

AZ-900 Pricing & Governance

The short version of Azure cost tools, governance controls, and the decision rules beginners mix up most often.

BEST FOR

Pricing questions and governance comparisons

FOCUS

Calculator vs TCO vs Cost Management; Policy vs Locks vs RBAC

USE WITH

Quick Summary + Service Map

1. Cost tools: know the difference

Pricing Calculator — Estimate future monthly cost before deployment.

TCO Calculator — Compare on-prem costs against moving to Azure.

Cost Management — Analyze real spending, budgets, and optimization after deployment.

Tags — Improve cost reporting by team, app, owner, or environment.

2. Governance controls

Management Groups — Organize multiple subscriptions under one hierarchy.

Azure Policy — Allow, deny, or audit configurations.

Resource Locks — Protect important resources from accidental change.

RBAC — Grant least-privilege access to people and apps.

3. Cost drivers to remember

Consumption model — More usage usually means higher bill.

Region choice — Price can vary by region.

Performance tier — Higher performance usually costs more.

Redundancy — More resiliency can increase price.

Data egress — Outbound transfer may add cost.

4. Fast if/then rules

If you need an estimate before purchase — Use Pricing Calculator.

If you need to compare cloud vs datacenter — Use TCO Calculator.

If spend is already live — Use Cost Management.

If a resource must not be deleted — Use a lock.

If a SKU should be blocked — Use Azure Policy.

If finance needs app-level breakdown — Use consistent tags.