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# I. GENERAL

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## Area and Geography

The Commercial Division of the Canadian Consulate General in Dallas has commercial responsibility for the states of Texas (692,405 km<sup>2</sup>; 267,338 sq. mi.), Kansas (213,064 km<sup>2</sup>; 82,264 sq. mi.), Oklahoma (181,090 km<sup>2</sup>; 69,919 sq. mi.), Arkansas (137,539 km<sup>2</sup>; 53,104 sq. mi.), Louisiana (125,675 km<sup>2</sup>; 48,523 sq. mi.), and New Mexico (315,115 km<sup>2</sup>; 121,666 sq. mi.).

The topography of the Southwest varies from the rolling wooded hills and the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma to the flat prairies in Kansas and central and western Texas. While parts of southwest Texas are mountainous, Louisiana lays claim to the lowest average elevation of any state in the United States (30.48 m; 100 ft.).

## Climate

In general, the climate of the Southwest is hotter and drier than in Canada. Winters are much less severe, although snow is not uncommon in Kansas, Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle. Summers are hot and dry, with the exception of southeast Texas (the Houston area) and Louisiana, which are quite humid. Summer temperatures in Dallas often exceed 37.8°C (100°F) daily for a period of several weeks.

## Local Time

Central Standard Time is observed in all of the territory with the exception of far-west Texas and New Mexico, where Mountain Time is observed. Central Standard Time is one hour behind the time in Toronto and Montreal. During summer months, Daylight Saving Time is in effect.