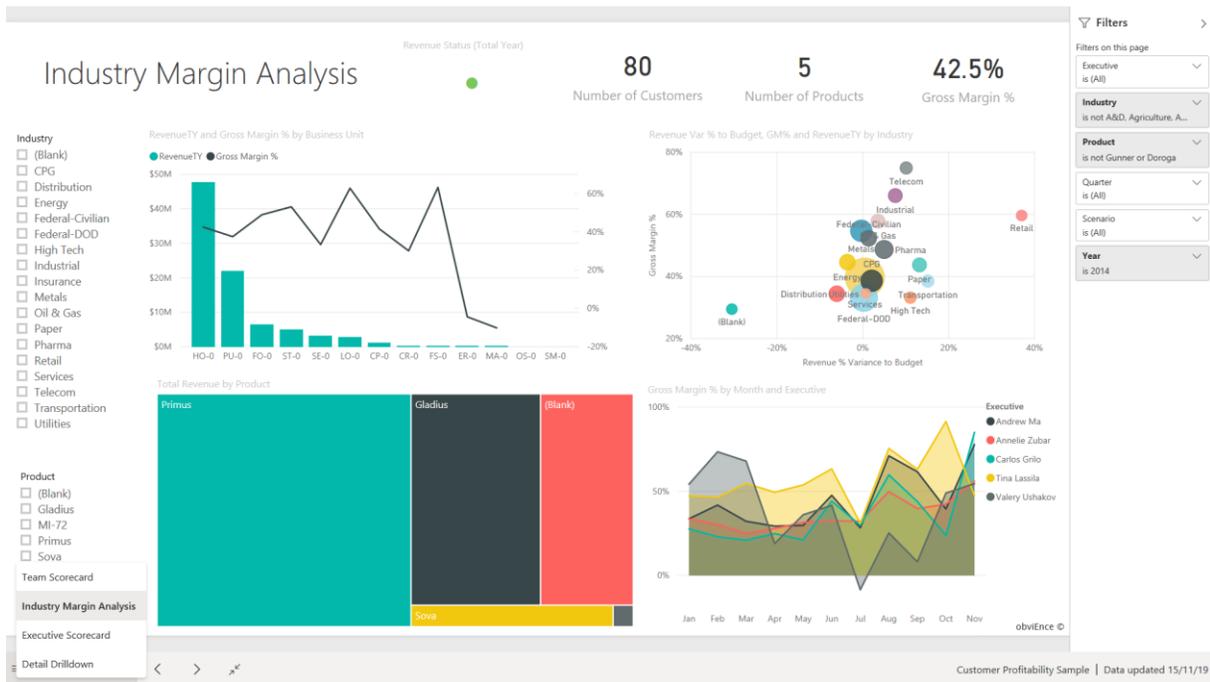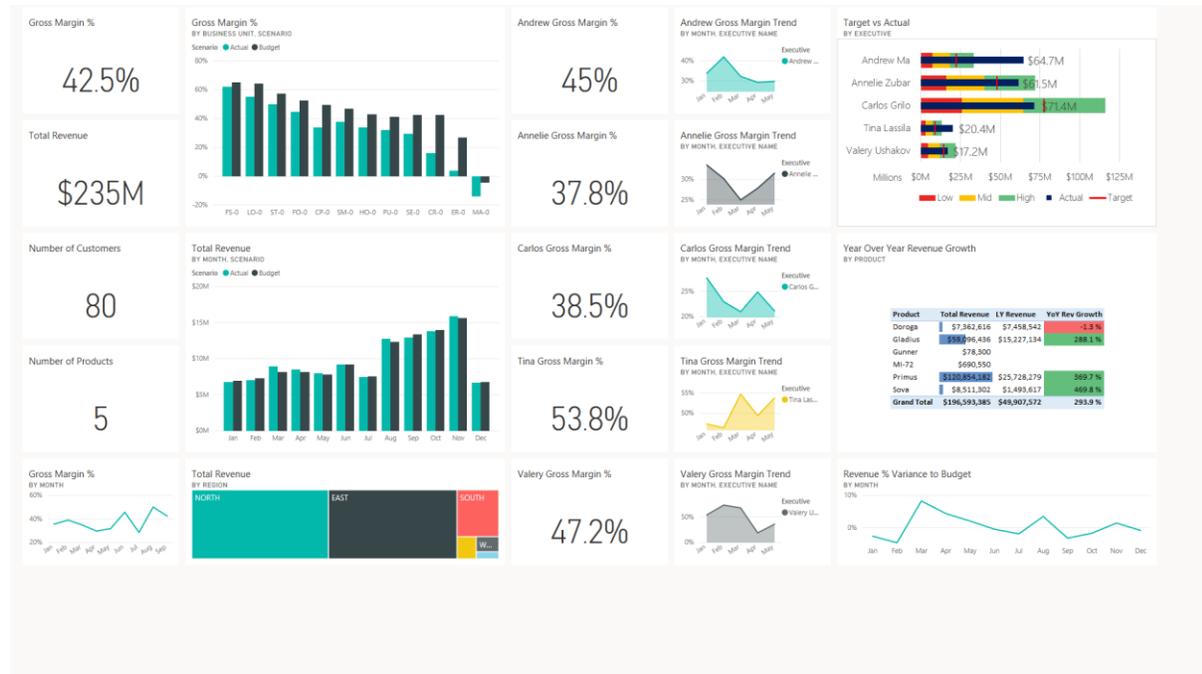# BI Tools Comparisons: Dashboard Apps

Power BI

Report

A *report* in Power BI looks a lot like what many people would called a dashboard. The image below for example shows a traffic light, KPIs and a quadrant of visualisations. It also has multiple tabs (see pop up bottom right), which people may expect of a dashboard.

Dashboard

A *dashboard* is a single page, often called a canvas, that uses visualisations to tell a story, as in the image below:

Report v Dashboard

Fairly similar looking right? There are two important differences between a report and a dashboard in Power BI.

Source

A report is sourced from, and attached to, a dataset where data is modelled into information. Datasets are often used to combine data from different entities or systems, enabling you to relate the data to create aggregate measures and visuals. This is a powerful way of integrating data.
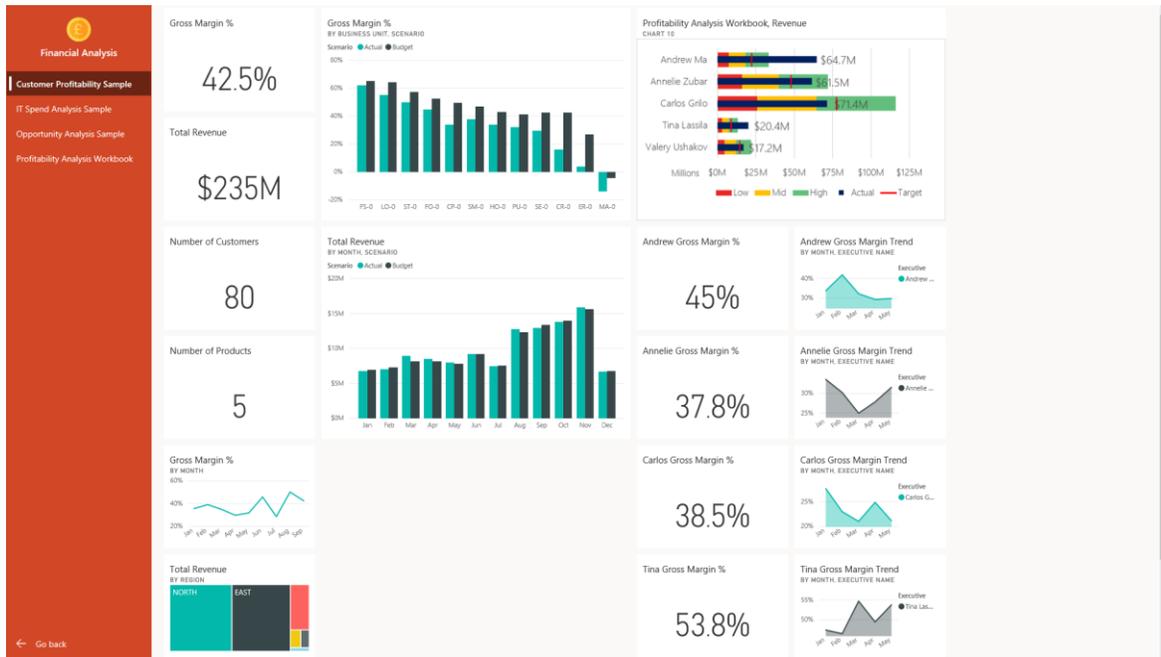
A dashboard is sourced from visuals in reports, called tiles, there is no need to define dataset to do this, so bringing different viewpoints is quicker. It is quick and easy to pin a tile into a dashboard, then position and resize it.

For example, the treemap from the report he other major difference is that whilst reports provide rich interactivity, a dashboard is basically a static view. Each tile acts a hyperlink to the report it was sourced from, where the user can interact to ask more questions

App
So a report may have multiple tabs, a dashboard is always a single page. What about when you want to display multiple dashboards / pages?

An *app* combines related dashboards (and reports) in one place. The dashboard above is focused on Customer Profitability. In the image below it is included into a Financial Analysis app that also contains other dashboards and a connected workbook