The Railway Trial: Credits That Expire
Railway hosting offers a 30-day trial with $5 in credits, but calling this a meaningful trial is misleading. Credits expire after 30 days regardless of usage, provide minimal resources for testing real applications, and start depleting immediately upon account creation. For teams evaluating Railway seriously, the trial period barely allows testing production workloads before forced upgrades.

is there an alternative, i have .net 8 backend, postgres db, redis cache

If you're looking for alternatives to Railway's trial offering, there are a number of cloud providers and platforms that could better meet your needs, especially for a .NET 8 backend, PostgreSQL, and Redis caching. Here are some solid alternatives that can offer more flexibility or better trial options:

1. Render

- **Free Tier:** Offers a free tier for hosting web services, databases, and Redis. The free tier for databases includes PostgreSQL and Redis with certain limits.
- **Pros:**
  - Fully managed infrastructure for .NET apps, databases, and Redis.
  - Easy deployment via GitHub or GitLab integration.
  - Better scaling options with affordable pricing.
- **Cons:**
  - Limited resources for the free tier, but a better option for small projects than Railway's trial.
- **Free Services:**
  - 1GB free PostgreSQL database.
  - Free Redis with limited usage.

Website: Render ↗

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2. Fly.io

- **Free Tier:** Provides free resources for running small applications and databases.

- **Pros:**
  - Edge-based platform, so you can deploy your app closer to your users, improving latency.
  - Very easy to deploy .NET Core (and .NET 8) apps.
  - Good for lightweight services, with Redis and PostgreSQL available in the free tier.
- **Cons:**
  - Limited resources in the free tier.
  - You may need to manage your own database backups and scaling more manually.
- **Free Services:**
  - Small PostgreSQL (with limited space).
  - Redis with certain limits.

Website: Fly.io ↗

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3. DigitalOcean App Platform

- **Free Tier:** DigitalOcean offers a generous free trial ($100 credit for new users) which can be used on their App Platform, databases, and other services.
- **Pros:**
  - Flexible platform for deploying .NET Core apps.
  - Managed Redis and PostgreSQL are available.
  - $100 in credits can be used for a longer trial period to test production workloads.
- **Cons:**
  - Requires careful management of credits to avoid running out.
  - Pricing can be higher once the free credits are exhausted.
- **Free Services:**
  - You get $100 in credits for the first 60 days, which can be used for database, compute, and Redis.
- **Better Option for:** Production workloads, scaling apps.

Website: DigitalOcean App Platform ↗

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4. Vercel

- **Free Tier:** Great for serverless backend and frontend apps. While mainly known for frontend hosting, Vercel also supports serverless functions (you can deploy APIs using

.NET).

- **Pros:**
  - Serverless functions (supports .NET with a bit of setup).
  - Quick deployment via GitHub/GitLab.
  - Free tier offers generous limits, though Redis and PostgreSQL might need additional integrations.
- **Cons:**
  - No direct support for full PostgreSQL and Redis; requires external services like Supabase or Redis Labs.
  - Limited to serverless functions, so managing persistent state may be challenging.
- **Free Services:**
  - Serverless API (you can deploy a backend in .NET via serverless functions).

Website: Vercel ↗

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5. Heroku

- **Free Tier:** Offers a free-tier for both applications and databases (PostgreSQL), but has limitations.
- **Pros:**
  - Very easy to deploy .NET Core applications.
  - Offers PostgreSQL databases (free tier is limited to 1,000 rows) and Redis.
  - Easy setup with Git integration.
- **Cons:**
  - Free tier has strict limitations: the app "sleeps" after 30 minutes of inactivity, so it's not suitable for production apps.
  - Scaling resources can get expensive as your project grows.
- **Free Services:**
  - 1,000 rows of PostgreSQL.
  - 512MB Redis (basic plan).
  - Some free dynos for running .NET Core applications.

Website: Heroku ↗

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6. Supabase

- **Free Tier:** Supabase is an open-source alternative to Firebase with easy integration for PostgreSQL.

- **Pros:**
  - Provides a managed PostgreSQL database with full API access.
  - Includes Redis via external integration.
  - Excellent for rapid prototyping, development, and even small production environments.
  - Integrates well with .NET apps.
- **Cons:**
  - Doesn’t directly support .NET, so you'd need to manually set up and configure APIs.
- **Free Services:**
  - Free-tier PostgreSQL with up to 500MB storage.
  - Redis integration via external services.

Website: Supabase ↗

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7. Azure App Service

- **Free Tier:** Offers free plans that can run .NET applications with reasonable resources.
- **Pros:**
  - Deep integration with .NET and C#.
  - Managed Redis and PostgreSQL through Azure.
  - Best suited for enterprise-level applications and easy integration with other Azure services.
- **Cons:**
  - Free-tier has limitations, especially in terms of scaling.
  - Azure's pricing can get complicated when scaling, though there are useful trials and credits.
- **Free Services:**
  - 1GB of PostgreSQL for free.
  - Redis with low-memory configurations available in free-tier.

Website: Azure App Service ↗

Conclusion:

If you're looking for a more generous trial or free tier, **Render** and **Fly.io** might be the most user-friendly, especially for .NET applications. If you're interested in production-

grade resources and want to scale, **DigitalOcean** and **Azure** provide the best paid alternatives with trials.

If your primary concern is the speed of deployment and ease of use, **Heroku** or **Vercel** (with external Redis/PostgreSQL services) might be good starting points.

Let me know if you want more details on any of these or help setting up your environment!