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# 1. Project Overview:

# 1.1 Understanding the Dataset:

The dataset provides transactional data related to railway operations, capturing various aspects of railway journeys, ticket purchases, and delays. It is structured into multiple dimensions, representing different entities involved in railway transportation.

# **Key Components of the Dataset:**

- Fact\_Transaction: Contains the core transactional data, linking various dimensions together.
- o **Dim Railcard**: Information about railcards, including their ID and holders.
- o Dim Arrival & Dim Departure: Details about arrival and departure stations.
- o **Dim\_Delay**: Captures reasons for delays and their associated IDs.
- o **Dim Purchase**: Information about the type of purchase made.
- o **Dim\_Ticket**: Specifies ticket class and type.
- o **Dim\_Payment**: Payment method used for the journey.
- Dim\_Calendar: Includes temporal attributes such as year, quarter, month, and day of the week.

Each dimension helps in analyzing railway transactions, understanding travel patterns, and identifying potential delays or inefficiencies. The dataset will be cleaned and structured to extract meaningful insights for decision-making.

# **Dataset Link:**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cwXHTBtwJGXpDOsHBeROoJc88U8iX9Dck9 PESoGZjes/edit?usp=sharing

# 1.2 Project Objectives:

The primary goal of this project is to analyze railway ticket sales, customer behavior, and operational efficiency to derive actionable insights that enhance business decision-making. The key objectives include:

- Analyze Delays: Identify key factors and patterns causing train delays and assess their impact on overall operations.
- **Revenue & Sales Trends:** Track and visualize ticket sales and revenue trends over time to understand performance fluctuations.
- **Refund Analysis:** Evaluate refund rates and understand their financial implications, linking these to delay data and customer dissatisfaction.
- **Operational Insights:** Determine the performance of different stations and routes to highlight areas needing operational improvements.
- **Enhanced Decision-Making:** Provide stakeholders with actionable insights through a well-structured, interactive dashboard.

# 1.3 Business Objectives and Key Metrics:

# 1. Sales and Revenue Analysis

- What is the total revenue generated from ticket sales?
- Which purchase type (Online vs. Station) generates more revenue?
- What is the average ticket price for each ticket class (Standard, etc.)?
- o How does the payment method (Contactless, Credit Card) affect sales volume?

#### 2. Customer Behavior Analysis

- o Which ticket type (Advance, etc.) is most frequently purchased?
- Are customers more likely to purchase tickets online or at the station?
- o When are the peak travel hours, and which are the busiest days of the week?
- What are the most common travel routes (origin-destination pairs)?

# 3. Operational Efficiency

- What percentage of journeys arrive early, on time, or late, and what are the common reasons for delays?
- O What is the average delay time for delayed journeys?
- O Which routes have the highest delay rates?

#### 4. Refund and Customer Satisfaction

- o How many refund requests are made, and what are the primary reasons?
- Are refund requests more common for specific ticket types or payment methods?
- o How does journey delay impact refund requests and overall customer satisfaction?

# 5. Journey Planning and Optimization

- o How does the ticket price vary based on the time of purchase and journey date?
- Which routes are the most congested, and which are underutilized?
- What are the most popular departure and arrival times for journeys

# 6. Railcard and Ticket Class Analysis

- o How does the use of railcards (e.g., Adult) affect ticket prices and sales?
- o Which ticket class (Standard, etc.) is most popular among customers?
- o Are there differences in delay rates based on ticket class?

#### 7. Seasonal and Time-Based Trends

- O How do seasonal factors (holidays, weekends) impact journey delays?
- o Are there trends in delays based on seasonality or journey date?

# 8. Geographical Analysis

- Which routes (departure and arrival stations) are the most profitable?
- Are there specific routes with higher delay rates?
- o How does the distance between departure and arrival stations affect ticket prices?
- Which stations have the highest and lowest passenger traffic?

# 2.Data Cleaning

# 2.1 Staging Area

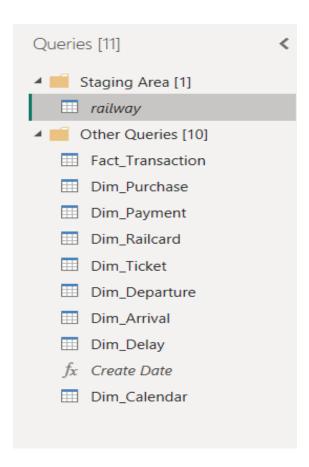
The **Staging Area** is a temporary layer where raw data is stored before transformation. It ensures **data integrity** before being processed into the final model.

#### **Key Characteristics of the Staging Area:**

- o Stores raw data without modifications to preserve original records.
- o Acts as a validation layer before data transformation.
- o **Not loaded into the final data model** to optimize performance and storage.

# 2.2 Other Queries

o The **Other Queries** group contains the **Fact and Dimension tables**, which have been processed, cleaned, and optimized for reporting in Power BI.



#### Step 1: Dim Purchase.

**Objective:** Move purchase details to a separate table and replace purchase-related information with Purchase ID.

#### 1. Extract Unique Purchases

- Select the Purchase Type.
- o Remove Duplicates to keep unique purchase records.
- Rename the query as Dim\_Purchase.

# 2. Add an Index Column (Purchase ID) => Start from 1

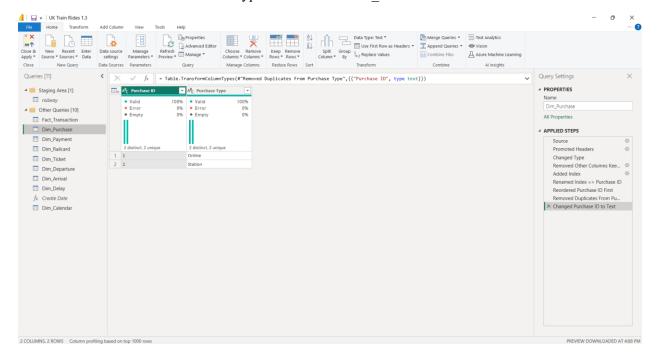
o Rename the column to Purchase ID.

# 3. Merge Purchase Data into Fact Transactions

- o Match Purchase Type in Fact Transaction with Dim Purchase.
- o Expand the merged table to keep only Purchase ID.

# 4. Remove the Original Purchase Columns

O Delete the Purchase Type column from Fact Transaction.



#### **Step 2: Create Dim Payment**

**Objective:** Move payment details to a separate table and replace payment method with Payment ID.

# 1. Extract Unique Payment Methods

- o Remove Duplicates to keep unique payment records.
- o Rename the query as **Dim Payment**.

# 2. Add an Index Column (Payment ID) => Start from 1

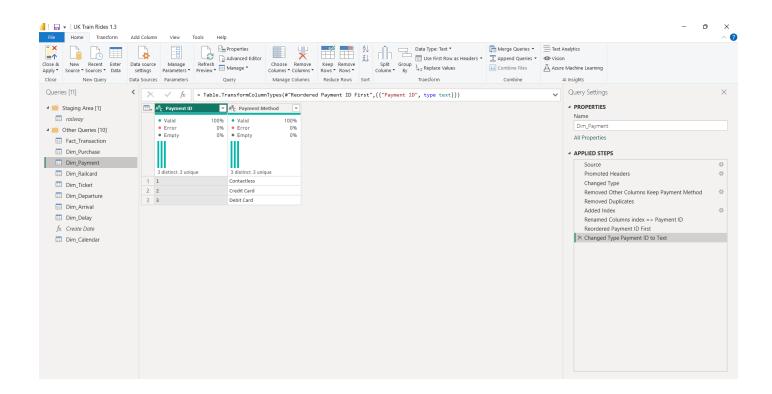
Rename the column to Payment ID.

# 3. Merge Payment Data into Fact\_Transactions

- Match Payment Method in Fact Transaction with Dim Payment.
- o Expand the merged table to keep only Payment ID.

# 4. Remove the Original Payment Columns

o Delete Payment Method from Fact Transaction.



#### Step 3: Create Dim Railcard

**Objective:** Move railcard discount details to a separate table and replace them with **Railcard ID**.

# 1. Extract Unique Railcard Details

- o Select Railcard Type.
- o Remove Duplicates to keep unique railcard records.
- o Rename the query as **Dim Railcard**.

# 2. Add an Index Column (Railcard ID) => Start from 1

o Rename the column to Railcard ID.

#### 3. Add a Conditional Column for Railcard Holder

Set the condition:

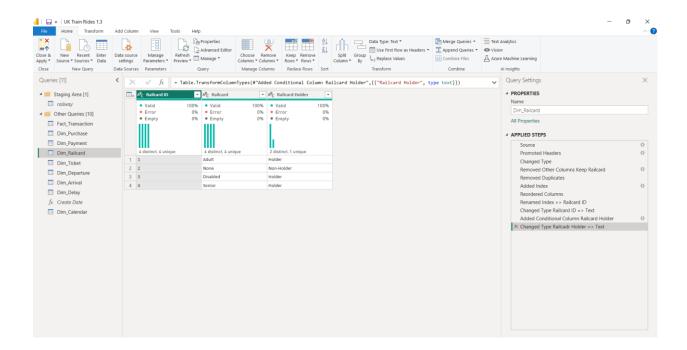
- o If Railcard Type = "None", then "Non-Holder"
- o Else, "Holder"

#### 4. Merge Railcard Data into Fact Transactions

- Match Railcard Type in Fact\_Transaction with Dim\_Railcard.
- o Expand the merged table to keep only **Railcard ID**.

# 5. Remove the Original Railcard Columns

o Delete Railcard Type from Fact\_Transaction.



#### **Step 4: Create Dim Ticket**

**Objective:** Move ticket details to a separate table and replace ticket type and class with **Ticket ID**.

# 1. Extract Unique Ticket Details

- Select Ticket Type and Ticket Class.
- Remove Duplicates to keep unique ticket records.
- o Rename the query as **Dim Ticket**.

# 2. Add an Index Column (Ticket ID) => Start from 1

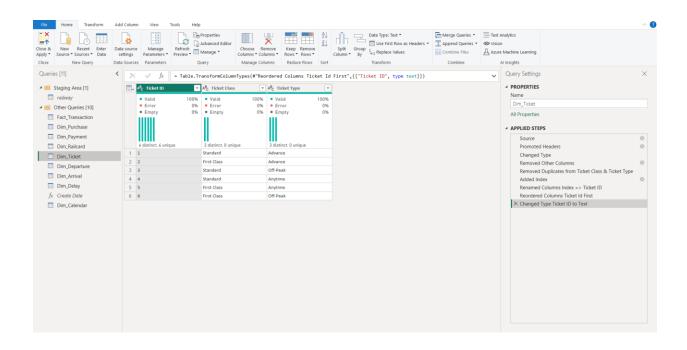
Rename the column to Ticket ID.

#### 3. Merge Ticket Data into Fact\_Transactions

- Match Ticket Type & Class in Fact Transaction with Dim Ticket.
- Expand the merged table to keep only **Ticket ID**.

# 4. Remove the Original Ticket Columns

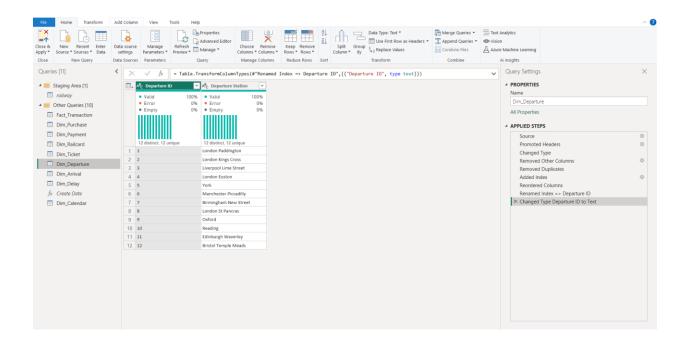
o Delete Ticket Type and Ticket Class from Fact Transaction.



# **Step 5: Create Dim\_Departure**

Objective: Move departure station and time to a separate table and replace them with **Departure ID**.

- 1. Extract Unique Departure Stations
  - o Select **Departure Station**.
  - o Remove Duplicates to keep unique departure records.
  - o Rename the query as **Dim\_Departure**.
- 2. Add an Index Column (Departure ID) => Start from 1
  - o Rename the column to **Departure ID**.
- 3. Merge Departure Data into Fact Transactions
  - o Match Departure Station in Fact Transaction with Dim Departure.
  - o Expand the merged table to keep only **Departure ID**.
- 4. Remove the Original Departure Columns
  - Delete **Departure Station** from **Fact\_Transaction**.



#### **Step 6: Create Dim Arrival**

**Objective:** Move arrival station and time to a separate table and replace them with **Arrival ID**.

# 1. Extract Unique Arrival Stations

- o Select Arrival Station.
- Remove Duplicates to keep unique arrival records.
- o Rename the query as **Dim Arrival**.

# 2. Add an Index Column (Arrival ID) => Start from 1

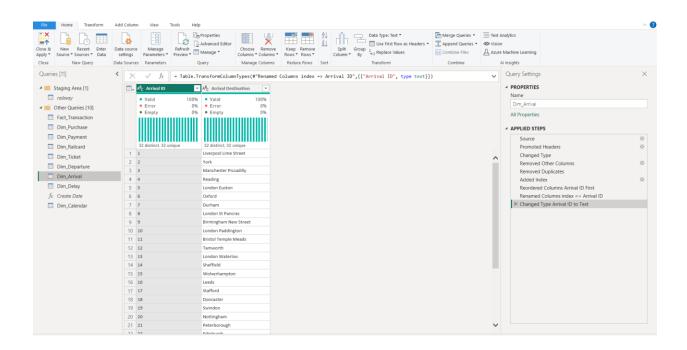
o Rename the column to Arrival ID.

# 3. Merge Arrival Data into Fact\_Transactions

- Match Arrival Station in Fact\_Transaction with Dim\_Arrival.
- o Expand the merged table to keep only **Arrival ID**.

# 4. Remove the Original Arrival Columns

o Delete Arrival Station from Fact\_Transaction.



#### **Step 7: Create Dim Delay**

**Objective:** Move train delay details to a separate table and replace them with **Delay ID**.

# 1. Extract Unique Delay Records

- a. Select Reason for Delay.
- b. Remove Duplicates to keep unique delay records.
- c. Rename the query as **Dim\_Delay**.

# 2. Replace Inconsistent Values

Go to Transform  $\rightarrow$  Replace Values.

Apply the following replacements:

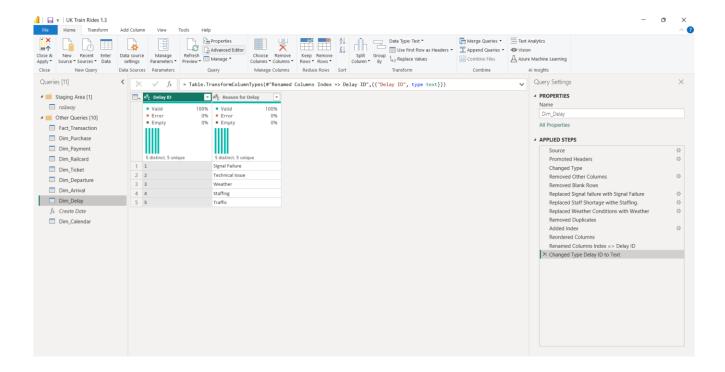
- a. "Signal failure" → "Signal Failure"
- b. "Staff Shortage"  $\rightarrow$  "Staffing"
- c. "Weather Conditions"  $\rightarrow$  "Weather"

#### 3. Verify the Changes

Scroll through the column to ensure that the replacements have been correctly applied.

- 4. Add an Index Column (Delay ID) => Start from 1
  - a. Rename the column to **Delay ID**.
- 5. Merge Delay Data into Fact Transactions
  - a. Match Reason for Delay in Fact\_Transaction with Dim\_Delay.
  - b. Expand the merged table to keep only **Delay ID**.
- 6. Remove the Original Delay Columns
  - a. Delete Reason for Delay from Fact\_Transaction.

# Dim\_Delay



# Create Date

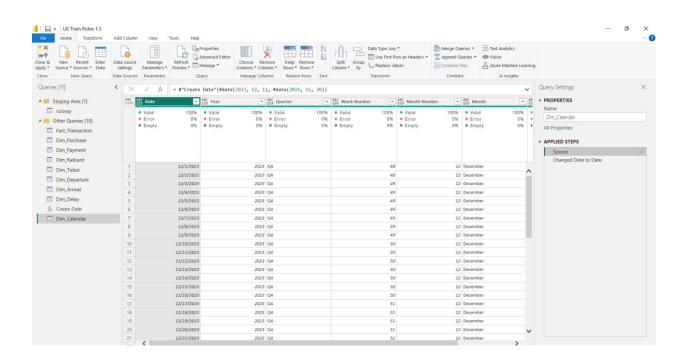
```
//Create Date Dimension
(StartDate as date, EndDate as date)=>
let
    //Capture the date range from the parameters
   StartDate = #date(Date.Year(StartDate), Date.Month(StartDate),
   Date.Day(StartDate)),
   EndDate = #date(Date.Year(EndDate), Date.Month(EndDate),
   Date.Day(EndDate)),
   //Get the number of dates that will be required for the table
   GetDateCount = Duration.Days(EndDate - StartDate),
   //Take the count of dates and turn it into a list of dates
   GetDateList = List.Dates(StartDate, GetDateCount,
   #duration(1,0,0,0)),
   //Convert the list into a table
   DateListToTable = Table.FromList(GetDateList,
   Splitter.SplitByNothing(), {"Date"}, null, ExtraValues.Error),
   //Create various date attributes from the date column
   //Add Year Column
   YearNumber = Table.AddColumn(DateListToTable, "Year",
   each Date.Year([Date])),
   //Add Quarter Column
   QuarterNumber = Table.AddColumn(YearNumber , "Quarter",
    each "Q" & Number.ToText(Date.QuarterOfYear([Date]))),
   //Add Week Number Column
   WeekNumber= Table.AddColumn(QuarterNumber , "Week Number",
   each Date.WeekOfYear([Date])),
    //Add Month Number Column
   MonthNumber = Table.AddColumn(WeekNumber, "Month Number",
   each Date.Month([Date])),
    //Add Month Name Column
```

```
//Add Month Number Column
MonthNumber = Table.AddColumn(WeekNumber, "Month Number",
each Date.Month([Date])),

//Add Month Name Column
MonthName = Table.AddColumn(MonthNumber , "Month",
each Date.ToText([Date],"MMMM")),

//Add Day of Week Column
DayOfWeek = Table.AddColumn(MonthName , "Day of Week",
each Date.ToText([Date],"dddd"))

in
DayOfWeek
```



#### 9. Fact Transaction

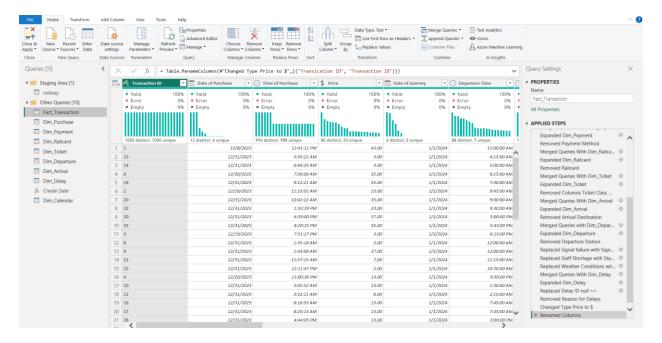
# **Objective:**

The **Fact\_Transaction** table captures transactional details related to train journeys, including ticket purchases, journey times, delays, and payments. It links to various dimension tables to ensure a well-structured and optimized data model. Ensure data integrity and replace NULL values in Actual Arrival Time for canceled journeys.

Ensure data integrity and replace NULL values in Actual Arrival Time for canceled journeys.

#### 1. Handling NULL Values in Actual Arrival Time

o Left NULL values as they are to represent canceled journeys, ensuring accurate data

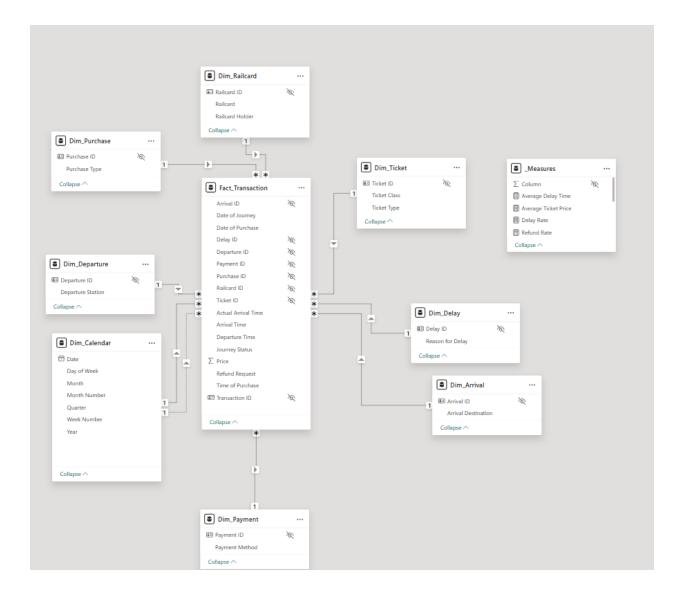


# 3.Data Modeling

# 3.1 Schema Design and Relationships

The data model follows a star schema design, where the Fact\_Transaction table is at the center, linking to multiple dimension tables. This schema optimizes query performance and simplifies data analysis by organizing information into facts (measurable business processes) and dimensions (descriptive attributes).

The relationships between the tables are based on primary keys (PKs) and foreign keys (FKs), ensuring referential integrity.



# 4.DAX & Measures

### (1) Total Sales

#### **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the total sales revenue by multiplying the price of tickets by the total number of tickets sold. It ensures that if there are no sales, the result is 0 instead of blank.

#### **DAX Formul:**

# **Explaination:**

VAR SalesValue = SUMX(Fact\_Transaction, Fact\_Transaction[Price] \* [Total Tickets Sold])

 Iterates over the Fact\_Transaction table, calculating price × total tickets sold for each row and summing the results.

IF(NOT(ISBLANK(SalesValue)), SalesValue, 0)

o Ensures that if there are no transactions, the measure returns 0 instead of a blank value.

#### (2) Total Tickets Sold

#### **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the total number of tickets sold, representing the total transactions in the system.

#### **DAX Formul:**

```
1 Total Tickets Sold =
2 COUNT('Fact_Transaction'[Transaction ID])
```

#### **Explaination:**

COUNT(Fact\_Transaction[Transaction ID])

o Counts the total number of unique transactions, which correspond to tickets sold.

(3) Average Delay Time

Purpose:

This measure calculates the average delay time for train journeys where the actual arrival time was later than the scheduled arrival time.

#### **DAX Formul:**

#### **Explaination:**

FILTER(Fact Transaction, Fact Transaction[Actual Arrival Time] > Fact Transaction[Arrival Time])

o Filters transactions where the actual arrival time is greater than the scheduled arrival time (i.e., delayed trains).

DATEDIFF(Fact Transaction[Arrival Time], Fact Transaction[Actual Arrival Time], MINUTE)

Calculates the delay in minutes for each transaction.

#### AVERAGEX(...)

o Computes the average delay time across all delayed transactions.

# (4) Average Ticket Price

### **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the average price of all ticket transactions.

#### DAX Formula:

```
1 Average Ticket Price =
2 AVERAGE(Fact_Transaction[Price])
```

#### **Explaination:**

AVERAGE(Fact\_Transaction[Price])

o Computes the mean ticket price across all transactions in the Fact Transaction table.

# (5) Delay Rate

#### **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the percentage of delayed journeys compared to the total tickets sold.

#### **DAX Formula:**

#### **Explaination:**

DIVIDE([Total Delayed Journeys], [Total Tickets Sold], 0)

- o Computes the delay rate as a ratio of delayed journeys to total ticket sales.
- The third argument (0) ensures the function returns 0 instead of an error if the denominator is zero.

# (6) Refund Rate

# **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the percentage of refund requests compared to the total tickets sold.

#### **DAX Formula:**

# **Explaination:**

DIVIDE([Total Refund Requests], [Total Tickets Sold], 0)

- o Computes the refund rate as a ratio of refund requests to total ticket sales.
- The third argument (0) ensures the function returns 0 instead of an error if the denominator is zero.

# (7) Total Canceled Journeys

# **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the total number of journeys that were canceled.

#### **DAX Formula:**

# **Explaination:**

COUNT(Fact Transaction[Transaction ID])

o Counts the total number of transactions (i.e., ticket purchases).

```
CALCULATE(..., Fact Transaction[Journey Status] = "Cancelled")
```

o Filters the transactions to only include those where the Journey Status is "Cancelled".

# (8) Total Delayed Journeys

#### **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the total number of journeys that were delayed.

#### **DAX Formula:**

# **Explaination:**

COUNT(Fact Transaction[Transaction ID])

o Counts the total number of ticket transactions.

```
CALCULATE(..., Fact_Transaction[Journey Status] = "Delayed")
```

o Filters the dataset to include only transactions where Journey Status is "Delayed".

# (9) Total On-Time Journeys

### **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the total number of journeys that arrived on time or earlier than the scheduled arrival time.

# DAX Formula:

# **Explaination:**

COUNT(Fact Transaction[Transaction ID])

o Counts the total number of ticket transactions.

CALCULATE(..., Fact Transaction[Actual Arrival Time] <= Fact Transaction[Arrival Time])

o Filters the dataset to count only transactions where the Actual Arrival Time is on time or earlier than the scheduled Arrival Time.

# (10) Total Refund Requests

#### **Purpose:**

This measure calculates the total number of refund requests made by passengers.

#### DAX Formula:

# **Explaination:**

COUNT(Fact Transaction[Transaction ID])

o Counts the total number of ticket transactions.

CALCULATE(..., Fact Transaction[Refund Request] = "Yes")

o Filters the dataset to count only transactions where a refund request was made.

# (11) Total Revenue:

### **Purpose:**

This measure adds up all the prices in your sales data to get the total revenue

#### **DAX Formula:**

#### **Explaination:**

VAR RevenueValue = SUM(Fact Transaction[Price])

This creates a variable RevenueValue that sums up all values in the Price column.

The IF checks if RevenueValue is not blank. If true, it returns the sum; if false, it returns 0.

#### 12 Peak Hour

#### **Purpose:**

find the hour of the day (in 12-hour AM/PM format) during which the highest total ticket sales occurred

# **DAX Formula:**

```
1 Peak Hour =
2 VAR MaxSalesHour =
       CALCULATETABLE(
           TOPN(
               1,
6
               ADDCOLUMNS(
                  ALL('Fact_Transaction'),
                   "Hour", FORMAT('Fact_Transaction'[Departure Time], "hh AM/PM"),
8
                  "TotalSales", SUMX(FILTER('Fact_Transaction', 'Fact_Transaction'[Departure Time] = EARLIER('Fact_Transaction'
                  [Departure Time])), 'Fact_Transaction'[Price])
               [TotalSales], DESC
11
12
13
L4 RETURN
      MAXX(MaxSalesHour, [Hour])
```

### 13 Total Passengers

### **Purpose:**

To count the number of unique passengers

```
1 Total Passengers = DISTINCTCOUNT(Fact_Transaction[Transaction ID])
```

# 14 Cancelation\_Rate(%)

**Purpose:** To calculate the percentage of cancelled journeys out of all transactions.

#### **DAX Formula:**

# 15 Monthly Reliability Score (%)

### **Purpose:**

To measure the reliability of train journeys by calculating the percentage of journeys that were "On Time" out of all journeys within a month.

# DAX Formula:

#### 16. Total Trips

#### **Purpose:**

To count the total number of unique trips or bookings

#### DAX Formula:

```
1 Total Trips = DISTINCTCOUNT(Fact_Transaction[Transaction ID])
```

# 5.Data dectionary:

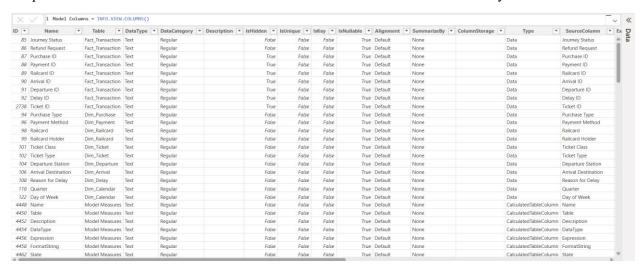
This is a document that explains what data is available, where it's stored (tables/columns), how it's defined (data types/descriptions), how tables connect (relationships), and how calculations work (measures).



# (1) Model Columns (Data Fields)

#### Purpose:

Helps users understand what each column means and how it should be used in analysis.

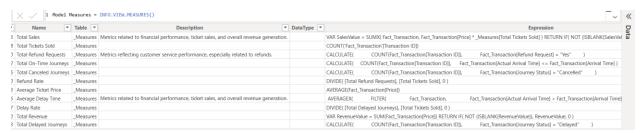


#### This is a listing of all columns (fields) in your dataset, including:

- o Table Name ('Fact Transaction', 'Dim Payment'...etc) Which table the column belongs to.
- o Column Name ('Journey Status', 'Payment Method'...etc) The name of the field.
- o Data Type ('Text'...etc) The kind of data stored (text, numbers, dates).
- Description: (where available) What the column represents ( `Ticket Class` = Economy/Business...etc).
- Key Properties: Whether a column is a unique identifier ('IsKey'), hidden ('IsHidden'), or nullable ('IsNullable').

# (2) Model Measures (Calculated Metrics):

Purpose: Ensures consistent calculations across reports and clarifies how metrics are derived.



### This section defines key business calculations (KPIs) used in reports as:

- Total Revenue = Sum of all ticket prices.
- Refund Rate = Percentage of tickets refunded.
- Delay Rate = Percentage of delayed journeys.
- Average Ticket Price = Mean price per ticket.

#### Each measure includes:

- Name
- Formula
- Description

#### (3) Model Relationships (Data Links):

#### **Purpose:**

Shows how data flows between tables, ensuring accurate filtering and analysis.



#### This documents how tables are connected in the database, such as:

- 'Fact Transaction[Payment ID]' → 'Dim Payment[Payment ID]'
- `Fact Transaction[Ticket ID]` → `Dim Ticket[Ticket ID]`

#### **Key details:**

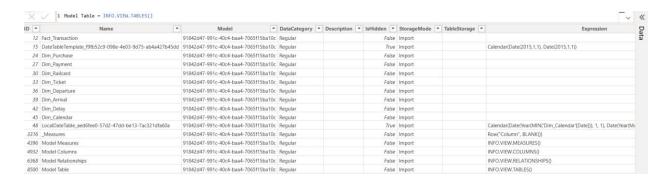
- O Source & Target Tables—Which columns link together.
- Cross-Filtering Behavior

  How filters propagate

#### (4) Model Table:

# **Purpose:**

- Clarifies which tables hold raw data vs. descriptive attributes.
- Helps users locate data for analysis (e.g., revenue in Fact\_Transaction, ticket types in Dim Ticket).



# 6. Recommendations for Stakeholders:

Based on data insights, we propose the following recommendations to enhance operational efficiency and customer satisfaction:

# **Investigate Sales Drop Post-May**

The complete halt in sales from June to December requires immediate investigation. This could be due to:

- Service disruptions
- Operational or seasonal pauses

#### **Review High Refund Activity**

Focus on improving service quality or refund policies at Liverpool Lime Street and Edinburgh Waverley to reduce refund rates.

# **Optimize Debit Card Transactions**

Given their high refund rate, enhance clarity of policies or improve reliability for debit card payments, especially for off-peak tickets.

#### **Enhance Online Sales Strategy**

Strengthen marketing around online channels and credit card payments, which have shown strong performance.

# **Monitor Ticket Types**

Assess the reasons behind higher refund rates and request volumes in off-peak and advance tickets to mitigate loss.

# 7. Conclusion

This project provided a comprehensive analysis of train operations, focusing on performance, revenue, and customer satisfaction. Through data cleaning, modeling, and advanced DAX calculations, we identified key insights such as delay patterns, cancellation rates, and revenue trends.

By leveraging Power BI's analytical capabilities, stakeholders can make data-driven decisions to optimize train schedules, improve service reliability, and enhance passenger experiences. The recommended strategies, including operational improvements, dynamic pricing, and customer engagement initiatives, will contribute to a more efficient and profitable railway system.

Going forward, continuous data monitoring and predictive analytics can further enhance decision-making, ensuring sustained growth and improvement in train services.