

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of Foreign Missions/Houston Regional Office (OFM/Houston)

FACT SHEET

February 16, 2024

Overview: The Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) is the bureau within the U.S. Department of State that oversees diplomatic immunities, reciprocity, and privileges for foreign missions in the United States based on international and bilateral agreements. OFM provides the operational framework for all foreign government entities (trade offices, consulates, honorary consulates, embassies, international organizations etc.). This framework includes the creation, termination, and daily operation of a foreign mission. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., OFM has six regional offices.

OFM Houston (OFM/HO) opened in September 2003 and covers eight states: Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The office provides strategic advice to an array of U.S. entities (governors, mayors, economic development organizations, commerce chambers, etc.) on many foreign policy and international issues. It also trains local authorities on consular notification and diplomatic immunity. OFM/HO oversees an estimated 3,075 foreign mission members spread throughout the region. The office regularly advises local offices on foreign engagements and serves as the entry point to the Department in Washington, D.C. and U.S. missions overseas. Priorities for foreign missions in this region are energy, space exploration, maritime shipping, medical care, and citizen services. Houston, New Orleans, Dallas, Denver and McAllen are cities within OFM/HO's region with highest numbers of career consulates.

States	Missions #s
Texas	204
Louisiana	53
Colorado	46
Oklahoma	15
New Mexico	13
Nebraska	9
Arkansas	7
Kansas	6

*Note that these are rough estimates due regular changes to foreign missions accredited with the Department.

Mission Types	Personnel #s	Mission #s
Career Consulate	2482 (Estimated 906 principals & dependents with some level of immunity.	87
Honorary Consulate	223	216
International Organization	153	5
Misc. Foreign Government Office	176	28
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office	40	--
Foreign Mission Act	1	5
Consular Agency	0	1
Total	3075	342

