Background / Context of the Business

2Market is a global supermarket with both online and in-store operations. The company is seeking to understand its customers' purchase behaviour to inform an upcoming marketing campaign by analysing three key areas: customer demographics, product success rates, and advertisement channel effectiveness. Although the brief does not specify the underlying reason for this initiative, I assume—based on industry practice—that 2Market intends to inform the upcoming marketing campaign with the goal of increasing sales and/or reducing costs.

To help frame the problem, I used the 5 Whys technique:

- 1. Why analyse customer behaviour? → To improve marketing campaign effectiveness
- 2. Why improve campaigns? → To increase sales efficiency
- 3. Why increase sales efficiency? \rightarrow To better target customers with the right products
- 4. Why better targeting? → To reduce marketing waste and avoid ineffective channels
- 5. Why reduce waste? → To maximise ROI and gain competitive advantage
- Root Cause: To maximise return on investment (ROI) and maintain a competitive advantage in the market.

In line with this reasoning, this data analytics project aims to extract actionable insights by identifying key demographic trends, understanding which products and ads perform well, and exploring relationships between demographics and product preferences. That will help define relevant KPIs, visualise patterns, and present practical recommendations to support 2Market's marketing and business goals.

Questions I would ask the 2Market Team

- What is the timeline of transactions in the dataset? Are we looking at daily, weekly, or monthly data?
- Who exactly will be the audience for the final presentation? (I am currently assuming it's the Marketing Team, and the presentation time is 8 minutes.)
- How long do I have to present? Will there be time for Q&A?
- Do you have any initial hypotheses about which products or channels perform best?
- What is driving the decision to launch a new marketing campaign at this time?
- Given the tight timeframe, how realistic is it to design a campaign without already knowing your customer demographics?

Questions I'd Like to Ask of the Data

- Are certain demographics consistently purchasing specific products?
- Which advertising channels result in the highest conversion or engagement rates?
- Are there seasonal or time-based trends in customer purchases?
- Are there clusters of customers with similar buying habits?

- Which products are underperforming, and in what customer segments?
- What is the return rate of products or customer churn rate (if available)?
- How do in-store and online purchase behaviours differ across demographics?

Analytical Approach

To begin the analysis, I imported the marketing_data.csv file into Excel and confirmed that the dataset contained 2,216 unique customer records. I first ensured data quality by checking for missing values and duplicates, but none were found. Since the dataset provided birth years rather than age, I created a new column to calculate age using =2024 - YEAR(BirthDate). I noticed a wide age range (27 to 130), with customers over 100 years old flagged as outliers. Many of these hadn't made purchases in over 90 days, suggesting outdated or inaccurate records.

Next, I cleaned the income column by removing currency symbols and converting it to numeric format. I also reformatted the product spending and date columns for clarity and analysis. Using =AVERAGE(range) and the SUBTOTAL function, I calculated the overall average age (53) and the average age by marital status. I filtered income between \$90,000 and \$100,000 to find this group had an average age of around 52. Most customers had no children or teens at home—an important demographic insight.

I created bar and scatter plots to explore relationships between age, marital status, and income. I also used SQL to validate key findings and followed best practices such as clear formatting, handling nulls with COALESCE, and using LEFT JOIN for data integrity.

Please see the appendix for details, calculations, results, Excel charts, and SQL queries.

Dashboard Design and Development

When designing the dashboard, I kept 2Market's goal front and centre: helping the marketing team better understand their customers and make data-driven decisions for their upcoming campaign. I wanted the dashboard to feel clear, practical, and easy to explore—even for someone who is not a data expert.

I structured the layout in a logical, top-down flow. It starts with a broad demographic overview and gradually dives deeper into purchasing behaviour. Every chart answers a specific question I had during analysis—so the story behind the data naturally unfolds for the user.

I included three main visualisations:

A bar chart to compare the average age across different marital statuses—it shows which segments are older or younger.

A scatter plot to explore the relationship between age and income—perfect for spotting trends and income bands by age.

A horizontal bar chart and filtered table that zoom in on customers earning between \$90,000 and \$100,000—so the team can quickly analyse this high-value group.

To make it interactive, I added filters for income, marital status, and age. I wanted users to feel free to explore without getting lost or overwhelmed.

In terms of design, I used a neutral background and a simple colour scheme—blue for income, green for age, orange for spending—so everything stayed clean and consistent. I also made sure fonts were readable and colour choices were accessible for everyone, including users with colour vision impairments.

Throughout the process, I focused on keeping things intuitive and visually balanced. I wanted the dashboard to feel approachable, insightful, and helpful—something the 2Market team could use to guide accurate marketing decisions.

Patterns, Trends, and Insights

While exploring the data through the dashboard, I noticed several trends that could meaningfully shape 2Market's marketing strategy. One standout insight is the connection between age and marital status—widowed customers are the oldest, while single and divorced customers are generally younger. This suggests that segmenting campaigns by life stage, rather than just income, could improve targeting precision. Income tends to increase with age, but a notable number of younger customers (ages 27–45) are earning high incomes—an emerging segment worth focusing on.

Most customers have no children or teenagers at home, suggesting family-centric messaging might be less effective. I also spotted data anomalies—such as a customer aged 130—that point to outdated records and the need for regular data cleansing. Additionally, the dataset lacks an explicit transaction timestamp, limiting trend analysis.

- The top Advertising channels across all demographics are: Twitter, Instagram and Bulk mail
- The most popular products across all demographics are alcoholic beverages.

Appendix









