Auto Inventory Forecasting For Business Central User Scenario Documentation

Auto Inventory Forecasting give you the ability to predict how much inventory you need to meet future sales demands by look at historical sales data and trends withing your Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central.

This document will cover the basic system set up required to run the forecasting app and how to run forecast within Business Central.

Setting up Items for Forecasting

By default, items will be assigned a lookback period. This will set how far back the application will look back at your historic data to make its forecast. The lookback period can be adjusted per item.

First search and select an Item

Select an item and scroll to the Cost & Postings tab

In the lookback period set how far back you want the data to look back on. What you set will be the data used to determine your forecasts for the future.

0999 · Coffee Beans

Notifications: 2   *If you want, we can assign attributes based on the images you import for items and contacts.* | *Reminder: your work date is 10/22/.*

Process	Item	Prices & Discounts	Request Approval	Actions	Related	Reports	Fewer options

Costs & Posting

Show less

Cost Details

Costing Method	FIFO
Standard Cost	0.00 ···
Unit Cost	10.00
Indirect Cost %	0
Last Direct Cost	10.00
Net Invoiced Qty.	244
Cost is Adjusted	(toggle on)
Cost is Posted to G/L	(toggle on)
Purchase Prices & Disco...	Create New...

Posting Details

Gen. Prod. Posting Group	RETAIL
Tax Group Code	TAXABLE
Inventory Posting Group	RESALE
Default Deferral Template	

Foreign Trade

Tariff No.	
Country/Region of Origi...	
Lookback Period	12M
Sales History	62,187.00 ···
Sales History Qty	1,161 ···

Running a Demand Forecast

To run a forecast for your items future sales demands first search for demand forecast.

Tell me what you want to do

demand forecast

Go to Pages and Tasks

> Demand Forecasts

Lists

Create a new demand forecast

Select the forecast and select "Edit Demand Forecast"

Enter filters and paremeters for your forecast. Below are the key fields to filter

- View by will show the forecast for a selected period
- Number of Periods will set the number of periods to forecast for

Once the filters are set go to "Sales Forecast" and select

Demand Forecast Overview

FORECAST

Process   Sales Forecast | Actions   Fewer options

📑 Apply Sales History   📑 Replace Sales History

Use SalesHistory setup to update demand, or AI Forecast if enabled.

Demand Forecast Na... ·   FORECAST   ⌄   Forecast Typ

Location Filter   Date Filter

Demand Forecast Overview   ✎ + 🗑   ✓ Saved 🔖 ⬈ ⤢

FORECAST

Process   Sales Forecast | Actions   Fewer options

General

Demand Forecast Na... ·	FORECAST ⌄	Forecast Type · · · · · · · ·	Sales Item ⌄
Location Filter · · · · · · · ·	...	Date Filter · · · · · · · · ·	
View by · · · · · · · · · ·	Month ⌄	Number of Periods · · · ·	12
View as · · · · · · · · · ·	Net Change ⌄		

Demand Forecast Matrix   ⊡

No. ↑		Description	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2(
→ 0999	⋮	Coffee Beans	95.42466	95.42466	95.42466	95.4
1000		test item	368.28781	368.28781	368.28781	368.2
1001		Service				

This provides the forecast for your items based on the filters selected.

Running a Demand Forecast with AI

Search and open Sales and Inventory Forecast Setup

Tell me what you want to do

sales and inventory forecast setup

Go to Pages and Tasks

> Sales and Inventory Forecast Setup   Administration

Sales and Inventory Forecast Setup

✕ Reminder: your work date is 10/22/2021   Use today | Change to... | Turn off reminder

New | Actions   Fewer options

General   Show less

Period Type	Month	Variance %	100.00
Horizon	12	Expiration Period (Days)	60
Stockout Warning Hor...	12	Historical Periods	8
API URI	https://ussouthcentral.services.azu	Timeseries Model	ALL
API Key	•••••••••	Use for demand forec...	⬤

Statistics

Last Run Completed	11/4/2021 11:33 AM	Used Processing Time...	0.00

Make sure the API URI and API KEY are installed in order to activate the AI. To get the keys see link below.

Forecasting Model for Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central | Azure AI Gallery

Enter filters and parameters for the AI forecast such as horizon, historical periods and timeseries model. For more information on timeseries model see above link.

Enable the "Use of Demand Forecast" in order to use the AI for demand forecast.

Run the AI forecast by selecting "New" then "Update Forecast". This will allow the AI to run its calculations and store its results in Business Central.
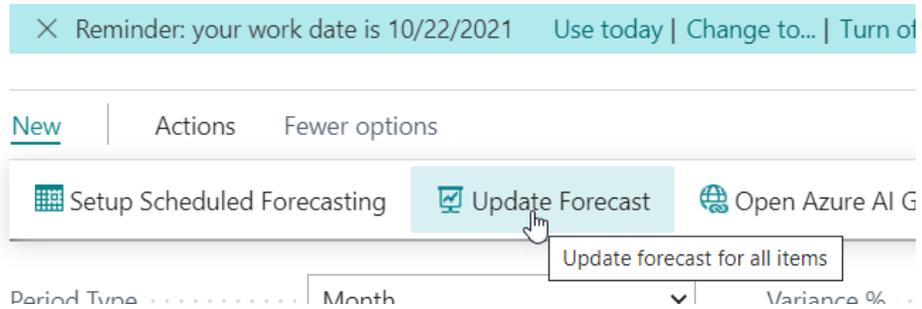
To view the AI results navigate back to Demand Forecast

Create a new forecast or re-use and old one.

Enter your parameters again like above and run the Forecast again. The results posted will be using the AI calculations.

Note: for the AI to have results there needs to be enough historic data in your system.

This completes the forecast using AI