



NATIVE NATIONS INSTITUTE

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& the University of Arizona

The After COVID Economy: In-Demand Jobs and Employment Partnerships

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On deck for the next 15 minutes:

What economic and employment conditions and trends prevailed (before and) during COVID for tribal communities?

How has COVID impacted employment opportunities in tribal communities?

What in-demand jobs and employment partnerships may be on the horizon for tribes and the programs that serve them?



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Acknowledging the Land, Acknowledging the University's Native neighbors and hosts

We pay our respects to the Tohono O'odham Nation, on whose unceded lands the University of Arizona is located, and to their Elders; to their elected, traditional, and emerging leaders; and to other respected persons of that nation. We also pay respect to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, whose people also share these lands, and to the other 20 Native nations whose lands share geography with the state of Arizona.

Photo credit: Miriam Jorgensen 2004



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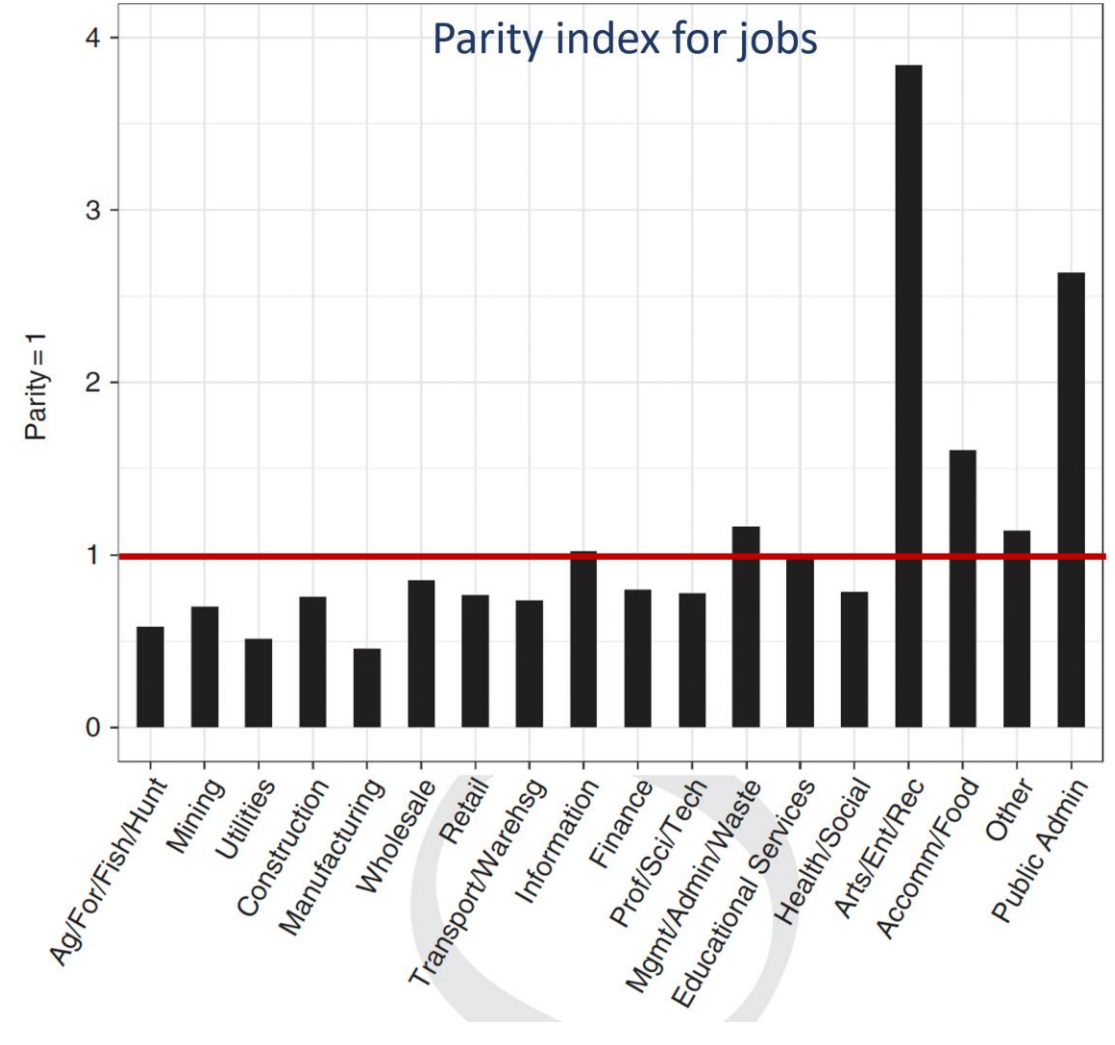
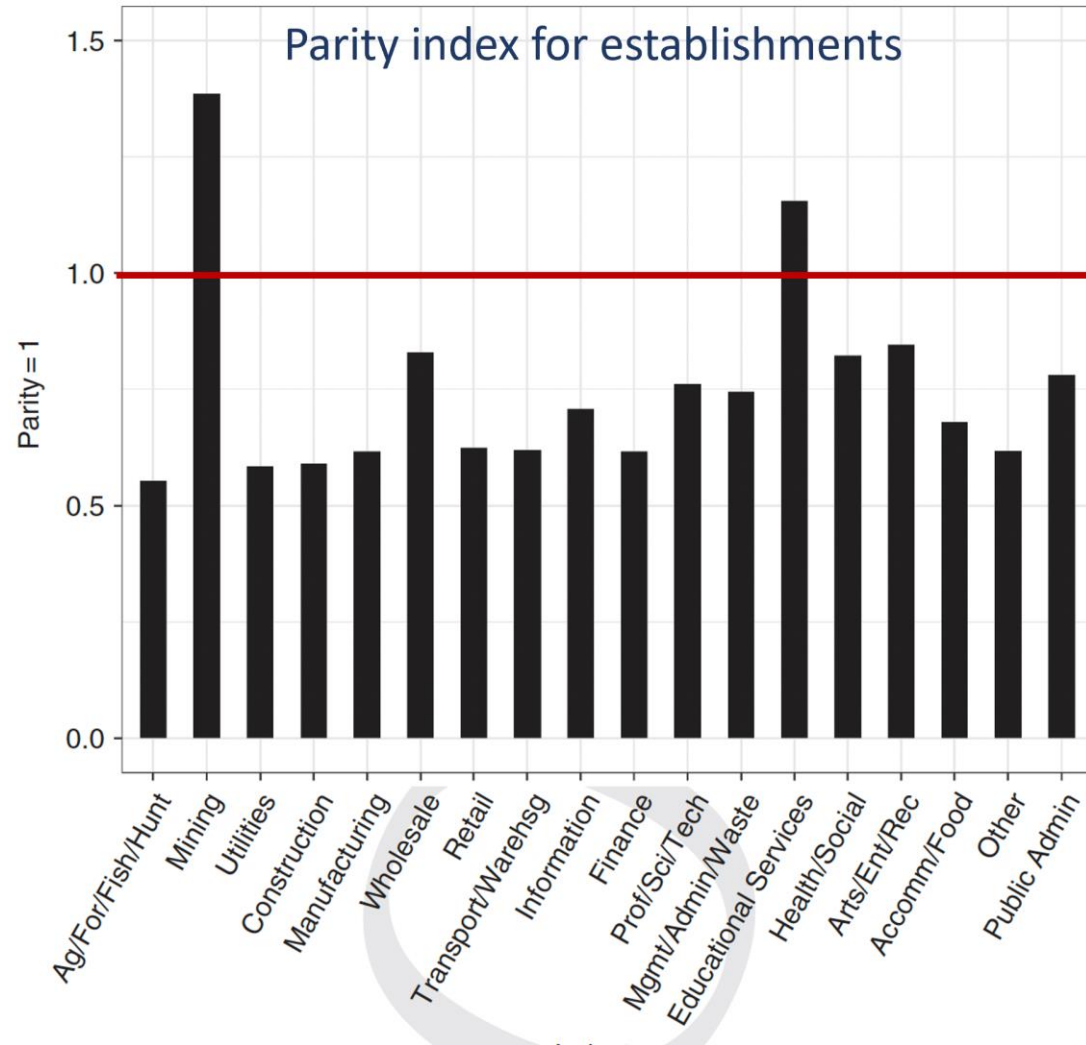
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The economic picture in Indian Country before the pandemic



Source: Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development + NNI

The economic picture in Indian Country before the pandemic

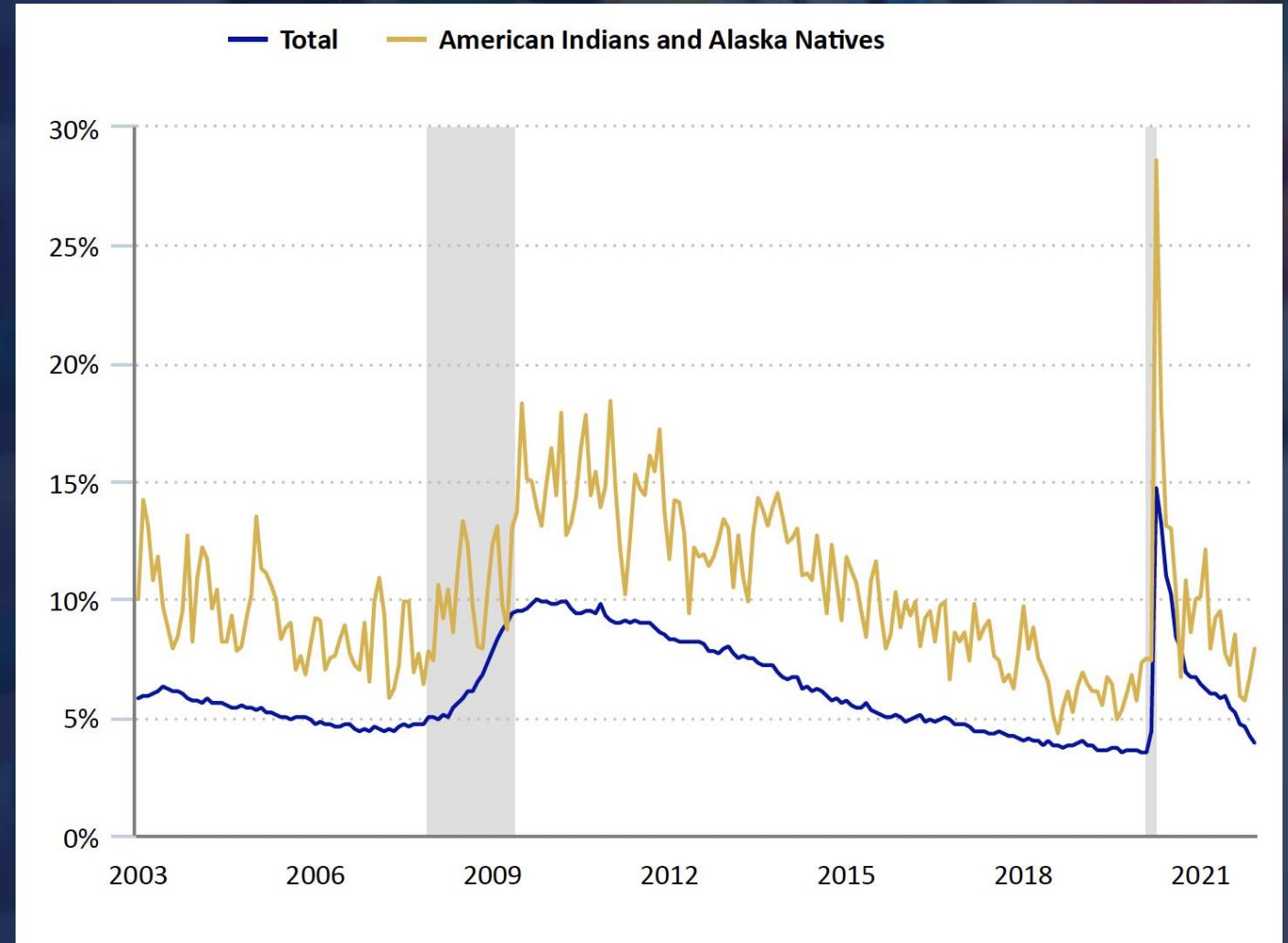


Source: Akee, Mykerezi & Todd in *Creating Private Sector Economies in Native America* (CUP, 2019)

The economic picture in Indian Country during the pandemic

AIAN population & total US population unemployment rates 2003-2021

Notes: AIAN data are for self-identified individuals in the BLS sample; ie, they not on/near Indian lands only. The total number of AIAN individuals in each in sample is variable and small, which complicates seasonal adjustment and makes the data appear more volatile than they are.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

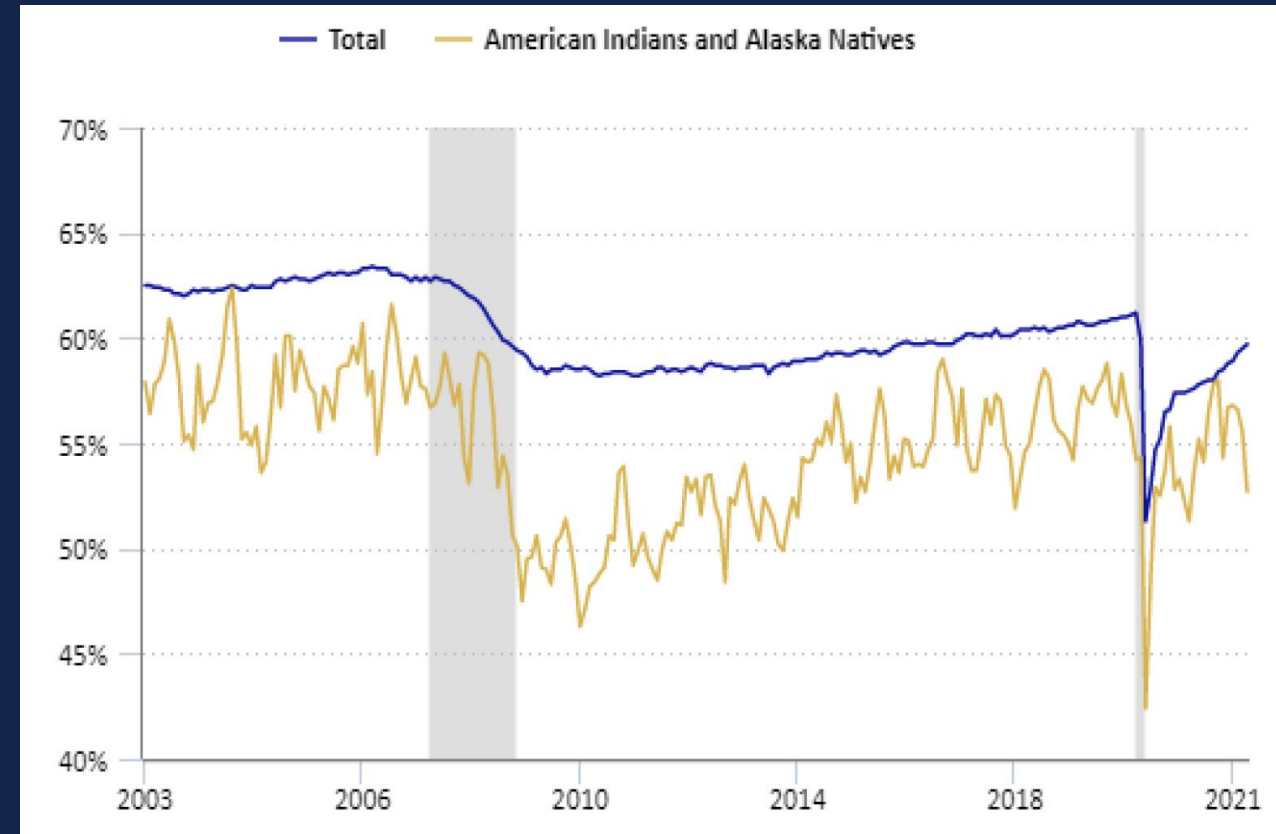
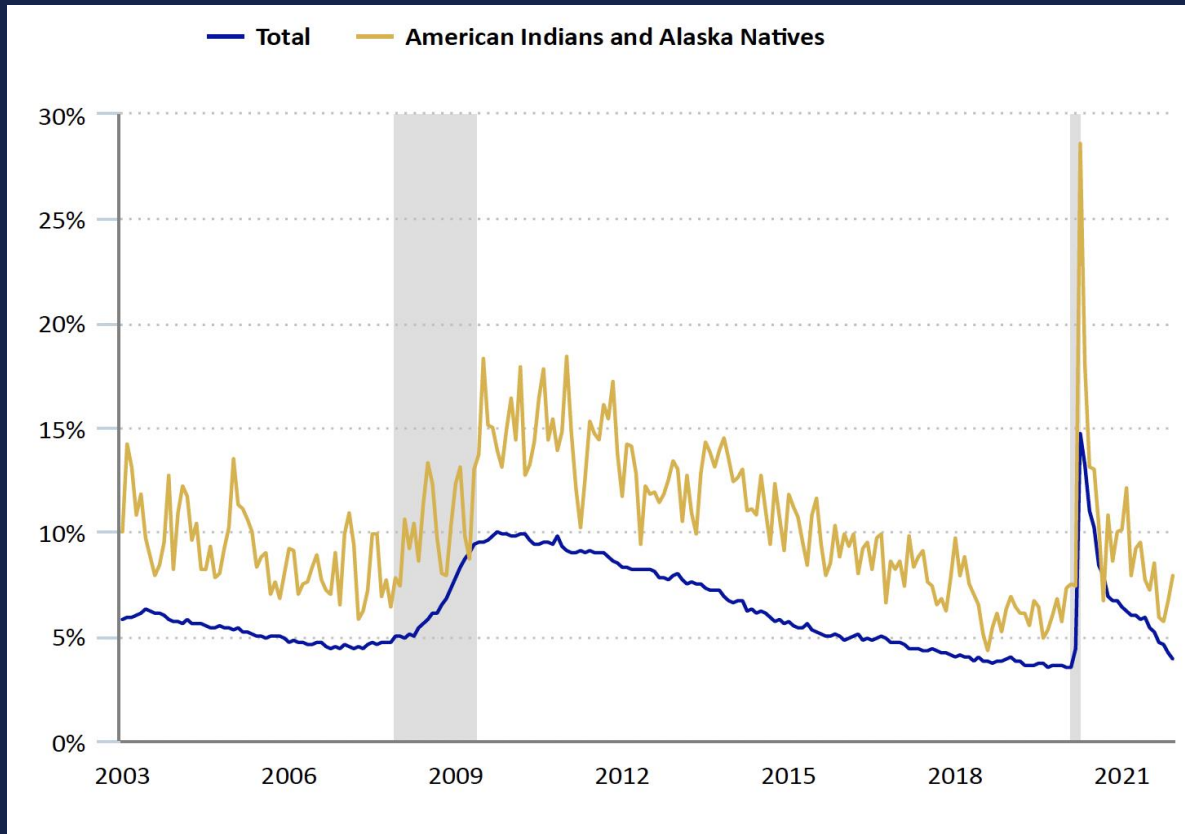


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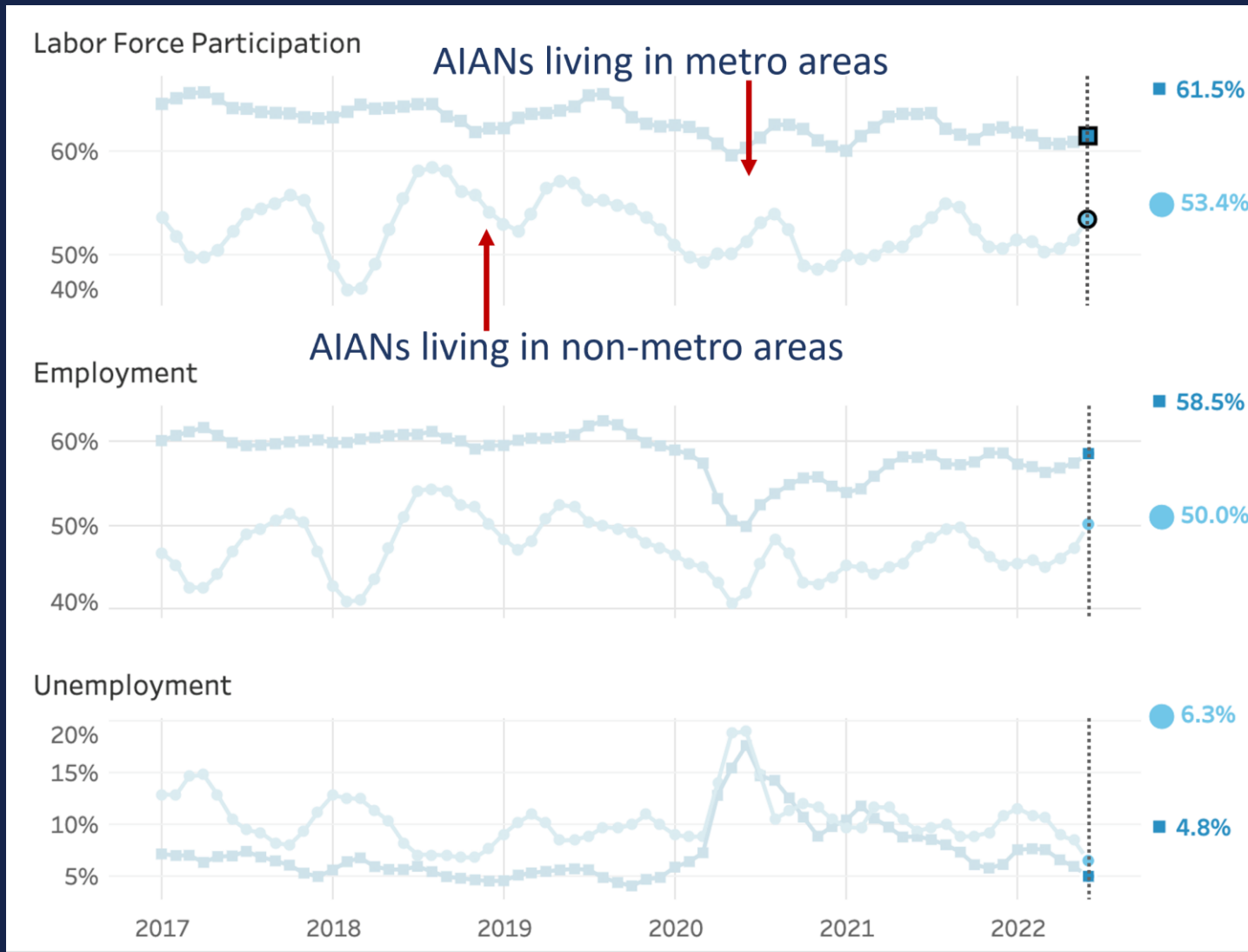
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AIAN Unemployment and Labor Force Participation: Compared



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

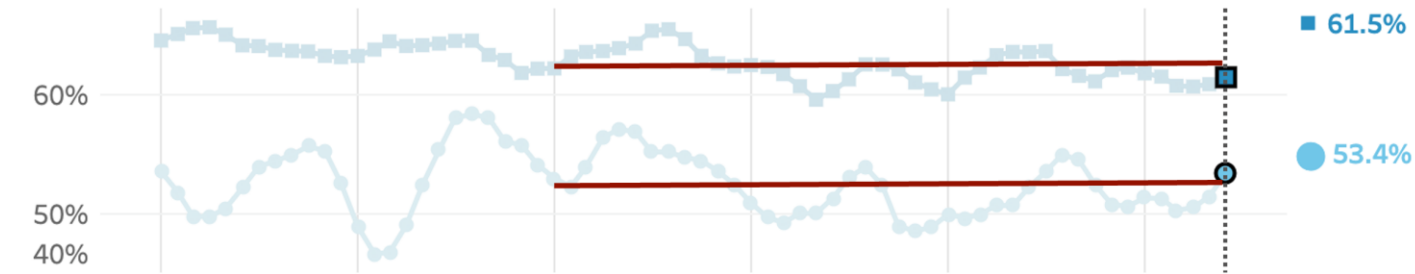


Source: Center for Indian Country Development

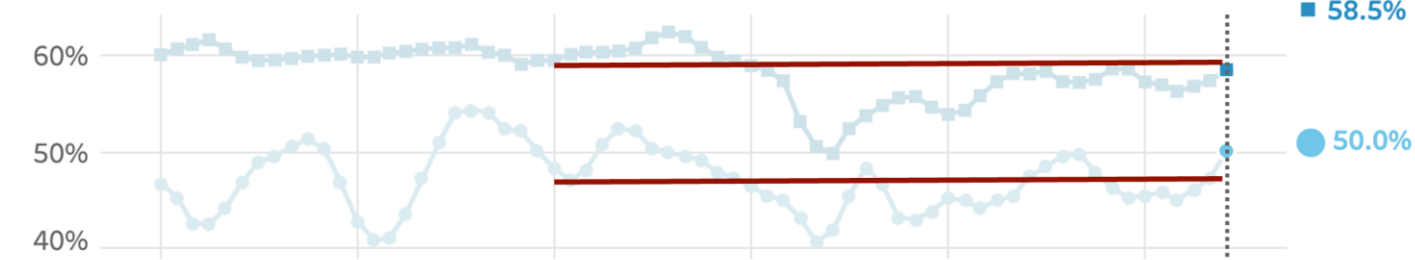
Lacking data concerning the situation on tribal lands, this breakout is useful for thinking about the different geographies of Indian Country:

- There is greater labor force participation in metro areas
- There is less unemployment in metro areas (but just barely)
- These charts highlight the difference between the different definitions of unemployment

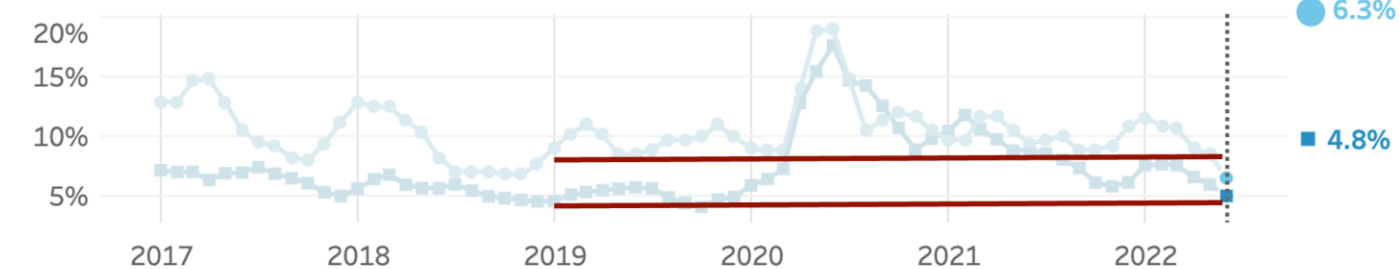
Labor Force Participation



Employment



Unemployment



Comparisons over time suggest that by 2022 things had essentially returned to the pre-pandemic levels for these key measures, with the caveats:

- We lack information on a nation by nation basis
- We lack information on a sector by sector / industry by industry basis

Source: Center for Indian Country Development

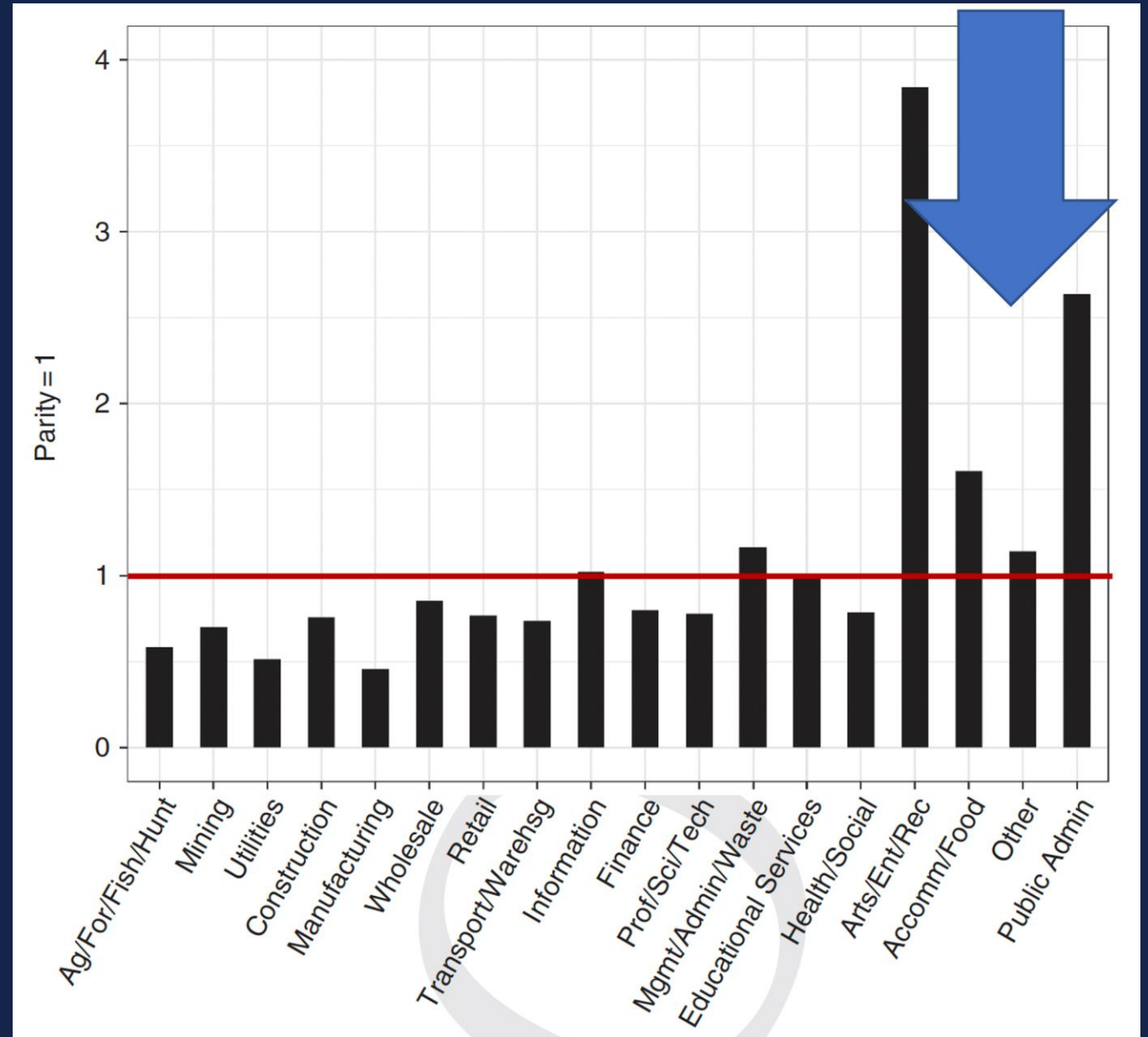
What do we know about sector and industry changes?

Bureau of Labor Statistics “Commissioner’s Corner” blog:

“The higher rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives reflects, in part, the extremely sharp increase at the start of the pandemic in the unemployment rate for service occupations. American Indians and Alaska Natives are considerably more likely to work in service occupations compared with the overall labor force. By contrast, the unemployment rate rose less sharply at the start of the pandemic for management, professional, and related occupations and other occupation groups in which American Indians and Alaska Natives are less represented.”

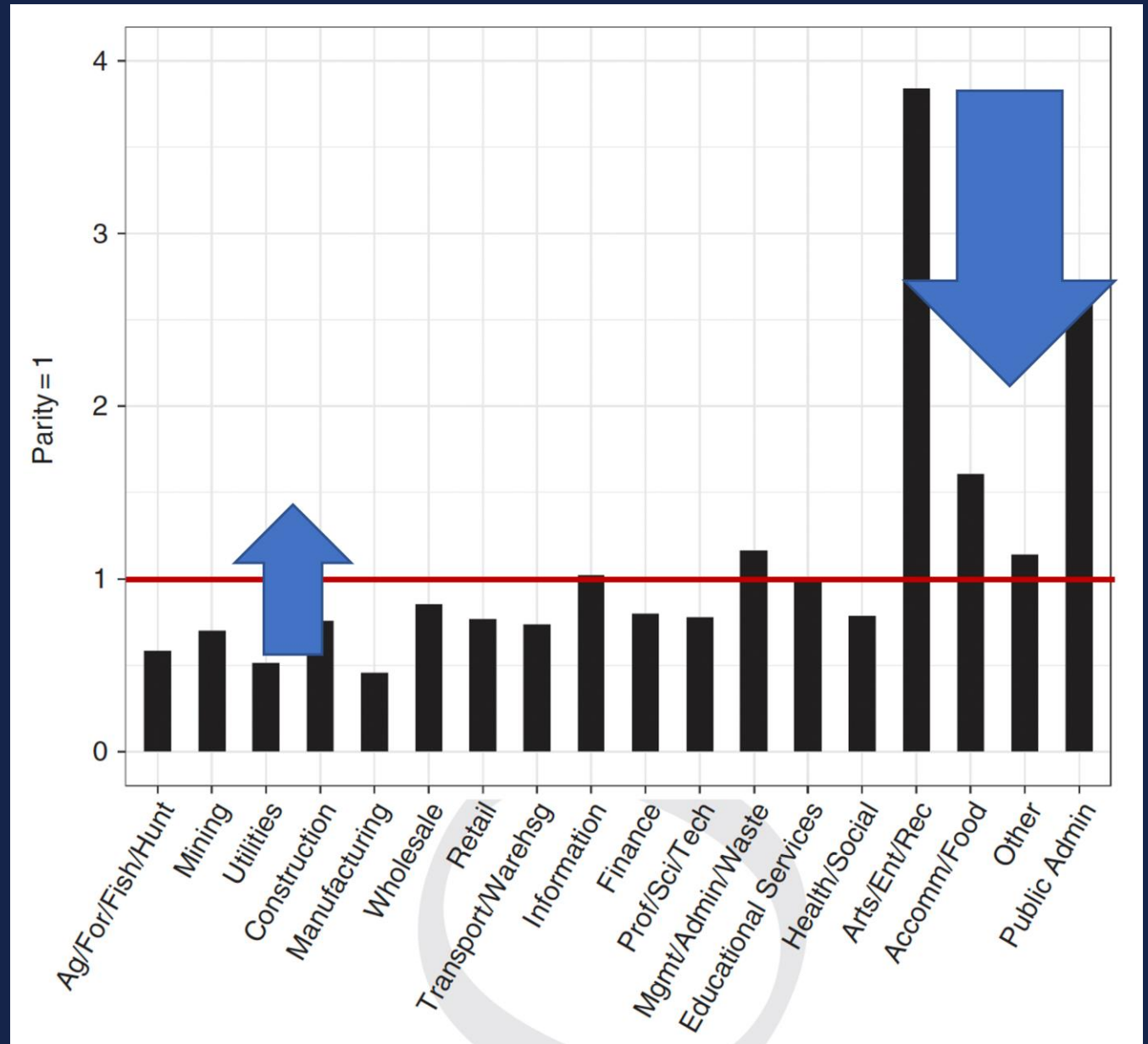
Possible industry and sector dynamics

- Ongoing competition for service sector workers, as some who left will not return



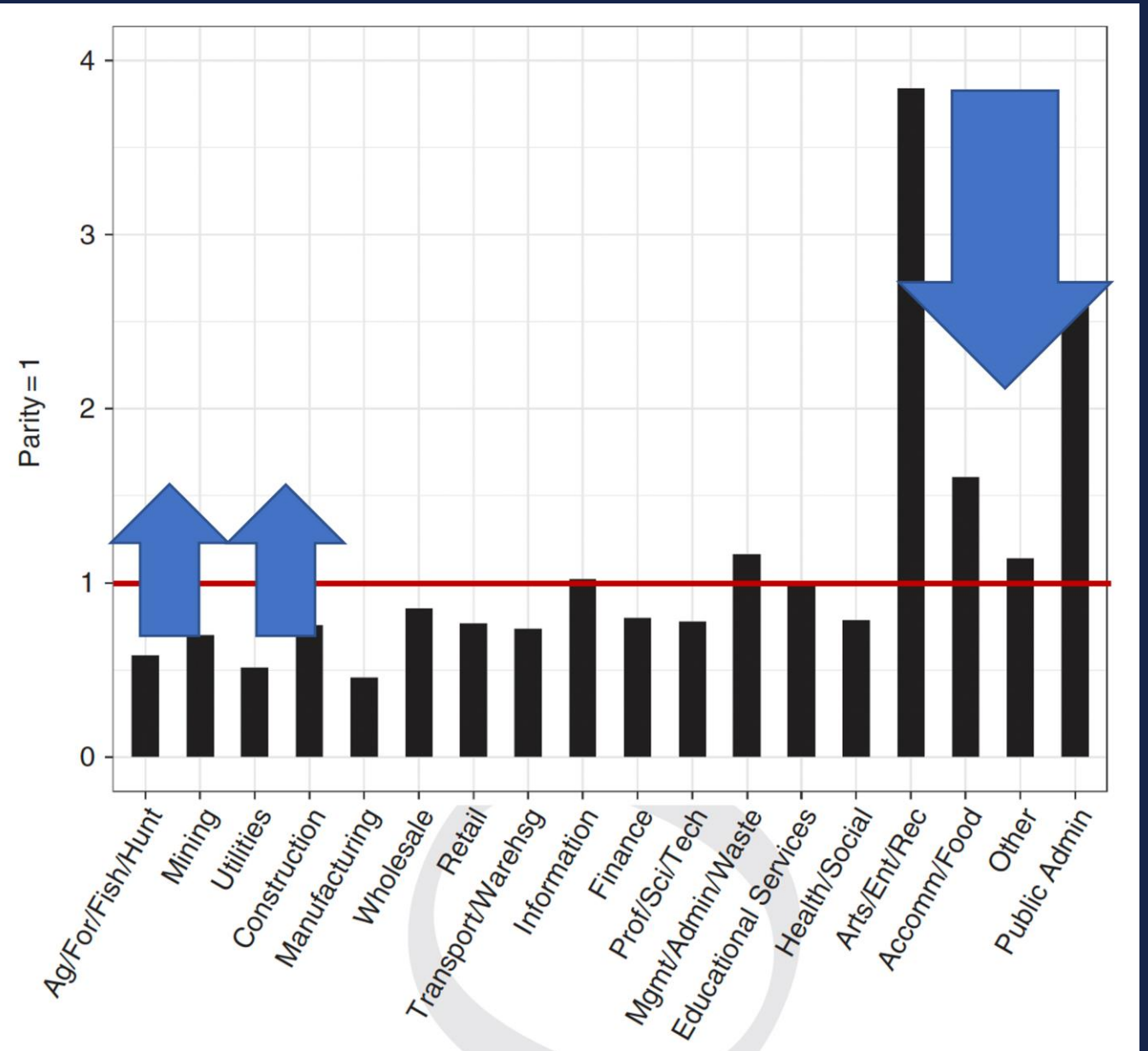
Possible industry and sector dynamics

- Ongoing competition for service sector workers, as some who left will not return
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- These developments bring some enduring new jobs post-construction



Possible industry and sector dynamics

- Ongoing competition for service sector workers, as some who left will not return
- Renewed focus on **& \$ for** construction of local facilities: sewer, water, community buildings, electricity, broadband
- These developments bring some enduring new jobs post-construction
- Increased focus on food sourcing and food sovereignty
- Green energy needs impacts on mining, land use





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Thank you!

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