

# Build a Bar Chart

Use bar charts to compare data across categories. You create a bar chart by placing a dimension on the **Rows** shelf and a measure on the **Columns** shelf, or vice versa.

A bar chart uses the **Bar** mark type. Tableau selects this mark type when the data view matches one of the two field arrangements shown below. You can add additional fields to these shelves.

For more information about the **Bar** mark type, see [Bar mark](#).

**Note:** At the end of the procedure is an extra step you can take to display totals at the tops of the bars.

## Creates Vertical Bars

Columns	Category
Rows	SUM(Profit)

## Creates Horizontal Bars

Columns	SUM(Profit)
Rows	Category

To create a bar chart that displays total sales over a four-year period, follow these steps:

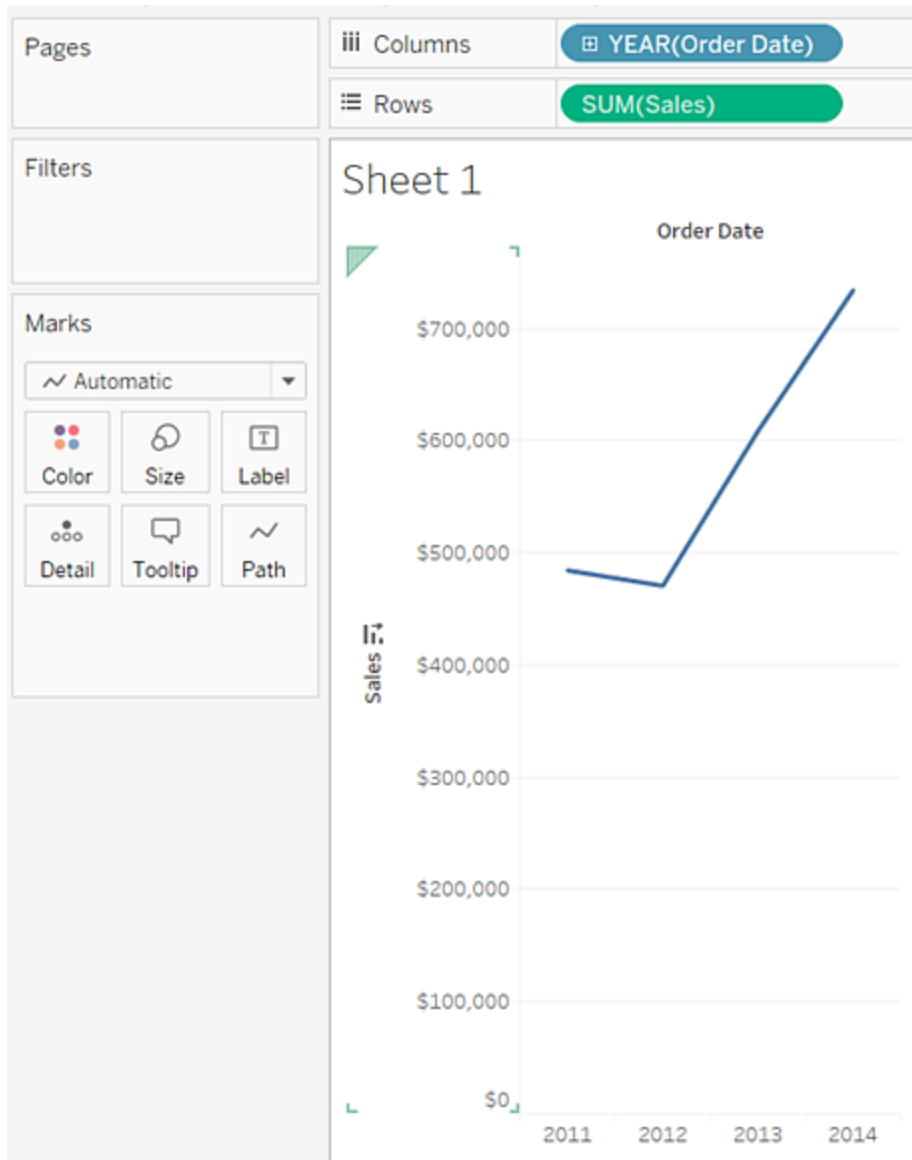
1. Connect to the **Sample - Superstore** data source.
2. Drag the **Order Date** dimension to **Columns**.

The data is aggregated by year and column headers appear.

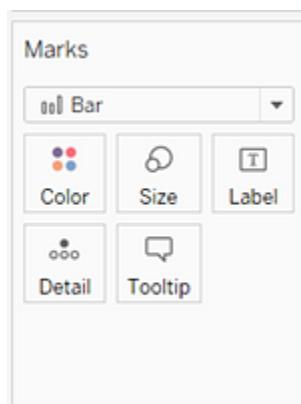
3. Drag the **Sales** measure to **Rows**.

The measure is aggregated as a sum and an axis is created. The column headers move to the bottom of the view.

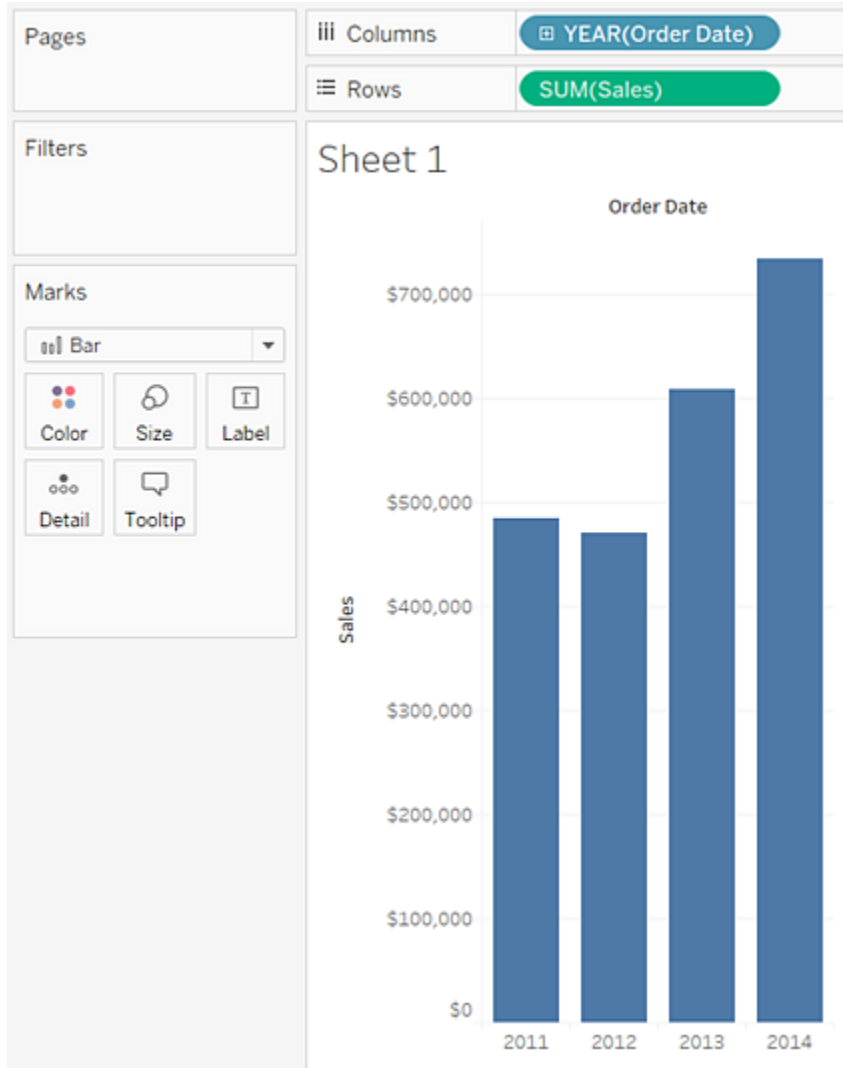
Tableau uses **Line** as the mark type because you added the date dimension.



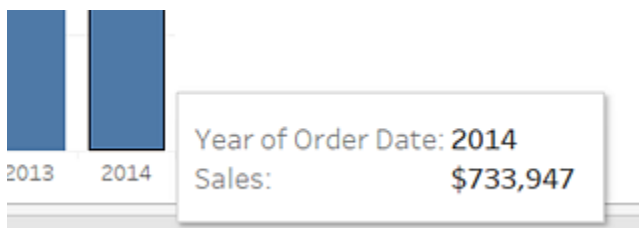
4. On the **Marks** card, select **Bar** from the drop-down list.



The view changes to a bar chart.



The marks (which are bars in this case) are vertical because the axis is vertical. The length of each mark represents the sum of the sales for that year. The actual numbers you see here might not match the numbers you see—the sample data changes from time to time.



7. Drag the **Ship Mode** dimension to **Color** on the **Marks** card.

The view shows how different shipping modes have contributed to total sales over time. The ratios look consistent from year to year.

