Defining Groups

Building Multiple-level Models · https://dev.forecastpro.com/documentation/forecast-pro-trac/building-multiple-level-models/defining-groups/

In this lesson, you will learn how to define group variables and prepare multiple-level forecasts.

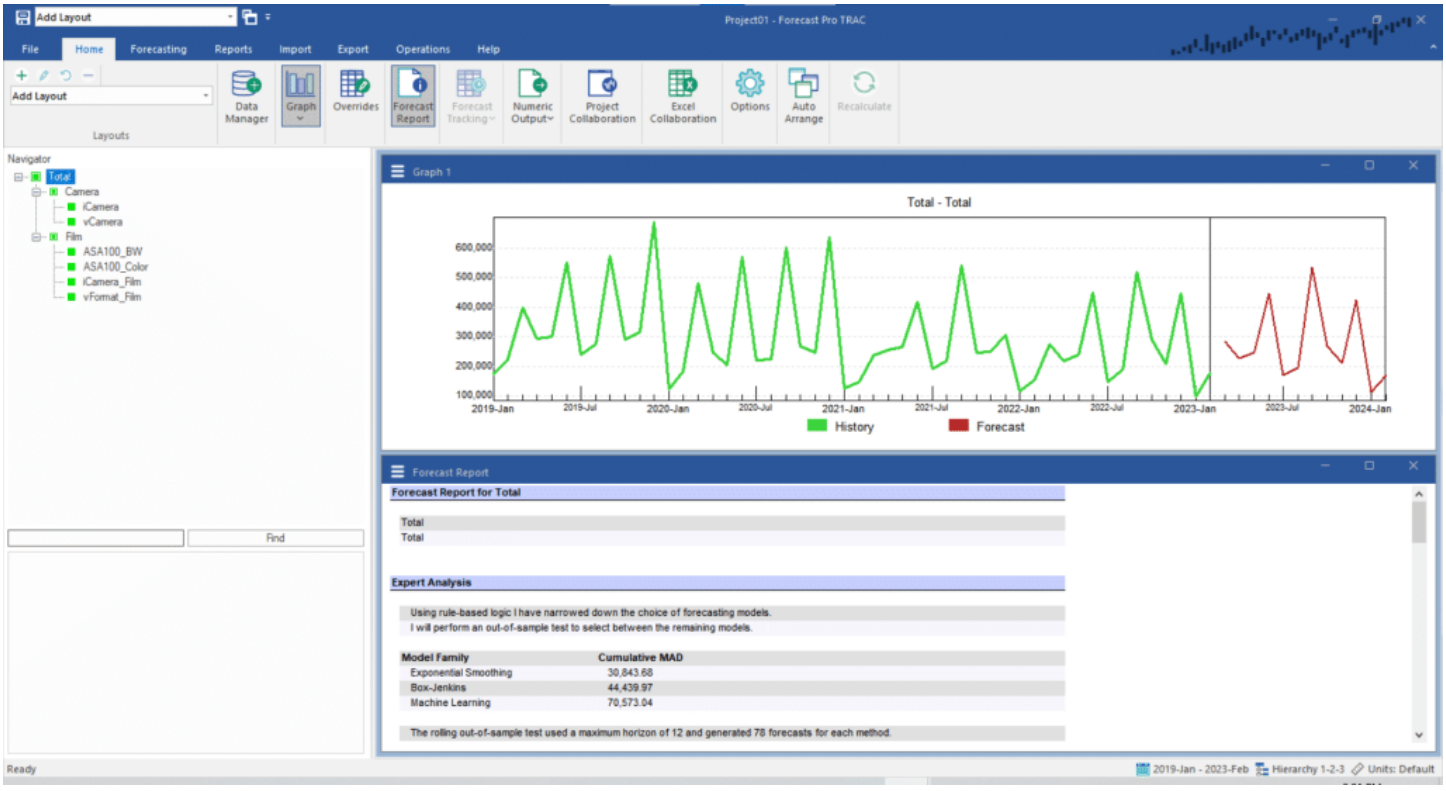
Start Forecast Pro and open a new project. Click the Data Manager to call up the Data Manager.

Click the Add drop-down on the Historic Data row, select Excel and select *Presto Camera Company.xls* to add it to the Historic Data row.

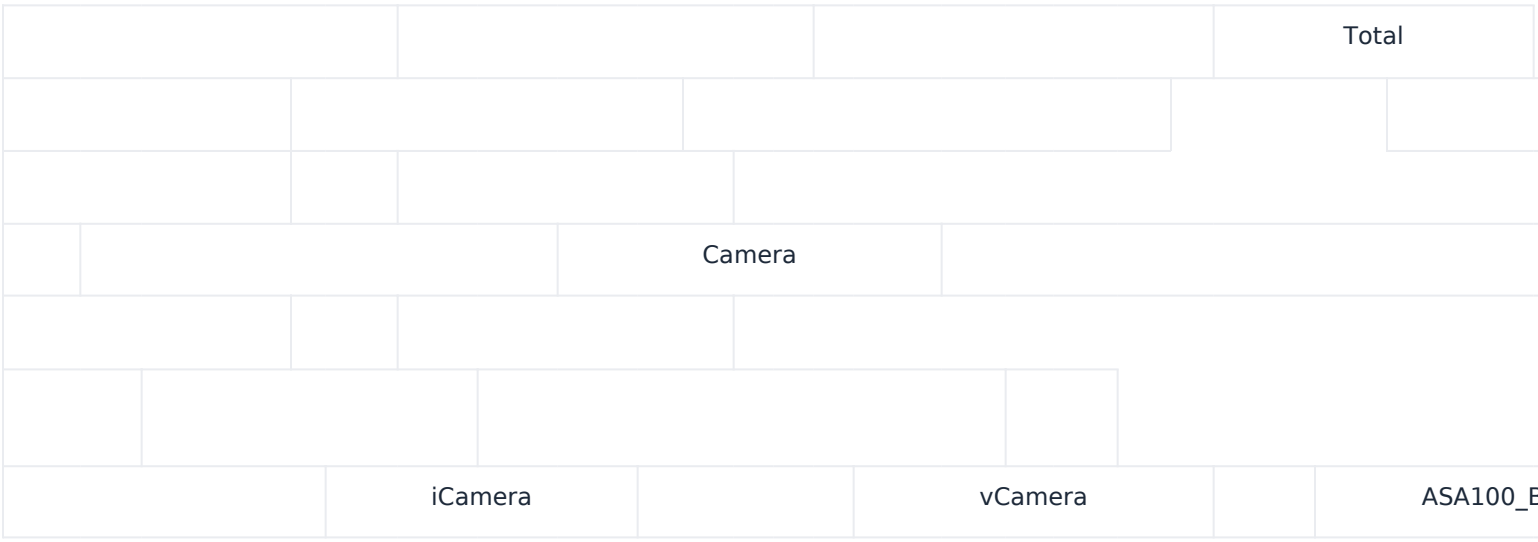
Click the **Read & Forecast** button to read in the historic demand data and generate the statistical forecasts.

Click the **Exit** button to exit the Data Manager.

Close the Override view, open the Forecast Report and fully expand the Navigator. Your screen should now look like the one shown below.



Notice that the Navigator tree structure matches the hierarchy shown below.



The tree contains three *group* variables (Total, Camera and Film). The tree also contains six end items (iCamera, vCamera, ASA100_BW, ASA100_Color, iCamera_Film and vFormat_Film). The demand histories for group variables are not in the data file. They are created by Forecast Pro by aggregating the appropriate end items. Thus, the history for the group Camera is defined as the sum of iCamera + vCamera. The history for the group Film is defined as the sum of ASA100_BW + ASA100_Color + iCamera_Film + vFormat_Film. The history for the group Total is defined as the sum of the groups Camera + Film.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	Total	Product Category	Product	Description					Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
2	Total	Camera	vCamera	Variable Format Camera	2019	1	12	12	6530	8260	8480	7430	5990	10980	5370	4570	10980	8060	9730	5290	6830	5740
3	Total	Camera	iCamera	Instant Camera	2019	1	12	12	6340	7951	7538	8187	5752	7692	3684	6087	9573	9772	11334	12953	4973	9485
4	Total	Film	vFormat_Film	Variable Format Camera F	2019	1	12	12	6642	9056	23053	13772	15064	26909	11357	12878	33583	15652	20660	35619	4115	7034
5	Total	Film	iCamera_Film	Instant Camera Film	2019	1	12	12	37490	84035	168457	93379	110990	258906	52297	78972	262771	89165	124171	276146	16391	39553
6	Total	Film	ASA100_BW	100 ASA Black & White Fil	2019	1	12	12	56647	57211	87869	90175	79662	112503	80798	74108	89631	77032	64960	106169	43218	60354
7	Total	Film	ASA100_Color	100 ASA Color Film	2019	1	12	12	59484	58549	104973	80898	81580	136199	87090	98235	167089	90079	85484	253969	46134	59497

The spreadsheet *Presto Camera Company.xls* is shown above.

The groups Total, Camera and Film are defined using attribute fields (columns A and B).

If we had included additional attribute fields, we would have created a larger hierarchy. Consult Defining the Hierarchy for complete details.