Salesforce Forecasting

Svet Voloshin

What is a sales forecast?

How much? and When?

A sales forecast is an expression of expected sales revenue. A sales forecast estimates how much your company plans to sell within a certain time period (like quarter or year).

- **How much:** Each sales opportunity has its own projected **amount** it'll bring into the business.
- When: Sales forecasts pinpoint a month, quarter, or year when the sales team expects the revenue to hit.

Important forecast ingredients

Who, what, where, why, and how to make their forecasts?

A SALES FORECAST PROVIDES ANSWERS FOR:



- Who: Sales teams make their forecasts based on who their prospects are.
- What: Forecasts should be based on exactly what solutions you plan to sell.
- Where: Where is the buying decision made, and where will the actual products be used?
- **Why:** Why is the prospect or existing customer considering new services from your company in the first place?
- How: How does this prospect tend to make purchasing decisions?

Who uses sales forecasts?

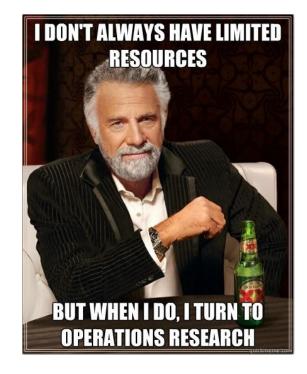
Virtually all departments in a business

- Product Leaders: product availability
- Sales Leaders: responsible for team numbers
- Sales Reps: own metrics for key decisions
- Finance Dept.: financial health of the company, etc.



Objectives of sales forecasting

- Smooth internal operations: reduce the need for compromises like cutting the workforce, reducing support, or halting product development.
- Smooth external operations: perception of company's success, appropriate marketing, staffing, future sales, etc.



How do I design a sales forecasting plan?

- Design a framework for your sales forecasting plan each year
- Change up your strategies from time to time
- **Calculate number and time period:** <u>explain how</u> you'll calculate the estimated monetary amount and what the timeframes will be
- **Review and revise:** review the forecast at key milestones and revise it if necessary
- **Break the patterns:** breaking your patterns can help you find new ways of crafting even more accurate forecasting



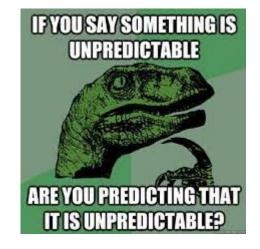
What happens to sales forecasts in unpredictable times?

Extreme weather, economic crises, global pandemics like COVID-19 – all dramatically change your forecast.

Key questions as extraordinary events occur:

- How's our pipeline looking today?
- What are the best- and worst-case scenarios?
- How has the forecast changed from a week or a month ago?

Your forecast implicates resourcing, headcount, and more



Forecasting during crisis

- During a crisis, reps need to feed their CRM with data as events unfold so leaders have clear visibility into the rapidly evolving pipe.
- Data enables those leaders to support their reps with corporate-level decisions about where they should be focusing their time
- Quick access to sales data and the ability to pivot territories and resource deployment accordingly can make the difference between business continuity and dissolution.



How accurate are sales forecasts?

Findings over 20 years:

- Sales leaders tend to be accurate **within 10%** of their forecast the majority (more than 50%) of the time.
- It's rare for forecasts to be within 5%, but it does happen.
- If you're **within 5%** of your forecast, and you're dealing with a **big number of opportunities**, you're a sales **forecasting rockstar**.



[&]quot;And this projected sales increase has a margin of error of 100%."

And how do CRM systems forecast revenue?

- In Salesforce, a forecast is based on the gross rollup of a set of opportunities
- Rollup of **currency or quantity** against a set of dimensions:
 - Owner
 - Time
 - Forecast categories
 - Product family
 - Territory

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						(2) Your team won more deals than the same			

Drill down into opportunities by:

- Sales leader
- Operating unit
- Manager
- Individuals

Reports and Dashboards

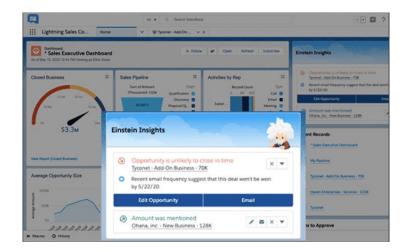
- These highlight where the business challenges are, in plain and simple terms
- Which products are my top sellers?
- Who are my highest value prospects?
- Which marketing campaigns have been the most successful?
- How satisfied are my customers?





Al Guidance - Sales Cloud Einstein

- Provides an **objective**, **unemotional point of view** on what's actually happening in sales.
- For **example**, Einstein might note that an opportunity has been **pushed out** three quarters in a row
 - \circ Out-of-the-box predictions
 - Automatic Data Capture
 - Advanced Analytics
 - Integrates with Einstein Activity Capture



Forecast Categories

- Salesforce Forecast Categories are used to predict the likelihood of winning an Opportunity
- Forecasting works out how likely they are to close, based on their stage
 - Pipeline
 - Best Case
 - Most Likely (new in Winter '22)
 - Commit
 - \circ Closed

• Omitted

Action	Stage Name	API Name	Туре	Probability	Forecast Category	Chart Colors	Modified By
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Edit Del Deactivate	Needs Analysis	Needs Analysis	Open	20%	Pipeline	Assigned dynamically	Ava Admin, 29/01/2021, 14:32
Edit Del Deactivate	Value Proposition	Value Proposition	Open	50%	Pipeline	Assigned dynamically	Ava Admin, 29/01/2021, 14:32
Edit Del Deactivate	Id. Decision Makers	Id. Decision Makers	Open	60%	Pipeline	Assigned dynamically	Ava Admin, 29/01/2021, 14:32
Edit Del Deactivate	Perception Analysis	Perception Analysis	Open	70%	Pipeline	Assigned dynamically	Ava Admin, 29/01/2021, 14:32
Edit Del Deactivate	Proposal/Price Quote	Proposal/Price Quote	Open	75%	Best Case	Assigned dynamically	Ava Admin, 11/03/2021, 15:56
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Edit Del Deactivate	Closed Lost	Closed Lost	Closed/Lost	0%	Omitted	Assigned dynamically	Ava Admin, 29/01/2021, 14:32



How to Adjust Forecast Categories

- You can change the forecast category of an Opportunity stage by editing the Opportunity stage picklist value.
- Users can change the mapped category on an Opportunity without changing the stage, as well by editing the Forecast Category field.

Opportunity Stages

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Modify or Add the stage to fit your sales process. Note that the Type and Forecast Category values affect each other. The Forecast Category automatically determines how opportunities are tracked in a forecast, but these values can be revised when users update their forecasts.

amount of data you	In Forecast Category updates all opportunities that have this stage value. If you change the Type have. We send you an email when the process is finished. Interrupt your users' work, but it does update the Last Modified By date and time in affected recommendation.	
Stage Name Type Description	Prospecting Open	Probability 10 Forecast Category Omitted Chart Color Assigned dynamically Change the forecast category of a stage to suit your business process
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Forecast Quotas

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Didn't find what you're looking for?						

∨ Quota ✓ Role ↑ Name 6 Jay Service Customer Service Manager 7 Brenda Service Customer Service Manager 8 Vance Channel Director of Channel Sales 9 Andrea Admin Director of Human Resources 10 **Ricky East** 175,000 East Sales 11 Ely East 175,000 East Sales 12 Barry Brown Meridian Partners Partner User 13 Sean Silver Pinnacle Partners Partner User 14 Vanessa Central 1,000,000 **RVP** Central 15 Valerie East 1,000,000 RVP East 16 Vince West 1.000.000 **RVP West** 17 Jamie Green Summit Resellers Partner User 18 Elliot Executive 5,000,000 VP of Sales 19 Savannah Smith 200,000 West Sales 20 Bill West 200,000 West Sales

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West Sales

✓ Manager Name

Elliot Executive

Valerie East

Valerie East

Elliot Executive

Elliot Executive

Elliot Executive

Vince West

Vince West

Vince West

Vince West

Assign Quotas to Users

21

22

Erin Marsh

Wendy West

Q Search people and roles...

Role-Based Forecasts

Individual Forecasts

Forecasts > Opportunity Bill West ▼	Revenue					\$ ▼ II • C		¢	
lliot Executive > Vince West > Bill 1	West					Last updated 01/22/2023 at 12:34 PM		RANGE	3 at 12:34 PM
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Total. 13 Months		\$707,078.00	83.4%	89.9%	124.0%	55.8%	490	 Show Quota Column 	
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Product Family Forecasts

Forecasts > Product Family Revenue 1 V C Valerie East 🔻 Last updated 01/22/2023 at 12:37 PM Elliot Executive > Valerie East Closed Only **Commit Forecast** Best Case Forecast **Open Pipeline** Months Quota \$2,565,600.00 \$2,580,600.00 \$2,659,600.00 \$181,693.07 January FY 2023 ----\$2,475,600.00 \$2,490,600,00 1 \$2,569,600,00 1 \$160,000,00 Products Not Categoriz... > -_ -\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 > Services ----\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 1 \$799.00 > Software Licenses _ 12 12 -\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 > Product -- 22 _ 1 \$16,462.52 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 1 > Service 1 \sim \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 > Solar Panels --\$90,000.00 \$90,000.00 1 \$90,000.00 1 \$2.325.22 Batteries V --\$90.000.00 \$0.00 1 \$90,000,00 1 \$90.000.00 1 Ely East 4 _ ---\$2,325.22 1 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 **Ricky East** \rightarrow -1 2 --\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 Valerie East's Ow... \sim -

Product Families

Battery, High Capacity	Product Information
Product Code Product Family B-1000 Batteries	Product Name Battery, High Capacity Product Family
Details Related CPQ	Batteries
 Product Information Product Name Battery, High Capacity Product Family 	ETA
Batteries Inventory Level ETA	Description Information Product Description This product is easy t
> Description Information	Image
✓ Image Image	Image
Spotter Configuration	Spotter Configuration Search Spotter Config

Edit Battery, High Capacity

* Product Name	Product Code
Battery, High Capacity	B-1000
Product Family	Product SKU
Batteries	▼ B-1000
Inventory Level	Active
ETA	
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scription Information Product Description	
This product is easy to integrate and p	rovides enhanced performance for an open solution with no compromises.

Image URL

https://sfdc-ckz-b2b.s3.amazonaws.com/SDO/2021/E

Search Spotter Configurations...

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Opportunity Split Forecasting

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liot Executive > Vince West > We	endy West														
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Towson Inc Add-On Bus	siness - 64K	Towson Inc.	Not Available		\$63,500.00	\$63,500.00		100.00%	4/30/2023	Qua	lificati	20%	Pipeli	West, Wendy	
Towson Inc Add-On Bus	siness - 72K	Towson Inc.	Not Available		\$72,200.00	\$72,200.00		100.00%	4/13/2023	Dis	covery	35%	Best	West, Wendy	
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Tour Feedback Matters!

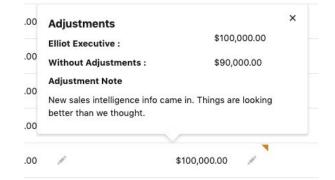
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Forecast Adjustments

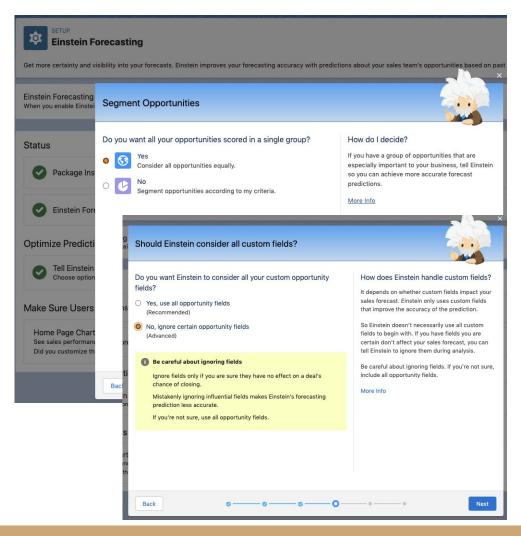
- If a Best Case or Commit forecast is overstated or understated, you can enter a new forecast without affecting the underlying opportunities.
- Your Salesforce admin can enable managers to adjust subordinates' and child territory forecasts, or they can enable all Collaborative Forecasts users to adjust their own forecasts, including territory forecasts that they own.
- Your admin can enable **both** of them
- This is done at the **Profile** level

	Adjust
Best Case Forecast	
\$100,000.00	
Without Adjustments: \$90,000.00 Adjustment Note	
New sales intelligence info came in. Things	s are looking better than we thought.
79/255	
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Einstein Forecasting

<u>Considerations for Setting Up</u> <u>Einstein Forecasting</u>





Einstein Forecasting Column & Insights

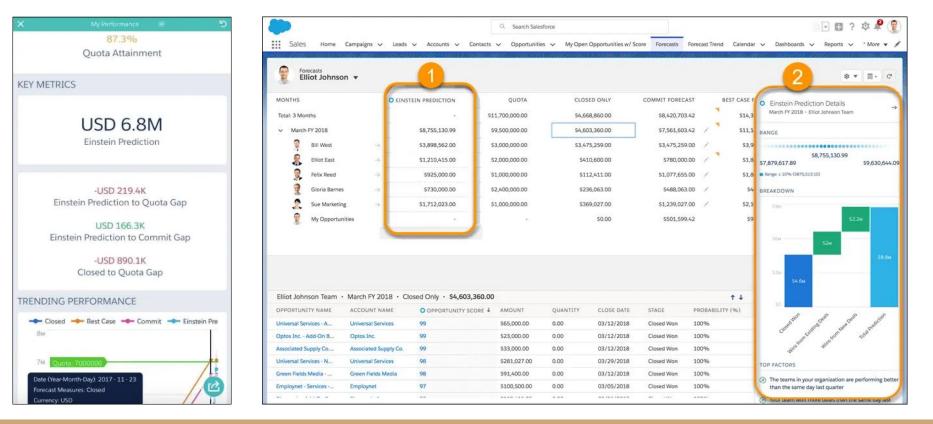
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3 Meridian Partners - New M	eridian Partners Not Av	ailable \$15,000.	0.00	1/3/2023	Closed Won	100	Closed	East, Ric	great win for us		Your team won more deals than the same day last year.
	cme Partners Not Av			1/7/2023	Closed Won	100	Closed	East, Ric	Follow up with Larry B.		⑦ The teams in your organization are performing better than the same day last quarter.

Improve Sales Predictions



My Performance		Data upd	ated: Yesterday at 4:33 PM	all	nstein Insights	
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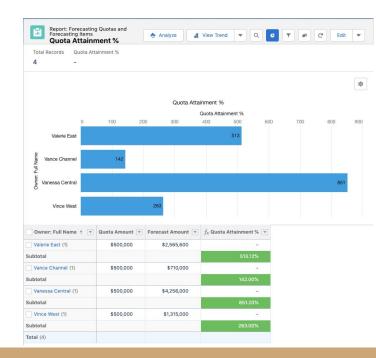
View Past Opportunities and Future Forecasts



Quota Attainment Reports

Objects: Forecasting Quotas and Forecasting Items

- Not editable in Object Manager



Fields Functions Column Name Description Quota Attainment % Search Fields Q Formula Output Type **Decimal Points** Count (1) Percent • 2 # Record Count General Display Forecasting Quotas (12) A Created By: Full Name

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1 ForecastingItem.ForecastAmount:SUM / ForecastingQuota.QuotaAmount:SUM

m Created Date

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Edit Summary-Level Formula Column

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Help

A ForecastingQuota ID REPORT T Got Feedback? B Save & Run Save \mathbf{v} Close Quota Attainment % / Forecasting Quotas and Forecasting Items Previewing a limited number of records. Run the report to see Update Preview Search all fields ... Q. X ≡ Outline **T** Filters everything. ~ Automatically Summary Formulas (1) Groups ŵ fx Quota Attainment % GROUP ROWS + Create Formula Add group... Quota Attainment % Forecasting Quotas (12) **Owner: Full Name** Quota Attainment % × A Created By: Full Name 200 400 600 800 # Created Date GROUP COLUMNS Valerie East i End Date Q Add group... A ForecastingQuota ID ✓ Is Amount Vance Channel ✓ Is Quantity A Last Modified By: Full Name Columns T Vanessa Central Last Modified Date Add column.. A Owner: Full Name # Quota Amount × # Quota Amount Vince West # Forecast Amount × # Quota Quantity # Start Date SUMMARY FORMULA COLUMNS Owner: Full Name 🕆 💌 Quota Amount 👻 Forecast Amount 👻 fx Quota Attainment % 💌 Forecasting Items (16) fx Quota Attainment % × Valerie East (1) \$500,000 \$2,565,600 # Amount Without Adjustments # Amount Without Manager Adjustment Subtotal i End Date Vance Channel (1) \$500.000 \$710.000 # Forecast Amount Subtotal - Forecast Category Vanessa Central (1) \$500.000 \$4,256,000 A Forecasting Item ID Subtotal # Forecast Quantity Has Adjustment Vince West (1) \$500,000 \$1,315,000 Is Amount Subtotal ✓ Is Quantity Total (4) A Owner: Full Name

ChatGPT Content



Sales forecasting is the process of estimating future sales of a product or service. It is a crucial aspect of a business as it helps companies make informed decisions about production, inventory, staffing, and budgeting. In this presentation, we will discuss the importance of sales forecasting, different methods of forecasting, and how to use forecasting to make better business decisions.

First, let's discuss the importance of sales forecasting. Accurate forecasting allows companies to make informed decisions about production and inventory levels. If a company can accurately forecast future sales, they can produce and stock the right amount of products, which can lead to significant cost savings. Forecasting also helps with staffing decisions, as it allows companies to predict future workloads and schedule employees accordingly. Additionally, forecasting plays a key role in budgeting, as it helps companies plan for future expenses and revenue.

Next, let's discuss different methods of sales forecasting. There are several methods that companies can use to forecast sales. Some of the most common methods include:

- Time series analysis: This method uses historical data to predict future sales. It is commonly used for products and services with a consistent sales pattern.
- Trend projection: This method uses a trend line to predict future sales. It is useful for products and services with a consistent growth or decline in sales.
- Causal forecasting: This method uses external factors such as advertising or promotions to predict future sales.
- Delphi method: This method uses the opinions of experts to predict future sales.

Finally, let's discuss how to use forecasting to make better business decisions. Once a forecast has been made, companies can use it to make informed decisions about production, inventory, staffing, and budgeting. For example, if a forecast predicts an increase in sales, a company may decide to increase production and stock more inventory. Additionally, if a forecast predicts a decrease in sales, a company may decide to reduce staffing and expenses.

In conclusion, sales forecasting is a critical aspect of business as it helps companies make informed decisions about production, inventory, staffing, and budgeting. There are various methods of forecasting, including time series analysis, trend projection, causal forecasting, and Delphi method. By using forecasting to make better business decisions, companies can increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve overall performance.

Continued Learning





Einstein Forecasting



The Guide to Setting Up Forecasting in Salesforce RELEASES 🌘



10 HOTTEST SALESFORCE WINTER '23 FEATURES

Thank you!

Stay tuned in the Slack channel for the next topic and please feel free to suggest areas of interest.

Ways to get in touch...

<u>Connect with me on LinkedIn</u> Email: <u>svet@dc3me.com</u>

Obvious People Slack Channel: #salesforce-academy