

Date: 7th July 2025

Project Overview

This project aims to gain deeper insights into customer churn at Buzz Microfinance Bank, enabling the improvement of retention strategies and enhancement of customer satisfaction. The analysis provides actionable insights into why customers are leaving the bank and identifies high-risk segments.

Problem Statement

The provided customer dataset will help address the following key challenges:

- 1. Identify key factors (e.g., demographics, product usage, service complaints) leading to customer attrition
- 2. Allocate resources effectively by focusing on high-value or high-risk segments

Objectives

- 1. Investigate which age groups, income brackets, or tenure lengths have the highest churn rates.
- 2. Analyse which customers from certain geographical regions are more likely to leave.
- 3. Gain insight into whether low engagement (e.g., inactive digital banking) correlates with higher attrition by age group.

Data Description

The dataset appears to cover Customer and Account information across two tables.

Table 1: Customer Info

- CustomerId: A unique identifier to distinguish each customer, ensuring no duplicates in analysis.
- Surname: The customer's last name (this is not unique; may repeat across records).
- CreditScore: A numerical value (e.g., 300–850) reflecting creditworthiness. Lower scores may indicate higher churn risk.
- Geography: The customer's country (France, Spain, Germany), which helps identify regional churn trends.
- Gender: Male or Female. Used to analyse if churn rates differ by gender.
- Age: The customer's age in years. Younger/older customers may churn for different reasons.

- Tenure: Years the customer has stayed with the bank. Short tenure may signal higher attrition risk.
- EstimatedSalary: High-income customers may be more likely to churn due to offers from premium competitors.

Table 2: Account Info

- CustomerId: Same as Table 1
- Balance: The amount in the customer's account. Near-zero balances may predict churn.
- NumOfProducts: The number of products the customer uses. Customers with fewer products may be more likely to churn.
- HasCrCard: Binary (1/0) indicating credit card ownership. Cardholders may be less likely to churn.
- Tenure: Same as in Customer Info
- IsActiveMember: Binary (1/0) showing account activity. Inactive customers are high-risk for churn.
- Exited: Binary (1/0) target variable. 1 = Churned, 0 = Retained. Critical for predictive modeling.

Data Cleaning and Transformation

The dataset was provided in two sheets: Customer_Info and Account_Info. To better analyse the bank's churn data, it was necessary to merge the two sheets into one.

Data Transformation

I duplicated the Customer_Info sheet and renamed it 'Cleaned_Data'.



FIG 1.1. Project Data Sheets

On the 'Cleaned_Data' sheet, I inserted new columns using the column headers from the 'Account_Info' sheet, excluding 'CustomerId'. The added columns were: NumOfProducts, HasCrCard, Tenure, IsActiveMember, and Exited.

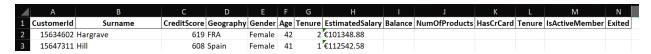


FIG 1.2. Customer Data Sheet New Columns

I used the VLOOKUP function on the 'CustomerId' column to merge the data from 'Account_Info' into the 'Cleaned_Data' sheet.

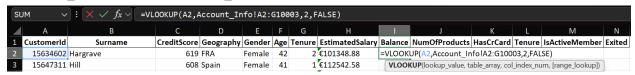


FIG 1.3. VLOOKUP formula to fill data into new column in Fig.1.2.

I then filled down the formula to the rows below. For the other new columns, I replicated the same formula, adjusting the 'col_index_num' from 2 to 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 according to the column positions in the 'Account_Info' sheet. Alternatively, a column reference number can be created for the 'Account_Info' sheet to replace the 'col_index_num' with a reference cell for quicker merging."

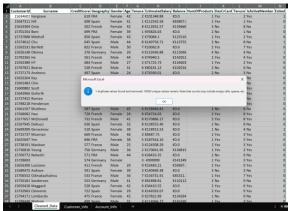
I then selected the entire data range and pasted it as values to remove the VLOOKUP formulas.

At this stage, I had successfully merged the 'Customer_Info' and 'Account_Info' sheets into the 'Cleaned_Data' sheet.

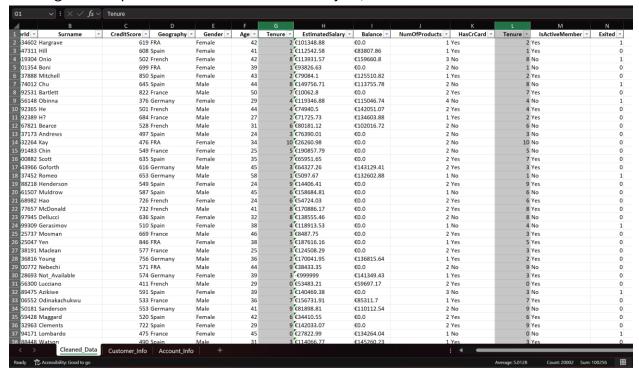
This left me with data cleaning, which is a crucial step in data analysis.

Data Cleaning

I looked for and removed all duplicate rows from the 'Cleaned_Data' sheet. For example, rows 10001 and 10002 were duplicates, and only one was kept.

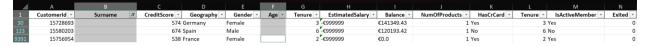


The 'Tenure' column also appeared duplicated after merging the 'Customer_Info' and 'Account_Info' sheets. Therefore, there was a need to remove one of these columns. Although this duplication did not affect the analysis, it was removed to maintain clean data.



1. Handling missing values

Blank cells were observed on the 'Cleaned_Data' sheet under the 'Surname' and 'Age' columns.



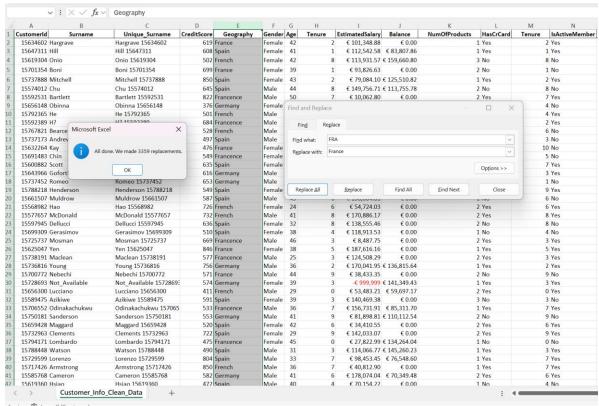
This indicates that Buzz Microfinance Bank should investigate how to prevent these errors to enhance data quality for analysis and for their database.

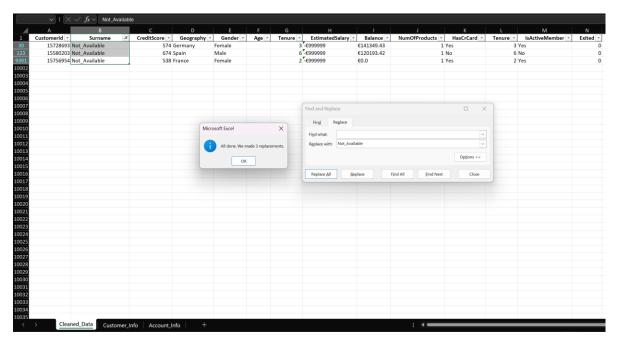
To address the blanks, I replaced the missing values in the 'Surname' column with 'Not_Available' using the Find and Replace function.

For the 'Age' column, I calculated the average age (using the formula =AVERAGE(F2:F10001), which was 38.92, rounded to 39) and replaced the blank cells with this average value. One might question why these rows were not removed. I advise against removal because these customers have associated 'Balance' figures and 'CustomerId's. Replacing the blank cells maintains data completeness as provided by Buzz Microfinance Bank.

2. Replacing Inconsistent Entries

Inconsistent entries for France (such as 'FRA', 'Francence', and 'FRENCH') were observed in the 'Geography' column. I used the Find and Replace function to replace these with 'France'.





3. Calculated Columns

I created calculated columns based on 'Age' and 'CreditScore' to derive new information, such as trends, patterns, and variations across different groups. These columns can reveal important insights about customer behaviour and trends.

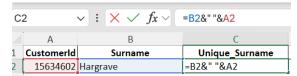
a. I grouped the 'Age' column into categories in a new column called 'AgeByGroup'.
The groups are:

Generations	Age
Silent Generation	80 – 97
Baby Boomers	61 – 79
Gen X	45 – 60
Gen Y	29 – 44
Gen Z	15 – 28

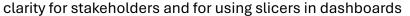
b. I grouped the 'CreditScore' column into ranges (from poor to excellent) based on the FICO® Score model, which is widely recognised for representing past borrowing and payment behaviour. Note that there are many credit scoring models, but FICO is the most recognised.

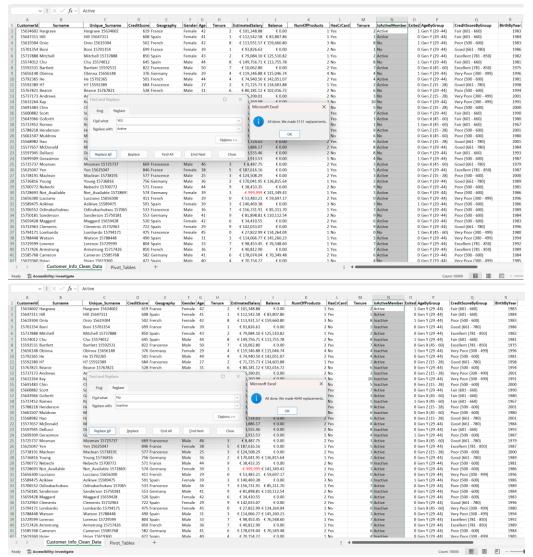


c. I created a new column 'Unique_Surname' by combining 'Surname' and 'CustomerId' to avoid duplicate surnames (since surnames alone are not unique).



d. I replaced the values in the 'IsActiveMember' column: 'YES' became 'ACTIVE' and 'NO' became 'INACTIVE'. Similarly, I created another 'Exited' column and replaced the previous column header as 'ExitedByNum'. On the new 'Exited' column, 1 was replaced with 'Churned' and 0 with 'Retained'. This enhances





e. I also added a new column titled TenurebyGroup. This group the customer tenure into the following categories:

Group Title	Group Range
New (0-1)	0 -1
Developing (2-3)	2-3
Established (4-6)	4-6
Matured (7-10)	7-10

At this point, I had completed data cleaning, which is a crucial stage of data analysis. It serves as the foundation for building dashboards for presentations to stakeholders. Without proper data cleaning, any subsequent analysis or dashboard may be unreliable.

Data Analysis through Pivoting

I employed pivot tables to transform the cleaned dataset into structured summaries, enabling targeted exploration of churn drivers. Key pivot tables were designed to segment data by critical variables, with Exited (Churned/Retained) as the core filter. Below are the pivot configurations and insights generated:

- a. Overall Churn Rate: Pivot table showing total customers and churn rate.
- b. Churn by Activity Status: Active vs. Inactive members and their churn rates.
- c. Regional Churn Analysis: Churn rates by country (Germany, France, Spain).
- d. Gender-Based Churn: Churn rates by gender.
- e. Age Group Analysis: Churn rates by generation (Gen Z, Gen Y, Gen X, Baby Boomers).
- f. Credit Card Usage and Churn: Churn by card activity (inactive card users).



Data Visualization and Dashboard Development



Key Performance Indicators KPIs

Churn Rate: The percentage of customers who discontinued services from the bank within the time dataset was presented.

Churn Customer: The absolute total number of customers who exited the bank.

Total Customer: Track changes in customer numbers by region and churn status.

Retention Rate: The percentage of customers retained within the period was presented for analysis.

CHURNED INSIGHT

Total Customers: Out of 10,000 customers total, 2,037 customers churned, representing 20.4%. This means 1 in 5 customers left the bank. Examining the Retained vs. Active Customers, I note that 'Adams 15709136' has no credit balance but is currently active, while 'Johnstone 15682834' has only 40,170 in credit balance. These cases highlight a potential factor in customer churn: customers may not receive instant credit line replenishment before their current credit is exhausted. This pattern is also evident among inactive churned customers, indicating a critical trend.

Active vs. Inactive: 36% of churned customers were Active at the time of churn, while 64% were Inactive. This indicates that inactive customers (from whom no deposits were received)

are more prone to churn. However, without implementing proactive measures, even active customers may become inactive and eventually churn.

Region: The Germany region shows an alarming churn rate of 32.4% (814 churned out of 2,509 customers). This is significantly higher than France (16.2%, 810 out of 5,014) and Spain (16.7%, 413 out of 2,477). This disparity may be due to intense local competition offering better products or promotions.

Gender: Females exhibit a higher churn rate compared to males, across all regions. This might indicate that the current product offerings are less suitable for the female demographic.

Age & Tenure Risks: I observe a high churn rate among Gen X (45-60) and Baby Boomers (61-79) relative to their proportion in the customer base. In contrast, Gen Y (29-44) shows a low churn rate. It is essential to analyze the factors contributing to the retention of Gen Y customers and replicate successful strategies in other regions and age groups.

Credit Card Usage: 64% of churned customers were inactive card users. Specifically, 517 churned customers from Germany and 512 from France were inactive card users, indicating a strong correlation between card inactivity and churn.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Credit Line Management: Implement an automated system for proactive credit line replenishment to prevent customers from exhausting their available credit, thereby reducing a key churn trigger.
- 2. Inactive Customer Engagement: Launch targeted reactivation campaigns for inactive customers, including personalized offers and communication, to prevent churn.
- 3. Regional Strategy in Germany: Conduct a thorough competitive analysis in the German market and adjust product features, pricing, and promotional offers to better compete with local players.
- 4. Gender-Specific Products: Undertake research to understand the financial needs and preferences of female customers and develop tailored products and services for this demographic.
- 5. Age Group Retention Strategies: Investigate the reasons for high retention among Gen Y customers and adapt these strategies (e.g., digital engagement, product features) for Gen X and Baby Boomers.

6. Card Usage Incentives: Introduce reward programs and usage-based benefits to encourage active card usage, which may reduce churn among inactive cardholders.

CONCLUSION

This churn analysis has identified several critical areas requiring immediate attention, including credit management, customer engagement, regional competitiveness, product suitability for different genders and age groups, and card activity. By implementing the recommended strategies, the bank can address the root causes of churn, enhance customer satisfaction, and significantly improve retention rates across all segments.

Signed,

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