

Compression analyzer

You can use the SQL Backup Compression Analyzer to compare the effectiveness of different compression levels for full database backups on a selected database.

From within the SQL Backup Pro graphical user interface (GUI), you can launch the Compression Analyzer:

- from [Step 4 of the Back Up wizard](#)
- from [Step 5 of the Schedule Backup Jobs wizard](#)
- from the **Tools > Utilities** menu

SQL Backup Pro automatically selects the SQL Server that you have already chosen in the [Registered SQL Servers](#) pane or in the wizard.

i If you are not using the GUI, you can launch the Compression Analyzer by running *CompressionAnalyzer.exe*. This is located in the SQL Backup Pro installation folder (by default, *%ProgramFiles%\Red Gate\SQL Backup 8* on 32-bit machines and *%ProgramFiles(x86)%\Red Gate\SQL Backup 8* on 64-bit machines). You can run the program on any server on which you have installed the SQL Backup Pro server components.

In the **Connect to SQL Server** dialog box, type or select the name of the SQL Server. Then select the authentication method, and for SQL Server authentication enter the **User name** and **Password**. For Windows authentication, the credentials of the current user are used.

The **Compression Analyzer** is displayed. Select the database for which you want to compare compression levels, and click **Start Test**.

If you want stop the analysis, for example because the database you have chosen is large and the analysis is taking too long, click **Stop**. However, note that results are based only on the data that has been sampled so far; for a fully accurate result you must allow the analysis to finish.

The results of the analysis are displayed in a tab.

The screenshot shows the SQL Backup Compression Analyzer window. At the top, it displays 'LOCAL' for the SQL Server and 'Northwind' for the Database. Below these are 'Start Test' and 'Stop' buttons. A tab labeled 'LOCAL.Northwind' is selected. The main area shows the following analysis results:

Compression	Compression Ratio	Compressed Size
Level 1	84.46 %	676.405 KB
Level 2	86.06 %	606.667 KB
Level 3	87.83 %	529.446 KB
Level 4	91.07 %	388.537 KB

Additional information shown includes: Status: Completed full-backup analysis; Database size: 4.250 MB; Data processed: 100.00 % (indicated by a full green progress bar). A 'Close' button is located at the bottom right.

If you stopped the analysis before its completion, the **Data processed** bar indicates the proportion of data that was analyzed.

For each compression level, the percentage of compression is shown under **Compression Ratio**. In the above example, Level 4 produced the best compression. For more information about compression levels and compression ratios, see [Compression levels](#).

You can then select another database to analyze, if required. The results for the second database are shown in a separate tab, so that you can compare the results. To delete a tab, right-click the tab header and click **Delete**.

To analyze a database from a different SQL Server, click **Change** and specify the details of the SQL Server.