

The name of the unit.

- `UNIT_TYPE`

The unit type (for example, `LINEAR`).

- `CONVERSION_FACTOR`

A conversion factor used for internal calculations.

- `DESCRIPTION`

A description of the unit.

## 26.3.38 The INFORMATION\_SCHEMA TABLES Table

The `TABLES` table provides information about tables in databases.

Columns in `TABLES` that represent table statistics hold cached values. The `information_schema_stats_expiry` system variable defines the period of time before cached table statistics expire. The default is 86400 seconds (24 hours). If there are no cached statistics or statistics have expired, statistics are retrieved from storage engines when querying table statistics columns. To update cached values at any time for a given table, use `ANALYZE TABLE`. To always retrieve the latest statistics directly from storage engines, set `information_schema_stats_expiry` to 0. For more information, see [Section 8.2.3, “Optimizing INFORMATION\\_SCHEMA Queries”](#).



### Note

If the `innodb_read_only` system variable is enabled, `ANALYZE TABLE` may fail because it cannot update statistics tables in the data dictionary, which use `InnoDB`. For `ANALYZE TABLE` operations that update the key distribution, failure may occur even if the operation updates the table itself (for example, if it is a `MyISAM` table). To obtain the updated distribution statistics, set `information_schema_stats_expiry=0`.

The `TABLES` table has these columns:

- `TABLE_CATALOG`

The name of the catalog to which the table belongs. This value is always `def`.

- `TABLE_SCHEMA`

The name of the schema (database) to which the table belongs.

- `TABLE_NAME`

The name of the table.

- `TABLE_TYPE`

`BASE TABLE` for a table, `VIEW` for a view, or `SYSTEM VIEW` for an `INFORMATION_SCHEMA` table.

The `TABLES` table does not list `TEMPORARY` tables.

- `ENGINE`