#FABCONSQLCON2026
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ATLANTA MARCH 16 - 20, 2026

Make your Power BI Desktop Report Print Ready
in one hour (or less!)

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data plumber LLC

Session Agenda:

1. **My printable report *horror story***
2. **Your basic printing options**
3. **Power BI Report Builder to the rescue!**

- Connect to your semantic model
- Understand the parameter relay race
- Get the darn thing to print
- Bonus! Dynamic titles

Why bother making paginated reports?

A personal anecdote*

Quarter Name: Multiple selections

Region: Midwest

Quarterly Sales Report for the Midwest Sales Region

Q1-2022 to Q4-2022

Quarter Name	Q1-2022			Q2-2022			Q3-2022			Q4-2022		
State	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales
Illinois	**90,374**	**0.68**	**61,091.91**	**108,839**	**0.72**	**78,179.40**	**99,252**	**0.68**	**67,893.52**	**92,762**	**0.67**	**62,368.10**
Weissnat-Kuhlman	40,738	0.68	27,807.57	45,889	0.67	30,864.60	43,021	0.66	28,574.56	46,543	0.69	32,324.35
Windler-Reichert	49,636	0.67	33,284.34	62,950	0.75	47,314.80	56,231	0.70	39,318.96	46,219	0.65	30,043.75
Minnesota	**121,239**	**0.71**	**85,850.76**	**93,203**	**0.68**	**62,931.91**	**109,220**	**0.71**	**78,032.91**	**99,294**	**0.71**	**70,530.91**
Bashirian-Fay	58,766	0.71	41,448.88	30,500	0.68	20,873.42	55,396	0.74	40,781.19	53,610	0.69	37,077.76
Steuber Group	62,473	0.71	44,401.88	62,703	0.67	42,058.49	53,824	0.69	37,251.72	45,684	0.73	33,453.15
Ohio	**109,313**	**0.71**	**77,760.46**	**128,828**	**0.73**	**93,464.47**	**89,619**	**0.72**	**64,116.92**	**104,988**	**0.70**	**73,956.43**
Hamill and Sons	69,363	0.72	49,653.42	67,790	0.73	49,360.36	58,739	0.73	42,724.68	53,403	0.74	39,480.36
Murazik-Considine	39,950	0.70	28,107.04	61,038	0.72	44,104.11	30,880	0.69	21,392.24	51,585	0.67	34,476.07
Total	**320,926**	**0.70**	**224,703.13**	**330,870**	**0.71**	**234,575.78**	**298,091**	**0.70**	**210,043.35**	**297,044**	**0.70**	**206,855.44**

***(learn from my pain)**

Power BI Desktop is designed to be *elastic*

- Reports can be interacted with using **screens of varying sizes**
- Users need varied options to **explore** data with **interactive** slicers, drilldowns, what-if analysis, etc.
- *Not* ideal for printing.

Quarter Name

Multiple selections

Quarterly Sales Report for the South Sales Region

Region

South

Q1-2022 to Q2-2023

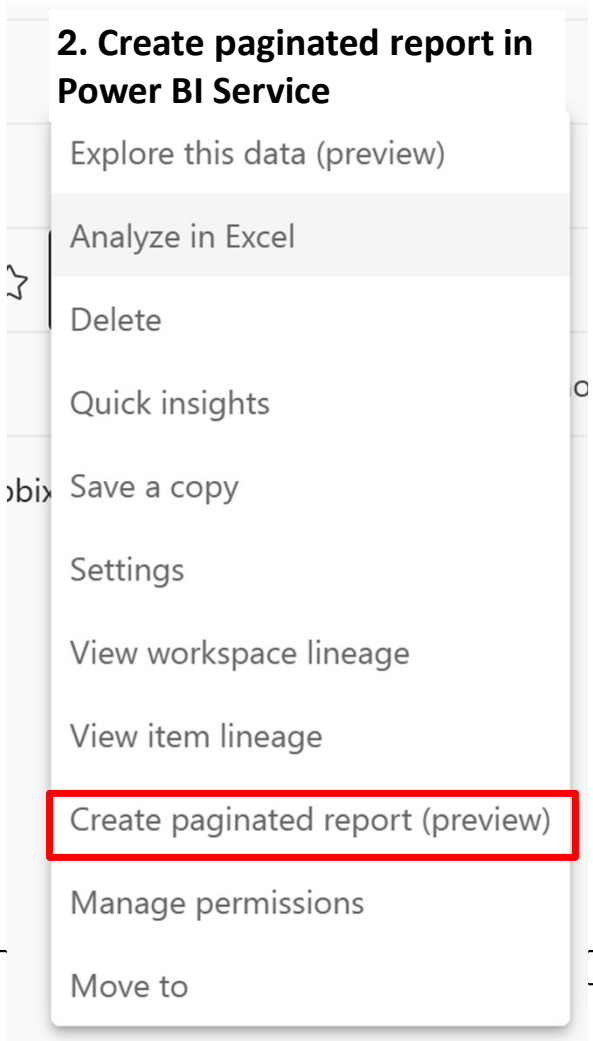
Quarter Name	Q3-2022			Q4-2022			Q1-2023			Q2-2023	
State	e Price Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales
Alabama	**0.71**	**75,577.04**	**105,244**	**0.70**	**74,195.06**	**93,483**	**0.69**	**64,596.30**	**102,778**	**0.70**	**72,376.68**
Bauch LLC	0.70	34,062.12	62,342	0.72	44,826.55	59,219	0.69	41,041.54	59,724	0.70	41,936.00
Deckow LLC	0.72	41,514.92	42,902	0.68	29,368.51	34,264	0.69	23,554.76	43,054	0.71	30,440.68
Arkansas	**0.72**	**43,675.11**	**42,687**	**0.68**	**28,962.01**	**42,333**	**0.72**	**30,370.89**	**74,929**	**0.70**	**52,301.69**
Johns, Emard and West	0.72	43,675.11	42,687	0.68	28,962.01	42,333	0.72	30,370.89	74,929	0.70	52,301.69
Florida	**0.69**	**182,375.66**	**225,291**	**0.71**	**159,412.49**	**246,351**	**0.69**	**170,495.90**	**182,939**	**0.71**	**130,102.92**
Brekke, Steuber and Little	0.64	39,549.49	59,482	0.72	43,022.85	50,213	0.72	36,163.59	41,427	0.71	29,557.88
Emmerich-Treutel	0.67	35,175.57	53,457	0.66	35,398.05	73,865	0.68	50,066.21	49,468	0.69	34,019.80
Farrell-Runolfsson	0.70	43,864.94	70,083	0.70	48,727.39	46,031	0.71	32,622.66	36,912	0.72	26,496.68
Muller, Langosh and Denesik	0.74	63,785.66	42,269	0.76	32,264.20	76,242	0.68	51,643.44	55,132	0.73	40,028.56
Georgia	**0.73**	**117,175.68**	**141,824**	**0.70**	**99,137.44**	**157,138**	**0.72**	**113,522.46**	**142,110**	**0.69**	**97,656.63**
Crooks-Aufderhar	0.75	44,441.78	61,939	0.74	45,863.62	57,813	0.72	41,634.11	48,888	0.69	33,557.21
Goodwin Group	0.74	40,496.92	39,381	0.66	26,102.26	56,552	0.74	41,927.29	46,324	0.69	31,961.20
Treutel-McGlynn	0.70	32,236.98	40,504	0.67	27,171.56	42,773	0.70	29,961.06	46,898	0.69	32,138.22
Kentucky	**0.69**	**75,188.86**	**121,436**	**0.71**	**86,429.61**	**91,786**	**0.69**	**63,169.10**	**106,804**	**0.69**	**73,372.26**
Brekke, Davis and Abshire	0.71	34,825.79	43,871	0.73	31,924.44	52,707	0.70	36,783.70	48,716	0.71	34,773.17
King, Haag and Ledner	0.68	40,363.07	77,565	0.70	54,505.17	39,079	0.68	26,385.40	58,088	0.66	38,599.09
Louisiana	**0.66**	**82,915.95**	**104,485**	**0.71**	**73,679.11**	**117,871**	**0.69**	**81,699.44**	**64,893**	**0.71**	**46,233.41**
Christiansen and Sons	0.66	47,115.04	45,746	0.72	33,039.10	61,323	0.69	42,284.02	33,443	0.70	23,299.35
Total	**0.70**	**1,172,126.90**	**1,453,518**	**0.71**	**1,032,713.45**	**1,474,025**	**0.70**	**1,033,019.83**	**1,366,560**	**0.70**	**956,696.13**

Your Basic Printing Options

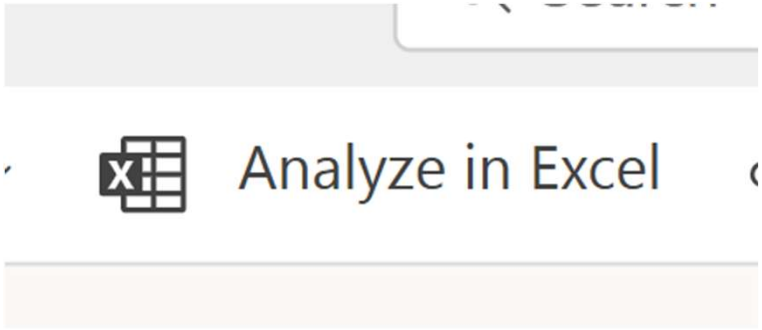
1. **Manually print your Power BI Desktop report off**

...page break to page break

2. Create paginated report in Power BI Service



3. Jerry-rig something in Excel

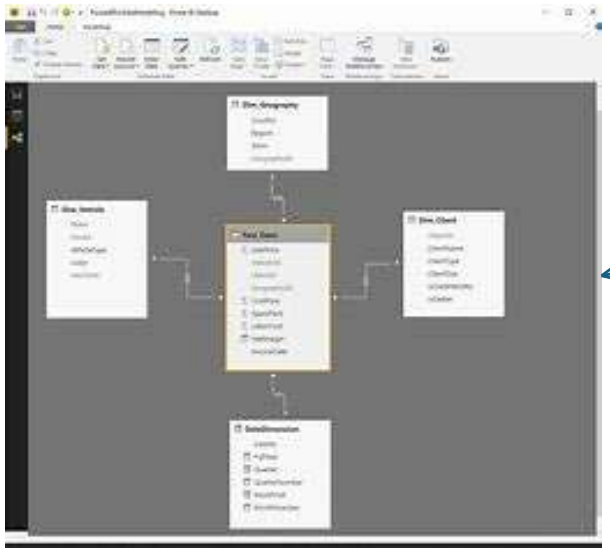


4. Use Power BI Report

Power BI Report Builder

Whenever you can, use a *shared* Power BI semantic model

Build a good semantic model *once*



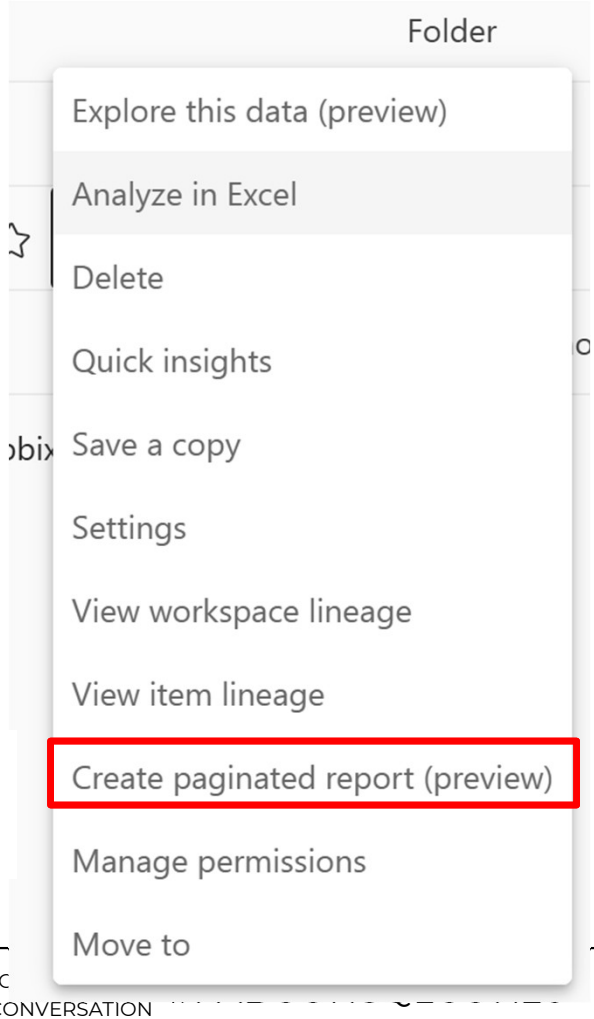
Power BI

Power BI Report Builder

Maintain and reuse it for multiple reports

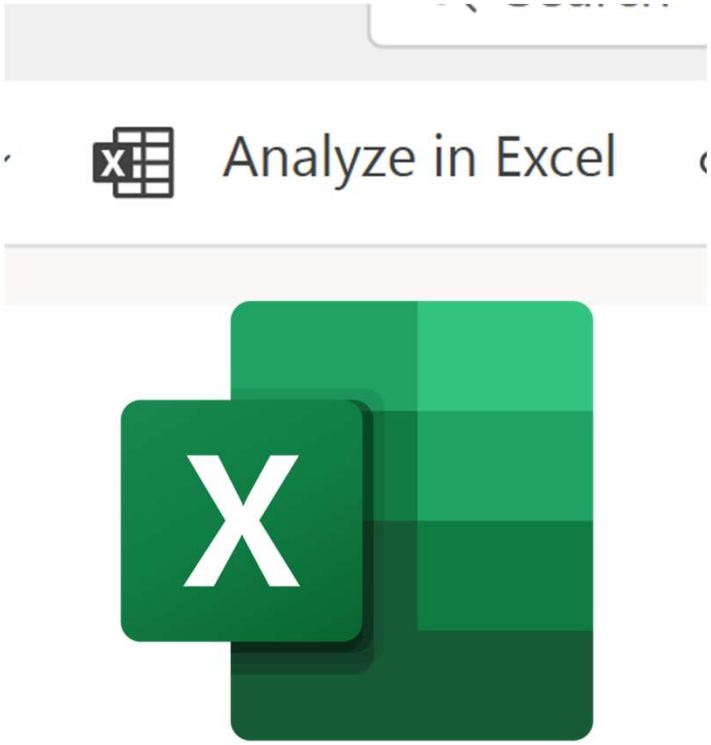
Make a Paginated Report **in the Power BI Service** when

- The output required is a simple table
- **No Parameters** are required
- **No Graphs** are required
- Formatting is not important



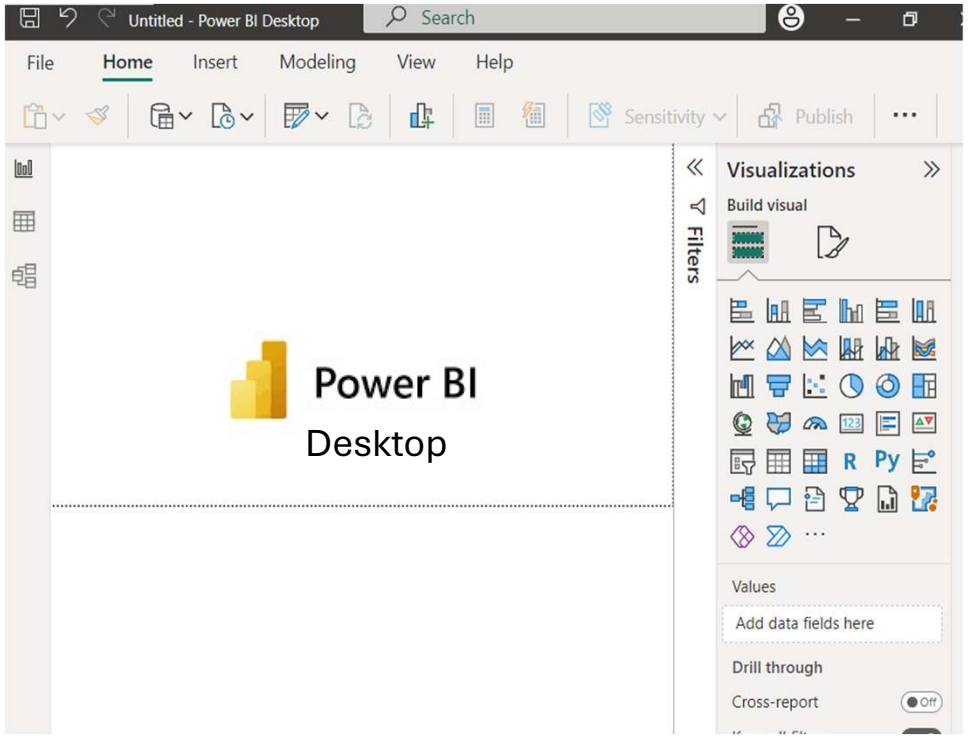
*When you can't talk the business out of using **reports as a "data dump"** this is a solid option*

Build something using Analyze in Excel if

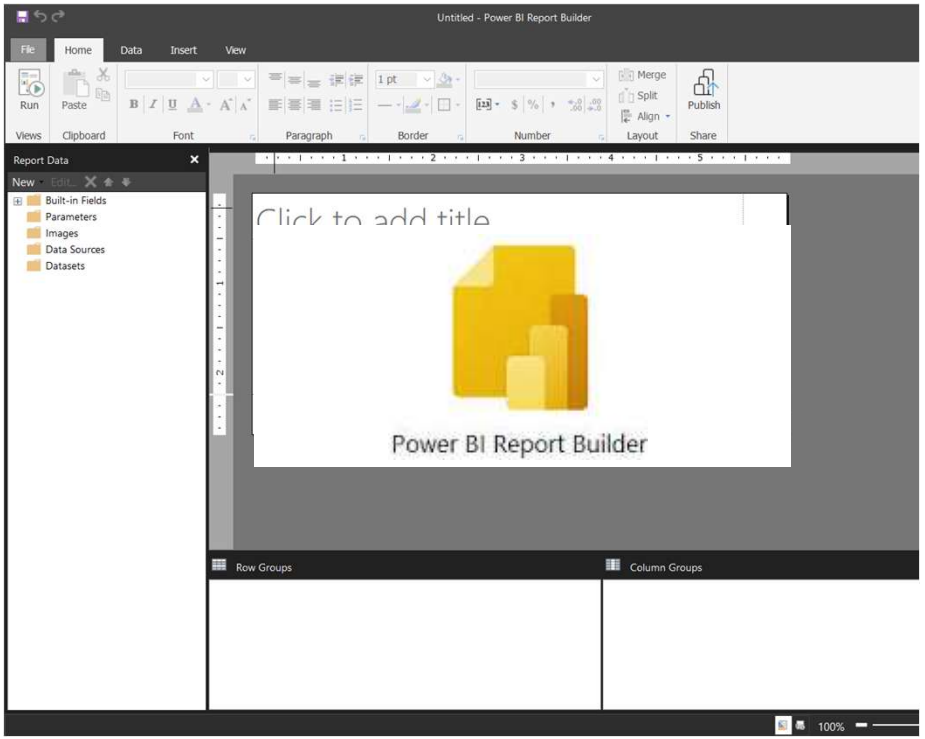


- You're mainly doing **ad-hoc analysis**
- You're *very* comfortable using MDX in Excel
- You need to give your colleagues *some* alternative to "export to Excel"

Introducing Power BI Report Builder



Vs



Creates a .pbix file

Creates a .rdl file (**R**eport **D**efinition **L**anguage)

Posted by u/Jman1994678 18 days ago
Would
53
If you could change anything about Power BI, what would it be and why it be Power BI Report Builder/Paginated Report builder?
Question
I dread every second of using Report builder
133 Comments
Award
Share
Save

Standard Power BI Reports

Vs.

Paginated Power BI Reports

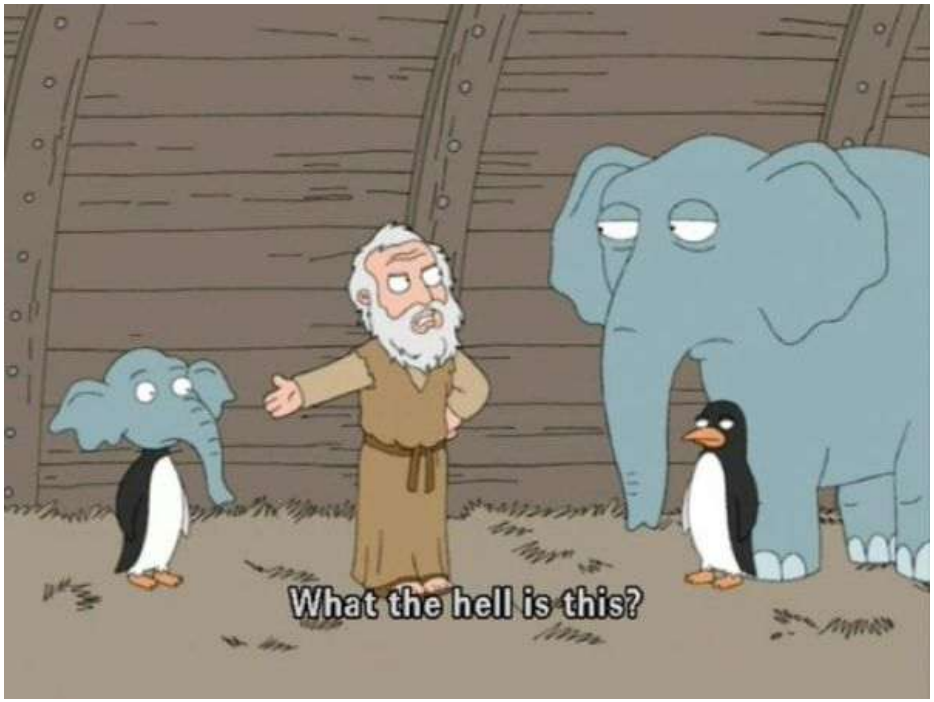
Hi There! How can I help?

I've generated your output.
End of conversation

Paginated/Power BI Report Builder

Basically SSRS & Power BI Desktop, mushed together

	Power BI Paginated Reports	Power BI "Standard" reports
Report building tool	Power BI Report Builder/ Paginated Report Builder	Power BI Desktop
Origin story	SQL Server Reporting Services (2005)	Power Pivot (2010)
Native habitat	SQL	Excel
Query logic	DAX, SQL, or MDX	DAX (for visuals)
Data stored?	No	Yes (unless thin Report)



If you try to build your paginated report like you do in Power BI Desktop...

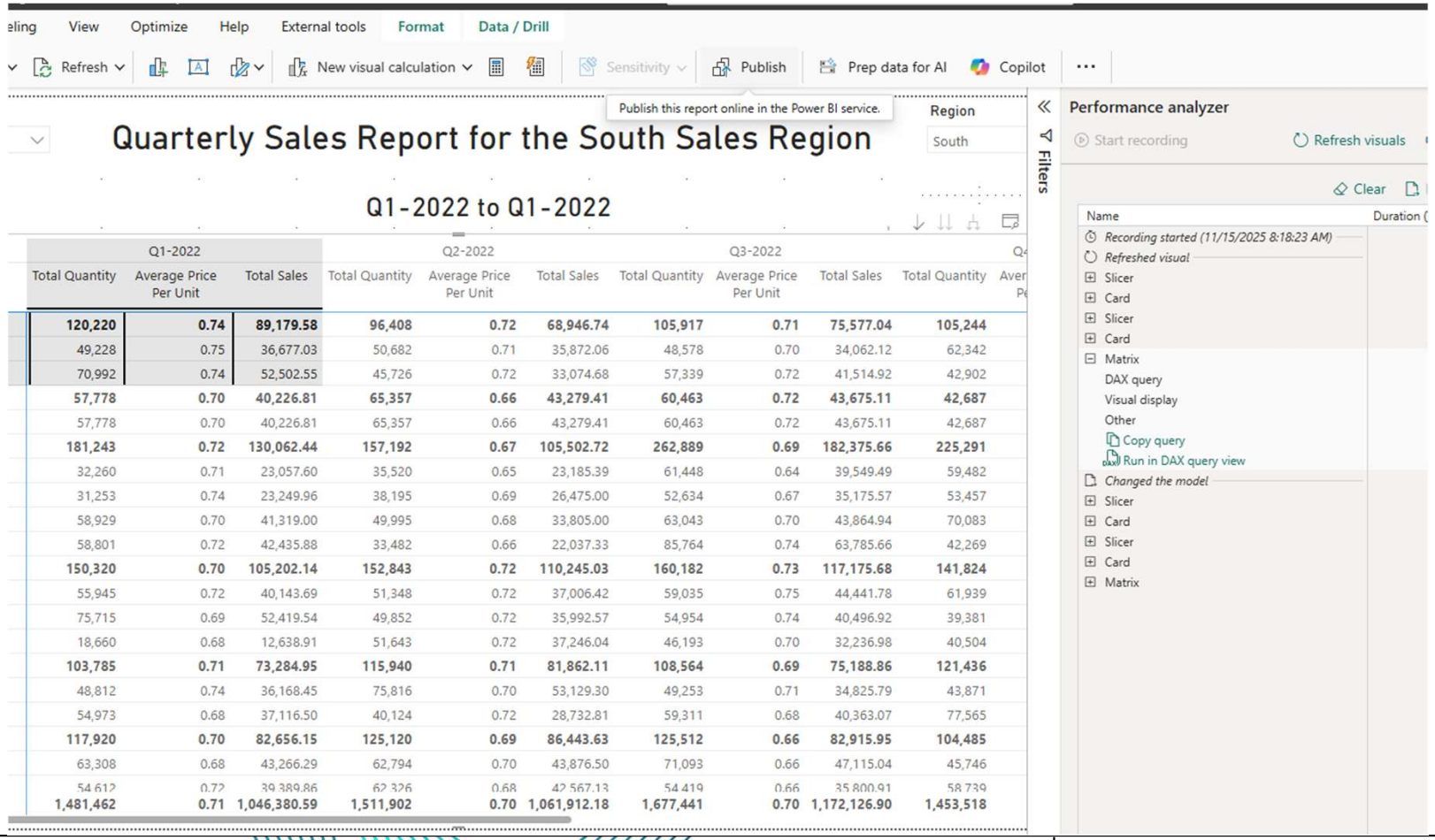
You're going to have a ***bad*** time

Build in Power BI Report Builder when…

- Report must be **“pixel perfect"** (*either* to print or to PDF & email)
- Users need an operational report that requires **limited interaction or exploration**
- The report information is needed in environments with iffy wifi

Power BI Report Builder

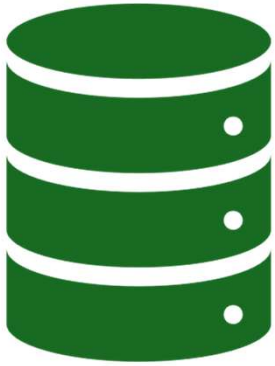
Getting your data into Report Builder



Q1-2022			Q2-2022			Q3-2022			Q4	
Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Aver Pe
120,220	**0.74**	**89,179.58**	**96,408**	**0.72**	**68,946.74**	**105,917**	**0.71**	**75,577.04**	**105,244**	
49,228	0.75	36,677.03	50,682	0.71	35,872.06	48,578	0.70	34,062.12	62,342	
70,992	0.74	52,502.55	45,726	0.72	33,074.68	57,339	0.72	41,514.92	42,902	
57,778	**0.70**	**40,226.81**	**65,357**	**0.66**	**43,279.41**	**60,463**	**0.72**	**43,675.11**	**42,687**	
57,778	0.70	40,226.81	65,357	0.66	43,279.41	60,463	0.72	43,675.11	42,687	
181,243	**0.72**	**130,062.44**	**157,192**	**0.67**	**105,502.72**	**262,889**	**0.69**	**182,375.66**	**225,291**	
32,260	0.71	23,057.60	35,520	0.65	23,185.39	61,448	0.64	39,549.49	59,482	
31,253	0.74	23,249.96	38,195	0.69	26,475.00	52,634	0.67	35,175.57	53,457	
58,929	0.70	41,319.00	49,995	0.68	33,805.00	63,043	0.70	43,864.94	70,083	
58,801	0.72	42,435.88	33,482	0.66	22,037.33	85,764	0.74	63,785.66	42,269	
150,320	**0.70**	**105,202.14**	**152,843**	**0.72**	**110,245.03**	**160,182**	**0.73**	**117,175.68**	**141,824**	
55,945	0.72	40,143.69	51,348	0.72	37,006.42	59,035	0.75	44,441.78	61,939	
75,715	0.69	52,419.54	49,852	0.72	35,992.57	54,954	0.74	40,496.92	39,381	
18,660	0.68	12,638.91	51,643	0.72	37,246.04	46,193	0.70	32,236.98	40,504	
103,785	**0.71**	**73,284.95**	**115,940**	**0.71**	**81,862.11**	**108,564**	**0.69**	**75,188.86**	**121,436**	
48,812	0.74	36,168.45	75,816	0.70	53,129.30	49,253	0.71	34,825.79	43,871	
54,973	0.68	37,116.50	40,124	0.72	28,732.81	59,311	0.68	40,363.07	77,565	
117,920	**0.70**	**82,656.15**	**125,120**	**0.69**	**86,443.63**	**125,512**	**0.66**	**82,915.95**	**104,485**	
63,308	0.68	43,266.29	62,794	0.70	43,876.50	71,093	0.66	47,115.04	45,746	
54,612	0.72	39,389.86	62,326	0.68	42,567.13	54,419	0.66	35,800.91	58,739	
1,481,462	**0.71**	**1,046,380.59**	**1,511,902**	**0.70**	**1,061,912.18**	**1,677,441**	**0.70**	**1,172,126.90**	**1,453,518**	

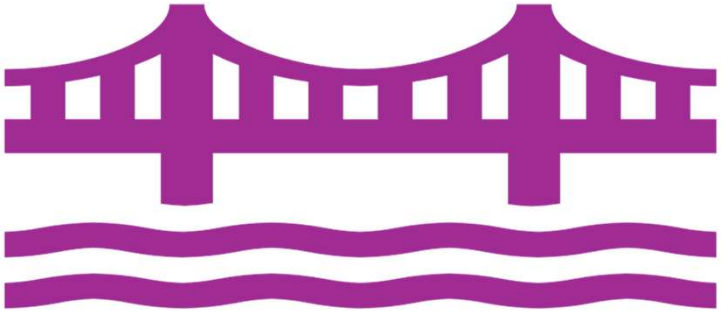
Paginated data sources act as a bridge

Semantic Model in
Power BI Service

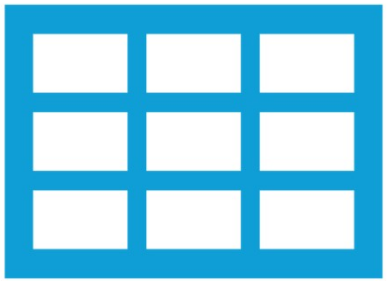


I contain *multitudes*

Data Source in
Power BI Report Builder

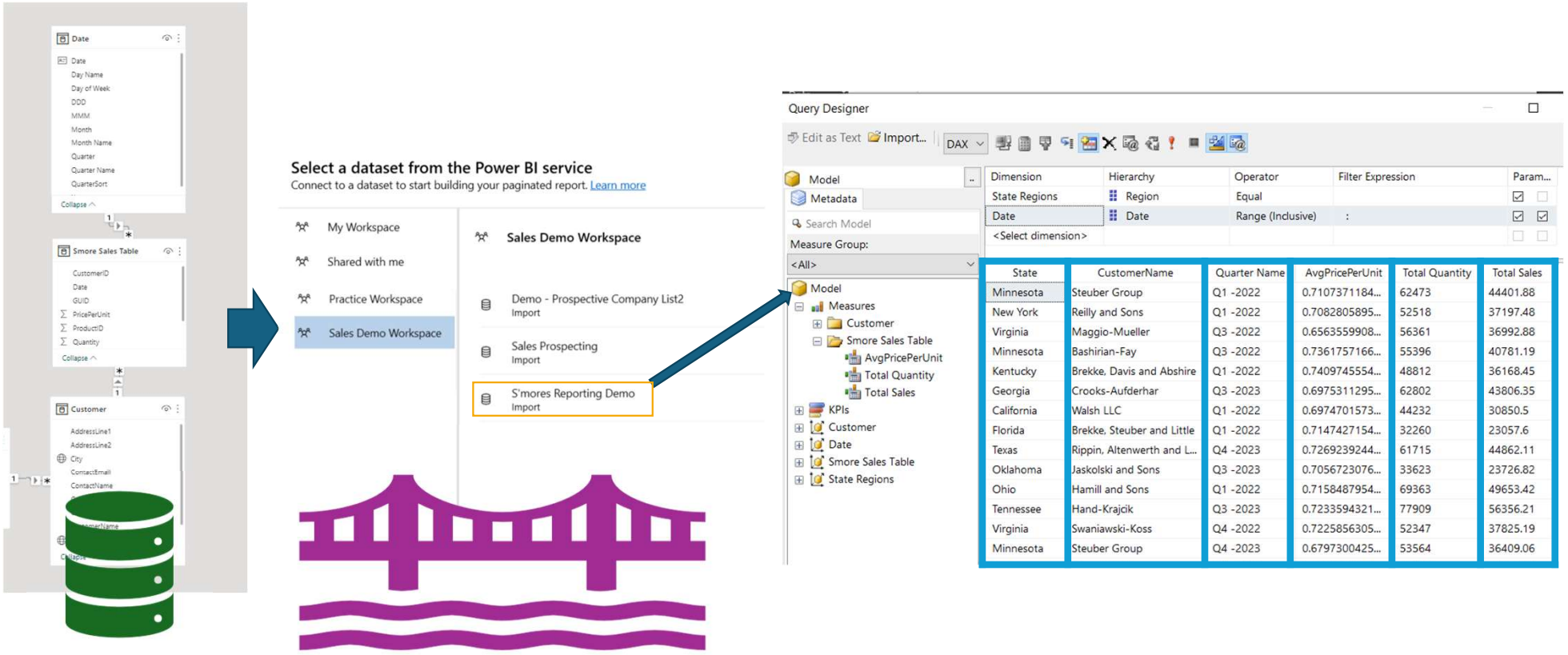


Dataset in
Power BI Report Builder



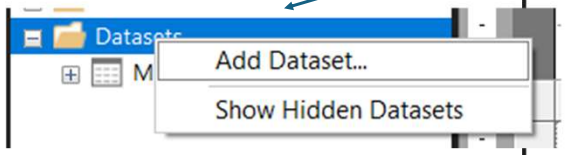
I output a table

Paginated data sources act as a bridge

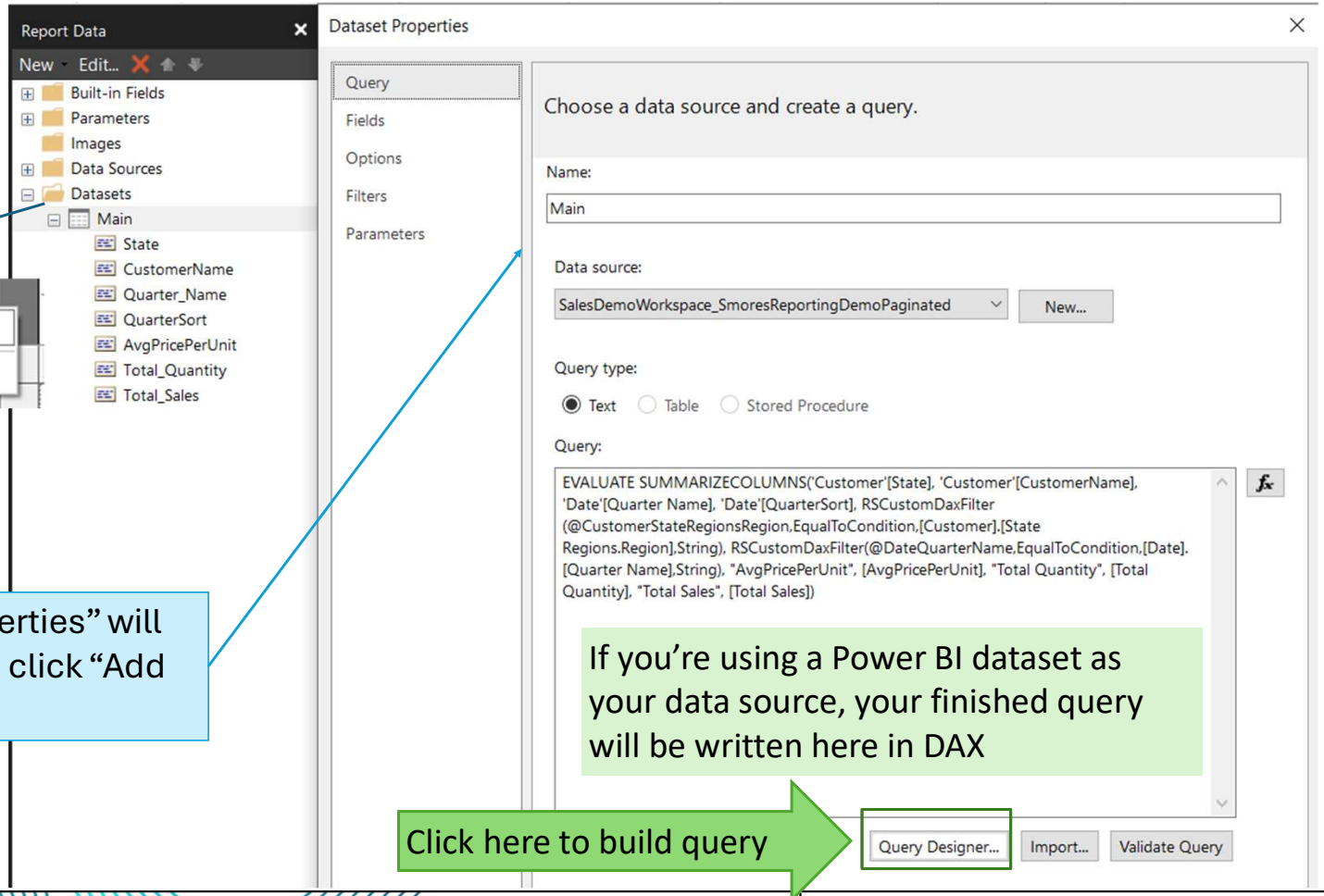


Creating A Dataset

Right click on Datasets then select "Add dataset…"



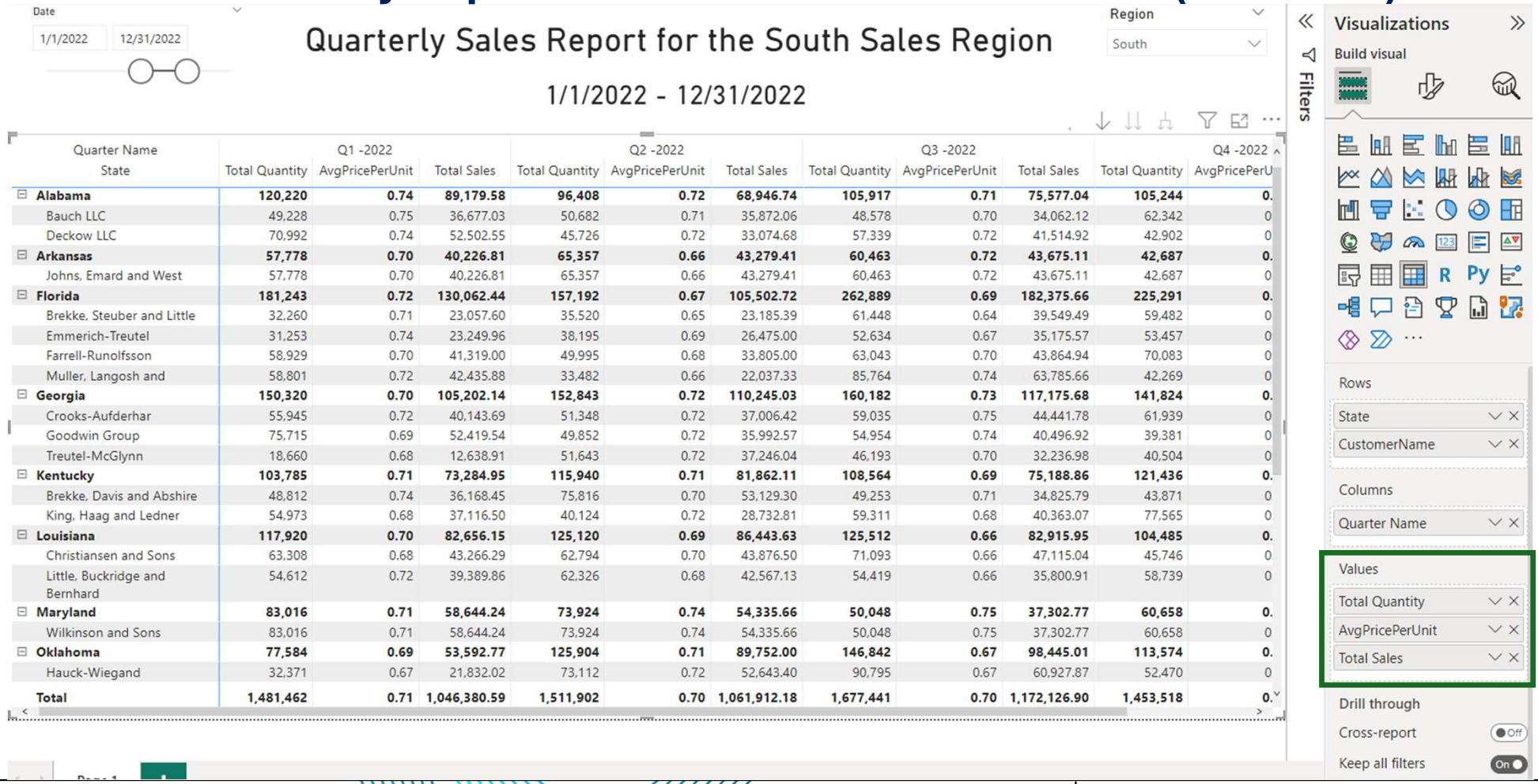
"Dataset Properties" will open after you click "Add Dataset…"



If you're using a Power BI dataset as your data source, your finished query will be written here in DAX

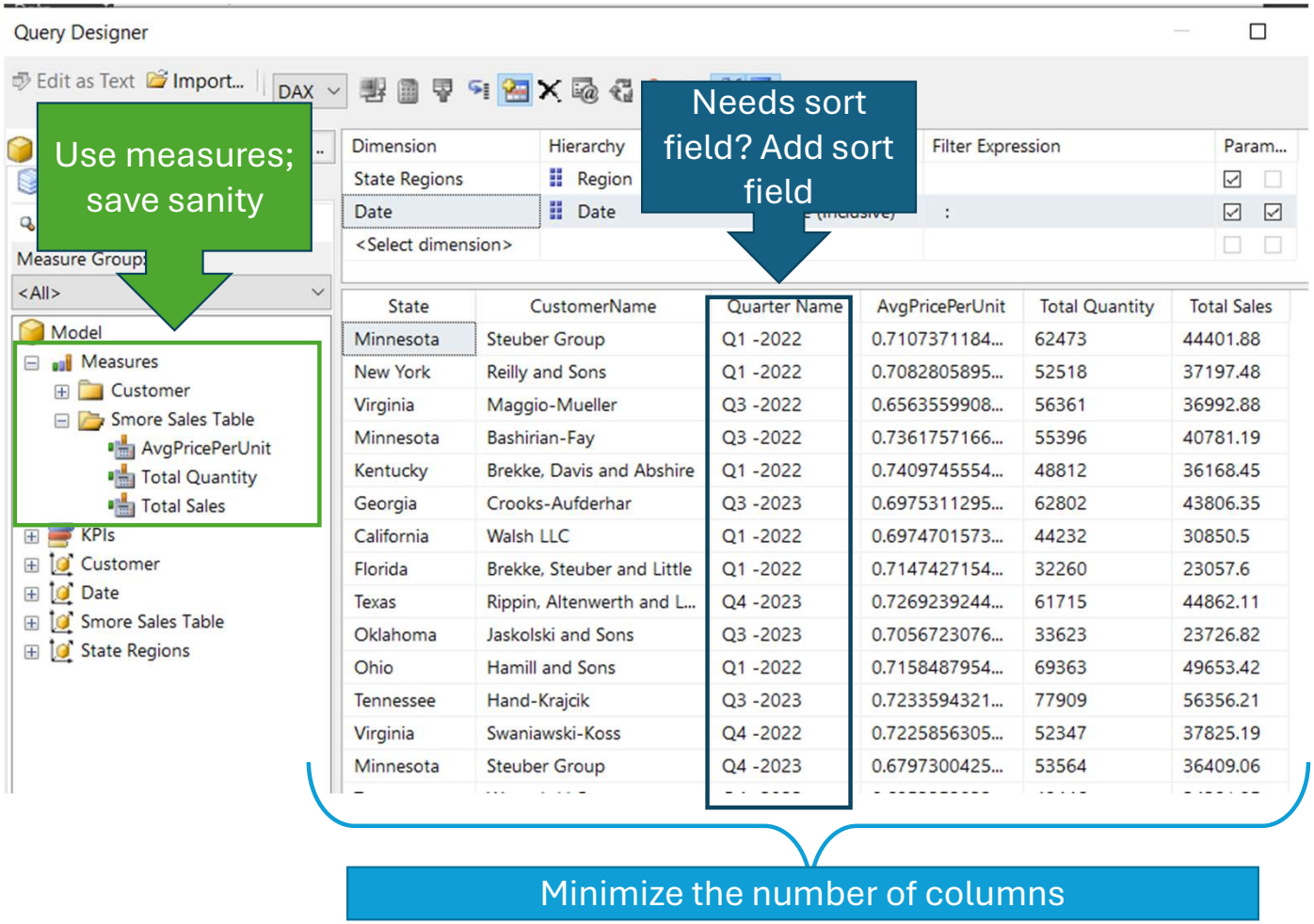
Click here to build query

Demo: Why implicit measures work in Power BI (Standard)



Quarter Name	Q1 -2022			Q2 -2022			Q3 -2022			Q4 -2022	
State	Total Quantity	AvgPricePerUnit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	AvgPricePerUnit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	AvgPricePerUnit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	AvgPricePerU
Alabama	**120,220**	**0.74**	**89,179.58**	**96,408**	**0.72**	**68,946.74**	**105,917**	**0.71**	**75,577.04**	**105,244**	**0.**
Bauch LLC	49,228	0.75	36,677.03	50,682	0.71	35,872.06	48,578	0.70	34,062.12	62,342	0
Deckow LLC	70,992	0.74	52,502.55	45,726	0.72	33,074.68	57,339	0.72	41,514.92	42,902	0
Arkansas	**57,778**	**0.70**	**40,226.81**	**65,357**	**0.66**	**43,279.41**	**60,463**	**0.72**	**43,675.11**	**42,687**	**0.**
Johns, Emard and West	57,778	0.70	40,226.81	65,357	0.66	43,279.41	60,463	0.72	43,675.11	42,687	0
Florida	**181,243**	**0.72**	**130,062.44**	**157,192**	**0.67**	**105,502.72**	**262,889**	**0.69**	**182,375.66**	**225,291**	**0.**
Brekke, Steuber and Little	32,260	0.71	23,057.60	35,520	0.65	23,185.39	61,448	0.64	39,549.49	59,482	0
Emmerich-Treutel	31,253	0.74	23,249.96	38,195	0.69	26,475.00	52,634	0.67	35,175.57	53,457	0
Farrell-Runolfsson	58,929	0.70	41,319.00	49,995	0.68	33,805.00	63,043	0.70	43,864.94	70,083	0
Muller, Langosh and	58,801	0.72	42,435.88	33,482	0.66	22,037.33	85,764	0.74	63,785.66	42,269	0
Georgia	**150,320**	**0.70**	**105,202.14**	**152,843**	**0.72**	**110,245.03**	**160,182**	**0.73**	**117,175.68**	**141,824**	**0.**
Crooks-Aufderhar	55,945	0.72	40,143.69	51,348	0.72	37,006.42	59,035	0.75	44,441.78	61,939	0
Goodwin Group	75,715	0.69	52,419.54	49,852	0.72	35,992.57	54,954	0.74	40,496.92	39,381	0
Treutel-McGlynn	18,660	0.68	12,638.91	51,643	0.72	37,246.04	46,193	0.70	32,236.98	40,504	0
Kentucky	**103,785**	**0.71**	**73,284.95**	**115,940**	**0.71**	**81,862.11**	**108,564**	**0.69**	**75,188.86**	**121,436**	**0.**
Brekke, Davis and Abshire	48,812	0.74	36,168.45	75,816	0.70	53,129.30	49,253	0.71	34,825.79	43,871	0
King, Haag and Ledner	54,973	0.68	37,116.50	40,124	0.72	28,732.81	59,311	0.68	40,363.07	77,565	0
Louisiana	**117,920**	**0.70**	**82,656.15**	**125,120**	**0.69**	**86,443.63**	**125,512**	**0.66**	**82,915.95**	**104,485**	**0.**
Christiansen and Sons	63,308	0.68	43,266.29	62,794	0.70	43,876.50	71,093	0.66	47,115.04	45,746	0
Little, Buckridge and Bernhard	54,612	0.72	39,389.86	62,326	0.68	42,567.13	54,419	0.66	35,800.91	58,739	0
Maryland	**83,016**	**0.71**	**58,644.24**	**73,924**	**0.74**	**54,335.66**	**50,048**	**0.75**	**37,302.77**	**60,658**	**0.**
Wilkinson and Sons	83,016	0.71	58,644.24	73,924	0.74	54,335.66	50,048	0.75	37,302.77	60,658	0
Oklahoma	**77,584**	**0.69**	**53,592.77**	**125,904**	**0.71**	**89,752.00**	**146,842**	**0.67**	**98,445.01**	**113,574**	**0.**
Hauck-Wiegand	32,371	0.67	21,832.02	73,112	0.72	52,643.40	90,795	0.67	60,927.87	52,470	0
Total	**1,481,462**	**0.71**	**1,046,380.59**	**1,511,902**	**0.70**	**1,061,912.18**	**1,677,441**	**0.70**	**1,172,126.90**	**1,453,518**	**0.**

Query Designer: drag and drop to build your dataset



Understanding the Parameter Relay Race

Quarter Name: Multiple selections

Region: Midwest

Quarterly Sales Report for the Midwest Sales Region

Q1-2022 to Q4-2022

Quarter Name	Q1-2022			Q2-2022			Q3-2022			Q4-2022		
State	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales
Illinois	**90,374**	**0.68**	**61,091.91**	**108,839**	**0.72**	**78,179.40**	**99,252**	**0.68**	**67,893.52**	**92,762**	**0.67**	**62,368.10**
Weissnat-Kuhlman	40,738	0.68	27,807.57	45,889	0.67	30,864.60	43,021	0.66	28,574.56	46,543	0.69	32,324.35
Windler-Reichert	49,636	0.67	33,284.34	62,950	0.75	47,314.80	56,231	0.70	39,318.96	46,219	0.65	30,043.75
Minnesota	**121,239**	**0.71**	**85,850.76**	**93,203**	**0.68**	**62,931.91**	**109,220**	**0.71**	**78,032.91**	**99,294**	**0.71**	**70,530.91**
Bashirian-Fay	58,766	0.71	41,448.88	30,500	0.68	20,873.42	55,396	0.74	40,781.19	53,610	0.69	37,077.76
Steuber Group	62,473	0.71	44,401.88	62,703	0.67	42,058.49	53,824	0.69	37,251.72	45,684	0.73	33,453.15
Ohio	**109,313**	**0.71**	**77,760.46**	**128,828**	**0.73**	**93,464.47**	**89,619**	**0.72**	**64,116.92**	**104,988**	**0.70**	**73,956.43**
Hamill and Sons	69,363	0.72	49,653.42	67,790	0.73	49,360.36	58,739	0.73	42,724.68	53,403	0.74	39,480.36
Murazik-Considine	39,950	0.70	28,107.04	61,038	0.72	44,104.11	30,880	0.69	21,392.24	51,585	0.67	34,476.07
Total	**320,926**	**0.70**	**224,703.13**	**330,870**	**0.71**	**234,575.78**	**298,091**	**0.70**	**210,043.35**	**297,044**	**0.70**	**206,855.44**

Query filters vs. query parameters

Both:

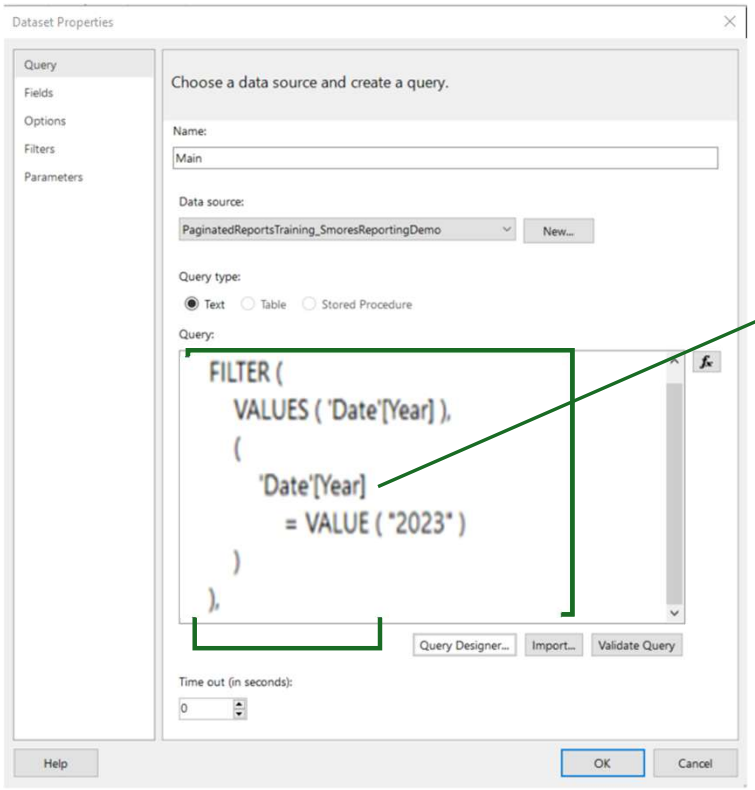
- defined using the Query Editor
- constrain the data pulled into the report

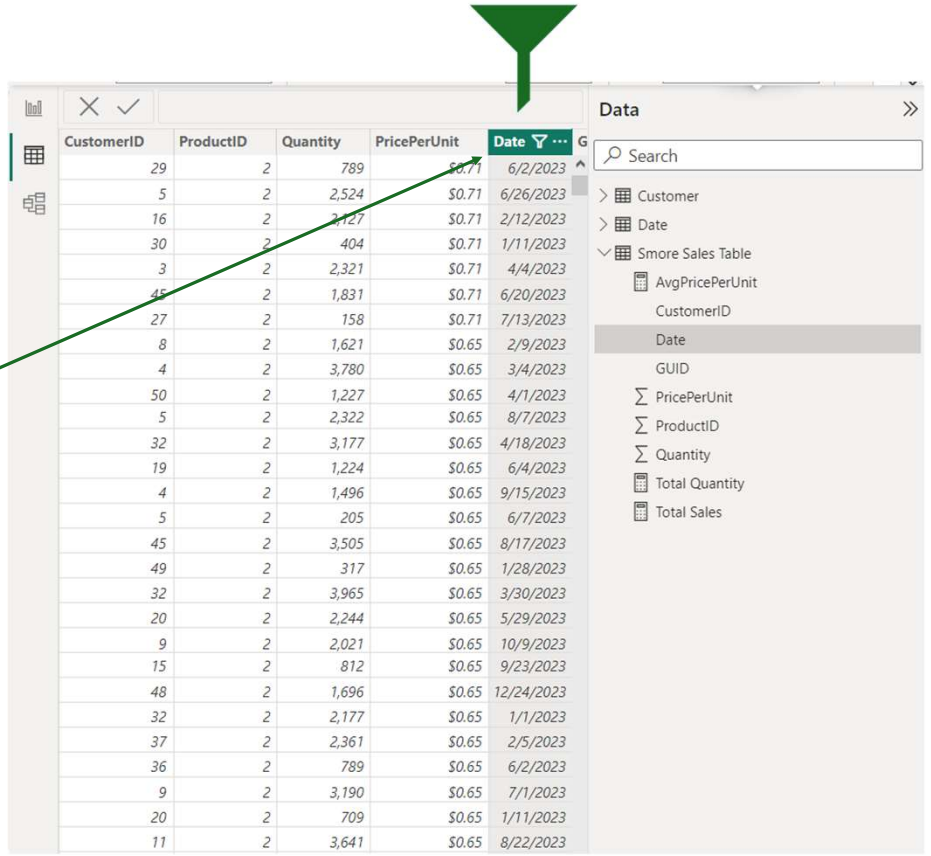
Query Filters: constraint will *always* be applied to the report

Query Parameters: constraint is **chosen by report user** at report run time

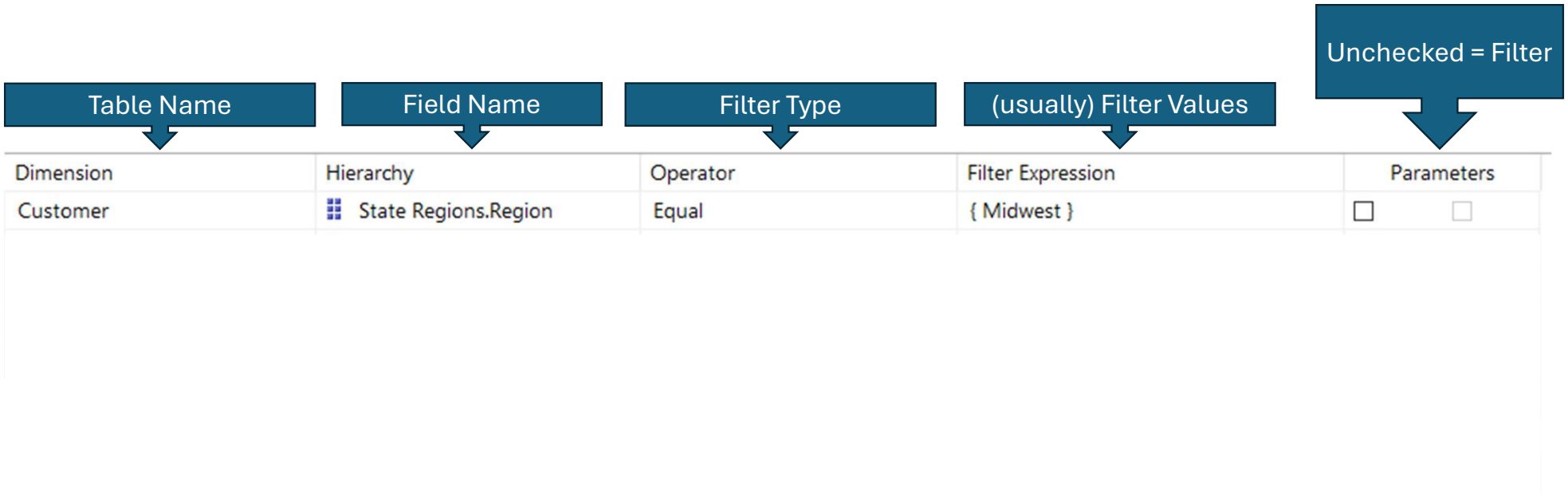
Visualizing a Query filter

When the report is run…

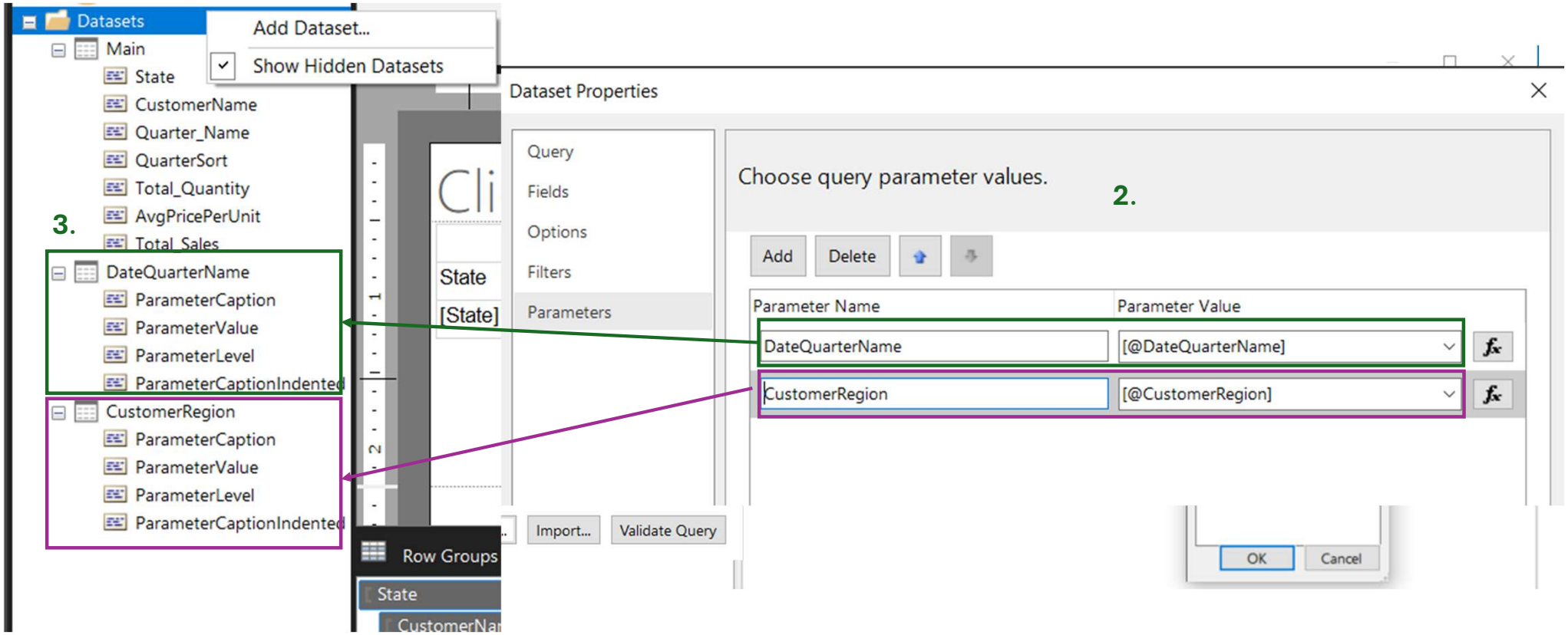




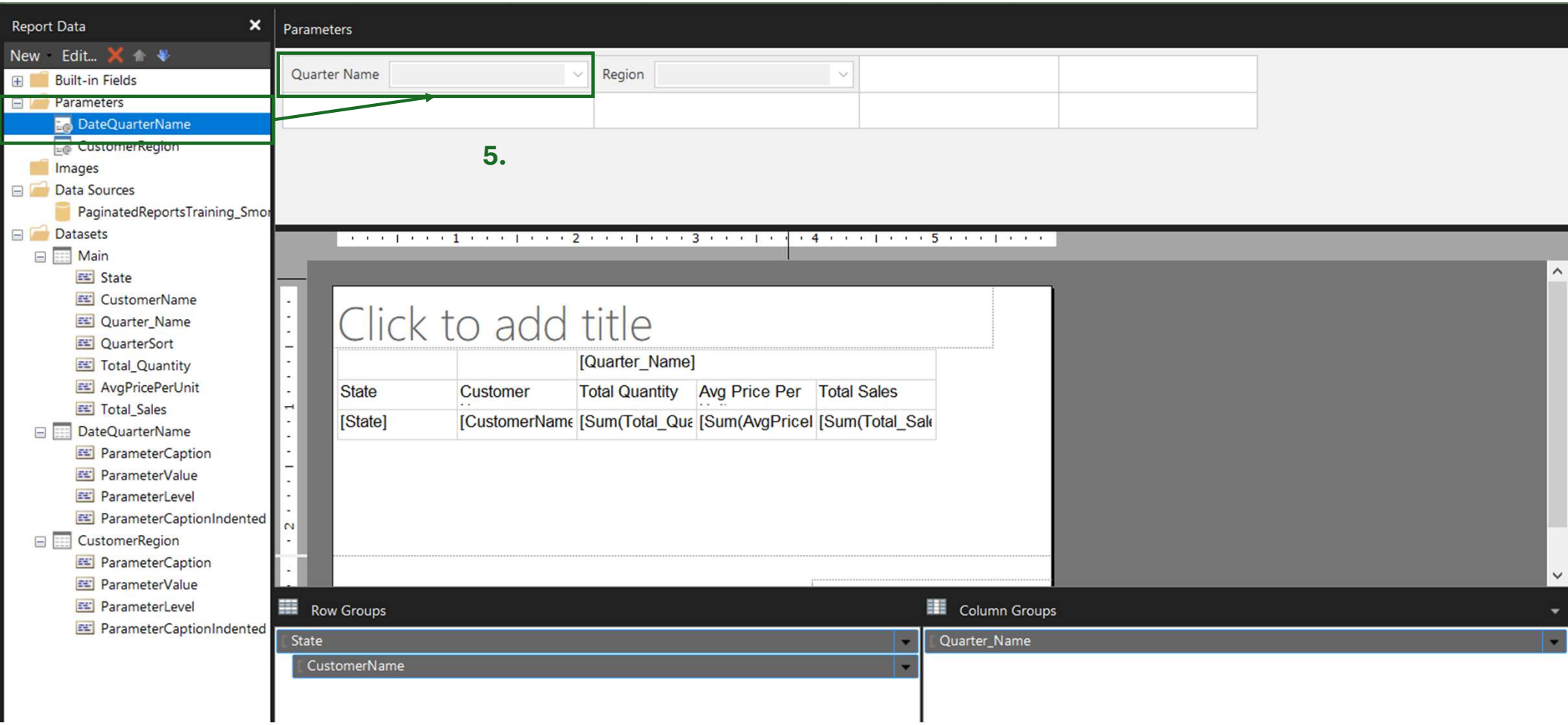
Adding A Query Filter



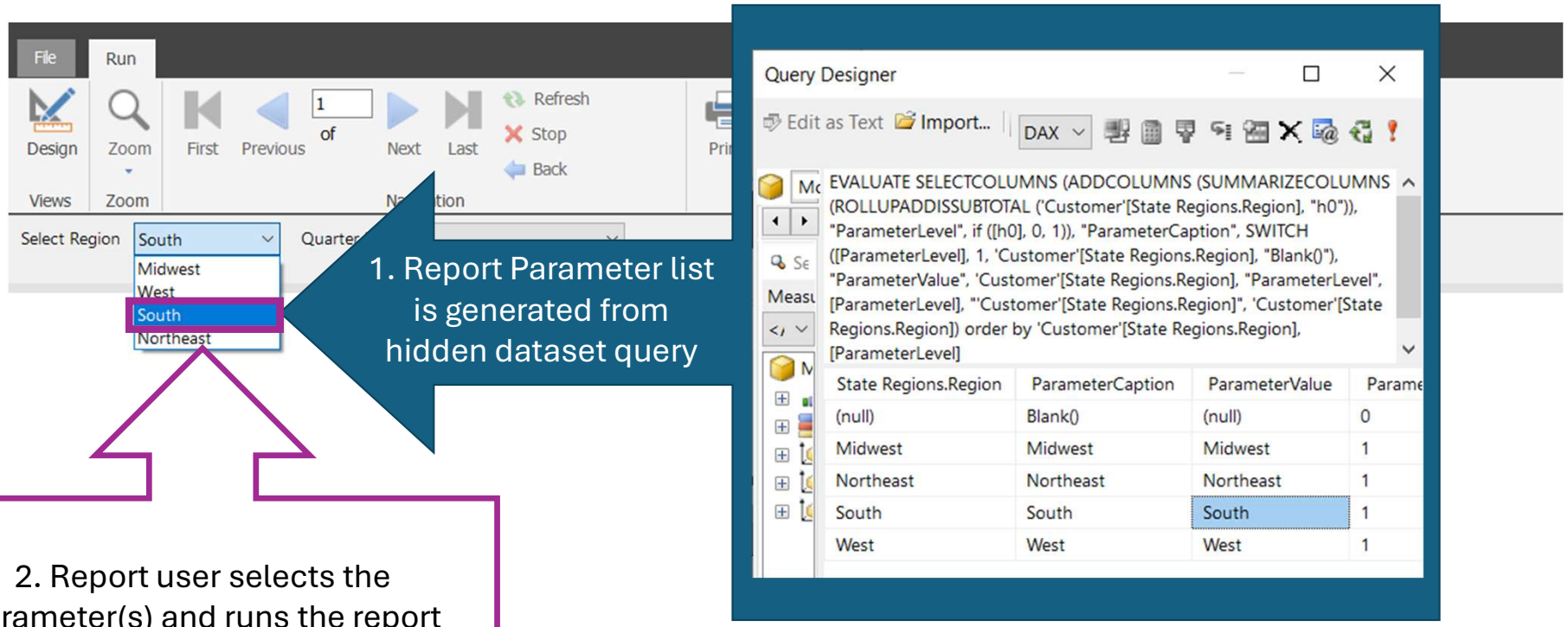
Understanding the Parameter Relay Race: Query Parameters



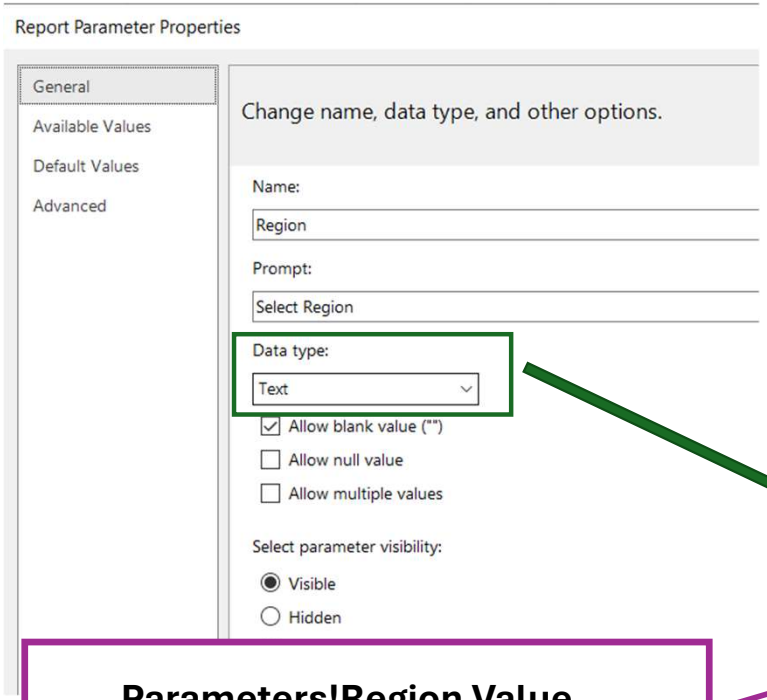
The Parameter Relay Race: Report Parameters

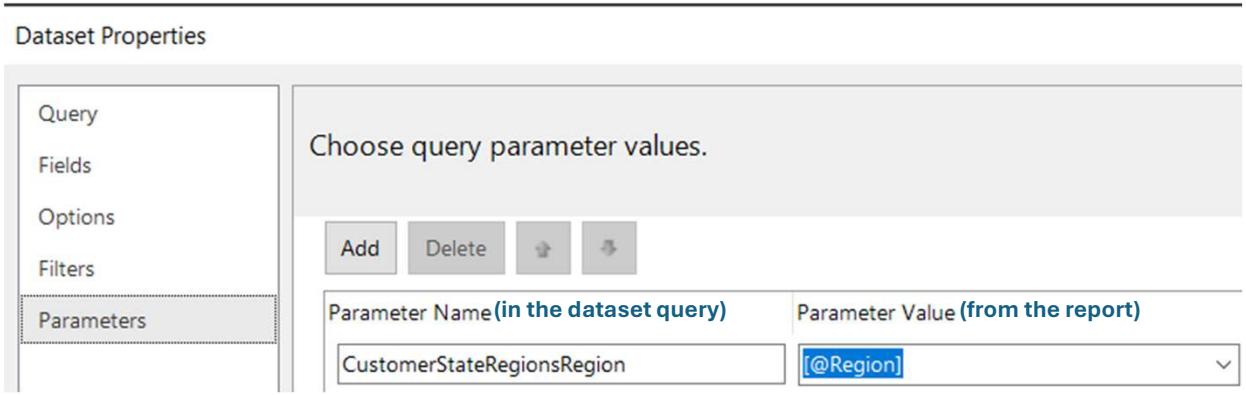


The Parameter Relay Race: User Selection at Run-time



The Parameter Relay Race:
User selection is fed back to the query





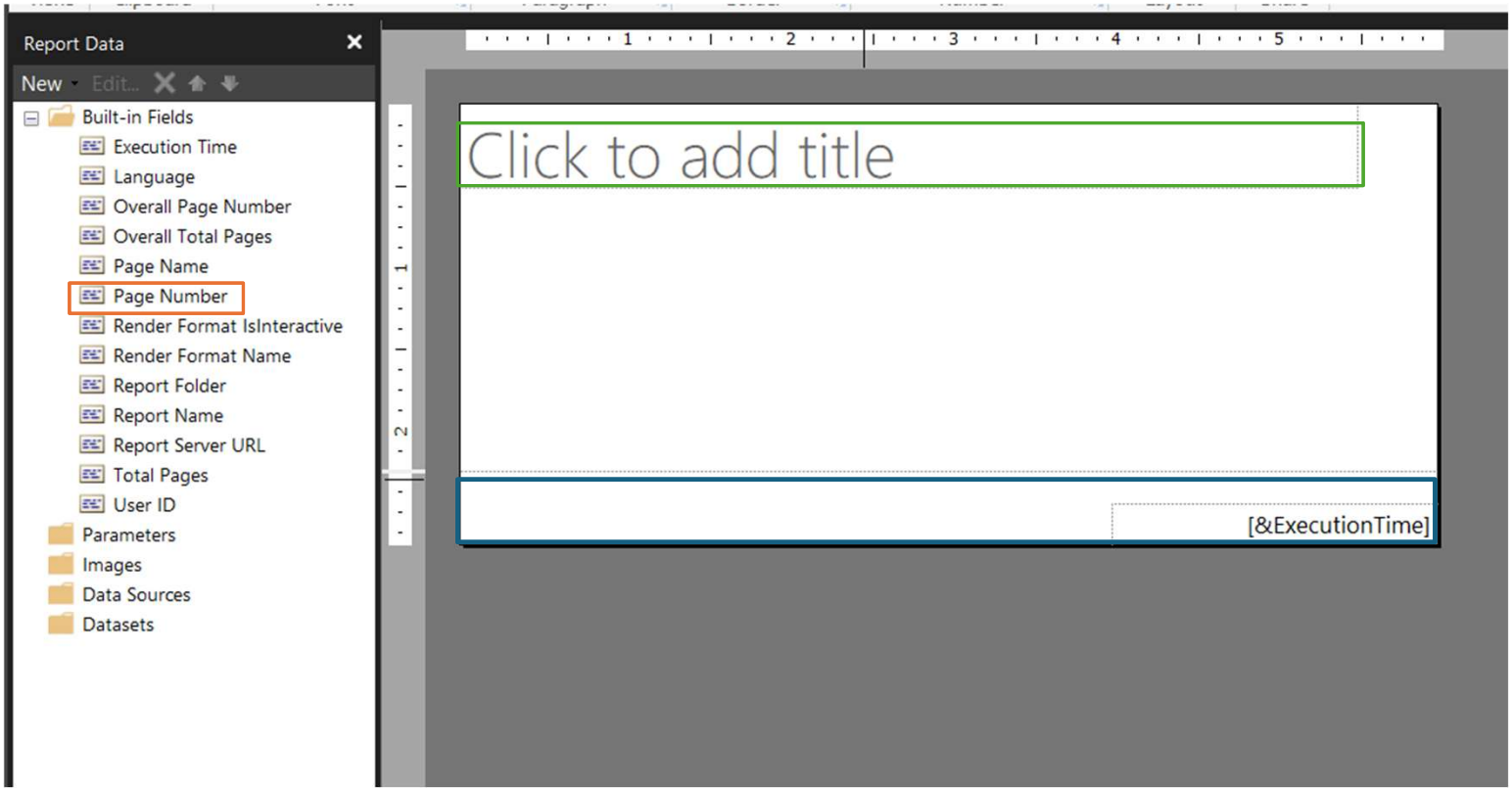
Parameters!Region.Value ="South"

RSCustomDaxFilter(
@CustomerStateRegionsRegion, **=Parameters!Region.Value**
EqualToCondition,

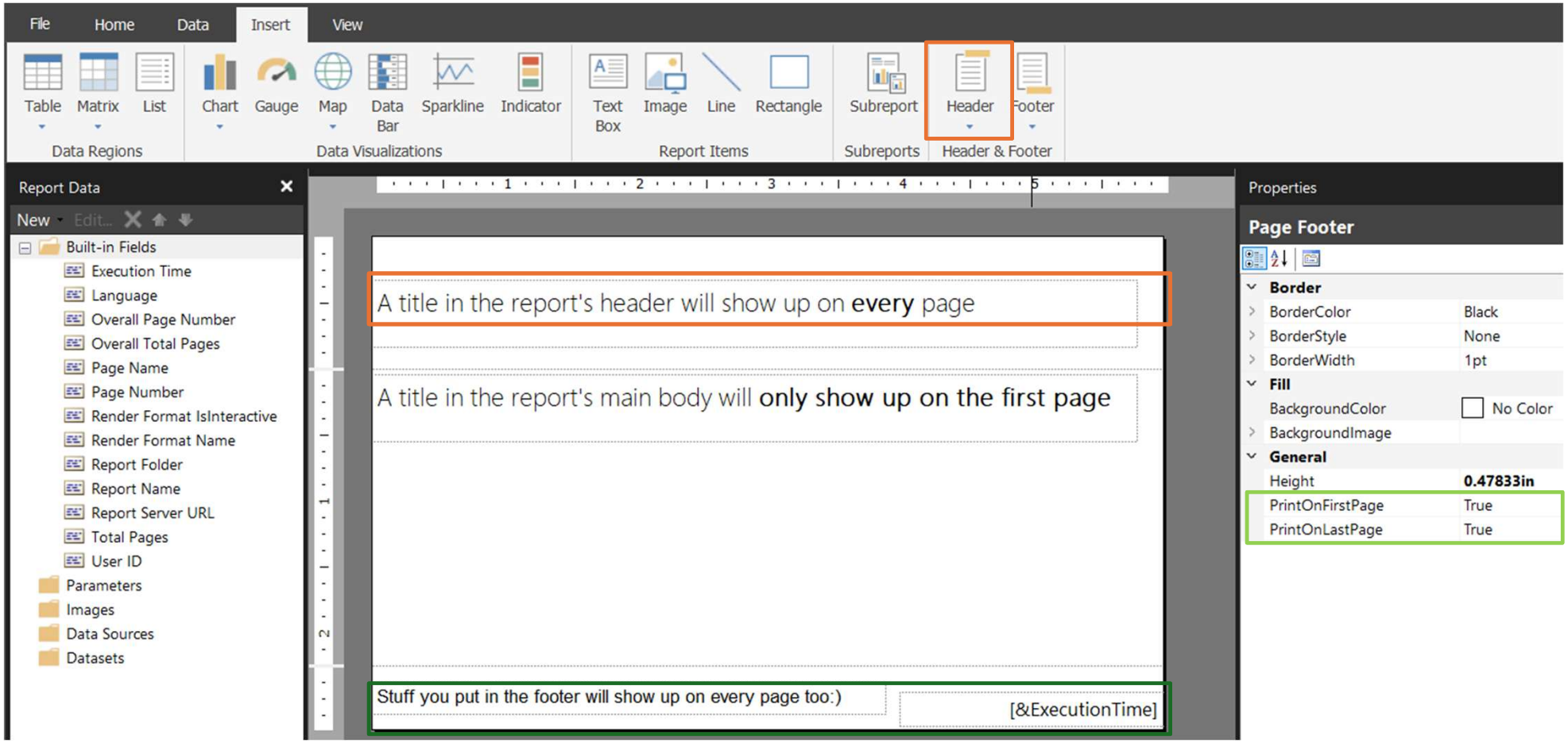
[Customer].[StateRegions.Region], **"South"**

String **Data Type: Text**
)

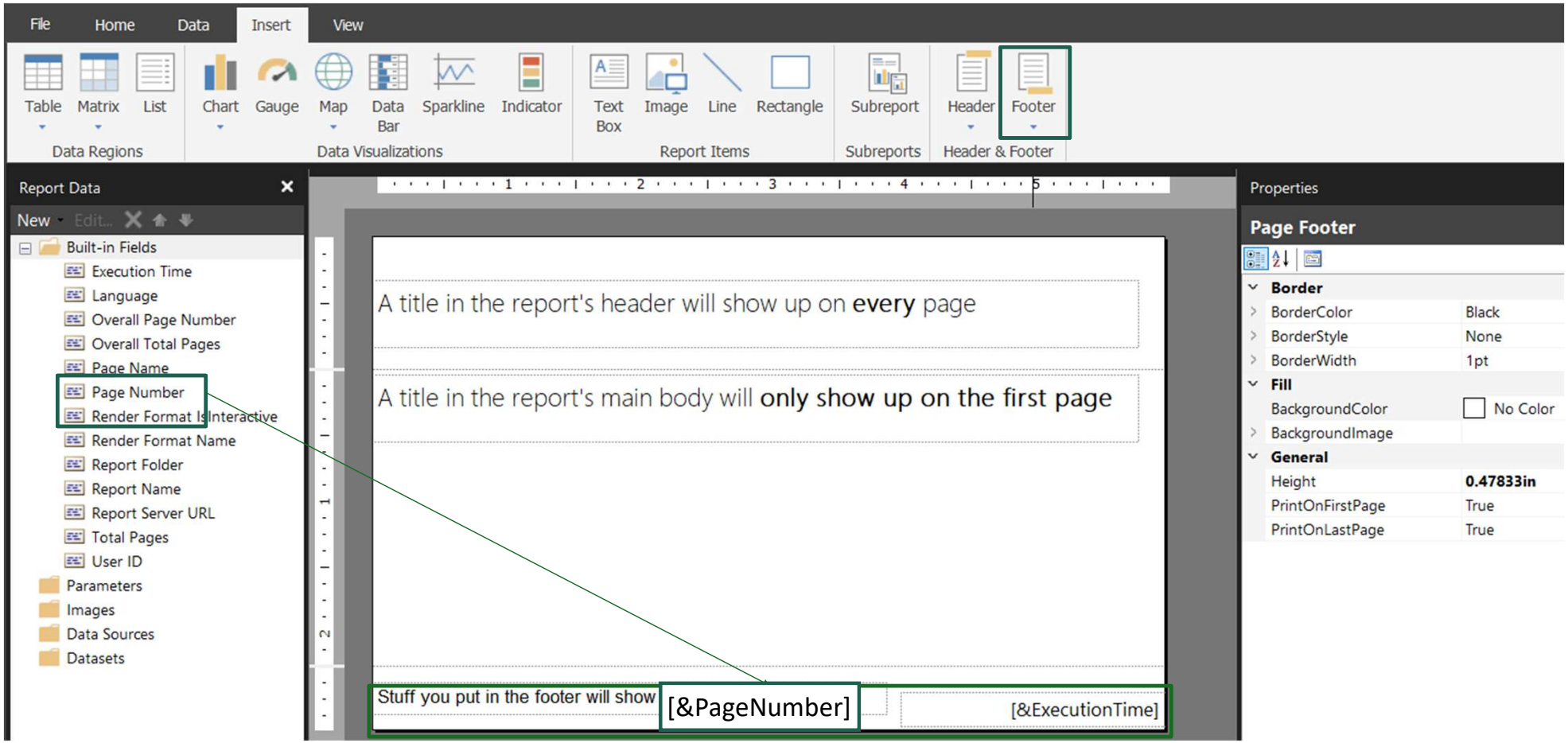
Formatting from the default



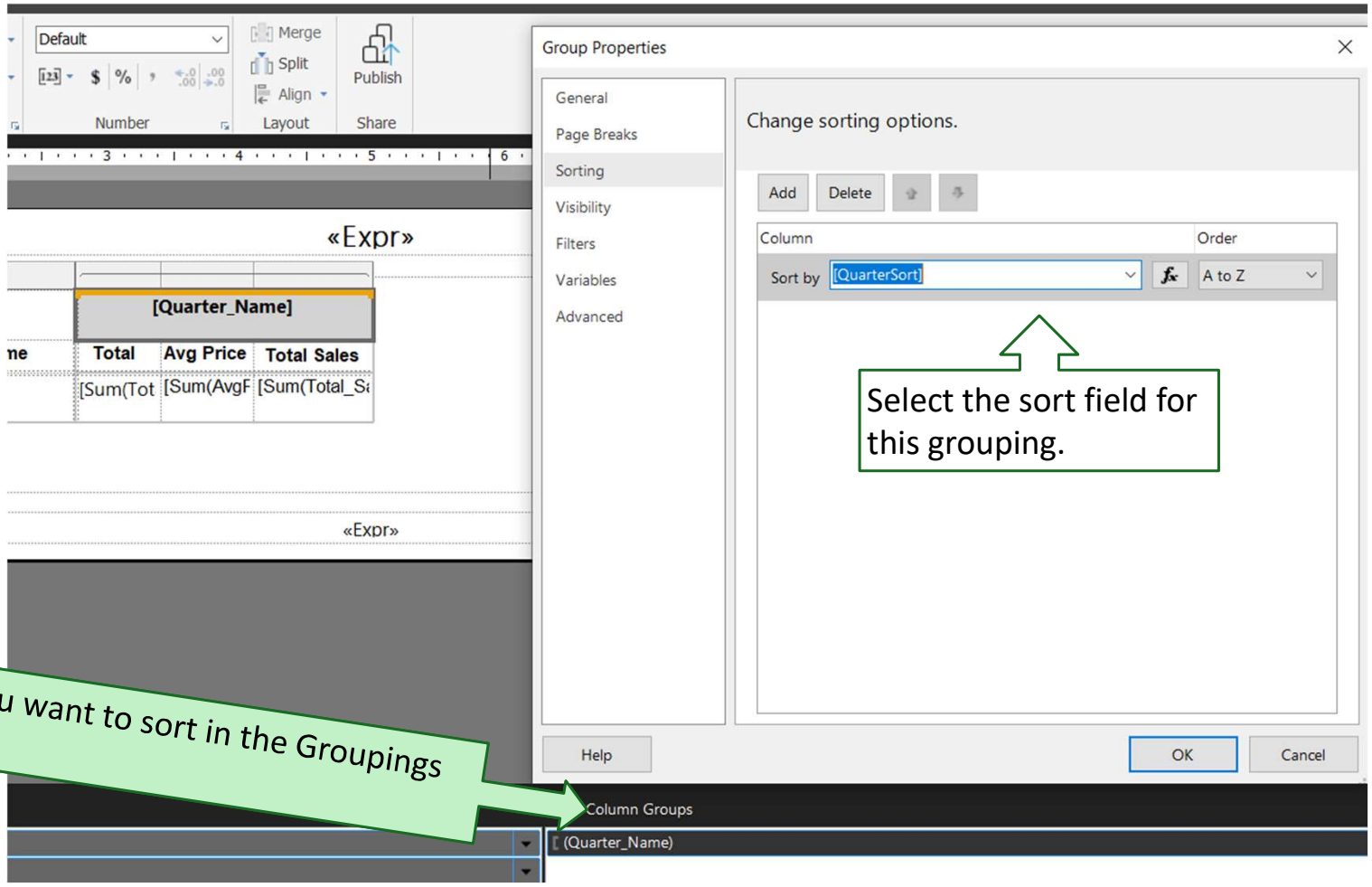
Adding a Header



Adding a Page Number to your Footer

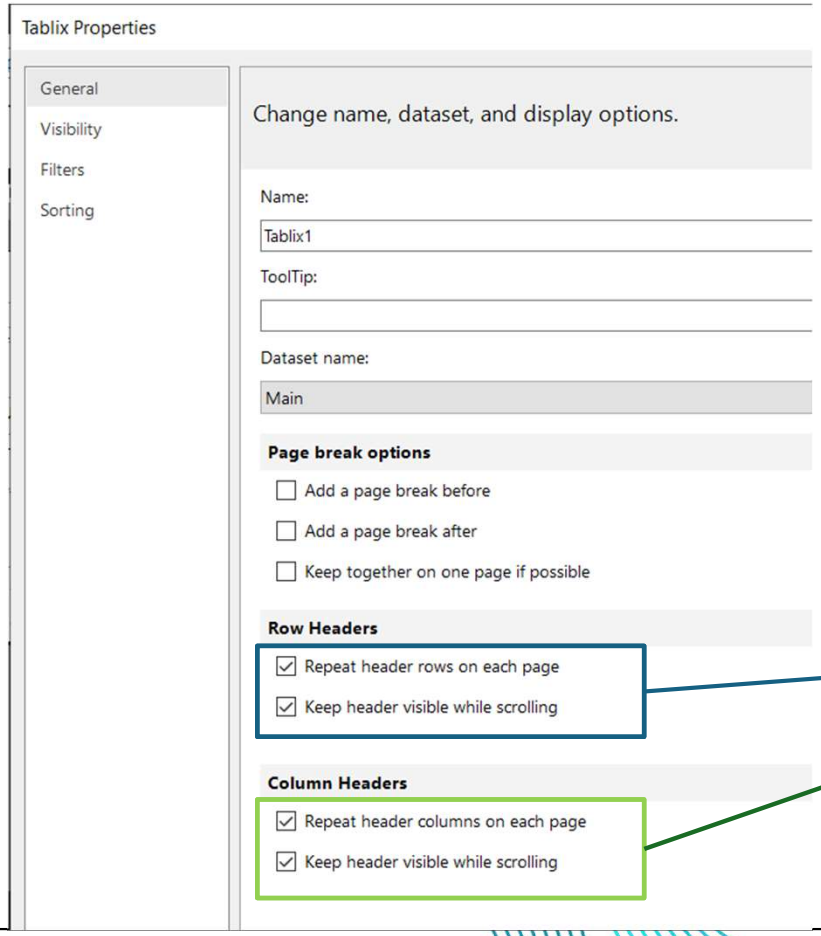


Setting up your Matrix: Group Order

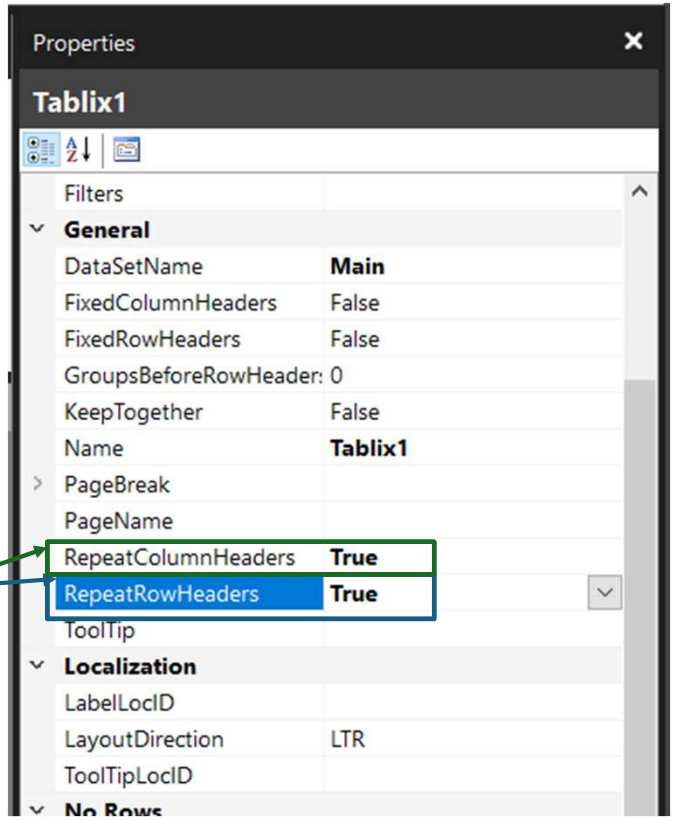


Right click on the Grouping you want to sort in the Groupings section

Setting up your Matrix: repeating column & row headers



-OR-



Getting your report print ready

Define **Report Properties**

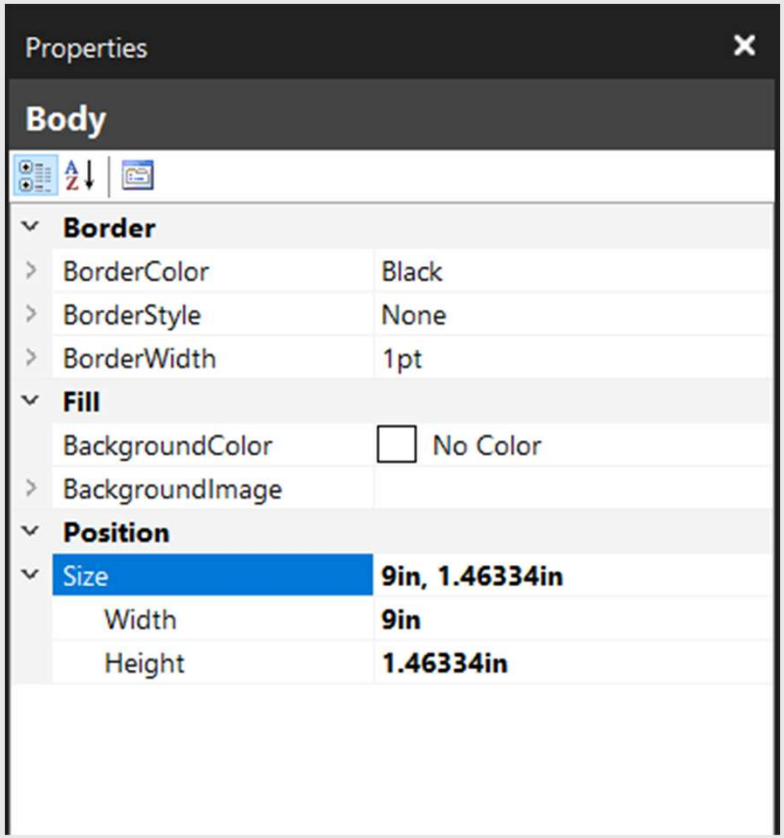
- paper size & margins
- Set “Consume Container White Space” to “True” (if it isn’t already)

Right click in the gray area of your report to see & update report properties

Set your **Body Properties to match**
Set Body Width = **Report Width less margin**
Width 11 inches – 2 * (1 inch margin) **= 9 inches**

Body Height should leave **no white space** between end of Tablix & footer

Not sure what page size to use? **Check your office printers**



Bonus (if time)

Making your report title Dynamic

Quarter Name

Multiple selections

Region

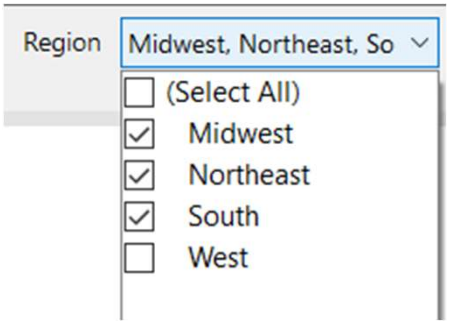
South

Quarterly Sales Report for the South Sales Region

Q1-2022 to Q2-2023

Quarter Name	Q1-2022			Q2-2022			Q3-2022			Q4-2022	
State	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit	Total Sales	Total Quantity	Average Price Per Unit
Alabama	**120,220**	**0.74**	**89,179.58**	**96,408**	**0.72**	**68,946.74**	**105,917**	**0.71**	**75,577.04**	**105,244**	**0.70**
Bauch LLC	49,228	0.75	36,677.03	50,682	0.71	35,872.06	48,578	0.70	34,062.12	62,342	0.72
Deckow LLC	70,992	0.74	52,502.55	45,726	0.72	33,074.68	57,339	0.72	41,514.92	42,902	0.68
Arkansas	**57,778**	**0.70**	**40,226.81**	**65,357**	**0.66**	**43,279.41**	**60,463**	**0.72**	**43,675.11**	**42,687**	**0.68**
Johns, Emard and West	57,778	0.70	40,226.81	65,357	0.66	43,279.41	60,463	0.72	43,675.11	42,687	0.68
Florida	**181,243**	**0.72**	**130,062.44**	**157,192**	**0.67**	**105,502.72**	**262,889**	**0.69**	**182,375.66**	**225,291**	**0.71**
Brekke, Steuber and Little	32,260	0.71	23,057.60	35,520	0.65	23,185.39	61,448	0.64	39,549.49	59,482	0.72
Emmerich-Treutel	31,253	0.74	23,249.96	38,195	0.69	26,475.00	52,634	0.67	35,175.57	53,457	0.66
Farrell-Runolfsson	58,929	0.70	41,319.00	49,995	0.68	33,805.00	63,043	0.70	43,864.94	70,083	0.70
Muller, Langosh and Denesik	58,801	0.72	42,435.88	33,482	0.66	22,037.33	85,764	0.74	63,785.66	42,269	0.76
Georgia	**150,320**	**0.70**	**105,202.14**	**152,843**	**0.72**	**110,245.03**	**160,182**	**0.73**	**117,175.68**	**141,824**	**0.70**
Crooks-Aufderhar	55,945	0.72	40,143.69	51,348	0.72	37,006.42	59,035	0.75	44,441.78	61,939	0.74
Goodwin Group	75,715	0.69	52,419.54	49,852	0.72	35,992.57	54,954	0.74	40,496.92	39,381	0.66

Creating a Dynamic Report Title



Example = Join(Parameters!Region.Value,", ")

Output = “Midwest, Northeast, South”

=InStr

Example= InStr(Join(Parameters!Region.Value,", "),",")

Output = **8**

=InStrRev

Example= InStrRev(Join(Parameters!Region.Value,", "),",")

Output = **7**

You’re already using Field Expressions (congrats!)

(Blue row are all headers – hard coded text boxes)

Stall No	Business	Primary Owner	Owner Phone	Owner Email	Owner Address
[StallNo]	[Business]	[PrimaryOwner]	[OwnerPhone]	[OwnerEmail]	[OwnerAddress

=Fields!StallNo.Value

=Fields!OwnerPhone.Value

Handy Expressions: Text Manipulation

=Left(“Paginated”,3**)** **Output:** Pag

=Right(“Paginated,3**)** **Output:** ted

=Len(“Paginated”**)** **Output:** 9

Concatenate with “&”

=[SpeakerName]&” Loves ”&[Topic]&”!”

=Lenore Loves Paginated Reports!

Sound off.
The mic is all yours.
Influence the product roadmap.

Join the Fabric User Panel

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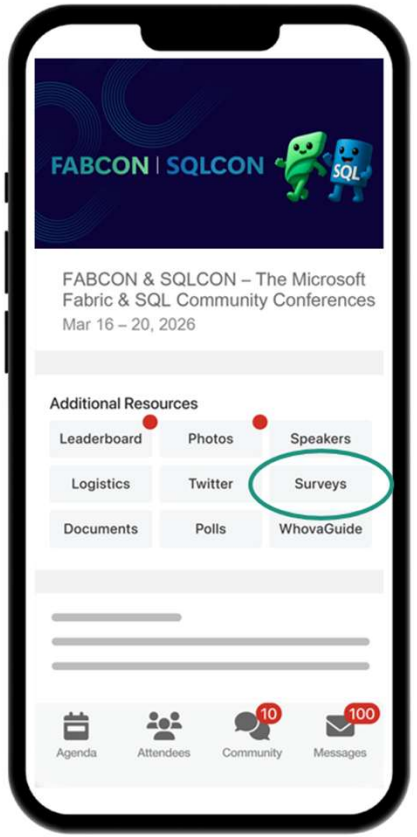
Influence our SQL roadmap and ensure it meets your real-life needs

https://aka.ms/JoinSQLUserPanel

How was the session?

Complete Session Surveys in Whova for your chance to WIN PRIZES!



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