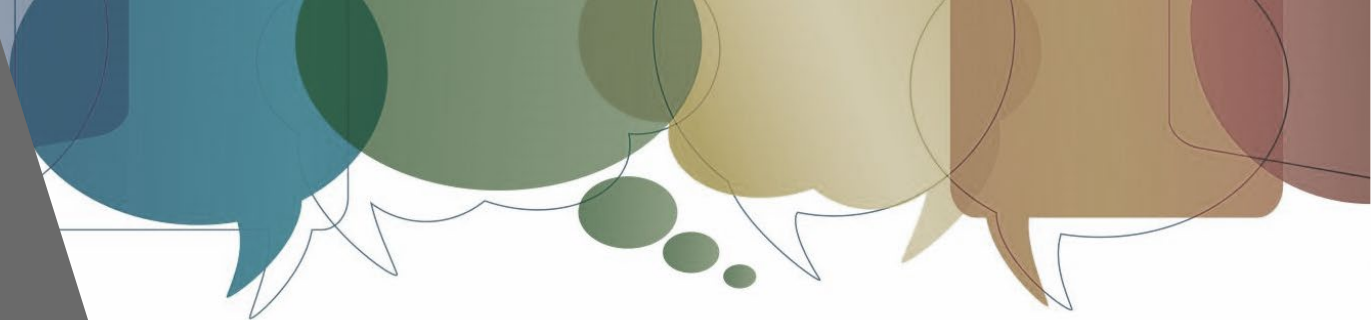




THE
**STRATEGIC
COUNSEL**

EXPERIENCE • PASSION • CREATIVITY

TORONTO | OTTAWA | CALGARY
www.thestrategiccounsel.com



PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #120

CABINET OFFICE
February 22nd 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 'Right track' was up this again this week to 52%, an increase of 9-points since the beginning of the month. The increase in 'right track' this week was driven by those who believe the government is 'somewhat on the right track'.

COVID-19 as the government's top priority has continued to decline to 35% this week, with 10% citing affordable housing, 9% healthcare, 8% the economy - and 10% the trucker convoy in Ottawa.

2 While most (78%) 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 (89%).

3 Overall, about three-quarters (77%) of Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. However, there has been movement with an 8-point decline to 48% supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures, while support for public health measures being continued (29%) remained stable.

This week, one-in-five (21%) hold the view that public health measures are no longer needed in public places such as stores and restaurants.

4 Three-quarters (74%) of Ontarians now report feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic, an increase of 20-points in the past four weeks.

Again this week, four-in-ten (40%) report their level of concern over COVID-19 'decreased' over the last week, while half (53%) say that their level of concern has stayed about the same. Of note, only 7% say their level of concern has 'increased' compared to 48% at the beginning of the year.

And, the proportion of Ontarians reporting they are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered is at 61% this week, an increase of 13-points since the beginning of the month.

5 The rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' continues to trend upwards and increased 8-points this week, while 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' increased 15-points.

As well, over the past four weeks, there has been a 23-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 (70%).

The proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is 'doing what is required' increased again this week to 51%, while there were slight declines among those who believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should' (24%) or 'doing more than is necessary' (26%).

Key Findings

5 In terms of the economy, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues continued to slowly trend upwards this week to 64%, while the reverse is true for a focus on health-related issues - at 31% this week – a difference of 2 to 1.

Rating of the government's performance for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' continued to improve and was up 8-points (and 17-points over the past three weeks). After remaining stable for several weeks, 'creating and protecting jobs' increased 10-points. The other economic/government spending metrics remained stable.

7 This week, there were improvements in trust in the government's communications about 'what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation (up 11-points), while trust in communications about 'restrictions to fight COVID are measured and appropriate' was down 4-points.

6 The rating of the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' increased 7-points to NET -40 this week.

Consistent with previous results, most (94%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 82% saying they have increased 'significantly'. And, eight-in-ten (80%) believe that home rental prices have increased, with almost half (45%) saying they have increased 'significantly'.

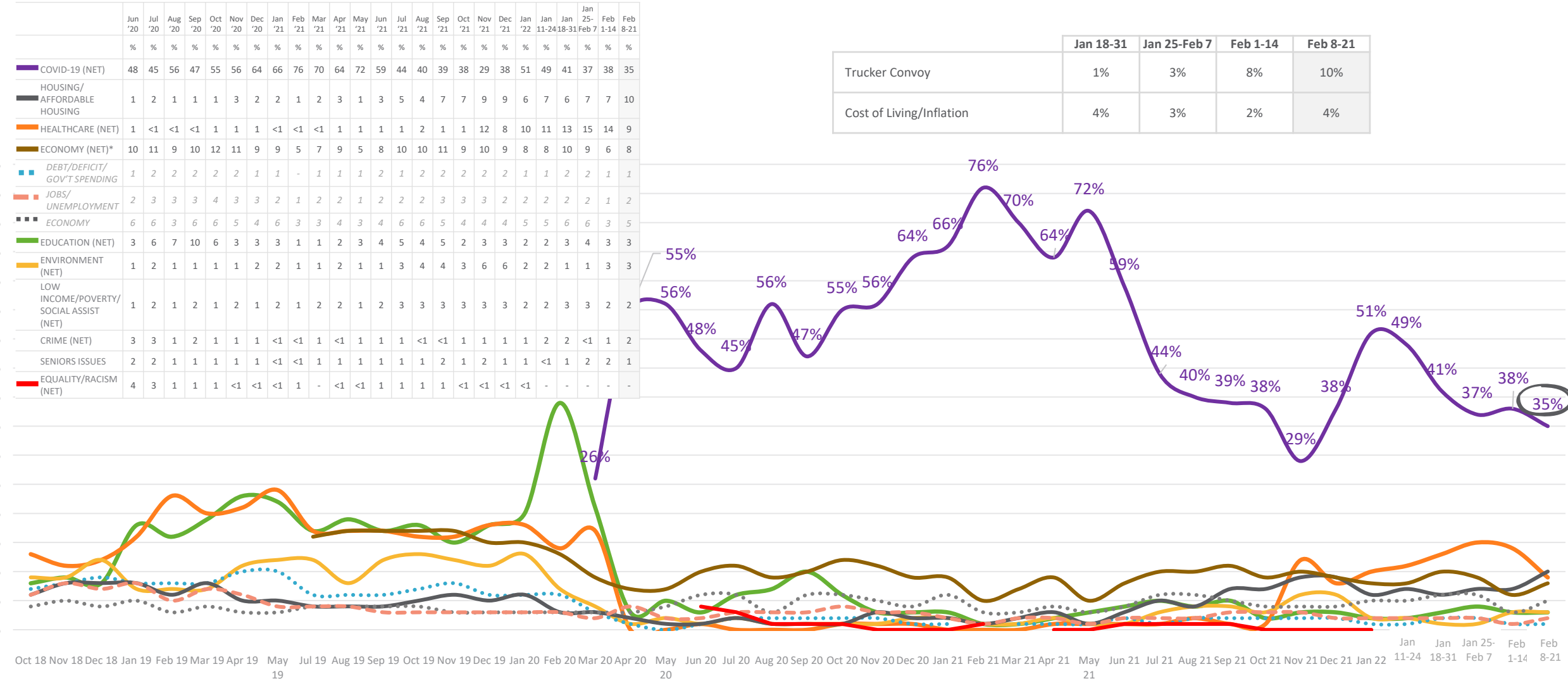
Of note, half report that these significant increases to home purchase prices (51%) and home rental prices (47%) are a 'bad thing' for them personally.

8 Rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' saw a slight improvement this week to NET -5.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government’s top priority has continued to decline to 35% this week, with 10% citing affordable housing, 9% healthcare, 8% the economy - and 10% the trucker convoy in Ottawa.

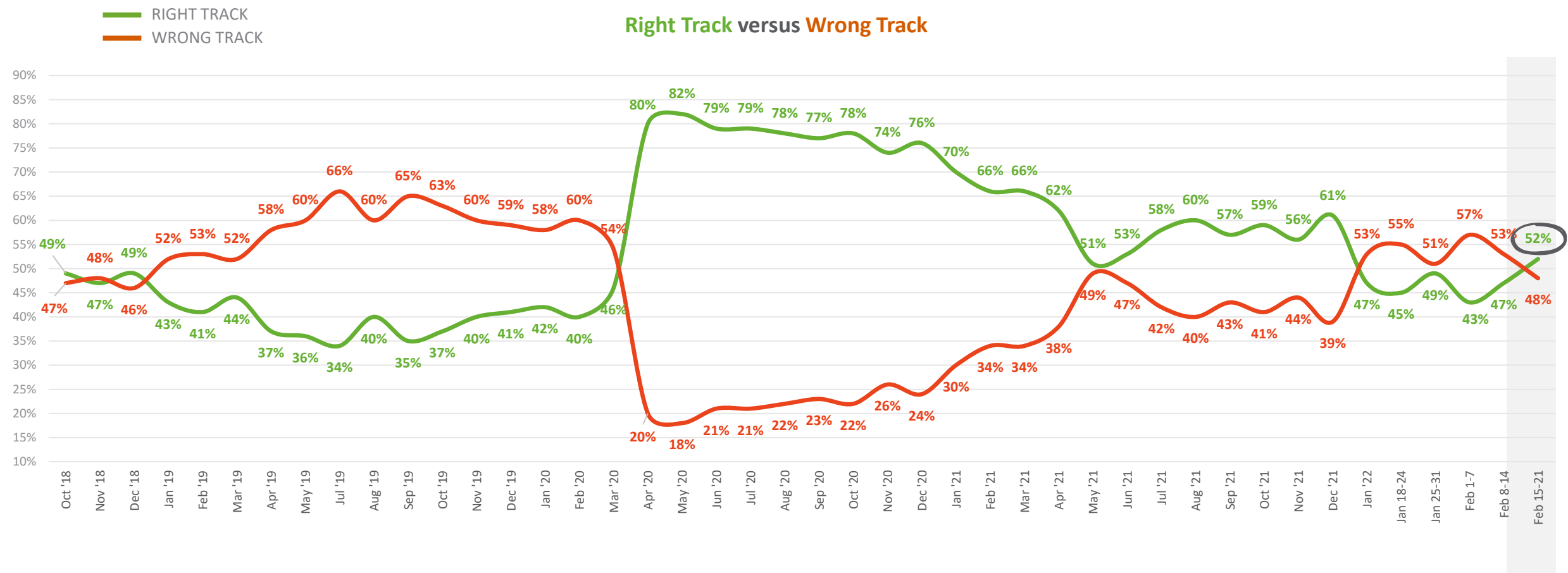


Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

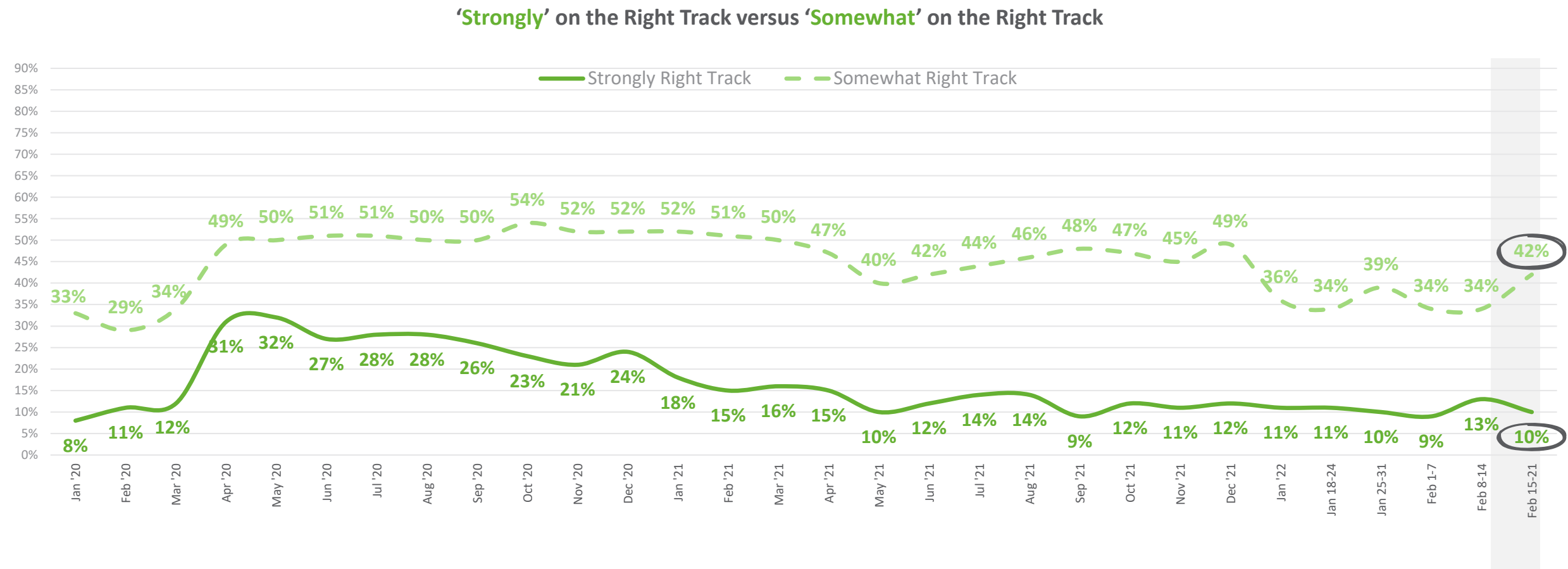


‘Right track’ was up this again this week to 52%, an increase of 9-points since the beginning of the month.



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

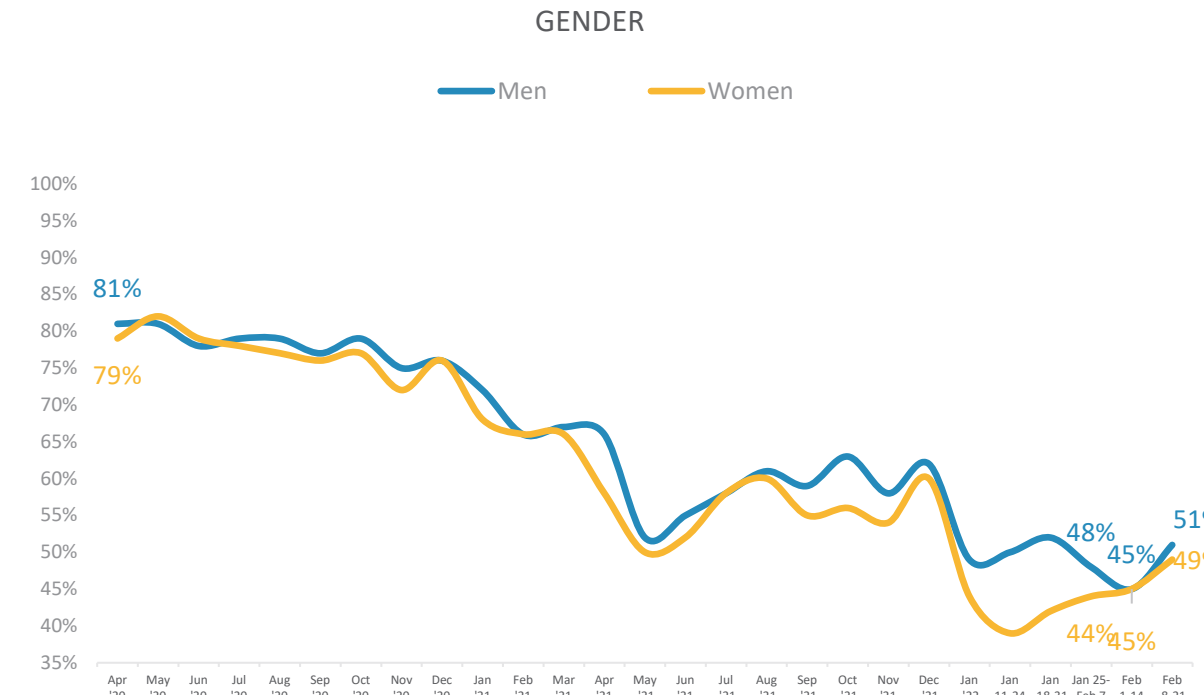
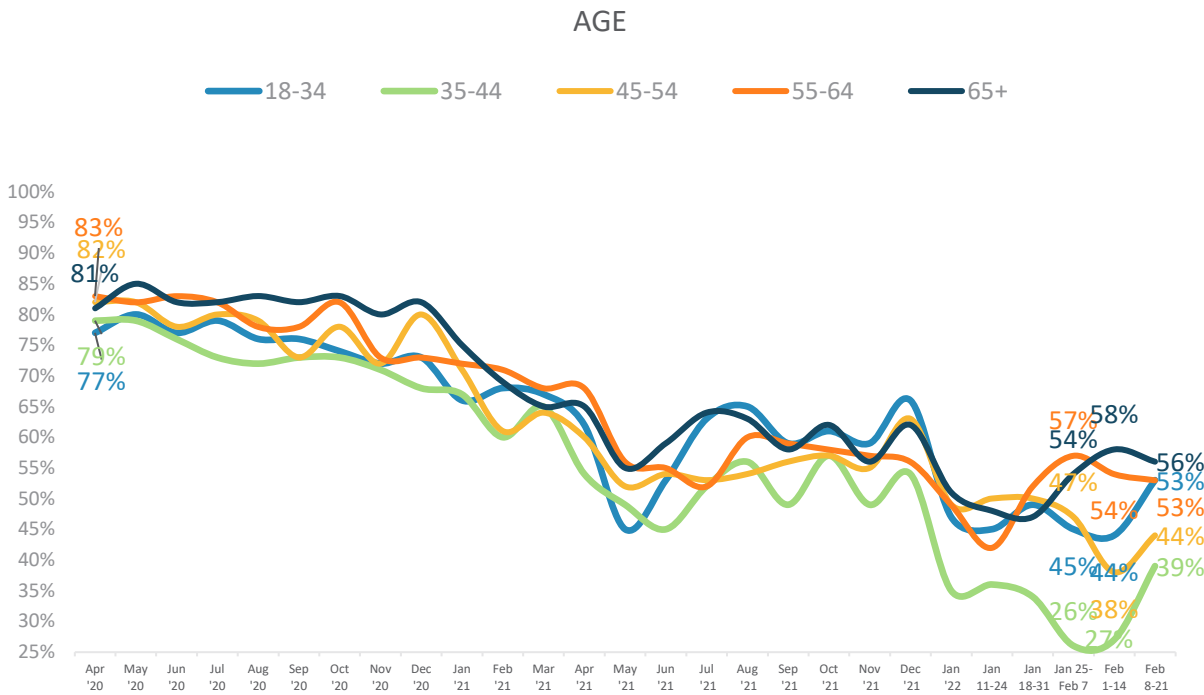
This week, the increase in ‘right track’ was driven by those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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

There were increases in ‘right track’ among those under 55 years of age this week, while results remained stable among those 55+. ‘Right track’ increased among both men and women this week.

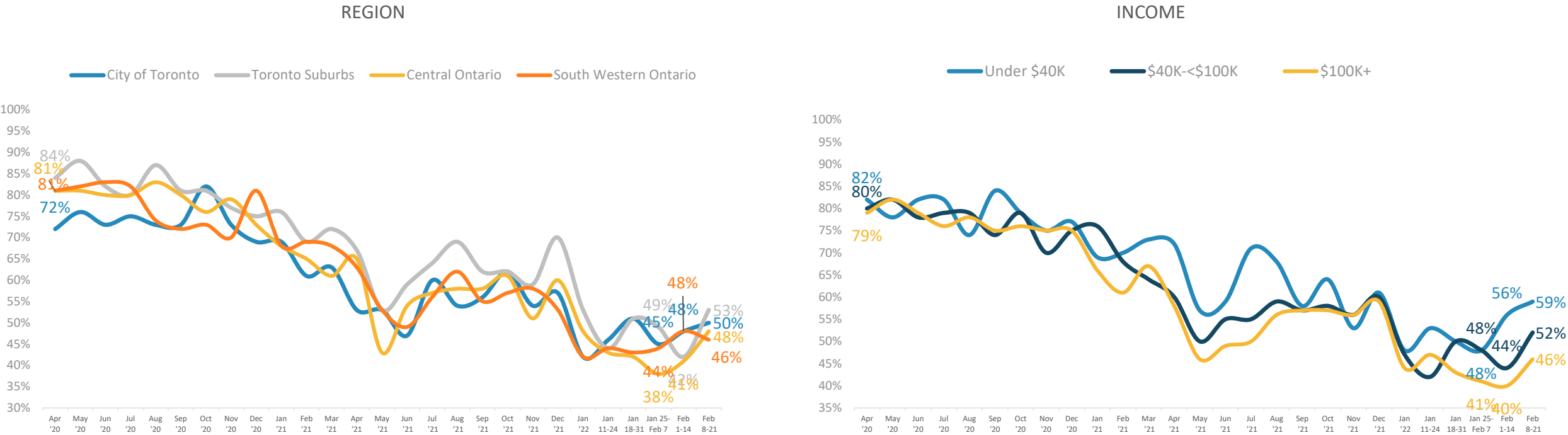
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

‘Right track’ was up in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario this week, while scores remained stable in the city of Toronto and SW Ontario. There were also increases measured among the three income segments, with Ontarians making under \$40k continuing to have the highest ‘right track’ scores.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

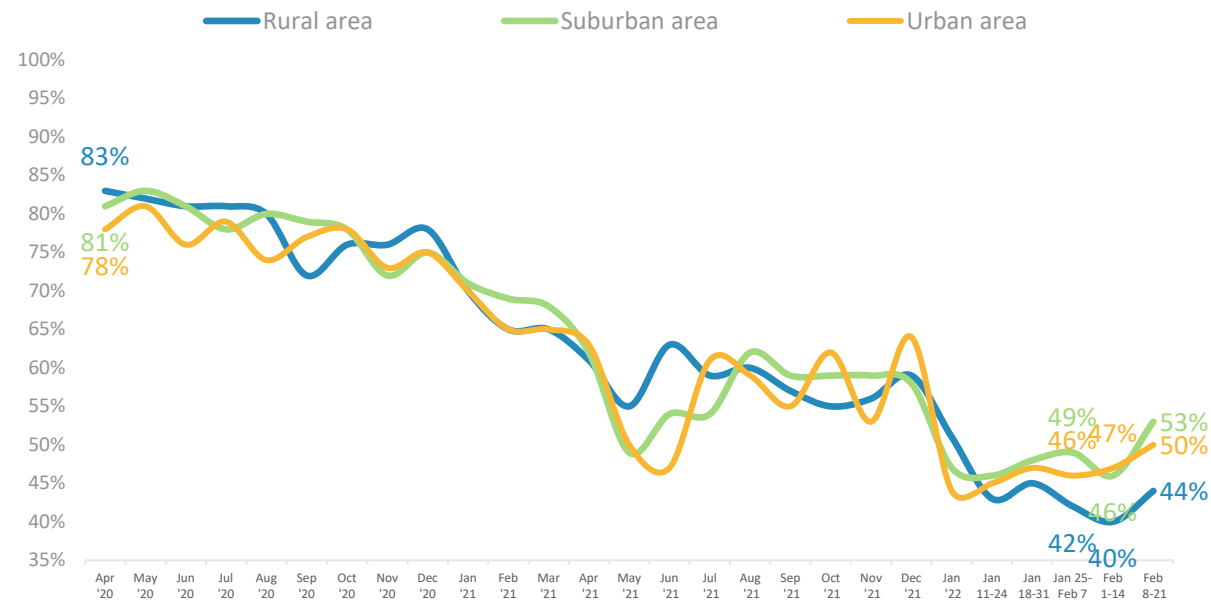


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

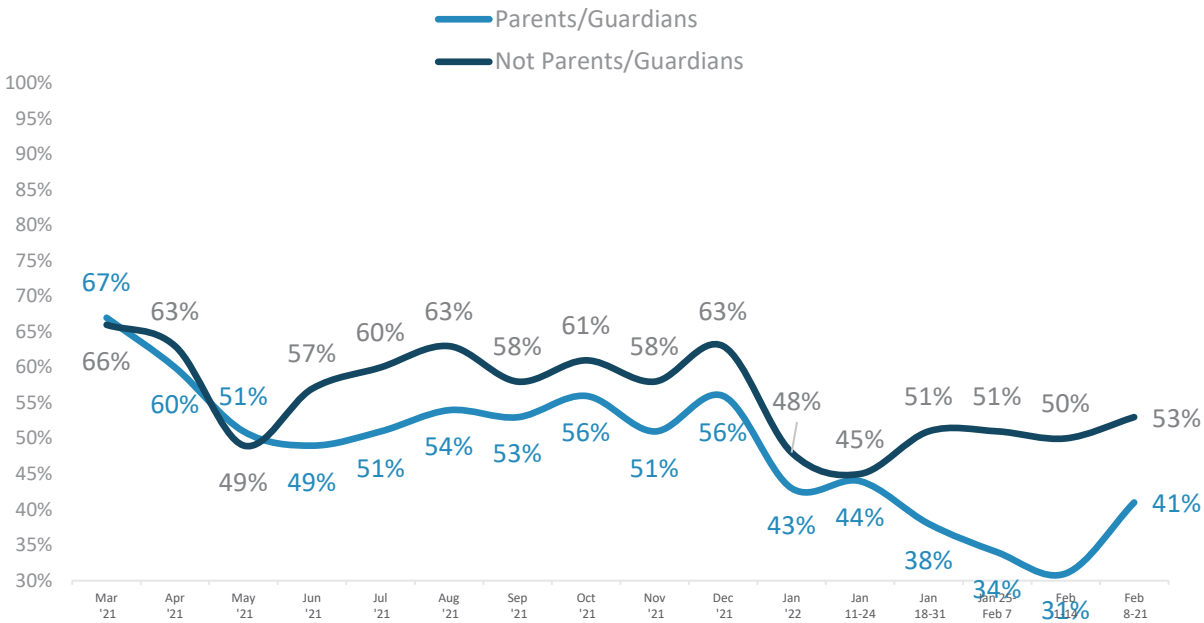
‘Right track’ scores were also up in suburban, urban and rural areas, although scores in rural areas remain lower than the other areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



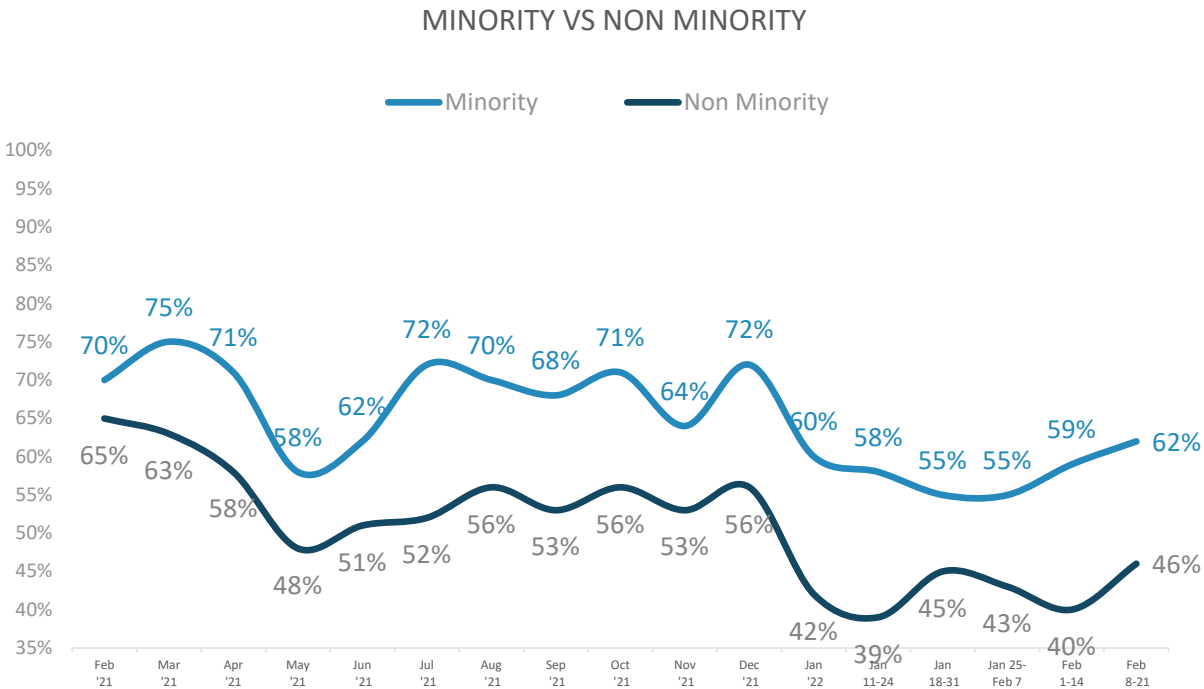
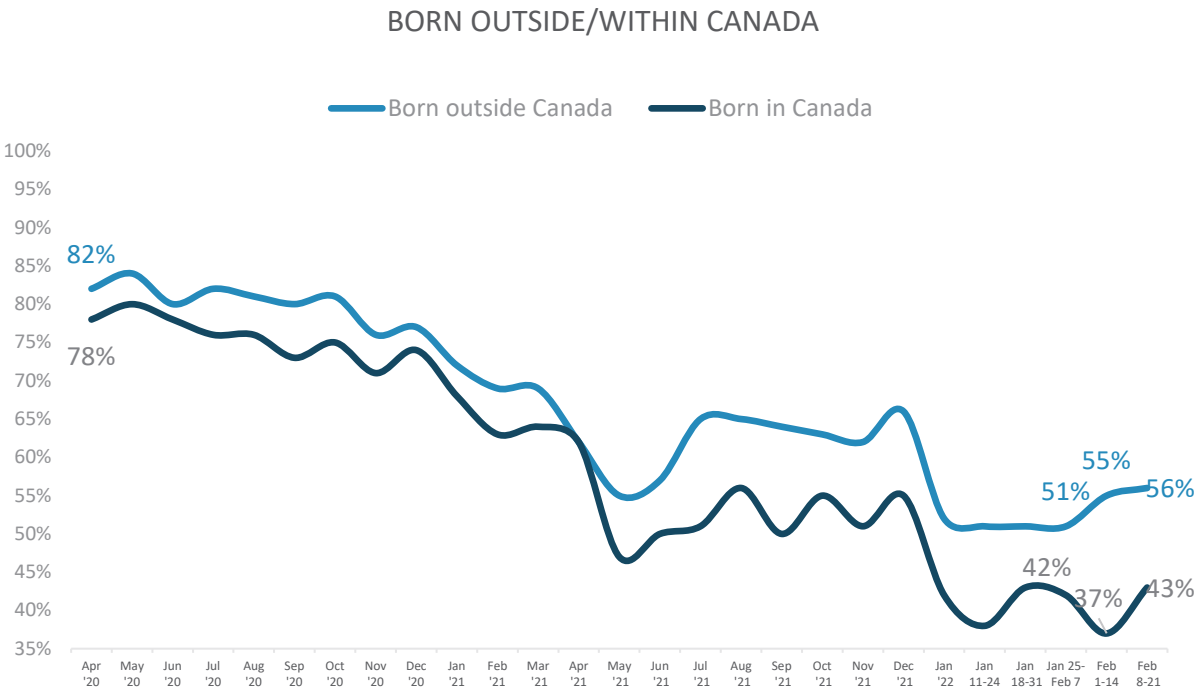
PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



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’ was up this week among Ontarians born in Canada and among non-minorities, with scores remaining below those born outside of Canada and those who identify as a minority.

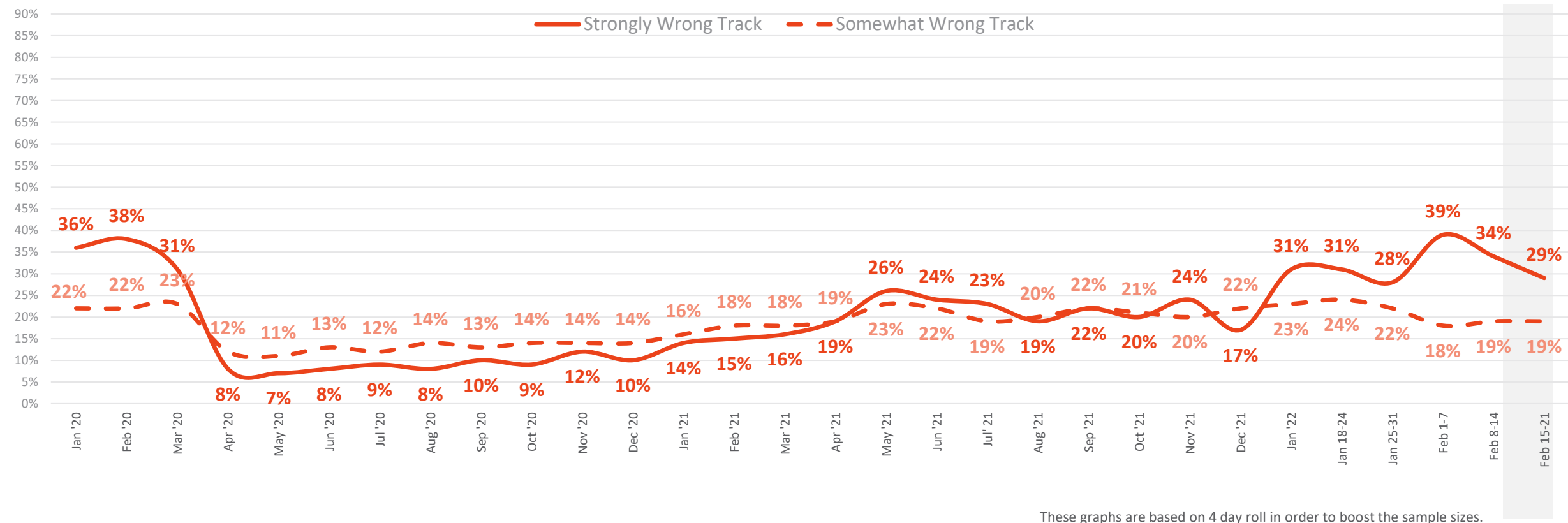
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

While ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ continued to remain stable, a decline was measured again this week among those who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’.

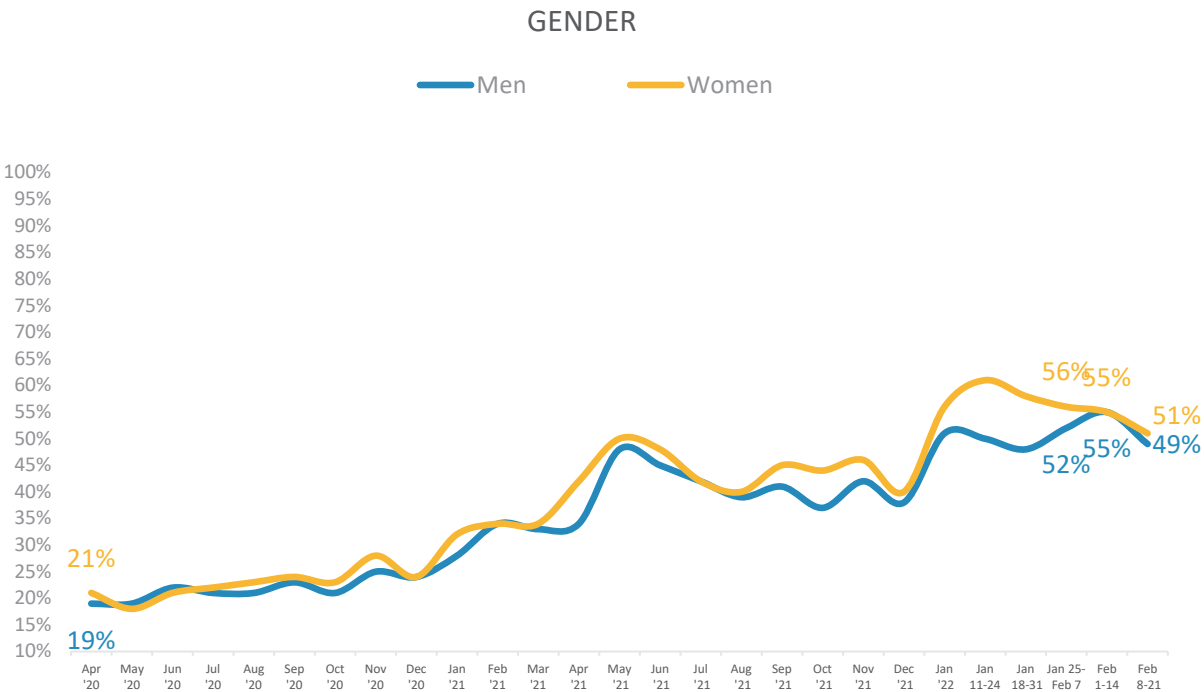
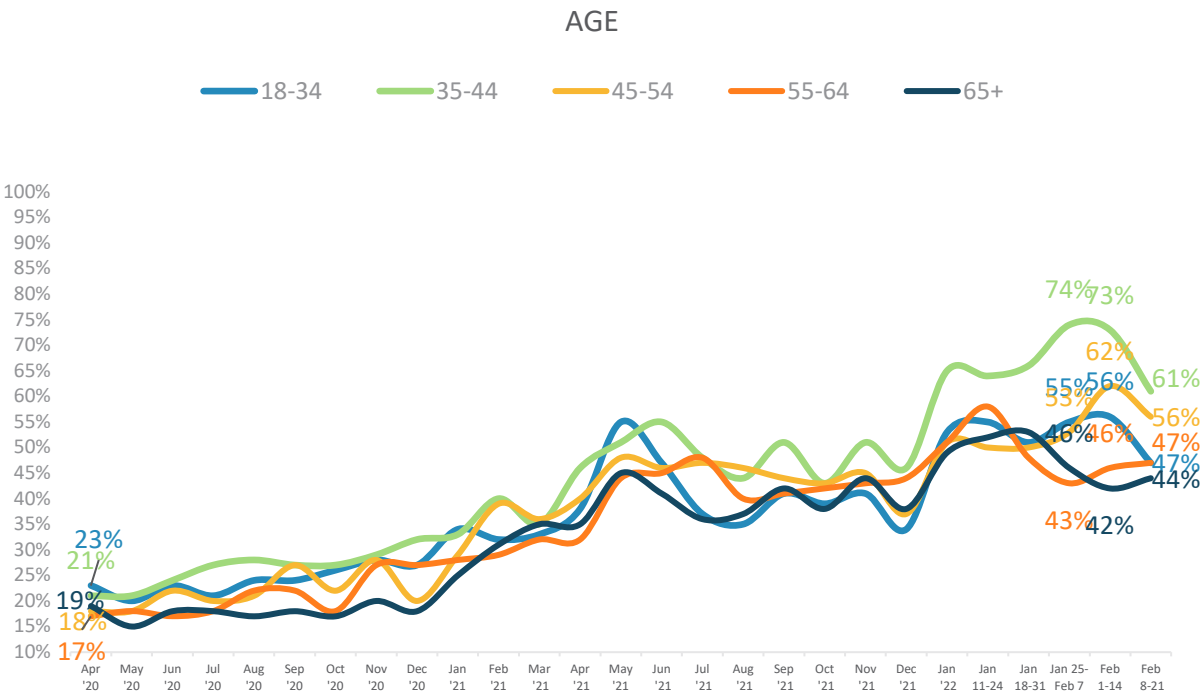
‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track



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

There were declines in ‘wrong track’ this week among Ontarians under the age of 55, while results remained stable among those 55+. ‘Wrong track’ also declined among both men and women.

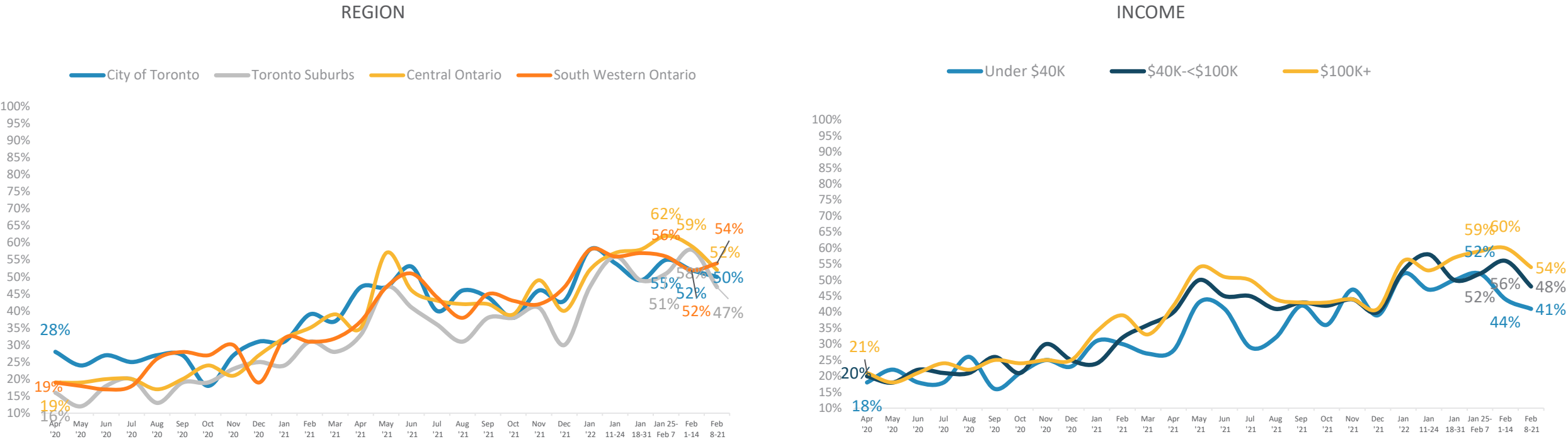
Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

‘Wrong track’ declined this week in the Toronto suburbs and Central Ontario while remaining stable in the city of Toronto and SW Ontario. There were also declines in ‘wrong track’ for all three income segments, with Ontarians making \$100k+ continuing to have the highest scores.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

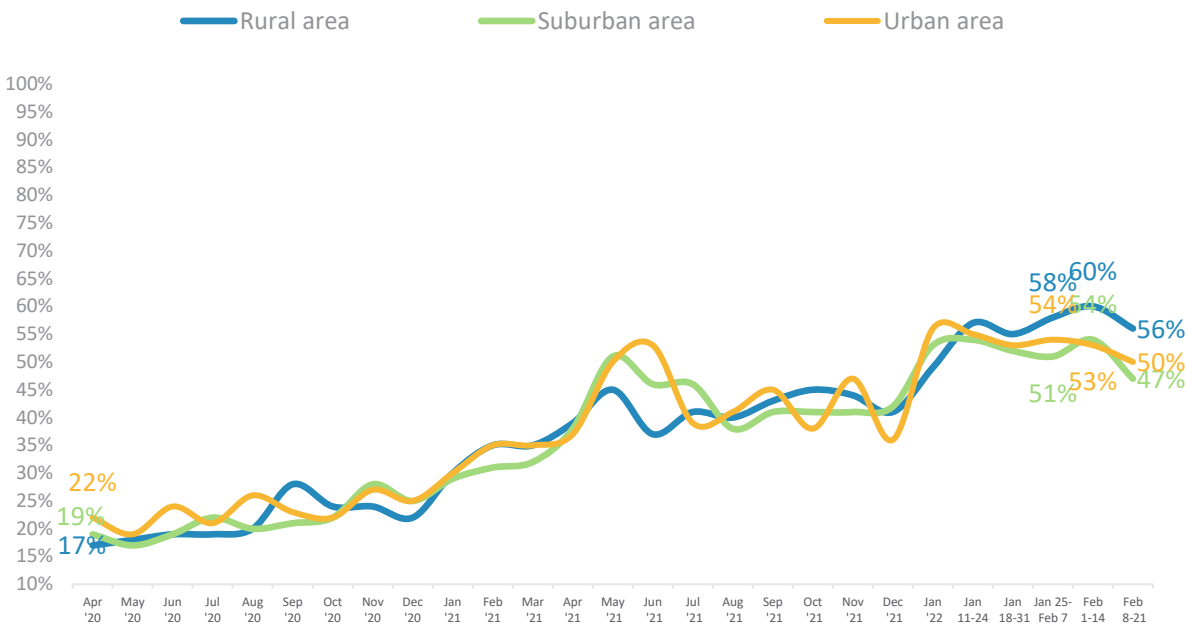


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

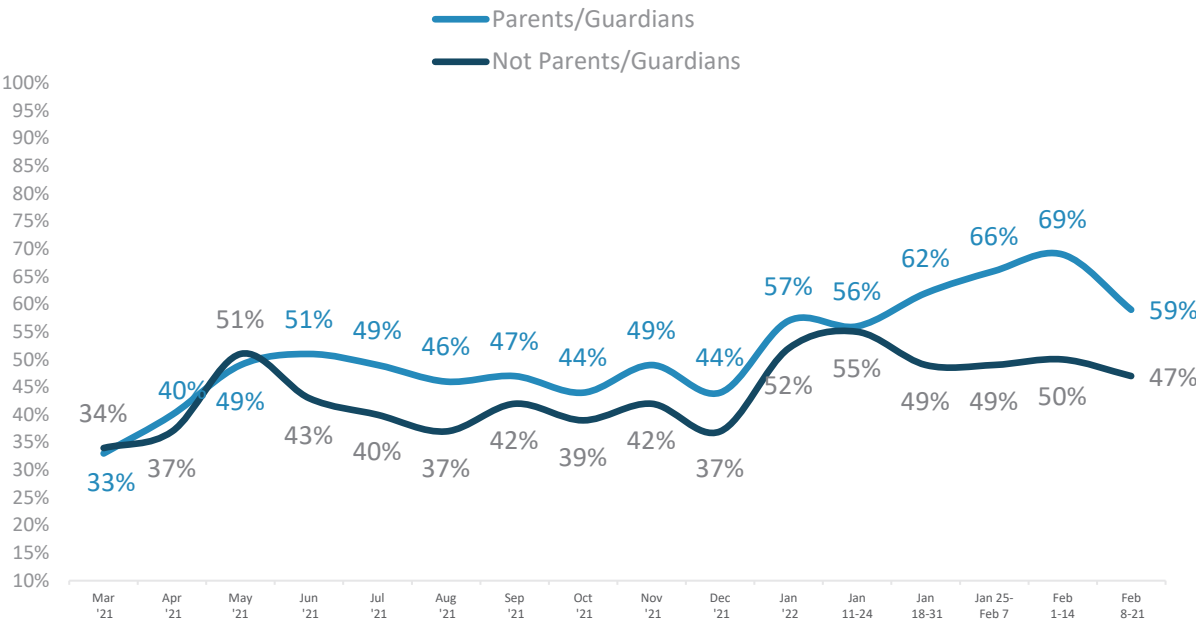
‘Wrong track’ was also down in suburban, urban and rural areas – with scores lowest in suburban areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

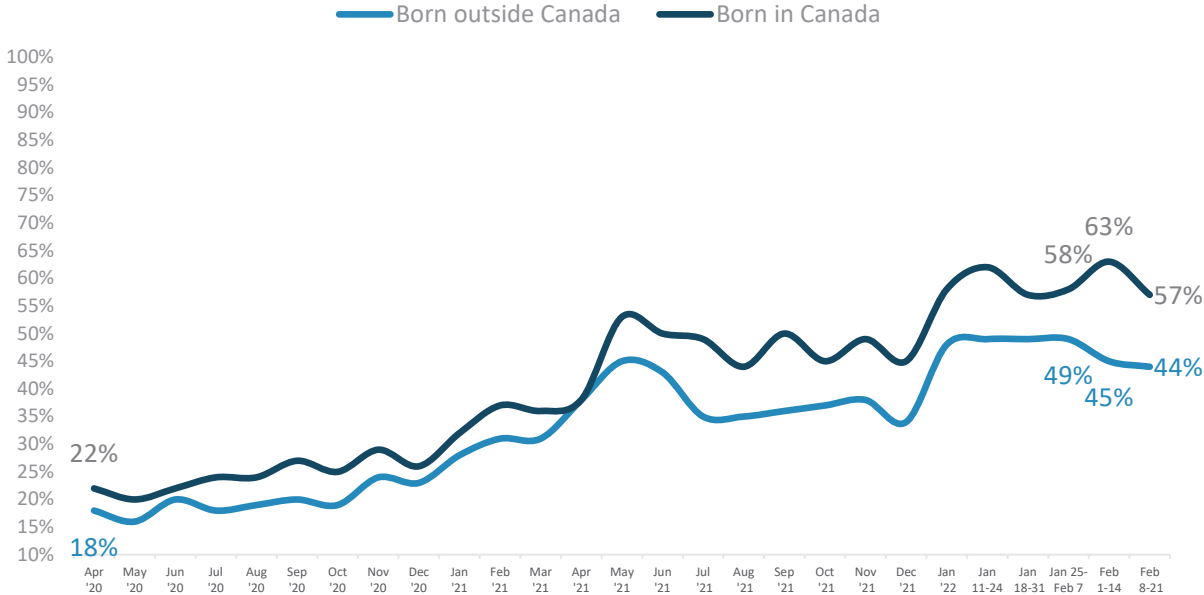


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

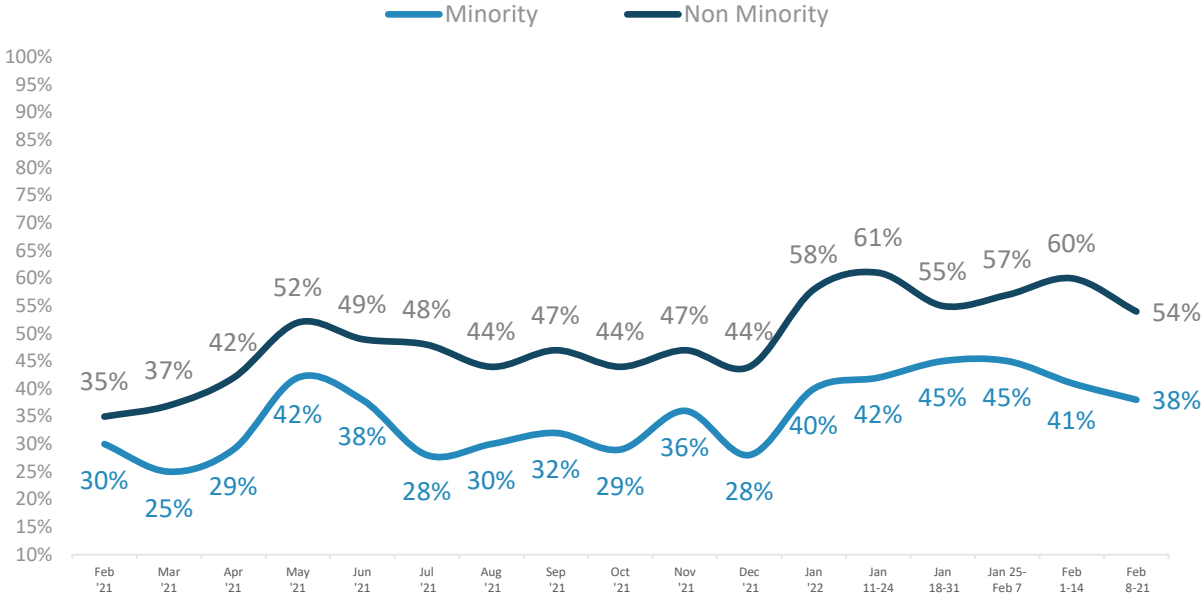
‘Wrong track’ scores decreased this week among those born in Canada and non-minorities this week, although scores remain higher than among Ontarians born outside of Canada and those who identify as a minority.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



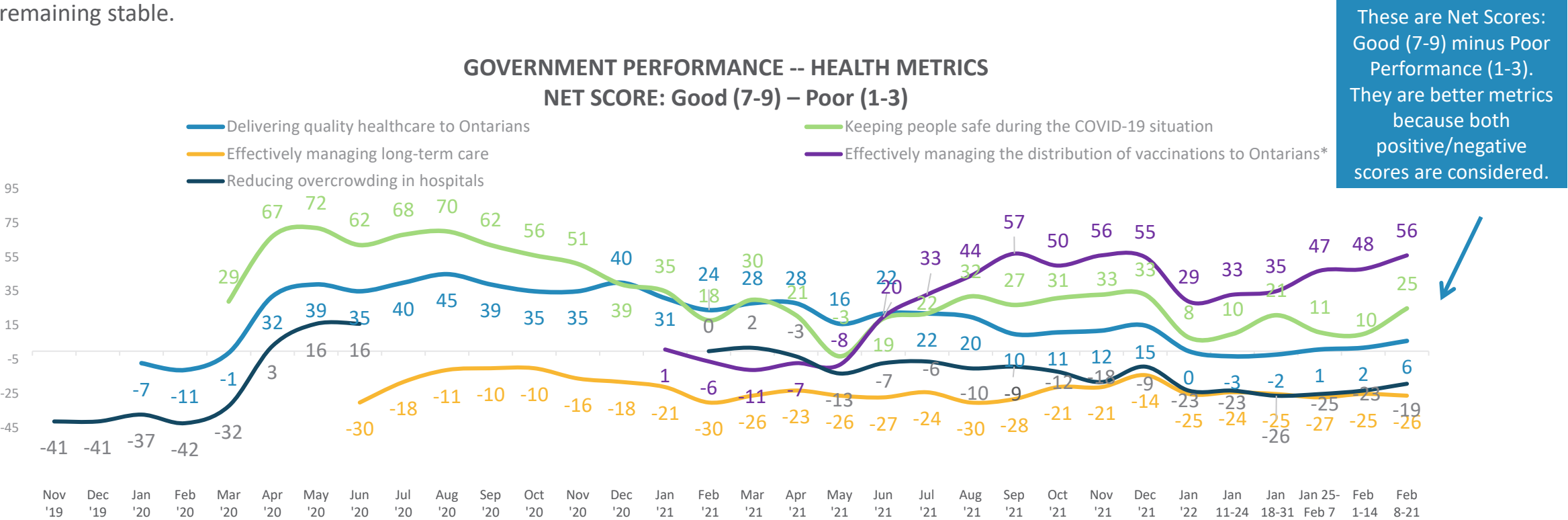
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



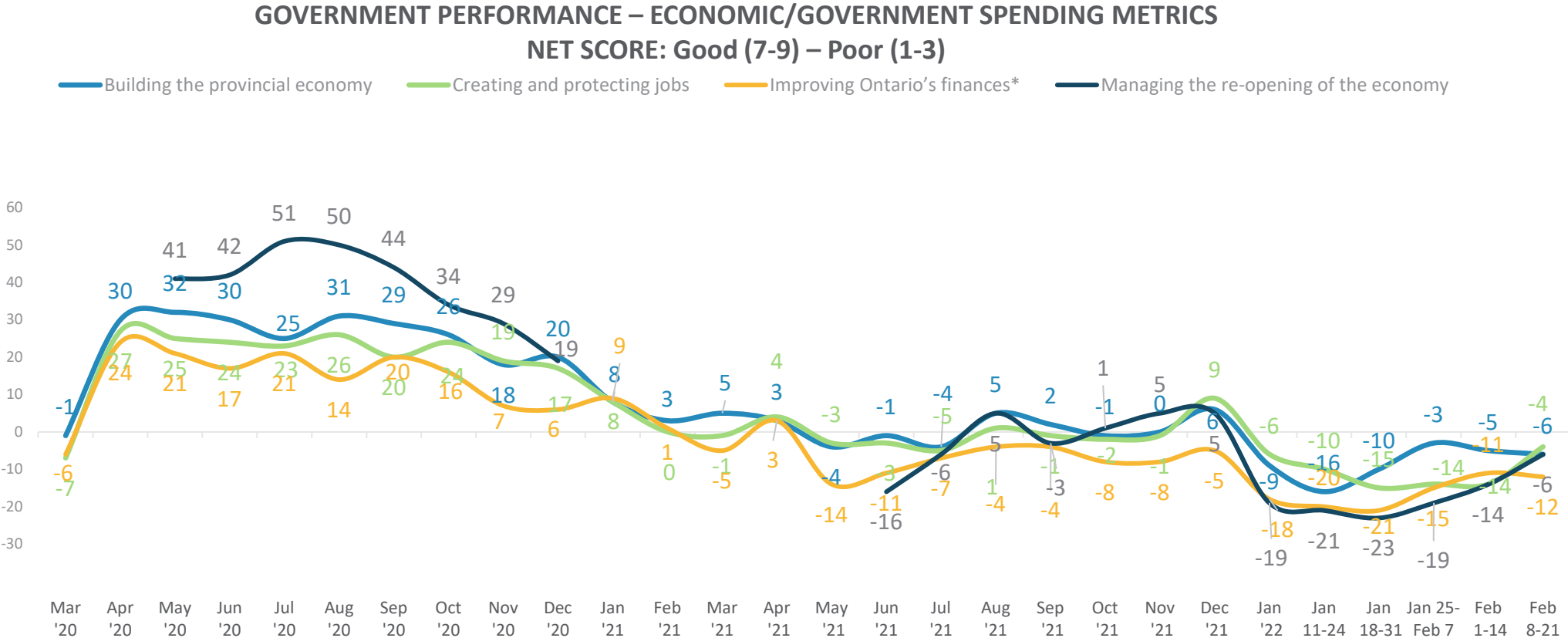
The rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ continues to trend upwards and increased 8-points this week, while ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ increased 15-points.

- ‘Delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ and ‘reducing overcrowding in hospitals’ were both up 4-point this week, with ‘effectively managing long-term care’ remaining stable.



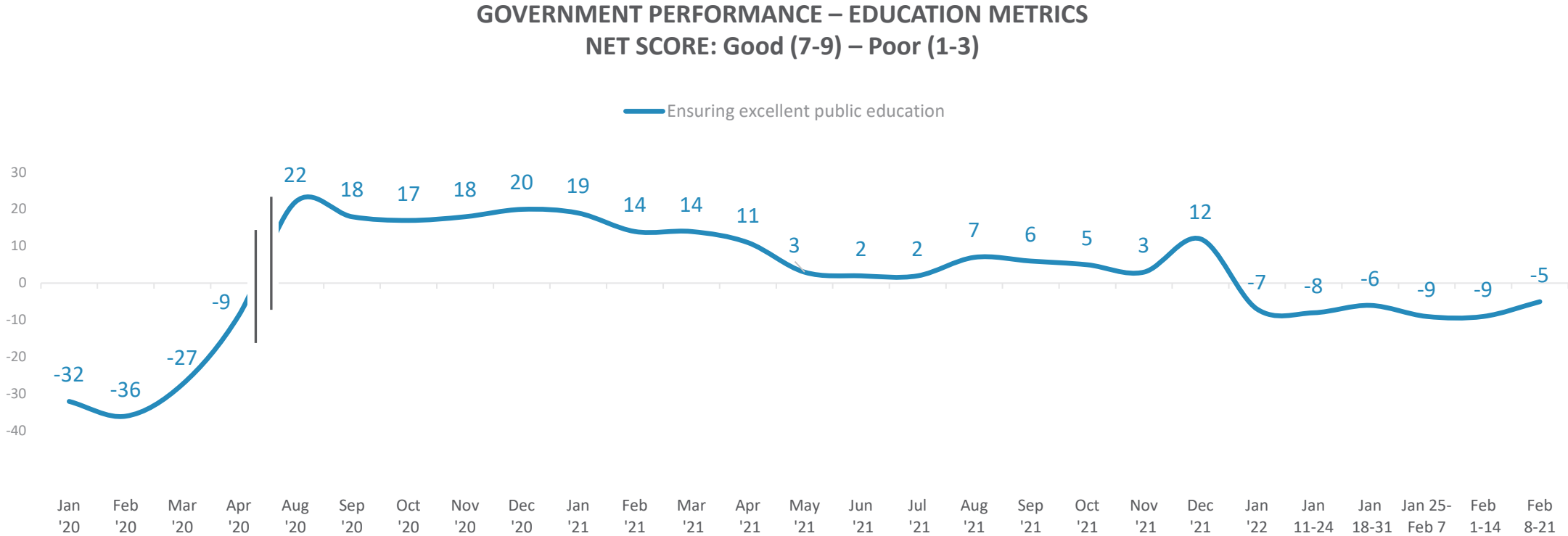
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ continued to improve and was up 8-points (and 17-points over the past three weeks). After remaining stable for several weeks, ‘creating and protecting jobs’ increased 10-points. The other metrics remained stable.



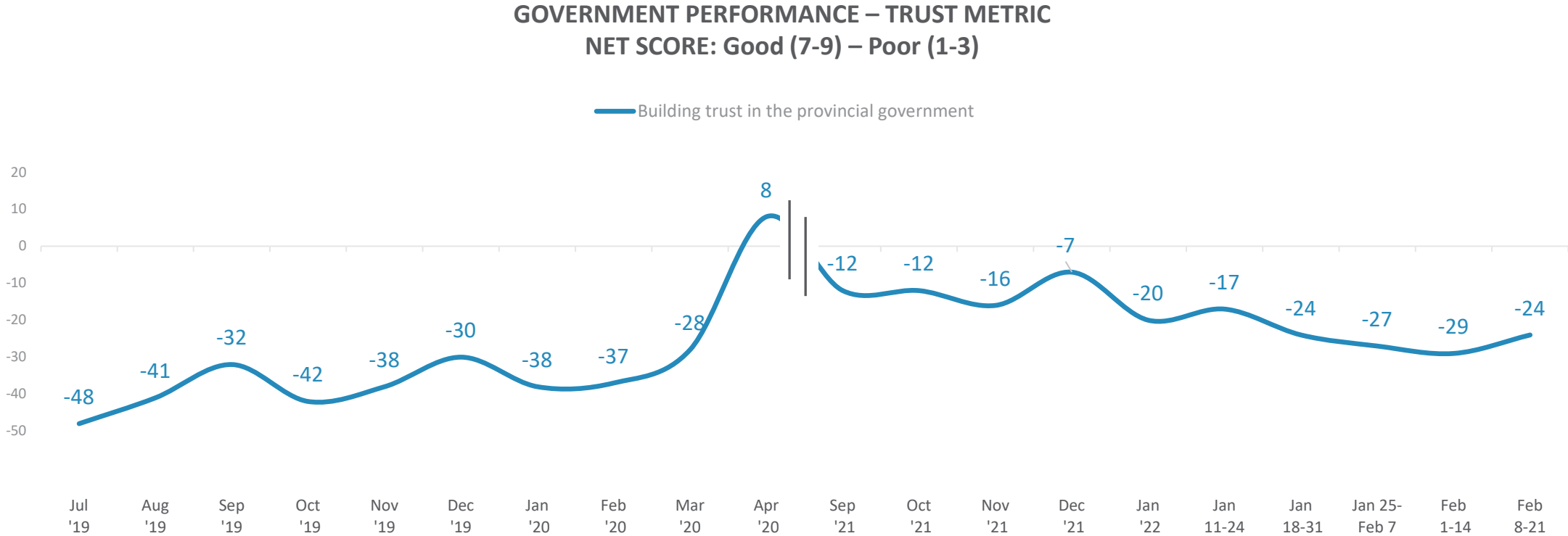
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

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



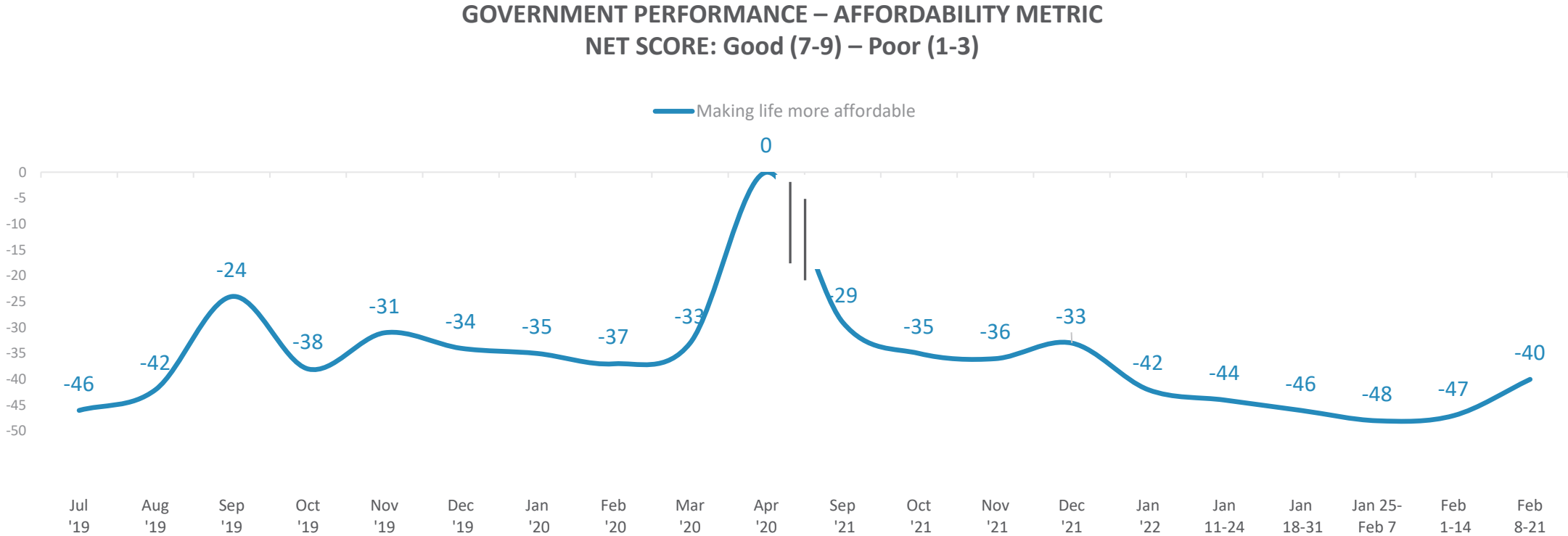
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

After declining for several weeks, the rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ was up 5-points this week.



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

There was also a 7-point increase in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ 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 64%, while the reverse is true for a focus on health-related issues - at 31% this week – a difference of 2 to 1.

	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	Feb 8-21
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	31
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	64
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	10	6	6	6	5	4	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 a decline this week to 57% 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 stable at 23%.

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	Feb 15-21
Varies										
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
71	77	77	80	76	65	72	57	57	63	57
39	41	51	52	39	32	29	22	22	22	23
31	36	26	28	37	33	43	35	35	41	34
19	16	11	9	11	17	15	22	19	17	21
9	6	11	9	11	18	13	20	24	20	21
28	23	23	19	22	34	28	42	43	37	42

Over the past four weeks, there has been a 23-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 (70%).

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	Feb 15-21
Varies										
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
74	68	63	56	43	58	47	55	58	62	70
22	18	12	10	7	11	9	12	11	11	19
52	51	50	45	36	47	39	42	47	51	51
15	17	20	24	29	22	29	29	22	22	21
9	11	15	18	26	17	22	15	17	14	9
24	29	35	42	55	40	51	44	39	36	29
2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	1

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...

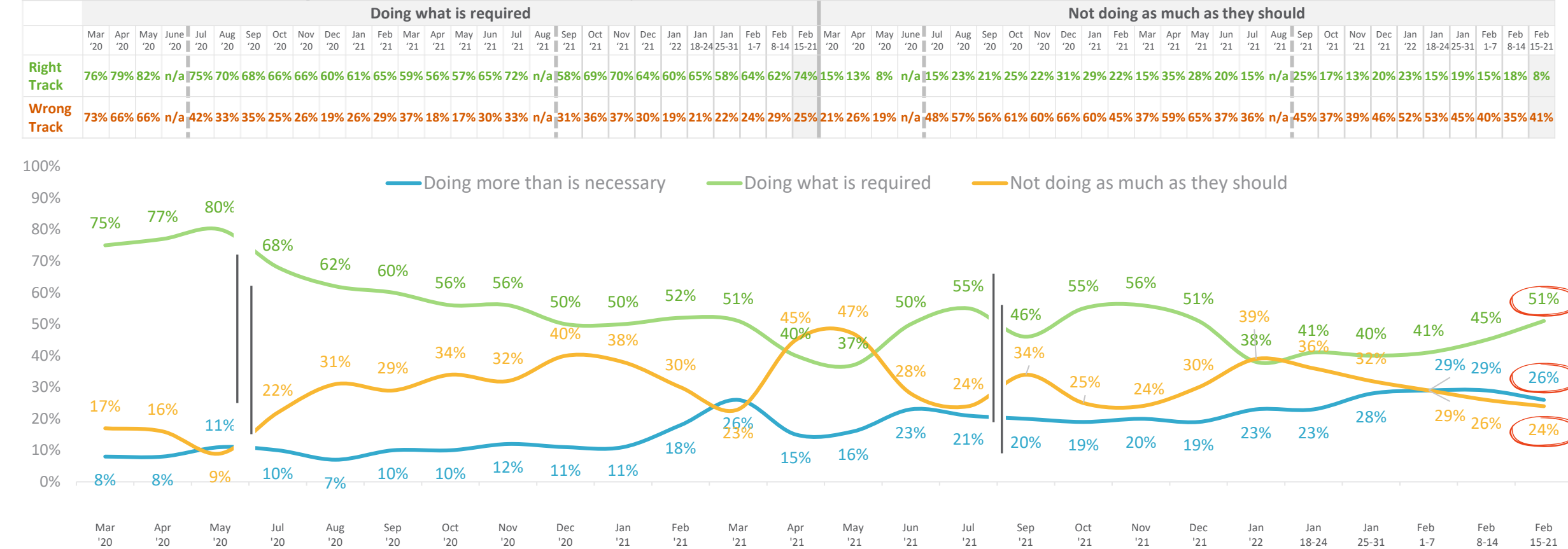
Base: Total sample

TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

The proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ increased again this week to 51%, while there were slight declines among those who believe the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ (24%) or ‘doing more than is necessary’ (26%).



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

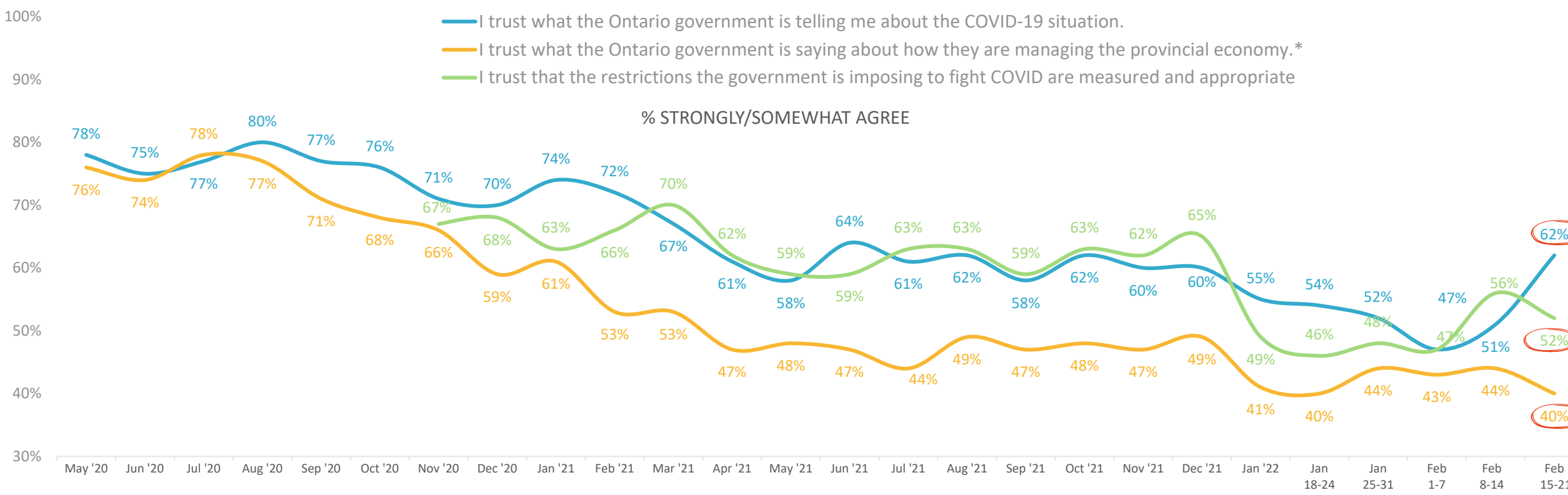
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

This week, there were improvements in trust in the government’s communications about ‘what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation (up 11-points), while trust in communications about ‘restrictions to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’ was down 4-points.

- There was also a 4-point 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?

Three-quarters (74%) of Ontarians are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic, an increase of 20-points in the past four 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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	50	48	54	67	62	70	74
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	24	21	28	32	30	33	42
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	26	27	26	35	31	37	32
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	8	9	11	6	10	10	9
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	15	18	17	13	14	9	10
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	23	23	18	13	13	7	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	38	42	35	26	27	16	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

Again this week, four-in-ten (40%) report their level of concern over COVID-19 ‘decreased’ over the last week, while half (53%) say that their level of concern has stayed about the same. Of note, only 7% say their level of concern ‘increased’ compared to 48% 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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	25	38	30	49	48	32	24	19	12	13	12	7
Stayed about the same	57	51	54	36	38	47	55	57	55	51	49	53
Decreased	17	9	15	12	14	20	21	23	31	36	39	40
Don't know/not sure	1	2	1	2	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	-	1	<1

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON

Results continue to remain steady, with half (48%) indicating 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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	67	68	70	69	62	61	60	51	49	52	48
Very concerned	35	27	37	38	29	29	27	21	17	18	15
Somewhat concerned	32	41	33	30	34	32	33	30	32	34	33
Not too concerned	19	16	12	14	21	25	23	27	26	30	31
Not at all concerned	11	15	18	17	16	14	16	22	25	18	21
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	31	29	31	37	39	39	49	51	48	52
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 as the Omicron?

Base: Total sample

VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES



FREQUENCY OF FACE MASK WEARING

While most (78%) 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	Feb 15-21
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	78
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	54
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	24
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	13	14	11	14	13	15	9	13	12	12	9	12	10	6	9	7	8	8	12	10	10	11	11	14
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	7
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	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	8

	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	Feb 15-21	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	Feb 15-21
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%	81%	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%	75%

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, about three-quarters (77%) of Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. This week, there was an 8-point decline to 48% supporting a plan for relaxing public health measures, while support for public health measures being continued (29%) remained stable.

	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	Feb 15-21
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	21
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	29
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	48

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	Feb 8-14	Feb 15-21	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	Feb 15-21	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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies																																															
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
The number of daily new cases	12	14	14	12	21	28	29	34	32	31	24	18	17	9	12	9	39	40	37	40	36	37	31	33	36	32	24	33	29	31	36	30	48	44	46	45	38	31	37	30	31	36	51	47	54	58	50	59
The number of daily deaths	10	10	12	10	17	22	22	22	26	27	25	20	17	15	15	9	36	42	36	39	34	40	33	37	41	40	33	41	37	36	38	36	53	46	51	50	44	34	42	37	33	33	42	37	46	47	44	54
The number of people in hospitals	12	15	15	13	18	22	27	29	31	36	37	36	22	16	15	13	37	39	33	42	37	41	33	32	39	34	27	35	35	39	39	37	51	43	49	43	40	33	36	34	29	30	35	28	43	43	44	48
The number of people in intensive care units	14	14	14	13	19	22	30	31	34	37	36	36	23	18	18	14	36	36	35	45	37	41	30	32	36	34	35	36	39	41	39	35	49	46	47	39	39	34	37	33	29	28	29	28	37	39	41	49
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated	24	23	21	24	27	29	28	29	28	29	29	26	18	15	23	16	40	38	35	40	30	37	32	31	38	34	31	36	34	33	34	32	34	35	41	35	38	31	36	35	32	36	39	37	47	48	41	51

Half (48%) 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	Feb 15-21
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	48
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	24	35	29	28	30	33	31	32	40	36	40	30	34
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	18	18	15	16	16	15	16	20	15	19	13	24	22	22	14
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	5
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	17	20	20	13	16	15	16	12	19	15	13	15	13	15	23
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	31	32	30	33	31	29	29	30	29	26	19	20	28	24
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	49	52	52	43	49	47	45	41	48	44	39	34	33	43	47

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



The proportion of Ontarians reporting they are confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered is at 61% this week, an increase of 13-points since the beginning of the month.

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	Feb 15-21
Varies																	
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	47	42	53	50	48	57	61
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	18	14	22	21	17	27	28
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	29	28	31	28	31	30	33
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	7	8	7	8	13	5	9
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	18	17	17	17	23	17
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	27	30	22	25	21	14	13
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	43	48	38	41	38	37	30

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 has been trending down with half (50%) indicating they have seen, read, or heard anything lately about Ontario’s Intensive Care Units and COVID-19, down 25-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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	45	52	66	75	73	72	68	60	60	50
No	61	62	55	48	34	25	27	28	32	40	40	50

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO'S ICUs

Among those who are aware, eight-in-ten (79%) 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' – compared to 68% 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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going down	33	28	11	14	13	11	8	15	23	42	66	79
Staying about the same	17	21	25	25	27	17	14	23	32	29	21	10
Increasing	38	45	54	59	54	68	74	56	33	21	8	8
Younger adults in the ICU (in their thirties)	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
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	-	-	-
Fluctuating	-	1	-	-	-	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Some other news	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	2
Don't know/not sure	4	3	8	2	3	2	1	3	5	1	2	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

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

CURRENT HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

The majority (64%) of Ontarians indicate they own their own home, while about three-in-ten (26%) are renting. One-in-ten (8%) live with their parents.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14	Feb 15-21
	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Own your own home	62	60	59	59	60	64
Renting	28	32	30	31	29	26
Living with parent(s)	8	7	10	8	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	1	-
Don't know/not sure	1	<1	1	<1	1	1

Most (94%) 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	Feb 8-14	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	94	94	95	96	97	94
Increased significantly	82	83	81	82	84	82
Increased somewhat	12	11	14	14	12	12
Not increased too much	2	4	-	1	<1	2
Not increased at all	1	1	2	1	1	1
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	3	5	2	2	1	3
Don't know/not sure	3	1	3	2	2	3

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

Half (51%) 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’, 29% 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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	16	19	20	19	18	19
A very good thing	5	7	7	8	8	5
Somewhat of a good thing	12	12	13	12	10	14
Somewhat of a bad thing	19	17	16	16	21	21
A very bad thing	26	31	33	33	33	30
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	45	48	49	48	54	51
Doesn't matter either way	37	32	31	32	27	29
Don't know/not sure	2	1	1	1	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 (80%) Ontarians believe that home rental prices have increased, with 45% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	79	83	82	78	81	80
Increased significantly	44	48	48	49	50	45
Increased somewhat	35	35	33	29	31	35
Not increased too much	5	5	1	4	7	6
Not increased at all	3	4	3	5	4	2
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	7	9	5	9	11	8
Don't know/not sure	13	8	14	13	8	11

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

About half (47%) of Ontarians believe that significant increases to home rental prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally, with 48% 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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	8	6	6	4	7	5
A very good thing	1	2	3	1	1	2
Somewhat of a good thing	7	5	3	3	6	3
Somewhat of a bad thing	16	23	18	19	21	22
A very bad thing	26	30	31	34	33	25
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	43	53	48	53	54	47
Doesn't matter either way	48	41	46	42	37	48
Don't know/not sure	1	-	<1	<1	2	<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 (36%), not enough new homes being built in areas where people want to live (30%), and not enough people selling or renting homes (18%).

	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Too many people wanting to buy or rent a home	37	33	32	33	28	36
Not enough new homes being built in areas people want to live	29	31	36	37	35	30
Not enough people selling or renting homes	19	23	18	13	18	18
Don't know/not sure	16	13	14	17	19	16

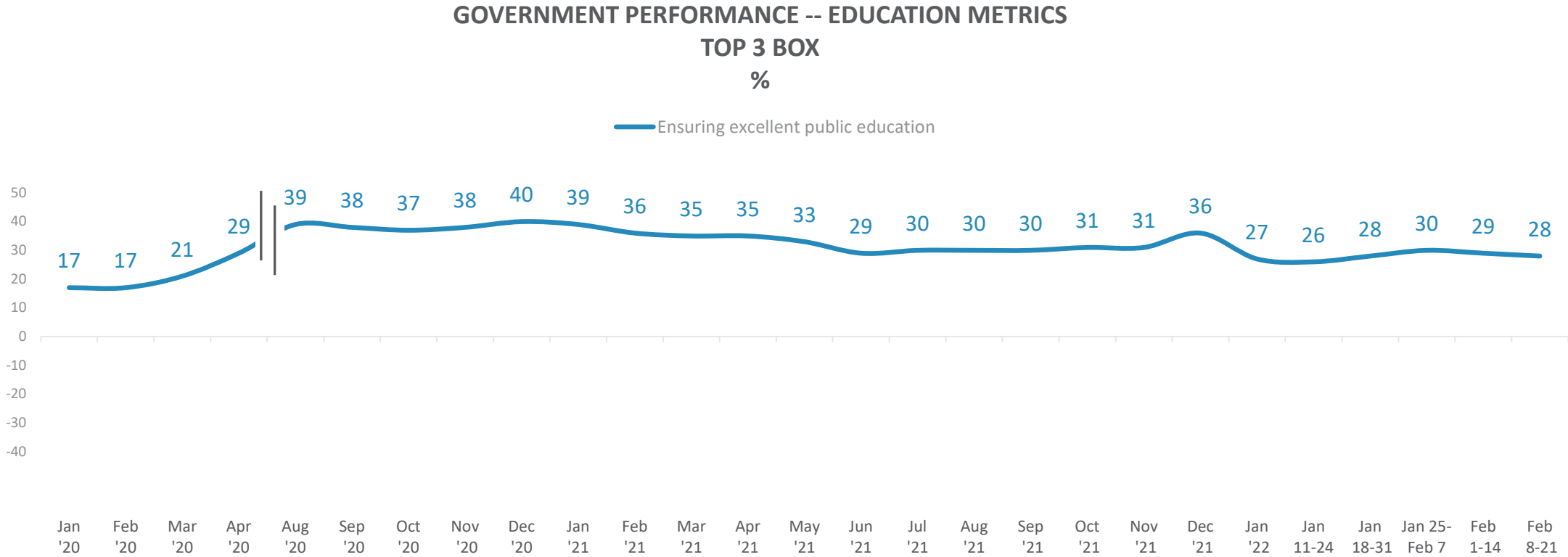
About half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (47%), with 44% agreeing that there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs, and one-third (33%) that say they can only afford to buy or rent a condo. As well, 40% of Ontarians say that they feel 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	Feb 15-21
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
I'd like to buy a house, but I can't afford it	46	49	56	49	54	47
There are hardly any homes available to rent that meet my needs	44	50	51	54	54	44
I feel stuck in the place I live in now, since I can't afford to move	43	47	48	46	48	40
I can only afford to buy or rent a condo	29	35	30	35	35	33

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

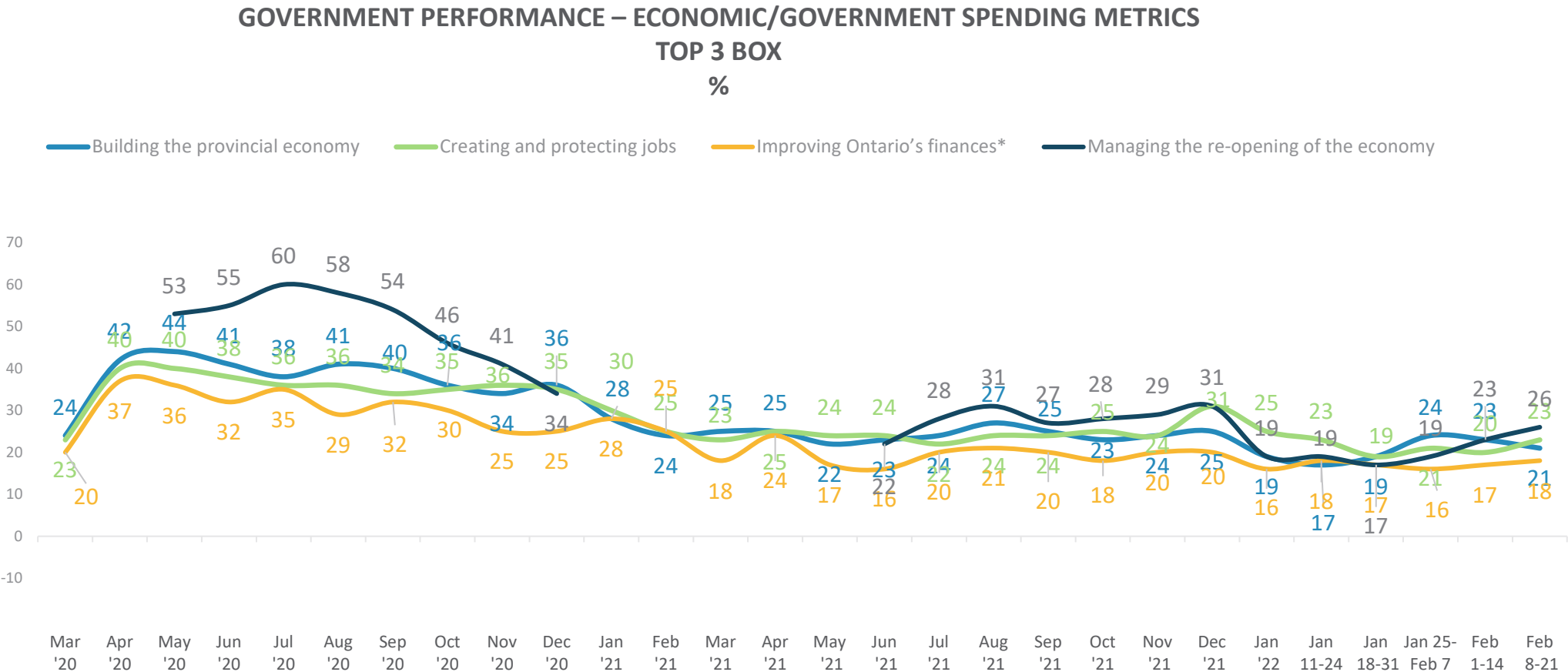


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained stable this week.



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’ has increased 9-points over the past three weeks. The other economic and spending metrics remained steady.

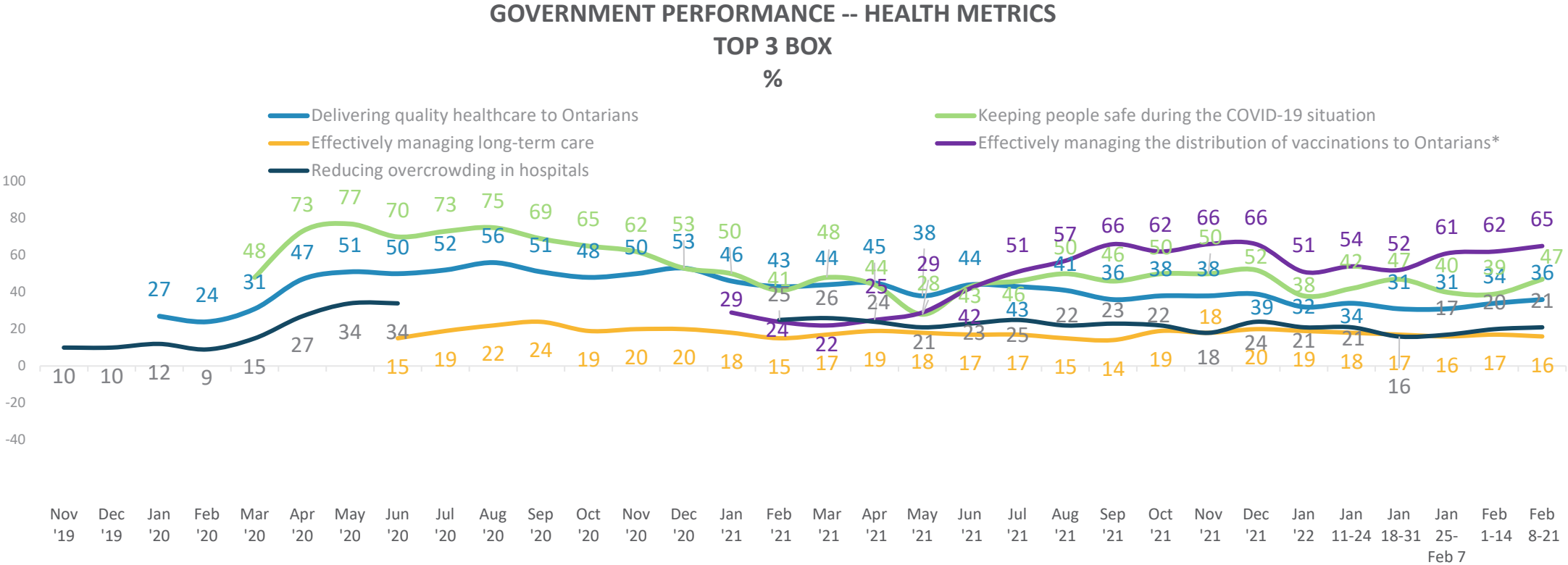


Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

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

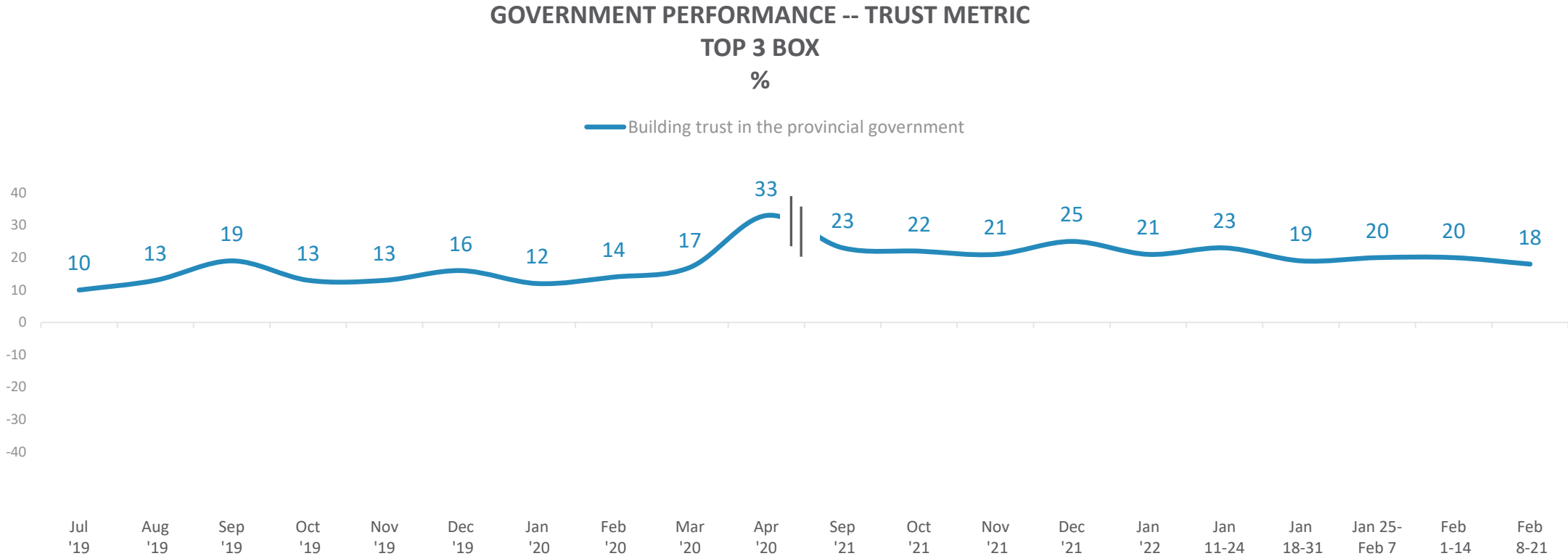
Bases vary

‘Effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ continued to trend upward, while there was an 8-point increase measured for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’. The other health metrics remained steady.



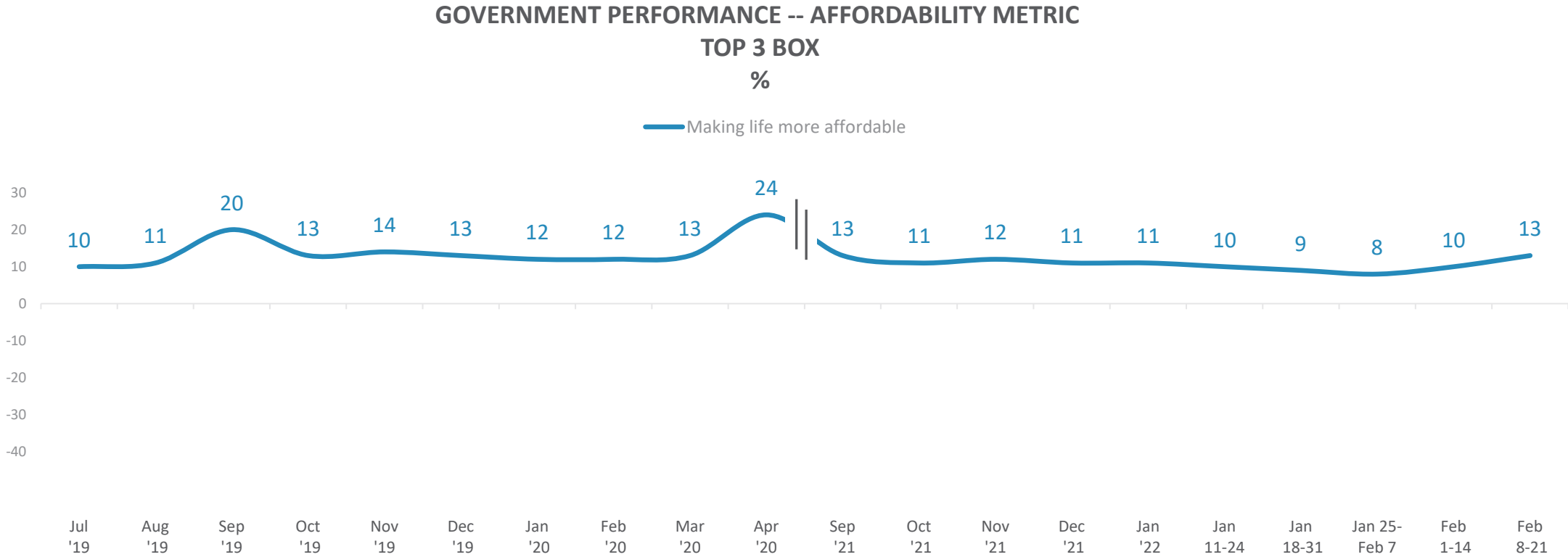
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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’ increased 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