Azure TCO Calculator - Deprecation and Access Information

Overview

The Azure Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Calculator is a tool that helps estimate cost savings when migrating workloads to Azure. However, as of 2025, the tool has been deprecated and is scheduled for removal by the end of August 2025.

Current Status and Access

Deprecation Notice

- **Deprecation Date**: End of August 2025
- **Official Announcement**: The deprecation is not prominently announced in the official documentation, which has led to confusion among users
- **Current Status**: The tool is still accessible but will be removed by the end of August 2025

Access Information

While the official Azure Cost Management documentation (https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cost-management-billing/) redirects to a blog post instead of the calculator, the TCO Calculator can still be accessed directly at:

Direct Access URL: https://azure-int.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/tco/calculator/

Documentation Redirect Issue

The official Azure Cost Management documentation links to `https://aka.ms/tco-blog`, which redirects to a Microsoft Tech Community blog post explaining TCO concepts rather than providing access to the calculator:

Blog Post: Understanding the Total Cost of Ownership

During recording of the official documentation for cost management, the TCO Calculator could not be found through the standard documentation links. After reaching out to Azure Support about this issue, they confirmed that the TCO Calculator is deprecated as of August 2025, even though this deprecation is not announced anywhere in the official documentation, making the documentation misleading for users trying to access the tool.

Alternative Tools and Resources

Microsoft recommends using alternative tools for TCO calculations:

1. **Azure Pricing Calculator**: Provides granular cost estimation for different Azure services and products

   - Best for: Detailed cost estimation for specific Azure services

- Access: [Azure Pricing Calculator](#)

2. **Azure Migrate Business Case Feature**: Preferred approach for estimating cost and savings during migrations

   - Best for: Detailed financial analysis (TCO/ROI) for migration planning
   - Features:
     - TCO calculations with discounts
     - Cost and savings comparison between on-premises and Azure
     - End-of-support (EOS) Windows OS and SQL version considerations
     - Year-on-year cash flow analysis
     - Resource utilization insights
   - Access: Available through Azure Migrate in the Azure Portal

TCO Calculator Interface

The TCO Calculator interface includes the following sections (as shown in the screenshots below):

- Infrastructure configuration inputs (servers, databases, storage, network)
- Azure environment configuration
- Operational costs estimation
- Cost comparison and savings analysis

Screenshots

Destination

Service ❓	Purchase Model ❓	Service Tier ❓	Instance cores ❓	SQL Server storage ❓	SQL Server backup ❓
(1 - 4)		(1 - 8)	(1 - 448)		
SQL Database	vCore	General Purpose	2	5	0
				GB	GB
				(5 - 4000)	(0 - 5000000)

⊕ Add database

Storage

Enter the details of your on-premises storage infrastructure. After adding storage, select the storage type and enter the remaining details.

⌃ Storage 1   🗍 🗑

Storage type ❓	Disk type ❓	Capacity ❓	Backup ❓	Archive ❓
Local Disk/SAN	HDD	1	1	1
		TB	TB	TB
		(1 - 5000)	(0 - 5000)	(0 - 5000)

⊕ Add storage

Networking

Enter the amount of network bandwidth you currently consume in your on-premises environment.

Outbound bandwidth ❓	Destination Region
1	East Asia
GB	
(1 - 2000000)	

Next

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Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Calculator
Estimate the cost savings you can realize by migrating your workloads to Azure

The Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Calculator will be deprecated by end of August 2025. To learn how to calculate TCO using other Azure tools and resources, please refer to this blog. ›

① ——————————— ② ——————————— ③
Define your workloads   Adjust assumptions   View report

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Adjust assumptions

The following assumptions in the TCO model are industry averages accredited by Nucleus Research. To get a more accurate TCO report, update and customize these values to reflect your situation, which can vary by industry and location.

Currency
United States – Dollar ($) U ⌄

Software Assurance coverage (provides Azure Hybrid Benefit)

Enable this if you have purchased this benefit for your on-premises Windows or SQL Servers. If enabled, Azure Hybrid Benefit (AHB) will be applied to Azure estimates. AHB helps you get more value from your on-premises licenses — save up to 40 percent on virtual machines and up to 82 percent with Azure Reserved Virtual Machines (VM) instances.

Windows Server Software Assurance coverage   🔵●

SQL Server Software Assurance coverage   🔵●

Learn more about Software Assurance ›   Learn more about Azure Hybrid Benefit ›

Geo-redundant storage (GRS)

GRS replicates your data to a secondary region that is hundreds of miles away form the primary region.   ●○

Learn more about GRS ›

Virtual Machine costs

Enable this for the Calculator to not recommend Bs-series virtual machines ❓   ●○

Learn more about Bs-series virtual machines ›

Electricity costs

Price per KW hour ❓   0,1 USD

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Electricity costs ⓘ
Price per KW hour ⓘ | 0.1 | USD

Storage costs
Storage procurement cost/GB for local disk/SAN-SSD ⓘ | 3 | USD
Storage procurement cost/GB for local disk/SAN-HDD ⓘ | 2 | USD
Storage procurement cost/GB for NAS/file storage ⓘ | 2 | USD
Storage procurement cost/GB for Blob storage ⓘ | 2 | USD
Annual enterprise storage software support cost ⓘ | 10 | %
Cost per tape drive ⓘ | 4500 | USD

IT labor costs
Number of physical servers that can be managed by a full time administrator | 387
Number of virtual machines that can be managed by a full time administrator | 516
Hourly rate for IT administrator ⓘ | 50 | USD

Other assumptions

The following assumptions also affect the TCO model, but typically require less adjustment by customers. You can come back to this section at any time and adjust the assumptions.

⌄ Hardware costs ⓘ
⌄ Software costs ⓘ
⌄ Electricity costs ⓘ
⌄ Virtualization costs
⌄ Data center costs
⌄ Networking costs
⌄ Database costs ⓘ
⌄ Data warehouse costs

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1 Define your workloads — **2** Adjust assumptions — **3** View report

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View report

Timeframe ⓘ	Region ⓘ	Licensing program ⓘ	Show Dev/Test Pricing ⓘ
5 Years	East US	Microsoft Online Services Program	●

Over 5 year(s) with Microsoft Azure, your estimated cost savings could be as much as $81,508

■ On-premises cost   ■ Microsoft Azure cost

Total on-premises vs. Azure cost over time

Savings from running workloads in Azure accrue over time. The following shows how those savings add up over years.

Total on-premises vs. Azure cost over time

Savings from running workloads in Azure accrue over time. The following shows how those savings add up over years.

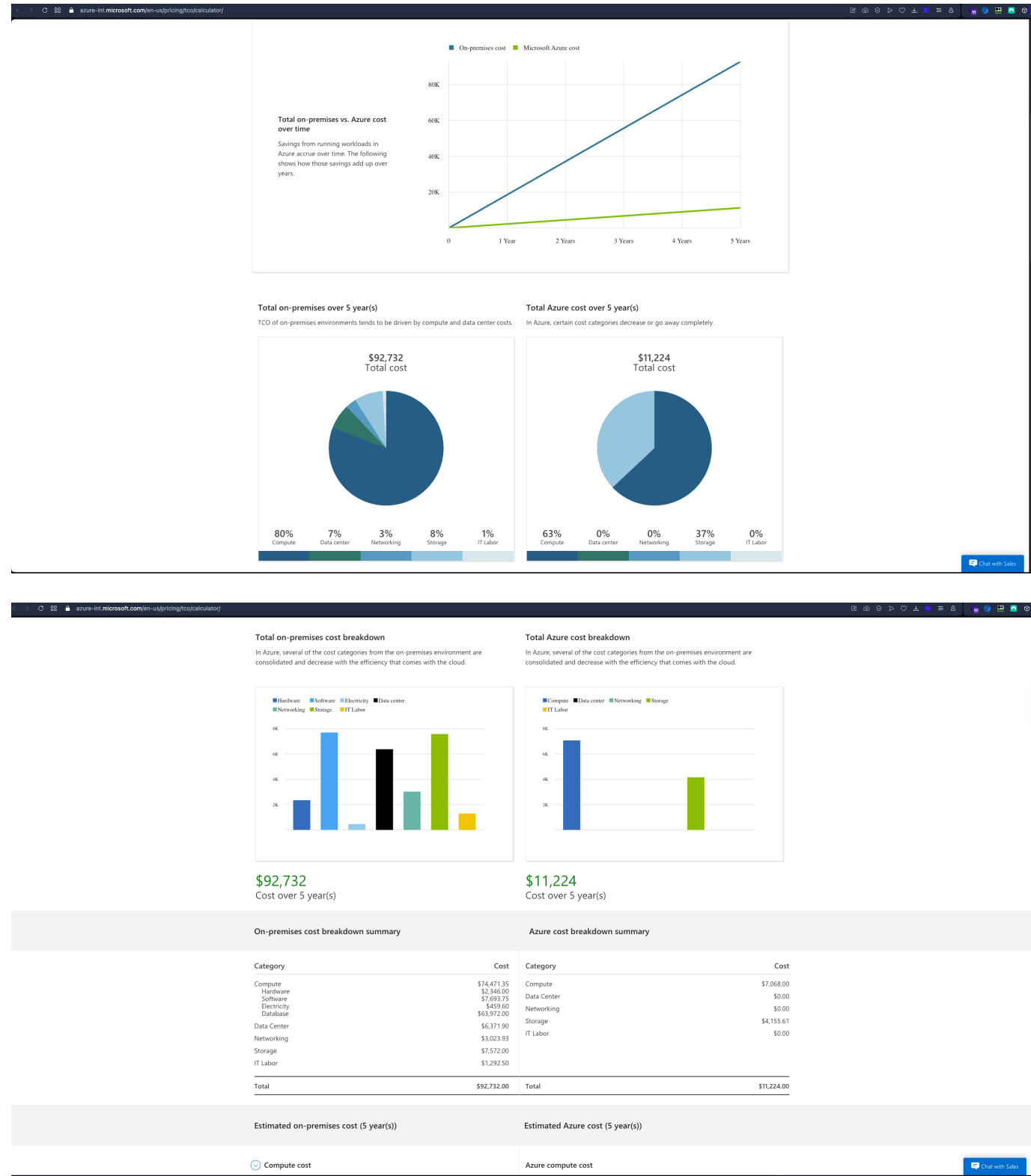On-premises cost ■ Microsoft Azure cost

Total on-premises over 5 year(s)

TCO of on-premises environments tends to be driven by compute and data center costs.

$92,732
Total cost

80%	7%	3%	8%	1%
Compute	Data center	Networking	Storage	IT Labor

Total Azure cost over 5 year(s)

In Azure, certain cost categories decrease or go away completely.

$11,224
Total cost

63%	0%	0%	37%	0%
Compute	Data center	Networking	Storage	IT Labor

Total on-premises cost breakdown

In Azure, several of the cost categories from the on-premises environment are consolidated and decrease with the efficiency that comes with the cloud.

■ Hardware ■ Software ■ Electricity ■ Data center
■ Networking ■ Storage ■ IT Labor

$92,732
Cost over 5 year(s)

Total Azure cost breakdown

In Azure, several of the cost categories from the on-premises environment are consolidated and decrease with the efficiency that comes with the cloud.

■ Compute ■ Data center ■ Networking ■ Storage
■ IT Labor

$11,224
Cost over 5 year(s)

On-premises cost breakdown summary

Category	Cost
Compute	$74,471.35
Hardware	$2,346.00
Software	$7,693.75
Electricity	$459.60
Database	$63,972.00
Data Center	$6,371.90
Networking	$3,023.93
Storage	$7,572.00
IT Labor	$1,292.50
Total	$92,732.00

Azure cost breakdown summary

Category	Cost
Compute	$7,068.00
Data Center	$0.00
Networking	$0.00
Storage	$4,155.61
IT Labor	$0.00
Total	$11,224.00

Estimated on-premises cost (5 year(s))

⌄ Compute cost

Estimated Azure cost (5 year(s))

Azure compute cost

Comparison with Other Cloud Providers

Other major cloud providers offer comparable TCO calculation tools:

- **AWS**: AWS TCO Calculator
- **Google Cloud**: Google Cloud Pricing Calculator with TCO analysis
- These tools remain actively maintained and available

Key Elements of TCO Analysis

When performing a TCO analysis for Azure migration, consider:

1. **Current Infrastructure Configuration**:

   - Servers (number, specifications, OS)
   - Databases (type, size, licensing)
   - Storage (type, amount, redundancy)
   - Network traffic (outbound traffic costs)

2. **Azure Environment Configuration**:

   - Virtual Machines (matching current specs)
   - Storage options (tiers, redundancy)
   - Networking components

3. **Operational Costs**:

   - Power and cooling (on-premises)
   - IT labor costs
   - Software licensing (current and Azure)

Recommendations

- For new TCO calculations, use **Azure Migrate Business Case** feature or **Azure Pricing Calculator**
- If you need to access the legacy TCO Calculator, use the direct URL before August 2025
- Plan migration cost analysis using the recommended alternative tools
- Consider the transition from capital expenditure (CapEx) to operating expenditure (OpEx) model

References

- [Azure Cost Management + Billing Documentation](#)
- [Understanding the Total Cost of Ownership - Microsoft Tech Community](#)
- [Azure Migrate Business Case Documentation](#)