Power BI vs. Excel

	Power BI	Excel
Cost	**Free** desktop app for building reports; **paid** for online sharing service.	**Paid**; free version limited, excludes Power Query and Power Pivot.
Target Group	**Organizations**: (only available with a work or school account).	**Broad**: Individuals, small businesses, and larger organizations alike.
Sources	**Multiple Choices**: Direct Query/Live Connection and import options for various sources.	**Fewer** external sources supported; data import only.
Big Data	Optimized for large data sets with faster processing.	Data model handles big data beyond Excel's 1 million row limit.
Visualizations	**Extensive** built-in charts, with optional custom visuals.	**Limited** but highly customizable chart selection.
Interactivity	**Highly** interactive with slicers, cross-filtering, and drill-through capabilities.	Interaction **limited** to slicers; lacks chart interaction.
Sharing	Centralized dataset storage for organizations, featuring multiple secure sharing options (paid license).	Relies on email or shared drive file sharing
Refreshes	Scheduled and real-time data refreshes.	Depending on the method, manual or automatic refresh.
Flexibility	**Less ideal** for table analysis, limited to DAX and M calculations.	**Great** for ad hoc calculations & creating tabular reports
Fin. Modeling	Financial modelling in Power BI can get very **complex**.	**Better suited** for financial modelling and forecasting

Follow me on LinkedIn

Microsoft MVP Most Valuable Professional