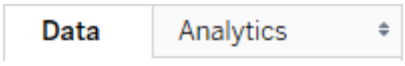
Applies to: Tableau Desktop

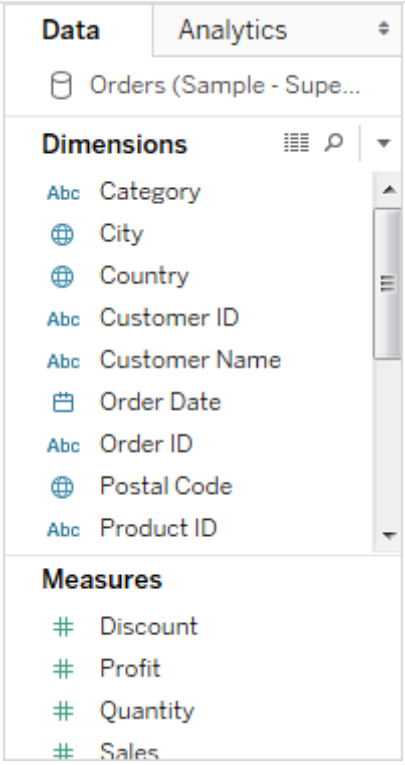
Understanding the Data Pane

All data sources contain fields. In Tableau, these fields appear in the Data pane. For cube (multidimensional) data sources, the fields are determined by the dimensions and measures of a cube. In Tableau, cube data sources are supported only in Windows. For relational data sources, the fields are determined by the columns of a table or view. Each field contains a unique attribute of the data such as customer name, sales total, product type, and so on. For example, some of the fields of an Excel worksheet are shown below.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Row ID	Order ID	Order Date	Ship Date	Ship Mode	Customer ID	Customer Na	Segment
2	1	CA-2013-152156	11/9/2014	11/12/2014	Second Class	CG-12520	Claire Gute	Consumer
3	2	CA-2013-152156	11/9/2014	11/12/2014	Second Class	CG-12520	Claire Gute	Consumer
4	3	CA-2013-138688	6/13/2014	6/17/2014	Second Class	DV-13045	Darrin Van H	Corporate
5	4	US-2012-108966	10/11/2013	10/18/2013	Standard Cla	SO-20335	Sean O'Donn	Consumer
6	5	US-2012-108966	10/11/2013	10/18/2013	Standard Cla	SO-20335	Sean O'Donn	Consumer
7	6	CA-2011-115812	6/9/2012	6/14/2012	Standard Cla	BH-11710	Brosina Hoffr	Consumer
8	7	CA-2011-115812	6/9/2012	6/14/2012	Standard Cla	BH-11710	Brosina Hoffr	Consumer
9	8	CA-2011-115812	6/9/2012	6/14/2012	Standard Cla	BH-11710	Brosina Hoffr	Consumer
10	9	CA-2011-115812	6/9/2012	6/14/2012	Standard Cla	BH-11710	Brosina Hoffr	Consumer
11	10	CA-2011-115812	6/9/2012	6/14/2012	Standard Cla	BH-11710	Brosina Hoffr	Consumer
12	11	CA-2011-115812	6/9/2012	6/14/2012	Standard Cla	BH-11710	Brosina Hoffr	Consumer
13	12	CA-2011-115812	6/9/2012	6/14/2012	Standard Cla	BH-11710	Brosina Hoffr	Consumer
14	13	CA-2014-114412	4/16/2015	4/21/2015	Standard Cla	AA-10480	Andrew Allen	Consumer
15	14	CA-2013-161389	12/6/2014	12/11/2014	Standard Cla	IM-15070	Irene Maddo	Consumer
16	15	US-2012-118983	11/22/2013	11/26/2013	Standard Cla	HP-14815	Harold Pawla	Home Office
17	16	US-2012-118983	11/22/2013	11/26/2013	Standard Cla	HP-14815	Harold Pawla	Home Office
18	17	CA-2011-105893	11/11/2012	11/18/2012	Standard Cla	PK-19075	Pete Kriz	Consumer
19	18	CA-2011-167164	5/13/2012	5/15/2012	Second Class	AG-10270	Alejandro Gr	Consumer
20	19	CA-2011-143336	8/27/2012	9/1/2012	Second Class	ZD-21925	Zuschuss Do	Consumer
21	20	CA-2011-143336	8/27/2012	9/1/2012	Second Class	ZD-21925	Zuschuss Do	Consumer
22	21	CA-2011-143336	8/27/2012	9/1/2012	Second Class	ZD-21925	Zuschuss Do	Consumer

After you connect to your data and set up the data source with Tableau, the data source fields appear on the left side of the workbook in the Data pane.





The Data pane organizes fields into different areas:

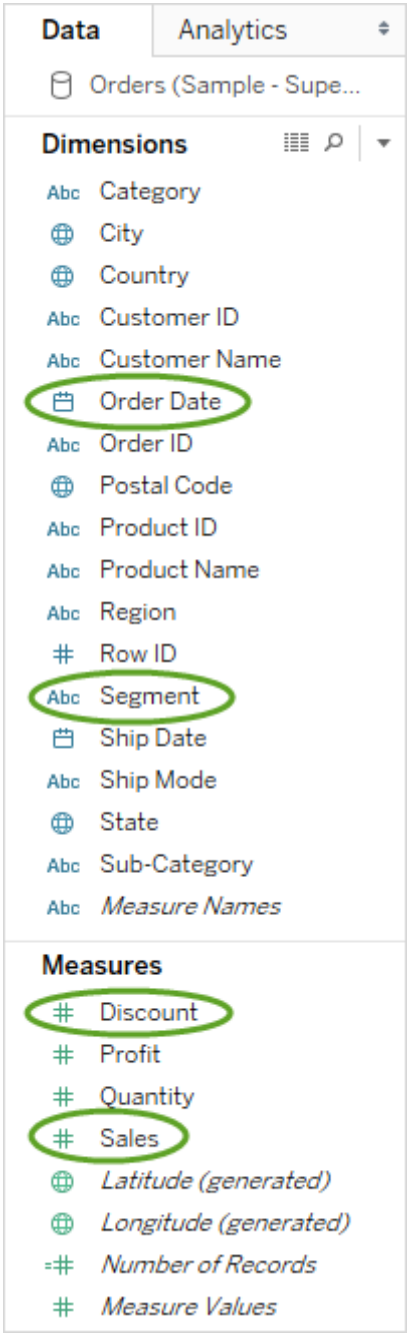
- **Dimensions** – Fields that typically hold discrete qualitative data. Examples of dimensions include dates, customer names, and customer segments.
- **Measures** – Fields that typically hold numerical data that can be aggregated. Examples of measures include sales, profit, number of employees, temperature, frequency, and pressure.
- **Sets** – An additional area that stores custom fields based on existing dimensions and criteria that you specify. Named sets from an MS Analysis Services server or from a Teradata OLAP connector also appear in Tableau in this area of the Data pane. You can interact with these named sets in the same way you interact with other custom sets in Tableau.
- **Parameters** – An additional area that stores parameters that you have created. Parameters are dynamic variables that can be used as placeholders in formulas.

Note: For cube data sources, fields are explicitly defined as dimensions or measures when the database is created. For relational data sources, Tableau automatically organizes the fields. By default, fields containing text, date or boolean values are dimensions, while fields containing numerical values are measures.

The Data pane for an Excel worksheet (a relational database) is shown below. The **Discount** and **Sales** fields contain numbers and appear as measures, in the lower part of the Data pane. The **Segment** field contains text and the **Order Date** field contains dates. These fields appear as dimensions in the upper part of the Data pane.

numerical values are measures.

The Data pane for an Excel worksheet (a relational database) is shown below. The **Discount** and **Sales** fields contain numbers and appear as measures, in the lower part of the Data pane. The **Segment** field contains text and the **Order Date** field contains dates. These fields appear as dimensions in the upper part of the Data pane.



Note: By default the field names defined in the data source are displayed in the Data pane. You can rename fields as well as member names.