Power BI ⟶ Metabase

How to use Metabase if you know Power BI?

What's it called in Metabase?

Power BI	Metabase
Reports	Question
Power Query	Query Builder
DAX	Custom expression
Report view	Dashboard
Publish to web	Embedding
Data alert	Alert

How does the workflow differ?

Power BI

In Power BI, you work with three main views: **Report View** for building visualizations by dragging and dropping data, **Table View** for seeing raw data in a table format, and **Model View** for defining relationships between tables. You transform your data in Power Query before using it in visualizations.

Metabase

You don't have multiple views like in Power BI. Instead, you run a query using the Query Builder or SQL editor. The result of your query is saved as a "Question." You can then organize these Questions by saving them in Collections or directly into Dashboards.

How to browse data?

Power BI

1. Go to the **Table view**.
2. Expand tables in the Field list.
3. Click on a table to view its data.

Metabase

1. Go to **Databases** from the sidebar.
2. Select your database to see a list of tables.
3. Click the table name to view data, or click the book icon to view and edit metadata.

Metabase features

Querying

Query builder — Instead of Power BI's **Power Query Editor**, Metabase's Query Builder lets you visually build queries.

Questions — A question is a saved query and its results displayed as a table and a chart.

Model — A saved, reusable query you can use as a starting point to create more detailed analyses.

Metrics — Pre-defined calculations for consistent, reusable measures.

Dashboard — A collection of questions organized into tabs on a single page.

Native query — Native code editor for when you want to use SQL.

Organizing and sharing

Collections — Like folders with permissions where you can organize your dashboards, questions, models, and metrics.

Embedding — Embed dashboards into external sites.

Public sharing — Create a shareable public link for dashboards.

Permissions — Control who can view, edit, and interact with specific data and collections.

Administration

Caching — Speed up performance by temporarily storing query results, reducing load times on repeated queries.

Usage analytics — Track activity within Metabase, giving insights into how people interact with data.

X-rays — Automatically generates insights to help you find patterns and trends in your data.

Metrics and Grouping

Power BI

In Power BI, you drag columns onto the canvas to build calculations and group data. Columns marked with a sigma ($\sum$) are metrics, which you drop into the **Values** area to perform calculations. Other fields act as grouping dimensions, you use to group the data.

Metabase

Instead of dragging and dropping, you use the **Query Builder**. You summarize a column (like *count of rows*) and group by another column (like *Created_At by month*).

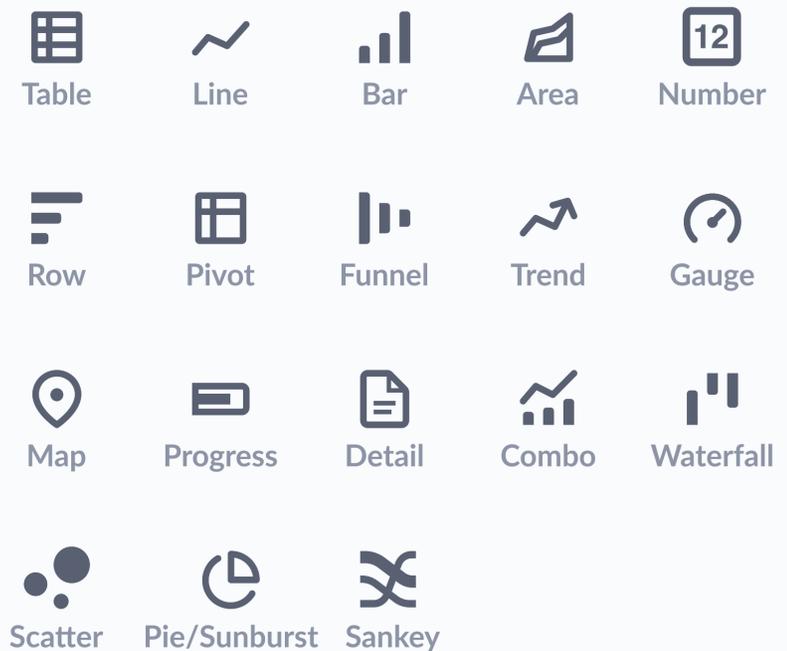## How to create visualizations?

Power BI

1. Open the Report view.
2. Use the Fields pane to drag and drop fields onto the canvas.
3. Choose visualization types from the Visualizations pane.
4. Use the Format pane to customize the appearance.

Metabase

1. Start a new question, click **+ New** and select **Question**.
2. Select a table from your database, or start from an existing question or model.
3. Use the query builder to add **filters**, **summarize** your data, and **group it** by a column.
4. Metabase will suggest a visualization based on your query. You can adjust it using the Visualization button.
5. Save your question to a dashboard or collection.

Data visualizations in Metabase

Table	Line	Bar	Area	Number
Row	Pivot	Funnel	Trend	Gauge
Map	Progress	Detail	Combo	Waterfall
Scatter	Pie/Sunburst	Sankey		

Ready to get started with Metabase?

For a quick start, check our **Getting Started Guide**.

For detailed information, visit our **Docs**.

Welcome to the Metabase community!