Microsoft Dynamics® AX 2012 R2

Strategies for using the budget planning analysis data cube in Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R2

White Paper

This document describes how organizations can analyze their budget planning data to more effectively manage their budget planning processes and evaluate their budgeting.

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Send suggestions and comments about this document to adocs@microsoft.com. Please include the title with your feedback.



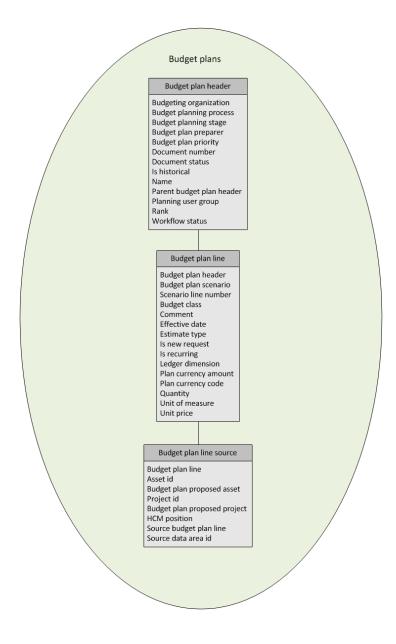
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Introduction

In Microsoft Dynamics[®] AX 2012 R2, budget planning features have been added to the Budgeting module. To support this new functionality, budget planning has been integrated with the general ledger, the chart of accounts, fixed assets, human resource management, organization hierarchies, workflow, and budget control.

Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R2 introduces the concept of a "budget plan." A budget plan document consists of a budget plan header, budget plan lines, and budget plan details. An organization can create one or more budget plans for a specific budget planning cycle. The budget plan contains budget plan lines. Each budget plan line can optionally reference other sources, which include existing assets and projects or proposed assets and proposed projects, as well as forecast positions.



The budgeting and budget planning needs of different organizations vary greatly, and descriptions of customized inquiries and reporting will provide users with the information that they need to use the flexibility of the budget planning analysis data cube to improve their budgeting and budget planning processes.

Purpose

This document discusses the new budget planning analysis cube and considerations for its use. The topics that are covered include:

- Deploying the cube
- Data cube analysis for calculated measures
- Data cube analysis for fields

Audience

This document is intended for individuals who are using Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R2 budget planning and require customized queries of the budget planning data.

Terminology

Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R2 terms:

Term	Definition
Budget plan	A document that is used to develop estimates of inflows and outflows for a responsibility center.
Budget plan scenario	A classification of budget plan line item estimates for budget planning that allows an organization to track budget amounts or quantities.
Budget planning process	A practice to develop the financial estimates of income and expenses and inputs and outputs for a budget cycle.
Budget planning stages	A description of the steps that a budget plan transitions through in a budget planning process and responsibility center. Examples of budget planning stages include department request and budget office review.
Budget plan line	An entry in a budget plan that contains information about a budget plan estimate for a monetary amount or quantity.

Prerequisites for budget planning data cube analysis

Before you perform analysis of your budget planning data, you need to do the following:

- Enter and process budget planning data in Microsoft Dynamics AX
- Set up the analysis services
- Determine the desired data views
- Deploy the budget planning cube (additional options below)

Deploying the budget planning cube

The budget planning data cube is included with the standard set of data cubes in Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R2 and can be deployed using the standard deployment procedure, which is covered in Appendix 1 Generating a budget planning cube.

When you deploy the budget planning cube, you may want to select the main account and financial dimensions used in your chart of accounts; this will add to your analysis options. Details for accomplishing this can be found in <u>Appendix 1 Generating a budget planning cube</u>.

Analysis and reporting using the budget planning data cube can be performed by connecting to the generated analysis cube using Microsoft Excel, Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services, or other methods. <u>Appendix 2 Connecting to the budget planning cube using Microsoft Excel</u> provides information about connecting to the budget planning cube using Microsoft Excel.

Analysis of data from budget plan fields

The budget planning cube contains the fields from the budget plan header and line details. Some of the fields of particular interest are included in the following table:

Field	Description
Budget plan header fields:	
Document number	The budget plan document number. Useful for separating data by budget plan. The Budget plan name field can also be used for this purpose.
Document status	The budget plan status. Useful for tracking the progress of the budget plan and the overall process.
Workflow status	The budget plan workflow status. Also useful for tracking the progress of the budget plan and the overall process.
Responsibility center	The organizational unit responsible for the budget plan.
Worker	The budget plan preparer.
Budget plan line fields:	
Amount	The sum of amounts from lines in the selected data set.
Quantity	The sum of quantities from lines in the selected data set.
Budget class	Indicates whether the line is a revenue or expense amount.
Priority	Used to group plans for specific purposes.
Budget plan scenario	The key grouping for line amounts.
Position	The forecast position assigned to the budget plan line, if there is one. Similar fields are available for project, fixed asset, proposed project, and proposed fixed asset.

Analysis using calculated measures

There are two calculated measures available in the budget planning cube, **Budgeted net income** and **Percentage of plans completed**.

Budgeted net income is the budgeted revenues less budgeted expenses for the selected data. This gives an overall view of the planned profitability for the budget cycle.

Percentage of plans completed uses the number of budget plans measure and calculates the percentage of those plans that have a status of Finalized. This calculated measure provides information about how the budget planning process is progressing.

Using the budget planning data cube

This section provides examples of how the budget planning data cube can be used.

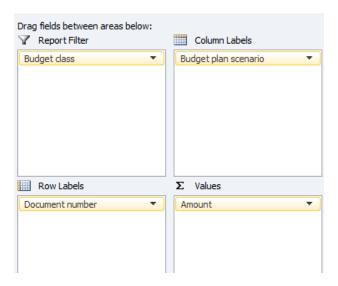
Note: The examples use Microsoft Excel to connect to the data cube. For instructions, see <u>Appendix</u> 2 Connecting to the budget planning cube using Microsoft Excel.

Multiple scenarios in one view

The Microsoft Dynamics AX client displays one scenario at a time. To view multiple scenarios in the budget planning cube, select the budget plan scenario for the columns.

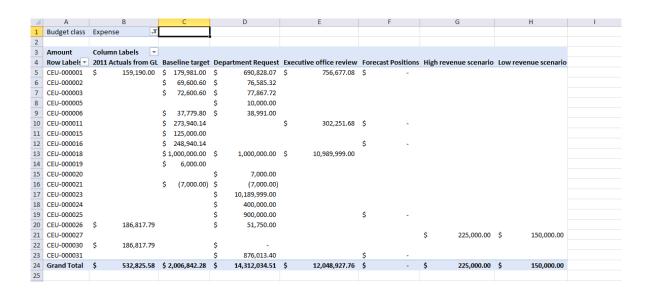
_	-	
1.		PivotTable Field List, select the following fields, shown in steps a through d. Budget plan lines > Amount (This is the measure.)
		⊡ Σ Budget plan lines
		✓ Amount
		☐ Budgeted net income
		Quantity
	b.	Budget plan header > Document number (substitute Budget plans - Name if the name is a better identifier of the plan)
		⊡ 🗐 Budget plan header
		☐ Budget plan header.Budget plans - Name
		☐ Budget plan header.Document status
		☐ Budget plan header. Is historical
		☐ Budget plan header, IsNotApplicable
		☐ Budget plan header.Rank
		☐ Budget plan header. Workflow status
		□ Document number
	c.	Budget plan lines > Budget class Budget plan lines
		▼ Budget class
		☐ Budget plan estimate type
		☐ Is recurring
		New request
	d.	Budget plan scenario > Budget plan scenario
		Budget plan scenario
		■ Budget plan scenario
		Description
		□IsNotApplicable

2. In the PivotTable Field List, move **Budget class** to the **Report Filter** area and move **Budget** plan scenario to the **Column Labels** area.



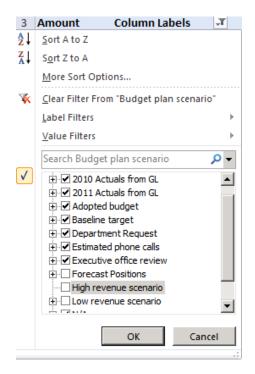
 In the Budget class filter at the top of the sheet, set the Budget class = Expense (or Revenue).

The worksheet will now look similar to this:

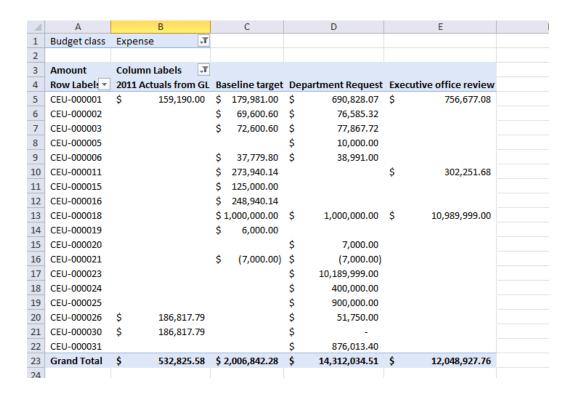


The scenarios are the column labels, and the rows represent the plans. The Grand Total calculations are added by default. Row totals have been turned off because they are not applicable in most cases. To turn off row totals, select **Design** > **Grand Totals**, and then select **On for Columns Only.** The entire sheet was selected and formatted to display the amounts in the currency.

Columns can also be removed if they do not provide relevant data. Select the **Column Labels** drop-down icon that is located above the columns and clear the columns to remove.



In this example, the following columns were removed: Forecast positions, High revenue scenario, and Low revenue scenario.



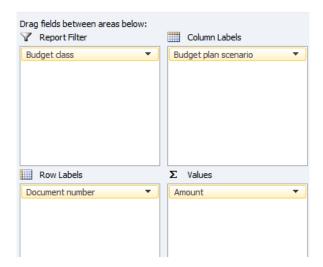
Ledger accounts across multiple plans

Because the same ledger account can appear in more than one budget plan, it can be useful to aggregate amounts by account for multiple plans.

- 1. In the PivotTable Field List, select the following fields:
 - a. **Budget plan lines** > **Amount** (This is the measure.)
 - ∑ Budget plan lines
 ✓ Amount
 □ Budgeted net income
 □ Quantity
 - b. Budget plan lines > Budget class
 - Budget plan lines
 - ✓ Budget class
 - Budget plan estimate type
 - ☐ Is recurring
 - New request

c.	Budget plan scenario > Budget plan scenario
	Budget plan scenario
	▼ Budget plan scenario
	Description
	☐ IsNotApplicable
d.	Main accounts > Name (or Value, if preferred)
	Main accounts
	☐ Key attribute
	☑ Name
	□ Value

2. In the PivotTable Field List, move **Budget class** to the **Report Filter** area, and move **Budget** plan scenario to the **Column Labels** area.

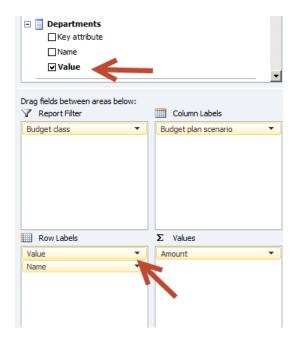


3. In the Budget class filter at the top of the sheet, set the **Budget class = Expense** (or Revenue, if desired).

The worksheet will now look similar to this after formatting to currency and setting ${\bf Grand\ Totals}$ to ${\bf On\ for\ Columns\ Only}.$

1										
2										
3	Budget class	Expense	Ţ							
4										
5	Amount	Column L	abels 🍱							
6	Row Labels	2011 Actu	als from GL	Ba	seline target	De	partment Request	Ex	ecutive office review	
7	Bad dept expense	\$	2,190.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,300.00	\$	3,150.00	
8	Commission expense	\$	7,920.00	\$	16,632.00	\$	18,303.44	\$	9,151.72	
9	Depreciation expense - Tangible assets	\$	7,100.00	\$	14,910.00	\$	16,582.00	\$	8,291.00	
10	Employer 401(k) payable			\$	1,320.00	\$	1,320.00	\$	2,772.00	
11	General Profit & Loss	\$	210.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,150.00	\$	11,475.00	
12	Group dental insurance expense			\$	3,884.18	\$	8,981.57	\$	13,254.17	
13	Group health/life insurance expense			\$	5,178.90	\$	11,975.40	\$	17,672.19	
14	Interest on bank loans	\$	1,470.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,300.00	\$	2,650.00	
15	Lease expense	\$	18,730.00	\$	40,000.00	\$	42,400.00	\$	21,200.00	
16	Miscellaneous expense	\$	1,110.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,300.00	\$	2,650.00	
17	Other miscellaneous expenses	\$	74,080.00	\$	191,000.00	\$	195,900.00	\$	125,450.00	
18	Payroll allocation							\$	50,000.00	
19	Project Payroll Allocation	\$	2,790.00	\$	6,687.20	\$	7,200.00	\$	3,600.00	
20	Repairs & maintenance expense	\$	1,730.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,300.00	\$	3,150.00	
21	Salaries - Other expense			\$	13,927.06	\$	13,927.06	\$	30,164.35	
22	Salaries - Wages expense	\$	33,240.00	\$	296,630.00	\$	527,380.00	\$	736,373.00	
23	Selling expense	\$	5,360.00	\$	11,256.00	\$	14,952.64	\$	7,476.32	
24	Travel expense	\$	3,260.00	\$	7,476.80	\$	9,000.00	\$	10,449.01	
25	Grand Total	\$	159,190.00	\$	633,902.14	\$	894,272.11	\$	1,058,928.76	
26										

To view the same data with additional financial dimensions added from the account structure, select one or more financial dimensions from the **Field List.** In the example below, select **Departments** > **Value** (where Department is a financial dimension), and in the Field List for **Row Labels**, move this above the Main account **Name** field to give a view of accounts for each department.



The worksheet will now look similar to this.

	A	В			С		D	E		F
1										
2										
3	Budget class	Expense	Ţ							
4										
5	Amount	Column L	abels 🏋							
6	Row Labels	2011 Actu	uals from GL	Ba	seline target	De	partment Request	Exe	cutive office review	
7	□ OU 2310					\$	20,000.00	Ś	60,000.00	
8	Other miscellaneous expenses					\$	20,000.00	\$	10,000.00	
9	Payroll allocation							\$	50,000.00	
10	■ OU 4564	\$	63,676.00	\$	413,141.34	\$	402,110.78	\$	627,777.14	
11	Bad dept expense	\$	876.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,200.00	\$	1,100.00	
12	Commission expense	\$	3,168.00	\$	6,652.80	\$	7,318.00	\$	3,659.00	
13	Depreciation expense - Tangible assets	\$	2,840.00	\$	5,964.00	\$	6,600.00	\$	3,300.00	
14	Employer 401(k) payable			\$	1,320.00	\$	1,320.00	\$	2,772.00	
15	General Profit & Loss	\$	84.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,100.00	\$	550.00	
16	Group dental insurance expense			\$	3,884.18	\$	3,884.18	\$	8,156.78	
17	Group health/life insurance expense			\$	5,178.90	\$	5,178.90	\$	10,875.69	
18	Interest on bank loans	\$	588.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,200.00	\$	1,100.00	
19	Lease expense	\$	7,492.00	\$	16,000.00	\$	17,600.00	\$	8,800.00	
20	Miscellaneous expense	\$	444.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,200.00	\$	1,100.00	
21	Other miscellaneous expenses	\$	29,632.00	\$	89,000.00	\$	70,400.00	\$	62,700.00	
22	Project Payroll Allocation	\$	1,116.00	\$	2,343.60	\$	2,600.00	\$	1,300.00	
23	Repairs & maintenance expense	\$	692.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,200.00	\$	1,100.00	
24	Salaries - Other expense			\$	13,927.06	\$	13,927.06	\$	30,164.35	
25	Salaries - Wages expense	\$	13,296.00	\$	252,630.00	\$	255,430.00	\$	487,123.00	
26	Selling expense	\$	2,144.00	\$	4,502.40	\$	4,952.64	\$	2,476.32	
27	Travel expense	\$	1,304.00	\$	2,738.40	\$	3,000.00	\$	1,500.00	
28	■ OU_4605	\$	63,676.00	\$	145,201.20	\$	394,179.33	\$	316,311.61	
29	Bad dept expense	\$	876.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,100.00	\$	1,050.00	
30	Commission expense	\$	3,168.00	\$	6,652.80	\$	6,985.44	\$	3,492.72	
31	Depreciation expense - Tangible assets	\$	2,840.00	\$	5,964.00	\$	7,000.00	\$	3,500.00	
32	General Profit & Loss	\$	84.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,050.00	\$	525.00	
33	Group dental insurance expense					\$	5,097.39	\$	5,097.39	
34	Group health/life insurance expense					\$	6,796.50	\$	6,796.50	
35	Interest on bank loans	\$	588.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,100.00	\$	1,050.00	
36	Lease expense	\$	7,492.00	\$	16,000.00	\$	16,800.00	\$	8,400.00	
37	Miscellaneous expense	\$	444.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,100.00	\$	1,050.00	
38	Other miscellaneous expenses	\$	29,632.00	\$	70,000.00	\$	73,500.00	\$	36,750.00	
39	Project Payroll Allocation	\$	1,116.00	\$	2,343.60	\$	2,600.00	\$	1,300.00	
40	Repairs & maintenance expense	\$	692.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,100.00	\$	1,050.00	

Note that subtotals are added for each Department. This can be turned off from the **Design** > **Subtotals** menu.

To show the entire account number, select **Ledger derived financial attribute value combinations** instead of selecting Main account and a financial dimension.

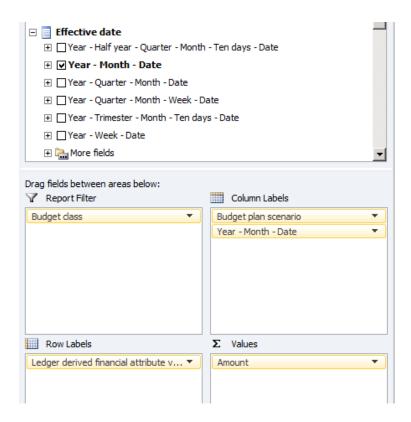
	Ledger deriv	ed financia	l attribute	value o	combinations
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- Derived financial hierarchy attribute value combination
- ☐ IsNotApplicable
- ✓ Ledger derived financial attribute value combinations

Amount	Column	n Labels						
Row Labels			Ra	seline target	De	nartment Request	Exe	ecutive office review
600150-OU 2310	LUII	tudio irom de	Du	semie target	Ś	20,000.00	\$	10,000.00
600150-OU 4564	\$	29,632.00	\$	64,000.00	\$	70,400.00	\$	35,200.00
600150-OU 4564	*	,	\$	25,000.00		,	\$	27,500.00
600150-OU 4605	\$	29,632.00	\$	70,000.00	\$	73,500.00	\$	36,750.00
600150-OU 4728	\$	14,816.00	\$	32,000.00	\$	32,000.00	\$	16,000.00
600200-OU_4564	\$	692.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,200.00	\$	1,100.00
600200-OU_4605	\$	692.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,100.00	\$	1,050.00
600200-OU_4728	\$	346.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	1,000.00
600300-OU_2310							\$	50,000.00
601200-OU_4564	\$	2,144.00	\$	4,502.40	\$	4,952.64	\$	2,476.32
601200-OU_4605	\$	2,144.00	\$	4,502.40	\$	6,000.00	\$	3,000.00
601200-OU_4728	\$	1,072.00	\$	2,251.20	\$	4,000.00	\$	2,000.00
601500-OU_4564	\$	1,304.00	\$	2,738.40	\$	3,000.00	\$	1,500.00
601500-OU_4605	\$	1,304.00	\$	2,738.40	\$	4,000.00	\$	2,000.00
601500-OU_4728	\$	652.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	6,949.01
602000-OU_4564	\$	84.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,100.00	\$	550.00
602000-OU_4605	\$	84.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,050.00	\$	525.00
602000-OU_4728	\$	42.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	10,400.00
602100-OU_4564	\$	13,296.00	\$	28,000.00	\$	30,800.00	\$	15,400.00
602100-OU_4564-OU_4571-			\$	224,630.00	\$	224,630.00	\$	471,723.00
602100-OU_4605	\$	13,296.00	\$	28,000.00	\$	29,400.00	\$	14,700.00
602100-OU_4605-OU_4612-					\$	226,550.00	\$	226,550.00
602100-OU_4728	\$	6,648.00	\$	16,000.00	\$	16,000.00	\$	8,000.00
602110-OU_4564-OU_4571-			\$	13,927.06	\$	13,927.06	\$	30,164.35
602120-OU_4564-OU_4571-			\$	5,178.90	\$	5,178.90	\$	10,875.69
602120-OU_4605-OU_4612-					\$	6,796.50	\$	6,796.50
602140-OU_4564	\$	3,168.00	\$	6,652.80	\$	7,318.00	\$	3,659.00
602140-OU_4605	\$	3,168.00	\$	6,652.80	\$	6,985.44	\$	3,492.72
602140-OU_4728	\$	1,584.00	\$	3,326.40	\$	4,000.00	\$	2,000.00
602160-OU_4564-OU_4571-			\$	3,884.18	\$	3,884.18	\$	8,156.78
602160-OU_4605-OU_4612-					\$	5,097.39	\$	5,097.39
602220-OU_4564-OU_4571-			\$	1,320.00	\$	1,320.00	\$	2,772.00
603100-OU_4564	\$	1,116.00	\$	2,343.60	\$	2,600.00	\$	1,300.00
603100-OU_4605	\$	1,116.00	\$	2,343.60	\$	2,600.00	\$	1,300.00
603100-OU_4728	\$	558.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	1,000.00

Display by date range is an additional important view. This can be useful when the budget amounts have been allocated across a fiscal year, particularly when the fiscal year crosses a calendar year.

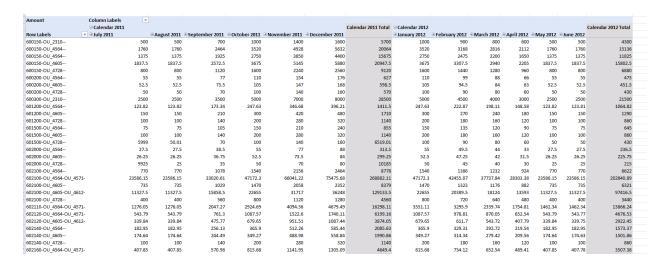
Starting from the previous view, ensure that the **Effective date** > **Year – Month – Date** dimension appears in the **Column Labels** area.



To view one scenario at a time in the previous example, move the Budget plan scenario from the Column area to the Report Filter area, and then select a scenario.

\square	Α	В			С	D
2	Budget class	Expense	"T			
3	Budget plan scenario	Executive office	e review 🔻			
4						
5	Amount	Column Labels	*			
6	Row Labels 🔻	⊞ Calendar 201	l	± (Calendar 2012	
7	600150-OU_2310	\$	5,700.00	\$	4,300.00	
8	600150-OU_4564	\$	20,064.00	\$	15,136.00	
9	600150-OU_4564	\$	15,675.00	\$	11,825.00	
10	600150-OU_4605	\$	20,947.50	\$	15,802.50	
11	600150-OU_4728	\$	9,120.00	\$	6,880.00	
12	600200-OU_4564	\$	627.00	\$	473.00	
13	600200-OU_4605	\$	598.50	\$	451.50	
14	600200-OU_4728	\$	570.00	\$	430.00	
15	600300-OU_2310	\$	28,500.00	\$	21,500.00	
16	601200-OU_4564	\$	1,411.50	\$	1,064.82	
17	601200-OU_4605	\$	1,710.00	\$	1,290.00	
18	601200-OU_4728	\$	1,140.00	\$	860.00	
19	601500-OU_4564	\$	855.00	\$	645.00	
20	601500-OU_4605	\$	1,140.00	\$	860.00	
21	601500-OU_4728	\$	6,519.01	\$	430.00	
22	602000-OU_4564	\$	313.50	\$	236.50	
23	602000-OU_4605	\$	299.25	\$	225.75	
24	602000-OU_4728	\$	10,185.00	\$	215.00	
25	602100-OU_4564	\$	8,778.00	\$	6,622.00	
26	602100-OU_4564-OU_4571-	\$ 2	268,882.11	\$	202,840.89	
27	602100-OU_4605	\$	8,379.00	\$	6,321.00	
28	602100-OU_4605-OU_4612-	\$ 1	129,133.50	\$	97,416.50	
29	602100-OU_4728	\$	4,560.00	\$	3,440.00	
30	602110-OU_4564-OU_4571-	\$	16,298.11	\$	13,866.24	
31	602120-OU_4564-OU_4571-	\$	6,199.16	\$	4,676.53	
32	602120-OU_4605-OU_4612-	\$	3,874.05	\$	2,922.45	
33	602140-OU_4564	\$	2,085.63	\$	1,573.37	
34	602140-OU_4605	\$	1,990.86	\$	1,501.86	
35	602140-OU_4728	\$	1,140.00	\$	860.00	
36	602160-OU_4564-OU_4571-	\$	4,649.40	\$	3,507.38	
37	602160-OU_4605-OU_4612-	\$	2,905.52	\$	2,191.87	
38	602220-OU_4564-OU_4571-	\$	1,580.04	\$	1,191.96	
39	603100-OU_4564	\$	741.00	\$	559.00	

A different date format can be selected. The previous example can also be broken out into months by clicking the plus sign (+) in the Calendar row.

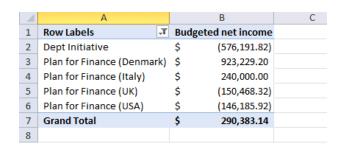


Combining the above options (and more) allows you to display the data in virtually any combination.

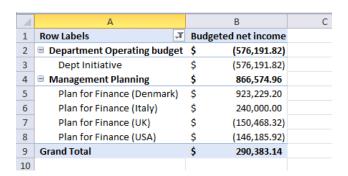
Budgeted net income

The primary business calculation for net income is available in the budget planning cube. Using the calculated measure allows the analysis of net income by plan, financial dimension, or other data set.

- 1. In the PivotTable Field List, select the following fields:
 - a. **Budget plan lines** > **Budgeted net income.** (This is the measure.)
 - □ ∑ Budget plan lines
 ☑ Amount
 - ☐ Budgeted net income
 - Quantity
 - b. **Main accounts > Name** (or Value, if preferred)
 - Main accounts
 - ☐ Key attribute
 - **▼** Name
 - Value



The budget plans can be grouped by any of the header fields. The example below uses Budget planning process.

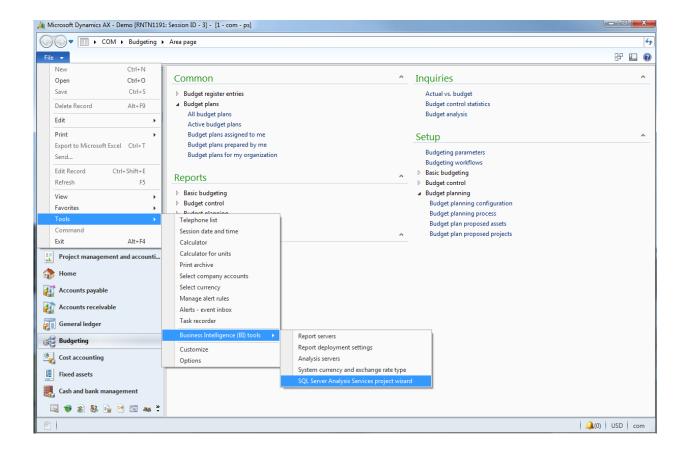


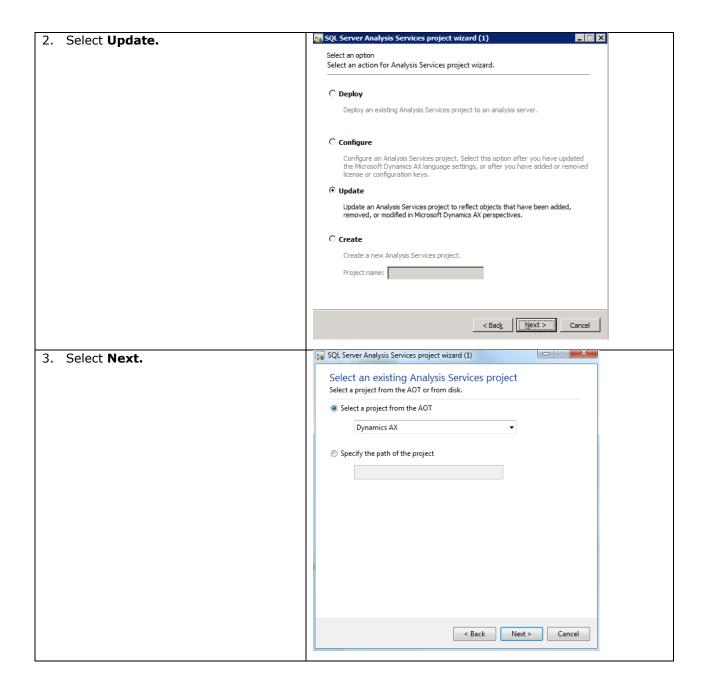
Remember that grouping options can also be applied to all views of data.

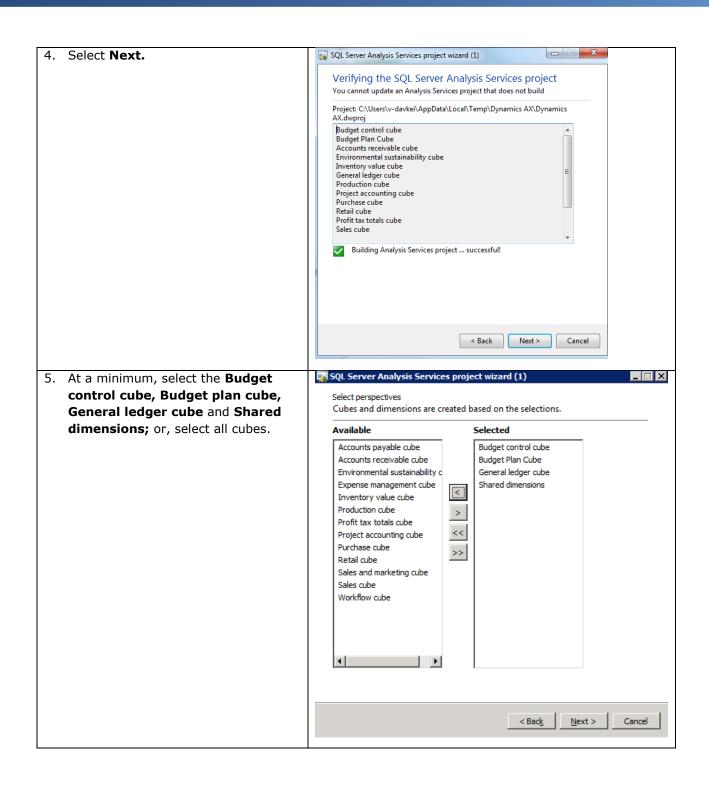
Appendix 1 Generating a budget planning data cube

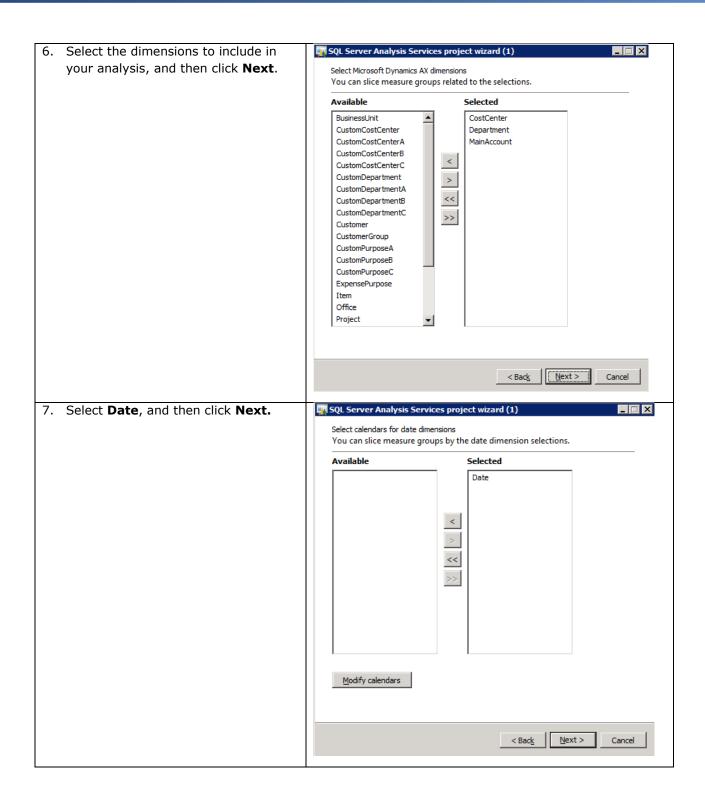
Note: Analysis Services must be installed before you can generate a budget planning data cube.

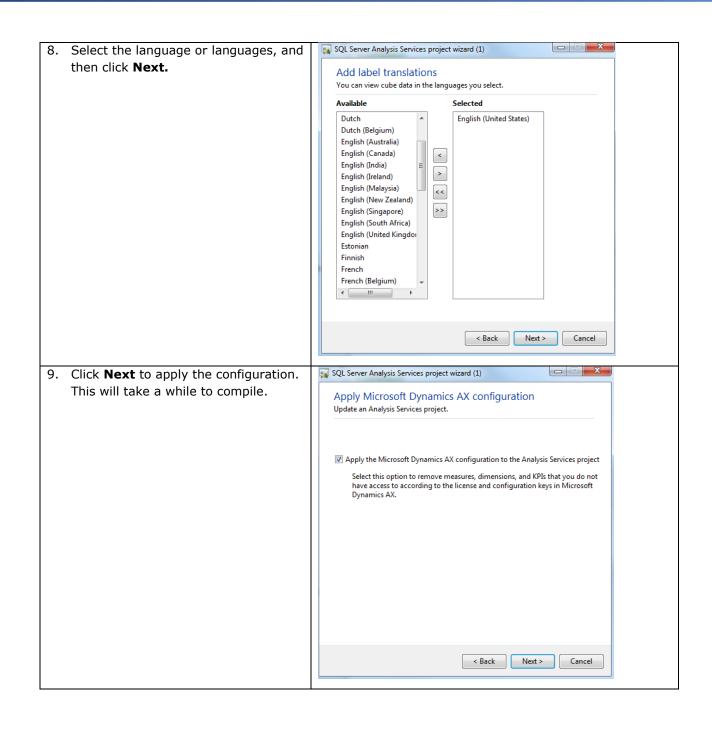
1. Select Tools > Business Intelligence (BI) tools > SQL Server Analysis Services project wizard.



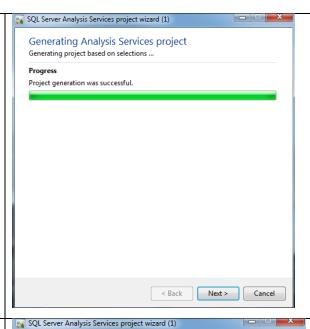








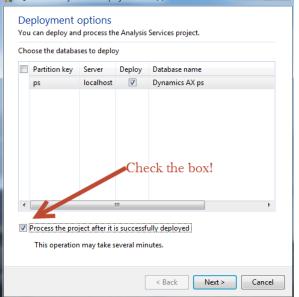
10. When you see this screen, the process is finished. Click **Next.**



11. Select the **Process the project after it is successfully deployed**checkbox, and then click **Next.**

Note: This example is for the Public sector partition. Separate lines in this grid can be created (and are shown by default) for the init partition. You can rename the database name. Adding a date to the database name is a good practice.

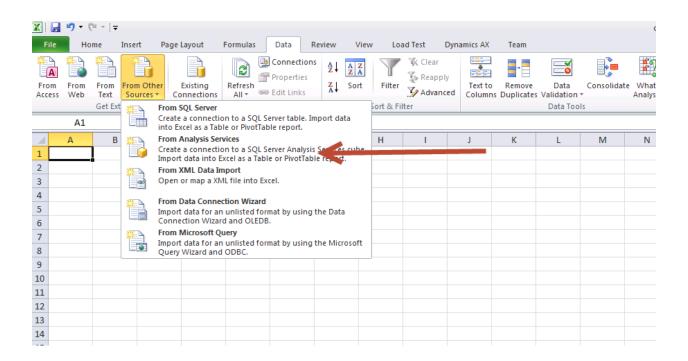
12. Click **Next** to complete this example.



Appendix 2 Connecting to the budget planning data cube using Microsoft Excel

Analysis and reporting using the budget planning data cube can be performed by connecting to the generated analysis cube using Microsoft Excel, Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services, or other methods. This appendix covers connecting to the generated analysis cube by using Microsoft Excel.

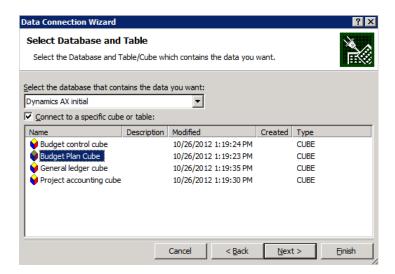
To connect to your budget planning cube using Microsoft Excel, open a workbook and select Data
 From Other Sources > From Analysis Services.



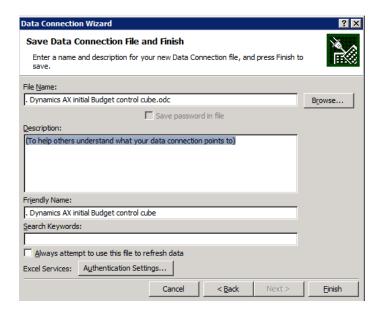
2. In the Data Connection Wizard, enter the Server name (or a period for a local install), and then click **Next.**



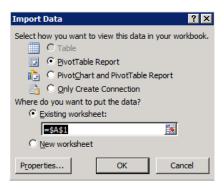
3. In the database selection field, select the database that you created for your cube(s). Optionally, you can connect specifically to the Budget Plan Cube.



4. Optionally you can add a description, or you can make no changes, and then click Finish.

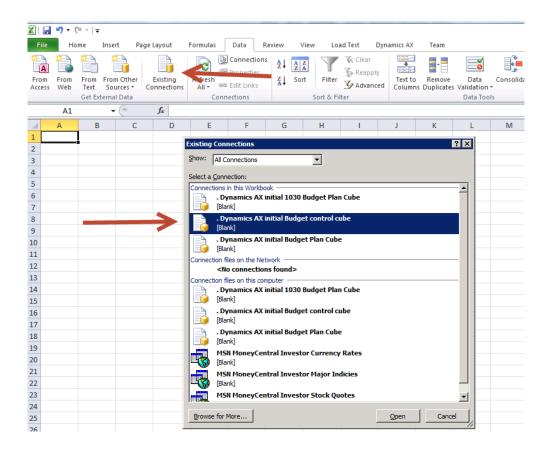


5. In the Import Data form, select the location in your spreadsheet where you want to place the PivotTable.



6. Click **OK** and you ready to start analyzing.

When connecting to the budget planning data cube in the future (for a new sheet in the workbook, for example), you can select the same cube data by selecting **Data** > **Existing Connections**, and then select the data source that you created above.



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