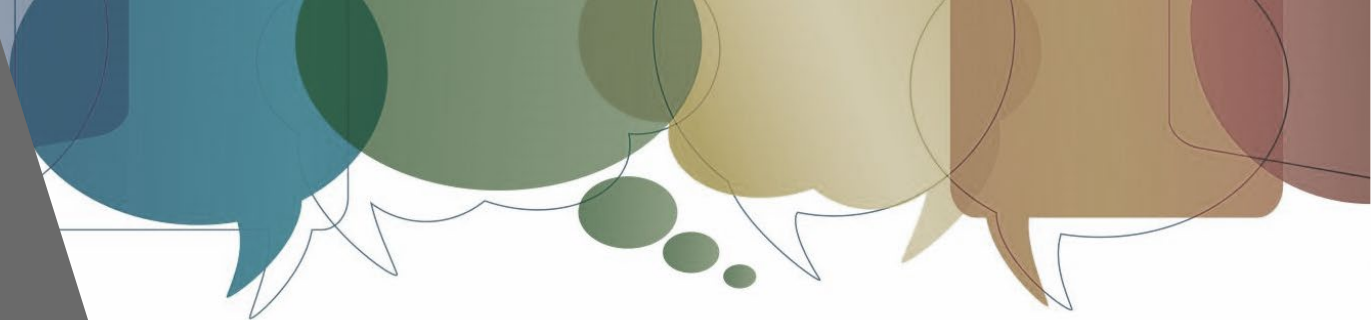




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #113

CABINET OFFICE
January 4th 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' is down 10-points since mid-December to 51% this week and is now at parity with 'wrong track' (49%).

'Right track' scores have dropped for most demographic groups except for Ontarians aged 55-64 and those living in rural areas.

3 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 is now higher than the proportion who believe the government is 'doing what is required' – which has not occurred since April/May '21.

And, since the beginning of December, there has been softening (from 74% to 56%) in the perception that the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

In addition, rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' has continued to drop and is down 41-points since the end of November. Its rating for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' has also declined 33-points over this time period.

2 With the rising infection rates and the spread of the Omicron variant over the holidays, Ontarians level of concern has remained high but stable. Eight-in-ten (80%) Ontarians continue to register concern about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic, with 52% saying they are 'very' concerned. And, almost 1-in-2 (48%) say that their level of concern about COVID-19 has increased over the last week.

In conjunction with this high level of concern, only 44% of Ontarians say they feel optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic. This compares to 74% in July and 62% in mid-November.

Ontarians are also less confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, down 19-points since mid-November to 38% this week.

4 Nine-in-ten (87%) Ontarians support the need for public health measures. There continues to be more support for wanting public health measures to be continued (59%) than for relaxing public health measures (28%).

While most (88%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering 'all/most of the time, there has been a 10-point increase since early December to 53% this week indicating they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures.

Of note, there has been an uptick in trust in the government's communications about 'what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation'.

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, Ontarians indicate they are willing to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Overall, 36% report they have already had their booster dose. Among those yet to receive it, 86% indicate they are willing to receive their third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and intensity is high with 70% 'very' willing.

A pharmacy (32%) is where they would 'most prefer' to receive the third dose, followed by a public health vaccination clinic (16%) or pop-up clinic (15%).

7 However, rating of the government's performance for the economic and government spending metrics have all declined. Since the beginning of December, 'managing the re-opening of the economy' is down 20-points, 'improving Ontario's finances' is down 19-points, and 'creating and protecting jobs' is down 16-points.

Rating of the government's performance for 'building trust in the provincial government' is down 17-points since the beginning of December.

As well, the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' is down 9-points since the beginning of December.

6 Since mid-December, there has been an increase in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues (50%), while results remain stable among those who want the focus on health-related issues (43%).

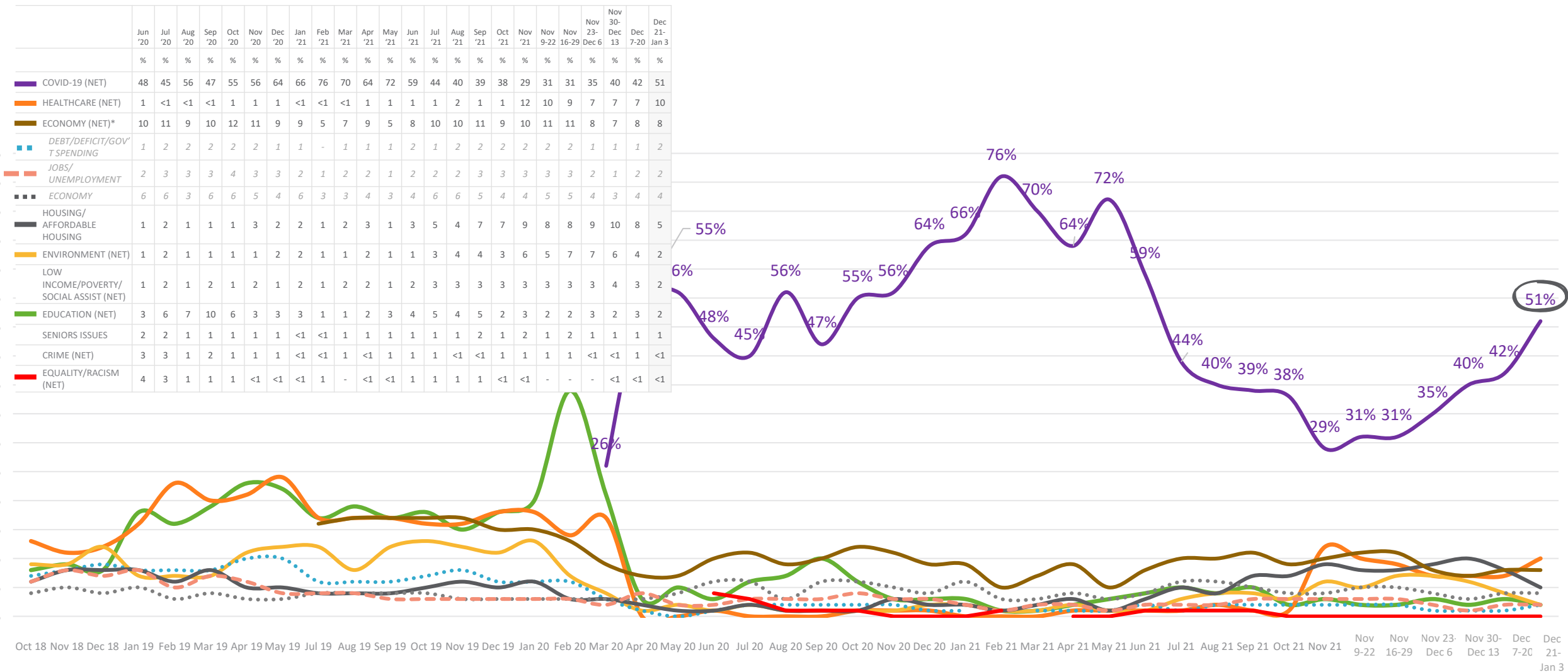
This metric bears watching with the recent move into the modified version of Step Two of the province's Road Map to Reopen.

8 Rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' has been trending down for a total of 20-points since the end of November. It is now in negative territory of NET -1.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government’s top priority continues to trend upward to 51% this week – an increase of 20-points since early November.



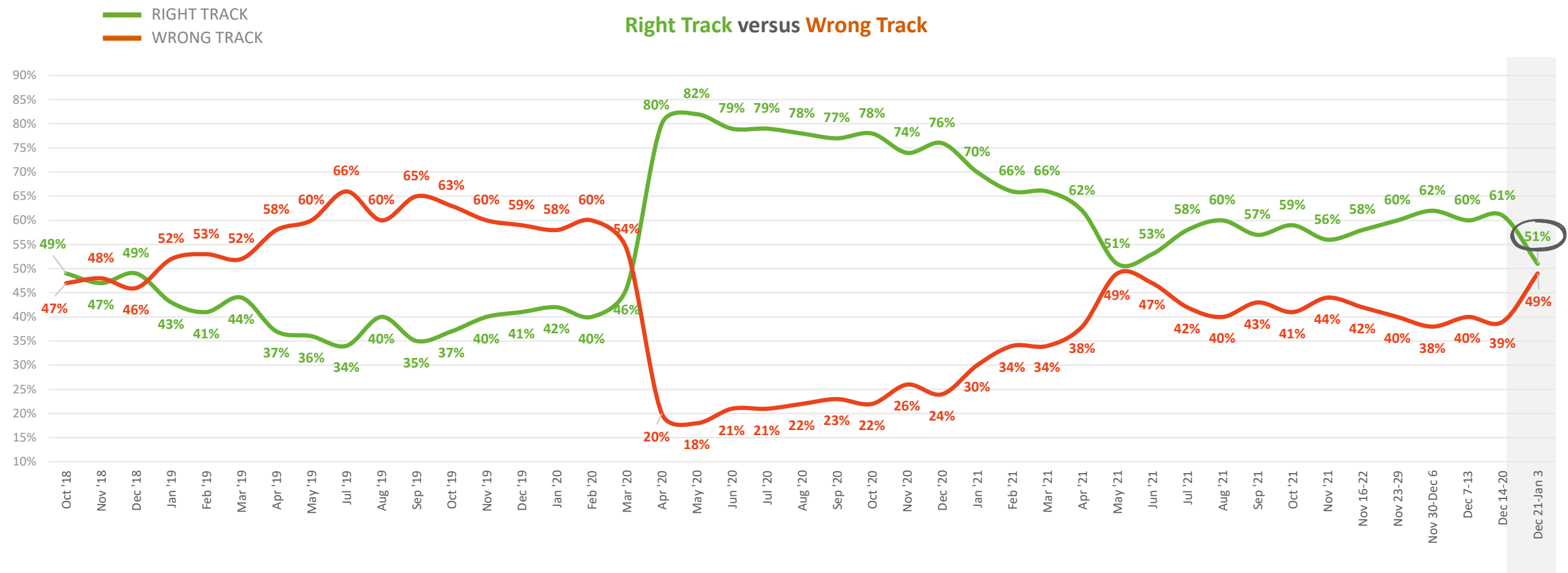
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

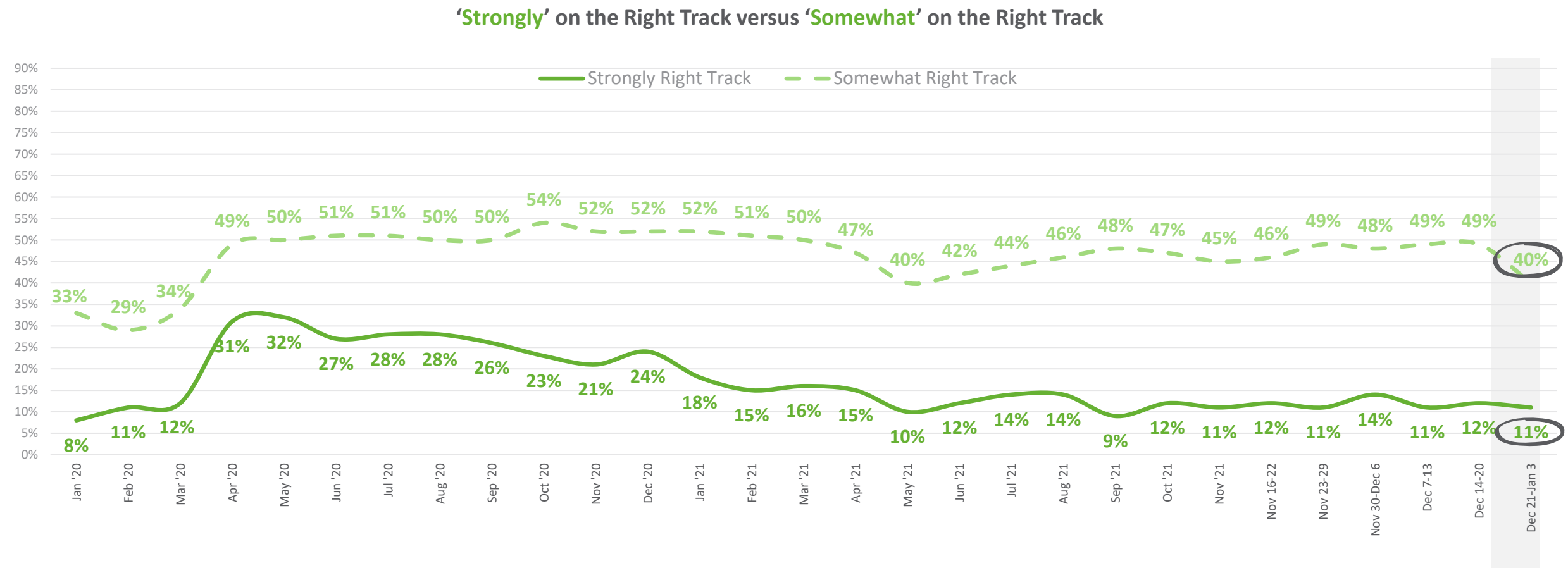


‘Right track’ is down 10-points since mid-December to 51% this week and is now at parity with ‘wrong track’ (49%).



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

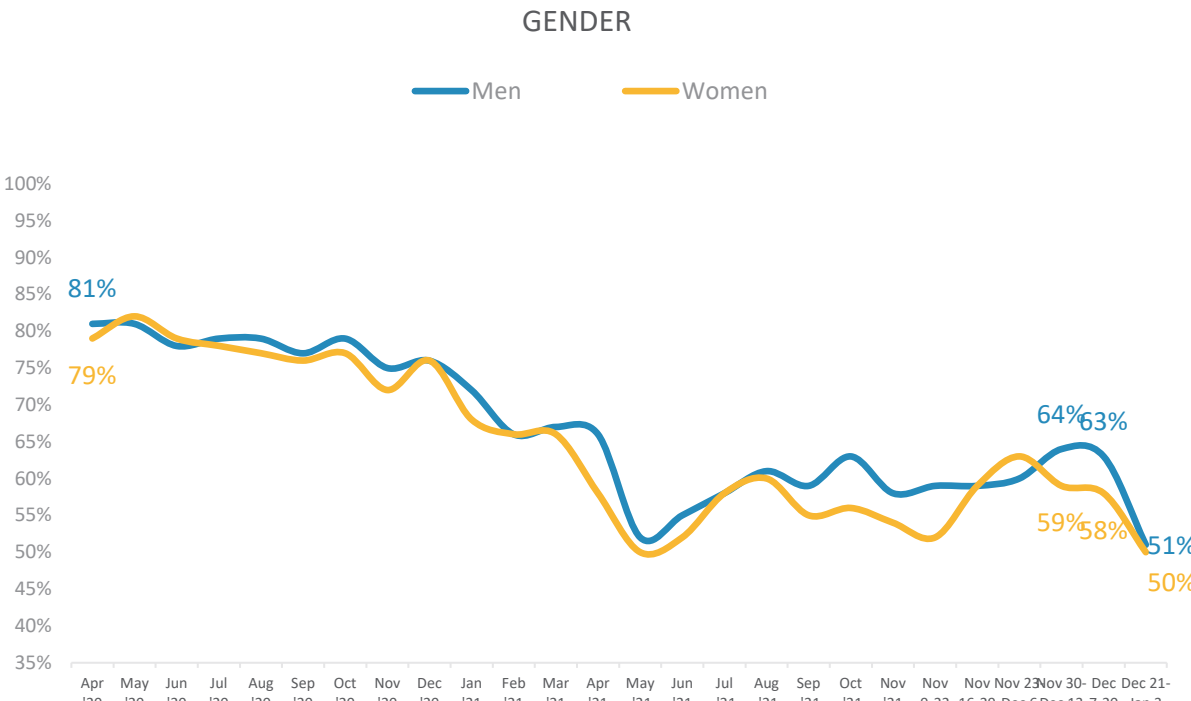
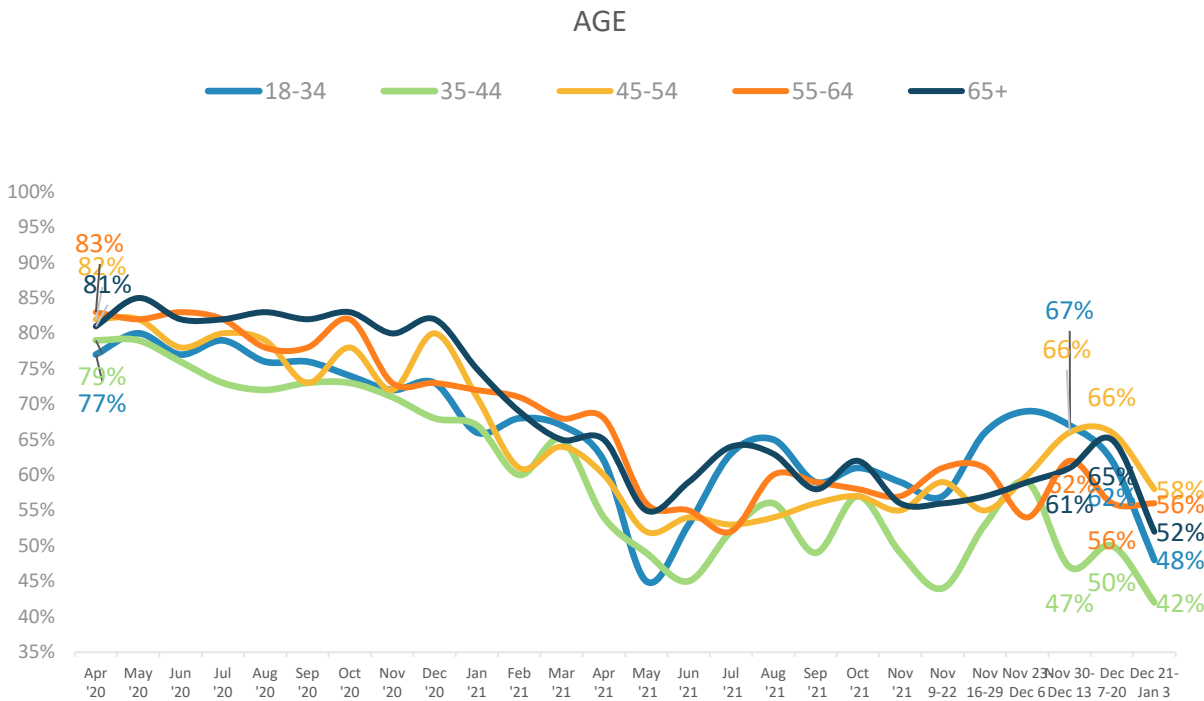
Declines in ‘right track’ were driven by those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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’ declined among all age groups with the exception of those aged 55-64 which remained unchanged. Declines occurred among both men and women with ‘right track’ gender parity this week. However, larger declines were measured among men than women since mid-December.

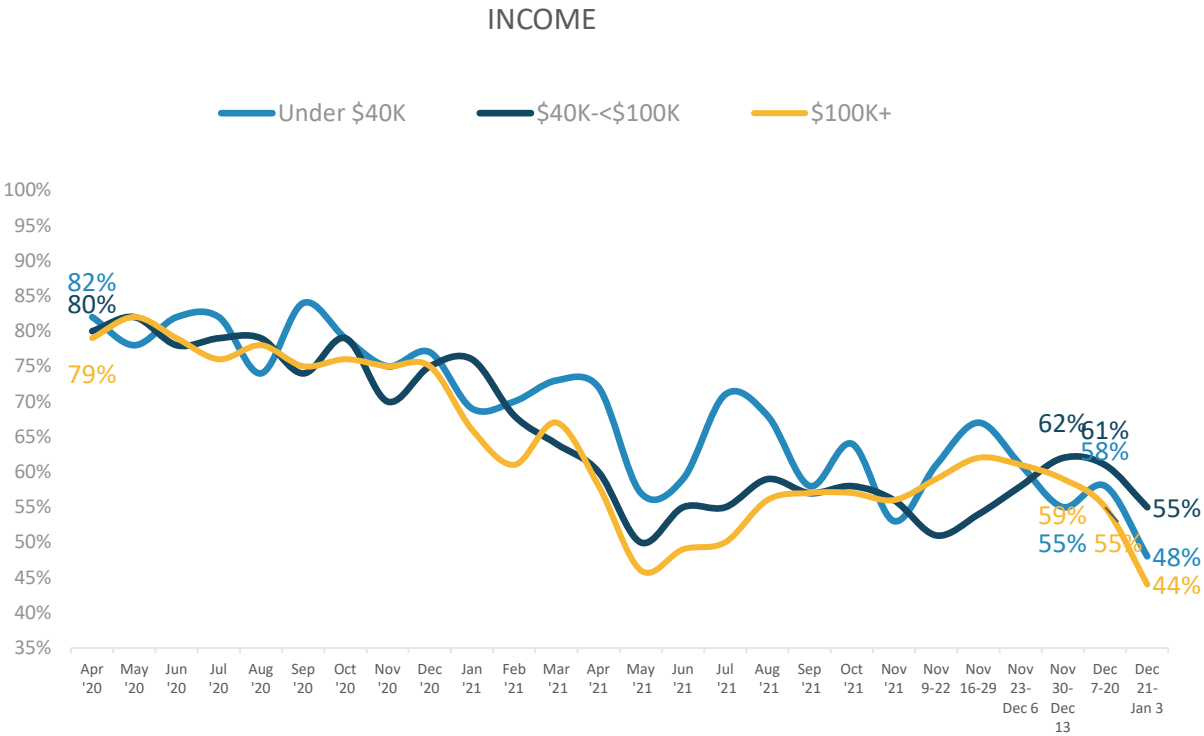
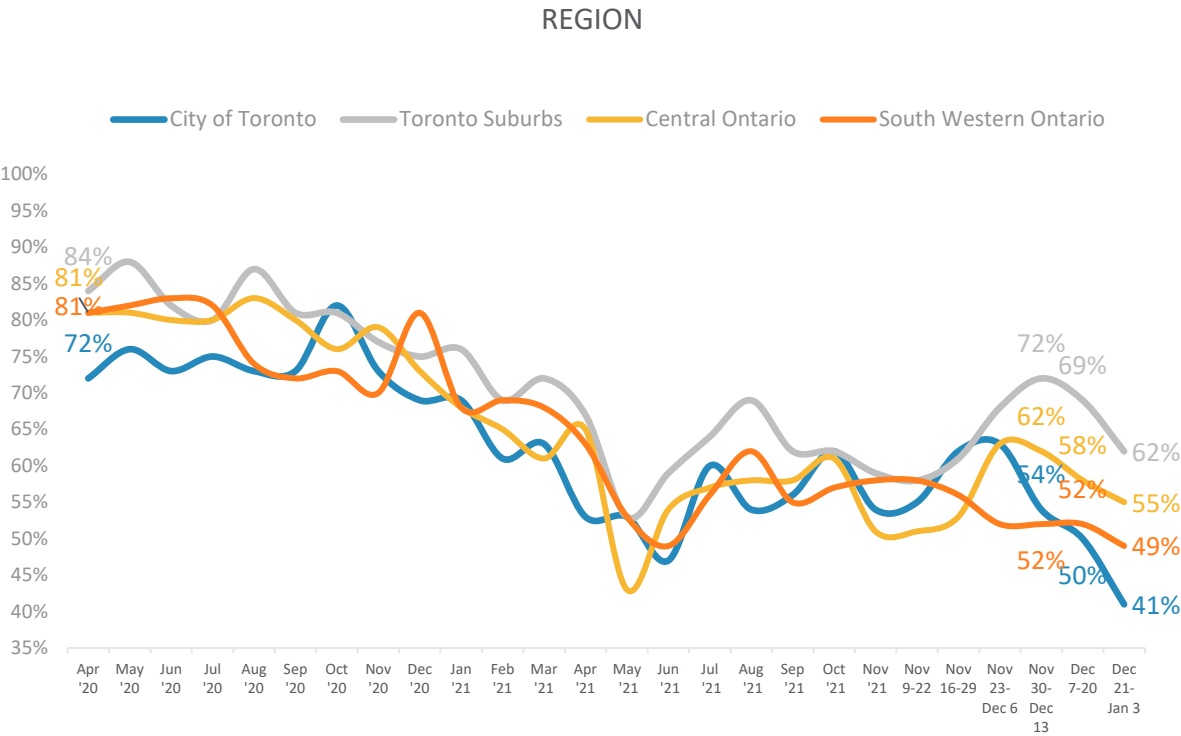
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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’ declined in all four regions, with the smallest declines measured in SW Ontario. However, ‘right track’ continues to be highest in the Toronto suburbs. By income, ‘right track’ declined among all income brackets with Ontarians making \$40k-<\$100k continuing to provide the highest score.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

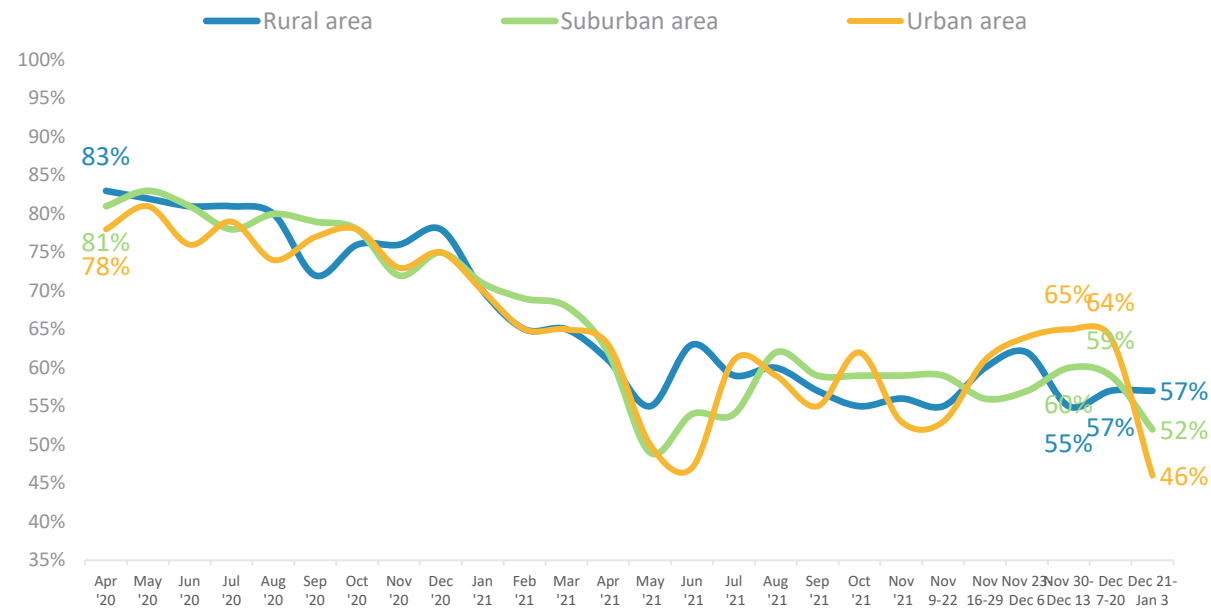


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

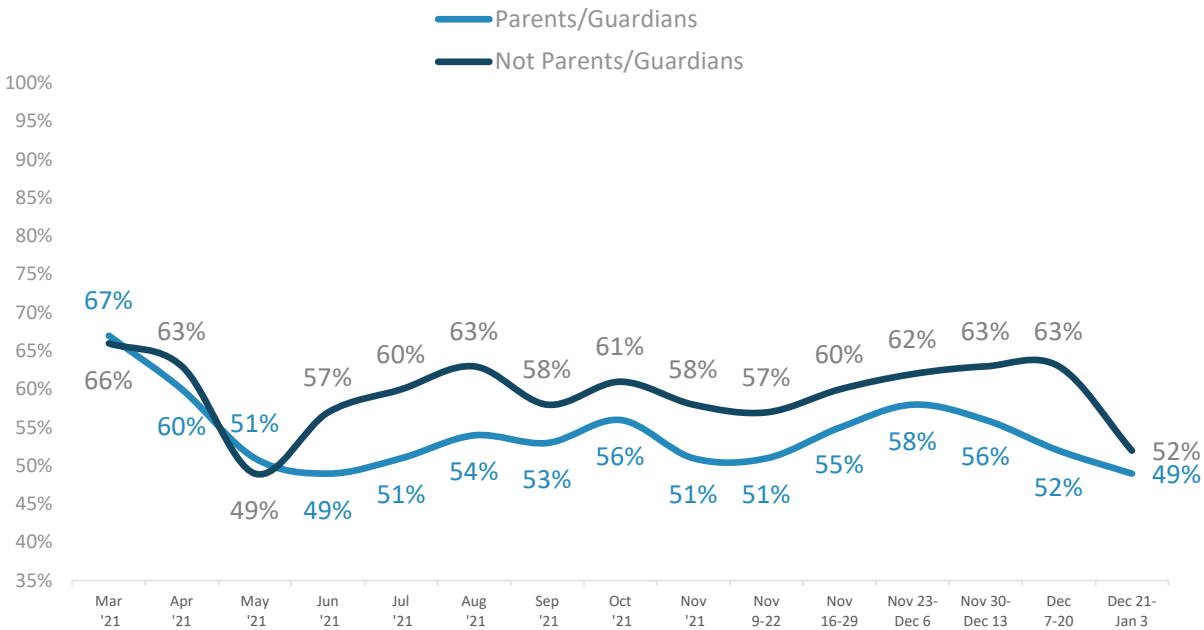
While ‘right track’ remained stable in rural areas, there were declines in both suburban and urban areas – with the largest decline measured in urban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

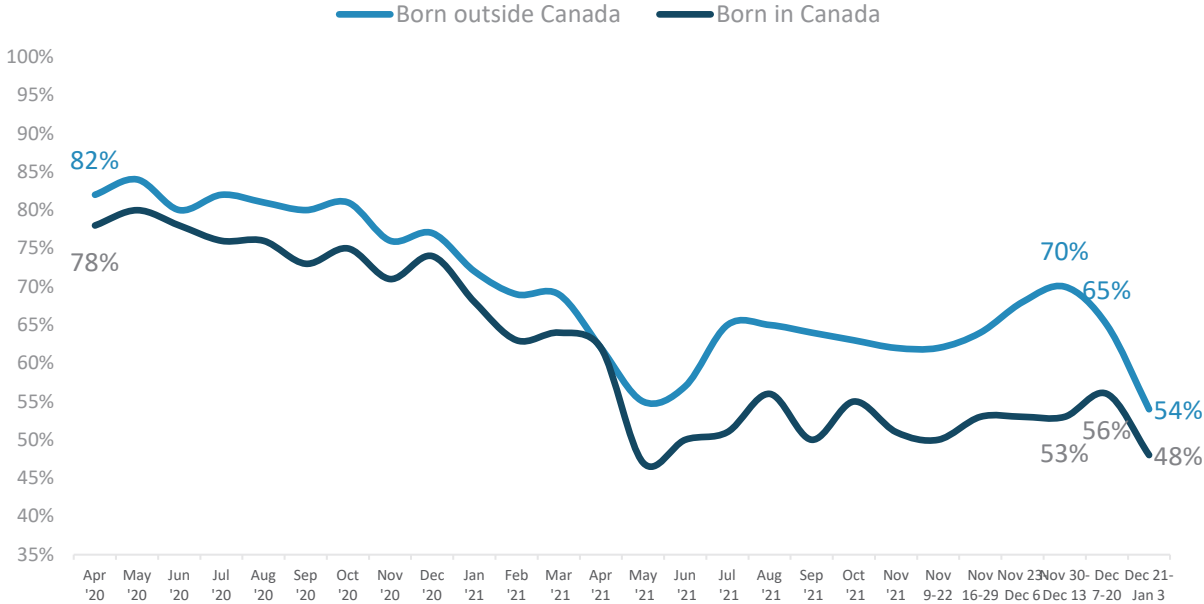


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

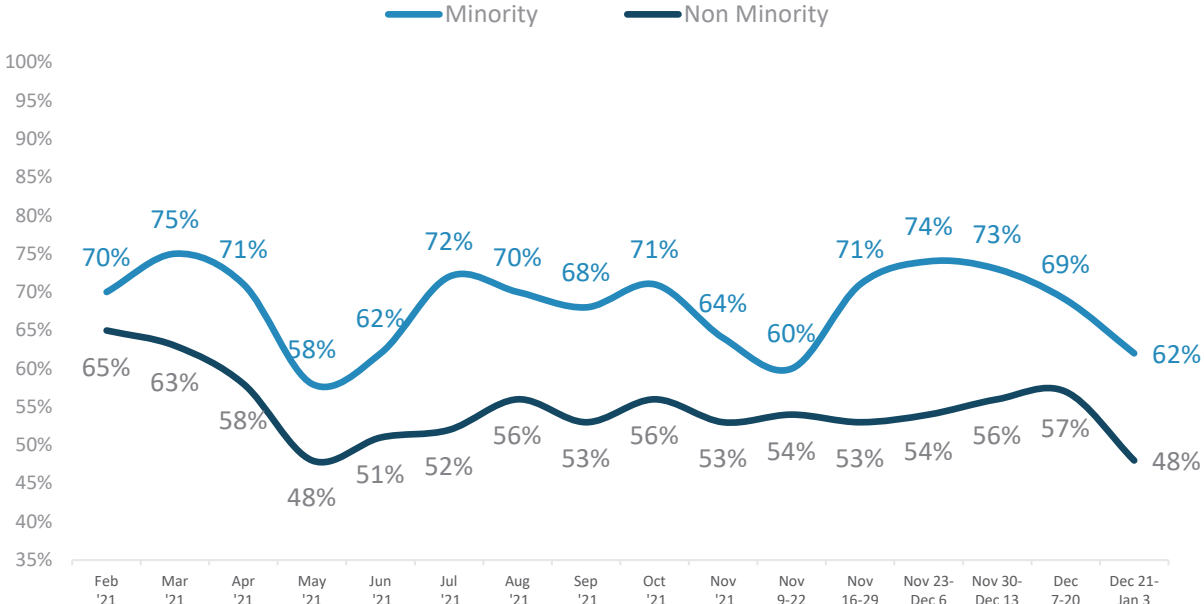
‘Right track’ dropped among those born in and outside of Canada and among those who identify as a non-minority and minority. However, ‘right track’ continues to be higher among those born outside of Canada and among minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



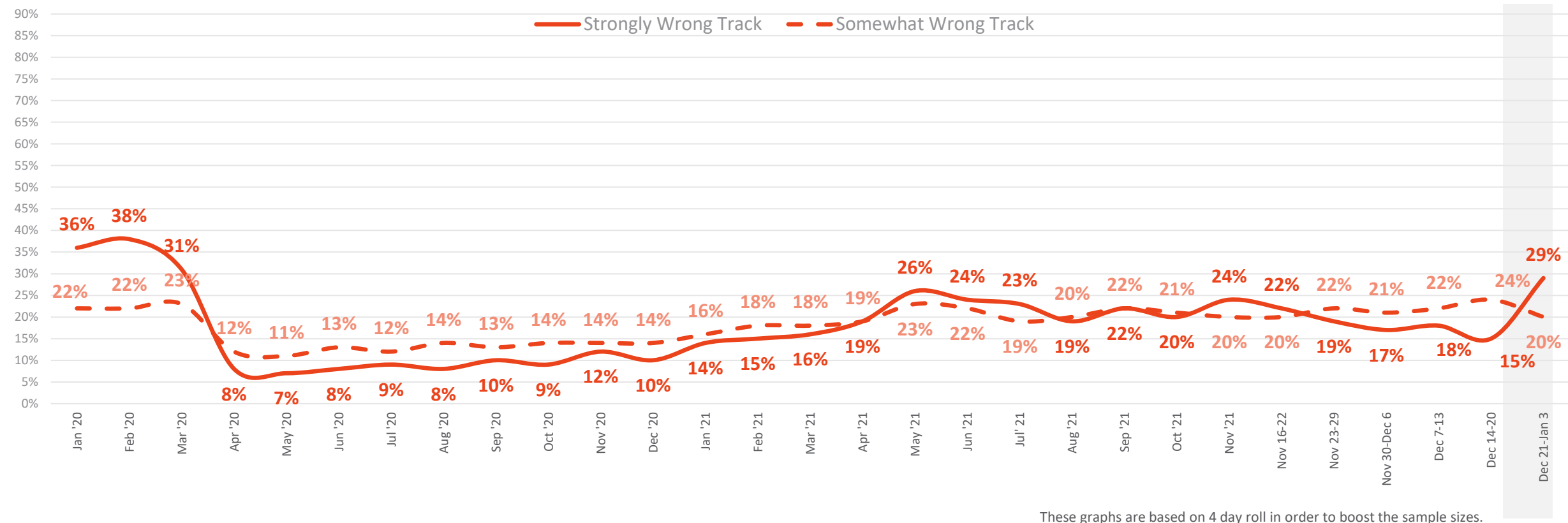
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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’ increased 14-points since mid-December and is now at the highest point since March, 2020.

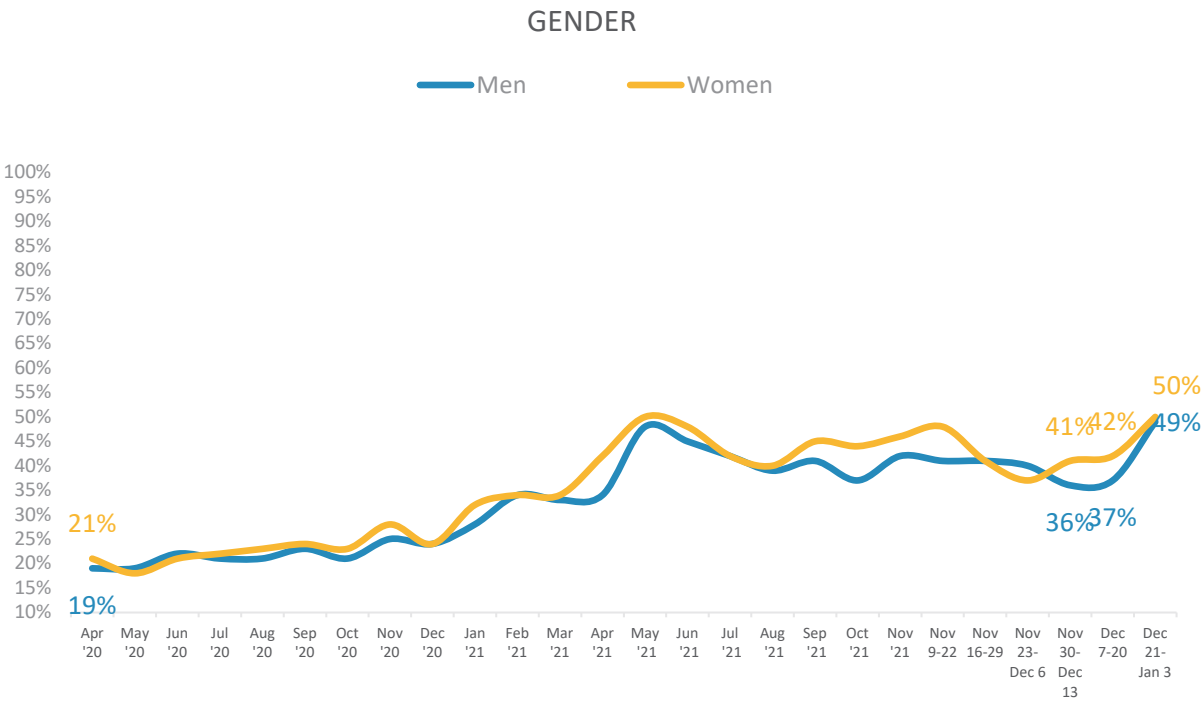
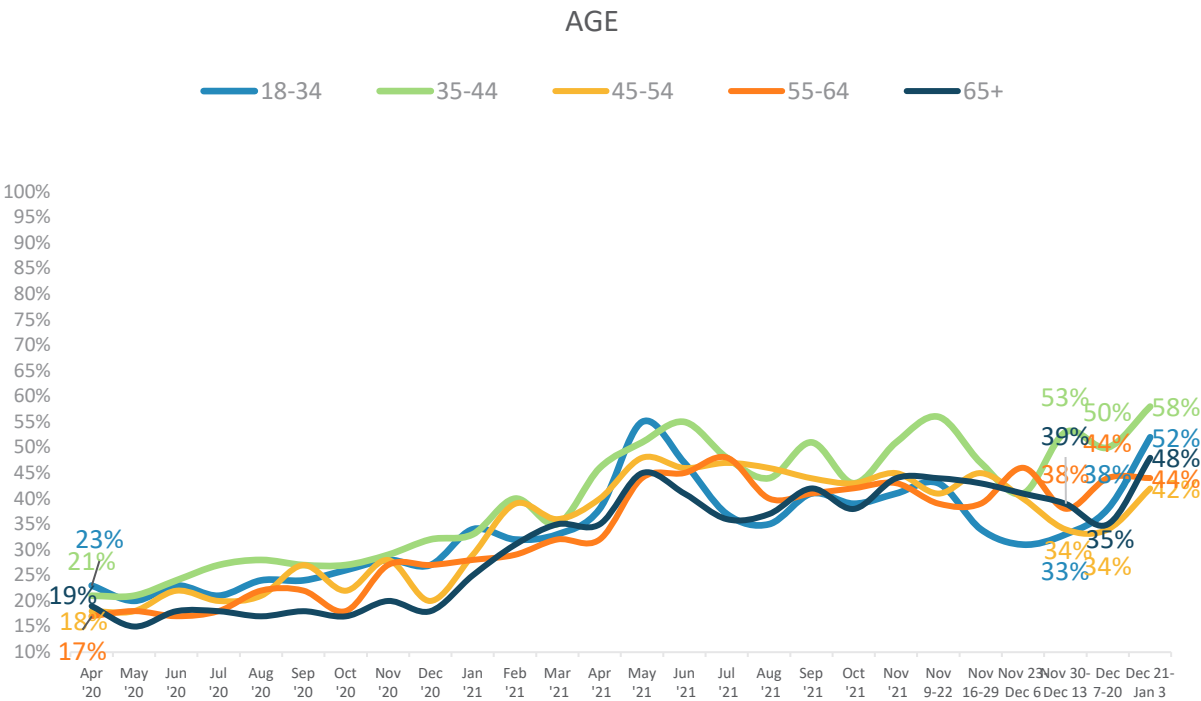
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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

With the exception of Ontarians aged 55-64, ‘wrong track’ increased by age and continues to be highest among 35-44 year olds. With increases in ‘wrong track’ among both men and women, results by gender are now at parity.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

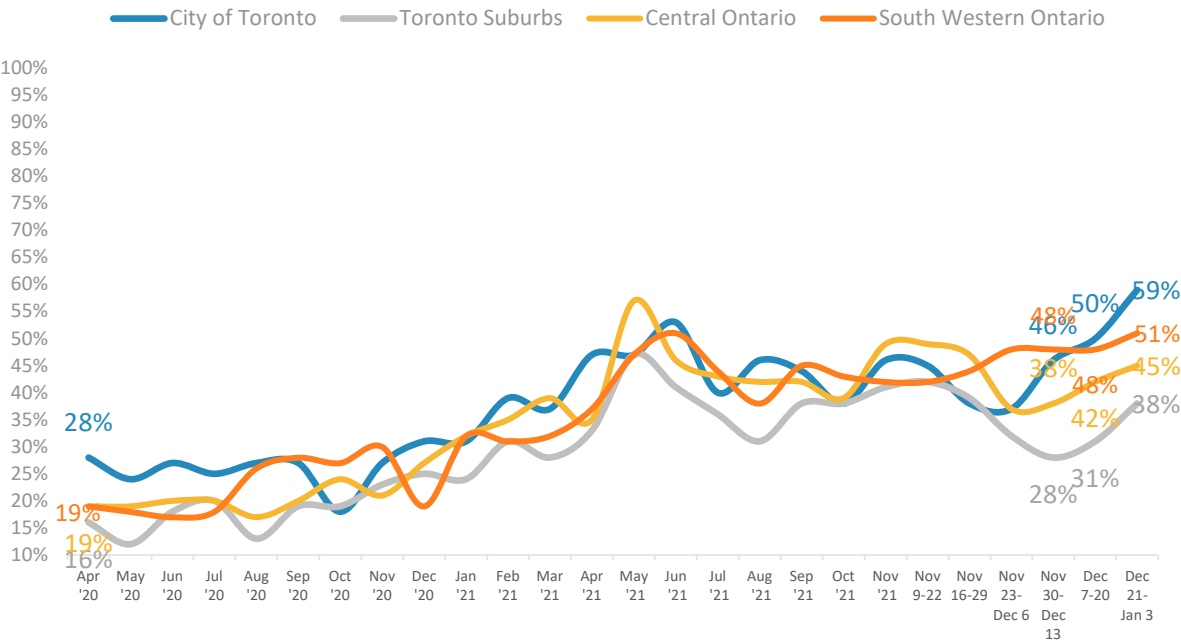


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

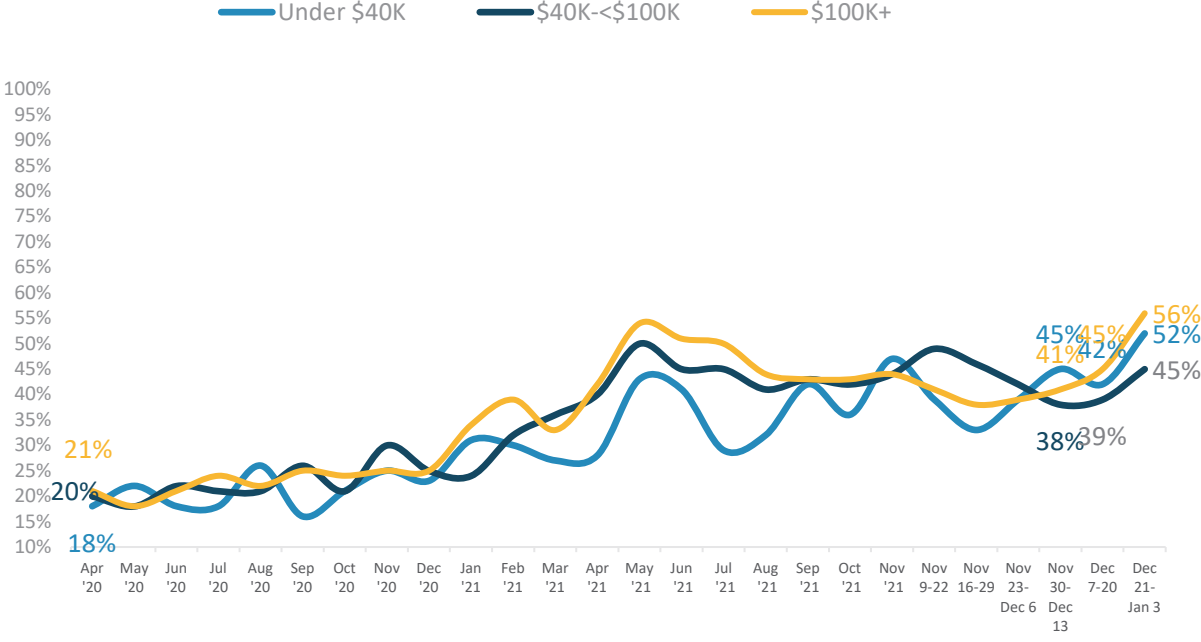
There were increases in ‘wrong track’ in all regions, with the smallest increments measured in SW Ontario. ‘Wrong track’ scores remain highest in the City of Toronto. By income, increases were measured among all three income brackets, with ‘wrong track’ remaining highest among Ontarians making \$100k+.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

REGION



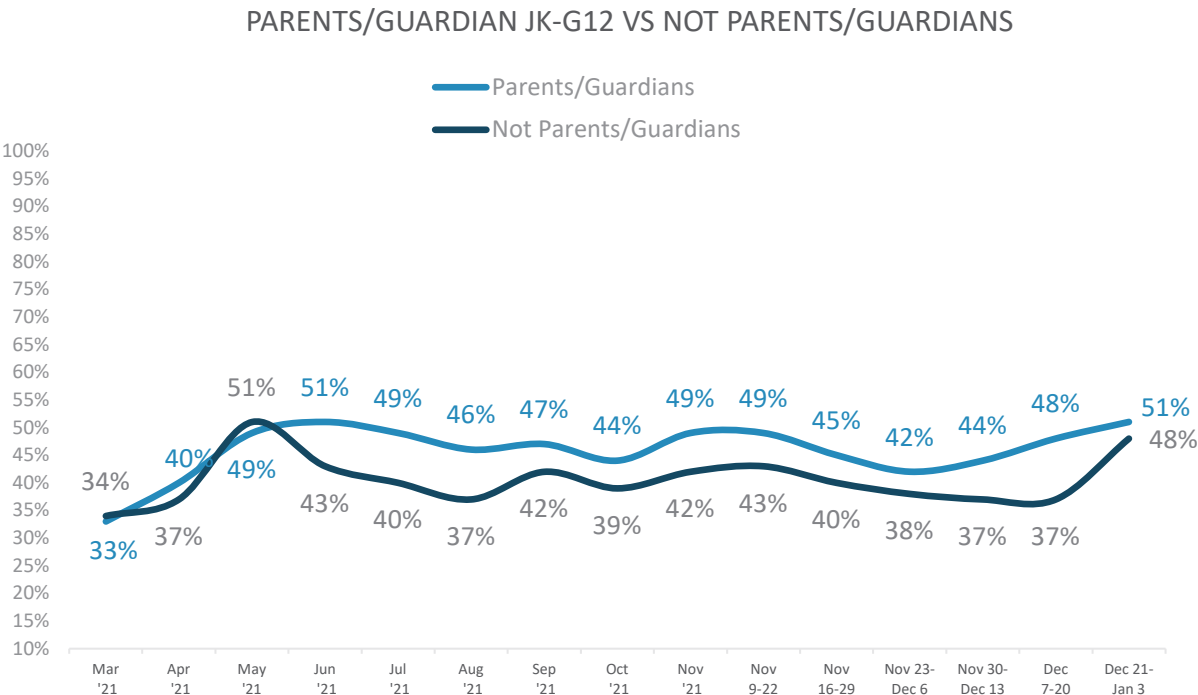
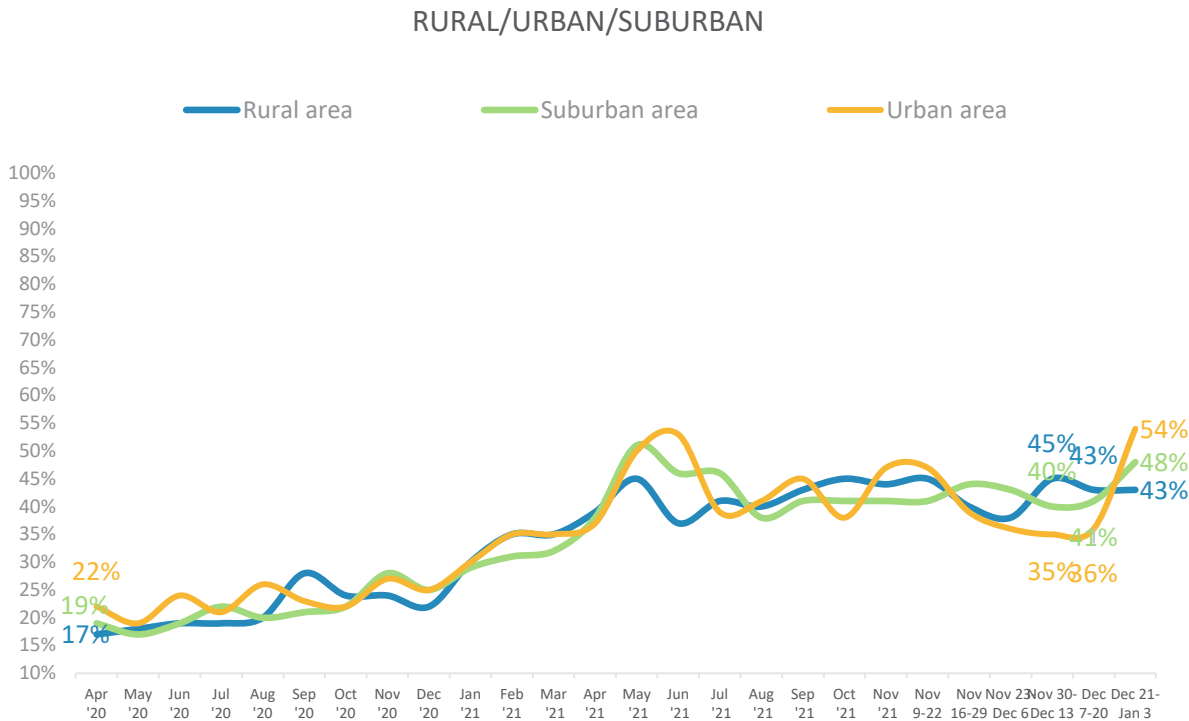
INCOME



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

While ‘**wrong track**’ remained unchanged in rural areas, increases occurred in both suburban and urban areas – with scores now highest in urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

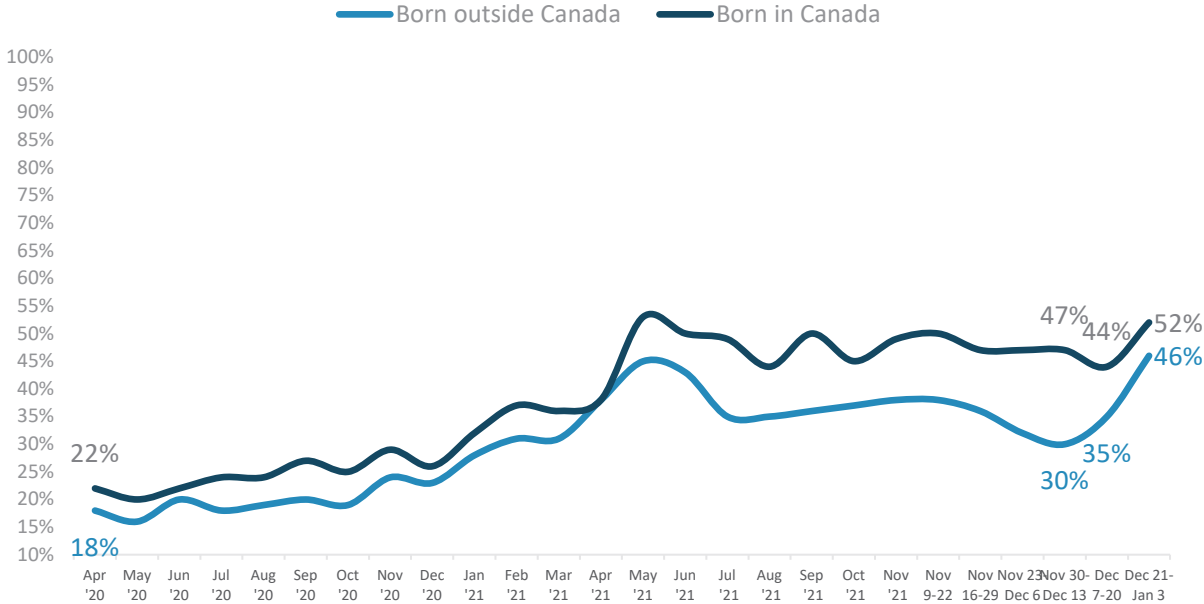


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

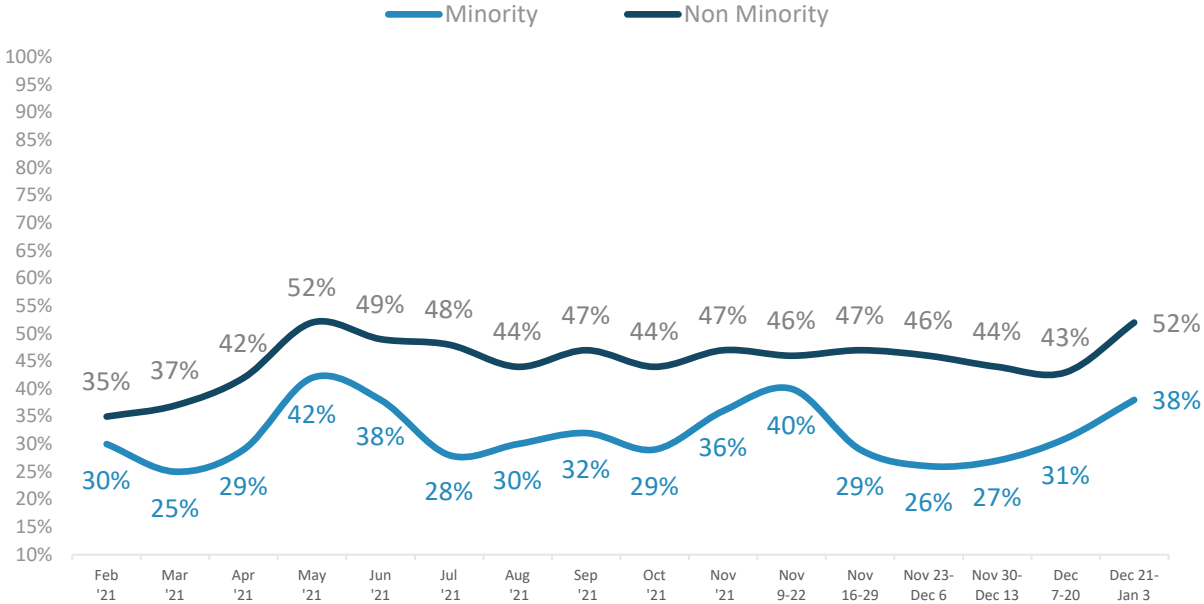
‘Wrong track’ increased among both Ontarians born in and outside of Canada and among both non-minorities and minorities. Scores remain highest among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities.

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

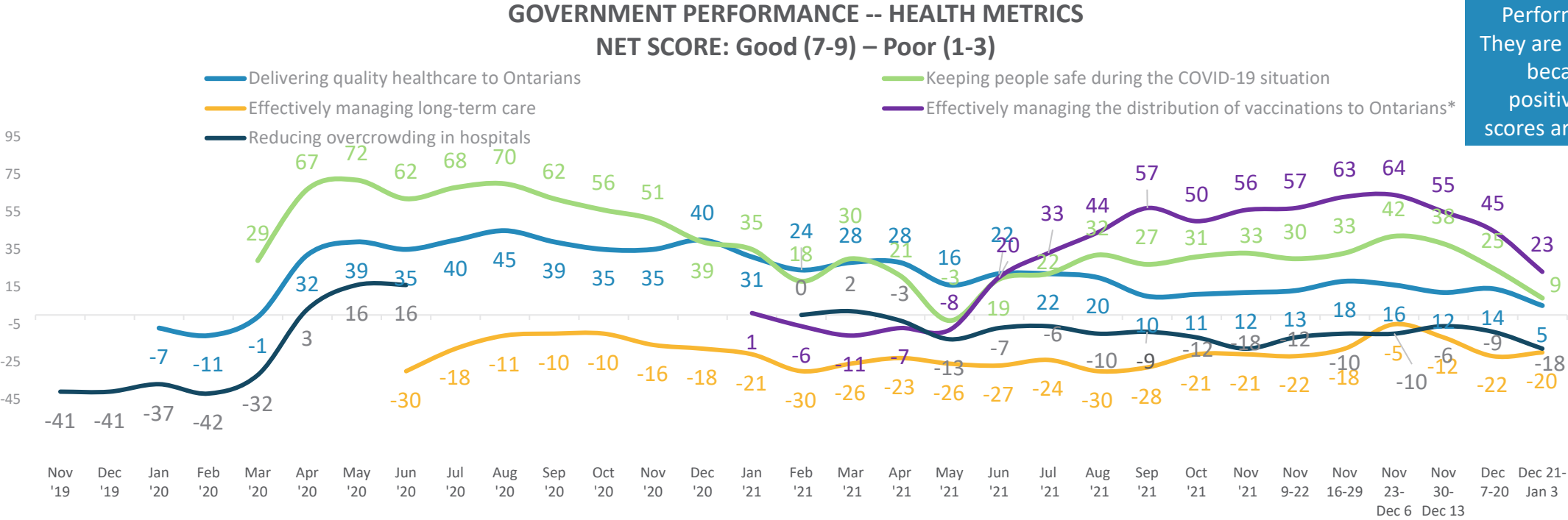
PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ has continued to drop and is down 41-points since the end of November. As well, its rating for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ has declined 33-points over this time period.

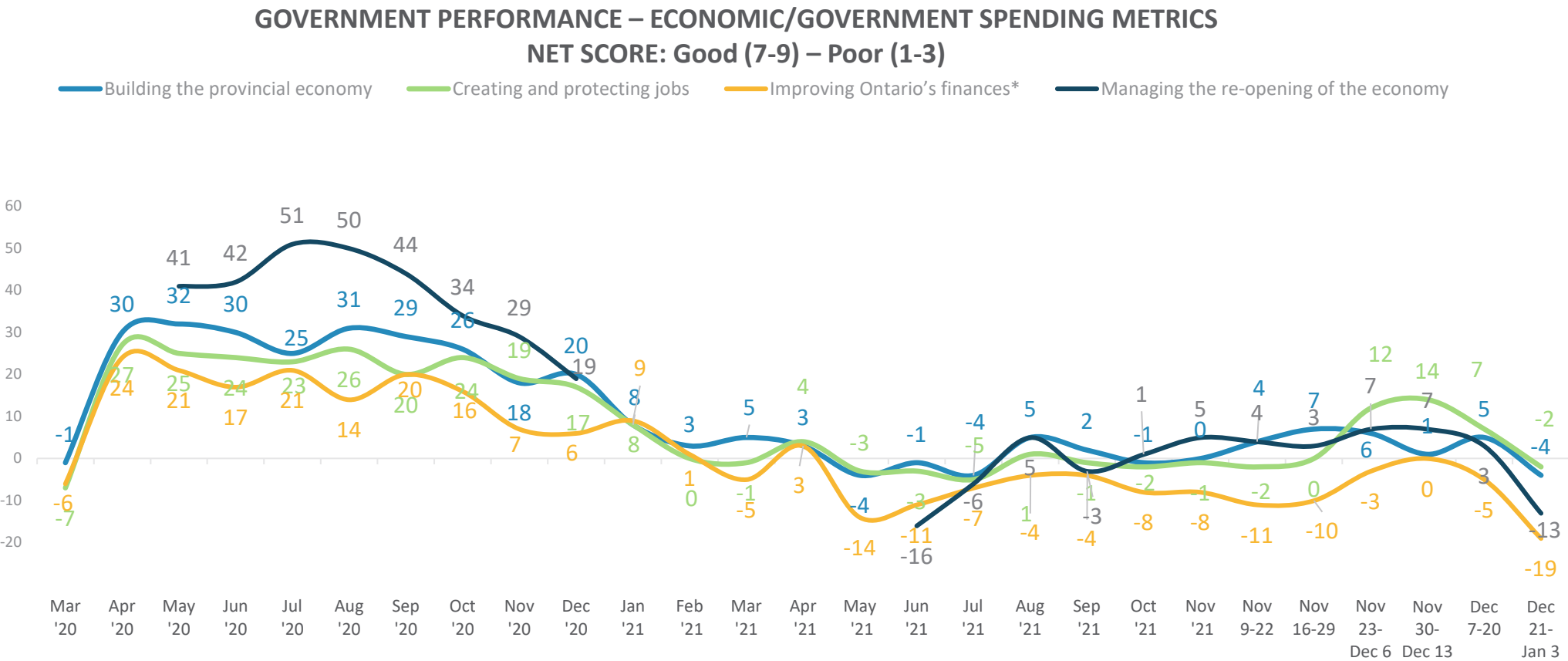
- While ‘effectively managing long-term care’ has remained stable, since mid-December declines were also measured for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ (both down 9-points).

These are Net Scores:
Good (7-9) minus Poor
Performance (1-3).
They are better metrics
because both
positive/negative
scores are considered.



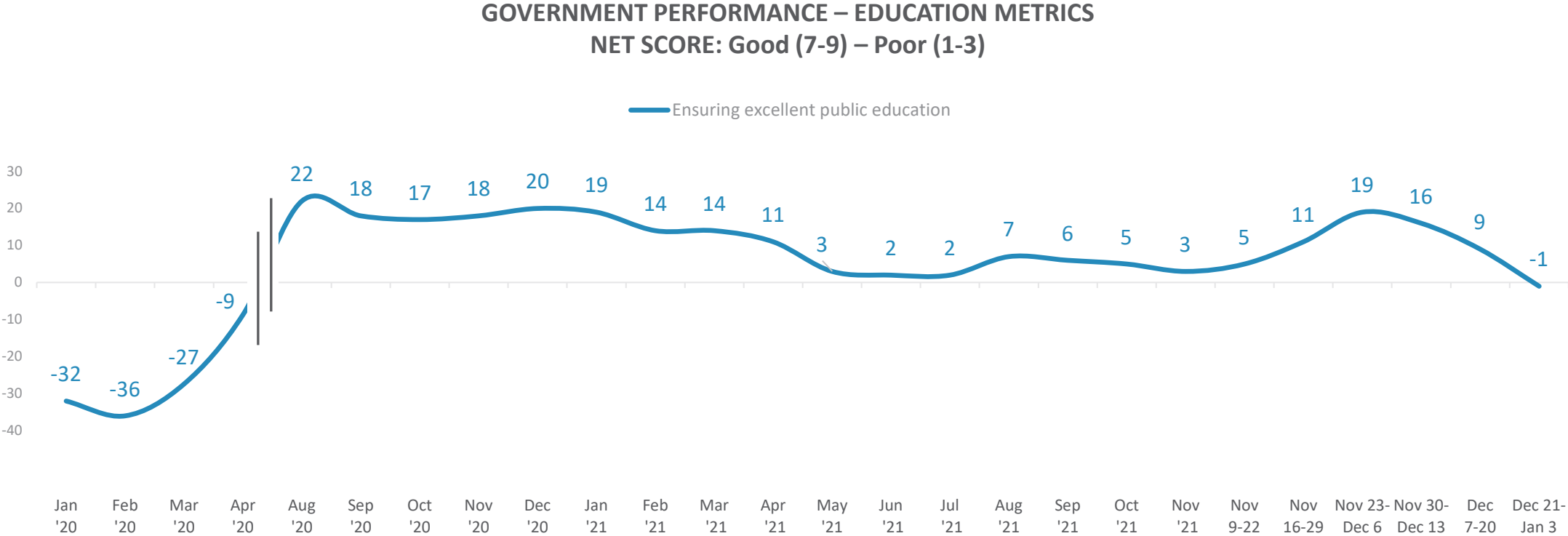
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for the economic and government spending metrics have all declined. Since the beginning of December, ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ is down 20-points, ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ is down 19-points, and ‘creating and protecting jobs’ is down 16-points.



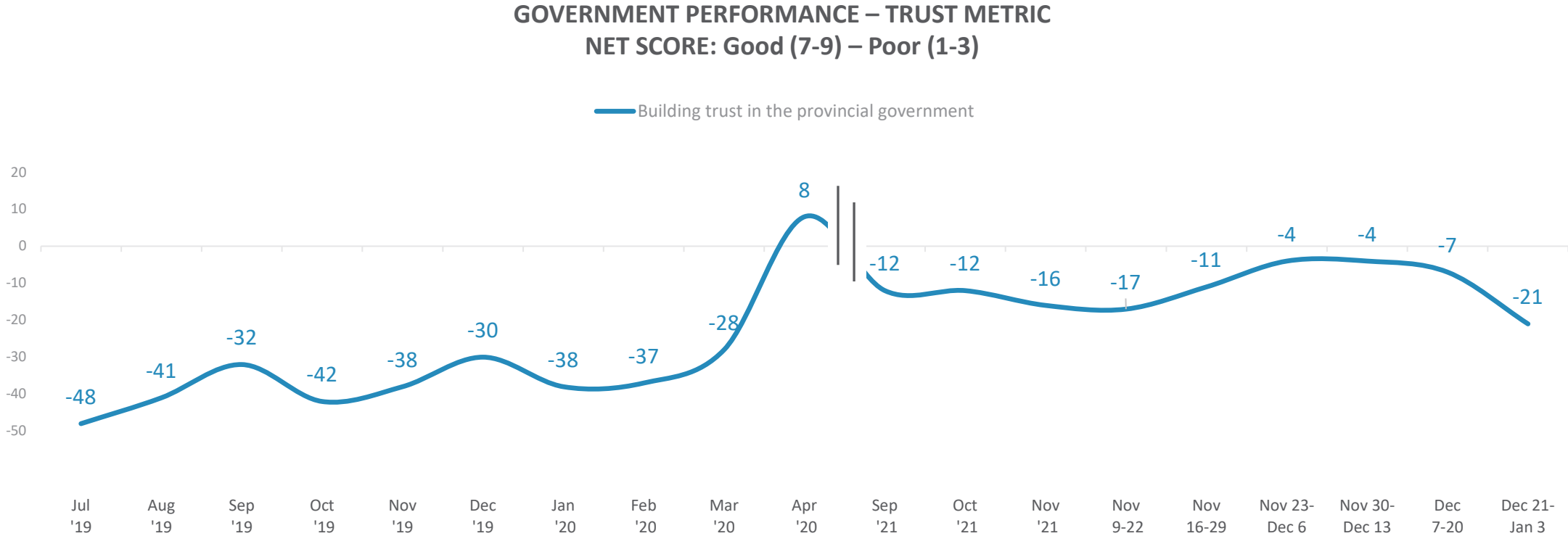
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has been trending down for a total of 20-points since the end of November.



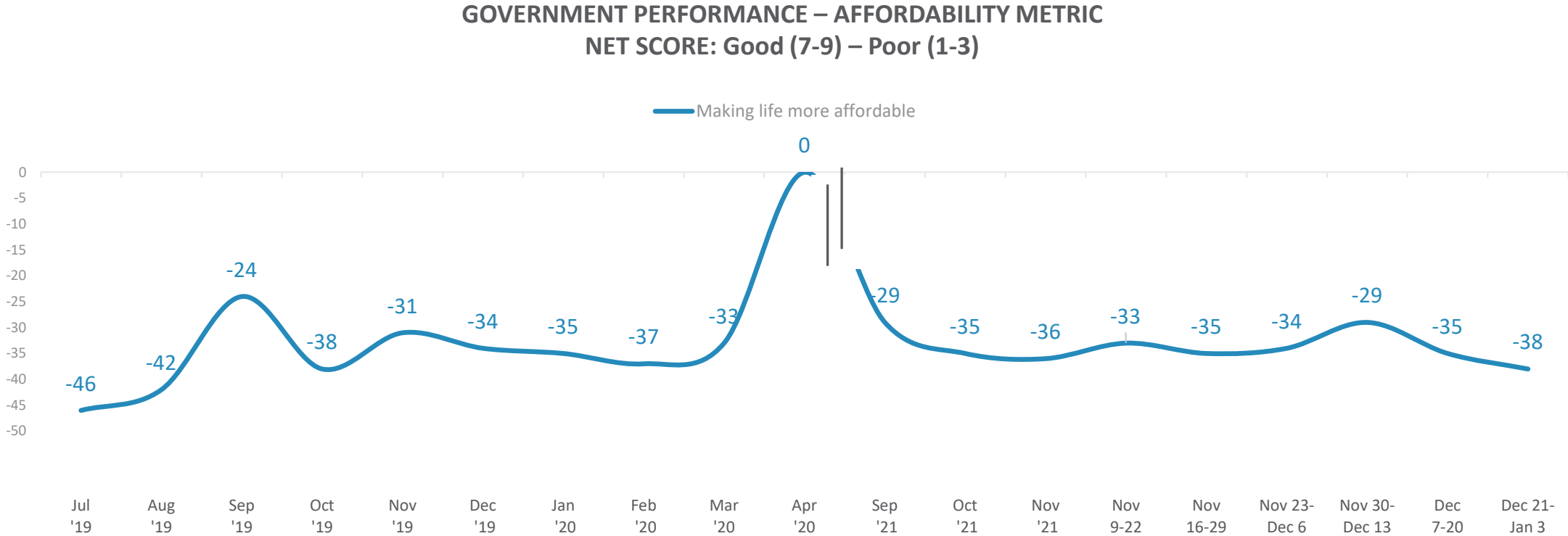
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ is down 17-points since the beginning of December.



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

As well, the government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ is down 9-points since the beginning of December.



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

Since mid-December, there has been an increase in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues (50%), while results remain stable among those who want the focus on health-related issues (43%).

	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	Dec 21-Jan 3
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	43
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	50
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	8	10	11	11	11	6

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 5TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

Eight-in-ten (80%) Ontarians indicate they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic, with 52% 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	Dec 21-Jan 3
varies			
%	%	%	%
71	77	77	80
39	41	51	52
31	36	26	28
19	16	11	9
9	6	11	9
28	23	23	19

Since the beginning of December, there has been softening (from 74% to 56%) 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	Dec 21-Jan 3
varies			
%	%	%	%
74	68	63	56
22	18	12	10
52	51	50	45
15	17	20	24
9	11	15	18
24	29	35	42
2	3	3	2

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...

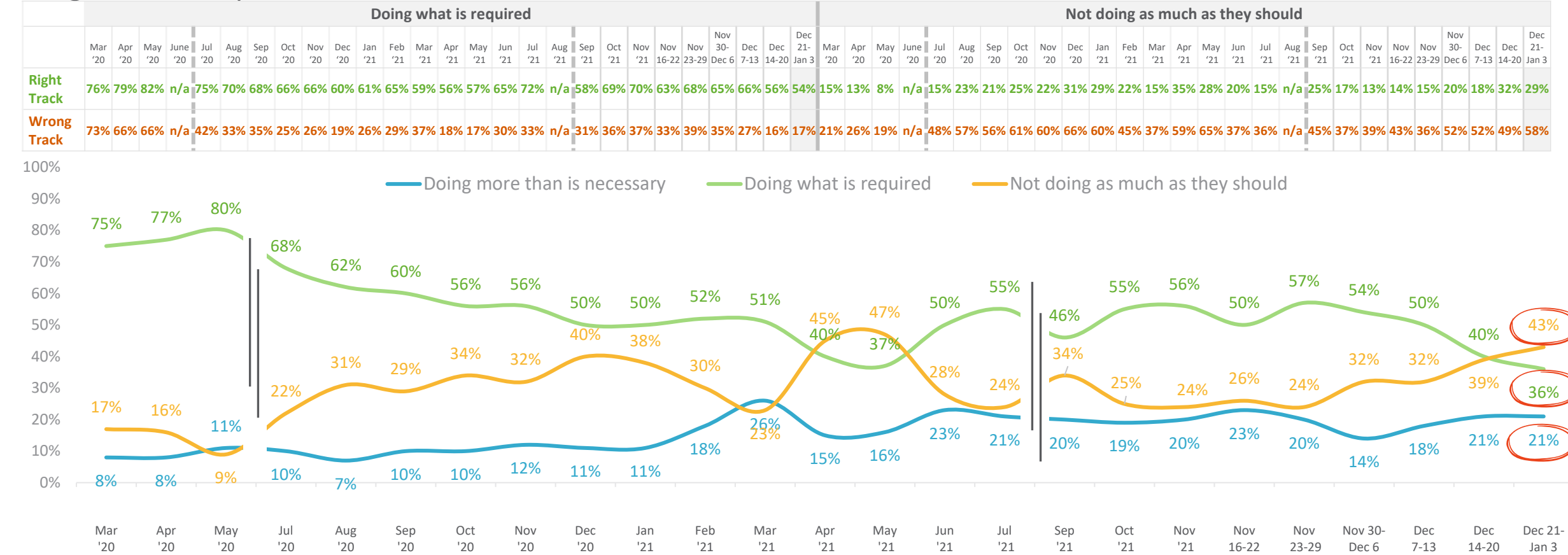
Base: Total sample

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 is now 7-points higher than the proportion who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’.



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, 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, while 14% of Ontarians support international travel into Canada being restricted, there was an increase to 10% supporting a regional approach for COVID-19 restrictions in areas with higher COVID-19 cases.

	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	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Restricting international travel into Canada	23	21	19	13	19	19	23	17	18	19	18	16	26	15	20	14
Requiring international travelers to be tested upon arrival in Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	17	8	10
Regional approach to increasing COVID-19 restrictions in areas with higher COVID-19 cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	4	10
Lockdowns / closing businesses	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	4	6
Additional public health measures like limiting the size of social gatherings to limit contact with others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Requiring domestic air travelers who enter Ontario to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	12	5
Extending the pause on the next step of Ontario's re-opening plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	6	5
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	4
Requiring international air travelers who enter Ontario to quarantine in a hotel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	3	4
Additional public health measures like reducing capacity at stores to limit contact with others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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	15
No additional action is needed	6	3	9	9	11	5	5	13	13	12	15	10	8	10	9	10
Don't know/unsure	7	4	6	5	4	5	4	5	11	9	6	6	12	7	12	8

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

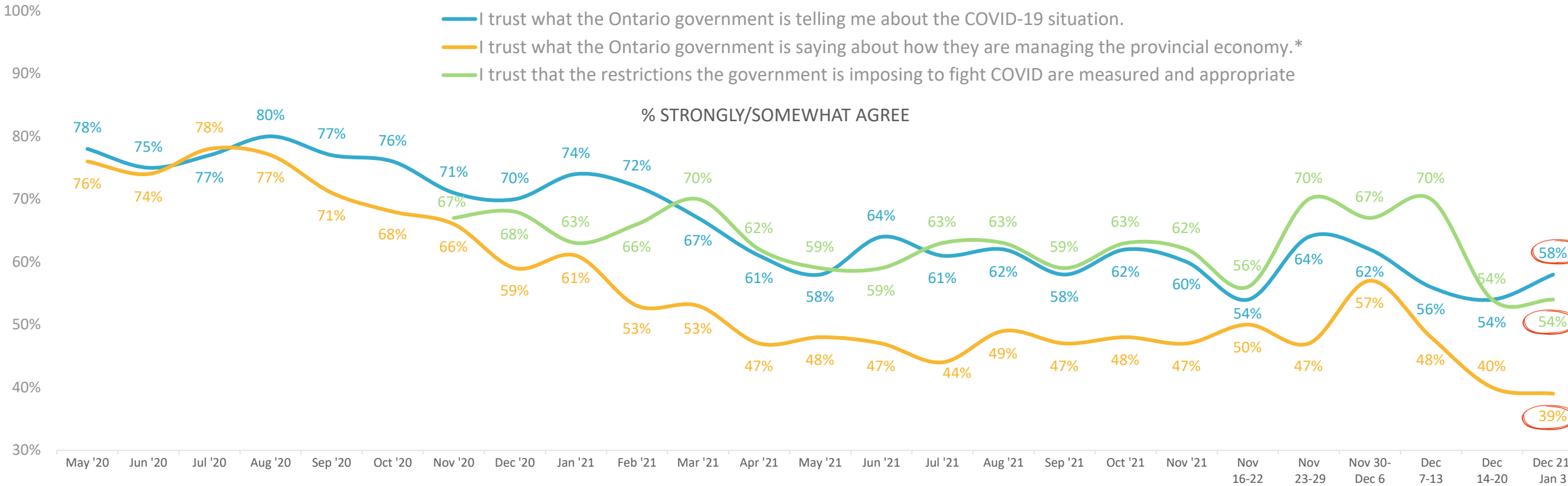
Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Of note, there has been an uptick in trust in the government’s communications about ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’. Communications regarding ‘the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate’ and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ 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?

This week, 44% of Ontarians feel optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic. This compares to 74% in July and 62% in mid-November.

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	Dec 21-Jan 3
n=	varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	62	60	50	46	41	44
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	29	33	19	23	18	19
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	32	27	30	24	22	25
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	9	7	8	10	7	9
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	13	11	18	17	15	15
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	13	19	20	23	33	29
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	26	30	38	41	48	44

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 (48%) say that their level of concern about COVID-19 has increased over the last week, while 38% say their concern has not changed.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49	48
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36	38
Decreased	17	9	15	12	14
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2	<1

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	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Yes	96	98	98	97
No	4	2	2	3

And, seven-in-ten (69%) Ontarians continue to indicate they are concerned about this new COVID-19 variant.

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70	69
Very concerned	35	27	37	38
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33	30
Not too concerned	19	16	12	14
Not at all concerned	11	15	18	17
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29	31
Don't know/not sure	3	1	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 (88%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with 65% 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	Dec 21-Jan 3
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	88
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	65
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	23
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	8
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	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	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	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	Dec 21-Jan 3	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	Dec 21-Jan 3
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%	94%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%	76%	77%	77%	76%	76%	82%	84%	77%	76%	84%	83%	81%	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

Nine-in-ten (87%) Ontarians support the need for public health measures. There continues to be more support for wanting public health measures to be continued (59%) than for relaxing public health measures (28%).

	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	Dec 21-Jan 3
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	11
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	59
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	28

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	Dec 21- Jan 3	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	Dec 21- Jan 3	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	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies																										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	32	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	36	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30	31
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	26	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	41	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37	33
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	31	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	39	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34	29
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	34	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	36	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33	29
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	28	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	38	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35	32

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

There has been a 10-point increase since early December to 53% this week indicating 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	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	varies															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	32	27	34	36	43	45	45	49	44	43	40	50	45	43	47	53
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	24	35	29	28	30	33
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	18	18	15	16	16	15	16	20
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	7	3	6	7	8	11	7	4	6	6	5	9	7	4
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	17	20	20	13	16	15	16	12
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	31	32	30	33	31	29	29
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	49	52	52	43	49	47	45	41

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



CONFIDENCE THE END OF COVID-19 IS NEAR WITH THE VACCINE READY

Ontarians are less confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, down 19-points since mid-November to 38% this week. This is the lowest point since tracking on this question started in January’21.

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	Oct '21	Nov '21	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3
varies																
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	57	52	42	46	39	38
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	25	20	16	16	16	12
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	32	31	26	31	23	25
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	7	7	8	3	8
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	14	21	10	21	17
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	19	24	28	34	29	34
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	36	38	49	44	50	51

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

Overall, 36% of Ontarians report they have already had their booster dose. Among those yet to receive it, 86% indicate they are willing to receive their third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and intensity is high with 70% ‘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	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL WILLING	84	86	81	88	82	84	79	81	86	88	79	80	86
Very willing	57	72	62	71	63	61	59	67	69	74	67	65	70
Somewhat willing	26	14	19	17	20	23	20	14	16	14	12	15	16
Not too willing	7	7	9	6	8	9	10	12	3	5	7	10	7
Not at all willing	9	8	10	6	9	7	11	7	11	7	13	10	8
TOTAL NOT WILLING	16	14	19	12	18	16	21	19	14	12	21	20	14
I have already had my booster dose	2	1	1	2	3	3	2	4	4	10	15	26	36

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 continue to be that it is not necessary (23%) and that they already have two doses and that is enough (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	Dec 14- Jan 3
n=	69	84	73	60	69	76	81	68	48	68	81	75
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not necessary	28	13	8	17	22	19	19	24	23	11	17	23
I already got two doses (that is enough)	-	10	19	13	10	19	22	17	12	21	22	17
I got sick when taking previous doses of the COVID-19 vaccine	-	10	7	4	2	6	8	5	8	12	11	12
Research/need more information	11	11	9	17	20	10	3	5	9	6	12	12
Do not trust the government	6	5	3	2	4	7	4	6	9	2	8	11
Not confident in the effectiveness of the vaccine	-	2	10	14	5	5	9	8	12	21	13	10
How many boosters are going to be needed (e.g., every six months)	10	4	3	8	10	6	7	5	-	1	1	8
Concerned about long term effects	9	5	4	5	4	3	9	9	6	10	10	8
Concerned about too much vaccine in the body	3	-	16	2	2	2	5	4	-	2	4	5
Do not want to/am not comfortable with	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	13	4
They originally said two doses were enough (and were wrong)	13	8	5	8	9	3	-	2	2	5	4	3
Too soon/need a longer gap in between doses	-	8	6	4	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	2
Should be my choice to decide if I want a booster shot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	4	1
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	1
I am not high risk/my exposure is low	10	6	8	5	4	1	-	1	2	2	2	1
Already had COVID and dealt with it/survived	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	-	-	1	1
They should focus on getting everyone vaccinated with the first two doses	-	4	6	7	4	-	1	2	2	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	-
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	3
Don't know/not sure	1	5	8	2	9	11	9	9	8	3	2	1

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 (56%), public health vaccination clinic (45%), at a doctor's office (40%), or a pop-up clinic (39%).

	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
At a pharmacy	54	51	43	56
Public Health vaccination clinic	44	43	44	45
At doctor's office	38	38	30	40
At a mass vaccination or pop-up clinic	41	39	41	39
At a hospital	33	28	28	35
In a grocery store	14	18	13	22
At public transportation hub	15	16	11	22
In a mall, while shopping	16	15	11	22
Anywhere/everywhere/all of the above	5	3	3	8
Community/recreation centre	-	-	-	3
School	-	-	<1	2
At another location	2	<1	<1	2
Arena	-	-	2	1
Work	-	-	1	1
My home	-	-	-	1
Unsure / don't know	4	5	3	3
Prefer not to answer	2	7	5	1

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

A pharmacy (32%) is where they would ‘most prefer’ to receive the third dose, followed by a public health vaccination clinic (16%) or pop-up clinic (15%).

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
At a pharmacy	33	33	24	32
Public Health vaccination clinic	18	17	22	16
At a mass vaccination or pop-up clinic	13	13	22	15
At doctor's office	10	13	10	12
At another location	6	7	4	11
At a hospital	7	5	5	6
In a grocery store	<1	1	1	2
In a mall, while shopping	1	-	<1	2
At public transportation hub	1	1	1	<1
Unsure / don't know	8	5	6	2
Prefer not to answer	2	5	4	2

Half (50%) continue to indicate an interest in getting the booster shot as soon as it is made available to them.

	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
As soon as it is made available to me	60	52	49	50
In the next week	7	7	12	11
Within the next two weeks	6	11	12	11
Within the next month	8	8	6	10
Within the next two months	6	6	5	5
Sometime later	6	10	14	9
Never	2	2	-	2
Don't know/not sure	4	5	3	1

STATE OF THE ICU IN ONTARIO



Awareness of Ontario’s ICUs and COVID-19 continues to increase with two-thirds (66%) of Ontarians now indicating they have seen, read, or heard anything lately about Ontario’s Intensive Care Units and COVID-19. This represents a 27-point increase since the end of November.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52	66
No	61	62	55	48	34

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO’S ICUs

Among those who are aware, just over half (54%) say they have heard that the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICUs has been increasing while 13% say they have heard the number has been going down.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14	13
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25	27
Increasing	38	45	54	59	54
Mostly unvaccinated patients in the ICU	-	-	-	-	1
Don’t trust the news/fake news	-	-	1	<1	<1
Younger adults in the ICU (in their thirties)	-	-	-	-	<1
Fluctuating	-	1	-	-	-
Some other news	8	2	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	1	1
Don’t know/not sure	4	3	8	2	3

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

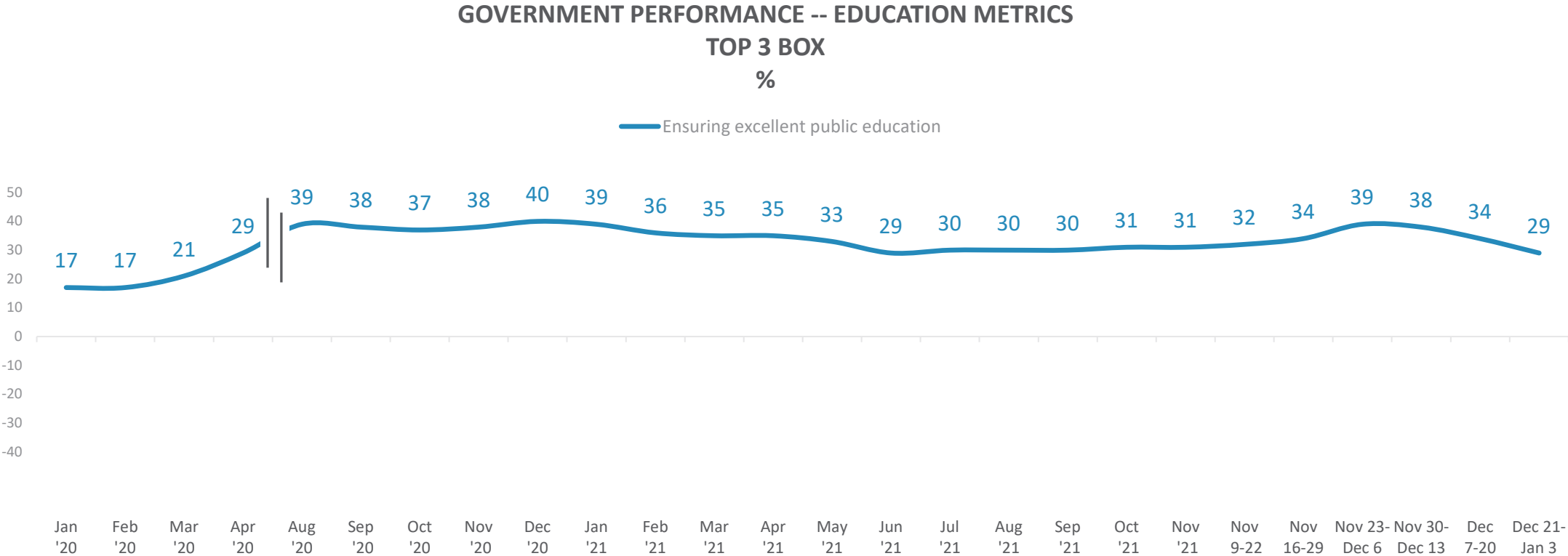
Among those who have heard the number of patients in Ontario’s ICUs is increasing, nine-in-ten (89%) say they are concerned and intensity is high with 58% ‘very’ concerned.

	Nov 23- Dec 6	Nov 30- Dec 13	Dec 7-20	Dec 21- Jan 3
n=	80	115	157	175
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	82	93	94	89
Very concerned	52	62	62	58
Somewhat concerned	30	31	32	31
Not too concerned	16	6	6	11
Don’t know/not sure	2	1	1	-

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

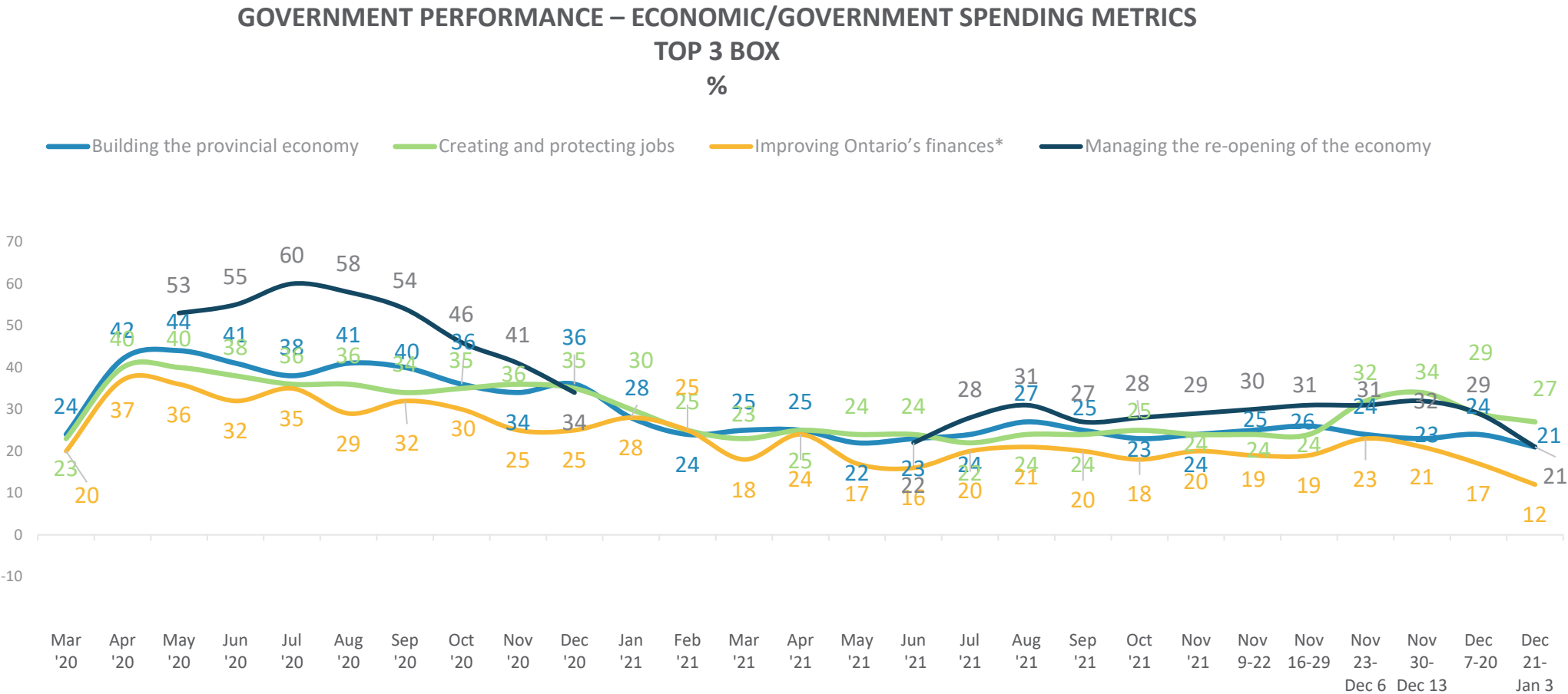


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ continued to trend down this week.



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

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ were down this week, while the remaining economic and government spending metrics were relatively stable.

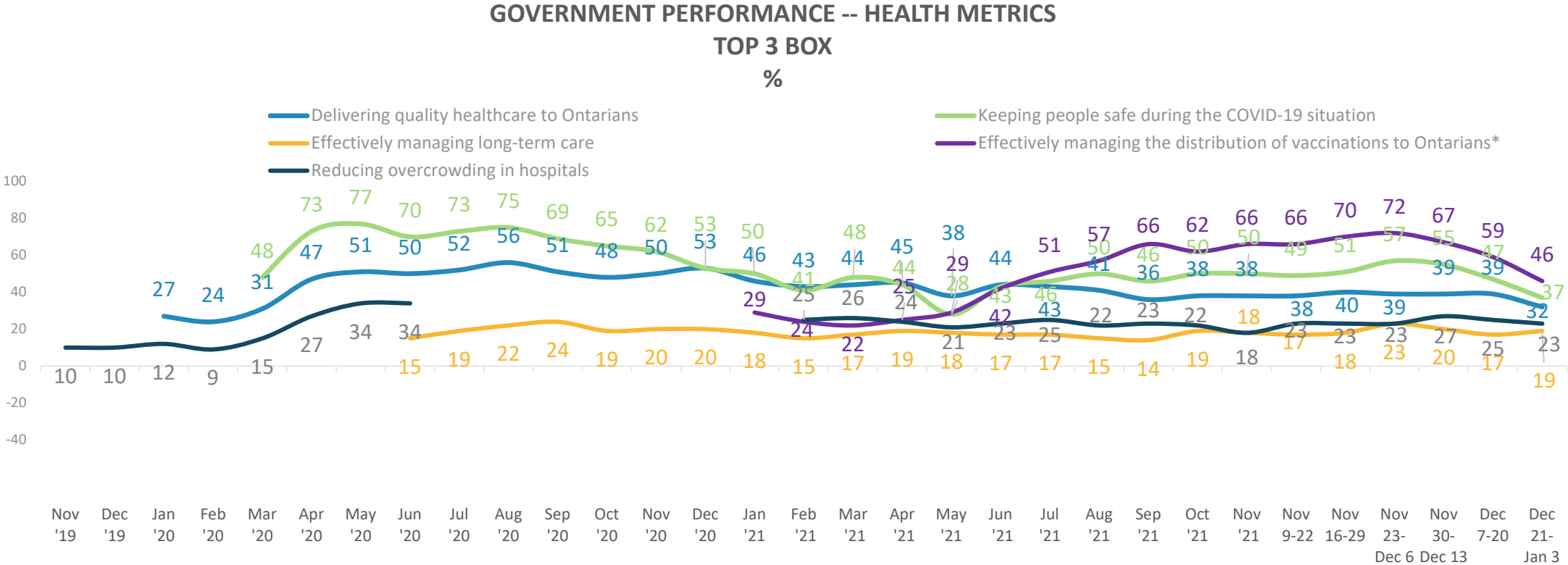


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

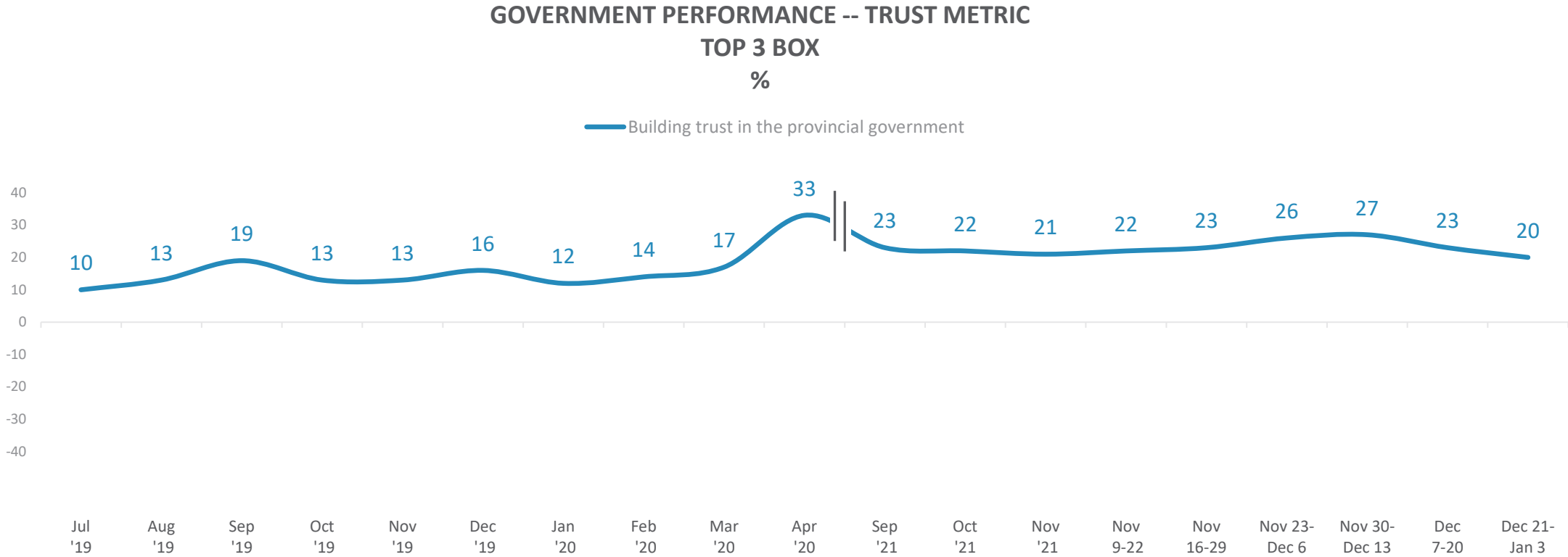
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccines’ and ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ both continued to trend down, while there was also a decline this week for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’.



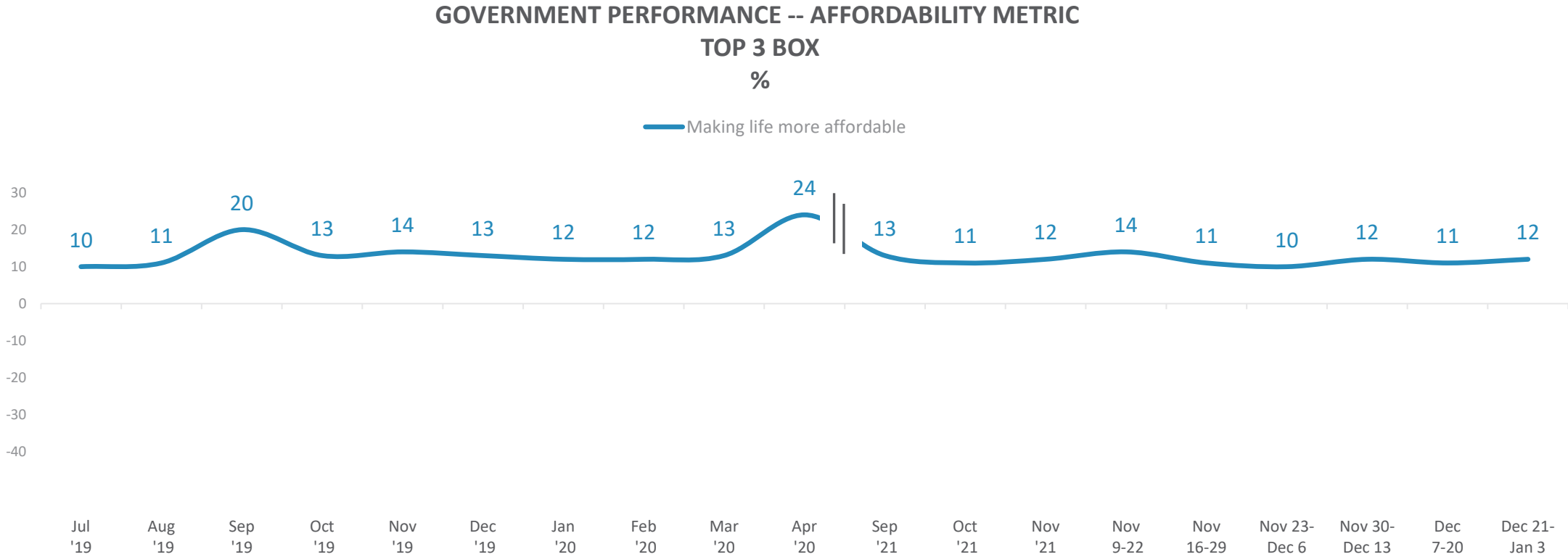
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ has been slowly declining.



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