

Executive Summary:

Your dataset contains 9,994 U.S. retail transactions from 2011–2014, covering Office Supplies, Furniture, and Technology across all regions (West, East, Central, South). It includes detailed order-level information such as customer, product, discounts, profit, and shipping.

Overall Financial Performance

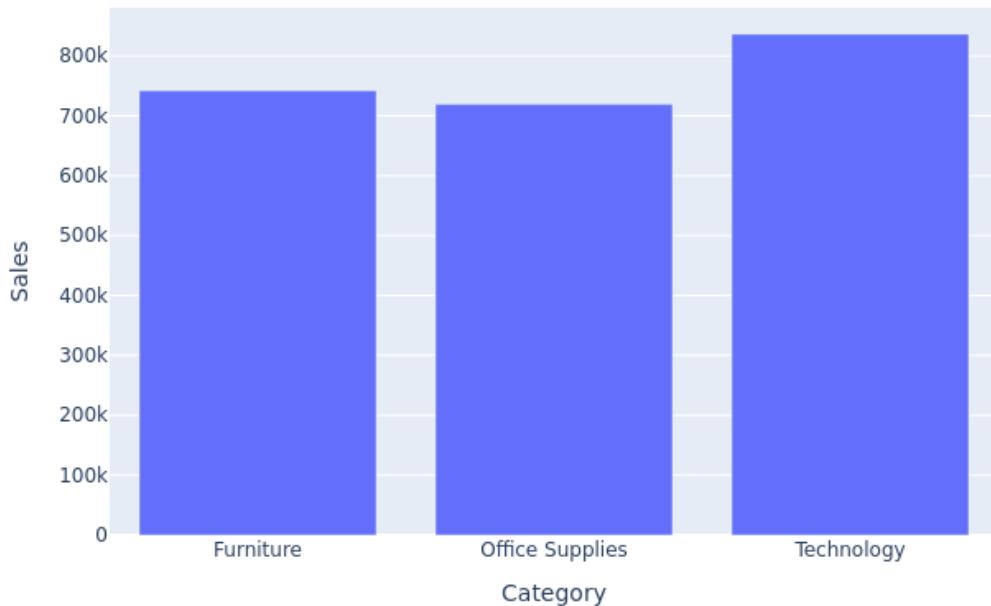
- * Total Sales: ≈ \$2.3M
- * Total Profit: ≈ \$286K
- * Average Profit Margin: 12%
- * Profitable Orders: 8,123
- * Loss-making Orders: 1,871 (≈19%)

Key Drivers of Performance

* Discounts are the primary cause of losses.
Profitability collapses beyond 30% discount, and 70–80% discounts generate deep losses.

- * Loss-heavy categories:
 - * Furniture (Tables, Bookcases, Chairs)
 - * High-discount Office Supplies (Binders, Storage)
 - * Several Technology items (printers, 3D printers)
- * Profit-strong categories:
 - * Paper, Labels, Fasteners
 - * Technology Accessories
 - * Select Appliances

Sales by Category



Best- and Worst-performing Products

- * Top Profit Generators:
 - * Canon imageCLASS Advanced Copier (+ \$25,199 profit)
 - * Fellowes PB500 Binding Machine (+ \$7,753)
 - * HP LaserJet & DesignJet printers (+ \$4K–\$7K each)

- * Largest Loss Makers:
 - * Cubify CubeX 3D Printer (– \$8,800)
 - * Lexmark MX611dhe Printer (– \$4,590)
 - * Over 301 SKUs lose money due to aggressive discounting.

Customer & Regional Trends

- * Sales are distributed evenly across regions with no single region dominating losses.
- * Office Supplies are purchased most frequently and deliver consistent positive margins.
- * Furniture and high-ticket Technology create volatility due to pricing and discount policies.

Strategic Recommendations

1. Cap discounts at 30%—profitability declines sharply beyond this point.
2. Audit and reprice 301 loss-making SKUs to correct structural pricing issues.
3. Promote high-margin categories (Paper, Labels, Accessories).
4. Bundle products to grow revenue (e.g., Printers + Paper, Chairs + Accessories).
5. Restrict bulk-order discounts on Furniture and Machines to avoid deep losses.