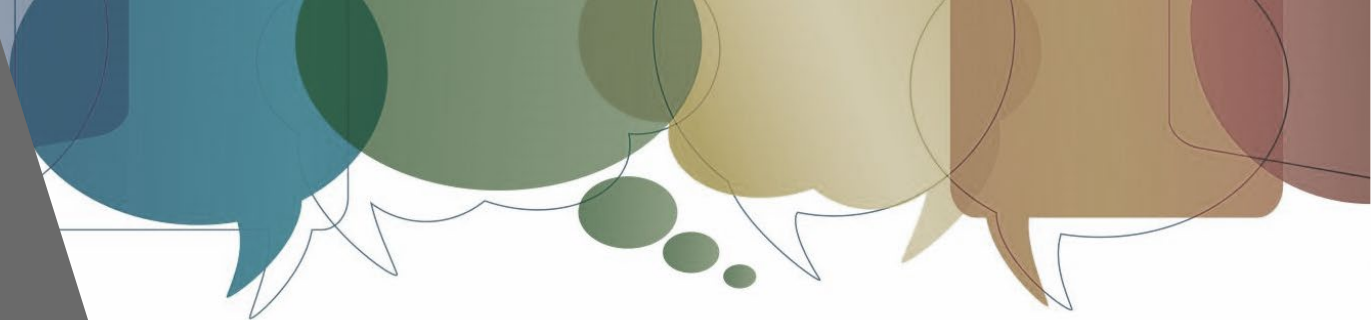




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #119

CABINET OFFICE
February 15th 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 **Right track** was up this week to 47%, with the gap between **'right track'** and **'wrong track'** reduced to 6-points (compared to 14-points last week).

And, with the declaration of the state of emergency, there were increases in **'right track'** scores - February 8-10: 42%; February 12-14: 55% - with these increases measured among both **'strongly on the right track'** and **'somewhat on the right track'**.

This week, COVID-19 remains as the government's top priority at 38% followed by health care (14%). The 'trucker convoy' (8%) is now on par with other priorities of the Ontario public such as affordable housing (7%) and the economy (6%).

2 Overall, 84% of Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. This week, those supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures (56%) is double the proportion supporting public health measures being continued (28%).

This represents a 13-point increase in those supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures since the beginning of February.

There were also improvements in trust in the government's communications about 'the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate' (up 9-points) and 'what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation' (up 4-points).

3 Ontarians' level of concern about Omicron – and the pandemic overall – has been lessening. This week, fully seven-in-ten (70%) Ontarians are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic, an increase of 16-points in the past three weeks.

As well, four-in-ten (39%) report their level of concern over COVID-19 'decreased' over the last week (double the results from the first week of January), while half (49%) say that their level of concern has stayed about the same.

Among those who are aware of Ontario's ICUs, two-thirds (66%) say they have heard the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario's ICUs has been 'going down', while only 8% say that the number has been 'increasing' – a reversal of results at the beginning of the year.

4 As well, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is 'doing what is required' increased to 45% this week, while there was a decline among those who believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should' (26%). 'Doing more than is necessary' (29%) remained stable.

Over the past three weeks, there has been a 15-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 (62%).

Key Findings

5 The proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues continued to slowly trend upwards this week to 61%, while 34% want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 27-points.

Rating of the government's performance for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' was up 5-points (and 9-points over the past two weeks), while 'improving Ontario's finances' was up 4-points this week (and 10-points over the past two weeks). 'Building the provincial economy' remained stable this week, however it is up 11-points compared to three weeks ago.

7 Rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' remained unchanged this week at NET -9.

6 The government's performance for 'making life more affordable' remained stable this week at NET -47.

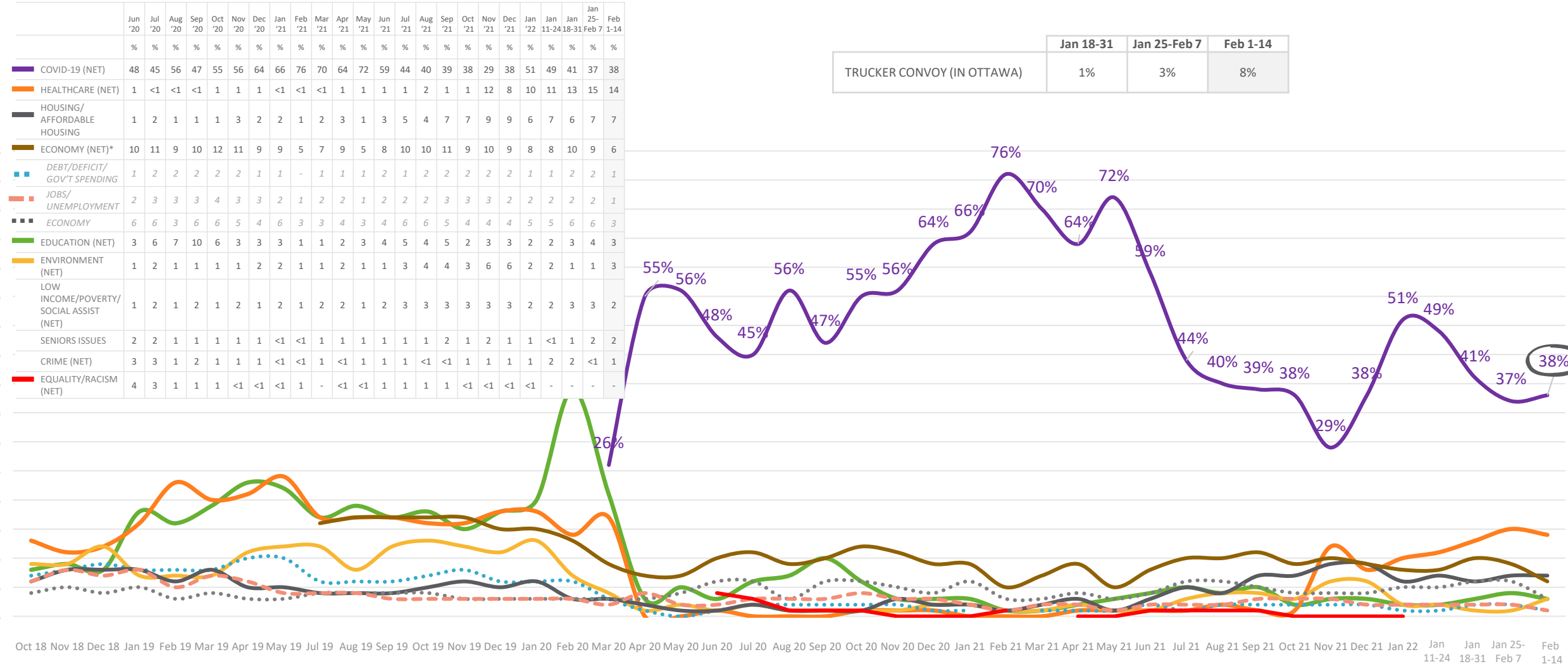
Consistent with previous results, most (97%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 84% saying they have increased 'significantly'. And, about eight-in-ten (81%) believe that home rental prices have increased, with half (50%) saying they have increased 'significantly'.

Of note, half report that these significant increases to home purchase prices (54%) and home rental prices (54%) are a 'bad thing' for them personally.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government’s top priority remained stable at 38% this week, while 14% cite healthcare, 7% affordable housing, 6% the economy - and 8% the trucker convoy in Ottawa.



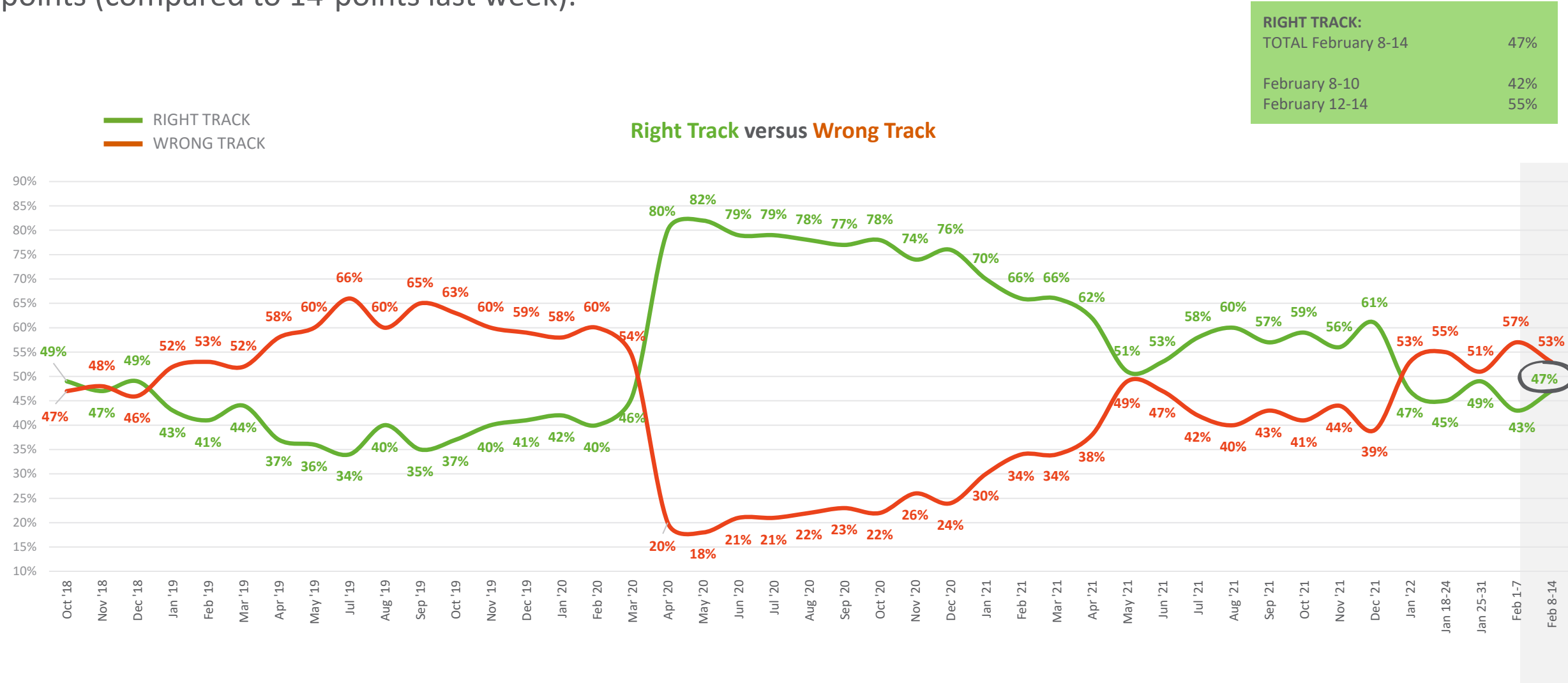
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

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

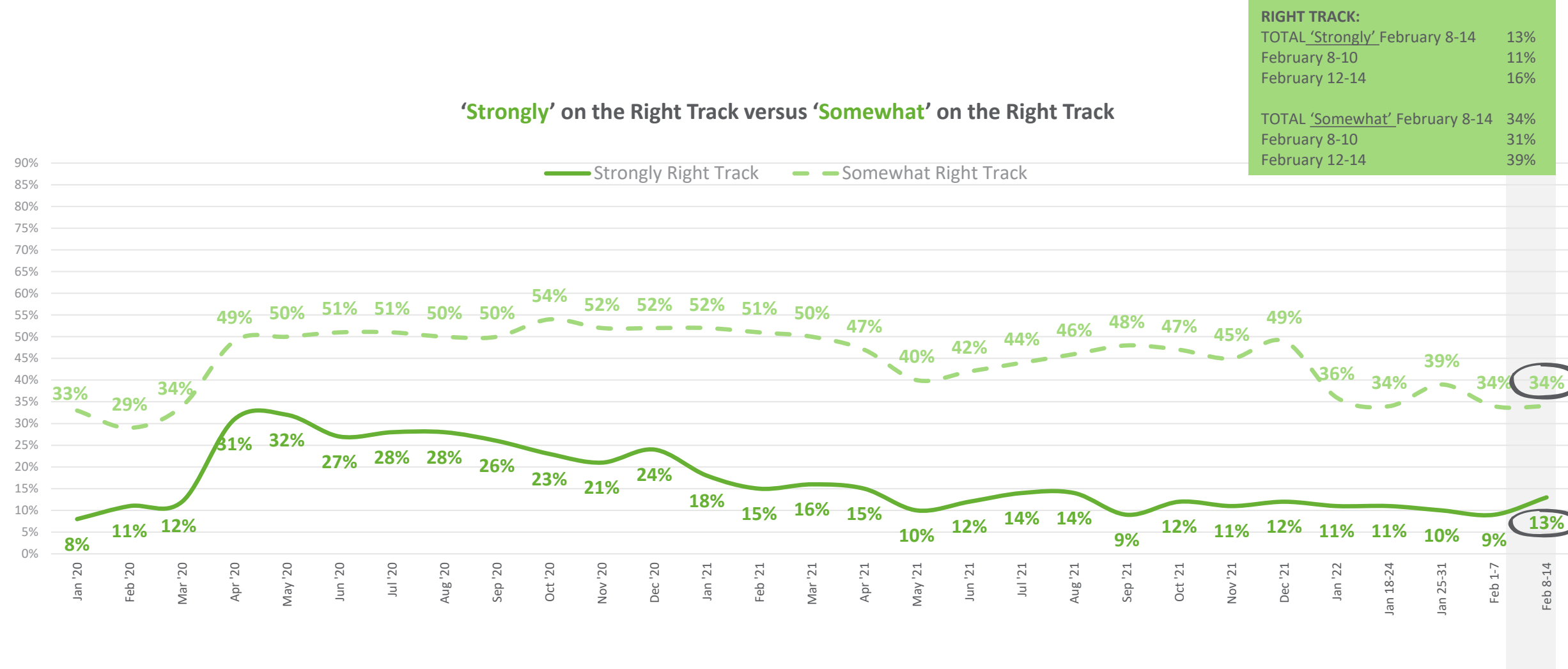


‘Right track’ was up this week to 47%, with the gap between ‘right track’ and ‘wrong track’ reduced to 6-points (compared to 14-points last week).



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

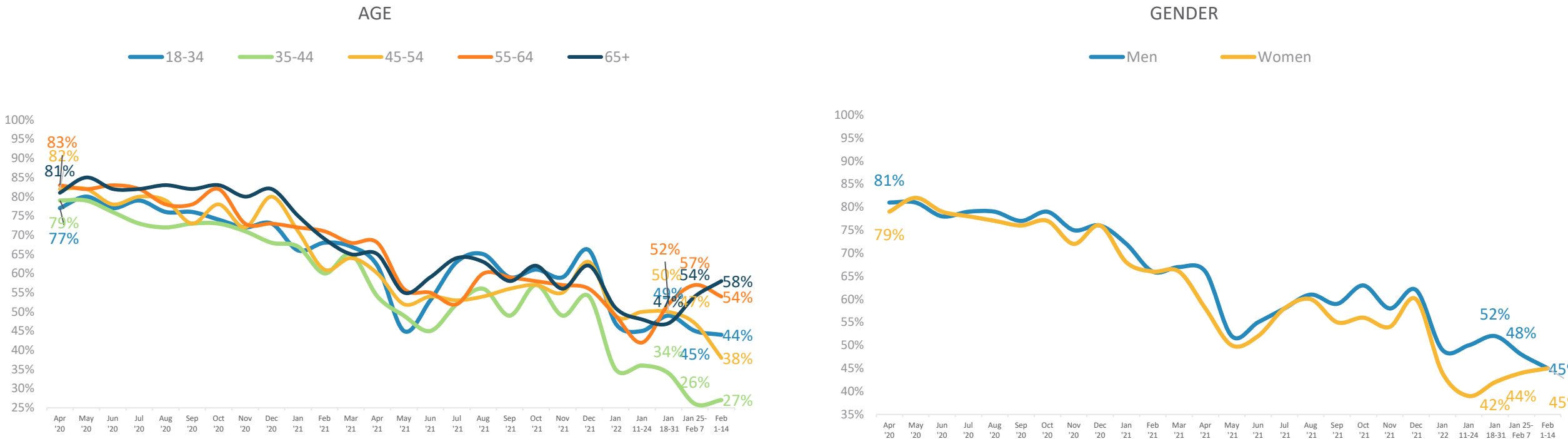
The increase in ‘right track’ was driven by those who believe the government is ‘strongly on the right track’ while the proportion who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’ remained unchanged.



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, ‘right track’ continued to increase among Ontarians aged 65+, while declining among those aged 45-54. The other age groups remained relatively stable. There remains a gap of 10-points or more between those over/under 55 years of age. ‘Right track’ is now at parity by gender.

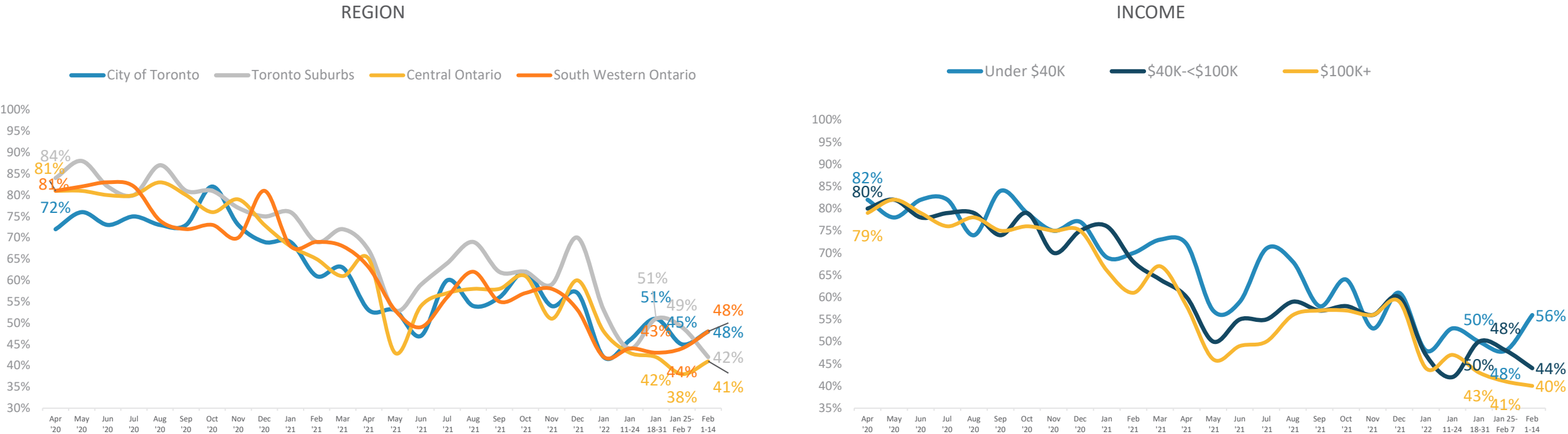
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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 decline in ‘right track’ continued in the Toronto suburbs (down 9-points in the past two weeks), while there was a slight uptick in the other regions this week. At parity last week, there was an increase among Ontarians making under \$40k (up 8-points) and a decline among those making \$40k-<\$100k (down 4-points). Scores remained stable among those making \$100k+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

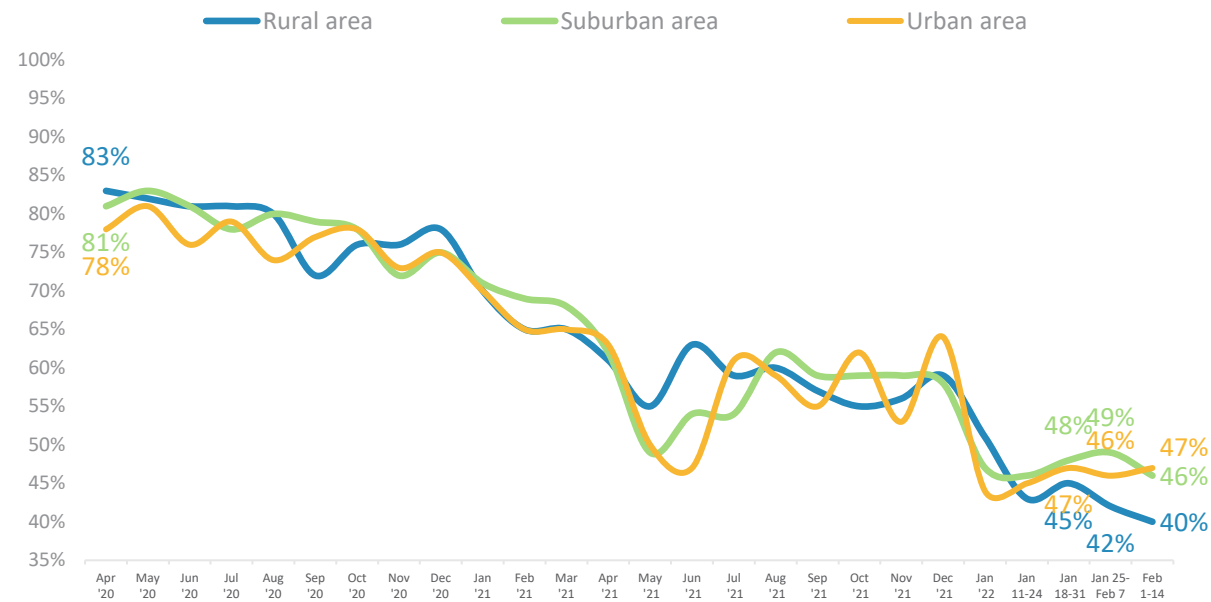


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

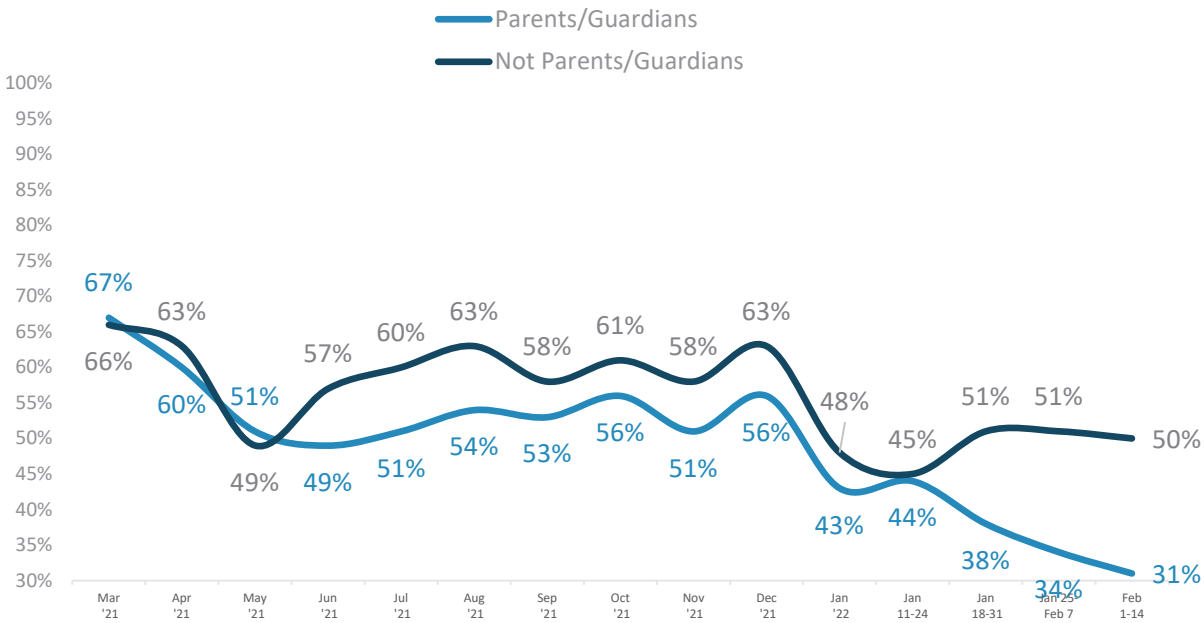
‘Right track’ scores continued to slowly inch down in rural areas, while a slight 3-point decline in suburban areas was measured this week. Urban areas remained stable.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



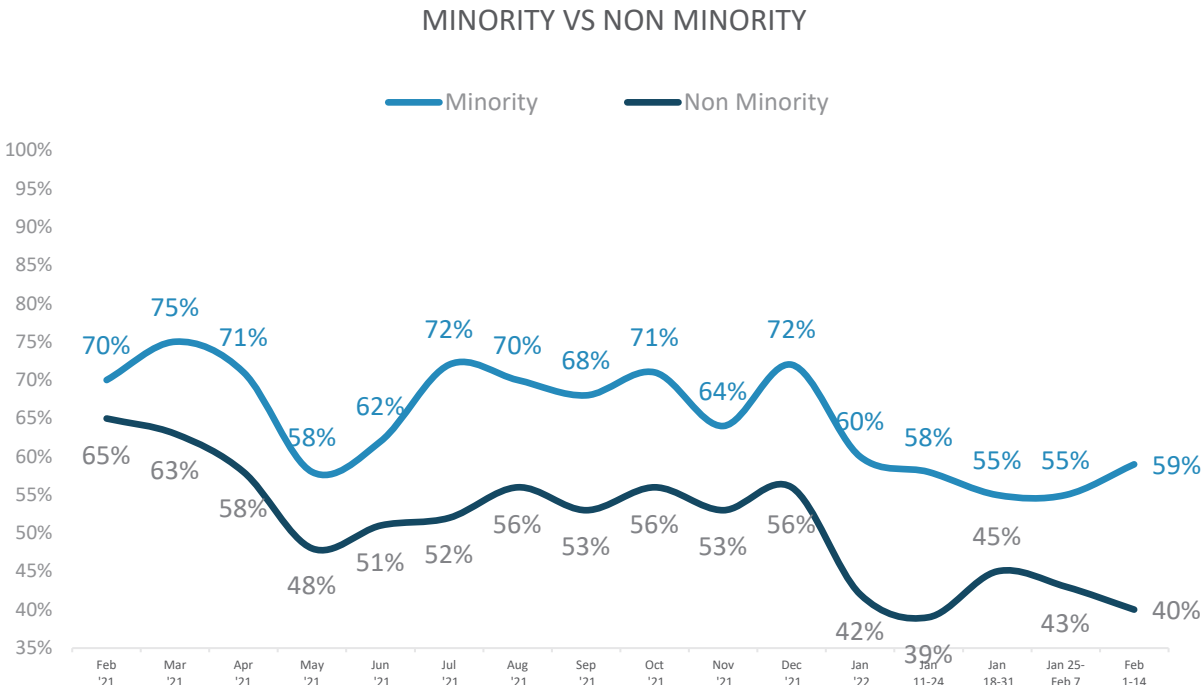
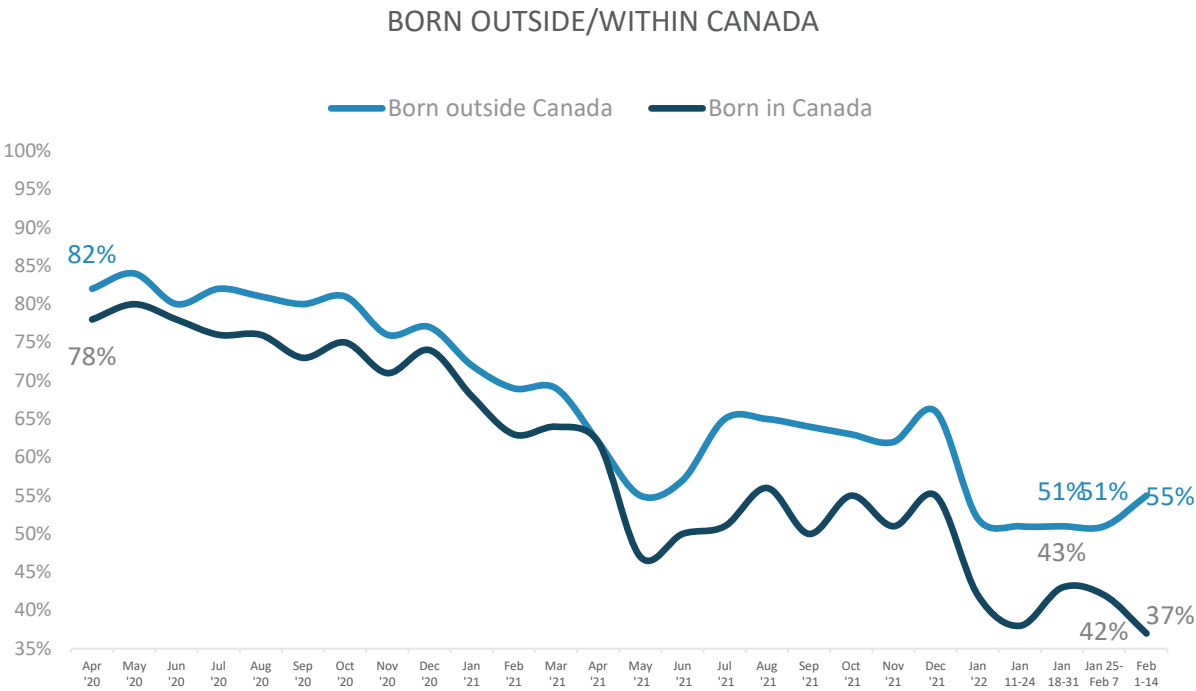
PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



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

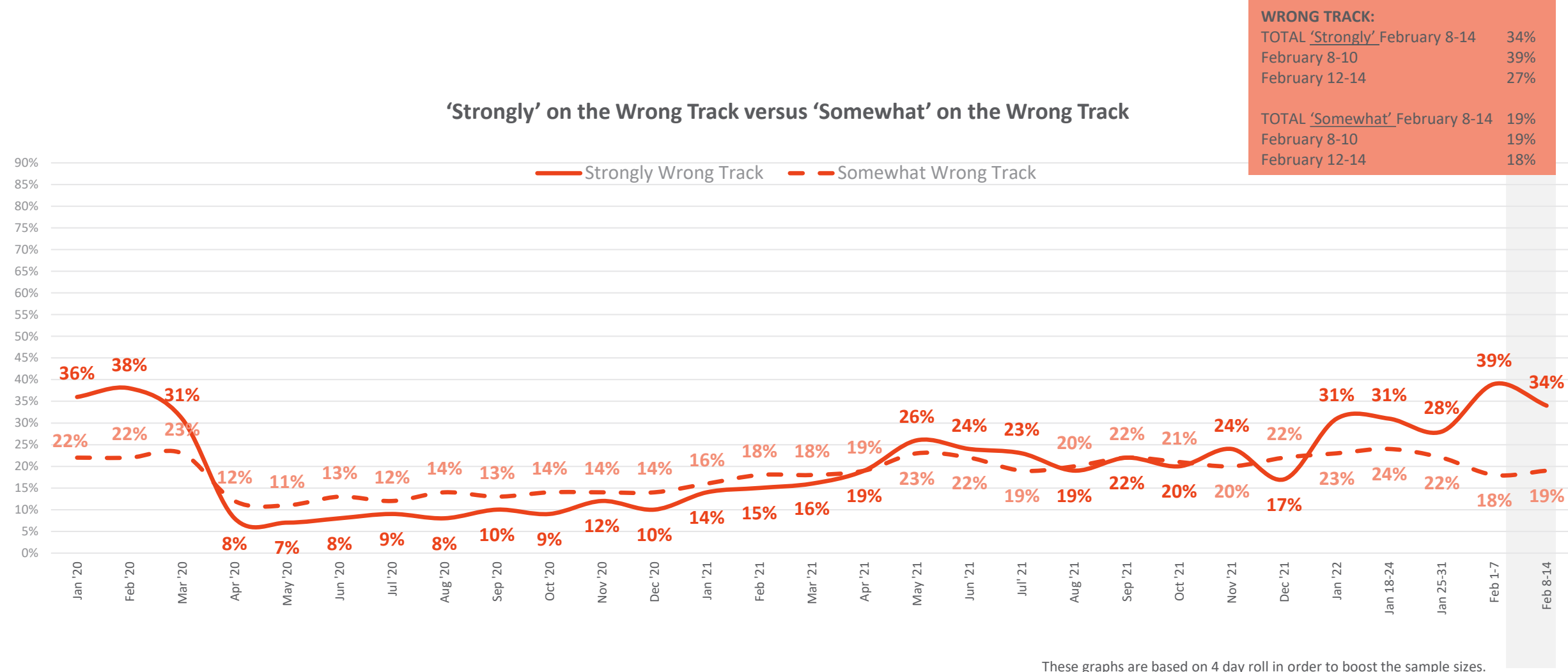
‘Right track’ was up this week among Ontarians born outside of Canada and those who identify as a minority, while declines were measured among those born in Canada and among non-minorities.

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

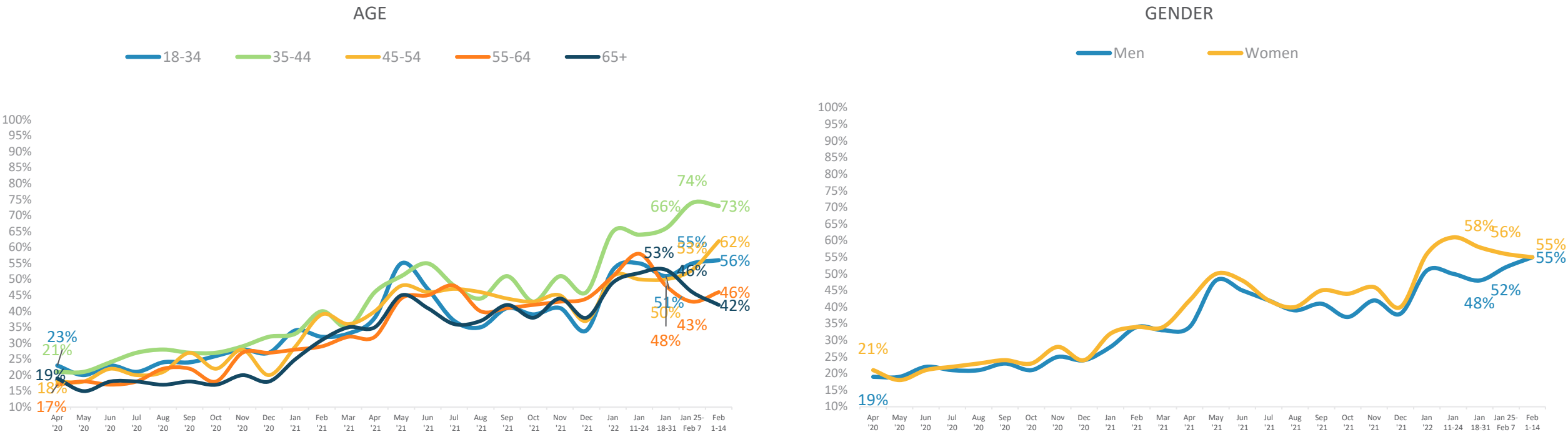
There was a decline this week for ‘strongly on the wrong track’, while ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ remained stable.



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 among Ontarians aged 65+ while increasing among those aged 45-54. The other age groups remained relatively stable. There is parity in ‘wrong track’ scores by gender.

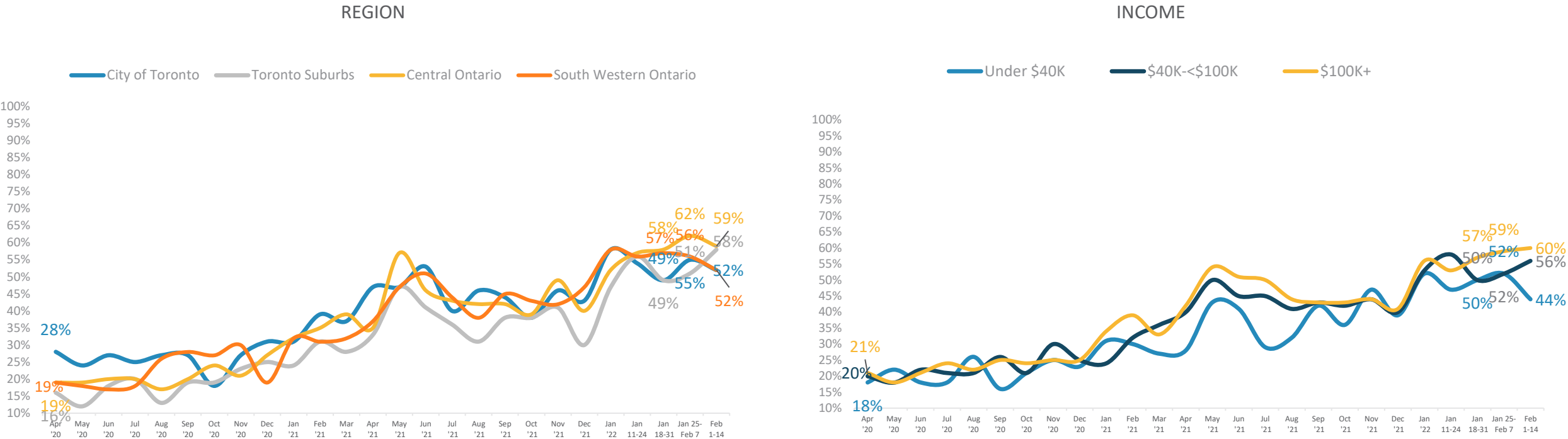
Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

‘Wrong track’ increased again this week in the Toronto suburbs (up 9-points over the past two weeks), while there were slight declines in the other regions. There was a decline this week among those making under \$40K and an increase among those making \$40-<\$100k. ‘Wrong track’ remained stable among those making \$100k+.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

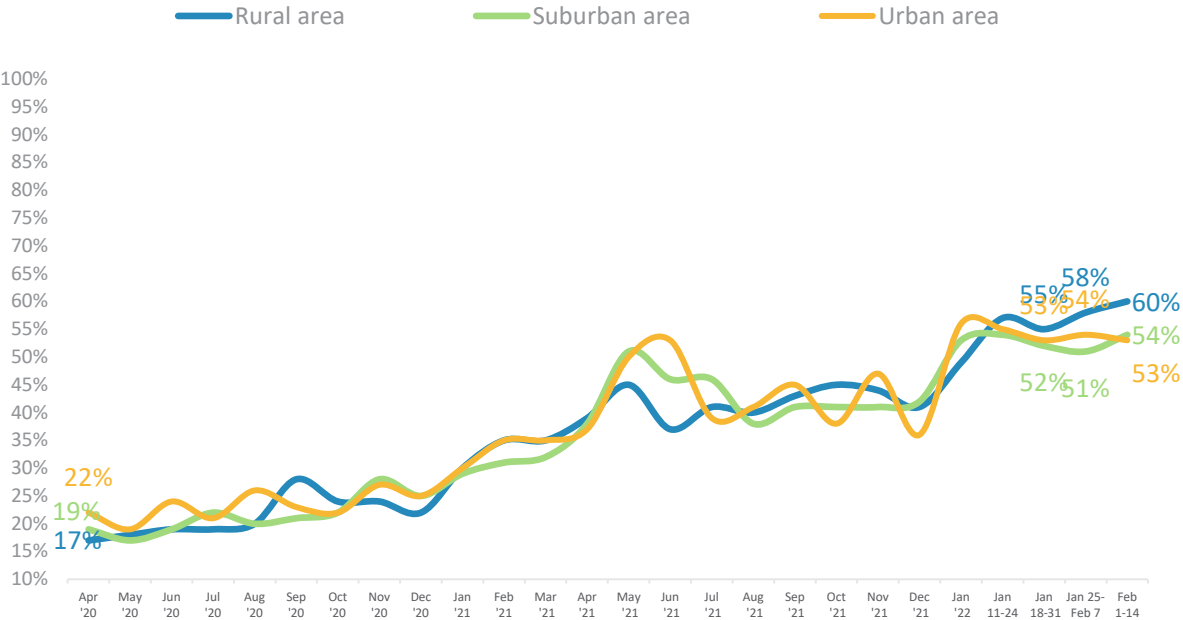


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

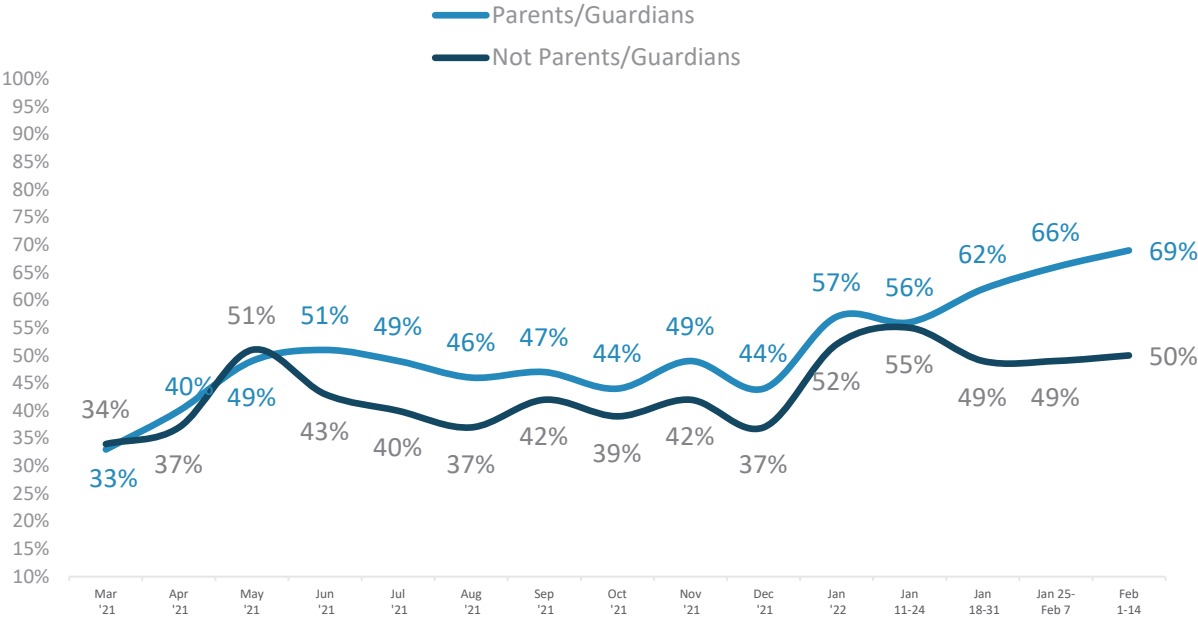
‘Wrong track’ continues to slowly trend up in rural areas, with a slight 3-point increase this week in suburban areas. Results were stable in urban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

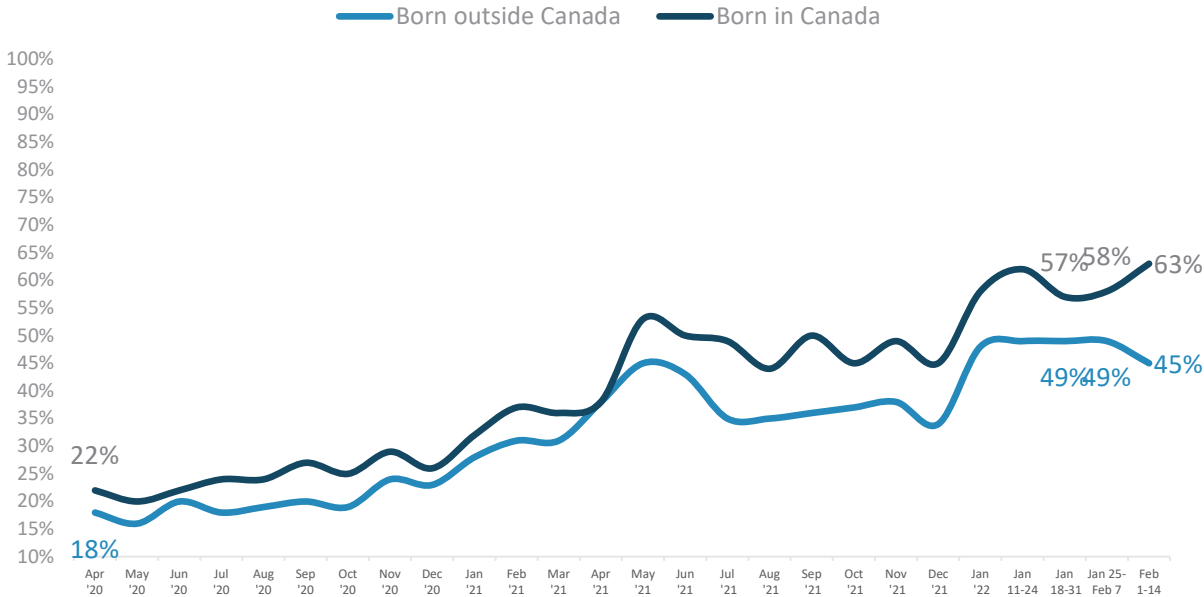


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

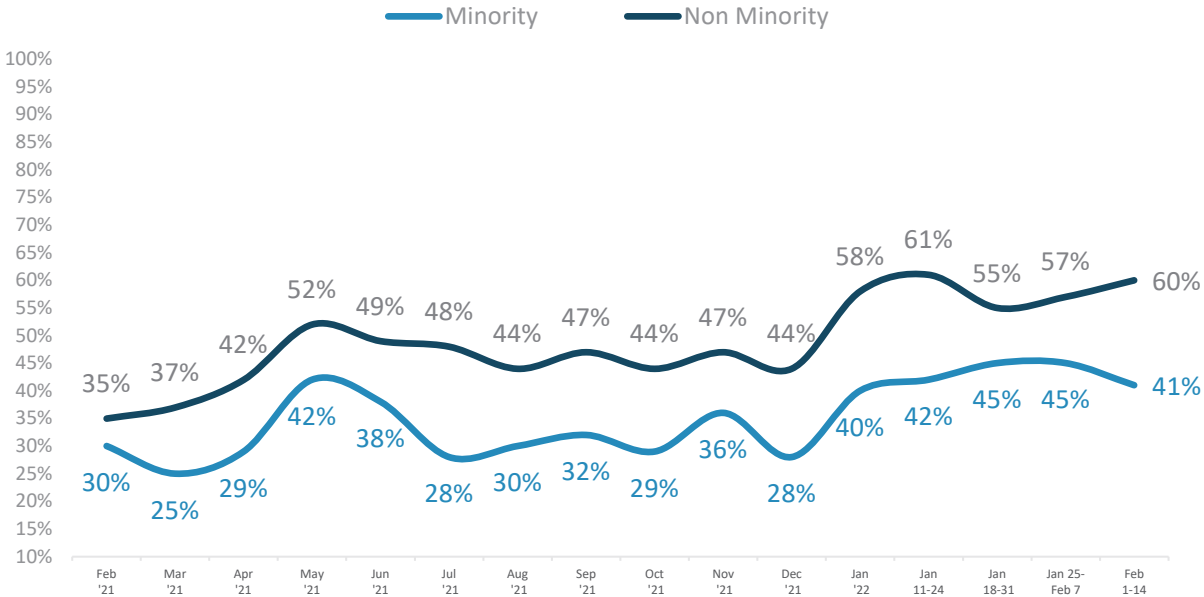
‘Wrong track’ scores increased this week among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities, while the reverse was the case among those born outside of Canada and those who identify as a minority.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



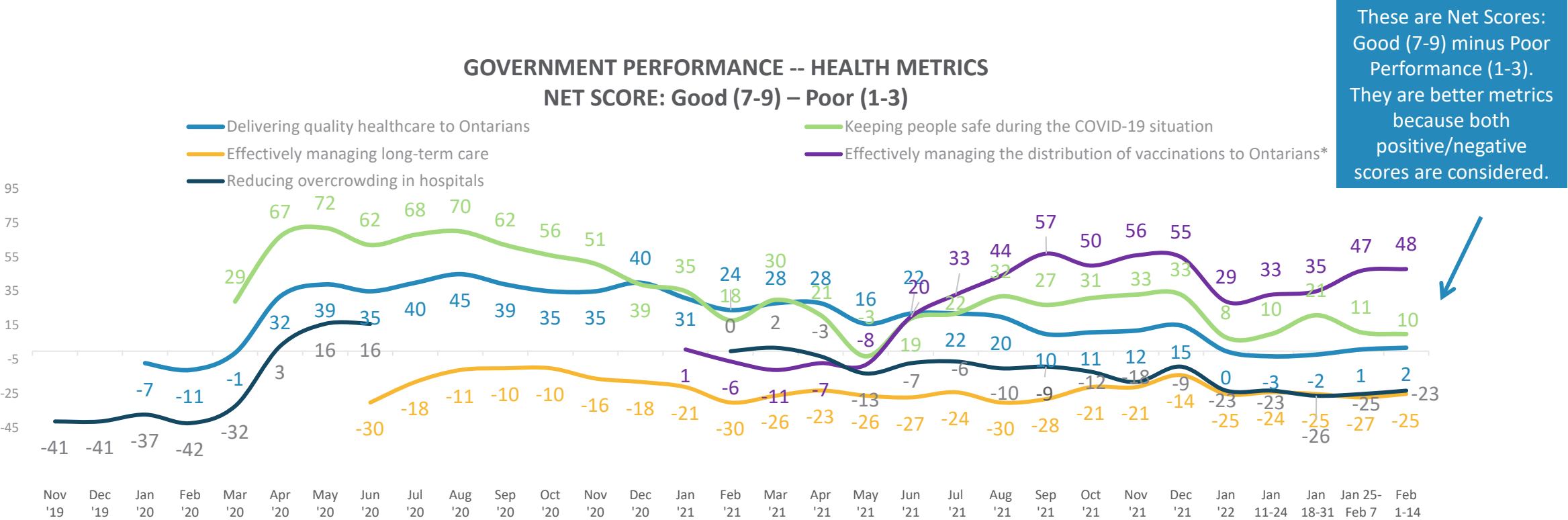
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



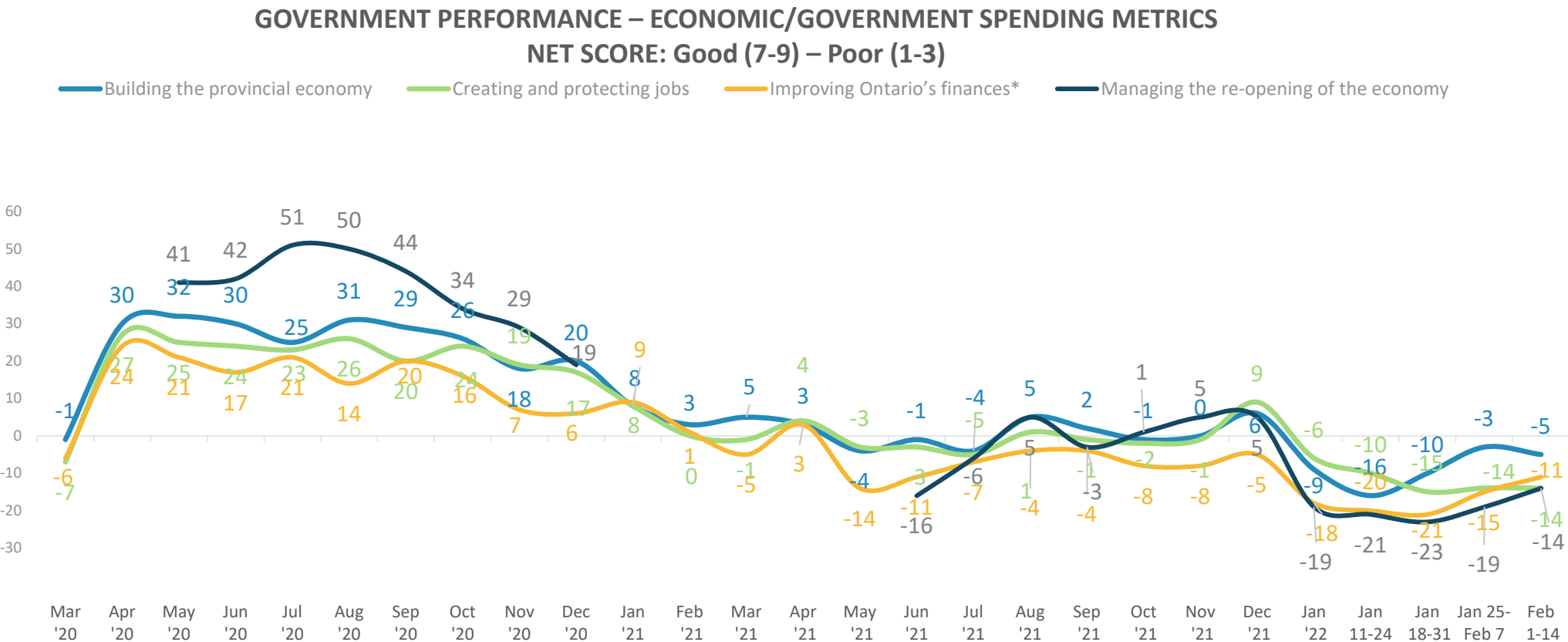
The rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ remained stable after increasing 12-points last week, while ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ dropped 1-point (for a total decline of 11-points over the past two weeks).

- The other health metrics were relatively stable.



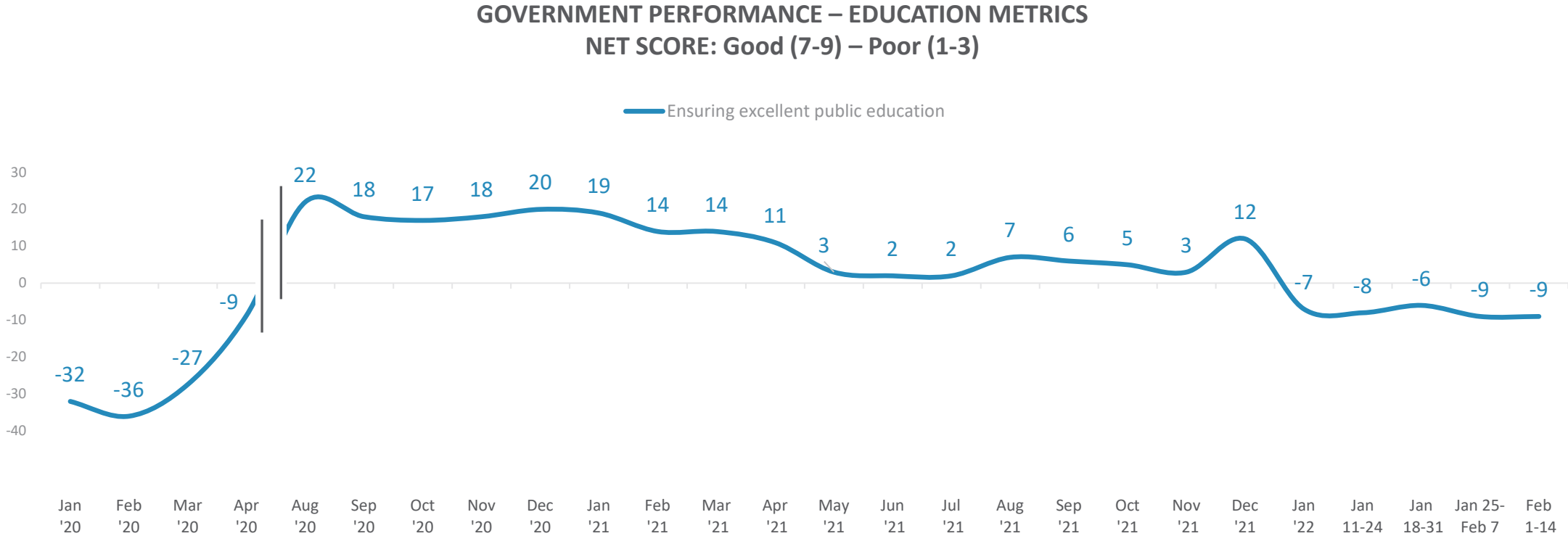
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘improving Ontario’s finances’ was up 4-points this week (and 10-points over the past two weeks), while ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ was up 5-points (and 9-points over the past two weeks). ‘Creating and protecting jobs’ and ‘building the provincial economy’ remained stable.



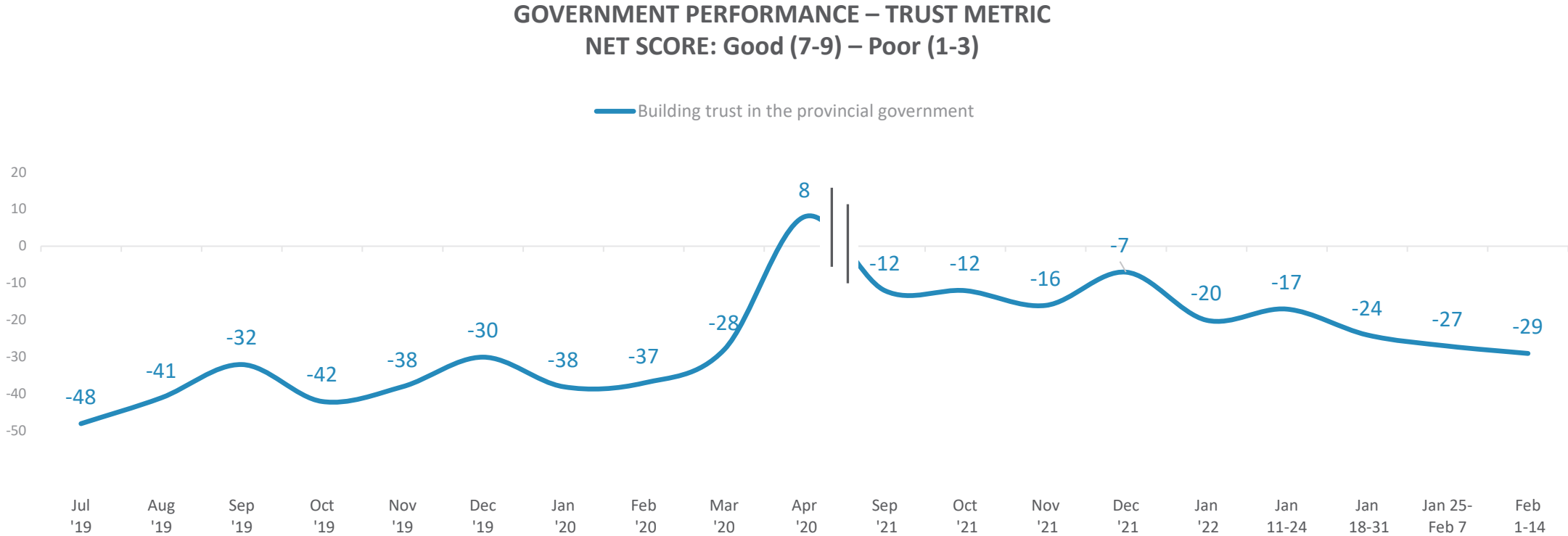
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

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



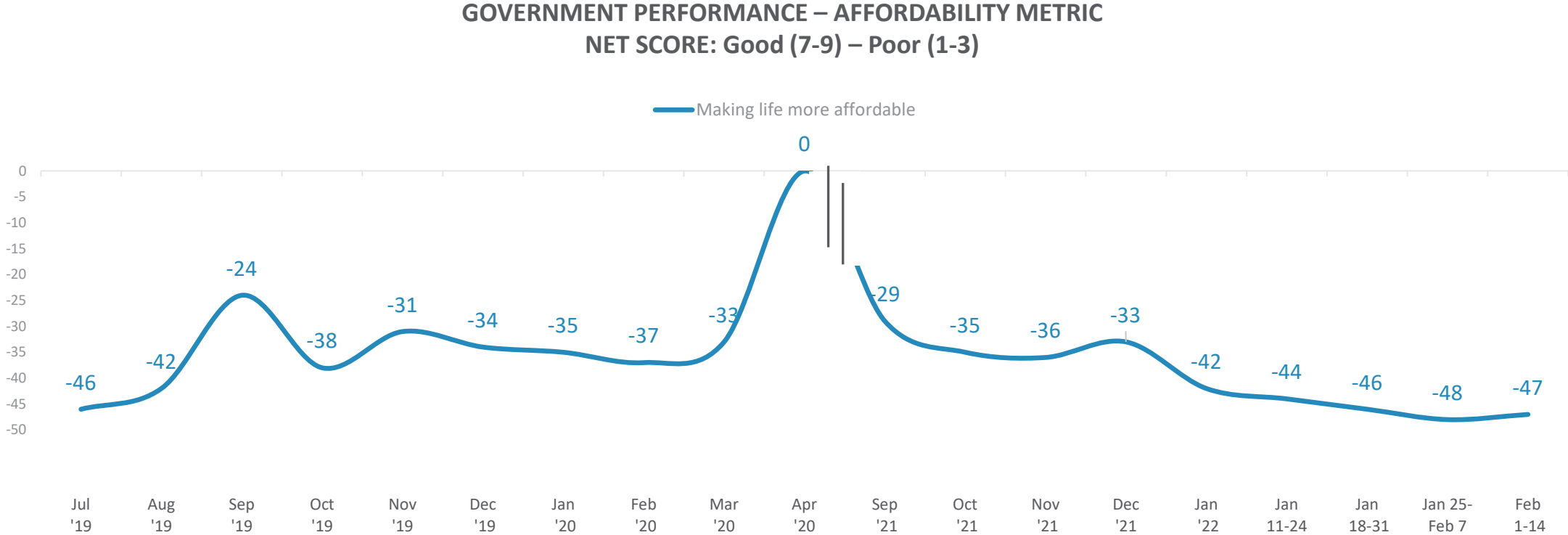
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ continues to trend down dropping 12-points in the past three 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’ was 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

FOCUS ON HEALTH VERSUS ECONOMY



The proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues continued to slowly trend upwards this week to 61%, while 34% want the focus on health-related issues – a gap of 27-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	Feb 1-14
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	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	56	56	56	59	61
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	10	6	6	6	5	4

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



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 5TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

There was an uptick this week to 63% of Ontarians indicating they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic (compared to 80% at the beginning of the year). 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	Feb 8-14
Varies									
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
71	77	77	80	76	65	72	57	57	63
39	41	51	52	39	32	29	22	22	22
31	36	26	28	37	33	43	35	35	41
19	16	11	9	11	17	15	22	19	17
9	6	11	9	11	18	13	20	24	20
28	23	23	19	22	34	28	42	43	37

Over the past three weeks, there has been a 15-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 (62%).

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	Feb 8-14
Varies									
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
74	68	63	56	43	58	47	55	58	62
22	18	12	10	7	11	9	12	11	11
52	51	50	45	36	47	39	42	47	51
15	17	20	24	29	22	29	29	22	22
9	11	15	18	26	17	22	15	17	14
24	29	35	42	55	40	51	44	39	36
2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	2

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

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

Base: Total sample

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



The proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is 'doing what is required' increased to 45% this week, while there was a decline among those who believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should' (26%). 'Doing more than is necessary' (29%) remained stable.

The chart displays the percentage of respondents who believe the government is doing more than necessary, doing what is required, or not doing as much as they should, from March 2020 to February 2022. The Y-axis represents the percentage (0% to 100%). The X-axis shows the timeline in months and quarters.

Legend:

- Doing more than is necessary (Blue line)
- Doing what is required (Green line)
- Not doing as much as they should (Orange line)

Key data points (Percentage):

Month/Quarter	Doing more than is necessary	Doing what is required	Not doing as much as they should
Mar '20	8%	75%	17%
Apr '20	8%	77%	16%
May '20	11%	80%	9%
Jul '20	10%	68%	22%
Aug '20	7%	62%	31%
Sep '20	10%	60%	29%
Oct '20	10%	56%	34%
Nov '20	12%	56%	32%
Dec '20	11%	50%	40%
Jan '21	11%	50%	38%
Feb '21	18%	52%	30%
Mar '21	26%	51%	23%
Apr '21	15%	40%	45%
May '21	16%	37%	47%
Jun '21	23%	50%	28%
Jul '21	21%	55%	24%
Sep '21	20%	46%	34%
Oct '21	19%	55%	25%
Nov '21	20%	56%	24%
Dec '21	19%	51%	30%
Jan '22	23%	38%	39%
Jan 18-24	23%	41%	36%
Jan 25-31	28%	40%	32%
Feb 1-7	29%	41%	29%
Feb 8-14	29%	45%	26%

Base: Total sample, base varies

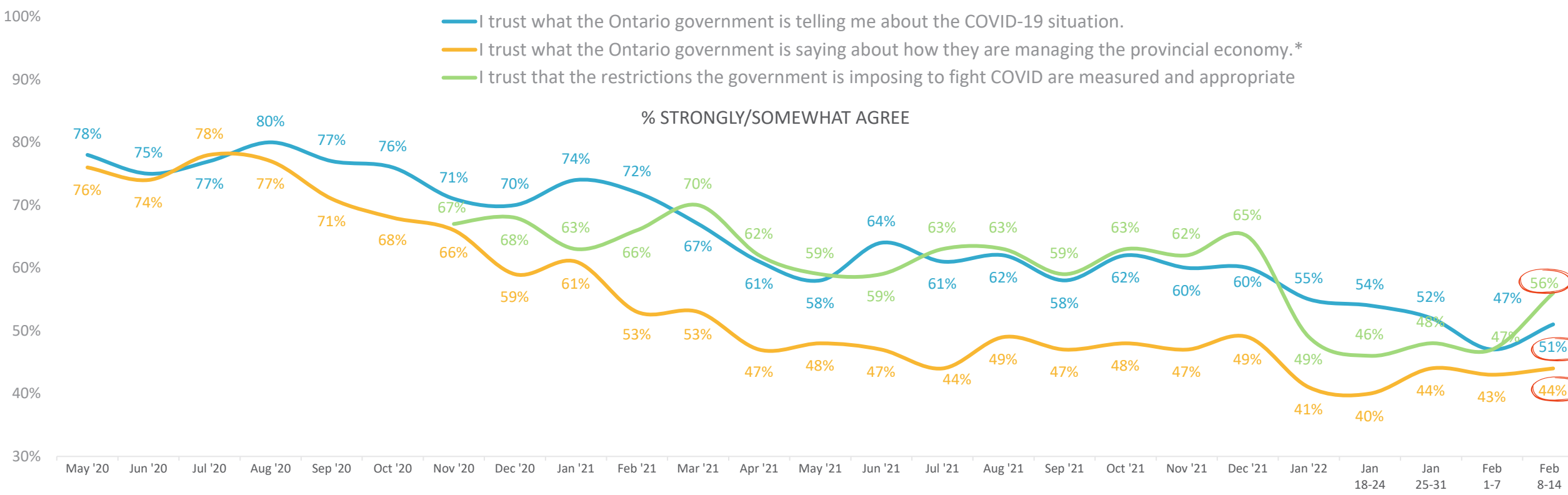
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

This week, there were improvements in trust in the government’s communications about ‘the restrictions the government is imposing are measured/appropriate’ (up 9-points) and ‘what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ (up 9-points).

- Trust in communications about ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ remained stable.



QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
* Previous phrasing: I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they are re-opening the provincial economy. /I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they plan to re-open the provincial economy
Base: Total sample, base varies

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



IS THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC OVER IN ONTARIO?

This week, fully seven-in-ten (70%) Ontarians are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic, an increase of 16-points in the past three weeks.

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	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	50	48	54	67	62	70
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	24	21	28	32	30	33
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	26	27	26	35	31	37
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	8	9	11	6	10	10
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	15	18	17	13	14	9
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	23	23	18	13	13	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	38	42	35	26	27	16

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

As well, four-in-ten (39%) report their level of concern over COVID-19 ‘decreased’ over the last week, while half (49%) say that their level of concern has stayed 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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49	48	32	24	19	12	13	12
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36	38	47	55	57	55	51	49
Decreased	17	9	15	12	14	20	21	23	31	36	39
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	-	1

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON

Again this week, half (52%) indicate they are concerned about this new COVID-19 variant, compared to 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	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70	69	62	61	60	51	49	52
Very concerned	35	27	37	38	29	29	27	21	17	18
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33	30	34	32	33	30	32	34
Not too concerned	19	16	12	14	21	25	23	27	26	30
Not at all concerned	11	15	18	17	16	14	16	22	25	18
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29	31	37	39	39	49	51	48
Don't know/not sure	3	1	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 (83%) 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	Feb 8-14					
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	83					
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	58					
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	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	10	11	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	5					
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	2	1	1	<1	-	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	2	<1	1	1	1	-	<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	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	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14	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	Feb 8-14		
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%	87%	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%	80%		

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, 84% of Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. This week, those supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures (56%) is double the proportion supporting public health measures being continued (28%).

	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Nov 30- Dec 6	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
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	14
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	28
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	56

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

Ontarians tend to be paying less attention to the number of cases and other statistics about the pandemic in Ontario. This week, one-quarter (23%) say they are ‘paying more attention’ to the percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated.

	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	Feb 8-14	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	Feb 8-14	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	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies																																												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	32	31	24	18	17	9	12	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	36	32	24	33	29	31	36	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30	31	36	51	47	54	58	50
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	26	27	25	20	17	15	15	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	41	40	33	41	37	36	38	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37	33	33	42	37	46	47	44
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	31	36	37	36	22	16	15	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	39	34	27	35	35	39	39	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34	29	30	35	28	43	43	44
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	34	37	36	36	23	18	18	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	36	34	35	36	39	41	39	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33	29	28	29	28	37	39	41
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	28	29	29	26	18	15	23	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	38	34	31	36	34	33	34	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35	32	36	39	37	47	48	41

Half (52%) of Ontarians say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing.

I am getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures, such as mask wearing and social distancing

	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec'20	Apr '21	May '21	Jun '21	Jul '21	Oct 26- Nov 1	Nov 2-8	Nov 9-15	Nov 16-22	Nov 23-29	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21- Jan 3	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
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	52
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	24	35	29	28	30	33	31	32	40	36	40	30
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	18	18	15	16	16	15	16	20	15	19	13	24	22	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	4
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	17	20	20	13	16	15	16	12	19	15	13	15	13	15
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	31	32	30	33	31	29	29	30	29	26	19	20	28
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	49	52	52	43	49	47	45	41	48	44	39	34	33	43

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

Almost six-in-ten (57%) of Ontarians now report they are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, on par with November (58%) results but remaining below June'21 (72%).

I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that it appears a vaccine is nearly ready

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28- Dec 3	Dec 5-10
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	38	38
Strongly agree	12	15	14
Somewhat agree	23	24	24
Neither agree nor disagree	10	10	12
Somewhat disagree	18	20	22
Strongly disagree	32	30	25
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	50	47

I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered*

Jan '21	Feb '21	Mar '21	Apr '21	May '21	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
Varies																
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	47	42	53	50	48	57
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	18	14	22	21	17	27
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	29	28	31	28	31	30
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	7	8	7	8	13	5
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	18	17	17	17	23
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	27	30	22	25	21	14
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	43	48	38	41	38	37

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 remained unchanged this week with 60% 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	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52	66	75	73	72	68	60	60
No	61	62	55	48	34	25	27	28	32	40	40

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO'S ICUs

Among those who are aware, two-thirds (66%) say they have heard the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario's ICUs has been 'going down', while only 8% say that the number has been 'increasing' – a reversal of results at the beginning of the year.

	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	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14	13	11	8	15	23	42	66
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25	27	17	14	23	32	29	21
Increasing	38	45	54	59	54	68	74	56	33	21	8
Lack of staff/beds/funding/staff burnout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
ICU is full - unspecified if increasing or decreasing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Mostly unvaccinated patients in the ICU	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	<1	-	1
ICU is manageable/plenty of space - unspecified if increasing or decreasing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Don't trust the news/fake news	-	-	1	<1	<1	1	2	<1	1	-	-
Clarifying what people are actually there for	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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	2

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 85% saying they are concerned and 57% ‘very’ concerned – although level of concern is down compared to the beginning of the year.

	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	Feb 1-14
n=	80	115	157	175	227	257	232	155	85	43c
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	82	93	94	89	91	92	90	85	84	85
Very concerned	52	62	62	58	52	51	57	57	53	57
Somewhat concerned	30	31	32	31	38	42	33	29	31	28
Not too concerned	16	6	6	11	9	8	10	15	16	15
Don’t know/not sure	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CV253. How concerned are you about the increase in COVID-19 patients in ICUs? Are you ...
Base: Increasing at CV252
C: Caution, small base size

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

CURRENT HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

The majority (60%) of Ontarians indicate they own their own home, while three-in-ten (29%) are renting. One-in-ten (10%) live with their parents.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Own your own home	62	60	59	59	60
Renting	28	32	30	31	29
Living with parent(s)	8	7	10	8	10
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	1
Don't know/not sure	1	<1	1	<1	1

CHANGE IN HOME PURCHASE PRICES

Most (97%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 84% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	94	94	95	96	97
Increased significantly	82	83	81	82	84
Increased somewhat	12	11	14	14	12
Not increased too much	2	4	-	1	<1
Not increased at all	1	1	2	1	1
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	3	5	2	2	1
Don't know/not sure	3	1	3	2	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

IMPACT OF INCREASING HOME PURCHASE PRICES

Just over half (54%) of Ontarians report that significant increases to home purchase prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally. And, while 18% describe this as a ‘good thing’, 27% 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	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	16	19	20	19	18
A very good thing	5	7	7	8	8
Somewhat of a good thing	12	12	13	12	10
Somewhat of a bad thing	19	17	16	16	21
A very bad thing	26	31	33	33	33
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	45	48	49	48	54
Doesn't matter either way	37	32	31	32	27
Don't know/not sure	2	1	1	1	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

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CHANGE IN HOME RENTAL PRICES

About eight-in-ten (81%) Ontarians believe that home rental prices have increased, with half (50%) saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	79	83	82	78	81
Increased significantly	44	48	48	49	50
Increased somewhat	35	35	33	29	31
Not increased too much	5	5	1	4	7
Not increased at all	3	4	3	5	4
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	7	9	5	9	11
Don't know/not sure	13	8	14	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

IMPACT OF INCREASED HOME RENTAL PRICES

Just over half (54%) of Ontarians believe that significant increases to home rental prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally, with 37% reporting that it doesn’t matter either way to them.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	8	6	6	4	7
A very good thing	1	2	3	1	1
Somewhat of a good thing	7	5	3	3	6
Somewhat of a bad thing	16	23	18	19	21
A very bad thing	26	30	31	34	33
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	43	53	48	53	54
Doesn't matter either way	48	41	46	42	37
Don't know/not sure	1	-	<1	<1	2

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 (35%), too many people wanting to buy or rent a home (28%), and not enough people selling or renting homes (18%).

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
Not enough new homes being built in areas people want to live	29	31	36	37	35
Too many people wanting to buy or rent a home	37	33	32	33	28
Not enough people selling or renting homes	19	23	18	13	18
Don't know/not sure	16	13	14	17	19

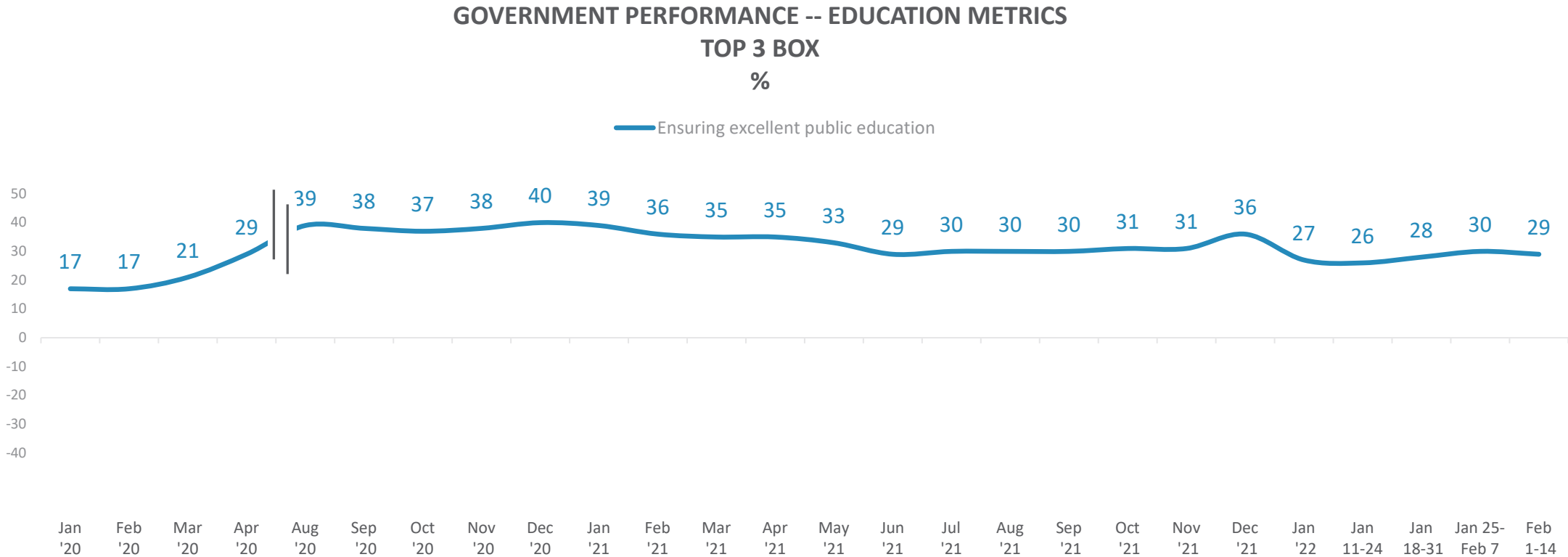
Just over half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (54%) or that there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs (54%), while 35% agree that they can only afford to buy or rent a condo. As well, 48% of Ontarians say that they feel stuck since they can't afford to move.

% Strongly/Somewhat agree	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14
n=	Varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
There are hardly any homes available to rent that meet my needs	44	50	51	54	54
I'd like to buy a house, but I can't afford it	46	49	56	49	54
I feel stuck in the place I live in now, since I can't afford to move	43	47	48	46	48
I can only afford to buy or rent a condo	29	35	30	35	35

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

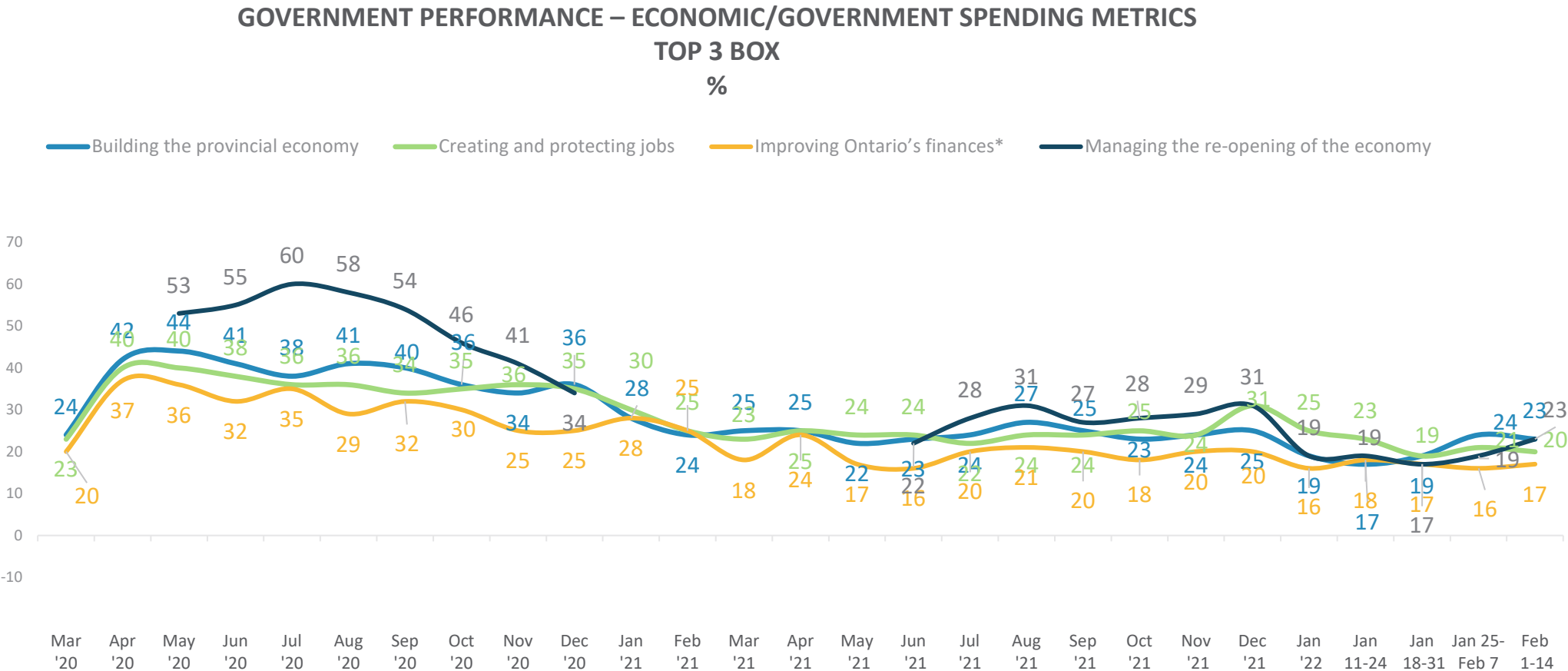


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained stable this week.



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

Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ was up 4-points this week, while the other economic and spending metrics all remained steady.

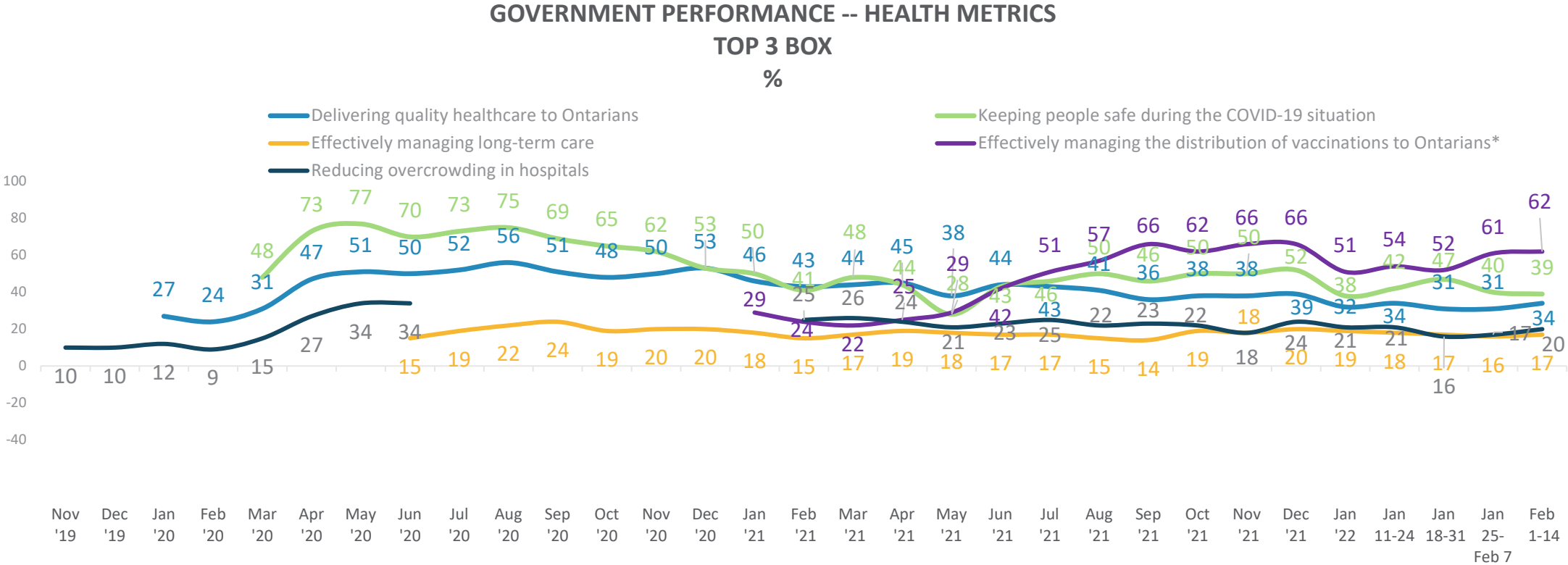


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

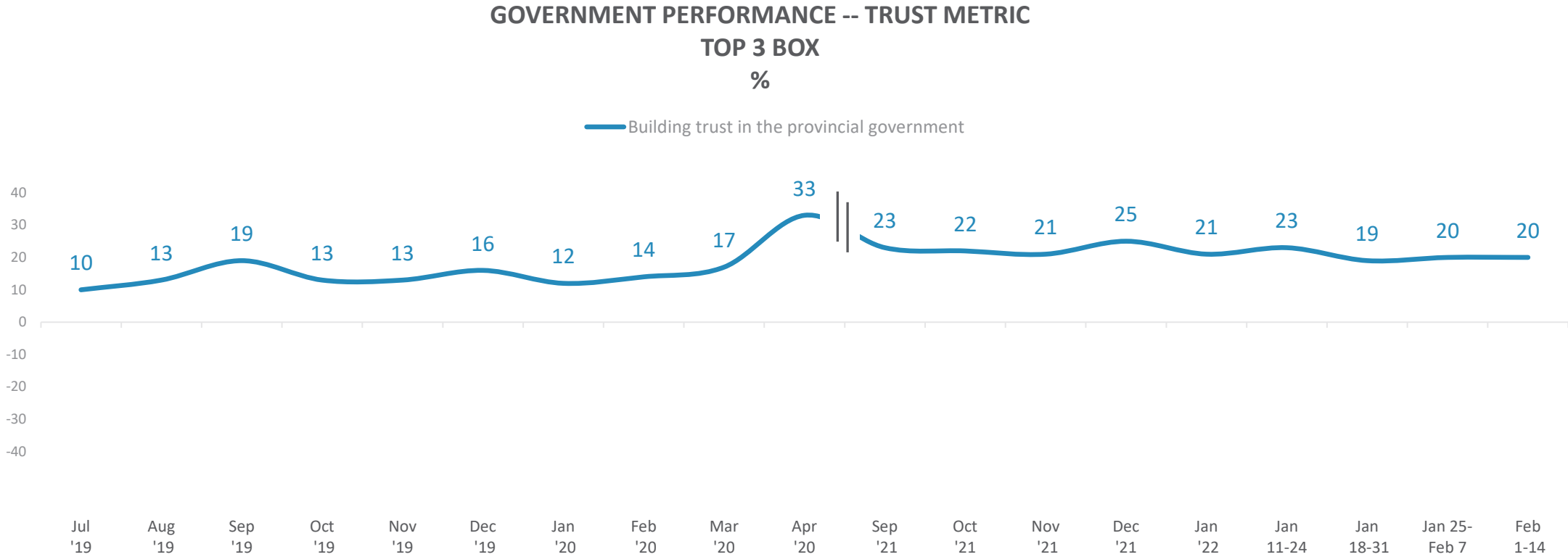
Bases vary

There was a slight uptick in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’. The other health metrics remained steady.



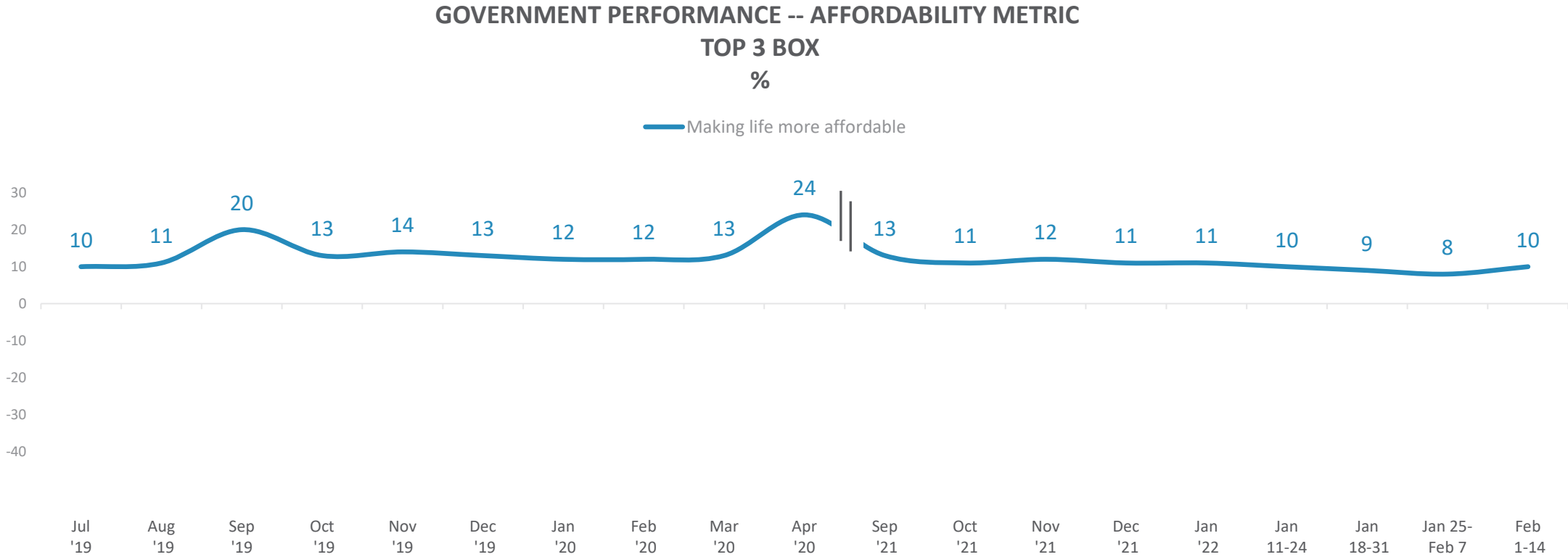
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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

The positive rating of the Ontario 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