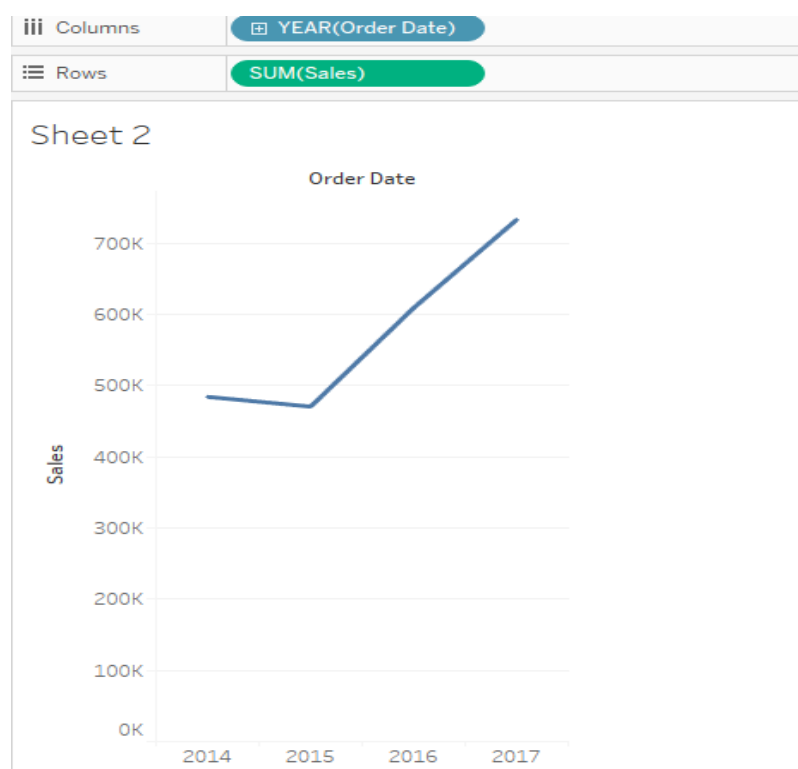


Line Chart

A line chart displays information as a series of data points connected by a straight line segment. It is used to show the change of data over continuous time intervals. At least one measure and a Date value are required to create a line chart in Tableau.

- **Pros:** Line charts are beneficial for showing changes and trends over a while, and one can easily notice very small changes which are otherwise difficult to observe in other charts.
- **Cons:** Plotting too many lines over a graph could make it difficult to read and create confusion while performing the analysis.

Suppose we want to analyse the Sum of Sales corresponding to different years, so we will be creating a Line Chart with Sales in Rows and Years in Columns as shown below:



This Line Chart clearly shows that Sales dropped in the year 2015 and kept on rising after that.

Now suppose we want to deep dive into this to understand this scenario at a better level, so for that, we can break down our Year column into Quarters by clicking on the + sign in front of YEAR(ORDER DATE):



By clicking on this + sign, each year gets broken down into Quarters and gives us a better understanding of Sales.

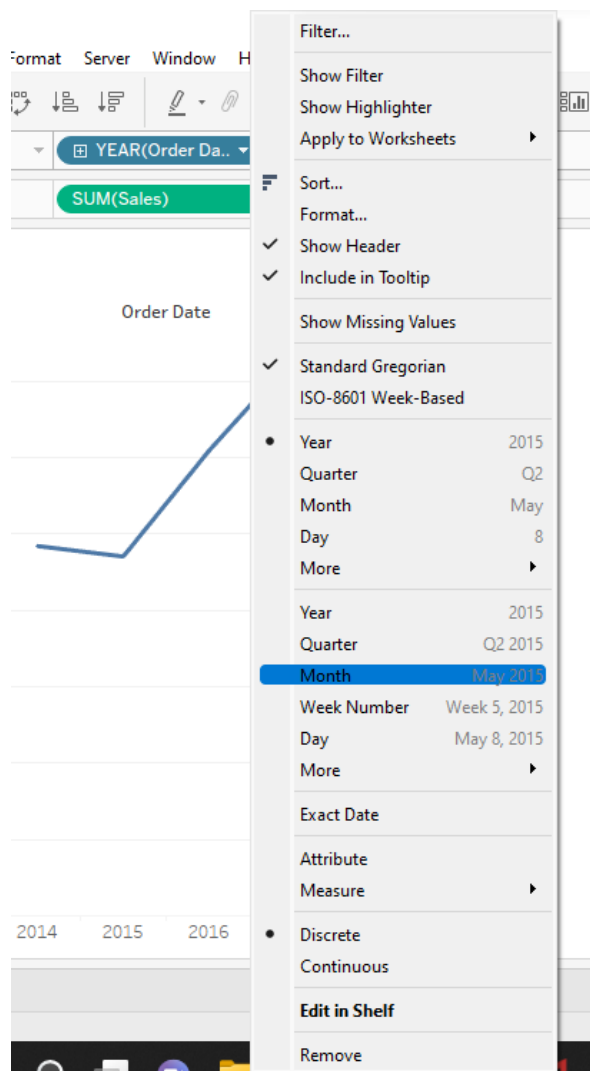


It shows that sales always tend to increase at the end of each Quarter.

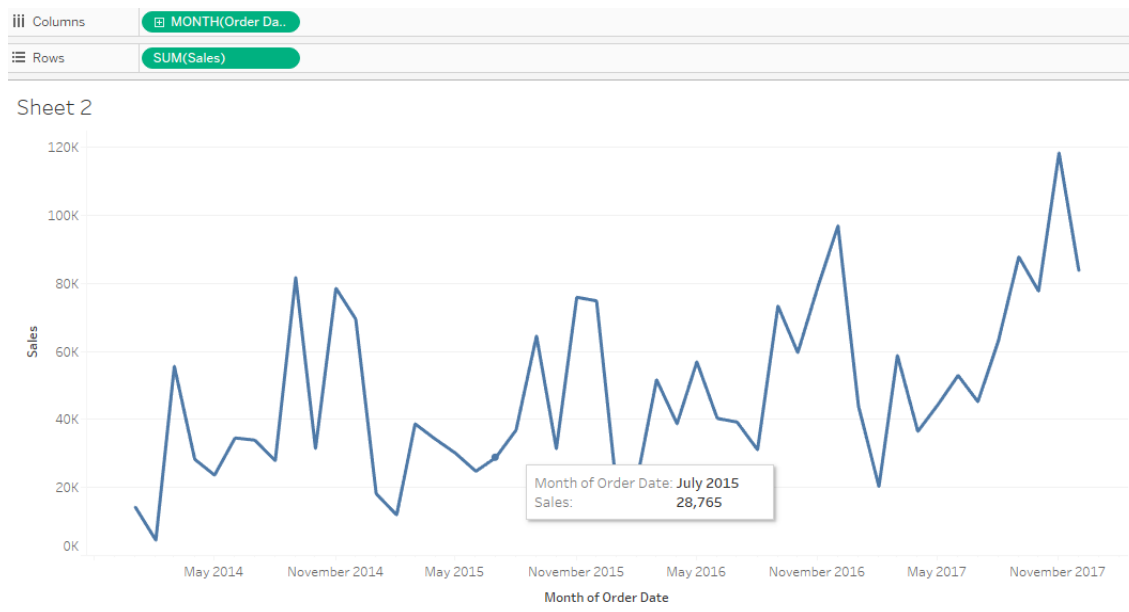
Further, we can also divide this Quarter-wise into Months by simplifying expanding QUARTER(ORDER DATE) by clicking on the + sign.



This graph is now a bit difficult to read and analyse. So another way to get Month wise breakdown of sales is by right-clicking on YEAR(ORDER DATE) and selecting Months as shown below:

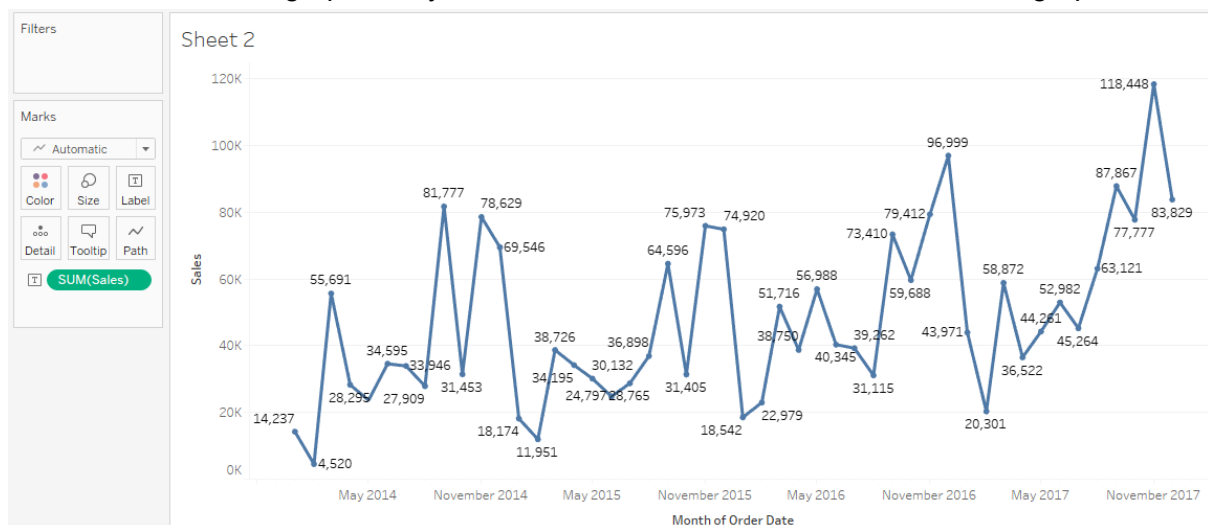


By clicking on Month, we get the following output on our Tableau:



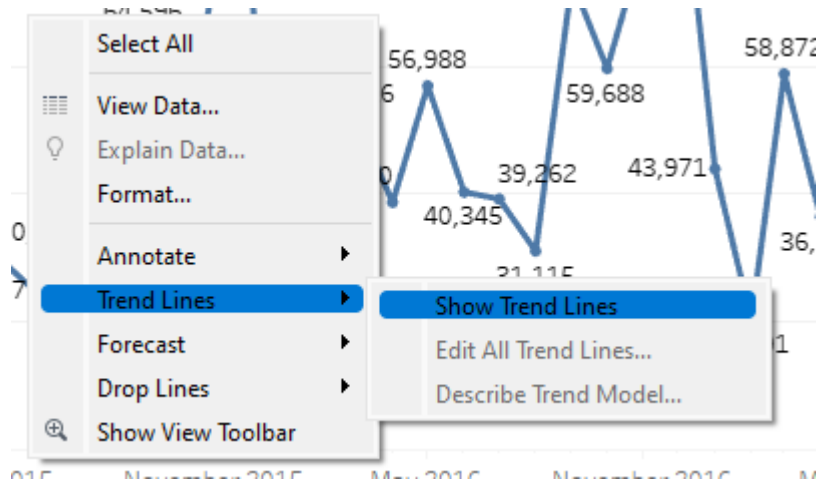
This graph helps us understand the sales trend across various Years and Months.

We can also increase our graph's readability by inserting labels that can assist in reading certain values on our graph easily. In this case, we add Sales as a Label to our graph.

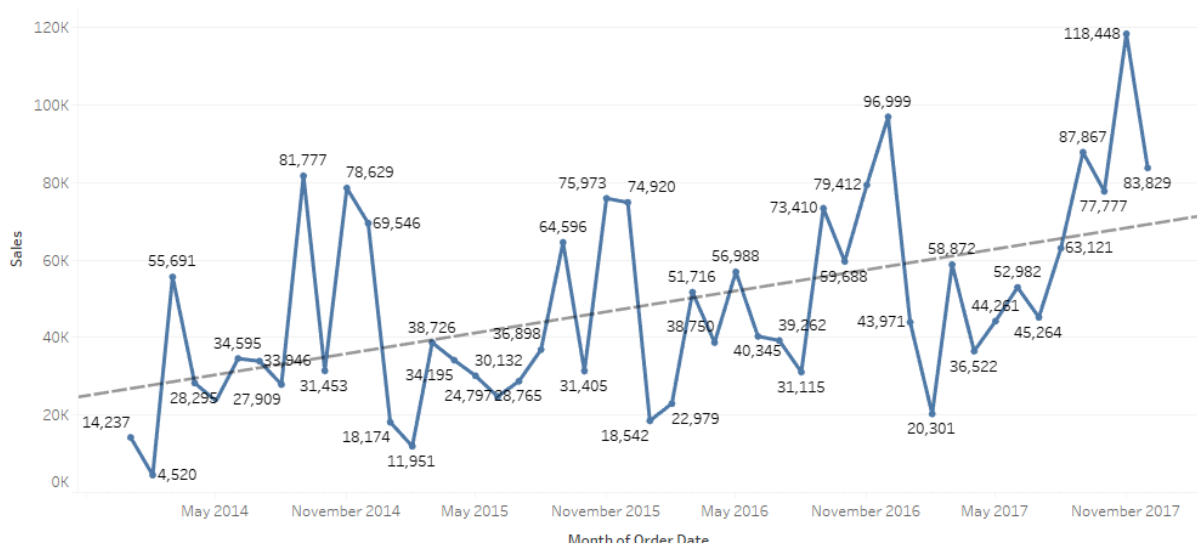


Further another functionality that we can add to our chart is a Trend Line, which helps us understand whether the sales have gone up or down with time.

So to add a trend line, we can right-clicking and go to 'Trend Lines' and further select 'Show Trend Lines'.

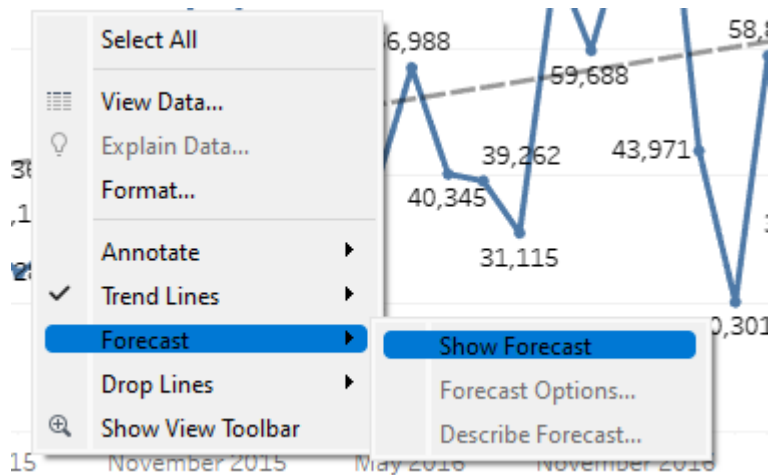


Given below is the output after selecting 'Show Trend Lines':

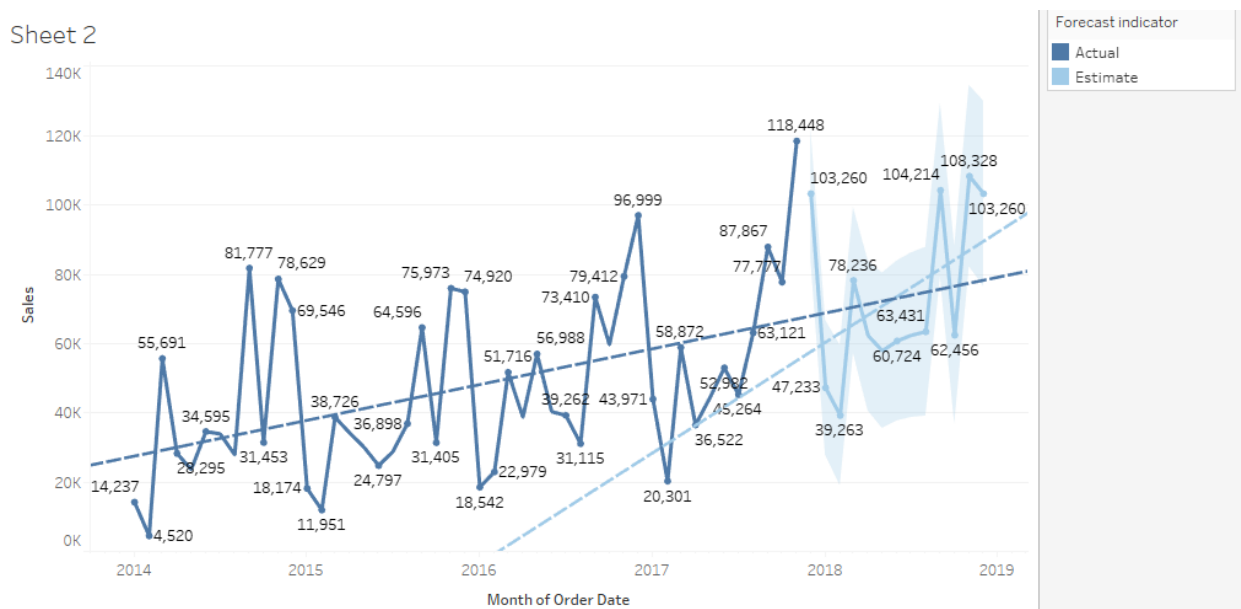


This trend line clearly shows us that our Sales are going up with time.

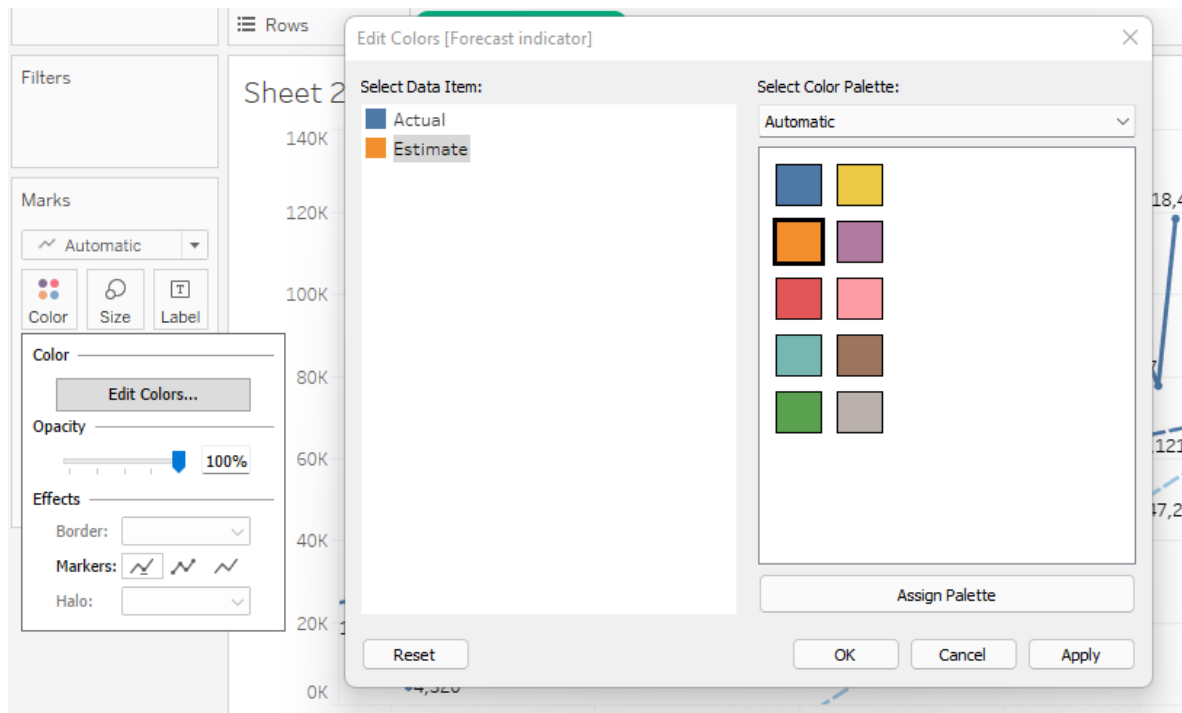
Another great functionality that a Line chart in tableau is 'Forecast'. That is, it can predict the value for us by observing the past behaviour of our chart. Right-click and go to 'Forecast' and select 'Show Forecast' further.



By performing the procedure mentioned above, we will be able to get the forecast value for our chart as shown below:



We can also change the color of our chart by using the 'Color' feature available in Marks.



We get the following chart as our final output by changing the colour:

