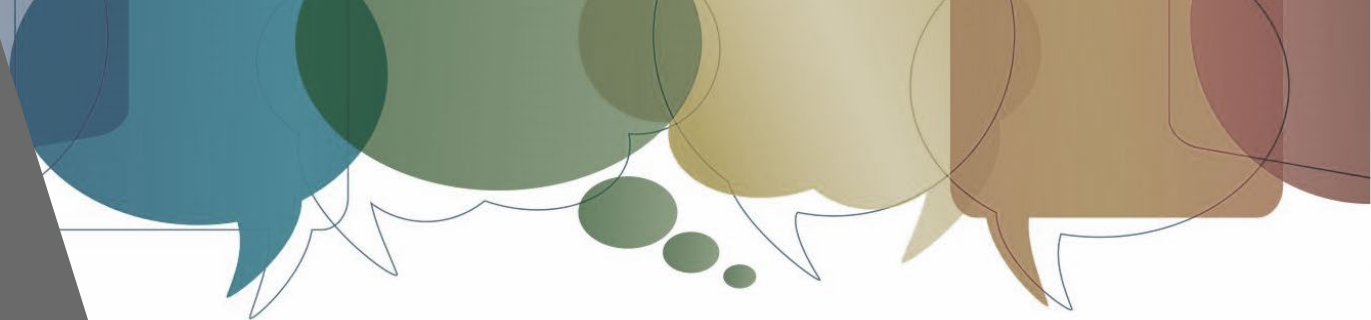




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #115

CABINET OFFICE
January 18th 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 After declining over the past two weeks, there was a slight uptick in 'right track' to 45% - although it remains below 'wrong track' scores.

And, while remaining stable among most demographic groups, 'right track' scores continued to decline this week among Ontarians aged 45-64; regionally in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario; among those making \$40k-<\$100k; and non-minorities.

3 Importantly, after declining since the beginning of December, there has been a 15-point improvement this week in the perception that the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

Related to this, there was a 7-point increase this week in those who believe the government is 'doing what is required' (42%) to limit the spread of the virus, while the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should' remained stable at 36%. There was also a decline measured for 'doing more than necessary' (22%).

2 Ontarians' level of concern continues to be easing, even with the increased hospitalizations and ICU occupancy related to COVID-19. The proportion reporting their level of concern over COVID-19 'increased over the last week' dropped again this week to 24% -half of results measured in mid-December.

There was a further decline this week to 65% of Ontarians who indicate they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic – down from 80% at the beginning of the year.

And, since mid-December, there has been a 9-point increase to half (50%) of Ontarians who are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic. (However, this compares to 74% in July and 62% in mid-November).

4 After two weeks of declines, the rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' increased 13-points this week, while 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' remained unchanged. However, declines continued this week for 'effectively managing long-term care'.

In conjunction with this, there were improvements this week regarding trust in the government's communications about 'what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation' and 'how they are managing the provincial economy'. Results were unchanged for 'the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate'.

Key Findings

Overall, nine-in-ten (89%) Ontarians continue to support the need for public health measures. However, support for wanting public health measures to be continued (47%) continues to trend down while the reverse is the case for supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures (42%).

With changes in reporting in Ontario, there was an increase this week in the number of Ontarians reporting they are paying less attention to the daily number of new cases. Almost four-in-ten say they are paying more attention to the number of people in hospitals (37%) and in ICUs (36%).

However, the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' continued to trend down this week to NET -45. And, Ontarians are concerned with this issue. Preliminary results indicate that most (94%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year - 82% saying they have increased 'significantly' – with 45% of Ontarians reporting this is a 'bad thing' for them personally.

For home rental prices, eight-in-ten (79%) Ontarians believe that home rental prices have increased – 44% saying they have increased 'significantly' - with 43% saying this is a 'bad thing' personally.

Preliminary results indicate that almost half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (46%), while 44% agree that there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs.

This week, 59% of Ontarians believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues, while 34% want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 25-points when there was parity in mid-December.

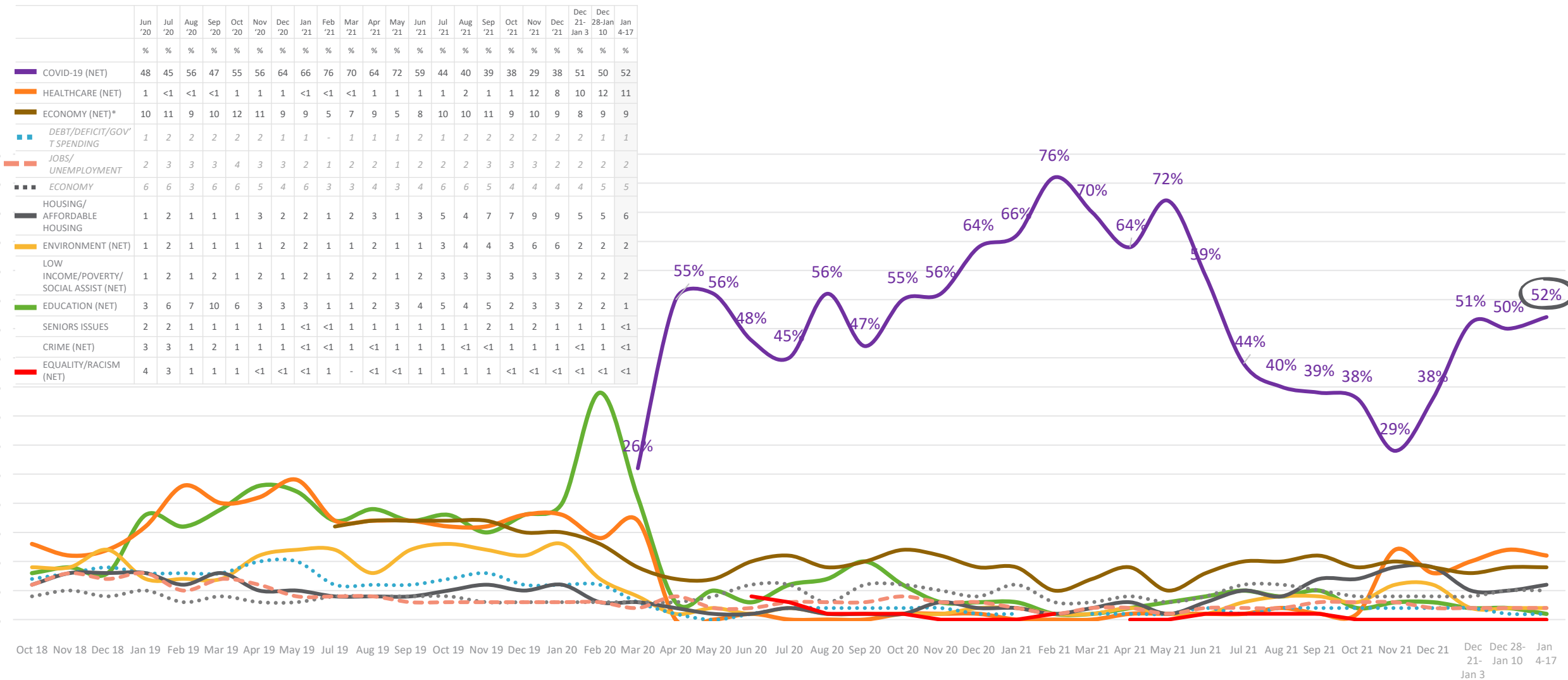
In terms of the economy, while rating of the government's performance for the economic and government spending metrics have been declining and were at the lowest levels since tracking began last week, there was a slight uptick this week in the rating for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' and 'improving Ontario's finances' while 'creating and protecting jobs' was stable.

While the rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' has been trending down, results were stable this week.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government’s top priority remained steady for the last three weeks at 52%.



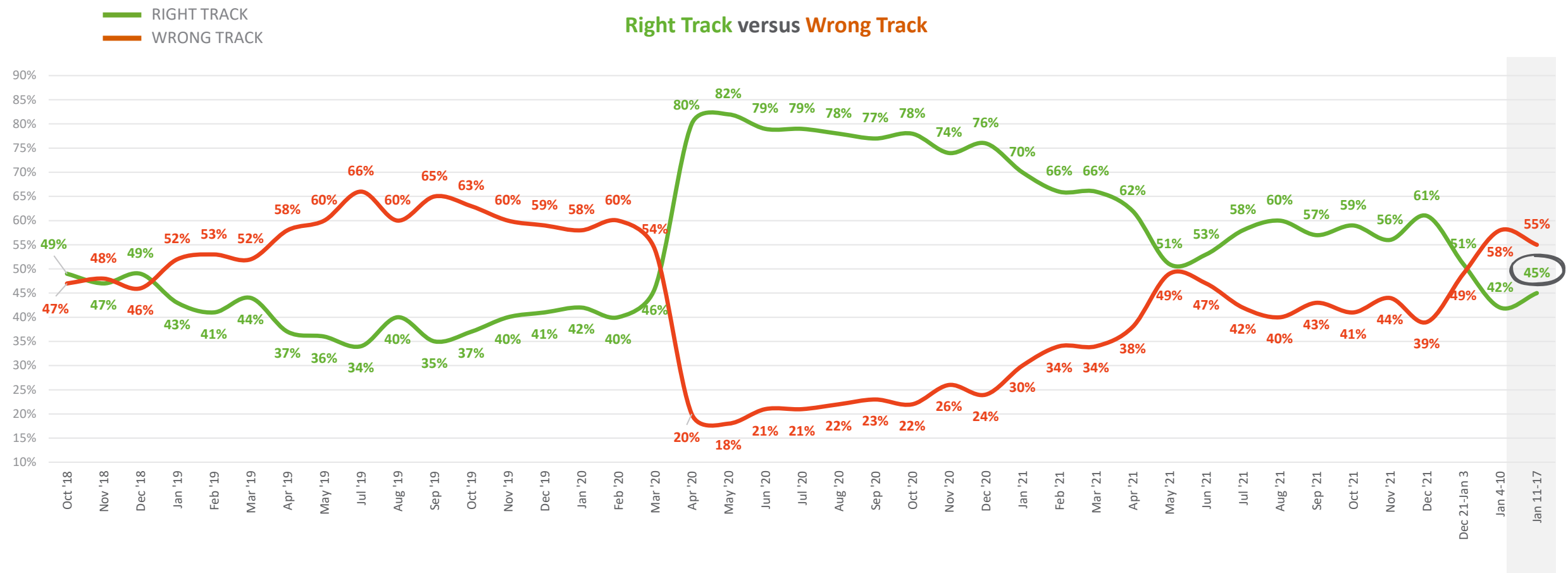
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

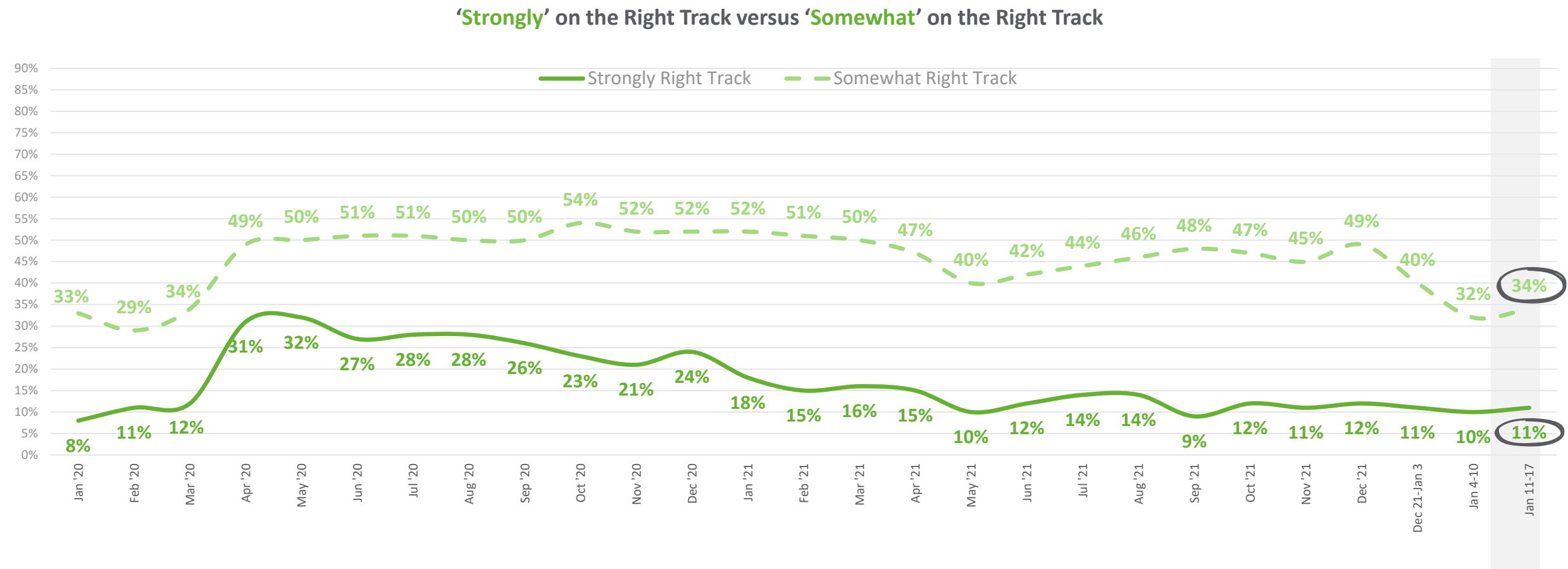


While ‘right track’ remained below ‘wrong track’ scores, there was a slight uptick to 45% this week.



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

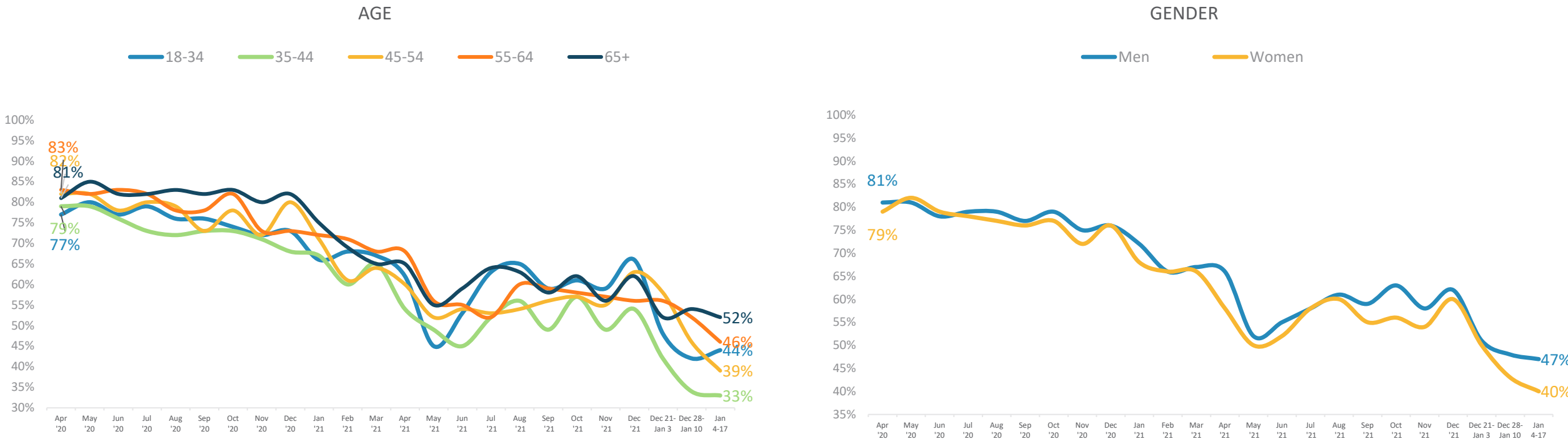
‘Right track’ was steady among both those who believe the government is ‘strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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’ continued to decline this week among those aged 45-54 (46% to 39%) and 55-64 (52% to 46%). Results were steady among the other age groups, with Ontarians aged 35-44 continuing to provide the lowest scores. There was a further 3-point decline among women this week, while men remained steady.

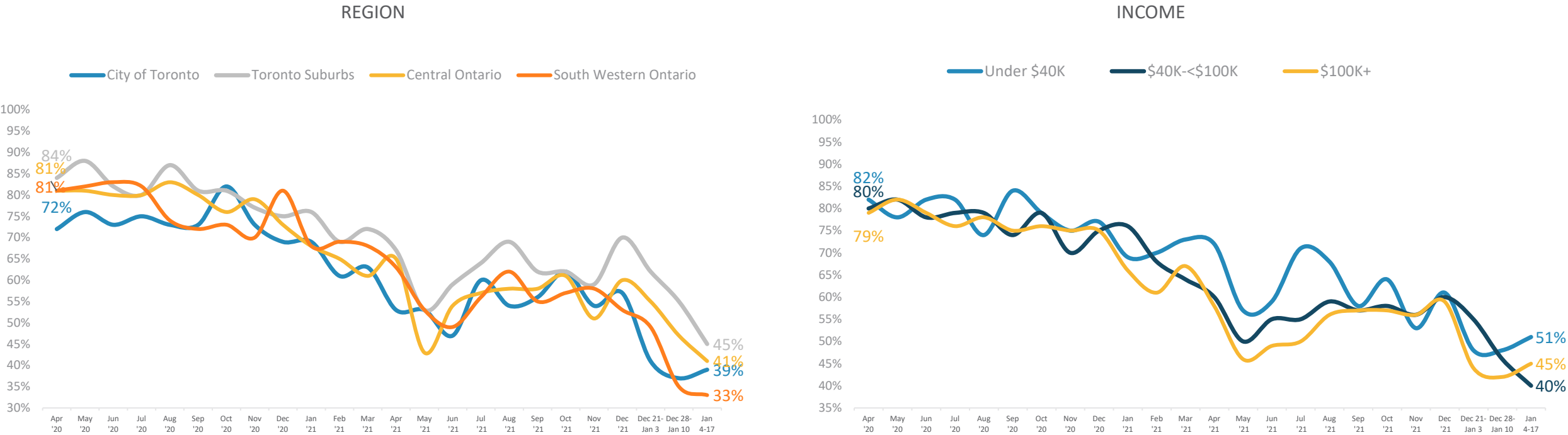
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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’ remained steady this week in the City of Toronto and SW Ontario, while continuing to decline in the Toronto suburbs (down 10-points) and Central Ontario (down 6-points). By income, while ‘right track’ was up slightly among Ontarians making under \$40k and \$100k+, there was a further 6-point decline among those making \$40k-<\$100k.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



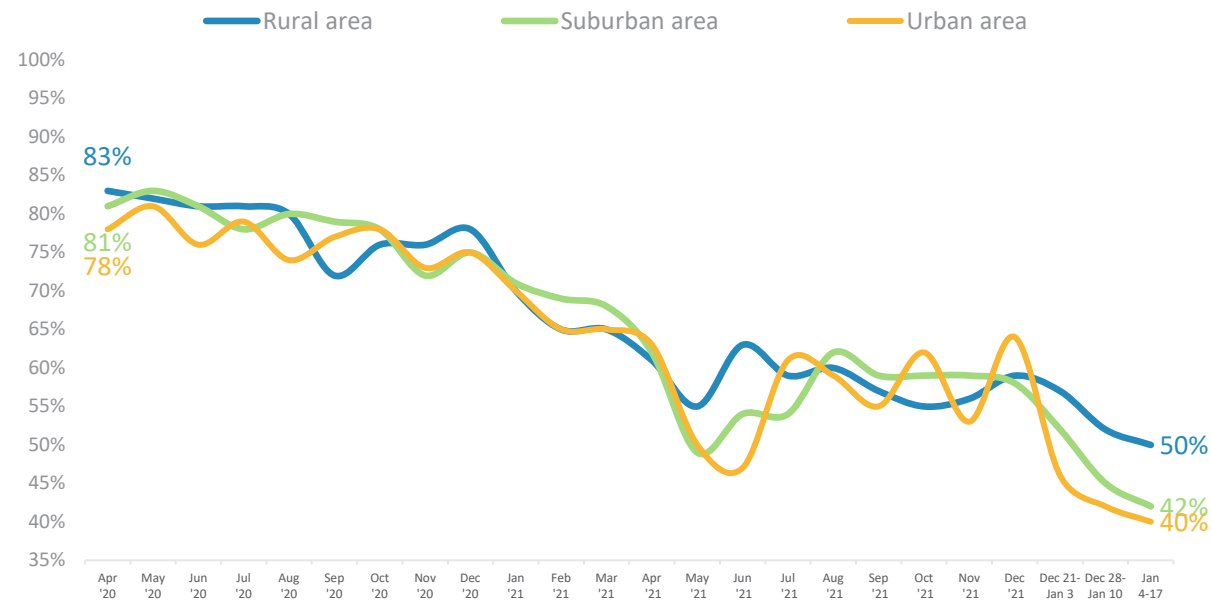
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?

Base: Total sample

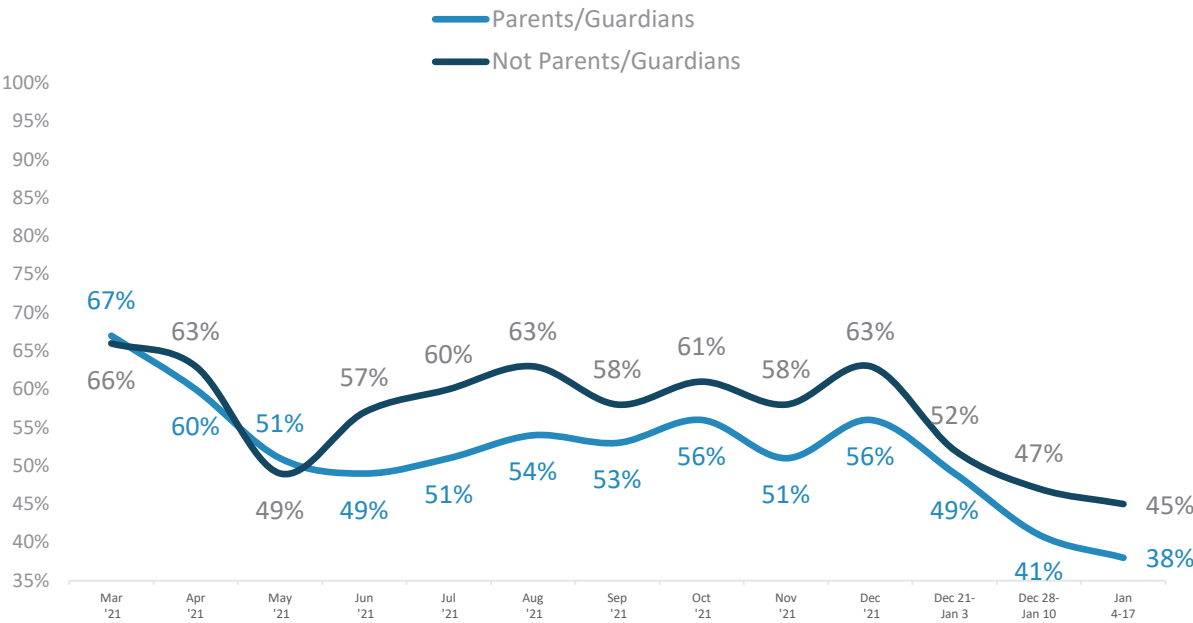
While remaining steady in rural and urban areas this week, there was a further 3-point decline measured in ‘right track’ for suburban areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



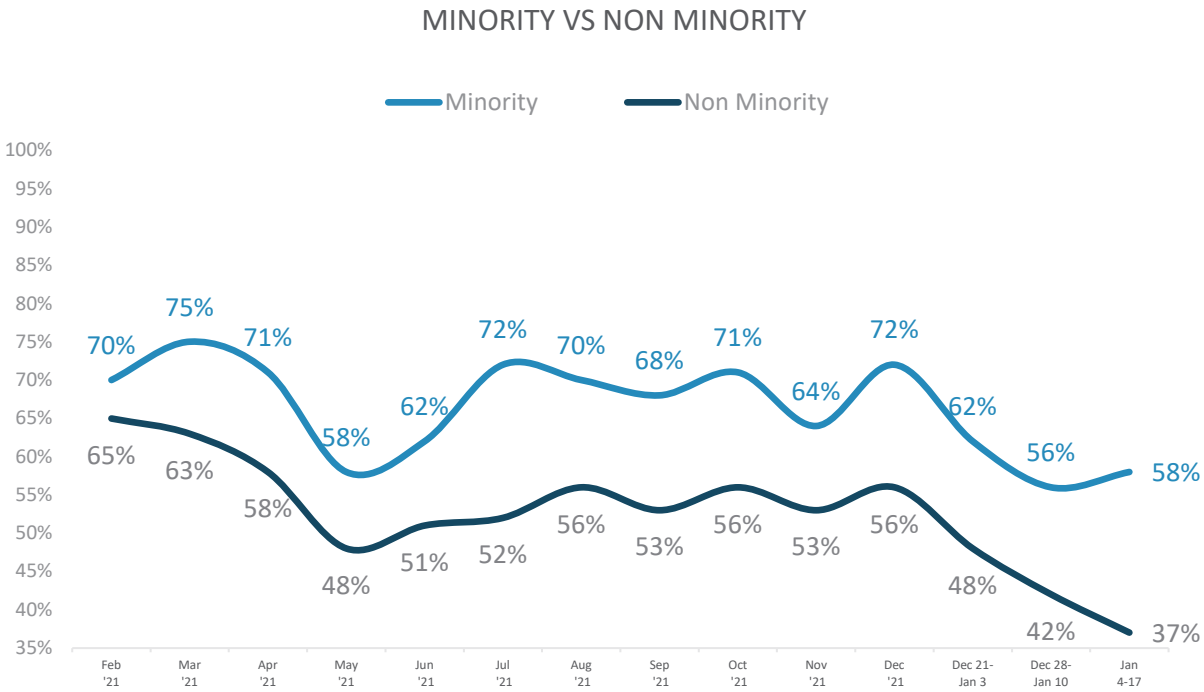
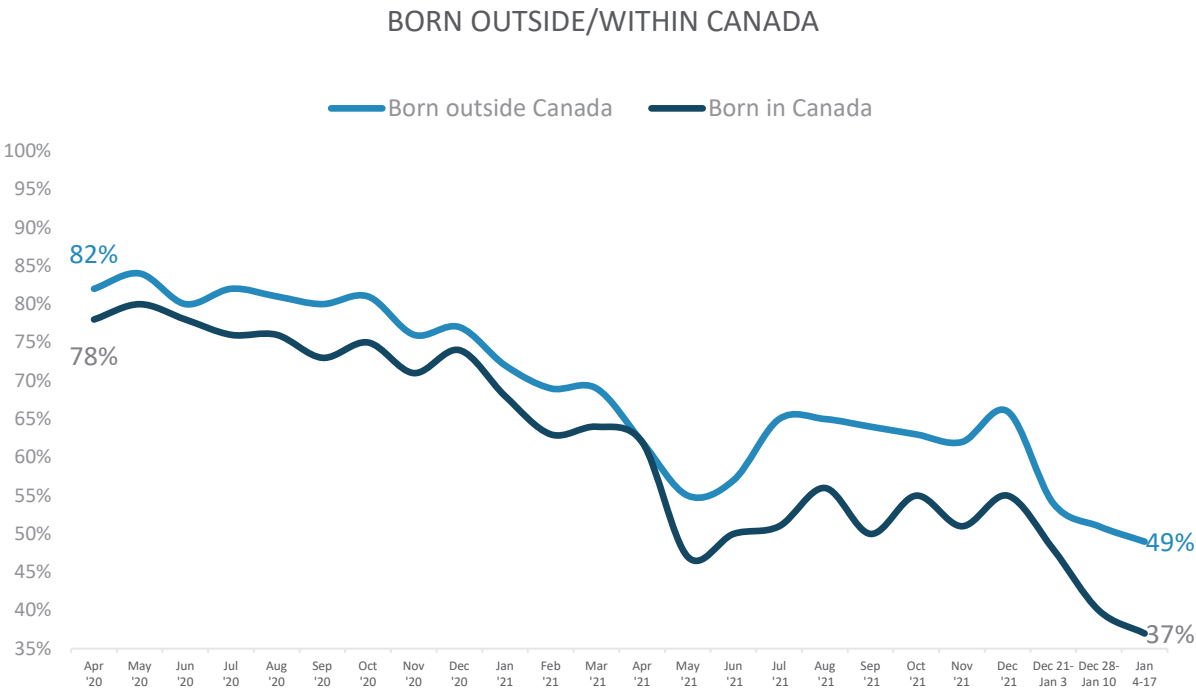
PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



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**’ remained relatively stable among those born outside of Canada and among those who identify as a minority, while there were further declines this week among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

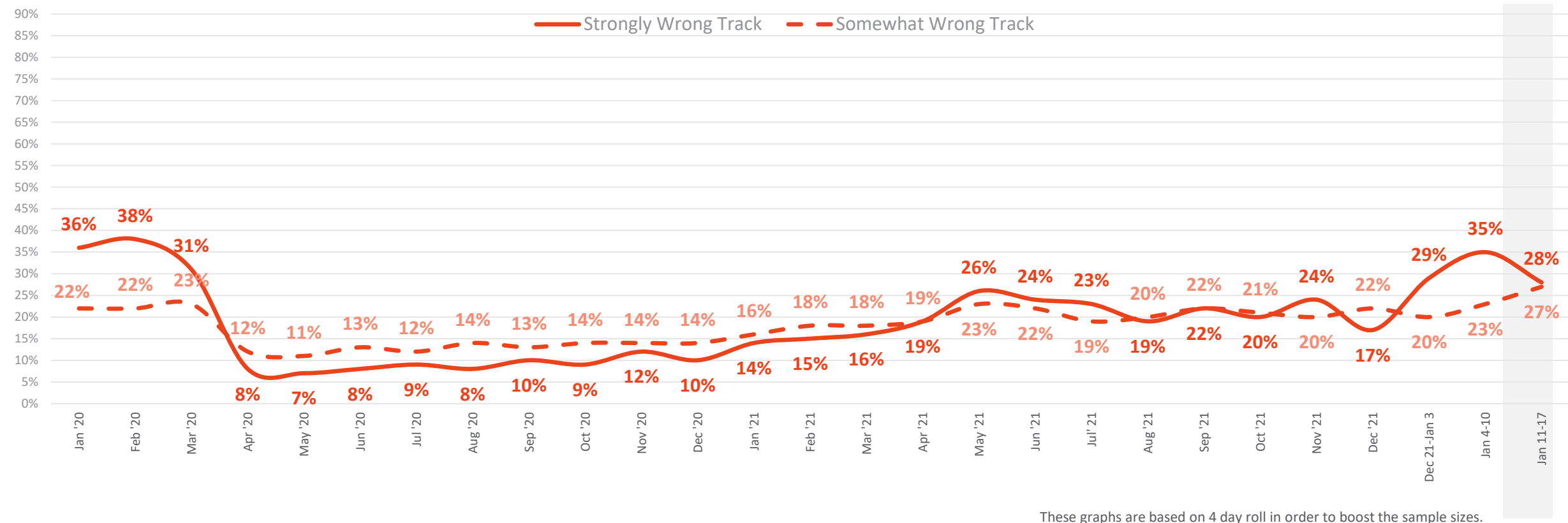
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

The proportion who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’ declined this week and is now at parity with those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ (which continued to slowly trend up this week).

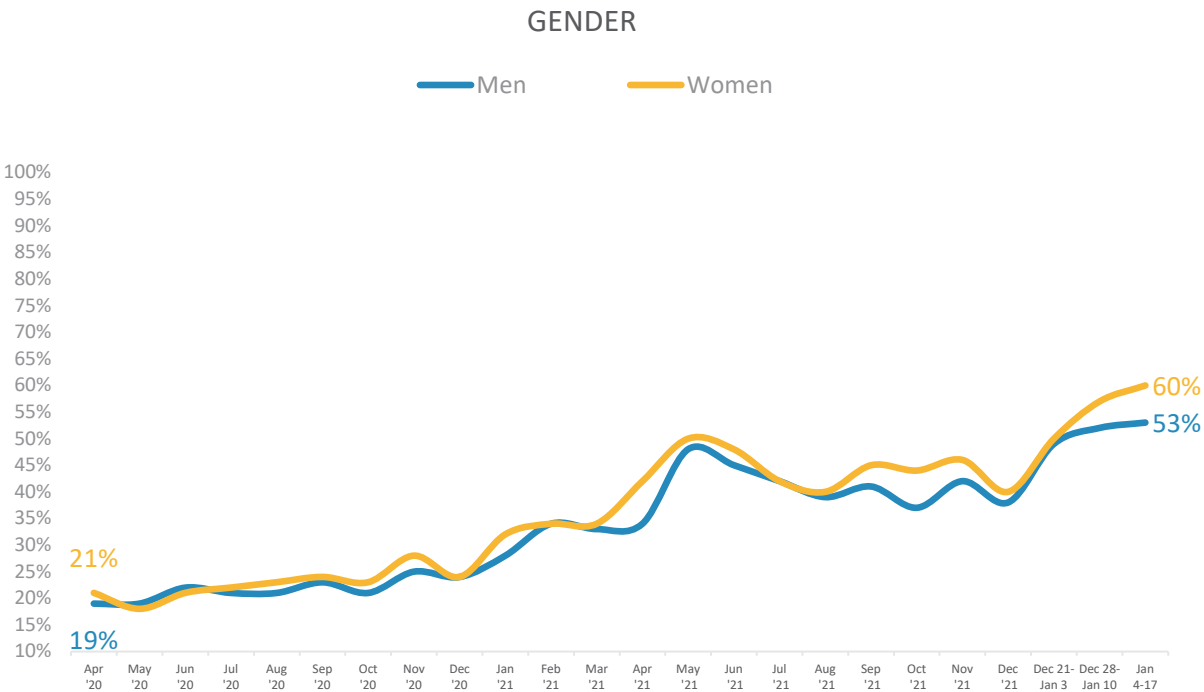
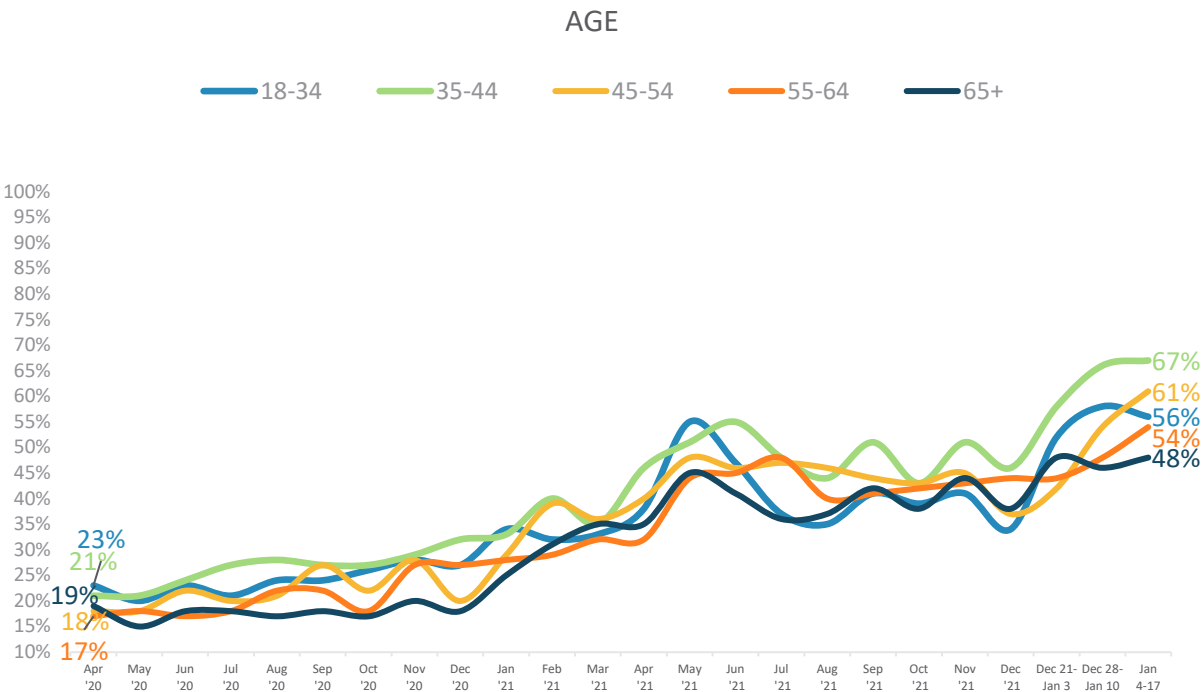
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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’ continued to increase among Ontarians aged 45-54 (54% to 61%) and 55-64 (48% to 54%) this week while remaining steady among the other age groups. While ‘wrong track’ among men remained steady, there was a further 3-point increase among women.

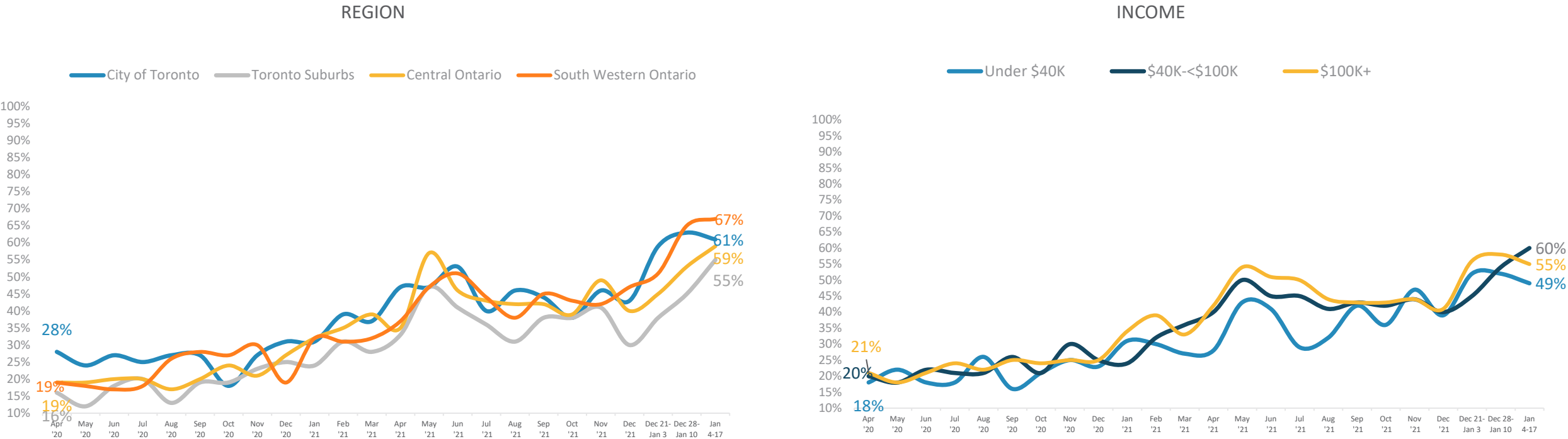
Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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, ‘**wrong track**’ remained steady in SW Ontario and the city of Toronto while continuing to increase in the Toronto suburbs (up 10-points) and Central Ontario (up 6-points). By income, while ‘**wrong track**’ was down slightly among Ontarians making less than \$40k and \$100k+, there was a further 6-point increase among those making \$40k-<\$100k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

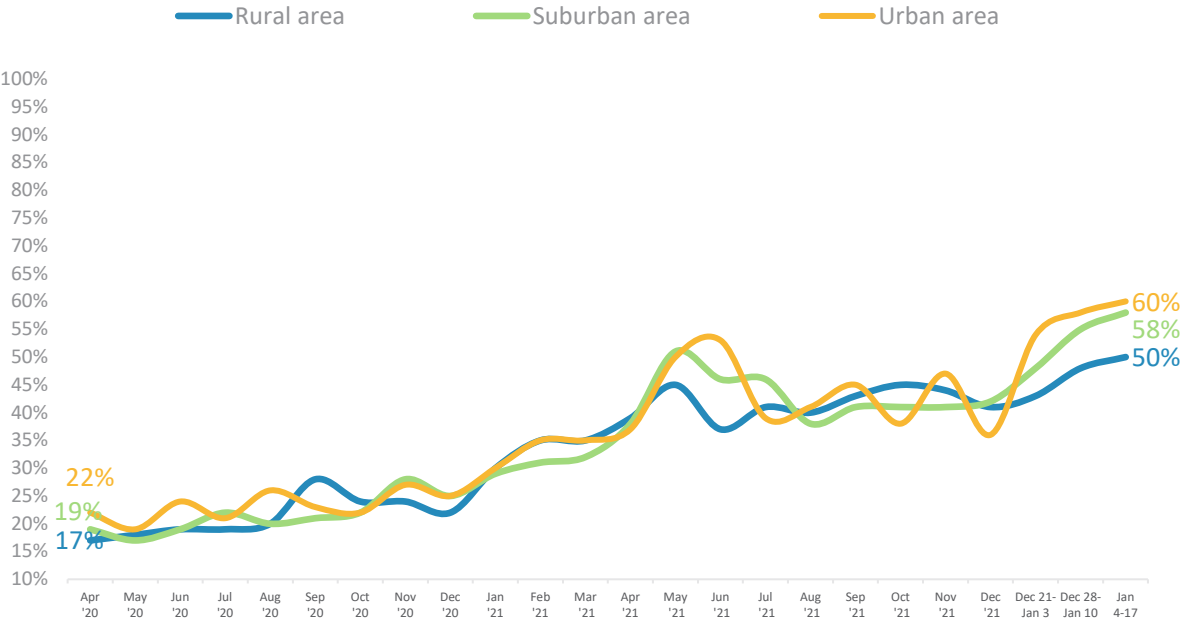


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

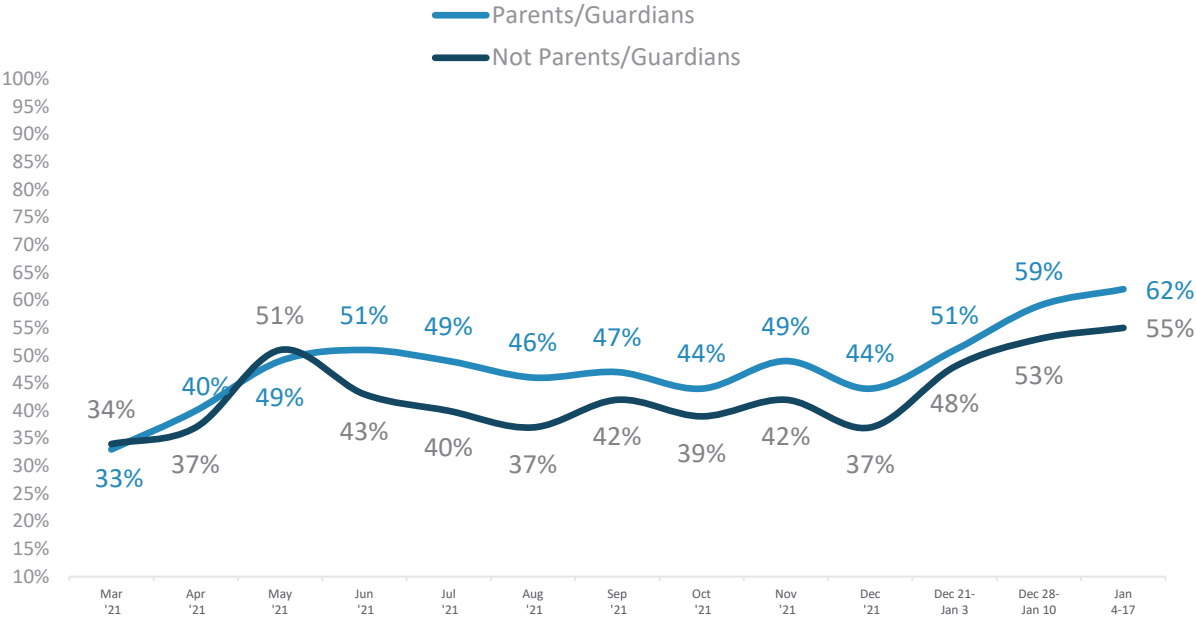
This week, ‘wrong track’ remained steady in rural and urban areas, while increasing slightly in suburban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

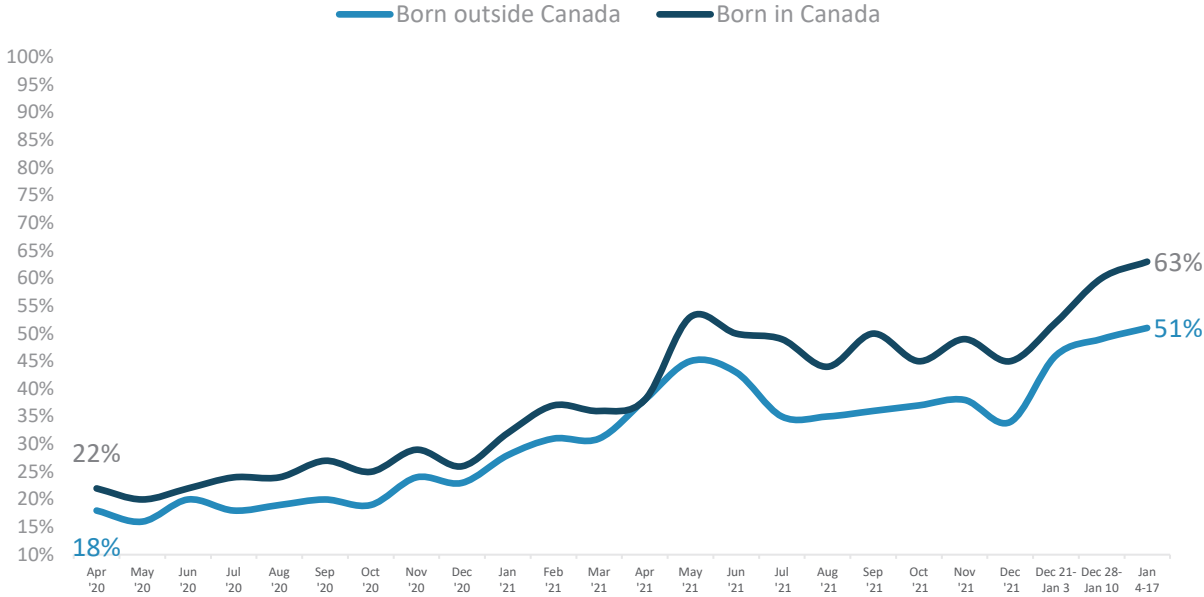


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

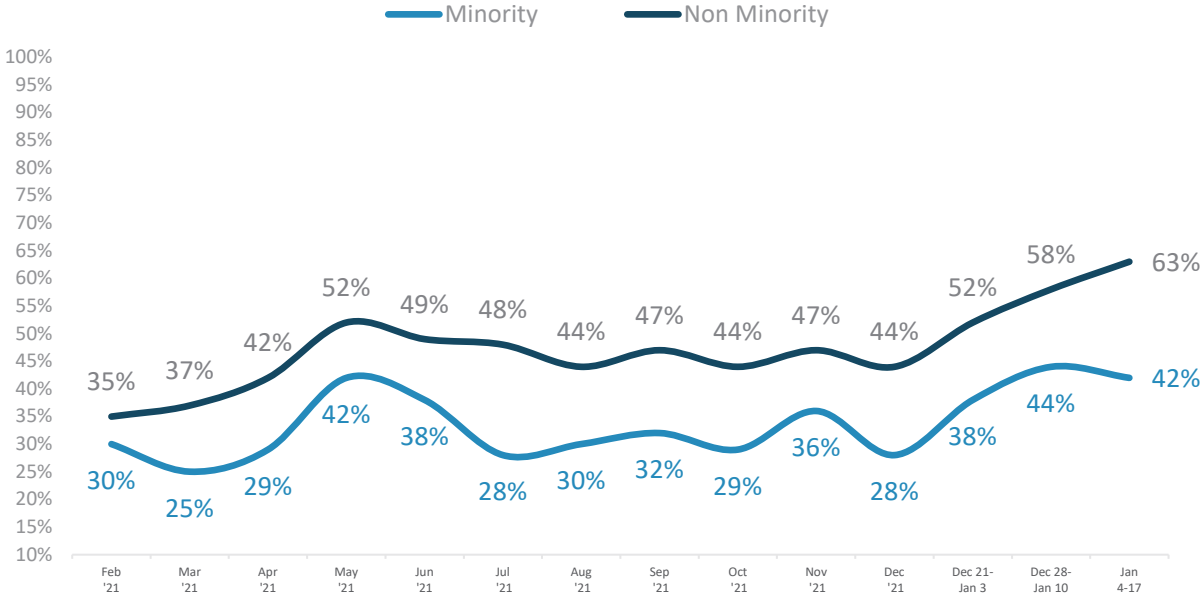
‘Wrong track’ remained relatively stable this week among Ontarians born outside of Canada and those who identify as a minority while increasing slightly among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



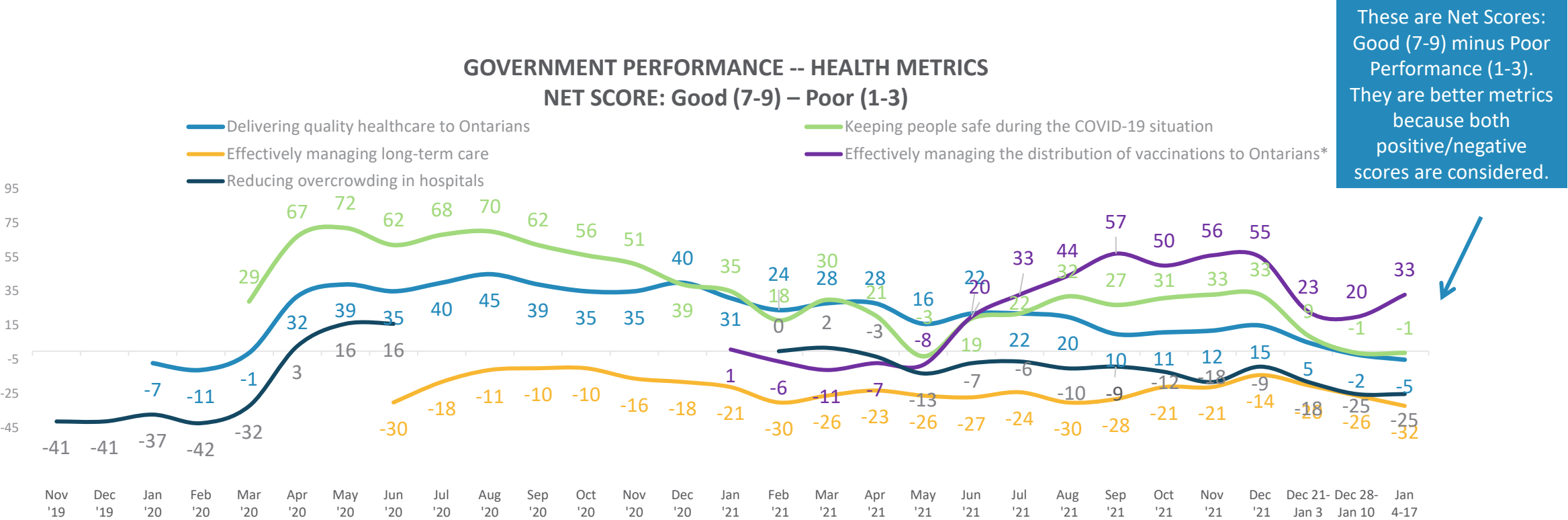
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



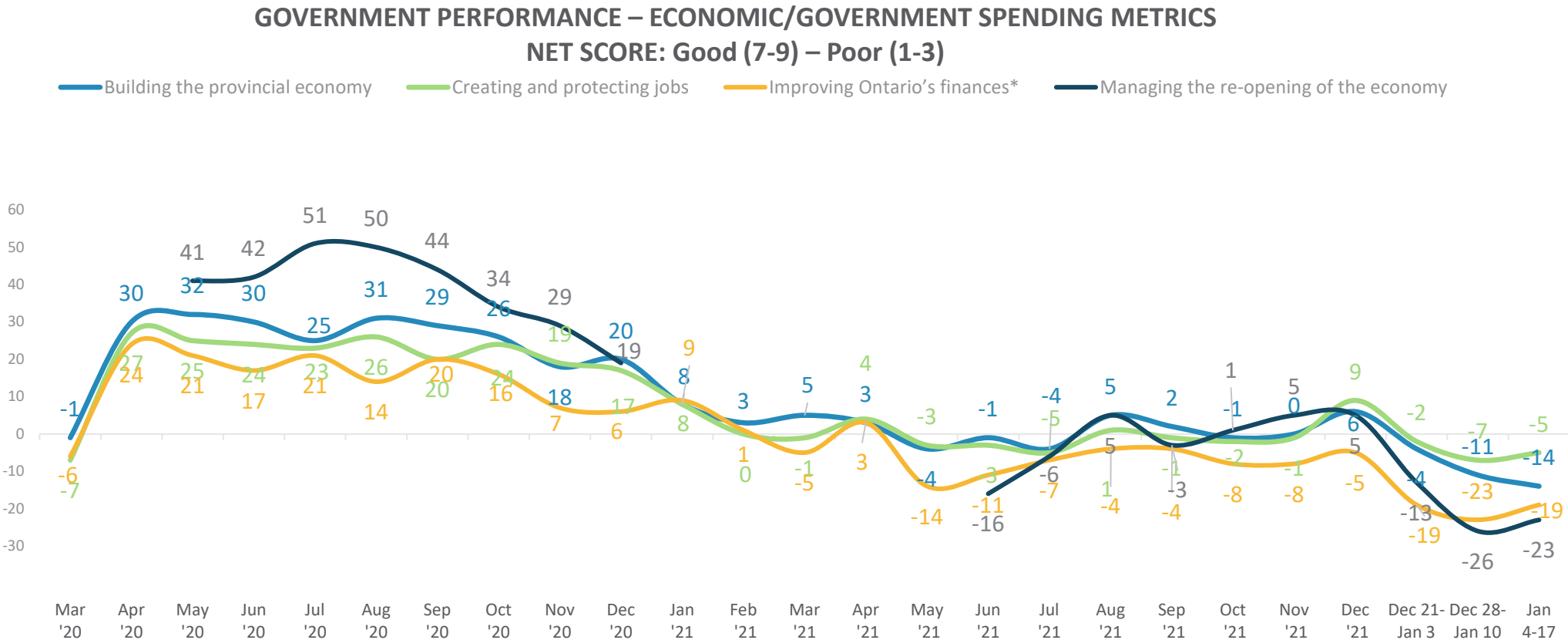
After two weeks of declines, the rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ increased 13-points this week. Its rating for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ remained unchanged.

- However, declines continued this week for ‘effectively managing long-term care’.



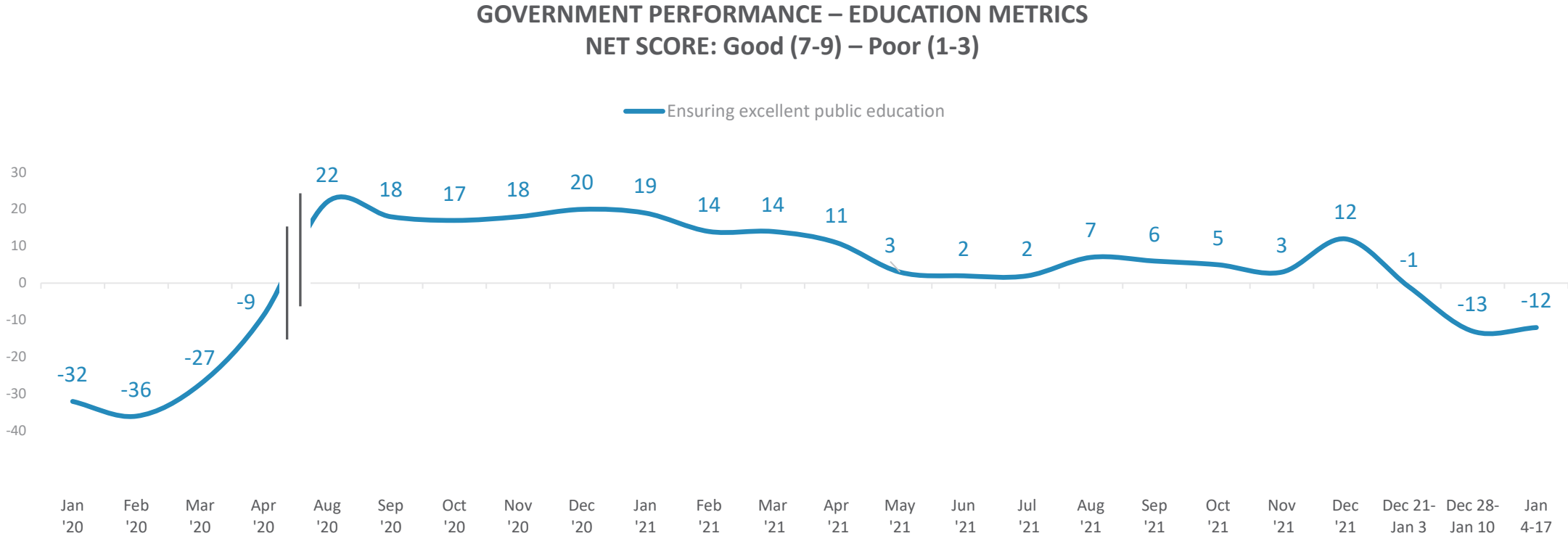
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

There was a slight uptick this week in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ and ‘improving Ontario’s finances’.



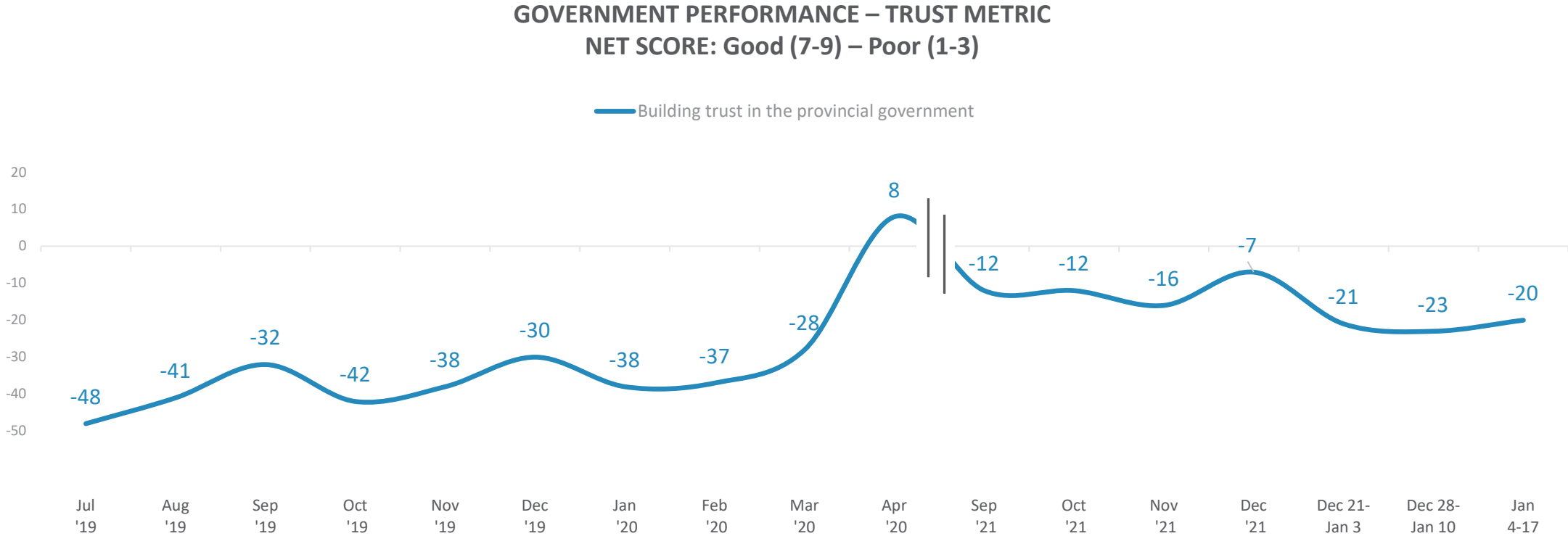
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained stable this week.



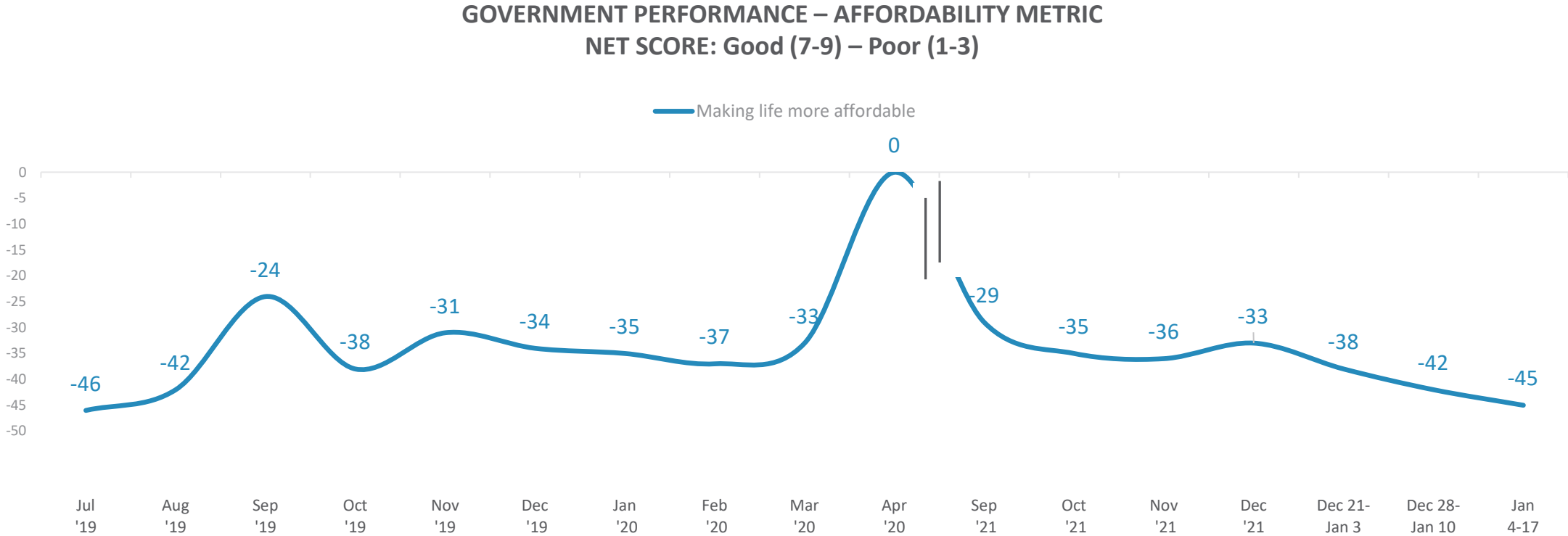
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

There was a slight improvement this week in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’.



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’ 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

FOCUS ON HEALTH VERSUS ECONOMY



This week, 59% of Ontarians believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues, while 34% want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 25-points.

	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Dec 21-Jan 3	Dec 28-Jan 10	Jan 4-17
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	40	43	36	34
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	47	50	57	59
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	10	6	7	6

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 5TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

There was a further decline this week to 65% of Ontarians who indicate they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic, with 32% 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	Jan 11-17
varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
71	77	77	80	76	65
39	41	51	52	39	32
31	36	26	28	37	33
19	16	11	9	11	17
9	6	11	9	11	18
28	23	23	19	22	34

After declining since the beginning of December, there has been a 15-point improvement this week 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	Jan 11-17
varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
74	68	63	56	43	58
22	18	12	10	7	11
52	51	50	45	36	47
15	17	20	24	29	22
9	11	15	18	26	17
24	29	35	42	55	40
2	3	3	2	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...

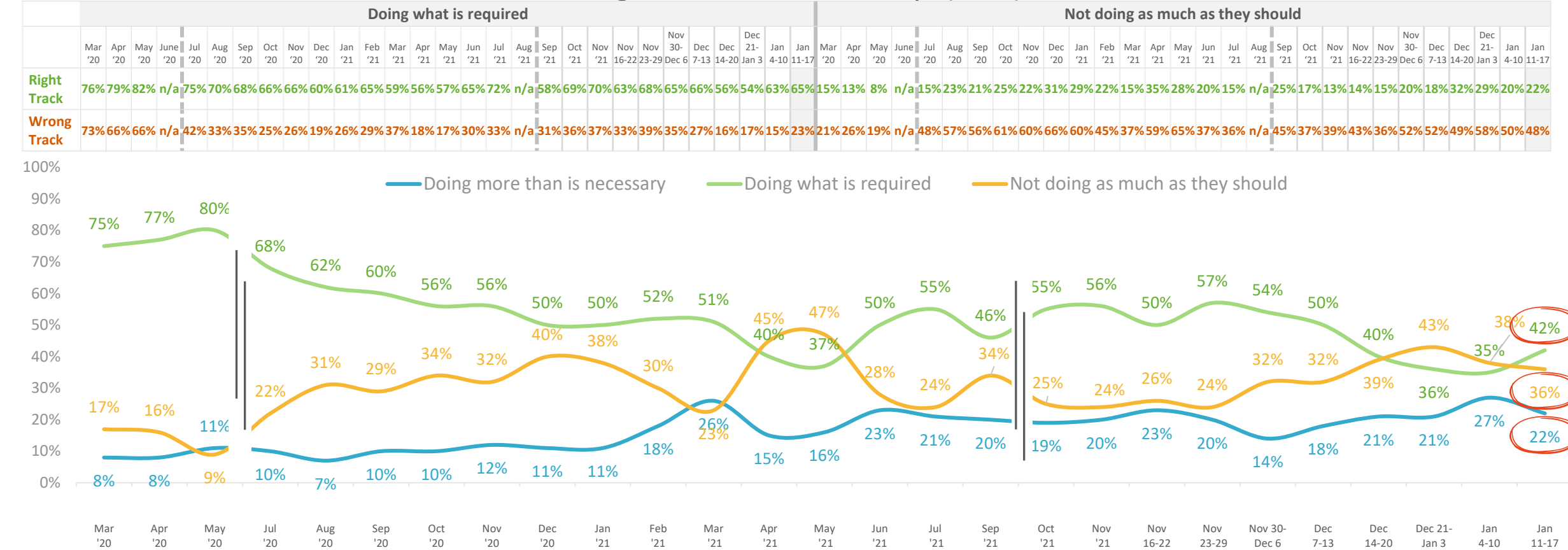
Base: Total sample

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

This week, there was a 7-point increase in those who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ (42%) while the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ remained stable at 36%. There was a decline measured for ‘doing more than necessary’ (22%).



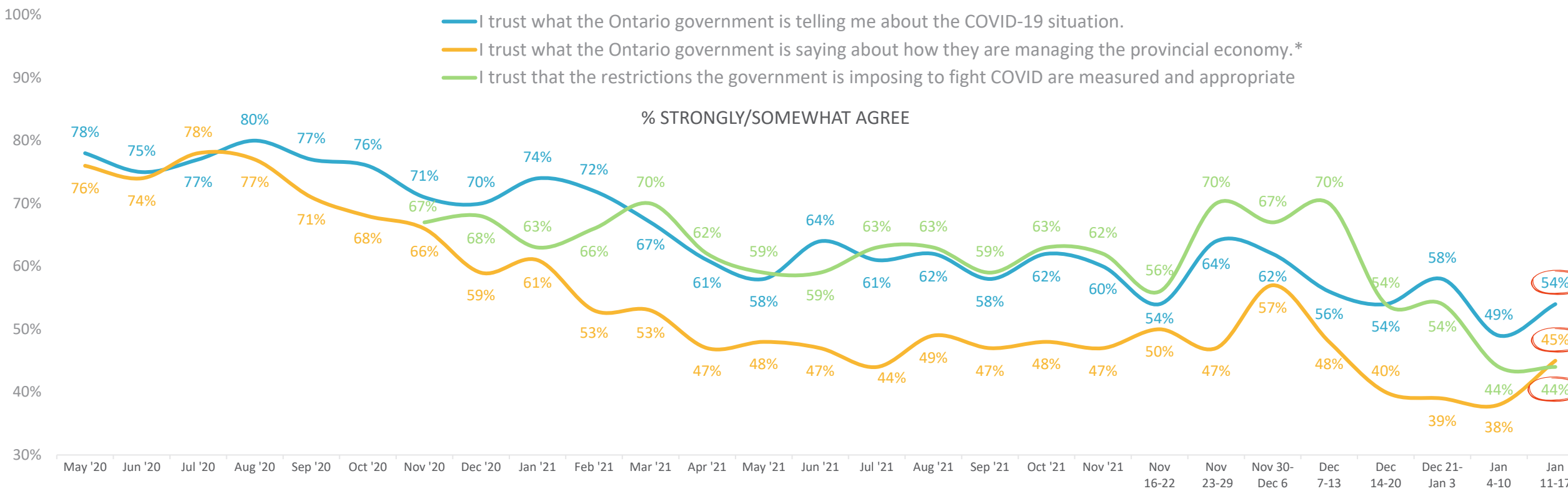
QCV-6. In light of the Omicron variant and thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time, would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) In light of the Delta variant and thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario 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 ...

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

This week, there were improvements regarding trust in the government’s communications about ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ and ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’, while results were unchanged for ‘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?

Since mid-December, there has been a 9-point increase to half (50%) of Ontarians who are feeling 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	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17
n=	varies													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	62	60	50	46	41	44	48	50
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	29	33	19	23	18	19	19	23
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	32	27	30	24	22	25	29	27
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	9	7	8	10	7	9	7	8
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	13	11	18	17	15	15	23	20
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	13	19	20	23	33	29	22	19
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	26	30	38	41	48	44	45	39

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 again this week to 24%. Over half (55%) say that their level of concern has stayed about the same, while 21% 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	Jan 11-17
n=	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49	48	32	24
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36	38	47	55
Decreased	17	9	15	12	14	20	21
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2	<1	<1	<1

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON

The decline measured last week was retained with 61% indicating they are concerned about this new COVID-19 variant, down 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	Jan 11-17
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70	69	62	61
Very concerned	35	27	37	38	29	29
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33	30	34	32
Not too concerned	19	16	12	14	21	25
Not at all concerned	11	15	18	17	16	14
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29	31	37	39
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 (85%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with a decline to 60% 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	Jan 11-17
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	85
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	60
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	24
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	12
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	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	-	<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	3

	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	Jan 11-17	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	Jan 11-17
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%	91%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%	76%	77%	77%	76%	76%	82%	84%	77%	76%	84%	83%	81%	82%	81%	79%

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 (89%) Ontarians continue to support the need for public health measures. However, support for wanting public health measures to be continued (47%) continues to trend down while the reverse is the case for supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures (42%).

	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	Jan 11-17
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	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	47
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	42

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

With changes in reporting in Ontario, there was an increase this week in the number of Ontarians reporting they are paying less attention to the daily number of new cases. Almost four-in-ten Ontarians say they are paying more attention to the number of people in hospitals (37%) and in ICUs (36%).

	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	Jan 11-17	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	Jan 11-17	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	Jan 11-17	
n=	Varies																																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	32	31	24	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	36	32	24	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30	31	36	51	
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	26	27	25	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	41	40	33	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37	33	33	42	
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	31	36	37	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	39	34	27	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34	29	30	35	
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	34	37	36	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	36	34	35	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33	29	28	29	
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	28	29	29	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	38	34	31	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35	32	36	39	

Half (51%) of Ontarians say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, while 44% say they are not.

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	Jan 11-17
n=	varies																	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	32	27	34	36	43	45	45	49	44	43	40	50	45	43	47	53	45	51
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	24	35	29	28	30	33	31	32
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	18	18	15	16	16	15	16	20	15	19
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	7	3	6	7	8	11	7	4	6	6	5	9	7	4	6	3
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	17	20	20	13	16	15	16	12	19	15
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	31	32	30	33	31	29	29	30	29
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	49	52	52	43	49	47	45	41	48	44

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 edged up this week to 44% (compared to 57% in mid-November and 70% in July).

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	Jan 11-17
varies																		
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	57	52	42	46	39	38	39	44
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	25	20	16	16	16	12	12	15
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	32	31	26	31	23	25	27	29
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	7	7	8	3	8	11	6
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	14	21	10	21	17	22	18
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	19	24	28	34	29	34	28	30
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	36	38	49	44	50	51	50	48

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

STATE OF THE ICU IN ONTARIO



After increasing for several weeks, awareness of Ontario’s ICUs and COVID-19 remained steady at 73% of Ontarians indicating they have seen, read, or heard anything lately about Ontario’s Intensive Care Units and COVID-19.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17
n=	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52	66	75	73
No	61	62	55	48	34	25	27

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO’S ICUs

Among those who are aware, there was an increase to three-quarters (74%) that say they have heard that the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICUs has been increasing, while 8% 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	Jan 11-17
n=	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14	13	11	8
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25	27	17	14
Increasing	38	45	54	59	54	68	74
Don’t trust the news/fake news	-	-	1	<1	<1	1	2
Mostly unvaccinated patients in the ICU	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Younger adults in the ICU (in their thirties)	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-
Fluctuating	-	1	-	-	-	<1	-
Some other news	8	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Don’t know/not sure	4	3	8	2	3	2	1

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 (92%) say they are concerned and intensity is high with 51% ‘very’ concerned.

	Nov 23- Dec 6	Nov 30- Dec 13	Dec 7-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Dec 28- Jan 10	Jan 4-17
n=	80	115	157	175	227	257
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	82	93	94	89	91	92
Very concerned	52	62	62	58	52	51
Somewhat concerned	30	31	32	31	38	42
Not too concerned	16	6	6	11	9	8
Don’t know/not sure	2	1	1	-	-	-

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

CURRENT HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

The majority (62%) of Ontarians indicate they own their own home, while three-in-ten (28%) are renting. Almost one-in-ten (8%) live with their parents.

	Jan 11-17
	Varies
	%
Own your own home	62
Renting	28
Living with parent(s)	8
Adult children own home and I live with them	1
Don't know/not sure	1

CHANGE IN HOME PURCHASE PRICES

Most (94%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 82% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17
n=	Varies
	%
TOTAL INCREASED	94
Increased significantly	82
Increased somewhat	12
Not increased too much	2
Not increased at all	1
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	3
Don't know/not sure	3

HA-3. To the best of your knowledge have home purchase prices increased significantly in the last year, increased somewhat, not increased too much or nor increased at all?
Base: Total sample

IMPACT OF INCREASING HOME PURCHASE PRICES

Early results indicate that almost half (45%) of Ontarians report that ‘significant increases’ in home purchase prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally. And, while 16% describe this as a ‘good thing’, 37% say it doesn’t matter to them either way.

- Demographic analysis indicates that homeowners also believe that these increases in home prices are not a good thing.

	Jan 11-17
n=	Varies
	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	16
A very good thing	5
Somewhat of a good thing	12
Somewhat of a bad thing	19
A very bad thing	26
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	45
Doesn’t matter either way	37
Don’t know/not sure	2

HA-4. Assuming home purchase prices have increased significantly in the last year, is this personally for you a very good thing, somewhat of a good thing, somewhat of a bad thing, or a very bad thing or it doesn’t matter to you either way ?

Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN HOME RENTAL PRICES

Eight-in-ten (79%) Ontarians believe that home rental prices have increased, with 44% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17
n=	Varies
	%
TOTAL INCREASED	79
Increased significantly	44
Increased somewhat	35
Not increased too much	5
Not increased at all	3
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	7
Don't know/not sure	13

HA-5. To the best of your knowledge have home rental prices increased significantly in the last year, increased somewhat, not increased too much or nor increased at all?
Base: Total sample

Preliminary results indicate that 43% of Ontarians believe that ‘significant increases’ in home rental prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally, while half (48%) report it doesn’t matter either way to them.

	Jan 11-17
n=	250
	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	8
A very good thing	1
Somewhat of a good thing	7
Somewhat of a bad thing	16
A very bad thing	26
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	43
Doesn’t matter either way	48
Don’t know/not sure	1

HA-6. Assuming home rental prices have increased significantly in the last year, is this personally for you a very good thing, somewhat of a good thing, somewhat of a bad thing, or a very bad thing or it doesn’t matter to you either way ?

Base: Total sample

REASON HOME PURCHASE AND RENTAL PRICES HAVE INCREASED IN THE LAST YEAR

Early results indicate Ontarians believe there are several reasons that home purchase and rental prices have increased in the last year: too many people wanting to buy or rent a home (37%), not enough new homes being built in areas where people want to live (29%), and not enough people selling or renting homes (19%).

	Jan 11-17
n=	VARIES
	%
Too many people wanting to buy or rent a home	37
Not enough new homes being built in areas people want to live	29
Not enough people selling or renting homes	19
Don't know/not sure	16

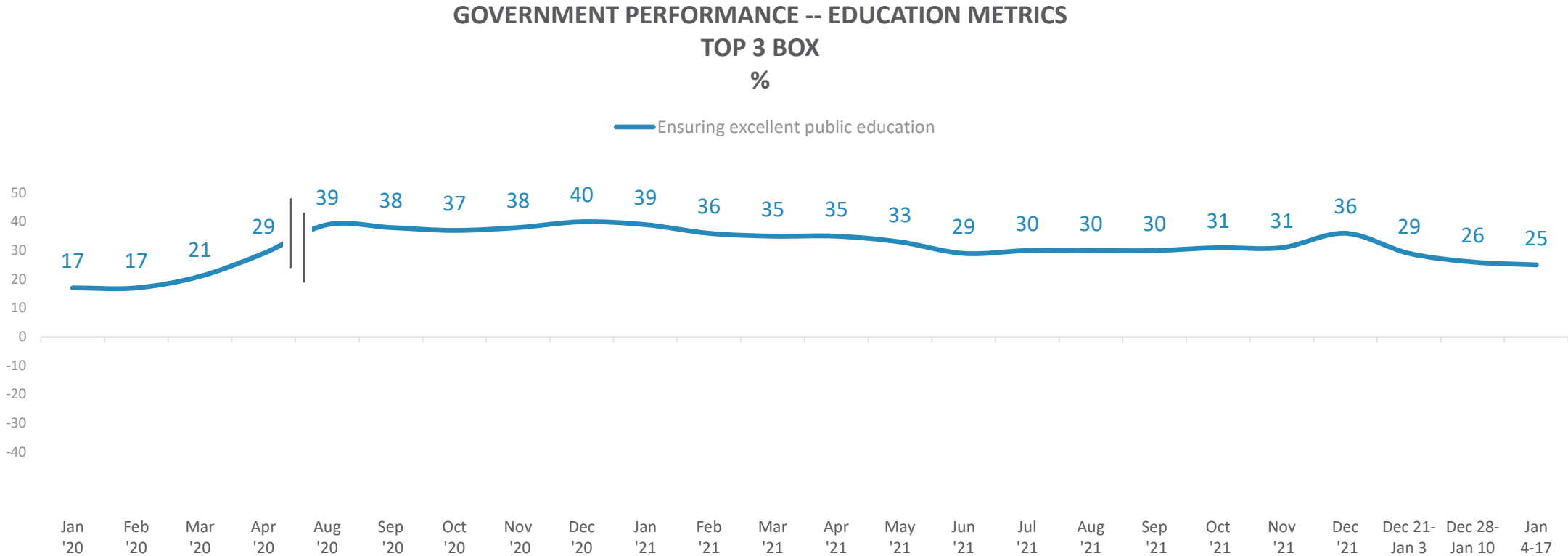
Early results indicate that almost half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (46%), while 29% agree that they can only afford to buy or rent a condo. About 4-in-10 agree there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs (44%) and that they feel stuck since they can't afford to move (43%).

% Strongly/Somewhat agree	Jan 11-17
n=	250
	%
I'd like to buy a house, but I can't afford it	46
There are hardly any homes available to rent that meet my needs	44
I feel stuck in the place I live in now, since I can't afford to move	43
I can only afford to buy or rent a condo	29

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

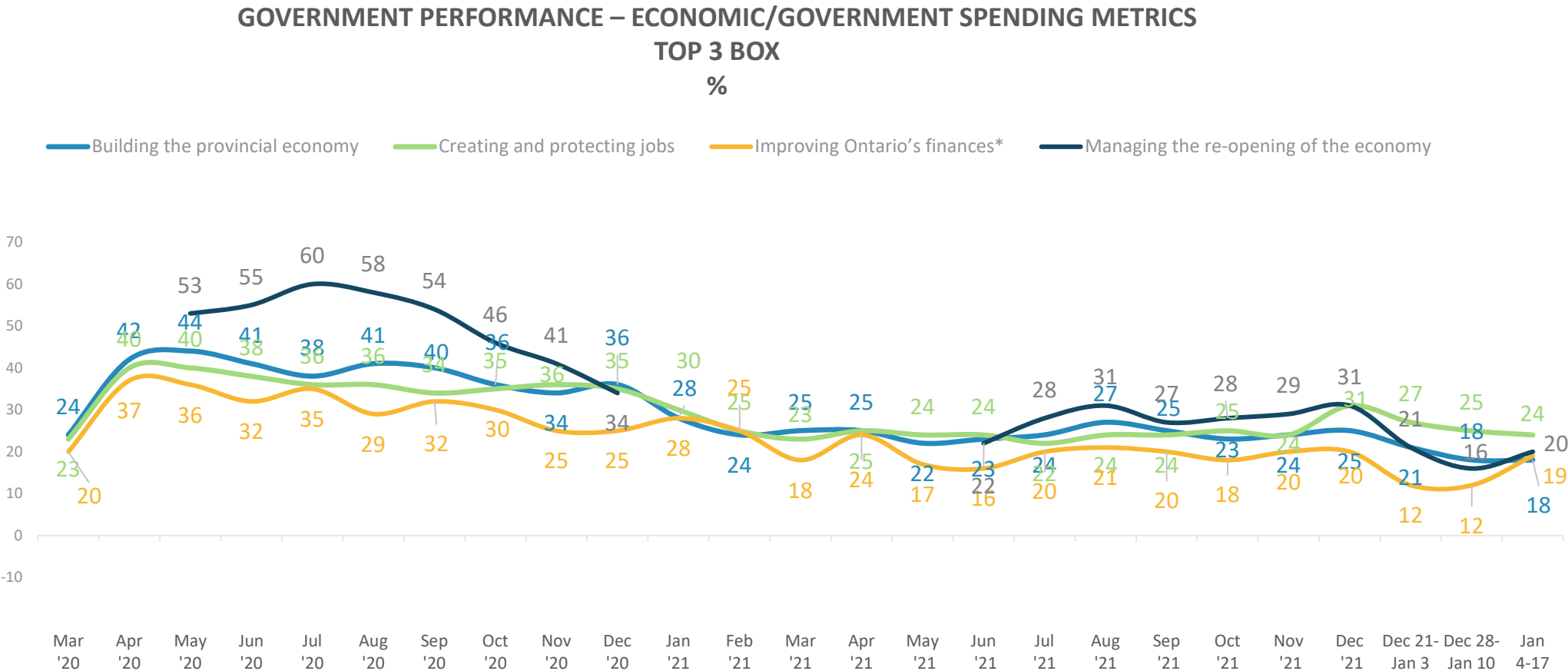


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained steady this week.



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

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

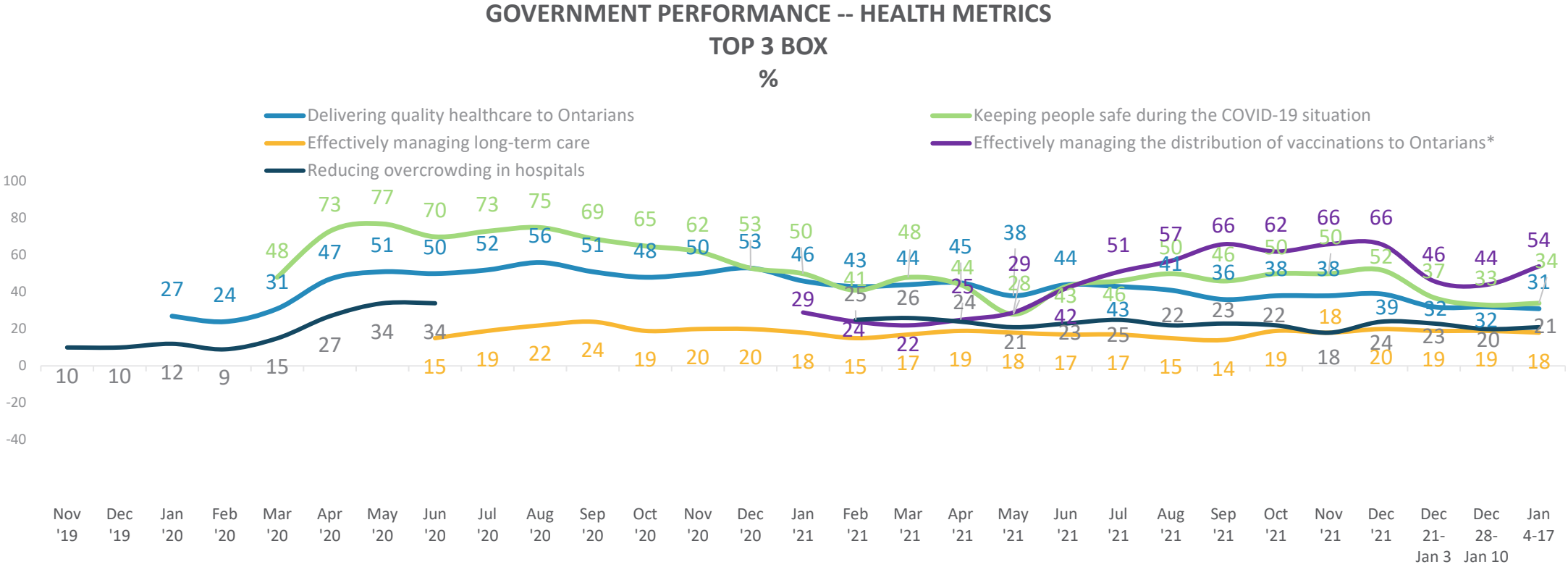


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

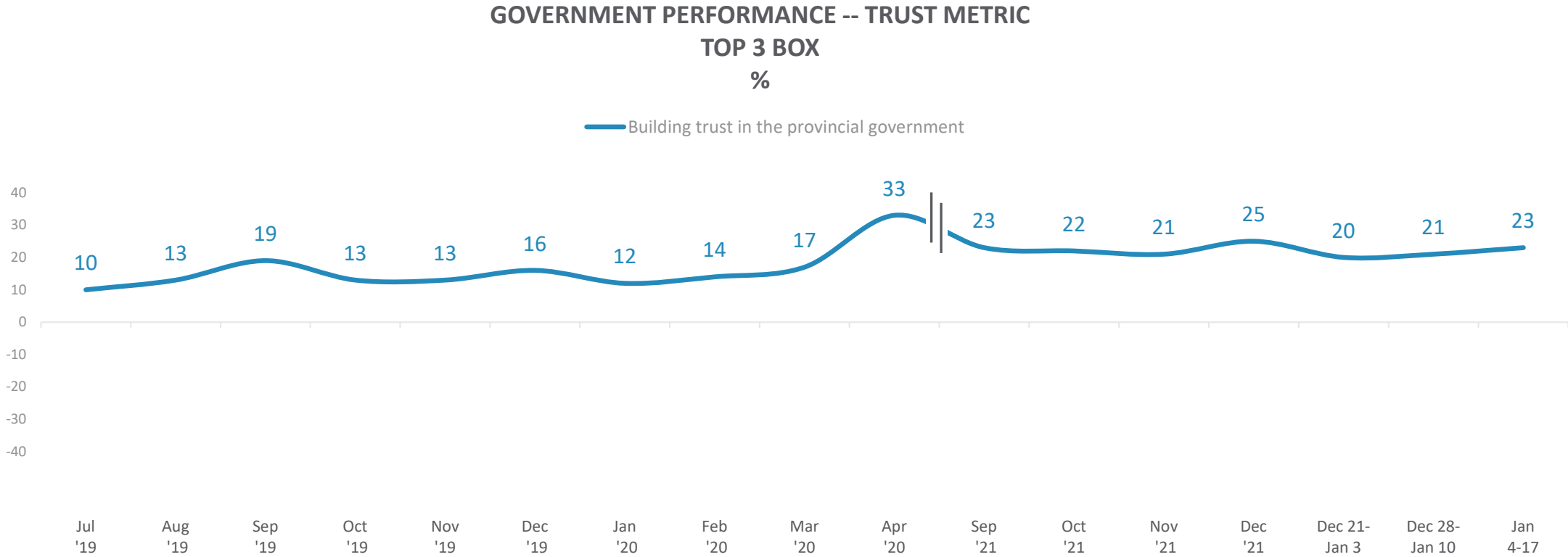
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ was up 10-points this week while the other health metrics were all stable.



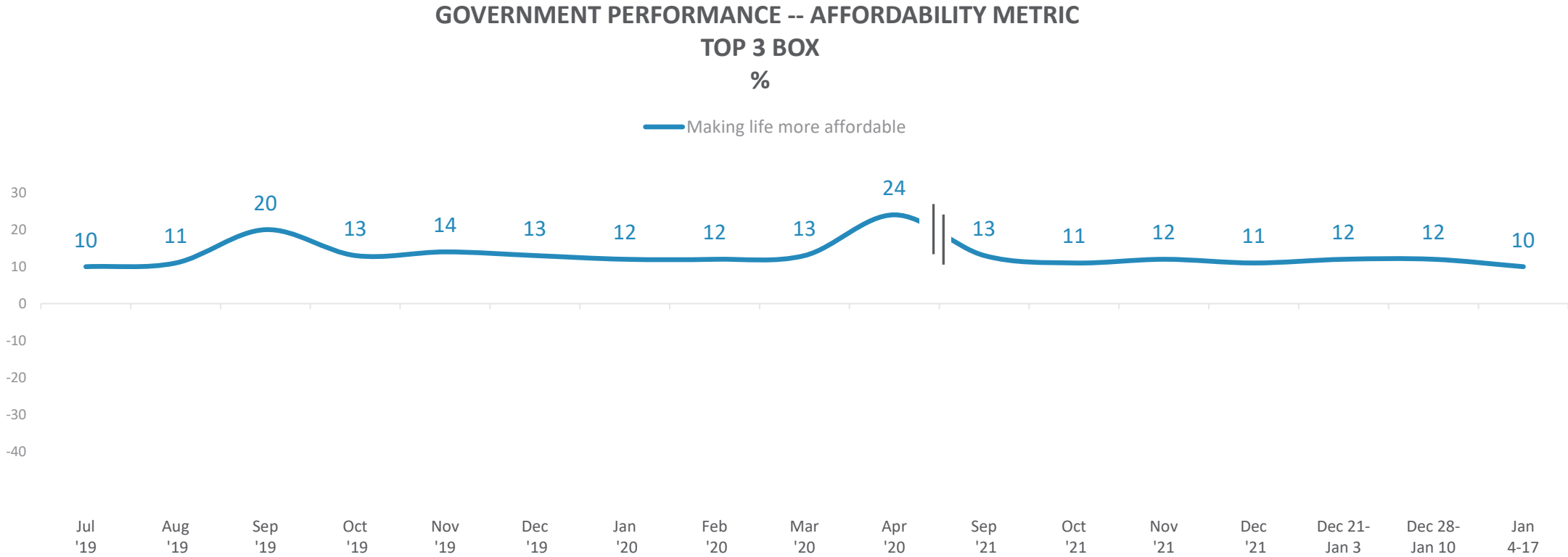
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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