

How to Merge Columns in Power Query

Problem Statement:

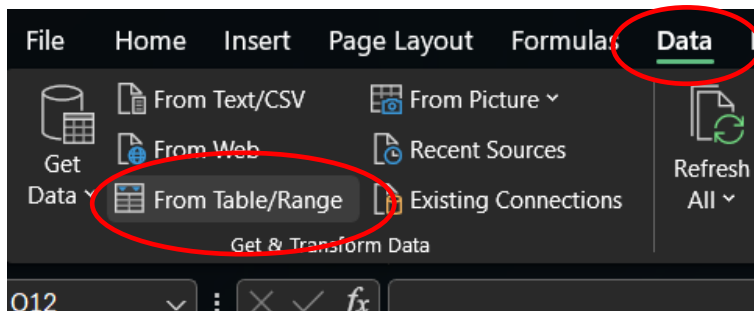
There can be times when data needs to be combined into a single column from multiple columns. In Power Query, you can merge two or more columns in your query. You can merge columns to replace them with one merged column or create a new merged column alongside the columns that are merged. You can only merge columns of a Text data type.

This example shows how to merge the multiple race columns into one race column for all the unique id's that are found in a Demographics export.

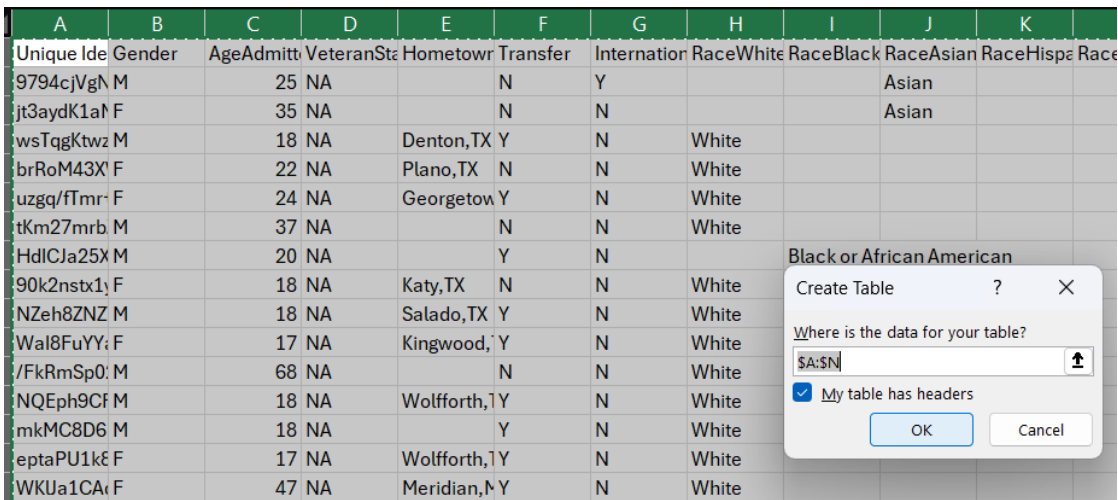
	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
id	RaceWhite	RaceBlack	RaceAsian	RaceHispa	RaceNativ	RaceIslanc	RaceMultiple
			Asian				
			Asian				
	White						
	White						
	White						
	White						
		Black or African American					
	White						
	White						
	White						
	White						
	White		Asian				
	White						
	White					Native Hawaiian or Other	

Process:

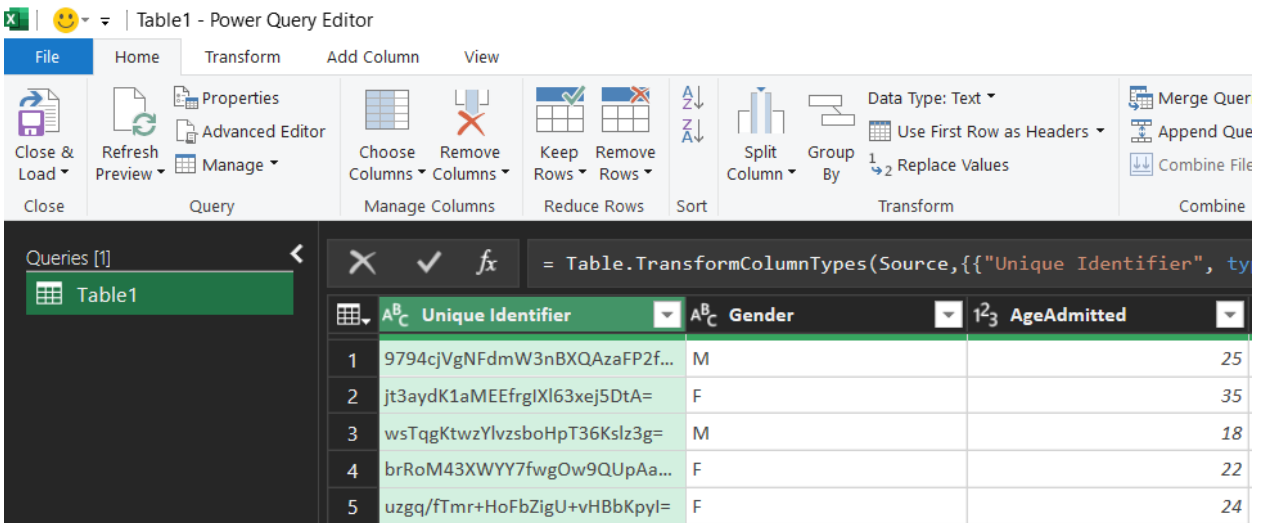
1. Open the data.
2. Go to the Data tab in Excel and on the Data tab, click Get Data > From Table/Range.



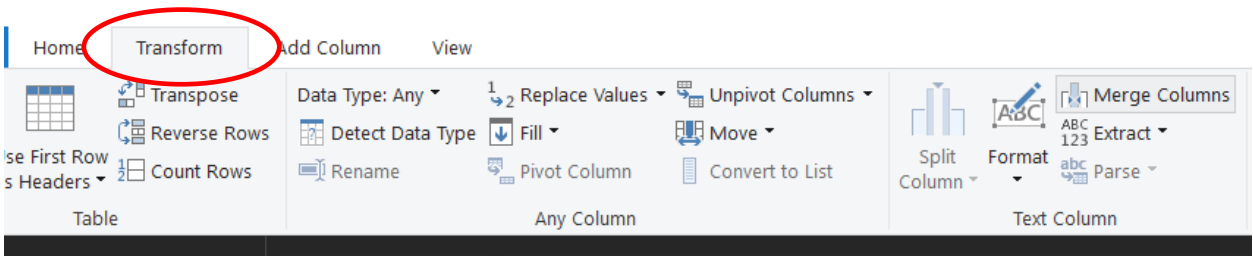
3. Select all the columns in the worksheet and select the “My table has headers” box. Click OK.



4. A new Power Query table is created.



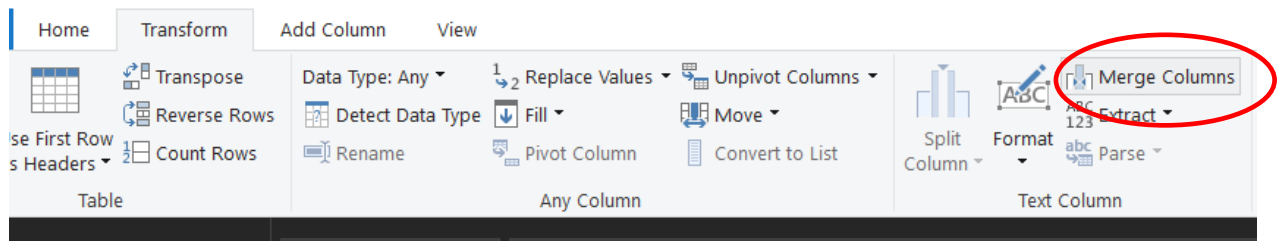
5. Select the Transform tab. Verify that the columns you want to merge are the Text data type. If necessary, select the column, and then select Transform > Data Type > Text.



6. Select two or more columns that you want to merge.

To select more than one column press Shift+Click or CTRL+Click on each subsequent column.

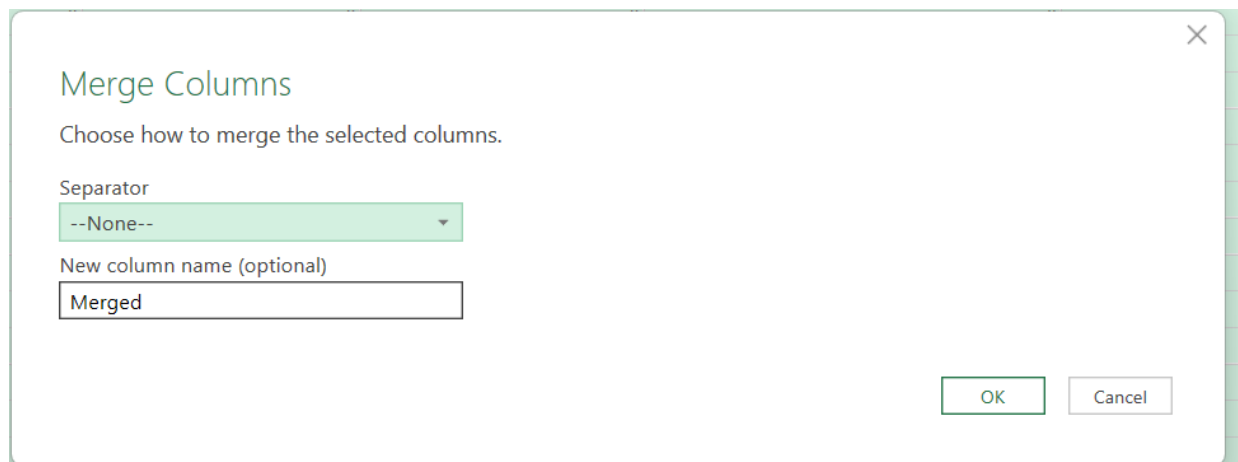
The order of selection sets the order of the merged values.



7. Select Transform > Text Column > Merge Columns.

ABC 123	RaceAsian	ABC 123	RaceHispanic	ABC 123	RaceNativeAmerican	ABC 123	RaceIslandPacific	ABC 123	RaceMultiple
null	Asian		null		null		null		null
null	Asian		null		null		null		null
null		null	null		null		null		null
null		null	null		null		null		null
null		null	null		null		null		null
null		null	null		null		null		null

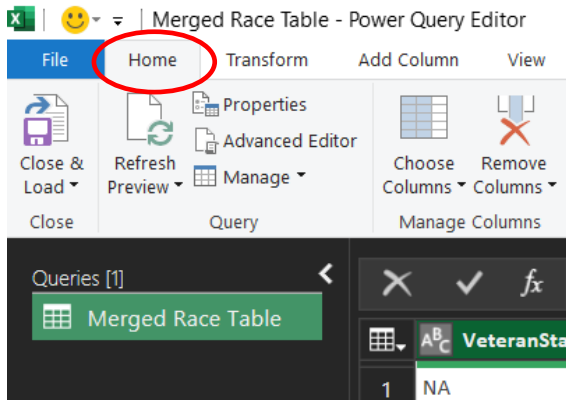
8. In the Merge Columns dialog box, specify a separator to insert between each merged column. Since we are combining all the various race columns into one we do not need to enter a separator. If needed, you can select from predefined separator values, or specify a custom separator value. The new column name will be Merged. Click OK.



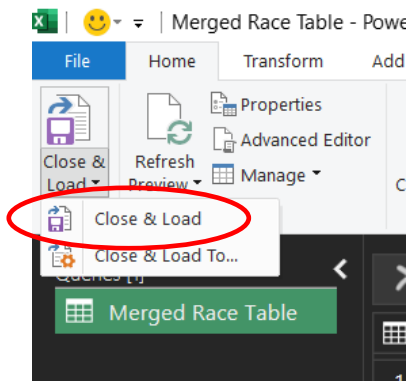
9. All columns now merge into the newly created Merged column.

Number Column	Date & Time Column	Structured Column
		International
		Asian
		Asian
		White
		White
		White
		White
		Black or African American
		White
		White
		White
		White

10. Select the Home tab. Then click on the drop-down arrow below the Close & Load button.



11. Select Close & Load.



12. The Merged Race Table now appears in a new tab on the original worksheet.

