

Creating a Measures Table in Excel's Data Model

Measures can be created in any table. However, setting up a dedicated table to store only measures is a great way to consolidate your measures into a single location.

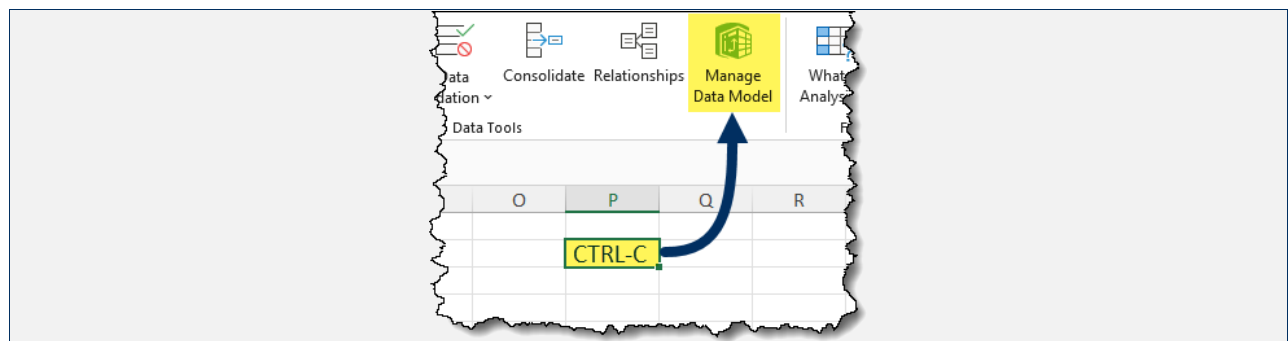
This makes locating and using measures easier as it is less taxing on your human memory.

Creating an Empty Table

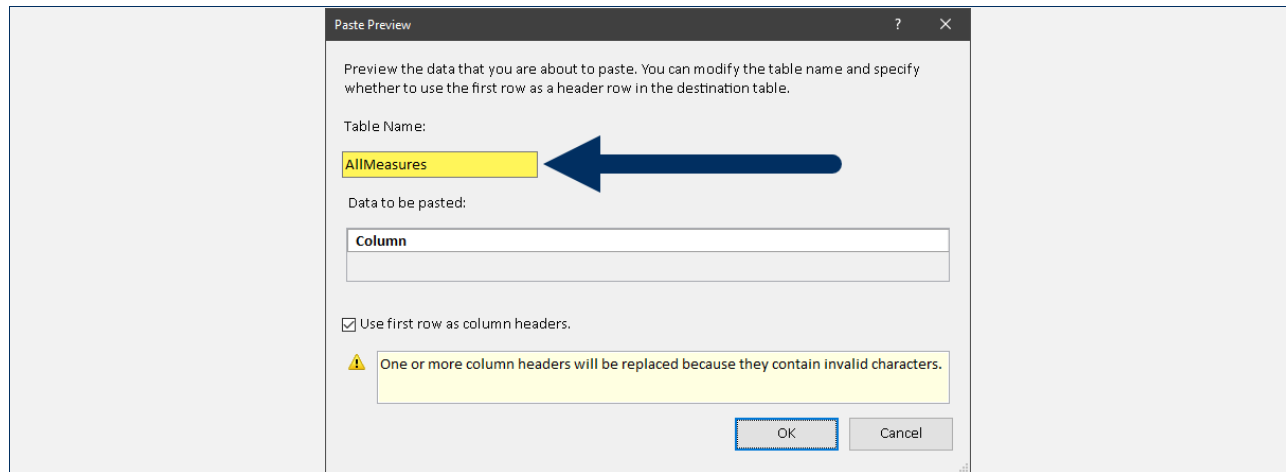
*NOTE: It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you create the measures table in the data model before adding any other tables to the data model. The reason for this is that each time you create a new measure, the default table to place the measure is the first table created in the Data Model. This can easily be changed if needed, but it will reset to the first table if the workbook is reopened.*

To create an empty table in the Data Model, perform the following steps:

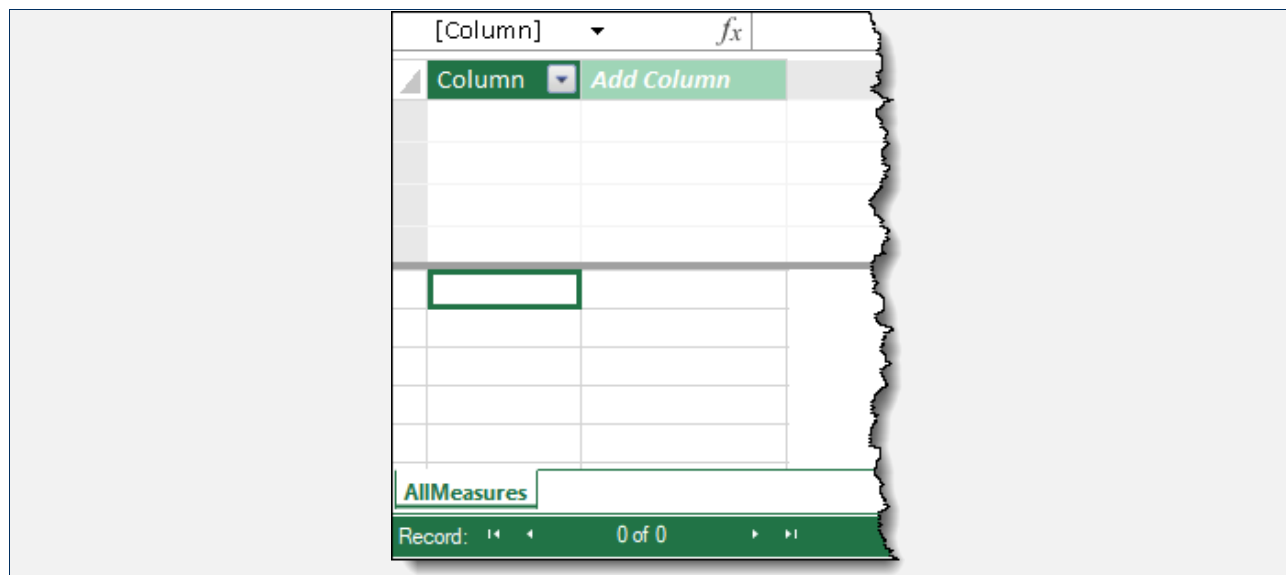
1. Click on any empty cell that is outside of any table or data area.
2. Copy the cell by pressing **CTRL-C** (or right-click **COPY** on the cell).
3. Select **Data (tab) → Data Tools (group) → Manage Data Model**.



4. After the Power Pivot for Excel window opens, click the **Paste** button.
5. In the **Paste Preview** dialog box, set the table name to something like “**AllMeasures**” and click **OK**.



This produces a table with a single, empty column.

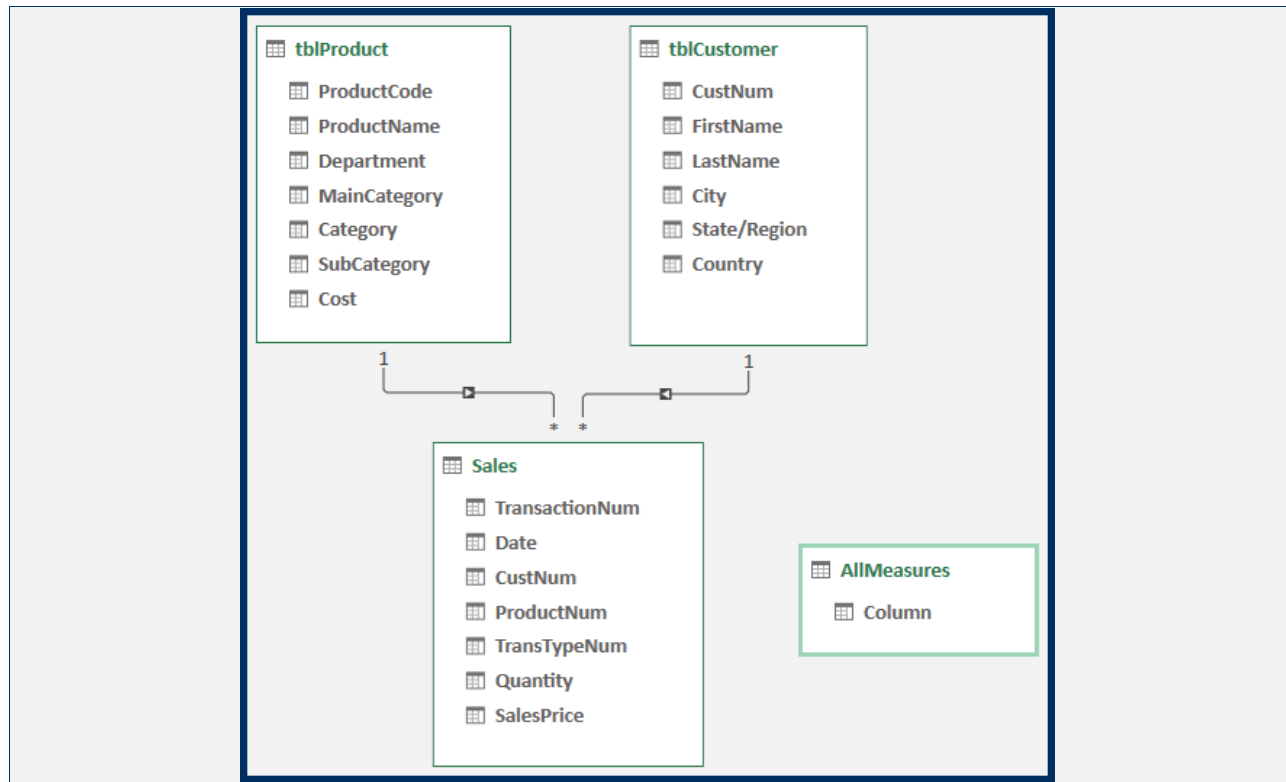


Return to Excel and load the remaining tables into the Data Model.

Create the Table Relationships

Return to the Power Pivot Data Model and create the needed relationships between the tables.

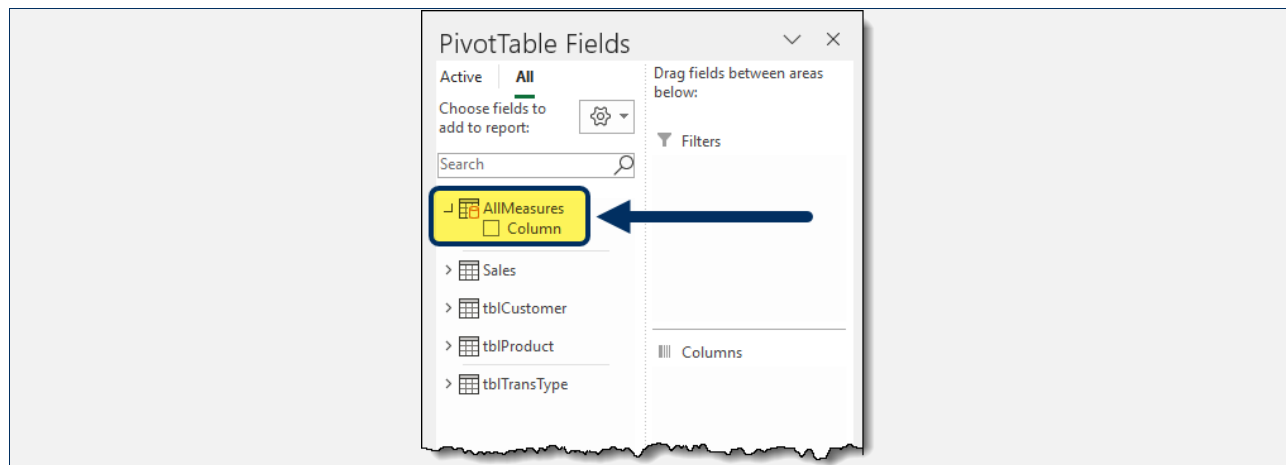
NOTE: The ***“AllMeasures”*** table is a stand-alone data island that is not connected to any other table.



Build a Pivot Table

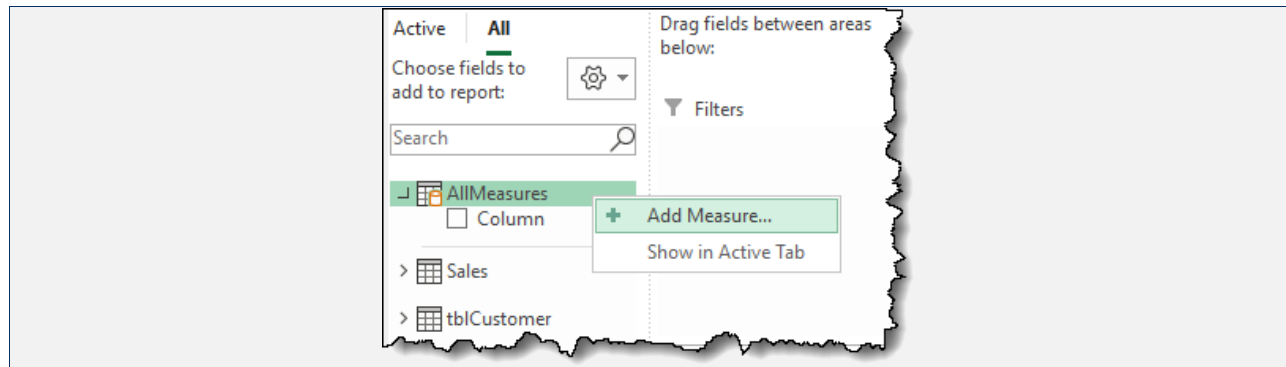
Return to Excel and create a pivot table using the Data Model as the data source.

Notice in the **PivotTable Fields** panel we see a table named “**AllMeasures**” with a single empty field.

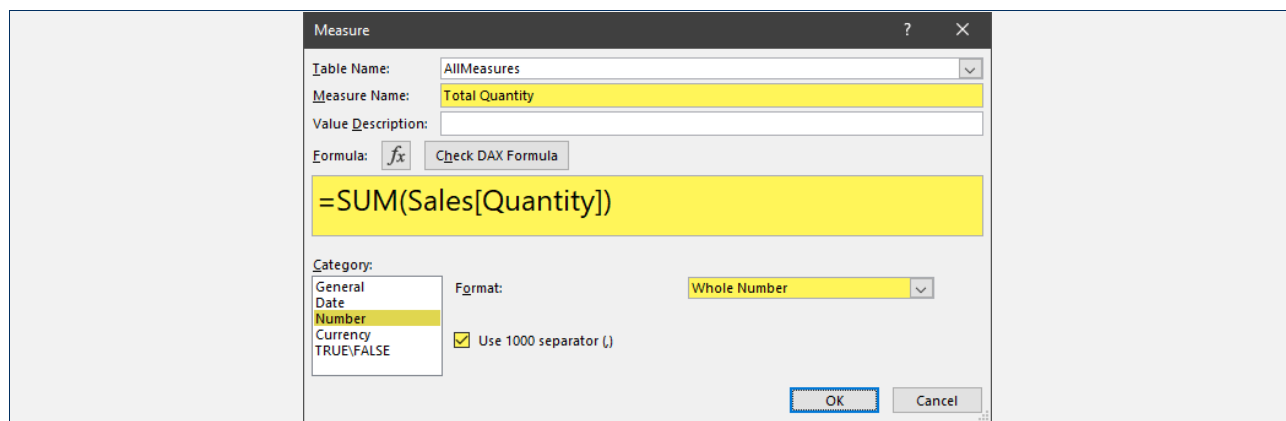


Adding Measures to the Measures Table

To add a measure to the newly created “**AllMeasures**” table, right-click on the “**AllMeasures**” table name and select “**Add Measure**”.



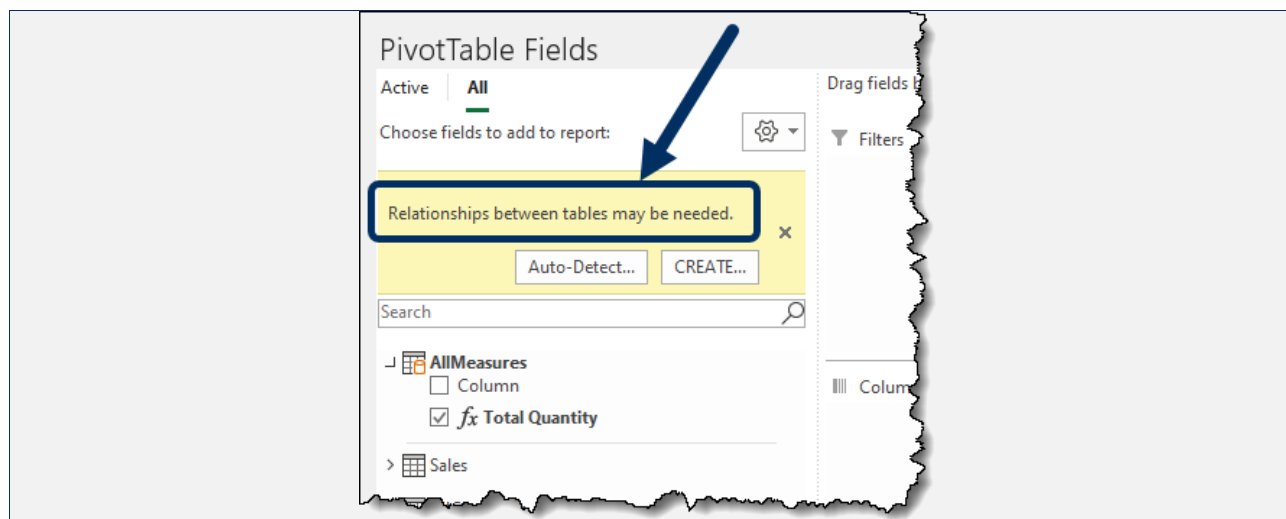
Give the new measure a name, a formula, and set the formatting if necessary.



Cleaning Up the Table

One of the side-effects of creating this data island table to hold measures is that no relationships are connecting to other tables.

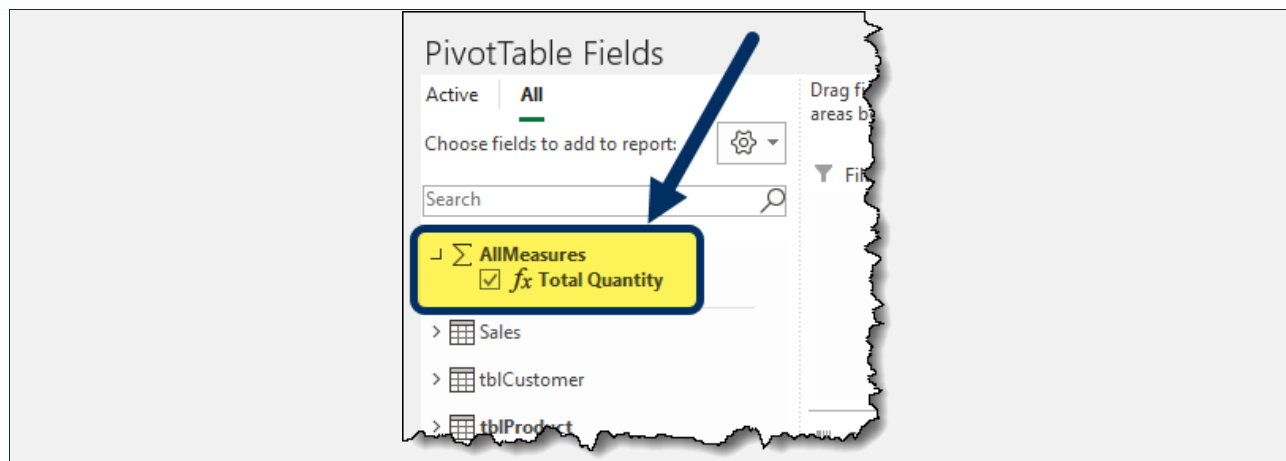
Power Pivot believes that all tables should be related, and it displays the following message:



To suppress this message and have this table be displayed as a repository for measures rather than an empty table, perform the following steps:

1. Open the Data Model view.
2. Select the “**AllMeasures**” table tab (*bottom left corner*).
3. Right-click the heading of the empty column named **[Column]**.
4. Click “**Hide from Client Tools**”.
5. Exit the Power Pivot window.

Observe that the relationships notification has disappeared and the icon to the left of the table name has changed to a SUM (Σ) symbol.



This indicates that the table is a Measures table and not a table that pulls data from a data source.

NOTE: Hiding that single, empty column will deactivate “New Measure” from the right-click menu of the table name. If you need this right-click feature back, re-display the hidden column in the measures table.