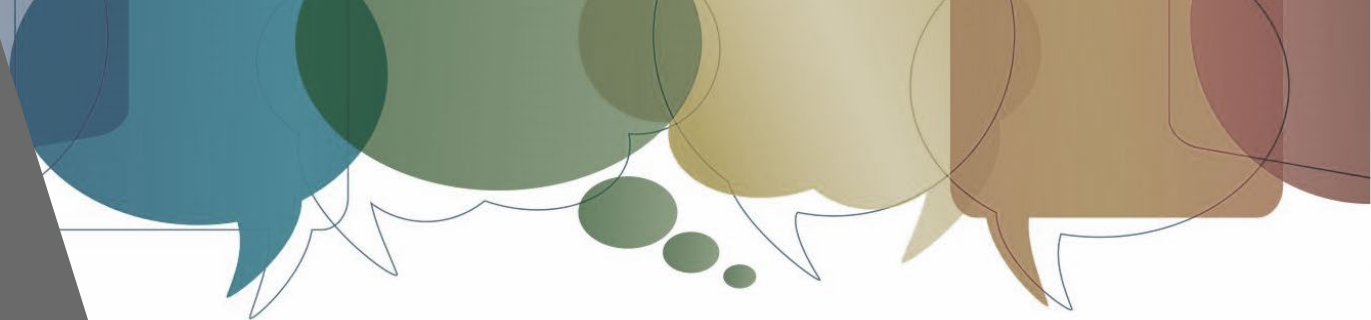




THE
**STRATEGIC
COUNSEL**

EXPERIENCE • PASSION • CREATIVITY

TORONTO | OTTAWA | CALGARY
www.thestrategiccounsel.com



PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #121: FEBRUARY REPORT

CABINET OFFICE
March 3rd 2022



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 In February, the Ontario public is split with 49% believing the provincial government is on the 'right track', while 51% believe it is on the 'wrong track'.

COVID-19 as the government's top priority is down to 35%, with 13% citing healthcare, 9% the economy, and 8% affordable housing.

3 The proportion of Ontarians who say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing has been trending up since November'21 and is now at 55%.

Overall, about eight-in-ten (81%) Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. However, there was an 20-point decline in February to 32% supporting public health measures being continued while support for a plan for relaxing public health measures increased 14-points to 49%.

2 Ontarians continue to grow more confident that we are moving toward the end of the pandemic. In February, there was a 21-point increase to 69% of Ontarians who are feeling optimistic that we are over the worst of the pandemic.

Concern about the COVID-19 variant Omicron has continued to decline to 50% in February, 19-points lower than levels seen in December.

As well, the proportion of Ontarians who report their level of concern over COVID-19 'decreased' over the last week is now at 36%, double results measured in January. Of note, only 10% say their level of concern 'increased' compared to 35% in January.

4 Since January, the rating of the government's performance for 'effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations' increased 19-points, while 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' increased 9-points.

And, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is 'doing what is required' increased 6-points in February to 44%, while there was an 11-point decline to 28% who believe the government is 'not doing as much as they should' – on par with those who believe the government is 'doing more than is necessary' (28%).

However, trust in government communications about 'the COVID-19 situation' and the 'restrictions to fight COVID are measured and appropriate' are lower in 2022 than in any of the previous tracked months.

Key Findings

5 In terms of the economy, the proportion of Ontarians who believe the Ontario government should focus on economic issues continued to trend upwards in February to 61%, while the reverse is true for a focus on health-related issues – now at 32% – a difference of almost 2 to 1.

Rating of the government's performance for 'managing the re-opening of the economy' improved 7-points in February. As well, there were increases for 'improving Ontario's finances (up 4-points) and 'building the provincial economy' (up 3-points). 'Creating and protecting jobs' remained stable.

7 Rating of the government's performance for 'ensuring excellent public education' remained stable in February at NET -5.

6 While remaining stable in February at NET -44, the rating of the government's performance for 'making life more affordable' is down 11-points since December'21.

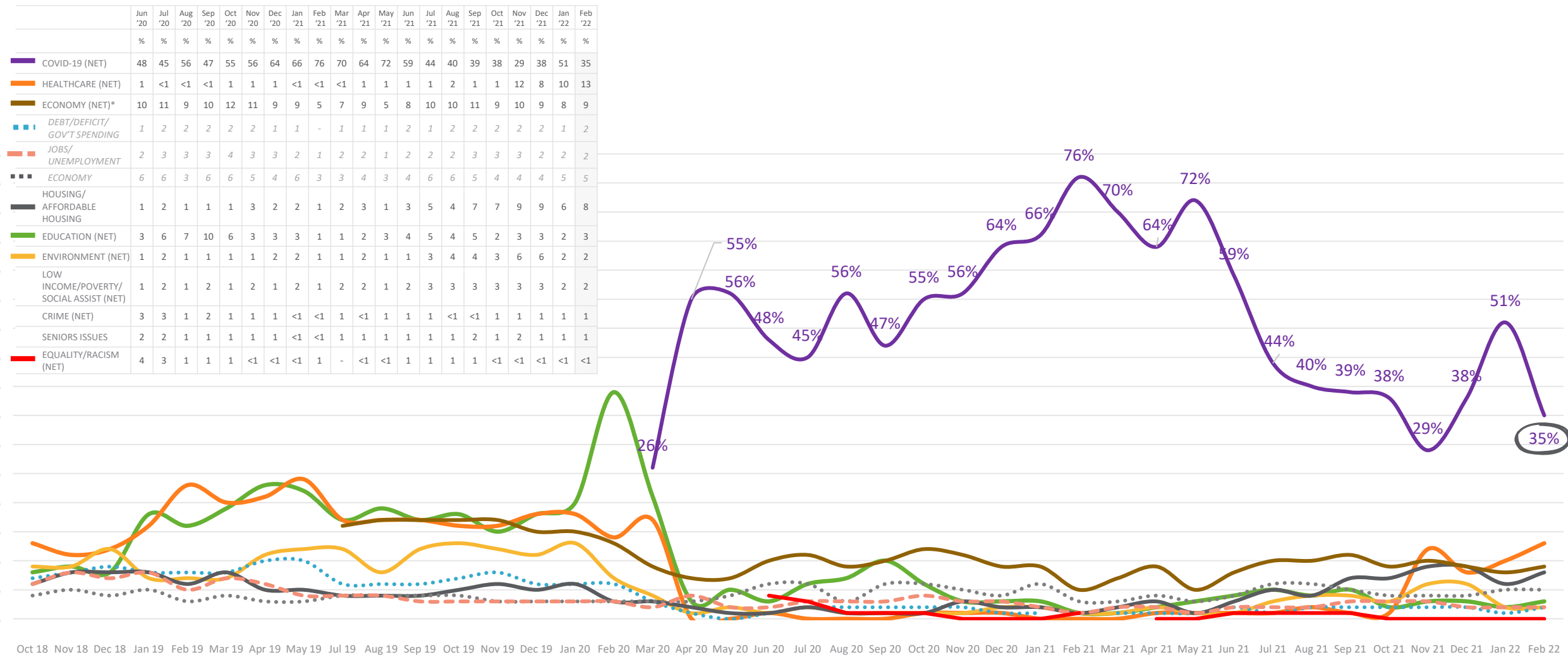
Consistent with previous results, most (95%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 82% saying they have increased 'significantly'. And, eight-in-ten (81%) believe that home rental prices have increased, with half (49%) saying they have increased 'significantly'.

Of note, half report that these significant increases to home purchase prices (50%) and home rental prices (50%) are a 'bad thing' for them personally.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



COVID-19 as the government's top priority is down to 35% in February, with 13% citing healthcare, 9% the economy, and 8% affordable housing.

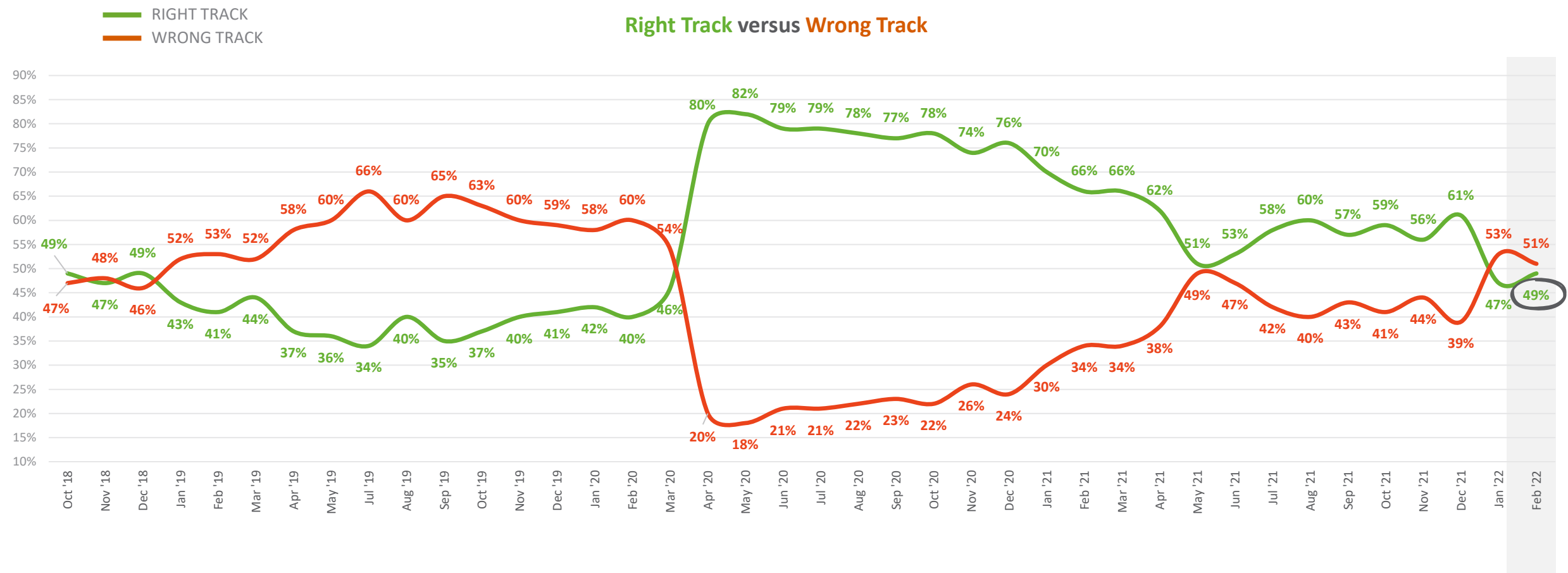


Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

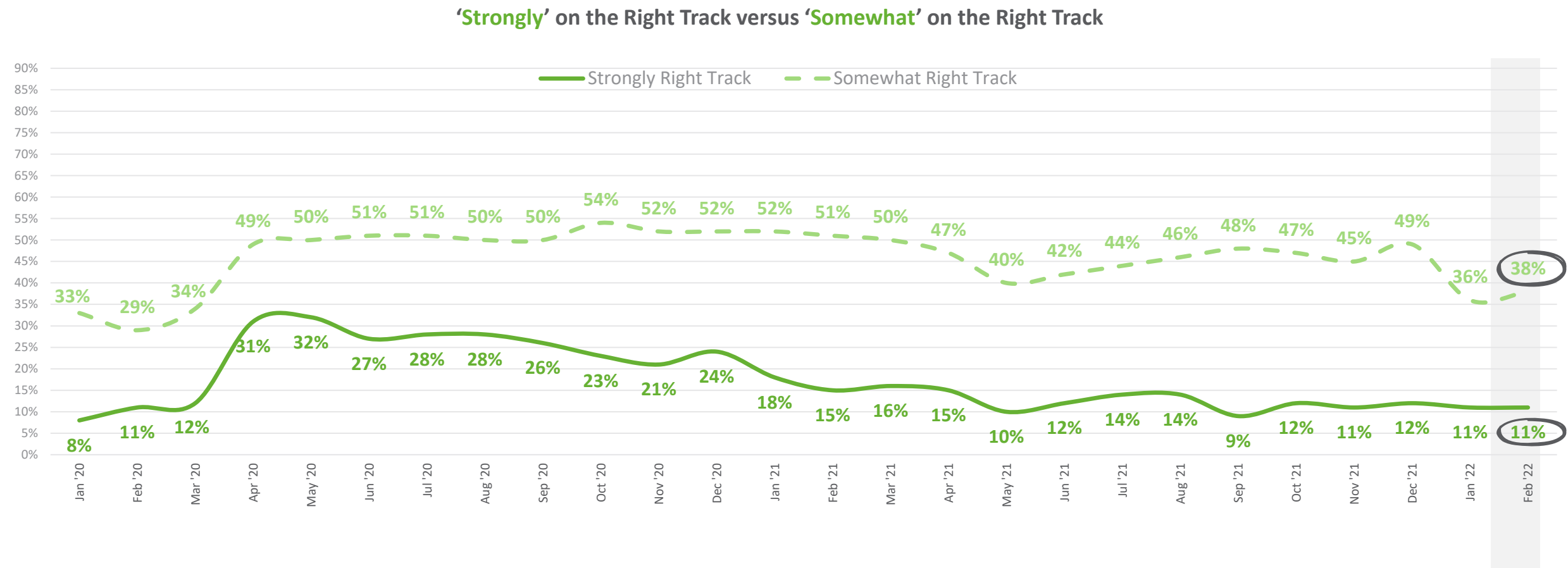


In February, the Ontario public is split with 49% believing the provincial government is on the ‘right track’, while 51% believe it is on the ‘wrong track’.



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

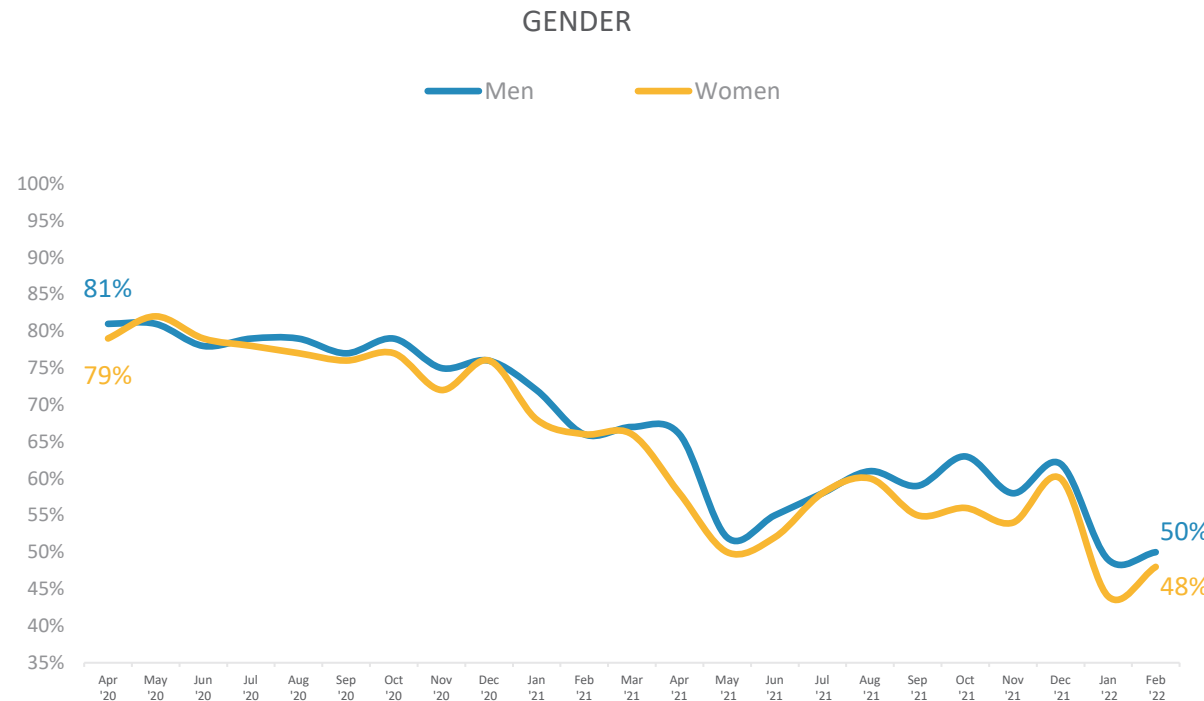
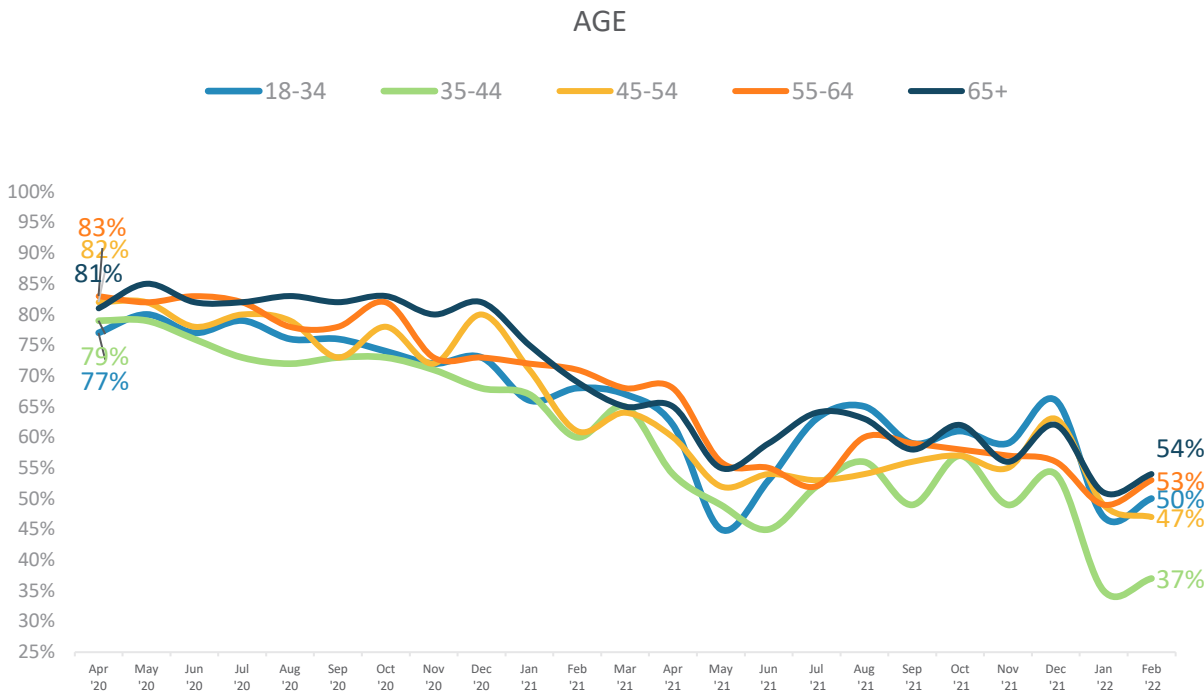
While ‘strongly on the right track’ has remained steady, there has been more variability in the proportion who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the right track’.



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

Since January, there have been increases in ‘right track’ among all age groups with the exception of Ontarians that are 45-54 years of age. ‘Right track’ continues to be lowest among those aged 35-44. There was an increase this month for ‘right track’ among women, while results remained steady among men.

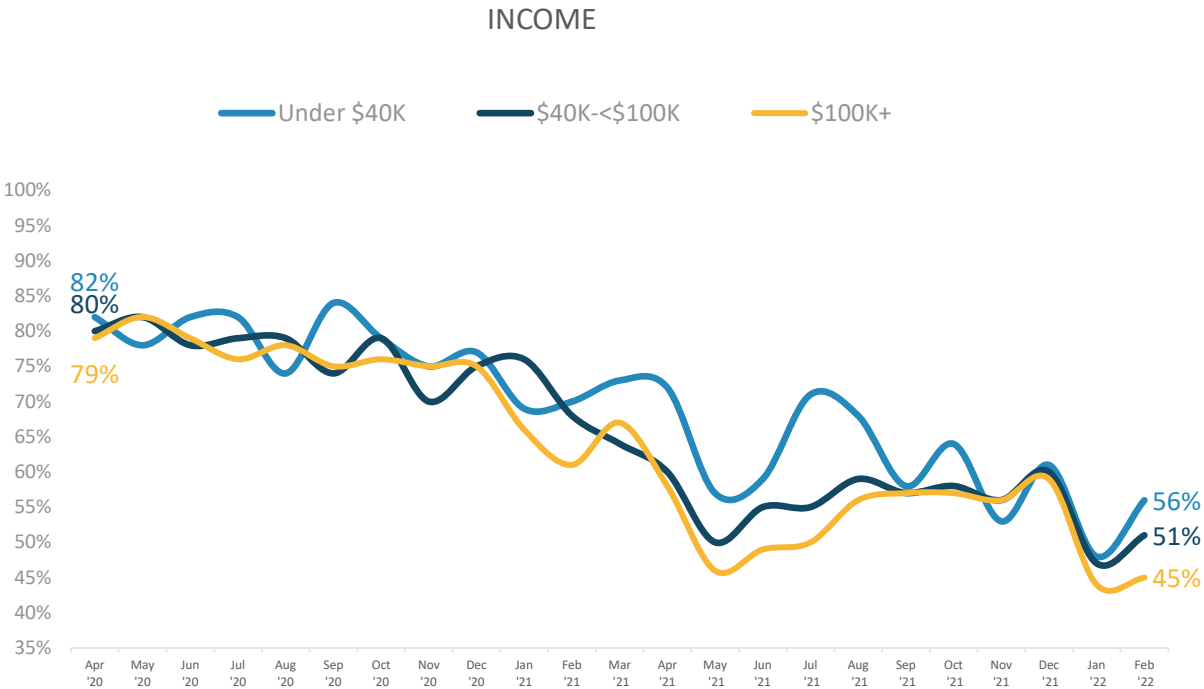
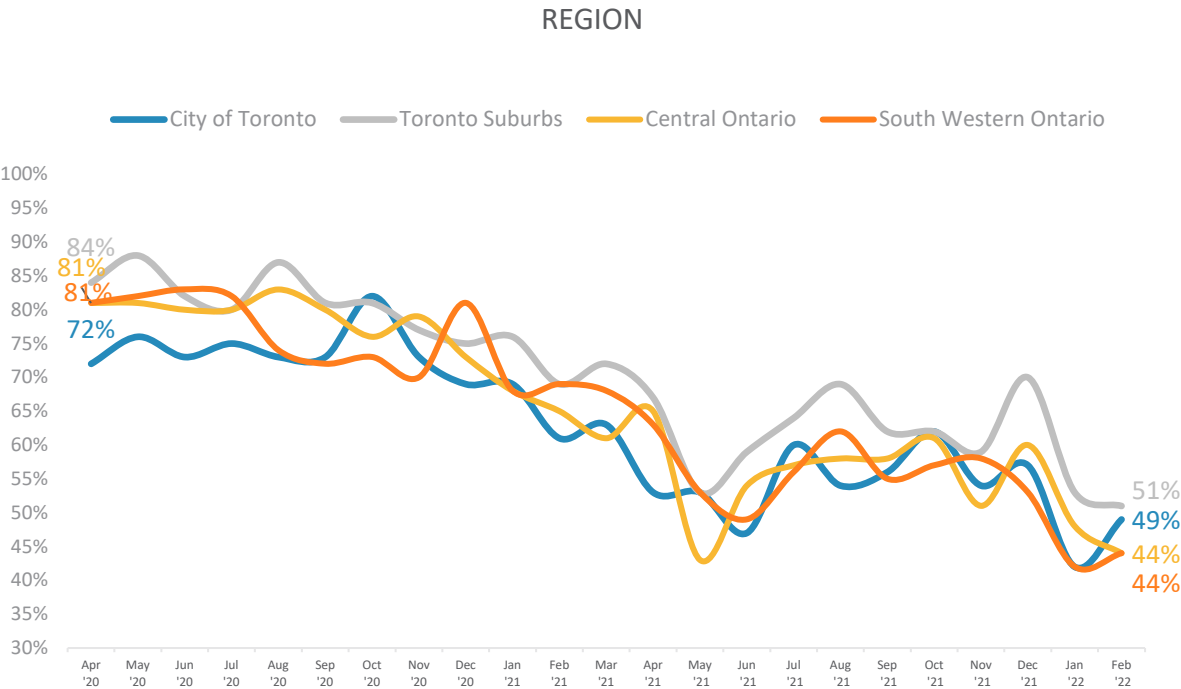
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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 February in the city of Toronto, while scores continued to decline in Central Ontario. The other regions were stable. There were increases in ‘right track’ measured among Ontarians making less than \$100k, while results remained stable among those making \$100k+.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

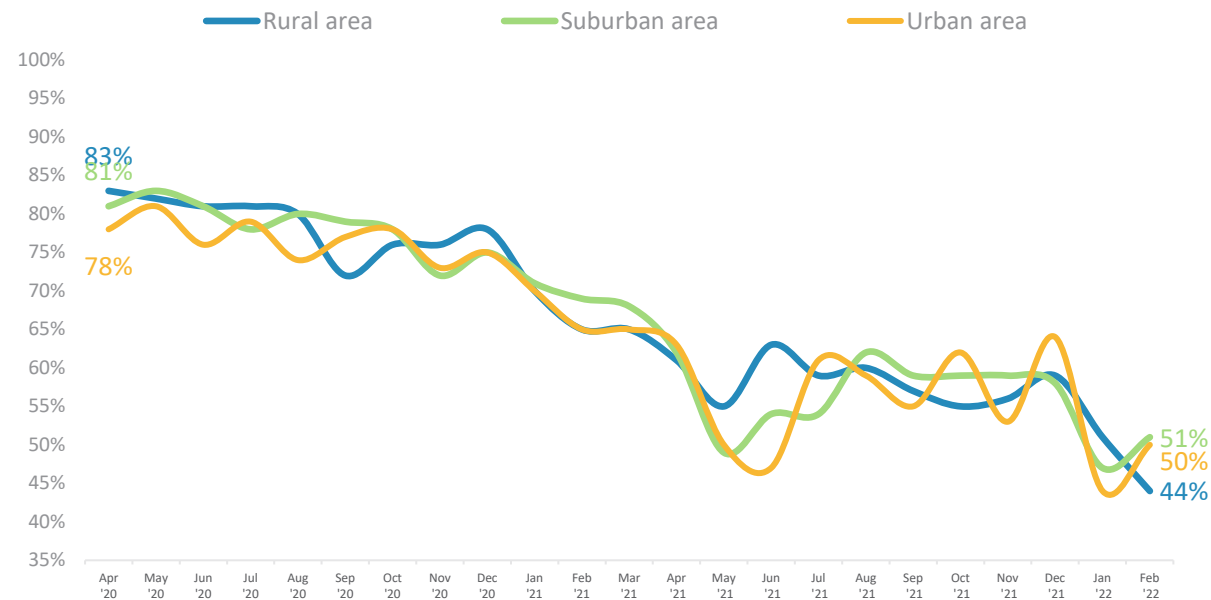


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

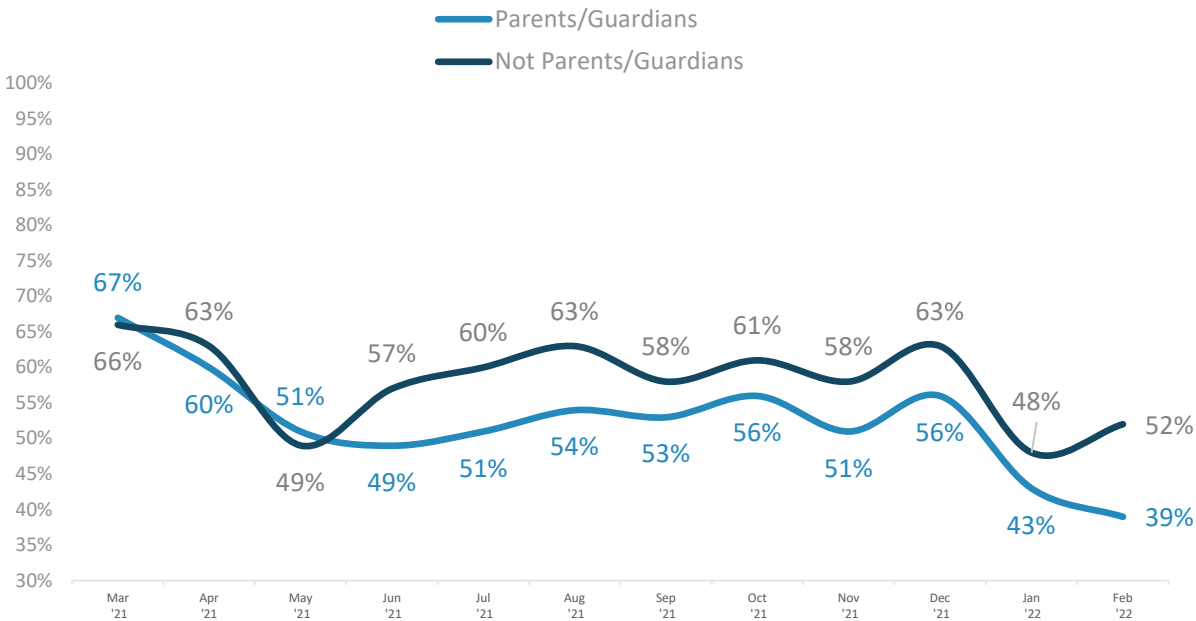
‘Right track’ scores were up in suburban and urban areas, while declines continued in rural areas.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



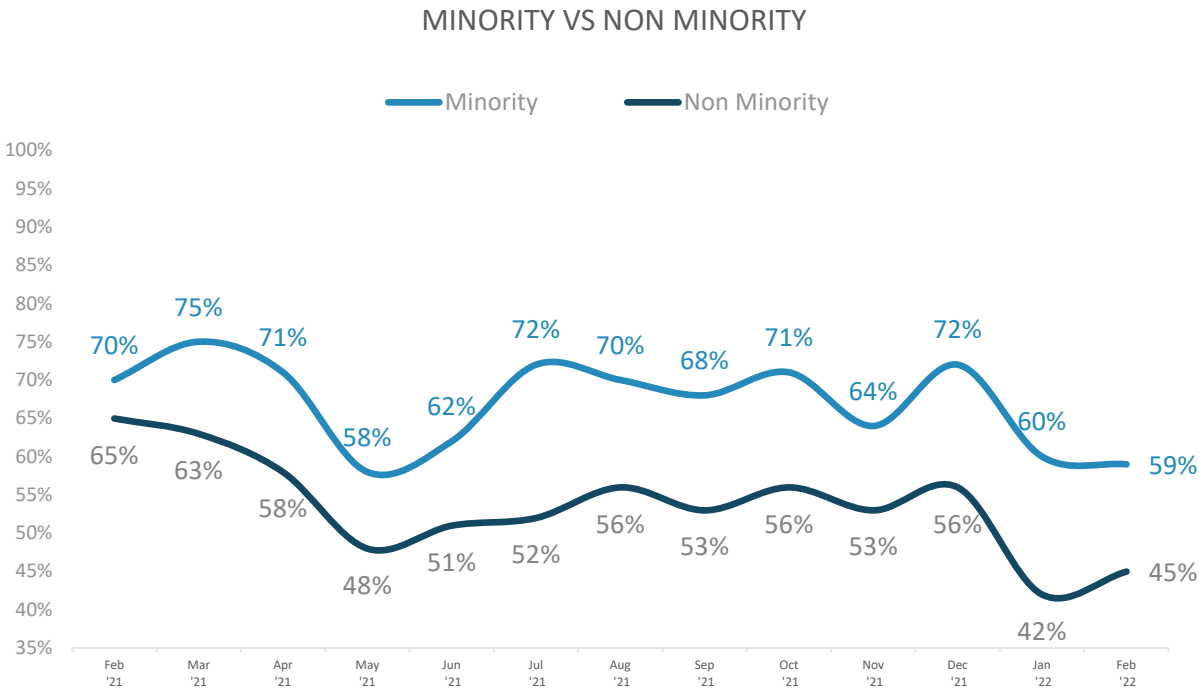
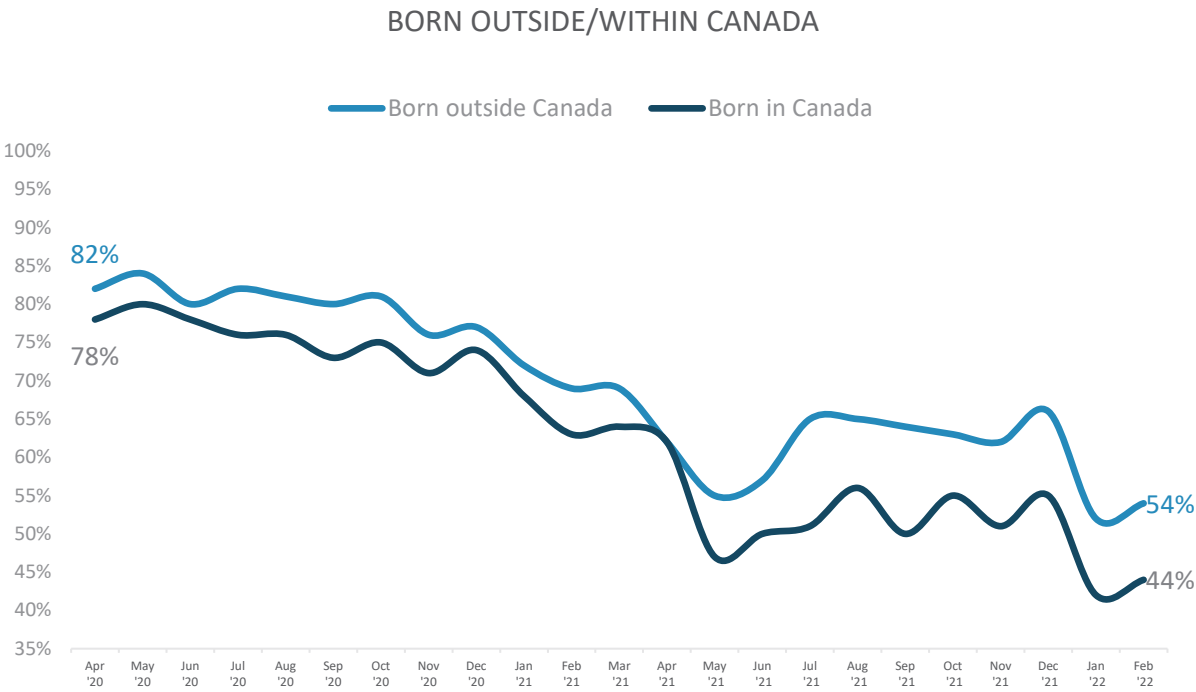
PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



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

There was a slight uptick in ‘right track’ among Ontarians born in and born outside of Canada, as well as among non-minorities. Results remained steady among those who identify as a minority.

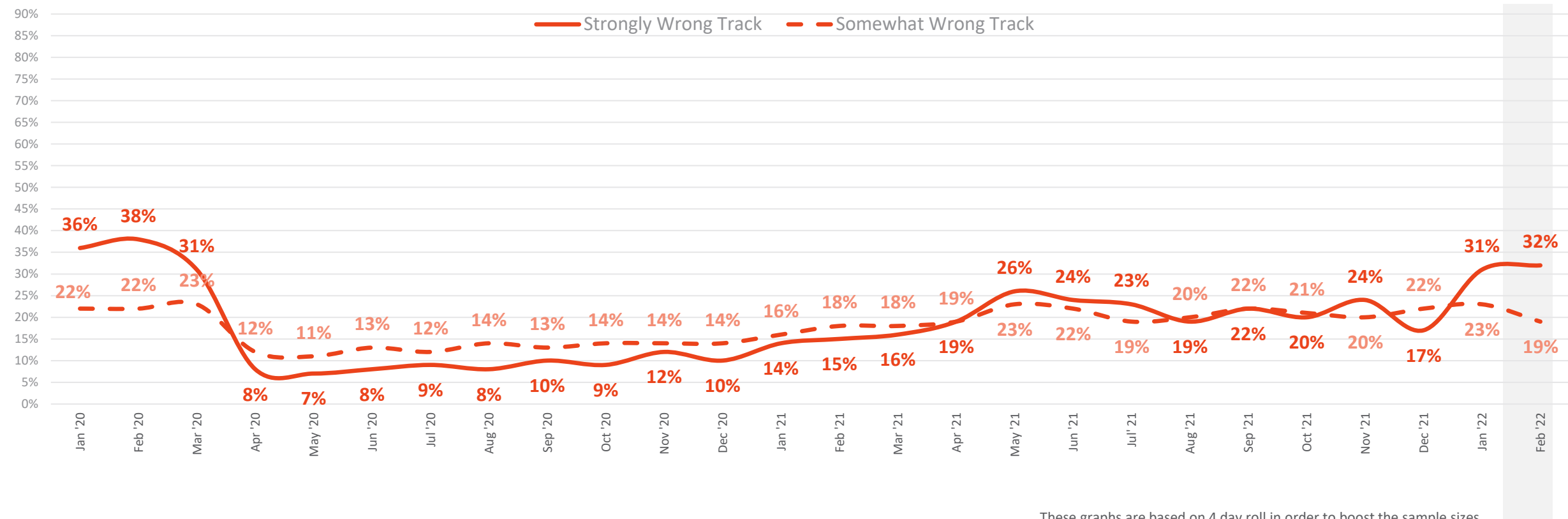
Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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 ‘strongly on the wrong track’ remained stable in February, a decline was measured among those who believe the government is ‘somewhat on the wrong track’.

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

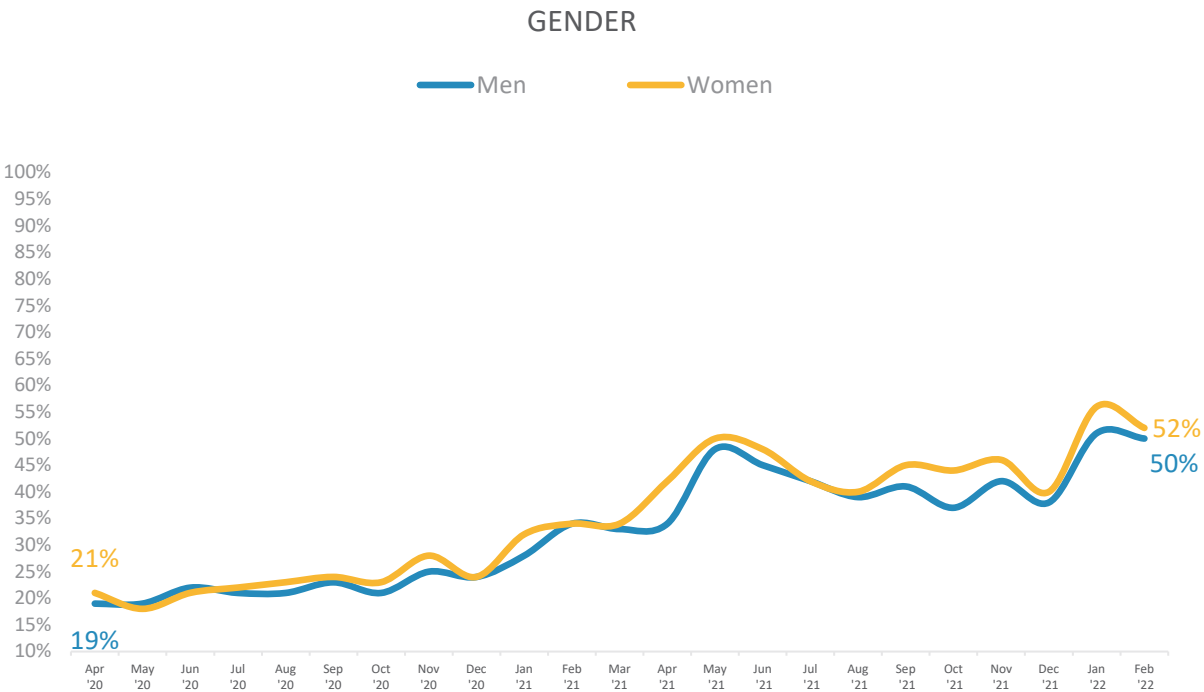
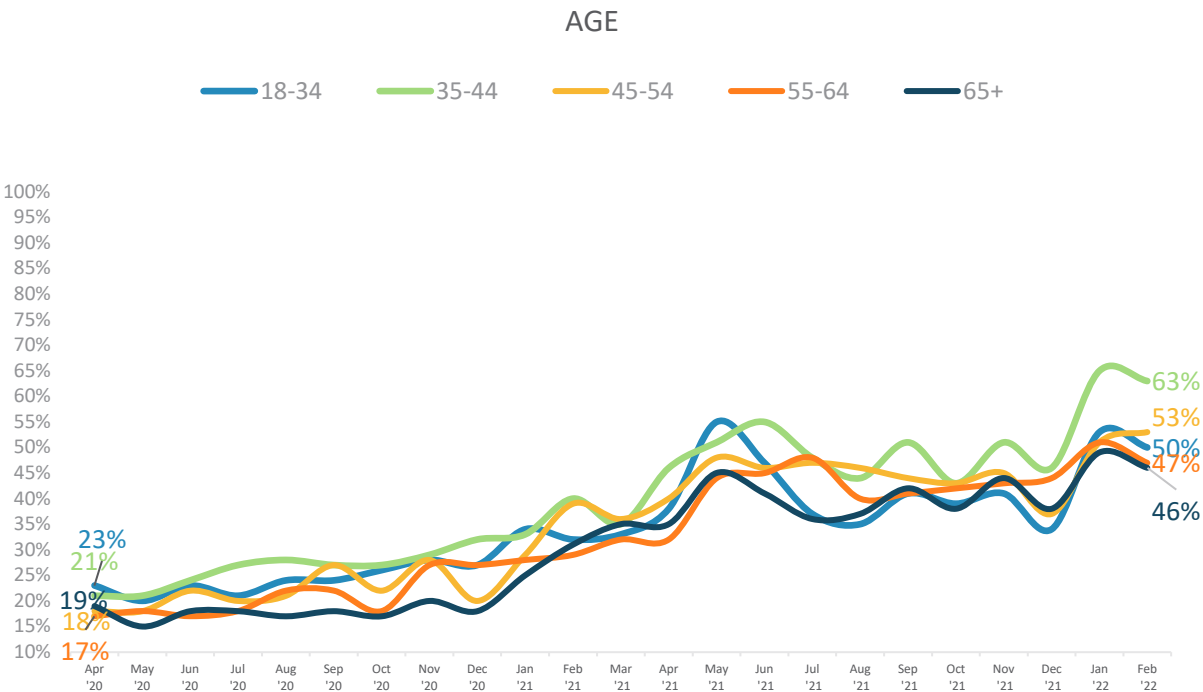


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

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

There were declines in ‘wrong track’ in February among all age groups with the exception of Ontarians aged 45-54. ‘Wrong track’ remains highest among those aged 35-44. While results remained steady among men, a decline was measured among women in February.

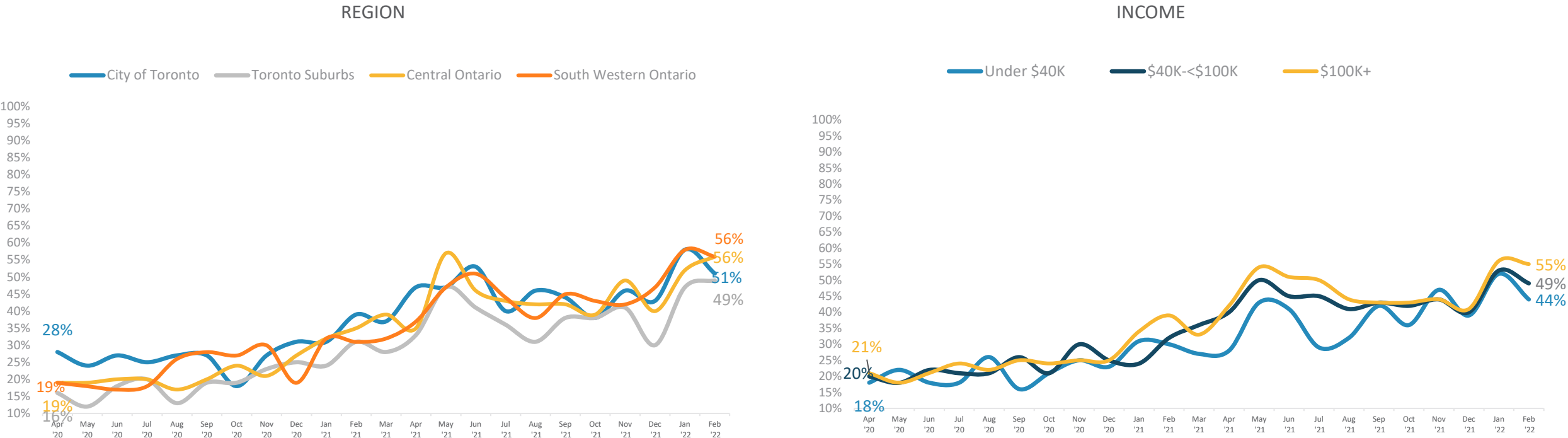
Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



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

Compared to January, ‘wrong track’ was down in the city of Toronto while scores continued to increase in Central Ontario. The other regions remained stable. By income, results remained stable among those making \$100k+ while there were declines in ‘wrong track’ among Ontarians making less than \$100k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

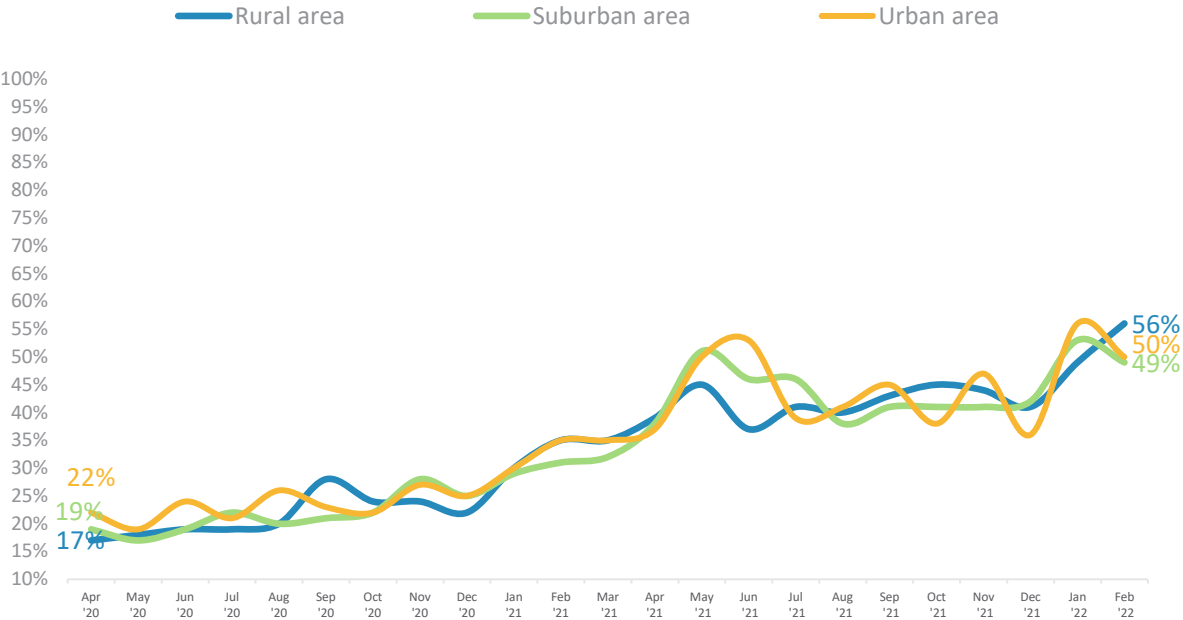


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

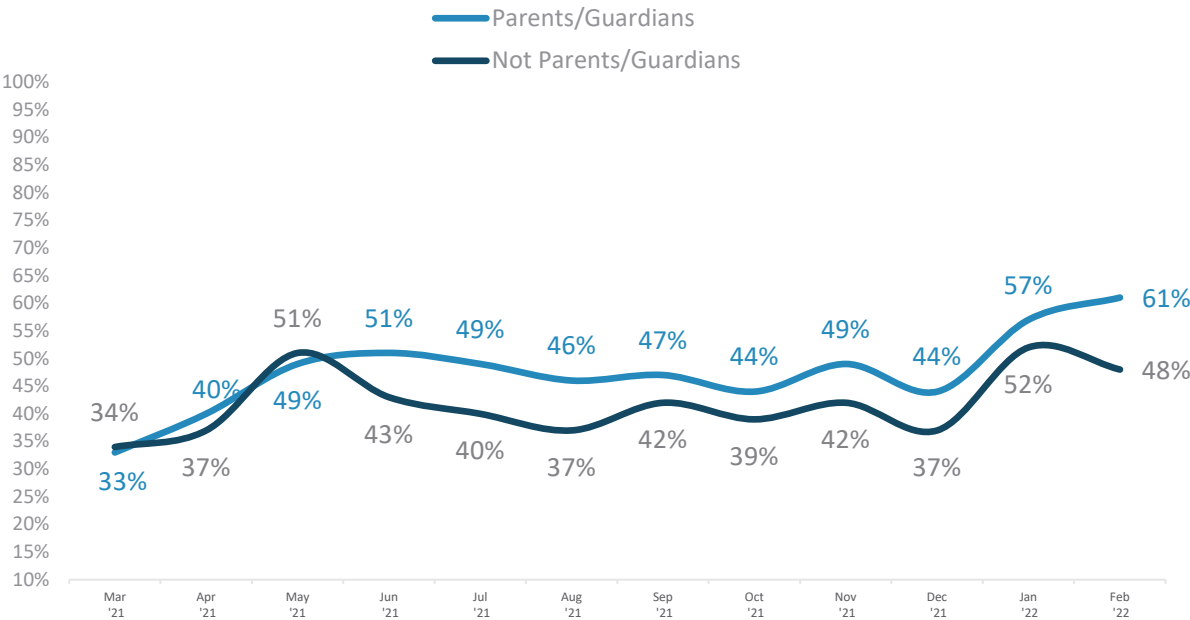
‘Wrong track’ was also down in suburban and urban areas in February, while scores continued to increase in rural areas.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

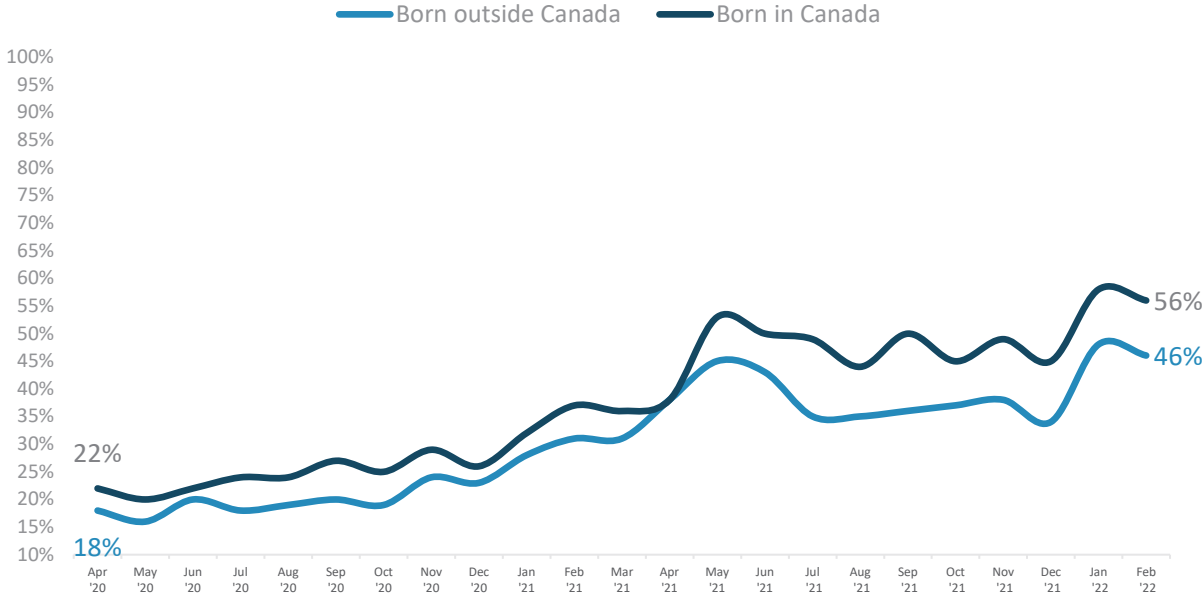


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

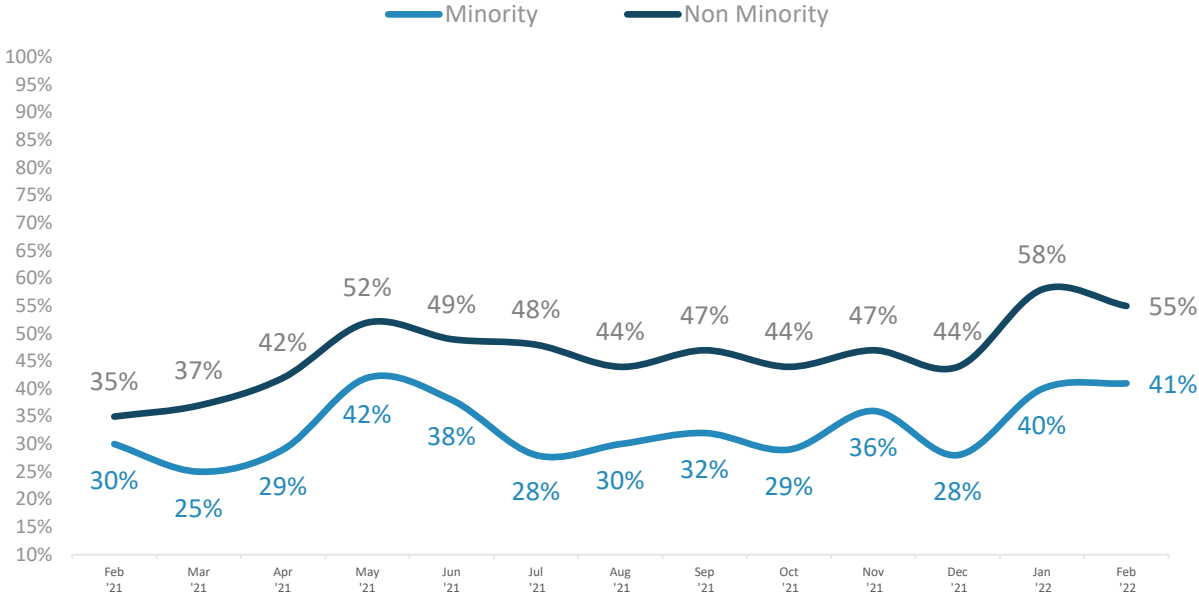
‘Wrong track’ scores declined slightly in February among Ontarians born in and born outside of Canada and among non-minorities. Results remained steady among those who identify as a minority.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



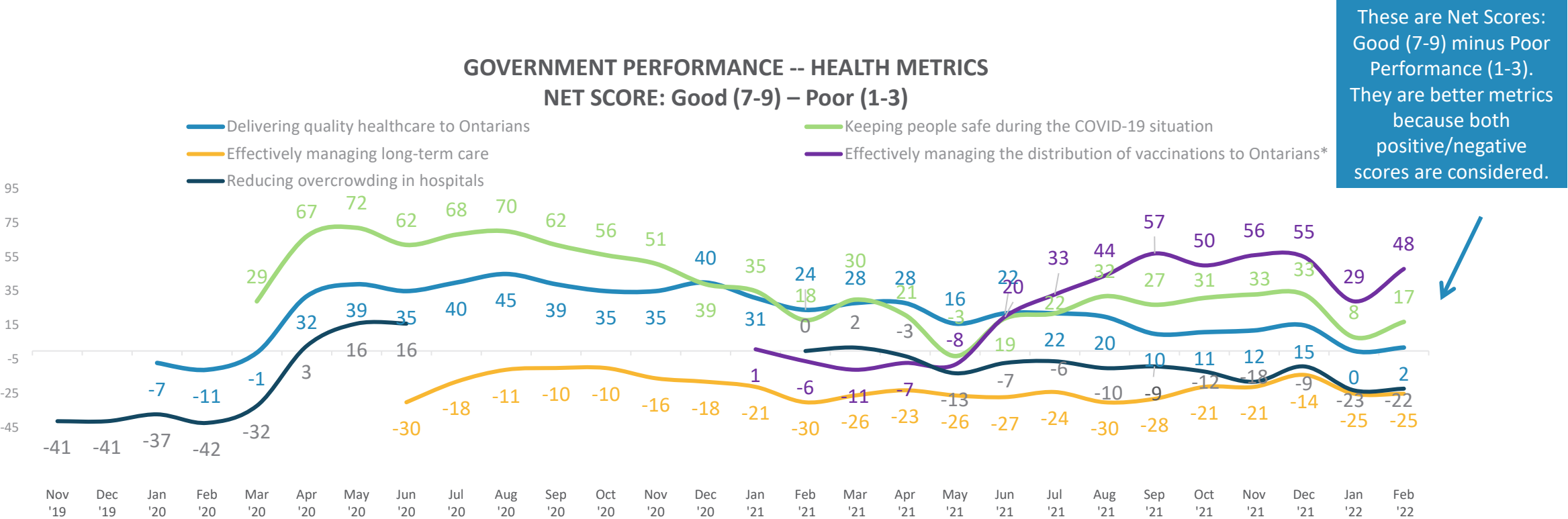
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



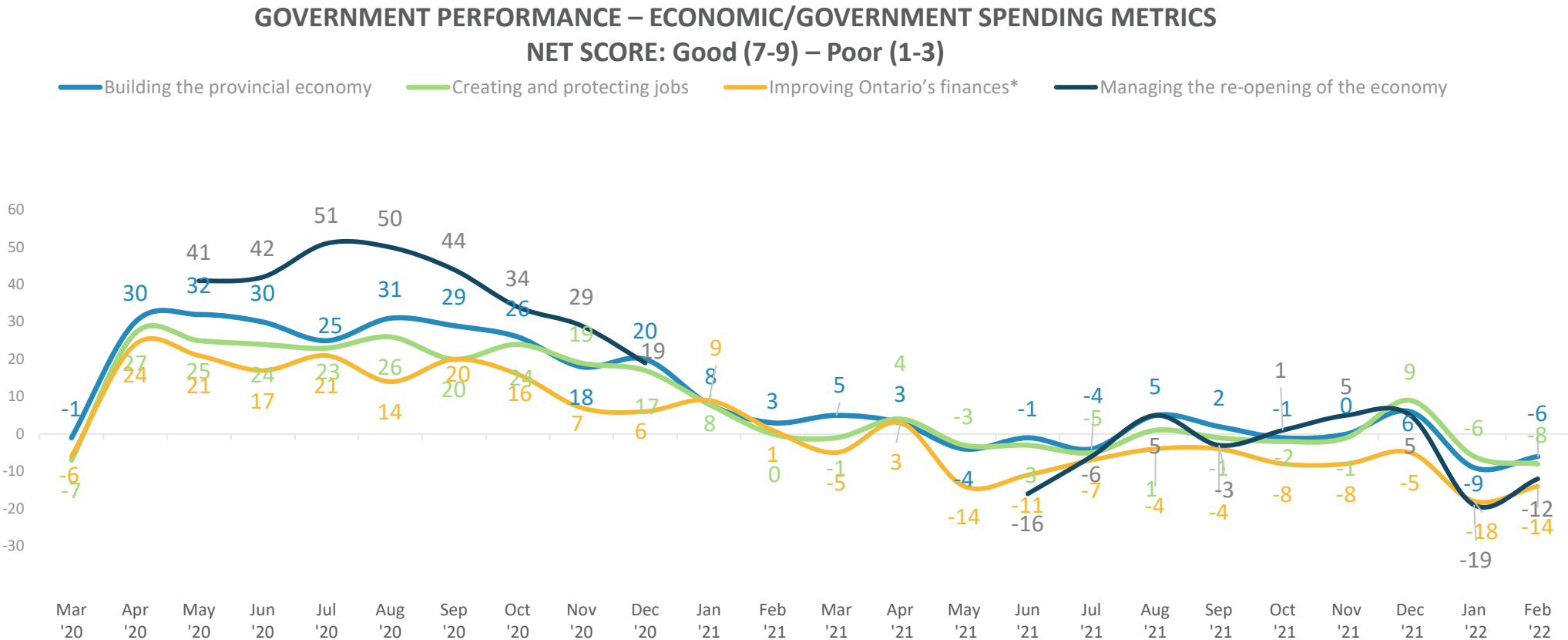
Since January, the rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ increased 19-points, while ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ increased 9-points.

- The other health metrics remained stable.



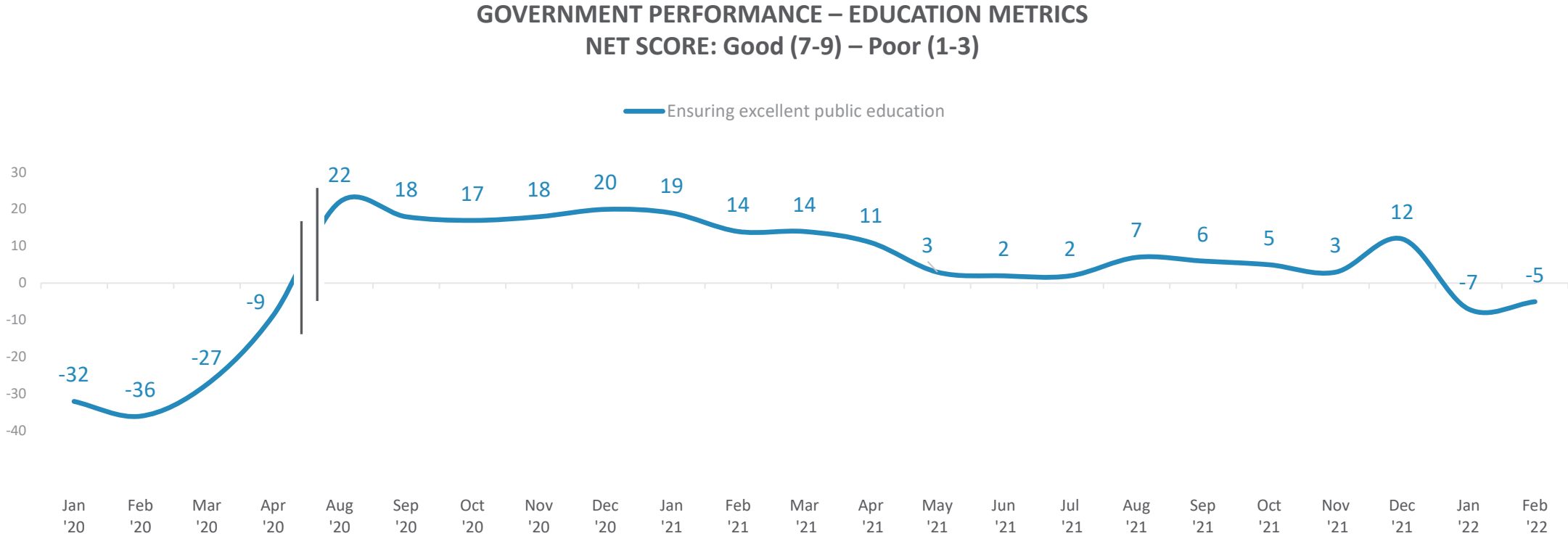
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ improved 7-points in February. As well, there were increases for ‘improving Ontario’s finances (up 4-points) and ‘building the provincial economy’ (up 3-points). ‘Creating and protecting jobs’ remained stable.



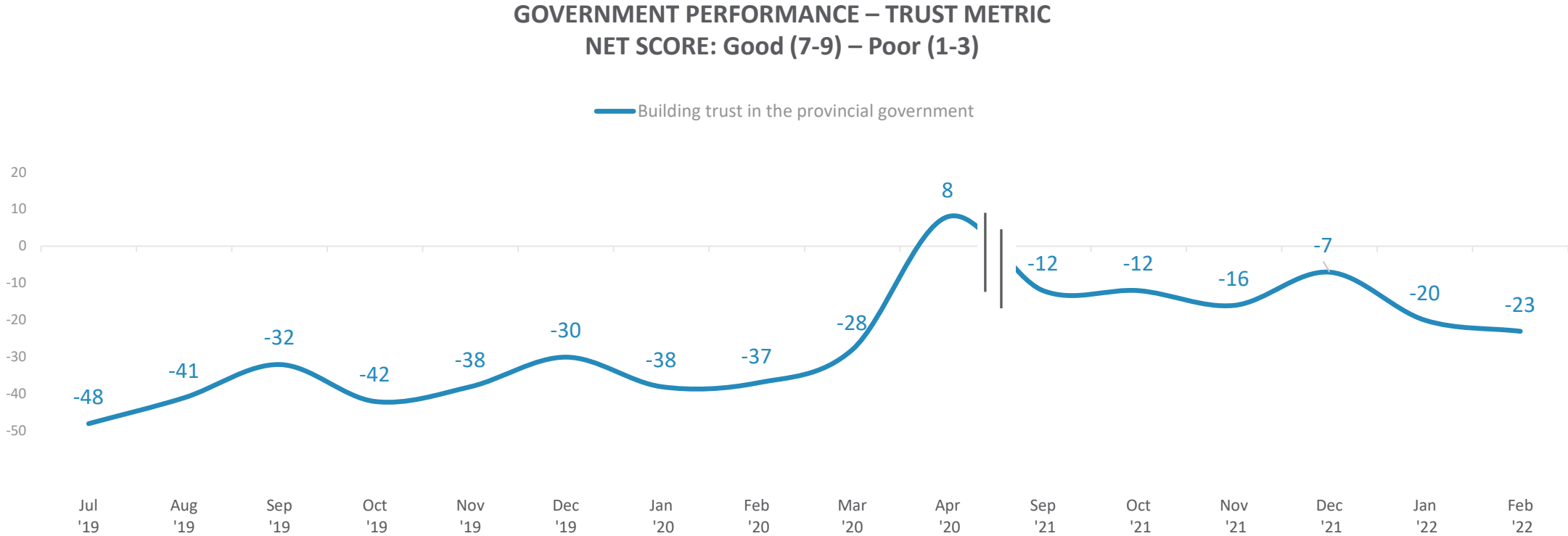
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

Rating of the government’s performance for ‘ensuring excellent public education’ was stable in February but remains in negative territory.



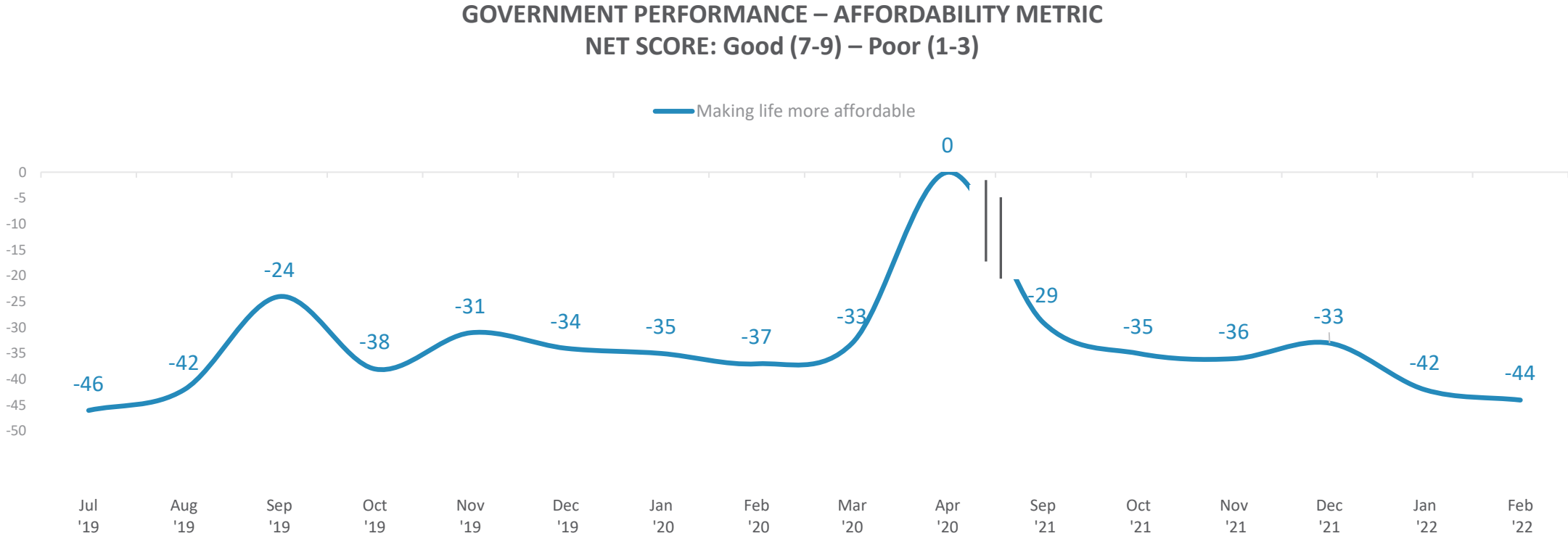
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

The rating of the government’s performance for ‘building trust in the provincial government’ continued to decline in February.



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

While remaining stable in February, the rating of the government’s performance for ‘making life more affordable’ is down 11-points since December’21.



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 trend upwards in February to 61%, while the reverse is true for a focus on health-related issues – now at 32% – a difference of almost 2 to 1.

	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
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	32
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	61
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	8	8	7	13	12	5	10	6	5

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 17-point decline in February to 58% of Ontarians indicating they are concerned about Ontario experiencing a fifth wave of the pandemic. The proportion reporting they are ‘very’ concerned declined 19-points to 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	Dec '21
n=	Varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	61	71	75	68	63	69
Very concerned	19	30	43	32	25	34
Somewhat concerned	42	41	32	36	38	35
Not too concerned	22	16	12	17	21	19
Not at all concerned	16	12	12	14	15	11
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	38	28	24	31	36	29

How concerned are you that Ontario will experience a fifth wave of the pandemic? Are you

Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
Varies		
%	%	%
75	75	58
44	41	22
31	33	36
16	12	20
9	12	21
24	24	41

In February, there was an 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 (61%).

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 . .

Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
Varies		
%	%	%
68	52	61
17	9	14
51	43	47
17	26	22
12	20	15
29	46	37
3	2	2

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

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

Base: Total sample

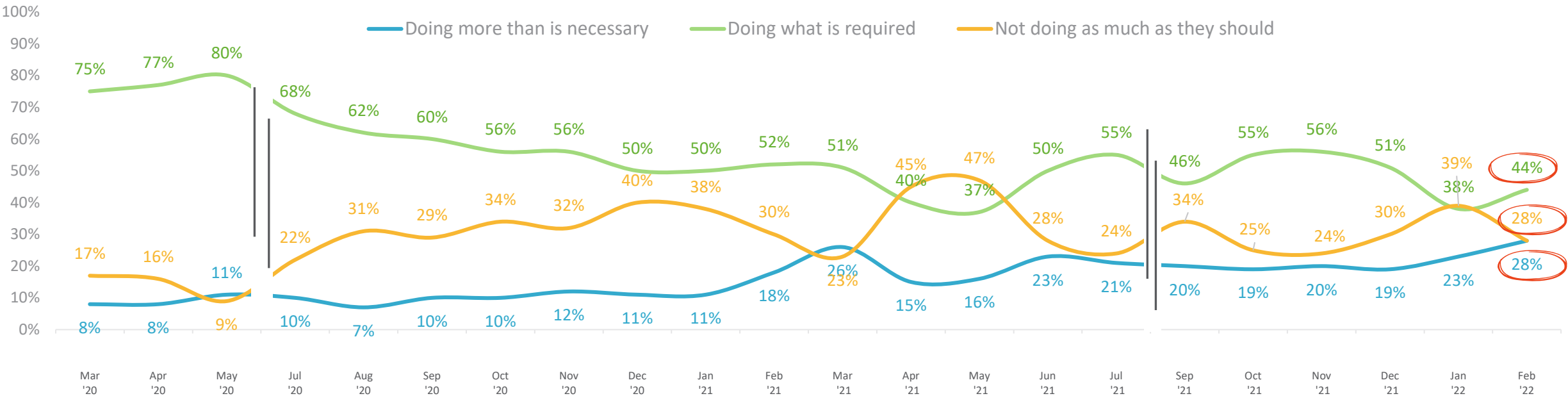
TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE 5TH WAVE



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

The proportion of Ontarians who believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ increased 6-points in February to 44%, while there was an 11-point decline to 28% who believe the government is ‘not doing as much as they should’ – on par with those who believe the government is ‘doing more than is necessary’ (28%).

	Doing what is required																								Not doing as much as they should																							
	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	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	Feb '22	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	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	Feb '22
Right Track	76%	79%	82%	n/a	75%	70%	68%	66%	66%	60%	61%	65%	59%	56%	57%	65%	72%	n/a	58%	69%	70%	64%	60%	63%	15%	13%	8%	n/a	15%	23%	21%	25%	22%	31%	29%	22%	15%	35%	28%	20%	15%	n/a	25%	17%	13%	20%	23%	15%
Wrong Track	73%	66%	66%	n/a	42%	33%	35%	25%	26%	19%	26%	29%	37%	18%	17%	30%	33%	n/a	31%	36%	37%	30%	19%	26%	21%	26%	19%	n/a	48%	57%	56%	61%	60%	66%	60%	45%	37%	59%	65%	37%	36%	n/a	45%	37%	39%	46%	52%	40%



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 ...

Base: Total sample, base varies

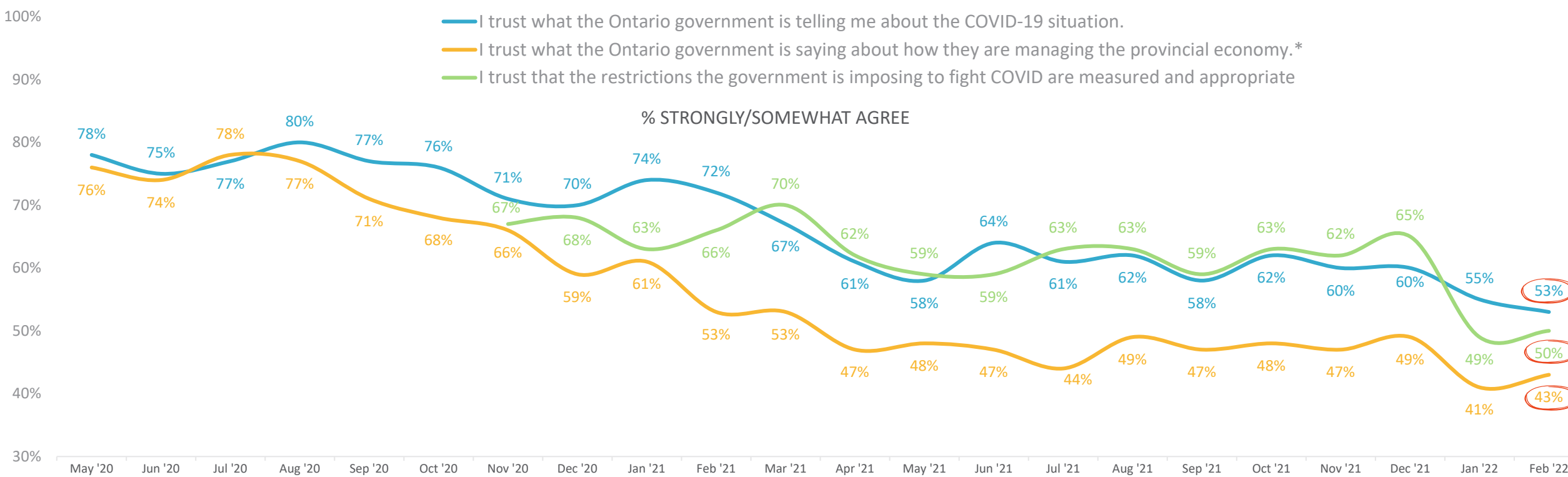
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

Trust in the government’s communications about ‘what the Ontario government is telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ continued to slowly trend down in February, while trust in communications about ‘restrictions to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’ and ‘how they are managing the provincial economy’ remained stable.

- However, trust in these government communications are lower in 2022 than in the previous tracked months.



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?

In February, there was a 21-point increase to 69% of Ontarians who 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	Feb '22
n=	Varies								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	62	74	59	48	58	67	50	48	69
Strongly agree	24	37	27	18	27	30	24	21	36
Somewhat agree	38	38	33	30	32	38	26	27	33
Neither agree nor disagree	8	6	7	8	7	7	8	9	9
Somewhat disagree	17	9	16	18	14	12	15	18	11
Strongly disagree	10	8	15	22	17	11	23	23	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	28	17	31	39	32	23	38	42	21

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

Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN CONCERN OVER COVID-19 IN THE LAST WEEK

The proportion of Ontarians who report their level of concern over COVID-19 ‘decreased’ over the last week is now at 36%, double results measured in January. Of note, only 10% say their level of concern ‘increased’ compared to 35% in January.

	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
Increased	36	35	10
Stayed about the same	49	46	53
Decreased	14	18	36
Don't know/not sure	2	<1	<1

AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON VARIANT



LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT OMICRON

Concern about the COVID-19 variant Omicron has continued to decline to 50% in February, 19-points lower than levels seen in December.

	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	69	64	50
Very concerned	33	32	17
Somewhat concerned	36	32	33
Not too concerned	15	19	28
Not at all concerned	15	16	22
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	30	35	50
Don't know/not sure	2	<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 is down compared to previous months.

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
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	81	85	86	86	80
All of the time	29	49	55	63	67	71	73	72	57	52	51	56	61	63	55
Most of the time	30	28	28	24	21	19	19	19	25	30	30	29	25	23	25
Some of the time	23	16	12	9	9	6	6	7	13	13	12	11	9	9	12
Rarely	14	7	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	5	6	4	4	4	7
Never	3	1	1	1	1	1	<1	<1	2	<1	1	1	1	<1	1
RARELY/NEVER	17	8	5	4	3	4	2	2	6	6	7	4	5	4	8

	RIGHT TRACK											WRONG TRACK										
	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
TOTAL ALL/MOST OF THE TIME	90%	92%	94%	94%	84%	85%	84%	88%	90%	93%	86%	82%	83%	86%	85%	76%	76%	77%	81%	80%	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 eight-in-ten (81%) Ontarians support the need for public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. However, there was an 20-point decline in February to 32% supporting public health measures being continued while support for a plan for relaxing public health measures increased 14-points to 49%.

	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
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	8	11	19
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.	44	56	52	32
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.	44	34	35	49

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			
		Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=		Varies											
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The number of daily new cases		13	27	28	12	38	34	32	31	46	36	39	56
The number of daily deaths		11	20	25	13	37	36	39	36	50	41	35	49
The number of people in hospitals		14	23	34	16	36	36	34	38	48	37	31	44
The number of people in intensive care units		14	25	35	18	36	35	36	38	47	36	29	42
Percentage of Ontarians fully vaccinated		22	28	28	17	38	33	35	34	37	35	35	47

The proportion of Ontarians who say they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing has been trending up since November’21 and is now at 55%.

*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	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	32	27	34	36	43	45	45	49	43	46	51	55
Strongly agree	19	14	18	24	24	25	26	26	26	31	33	35
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	12	19	21	19	23	17	15	17	20
Neither agree nor disagree	3	5	7	3	6	7	8	11	6	7	4	5
Somewhat disagree	18	19	15	12	14	16	19	13	18	16	15	16
Strongly disagree	46	49	44	48	36	30	26	26	32	30	29	23
TOTAL DISAGREE	64	68	59	60	50	47	46	39	50	46	43	39

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

Base: Total sample, base varies

COVID-19 VACCINE



In February, over half (54%) of Ontarians are more confident that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered with a 12-point increase compared to January.

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

	Dec '20
n=	Varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	38
Strongly agree	14
Somewhat agree	24
Neither agree nor disagree	10
Somewhat disagree	18
Strongly disagree	31
TOTAL DISAGREE	49

*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	Feb '22
Varies													
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
52	49	49	58	56	72	70	63	47	52	58	47	42	54
16	18	18	22	20	33	33	24	15	21	25	18	14	24
35	31	31	36	36	39	37	39	32	30	33	29	28	31
6	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	7	8	9
19	20	18	16	16	13	11	15	19	18	18	16	18	17
22	23	24	17	19	7	12	15	25	22	17	27	30	18
41	43	42	34	35	21	23	30	44	40	34	43	48	36

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 is down 12-points compared to January. About six-in-ten (58%) now indicate they have seen, read, or heard anything lately about Ontario’s Intensive Care Units and COVID-19.

	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
Yes	44	70	58
No	56	30	42

WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ONTARIO’S ICUs

Among those who are aware, half (50%) say they have heard the number of COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s ICUs has been ‘going down’, while 19% say that the number has been ‘increasing’ – compared to 12% and 62%, respectively, at the beginning of the year.

	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies		
	%	%	%
Going down	20	12	50
Staying about the same	23	21	24
Increasing	51	62	19
Lack of staff/beds/funding/staff burnout	-	-	1
ICU is full - unspecified if increasing or decreasing	-	-	1
ICU is manageable/plenty of space - unspecified if increasing or decreasing	-	-	1
Don't trust the news/fake news	1	1	1
Mostly unvaccinated patients in the ICU	-	<1	<1
Younger adults in the ICU (in their thirties)	<1	<1	<1
Fluctuating	1	<1	-
Other	<1	1	1
Don't know/not sure	5	3	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 82% saying they are concerned and 50% ‘very’ concerned – although level of concern is down compared to the beginning of the year.

	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	240	507	128
	%	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	90	91	82
Very concerned	58	55	50
Somewhat concerned	31	36	31
Not too concerned	9	9	18
Don't know/not sure	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 about three-in-ten (29%) are renting. One-in-ten (9%) live with their parents.

	Jan '22	Feb '22
	Varies	
	%	%
Own your own home	63	60
Renting	29	29
Living with parent(s)	6	9
Live in a retirement home/long-term care home	-	<1
Adult children own home and I live with them	1	-
Other	<1	<1
Don't know/not sure	1	1

Most (95%) Ontarians believe that home purchase prices have increased in the last year, with 82% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	95	95
Increased significantly	83	82
Increased somewhat	12	12
Not increased too much	2	1
Not increased at all	1	1
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	3	3
Don't know/not sure	2	3

IMPACT OF INCREASING HOME PURCHASE PRICES

Half (50%) 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 '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	19	19
A very good thing	6	7
Somewhat of a good thing	13	12
Somewhat of a bad thing	17	18
A very bad thing	27	32
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	45	50
Doesn't matter either way	35	29
Don't know/not sure	2	1

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

Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN HOME RENTAL PRICES

Eight-in-ten (81%) Ontarians believe that home rental prices have increased, with 49% saying they have increased ‘significantly’.

	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	81	81
Increased significantly	47	49
Increased somewhat	34	32
Not increased too much	4	4
Not increased at all	4	3
TOTAL NOT INCREASED	8	8
Don't know/not sure	11	12

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

Half (50%) of Ontarians believe that significant increases to home rental prices is a ‘bad thing’ for them personally, with 44% reporting that it doesn’t matter either way to them.

	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies	
	%	%
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A GOOD THING	8	5
A very good thing	2	2
Somewhat of a good thing	6	4
Somewhat of a bad thing	18	20
A very bad thing	28	31
TOTAL VERY/SOMEWHAT OF A BAD THING	46	50
Doesn't matter either way	46	44
Don't know/not sure	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: too many people wanting to buy or rent a home (33%), not enough new homes being built in areas where people want to live (33%), and not enough people selling or renting homes (18%).

	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies	
	%	%
Too many people wanting to buy or rent a home	35	33
Not enough new homes being built in areas people want to live	30	33
Not enough people selling or renting homes	20	18
Don't know/not sure	15	16

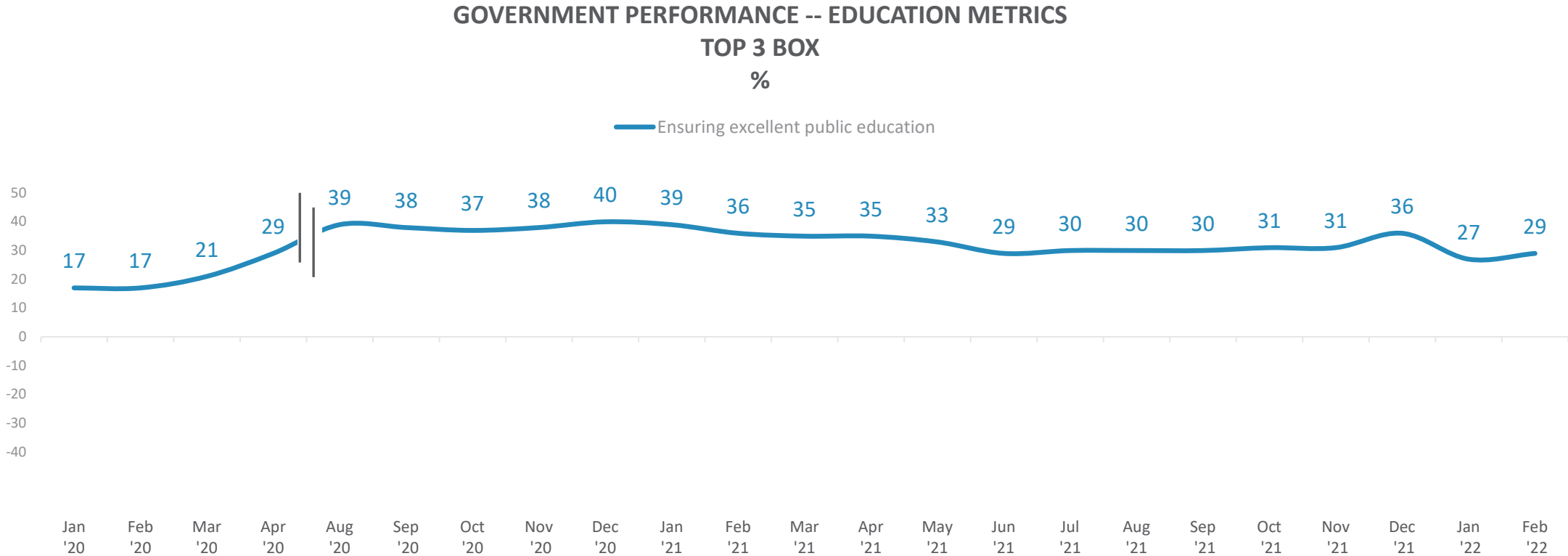
About half of Ontarians agree that they would like to buy a house but can't afford it (52%) or that there are hardly any homes available to rent that meet their needs (50%), while one-third (33%) that say they can only afford to buy or rent a condo. As well, 46% of Ontarians say that they feel stuck since they can't afford to move.

% Strongly/Somewhat agree	Jan '22	Feb '22
n=	Varies	
	%	%
I'd like to buy a house, but I can't afford it	46	52
There are hardly any homes available to rent that meet my needs	47	50
I feel stuck in the place I live in now, since I can't afford to move	42	46
I can only afford to buy or rent a condo	30	33

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

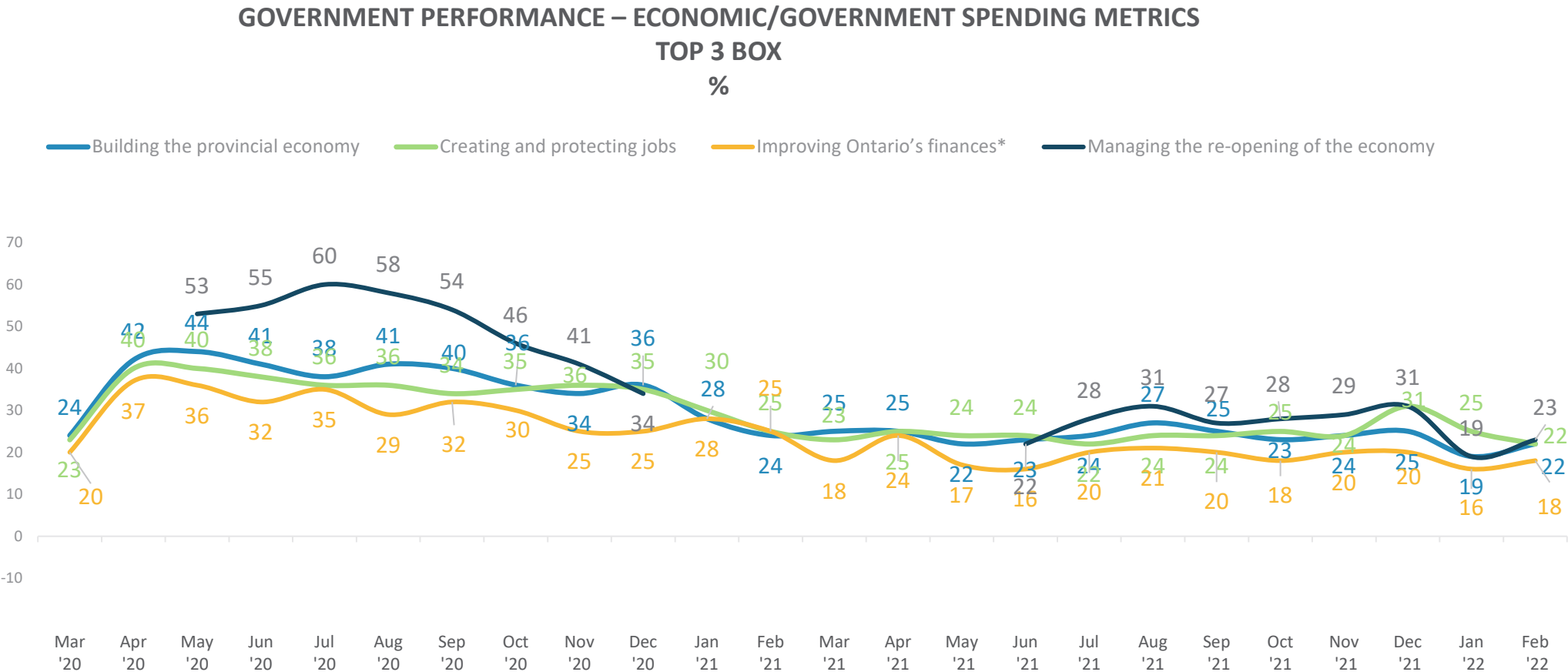


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained stable in February.



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

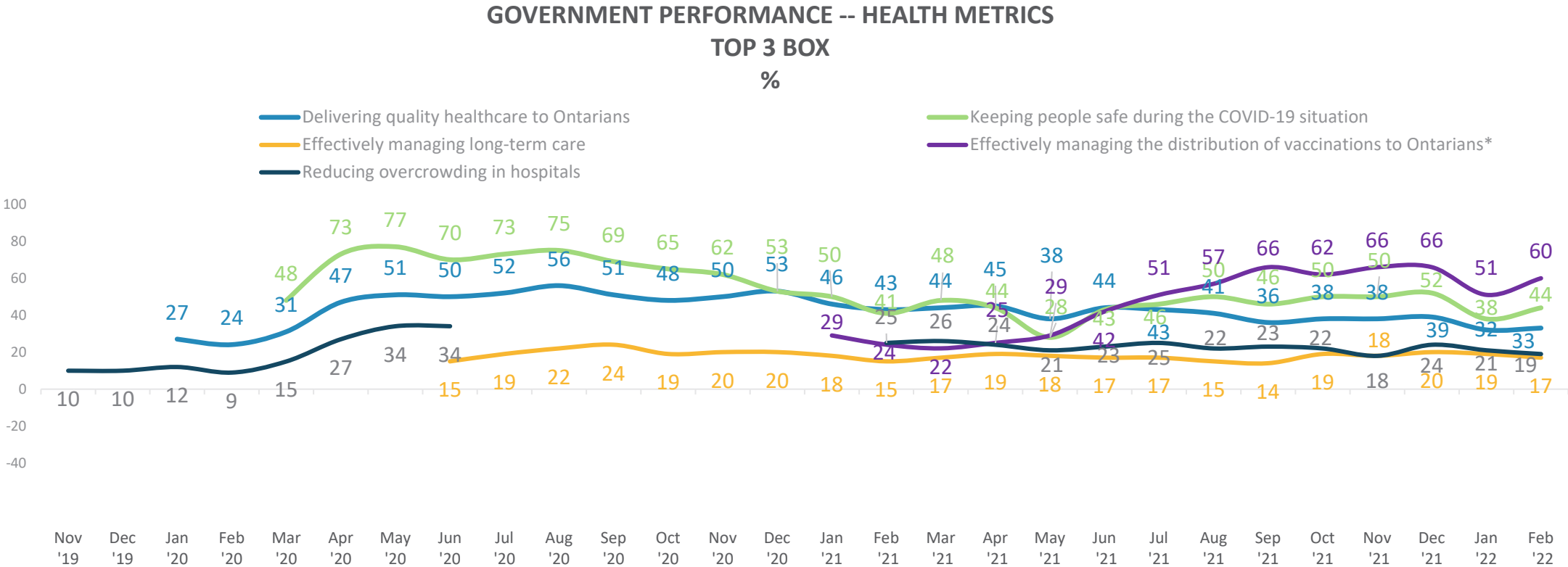
Positive perceptions toward the government’s performance for ‘managing the re-opening of the economy’ has increased 4-points in February. And, while ‘building the provincial economy’ was up 3-points, the reverse is the case for ‘creating the protecting jobs’.



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?

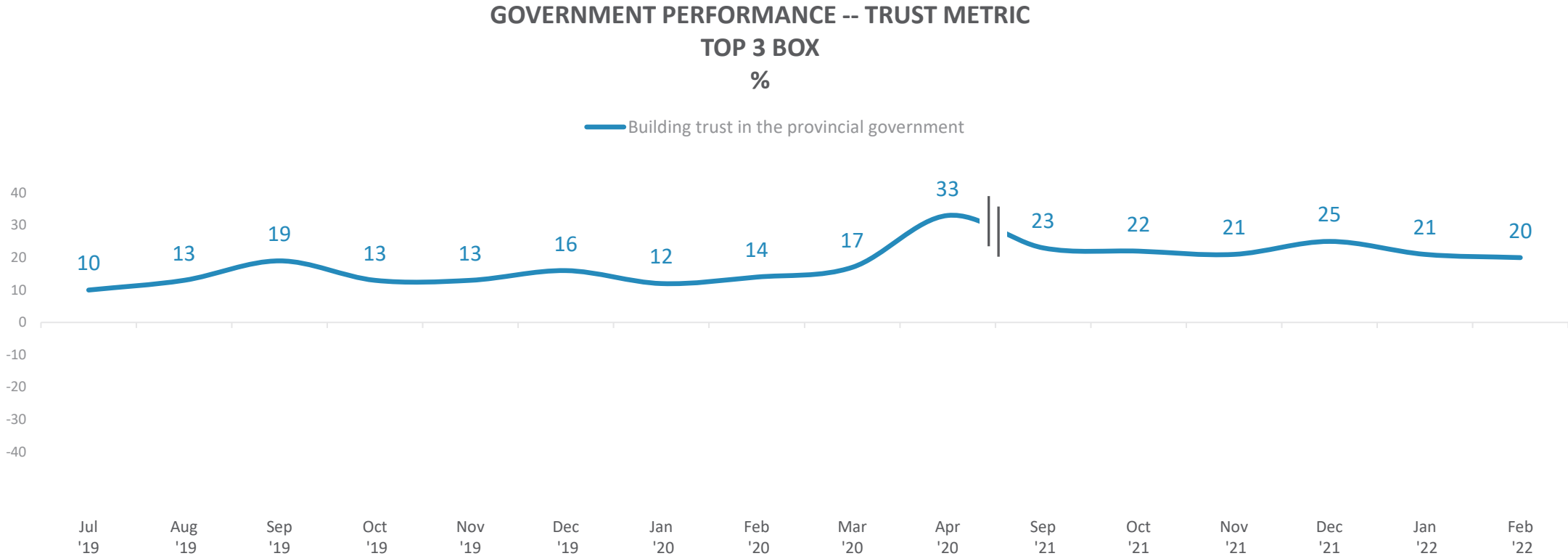
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

‘Effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations’ was up 9-points compared to January, while there was a 6-point increase measured for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’. The other health metrics remained steady.



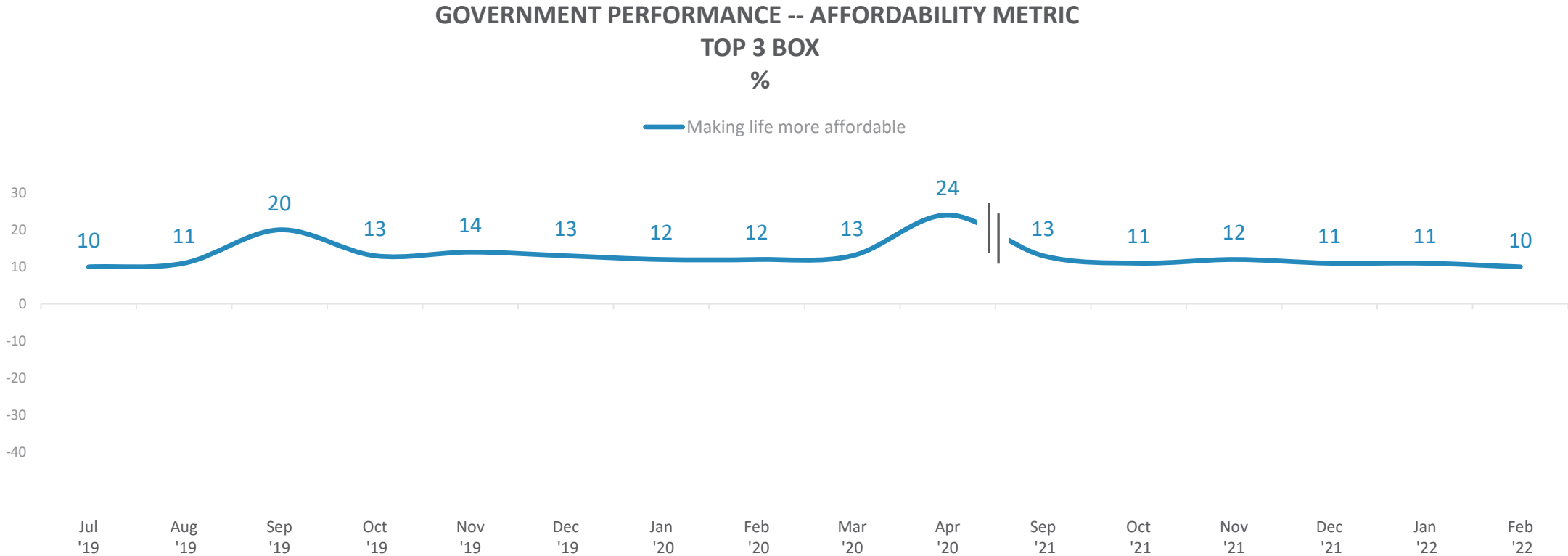
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

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



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 remain stable in February.



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