

SQL UNION

The SQL UNION operator allows SQL to combine multiple answer sets into a single answer set.

When combining multiple answer sets into one, you must be sure that both answer sets contain the same number of columns, and that the columns in the answer sets have the same data type.

SQL UNION

Let's Look at an example from the Northwinds database:

You are asked to summarize the total number of units in stock for Northwinds products by product category, along with final totals across all categories.

This requires two queries:

The first will sum unitsinstock by category.

The second will sum unitsinstock across ALL categories.

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First query:

```
SELECT categoryname, sum(unitsinstock)
      FROM "alanparadise/nw"."categories" C
         JOIN "alanparadise/nw"."products" P
           ON C.categoryid = P.categoryid
GROUP BY categoryname;
```

Second query:

```
SELECT 'Total', sum(unitsinstock)
      FROM "alanparadise/nw"."products";
```

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Combined (with UNION):

```
SELECT categoryname, sum(unitsinstock) as CategoryTotal
      FROM "alanparadise/nw"."categories" C
            JOIN "alanparadise/nw"."products" P
                  ON C.categoryid = P.categoryid
GROUP BY categoryname
UNION
SELECT 'Total', sum(unitsinstock)
      FROM "alanparadise/nw"."products"
ORDER BY 1;
```

SQL UNION

categoryname VARCHAR	categorytotal BIGINT
Beverages	559
Condiments	507
Confections	386
Dairy Products	393
Grains/Cereals	308
Meat/Poultry	165
Produce	100
Seafood	701
Total	3119