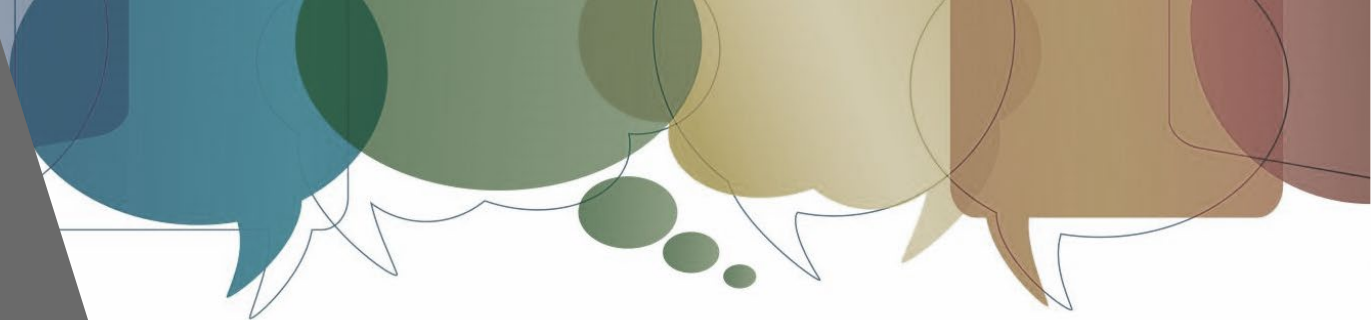




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #114

CABINET OFFICE
January 11th 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' continued to trend down this week to 42% and is now below 'wrong track' scores – the first time since March, 2020.

'Right track' scores have again dropped for most demographic groups with the exception of Ontarians aged 65+. And, by income, 'right track' declined among Ontarians making \$40k-<\$100k while remaining steady in the other income brackets.

2 However, since the beginning of December, there has been a decline (from 74% to 43%) in the perception that the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

3 There has also been continued movement in the public's perceptions of the Ontario government's COVID-19 measures. The proportion that believe the government is 'doing what is required' remained stable at 35% this week (down from 54% at the beginning of December). But, of note, while there was a decline to 38% among those that believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should' (remaining higher than the 32% measured at the beginning of December), the proportion who believe the government is 'doing more than is necessary' increased to 27% (up from 14% at the beginning of December).

4 Even with the rising infection and hospitalization rates, Ontarians' level of concern seems to be lessening somewhat. This week, there has been a decline to 62% indicating they are concerned about the new Omicron COVID-19 variant from a high of 70% in mid-December.

As well, the proportion reporting their level of concern over COVID-19 'increased over the last week' dropped to 32% from 48% previously.

And, again this week, there was a slight uptick in the proportion of Ontarians feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic – now at 48% (although this compares to 74% in July and 62% in mid-November).

5 While the rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' remained relatively stable this week, it has dropped 44-points since the end of November.

In addition, its rating for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' dropped 10-points this week (and 43-points since the end of November).

In conjunction with this, there were declines in trust of the government's communications about 'what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation' and 'the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate'.

Key Findings

5 There has also been movement in Ontarians' point of view on the continuing public health measures. Overall, nine-in-ten (87%) Ontarians continue to support the need for public health measures. However, there has been a 10-point decline in support for wanting public health measures to be continued (49%) and a 10-point increase for a plan for relaxing public health measures (38%).

Most (87%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering 'all/most of the time', with 66% saying they are wearing a mask 'all of the time'. However, almost equal numbers say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing (45%) as say they are not (48%).

7 In terms of the economy, rating of the government's performance for the economic and government spending metrics have all declined again this week and are now at the lowest levels since tracking began.

As well, the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' continues to trend down for a total of 13-points since the beginning of December. And, while 'building trust in the provincial government' is stable this week, it is down 19-points since the beginning of December.

6 This week, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues (57%) continued to trend upwards, while there was a decline among those who want the focus on health-related issues (36%) – now a gap of 21-points when there was parity in mid-December.

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

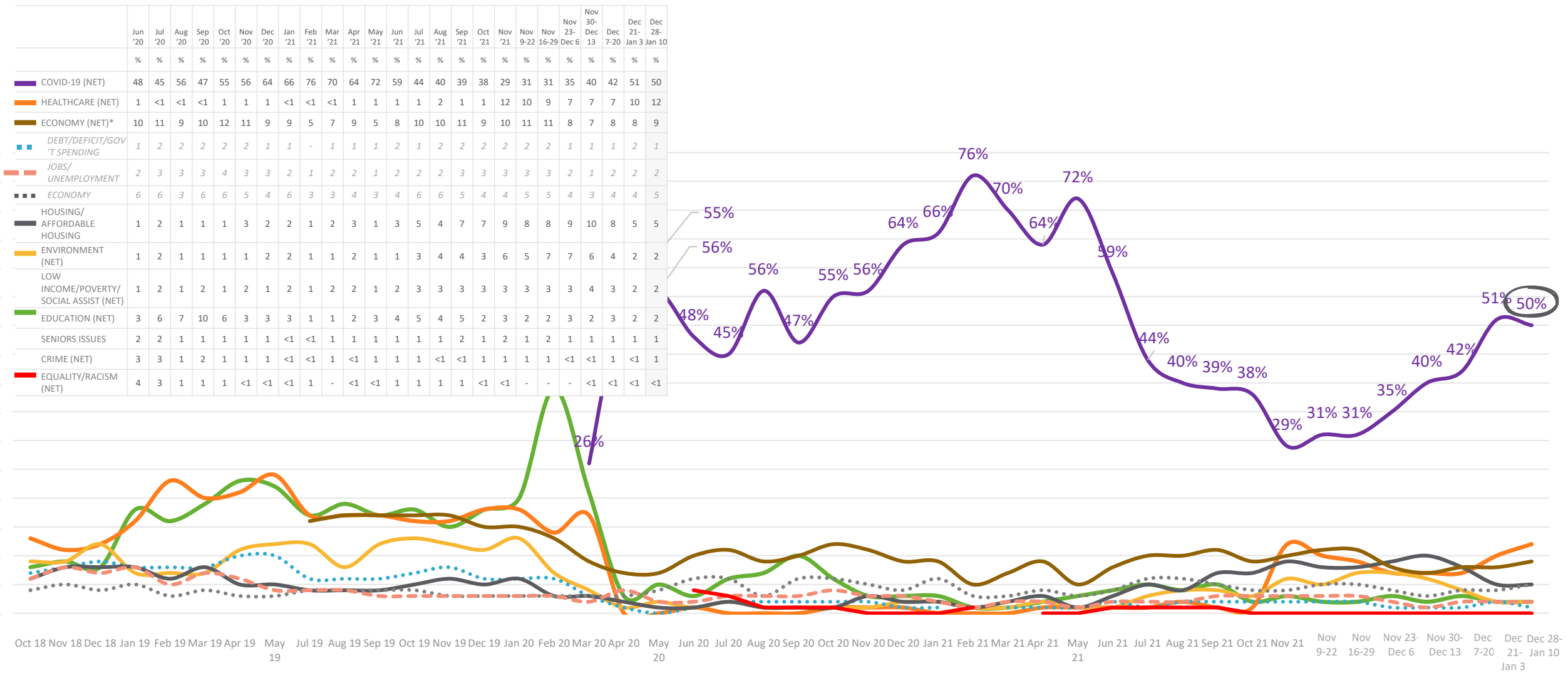
8 Rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' continued to trend down to NET -13 this week for a total of 32-points since the end of November.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

After trending up for several weeks, COVID-19 as the government’s top priority remained steady at 50% this week.



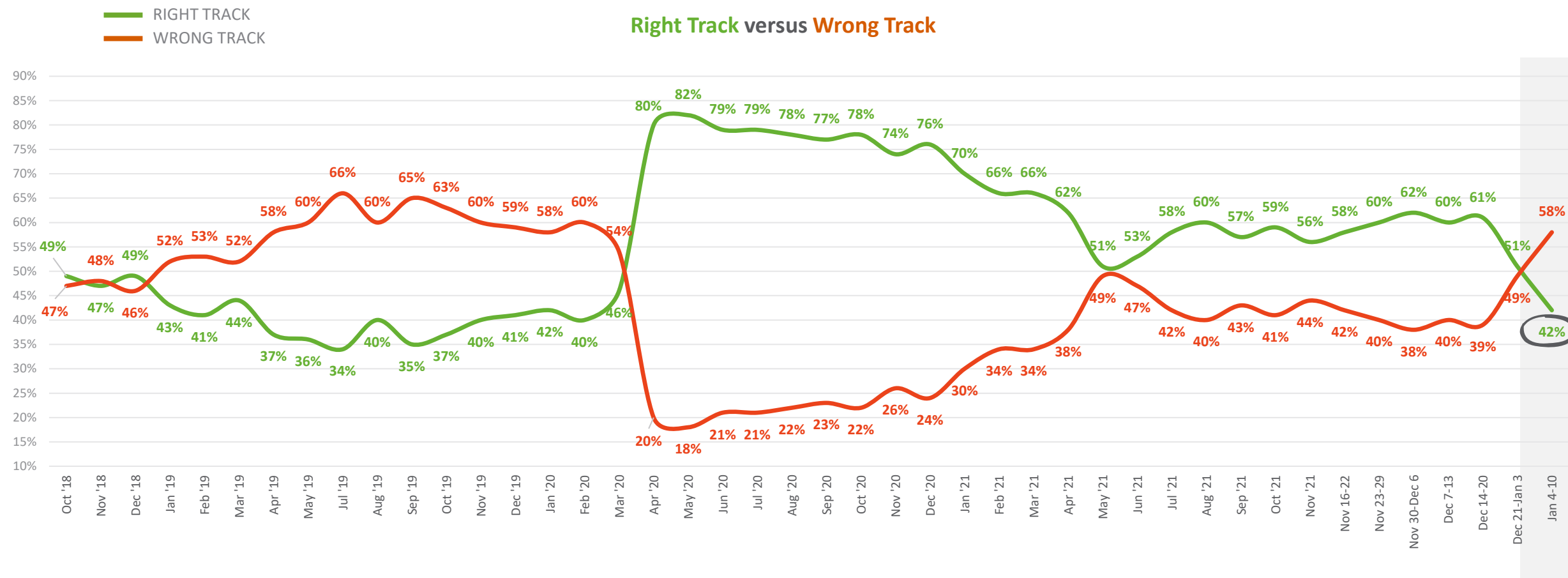
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

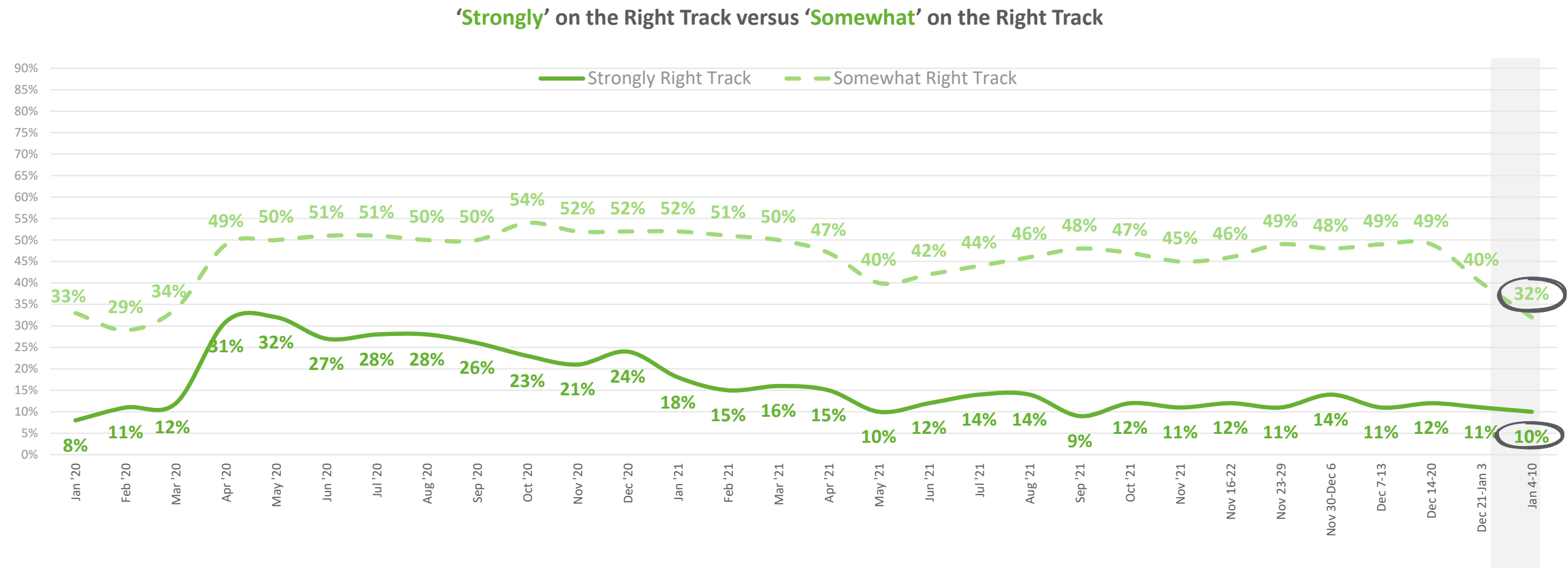


‘Right track’ continued to trend down this week to 42% and is now below ‘wrong track’ scores – the first time since March, 2020.



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

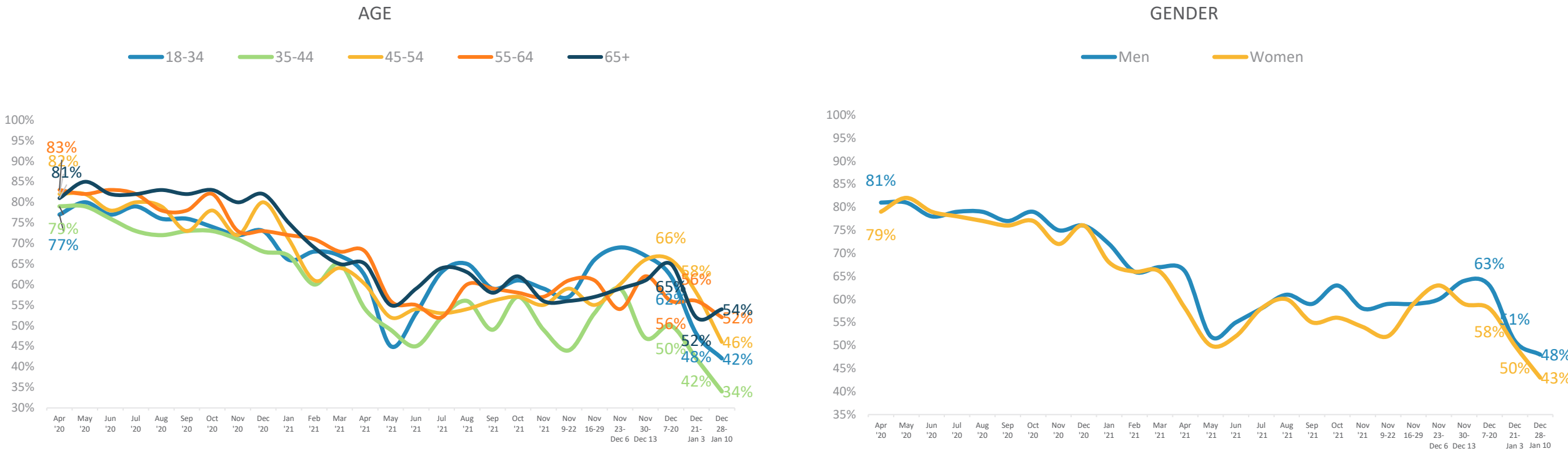
Declines in ‘right track’ continue to be driven by those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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 65+, with Ontarians aged 35-44 continuing to provide the lowest scores. While declines occurred among both men and women, ‘right track’ is higher among men this week.

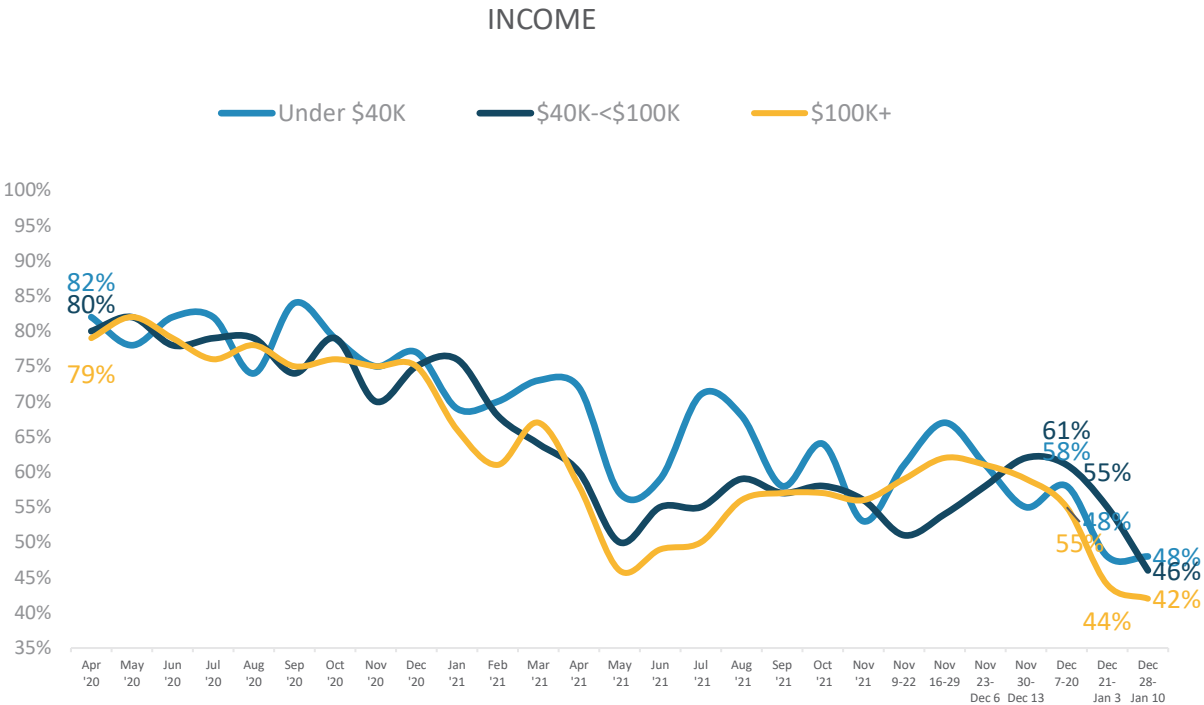
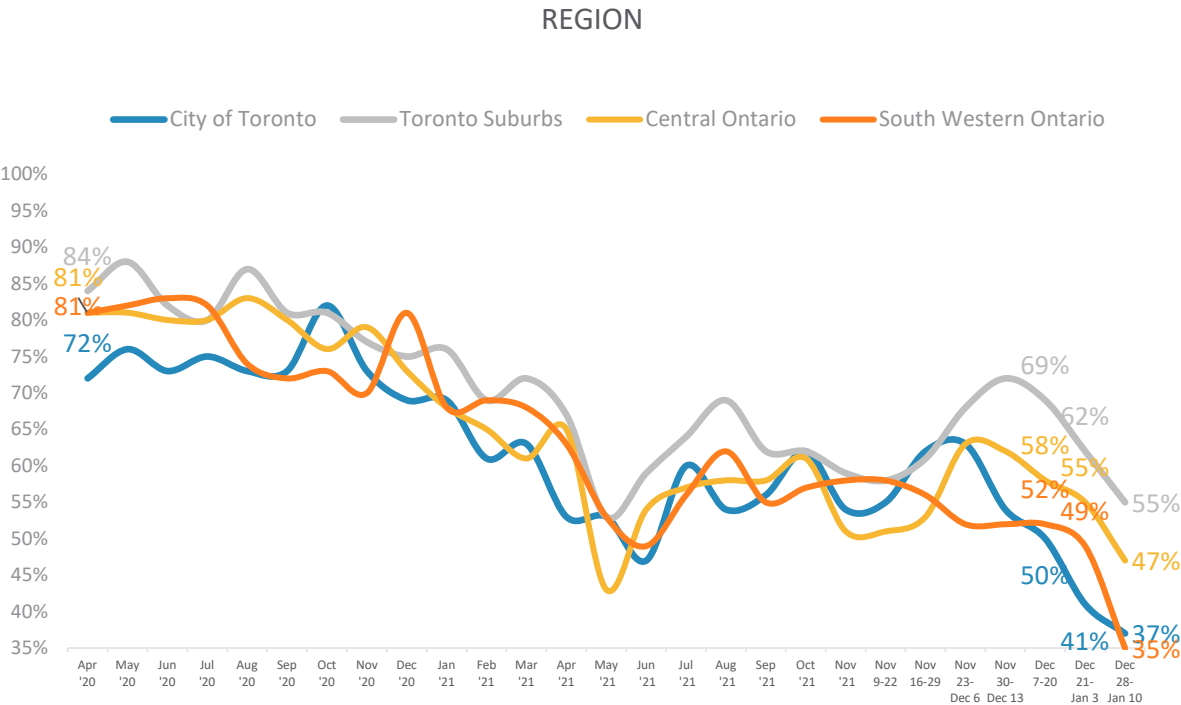
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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 highest ‘right track’ scores in the Toronto suburbs and the lowest in SW Ontario and the city of Toronto. By income, ‘right track’ declined among Ontarians making \$40k-<\$100k while remaining steady in the other income brackets.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

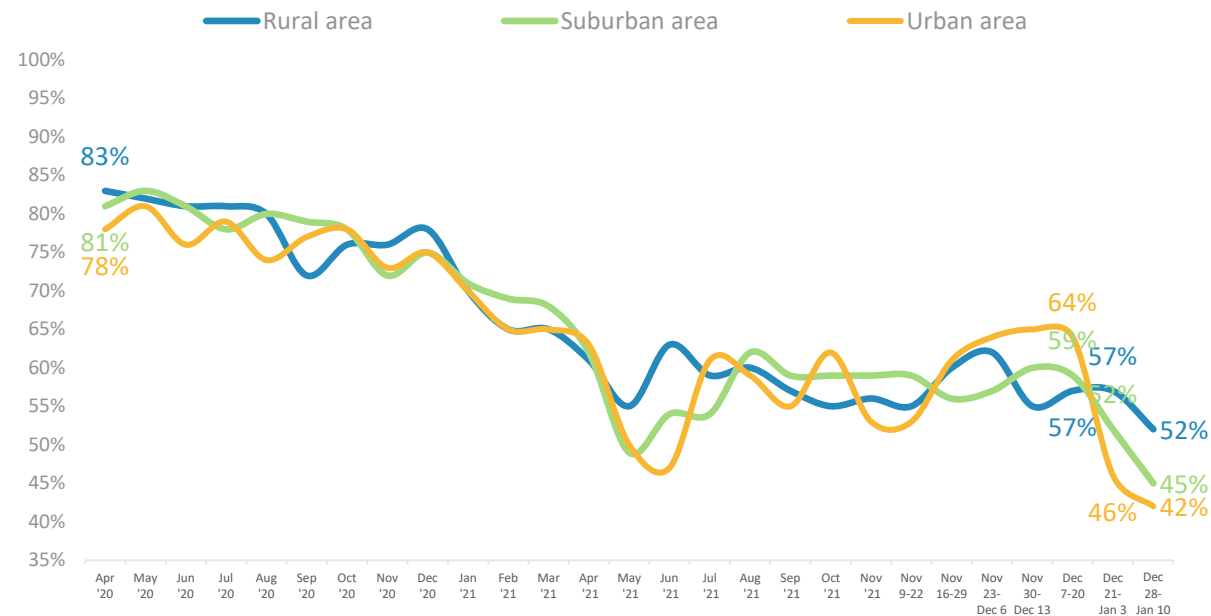


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

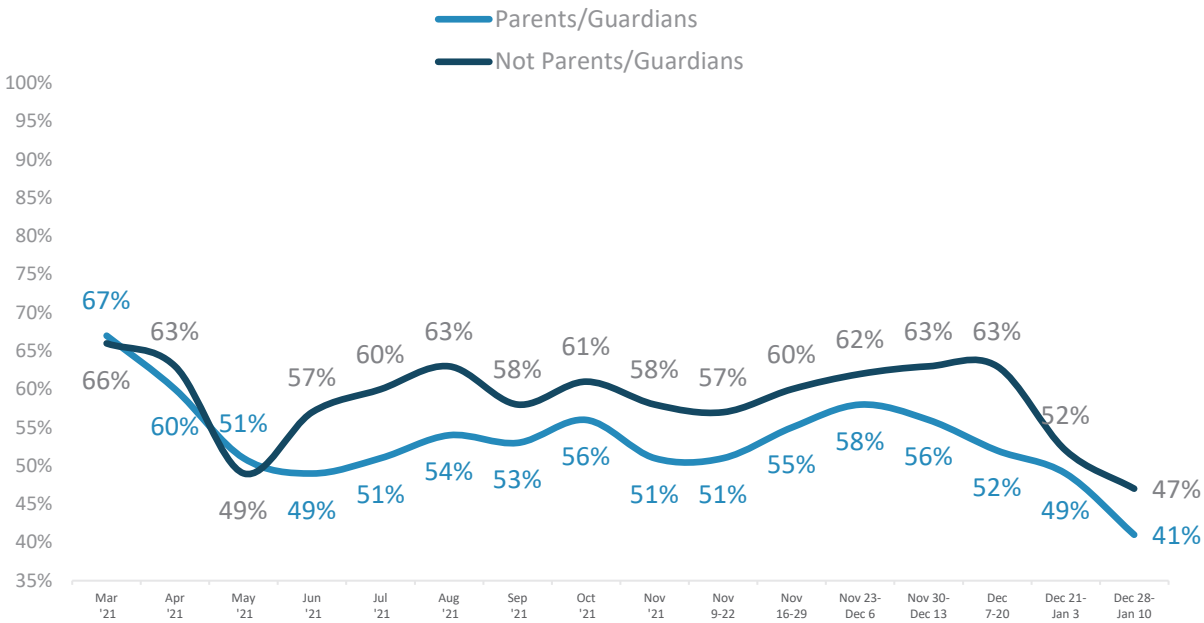
‘Right track’ declined in rural, suburban, and urban areas, with the highest scores continuing to be in rural areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

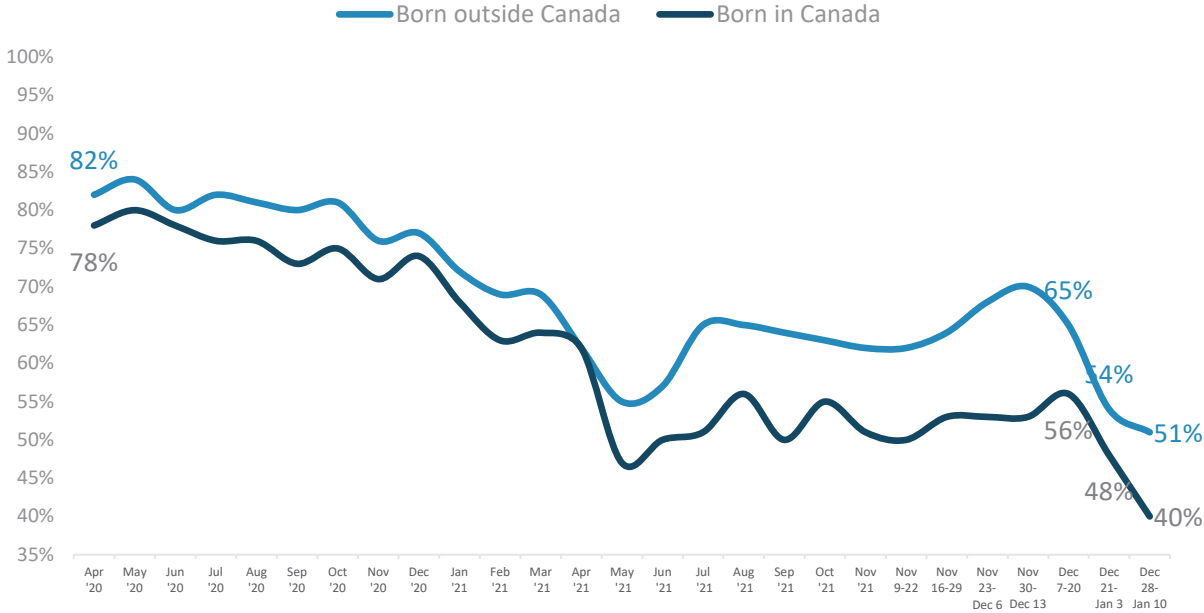


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

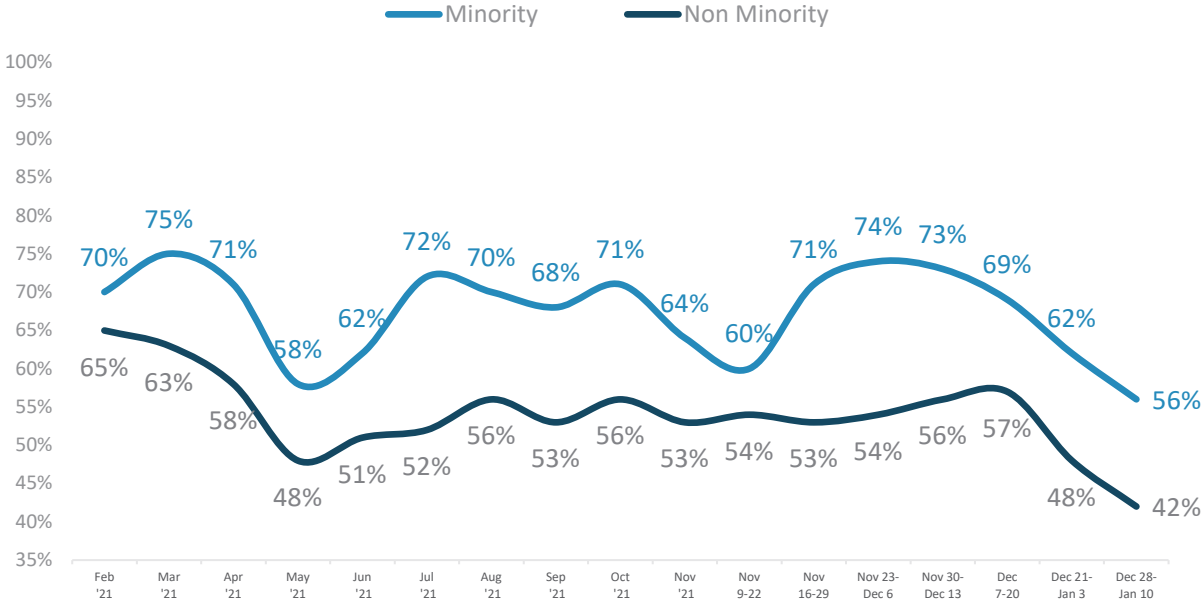
‘Right track’ dropped among those born in and outside of Canada and among those who identify as a non-minority and minority. However, ‘right track’ continues to be higher among those born outside of Canada and among minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



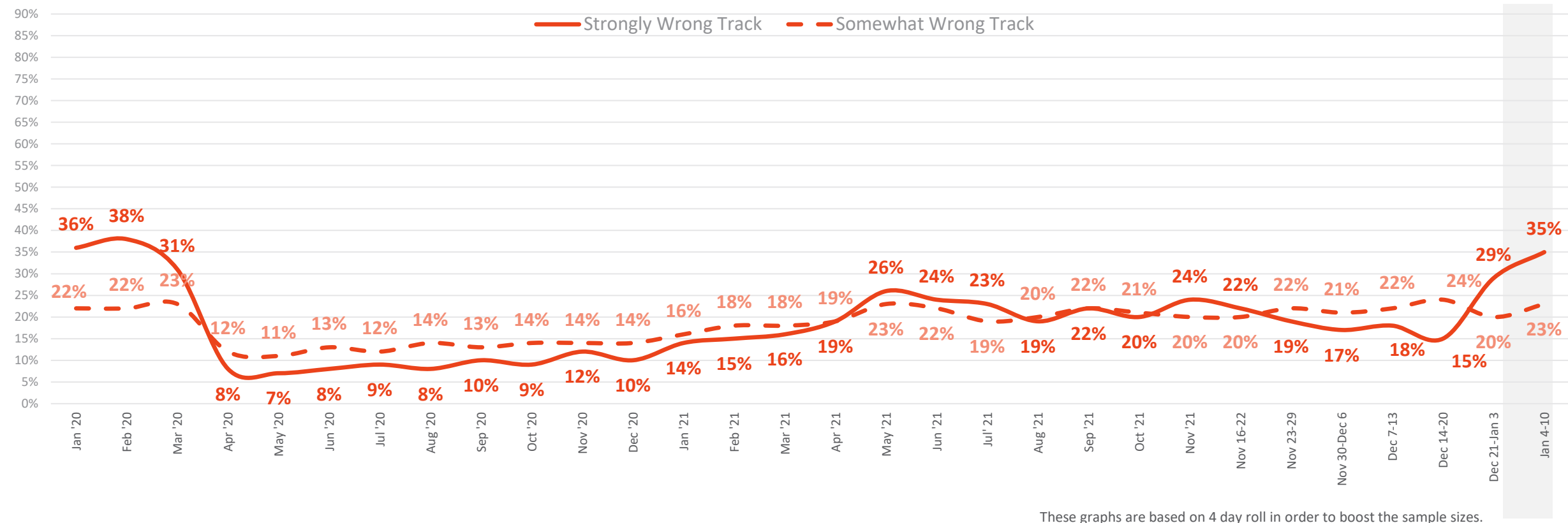
MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



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 again this week and is at the highest point since March, 2020.

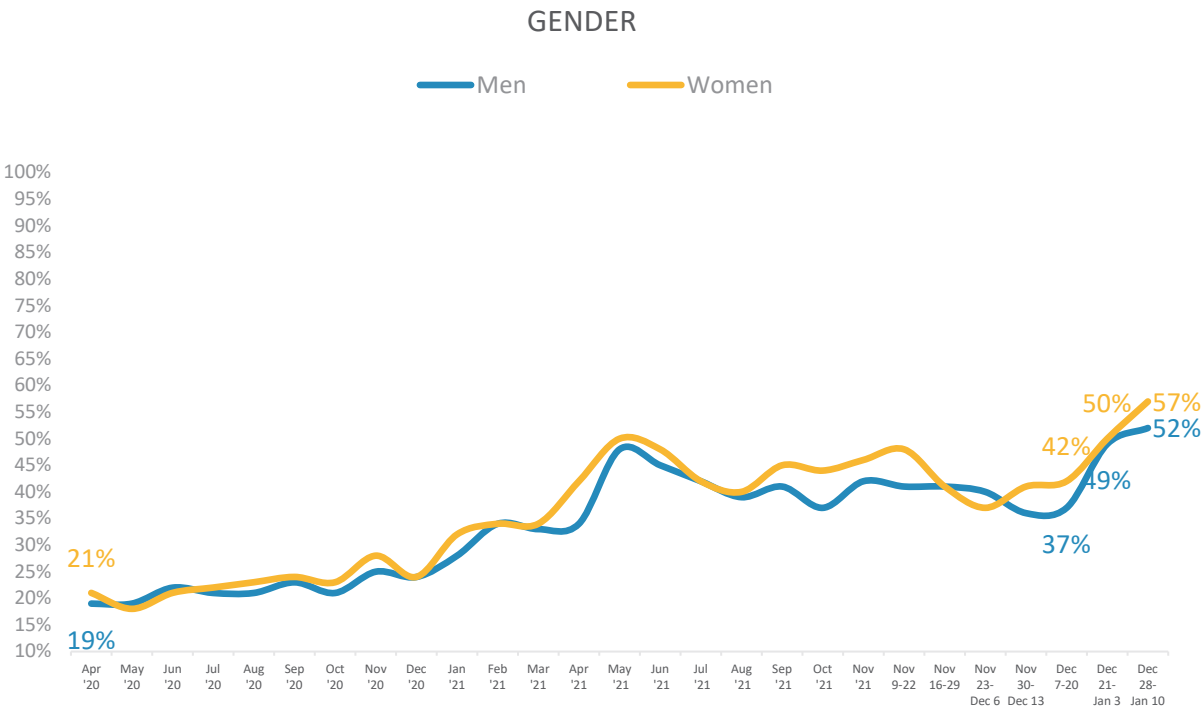
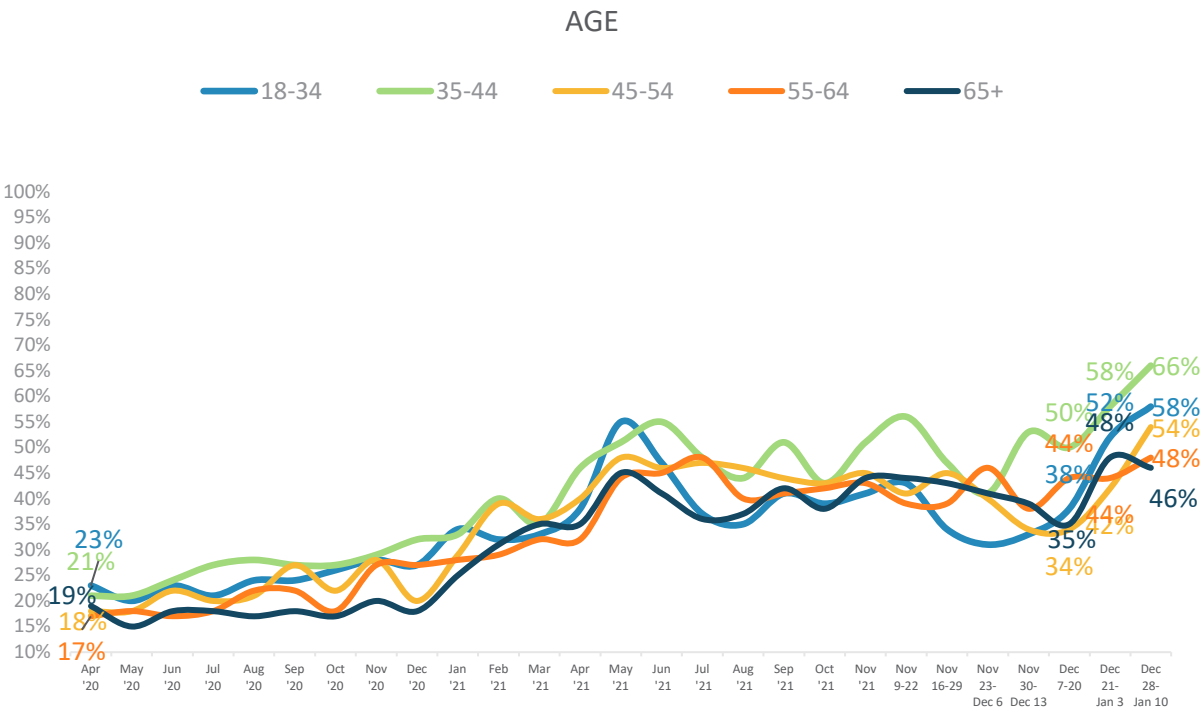
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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 65+, ‘wrong track’ increased among all age groups and continues to be highest among 35-44 year olds. While there were increases in ‘wrong track’ among both genders, women have a higher score this week.

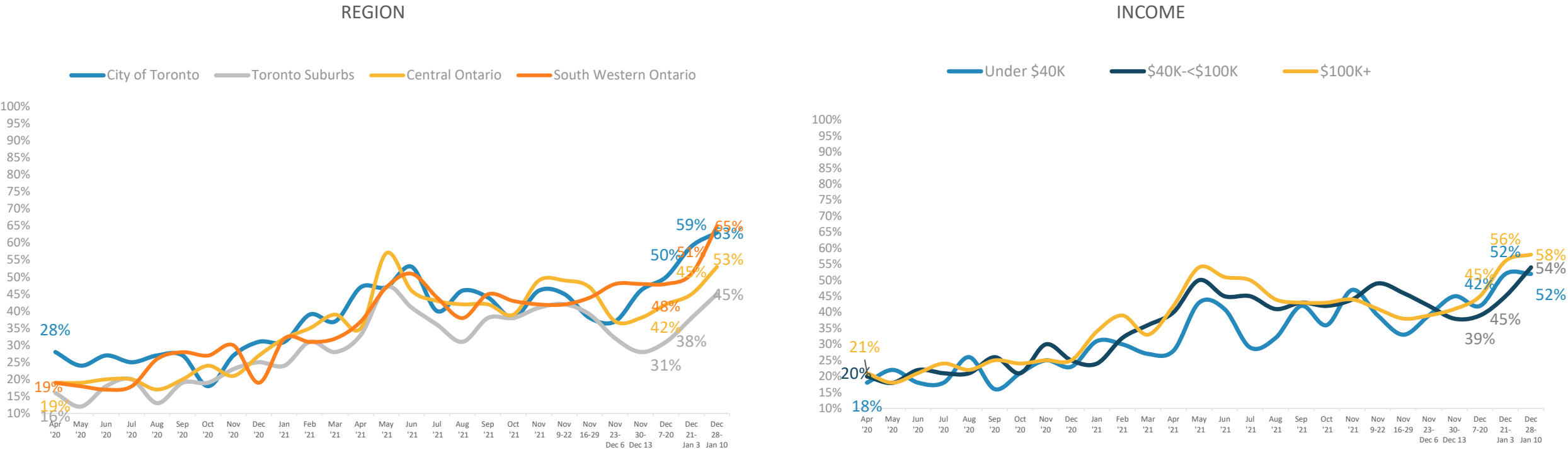
Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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 highest scores in SW Ontario and the city of Toronto. By income, increases were measured among Ontarians making \$40k-<\$100k while remaining syable in the other income brackets.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

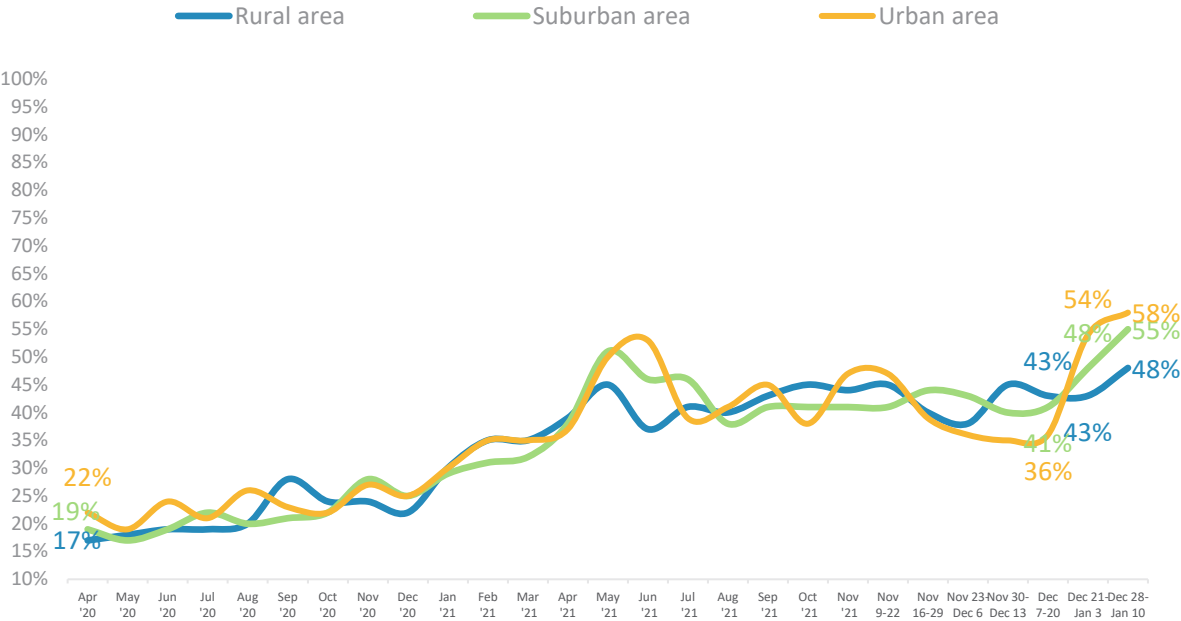


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

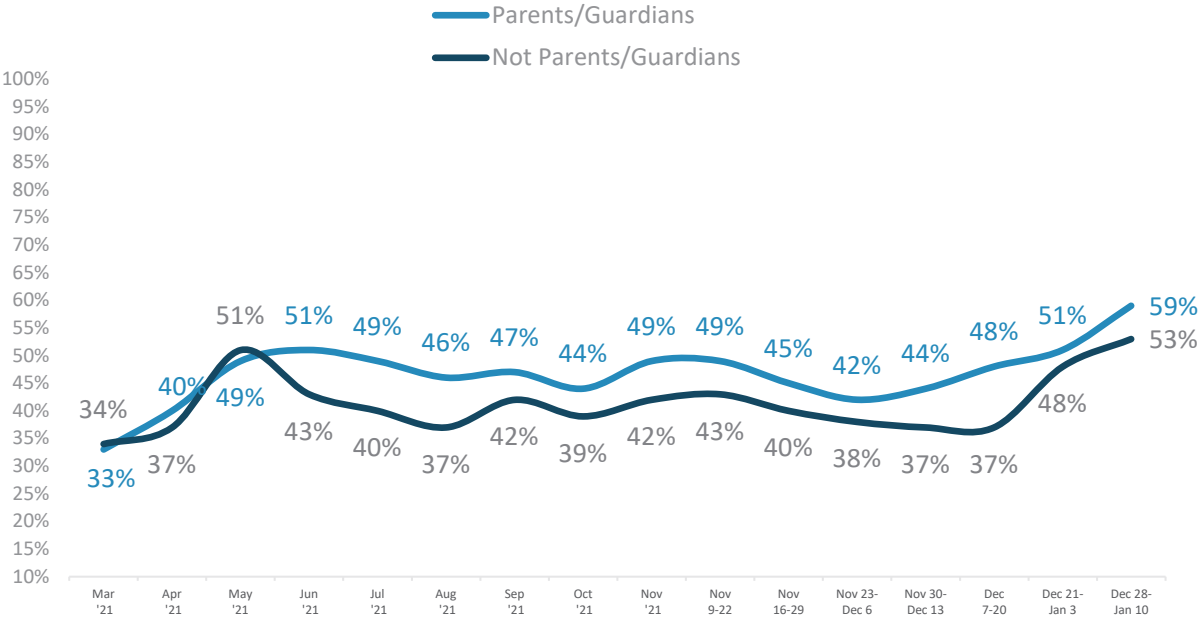
This week, ‘wrong track’ increased in rural, suburban and urban areas, with the highest scores continuing to be in urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

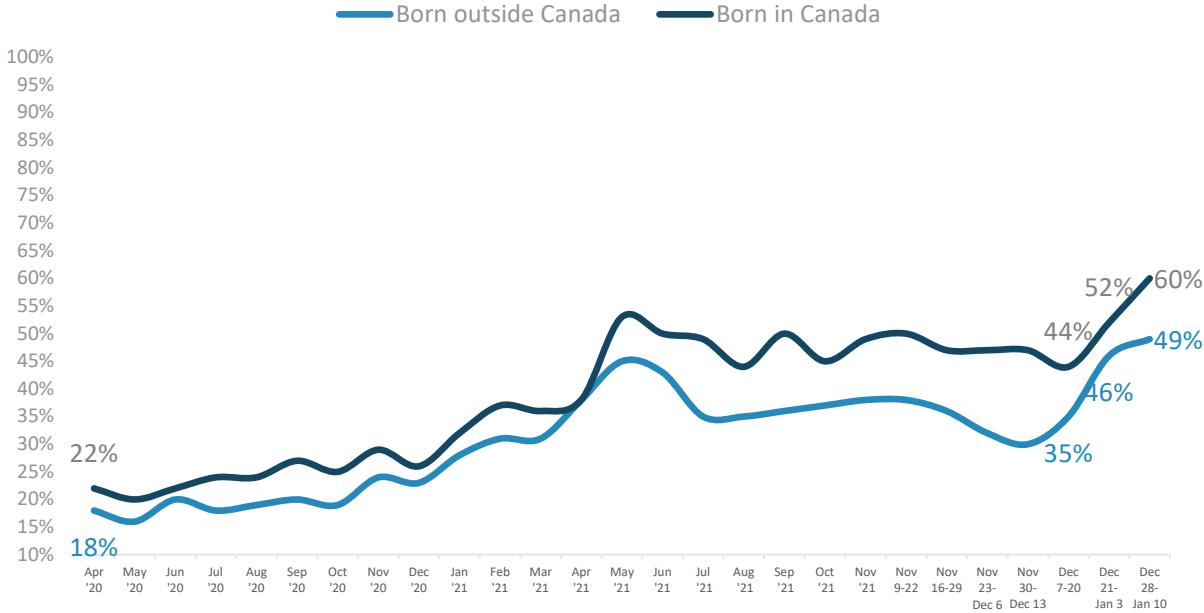


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

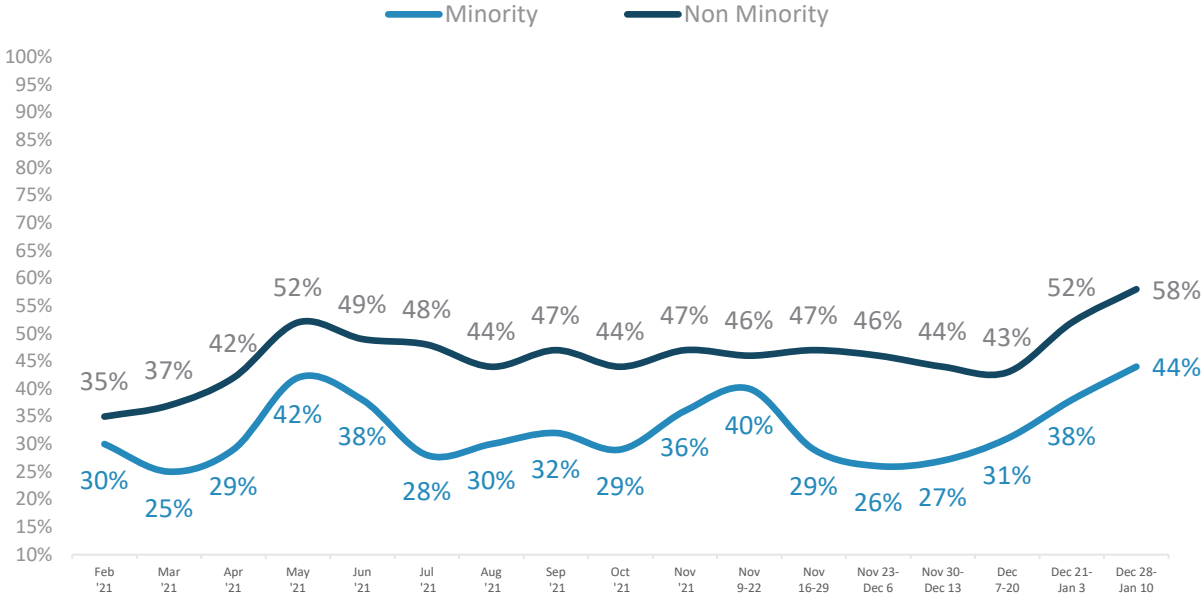
‘Wrong track’ increased among both Ontarians born in and outside of Canada and among both non-minorities and minorities. Scores remain highest among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



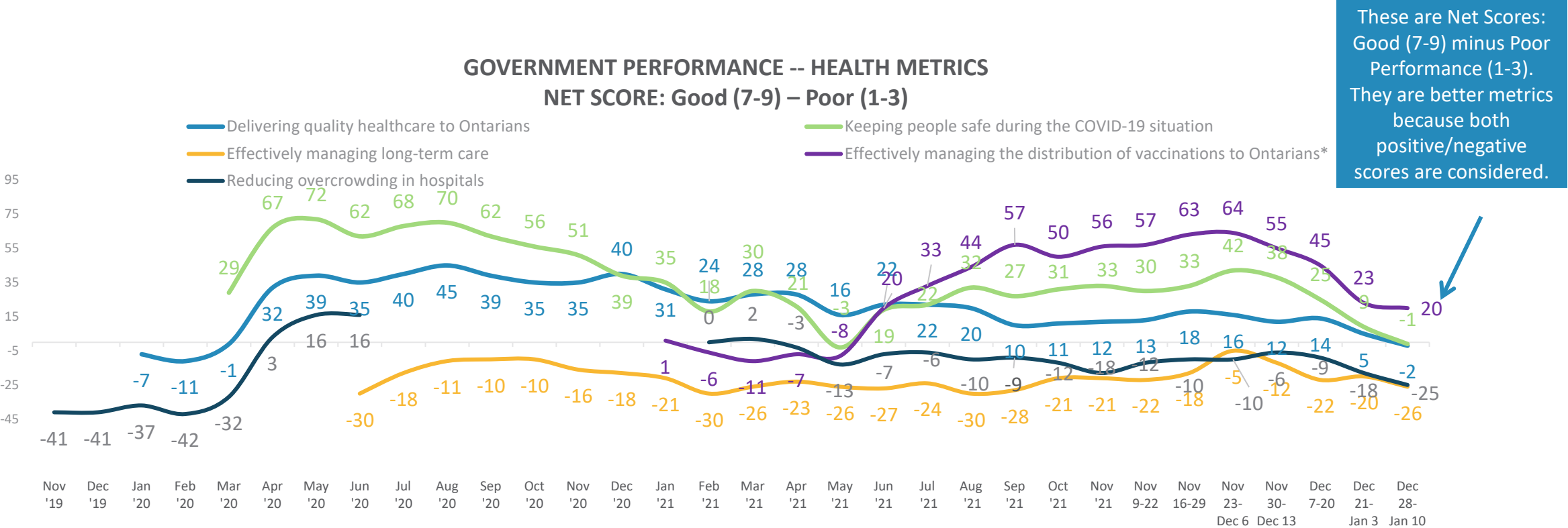
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



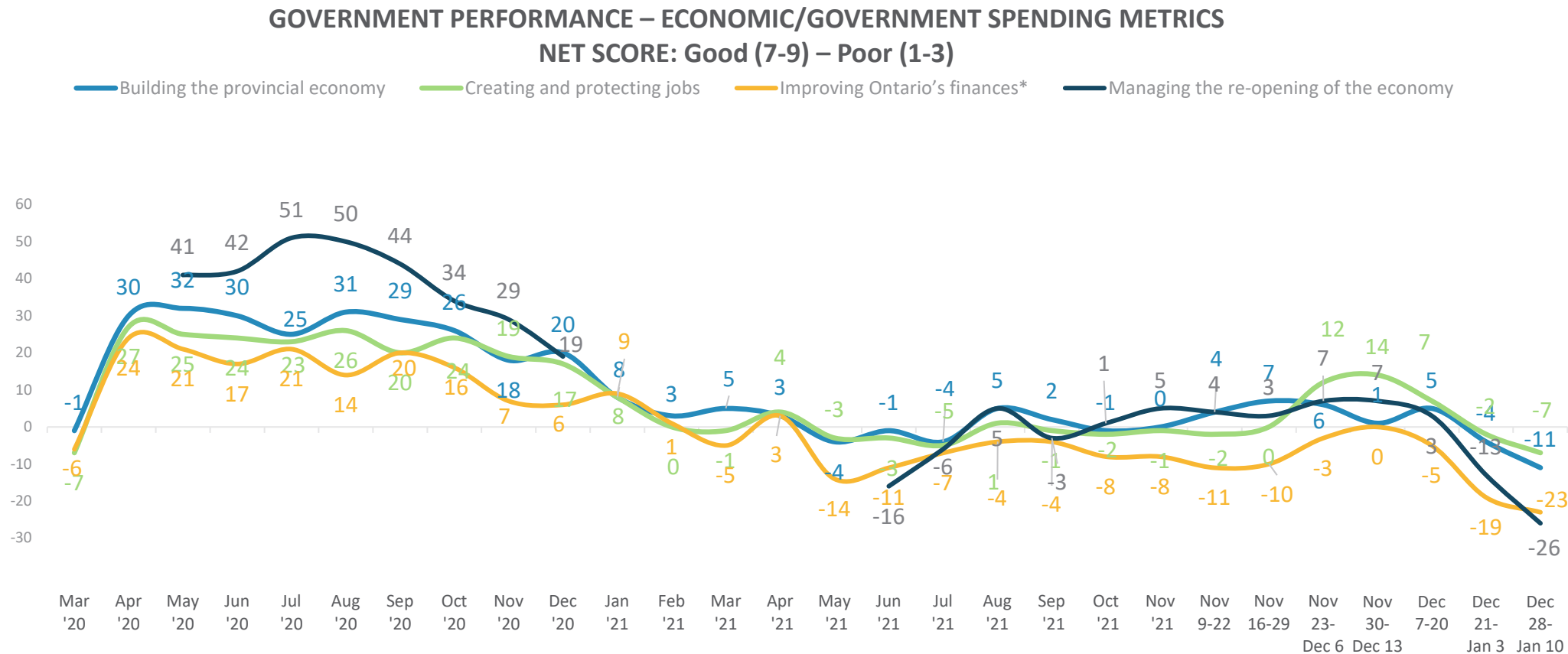
Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ remained relatively stable this week but has dropped 44-points since the end of November. As well, its rating for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ dropped 10-points this week (43-points since the end of November).

- Declines were also measured for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’, ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’, and ‘effectively managing long-term care’.



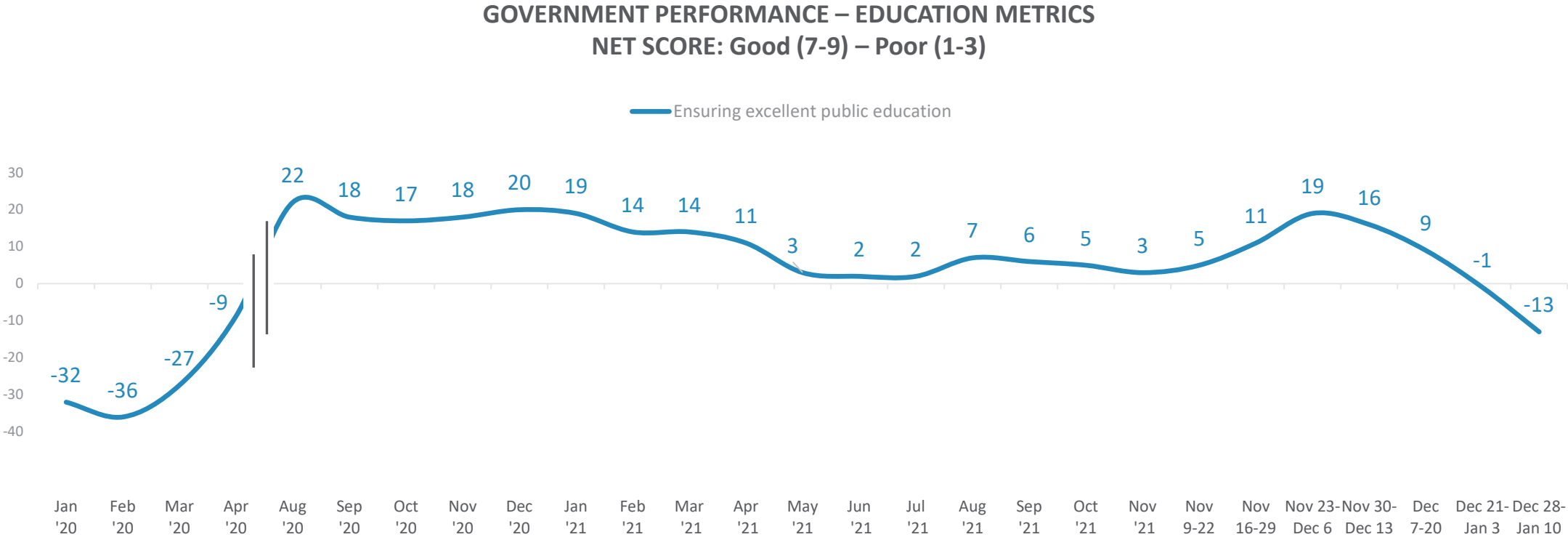
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for the economic and government spending metrics have all declined again this week and are now at the lowest levels since tracking began.



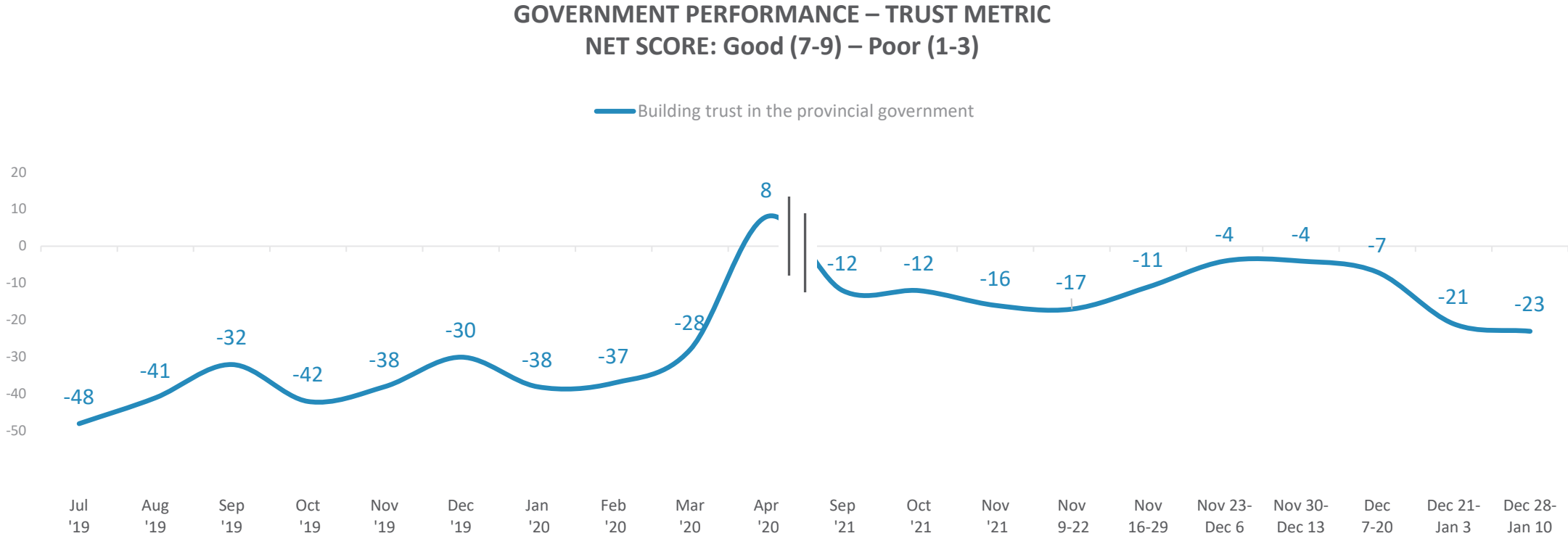
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ continued to trend down for a total of 32-points since the end of November.



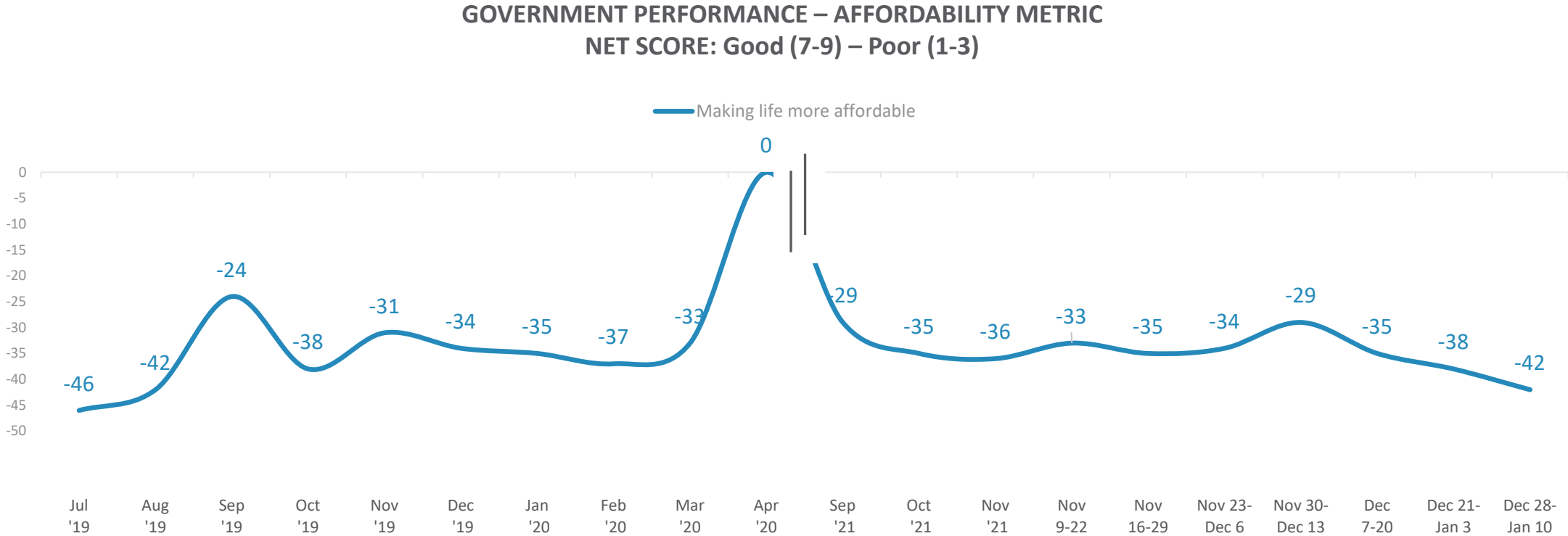
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ is stable this week but is down 19-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

The government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ continues to trend down for a total of 13-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



This week, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues (57%) continued to trend upwards, while there was a decline among those who want the focus on health-related issues (36%) – a gap of 21-points.

	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	Dec 28-Jan 10
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	36
It should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19, including ensuring the economy recovers as quickly as possible and helping prevent more businesses from closing.	42	52	52	46	47	57	53	50	45	45	43	50	57
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	8	10	11	11	11	6	7

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 5TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

Three-quarters (76%) of Ontarians indicate they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic, with a decline to 39% 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	Jan 4-10
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
71	77	77	80	76
39	41	51	52	39
31	36	26	28	37
19	16	11	9	11
9	6	11	9	11
28	23	23	19	22

Since the beginning of December, there has been a decline (from 74% to 43%) 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	Jan 4-10
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
74	68	63	56	43
22	18	12	10	7
52	51	50	45	36
15	17	20	24	29
9	11	15	18	26
24	29	35	42	55
2	3	3	2	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...

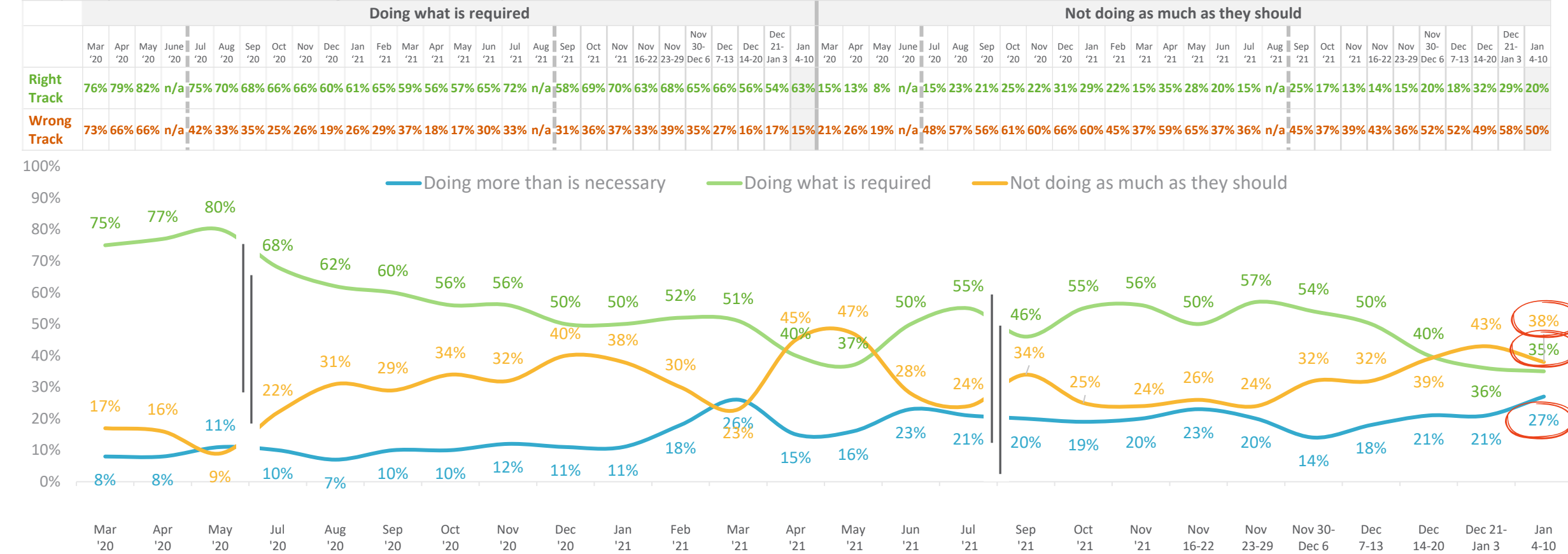
Base: Total sample

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

This week, there was a decline in the number of Ontarians who believe the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ (38%) and an increase in those who believe the government is ‘doing more than is necessary’ (27%). The proportion for ‘doing what is required’ remained stable at 35%.



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, 11% of Ontarians support international travel into Canada being restricted as well as a regional approach to increasing COVID-19 restrictions (11%), while 17% say no additional action is required to reduce the 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	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies																
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Restricting international travel into Canada	23	21	19	13	19	19	23	17	18	19	18	16	26	15	20	14	11
Regional approach to increasing COVID-19 restrictions in areas with higher COVID-19 cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	4	10	11
Requiring international travelers to be tested upon arrival in Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	17	8	10	9
Additional public health measures like limiting the size of social gatherings to limit contact with others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9
Additional public health measures like reducing capacity at stores to limit contact with others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
Requiring domestic air travelers who enter Ontario to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	12	5	5
Extending the pause on the next step of Ontario's re-opening plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	6	5	4
Requiring international air travelers who enter Ontario to quarantine in a hotel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	3	4	3
Lockdowns / closing businesses	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	4	6	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	-	-	-	-	-
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	-
All of the above	5	7	6	5	10	8	5	5	6	5	6	7	8	13	12	15	15
No additional action is needed	6	3	9	9	11	5	5	13	13	12	15	10	8	10	9	10	17
Don't know/unsure	7	4	6	5	4	5	4	5	11	9	6	6	12	7	12	8	7

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

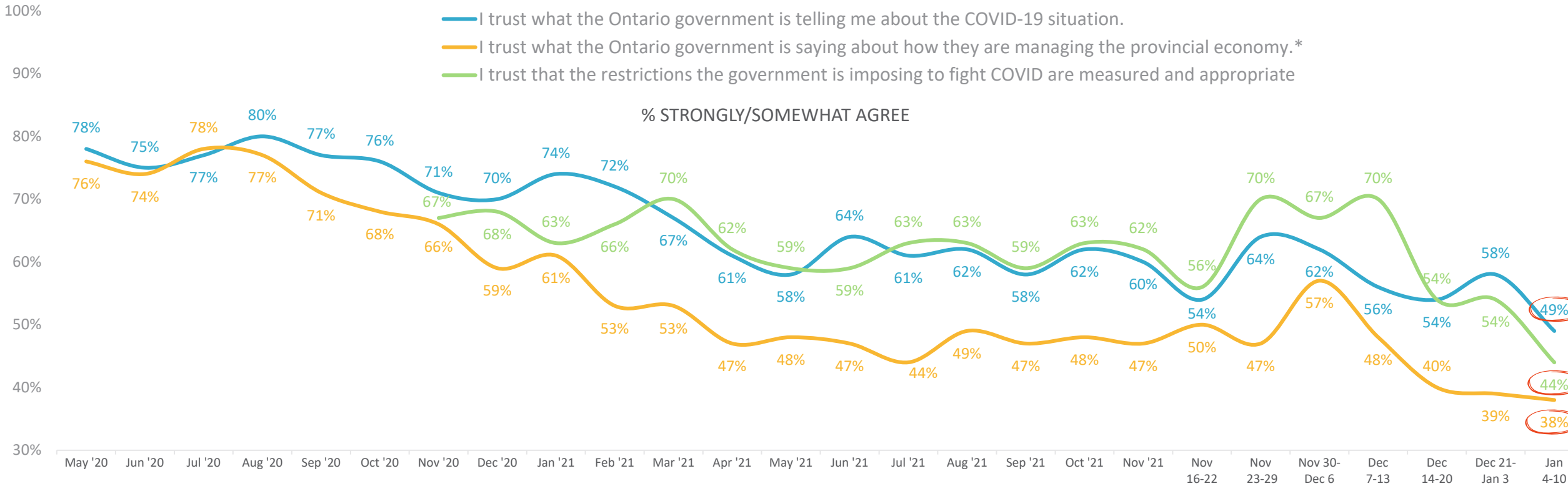
Base: Total sample

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Of note, while trust in the government’s communications about ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ continued to remain stable, there were declines for ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ and ‘the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate’.



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?

Again this week, there was a slight uptick in the proportion of Ontarians feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic – now at 48%. 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	Jan 4-10
n=	varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	62	60	50	46	41	44	48
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	29	33	19	23	18	19	19
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	32	27	30	24	22	25	29
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	9	7	8	10	7	9	7
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	13	11	18	17	15	15	23
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	13	19	20	23	33	29	22
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	26	30	38	41	48	44	45

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

The proportion reporting their level of concern over COVID-19 ‘increased over the last week’ dropped to 32% from 48% previously. Almost half (47%) say that their level of concern has stayed about the same, while 20% say their concern has decreased.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49	48	32
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36	38	47
Decreased	17	9	15	12	14	20
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2	<1	<1

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



Almost all Ontarians continue to be aware of the Omicron variant.

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	96	98	98	97	96
No	4	2	2	3	3

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON

However, there has been a decline to 62% indicating they are concerned about this new COVID-19 variant from a high of 70% in mid-December.

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70	69	62
Very concerned	35	27	37	38	29
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33	30	34
Not too concerned	19	16	12	14	21
Not at all concerned	11	15	18	17	16
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29	31	37
Don't know/not sure	3	1	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 (87%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with 66% 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	Jan 4-10
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	87
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	66
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	21
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	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	5
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	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 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3	Jan 4-10	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	Jan 4-10
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%	95%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%	76%	77%	77%	76%	76%	82%	84%	77%	76%	84%	83%	81%	82%	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

Overall, nine-in-ten (87%) Ontarians continue to support the need for public health measures. However, there has been a 10-point decline in support for wanting public health measures to be continued (49%) and a 10-point increase for a plan for relaxing public health measures (38%).

	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	Jan 4-10
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	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	49
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	38

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

Ontarians are paying more attention to the daily number of cases and other statistics about the pandemic in Ontario. The most attention is paid to the number of people in hospitals and in ICUs.

	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	Jan 4-10	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	Jan 4-10	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	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies																													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	32	31	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	36	32	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30	31	36
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	26	27	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	41	40	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37	33	33
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	31	36	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	39	34	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34	29	30
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	34	37	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	36	34	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33	29	28
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	28	29	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	38	34	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35	32	36

LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

Almost equal numbers of Ontarians say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing (45%) as say they are not (48%).

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

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 level of confidence the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered remained steady at 39% (down from 57% in mid-November).

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	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10
varies																	
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	57	52	42	46	39	38	39
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	25	20	16	16	16	12	12
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	32	31	26	31	23	25	27
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	7	7	8	3	8	11
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	14	21	10	21	17	22
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	19	24	28	34	29	34	28
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	36	38	49	44	50	51	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

Almost half (48%) of Ontarians report they have already had their booster dose. Among those yet to receive it, there has been a decline to 71% indicating they are willing to receive their third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 61% ‘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	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL WILLING	84	86	81	88	82	84	79	81	86	88	79	80	86	71
Very willing	57	72	62	71	63	61	59	67	69	74	67	65	70	61
Somewhat willing	26	14	19	17	20	23	20	14	16	14	12	15	16	11
Not too willing	7	7	9	6	8	9	10	12	3	5	7	10	7	12
Not at all willing	9	8	10	6	9	7	11	7	11	7	13	10	8	16
TOTAL NOT WILLING	16	14	19	12	18	16	21	19	14	12	21	20	14	29
I have already had my booster dose	2	1	1	2	3	3	2	4	4	10	15	26	36	48

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 it is not necessary (18%) and a lack of confidence in the effectiveness of the vaccine (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	Dec 21- Jan 10
n=	69	84	73	60	69	76	81	68	48	68	81	75	74
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not necessary	28	13	8	17	22	19	19	24	23	11	17	23	18
Not confident in the effectiveness of the vaccine	-	2	10	14	5	5	9	8	12	21	13	10	17
How many boosters are going to be needed (e.g., every six months)	10	4	3	8	10	6	7	5	-	1	1	8	14
I already got two doses (that is enough)	-	10	19	13	10	19	22	17	12	21	22	17	12
Do not want to/am not comfortable with	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	13	4	12
I got sick when taking previous doses of the COVID-19 vaccine	-	10	7	4	2	6	8	5	8	12	11	12	10
They originally said two doses were enough (and were wrong)	13	8	5	8	9	3	-	2	2	5	4	3	8
Concerned about long term effects	9	5	4	5	4	3	9	9	6	10	10	8	7
Do not trust the government	6	5	3	2	4	7	4	6	9	2	8	11	6
I am not high risk/my exposure is low	10	6	8	5	4	1	-	1	2	2	2	1	5
Research/need more information	11	11	9	17	20	10	3	5	9	6	12	12	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	1	4
Too soon/need a longer gap in between doses	-	8	6	4	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	2
Concerned about too much vaccine in the body	3	-	16	2	2	2	5	4	-	2	4	5	1
Should be my choice to decide if I want a booster shot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	4	1	1
Already had COVID and dealt with it/survived	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	-	-	1	1	1
It is not mandatory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	2	1	-	1
Heard negative things about the vaccine (e.g., in the media)	-	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
They should focus on getting everyone vaccinated with the first two doses	-	4	6	7	4	-	1	2	2	1	1	-	-
Just a ploy to give money to big pharma	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	3	1	-	-
Other	18	18	6	8	7	12	7	7	12	4	3	3	3
Don't know/not sure	1	5	8	2	9	11	9	9	8	3	2	1	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 continue to be at a pharmacy (50%), a doctor's office (44%), public health vaccination clinic (42%), or a pop-up clinic (41%).

	Nov 30-Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
At a pharmacy	54	51	43	56	50
At doctor's office	38	38	30	40	44
Public Health vaccination clinic	44	43	44	45	42
At a mass vaccination or pop-up clinic	41	39	41	39	41
At a hospital	33	28	28	35	36
In a mall, while shopping	16	15	11	22	27
At public transportation hub	15	16	11	22	23
In a grocery store	14	18	13	22	21
Anywhere/everywhere/all of the above	5	3	3	8	4
At another location	2	<1	<1	2	2
School	-	-	<1	2	1
Will not get a third dose	-	-	-	-	1
Religious places (i.e., church)	-	-	-	-	1
Community/recreation centre	-	-	-	3	-
Arena	-	-	2	1	-
Work	-	-	1	1	-
My home	-	-	-	1	-
Unsure / don't know	4	5	3	3	1
Prefer not to answer	2	7	5	1	4

CV254. At which of the following locations would you **consider** for getting a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?
 Base: Total sample

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

A pharmacy (25%) is where they would ‘most prefer’ to receive the third dose, followed by a pop-up clinic (18%) or public health vaccination clinic (15%).

	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
At a pharmacy	33	33	24	32	25
At a mass vaccination or pop-up clinic	13	13	22	15	18
Public Health vaccination clinic	18	17	22	16	15
At doctor's office	10	13	10	12	11
At another location	6	7	4	11	8
At a hospital	7	5	5	6	8
In a mall, while shopping	1	-	<1	2	4
At public transportation hub	1	1	1	<1	3
In a grocery store	<1	1	1	2	1
Unsure / don't know	8	5	6	2	4
Prefer not to answer	2	5	4	2	4

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

STATE OF THE ICU IN ONTARIO



Awareness of Ontario’s ICUs and COVID-19 continues to increase with three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians now indicating they have seen, read, or heard anything lately about Ontario’s Intensive Care Units and COVID-19. This represents a 36-point increase since the end of November.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52	66	75
No	61	62	55	48	34	25

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO’S ICUs

Among those who are aware, seven-in-ten (68%) say they have heard that the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICUs has been increasing, while 11% 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	Jan 4-10
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14	13	11
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25	27	17
Increasing	38	45	54	59	54	68
Mostly unvaccinated patients in the ICU	-	-	-	-	1	-
Don’t trust the news/fake news	-	-	1	<1	<1	1
Younger adults in the ICU (in their thirties)	-	-	-	-	<1	-
Fluctuating	-	1	-	-	-	<1
Some other news	8	2	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	1	1	1
Don’t know/not sure	4	3	8	2	3	2

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

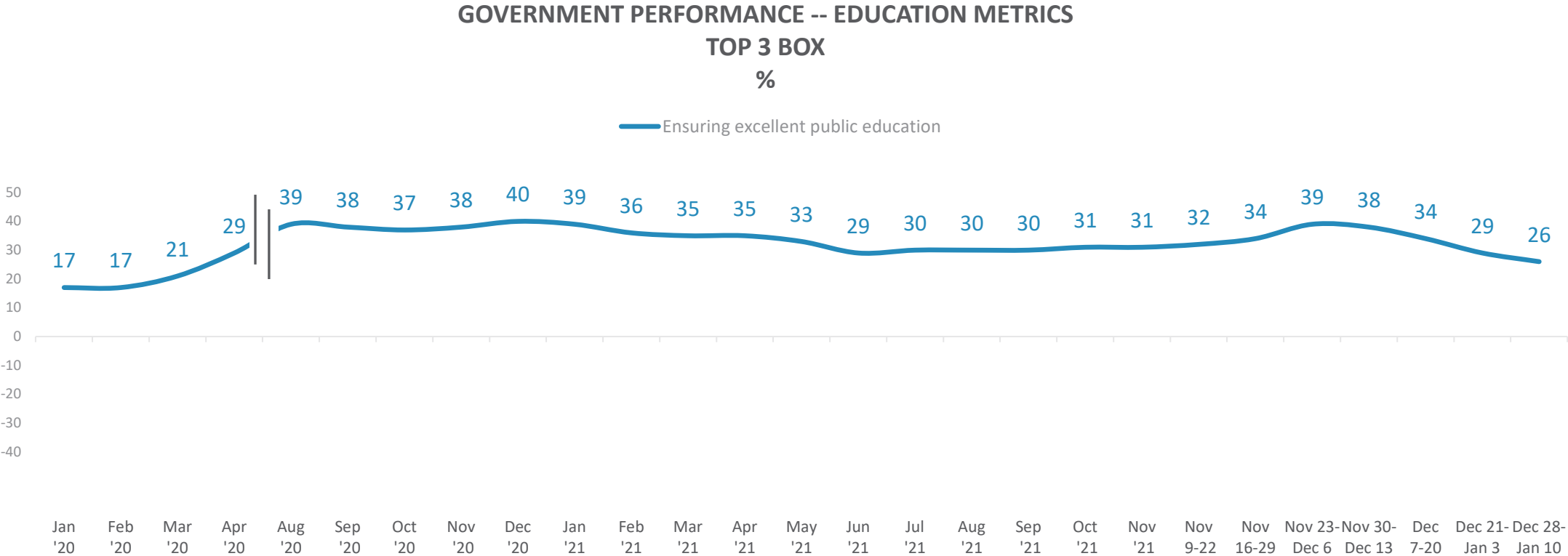
Among those who have heard the number of patients in Ontario’s ICUs is increasing, nine-in-ten (91%) say they are concerned and intensity is high with 52% ‘very’ concerned.

	Nov 23- Dec 6	Nov 30- Dec 13	Dec 7-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Dec 28- Jan 10
n=	80	115	157	175	227
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	82	93	94	89	91
Very concerned	52	62	62	58	52
Somewhat concerned	30	31	32	31	38
Not too concerned	16	6	6	11	9
Don’t know/not sure	2	1	1	-	-

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

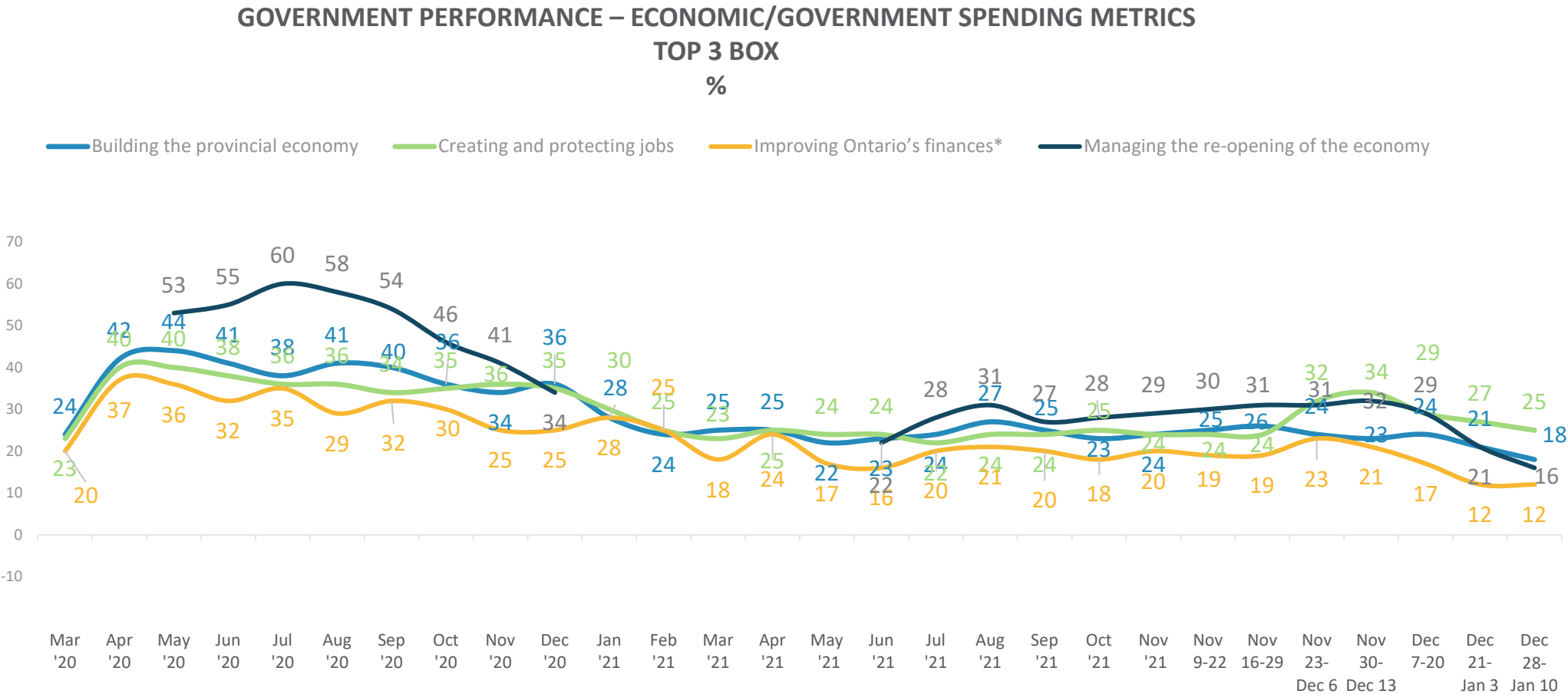


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ continued to trend down this week.



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’ was down again this week, while the remaining economic and government spending metrics were relatively stable.

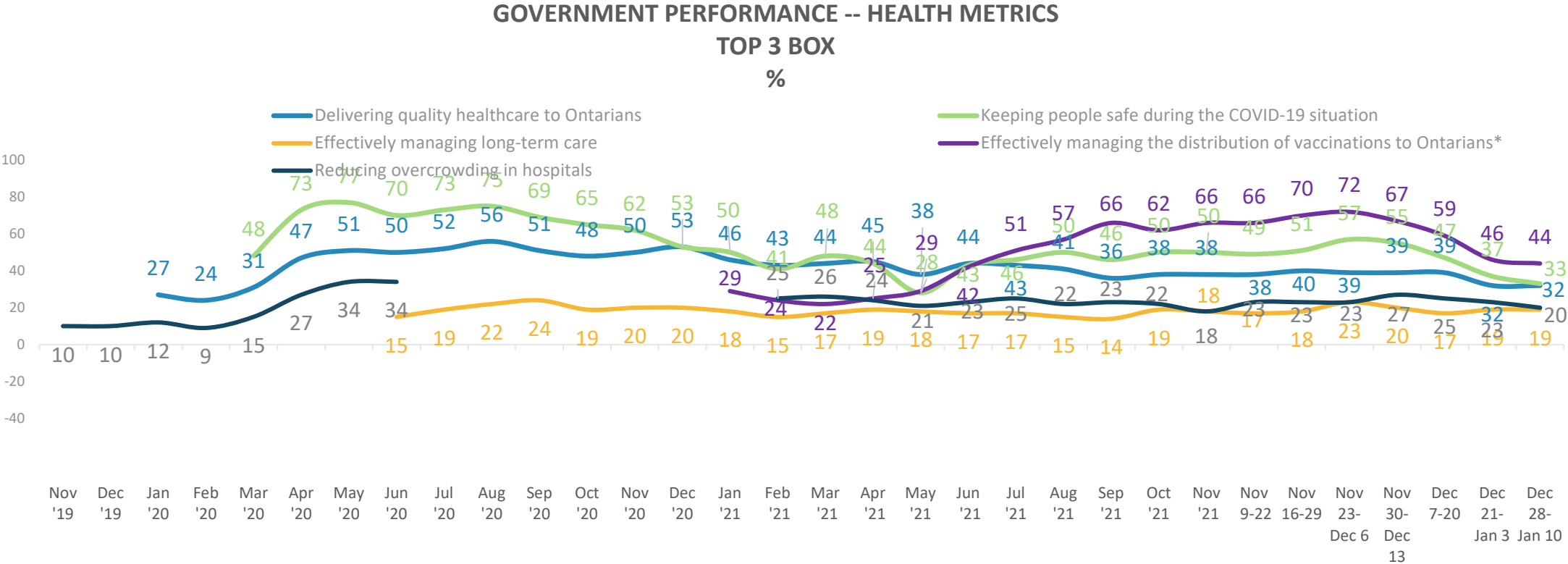


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

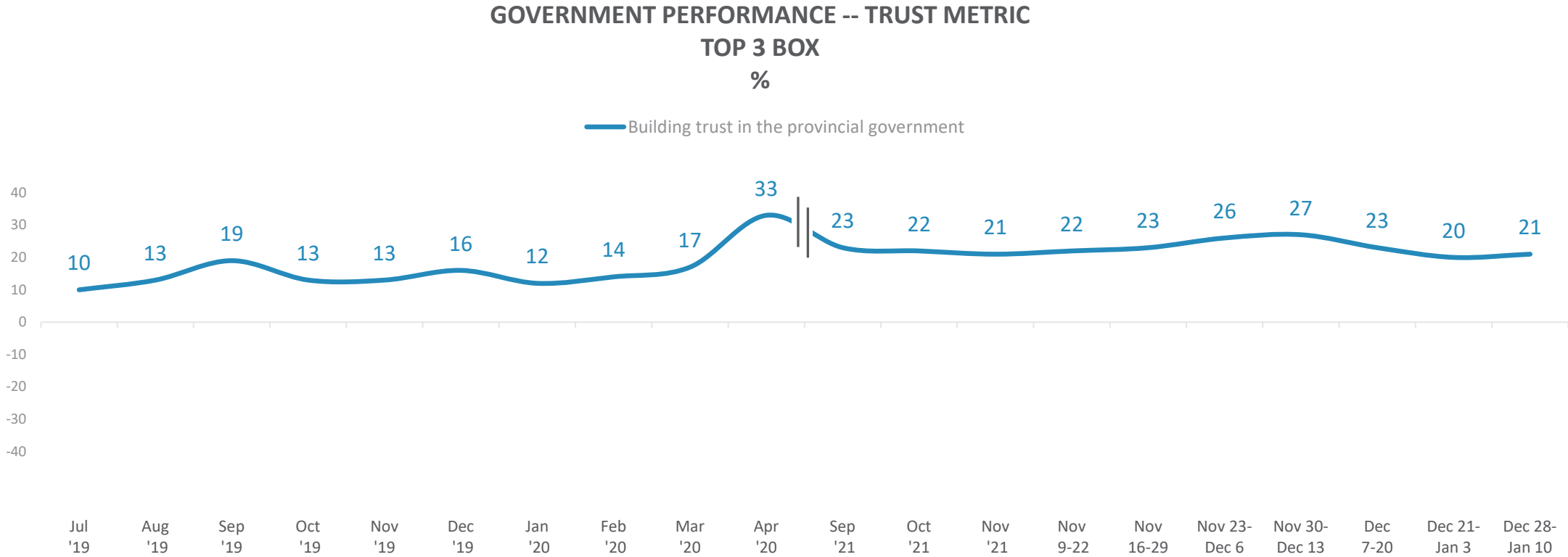
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for the health metrics were all stable this week.



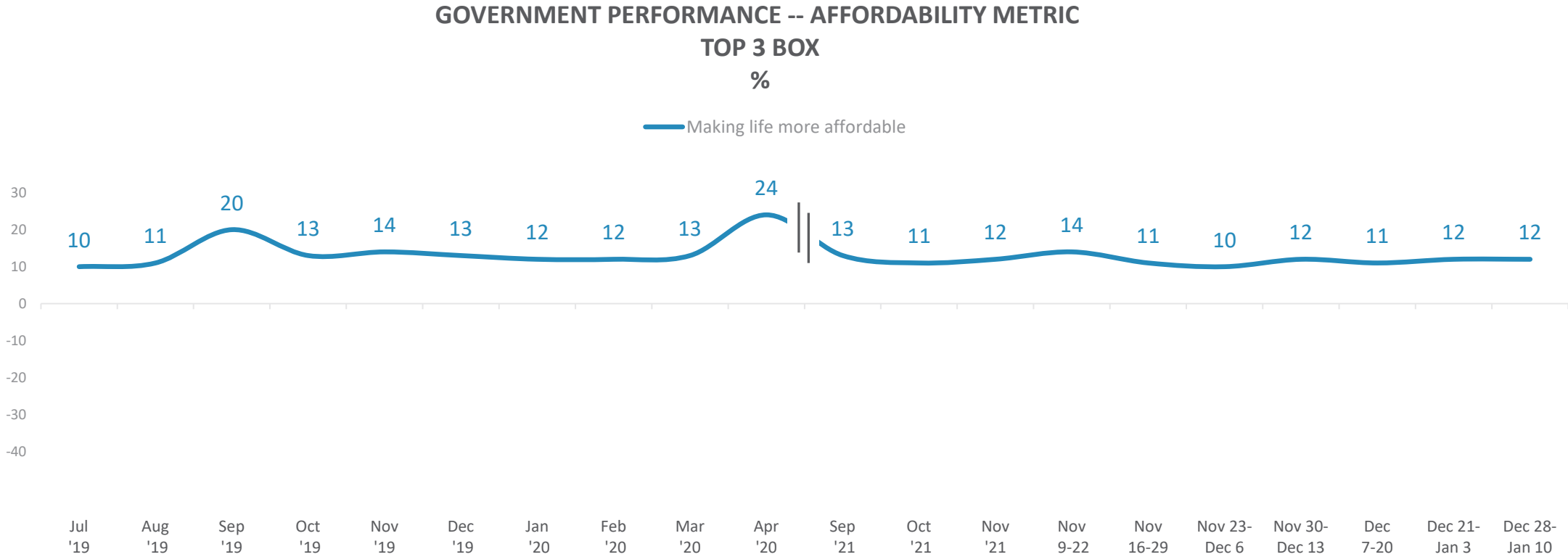
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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

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