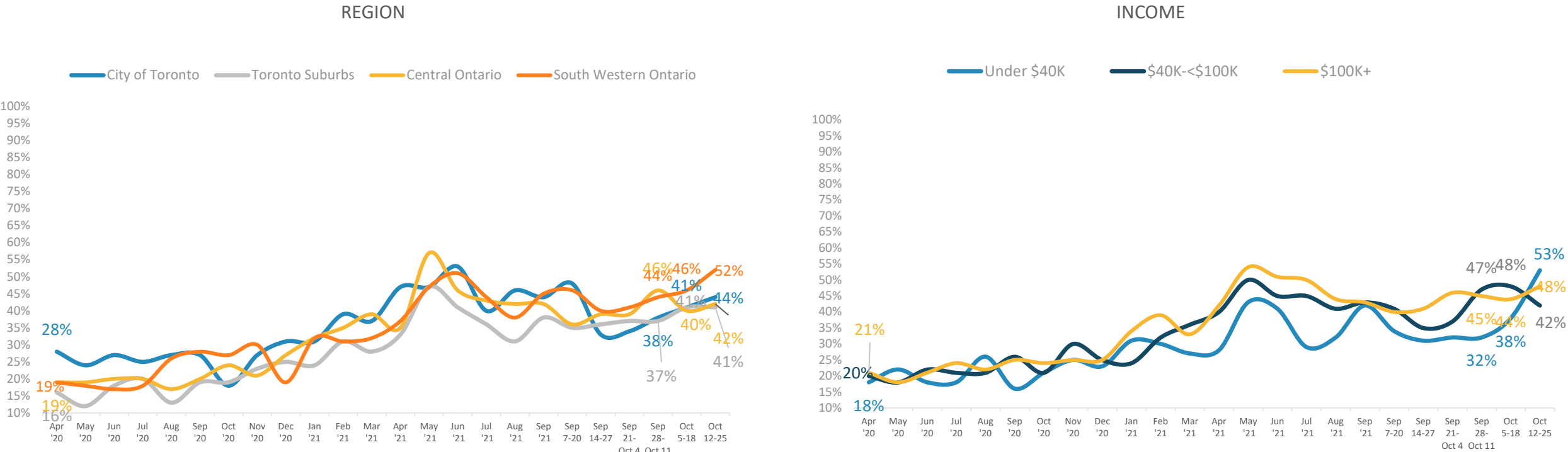
Key data points (Percentage Vaccinated):

Date	Men (%)	Women (%)
Apr '20	19%	21%
May '21	~48%	~50%
Oct 4	36%	45%
Oct 11	38%	48%
Oct 18	42%	49%

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 remaining steady in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario, ‘wrong track’ increased in the city of Toronto (up 11-points in four weeks) and SW Ontario (up 12-points in four weeks). By income, ‘wrong track’ is now highest among Ontarians making <\$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

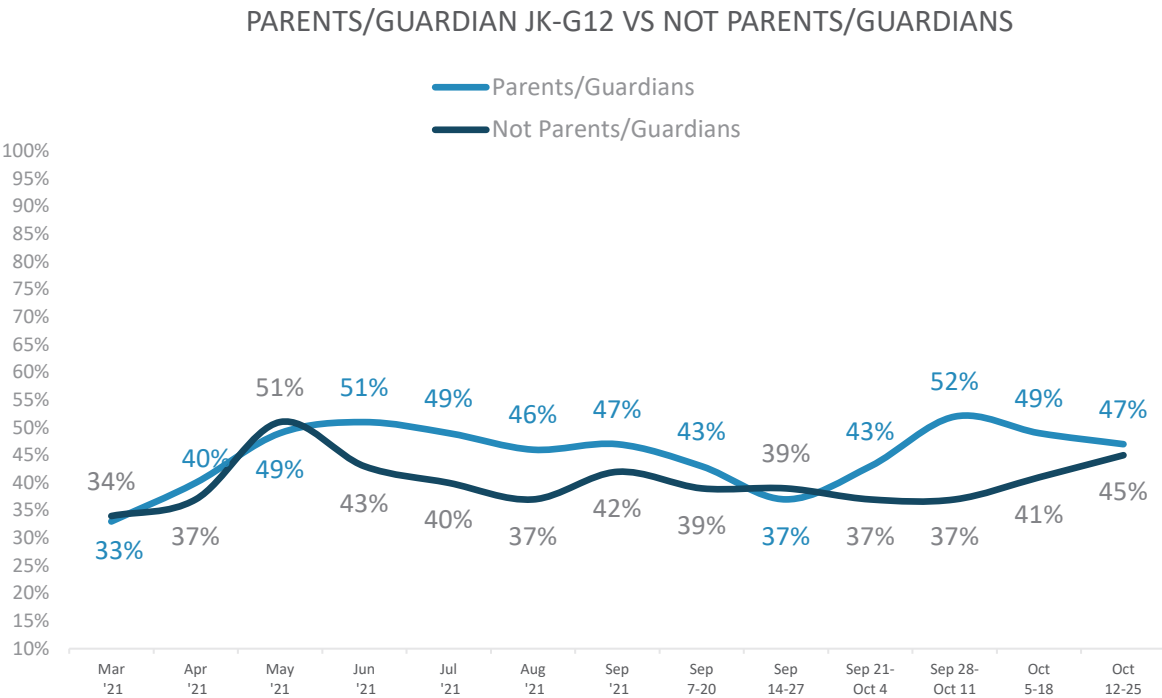
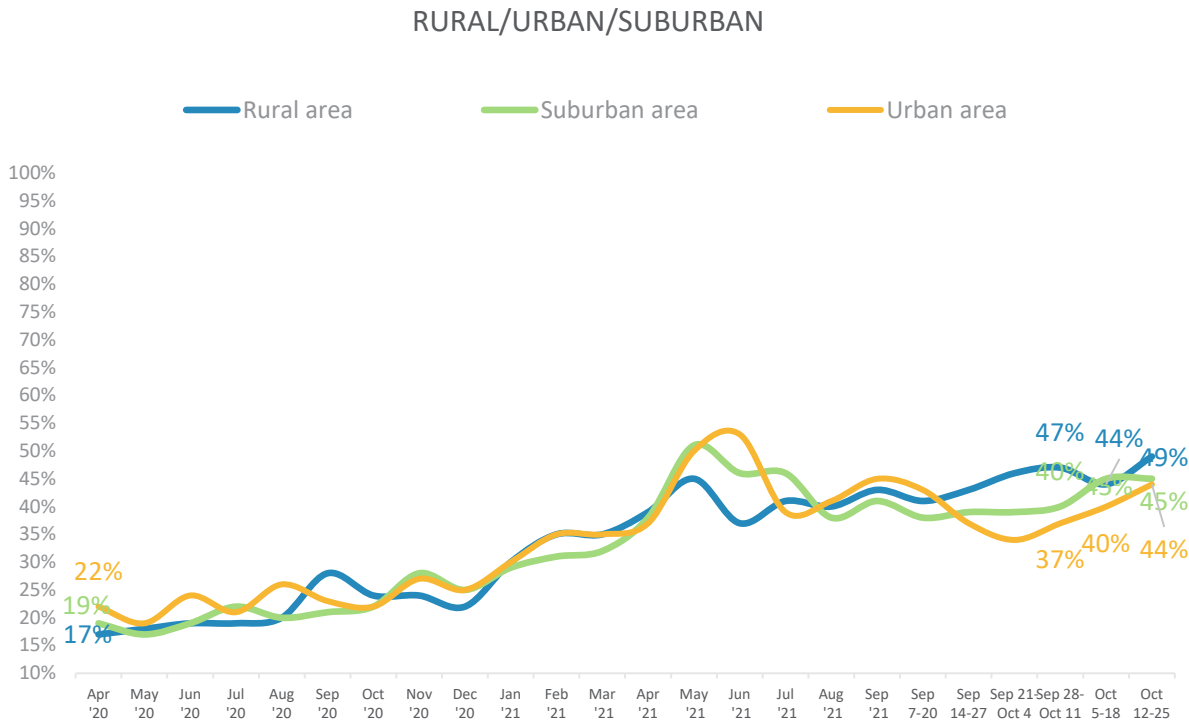


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 rural areas while remaining unchanged in suburban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

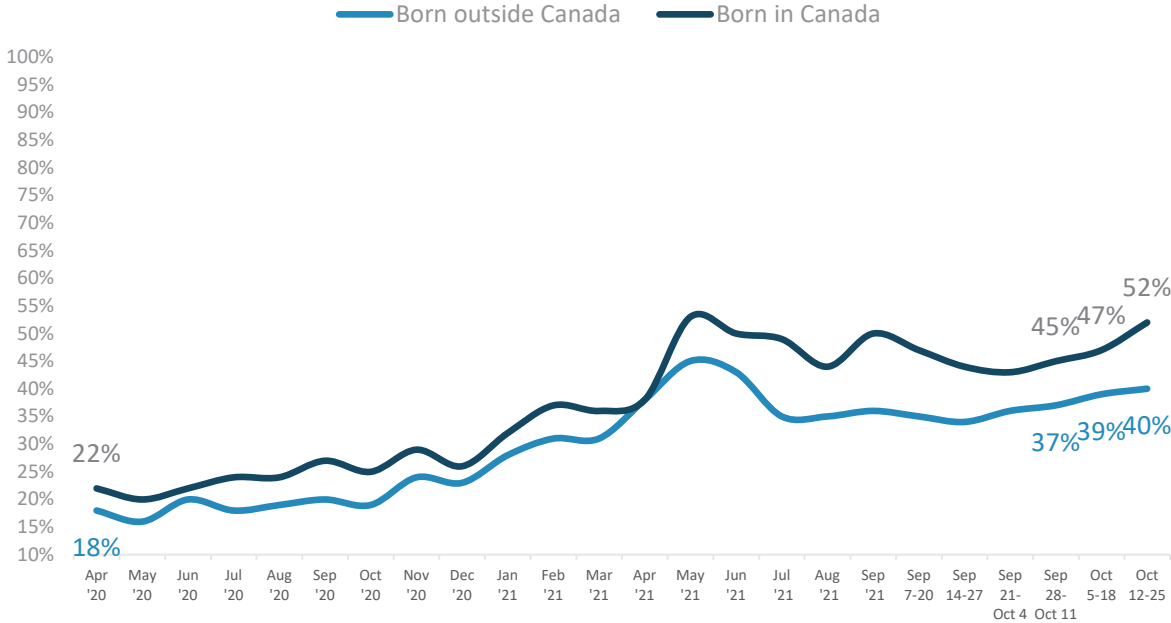


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

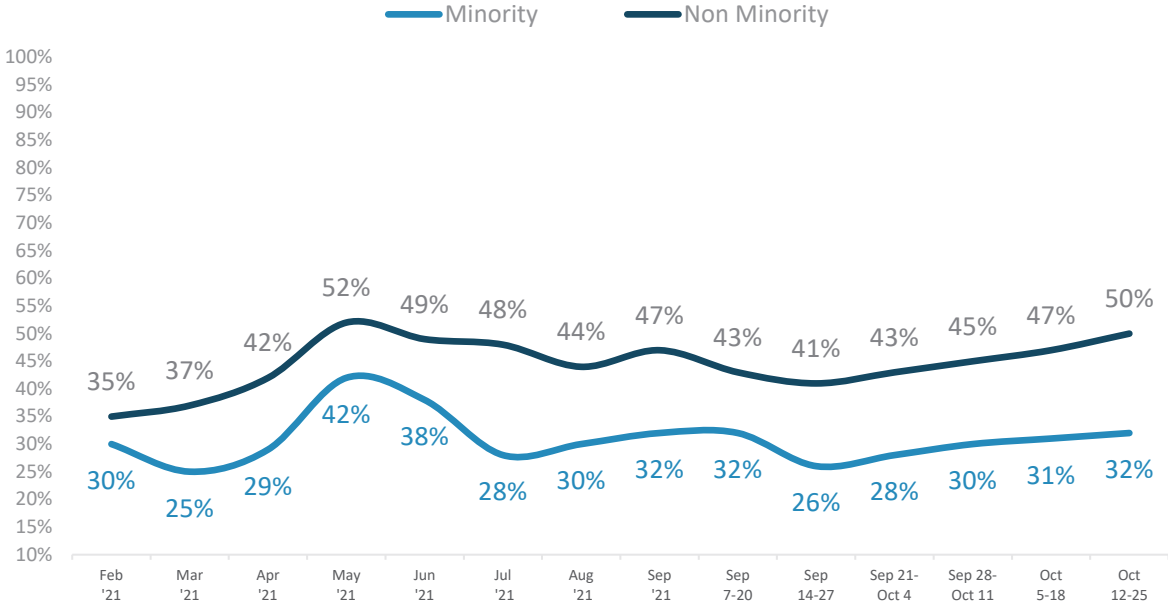
‘Wrong track’ has been slowly trending up among Ontarians born outside of Canada and among minorities, while there has been a larger increase measured among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

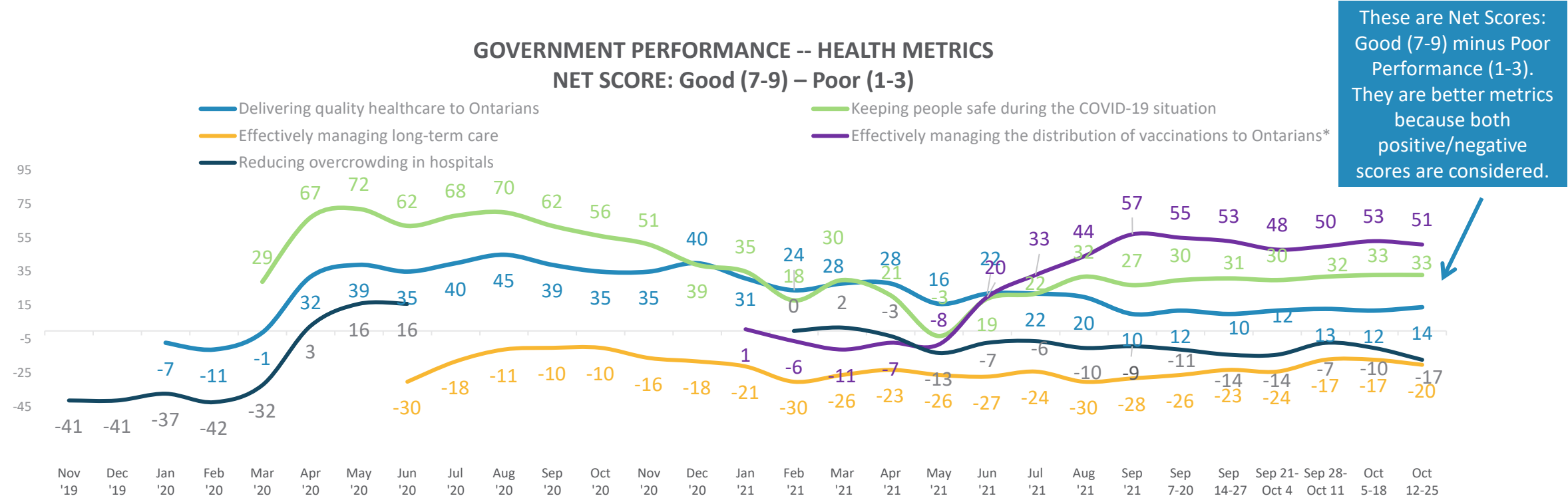


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

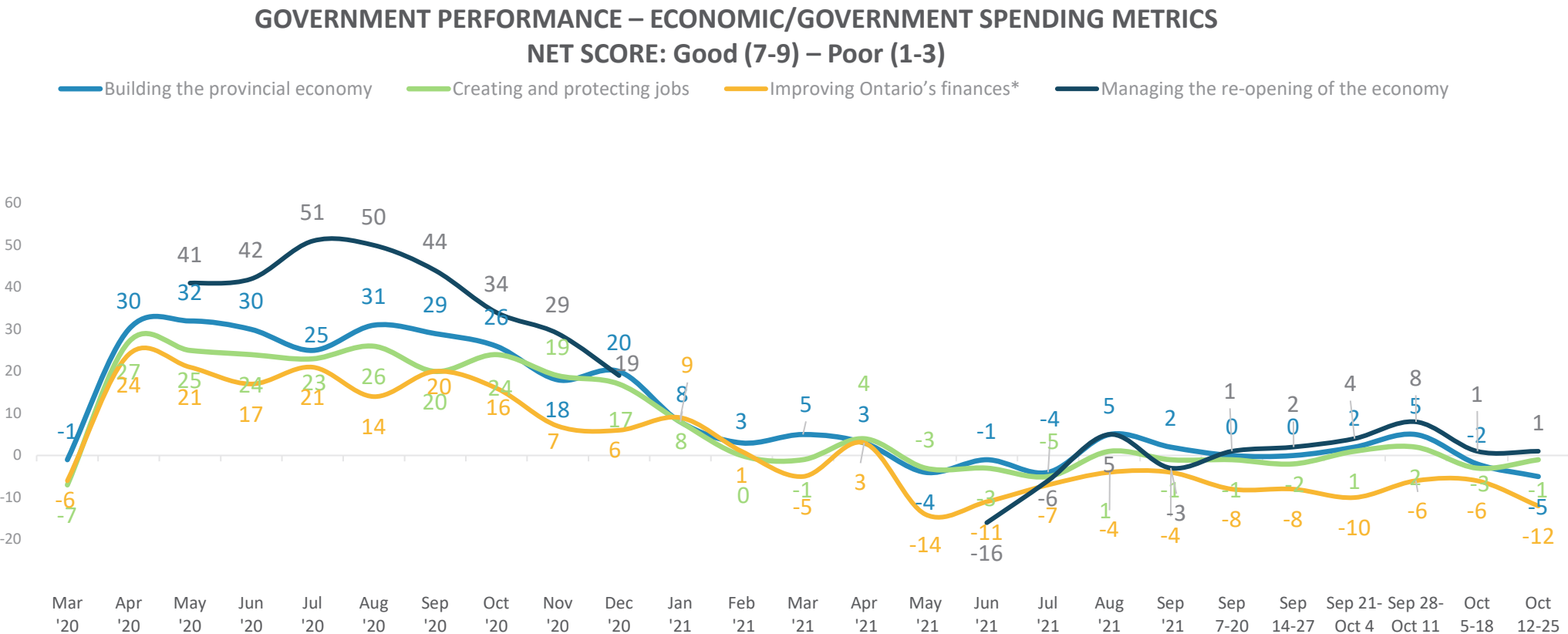


Rating of the government’s performance for the health metrics remained steady this week with the exception of ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ which declined.



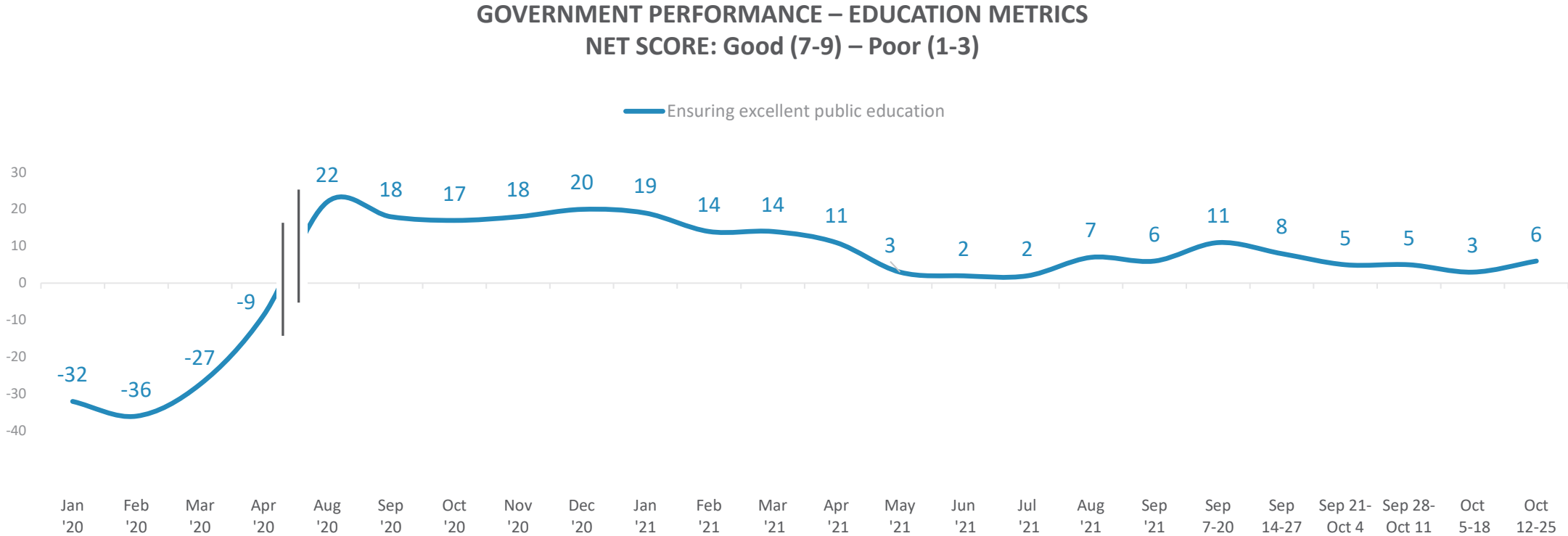
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ and ‘creating and protecting jobs’ remained steady this week. However, declines were measured for ‘building the provincial economy’ (down 10-points in the past two weeks) and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ (down 6-points).



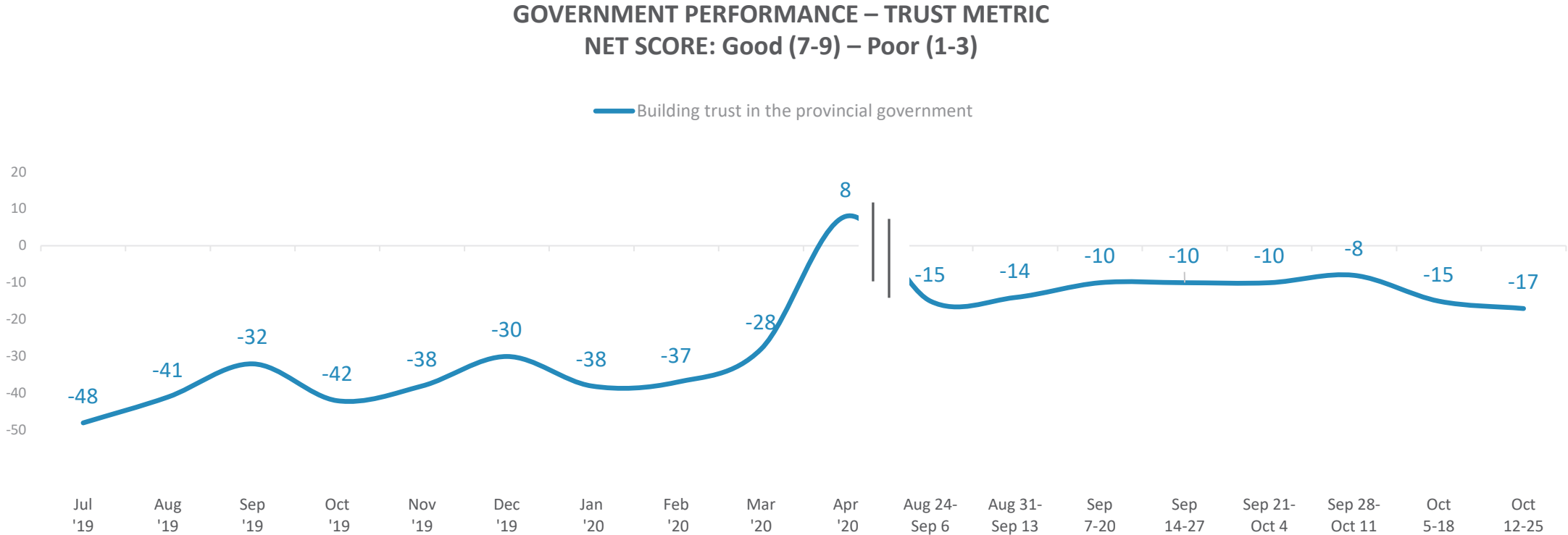
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

There was an uptick in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’.



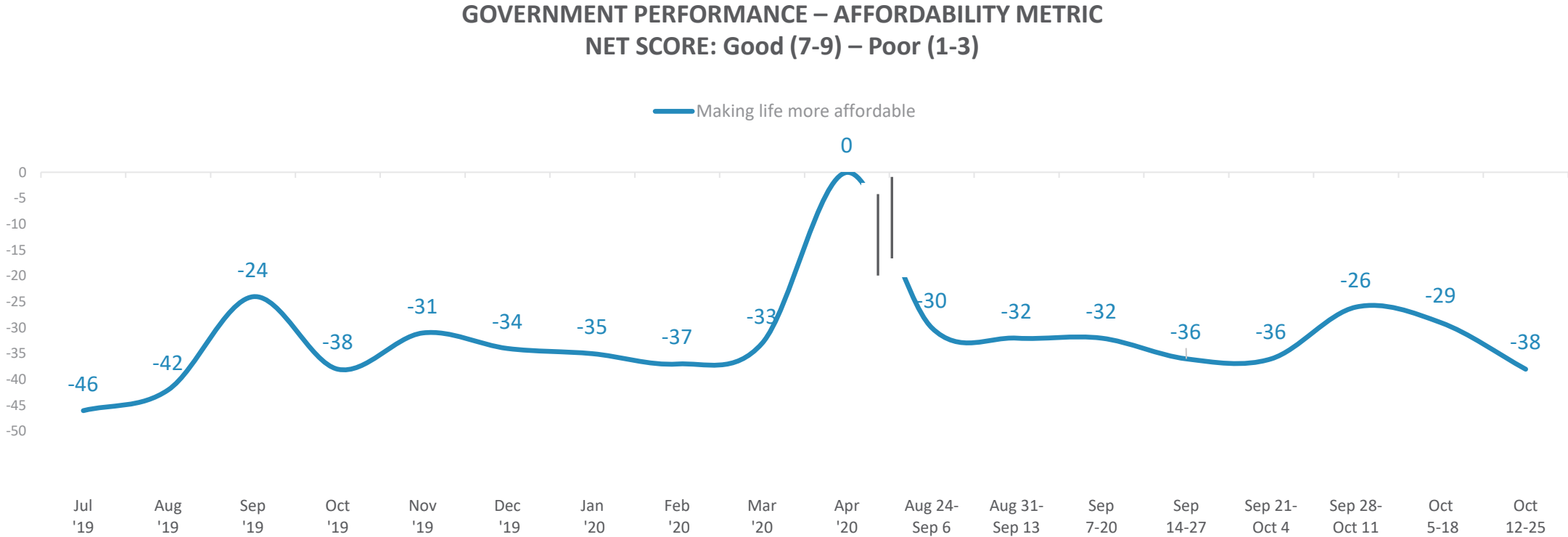
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ declined slightly this week and is down 9-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

There was also a decline in the rating 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



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT’S FOCUS IN THE COMING MONTHS

As infection cases trended downward, there appears to be an upward shift toward focusing on economic issues (61%) compared to health-related issues (31%). This is the highest point for focussing on economic issues since this tracking started in the spring.

	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	Oct 12-25
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	31
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	61
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	6

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 Ontarians remain concerned about a fourth wave of the pandemic (68%), results are lower than measured in mid-August (84%).

	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	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies																		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78	84	73	76	72	66	72	68	63	66	68
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37	51	40	43	40	38	33	39	25	27	22
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41	33	33	33	32	28	39	29	38	39	46
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11	6	14	12	15	19	12	19	26	17	22
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8	9	11	12	13	13	16	13	10	17	10
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18	15	24	24	28	32	28	31	36	34	31

About three-quarters (73%) 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 . .

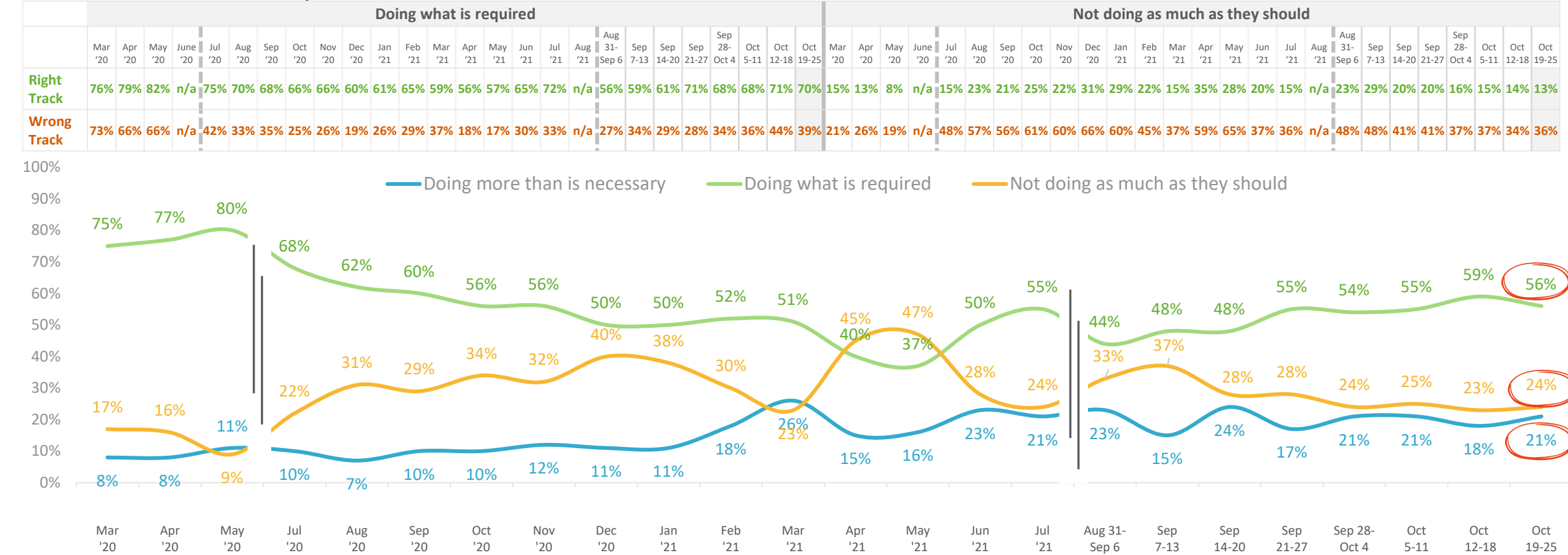
Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29-Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25
varies																		
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66	75	71	71	67	69	74	67	60	67	71	69	70	69	72	77	72	75	73
19	17	17	18	14	17	15	16	14	16	21	12	18	12	19	19	20	16	17
48	58	54	54	53	52	59	51	46	51	50	57	52	56	53	58	51	59	57
20	16	16	18	19	17	14	25	22	17	13	20	15	17	14	15	16	10	17
11	9	12	9	10	10	12	6	12	11	13	7	11	9	11	5	10	11	8
32	25	27	27	28	27	26	31	33	28	25	27	26	26	25	20	26	21	25
		2	2	4	4	-	2	7	5	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	3	2

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 4TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

This week, 56% believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus (up 12-points since the beginning of September), while the proportion who think the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ remains steady at 24%.



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 (35%) - followed by restricting international travel into Canada (23%) - receive the most support as additional actions necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

	Aug 31-Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Making vaccines mandatory	29	34	33	39	33	39	35
Restricting international travel into Canada	23	21	19	13	19	19	23
Restricting access to non-essential indoor settings like restaurants and movie theatres only to people who are fully vaccinated.	18	21	15	13	15	10	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	13	10
Lockdowns / closing businesses	2	1	2	3	1	1	2
All of the above	5	7	6	5	10	8	5
No additional action is needed	6	3	9	9	11	5	5
Don't know/unsure	7	4	6	5	4	5	4

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

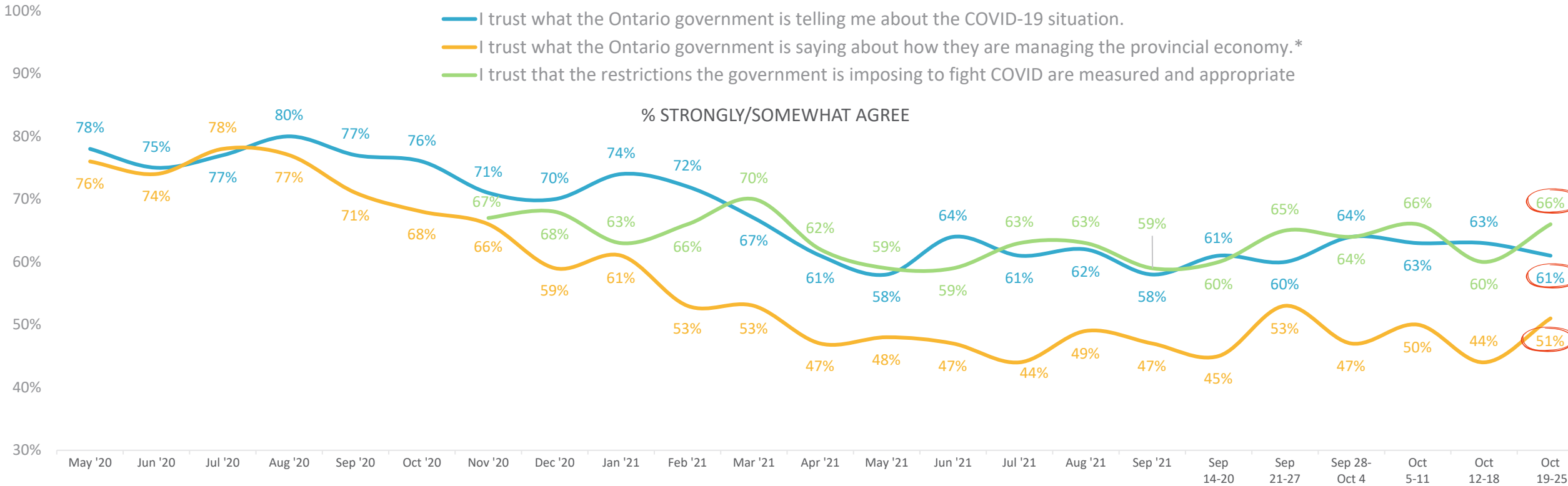
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

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 an increase for ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured/appropriate’.

- There was also an increase 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 increased this week to four-in-ten (39%) 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
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13	15	14	14	15	11
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 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
10	11	16	15	12	19	17	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	35	20	26	26	23	20	30
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	Oct 19-25
varies							
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
-	38	40	44	40	35	36	39
29	19	16	16	14	18	18	21
16	8	6	9	6	7	8	12
-	9	9	8	10	12	11	11
16	9	5	8	9	8	11	8
7	2	3	2	1	3	1	3
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	7	9	4	10	10	5	3
11	7	12	9	10	8	8	3

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, seven-in-ten (68%) Ontarians agree that we are over the worst of COVID-19, an increase of 21-points since the end of August.

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	Oct 19-25
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	68
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31	40	42	35	34	29	19	21	17	18	23	16	21	22	25	38	24	31
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44	38	35	39	27	33	34	30	34	29	25	34	29	37	26	26	35	37
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	7
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10	8	8	11	16	17	18	18	16	18	18	19	19	11	15	11	19	16
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7	7	7	8	14	13	20	19	23	25	21	18	20	21	21	16	12	8
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17	15	15	19	29	30	38	37	39	43	39	37	39	31	36	27	31	24

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

Base: Total sample

COVID-19 VACCINE



There was also an increase in the proportion of Ontarians that agree they are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered to 58% this week.

I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer 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	Oct 19-25
varies														
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	42	55	48	54	51	58
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	19	20	20	25	19	28
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	22	35	28	29	32	30
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	8	5	7	5	8	6
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	20	16	17	15	22	21
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	27	23	25	22	19	16
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	48	38	42	37	40	36

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 are willing to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine with 85% indicating they would take it if it was available to them, and intensity is high with 69% being ‘very’ willing.

	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL WILLING	79	82	79	85
Very willing	54	69	61	69
Somewhat willing	25	14	18	16
Not too willing	7	6	9	6
Not at all willing	9	7	10	6
TOTAL NOT WILLING	16	14	19	12
I have already had my booster dose	2	1	1	2
Don't know/not sure	4	3	2	1

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 reasons for not being willing to get a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is that they are already fully vaccinated – ‘I already got two doses (that is enough)’ 19% - and concern about too much vaccine in the body (16%).

	Sep 28-Oct 11	Oct 5-18	Oct 12-25
n=	69	84	73
	%	%	%
I already got two doses (that is enough)	-	10	19
Concerned about too much vaccine in the body	3	-	16
Not confident in the effectiveness of the vaccine	-	2	10
Research/need more information	11	11	9
Not necessary	28	13	8
I am not high risk/my exposure is low	10	6	8
I got sick when taking previous doses of the COVID-19 vaccine	-	10	7
Too soon/need a longer gap in between doses	-	8	6
They should focus on getting everyone vaccinated with the first two doses	-	4	6
They originally said two doses were enough (and were wrong)	13	8	5
I never wanted to get the first two doses/was forced to get first two doses (e.g., work)	-	6	4
Concerned about long term effects	9	5	4
Do not trust the government	6	5	3
How many boosters are going to be needed (e.g., every six months)	10	4	3
Heard negative things about the vaccine (e.g., in the media)	-	2	3
Just a ploy to give money to big pharma	-	1	1
Other	18	18	6
Don't know/not sure	1	5	8

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



Fully eight-in-ten (80%) Ontarians have seen, read, or heard anything about people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 contracting the virus.

	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25
n=	varies	
	%	%
Yes	81	80
No	18	20

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

Just over half (55%) of Ontarians report they are concerned about the possibility of fully vaccinated people contracting COVID-19, while 45% are not concerned.

	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	53	55
Very concerned	12	16
Somewhat concerned	41	39
Not too concerned	29	31
Not at all concerned	16	14
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	46	45

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

LEVEL OF CONCERN WILL CONTRACT COVID-19 ALTHOUGH FULLY VACCINATED

Preliminary results indicate that Ontarians are split in their level of concern that they personally will contract COVID-19 although fully vaccinated, with 49% concerned and 51% not concerned.

	Oct 21-25
n=	154
	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	49
Very concerned	10
Somewhat concerned	39
Not too concerned	39
Not at all concerned	13
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	51

MINIMUM WAGE



ARE THERE GROUPS WHO ARE PAID LESS THAN MINIMUM WAGE?

Four-in-ten (40%) Ontarians believe there are not any groups who are paid less than minimum wage in Ontario, while 14% are not sure.

	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Yes	41	35	39	46
No	39	48	43	40
Don't know/not sure	20	17	18	14

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 alcoholic beverage servers (42%), students under 18 (41%) and agriculture sector workers (34%) are paid less than minimum wage.

	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Alcoholic beverage servers	34	34	33	42
Students under 18	37	36	37	41
Agriculture sector workers	25	18	28	34
Parking attendants	10	12	11	11
Restaurant workers (e.g., waitress)	3	5	3	4
Illegal immigrants	1	-	1	1
All of them	1	<1	<1	1
Healthcare workers (e.g., nurses PSW)	1	-	<1	1
Babysitter/nanny	1	-	<1	1
Foreign workers	-	2	-	-
Long-term care homes	-	1	-	-
Drivers (e.g., truck, tow truck)	1	-	-	-
Employees working under the table/being paid in cash	-	-	-	1
Seniors	-	-	-	<1
Cleaners/cleaning	-	-	-	1
Healthcare workers	-	-	-	<1
Uber drivers	-	-	-	1
Other	1	3	3	2
None/nothing	1	-	<1	2
Don't know/not sure	36	39	37	21

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 (73%) 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	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
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	24
Other people say it is unfair to treat students under 18 differently and they should be paid the minimum wage.	75	76	75	73
Don't know/not sure	6	6	4	3

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 (77%) 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	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
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	19
Other people say it is unfair to treat servers of alcohol differently and that some may make little in tips.	76	79	75	77
Don't know/not sure	6	11	8	4

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

Just over six-in-ten (63%) Ontarians feel that the change from \$14.25 to \$14.35 is not big enough and that minimum wage should be increased even higher. Fully one-in-five (20%) 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	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
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	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	18	17	20
Still others say that this change is not big enough, and that minimum wage should be increased even higher.	59	64	67	63
Don't know/not sure	5	8	4	1

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 (61%) 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.

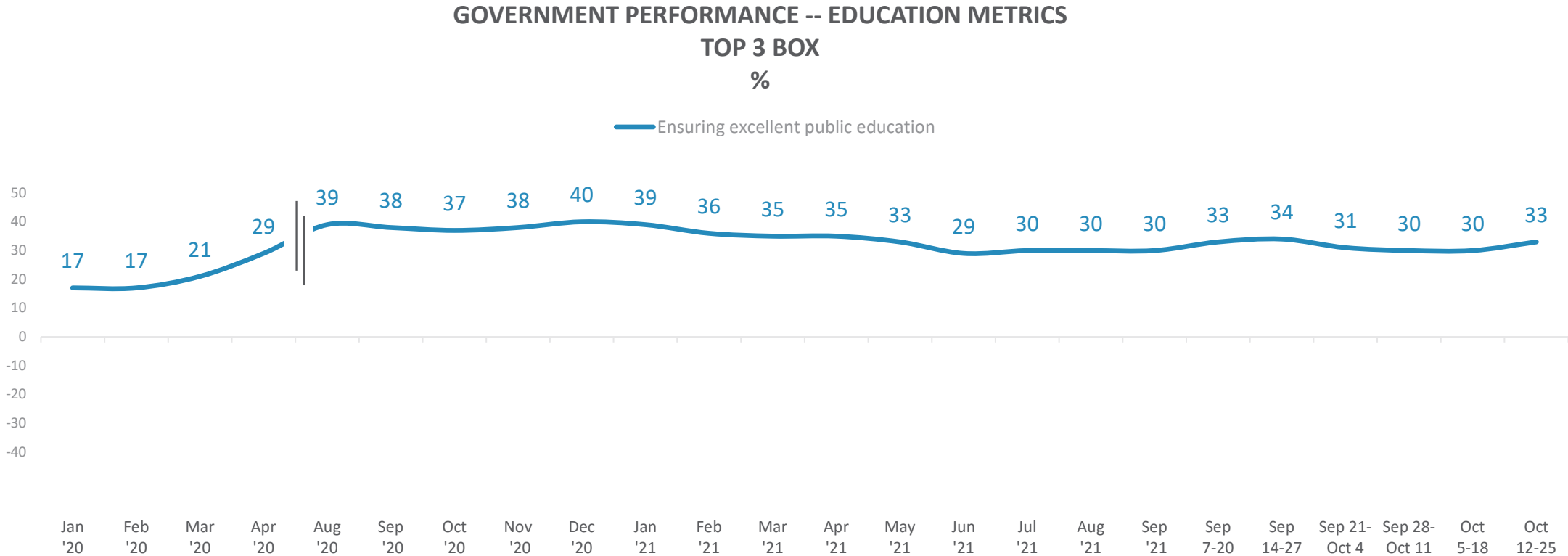
	Sep 28-Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
In terms of setting the right dollar amount for the minimum wage, some people say that for now, the amount should not be increased to \$15.00 as it may harm businesses that are still recovering from the impact of COVID-19	37	29	35	35
Other people say, it is more important to ensure minimum wage workers are paid more	56	62	60	61
Don't know/not sure	8	9	5	4

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

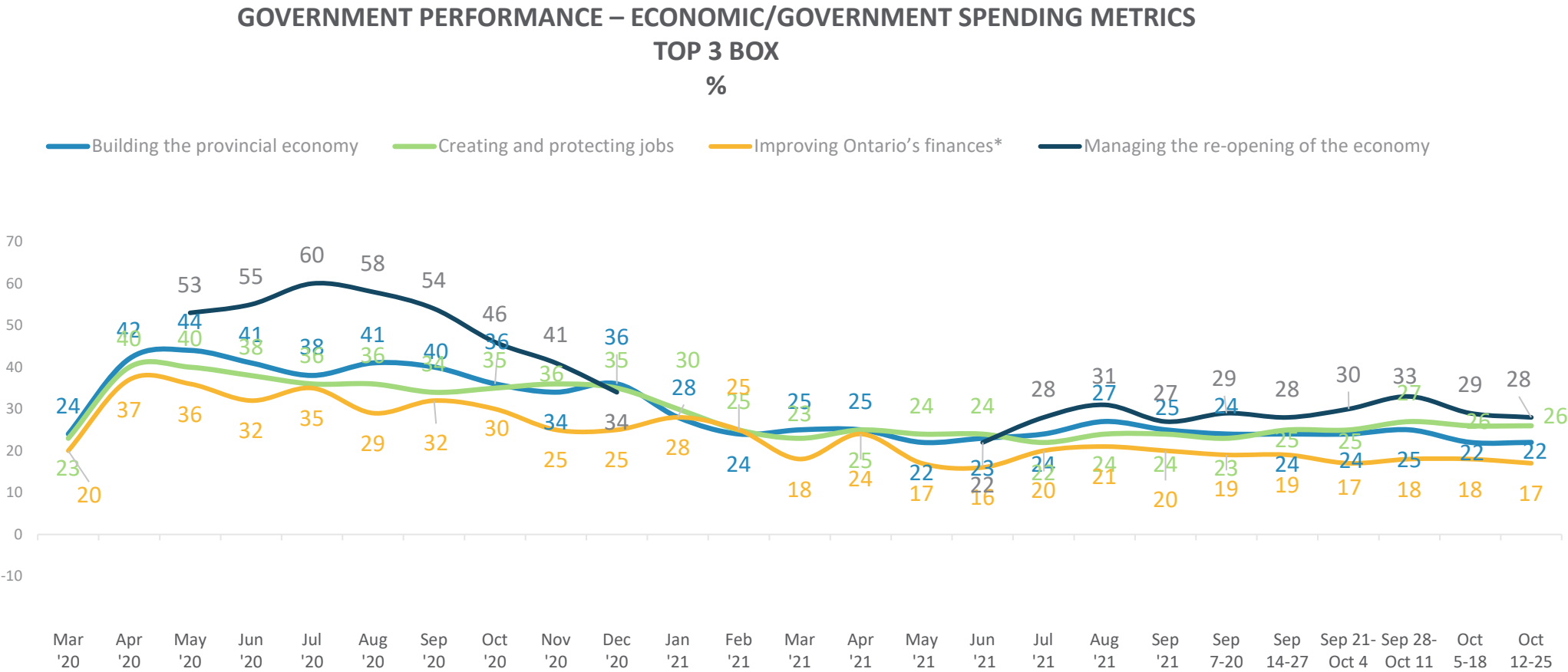


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ increased slightly this week.



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 this week.

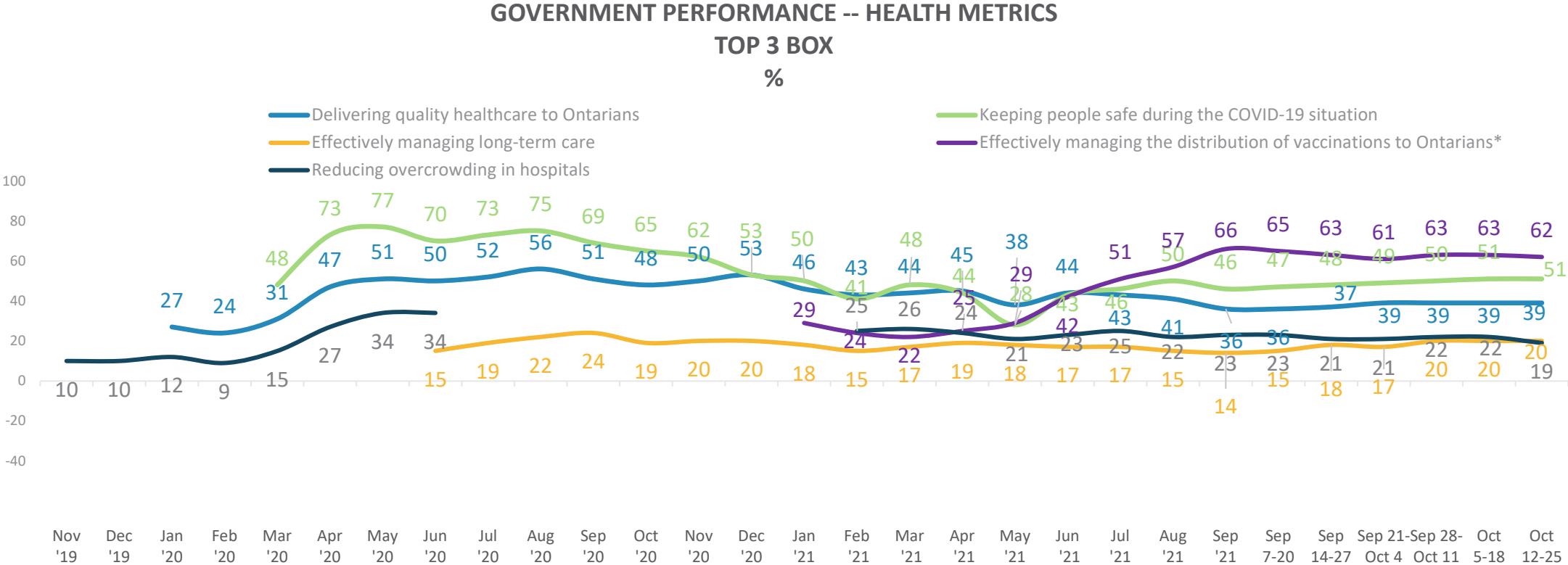


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

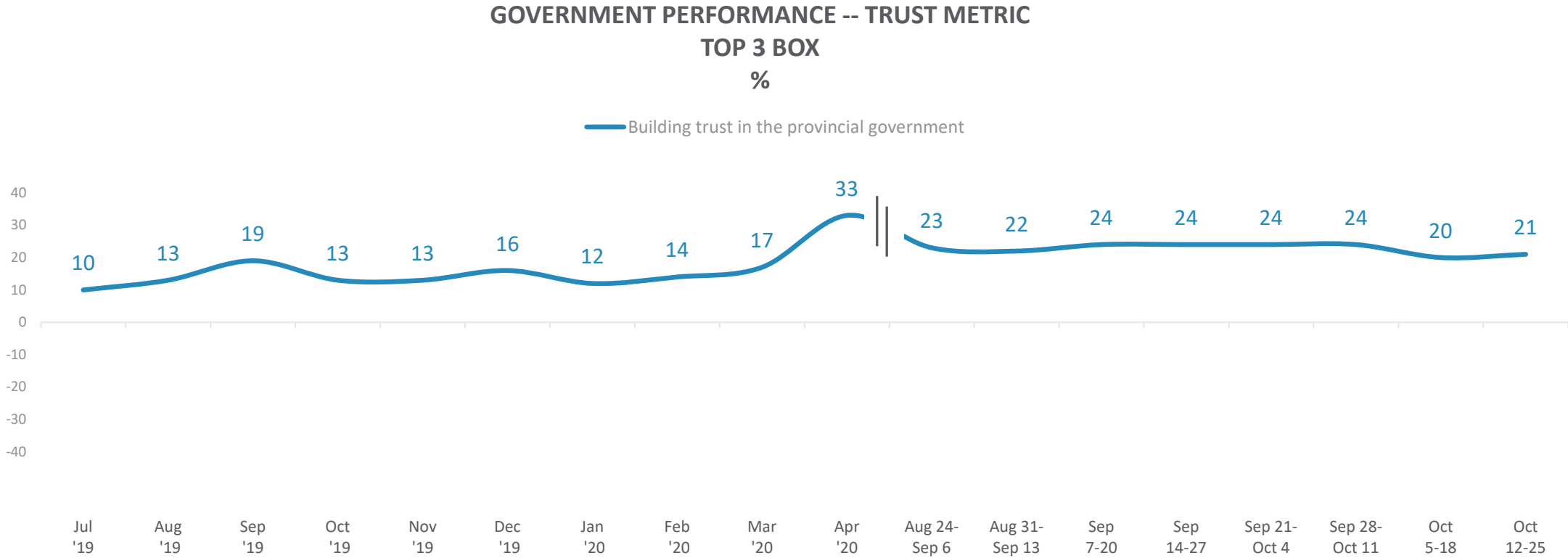
Bases vary

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



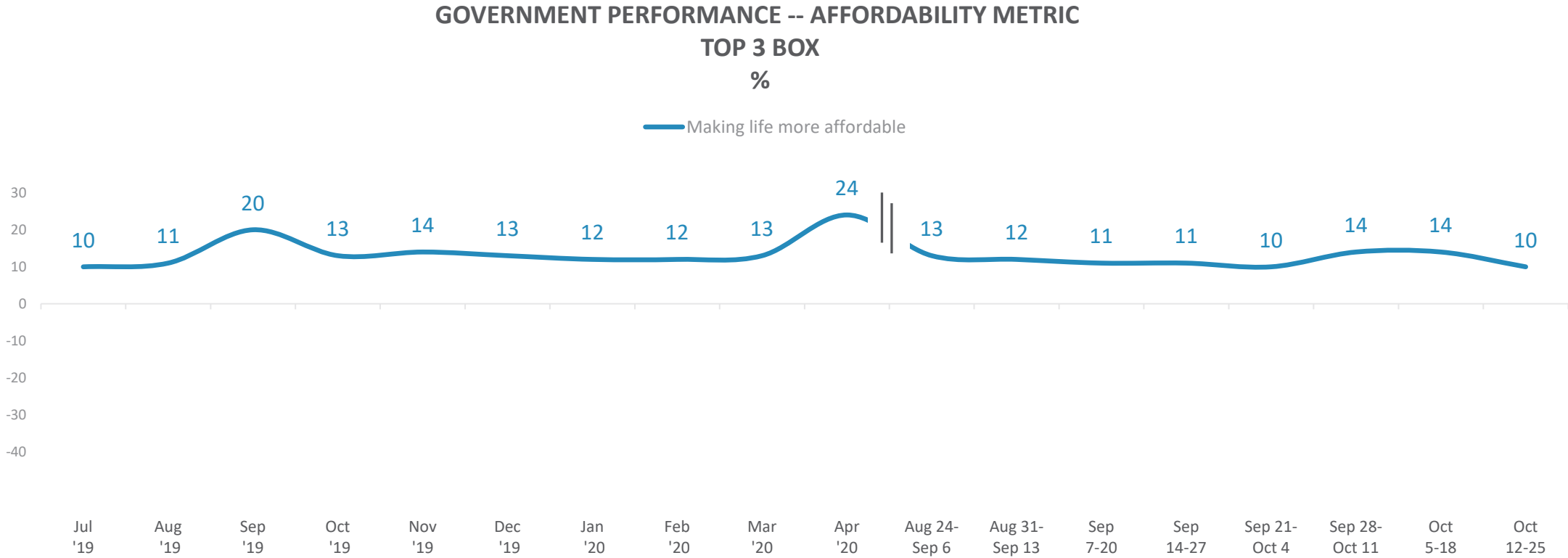
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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

However, there was a slight decline in 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