

## Comparing two or more items

Comparing measures is typically what Business Intelligence is all about. With Tableau, it is just as easy to compare items in a dimension. For example, how does the Eastern region compare with the West? How does product A compare with product B?

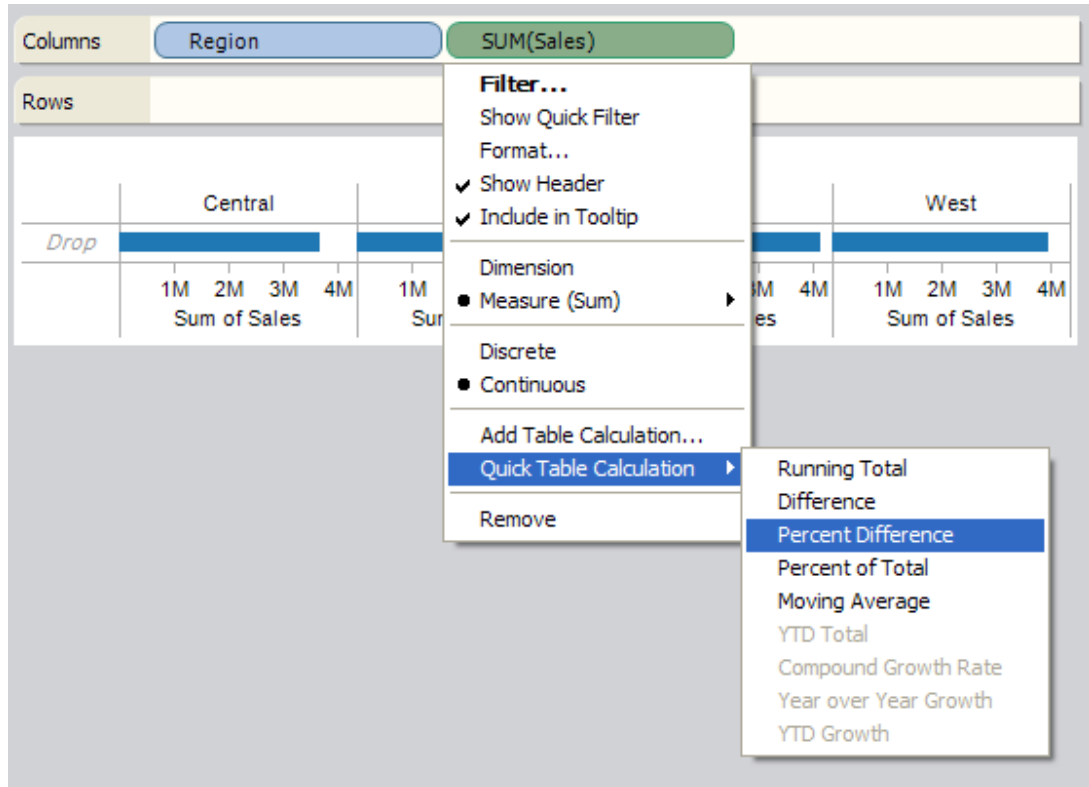
In Tableau, you can use Table Calculations to determine how the items compare.

### Creating a table calculation

Create a view with the first dimension and the measure to compare.

In this example, connect to the example Superstore and compare Sales for each Region against the Central Region sales

1. Put both Region and Sales on the Columns Shelf.
2. Right-click on Sales
3. Click on **Quick Table Calculation > Percent Difference**



The table calculation allows us to see how the items compare. By default, the comparison is to the previous item. We wanted to compare the regions to Central. To change the comparison, we need to edit the table calculation.

4. Right click on the measure again and choose **Edit Table Calculation**
5. Change the calculation from previous to first.

The screenshot shows the Tableau interface with a table calculation. The columns are 'Region' and 'SUM(Sales)'. The rows are empty. The table calculation is set to 'Percent Difference From' and is comparing the current value to the 'First' value. The 'First' value is highlighted with a red circle.

	Central	East	South	West
Drop	0%	20%	20%	0%
	% Difference in Sum ..	% Difference in Sum ..	% Difference in Sum ..	% Difference in Sum ..

**Table Calculation [% Difference in Sum of Sales]**

Calculation Type: Percent Difference From

Calculation Definition

Calculate the percent difference within: SUM(Sales)

Display the current value as a percentage of: **First**

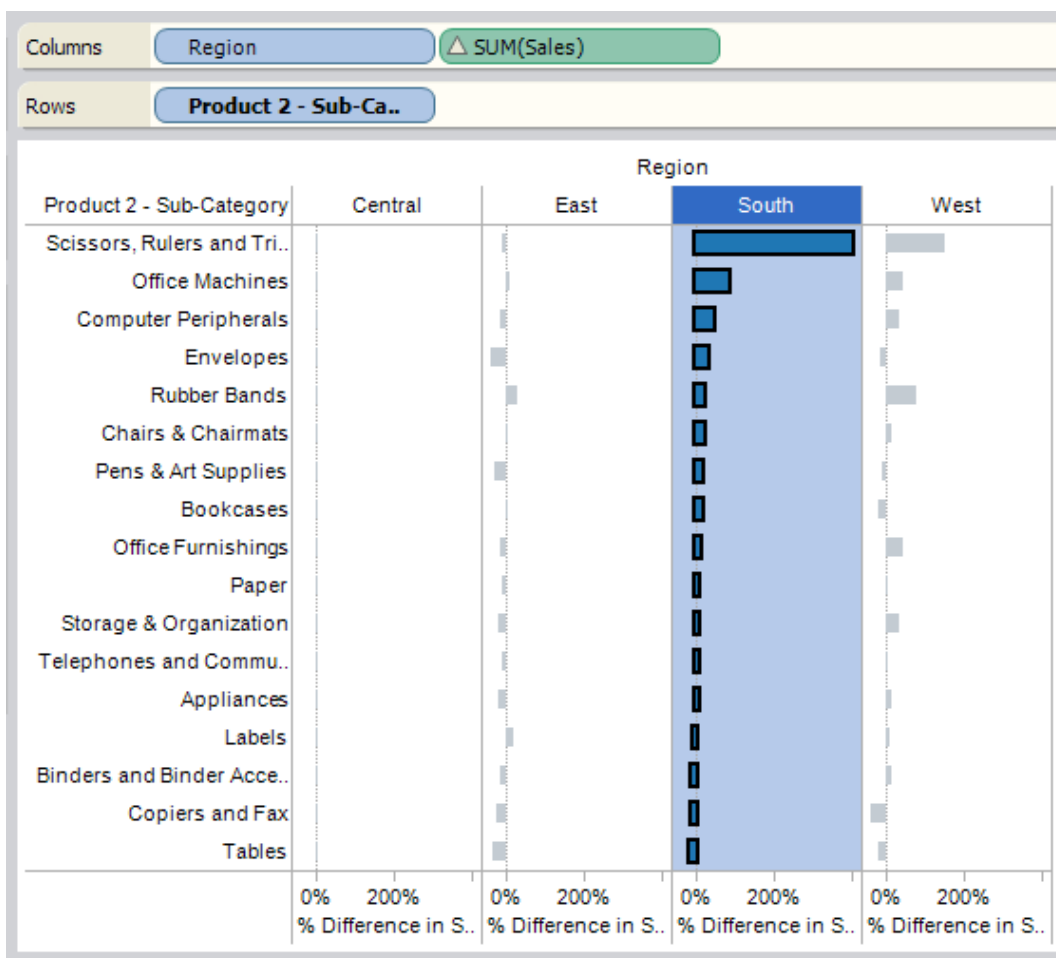
At the level:

Compute compounded rate

OK Cancel Apply

## Additional analysis

You can also compare how products have sold in the regions. Drop Product 2 – Sub-Category on the Rows shelf. You can facilitate the analysis by selecting a region name and then the appropriate one click sort button.



Do you want to use West as the baseline instead of Central? Simply drag West in front of Central and it will be the 'first' item. The Table Calculation will automatically adapt to your change.

You can filter the table calculation to show only items that sold at least 10% more than in the Central.

Add or remove fields from the rows or columns to quickly change the comparison and discover new things about your data.