ORDERS & CUSTOMERS ANALYSIS

INSIGHTS FROM BRAZILLIAN E-CCOMMERCE **MERCADO LIVRE**

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

E-commerce platform Mercado Livre generate massive datasets involving orders, customers, products, and sellers. Making sense of this data is crucial to understand sales trends, product performance, customer behavior, and seller contributions. The goal of this analysis is to uncover actionable insights such as top product categories, repeat customer behavior, and yearly growth trends to help drive better decision-making.

KEY INSIGHTS

TOTAL ORDERS IN

2017

Count the number of orders placed in 2017

```
orders['order_purchase_timestamp']=pd.to_datetime(orders['order_purchase_timestamp'])
order_year=orders[orders['order_purchase_timestamp'].dt.year==2017]
order_count=len(order_year)
order_count
```

- This is used to find out how many total orders were placed by customers during the year 2017.
- It selects and counts all the order IDs from the orders table where the year part of the order date is 2017.
- It shows the total number of orders made in 2017, which helps us understand how many purchases happened that year.

ORDER% PAID IN INSTALLMENTS

Calculate the percentage of orders that were paid in installments

```
[ ] installment_payments = payments[payments['payment_installments'] > 1]
    single_payments = payments[payments['payment_installments'] <= 1]

    count_installments = len(installment_payments)
    count_single = len(single_payments)
    total = count_installments + count_single

installment_percentage = round((count_installments / total) * 100, 2)
    installment_percentage</pre>

→ 49.42
```

This calculates the percentage of total orders that were paid using **installments** rather than in full.

It divides the number of payments where installments were more than 1 by the total number of payments, multiplies by 100 to get a percentage, and rounds it to two decimal places.

It tells us how common installment payments are among customers, giving insight into customer payment behavior and preferences.

```
# Calculate the percentage of orders that were paid in installments

select

ROUND(
    (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM payments WHERE payment_installments > 1) * 100.0 /
    (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM payments),
2) AS installment_percentage;
```

CUSTOMER BY CITIES

- >This query lists all the unique cities where customers are located.
- The query works by selecting only unique city names so that each city appears only once in the result.
- As a result, we get a list of cities without any repetitions, showing where our customers are located.
- The output will be a single-column list of city names like "sao paulo", "curitiba", "rio de janeiro", etc. giving us insights into the geographic spread of customers.

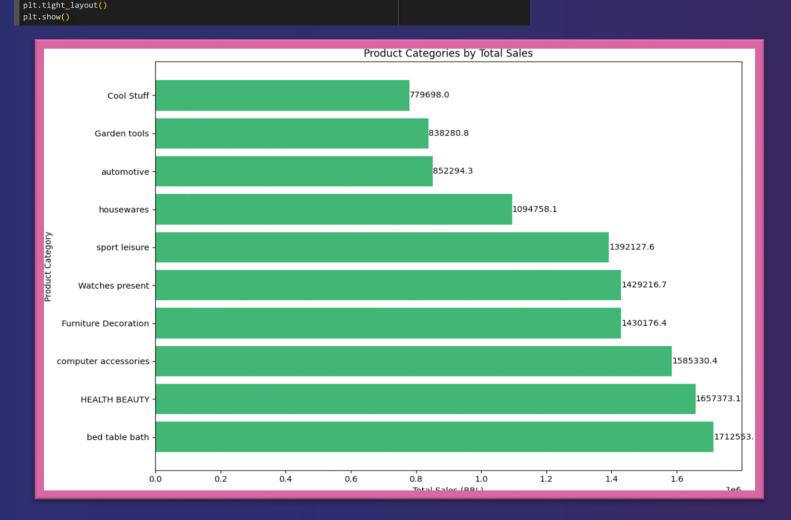
List all cities where customers are located

```
cities=customers['customer_city'].unique()
city_df = pd.DataFrame(cities, columns=['customer_city'])
city_df
```

```
customer_city
                       franca
       sao bernardo do campo
                    sao paulo
             mogi das cruzes
                    campinas
 4114
4115
           natividade da serra
 4116
                 monte bonito
4117
                    sao rafael
4118
             eugenio de castro
4119 rows × 1 columns
```

```
# List all cities where customers are located
select distinct(customer_city) from customers;
```


plt.xlabel('Total Sales (BRL)')
plt.ylabel('Product Category')



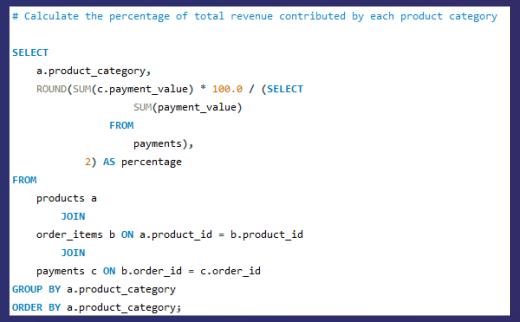
PRODUCT CATEGORY

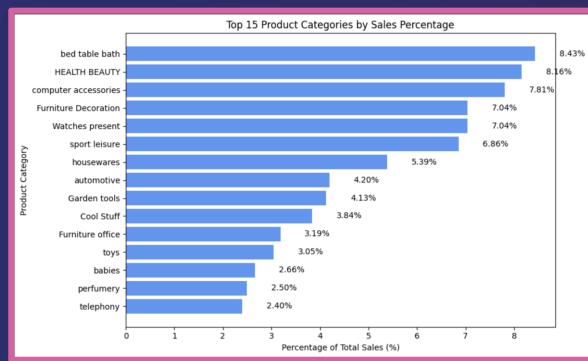
SALES

- This calculates the total sales amount (payment value) for each product category.
- It joins the products, order_items, and payments tables using product and order IDs, then groups the results by product category and sums the payment values.
- It shows how much revenue each product category has generated, helping us understand which categories contribute more or less to the total sales.
- Categories like **bed_table bath** perform well with high sales of around **12,992 BRL**, while categories like **la_cuisine** perform poorly with sales of just **12 BRL**, indicating uneven performance across product categories.

Calculate the percentage of total revenue contributed by each product category

```
( + \mathsf{Code} ) ( + \mathsf{Text} )
merged_df = products.merge(order_items, on='product_id') \
                     .merge(payments, on='order_id')
total_payment_value = merged_df['payment_value'].sum()
category_payment = merged_df.groupby('product category')['payment_value'] \
                             .reset index()
category_payment['percentage'] = (category_payment['payment_value'] / total_payment_value) * 100
top_15 = category_payment.sort_values('percentage', ascending=False).head(15)
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
bars = plt.barh(top_15['product category'], top_15['percentage'], color='cornflowerblue')
plt.gca().invert_yaxis()
for bar in bars:
   plt.text(bar.get width() + 0.5, bar.get y() + bar.get height()/2,
             f'{bar.get_width():.2f}%', va='center')
plt.xlabel('Percentage of Total Sales (%)')
plt.ylabel('Product Category')
plt.title('Top 15 Product Categories by Sales Percentage')
plt.tight layout()
```





PRODUCT CATEGORY SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

- This finds out what **percentage of total revenue** each product category contributes to the overall sales.
- It joins the products, order_items, and payments tables, sums the payment values per product category, then divides each category's total by the overall payment value sum and multiplies by 100 to get the percentage.
- It shows the **relative contribution** of each category to the company's entire revenue, not just the raw sales amount.
- The **bed_bath_table** category contributes the most with **8.93**% of the total revenue, while **security_and_services** contributes the least with just **0.02**%, highlighting which categories are driving business and which may need reevaluation or promotion.

CUSTOMER DISTRIBUTION

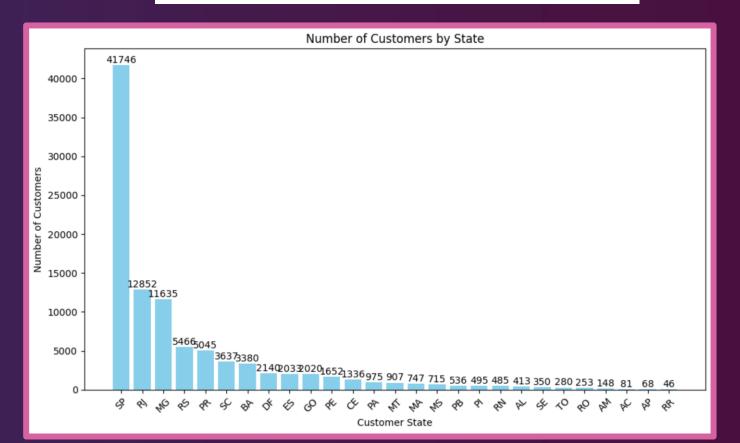
BY STATE

- > This counts how many customers are from each state.
- It groups the customers table by the customer_state column and counts the number of customers in each group.
- It shows the number of customers living in each state, helping identify where most customers are located geographically.
- > States like **SP** (**São Paulo**) have the highest number of customers, indicating a strong market presence, while states like **RR** with fewer customers may offer opportunities for expansion or targeted marketing.

Count the number of customers from each state

```
# Count the number of customers from each state

SELECT
    customer_state, COUNT(customer_id) AS customer_count
FROM
    customers
GROUP BY customer_state
ORDER BY customer_state;
```



ORDERS PER MONTH

IN 2018

- This calculates how many orders were made in each month of the year 2018. It helps you understand the monthly trend in customer orders during that year.
- To do this, we use the order date column from the orders table or dataset. We focus only on the year 2018 and then group the data by month.
- It helps us understand the monthly distribution of orders, showing which months had higher or lower order volumes.
- The output shows that January had the highest number of orders, while December had the lowest.

Calculate the number of orders per month in 2018

```
| orders['order_purchase_timestamp'] = pd.to_datetime(orders['order_purchase_timestamp'])
orders_2018 = orders[orders['order_purchase_timestamp'].dt.year == 2018]
orders_2018['month'] = orders_2018['order_purchase_timestamp'].dt.month
monthly_orders = orders_2018.groupby('month')['order_id'].count().reset_index(name='order_count')
monthly_orders = monthly_orders.sort_values('month')
plt.figure(figsize=(10,6))
bars = plt.bar(monthly_orders['month'], monthly_orders['order_count'], color='cornflowerblue')
for bar in bars:
   plt.text(bar.get x() + bar.get width()/2, bar.get height() + 5,
             str(bar.get_height()), ha='center', va='bottom')
plt.xlabel('Month')
plt.ylabel('Number of Orders')
plt.title('Monthly Order Counts for 2018')
plt.xticks(ticks=range(1,13), labels=['Jan', 'Feb', 'Mar', 'Apr', 'May', 'Jun',
                                     'Jul', 'Aug', 'Sep', 'Oct', 'Nov', 'Dec'])
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

```
# Calculate the number of orders per month in 2018

SELECT
    MONTH(order_purchase_timestamp) AS months, COUNT(order_id)

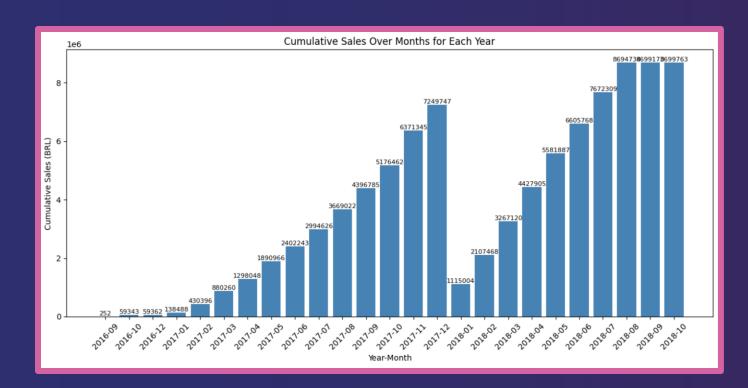
FROM
    orders
WHERE
    YEAR(order_purchase_timestamp) = 2018
GROUP BY MONTH(order_purchase_timestamp)
ORDER BY MONTH(order purchase timestamp);
```



plt.xticks(rotation=45)

plt.tight layout()

plt.ylabel('Cumulative Sales (BRL)')

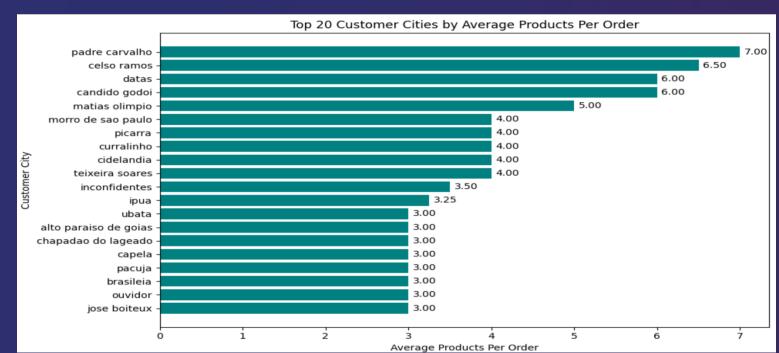


CUMILATIVE SALES TREND

- This calculates the total sales for each month and also the cumulative (running total) sales for each year over its months.
- It groups sales data by year and month, sums payment values for each month, and then uses a window function to calculate the cumulative sum of sales within each year, ordered by month.
- It shows not only monthly sales but also how sales accumulate throughout the year, giving insight into sales growth and trends over time.
- The cumulative sales tend to rise steadily through the months of each year, indicating consistent growth, but certain months may show sharper increases, pointing to possible seasonal peaks or successful campaigns.

Find the average number of products per order, grouped by customer city

```
product_counts = order_items.groupby('order_id')['product_id'].count().reset_index(name='product_count')
order_product_counts = orders[['order_id', 'customer_id']].merge(product_counts, on='order_id'
order_customer_products = order_product_counts.merge(customers[['customer_id', 'customer_city']], on='customer_id')
avg_products_city = order_customer_products.groupby('customer_city')['product_count'] \
                                          .mean() \
                                           .reset_index(name='avg_products_per_order')
avg_products_city = avg_products_city.sort_values('avg_products_per_order', ascending=False).head(20)
plt.figure(figsize=(14, 8))
bars = plt.barh(avg_products_city['customer_city'], avg_products_city['avg_products_per_order'], color='teal')
plt.gca().invert yaxis()
for bar in bars:
   plt.text(bar.get_width() + 0.05, bar.get_y() + bar.get_height()/2,
            f'{bar.get_width():.2f}', va='center')
plt.xlabel('Average Products Per Order')
plt.ylabel('Customer City')
plt.title('Top 20 Customer Cities by Average Products Per Order')
```



AVERAGE PRODUCTS PER ORDER

- This calculates the average number of products included in each order, grouped by customer city.
- It shows the average quantity of products per order for each city, helping us understand where customers tend to purchase more items in a single transaction.
- Cities with higher averages indicate more items bought per order for example, cities like Nova Iguaçu or Campinas may show stronger buying behavior per transaction.
- These insights help identify cities with high-order volume potential, which can be useful for optimizing logistics, targeting upsell strategies, or offering location-specific bundles.

Identify the correlation between product price and number of times a product has been purchased

```
order_stats = order_items.groupby('order_id').agg(
    avg_value=('price', 'mean'),
    count_order=('order_id', 'count')
).reset_index()

correlation = order_stats['avg_value'].corr(order_stats['count_order'])

print(f"Correlation between average price and number of products per order: {correlation:.4f}")
```

Correlation between average price and number of products per order: -0.0585

```
# Identify the correlation between product price and number of times a product has been purchased
WITH order_stats AS (
   SELECT
        order_id,
        AVG(price) AS avg_value,
        COUNT(*) AS count order
    FROM order items
    GROUP BY order id
summary AS (
    SELECT
        COUNT(*) A5 n,
        SUM(avg value) AS sum x,
        SUM(count order) AS sum y,
        SUM(avg value * count order) AS sum xy,
        SUM(avg_value * avg_value) AS sum_x2,
        SUM(count order * count order) AS sum y2
    FROM order stats
SELECT
        (sum xy - (sum x * sum y / n)) /
        SQRT((sum_x^2 - (sum_x * sum_x / n)) * (sum_y^2 - (sum_y * sum_y / n))),
    ) AS correlation
FROM summary;
```

CORRELATION BETWEEN PRODUCT PRICE & PURCHASED

- This calculates the correlation between the average product price and the number of products in each order.
- > It helps us understand whether orders that contain more items tend to have higher or lower average prices.
- A positive correlation value would suggest that orders with more items also have higher average prices, while a negative value would indicate that larger orders tend to contain cheaper products.
- > The output is -0.05 which shows a negative correlation.

RETENTION RATE

- This calculates the percentage of customers who made at least one repeat purchase within six months after their first order.
- It first finds each customer's first order date, then checks if they placed any additional orders within six months after that date, counts those customers, and calculates their percentage out of all customers.
- It shows how many customers stay loyal and keep buying from the store shortly after their first purchase, measuring customer retention.
- The retention rate is **0**%, meaning no customers made a repeat purchase within six months of their first order, which signals a significant challenge in customer retention and highlights a need to improve engagement and follow-up strategies.

```
# Calculate the retention rate of customers, defined as the percentage of customers
# who make another purchase within 6 months of their first purchase
WITH first_orders AS (
   SELECT customer id, DATE(MIN(order purchase timestamp)) AS first order date
   GROUP BY customer id
repeat_orders AS (
   SELECT o.customer id
   FROM orders o
   JOIN first orders f ON o.customer id = f.customer id
   WHERE DATE(o.order purchase timestamp) > f.first order date
     AND DATE(o.order purchase timestamp) <= DATE ADD(f.first order date, INTERVAL 6 MONTH)
   GROUP BY o.customer id
SELECT
       (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM repeat_orders) * 100.0 / COUNT(*),
   ) AS retention_rate_percentage
FROM first orders;
```

Calculate the retention rate of customers, defined as the percentage of customers who make another purchase within 6 months of their first purchase

YEAR-ON-YEAR (YOY)

SALES GROWTH

- This compares total sales for each year with the previous year to calculate the percentage growth or decline in sales year over year.
- It first calculates total sales per year by summing payments, then joins the yearly sales data with itself offset by one year to find the previous year's sales, and finally calculates the percentage change between the two years.
- It shows how the business's sales performance is changing year to year, indicating growth trends or declines over time.
- The sales in 2017 grow over 12000% from 2016, showing a huge boost in sales and revenue, while 2018 saw a 20% jump from 2017.

```
# Calculate the year over year growth rate of total sales
WITH yearly_sales AS (
   SELECT
       YEAR(o.order_purchase_timestamp) AS sales_year,
       ROUND(SUM(p.payment_value), 2) AS total_sales
   JOIN payments p ON o.order_id = p.order_id
   GROUP BY YEAR(o.order purchase timestamp)
SELECT.
   curr.sales_year,
   curr.total sales,
   prev.total sales AS prev year sales,
       ((curr.total_sales - prev.total_sales) / prev.total_sales) * 100,
   ) AS yoy_growth_percent
FROM yearly_sales curr
LEFT JOIN yearly_sales prev
   ON curr.sales_year = prev.sales_year + 1
ORDER BY curr.sales year;
```

Calculate the year over year growth rate of total sales

SALES YEAR	TOTAL SALES	PREV YEAR SALES	GROWTH RATE
2016	59362.34	NAN	NAN
2017	7249746.73	59362.34	12117.7
2018	8699763.05	7249746.73	20.0

MOVING AVERAGE

OF ORDER VALUE

- This calculates the moving (cumulative) average of order values for each customer across their entire purchase history.
- It uses the orders and payments tables, merging them to get the payment_value for each order, then groups the data by customer and order date to track the value of each purchase.
- ➤ This helps us understand how each customer's average order value changes over time for example, whether a customer is spending more or less as their order history grows.
- The output shows the customer ID, order ID, order date, and the cumulative average order value revealing long-term purchase behavior and loyalty trends.

Calculate the moving average of order values for each customer over their order history

	customer_id	order_id	order_purchase_timestamp	cumulative_avg_order_value	
0	00012a2ce6f8dcda20d059ce98491703	5f79b5b0931d63f1a42989eb65b9da6e	2017-11-14 16:08:26	114.74	
1	000161a058600d5901f007fab4c27140	a44895d095d7e0702b6a162fa2dbeced	2017-07-16 09:40:32	67.41	
2	0001fd6190edaaf884bcaf3d49edf079	316a104623542e4d75189bb372bc5f8d	2017-02-28 11:06:43	195.42	
3	0002414f95344307404f0ace7a26f1d5	5825ce2e88d5346438686b0bba99e5ee	2017-08-16 13:09:20	179.35	
4	000379cdec625522490c315e70c7a9fb	0ab7fb08086d4af9141453c91878ed7a	2018-04-02 13:42:17	107.01	
99435	fffecc9f79fd8c764f843e9951b11341	814d6a3a7c0b32b2ad929ac6328124e9	2018-03-29 16:59:26	81.36	
99436	fffeda5b6d849fbd39689bb92087f431	8c855550908247a7eff50281b92167a8	2018-05-22 13:36:02	63.13	
99437	ffff42319e9b2d713724ae527742af25	83b5fc912b2862c5046555ded1483ae9	2018-06-13 16:57:05	214.13	
99438	ffffa3172527f765de70084a7e53aae8	d0e7be325a1c986babc4e1cdb91edc03	2017-09-02 11:53:32	45.50	
99439	ffffe8b65bbe3087b653a978c870db99	2e935fa1d39497aa0ec3f1107fbfb5b8	2017-09-29 14:07:03	18.37	
99440 rows × 4 columns					

SELLER REVENUE

RANKING

- This calculates how much revenue each seller earned and ranks them from highest to lowest based on total revenue generated.
- It adds up each seller's product price and freight value using the order_items table, groups the data by seller_id, and then uses the RANK() function to assign a rank based on descending revenue.
- It shows which sellers are generating the most revenue on the platform, helping identify top-performing sellers.
- Rank 1 seller generated sales of 2.5 BR, while seller of least rank generated sales of just 12 BR.

Calculate revenue generated by each seller and rank them by revenue

```
# Calculate revenue generated by each seller and rank them by revenue

select
    o.seller_id,
    ROUND(SUM(o.price + o.freight_value), 2) as Total_Revenue,
    RANK() OVER (ORDER BY ROUND(SUM(o.price + o.freight_value), 2) DESC) as revenue_rank
from order_items o
    join sellers s on s.seller_id = o.seller_id
group by o.seller_id;
```

	seller_id	Total_Revenue	revenue_rank
857	4869f7a5dfa277a7dca6462dcf3b52b2	249640.70	1
1535	7c67e1448b00f6e969d365cea6b010ab	239536.44	2
1013	53243585a1d6dc2643021fd1853d8905	235856.68	3
881	4a3ca9315b744ce9f8e9374361493884	235539.96	4
3024	fa1c13f2614d7b5c4749cbc52fecda94	204084.73	5
1370	702835e4b785b67a084280efca355756	18.56	3091
869	4965a7002cca77301c82d3f91b82e1a9	16.36	3092
373	1fa2d3def6adfa70e58c276bb64fe5bb	15.90	3093
1465	77128dec4bec4878c37ab7d6169d6f26	15.22	3094
2519	cf6f6bc4df3999b9c6440f124fb2f687	12.22	3095

Identify top 3 customers who spent most money in each year

	customer_id	order_year	total_spent	rank_order
66073	a9dc96b027d1252bbac0a9b72d837fc6	2016	1423.55	1.0
11353	1d34ed25963d5aae4cf3d7f3a4cda173	2016	1400.74	2.0
28708	4a06381959b6670756de02e07b83815f	2016	1227.78	3.0
8546	1617b1357756262bfa56ab541c47bc16	2017	13664.08	1.0
77521	c6e2731c5b391845f6800c97401a43a9	2017	6929.31	2.0
24771	3fd6777bbce08a352fddd04e4a7cc8f6	2017	6726.66	3.0
91984	ec5b2ba62e574342386871631fafd3fc	2018	7274.88	1.0
95123	f48d464a0baaea338cb25f816991ab1f	2018	6922.21	2.0
87396	e0a2412720e9ea4f26c1ac985f6a7358	2018	4809.44	3.0

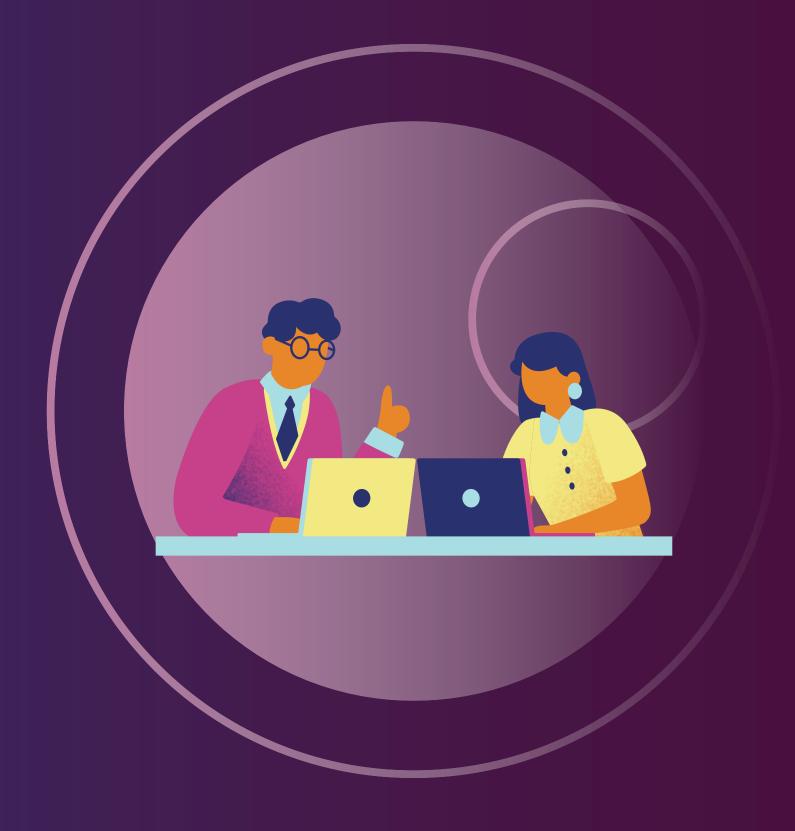
```
# Identify top 3 customers who spent most money in each year
SELECT *
FROM (
    SELECT
        c.customer_id,
        YEAR(o.order purchase timestamp) AS order year,
        ROUND(SUM(p.payment_value), 2) A5 total_spent,
        RANK() OVER (
            PARTITION BY YEAR(o.order purchase timestamp)
            ORDER BY SUM(p.payment_value) DESC
       ) AS rank order
    FROM customers c
    JOIN orders o ON c.customer_id = o.customer_id
    JOIN payments p ON o.order id = p.order id
    GROUP BY c.customer_id, YEAR(o.order_purchase_timestamp)
) ranked_customers
WHERE rank order <= 3
ORDER BY order_year, rank_order;
```

TOP 3 CUSTOMERS PER YEAR

- This identifies the top 3 customers who spent the most money in each year based on their total payment value.
- It calculates the total amount spent by each customer in each year, and then ranks them within each year using the rank() function.
- This helps us highlight the most valuable customers annually those who contribute the highest revenue which is useful for loyalty programs, personalized offers, or VIP targeting.
- The output includes the customer ID, year, total amount spent, and their rank showing the top 3 customers per year.

CONCLUSION

- The platform recorded a significant number of orders in 2017, indicating good early traction and growth during that year.
- A good portion of customers chose to pay in multiple installments, showing that flexible payment options are important for user convenience.
- > Categories such as watches_gifts and telephony contributed a large percentage to overall revenue, while several niche categories made up very little.
- Most customers are concentrated in states like São Paulo, while some states have very few customers, indicating regional usage patterns.
- The cumulative sales graphs show consistent monthly growth over each year, especially in 2018, which reflects increased customer activity and higher order volumes.
- > Sales have increased each year, showing overall growth and success in attracting more customers or encouraging more purchases.
- A few sellers account for most of the revenue, with top sellers earning many times more than average ones. This shows a clear difference in seller performance.
- Every year, a few customers spend much more than others, and identifying these high-value customers can help with loyalty strategies.



RECOMENDATIONS

- Since the 6-month repeat purchase rate is 0%, a retention strategy should be launched. This could include email follow-ups, offers, or loyalty programs.
- Invest more in stocking and promoting bestselling categories like health_beauty or telephony to maximize returns.

- Support and reward top sellers with better visibility or tools so they can keep contributing high revenue.
- Launch marketing campaigns in states with fewer customers to spread platform usage more evenly across the country.
- Promote installment payment options more clearly, as they seem to help increase customer spending and affordability.

