

# How to Create a Cumulative Line Chart in Power BI: A Step-by-Step Guide

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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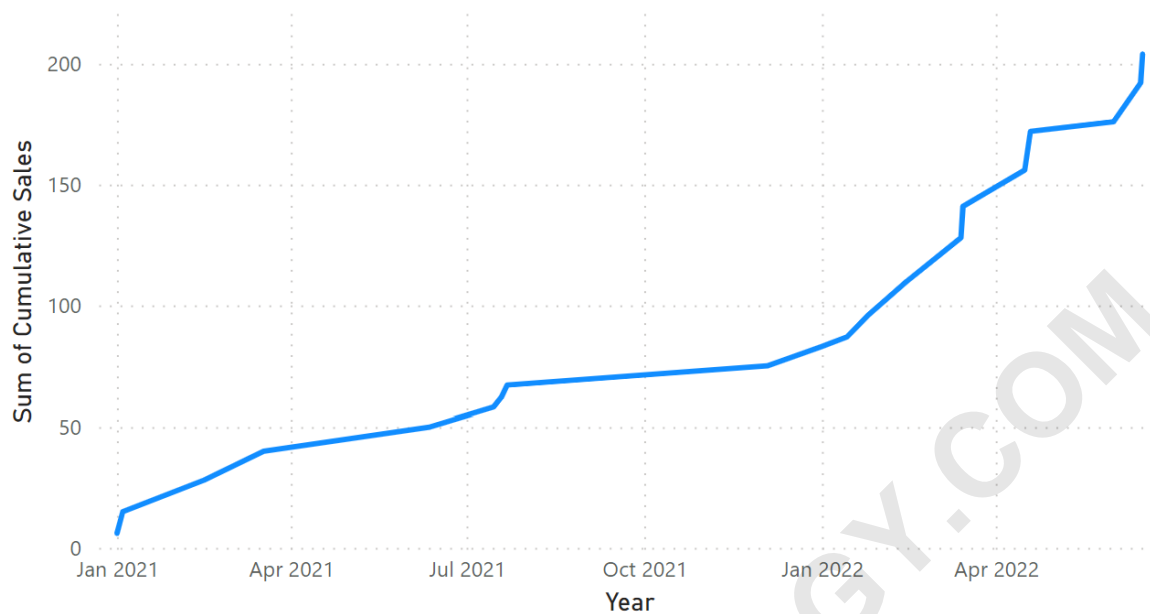
Power BI is a powerful data visualization tool that allows users to create interactive and dynamic charts to represent their data. One type of chart that can be created in Power BI is a cumulative line chart. This type of chart is useful for tracking trends and changes over time, as it displays the cumulative total of a measure over a specific period. To create a cumulative line chart in Power BI, the user can select the desired measure and time period, and then use the "Show Cumulative Total" option in the chart settings. This will create a line chart that displays the cumulative total of the selected measure over time, providing a clear and concise visual representation of the data. This feature in Power BI enables users to easily analyze and interpret data trends, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and decision making.

## **Create a Cumulative Line Chart in Power BI**

**Often you may want to create a line chart in Power BI that shows the cumulative values of some variable over time.**

**The following step-by-step example shows how to create the following cumulative line chart in Power BI:**

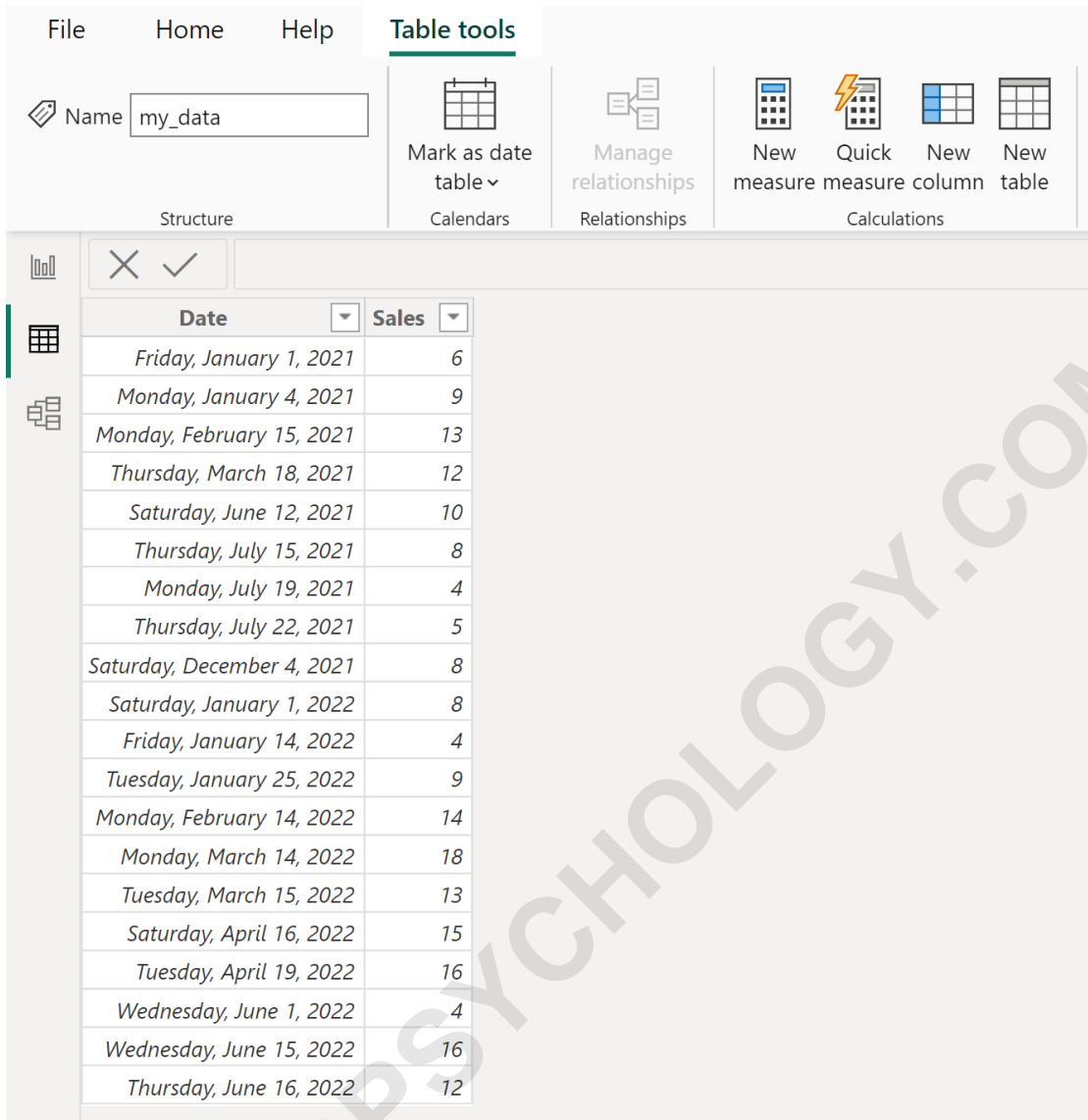
Sum of Cumulative Sales by Year, Quarter, Month and Day



**Let's jump in!**

**Example: How to Create a Cumulative Line Chart in Power BI**

**Suppose we have the following table in Power BI named my\_data that contains information about sales made on various dates by some company:**



The screenshot displays the Microsoft Power BI interface. At the top, the 'Table tools' ribbon is active, showing options like 'Mark as date table', 'Manage relationships', and 'New measure'. Below the ribbon, a data table is visible with two columns: 'Date' and 'Sales'. The table contains 20 rows of data, including dates from January 2021 to June 2022 and corresponding sales values.

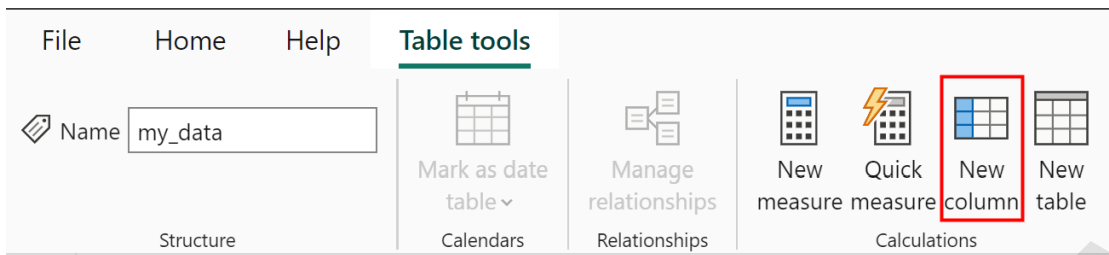
Date	Sales
Friday, January 1, 2021	6
Monday, January 4, 2021	9
Monday, February 15, 2021	13
Thursday, March 18, 2021	12
Saturday, June 12, 2021	10
Thursday, July 15, 2021	8
Monday, July 19, 2021	4
Thursday, July 22, 2021	5
Saturday, December 4, 2021	8
Saturday, January 1, 2022	8
Friday, January 14, 2022	4
Tuesday, January 25, 2022	9
Monday, February 14, 2022	14
Monday, March 14, 2022	18
Tuesday, March 15, 2022	13
Saturday, April 16, 2022	15
Tuesday, April 19, 2022	16
Wednesday, June 1, 2022	4
Wednesday, June 15, 2022	16
Thursday, June 16, 2022	12

**Suppose we would like to create a line chart that displays the cumulative sales over time.**

**Before we can create the line chart, we must add a new column that contains the cumulative sum of the values in the Sales column.**

**To do so, click the Table tools tab along the top ribbon,**

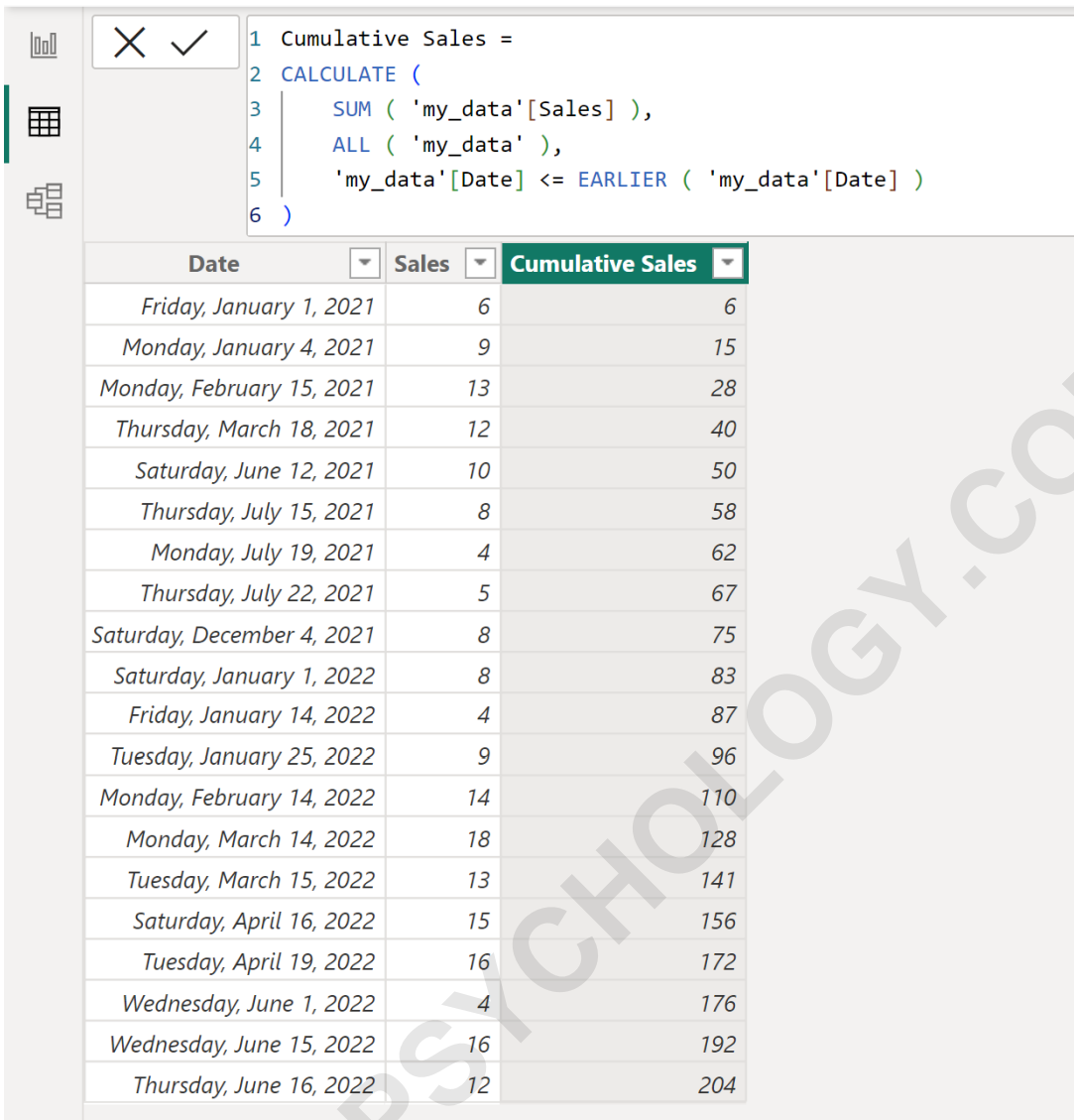
then click the **New column** icon:



Then type the following formula into the formula bar:

```
Cumulative Sales =  
CALCULATE (  
SUM ( 'my_data' ),  
ALL ( 'my_data' ),  
'my_data' <= EARLIER ( 'my_data' )  
)
```

This will create a new column named **Cumulative Sales** that contains the cumulative sum of the values in the **Sales** column:

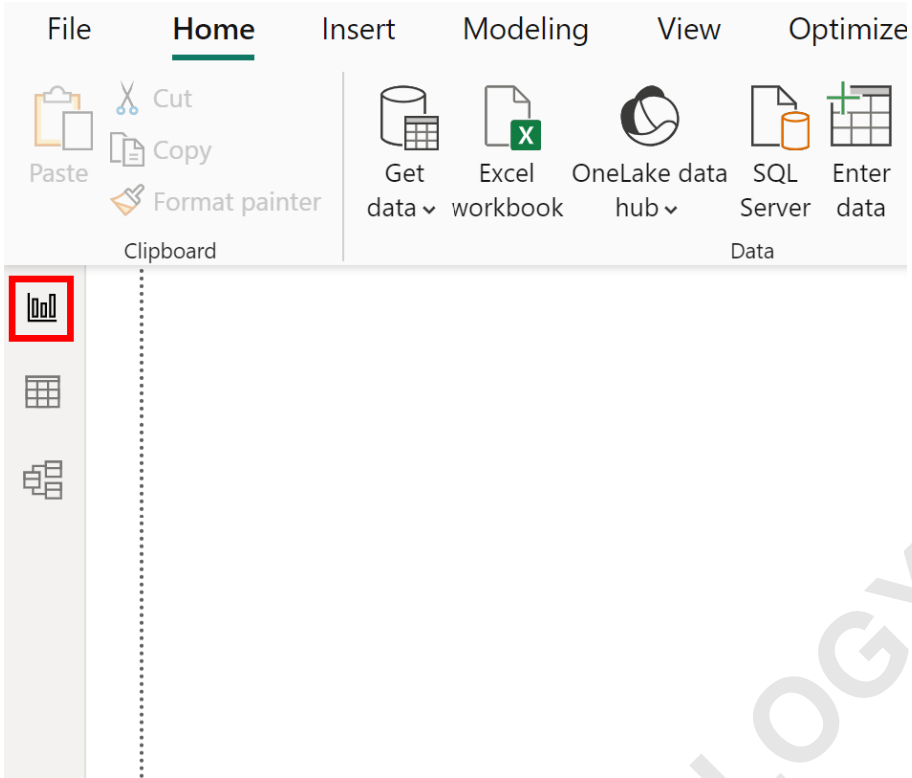


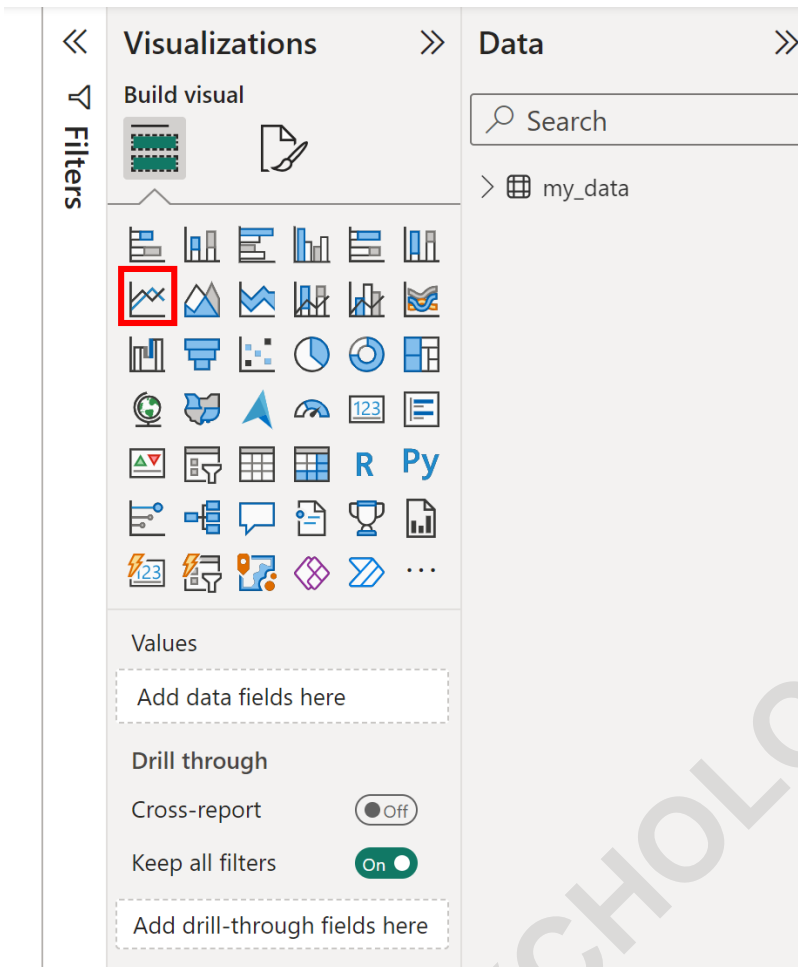
The screenshot shows the Power BI interface. On the left, there are icons for Report View, Table View, and Data View. The main area displays a DAX formula for 'Cumulative Sales' and a table of results. The formula is:

```
1 Cumulative Sales =  
2 CALCULATE (  
3     SUM ( 'my_data'[Sales] ),  
4     ALL ( 'my_data' ),  
5     'my_data'[Date] <= EARLIER ( 'my_data'[Date] )  
6 )
```

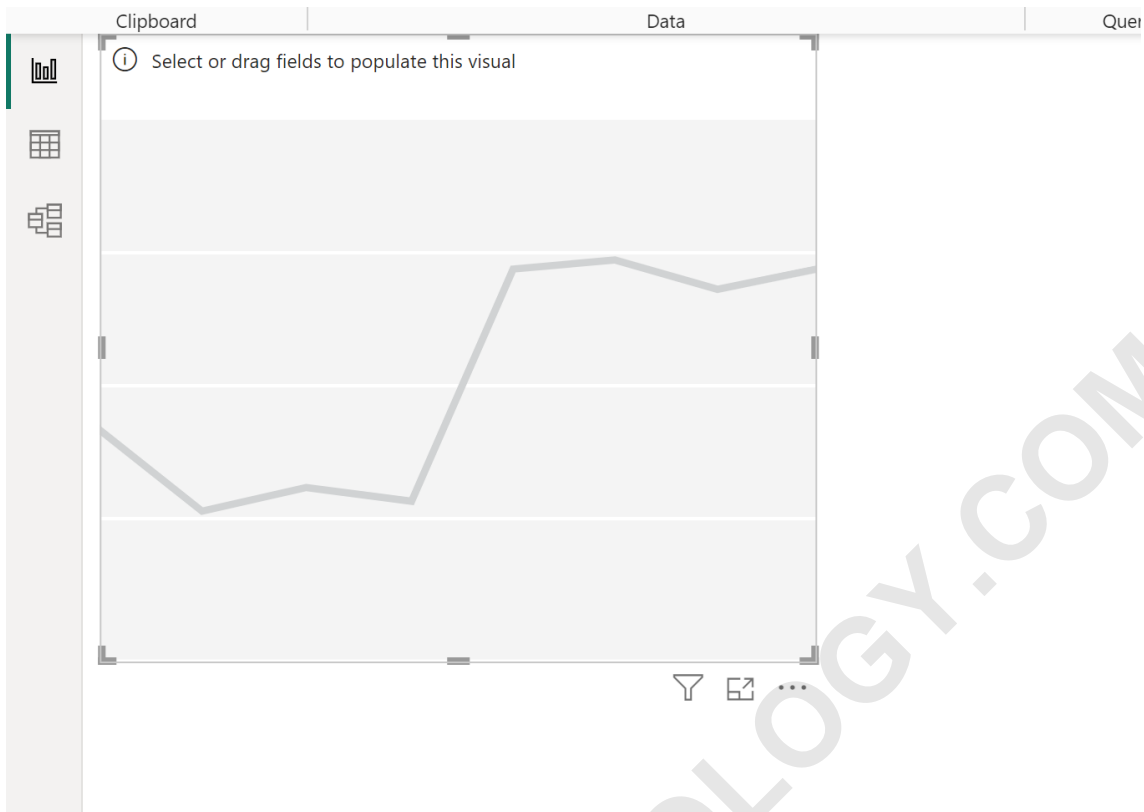
Date	Sales	Cumulative Sales
Friday, January 1, 2021	6	6
Monday, January 4, 2021	9	15
Monday, February 15, 2021	13	28
Thursday, March 18, 2021	12	40
Saturday, June 12, 2021	10	50
Thursday, July 15, 2021	8	58
Monday, July 19, 2021	4	62
Thursday, July 22, 2021	5	67
Saturday, December 4, 2021	8	75
Saturday, January 1, 2022	8	83
Friday, January 14, 2022	4	87
Tuesday, January 25, 2022	9	96
Monday, February 14, 2022	14	110
Monday, March 14, 2022	18	128
Tuesday, March 15, 2022	13	141
Saturday, April 16, 2022	15	156
Tuesday, April 19, 2022	16	172
Wednesday, June 1, 2022	4	176
Wednesday, June 15, 2022	16	192
Thursday, June 16, 2022	12	204

**To create a line chart that displays the values in the Cumulative Sales column, click the Report View icon on the left hand side of the screen:**

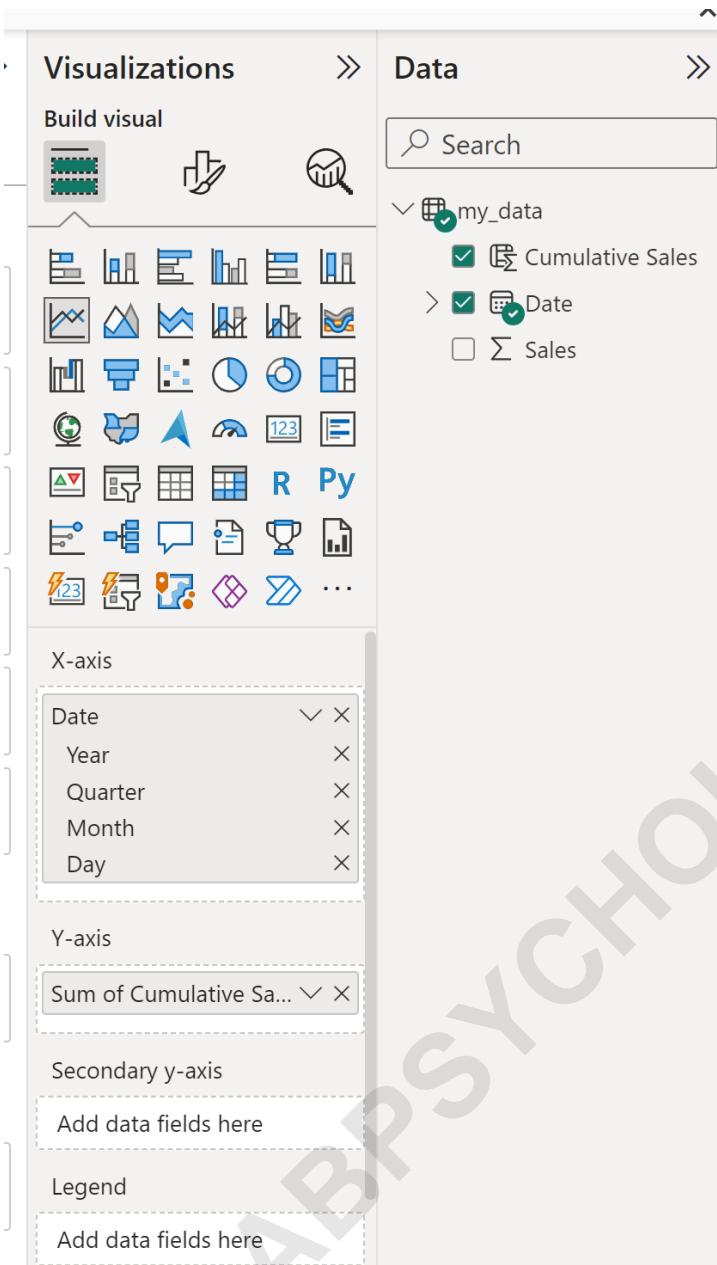




**An empty line chart will be inserted:**

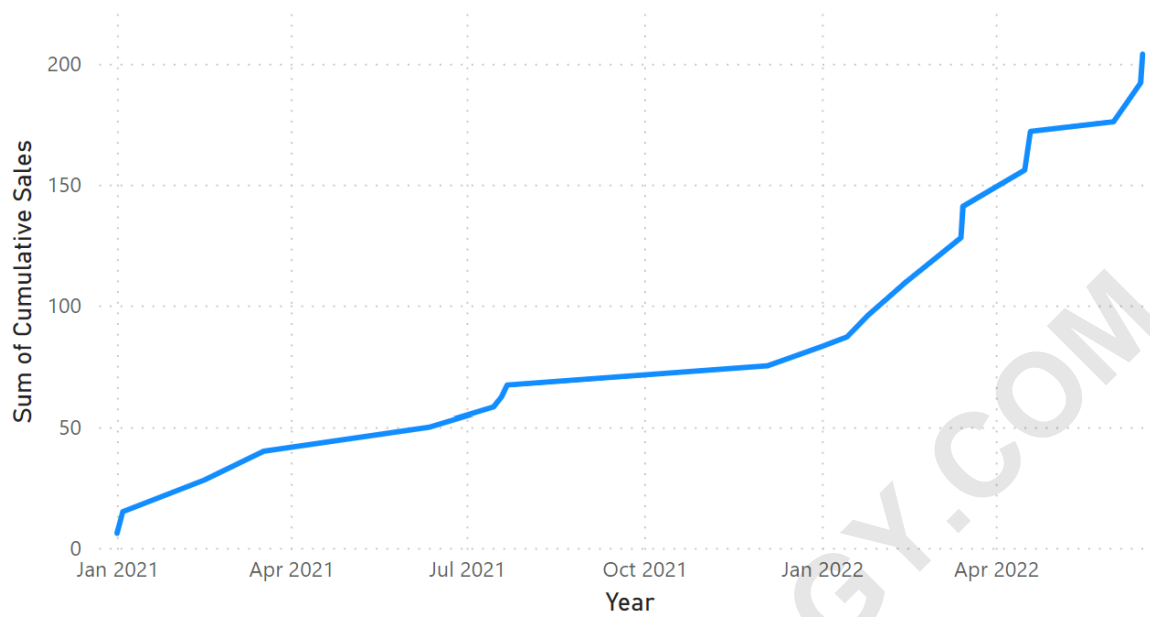


**Next, drag the Date variable under the X-axis label, then drag the Cumulative Sales variable under the Y-axis label:**



**This will produce the following line chart:**

Sum of Cumulative Sales by Year, Quarter, Month and Day



**The x-axis displays the date and the y-axis displays the cumulative sales.**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Power BI:**