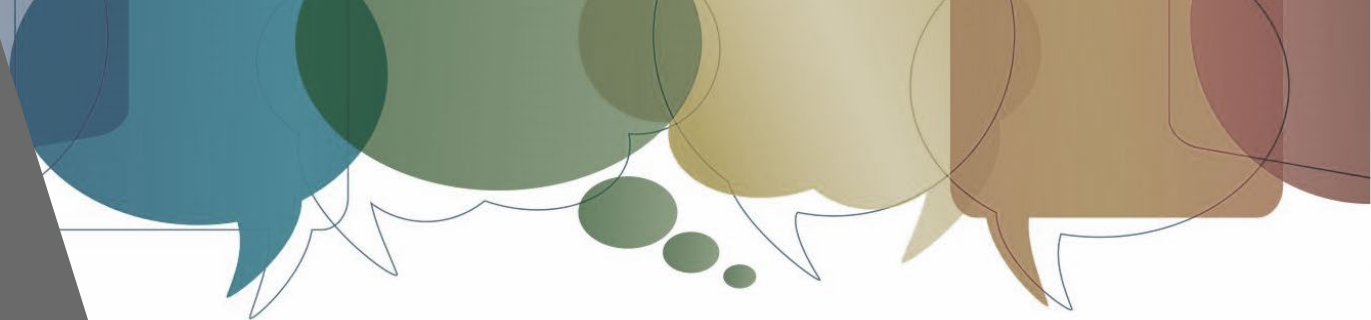




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #112

CABINET OFFICE

December 21st 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 After trending up for three weeks, 'right track' remained stable this week at 61%.

3 While concern has been increasing over the past several weeks, over this same time period Ontarians have been increasingly likely to believe that the government is 'not doing as much as they should'. This number increased to 39% from 32% last week (and was at 24% at the end of November).

In addition, there has been some softening (from 74% at the beginning of December to 63% this week) in the perception that the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

And, rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' has dropped 19-points over the past two weeks. As well, its rating for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' has declined 17-points over this time period.

2 In the face of rising infection rates and the spread of the Omicron variant, almost eight-in-ten (77%) Ontarians continue to register concern about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic, with 51% saying they are 'very' concerned. And, almost 1-in-2 (49%) say that their level of concern about COVID-19 has increased over the last week.

Underlining this concern, since mid-November there has been a 21-point drop to 41% who feel optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic. This compares to 74% in July.

Ontarians are also increasingly less confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, down 18-points since mid-November to 39%.

4 There remains strong support for public health measures. Nine-in-ten (90%) Ontarians support the need for public health measures. However, there has been shift in the support (from 42% in mid-November to 61% this week) for wanting public health measures to be continued. In contrast, there has been a decline (from 46% in mid-November to 29%) in support for relaxing public health measures.

However, trust in the government's communications about 'restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured/appropriate' has dropped this week.

Key Findings

5 In the face of rising infections and public health communications that a booster is vital in providing protection from the Omicron variant, eight-in-ten (80%) Ontarians indicate they are willing to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (and intensity is high with 65% 'very' willing).

Of note, despite the intensive media coverage about the importance of the booster shot, there is declining interest in getting it as soon as it is made available to them.

7 The government's performance for 'creating and protecting jobs' has declined this week after experiencing an increase of 14-points over the previous two weeks. Paralleling these changes, 'improving Ontario's finances' has declined after several weeks of increases.

As well, over the past week, trust in the government's communications about 'managing the provincial economy' has dropped to the lowest point since tracking began.

6 Reflecting the rapid change in the pandemic, Ontarians increasingly believe the Ontario government should focus on health issues, while fewer Ontarians (compared to November) want the focus on the economy.

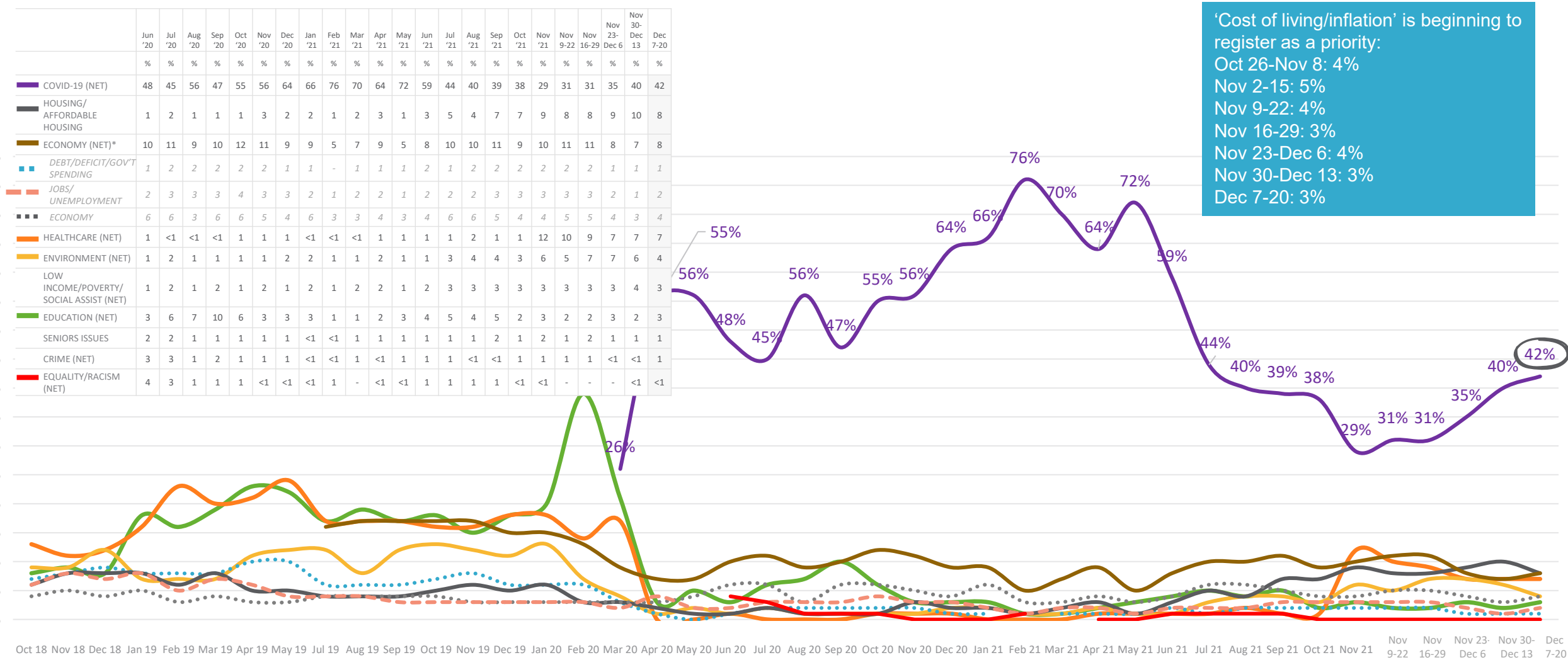
There is now parity in terms of the proportion of Ontarians that believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19 (43%) and those who believe the focus should be on health-related issues (44%). This compares to 57% and 37%, respectively, in early November.

8 In terms of education, rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' has declined 10-points over the last two weeks as infection cases increase.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government’s top priority continues to trend upward to 42% this week – an increase of 13-points since November.

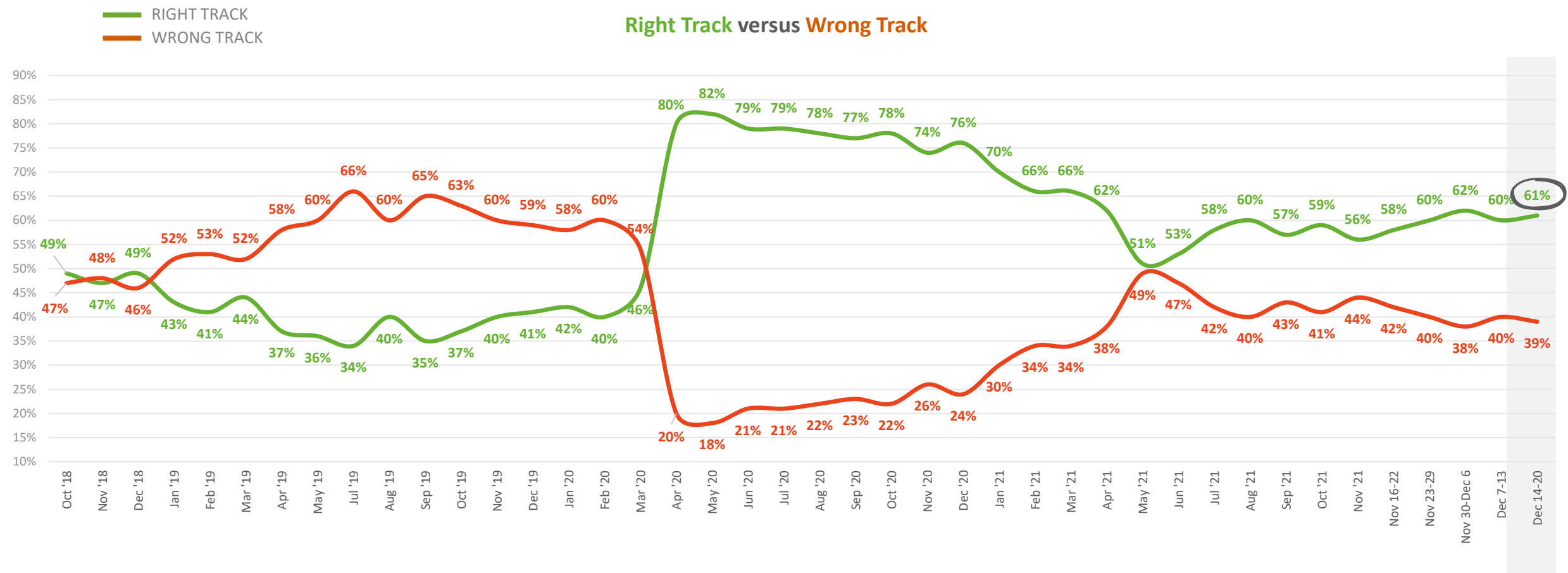


Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

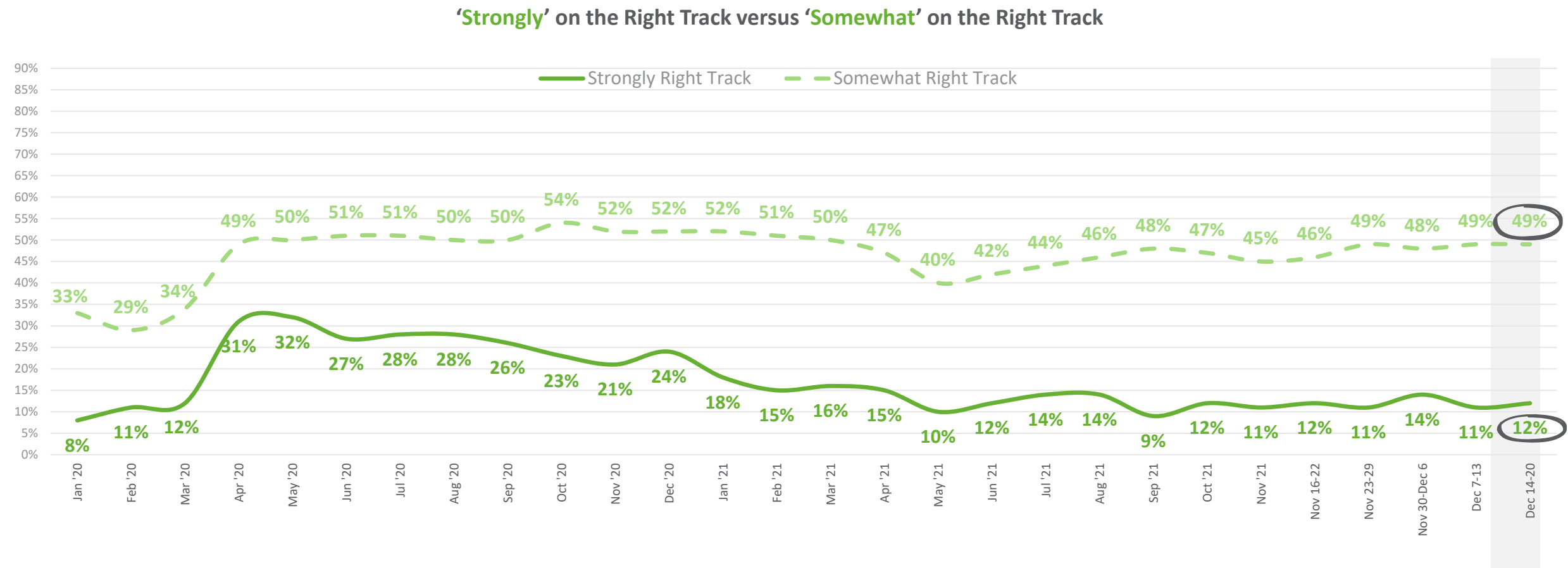


This week, 'right track' remained stable at 61%.



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

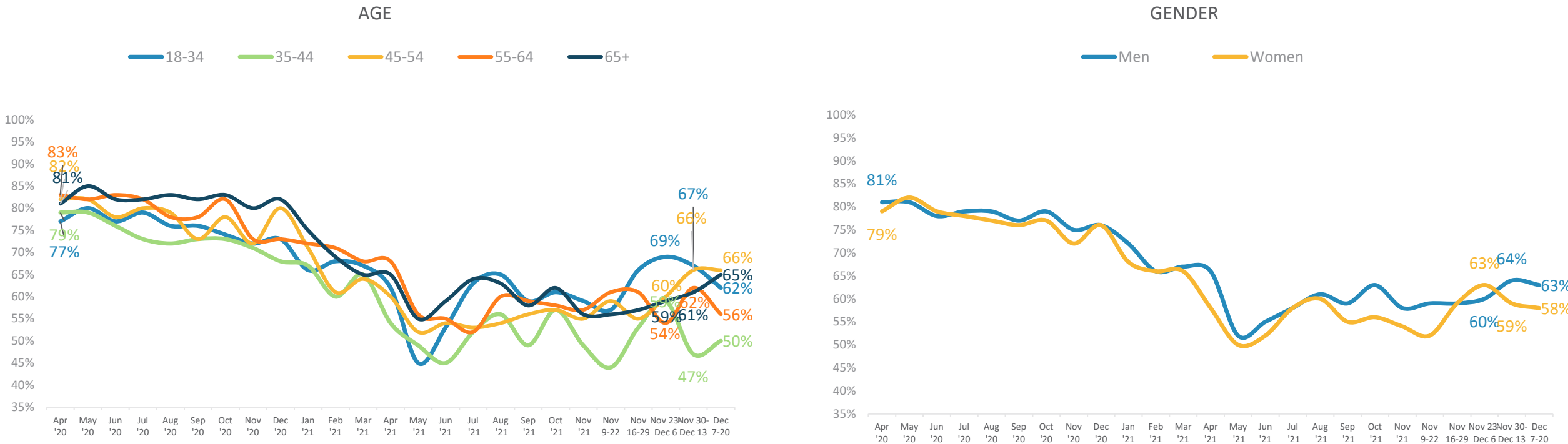
Both ‘strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’ remained steady again this week.



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’ by age continues to be variable, with the highest scores this week among those aged 45-54 and 65+. Declines were measured among Ontarians aged 18-34 and 55-64. And, while there was an increase among those aged 35-44, they continue to lag the other age segments. Results were stable this week by gender.

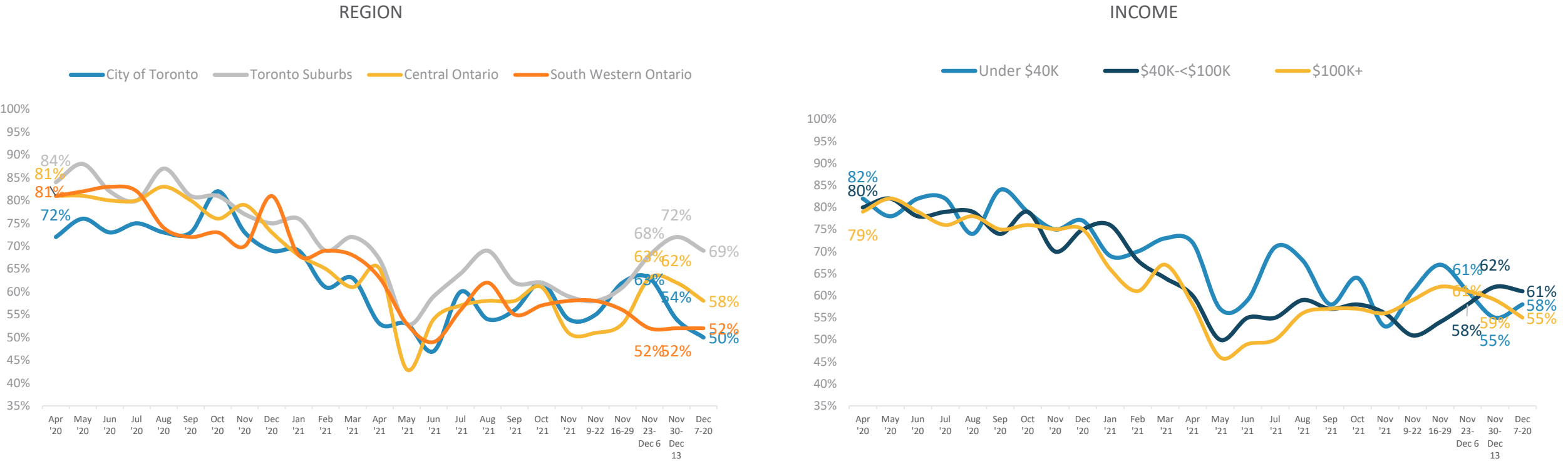
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

Regionally, ‘right track’ remains highest in the Toronto suburbs – although there was a decline this week. There were also declines in Central Ontario and the City of Toronto while SW Ontario remained stable. By income, ‘right track’ continued to decline among Ontarians making \$100k+, while there was an uptick among those making under \$40k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

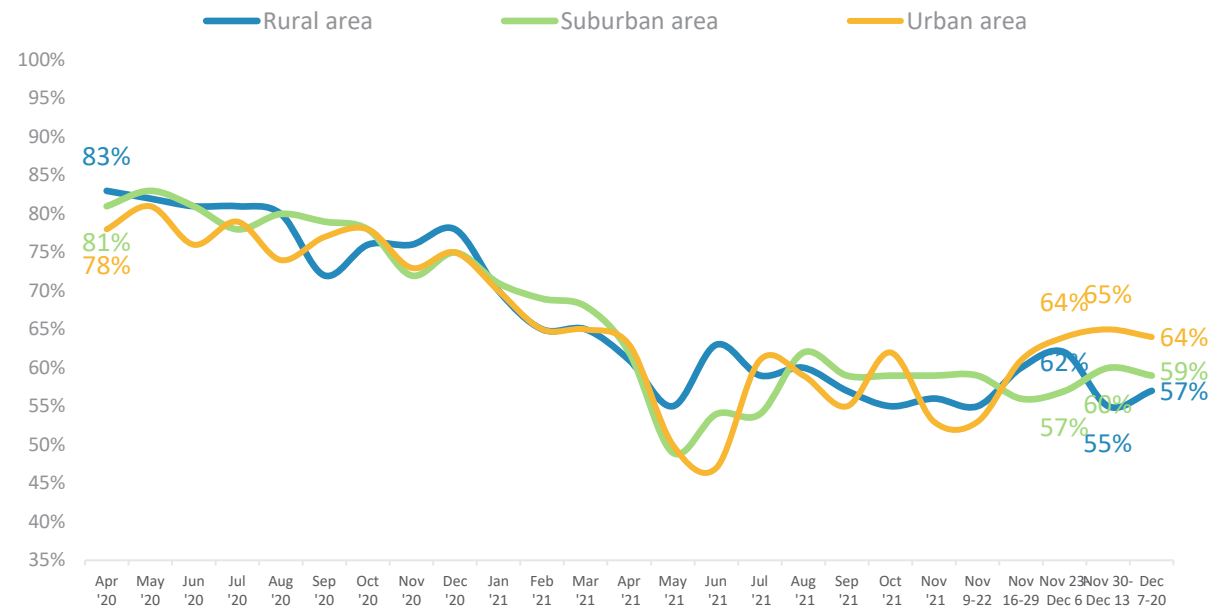


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

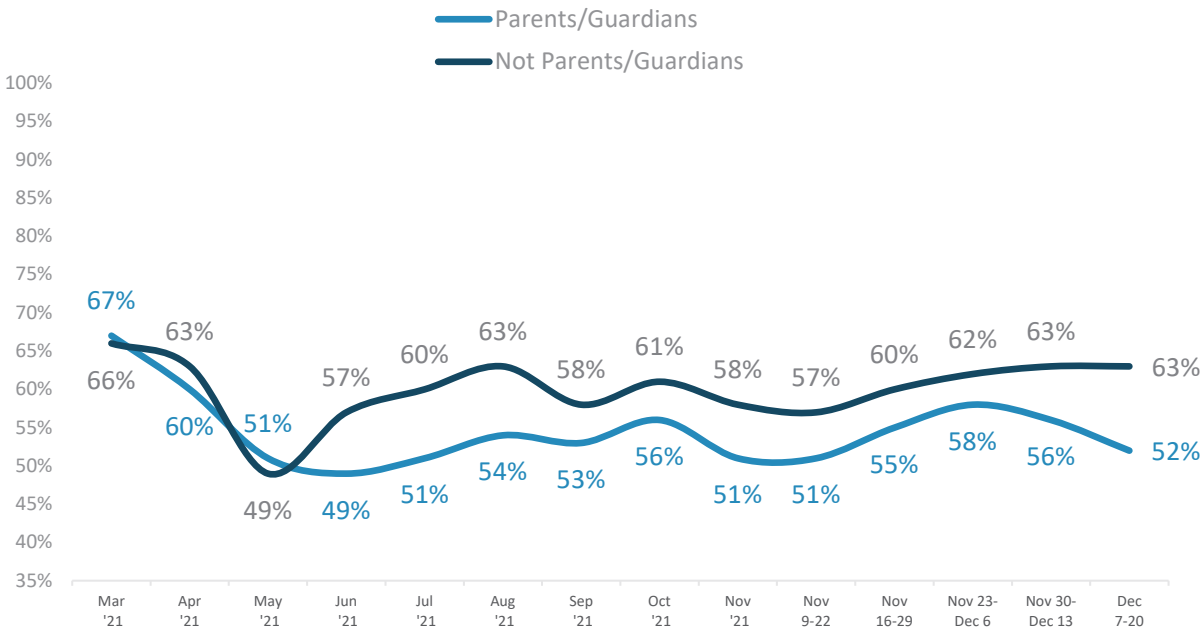
‘Right track’ remains stable – and highest – in urban areas, while there was a slight increase measured in rural areas. Suburban areas also remained stable this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

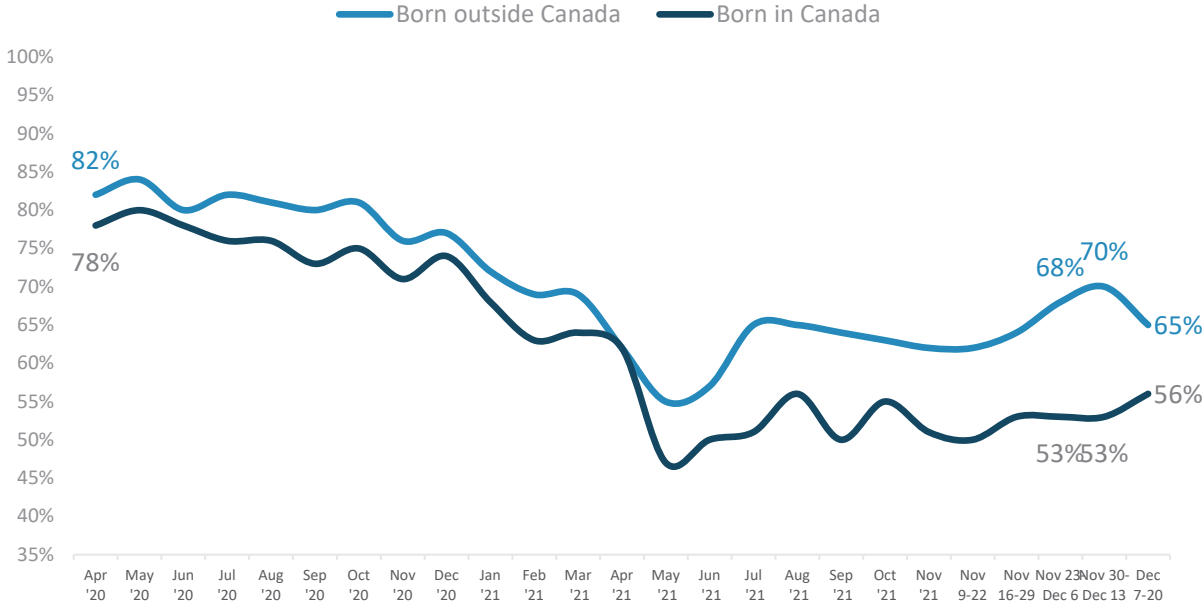


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

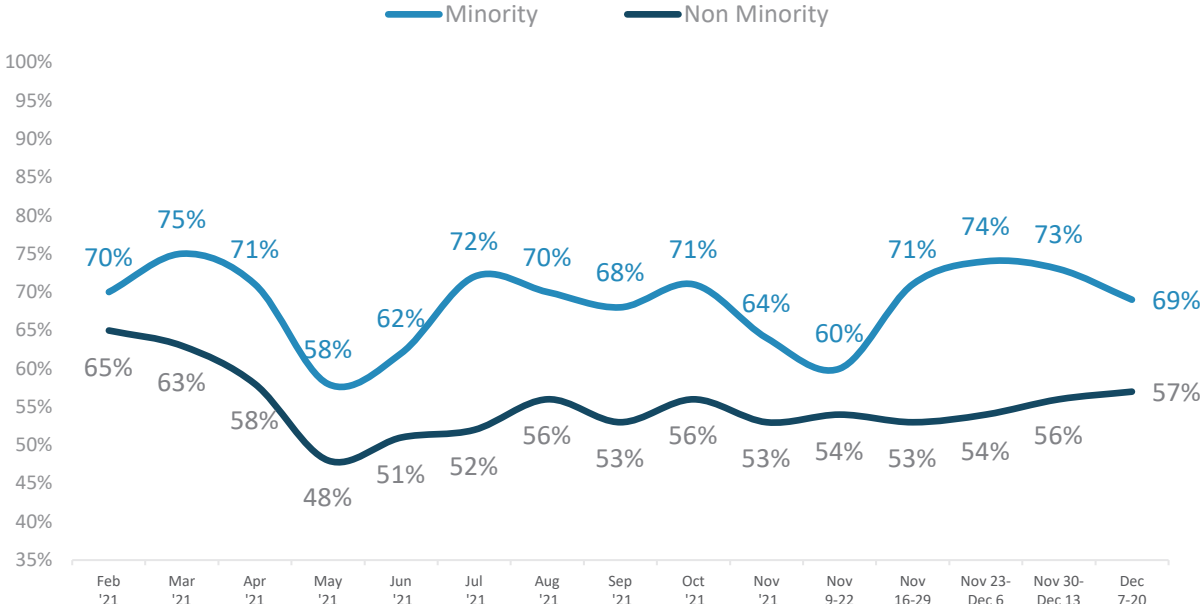
‘Right track’ has slipped among those born outside of Canada and who identify as a minority. There was an slight uptick this week among those born in Canada while scores among non-minorities continue to slowly edge upward.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



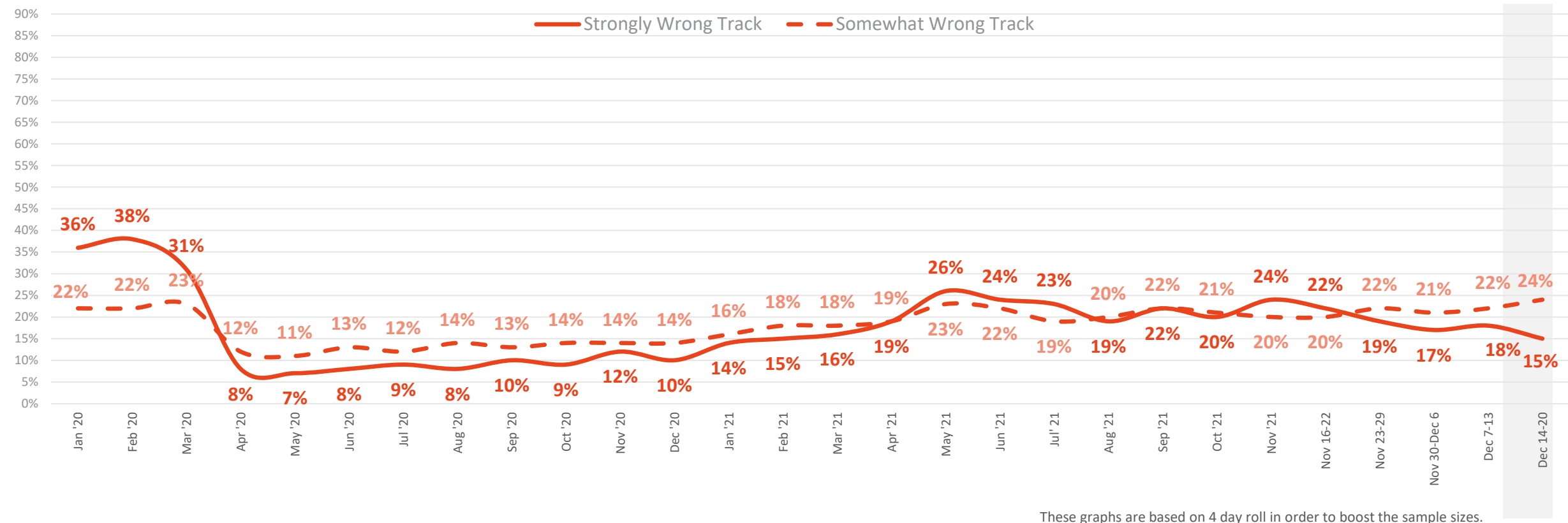
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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

The proportion who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’ is down 7-points since mid-November while ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ has slowly been trending upward.

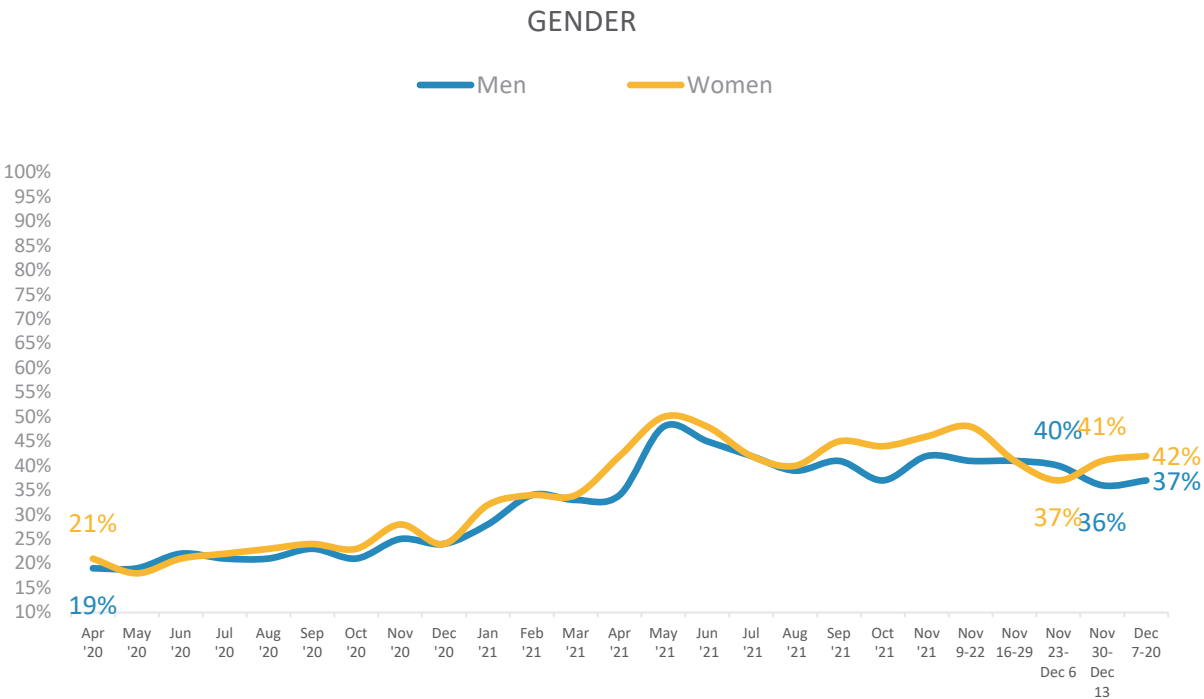
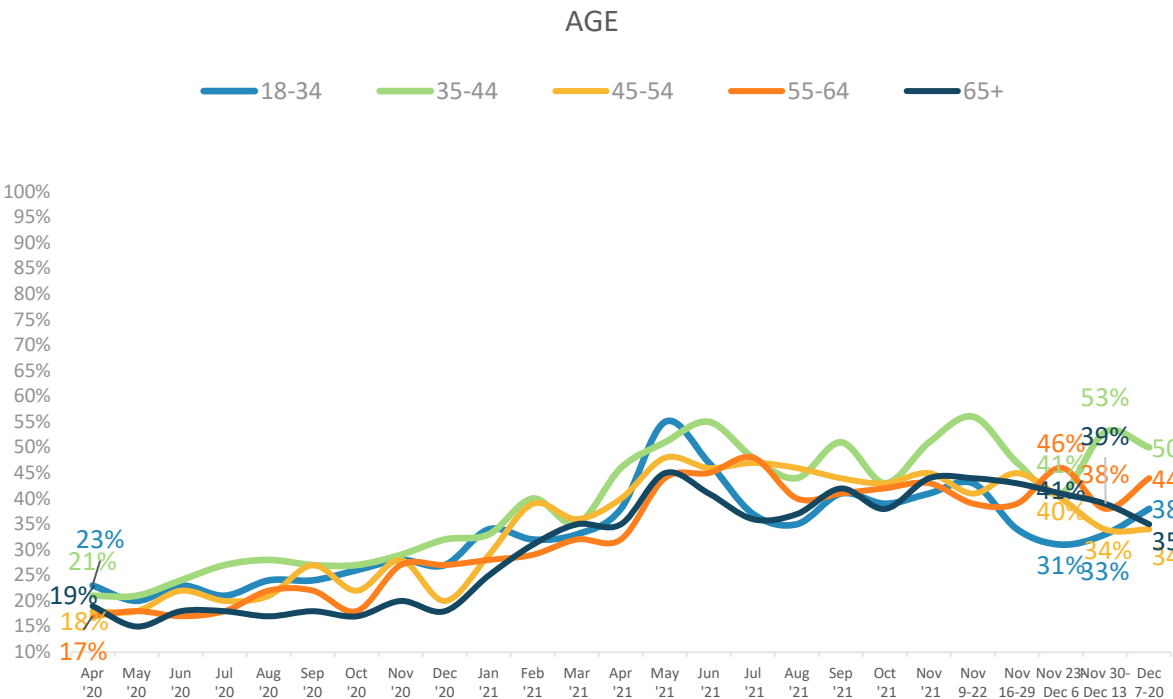
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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

‘Wrong track’ continues to be highest among Ontarians aged 35-44, with increases measured this week among those aged 55-64 and 18-34 and a decrease for 65+. Results were steady among 45-54 year olds. ‘Wrong track’ remained steady by gender.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

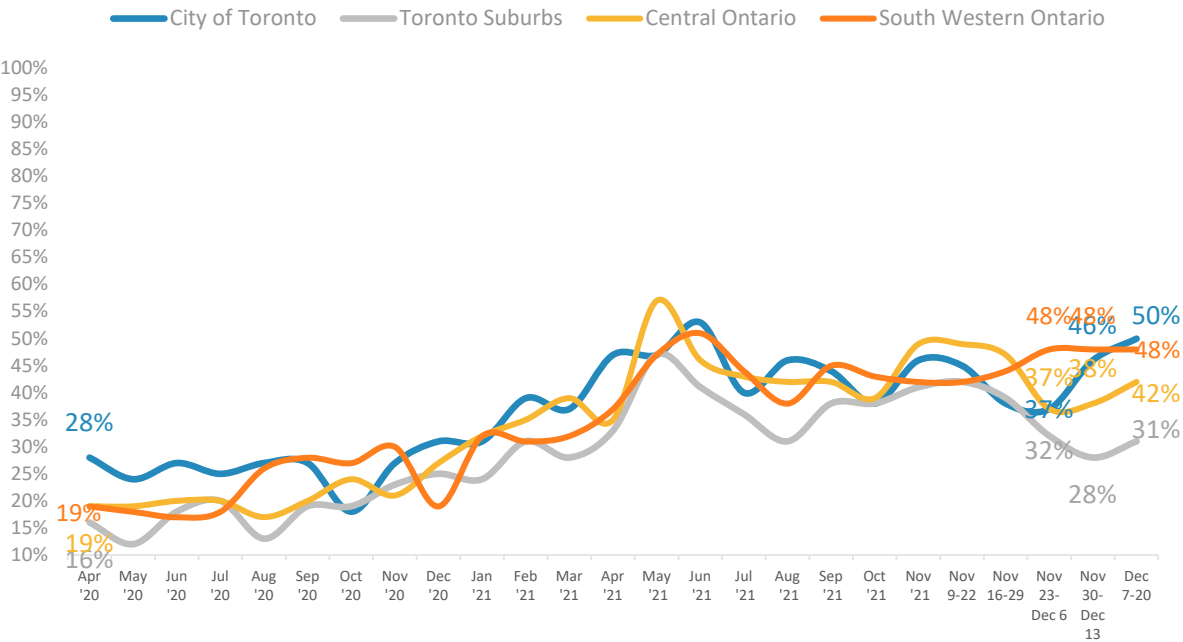


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

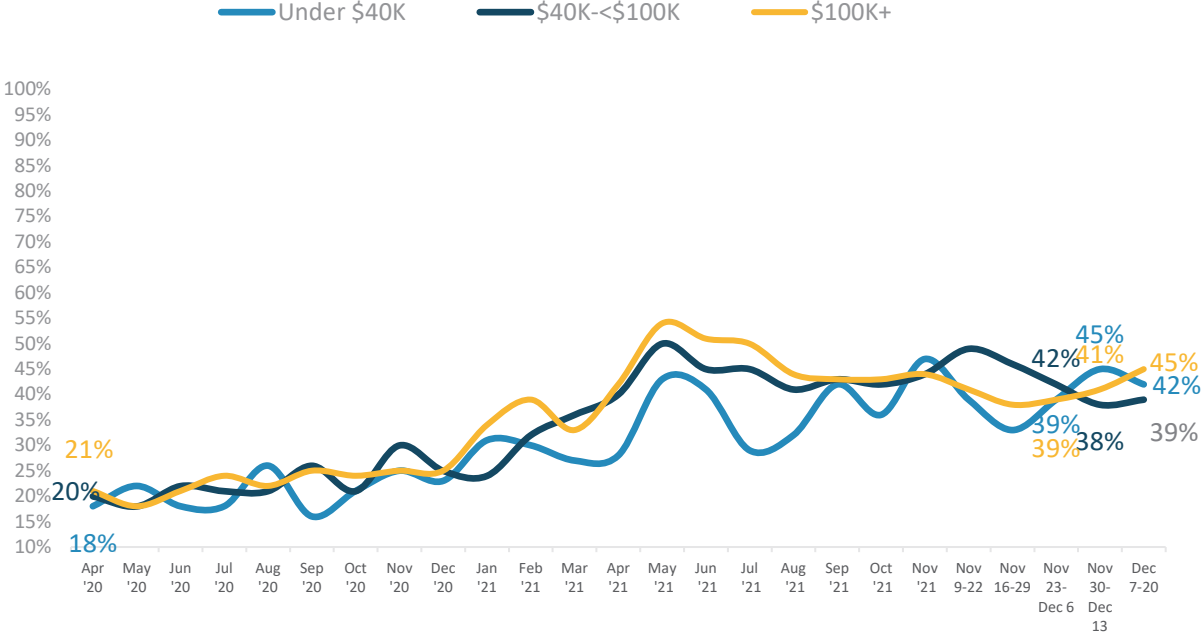
Regionally, there were increases in ‘wrong track’ in the city of Toronto, Central Toronto, and the Toronto suburbs this week while SW Ontario remained stable. By income, ‘wrong track’ continued to increase among Ontarians making \$100k+ while there was a slight decline among those making under \$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

REGION



INCOME

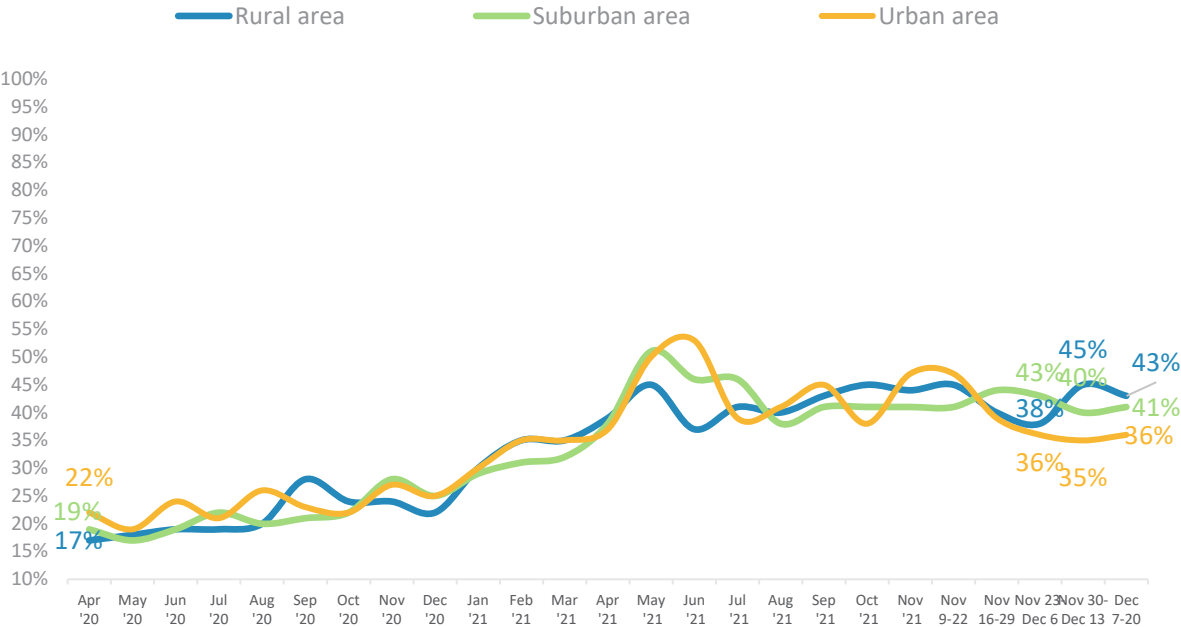


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

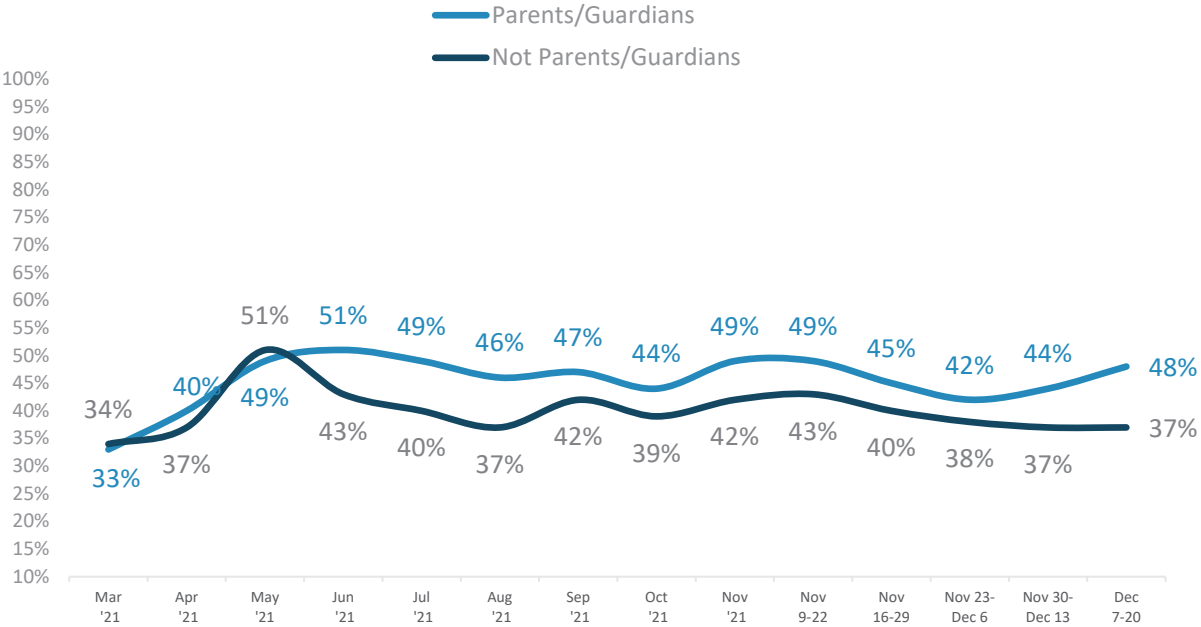
Although there was a slight decline this week, ‘wrong track’ remains highest in rural areas. Results remained steady in urban and suburban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

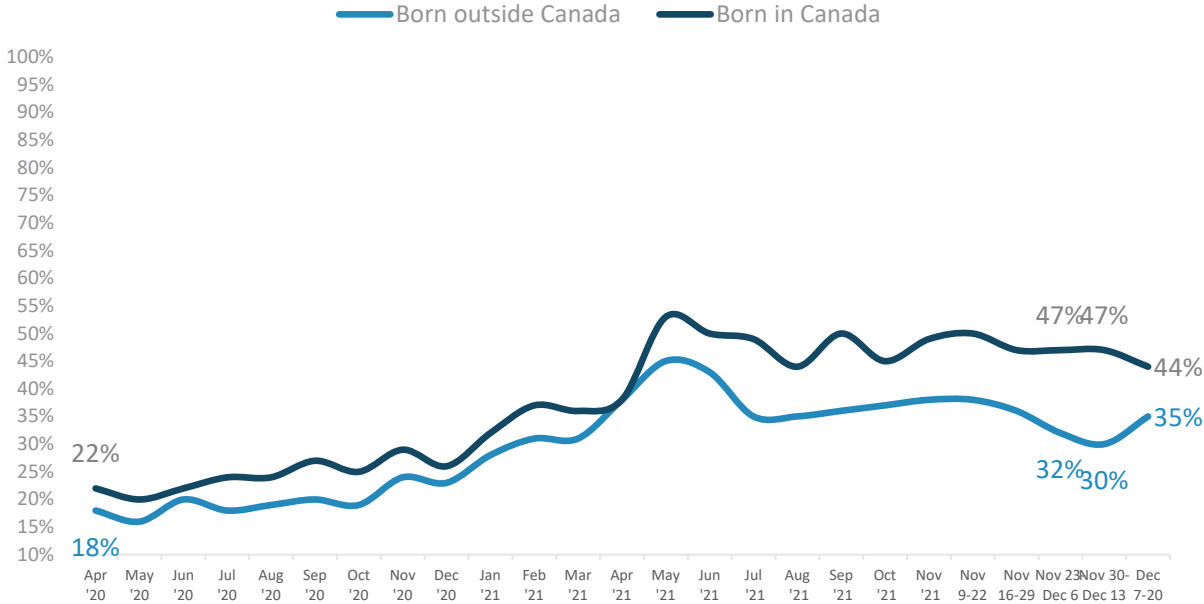


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

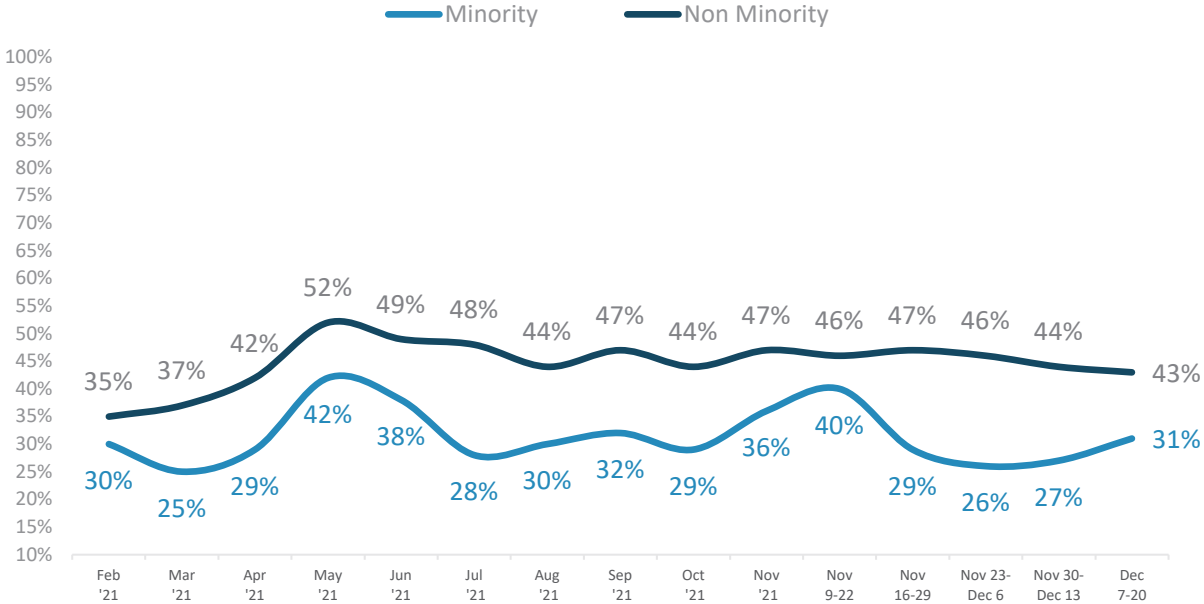
‘Wrong track’ increased among Ontarians born outside of Canada and among minorities this week. There was a slight decline measured among those born in Canada while a slow decline continues among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



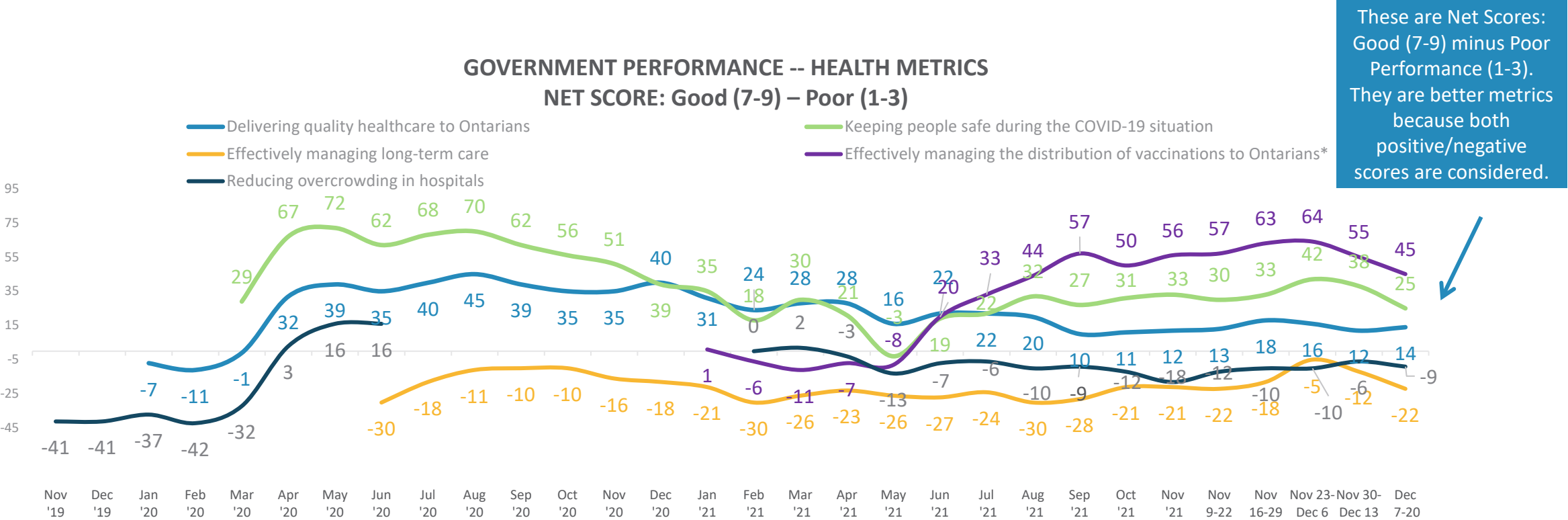
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



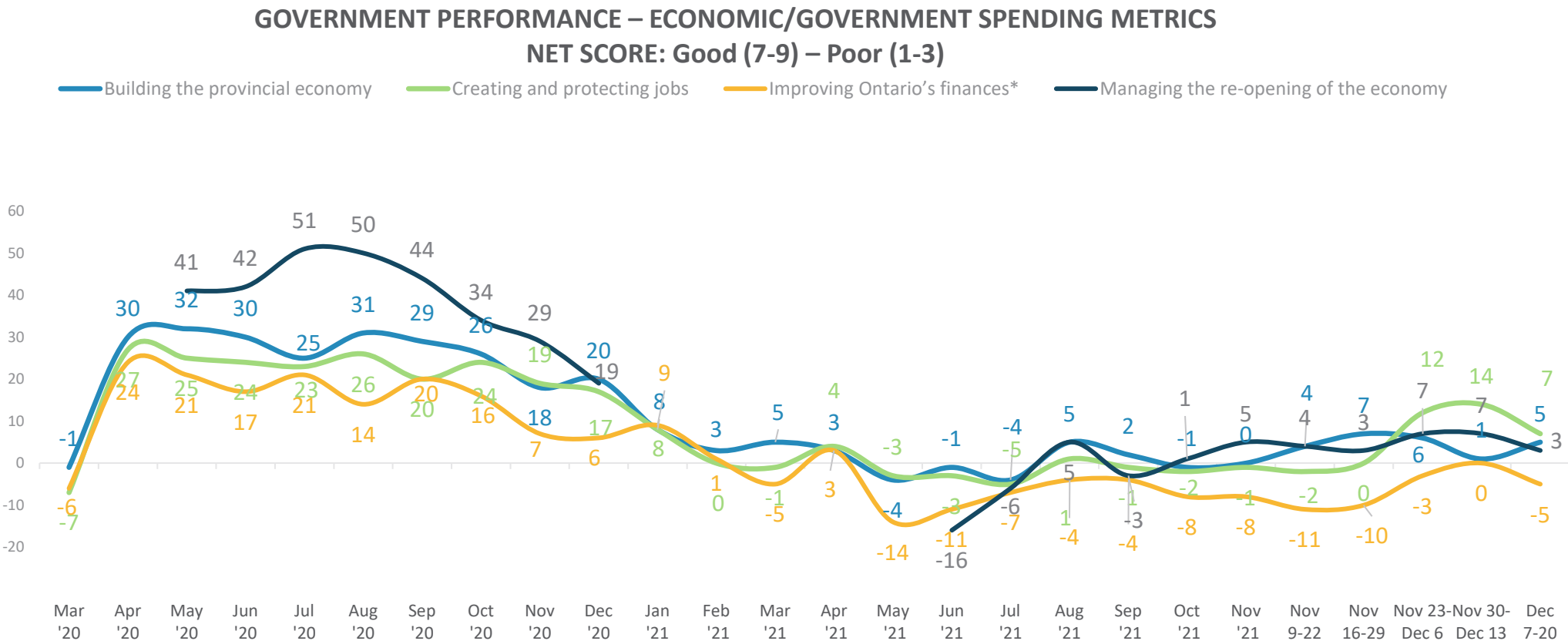
In light of rising infections, rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ has dropped 19-points over the past two weeks. As well, its rating for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has declined 17-points over this time period.

- There has also been a decline (17-points) for ‘effectively managing long-term care’ over this two week period.



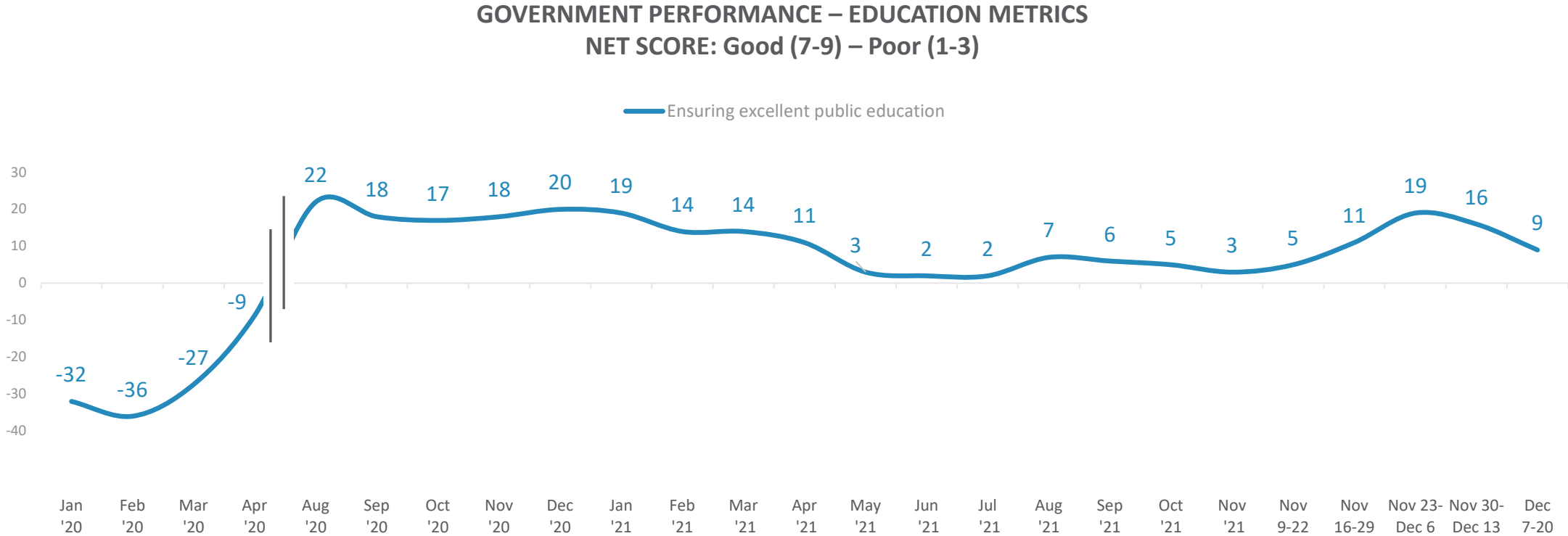
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The government’s performance for ‘creating and protecting jobs’ has declined this week after experiencing an increase of 14-points over the previous two weeks. Paralleling these changes, ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ has declined after several weeks of increases.



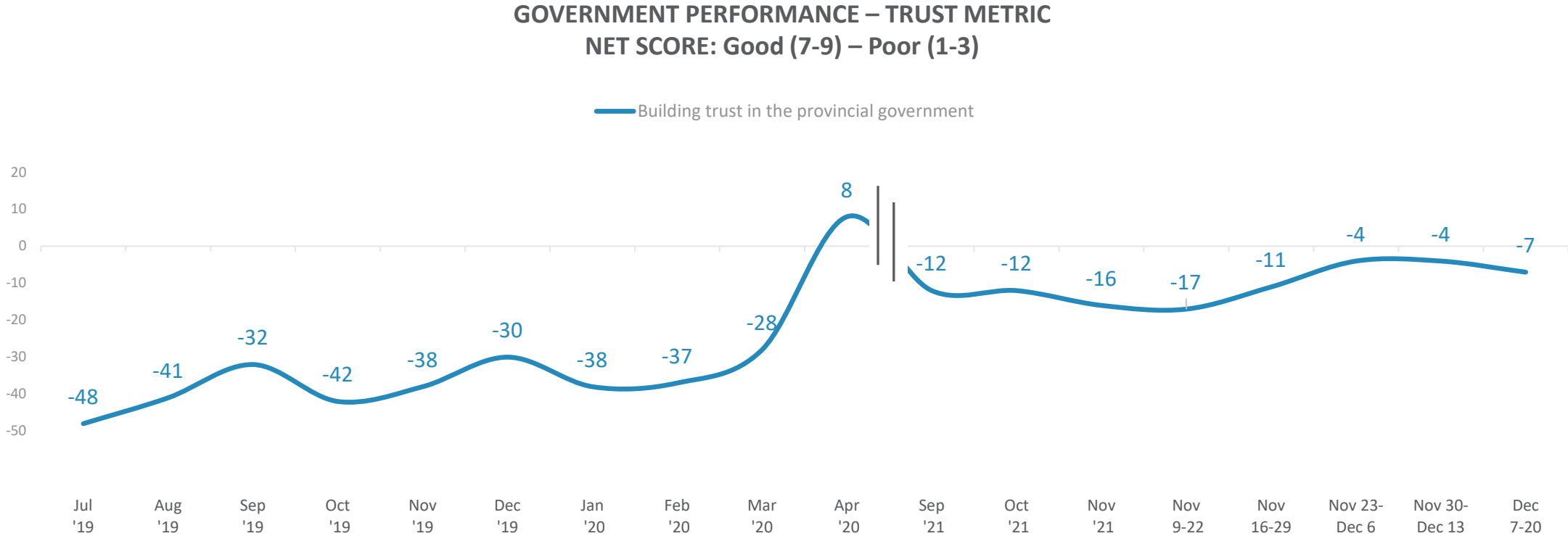
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has declined 10-points over the last two weeks as infection cases increase.



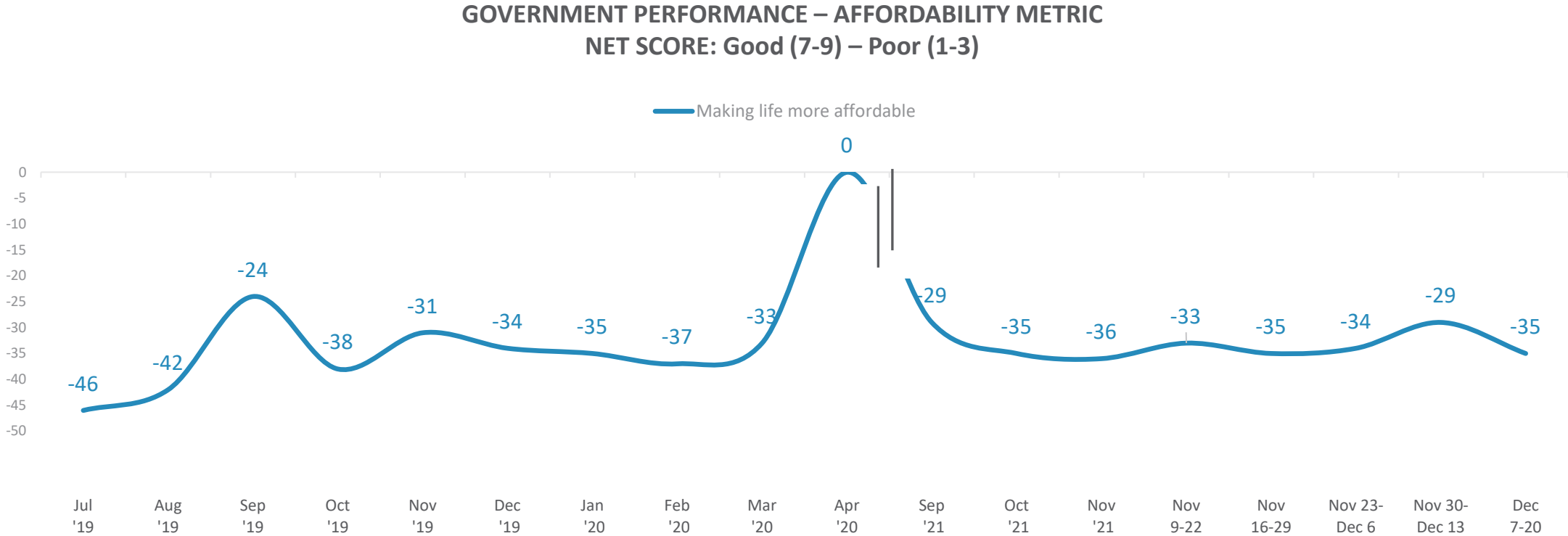
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Still, the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ remained steady this week despite the change in the pandemic.



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

The government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ has remained relatively stable over the past several months.



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



Reflecting the rapid change in the pandemic, Ontarians increasingly believe the Ontario government should focus on health issues, while fewer Ontarians (compared to November) want the focus on the economy.

	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Nov 9-22	Nov 16-29	Nov 23-Dec 6	Nov 30-Dec 13	Dec 7-20
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.	48	38	39	40	38	37	37	36	39	43	44
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.	42	52	52	46	47	57	53	50	45	45	43
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	8	10	11	11	11

PERCEPTIONS OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE
IN HANDLING
THE WAVES OF COVID-19



Almost eight-in-ten (77%) Ontarians continue to register concern about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic, with 51% saying they are ‘very’ concerned.

How concerned are you that Ontario will experience a fourth wave of the pandemic? Are you

	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29
n=	varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	61	71	75	68	63	65	71
Very concerned	19	30	43	32	25	24	38
Somewhat concerned	42	41	32	36	38	41	32
Not too concerned	22	16	12	17	21	25	16
Not at all concerned	16	12	12	14	15	10	12
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	38	28	24	31	36	34	28

How concerned are you that Ontario will experience a fifth wave of the pandemic? Are you

Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
varies		
%	%	%
71	77	77
39	41	51
31	36	26
19	16	11
9	6	11
28	23	23

However, there has been some softening (74% to 63%) in the perception that the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

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

	Oct '20	Nov '20
n=	621	1052
	%	%
TOTAL PREPARED	76	74
Very prepared	15	17
Somewhat prepared	62	57
Not very prepared/Not too prepared	15	16
Not at all prepared	7	8
TOTAL NOT PREPARED	21	24
Don't know/not sure		

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

Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
71	67	69	74	73
18	14	16	18	16
52	53	53	56	57
18	19	16	14	16
10	10	11	9	9
28	29	26	23	25
1	3	5	3	2

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

Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
varies		
%	%	%
74	68	63
22	18	12
52	51	50
15	17	20
9	11	15
24	29	35
2	3	3

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

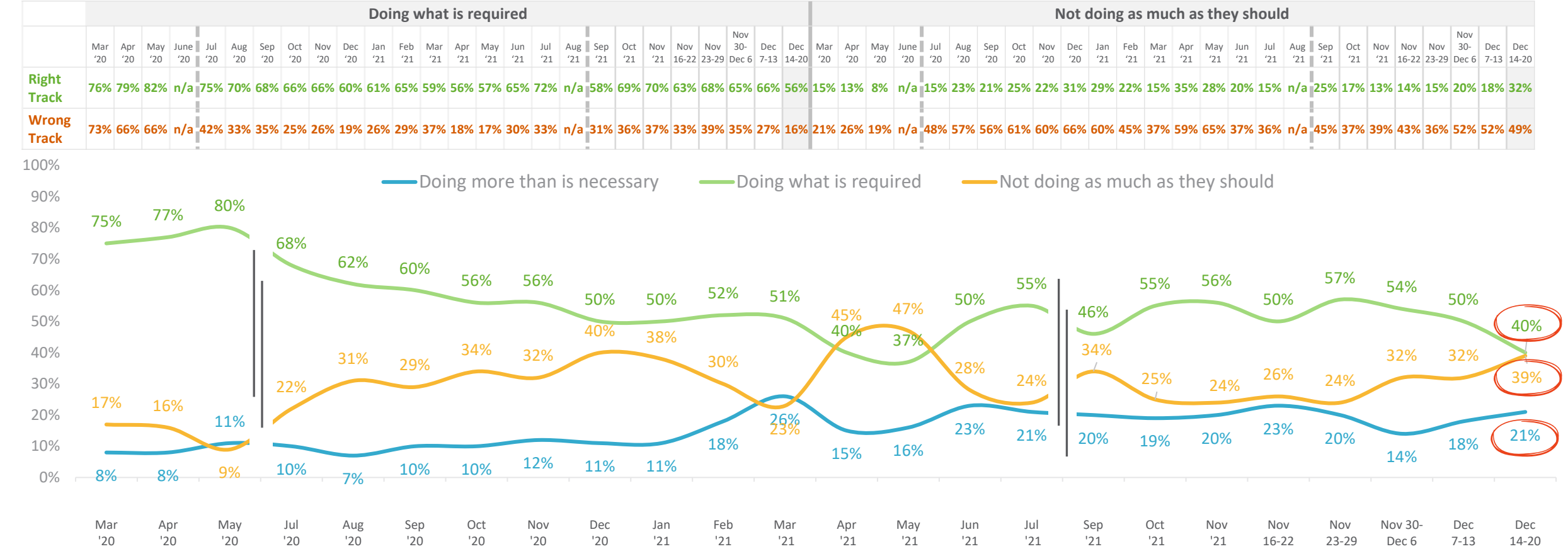
Base: Total sample

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

Over the past several weeks, Ontarians have been increasingly likely to believe that the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’. This number increased to 39% from 32% last week.



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

ADDITIONAL ACTION NECESSARY TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

This week, 20% of Ontarians support international travel into Canada being restricted, and 8% support requiring international travellers to be tested upon arrival in Canada, as additional actions to reduce COVID-19 transmission.

	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	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Restricting international travel into Canada	23	21	19	13	19	19	23	17	18	19	18	16	26	15	20
Requiring domestic air travelers who enter Ontario to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	12
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	11	10	12	6	8	11
Requiring international travelers to be tested upon arrival in Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	17	8
Extending the pause on the next step of Ontario's re-opening plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	6
Regional approach to increasing COVID-19 restrictions in areas with higher COVID-19 cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	4
Lockdowns / closing businesses	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	4
Requiring international air travelers who enter Ontario to quarantine in a hotel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	3
Making vaccines mandatory	29	34	33	39	33	39	35	27	29	30	26	35	-	-	-
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	13	18	12	-	-	-
All of the above	5	7	6	5	10	8	5	5	6	5	6	7	8	13	12
No additional action is needed	6	3	9	9	11	5	5	13	13	12	15	10	8	10	9
Don't know/unsure	7	4	6	5	4	5	4	5	11	9	6	6	12	7	12

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

Base: Total sample

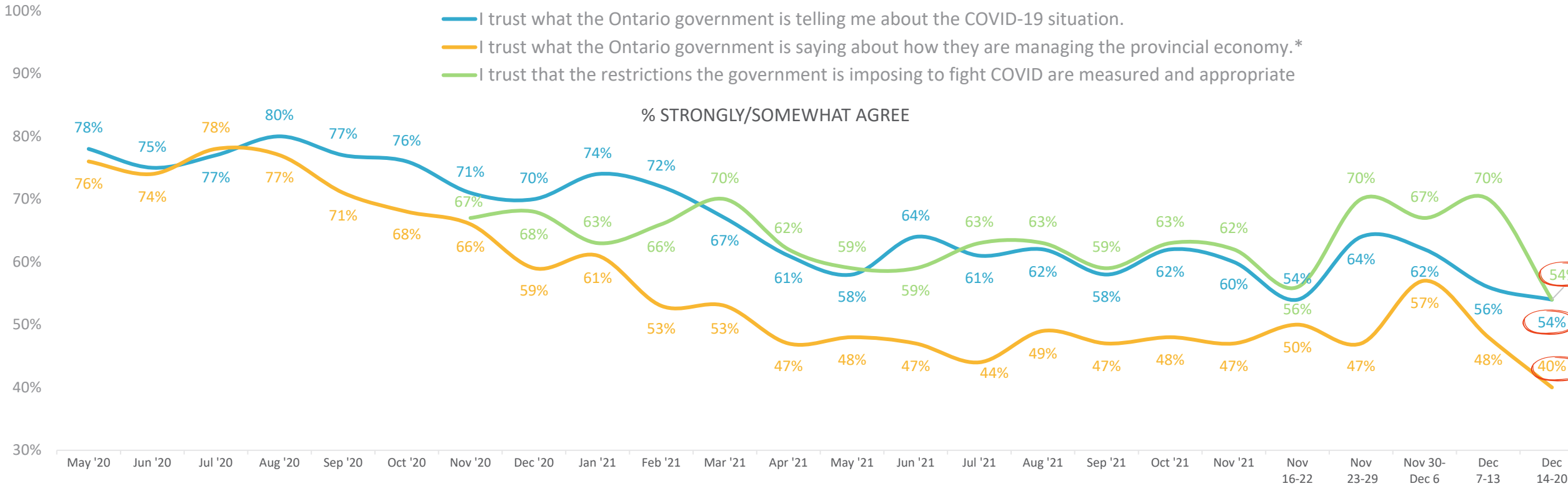
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Over the past week, trust in the government’s communications about ‘restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured/appropriate’ and managing the provincial economy has dropped. In contrast, communications regarding ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ remained stable.



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

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

Since mid-November, there has been a 21-point drop to 41% who feel optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic. This compares to 74% in July.

I believe that we are over the worst of COVID-19

	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	62	60	50	46	41
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	29	33	19	23	18
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	32	27	30	24	22
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	9	7	8	10	7
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	13	11	18	17	15
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	13	19	20	23	33
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	26	30	38	41	48

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

Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN CONCERN OVER COVID-19 IN THE LAST WEEK

Almost 1-in-2 (49%) say that their level of concern about COVID-19 has increased over the last week, while about one-third say their concern has not changed.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36
Decreased	17	9	15	12
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



Almost all Ontarians are aware of the Omicron variant.

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
Yes	96	98	98
No	4	2	2

And, seven-in-ten (70%) Ontarians are concerned about this new COVID-19 variant.

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70
Very concerned	35	27	37
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33
Not too concerned	19	16	12
Not at all concerned	11	15	18
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29
Don't know/not sure	3	1	1

QCV-191. How concerned are you about this new COVID variant otherwise known at the Omicron?

Base: Total sample

VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES



FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

Most (89%) Ontarians report they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with 63% saying 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	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
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	87	85	84	90	85	89
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	57	56	48	51	58	49	53	51	52	55	57	55	65	65	59	63
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	25	24	36	29	23	33	31	29	30	28	31	30	19	25	27	27
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	13	14	11	14	13	15	9	13	12	12	9	12	10	6	9	7
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	3	5	6	6	3	7	6	4	4	3	2	4	4	5	3
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	2	1	1	<1	-	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	2	<1	1	1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	6	5	6	7	6	3	7	7	6	5	4	4	6	4	6	4

	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 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	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	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	84%	82%	85%	86%	85%	85%	89%	83%	86%	84%	90%	90%	90%	93%	87%	94%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%	76%	77%	77%	76%	76%	82%	84%	77%	76%	84%	83%	81%

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

Nine-in-ten (90%) Ontarians support the need for public health measures. There has been shift in the support (from 42% in mid-November to 61% this week) for wanting public health measures to be continued. In contrast, there has been a decline (from 46% in mid- November to 29%) in support for relaxing public health measures.

	Oct 26-Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
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	10	8	8	7	9	7
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	44	42	54	63	55	61
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	44	46	36	28	34	29

Ontarians are paying more attention to the daily number of cases and other statistics about the pandemic in Ontario.

	Paying more attention								About the same								Paying less attention							
	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies																							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35

QCV-126. Compared with a few months ago are you paying more, about the same, or less attention to the number of cases and other statistics about the pandemic in Ontario?
Base: Total sample

LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

This week, 47% of Ontarians indicate they are 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

	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec'20	Apr '21	May '21	Jun '21	Jul '21	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	varies														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	32	27	34	36	43	45	45	49	44	43	40	50	45	43	47
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	24	35	29	28	30
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	18	18	15	16	16	15	16
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	7	3	6	7	8	11	7	4	6	6	5	9	7
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	17	20	20	13	16	15	16
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	31	32	30	33	31	29
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	49	52	52	43	49	47	45

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

COVID-19 VACCINE



Ontarians are increasingly less confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, down 18-points since mid-November to 39%.

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	Oct '21	Nov '21	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
varies															
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	57	52	42	46	39
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	25	20	16	16	16
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	32	31	26	31	23
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	7	7	8	3
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	14	21	10	21
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	19	24	28	34	29
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	36	38	49	44	50

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

In the face of rising infections and public health communications that a booster is vital in providing protection from the Omicron variant, eight-in-ten (80%) Ontarians indicate they are willing to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (and intensity is high with 65% ‘very’ willing).

	Sep 28- Oct 4	Oct 5-11	Oct 12-18	Oct 19-25	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL WILLING	84	86	81	88	82	84	79	81	86	88	79	80
Very willing	57	72	62	71	63	61	59	67	69	74	67	65
Somewhat willing	26	14	19	17	20	23	20	14	16	14	12	15
Not too willing	7	7	9	6	8	9	10	12	3	5	7	10
Not at all willing	9	8	10	6	9	7	11	7	11	7	13	10
TOTAL NOT WILLING	16	14	19	12	18	16	21	19	14	12	21	20
I have already had my booster dose	2	1	1	2	3	3	2	4	4	10	15	26

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, excluding “Already had booster shot”/”DK”

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 are that they already have two doses and that is enough (22%) and that it is not necessary (17%).

	Sep 28- Oct 11	Oct 5-18	Oct 12-25	Oct 19- Nov 1	Oct 26- Nov 8	Nov 2-15	Nov 9-22	Nov 16-29	Nov 23- Dec 6	Nov 30- Dec 13	Dec 7-20
n=	69	84	73	60	69	76	81	68	48	68	81
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I already got two doses (that is enough)	-	10	19	13	10	19	22	17	12	21	22
Not necessary	28	13	8	17	22	19	19	24	23	11	17
Not confident in the effectiveness of the vaccine	-	2	10	14	5	5	9	8	12	21	13
Do not want to/am not comfortable with	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	13
Research/need more information	11	11	9	17	20	10	3	5	9	6	12
I got sick when taking previous doses of the COVID-19 vaccine	-	10	7	4	2	6	8	5	8	12	11
Concerned about long term effects	9	5	4	5	4	3	9	9	6	10	10
Do not trust the government	6	5	3	2	4	7	4	6	9	2	8
They originally said two doses were enough (and were wrong)	13	8	5	8	9	3	-	2	2	5	4
Should be my choice to decide if I want a booster shot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	4
Concerned about too much vaccine in the body	3	-	16	2	2	2	5	4	-	2	4
I never wanted to get the first two doses/was forced to get first two doses	-	6	4	7	5	4	4	2	-	3	2
I am not high risk/my exposure is low	10	6	8	5	4	1	-	1	2	2	2
They should focus on getting everyone vaccinated with the first two doses	-	4	6	7	4	-	1	2	2	1	1
How many boosters are going to be needed (e.g., every six months)	10	4	3	8	10	6	7	5	-	1	1
It is not mandatory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	2	1
Just a ploy to give money to big pharma	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	3	1
Already had COVID and dealt with it/survived	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	-	-	1
Too soon/need a longer gap in between doses	-	8	6	4	3	3	2	-	-	-	-
Heard negative things about the vaccine (e.g., in the media)	-	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	-
Other	18	18	6	8	7	12	7	7	12	4	3
Don't know/not sure	1	5	8	2	9	11	9	9	8	3	2

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

PREFERRED LOCATIONS FOR RECEIVING 3RD DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Ontarians’ preferred locations for receiving their third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is at a pharmacy (44%), public health vaccination clinic (43%), or a pop-up clinic (41%).

	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
Public Health vaccination clinic	44	43	44
At a pharmacy	54	51	43
At a mass vaccination or pop-up clinic	41	39	41
At doctor's office	38	38	30
At a hospital	33	28	28
In a grocery store	14	18	13
At public transportation hub	15	16	11
In a mall, while shopping	16	15	11
Anywhere/everywhere/all of the above	5	3	3
Arena	-	-	2
Work	-	-	1
School	-	-	<1
At another location	2	<1	<1
Unsure / don't know	4	5	3
Prefer not to answer	2	7	5

TOP CHOICE FOR LOCATION TO RECEIVE 3RD DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

A pharmacy (24%), public health vaccination clinic (22%), or pop-up clinic (22%) have similar results for where they would ‘most prefer’ to receive the third dose.

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
At a pharmacy	33	33	24
Public Health vaccination clinic	18	17	22
At a mass vaccination or pop-up clinic	13	13	22
At doctor's office	10	13	10
At a hospital	7	5	5
At another location	6	7	4
At public transportation hub	1	1	1
In a grocery store	<1	1	1
In a mall, while shopping	1	-	<1
Unsure / don't know	8	5	6
Prefer not to answer	2	5	4

Despite the intensive media coverage about the importance of the booster shot, there is declining interest in getting it as soon as it is made available to them.

	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
As soon as it is made available to me	60	52	49
In the next week	7	7	12
Within the next two weeks	6	11	12
Within the next month	8	8	6
Within the next two months	6	6	5
Sometime later	6	10	14
Never	2	2	-
Don't know/not sure	4	5	3

STATE OF THE ICU IN ONTARIO



Overall, 52% of Ontarians indicate they have seen, read, or heard anything lately about Ontario’s Intensive Care Units and COVID-19, an increase of 13-points over the past several weeks.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52
No	61	62	55	48

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO’S ICUs

Among those who are aware, there has been an increase to over half (59%) saying they have heard that the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICUs has been increasing. And, there has been a decline to 14% that say they have heard the number has been going down.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25
Increasing	38	45	54	59
Fluctuating	-	1	-	-
Some other news	8	2	-	-
Don’t trust the news/fake news	-	-	1	<1
Other	-	-	1	1
Don’t know/not sure	4	3	8	2

LEVEL OF CONCERN WITH INCREASE IN COVID-19 PATIENTS IN ICUs

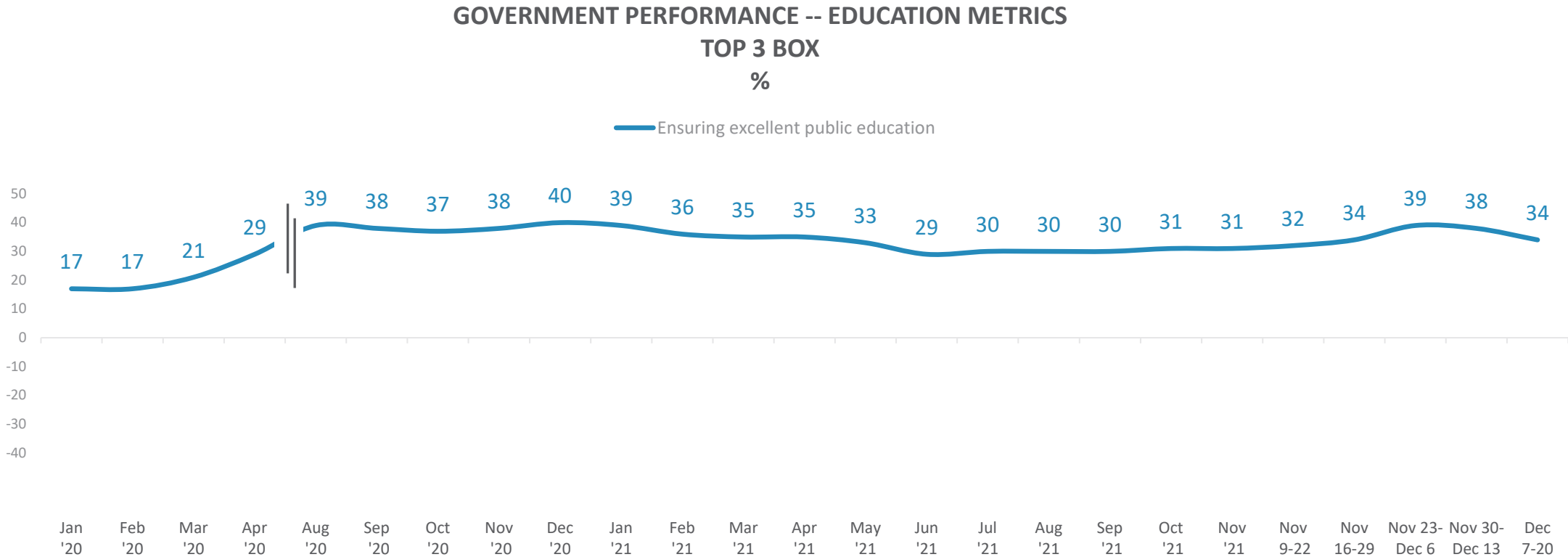
Among those who have heard the number of patients in Ontario’s ICUs is increasing, most (94%) say they are concerned and intensity is high with 62% ‘very’ concerned.

	Nov 23- Dec 6	Nov 30- Dec 13	Dec 7-20
n=	80	115	157
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	82	93	94
Very concerned	52	62	62
Somewhat concerned	30	31	32
Not too concerned	16	6	6
Don’t know/not sure	2	1	1

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

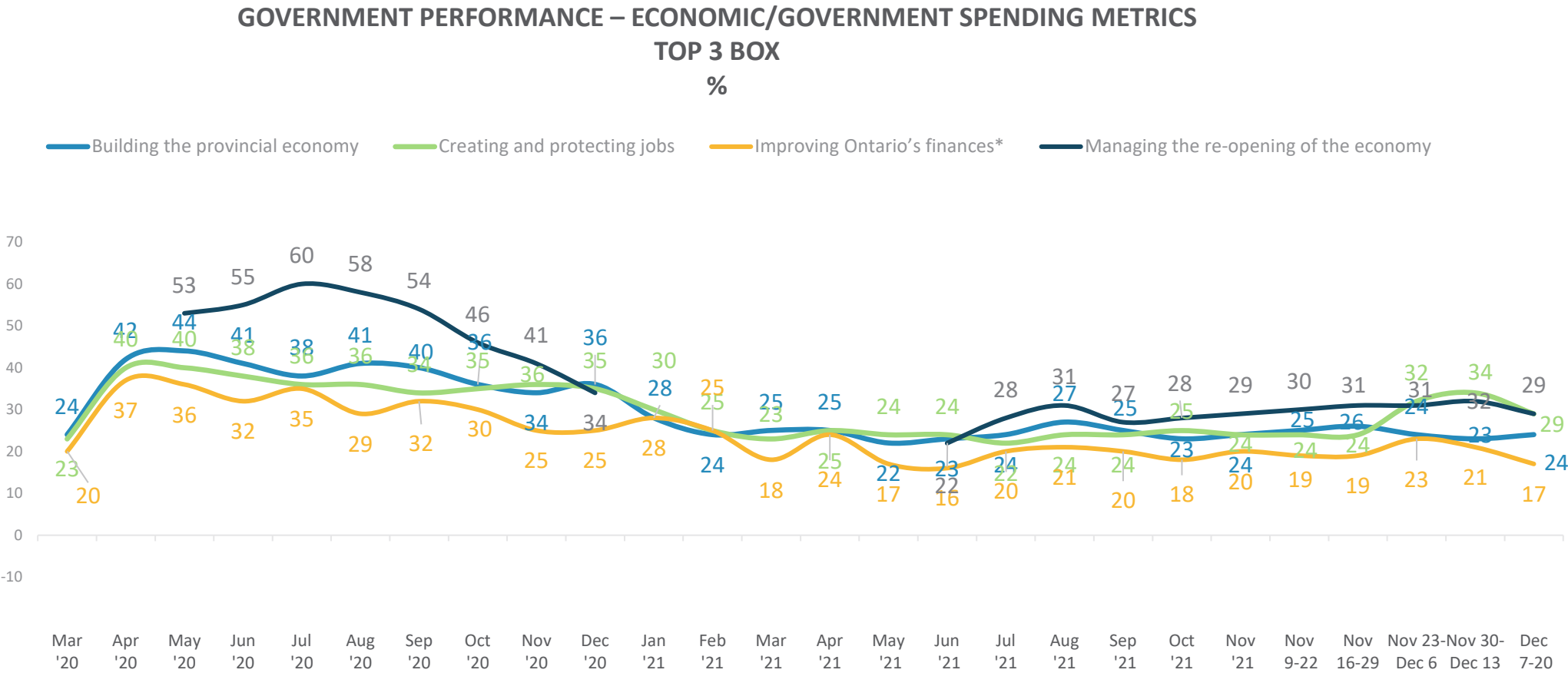


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ declined slightly this week.



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

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for ‘creating and protecting jobs’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ were down slightly this week, while the remaining economic and government spending metrics were stable.

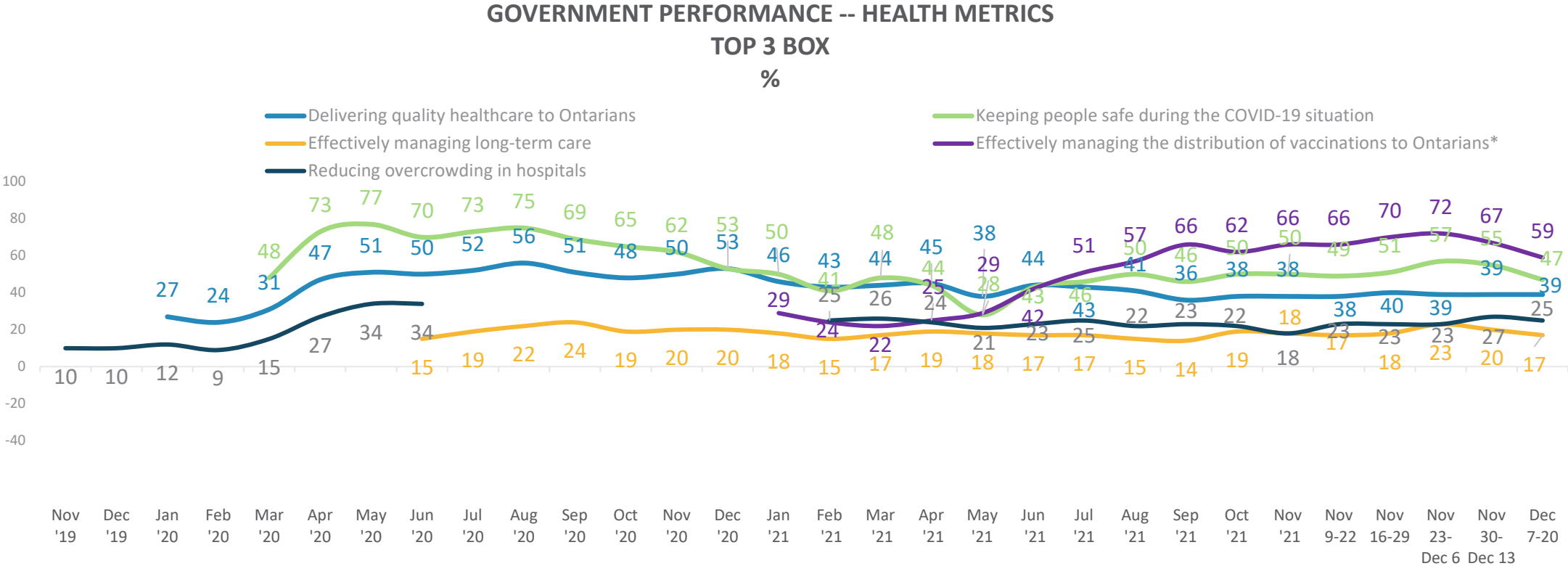


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

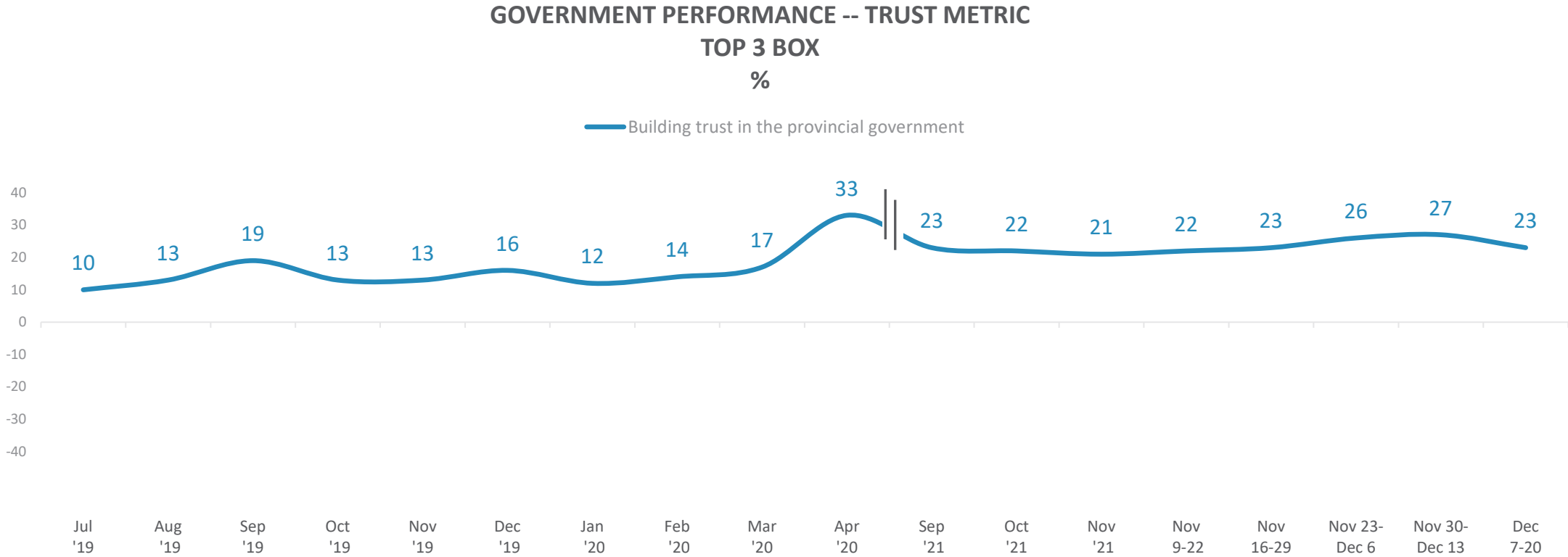
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccines’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ were both down 8-points this week. The other health metrics were stable.



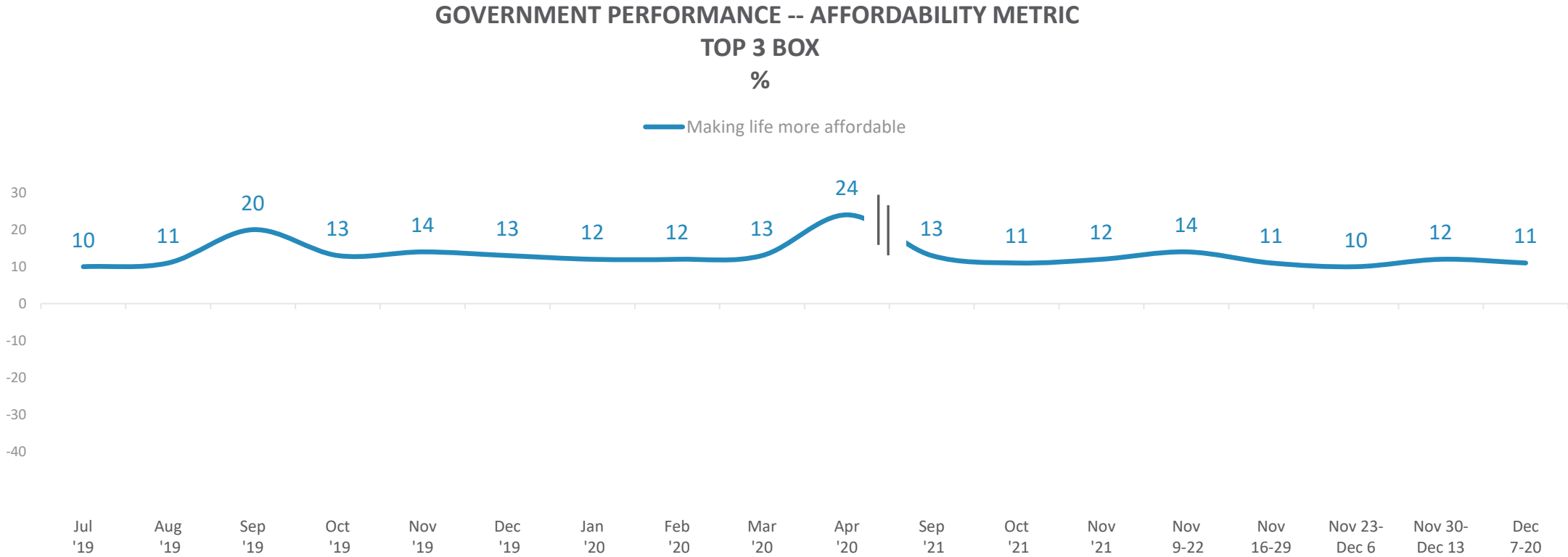
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ was down 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

The positive rating of the Ontario government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ remained stable.



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