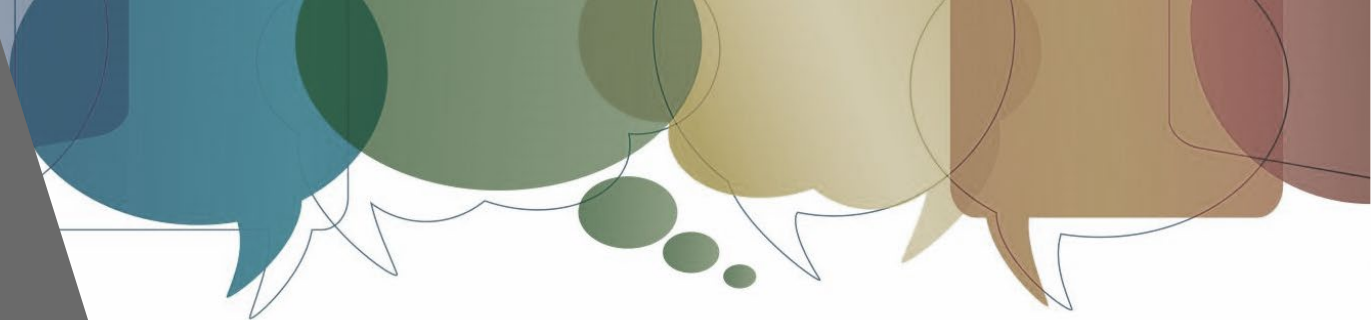




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #118

CABINET OFFICE
February 8th 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' declined 6-points this week, with the gap widening to 14-points between those who believe the government is on the 'right track' (43%) versus 'wrong track' (57%).

The decline in 'right track' was driven by those who believe the government is 'somewhat on the right track'. 'Strongly on the right track' (9%) has been slowly inching down, while there was an 11-point increase this week among those who believe the government is 'strongly on the wrong track' (39%).

These changes coincide with the 'Freedom Convoy' activities seen in the province and across Canada.

2 In conjunction with this, there is an increasing levels of fatigue with COVID-19 mitigation measures. This week, just over six-in-ten (62%) Ontarians say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, compared to 43% in mid-December.

And, while 78% of Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing – either for public health measures to be continued (35%) or a plan for relaxing public health measures (43%) – support for ending these public health measures has been slowing increasing since mid-December and is now at 20%.

Of note, while most (80%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering 'all/most of the time', the proportion has been slowly declining since mid-December.

3 As seen in previous weeks, Ontarians' level of concern about Omicron – and the pandemic overall – has been lessening. Again this week, 57% of Ontarians indicate they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic – the lowest results since tracking began.

Concern about Omicron continues to decline with 49% now indicating they are concerned about this new COVID-19 variant from a high of 70% in mid-December.

Importantly, when asked if their level of concern over COVID-19 increased, stayed about the same or decreased over the past week, the proportion reporting their level of concern decreased continues to trend up to 36% this week – from 14% at the beginning of the year.

4 Over the past two weeks, there has been an 11-point increase in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly (58%).

That said, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is 'doing more than is necessary' (29%) continues to slowly increase, while there have been declines among those who believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should' (29%). 'Doing what is required' (41%) has been remaining stable.

Key Findings

5 However, the paradox is that while the rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' increased 12-points this week, there was a 10-point decline measured for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation'.

There was also a further decline in trust in the government's communications about 'what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation'. Results were steady for 'the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate'.

As well, rating of the government's performance for 'building trust in the provincial government' has dropped 10-points in the past two weeks.

7 However, the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' continues to trend down and is now at NET -48.

Consistent with previous results, most (96%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 82% saying they have increased 'significantly'. And, about eight-in-ten (78%) believe that home rental prices have increased, with half (49%) saying they have increased 'significantly'.

Of note, half report that these significant increases to home purchase prices (48%) and home rental prices (53%) are a 'bad thing' for them personally.

6 COVID-19 as the government's top priority continued to decline this week to 37%. And, there was a slight increase to 59% of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues, while 35% want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 24-points.

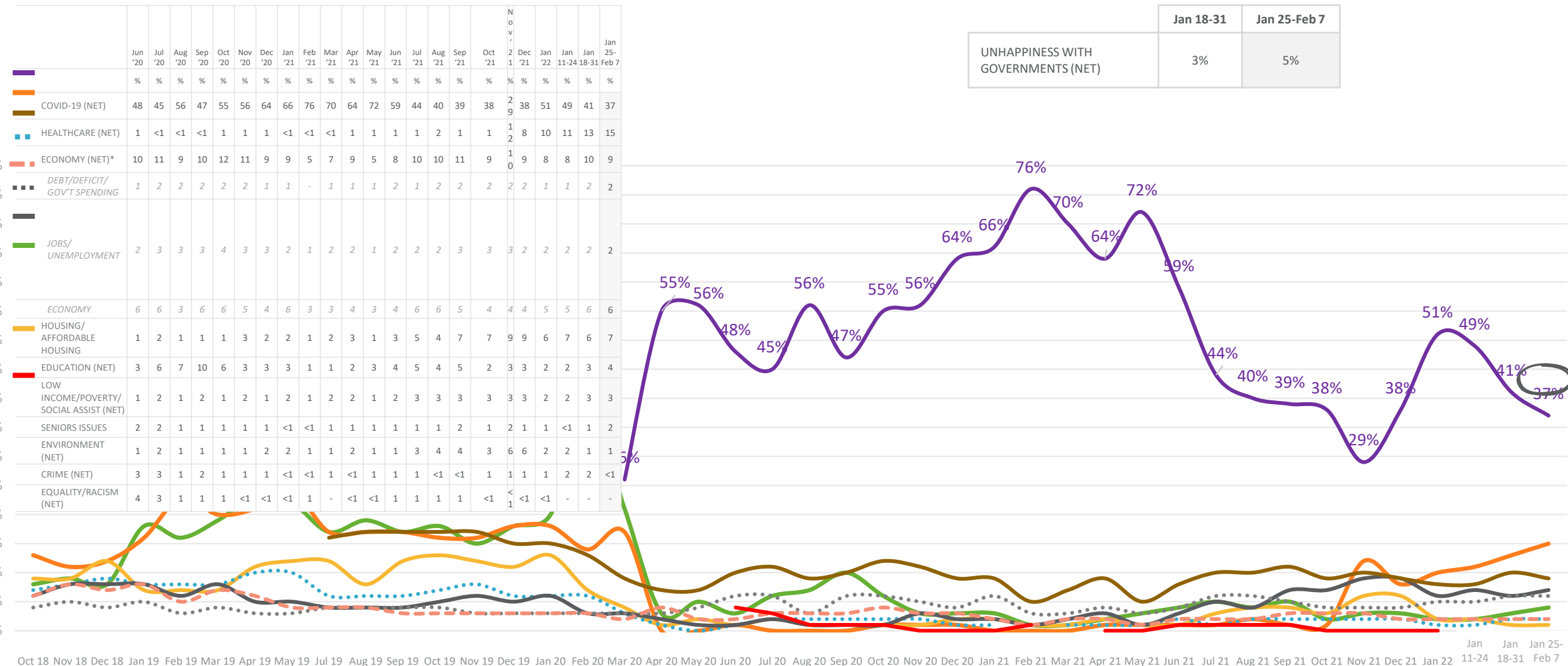
In terms of economic metrics, while remaining in negative territory, the rating of the government has been improving. Over the past two weeks, there has been a 13-point increase in the rating of the government's performance for 'building the provincial economy'. There were also improvements this week for 'improving Ontario's finances' (up 6-points) and 'managing the re-opening of the economy' (up 4-points). 'Creating and protecting jobs' remained stable.

8 Rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' experienced a slight decline this week to NET -9.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government’s top priority continued to decline this week to 37%, while 15% now cite healthcare, 9% the economy, 7% affordable housing, and 5% ‘unhappiness with governments’.



	Jan 18-31	Jan 25-Feb 7
UNHAPPINESS WITH GOVERNMENTS (NET)	3%	5%

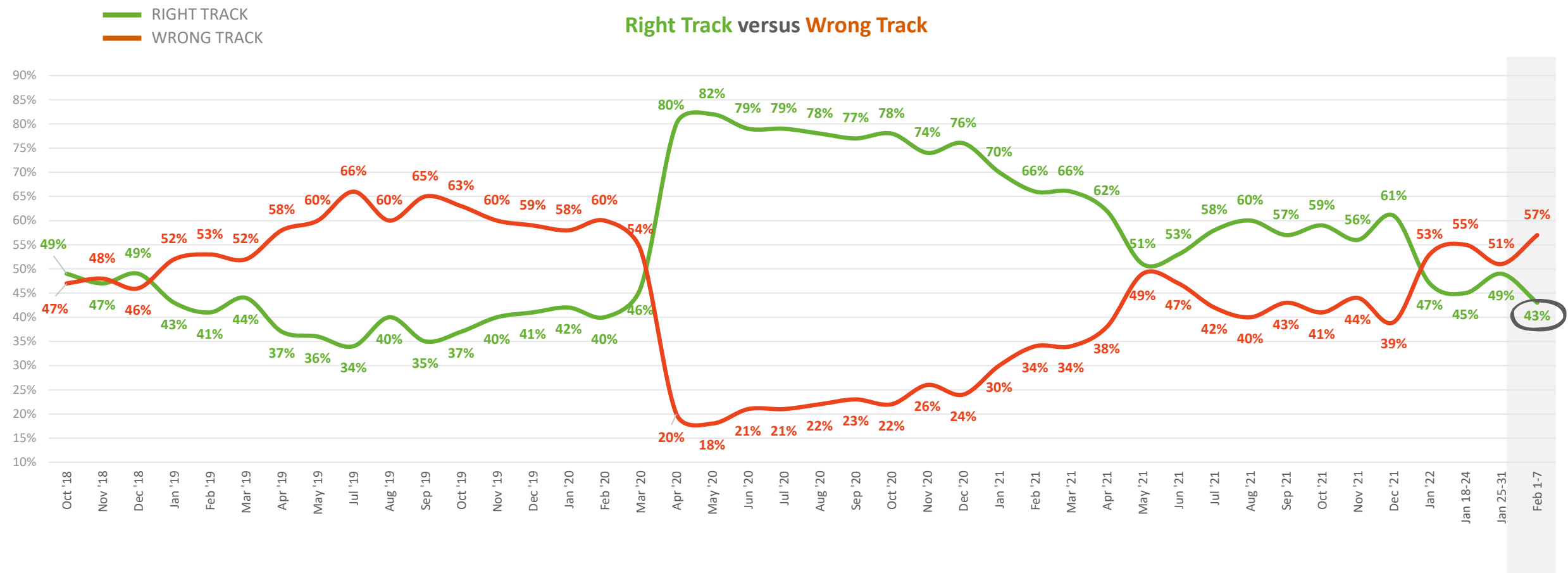
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

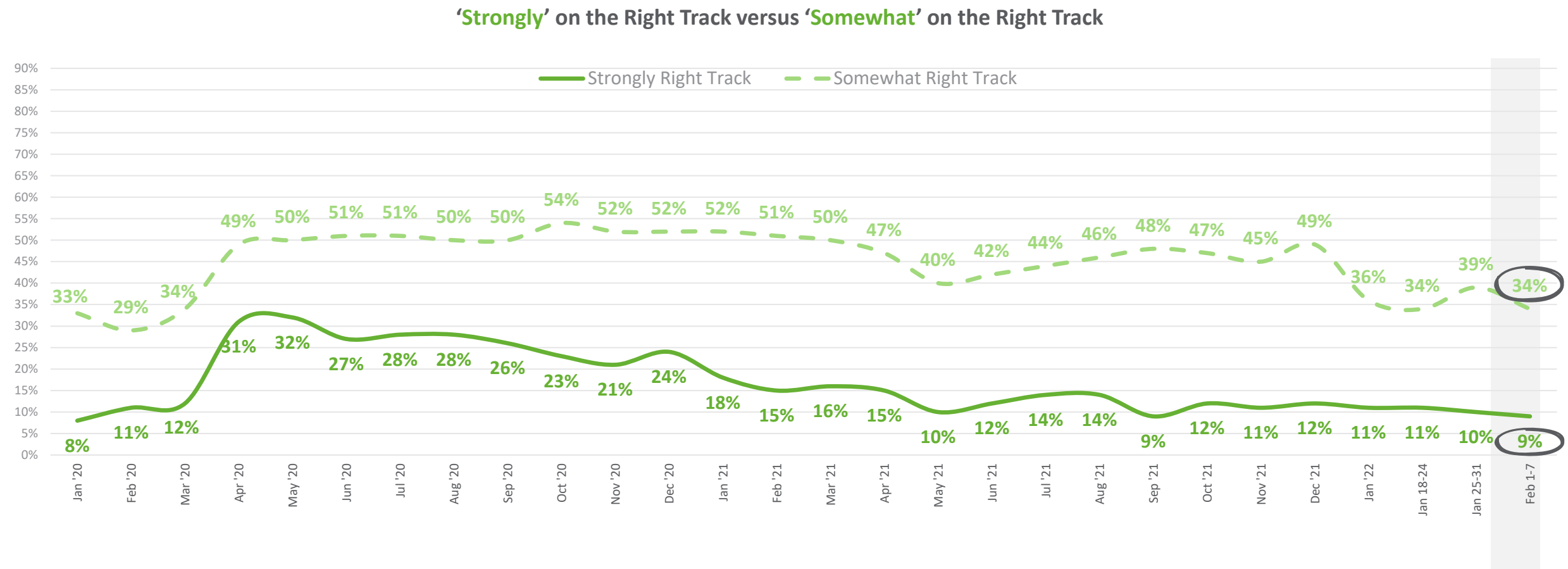


‘Right track’ declined 6-points this week, with the gap widening to 14-points between those who believe the government is on the ‘right track’ (43%) versus ‘wrong track’ (57%).



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

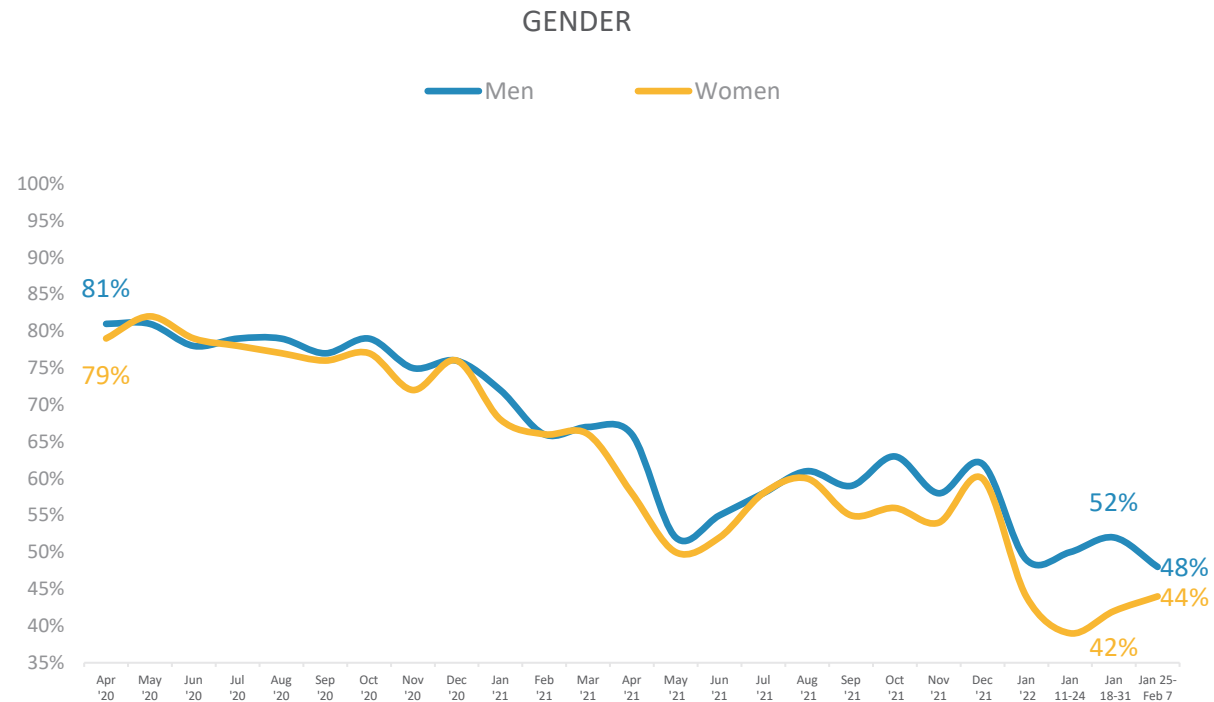
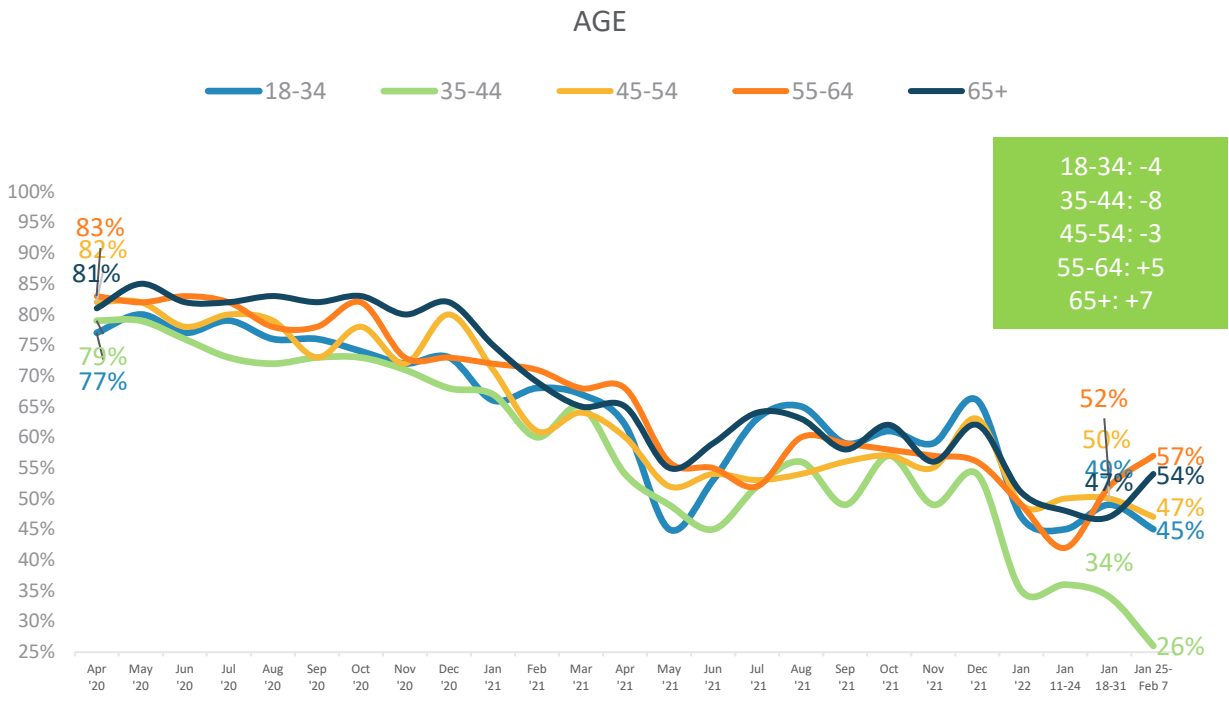
The decline in ‘right track’ was driven by those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’, while ‘strongly on the right track’ has been slowly inching down.



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, there appears to be a divide by age with declines measured among Ontarians under 55 years of age and increases among those 55+. And, the gap in ‘right track’ between those aged 35-44 and the other age groups continues to widen. Although there was a decline, men continue to have higher ‘right track’ scores.

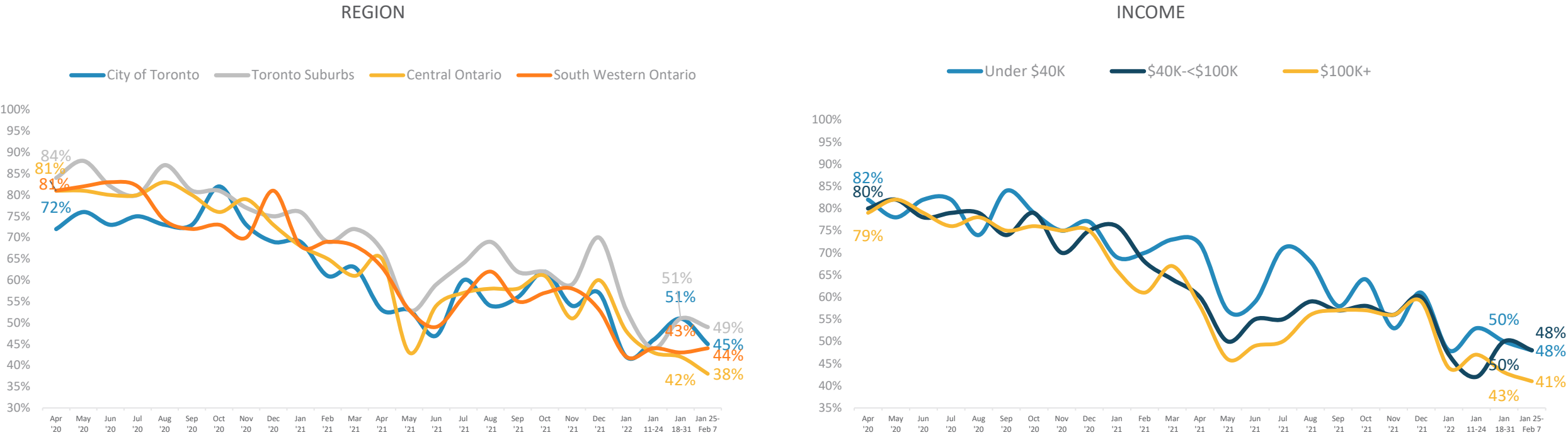
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

Regionally, there were declines in the city of Toronto (-6), Toronto suburbs (-2), and Central Ontario (-4) while results were stable in SW Ontario (+1), with ‘right track’ scores lowest in Central Ontario. By income, there was a modest 2-point decline among each of the three income segments, with parity among Ontarians making less than \$100k (48%) while 7-points lower at 41% among those making \$100k+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

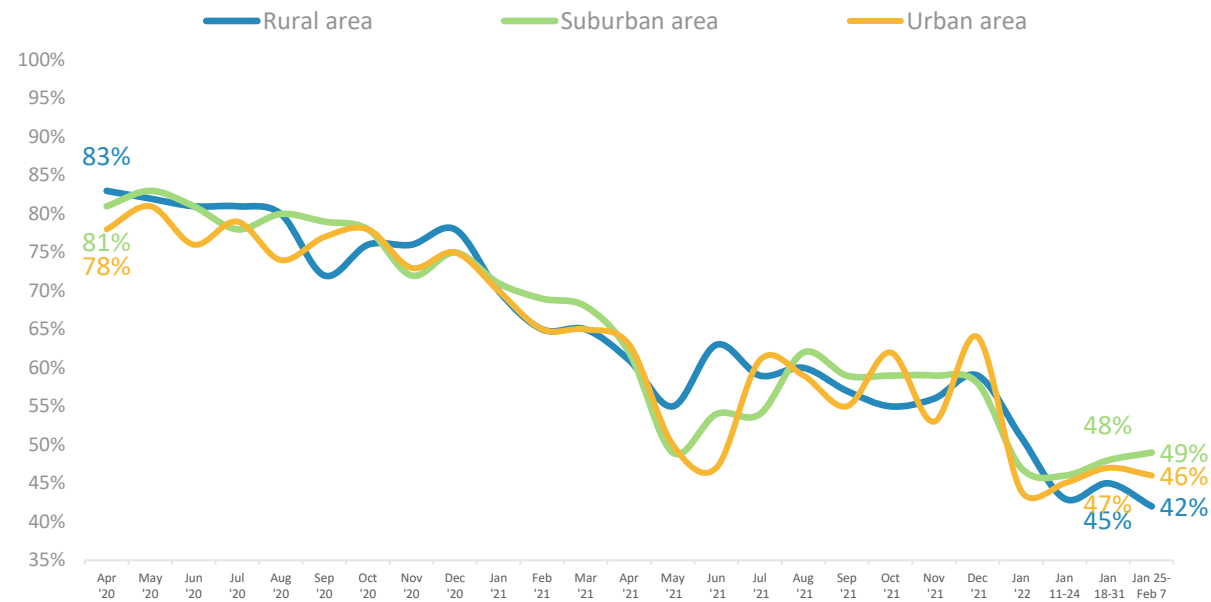


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

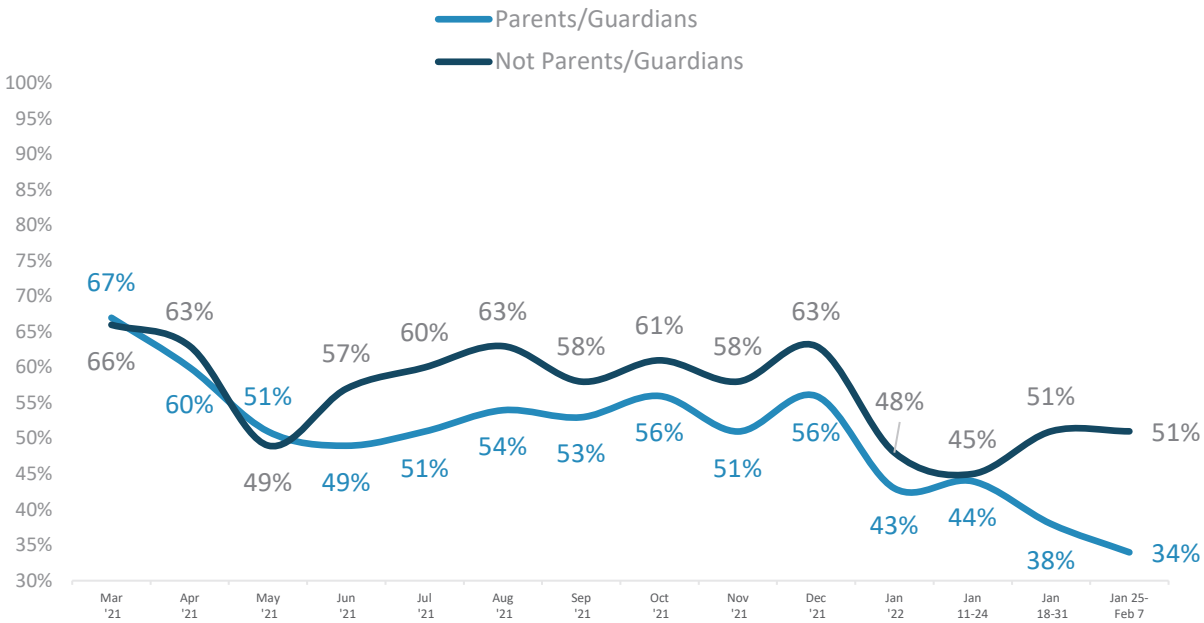
While stable in urban and suburban areas, there was a slight 3-point decline in rural areas where ‘right track’ scores continue to be lowest.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



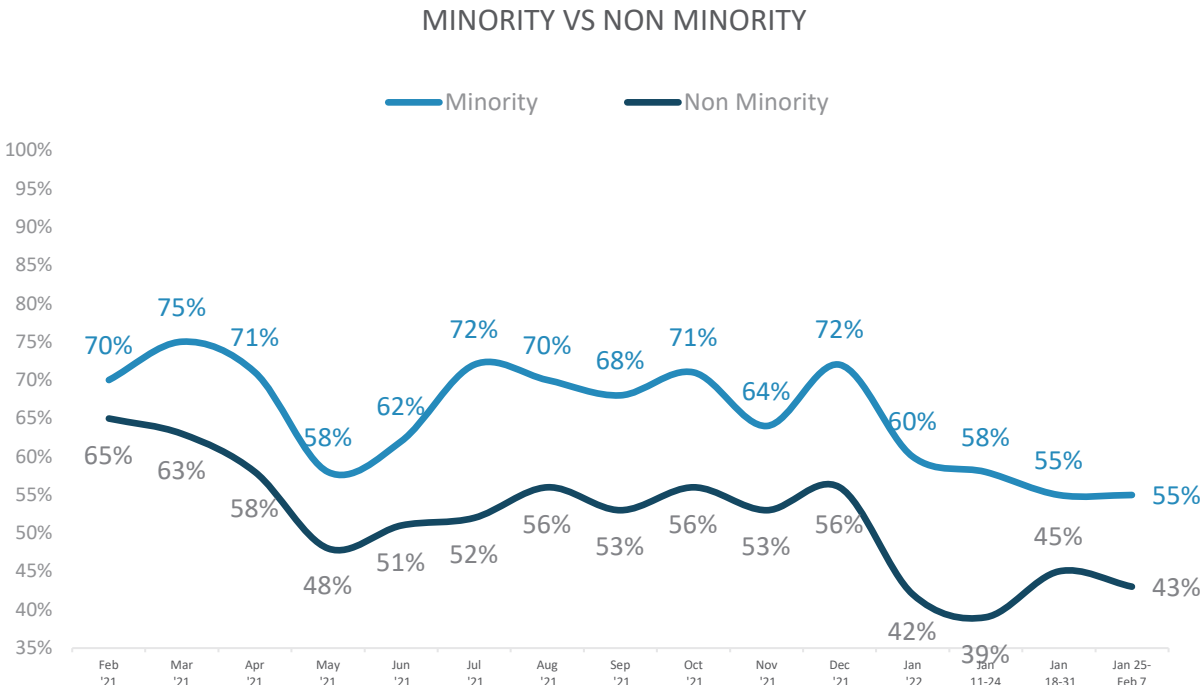
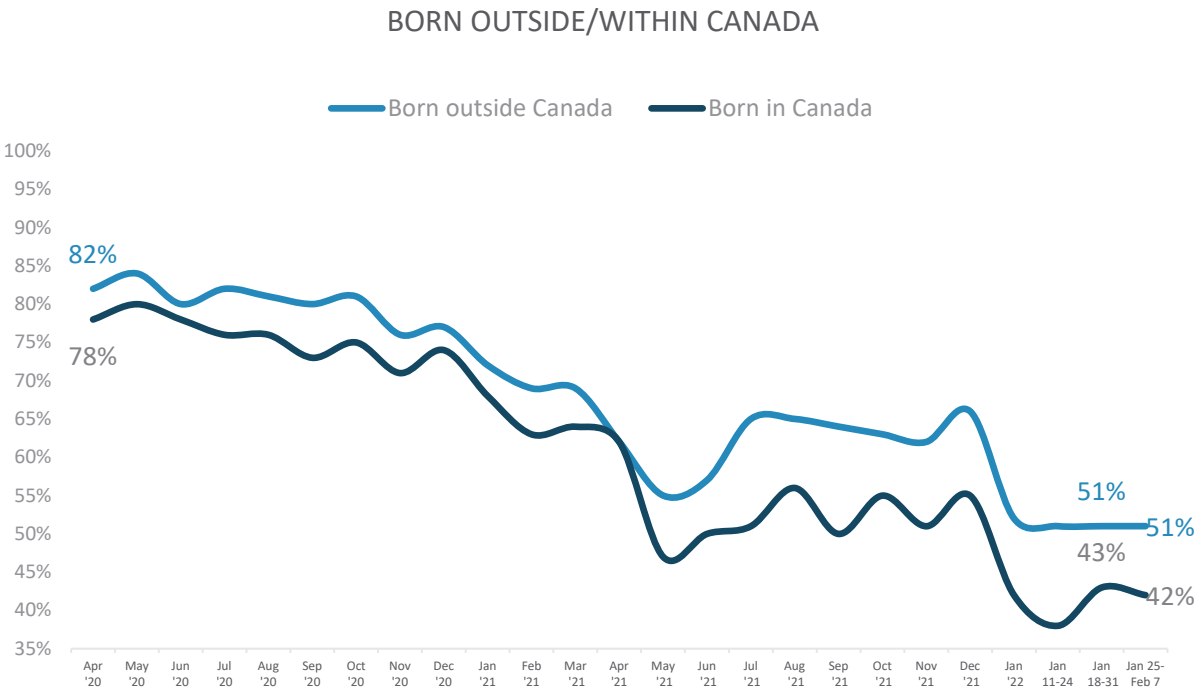
PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



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 unchanged this week among Ontarians born outside of Canada and those who identify as a minority, continuing to have higher scores than those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

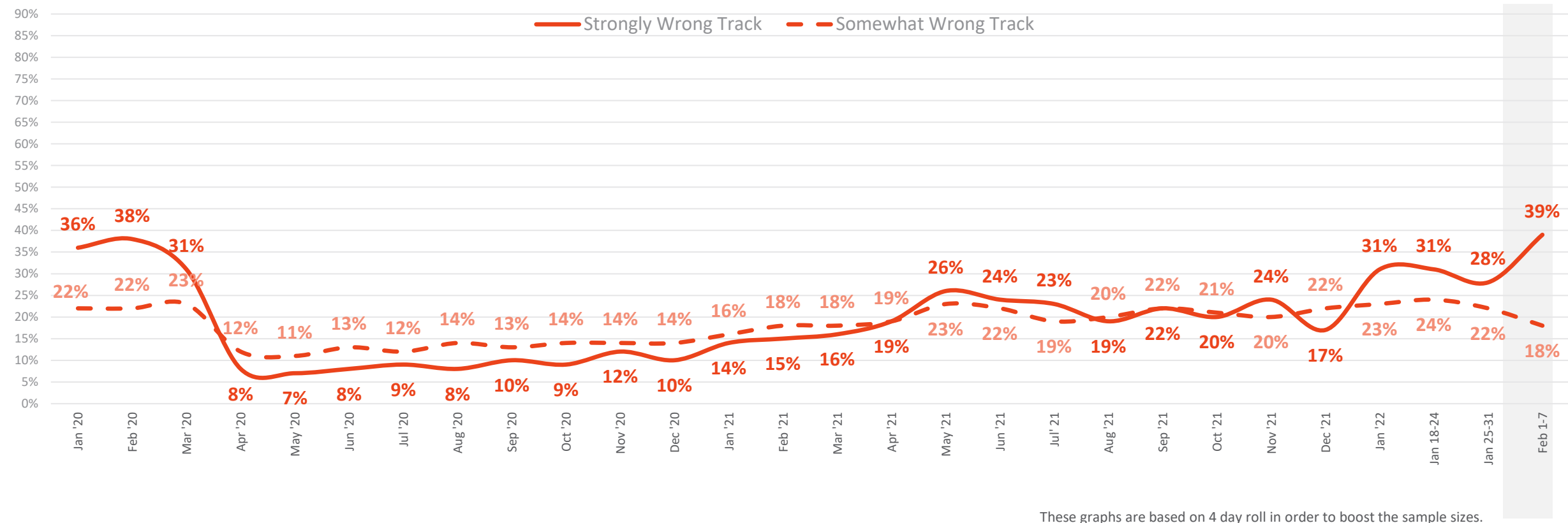
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

There was a decline again this week for ‘somewhat on the wrong track’, while there was an 11-point increase among those who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’.

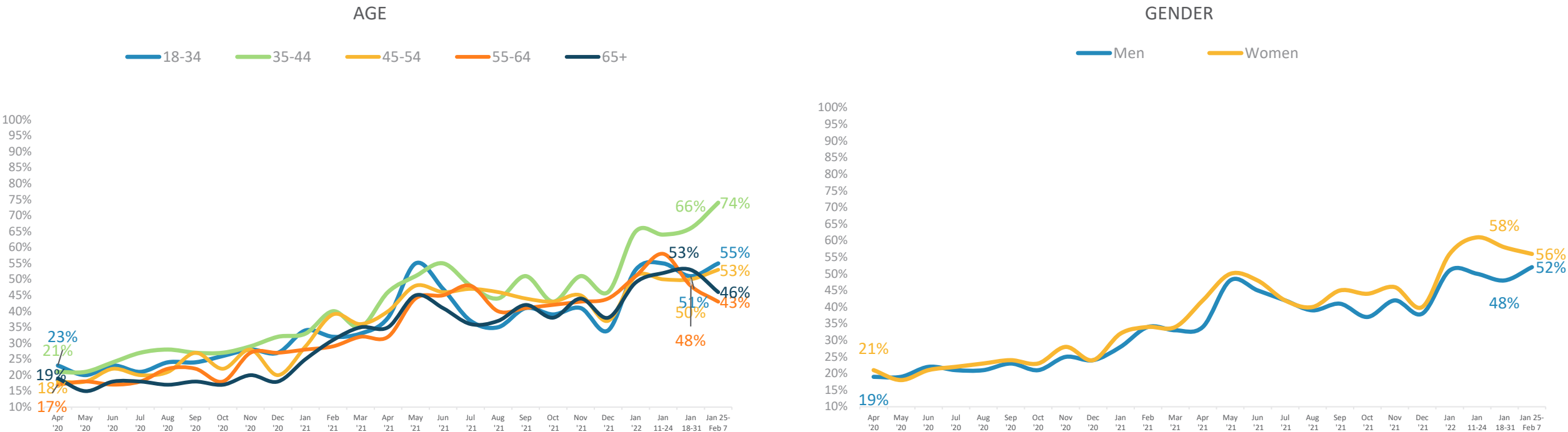
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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

This week, 74% of Ontarians aged 35-44 think the government is on the ‘wrong track’, with increases measured among those under 55 years of age and declines among those 65+. While there was a 4-point increase among men this week, women continue to have higher ‘wrong track’ scores.

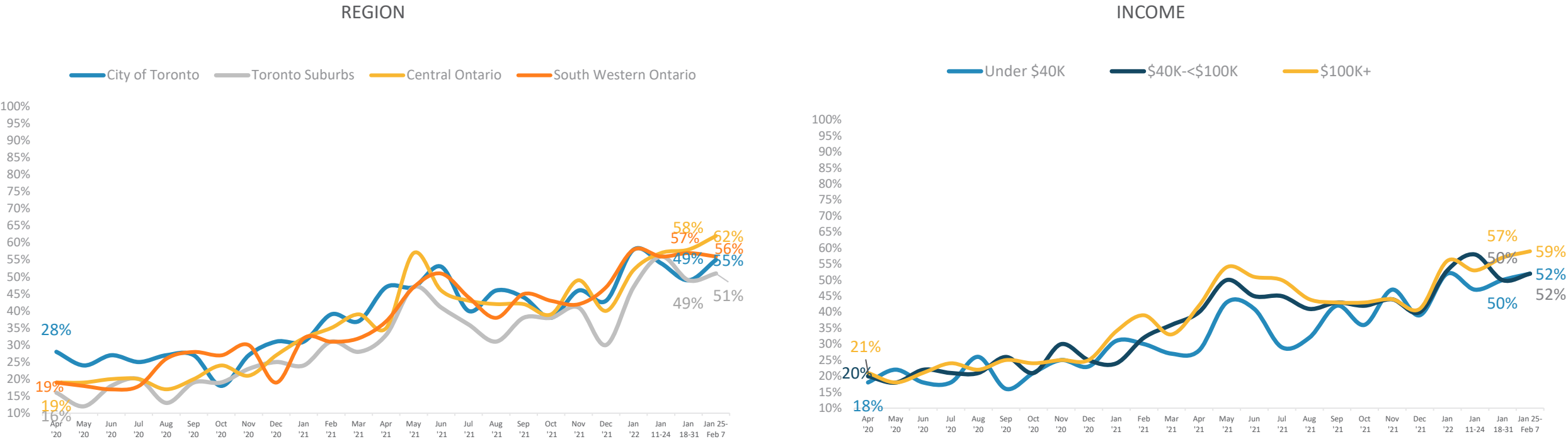
Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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**’ increased in the city of Toronto (+6), Toronto suburbs (+2), and Central Ontario (+4) while remaining steady in SW Ontario (-1). By income, there were slight 2-point increase among each of the three income brackets, with ‘**wrong track**’ remaining highest among those making \$100k+.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

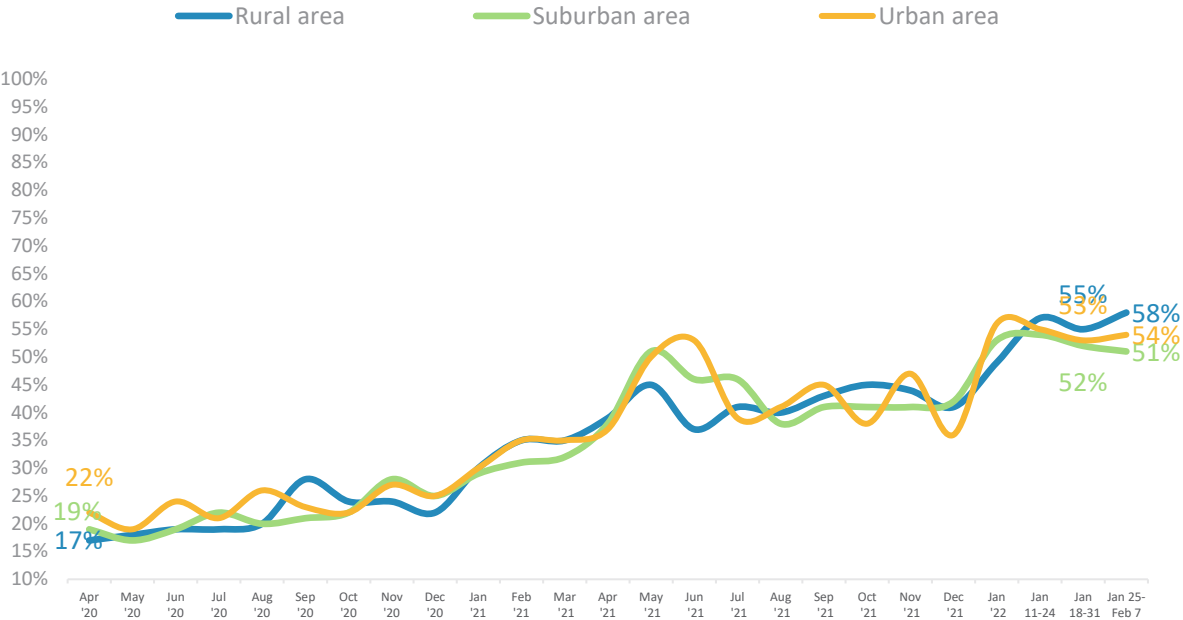


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

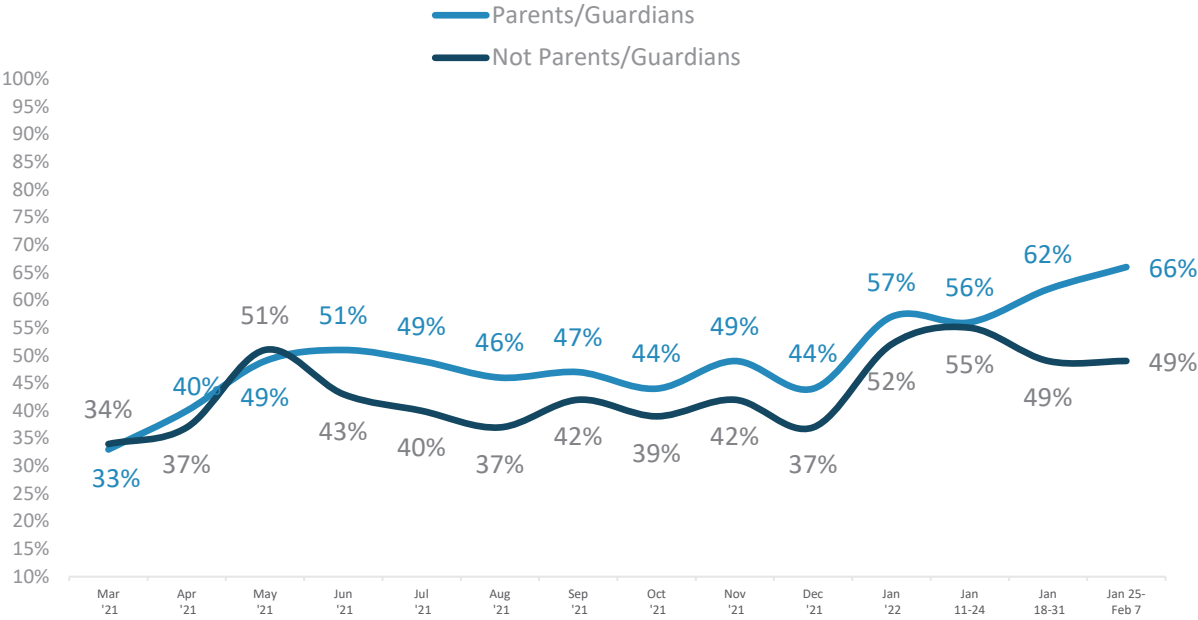
This week, while remaining stable in suburban and urban areas, there was a slight 3-point increase in rural areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

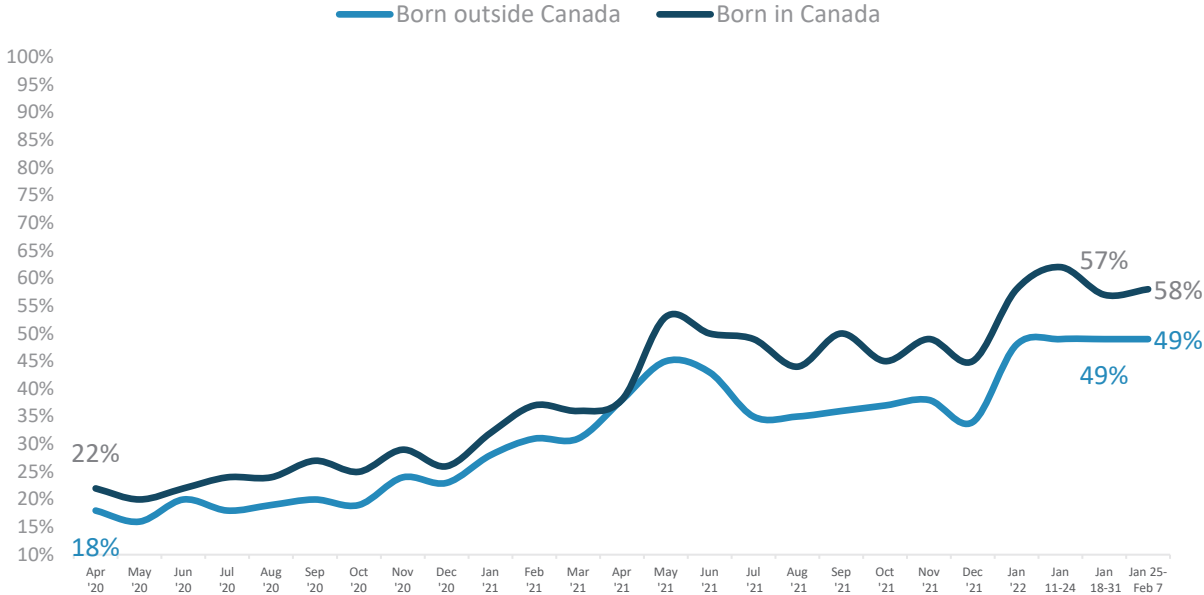


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

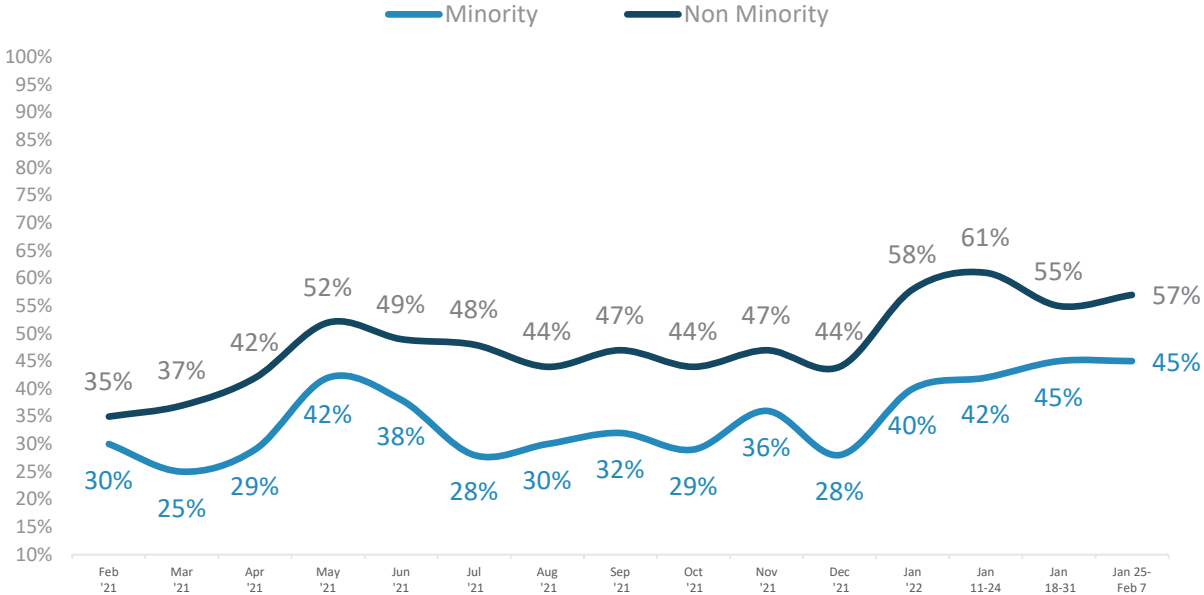
‘Wrong track’ scores remain higher among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



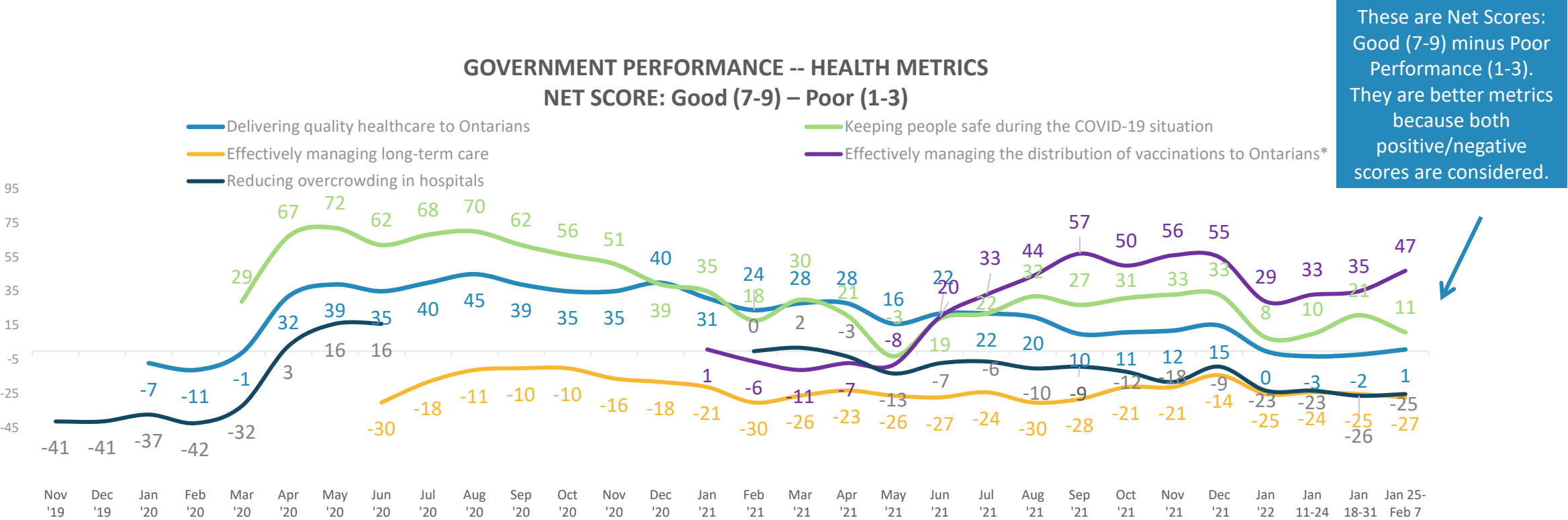
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



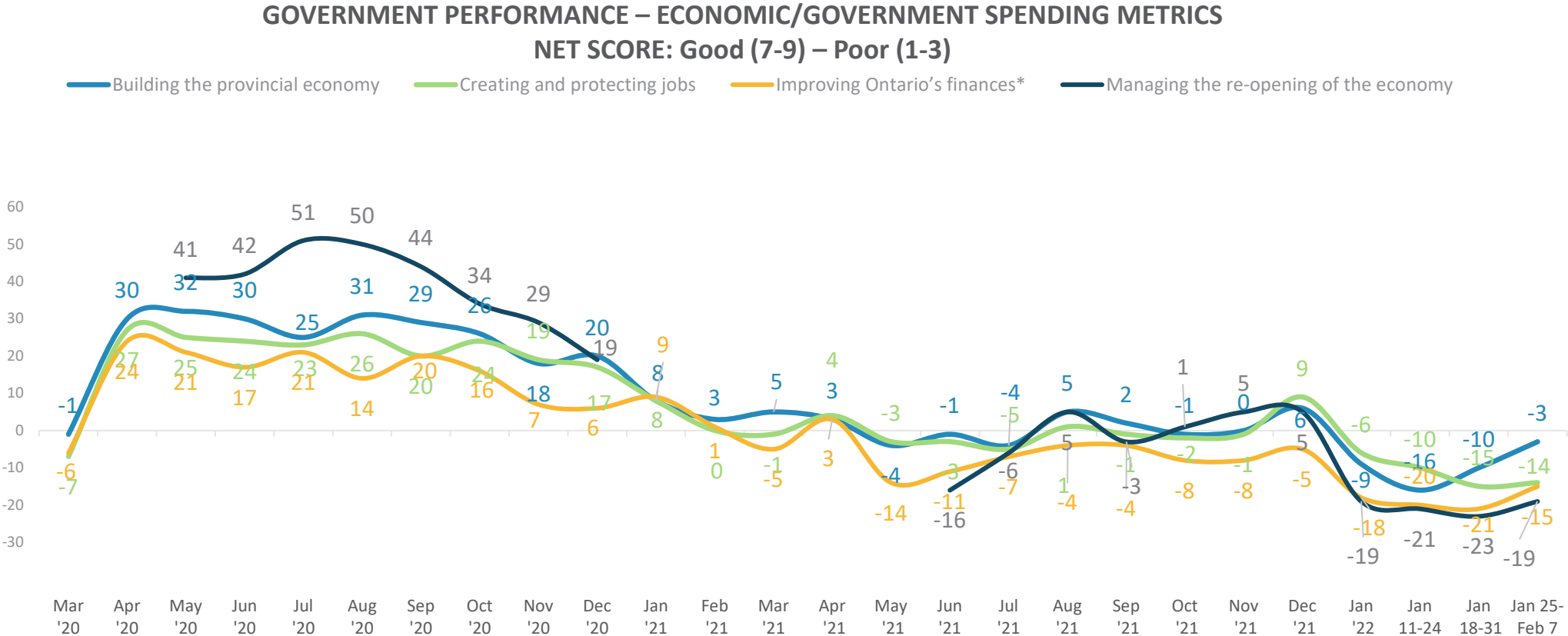
The rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ increased 12-points this week, while there was a 10-point decline measured for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’.

- The other health metrics were relatively stable.



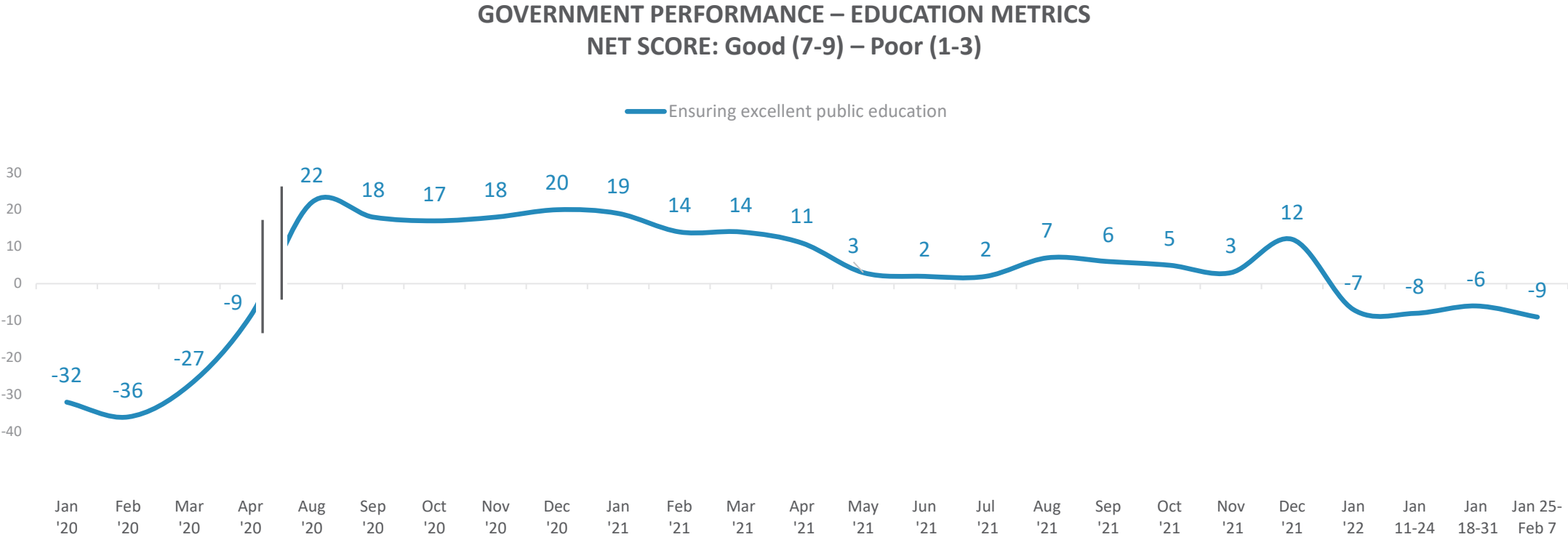
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Over the past two weeks, there has been a 13-point increase in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘building the provincial economy’. There were also improvements this week for ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ (up 6-points) and ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ (up 4-points). ‘Creating and protecting jobs’ remained stable.



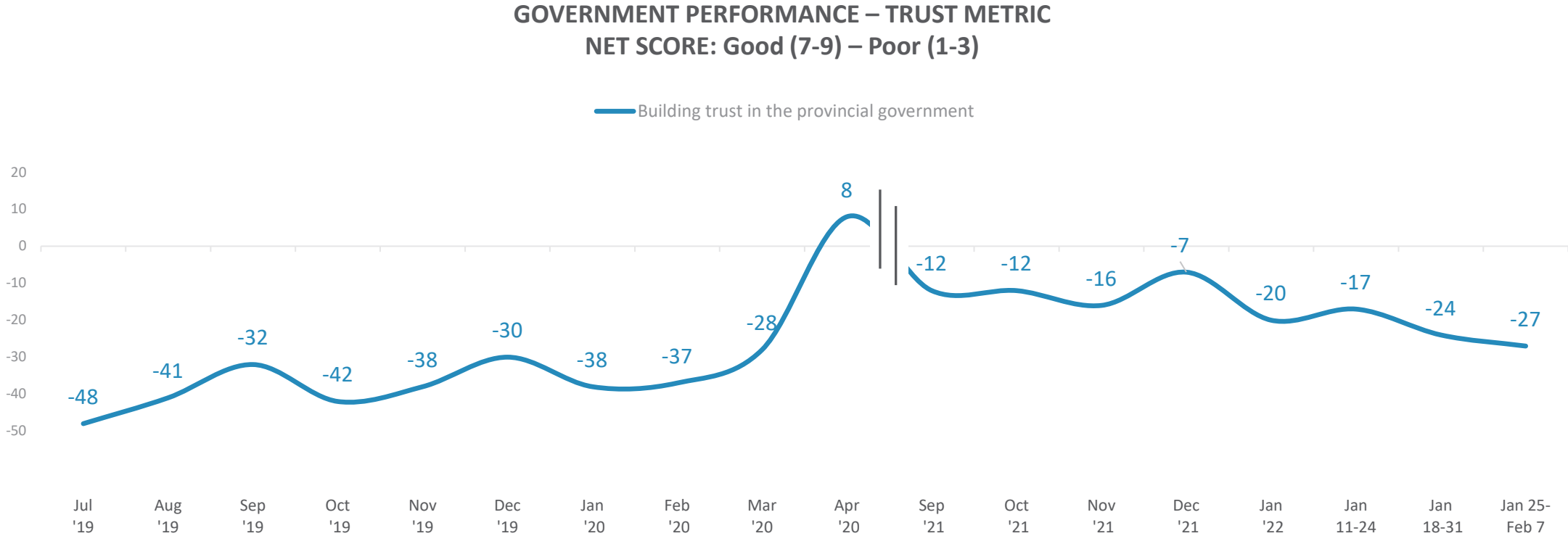
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

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



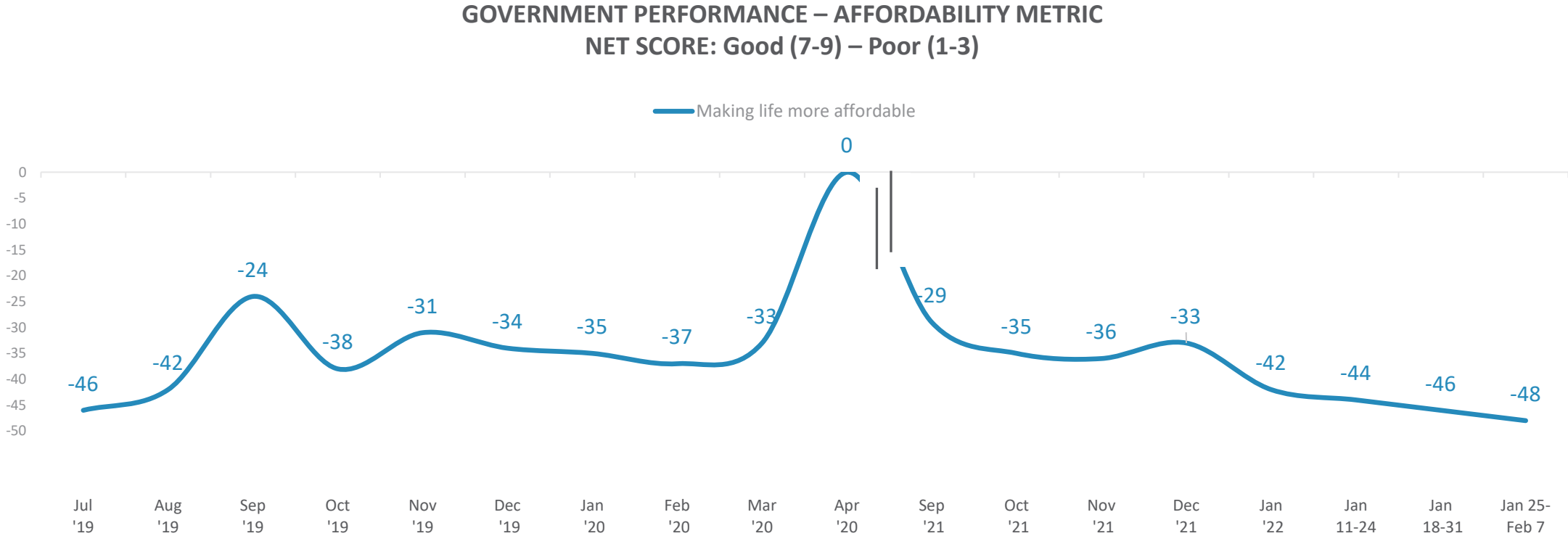
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ has dropped 10-points in the past two weeks.



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.



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



There was a slight increase to 59% of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues, while 35% want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 24-points.

	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Jan 11-24	Jan 18-31	Jan 25-Feb 7
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	37	37	36	35
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	56	56	56	59
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	10	6	6	6	5

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 5TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

Again this week, 57% of Ontarians indicate they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic – the lowest results since tracking began. And, the proportion reporting they are ‘very’ concerned has remained at 22%.

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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
Varies								
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
71	77	77	80	76	65	72	57	57
39	41	51	52	39	32	29	22	22
31	36	26	28	37	33	43	35	35
19	16	11	9	11	17	15	22	19
9	6	11	9	11	18	13	20	24
28	23	23	19	22	34	28	42	43

Over the past two weeks, there has been an 11-point increase in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is prepared to handle a fifth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly (58%).

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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
Varies								
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
74	68	63	56	43	58	47	55	58
22	18	12	10	7	11	9	12	11
52	51	50	45	36	47	39	42	47
15	17	20	24	29	22	29	29	22
9	11	15	18	26	17	22	15	17
24	29	35	42	55	40	51	44	39
2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	3

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

QCV-127. Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a second wave of infections this fall? Would you say the Ontario government is...

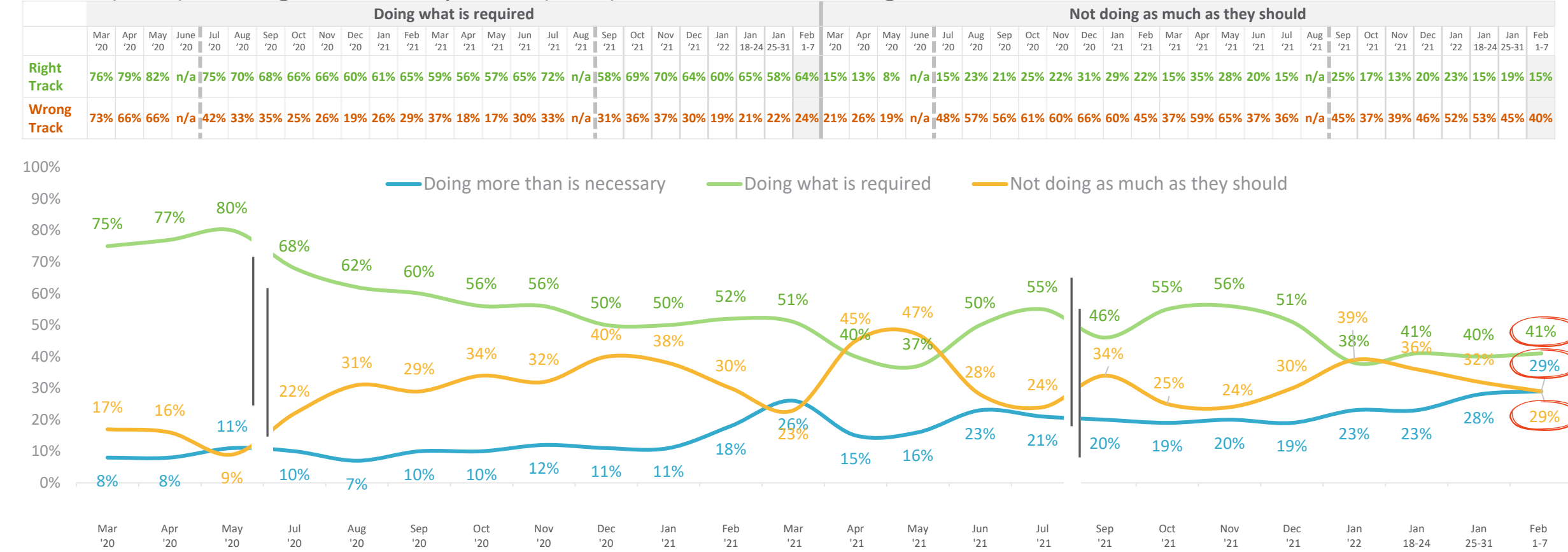
Base: Total sample

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

The proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is ‘doing more than is necessary (29%) continues to slowly increase, while there have been declines among those who believe the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ (29%). ‘Doing what is required’ (41%) has been remaining stable.



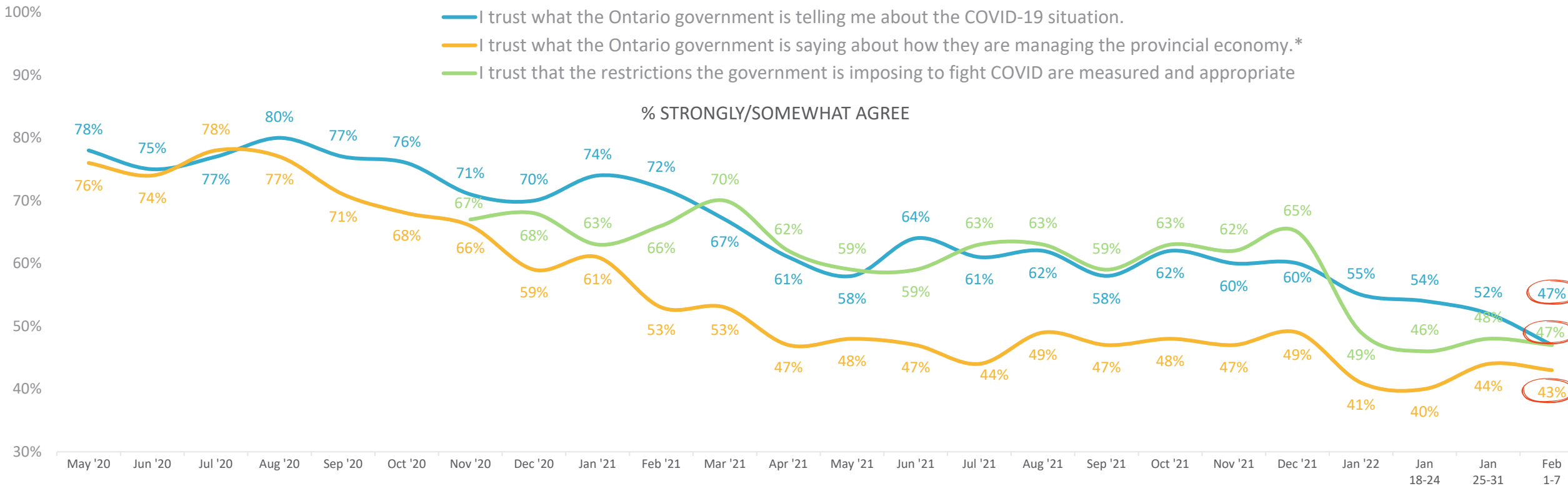
QCV-6. In light of the Omicron variant and thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time, would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) In light of the Delta variant and thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario 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, there was a further decline in trust in the government’s communications about ‘what the government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’. Results were steady for ‘the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate’ and ‘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?

This week, slightly more than six-in-ten (62%) Ontarians are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic.

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	Jan '22	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	50	48	54	67	62
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	24	21	28	32	30
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	26	27	26	35	31
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	8	9	11	6	10
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	15	18	17	13	14
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	23	23	18	13	13
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	38	42	35	26	27

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

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

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’ remained steady this week at 13%. And, while half (51%) say that their level of concern has stayed about the same, those saying their concern has decreased continues to trend up to 36% this week.

	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49	48	32	24	19	12	13
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36	38	47	55	57	55	51
Decreased	17	9	15	12	14	20	21	23	31	36
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	-

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON

Concern about Omicron continues to decline with 49% 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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70	69	62	61	60	51	49
Very concerned	35	27	37	38	29	29	27	21	17
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33	30	34	32	33	30	32
Not too concerned	19	16	12	14	21	25	23	27	26
Not at all concerned	11	15	18	17	16	14	16	22	25
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29	31	37	39	39	49	51
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

While most (80%) Ontarians continue to report they are wearing a mask or face covering ‘all/most of the time’, the proportion has been slowly declining since mid-December.

	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
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	82	80
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	52	57
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	29	23
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	13	14	11	14	13	15	9	13	12	12	9	12	10	6	9	7	8	8	12	10	10	11
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	7	8
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	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	8	9

	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7				
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%	86%	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%	78%	71%				

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, 78% of Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing – either public health measures to be continued (35%) or a plan for relaxing public health measures (43%). However, support for ending these public health measures has been slowing increasing since mid-December and is now at 20%.

	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
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	15	20
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	34	35
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	49	43

Ontarians tend to be paying less attention to the number of cases and other statistics about the pandemic in Ontario.

	Paying more attention														About the same														Paying less attention															
	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7		
n=	Varies																																											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	32	31	24	18	17	9	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	36	32	24	33	29	31	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30	31	36	51	47	54	58		
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	26	27	25	20	17	15	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	41	40	33	41	37	36	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37	33	33	42	37	46	47		
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	31	36	37	36	22	16	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	39	34	27	35	35	39	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34	29	30	35	28	43	43		
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	34	37	36	36	23	18	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	36	34	35	36	39	41	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33	29	28	29	28	37	39		
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	28	29	29	26	18	15	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	38	34	31	36	34	33	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35	32	36	39	37	47	48		

LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

This week, just over six-in-ten (62%) Ontarians say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing, compared to 43% in mid-December.

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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies																				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	32	27	34	36	43	45	45	49	44	43	40	50	45	43	47	53	45	51	52	60	62
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	24	35	29	28	30	33	31	32	40	36	40
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	18	18	15	16	16	15	16	20	15	19	13	24	22
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	7	3	6	7	8	11	7	4	6	6	5	9	7	4	6	3	7	6	5
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	17	20	20	13	16	15	16	12	19	15	13	15	13
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	31	32	30	33	31	29	29	30	29	26	19	20
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	49	52	52	43	49	47	45	41	48	44	39	34	33

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...

Base: Total sample, base varies

COVID-19 VACCINE



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

About half (48%) of Ontarians continue to be confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, compared to 58% in November and 72% in June.

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	Jan '22	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
Varies															
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	47	42	53	50	48
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	18	14	22	21	17
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	29	28	31	28	31
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	7	8	7	8	13
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	18	17	17	17
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	27	30	22	25	21
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	43	48	38	41	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



Awareness of Ontario’s ICUs and COVID-19 continues to slowly decline with 60% now indicating they have seen, read, or heard anything lately about Ontario’s Intensive Care Units and COVID-19, down 15-points since a high of 75% the first week of January.

	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52	66	75	73	72	68	60
No	61	62	55	48	34	25	27	28	32	40

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO’S ICUs

Among those who are aware, there was an increase to four-in-ten (42%) that say they have heard the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICUs has been ‘going down’, 29% that the number has been staying about the same and a decline to 21% saying ‘increasing’.

	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14	13	11	8	15	23	42
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25	27	17	14	23	32	29
Increasing	38	45	54	59	54	68	74	56	33	21
ICU is manageable/plenty of space - unspecified if increasing or decreasing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Lack of staff/beds/funding/staff burnout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
ICU is full - unspecified if increasing or decreasing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Don’t trust the news/fake news	-	-	1	<1	<1	1	2	<1	1	-
Clarifying what people are actually there for	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mostly unvaccinated patients in the ICU	-	-	-	-	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	1	1	1	2
Don’t know/not sure	4	3	8	2	3	2	1	3	5	1

CV252. Which of the following comes closest to what you have seen, read or heard about Ontario’s ICUs? That the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICU’s is . . .
Base: Yes at CV251

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, concern remains high with 84% saying they are concerned and 53% ‘very’ concerned – although level of concern has been declining.

	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	Jan 18-31	Jan 25- Feb 7
n=	80	115	157	175	227	257	232	155	85
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	82	93	94	89	91	92	90	85	84
Very concerned	52	62	62	58	52	51	57	57	53
Somewhat concerned	30	31	32	31	38	42	33	29	31
Not too concerned	16	6	6	11	9	8	10	15	16
Don’t know/not sure	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

CURRENT HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

The majority (59%) of Ontarians indicate they own their own home, while three-in-ten (31%) are renting. One-in-ten (8%) live with their parents.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Own your own home	62	60	59	59
Renting	28	32	30	31
Living with parent(s)	8	7	10	8
Live in a retirement home/long-term care home			<1	1
Adult children own home and I live with them	1	<1	-	-
Other	-	1	-	1
Don't know/not sure	1	<1	1	<1

Most (96%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 82% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	94	94	95	96
Increased significantly	82	83	81	82
Increased somewhat	12	11	14	14
Not increased too much	2	4	-	1
Not increased at all	1	1	2	1
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	3	5	2	2
Don't know/not sure	3	1	3	2

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

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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	16	19	20	19
A very good thing	5	7	7	8
Somewhat of a good thing	12	12	13	12
Somewhat of a bad thing	19	17	16	16
A very bad thing	26	31	33	33
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	45	48	49	48
Doesn't matter either way	37	32	31	32
Don't know/not sure	2	1	1	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

About eight-in-ten (78%) Ontarians believe that home rental prices have increased, with half (49%) saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	79	83	82	78
Increased significantly	44	48	48	49
Increased somewhat	35	35	33	29
Not increased too much	5	5	1	4
Not increased at all	3	4	3	5
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	7	9	5	9
Don't know/not sure	13	8	14	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

IMPACT OF INCREASED HOME RENTAL PRICES

Just over half (53%) of Ontarians believe that significant increases to home rental prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally, with 42% reporting that it doesn’t matter either way to them.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	8	6	6	4
A very good thing	1	2	3	1
Somewhat of a good thing	7	5	3	3
Somewhat of a bad thing	16	23	18	19
A very bad thing	26	30	31	34
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	43	53	48	53
Doesn't matter either way	48	41	46	42
Don't know/not sure	1	-	<1	<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: not enough new homes being built in areas where people want to live (37%), too many people wanting to buy or rent a home (33%), and not enough people selling or renting homes (13%).

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
Not enough new homes being built in areas people want to live	29	31	36	37
Too many people wanting to buy or rent a home	37	33	32	33
Not enough people selling or renting homes	19	23	18	13
Don't know/not sure	16	13	14	17

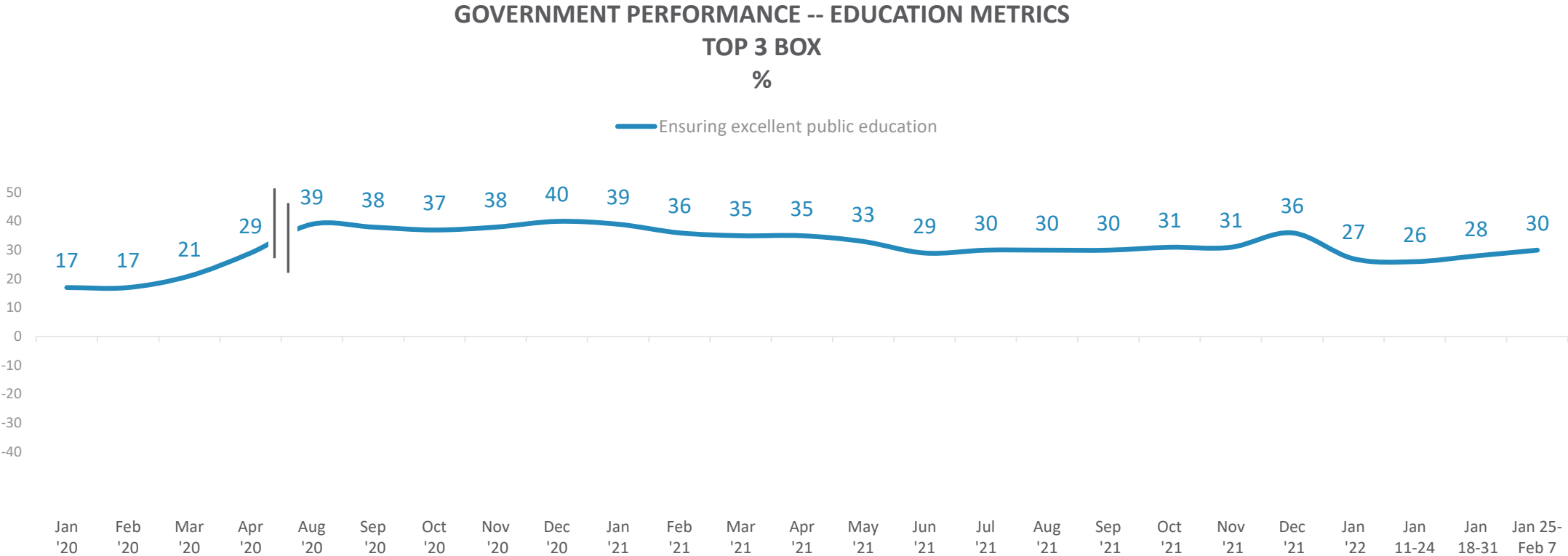
Half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (49%), while 35% agree that they can only afford to buy or rent a condo. And, just over half (54%) agree there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs, while 46% of Ontarians say that they feel stuck since they can't afford to move.

% Strongly/Somewhat agree	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7
n=	Varies			
	%	%	%	%
There are hardly any homes available to rent that meet my needs	44	50	51	54
I'd like to buy a house, but I can't afford it	46	49	56	49
I feel stuck in the place I live in now, since I can't afford to move	43	47	48	46
I can only afford to buy or rent a condo	29	35	30	35

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

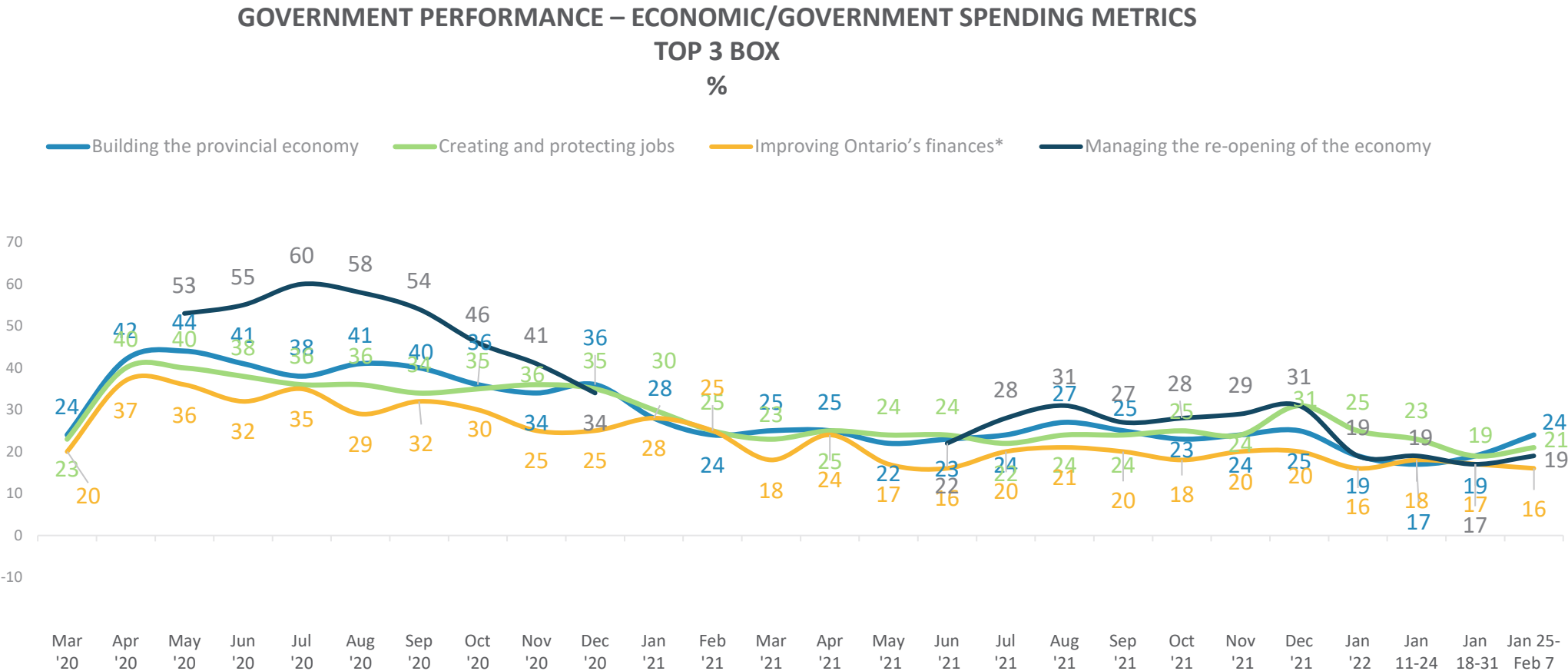


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ has been slowly inching up.



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

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for ‘building the provincial economy’ increased again this week, while the other economic and spending metrics all remained steady.

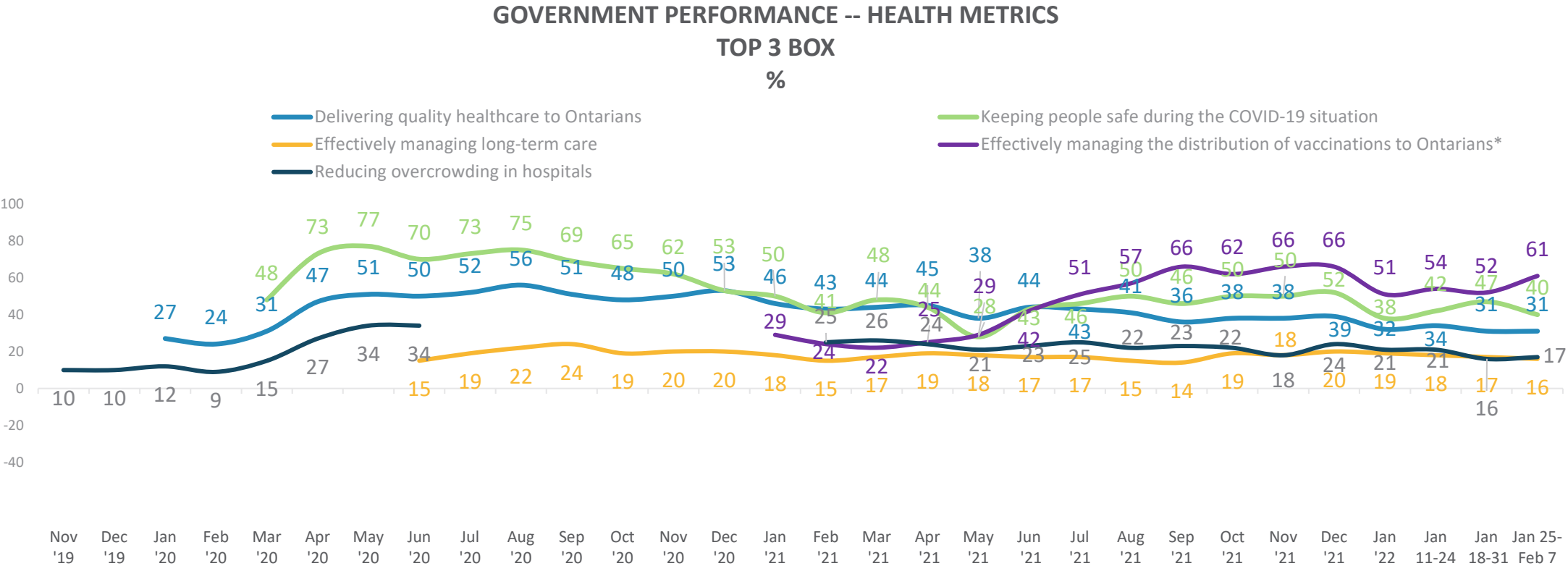


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

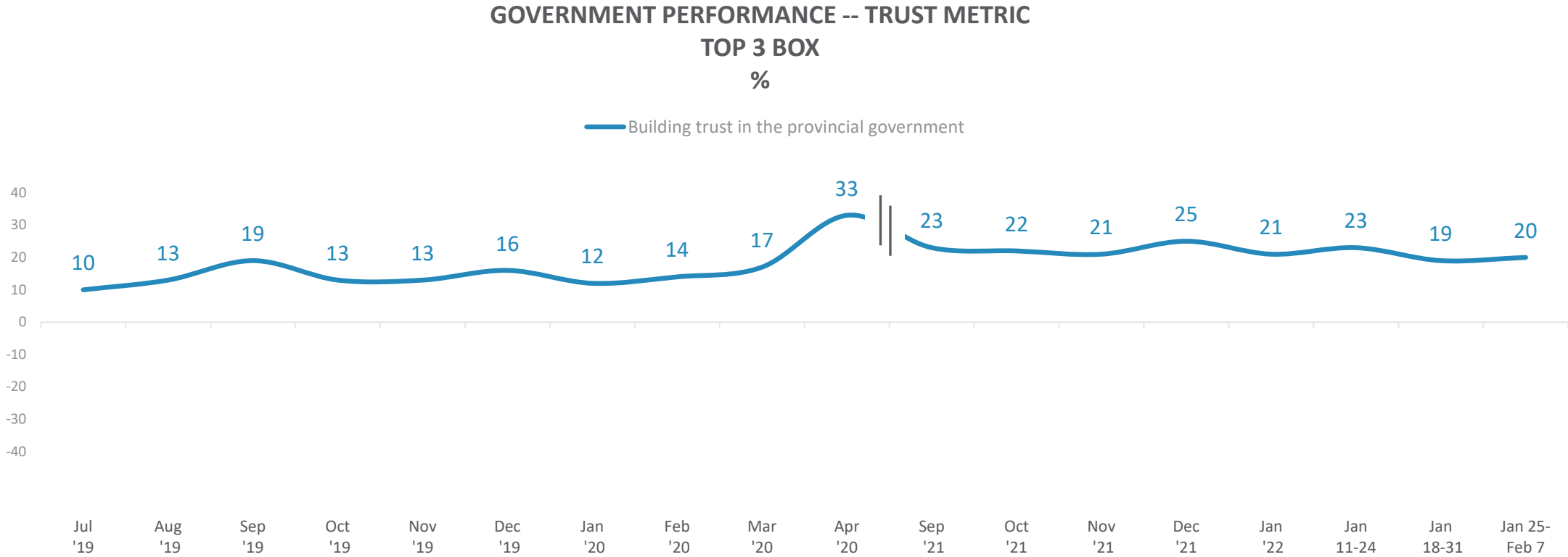
Bases vary

There was a 9-point improvement in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ while ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ declined 7-points this week. The other health metrics remained steady.



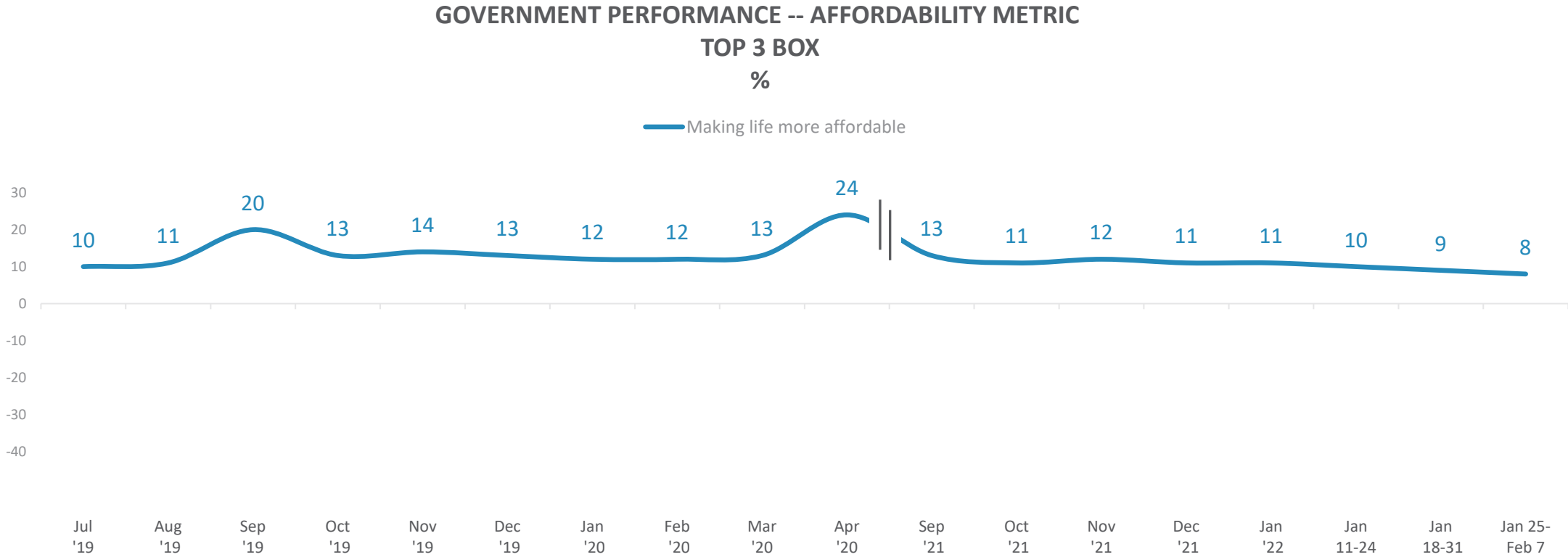
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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

The positive rating of the Ontario government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ continued to slowly trend down.



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