

Immigration Status and Pay Documentation: Findings from the 2008 Unregulated Work Survey

The *2008 Unregulated Work Survey* is a statistically reliable sample of 4,387 workers in low-wage industries and occupations in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City; 39 percent of the sample was undocumented. The survey asked detailed questions about the workers' jobs, wages and hours in the week prior to the survey (see the technical appendix of the [full report](#) for more details). In particular, workers were asked if they had received documentation from their employer listing their pay and tax deductions in the last pay period. The findings are as follows:

ALL WORKERS	Percent that did not receive pay documentation in the last pay period
US-born workers	38
Documented foreign-born workers	41
Undocumented foreign-born workers	74

	Percent that did not receive pay documentation in the last pay period	
	Documented workers	Undocumented workers
Nannies	93	98
Grounds maintenance workers	68	95
Construction workers	76	95
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	85	92
Stock clerks	48	88
Car wash workers and parking lot attendants	57	82
Warehouse workers	57	78
Garment workers	12	77
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	69	74
Cashiers and retail salespersons	36	73
Restaurant workers	30	69
Janitors and other building services workers	39	63