

FEDS HEM IN 230 ILLEGAL WORKERS

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Body

Federal authorities have busted more than **230 illegal** aliens working in 14 Manhattan garment factories as part of a major crackdown on unauthorized **workers** and the firms that employ them.

The arrests, which began in the middle of last month, were made at small factories in the Garment District near Penn Station in a wide-ranging operation by the **federal** Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Most of those nabbed were immigrants who arrived here illegally from Latin America, said Mark Thorn, an INS spokesman.

"These latest arrests are part of a special project we've been working on since October '95," he said. "We targeted the garment industry because it's very large and very well-known, but mostly because it has been historically a gateway for immigrants to find employment."

The INS hopes that by making it tougher for companies to hire unauthorized **workers**, it can cut the flow of **illegal** immigration.

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