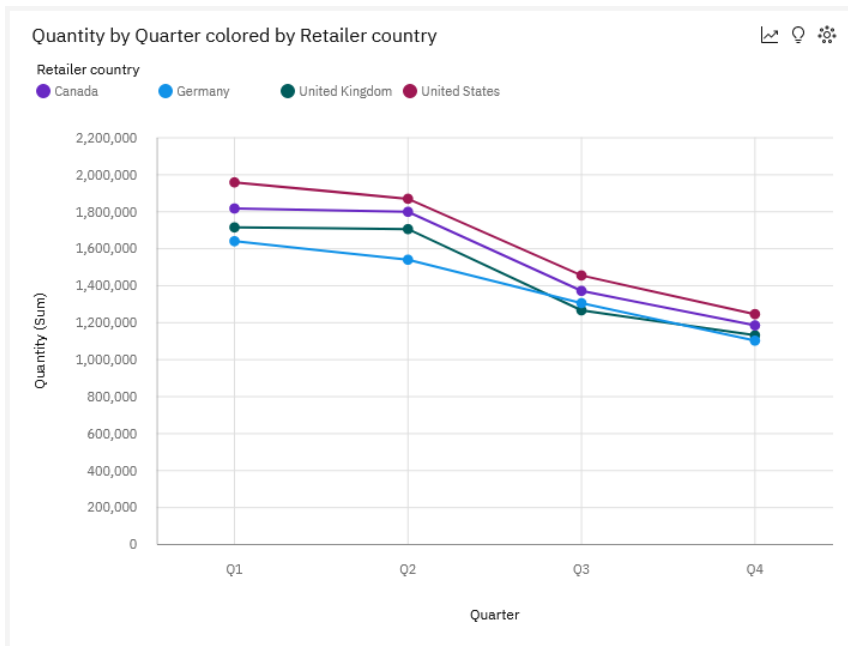


How to build a line chart

Whenever you have some aspect of time in your data (e.g. Year, Month, MTD, etc), you can build a line chart:



You can use line charts to show trends over time and compare many data series. This chapter will show you how to build a line chart...




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

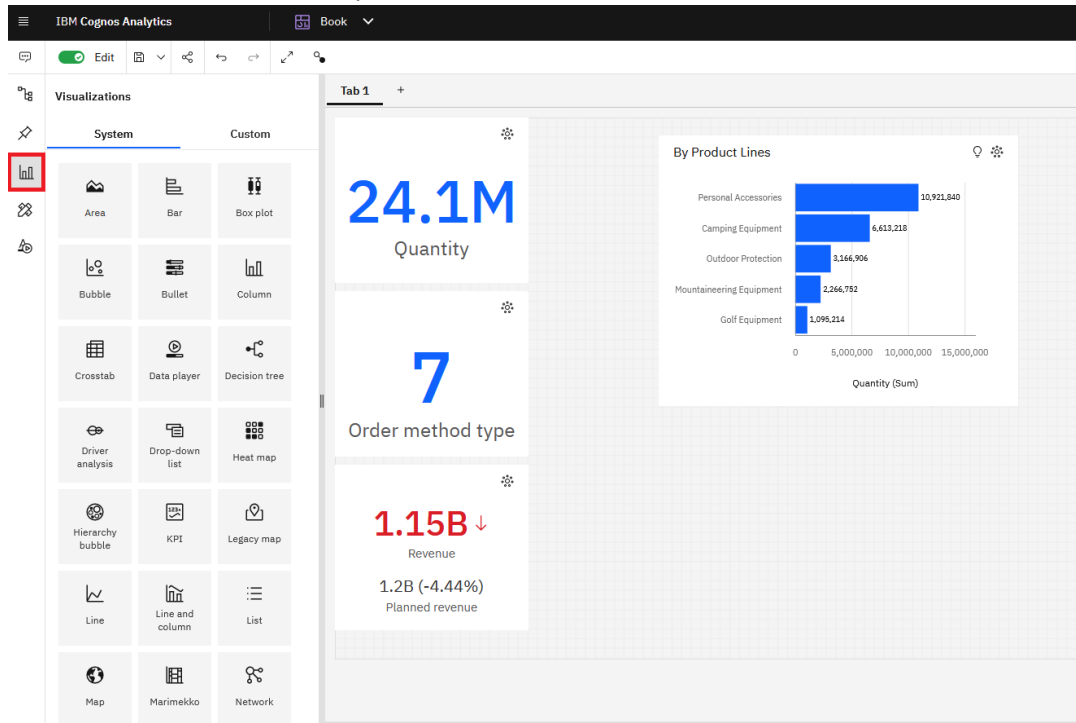


Technical

A line chart is composed of 1 time-based continuous category (e.g. Product Line) and 1 measure (e.g. Quantity). Categories are either text-based (e.g. Q1) or numeric (e.g. 2023) and continuous. You can also add a data series (e.g. multiple lines) to make comparisons. This will add a Legend to the chart.

Add a line visualization

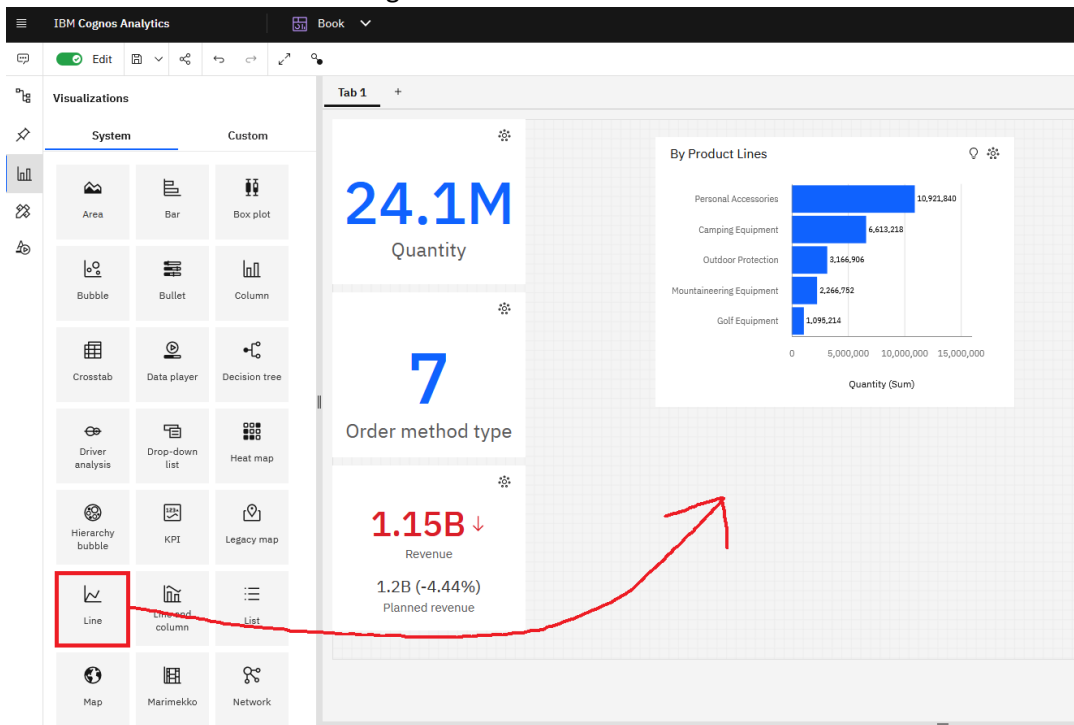
1. Start with the dashboard you recently created (see [How do I add a KPI?](#)).
2. Click the *Visualizations*  panel:



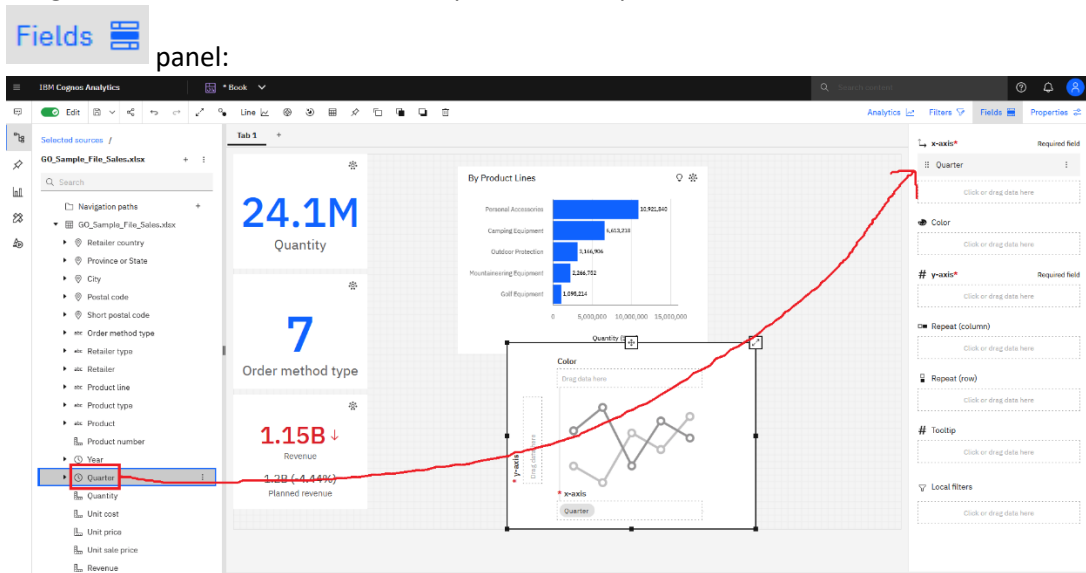
The screenshot shows the IBM Cognos Analytics interface. On the left, the 'Visualizations' panel is open, displaying a grid of visualization types under 'System' and 'Custom' tabs. The 'Line' visualization type is highlighted with a red box. The main dashboard area, titled 'Tab 1', contains three KPI cards and a bar chart. The KPI cards display: '24.1M Quantity', '7 Order method type', and '1.15B Revenue' (with a downward arrow and '-4.44%' change). The bar chart, titled 'By Product Lines', shows the following data:

Product Line	Quantity (Sum)
Personal Accessories	10,921,840
Camping Equipment	6,613,218
Outdoor Protection	3,166,906
Mountaineering Equipment	2,266,752
Golf Equipment	1,095,214

- Click the *Line* chart icon and drag it onto the canvas:

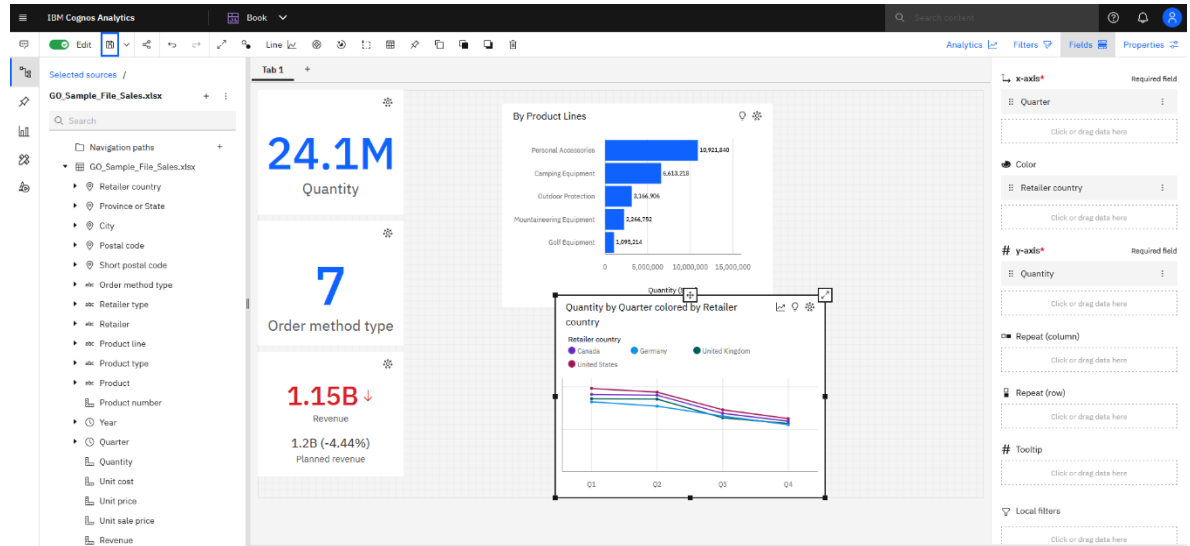


- Drag *Quarter* from the *Sources* panel and drop it onto the *x-axis* slot in the *Fields* panel:



- Drag *Quantity* from the *Sources* panel onto the *y-axis* slot in the *Fields* panel.

- Drag *Retailer country* from the *Sources* panel onto the *Color* slot in the *Fields* panel. This will create a “data series” with multiple lines. The line chart is rendered and your dashboard looks like this:



We won't change the color palette in this case because it already works well with the color palettes in the other visualizations.