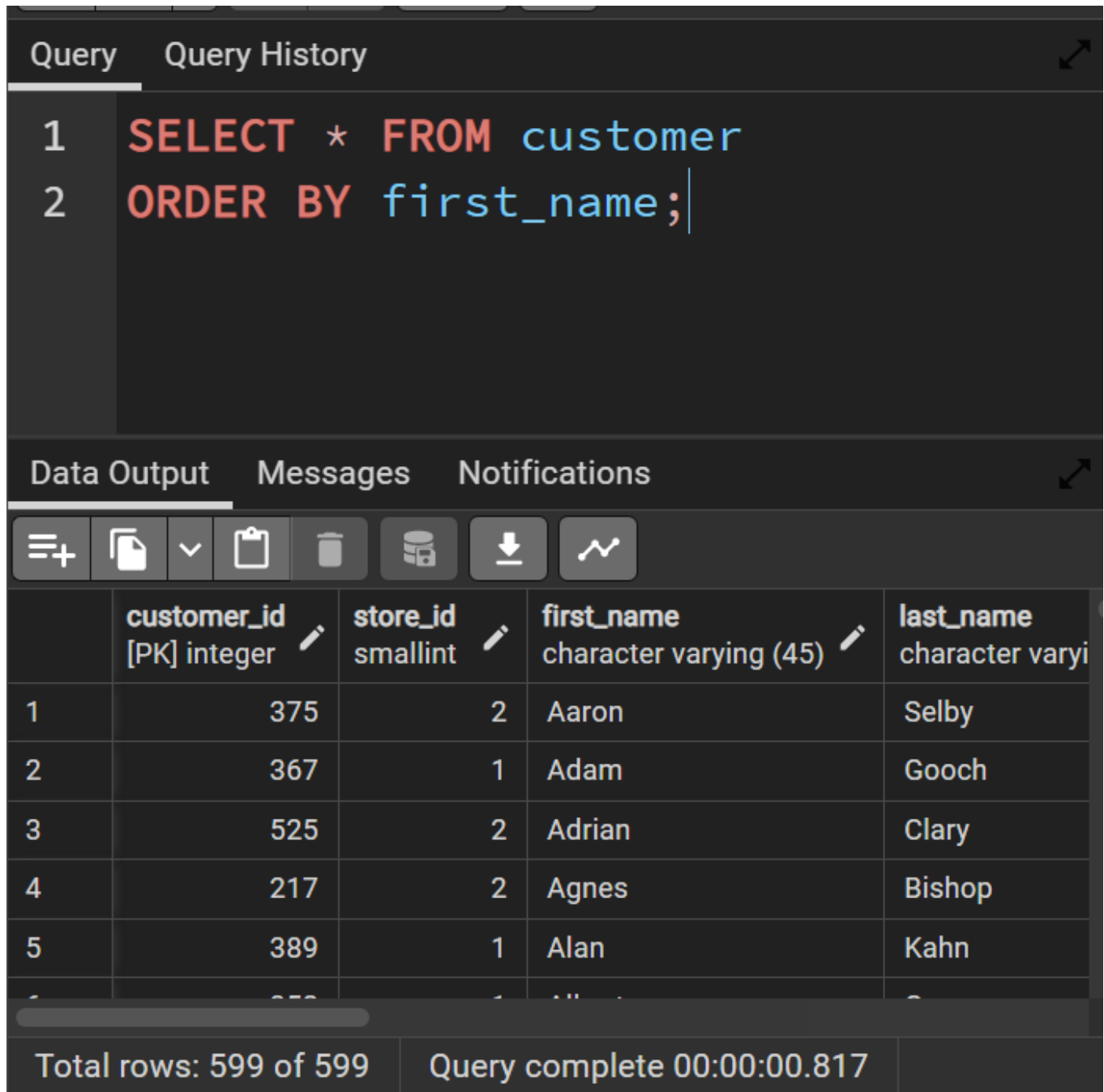


Notes 5 ORDER BY

ASC sorts in ascending order, DESC in descending, but the default is ASC.

ORDER BY is usually one of the last commands given in a query, after SELECT, WHERE etc.



The screenshot shows a SQL IDE interface. The top panel, titled 'Query', contains the following SQL statement:

```
1 SELECT * FROM customer
2 ORDER BY first_name;
```

The bottom panel, titled 'Data Output', displays the results of the query in a table. The table has five columns: **customer_id** [PK] integer, **store_id** smallint, **first_name** character varying (45), and **last_name** character varyi. The results are sorted by first_name in ascending order.

	customer_id [PK] integer	store_id smallint	first_name character varying (45)	last_name character varyi
1	375	2	Aaron	Selby
2	367	1	Adam	Gooch
3	525	2	Adrian	Clary
4	217	2	Agnes	Bishop
5	389	1	Alan	Kahn

At the bottom of the interface, a status bar shows 'Total rows: 599 of 599' and 'Query complete 00:00:00.817'.

Multi-level sorting

What if you want to sort by one parameter, say `store_id`, then sort by a different parameter for another column?

Query

Query History

1

2

SELECT store_id, first_name, last_name
ORDER BY store_id, first_name;

Data Output

Messages

Notifications

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	store_id smallint 🔒	first_name character varying (45) 🔒	last_name character varying (45) 🔒
1	1	Adam	Gooch
2	1	Alan	Kahn
3	1	Albert	Crouse
4	1	Alice	Stewart
5	1	Alicia	Mills
6	1	Allan	Cornish

Total rows: 599 of 599

Query complete 00:00:00.171

Note:

```
ORDER BY store_id, first_name, last_name;
```

would probably produce very similar results, and would only matter in instances where there's more than one person with the same name at the same store. That doesn't appear to be the case in this dataset.

Note: It's possible to sort by a column even if you don't include it in the output, i.e.

Query

Query History

1

2

SELECT first_name, last_name FROM customer

ORDER BY store_id, first_name;

Data Output

Messages

Notifications

≡+

	<div>first_name</div> <div>character varying (45)</div> <div></div>	<div>last_name</div> <div>character varying (45)</div> <div></div>
1	Adam	Gooch
2	Alan	Kahn
3	Albert	Crouse
4	Alice	Stewart

But this might be confusing.