Modify Data Through a View

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Applies to: ✅ SQL Server (all supported versions) ✅ Azure SQL Database ✅ Azure SQL Managed Instance ✅ Azure Synapse Analytics ✅ Parallel Data Warehouse

You can modify the data of an underlying base table in SQL Server by using SQL Server Management Studio or Transact-SQL.

Before You Begin

Limitations and Restrictions

- See the section 'Updatable Views' in CREATE VIEW (Transact-SQL).

Permissions

Requires UPDATE, INSERT, or DELETE permissions on the target table, depending on the action being performed.

Using SQL Server Management Studio

To modify table data through a view

1. In **Object Explorer**, expand the database that contains the view and then expand **Views**.

2. Right-click the view and select **Edit Top 200 Rows**.

3. You may need to modify the SELECT statement in the **SQL** pane to return the rows to be modified.

4. In the **Results** pane, locate the row to be changed or deleted. To delete the row, right-click the row and select **Delete**. To change data in one or more columns, modify the data in the column.

   > **IMPORTANT!!** You cannot delete a row if the view references more than one base table. You can only update columns that belong to a single base table.

5. To insert a row, scroll down to the end of the rows and insert the new values.

   > **IMPORTANT!** You cannot insert a row if the view references more than one base table.

Using Transact-SQL

To update table data through a view

1. In **Object Explorer**, connect to an instance of Database Engine.

2. On the Standard bar, click **New Query**.

3. Copy and paste the following example into the query window and click **Execute**. This example changes the value in the `StartDate` and `EndDate` columns for a specific employee by referencing columns in the view `HumanResources.vEmployeeDepartmentHistory`. This view returns values from two tables. This statement succeeds because the columns being modified are from only one of the base tables.

```
USE AdventureWorks2012 ;
GO
UPDATE HumanResources.vEmployeeDepartmentHistory
SET StartDate = '20110203', EndDate = GETDATE()
WHERE LastName = N'Smith' AND FirstName = 'Samantha';
GO
```

For more information, see UPDATE (Transact-SQL).

To insert table data through a view

1. In **Object Explorer**, connect to an instance of Database Engine.

2. On the Standard bar, click **New Query**.

3. Copy and paste the following example into the query window and click **Execute**. The example inserts a new row into the base table `HumanResouces.Department` by specifying the relevant columns from the view `HumanResources.vEmployeeDepartmentHistory`. The statement succeeds because only columns from a single base table are specified and the other columns in the base table have default values.

```
USE AdventureWorks2012 ;
GO
INSERT INTO HumanResources.vEmployeeDepartmentHistory (Department, GroupName)
VALUES ('MyDepartment', 'MyGroup');
GO
```

For more information, see INSERT (Transact-SQL).

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