

Learning to Calculate Averages in Power BI While Excluding Zero Values

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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You can use the following syntax in DAX to calculate the average value in a column while ignoring any values equal to zero:

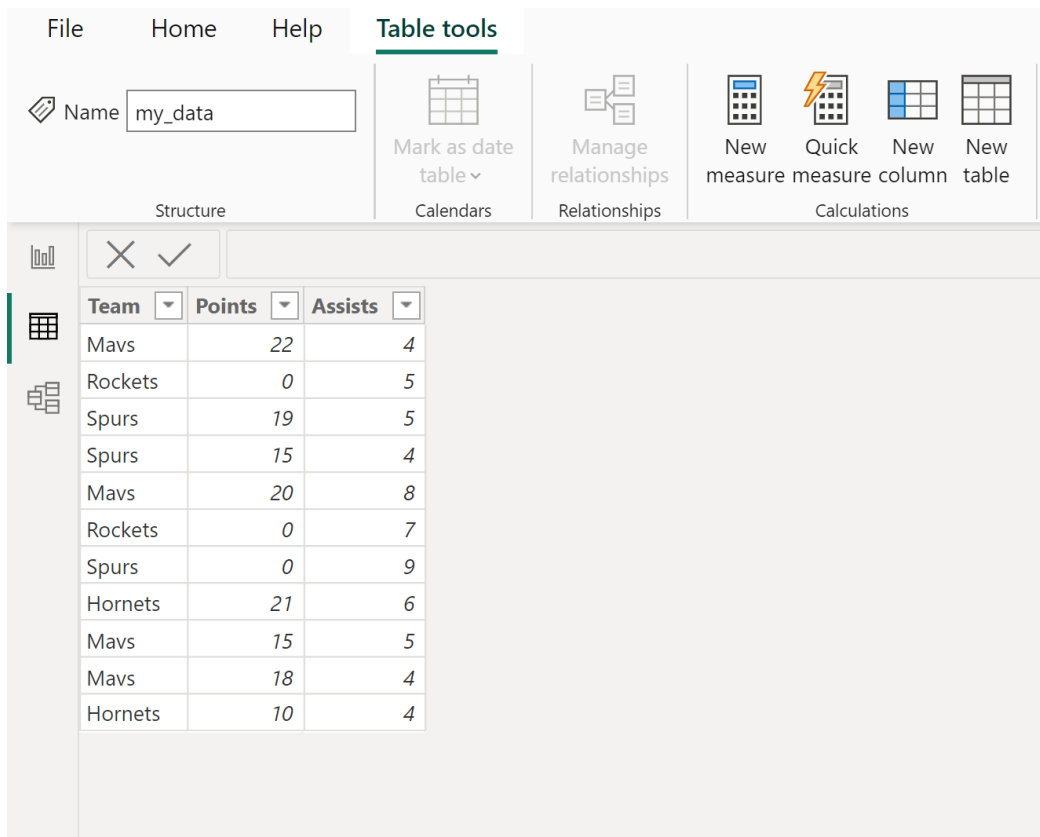
```
Avg Points =  
CALCULATE (  
AVERAGE ( 'my_data' ),  
FILTER ( 'my_data', 'my_data' <> 0 )  
)
```

This particular example creates a new measure named **Avg Points** that calculates the average value in the **Points** column of the table named **my_data** while ignoring any values equal to zero.

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

Example: How to Calculate Average and Ignore Zeros 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:



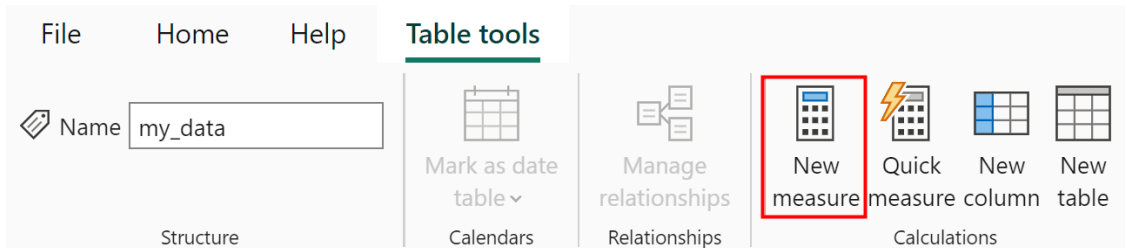
The screenshot shows the Power BI interface with the 'Table tools' ribbon selected. The ribbon includes options for 'Mark as date table', 'Manage relationships', and 'Calculations' (New measure, Quick measure, New column, New table). Below the ribbon, a table named 'my_data' is displayed with the following data:

Team	Points	Assists
Mavs	22	4
Rockets	0	5
Spurs	19	5
Spurs	15	4
Mavs	20	8
Rockets	0	7
Spurs	0	9
Hornets	21	6
Mavs	15	5
Mavs	18	4
Hornets	10	4

Notice that there are several values equal to zero in the **Points** column.

Suppose we would like to calculate the average value in the **Points** column while ignoring these zero values.

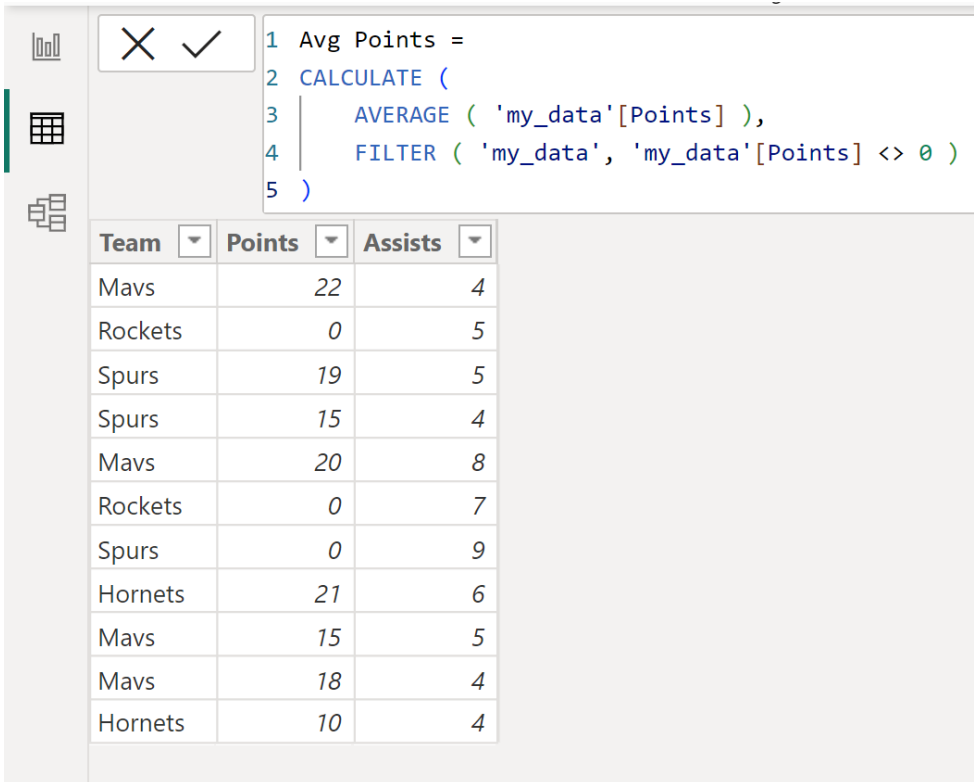
To do so, click the **Table tools** tab along the top ribbon, then click the **New measure** icon:



Then type in the following formula into the formula bar:

```
Avg Points =  
CALCULATE (  
AVERAGE ( 'my_data' ),  
FILTER ( 'my_data', 'my_data' <> 0 )  
)
```

This will create a new measure named **Avg Points** that contains the average of values in the **Points** column of the table while ignoring the zeros:



The screenshot shows the Power BI DAX editor interface. The DAX formula for the measure 'Avg Points' is as follows:

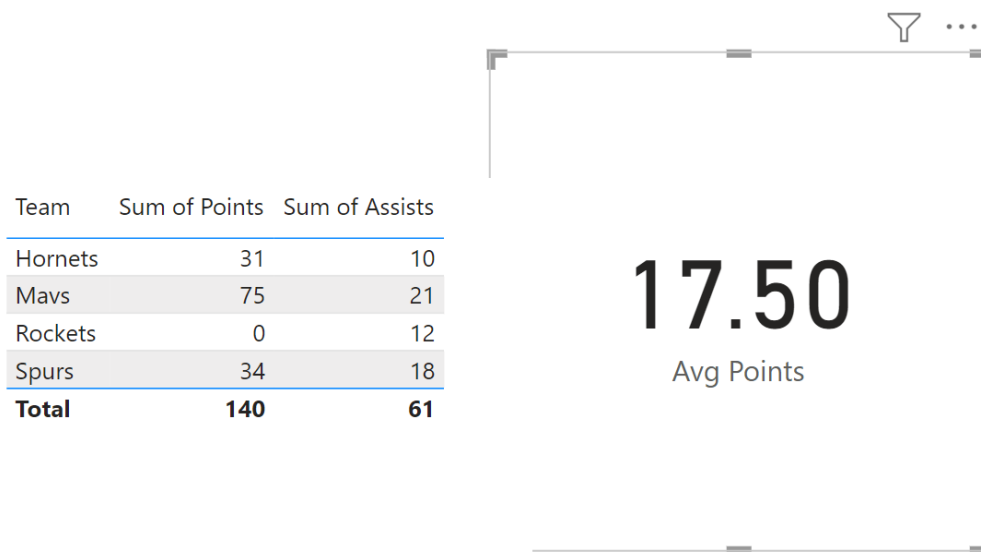
```
1 Avg Points =  
2 CALCULATE (  
3     AVERAGE ( 'my_data'[Points] ),  
4     FILTER ( 'my_data', 'my_data'[Points] <> 0 )  
5 )
```

Below the formula, a table is displayed with the following data:

Team	Points	Assists
Mavs	22	4
Rockets	0	5
Spurs	19	5
Spurs	15	4
Mavs	20	8
Rockets	0	7
Spurs	0	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 **Avg Points** measure under the **Fields** label:

The image shows the Power BI interface with two main panes: 'Visualizations' on the left and 'Data' on the right. The 'Visualizations' pane has a 'Build visual' section with icons for various chart types. Below that is a grid of visualization icons, with the 'Average' icon (a square with '123') highlighted by a red box. Underneath the grid is the 'Fields' section, where 'Avg Points' is listed and also highlighted by a red box. The 'Data' pane shows a search bar and a list of fields under 'my_data': 'Assists', 'Avg Points' (checked), 'Points', and 'Team'. Below the fields list are 'Drill through' options: 'Cross-report' (Off) and 'Keep all filters' (On). At the bottom of the 'Fields' section is a dashed box labeled 'Add drill-through fields here'.



We can see that the average value in the **Points** column, ignoring all zeros, is **17.5**.

We can verify this is correct by manually calculating the average of the values in the **Points** column while ignoring all zeros:

Average of Points while Ignoring Zeros: $(22+19+15+20+21+15+18+10) / 8 = 17.5$

This matches the value calculated by our formula.

Additional Resources

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