Using Business Intelligence software to improve our oversight (a Dutch perspective)

GIS/VALUATION TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE



Introduction

- Pim Hessing
 - Data/BI analyst
 - Background in Information Management
 - Netherlands Council for Real Estate Assessment
 - Oversight agency for the Netherlands



8-5-2024

waarderingskamer netherlands council for real estate assessment

Using Business Intelligence software to guide our oversight

In this session I would like to:

Offer insights into our usage of data to support decision making

Program

- Introduction into the Dutch property tax system
- The valuation cycle of 2023: "The perfect storm"
- How can we use data to improve our oversight?
- Lessons Learned
- Q&A







The Wet WOZ

- The 'Act for Real Estate Assessment' in 1995
 - In Dutch: 'Wet WOZ'
 - Abbreviation: Law on (the) valuation of immovable objects
- Formal base for:
 - The yearly assessment of all property
 - Municipalities responsible
 - The Netherlands Council for Real Estate Assessment (Waarderingskamer) as oversight agency



Municipalities in the Netherlands

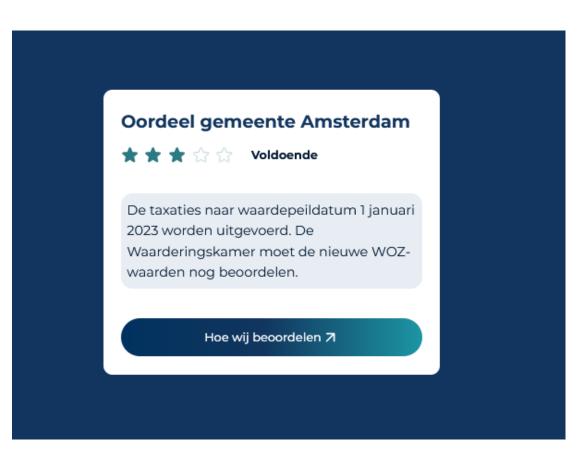
- 9,3 million parcels
- 342 municipalities
 - Amsterdam the largest (540,000 parcels)
- Municipalities are allowed cooperate
 - BsGW the largest (29 municipalities, 570,000 parcels)
- 159 organizations that assess property for the municipalities



The Council

Netherlands Council for Real Estate Assessment:

- Sets out guidelines
 - administration
 - valuation
 - quality control procedures
- Performs audits
- Publishes results
 - Five-star rating system



Usage of assessed values

Assessed values (WOZ-values) are used for:

- Municipal real estate tax
- Real estate tax polderboards
 - polderboards take care of "dry feet"
- State taxes
 - Imputed income for owner occupied houses (Income tax)
 - Limits fiscal depreciation of real estate (Corporation tax)
 - Inheritance tax

Base register and distribution of values



- Base register of assessed values
- Owners and users are officially informed
 - Beginning of the year
 - Part of municipal tax bill
 - Also accessible via <u>www.wozwaardeloket.nl</u>

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What if you do not agree with the assessed value?

- System of objections and appeals
- Representation by legal fee companies
 - Legal fee companies (LFC's) receive up to \$1000 if they win an objection
 - \$325 for the objection
 - \$325 for the hearing
 - Free for the taxpayer
 - Profit for the LFC's







Valuation cycle of 2023: "The perfect storm"

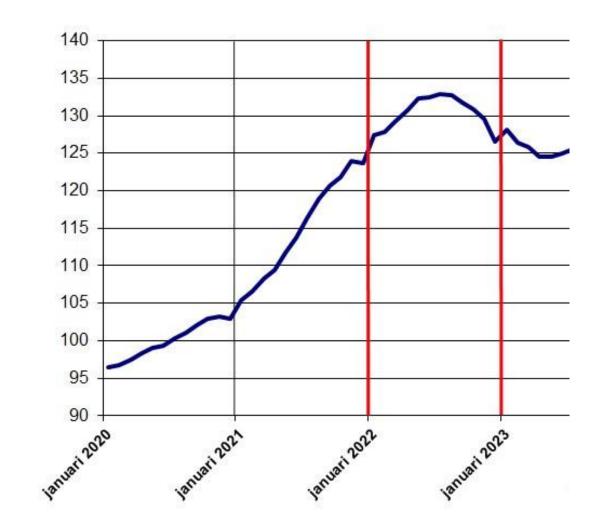


• Valuation date is one year

prior to the tax year

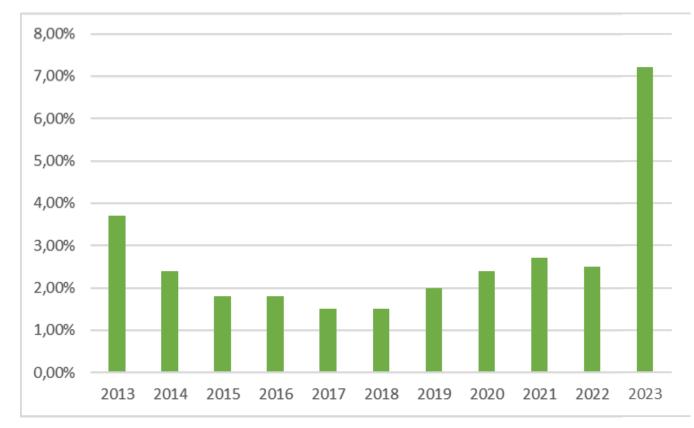
The perfect storm

- Between 2021 and 2022 the market was rising rapidly
- In 2023, when the tax notice came the housing market was declining
- 17% increase between the assessed values of 2022 and 2023 (valuation date 2021 and 2022)



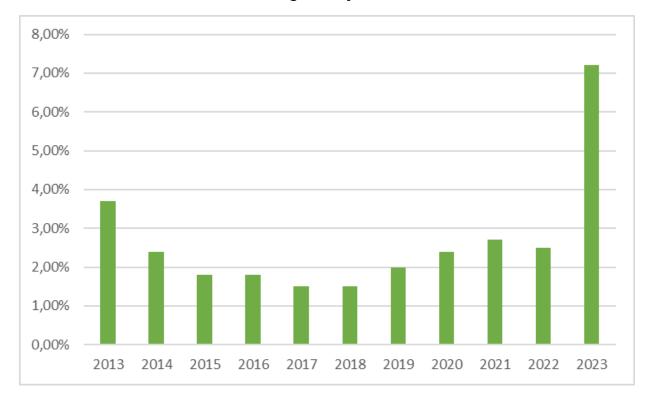
Result of the perfect storm

Percentage of objections



Result of the perfect storm

- 600,000 objections
- 7,2% objections (2,5% in 2022)
- Municipalities struggle with the large number of objection
- But what do we need to do as an oversight agency?



Percentage of objections

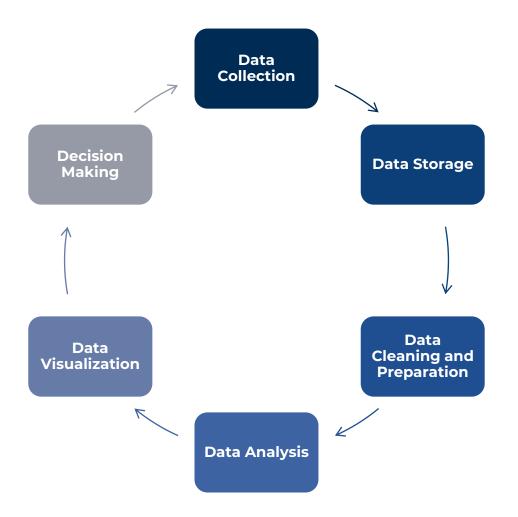




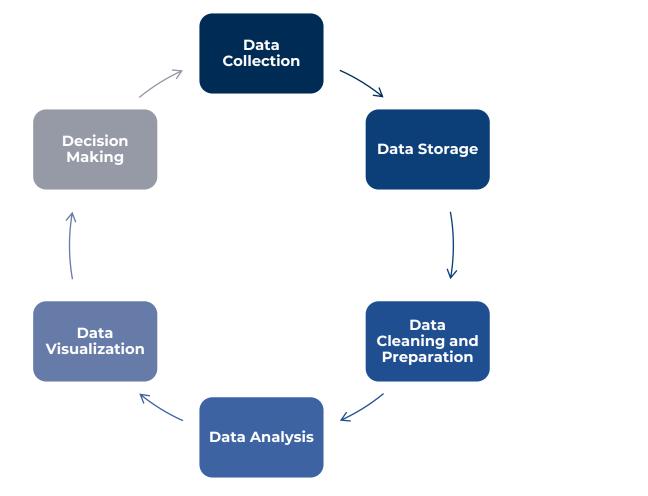
How can we use data to improve our oversight?

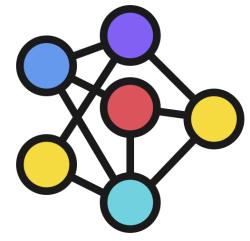


Business Intelligence cycle



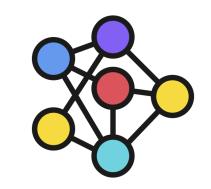
Data collection





Data collection

- As the oversight agency we have access to the base register
- Base register consists of a copy of the local municipality database
- Quality of the base register has increased over the years
 - Standards for terminology



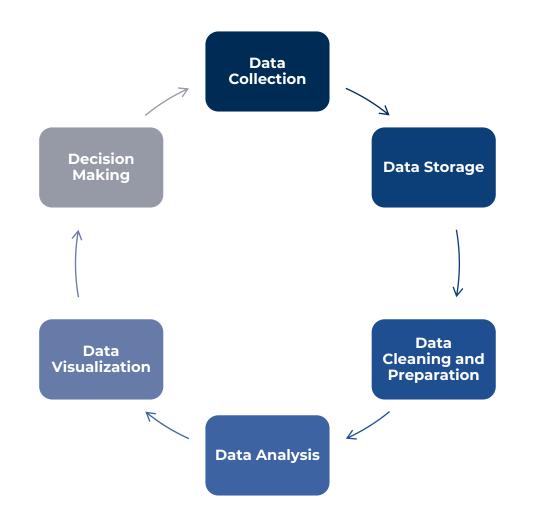
Data collection

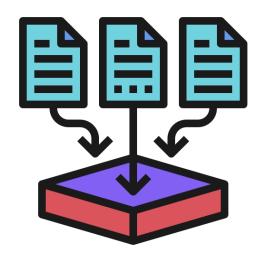
- Started collecting 'snapshots' of the base register
- Each 1st day of the month via XML message
 - Standardized messages
- Snapshot takes about 6 hours to load
- 7 datasets of roughly 15 to 20 gigabyte each

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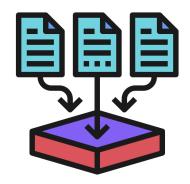
Data storage



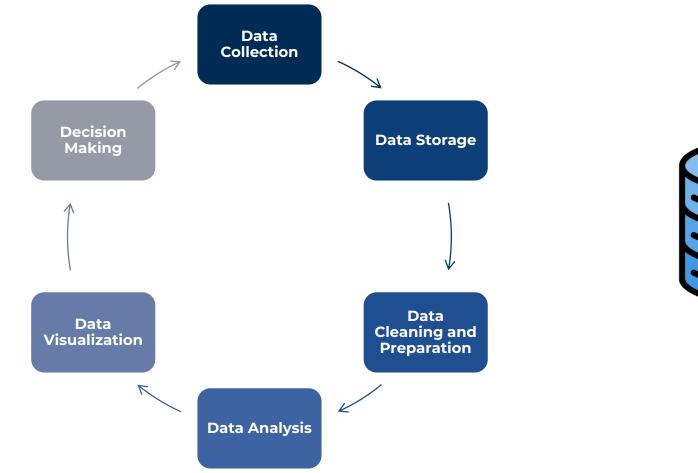


Data storage

- Data is stored on a 'on premise' shared drive
- Accessibility to the data is managed via a VPN connection and administrator rights
- Quick accessibility to data



Data cleaning and preparation



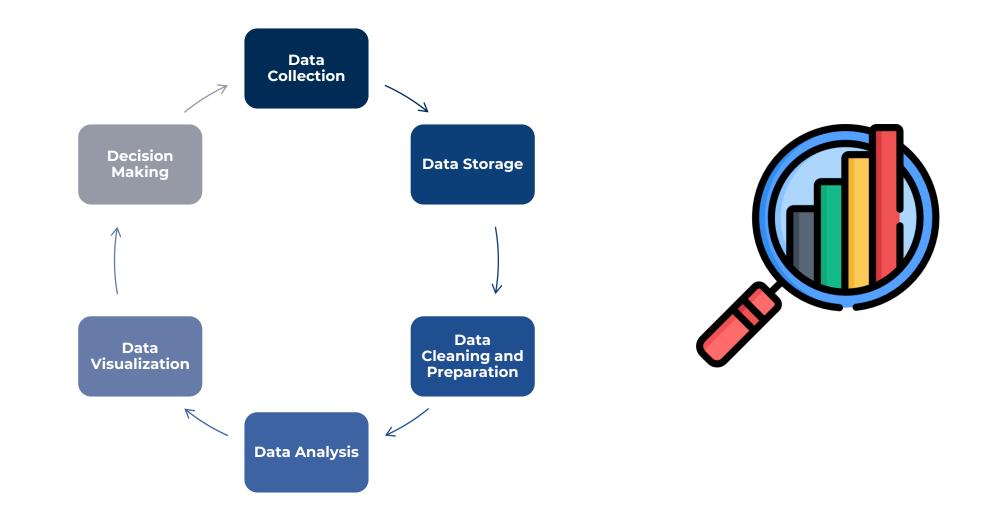
Data cleaning and preparation

- Data from XML message is quite clean
- Parcel status to indicate the step of the process
 - Status 10 = objection
 - Status 11 = objection rejected
 - Status 12 = objection accepted
- With scripting each parcel is aggregated at municipality level
- File size is now about 300kb



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Data analysis & visualization



Data analysis & visualization

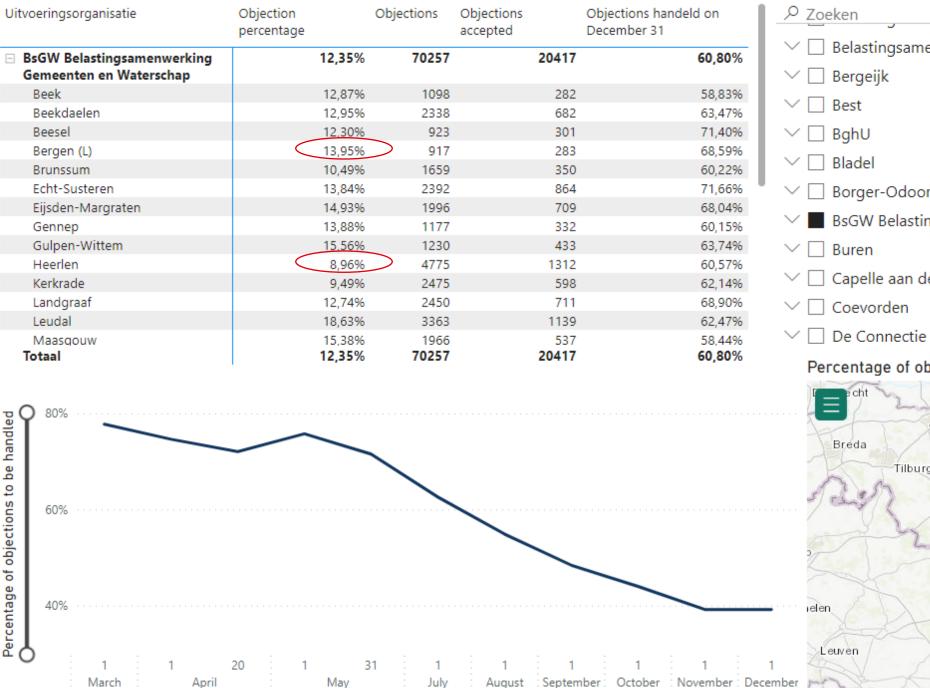
- Now comes the fun part ;-)
- Excel format is limited but works for smaller analysis
 - 150 files -> one overview
 - Limitations in terms of aggregating and sharing results
- Power BI introduced for flexible analysis
 - Any BI tool will work (Tableau, Qlik, IBM Cognos, Oracle BI)

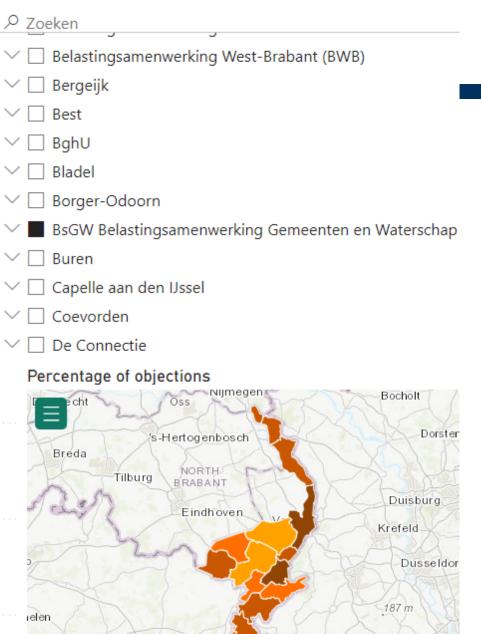


Data analysis & visualization

- BI tools handle large amounts of data more easily
- ETL in Power Query
 - Advantage: build in function to combine 150 files
- Create data model and visuals
- Use filtering to easily create overviews







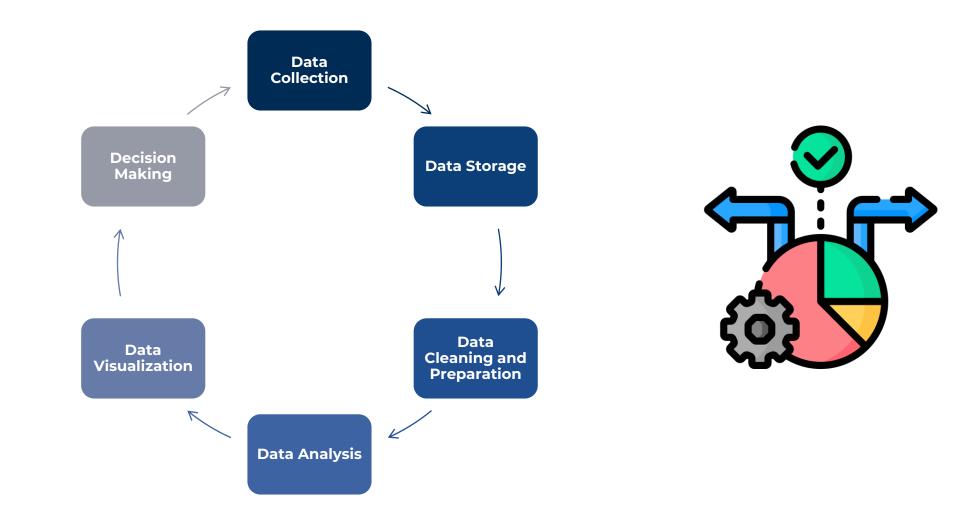
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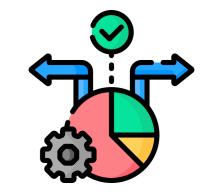
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Decision making



Decision making

- Call organizations that have many objections
 - How are they going to resolve these in time?
 - Make sure that they are not just accepting al objections
 - Investigate if we are concerned
- Stay in contact with the media
 - Control the narrative
- Start monitoring appeals





Lessons learned



Lessons learned

- Data gives a good idea
 - But it does not tell the whole story
- Transform the way of thinking within the organization
 - Continuous monitoring
- We can get a lot more out of our data
 - Is there other information available that we can monitor?

Tips if you want to start with Business Intelligence

- At the heart of every analysis: data collection
 - Bad data = bad results
- It's easier than you think
 - The software is made to be easy to use
 - Knowledge on how to use it is everywhere
- Final product is not the same as the first try
 - Start small
 - Work iterative
- Advocate for a data-driven approach in your organization
 - Make it visible









Thanks!

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