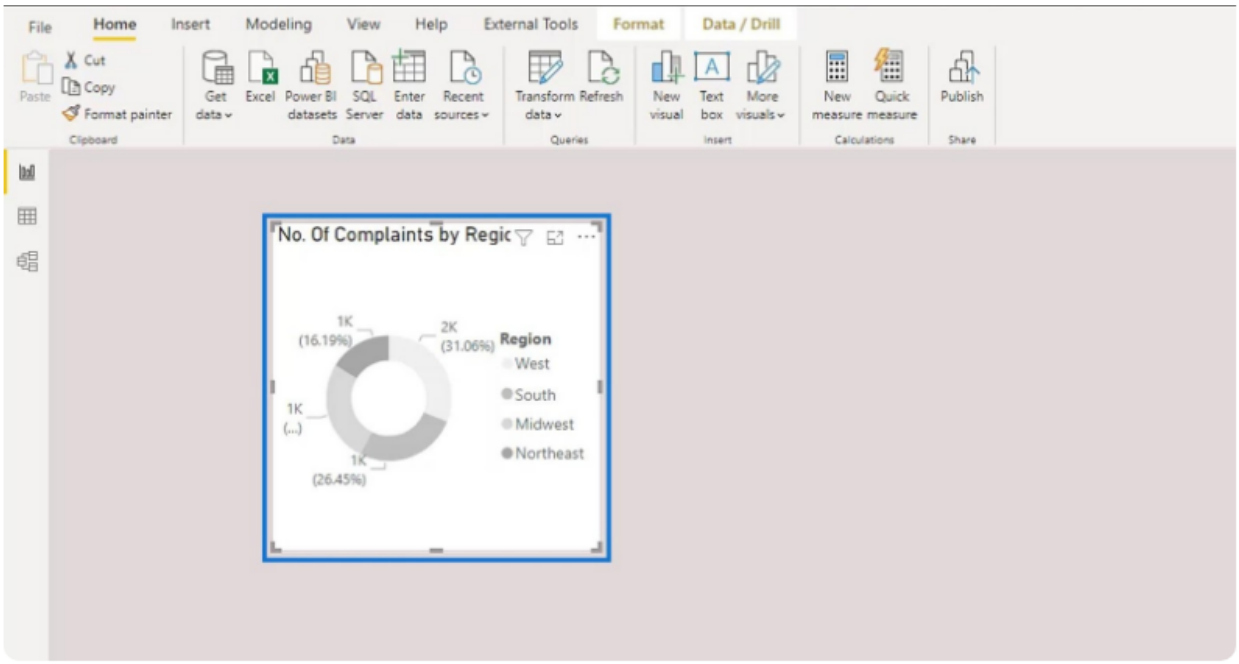
In this tutorial, I'll talk about the Power BI donut chart. Most people don't like donut charts and there are valid reasons for their dislike. First, you cannot put many categories on a donut chart. They also don't look good at all, and can be inconvenient to use.

However, as I was playing around with donut charts, I came across one cool trick that can make a **Power BI** donut chart look good.

This visual represents the number of complaints we received from different regions. The regions are defined as **West**, **South**, **Midwest**, and **Northeast**. Let's put the **No. Of Complaints** measure in the **Values** section.

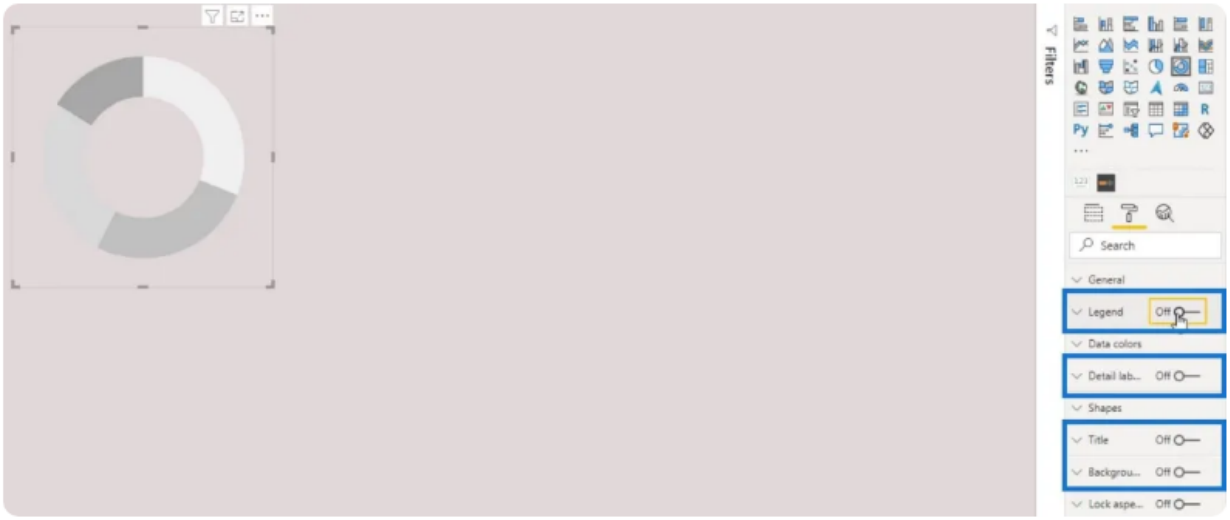
Then, put the **Region** measure in the categories.

Obviously, it doesn't look presentable yet.



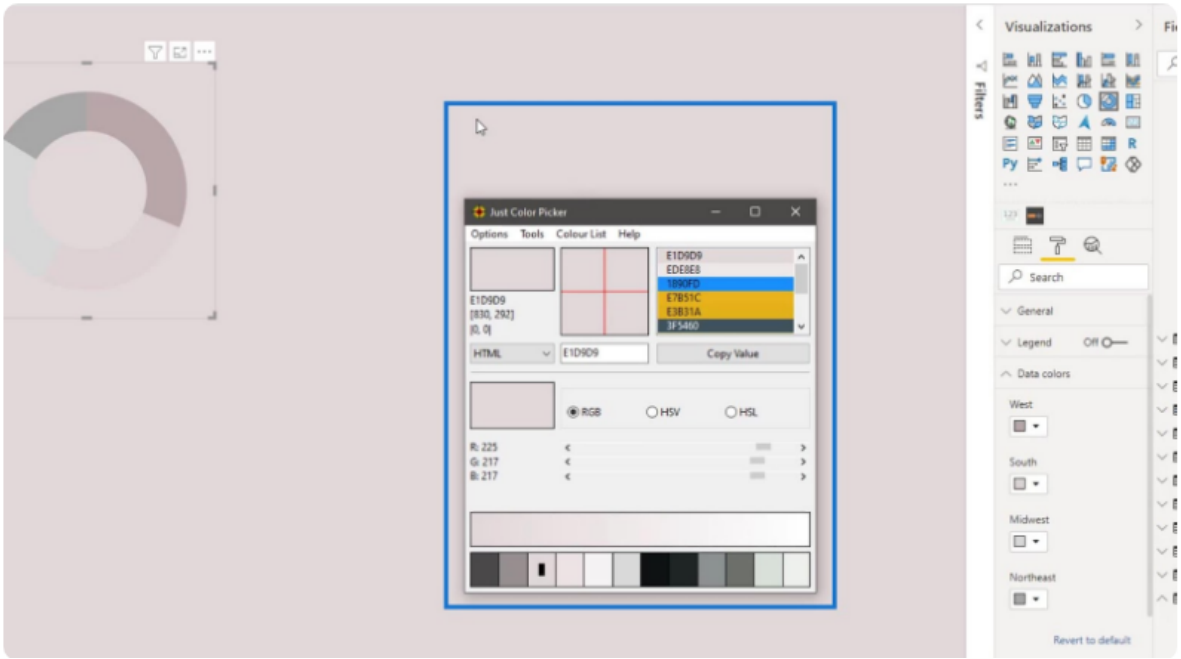

Moreover, we can't turn off the legend. Otherwise, we won't know which category belongs to which region.

There are two tricks that we can do to make it look better even without the legend and the labels. The first one is by using the half donut chart. Let's first clean this by removing the title, background, data labels, and legend.

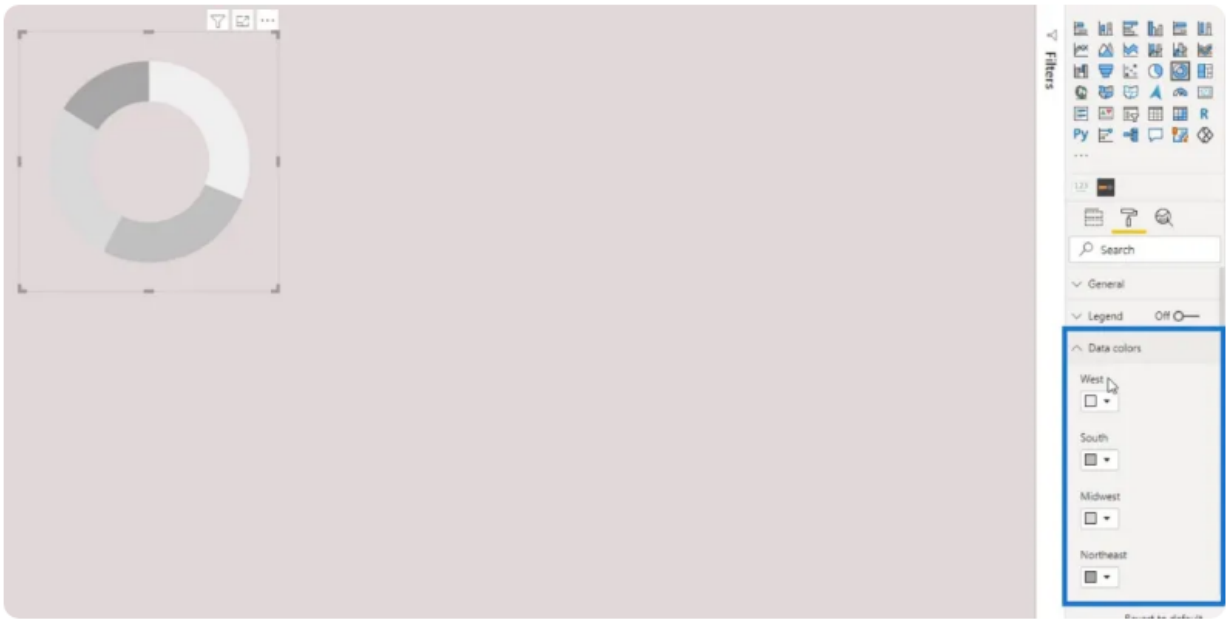



# Creating A Half Donut Chart in Power BI

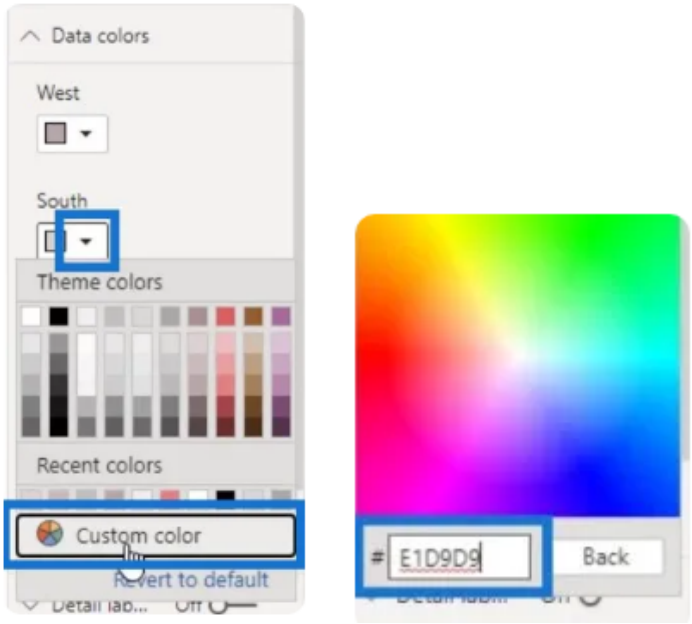
We'll now turn it into a half donut chart. For this example, let's use the color of the background for the **South**, **Midwest**, and **Northeast** regions. This is to make them look invisible or non-existent. We can use a color picker application to pick the color of the background. Then, copy the hex value of the selected color.



Go to **Data colors** to change the color of the regions.

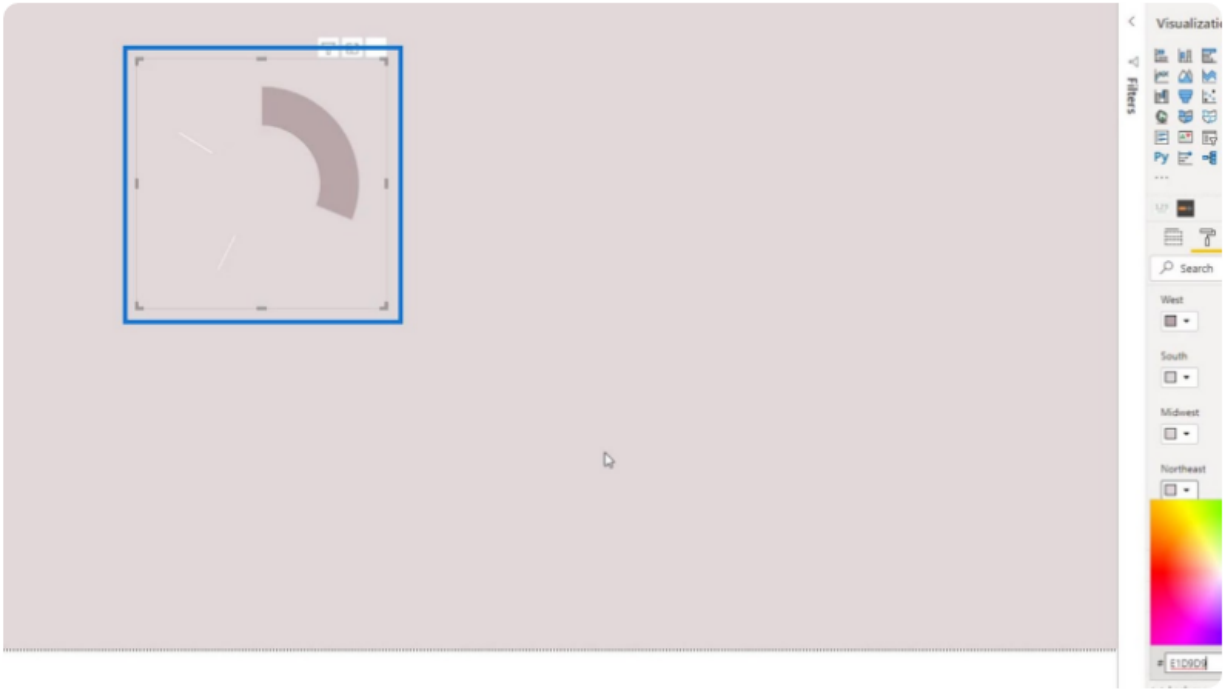



Apply the selected color to the **South**, **Midwest**, and **Northeast** regions. To do that, click the dropdown arrow icon in the color selection of the 3 regions, then click **Custom color**.

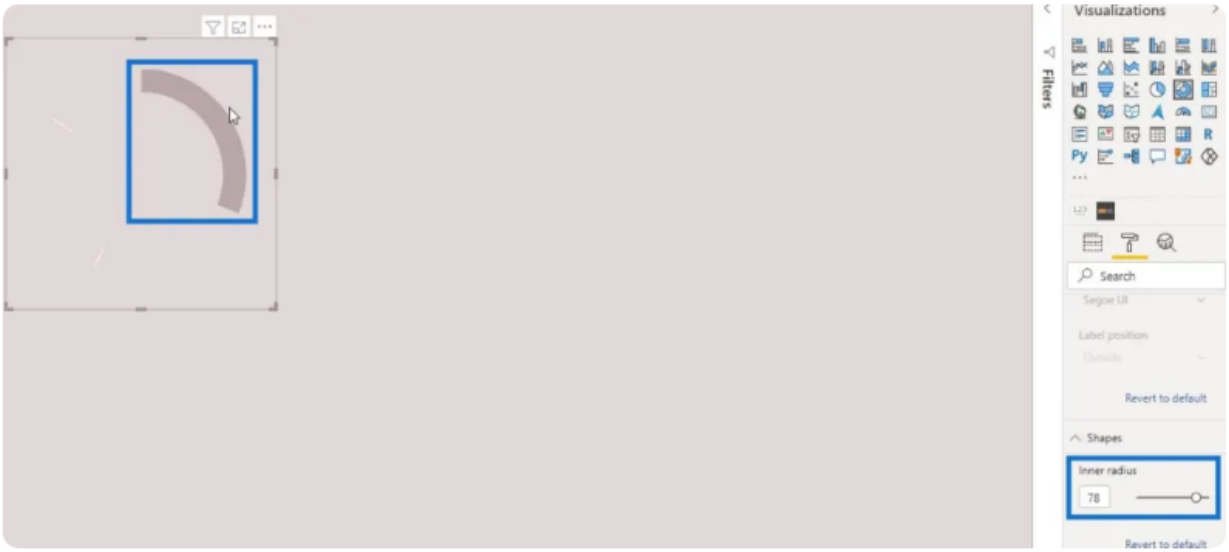


Paste the value into the hex value input box.

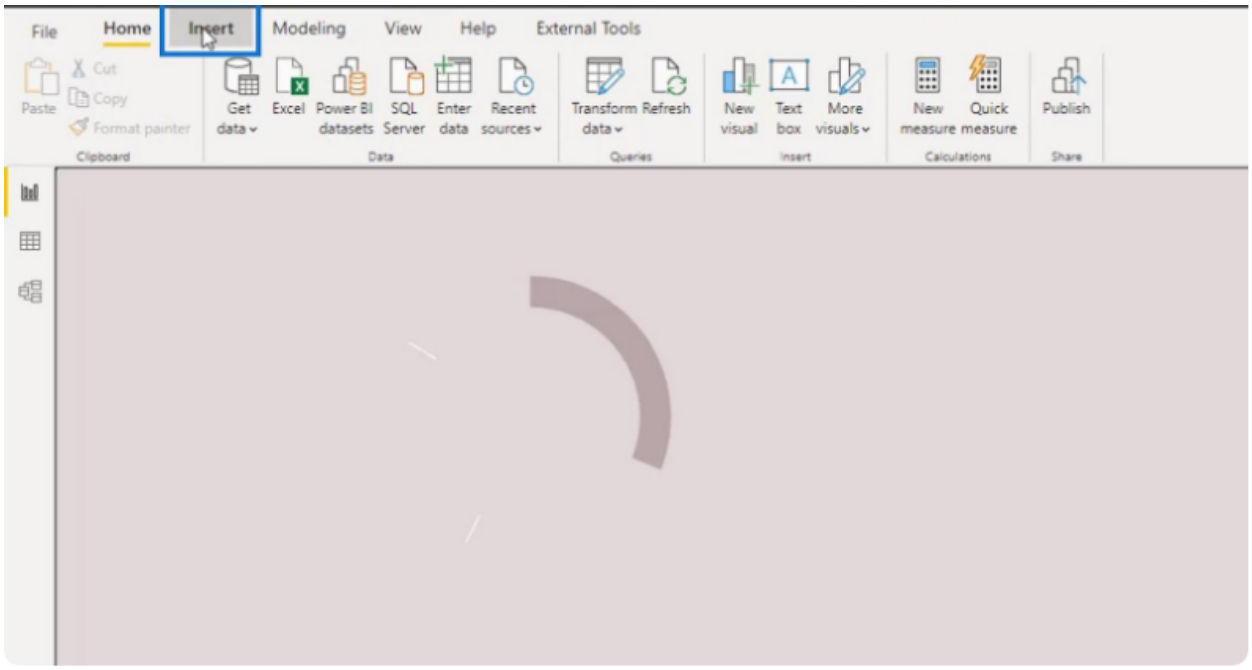
As a result, the other data in the chart look like they don't exist at all.



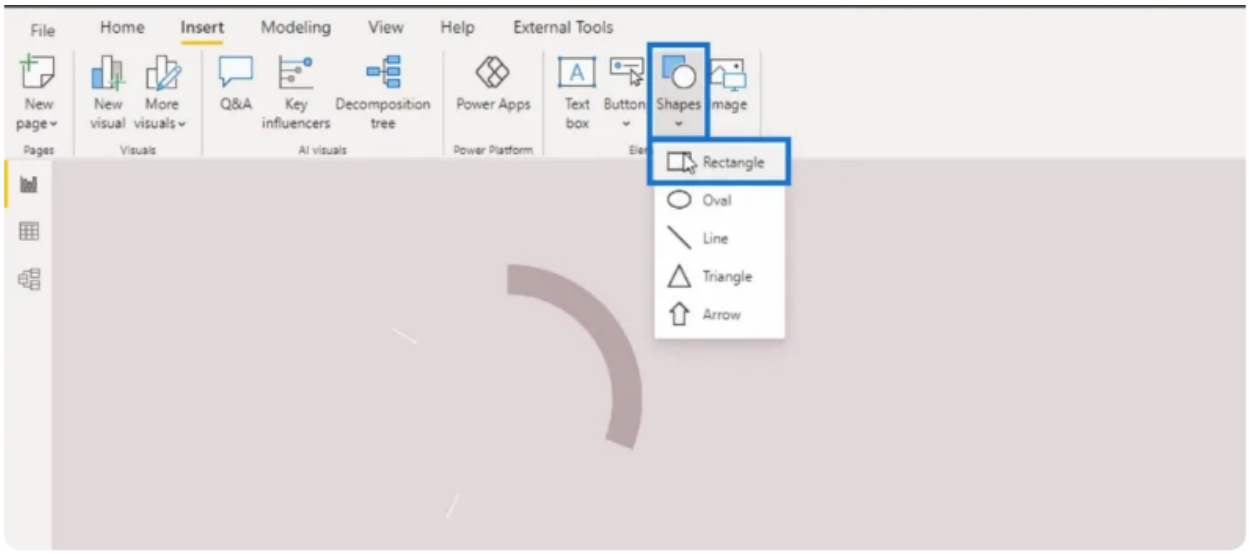

Another cool thing that we can do is to reduce the value of the **Inner radius**.



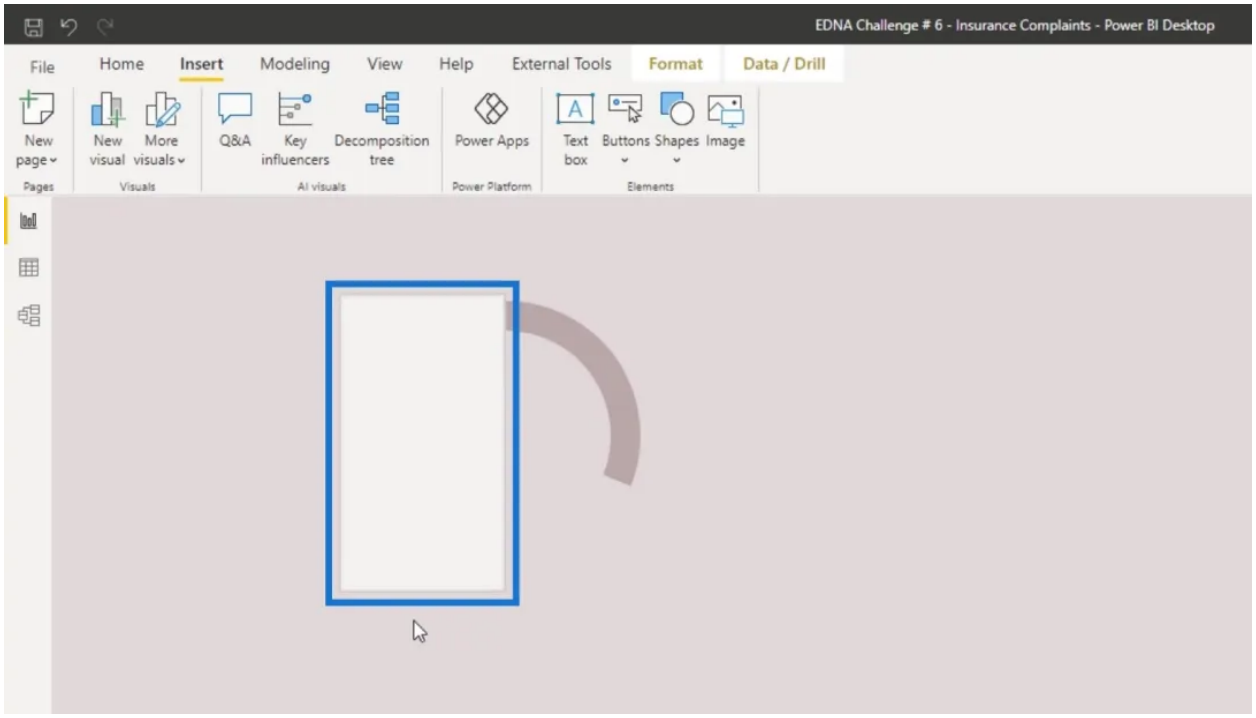
Additionally, we can hide the two white division lines using a shape. First, go to the **Insert** tab.



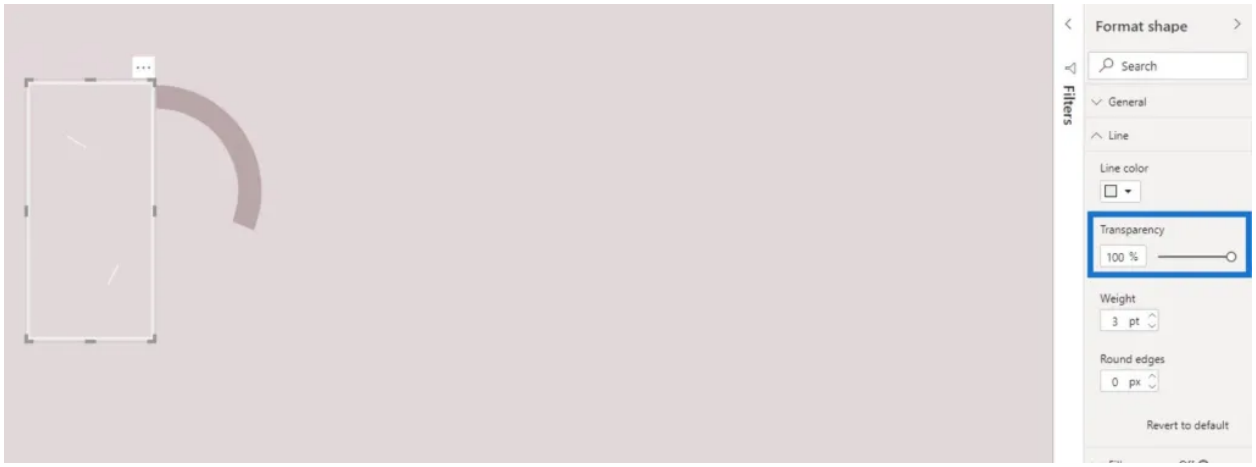

Next, click **Rectangle** under the **Shapes** option.



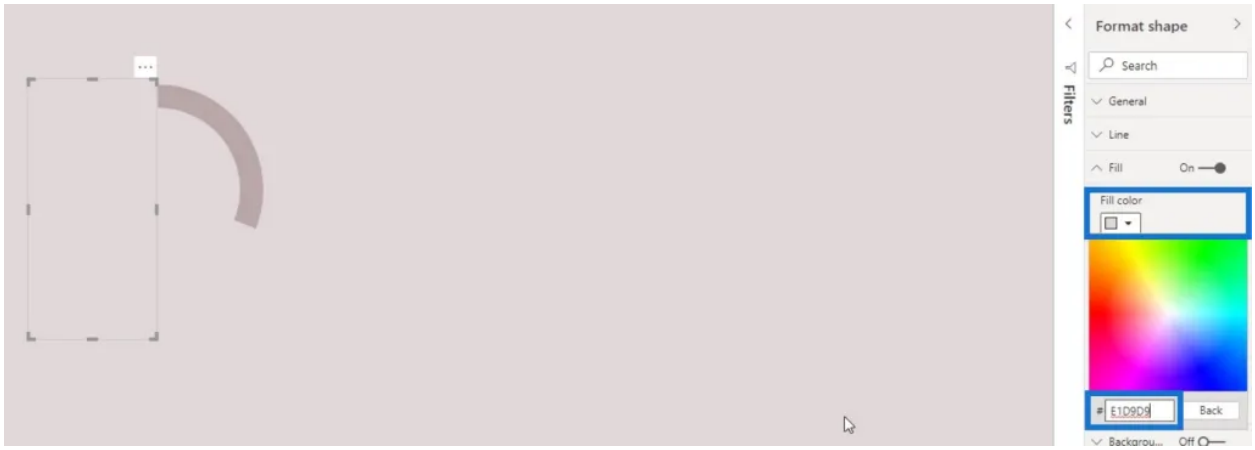

Resize the shape until it covers the two division lines.



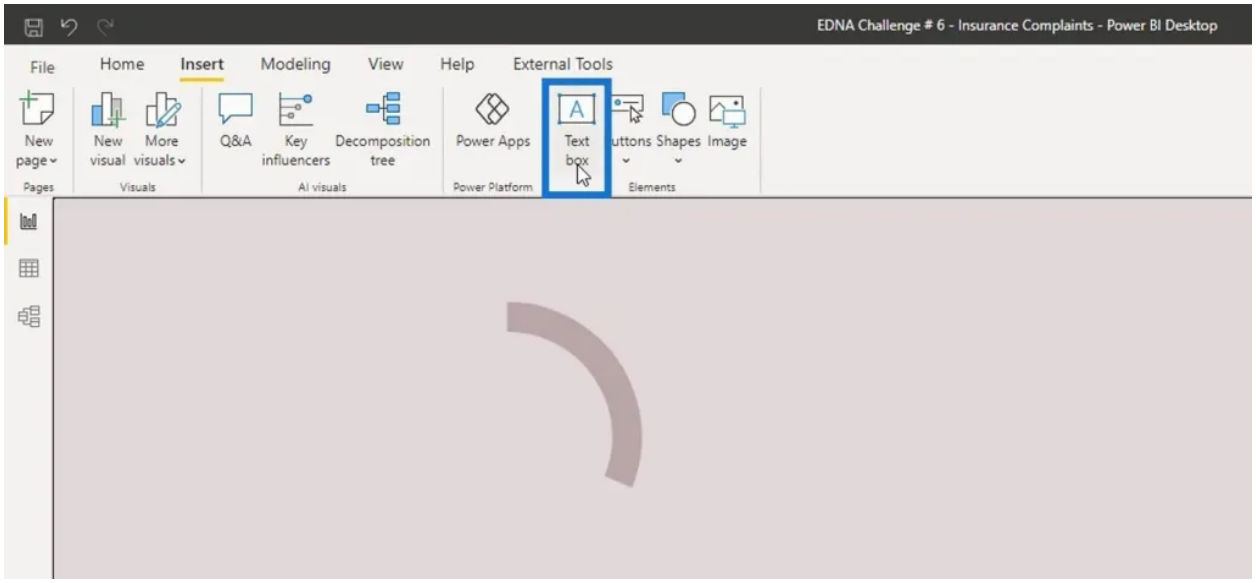

In the **Formatting** pane, click **Line**, then set the **Transparency** to **100%**.



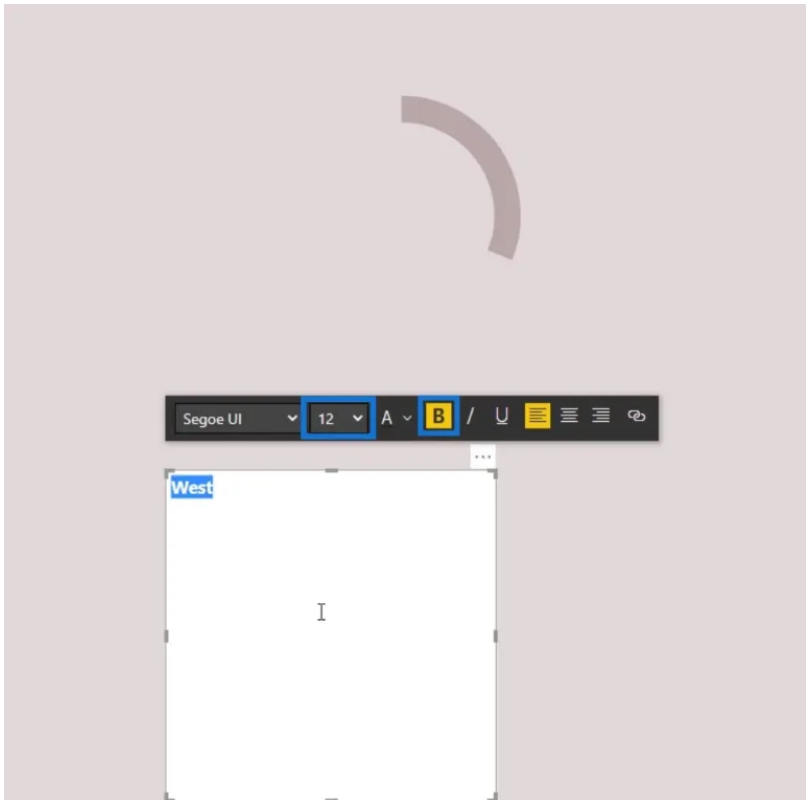

After that, click **Fill** and set the color to the same color that we previously selected for the **South**, **Midwest**, and **Northeast** regions.



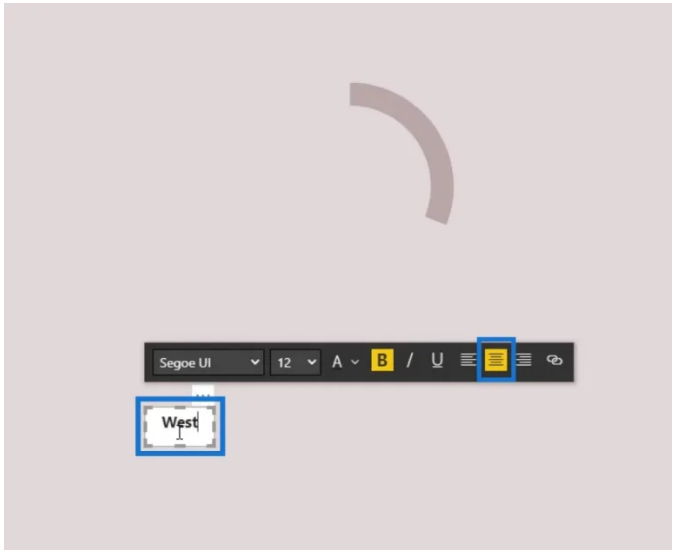

Let’s now add a text box.



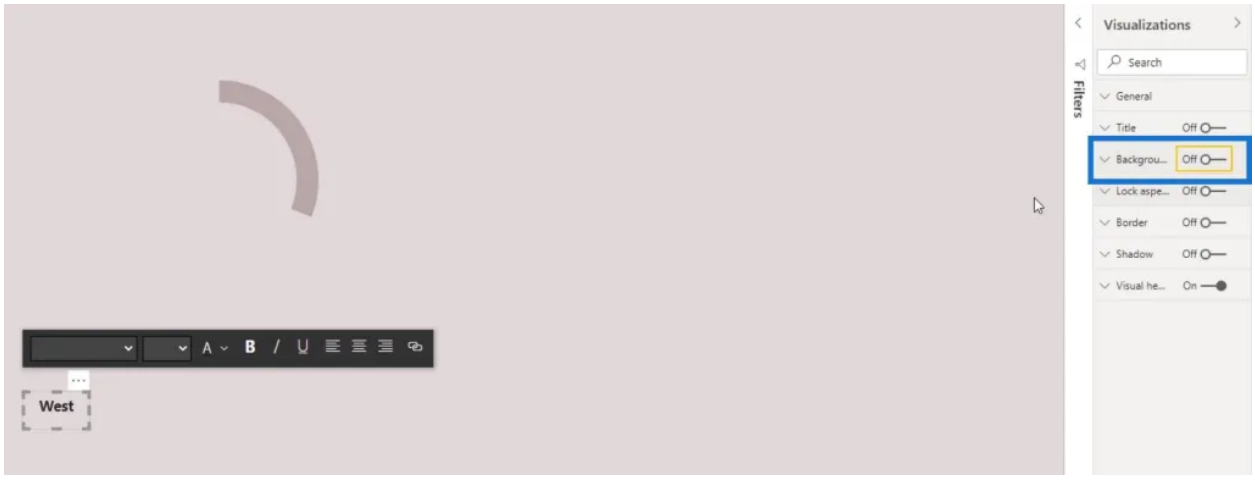

In the text box, type “**West**”. Make it bolder and set the size to **12**.




Resize the text box and align the text in the middle of the textbox.

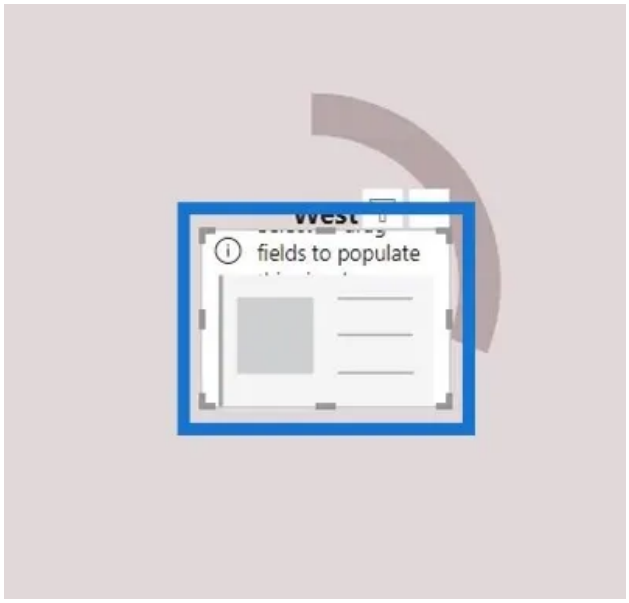



Remove the white background of the textbox by setting the **Background** toggle to **Off**.

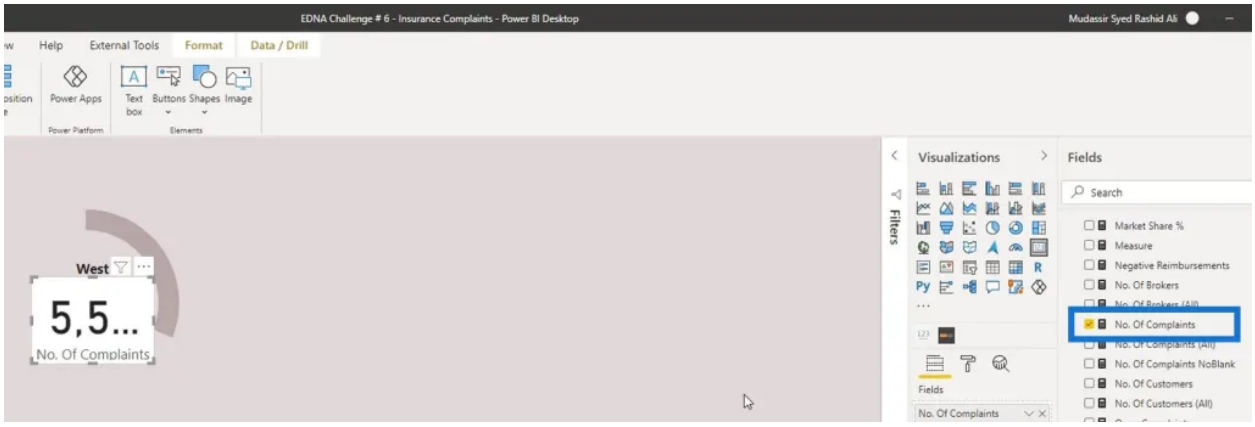



Position the text label on your desired location.

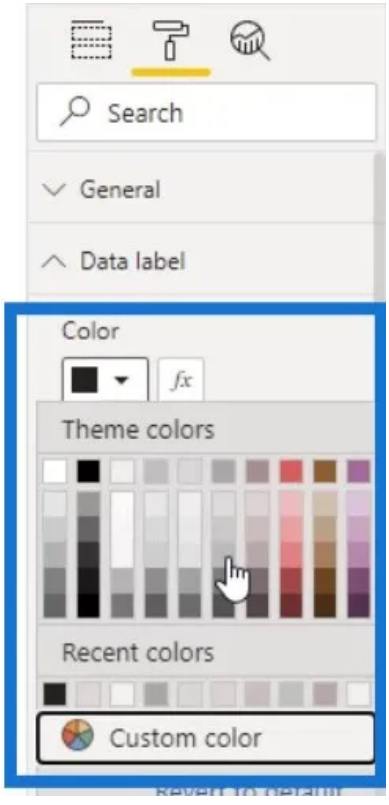
We can also place a measure in a card visual. First, add a card visual.



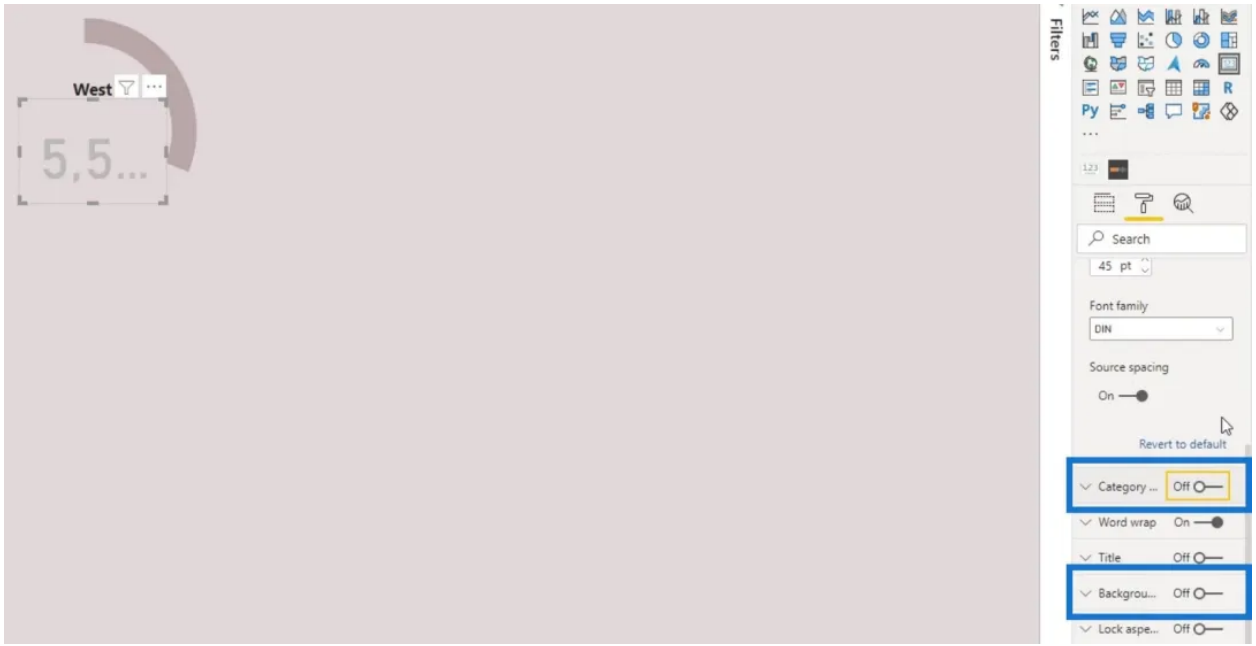

Then, place the measure into the card visual. Let's put in the **No. of complaints** measure as an example.



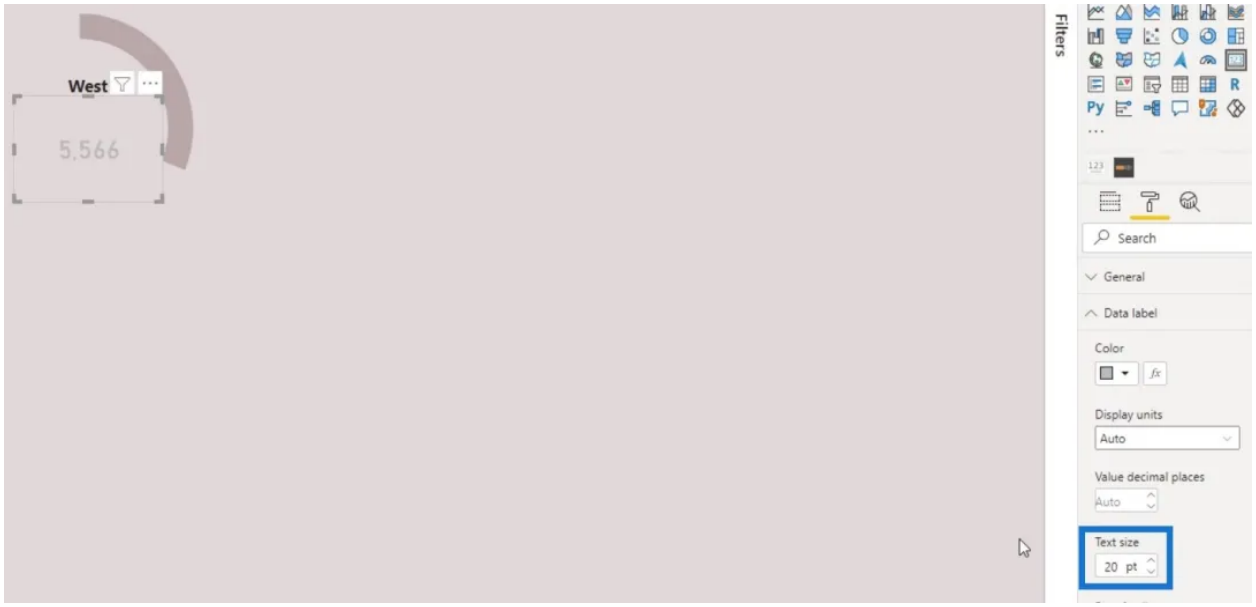

Click the formatting icon, then change the color of the text.



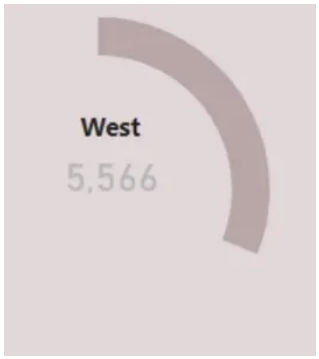

Turn off the **Background** and **Category** as well.




Then, change the **Text size**.



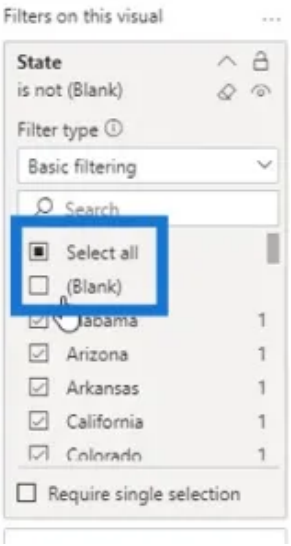

As a result, we have created a half donut chart that definitely looks better than the previous donut chart we had.




# Slicing The Power BI Donut Chart By Category

Now, let's try to slice it by category. For this example, let's choose **Customer Name** as the category.

Check **Select All** and unselect **Blank**.




Then, remove the background.

After that, we can now filter it by category.

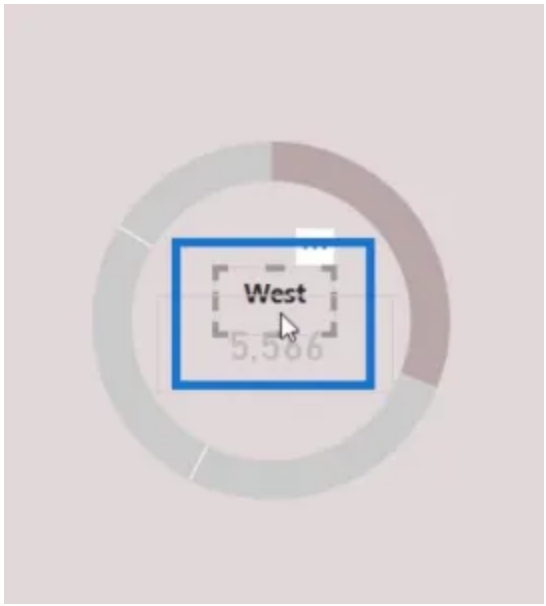
# Creating A Full Donut Chart In Power BI

Moving on, let’s create a full donut chart. But for this one, we’ll only give a specific value to the region that we want to highlight.

First, remove the rectangular shape that we previously added. Then, apply a single color to the other regions.

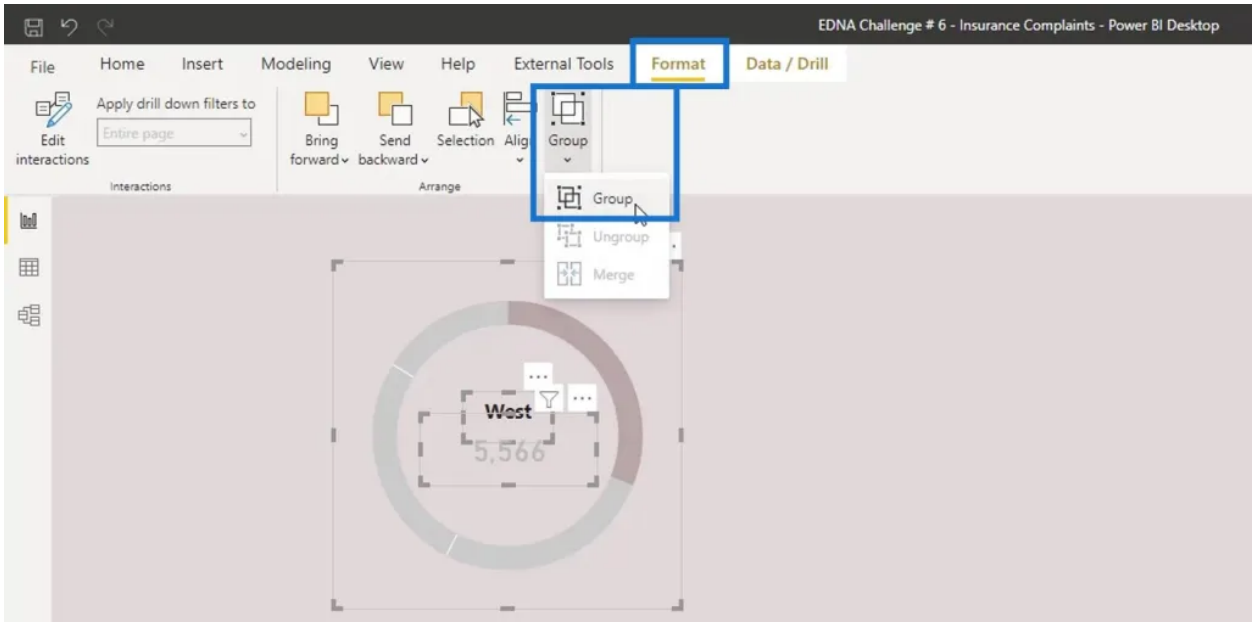
As you can see, the data for the **West** region is highlighted, and stands out from the rest of the regions in our donut chart.

Let’s put the label and the card visual in the middle.




Then, increase the **Inner radius** to make it look better.

After that, let's group the visual. Select the three visuals. Go to the **Format** tab, then click **Group**.




We can now duplicate this donut chart to create the other regions.

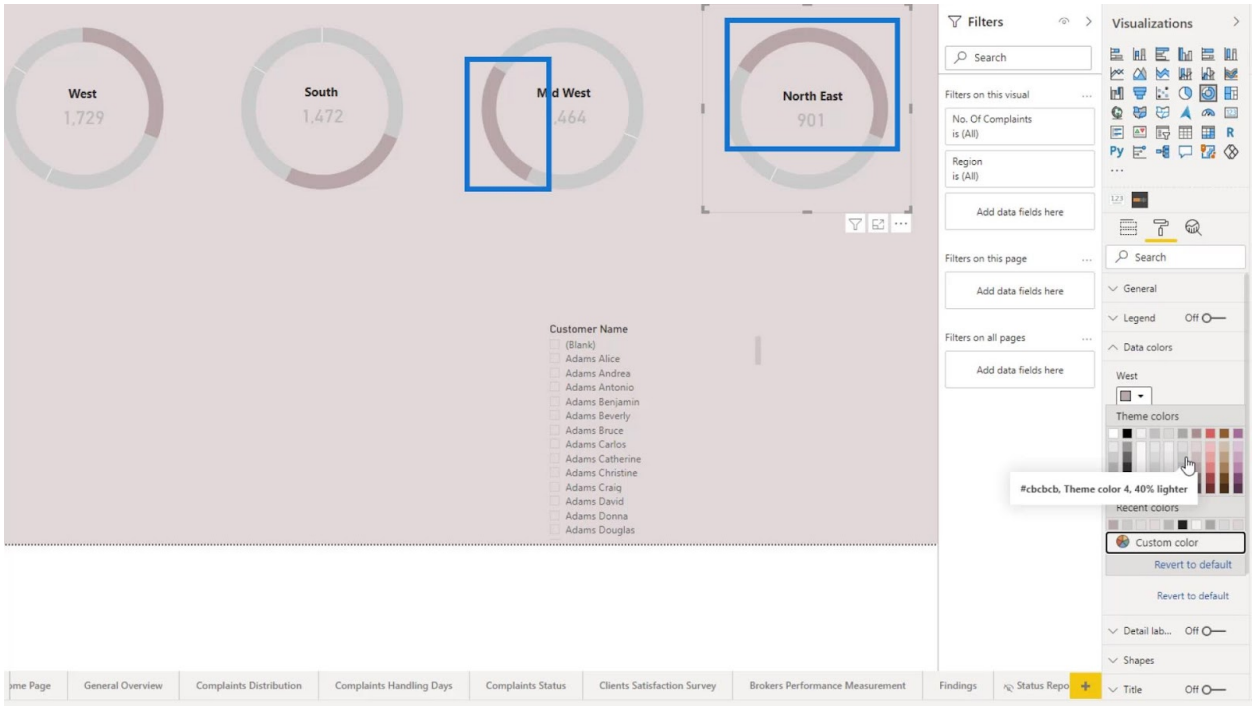
For the second chart, highlight the **South** by changing its color.

Let's specify the first chart to **West** in the **Filter** pane.

Duplicate the text box and card visual of the first donut chart for the second chart, and select the **South** on the **Filter** pane.

Let’s do the same thing for the third and fourth donut chart. For the third chart, change the filter to **Midwest**, and filter the fourth chart to **Northeast**.

Then, change the labels for the other 3 donut charts to **South**, **Mid West**, and **North East**. Lastly, change the highlight of the third and fourth charts by changing the color of the **Mid West** and **North East**.




# Conclusion

That's it for this tutorial. We've successfully made the visual look presentable.

Generally, these are some of the things that you can do to make a Power BI donut chart look visually pleasing. There are still other ways to make it look better. You only need to allot some time to explore the formatting options that are available for your visual.