

## When to use a block map or tract outline map

### Question

How do I know if I need a block map or a census tract outline map?

### Answer

Census 2000 Census Tract Outline Maps delineate census tract boundaries within counties, as well as boundaries for political areas such as cities. They do not show smaller area entities such as block groups or blocks. Available on a county-by-county basis, tract maps are our most popular map series. Users filing Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) reports or applying for Community Redevelopment Act grants find these maps especially useful.

Block maps are the most detailed maps, showing all geographic areas down to the level of census blocks. If you are not working with block groups or blocks, you will find it easier to work with the simpler, less detailed tract maps. On block maps, all streets are shown; on tract maps, only streets coinciding with tract boundaries are shown.

Both Census Tract Outline Maps and Census Block Maps may be viewed on the Census Bureau's [Web site](#). Under "Census Tract Outline Maps" and "Census Block Maps," click on "2000" to access the maps in PDF format. You can [purchase](#) these map sets in print or on disc from the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282 or (301)763-INFO (4636).