

Project Management Software: The True Cost Table

Annual cost by team size, seat minimums applied - prices checked August 2026

ANNUAL COST BY TEAM SIZE (USD, annual billing)

Tool (working plan)	Sticker	1 user	5 users	10 users	25 users
Zoho Projects Premium	\$4/user	\$48	\$240	\$480	\$1,200
Trello Standard	\$5/user	\$60	\$300	\$600	\$1,500
ClickUp Unlimited	\$7/user	\$84	\$420	\$840	\$2,100
Asana Starter (min 2)	\$10.99/user	\$264	\$659	\$1,319	\$3,297
Teamwork Basics (min 3)	\$9.99/user	\$360	\$599	\$1,199	\$2,997
monday Standard (min 3)	\$12/seat	\$432	\$720	\$1,440	\$3,600
Wrike Team (max 15)	\$10/user	\$240	\$600	\$1,200	Business: \$7,500
Basecamp Freelancer (flat)	\$25/mo	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
Basecamp Studio (flat)	\$59/mo	\$708	\$708	\$708	\$708

Seat minimums applied: monday 3 seats, Teamwork 3, Asana 2. Flat tools charge per account, unlimited users on Studio and up.

PRICING TRAPS WE FOUND (Aug 2026)

- Basecamp dropped per-user pricing mid-2026: now flat \$25-\$299/mo per account. Most roundups still quote the old model.
- monday sells 3-seat bundles minimum (\$36/mo floor). Asana bills 2 seats min. Teamwork Basics requires 3 users, Accelerate 5.
- Asana Starter -> Advanced = +127% per seat for time tracking. Teamwork includes it at \$9.99 but gates workload at \$24.99 (2.5x).
- Wrike sells seats in blocks of 5: a 6-person team pays for 10. Basecamp and Wrike Business are annual-only. Trial a month first.

THE VERDICT, BY PROFILE

WHO SHOULD BUY WHAT

Solo / 2 people, \$0 budget

-> ClickUp Free or Trello Free - real plans, not trials

Freelancer, up to 3 client projects

-> Basecamp Freelancer \$25/mo flat, clients included

Tight budget, real features

-> Zoho Projects Premium \$4/user - nothing else is close

Team of 5-10, failed rollouts before

-> monday Standard \$12/seat - pay the adoption premium once

Agency, bills by the hour

-> Teamwork Basics \$9.99/user - time tracking + invoicing native

Growing team, predictable bill

-> Basecamp Studio \$708/yr flat - hiring never raises the bill

15-50 people, approvals + intake

-> Wrike Business \$25/user - eyes open on seat bands

Already living in Notion

-> Notion Plus \$10/user - only if someone enjoys building it

HOW TO USE THIS TABLE

1. Find your real headcount (employees only - guests are free on Asana, Teamwork, Basecamp).
2. Read across the row of your 2-3 shortlisted tools.
3. Add the trap lines: seat minimums, tier gates, add-ons.
4. Trial the winner one full month with REAL projects.
5. Go annual only after the team actually uses it.

Recheck vendor pricing pages before signing - this category reprices 2-3 times a year. Figures are list prices, USD, annual billing.