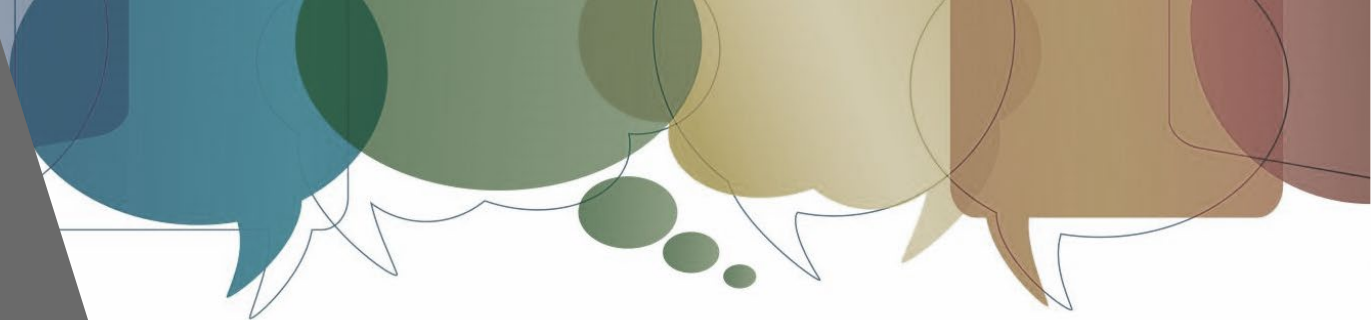




THE
**STRATEGIC
COUNSEL**

EXPERIENCE • PASSION • CREATIVITY

TORONTO | OTTAWA | CALGARY
www.thestrategiccounsel.com



PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #116

CABINET OFFICE
January 25th 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' remained unchanged this week at 45% - although it remains below 'wrong track' scores.

Declines in 'right track' in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario were halted this week, while scores continued to trend down in rural areas and among those aged 55-64. As well, there is a growing gap between men and women.

2 However, some of the increase measured last week was reversed with 47% Ontarians having the view that the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly.

That said, the improved rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' was retained this week, while there was an 11-point increase for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation'.

In addition, results were steady this week with 41% who believe the government is 'doing what is required', 36% who believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should', and 23% who indicate 'doing more than necessary'.

3 Ontarians' level of concern continues to decline, even with the rates of hospitalizations and ICU occupancy related to COVID-19. The proportion reporting their level of concern over COVID-19 'increased over the last week' continued to decline to 19% this week, from a high of 49% in mid-December.

And, there is rising confidence (53%) that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered - up 15-points over the past three weeks. This compares to 58% in November and 70% in July.

As well, since the end of the year, there has been a 10-point increase to over half (54%) of Ontarians who are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic.

4 Overall, nine-in-ten (87%) Ontarians continue to support the need for public health measures. However, support for wanting public health measures to be continued (45%) has been trending down. Results for supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures has been trending up but remained unchanged this week (42%).

However, again this week, half (52%) of Ontarians say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, while there was a 5-point decline to 39% saying they are not.

Of note, while most (84%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering 'all/most of the time', 59% say they are wearing a mask 'all of the time' – a decline of 7-points over the last two weeks.

Key Findings

5 This week, results remain stable regarding trust in 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'. However, there was a decline for 'how they are managing the provincial economy'.

Of note, the rating of the government's performance for 'building trust in the provincial government' has been slowly trending up.

7 Rating of the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' remained steady this week at NET -44. However, results indicate that Ontarians are concerned about this issue.

Most (94%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices and home rental prices (83%) have increased in the last year - with 83% and 48%, respectively, saying they have increased 'significantly'. And, a large proportion of Ontarians report that significant increases to home purchase prices (48%) or home rental rates (53%) is a 'bad thing' for them personally.

Of note, half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (49%) or there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs (50%).

6 In terms of focus, there was a slight decline to 56% of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues, while 37% now want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 19-points (compared to 25-points last week).

The rating of the government's performance for 'building the provincial economy' continued to trend down this week. There was also a decline for 'creating and protecting jobs'. The other economic and government spending metrics remained stable.

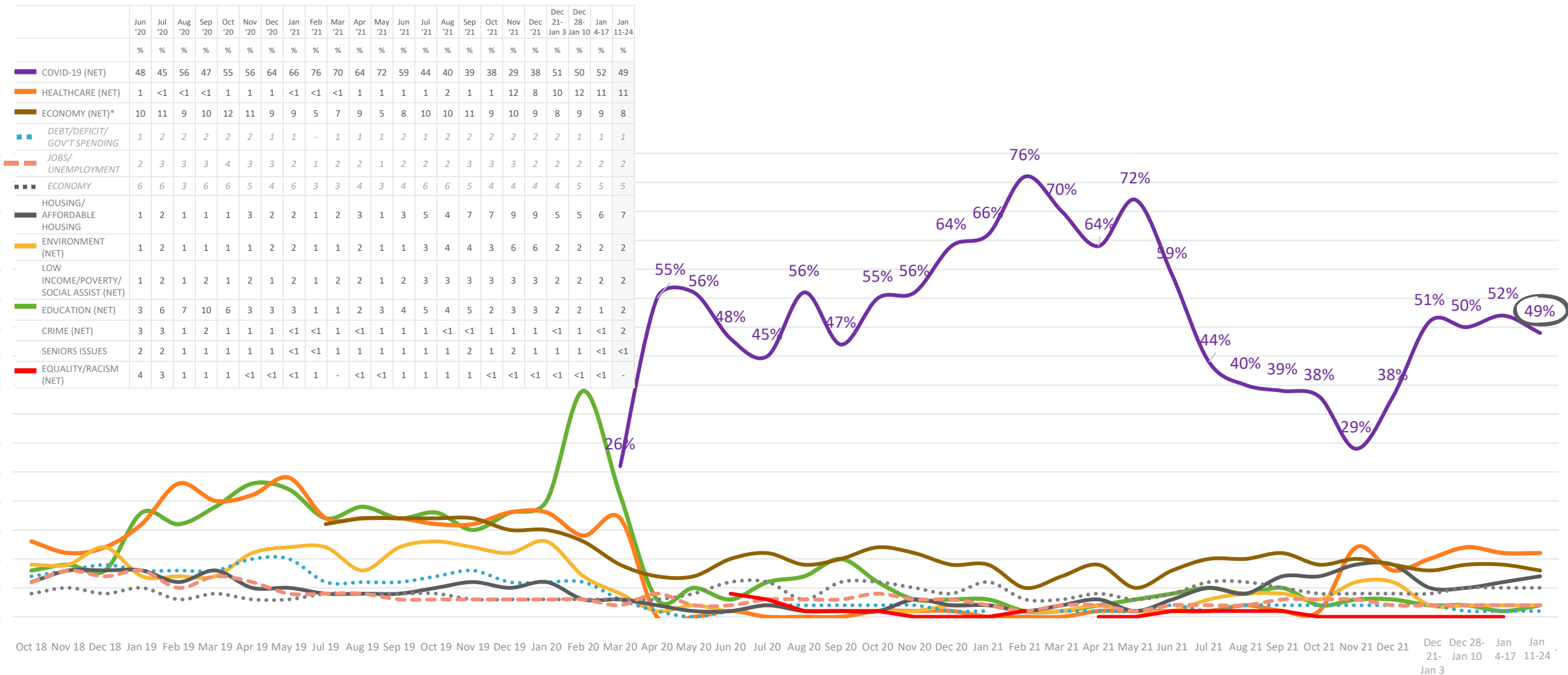
8 While the rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' has been trending down, there was an uptick this week.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

For the fourth week, COVID-19 as the government’s top priority continued to be relatively stable at 49% this week.



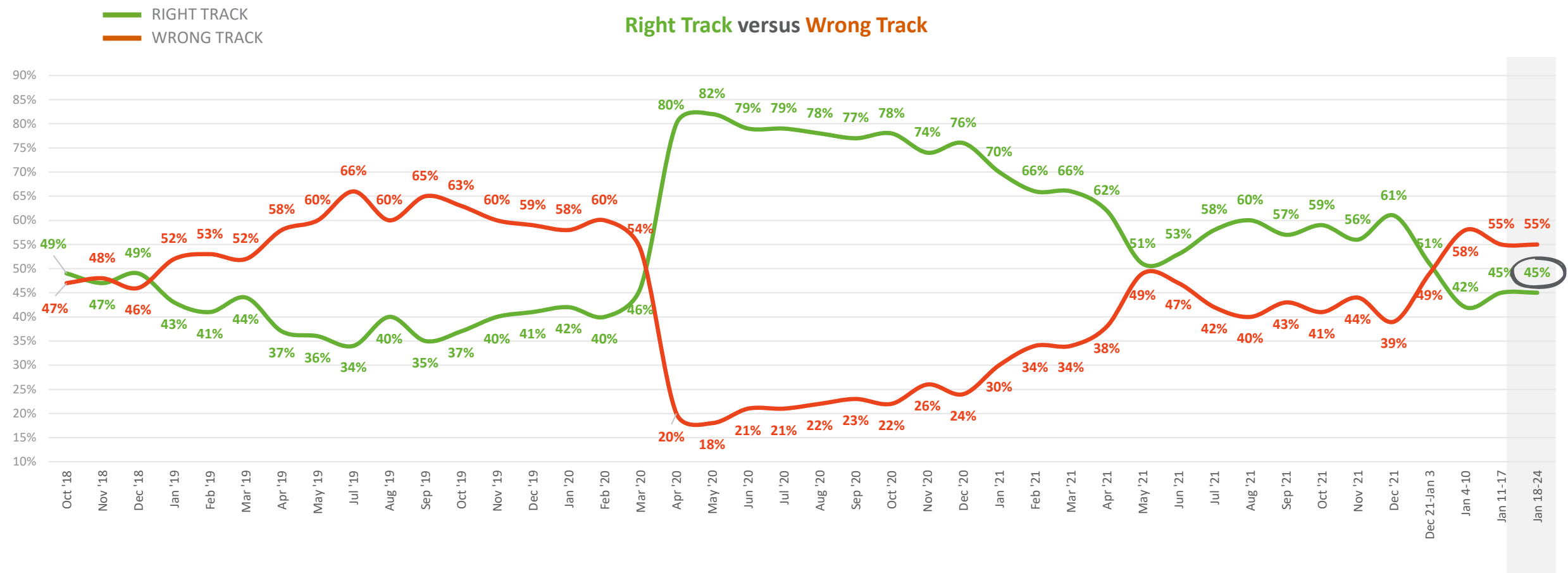
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

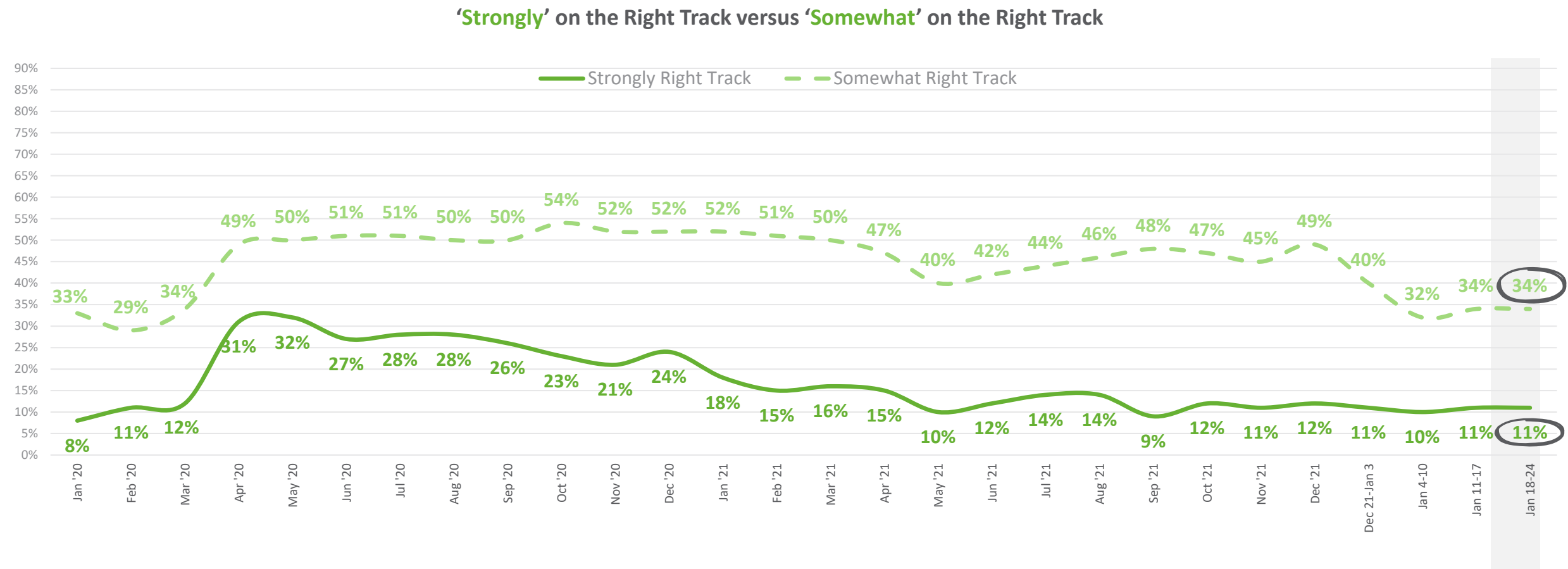


‘Right track’ remained unchanged this week at 45%.



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

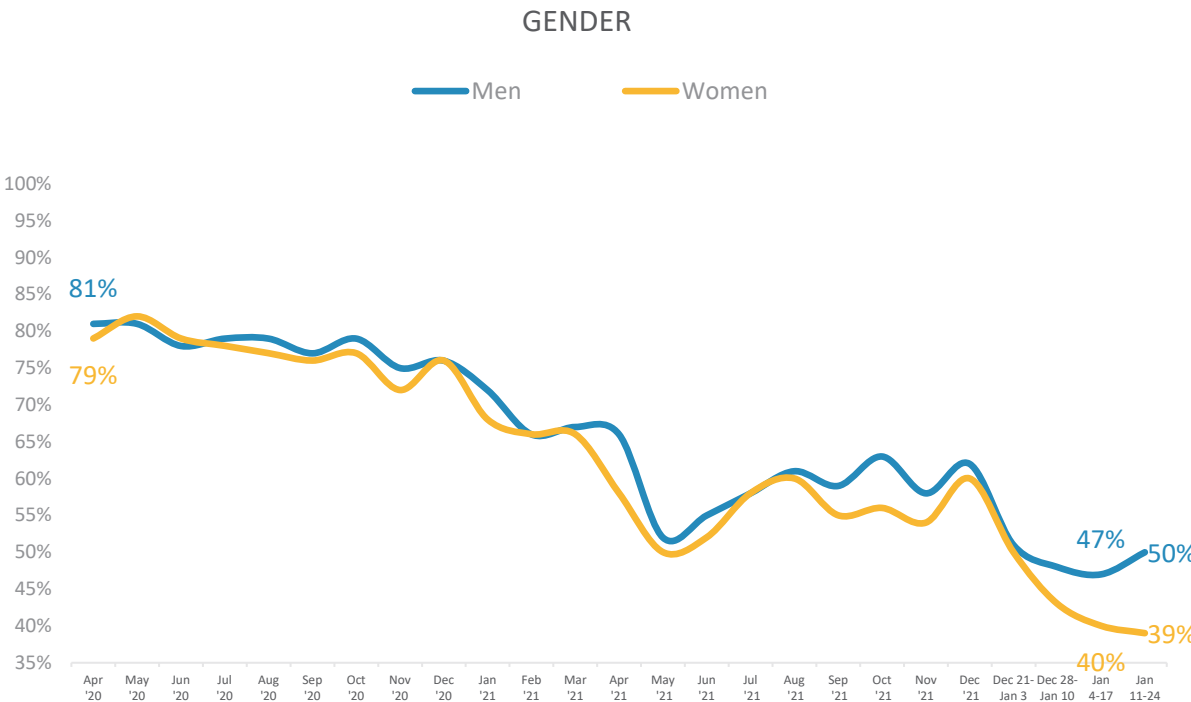
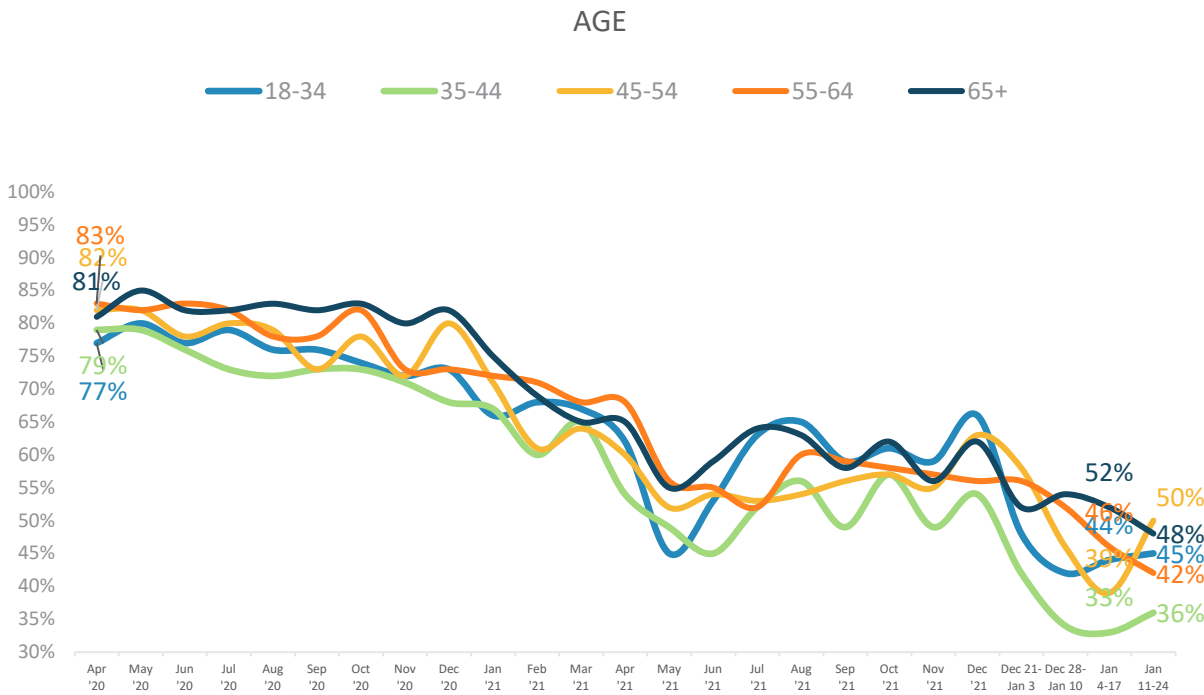
‘Right track’ remained unchanged among both those who believe the government is ‘strongly on the right track’ and ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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

Declines in ‘right track’ continued among Ontarians aged 55-64, with scores also declining among those 65+ this week. However, there were increases measured among 45-54 year olds, and a slight uptick among those aged 35-44 (although they continue to provide the lowest scores). Men have higher ‘right track’ scores with the gap widening to 11-points this week.

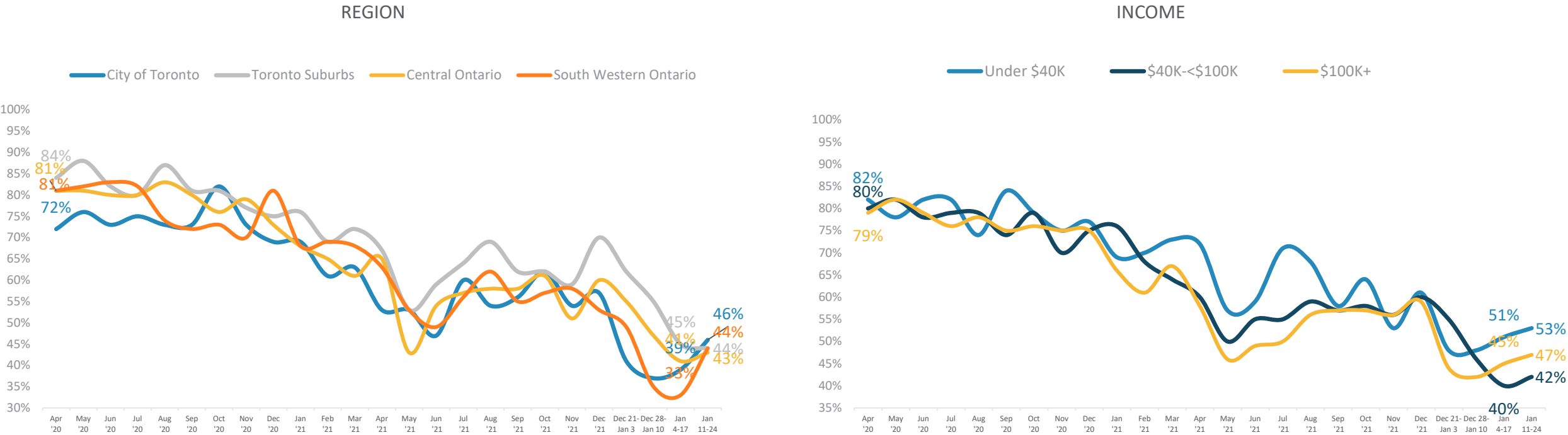
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

Declines in ‘right track’ in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario were halted this week, while there were increases in the city of Toronto and SW Ontario. By income, there were slight improvements measured in ‘right track’ among all income brackets.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

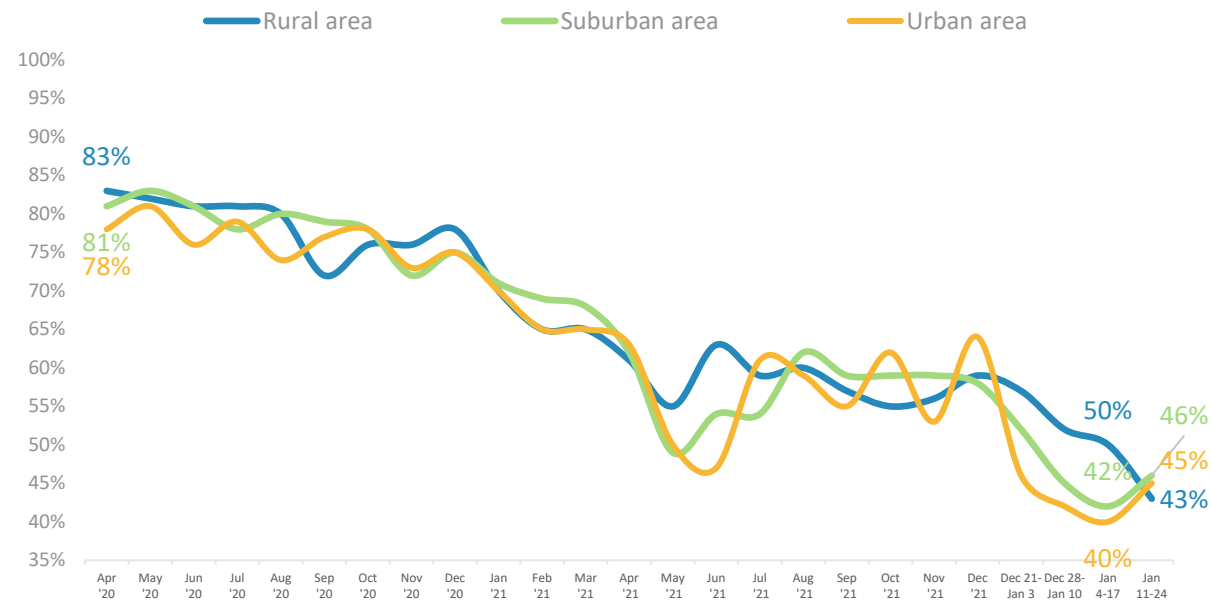


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

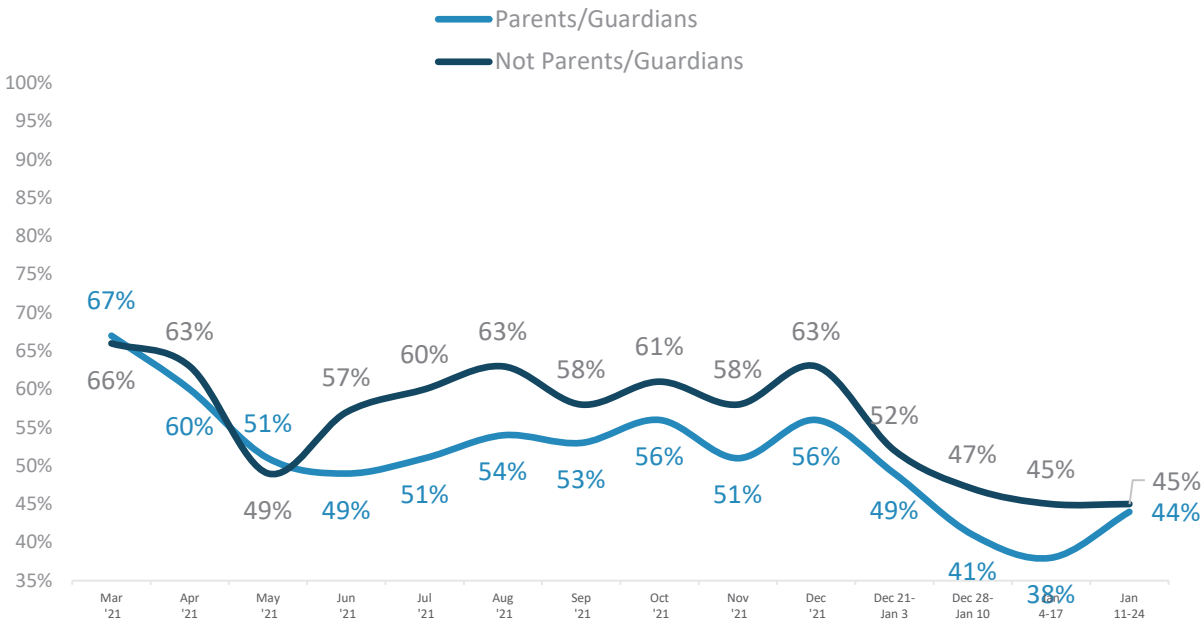
While there were increases in both suburban and urban areas this week, ‘right track’ continued to trend down in rural areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



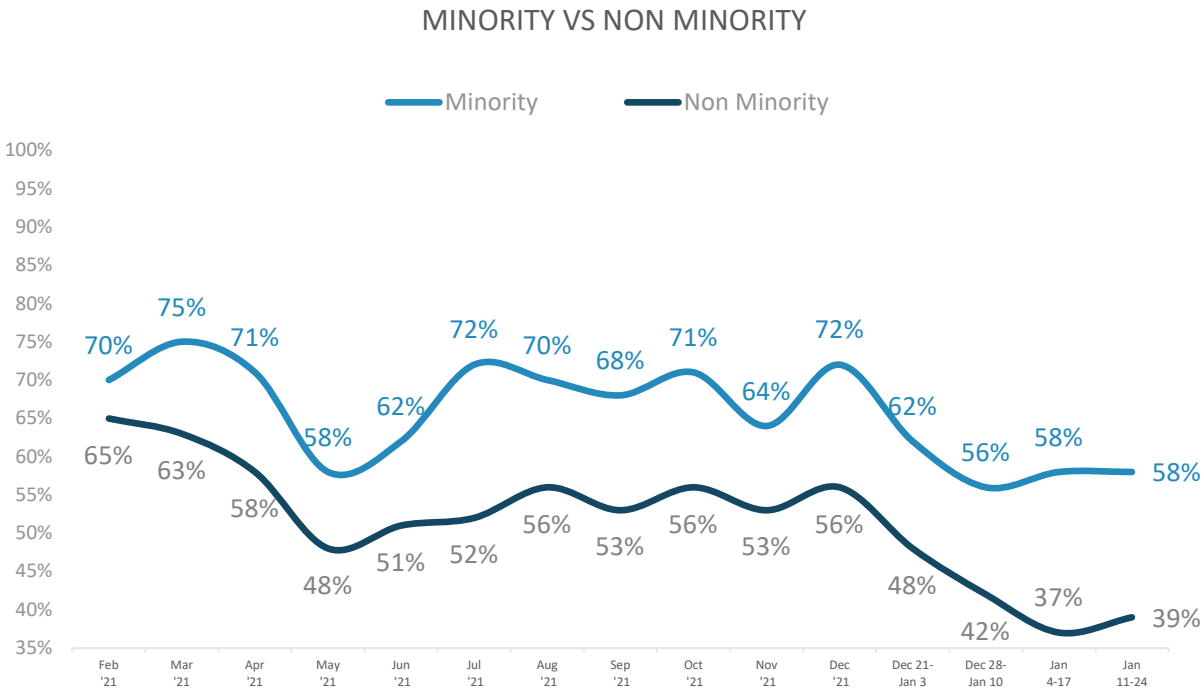
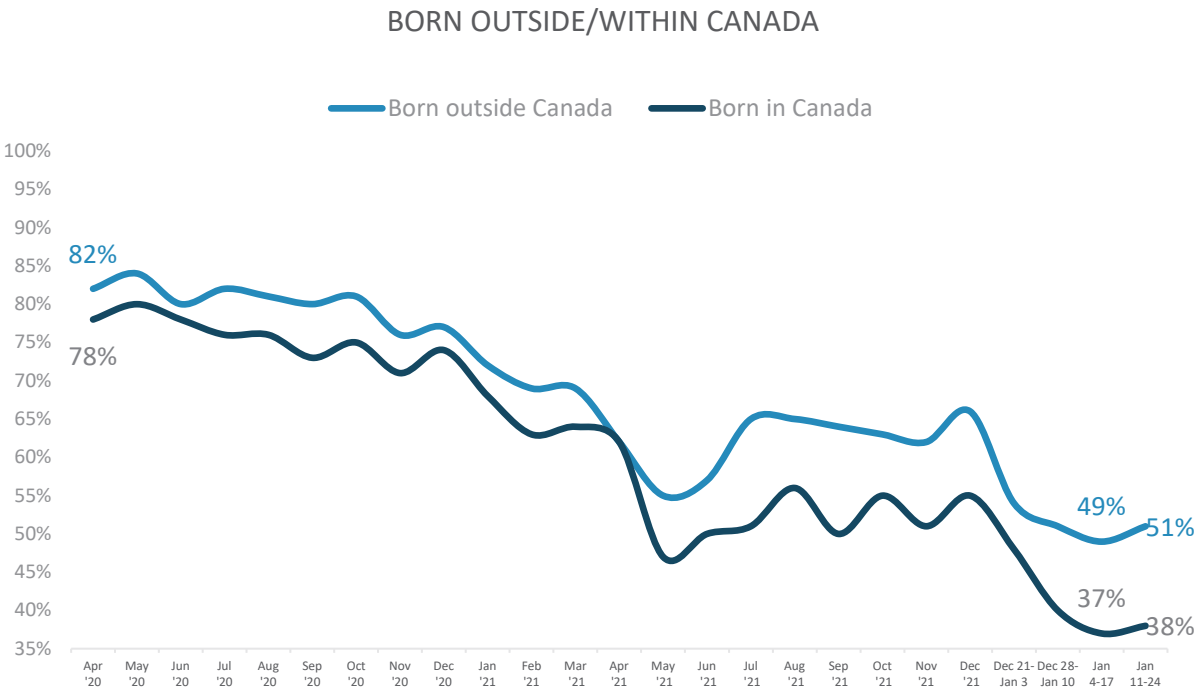
PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



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’ remained stable among those born in and outside of Canada and among those who identify as a minority and non-minority.

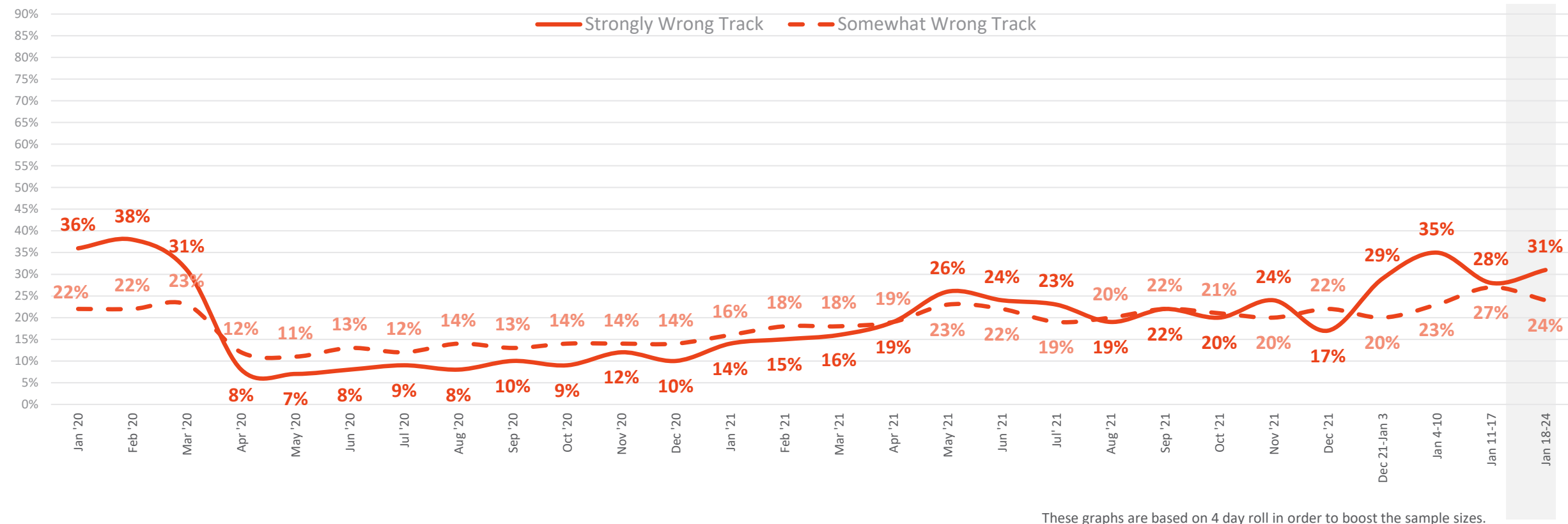
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

There was a slight uptick in ‘strongly on the wrong track’ this week, and a slight decline in the proportion who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ (which had been slowly trending up).

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

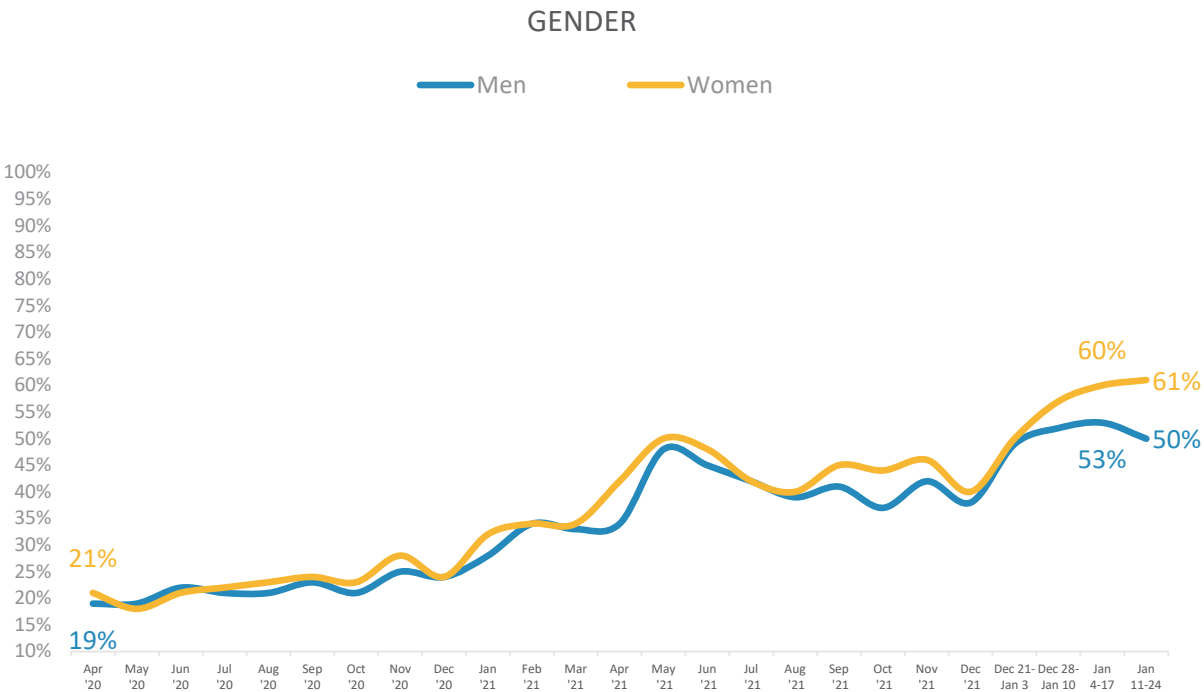
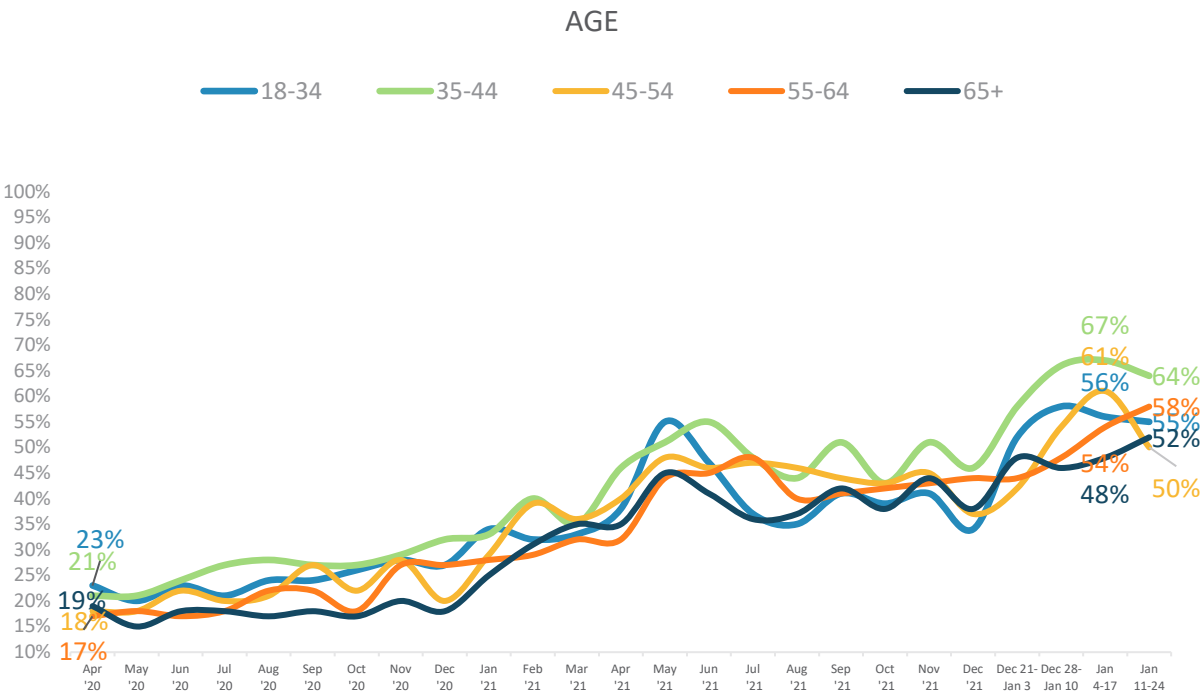


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

‘Wrong track’ continued to increase among Ontarians aged 55-64, while also up this week among those 65+. However, scores were down among 45-54 year olds, with a slight decline among those aged 35-44 (although they continue to have the highest score). ‘Wrong track’ continues to be higher among women, with an 11-point gap this week.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

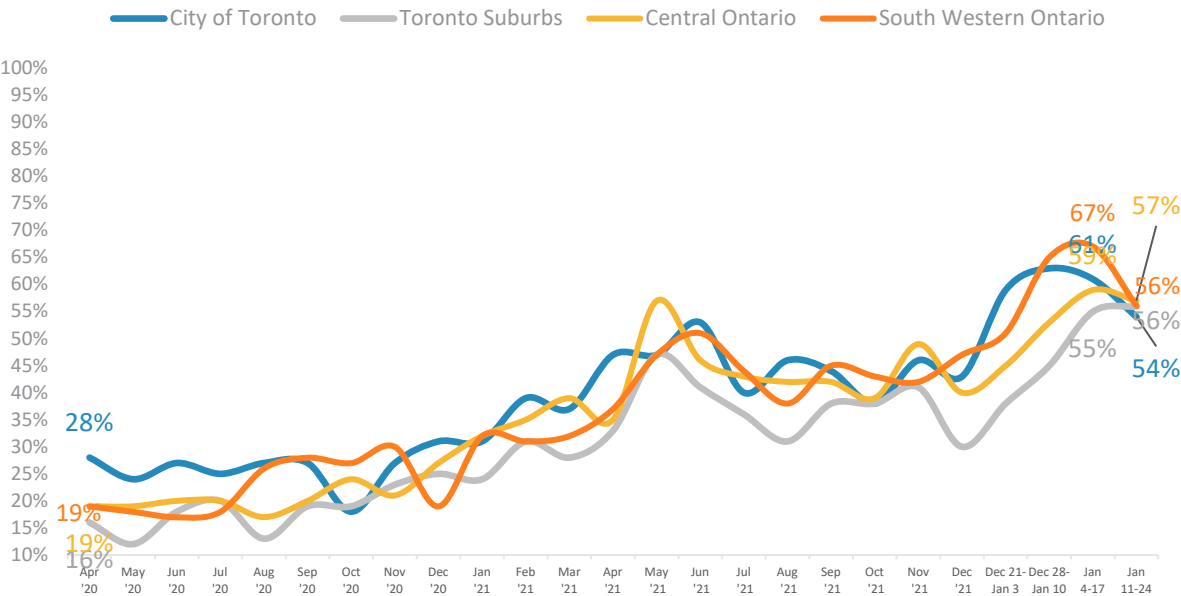


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

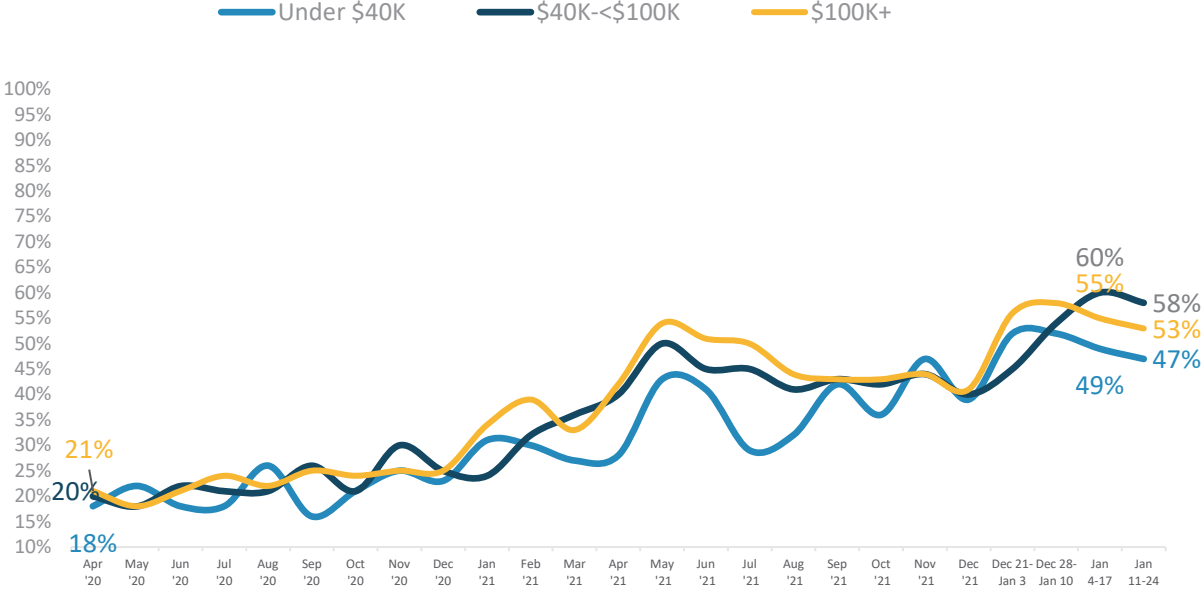
Regionally, ‘wrong track’ remained steady in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario this week, with declines in both the city of Toronto and SW Ontario. By income, there were slight declines measured in ‘wrong track’ among the three income brackets.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

REGION



INCOME

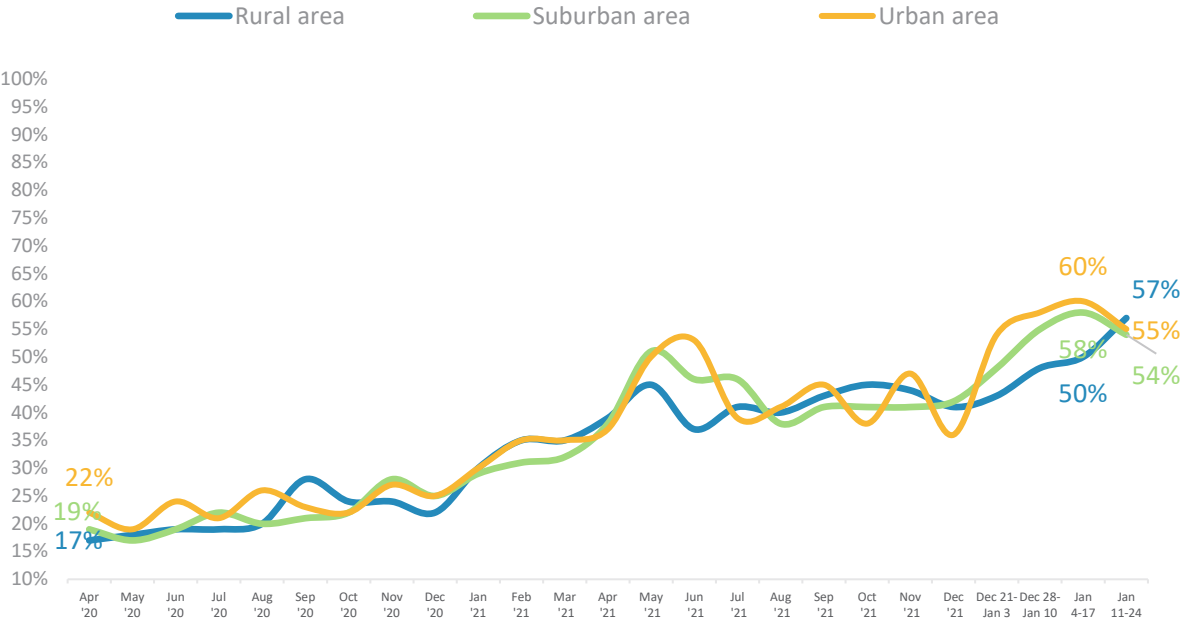


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

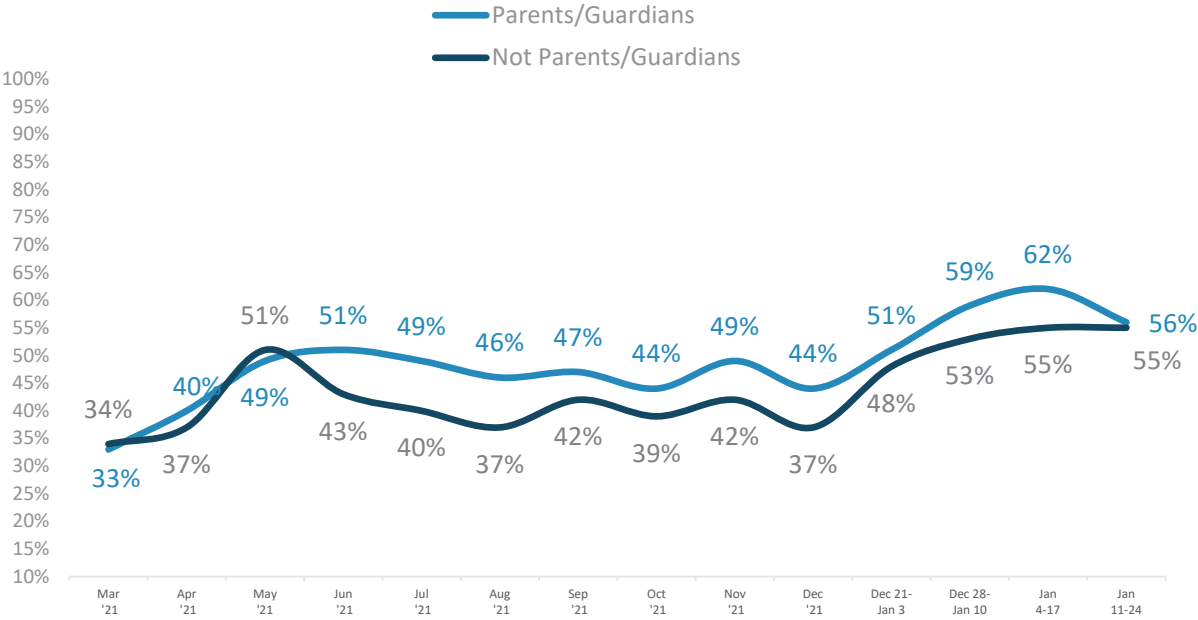
This week, ‘wrong track’ declined in suburban and urban areas while continuing to increase in rural areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

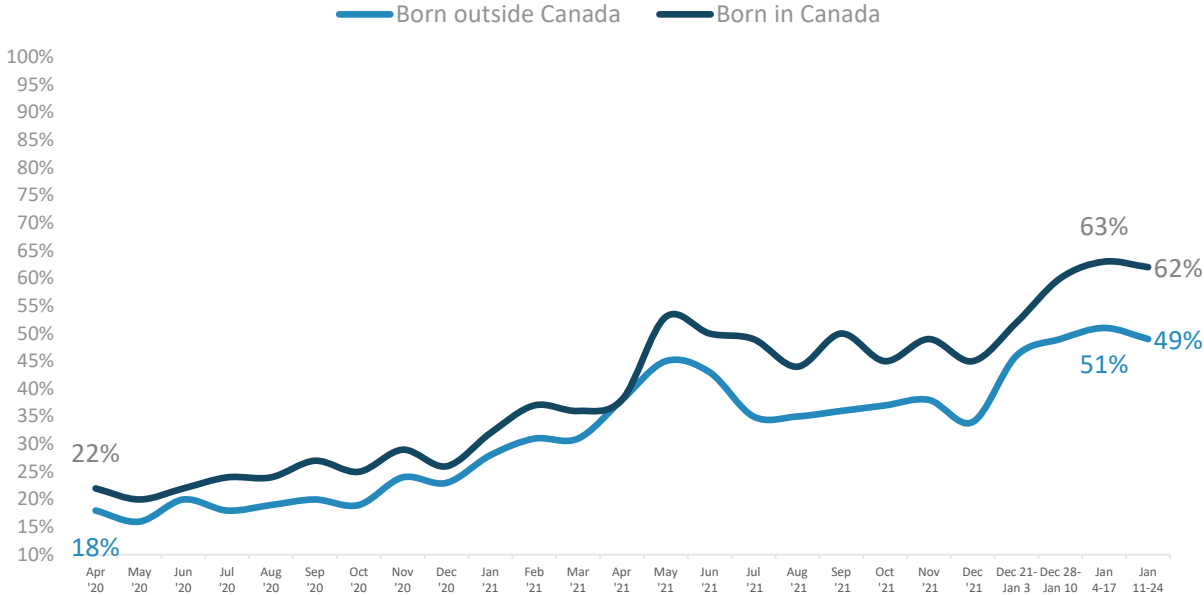


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

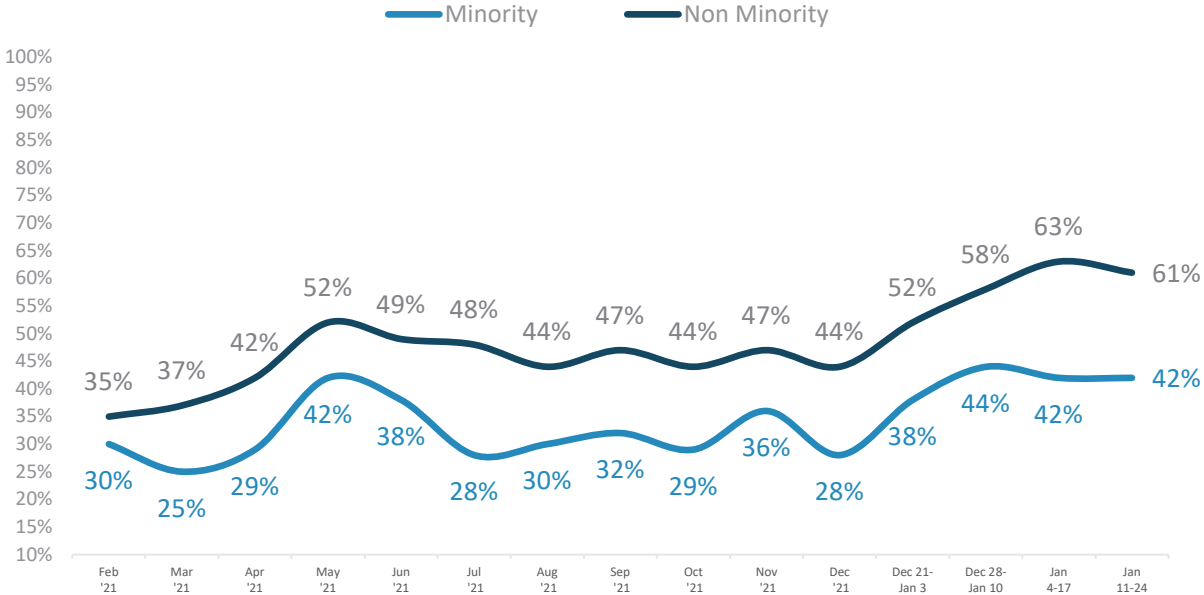
‘Wrong track’ remained stable this week among Ontarians born in and outside of Canada and among those who identify as a minority and non-minority.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



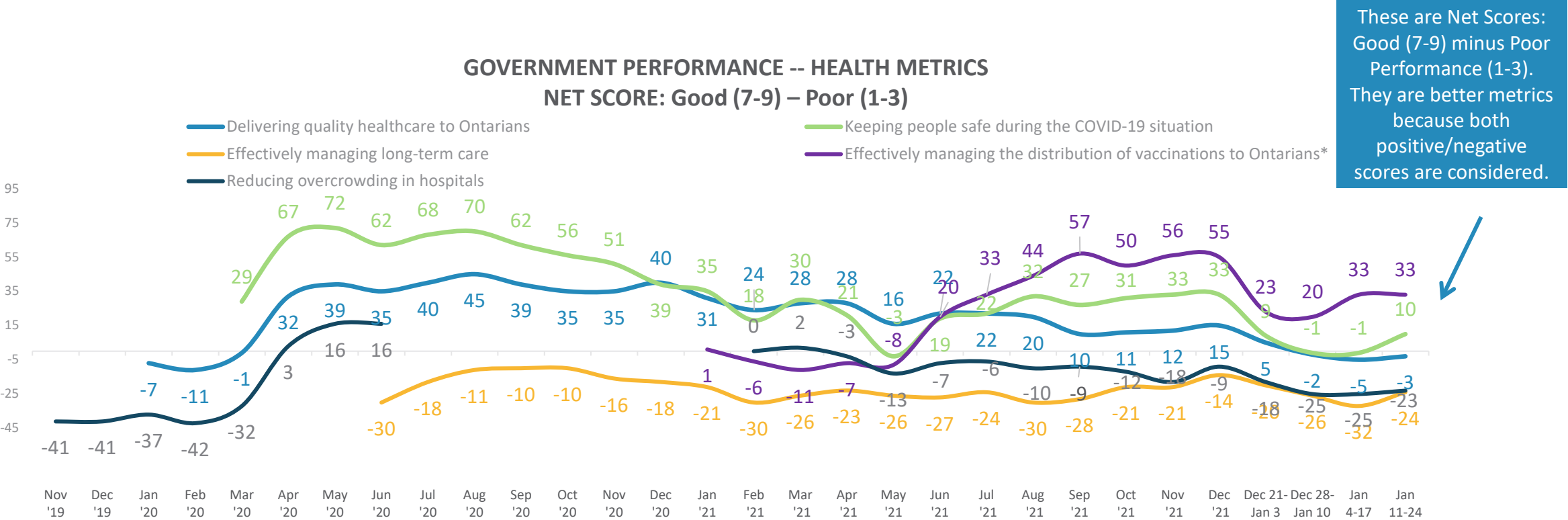
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



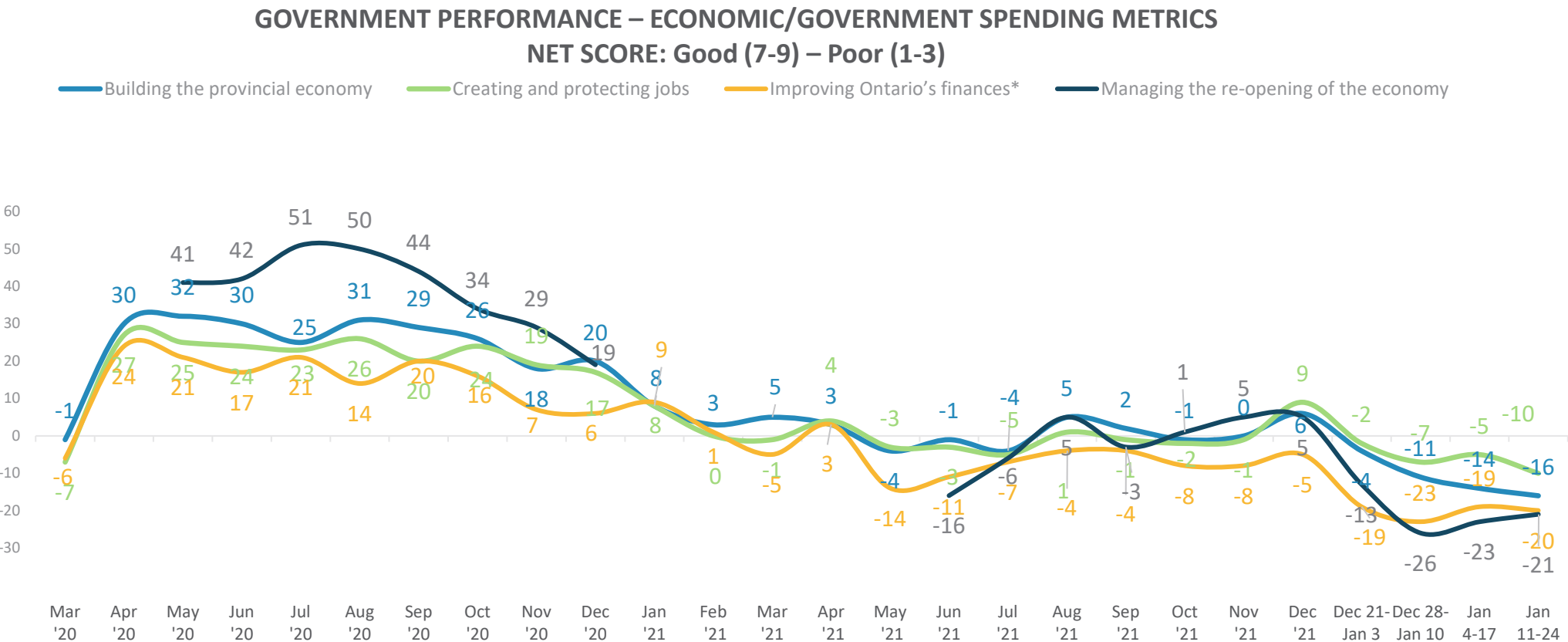
The improved rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ was retained this week, while there was an 11-point increase for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’.

- And, the decline last week for ‘effectively managing long-term care’ was reversed.



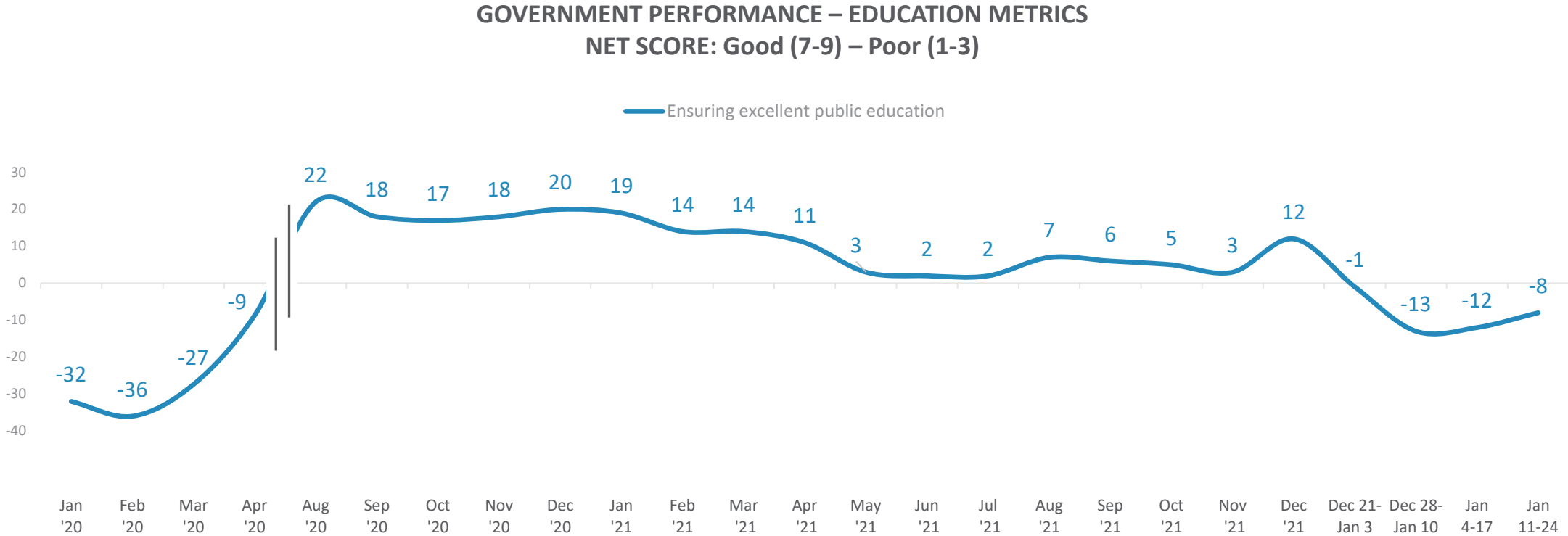
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘building the provincial economy’ continued to trend down this week. There was also a decline for ‘creating and protecting jobs’. The other economic and government spending metrics remained stable.



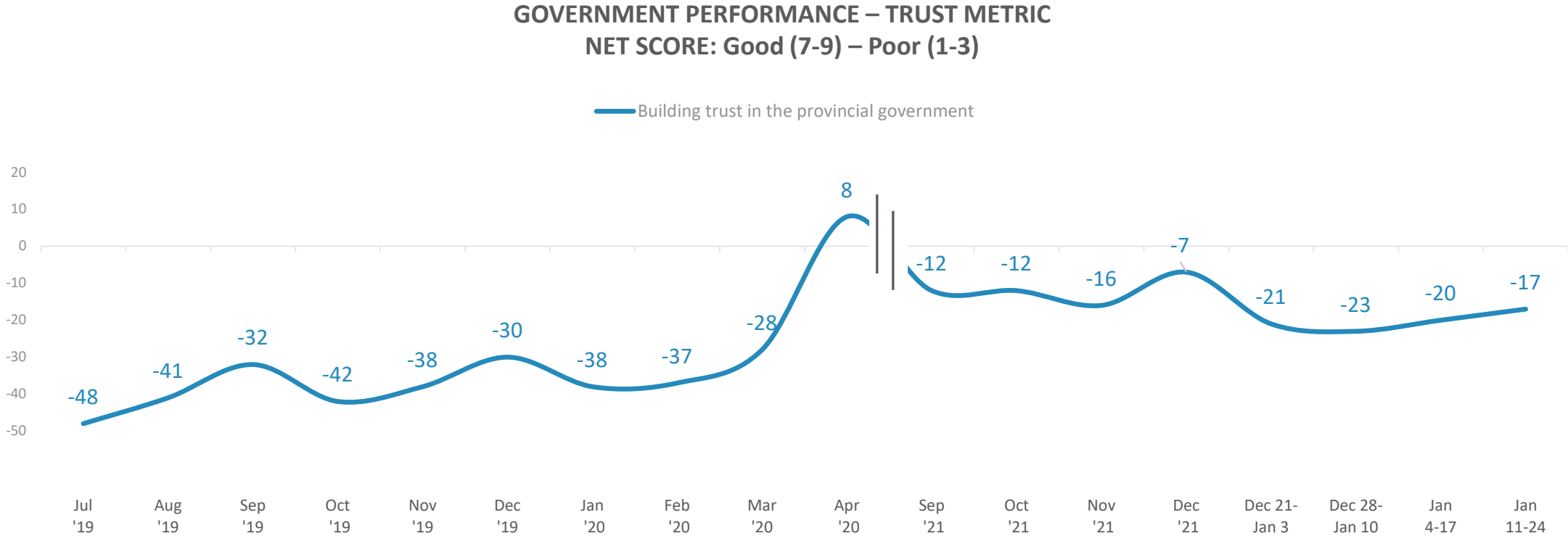
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ experienced a slight uptick this week.



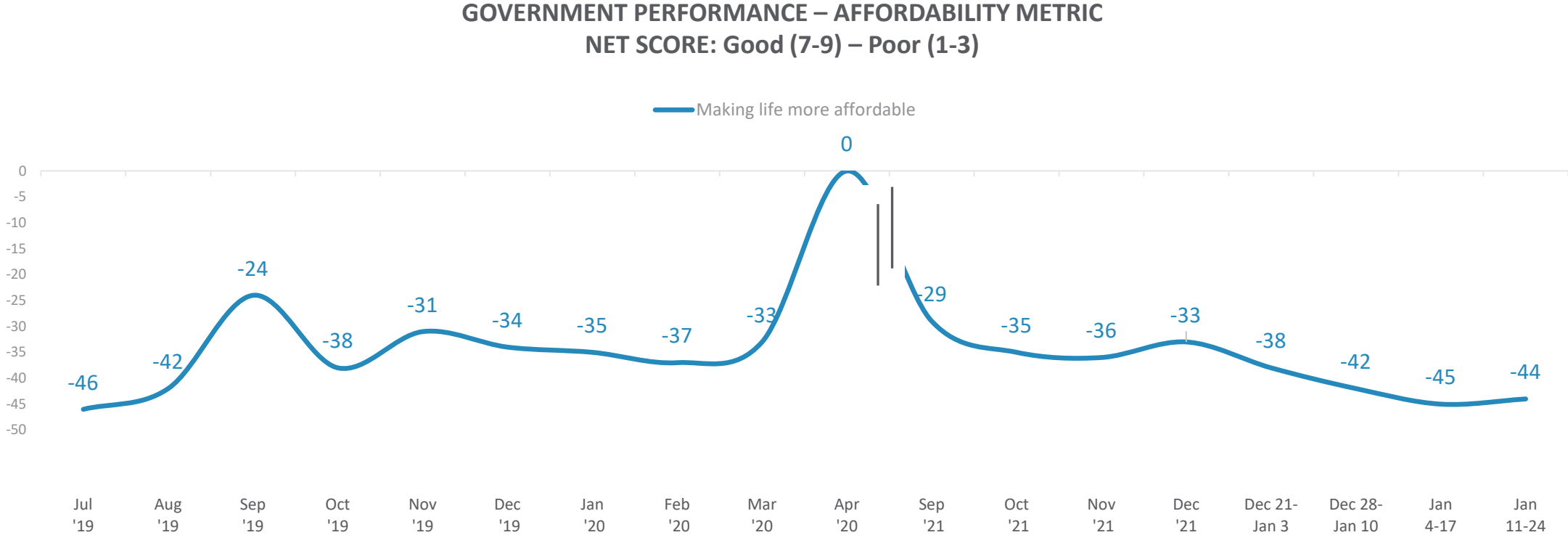
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

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



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’ 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

FOCUS ON HEALTH VERSUS ECONOMY



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT’S FOCUS IN THE COMING MONTHS

This week, there was a slight decline to 56% of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues, while 37% now want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 19-points (compared to 25-points last week).

	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	Jan 11-24
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	37
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	56
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	10	6	7	6	6

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 5TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

After declining for the past two weeks, there was an increase to 72% of Ontarians who indicate they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic. However, the proportion reporting they are ‘very’ concerned has continued to decline.

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	Jan 18-24
varies						
%	%	%	%	%	%	%
71	77	77	80	76	65	72
39	41	51	52	39	32	29
31	36	26	28	37	33	43
19	16	11	9	11	17	15
9	6	11	9	11	18	13
28	23	23	19	22	34	28

Some of the increase measured last week was reversed this week with 47% having the view 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	Jan 18-24
varies						
%	%	%	%	%	%	%
74	68	63	56	43	58	47
22	18	12	10	7	11	9
52	51	50	45	36	47	39
15	17	20	24	29	22	29
9	11	15	18	26	17	22
24	29	35	42	55	40	51
2	3	3	2	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...

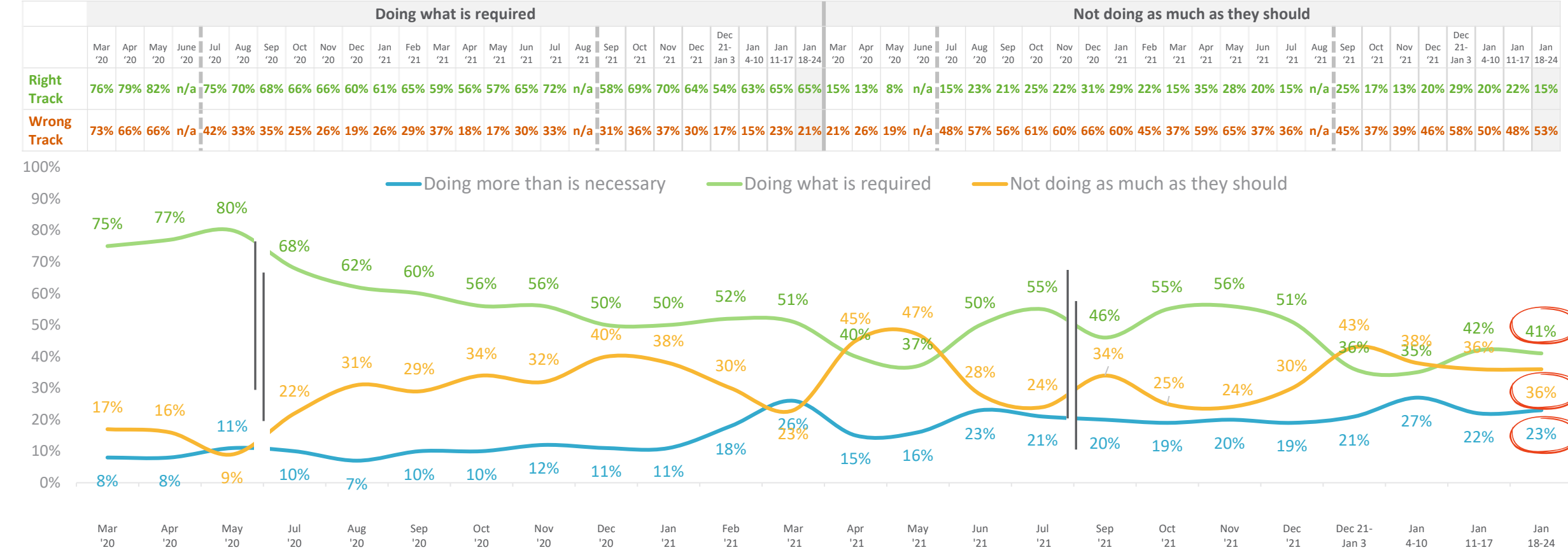
Base: Total sample

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

This week, results were steady with 41% who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’, 36% who believe the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’, and 23% who indicate ‘doing more than necessary’.



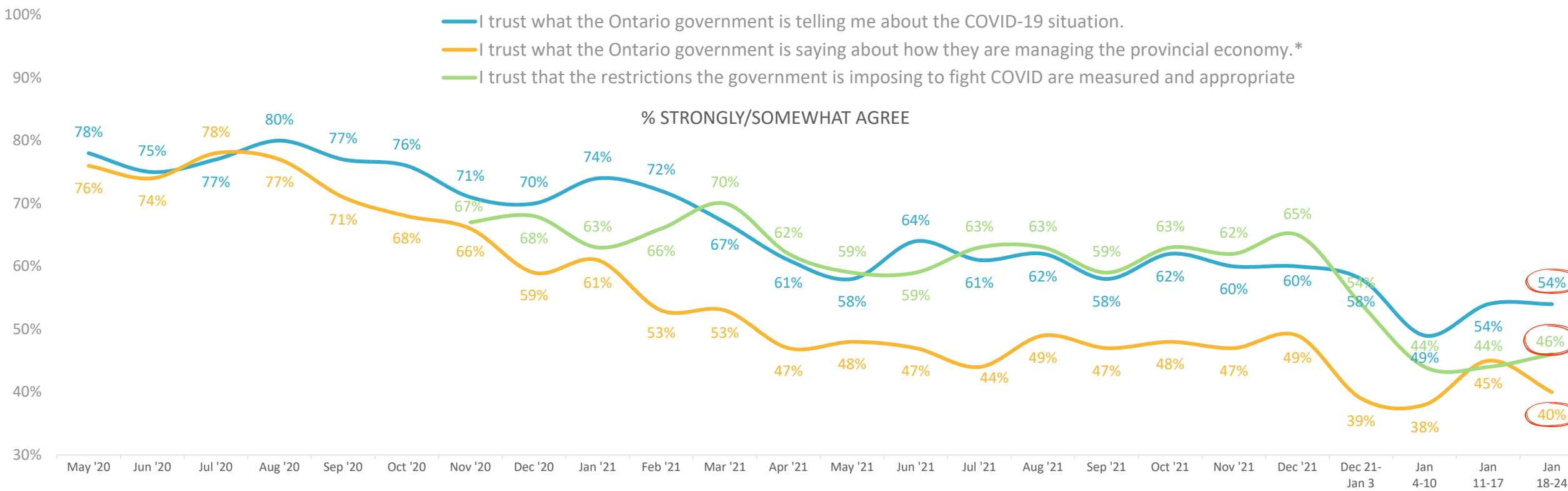
QCV-6. In light of the Omicron variant and thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time, would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) In light of the Delta variant and thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario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

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

This week, results were steady regarding trust in 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’. However, there was a decline for ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’.



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 the end of the year, there has been a 10-point increase to over half (54%) of Ontarians who are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic. This compares to 74% in July and 67% in November.

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

	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	50	44	48	50	54
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	24	19	19	23	28
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	26	25	29	27	26
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	8	9	7	8	11
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	15	15	23	20	17
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	23	29	22	19	18
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	38	44	45	39	35

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’ continued to decline to 19% this week. Over half (57%) say that their level of concern has stayed about the same, while 23% 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	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49	48	32	24	19
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36	38	47	55	57
Decreased	17	9	15	12	14	20	21	23
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2	<1	<1	<1	<1

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON

Concern continues to slowly decline with 60% now 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	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70	69	62	61	60
Very concerned	35	27	37	38	29	29	27
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33	30	34	32	33
Not too concerned	19	16	12	14	21	25	23
Not at all concerned	11	15	18	17	16	14	16
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29	31	37	39	39
Don't know/not sure	3	1	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 (84%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, with 59% saying they are wearing a mask ‘all of the time’ – a decline of 7-points over the last two weeks.

	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	Jan 18-24
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	84
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	59
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	25
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	10
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	4
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	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	6

	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	Jan 18-24	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	Jan 18-24
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%	91%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	79%	81%	73%	76%	77%	77%	76%	76%	82%	84%	77%	76%	84%	83%	81%	82%	81%	79%	78%

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, support for wanting public health measures to be continued (45%) has been trending down. Results for supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures has been trending up but remained unchanged this week (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	Jan 18-24
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	12
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	45
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	42

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

With changes in reporting in Ontario, almost half (47%) report 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 (36%) 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	Jan 18-24	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	Jan 18-24	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	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies																																			
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	32	31	24	18	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	36	32	24	33	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30	31	36	51	47
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	26	27	25	20	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	41	40	33	41	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37	33	33	42	37
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	31	36	37	36	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	39	34	27	35	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34	29	30	35	28
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	34	37	36	36	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	36	34	35	36	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33	29	28	29	28
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	28	29	29	26	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	38	34	31	36	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35	32	36	39	37

Again this week, half (52%) of Ontarians say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, while there was a decline to 39% saying 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	Jan 18-24
n=	varies																		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	32	27	34	36	43	45	45	49	44	43	40	50	45	43	47	53	45	51	52
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	24	35	29	28	30	33	31	32	40
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	18	18	15	16	16	15	16	20	15	19	13
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	7	3	6	7	8	11	7	4	6	6	5	9	7	4	6	3	7
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	17	20	20	13	16	15	16	12	19	15	13
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	31	32	30	33	31	29	29	30	29	26
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	49	52	52	43	49	47	45	41	48	44	39

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 increased to 53% - up 15-points over the past three weeks. This compares to 58% in 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	Dec '21	Dec 21-Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
varies															
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	47	38	39	44	53
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	18	12	12	15	22
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	29	25	27	29	31
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	7	8	11	6	7
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	17	22	18	17
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	27	34	28	30	22
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	43	51	50	48	38

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 again remained steady at 72% 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	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52	66	75	73	72
No	61	62	55	48	34	25	27	28

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO’S ICUs

Among those who are aware, there was a decline to 56% that say they have heard that the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICUs has been increasing, with an increase to 23% that say they have heard the number has been staying about the same.

	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14	13	11	8	15
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25	27	17	14	23
Increasing	38	45	54	59	54	68	74	56
Don’t trust the news/fake news	-	-	1	<1	<1	1	2	<1
Mostly unvaccinated patients in the ICU	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Younger adults in the ICU (in their thirties)	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-	-
Fluctuating	-	1	-	-	-	<1	-	-
Some other news	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don’t know/not sure	4	3	8	2	3	2	1	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 (90%) continue to say they are concerned and intensity is high with 57% ‘very’ concerned.

	Nov 23- Dec 6	Nov 30- Dec 13	Dec 7-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Dec 28- Jan 10	Jan 4-17	Jan 11-24
n=	80	115	157	175	227	257	232
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	82	93	94	89	91	92	90
Very concerned	52	62	62	58	52	51	57
Somewhat concerned	30	31	32	31	38	42	33
Not too concerned	16	6	6	11	9	8	10
Don’t know/not sure	2	1	1	-	-	-	-

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

CURRENT HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

The majority (60%) of Ontarians indicate they own their own home, while one-third (32%) are renting. Almost one-in-ten (7%) live with their parents.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
	Varies	
	%	%
Own your own home	62	60
Renting	28	32
Living with parent(s)	8	7
Adult children own home and I live with them	1	<1
Other	-	1
Don't know/not sure	1	<1

Most (94%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 83% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	94	94
Increased significantly	82	83
Increased somewhat	12	11
Not increased too much	2	4
Not increased at all	1	1
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	3	5
Don't know/not sure	3	1

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

Almost half (48%) of Ontarians report that significant increases to home purchase prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally. And, while 19% describe this as a ‘good thing’, 32% say it doesn’t matter to them either way.

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

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	16	19
A very good thing	5	7
Somewhat of a good thing	12	12
Somewhat of a bad thing	19	17
A very bad thing	26	31
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	45	48
Doesn't matter either way	37	32
Don't know/not sure	2	1

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 (83%) Ontarians believe that home rental prices have increased, with 48% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	79	83
Increased significantly	44	48
Increased somewhat	35	35
Not increased too much	5	5
Not increased at all	3	4
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	7	9
Don't know/not sure	13	8

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

Half (53%) of Ontarians believe that significant increases to home rental prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally, while four-in-ten (41%) report it doesn’t matter either way to them.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	8	6
A very good thing	1	2
Somewhat of a good thing	7	5
Somewhat of a bad thing	16	23
A very bad thing	26	30
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	43	53
Doesn't matter either way	48	41
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

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 (33%), not enough new homes being built in areas where people want to live (31%), and not enough people selling or renting homes (23%).

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	varies	
	%	%
Too many people wanting to buy or rent a home	37	33
Not enough new homes being built in areas people want to live	29	31
Not enough people selling or renting homes	19	23
Don't know/not sure	16	13

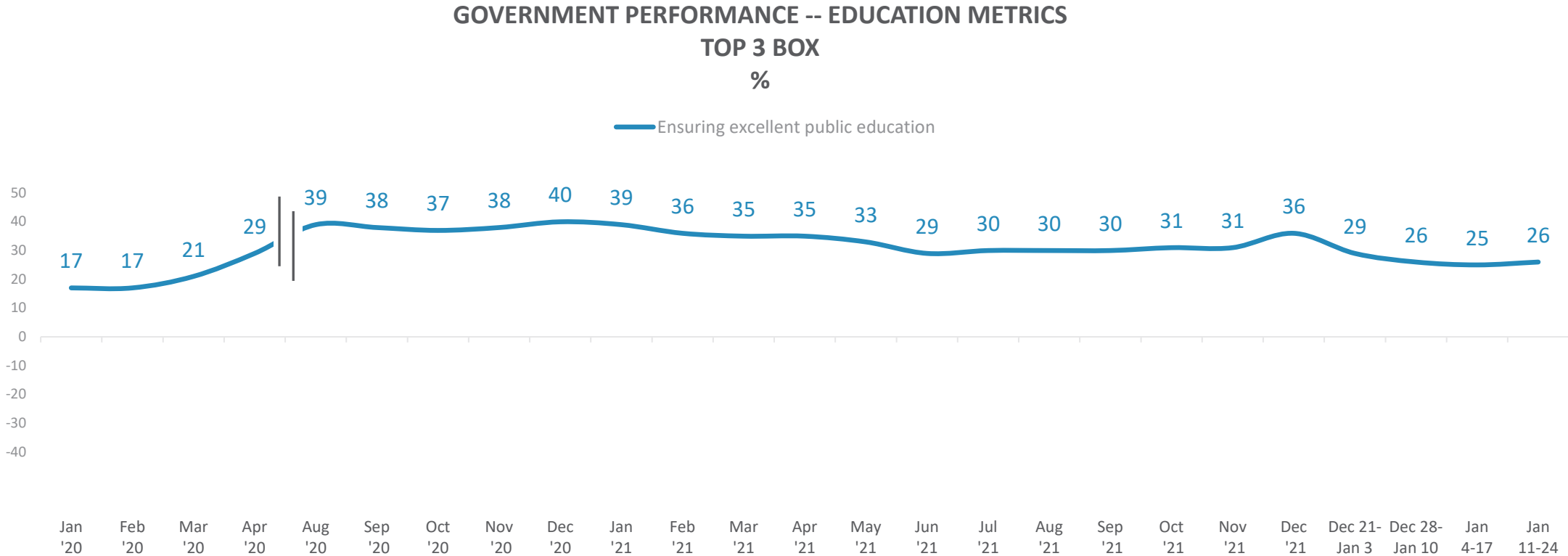
Half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (49%), while 35% agree that they can only afford to buy or rent a condo. And, half (50%) agree there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs and that they feel stuck since they can't afford to move (47%).

% Strongly/Somewhat agree	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24
n=	250	256
	%	%
There are hardly any homes available to rent that meet my needs	44	50
I'd like to buy a house, but I can't afford it	46	49
I feel stuck in the place I live in now, since I can't afford to move	43	47
I can only afford to buy or rent a condo	29	35

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

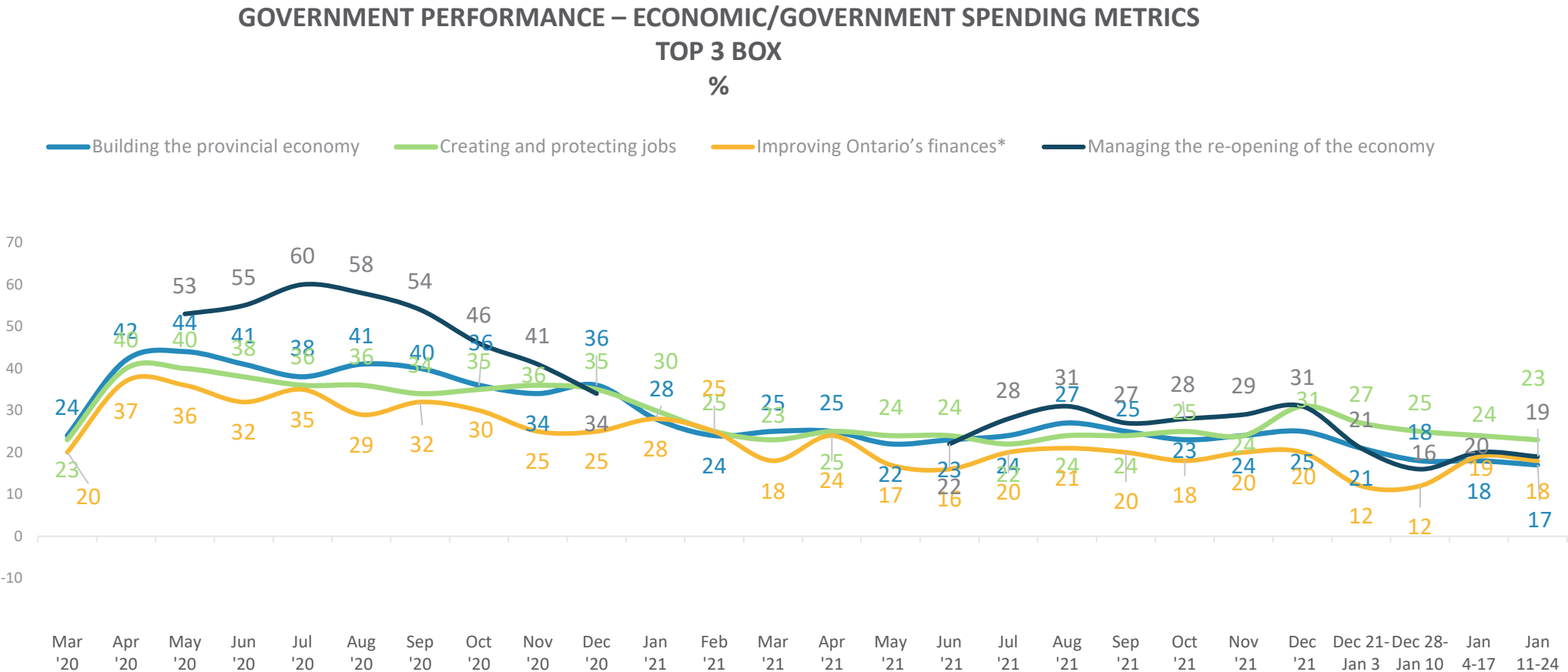


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained steady again this week.



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 the economic and spending metrics all remained steady this week.

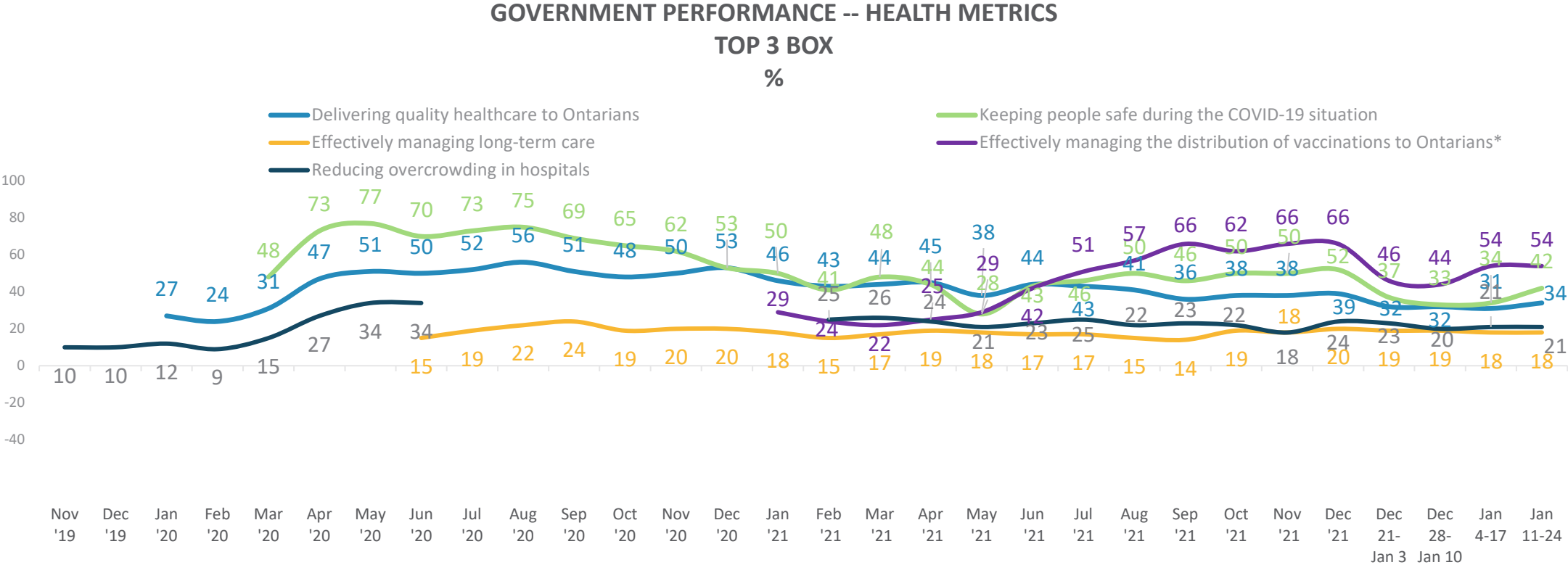


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

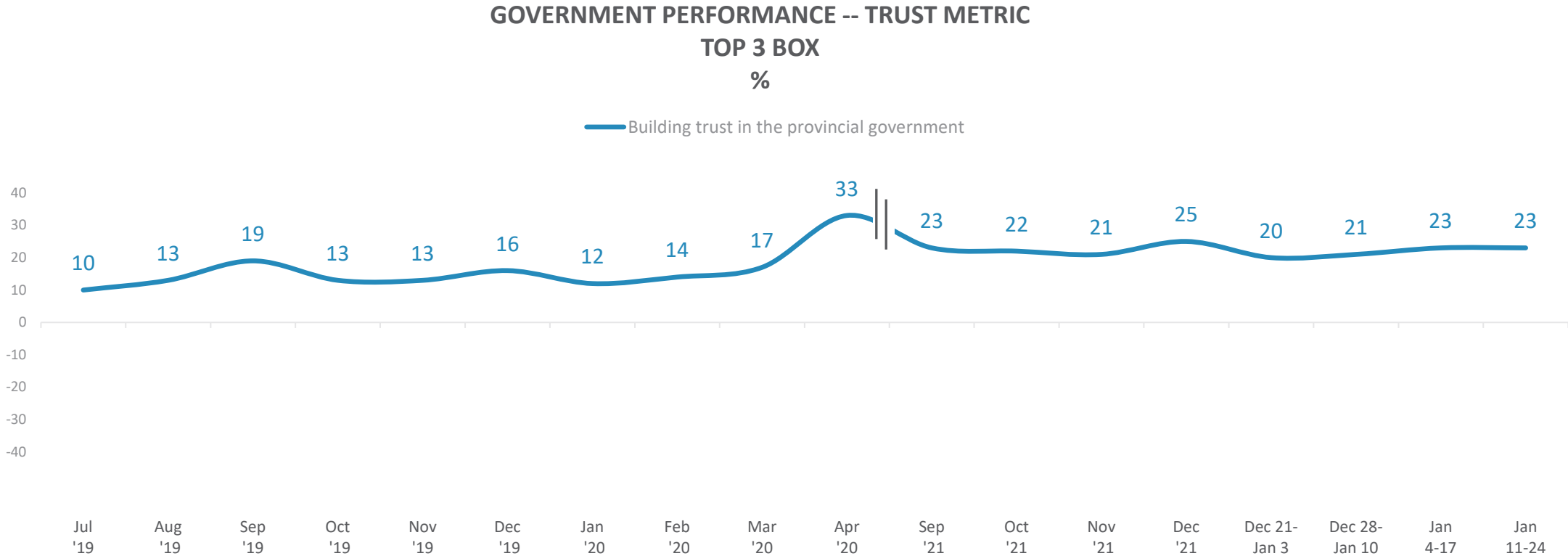
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ increased this week, while there was a slight uptick for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’. The other health metrics were stable.



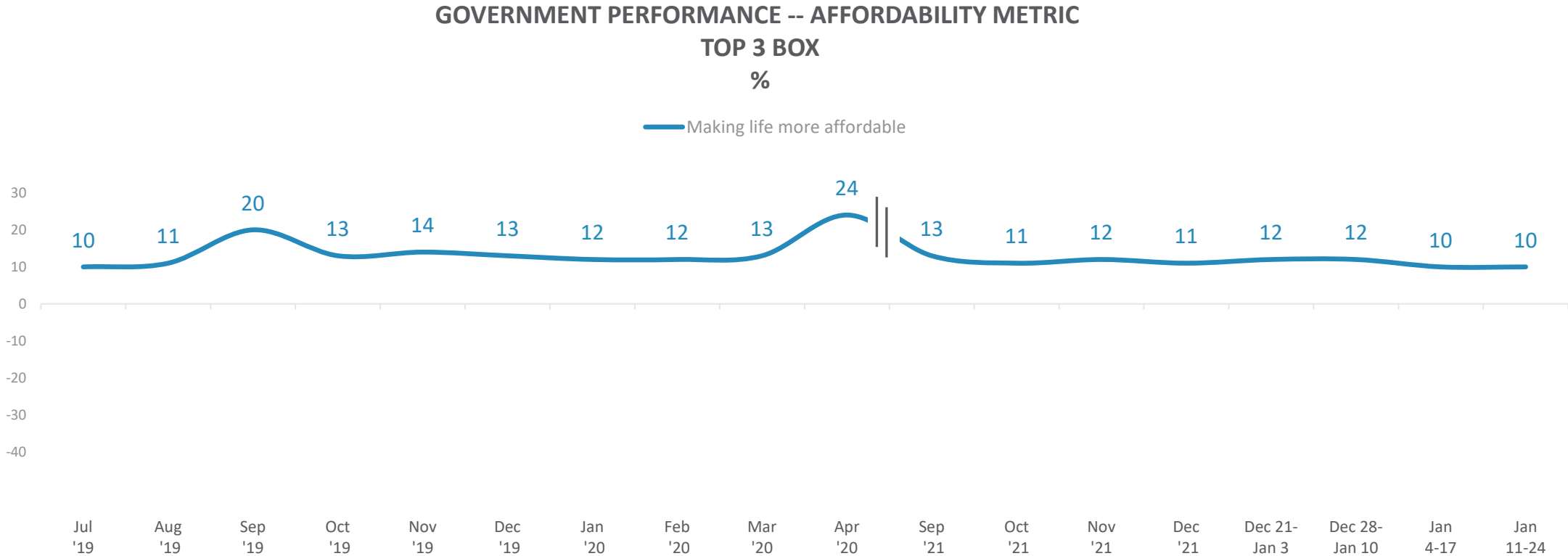
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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