

Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence IT3021

Assignment 1 2025

Assignment 1 Report

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1 Dataset Selection

1.1 Description

Dataset -Contoso(link to original dataset)

Description of the Data Set

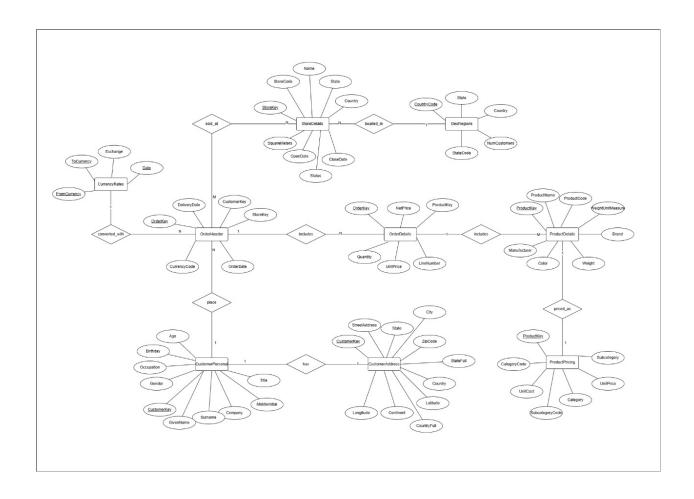
The **Retail Sales dataset** is designed to support the analysis and monitoring of activities related to an online retail business, focusing on sales transactions, customer behavior, product performance, and regional operations. This dataset provides a comprehensive view of the retail company's operations, capturing details about customers, products, orders, store locations, geographic regions, and currency exchange rates to facilitate international sales analysis.

The dataset spans over multiple years of sales transactions(2010-2020). The original dataset was sourced from a single transactional database, which has been edited, configured, and rearranged to suit the requirements of the project. To meet the assignment's need for multiple source types, the data has been split into three distinct sources: a SQL Server database (ContosoSourceDB), a text file (GeoRegions.txt), and a CSV file (CurrencyRates.csv).

The restructured dataset consists of the following seven data tables and two external files:

- 1. **CustomerPersonal** (in ContosoSourceDB): Stores unique information about each customer, such as ID, name, gender, age, and occupation.
- 2. **CustomerAddress** (in ContosoSourceDB): Records the address details of customers, including street, city, state, country, and geographic coordinates (latitude, longitude).
- 3. **ProductDetails** (in ContosoSourceDB): Contains details about products, such as ID, name, manufacturer, brand, color, and weight.
- 4. **ProductPricing** (in ContosoSourceDB): Records pricing and categorization details for products, including unit cost, unit price, category, and subcategory.
- 5. **StoreDetails** (in ContosoSourceDB): Provides information about store locations, including ID, name, country, state, size (square meters), opening/closing dates, and status.
- 6. **OrderHeader** (in ContosoSourceDB): Captures order metadata, such as order ID, customer ID, store ID, order date, delivery date, and currency used.
- 7. **OrderDetails** (in ContosoSourceDB): Records individual order line items, including order ID, sales order detail ID, product ID, quantity, and unit price.
- 8. **GeoRegions** (in GeoRegions.txt): A text file containing geographic region data, including country, state, and the number of customers in each region, used for regional sales analysis.
- 9. **CurrencyRates** (in CurrencyRates.csv): A CSV file storing historical currency exchange rates, including the date, from/to currency, and exchange rate, to support international sales calculations.

1.2 ER Diagram



2 Preparation of the Data Sources

Description of Data Sources

The dataset was restructured to include three source types (database, text, CSV), meeting the requirement of at least two types.

1. ContosoSourceDB (SQL Server Database):

- CustomerPersonal: Stores customer details (CustomerID, FirstName, LastName, Gender, Age, Occupation).
- CustomerAddress: Contains address details (CustomerID, AddressLine1, City, State, Country, Latitude, Longitude).
- ProductDetails: Holds product attributes (ProductID, ProductName, Manufacturer, Brand, Color, Weight).
- ProductPricing: Includes pricing and category details (ProductID, UnitCost, UnitPrice, Category, Subcategory).
- StoreDetails: Provides store information (StoreID, StoreName, Country, State, SquareMeters, Status).
- StoreDetails: Stores order metadata (SalesOrderID, OrderDate, CustomerID, StoreID, DeliveryDate, Currency).
- o **OrderDetails**: Contains order line items (SalesOrderID, SalesOrderDetailID, ProductID, Quantity, UnitPrice).

2. GeoRegions.txt (Text File):

- o **Format**: Tab-delimited.
- o **Columns**: Country (NVARCHAR(50)), State (NVARCHAR(50)), CustomerCount (INT).
- o **Purpose**: Provides geographic data for regional analysis.

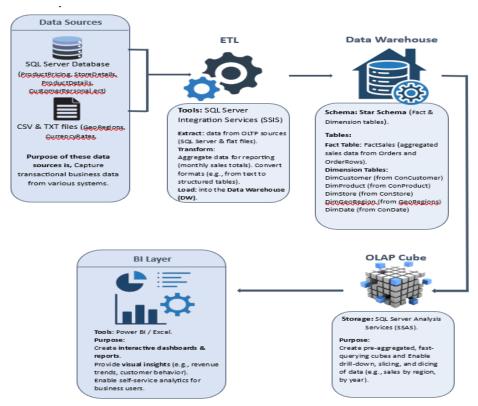
3. CurrencyRates.csv (CSV File):

- o **Format**: Comma-separated.
- Columns: RateDate (DATE), FromCurrency (NVARCHAR(3)), ToCurrency (NVARCHAR(3)), ExchangeRate (FLOAT).
- o **Purpose**: Supports currency conversion for financial reporting.

3 Restructuring Process

The original dataset was a single database. To meet the requirement of multiple source types, geographic data (Country, State, CustomerCount) was extracted into GeoRegions.txt, and currency exchange rates were moved to CurrencyRates.csv. The remaining data was split into logical tables within ContosoSourceDB to separate customer, product, store, and order information. This restructuring enables complex ETL tasks (e.g., joins, SCD) and supports hierarchies (e.g., product Category \rightarrow Subcategory).

4 Solution Architecture



5 Dataset Selection

1. Source Systems:

- ContosoSourceDB: SQL Server database with customer, product, store, and order data.
- o **GeoRegions.txt**: Text file with geographic data (Country, State, CustomerCount).
- CurrencyRates.csv: CSV file with currency exchange rates (RateDate, FromCurrency, ToCurrency, ExchangeRate).
- o **Role**: Provide raw OLTP data for the ETL process.

2. ETL Pipeline:

- Implemented using SSIS packages (Contoso_Load_Staging.dtsx and Contoso_Load_DW.dtsx).
- Extracts data from sources, applies transformations (e.g., joins, SCD Type-2, lookups), and loads into staging and data warehouse.
- o **Role**: Ensures data is cleaned, transformed, and loaded correctly.

3. Staging Database (Contoso_Staging):

- o Temporary storage for raw data from sources.
- Tables: StgCustomerPersonal, StgCustomerAddress, StgProductDetails, StgProductPricing, StgStoreDetails, StgOrderHeader, StgOrderDetails, StgGeoRegions, StgCurrencyRates.
- o **Role**: Simplifies transformations by consolidating data.

4. Data Warehouse (Contoso_DW):

- Dimensional model with dimensions (DimCustomer, DimProduct, DimStore, DimGeoRegion, DimCurrencyRate, DimDate) and fact table (FactSales).
- o Role: Supports analytical queries for reporting.

5. BI Reporting:

- o Tools: Power BI or Excel.
- **Role**: Generates dashboards and reports (e.g., sales trends, customer demographics).

6 Data Warehouse Design and Development

Dimensional Model Description

The data warehouse uses a **star schema** to organize data into dimension and fact tables, optimized for analytical queries. The schema includes five dimension tables (including one SCD) and one fact table, meeting the assignment requirements.

Dimension Tables

1. **DimDate**:

o **Source**: dbo.StgDate.

- Columns: DateKey (PK), Date, Year, YearQuarter, YearQuarterNumber, Quarter, YearMonth, YearMonthShort, YearMonthNumber, Month, MonthShort, MonthNumber, DayOfWeek, DayOfWeekShort, DayOfWeekNumber, WorkingDay, WorkingDayNumber, InsertDate, ModifiedDate.
- Purpose: Provides temporal context for sales transactions (e.g., OrderDate, DeliveryDate).
- o **Key**: DateKey (surrogate key).

2. DimCustomer (SCD Type 2):

- o **Source**: dbo.StgCustomerPersonal, dbo.StgCustomerAddress.
- Columns: CustomerSK (PK, identity), AlternateCustomerID, Gender, Title, GivenName, MiddleInitial, Surname, StreetAddress, City, State, StateFull, ZipCode, Country, CountryFull, Birthday, Age, Occupation, Company, Vehicle, Latitude, Longitude, Continent, StartDate, EndDate, IsCurrent, InsertDate, ModifiedDate.
- Purpose: Tracks customer information, with SCD Type 2 for address changes (e.g., StreetAddress, City).
- o **Key**: CustomerSK (surrogate key), AlternateCustomerID (business key).
- o SCD Attributes:
 - Historical (Type 2): StreetAddress, City, State, ZipCode, Country.
 - Changing (Type 1): Gender, Title, Occupation.
 - Fixed: GivenName, Surname, Birthday, etc.

3. DimProduct:

- o **Source**: dbo.StgProduct, dbo.StgProductPricing.
- Columns: ProductSK (PK, identity), AlternateProductID, ProductCode, ProductName, Manufacturer, Brand, Color, WeightUnitMeasure, Weight, UnitCost, UnitPrice, SubcategoryCode, Subcategory, CategoryCode, Category, InsertDate, ModifiedDate.
- Purpose: Stores product details and pricing, supporting hierarchies (Category > Subcategory).
- o **Key**: ProductSK (surrogate key), AlternateProductID (business key).

4. DimStore:

- o **Source**: dbo.StgStoreDetails.
- o Columns: StoreSK (PK, identity), AlternateStoreID, StoreCode, Country, State, Name, SquareMeters, OpenDate, CloseDate, Status, InsertDate, ModifiedDate.
- o **Purpose**: Represents retail stores where sales occur.
- o **Key**: StoreSK (surrogate key), AlternateStoreID (business key).

5. DimGeoRegion:

- o **Source**: dbo.StgGEORegions.
- o **Columns**: GeoRegionSK (PK, identity), AlternateGeoLocationID, CountryCode, Country, StateCode, State, NumCustomers, InsertDate, ModifiedDate.
- o **Purpose**: Provides geographic context for sales analysis.
- o **Key**: GeoRegionSK (surrogate key), AlternateGeoLocationID (business key).

Fact Table

FactSales:

- o **Source**: dbo.StgOrderHeader, dbo.StgOrderDetails.
- Columns: SalesSK (PK, identity), OrderKey, LineNumber, CustomerKey (FK), StoreKey (FK), ProductKey (FK), OrderDateKey (FK), DeliveryDateKey (FK), GeoRegionKey (FK), CurrencyCode, Quantity, UnitPrice, NetPrice, UnitCost, TotalCost (computed), TotalRevenue (computed), InsertDate, ModifiedDate, accm txn create time, accm txn complete time, txn process time.
- **Purpose**: Stores transactional sales data with measures (Quantity, UnitPrice, NetPrice, UnitCost, TotalCost, TotalRevenue).
- o Keys:
 - SalesSK (surrogate key).
 - Foreign Keys: CustomerKey (DimCustomer), StoreKey (DimStore), ProductKey (DimProduct), OrderDateKey (DimDate), DeliveryDateKey (DimDate), GeoRegionKey (DimGeoRegion).

o Measures:

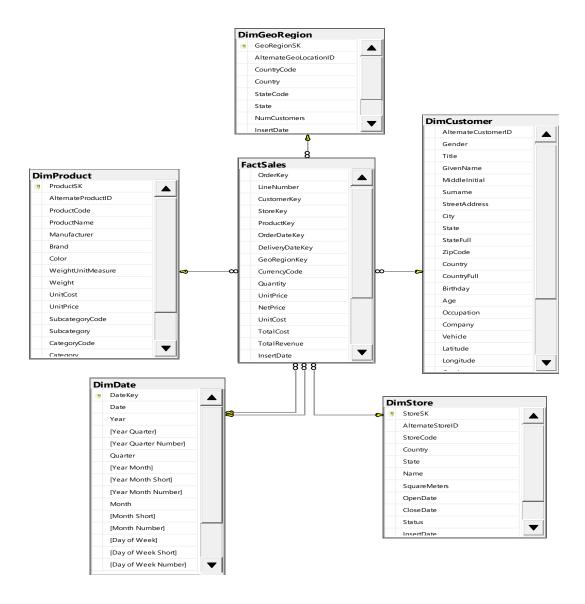
- Quantity: Number of units sold.
- UnitPrice, NetPrice, UnitCost: Pricing details.
- TotalCost: Quantity * UnitCost.
- TotalRevenue: Quantity * NetPrice.
- txn_process_time: Difference in hours between accm_txn_create_time and accm_txn_complete_time.

The schema used: Star Schema

The **Star Schema** has been utilized in the dimensional modeling for the Contoso 100K_Staging dataset to optimize query performance and simplify data analysis. Unlike a snowflake schema, the dimension tables are denormalized, maintaining a direct connection to the central fact table, FactSales, to facilitate efficient querying. The dimension tables, including DimCustomer, DimProduct, DimStore, DimGeoRegion, and DimDate, are designed to store comprehensive descriptive attributes without further normalization, ensuring a straightforward structure.

It was assumed that the retail sales data, particularly attributes related to customers, products, stores, and geographic regions, would benefit from a denormalized structure to support rapid analytical queries. Therefore, the dimension tables contain hierarchical attributes to enable flexible categorization and analysis:

- Country > State > City for DimCustomer and DimGeoRegion, allowing geographic analysis of sales.
- Category > Subcategory for DimProduct, supporting product hierarchy-based reporting.
- Year > Quarter > Month for DimDate, enabling time-based analysis of sales trends.

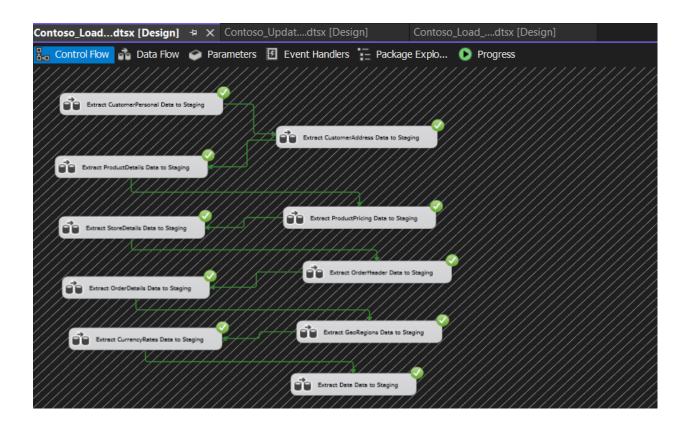


7 ETL Development

7.1 Extract Data from Source to Staging

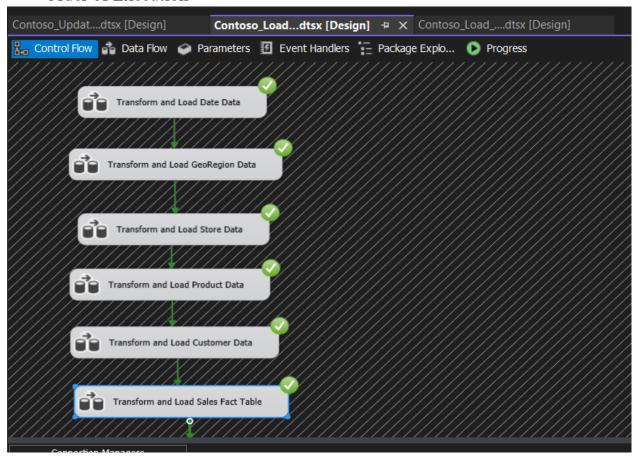
Execution order

.

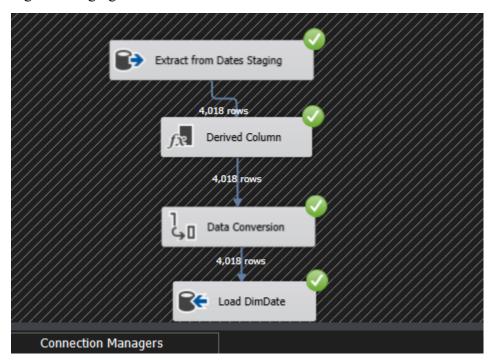


7.2 Loading the Transformed Data into the Data Warehouse

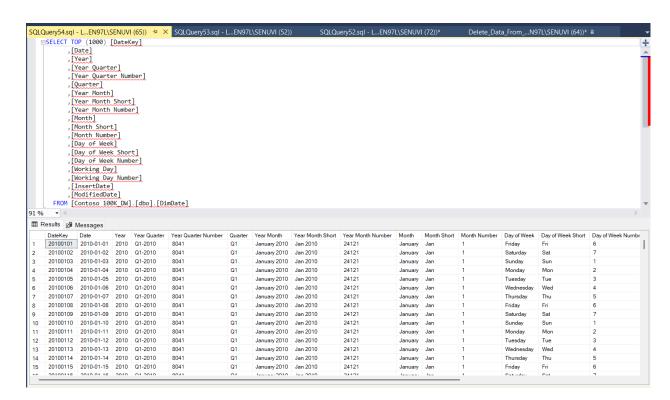
• Order of Execution



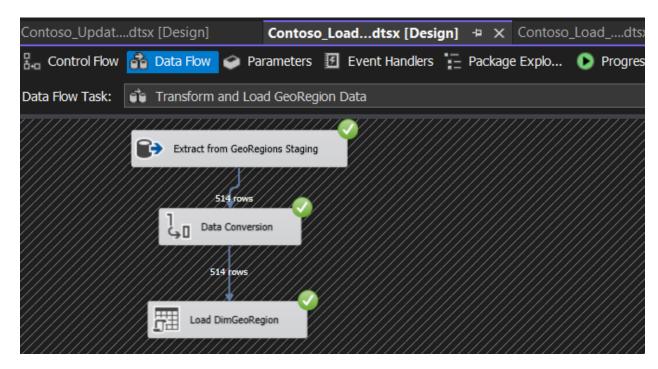
Loading Date staging data in to data warehouse DimDate table.



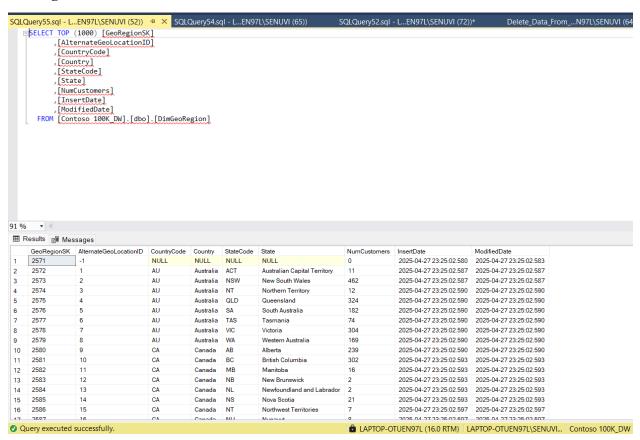
DimDate table



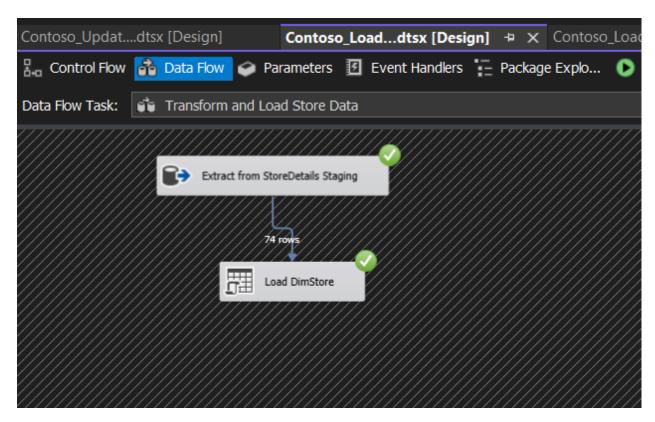
• Loading GeoRegions staging data in to data warehouse DimGeoRegions table.



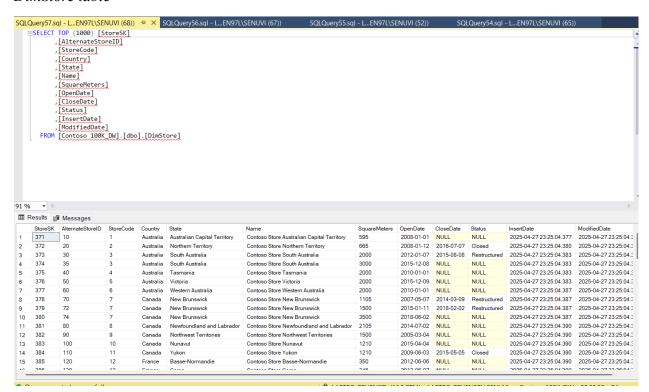
GeoRegions table



• Loading StoreDetails staging data in to data warehouse DimStore table.

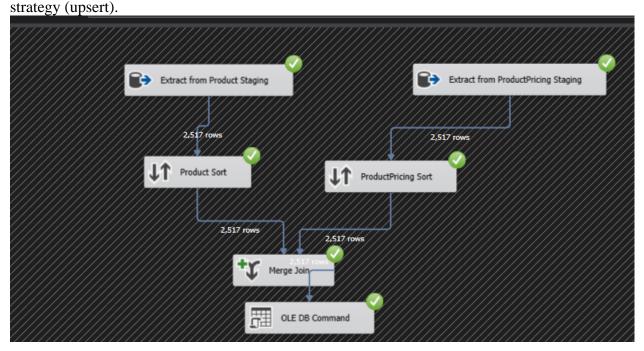


DimStore table

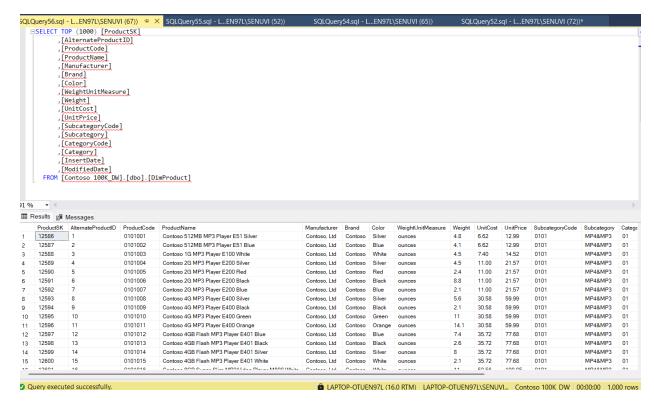


Loading Product and ProductPricing Staging Data into DimProduct

This process loads data from dbo.StgProduct and dbo.StgProductPricing (SQL sources) into dbo.DimProduct, combining product details and pricing information. It uses a Type 1 update

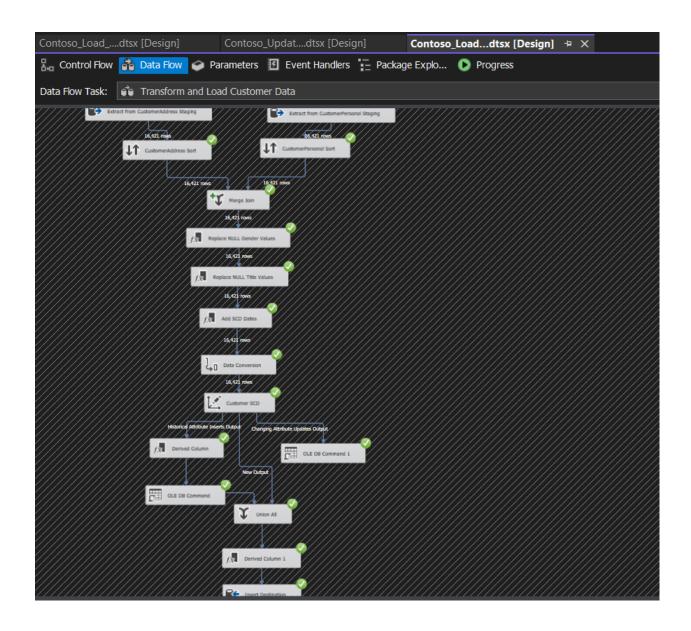


DimProduct table

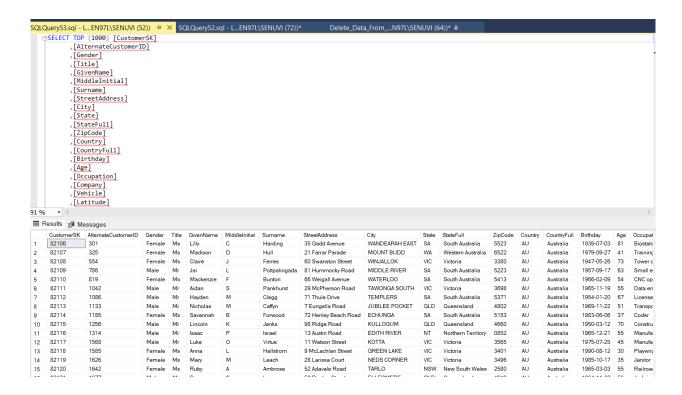


• Loading CustomerPersonal and CustomerAddress Staging Data into DimCustomer

This process loads data from dbo.StgCustomerPersonal (SQL source) and dbo.StgCustomerAddress (text source) into dbo.DimCustomer, implementing an SCD Type 2 for address-related fields and Type 1 for other attributes (e.g., Gender, Title).

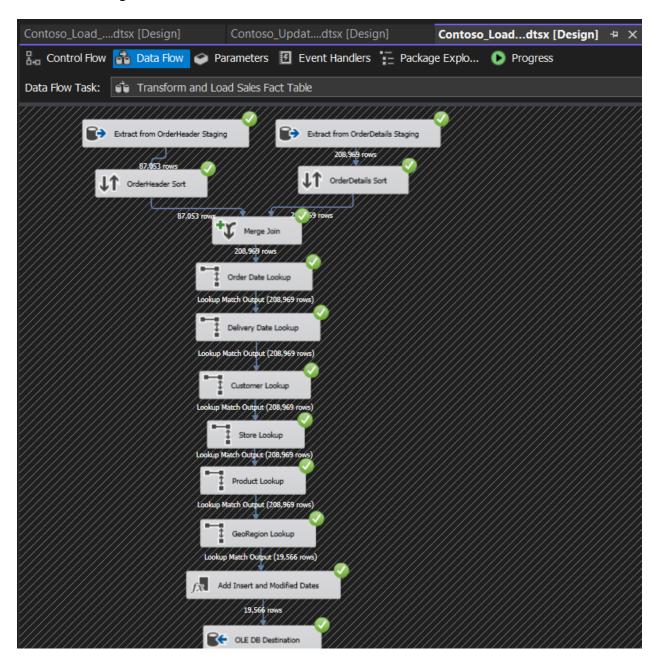


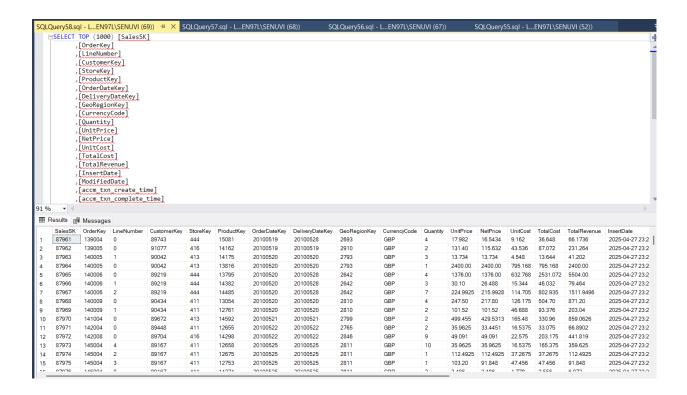
DimCustomer Table



• Loading OrderHeader and OrderDetails Staging Data into FactSales

This process loads data from dbo.StgOrderHeader and dbo.StgOrderDetails (SQL sources) into dbo.FactSales, a transactional fact table. It includes lookups to map natural keys to surrogate keys and adds accumulating columns.





8 ETL Development – Accumulating Fact Tables

The FactSales table was extended to include accumulating columns (accm_txn_create_time, accm_txn_complete_time, txn_process_time) to track transaction creation and completion times. A separate SSIS package, Contoso_Update_FactSales.dtsx, updates these columns using a CSV file.

Created a new SSIS package, Contoso Update FactSales.dtsx.

Extended FactSales with Required Columns in SSMS

```
ADD

accm_txn_create_time DATETIME NOT NULL DEFAULT GETDATE(),
accm_txn_complete_time DATETIME NULL,

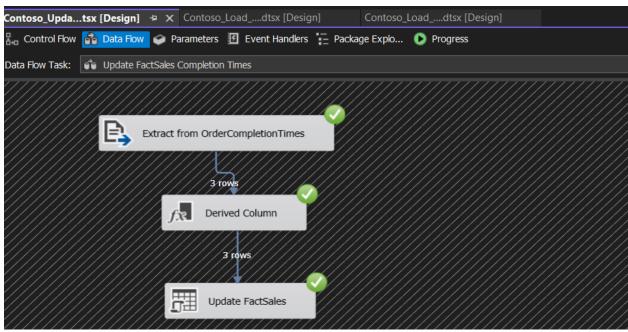
txn_process_time_hours INT NULL;
```

• Set "accm_txn_create_time" on Data Load

In contoso_100k_DW SSIS package, located the Derived Column transformation right before loading into FactSales.

Derived Column	Expression	Data Type						
<add as="" column="" new=""></add>	GETDATE()	database timestamp						
		Derived Column Expression <add as="" column="" new=""> GETDATE()</add>						





⊞ F	⊞ Results							
	OrderKey	accm_txn_create_time	accm_txn_complete_time	txn_process_time				
1	139004	2025-04-27 23:07:08.303	2025-04-28 12:00:00.000	13				
2	139005	2025-04-27 23:07:08.303	2025-04-30 10:00:00.000	59				
3	140006	2025-04-27 23:07:08.303	2025-04-29 12:00:00.000	37				
4	140006	2025-04-27 23:07:08.303	2025-04-29 12:00:00.000	37				
5	140006	2025-04-27 23:07:08.303	2025-04-29 12:00:00.000	37				

9 Overall Execution Flow of the Total Solution

The following is an overall execution of the staging data flow tasks, followed by the execution of the data loading tasks to the data warehouse.

After the completion of the data loading, the final data flow task in the data loading package is set as a package execution task of the time update package, where it will be executed to update the fact table with the transaction complete times and the process times in hours.

This enables the proper flow execution of the data staging and then the execution of loading the staged data into the data warehouse and the updating of the fact table with the proper data in proper order.

