

# How to Calculate the Sum of a Column in Power BI: A Step-by-Step Guide

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Calculating the sum in Power BI involves using the "SUM" function to add up the values in a column or measure. For example, if we have a sales data set with columns for product name and sales amount, we can use the "SUM" function to calculate the total sales for all products. This can be done by selecting the "SUM" function from the "Add Column" tab, choosing the sales amount column as the input, and then creating a new column with the sum of all the sales amounts. This will provide us with a single value representing the total sales for the specified time period or category.

You can use the following syntax in DAX to calculate the sum of values in a column:

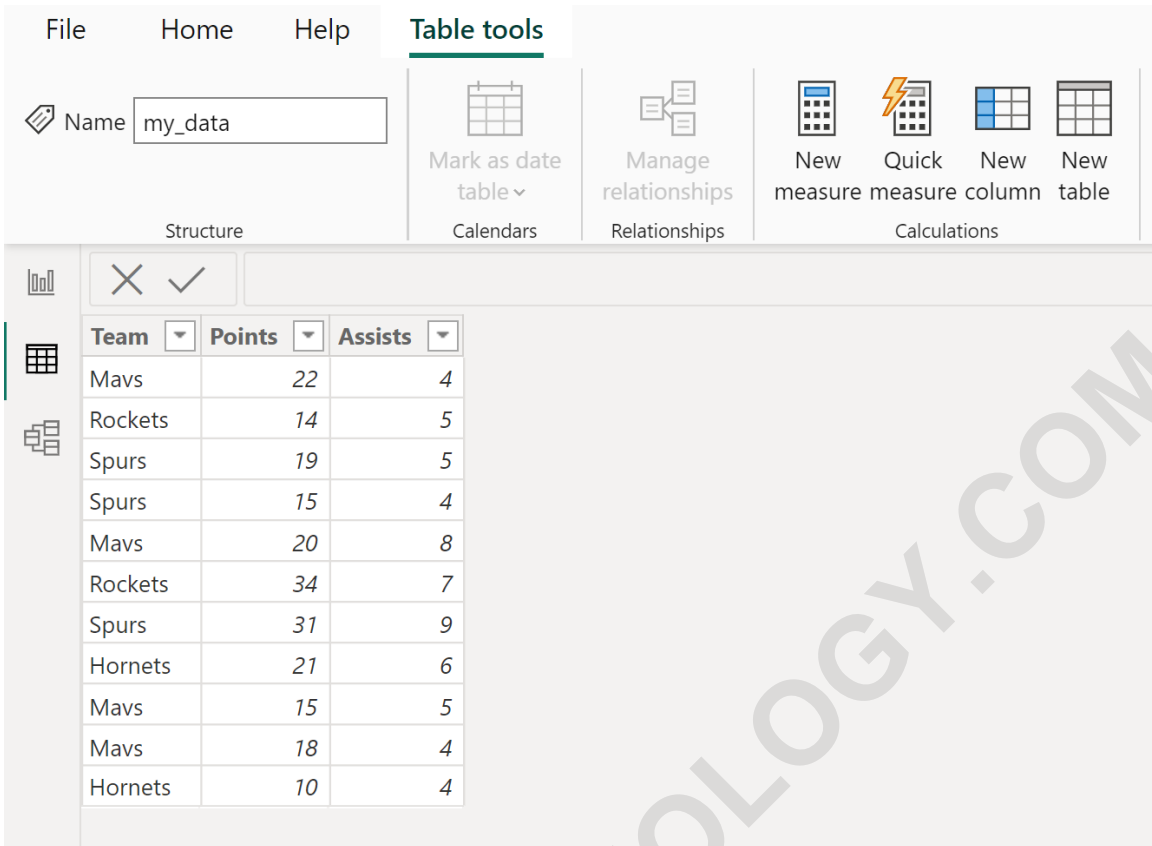
**Sum Points = SUM('my\_data')**

This particular example creates a new measure named **Sum Points** that calculates the sum of values in the **Points** column of the table named **my\_data**.

The following example shows how to calculate the sum of values in a column in Power BI in practice.

## Example: How to Calculate Sum in Power BI

Suppose we have the following table in Power BI named **my\_data** that contains information about points scored by basketball players on various teams:

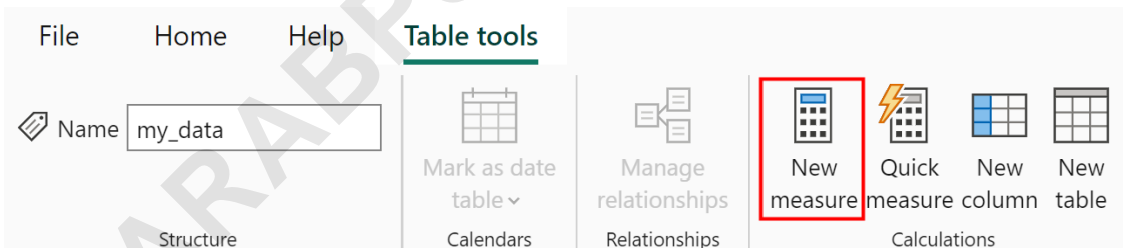


The screenshot shows the Power BI ribbon with the 'Table tools' tab selected. The ribbon includes sections for Structure, Calendars, Relationships, and Calculations. The 'Calculations' section contains icons for 'New measure', 'Quick measure', 'New column', and 'New table'. Below the ribbon, a table is displayed with columns 'Team', 'Points', and 'Assists'.

Team	Points	Assists
Mavs	22	4
Rockets	14	5
Spurs	19	5
Spurs	15	4
Mavs	20	8
Rockets	34	7
Spurs	31	9
Hornets	21	6
Mavs	15	5
Mavs	18	4
Hornets	10	4

Suppose we would like to calculate the sum of values in the **Points** column.

To do so, click the **Table tools** tab along the top ribbon, then click the **New measure** icon:

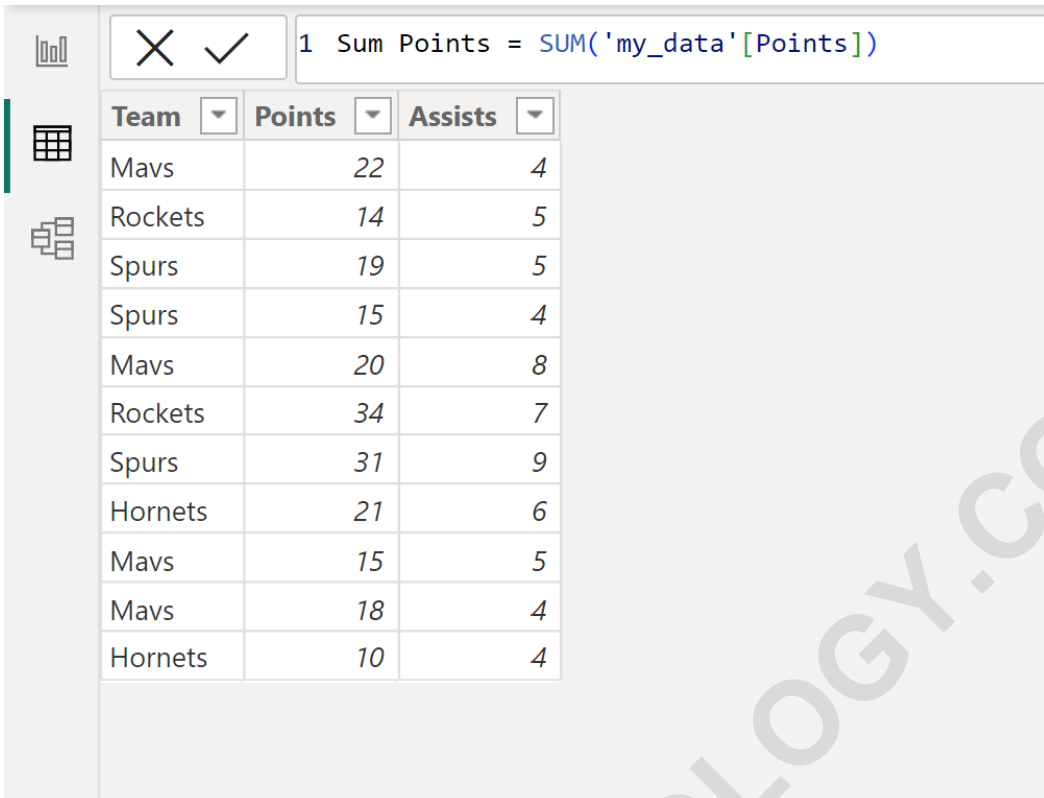


The screenshot shows the Power BI ribbon with the 'Table tools' tab selected. The ribbon includes sections for Structure, Calendars, Relationships, and Calculations. The 'Calculations' section contains icons for 'New measure', 'Quick measure', 'New column', and 'New table'. The 'New measure' icon is highlighted with a red box.

Then type in the following formula into the formula bar:

**Sum Points = SUM('my\_data')**

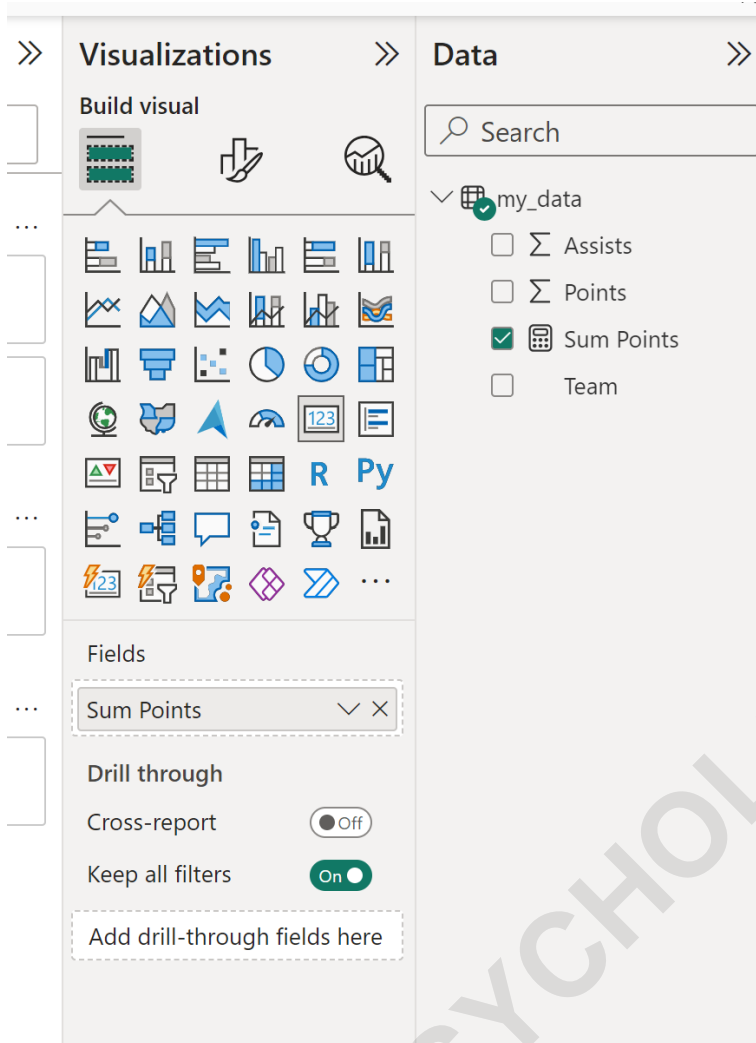
This will create a new measure named **Sum Points** that contains the sum of values in the **Points** column of the table:



The screenshot shows the Power BI interface. At the top, the DAX formula bar contains the measure: `1 Sum Points = SUM('my_data'[Points])`. Below the formula bar is a data table with three columns: Team, Points, and Assists. The table contains 12 rows of data. A large watermark 'ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM' is visible diagonally across the image.

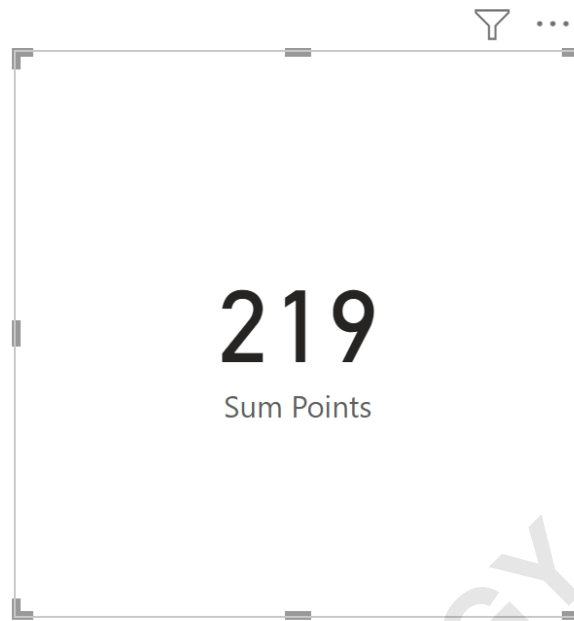
Team	Points	Assists
Mavs	22	4
Rockets	14	5
Spurs	19	5
Spurs	15	4
Mavs	20	8
Rockets	34	7
Spurs	31	9
Hornets	21	6
Mavs	15	5
Mavs	18	4
Hornets	10	4

If we'd like, we can display this value by going to the **Report View** in Power BI, then by clicking the **Card** icon under the **Visualizations** tab, then by dragging the **Sum Points** measure under the **Fields** label:



This will produce the following card that displays the sum of values in the **Points** column of the table:

Team	Points	Assists
Hornets	10	4
Hornets	21	6
Mavs	15	5
Mavs	18	4
Mavs	20	8
Mavs	22	4
Rockets	14	5
Rockets	34	7
Spurs	15	4
Spurs	19	5
Spurs	31	9



We can see that the sum of all values in the **Points** column is **219**.

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