



# Business Analysis

## Microsoft Dynamics AX

### **BENEFITS:**

- **Helps provide the insight needed to better control your business**
- **No need for external reporting tools or data replication**
- **Turn raw data into useful business knowledge**
- **Receive the answers you need in real-time**
- **Perform multiple company data retrieval**
- **Provide business users with secure and flexible analytical tools**
- **Designed to work with SQL Server Business Intelligence**

**Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics™ AX helps provide the power needed to quickly transform business data into knowledge and strategic action.**

### **Turn raw data into useful business knowledge**

Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX helps you analyze important factors that affect your bottom line. You can compare vendor data, analyze warehouse operations, develop strategies to retain preferred customers and attract new customers, and create customer profiles and segmentation analyses. You can share up-to-the-minute information such as customer purchasing and supplier inventory, and identify weak spots in your supply chain so that you can make the necessary changes. Analysis tools help you answer questions like “How will switching my suppliers affect my profits?” or “What is my delivery lead time?” You can analyze costs associated with employee retention and productivity. You can also do flexible transaction level data retrieval and analysis, for the data of one or many companies.

Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX has two styles of operation. Use predefined views to transform raw data into valuable business insight, or create on-the-fly reports from any data in the application. The analytical tools are based on the SQL Server Business Intelligence platform. Using either On-Line Analytical Processing technology (OLAP) or the SQL Server drag-and-drop reporting environment, business users can find and act upon the data they need. These Microsoft technologies work smoothly together helping you avoid additional expenditure in any third-party business intelligence or reporting tool.

With Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX, you can reduce the time and costs associated with analyzing your business data. Both multidimensional analyses using Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services and ad hoc reporting using Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services Report Builder are supported out-of-the-box with Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX. These capabilities reduce the time required to generate answers from the system, while also reducing the potential for errors, simply by providing a single point of administration for your Business Intelligence infrastructure, and the data it requires. Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX also supports many languages and currencies for both OLAP and ad-hoc reporting.

## Get the answers you need in real-time

Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX can give you business insight when you need it most. Analyze and drill down into your business information instead of following static reports. Transform data into multi-dimensional analyses that support enterprise-scale data volumes and hierarchies. Conduct transaction level investigations across multiple company data to discover useful nuggets of information. Create ad hoc reporting perspectives that describe cross-module subsets of business data to support free-form analysis. Manipulate and derive actionable business information by applying ratios, cumulative totals, trends and allocations across dimensions and across hierarchical levels of your data.

Reports can be saved to Microsoft Excel, or published securely to a shared server, without intervention by your IT department.

## Precision

Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX helps you generate reliable results from your analyses, regardless of how complex the query is. The business data used during analysis is constantly updated because it includes changes as they occur in Microsoft Dynamics AX or other data sources. You can set OLAP updates to run every day, every week or every month. There is no duplication or doubling of information sources. With SQL Report Builder, data is retrieved directly from the transaction database, allowing real-time retrieval from an online replica.

You can also look at the results of your analyses at any scale, from a high-level overview down to microscopic detail. When analyzing buying patterns, for example, you can view information by customer group, by specific customer, specific invoice or by any other level of your choice. By measuring performance continuously, you can measure accurately whether your business goals are being met and whether your strategies are working effectively. Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX also gives you transparency when looking for the relationship between activities in different departments, locations or subsidiaries.

One of the barriers to traditional business intelligence, and particularly to OLAP analysis is the time and expertise needed to build and maintain the applications and data. Business Analysis in Microsoft Dynamics AX can have a lower total cost of ownership than other analytical applications, by using a built-in Cube Definition Manager to simplify the processes of creating and maintaining cubes. Also, the new ad hoc reporting features can allow end users to completely define their path of exploration through the business data.

## Get deep analyses directly from Microsoft Dynamics AX

With traditional OLAP products, the process of mapping information between the enterprise resource planning (ERP) business data and the OLAP cube can often be difficult and time-consuming, because information needs to be mapped between two separate systems.

## Security

The security is managed centrally, reducing both the effect on users and the strain on your IT department. You have full control over which users have access to which models. The users must be registered on the server they select to gain access. With SQL Report Builder, Microsoft Dynamics AX company, table and record-level security are all honored directly, allowing a single point of administration for all your business data security needs.

## FEATURES

### Easy to use

- Intuitive layout and structure
- Direct access to main tables from journals
- Advanced sorting and filter options
- Application can be run in different languages

### General

- Multidimensional analysis
- Ad hoc reporting
- Embedded and context adaptable viewing of cubes
- Easy access to manipulation of views and reports in Microsoft Excel
- Full control within Microsoft Dynamics AX

### Microsoft SQL server Analysis Services

- Create, maintain and control OLAP databases and cubes
- Store cubes as MOLAP cubes with no querying drag on legacy database after update

### Microsoft SQL server Reporting Services

- Define, save and share ad hoc reports
- Real-time data retrieval from primary or replica application database
- Create secure reports using drag-and-drop report authoring

### Embedded Pivot Table

- Works with Office Web Components and Microsoft Excel
- Viewing of cube data

### Business intelligence metadata

- Fully integrated metadata in the Microsoft Dynamics AX development environment
- Fine tune ad-hoc reporting experience as needed
- Automatically generated SQL Server Reporting Services report models for Report Builder

### Cube Definition Manager

- Full use of Microsoft Dynamics AX data model
- Microsoft Dynamics AX forms for easy set-up

### Generation of cubes

- Create cubes in multiple currencies and languages
- Periodic batch update possible for all cubes

### Viewing of cubes

- General overview of available views
- Automatic filtering from Microsoft Dynamics AX base data on Pivot Table

### Security and configuration

- Configuration key control of which cubes to generate
- Security key control of access to cubes and views
- Ad hoc reporting respects all Microsoft Dynamics AX security settings directly

### Third party products

- Any third party product add-on which supports Microsoft Analysis Services can be used for viewing cubes but is not necessary

**For more information about Microsoft Dynamics AX, visit:**  
[www.microsoft.com/dynamics/ax](http://www.microsoft.com/dynamics/ax).

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