In newer releases (SQL Server 2016 SP2 CU3, SQL Server 2017 CU11, and SQL Server 2019), if lightweight profiling isn't enabled globally, you can use the USE HINT query hint with QUERY\_PLAN\_PROFILE to enable lightweight profiling at the query level. When a query that has this hint completes execution, a *query\_plan\_profile* extended event is generated, which provides an actual execution plan. You can see an example of a query with this hint:

SELECT s.[stockItemName]

,s.[UnitPrice] \* s.[QuantityPerOuter] AS CostPerOuterBox

,sh.[QuantityonHand]

FROM [Warehouse].[StockItems] s

JOIN [Warehouse].[StockItemHoldings] sh ON s.StockItemID = sh.StockItemID

ORDER BY CostPerOuterBox

OPTION(USE HINT ('QUERY\_PLAN\_PROFILE'));