Pricing Component	AWS OpenSearch Serverless	Pinecone (Standard)
Compute unit price	$0.24 per OCU-hour(1 OCU = 6 GB RAM + vCPU) ([Instaclustr](#))	$0.0012 per pod-minute($0.072 per pod-hour) ([Pinecone Docs](#))
Storage price	$0.024 per GB-month	$0.00000056 per GB-minute(≈$0.025 per GB-month) ([Pinecone Docs](#))
Minimum required compute	2 OCUs (one per AZ) for indexing **+** 2 OCUs for search = 4 OCUs running	1 pod (no redundancy by default)
Example compute cost (720 h)	4 OCUs × 720 h × $0.24 = **$691.20**	1 pod × 720 h × $0.072 = **$51.84**
Example storage cost (100 GB)	100 GB × $0.024 = **$2.40**	100 GB × $0.025 = **$2.50**
Total example monthly	**$693.60**	**$54.34**

Pricing Component	Pinecone Serverless	AWS OpenSearch Serverless
Compute pricing	• Read Units (RUs): $16 per 1 M reads• Write Units (WUs): $4 per 1 M writes ([SaaSworthy](#))	• Indexing OCUs: $0.24 per OCU-hour• Search OCUs: $0.24 per OCU-hour ([Instaclustr](#))
Storage pricing	$0.33 per GB-month ([SaaSworthy](#))	$0.024 per GB-month (S3-backed) ([Instaclustr](#))
Minimum configuration	• None—scales to zero when idle	• Production: 2 OCUs for indexing + 2 OCUs for search = **4 OCUs** minimum ([Amazon Web Services, Inc.](#))

Example small workload	**Assumptions**: 1 M reads, 1 M writes, 100 GB stored, idle otherwise • Reads: 1 × $16 = $16 • Writes: 1 × $4 = $4 • Storage: 100 × $0.33 = $33 **Total ≈ $53**	**Assumptions**: index always-on at 4 OCUs; 100 GB stored • Compute: 4 OCUs × 720 h × $0.24 = $691.20 • Storage: 100 × $0.024 = $2.40 **Total ≈ $693.60**

Key takeaways:

- **Pinecone Serverless**

  - No "always-on" units—you only pay for the vector operations you actually perform (reads + writes) and for the GB-months you store.

  - Scales to zero when idle.

  - Example small-scale bill (1 M reads + 1 M writes + 100 GB storage): **≈ $53 / month**.

- **AWS OpenSearch Serverless**

  - Billed by OpenSearch Compute Units (OCUs), each OCU = 1 vCPU + 6 GiB RAM, at $0.24/hour for both indexing and search.

  - Requires a minimum of 4 OCUs to span AZs in production (2 for indexing + 2 for search).

  - Example small-scale bill (4 OCUs always-on + 100 GB storage): **≈ $693.60 / month**.

If your vector-search workload is light or highly variable, **Pinecone's serverless model** can be an order of magnitude cheaper—especially at low scale—because you're not paying for idle capacity. Conversely, if you need AWS-native search with predictable OCU-based billing and tight integration with other AWS services, **OpenSearch Serverless** may be the better fit.