

Hands-on Lab: Getting Started with Google Looker Studio

Estimated time needed: 60 minutes

Looker Studio, from Google, is a data discovery platform available to analyze and perform data-driven functionalities. Looker is known for its data exploration, visualization, and reporting capabilities. It empowers users to seamlessly connect with diverse data sources, enabling them to build interactive dashboards and generate insightful reports, thereby facilitating a comprehensive understanding of their data.

In this lab, you will learn how to sign up for Looker Studio and learn general navigation around the Looker user interface (UI). Next, you will learn how to upload external data files to Looker through connectors and then learn how to start a new dashboard with templates. Lastly, you will learn how to create a simple dashboard.

Dataset Used in this Lab

The dataset used in this lab is published by IBM. You can download the dataset file directly from here: [CustomerLoyaltyProgram.csv](#).

Objectives

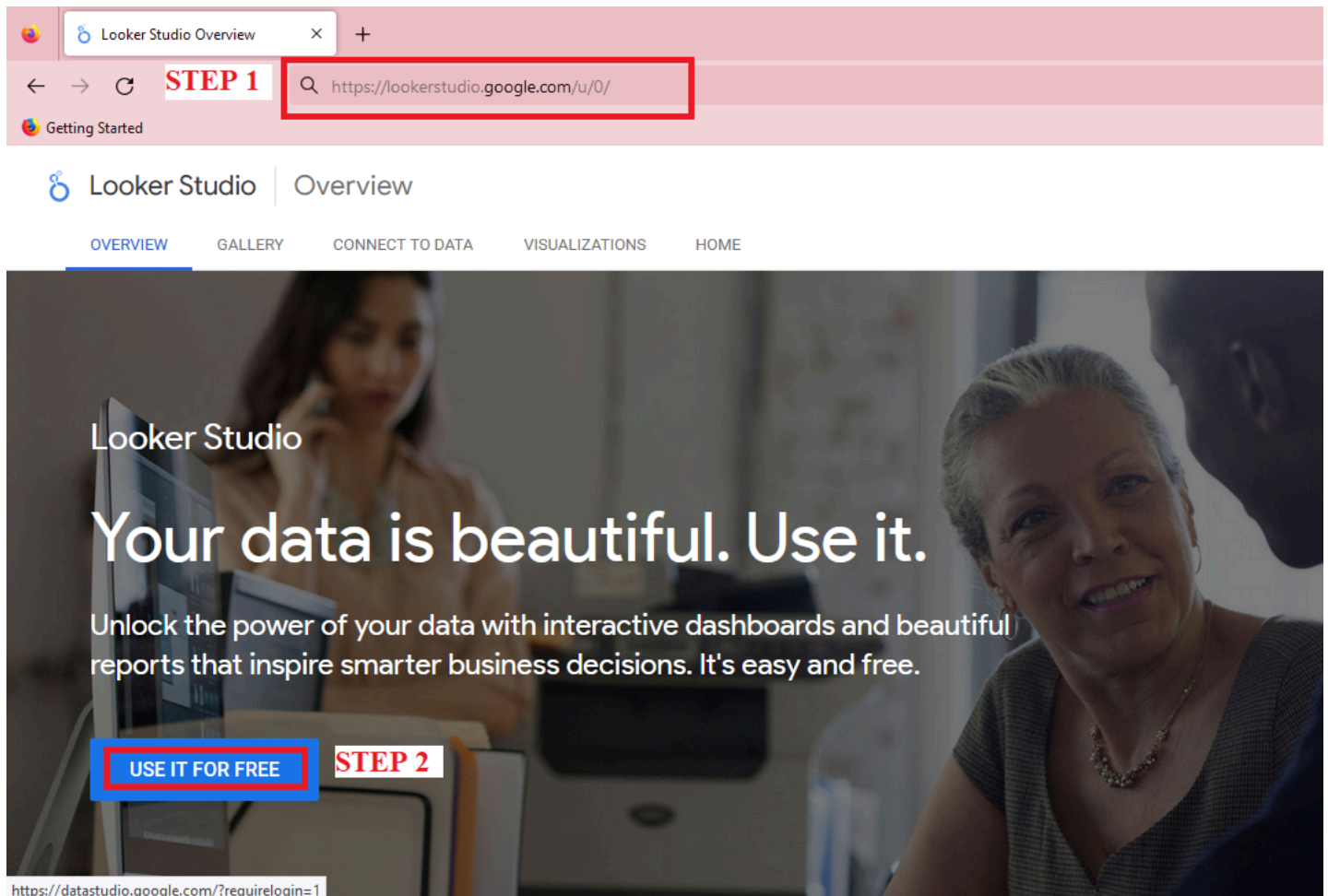
After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Sign up to use Looker Studio
- Navigate around the Looker Studio user interface
- Create a data source using a connector
- Access report themes and layouts
- Create a simple dashboard report

Exercise 1: Sign up for Looker Studio

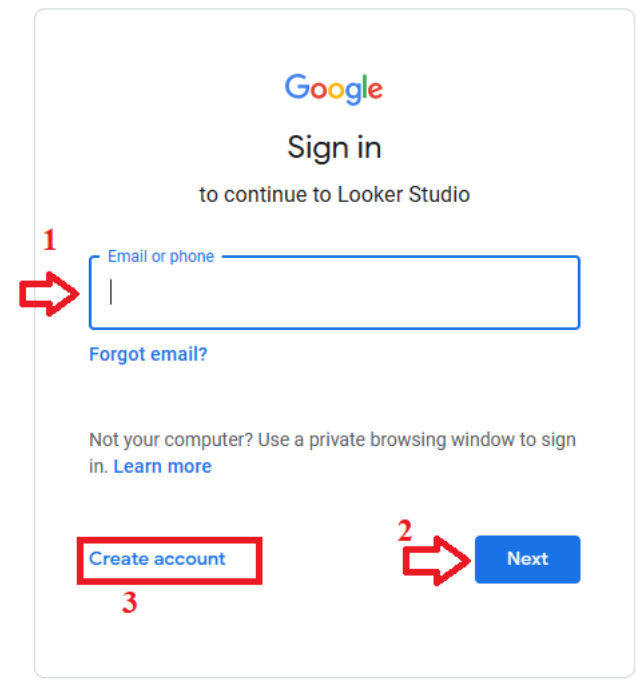
In this exercise, you will learn how to sign up for Google's Looker Studio

1. Go To [Looker Studio](#)



2. Click **USE IT FOR FREE**.

3. A new window will open. If you already have a Google account, enter your credentials and click **Next** as shown below (number 1 and 2). Or click on **Create account** (number 3) and follow the steps.



Looker Studio

Search Looker Studio

Create

Recent

Reports

Data sources

Explorer

Recent

Shared with me

Owned by me

Trash

Templates

Start with a Template

Blank Report

Looker Studio

Tutorial Report

Looker Studio

Acme Marketing

Google Analytics

Search

Search

Name	Owned by anyone	Last opened by me
Untitled Report	P P	12:55 PM
Untitled Report	P P	Aug 31, 2023
Untitled Report	P P	Aug 31, 2023
Untitled Report	P P	Aug 30, 2023

Exercise 2: Navigate around the Looker Studio User Interface

In this exercise, you will understand Looker Studio UI components which you'll use further to create visuals and dashboards.

The goal of this exercise is to introduce you to the primary components and functionalities within Looker Studio.

On the home page of Looker Studio, you can conveniently create and access all your essential assets, including reports, data sources, and explorations.

The screenshot shows the Looker Studio homepage. At the top left is the Looker Studio logo. To its right is a search bar labeled 'Search Looker Studio' with a magnifying glass icon and the number 5. Below the logo is a 'Create' button with a plus icon and the number 1. To the right of 'Create' is a 'Recent' tab, and further right are 'Reports', 'Data sources', and 'Explorer' tabs, with the number 2 pointing to the 'Reports' tab. On the left sidebar, there are filters for 'Shared with me', 'Owned by me', 'Trash', and 'Templates'. The main area is titled 'Start with a Template' and shows four template cards: 'Blank Report Looker Studio' (numbered 3), 'Tutorial Report Looker Studio' (numbered 7), 'Acme Marketing Google Analytics', and 'Search Search'. Below the templates is a table of recent assets, with the number 4 pointing to the table header. The table has columns for 'Name', 'Owned by anyone', 'Last opened by me', and an ellipsis menu. The assets listed are 'Report_Car_Sales', 'COVID_19_Dashboard_practice', and 'BU COVID-19 Report'.

Let's understand the major components available on the homepage.

1. From here you can create a new asset such as a Report, a Data source or an Explorer.
2. This is where you access your recent Reports, Data sources, and Explorers.
3. With the Report tab selected, this is how you can start to create a blank report.
4. This lists any recently worked on assets. You can click the ellipsis button (...) next to an asset to perform actions on it, such as sharing, renaming, or removing it.

This screenshot shows the Looker Studio homepage with a context menu open over the 'Report_Car_Sales' asset. The menu options are 'Share', 'Rename', and 'Remove'. The 'Remove' option is highlighted with a red box. Below the templates, the table of recent assets is shown. The 'Report_Car_Sales' asset is highlighted, and the context menu is open over it. The table has columns for 'Name', 'Owned by anyone', 'Last opened by me', and an ellipsis menu. The assets listed are 'Report_Car_Sales', 'COVID_19_Dashboard_practice', and 'BU COVID-19 Report'.

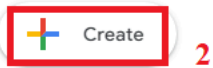
5. Here you can search and find your Looker Studio assets quickly and the result will appear in the list at section 4.
6. You can choose a template from the Template Gallery to start creating an asset from.
7. Here you can take a tutorial on Looker Studio.

Exercise 3: Create a Data Source and Use Report Editor

Task 1: Create a data source

The first thing you need to start creating a report is to acquire some data.

To select an existing data source you would click the **Data sources** tab and your existing data sources will be listed.



Recent

Reports

Data sources

Explorer

1

Recent

Shared with me

Owned by me

Trash

Templates

Name

Owned by anyone

Last opened by me

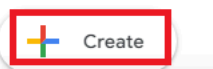


Create a Data Source.

Use the Create button to add one.

However, for this lab, you will create a new data source.

1. In the top left corner, click **Create**, then select **Data source**.



Report

Data source

Explorer BETA

Trash

Templates

Recent

Reports

Data sources

Explorer

Name

Owned by

Crea

The new window that opens displays a lot of options for connecting to your data; these are called *Connectors*. A connector links Looker Studio to your data. Connecting to your data creates a data source within Looker Studio. Looker Studio provides a variety of connectors to connect to different kinds of data to create reports.


You can use the search field to look for the relevant data connector.


Search





Google Connectors (23)


Connectors built and supported by Looker Studio [Learn more](#)


**Looker**
By Google
Connect to your Looker semantic models.


**Google Analytics**
By Google
Connect to Google Analytics.


**Google Ads**
By Google
Connect to Google Ads performance report data.


**Google Sheets**
By Google
Connect to Google Sheets.

**BigQuery**
By Google
Connect to BigQuery tables and custom queries.

**AppSheet**
By Google
Connect to AppSheet app data.


**File Upload**
By Google
Connect to CSV (comma-separated values) files.


**Amazon Redshift**
By Google
Connect to Amazon Redshift.


**Campaign Manager 360**
By Google
Connect to Campaign Manager 360.


Partner Connectors (839)


Connectors built and supported by Looker Studio partners. [Learn more](#)


**Build Your Own**
By Google
Build your own connectors.

**Facebook Ads**
By Supermetrics
#1 connector for Facebook Ads. Free 14 day trial. Trusted by 700k+ marketers.

**Rubii**
By Rubii
Once you set up a custom report in Rubii, your reports will be available to select in the drop down below.

**Digital Opptur: Kobler Data**
By Digital Opptur AS

**Line Ads**
By Supermetrics

**Streamlike Analytics**
By Mediatech

For this lab, you will work on [CustomerLoyaltyProgram.csv](#), which you need to download to your computer first.

You will use the **File Upload** connector to upload the data to Looker Studio to create the data source.

2. In the **Search** box, type *file upload*, then click on the **File Upload** connector.


Search

file upload



Google Connectors (1 of 23)

Connectors built and supported by Looker Studio [Learn more](#)

**File Upload**
By Google
Connect to CSV (comma-separated values) files.

Partner Connectors (0 of 839)

Connectors built and supported by Looker Studio partners. [Learn more](#)

3. Click the **CLICK TO UPLOAD FILES** button, select the *CustomerLoyaltyProgram.csv* file and click **Open**.

Click here

Scope: Reusable

Data credentials: P P

Data freshness: 12 hours

Community visualizations access: On

Field editing in reports:

← EDIT CONNECTION | FILTER BY EMAIL

4 + AD

Field ↓	Type ↓ 1	Default Aggregation ↓ 2	Description ↓ 3
DIMENSIONS (28)			
City	ABC Text	None	
Count	123 Number	Sum	
Country	Country	None	
Coupon Response	ABC Text	None	
Customer Lifetime Value	123 Number	Sum	
Customer Name	ABC Text	None	
Education	ABC Text	None	
First Name	ABC Text	None	
Gender	ABC Text	None	
Income	123 Number	Sum	
Last Name	ABC Text	None	
Latitude	123 Number	Sum	

REFRESH FIELDS

6. In the pop-up dialog box, click **ADD TO REPORT**.

You are about to add data to this report

CustomerLoyaltyProgram.csv

Note that **Report Editors** can create charts using the new data source(s), and can add dimensions and metrics not currently included in the report.

☐ Don't show me this again

CANCEL **ADD TO REPORT**

The **Report Editor** tool will open.

Untitled Report

File Edit View Insert Page Arrange Resource Help

Reset Share

Add page Add data Add a chart Add a control

	First Name	Record Count
1.	Paris	51
2.	Norman	49
3.	Sydney	47
4.	Daryl	47
5.	Jamey	47
6.	Loren	46
7.	Leon	46
8.	Casey	44
9.	Wade	44

1 - 100 / 5162

Chart

SETUP STYLE

Data source

CustomerLoyaltyProgram.csv

BLEND DATA

Date Range Dimension

Add dimension

Dimension

First Name

Add dimension

Drill down

Metric

Record Count

Add metric

Optional metrics

Metric sliders

By default, the summary table will appear as per the data source.

7. Select the table visualization and delete it.
8. Click the existing report title (*Untitled Report*) and rename the report to *Simple Dashboard*.
9. To give yourself more screen space and expand the canvas window, you can close the **Data** and **Properties** panes on the right side of the page.

Simple Dashboard

File Edit View Insert Page Arrange Resource Help

Reset Share

Add page Add data Add a chart Add a control

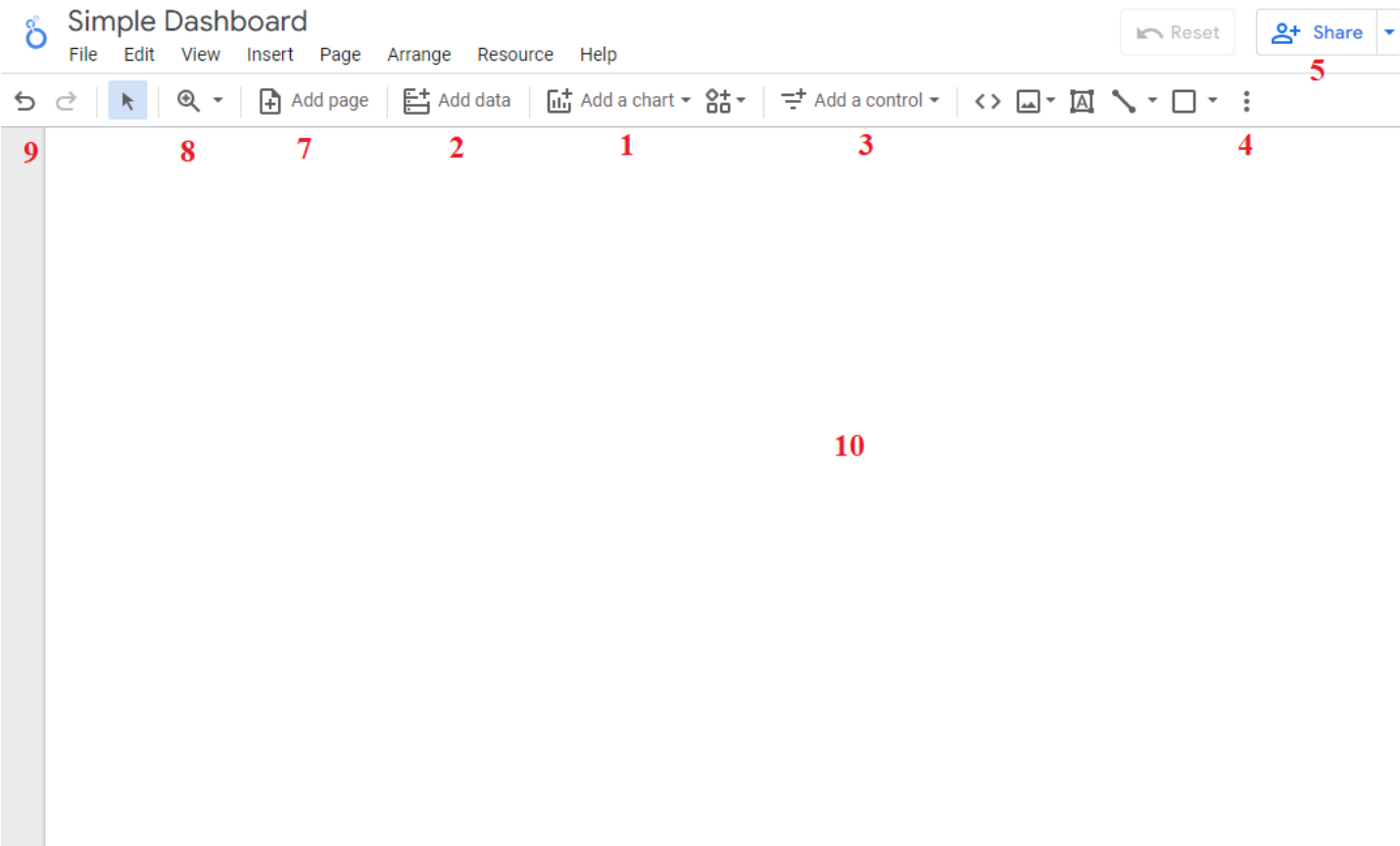
Let's get started

Drag a field from the Data Panel to the canvas to add a new chart or select a component on the report canvas to edit it.

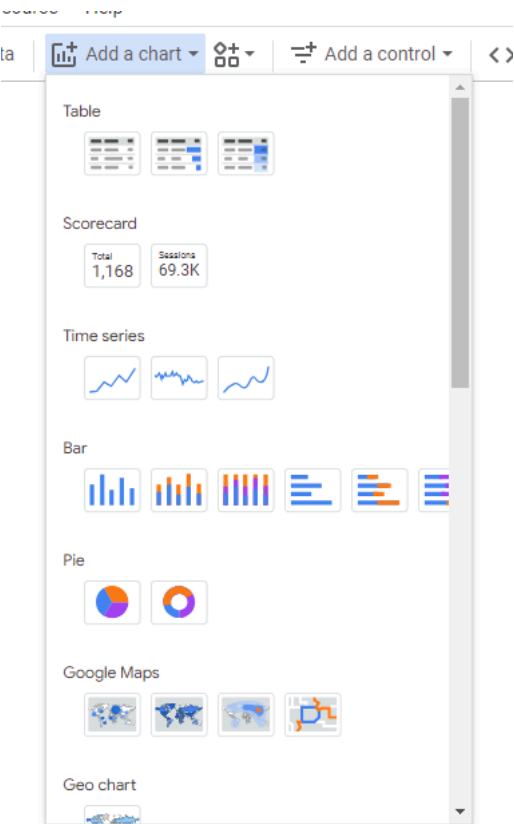
NOTE: To work on data in Excel format, upload the .xls file to your computer, and use the 'Google Sheets' connector to create the data source.

Task 2: Use Report Editor

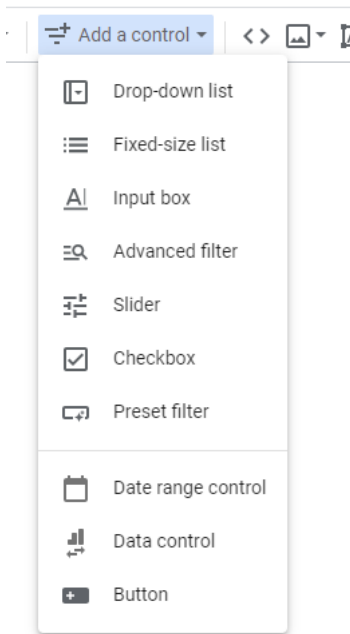
Let's see what tools are available in the Report Editor.



1. To add a new chart, click **Add a chart**. Looker Studio provides a variety of charts to be used for creating visualizations such as tables, scorecards, time series charts, bar charts, line charts, pie charts, and maps to name but a few.

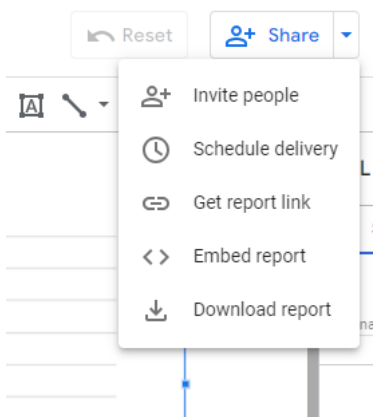


2. Scroll down to see all the options. To include data, click **Add data**, then close the **Add data to report** window.
3. Click **Add a control**. Controls are used to make your visuals interactive. Looker Studio provides several control options including sliders, filters, checklists, drop-down lists, and buttons.



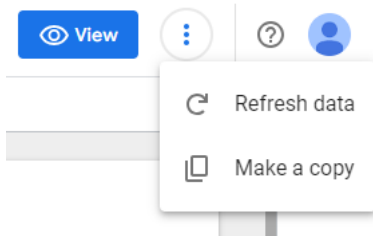
Controls enable you to adjust the data shown in report components by filtering or modifying it. They serve as a means to collect user input and incorporate it into calculated fields.

4. Use the icons to the right of **Add a control** to insert components other than charts and controls to your dashboard or report. These include URLs, images, textboxes, and lines and shapes. To access the **Theme and layout** option, if it is hidden, click the elipsis button (vertical three dots).
5. The **Share** button lets you share your report with others.

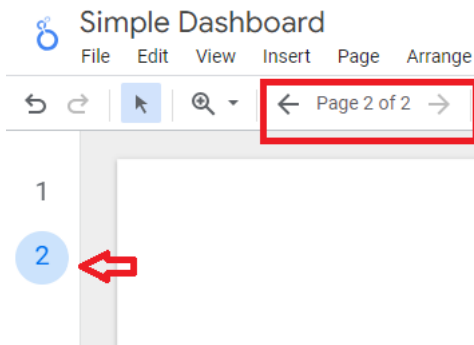


You can invite your colleagues to work on your dashboard with you, you can also get the link or embedded code, and you can download the report. You also have the option to schedule the delivery time of your report.

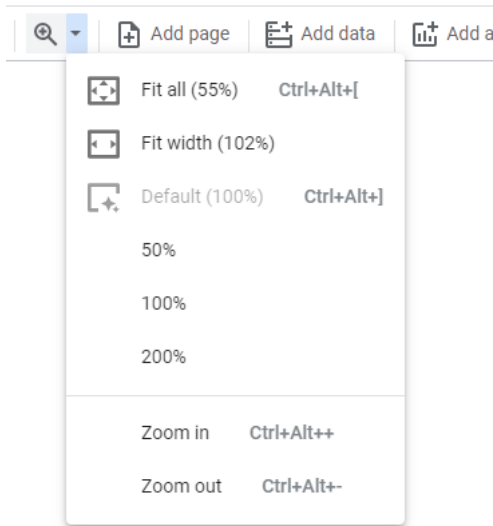
6. If you prefer not to make edits to the report and simply want to see how it appears in read-only mode, click **View**. You can click **Pause updates** to pause the data updates for the live data, if used, and you can refresh or make a copy of the data by clicking on the elipsis button (three vertical dots) here.



7. Click **Add page** to add more pages to your report. You can easily switch amongst pages using the left navigation bar or the arrows in the toolbar.



8. Looker Studio provides several options to zoom in and out, such as **Fit all**, **Fit width**, and various percentage values.



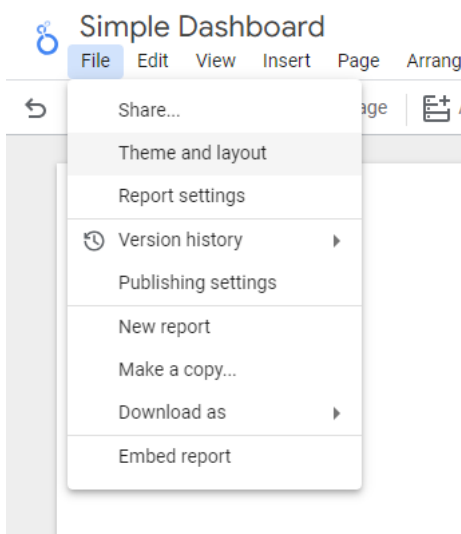
9. Use the **Undo** and **Redo** buttons to fix mistakes or misclicks.

10. The main work area at position 10 is the **canvas** where you add and layout all your visualizations.

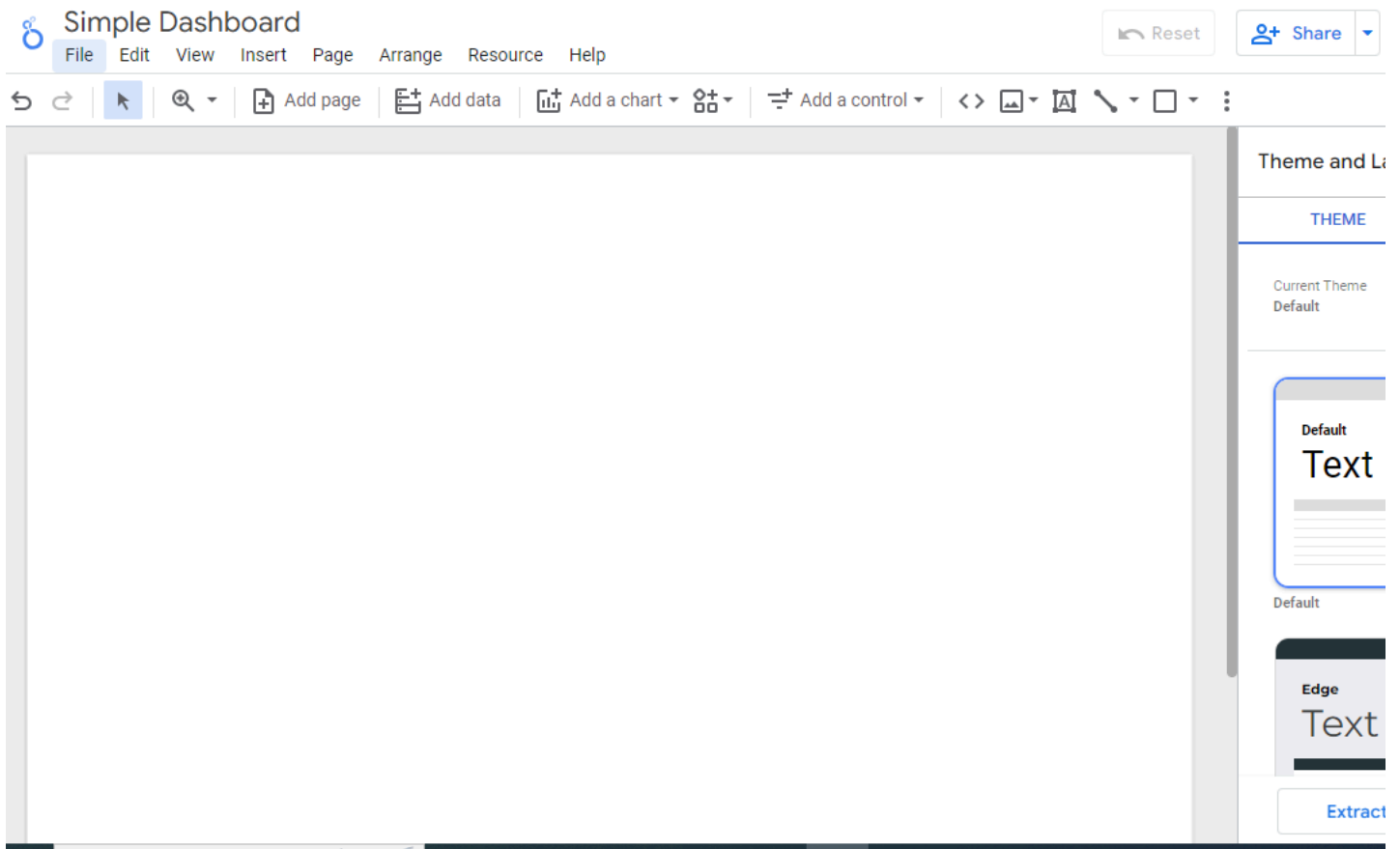
Exercise 4: Access Report Themes and Layouts

Unlike Cognos Analytics, Looker Studio gives you the flexibility to place the visuals where you like to while you prepare the report or dashboard. So you don't have to select a fixed dashboard template, as you do in Cognos Analytics. However, Looker Studio does have some inbuilt themes with different color and font combinations for you to choose from.

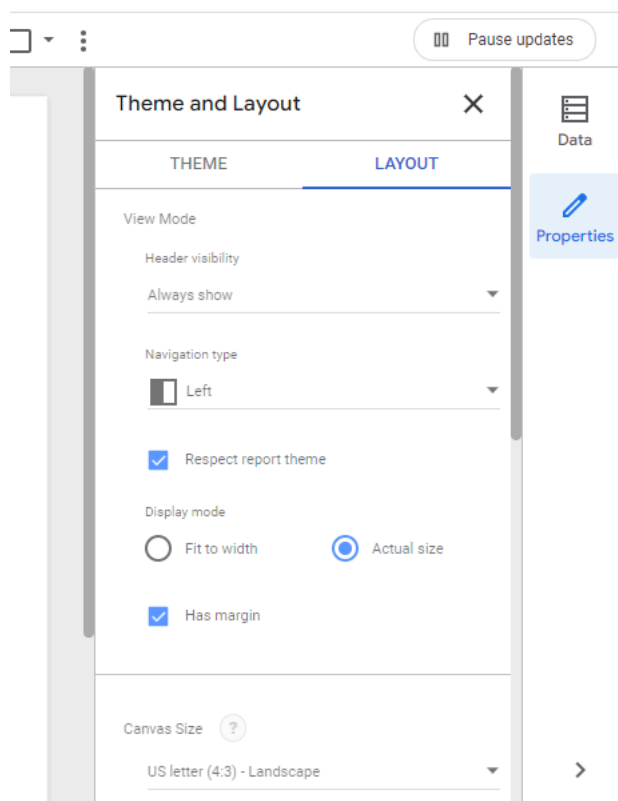
1. To access the *Theme and layout* menu, either click **File** in the main menu, then click **Theme and layout**, or in the toolbar, click **Theme and layout**. If it's hidden, click the elipsis button (...) to show it.



2. Use the **THEME** tab to modify the default theme or select one of the predefined themes for your report.



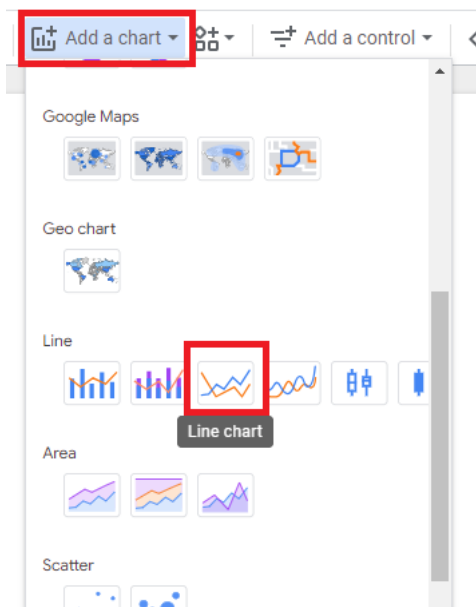
3. Use the **LAYOUT** tab to change the layout of your canvas, such as the type of navigation, canvas size, and grid settings.



Exercise 5: Create a Simple Dashboard Report

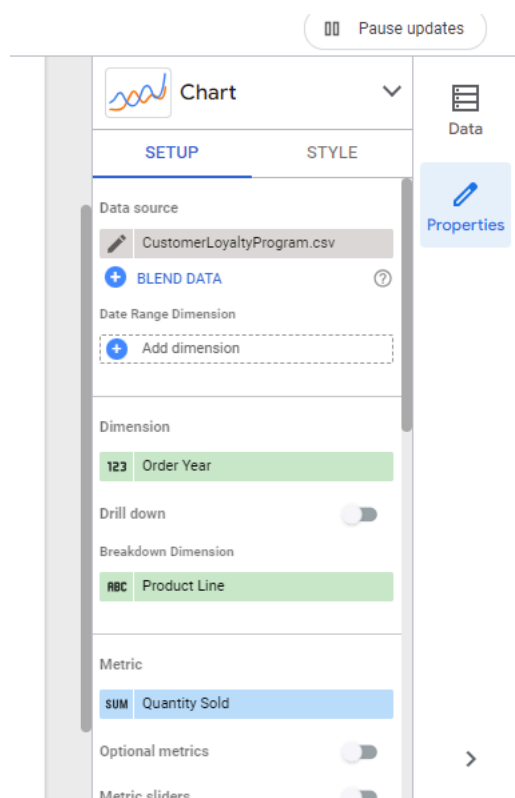
Let's create a simple dashboard on **Product Line Performance by Year**

1. Click **Add a chart** and select the simple **Line chart**.

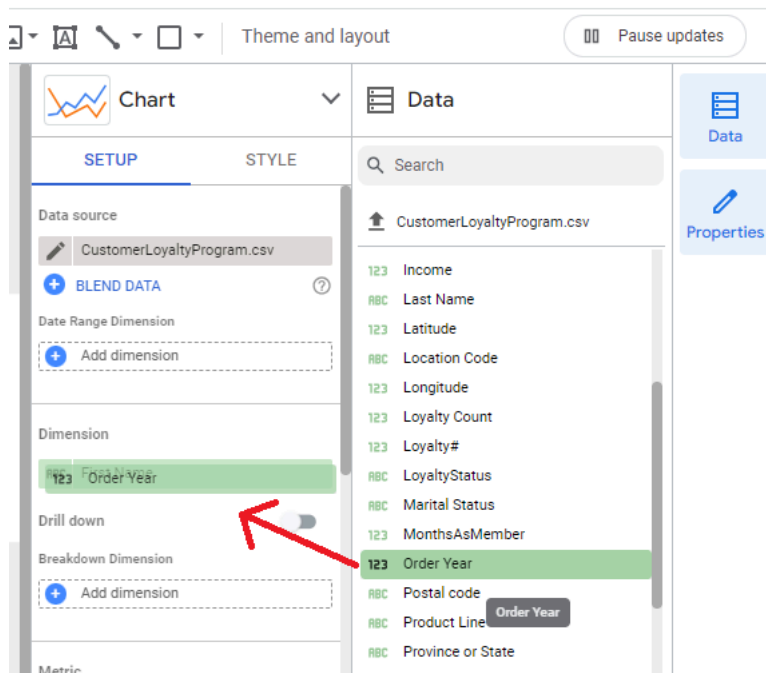


2. Click on the canvas where you want it to be positioned. You can move it anywhere on the canvas later by simply clicking and dragging it to a new position. Looker Studio automatically includes data to create the chart based on the data source.

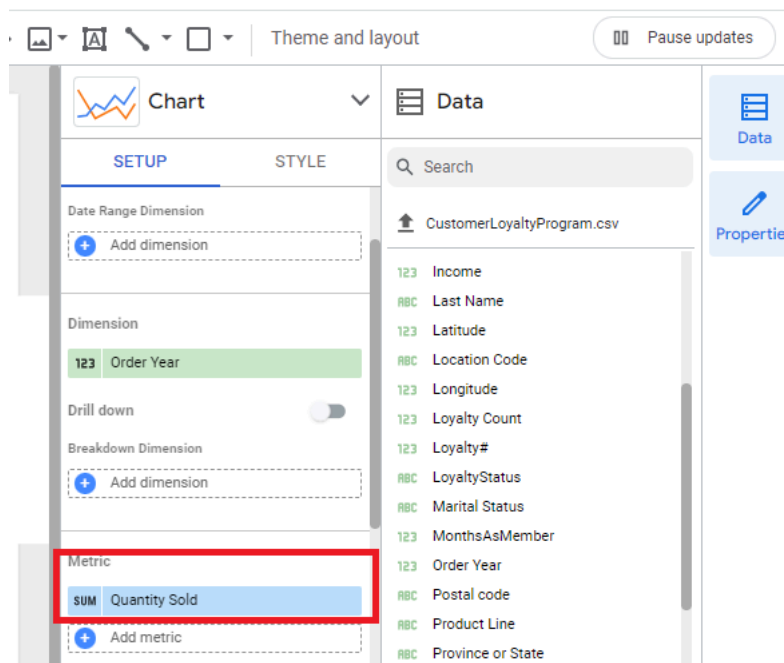
For your *Product Line Performance by Year* visualization, you place the data as you want it to be displayed. The requirement is to create a line chart for the quantity sold per order year and have separate lines displayed for each product line.



3. Click on the line chart in the canvas, and then click **Properties**.
4. Click **Data** to open that pane on the right too.
5. From the data pane, drag **Order Year** to the **Dimension** field to replace **First Name**.

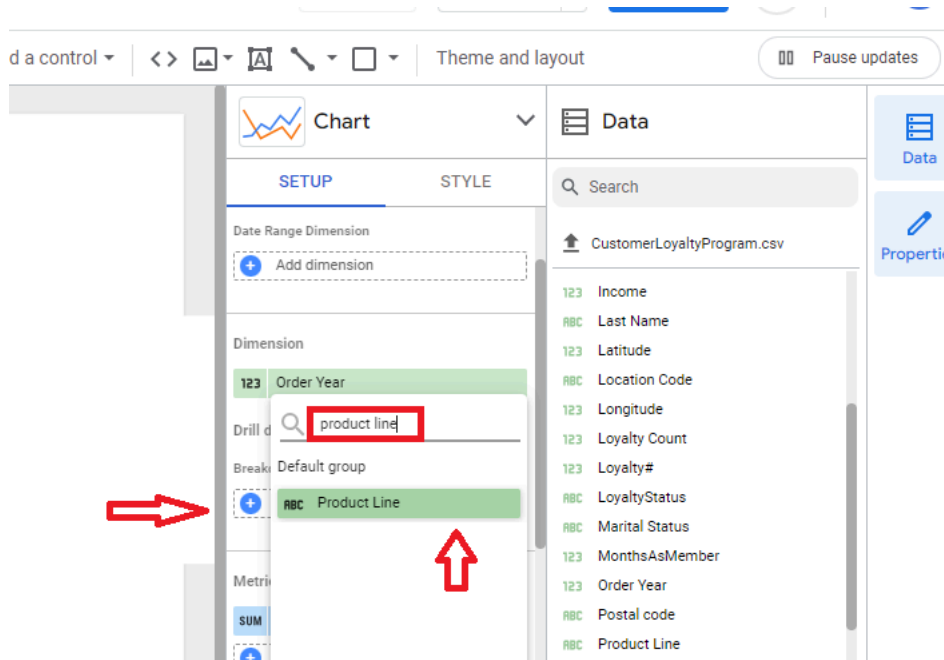


6. From the data pane, drag **Quantity Sold** to the **Metric** field. Remove the **Record Count** item.

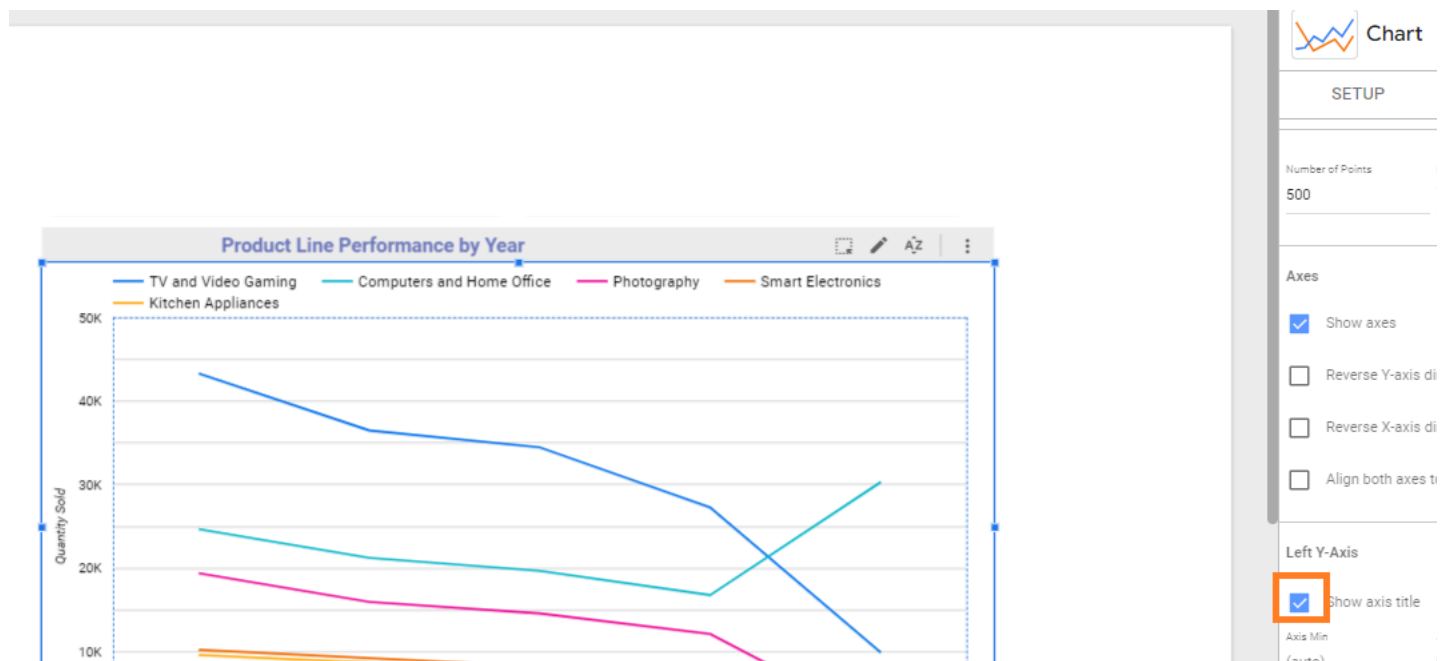


You want to break down the chart by product line, so that it can display a separate line for each product category.

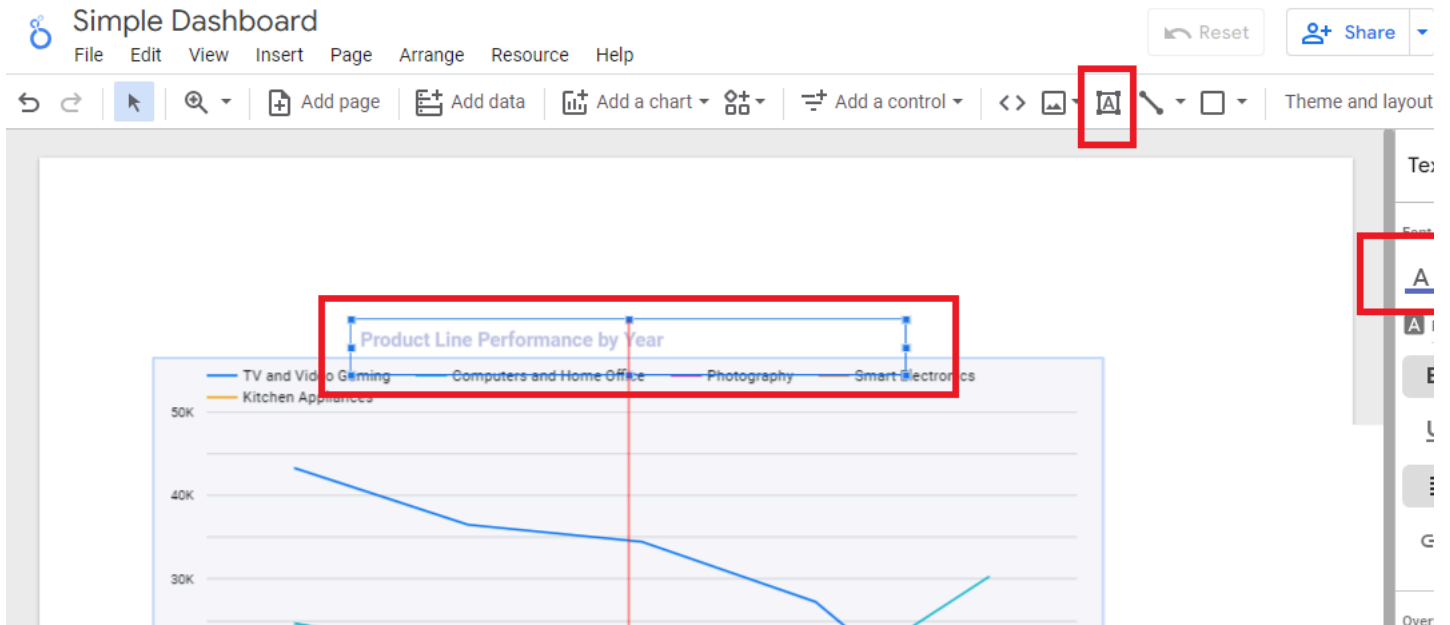
7. From the data pane, drag **Product Line** to the **Breakdown dimension** field.



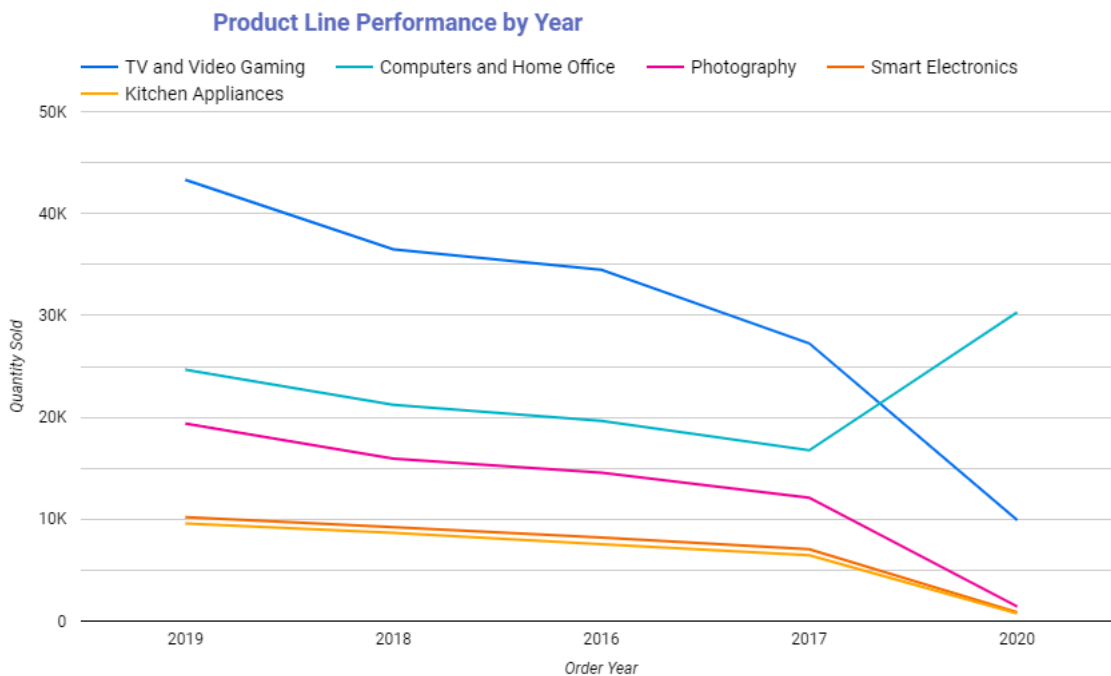
8. To include the x and y axis labels, click the **STYLE** tab in the chart's **Properties** pane, and check the box for **Show axis title** in both the **Left Y-axis** and the **X-axis** sections.



9. Hover over the bottom right corner of the chart till you see the white double-headed arrow, then click and drag to make the chart larger.
10. In the main toolbar, select the **Text** tool and click above the visualization to insert a text box for the chart title. Click in the text box and type the title as *Product Line Performance by Year*.
11. Select the text in the new title and use the **Text Properties** in the right pane to style the text as **24pt, bold, and dark blue**.
12. Drag the text box to align it with the center of the line chart visualization, and drag the chart and the title boxes down the page a bit to make some room at the top for the next visualization.



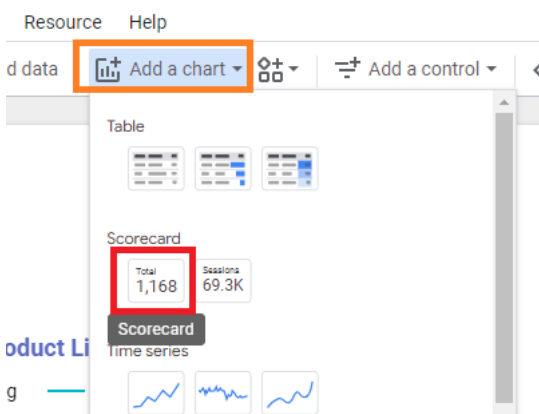
Your line chart should now look similar to the image below.



Now you will include two scorecards to display the *Total Quantity Sold* and *Revenue* above this line chart.

13. In the toolbar, click **Add a chart**, and select **Scorecard**.

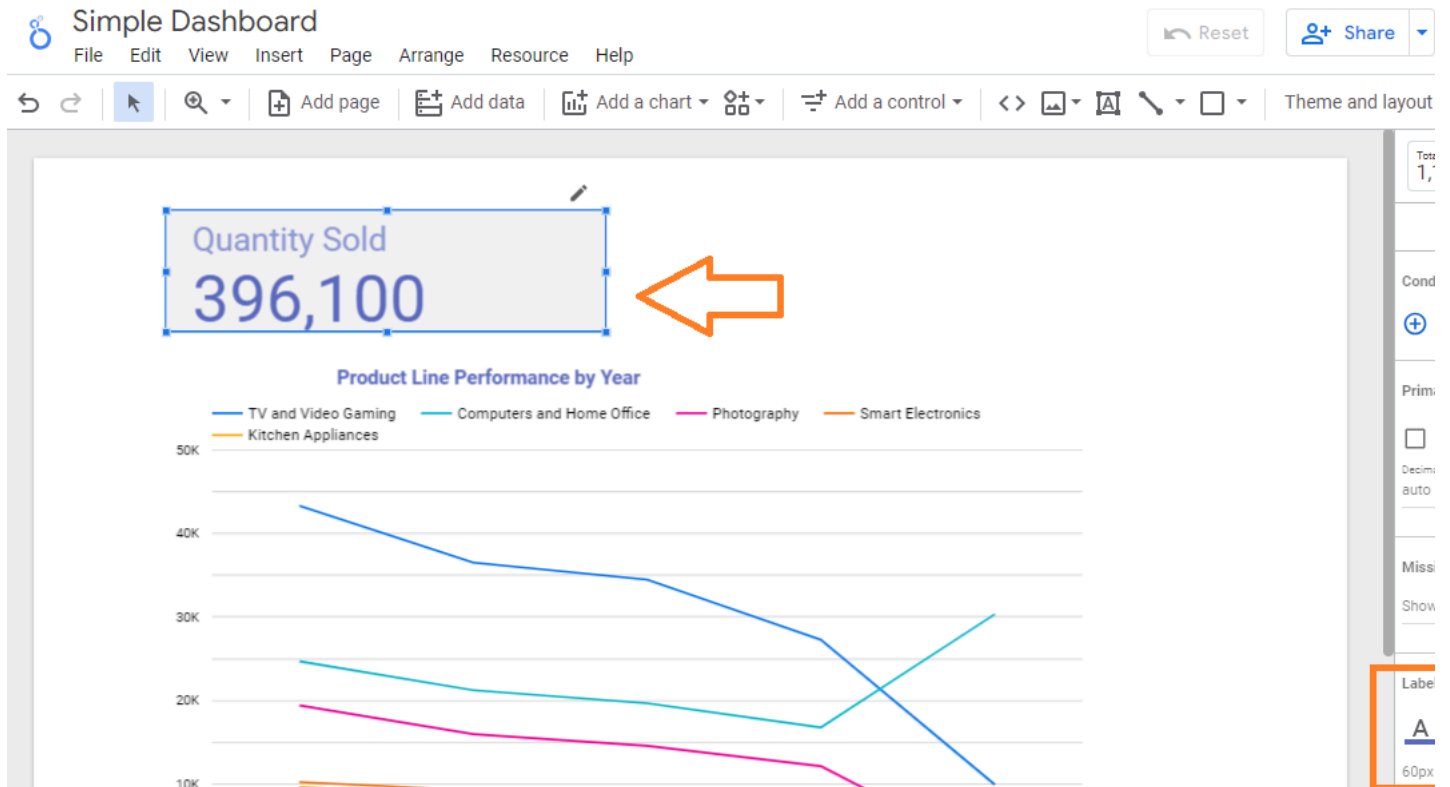
14. Move it above the line chart visualization and to the left side of the canvas.



Looker Studio will automatically pick **Quantity Sold** to be displayed on this scorecard.

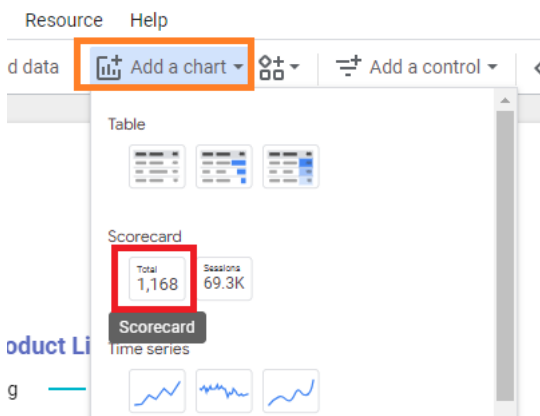
15. You can change the size and position as you like.

16. Use the **STYLE** tab in the scorecard chart's **Properties** pane to change the font size and color to **48pt** and **dark blue**.

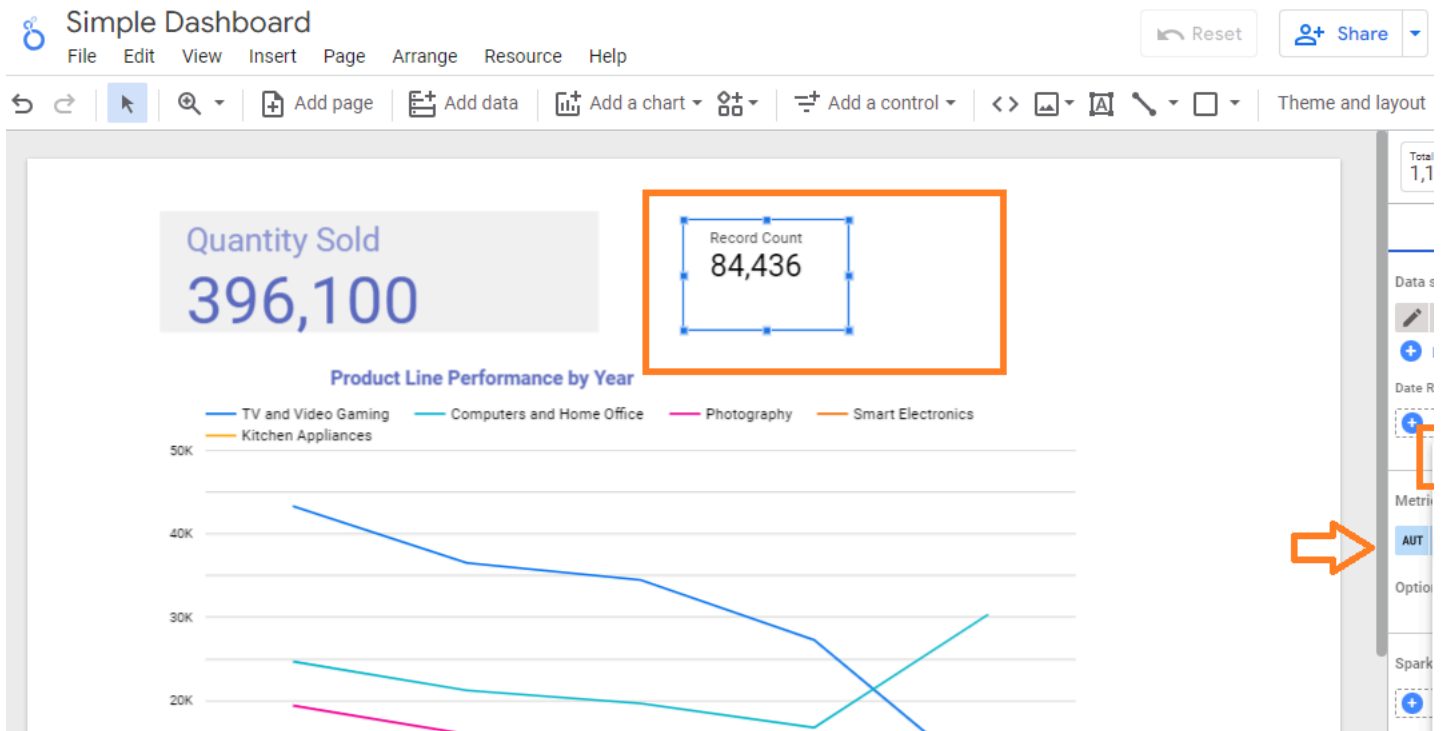


Now you will add the second scorecard chart above the line chart.

17. In the toolbar, click **Add a chart**, and select **Scorecard**.



18. Place it to the right of the **Quantity Sold** scorecard chart.

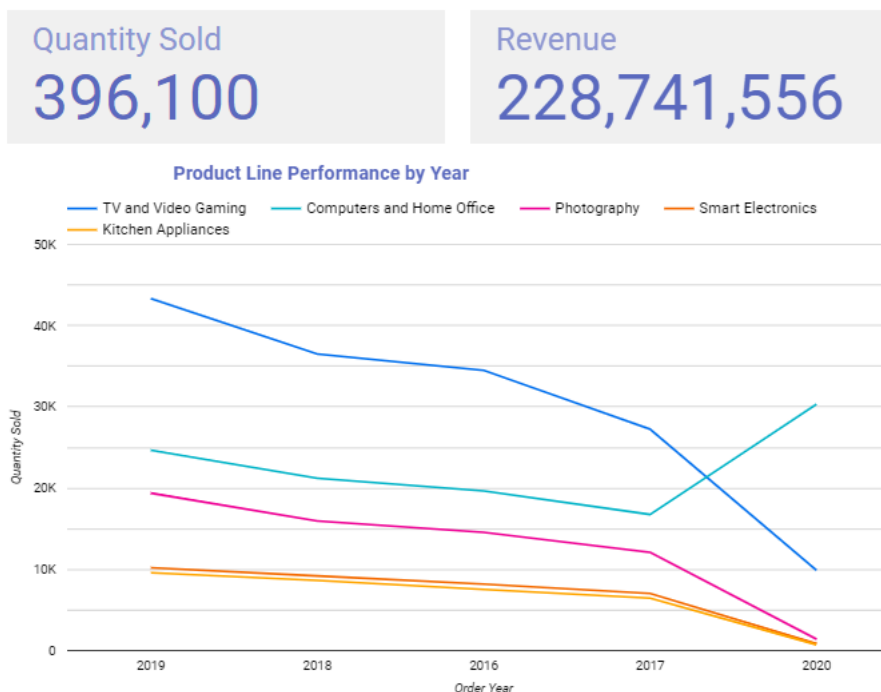


This time Looker Studio has picked **Record Count** to create this scorecard.

Let's change the metric to show *Revenue* instead.

19. Select the **SETUP** tab in the scorecard chart's **Properties** pane.
20. From the **Data** pane, drag **Revenue** to the **Metric** field to replace **Record Count**.
21. Use the **STYLE** tab in the scorecard chart's **Properties** pane to change the font size and color to **48pt** and **dark blue** as you did for the previous scorecard chart.

The final version of your first dashboard should appear similar to the image below.



Congratulations! You have completed this hands-on lab and you are now ready for the next topic.

For more help, you can refer to the [Tutorial on Looker Studio by Google](#)

Author(s)

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