

### VISUALIZING DATA



In this section we'll **build dynamic interactive reports**, introduce visualization best practices, and explore features like bookmarks, drillthrough filters, parameters, tooltips, and more

#### **TOPICS WE'LL COVER:**

Data Viz Best PracticesFormatting & FilteringBookmarksReport InteractionsUser RolesParametersCustom TooltipsMobile Layouts

#### **GOALS FOR THIS SECTION:**

- Review frameworks and best practices for visualizing data and designing effective reports and dashboards
- Explore tools and techniques for inserting, formatting and filtering visuals in the Power BI Report view
- Add interactivity using tools like bookmarks, slicer panels, parameters, tooltips, and report navigation
- Learn how to configure row-level security with user roles
- Optimize reports for mobile viewing using custom layouts



1

## What **TYPE OF DATA** are you working with?

• Geospatial? Time-series? Hierarchical? Financial?

2

## What do you want to **COMMUNICATE**?

• Comparison? Composition? Relationship? Distribution?

3

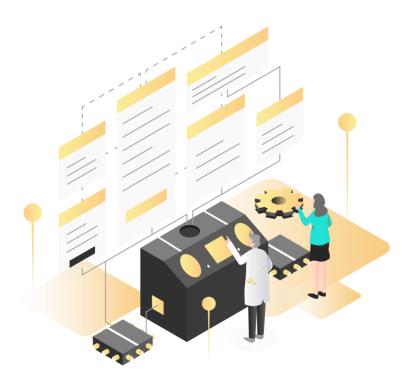
## Who is the **END USER** and what do they need?

Analyst? Manager? Executive? General public?



# What **TYPE OF DATA** are you working with?





The type of data you're working with often determines **which type of visual will best represent it**; for example, using maps to represent geospatial data, line charts for time-series data, or tree maps for hierarchical data



What do you want to **COMMUNICATE**?

#### **COMPARISON**



Used to compare values over time or across categories

#### **Common visuals:**

- Column/Bar Chart
- Clustered Column/Bar
- Data Table/Heat Map
- Radar Chart
- Line Chart (time series)
- Area Chart (time series)

#### **COMPOSITION**



Used to break down the component parts of a whole

#### **Common visuals:**

- Stacked Bar/Column Chart
- Pie/Donut Chart
- Stacked Area (time series)
- Waterfall Chart (gains/losses)
- Funnel Chart (stages)
- Tree Map/sunburst (hierarchies)

#### **DISTRIBUTION**



Used to show the frequency of values within a series

#### **Common visuals:**

- Histogram
- Density Plot
- Box & Whisker
- Scatter Plot
- Data Table/Heat Map
- Map/Choropleth (geospatial)

#### **RELATIONSHIP**



Used to **show correlation between multiple variables** 

#### **Common visuals:**

- Scatter Plot
- Bubble Chart
- Data Table/Heat Map
- Correlation Matrix

**Keep it simple!** While there are *hundreds* of charts to choose from, basic options like bars and columns, line charts, histograms and scatterplots often tell the simplest and clearest story



Who is the **END USER** and what do they need?



#### THE **ANALYST**

Likes to see details and understand exactly what's happening at a granular level

- Tables or combo charts
- Granular detail to support rootcause analysis



#### THE **MANAGER**

Wants summarized data with clear, actionable insights to help operate the business

- Common charts & graphs
- Some detail, but only when it supports a specific insight



#### THE **EXECUTIVE**

Needs high-level, crystal clear KPIs to track business health and topline performance

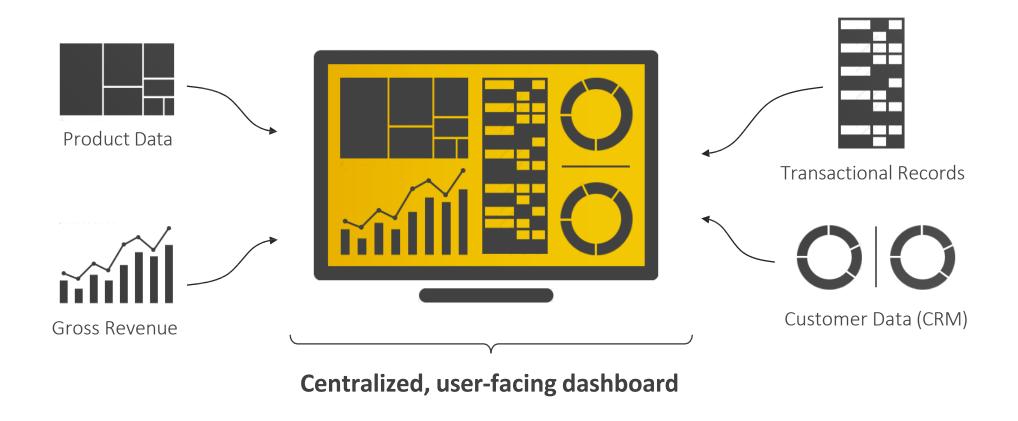
- KPI cards or simple charts
- Minimal detail, unless it adds critical context to KPIs

How you visualize and present your data is a function of **who will be consuming it**; a fellow analyst may want to see granular details, while managers and executives often prefer topline KPIs and clear, data-driven insights

## **ANALYTICS DASHBOARDS**



**Dashboards** are analytics tools designed to consolidate data from multiple sources, track key metrics at a glance, and facilitate data-driven storytelling and decision making



## DASHBOARD DESIGN FRAMEWORK



- 1 Define the purpose
- 2 Choose the right metrics
- **3** Present the data effectively
- 4 Eliminate clutter & noise
- 5 Use layout to focus attention
- 6 Tell a clear story

A well-designed dashboard should serve a distinct purpose for a distinct audience, use clear and effective metrics and visuals, and provide a simple, intuitive user experience.



#### **Key questions to consider:**

- Who are the end-users of your dashboard?
- What are their **key business goals** and objectives?
- What are the **most important questions** they need answers to?
- How can I present information as clearly as possible?



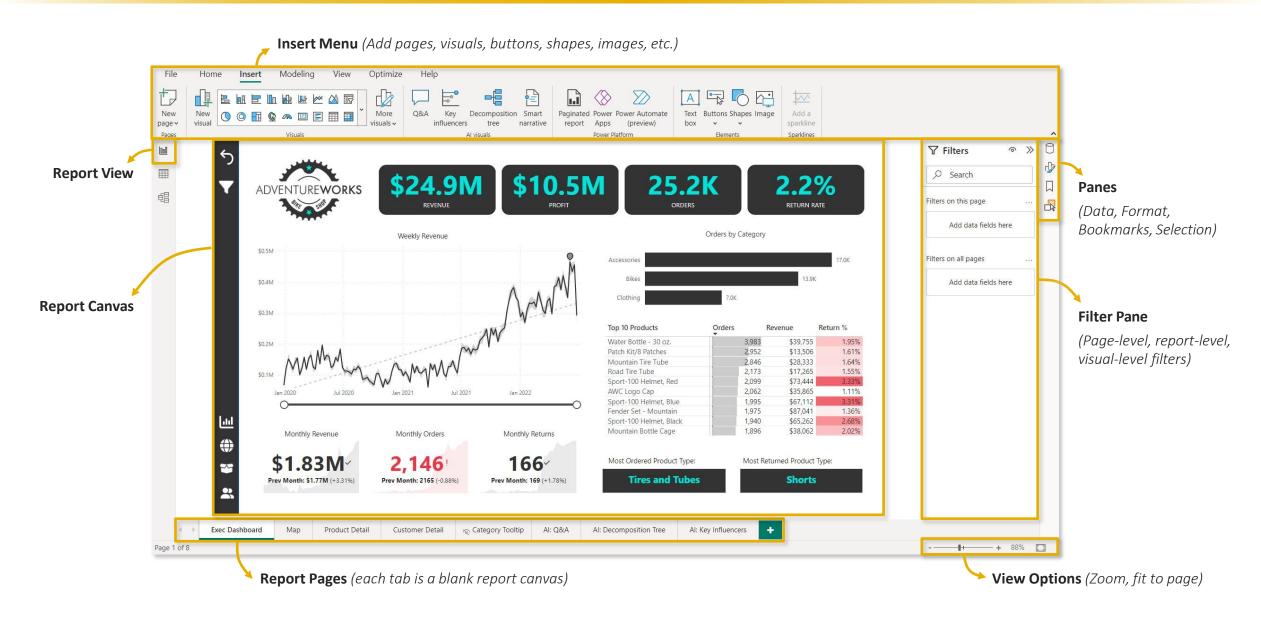
Perfection is achieved not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away



Antoine de Saint-Exupery

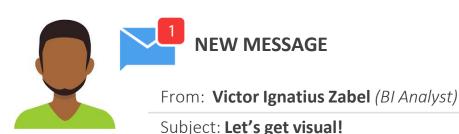
## THE REPORT VIEW





## **ASSIGNMENT: CARDS**





Hey there!

We've kicked off the visualization work for our Power BI dashboard, and I'm hoping you can help.

For now I'd love for you to focus on building out the **Customer Detail** report. Can you start by adding some KPIs to show total customers and revenue per customer?

-Vic



- Insert a card in the Customer Detail report page to show Total Customers, and rename the field "UNIQUE CUSTOMERS"
- 2. Add a background shape and match the formatting of the cards in the **Exec Dashboard** tab
- 3. Copy and paste to create a second card showing **Average Revenue per Customer**, and rename the field "REVENUE PER CUSTOMER"

## **SOLUTION**: CARDS





From: Victor Ignatius Zabel (BI Analyst)

Subject: Let's get visual!

#### Hey there!

We've kicked off the visualization work for our Power BI dashboard, and I'm hoping you can help.

For now I'd love for you to focus on building out the **Customer Detail** report. Can you start by adding some KPIs to show total customers and revenue per customer?

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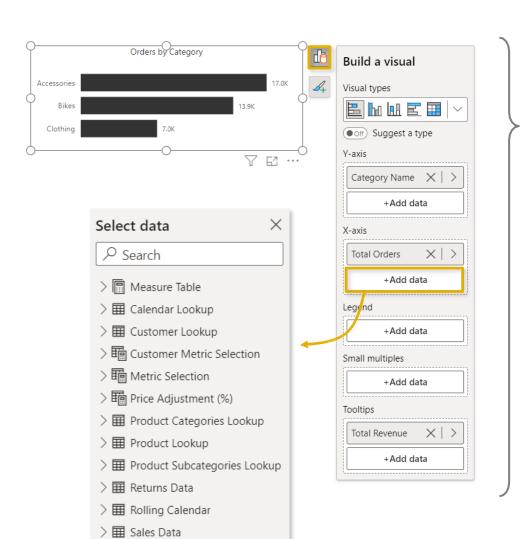


#### **Solution Preview**



## **BUILDING & FORMATTING CHARTS**





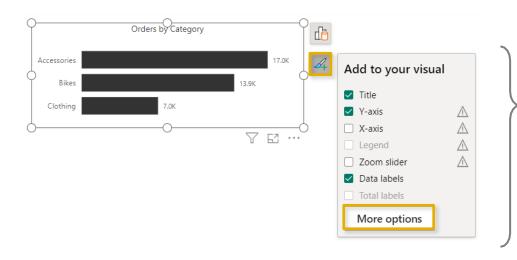
> III Territory Lookup

The **Build** menu allows you to change the visual type, autosuggest visuals, and add data to customize chart components (x-axis, y-axis, legend, tooltips, etc.)

- This is a **contextual menu**, so you will only see options which are relevant to the selected visual
- You can build visuals by either inserting a specific chart type and adding data, or by dragging a field from the Data pane onto the canvas

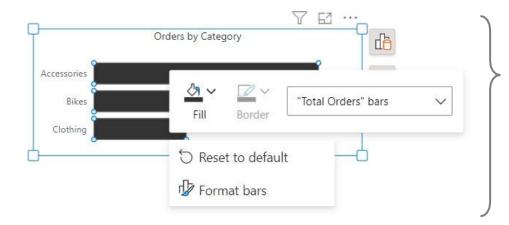
## **BUILDING & FORMATTING CHARTS**





The **Format** menu allows you to quickly add common chart elements (*title*, axis labels, data labels, legends, etc.) and access additional options and properties in the Format pane

This is a **contextual menu**, so you will only see options which are relevant to the selected visual



Enable **on-object formatting** by double-clicking the chart object (or right-click > format), which allows you to select and edit individual chart elements

 On-object formatting is only available for certain visuals (bar, column, line, area, combo & scatter)

## **ASSIGNMENT: LINE CHARTS**





FIOTI. VICTOR Ignatius Zaber (BI Analyst

Subject: Customer count by week

Nice work on those cards!

Next up let's add a weekly line chart to show how our customer base is trending over time.

Please add a zoom bar to make it interactive, and format the tooltips to match the line chart in the Exec Dashboard.

Thanks!

-Vic



- Add a line chart to the Customer Detail report showing Total Customers by week
- 2. Add a **trend line** and a **zoom slider** to the x-axis
- 3. Enable **tooltips**, and format to match line chart in the **Exec Dashboard** tab

## **SOLUTION: LINE CHARTS**





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Subject: Customer count by week

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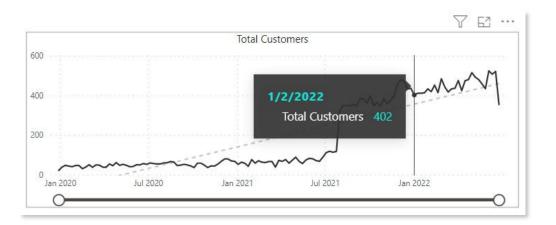
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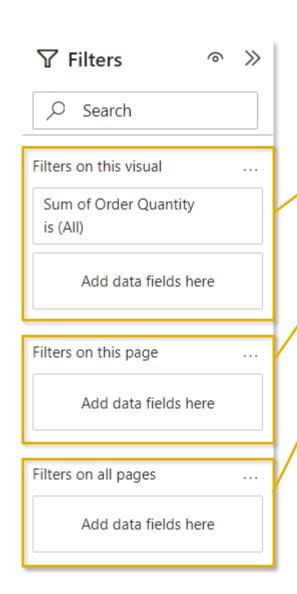


#### **Solution Preview**



## FILTERING OPTIONS

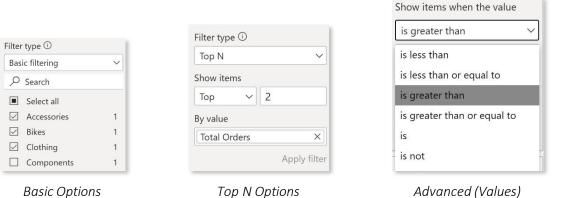




There are **3 types of filters** accessible from the **Filters** pane\*:

- **1. Visual-level** filters apply to specific visuals
- **2.** Page-level filters apply to all visuals on the report page
- **3. Report-level** filters apply to all visuals across all report pages

\*Drillthrough filters can be configured in the page formatting pane – more on that later!



Advanced filtering 
Show items when the value 
contains 

contains 
does not contain 
starts with 
does not start with 
is 

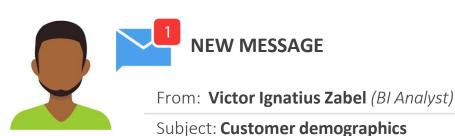
Advanced (Text)

Filter type ①

Filters can be configured using basic **selections**, **logical operators**, or **Top N** conditions

## **ASSIGNMENT: DONUT CHARTS**





#### Good morning!

Just got a note from Ethan to see if we can build some demographic info into the customer report.

Let's add a couple donut charts to show the composition of customers by income level and occupation. We'll want to limit to just a few segments (maybe 3?) and do some formatting to match the rest of the dashboard.

Thanks, you rock!

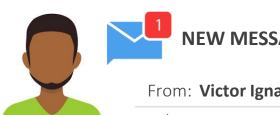
-Vic



- 1. Add a **donut chart** to the **Customer Detail** report showing **Total Orders** by **Income Level**
- 2. Add a **chart title**, turn off the **legend**, and update the **data labels** to show the category and value (font size 8, 1 decimal place)
- 3. Update the colors of the slices to match the screenshot in the solution preview
- Add a visual-level filter to exclude customers with a "Very High" income level
- 5. Copy the chart to show **Total Orders** by **Occupation**, and add a **visual-level filter** to display the three occupations with the most orders (bonus points if you use a Top N filter!)

## **SOLUTION: DONUT CHARTS**





**NFW MFSSAGE** 

From: Victor Ignatius Zabel (BI Analyst)

**Subject: Customer demographics** 

#### Good morning!

Just got a note from Ethan to see if we can build some demographic info into the customer report.

Let's add a couple donut charts to show the composition of customers by income level and occupation. We'll want to limit to just a few segments (maybe 3?) and do some formatting to match the rest of the dashboard.

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#### **Solution Preview**



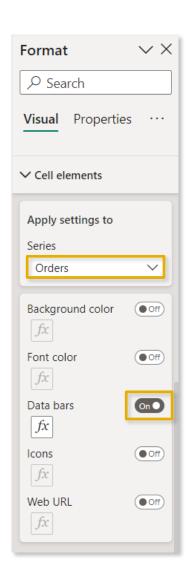
## **CONDITIONAL FORMATTING**

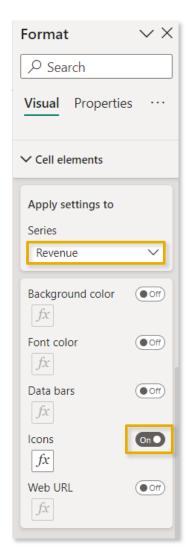


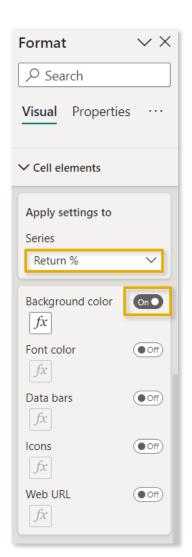
Top 10 Products	Orders	Revenue	Return %
Water Bottle - 30 oz.	3,9	183 \$3	9,755 1.95%
Patch Kit/8 Patches	2,9	52 \$1	3,506 1.61%
Mountain Tire Tube	2,8	346 \$2	8,333 1.64%
Road Tire Tube	2,1	73 \$1	7,265 1.55%
Sport-100 Helmet, Red	2,0	99 \$7	3,444 3.33%
AWC Logo Cap	2,0	162 \$3	5,865 1.11%
Sport-100 Helmet, Blue	1,9	95 \$6	7,112 3.31%
Fender Set - Mountain	1,9	75 \$8	7,041 1.36%
Sport-100 Helmet, Black	1,9	40 \$6	5,262 2.68%
Mountain Bottle Cage	1,8	96 \$3	8,062 2.02%

**Conditional formatting** allows you to dynamically format Table or Matrix visuals based on cell values

- Conditionally formatting options can be found in the
   Format pane, under Cell elements
- Options include background color, font color, data bars, icons, or Web URL

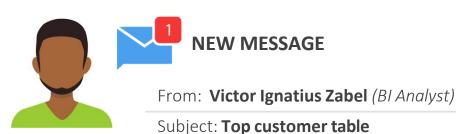






## **ASSIGNMENT: TABLES**





Hey there, this customer report is really coming together!

Since the management team needs a way to identify high-value customers, let's add a table to our report showing customer keys, full names, orders, and revenue.

Probably makes sense to add some conditional formatting and limit to the top 100 customers for now.

Thanks!

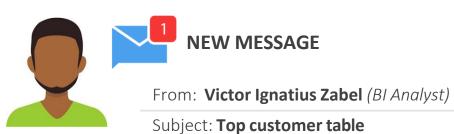
-Vic



- 1. Add a **table** to the **Customer Detail** report to show **Customer Key, Full Name**, **Total Orders** (as "Orders") and **Total Revenue** (as "Revenue")
- Use conditional formatting to add light gray data bars to the orders column and a white > blue color scale to the revenue column
- 3. Add a **visual-level filter (Top N)** to show the 100 customers with the most orders, and add a **chart title** ("Top 100 Customers")
- **4. Sort** the table descending by orders

## **SOLUTION: TABLES**





Hey there, this customer report is really coming together!

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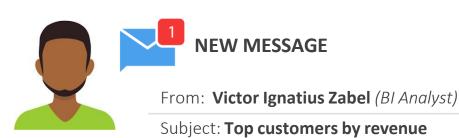


#### **Solution Preview**

	Top 100 Cu	stomers		
Customer Key	Full Name	Orders	Revenue	^
11091	Mr. Dalton Perez	26	\$1,513	
11223	Mrs. Hailey Patterson	26	\$1,616	
11300	Mr. Fernando Barnes	26	\$1,839	
11330	Mr. Ryan Thompson	26	\$1,597	
11331	Mrs. Samantha Jenkins	26	\$1,740	
11185	Mrs. Ashley Henderson	25	\$1,717	
11200	Mr. Jason Griffin	25	\$1,614	
11176	Mr. Mason Roberts	24	\$1,526	
11262	Mrs. Jennifer Simmons	24	\$1,465	
11277	Mr. Charles Jackson	24	\$1,777	
11287	Mr. Henry Garcia	24	\$1,443	
11566	Ms. April Shan	24	\$1,424	
11711	Mr. Daniel Davis	24	\$1,404	
11276	Mrs. Nancy Chapman	23	\$1,111	
11203	Mr. Luis Diaz	17	\$1,002	
11215	Mrs. Ana Perry	17	\$1,336	
11078	Ms. Gina Martin	16	\$991	
44544	M C 0 B 0	4.0	£0.40	~

## **ASSIGNMENT: TOP N TEXT CARDS**





Неу,

Ethan is loving the customer report so far – great job!

He mentioned that he'd like to highlight top customers based on *revenue* as well, so I'm thinking we could add some text cards to show the top customer name, along with total revenue and the number of orders placed.

We'll be offering some coupons based on how much customers have spent in the past, so accuracy is critical here!

-Vic



- Add a card to the Customer Detail report to show Full Name
- Add a visual-level filter (Top N) to show the top customer (Full Name) in terms of Total Revenue
  - What do you notice when you filter the report for low income customers?
     (Hint: check your value against the table)
  - How could you modify the Top N filter to correct this?
- Copy and paste the card (x2) to show **Total Orders** and **Total Revenue** for the top customer
- 3. Add **text boxes** for titles and adjust formatting to match the solution preview

## **SOLUTION: TOP N TEXT CARDS**





Subject: **Top customers by revenue** 

Hey,

Ethan is loving the customer report so far – great job!

He mentioned that he'd like to highlight top customers based on *revenue* as well, so I'm thinking we could add some text cards to show the top customer name, along with total revenue and the number of orders placed.

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#### **Solution Preview**



## MAP VISUALS

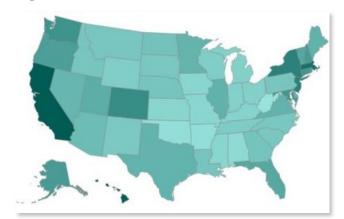




#### Map





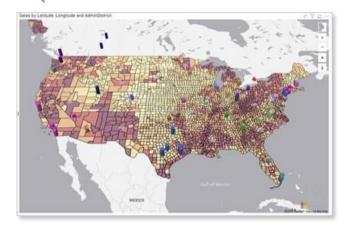




#### Filled map



### Azure map



Power BI includes several types of **map visuals** powered by Bing Maps

Tips for creating accurate maps:

- 1. Assign **categories** to geospatial fields
- 2. Add **multiple location** fields
- 3. Use **latitude/longitude** when possible



#### **HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

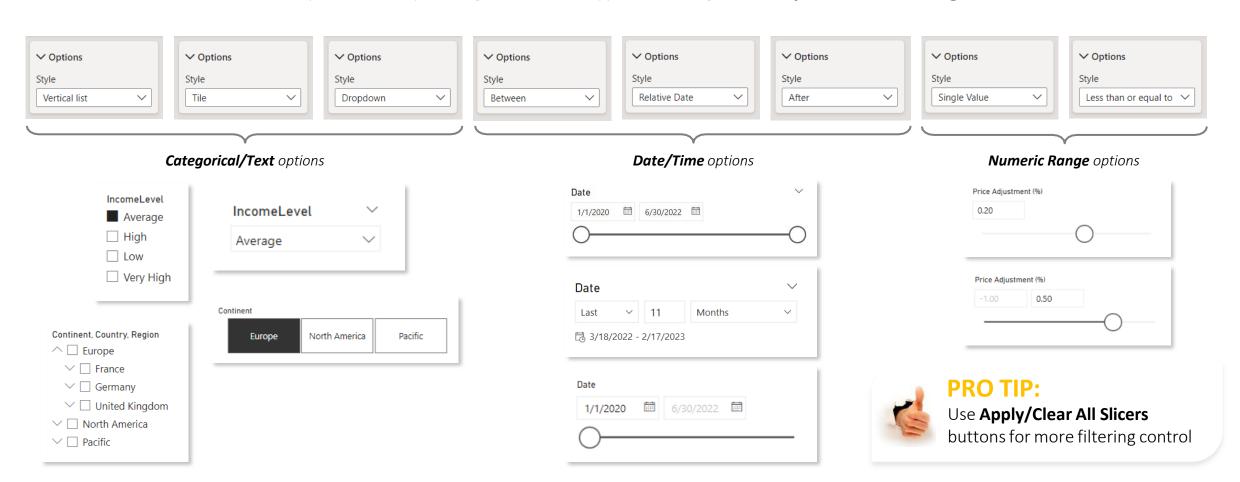
An administrator may need to **enable maps in your tenant settings** in order to use them in Power BI Service

## **SLICERS**



**Slicers** are visual filters which affect all other visuals on a report page (by default)

• Slicers can take many formats depending on the data type, including lists, dropdowns, tiles, ranges, and more



## **ASSIGNMENT: SLICERS**





Hey there, quick request when you get a sec...

Could you please add a slicer to the customer report, so that users can filter the entire page by year?

No preference for which specific type of slicer you use, as long as managers can filter customers for a specific year or across multiple years.

Thanks!

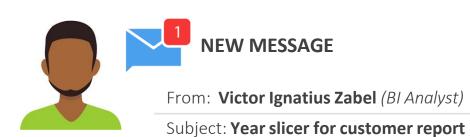
-Vic



- Add a slicer to filter the Customer Detail report page by Year
- 2. Add a **visual-level filter** to exclude blanks
- 3. Choose any **slicer style** that allows users to filter individual years or across multiple years

## **SOLUTION: SLICERS**





Hey there, quick request when you get a sec...

Could you please add a slicer to the customer report, so that users can filter the entire page by year?

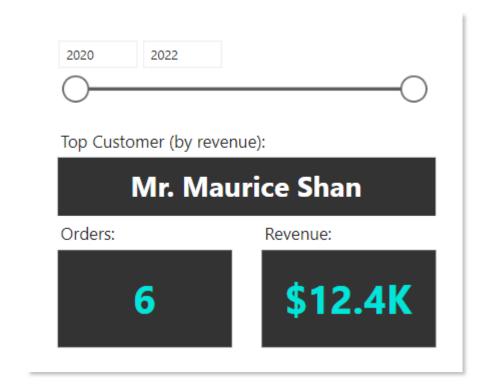
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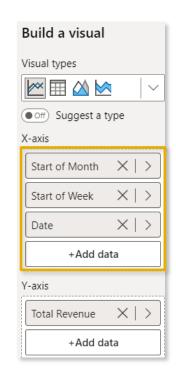


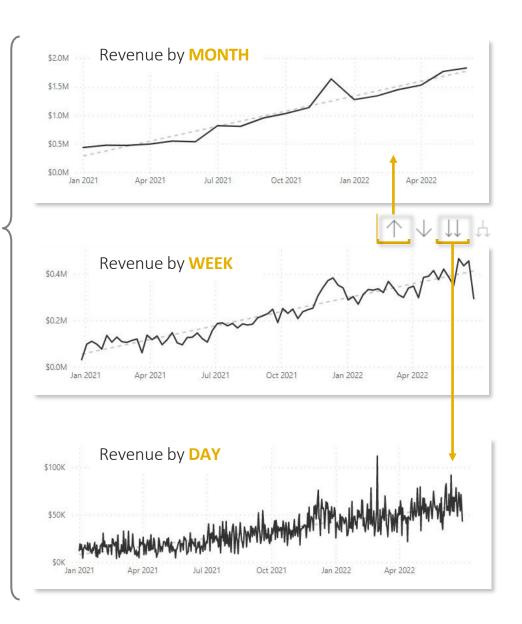
## Solution Preview



## DRILL UP & DRILL DOWN







**Drill Up** and **Drill Down** tools allow you to switch between different levels of granularity

- In this example users can "drill up" from weekly to monthly, or "drill down" to daily
- The single down arrow activates drill mode, allowing users to drill by clicking data points
- The forked down arrow **expands each level** of the hierarchy (used in matrix visuals)

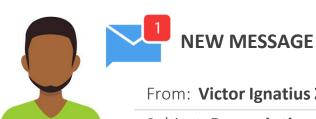


#### PRO TIP:

Use **location hierarchies** and enable drill mode to create interactive map visuals

## **ASSIGNMENT: DRILL DOWN**





From: Victor Ignatius Zabel (BI Analyst)

Subject: **Dynamic time periods** 

Hey again, just got some feedback from the managers about our customer report.

Chad loves the weekly trending chart, but Thad wants to see the data by day and Vlad was hoping for an annual breakdown.

Instead of building multiple versions of the same line chart, could you please make it interactive so that Chad, Thad and Vlad get the views they want?

Thanks!

-Vic



- In the **Customer Detail** report, update the X-axis of the line chart to pull in **Date Hierarchy**
- Use the chart header to **drill up** and **drill down** to explore trends at each level of granularity
- 3. Test **drill mode** to change the granularity by selecting individual data points in the chart
  - Why do some weeks look very low?
- Turn off drill mode and show the chart at a weekly level of granularity by default

## **SOLUTION: DRILL DOWN**





From: Victor Ignatius Zabel (BI Analyst)

Subject: Dynamic time periods

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Chad loves the weekly trending chart, but Thad wants to see the data by day and Vlad was hoping for an annual breakdown.

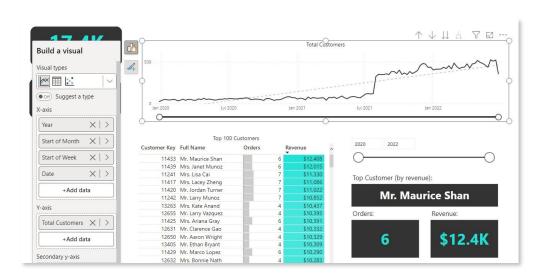
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#### **Solution Preview**

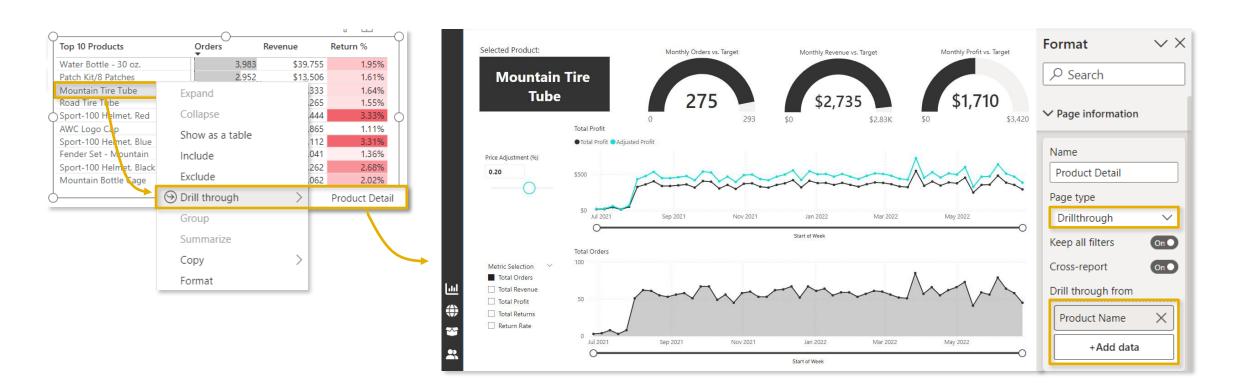


### DRILL THROUGH FILTERS



**Drill through filters** allow users to navigate to a specific report page, pre-filtered on the item selected

- Here we've created a **Product Detail** page, set the type to **Drillthrough**, and configured drill through from **Product Name**
- This means that users can right-click any instance of product name (i.e. in a matrix visual) and use the Drill through option to navigate straight to the Product Detail report filtered on that product (in this case "Mountain Tire Tube")

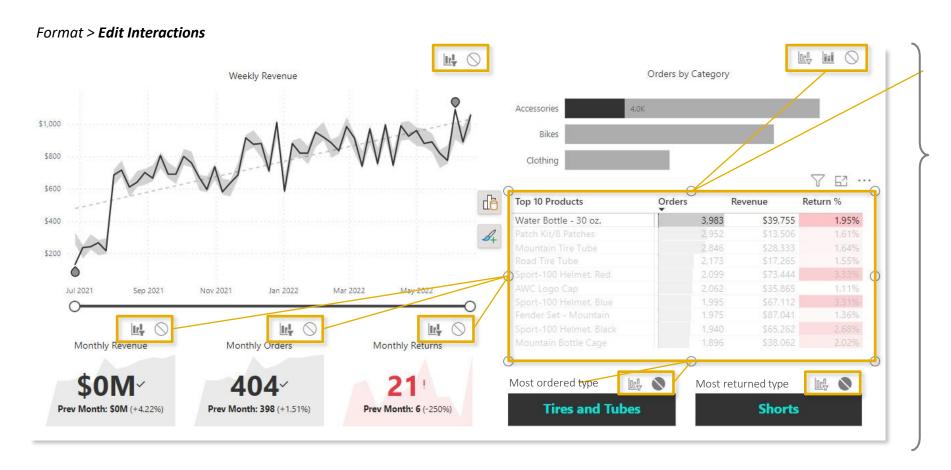


## REPORT INTERACTIONS



Edit report interactions to customize how filters applied to one visual impact other visuals on the page

• Cross-filter options include **filter** ( 🔙 ), **highlight** ( 📶 ) and **none** ( 🚫 ), depending on the visual type

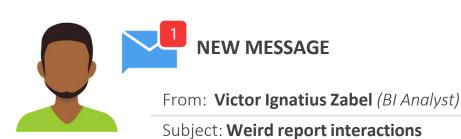


In this example, selecting a product in the matrix visual:

- **Filters** the line chart & KPIs
- Highlights the bar chart
- **Doesn't impact** the text cards

## **ASSIGNMENT: REPORT INTERACTIONS**





Hey there,

I was playing with the customer report this morning and noticed some odd visual interactions. For example, selecting a specific customer shouldn't filter the line chart, and probably shouldn't filter the donut charts either.

Could you please take a pass through the report interactions and update any that seem off?

Thanks!

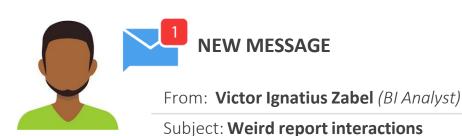
-Vic



- 1. On the **Customer Detail** tab, edit the **report interactions** based on the following logic:
  - When a filter is applied to the line chart, the donut charts should **filter** (not highlight)
  - When a filter is applied to the table, the line chart and donuts should **not filter**
  - The slicer should **filter all visuals** on the report page

## **SOLUTION: REPORT INTERACTIONS**





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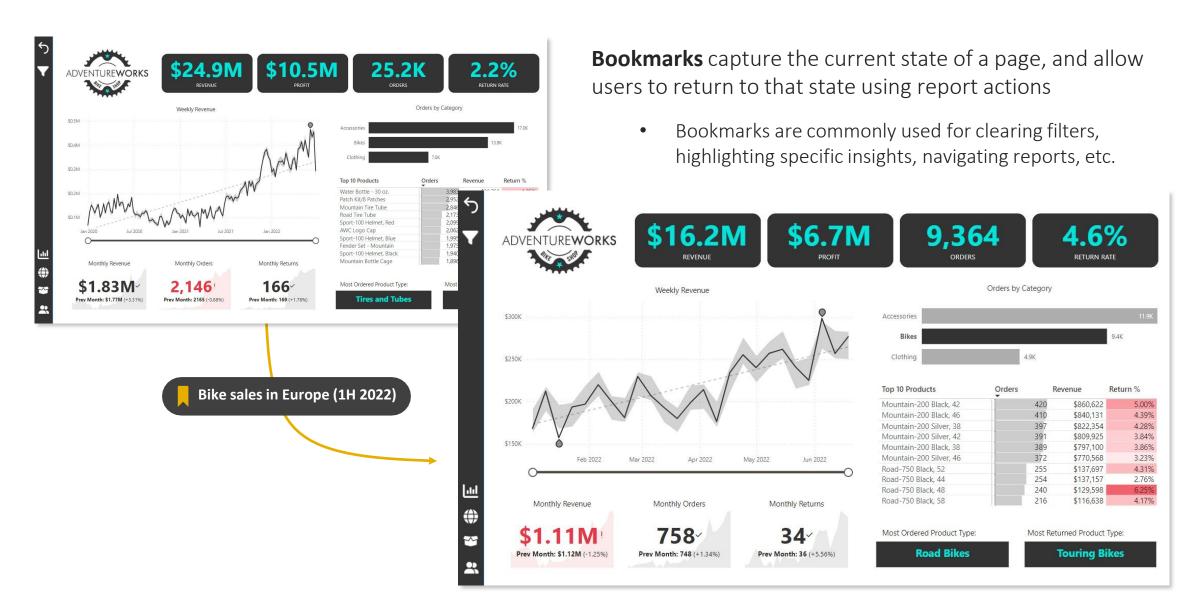


#### **Solution Preview**



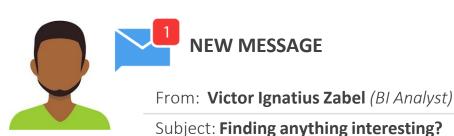
## **BOOKMARKS**





## **ASSIGNMENT: BOOKMARKS**





Hey,

Now that you're getting pretty familiar with our customer data, are you noticing any interesting insights or trends that might be worth explicitly calling out in the report?

This could be a great way for us to use bookmarks to draw attention to some specific stories in the dashboard. While we're at it, let's add another one to clear all filters from the page.

Let me know what you think!

-Vic



- 1. Explore the **Customer Detail** report by adjusting filters until you find an interesting insight or trend (this can be anything you choose!)
- 2. Add a new **bookmark** to capture the current state of the report, and name it "Customer Insight"
- 3. Insert an **Information button** and add text to the button style to summarize what you've found
- 1. Assign a **bookmark action** to the button, and link to the Customer Insight bookmark you created
- 5. Create a second bookmark named "Clear all Customer Filters" which returns the page to an unfiltered state, and link it to a **Reset button**
- 6. Test both bookmarks using **CTRL-click**

## **SOLUTION: BOOKMARKS**





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Now that you're getting pretty familiar with our customer data, are you noticing any interesting insights or trends that might be worth explicitly calling out in the report?

This could be a great way for us to use bookmarks to draw attention to some specific stories in the dashboard. While we're at it, let's add another one to clear all filters from the page.

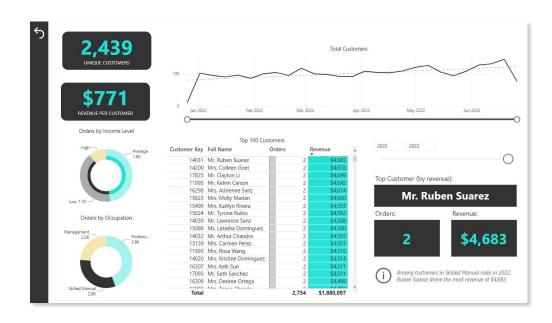
Let me know what you think!

-Vic



#### **Solution Preview**

**Example:** Among customers in Skilled Manual roles in 2022, Ruben Suarez drove the most revenue at \$4,683



## **PARAMETERS**



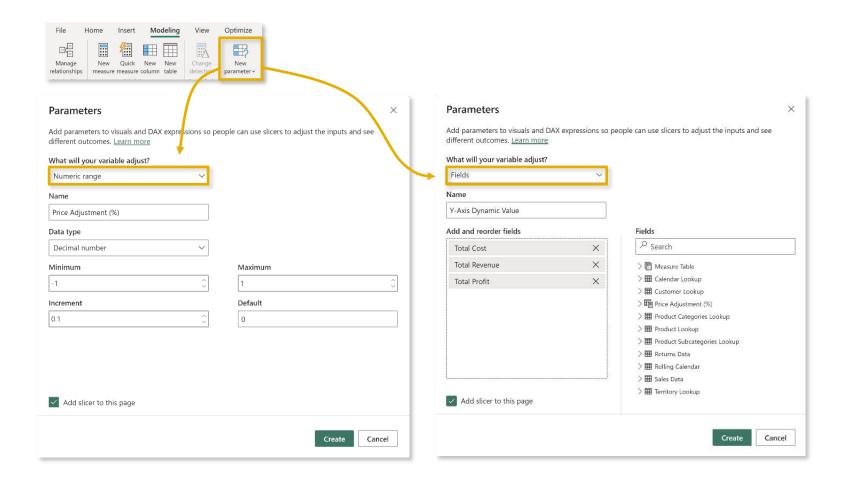
Parameters allow you to create variables which can be referenced in measures and controlled via slicers

#### Numeric range parameters

Typically used for scenario testing, where users adjust numerical inputs to see the impact on a given output

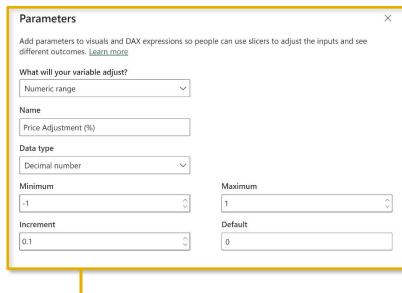
#### Fields parameters

Typically used to allow users to dynamically change the metrics or dimensions displayed in a report visual



### **EXAMPLE:** NUMERIC RANGE PARAMETER



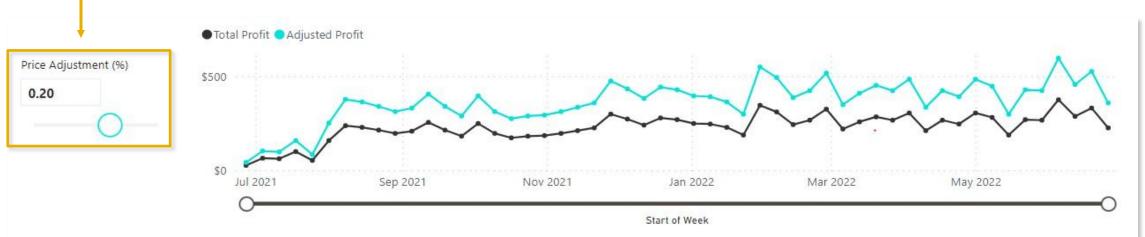


When you create a numeric parameter, Power BI generates **two new measures**: one to define the parameter and another to capture the selected value:

```
Parameter = GENERATESERIES(-1, 1, 0.1)

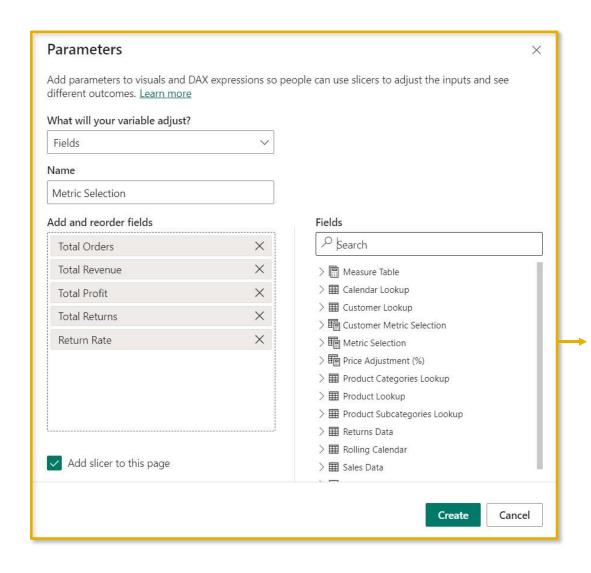
Parameter Value = SELECTEDVALUE(Parameter[Parameter], 0)
```

Here we've created a parameter named **Price Adjustment** %, added it as a slicer, and created measures to calculate **Adjusted Profit** based on the parameter value



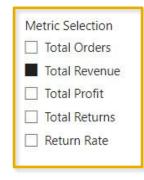
### **EXAMPLE:** FIELDS PARAMETER

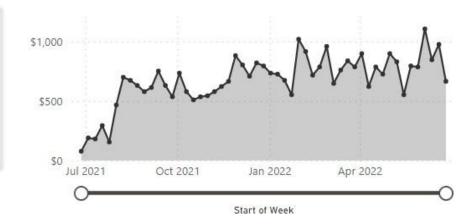




When you create a fields parameter, Power BI adds a report slicer and generates a new measure to capture the selected value:

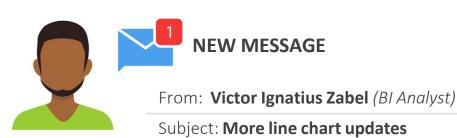
Here we've created a parameter named **Metric Selection** and added it to the Y-axis to let users dynamically change the metric shown





## **ASSIGNMENT: FIELDS PARAMETERS**





Good news and bad news...

The good news is that Chad, Thad and Vlad LOVE the drill options in the line chart – nice work!

The bad news is that now they can't align on what's the best metric to show. Chad likes seeing total customers, but Vlad is pushing for revenue per customer.

What do you think we should do?

-Vic



- Add a new Fields parameter named "Customer Metric Selection", which includes Total Customers and Average Revenue per Customer
- Add the parameter as a slicer to the Customer
   Detail report, change the slicer style to Tile, turn
   off the header, update to single select, and resize
   to create a horizontal layout
- 3. Select the DAX measure automatically created, and update the text from "Average Revenue per Customer" to "Revenue per Customer"
- 4. Update the line chart Y-Axis to use the **Customer Metric Selection** parameter, remove the chart title, and update the line colors to match the solution preview

## **SOLUTION:** FIELDS PARAMETERS





From: Victor Ignatius Zabel (BI Analyst)

Subject: More line chart updates

Good news and bad news...

The good news is that Chad, Thad and Vlad LOVE the drill options in the line chart – nice work!

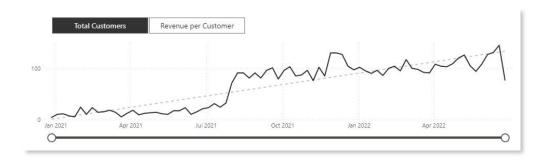
The bad news is that now they can't align on what's the best metric to show. Chad likes seeing total customers, but Vlad is pushing for revenue per customer.

What do you think we should do?

-Vic



#### **Solution Preview**

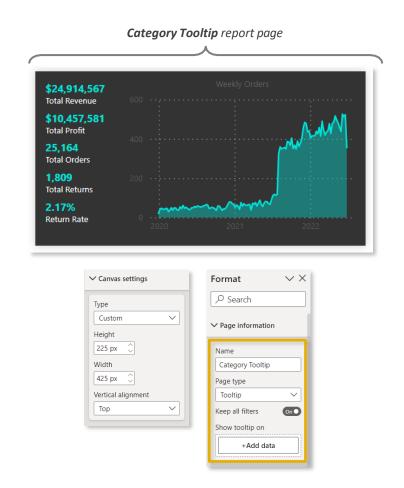


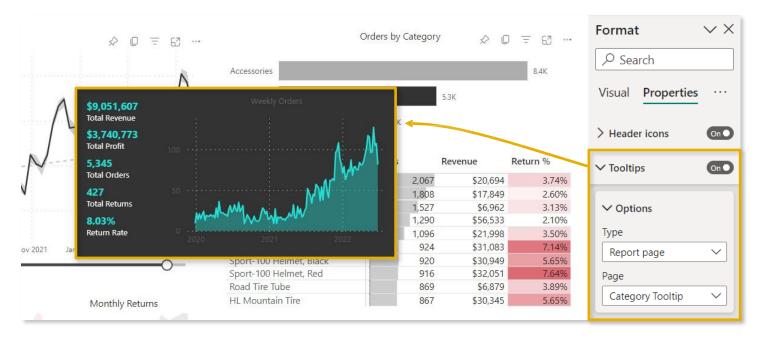


## **PRO TIP:** CUSTOM TOOLTIPS



Create **custom tooltips** by designing a new report page, setting the page type to **Tooltip**, and configuring a visual to use the "Report page" tooltip type



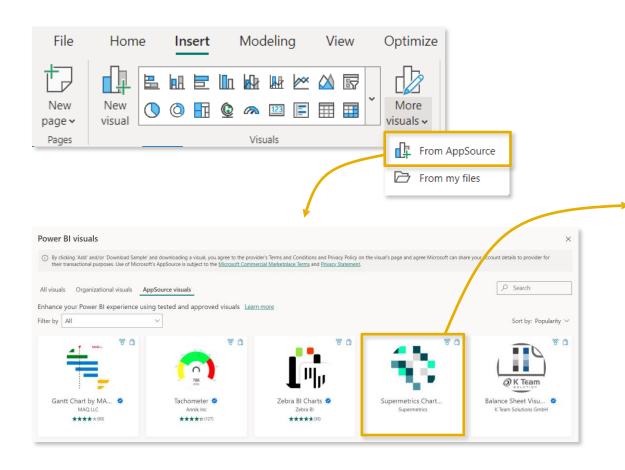


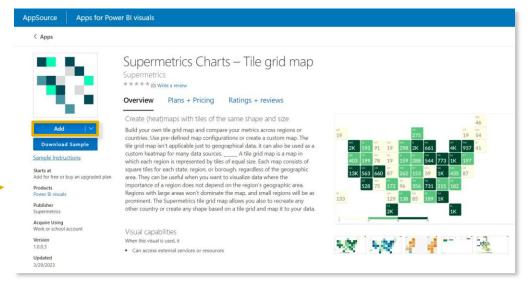


## **IMPORTING CUSTOM VISUALS**



Power BI offers a library of **custom visuals** (via **AppSource**) from Microsoft-certified partners and developers, which can be imported into the visualizations pane





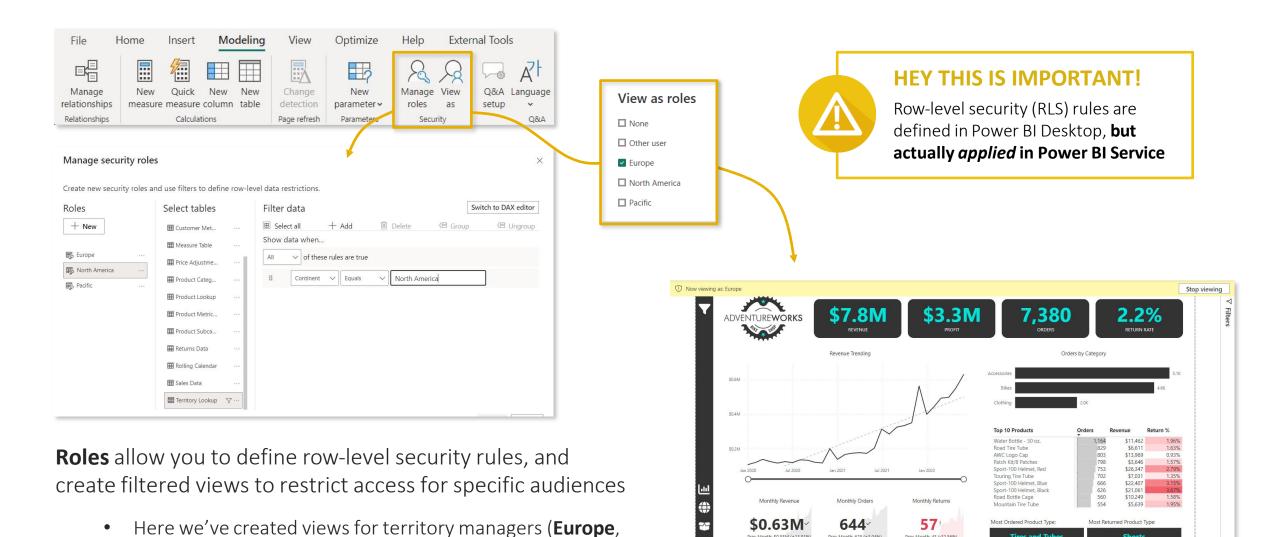


#### **HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

You need a **Power BI account** to browse or import custom visuals from the AppSource marketplace

### MANAGING & VIEWING ROLES





N. America, Pacific), which filters records in the model

Prev Month: 625 (+3.04%)

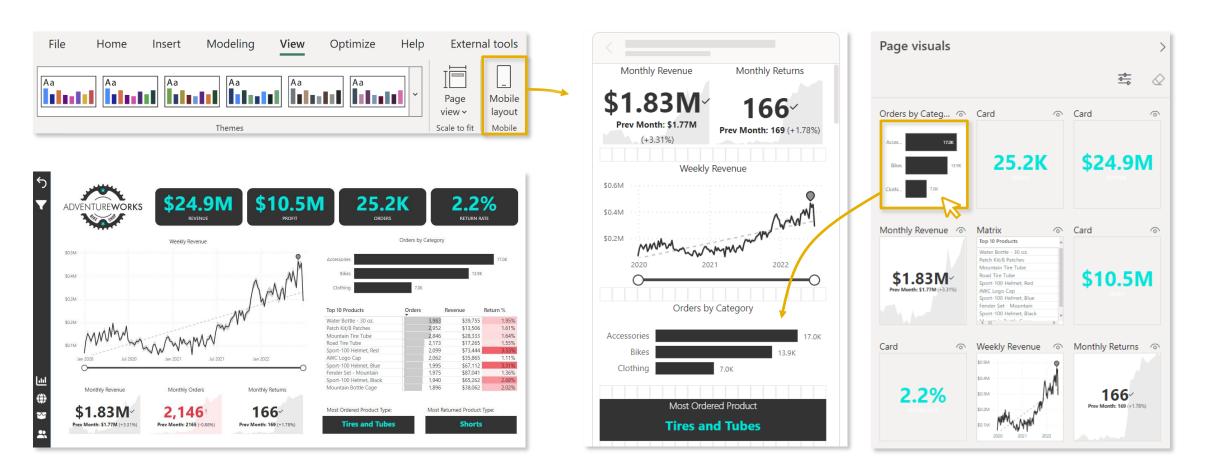
Prev Month: 43 (-32.56%)

## **MOBILE LAYOUT**



Mobile layout allows you to design mobile-specific versions of report pages by assembling visuals into new layouts

NOTE: This is designed to optimize reports for viewing on the Power BI mobile app (after publishing to Power BI Service)



## DATA VISUALIZATION BEST PRACTICES





## Always ask yourself the three key questions

• What type of data are you visualizing, what are you communicating, and who is the end user?



## Strive for clarity and simplicity above all else

• "Perfection is achieved not when there's nothing more to add, but when there's nothing left to take away"



## Focus on creating clear narratives and intuitive user experiences

• Use bookmarks, drillthroughs, tooltips and navigation buttons to seamlessly guide users through reports



## Create optimized layouts for mobile viewers

• Create custom mobile layouts if you plan to publish reports to Power BI Service or use the Power BI app