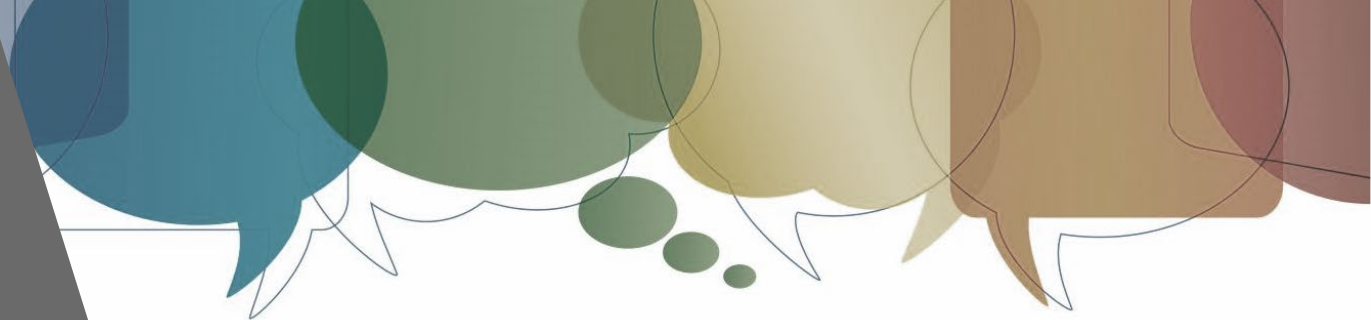




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #106

CABINET OFFICE

November 9th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' remains relatively stable at 57%.

2 Despite a recent rise in infection rates, Ontarians continue to feel confident that the end of the pandemic is getting closer, with seven-in-ten (69%) presently believing that we are over the worst of the pandemic – up 22-points since the end of August.

And, while Ontarians remain concerned about a fourth wave of the pandemic, the proportion has declined from a high of 84% in mid-August to 55% this week.

However, half (49%) of Ontarians indicate concern about the possibility of fully vaccinated people contracting COVID-19. Connected to this, nine-in-ten hold the view that there is still the need for public health measures.

3 With Ontarians starting to see the end of the pandemic, there is more support for the government to focus on the economic issues surrounding COVID-19 (57%) compared to the health-related issues (38%).

And, Ontarians are starting to prioritize issues other than the pandemic. COVID-19 as the government's top priority continues to trend down – to 27% this week from a high of 76% in February of this year – while 14% cite healthcare followed by affordable housing (10%), the economy (9%), and the environment (7%).

Inflation is starting to be cited as priority issue – see key conclusion #5 for an elaboration of views on inflation.

4 In terms of the government's economic and spending metrics, rating of the government's performance for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' and 'building the provincial economy' were stable this week, while there was a decline measured for 'creating and protecting jobs'.

And, while the rating of the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' has been slowly edging upward, it remains in negative territory at NET -34.

Key Findings

5 There is a high level of awareness and concern in Ontario regarding affordability in terms of inflation increasing the basic cost of living expenses.

Almost nine-in-ten (87%) say they have seen, read or heard about it in the last few weeks. And, intensity is high with 70% reporting they have seen/read/heard 'a lot'.

There is also a high level of concern about inflation increasing the cost of basic living expenses, with 90% concerned and 62% 'very' concerned.

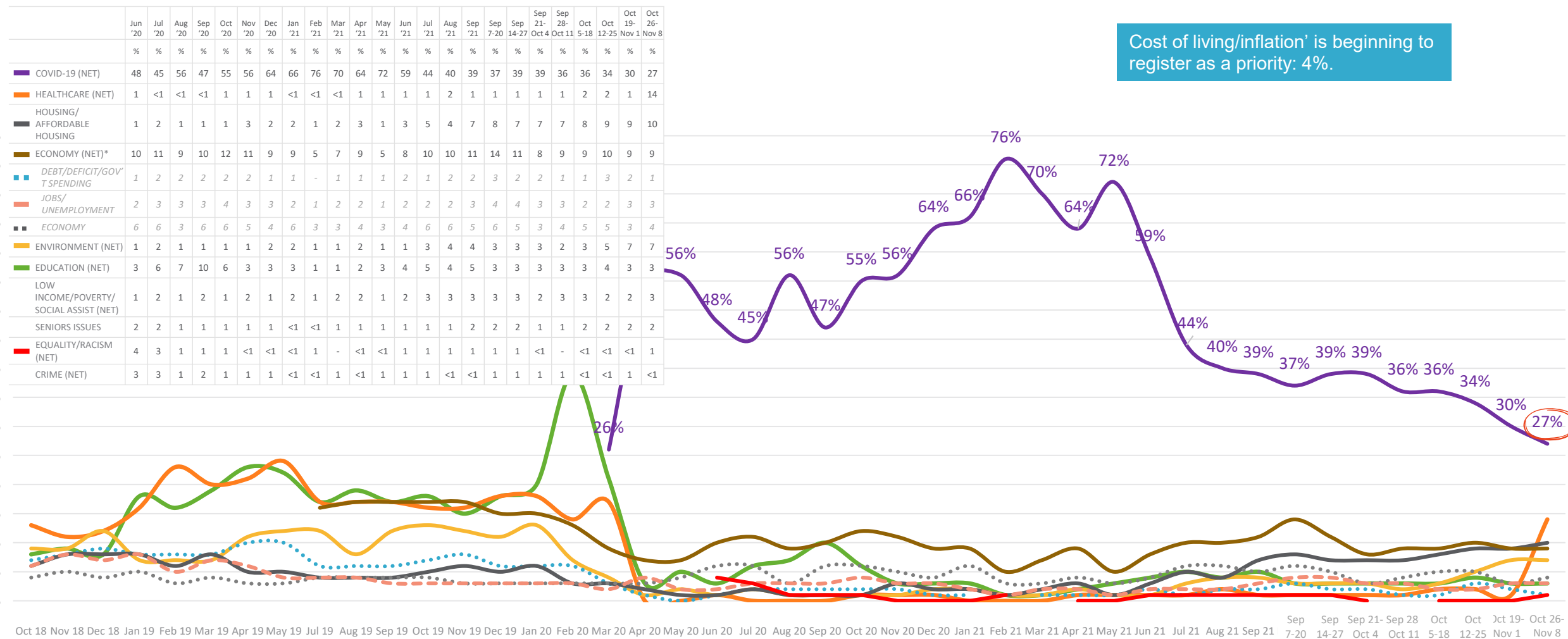
And, while one-third (33%) of Ontarians presently say they are having a very hard time making ends meet, this increases to over four-in-ten (44%) who indicate they will definitely need additional income to make ends meet this coming year.

6 While increases were measured the previous two weeks, rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' declined 8-points this week. This may be connected the reporting of the number of COVID-19 cases in the schools or union issues.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government’s top priority continues to trend down – to 27% this week – while 14% cite healthcare followed by affordable housing (10%), the economy (9%), and the environment (7%).



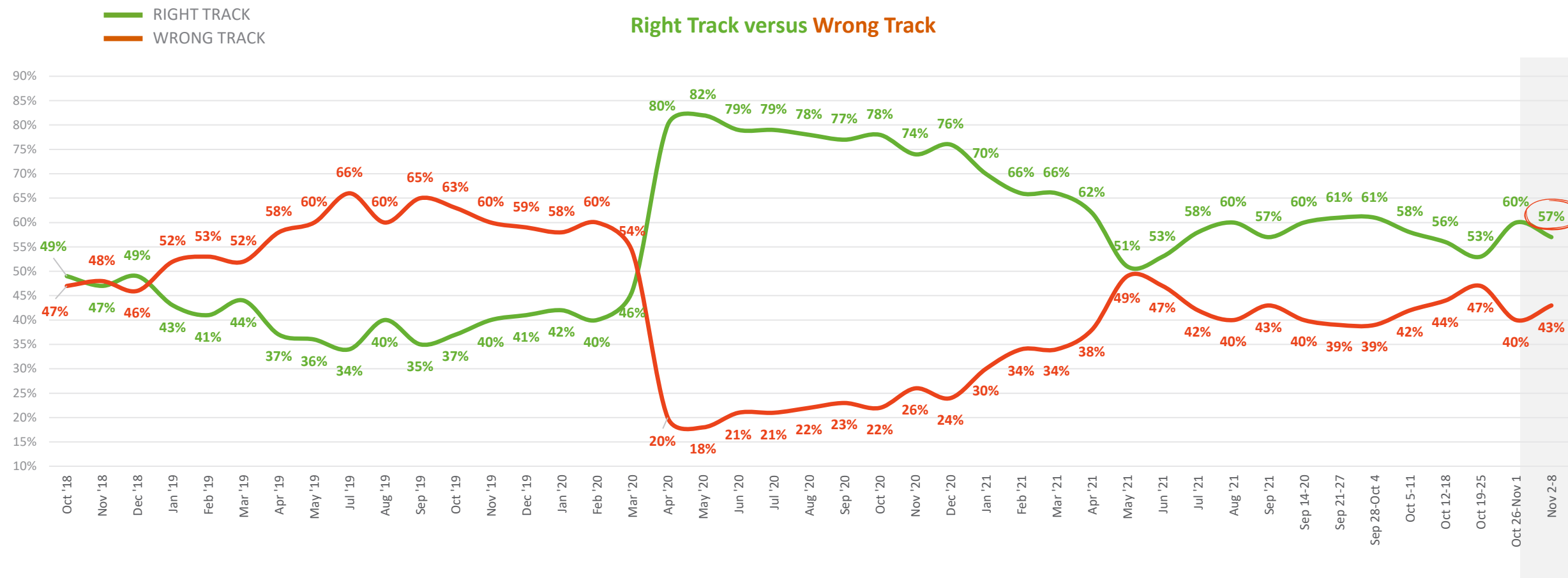
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

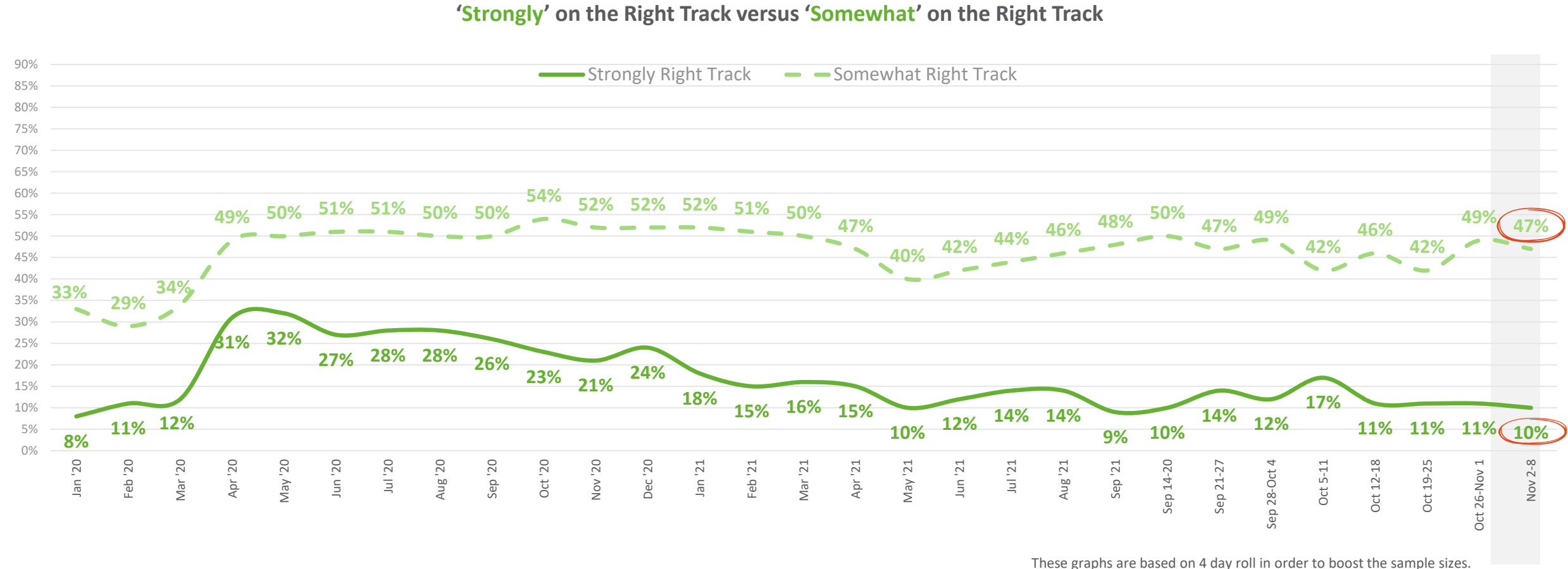


‘Right track’ remains relatively stable at 57% this week.



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

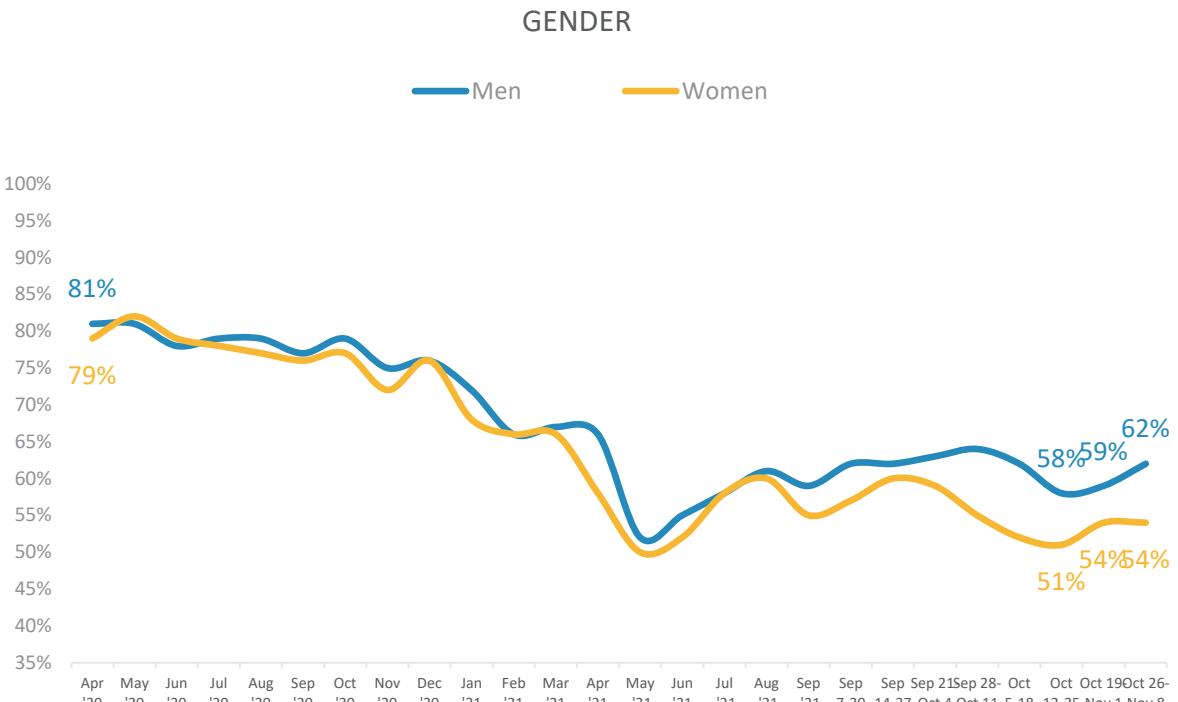
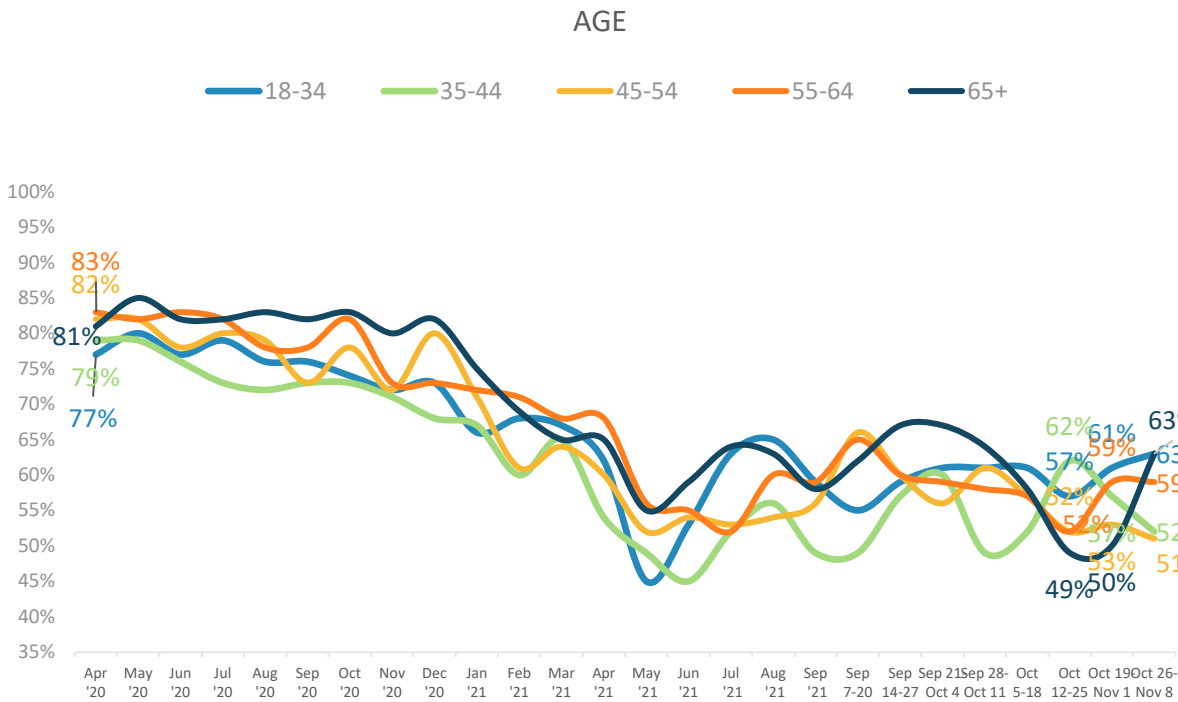
The proportion who believe the government is ‘strongly on the right track’ or ‘somewhat on the right track’ remained stable this week.



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’ was stable among women this week while there was an uptick among men. And, ‘right track’ continues to be variable by age, with decreases measured this week among Ontarians aged 35-44 and increases among those aged 65+ (with this age group no longer having the lowest ‘right track’ scores).

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

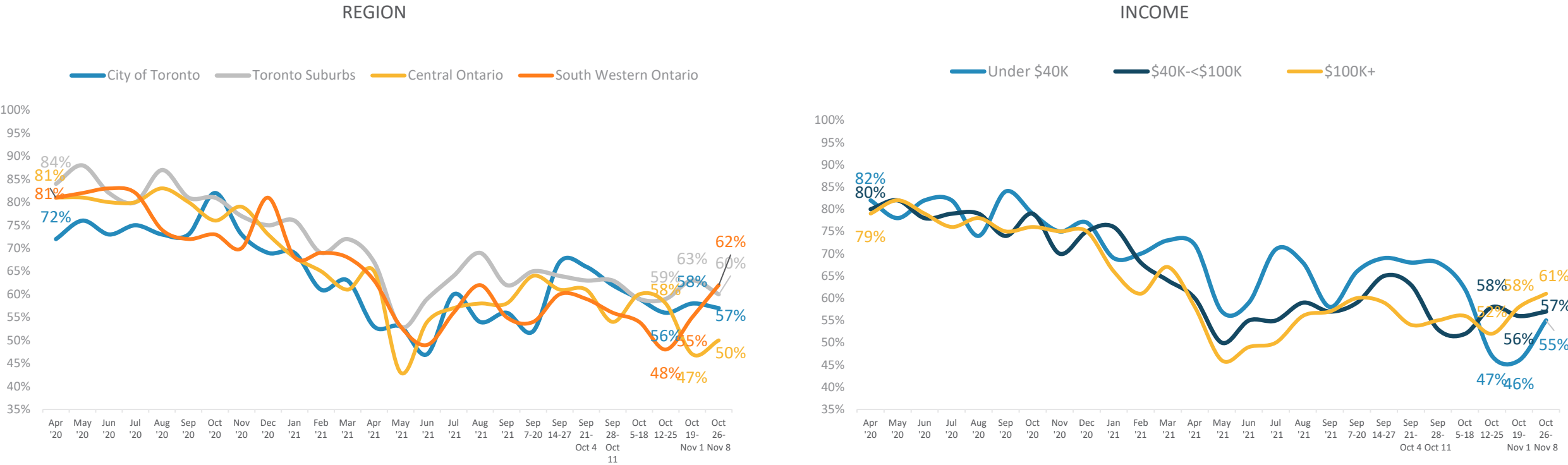


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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 was upward movement this week in ‘right track’ in SW Ontario while the other regions remained relatively stable. By income, ‘right track’ among Ontarians earning <\$40k and \$100k+ has increased while remaining stable among the \$40k-<\$100k income segment.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



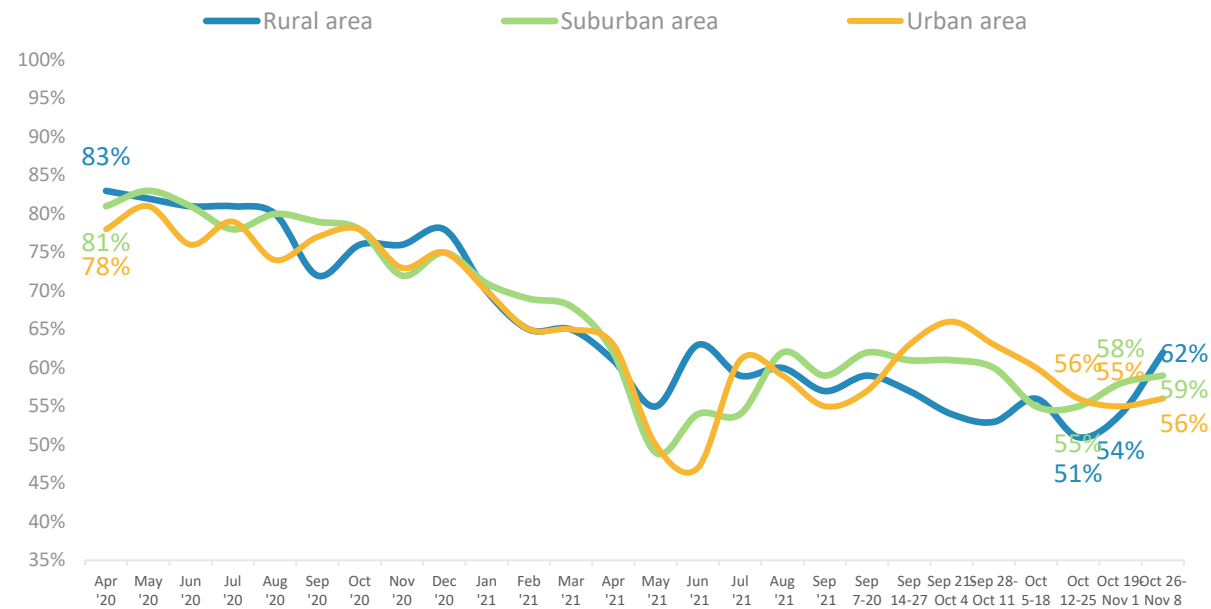
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

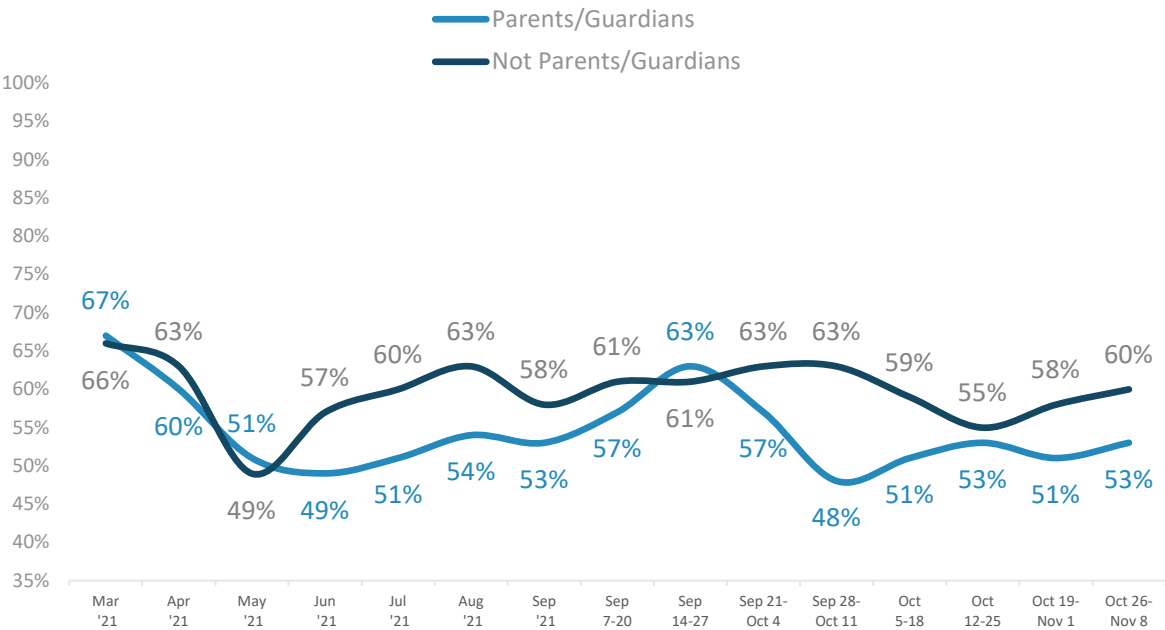
‘Right track’ scores increased in rural areas this week while remaining stable in both urban and suburban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



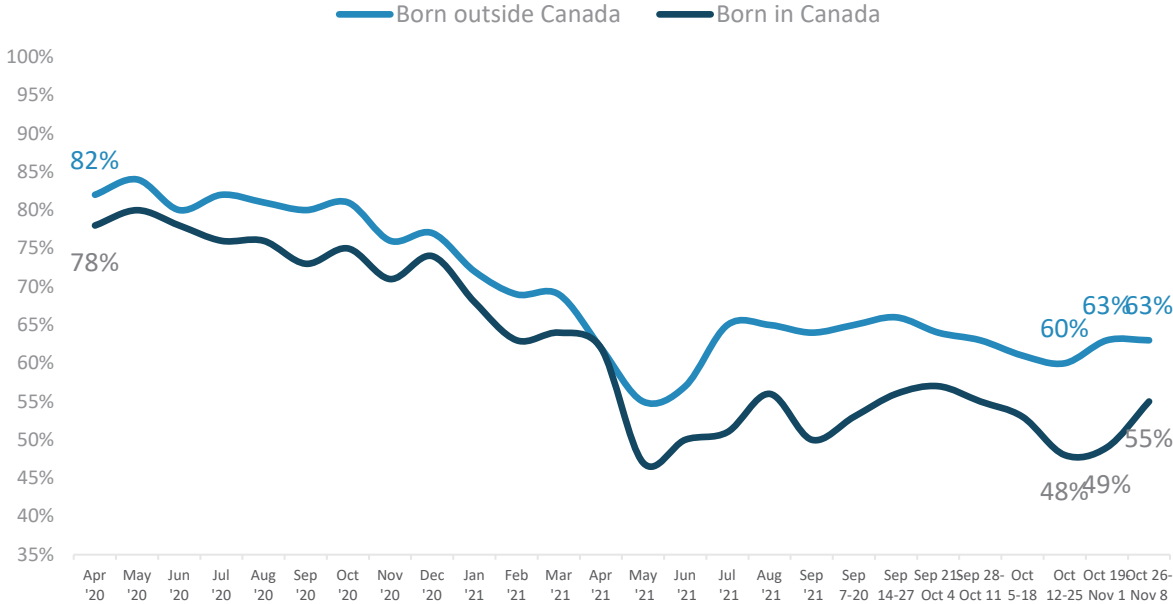
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

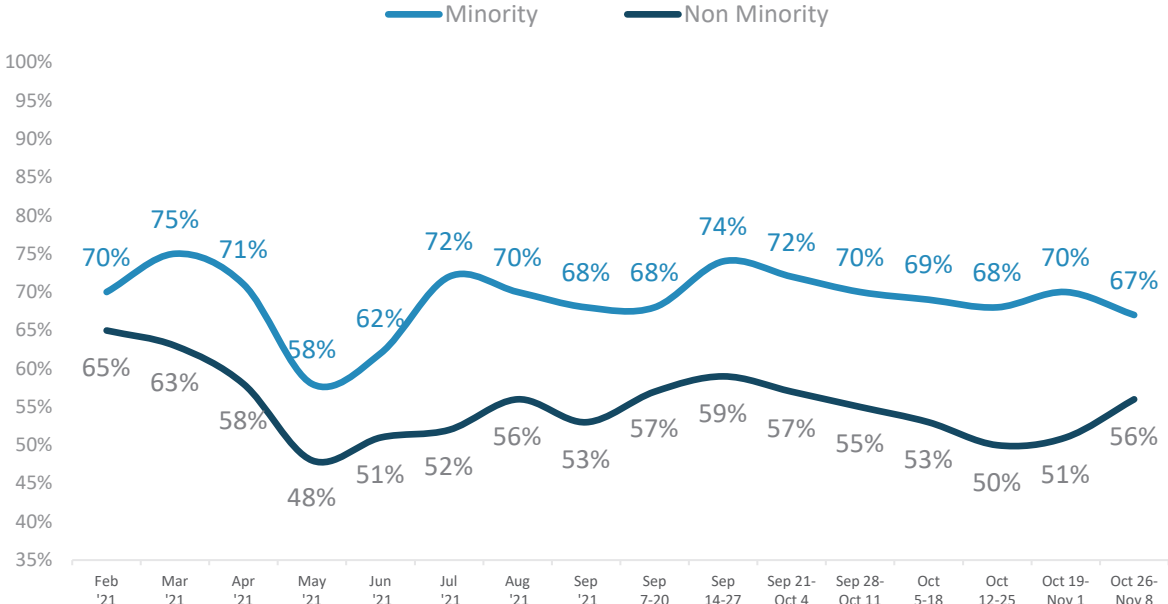
‘Right track’ increased this week among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities – although scores remain below those for Ontarians born outside of Canada and among minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

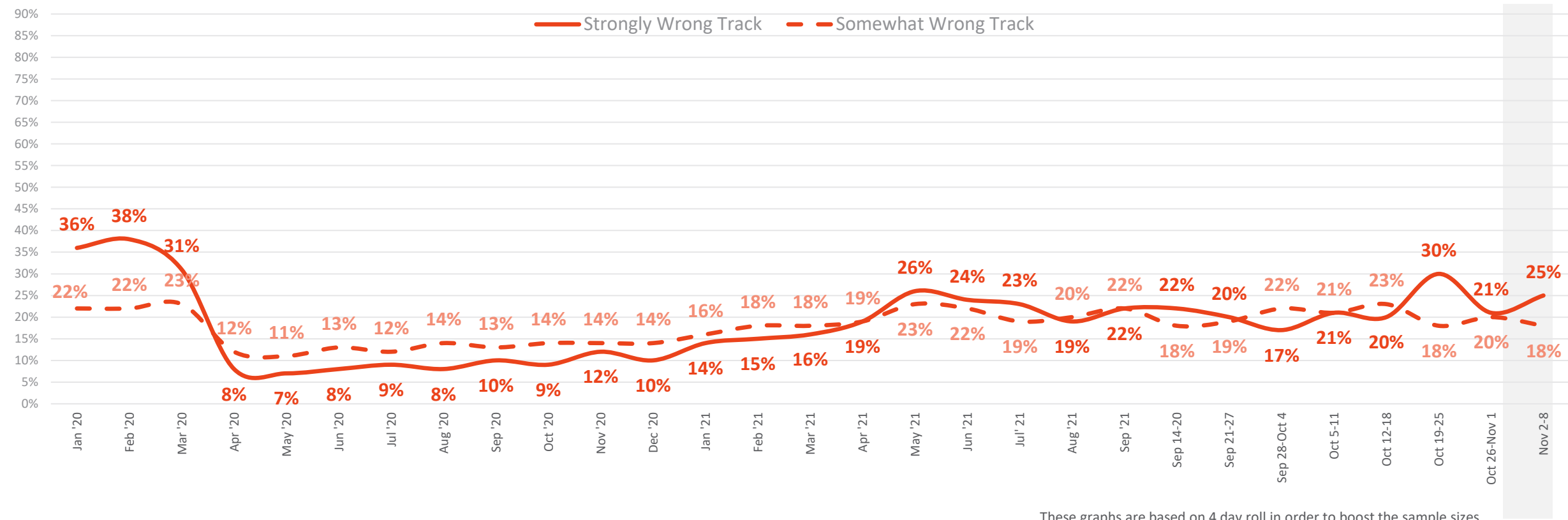


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

While there was a slight uptick in the proportion who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’, results for ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ remained stable.

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

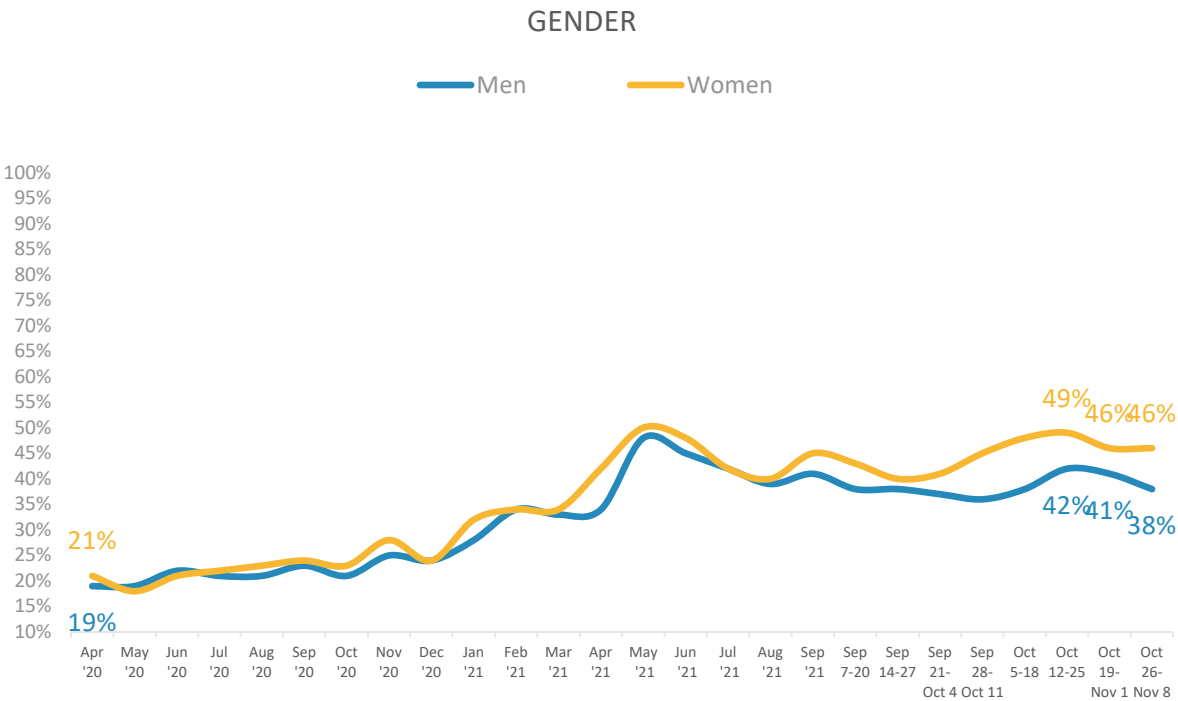
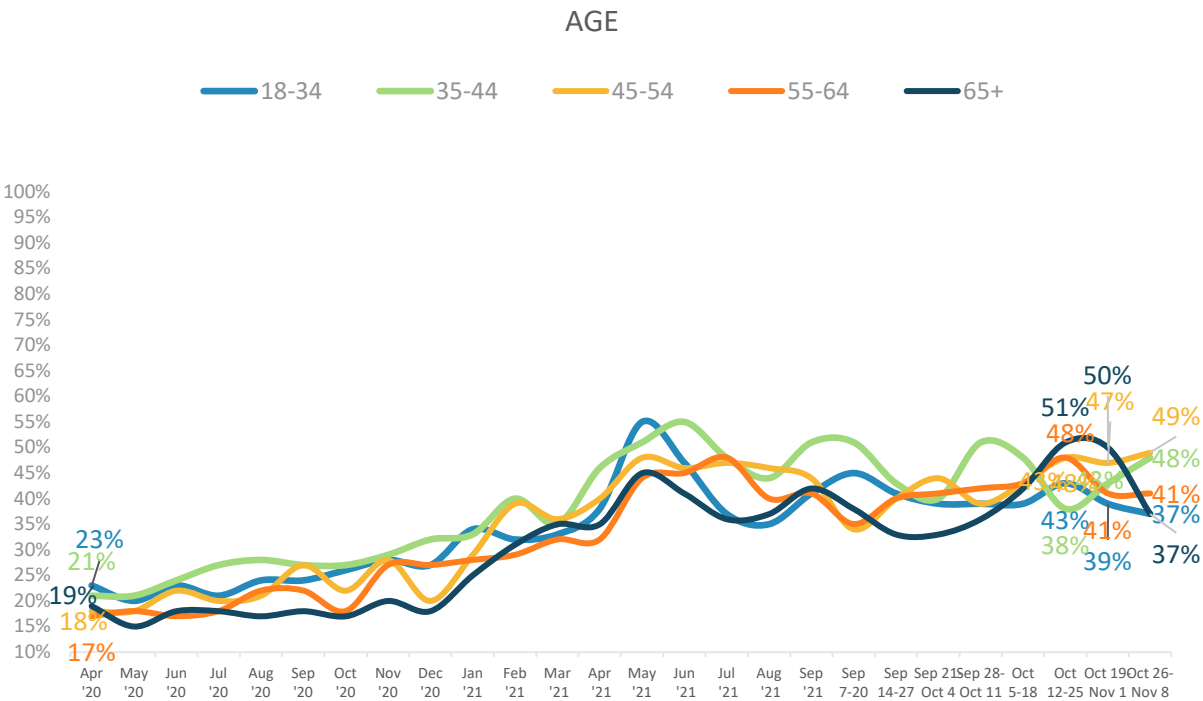


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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’ increased this week among Ontarians aged 35-44 while decreasing among those aged 65+. While stable among women, ‘wrong track’ declined slightly among men this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

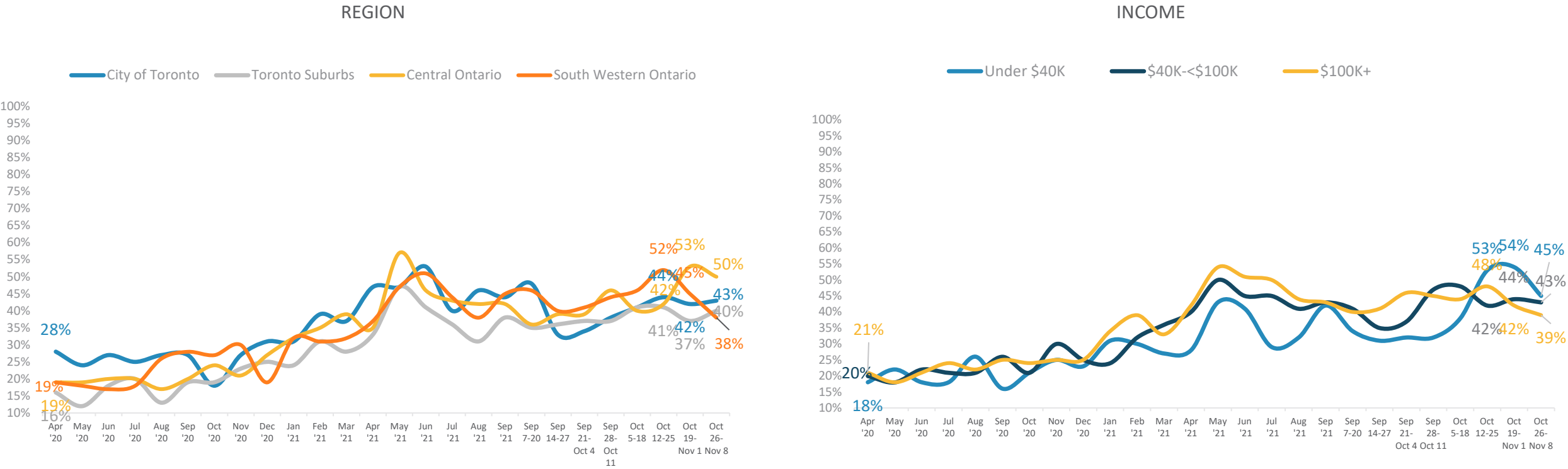


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Wrong track’ declined in SW Ontario this week while remaining relatively unchanged in the other regions. By income, declines in ‘wrong track’ were measured among Ontarians making <\$40k and \$100k+ while remaining stable among the \$40k-<\$100k income segment.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



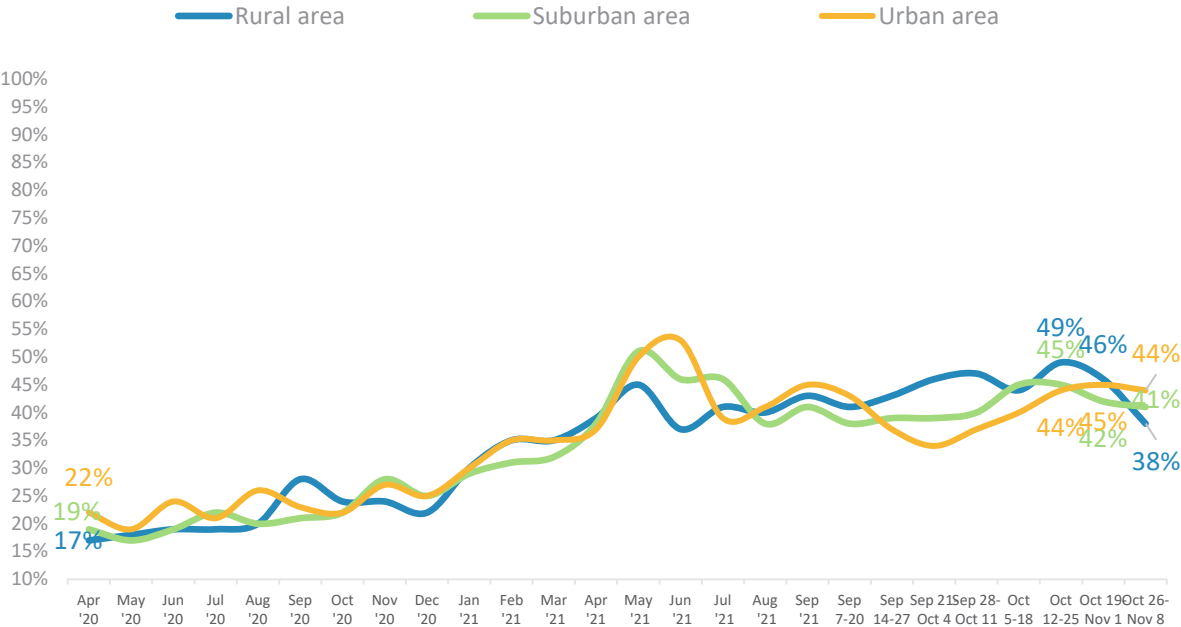
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

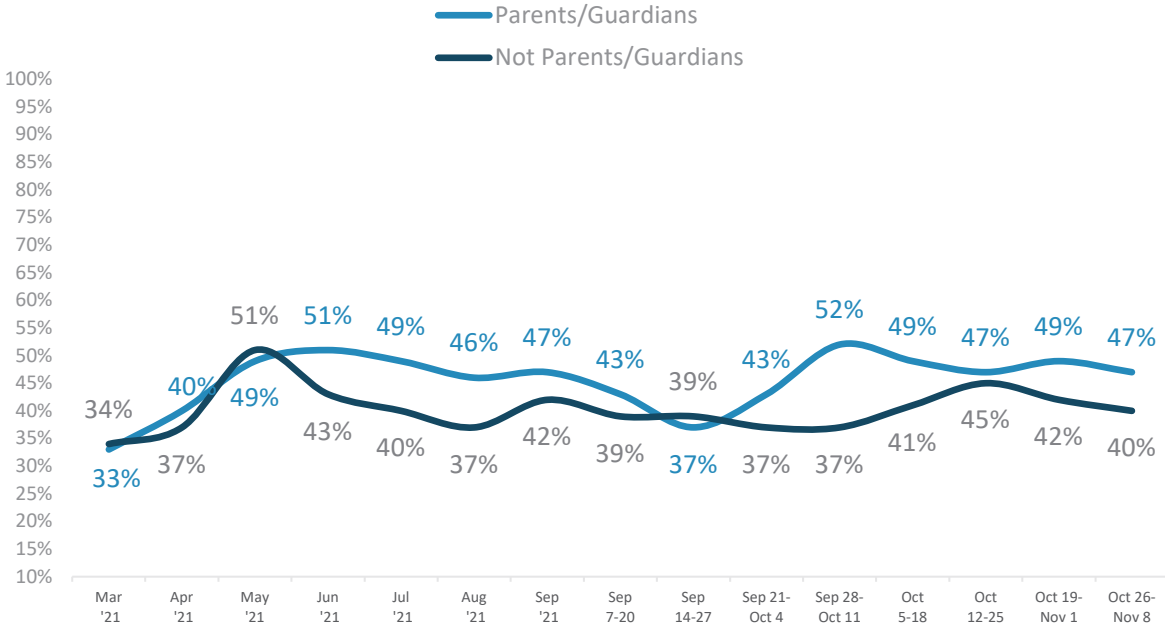
‘Wrong track’ declined in rural areas while remaining stable in both suburban and urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

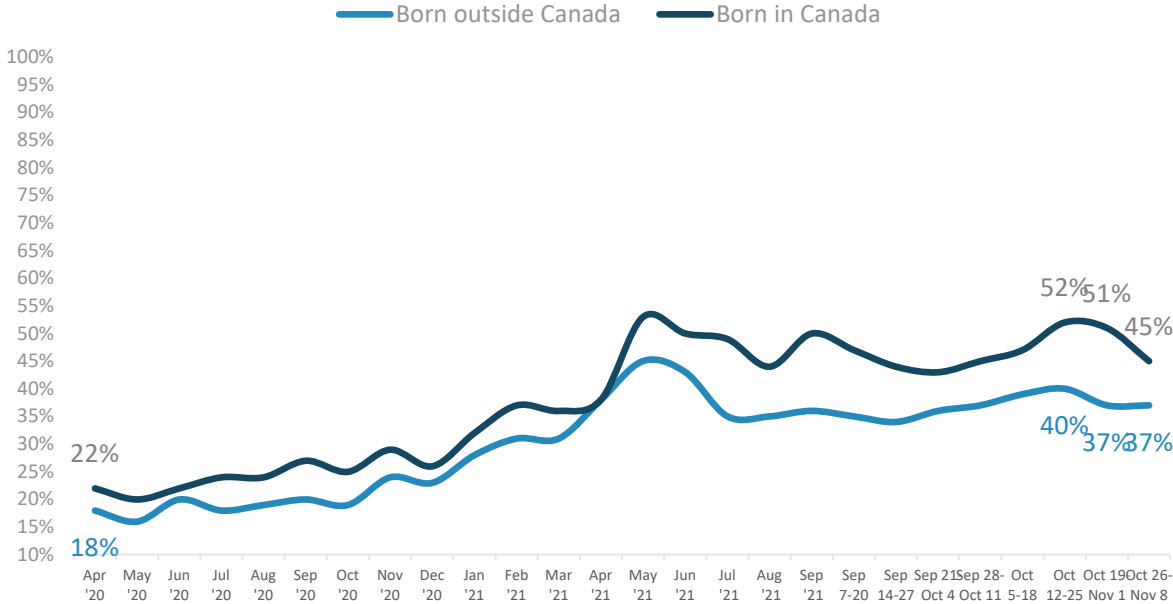


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

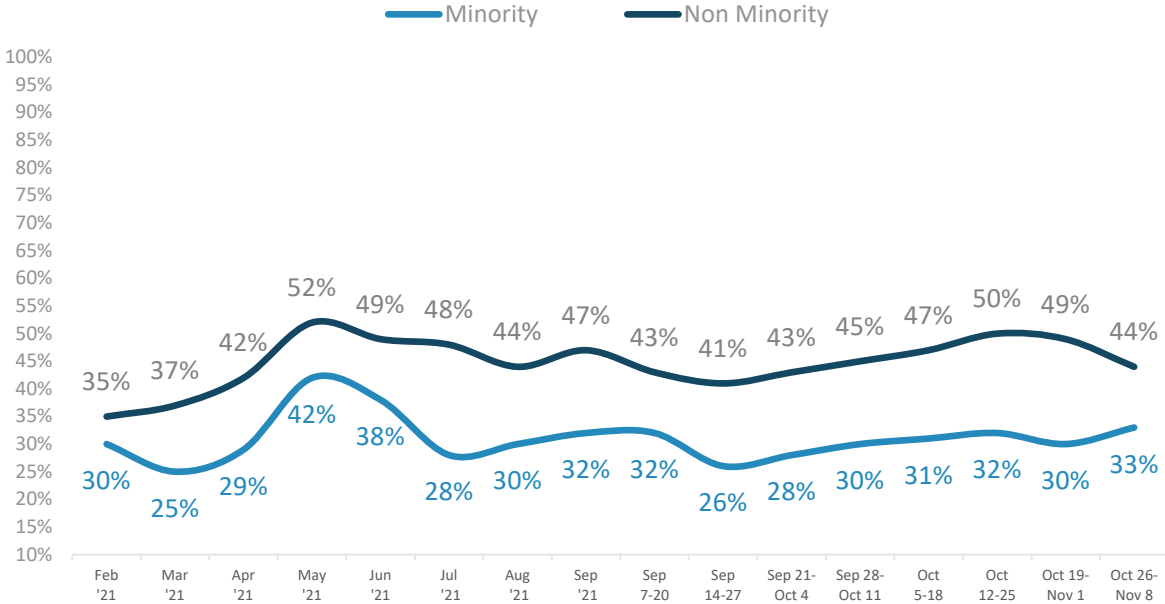
Declines in ‘wrong track’ were measured among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities – although scores remain above those for Ontarians born outside of Canada and among minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



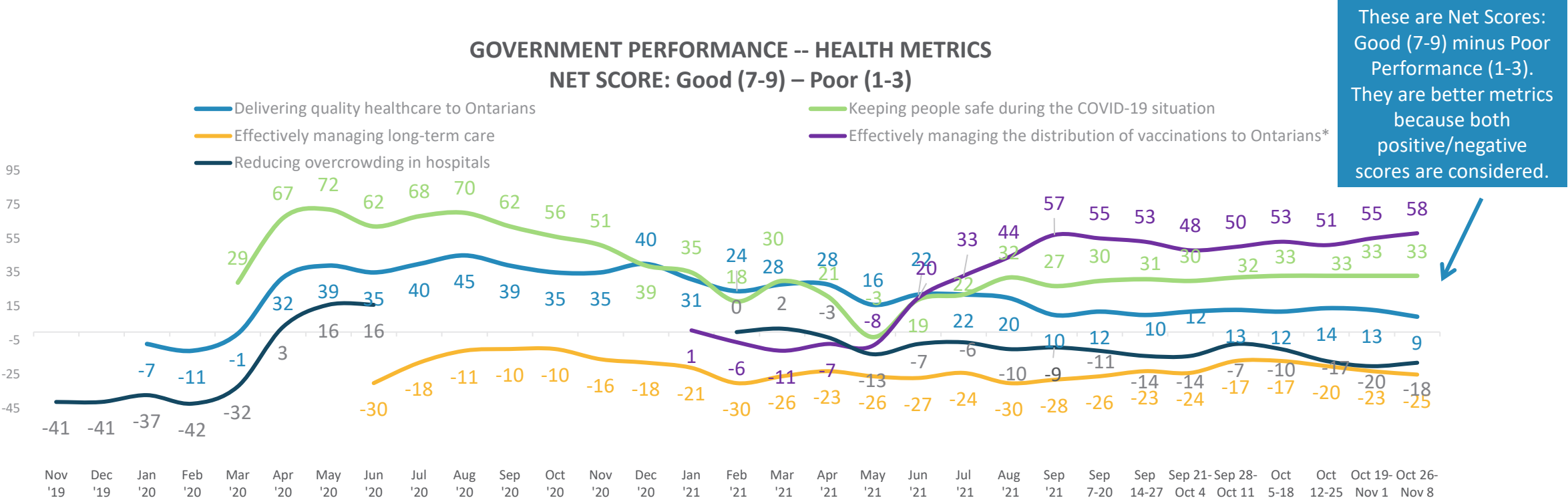
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



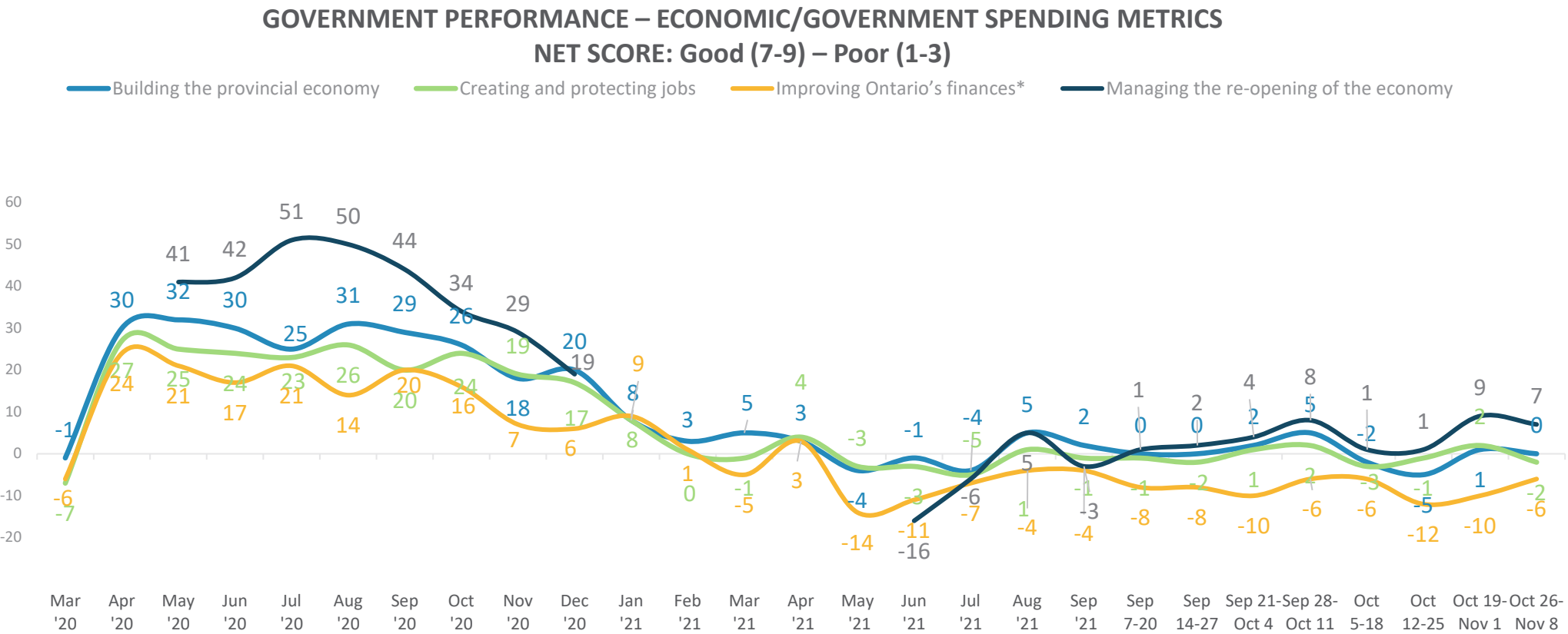
The rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ increased again this week and it now at the highest point since tracking began. ‘Keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ remained unchanged again this week.

- There was a decline measured for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ this week, while the rating for ‘effectively managing long-term care’ continued to trend downward.



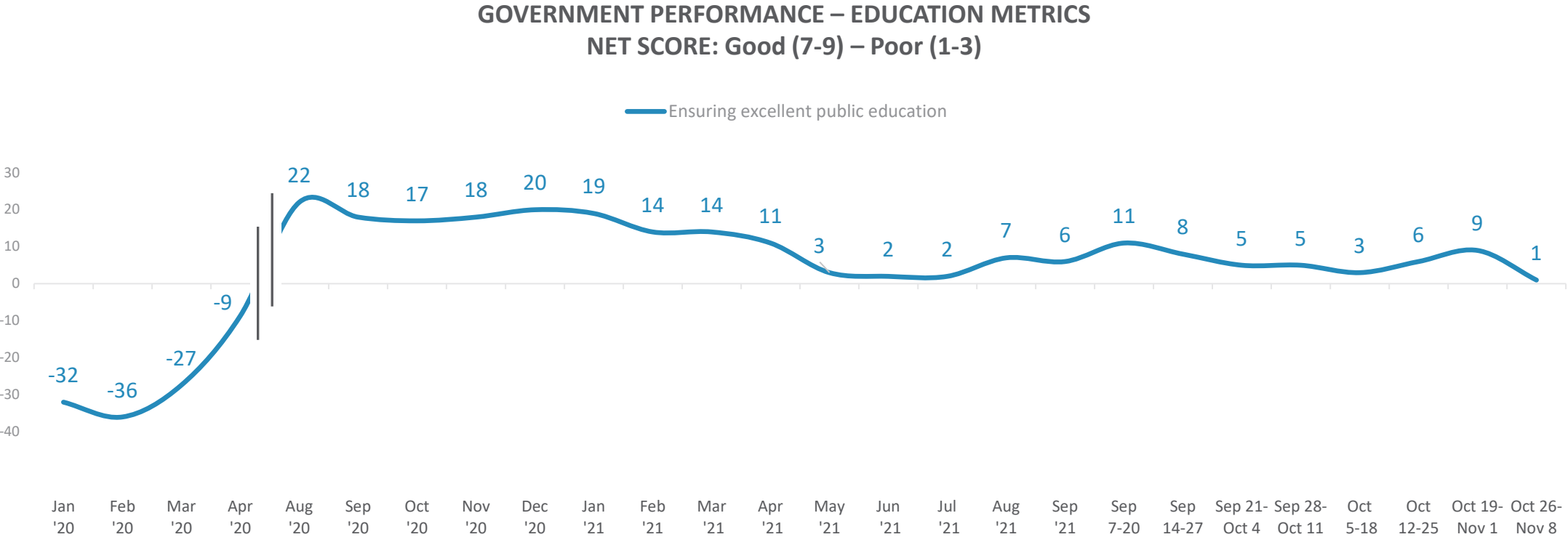
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

While remaining the lowest rated economic/government spending metric, there has been a 6-point increase measured for ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ over the past two weeks. And, while there was a 4-point drop for ‘creating and protecting jobs’, the other metrics remained stable this week.



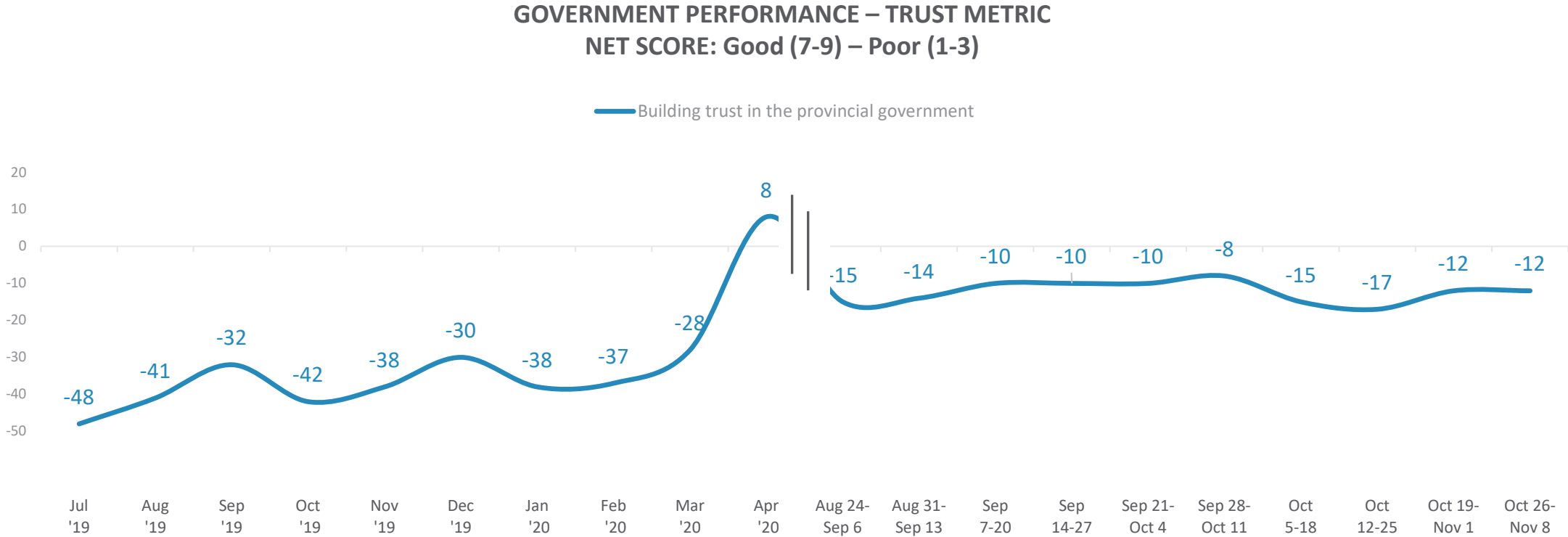
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

While increases were measured the previous two weeks, rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined 8-points this week.



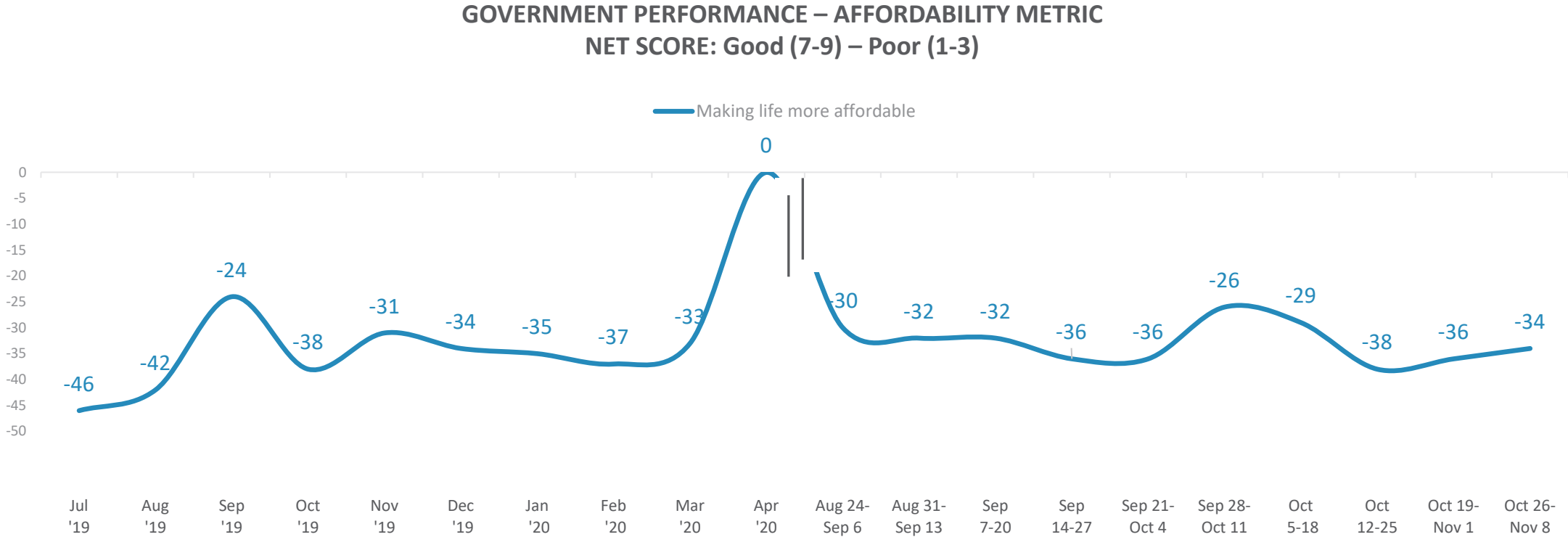
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ remained unchanged.



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

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ has been slowly edging upward.



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

The majority of Ontarians continue to believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19 (57%) compared to health-related issues (38%).

	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	Oct 19- Nov 1	Oct 26- Nov 8
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	35	38
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	62	57
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	2	4

QCV-203. In the coming months, which of the following should be the Ontario government's focus?

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

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, the proportion has declined from a high of 84% in mid-August to 55% this week.

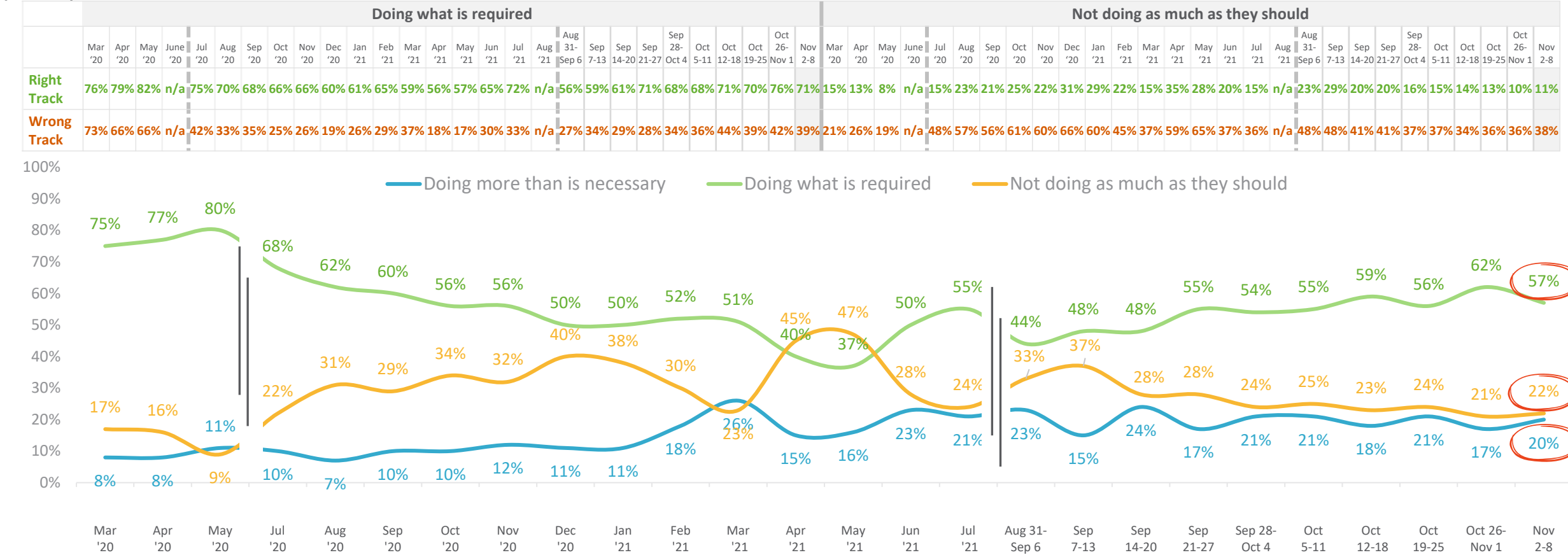
	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Jun 29- Jul 5	Jul 6-12	Jul 13-19	Jul 20-26	Jul 27- Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31- Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Sep 28- Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies																				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68	58	57	64	70	72	75	78	84	73	76	72	66	72	68	63	66	68	60	55
Very concerned	17	26	16	21	19	26	29	37	37	51	40	43	40	38	33	39	25	27	22	15	26
Somewhat concerned	43	43	42	36	45	44	43	37	41	33	33	33	32	28	39	29	38	39	46	45	29
Not too concerned	25	19	21	22	22	16	15	15	11	6	14	12	15	19	12	19	26	17	22	19	26
Not at all concerned	14	12	19	21	13	13	12	10	8	9	11	12	13	13	16	13	10	17	10	21	17
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31	41	43	35	30	27	24	18	15	24	24	28	32	28	31	36	34	31	40	43

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 4TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

This week, 57% believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus while one-in-five think the government is either ‘not doing as much as they should’ (22%) or ‘doing more than is necessary’ (20%).



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 ...

Making vaccines mandatory (29%) continues to receive the most support as an additional action 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	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Making vaccines mandatory	29	34	33	39	33	39	35	27	29
Restricting international travel into Canada	23	21	19	13	19	19	23	17	18
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	16	13
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	14	10
Lockdowns / closing businesses	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	1
All of the above	5	7	6	5	10	8	5	5	6
No additional action is needed	6	3	9	9	11	5	5	13	13
Don't know/unsure	7	4	6	5	4	5	4	5	11

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

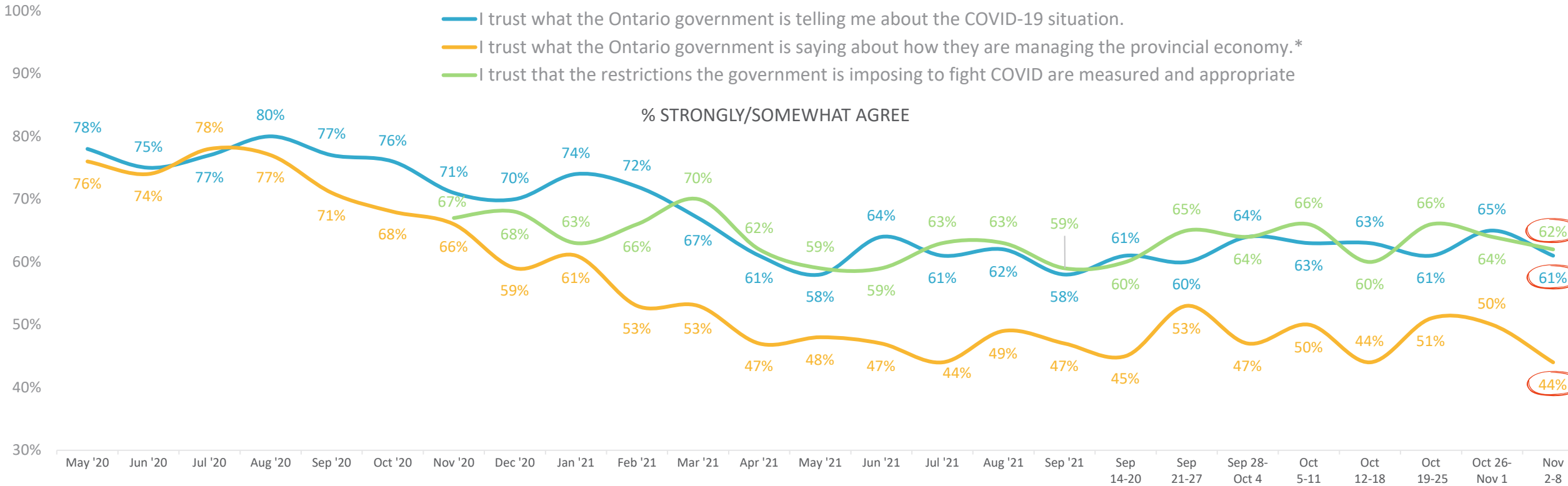
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



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’ lost last weeks gains while results for ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured/appropriate’ remained steady.

- Results for ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ also declined this week.



COVID-19 INFECTIONS



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

Ontarians continue to feel optimistic that the we are over the worst of the pandemic – with seven-in-ten (69%) presently believing this, up 22-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	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
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	75	69
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	34	32
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	41	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	5	11
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	8	8
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	10	10
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	18	18

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

Base: Total sample

VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES



About two-thirds (65%) of Ontarians report they see people everyday not following the public health guidelines such as physical distancing and mask-wearing.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I see people everyday not following public health guidelines, like physical distancing and mask-wearing*	76	79	74	69	71	69	66	64	62	59	60	62	65

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
*Original phrasing: I see people everyday not following the social distancing guidelines
Base: Total sample

LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

Half (52%) report they are not getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing.

I am getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures, such as mask wearing and social distancing

	Aug 18-20	Aug 22-27	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27- May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	varies																											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57	53	39	46	42	44	41	41	56	39	55	47	44	43
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17	29	24	29	23	24	31	21	24	30	26	26
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22	17	18	16	18	17	25	18	31	18	18	18
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7	6	5	7	7	10	10	6	6	7	11	13	7	4
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17	16	19	16	22	19	18	22	8	14	17	20
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38	30	30	29	27	31	18	32	25	25	32	31
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55	46	50	45	49	50	37	54	33	39	49	52

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...

Base: Total sample, base varies

FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

Consistent with results in August and September, eight-in-ten (83%) Ontarians say they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with over half (55%) reporting they are wearing a mask ‘all of the time’.

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	1752	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	921	732	Varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	60	77	83	87	88	90	92	91	81	81	83	79	81	82	84	80	82	83
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	57	56	48	51	58	49	53	51	52	55
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	25	24	36	29	23	33	31	29	30	28
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	13	14	11	14	13	15	9	13	12	12
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	3	5	6	6	3	7	6	4	4
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	2	1	1	<1	-	1	1	1	<1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	6	5	6	7	6	3	7	7	6	5

	RIGHT TRACK														WRONG TRACK													
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30	Aug 31-Sep 6	Sep 7-13	Sep 14-20	Sep 21-27	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '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	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
TOTAL ALL/MO ST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	84%	82%	85%	86%	85%	85%	89%	83%	86%	84%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%	76%	77%	77%	76%	76%	82%

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

Base: Total sample

About half (48%) of Ontarians hold the view that public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing in public places should continue. A further 40% believe that while there is still the need for public health measures, there should be a plan to relax them.

- Few think that there is no need for mask wearing and social distancing.

	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies	
	%	%
Some people say that with decreased risk of catching COVID compared to a few months ago, there's no longer a need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing in public places like stores and restaurants.	10	10
Other people say that there is still risk of catching COVID and we're not past the pandemic, so we should continue having public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing in public places like stores and restaurants.	40	48
Still other people say that with the decreased risk of catching COVID compared to a few months ago, there is still some need for public health measures, such as mask wearing and social distancing in public places like stores and restaurants, but there should be a plan to relax these measures.	48	40

LEVEL OF ATTENTION PAID TO NUMBER OF CASES/OTHER STATISTICS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC IN ONTARIO

Initial results indicate that around half of Ontarians are paying either more attention or about the same amount of attention to the number of daily new cases and deaths, the number of people in hospitals, as well as the number in intensive care units compared to a few months ago.

- However, six-in-ten (61%) report they are paying more/about the same attention to the percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated, with one-quarter (23%) indicating they are watching this more carefully.

	Paying more attention		About the same		Paying less attention	
	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The number of daily new cases	12	14	39	40	48	44
The number of daily deaths	10	10	36	42	53	46
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	37	39	51	43
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	36	36	49	46
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	40	38	34	35

COVID-19 VACCINE



About six-in-ten (61%) Ontarians continue to 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	Oct 19-25	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
varies																
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	42	55	48	54	51	58	64	61
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	19	20	20	25	19	28	30	25
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	22	35	28	29	32	30	33	37
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	8	5	7	5	8	6	7	5
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	20	16	17	15	22	21	12	18
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	27	23	25	22	19	16	16	14
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	48	38	42	37	40	36	28	33

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 eight-in-ten (80%) indicating they would take it if it was available to them, and intensity is high with 58% being ‘very’ willing.

	Sep 28- Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL WILLING	79	82	79	85	79	80
Very willing	54	69	61	69	60	58
Somewhat willing	25	14	18	16	19	22
Not too willing	7	6	9	6	8	8
Not at all willing	9	7	10	6	9	7
TOTAL NOT WILLING	16	14	19	12	17	15
I have already had my booster dose	2	1	1	2	3	3
Don't know/not sure	4	3	2	1	1	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 reasons for not being willing to get a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is that they believe that it is not necessary (22%) or their need for more information (20%).

	Sep 28-Oct 11	Oct 5-18	Oct 12-25	Oct 19-Nov 1	Oct 26-Nov 8
n=	69	84	73	60	69
	%	%	%	%	%
Not necessary	28	13	8	17	22
Research/need more information	11	11	9	17	20
I already got two doses (that is enough)	-	10	19	13	10
How many boosters are going to be needed (e.g., every six months)	10	4	3	8	10
They originally said two doses were enough (and were wrong)	13	8	5	8	9
Not confident in the effectiveness of the vaccine	-	2	10	14	5
I never wanted to get the first two doses/was forced to get first two doses (e.g., work)	-	6	4	7	5
They should focus on getting everyone vaccinated with the first two doses	-	4	6	7	4
I am not high risk/my exposure is low	10	6	8	5	4
Concerned about long term effects	9	5	4	5	4
Do not trust the government	6	5	3	2	4
Too soon/need a longer gap in between doses	-	8	6	4	3
I got sick when taking previous doses of the COVID-19 vaccine	-	10	7	4	2
Concerned about too much vaccine in the body	3	-	16	2	2
Heard negative things about the vaccine (e.g., in the media)	-	2	3	1	1
Just a ploy to give money to big pharma	-	1	1	1	1
Other	18	18	6	8	7
Don't know/not sure	1	5	8	2	9

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



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

	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
Yes	81	80	82	81
No	18	20	17	19

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

Ontarians are split in terms of their concern about the possibility of fully vaccinated people contracting COVID-19, with 49% ‘concerned’ and 50% ‘not concerned’.

	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	53	55	55	49
Very concerned	12	16	19	15
Somewhat concerned	41	39	36	34
Not too concerned	29	31	30	35
Not at all concerned	16	14	14	15
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	46	45	45	50

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

Ontarians also tend to be split in their level of concern that they personally will contract COVID-19 although fully vaccinated, with 47% ‘concerned’ and 53% ‘not concerned’.

	Oct 21-25	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	49	47	47
Very concerned	10	13	15
Somewhat concerned	39	34	32
Not too concerned	39	37	36
Not at all concerned	13	16	17
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	51	53	53

INFLATION/COST OF LIVING



Ontarians are aware of increasing inflation or cost of living expenses, with almost nine-in-ten (87%) saying they have seen, read or heard about it in the last few weeks. And, intensity is high with 70% reporting they have seen/read/heard ‘a lot’.

	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies	
	%	%
A LOT/SOMETHING	89	87
A lot	69	70
Something	20	17
Not too much	7	7
Nothing at all	5	4
NOT TOO MUCH/NOTHING AT ALL	11	11

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT INFLATION

There is a high level of concern about inflation increasing the cost of basic living expenses, with 90% concerned and 62% ‘very’ concerned.

	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	91	90
Very concerned	67	62
Somewhat concerned	24	27
Not too concerned	7	7
Not at all concerned	2	2
NOT TOO/NOT AT ALL CONCERNED	9	9

Over four-in-ten (44%) Ontarians say they will definitely need additional income to make ends meet this coming year.

I will definitely need additional income to make ends meet this coming year.

	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	49	44
Strongly agree	27	26
Somewhat agree	22	18
Somewhat disagree	20	18
Strongly disagree	27	32
TOTAL DISAGREE	47	50

And, presently, one-third (33%) of Ontarians say they are having a very hard time making ends meet.

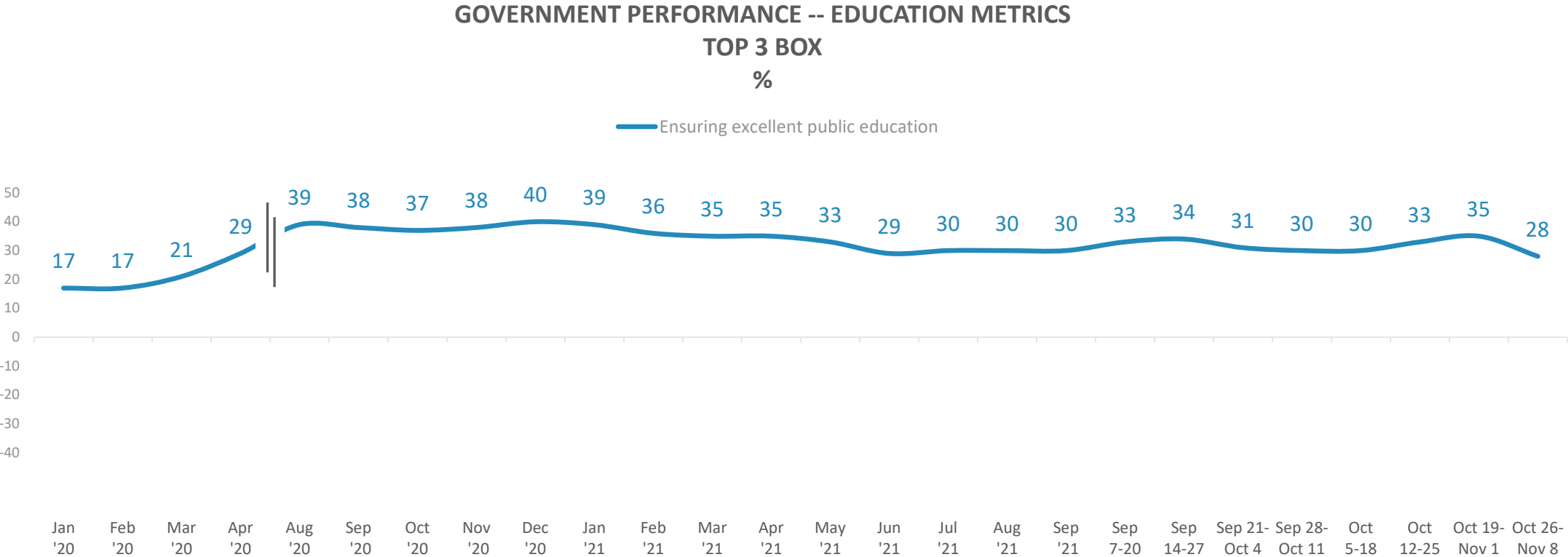
I am having a very hard time making ends meet.

	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	41	33
Strongly agree	20	17
Somewhat agree	21	16
Somewhat disagree	26	25
Strongly disagree	30	37
TOTAL DISAGREE	56	62

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

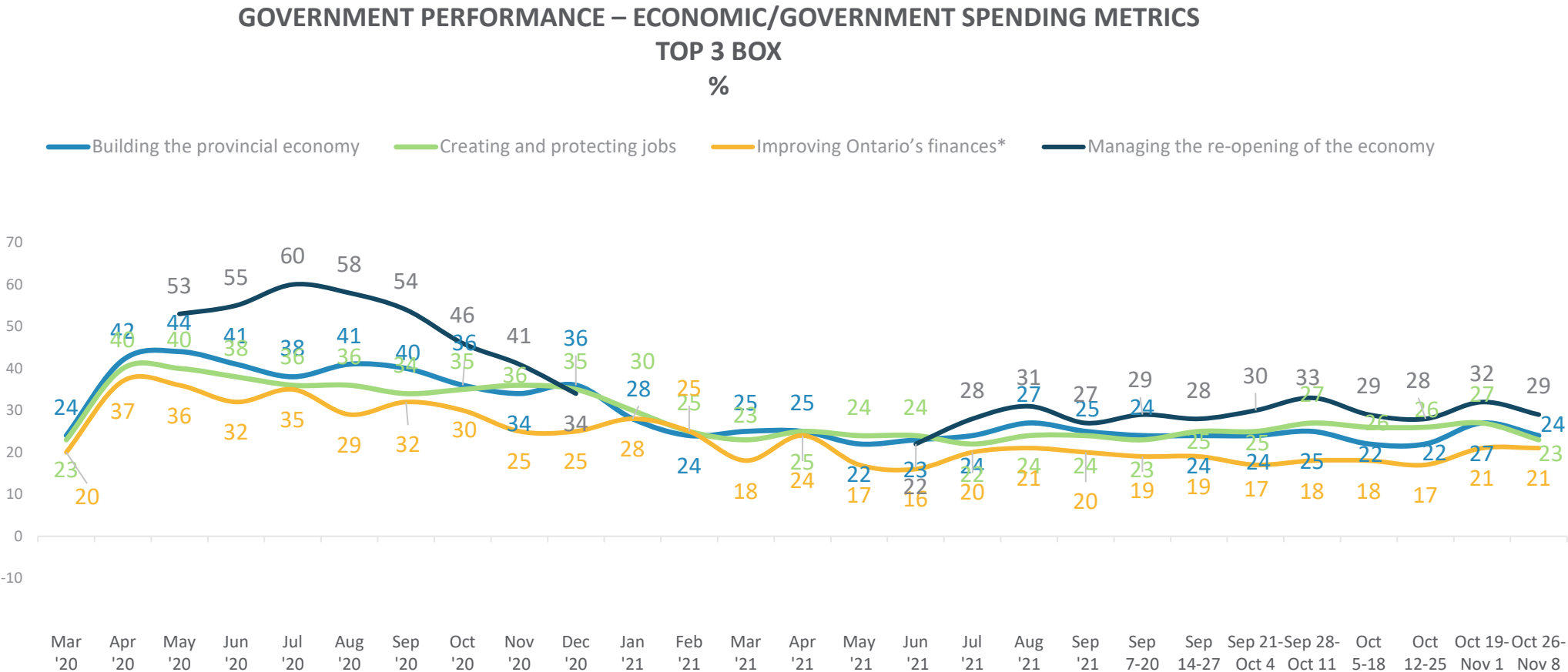


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined this week after edging up over the past two weeks.



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

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for the economic and government spending metrics declined slightly this week for all but ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ which remained unchanged.

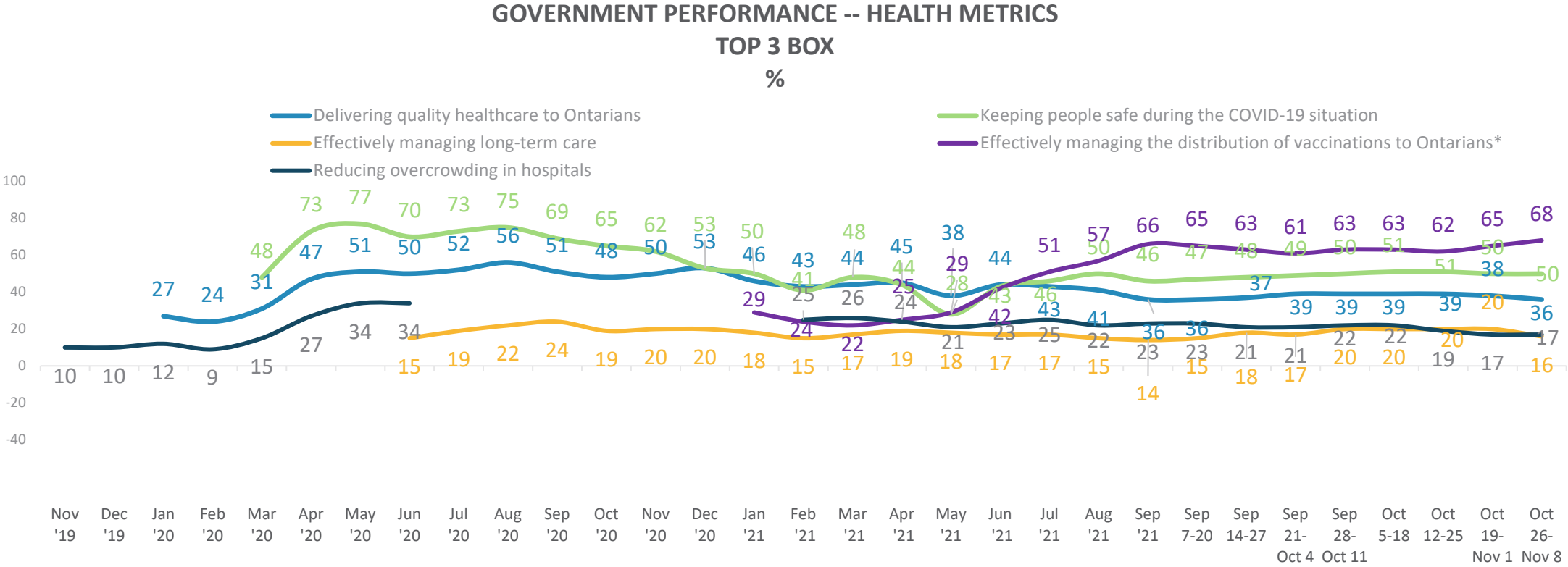


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

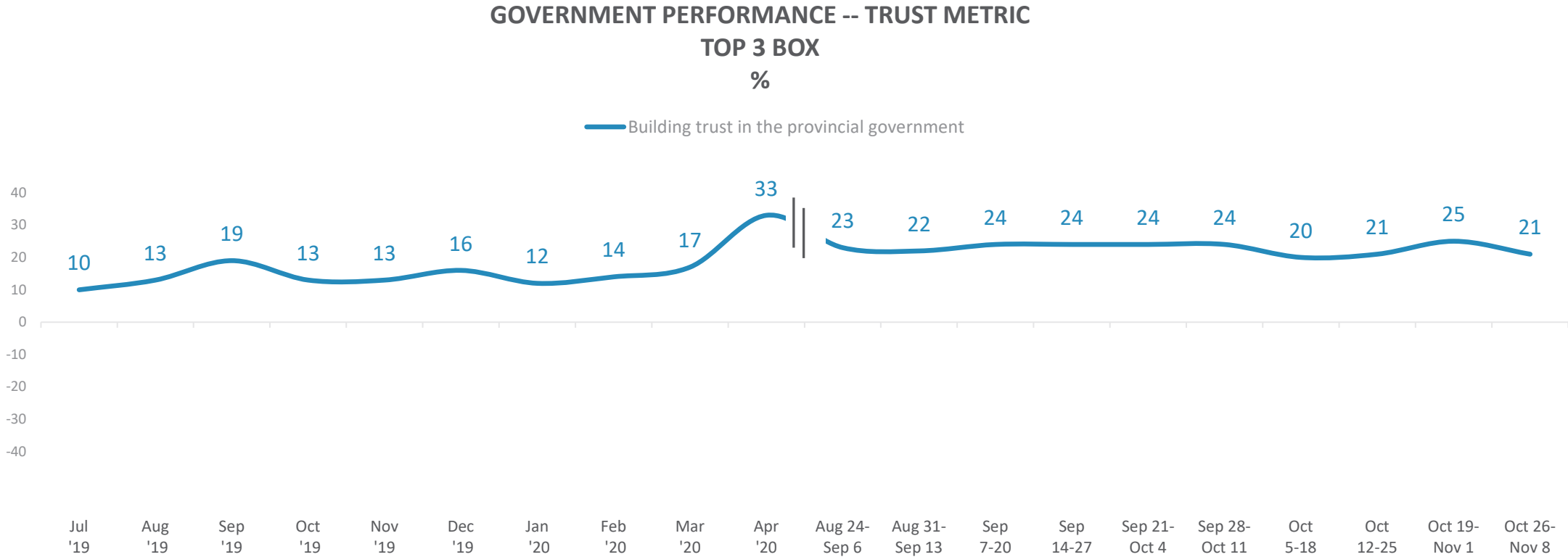
Bases vary

There was a slight uptick in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ while there was a decline for ‘effectively managing long-term care’.



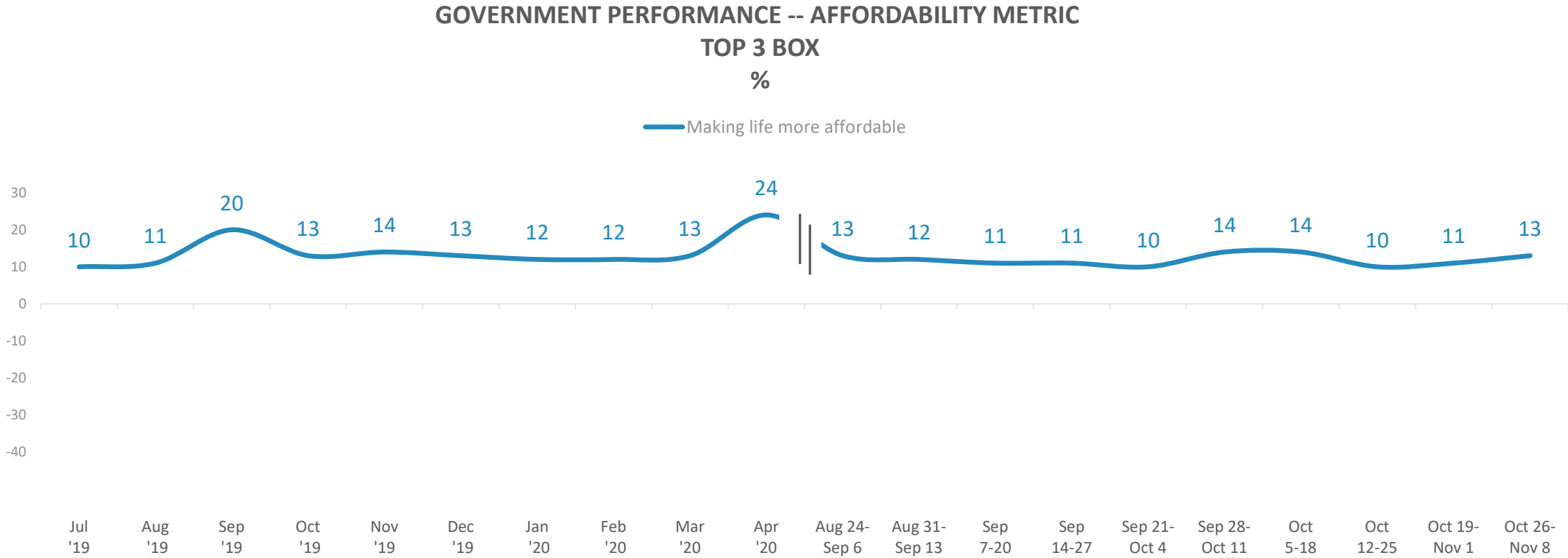
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The increase last week in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ was reversed 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

The positive rating of the Ontario government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ has been slowly moving up 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