

Power BI Glossary – Key Terms for Mastery

Core Concepts

Power BI Desktop: Main development tool for building reports and dashboards.

Power BI Service: Cloud platform for sharing, collaboration, and publishing reports.

Power Query: Data transformation tool used to clean, shape, and import data.

DAX (Data Analysis Expressions): Formula language for creating measures and calculated columns.

Data Model: Structure of related tables used for analysis (includes relationships, measures, etc.).

Report: A collection of visuals built on a dataset in Power BI Desktop.

Dashboard: A single-page summary of visuals (pinned from reports) in Power BI Service.

Data Handling

Dataset: The data imported or connected to for building visuals.

Query: Instructions (in Power Query) for retrieving and transforming data.

Calculated Column: A new column created using DAX that is stored in the model.

Measure: A dynamic calculation using DAX that recalculates based on filters.

KPI (Key Performance Indicator): A visual indicator to track performance against a goal.

RLS (Row-Level Security): Restricts data visibility per user role.

Fact Table: Table containing transactional data (e.g., sales).

Dimension Table: Table containing descriptive data (e.g., product info).

Data Modeling

Star Schema: Model with a central fact table linked to surrounding dimension tables.

Snowflake Schema: A normalized version of star schema with additional hierarchy levels.

Relationship: A connection between two tables based on a common field.

Cardinality: The relationship type (e.g., one-to-many).

Cross Filter Direction: Controls the flow of filters between related tables.

DAX Functions

CALCULATE: Modifies filter context to evaluate expressions.

FILTER: Returns a table that represents a subset of another table.

ALL: Removes filters from a table or column.

RELATED: Returns a related value from another table.

RANKX: Ranks items based on a DAX expression.

SUMX / AVERAGEX: Iterates over a table to calculate total/average.

□ Service & Sharing

Workspace: A collaborative area in Power BI Service for report management.

App: A packaged collection of dashboards and reports shared with users.

Gateway: Bridges on-premises data sources with Power BI Service.

Schedule Refresh: Automatically refreshes the dataset at set intervals.

Paginated Reports: Pixel-perfect reports (like SSRS) for printing/exporting.

□ Advanced & Development

Custom Visuals: User-created or marketplace visuals added to Power BI.

Bookmarks: Save report states for navigation or storytelling.

Drillthrough: Navigate to a detailed page based on selected data.

Tooltips: Hover text visuals with additional data context.

Power BI REST API: Used to programmatically manage Power BI resources.