

# How to build a bar chart

A bar chart is one of the most common types of charts that you will see on a dashboard:



This chapter will show you how to build your own bar chart...




Within Cognos Analytics, we use the term “visualization” instead of “chart”.

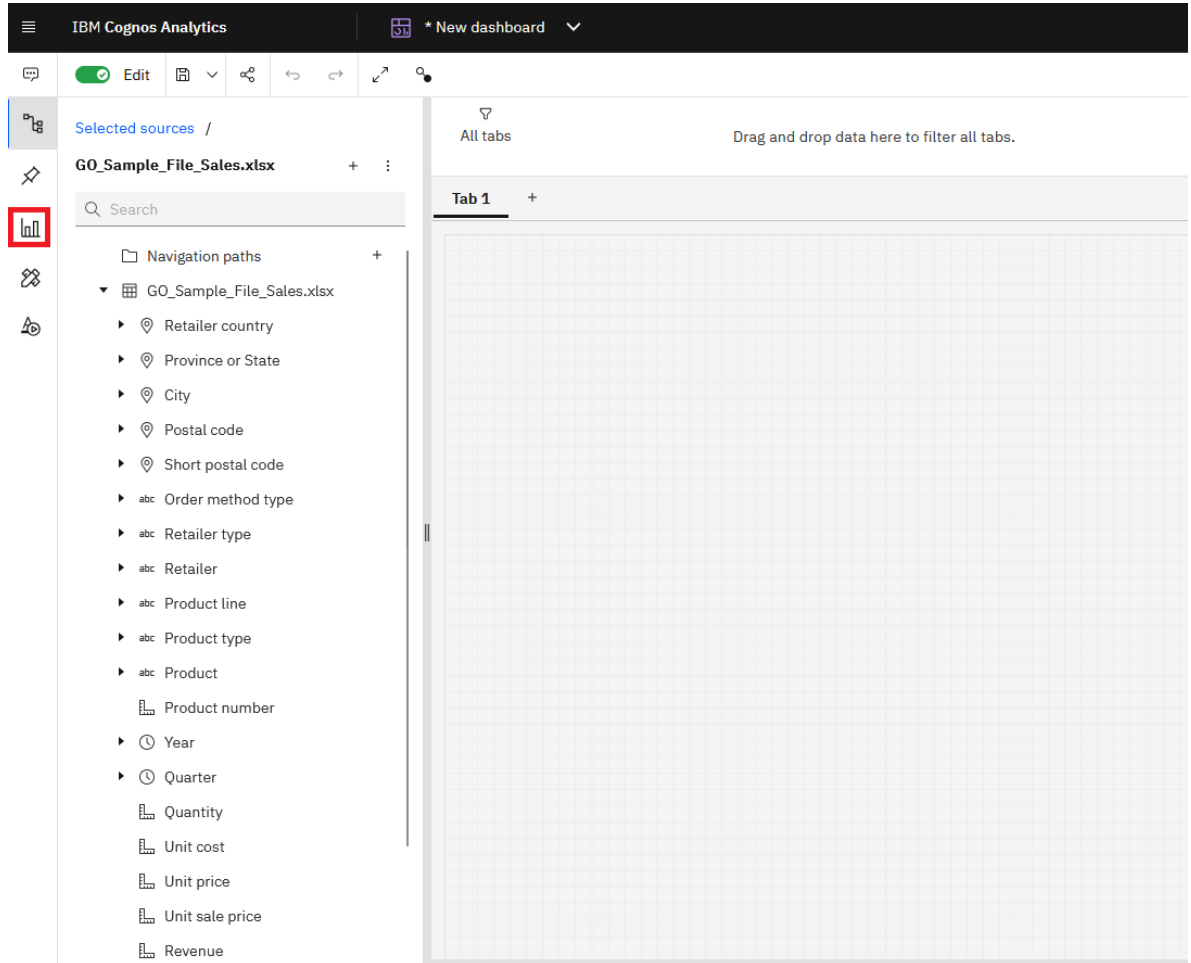


Technical

A bar chart is composed of 1 category (e.g. Product Line) and 1 measure (e.g. Quantity). Categories are typically text-based and discrete.

## Build a basic bar chart

1. Start with the dashboard you recently created (see [How do I create a new dashboard?](#))
2. Click the *Visualizations*  panel:

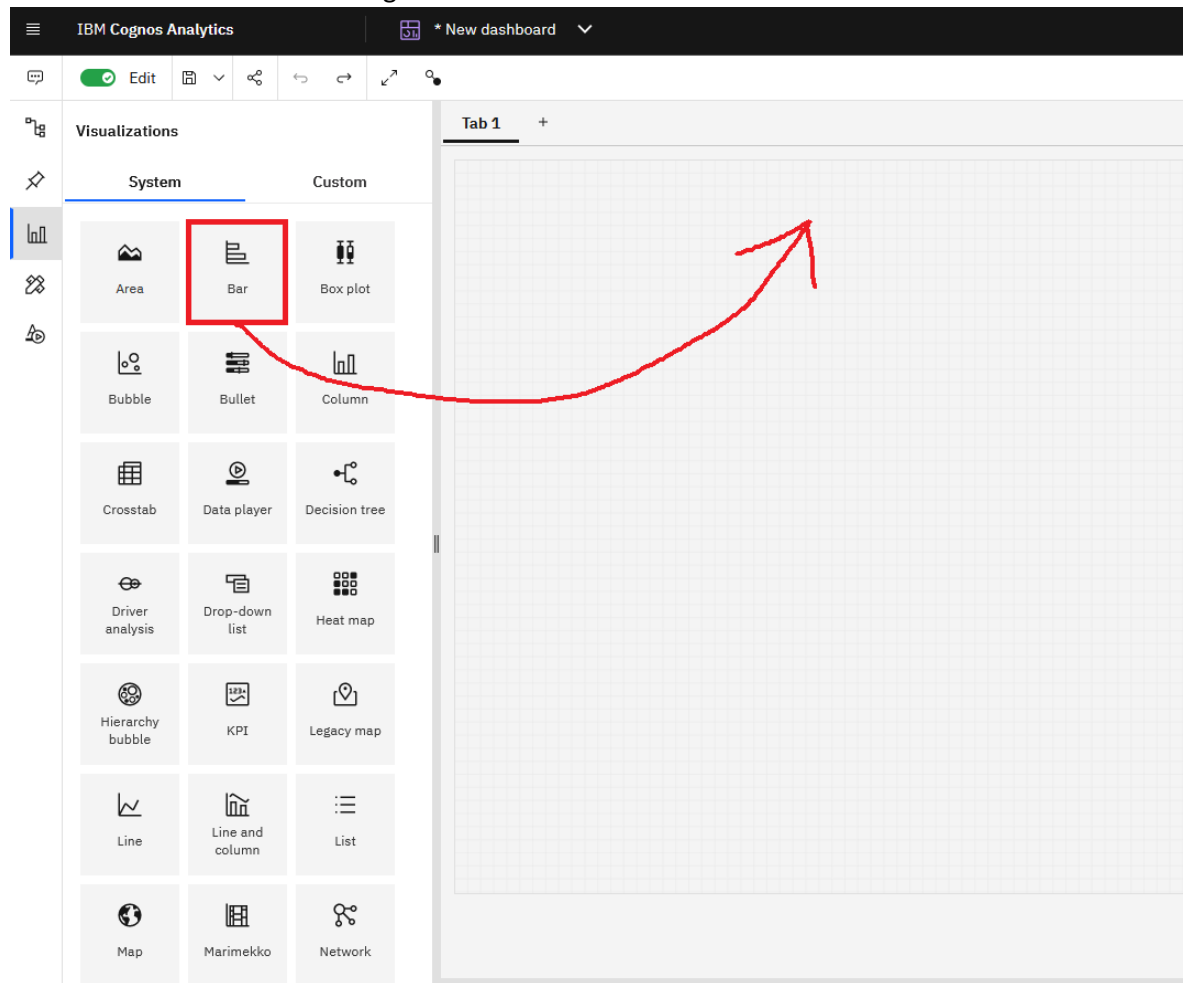


The screenshot displays the IBM Cognos Analytics interface. At the top, the header shows "IBM Cognos Analytics" and a dropdown menu for "+ New dashboard". Below the header is a toolbar with icons for "Edit", "Save", "Share", "Refresh", "Undo", "Redo", and "Help".

The left sidebar contains a "Selected sources" section with a search bar and a list of data sources. The source "GO\_Sample\_File\_Sales.xlsx" is selected. Below it, a list of fields is shown, including "Navigation paths", "Retailer country", "Province or State", "City", "Postal code", "Short postal code", "Order method type", "Retailer type", "Retailer", "Product line", "Product type", "Product", "Product number", "Year", "Quarter", "Quantity", "Unit cost", "Unit price", "Unit sale price", and "Revenue". The "Visualizations" icon (a bar chart) is highlighted with a red box.

The main workspace is titled "All tabs" and contains a tab labeled "Tab 1". A message above the tab reads "Drag and drop data here to filter all tabs." The workspace area is currently empty, showing a grid background.

3. Click the *Bar* chart icon and drag it to the canvas:



4. Drag *Product line* from the *Sources* panel and drop it onto the *Bars* slot in the *Fields*

**Fields** panel:

The screenshot shows the IBM Cognos Analytics interface. On the left, the 'Selected sources' panel lists 'GO\_Sample\_File\_Sales.xlsx' with a tree view containing various dimensions. 'Product line' is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from 'Product line' to the 'Bars' slot in the 'Fields' panel on the right. The 'Fields' panel also shows 'Length\*' as a required field. The central visualization area shows a placeholder bar chart with 'Color' on the y-axis and 'Length' on the x-axis.

5. Drag *Quantity* from the *Sources* panel onto the *Length* slot in the *Fields* panel. The bar chart is rendered and your dashboard looks like this:

The screenshot shows the IBM Cognos Analytics interface after the second step. The 'Fields' panel now has 'Product line' in the 'Bars' slot and 'Quantity' in the 'Length\*' slot. The central visualization area shows a rendered horizontal bar chart titled 'Quantity by Product line'. The y-axis is 'Product line' and the x-axis is 'Quantity (Sum)'. The chart displays five bars representing different product lines.

Product line	Quantity (Sum)
Camping Equipment	~6,000,000
Golf Equipment	~1,000,000
Hunting/Targeting Equipment	~2,000,000
Outdoor Protection	~3,000,000
Personal Accessories	~10,000,000