

Pricing Component	Pinecone Serverless	AWS OpenSearch Serverless
Compute pricing	<p>Read Units (RUs): \$16 per 1 M reads</p> <p>Write Units (WUs): \$4 per 1 M writes (SaaSwothy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indexing OCUs: \$0.24 per OCU-hour Search OCUs: \$0.24 per OCU-hour (Instaclustr)
Storage pricing	\$0.33 per GB-month (SaaSwothy)	\$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.)
Min. Price	~ \$53/month (variable)	~ \$693.60/month
Example small workload	<p>Assumptions: 1 M reads, 1 M writes, 100 GB stored, idle otherwise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads: $1 \times \\$16 = \mathbf{\\$16}$ • Writes: $1 \times \\$4 = \mathbf{\\$4}$ • Storage: $100 \times \\$0.33 = \mathbf{\\$33}$ <p>Total ≈ \$53</p>	<p>Assumptions: index always-on at 4 OCUs; 100 GB stored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compute: $4 \text{ OCUs} \times 720 \text{ h} \times \\$0.24 = \mathbf{\\$691.20}$ • Storage: $100 \times \\$0.024 = \mathbf{\\$2.40}$ <p>Total ≈ \$693.60</p>

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.**

Also refer to: [5 reasons to build with Pinecone serverless | Pinecone](#)