

8



Comparing Excel Functions and DAX Formulas





1.SUM

Adds up all the values in a range or column.

Excel

=SUM(A1:A10)

DAX

SUM(Table[Column])



2.AVERAGE

Calculates the mean of the values.

Excel

=AVERAGE(A1:A10)

DAX

AVERAGE(Table[Column])



3.IF

Performs a conditional test and returns different values based on the result.

Excel

=IF(A1 > 100, "High", "Low")

DAX

IF(Table[Column] > 100, "High",
"Low")



4.COUNT and DISTINCTCOUNT

DAX has DISTINCTCOUNT, which counts unique values, unlike Excel's COUNT and COUNTA.

Excel

=COUNT(A1:A10)

=COUNTA(A1:A10)

DAX

COUNT(Table[Column])
DISTINCTCOUNT(Table[Column])



SWITCH

DAX's SWITCH function allows for multiple conditions, which is a more compact alternative to nested IF statements.

DAX

SWITCH(Table[Category], "A", "Alpha", "B", "Beta", "Other")



5.MAX and MIN

Retrieves the maximum or minimum value in a range or column.

Excel

=MAX(A1:A10)

=MIN(A1:A10)

DAX

MAX(Table[Column])
MIN(Table[Column]



6.VLOOKUP (Excel) vs. RELATED (DAX)

DAX's RELATED is used in data models to pull related data, similar to VLOOKUP but more efficient in relational models.

Excel

=VLOOKUP("Value", A1:B10, 2, FALSE)

DAX

RELATED(Table[RelatedColumn])



7. CONCATENATE and CONCATENATEX

CONCATENATEX in DAX allows concatenation with a delimiter, enabling powerful text aggregation over tables.

Excel

=CONCATENATE(A1, B1) =A1 & B1

DAX

CONCATENATE(Table[Column1], Table[Column2])
CONCATENATEX(Table, Table[Column], ", ")



8.EOMONTH and DAX Time Intelligence

DAX provides comprehensive time intelligence functions for advanced date-based calculations, going beyond what Excel typically offers.

Excel

=EOMONTH(A1, 1)

DAX

EOMONTH(Table[Date], 1)
DATESYTD(Table[Date])



9.CALCULATE (DAX-Only)

CALCULATE is unique to DAX, allowing you to change the filter context for calculations, enabling complex data modeling and analysis.

DAX

CALCULATE(SUM(Table[Sales]), Table[Region] = "East")



10.FILTER (DAX-Only)

FILTER is a powerful DAX function that enables row-level filtering for more granular control over data.

DAX

FILTER(Table, Table[Sales] > 100)



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